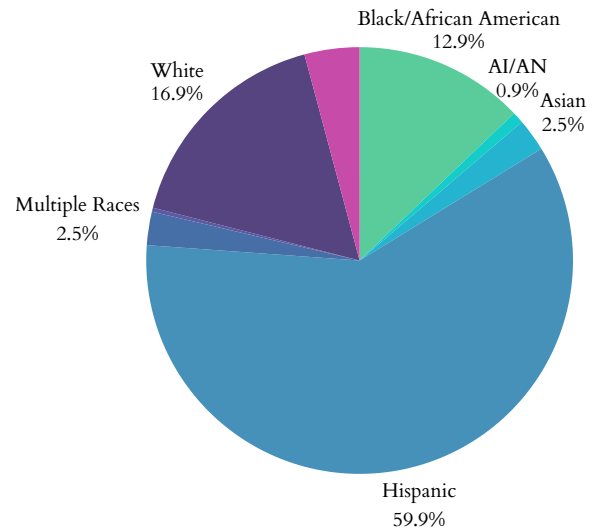


California's Children

Child Maltreatment

- In 2024, California had **394,159** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **179,101** were screened-in for response by CPS.
- **44,943** were child victims of abuse or neglect, at a rate of **5.3** children per 1,000 (**25.5%** decrease since 2020).
- Of the **44,943** children, **35,637** were first-time victims.
- Largest age group of victims = **<1 years**, representing **6,591** of the **44,943** cases.

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2024



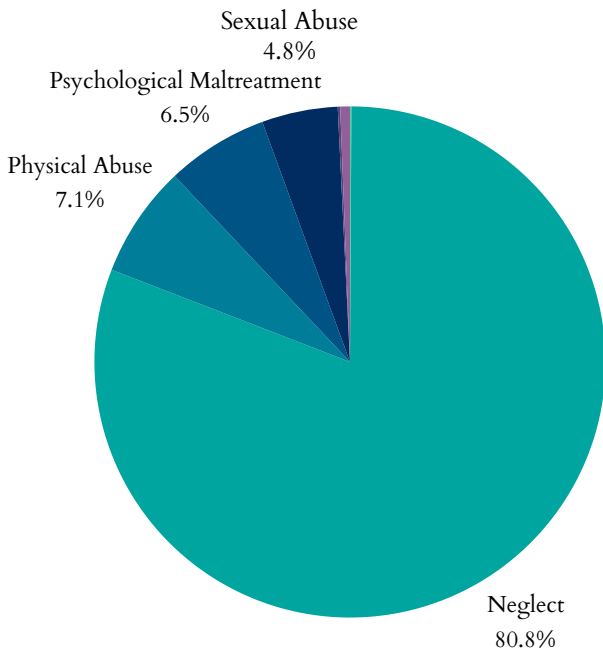
Perpetrators of child maltreatment (2024):

- **87%** = parents of the child.
- **13%** = non-parents or unknown relationship.

Child victims (2024):

- **51.2%** = female; **48.7%** = male.

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2024



- Child fatalities decreased from **150** in 2023 to **144** in 2024.
- California reported **81** total child victims of sex trafficking.
- Post-response services given to **30,713** victims and **57,360** non-victims.

Workforce

There are **55,220** child, family, and school social workers in California with a mean wage of **\$35.17** (compared to California's 2024 minimum wage: **\$16.00**)

Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2024



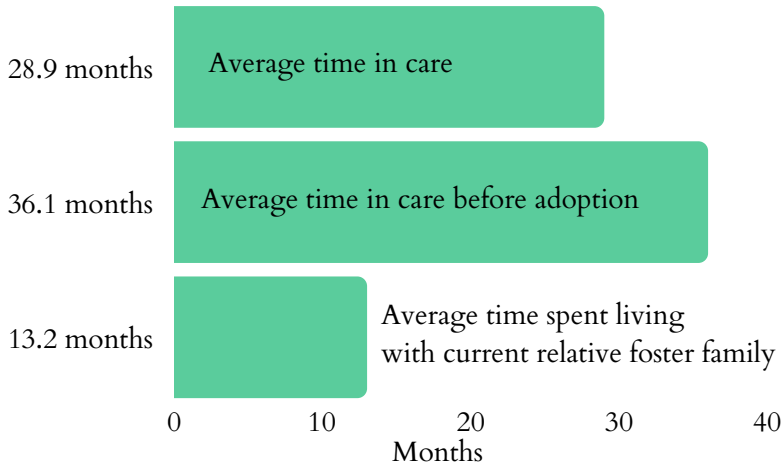
Published March 2026

California's Children

Foster Care and Adoptions

- **58,932** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2024.
- **38,490** children in care as of 09/30/2024.
- During FY 2024, **17,336** children entered care and **20,442** exited.
- **6,090** children were adopted; **10,917** were waiting to be adopted.
- **8.5%** decrease in the number of children in care and a **1.3%** decrease in the number of children adopted from care from FY 2023-2024.

Duration in Care, 2023

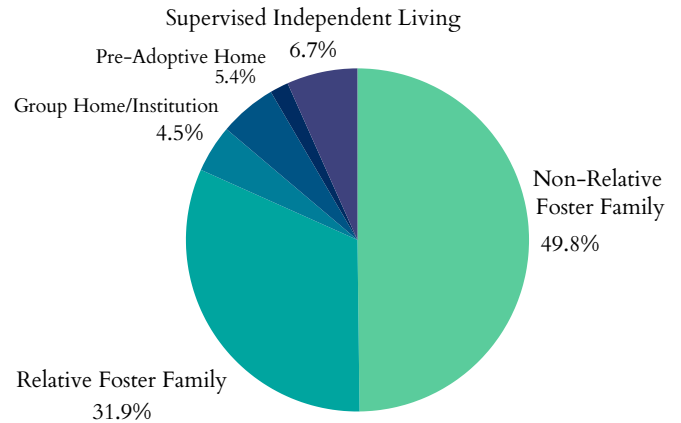


In FY 2024, **2,438** children transitioned from foster care to independence. This is a **8.3%** decrease from **2,658** in FY 2023.

Juvenile Justice

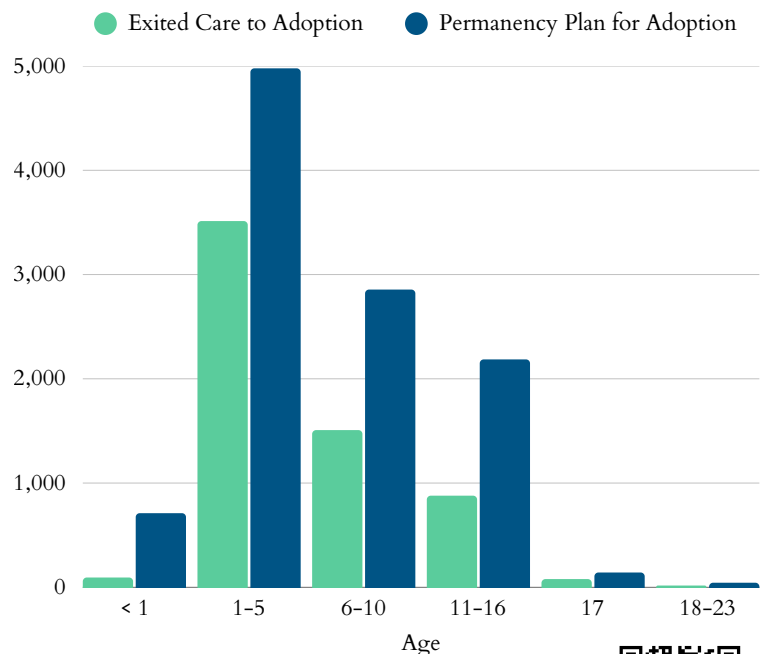
- **29,540** total arrests for youth under 18 in 2023
- A total of **2,433** youth were in a correctional placement in 2023; a **2.1%** increase since 2021
 - **9.5%** of the youth are ≤ 14 years old
 - **28.6%** are Black youth
 - **15.6%** are White youth
 - **88%** males and **12%** females
- Black youth represent **23%** of all correctional placements; **13%** for White youth in 2023

