



Children in California

January 2003

A child in California is abused or neglected every 4 minutes.
 A child in California is born into poverty every 5 minutes.
 A child in California dies before her first birthday every 3 hours.
 A child or teen in California is killed by gunfire every 22 hours.
 There are 9,249,829 children in California.

Child Poverty in California

California ranks 40th among states in the percent of children who are poor.	
2 in 10 children are poor in California.	
Number of children under age 18 who are poor	1,757,100
Percent of children under age 18 who are poor	19.5%
(A family of three with an income below \$14,630 per year was considered poor in 2001.)	
Median annual income for a family of three	\$53,004
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	1,322,801
Maximum TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$679 per month

Child Hunger in California

Number of children under age 18 who receive food stamps	1,131,254
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	49%
Number of children in School Lunch Program	2,609,992
Number of children in School Breakfast Program	846,630
Average daily attendance of children in Summer Food Program	183,909
Average daily attendance of children and adults in the Child and Adult Care Food Program	301,035
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children)	1,243,509

Child Care and Early Education in California

Percent of children under age six with all parents in the labor force	51.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	97,667
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center (average annual cost of public college tuition is \$2,559 per year)	\$4,858
Only families with incomes below \$35,100 qualify for child care help in California (federal law allows incomes up to \$39,419).	
Average annual salary of a child care worker	\$18,850
A single caregiver in California in a center can care for as many as 12 four-year-olds.	

Education in California

California ranks 33rd among states in per pupil expenditures.	
Amount spent per pupil in academic year	\$5,801
Percent of fourth graders reading below proficiency	80%
Percent of reading classes that have more than 20 pupils	7%
Number of pupils for every teacher	21.0

Child Welfare in California

Number of children who were victims of abuse and neglect	129,678
Number of children in foster care	112,807
Number of children adopted from foster care	8,693
Number of grandparents raising their grandchildren	294,969

Child Health in California

California ranks 44th among states in percent of uninsured children.	
Number of children under age 19 without health insurance	1,578,000
Percent of children under age 19 without health insurance	16.2%
Children in families with incomes up to 250% of the federal poverty line are eligible for CHIP or Medicaid.	
California ranks 8th among states in low birthweight babies.	
California ranks 5th among states in infant mortality.	
Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births	5.4
California ranks 22nd among states in the percent of babies born to mothers who received early prenatal care.	
Percent of babies born to mothers who received late or no prenatal care	3.1%
California ranks 33rd among states in childhood immunizations for two-year-olds.	
Percent of two-year-olds who are not fully immunized	27.4%
The teen birth rate is 48.5 per 1,000 females ages 15 – 19.	

Youth at Risk in California

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates	10.2%
High school completion rate	81.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year olds who are unemployed	17.0%
Number of juveniles arrested	242,492
Number of children and teens in juvenile or adult correctional facilities	16,248
Number of children and teens killed by firearms (number includes 320 homicides, 66 suicides, 8 accidents, and 8 unknown intent)	402

Investments in Children

California spends 3.7 times more per prisoner than per public school pupil.

Every \$1 invested in quality early childhood care and education saves as much as \$7 by increasing the likelihood that children will be literate, employed, and enrolled in postsecondary education and less likely to be school dropouts, dependent on welfare, or arrested for criminal activity.

Every \$1 spent vaccinating children against measles, mumps, and rubella saves \$16 in medical costs to treat those illnesses.

Every year a child spends growing up in poverty will cost an estimated \$11,800 in lost future productivity over his or her working life.

The Act to Leave No Child Behind (S. 448/H.R. 936)

The Dodd-Miller comprehensive Act to Leave No Child Behind (S. 448/H.R. 936) will help provide all children a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. (This is not to be confused with the single-issue, Bush Administration No Child Left Behind education bill.) Building on the best policies and practices, the Act recognizes that children don't come in pieces but in families and communities. Among other things, it will help provide all of America's children with health coverage; full funding for quality child care, Head Start, and other early childhood programs; end child poverty; help hard working parents remain employed; and help ensure that more children are in safe, nurturing, and permanent families.

For more information about this fact sheet, how the Act to Leave No Child Behind (S. 448/H.R. 936) will help children in your state, and how your Representatives and Senators vote for children, visit the Children's Defense Fund Web site at <http://www.childrensdefense.org>.

