



**On a mission to  
build power for kids.**

## **California's Infants and Toddlers**

**Stacy Lee**  
Chief Learning Officer &  
Senior Managing Director,  
Early Childhood



# Children Now

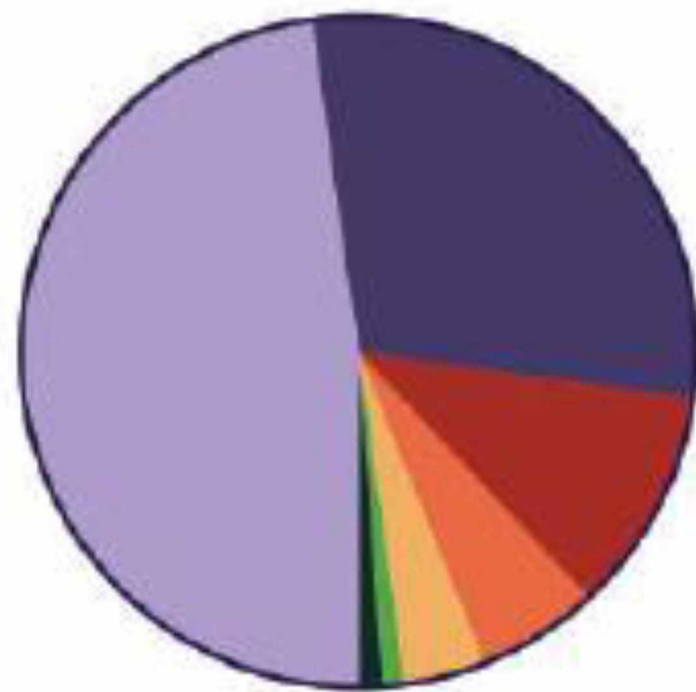
Our Early Childhood team works  
across all areas of focus at  
Children Now





# California is home to 8,893,756 children. (AGES 0-TO-17)<sup>1</sup>

CA has more children than 39 states have people (total pop)



RACE / ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN<sup>2</sup>

**48%**  
Latino/a

**30%**  
White

**11%**  
Asian

**5.4%**  
Black

**4.5%**  
Multiracial

**0.4%**  
American Indian  
Or Alaska Native

**0.3%**  
Native Hawaiian or  
Pacific Islander



**5,462,042**  
ARE ENROLLED IN  
MEDI-CAL<sup>3</sup>



**37%**  
ARE LOW-INCOME<sup>4</sup>



**47%**  
FROM IMMIGRANT  
FAMILIES<sup>5</sup>

IN FOSTER CARE<sup>6</sup>  
**60,650**

ARE ENGLISH  
LEARNERS IN  
K-12 SCHOOLS<sup>7</sup>  
**1,062,290**

IDENTIFY  
AS LGBTQ+  
(AGES 13-TO-17)<sup>9</sup>  
**11%**

ARE TRANSITION  
AGE YOUTH  
(AGES 18-TO-25)<sup>10</sup>  
**4,641,053**

When the state removes children and youth from their homes – due to abuse, neglect, or other serious threats to well-being – it assumes parental responsibility via foster care

Children learning English in addition to another language are called English Learners in grades TK-12. California has the highest percentage of English Learner students in the country.<sup>8</sup>

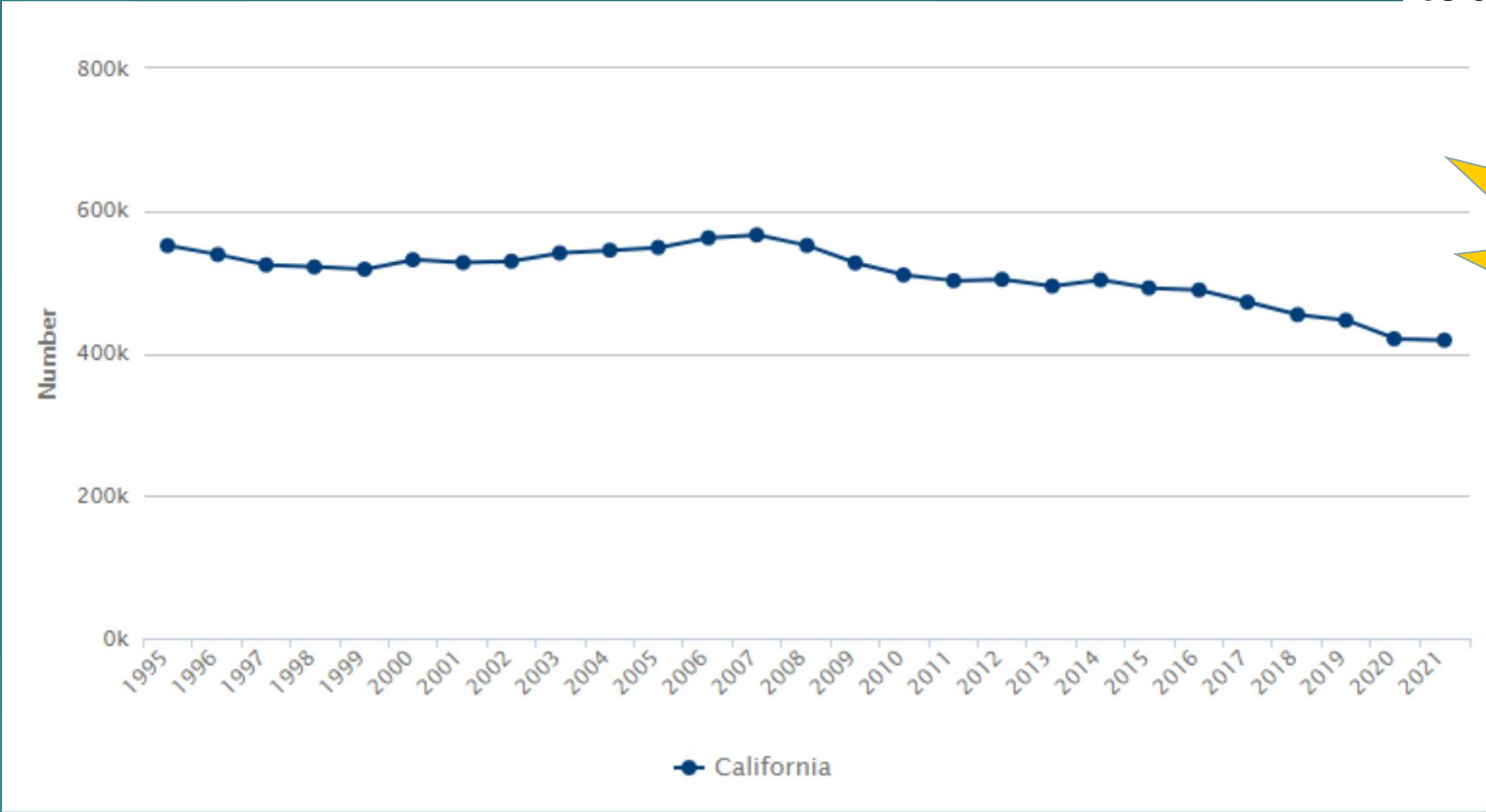
The total population of youth who identify as LGBTQ+ in California is likely higher, as this estimate represents only those students enrolled in traditional public high schools who self-identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, two-spirit, or otherwise gender-expansive.

