

A Child is a Child: A Snapshot of California’s Children’s Health

February 2021: Black Children’s Health Fact Sheet

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, KidsData.org. All data is from California unless otherwise noted.

Population
2019 total population of children: 8,865,747 ¹
Black Children alone: 435,318 ²
Black Children with another race/ethnicity: 698,317 ³
Black Children and Latinx: 36,217 ⁴
Black Children and Native American: 2,906 ⁵
Black Children and Asian American: 12,957 ⁶
Black Children and white: 96,432 ⁷
Black Children who are two or more races: 226,782 ⁸

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. “Children Characteristics, California: Total Population.” 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, table S0901, accessed February 2021, https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0400000US06&t=Children&tid=ACST1Y2018.S0901&y=2018&hidePreview=true&vintage=2018&cid=S0901_C01_001E

² U.S. Census Bureau “Black and African American by Age and Race/ Ethnicity – Estimates.” 2019 American Community Survey (1-year Estimates), Public Use Microdata Sample. Provided by the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

Black Children with at least one foreign-born parent: 80,712⁹

Health Coverage and Access

97.7 Black Children 18 and under have health insurance coverage. 11,719 Black children 18 and under do not have health insurance coverage.¹⁰

96% of Hispanic/Latinx children 18 and under have health insurance coverage.¹¹

95% of Native Hawaiian/PI children 18 and under have health insurance coverage.¹²

99% of white children 18 and under have health insurance coverage.¹³

93% of American Indian/Alaska Native children 18 and under have health insurance coverage.¹⁴

59.1% of Black children and youth under 20 are enrolled in Medi-Cal compared to 49.7% of all children.¹⁵

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. “Nativity of Parents” 2019 ACS 1-Year Estimates accessed February 2021

<https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/search?ds=ACSPUMS1Y2019&cv=NOP%281,2,3,4,5,6,7,8%29&rv=ucgid,RAC1P&wt=PWGTP&g=0400000US06>.

¹⁰ U.S. Census. “Health Insurance Coverage State by Age (Black or African American Alone).” Table: B27001B. 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Accessed February 2021. <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSST1Y2019.B27001B&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.B27001B>

¹¹ “Health Insurance Coverage Status By Age (Hispanic or Latino),” Census.gov, 2021,

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSST1Y2019.B27001I&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.B27001I&hidePreview=true>.

¹² “HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS by AGE (NATIVE HAWAIIAN and OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER ALONE),” Census.gov, 2021,

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSST1Y2019.B27001E&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.B27001E&hidePreview=true>.

¹³ HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS by AGE (WHITE ALONE),” Census.gov, 2021,

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSST1Y2019.B27001A&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.B27001A&hidePreview=true>

¹⁴ “HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS by AGE (AMERICAN INDIAN and ALASKA NATIVE ALONE),” Census.gov, 2021,

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSST1Y2019.B27001C&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.B27001C&hidePreview=true>.

¹⁵ “African American/Black Children in California,” Kidsdata.org

<https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=13>;

COVID-19

Proportion of Cases and Deaths by Race and Ethnicity Among Ages 0-17¹⁶
Black Children: 3.0% (10,824) cases, 7% deaths, 5.4% of CA population

Economic Wellbeing

117,166 Black Children under 18 live below the federal poverty level.¹⁷

15.6% of all children under 18 years old in CA live below the federal poverty level.¹⁸

56.1% of Black children live in families that are burdened by housing and utility costs.¹⁹

45.7% of all children live in families that are burdened by housing and utility costs.²⁰

Mental Health

¹⁶ CA Department of Public Health, Proportion of Cases and Deaths by Race and Ethnicity Among Ages 0-17, <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Race-Ethnicity.aspx>. Accessed February 2021.

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 months, California: Black and African American alone." 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, table B17020B, accessed February 2021.

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Black%20or%20African%20American%3APoverty&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B17020B&hidePreview=true>

¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, California." 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, table S1701, accessed February 2021. <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Poverty&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S1701&hidePreview=false>

¹⁹ The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2005 - 2019 American Community Survey.

²⁰ IBID

977,000 or 31.6% of teens say they need help for emotional/mental health problems such as feeling sad, anxious or nervous.²¹

674,000 or 44.5% of teen girls say they need help for emotional/mental health problems such as feeling sad, anxious or nervous.²²

38,000 or 60.8% of Black teen girls say they need help for emotional/mental health problems such as feeling sad, anxious or nervous.²³

145,000 or 88% of Black teens did not receive counseling in the last year.²⁴

42,000 or 68% of Black teen girls did not receive psychological/emotional counseling in the past year.²⁵

74.6% of all teens did not receive psychological/emotional counseling in the past year.²⁶

Food Access

3.3 % of all children sometimes or often could not afford enough to eat.²⁷

18.4% or 61,958 of Black children sometime or often could not afford enough to eat.²⁸

²¹ 2019 California Health Interview Survey https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results

²² IBID

²³ IBID

²⁴ 2019 California Health Interview Survey https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results

²⁵ IBID

²⁶ IBID

²⁷ “NSCH 2018-19: Food Insufficiency, California,” Childhealthdata.org (CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2018), <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=7947&r=6>.

