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KIDS COUNT in Delaware

KIDS COUNT in Delaware 2024 FOCUS on Public Policy

May 1, 2024

University of Delaware

Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy & Administration

FOCUS
FACTS ON CHILDREN UNDERLYING SUCCESS

KIDS COUNT in Delaware

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2024 FOCUS on Public Policy

Zoom Logistics:

- Presentation is being recorded
- Slides will be shared
- Participants are muted
- Type questions in Q/A

A Note About Data

Declining response rates impact data:

- Quality
- Comparability
- Availability

Potential Solutions:

- Increase participation
- Apply statistical methods

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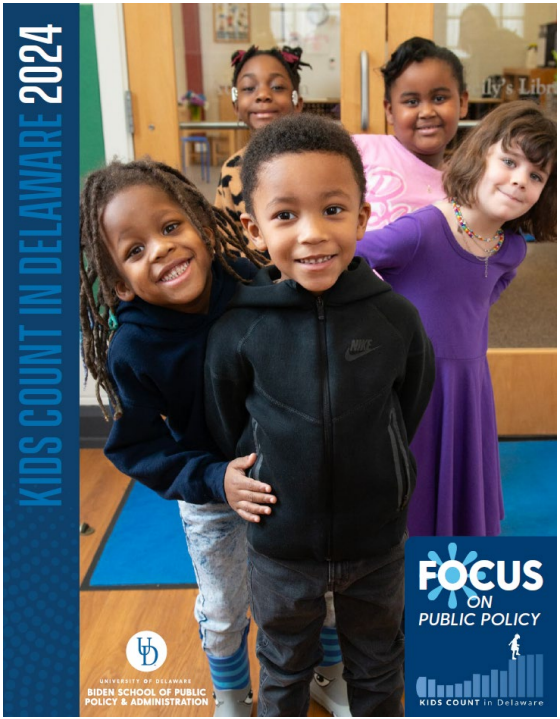

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Design

Lane McLaughlin

Thanks for the data:

- Center for Drug and Health Studies
- Center for Community Research and Service
- Children and Families First
- Delaware Department of Education
- Delaware Department of Health and Social Services
- Delaware Department of Labor
- Delaware Department of Public Safety
- Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families
- Delaware Division of Libraries
- Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance
- Delaware Health Statistics Center
- Delaware Population Consortium
- Delaware State Housing Authority
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Nemours Children's Health
- Statistical Analysis Center

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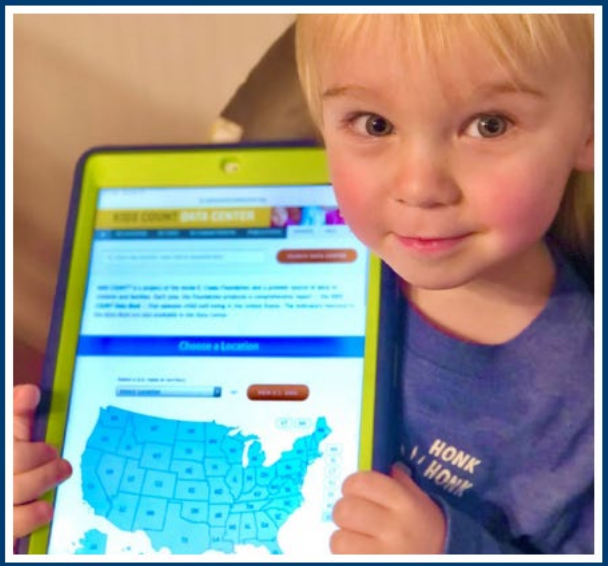
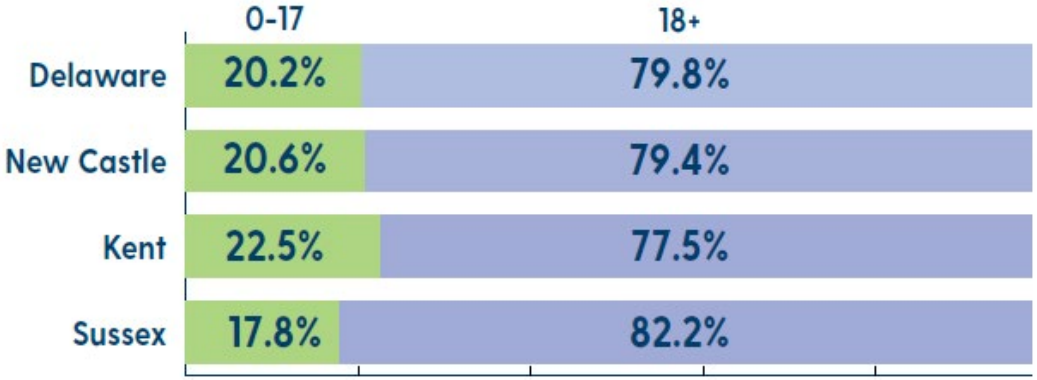


Children Make Up One-Fifth of Delaware's Population

Percentage of child population 0-17 and adult population 18+ for Delaware and Counties, 2023



Source: Delaware Population Consortium, Population projection Series 2023.0

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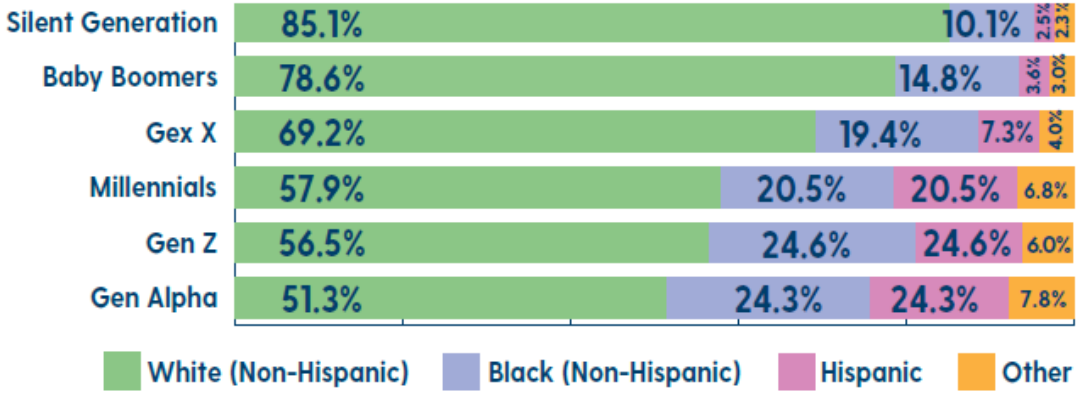
Delaware's Population Has Become More Diverse with Each New Generation

Racial and ethnic composition of individuals by generation, Delaware, 2023



Source: Delaware Population Consortium, Population Projection Series 2023.0
Note: Other includes individuals of a single race who do not identify as Black (non-Hispanic) or White (non-Hispanic) as well as individuals who identify as multiple races
Note: Silent Generation born 1925-1945; Baby Boomers born 1946-1964; Gen X born 1965-1980; Millennials born 1981-1996; Gen Z born 1997-2012; Gen Alpha born 2013-2025

