



## American / Alaska Indian / Native 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 all children have the resources and opportunities they need to be healthy and thrive.

This infographic, the fifth in a series, provides an overview of key child health facts in California and nationally to inform the work ahead. Now more than ever, we must work together to make California the best state to raise healthy, thriving children.

### MASKED HEALTH INEQUITIES



The perpetual practice of racial misclassification of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people in the United States presents stark challenges to accurately highlight

health inequities, particularly in health care and educational settings. Because AI/AN communities have been greatly undercounted and uncaptured in data collection efforts across state, county and federal agencies—including in the federal census—data that reveals disparities is highly limited. Racial misclassification drastically underestimates the burden of disease that AI/AN communities face and masks disparities compared to the general population or other groups.

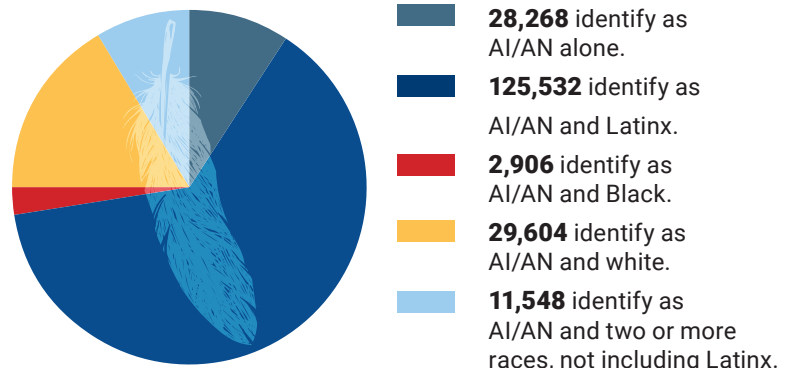
### PROTECTIVE FACTORS



AI/AN communities face a legacy of historical trauma from government-sponsored violence and discrimination, as well as dispossession at the hands of state and federal policies and practices intentionally designed to break apart culture, communities, family and identity. Yet despite this history, AI/AN children and youth are resilient with protective factors that support their healthy development. Protective factors - including positive opportunities, connectedness to families and peers and connection to culture - can help prevent and address health inequities impacting AI/AN communities.

### POPULATION

There are at least **199,642** children and youth under 18 who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), including those who also identify with another race or ethnicity, making up just over **2%** of the state's 9 million children. Of these children at least:



Nearly 90% of the AI/AN population live in **URBAN AREAS**.

### MENTAL HEALTH



On average, more than **1 in 3 (34%)** AI/AN youth in middle and high schools reported experiencing feelings of **CHRONIC SADNESS AND HOPELESSNESS**, compared to the **33% across all 7th, 9th and 11th graders**. Nearly **1 in 2 (44%)** of AI/AN 11th graders experienced these feelings—the highest of any subgroup.

Nationally, overall, the highest teenage suicide rates are among AI/AN teenagers. In the last fifteen years, **SUICIDE RATES FOR AI/AN GIRLS HAVE RISEN BY 60%**—the largest increase among any demographic group in the country.

In California, **1 in 4 (25%)** AI/AN teens across the state in 11th grade had considered suicide in the last year before they were surveyed—the highest of any subgroup.

