To report suspected abuse or neglect, call the Kern County Child Abuse Hotline at

(661) 631-6011 (County-wide)
(661) 375-6049 (Ridgecrest)

Report 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. For all emergencies call 9-1-1.
Established by the Kern County Board of Supervisors in 1992, the Kern County Network for Children (KCNC) proudly continues its mission to protect and enrich the lives of children in Kern County through the commitment of all community partners by helping to build and sustain healthy families.
Supporting Caring Responsive Communities

The Kern County Report Card was created by the Kern County Network for Children in 1994. The initial purpose was to help communities improve the lives of Kern County’s most vulnerable children and families by collecting and disseminating data that advanced awareness of the issues faced by this population. This 2014 edition continues to track and update more than 150 data indicators on child and family well-being including: family economics, education, child/adolescent health, child safety and at-risk youth behavior. It has also become more focused on raising the visibility of key issues affecting child safety and well-being community’s children, specifically child abuse and neglect. In addition to raising awareness of these issues, the Report Card features suggestions for the reader to help meet the needs of children in their community so they may have healthy, safe lives.

In 2013, the Kern County Network for Children partnered with Kidsdata.org, a comprehensive, online clearinghouse of information about child health and well-being of children in communities across California, provided by the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health. The annual report cards now have links to continually updated data on the Kidsdata.org website that can be customized by the reader to help them tell their story in grant proposals, research reports, presentations, public education, advocacy campaigns, and other work on behalf of children.

It is our hope that the facts and figures within the 2014 Report Card are not only informative, but also prompt more community action to improve the lives of children. We invite the community to join the Kern County Network for Children and discover positive, proactive ways that they can contribute to building a strong future for our children.

Staff:
Tom Corson, Executive Director
Ian Anderson, Foster Youth Services Facilitator
Sara Espinoza, Receptionist
Martha Gómez, Administrative Assistant
Kimberley Silva, Research Associate
Jayme Stuart, Child and Family Services Facilitator

Contact Information:
KERN COUNTY NETWORK FOR CHILDREN (KCNC)
mailing address - 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
physical address - 1212 18th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 636-4488 www.kcnc.org
Enhance your experience by utilizing the interactive features in this document...

Clicking on a blue link will take you to a new web page.

Work for Children has partnered with Kidsdata.org, a comprehensive database of continually updated data on the lives of children across California, provided by the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. Some figures within the 2013 Report Card are not only informative, but also invite the community to join the Kern County Network for Children and discover positive, proactive ways that they can contribute to building a strong future for our children.

76 hours wait time for Fair Market Rent.

Jump to -

• Family Income
• Employment
• Poverty

Clicking on a blue name will pop-up an email box.

Tom Corson, Executive Director
Martha Gómez, Administrative Assistant
Jayme Stuart, Child and Family Services Facilitator

Clicking on a chapter icon will take you to the beginning of that chapter.

CHILD WELL-BEING

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT REPORTS
- Child Maltreatment-Allegations & Substantiated Reports
- Child Maltreatment Allegation Rates - Incidence per 1,000 Children
- Substantiated Child Maltreatment Rates - Incidence per 1,000 Children
- Substantiated Child Abuse & Neglect by Type

Clicking on a 1) chart will take you to its original data source and 2) Kidsdata.org. icon will allow you to customize data.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child demographic data are available using KidsData.Org.

CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS BY RACE/ETHNICITY, KERN COUNTY, 2013

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Welcome

On behalf of the Kern County Network for Children Governing Board, it is my pleasure to present the Kern County Report Card for 2014. The Kern County Network for Children was established in 1992 and has seen a great many changes over the last 22 years. One thing that has remained consistent is the feedback we receive regarding the value of this report. You have told us that the data released in this report is used across the County as a tool and a resource for agencies, both public and private, to help define priority areas for funding, to provide valuable data for grant requests, and to distill down the needs of our most vulnerable populations.

Kern County continues to grow in population. Between 2012 and 2013, Kern County’s population grew 1.25% to a total of 866,977 residents. In 2013, Kern’s child population exceeded a quarter of a million with 252,000 children residing in the county. Kern’s child population is the 3rd largest child population percentage among California counties.

According to 2013 demographic statistics, more than one-third of Kern County’s children were young children under the age of 6 years old and 60% of Kern’s children were Latino. The majority of Kern County children lived in married couple homes with 36% of Kern County children were being raised by a single parent. Mirroring trends in California and the nation, Kern’s declining teen birth rate reached an historic low in 2012 of 49.4 per 1,000 females; although still significantly outpacing California’s teen birth rate of 25.7 per 1,000 females.

During 2013, 49 children each day were referred to CPS with allegations of child abuse and neglect in Kern County which translates to a rate of 71.4 per 1,000 children. Kern’s overall referral rate decreased from the previous year’s rate of 72.0 per 1,000 children.

The impact of child abuse and neglect points to the importance of primary prevention. Programs and strategies like Differential Response, parent education, mental health services and expanding the availability of substance abuse treatment, all play a role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

This report is provided as a resource to you as well as a call to action. It is our hope that you find it of value as you continue to serve the members of our community.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Golich, M.S.A. - HCM
KCNC Governing Board President
The 2014 Report Card’s chapter Children and Families presents an overview of the Kern County child population and their families. Located in the southern Central Valley, Kern County is California’s third-largest county in land area and covers 8,170 square miles of valley, mountains and desert. Kern is also one of the State’s youngest counties with children constituting almost one in three of the people living within the County during 2013.

**Key Facts**

- Kern County’s population grew 1.25% between July 1, 2012 and July 1, 2013 to 866,977 residents.
- In 2013, Kern County’s child population exceeded 252,000 – the 3rd largest child population percentage among California counties.
- Nearly 35% of Kern County’s children were young children under the age of 6 years old.
- 6 out of every 10 children were Latino in Kern County.
- The majority of Kern County children live in married-couple homes.
- 36% of Kern County children were being raised by a single parent and 5% by their grandparents.

*Jump to -*

- Kern County Children
- Contents Page
According to the California Department of Finance, Kern County’s population grew 1.25% between July 1, 2012 and July 1, 2013 to 866,977 residents, continuing the county’s pattern of modest growth rates over the past few years.

The population’s natural increase of 9,206 in the past year is composed of 14,641 births minus 5,435 deaths.

Kern County is one of the youngest counties in California. In 2013, a total of 252,029 children under the age of 18 resided in Kern County, about 41,000 more than in 2000.

The county’s child population is projected to increase to 436,312 by 2050.

The county’s child population made up 29% of its total population, the 3rd largest percentage in the state.

The child population will continue to grow for the foreseeable future, though it will account for a smaller share of the total population in coming decades.

Males accounted for 51% and females 49% of Kern’s 2013 child population.

Kern County’s children are highly diverse, with the largest group being of Hispanic or Latino origin (62.0%).

Caucasian children were the second largest group (26.7%), followed by African-Americans (5.1%), Asian and Pacific Islanders (2.9%), Native Americans (0.6%) and all others (2.7%).

Few children living in Kern County were born outside the United States—6% of all those under age 18 in 2012.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child demographic data are available using Kidsdata.org.

Kern County Children by Age & Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>African-American</th>
<th>Caucasian</th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Native American</th>
<th>Multi-Race</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 1</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>4,090</td>
<td>8,957</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>14,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>1,557</td>
<td>8,095</td>
<td>17,386</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>28,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>2,156</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>27,445</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>1,272</td>
<td>43,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>3,508</td>
<td>18,105</td>
<td>44,531</td>
<td>1,952</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>1,887</td>
<td>70,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>3,401</td>
<td>18,423</td>
<td>41,446</td>
<td>2,194</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>1,710</td>
<td>67,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>1,433</td>
<td>7,650</td>
<td>16,383</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>27,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,865</td>
<td>67,363</td>
<td>156,148</td>
<td>7,425</td>
<td>1,396</td>
<td>6,830</td>
<td>252,027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• In 2012 there were 256,000 households in Kern County.
• 46% of Kern’s households had one or more children during 2012.
• At the same time, 36% of California’s households had children under age 18.
• Of these Kern County households raising their own children, 64% were headed by married couples; 25% were headed by a single mother; and 11% by a single father.
• During 2012, an estimated 79,986 Kern County children lived with just one parent (36% of the total child population).
• Children living in single parent homes were more likely to live with their mothers than with their fathers (70% versus 30%) in Kern County.
• In Kern County, 28,000 grandparents lived with their grandchildren under 18 years old in 2012 and 39% of these grandparents had financial responsibility for their grandchildren.