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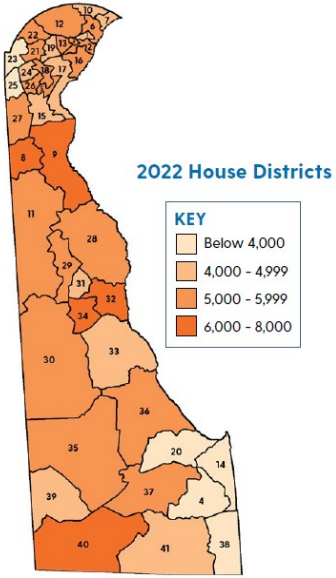
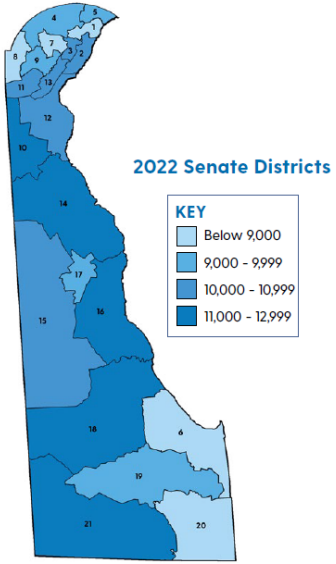
Child Population Distribution

Number of children 0-17 by state legislative district, 2018-2022





Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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Measuring Equity: Health

DELAWARE HEALTH	All	American Indian	Asian and Pacific Islander	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic White	Two or More Races
Total births, 2022 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder	100%	<0.5%	6%	29%	18%	47%	3%
Low birth weight babies, 2021 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder	9.1%	S	8.9%	13.4%	7.5%	7.1%	11.0%
Births to women receiving late or no prenatal care, 2021 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder	6%	S	3%	6%	12%	4%	S
Infant mortality, 2021 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder	5 per 1,000	S	S	11 per 1,000	S	S	S
Child and teen (ages 1-19) death rate, 2021 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of CDC data, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Causes of Death Microdata Files: VitalStats 24 per 100,000	24 per 100,000	S	S	51 per 100,000	S	28 per 100,000	S
Children without health insurance, 2022 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey	3%	S	2%	3%	9%	2%	5%
Children who are not in excellent or very good health, 2020-2021 Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Survey of Children's Health	10%	S	S	14%	18%	7%	N.A.

S = Data Suppressed due to small number of cases N.A. = Data Not Available

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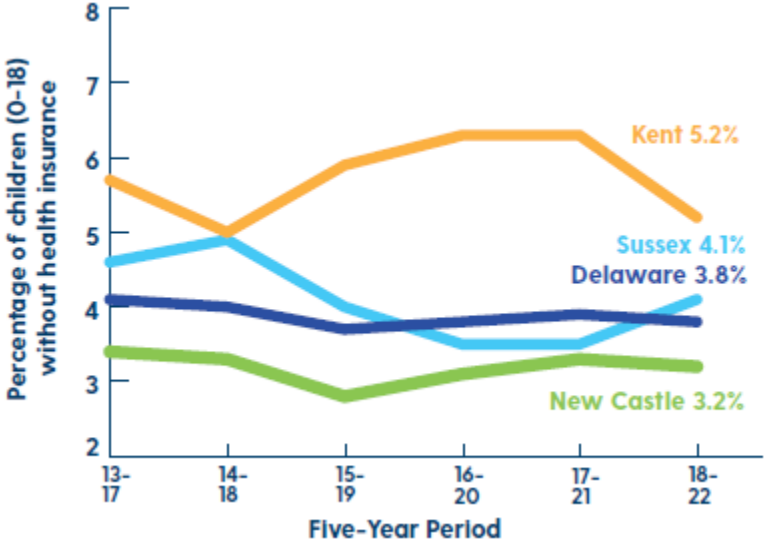
Less Than 1 in 25 Kids Ages 18 or Under Lack Health Insurance in Delaware

Percentage of children ages 0-18 without health insurance, Delaware and Counties



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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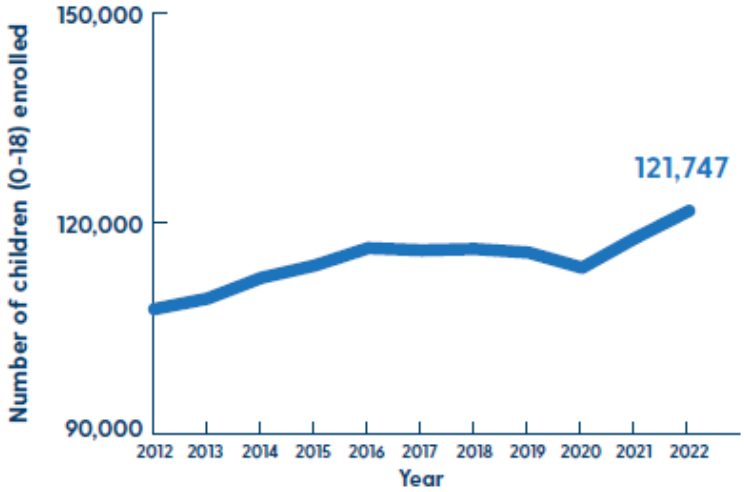
Continuous Eligibility Provision Kept Kids Insured Through the End of the Public Health Emergency

Medicaid/CHIP annual enrollment for children ages 0-18, Delaware



Source: Center for Community Research and Service, University of Delaware, 2024. Compiled with data provided by the Delaware Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance

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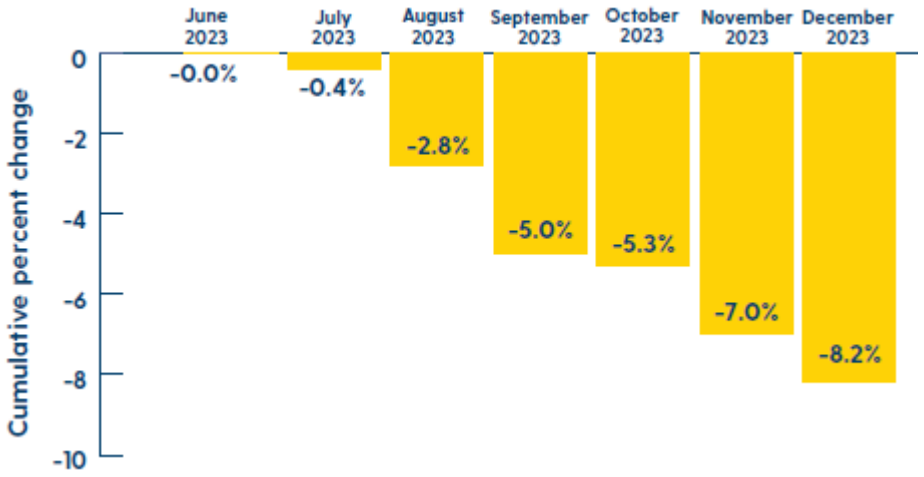
Delaware Disenrollments in Medicaid/CHIP Began in June 2023

