

Children, Poverty, and Educational Attainment

The Education Alliance

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Select Committee on Children and Poverty Presentation



Magnitude

Demographics

Children ages birth to four *

- Number of children age birth to four=103,758
- Number of children age birth to four living in poverty=29,528 or 28.4%

*National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRA)and West Virginia (2012)

Pre-K through 12th Grade

- 282,310 children enrolled in public school for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Approximately 56% of K-12th graders receive free or reduced lunch during the 2011-2012 school year.

County Free or Reduced Lunch Demographics

- 11 counties have rates less than 50%
- 15 counties exceed 60%
- 1 county exceeded 83%
- 88% of children in poverty are white

Factors Associated with Child Poverty in West Virginia*

- Race
 - 42% of all African-American children
- Family Structure
 - 50% of children living in families with a single-mother
- Parents Educational Attainment
 - 63% of all children whose parents did not complete high school
- Employment Status
 - 71% of children with unemployed parents

• **Child Poverty: A Growing and Persistent Problem*, West Virginia Center for Budget and Policy, February, 2013.

Factors Associated with Child Poverty in West Virginia*

- Chances of growing up in poverty are 9 times greater if the child is born to an unmarried, teen parent, without a high school diploma.
- WV's teen pregnancy rate increased by 17% between 2007 and 2009. At-risk factors for growing up in poverty

Student Achievement

Poverty and Toxic Stress

What is toxic stress?

- Stress that is severe, sustained, and not buffered by supportive relationships.
 - High mobility and homelessness
 - Hunger and food instability
 - Parents who are in jail or absent
 - Domestic violence; drug abuse

Impact of Toxic Stress

- Decreased brain plasticity (brain flexibility that aids in learning)
- Weakened neural connections
 - language development
 - Self-control
- Eventually connections, good or bad, stabilize

Other Factors

- Poor School Attendance
 - Children in poverty miss four times more school than their more affluent peers
- Why?
 - Hunger
 - Asthma
 - Anxiety
 - Fear
 - Insufficient funds for school supplies, books, etc.
 - Lack of quiet place to read or study

Reading Achievement, High School Completion, and Poverty

63% of children whose parents did not complete high school are poor.

High School Graduation

- 16% of non-proficient 3rd grade readers do not graduate on time;
-  26% if non-proficient and poor for at least a year; and
-  35% if non-proficient, live in poor neighborhoods

2011 Reading - Grade 03								2012 Reading - Grade 04							
	Tested	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Prof		Tested	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Prof
Asian	137	16.06%	13.87%	31.39%	22.63%	16.06%	70.07%	Asian	153	9.15%	24.84%	32.03%	24.18%	9.80%	66.01%
Black	986	43.71%	22.01%	21.81%	8.62%	3.85%	34.28%	Black	956	35.88%	28.03%	24.48%	9.83%	1.78%	36.09%
Female	9,181	27.81%	20.54%	26.85%	16.44%	8.37%	51.65%	Female	9,335	22.85%	24.95%	29.74%	18.45%	4.02%	52.20%
Mirg.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Mirg.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hispanic	229	37.55%	21.40%	24.89%	12.23%	3.93%	41.05%	Hispanic	218	33.94%	32.11%	22.02%	10.09%	1.83%	33.94%
Indian	23	39.13%	17.39%	30.43%	4.35%	8.70%	43.48%	Indian	15	26.67%	6.67%	40.00%	20.00%	6.67%	66.67%
LEP	152	41.45%	17.11%	23.03%	13.82%	4.61%	41.45%	LEP	145	24.14%	37.24%	21.38%	13.79%	3.45%	38.62%
Male	9,682	38.05%	21.68%	24.33%	11.56%	4.38%	40.27%	Male	9,831	33.34%	26.82%	25.02%	12.73%	2.09%	39.83%
Spec. Ed.	3,399	56.99%	18.53%	15.62%	7.09%	1.77%	24.48%	Spec. Ed.	3,173	60.79%	18.59%	13.74%	6.52%	0.35%	20.61%
Low SES	10,550	42.81%	22.35%	21.97%	9.84%	3.03%	34.84%	Low SES	10,514	37.03%	27.92%	23.21%	10.21%	1.63%	35.05%
All Students	18,863	33.06%	21.13%	25.56%	13.93%	6.32%	45.81%	All Students	19,166	28.23%	25.91%	27.32%	15.51%	3.03%	45.86%
Multi-Racial	78	24.36%	25.64%	32.05%	11.54%	6.41%	50.00%	Multi-Racial	204	25.00%	26.47%	29.90%	17.16%	1.47%	48.53%
White	17,409	32.57%	21.12%	25.69%	14.21%	6.41%	46.32%	White	17,614	27.95%	25.74%	27.46%	15.79%	3.07%	46.32%
Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

3rd Grade WESTEST2