According to 2012 estimates, 12,100 Kern County children lived in the care of their grandparents, or 5% of all children under age 18 in county households.

Statewide, 3% of California’s children lived in the care of their grandparents.

79% of Kern County children living with grandparents had one or both parents also present in their grandparent’s home.

During 2012, 4.4% of children residing in Kern County were foreign born.

In 2012, 38% of Kern County children ages 0-17 lived with one or more foreign-born parents.

In comparison, 40% of California’s children lived with one or more foreign-born parents.
Kern County’s economic recovery from the recession that began in 2007 continues to be slow and impacts a family’s capacity to provide safe and stable homes for their children. The Family Economics chapter presents an overview of the economic resources of Kern County families and their ability to provide their children with such basic needs as housing and food.

**Key Facts**

- Kern County’s declining median family income in 2012 was 31% less than the state and 29% less than the nation.
- Kern’s average annual unemployment rate continues to decline in 2013, but remains double-digit.
- Children in single mother families were three times as likely to be poor as children in married-couple families in Kern County.
- Every third child in Kern County was poor in 2012 and very young children continue to be most at risk of experiencing poverty.
- A Kern County renter earning minimum wage must work 70 hours weekly to afford a two bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent.
- Since 2007, 29,183 more households receive food assistance in Kern County, an increase of 95%.

**Jump to -**

- Family Income
- Employment
- Poverty
- Housing
- Food Security
- Contents Page
• The Department was able to increase the percent of child support payments collected and distributed to these children by 4.9% over the prior year, for a total of over $77 million dollars.
• During 2012, 35% of Kern County children live in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits.
• In California, 27% of children resided in homes receiving public assistance in 2012.
• Rates of Kern County children living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits were higher among single mother households (55.7%) and single father households (41.9%) in 2012.

• The Self-Sufficiency Standard, or how much a family would need to meet basic needs, for a Kern County family of two adults, one preschooler and one school-aged child was $52,067 in 2014.
• By comparison, the 2012 median income for families raising children in California was $60,435 and $59,537 nationwide.
• Kern County’s 2012 median family income was 31% less than the state and 29% less than the nation.
• Median income varies by type of family. The income of single parent families with children in Kern County was far lower than the income of a married-couple families ($62,478) in 2012.
• The median family income for single fathers in Kern County in 2012 was almost twice the median income for single mothers ($26,583 versus $17,590).
• The Kern County Department of Child Support Services served over 59,000 children in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Additional customizable Kern County and California family economic data are available using Kidsdata.org.
• 115,599 children under age 13 years in Kern County were in need of child care while their parents worked in 2012.
• Kern County licensed child care providers and programs have the capacity to serve 18% of the estimated child care need of working parents countywide during 2012 compared to 25% statewide.
• The average annual cost of full-time care for an infant or toddler in Kern County is $9,919 in a licensed center and $6,010 in a family child care home in 2012.
• The cost of care for a preschooler is $6,553 for a center and $5,794 in a family child care home.
• Statewide, the average annual cost of infant/toddler care in 2012 was $11,461 in licensed child care centers and $7,446 in family child care homes; for preschool-age children, the annual cost was $7,982 in licensed child care centers and $7,050 in family child care homes.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child care data are available using Kidsdata.org.
During 2013, 46,400 Kern County residents, 11.8% of the county’s workforce, were unemployed.

Kern County’s annual average unemployment rate has declined from 13.3% in 2012 to 11.8% in 2013.

In comparison, the 2012 average unemployment rate for California was 8.9% and 7.4% for the nation.

According to the 2012 American Community Survey, 40.7% of Kern County’s children lived in households without secure parental employment, where no parent worked at least 35 hours per week in the past year, an increase from 39.8% in 2011.

Kern County’s rate of children without secure parental employment was higher than California (34.9%) and the United States (31.3%).

Kern County has the 5th highest rate of children without secure parental employment among California counties.

Additional customizable Kern County and California employment data are available using Kidsdata.org.
• For 2012, the federal poverty level was $23,050 for a family of four.
• According to Census estimates, 28.4% of Kern County families were raising their children with incomes below the poverty line in 2012.
• In California, 19.3% of families with children lived in poverty.
• The poverty rates for Kern County children in single father and single mother households were 41.1% and 63.5%, respectively, compared to 19.1% of married-couple families.
• Among Kern County families whose householder had less than a high school diploma, 36.5% lived in poverty during 2012.
• Of those families whose householder had a high school diploma, the rate of poverty dropped to 21.6%.
• For those families in Kern County with householders having at least a bachelor’s degree, the poverty rate fell dramatically to 3.0%.
• According to the 2012 Census, 85,172 children in Kern County (33.9% of all children) lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty line, a decrease of 3,629 children from the previous year estimate.

• By comparison, 23.5% of children in California lived in poverty during the past year.
• In 2012, 35.8% of Kern County children under age 5 lived below the poverty threshold.
• Statewide, the poverty rate of young children was 25.1% during the same year.
• The 2012 poverty rate for children under five years of age being raised by single mothers was 71.7% compared to 38.9% of young children in single father homes and 22.3% in married-couple families.
• African-American and Latino children were more likely to live in poor families in Kern County than were Caucasian and Asian children.
• In 2012, 19.2% of Caucasian children and 20.8% of Asian children were poor, compared with 40.9% of Latino children and 37.7% of African-American children.

Additional customizable Kern County and California poverty data are available using Kidsdata.org.
### Poverty Rates of Children Under Age 5
**Kern County, California & United States, 2005-2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Child Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity & Age
**Kern County, 2012**

**Children in Poverty (0-17)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>United States</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All Families with Children Percent Living in Poverty**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
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</table>

### Children in Poverty (0-4)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Single Moms with Children Percent Living in Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>United States</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Students Enrolled in Free or Reduced Price Meal Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>United States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>67.1%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Child Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity & Age**

- **All Races/Ethnicities**
- **African-American**
- **Asian**
- **Caucasian**
- **Latino**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All Ages**

- **Ages 0-4**
- **Ages 5-17**
In 2012, Kern County had 256,000 occupied housing units - 148,000 (58%) owner occupied and 108,000 (42%) renter occupied.

54% of Kern County children lived in a rented housing unit during 2012 with higher rates among single mother (71%) and single father (60%) households.

During 2012, the median gross rent in Kern County was $872 compared to $1,200 statewide.

Families paying more than 30% of their gross income for housing are cost burdened and often have difficulty meeting other important financial obligations.

The Census estimated 56% of Kern’s renting households spent 30% or more of their household income on rent in 2012, a rate slightly lower than California’s figure of 58%.

The 2014 Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kern County is $815 a month.

Kern County’s Fair Market Rent has increased by more than 58% since 2000.

In 2014, Kern County’s monthly housing wage is $2,717; the full-time hourly housing wage is $15.67.

Kern County’s housing wage represents 174% of the current minimum wage (July 2014).

A renter in Kern County earning minimum wage must work 70 hours per week to afford a two bedroom rental unit at fair market rent.

In 2012, about 31% of Kern County’s children lived in crowded households (crowded households are defined as more than one person per “room”), an increase from 29% in 2011.

The rate of children living in households with more than one person per room of the house (which includes living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, finished recreation rooms, enclosed porches, and lodger’s rooms), was slightly higher than the state rate of 28% and double the national rate of 14%.

Additional customizable Kern County and California cost of living data are available using Kidsdata.org.
• 31% of children under age 18 living in Kern County households experienced limited or uncertain access to adequate food during 2011, a figure higher than the child food insecurity rate of 27% in California and 22% in the United States.

• In December 2013, 59,969 households in Kern County participated in the food assistance program called CalFresh.

• Since the recession began in late 2007, the number of Kern County households participating in CalFresh has increased 95%, a total of 29,183 more households.

• During the 2012-13 school year, 69% of Kern County students were eligible to receive free or reduced priced meals compared to 58% statewide.

• The percentage of students enrolled ranged from 13% to 100% in Kern County school districts.

• The total number of students participating in the free/reduced meals program has grown 35% from 88,750 in 2001-02 to 119,977 in 2012-13.
The chapter K-12 Education presents an overview of Kern County’s public K-12 students and their educational achievements. Education provides young people a gateway to more opportunities and greater success in life. Indicators related to academic performance, such as standardized testing and completing high school, often serve as a predictor of a child’s current and future social, economic and physical well-being.

Key Facts

- Kern’s K-12 public school enrollment hit an all-time high with nearly 179,000 students enrolled during the 2012-13 academic year.
- Double-digit achievement gaps continue to persist between the performance of some socio-economic, ethnic/racial and other groups of students on standardized tests.
- The majority of Kern students are passing the high school exit exam on their first try in 10th grade.
- 3 out of 4 Kern County students graduated within four years during the 2012-13 school year.
- 30% of Kern County high school graduates met entrance requirements for UC/CSU systems.

