

2015 Report Card





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

**(661) 631-6011 (County-wide)
(760) 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.

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2015 Kern County Report Card is granted as long as appropriate acknowledgment is given.

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Acknowledgments

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 2015 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 *2015 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](#), Foster Youth Specialist [Martha Gómez](#), Administrative Assistant
[Kimberley Silva](#), Research Associate [Jayme Stuart](#), Child and Family Services Facilitator
[Kim Salas](#), Receptionist

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

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

[Kern County Network for Children](#) has partnered with [Kidsdata.org](#), a comprehensive resource in communities across California, provided by the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Kidsdata.org provides continually updated data on the [Kidsdata.org](#) website that can be used for reports, presentations, public education, advocacy campaigns, and more. Figures within the 2013 Report Card are not only informative, but also provide a community to join the [Kern County Network for Children](#) and...

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

[Tom Corson](#), Executive Director Staff
[Martha Gómez](#), Administrative Assistant
[Jayme Stuart](#), Child and Family Services Facilitator

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76 hours weekly
Fair Market Value

- Since 2007, there has been a 10% increase in Kern County's Fair Market Value.

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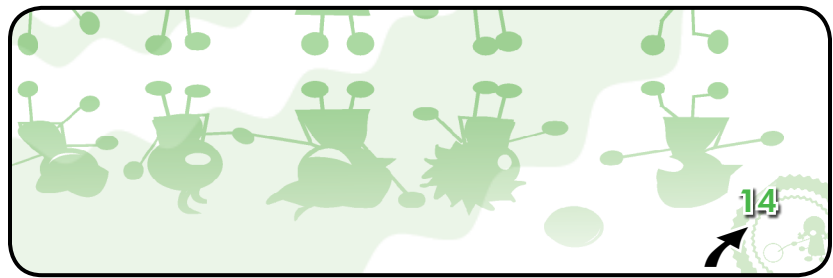
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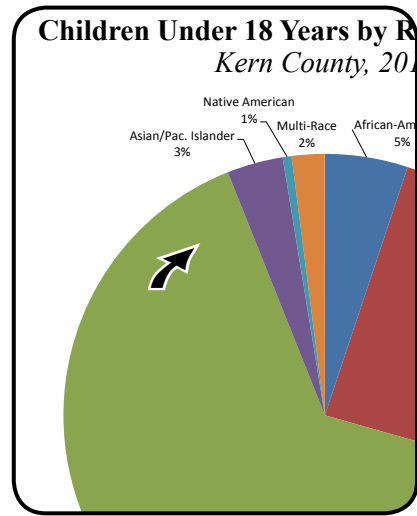
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- Few children living in Kern County were born outside the United States – 9% of all those under age 18, and only 2% of those under age 6 in 2011.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child demographic data are available using [KidsData.Org](#).



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Welcome

For the past 17 years, the Kern County Network for Children (KCNC) has published the Kern County Report Card, a compilation of the most current data available relative to the well being of Kern County children and their families.

While the data can be complex, the purpose of the Report Card is simple. With greater knowledge and understanding about the conditions of our children, our community has a solid footing to foster change. In other words, if we know what is broken, we can work collaboratively and take action to move forward in a positive direction.

Among the most positive highlights are in the area of child health and safety. This year's report demonstrates the fact that the rate of substantiated child abuse/neglect in Kern County fell for the 6th straight year. Moreover, fewer kids are living in foster care, more expecting mothers are receiving prenatal care during their first trimester, school students are generally healthier than in past years and teen birth rates are at historic lows.

On the education front, more Kern County high school students are staying in school as graduation rates have increased and the high school dropout rate has declined for the 4th consecutive year. Kern County's public high school graduates are also completing more courses required for University of California and/or California State University entrance.

While indicators of child well being in the areas of education, health and safety have improved, indicators of child economic well being continue to be of concern and many families still face economic hardship and insecurity.

Unemployment from Kern's oil and agricultural industries caused by plunging oil prices and the state drought will likely hamper the county's economic recovery, causing many Kern County children to slip in and out of poverty as family circumstances change. This is unwelcome news considering research shows that poverty threatens every aspect of a child's welfare including physical and emotional health and his/her ability to learn.

But we mustn't let up. We must remain diligent in our efforts. We must commit to doing everything we can to ensure our Kern County children are given their very best chance to thrive. It is my hope that the facts and figures within this year's report card are not only informative, but also prompts even greater community action. At the end of the day, when our children are successful, we all benefit.



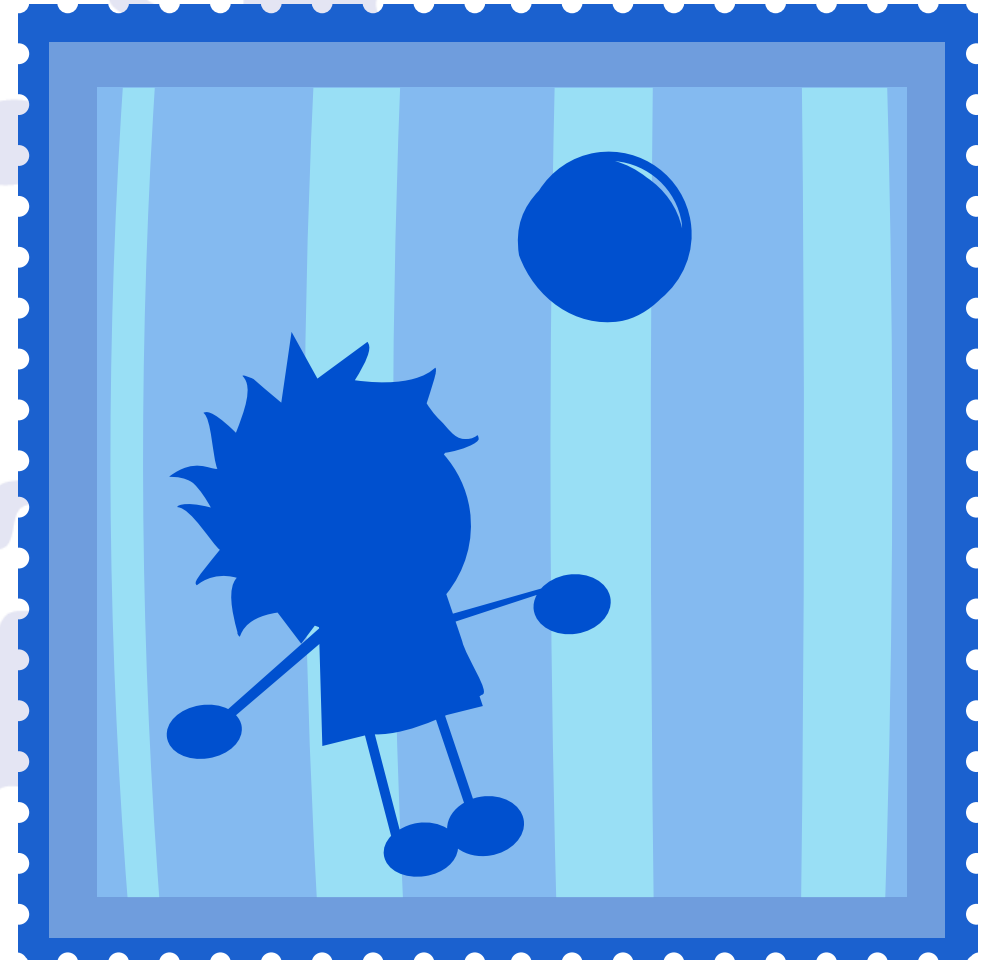
The 2015 Kern County Report Card is available online at www.kcnc.org/reportcard.

Children and Families

The 2015 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 2014.

Key Facts

- Kern County's population grew a modest 0.8% between July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2014 to 872,322 residents.
- In 2014, Kern County's child population exceeded 251,000 – the 4th largest child population percentage among California counties.
- 1 out of every 3 Kern County 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.
- 37% of Kern County children were being raised by a single parent and 7% by their grandparents.

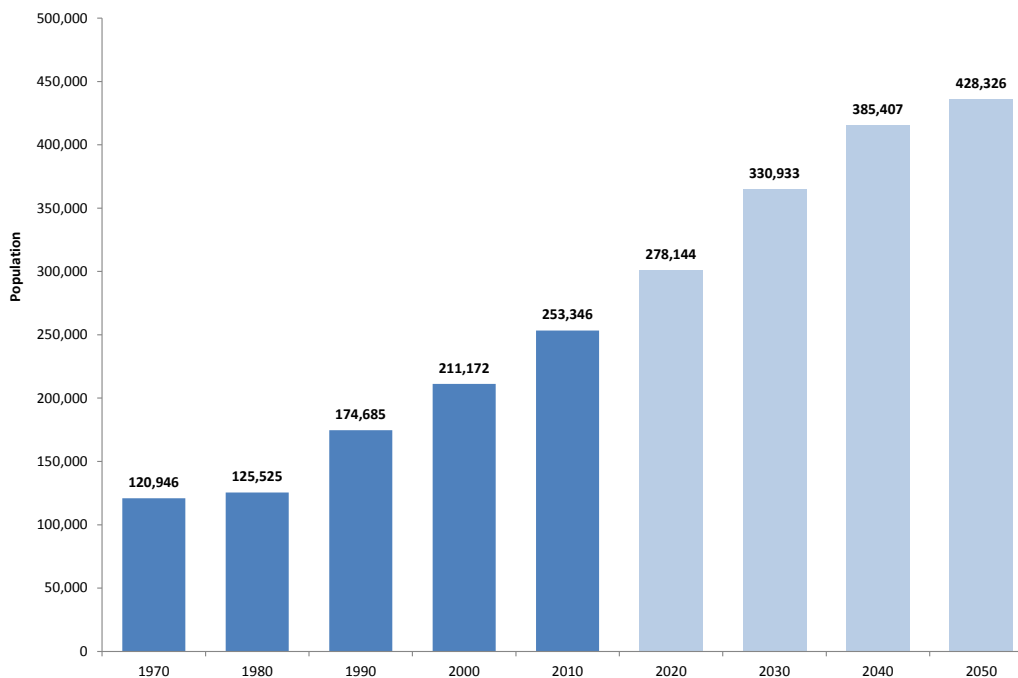


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Kern County Children

Projected Number of Children Under Age 18 in Kern County
Selected Years 1970-2050



Kern County Children by Age & Race/Ethnicity
2014

Age Group	Ethnic Group						Total
	African-American	Caucasian	Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	Multi-Race	
Under 1	725	3,701	8,805	434	65	467	14,197
1-2	1,509	7,445	17,558	886	123	919	28,440
3-5	2,205	10,933	26,977	1,228	186	1,310	42,839
6-10	3,535	17,850	45,450	2,124	320	1,947	71,226
11-15	3,416	17,989	41,668	2,304	399	1,712	67,488
16-17	1,386	7,525	16,265	993	179	656	27,004
Total	12,776	65,443	156,723	7,969	1,272	7,011	251,194

- Kern County’s population growth has slowed in recent years. According to the California Department of Finance, Kern County’s population grew 0.8% between July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2014 to 872,322 residents.
- This growth was due to natural increase (new births), as net migration has been relatively low since 2009.
- The population’s natural increase of 8,112 in the past year was composed of 13,926 births minus 5,814 deaths.
- In 2014, a total of 251,194 children under the age of 18 resided in Kern County.
- The county’s child population is projected to increase to 278,144 by 2020 and 428,326 by 2050.
- The county’s child population made up 29% of its total population, the 4th largest percentage in the state.
- Males accounted for 51% and females 49% of Kern’s 2014 child population.
- Kern County’s children are highly diverse, with the largest group being of Hispanic or Latino origin (62.4%).

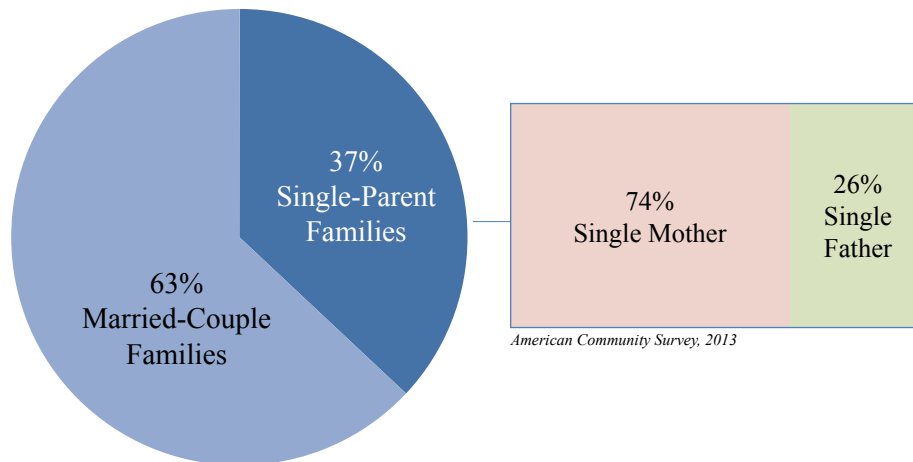
- Caucasian children were the second largest group (26.1%), followed by African-Americans (5.1%), Asian and Pacific Islanders (3.2%), Native Americans (0.5%) and all others (2.8%).
- Few children living in Kern County were born outside the United States—4.3% of all those under age 18 in 2013.
- By comparison, 5.1% of California children and 3.4% of children nationwide were born outside the United States in 2013.
- In 2013, an estimated 11% of Kern County school children spoke a language other than English at home and lived in a “linguistically isolated” household in which no one age 14 or over spoke English only or spoke a language other than English at home and spoke English “very well.”
- In comparison, 8.9% of California children ages 5 to 17 years lived in a linguistically isolated home and 4.5% of children nationwide during 2013.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child demographic data are available using [Kidsdata.org](http://kidsdata.org).

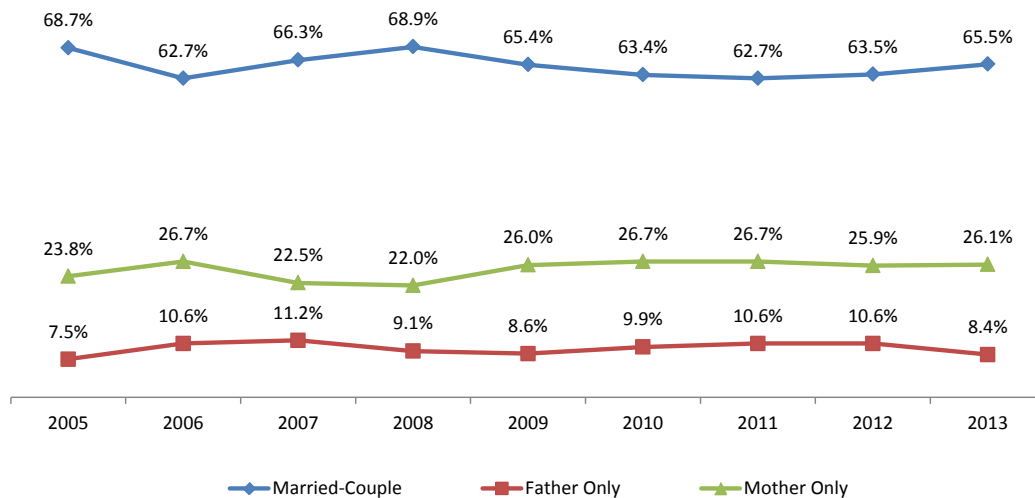
Families Raising Children

- In 2013 there were 257,183 households in Kern County.
- 43% of Kern's households had one or more children during 2013.
- At the same time, 36% of California's households had children under age 18.
- Of these Kern County households raising their own children, 63% were headed by married couples; 27% were headed by a single mother; and 10% by a single father.
- During 2013, an estimated 77,473 Kern County children lived with just one parent (35% of the total child population).
- Children living in single parent homes were more likely to live with their mothers than with their fathers (76% versus 24%) in Kern County.
- In Kern County, 23,289 grandparents lived with their grandchildren under 18 years old in 2013.
- 7,081 of these grandparents were "grandparent caregivers" (those who had primary responsibility for grandchildren under 18 years living with them), a figure of 30%.

