**The Children’s Partnership**

**A Child is a Child: Examining California’s Children’s Health Inequities**

**AI/AN Children’s Health Fact Sheet: November 2020**

**Terminology**

**American Indian/Alaska Native:** We use the term “American Indian/Alaska Native” (AI/AN) throughout this fact sheet, as it is the federal term used in Census data and other data sets used to inform this fact sheet.

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

**Sources**

**Population**

* AI/AN, non-Hispanic: There are 76,439 children ages 0-17 who identify as AI/AN alone[[1]](#footnote-1)
* AI/AN, Hispanic: There are 132,240 Latinx children in California are AI/AN.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Inclusive, there are 208,679 children in California who are AI/AN alone, and in combination with one or more other races.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* Nearly 90% of the Native American population in California resides in urban areas.[[4]](#footnote-4)

**Health Coverage and Access**

* 92.4% of AI/AN children in California have health insurance coverage, meaning 7.6% (about 3,100) remain uninsured.[[5]](#footnote-5)
* In CA, 2.3% of white children remain uninsured. The state average is 3.1%.[[6]](#footnote-6)
* 16,081 AI/NA children and youth under 21 are enrolled in Medi-Cal—38.7%. 49.7% of all children in CA are enrolled in Medi-Cal.[[7]](#footnote-7)

**COVID-19**

* Based on age-adjusted death rates from COVID-19 aggregated from all U.S. states and the District of Columbia across racial/ethnic group, AI/AN individuals are over times more likely to have died from COVID-19 than white individuals, controlling for age.[[8]](#footnote-8)

**Economic Wellbeing**

* In California, 26.3% of AI/AN children live below the poverty line, compared to 18% of all children in CA[[9]](#footnote-9) and compared to 8.9% of white children in CA.[[10]](#footnote-10)
* In California, 42% of AI/AN children are burdened by housing and utility costs; compared to 37% of white children burdened by housing and utility costs, and 44% of all children burdened by housing and utility costs.[[11]](#footnote-11)

**Mental Health**

* Depression: According to the CA Health Kids Survey, 34% of AI/AN youth in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades reported feeling depressed. Across all race and ethnicity groups, 29% of youth reported feelings of depression. Among white youth, the rate is 32%. [[12]](#footnote-12)
* Suicide Rates: There has been a 60% increase in the suicide rate of American Indian/Alaska Native girls between data collected from 1999-2001 and 2012-2014. That is the fastest growing rate among any racial/ethnic category in the US.[[13]](#footnote-13)

**Food Access**

* Nationally, 28.0% of AI/AN households with children live in food-insecure households, as compared to 15.7% of all households with children[[14]](#footnote-14)
* Among white households in the United States, an estimated 8% are food-insecure.[[15]](#footnote-15)

**Child Welfare**

* In California, 20.7 per 1,000 AI/NA children aged 0-20 are placed in foster care, compared to 5.3 per 1,000 children for all race/ethnic group, and compared to 4.4 per 1,000 white children in foster care[[16]](#footnote-16)

**Oral Health**

* Of the children aged 3-5 years old surveyed in “The Oral Health of American Indian and Alaska Native Children,” 71.3% of AI/AN children had early childhood caries, compared to 24.9% of white children, 30.3% of Black children, and 41.5% of Latinx children.[[17]](#footnote-17)

**Maternal and Infant Health**

* According to California Department of Public Health data from 2014, the rate of infant deaths per 1,000 births was 6.2 for American Indian/Alaska Native populations. The average across all populations was 4.5 deaths per 1,000 births, and the rate for white individuals was 3.6 per 1,000 births.[[18]](#footnote-18)

**Digital Connectedness**

* 91% of AI/AN children in CA live in a household with a broadband connected device—compared to 96% of white children and Asian American children in CA.[[19]](#footnote-19)
* Based on the population estimates of Kidsdata.org, 9% of 39,491 AI/AN children = 3,554.9 youth living without access to a broadband-connected device.[[20]](#footnote-20)

