



25 YEARS OF COUNTING DELAWARE KIDS

DATA SNAPSHOT

CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Strong, capable, resourceful families are at the foundation of improving outcomes for children. There is no substitute for families – no institution, program or policy that can successfully rear kids in the absence of strong families. Where families live also matters. Healthy, vibrant families help create strong communities. Similarly, healthy communities can help foster and protect residents. When communities are sag and have strong institutions, good schools and quality support services families and their children are more likely to thrive. Although the strengths and resources that reside in even the most disadvantaged communities are often underestimated, the combined effects of disinvestment and decline have unmistakable consequences for children who grow up amidst these conditions.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY

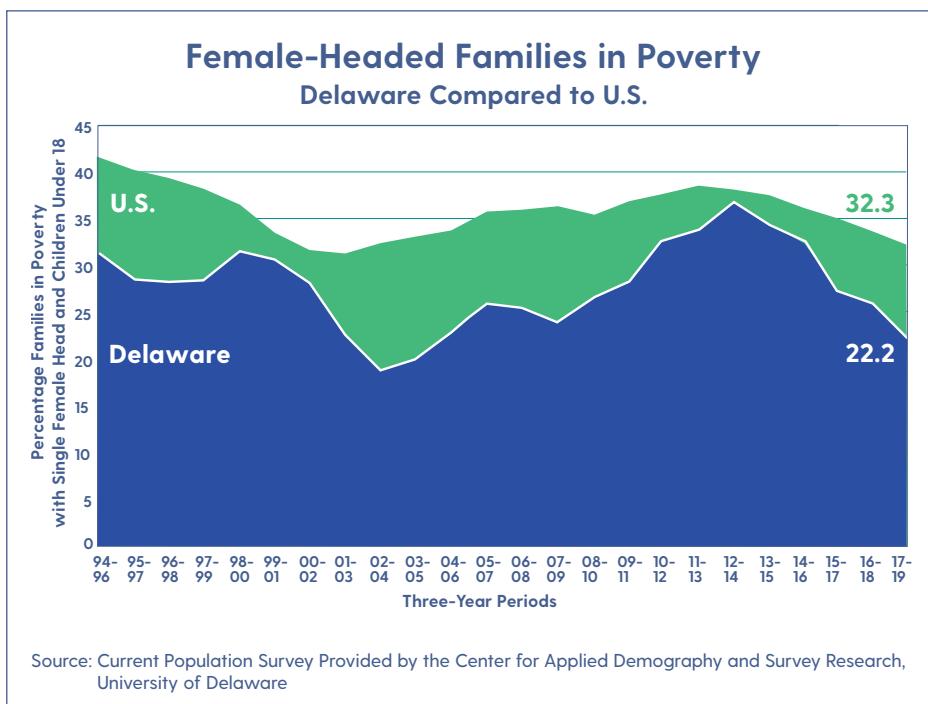
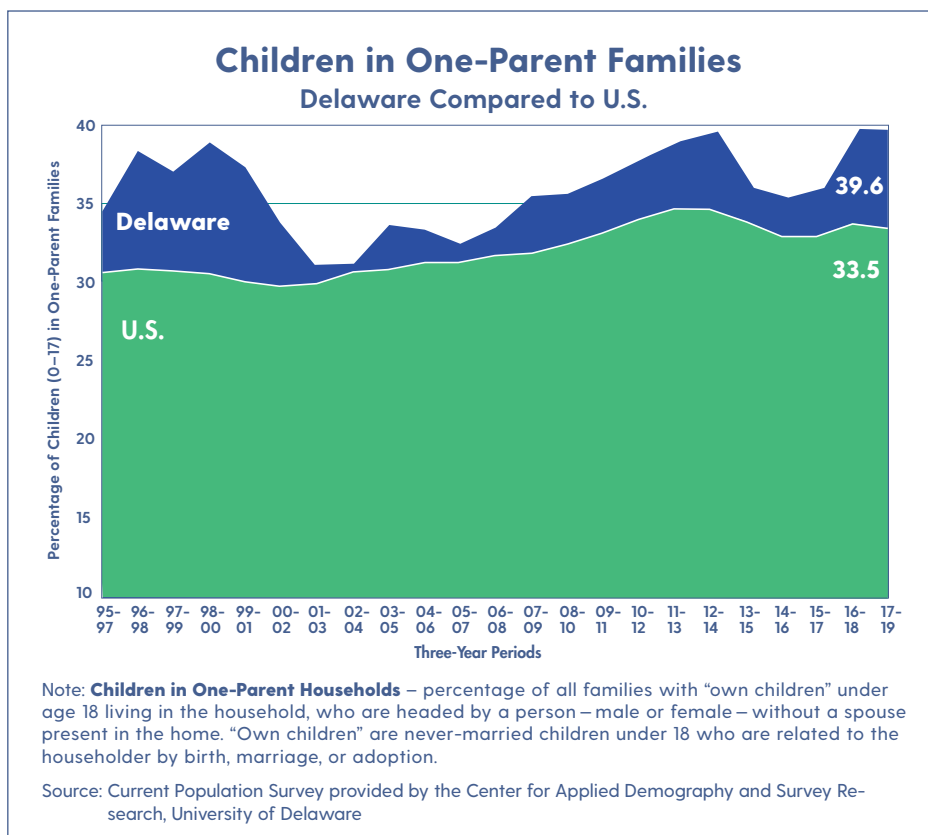
25 Years of Delaware Data: Children in One-Parent Families

