

## A Child is a Child: 2023 Snapshot of California’s Children’s Health

### Opening Blurb

We know that when children are healthy, they are more likely to succeed in school and in life. We work to address the underlying causes of health inequities by improving the conditions in which children live, learn, grow and play so that young people from historically marginalized communities have the resources and opportunities they need to achieve their dreams and reach their full potential. This infographic provides an overview of key child health facts to inform the work we must do together to make CA the best state to raise healthy, thriving children. All data is specific to California unless noted explicitly as national data.

### Hidden Health Inequities

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities have been greatly undercounted, uncounted, and miscounted/miscategorized in data collection efforts across state, county, and federal agencies—including in the census—presenting stark challenges to accurately highlighting inequities impacting AI/AN children.<sup>1</sup> Data collection tools at the state and federal level are not created by or adapted to AI/AN culture and communities and lack questions that are relevant to or understanding of them, leading to data that drastically underestimates, overlooks, or miscategorizes their experiences and challenges.<sup>2</sup> There is a critical need for accurate, meaningful, culturally-relevant and responsive, and timely data collection in AI/AN communities in order to shed light on and address hidden health inequities.<sup>3</sup>

### Population

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<sup>1</sup>*Who Counts? Racial Misclassification and American Indians/Alaska Natives – Urban Indian Health Institute.* (2019, June 18). Urban Indian Health Institute. <https://www.uihi.org/resources/who-counts-racial-misclassification-and-american-indians-alaska-natives/>

<sup>2</sup> IBID

<sup>3</sup> IBID

**2021 5-year American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) by Age and Race/Ethnicity - Estimates**

Universe: California residents who identify as American Indian and Alaska Native Alone or In Combination

	age<18		age18+		Total	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
<b>AIAN Alone (Not Hispanic)</b>	23,306	9.7%	101,137	15.0%	124,443	13.6%
<b>AIAN White (Not Hispanic)</b>	35,735	14.9%	139,326	20.7%	175,061	19.2%
<b>AIAN Black (Not Hispanic)</b>	4,754	2.0%	22,638	3.4%	27,392	3.0%
<b>AIAN Asian (Not Hispanic)</b>	742	0.3%	2,197	0.3%	2,939	0.3%
<b>AIAN Other (Not Hispanic)</b>	17,244	7.2%	37,027	5.5%	54,271	5.9%
<b>AIAN Hispanic (Any Race)</b>	158,847	66.0%	370,404	55.1%	529,251	57.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>240,628</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>672,729</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>913,357</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: 2017-2021 ACS Public Use Microdata Sample File.

Custom Tabulation: Jonathan Buttle, California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

<sup>4</sup> Data source from 2021 5-year estimates

California is home to more Native Americans than any other state.<sup>7</sup> There are at least 267,404<sup>8</sup> children and youth under 18 who identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native (AIAN)<sup>9</sup>, including those who also identify with another race or ethnicity, making up about 4% % of the state’s 9 million children. Of these children at least<sup>10</sup>, --

- 50,082 identify as AIAN alone<sup>11, 12</sup>
- 158,847 identify as AIAN and Latine<sup>13</sup>
- 4,754 identify as AIAN and Black<sup>14</sup>
- 742 identify as AIAN and Asian American<sup>15</sup>
- 35,735 identify as AIAN and white<sup>16</sup>
- 17,244 identify AIAN and other<sup>17</sup>

<sup>4</sup>2021 5-year American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) by Age and Race/Ethnicity - Estimates. Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership.

<sup>7</sup>HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMUNITY BRIEF ON: Native American Young Children and their Families in Alameda County OUR CHILDREN ARE SACRED. (n.d.). Retrieved December 14, 2023, from [https://first5alameda.org/files/Native\\_American\\_Children\\_and\\_Families\\_Community\\_Brief.pdf](https://first5alameda.org/files/Native_American_Children_and_Families_Community_Brief.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> US Census Bureau. (2022, December 2). 2020 Census. Census.gov. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/2020-census-main.html> AIAN children have historically not been represented well in the ACS or Census.

<sup>9</sup>2021 5-year American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) by Age and Race/Ethnicity - Estimates. Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership.

<sup>10</sup> IBID

<sup>11</sup>Source: 2020 Census, Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics - File A for California, Tables T02001, T02002, and T02003 Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership.

<sup>12</sup> Note: use care in comparing with ACS estimates.

<sup>13</sup>2021 5-year American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) by Age and Race/Ethnicity - Estimates. Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership.

<sup>14</sup> IBID

<sup>15</sup>2021 5-year American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) by Age and Race/Ethnicity - Estimates. Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership.

<sup>16</sup>US Census Bureau. (2022, December 2). 2020 Census. Census.gov. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/2020-census-main.html> 2021 5-year American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) by Age and Race/Ethnicity - Estimates. Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership.

<sup>17</sup>2021 5-year American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) by Age and Race/Ethnicity - Estimates. Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership.

Nearly 90% of the Native American population in California resides in urban areas.<sup>5</sup> Data source from 2010.

<b>Population - Children</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Nativity of parents</b>	<b>Native American children</b>
California	At least one foreign-born parent	10.86%
	Only US-born parents	83.13%
	Nativity of parents unknown	6.01%
	Total	100.00%

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<b>Population - Children</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Origin of parents</b>	<b>Native American children</b>
California	Parents from Africa or the West Indies	0.00%
	Parents from East Asia or the Pacific	0.73%
	Parents from Europe, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand	0.68%
	Parents from Mexico	5.88%
	Parents from the rest of Central America or the Spanish Caribbean	0.44%
	Parents from South America	0.11%
	Parents from Southeast Asia	0.00%
	Parents from the Middle East or South Asia	3.72%
	Total	11.55%

Of these children, at least –<sup>18</sup>

- 2,509 are Navajo
- 2,022 are Cherokee
- 1,666 are Apache
- 1,311 are Yaqui
- 1,255 are Zapotec
- 1,179 are Yurok
- 1,178 are Purepecha
- 921 are Chumash
- 907 are from the Hoopa Valley Tribe
- 864 are Choctaw
- 751 are Pomo
- 681 are Karuk
- 551 are from the Blackfeet Tribe
- 548 are Miwok/Me-Wuk
- 542 are from the Pit River Tribe
- 508 are from the Tule River Indian Tribe
- 505 are Sioux
- 489 are from the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
- 443 are Castanoan
- 400 are Paiute
- 396 are from the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians
- 390 are from the Tohono O’odham Nation
- 377 are Gabrielino
- 44,688 are Maya and from other Mesoamerican indigenous groups
- 35,184 are Aztec

<sup>5</sup> Hedrick, V. (n.d.). *HEALTH EQUITY*. Retrieved December 14, 2023, from <https://www.itup.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/4.-Virginia-Hedrick.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> *Children of Immigrants Data Tool*. (2021). Urban.org. <https://children-of-immigrants-explorer.urban.org/pages.cfm?p=technicalappendix>

<sup>18</sup> File A for California, Tables T02001, T02002, and T02003 Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children’s Partnership.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,651 are <u>Mixtec</u></li> </ul> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> a full list of detailed demographic data of AI/AN children in CA from the 2020 Census.</p> <p>Nearly 90% of the AI/AN population in CA resides in urban areas.</p> <p>1 in 10 (11%) AIAN children have at least one parent who was born outside of the United States, most coming from Mexico and Central and South America. California is home to an estimated 170,000 indigenous people from the Mexican states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, and Michoacán, including Mixtecs, Zapotecs, and Purépechas.<sup>19</sup></p>
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**Definition of AI/AN & Census Data Notation**

**Definition of AI/AN**  
According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the term Urban Indian refers to people who are members, or first- or second-degree descendants, of a tribe or an organized group whose residence is indigenous to the occupied lands of what is now known as the United States of America. These populations are most often recognized in data collection and protections offered by the state and federal government. The term American Indian refers to a person who is a member or descendant of any indigenous group of North, Central or South America. While most data does not recognize indigenous groups outside the borders of the country, The Children’s Partnership believes that not making an effort to include data we have on American Indians contributes to Indigenous erasure. TCP is excited to provide the information we have on Mesoamerican Indigenous children.