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2023



- In 2023, **22,062** children were living with non-relative foster families; **14,125** lived with a relative.
- **1,984** children were staying in group homes or institutions; **774** children were classified as runaways.
- There are **1,067,698** grandparents living with their grandchildren under 18. Of these, **19.6%** are responsible for their grandchildren.

Age Distribution of Adoptions, 2024

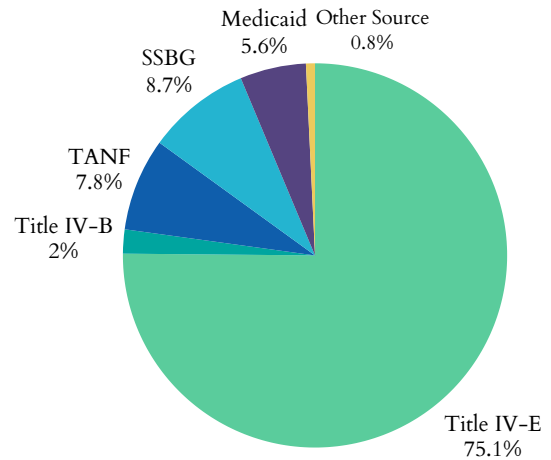


California's Children

Funding for Child Welfare Services

- California spent **\$3,186,816,970.26** on child welfare services in 2022
 - Child welfare services = direct and administrative services
- **\$3,176,663,569.26** = from the federal government
- State and local funds were not reported

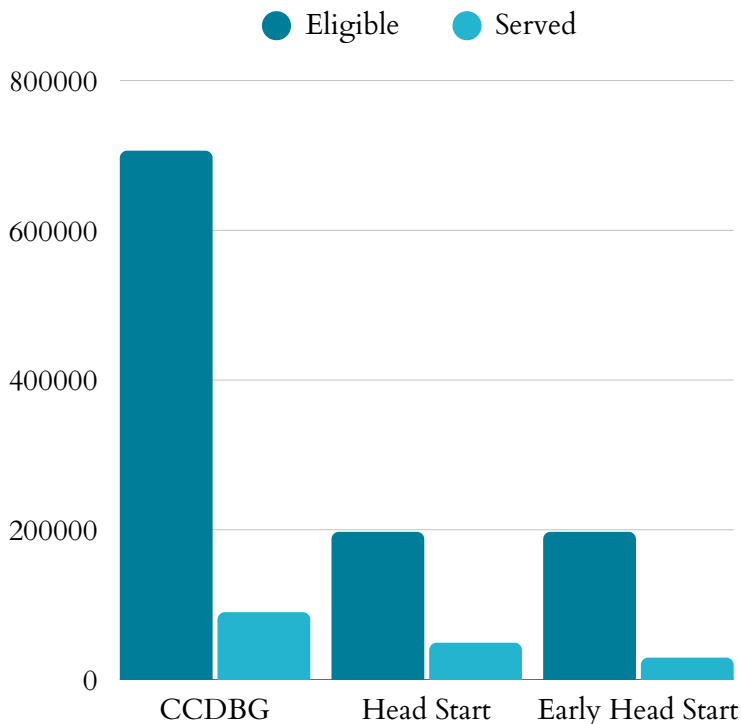
Federal Funding Sources, 2022



The significant funding sectors of the **\$3,176,663,569.26** in federal funding received in California in 2022:

- **\$1,257,387,009** as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- **\$732,572,041** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- California's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2022 was **\$546,075,281**

Child Care & Early Learning



- **25%** of Head Start eligible children are served
- **15%** of Early Head Start eligible children are served
- **13%** of Child Care & Development Block Grant eligible children 5 and under are served

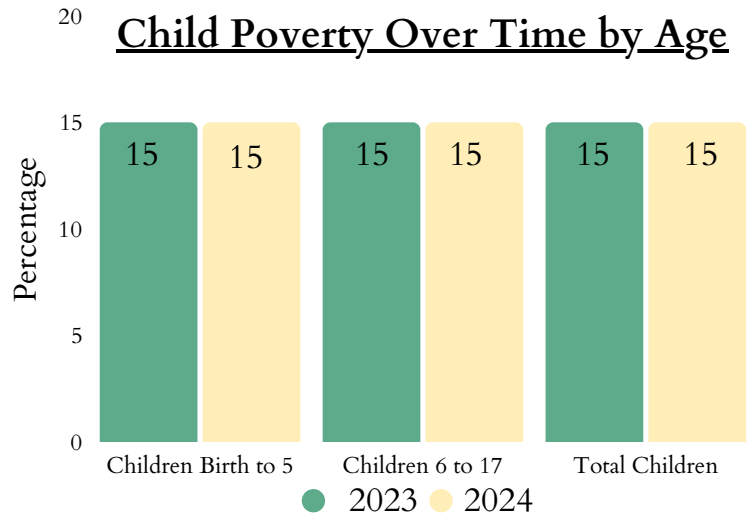
- **\$22,628** annual cost of center-based infant care
- **\$19,022** annual cost of home-based infant care



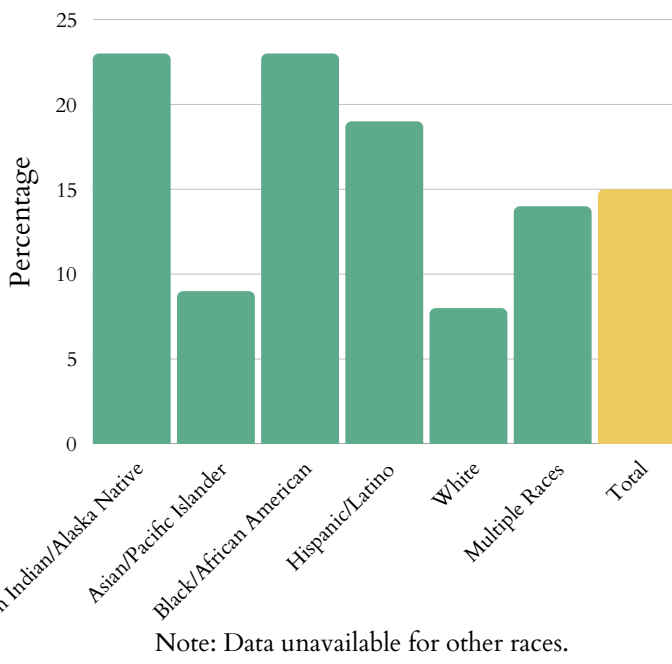
California's Children

Child Poverty

- **2,378,000** children lived with parents who lacked secure employment in 2023 (28% of all children).
- Average number of TANF recipients rose from **769,601** in 2024 to **799,193** in 2025 (3.8% increase).