The transition from childhood to adulthood holds promise and possibility. It is also a time when young people require significant supports to ensure their basic needs are met and their voices are heard.

# California Births On The Decline

Births: 1995 to 2021

About 420,000 births each year from 2020-2022 = 1.259 million infants and toddlers (up to 3)



CA has more 0-3 YO's than 9 states & DC

Definition: Number of live births (e.g., in 2021, there were 418,533 births to California women).

Data Source: [As cited on kidsdata.org](https://kidsdata.org), 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).





## Now available, the *2023 California County Scorecard of Children's Well-Being*

Join us at our [upcoming webinar](#) to learn how to use the tool to serve your community.

Use the Tool



**86%** of pregnant people received prenatal care beginning the first trimester in California in 2020. [Sources and Notes](#)

Most Recent State Demographics

**13.5 million** children/youth live in California

8.89 million ages 0 to 17

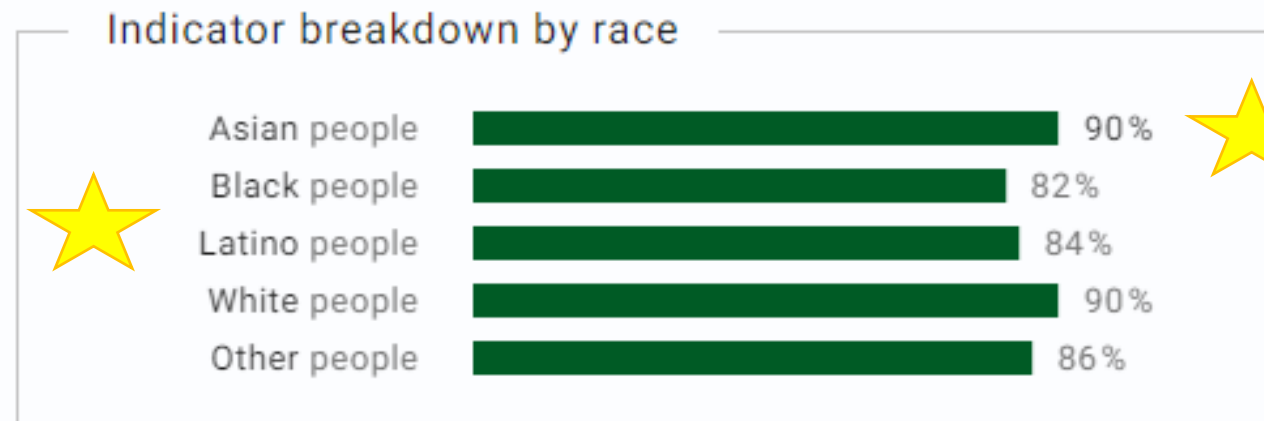
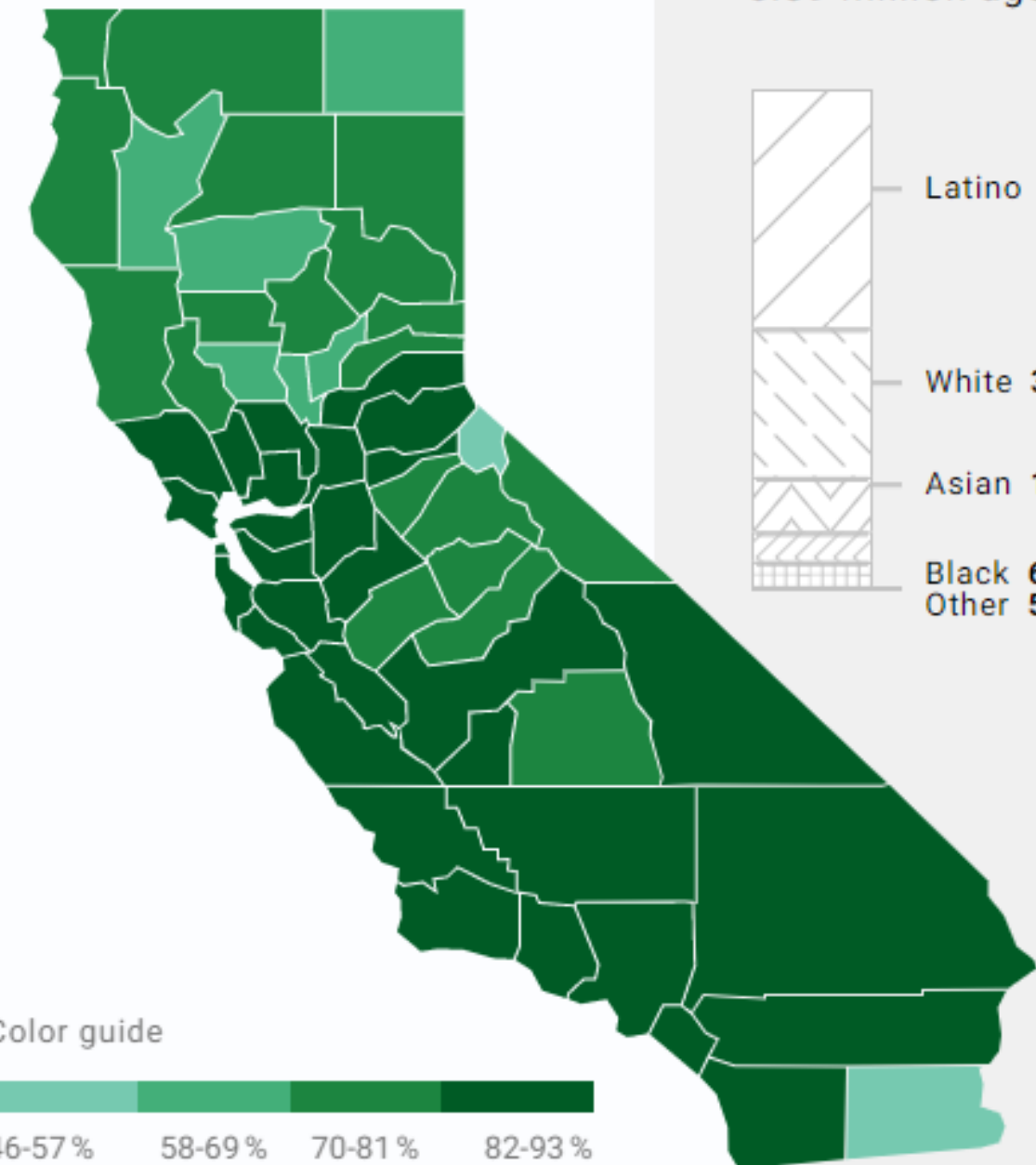
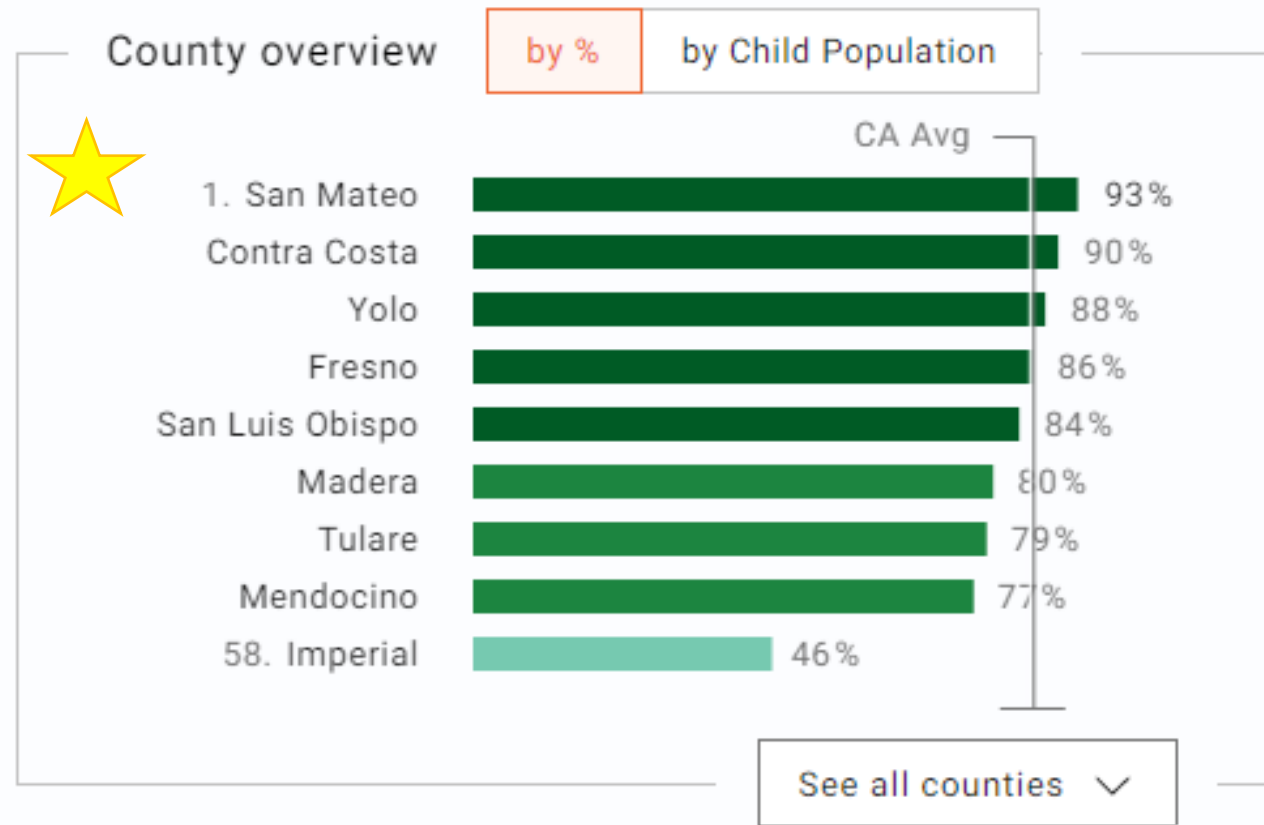
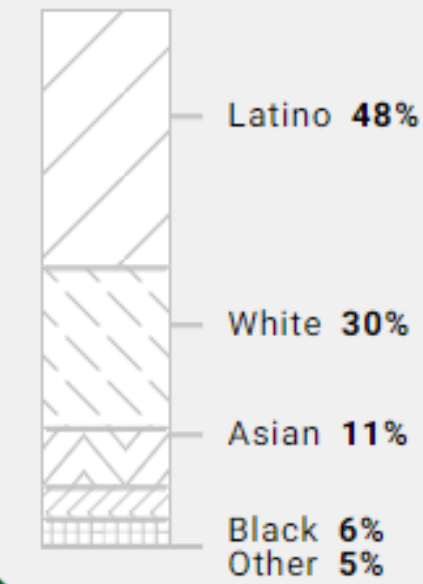
4.64 million ages 18 to 25

