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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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Indicator	Year	Early Childhood	All Children	Data Source
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://charts.kidsdata.org/demographic/2/early-childhood/summary