KidsData

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# Early Childhood Age Group in California

| Indicator | Year | Early Childhood | All Children | Data Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Child Population (Ages 0-2; All Children 0-17)** | 2025 | 1,203,559 | 8,386,716 | California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Housing Unit Estimates (Mar. 2025). |
| **Child Population (Ages 3-5; All Children 0-17)** | 2025 | 1,263,796 | 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 Ages 0-5 Whose Parents Read with Them Daily** | 2017-2018 | 65.2% | N/A | UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (Aug. 2020). |
| **Percentage of Children Ages 3-5 Enrolled in Preschool or Kindergarten** | 2024 | 63.8% | N/A | Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey public use microdata (Aug. 2026). |
| **Children in Foster Care (Ages 1-2; All Children 0-20)** | 2018 | 8.3 *(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). |
| **Children in Foster Care (Ages 3-5; All Children 0-20)** | 2018 | 5.8 *(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). |
| **Rate of First Entry into Foster Care (Ages 1-2; All Children 0-17)** | 2016-2018 | 3.6 *(Rate per 1,000)* | 2.4 *(Rate per 1,000)* | Webster, D., et al. California Child Welfare Indicators Project Reports. UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (Jul. 2019). |
| **Rate of First Entry into Foster Care (Ages 3-5; All Children 0-17)** | 2016-2018 | 2.6 *(Rate per 1,000)* | 2.4 *(Rate per 1,000)* | Webster, D., et al. California Child Welfare Indicators Project Reports. UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (Jul. 2019). |
| **Percentage of Children in Poverty - California Poverty Measure (Ages 0-5; All Children 0-17)** | 2023 Q1 | 13.4% | 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 (Ages 0-5; All Children 0-17)** | 2023 Q1 | 2.1% | 2.2% | Public Policy Institute of California & Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, California Poverty Measure (Aug. 2024). |
| **Percentage of Children with Health Insurance Coverage (Ages 0-5; All Children 0-18)** | 2021 | 97.4% | 96.5% | Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey summary files and public use microdata (Mar. 2024). |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Percentage of Children with Medi-Cal or CHIP Coverage (Ages 1-5; All Children 0-20)** | 2022 | 44.4% | 41.9% | Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey public use microdata (Mar. 2024). |
| **Percentage of Kindergartners with All Required Immunizations** | 2022 | 94.0% | N/A | California Dept. of Public Health, Immunization Branch, Reporting Data for Kindergarten and 7th Grade (Nov. 2024). |
| **Asthma Hospitalization Rate (Ages 0-4; All Children 0-17)** | 2024 | 14.5 *(Rate per 10,000)* | 8.6 *(Rate per 10,000)* | California Breathing, tabulation of data from the California Dept. of Health Care Access and Information (May 2026). |
| **Injury Hospitalization Rate (Ages 1-4; All Children 0-20)** | 2015 | 200.0 *(Rate per 100,000)* | 214.2 *(Rate per 100,000)* | California Dept. of Public Health, EpiCenter (Feb. 2020); California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Jan. 2020); CDC, WISQARS (May 2020). |
| **Death Rate (Ages 1-4; All Children 1-24)** | 2015-2017 | 17.8 *(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 Early Childhood: https://kidsdata.org/demographic/2/early-childhood/summary