Columbia County
Child Poverty in New York

Pre-pandemic data indicates that one in five children in New York — nearly 792,000 children — live in poverty, with our 15th Congressional district holding the nation’s highest child poverty rate. Impoverished children suffer worse health outcomes in many indicators, including increased incidence of infant mortality, low birth weight, asthma, elevated blood lead levels and obesity. Children who grow up poor are also more likely to become incarcerated, experience parental incarceration and become poor adults. Child poverty in New York is an urgent crisis, costing our State approximately $55,102,000,000 every year.

Child Poverty in Columbia County

- **1,593** children live in poverty in Columbia County.
  - **16 percent** of children in the county live below the poverty line, as compared to New York State's overall child poverty rate of **20 percent**.

Racial Disparities in Columbia County

- **23 percent** of children in Columbia County are children of color. Children of color are disproportionately poor in Columbia County:
  - **20 percent** of Black children are poor.
  - **33 percent** of Hispanic or Latino children are poor.
  - **12 percent** of White children are poor.
  - **33 percent** of Asian children are poor.
  - Black and Hispanic children in Columbia County are **two to three times** more likely to be poor than white children.

Cost of Child Poverty in Columbia County

- The annual cost of child poverty in the United States is estimated to be
$1.03 trillion, or around $69,581 per child. ix The cost of child poverty includes:

- Increased health costs
- Reduced earnings
- Increased costs associated with homelessness
- Increased costs associated with child welfare
- Increased criminal justice costs

Assuming that the per child cost of child poverty in Columbia County is comparable to the per child cost of child poverty in the United States, CDF-NY estimates that the annual cost of child poverty in Columbia County is around $111,000,000. x

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ix U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. Table B17020: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age.