

## A Child is a Child: A Snapshot of California's Children's Health

### February 2024: Black Children's Health Fact Sheet

#### Population

##### California, 2016-2020

- Total population of children: 8,931,838<sup>1</sup>
- Black Children alone: 437,149<sup>2</sup>
- Black Children with another race/ethnicity: 727,849<sup>3</sup>
- Black Children and Latinx: 122,438<sup>4</sup>
- Black Children and Native American: 5,156<sup>5</sup>
- Black Children and Asian American: 16,337<sup>6</sup>
- Black Children and white: 111,069<sup>7</sup>
- Black Children and another race/ethnicity not included in the Census categories: 35,700<sup>8</sup>
- Black Children with at least one foreign-born parent (parent born outside of the United States): 71,000<sup>9</sup>
- Black Children with only non-citizen parents: 16,000<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Children Characteristics, California: Total Population." 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-2020 table S0901, accessed February 2023,

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=children&q=0400000US06&tid=ACSST5Y2020.S0901>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau "African American Persons 17 years old or Less by Race/Ethnicity in California - 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates ." 2020 American Community Survey (2016-2020 5-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> The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2019 and 2020 American Community Survey.

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

- Black Children who are non-citizens: 8,000<sup>11</sup>

## Health Coverage and Access

### California, 2021

- 97.2 Black Children 18 and under have health insurance coverage. 12,972 Black children 18 and under do not have health insurance coverage.<sup>12</sup>
- 41% of Black children (184,000) 0-18 are COVERED by Medi-Cal.<sup>13</sup>
- 23% of Black children (88,364) have special health care needs.<sup>14</sup>
- (60%) of Black children under 18 in Medi-Cal DO NOT RECEIVE the PREVENTIVE CARE they are entitled to.<sup>15</sup>
- 74% of Black 1-year olds enrolled in Medi-Cal DO NOT RECEIVE PREVENTIVE CARE.<sup>16</sup>
- 81% of Black 2-year olds enrolled in Medi-Cal DO NOT RECEIVE PREVENTIVE CARE.<sup>17</sup>
- Only 26% of Black children in Medi-Cal RECEIVED six or more WELL CHILD VISITS in the first 15 months of life, below the statewide average and national benchmark (38% and 55%, respectively).<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2019 and 2020 American Community Survey.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census. "Health Insurance Coverage State by Age (Black or African American Alone)." Table: C27001B. 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Accessed January 2023. <https://data.census.gov/table?q=C27001B&g=0400000US06>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ca.gov. "Preventive Services Utilization Rates by Age and Ethnicity -- All Years," 2023. [https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2022-502/accessible\\_content/accessible-by-age-ethnicity-all.html](https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2022-502/accessible_content/accessible-by-age-ethnicity-all.html).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> California Department of Health Care Services. "2021 Preventive Services Report: Managed Care Quality and Monitoring Division California Department of Health Care Services," June 2022. <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/MCQMD/2020-21-Preventive-Services-Report-0603.pdf>.

- 26% of Black children in Medi-Cal RECEIVED six or more WELL CHILD VISITS in the first 15 months of life, below the statewide average and national benchmark (38% and 55%, respectively).<sup>19</sup>
- 41.4% of Black children have RECEIVED a LEAD SCREENING by their second birthday, significantly below the statewide average and national benchmark (58.2% and 71.5%, respectively).<sup>20</sup>

## COVID-19

### California, 2023

- At least 76,665 Black children and youth have been diagnosed with COVID-19.<sup>21</sup>
- Black children account for 7.7% of COVID-19 DEATHS.<sup>22</sup>
- 4,396 Black children have lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19, accounting for 9% of all children who lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19.<sup>23</sup>

## Economic Well Being

### California, 2019

- 1 in 4 (27%) Black children under 18 experience POVERTY, over the state average of 16%.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>19</sup> California Department of Health Care Services. “2021 Preventive Services Report: Managed Care Quality and Monitoring Division California Department of Health Care Services,” June 2022.

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/MCQMD/2020-21-Preventive-Services-Report-0603.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</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/Age-Race-Ethnicity.aspx#>. Accessed February 2024.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Global Reference Group on Children Affected by COVID-19, COVID-19–Associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Death in the United States, [https://imperialcollegelondon.github.io/orphanhood\\_USA/](https://imperialcollegelondon.github.io/orphanhood_USA/). Accessed February 2024.