Jump to -

- Students
- Academic Achievement & Educational Attainment
- Contents Page
• Of the 5th grade students surveyed in Kern County, 77% believed there was a teacher or other adult who cared about them all or most of the time and 87% reported that there was a teacher or other adult who believed they could do a good job.

• In the 2012-13 school year, 79% of the Class of 2015 passed the English Language Arts portion and 80% passed the exam’s Mathematics section of the CAHSEE high school exit exam in Kern County.

• In Kern County, 10,304 students met graduation requirements during the 2012-13 school year, a graduation rate of 76.0 per 100 students, a slight decline from the previous year’s rate of 76.2.

• California’s graduation rate was 80.2 per 100 students during 2012-13 academic year.

• Of the students who started high school in 2009-10, 16.2% dropped out, a decrease from the previous year’s rate of 16.8%.

• Kern County’s dropout rate is higher than the state rate of 11.6%.

• Kern County’s Special Education system served 17,379 children and young adults from newborn to age 22 during the 2012-13 school year.
Students cont.

- Students with the highest dropout rates included special education students (30.5%), English Learners (27.8%) and African-Americans (25.6%).
- In the 2012-13 school year, 29.8% of students graduated with all “A-G” classes completed, a figure slightly higher than the previous school year rate of 29.2%.
- In comparison, 39.4% of students graduated with UC/CSU entrance requirements statewide.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child educational data are available using Kidsdata.org.
## Academic Achievement

### California Standards Test Scores

**Kern County & California, 2010-11 through 2012-13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent “Proficient” or Above</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7th Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent “Proficient” or Above</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Students (Grades 2-7) Scoring Proficient or Higher on English Language Arts & Mathematics CST

**Kern County, 2013**

- **All Students**: English-Language Arts - 47%, Mathematics - 54%
- **Male**: English-Language Arts - 43%, Mathematics - 53%
- **Female**: English-Language Arts - 36%, Mathematics - 50%
- **African-American**: English-Language Arts - 39%, Mathematics - 54%
- **Caucasian**: English-Language Arts - 59%, Mathematics - 61%
- **Latino**: English-Language Arts - 41%, Mathematics - 51%
- **Economically Disadvantaged**: English-Language Arts - 39%, Mathematics - 49%
- **Not Economically Disadvantaged**: English-Language Arts - 61%, Mathematics - 63%
- **Students with Disabilities**: English-Language Arts - 18%, Mathematics - 30%
- **English Learners**: English-Language Arts - 16%, Mathematics - 36%
- **Parents Without High School Diploma**: English-Language Arts - 33%, Mathematics - 45%
## Educational Attainment

### Educational Attainment Indicators

**Kern County & California, 2010-11 through 2012-13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Out-of-School Youth</strong></td>
<td><strong>Out-of-School Youth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of youth ages 16-19 not in school and without high school diploma</td>
<td>Percent of youth ages 16-19 not in school and without high school diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAHSEE % of 10th graders passing exam</td>
<td>CASHEE % of 10th graders passing exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rates</td>
<td>Graduation Rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>11-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Graduation Rate</td>
<td>Cohort Graduation Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>75.3%</td>
<td>77.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>76.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>76.0%</td>
<td>80.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Dropout Rate</td>
<td>High School Dropout Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>10-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>11-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Dropout Rate</td>
<td>Cohort Dropout Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Prepared Youth</td>
<td>College Prepared Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>11-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Grads w/ CSU/UC Require</td>
<td>% Grads w/ CSU/UC Require</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
</tr>
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<td>38.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 12th Graders Taking SAT</td>
<td>% 12th Graders Taking SAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
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<td>28.1%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Education Levels</td>
<td>Community Education Levels</td>
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<td>Percent of all adults 25 and older without at least high school diploma</td>
<td>Percent of all adults 25 and older without at least high school diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Educational Attainment cont.

High School Dropout Rates – Kern County, 2012-13

CSU/UC Eligibility Rates by Gender & Race/Ethnicity
Kern County, 2009-10 through 2012-13
Median Earnings of Population 25 Years and Older by Education and Gender – Kern County, 2012

Poverty Rate of Population 25 Years and Older by Educational Attainment – Kern County, 2012
Even before birth, the health status of a child can have long term consequences on his or her growth, safety and development. The Child and Adolescent Health chapter provides an overview of key health indicators of Kern County’s infants, children and adolescents including leading causes of infant death, maternal, child, and adolescent health, immunizations, tobacco and substance abuse, obesity, depression, and risk for suicide.

**Key Facts**

- Three out of four Kern County pregnant mothers received prenatal care in their first trimester in 2012.
- The rate of Kern County infants dying before their first birthday declined 17% since 2008.
- More than a third of Kern County’s 5th and 7th graders fell within the high-risk category for body composition.
- Despite four straight years of decline, Kern County’s teen birth rate was the highest in the State in 2012.
- Kern continues to have the highest Chlamydia infection rate in State with rates highest among teen girls.
- Alcohol is the leading drug used by Kern County teens.
- In Kern County, survey results show more 7th, 9th and 11th graders regularly smoked marijuana than tobacco.
• In 2012, 76.0% of pregnant mothers in Kern County obtained prenatal care services during the first trimester of their pregnancies, compared to 76.9% the previous year.
• In California, 83.8% of mothers received care during their first trimester during 2012.
• During 2012, 14,558 babies were born in Kern County.
• In 2012, 11.1% of Kern County babies were born prior to 37 weeks, placing them at greater risk of disability and dying during infancy, compared to 11.9% the previous year.
• By comparison, 9.6% of California’s babies were premature during 2012.
• In 2012, 979 babies were born at a low birthweight, 6.7% of Kern County’s total live births.
• In California, 6.7% of babies were born with a low birthweight.
• Between 2006 and 2013, a total of 38 newborns in Kern County have been delivered to a “safe surrender site,” a direct result of California’s Safely Surrendered Baby Law to reduce the number of abandoned baby deaths in the state.
• In 2012, 88 Kern County babies died before their first birthday, a rate of 6.0 per 1,000 live births.

• The three-year (2009-2011) average mortality rate for infants in Kern County was 6.1 per 1,000 live births, compared to the previous average rate of 6.3.
• Kern County’s 2009-2011 average infant mortality rate was the 5th in highest among California counties.
• Kern’s 2009-2011 infant mortality rate was higher than California (4.8 per 1,000) and slightly lower than the United States (6.2 per 1,000).
• Deaths linked to an unsafe sleeping environment continue to be the leading cause of infant death in cases reviewed by the Kern County Child Death Review Team.
• From 2008 through 2012, 52 infants died in their sleep, representing 54% of the infant deaths reviewed.
• 49 infant deaths were linked to “undetermined” causes related to an unsafe sleeping environment.
• The majority of these deaths linked to an unsafe sleep environment occurred between the years of 2009 and 2010 when 28 babies died in their sleep.
- During 2012, 85.9% of Kern County mothers breastfed in the hospital after giving birth, while only 50.2% of mothers breastfed exclusively after giving birth.
- Throughout California, 92.3% of mothers breastfed in the hospital after giving birth, while only 62.6% of mothers breastfed exclusively after giving birth.
- Similar to statewide trends, Caucasian mothers were more likely to breastfeed exclusively than other racial/ethnic groups (65.0%) in Kern County.
- African American and Latina mothers were less likely to breastfeed their newborns exclusively after giving birth, 30.7% and 45.6%, respectively.

Additional customizable Kern County and California infant health data are available using Kidsdata.org.
• In Kern County, 10% of children ages 1-17 have been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives compared to 15% statewide, according to 2011-12 data.

• While asthma does not result in hospitalization for most children, 1 of every 10,000 Kern County children ages 0-17 were hospitalized due to asthma in 2012, ranking Kern County 7th statewide in asthma related hospitalizations.

• Asthma hospitalization rates are higher for the youngest children (ages 0-4) at a rate of 19.1 per 10,000 population.

• According to the 2012 California Health Interview Survey, 79% of Kern County’s children, ages 2-11 years, had visited a dentist at least one time in the last 12 months. Further, 18% of Kern County children surveyed, ages 2-11, had never seen a dentist.

• In 2013, 94% of Kern County children enrolling in Kindergarten had all required immunizations, surpassing the state’s goal of 90% coverage.

• During the 2012-13 school year, 96% of 7th grade students enrolled in Kern County schools reporting data completed the pertussis immunization (Tdap) requirement to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough).

