

1. Percentage of Black children to overall population

- As of 2018, there are 8,957,937¹ of total children, and 489,621² (5.4%) Black children (under 18 years old) in California.

2. Percentage of Black children in an Immigrant Family¹

- From 2017-2018, there were over 60,000³ Black children with at least one foreign-born parent.

3. Percentage of Black children in Poverty:

- In 2018, 28.4%⁴ of Black children experience poverty compared to 17.4%⁵ of the general child population (under 18 years old).

4. Black Children's Health Insurance Rate:

- 97.7% of Black children had health insurance coverage, yet 11,581 of Black children in California are uninsured. ⁶

5. Black Children's Health Access:

- From 2015-2016, 7% of Black children did not have a usual source care in CA, and 4% received care from emergency room visits.⁷

6. Infant/Maternal Mortality in Black Families

a. Maternal Mortality

7. From 2002-2007, "African-American women continue to die at three-to-four times the maternal mortality rate of women of other racial/ethnicities groups, and as high as eight times the rate when deaths from pregnancy-related cardiovascular disease is considered" (California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative 2018, 7).⁸

b. Infant Mortality

8. From 2013-2015, California's mortality rate for infants of Black women was 9.55 per 1,000 live births compared to 3.75 deaths per 1,000 live births among white infants.⁹

c. Racial Bias in Infant and Maternal Mortality

9. "Given that black women and other women of color often receive poorer quality care and are victims of racial bias in traditional health care settings, expanding birth options and increasing access to midwives and doulas in hospitals may lead to better outcomes for some populations."¹⁰

Definitions: _____

¹ The Urban Institute defines "immigrants" or foreign-born" individuals as people born outside the United States. Children in immigrant families refers to children under 18 years old with at least one immigrant (foreign-born) parent.

d. Black Mother's Interviews

- “Doctors have a lot to learn from midwives and doulas. Doctors see a procedure; doulas see a mother.” (New York State Department of Public Health, 2018, 14).
- My CHW helped me while my baby was in the NICU and kept me pumping for him.” “I wouldn't have made it through without my CHW.” (New York State Department of Public Health, 2018, 16).¹¹

7. Black Children's Nutrition Access:

- According to the 2017-2018 National Survey of Children's Health, in California 29% of Black households say that sometimes they could not afford to eat. ¹²

8. Black Children's Oral Health:

- According to the 2017-2018 National Survey of Children's Health, in California 20.9% of Black children (ages 1-17) reported that during the past 12 months having one or more oral health problems such as toothaches, bleeding gums, or decayed teeth or cavities.¹³

9. Asthma in Black Children

- “Slightly more than one in four Black children have been diagnosed with asthma, higher than California's overall rate of one in seven children” (California Health Care Foundation, 2019, 17).¹⁴
- Asthma prevalence is highest among black. Black children have a 260 percent higher emergency department visit rate, a 250 percent higher hospitalization rate, and a 500 percent higher death rate from asthma compared to white children.¹⁵

10. Mental Health in Black children and adolescents (National):

- “Black children, particularly black boys 5 to 11 years of age, have experienced an increase in the rate of suicide deaths; and in black children ages 5 to 12 years, the suicide rates were found to be 2 times higher compared with their white counterparts” (Lindsey et al., 2019, 2).¹⁶
- Between 1991 and 2017, suicide attempts among black adolescents increased by 73%, while attempts among white youth decreased.¹⁷ Overall, black children's suicide rates were attributed to the social determinants of health that affect black adolescents such as adverse childhood experiences. (Lindsey et al., 2019, 7).¹⁸

a. Childhood Trauma in Black Children (National):

- 33% of Black children have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) compared to 19% of white children (under 18 years old).¹⁹
- “Black non-Hispanic children are the most likely to have experienced the death of a parent or guardian.”²⁰

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February Series: Black Children's Health Inequities Fact Sheet

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A Child is a Child: Examining California's Children's Health Inequities
February Series: Black Children's Health Inequities Fact Sheet

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