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.
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.
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 2013 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 2013 Report Card will 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 2013 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
Carrie Bloxom, Supervising Case Manager for Foster Youth
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

Production of the 2013 Kern County Report Card is made possible by generous support from:

Acknowledgments

Production of the Kern County Report Card is made possible by generous support from:
Students cont.

- Mental Retardation 10%
- Autism 7%
- Specific Learning Disability 43%
- Speech or Language Impairment 25%
- Visual Impairment 1%
- Other Disability 8%
- Brain Injury < 1%

Students Receiving Special Education Services By Primary Disability

Kern County, 2011-12

- Native American
- African-American
- Caucasian
- Asian and Pacific Islanders
- Multi-Race

Few children living in Kern County were born outside the United States – 9% of all those under age 18, and only 2% of those under age 6 in 2011.

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

On behalf of the Kern County Network for Children Governing Board, it is my pleasure to be releasing the 2013 Kern County Report Card. 2013 marks the 21st year of the joint partnership agreement that created the Kern County Network for Children. During the month of April, also referred to as Child Abuse Prevention month, we share with you the findings of this year’s report.

More babies were born at low birth weight, however, fewer infants are dying before their first birthday. We are becoming increasingly aware that the sleep environment can mean life or death for our Kern County infants. Kern’s declining teen birth rate mirrors the trend in California and throughout the nation. Kern County’s average annual unemployment rate declined slightly in 2012, however, remains in the double digits. Housing affordability in Kern County is increasingly more difficult and more families are accessing safety net food programs.

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, expanding the availability of substance abuse treatment, all play a role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

It is your turn to make a difference in the life of a child. This “Make a Difference for a Child!” theme represents efforts to change the way our communities think about prevention, focusing on community activities and public policies that prioritize prevention right from the start.

Working collaboratively is vitally important and is something Kern does well. However, we can always do better. We need to strive each and every day to be the best we can be, because one interaction with a child or family in need can change the outcome of their situation. We need to collaborate. Improving the health and well-being of our most vulnerable population is OUR responsibility. Everyone has a role to play and one by one, we can make a difference in the lives of our children.

The Kern County Report Card is produced as a call to action. It is important that we continue to be vigilant in our fight to improve the health and social service outcomes for our children and their families.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Golich, M.S.A. - HCM
KCNC Governing Board President
The 2013 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 2012.

**Key Facts**

- Kern County’s population grew less than 1% between July 1, 2011 and July 1, 2012 to 855,522 residents.
- In 2012, Kern County’s child population exceeded 250,000 – the 3rd largest child population percentage among California counties.
- Nearly 35% of Kern County’s children were infants, toddlers or preschoolers.
- 6 out of every 10 children were Latino in Kern County.
- Over the last decade, the share of Kern County children living in married-couple homes has declined to 62%.
- 37% of Kern County children were being raised by a single parent and 4% by their grandparents.

**Jump to -**

- Kern County Children
- Contents Page
- Families Raising Children
• Kern County’s children are highly diverse, with the largest group being of Hispanic or Latino origin (61.8%).
• Caucasian children were the second largest group (26.9%), followed by African-Americans (5.1%), Asian and Pacific Islanders (3.0%), Native Americans (0.6%) and all others (2.7%).
• Few children living in Kern County were born outside the United States—5% of all those under age 18 in 2011.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child demographic data are available using KidsData.Org.
• In 2011, 47% of households in Kern County had children under age 18.
• At the same time, 37% of California’s households had children under age 18.
• Of these Kern County households raising their own children, 62% were headed by married couples; 26% were headed by a single mother; and 12% by a single father.
• During 2011, an estimated 81,878 Kern County children lived with just one parent (37% of the total child population).
• Children living in single parent homes were more likely to live with their mothers than with their fathers (72% versus 28%) in Kern County.
• According to 2011 estimates, 10,280 Kern County children lived in the care of their grandparents, or 4% of all children under age 18 in county households.
• 71% of these children had one or both parents also present in the grandparent’s home.
• In 2011, 42% of Kern County children ages 0-17 lived with one or more foreign-born parents. This percentage has been relatively steady over the last decade.
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 2011 was 29% less than the state and 28% less than the nation.
- Kern’s average annual unemployment rate decreased slightly in 2012, but remains double-digit.
- Children in single mother families were nearly 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 2011 and very young children continue to be most at risk of experiencing poverty.
- A Kern County renter earning minimum wage must work 76 hours weekly to afford a two bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent.
- Since 2007, 27,938 more households receive food assistance in Kern County, an increase of 91%.

Jump to -

- Family Income
- Employment
- Poverty
- Housing
- Food
- Contents Page
• 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 $55,550 in 2011.

• The Census Bureau estimates the median income for Kern County families with children was $42,035 in 2011.

• By comparison, the 2011 median income for families raising children in California was $59,071 and $58,035 nationwide.

• Kern County’s 2011 median family income was 28.8% less than the state and 27.6% less than the nation.

• Median income varies by type of family. The income of single parents was far lower than the income of a married-couple family with children ($57,395) in 2011.

• The median family income for single fathers in Kern County in 2011 was nearly twice the median income for single mothers ($32,970 versus $18,029).

• The Kern County Department of Child Support Services served over 60,000 children in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

• Child Support Services established child and medical support orders on 85.5% of open cases over the past FFY 2011-2012.

• The Department was able to increase the percent of child support payments collected and distributed to these children by 6.8% over the prior year, for a total of over $73 million dollars.

• 39% of children in Kern County lived in households receiving public assistance in 2011.

• In California, 26% of children resided in homes receiving public assistance in 2011.

Additional customizable Kern County and California family economic data are available using KidsData.Org.
Kern County licensed child care providers and pro-
grams have the capacity to serve 20% of the estimated
child care need of working parents county-wide.

- The average annual cost of full-time care for an infant
  or toddler in Kern County is $10,598 in a licensed cen-
ter and $6,185 in a family child care home in 2011.