**NOTATION FOR CENSUS DATA**  
The 2020 census has information on 89 tribes across the Americas. The information shown includes the 26 most populous tribes represented in California.

**Protective Factors**

AI/AN children and youth come from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and are resilient despite facing a legacy

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<sup>19</sup> *Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project*. (2021, September 8). Mixteco. <https://mixteco.org/mixtec/>

of historical trauma from violence, discrimination, family separation, and land dispossession from state and federal policies and practices intentionally designed to break apart culture, communities, family, and identity. The persistent inequities that impact AI/AN children are rooted in this history of marginalization and indicate that mainstream evidence-based practices are not sufficient to advance health equity for AI/AN communities.

AI/AN communities have challenged and actively subverted racist structures in medicine to care for their own health by utilizing community-defined practices and care that develop and reinforce protective factors in Black children and families.

Community-defined protective factors—conditions or attributes in children defined by communities, youth and families themselves—are critical in preventing and reducing health inequities impacting children from historically marginalized communities.

Protective factors—conditions or attributes that help mitigate or eliminate risks to health and well-being—can help prevent and address health inequities impacting Black children and their families.

Overall, community-defined evidence practices aim to shift the power dynamics in research, evaluation, and decision-making processes, recognizing that diverse communities have unique knowledge and evidence needs that should be respected and incorporated into the process.

**Indigenous knowledge:** Indigenous knowledge is rooted in the cultural, spiritual, and historical power of Indigenous communities.<sup>20</sup> Indigenous knowledge often takes a holistic approach to health and well-being, recognizing the interconnectedness of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of health. respects and acknowledges the unique traditions, practices, and beliefs of Indigenous peoples. Centering Indigenous knowledge and approaches within suicide prevention positively contribute to suicide-related outcomes.<sup>21</sup> Initiatives built upon Indigenous culture, knowledge, and decolonizing methods have been shown to have substantial impact on suicide-related outcomes at the individual- and community-level.<sup>22</sup> Indigenous approaches to suicide prevention are diverse, and reflect local culture, knowledge, need and priorities.<sup>23</sup>

**Cultural-based healing:** Cultural-based healing is an approach to healing and healthy development for AI/NA children & youth that focuses on preserving and restoring Indigenous cultural identity as the foundation of well-being and healthy development, including learning or remembering Indigenous cultural values, customs, and traditions.<sup>24</sup> Two Feathers Native American Family Services incorporates community defined and culturally-based programming for youth and families, including the A.C.O.R.N. Youth Wellness Program where youth learn about cultural values and how they apply physically, mentally, spiritually, and culturally in their everyday life. The California Consortium for Urban Indian Health (CCUIH) developed the Culturally Relevant Integration

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<sup>20</sup> Isaac, G., Finn, S., Joe, J. R., Hoover, E., Gone, J. P., Lefthand-Begay, C., & Hill, S. (2018). Native American Perspectives on Health and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 126(12). <https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp1944>

<sup>21</sup> Sjoblom, E., Winta Ghidei, Leslie, M., James, A., Bartel, R., Campbell, S., & Montesanti, S. (2022). Centering Indigenous knowledge in suicide prevention: a critical scoping review. *BMC Public Health*, 22(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-14580-0>

<sup>22</sup> IBID

<sup>23</sup> IBID

<sup>24</sup> IBID

Model designed to strengthen and center the use of AI cultural practices within systems of health care to increase access to traditional knowledge and community-centered, culturally-relevant wellness practices. United American Indian Involvement (UAI) supports the physical, behavioral, and spiritual well-being of AI/AN youth and families through services and programs that incorporate AI/AN cultures and traditions, including beading, drumming, singing and dancing, medicine gathering, and talking circles.

**Culture, family, community and peer connectedness:** Connectedness with one another, nature, family, and culture support positive health and mental health outcomes for AI/AN youth. Peer programs where AI/AN youth provide each other with guidance or support in a school or community organization can increase feelings of connectedness to culture, family and community.<sup>25</sup> AI/AN community leaders have recommended and utilized long-established AI/AN practices such as drumming, dancing, bead making, sage preparation, and basket making to help improve and create positive mental health by creating strong connections to community and culture.<sup>26</sup>

### Health Coverage and Access

(2021) 135,867 total AI/AN children under 19:<sup>27</sup>

- 128,403 have health insurance (94%)
- 7,464 have no health insurance (5.4%)

(2022) 120,185 total AI/AN children under 19:<sup>28</sup>

- 113,927 have health insurance (94%)
- 6,258 have no health insurance (5.4%)

About 95% of AI/AN children 18 and under have health insurance, leaving at least 5% or 6,258 children uninsured – nearly double the uninsured rate for all children in California (3.2%).<sup>37</sup>

Nearly 68% of AI/AN children enrolled in Medi-Cal did not receive preventive health services they are entitled to.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>25</sup> National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). (2019). *Cultural Connectedness and Indigenous Youth Well-Being*. <https://www.nicwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-10-30-Cultural-Connectedness-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> Final Development of the Native American Drum, Dance, and Regalia Program (NADDAR), a Behavioral Intervention Utilizing Traditional Practices For Urban Native American Families: A Focus Group Study., Carrie L. Johnson, Cynthia Begay, Daniel Dickerson. 2021

<sup>27</sup>States, U. (2023). *Explore Census Data*. Census.gov.

[https://data.census.gov/table?q=C27001C:%20HEALTH%20INSURANCE%20COVERAGE%20STATUS%20BY%20AGE%20\(AMERICAN%20INDIAN%20AND%20ALASKA%20NATIVE%20ALONE\)&g=040XX00US06](https://data.census.gov/table?q=C27001C:%20HEALTH%20INSURANCE%20COVERAGE%20STATUS%20BY%20AGE%20(AMERICAN%20INDIAN%20AND%20ALASKA%20NATIVE%20ALONE)&g=040XX00US06)

<sup>28</sup>States, U. (2023). *Explore Census Data*. Census.gov.

