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 LGBTQ+ children, teen, and young adult 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.

**SNAPSHOT:** California Children’s Health

**LGBTQ+ CHILDREN, TEENS, & YOUNG ADULTS**

Health & Well-Being

---

**POPULATION**

At least 1 in 10 children and teens enrolled in California’s public middle and high schools identify as LGBTQ+.

- Of these children and teens, **OVER 75%** are BLACK, INDIGENOUS, and PEOPLE of COLOR (BIPOC).
- **50%** LATINX children and teens in particular make up a large share of LGBTQ+ children and teens: **1 in 2** students who identify as LGBTQ+ are Latinx.

---

**CHILD WELL-BEING**

ACEs are ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES of traumatic or stressful life events before the age of 18. Compared to heterosexual individuals, LGB children, teens, and young adults experience disproportionately higher prevalence of ACEs: nearly **42%** of LGB individuals report **4 or more ACEs** compared to **25%** of heterosexual peers.

---

**COVID-19**

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has had a direct and detrimental impact on LGBTQ+ teens and young adults. Nationally, more than **80%** of LGBTQ+ teens and young adults stated that COVID-19 made their living situation more stressful, with nearly **40%** stating they had **LOST THEIR JOB** during the pandemic. In addition, **70%** stated that their MENTAL HEALTH was poor most of the time or always during COVID-19.

---

**MASKED HEALTH INEQUITIES**

California must do more to collect data specific to LGBTQ+ children, teens, and young adults to more fully understand the structural disadvantages and inequities that impact their health. This includes data on health care access and coverage, food access and insecurity, poverty measures, and child welfare and juvenile justice systems. With accurate data, programs and policies can be put in place to improve the chances for LGBTQ+ children, teens, and young adults to have every opportunity to live healthy, safe, successful lives as youth and as adults.
CHILD WELFARE

LGBTQ+ children and teens are 3X more likely to live in a foster home or group care, or be awaiting placement than non-LGBTQ+ children and teens.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Nationally, LGBTQ+ teens are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system: the percentage of incarcerated LGBTQ+ teens is DOUBLE that of LGBTQ+ teens in the general population. Among California’s incarcerated teens, about 1 in 10 boys and 1 in 2 girls are LGBTQ+. Of these teens, OVER 90% are BIPOC.

HOUSING

Compared to non-LGBTQ+ children and teens, California LGBTQ+ children and teens are roughly 2X as likely to experience homelessness and living in unstable housing, like sharing a home with more than one family, living with relatives, or staying at a hotel, shelter, campground or other kind of transitional or temporary housing.

FOOD ACCESS

Nationally, in 2020, nearly 1 in 3 (30%) LGBTQ+ children, teens, and young adults experience food insecurity, including 1 in 2 of all Indigenous LGBTQ+ children, teens, and young adults.

DISCRIMINATION

Over 80% of LGBTQ+ BIPOC teens in California have experienced RACISM.

Nationally, 75% of LGBTQ+ teens and young adults have experienced DISCRIMINATION based on their sexual orientation or gender identity at least once in their lifetime. HALF of LGBTQ+ BIPOC teens and young adults reported experiencing racism, including 67% of Black and 60% of Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ teens and young adults.

SCHOOL CLIMATE

LGBTQ+ children and teens are 2X as likely as non-LGBTQ+ children and teens to miss school because they do not feel safe. Only 37% of transgender children and teens perceive school to be safe compared to 65% of non-transgender children and teens.

MENTAL HEALTH

LGBTQ+ children and teens are 2X more likely to cite feeling SAD, HOPELESS, OR ANXIOUS as a reason for missing school than non-LGBTQ+ children and teens. Over 1 in 2 LGBTQ+ children and teens report feelings of chronic sadness.

LGBTQ+ children and teens are 3X more likely than non-LGBTQ+ children and teens to report contemplating SUICIDE. Over 1 in 2 transgender children and teens report contemplating SUICIDE compared to about 15% of non-transgender children and teens.

Nationally, nearly 1 in 3 (31%) Indigenous teens and young adults, and nearly 1 in 4 Black and Latinx teens and young adults (21% and 18%, respectively) attempted SUICIDE in the last year, compared to 12% of white teens and young adults.

Hearing Care for All Families

All in California

A PROJECT OF

The Children’s Partnership

© The Children’s Partnership, June 2021

Data Note: The Children's Partnership and Equality California collected data for this fact sheet from various surveys and reports, some of which allow for estimates that are representative of California’s youth population. Unless otherwise stated as national, the data in this fact sheet is specific to California’s LGBTQ+ children, teens and/or young adults. For complete citations and explanation of sources, please visit: bit.ly/ACHildIsACHild