Families with Children
Kern County, 2013



Living Arrangements of Children by Family Structure
Kern County, 2005-2013



- According to 2013 estimates, 17,436 Kern County children lived in the care of their grandparents, or 7% of all children under age 18 in county households.
- Kern's rate of children living in the care of their care rose from 5% in 2012.
- Statewide, 9% of California's children lived in the care of their grandparents in 2013.
- 1,873 Kern County children living with grandparents had no parents present in their grandparent's home in 2013.
- In 2013, 44% of Kern County children ages 0-17 lived with one or more foreign-born parents.
- In comparison, 49% of California's children lived with one or more foreign-born parents.

Family Economics

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 2013 median family income was 32% less than the state and 31% less than the nation.
- Kern's average annual unemployment rate continued 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.
- About every third child in Kern County was poor in 2013 and very young children continue to be most at risk of experiencing poverty.
- A Kern County renter earning minimum wage must work 71 hours weekly to afford a two bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent.
- More than 72,000 Kern County children were at risk of hunger at some time during 2013.

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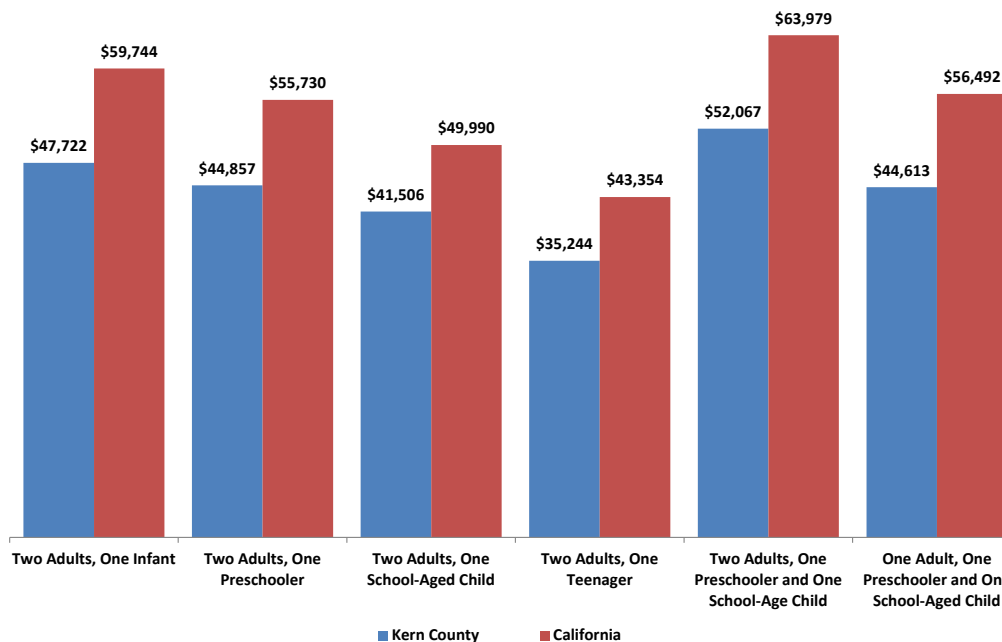
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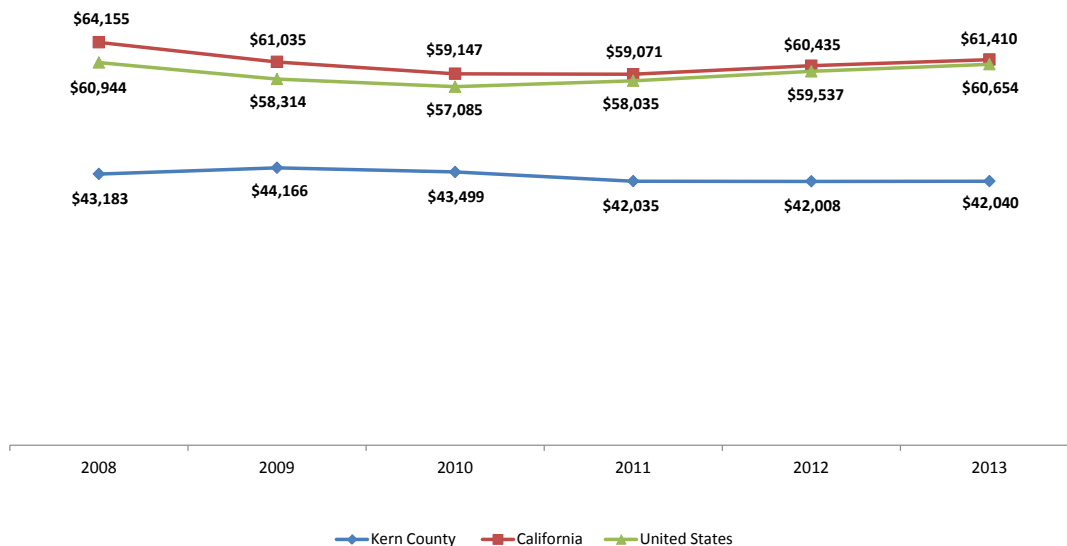
Family Income

- 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.
- The Census Bureau estimates the median income for Kern County families with children was \$42,040 in 2013.
- By comparison, the 2013 median income for families raising children in California was \$61,410 and \$60,654 nationwide.
- Kern County's 2013 median family income was 32% less than the state and 31% 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 (\$67,208) in 2013.
- The median family income for single fathers in Kern County in 2013 was higher than the median income for single mothers (\$25,151 versus \$18,623).
- The Kern County Department of Child Support Services served over 57,000 children in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Self-Sufficiency Standard for Selected Families with Children
Kern County & California, 2014



Median Annual Income for Families with Children by Year
Kern County, California & United States, 2008-2013

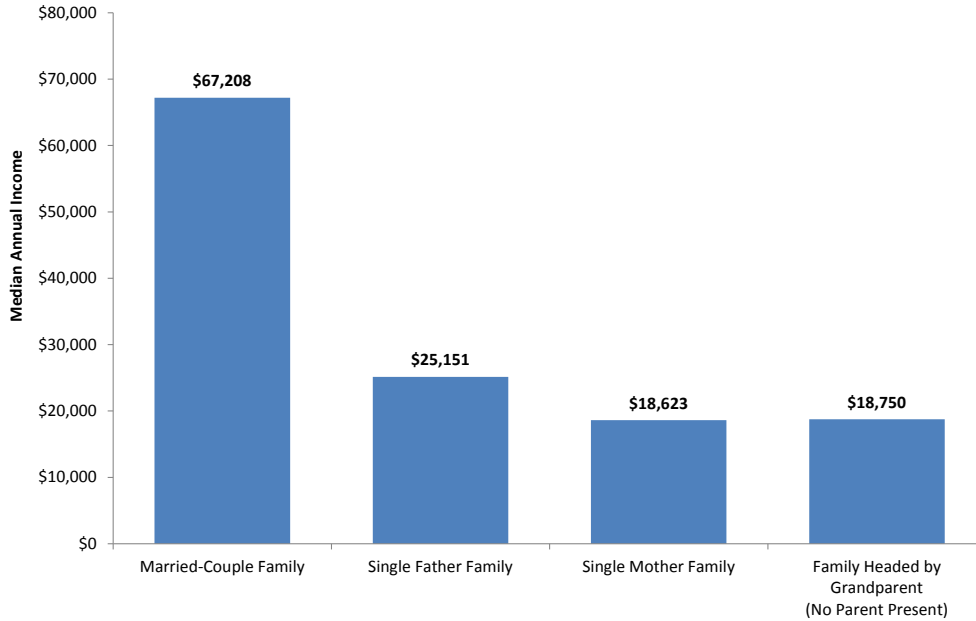


- The Department was able to increase the percent of child support payments collected and distributed to these children by 2.3% over the prior year, for a total of over \$79 million dollars.
- During 2013, 40% of Kern County children live in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/ SNAP benefits.
- In California, 28% of children resided in homes receiving public assistance in 2013.
- 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 (69%) and single father households (41%) than married couple households (26%) in 2013.

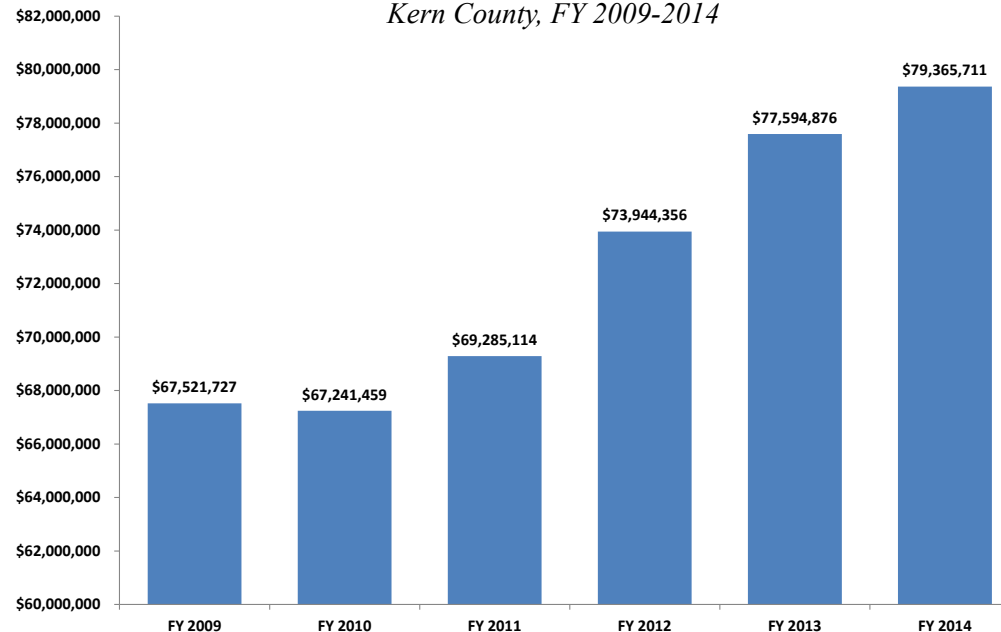
Additional customizable Kern County and California family economic data are available using Kidsdata.org.

Family Income *cont.*

Median Annual Income for Families with Children by Family Type
Kern County, 2013

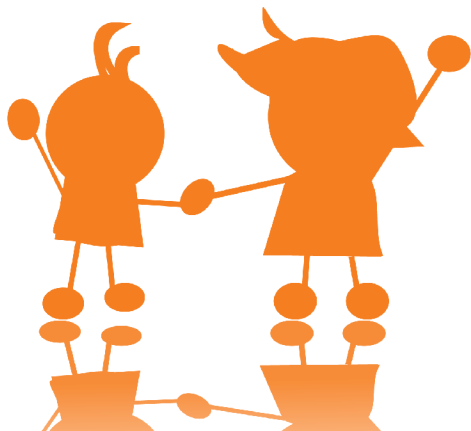


Total Collected Distributions to Children & Families
Kern County Department of Child Support Services
Kern County, FY 2009-2014



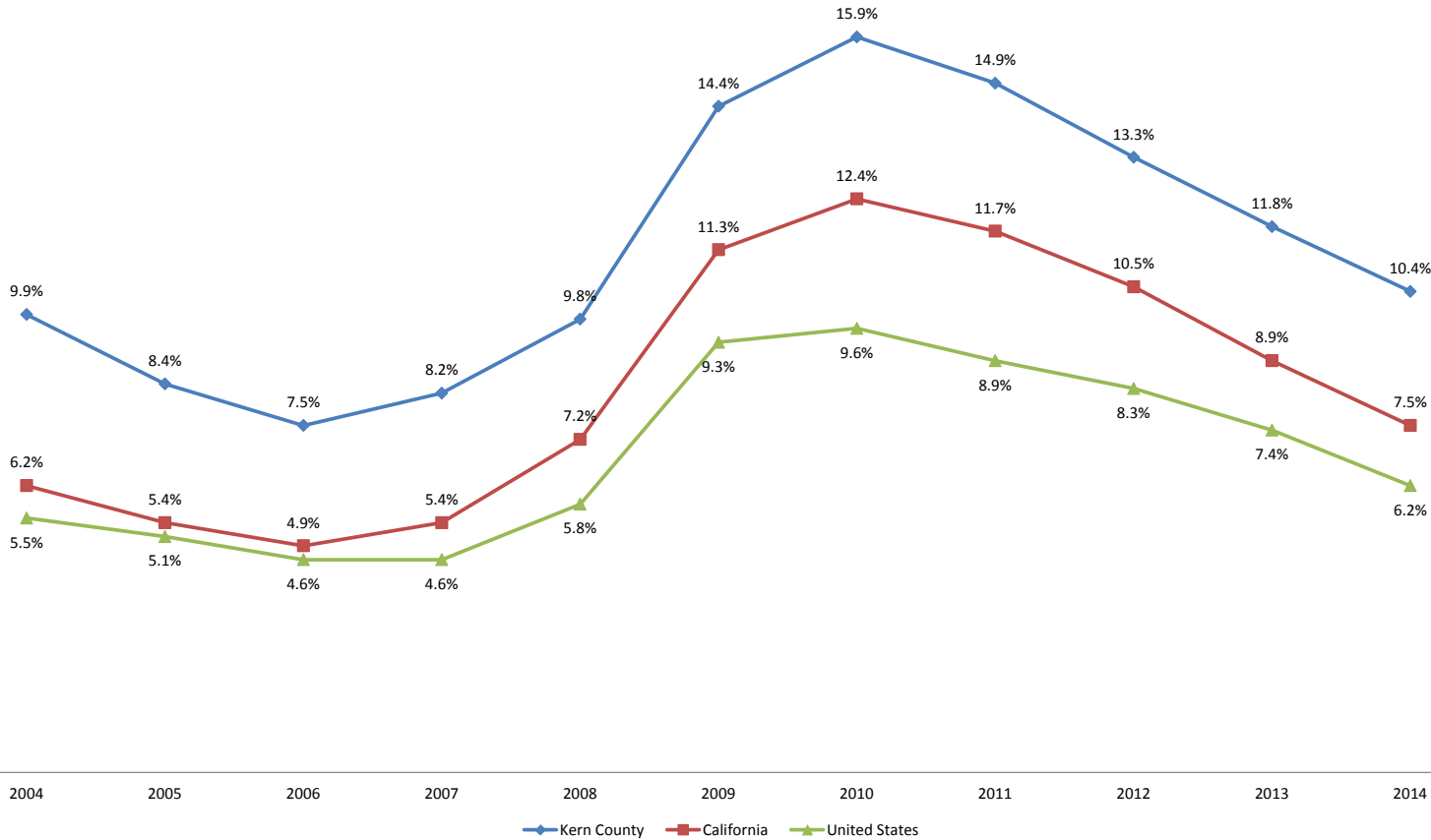
- 115,599 children under age 13 years in Kern County were in need of child care while their parents worked in 2012.
- Kern County licensed child care providers and programs have the capacity to serve 18% of the estimated child care need of working parents countywide during 2012 compared to 25% statewide.
- 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.



Employment

Annual Average Unemployment Rate
Kern County, California & United States, 2004-2014



- During 2014, 41,400 Kern County residents, 10.4% of the county's workforce, were unemployed.
- Kern County's annual average unemployment rate has declined from 11.8% in 2013 to 10.4% in 2014.
- In comparison, the 2014 average unemployment rate for California was 7.5% and 6.2% for the nation.
- According to the 2013 American Community Survey, 39.7% 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, a decrease from 40.7% in 2012.
- Kern County's rate of children without secure parental employment was higher than California (34.4%) and the United States (31.0%).
- Kern County had the 4th highest rate of children without secure parental employment among California counties in 2013.

