KidsData

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# Children in Santa Cruz County

| Indicator | Year | Santa Cruz County | California | Data Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Child Population Ages 0-17** | 2025 | 46,718 | 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 | 65.2% | 63.8% | U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Jan. 2020). |
| **Percentage of Children Living with One or More Foreign-Born Parent** | 2016-2020 | 39.8% | 47.2% | U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022). |
| **Percentage of English Learners in Public Schools** | 2021 | 22.0% | 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 | 12.1% | 16.8% | U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022). |
| **Percentage of Children Living in Low-Income Working Families** | 2016-2020 | 18.5% | 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 | 13.8% | 16.9% | Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap (Nov. 2025). |
| **Percentage of Public School Students Who Are Homeless** | 2021 | 9.5% | 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 | 97.5% | 96.7% | U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022). |
| **Average Monthly Enrollment in Medi-Cal Among Children/Youth Ages 0-20** | 2024 | 41.9% | 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 | 91.1% | 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 | 12.6% | 12.4% | UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (Feb. 2022). |
| **Percentage of High-Need Students (Unduplicated Pupil Count)** | 2021 | 55.2% | 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 | 13.7% | 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* | 66.8% | 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* | 54.2% | 33.8% | California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022). |
| **Percentage of 5th Graders Who Are Overweight or Obese** | 2019 | 41.0% | 41.3% | California Dept. of Education, Physical Fitness Testing Research Files (Jan. 2020). |
| **Children with Substantiated Cases of Abuse or Neglect** | 2020 | 2.1 *(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 | 2.7 *(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 | 23.7 *(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 | 33.9% | 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 | 28.4% | 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 | 52.6% | 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 | 85.2% | 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 Santa Cruz County: https://marin.kidsdata.org/region/370/santa-cruz-county/summary