



# Children Have Been Greatly Affected by COVID-19

**Rising cases, economic challenges, increased stress and low immunization rates affect children's lives**

## Rising COVID-19 Cases Impact Children

As of April 1, more than 3.4 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in children, which represents 13.4% of the U.S. cases thus far.

While severe COVID-19 illness in children is rare, 284 children have died from the virus, with the overwhelming majority of these being Black or Latinx children.

## Economic Challenges Affect Children

More than 60% of households with children have lost jobs, or businesses, or have had wages cut during the pandemic. An estimated 40,000 children have lost a parent to the pandemic.

Children's Medicaid/CHIP enrollment has increased by more than 10% as a result of reduced family income and/or loss of job-related health insurance.

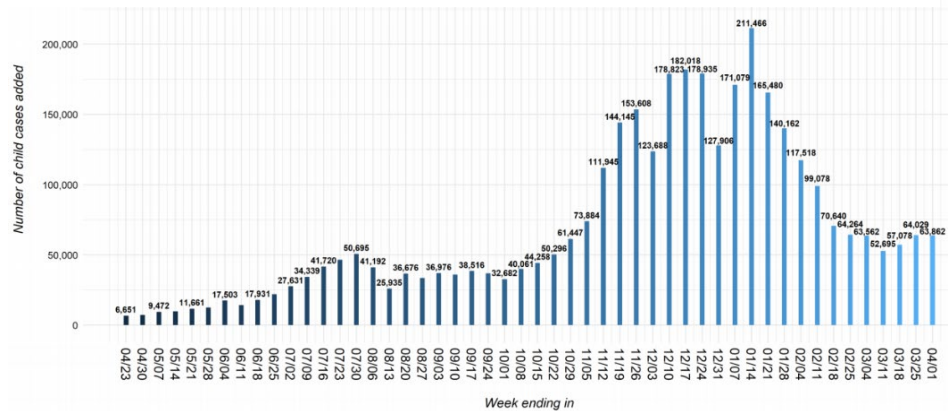
Food insecurity has also worsened during the pandemic, limiting access to nutritious meals for many children. Even brief spells of food insecurity have detrimental consequences for child health and well-being.

## Rising Mental Health Issues for Children

Uncertainty, isolation, and loss of parents and family members during the pandemic have increased anxiety and depression, suicidal ideation and self-harm in children.

CDC data show that the proportion of children's emergency department visits for mental health reasons in 2020 increased by more than 24%.

United States: Child COVID-19 Cases Added by Week



Source: [Children and COVID-19 State-Level Data Report](#), 4/1/21

## Routine Childhood Immunization Rates Have Severely Declined Due to COVID-19

Routine childhood vaccination rates have dropped dramatically since the pandemic began. Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provider orders of non-flu vaccines are down by 11.1 million doses.

Lower immunization rates risk the possibility of a secondary outbreak during the pandemic, especially for diseases that require high levels of herd immunity such as measles.

If children do not get caught up soon, it will complicate COVID-19 vaccination in children since COVID-19 vaccines cannot be given within two weeks of other vaccines.

Comparison of FY19 Weekly Provider Orders to FY20 and FY21 - All Non-Flu Vaccines and Measles Containing Vaccines