10% youth who identify as LGBTQ

38% children at or below 2x the poverty level

4,028,648 children with at least one immigrant parent

172,000 students experiencing homelessness

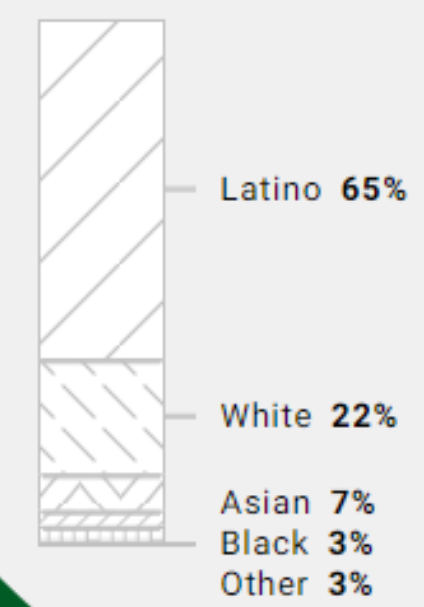
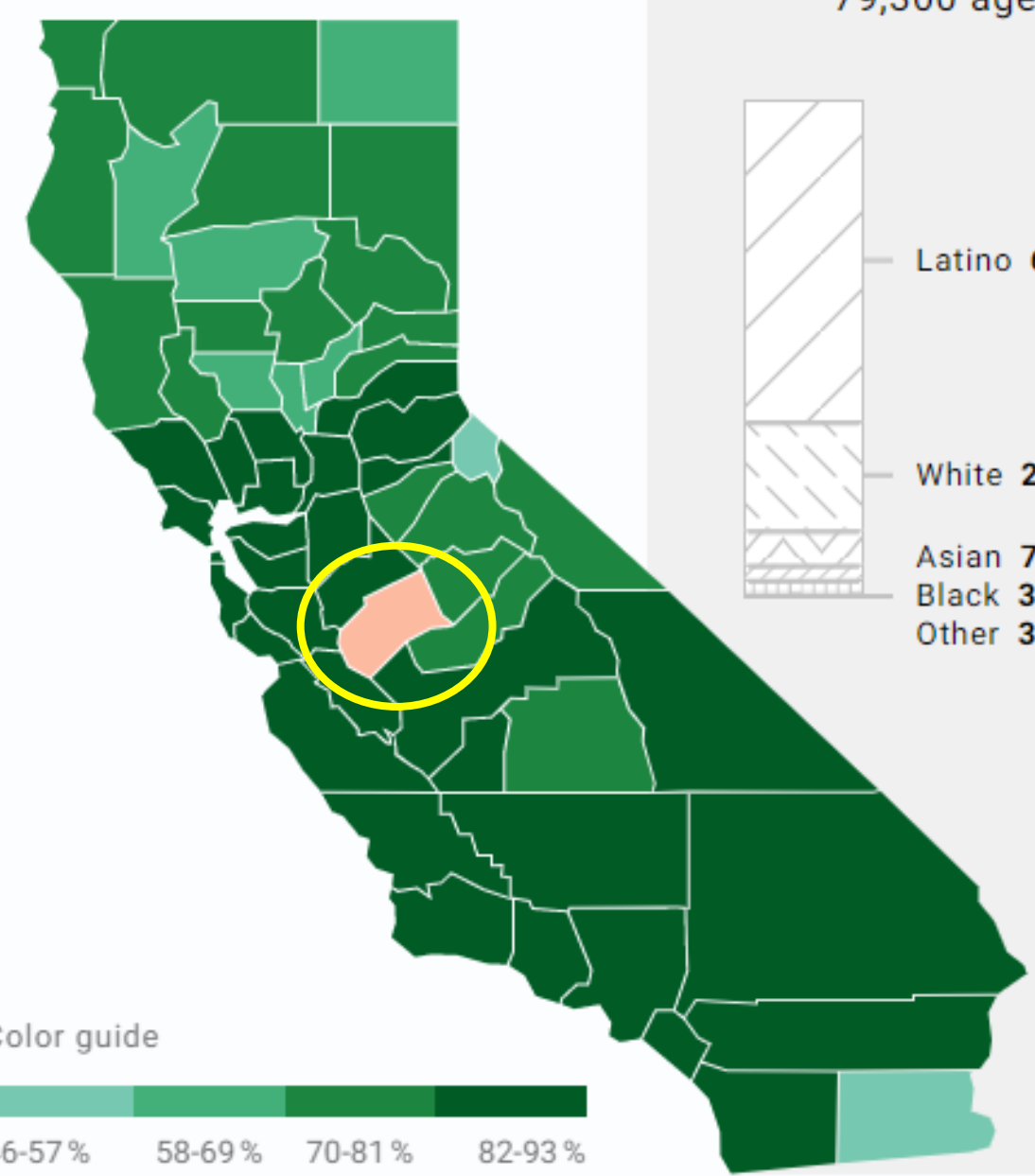
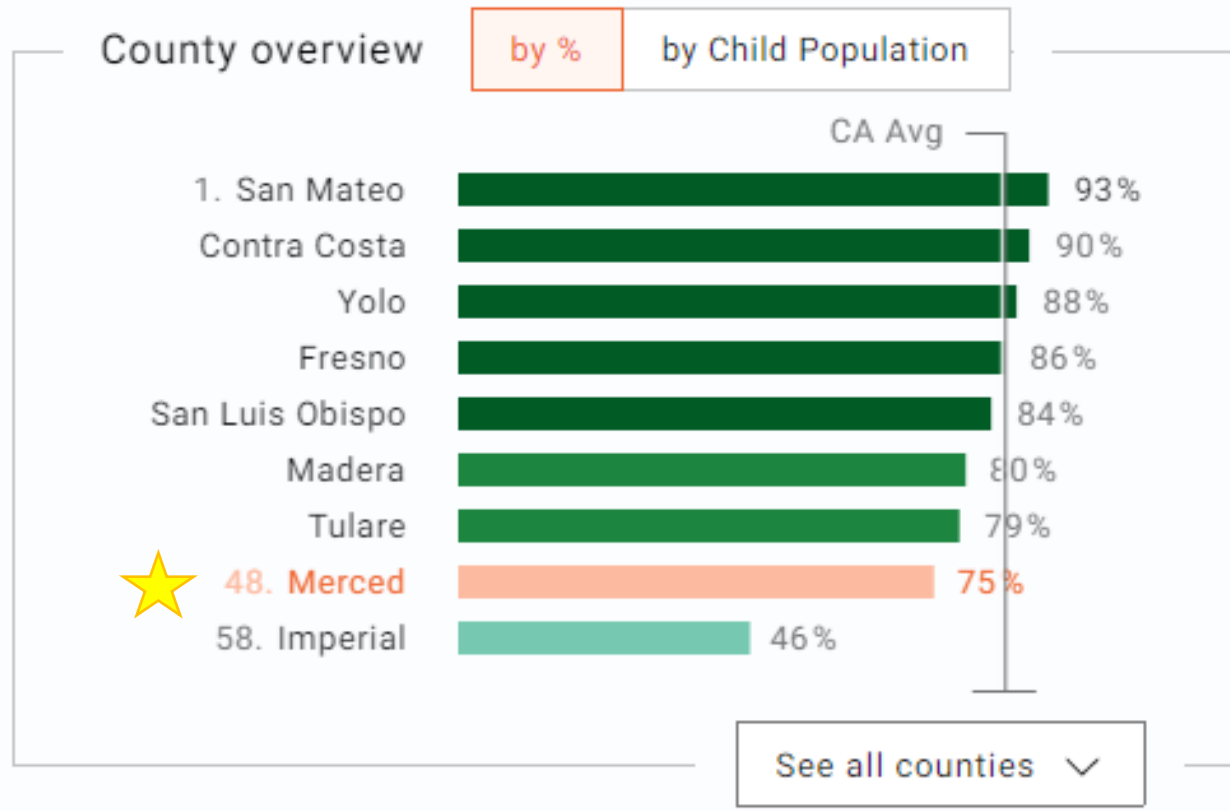


