Six facts about child well-being in Alabama

In 2017, **31%** of children lived in households where parents lacked **secure employment**. Black children are twice as likely as white children to live in such households.

Approximately 97 percent of Alabama’s children are now covered by some form of **health insurance**. However, the number of state’s children without health insurance increased from 39,111 in 2016 to **41,459** in 2017.

In 2017, **22.3 percent** of Alabama children under 18 years of age faced food insecurity at some point during the year.

In the last 18 years, Alabama has seen a steady decline in the number of licensed **child care centers**, from 4,269 in 2000 to 1,698 in 2019. This represents a decrease of **60 percent** in licensed child care programs.

**4th-grade reading proficiency** in Alabama in the 2017-2018 school year was **47.5%**

In 2019, Alabama was ranked **44th in the nation** in both children’s economic well-being and children’s overall well-being.

Sources: 2019 Alabama KIDS COUNT Data Book, KIDS COUNT Data Center
In the US today, 52.1% of children (38.5 million children) are poor or low-income.¹ When more than half of our children do not know if they will have a place to sleep, nutritious meals, or safe communities, we are failing our families and compromising the future of this country.

More than 1.5 million public school students experienced homelessness² during the 2017-2018 school year. LGBTQ+ youth are at a much higher risk of homelessness than their peers.³

In 2016, there was a resurgence in school re-segregation. Predominantly white school districts received $2,200 more per student in funding.⁴ Funding for tribals schools has fallen from $400 million to $133 million over the past 10 years.⁵

A child or teen is killed with a gun every 2 hours and 34 minutes.⁶ African American and Native children and teens are more likely to be killed by law enforcement than any other ethnic groups.

Due to consistent underfunding, Early Head Start served only 5% of eligible infants and toddlers in 2016.⁷

SNAP benefits 17.5 million children,⁸ but current attacks on SNAP will mean that 1 million children will no longer receive school meals.⁹

In 2019, student debt totaled more than $1.5 trillion¹⁰ and affected about 44 million Americans.¹¹

It does not need to be this way. Investing in our children’s education could grow the economy by $32 trillion over the long-term.¹² A Wall Street tax of 0.1% in trading could raise $70 billion to provide free public college for all.¹³ A cut of just 1% to the military budget would cover nearly 8 million additional Head Start spots.¹⁴