

ACCESSING OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW YORK'S CHILDREN

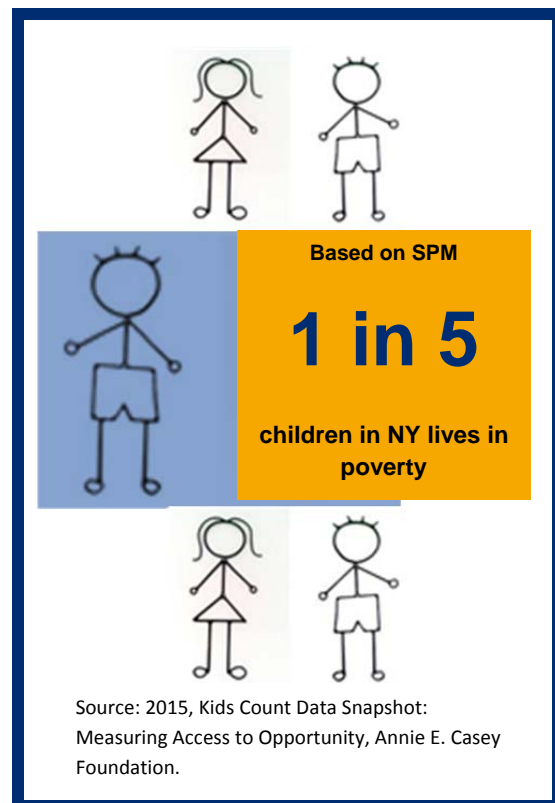
MEASURING POVERTY

Individuals are considered to be living in poverty in those instances where family resources do not exceed the amount needed to meet basic needs.

The age that children experience poverty, the amount of time they remain in poverty; and the number of times they experience it during their childhood all have detrimental effects on their overall well-being. Children living in poverty are at greater risk than their non-poor peers to have negative academic outcomes; experience poorer health in childhood and throughout their adult lives; and have poorer social-emotional skills.

The official poverty measure, which is commonly used to determine poverty status, uses family income (gross, pre-tax, cash income) as an indication of family resources and the poverty threshold is established as the minimum resources an individual or family of a given size needs to meet basic needs. The **supplemental poverty measure (SPM)** is an alternative means for assessing which individuals and families are living in poverty. In this particular measure, family resources are expanded and a number of major cash and near-cash anti-poverty government benefits (e.g., food stamps, housing subsidies, school lunch assistance, EITC) are added to the gross, pre-tax, cash income.

The SPM also accounts for unavoidable or nondiscretionary expenses incurred that can



reduce the amount of family resources available to meet basic needs (e.g., FICA and income tax liabilities, out-of-pocket medical expenses, and work-related child care and transportation expenses). The poverty thresholds used with the SPM more fully reflect expenses of today's families and the overall rise in the general standard of living. Additionally the thresholds adjust for geographic differences in the cost-of-living.

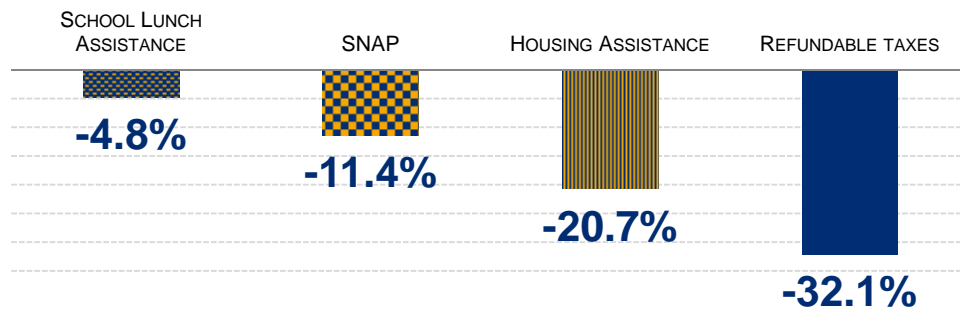
INVESTMENTS THAT PAY

Anti-poverty investments that are tracked by the SPM reduce child poverty.

Among children in New York State, the SPM is **reduced from 37 to 20** percent, 17 percentage points, once transfers (anti-poverty investments) are taken into account. Although the percent of children in poverty is higher using the SPM due to the higher thresholds that more accurately assess basic needs and account for geographic costs of living, the SPM percent of children in poverty is lower than the official poverty measure when various anti-poverty supports provided to families are incorporated into their incomes.

In 2008, analyses were conducted to learn how anti-poverty benefits influenced child poverty. The poverty measure used for the analyses were based on a definition of poverty that was developed by the National Academy of Science (NAS) and is extremely similar to the US Census Bureau's SPM; however, it more accurately reflects the full reduction in poverty that occurs due to government benefits available in New York state.

Figure 1. Marginal reduction in New York child poverty rates after accounting for government benefits



Source: 2008 American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by OTDA

NOTE: The refundable tax credits include two federal tax credits (EITC and Additional Child Tax Credit); five state tax credits (Empire State Child Credit, NYS Child and Dependent Tax Credit, NYS EITC, Real Property Tax Credit, and NYS College Tuition Credit); and two NYC tax credits (STAR and EITC). For more information go to: [A Look at Child Poverty in New York State](#)

Table 1 highlights anti-poverty initiatives provided to children and families across New York state counties. The initiatives include some of the benefits tracked in the US Census Bureau's SPM.