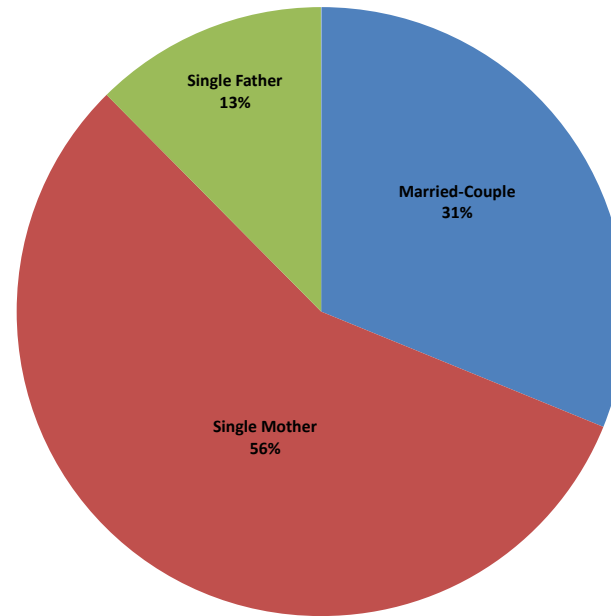
Additional customizable Kern County and California employment data are available using Kidsdata.org.

Poverty

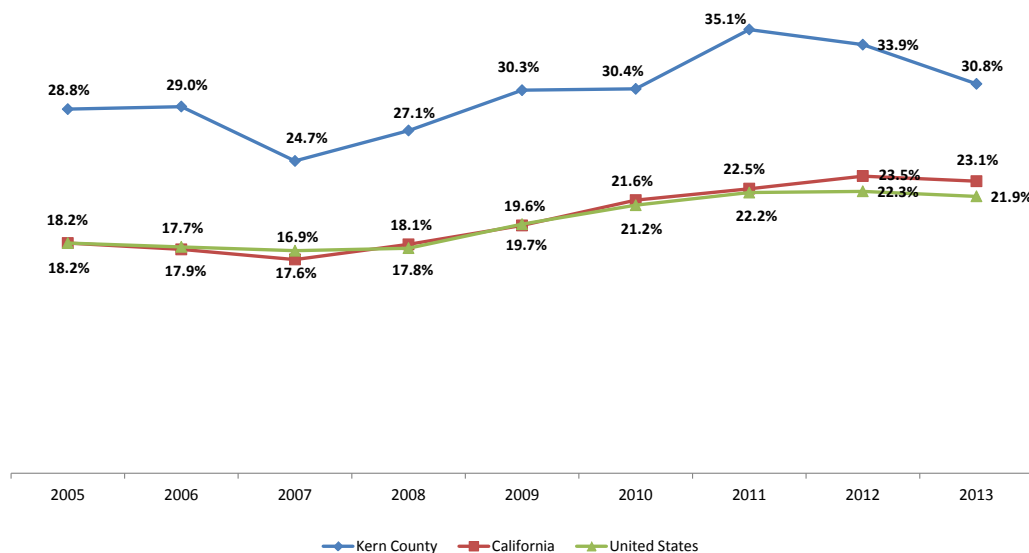
- For 2013, the federal poverty level was \$23,550 for a family of four.
- According to Census estimates, 27.1% of Kern County families were raising their children with incomes below the poverty line in 2013.
- In California, 19.0% of families with children lived in poverty.
- The poverty rates for Kern County children in single father and single mother households were 36.8% and 59.7%, respectively, compared to 17% of married-couple families.
- Among Kern County families whose householder had less than a high school diploma, 36.2% lived in poverty during 2013.
- Of those families whose householder had a high school diploma, the rate of poverty dropped to 19.0%.
- For those families in Kern County with householders having at least a bachelor's degree, the poverty rate fell dramatically to 3.7%.
- According to the 2013 Census, 77,257 children in Kern County (30.8% of all children) lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty line, a decrease of 7,915 children from the previous year estimate.



Families with Children Under 18 Years - Poverty Rates
Kern County, 2013



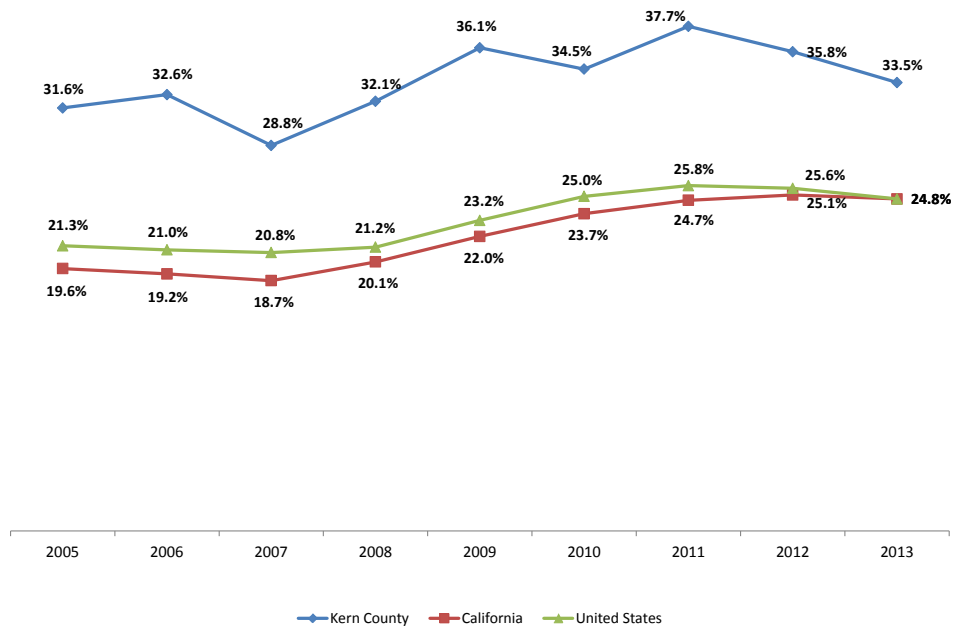
Child Poverty Trend by Year
Kern County, California & United States, 2005-2013



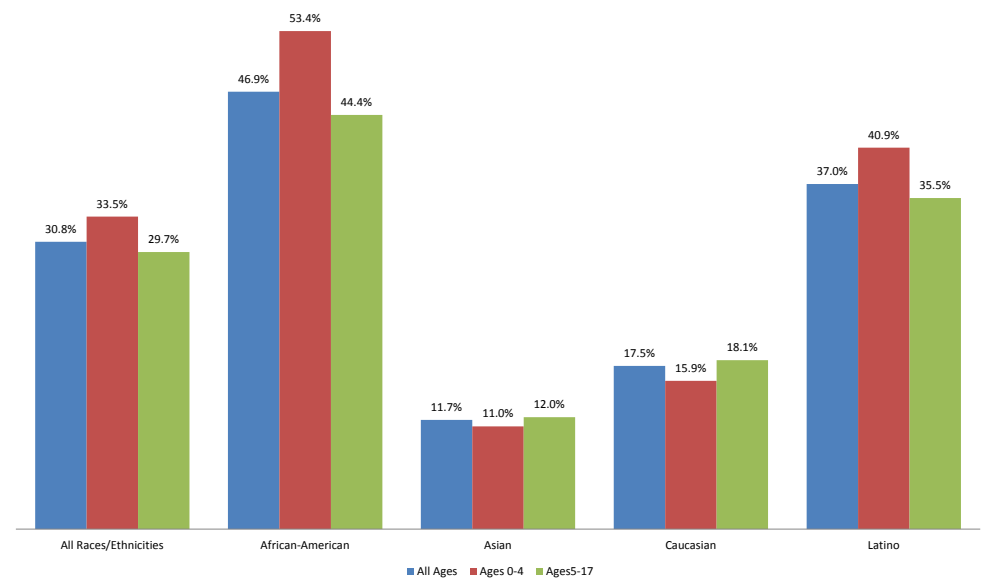
- By comparison, 19% of children in California lived in poverty during the past year.
- In 2013, 33.5% of Kern County children under age 5 lived below the poverty threshold.
- Statewide, the poverty rate of young children was 24.8% during the same year.
- The 2013 poverty rate for children under five years of age being raised by single mothers was 65.3% compared to 27.7% of young children in single father homes and 20.8% 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 2013, 17.5% of Caucasian children and 11.7% of Asian children were poor, compared with 46.9% of African-American children and 37.0% of Latino 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, 2005-2013



Child Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity & Age Kern County, 2013



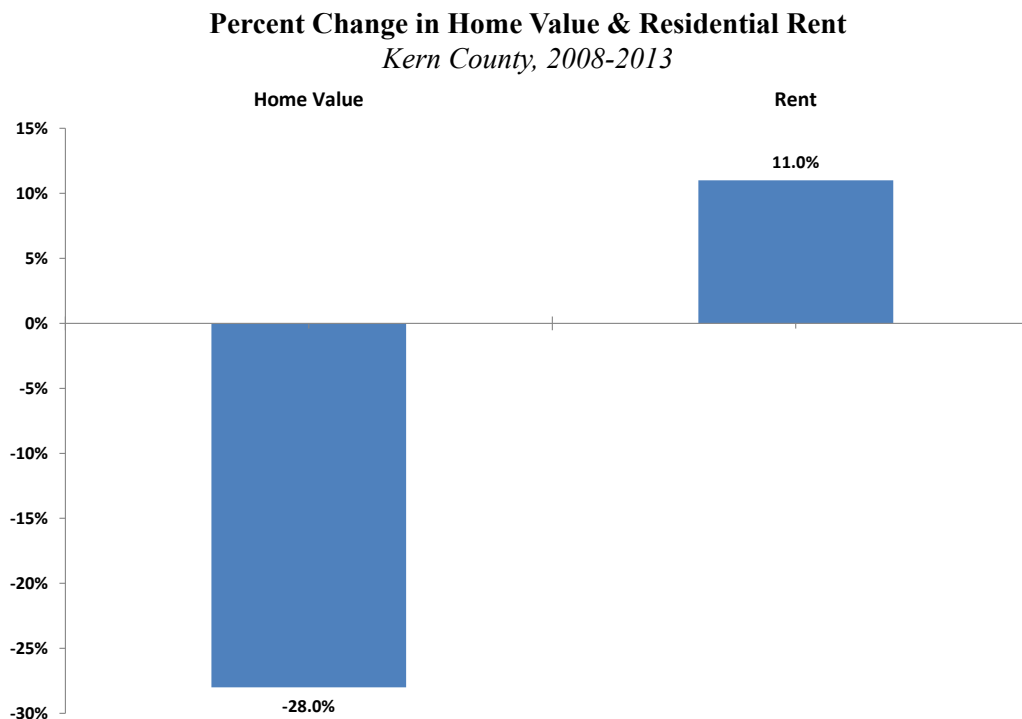
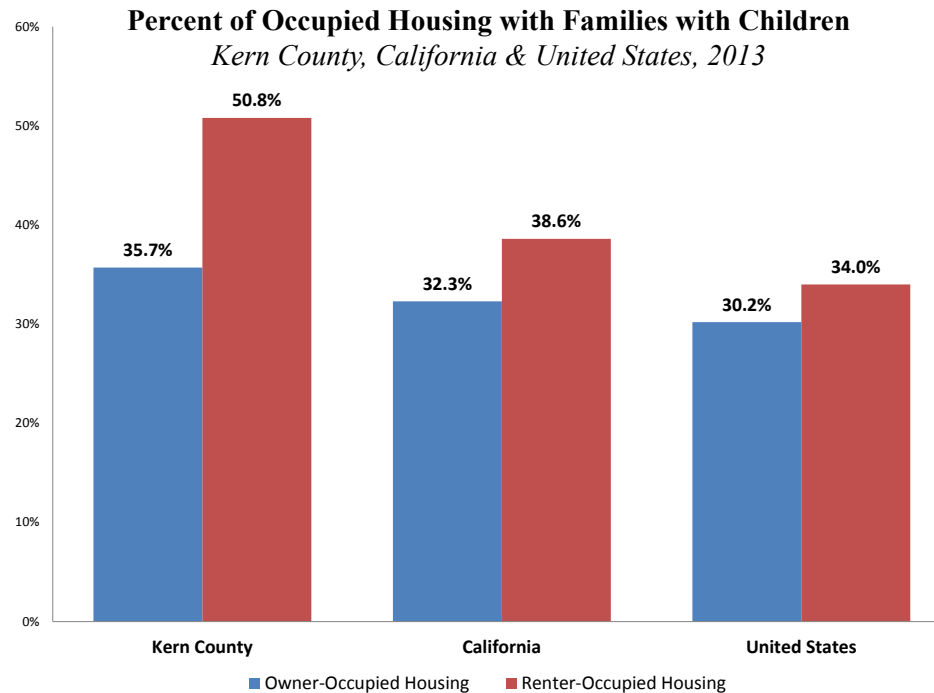
Children in Poverty (0-17)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	35.1%	33.9%	30.8%
California	22.5%	23.5%	23.1%
All Families with Children Percent Living in Poverty	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	29.2%	28.4%	27.1%
California	18.6%	19.3%	19.0%

Children in Poverty (0-4)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	37.7%	35.8%	33.5%
California	24.7%	25.1%	24.8%
Single Moms with Children Percent Living in Poverty	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	54.1%	57.2%	53.5%
California	37.4%	39.4%	38.8%

Children in Poverty (5-17)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	34.1%	33.2%	29.7%
California	21.7%	22.9%	22.5%
Students Enrolled in Free or Reduced Price Meal Program	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Kern County	67.1%	68.9%	70.5%
California	57.5%	58.0%	59.4%

- In 2013, Kern County had 256,000 occupied housing units - 148,000 (58%) owner occupied and 108,000 (42%) renter occupied.
- 58% of Kern County children lived in a rented housing unit during 2013 with higher rates among single mother (71%) and single father (60%) households.
- During 2013, the median gross rent in Kern County was \$894 compared to \$1,224 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 2013, a rate slightly lower than California's figure of 57%.
- The 2015 Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kern County is \$832 a month.
- Kern County's Fair Market Rent has increased by more than 32% since 2005.
- In 2015, Kern County's monthly housing wage is \$2,773; the full-time hourly housing wage is \$16.00.
- Kern County's housing wage represents 178% of the current minimum wage.

Housing



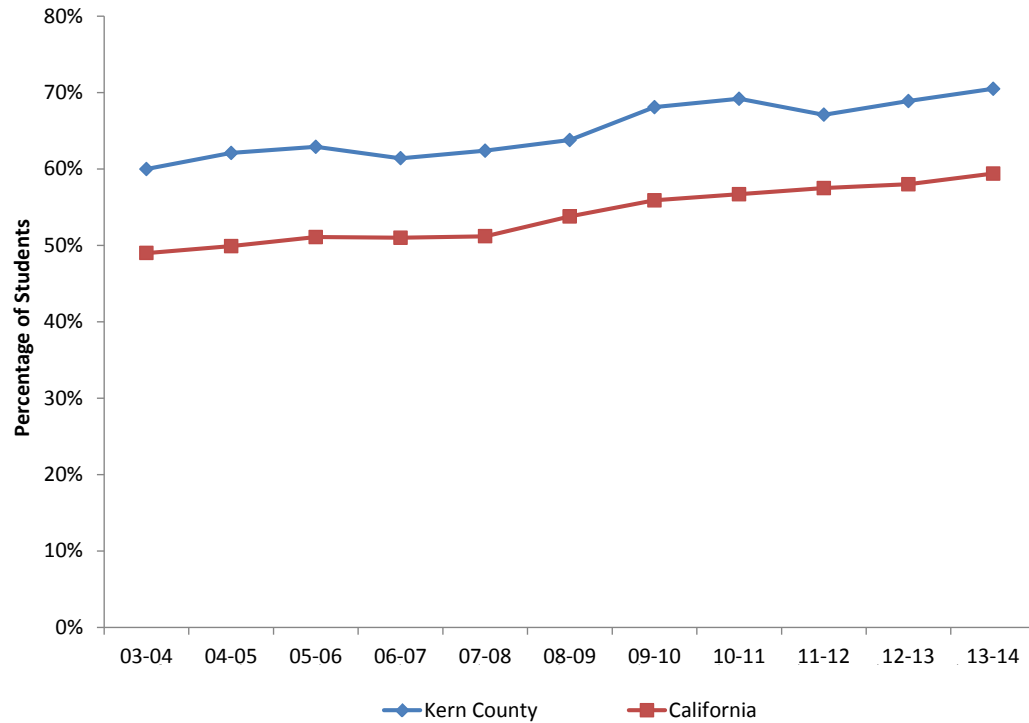
- A renter in Kern County earning minimum wage must work 71 hours per week, 52 weeks per year, to afford a two bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent.
- In 2013, about 26% of Kern County's children lived in crowded households (crowded households are defined as more than one person per "room"), a decrease from 31% in 2012.
- The rate of children living in crowded housing was lower than the state rate of 28%, but higher than the national rate of 14%.
- The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to ensure homeless students have access to education and other services they need to meet the same standards as all students.
- In the school year 2007-08, there were 2,826 children identified as homeless in Kern County.
- The most recent figures from 2013-14 indicate the homeless numbers have more than doubled since 2007-08 to 7,605 children, countywide.

