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African American/Black Children in California

Indicator	Year	African American/ Black	All Children/ Youth	Data Source
Child Population Ages 0-17	2025	430,493	8,386,716	California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Housing Unit Estimates (Mar. 2025).
Percentage of Infants Born at Low Birthweight	2017	12.2%	7.4%	California Dept. of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files; CDC WONDER, Natality Data (Mar. 2020).
Infant Mortality Rate	2020	9.0 *(Rate per 1,000)*	3.9 *(Rate per 1,000)*	CDC WONDER Online Database, Linked Birth / Infant Death Records (Apr. 2023).
Percentage of Children in Poverty - California Poverty Measure	2023 Q1	14.0%	13.8%	Public Policy Institute of California & Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, California Poverty Measure (Aug. 2024).
Percentage of Children in Deep Poverty - California Poverty Measure	2023 Q1	1.9%	2.2%	Public Policy Institute of California & Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, California Poverty Measure (Aug. 2024).
Percentage of Children Ages 0-18 with Health Insurance Coverage	2021	97.2%	96.5%	Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey summary files and public use microdata (Mar. 2024).
Percentage of Children/Youth Ages 0-20 Enrolled in Medi-Cal	2024	64.4%	52.3%	California Dept. of Health Care Services, Eligible Individuals Under Age 21 Enrolled in Medi-Cal (Dec. 2025); California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Sept. 2024).
Percentage of Children in Excellent or Very Good Health	2017-2018	74.6%	75.5%	UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (Aug. 2020).
Percentage of 5th Graders Who Are Overweight or Obese	2019	41.6%	41.3%	California Dept. of Education, Physical Fitness Testing Research Files (Jan. 2020).
Percentage of Children with Two or More Adverse Experiences	2024	33.3%[!]	12.3%	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Survey of Children's Health (Dec. 2025).
Children with Substantiated Cases of Abuse or Neglect	2020	17.9 *(Rate per 1,000)*	6.8 *(Rate per 1,000)*	California Child Welfare Indicators Project, CCWIP Reports. University of California at Berkeley & California Dept. of Social Services (Oct. 2021).
Children/Youth Ages 0-20 in Foster Care	2018	21.8 *(Rate per 1,000)*	5.3 *(Rate per 1,000)*	Webster, D., et al. California Child Welfare Indicators Project Reports. UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (Jul. 2019).

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Special Education Enrollment	2020	60,494	804,107	California Dept. of Education, Special Education Division custom tabulation (Jun. 2021).
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standard in Reading	2021*	33.8%	49.0%	California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022).
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standard in Math	2021*	18.0%	33.8%	California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022).
Percentage of Students Not Completing High School	2021	17.9%	9.4%	California Dept. of Education, Dropouts by Race and Gender (Jun. 2017) & Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate and Outcome Data (May 2022).
Students Suspended from School	2018-2020	79.4 *(Rate per 1,000)*	24.5 *(Rate per 1,000)*	California Dept. of Education, Suspension Data (May 2021).
Students Expelled from School	2018-2020	1.6 *(Rate per 1,000)*	0.5 *(Rate per 1,000)*	California Dept. of Education, Expulsion Data (May 2021).
Felony Arrest Rate Among Juveniles Ages 10-17	2023	18.5 *(Rate per 1,000)*	3.8 *(Rate per 1,000)*	California Dept. of Justice, Crime Statistics: Arrests; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Jan. 2025).
Birth Rate Among Teens Ages 15-19	2021	10.7 *(Rate per 1,000)*	9.3 *(Rate per 1,000)*	California Dept. of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Births: Final Data (Aug. 2017); CDC WONDER, Natality; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Jun. 2023).
Rate of Firearm Injury Hospitalization Among Children/Youth Ages 0-24	2021	52.3 *(Rate per 100,000)*	10.1 *(Rate per 100,000)*	California Dept. of Public Health, EpiCenter; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Jul. 2023).
Death Rate Among Children/Youth Ages 1-24	2015-2017	56.2 *(Rate per 100,000)*	29.8 *(Rate per 100,000)*	California Dept. of Public Health, Death Statistical Master Files (Apr. 2020); California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Apr. 2020); CDC WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death (May 2020).

Definitions for LNE, N/A, N/R, or S can be found in the footnote section of the indicator page.

More data on African American/Black Children: https://ww.kidsdata.org/demographic/13/african-americanblack-children/summary