²⁸ IBID

Community and Family Wellbeing

21.8 per 1,000 Black children and teens aged 0-20 are placed in foster care, compared to 5.3 per 1,000 children for all race/ethnic group.²⁹

32.7% of all children has experienced at least one adverse childhood experience. 17.7% have experienced 1 ACE, 15% have experienced two or more ACEs.³⁰

38.3% of all Black children has experienced at least one adverse childhood experience. 28.4% have experienced 1 ACE, 9.9% have experienced two or more ACEs.³¹

American Indian students are 3.4 times as likely, Black students 2.7 times as likely, and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students 1.4 times as likely as their white peers to receive a school-based referral to police.³²

Oral Health

Black children have 3,782 visits per 100,000 beneficiaries compared to 5,795 per 100,000 for Latinx children, 5,062 per 100,000 for Asian children, 4,637 per 100,000 for American Indian/Alaska Native children, and 4,532 per 100,000 for white children.³³

During the past 12 months, was there any time when (CHILD) needed dental care, including checkups, but didn't get it?³⁴

- 6.7% of all children needed dental care, including check-ups, but didn't get it

²⁹“African American/Black Children in California.” Kidsdata.org

<https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=13>

³⁰ “NSCH 2018-19: Adverse Childhood Experiences, California,” Childhealthdata.org (CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2018),

<https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=7915&r=6>.

³¹ IBID

³²Raymond Barajas et al., “The Right to Remain a Student: How California School Policies Fail to Protect and Serve,” *ACLU.org*,

https://www.aclunc.org/sites/default/files/20161019-the_right_to_remain_a_student-aclu_california_0.pdf.

³³ DHCS MCHAP Presentation, January 26, 2021

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Documents/012621-MCHAP-presentation.pdf>

³⁴ 2019 California Health Interview Survey https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results

- 54,000 or 17.8% of Black children needed dental care, including check-ups, but didn't get it

Maternal and Infant Health

Infant Mortality – Deaths per 1,000 Live Births³⁵

- All populations: 4.4 per 1000 births
- Black families: 10.2 per 1000 births

Pregnancy-related mortality rates³⁶ by race/ethnicity among all causes of pregnancy-related death ³⁷

- All women: 10.1
- Black women: 39.9

³⁵ Infant Mortality Rate, by Race/Ethnicity 2012-2016

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/295/infantmortality-race/table#fmt=2749&loc=2,127,347,1763,331,348,336,171,321,345,357,332,324,369,358,362,360,337,327,364,356,217,353,328,354,323,352,320,339,334,365,343,330,367,344,355,366,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,333,322,341,338,350,342,329,325,359,351,363,340,335&tf=107&ch=7,11,8,10,9,73,1436&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc>

³⁶ The pregnancy-related mortality rate is defined as the number of women who die from a pregnancy-related cause up to one year postpartum (numerator) divided by the number of live births in that year (denominator) multiplied by 100,000. Therefore, the difference between maternal mortality and pregnancy-related mortality rates is the time period for inclusion (deaths up to 42 days postpartum versus deaths up to one year postpartum). Note: The CDC uses the following definition of pregnancy-related mortality: The death of a woman while pregnant or within one year of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by her pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes.

³⁷ "THE CALIFORNIA PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED MORTALITY REVIEW," www.cdph.ca.gov, n.d., <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/CDPH%20Document%20Library/PAMR/CA-PAMR-Report-1.pdf>.

Digital Access

Children Living in Households with a Broadband-Connected Device, by Race/Ethnicity³⁸

- Black: 90%
- All: 93%

Medi-Cal Telehealth Data

In 2020, Black children enrolled in Medi-Cal had the lowest numbers of telehealth visits of all racial and ethnic groups³⁹ 3,109 visits per 100,000 compared to 4,467 visits per 100,000 for White children, 4,346 per 100,000 for Asian/Pacific Islander children, 4,006 per 100,000 for Latinx children, 3235 for American Indian/Alaska Native children, and 4,872 per 100,000 for those marked "other" in DHCS data.

Environmental Pollution

8% of children living in census tracts with the highest environmental pollution burdens are Black, despite making up 5% of the state's children.⁴⁰

13.1% of all children visited the emergency/urgent care for asthma⁴¹

³⁸ Children Living in Households with a Broadband-Connected Device, by Race/Ethnicity

2018, <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>

³⁹ DHCS MCHAP Presentation, January 26, 2021

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Documents/012621-MCHAP-presentation.pdf>

⁴⁰ Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and Office of EnvironmentCalifornia Environmental Protection Agency, "Analysis of Race/Ethnicity, Age, and CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Scores" (, 2018), <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/document-calenviroscreen/raceageces3analysis.pdf>.

⁴¹ 2019 California Health Interview Survey https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results

28.1% of Black children visited the emergency room for asthma⁴²

National CDC Data

In 2019, Black children were eight times more likely to die from asthma-related causes than non-Hispanic white children.⁴³

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ “Asthma and African Americans - the Office of Minority Health,” Hhs.gov, 2020, <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=15>.