

WESTCHESTER  
**children's**  
ASSOCIATION

Children  
By the  
Numbers  
**2026**  
Data  
Bulletin

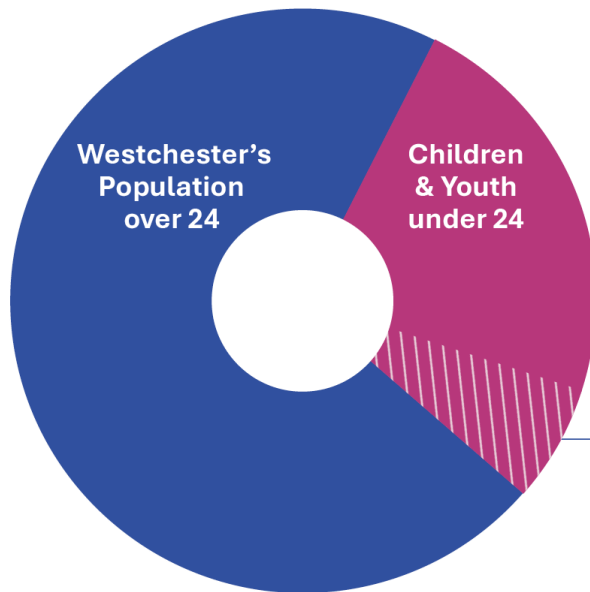


## Westchester Population Breakdown

**What We See:** Nearly 3 in 10 Westchester residents (29.3%) are children and youth ages 0–24, and almost a quarter of them (22.6%) are considered low-income.

**What We Do:** WCA continues to advocate for expanded tax credits, affordable childcare, housing stability, and other supports that help families meet basic needs and reduce child poverty.

## There are 295,488 children and youth ages 0 to 24 in Westchester County, New York<sup>1</sup>



## Westchester County Population

Per 2024 American Community Survey

**29.3% of Westchester's population are children and youth ages 0 to 24<sup>1</sup>**

**21.6% of those children and youth are considered Low Income<sup>2</sup>**

SOURCES: (1) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table S0101. <https://data.census.gov> (2) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table B17024. <https://data.census.gov>

## A Change in Demographics

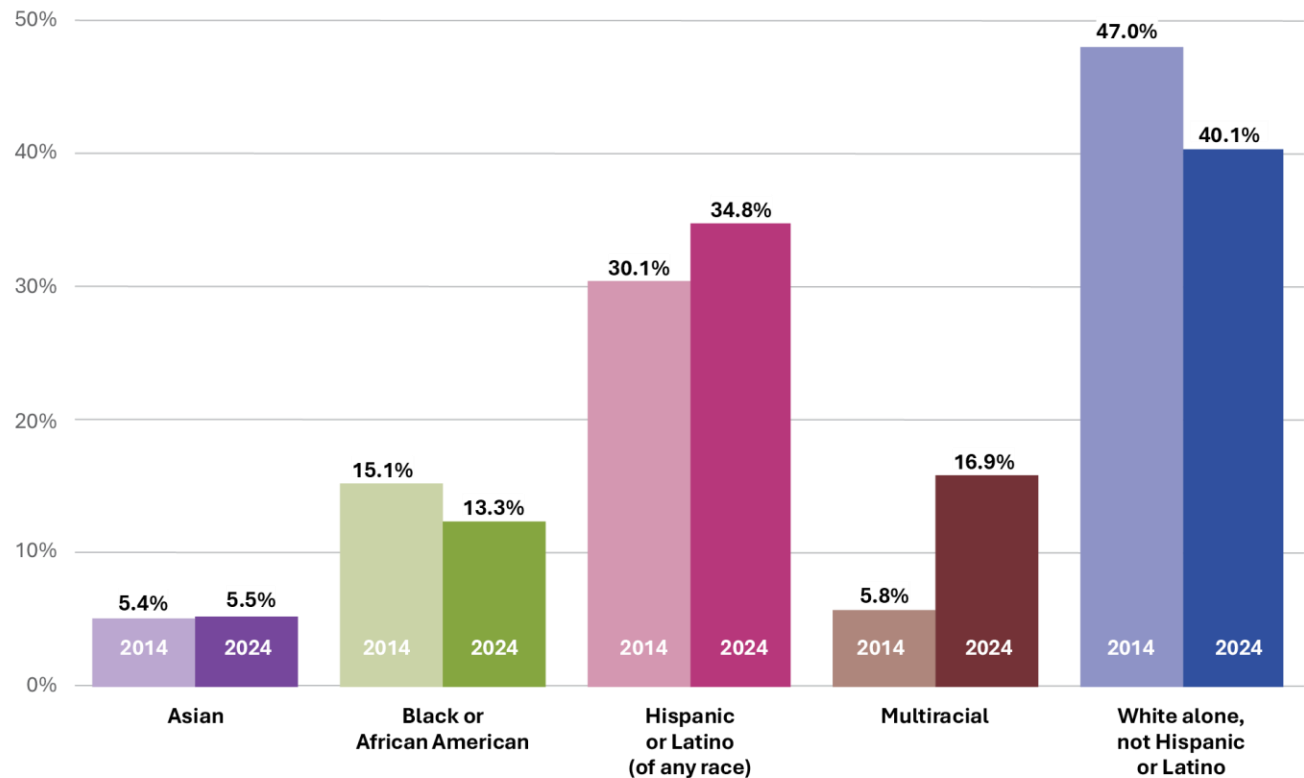
### What We See

Westchester's population has become more diverse over the past decade, with White, Non-Hispanic youth still the largest group but declining, while Hispanic or Latino youth make up a growing share.

### What We Do

WCA works to ensure that policies reflect the needs of Westchester's increasingly diverse population, by elevating community voice, advocating equitable solutions, & promoting culturally responsive systems.

