

# Safeguards for Youth

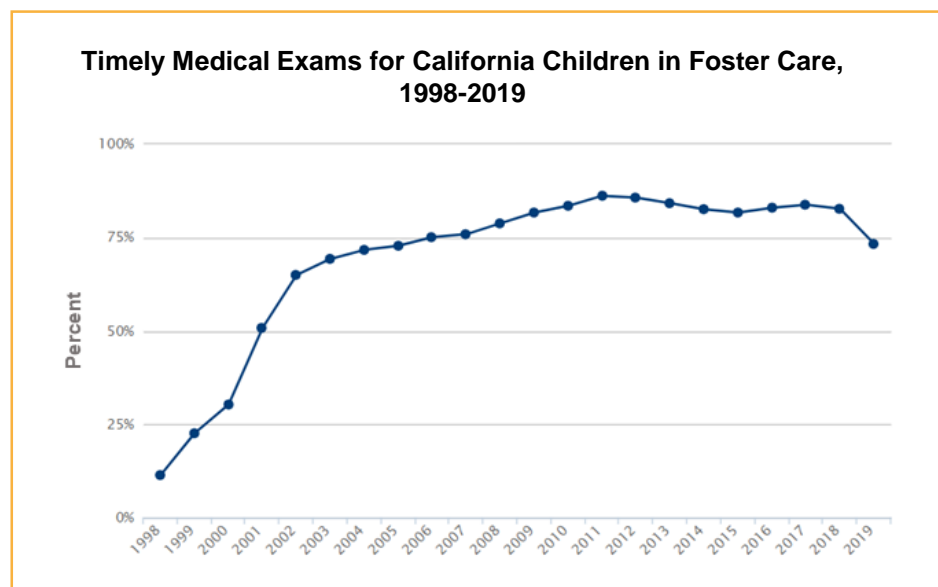
Data Focus: Services to Address Abuse



## Supporting Youth Who Experience Abuse

The foster care system is a critical safeguard for youth. It provides temporary, safe living arrangements and therapeutic services for youth who cannot remain safely at home. In California, 59,172 children ages 0-20 were in foster care on July 1, 2018.

While foster care aims to reunify children with their family, or unify them with another family as safely and quickly as possible, some children spend months or years in the system. Among children ages 0-17 who entered foster care in 2017, half spent more than 17 months in foster care. Thus, ensuring timely access to medical and dental care for these children is critical to promoting their long-term health and well-being.



Over the past 20 years, the percentage of children in foster care receiving timely health exams has improved dramatically, though fewer than one in four still do not receive timely care. In 2019, 73% of children in foster care received timely medical exams, up from 11% in 1998, and 67% received timely dental exams, up from 8%.

## Explore the Latest Data on Services to Address Abuse

### Foster Care

[First Entries into Foster Care](#)

[Children in Foster Care](#)

[Foster Youth in Public Schools \(Point-in-Time Count\)](#)

[Median Number of Months in Foster Care](#)

[Timely Medical Exams for Children in Foster Care](#)

[Timely Dental Exams for Children in Foster Care](#)

[Number of Placements After One Year in Foster Care](#)

[Placement Distance from Home After One Year in Foster Care](#)

[Re-Entries into Foster Care](#)

[Length of Time from Foster Care to Adoption](#)

[Exit Status One Year After Entry into Foster Care](#)

[Exit Status Four Years After Entry into Foster Care](#)

### Domestic Violence Calls

[Domestic Violence Calls for Assistance](#)

## 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](https://kidsdata.org/Safeguards)