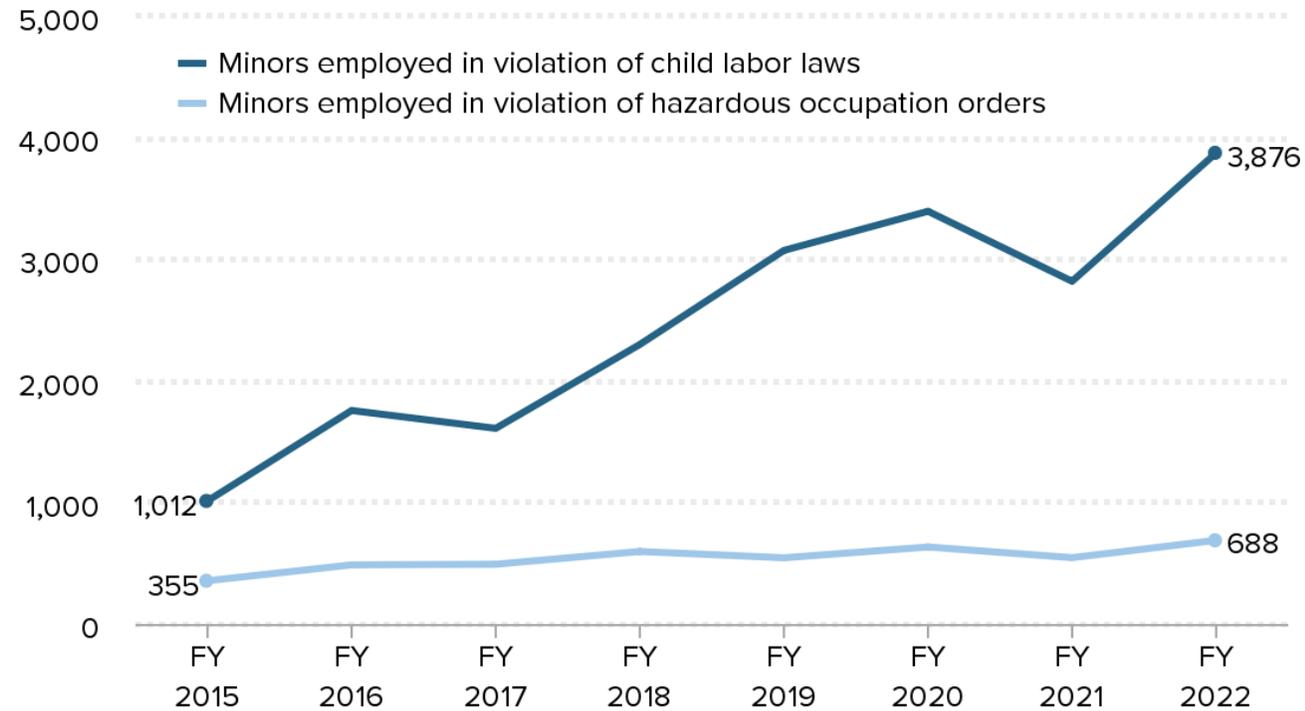


Child labor violations are on the rise

Minors employed in violation of child labor laws and hazardous occupation orders, fiscal years 2015–2022