- The cost of care for a preschooler is $7,274 for a
center and $5,979 in a family child care home.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child
care data are available using
KidsData.Org.
• Kern County’s annual average unemployment rate has fallen slightly from 14.9% in 2011 to 13.3% in 2012.

• In comparison, the 2012 average unemployment rate for California 10.5% and 8.1% for the nation.

• According to the American Community Survey, 29,464 children, 12% of Kern’s child population, lived with parents who were unemployed in 2011.

• In comparison, California’s rate of children with unemployed parents was 9%.

• In 2011, 24% of Kern County children in single parent families were being raised by a parent who was not working.

Additional customizable Kern County and California employment data are available using KidsData.Org.
In 2011, 37.7% of Kern County children under age 5 lived below the poverty threshold.

Statewide, the poverty rate of young children was 24.7% during the same year.

The 2011 poverty rate for children under five years of age being raised by single mothers was 64.6% compared to 40.7% of young children in single father homes and 22.7% in married-couple families.

African-American and Latino children were more likely to live in poor families in Kern County than are Caucasian and Asian children.

In 2011, 23.4% of Caucasian children and 16.4% of Asian children, were poor, compared with 54.3% of African-American children and 40.3% of Latino children.

Additional customizable Kern County and California poverty data are available using KidsData.Org.
**Poverty cont.**

**Poverty Rates of Children Under Age 5**
*Kern County & California, 2002-2011*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
</tr>
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**Children in Poverty (0-17)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
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</table>

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kern County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
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**Child Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity & Age**
*Kern County, 2011*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>54.3%</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
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**Students Enrolled in Free or Reduced Price Meal Program**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>67.1%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- In 2011, Kern County had 255,000 occupied housing units - 144,000 (57%) owner occupied and 111,000 (43%) renter occupied.
- 56% of Kern County children lived in a rented housing unit during 2011.
- During 2011, the median gross rent in Kern County was $839.
- 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 55% of renting households spent 30% or more of their household income on rent in 2011, a rate lower than California’s figure of 58%.
- The 2013 Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kern County is $804 a month.
- In 2013, Kern County’s monthly housing wage is $2,680; the full-time hourly housing wage is $15.46.
- Kern County’s housing wage represents 193% of the current minimum wage.
- A renter in Kern County earning minimum wage must work 77 hours per week to afford a two bedroom rental unit at fair market rent.

Additional customizable Kern County and California cost of living data are available using KidsData.Org.
Food

- In December 2012, 58,724 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 91%, a total of 27,938 more households.
- In November 2009, 53,975 participants in Kern County received WIC services administered by Community Action Partnership of Kern and Clinica Sierra Vista.
- The California Department of Health Services estimates that 89% of Kern County’s eligible women, infants and young children were enrolled in the WIC program, a figure higher than the state rate of 82%.
- In 2009, there were 181 WIC-authorized stores throughout Kern County, a rate of 0.22 WIC-authorized stores per 1,000 population.
- In Kern County, the free/reduced meal enrollment in the 2011-12 school year was a participation rate of 67% in the program.

- The percentage of students enrolled ranged from 16% to 100% in Kern County school districts.
- The total number of students participating in the free/reduced meals program has grown 29% from 88,750 in 2001-02 to 114,813 in 2011-12.
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

• Public school enrollment begins to increase after three consecutive years of decline.

• Student achievement on the California Standards Test continues to increase throughout Kern County schools, however, an achievement gap remains among socio-economic groups.

• The majority of Kern students are passing the high school exit exam on their first try in 10th grade.

• Kern’s high school graduation rate rose for the 3rd straight year with more than two-thirds of students entering high school in the fall of 2008 graduating 4 years later as the class of 2012.

• Nearly one-third of Kern County high school graduates were meeting entrance requirements for UC/CSU systems.

Jump to -

• Students
• Academic Achievement & Educational Attainment
• Contents Page
In the 2011-12 school year, 175,835 students were enrolled in the county’s 269 public schools, 2,102 more students than the previous year.

- Kern County averaged 23.4 students in each classroom during the 2011-12 academic year, a figure slightly lower than the state’s average of 23.6 students.
- The student-teacher ratio in Kern County was 22.7 students for every full time teacher during the 2011-12 school year, the same as the student-teacher ratio statewide.
- Kern schools are linguistically diverse, with 43 languages or dialects represented by students county-wide.
- During the 2011-12 academic year, 36,801 students (21% of total county enrollment) were English Learners.
- Most English Learner students were in the earlier grade levels, and nearly all spoke Spanish as their first language (95%).
- Kern County’s Special Education system served 16,911 children and young adults from newborn to age 22 during the 2011-12 school year.

- 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.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child educational data are available using KidsData.Org.
Students Receiving Special Education Services by Primary Disability
Kern County, 2011-12

- Specific Learning Disability: 43%
- Speech or Language Impairment: 25%
- Mental Retardation: 10%
- Autism: 7%
- Other Health Impairment: 7%
- Emotional Disturbance: 3%
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 2%
- Orthopedic Impairment: 1%
- Multiple Disability: 1%
- Visual Impairment: 1%
- Traumatic Brain Injury: < 1%
- Other: 8%
# Academic Achievement

## California Standards Test Scores

### Kern County & California, 2009-10 through 2011-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Grade Test Scores (CST)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent “Proficient” or Above</td>
<td>09-10</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **7th Grade Test Scores (CST)** | Kern County | California |
| Percent “Proficient” or Above | 09-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 09-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 |
| English Language Arts | 45%  | 47% | 52% | 55%  | 57% | 62% |
| Mathematics          | 42%  | 42% | 45% | 49%  | 50% | 52% |

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

**Kern County, 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent “Proficient” or Above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Learners</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents Without High School Diploma</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **English-Language Arts**: 49%  
- **Mathematics**: 54%
## Educational Attainment Indicators