• During the 2012-13 school year, 37,662 Kern County 5th, 7th and 9th graders completed California Physical Fitness Testing for aerobic capacity, abdominal, trunk and upper body strength, body composition and flexibility.

• Among these students, 21.4% of 5th graders, 28.4% of 7th graders and 32.4% of 9th graders passed all six exercises.

• About 8.5% of Kern County’s 5th graders, 14.1% of 7th graders and 17.5% of 9th graders fell into the high-risk category for aerobic capacity, indicating their fitness levels are not sufficient for good health.

• Kern County results show 36.6% of 5th graders, 34.7% of 7th graders and 25.9% of 9th graders were in the high-risk category for body composition.

• In 2012, an estimated 91% of children ages 0-17 had health insurance compared to 92% statewide and 93% nationally.

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**Child Health**

Percentage of 5th, 7th & 9th Graders – Aerobic Capacity & Body Composition

*Kern County, 2012-13*

---

**Percentage of 5th, 7th & 9th Graders within High-Risk Category for Body Composition By Selected Demographics – Kern County, 2012-13**

- **All Students**: 27%
- **Male**: 26%
- **Female**: 26%
- **African-American**: 25%
- **Caucasian**: 21%
- **Native American**: 26%
- **Asian**: 20%
- **Latino**: 28%
- **Pacific Islander**: 29%
- **Filipino**: 19%
- **Economically Disadvantaged**: 27%
- **Not Economically Disadvantaged**: 21%
Child Health cont.

Late or No Prenatal Care (Percentage of live births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Premature Births (Percentage of live births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Births to Teen Mothers 15-19 (Percentage of live births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Births to Teen Mothers 15-19 (Rate per 1,000 population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>52.7</td>
<td>49.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Low Birth Weight Births (Percentage of live births)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Infant Mortality Rate (Rate per 1,000 live births)

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Healthy Body Weight (Percentage of 5th-7th grade)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Chlamydia Infection in Female Youth (Ages 15-19) (Rate per 100,000 population)

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2011</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>3,267.3</td>
<td>3,505.7</td>
<td>3,723.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2,247.0</td>
<td>2,293.4</td>
<td>2,355.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3,378.2</td>
<td>3,416.5</td>
<td>3,291.5</td>
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</table>

Kern County Births to Teens 15-19 (2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Caucasian</th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>Asian/Pac Islander</th>
<th>Native American</th>
<th>Total *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Live Births</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>1,234</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 females in race/ethnicity group</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>49.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Figures will not total 100 percent as unknown or multiple races are excluded from these tables.

- In Kern County, Latino children (11%) were most likely to be uninsured compared to Asian (8%), Caucasian (7%) and African-American (5%) children.
- Among Kern County youth ages 12-17, 81% received a routine health check-up within the past 12 months in 2011-12, up from an estimated 69% in 2001.
- However, according to 2011-2012 data, less than half (45%) of California children ages 0-17 received care within a “medical home,” compared to 54% nationwide.
- In California and nationwide, older, low-income, Latino, and African American children were less likely to have a medical home.
- As of 2012, 86% of Kern County’s children between the ages of 12-17 had visited a physician within the past year for a routine checkup, an increase from 62% in 2009.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child health data are available using Kidsdata.org.
• In 2012, 1,696 babies were born to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 years in Kern County, a birth rate of 49.4 per 1,000 females in this age group.
• Kern County’s teen birth rate decreased by 30% between 2008 and 2012, from 70.4 to 49.4 per 1,000 young women ages 15-19.
• During the same year, California’s teen birth rate was 25.7 per 1,000 females.
• Kern county had the highest rate of teen births in the state in 2012.
• Kern County had the highest chlamydia infection rate in California during 2012.
• Kern’s chlamydia infection rate among females aged 15-19 in 2012 was 58% higher than the state’s rate and 13% higher than the national rate for teen girls.
• Findings from the 2009-11 California Healthy Kids Survey show older students and female students were most likely to report feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more consecutive weeks in the past year.
• From 2010 to 2012, Kern County lost 6 youth the ages of 13 and 17 years to suicide.
• Males accounted for 83% of Kern’s suicides in this age group.
• Youth committed suicide between 2010 and 2012 with either by hanging/suffocation (50%), a firearm (33%) or poisoning (17%).
• From 2010 to 2012, 132 children and youth between were hospitalized for self-inflicted injuries.
• Females (72%) had a higher rate of attempted suicide than males (28%).
• The attempted suicide rates for Caucasian (45%) and Latino (42%) youth were considerably higher than any other racial or ethnic group.
• African American (8%), Asian/Pacific Islander (3%) and other ethnicity (2%) comprised the remaining racial/ethnic groups with self-inflicted injuries.
• Kern county had the highest chlamydia infection rate in California during 2012.
• Kern's chlamydia rate among females aged 15-19 in 2012 was 58% higher than the state’s rate and 13% higher than the national rate for teen girls.
• Findings from the 2009-11 California Healthy Kids Survey show older students and female students were most likely to report feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more consecutive weeks in the past year.
• In Kern County, 20% of 9th graders and 17% of 11th graders reported on the 2009-11 California Healthy Kids Survey that they seriously considered attempting suicide during
Birth Rates for Teenage Females Aged 15 - 19 Years
Kern County, California & United States – 2002-2012

Birth Rates for Teenage Females Aged 15 - 19 Years by Race/Ethnicity
Kern County, 2002-2012
The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is administered every two years in order to meet the requirements of the federal Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act. Between the fall of 2009 and spring of 2011, the Survey asked 7th 9th, 11th graders health and behavior questions to find out what problems students face in regards to substance abuse and violence to help put programs in place to effectively address problems.

According to the 2009-11 California Healthy Kids Survey, rates of current tobacco, alcohol, marijuana use are higher among older students and males with the exception of alcohol use which was higher among female students than males.

Additional customizable Kern County and California tobacco, alcohol & substance use data are available using Kidsdata.org.
**Percent of Students Reporting Participation in High Risk Behaviors Associated with Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs by Grade**

*Kern County, 2009-11*

- **Smoked Marijuana on School Property in Past Month**
  - Grade 7: 3%
  - Grade 9: 6%
  - Grade 11: 6%

- **Ever Been Drunk or High on School Property**
  - Grade 7: 5%
  - Grade 9: 13%
  - Grade 11: 21%

- **Ever Been Very Drunk or Sick After Drinking**
  - Grade 7: 11%
  - Grade 9: 27%
  - Grade 11: 41%

- **Ever Been High From Using Drugs**
  - Grade 7: 9%
  - Grade 9: 22%
  - Grade 11: 35%

- **Binge Drank in Past 30 Days**
  - Grade 7: 6%
  - Grade 9: 16%
  - Grade 11: 22%

**Percent of Students Reporting Participation in Various Levels of Tobacco Use by Grade**

*Kern County, 2009-11*

- **Tried Whole Cigarette During Their Life**
  - Grade 7: 8%
  - Grade 9: 8%
  - Grade 11: 23%

- **Tried Smokeless Tobacco During Their Life**
  - Grade 7: 5%
  - Grade 9: 8%
  - Grade 11: 12%

- **Smoked During Past 30 Days**
  - Grade 7: 6%
  - Grade 9: 12%
  - Grade 11: 14%

- **Smoked Daily During Past 30 Days**
  - Grade 7: 1%
  - Grade 9: 2%
  - Grade 11: 4%

**Percent of Students Reporting Use of Alcohol, Tobacco or Other Drugs During Past 30 Days (Current Use) by Gender & Grade – Kern County, 2009-11**

- **Drank Alcohol (Whole Drink) During Past 30 Days**
  - Grade 7: 15%
  - Grade 9: 15%
  - Grade 11: 22%

- **Binge Drank in Past 30 Days**
  - Grade 7: 6%
  - Grade 9: 6%
  - Grade 11: 6%

- **Smoked Marijuana During Past 30 Days**
  - Grade 7: 2%
  - Grade 9: 6%
  - Grade 11: 5%

- **Used Inhalants During Past 30 Days**
  - Grade 7: 6%
  - Grade 9: 5%
  - Grade 11: 3%
The Child and Community Safety chapter highlights Kern County’s capacity to provide children a safe environment in their home and neighborhood from birth through young adulthood. Topics addressed in the section will help inform how and where to concentrate local efforts to prevent injury and violence from occurring in the first place.

