

Notes and Sources

This tool relies in part on survey data from United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), and WestEd's California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). As with all survey data, information from these sources are estimates based on samples of the population and should be interpreted as the best available representations of the community.

County Comparison (Bottom, Middle, Top)

Bottom, Middle and Top designations are determined independently for each indicator and reflect each county's performance relative to the performance of all 58 California counties. Using the performance percentages for each indicator of well-being, counties are categorized into three ranked groups. Counties performing in the bottom third of counties (ranked 40 through 58) are categorized as Bottom; the middle third (ranked 20 through 39) are categorized as Middle; and the top third (ranked 1 through 19) are categorized as Top. The number of counties in each designation varies by indicator because not all counties have data for a particular indicator or counties have the same performance percentage and, therefore, the same ranking.

Trend (Up, Down, Neutral)

Up, Down and Neutral trend designations are assigned as follows: if the percent change between the earliest and most recent data point included for an individual indicator is $\geq +5\%$, the indicator is considered to be improving and labeled with a green Up arrow; if the change is between $+4\%$ and -4% , the indicator is considered to be staying the same and labeled with a yellow Neutral bar; if the change is $\leq -5\%$, the indicator is considered to be worsening and labeled with a red Down arrow. The years covered by the trend vary by indicator. For details on the years included in the percent change calculations, please see the notes and sources for each individual indicator.

Child Population by County

Child population numbers include children, ages 0-17, living in each county. Data are based on Children Now analysis of population estimates from California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, *Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2050* <<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic>> (January 2012).

Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity categories are self-reported by the respondent or her/his parent. Latino includes any respondent who identifies as Hispanic or Latino, regardless of race. White includes any respondent who identifies as white, non-Hispanic. Afri-

can American includes any respondent who identifies as either African American or black. Asian includes any respondent who identifies as Asian American, Asian, Filipino or Pacific Islander. Other includes any respondent who identifies as Native American, multiracial or declined to state her/his race/ethnicity.

Urban and Rural Categorizations

Counties with a population of 140 people or more per square mile are considered Urban, and counties with 139 people or fewer per square mile are considered Rural, based on 2011 population density estimates for California counties. Data are based on Children Now analysis of square miles from California Association of Counties, <<http://www.counties.org/default.asp?id=398>> and 2011 population estimates from California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, <<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic>> (January 2012).

Income Categorizations

Counties are categorized as Low, Middle or High Income Communities, based on the percentage of children living above 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Data are provided by Population Reference Bureau (PRB), which conducted an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-10 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates, to obtain the percentage of children living in families above 100% of FPL. Using these data, Children Now conducted analysis to create three ranked groups of income categorizations. Counties in the bottom third (ranked 40 through 58) are categorized as Low Income Communities; the middle third (ranked 20 through 39) are categorized as Middle Income Communities; and the highest third (ranked 1 through 19) are categorized as High Income Communities.

Children Living in Poverty

The number of children living in poverty is based on the percentage of children living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Data are obtained from The Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center and analyzed by Population Reference Bureau (PRB), which conducted an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey (ACS), to obtain the percentage of children living in families above 100% of FPL <<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=43&dtm=321&tf=133>> (July 2012).

NA (Not Available)

Data that are not available are noted as NA. The most frequent reasons for NAs include the unavailability of longitudinal data, too few cases (low number events) and statistically unstable estimates.



Learn more from the Scorecard's complete county-level data and functionality, only available online at www.childrennow.org/scorecard.

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Data are noted as being statistically unstable in AskCHIS, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's online tool for querying data from California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). After analyzing CHIS data and determining the range for confidence interval is $\leq 10\%$, Children Now includes and notes race/ethnicity data that are statistically unstable.

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Data are noted as being statistically unstable in UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), *Child and Teen Health Profile 2009*, <www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/healthprofiles> (July 2012).

NA*

Data are noted as not available and statistically unstable. Because the percent change formula used to create trends does not yield reliable results when the baseline number is zero, the indicator, "Schools That Have a Health Center," has several counties with a trend indication of a green Up arrow and NA* for percent change. This indicates these counties had zero school health centers in 2008-09, but added one or more by 2010-11.

