Suffolk 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,\(^1\) with our 15\(^{th}\) 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 Suffolk County \(^{ii}\)

- **28,414** children live in poverty in Suffolk County.
  - **9 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 Suffolk County

- **44 percent** of children in Suffolk County are children of color. \(^{iii}\) Children of color are disproportionately poor in Suffolk County:
  - **14 percent** of Black children are poor. \(^{iv}\)
  - **17 percent** of Hispanic or Latino children are poor. \(^{v}\)
  - **5 percent** of White children are poor. \(^{vi}\)
  - **9 percent** of Asian children are poor. \(^{vii}\)
  - Black and Hispanic children in Suffolk County are **three to four times** more likely to be poor than white children. \(^{viii}\)
Cost of Child Poverty in Suffolk 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 Suffolk 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 Suffolk County is around $1,977,000,000. x

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