### Kern County & California, 2009-10 through 2011-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Out-of-School Youth</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of youth ages 16-19 not in school and without high school diploma</td>
<td>2009  2010  2011</td>
<td>2009  2010  2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Community Survey, US Census</td>
<td>6.1%  7.8%  8.5%</td>
<td>3.5%  5.3%  5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAHSEE % of 10th graders taking exam</strong></td>
<td>09-10 10-11 11-12</td>
<td>09-10 10-11 11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>77%  80%  80%</td>
<td>81%  82%  83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>79%  80%  80%</td>
<td>81%  83%  84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduation Rates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Graduation Rate</td>
<td>74.0%  75.3%  76.1%</td>
<td>74.7%  77.1%  78.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High School Dropout Rate</strong></td>
<td>09-10 10-11 11-12</td>
<td>09-10 10-11 11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Dropout Rate</td>
<td>17.6%  16.6%  16.9%</td>
<td>16.6%  14.7%  13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Prepared Youth</strong></td>
<td>09-10 10-11 11-12</td>
<td>09-10 10-11 11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Grads w/ CSU/UC Require</td>
<td>26.1%  29.0%  29.2%</td>
<td>35.6%  36.9%  38.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 12th Graders Taking SAT</td>
<td>20.4%  26.6%  n/a</td>
<td>33.4%  38.0%  n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Education Levels</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of all adults 25 and older without at least high school diploma</td>
<td>2009  2010  2011</td>
<td>2009  2010  2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Community Survey, US Census</td>
<td>28.5%  28.9%  27.2%</td>
<td>19.4%  19.3%  18.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Educational Attainment cont.

High School Dropout Rates – Kern County, 2011-12

CSU/UC Eligibility Rates by Gender & Race/Ethnicity
Kern County, 2008-09 through 2011-12
Educational Attainment cont.

Poverty Rate of Population 25 Years and Older by Educational Attainment – Kern County, 2011

- Less than High School Diploma: 30%
- High School Diploma/GED: 19%
- Some College/Associate's Degree: 14%
- Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 5%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 3%

Median Earnings of Population 25 Years and Older by Education and Gender – Kern County, 2011

- Less than High School Graduate: $16,952 for all, $20,471 for male, $12,419 for female
- High School Graduate/GED: $25,206 for all, $31,033 for male, $19,953 for female
- Some College/Associate's Degree: $32,325 for all, $44,789 for male, $25,846 for female
- Bachelor's Degree: $52,355 for all, $57,147 for male, $48,213 for female
- Graduate or Professional Degree: $67,081 for all, $76,034 for male, $58,011 for female

Poverty Rate of Population 25 Years and Older by Educational Attainment – Kern County, 2011

- Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 5%
- Some College/Associate's Degree: 14%
- High School Diploma/GED: 19%
- Less than High School Diploma: 30%
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**

- A higher percentage of Kern County pregnant mothers received prenatal care in their first trimester than the previous year.
- The rate of Kern County infants dying before their first birthday declined 27% since 2008.
- More than a third of Kern County’s 5th graders fell within the high-risk category for body composition.
- Despite a 21% decline since 2011, Kern County’s teen birth rate was ranked the 3rd highest in the State.
- 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 12th graders regularly smoked marijuana than tobacco.

**Jump to -**

- Infant Health
- Child Health
- Contents Page
- Adolescent Health
- Tobacco, Alcohol & Substance Use
• In 2011, 73.0% of pregnant mothers in Kern County obtained prenatal care services during the first trimester of their pregnancies, compared to 71.3% the previous year.

• In California, 81.7% of mothers received care during their first trimester during 2011.

• During 2011, 14,287 babies were born in Kern County.

• In 2010, the most recent year data is available, 12.2% of Kern County babies were born prior to 37 weeks, placing them at greater risk of disability and dying during infancy.

• By comparison, 10.0% of California’s babies were premature during 2010.

• In 2011, 1,034 babies were born at a low birthweight, 7.2% of Kern County’s total live births.

• In California, 6.8% of babies were born with a low birthweight.

• Since 2006, a total of 32 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 2010, the most recent year data is available, 71 Kern County babies died before their first birthday.

• The three-year (2007-2009) average mortality rate for infants in Kern County was 7.2 per 1,000 live births.*

• Kern’s infant mortality rate was higher than the rate for California (5.2 per 1,000).

• Deaths linked to an unsafe sleeping environment were the leading cause of infant death in cases reviewed by the Kern County Child Death Review Team.

• From 2007 through 2011, 51 infants died in their sleep, representing 53% of the infant deaths reviewed.

• 50 infant deaths were linked to unintentional suffocation and “undetermined” causes from unsafe sleeping environments.

• 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.*

• 85.1% of Kern County mothers breastfed in the hospital after giving birth, while only 45.7% of mothers breastfed exclusively after giving birth.

*Most recent data available.
• Similar to statewide trends, Caucasian mothers were more likely to breastfeed exclusively than other racial/ethnic groups (60.6%) in Kern County.

• African American and Latina mothers were less likely as Caucasian mothers to breastfeed their newborns exclusively after giving birth, 27.9% and 40.5%, respectively.

Additional customizable Kern County and California infant health data are available using KidsData.Org.
• In 2011, 93% of Kern County children enrolling in Kindergarten had all required immunizations, surpassing the state’s goal of 90% coverage.

• In 2011, 98.1% of 7th-12th 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 2011-12 school year, 37,269 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, 21.3% of 5th graders, 29.1% of 7th graders and 29.1% of 9th graders passed all six exercises.

• About 7.9% of Kern County’s 5th graders, 13.3% of 7th graders and 15.1% 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 37.2% of 5th graders, 35.0% of 7th graders and 22.6% of 9th graders were in the high-risk category for body composition.

• Results from the 2009 California Health Interview Survey estimate that 13% of children (ages 1-17 years) in Kern County have been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetime.*

• Approximately, 35% of the Kern County students diagnosed with asthma missed between five and ten days of school in the past year.