Additional customizable Kern County and California cost of living data are available using Kidsdata.org.

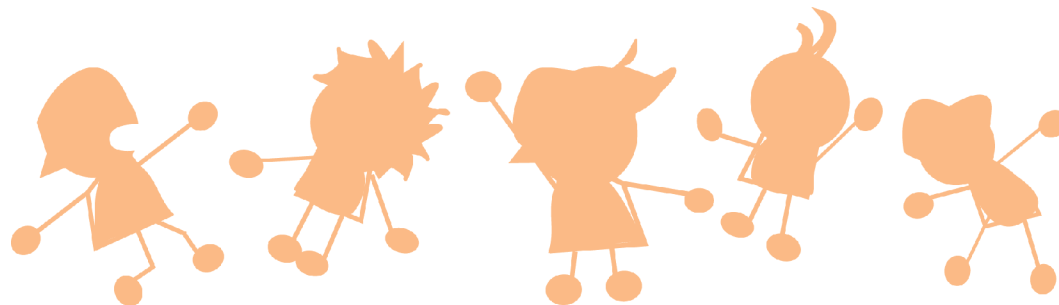
- In 2013, 72,490 children under age 18 living in Kern County households experienced limited or uncertain access to adequate food.
- Kern's 29% child food insecurity rate was higher than California (25%) and the United States (21%).
- In December 2014, 62,861 households in Kern County participated in the food assistance program called CalFresh.
- Since the recession began in late 2007, the number of Kern County households participating in CalFresh has increased 104%, a total of 32,075 more households.
- During the 2013-14 school year, 71% of Kern County students were eligible to receive free or reduced priced meals compared to 59% statewide.
- The percentage of students enrolled ranged from 6% to 99% in Kern County school districts.
- The total number of students participating in the free/reduced meals program has grown 43% from 88,750 in 2001-02 to 126,684 in 2013-14.

Food Security

Free/Reduced Meal Enrollment
Kern County & California, 2003-04 through 2013-14



California Department of Education



K-12 Education

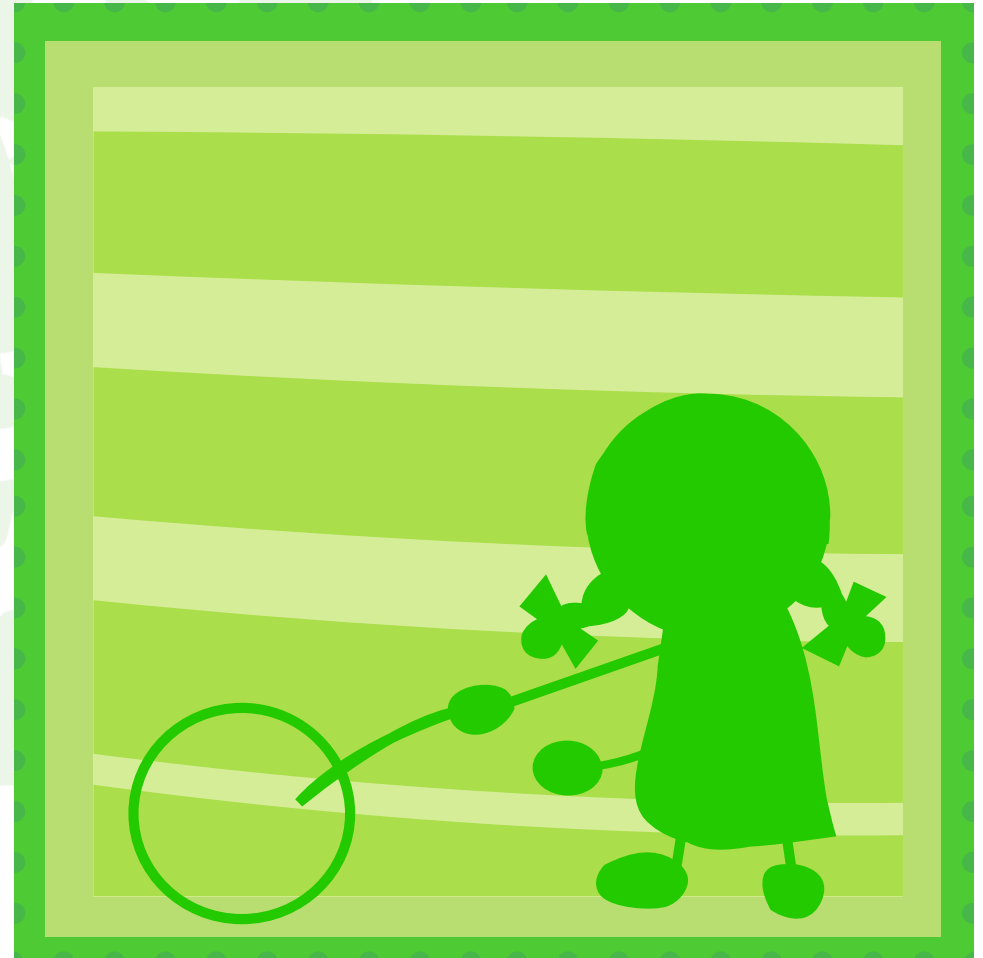
The chapter K-12 Education presents an overview of Kern County's public K-12 students and their educational achievements. Education provides young people a gateway to more opportunities and greater success in life. Indicators related to academic performance, such as standardized testing and completing 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 180,000 students enrolled during the 2013-14 academic year.
- Double-digit achievement gaps 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.
- Kern County's high school dropout rate declined for the second year and reached a record low last school year.
- 3 out of 4 Kern County students graduated within four years during the 2013-14 school year.
- 1 out of every 3 Kern County high school graduates met entrance requirements for UC/CSU systems.

Jump to -

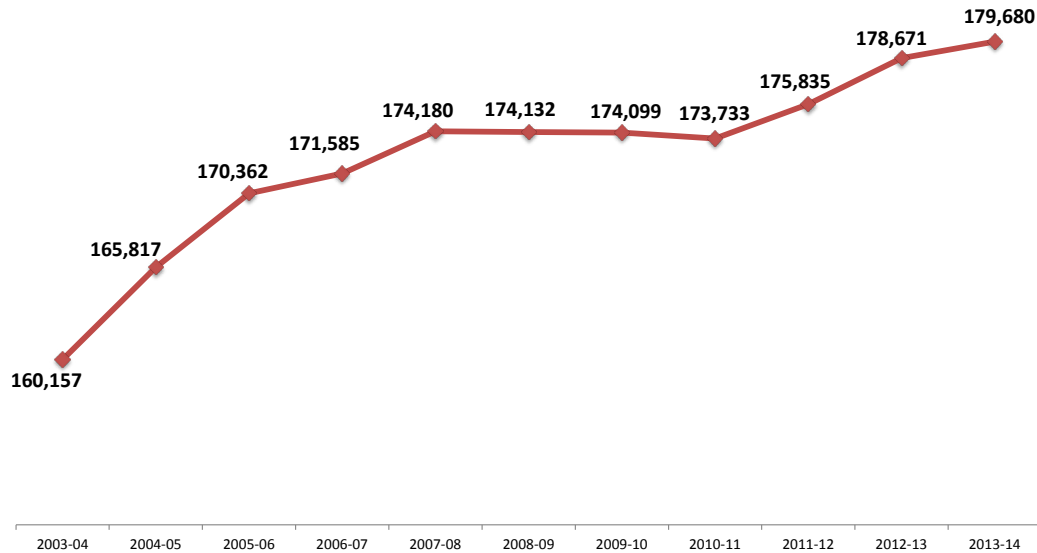
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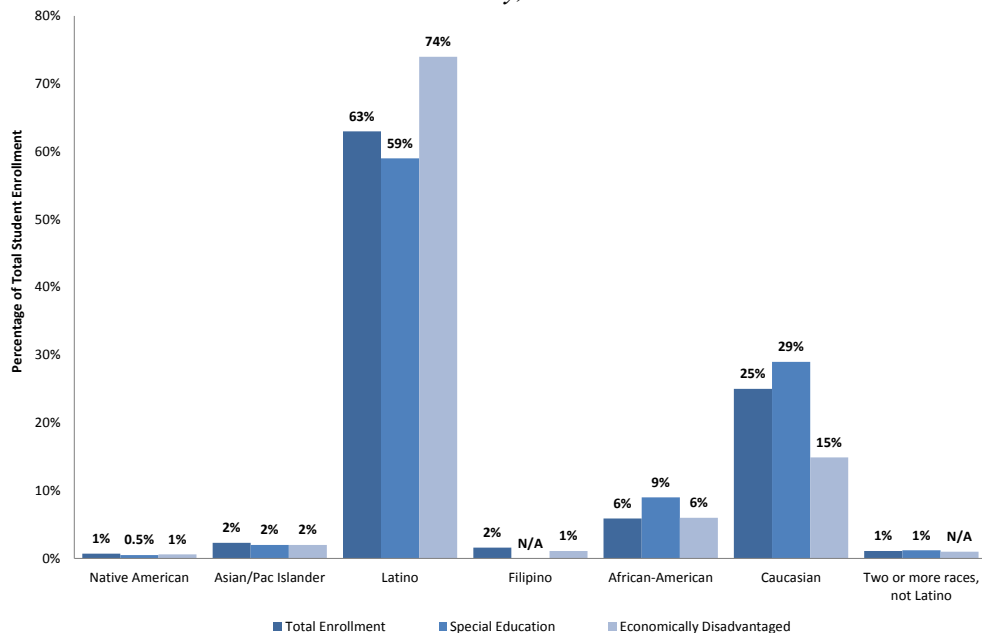
Students

- In the 2013-14 school year, 179,680 students were enrolled in the county's 270 public schools, 1,009 more students than the previous year.
- Kern County averaged 27.0 students in each classroom during the 2012-13 academic year, a figure higher than the state's average of 25.0 students.
- The student-teacher ratio in Kern County was 22.7 students for every full time teacher during the 2013-14 school year compared to 22.5 statewide.
- Kern schools are linguistically diverse, with 44 languages or dialects represented by students county-wide.
- During the 2013-14 academic year, 39,756 students (22% 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%).
- 72% of Kern County students were considered economically disadvantaged during the 2013-14 school year, compared to 61% of students statewide.

K-12 Public Student Enrollment by Year
Kern County, 2003-04 through 2013-14



Total K-12 Public Student Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity
Kern County, 2013-14

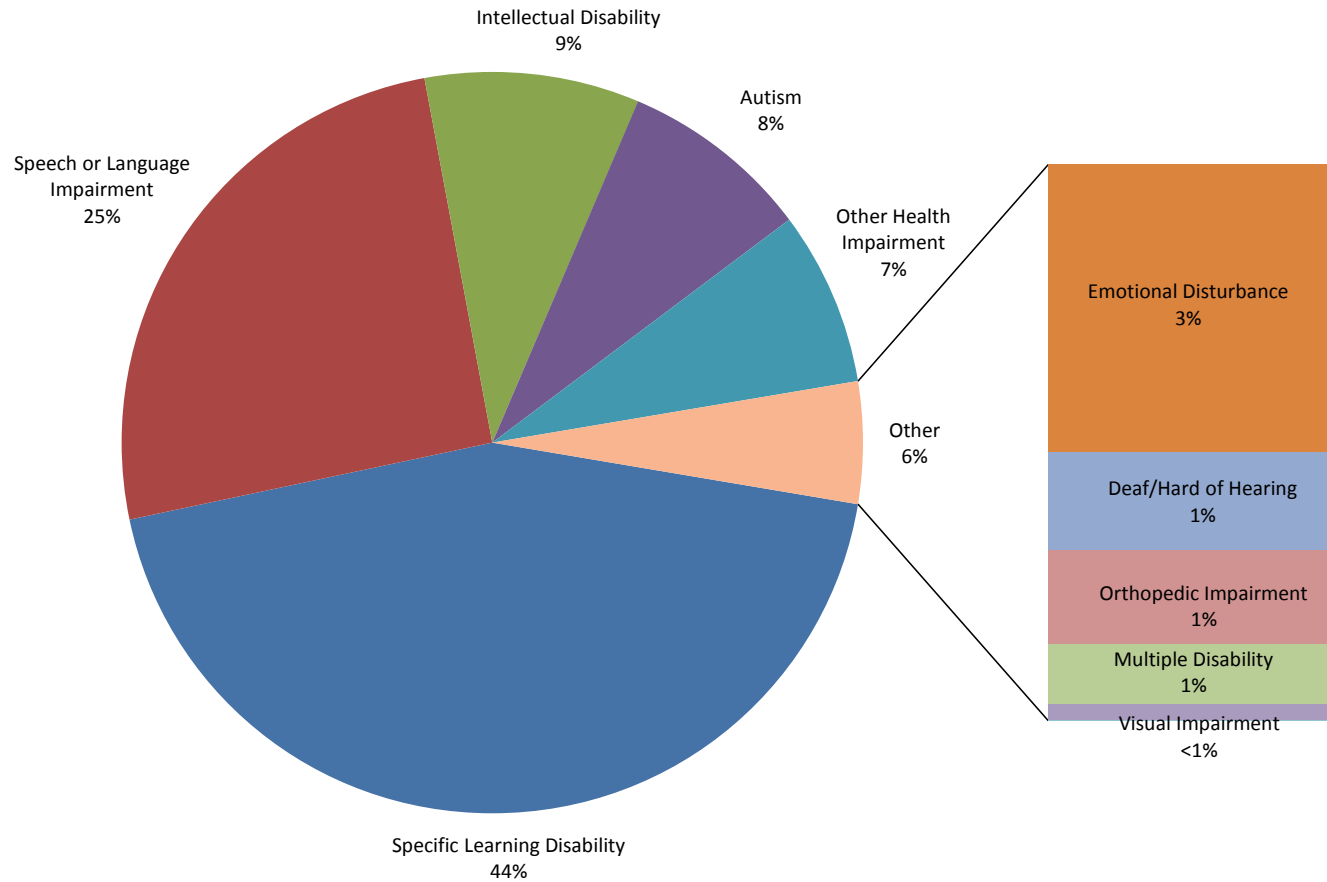


- Kern County's Special Education system served 17,726 children and young adults from newborn to age 22 during the 2013-14 school year.
- Of the 5th grade students surveyed in Kern County, 77% believed there was a teacher or other adult who cared about them all or most of the time and 87% reported that there was a teacher or other adult who believed they could do a good job.
- In the 2013-14 school year, 81% of the Class of 2016 passed the English Language Arts portion and 82% passed the exam's Mathematics section of the CAHSEE high school exit exam in Kern County.
- In Kern County, 10,573 students met graduation requirements during the 2013-14 school year, a graduation rate of 79.8 per 100 students, an increase from the previous year's rate of 76.4.
- California's graduation rate was 80.8 per 100 students during 2013-14 academic year.
- Of the students who started high school in 2010-11, 14.4% dropped out, a decrease from the previous year's rate of 16.5%.

