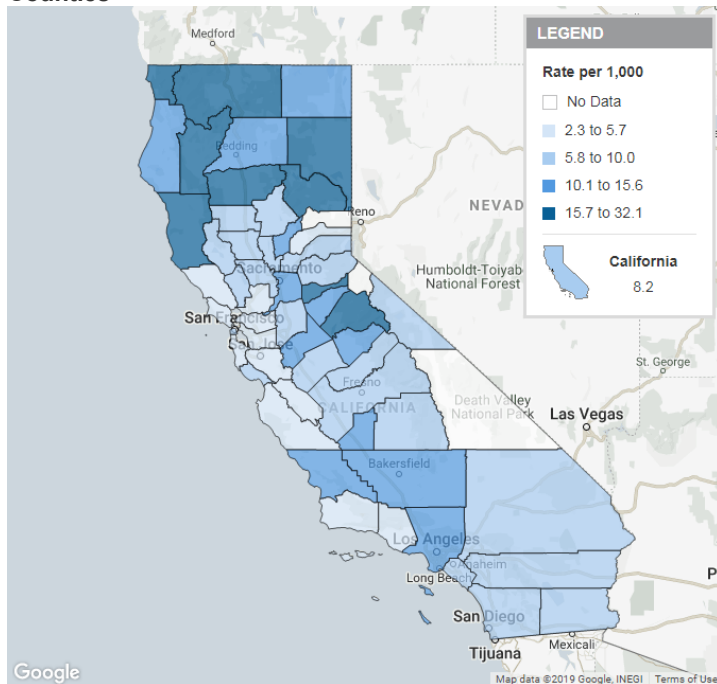


Child Abuse and Neglect in California

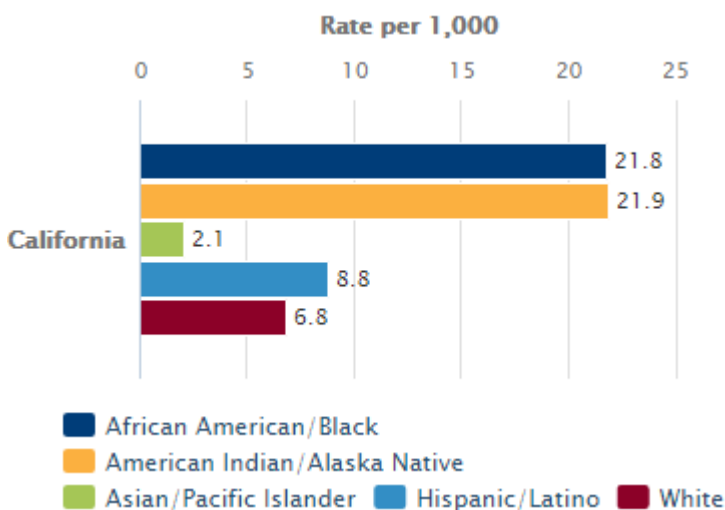
Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect: 2015; Showing Counties



Definition: Number of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18 (e.g., in 2015, there were 8.2 substantiated cases of abuse and neglect per 1,000 California children).

Data Source: Webster, D., et al. *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*, U.C. Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (Jun. 2016); Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT* (Jul. 2016).

Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, by Race/Ethnicity: 2015



What It Is

Child abuse and neglect indicators are broken into two broad categories: the incidence of child abuse and neglect *reports* and the incidence of *substantiated cases*. Generally speaking, most reports of child abuse/neglect are not substantiated by Child Protective Services after an investigation. Typically, as the public becomes more aware of child maltreatment and how to report it, the rate of reports goes up. The rate of substantiated cases is generally a more reliable measure of the prevalence of abuse and neglect because it reflects *verified* reports. On kidsdata.org, data on both reports and substantiated cases of abuse/neglect are provided overall, by age, by race/ethnicity, and by type of abuse.

