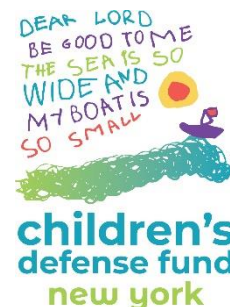


## New Census Data Shows Black Children in New York Being Left Further Behind; New York's Child Poverty Ranking Drops 3 Spots to 35th out of 50 States

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**New York, N.Y.** – Children’s Defense Fund-New York Executive Director Naomi Post released this statement in response to the U.S. Census Bureau release of 2019 child poverty numbers in the states today. The data show important trends that existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic which has caused unparalleled harm to vulnerable communities in 2020. The new information shows New York dropping 3 spots when compared to 2018, when it ranked 32nd out of 50 states. In 2019, more than 12 million children nationally, or 14.4% of all children, were living in poverty. While New York experienced a small, statistically insignificant decline in child poverty rates from 18.6% in 2018 to 18.1% in 2019, it still had over 711,000 children in the state living in poverty. Nearly half of those children live in extreme poverty. In 2020 a family of four with an annual income of \$26,200 lives in poverty, and a family of four in extreme poverty has half that annual income. Poverty in New York continues to disproportionately impact children of color, with 27.7% of all Black children and 24.8% of all Hispanic children living in poverty, in contrast to 12.2% of all white children in the state living in poverty. Most alarmingly, the child poverty rate for black children increased by 1%, from 26.7% in 2018.

“The newly released 2019 Census data shows alarming trends for New York’s children. Poverty rates for Black children in New York increased, at a time when overall child poverty rates decreased. This means more Black children in New York are being left further behind, and not sharing in what little gains existed before the current health and economic crisis. We also know that the crisis has only made this worse, as it hit communities of color the hardest. Further, New York’s drop in the ranking of state child poverty rates shows that New York is becoming an increasingly difficult place for children and families to live.

We need leadership in Albany to get serious about reversing these trends, particularly when it comes to meeting the needs of Black children. We want the Governor to commit to cutting child poverty in half by 2030. New York should also take immediate action by expanding the Empire state child tax credit, reforming state child care assistance so that all eligible families are able to receive child care subsidies, restore cuts to Medicaid and end the withholding of funding for localities and community-based organizations in the current fiscal year. Elected officials have all the power and tools necessary to make this happen, including raising taxes on the wealthy.”

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The [Children’s Defense Fund-New York](#) (CDF-NY) Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. CDF-NY serves as an independent voice for New York's children. CDF-NY grew out of the Civil Rights Movement, and is led by women of color.