Cumulative percentage change in Medicaid/CHIP monthly enrollment from May 2023, Delaware



Source: KFF analysis of state administrative data

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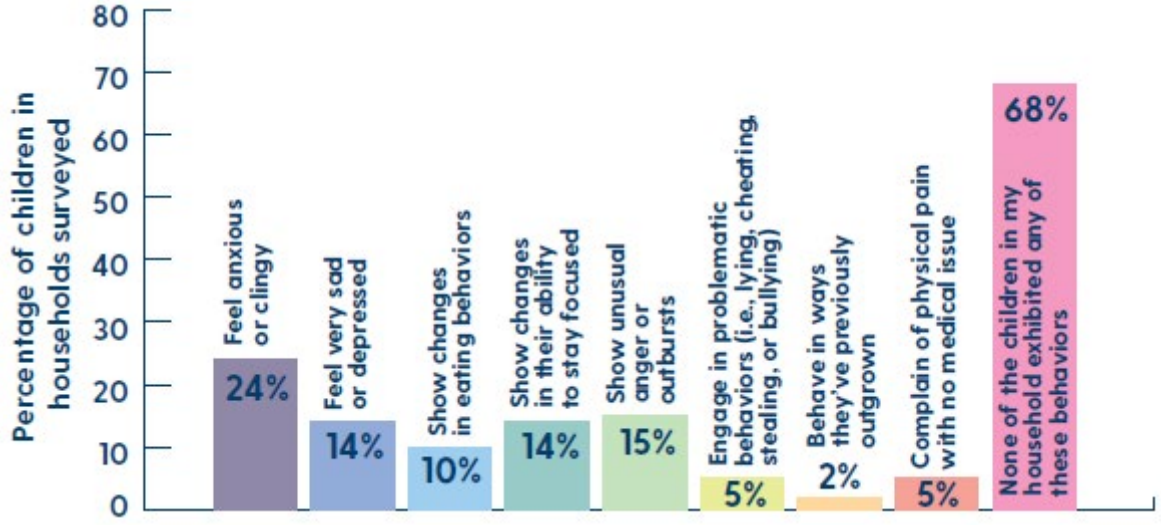
Childhood Anxiety Reported in One-Quarter of Delaware Households

Characteristics of children in households related to mental health, Delaware, October 18-October 30, 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, 2020-2023

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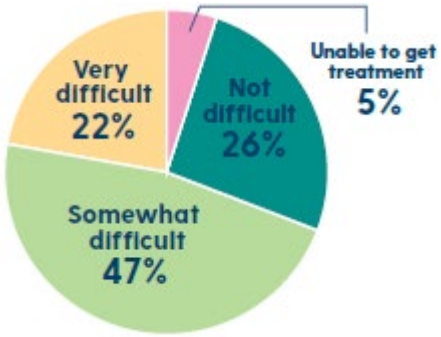
Majority of Households Experienced Some Level of Difficulty in Finding Mental Health Treatment for Children

Difficulty level receiving treatment for children in households receiving mental health treatment in the past four weeks, Delaware, October 18-October 30, 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020-2023

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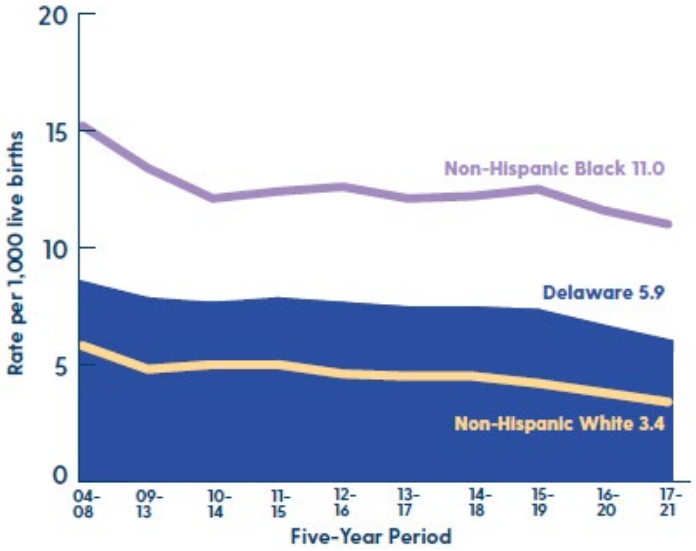
Infants of Color Are Disproportionately Impacted by Infant Mortality

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births by race, Delaware



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center
Note: Infant Mortality Rate is the number of deaths occurring in the first year of life per 1,000 live births

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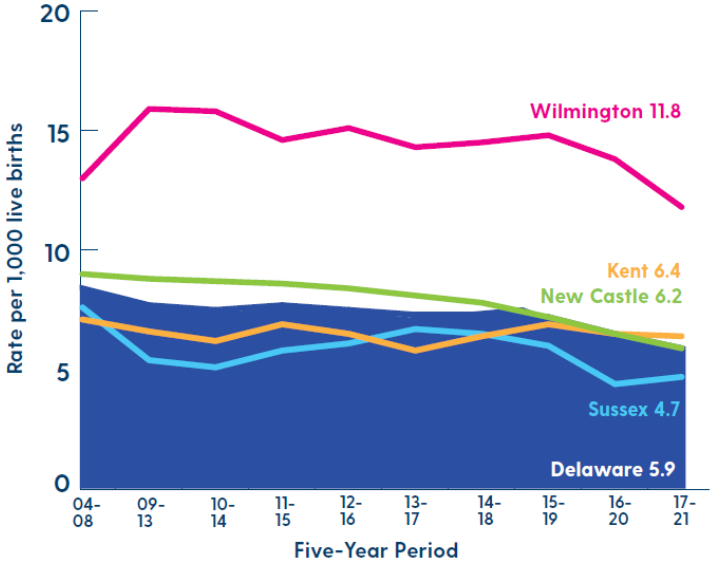
Infant Health is Fundamentally Intertwined With Maternal health

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Delaware, Counties, and City of Wilmington



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center
Note: Infant Mortality Rate is the number of deaths occurring in the first year of life per 1,000 live births

