



2021 Bulletin Inserts for Children's Sabbath

This section offers bulletin/newsletter inserts that may be photocopied and distributed in advance of your Children's Sabbath, on your Children's Sabbath, and to follow up on your Children's Sabbath or at other times of the year.

Announcement Insert:

Add details for your place of worship after the line "We will be participating!" You might include the date/s, time/s, a brief description of what is planned (worship, education, action on the weekend), an invitation to join in the planning if volunteers and other participation are desired, and who to contact to learn more and get involved.

Once you have personalized the announcement insert, photocopy the two pages back-to-back and cut down the middle to create two inserts per copy. Insert into your bulletin two, three, or four weeks in advance of your participation in the Children's Sabbath.

Note: The announcement insert text (provided and what you insert) could also be included in a newsletter or on the website of your place of worship.

Day Of Insert:

- **State of America's Children:** two pages to be photocopied back to back, and then folded in the middle to create one four-page bulletin insert.





**The 30th Annual National Observance
of Children's Sabbaths**

**“Where Does It Hurt?”:
Listening to Heal Our Children**

October 2021

We are joining in the 30th annual nationwide multifaith National Observance of Children's Sabbaths. With places of worship across the nation and from every religious tradition, we are joining in common concern for the struggles children, youths, and families have faced over the past year; *shared commitment* to listening deeply to the voices of children and youths; and *united determination* to respond with care, action, and advocacy in intergenerational partnership on the weekend and in the year that follows.

We will be participating! Details below:



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For the first time since 2012, the number of children in the child welfare system fell, but too many children wind up in foster care because of poverty. Black and American Indian/Alaska Native families are disproportionately impacted by the child welfare system. After steadily declining since 2008, the number of children aging out of the foster care system jumped by more than 14 percent in 2019, with 20,445 youth reaching adulthood without a permanent family.

A disproportionate number of children of color are incarcerated in the juvenile justice and/or adult criminal justice systems, placing them at risk of physical and psychological harm. Black youth represented less than 15 percent of the total youth population but 52 percent of youth prosecuted in adult criminal court in 2018. Black youth are nine times more likely than white youth to receive an adult prison sentence, American Indian/Alaska Native youth are almost two times more likely, and Hispanic youth are 40 percent more likely.

Child and teen gun deaths hit a 19-year high in 2017 and have remained elevated since. Gun violence was the leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1-19 in 2018, surpassing motor vehicle accidents for the first time. In 2019, 3,371 children and teens were killed with guns—one every 2 hours and 36 minutes.

Family separation and anti-immigrant policies are dangerous to children's health, development, and well-being. Nearly 1 in 4, approximately 18 million, U.S. children lived with at least one immigrant parent in 2018. An estimated 6.9 million children lived with undocumented parents. Chronic uncertainty and distress about the threat of enforcement activity destroy children's sense of safety and their mental health.

What did I hear? How might I respond in faith and action?



The 30th Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths

“Where Does It Hurt?”: Listening to Heal Our Children

All across our nation this October, places of worship from every religious tradition are joining in the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths. Together we are asking our children and youths “Where Does It Hurt?” and listening as the first step in working together to heal hurts, prevent further harm, and join in action and advocacy so that all children may thrive.

We are called to listen deeply and attentively to the voices of our children and youths as they share their experiences, their struggles and success, their hopes and hurts, their pain and persistence in this year of pandemic, poverty, racial reckoning, and more.

At the same time, we see the broader context of *The State of America's Children* in the following pages. (The complete overview and report from the Children's Defense Fund may be downloaded from www.childrensdefense.org)

As you read what follows, you are invited to reflect:

- How does what we hear in the voices and experience of our children relate to this broader picture?
 - How can we respond to those closest to us and to the challenges facing children and youths more broadly?
 - How do I feel called to respond in light of my faith, moral understanding, or the teaching and traditions of my religious community?
 - What can I do as one person and how might I join with others?
 - How might I hear more from the voices of children, youths, and families that are impacted by what is being described?
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The State of America's Children® 2021

The following is excerpted from a report that can be viewed in full here: <https://www.childrensdefense.org/state-of-americas-children/>

America's children are more diverse than ever. There were 73 million children in the U.S. in 2019—22 percent of our nation's population. Children of color were almost 50 percent of all children and the majority of children under 5.

Children remain the poorest age group in America, with children of color and young children suffering the highest poverty rates. Nearly 1 in 7 children—10.5 million—were poor in 2019. Nearly 71 percent of poor children were children of color.

Income and wealth inequality are growing and harming children in low-income, Black and Brown families. Today, a member of the top 10 percent of income earners makes about 39 times as much as the average earner in the bottom 90 percent. In 2019, the median family income of white households with children (\$95,700) was more than double that of Black (\$43,900), and nearly double that of Hispanic households with children (\$52,300).

The lack of affordable housing and federal rental assistance leaves millions of children homeless or at risk of homelessness. More than 1 in 3 children live in households burdened by housing costs, meaning more than 30 percent of their family income goes toward housing. More than 1.5 million children enrolled in public schools experienced homelessness during the 2017-2018 school year.



Millions of children live in food-insecure households, lacking reliable access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food. More than 1 in 7 children—10.7 million—were food insecure. Black and Hispanic children were twice as likely to live in food-insecure households as white children. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helped feed 17 million children in 2018—nearly a quarter of all children in America. Half of all families that received SNAP in 2019 were not able to get enough healthy food, however, because SNAP benefits were too low. Among households with children, monthly SNAP benefits averaged just \$118 a person—or less than \$4 a day.

Our children have lost the health coverage they need to survive and thrive at an alarming rate. An estimated 4.4 million children under age 19 were uninsured. The rates of uninsured children are especially high among Hispanic children, undocumented children, children living in the South, and children in families with lower incomes.

The high cost of child care and lack of early childhood investments leaves many children without quality care during critical years of brain development. Center-based child care for an infant cost more than public college tuition in 28 states and the District of Columbia in 2019. More than 80 percent of two-child families were paying more for child care than for rent.

America's schools continue to slip backwards into patterns of deep racial and socioeconomic segregation, perpetuating achievement gaps. During the 2017-2018 school year, 19 percent of Black, 21 percent of Hispanic, and more than 26 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native public school students did not graduate on time compared with only 11 percent of white students. Sixty percent of Black children attended high-poverty schools with a high share of students of color while fewer than 9 percent of white children did.

