



Children in Immigrant Families

When children are healthy, they are more likely to succeed in school and in life. The Children's Partnership (TCP) acknowledges the role that systemic racism and discrimination have in creating and perpetuating health inequities and works to address their underlying causes by improving the conditions in which children live, learn, grow and play.

In doing so, we work to provide young people from historically marginalized communities the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential. This infographic provides an overview of key child health facts in California and nationally to inform the work we must do to raise healthy, thriving children. All data is specific to children in California unless explicitly noted as national data.

DEFINITIONS

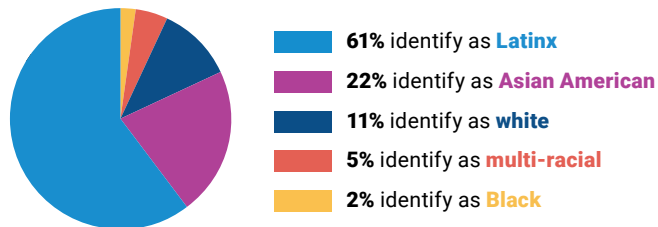


- ▶ **Children in immigrant families** are all children, regardless of their own citizenship or place of birth, who have at least one parent who was born outside of the United States (U.S.).
- ▶ **Mixed-status families** are families whose members have different citizenship or immigration status. For example, a child who is a U.S. citizen but whose parents are undocumented is considered part of a mixed-status family.
- ▶ **Non-citizen** means people who were born outside of the U.S. and who are not citizens.
- ▶ **Foreign-born or immigrant** refers to anyone born outside of the U.S.
- ▶ **Undocumented immigrants** are foreign-born people who are living in the U.S. without legal documentation.
- ▶ **DACA recipients** are people who came to the U.S. as children, meet certain program requirements, and have been granted administrative protection from deportation, a social security number and a work permit for a period of two years.

POPULATION

4,082,000 or nearly half (46%) of California's 9 million children are part of immigrant families. **1 in 5 (20%)** CA children live in mixed-status families and almost all are citizens (93%).

Children in immigrant families come from diverse backgrounds and identify with various races and ethnicities:

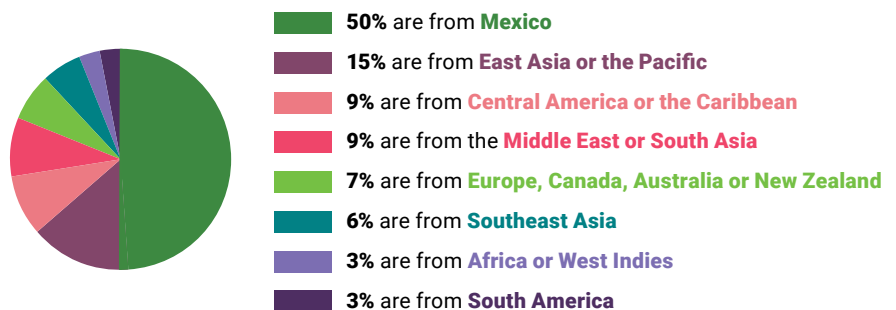


Nearly **1 in 3 (28%)** children in immigrant families are 5 or under. **Immigrants are 40%** of all parents of children ages 0 to 4 and **45% of all parents** of children ages 5 to 10.



1,073,993 children in CA, **nearly 1 in 10**, have an undocumented parent.

The parents of children of immigrants bring a wealth of cultural and linguistic diversity to our state:



392,000 children in CA were born outside of the U.S. and **290,000** are non-citizens.



Our state is also home to **174,680 DACA recipients**. Across the nation, **1 in 4 DACA recipients** are parents to nearly 256,000 U.S. citizen children, and nearly every DACA recipient is part of a mixed-status family.

PROTECTIVE FACTORS



Protective factors – conditions or attributes that help mitigate or eliminate risks to health – can help support the lifelong success of children by guiding the development of community-centered interventions that address the unique needs of children from different backgrounds. Unique factors that support the health and development of children in immigrant families include:

Multilingualism: Children who develop their native language and speak multiple languages have enhanced attention, working memory, planning, problem-solving and emotional regulation. Speaking and having access to curriculum in multiple languages can help prevent and close learning gaps for children in immigrant families.

Family cohesion: The emotional bonding that family members have toward one another protects against external stressors, including bullying, experienced by children in immigrant families, particularly those from Latinx communities.

Connection to heritage/culture: The transfer of cultural values from parents to their children has been shown to support children in immigrant families. For example, a strong sense of family obligation is common within immigrant families. This cultural value facilitates stronger family cohesion and youth ethnic identity.

FOOD ACCESS



Immigrants feed CA and the nation, making up **63%** of workers in our state's agricultural industries. Yet, children of immigrants struggle to access the food they need to develop and grow.

Nearly 2 in 3 (66,000 or 64%) undocumented children in our state face limited access to the food necessary for a healthy life.



Compounding the insecurity, **these children are also excluded from accessing programs** meant to help children and families access the food they need, including the CA Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and Cal-Fresh (SNAP).



Food insecurity among children in immigrant families has been worsened by anti-immigrant policies, including the public charge rule. Even though the 2019 public charge rule was reversed in March 2021, **3 out**

of 4 immigrant families were unaware that the harmful public charge rule had been reversed when surveyed in September 2021.



1 in 3 (34%) families with children in our state reported avoiding public benefits programs due to immigration concerns.

Between 2016 and 2019 – a period of heightened anti-immigrant policies – 276,000 U.S. citizen children with non-citizen parents in our state lost access to critical food benefits.