[https://data.census.gov/table?q=C27001C:%20HEALTH%20INSURANCE%20COVERAGE%20STATUS%20BY%20AGE%20\(AMERICAN%20INDIAN%20AND%20ALASKA%20NATIVE%20ALONE\)&g=040XX00US06](https://data.census.gov/table?q=C27001C:%20HEALTH%20INSURANCE%20COVERAGE%20STATUS%20BY%20AGE%20(AMERICAN%20INDIAN%20AND%20ALASKA%20NATIVE%20ALONE)&g=040XX00US06)

<sup>37</sup> IBID

<sup>38</sup> *Follow-Up: Children in Medi-Cal*. (2022). Ca.gov. <https://www.bsa.ca.gov/reports/2022-502/index.html>

<p>(Pooling 2019, 2020 and 2021) 22% of AI/AN children 18 and under do not have a usual source of care compared to 9.1% of white children.<sup>29</sup></p> <p>(Pooling 2020, 2021 and 2022) 14.4% of AI/AN children 18 and under do not have a usual source of care compared to 11.4 % of white children.<sup>30</sup></p> <p>(Pooling 2020 and 2021) 43.2% of AI/AN children rely on a Community clinic/government clinic/community hospital as their usual source of care<sup>31</sup> compared to 12% of white children.<sup>32</sup></p> <p>(Pooling 2021 and 2022) 31.8% of AI/AN children rely on a Community clinic/government clinic/community hospital as their usual source of care<sup>33</sup> compared to 18.9% of white children.<sup>34</sup></p> <p>(2020) 38.8% (16,980) of AI/AN children under 21 are enrolled in Medi-Cal (Medicaid) or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) compared to 21.9% (699,720) of white children<sup>35</sup> and 41.78% of all children.<sup>36</sup></p> <p>(NO UPDATED DATA)</p> <p><b>(Pooling 2019,2020,2021) Delayed care:</b></p>	<p>14% of AI/AN children 18 and under don’t have a usual source of receiving health care—over double the rate of white children (9%).<sup>39</sup></p> <p>32% of AI/AN children rely on a community clinic as their usual source of care – almost double the rate of white children (19%).</p>
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<sup>29</sup> (AskCHIS, 2023) Source of care children under 19 disaggregated by race/ethnicity for years 2019,2020,2023

<sup>30</sup> (AskCHIS, 2023) Source of care children under 19 disaggregated by race/ethnicity for years 2020,2021,2022

<sup>31</sup> (AskCHIS, 2023) Source of care children under 19 disaggregated by race/ethnicity for years 2020,2021

<sup>32</sup> (AskCHIS, 2023) Source of care children under 19 disaggregated by race/ethnicity for years 2020,2021

<sup>33</sup> (AskCHIS, 2023) Source of care children under 19 disaggregated by race/ethnicity for years 2021,2022

<sup>34</sup> (AskCHIS, 2023) Source of care children under 19 disaggregated by race/ethnicity for years 2021,2022

<sup>35</sup> *Medi-Cal Average Monthly Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity - Kidsdata.org.* (2020). Kidsdata.org. <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/735/medi-cal-monthly-enrollment-race/table#fmt=2337&loc=2&tf=110&ch=7,11,8,10,9,127,912&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc>

<sup>36</sup> *Medi-Cal Average Monthly Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity - Kidsdata.org.* (2020). Kidsdata.org. <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/735/medi-cal-monthly-enrollment-race/table#fmt=2337&loc=2&tf=110&ch=7,11,8,10,9,127,912&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc>

<sup>39</sup> (AskCHIS, 2023) Source of care children under 19 disaggregated by race/ethnicity for years 2019,2020,2023

**AI/NA**

Delayed or didn't get other medical care	↕
Delayed or didn't get care	<b>2.3% *</b> ( 0.0 - 6.6 ) 1,000
Did not delay care	<b>97.7% *</b> ( 93.4 - 100.0 ) 42,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b> 43,000

**White:**

Delayed or didn't get other medical care	↕
Delayed or didn't get care	<b>6.1%</b> ( 5.2 - 6.9 ) 200,000
Did not delay care	<b>93.9%</b> ( 93.1 - 94.8 ) 3,148,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b> 3,349,000

**All races:**



Delayed or didn't get other medical care	↕
Delayed or didn't get care	<b>6.1%</b> ( 5.5 - 6.6 ) 592,000
Did not delay care	<b>93.9%</b> ( 93.4 - 94.5 ) 9,154,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b> 9,746,000

Delayed care: 2020,2021,2022

	White	AI/AN	ALL races
delayed/didnt get care	<u>6.1%</u> ( 5.2 - 6.9 ) 192,000	1.7% * ( 0.0 - 4.9 ) 1,000	<b>6.2%</b> ( 5.7 - 6.7 ) <b>601,000</b>
Did not delay care	93.9% ( 93.1 - 94.8 ) 3,014,000	98.3% * ( 95.1 - 100.0 ) 37,000	<b>93.8%</b> ( 93.3 - 94.3 ) <b>9,047,000</b>
Total	<b>100.0%</b> <b>3,206,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b> <b>38,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b> <b>9,648,000</b>

## Food Access

**National:** 28.0% of AI/AN households with children live in food-insecure households in the U.S. versus 15.7% of general households with children<sup>40</sup>

Research shows that across the US, many reservations and counties with the highest numbers of indigenous community members are food deserts, meaning communities have to travel 100 miles or more to purchase food

(POOLED DATA 2020,2021,2022)

Food security (ability to afford enough food)	Latino ↕	White (non-latino) ↕	Black or African American (non-latino) ↕	American-Indian/Alaska Native (non-latino) ↕	All ↕
Able to afford enough food (food secure)	58.1% (56.4 - 59.7) 2,942,000	66.4% (64.7 - 68.2) 1,254,000	51.6% (47.0 - 56.1) 280,000	49.7% (33.8 - 65.7) 28,000	<b>60.4%</b> <b>(59.3 - 61.5)</b> <b>5,280,000</b>
Not able to afford enough food (food insecure)	41.9% (40.3 - 43.6) 2,122,000	33.6% (31.8 - 35.3) 637,000	48.4% (43.9 - 53.0) 262,000	50.3% (34.3 - 66.2) 27,000	<b>39.6%</b> <b>(38.5 - 40.7)</b> <b>3,465,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b> 5,064,000	<b>100.0%</b> 1,891,000	<b>100.0%</b> 543,000	<b>100.0%</b> 54,000	<b>100.0%</b> 8,745,000

(all races)

Within California nearly 1 in 2 AI/AN household are food insecure, higher than the rate for all populations 2 in 5.

A recent study co-designed and conducted by four Native American tribes in the Klamath Basin in northern California found that while 92% of the households suffered from food insecurity, households with better access to native foods had significantly higher levels of food security, indicating that increased access to culturally relevant foods will result in improved household food security. Across the US, many areas with the highest numbers of AI/AN community members are food deserts, meaning communities have to travel long distances to purchase healthy food.