• About, 95% of students with asthma experienced one or more asthma attacks during the last year.

• During 2009, there were 2,052 emergency room visits by Kern County children and youth due to asthma. Children under age five accounted for 44% of all emergency room visits.*

• According to the 2009 California Health Interview Survey, 84% of Kern County’s children, ages 2-11 years, had visited a dentist at least one time in the last 12 months. Further, 15% of Kern County children surveyed, ages 2-11, had never seen a dentist.*

• As of 2009, 11% of Kern County’s children under 18 years of age had not visited a physician within the past year.*
### Child Health cont.

#### Late or No Prenatal Care (Percentage of live births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>6.7%</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>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Low Birth Weight Births (Percentage of live births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Healthy Body Weight (Percentage of 5th/7th/9th grade)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
<th>2011-2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>69.5%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>3,069.5</td>
<td>3,267.3</td>
<td>3,505.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2,216.6</td>
<td>2,247.0</td>
<td>2,293.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3,329.3</td>
<td>3,378.2</td>
<td>3,416.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Kern County Births to Teens 15-19 (2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Caucasian</th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Native American</th>
<th>Total *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Live Births</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>1,304</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 females in race/ethnicity group</td>
<td>64.7</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>70.3</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- In 2009, a doctor’s office or health maintenance organization (HMO) was the usual place for sick care for 57% of children in Kern County.*
- One in three children went to either a community clinic or hospital in Kern County for their health care (33%). Further, 2% of Kern County children rely on emergency rooms or urgent care for care and 8% do not have any place to go when sick or need health advice.
- An estimated 14,000 Kern County children, or 5.8% of the 2009 child population, were uninsured. When compared, 16% of uninsured children had not visited a physician during the last year versus 11% of insured children.*

*Most recent data available.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child health data are available using [KidsData.Org](http://KidsData.Org).
• In 2011, 1,825 babies were born to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 years in Kern County, a birth rate of 50.7 per 1,000 females in this age group.

• During the same year, California’s teen birth rate was 26.0 per 1,000 females.

• The 2009-11 three-year average of 57.2 per 1,000 females ranks the county 3rd for highest rate of teen births in the state.

• In 2011, the chlamydia infection rate among females aged 15-19 was 53% higher than the state’s rate and 3% higher than the national rate.

• 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 last 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 the past year.

• From 2000 to 2010, Kern County lost 25 youth the ages of 11 and 17 years to suicide.

• Males accounted for 80% of Kern’s suicides in this age group.

• Youth committed suicide between 2000 and 2010 with either by hanging/suffocation (44%), a firearm (32%) or poisoning (4%).

• From 2000 to 2010, 276 children and youth between were hospitalized for self-inflicted injuries.

• Females (75%) had a higher rate of attempted suicide than males (25%).

• The attempted suicide rate for Caucasian youth (63%) was considerably higher than any other racial or ethnic group.

• Latino (27%), African American (5%) and Asian/Pacific Islander (2%) comprised the remaining racial/ethnic groups with self-inflicted injuries.

• Most youth attempted suicide by poisoning themselves (90%), followed by cutting/piercing (6%) and hanging/suffocation (1%).

Additional customizable Kern County and California adolescent health data are available using KidsData.Org.
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, and 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

- Smoked Everyday During Past 30 Days
  - Grade 7: 4%
  - Grade 9: 14%
  - Grade 11: 12%

- Smoked During Past 30 Days
  - Grade 7: 2%
  - Grade 9: 12%
  - Grade 11: 8%

- Tried Smokeless Tobacco During Their Life
  - Grade 7: 1%
  - Grade 9: 6%
  - Grade 11: 5%

- Tried Whole Cigarette During Their Life
  - Grade 7: 32%
  - Grade 9: 23%
  - Grade 11: 34%

- Smoked During Past 30 Days
  - Grade 7: 32%
  - Grade 9: 23%
  - Grade 11: 14%

- Smoked Daily During Past 30 Days
  - Grade 7: 1%
  - Grade 9: 4%
  - Grade 11: 2%
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 2000, Kern County averaged 31 child deaths annually from unintentional injury with motor vehicle crashes the leading cause of unintentional death of children.
• About 1 in 10 Kern County students in grades 7, 9 and 11 considered themselves a gang member.
• 97% of the Kern County children reported missing were identified as runaways.
• 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, violent and property crimes and juvenile arrests remain higher than California’s overall rates.

Jump to -

• Childhood Unintentional Injury
• Falls
• Burn Injuries
• Motor Vehicle Related Injuries
• Drowning
• Contents Page
• Child Deaths
• Youth Violence
• Gun Violence
• Missing Children
• Crime & Arrest Rates
During 2010, unintentional injuries killed 17 Kern County children under the age of 18 years and caused serious, non-fatal injury to 518 other children.

Over the past decade, the majority of child non-fatal unintentional injuries were from four causes: falls, burns, motor vehicle related and drowning accidents.

On average, 31 Kern County children under age 18 years died each year from an unintentional injury between 2000 and 2010.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child unintentional injury data are available using KidsData.Org.
• From 2000 to 2010, 277 children were hospitalized for non-fatal injuries caused by fire, flames, and hot objects or substances in Kern County, an average of 25 children a year.

• Boys are at a higher risk of fire and burn-related injuries (53%) than girls (47%).

• Children under the age of six years were most likely to be injured by accidents involving fires and hot objects (64%) during these years.

• Latino and Caucasian children had the highest rates of fire/burn injuries, 44% and 31%, respectively.

• Falls are the leading cause of emergency room visits among Kern County children under age 18 years.

• In 2010, 5,799 children had an initial emergency department visit for injuries from a fall in Kern County.

• Between 2000 and 2010, there were 1,667 Kern County children admitted as inpatients with injuries caused by a fall, an average of 152 children each year.

