

**A Child is a Child: A Snapshot of California's Children's Health**  
February 2023: Black Children's Health Fact Sheet

**Population**

**California, 2019**

- Total population of children: 8,865,747<sup>1</sup>
- Black Children alone: 435,318<sup>2</sup>
- Black Children with another race/ethnicity: 698,317<sup>3</sup>
- Black Children and Latinx: 36,217<sup>4</sup>
- Black Children and Native American: 2,906<sup>5</sup>
- Black Children and Asian American: 12,957<sup>6</sup>
- Black Children and white: 96,432<sup>7</sup>
- Black Children who are two or more races: 226,782<sup>8</sup>
- Black Children with at least one foreign-born parent (parent born outside of the United States): 80,712<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Children Characteristics, California: Total Population." 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, table S0901, accessed February 2021, [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0400000US06&t=Children&tid=ACSST1Y2018.S0901&y=2018&hidePreview=true&vintage=2018&cid=S0901\\_C01\\_001E](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0400000US06&t=Children&tid=ACSST1Y2018.S0901&y=2018&hidePreview=true&vintage=2018&cid=S0901_C01_001E)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau "Black and African American by Age and Race/ Ethnicity – Estimates." 2019 American Community Survey (1-year Estimates), Public Use Microdata Sample. Provided by the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children's Partnership.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Nativity of Parents" 2019 ACS 1-Year Estimates accessed February 2021 <https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/search?ds=ACSPUMS1Y2019&cv=NOP%281,2,3,4,5,6,7,8%29&rv=ucqid,RAC1P&wt=PWGTP&q=0400000US06>.

- Black children who are non-citizens: 9,000<sup>10</sup>
- Black children with at least one foreign-born parent: 80,712<sup>11</sup>
- Black children with only noncitizen parents: 13,000<sup>12</sup>

## Health Coverage and Access

### California, 2019

- 97.7 Black Children 18 and under have health insurance coverage. 11,719 Black children 18 and under do not have health insurance coverage.<sup>13</sup>

### California, 2021

- 59.1% of Black children and youth under 20 are enrolled in Medi-Cal compared to 49.7% of all children.<sup>14</sup>

## COVID-19

### California, 2022

<sup>10</sup> The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Nativity of Parents" 2019 ACS 1-Year Estimates accessed February 2021

<https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/search?ds=ACSPUMS1Y2019&cv=NOP%281.2.3.4.5.6.7.8%29&rv=ucgid.RAC1P&wt=PWGTP&g=0400000US06>

<sup>12</sup> The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey.

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Census. "Health Insurance Coverage State by Age (Black or African American Alone)." Table: B27001B. 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Accessed February 2021.

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSDT1Y2019.B27001B&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B27001B>

<sup>14</sup> "African American/Black Children in California," Kidsdata.org

<https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=13>

Race/Ethnicity of Eligible Individuals Under Age 21 Enrolled in Medi-Cal (From reporting period Sept. 2020),

<https://data.chhs.ca.gov/dataset/eligible-individuals-under-age-21-enrolled-in-medi-cal-by-county/resource/c3bd3780-f419-4369-9f65-9b08cf54cb84>.

- Proportion of Cases and Deaths by Race and Ethnicity Among Ages 0-17: Black Children: 4.7% (54,027) cases, 13.3% deaths, 5.4% of CA population. <sup>15</sup>

## Economic Wellbeing

### California, 2019

- 117,166 Black Children under 18 live below the federal poverty level. <sup>16</sup>
- 15.6% of all children under 18 years old in CA live below the federal poverty level. <sup>17</sup>
- 56.1% of Black children live in families that are burdened by housing and utility costs. <sup>18</sup>
- 45.7% of all children live in families that are burdened by housing and utility costs. <sup>19</sup>