1. Women Who Receive Early Prenatal Care

Includes the percentage of women whose first prenatal care visit takes place within the first trimester of pregnancy. Location is based on the mother's place of residence, as reported on the child's birth certificate. Race/ethnicity is based on the mother's race/ethnicity. Children Now analysis of data from California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Automated Vital Statistics System (AVSS), 2000 and 2010, as cited in Kidsdata.org, <<http://www.kidsdata.org/>> (February 2012) and race/ethnicity data from California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Automated Vital Statistics System (AVSS), 2010, <<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/informatics/tech/Pages/AVSS.aspx>> (May 2012). Using these data, Children Now conducted analyses of trend and race/ethnicity data.

2. Newborns Who Are Exclusively Breastfed While In the Hospital

Includes the percentage of newborns whose mothers initiate exclusive in-hospital breastfeeding. Children Now analysis of California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Newborn Screening Program, In-Hospital Breastfeeding Initiation Data, 2010, <<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Pages/InHospitalBreastfeedingInitiationData.aspx>> (April 2012). Using these data, Children Now conducted analyses of race/ethnicity data. Due to revisions to the Newborn Screening Form and changes in CDPH's data analysis methodology, trend data for this indicator are not available. For more information, see <<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/MO-BFP-RevisedNBSForm.pdf>>

3. Young Children Who Are Read to Every Day

Includes the percentage of children, ages 0-5, who have books read to them every day of the week. Data are based on California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), *Child and Teen Health Profiles 2009*, <www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/healthprofiles> (July 2012). Estimates for *Child and Teen Health Profiles* were modeled by the 2009 CHIS Small Area Estimation. Children Now conducted analysis of trend and race/ethnicity data, using "Ask CHIS" to create multi-year estimates and pooling together 2005 and 2007 data for trend and 2007 and 2009 data for race/ethnicity, <<http://www.chis.ucla.edu>> (July 2012). CHIS clusters responses into multi-county groups for select low-population counties. The multi-county groups are as follows: (1) Del Norte, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc counties; (2) Tehama, Glenn, Colusa and Trinity counties; (3) Plumas, Sierra and Nevada counties; (4) Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono and Alpine counties.

4. Children, Ages 0-3, Who Do Not Experience Recurring Neglect or Abuse

Includes the percentage of children, ages 0-3, who are victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation and who do not have a substantiated case of recurrent maltreatment within six months of the initial allegation. Children Now analysis of Child Welfare Dynamic Report System data, January-June 2001 and January-June 2011, "No Recurrence of Maltreatment" (S1.1), California Department of Social Services and UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau, <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare> (June 2012).

5. 3- and 4-Year-Olds Who Attend Preschool

Includes the percentage of children, ages 3-4, who attend nursery school or preschool, as reported by parents. Data based upon Population Reference Bureau (PRB) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-08 and 2008-10, *3-Year Estimates* (March 2012). Data are clustered into four multi-county groups for select low-population counties. The multi-county groups are as follows: (1) Del Norte, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc counties; (2) Tehama, Glenn, Colusa and Trinity counties; (3) Plumas, Sierra and Nevada counties; (4) Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono and Alpine counties.

6. 3rd-Graders Who Read at Grade Level

Includes the percentage of third grade students who scored "Advanced" or "Proficient" on the English Language Arts portion of the California Standards Test (CST), as a percentage of all test-takers. Children Now analysis of Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Results, 2002-03, as cited in Kidsdata.org, <<http://www.kidsdata.org/>> (April 2012) and Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Results, 2010-11, from California Department of Education, DataQuest, <<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>> (April 2012).

7. 7th-Graders Who Meet or Exceed State Standards in Math

Includes the percentage of seventh grade students who scored “Advanced” or “Proficient” on the Mathematics portion of the California Standards Test (CST), as a percentage of all test-takers. Children Now analysis of Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Results, 2002-03, and 2010-11, from California Department of Education, DataQuest, <<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>> (April 2012).

