The Children’s Partnership
A Child is a Child: Examining California’s Children’s Health Inequities
September Series: Latinx Children’s Health Fact Sheet

Terminology

Latinx: We use the term “Latinx” instead of Hispanic or Latino in order to be inclusive of diverse language, culture, and gender identities within the Latinx community. Defined as “relating to Spain,” the term Hispanic excludes indigenous cultures and languages, people from Brazil and other Latin American countries that do not speak Spanish but instead speak various indigenous tongues or Portuguese, as well as Black Latinx people. Additionally, Latinx also makes room for people who are trans, queer, agender, non-binary, gender nonconforming or gender fluid. While most of the sources used in this fact sheet use the terms “Hispanic or Latino,” we report “Hispanic or Latino” as Latinx individuals who may be of any race.

Children and youth: Children and youth are defined as those individuals under age 19 (0 to 18 years).

Sources

Population

- As of 2018, there were 8,957,937 total children in California and 52.1% or 4,667,085 million are Hispanic/Latinx.¹
- 1,870,345 Latinx children identify with two or more races, 42,661 also identify as Black or African American, 41,072 also identify as Native American, and 21,887 also identify as Asian American.²
- From 2017-2018, there were 2,652,000 Latinx children with at least one foreign-born parent in California.³ 56.42% of Hispanic children in California have at least one foreign-born parent.⁴

COVID-19

- Nearly 75% (38,711) of COVID-19 cases in California impacted children and youth age 0-17, are Latinx children.⁵

Health Coverage and Access

³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.
• 56.5% of Latinx children are enrolled in Medi-Cal (Medicaid) or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).⁶
• Latinx children are almost 1.5 times more likely to be uninsured compared to other kids.⁷
  In 2018, 96.1% (4,754,018/4,942,244) Latinx children had health insurance coverage and 3.8% (188,226/4,442,244) Latinx children were uninsured. ⁸
• 24.7% of Latinx children had no preventive visits, 14.5 white children had no preventive visits.⁹

**Economic Wellbeing**
• In CA 23%¹⁰ (1,054,000) of Latinx children experience poverty compared to general state average of 17% (1,521,000)¹¹
• 53.26% of households with Latinx children are burdened by housing and utility costs.¹²

**Mental Health**
• 30.3% of Latinx children reported depression-related feelings in the last 12 months. 26.6% of white children reported depression-related feelings in the last 12 months.
• Latinx youth mental health hospitalizations rose 86% between 2007 and 2014, compared to a 21% increase among white youth. 
• 34.3% Latina youth has considered suicide and 13.3% have attempted suicide. For lesbian, bisexual and queer Latina youth, the reality is even worse: nearly half (48%) has considered suicide; and 1 in 3 (33%) lesbian, bisexual, and queer Latina youth attempted suicide.

Food Access
• 14.5% of households with Latinx children are experiencing food scarcity, 11.9% of all households with children are experiencing food scarcity, 8% of white households with children are experiencing food scarcity.

Environmental Pollution
• 81% of children living in census tracts with the highest environmental pollution burdens are Latinx.
• 14% of Latinx children have been diagnosed with asthma, compared to 11% of white children.
• 514,269 to 1,048,222 students in the public-school system in California attended schools impacted by water systems that did not meet primary safe drinking water standards. Schools impacted by unsafe drinking water had a higher percentage of students eligible for the FRPM program than the average percentage enrolled at the state level. 62–67% of students at schools impacted by unsafe drinking water were eligible for FRPM, compared to 59% for the matched schools from the study population. This trend held when looking at the portion of students impacted who identified as Hispanic or Latino.

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14 ibid.
20 Ibid.
too, as 55–57% of students at impacted schools were Hispanic or Latino, compared to 53% for the matched schools from the study population.21

**Oral Health**
- 16.9%22 of Latinx children experienced oral health problems in the past 12 months.
- 9.8%23 of white children experienced oral health problems in the past 12 months.
- Latino children in California are significantly more likely to have a history of tooth decay (72%) and untreated tooth decay (33%) than non-Latino white children (48% and 20%, respectively).24

**Digital Access**
- 89% of Latinx children live in households with a broadband connected device,25 leaving 11% or 513,379 Latinx children in households with no broadband connected device.

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21 Community Water Center El Centro Comunitario Por El Agua, Environmental Justice Coalition For Water, “Are we providing our school kids safe drinking water? An Analysis of California Schools Impacted by Unsafe Drinking Water,” May 2016 Available at: https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/communitywatercenter/pages/824/attachments/original/1462656752/CWC_MCL_05.07.16a.pdf?1462656752
23 Ibid.