## Truth and Healing

<sup>40</sup> “Hunger and Poverty in the Indigenous Community.” Bread for the World: October 2018. <https://www.bread.org/library/fact-sheet-hunger-and-poverty-indigenous-community>

Truth-telling and reparations are fundamental components of equity, healing, and closure.<sup>41</sup> Many of the government-sponsored human rights violations committed against AI/AN communities—boarding schools that tore AINA youth away from their families and culture, the forced removal of AINA communities from their lands, and genocide from government authorized wars, attacks and raids—have largely been ignored or overlooked by U.S. governments and society.<sup>42</sup> There has never been a national truth and healing commission focused on AI/NA communities—the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy Act—was introduced in 2020, but has not passed. California is one of only two states in the nation who has formally established a Truth commission: through its Truth and Healing Council, California has the opportunity to use truth-telling to support AI/AN children, families and communities through reparation and restoration that acknowledges and accounts for historical wrongs committed against California’s Native communities. Currently, the California Truth and Healing fund has launched a multi-year grantmaking initiative to provide American Indian communities with opportunities and resources associated with the council’s mission. By 2025, the council will be submitting a final report to the Governor containing “a holistic understanding of the historical relationship between California Native Americans and the State” (California Truth & Healing Council, 2023) as well as recommendations aimed at reparation, restoration, and prevention.<sup>43</sup>

## Mental Health

### Depression-

In CA in 2019, 34% of AI/AN youth in 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades reported feeling depressed<sup>44</sup> Across all race and ethnicity groups in 7, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, 33% of youth experienced chronic sadness and hopelessness. Among white youth, the rate is 35%<sup>45</sup>

In CA in 2019, 36 % of AI/AN youth in 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades reported feeling depressed<sup>46</sup> Across all race and ethnicity groups in 7, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, 33% of youth experienced chronic sadness and hopelessness. Among white youth, the rate is 39%<sup>47</sup>

More than 1 in 3 (36%) AIAN youth in middle and high schools experienced feelings of chronic sadness and hopelessness, with the number rising to nearly 1 in 2 (39%) AI/AN 9th graders who have experienced these feelings.

Almost 1 in 6 (16%) AIAN middle and high schoolers considered attempting suicide—higher than the rate of all middle and high schoolers (15%).

In 2019, suicide was nationally ranked the second leading cause of death for AI/AN between the ages of 10 and 34.

<sup>41</sup>Ochs, S. (2022). The Role of Truth-Telling in Indigenous Justice. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4070704>

<sup>42</sup> IBID

<sup>43</sup> *California Truth & Healing Council | The Governor’s Office of Tribal Affairs*. (2023). Ca.gov. <https://tribalaffairs.ca.gov/cthc/>

<sup>44</sup> CA Healthy Kids Survey “Secondary Student Substance Use and Mental Health, by Race/Ethnicity.” <https://calschls.org/reports-data/public-dashboards/secondary-student/> California Department of Education, 2019. Accessed October 2021.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

In CA in 2019, 19% of AI/AN youth in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades reported considering suicide<sup>48</sup>

In CA in 2019, 15% of AI/AN youth in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades reported considering suicide<sup>49</sup>

National data from 2019 indicate, suicide was the second leading cause of death for American Indian/Alaska Natives between the ages of 10 and 34 <sup>50</sup>

No Updates

At least 1 in 3 (34%) AINA teens and 65% of AINA teen girls needed help for emotional or mental health problems,<sup>51</sup> yet nearly 80% of all AINA teens did not receive psychological or emotional counseling.<sup>52</sup>

### Teen needed help for emotional/mental health problems

Asked of all adolescents

Race - OMB/Department of Finance ( American-Indian/Alaska Native (non-latino) )

State

\* = statistically unstable

Teen needed help for emotional/mental health problems	%	95% CI	Population
Yes needed help	33.5*	0 - 95.5	6,000
No did not need help	66.5*	4.5 - 100	12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,000</b>

Created on: 10/31/2022 11:22 AM

Source: 2019, 2020, 2021 California Health Interview Survey

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> *Mental and Behavioral Health - American Indians/Alaska Natives*. (2023). Office of Minority Health. <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/mental-and-behavioral-health-american-indiansalaska-natives>

<sup>51</sup>Source: Pooling 2019, 2020, 2021 California Health Interview Survey

<sup>52</sup> Source: Pooling 2019, 2020, 2021 California Health Interview Survey

### Teen needed help for emotional/mental health problems

Asked of all adolescents

Race - OMB/Department of Finance ( American-Indian/Alaska Native (non-latino) ), Gender ( Female )

State

\* = statistically unstable

Teen needed help for emotional/mental health problems	%	95% CI	Population
Yes needed help	65.3*	0 - 100	4,000
No did not need help	34.7*	0 - 100	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,000</b>

Created on: 10/31/2022 11:34 AM

Source: 2019, 2020, 2021 California Health Interview Survey

### Received psychological/emotional counseling in past year

Race - OMB/Department of Finance ( American-Indian/Alaska Native (non-latino) )

State

\* = statistically unstable

Received psychological/emotional counseling in past year	%	95% CI	Population
Received counseling	21.7*	0.5 - 42.9	4,000
Did not receive counseling	78.3*	57.1 - 99.5	14,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,000</b>

Created on: 10/31/2022 11:24 AM

Source: 2019, 2020, 2021 California Health Interview Survey

### School Success and Safety

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/t3/eldemographics.asp>

Mixtec, an indigenous language spoken in regions in Mexico, is spoken by at least 4,000 students in California's public schools and is number 14 of the top 20 languages spoken by California's English Learner students.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/t3/eldemographics.asp>

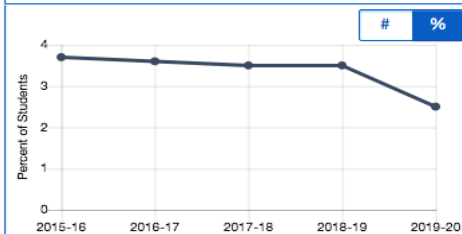
## Suspension Rate

California Public Schools

View by ethnicity, student group, and charter status

SECOND CATEGORY:

All Students



View Table Data

Suspension Rate	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Total	3.7 %	3.6 %	3.5 %	3.5 %	2.5 %

Chart Notes Source

Data collected by the California Department of Education (CDE) through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). Aggregate data files are provided by the CDE - Data Reporting Office at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/filesd.asp>

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There are at least 26,108 AI/NA students enrolled in CA's public schools, making up .4% of the public school student population.<sup>61</sup>

AI/AN students lose out on more learning time compared to their peers: the suspension rate among AINA students is 6.5 %, double the rate of all students (3.2 %) and nearly 1 in 4 (44 %) of AINA students have missed 10% or more of the academic year, compared to slightly over 1 in 10 (30 %) of all students.

