

Health Trends in Early Childhood

April 2025



Child Well-Being



Trend

Too many children in Pennsylvania are:

Missing out on quality early learning opportunities;

Lacking healthcare coverage and timely child health services;

Not provided with nutritious food; and

Living in unstable housing, especially infants and toddlers.



Explanation

The early years guide a child's health and development trajectory.

Safe housing, access to nutritious foods and physical health opportunities, transportation, and neighborhoods; polluted air and water all have an impact on a child's well-being.



Impact

Pennsylvania has the 5th highest number of uninsured children in the nation.

Improving healthy food access improves healthy eating habits, yet federal funding cuts and increased demands at food banks can have a negative impact on a child's and their family's well-being.



Action

Ensure children are safe and protected at all times.

Surround children with loving, nurturing, and consistent caregivers.

Assist families in connecting with community resources.

Assist families in connecting to quality early learning, health, and social services.

Additional Resources

- [PA Promise for Children: Developmental Milestones](#)
- [Better Kid Care: Supporting Food Security in Your Community](#)

Learn more at
www.pakeys.org/HealthTrends

This is the most updated information at release time. The information in Health Trends is not a Pennsylvania regulatory requirement for early childhood providers. Pennsylvania early childhood providers with questions about regulatory requirements should contact their Cert rep or the [Bureau of Certification](#).