Children in single-parent families are more likely to experience economic hardship than kids in two-parent families due to the fact that there is only one potential income-earner in the family. Data in the 1995 KIDS COUNT report showed that two parent families earned on average 3.2 times more than single parent families. Today, two parent families earn on average 2.8 times more than single parent families.

Increasingly, single parents (typically single mothers) are the primary caregiver in many families. In 2016, four-in-ten births were to women who were either single or living with a nonmarital partner. As more women take on a breadwinning role, the gender wage gap will have increased implications for children's economic security. Nationally, women earn about 82 cents on the dollar in comparison to what men are paid, with women of color faring even worse. This is only slightly better than in 1995, when women earned about 71 cents for each dollar a man earned. Delaware's gender wage gap is narrower than the national average, but Delaware women who worked full-time, year-round in 2018 still only earned 86 cents for every dollar a full-time, working man earned.

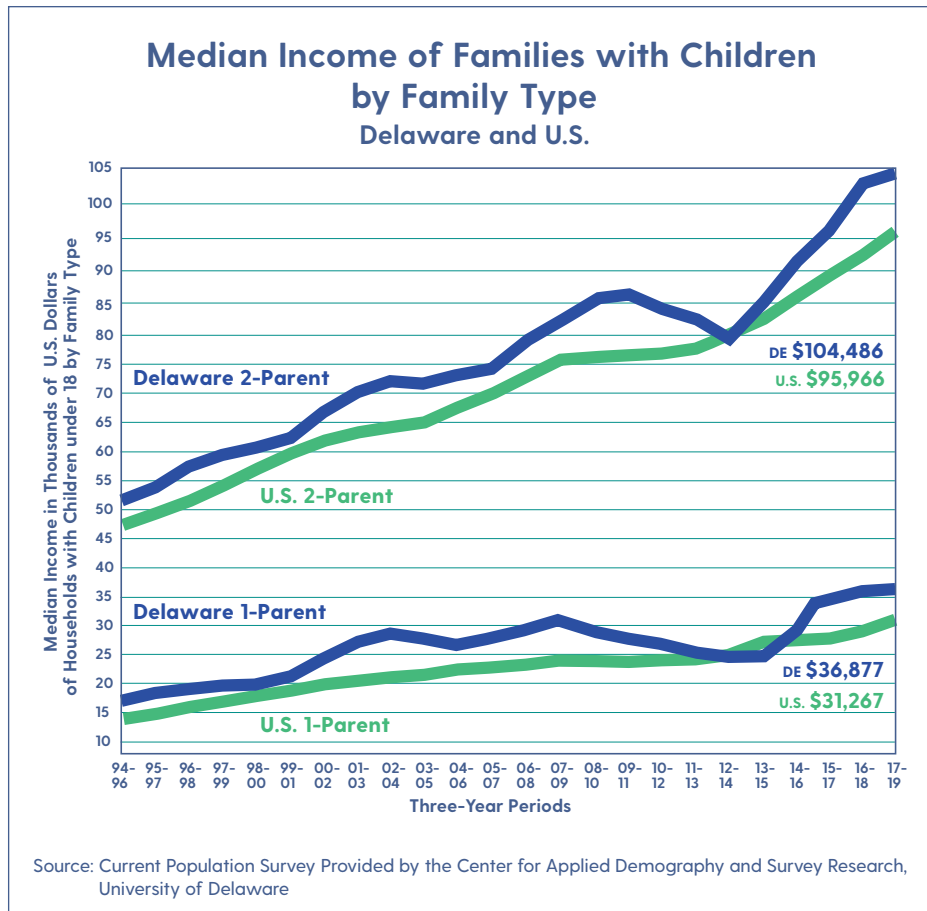
Why Does it Matter?