## Race/Ethnicity Demographics of Westchester Children & Youth (0-24), 2014 vs 2024



SOURCES: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014 & 2024 One Year Estimates, Table S0901. <https://data.census.gov>

## Westchester's Youngest Population Is Shrinking

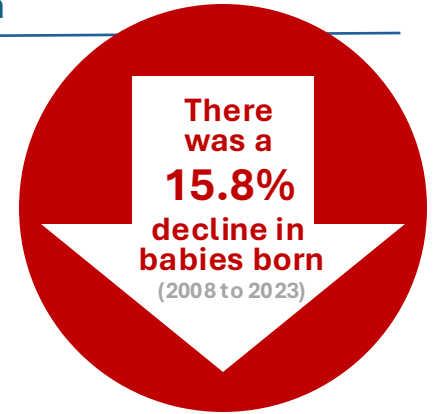
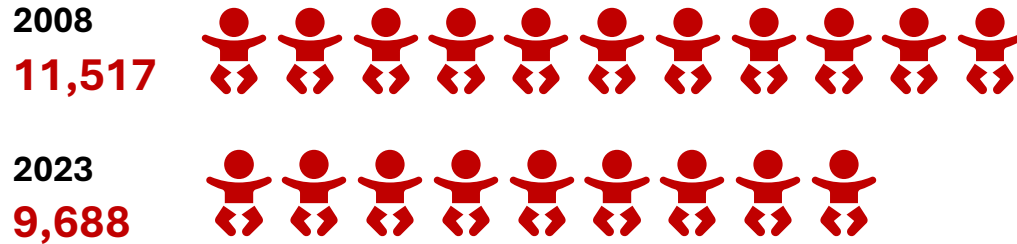
### What We See

The decline in babies and young children in Westchester reflects state and national trends. Increasing economic stress could discourage families from having or raising children here.

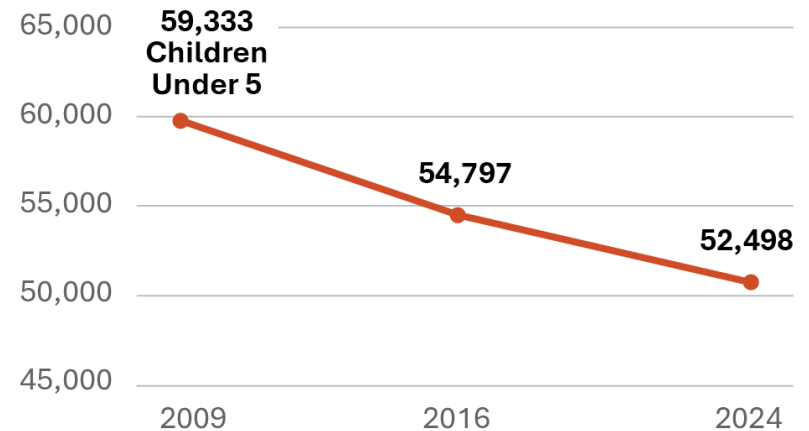
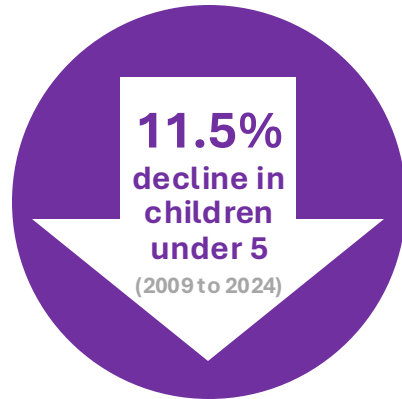
### What We Do

WCA supports investments in affordable child care, including the Westchester Works Scholarship and the Child Care Assistance Programs, as well as other family economic supports that help make Westchester a place where families can afford to have and raise children.

## The Number of Babies in Westchester County has Gone Down



## Fewer Young Children Live in Westchester



SOURCES: New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics Live Births and Fertility Rates Data, [https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Vital-Statistics-Live-Births-and-Fertility-Rates-b/c2tx-jecb/about\\_data](https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Vital-Statistics-Live-Births-and-Fertility-Rates-b/c2tx-jecb/about_data)