8. Elementary and Middle School Students Who Are Supervised by an Adult After School

Includes the percentage of students in fifth and seventh grades who are not home alone during after school hours in a normal school week. WestEd analysis of California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), 2003-05 and 2009-10, which includes the following questions asked to create a composite indicator: “Are you home alone after school?” for fifth grade respondents, and “In a normal week, how many days are you home after school for at least one hour without an adult there?” for seventh grade respondents (June 2012).

9. Students Who Are “Ready” or “Conditionally Ready” for College-Level Math Courses

Includes the percentage of 11th grade students who score “Ready for College” or “Ready for College – Conditional” on the Mathematics portion of California State University’s Early Assessment Program (EAP), as a percentage of all test-takers. Children Now analysis of EAP data for 2005-06 and 2010-11, from California State University, <<http://eap2010.ets.org/Viewreport.asp>> (April 2012).

10. 12th-Graders Who Graduate On Time

Includes the percentage of students who graduate from high school within four years. Children Now analysis of Cohort Outcome Summary data, County Level Analysis of Graduation Data for the Classes, 2009-10 and 2010-11, from California Department of Education, DataQuest <<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>> (April 2012).

Per the California Department of Education, “cohort graduation rates do not include all of the students that graduated in a given year. By federal regulation, cohort rates only include graduates that earned their diplomas within a specific four-year period of time. Cohort rates do not include students who, for a variety of reasons, took longer than four years to graduate. Therefore, these rates are likely to be significantly lower for schools that emphasize reengaging former dropouts. Caution must be used when analyzing or comparing graduation rates for dropout recovery high schools and other alternative education schools serving former dropouts.” For example, San Francisco County has an innovative dropout recovery program for inmates and ex-offenders. Because the Five Keys Charter Schools account for 36% of high schools students within the county, the cohort

graduation rate is artificially low. Consequently, the graduation rate for the county is low (51%) while the graduation rate for San Francisco Unified is significantly higher at 82%.

11. Classrooms with High-Speed Internet Access

Includes the percentage of classrooms or other instructional settings at the school (such as a computer lab, library, or career center) with an Internet connection. Children Now analysis of school-level data on classrooms within a high-speed Internet connection and the total number of classrooms, from California Department of Education, California Basic Educational Data System, <<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/>> (April 2012). Children Now used these data to produce county-level data for 2011-12. Trend data is not yet available because 2011-12 was the first school year in which data on the number of classrooms was collected.

12. High School Science Classes That Are Taught by a “Highly Qualified Teacher”

Includes the percentage of secondary science courses taught by a “Highly Qualified Teacher” (HQT). The federal definition of a “Highly Qualified Teacher” is threefold: teachers must (1) hold at least a bachelor’s degree, (2) be appropriately licensed by the state and (3) demonstrate subject matter competency. Children Now analysis of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Core and Compliant Classes by Subject Area, 2006-07 and 2008-09, from California Department of Education, DataQuest, <<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>> (April 2012).

13. Children Who Feel Connected to Their School

Includes the percentage of students in the ninth and 11th grades who feel connected to their school. WestEd analysis of California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), 2003-05 and 2009-11, including analysis by race and ethnicity, which includes the following questions asked to create a composite indicator: “How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your school: I feel close to people at this school; I am happy to be at this school; I feel like I am part of this school” (June 2012).

14. Suspensions That Are Limited to Serious Offenses, Not “Willful Defiance”

Includes the percentage of out-of-school suspensions that are not the result of willful defiance, as a percentage of all suspensions. The designation of “willful defiance” is problematic because of its ambiguity. While there are no clear criteria for offenses that constitute willful defiance, it can include disruptive behavior, such as eye rolling, coming to class late or talking back to a teacher. Children Now analysis of data provided by California Department of Education, Office of the Director, Educational Data Management Division, District, School & Innovation Branch, data on total suspensions and total suspensions coded as willful defiance, 2003-04 and 2010-11 (June 2012).