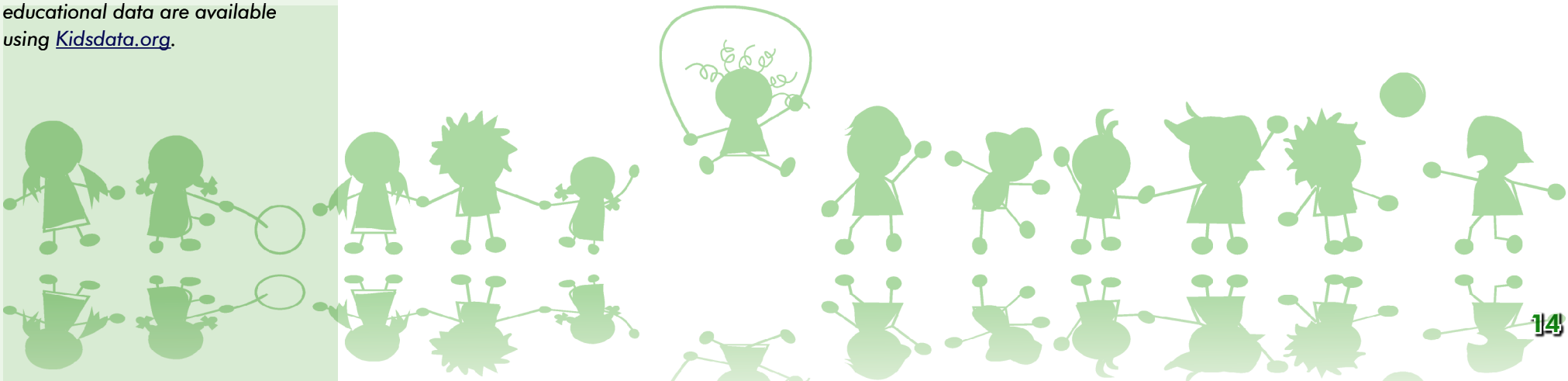
Students cont.

- Kern County's dropout rate is higher than the state rate of 11.6%.
- Students with the highest dropout rates included English Learners (25.7%) and African-American (22.6%) students.
- In the 2013-14 school year, 33.3% of students graduated with all "A-G" classes completed, a figure slightly higher than the previous school year rate of 29.8%.
- In comparison, 41.9% of students graduated with UC/CSU entrance requirements statewide.
- In the 2013-14 school year, 5,266 Kern County students took the SAT.
- 34.4% of these Kern County students scored at or above 1,500, a figure lower than the state student rate of 47.8%.

Students Receiving Special Education Services by Primary Disability
Kern County, 2013-14



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



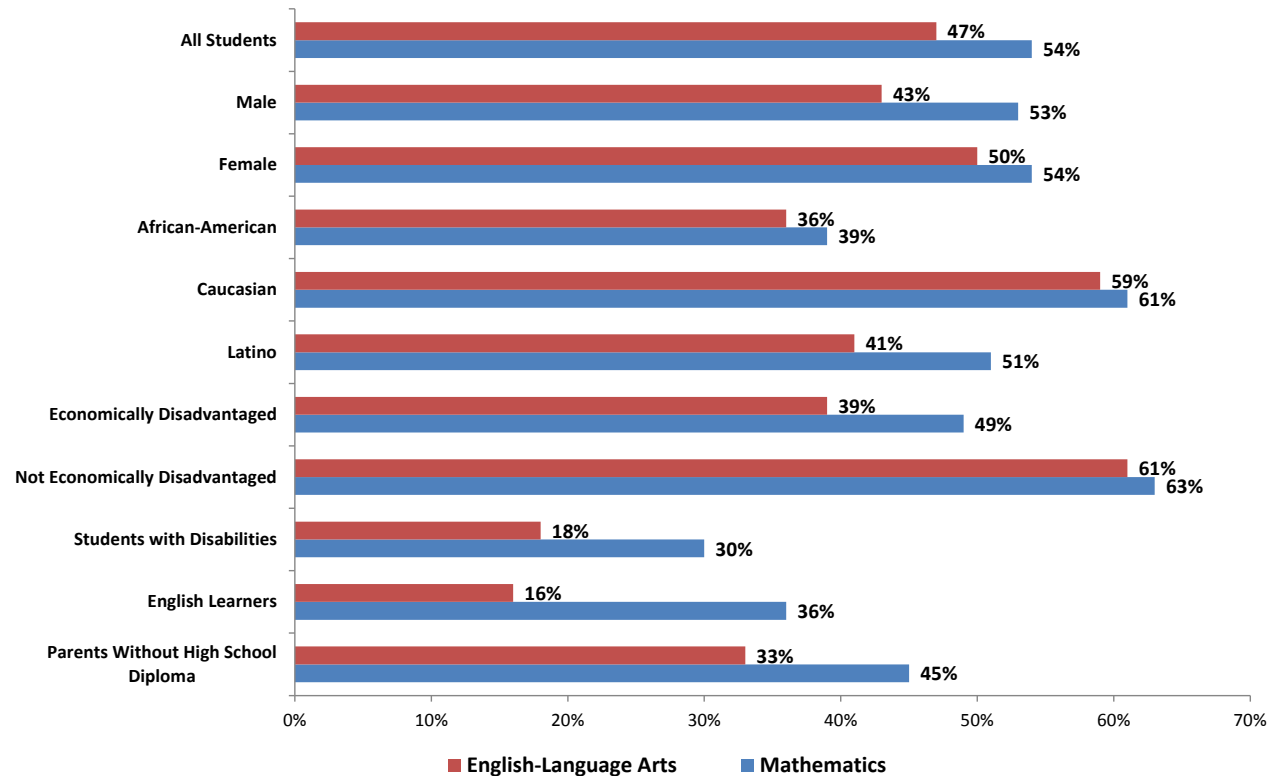
Academic Achievement

California Standards Test Scores Kern County & California, 2010-11 through 2012-13

Kern County			
3rd Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	10-11	11-12	12-13
English Language Arts	37%	38%	36%
Mathematics	60%	62%	58%
7th Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	10-11	11-12	12-13
English Language Arts	47%	52%	48%
Mathematics	42%	45%	44%

California			
3rd Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	10-11	11-12	12-13
English Language Arts	46%	48%	45%
Mathematics	68%	69%	66%
7th Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	10-11	11-12	12-13
English Language Arts	57%	62%	60%
Mathematics	50%	52%	52%

Students (Grades 2-7) Scoring Proficient or Higher on English Language Arts & Mathematics CST Kern County, 2013



Educational Attainment

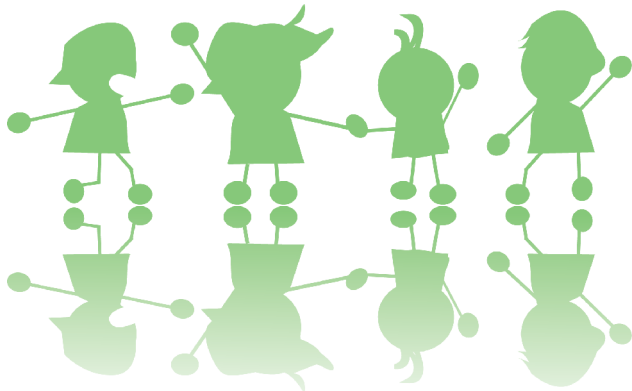
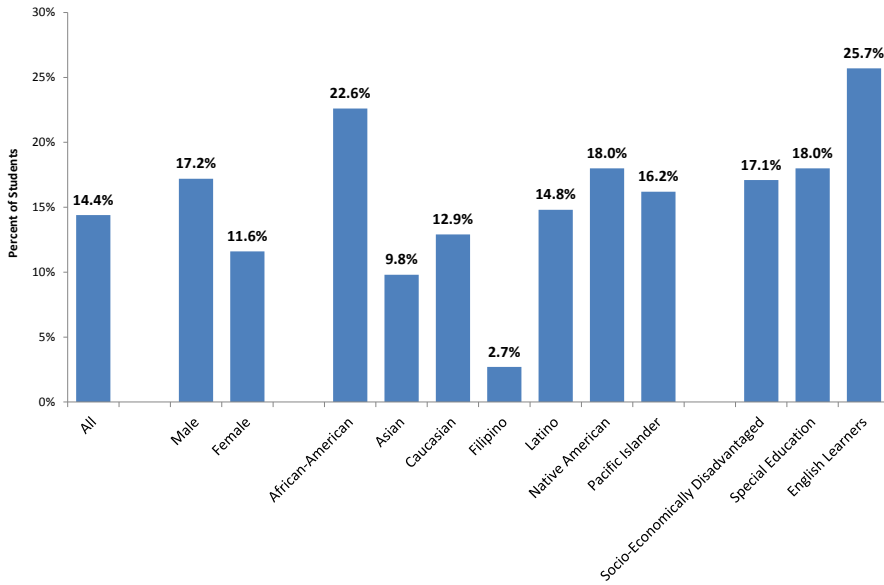
Educational Attainment Indicators Kern County & California, 2011-12 through 2013-14

Kern County			
Out-of-School Youth	2011	2012	2013
Percent of youth ages 16-19 not in school and without high school diploma	8.5%	8.0%	7.8%
CAHSEE % of 10th graders passing exam	11-12	12-13	13-14
English Language Arts	80%	79%	81%
Mathematics	80%	80%	82%
Graduation Rates	11-12	12-13	13-14
Cohort Graduation Rate	76.2%	76.4%	79.8%
High School Dropout Rate	11-12	12-13	13-14
Cohort Dropout Rate	16.8%	16.2%	14.4%
College Prepared Youth	11-12	12-13	13-14
% Grads w/ CSU/UC Require	29.2%	29.8%	33.3%
% 12th Graders Taking SAT scoring at or above 1,500	34.2%	31.9%	34.4%
Community Education Levels	2011	2012	2013
Percent of all adults 25 and older without at least high school diploma	27.2%	27.9%	26.0%

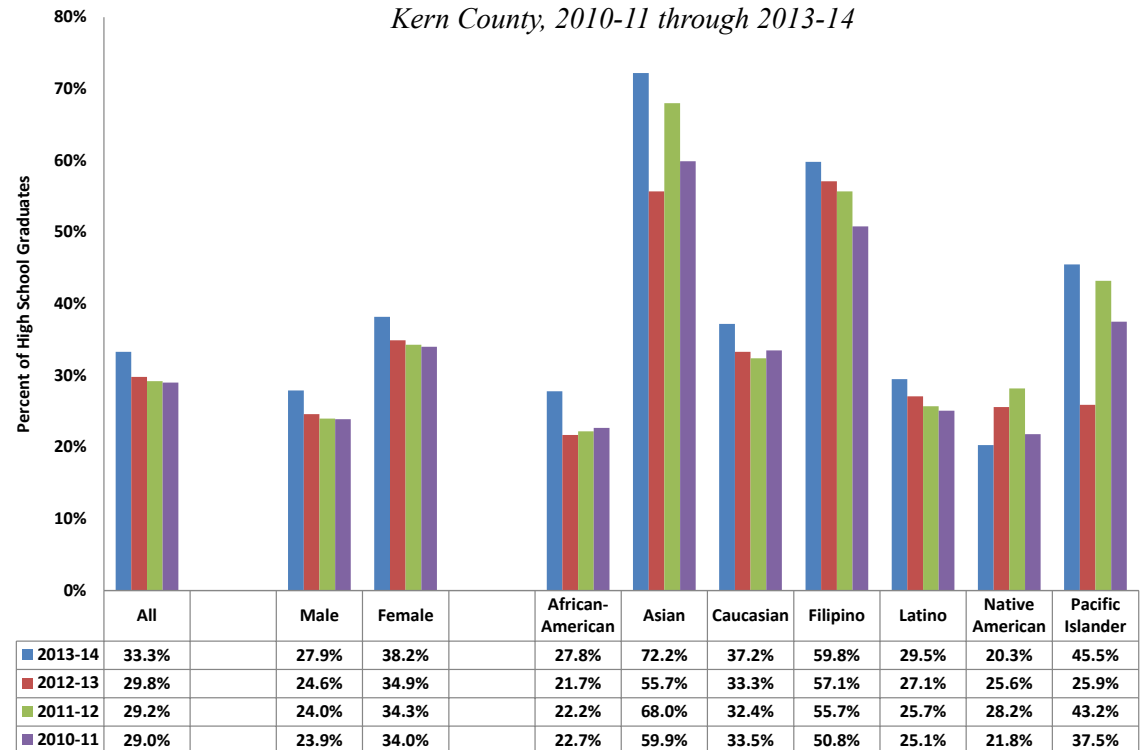
California			
Out-of-School Youth	2011	2012	2013
Percent of youth ages 16-19 not in school and without high school diploma	5.4%	5.1%	5.4%
CASHEE % of 10th graders passing exam	11-12	12-13	13-14
English Language Arts	83%	83%	83%
Mathematics	84%	84%	85%
Graduation Rates	11-12	12-13	13-14
Cohort Graduation Rate	78.9%	80.2%	80.8%
High School Dropout Rate	11-12	12-13	13-14
Cohort Dropout Rate	13.1%	11.6%	11.6%
College Prepared Youth	11-12	12-13	13-14
% Grads w/ CSU/UC Require	38.3%	39.4%	41.9%
% 12th Graders Taking SAT scoring at or above 1,500	46.7%	46.4%	47.8%
Community Education Levels	2011	2012	2013
Percent of all adults 25 and older without at least high school diploma	18.9%	18.5%	18.3%

Educational Attainment cont.

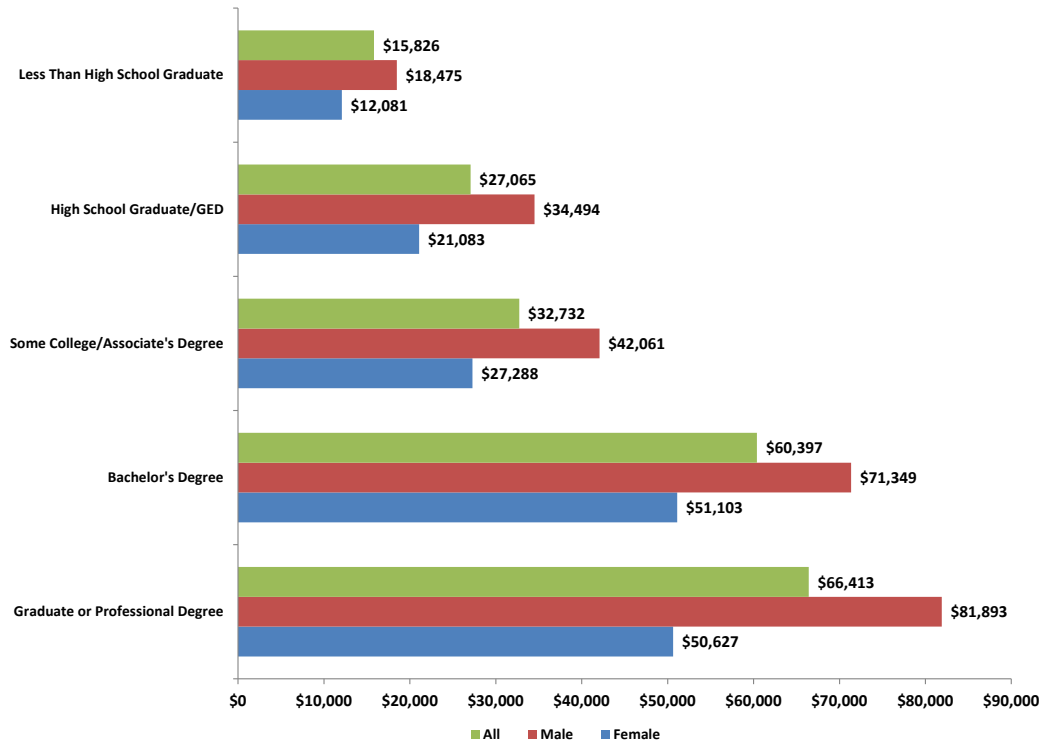
High School Dropout Rates – Kern County, 2013-14



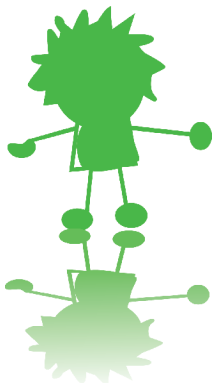
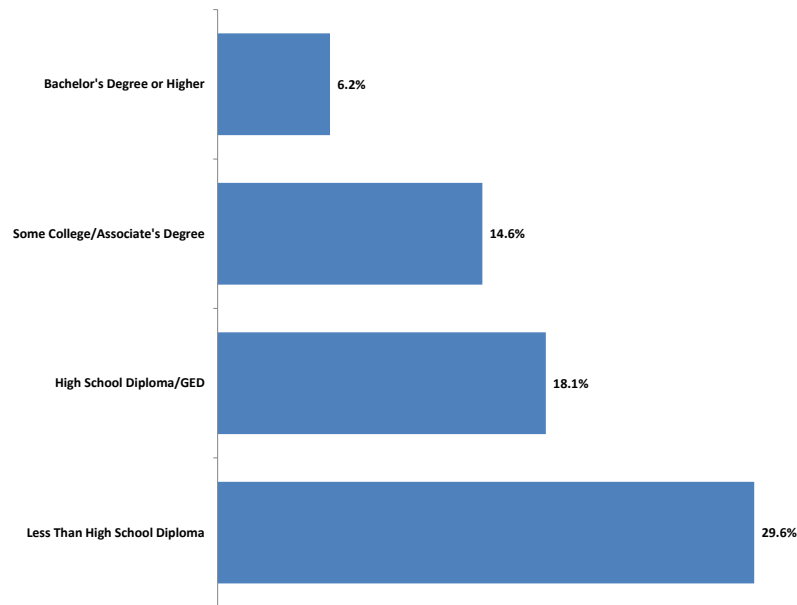
CSU/UC Eligibility Rates by Gender & Race/Ethnicity Kern County, 2010-11 through 2013-14



Median Earnings of Population 25 Years and Older by Education and Gender – Kern County, 2013



Poverty Rate of Population 25 Years and Older by Educational Attainment – Kern County, 2013



Child & Adolescent Health

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

- About 3 out of every 4 Kern County pregnant mothers received prenatal care in their first trimester in 2013.
- Kern's 2013 infant mortality rate rose 17% from the previous year to a rate 1.5 times higher than the State.
- Almost a quarter of Kern County's 5th and 7th graders fell within the high-risk category for body composition.
- Despite five straight years of decline, Kern County's teen birth rate was the highest in the State in 2013.
- Kern's chlamydia infection rate among teen females was 59% higher than the State and 14% higher than the national rate in 2013.
- 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.