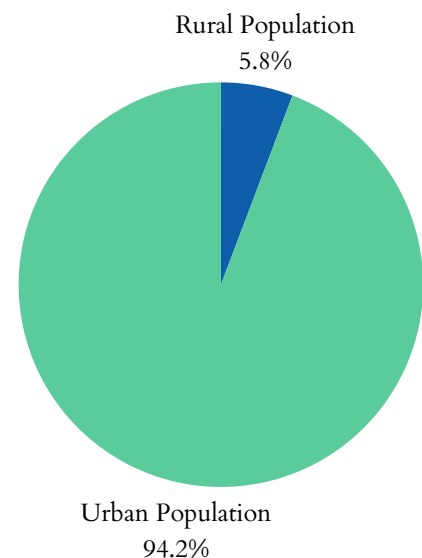


Child Poverty by Race or Ethnicity, 2024



- The state spent **\$377,604,614** on WIC in 2025, serving **1,003,810** people: a 5.5% increase in spending and 0.83% increase in total participants since 2024.
- **5,352,790** people were food insecure in 2023, including **1,427,650** children.
- **49.2%** of households receiving SNAP benefits had children.

Total Urban vs. Rural Population of California, 2020



Housing

- **74,076** children, from birth to three-years-old, experienced homelessness in 2023 (4.45%).
- **33.9%** of households receiving the Low Income Housing Tax Credit had at least one member under 18 in 2023.
- **41%** of children lived in households with a high housing cost burden in 2023.
- **52,208** total California residents living in public housing in 2025.

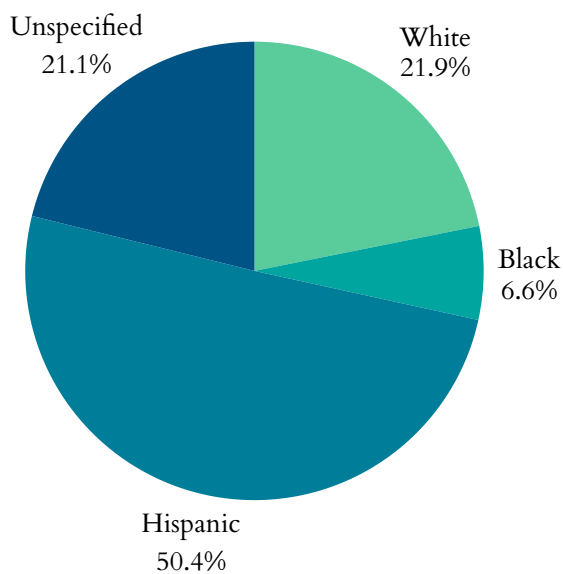


California's Children

Health

- **30,056** low birth-weight babies (<5.5lbs) born in 2023 (7.5% of births).
- **36,642** preterm births (<37wks) in 2023 (9.16% of births).
 - 7.68% of all White babies
 - 13.16% of all Black babies
- **11,578** births to mothers aged 15-19 in 2023—a rate of **9** in every 1,000 teen girls.
- **1,632** infants aged <1yr died in 2023—a rate of **4.1** per 1,000.

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2023



Medicaid Expansion

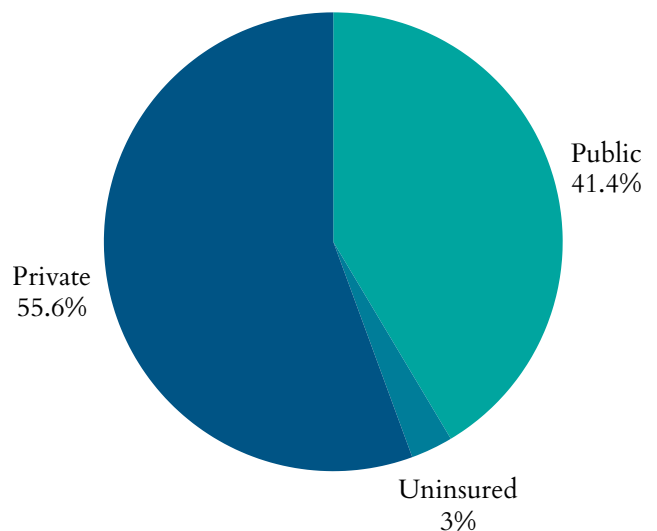
California has been a **Medicaid expansion** state since 1/1/2014.