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Measuring Equity: Education

DELAWARE EDUCATION	All	American Indian	Asian and Pacific Islander	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic White	Two or More Races
Children (under 6) whose family members read to them less than 4 days per week, 2020-2021 Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Survey of Children's Health	46.0%	N.A.	35.0%	63.0%	69.0%	33.0%	N.A.
Public school students who are chronically absent, 2023 Source: Delaware Department of Education	20.8%	23.0%	11.7%	23.3%	22.6%	18.5%	23.6%
Students meeting the standard on Delaware System of Student Assessments (DeSSA), 3rd grade reading, 2022/23 Source: Delaware Department of Education	38.4%	42.4%	S	26.7%	27.1%	49.9%	39.4%
Students meeting the standard on Delaware System of Student Assessments (DeSSA), 11th grade math, 2022/23 Source: Delaware Department of Education	22.9%	21.9%	62.0%	8.3%	12.8%	32.9%	S
High school dropouts as a percentage of total students, 2021/22 Source: Delaware Department of Education	2.5%	1.7%	0.2%	2.5%	3.7%	1.1%	1.0%
Graduation from high school, 2021/22 Source: Delaware Department of Education	87.8%	84.0%	94.7%	85.2%	82.0%	91.5%	88.2%

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Cost of Child Care is a Challenge for Many Families

Average weekly cost in dollars to families for full-time childcare by child's age for licensed childcare centers, licensed large family childcare homes, licensed family childcare homes combined, Delaware, 2023

Source: Children and Families First

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In Every County in Delaware, Childcare Expenses Rival Expenses of Other Basic Needs

Monthly costs for 2 adults and 2 children, Delaware Counties, 2023

Counties	New Castle		Kent		Sussex	
Monthly total	$9,253		$8,106		$8,240	
Housing	$1,460	16%	$1,182	15%	$1,106	13%
Food	$1,057	11%	$955	12%	$1,057	11%
Child care	$1,520	16%	$1,154	14%	$1,154	14%
Transportation	$1,494	16%	$1,517	19%	$1,587	19%
Health care	$1,556	17%	$1,556	19%	$1,556	19%
Other necessities	$891	10%	$757	9%	$766	9%
Taxes	$1,268	14%	$986	12%	$1,014	12%

Source: Economic Policy Institute Family Budget Calculator, January 2023
Note: Data are in 2023 dollars

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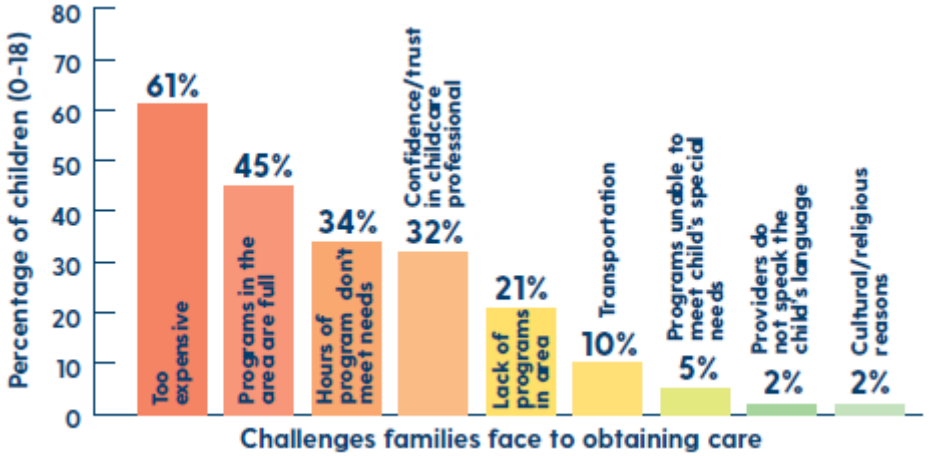
Expense Was Cited by More Than Half of Respondents Who Indicated Having Difficulty Accessing Child Care Programs

Difficulty accessing child care programs by reason, Delaware, 2023



Source: First State Pre-K Coalition (including Rodel, deaeyc, and the Delaware Readiness Teams), Delaware Family Survey
Note: respondents could select multiple options

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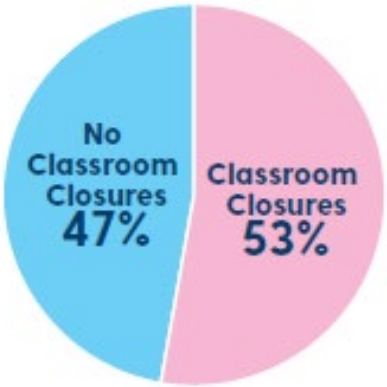
Approximately Half of Early Care Providers Report Classroom Closures

Classroom closures across center based programs, Delaware, December 2022



Source: Delaware Department of Education, Delaware Early Learning Community and Workforce Needs Assessment Study

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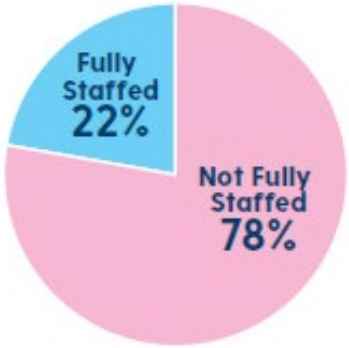
Majority of Early Care and Education Providers Report Difficulty Filling Staff Roles

Staffing within early care and education providers, Delaware, December 2022



Source: Delaware Department of Education, Delaware Early Learning Community and Workforce Needs Assessment Study

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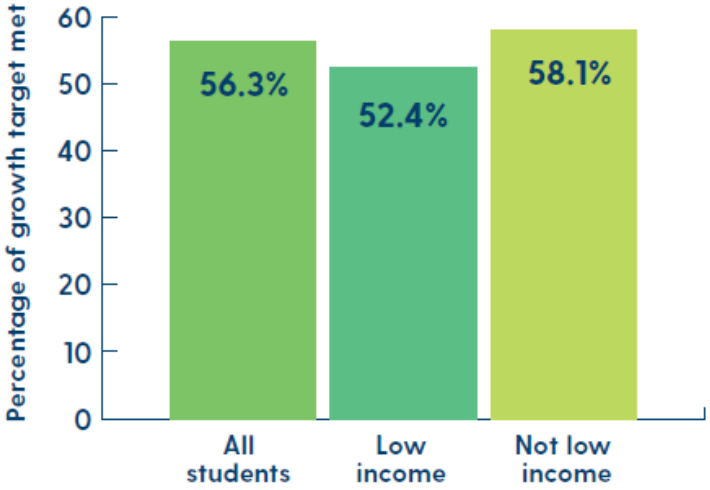
Delaware Students Identified as Low Income Achieved 52.4% of Expected Growth in 2023

Average percent of growth target met by students in grades 4 through 8 in ELA by income, Delaware, 2023



Source: Delaware Department of Education

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Many Delaware Families With Children Struggle With Basic Needs

October 18-30, 2023

Households with children that found it somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual household expenses in past week =

