

Safeguards for Youth

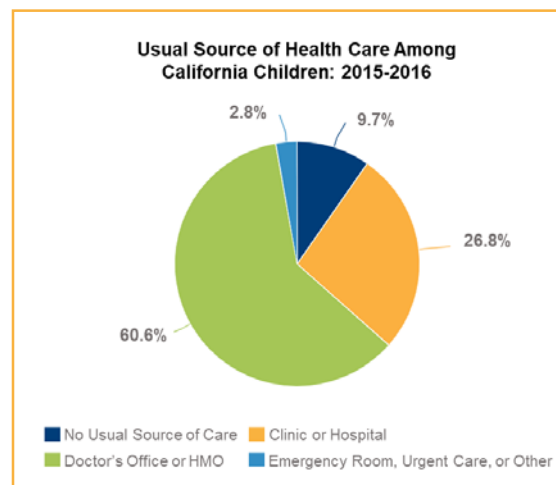
Data Focus: Support for Health Challenges



Supporting Children Through Health Challenges

A coordinated approach to health care that is affordable, evidence-based, and family-centered safeguards youth most effectively. Children receive care from a complex system of clinics, hospitals, schools, and more. Important measures of this broad system of care include how often these health care services are accessed, why they are used, and to what extent they are adequate.

Over nine in ten California youth ages 0-17 experienced no delay in medical care in 2015-2016. During that time period, their usual source of care was visiting a doctor's office or HMO (61%), going to a clinic or hospital (27%), and using an emergency room or urgent care center (3%). Ten percent of children had no usual source of care. In California, the main reason children ages 0-17 were discharged from hospitals in 2017 was for mental diseases and disorders (14% of discharges). However, about four in ten youth who needed help for emotional or mental health problems received counseling in 2015-2016.



Schools can be a safe and accessible environment to address health issues among children. One in four elementary school teachers and one in five high school teachers strongly agreed that their school provided adequate health services in 2015-2017. Among school support personnel, there were 2,410 nurses, 1,041 psychologists, and 626 counselors for every student in California schools in 2019. School-based health centers provide medical care, dental care, mental or behavioral health care, and other services through on- and off-campus sites and mobile vans. In 2019, 268 school-based health centers served California children in 33 counties.

Explore the Latest Data on Support for Health Challenges

Hospitalization

[Hospital Discharges](#)

[Hospitalizations for Mental Health Issues](#)

[Asthma Hospitalizations](#)

[Injury Hospitalizations](#)

[Intentional Injury Hospitalizations](#)

[Unintentional Injury Hospitalizations](#)

[Self-Inflicted Injury Hospitalizations](#)

[Firearm Injury Hospitalizations](#)

[Visited the Emergency Room in Last Year](#)

Physical and Mental Health Care

[Usual Source of Health Care](#)

[Delayed or No Medical Care](#)

[Receipt of Mental Health Services Among Children Who Need Treatment or Counseling](#)

[Youth Who Reported Needing Help for Emotional or Mental Health Problems by Receipt of Counseling \(California & L.A. County Only\)](#)

School Services

[School Health Centers](#)

[Number of Pupil Support Service Personnel](#)

[Ratio of Students to Pupil Support Service Personnel](#)

[School Provides Adequate Health Services](#)

[School Provides Adequate Counseling and Support Services for Students](#)

[School Emphasizes Helping Students with Emotional and Behavioral Problems](#)

[School Provides Services for Substance Abuse or Other Problems](#)

[School Collaborates with Community Organizations to Address Youth Problems](#)

About Safeguards for Youth

Safeguards for Youth is a compilation of the latest data on promoting California children's health and well-being. The data describe protective factors and supportive services, both of which are critical to building a solid foundation for life and addressing the effects of childhood adversity. Protective factors highlight the importance of preventive health care, a strong start in education, and a nurturing school community. Supportive services address adverse experiences such as health challenges, abuse, and family poverty. These data stress the urgency for advocacy and policy change to safeguard California's future generations.

Learn more at: kidsdata.org/Safeguards