75% of pregnant people received prenatal care beginning the first trimester in Merced county in 2020. [Sources and Notes](#)

Most Recent County Demographics

★ 120,000 children/youth live in Merced county

79,300 ages 0 to 17      40,600 ages 18 to 25

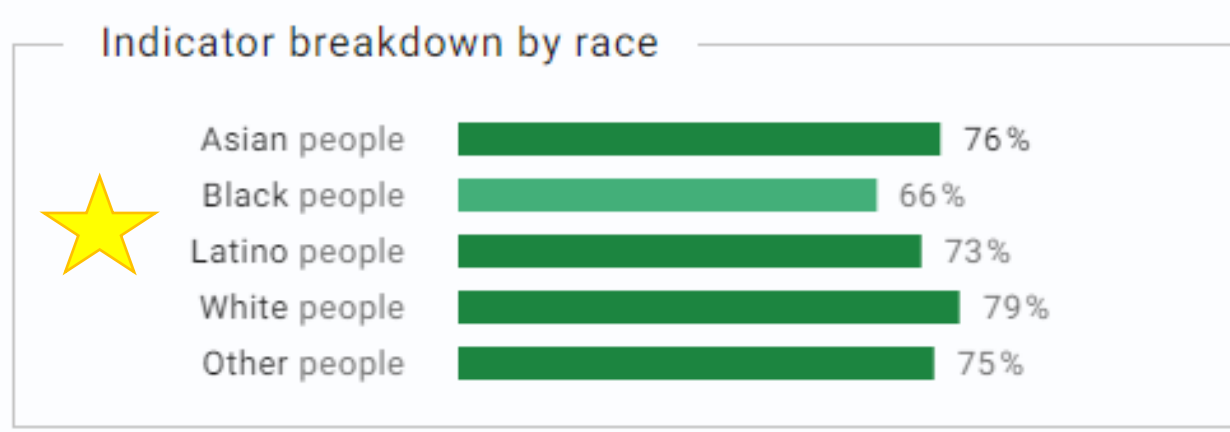


10% youth who identify as LGBTQ

57% children at or below 2x the poverty level

38,725 children with at least one immigrant parent

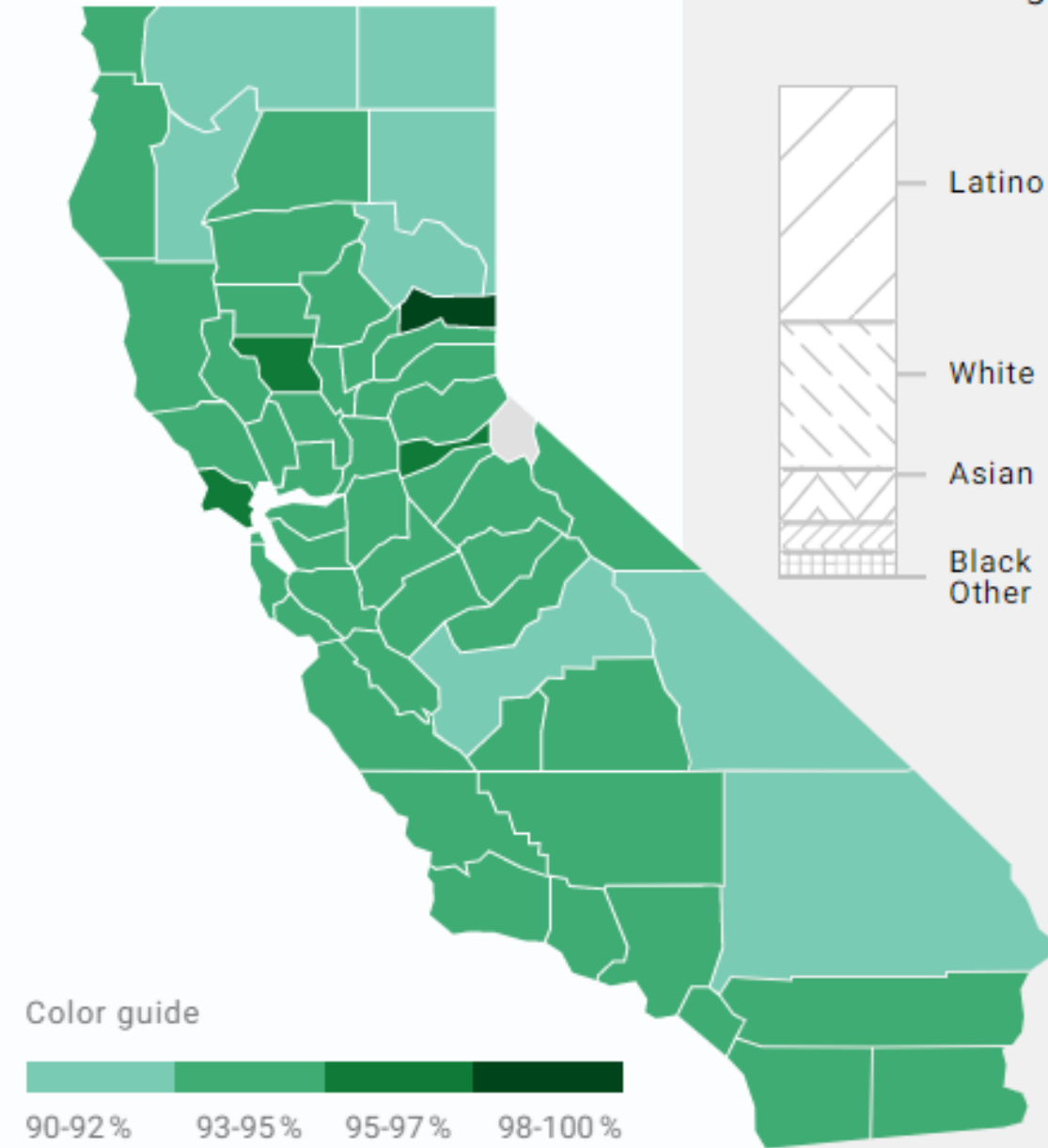
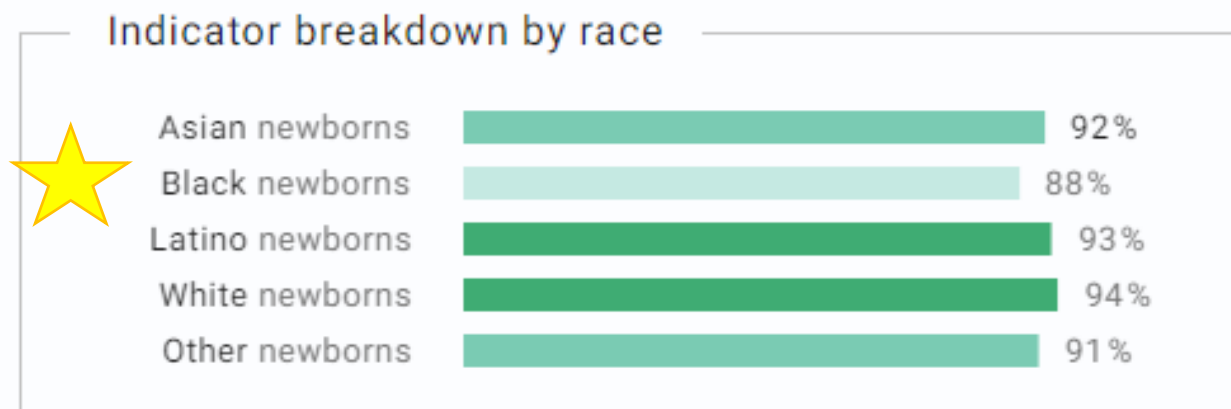
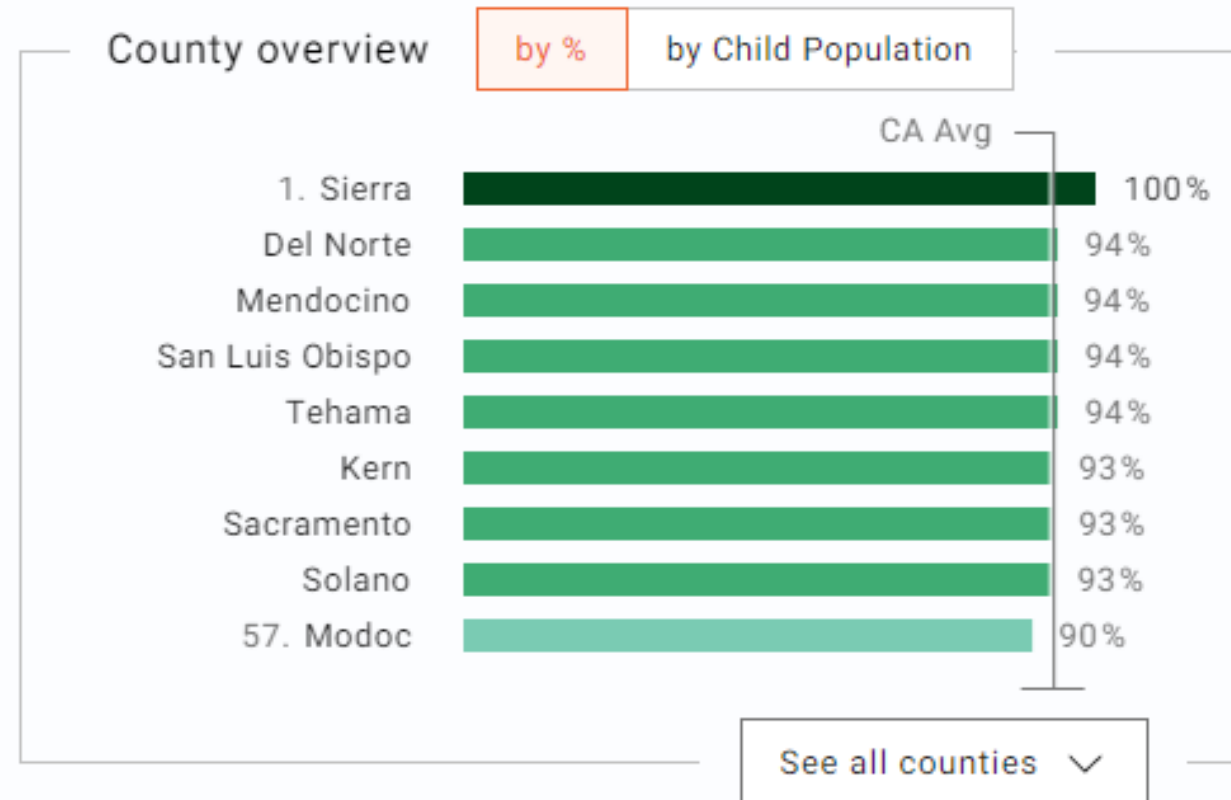