43%

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020-2023

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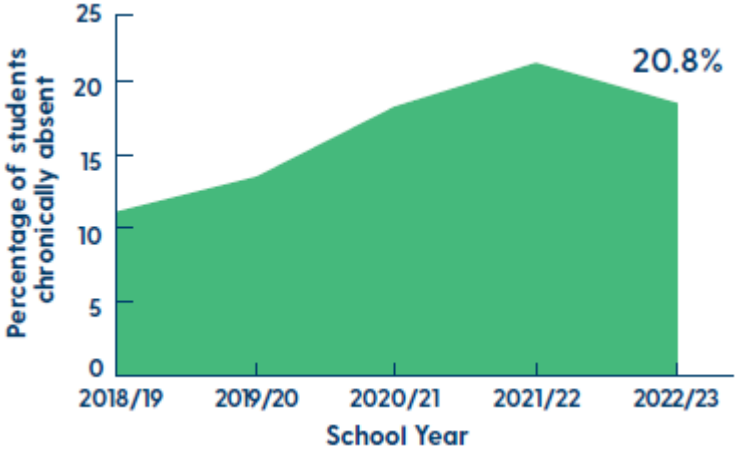
Chronic Absence Rates Were Impacted Negatively by the COVID-19 Pandemic and Have Not Yet Returned to Pre-Pandemic Levels

Percentage of public-school students chronically absent, Delaware



Source: Delaware Department of Education

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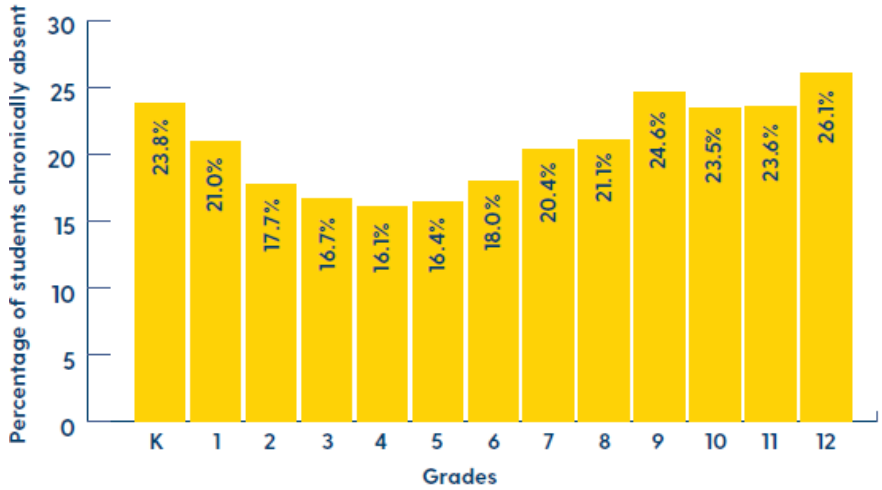
More Than One-Fifth of Delaware Students Were Chronically Absent During the 2022/23 School Year

Percentage of public-school students chronically absent by grade level, Delaware, 2022/23 school year



Source: Delaware Department of Education

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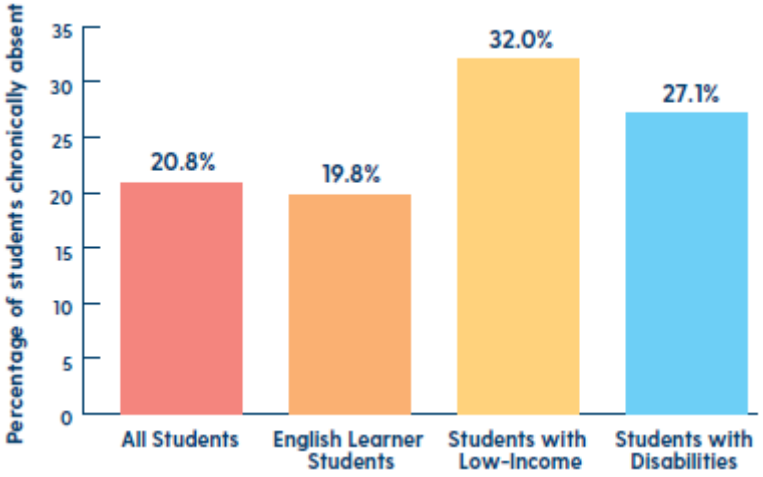
Challenges That Result in Chronic Absence Impact Different Cohorts of Students in Unique Ways

Percentage of public-school students chronically absent by select characteristics, Delaware, 2022/23 school year



Source: Delaware Department of Education

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Measuring Equity: Economic Security

DELAWARE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	All	American Indian	Asian and Pacific Islander	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic White	Two or More Races
Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma, 2022 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey	10%	S	5%	6%	S	6%	15%
Teens (16-19) not in school and not working, 2022 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey	5%	S	S	2%	S	3%	6%
Children in poverty, 2022 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey	13%	S	3%	S	S	7%	14%
Median family income, 2022 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey	$98,000	S	$123,700	$78,800	$51,800	$113,200	$51,800

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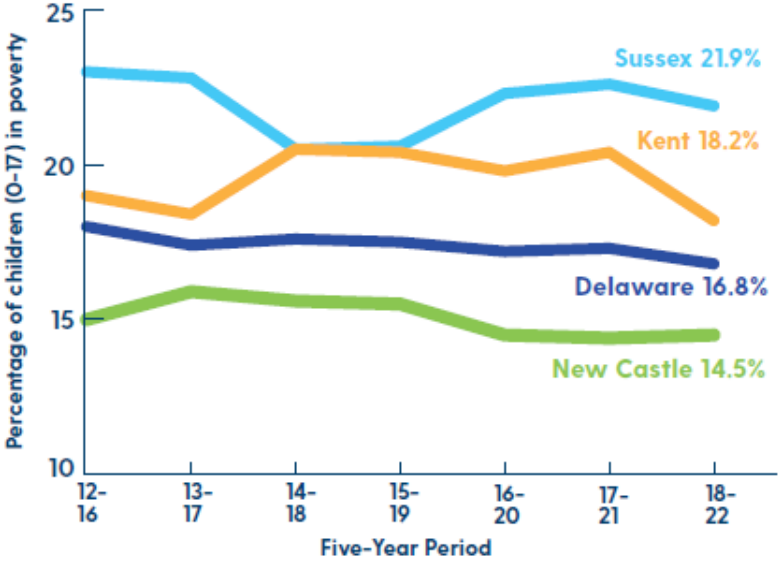
About 1 in 6 Delaware Children Live in Poverty