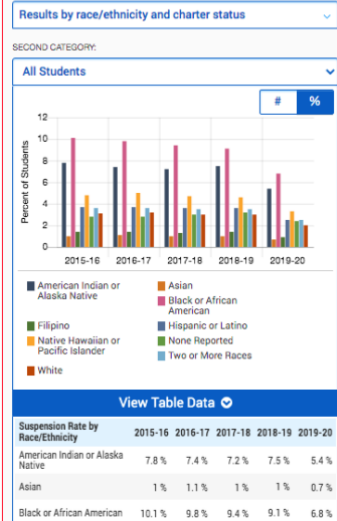
AI/AN students are two times more likely than white students to be arrested at California schools.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>53</sup> California Department of Education. (2022). *EdData - State Profile - California Public Schools*. Ed-Data.org. <https://www.ed-data.org/state/CA>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.ed-data.org/state/CA>

<sup>62</sup> [https://www.aclusocal.org/sites/default/files/field\\_documents/no\\_police\\_in\\_schools\\_-\\_report\\_-\\_aclu\\_-\\_082421.pdf](https://www.aclusocal.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/no_police_in_schools_-_report_-_aclu_-_082421.pdf)

**Suspension Rate by Race/Ethnicity**  
California Public Schools



54

**Updated**

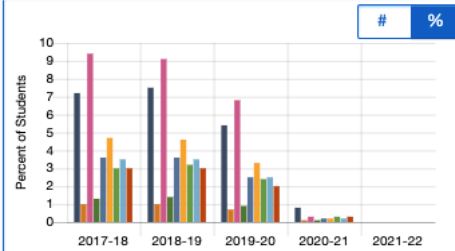
## Suspension Rate by Race/Ethnicity

California Public Schools

Results by race/ethnicity and charter status

SECOND CATEGORY:

All Students



View Table Data

Suspension Rate by Race/Ethnicity	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
American Indian or Alaska Native	7.2 %	7.5 %	5.4 %	0.8 %	N/A
Asian	1 %	1 %	0.7 %	0.1 %	N/A



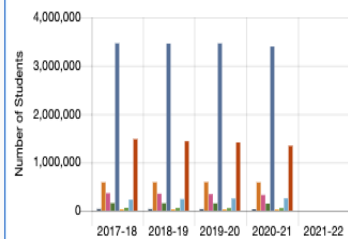
## Cumulative Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

California Public Schools

Results by race/ethnicity and charter status

SECOND CATEGORY:

All Students



View Table Data

Cumulative Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
American Indian or Alaska Native	33,808	32,455	31,100	29,110	N/A

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In Ca, in the 2018-2020 school year, AI/AN students were suspended at 64.7 per 1,000 students compared to other youth who were suspended at the rate of 24.5 per 1,000 students.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.ed-data.org/state/CA> Assessed October 17, 2022

<sup>56</sup> *American Indian/Alaska Native Children in California*. (n.d.). <https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=1>

In CA, in 2019-20 school year, AINA students were suspended at disproportionate rates: 5.4% of AINA students were suspended, double the rate of all students (2.5%)<sup>57</sup>

Chronic Absentee rate all students in CA: 12.1% (2018-19 school year) all students, NA students: 22%<sup>58</sup>

Native American students are two times, and Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students were one—and—a—half times more likely than white students to be arrested at California schools.<sup>59</sup>

Data Note: The Children’s Partnership collected data on American Indian and Alaska Native children from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and 2021 1-year estimates, the 2019, 2020, 2021 CA Health Interview Survey, the 2017-2019 California Healthy Kids Survey, the California Department of Education and a few other discrete sources. All data is from AI/AN children in California unless noted explicitly as national data. Citations can be found at: [bit.ly/ACHildIsAChild](https://bit.ly/ACHildIsAChild)

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<sup>57</sup> California Department of Education. (2022). *EdData - State Profile - California Public Schools*. Ed-Data.org. <https://www.ed-data.org/state/CA>

<sup>58</sup> IBID

<sup>59</sup> *A Vision for Safe and Supportive Schools in CA NO POLICE*. (n.d.). [https://www.aclusocal.org/sites/default/files/field\\_documents/no\\_police\\_in\\_schools\\_-\\_report\\_-\\_aclu\\_-\\_082421.pdf](https://www.aclusocal.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/no_police_in_schools_-_report_-_aclu_-_082421.pdf)

## Housing and Economic Wellbeing

### 2021 5-year American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) by Race/Ethnicity and Household Poverty - Estimates

Universe: California residents who identify as American Indian and Alaska Native Alone or In Combination Under Age 18

	In Households				In Group Quarters		Total	
	Below 100% Poverty		At or Above 100% Poverty		No Poverty Determination*			
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
AIAN Alone (Not Hispanic)	4,556	19.6%	18,686	80.4%	64	.	23,306	100.0%
AIAN White (Not Hispanic)	6,350	17.9%	29,213	82.1%	172	.	35,735	100.0%
AIAN Black (Not Hispanic)	1,602	34.3%	3,075	65.7%	77	.	4,754	100.0%
AIAN Asian (Not Hispanic)	138	18.6%	604	81.4%	.	.	742	100.0%
AIAN Other (Not Hispanic)	2,496	14.5%	14,676	85.5%	72	.	17,244	100.0%
AIAN Hispanic (Any Race)	28,221	17.8%	130,245	82.2%	381	.	158,847	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,363</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>196,499</b>	<b>81.9%</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>240,628</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: poverty status for the household is based on the poverty status of the householder.

\*"No Poverty Determination" are all persons under age 18 in group quarters.

Source: 2017-2021 ACS Public Use Microdata Sample File.

Custom Tabulation: Jonathan Buttle, California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

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18% or at least 43,363 AIAN children live in households whose income falls below the FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.<sup>66</sup>

1 in 4 (25%) AIAN children live in households that are burdened by housing and utility costs, and over 1 in 3 (39%) live in households that do not own their home.<sup>67</sup>

<sup>63</sup> Source: 2017-2021 ACS Public Use Microdata Sample File. Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children's Partnership.

<sup>66</sup> Source: 2017-2021 ACS Public Use Microdata Sample File. Custom tabulation provided by Jonathan Buttle of the CA Department of Finance, on file with The Children's Partnership.

<sup>67</sup> The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2019 and 2020 American Community Survey.

**Population - Children**

State	Home ownership	Native American children
California	Household owns home	60.62%
	Household does not own home	39.38%
	Total	100.00%

64

all children	California	
Label	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	38,589,882	±3,672
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level:	4,853,434	±39,919
Under 6 years	480,930	±7,869
6 to 11 years	509,387	±8,186
12 to 17 years	490,332	±7,109
18 to 59 years	2,560,555	±19,437
60 to 74 years	545,453	±7,440
75 to 84 years	173,825	±3,428
85 years and over	92,952	±2,693
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level:	33,736,448	±40,345
Under 6 years	2,352,252	±9,168
6 to 11 years	2,448,998	±9,559
12 to 17 years	2,533,774	±10,611
18 to 59 years	19,428,923	±21,382
60 to 74 years	4,929,730	±11,012
75 to 84 years	1,407,268	±6,366
85 years and over	635,503	±6,580

All children in california:  $1480649 / 7335024 = 20.2\%$ <sup>65</sup>

<sup>64</sup> The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2019 and 2020 American Community Survey.

<sup>65</sup> States, U. (2023). *Explore Census Data*. Census.gov. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2020.B17020?q=B17020&g=040XX00US06>

State	Housing and utility cost burden	Population - Children Native American children
California	Not burdened by housing and utility costs	74.62%
	Somewhat burdened by housing and utility costs	11.28%
	Severely burdened by housing and utility costs	14.11%
	Total	100.00%

### Digital Connectedness

Nationally, In 2020, 34 percent of AI/AN households had no high-speed internet access at home, and almost 16 percent had no computer.<sup>68</sup>

California – 91% of AI/AN children in CA live in a household with a broadband connected device—compared to 96% of white children and Asian American children in CA.<sup>69</sup> According to KidsData estimates based on population of NA children 39,491, 9% of children live in a household without a broadband connected device (9% of 39,491 = 3,554.9)<sup>70</sup>

Computer and Internet Use	
Households with a computer, percent, 2016-2020	94.3%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2016-2020	88.9%
Education	
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2016-2020	83.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2016-2020	34.7%
Health	
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2016-2020	6.8%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	8.1%

Nationally, 34% of AI/AN households with children have no high-speed internet access at home, and almost 16% have no computer.

