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%.
Data Focus: Services to Address Abuse

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