Percentage of children under 18 years in poverty, Delaware and Counties



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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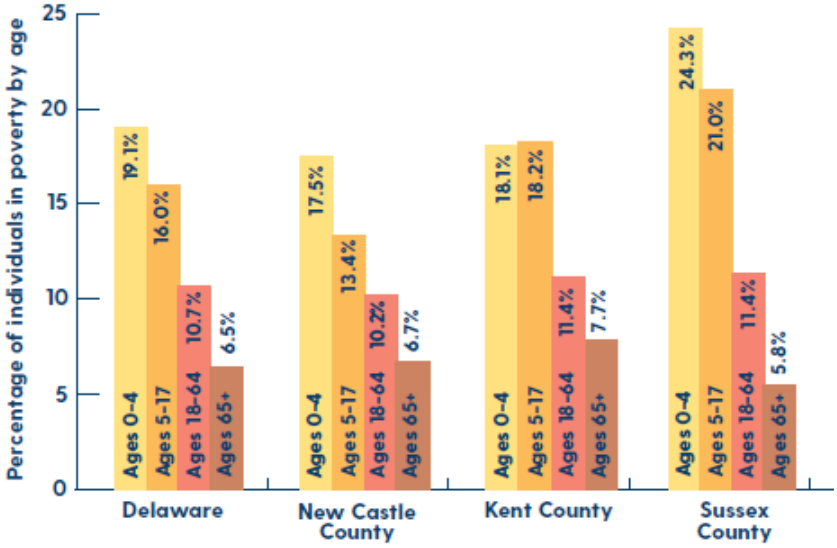
Children are More Likely to Live in Poverty than Adults

Delaware and Counties, 2017-2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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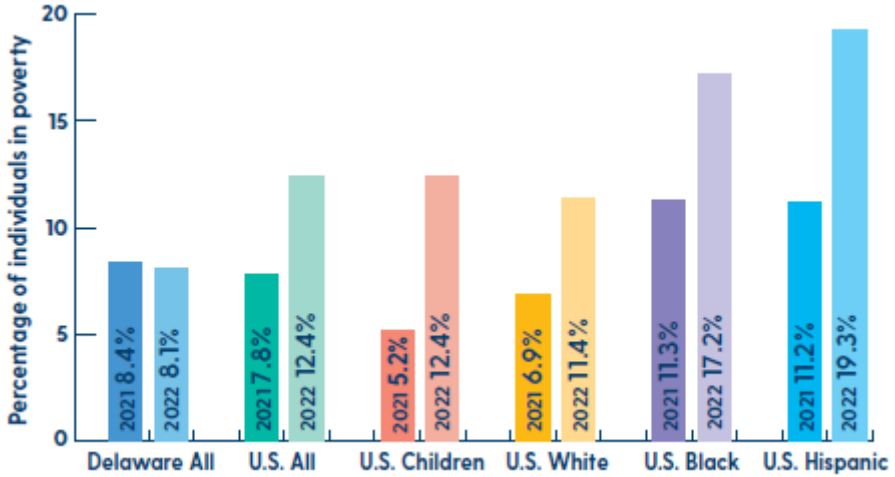
Child Poverty More Thank Doubled From 2021 to 2022 According to the Supplemental Poverty Measure

Individuals in poverty according to the Supplemental Poverty Measure, U.S. and Delaware, 2021 and 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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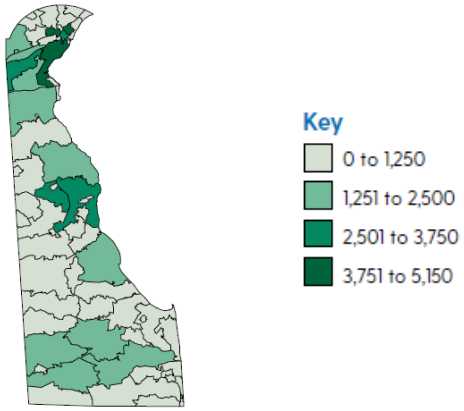
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is One of Several Federal Nutrition Programs to Safeguard Children From Adverse Outcomes Related to Food Insecurity

Child participation in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Zip Codes, 2023



Source: Delaware Department of Health and Social Services

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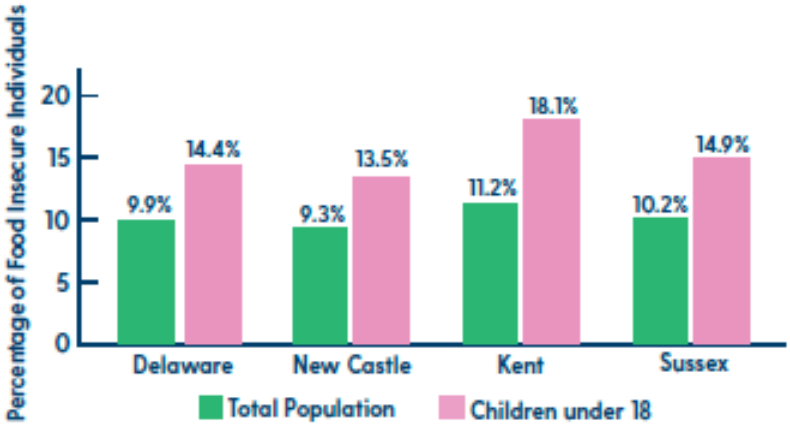
Children More Likely to Experience Hunger Than Adults

Food insecurity, Delaware and Counties, 2021



Source: Feeding America analysis of Current Population Survey data on food insecure households and survey data by the American Community Survey on household income, unemployment, poverty, race & ethnicity, and homeownership.

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Demand for Food Bank of Delaware Programs Surged After the End of SNAP Temporary benefit Allocation Increase

Food Bank and pantry data, Delaware, FY 2023

50,309 household visits to the Food Bank's Healthy Pantry Centers in Newark & Midford with 2,125,723 pounds of food distributed

737 mobile pantries received 80,291 household visits with 4,633,555 pounds of food distributed

Food Bank OF DELAWARE

Source: Food Bank of Delaware

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Homeless Definition Qualifiers	HUD	McKinney -Vento
Youth Ages	*Up to age 24*	*Up to Age 21*
Residing in a Place not Meant for Human Habitation		
Street, Bus/Train Station, Abandoned Building	✔	✔
RV/Shelter without Plumbing or Electricity	✖	✔
Substandard Housing	✖	✔
Tent, Car, Encampment	✔	✔
Temporary Housing		
Emergency/Congregate Shelter and Safe Haven	✔	✔
Transitional Housing, Hotels/Motels Paid by Programs	✔	✔
Exiting an Institution (e.g. jail, hospital)	✔	✔
Abandoned in Hospital	✖	✔
Permanent Housing Programs		
Permanent Supportive Housing	✖	✔
Housing Only	✖	✔
Rapid Housing	✖	✔
Shared Housing		
Doubled or Tripled Up	✖	✔
Couch Bouncing /Surfing	✖	✔

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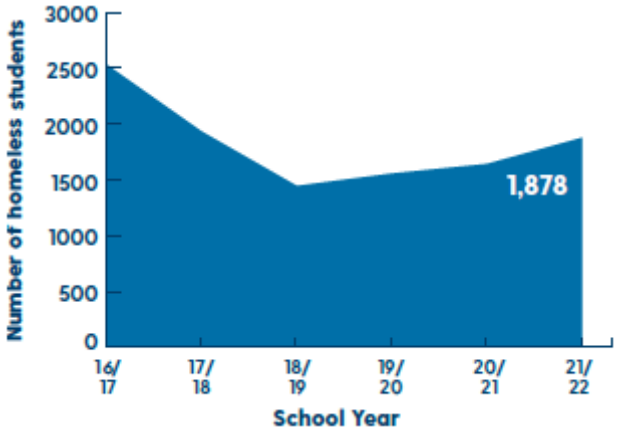
Children Who Lack a Fixed, Regular, and Adequate Nighttime Residence are Considered Homeless Through McKinney-Vento Which Ensures Educational Rights and Protections