In CA, nearly 10% of AI/AN children live in a household without a broadband connective device. AI/AN communities in California have the lowest access to broadband internet compared to any racial/ethnic demographic.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>68</sup> *The Condition of Native American Students*. (2020). <https://www.nsba.org/ASBJ/2020/December/condition-native-american-students>

<sup>69</sup> *Children Living in Households with a Broadband-Connected Device, by Race/Ethnicity - Kidsdata.org*. (2019). Kidsdata.org. <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&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc>

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Ono, N. (2021, May 11). *How Southern California tribes work to close the digital divide*. California Forward; California Forward. <https://cafwd.org/news/how-southern-california-tribes-work-to-close-the-digital-divide/>

<p>According to the CA Census, from 2016-2020 94.3% of AI/AN children lived in households that had a computer. 88.9%<sup>71</sup> of AI/AN youth lived in households with an internet subscription from 2016-2020.</p> <p>As of 2019, [AI/AN] Californians had the lowest amount of access to broadband internet of any California demographic, 4% lower than the statewide average. Imperial County had 10.5%<sup>72</sup> lower access to broadband internet than the state as a whole.</p>	
<p><b>Child Welfare</b></p>	
<p>In California, in 2020, 16.3 per 1,000 AI/AN children experienced substantial abuse and neglect, compared to 6.8 per 1,000 children of any other subgroup<sup>74</sup></p> <p>Although AI/AN are the second smallest racial group, nationally 48% of AIAN youth have been reported using a controlled substance<sup>75</sup></p> <p>20.7<sup>76</sup> per 1,000 AIAN youth ages 0-20 are in foster care, compared to 5.3 per 1,000 youth from other subgroups.</p> <p>In California, in 2018, 20.7 per 1,000 AI/AN children aged 0-20 are in foster care, compared to 5.3 per 1,000 children for all race/ethnic group, and compared to 4.4 per 1,000 white children in foster care<sup>77</sup></p>	<p>AI/AN children and youth are removed from their homes at 4x the rate of all children and youth in CA. This alarming inequity highlights the need to safeguard the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), a federal law designed to address the past and present racism that exists within the child welfare system and leads to AI/AN children being disproportionately torn apart from their families.<sup>81</sup></p> <p>In an effort to help safeguard ICWA, The Children’s Partnership supported CA AB 81. This bill was introduced to strengthen California child welfare provisions leading up to the Supreme</p>

<sup>71</sup> *QuickFacts: California*. (2022). Census Bureau QuickFacts; United States Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/CA> Assessed on October 17, 2022

<sup>72</sup> Ono, N. (2021, May 11). *How Southern California tribes work to close the digital divide*. California Forward; California Forward. <https://cafwd.org/news/how-southern-california-tribes-work-to-close-the-digital-divide/> Assessed October 17, 2022

<sup>74</sup> *American Indian/Alaska Native Children in California*. (n.d.). <https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=19> Assessed October 12, 2022

<sup>75</sup> Subica, A. M., & Wu, L. (2018). Substance Use and Suicide in Pacific Islander, American Indian, and Multiracial Youth. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 54(6), 795–805. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2018.02.003>. Assessed on October 14, 2022

<sup>76</sup> *American Indian/Alaska Native Children in California*. (n.d.). <https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=19>

<sup>77</sup> “American Indian/Alaska Native Children in California.” Kidsdata.org <https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?dem=19>

<sup>81</sup> Litman, L. (2020, January 22). *The Atlantic*. The Atlantic; theatlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/01/fifth-circuit-icwa/605167/>

### Number of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

All adults

Race - OMB/Department of Finance (American-Indian/Alaska Native (non-latino))

State

Number of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)			
	%	95% CI	Population
0 adverse childhood experiences	32.7%	32.0 - 33.4	9,691,000
1 adverse childhood experience	19.8%	19.2 - 20.4	5,877,000
2 adverse childhood experiences	14.4%	13.8 - 15.0	4,280,000
3 adverse childhood experiences	11.8%	11.3 - 12.4	3,508,000
4+ adverse childhood experiences	21.2%	20.5 - 22.0	6,294,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,650,000</b>

### Adverse Childhood Experiences

While all populations are at risk for exposure to childhood stressors, AI/AN individuals' higher mean ACEs scores and ACEs frequencies across domains is a direct result of historically traumatic events and intergenerational effects, including colonization, forced assimilation, and resulting traumatic responses<sup>78</sup>

American Indians have the highest average adverse childhood experience (ACE) score with a 2.32 which is higher than those identifying as White (1.53), Black (1.66), and Hispanic.<sup>79</sup>

Out of the eight domains of ACES, AI/AN individuals held the highest frequencies in seven categories.<sup>80</sup>

Court's case *Haaland v. Brackeen*. AB 81 (Ramos) would strengthen California protections by further emphasizing the State of California's commitment to protecting a tribe's right to protect their people's health, safety, and welfare and ensure that state law provisions remain regardless of what happens to the federal act.<sup>82</sup> This bill was also supported by California Tribal Families Coalition (co-source), Morongo Band of Mission Indians (co-source), ACLU California Action, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, California Open, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Hoopa Valley Tribe, and Jamul Indian Village of California Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians.<sup>83</sup>

### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) questions are formulated to assess a person's childhood events in an individualistic way neglecting to include the shared community trauma many AI/AN communities face. Experiences such as historical trauma, including but not limited to, the loss of land, language, and culture combined with multiple forms of discrimination and

<sup>78</sup> Cole, A. B., Armstrong, C. M., Giano, Z. D., & Hubach, R. D. (2022). An update on ACEs domain frequencies across race/ethnicity and sex in a nationally representative sample. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 129, 105686. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105686>

