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.

**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.

Nearly 1 in 10 (~145,000) of Black infants are Black, despite making up 5% of the state’s child population.

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

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Black children 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.

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%).

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.

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

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.

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 NEURVOUS, 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 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.