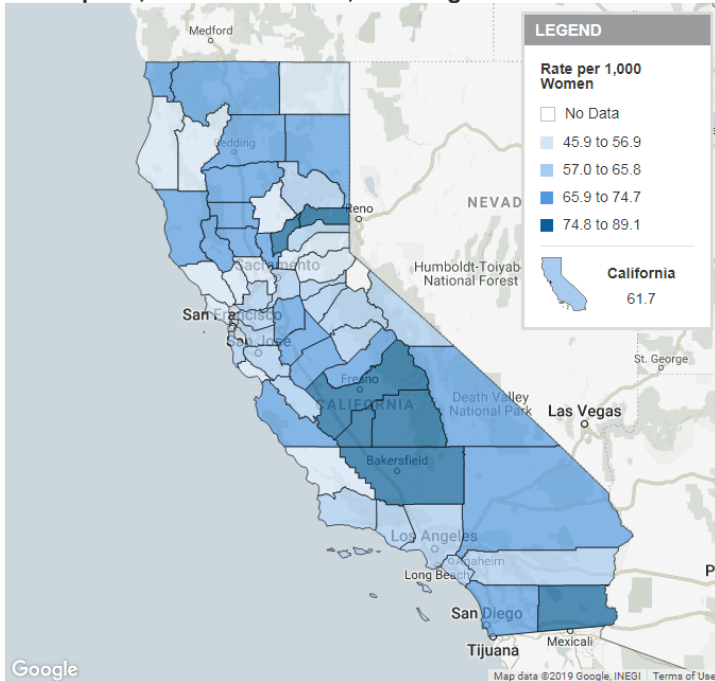


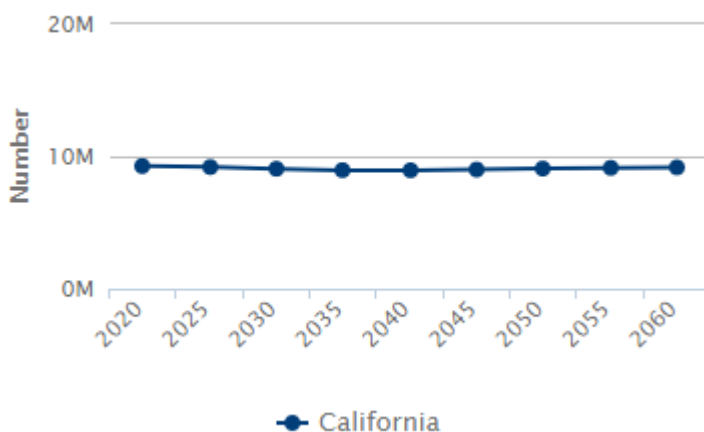
Demographics of California's Children

Births per 1,000 Women: 2015; Showing Counties



Definition: Number of live births per 1,000 women ages 15-44 (i.e., General Fertility Rate). E.g., in 2015, there were 61.7 births per 1,000 California women ages 15-44.
Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files; California Dept. of Finance, [Population Estimates by Race/Ethnicity with Age and Gender Detail 1990-2009](#); Population Reference Bureau, [Population Estimates 2010-2015](#); CDC WONDER Online Database, [Natality Public-Use Data](#) (Aug. 2017).

Projected Child Population



Definition: Estimated future population ages 0-17 (e.g., in 2060, 9,166,821 children are expected to live in California).
Data Source: California Dept. of Finance, [Population Projections, 2010-2060](#)

What It Is

Indicators on kidsdata.org cover a range of demographic measures from a variety of sources:

The number of births overall and per 1,000 women (the General Fertility Rate), and the number and percentage of births by mother's race/ethnicity, come from the California Department of Public Health.

The number of births outside of marriage, overall and as a percentage of all births, are available for California and the U.S.; these data come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and also are available by mother's race/ethnicity.

Estimates of the child population from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community survey are available overall and by race/ethnicity for counties, cities, school districts and legislative districts; also available are estimates of the number and percentage of California and U.S. children living in rural and urban areas.

County-level estimates (from 1995) and projections (to 2060) of the child population overall, by gender and age group, and by race/ethnicity, are available from the California Department of Finance; also available are estimates and projections for the total population.