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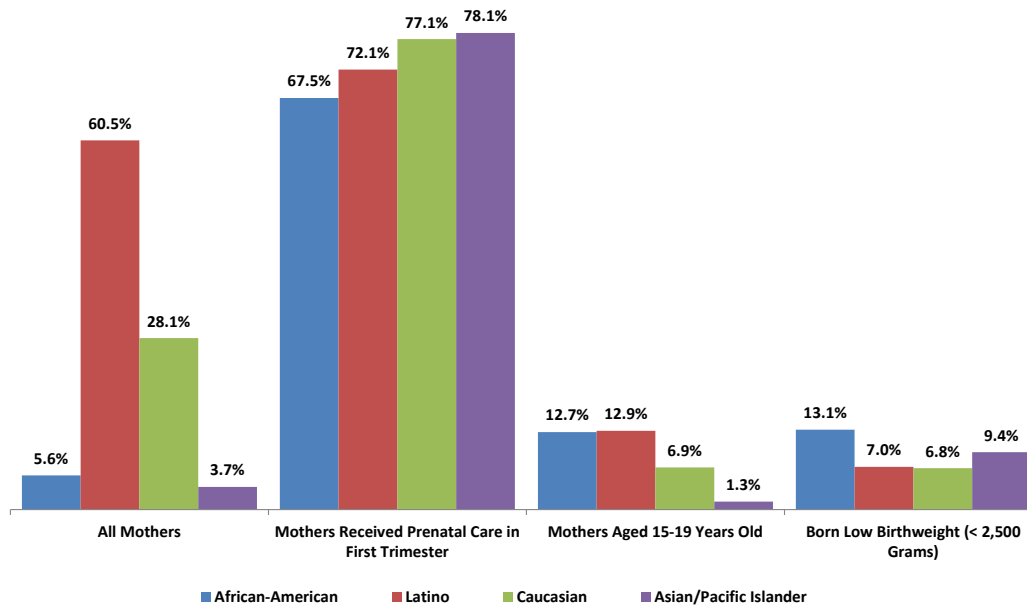


Infant Health

- In 2013, 73.4% of pregnant mothers in Kern County obtained prenatal care services during the first trimester of their pregnancies, compared to 72.5% the previous year.
- In California, 82.1% of mothers received care during their first trimester in 2013.
- During 2013, 14,145 babies were born in Kern County.
- In 2013, 10.3% of Kern County babies were born prior to 37 weeks, placing them at greater risk of disability and dying during infancy.
- By comparison, 8.8% of California's babies were premature during 2013.
- In 2013, 1,041 babies were born at a low birthweight, 7.4% of Kern County's total live births.
- In California, 6.8% of babies were born with a low birthweight.
- Between 2006 and 2015, a total of 45 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 2013, 99 Kern County babies died before their first birthday, an infant mortality rate of 7.0 per 1,000 live births.

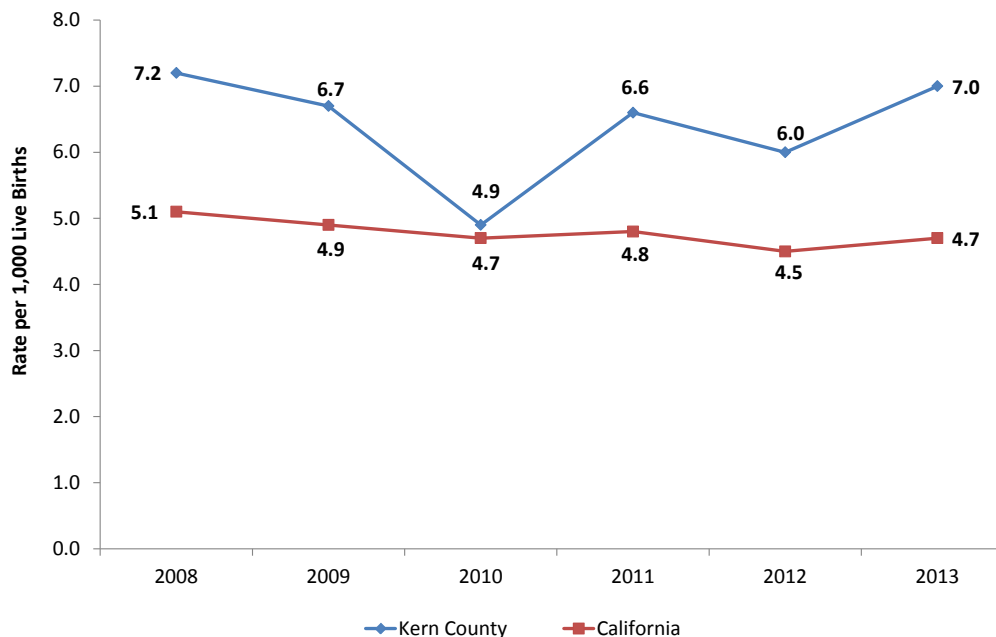
Percentage of Babies Born by Selected Measures & Race/Ethnicity

Kern County, 2014



Infant Death Rate by Year

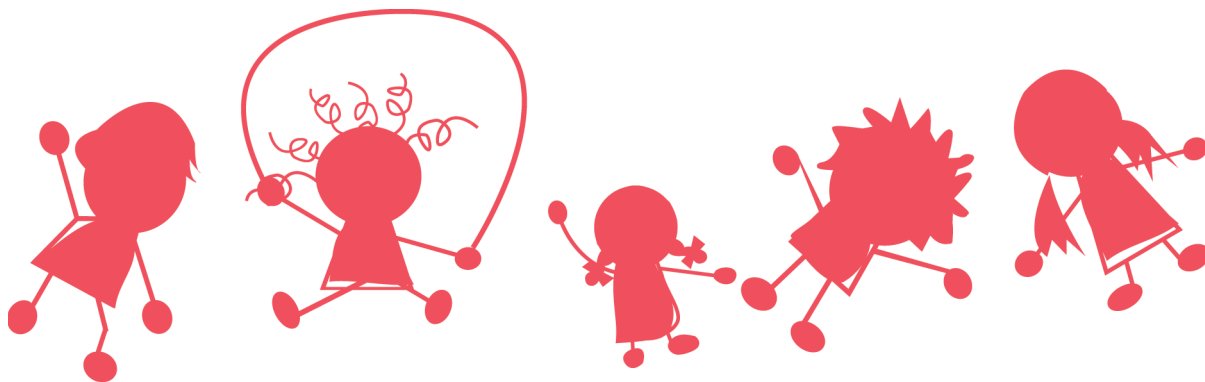
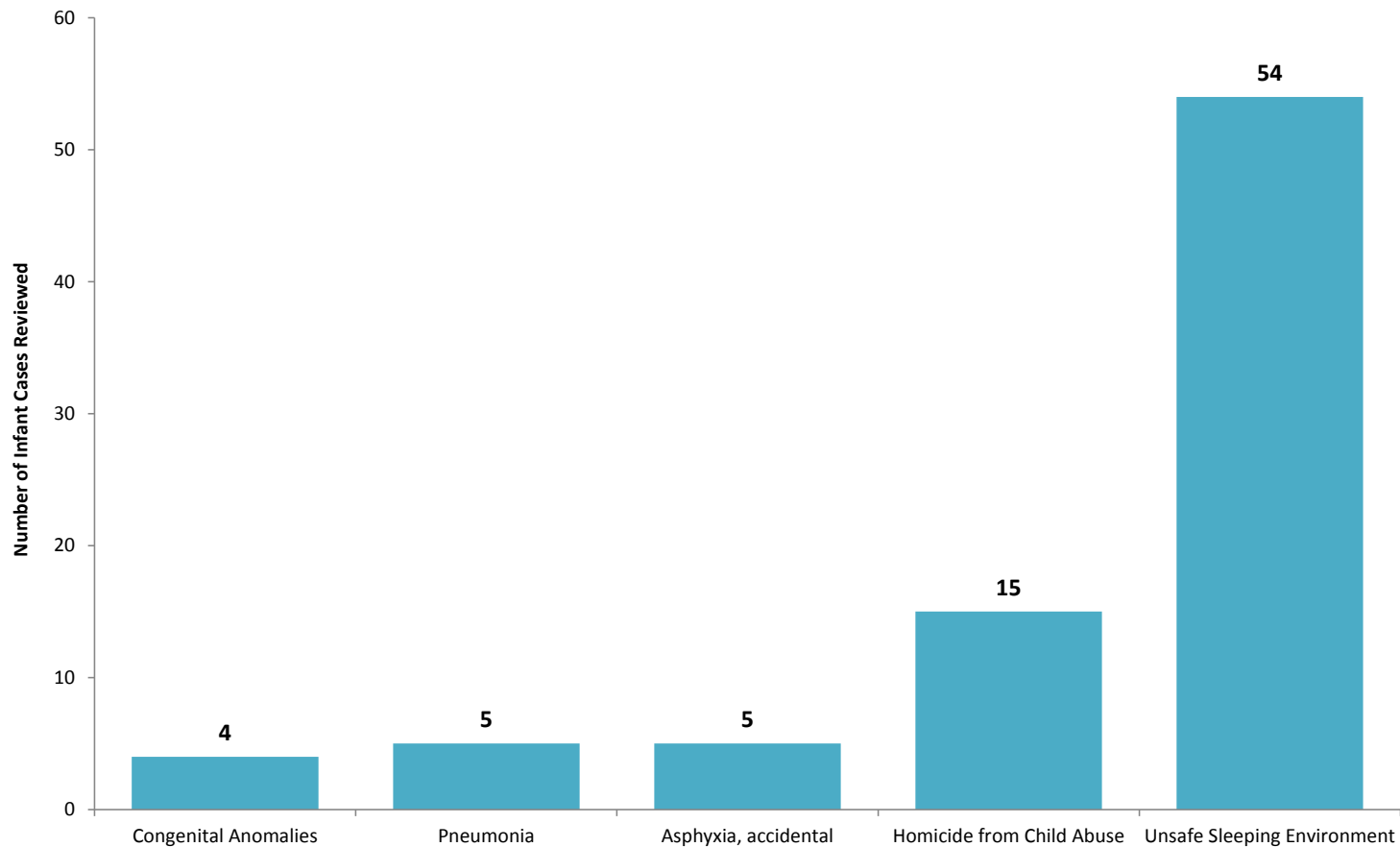
Kern County & California, 2008-2013



- The three-year (2010-2012) average mortality rate for infants in Kern County was 5.8 per 1,000 live births, compared to the previous average rate of 6.2.
- Kern's 2010-2012 infant mortality rate was higher than California (4.8 per 1,000).
- Mirroring national and state trends, African-American babies in Kern County are at greatest risk of dying as infants when compared to other racial/ethnic groups.
- The infant mortality rate among African-American* infants was an average of 8.5 deaths per 1,000 live births from the years 2010 to 2012, a rate 32% higher than Kern County's overall infant mortality rate.
- 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 2009 through 2013, 54 infants died in their sleep, representing 50% of the infant deaths reviewed.

*Rates deemed unreliable based on fewer than 20 data elements.

Infant Deaths by Top Five Causes - Cases Reviewed by Child Death Review Team Kern County, 2009-2013



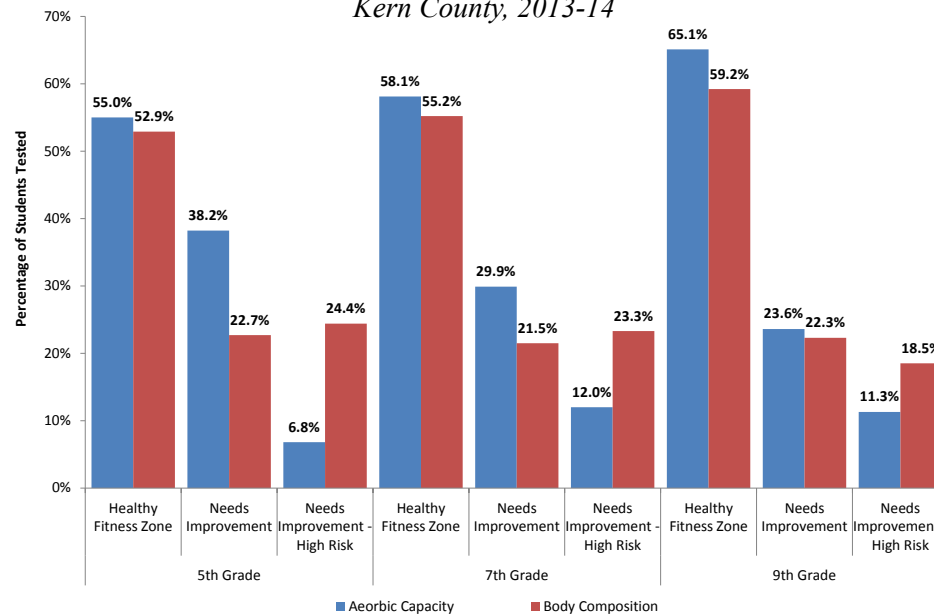
- These deaths were linked to an unsafe sleep environment with most deaths occurring between the years of 2009 and 2010 when 25 babies died in their sleep.
- During 2013, 87.8% of Kern County mothers breastfed in the hospital after giving birth, while only 54.7% of mothers breastfed exclusively after giving birth.
- Throughout California, 93.0% of mothers breastfed in the hospital after giving birth, while only 64.8% of mothers breastfed exclusively after giving birth.
- Similar to statewide trends, Caucasian mothers (67.6%) were more likely to breastfeed exclusively than other racial/ethnic groups in Kern County.
- African American and Latina mothers were less likely to breastfeed their newborns exclusively after giving birth, 35.1% and 50.4%, respectively.

Additional customizable Kern County and California infant health data are available using Kidsdata.org.