**Key Facts**

- Since 2002, Kern County averaged 28 child deaths annually from unintentional injury with motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause.
- Kern County’s child death rate from unintentional injuries has decreased by 46% between 2002 and 2012.
- About 1 in 10 Kern County students in grades 7, 9 and 11 considered themselves a gang member.
- Over half of Kern County students in 7th, 9th and 11th felt safe or very safe at their school.
- Although reports decline as students age, about 1 out of every 3 Kern County high school students said they were bullied in the past year.
- Kern County’s rates of domestic calls for assistance and juvenile felony arrests remain higher than California’s overall rates.
Unintentional injuries—such as those caused by falls, road traffic, burns, and drowning—are the leading cause of injury and mortality among children in Kern County.

In 2012, unintentional injuries killed 21 Kern County children under the age of 18 years and caused serious, non-fatal injury to 483 other children.

Between 2002 and 2012, 311 Kern County children under age 18 years have been killed and 5,721 have been hospitalized from an unintentional injury, an average of 28.3 and 520.1 children annually, respectively.

Kern County’s death rate among children/youth from an unintentional injury has decreased by 46% between 2002 and 2012, from 15.5 per 100,000 to 8.4.

Kern County’s hospitalization rate among children/youth from an unintentional injury has decreased by 16% between 2002 and 2012, from 228.6 per 100,000 to 192.2.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child unintentional injury data are available using Kidsdata.org.
• Falls are the leading cause of emergency room visits among Kern County children under age 18 years.
• In 2012, 6,310 children had an initial emergency department visit for injuries from a fall in Kern County, a rate of 2,511.0 per 100,000 children.
• Between 2002 and 2012, there were 1,635 Kern County children admitted as inpatients with injuries caused by a fall, an average of 148.6 children each year.
• Boys regardless of age were more likely to have injuries (65%) from a fall than girls (35%).
• Caucasian and Latino children had the highest rates of fall-related injuries, 62% and 32%, respectively.
• Kern County children aged 0 to 5 years had a higher rate of injuries from falls than any other age group.
• Falls accounted for 45% of the total nonfatal unintentional injuries for children less than 6 years of age between 2002 and 2012.
Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death among children under the age of 18 in Kern County.

During 2012, 15 children were hospitalized and 3 children were killed from accidents involving drowning in Kern County.

From 2002 to 2012, 114 children were hospitalized and 47 children were killed from accidents involving drowning in Kern County, an average of 10.4 and 4.3 children a year, respectively.

Kern County’s death rate among children/youth from injuries involving drowning has increased by 33% between 2002 and 2012, from 0.9 per 100,000 to 1.2.

The majority of the children who drowned in Kern County between 2002 and 2012 were male (62%).

Young children ages 5 years and under accounted for 68% of all child drowning victims.

Caucasian and Latino children each comprised 47% of the total number of drowning deaths from 2002 to 2012 in Kern County.
• In 2012, there were 148 child deaths in Kern County.
• Of these deaths, the Kern County Child Death Review Team (CDRT) investigated 55 deaths of children to better understand the circumstances of the child’s death and recommend local action to prevent other deaths.
• The cases reviewed included 18 accidental deaths (33%), 24 deaths from natural causes (44%), 6 homicides (11%) and 7 deaths of undetermined manner (12%).
• Between 2008 and 2012, deaths involving motor vehicle and traffic related accidents represented 53% of the accidental death cases reviewed by CDRT members.
• 33% of the children killed in automobile crashes in 2012 were unrestrained/improperly restrained as an occupant in the car.
• Of the remaining cases reviewed for 2012 involving motor vehicles, 5 children died as pedestrians.
• Among 2012 child homicide victims, 4 children died from being beaten or from blunt force trauma and 2 children died from gunshot wounds.
• 35% of the cases of child deaths reviewed in 2012 involved the deaths of infants.
• The cases reviewed involving infants included 8 deaths from natural causes, 1 death caused by an accident and 3 homicides from either a beating or blunt force trauma.
• The Coroner categorized 7 infant deaths as “undetermined,” meaning a final manner of death could not be identified, however, these deaths were associated with an unsafe sleep environment.
• In 2009-11, 16% of 7th graders, 21% of 9th graders and 21% of 11th graders reported they have been harassed, threatened or humiliated through electronic means such as email, texting or by using social networking sites.

• In Kern County, 4.5% of 7th graders, 5.3% of 9th graders, and 7.5% of 11th graders reported that they had been hit, slapped, or intentionally physically hurt by a girlfriend or boyfriend during the past year, according to 2009-11 survey data.

• 0.8% of Kern’s 7th grade students identified themselves as gang members.

• Although reports of bullying decline among older students, it is still relatively high at 34% in 9th grade and 29% in 11th grade.

• Bullying is highest in Kern County middle schools, where its prevalence is 43% in 7th grade.

• When Kern County youth are bullied or harassed at school, the most common specific reason cited was their race or national origin.

What is Bullying?
Bullying has two key components: repeated harmful acts and an imbalance of power. It involves repeated physical, verbal or psychological attacks or intimidation against a victim.

Bullying includes assault, tripping, intimidation, rumor-spreading and isolation, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, destruction of another’s work, and name-calling.

Additional customizable Kern County and California school safety data are available using Kidsdata.org.
Violence-Related Behavior & Experiences During the Past 12 Months at School
Kern County 7th, 9th & 11th Graders
*Kern County, 2009-11*

Percentage of Students Surveyed

- **Been Afraid of Being Beaten Up**: 27%, 21%, 13%
- **Been Pushed, Shoved or Hit at School**: 45%, 31%, 21%
- **Been in a Physical Fight**: 27%, 21%, 16%
- **Carried a Gun onto School Property**: 6%, 5%, 3%
- **Carried any Weapon onto School Property**: 11%, 13%, 9%

Percentage of Students Who Consider Themselves a Gang Member by Gender & Grade
*Kern County, 2009-11*

- **Grade 7**: Male 9%, Female 8%
- **Grade 9**: Male 11%, Female 8%
- **Grade 11**: Male 11%, Female 6%
Gun Violence

Firearm-Related Hospitalizations, Children Under 18 Years
Kern County, 2012

- Unintentional Injuries: 22%
- Assault Injuries: 78%

Firearm-Related Fatalities, Children Under 18 Years
Kern County, 2012

- Unintentional Injuries: 8%
- Self-Inflicted Injuries: 20%
- Assault Injuries: 72%

In Kern County, 36 children and youth died from firearm-related injuries between 2002 and 2012.

- These include homicides, assaults, suicides and unintentional injuries. Homicide accounted for 72% of the deaths; 20% were the result of suicide and 8% were the result of accidents.

- African-American (46%) and Latino (46%) youth were most likely to be homicide victims from gunshot wounds during 2002 to 2012.

- The average youth who died as a victim of homicide or from an accidental shooting was 14.5 years old.

- Male children and youth were about 12 times more likely to be murdered with a firearm than females.

- Between 2002 and 2012, another 105 Kern County children required hospitalization because of firearm-related injuries.

- 78% of the firearm related injuries were the result of assaults and 22% were the result of accidents.

- Again, males (90%) were more likely than females to be involved in intentional and accidental shootings.

- The average age of youth who were injured in assaults with a firearm was 15.4 years old.

- Caucasian (47%) and African-American (41%) children/youth were more likely to be injured by an intentional shooting in Kern County than Latino (12%) and Native American (1%) from 2002 to 2012.

- Children were more likely to be injured accidentally with firearms averaged 13.7 years old.

- Caucasian (57%) children and youth were more likely to be injured by an accidental shooting in Kern County than Latino (26%) and African-American (17%) from 2002 to 2012.
In 2013, 4,129 children were reported missing in Kern County. Of these, 3,999 were suspected runaways, 7 were lost, 24 were suspected family abduction, 3 were missing under suspicious circumstances and 96 were reported under unknown circumstances.

At the end of 2013, 3,976 of the missing child reports previously noted were canceled (96%). 2,672 children were returned, 930 were located, 136 were arrested, 4 became emancipated, 6 were voluntary missing, 12 were withdrawn or invalid and 215 were removed from the system for other reasons.

A total of 153 children remained missing at year end.
• In 2012, 51% of juvenile felony arrests in Kern County were for property offenses, 21% for violent offenses, 21% for other offenses (e.g., weapons, hit-and-run), 5% for drug and alcohol offenses, and 2% for sex offenses.

• The 2012 juvenile felony arrest rate for males (17.0 per 1,000) was nearly five times the rate of females (3.6 per 1,000) in Kern County.

• In 2012, African American and Latino youth together comprised 78% of all juvenile felony arrests in Kern County.

• Among racial/ethnic groups, African American youth are arrested at higher rates than their peers in other groups with a felony arrest rate of 53.9 per 1,000 youth aged 10-17 years.

