

# A Child is a Child

**SNAPSHOT:** California  
Children's Health



## Latinx Children's Health

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.

### MASKED HEALTH INEQUITIES

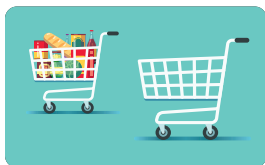


Latinx children and families represent a diverse population that includes an array of ethnic and racial identities.

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.

### 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

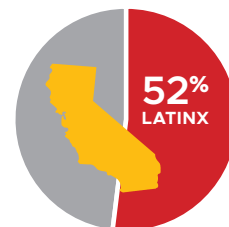
children who said they were struggling with having sufficient food.

### POPULATION

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 1.4 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.

# 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** **LATINX CHILDREN UNINSURED.**

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** to when sick or in need of help with health issues.

# 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.**

# 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.

# 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  
CARE  
FOR ALL  
FAMILIES



A PROJECT OF

The Children's Partnership

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



The Children's Partnership and the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California collected Latinx children's data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, the 2019 CA Health Interview Survey, the 2019 National Survey of Children's Health, CDC's Youth Risk Behavior survey, and a few other discrete sources. All data is from Latinx children in California unless noted explicitly as national data. Citations can be found at: [bit.ly/ACHildIsAChild](http://bit.ly/ACHildIsAChild)

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