## The Relationship Between Family Type and Income

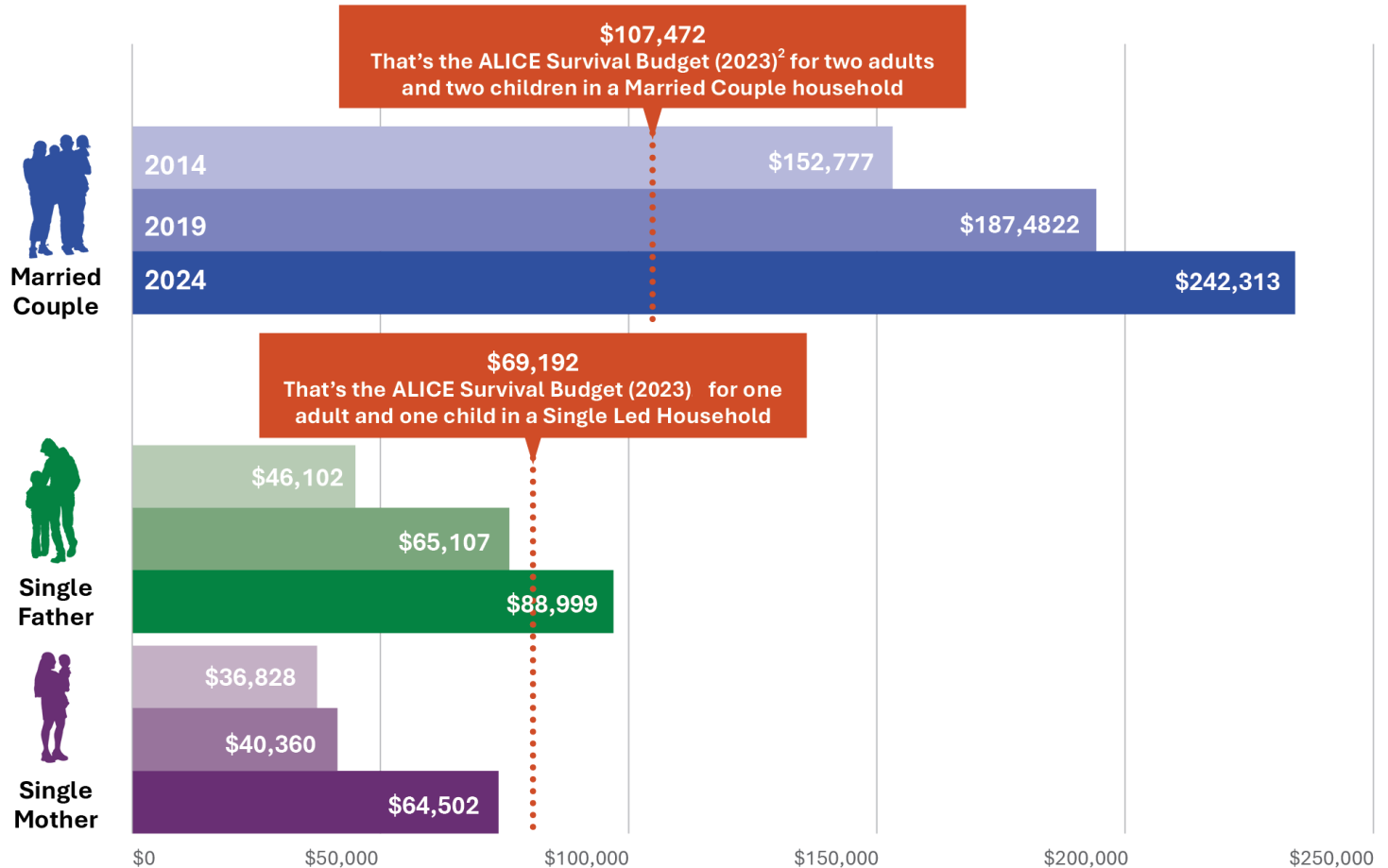
### What We See

Married-couple families earn roughly **three to four times** what single-parent households. While all groups experienced increased income since 2014, married couples captured the largest absolute gains.

### Takeaway

Cost-of-living pressures do not impact all family types equally — single-mother households in particular are starting from a lower baseline.

## Median Income by Family Type, 2014 vs 2019 vs 2024



SOURCES: (1) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, 2019, & 2024 One Year Estimates, Table B19126. <https://data.census.gov>  
(2) United For ALICE, Household Survival Budget (Westchester County, NY), <https://www.unitedforalice.org/county-reports/new-york>

## Family Composition of All Children vs. Children Below Poverty

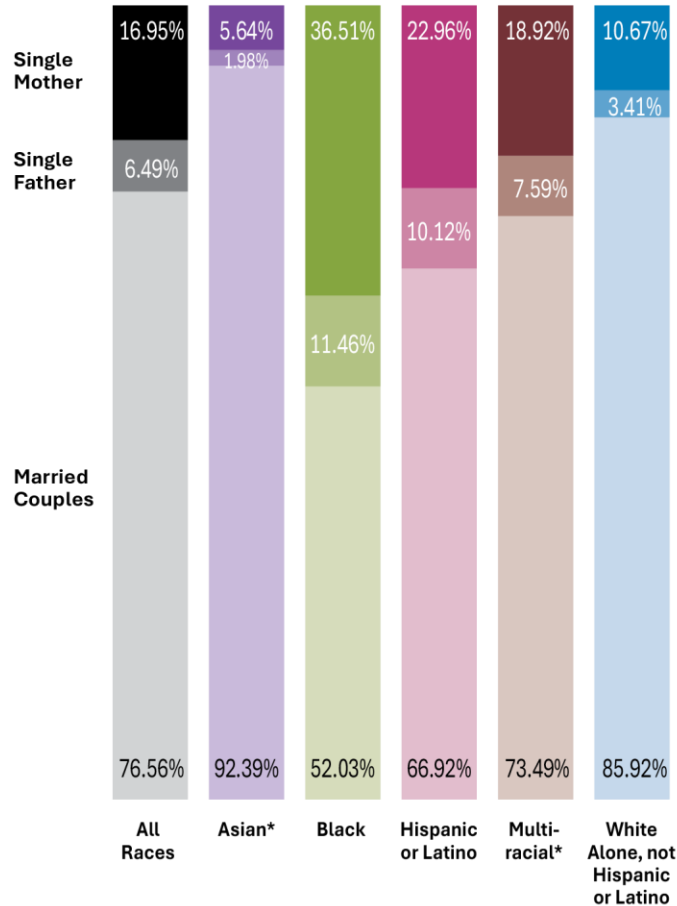
### What We See

Most Westchester children (77%) live in married-couple households, but among children in poverty 56% live with a single mother — and that rate climbs to 74% for multiracial children and 69% for Asian children in poverty.

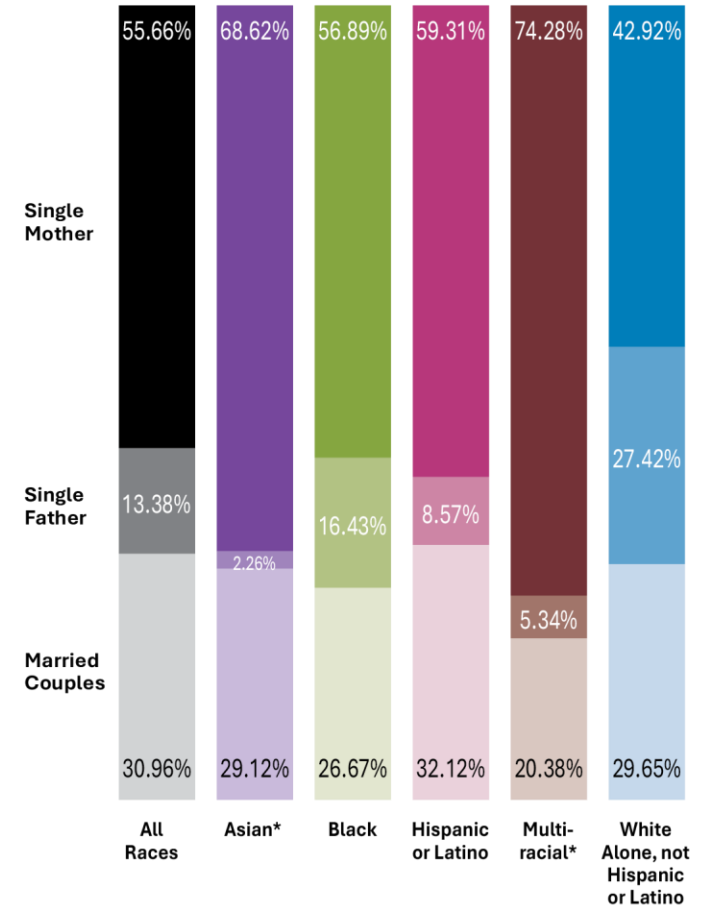
### Takeaway

Poverty in Westchester is disproportionately concentrated in single-mother households, reinforcing that family structure and income gaps translate directly into child economic insecurity.