<sup>24</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>

- 19% of Black families report that it is SOMEWHAT OR OFTEN difficult to COVER THE BASICS like food or housing on their family's income compared to 11% of all children.<sup>25</sup>
- 1 in 2 (56%) Black children live in households that are burdened by HOUSING and UTILITY COSTS.<sup>26</sup>
- 34% of Black children live in households that own their home.<sup>27</sup>

## Mental Health

### California, 2021

- 1 in 2 (44% or ~39,000) Black teen girls say they need help for EMOTIONAL/MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS like feeling SAD, ANXIOUS OR NERVOUS.<sup>28</sup>
- 70% of Black teen girls or 63,000 DID NOT RECEIVE COUNSELING.<sup>29</sup>
- Over 1 in 3 (38% or 54,000) of Black teens say they need help for EMOTIONAL/MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS like feeling SAD, ANXIOUS OR NERVOUS.<sup>30</sup>
- 71% or 101,000 Black teens DID NOT RECEIVE COUNSELING.<sup>31</sup>
- 16% of Black children and youth in Medi-Cal have been screened for depression and provided with a follow-up plan if needed.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. 2020-20121 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 [January 2023] from <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=9530&r=6&g=1010>

<sup>26</sup> The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2019 and 2020 American Community Survey.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> 2021 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) accessed January 2023

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> 2021 Preventive Services Report. (2022). Managed Care Quality and Monitoring Division, California Department of Health Care Services. <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/MCQMD/2020-21-Preventive-Services-Report-0603.pdf>

- The suicide rate among Black youth has doubled between 2014 and 2020 and is now **TWICE** the statewide average, exceeding all other groups.<sup>33</sup>
- Black children and youth made up 12% of suicide deaths - the highest of any racial and ethnic group.<sup>34</sup>
- 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.<sup>35</sup>

## Food Access

### California, 2020

- Black children are more than 2x more likely to be experiencing FOOD INSECURITY compared to white children.<sup>36</sup>
- 9.3% or 33,633 of Black children sometime or often could not afford enough to eat.<sup>37</sup>

## Community and Family Wellbeing

### California, 2016

<sup>33</sup> 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>34</sup> "California Suicide and Self-Harm Trends in 2020," 2011.

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

<sup>35</sup> California School Climate, Health, and Learning Surveys. California Department of Education, 2017-19. <https://calschls.org/my-surveys/f882f1e2-dfc0-4448-b90b-f49cef6e6d3f/>

<sup>36</sup> Hill, L., Ndugga, N. & Artiga, S. (2023). Key Data on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity. KFF.

<https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/report/key-data-on-health-and-health-care-by-race-and-ethnicity/>.

<sup>37</sup> Childhealthdata.org. "NSCH 2020 21: Food Insufficiency, California, Race/Ethnicity of Child -- with Asian." CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2020. <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=9564&r=6&g=1010>.

- 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 for all race/ethnic group.<sup>38</sup>

### California, 2019-2020

- 33.6% Black children have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences.<sup>39</sup>
- 15% of all children have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences.<sup>40</sup>
- 10.3% of Black children have been a victim or witness of neighborhood violence compared to 4% of all children have been a victim or witness of neighborhood violence.<sup>41</sup>
- Encounters with law enforcement are a leading cause of death for Black boys and men: They suffer a lifetime risk of 1 in 1,000 of being killed by police. This is 250 percent higher than the equivalent statistic for whites.<sup>42</sup>

### School Safety and Success

#### California, 2021

- There are at least 300,504 Black students in California's public schools, making up 5% of the student population.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>38</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>39</sup> Childhealthdata.org. "NSCH 2020 21: Food Insufficiency, California." CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2020. <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=9564&r=6>.

<sup>40</sup> Childhealthdata.org. "NSCH 2019 20: Adverse Childhood Experiences, California." CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2019. <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=8755&r=6>.

<sup>41</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>.

<sup>42</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>.

<sup>43</sup> Ca.gov. "Enrollment by Ethnicity - State (ca Dept of Education)," 2021. <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus/EnrEthLevels.aspx?cde=00&aggllevel=state&year=2021-22>.

- 18,105 Black children and youth enrolled in CA public schools are experiencing HOMELESSNESS, making up 8% of all children and youth who are experiencing homelessness, higher than their share of the student population (3.7%).<sup>44</sup>
- Black students are 2.7 times as likely as their white peers to receive a school-based referral to police.<sup>45</sup>
- Nearly 1 in 4 (23%)% of Black children MISSED MORE than 10% of the SCHOOL YEAR compared to 1 in 10 white children.<sup>46</sup>

## Oral Health

### California, 2018-2019

- Black children enrolled in Medi-Cal have the lowest rate of DENTAL VISITS of all racial and ethnic groups.<sup>47</sup>
- Black children had the highest prevalence of untreated decay at 25.8%, which is almost twice the rate of white children at 13.7%.<sup>48</sup>
- 11% or 54,000 Black children NEEDED DENTAL CARE including check-ups, but DIDN'T RECEIVE IT.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Ca.gov. "2020-21 Homeless Student Enrollment by Dwelling Type," 2021.