• Boys regardless of age were more likely to have injuries (66%) from a fall than girls (34%).

• Caucasian and Latino children had the highest rates of fall-related injuries, 64% and 27%, 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 one-third of the total nonfatal unintentional injuries for children less than 6 years of age between 2000 and 2010.
• Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death of Kern County children.

• From 2000 to 2010, 175 children died and 1,333 children were hospitalized from injuries caused by motor-vehicle related accidents throughout Kern County.

• Most children injured or killed in motor-vehicle related accidents between 2000 and 2010 were occupants in a motor vehicle (58%).

• Traffic-related injuries also include those sustained while walking, riding a bicycle, or riding a motorcycle.

• From 2000 to 2010, 26 children died from traffic-related pedestrian injuries and an additional 304 children were admitted to Kern County hospitals with serious injuries after being struck by a motor vehicle.

• In Kern County, 219 children were injured after being struck by motor vehicles while riding a bike or motorcycle and another 18 were killed from 2000 to 2010.

• Motor vehicle-related injuries are the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death of Kern County children.

• From 2000 to 2010, 53 Kern County children drowned and another 104 children were sent to the hospital for near-drowning injuries.

• More than half of the children who drowned in Kern County between 2000 and 2010 were male (58%).

• Young children had the highest rate of drowning with 66% of child drowning victims under the age of six years.

• Rates of fatal drowning were highest among Latino (45%) and Caucasian (45%) children.
• Among the homicide victims, 6 children died from being beaten or by blunt force trauma, 1 child died from gunshot wounds and one child was stabbed.
• The 1 youth who committed suicide died from self-inflicted hanging/phyxia.
• 39% of the cases of child deaths reviewed in 2011 involved the deaths of infants.
• The cases reviewed involving infants included 3 deaths from natural causes and 3 homicides from beating/blunt force trauma.
• The Coroner categorized 10 infant deaths as “undetermined,” meaning a final manner of death could not be identified. However, 8 of these deaths were associated with an unsafe sleep environment.
• The majority of the 41 cases reviewed had at least one reported family issue preceding the child’s death (70%). Inadequate supervision (40%), mental health (11%), and chronic health condition (11%) were most frequently identified.

### Child Deaths

#### Submersion/Drowning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fatal Injury</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Fatal Hospitalization</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Assault/Homicide

<table>
<thead>
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<th>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</th>
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<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>47</td>
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#### Motor Vehicle Occupant

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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Fatal Hospitalization</td>
<td>31</td>
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#### Pedestrian/Traffic

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#### Self-Inflicted Injury/Suicide

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<tr>
<td>Non-Fatal Hospitalization</td>
<td>19</td>
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#### Firearm

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</tr>
<tr>
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#### Bicycle

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<td>Fatal Injury</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Fatal Hospitalization</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>31</td>
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#### Falls

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<th>2010</th>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Fatal Hospitalization</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>146</td>
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• More than half of Kern County students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades self-reported feeling safe or very safe at school in 2009-11; 10% of 7th graders, 9% of 9th graders, and 7% of 11th graders reported they felt unsafe or very unsafe.
• 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.
• Although reports of bullying decline among older students, it is still relatively high at 34% in 9th grade and 29% in 11th grade.

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.

• 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.

Additional customizable Kern County and California school safety data are available using KidsData.Org.
Youth Violence cont.

Percent of Students Reporting Violence-Related Behavior & Experiences on School Property During Past Year
Kern County, 2009-11

- Been Afraid or Being Beaten Up: 27% (Grade 7), 45% (Grade 9), 27% (Grade 11)
- Been Pushed, Shoved or Hit: 21% (Grade 7), 13% (Grade 9), 27% (Grade 11)
- Been in a Physical Fight: 21% (Grade 7), 21% (Grade 9), 16% (Grade 11)
- Carried a Gun: 6% (Grade 7), 5% (Grade 9), 3% (Grade 11)
- Carried Any Other Weapons: 11% (Grade 7), 13% (Grade 9), 9% (Grade 11)
- Consider Self to be a Gang Member: 8% (Grade 7), 9% (Grade 9), 8% (Grade 11)

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

- Male: 9% (Grade 7), 8% (Grade 9), 8% (Grade 11)
- Female: 11% (Grade 7), 11% (Grade 9), 6% (Grade 11)
• In Kern County, 41 children and youth died from firearm-related injuries between 2000 and 2010. These include homicides, assaults, suicides and unintentional injuries. Homicide accounted for 68% of the deaths; 24% were the result of suicide and 8% were the result of accidents.

• Caucasian (46%) and African-American (42%) youth were more likely to be injured by an intentional shooting in Kern County than Latino (9%) and Native American (1%) children from 2000 to 2010.

• Children were more likely to be injured accidentally with firearms averaged 13.2 years old.

• Caucasian children (61%) were more likely to be injured by an accidental shooting in Kern County than Latino (26%) and African-American (13%) children between 2000 and 2010.

• African-American (50%) and Latino (43%) youth were most likely to be homicide victims from gunshot wounds during 2000 to 2010.

• The average youth who died as a victim of homicide or from an accidental shooting was 15.1 years old.

• Male children and youth were 13 times more likely to be murdered with a firearm than females.

• Between 2000 and 2010, another 114 Kern County children required hospitalization because of gun-related injuries.

• 79% of the firearm related injuries were the result of assaults; 20% were the result of accidents; 1% were the result of self-inflicted injuries.

• Again, males (84%) 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 15.2 years old.

• Caucasian (46%) and African-American (42%) youth were more likely to be injured by an intentional shooting in Kern County than Latino (9%) and Native American (1%) children from 2000 to 2010.

• Children were more likely to be injured accidentally with firearms averaged 13.2 years old.