Westchester Family Composition by Race, 2024



Westchester Family Composition Below Poverty Level, by Race, 2024



SOURCES: (1) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table B17001, B17001B, B17001H, B17001I. <https://data.census.gov> (2) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 Five Year Estimates, Table B17001D, B17001G. <https://data.census.gov> \*Five-Year Estimates used because One-Year Estimates were not available

## Poverty Rates by Race & Ethnicity

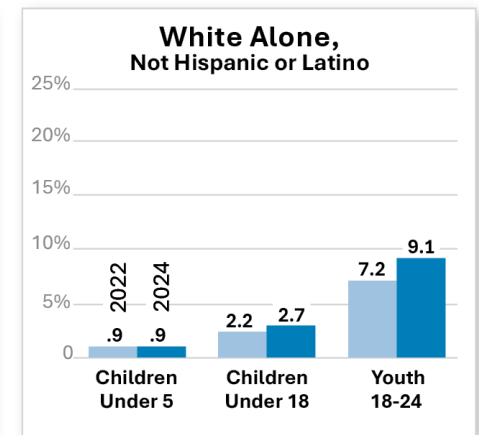
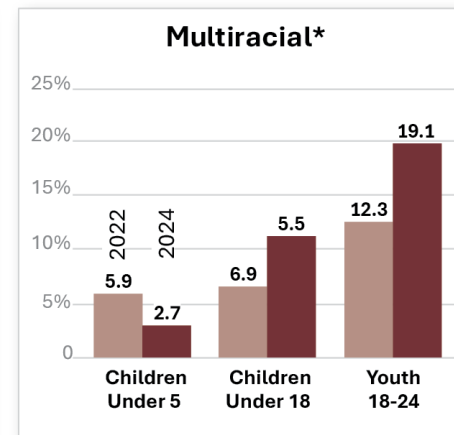
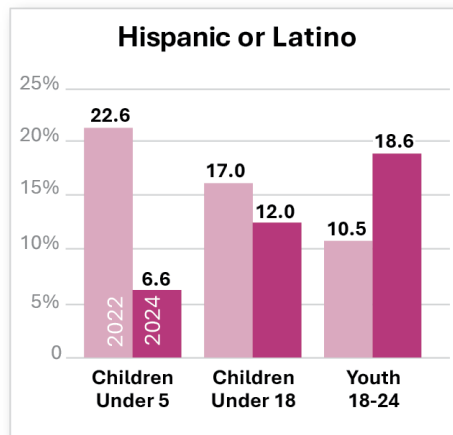
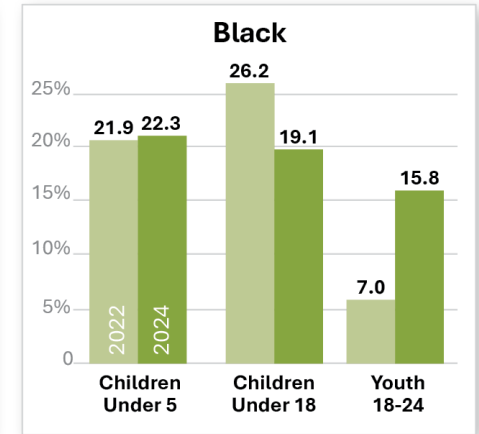
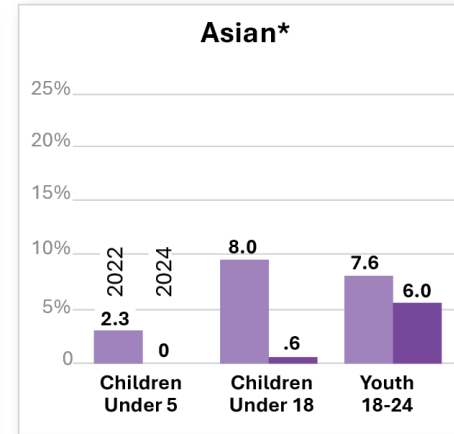
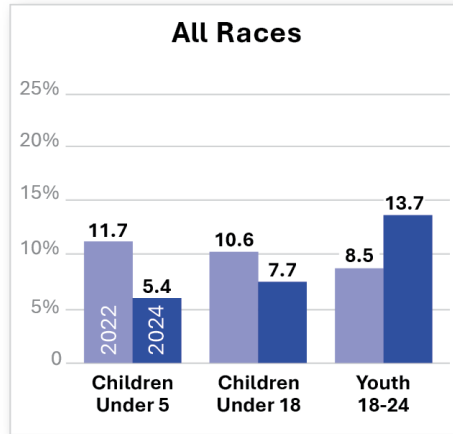
### What We See

Black, Hispanic, and Multiracial children face poverty rates of roughly 15–26% across age groups, while White, Non-Hispanic children stay below 10% — and some groups' rates have actually shifted downward from 2022 to 2024.

### What We Do

Through research, coalition building, and policy advocacy (ex. our work in NY Can End Child Poverty), WCA works to address structural inequities that contribute to racial and ethnic economic disparities.