<https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DQCensus/HmlsEnrByDT.aspx?agglevel=State&cds=00&year=2020-21>

<sup>45</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>46</sup> California Department of Education. "EdData - State Profile - California Public Schools." Ed-data.org, 2021. <https://www.ed-data.org/state/CA>.

<sup>47</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>48</sup> California Department of Public Health. "Oral Health Status of Children: Results of the 2018–2019 California Third Grade Smile Survey," June 2021.

[https://oralhealthsupport.ucsf.edu/sites/g/files/tkssra861/f/wysiwyg/Appendix%207%20-%20California\\_2019\\_3rd\\_Grade\\_Smile\\_Survey.pdf](https://oralhealthsupport.ucsf.edu/sites/g/files/tkssra861/f/wysiwyg/Appendix%207%20-%20California_2019_3rd_Grade_Smile_Survey.pdf).

<sup>49</sup> 2020 CA 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)

- Black children also have the lowest rates of accessing dental sealants – a protective coating that helps keep cavities from forming in the first place.<sup>50</sup>

## Maternal and Infant Health

### California, 2017

Infant Mortality – Deaths per 1,000 Live Births<sup>51</sup>

- All populations: 4.3 per 1000 births
- Black families: 8.3 per 1000 births

### California, 2014-2016

Maternal Mortality

- 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>52</sup>

## Digital Access

### California, 2018

<sup>50</sup> The Children’s Partnership. “Racial Justice in Children’s Oral Health - the Children’s Partnership,” February 15, 2022. <https://childrenspartnership.org/news/racial-justice-in-childrens-oral-health/>.

<sup>51</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>52</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>53</sup>

- Black: 90%
- All: 93%

### California, 2020

- In 2020, Black children enrolled in Medi-Cal had the lowest numbers of telehealth visits of all racial and ethnic groups:<sup>54</sup>
  - 3,109 visits per 100,000 for Black children
  - 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
  - 3235 for American Indian/Alaska Native children
  - 4,872 per 100,000 for those marked "other" in DHCS data.

### 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>55</sup>

<sup>53</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>54</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>55</sup> Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and Office of EnvironmentCalifornia 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>.

### California, 2016

- 13.1% of all children visited the emergency/urgent care for asthma.<sup>56</sup>
- 28.1% of Black children visited the emergency room for asthma.<sup>57</sup>

### National, 2019

- In 2019, Black children were eight times more likely to die from asthma-related causes than non-Latinx white children.<sup>58</sup>

## Community and Family Well-Being

### California, 2016

- 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 for all race/ethnic group.<sup>59</sup>

### California, 2019-2020

- 33.6% Black children have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences.<sup>60</sup>
- 15% of all children have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences.<sup>61</sup>
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<sup>56</sup> 2019 California Health Interview Survey, <https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results>.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> "Asthma and African Americans - the Office of Minority Health," Hhs.gov, 2020, <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=15>.

<sup>59</sup> Webster, D, and AI Child. "1% UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey," 2016. <https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=13>.

<sup>60</sup> Childhealthdata.org. "NSCH 2020 21: Food Insufficiency, California." CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2020. <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=9564&r=6>.

<sup>61</sup> Childhealthdata.org. "NSCH 2019 20: Adverse Childhood Experiences, California." CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2019. <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=8755&r=6>.

- 4% of all children have been a victim or witness of neighborhood violence. 10.3% of Black children have been a victim or witness of neighborhood violence.<sup>62</sup>

#### Nationally, 2020

- Black children and youth suffer a lifetime risk of being KILLED BY POLICE that is 250% higher than white children and youth.<sup>63</sup>

#### Discrimination

#### California, 2020

- Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) of Black children have experienced BEING TREATED OR JUDGED UNFAIRLY because of their race—the highest of any racial or ethnic group.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>62</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>.

<sup>63</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>.

<sup>64</sup> Childhealthdata.org. “NSCH 2020 21: Adverse Childhood Experience: Victim or Witness of Neighborhood Violence, California, Race/Ethnicity of Child -- with Asian.” CAHMI - Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, 2020.

<https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=9535&r=6&g=1010>.