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Children in Merced County

Indicator	Year	Merced County	California	Data Source
Child Population Ages 0-17	2025	79,236	8,386,716	California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Housing Unit Estimates (Mar. 2025).
Percentage of Children Living with Two Parents	2014-2018	58.0%	63.8%	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Jan. 2020).
Percentage of Children Living with One or More Foreign-Born Parent	2016-2020	50.0%	47.2%	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022).
Percentage of English Learners in Public Schools	2021	23.9%	17.7%	California Dept. of Education, English Learners by Grade and Language (Sept. 2021).
Percentage of Children Living Below the Federal Poverty Threshold	2016-2020	26.2%	16.8%	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022).
Percentage of Children Living in Low-Income Working Families	2016-2020	31.1%	23.0%	Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey microdata files (Aug. 2022).
Percentage of Children Living in Food Insecure Households	2023	22.2%	16.9%	Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap (Nov. 2025).
Percentage of Public School Students Who Are Homeless	2021	2.5%	3.8%	California Dept. of Education, Coordinated School Health and Safety Office custom tabulation & DataQuest (Feb. 2023).
Percentage of Children Ages 0-18 with Health Insurance Coverage	2016-2020	96.8%	96.7%	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022).
Average Monthly Enrollment in Medi-Cal Among Children/Youth Ages 0-20	2024	70.2%	52.3%	California Dept. of Health Care Services, Eligible Individuals Under Age 21 Enrolled in Medi-Cal (Dec. 2025); California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (Sept. 2024).
Percentage of Kindergarteners with All Required Immunizations	2022	95.4%	94.0%	California Dept. of Public Health, Immunization Branch, Reporting Data for Kindergarten and 7th Grade (Nov. 2024).
Percentage of Children Ages 1-17 Ever Diagnosed with Asthma	2019-2020	11.1%	12.4%	UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (Feb. 2022).
Percentage of High-Need Students (Unduplicated Pupil Count)	2021	78.7%	62.4%	California Dept. of Education, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Unduplicated Pupil Count (UPC) Source Files (Nov. 2021).

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Percentage of Students Receiving Special Education Services	2020	12.3%	13.0%	California Dept. of Education, DataQuest & Special Education Division custom tabulation; National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics (Jun. 2021).
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standard in Reading	2021*	36.3%	49.0%	California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022).
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standards in Math	2021*	18.1%	33.8%	California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022).
Percentage of 5th Graders Who Are Overweight or Obese	2019	49.1%	41.3%	California Dept. of Education, Physical Fitness Testing Research Files (Jan. 2020).
Children with Substantiated Cases of Abuse or Neglect	2020	9.7 *(Rate per 1,000)*	6.8 *(Rate per 1,000)*	California Child Welfare Indicators Project, CCWIP Reports. University of California at Berkeley & California Dept. of Social Services (Oct. 2021).
Children/Youth Ages 0-20 in Foster Care	2018	5.6 *(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).
Students Suspended from School	2020	28.8 *(Rate per 1,000)*	24.5 *(Rate per 1,000)*	California Dept. of Education, Suspension Data (May 2021).
Percentage of 7th Graders Who Were Bullied at School in the Previous Year	2017-2019	30.5%	36.0%	WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) & Biennial State CHKS. California Dept. of Education (Aug. 2020).
Percentage of 9th Graders with Feelings of Depression	2017-2019	32.5%	32.6%	WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) and Biennial State CHKS. California Dept. of Education (Aug. 2020).
Percentage of 9th Graders with High Levels of School Connectedness	2017-2019	44.1%	44.8%	WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) and Biennial State CHKS. California Dept. of Education (Aug. 2020).
Percentage of Students in the Graduating Class Receiving a High School Diploma	2021	90.3%	83.6%	California Dept. of Education, Graduates by Race and Gender (Jun. 2017) & Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate and Outcome Data (May 2022).

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

More data on Merced County: https://m.kidsdata.org/region/354/merced-county/summary