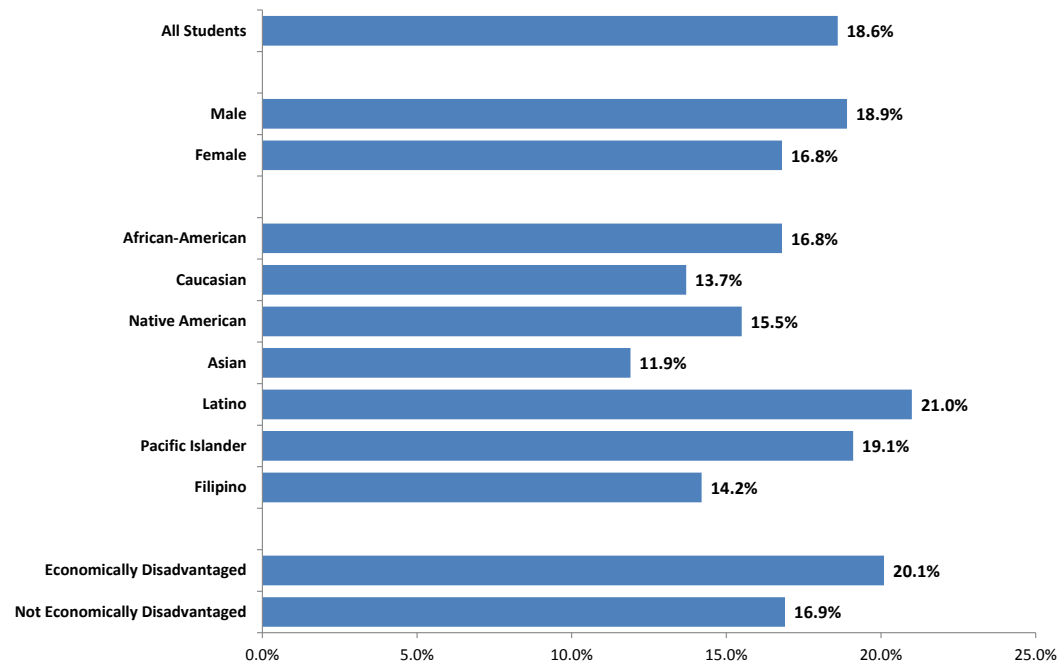
Child Health

- 93.5% of Kern County enrolling 2014-15 kindergartners had all required immunizations, surpassing the state's 90.4% coverage rate.
- A total of 1,047 Kern kindergartners were exempt from immunization requirements, a 6.5% exemption rate.
- During the 2014-15 school year, 1.8% of Kern kindergartners were exempt due to their parents personal beliefs and 0.6% for medical conditions.
- During the 2014-15 school year, 98% of 7th grade students enrolled in Kern County public schools reporting data completed the pertussis immunization (Tdap) requirement.
- During the 2013-14 school year, 38,405 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, 29.6% of 7th graders and 33.1% of 9th graders passed all six exercises.
- About 6.8% of Kern County's 5th graders, 12.0% of 7th graders and 11.3% of 9th graders fell into in the high-risk category for aerobic capacity, indicating

Percentage of 5th, 7th & 9th Graders - Aerobic Capacity & Body Composition
Kern County, 2013-14



Percentage of 5th, 7th & 9th Graders within High-Risk Category for Body Composition
By Selected Demographics – Kern County, 2013-14



- their fitness levels are not sufficient for good health.
- Kern County results show 24.4% of 5th graders, 23.3% of 7th graders and 18.5% of 9th graders were in the high-risk category for body composition.
- Kern's rate for asthma related child hospitalizations was 9.2 of every 10,000 Kern County children ages 0-17 in 2013, down from 10.0 in 2012.
- Asthma hospitalization rates were higher for the youngest children (ages 0-4) at a rate of 18.4 per 10,000 population in 2013.
- In 2013, an estimated 93.1% of Kern County children under age 18 had health insurance, a rate higher than the statewide rate of 92.6%.
- Kern County's child private and public insurance coverage rates were 45.5% and 51.5%, respectively.
- Data from 2013 showed children ages 0-5 had a higher coverage rate (96%) than older children ages 6-17 (92%) in Kern County.
- Among Kern County youth ages 12-17, an estimated 80% received a routine health check-up within the past 12 months in 2011-12, down from about 87% in 2009.

Late or No Prenatal Care (Percentage of live births)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	5.7%	5.6%	6.7%
California	3.2%	3.2%	3.5%

Premature Births (Percentage of live births)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	11.9%	11.1%	10.3%
California	9.8%	9.6%	8.8%

Births to Teen Mothers 15-19 (Percentage of live births)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	12.8%	11.2%	10.8%
California	7.6%	7.0%	6.2%

Births to Teen Mothers 15-19 (Rate per 1,000 population)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	52.7	49.4	44.9
California	28.0	25.7	23.6
United States	31.3	29.4	26.5

Low Birth Weight Births (Percentage of live births)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	7.2%	6.7%	7.4%
California	6.8%	6.7%	6.8%

Infant Mortality Rate (Rate per 1,000 live births)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	6.6	6.0	7.0
California	4.8	4.5	4.7

Healthy Body Weight (Percentage of 5 th -7 th grade)	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Kern County	51.0%	50.5%	55.7%
California	55.6%	56.1%	61.7%

Chlamydia Infection in Female Youth (Ages 15-19) (Rate per 100,000 population)	2011	2012	2013
Kern County	3,505.7	3,723.9	3,471.6
California	2,293.4	2,355.0	2,184.7
United States	3,416.5	3,291.5	3,043.3

Kern County Births to Teens 15-19 (2013)	African American	Caucasian	Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	Total *
Number of Live Births	101	272	1,106	7	9	1,524
Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 females in race/ethnicity group	55.1	28.0	54.7	6.3	38.0	44.9

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

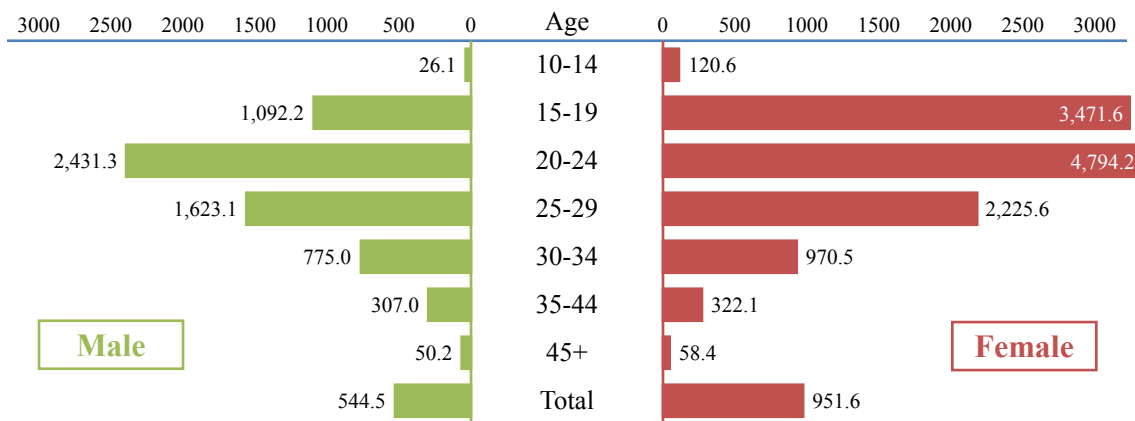
- By comparison, 86% of youth throughout California had received a routine health check-up within the past year during 2011-12.
- According to the 2012 California Health Interview Survey, 79% of Kern County's children, ages 2-11 years, had visited a dentist at least one time in the last 12 months. Further, 18% of Kern County children surveyed, ages 2-11, had never seen a dentist.

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

Adolescent Health

- In 2013, 1,524 babies were born to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 years in Kern County, a birth rate of 44.9 per 1,000 females in this age group.
- During the same year, California's teen birth rate was 23.6 per 1,000 females.
- Kern County's overall teen birth rate decreased by 36% between 2008 and 2013, from 70.4 to 44.9 per 1,000 young women ages 15-19.
- Kern County's average teen birth rate over a three year period from 2011 to 2013 was 49.0—the highest in the state.
- Kern County had the highest chlamydia infection rate in California during 2013.
- Kern's Chlamydia infection rate among females aged 15-19 in 2013 was 59% higher than the state's rate and 14% 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 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.

Chlamydia, Rates by Age & Gender
Kern County, 2013



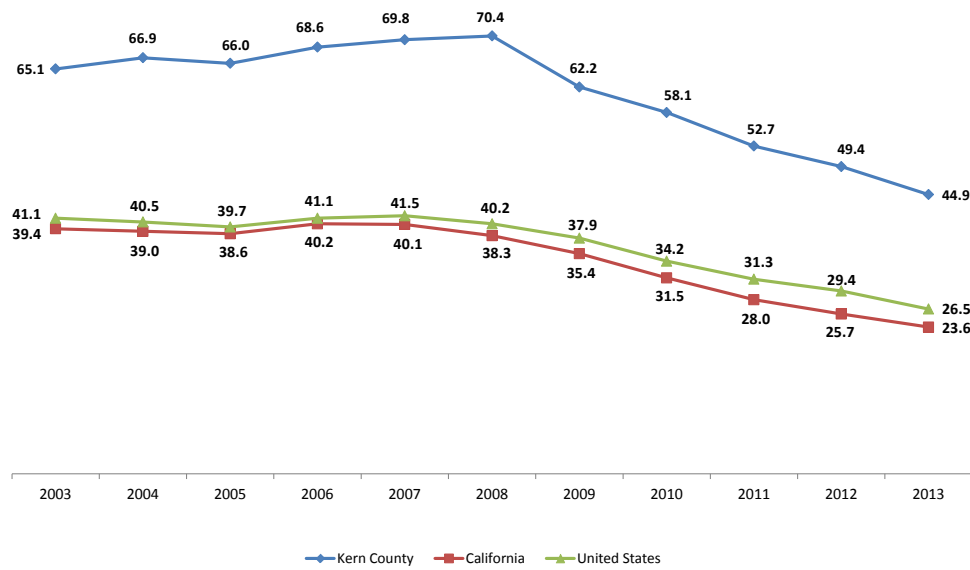
*Rates are per 100,000 population.
STD Control Branch, California Department of Public Health*

- From 2010 to 2013, Kern County lost 10 youth the ages of 13 and 17 years to suicide.
- Males accounted for 70% of Kern's suicides in this age group.
- Youth died by suicide between 2010 and 2013 with either hanging/suffocation (60%), a firearm (30%) or poisoning (10%).
- From 2010 to 2013, 178 youth between ages 13 and 17 years were hospitalized for self-inflicted injuries.
- Females (72%) had a higher rate of attempted suicide than males (28%).
- The attempted suicide rates for Caucasian (47%) and Latino (40%) youth were considerably higher than any other racial or ethnic group.
- African American (6%), Asian/Pacific Islander (4%) and other ethnicity (2%) comprised the remaining racial/ethnic groups with self-inflicted injuries.
- Most youth attempted suicide by poisoning themselves (59%), followed by cutting/piercing (38%) and other method (3%).

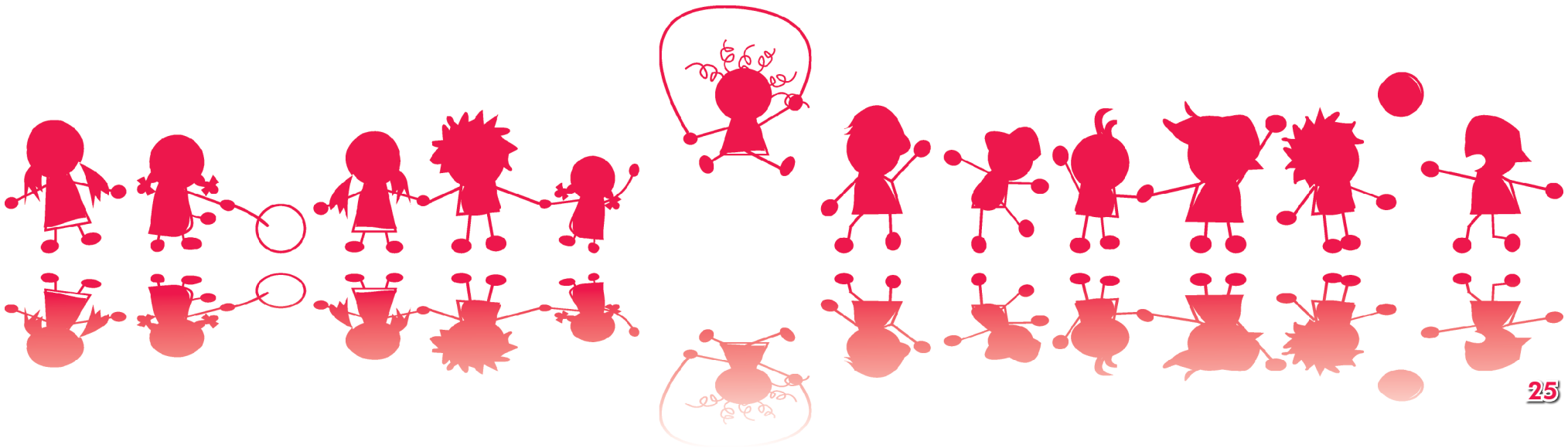
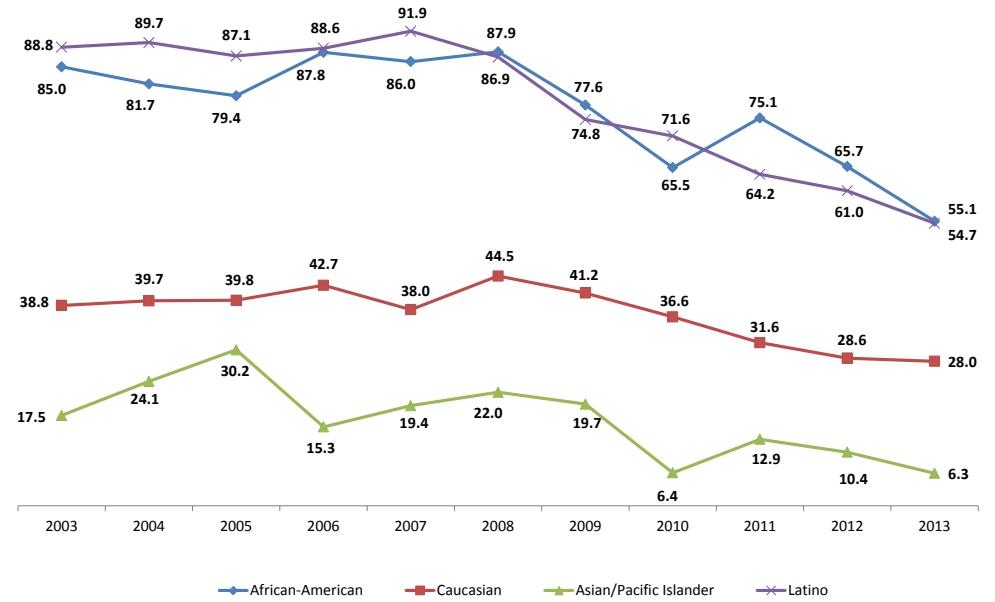
Additional customizable Kern County and California adolescent health data are available using Kidsdata.org.

Adolescent Health *cont.*

Birth Rates for Teenage Females Aged 15-19 Years Kern County, California & United States, 2003-2013



Birth Rates for Teenage Females Aged 15-19 Years by Race/Ethnicity Kern County, 2003-2013

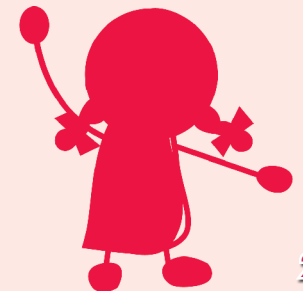


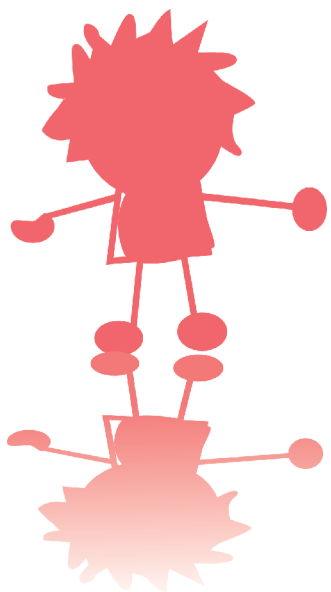
Tobacco, Alcohol & Substance Use

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 and 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.





