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Infants in California

Indicator	Year	Infants	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).
Births	2021	418,533	N/A	California Dept. of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files & California Vital Data (Cal-ViDa) Query Tool; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; CDC WONDER Online Database, Natality Public-Use Data (Feb. 2022).
Percentage of Infants Born to Mothers Receiving First Trimester Prenatal Care	2021	86.8%	N/A	California Dept. of Public Health, California Vital Data (Cal-ViDa) Query Tool and Birth Statistical Master Files (Jun. 2022).
Percentage of Infants Born Preterm (Based on Obstetric Estimates (OE))	2022	9.1%	N/A	California Dept. of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files (Mar. 2020); CDC WONDER, Natality Data (Mar. 2024).
Percentage of Infants Born at Low Birthweight	2022	7.4%	N/A	California Dept. of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files (Mar. 2020); CDC WONDER, Natality Data (Mar. 2024).
Percentage of Newborns Breastfed Exclusively in Hospital	2024	69.0%	N/A	California Dept. of Public Health, In-Hospital Breastfeeding Initiation Data (Aug. 2026).
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).
Children with Substantiated Cases of Abuse or Neglect (Under Age 1; All Children 0-17)	2020	9,805	61,419	California Child Welfare Indicators Project, CCWIP Reports. University of California at Berkeley & California Dept. of Social Services (Oct. 2021).
Children in Foster Care (Under Age 1; All Children 0-20)	2018	8.5 *(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 (Under Age 1; All Children 0-17)	2016-2018	12.2 *(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 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).
Percentage of Children with Medi-Cal or CHIP Coverage (Under Age 1; All Children 0-20)	2022	40.6%	41.9%	Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey public use microdata (Mar. 2024).

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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 (Under Age 1; All Children 0-20)	2015	284.6 *(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).
Infant Mortality Rate	2022	4.0 *(Rate per 1,000)*	N/A	California Dept. of Public Health, Birth and Death Statistical Master Files & California Vital Data (Cal-ViDa) Query Tool; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; CDC WONDER Online Database, Linked Birth / Infant Death Records (Apr. 2023).

Definitions for LNE, N/A, N/R, or S can be found in the footnote section of the indicator page.

More data on Infants: https://charts.kidsdata.org/demographic/3/infants/summary