• Among surveyed Kern County students, 4% of 7th graders, 5% of 9th graders, and 8% of 11th graders reported that they had been hit, slapped, or intentionally physically hurt by a girlfriend or boyfriend in the past 12 months, according to 2009-11 data.

• During 2012, Kern County law enforcement officers recorded 4,726 calls for assistance in domestic violence situations, a rate of 8.6 calls per 1,000 population.

• In comparison, California rate of calls for assistance was 6.2 calls per 1,000.

• In total, 19% of these calls for assistance involved weapons: 35% involved the use of firearms, knives, or other dangerous weapons and the remaining 65% involved personal weapons, such as hands, fists or feet.

• During 2012, the rate of juveniles (ages 10-17) arrested for a felony was 10.4 per 1,000 youth compared to 8.8 statewide.

• Kern’s juvenile felony arrest rate has fallen by 53% between 2002 and 2012, from 22.0 per 1,000 youth to 10.4 per 1,000 youth.

• Additional customizable Kern County and California juvenile arrest rates data are available using Kidsdata.org.
Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate by Offense
Kern County & California, 2012

Kern County
- Drug and Alcohol Offenses: 5.0%
- Property Offenses: 1.9%
- Sex Offenses: 20.7%
- Violent Offenses: 21.1%
- Other Offenses: 10.0%

California
- Drug and Alcohol Offenses: 25.9%
- Property Offenses: 21.9%
- Sex Offenses: 20.7%
- Violent Offenses: 21.1%
- Other Offenses: 10.0%
Children, regardless of age, gender or socioeconomic status, are abused and neglected every day in Kern County. The consequences of child maltreatment can be profound and may endure long after the abuse or neglect occurs. The Report Card’s Child Well-Being chapter presents the most recent data available on children who came into contact with Kern County’s child welfare system due to abuse or neglect.

Key Facts

• In 2013, 17,990 children – 49 children each day – were reported to Child Protective Services with child abuse and neglect allegations.
• Kern’s substantiated child abuse/neglect rate fell for the 5th straight year – down 38% from its peak in 2001.
• Child neglect comprised 93% of Kern’s total cases of child maltreatment.
• Younger children, particularly infants, were the most vulnerable to abuse and neglect at a rate nearly 3 times the County’s overall rate.
• 32 Kern County children died from abuse or neglect between 2009 and 2013.
• Kern’s foster youth population has declined by 43% since 2003.

Jump to -

• Child Abuse & Neglect Reports
• Neglect
• Physical Abuse
• Sexual Abuse
• Child Abuse & Neglect Stats
• Severe Injury to Children
• Child Near Fatalities
• Child Fatalities
• Children Entering into Foster Care
• Children Served in Foster Care
• Family & Sibling Connections
• Teenagers in Foster Care
• Exiting Foster Care
• Adoption & Guardianships
• Contents Page
• During 2013, Kern County CPS received 17,990 reports (allegations) of suspected child abuse or neglect of children -- an average of 49 children per day.
• Of these reports, 3,834 Kern County children were found to have been victims of abuse and neglect after investigation by CPS -- an average of 11 children per day.
• Kern County’s referral rate was 71.4 children per 1,000 children in 2013. Kern’s overall referral rate decreased 2% from the previous year’s rate of 72.9 per 1,000 children.
• Kern’s substantiated abuse rate declined 11% from 17.1 per 1,000 children in 2012 to 15.2 in 2013, however, this rate remains nearly twice California’s child abuse rate of 8.9.
• Child abuse rates per 1,000 children in California counties ranged from 0 to 31.2 in 2013.
• Kern County had the 11th highest substantiated child abuse rate in the state during 2013.
• In 2013, 93% of all child victims of maltreatment in Kern experienced general or severe neglect, meaning a caretaker failed to provide for the child’s basic needs.
• Fewer children had allegations for physical abuse (3%), caretaker absence/incapacity (2%), or sexual abuse (1%) substantiated.
• In 2013, 667 infants were the victims of child abuse in Kern County, a rate of 45.1 per 1,000 infants. This rate is about three times higher than Kern’s overall rate of substantiated abuse and neglect.
• When compared to other race/ethnic groups, African-American children experienced the highest rate child abuse and neglect in Kern County with 35.2 per 1,000 African-American children.
• Kern County child maltreatment data shows 91% of children for whom there was a substantiated abuse/neglect allegation did not have another substantiated incident within six months of their first founded report from January 2013 to June 2013.

Additonal customizable Kern County and California child abuse & neglect data are available using Kidsdata.org.
Child Abuse & Neglect Reports cont.

Substantiated Child Maltreatment Rates - Incidence per 1,000 Children
Kern County & California – 2003-2013

Child Maltreatment Allegations by Disposition
Kern County, 2013

Substantiated Child Abuse & Neglect by Type
Kern County, 2013

Substantiated Child Abuse by Age - Incidents per 1,000 Children
Kern County, 2003-2013
Child neglect is failure to provide for a child’s basic physical, emotional, medical or educational needs which threatens the child’s health or welfare. General neglect is the negligent failure of a parent/guardian or caretaker to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or supervision where no physical injury to the child has occurred. Severe neglect refers to those situations of neglect where the child’s health is endangered, including severe malnutrition.

- During 2013, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of severe and general neglect for 13,402 children to ensure they were safe, 74% of Kern County’s total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 3,548 Kern County children were confirmed as cases of neglect upon investigation, a substantiation rate of 26%.
- 604 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS’ investigation of neglect allegations.
- The three largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (38%), other mandated reporter professionals (16%) and medical professionals (11%).
- 64% of children placed in foster care due to neglect returned home in less than 12 months during 2013 calendar year.
Physical abuse is the injury to a child that is not an accident. This may include: beating, burning, biting, kicking, cutting, shaking, or punching a child.

- During 2013, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of physical abuse for 1,859 children to ensure they were safe, 10% of Kern County’s total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 109 Kern County children were confirmed to be victims of physical abuse upon investigation, a substantiation rate of 5%.
- 31 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS’ investigation of physical abuse allegations.
- The four largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (46%), education (30%), medical professionals (7%) and other mandated reporter professionals (7%).
- 68% of children placed in foster care due to physical abuse returned home in less than 12 months during 2013 calendar year.
Sexual abuse is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification. This may include indecent exposure, fondling, rape, or commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.

- During 2013, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of sexual abuse for 1,026 children to ensure they were safe, 6% of Kern County’s total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 49 Kern County children were determined to be victims of sexual abuse, a substantiation rate of 5%.
- 9 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS’ investigation of sexual abuse allegations.
- The four largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (46%), school personnel (11%), counselor/therapist (11%) and other mandated reporter professionals (11%).
- 61% of children placed in foster care due to sexual abuse returned home in less than 12 months during 2013 calendar year.
## Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics

### CPS Referral Rates per 1,000 Children

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### Foster Care Rates per 1,000 Children (Entry + Re-Entry)

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### Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children

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<td>9.5</td>
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### Percentage of CPS Referrals Substantiated

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<tr>
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### Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children (2013)

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### Foster Care Prevalence Rate per 1,000 Children (Children in care on 7/1/13)

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### Foster Care Prevalence Rate per 1,000 Children (Children in care on 7/1/13)

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### Foster Care Population (2008-13)

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<td>2,232</td>
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• In 2013, 8 children suffered from severe injuries as a result of abuse or neglect. Kern County defines severe injury as any injury that includes, but is not limited to, multiple fractures, amputation of limbs, burns requiring hospitalization, severe sexual abuse and torture.

• Consistent with state and national trends, very young children are the most vulnerable population to sustain severe injuries. In Kern County, all 8 children who experienced severe injuries from abuse or neglect in 2013 were under the age of six years and averaged 18.6 months in age.

• Seven (7) of the severely injured children were age 2 years or younger (88% of the total children).

• An equal number of boys (50%) and girls (50%) were victims of severe injury from child maltreatment.

• A near fatality is defined by the state as: a severe childhood injury or condition caused by abuse or neglect which results in the child receiving critical care for at least 24 hours following the child’s admission to a critical care unit.

• In 2013, there were 5 near fatalities resultant from abuse or neglect in Kern County.

• All 5 child near fatalities from abuse or neglect in 2013 were under the age of 3 years and averaged 15.2 months in age.

• For near fatalities, the number of incidents involving males (60%) was greater than the number involving females (40%).

• Injuries diagnosed in 5 child near fatalities due to abuse or neglect included: Tylenol ingestion, Shaken Baby Syndrome, chronic/acute bilateral subdural hematoma, subdural hematoma, and skull fracture/severe brain bleed.
Between 2009 and 2013, 32 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kern County.

