We know that when children are healthy, they are more likely to succeed in school and in life. That’s why The Children’s Partnership works to level the playing field so that children 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 Latinx child health facts in California to inform our collective work ahead. Now more than ever, we must work together to make California the best state to raise healthy, thriving children.

**SNAPSHOT:** California Children’s Health

**MASKED HEALTH INEQUITIES**
Latinx children and families represent a diverse population that includes an array of ethnic and racial identities. An accurate picture of the health of Latinx children in California is difficult without accurate and detailed data that is disaggregated by Latinx subgroups, leading to a masking of differences and hidden health disparities within subgroups. For example, the experiences and outcomes of indigenous Latinx people, like Mixtecos, are often overlooked because of a lack of data that highlights their unique needs. The data in this fact sheet presents data on Latinx children as a whole because of the lack of publicly available, granular-level ethnic and racial data. In the future, more granular data could inform the development and targeting of interventions to ameliorate inequities in health care for specific subgroups.

**POPSULATION**
There are 4.6 MILLION LATINX children and youth in California, making up slightly OVER HALF of the state’s population under 18.

OVER HALF of California’s Latinx children (56%), have at least one parent who was born outside of the US.

About 1.8 million Latinx children identify as mixed race, multi-racial, interracial or a race not listed on the census (e.g, Latinx sub-populations who identify as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or Spanish as their race). Latinx children also identify as Black or African American alone (36,217), Native American alone (43,834), Asian American alone (26,844) and White alone (2,722,958).

**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**
1 in 5 (20%) or 14 million Latinx children live in families whose income falls below the FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

52% of households with Latinx children are burdened by housing and utility costs.

**COVID-19**
Latinx people make up 55% of COVID-19 cases (1,767,556), 46% of DEATHS (29,304) and 29% of VACCINATIONS despite making up 39% of the state’s overall population and those eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

**FOOD INSECURITY**
Approximately 918,000 Latinx households with children sometimes or often did NOT have ENOUGH FOOD TO EAT, making up 59% of households with children who said they were struggling with having sufficient food.
MENTAL HEALTH

Latinx children and youth experience higher rates of DEPRESSION AND SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR compared to their peers, and they are also less likely than their peers to receive mental health treatment.

Over 1 in 2 (52%) Latinx teens felt CHRONIC SADNESS or HOPELESSNESS in the last year. Latinas, in particular, are facing the greatest DISPARITIES when it comes to their MENTAL HEALTH. 62% of Latina teens felt chronic sadness or hopelessness in the last year. 34% of Latina teens have considered suicide, and 13% have attempted suicide, compared to 27% and 9% of all high school youth, respectively. For lesbian, bisexual and queer Latina youth, the reality is even worse: NEARLY HALF (48%) have considered suicide, and 1 in 3 (33%) lesbian, bisexual and queer Latina youth have attempted suicide.

Yet, alarmingly, 75% of Latina teens did not receive psychological or emotional counseling in the last year. MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITALIZATIONS for Latinx youth rose 86% between 2007 and 2014, compared to a 21% increase among white youth.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Latinx children make up 4 in 5 children living in California census tracts impacted by the highest ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION burdens.

14% of Latinx children have been diagnosed with ASTHMA, compared to 11% of white children.

OVER HALF of students enrolled at schools impacted by UNSAFE DRINKING WATER are Latinx.

Latinxs are more likely to live in communities with drinking water contaminated with elevated levels of NITRATE, a toxic chemical linked to increased risk of cancer and other diseases. In California’s majority-Latino communities, 5.25 million people drink tap water contaminated with nitrate at levels at or above the federal limit.

ORAL HEALTH

Latinx children experience ORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS at over twice the rate of white children: 15% of Latinx children reported experiencing a toothache, bleeding gums or cavities, compared to 7% of white children.

Latinx children are significantly more likely to have a history of tooth decay (72%) and untreated tooth decay (33%) than white children (48% and 20%, respectively).

DIGITAL ACCESS

Over 500,000 CA Latinx children live in households WITHOUT a broadband connected device, compared to less than 150,000 white children.

HEALTH COVERAGE AND ACCESS

59% of Latinx children, youth and young adults under 21 are enrolled in MEDI-CAL, compared to 50% of all children, youth and young adults.

96% of Latinx children have HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE—leaving 213,864 Nearly 1 in 3 or 1,476,122 Latinx children did not have health insurance coverage that was continuous or adequate for their health care needs for an entire year. About 19% or 874,000 Latinx children did not receive a PREVENTIVE CHECK-UP. About 11% or 539,000 Latinx children do not have a usual place to go when sick or in need of help with health issues.

LATINX CHILDREN UNINSURED.

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