The Youth Development Institute is the only entity in Puerto Rico exclusively dedicated to promoting public policies based on research and the voices of those affected, in order to strengthen the economic security of children, youth and their families. Our main goal is to significantly reduce child poverty in Puerto Rico.
Ensuring that public investments in children are adequate and effective

Strengthen the economic security of families with children and youth in Puerto Rico

Work so that the children and youth of Puerto Rico can have an integral development during the recovery process from Hurricane Maria
Recovery & Economic security

All youth ages 15-25 in Puerto Rico, with a focus on those with young children ages 0-5

Preparedness

Community Preparedness Index (CPI) in collaboration with Columbia University
COVID-19 in Puerto Rico
Puerto Rico has one of the strictest quarantines of all jurisdictions

- Curfew (7 PM- 5 AM)
- Only transit for medicines, buy food, or emergencies or essential services (health, elderly, mail, supermarkets, etc.)
- Individuals who are not part of a "family nucleus" are not allowed to congregate
- Non-essential businesses are closed (including schools, childcare)
COVID-19 in PR - April 8th

PUERTO RICO COVID-19 DASHBOARD (1 of 3)

Positive Cases: 620
Negative Cases: 4,266
Pending Results: 1,166
Total: 6,052
# of Deaths: 24
Mortality Rate: 3.87%

Number of Positive Cases by Date

Positive Cases by Date Accumulated

Number of Positive Cases by Age Range

Positive Cases Demographics
Average Age: 48.5
Female: 48.5%
Male: 51.5%

Number of Positives by Region

Positives per 100K Population:

Source: Puerto Rico Department of Health

*Cases classified as 'unavailable' by Dep. of Health are not included in any region.
COVID-19 and children
Why worry about childhood and youth?

• COVID-19 is the fourth disruptive event for its development and environment since 2017

• Optimal childhood development is key to the well-being and prosperity of Puerto Rico

• We are particularly concerned with children and youth in or near poverty
1. Economic security and poverty
2. Access to food
3. Access to education
CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN PUERTO RICO (2018)

594,027

18%

43%
MOST CHILDREN IN PUERTO RICO LIVE IN OR NEAR POVERTY

- 57% live in poverty
- 39% live in extreme poverty
- 71% live in or near poverty (150% poverty rate)
DEFINITIONS OF POVERTY

EXAMPLE: HOME OF 4

Poverty (100%) - $25,465

Close to Poverty (150%) - $38,197

Extreme Poverty (50%) - $12,732
CHILD POVERTY: US vs PUERTO RICO (2017)

15% General population

30% Children in New Mexico

21% Children in poverty

34% African American children

28% Hispanic children

57% Children in poverty

39% Children in extreme poverty

46% General population
They live in homes vulnerable to the economic impact COVID-19

101,000 low-income working households with minors

Households with children living below the poverty level
168,880
39% employed

Households with children living near the poverty level
42,612
77% employed
YOUR PARENTS HAVE LOST JOBS OR ARE EXPOSED DAILY TO BE ABLE TO GET INCOME

• In the US only 9.2% of low-income workers can work remotely (Economic Policy Institute).

• Three main industries in which heads of households with children living in poverty work:

1. Hospitality services- (hotels, restaurants)
2. Retail sales
3. Health care and social assistance

Hurricane Maria
Almost a third of low-income families expressed their economic situation was worse a year after the Hurricane
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less than $15,000</th>
<th>From $15,000 to less than $40,000</th>
<th>$40,000 or more</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utilities (water and electricity)</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grocery</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone or mobile phone service payment</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation expenses</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and personal belongings</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage or house rental payment</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School supplies</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicines</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical services</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and monthly payments for school or college</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care payment</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Access to food is limited

The household assumes a greater economic burden for feeding

Maximum benefit per person: $152
- With children in school = $2.53 per meal for each
- With children out of school = $1.69 per meal for each

Restrictions on shopping for food
- Childcare options are limited
- Businesses impose restrictions

Access to emergency aid will not be immediate
- It is currently unclear how long the emergency PAN will take.
- The process of applying for unemployment has also had stumbling blocks

Hurricane Maria
25% of families with incomes less than $15K were unable to provide food for their children
Access to education is limited

A drifting school semester
- Earthquakes resulted in a missed month of classes, in some regions never returned
- Added to loss of teaching time after Hurricane Maria (78 days on average)
- Contrast with private schools that a week after earthquakes and Maria returned to classes

Access to home computers and the internet is limited
- 56% do not have computers at home
- 24% do not have internet
OTHER VULNERABILITIES

1. Victims of abuse
2. Homeless youth
3. Mental and Emotional Health
Next steps

• A public policy and advocacy agenda
  • Other resources:
    • www.juventudpr.org
    • www.cuantonoscuesta.com

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