## Westchester Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2022 vs 2024



SOURCES: (1) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table B17001, B17001B, B17001H, B17001I. <https://data.census.gov> (2) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 Five Year Estimates, Table B17001D, B17001G. <https://data.census.gov>

## Rent & Child Care as a Share of Family Income / The Ever-Rising Rent

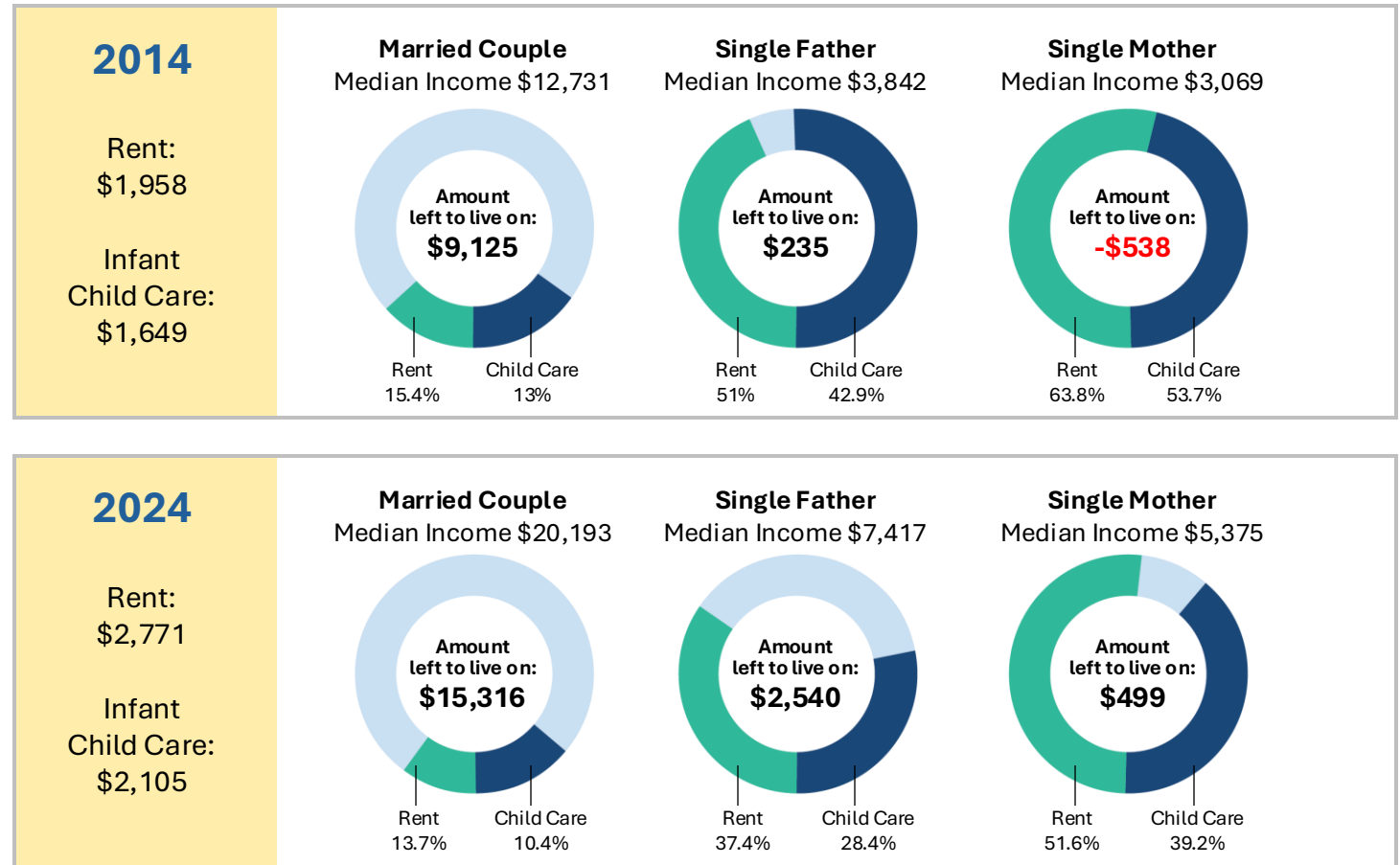
### What We See

For single-parent households, housing and child care consume almost all of the entire paycheck, which makes starting or growing a family in Westchester feels out of reach.

### Takeaway









Rising costs continue to strain single-parent households, especially single mothers, who retain less after essential expenses, compared to single fathers and married couples, despite income gains.

## After paying for rent & childcare, what's left to live on? (2014 vs 2024)



SOURCES: (1) Zillow, Housing Data for Westchester County, NY (RegionID 3148), <https://www.zillow.com/research/data/> (2) Child Care Council of Westchester, Average Daycare Center Costs in Westchester, 2014 & 2024 (3) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table S1901. <https://data.census.gov>

## Families Struggle with Increased Costs of Living

ON AVERAGE	2014	2024	CHANGE	MOST CURRENT (Dates vary)	CHANGE (2024-Most Current)
 Annual Income for a Family with Children	\$115,752	\$191,046	+65%	?????	
 1 Month's Rent for a 2 Bedroom Apartment	\$1,993	\$2,792	+40%	\$3,044 (April 2026)	+4%
 1 Month of Infant Childcare @ Center	\$1,649	\$2,105	+28%	\$2,094 (2026 YTD Report)	-0.5%
 600 kwh Electricity	\$82.25	\$105.40	+28%	\$114.00 (2026)	+8.2%
 1 Dozen Eggs	\$2.02	\$3.17	+57%	\$2.25 (April 2026)	-29%
 1 lb. Ground Beef	\$3.97	\$5.43	+37%	\$7.05 (April 2026)	+30%
 1 lb. Rice	\$.73	\$1.03	+41%	\$1.07 (April 2026)	+3.9%
 1 Gallon of Regular Gas	\$3.70	\$3.43	-7%	\$4.61 (April 2026)	+34.4%

SOURCES: (1) FAMILY INCOME: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table B17024. <https://data.census.gov> (2) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table S0101. <https://data.census.gov> (3) Other Cost Data comes from multiple sources. Refer to Page 15.

