

## Kids Need “Children’s Day”

- Physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual reasons for a special day



**BATAVIA, Ill., May 24, 2023**— It is 10-days after Mother’s Day. Children’s Day 2023 is set for Sunday June 11. It is a day that America is missing.

John Ross, advocate for **Children’s Day**, #KidsNeedChildrensDay, on the second Sunday in June, notes “The tragic events in Texas over the last week show that our country needs a deeper commitment to its children. Yes, kids need **Children’s Day**. Our commitment as individuals and a community is to love our children on this special Sunday and throughout the year. This is a call to action.”

Ross is part of an informal grass-roots movement spear-headed by the website <https://www.nationalchildrensday.us/>. This site and many others hope the attitude of Americans will change regarding a special day for children. And building on this hope is commitment to ongoing betterment of our children.

Here are a few statistics that show the care our children must have. By establishing a **National Children’s Day** in the United States, these concerns can be brought forefront:

- Most nations of the world have a special day for children. (Listing of 93 countries)

**Source:** [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children’s\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children's_Day)

- An analysis from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](https://www.kff.org/), a research nonprofit, that relied on 2020 data compiled by the CDC found that firearms were the No. 1 cause of death for children and teens in the U.S. Those deaths included accidents, suicides, and homicides. The analysis found that in 2020 alone, gun-related violence killed 4,357 children (ages 1-19 years old) in the U.S. By comparison, motor-vehicle deaths accounted for 4,112 deaths in that age range.

**Source:** <https://www.snopes.com/news/2023/03/29/guns-leading-deaths-children-us/>

- Every year more than 4 million referrals are made to child protection agencies involving more than 4.3 million children (a referral can include multiple children). The United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations

**Source:** <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/>

- A staggering 2.5 million children are now homeless each year in America. This historic high represents one in every 30 children in the United States. (2015)

**Source:** <https://www.air.org/event/americas-25-million-homeless-children-panel-discussion>

- In 2019, an estimated 5.7 percent of children under age 19 (nearly 4.4 million) were uninsured—an increase of 320,000 more children without health insurance since 2018 (see Table 13). This is the third year in a row the number of uninsured children has grown and it is the largest annual increase in more than a decade.

**Source:** <https://www.childrensdefense.org/state-of-americas-children/soac-2021-child-health/>

- The U.S., which had some of the highest graduation rates of any developed country, ranks 22nd out of 27 developed countries.

**Source:** <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-high-school-dropout-rates>

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• Report... Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education

Source: <https://www.fcd-us.org/the-evidence-base-on-preschool/>

Governors of the state of **Illinois** have proclaimed the second Sunday in June to be “**Children’s Day**.” The cities of Aurora, Ill.; Batavia, Ill.; Yorkville, Ill.; and other such cities have issued past proclamations as well.

**Children’s Day** observations in the United States predate both Mother’s and Father’s Day. The day to celebrate children dates from the 1860s and earlier. The Methodist Episcopal Church at the Methodist Conference of 1868 recommended that the second Sunday in June be observed annually as **Children’s Day**. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated the “the second Sabbath in June as Children’s Day.”

Chase’s Calendar of Events cites Children’s Sunday and notes that The Commonwealth of Massachusetts issues an annual proclamation.

Numerous churches and denominations currently observe the second Sunday in June including the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Reformed Church in America, and the Church of the Nazarene.

The **Children’s Day** website, <https://www.nationalchildrensday.us/>, offers help and challenges parents, individuals, churches/houses of worship, schools/places of education, government/community and businesses to sign commitment cards directed at affirming America’s children. Pledging to “commit myself/ourselves, in the next year, to love, cherish, nurture (physical, mental, emotional, & spiritual needs) and affirm.”

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