Table 1. Anti-Poverty Initiatives Similar to SPM-Tracked Benefits

Investments that Pay for New York's Children	School Lunch Program	Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Subsidized Child Care	Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	
	Percent of public school students receiving free or reduced-price lunch	Avg. credit to taxpayer (\$)	Percent of households with children receiving SNAP	Avg. number of children per month receiving subsidized child care	Avg. Monthly Caseload	Percent Served
STATEWIDE	49	628	47	380,549	487,927	63

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					Avg. Monthly Caseload	Percent Served
State & County	Percent of public school students receiving free or reduced-price lunch	Avg. credit to taxpayer (\$)	Percent of households with children receiving SNAP	Avg. number of children per month receiving subsidized child care		
ALBANY	36	596	43	5,071	4,555	50
ALLEGANY	49	639	45	495	995	46
BRONX	83	698	54	see NYC	63,054	63
BROOME	44	622	47	2,820	4,523	55
CATTARAUGUS	50	645	44	1,300	1,704	40
CAYUGA	38	615	45	1,221	1,383	47
CHAUTAUQUA	56	653	49	3,160	3,472	55
CHEMUNG	42	645	47	1,796	2,163	54
CHENANGO	54	636	38	423	1,360	71
CLINTON	46	588	48	536	1,726	60
COLUMBIA	40	573	44	548	1,108	62
CORTLAND	43	627	42	661	1,176	65
DELAWARE	58	633	37	665	795	44
DUTCHESS	31	572	45	2,679	3,505	50
ERIE	44	636	43	14,792	16,828	51
ESSEX	44	583	40	159	628	49
FRANKLIN	50	648	45	518	1,184	48
FULTON	48	630	45	391	782	35
GENESEE	44	599	52	723	1,105	44
GREENE	40	586	38	287	796	60
HAMILTON	32	617	10	27	57	73
HERKIMER	52	633	42	613	1,406	51
JEFFERSON	45	648	46	1,051	4,280	52
KINGS	72	677	48	see NYC	112,203	72
LEWIS	51	634	41	190	664	52

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LIVINGSTON	35	607	48	669	873	43
MADISON	36	628	43	515	1,432	62
MONROE	43	643	49	19,265	13,506	47
MONTGOMERY	51	660	46	494	1,151	40
NASSAU	23	593	44	13,736	15,925	60
NEW YORK	66	561	33	see NYC	39,221	85
NIAGARA	43	610	39	1,534	3,896	52
ONEIDA	50	669	46	4,261	5,611	55
ONONDAGA	40	648	47	9,418	9,017	49
ONTARIO	31	603	44	654	1,662	53
ORANGE	38	710	57	3,280	9,735	57
ORLEANS	52	640	53	609	752	41
OSWEGO	46	635	51	1,573	2,873	52
OTSEGO	42	592	49	572	906	47
PUTNAM	14	493	47	321	1,118	69
QUEENS	60	601	48	see NYC	65,200	74
RENSSELAER	36	615	48	2,434	3,036	59
RICHMOND	49	623	53	see NYC	7,264	45
ROCKLAND	30	798	67	3,198	12,812	77
SARATOGA	20	565	38	778	1,693	38
SCHENECTADY	45	648	42	2,893	3,019	49
SCHOHARIE	44	590	45	302	538	47
SCHUYLER	43	613	43	292	316	54
SENECA	41	618	36	156	594	42
ST. LAWRENCE	54	657	43	1,660	2,230	43

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STEUBEN	43	636	45	1,106	1,952	44
SUFFOLK	30	607	50	8,061	20,294	58
SULLIVAN	52	661	47	952	1,832	53
TIOGA	44	635	43	1,054	1,072	60
TOMPKINS	36	562	42	1,167	1,420	63
ULSTER	36	568	37	1,744	1,811	35
WARREN	35	578	49	786	1,085	54
WASHINGTON	45	630	46	528	1,490	64
WAYNE	40	632	48	734	1,602	48
WESTCHESTER	34	611	49	9,283	18,802	67
WYOMING	36	593	46	324	442	31
YATES	54	627	53	180	293	22
NYC	--	--	--	245,890	--	--
OTHER	--	251	--	--	--	--
Data Source	NYS Education Department	NYS Department of Taxation & Finance	US Census Bureau American Community Survey	NYS Office of Children & Family Services	NYS Department of Health	
Year	2013-2014 School Year	2012 Tax Year	2009-2013	NYC Jul 2012 – Jun 2013. Rest of State Jul 2012, Oct 2012, Jan 2013, Apr 2013.	2014	
Notes	-----	Includes nonresidents and part-year residents who moved out of New York. Part-year residents who move into New York are classified by the county into which they moved. The vast majority of the credit goes to families with children.	-----	Includes low income families & families receiving temporary assistance	-----	