1. U.S. Census Bureau “American Indian and Alaska Native by Age and Race/ Ethnicity – Estimates.” 2018 American Community Survey (1-year Estimates), Public Use Microdata Sample. Provided by the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. California Consortium for Urban Indian Health “Health Equity” Presentation by Virginia Hedrick, Insured the Uninsured Project Conference February 2020. Data from 2010 US Census. <http://www.itup.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/4.-Virginia-Hedrick.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. American Indian/Alaska Native Children in California.” Kidsdata.org <https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=19> Data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Summary Files and Public Use Microdata (October 2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Health Insurance Coverage, by Age Group.” Kidsdata.org [https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/337/health-insurance65-age/table#fmt=393&loc=2,127,1657,331,1761,171,2168,345,357,324,369,362,360,2076,364,356,217,354,1663,339,2169,365,343,367,344,366,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,341,338,350,2145,359,363,340&tf=95&ch=](https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/337/health-insurance65-age/table#fmt=393&loc=2,127,1657,331,1761,171,2168,345,357,324,369,362,360,2076,364,356,217,354,1663,339,2169,365,343,367,344,366,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,341,338,350,2145,359,363,340&tf=95&ch=484,1439,1440,1113,1114,1115,551) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. California Dept. of Health Care Services, Eligible Individuals Under Age 21 Enrolled in Medi-Cal (July 2019). <https://data.chhs.ca.gov/dataset/eligible-individuals-under-age-21-enrolled-in-medi-cal-by-county/resource/c3bd3780-f419-4369-9f65-9b08cf54cb84> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. APM Research Lab, “The Color of Coronavirus: COVID-19 Deaths by Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.”

   <https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race#indigenous> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. “American Indian/Alaska Native Children in California.” Kidsdata.org <https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=19> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. “Children in Poverty, by Race/Ethnicity.” Kidsdata.org, data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Sept. 2018). [https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/234/childpoverty-race250/table#fmt=450&loc=2,127,331,171,345,357,324,369,362,360,337,364,356,217,328,354,320,339,334,365,343,367,344,366,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,341,338,350,342,359,363,340,335&tf=95&ch=7,11,726,10,7](https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/234/childpoverty-race250/table#fmt=450&loc=2,127,331,171,345,357,324,369,362,360,337,364,356,217,328,354,320,339,334,365,343,367,344,366,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,341,338,350,342,359,363,340,335&tf=95&ch=7,11,726,10,72,9,73,1298) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [Urban Institute Children of Immigrants Data Tool https://datatool.urban.org/chartbook.cfm?year=2017&state=6&metro=0&statistic=194.0,196.0,198.0&variable=23,24,25,26,27,99&typeofdata=1&typeofgeography=2&displayType=3&displayFormat=PDF](https://datatool.urban.org/chartbook.cfm?year=2017&state=6&metro=0&statistic=194.0,196.0,198.0&variable=23,24,25,26,27,99&typeofdata=1&typeofgeography=2&displayType=3&displayFormat=PDF) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. CA Healthy Kids Survey “Substance Use and Mental Health, by Race/Ethnicity.” [“https://calschls.org/reports-data/public-dashboards/secondary-student/](https://calschls.org/reports-data/public-dashboards/secondary-student/) California Department of Education, 2019. Accessed September 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. “Suicide Replaces Homicide as Second-Leading Cause of Death Among U.S. Teenagers.” Population Reference Bureau: June 2016. <https://www.prb.org/suicide-replaces-homicide-second-leading-cause-death-among-us-teens/> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. “Hunger and Poverty in the Indigenous Community.” Bread for the World: October 2018. <https://www.bread.org/library/fact-sheet-hunger-and-poverty-indigenous-community> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
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16. “American Indian/Alaska Native Children in California.” Kidsdata.org <https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=19> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. “The Oral Health of American Indian and Alaska Native Children Aged 1-5 Years” Results of the 2018-2019 Oral Health Survey. Presented by the California Rural Indian Health Board on July 28, 2020. Slides on file with TCP. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. “Infant Mortality – Deaths per 1,000 Live Births.” Let’s Get Healthy California: Healthy Beginnings/Reducing Infant Mortality. <https://letsgethealthy.ca.gov/goals/healthy-beginnings/reducing-infant-mortality/> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. “Children Living in Households with a Broadband-Connected Device, by Race/Ethnicity.” Kidsdata.org. [https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2221/broadband-race/table#fmt=2771&loc=2,127,1657,331,1761,171,2168,345,357,324,369,362,360,2076,364,356,217,354,1663,339,2169,365,343,367,344,366,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,341,338,350,2145,359,363,340&tf=108&ch=7,11,](https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2221/broadband-race/table#fmt=2771&loc=2,127,1657,331,1761,171,2168,345,357,324,369,362,360,2076,364,356,217,354,1663,339,2169,365,343,367,344,366,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,341,338,350,2145,359,363,340&tf=108&ch=7,11,726,10,72,9,73) From Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau [American Community Survey](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/pums.html) public use microdata June, 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)