## Inflation Rate/Consumer Price Index in New York-Newark-Jersey City

### What We See

Inflation in the region has remained volatile in recent years, peaking at 6.7% in 2022 before declining, though prices continue to rise faster than pre-pandemic levels. After moderating through 2023 and much of 2024, inflation appears to be increasing again, reaching 4.6% in early 2026. This suggests that the cost-of-living pressures on families may persist despite earlier signs of stabilization.

## Inflation Rate/Consumer Price Index in New York-Newark-Jersey City



SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index by Metropolitan Area, 12-month percentage change (New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA). <https://www.bls.gov/charts/consumer-price-index/consumer-price-index-by-metro-area.htm>

## Other Signs of Distress

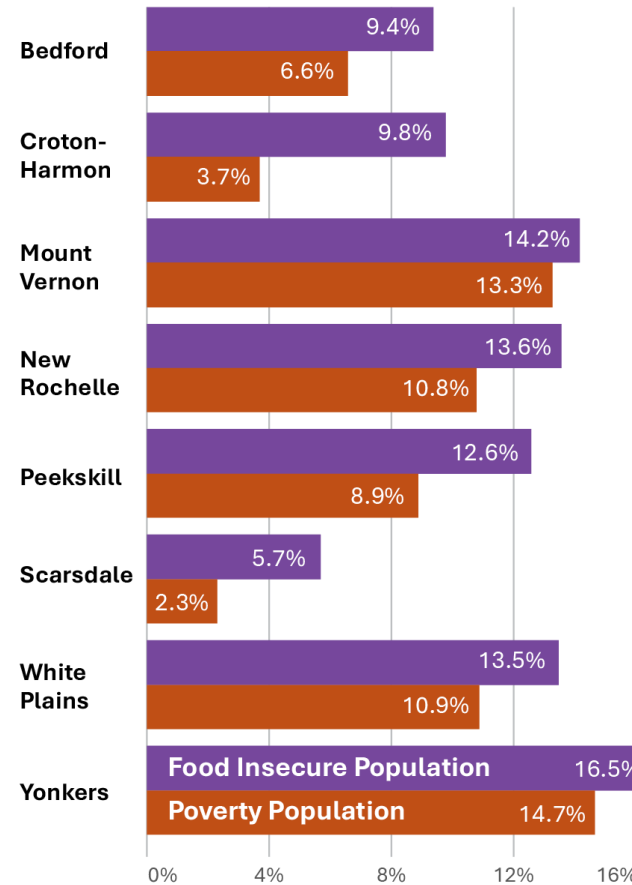
### What We See

SNAP enrollment in Westchester more than doubled since 2000 (32K → 76K), food insecurity tops 13–16% in Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and New Rochelle, and NY ACA benchmark premiums have jumped from \$343 in 2014 to \$817 in 2026.

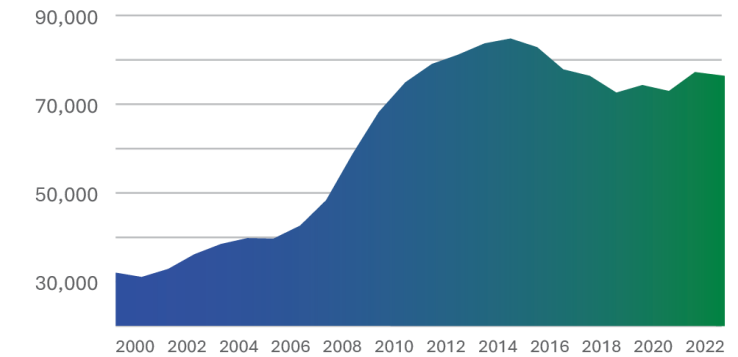
### What We Do

WCA gathers data from our frontline nonprofit partners to publish *Poverty Pulse*, a data dashboard that provides a real-time snapshot of the economic need and struggle facing Westchester families today.

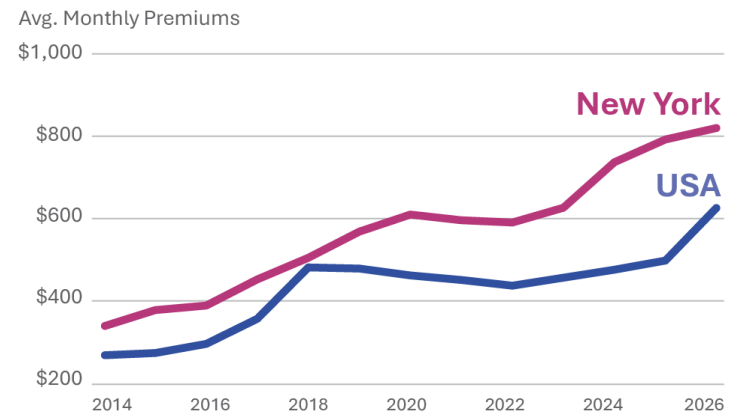
Percent Experiencing Food Insecurity & Poverty in Westchester Communities, 2023