• Caucasian children (61%) were more likely to be injured by an accidental shooting in Kern County than Latino (26%) and African-American (13%) children between 2000 and 2010.
• In 2011, 4,252 children were reported missing in Kern County.
• Of these, 4,136 were suspected runaways, 7 were lost, 1 was catastrophe, 7 were suspected family abduction, 14 were missing under suspicious circumstances, 2 were stranger abductions and 85 were reported under unknown circumstances.
• At the end of 2011, 4,042 of the missing child reports previously noted were canceled.
• 2,875 children were returned, 808 were located, 170 were arrested, 3 became emancipated, 2 were voluntary missing, 25 were withdrawn or invalid and 159 were removed from the system for other reasons.
• A total of 210 children remained missing at year end.

Additional customizable Kern County and California dating and domestic violence data are available using KidsData.Org.
• In 2010, 4,879 violent crimes were reported to Kern County’s law enforcement agencies county-wide.

• Violent crimes committed within Kern County include aggravated assault (404.9 per 100,000 population), forcible rape (19.4 per 100,000 population), homicide (8.8 per 100,000 population) and robbery (144.6 per 100,000 population).

• During 2010, Kern County law enforcement officers recorded 4,824 calls for assistance in domestic violence situations, a rate of 9.0 calls per 1,000 population.

• In comparison, California rate of calls for assistance was 6.7 calls per 1,000.

• In total, 22% of these calls for assistance involved weapons. 31% involved the use of firearms, knives, or other dangerous weapons. The remaining 69% involved personal weapons, such as hands, fists or feet.

• Kern County’s law enforcement agencies received 4,879 property crimes in 2010.

• Property crimes within Kern County include burglary (1,118.2 per 100,000 population); larceny-theft (over $400) (659.7 per 100,000 population); and motor vehicle theft (617.2 per 100,000 population).

• In 2010, there were 1,481 juvenile felony arrests in Kern County, a rate of 1,335.6 felony arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17 compared to California’s rate of 1,466.6 statewide.

• A total of 2,507 juvenile misdemeanor arrests were recorded within Kern County during 2010, a rate of 2,260.9 misdemeanor arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17 compared to a rate of 2,374.2 statewide.

Additional customizable Kern County and California juvenile arrest rates data are available using KidsData.Org.
Crime & Arrest Rates cont.

Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate - Incidence Per 100,000 Population
Kern County & California, 2010

Rate Per 100,000 Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violent Offenses</th>
<th>Property Offenses</th>
<th>Drug Offenses</th>
<th>Sex Offenses</th>
<th>Other Offenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>California</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>323.8</td>
<td>668.2</td>
<td>438.3</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>230.9</td>
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<td>294.9</td>
<td>438.3</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>26.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>138.5</td>
<td>264.2</td>
<td>26.5</td>
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</tr>
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Kern County vs California
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 2012, 18,329 children – 50 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 4th straight year – down 34% from its peak in 2001.

• Child neglect comprised 90% 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.

• 28 children died from abuse or neglect between 2009 and 2012.

• Kern’s foster youth population has been reduced by 24% since 2004.
• During 2012, Kern County CPS received 18,329 reports (allegations) of suspected child abuse or neglect of children -- an average of 50 children per day.

• Kern County’s referral rate of 72.9 children per 1,000 children. Kern’s overall referral rate increased approximately 4% from the previous year’s rate of 70.2 per 1,000 children.

• Of these reports, 4,073 Kern County children were found to have been victims of abuse and neglect after investigation by CPS -- an average of 78 children per week.

• Kern’s substantiated abuse rate declined 9% from 17.8 per 1,000 children in 2011 to 16.2 in 2012, 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 35.5 during 2012.

• Kern County had the 12th highest substantiated child abuse rate in the state.

• In 2012, 90% 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 (3.5%), caretaker absence/ incapacity (3%), or sexual abuse (1.5%) substantiated.

• In 2012, 693 infants were the victims of child abuse in Kern County, a rate of 47.3 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 39.1 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 2012 to June 2012.

Additional 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 – 2002-2012**

![Graph showing the incidence of substantiated child maltreatment rates in Kern County and California from 2002 to 2012.](image)

### Substantiated Child Abuse & Neglect by Type

**Kern County, 2012**

- **Unfounded** 38%
- **Assessment Only & Evaluated Out** 23%
- **Inconclusive** 15%
- **Substantiated** 23%

### Disposition of Child Abuse & Neglect Allegation

**Kern County, 2012**

- **General Neglect** 90%
- **Severe Neglect** 1%
- **Sexual Abuse** 1.5%
- **Emotional Abuse** < 1%
- **Other** 9%

### Substantiated Child Abuse by Age - Incidents per 1,000 Children

**Kern County, 2002-2012**

- **Under 1 Year**
- **1 - 10 Years**
- **11 - 17 Years**

![Graph showing the incidence of substantiated child abuse by age in Kern County from 2002 to 2012.](image)
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 2012, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of severe and general neglect for 12,755 children to ensure they were safe, 70% of Kern County’s total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 3,686 Kern County children were confirmed as cases of neglect upon investigation, a substantiation rate of 29%.
- 543 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS’ investigation.
- The three largest percent-ages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (43%), other mandated reporter professionals (11%) and medical professionals (7%).
- 60% of children placed in foster care due to neglect returned home in less than 12 months during 2012 calendar year.
Physical abuse is the injury to a child that is not an accident, may include: beating, burning, biting, kicking, cutting, shaking, or punching a child.