Why This Topic Is Important

Child maltreatment can cause serious physical injuries and even death (1). Children who are abused or neglected, including those who witness domestic violence, also are more likely to experience cognitive, emotional, and behavioral problems, such as anxiety, depression, substance abuse, delinquency, difficulty in school, and early sexual activity (1, 2). In addition, child maltreatment can disrupt brain and physical development, particularly when experienced in early childhood, increasing the risk for health problems in adulthood, e.g., heart disease, cancer, obesity, depression, and suicide, among others (1, 2, 3). Children who are abused or neglected also are more likely to repeat the cycle of violence by entering into violent relationships as teens and adults or by abusing their own children (1).

Beyond the impact on individuals, child abuse has a significant impact on society; the total lifetime economic cost due to new child maltreatment cases in a single year is estimated at \$124 billion in the U.S. (1, 3). An estimated 702,000 U.S. children were documented victims of maltreatment in 2014, and approximately 1,580 of these children died from abuse or neglect (4). These figures are considered underestimates, though, as child maltreatment is underreported (3).

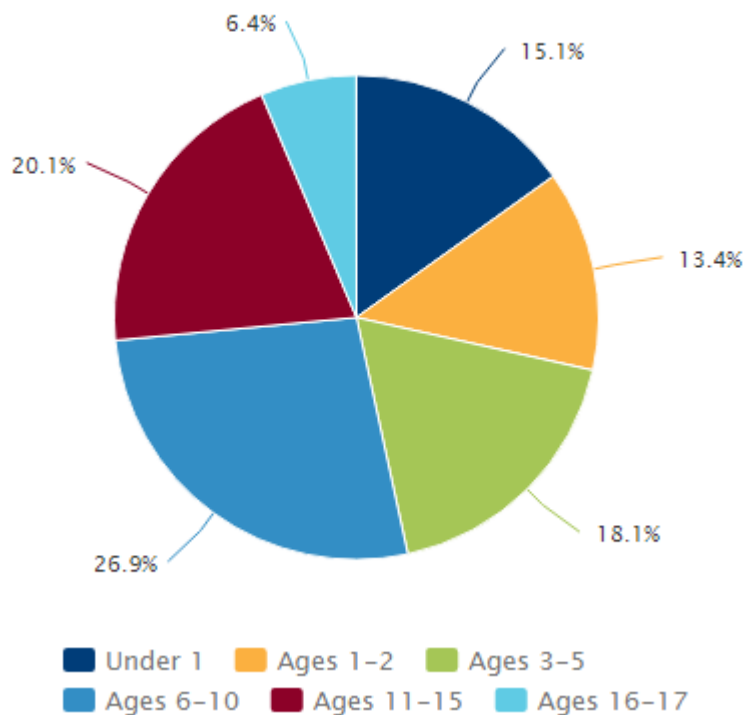
How Children Are Faring

In 2015, there were 500,976 reports (allegations) of child abuse and neglect in California. Of those, 74,327, or 15%, were substantiated (verified) by the state child welfare system. About two-thirds (67%) of verified cases were due to general neglect, which includes cases in which a parent, guardian, or caregiver failed to provide

Definition: Number of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18, by race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2015, there were 8.8 substantiated cases of abuse and neglect per 1,000 Hispanic/Latino children in California).

Data Source: Webster, D., et al. Child Welfare Services Reports for California, U.C. Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (Jun. 2016); Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT (Jul. 2016).

Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, by Age: 2015 California



Definition: Percentage of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect, by age (e.g., in 2015, 13.4% of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect in California concerned children ages 1-2).

Data Source: Webster, D., et al. California Child Welfare Indicators Project Reports, U.C. Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (Jun. 2016).

adequate food, shelter, medical care, or supervision for the child, but no physical injury occurred. Neglect consistently has been the most common type of substantiated case statewide and in nearly all counties for which data are available. California's rate of substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect declined from 12 cases per 1,000 children ages 0-17 in 1998 to 8.2 in 2015. Children ages 0-5 make up nearly half of all substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect in California; they comprised 47% of all cases in 2015, up from 40% in 1998.

Statewide, child abuse and neglect cases disproportionately involve children of color, particularly African American/black and American Indian/Alaska Native children. For more information on racial disproportionality in child welfare, see the Child Welfare Information Gateway or the Center for the Study of Social Policy.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2/child-abuse-and-neglect/summary>



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