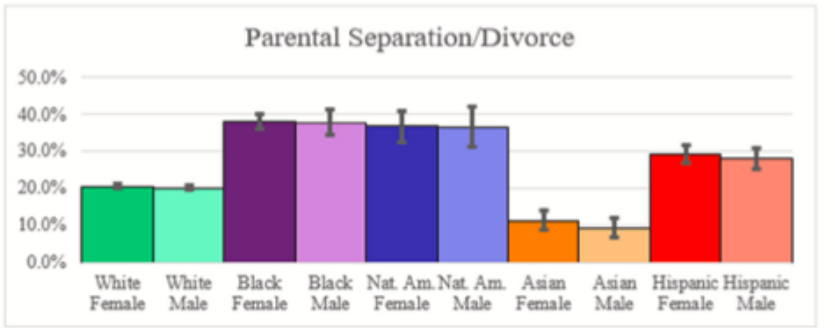
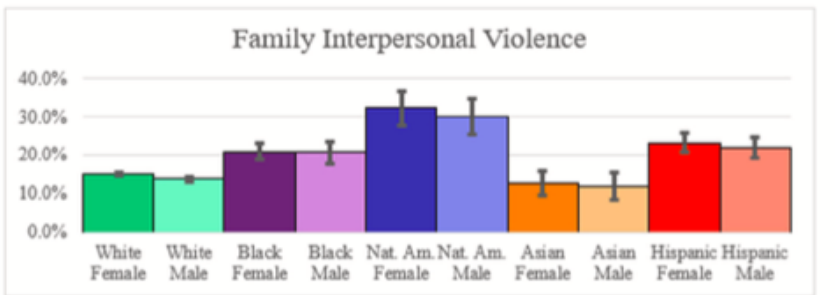
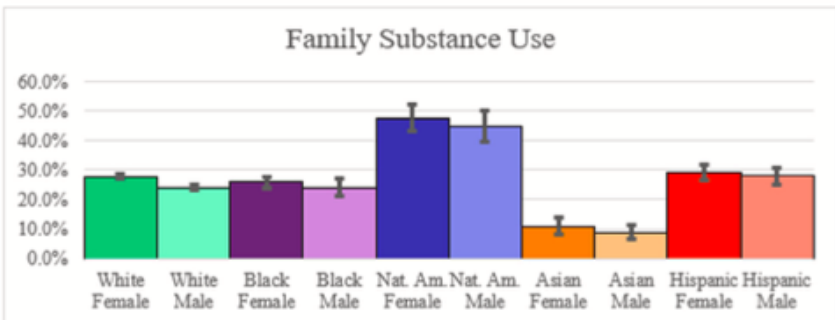
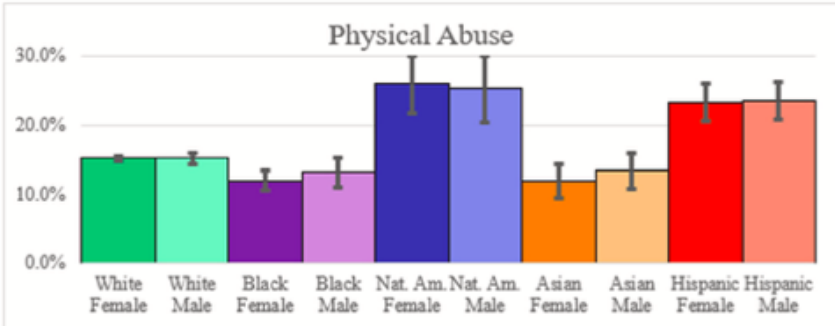
<sup>79</sup> Giano, Z., Camplain, R. L., Camplain, C., Pro, G., Haberstroh, S., Baldwin, J. A., Wheeler, D. L., & Hubach, R. D. (2021). Adverse Childhood Events in American Indian/Alaska Native Populations. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 60(2), 213–221. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2020.08.020>

<sup>80</sup> Cole, A. B., Armstrong, C. M., Giano, Z. D., & Hubach, R. D. (2022). An update on ACEs domain frequencies across race/ethnicity and sex in a nationally representative sample. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 129, 105686. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105686>

<sup>82</sup> *Bill Text - AB-81 Indian children: child custody proceedings*. (2023). Ca.gov.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB81202320240AB81](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB81202320240AB81)

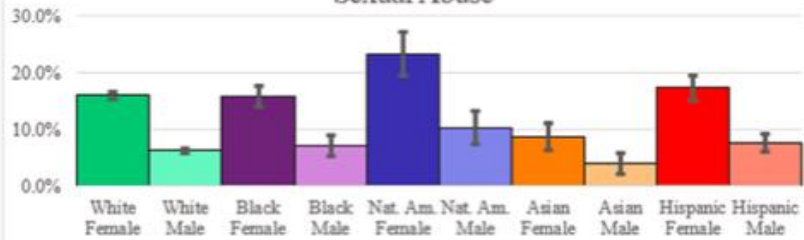
<sup>83</sup> Ibid.



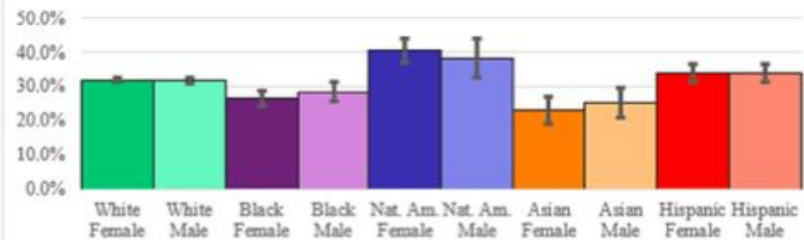
oppression manifests itself in present-day individuals who identify as AI/AN.<sup>84</sup> While all populations are at risk for experiencing childhood stressors, research shows that AI/AN have higher mean ACEs scores and frequencies than any other racial/ethnic group.<sup>85</sup> AI/AN had an average adverse childhood experience (ACE) score of 2.32 which is higher than those identifying as White (1.53), Black (1.66), and Hispanic.<sup>86</sup> When analyzing the domains of ACEs, about 20% of AI/AN experienced family incarceration, over 20% had family mental illness, 30% physical abuse, and 50% family substance abuse.<sup>87</sup>



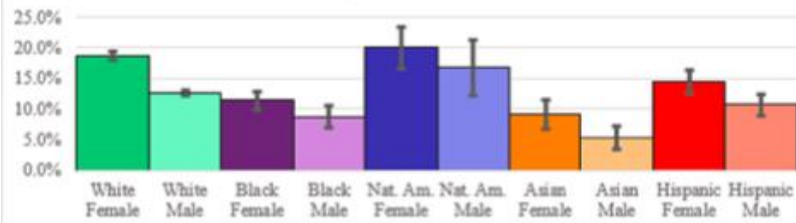
Sexual Abuse



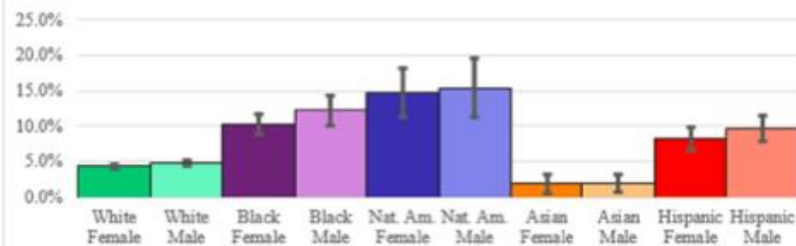
Emotional Abuse



Family Mental Illness



Family Incarceration



## Oral Health

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/147/6/e2021051481/180261/Early-Childhood-Caries-in-Indigenous-Communities?autologincheck=redirected&ga=2.234289111.815242497.1668126173-1934197776.1668126173>

**National** Data from 2018-2019 Indian Health Service Oral Health Survey - More than half of AI/AN children between 1-5 years of age have early childhood caries. AI/AN preschool children 3-5 years of age have the highest prevalence of ECC of any population group in the United States, almost three times higher than white non-Hispanic children.<sup>88</sup> When compared to other population groups, AI/AN children are also more likely to have untreated tooth decay. Slightly more than 43% of AI/AN children between 3-5 years of age have untreated decay compared to only 10% of white non-Hispanic children (NHANES 2013-14); a 4-fold difference.<sup>89</sup>

Nationally, AI/AN preschool children ages 3-5 have the highest rate of tooth decay among any group in the United States: more than 2 in 3 (71%) AI/AN children between 3-5 years old have tooth decay, compared to 1 in 4 (25%) of white children.