Maternal Mortality

- From 2018 to 2022, **228** California women died while pregnant, or within 42 days post pregnancy from any cause relating to or aggravated by said pregnancy, excluding accidents and incidents
- For every 100,000 live births in California, there is **11** maternal deaths

- **280,000** children had no health insurance in 2024 (1.8% decrease from 2023).
- **3,878,000** children were enrolled in Medicaid in 2024 (0.1% increase from 2023).
- **1,601,751** children in California were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2021 (12% decrease from 2020).

Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2024

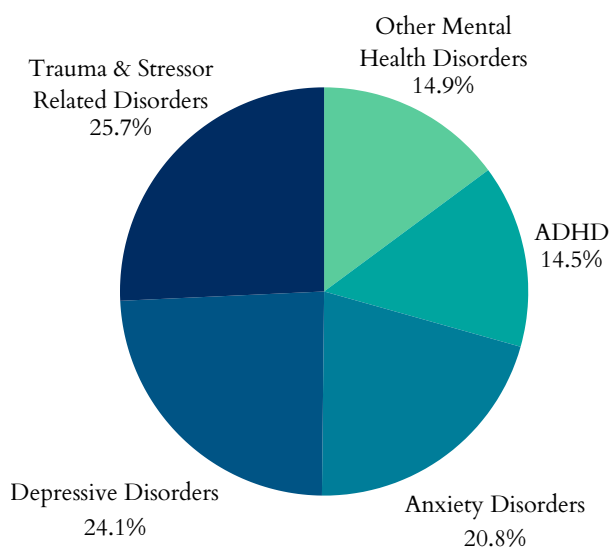


California's Children

Zero to Three

- **65.9%** of babies live above low-income
- **18.1%** of babies live at low income
- **16.0%** of babies live in poverty
- **8.5%** of babies live in deep poverty
- **73.6%** of new parents have at least one parent working full time

Top 5 Mental Health Diagnoses Among Children, 2023



Prenatal Substance Exposure

- In 2024, California reported **2,121** infants screened-in with prenatal substance exposure.
- California reported **890** plans of safe care for screened-in infants.

Family First

- Plan approved on **October 1, 2021**
- In 2023, **0** children were served
- **\$2,621,234** pulled down in federal dollars from Title IV-E
 - **\$2,621,234** (100% in admin/training costs)

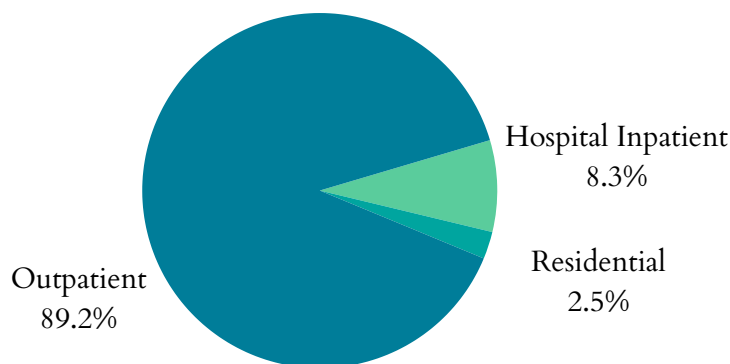
Teens & Youth

- **142,000** youth (16-19yrs) were not in school nor working in 2024 (7%)
- **144** children <19yrs were killed by a firearm in California in 2024.

Mental Health

- **212,774** children received mental health treatment in California in 2023 (11.3%)
- In 2021-2023 there were **6.5** deaths from suicide per 100,000 adolescents aged 15-19 in California.

Treatment Type for Youth with Substance Use Disorder, 2024



Substance Use

- From 2015 to 2019, an average of **279,455** children in California (2.1% of the state's child population) lived with parents having a substance use disorder.
- On March 29, 2024, **4,220** clients 18 and under were in treatment for SUD.

