KidsData

POWERED BY PRB

Children in Merced County

Indicator	Year	Merced County	California	Data Source
Child Population Ages 0-17	2025	79,236	8,386,716	California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Housing Unit Estimates (Mar. 2025).
Percentage of Children Living with Two Parents	2014-2018	58.0%	63.8%	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Jan. 2020).
Percentage of Children Living with One or More Foreign-Born Parent	2016-2020	50.0%	47.2%	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022).
Percentage of English Learners in Public Schools	2021	23.9%	17.7%	California Dept. of Education, English Learners by Grade and Language (Sept. 2021).
Percentage of Children Living Below the Federal Poverty Threshold	2016-2020	26.2%	16.8%	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022).
Percentage of Children Living in Low-Income Working Families	2016-2020	31.1%	23.0%	Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey microdata files (Aug. 2022).
Percentage of Children Living in Food Insecure Households	2023	22.2%	16.9%	Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap (Nov. 2025).
Percentage of Public School Students Who Are Homeless	2021	2.5%	3.8%	California Dept. of Education, Coordinated School Health and Safety Office custom tabulation & DataQuest (Feb. 2023).
Percentage of Children Ages 0-18 with Health Insurance Coverage	2016-2020	96.8%	96.7%	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022).
Average Monthly Enrollment in Medi-Cal Among Children/Youth Ages 0-20	2024	70.2%	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 Kindergarteners with All Required Immunizations	2022	95.4%	94.0%	California Dept. of Public Health, Immunization Branch, Reporting Data for Kindergarten and 7th Grade (Nov. 2024).
Percentage of Children Ages 1-17 Ever Diagnosed with Asthma	2019-2020	11.1%	12.4%	UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (Feb. 2022).
Percentage of High-Need Students (Unduplicated Pupil Count)	2021	78.7%	62.4%	California Dept. of Education, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Unduplicated Pupil Count (UPC) Source Files (Nov. 2021).

Children in Merced County

Indicator	Year	Merced County	California	Data Source
Percentage of Students Receiving Special Education Services	2020	12.3%	13.0%	California Dept. of Education, DataQuest & Special Education Division custom tabulation; National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics (Jun. 2021).
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standard in Reading	2021*	36.3%	49.0%	California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022).
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standards in Math	2021*	18.1%	33.8%	California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022).
Percentage of 5th Graders Who Are Overweight or Obese	2019	49.1%	41.3%	California Dept. of Education, Physical Fitness Testing Research Files (Jan. 2020).
Children with Substantiated Cases of Abuse or Neglect	2020	9.7 *(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	5.6 *(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).
Students Suspended from School	2020	28.8 *(Rate per 1,000)*	24.5 *(Rate per 1,000)*	California Dept. of Education, Suspension Data (May 2021).
Percentage of 7th Graders Who Were Bullied at School in the Previous Year	2017-2019	30.5%	36.0%	WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) & Biennial State CHKS. California Dept. of Education (Aug. 2020).
Percentage of 9th Graders with Feelings of Depression	2017-2019	32.5%	32.6%	WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) and Biennial State CHKS. California Dept. of Education (Aug. 2020).
Percentage of 9th Graders with High Levels of School Connectedness	2017-2019	44.1%	44.8%	WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) and Biennial State CHKS. California Dept. of Education (Aug. 2020).
Percentage of Students in the Graduating Class Receiving a High School Diploma	2021	90.3%	83.6%	California Dept. of Education, Graduates by Race and Gender (Jun. 2017) & Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate and Outcome Data (May 2022).

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

More data on Merced County: https://ww.kidsdata.org/region/354/merced-county/summary