1,180 students experiencing homelessness





# 93% of newborns were not low birthweight in California in 2020. [Sources and](#)

## Notes

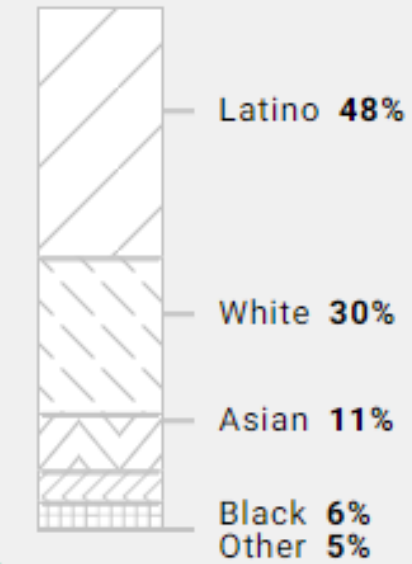


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4.64 million ages 18 to 25



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4,028,648 children with at least one immigrant parent

172,000 students experiencing homelessness

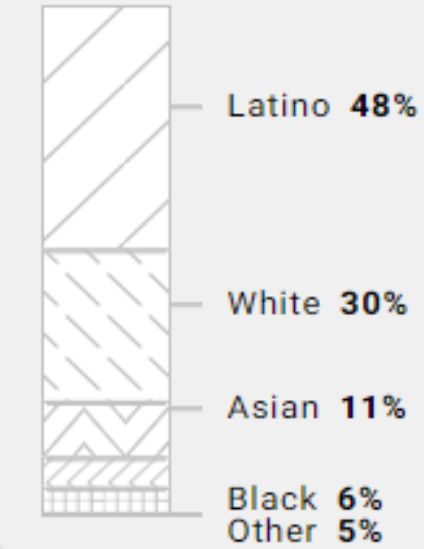
# 61% of children with Medi-Cal were screened for lead by their 2nd birthday in California in 2019. [Sources and Notes](#)