15. Expulsions That Are Limited to Serious Offenses, Not “Willful Defiance”

Includes the percentage of expulsions that are not the result of willful defiance, as a percentage of all expulsions. The designation of “willful defiance” is problematic because of its ambiguity. While there are no clear criteria for offenses that constitute willful defiance, it can include disruptive behavior, such as eye rolling, coming to class late or talking back to a teacher. Children Now analysis of data provided by California Department of Education, Office of the Director, Educational Data Management Division, District, School & Innovation Branch, data on total expulsions and total expulsions coded as willful defiance, 2003-04 and 2010-11 (June 2012).

16. Children Who Are In a Healthy Weight Zone

Includes the percentage of students in seventh grade who are in the Healthy Fitness Zone for Body Composition. Children Now analysis of California Physical Fitness Test, 2000-01 and 2009-10, with county-level data obtained from Kidsdata.org, <<http://www.kidsdata.org/>> (April 2012), and county-level race/ethnicity data obtained from California Physical Fitness Test, California Department of Education, DataQuest, <<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>> (April 2012).

17. Eligible Students Who Eat Free or Reduced-Price Breakfasts during the School Year

Includes the percentage of children who participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) during the school year, as a percentage of those who are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals. Children Now analysis of California Department of Education, 2008-09, as cited in California Food Policy Advocate’s *2010 County Nutrition and Food Insecurity Profiles*, <<http://cfpa.net/county-profiles-2010>> (June 2012), and California Department of Education, 2009-10 (June 2012), as provided by California Food Policy Advocates (July 2012).

18. Children Who Live Near Grocery Stores, Produce Stands or Farmers Markets

Includes the percentage of zip codes within a county that contain a healthy food outlet, defined as grocery stores with more than four employees, produce stands or farmers markets. Children Now analysis of University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, *2010 and 2012 County Health Rankings*, based on U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Planning and Coordination Division, Zip Code Business Patterns, 2006 and 2009, <<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>> (May 2012).

19. Eligible Students Who Eat Free or Reduced-Price Meals during the Summer

Includes the percentage of children who participate in federal summer meal programs, as a percentage of those who participate in the National School Lunch Program during the school year. California Food Policy Advocates analysis of California Department of Education, 2003-04 and 2010-11 data, as cited in the 2005 and 2012 editions of *School’s Out...Who Ate? A Report on Summer Nutrition in California*. California Food Policy Advocates used the following calcula-

tion to create this indicator [Average Daily Participation (ADP) by county in all federal summer meal programs for July] ÷ [ADP in free and reduced-price meals for National School Lunch Program NSLP during March & April], <<http://cfpa.net/publications>> (June 2012).

20. Schools That Have a Health Center

Includes the percentage of schools estimated to have a school-based health center, as a percentage of all public schools within a county. Children Now analysis of the “Number of schools per county,” 2008-09 and 2010-11, from California Department of Education, DataQuest, <<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>> (April 2012) and “School-based health centers by county,” California School Health Centers Association, 2009 and 2011, as cited in Kidsdata.org, <<http://www.kidsdata.org/>> (April 2012).

21. Children Who Have Health Insurance for the Entire Year

Includes the percentage of children, ages 0-17, who have health insurance for the entire year, as a percentage of all children. Data are based on California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), *Child and Teen Health Profile 2009*, <www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/healthprofiles> (July 2012). Estimates for the *Child and Teen Health Profiles* are modeled on 2009 CHIS Small Area Estimation. Children Now analysis of trend and race/ethnicity data utilizes “Ask CHIS” to create multi-year estimates, pooling together 2001 and 2003 data for trend and 2007 and 2009 data for race/ethnicity, <<http://www.chis.ucla.edu>> (June 2012). CHIS clusters responses into multi-county groups for select low-population counties. The multi-county groups are as follows: (1) Del Norte, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc counties; (2) Tehama, Glenn, Colusa and Trinity counties; (3) Plumas, Sierra and Nevada counties; (4) Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono and Alpine counties.

