

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, Nativity 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	2020	61.0%	48.7%	California Dept. of Health Care Services, Eligible Individuals Under Age 21 Enrolled in Medi-Cal (Apr. 2021); California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Jul. 2021).
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	2017-2021	23.9%[!]	14.7%	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Survey of Children's Health (Apr. 2023).
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).

African American/Black Children in California

Indicator	Year	African American/ Black	All Children/ Youth	Data Source
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, Nativity ; 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://kidsdata.org/demographic/13/african-americanblack-children/summary>