SNAP Recipients in Westchester, 2000 to 2022

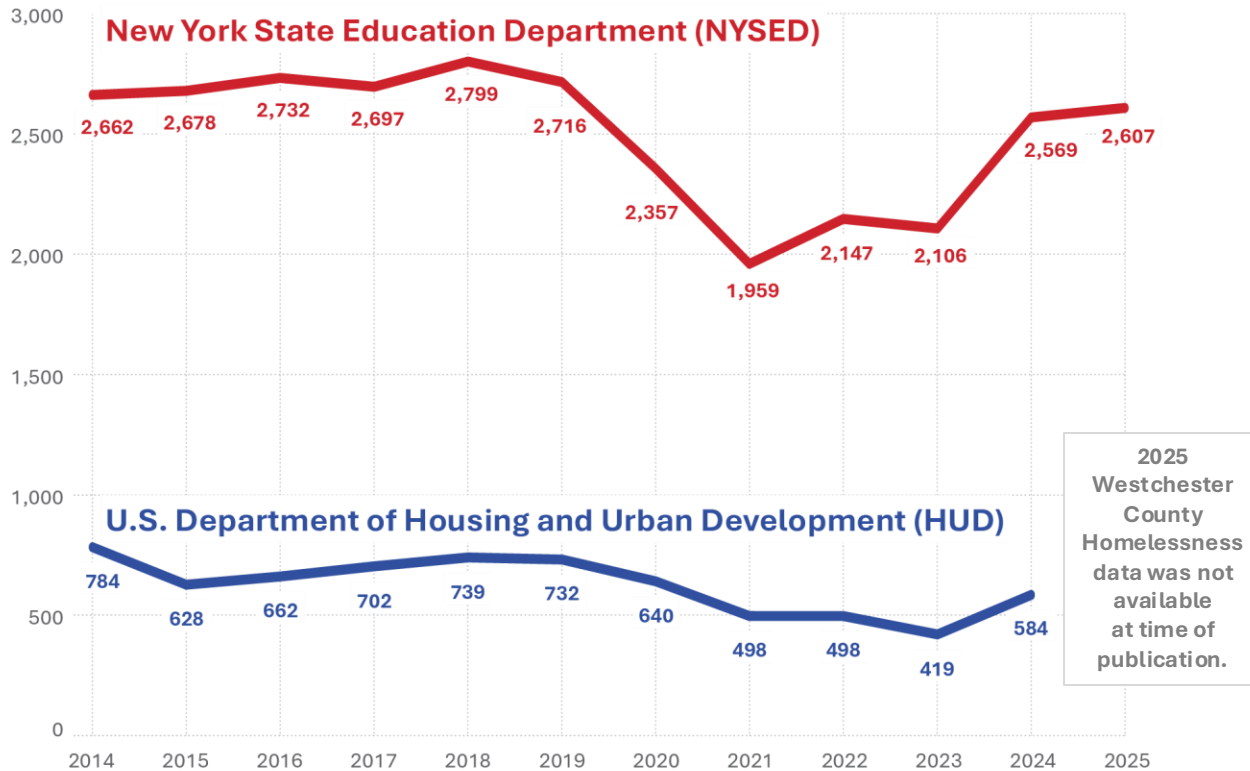


Average Monthly Premiums under the Affordable Care Act, New York State vs USA, 2014 to 2026



SOURCES: (1) Ribar, D.C., Harris, V., Dewey, A., Dawes, S., and Engelhard, E. (2025). Map the Meal Gap: An Analysis of Local Food Insecurity and Food Costs in the United States in 2023. Feeding America National Organization. <https://map.feedingamerica.org>. (2) U.S. Census Bureau / Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (FRED), SNAP Benefits Recipients in Westchester County, NY, <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CBR36119NYA647NCEN> (3) Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), Marketplace Average Monthly Benchmark Premiums (New York State), <https://www.kff.org/affordable-care-act/state-indicator/marketplace-average-benchmark-premiums/>

## Number of Homeless in Westchester, NYSED vs HUD 2014 to 2025



## Number of Homeless Children in Westchester: HUD vs. ED (2014–2024)

**What we see:** Policies implemented in 2020 to prevent family homelessness were lifted between 2023 and 2024, leading to a rise back to the usual levels in children experiencing unstable housing. The chart underscores HUD’s continued refusal to count children in doubled-up conditions as homeless. This is a critical blind spot in Westchester

**Takeaway:** There still remains a significant inconsistency when it comes to counting the actual number of children experiencing homelessness in Westchester. Failure to account for all means that thousands of children are not receiving the services they need at an especially vulnerable time.

SOURCE: (1) U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports, <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/> (2) New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYSTEACHS), <https://www.nysteachs.org>

***“Couch hopping or couch surfing, which is frequently deployed by young people who are unstably housed, is not considered homeless under all definitions equally.”***