22. Children With a Usual Source of Health Care

Includes the percentage of children, ages 0-17, who have a usual source of health care, as a percentage of all children. Estimates exclude emergency room and urgent care visits as a usual source of care. Data are based on California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), *Child and Teen Health Profile 2009*, <www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/healthprofiles> (July 2012). Estimates for *Child and Teen Health Profiles* are modeled on 2009 CHIS Small Area Estimation. Children Now analysis of trend and race/ethnicity data utilizes “Ask CHIS” to create multi-year estimates, pooling together 2001 and 2003 for trend and 2005 and 2009 data for race/ethnicity, <<http://www.chis.ucla.edu>> (July 2012). CHIS clusters responses into multi-county groups for select low-population counties. The multi-county groups are as follows: (1) Del Norte, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc counties; (2) Tehama, Glenn, Colusa and Trinity counties; (3) Plumas, Sierra and Nevada counties; (4) Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono and Alpine counties.

23. Asthmatic Children Who Have Been Given an Asthma Management Plan

Includes the percentage of asthmatic children, ages 0-17, who are provided an asthma management plan by a physician, as a percentage of all asthmatic children. California Breathing multi-year estimate analysis of California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), 2003, 2005 and 2007 (June 2012). CHIS clusters responses into multi-county groups for select low-population counties. The multi-county groups are as follows: (1) Del Norte, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc counties; (2) Tehama, Glenn, Colusa and Trinity counties; (3) Plumas, Sierra and Nevada counties; (4) Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono and Alpine counties. Ethnicity data is not available due to small sampling, and, therefore, not stable. Trend data is not available because a multi-year analysis is needed to create reliable county-level estimates.

24. Adolescents Who Are Not at Risk for Depression

Includes the percentage of students in seventh, ninth and 11th grades who are not at risk of developing depression. WestEd analysis of California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), 2003-05 and 2009-11, including analysis by race and ethnicity, "During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost everyday for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities?" (June 2012).

25. Children Who Have Visited a Dentist in the Last Year

Includes the percentage of children, ages 2-17, who have been to a dentist in the last year, as a percentage of all children, ages 2-17. Data are based on California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), *Child and Teen Health Profiles 2009*, <www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/healthprofiles> (July 2012). Estimates for *Child and Teen Health Profiles* are modeled on 2009 CHIS Small Area Estimation. CHIS clusters responses into multi-county groups for select low-population counties. The multi-county groups are as follows: (1) Del Norte, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc counties; (2) Tehama, Glenn, Colusa and Trinity counties; (3) Plumas, Sierra and Nevada counties; (4) Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono and Alpine counties. Trend and race/ethnicity data are not available because response options are inconsistent between 2009 and earlier years; hence, multiple years of data could not be pulled.

26. Children in the Child Welfare System Who Have Visited a Dentist in the Last Year

Includes the percentage of children, ages 3-17, who have a child welfare placement episode lasting 31 days or more and who have had at least one dental exam before their next birthday. Children Now analysis of Child Welfare Dynamic Report System data, January to March 2002 and January to March 2012, "Timely Dental Visit" (5B) California Department of Social Services and Center for Social Services Research at University of California, Berkeley, Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau, <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare> (July 2012).

27. Children in the Child Welfare System Who Have Stability in Their Placement

Includes the percentage of children, ages 0-17, who are entering into the child welfare system for at least eight days and up to 12 months and who have two or fewer out-of-home placements during that time. Children Now analysis of Child Welfare Dynamic Report System data, April 2001 to March 2002 and April 2011 to March 2012, "Placement Stability (8 Days To 12 Months In Care)" (C4.1), California Department of Social Services and Center for Social Services Research at University of California, Berkeley, Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau, <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare> (July 2012).

28. Children in the Child Welfare System Who Exit to Permanency Within Three Years

Includes a six-month cohort measure of the percentage of children, ages 0-17, who have been in care for at least eight days, are entering foster care for the first time and are not still in the foster care system within 36 months of their first entry. Children Now analysis of Child Welfare Dynamic Report System, October 1998 to March 1999 and October 2008 to March 2009, "First Entries at 3 Years: Still In Care" (C1.3), California Department of Social Services and UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau, <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare> (July 2012).

