

# A Child is a Child

SNAPSHOT: California  
Children's Health



## Black Children's Health

When children are healthy, they are more likely to succeed in school and in life. The Children's Partnership (TCP) acknowledges the role that systemic racism and discrimination play in creating and perpetuating health inequities and works to address their underlying causes by improving the conditions in which children live, learn, grow and play.

In doing so, we work to provide young people from historically marginalized communities the resources and opportunities to 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 to raise healthy, thriving children.

### RACISM & CHILDHOOD



Racism has been scientifically proven as a core determinant of child health that has a profound impact on the well-being of Black children, their

families and their communities. Racism impacts every state of a child's development and continues to harm children by shaping the conditions in which they live, learn and play, manifesting itself in the form of persistent inequitable outcomes. Achieving health equity requires that we collectively dismantle the racism that exists within our systems and demand bold policy changes that put the well-being of children first.

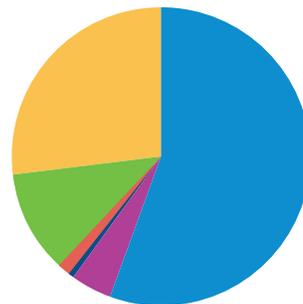
### PROTECTIVE FACTORS



Protective factors – conditions or attributes in children that help mitigate or eliminate risks to their health and well-being - can help prevent and address health inequities impacting Black children and their families. Community-defined protective factors that protect and promote the health and well-being of Black children and youth include: [emotional emancipation circles](#) that help heal and end the trauma caused by anti-Black racism, [social supports received from peers and families](#), [positive opportunities that allow for Black youth to be agents of change in their own communities](#), and [connection to Black identity, culture and religion](#).

### POPULATION

There are at least **698,317** children and youth under 18 who identify as Black, including those who also identify with another race or ethnicity, making up about **8%** of the state's **9 MILLION** children. Of these children, at least:



- 472,403** identify as Black alone.
- 36,217** identify as Black and Latinx.
- 2,906** identify as Black and Native American.
- 12,957** identify as Black and Asian American.
- 96,432** identify as Black and white.
- 226,782** identify as Black and two or more races, not including Latinx.



About **9,000** Black children are **NON-CITIZENS** and **13,000** currently live with non-citizen parents. About **81,000** Black children have at least one parent born outside of the United States.

### HEALTH COVERAGE AND ACCESS



Nearly **98%** of Black children have **HEALTH INSURANCE**, leaving about **11,700** who remain **UNINSURED**.

Over **3 in 5 (61%)** Black children and youth rely on **MEDI-CAL** compared to **1 in 2 (49%)** of all children.

### COVID-19



At least **54,027** Black children and youth are currently diagnosed with **COVID-19**. Black children account for **13%** of COVID-19 **DEATHS** - nearly **TWICE** the rate of their share of the population 0-17.

Black children and youth have the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates across all groups. **12%** of Black children ages 5-11 have received the **VACCINE** and **44%** of Black youth ages 12-17 have received it, compared to **24%** and **66%** of all children and youth in these age ranges, respectively.

## MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH



The **INFANT MORTALITY** rate is **TWICE** as high in Black families compared to all families: **8.3 deaths per 1,000 BIRTHS** among Black infants compared to **4.2 DEATHS** per 1,000 **BIRTHS** among all infants.

Black women are **6x** more likely to die of **PREGNANCY-RELATED CAUSES** compared to white women.

## MENTAL HEALTH



Over **1 in 2 (61% or ~38,000)** Black teen girls say they need help for **EMOTIONAL/MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS** like feeling **SAD, ANXIOUS OR NERVOUS**, compared to nearly **1 in 2 (45%)** of all teen girls.

Yet, **88% (~145,000)** of Black teens did not receive **COUNSELING** in the last year, including at least **42,000** Black teen girls and at least **103,000** Black teen boys.

The **SUICIDE** rate among Black youth has doubled between 2014 and 2020 and is now **TWICE** the statewide average, exceeding all other groups. Nearly **1 in 4 (22%)** of Black 7th graders has considered suicide - double the rate of white students (**10%**) and the highest of any group in that grade.

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION



**8%** of children living in census tracts with the highest **ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION** burdens are Black, despite making up **5%** of the state's child population.

Nearly **1 in 3 (28%)** of Black children visit the **EMERGENCY ROOM** for **ASTHMA** compared to just over **1 in 10 (13%)** of all children. Nationally, Black children are **8x** more likely to die from asthma-related causes than white children.

## FOOD ACCESS



Black children are **6x** more likely to be experiencing **FOOD INSECURITY** compared to all children. Nearly **1 in 5 (18% or 62,000)** Black families

sometimes or often could not afford the food they needed compared to **1 in 33 (3%)** of all families.

## DIGITAL EQUITY



About **1 in 10 (~49,100)** Black children live in a household without a **BROADBAND CONNECTED DEVICE** compared to **1 in 14** of all children.

Black children in **MEDI-CAL** have the lowest numbers of **TELEHEALTH** visits of all racial and ethnic groups.

## ORAL HEALTH



Black children enrolled in **MEDI-CAL** have the lowest rate of **DENTAL VISITS** of all racial and ethnic groups.

Black children experience the highest rates of **UNTREATED TOOTH DECAY** at **26%**, almost **TWICE** the rate of white children.



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

► [www.allinforhealth.org](http://www.allinforhealth.org)  
► [www.childrenspartnership.org](http://www.childrenspartnership.org)



► [www.bwwla.org/](http://www.bwwla.org/)



► [www.cablackhealthnetwork.org/](http://www.cablackhealthnetwork.org/)



► [www.cabwhp.org/](http://www.cabwhp.org/)

All data is specific to Black children and youth in California unless noted explicitly as national data. The Children's Partnership collected data on this fact sheet from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; the 2016, 2019 and 2020 California Health Interview Survey; the 2017-2019 California Healthy Kids Survey; the California Department of Education; the California Department of Public Health; the California Department of Health Care Services; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and other discrete sources. Full citations can be found at: [bit.ly/ACHildsACHild](http://bit.ly/ACHildsACHild).

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## SCHOOL SUCCESS AND SAFETY



Black students are almost **3x** more likely to be referred to the police than white students.

Black children and youth are suspended at **TWICE** the rate of white students.

Nearly **1 in 4 (23%)** of Black children missed more than **10%** of the school year compared to **1 in 10** white children.

## COMMUNITY AND FAMILY WELL-BEING



Black children and teens are **4x** more likely to be removed from their homes and placed into **FOSTER CARE** compared to all children and teens.

**1 in 4 (25%)** of Black children have experienced at least one **ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE** compared to **18%** of all children.

Black children are almost **2x** as likely to have been a victim or witness of **NEIGHBORHOOD VIOLENCE** compared to white children.

Nationally, Black children and youth suffer a lifetime risk of being **KILLED BY POLICE** that is **250%** higher than white children and youth.

## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING



**1 in 4 (25% or 117,200)** Black children experience **POVERTY**, compared to just over **1 in 6 (16%)** of all children.

Over **1 in 2 (56%)** Black children live in families that are burdened by **HOUSING** and **UTILITY COSTS**.

There are **13,000** Black children and youth enrolled in CA public schools who are experiencing **HOMELESSNESS**, making up **7%** of all children and youth experiencing homelessness, higher than their share of the student population (**5%**).