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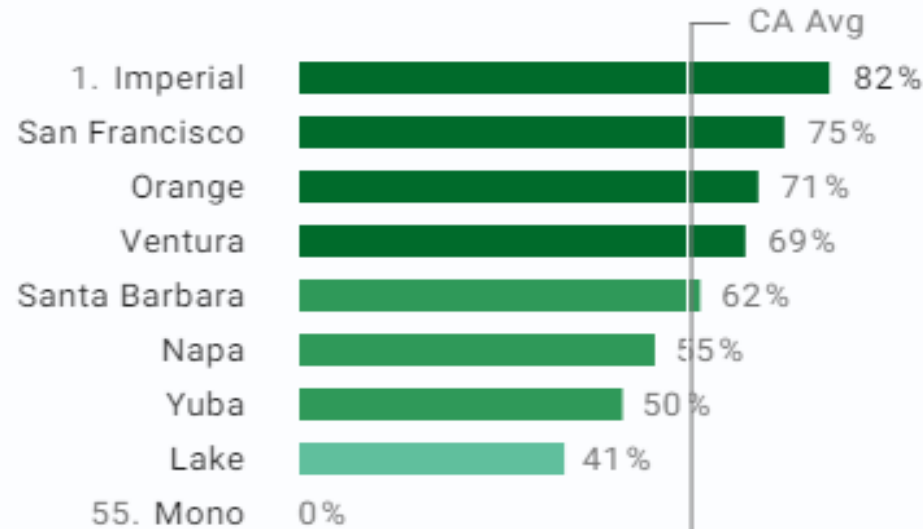
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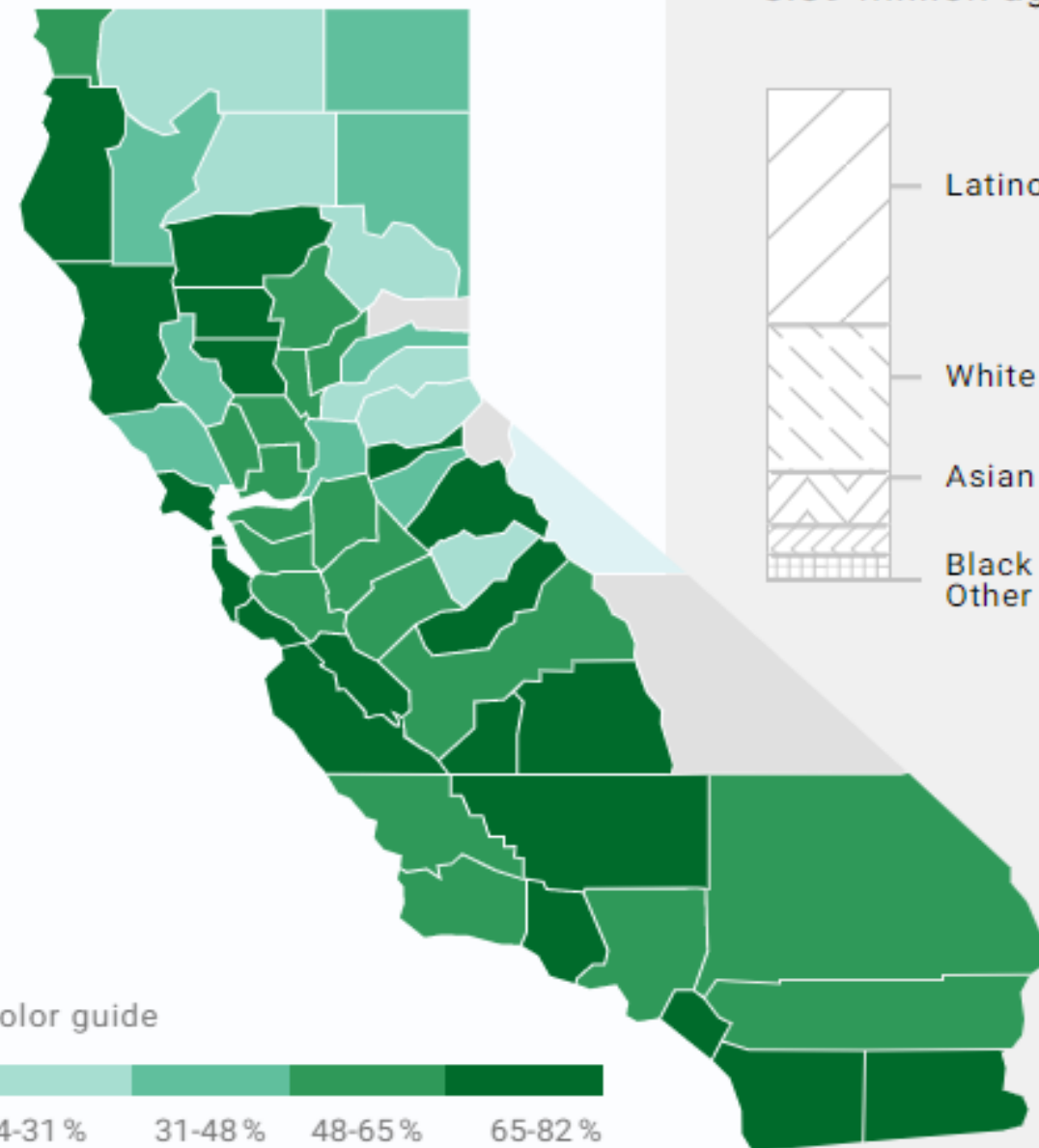
### County overview

by %

by Child Population



See all counties



### Indicator breakdown by race



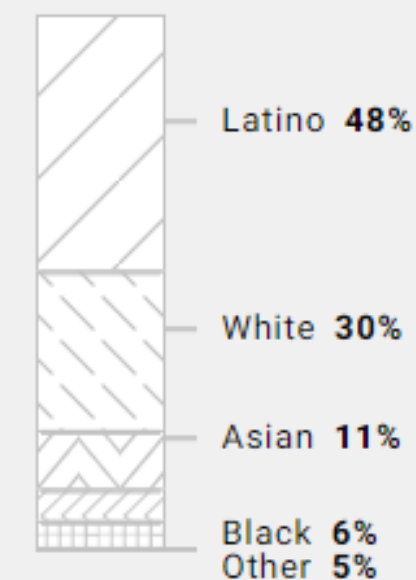
# 34% of low-income children, ages birth-5, had visited a dentist in the last year in California in 2020. [Sources and Notes](#)