## Mental Health

### California, 2019

- 674,000 or 44.5% of teen girls say they need help for emotional/mental health problems such as feeling sad, anxious or nervous. <sup>20</sup>
- 38,000 or 60.8% of Black teen girls say they need help for emotional/mental health problems such as feeling sad, anxious or nervous. <sup>21</sup>

<sup>15</sup> CA Department of Public Health, Proportion of Cases and Deaths by Race and Ethnicity Among Ages 0-17, <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Race-Ethnicity.aspx>. Accessed February 2022.  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Race-Ethnicity.aspx>

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 months, California: Black and African American alone." 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, table B17020B, accessed February 2021.  
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Black%20or%20African%20American%3APoverty&q=0400000US06&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B17020B&hidePreview=true>

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, California." 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, table S1701, accessed February 2021.  
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Poverty&q=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S1701&hidePreview=false>

<sup>18</sup> The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2018 - 2019 American Community Survey.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> 2019 California Health Interview Survey [https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/\\_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results](https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results)

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

- 145,000 or 88% of Black teens did not receive counseling in the last year.<sup>22</sup>
- 42,000 Black teen girls and 103,00 Black teen boys did not receive psychological/emotional counseling in the past year.<sup>23</sup>

### National

- Self-reported suicide attempts rose nearly 80 percent among Black youth from 1991 to 2019, while the prevalence of attempts did not change significantly among those of other races and ethnicities.<sup>24</sup>
- From 2001-2015, Black children ages 5–12 were about twice as likely to die by suicide than their white peers.<sup>25</sup>
- From 2013 to 2019 the suicide rate of Black boys and men 15 to [24 years old rose by 47 percent](#), and by 59 percent for Black girls and women of the same age.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2019, suicide was the second leading cause of death for Black youth ages 15 to 24.<sup>27</sup>
- Black females, grades 9-12, were 60 percent more likely to attempt suicide in 2019, as compared to white females of the same age.<sup>28</sup>

### California, 2020

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> The New York Times. “Why Are More Black Kids Suicidal? A Search for Answers. (Published 2021),” 2023. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/18/well/mind/suicide-black-kids.html>.

Xiao, Yunyu, Julie Cerel, and J. John Mann. “Temporal Trends in Suicidal Ideation and Attempts among US Adolescents by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, 1991-2019.” *JAMA Network Open* 4, no. 6 (June 14, 2021): e2113513.

<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.13513>.

<sup>25</sup> Bridge, Jeffrey A., Lisa M. Horowitz, Cynthia A. Fontanella, Arielle H. Sheftall, Joel Greenhouse, Kelly J. Kelleher, and John V. Campo. “Age-Related Racial Disparity in Suicide Rates among US Youths from 2001 through 2015.” *JAMA Pediatrics* 172, no. 7 (July 1, 2018): 697. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2018.0399>.

<sup>26</sup> Curtin, Sally. “Vital Statistics Rapid Release,” November 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/VSRR016.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> Hhs.gov. “Mental and Behavioral Health - African Americans - the Office of Minority Health,” 2022.

<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=24#1>.

<sup>28</sup> IBID

- The suicide rate among Black youth, which for years trailed that of Asian and white students, has doubled since 2014 and is now twice the statewide average, far exceeding all other groups.<sup>29</sup> Twelve of every 100,000 Black 18-24-year-olds died by suicide in 2020.<sup>30</sup> In 2014 the Black suicide rate was about 25% lower than that of white students and 15% lower than the rate among Asian students.<sup>31</sup>

#### California, 2017-2019

- 22% of Black 7th graders has considered suicide - double the rate of white students (10%).<sup>32</sup>

#### Food Access

#### California, 2018-19

- 3.3 % of all children sometimes or often could not afford enough to eat.<sup>33</sup>
- 18.4% or 61,958 of Black children sometime or often could not afford enough to eat.<sup>34</sup>

#### Community and Family Wellbeing

#### California, 2018

<sup>29</sup> “California Suicide and Self-Harm Trends in 2020,” 2011.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/SACB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Suicide%20Prevention%20Program/SuicideAndSelfHarmIn2020-DataBrief-ADA.pdf>.

