

A Child Is a Child: Children in Immigrant Families

2026 Snapshot: Data Sources

POPULATION

Indicator	Data Year(s)	Data Source	Interpretation Notes	Link
Number and percentage of children ages 0-17 who live in immigrant families.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.	Data provided reflect children living with at least one parent who was born outside the United States. Data capture both U.S.-born and foreign-born children, and exclude children not living with at least one parent.	[link]
Percentage of children ages 0-17 in immigrant families who were born in the U.S.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.		[link]
Percentage of children ages 0-17 in immigrant families who are U.S. citizens.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.	Data provided reflect children who are citizens of the United States by birth (being born in the U.S. or its territories, or born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent) or by naturalization.	[link]
Percentage of children in immigrant families who are ages 0-3.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.		[link]
Number of children ages 0-17 in immigrant families, by race and ethnicity.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.	In the American Community Survey, race is a distinct concept from ethnicity (or Hispanic origin). Data provided for the following categories reflect non-Hispanic children: American Indian/Alaska Native; Asian American; Black; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; White; Another Race; Multiracial. Data for 'Latine' reflect children with Hispanic ethnicity of any race or races.	[link]
Percentage of children ages 5-17 who are bilingual.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.	Data provided reflect children who speak English very well and speak a language other than English at home.	[link]
Estimated number of children with a parent who is an undocumented immigrant.	<i>Multiple years; consult source.</i>	National Center for Children in Poverty, <i>Immigration Profiles: California</i> .		[link]
Percentage of children ages 0-17 in immigrant families who are U.S. citizens with only non-citizen parents.	2022-2023	Urban Institute, Children of Immigrants Data Tool.		[link]
Percentage of children ages 0-17 in immigrant families, by origin of their parents.	2022-2023	Urban Institute, Children of Immigrants Data Tool.	Data provided reflect the geographic or linguistic region of birth of a child's parents. Children living with parents from different regions of birth are classified according to the region of birth of their primary parent.	[link]

Number of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients.	2025 (Sept.)	Migration Policy Institute, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools.	[link]
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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Indicator	Data Year(s)	Data Source	Interpretation Notes	Link
Number and percentage of children ages 0-17 living below the federal poverty threshold, among those whose poverty status is determined.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.	A family's poverty threshold is determined by its size and composition. In 2024, the federal poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. Poverty status is not determined for children in some living situations, such as foster children under age 15 and children in institutional group quarters.	[link]
Percentage of non-U.S. citizen adults ages 18 and older who could not afford enough food for their family in the previous year, among those living below 200% of their federal poverty threshold and in families with children.	2020-2024	UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey: <i>Food security (ability to afford enough food)</i> .		[link]
Percentage of children ages 0-17 in immigrant families who live in households burdened by housing costs.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.	Data presented reflect children in households that spend at least 30% of household income on rent or mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, utilities, and other related housing costs.	[link]
Percentage of children ages 0-17 in immigrant families who live in households that do not own their home.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.		[link]

HEALTH NEEDS, COVERAGE & ACCESS

Indicator	Data Year(s)	Data Source	Interpretation Notes	Link
Number and percentage of children ages 0-17 with health insurance coverage.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.		[link]
Percentage of insured children ages 0-17 with public and private coverage.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.	Estimates of public health insurance coverage reflect insured children who have public coverage only. Estimates of private health insurance coverage reflect insured children who have private coverage only, or both private and public coverage. Percentages across these categories may sum to more than 100% due to rounding.	[link]

Percentage of children ages 0-17 in immigrant families who have special health care needs.	2022-2023	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Survey of Children's Health: <i>Does this child meet the expanded criteria for special health care needs (CSHCN)?</i>	Data presented reflect children who (a) have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally, as identified by the validated CSHCN Screener, or (b) have at least one health condition and at least one functional difficulty, among the health conditions and functional difficulties asked about in the survey.	[link]
Percentage of children ages 1-17 in immigrant families who had oral health problems in the previous year.	2022-2023	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Survey of Children's Health: <i>During the past 12 months, has this child had oral health problems such as toothaches, bleeding gums, or decayed teeth or cavities, age 1-17 years?</i>	Data presented reflect children who had frequent or chronic difficulty with toothaches, bleeding gums, or decayed teeth or cavities.	[link]
Percentage of children ages 0-17 who did not have a preventive care visit in the previous year.	2022-2023	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Survey of Children's Health: <i>During the past 12 months, how many times did this child visit a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional to receive a preventive check-up?</i>	Data presented reflect children receiving well-child visits, annual physicals, or other preventive health check-ups while not sick or injured.	[link]
Percentage of children ages 0-17 in immigrant families who do not receive care within a medical home.	2022-2023	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Survey of Children's Health: <i>Did this child receive coordinated, ongoing, comprehensive care within a medical home?</i>	A medical home is a model of delivering primary care that is accessible, family centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective. Data presented reflect children meeting criteria for adequate care on three required components: (i) personal doctor or nurse, (ii) usual source for sick care, and (iii) family-centered care. Children needing (iv) referrals to specialty care and/or (v) care coordination also must meet criteria for adequate care on those components.	[link]