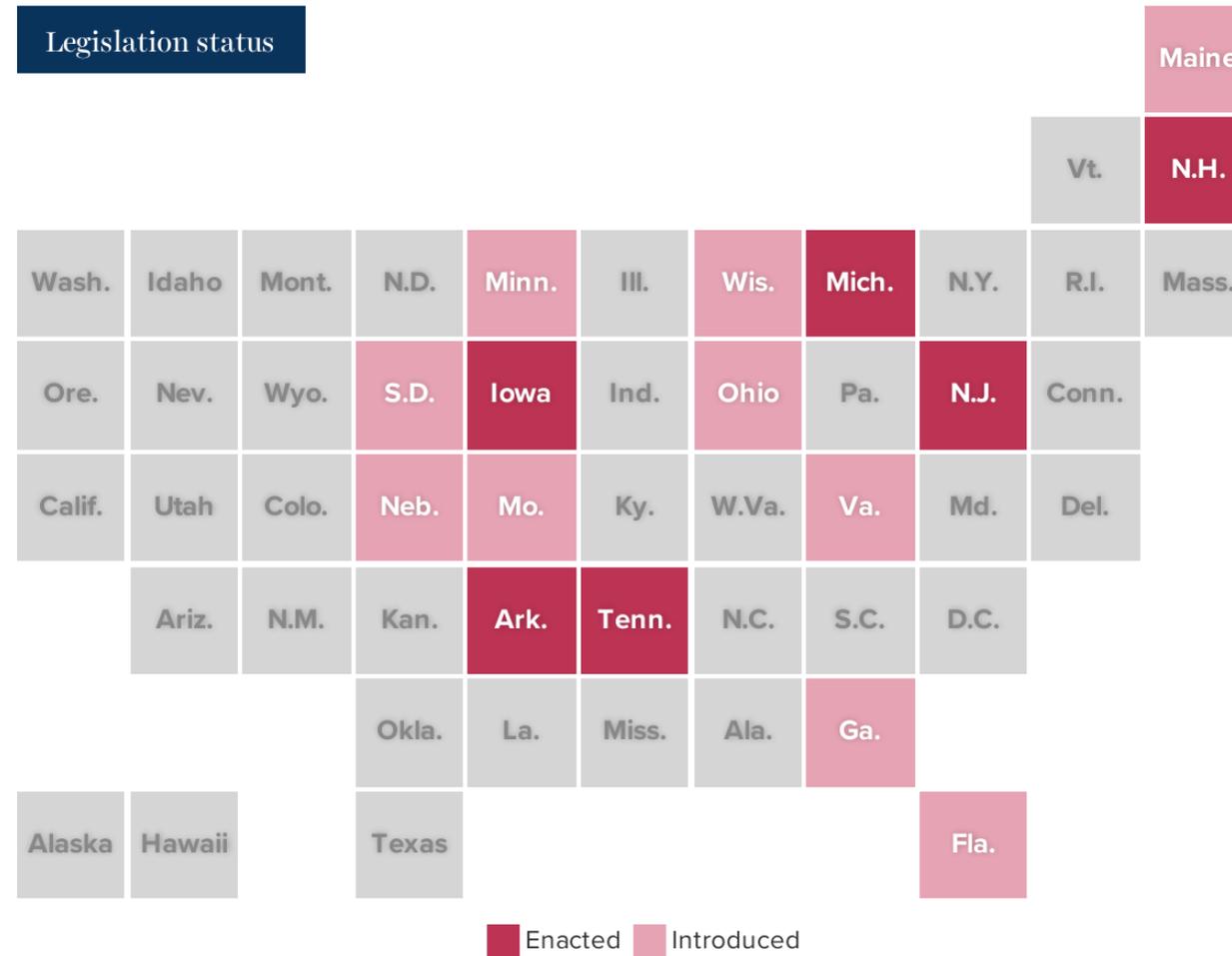


Notes: Minors are workers less than 18 years old. Hazardous occupation orders ban minors from working in **nonagricultural** and **agricultural** occupations the Department of Labor defines as particularly hazardous for minors, or detrimental to their health or well-being.

Source: EPI analysis of Department of Labor (DOL) **child labor violations** data.

At least 16 states have introduced or passed laws rolling back child labor protections in the past two years

State child labor legislation activity, 2021–2023



Source: EPI analysis of state legislative activity and news related to child labor legislation.

2023 state legislation enacted

Arkansas leads charge to weaken child labor protections

Law weakens state's oversight of child labor and represents latest attempt in mostly Republican-led states to ease regulations



Tennessee Lets Certain Minors Work Where Alcohol Sales Prevalent



Emmanuel Elone
Editor/Writer



ECONOMY

Iowa governor will sign bill rolling back labor protections for children

The measure is the latest in a refit of legislation in several states that aims to loosen restrictions on youth employment



By Jacob Borquez

May 4, 2023 at 7:12 p.m. EDT



Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds (R) in March in Des Moines. (Rachel Murray for The Washington Post)

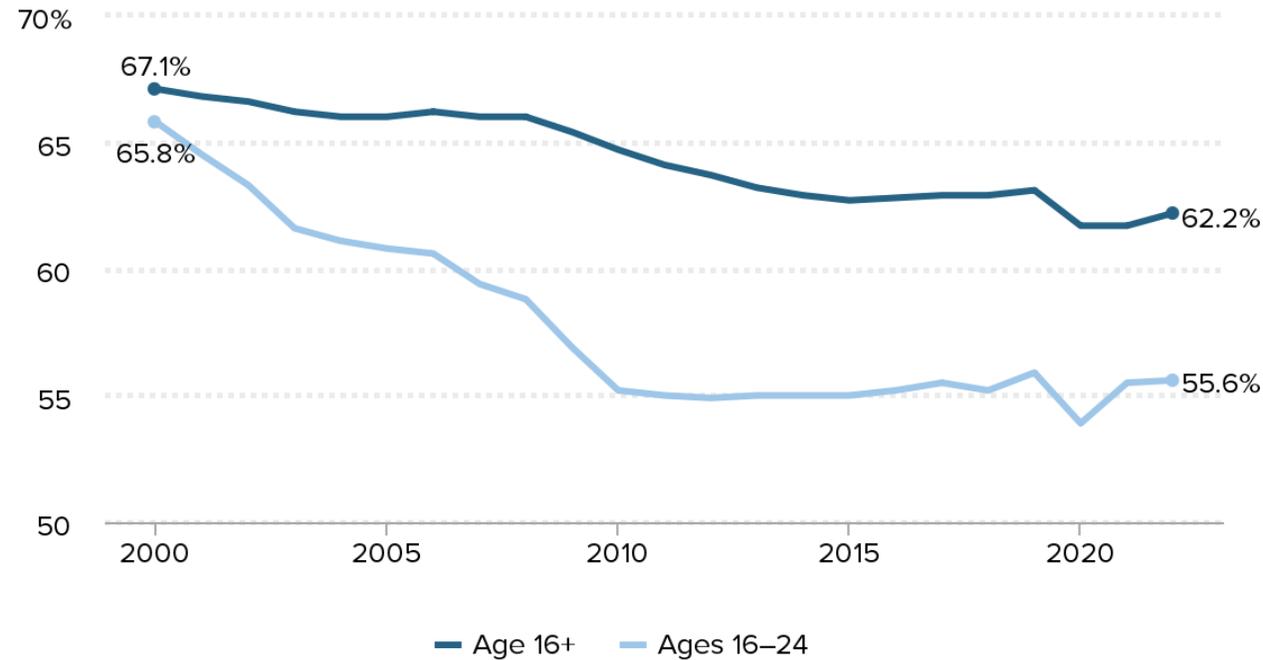
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Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds on Thursday said she will sign a bill to roll back labor protections for children, allowing them to work longer hours and take jobs that had been prohibited.

