Children and Youth Receiving Supplemental Security Income

number and percent children/youth ages birth-17 years (2018)

Why This Matters:
The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides monthly cash benefits to aged, blind and disabled persons with income and resources below certain limits. Unlike state-administered public assistance programs, SSI is administered by the federal Social Security Administration according to uniform national standards. Children in New York State receive SSI if they meet the blindness or disability criteria, and in addition, meet the income and resource requirements for eligibility.

Although SSI income and resource standards are low, they are generally higher than those for public assistance. Moreover, cash benefits paid on behalf of the child are significantly higher than public assistance benefits received for children. SSI benefits are intended to meet the basic economic needs of the child, not to provide special services that may be required by children with disabilities. Therefore, the number and percent of children receiving SSI due to blindness or disability serve primarily to count the additional children, other than those receiving public assistance, that are dependent on the government for their basic support needs.

Data Provider:
NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Data Source:
Social Security Administration; Office of Research Evaluation and Statistics; NYS Application Service Center - SDX File
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