

# LIVE UNITED™

## ***What We Know About School Age Youth... and what research tells us about the youth in our community.***

Children who receive consistent, nurturing caretaking are more likely to function well in school, develop positive peer relationships and behave appropriately.

In 2007, 2,144 children (12 out of every 1,000) in Monroe County were subject to a confirmed child abuse or neglect report.

Poverty increases the probability that an adolescent will engage in problem behaviors such as violence, delinquency and substance abuse.

Rochester has the 11<sup>th</sup> highest child poverty rate of all large American cities; In Monroe County, 7% of Caucasian children, 37% of African American children and 40% of Hispanic children aged 6-17 live in poverty.

Research suggests that the most important factor protecting children from experiencing negative effects of exposure to community violence is a strong relationship with a competent caring positive adult.

16% of Rochester City School District (RCSD) kindergartners have witnessed violence in their neighborhoods. 11% have witnessed violence in their homes.

English proficiency is highly predictive of lower performance on state tests.

During the 2006-2007 school year, 7.1% of Rochester public school children were of limited English proficiency, compared to 1.5% in suburban school districts.

Academic success, as defined by high school graduation, can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by knowing someone's reading skill at the end of grade three.

About 1 out of every 10 RCSD high school students dropped out of school in the 2006-2007 school year, compared to about 1 out of 100 students in local suburban public high schools.

Children who experience early learning difficulties in school are at increased risk for behavioral, psychiatric and academic problems, including being retained a grade and dropping out of high school.

Academic achievement on New York State standardized tests tends to be lower in the RCSD as compared to suburban districts and widens as students progress up through elementary and middle school.

Children of teen mothers are less likely to graduate from high school and are more likely to become teen parents themselves. The sons of teen mothers are more likely to serve time in prison by the time they reach their late thirties/early forties.

Annually, about 1 in 10 births in Monroe County and 1 in 5 births in Rochester is to a teenage girl.



**United Way  
of Greater Rochester**