The effects of growing up in single-parent families go beyond economics. A child from a one-parent family is more likely than a child from a two-parent family to drop out of school, be disconnected from the labor market and become a teen parent.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY

25 Years of Delaware Data: Children in One-Parent Families

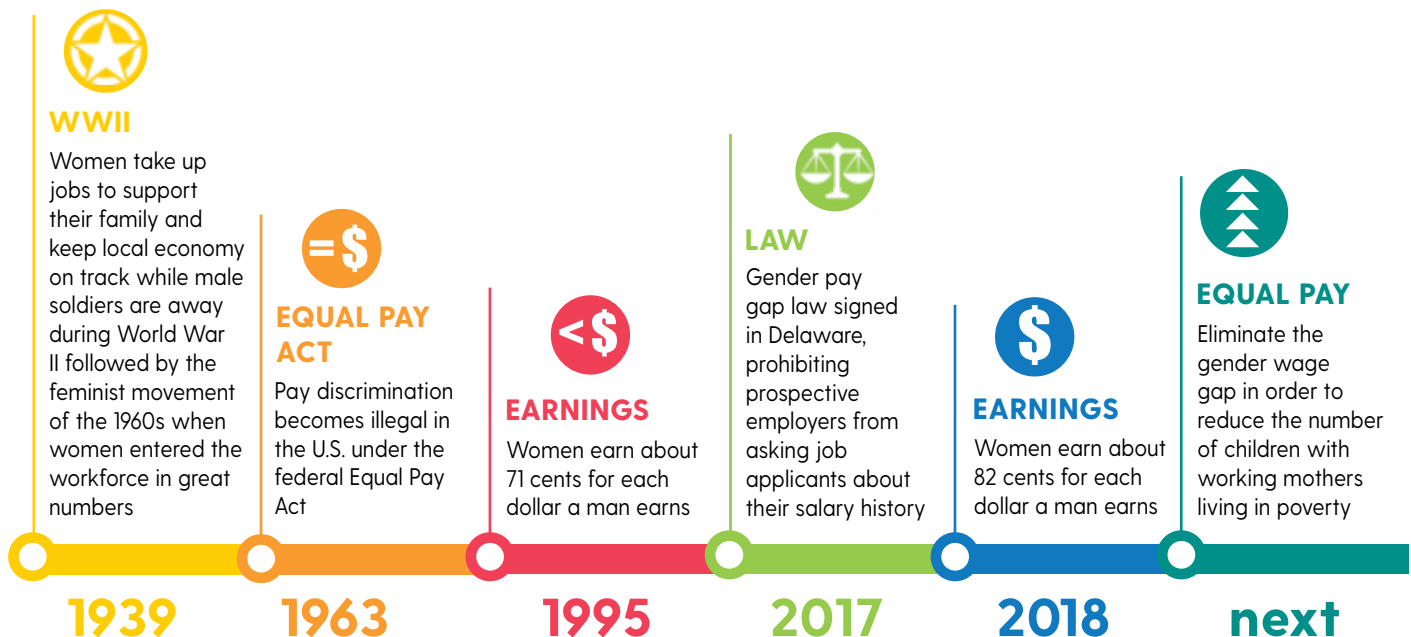


Next Steps

In Delaware, 22.2 percent of female-headed families live in poverty in 2017-2019. Research suggests that correcting the gender wage gap could improve children's economic circumstances. A study conducted by the Institute for Women's Policy Research found that if working women were paid comparably to men of the same age, similar levels of educational attainment and similar hours of work, the number of U.S. kids with working mothers living in poverty would be cut nearly in half. ♦



CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES TIMELINE





This research was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the State of Delaware, and the University of Delaware. We thank them for their support but acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented in this report are those of the author(s) alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of these organizations.

The photographs in this data snapshot do not necessarily represent the situations described.

Center for Community Research and Service
Biden School of Public Policy and Administration
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716-7350
302-831-4966 · Fax 302-831-4225
email: kids-count@udel.edu · www.dekidscount.org

Copyright © 2020, KIDS COUNT in Delaware

Please feel free to copy all or portions of this report. We welcome further distribution but require acknowledgment of KIDS COUNT in Delaware in any reproduction, quotation, or other use.

A pdf download of this publication and other KIDS COUNT publications are available at no charge at www.dekidscount.org. KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.