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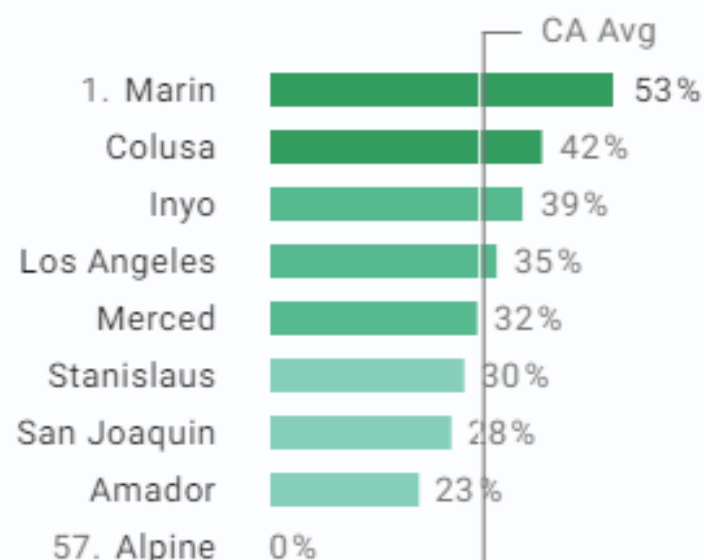
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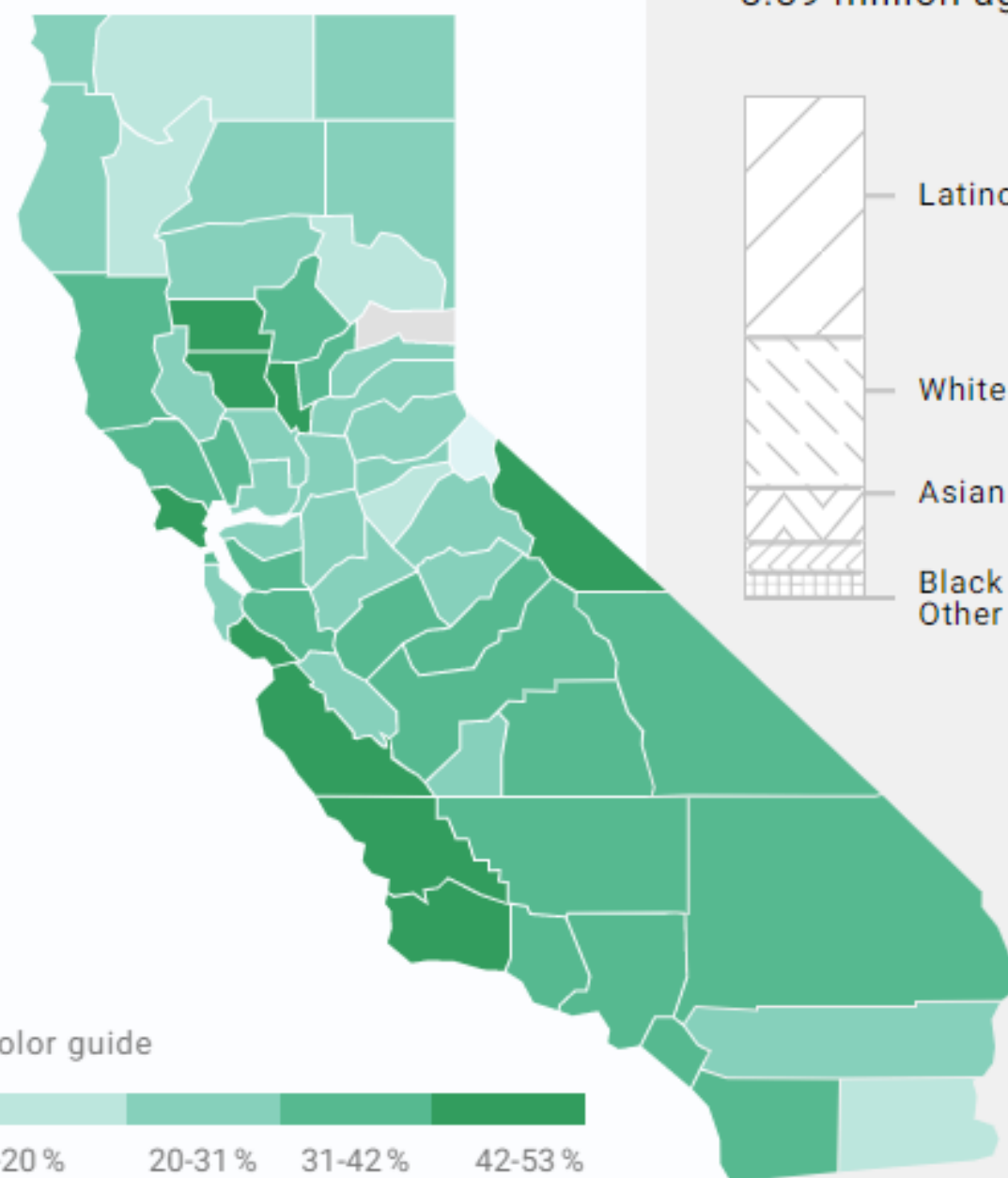
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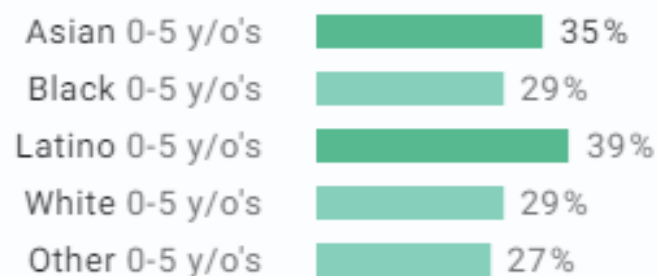
by % | by Child Population



See all counties



### Indicator breakdown by race





## Additional Early Childhood Data and Analysis Resources

[Kidsdata.org](https://kidsdata.org)

[Strongstartindex.org](https://strongstartindex.org)

[NIEER State of Preschool](https://nieer.org/state-of-preschool)

[Stateofbabies.org](https://stateofbabies.org)

[National Center for Children in Poverty  
Early Childhood State Profiles nccp.org](https://nccp.org/early-childhood-state-profiles)

# Children Now Contacts

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