When compared to other population groups, AI/AN children in the United States are also four times more likely than white children to have *untreated* tooth decay: slightly more than 43% of AI/AN children between 3-5 years of age have untreated decay compared to only 10% of white non-Latinx children.

## COVID-19

<sup>88</sup> Phipps, K., Ricks, T., Mork, N., & Lozon, T. (2019). Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service Division of Oral Health. In *Indian Health Service Data Brief*. <https://www.ihs.gov/doh/documents/surveillance/2018-19%20Data%20Brief%20of%201-5%20Year-Old%20AI-AN%20Preschool%20Children.pdf>

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

AI/AN COVID-19 cases: 6,724 (0.4%); percent CA population: 0.4%<sup>90</sup>

**Proportions of Cases and Deaths by Race and Ethnicity Among Ages 0-17**

Race/Ethnicity	No. Cases	Percent Cases	No. Deaths	Percent Deaths	Percent CA Population
Latino	822,371	53.0	40	50.6	47.9
White	279,530	18.0	15	19.0	29.2
Asian	127,895	8.2	9	11.4	12.7
African American	72,911	4.7	8	10.1	5.4
Multi-Race	16,722	1.1	4	5.1	4.0
American Indian or Alaska Native	6,724	0.4	0	0.0	0.4
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	9,512	0.6	1	1.3	0.3
Other	216,534	14.0	2	2.5	0.0
Total	1,552,199	100.0	79	100.0	100.0

Nationally, AI/AN people are over 2 times more likely than white people to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19.<sup>100</sup> In California, AI/AN COVID-19 deaths and cases have been undercounted due to racial misclassification. AI/AN children make up 6,724 of COVID-19 cases in CA.<sup>101</sup>

1% of AI/AN children under 5, 30% of AI/AN children ages 5-11 and 53% of AI/AN children ages 12-17 have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, lower than the state averages for these age groups (3%, 37%, and 67%, respectively).<sup>102</sup>

**COVID-19 Associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Death in the US**

According to The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), orphanhood is defined as the loss of one’s primary or secondary caregiver. UNICEF includes the loss of one parent based on the increased risk of the child experiencing adverse childhood experiences such as abuse, unstable housing, and household poverty etc.<sup>103</sup>

**National Rates, 2023**

- About 8,368 AI/AN children were orphaned (lost one or both parents)<sup>104</sup>
- About 9,299 AI/AN children lost a primary caregiver<sup>105</sup>
- About 10,067 AI/AN children lost a primary or secondary caregiver<sup>106</sup>

<sup>90</sup> COVID-19 Age, Race and Ethnicity Data. (2023). Ca.gov. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Age-Race-Ethnicity.aspx>

<sup>100</sup> IBIED

<sup>101</sup> IBID

<sup>102</sup> IBID

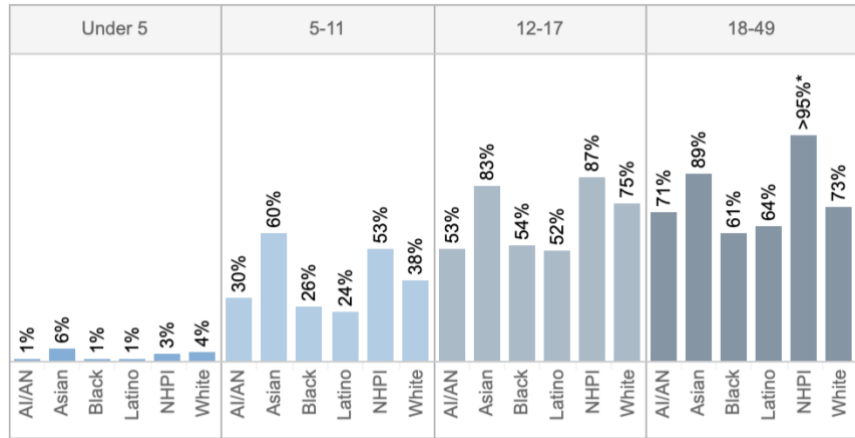
<sup>103</sup> Hillis, S. D., Blenkinsop, A., Villaveces, A., Annor, F. B., Liburd, L., Massetti, G. M., ... & Unwin, H. J. T. (2021). COVID-19–associated orphanhood and caregiver death in the United States. *Pediatrics*, 148(6), e2021053760. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-053760>

<sup>104</sup> COVID-19–Associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Death in the United States. (2015). Github.io. [https://imperialcollegelondon.github.io/orphanhood\\_USA/](https://imperialcollegelondon.github.io/orphanhood_USA/)

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

1% of AI/AN children under 5, 30% of AI/AN children ages 5-11 and 53% of AI/AN children ages 12-17 have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, lower than the state averages for these age groups (3%, 37%, and 67%, respectively).<sup>91</sup>



Primary series and Boosted (Primary series + booster refers to people who have completed a primary series of an approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine and who have received another dose since August 13, 2021)

Even though statistics show that fewer American Indian people have died in California than in other states, Native American communities are concerned about the true numbers of these reports due to American Indians' long history of often racial misclassification, resulting in undercounted number

- AI/AN children are four times more likely than white children to lose a primary or secondary caregiver to COVID-19<sup>107</sup>
- California, 2023
- 337 AI/AN children lost a primary or secondary caregiver<sup>108</sup>
- California was ranked the highest in absolute numbers for children losing a primary or secondary caregiver<sup>109</sup>

<sup>91</sup> State of California. (2023). *Vaccination data*. Ca.gov. <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccination-progress-data/#age-ethnicity>

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

of deaths and the impacts that COVID-19 has had on their communities. Several research show that they are frequently identified as white, Latino, or black on official documents by hospital staff.<sup>92</sup>

According to the authority in charge of public health in California, COVID-19 has caused about 9,000 American Indians in the state to become ill and has claimed the lives of 163.<sup>93</sup>

COVID-19 Associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Death in the US National, 2023

- About 8,368 AI/AN children were orphaned (lost one or both parents) as a result of COVID-19<sup>94</sup>
- About 9,299 AI/AN children lost a primary caregiver<sup>95</sup>
- About 10,067 AI/AN children lost a primary or secondary caregiver<sup>96</sup>
- AI/AN children are four times more likely than white children to lose a primary or secondary caregiver to COVID-19<sup>97</sup>

California, 2023

- 337 AI/AN children lost a primary or secondary caregiver<sup>98</sup>
- California was ranked the highest in absolute numbers for children losing a primary or secondary caregiver to COVID-19<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> Cimini, K. (2021, March 3). *"We're born Indian and we die white": California Indigenous fear COVID deaths undercounted*. CalMatters; CalMatters. <https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2021/03/california-indigenous-fear-covid-deaths-undercounted/>

<sup>93</sup> IBID

<sup>94</sup> *COVID-19–Associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Death in the United States*. (2015). Github.io. [https://imperialcollegelondon.github.io/orphanhood\\_USA/](https://imperialcollegelondon.github.io/orphanhood_USA/)

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.