When children are healthy, they are more likely to succeed in school and in life. The Children's Partnership acknowledges the role that systemic racism and discrimination play in creating and perpetuating health inequities. We work to address their underlying causes by improving the conditions in which children live, learn, grow, and play so that young people from historically marginalized communities have the resources and opportunities to achieve their dreams and reach their full potential. This infographic provides an overview of key child health facts in California and nationally to inform the work we must do to raise healthy, thriving children.

**RACISM AND CHILDHOOD**

Opportunities for Change
Racism has been scientifically proven as a core determinant of child health that has a profound impact on the wellbeing of Black children, their families, and their communities. Racism impacts every state of a child’s development and continues to harm children by shaping the conditions in which they live, learn, and play; manifesting itself in the form of persistent inequitable outcomes. Achieving health equity requires that we collectively examine and dismantle the racism that exists within our institutions and systems and demand bold policy changes that put the wellbeing of our children first.

**POPULATION**

There are at least 698,317 children and youth who identify as Black, including those who also identify with another race or ethnicity, making up about 8% of the state’s 9 million children. Of these children,

- **435,318** identify as Black alone.
- **36,217** identify as Black & Latinx.
- **2,906** identify as Black & Native American.
- **12,957** identify as Black & Asian American.
- **96,432** identify as Black & White.
- **226,782** identify as Black & one or more races and ethnicities.

About 81,000 Black children have at least one parent who was born outside of the United States.

**HEALTH COVERAGE AND ACCESS**

Nearly 98% of Black children have health insurance, yet more than 11,700 remain uninsured.

Nearly 3 in 5 Black children and youth rely on Medi-Cal, compared to 1 in 2 of ALL children.

**COVID-19**

COVID-19 is exacerbating already existing disparities impacting Black children and their families. At least 10,824 Black children are currently diagnosed with COVID-19. They make up 3% of cases and 7% of deaths statewide.
COMMUNITY AND FAMILY WELLBEING

Black youth are 4x more likely to be removed from their homes and placed into foster care compared to ALL youth.

Black children are almost 2x as likely to experience or witness neighborhood violence compared to white children.

Over 1 in 3 of Black children have experienced at least one adverse childhood experience.

School officials are 2.7x more likely to refer incidents involving Black students to the POLICE than white students.

ECONOMIC WELLBEING

1 in 4 Black children experience POVERTY, compared to just over 1 in 6 of ALL children. Over 1 in 2 Black children live in families that are burdened by housing and utility costs.

MENTAL HEALTH

61% of Black teen girls say they need help for emotional and mental health compared to nearly 45% of ALL teen girls and nearly 32% of all teens. Yet, 88% of Black teens did not receive counseling in the last year, including at least 42,000 Black teen girls and at least 103,000 Black teen boys.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

8% of children living in neighborhoods with the highest amounts of environmental pollution are Black, despite making up 5% of the state's child population.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

Regardless of income, Black infants and Black mothers experience the highest rates of mortality compared to other races. Black women are 4x more likely than white women to die from complications of pregnancy and birth, and Black infants are almost 3x more likely to die than white infants.

ORAL HEALTH

Black children enrolled in Medi-Cal have the lowest numbers of dental visits of all racial and ethnic groups.

Nearly 1 in 5 Black children needed DENTAL CARE in the past year but did not receive it compared to 1 in 14 of ALL children.

FOOD ACCESS

Black children are 6x more likely to be experiencing FOOD INSECURITY compared to ALL children.

DIGITAL ACCESS

About 1 in 10 Black children live in a household without a BROADBAND connected device compared to 1 in 14 of ALL children.

Black children in Medi-Cal have the lowest numbers of TELEHEALTH visits of all racial and ethnic groups.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FAMILIES

Data Note: The Children's Partnership and the California Black Women's Health Project collected Black children's data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, the 2019 CA Health Interview Survey, and the 2018-2019 National Survey of Children's Health. All data is from California unless otherwise noted. Citations can be found at: bit.ly/ACHildsAChild
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