

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

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, “Children Characteristics, California: Total Population.” 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, table S0901, accessed August 25, 2020, https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0400000US06&t=Children&tid=ACST1Y2018.S0901&y=2018&hidePreview=true&vintage=2018&cid=S0901_C01_001E

² U.S. Census Bureau, “California Residents - Hispanic by Age and Race – Estimates” 2018 American Community Survey. Estimates provided by the CA Department of Finance, September 2020.

³ Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2017 and 2018 American Community Survey. Accessed August 25, 2020, <https://datatool.urban.org/charts/datatool/chartbook.cfm?year=2017&state=6&metro=0&statistic=3.0,5.0,7.0,9.0,11.0,215.0,57.0,59.0,61.0&variable=1,4,23,24,25,26,27,99&typeofdata=2&typeofgeography=2&displayType=3&displayFormat=html>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ COVID-19 Race and Ethnicity Data. California Department of Public Health. Updated September 9, 2020. Accessed September 10, 2020. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Race-Ethnicity.aspx>

- 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

⁶ “Medicaid (Medi-Cal) or CHIP Coverage, by Race/Ethnicity”. Kidsdata.org, a Program of Lucille Packard Foundation for Children’s Health, accessed August 28, 2020 [https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2001/means-tested-insurance-](https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2001/means-tested-insurance-race/table#fmt=2505&loc=2&tf=67,73,79,84,88&ch=7,8,10,9&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc)

[race/table#fmt=2505&loc=2&tf=67,73,79,84,88&ch=7,8,10,9&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc](https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2001/means-tested-insurance-race/table#fmt=2505&loc=2&tf=67,73,79,84,88&ch=7,8,10,9&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc)

⁷ Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, “California Latino Kids Latino Children’s Health Coverage Facts” <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2020/06/29/fact-sheets-latino-childrens-health-coverage/>

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. “Health Insurance Coverage Status by Age: California: Hispanic or Latino alone.” 2018 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, table C270011, accessed September 10, 2020, https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0400000US06&t=HealthInsurance&tid=ACSDT1Y2018.C270011&y=2018&vintage=2018&hidePreview=false&cid=S2701_C01_001E

⁹ “NSCH 2016-17: One or More Preventive Medical Care Visits during Past 12 Months, California, Race/Ethnicity of Child”, Childhealthdata.org, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), 2017, accessed August 27, 2020, <http://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=5433&r=6&g=652>.

¹⁰ “Children in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity: KIDS COUNT Data Center.” Kids Count Data Center: A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Accessed October 1, 2019, <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/44-children-in--detailed/2/6/false/37/10,11,9,12,1,185,13/324,323>. Data from Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2018 American Community Survey.

¹¹ *ibid.*

¹² The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2017 and 2018 American Community Survey. <https://datatool.urban.org/charts/datatool/pages.cfm> Burdened by housing and utility costs: A family is housing cost burdened if costs exceed 30 percent of their household income and severely housing cost burdened if costs exceed 50 percent. Because housing cost burden is measured at the household level, it is only calculated and reported for families (see definition of family) who include the household head. The total cost of renting or owning housing is divided by total household income. Total cost includes mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, condo fees, mobile home fees, and utilities for homeowners, and rent and utilities are included for renters. Household income includes income from all members of the household and is not restricted to family income.

- 30.3%¹³ of Latinx children reported depression-related feelings in the last 12 months. 26.6%¹⁴ 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.¹⁵
- 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.¹⁶

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.¹⁷

Environmental Pollution

- 81% of children living in census tracts with the highest environmental pollution burdens are Latinx.¹⁸
- 14% of Latinx children have been diagnosed with asthma¹⁹, compared to 11% of white children.²⁰
- 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,

¹³ “Depression-Related Feelings, by Race/Ethnicity.” Kidsdata.org, a Program of Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health, 2017 accessed August 28, 2020, <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/388/depressive-feelings-race/table#fmt=534&loc=2&tf=122&ch=10,9,73,127,1177,1176&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc> Data source: WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) and Biennial State CHKS. California Dept. of Education (Mar. 2019).

¹⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁵ <https://khn.org/news/latino-youth-in-california-see-significant-rise-in-psychiatric-hospitalizations/>

¹⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2019 California Youth Risk Behavior Survey Questionnaire. Available at: <https://nccd.cdc.gov/Youthonline/App/Default.aspx> Accessed on September 23, 2020.

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, Week 13, “Food Table 3b. Food Sufficiency for Households with Children, in the Last 7 Days, by Select Characteristics: California” accessed September 11, 2020.

¹⁸ Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment California Environmental Protection Agency, Analysis of Race/Ethnicity, Age, and CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Scores, June 2018. <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/document-calenviroscreen/raceageces3analysis.pdf>

¹⁹ Jen Joynt, “2019 Edition - Quality of Care: Children’s Health.” California Health Care Foundation, March 15, 2019, accessed September 30, 2019, <http://www.chcf.org/publication/2019-edition-quality-care-childrens-health/-related-links-and-downloads>. Data from UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, [California Health Interview Survey](#).

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.

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://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/communitywatercenter/pages/824/attachments/original/1462656752/CWC_MCL_05.07.16a.pdf?1462656752

²² “NSCH 2016 17: Oral health problems, California, Race/ethnicity of child,” Childhealthdata.org, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), 2017, accessed August 28, 2020,

<https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=5274&r=6&g=652>

²³ *ibid.*

²⁴ California Department of Public Health, “Status of Oral Health in California: Oral Disease Burden and Prevention 2017” available at https://dental.acphd.org/media/programs/strategic-planning/Oral_Disease_Burden_Prevention-2017.pdf

²⁵ Households with Broadband-Connected Devices.” Kidsdata.org, a Program of Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2017 accessed August 28, 2020,

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2221/broadband-race/Table#fmt=2771&loc=1,2&tf=108&ch=10&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc> Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey public use microdata (Jun. 2020)