- During 2012, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of physical abuse for 2,120 children to ensure they were safe, 12% of Kern County’s total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 144 Kern County children were confirmed to be victims of physical abuse upon investigation, a substantiation rate of 7%.
- 63 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS’ investigation.
- The three largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (56%), education (15%) and medical professionals (9%).
- 81% of children placed in foster care due to physical abuse returned home in less than 12 months during 2012 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 2012, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of sexual abuse for 1,197 children to ensure they were safe, 6.5% of Kern County’s total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 62 Kern County children were determined to be victims of sexual abuse, a substantiation rate of 5%.
- 18 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS’ investigation.
- The three largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (35%), school personnel (11%) and other mandated reporter professionals (16%).
- 83% of children placed in foster care due to sexual abuse returned home in less than 12 months during 2012 calendar year.
## Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics

### CPS Referral Rates per 1,000 Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
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<td>51.6</td>
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### Foster Care Rates per 1,000 Children (Entry + Re-Entry)

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<th></th>
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### Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children

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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>African American</th>
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<th>Latino</th>
<th>Asian/Pac Islander</th>
<th>Native American</th>
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### Percentage of CPS Referrals Substantiated

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<td>25.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
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### Foster Care Prevalence Rate per 1,000 Children (Children in care on 7/1/12)

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<th>Asian/Pac Islander</th>
<th>Native American</th>
<th>All Children</th>
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### Foster Care Prevalence Rate per 1,000 Children (Children in care on 7/1/12)

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<th>6-10 yrs</th>
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### Foster Care Population (2007-12)

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<th></th>
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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<td>2,478</td>
<td>2,233</td>
<td>2,108</td>
<td>2,029</td>
<td>1,835</td>
<td>1,804</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>74,934</td>
<td>67,950</td>
<td>61,970</td>
<td>57,391</td>
<td>55,983</td>
<td>55,218</td>
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</table>
In 2012, 18 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 18 children who experienced severe injuries from abuse or neglect in 2012 were under the age of four years and averaged 13.1 months in age.

The ages of severely injured children included infants (44%) and children ages 1 year (33%), 2 years (17%) and 3 years (6%).

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 2012, there were 9 near fatalities resultant from abuse or neglect.

In Kern County, all 9 child near fatalities from abuse or neglect in 2012 were under the age of 3 years and averaged 13.7 months in age.

Infants less than one year of age and two year olds each accounted for 44% of the child near fatalities in 2012. The remaining child who nearly died from abuse or neglect was one year old.

For near fatalities, the number of incidents involving females (67%) was greater than the number involving males (33%).

Abusive head trauma injuries were diagnosed in 6 of the 9 near fatalities. Of the remaining 3 children, 1 child had multiple fractures, 1 child had severe dehydration and 1 child ingested methamphetamines.
Child deaths are the most tragic result of abuse and neglect. Between 2009 and 2012, 28 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kern County.

- In 2012, 5 children died as a direct result of child abuse or neglect.
- Children less than a year old accounted for 4 out of the 5 abuse-related fatalities reported.
- Four of these children were infants under the age of one year, consistent with national and previous county data that found very young children to be most vulnerable.
- In 2012, 3 of the 5 children who died from abuse were male.
- Blunt force trauma to the head was diagnosed in 3 of the 5 abuse-related fatalities. The remaining 2 children were killed by blunt force trauma.
- Parent(s) were responsible for 4 of these 5 abuse-related child deaths.
• Of the 4,073 Kern County children with substantiated reports of abuse and neglect during 2012, 784 were removed from their family home and spent at least one day in an out-of-home placement in order to ensure their safety (19% of substantiated cases).

• The rate of foster care placement was 3.1 per 1,000 children compared to California’s rate of 3.3 entries per 1,000 children.

• The number of children and youth in foster care continues to decline from a decade peak of 2,970 in 2003 to 1,804 in 2012, a 39% overall decrease.

• During the calendar year 2012, 639 children (82% of all entries) entered foster care for the first time.

• Kern County’s first time entry rate of children into foster care decreased from 4.0 in 2011 to 2.5 per 1,000 children in 2012.

• On July 1, 2012, there were 1,804 children in the foster care system across Kern County, 32 fewer children than the previous year’s count.

• Infants (9.4 per 1,000 infants) and toddlers (9.1 per 1,000 children 1-2 years old) experienced the highest in-care rates in Kern’s foster care system.

• In 2012, African-American children (17.5 per 1,000 African-American children) were in foster care at a rate greater than children in any other racial/ethnic group.

• In 2012, 27% 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 14% in 2012.

Additional customizable Kern County and California foster care data are available using KidsData.Org.
Placement Settings for Children in Foster Care – Kern County, July 1, 2012

- Relative/Kin: 27%
- Guardian Foster Homes: 18%
- Other: 11%
- Foster/Family Agency (FFA) Homes: 44%

Selected Foster Care Placement Settings by Age Group – Kern County, 2012

- Under 3 Years: 32%
- 3 to 5 Years: 22%
- 6 to 10 Years: 16%
- 11 to 17 Years: 22%

Percentage of Children Under Age 18 Years

- Foster Care Home: Under 3 Years 16%, 3 to 5 Years 30%
- Group Home: Under 3 Years 15%
- Relative/Kin: Under 3 Years 29%, 3 to 5 Years 21%
• Whenever possible, sibling units are placed in the same foster home. In 2012, the share of Kern County’s foster youth placed with at least one sibling was 70% in comparison to 74% 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, 2012, 27% of the Kern County children in out-of-home care lived with relatives compared to 36% statewide.

• Among children placed with kin, 47% were between the ages of 0 and 5 years and 56% were Latino.

• One July 1, 2012, 500 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 lived in foster care in Kern County, 28% of the county’s foster care population.

• Teens exiting foster care were reunited with their families in less than a year 59% of the time during 2012.

• Some children remain in foster care until they are 18 or have graduated from high school. In Kern County, 58 youth were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in foster care in 2012.

• 62% of youth aging out of foster care 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. During 2012, 69 youth between 18 and 20 years elected to remain in the foster care system.
During 2012, 891 children and youth exited foster care in Kern County.

64% of Kern’s exiting children and youth were reunified with their families in less than 12 months compared to California’s reunification rate of 63%.

The median length of time before Kern County children in foster care were reunified with their families was 9.7 months in 2012.

Teens between the ages 16 and 17 were the least likely to reunify in 12 months, and infants were the most likely in Kern.

