

# A Child is a Child

**SNAPSHOT:** California  
Children's Health



## AAPI\* Children's Health

\*Asian American & Pacific Islander

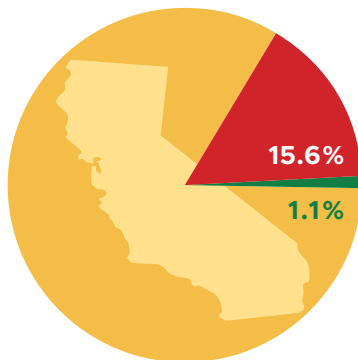
We know that when children are healthy, they are more likely to succeed in school and in life. We work to address the underlying causes of health inequities by improving the conditions in which children live, learn, grow, and play so that young people from historically marginalized communities

have the resources and opportunities they need 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 together to make California the best state to raise healthy, thriving children.



### MASKED HEALTH INEQUITIES

The lack of disaggregated data is a major concern underlying the data within this fact sheet. An accurate picture of the health of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) children in California is impossible without accurate and detailed data that is disaggregated by racial and ethnic subgroups. Health inequities that exist within the AAPI community are understudied and overlooked at least in part because much of the data on this ethnically diverse population are aggregated, leading to a masking of differences and hidden health disparities. In this fact sheet, where possible, we separated data on Asian American children from data on Pacific Islander children and have also included disaggregated data of ethnic groups within the Asian American community.



### POPULATION

Of California's nearly **9 MILLION** children and youth, at least **1.4 million** identify as **ASIAN AMERICAN (AA)** and about **97,000** identify as **PACIFIC ISLANDER (PI)** including those who also identify with another race or ethnicity.

Nearly 9 in 10 (86%) **AA children**, and nearly 1 in 2 (48%) **PI children** live with at least one parent who was born **outside of the United States**.



### HEALTH COVERAGE AND ACCESS

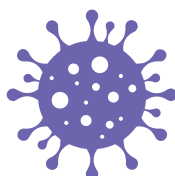
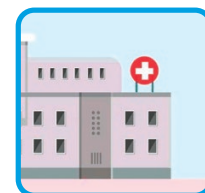


More than **29,000 ASIAN AMERICAN children**, AND about **1,750 PACIFIC ISLANDER children** **REMAIN UNINSURED.**

**211,000 AA children** do not have a usual place where they receive healthcare.

**Nearly 330,000 AA children** do not have adequate or continuous health care coverage for an entire year compared to 30% of all children.

**AA children** are among the highest of all racial and ethnic groups who have not received a preventive check-up: **213,900 of AA children** did not receive preventive care in a year compared to **18% of ALL children**.



### COVID-19

**PACIFIC ISLANDER children** make up **nearly 5% of COVID-19 deaths** among children, yet

make up **.3%** of the state's child population. Overall, **PI communities** suffer from the **highest COVID-19 case and death rates in California**.

# HATE AND DISCRIMINATION



**AAPI communities** in across the United States are experiencing pervasive and consistent patterns of hate and discrimination. During March 2020-21, **STOP AAPI HATE** received nearly **7,000** reports of COVID-19 related discrimination and harassment—**11% came from children and youth**.

# COMMUNITY AND FAMILY WELLBEING



School officials are more likely to refer incidents involving **PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS** to the police than those involving white students: **PI students** are **1.4 TIMES** more likely to be referred to **POLICE**.

# LANGUAGE ACCESS



For AAPI communities, translated materials and interpretation services are **INSUFFICIENT** when accessing critical resources like health care.

Across all children in immigrant families, nearly 1 in 5 (17%) live in households where English is

not spoken fluently. **Over 2 million (27%) of ASIAN AMERICAN children** live in a household with a **primary language other than English**. Many of these children are forced to **translate for their parents and other family members** in order to receive health care.

**Of the top 10 most common languages** spoken at home by children learning English in California schools, **7 are Asian languages**. Over **100,000 students** in CA public schools speak either: Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Filipino, Hmong, Korean, OR Punjabi.

# MENTAL HEALTH



**1 in 4 (27%) of ASIAN AMERICAN children** and nearly half (**41%**) of **PACIFIC ISLANDER youth** in California reported feeling depressed.

**30% of AA teen girls** say they need help for emotional/mental health problems like **feeling sad, anxious or nervous**.

Yet, only **3% of AA teen girls** received psychological/emotional counseling, compared to **25% of ALL teen girls**.

Nationally, nearly **1 in 5 PACIFIC ISLANDER youth (19%)** had thought about, planned, or attempted suicide in the previous year—**TWICE THE RATE** of their white peers.

# ECONOMIC WELLBEING



Nearly **8% or 78,100 ASIAN AMERICAN children** and **15% or 4,851 PACIFIC ISLANDER children** live below the federal poverty line, compared to **16%** of all children in the state.



# ORAL HEALTH

**44% of low-income AAPI preschoolers** have **EARLY TOOTH DECAY**—one of the **HIGHEST RATES** among all racial groups in California.

# FOOD ACCESS



**FOOD INSECURITY** is more prevalent among **foreign-born and non-English speaking AAPI households** than AAPI families born in the US— including Chinese, Filipino, South Asian, Japanese and Vietnamese subgroups.

Within the Asian American community, food insecurity is highest among **Vietnamese Americans**— with **16%** struggling to access healthy and fresh food.



HEALTH  
CARE  
FOR ALL  
FAMILIES

A PROJECT OF  
**The Children's Partnership**

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Data Note: The Children's Partnership and Asian Resources collected AAPI children's data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, the 2019 CA Health Interview Survey, the 2018-2019 National Survey of Children's Health, and a few other discrete sources. All data is from California unless otherwise noted. Citations can be found at: [bit.ly/ACHildsAChild](https://bit.ly/ACHildsAChild)

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