The measure would permit children as young as 14 to work in roofing, construction and demolition, provided they are part of educational or apprenticeship programs and a parent has granted permission for the work. They would also be allowed to do light assembly work and assist customers in businesses that sell fireworks, as long as no machines are present.

Labor force participation among young adults has recovered to pre-pandemic levels

Labor force participation rate among adults age 16+ and among young adults ages 16–24, 2000–2022

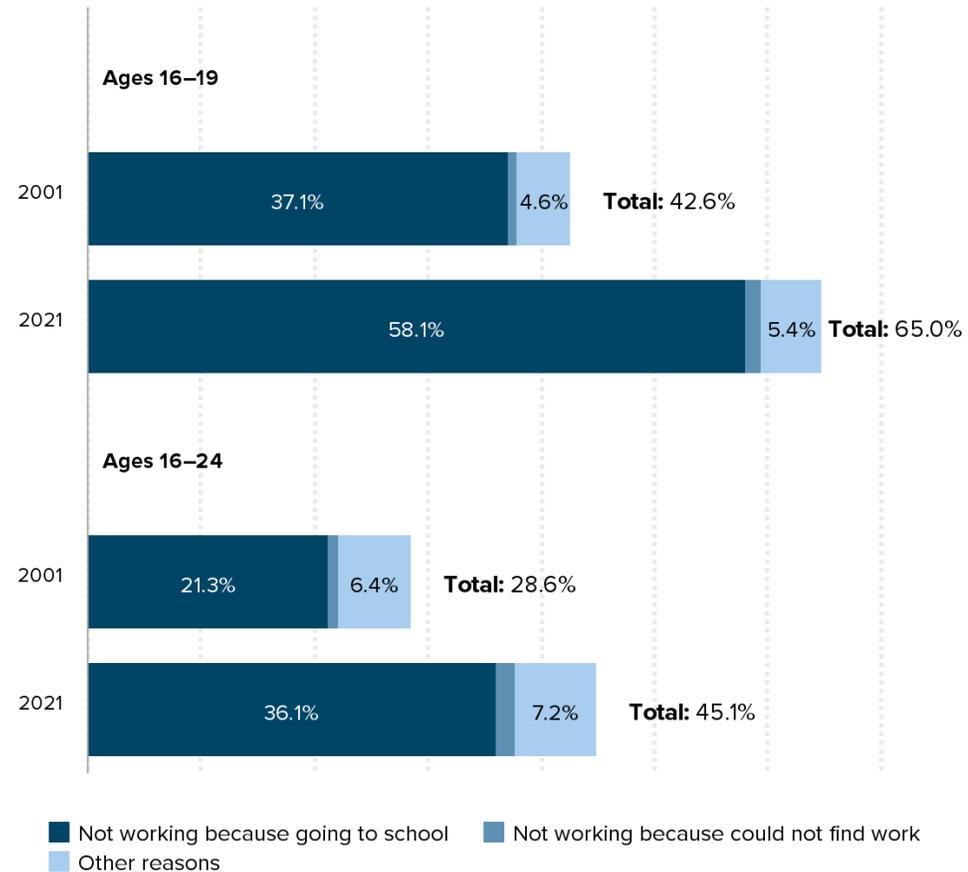


Notes: Labor force participants are employed workers and unemployed workers who are actively seeking work. The labor force participation rate for a given age group is the number of labor force participants divided by the total number of people in that age group.

Source: EPI analysis of Current Population Survey microdata.

Most young people who are not in the labor force are in school

Share of 16- to 19-year-olds and 16- to 24-year-olds not working, by selected reasons, 2001 and 2021



Note: “Not working for other reasons” include illness, disability, taking care of family member, retired, and other.

Source: IPUMS online data analysis system (SDA) analysis of Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, “Reason not working last year by survey year.”