Children whose first placement type was a foster care home/FFA was most likely to reunify in less than a year (67%) and group homes were the least likely (55%).

Of the 505 Kern County children discharged from foster care to reunification during 2011, 83% did not return to foster care in less than 12 months from the date of the earliest discharge to reunification, a figure slightly lower 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 WhoExited Foster Care to Reunify with Family in Less Than Year
Kern County & California, 2002-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kern County</th>
<th>California</th>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>63%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median Length of Time in Foster Care by Age Group
Kern County & California, 2012

- Under 1: 6.7 months (Kern County), 3.2 months (California)
- 1-2 Years: 9.8 months (Kern County), 9.6 months (California)
- 3-5 Years: 9.7 months (Kern County), 9.7 months (California)
- 6-10 Years: 9.8 months (Kern County), 9.8 months (California)
- 11-15 Years: 8.9 months (Kern County), 9.0 months (California)
- 16-17 Years: 11.9 months (Kern County), 9.7 months (California)
- All Ages: 8.9 months (Kern County), 8.9 months (California)
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 2012, 109 children exited foster care to a guardianship.
- The majority of Kern County guardianships (67%) were for children ages 6 and older in 2012.
- 53% of the Kern County children who left foster care to guardianship were females during 2012.
- Almost half of the children who exited foster care to guardianship during 2012 were Caucasian (43%) followed by Latino (37%) and African-American (17%) children.

Additional customizable Kern County and California adoption from foster care data are available using KidsData.Org
What We Can Do

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.

Jump to -

• Ways to Get Involved
• Child Abuse in Public Places
• Contents Page
• Kern Cares
• Kern County Network for Children
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](#) 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 neglect at the [Dream Center](#) and [Jamison Center](#).
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 discipline 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. Sometime 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

Adam A. Alvidrez
Policy, Government & Public Affairs Representative, Chevron

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

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.
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 collaborators, nonprofit agencies, organizations, businesses and concerned individuals, administers the following services throughout Kern County:

**Kern County Differential Response**  
[www.kcnc.org/regionalDR](http://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 & Timed Reunification Services**  
[www.kcnc.org/tlfr](http://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](http://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](http://www.kerncares.org).
Kern County Network for Children (KCNC) cont.

The Dream Center and Coffee House
kcsos.kern.org/dreamcenter
A one-stop resource center that provides independent living, mentoring, social/educational services and unique job training 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 since 1998.

Community Discussion Forums & Quality Trainings
www.kcnc.org/meetings_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. Twenty 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Collaborative Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arvin</td>
<td>Arvin Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>661.854.6525</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bakersfield</td>
<td>34th Street Neighborhood Partnership</td>
<td>661.636.4240</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>East Bakersfield Community Collaborative and CRC</td>
<td>661.631.5895</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greenfield H.E.L.P.S. Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>661.837.3720</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rosedale Collaborative</td>
<td>661.868.1219</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Chester Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>661.631.5945</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southeast Neighborhood Partnership and FRC</td>
<td>661.322.3276</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buttonwillow</td>
<td>Buttonwillow Community Collaborative and CRC</td>
<td>661.764.9405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frazier Park Area</td>
<td>Mountain Communities Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>661.245.4303</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Isabella Area</td>
<td>Kern River Valley Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>760.379.2556, ext. 601</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lamont/Weedpatch</td>
<td>Lamont/Weedpatch Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>661.845.2724, ext. 300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lost Hills</td>
<td>Lost Hills Collaborative</td>
<td>661.797.3042</td>
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<tr>
<td>McFarland</td>
<td>McFarland Community Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>661.792.1883</td>
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<td>Mojave Area</td>
<td>East Kern Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>661.824.4118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ridgecrest Area</td>
<td>Indian Wells Valley Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>760.375.4357</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shafter</td>
<td>Shafter Healthy Start Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>661.746.8690</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taft Area</td>
<td>Greater Westside “Together We Can” Collaborative and CRC</td>
<td>661.765.7281</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wasco</td>
<td>Wasco Collaborative</td>
<td>661.758.7706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kern County</td>
<td>Kern Senior Network</td>
<td>661.832.1324</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Richardson Special Needs Collaborative and FRC</td>
<td>661.336.5482</td>
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**Other Community Collaboratives**

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<td>Bakersfield</td>
<td>Oildale Collaborative and CRCs</td>
<td>661.392.2110, ext. 118 or 661.392.8758, ext. 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fairfax/Edison Community Collaborative</td>
<td>661.366.6783</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delano</td>
<td>Delano Neighborhood Partnership and CRC</td>
<td>661.721.5000</td>
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2013 KCNC Governing Board

Tammy Burns
Early Childhood Council of Kern

Dr. Don Carter
Kern High School District

Pat Cheadle
Kern County Department of Human Services

Morgan Clayton
Tel-Tec Security

Matt Constantine
Kern County Department of Public Health

Dr. Christine Lizardi Frazier
Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Supervisor Mick Gleason
Kern County Board of Supervisors

Leslie Golich
Kaiser Permanente

Jamie Henderson
First 5 Kern

Della D. Hodson
United Way of Kern County

Deborah Johnson
California Veterans Assistance Foundation

Chief David M. Kuge
Kern County Probation Department

Magda Menendez
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation

Konrad Moore
Kern County Public Defender

John Nilon
Kern County Administrative Office

Stephen Pelz
Housing Authority of the County of Kern

Bill Phelps
Clinica Sierra Vista

Eric Simpson
The Bridge Bible Church

Judge Louie Vega
Kern County Juvenile Justice Center

Dr. James Waterman
Kern County Mental Health System of Care

Chief Greg Williamson
Bakersfield Police Department

Sheriff Donny Youngblood
Kern County Sheriff’s Department

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

Theresa Goldner
KCNC Legal Counsel, Office of Kern County Counsel
## 2013 Data Sources

### Children and Family

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### Family Economics

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### K-12 Education

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<td>Student-Teacher Ratio</td>
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