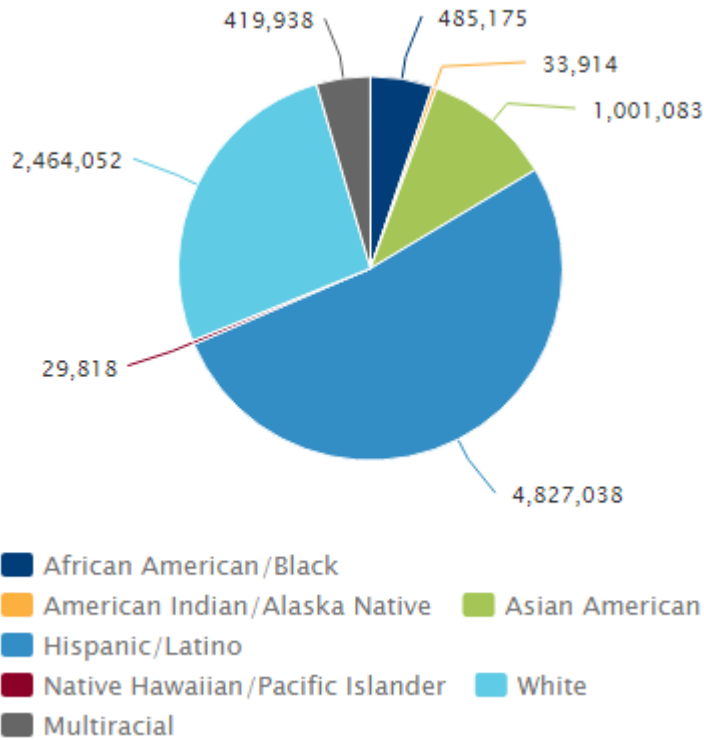
Why This Topic Is Important

Child and family demographic trends help project potential needs for education, child care, health care, and other services. Demographic projections point to an overall shortage of children relative to older populations, which will lead to workforce and taxpayer shortages in the coming decades. This means each child is more important to the future of California and the U.S. than ever before. It also means that leaders need to invest in programs and policies that nurture children and help them reach their potential, and they need to align service systems with shifting demographics. For example, leaders can ensure that culturally appropriate services are available for families and that communities with higher concentrations of children have adequate resources in place to support them.

How Children Are Faring

The number of children in California has been on the decline since the mid-2000s, from an estimated 9.56 million in 2004 to 9.26 million in 2018. Population projections indicate this figure

Child Population, by Race/Ethnicity: 2018 California



Definition: Estimated population ages 0-17, by race/ethnicity (e.g., an estimated 419,938 multiracial children lived in California in 2018).
Data Source: California Dept. of Finance, [Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1990-1999, 2000-2010, 2010-2060](#) (Jan. 2018); U.S. Census Bureau, [Population Estimates, Vintage 2017](#) (Jul. 2018).

will fall to 9.17 million by 2060. The proportion of children in the state's total population also is decreasing, from 28% in 1995 to 23% in 2018, with a projected drop to 18% by 2060. In line with these trends, California's birth rate has declined in recent decades, from 76 births per 1,000 women in 1995 to 62 per 1,000 in 2015, the most recent data available.

Population structure and dynamics vary widely at the local level. According to 2018 estimates, five Southern California counties are home to more than half of the state's child population—Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino—with more than one in four children living in Los Angeles County alone. By contrast, counties in the Central Valley have among the highest birth rates and proportions of children within the population; e.g., the percentage of children in Kings County relative to the population overall is more than 30% (compared with 22% for Los Angeles and less than 15% for San Francisco) and the birth rate in 2015 was more than 80 per 1,000 women (compared with 58 per 1,000 for Los Angeles and 46 per 1,000 for San Francisco).

In 2018, Hispanic/Latino children made up more than half (52%) of the state's child population, up from 41% in 1995, and white children made up about one-fourth (27%), down from 40% in 1995. At the county level, estimates of the proportion of Hispanic/Latino children in the total child population ranged from 7% to 90%, while the proportion of white children ranged from 8% to 83%. Statewide, 11% of California children were Asian American, 5% were African American/black, 5% were multiracial, and less than 1% were American Indian/Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/7/demographics/summary>



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