Homeless students per McKinney-Vento definition of homeless, Delaware



Source: Delaware Department of Education

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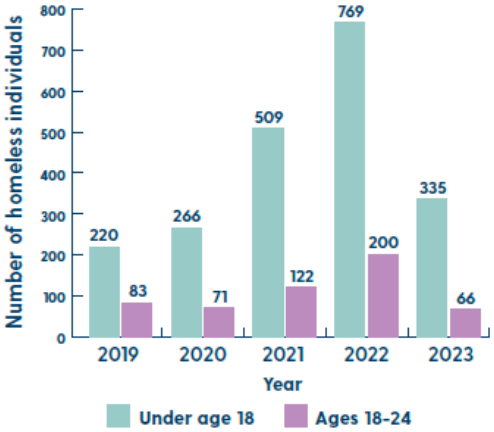
Sharp Decline in 2023 Number of Youth and Young Adults Identified as Homeless Attributed to End of COVID-era Motel Vouchers Which Made Counting More Centralized

Homelessness among youth and young adults per HUD definition of homeless, Delaware



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations

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Measuring Equity: Family & Community

DELAWARE FAMILY & COMMUNITY	All	American Indian	Asian and Pacific Islander	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic White	Two or More Races
Teen (ages 15-19) births, 2021 Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder	14 per 1,000	S	S	18 per 1,000	30 per 1,000	7 per 1,000	16 per 1,000
Children who have experienced two or more parent reported adverse experiences, 2020-2021 Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Survey of Children's Health	17%	S	S	23%	16%	13%	N.A.
Children in foster care, 2021 Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)	100%	<0.5%	N.A.	48%	8%	39%	5%
Children who had a parent who was ever incarcerated, 2020-2021 Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Survey of Children's health	7%	S	N.A.	13%	S	4%	N.A.
Juvenile crime arrests, 2022 Source: National Incident Based Crime, Delaware Statistical Analysis Center	100%	N.A.	N.A.	67.1%	6.4%	32.2%	N.A.

S = Data Suppressed due to small number of cases N.A. = Data Not Available

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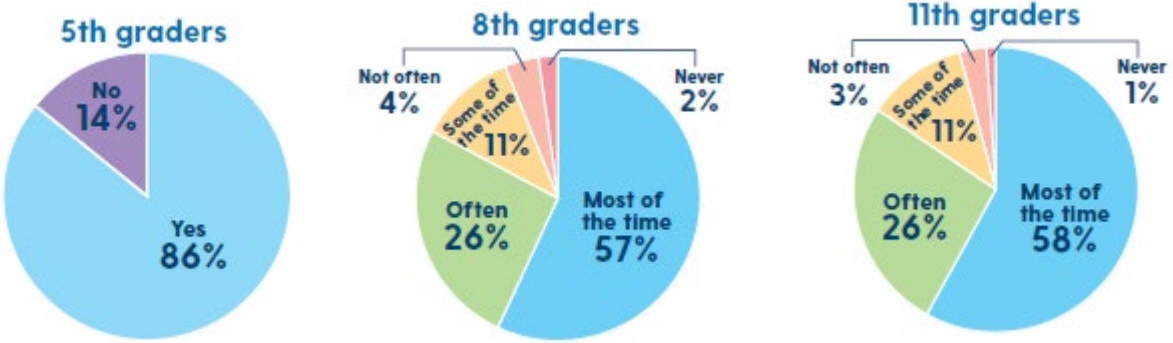
About 1 in 7 Fifth Grade Students in Delaware Report Not Feeling Safe in their Neighborhoods

Neighborhood safety youth perception, Delaware, 2023



Source: Delaware School Survey, Center for Drug and Health Studies, University of Delaware

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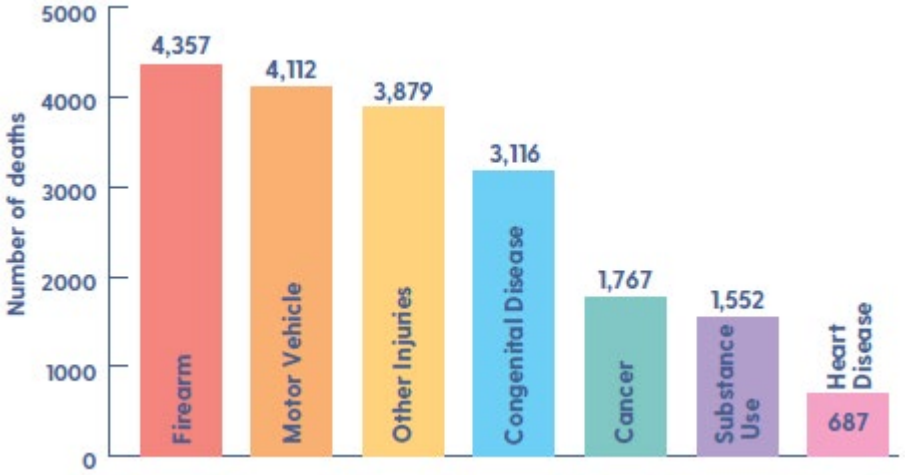
In 2020 Firearms Became the Leading Cause of Death of U.S. Youth

Number of deaths by leading cause of mortality for children (ages 1-19), U.S., 2020



Source: KFF analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Wonder data

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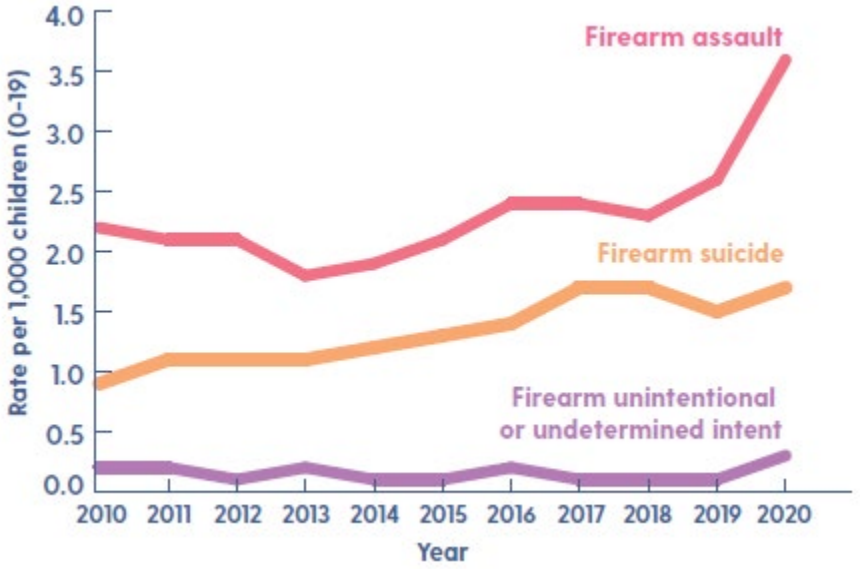
U.S. Child Firearm Assault and Suicide Deaths Have Increased

Firearm mortality rates per 100,000 children (ages 1-19) by type of firearm death, U.S.