In 2013, 4 Kern County children died as a direct result of child abuse or neglect.

All 4 fatalities were under the age of 3 years, consistent with national and previous county data that found very young children to be most vulnerable.

In 2013, 3 of the 4 children who died from abuse were female.

Each of the children died at the hands of those who were entrusted to care for them and keep them safe.

Blunt force trauma to the head was diagnosed in 2 of the 4 abuse/neglect-related fatalities. The remaining 2 children were killed by blunt force trauma and an unsafe sleeping environment.
On July 1, 2013, there were 1,686 children in the foster care system across Kern County, 124 fewer children than the previous year’s count.

Infants (8.3 per 1,000 infants) and toddlers (7.3 per 1,000 children 1-2 years old) experienced the highest in-care rates in Kern’s foster care system.

In 2013, African-American children (13.4 per 1,000 African-American children) were in foster care at a rate greater than children in any other racial/ethnic group.

During 2013, 24% of children in the Kern County foster care system experienced more than two placements in less than 12 months.

Statewide, the placement stability rate was 13% in 2013.

Additional customizable Kern County and California foster care data are available using Kidsdata.org.
Children Served in Foster Care cont.

Placement Settings for Children in Foster Care – Kern County, July 1, 2013

- Relative/Kin: 27%
- Guardian Foster Homes: 20%
- Foster/Family Agency (FFA) Homes: 40%
- Other: 13%

Selected Foster Care Placement Settings by Age Group – Kern County, 2013

- Under 3 Years: 27%, 18%, 21%, 28%
- 3 to 5 Years: 35%, 19%, 22%
- 6 to 10 Years: 92%
- 11 to 17 Years: 30%
On July 1, 2013, 447 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 lived in foster care in Kern County, 27% of the county’s foster care population.

Teens exiting foster care were reunited with their families in less than a year 50% of the time during 2013.

Some children remain in foster care until they are 18 or have graduated from high school. In Kern County, 49 youth were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in foster care in 2013.

60% of youth aging out of Kern’s foster care system had been in care for three years or longer.

Assembly Bill 12 (AB 12) allows foster youth the option to remain in foster care and received services until age 20 years. On July 1, 2013, 150 youth between 18 and 20 years elected to remain in the foster care system.

Whenever possible, sibling units are placed in the same foster home. On July 1, 2013, the share of Kern County’s foster youth placed with at least one sibling was 72% in comparison to 73% throughout California.

Kinship care is the full time care of children by relatives, godparents, step-parents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child. On July 1, 2013, 27% of the Kern County children in out-of-home care lived with relatives compared to 36% statewide.

Among children placed with kin, 50% were between the ages of 0 and 5 years and 56% were Latino.
• During 2013, 777 children and youth exited foster care in Kern County.
• 60% of Kern’s exiting children and youth were reunified with their families in less than 12 months compared to California’s reunification rate of 64%.
• The median length of time before Kern County children in foster care were reunified with their families was 9.1 months in 2013.
• Youth between the ages 11 and 15 were the least likely to reunify in 12 months (48%), and infants were the most likely in Kern (100%).
• Children whose first placement type was a foster care home/FFA was most likely to reunify in less than a year (61%) and group homes were the least likely (38%).
• Of the 611 Kern County children discharged from foster care to reunification during 2011, 91% did not return to foster care in less than 12 months from the date of the earliest discharge to reunification, a figure higher than the state rate of 88%.

Additional customizable Kern County and California exit from foster care data are available using Kidsdata.org.
Exiting Foster Care cont.

Percentage of Children Who Exited Foster Care to Reunify with Family in Less Than Year
Kern County & California, 2003-2013

Kern County & California, 2003-2013

Median Length of Time in Foster Care by Age Group
Kern County & California, 2013
When a child cannot be returned home and adoption is not in the child’s best interests, then guardianship is considered to be a more permanent plan for a child.

- During 2013, 123 children exited foster care to a guardianship.
- Over half of Kern County guardianships (55%) were for children ages 6 and older in 2013.
- 51% of the Kern County children who left foster care to guardianship were females during 2013.
- Half of the children who exited foster care to guardianship during 2013 were Latino (50%) followed by Caucasian (27%) and African-American (21%) children.

Additional customizable Kern County and California adoption from foster care data are available using Kidsdata.org.
For many, the maltreatment of children can be very difficult to talk about. It may even be more difficult to acknowledge that children, regardless of age, gender or socioeconomic status, are abused and neglected every day in Kern County.

Abused and neglected children are at increased risk of social and emotional problems, poor peer relationships, academic problems, substance use and dependency, risky behaviors, and even death. As adults, child victims often suffer from persistent physical and mental health problems, substance abuse, homelessness, suicide, violence and criminal behavior.

Mandated reporters and other concerned adults often refer potentially dangerous situations to Child Protective Services (CPS) for investigation. While the number of reports to CPS can indicate about how many children in the county are potentially at risk of abuse and neglect, referral rates also demonstrate the willingness of community members to report events where children may be in danger. By working together as a community, we all can play a part in strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect.
Despite the availability of child abuse prevention services, the reality is that some families will not use them in time. The prevention of child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility. We all can do small things every day that help children have healthy, safe lives. Anything you do to support children and parents can help reduce the stress that often leads to abuse and neglect. Below are ways you can get involved.

Know What Child Abuse Is, and What the Signs Are
Physical and sexual abuse clearly constitutes maltreatment, but so does neglect—the failure of parents or others to provide food, clothing and care. Children can also be emotionally abused when they are rejected, berated or continuously isolated. In addition to unexplained injuries, depression, fear of a certain adult, difficulty trusting others or making friends, sudden changes in eating or sleeping patterns, inappropriate sexual behavior, poor hygiene, secrecy and hostility are often signs.

Learn more about becoming a resource to your family, friends and co-workers about what is child abuse/neglect and how to report with the California Online Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training.

Report Abuse
If you witness a child being harmed, if a child tells you about abuse, or if you merely suspect abuse, report it to Kern County Child Protective Services hotline at (661) 631-6011—and keep reporting it—until something is done.

When you report suspected child abuse or neglect, please provide as much information as possible with regard to the situation: child’s name, parent’s name, address, phone number and the reason why you are concerned. You do not have to give your name, but it helps Child Protective Services if they have further questions. If you do give Child Protective Services your name, your identity is kept strictly confidential.

Encourage Help
If you know a family that is experiencing stress and is in need of food, financial aid, utility assistance, housing, counseling, parent education, child care, clothing, etc., encourage them to call 2-1-1, Kern’s comprehensive information and referral service, visit a Family Resource Center located closest to them in their community or share the Department of Human Services Resource Guide with them.

Support Prevention Efforts
Share your time and concern by volunteering with child and family service agencies and organizations throughout Kern County. Mentor a teen mom, become a foster parent, volunteer as a CASA Advocate, donate items to a Family Resource Center or Differential Response program for children and families in need, or organize a donation drive at your workplace, school or place of worship for children and youth who have experienced abuse and receive helping services at the Dream Center and/or Jamison Center.
Child Abuse in Public Places

Whether you are at a doctor’s office or in a shopping mall, you may witness parenting situations that make you uncomfortable. One of the main reasons for inappropriate parenting behavior is because a parent’s expectations for their child are beyond the child’s development level. Stress and lack of effective disciple methods are also possible causes.

You can play an active role in ending child abuse. The key is speaking up. When you see or suspect child abuse, don’t look the other way. If an adult is losing patience with a child, intervene, but keep it positive. Intervening in the situation will help to deescalate the situation for the child and the parent may realize that their behavior is not appropriate.

Start a conversation with the adult to direct attention away from the child.
• “My child sometimes gets upset like that too.”
• “Children can really wear you out sometimes. Is there anything I can do to help?”
• “Kids at that age have so much energy and can really run fast. Sometimes it is hard to keep up with them.”

Divert the child’s attention by talking to the child.
• “I like your t-shirt. Did you get that on vacation?”
• That’s a great baseball cap. Are you a Dodger’s fan?”

Look for an opportunity to praise the parent or child.
• “She has the most beautiful eyes.”
• “That is a very nice shirt your little boy has on. Where did you get it?”
• “Your child is very cute. How old is she?”

If the child is in danger, offer assistance.
• If the child is left unattended in a grocery cart, stand near the child until the parent returns.

Avoid negative remarks or looks. Negative reactions are likely to increase a parent’s stress or anger and could make the situation worse for the child.

To learn more, please visit the Kern Cares website.