— Marc Dones

## Credit Card Debt: Short-Term Survival vs. Long-Term Stability

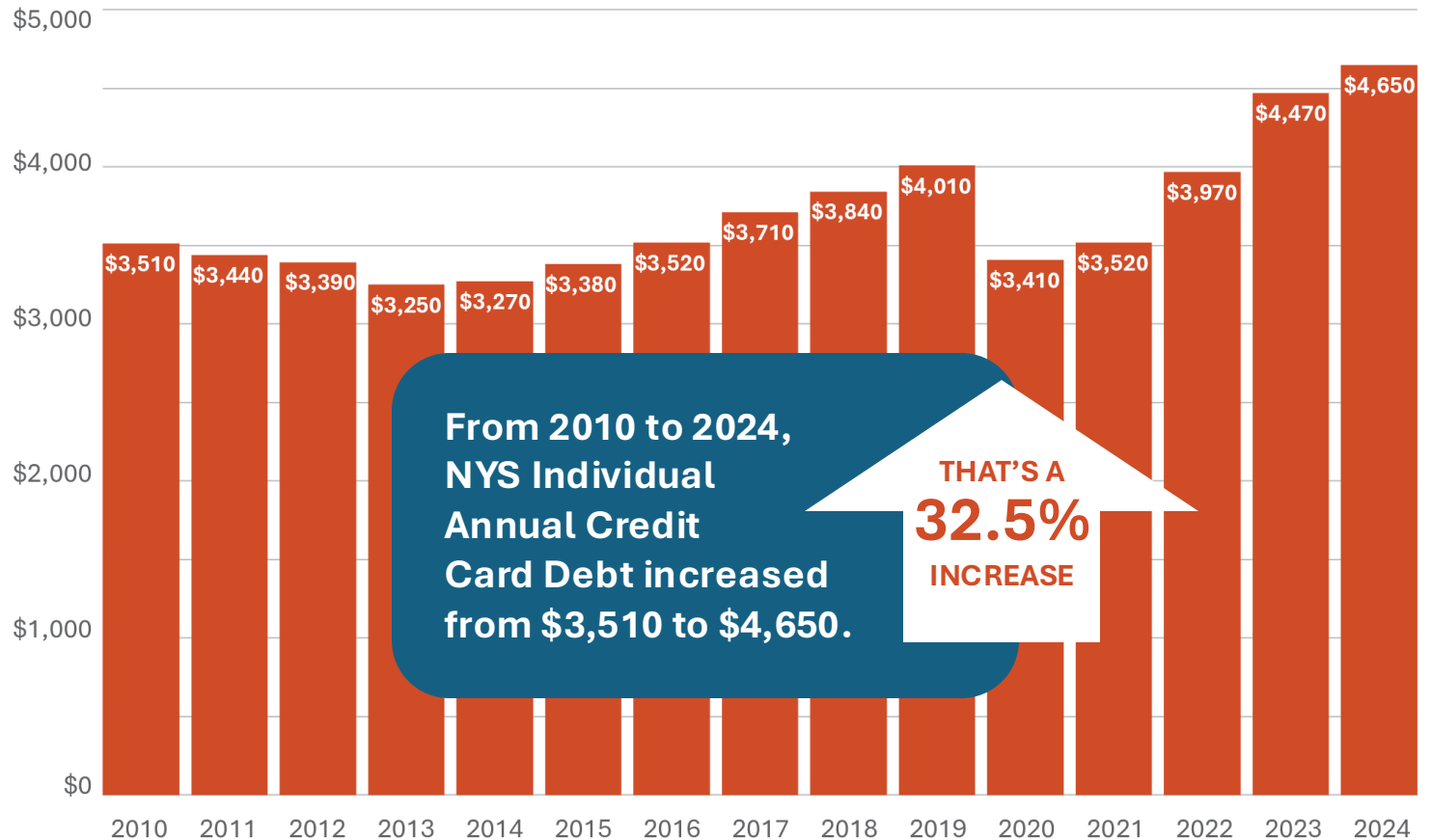
### What We See

Increasing Credit Card Debt per Household is one warning that families are going beyond paycheck to paycheck. Expenses are exceeding income.

### Takeaway

WCA will continue to pay attention to this indicator. Although credit cards can provide short-term relief, in the long run credit card debt is a liability that can lead families to sacrifice long-term goals such as college education and investments in generational wealth.

**Average Annual Credit Card Debt Held By York State Individuals, 2010 to 2024**



SOURCES: (1) Federal Reserve Bank of New York, State Level Household Debt Statistics (2003–2024), New York Fed Consumer Credit Panel / Equifax, April 2025, <https://www.newyorkfed.org/microeconomics/hhdc>

# Children By the Numbers 2026 Data Bulletin

- Slide 2:** (1) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table S0101. <https://data.census.gov> (2) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table B17024. <https://data.census.gov>
- Slide 3:** US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014 & 2024 One Year Estimates, Table S0901. <https://data.census.gov>
- Slide 4:** New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics Live Births and Fertility Rates Data, [https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Vital-Statistics-Live-Births-and-Fertility-Rates-b/c2tx-iec/b/about\\_data](https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Vital-Statistics-Live-Births-and-Fertility-Rates-b/c2tx-iec/b/about_data)
- Slide 5:** One Year Estimates, Table B19126. <https://data.census.gov> (2) United For ALICE, Household Survival Budget (Westchester County, NY), <https://www.unitedforalice.org/county-reports/new-york>
- Slide 6:** (1) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table B17001, B17001B, B17001H, B17001I. <https://data.census.gov> (2) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 Five Year Estimates, Table B17001D, B17001G. <https://data.census.gov>
- Slide 7:** (1) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table B17001, B17001B, B17001H, B17001I. <https://data.census.gov> (2) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 Five Year Estimates, Table B17001D, B17001G. <https://data.census.gov>
- Slide 8:** (1) Zillow, Housing Data for Westchester County, NY (RegionID 3148), <https://www.zillow.com/research/data/> (2) Child Care Council of Westchester, Average Daycare Center Costs in Westchester, 2014 & 2024 (3) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 One Year Estimates, Table S1901. <https://data.census.gov>
- Slide 9:** (1) One Year Estimates, Table B19126. <https://data.census.gov> (2) Zillow, Housing Data for Westchester County, NY, <https://www.zillow.com/research/data/> (3) Child Care Council of Westchester, Average Daycare Center Costs in Westchester, 2014 & 2024 & 2026 (4) Con Edison, Average Monthly Electric Residential Bills (Westchester County, 600 kWh), <https://www.coned.com/-/media/files/coned/documents/rates/electric/average-monthly-electric-bills.pdf> (5) US Inflation Calculator, Egg Prices Adjusted for Inflation (Grade A Large Eggs, U.S. City Average), <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/egg-prices-adjusted-for-inflation/> (6) Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED), Average Price: Ground Beef, 100% Beef (Cost per Pound) in U.S. City Average, <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/APU0000703112> (7) Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED), Average Price: Rice, White, Long Grain, Uncooked (Cost per Pound) in U.S. City Average, <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/APU0000701312> (8) U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Petroleum Data Series, [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=pet&s=emm\\_epm0\\_pte\\_sny\\_dpg&f=a](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=pet&s=emm_epm0_pte_sny_dpg&f=a)
- Slide 10:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index by Metropolitan Area, 12-month percentage change (New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA). <https://www.bls.gov/charts/consumer-price-index/consumer-price-index-by-metro-area.htm>
- Slide 11:** (1) Ribar, D.C., Harris, V., Dewey, A., Dawes, S., and Engelhard, E. (2025). Map the Meal Gap: An Analysis of Local Food Insecurity and Food Costs in the United States in 2023. Feeding America National Organization. <https://map.feedingamerica.org> (2) U.S. Census Bureau / Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (FRED), SNAP Benefits Recipients in Westchester County, NY, <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CBR36119NYA647NCEN> (3) Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), Marketplace Average Monthly Benchmark Premiums (New York State), <https://www.kff.org/affordable-care-act/state-indicator/marketplace-average-benchmark-premiums/>
- Slide 12:** (1) U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports, <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/> (2) New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYSTEACHS), <https://www.nysteachs.org>
- Slide 14:** (1) Federal Reserve Bank of New York, State Level Household Debt Statistics (2003–2024), New York Fed Consumer Credit Panel / Equifax, April 2025, <https://www.newyorkfed.org/microeconomics/hhdc>

## CREDITS for Chapter 1

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