COMMUNITY & FAMILY

Indicator	Data Year(s)	Data Source	Interpretation Notes	Link
Percentage of children ages 0-17 with access to a broadband-connected device in their household.	2020-2024	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata.	Estimates presented reflect children living in households with a desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone, or other computer connected to high-speed internet service. Data are for paid broadband subscriptions only.	[link]

Number and percentage of adults ages 18 and older who avoided applying for government benefits in the previous year due to fears related to immigration or public charge, among those born outside the U.S. and in families with children.	2020-2024	UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey: <i>Avoided government benefits in past 12 months due to concern over self or family member disqualification from green card.</i>	Data presented reflect adults who decided not to apply for one or more non-cash government benefits, such as Medi-Cal, food stamps, or housing subsidies, because they worried it would disqualify them or a family member, from obtaining a green card or becoming a U.S. citizen.	[link]
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MENTAL HEALTH

Indicator	Data Year(s)	Data Source	Interpretation Notes	Link
Percentage of non-U.S. citizen adolescents ages 12-17 who in the previous year needed help for emotional or mental health problems.	2020-2024	UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey: <i>Teen needed help for emotional/mental health problems.</i>	Data presented reflect adolescents who thought they needed help for emotional or mental health problems, such as feeling sad, anxious or nervous.	[link]
Percentage of non-U.S. citizen adolescents ages 12-17 who in the previous year delayed or did not receive needed emotional or mental health care.	2023-2024	UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey: <i>Delayed or did not get needed mental health care in past 12 months.</i>	Data presented reflect adolescents who delayed or did not get mental health care they thought they needed, such as seeing a therapist, psychologist, psychiatrist, or other mental health professional.	[link]
Percentage of immigrant parents who report at least one of their children has experienced negative well-being impacts since January 2025 due to immigration-related worries, by type of problem.	2025	KFF. (2026). <i>Children in Immigrant Families: Key Facts on Health Coverage and Care.</i>	Data presented reflect findings from the 2025 Survey of Immigrants: Health and Health Care Experiences During the Second Trump Administration, administered by KFF and the New York Times between August 28 and October 20, 2025.	[link]
Percentage of DACA recipients with children who report thinking at least once per day about being separated from their children because of deportation.	2024	Center for American Progress, Annual Survey of DACA Recipients.		[link]
Percentage of DACA recipients with children who report thinking at least once per day about not being able to see their children grow up because of deportation.	2024	Center for American Progress, Annual Survey of DACA Recipients.		[link]

SCHOOL SUCCESS & SAFETY

Indicator	Data Year(s)	Data Source	Interpretation Notes	Link
Number and percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have been asked to provide a Social Security number or show proof of citizenship or legal status when trying to enroll themselves or a child in school, among those born outside the U.S. and in families with children.	2020-2024	UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey: <i>Asked to provide Social Security Number when enrolling child in school.</i>		[link]

Number and percentage of children ages 0-5 who are dual language learners.	2019-2023	Migration Policy Institute, Young Dual Language Learners in the United States and by State.	Data provided reflect children living with at least one parent who speaks a language other than English at home.	[link]
Estimated number of undocumented children ages 5-18 and young adults ages 19-24 who are enrolled in school.	2023	Migration Policy Institute, Profile of the Unauthorized Population: California.		[link]
Number and percentage of students who are English learners.	2025	California Department of Education, DataQuest: <i>2024-25 Enrollment by English Language Acquisition Status (ELAS) and Grade</i> .	Data are for the 2024-25 school year. Data presented reflect English learners enrolled in grades TK-12 on Census Day (the first Wednesday in October). English learners are students who speak a language other than English at home and lack English language speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills necessary to succeed in regular instructional programs.	[link]
Percentage of students who are English learners, by primary language.	2025	California Department of Education, DataQuest: <i>English Learner Students by Language by Grade</i> .	Data are for the 2024-25 school year. Data presented reflect English learners enrolled in grades TK-12 on Census Day (the first Wednesday in October). English learners are students who speak a language other than English at home and lack English language speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills necessary to succeed in regular instructional programs.	[link]
Estimated number of undocumented immigrants who graduate from California high schools annually.	2023	Migration Policy Institute, <i>Graduating into Uncertainty: Unauthorized Immigrant Students in U.S. High Schools</i> .		[link]
Estimated percentage of undocumented immigrants graduating from U.S. high schools annually, by state.	2023	Migration Policy Institute, <i>Graduating into Uncertainty: Unauthorized Immigrant Students in U.S. High Schools</i> .		[link]