Jones, Carolyn. “Black Youth Face Rising Rates of Depression, Anxiety, Suicide.” EdSource. EdSource, 2022.

<https://edsources.org/2022/black-youth-face-rising-rates-of-depression-anxiety-suicide/666405>.

<sup>30</sup> *ibid*

<sup>31</sup> *ibid*

<sup>32</sup> Calschls.org. “The Californial School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey (CalSCHLS) System - Secondary Student,” 2023.

<https://calschls.org/reports-data/public-dashboards/secondary-student/>.

<sup>33</sup> Childhealthdata.org. “NSCH 2018 19: Food Insufficiency, California.” CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2018. <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=7947&r=6>.

<sup>34</sup> *ibid*.

- 21.8 per 1,000 Black children and teens aged 0-20 are placed in foster care, compared to 5.3 per 1,000 children across all race/ethnic group.<sup>35</sup>

#### California, 2019-2020

- 25.4% Black children have experienced at least one adverse childhood experience.<sup>36</sup> 17.9% of all children have experienced at least one adverse childhood experience.<sup>37</sup>
- Black children are more than twice as likely to have been a victim or witness of neighborhood violence compared to white children: 1.8% white children have been a victim or witness of neighborhood violence and 5% of Black children have been a victim or witness of neighborhood violence.<sup>38</sup>
- Nationally, Black children and youth suffer a lifetime risk of being killed by police that is 250% higher than white children and youth.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Webster, D, and Al Child. “1% UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey,” 2016. <https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=13>.

<sup>36</sup> Childhealthdata.org. “NSCH 2019 20: Adverse Childhood Experiences, California, Race/Ethnicity of Child.” CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2019. <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=8755&r=6&g=913>.

Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. 2019-2020 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) data query. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Retrieved [February 2022]

<sup>37</sup> IBID

<sup>38</sup> Childhealthdata.org. “NSCH 2019 20: Adverse Childhood Experience: Victim or Witness of Neighborhood Violence, California, Race/Ethnicity of Child.” CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2019. <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=8761&r=6&g=913>.

Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. 2019-2020 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) data query. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Retrieved [February 2022] from

<sup>39</sup> Humphries, Marisha L. “As School Reopens, Don’t Forget the Hidden Victims of Police Violence: Children | Cognoscenti.” Wbur.org. WBUR, August 31, 2020.

<https://www.wbur.org/cognoscenti/2020/08/31/police-violence-children-school-reopening-renee-boynton-jarrett-marisha-humphries-st-ephanie-curenton>.

## School Safety and Success

### California, 2013-14

- Black students are 2.7x more likely to be referred to the police than white students.<sup>40</sup>

### California, 2019-2020

- Black children and youth are suspended at twice the rate of white students.<sup>41</sup>

### California, 2018-2019

- Nearly 1 in 4 (23%)% of Black children missed more than 10% of the school year compared to 1 in 10 white children.<sup>42</sup>

## Oral Health

### California, 2021

- Medi-Cal Dental Visits: Black children have 3,782 visits per 100,000 beneficiaries compared to 5,795 per 100,000 for Latinx children, 5,062 per 100,000 for Asian American children, 4,637 per 100,000 for American Indian/Alaska Native children, and 4,532 per 100,000 for white children.<sup>43</sup>

### California, 2019

- Black children had the highest prevalence of untreated decay at 25.8%, compared to white children at 13.7%.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Barajas, Raymond, Anne Busacca-Ryan, Alexandria Fletcher, Sarah Kamenir, Mei-Wah Lee, Chanda Marlowe, James Thuerwachter, and Ke Wu. “The Right to Remain a Student: How California School Policies Fail to Protect and Serve,” n.d. [https://www.aclunc.org/sites/default/files/20161019-the\\_right\\_to\\_remain\\_a\\_student-aclu\\_california\\_0.pdf](https://www.aclunc.org/sites/default/files/20161019-the_right_to_remain_a_student-aclu_california_0.pdf).