Taken from Blue Ribbons For Kids.
The prevention of child abuse and neglect requires the involvement of the entire community - it can be a matter of life or death. Kern Cares is devoted to preventing child abuse and neglect by building communities that are committed to families and to the support and services they need to raise strong, healthy, and successful children. And that begins with awareness.

Formed in 2010, the Kern Cares Children’s Advocacy Committee is a group of private business, faith-based, non-profit, education and public service organizations that help guide Kern Cares outreach and education efforts. The Committee utilizes child death and safety data, and community needs information to develop Kern Cares’ annual calendar of prevention campaigns to address what each of us can do to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote child safety.

Committee Members

Heidi Carter-Escudero
Outreach & Communications, Department of Human Services

Tom Corson
Executive Director, Kern County Network for Children

Leslie A. Golich
Director of Hospital and Healthplan Operations, Kaiser Permanente

Martha Gómez
Administrative Assistant, Kern County Network for Children

Carrie Kunzmann
Pastoral Assistant of Community Transformation, The Bridge Bible Church

Vanessa Lam
Kern County Public Health Department

Brian J. Mendiburu
Assistant Principal, Instruction, Bakersfield High School

Shirelle Perez
Program Facilitator II, Community Connection for Child Care

Kim Silva
Research Associate, Kern County Network for Children

Eric Simpson
Pastor of Community Transformation, The Bridge Bible Church

Kristin N. Weber
Public Affairs Department, Kaiser Permanente

Barbara Zimmermann
Executive Coordinator, Department of Human Services

Information about child abuse and neglect, how to report suspected abuse and community resources can be found at the Kern Cares website and on Facebook.
Kern County Network for Children (KCNC)

KCNC programs and initiatives serve to improve child safety outcomes for Kern County children and families by administering supportive services to families most at-risk of experiencing child abuse and neglect; providing child abuse prevention education and awareness services; improving coordination and cooperation among family serving agencies; and implementing collaborative programs, public and private, to better meet the most critical needs of Kern County’s children and families.

We believe in:
• Personal responsibility and family self-sufficiency as the cornerstones of resilient, stable communities;
• Grassroots solutions to local problems;
• Empowering local residents to address common concerns;
• Locally-based, accessible services;
• Program accountability and delivery of cost-effective services.

Our primary roles:
• Kern’s Child Abuse Prevention Council
• Kern’s Coordinating Council for Child and Family Services
• Planning, administrative and oversight body for child abuse prevention and neglect services.

As Kern County’s Child Abuse Prevention Council, KCNC takes its commitment to improving lives seriously and believes in the power of collaboration as the most effective way to support families and provide children with positive, nurturing environments.

The Network, in partnership with government leaders, local community collaboratives, nonprofit agencies, organizations, businesses and concerned individuals, administers the following services throughout Kern County:

Kern County Differential Response
www.kcnc.org/regionalDR
A research-based strategy that expands Child Protective Services’ ability to respond differently to suspected reports of child abuse/neglect by assisting families at first signs of trouble with county-wide case management services.

Parental Education & Time Limited Reunification
www.kcnc.org/tlfr
Specialized parent education, case management, counseling and other supportive services for families who have experienced child abuse or neglect to learn how to effectively parent their children and stop the horrible cycle of abuse and neglect.

Kern Cares
www.kerncares.org
The Kern County Child Abuse Prevention Council’s annual child well-being calendar based upon community child death and safety data that address what each of us can do to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote child safety. Information about child abuse and neglect, how to report suspected abuse and community resources can be found at www.kerncares.org.
The Dream Center

kcsos.kern.org/dreamcenter

A one-stop resource center that provides independent living, mentoring, social/educational services and job assistance for Kern’s current, transitioning and emancipated foster youth.

Kern County Report Card

www.kcnc.org/reportcard

Annual publication of more than 140 child well-being data indicators that tracks the quality of life among Kern County children, with a focus on child abuse and neglect. This interactive tool builds awareness in community of critical issues and provides data to local service providers to focus their strategies build collaboration and develop funding.

KCNC’s Annual Leadership Development Program

www.kcnc.org/leadership

A 6-month program to help those already in leadership positions in their neighborhoods or organizations gain useful leadership skills in the areas of community awareness, group, personal and self-image skills. The recognized program has graduated nearly 600 community members since 1998.

Community Discussion Forums & Quality Trainings

KCNC invites community partners and concerned individuals can take part in our regular monthly forums including the General Collaborative, Group Home Coalition, Foster Youth Advisory Board and Domestic Violence Advisory Committee to network, foster best practices, raise awareness and share information on behalf of children and families. KCNC helps partner agencies and family support programs increase their capacity to serve children and families with technical assistance, contract administration, evaluation services and high quality community trainings in the areas of child safety, Mandated Reporting, and issues that Kern communities and families face.
Since 1992, Kern County communities have partnered together as Community Collaboratives to better care for children and families. Nineteen of these partnerships have completed an in-depth application process and review by Kern County Network for Children and have been designated Accredited Community Collaboratives. Most Community Collaboratives host a Family Resource Center (FRC) or Community Resource Center (CRC). The following list can be used to refer individuals or families to needed services within their own community.

**Accredited Community Collaboratives**

Arvin ........................................ Arvin Collaborative and FRC ........................................ 661.854.6525
Bakersfield .................................... 34th Street Neighborhood Partnership ............................. 661.324.3213
East Bakersfield Community Collaborative and CRC ........................................ 661.631.5895
Greenfield H.E.L.P.S. Collaborative and FRC ................................................... 661.837.3720
South Chester Collaborative and FRC ................................................................. 661.631.5945
Southeast Neighborhood Partnership and FRC ................................................. 661.322.3276
Buttonwillow .................................. Buttonwillow Community Collaborative and CRC ................. 661.764.9405
Frazier Park Area .............................. Mountain Communities Collaborative and FRC .......................... 661.245.4303
Lake Isabella Area ............................ Kern River Valley Collaborative and FRC ......................... 760.379.2556, ext. 601
Lamont/Weedpatch ............................ Lamont/Weedpatch Collaborative and FRC ..................... 661.845.2724, ext. 300
Lost Hills ........................................ Lost Hills Collaborative .............................................. 661.797.3042
McFarland ....................................... McFarland Community Collaborative and FRC ...................... 661.792.1883
Mojave Area .................................... East Kern Collaborative and FRC ........................................ 661.824.4118
Ridgecrest Area ................................. Indian Wells Valley Collaborative and FRC ...................... 760.375.4357
Shafter .......................................... Shafter Healthy Start Collaborative and FRC ............................ 661.746.8690
Taft Area ....................................... Greater Westside “Together We Can” Collaborative and CRC .......... 661.765.7281
Wasco .......................................... Wasco Collaborative .................................................... 661.758.7706
Kern County .................................... Kern Senior Network ................................................... 661.832.1324
Richardson Special Needs Collaborative and FRC ............................................. 661.336.5482

**Other Community Collaboratives**

Bakersfield ................................. Oildale Collaborative and CRCs ............................. 661.392.2110, ext. 118 or 661.392.8758, ext. 1
Delano ........................................ Delano Neighborhood Partnership and CRC ........................ 661.721.5000
2014 KCNC Governing Board

Tammy Burns  
Early Childhood Council of Kern

Magda Menendez  
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation

Dr. Don Carter  
Kern High School District

Konrad Moore  
Kern County Public Defender

Morgan Clayton  
Tel-Tec Security

Dena Murphy  
Kern County Department of Human Services

Matt Constantine  
Kern County Department of Public Health

John Nilon  
Kern County Administrative Office

Dr. Christine Lizardi Frazier  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Stephen Pelz  
Housing Authority of the County of Kern

Louis Gill  
Bakersfield Homeless Center/Alliance Against Family Violence

Bill Phelps  
Clinica Sierra Vista

Supervisor Mick Gleason  
Kern County Board of Supervisors

Eric Simpson  
The Bridge Bible Church

Leslie Golich  
Kaiser Permanente

Judge Louie Vega  
Kern County Juvenile Justice Center

Della D. Hodson  
United Way of Kern County

Chief Greg Williamson  
Bakersfield Police Department

Deborah Johnson  
California Veterans Assistance Foundation

Sheriff Donny Youngblood  
Kern County Sheriff’s Department

Chief David M. Kuge  
Kern County Probation Department

Thomas J. Corson  
Executive Director, Kern County Network for Children

Roland Maier  
First 5 Kern

Theresa Goldner  
KCNC Legal Counsel, Office of Kern County Counsel
# 2014 Data Sources

## Children and Family

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## Family Economics

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## K-12 Education

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