Six facts about child well-being in Arkansas

As of 2018, 30% of Arkansas children lived in families lacking secure parental employment.

In 2016, 32.2% of pregnant Arkansas women lacked first-trimester prenatal care.

235,341 Arkansas children received food stamps in 2018.

In 2018, only 52% of Arkansas children were enrolled in prekindergarten programs.

69% of Arkansas children scored below proficient in fourth grade reading achievement.

Arkansas ranks 36th in the nation in the children's economic well-being domain.

Sources: Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, 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


The Souls of Poor Folk Audit, PPC Moral Budget, KIDS COUNT Data Center