DIGITAL EQUITY



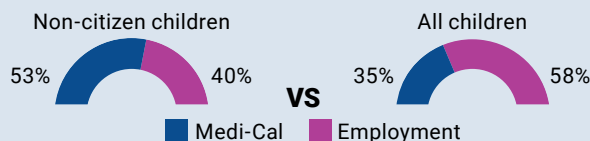
Approximately **20%** and **36%** of children in immigrant families with low-incomes do not have access to the internet or to a computer/laptop, respectively, compared to **12%** and **28%** of children whose parents were born in the U.S.

HEALTH COVERAGE AND ACCESS



Nationally, children in immigrant families are **twice as likely** to lack health coverage compared to children whose parents were born in the U.S. Across the U.S., nearly **1 in 3 (28%) undocumented children** lack coverage – double the national average (14%).

In CA, **53% of non-citizen children (~138,000)** have Medi-Cal health coverage and **40%** have employment-based coverage compared to **35%** and **58%** of all children, respectively.



In 2016, when CA enacted SB 75 and expanded Medi-Cal to include all children regardless of immigration status, **121,522** children enrolled in the first year. Enrollment has stagnated, despite the fact that **250,000** children had been estimated to enroll. Currently, **2% (128,360)** of Medi-Cal's 5 million children are enrolled through SB 75.

A medical home is primary care for children that is child and family-centered, team-based, coordinated, accessible, responsive and high-quality. Only **28% of foreign-born children** with special health care needs (CSHCNs) and **37% of CSHCNs with a foreign-born parent** have a medical home, compared to 49% among CSHCNs with U.S.-born parents.



Care coordination is a patient-centered approach that connects children & families to services and resources that meet their needs. Only **37% of foreign-born CSHCNs** have care coordination compared to 56% of CSHCNs with U.S.-born parents.

ORAL HEALTH



Nearly **1 in 5 or 18%** of children in immigrant families have experienced oral health problems such as toothaches, bleeding gums or decayed teeth.



MENTAL HEALTH



Children whose parents have been detained or deported are at an **increased risk of experiencing depression, anxiety, suicide and severe psychological trauma**. For families and communities, living in constant fear of separation often leads to mental health conditions, including **separation anxiety, insomnia and post-traumatic stress disorder**.

In CA, **13% of non-citizen children** said they needed help for emotional or mental health issues. Yet, **91%** never received any psychological or emotional counseling.

SCHOOL/EDUCATION SUCCESS & SAFETY



Across CA's pre-k-12 public schools, there are an estimated **300,000** students who are undocumented as well as about **1,000,000** students who live with a parent or guardian who is undocumented.

In CA, approximately **27,000 undocumented students** graduate from high school each year.

A recent California study showed that the likelihood of a student repeating a grade **increases by 6%** when there is an increase in interior immigration enforcement, which also increases their likelihood of leaving school early by **25%**.

118 school districts and local county offices of education in CA have declared themselves Safe Havens, meaning they are protected from immigration enforcement actions.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY WELL-BEING



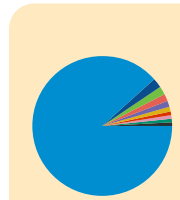
The deportation of parents, guardians or caregivers destroys a child's family structure, placing the child at risk of entering the child welfare system.

More than 231,000 persons who reported having at least one citizen child in the U.S. were deported by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) between 2013 and 2018.

LANGUAGE

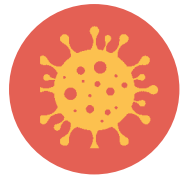


Nearly **3 in 5 (57%)** children in immigrant families are bilingual compared to just **12%** of children with only U.S.-born parents. **Over 60% of children** from birth to age 5 are dual language learners.



Children in CA's public schools speak **88 languages**, with the top ten spoken being Spanish (**82%**), Vietnamese (**2.1%**), Mandarin (Putonghua) (**1.8%**), Arabic (**1.5%**), Cantonese (**1.2%**), Filipino (Tagalog) (**1.02%**), Punjabi (**.81%**), Russian (**.78%**), Farsi (Persian) (**.74%**) and Korean (**.7%**).

COVID-19

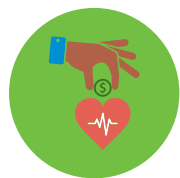


Immigrants make up **1 in 3** of CA's essential workers, including growing, making and distributing food, producing pharmaceuticals, and caring for the sick, and face a higher risk of contracting COVID-19.

Yet despite this, many immigrant and mixed-status families have been explicitly excluded from pandemic relief. The \$2.2 trillion CARES Act **excluded 1,050,000 California children who are U.S. citizens and documented immigrants (e.g., green card holders)** from **\$500** each in stimulus payments solely because they were the children or spouses of immigrants without social security numbers. Many of these children remained without federal economic relief until passage of the American Rescue Act in March 2021.

75% of adults in immigrant families report they would definitely or probably get a COVID-19 vaccine compared to **68%** of adults in non-immigrant families.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING



Despite the fact that undocumented workers play a key role in CA's economy, contributing an estimated **\$3.7 billion** in annual state and local tax revenues, they and their families also face severe economic instability.

More than 61% (1.2 million) of children living with non-citizen workers live in households earning less than a living wage, compared to **36%** of other children in worker households, facing chronic and severe housing and food insecurity.

56% of non-citizen children with only non-citizen parents live in a household that is burdened by housing and utility costs.

77% of non-citizen children with only non-citizen parents live in families that do not own their home.