<sup>41</sup> California Department of Education 2019-2020 school year retrieved February 2022 from <https://www.ed-data.org/>

<sup>42</sup> California Department of Education 2018-2019 school year retrieved February 2022 from <https://www.ed-data.org/>

<sup>43</sup> DHCS. “Medi-Cal Children’s Health Advisory Panel (MCHAP) Meeting,” January 26, 2021. <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Documents/012621-MCHAP-presentation.pdf>.

<sup>44</sup> California Department of Public Health, Oral Health Status of Children: Results of the 2018–2019 California Third Grade Smile Survey.

<b>Maternal and Infant Health</b>
<p><b>California, 2017</b></p> <p>Infant Mortality – Deaths per 1,000 Live Births<sup>45</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All populations: 4.3 per 1000 births</li> <li>• Black families: 8.3 per 1000 births</li> </ul> <p><b>California, 2014-2016</b></p> <p>Maternal Mortality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 2014-2016, the pregnancy-related mortality ratio for Black women was 56.2 deaths per 100,000 live births, four to six times greater than the mortality ratios for women of other racial/ethnic groups including White (9.4), Hispanic (11.0) and Asian/Pacific Islander (13.3).<sup>46</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Digital Access</b>
<b>California, 2018</b>

<sup>45</sup> Slone, Latesa. “Reducing Infant Mortality - Let’s Get Healthy California.” Let’s Get Healthy California, February 2022. <https://letsgethealthy.ca.gov/goals/healthy-beginnings/reducing-infant-mortality/>.

<sup>46</sup> California Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System. “California Pregnancy-Related Deaths, 2008-2016,” 2021. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/surveillance/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CA-PMSS/CA-PMSS-Surveillance-Report-2008-2016.pdf>.



#### Children Living in Households with a Broadband-Connected Device, by Race/Ethnicity<sup>47</sup>

- Black: 90%
- All: 93%

#### California, 2020

- Black children had 3,109 telehealth visits per 100,000 compared to 4,467 visits per 100,000 for white children, 4,346 per 100,000 for Asian/Pacific Islander children, 4,006 per 100,000 for Latinx children, 3,235 for American Indian/Alaska Native children, and 4,872 per 100,000 for those marked "other" in DHCS data.<sup>48</sup>

#### Environmental Pollution

#### California, 2018

- 8% of children living in census tracts with the highest environmental pollution burdens are Black, despite making up 5% of the state's children.<sup>49</sup>

#### California, 2016

- 13.1% of all children visited the emergency/urgent care for asthma.<sup>50</sup>
- 28.1% of Black children visited the emergency room for asthma.<sup>51</sup>

#### National, 2019

<sup>47</sup> Children Living in Households with a Broadband-Connected Device, by Race/Ethnicity 2018,

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2221/broadband-race/table#fmt=2771&loc=2,127,1657,331,1761,171,2168,345,357,324,369,362,360,2076,364,356,217,354,1663,339,2169,365,343,367,344,366,368,265,349,361,4,273,59,370,326,341,338,350,2145,359,363,340&tf=108&ch=7,11,726,10,72,9,73>

<sup>48</sup> DHCS MCHAP Presentation, January 26, 2021

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Documents/012621-MCHAP-presentation.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and Office of Environment California Environmental Protection Agency, "Analysis of Race/Ethnicity, Age, and CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Scores" (2018),

<https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/document-calenviroscreen/raceageces3analysis.pdf>.

<sup>50</sup> 2019 California Health Interview Survey [https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/\\_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results](https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results)

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

- In 2019, Black children were eight times more likely to die from asthma-related causes than non-Latinx white children.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> "Asthma and African Americans - the Office of Minority Health," Hhs.gov, 2020, <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=15>.