Source: KFF analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Wonder data

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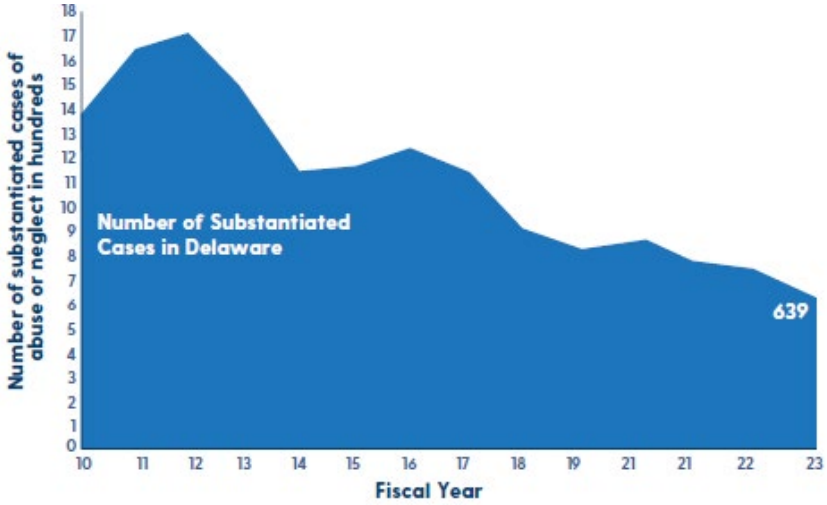
In 2023, of 24,390 Reports Made for Suspected Child Abuse in Delaware, 639 Were Substantiated

Number of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases, Delaware



Source: Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

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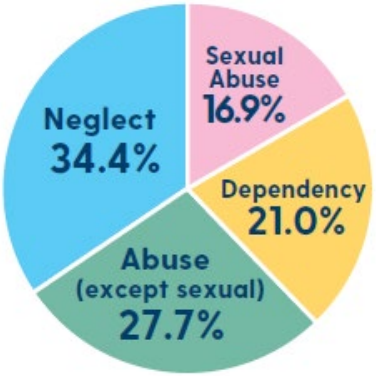
Child Abuse Takes Several Forms

Child abuse and neglect by type, Delaware, 2023



Source: Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

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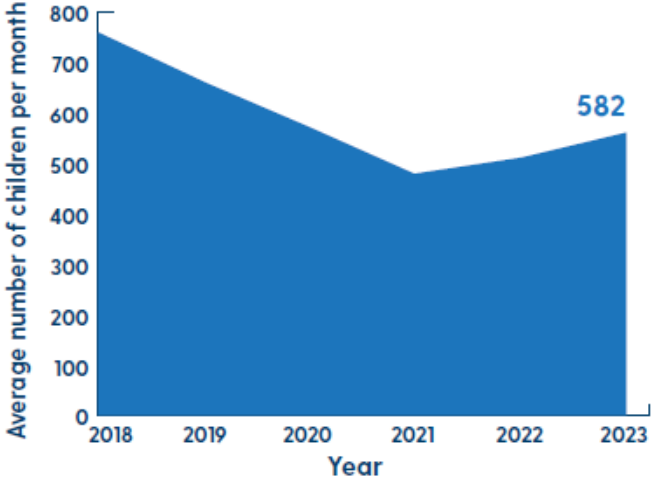
Youth Placed at Risk Include Those Who Have Experience with Systems Like Child Welfare

Average number of children per month in foster care, Delaware



Source: Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

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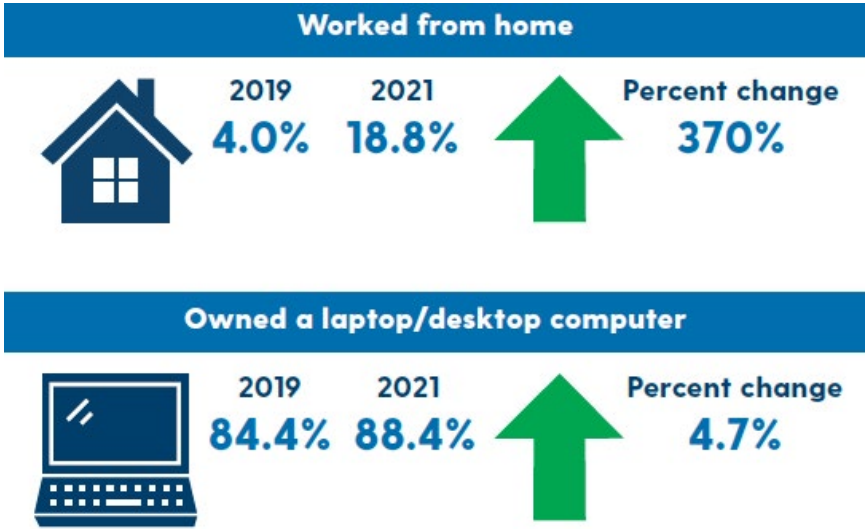
The Pandemic Shifted Societal Expectations Faced by Young Adults

Social characteristics of young adults (ages 18-34), Delaware, 2019 and 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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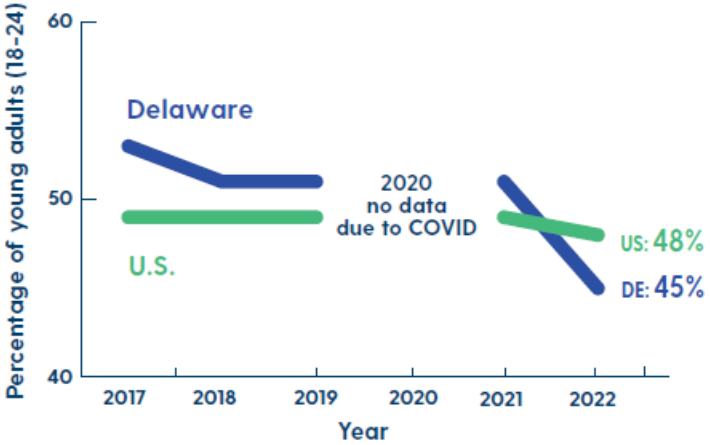
Fewer Young Adults Pursuing Higher Education in 2022 Compared to Pre-pandemic

Young adults (ages 18-24) who are enrolled in college full- or part- time or have completed a bachelor's degree or higher, U.S. and Delaware



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey & American Community Survey

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