Child & Community Safety

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 2003, Kern County averaged 27 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 63% between 2003 and 2013.
- Over half of Kern County students in 7th, 9th and 11th grades felt safe or very safe at their school.
- About 1 out of every 3 Kern County high school students said they were bullied in the past year.
- Although declining at a steady pace, Kern County's rates of domestic calls for assistance and juvenile felony arrests remain higher than California's overall rates.

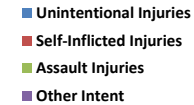
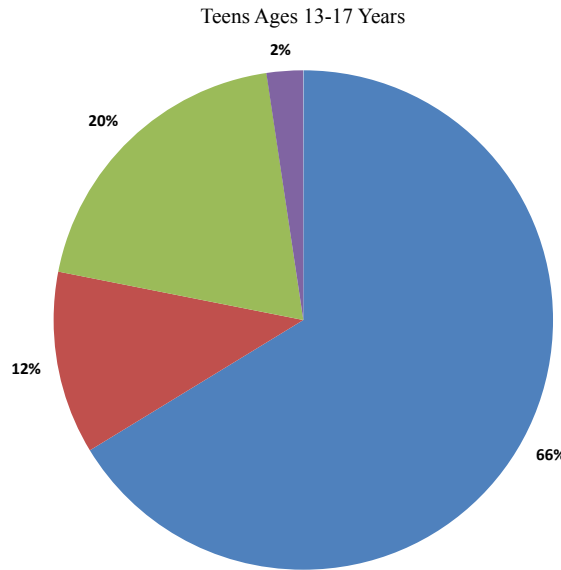
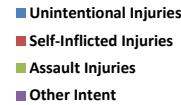
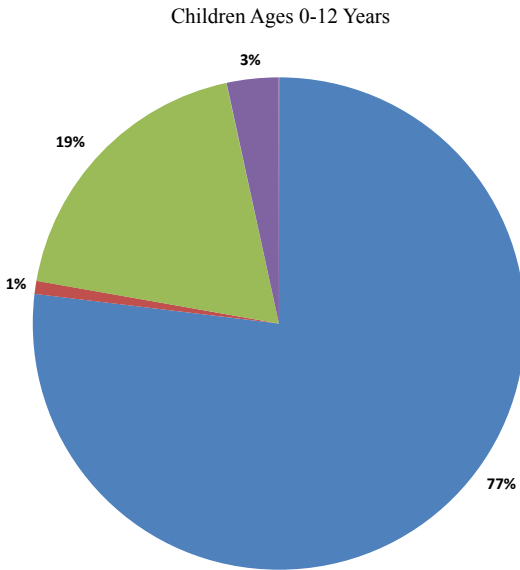
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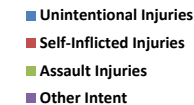
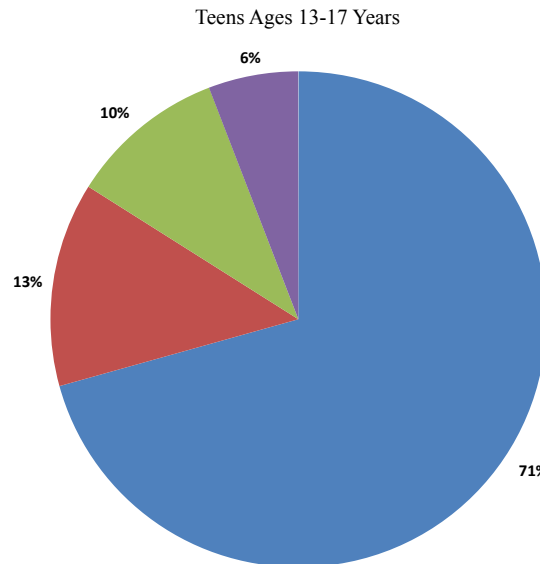
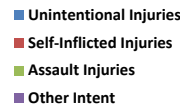
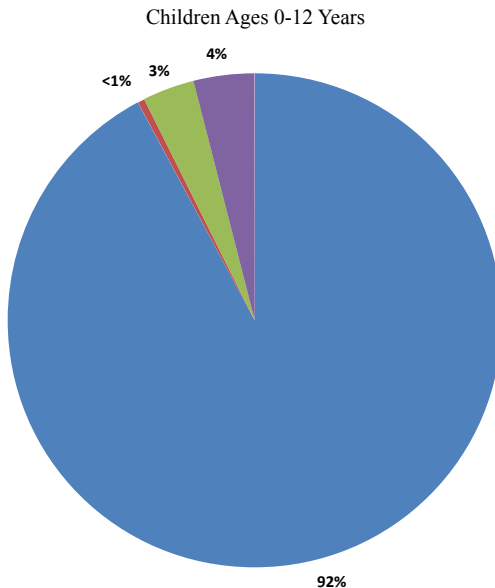


Childhood Unintentional Injury

Fatalities Caused by Injury Type
Kern County, 2003-2013



Hospitalizations Caused by Injury Type
Kern County, 2003-2013



- 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 2013, unintentional injuries killed 15 Kern County children under the age of 18 years and caused serious, non-fatal injury to 486 other children.
- Between 2003 and 2013, 292 Kern County children under age 18 years have been killed and 5,706 have been hospitalized from an unintentional injury, an average of 26.5 and 518.7 children annually, respectively.
- Kern County's death rate among children/youth from an unintentional injury has decreased by 63% between 2003 and 2013, from 16.0 per 100,000 to 6.0.
- Kern County's hospitalization rate among children/youth from an unintentional injury has decreased by 20% between 2003 and 2013, from 240.8 per 100,000 to 192.8.

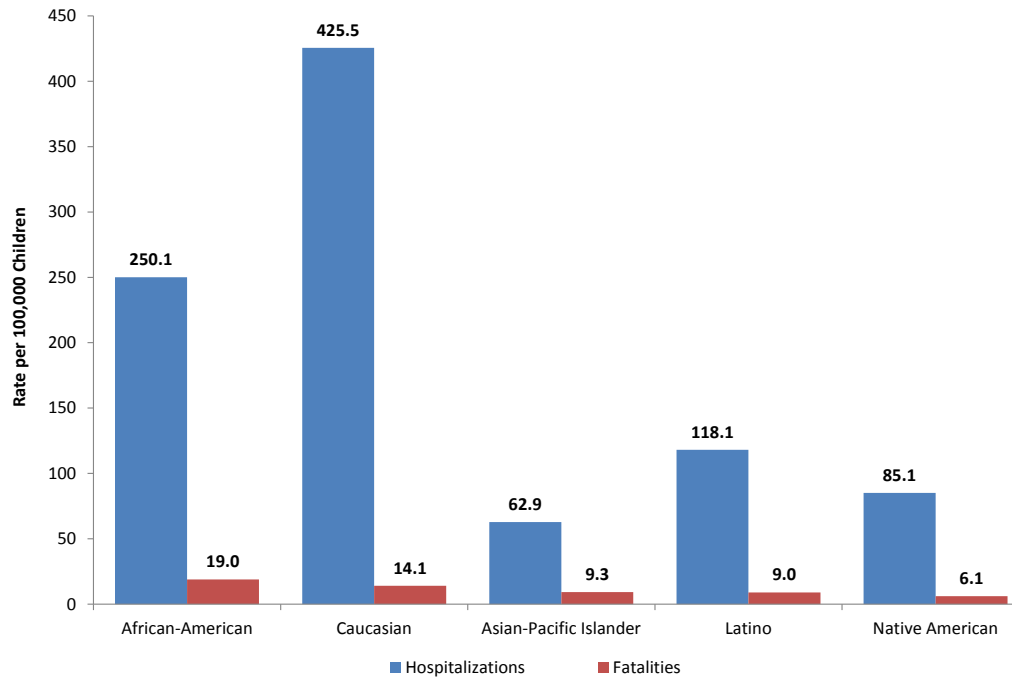
Additional customizable Kern County and California child unintentional injury data are available using Kidsdata.org.

Falls

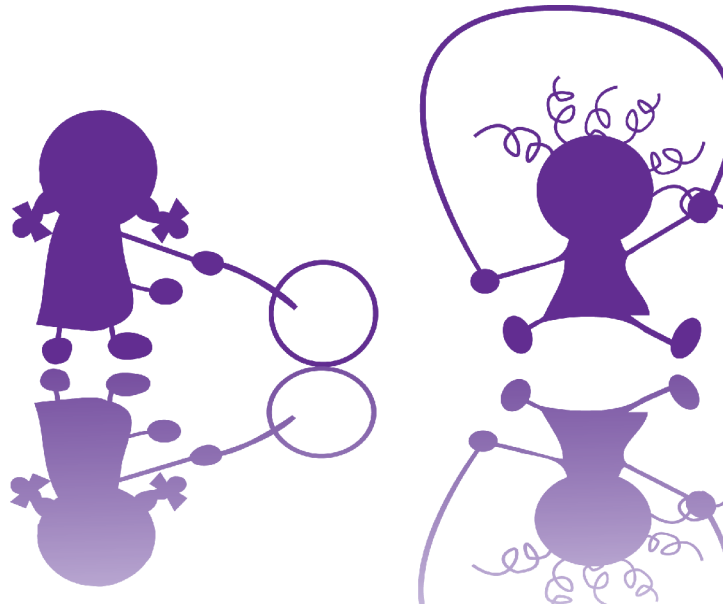
- Falls are the leading cause of emergency room visits among Kern County children under age 18 years.
- In 2013, 6,378 children had an initial emergency department visit for injuries from a fall in Kern County, a rate of 2,530.7 per 100,000 children.
- Between 2003 and 2013, there were 1,646 Kern County children admitted as inpatients with injuries caused by a fall, an average of 149.6 children each year.
- Boys regardless of age were more likely to have injuries (64%) from a fall than girls (36%).
- Caucasian and Latino children had the highest rates of fall-related injuries, 58% and 36%, 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 33% of the total nonfatal unintentional injuries for children less than 6 years of age between 2003 and 2013.

Burn Injuries

Hospitalizations & Fatalities From Unintentional Injuries Among Children Under 18 Years by Race/Ethnicity - Incidence per 100,000 Children
Kern County, 2003-2013



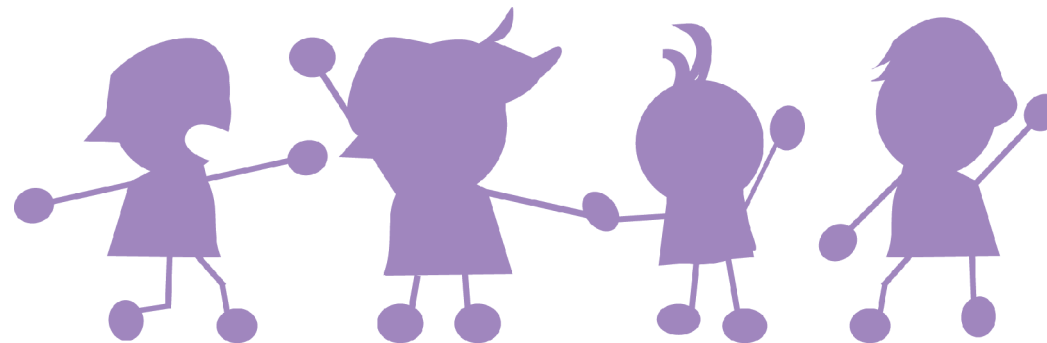
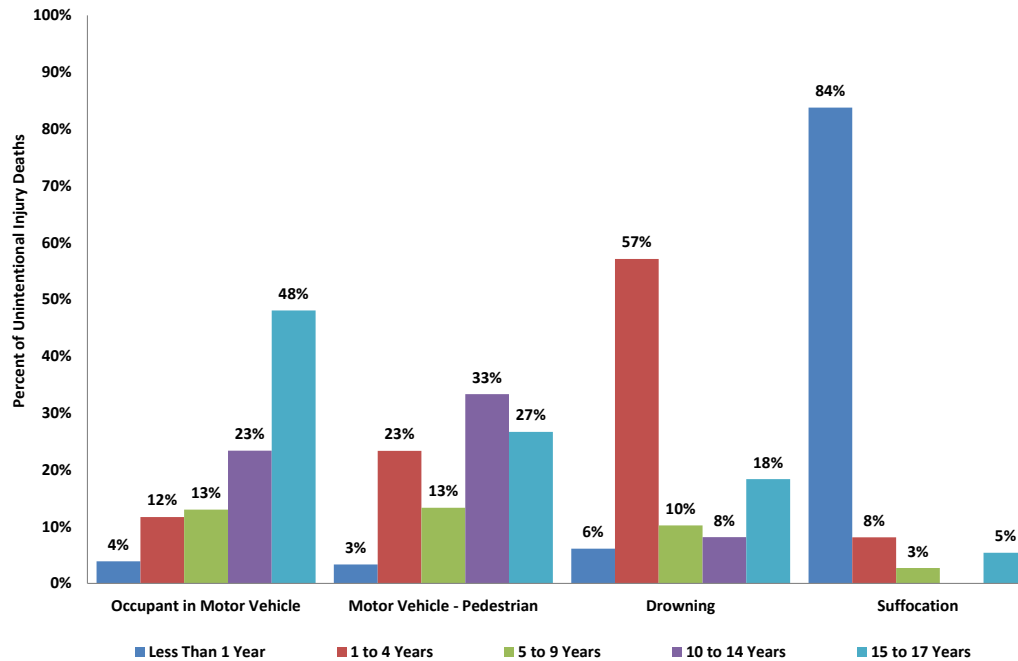
- In Kern County, 50 children were hospitalized (19.8 per 100,000) and 1 child was killed (0.4 per 100,000) from injuries from fire, flames, and hot objects or substances during 2013.
- Between 2003 and 2013, there were 325 children admitted as inpatients and 6 children were killed from with injuries caused by fire, flames, and hot objects or substances in Kern County, an average of 29.5 and 0.5 children a year, respectively.
- Boys are at a higher risk of fire and burn-related injuries (60%) than girls (40%).
- Latino and Caucasian children had the highest rates of fire/burn injuries, 54% and 37%, respectively.
- Nearly half of all accidents involving fires and hot objects from 2003 to 2013 involved children under the age of two (48%).



Motor Vehicle Related Injuries

Drowning

**Unintentional Injury Deaths Among Children Under Age 18 Years
by Age Group & Selected Causes**
Kern County, 2003-2013



- Motor vehicle-related injuries are the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death of Kern County children.
- In 2013, 46 children were hospitalized and 6 children were killed from injuries involving motor vehicles in Kern County.
- From 2003 to 2013, 1,134 children have been hospitalized and 144 children have died from injuries caused by motor-vehicle related accidents throughout Kern County, an average of 103.1 and 13.1 children a year, respectively.
- Over half of the children injured or killed in motor-vehicle related accidents between 2003 and 2013 were occupants in a motor vehicle (53%).
- Traffic-related injuries also include those sustained while walking, riding a bicycle, or riding a motorcycle.
- From 2003 to 2013, 30 children died from traffic-related pedestrian injuries and an additional 270 children were admitted to Kern County hospitals with serious injuries after being struck by a motor vehicle.
- In Kern County, 187 children were injured after being struck by motor vehicles while riding a bike or motorcycle and another 12 were killed from 2003 to 2013.

- Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death among children under the age of 18 in Kern County.
- During 2013, 14 children were hospitalized and 4 children were killed from accidents involving drowning in Kern County.
- From 2003 to 2013, 120 children were hospitalized and 49 children were killed from accidents involving drowning in Kern County, an average of 10.9 and 4.5 children a year, respectively.
- The majority of the children who drowned in Kern County between 2003 and 2013 were male (61%).
- Young children ages 5 years and under accounted for 67% of all child drowning victims from 2003 to 2013.
- Latino (51%) and Caucasian (43%) children each comprised nearly all of the child drowning deaths from 2003 to 2013 in Kern County.

Child Deaths

- The Kern County Child Death Review Team (CDRT) investigated 58 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 16 accidental deaths (28%), 17 deaths from natural causes (29%), 9 homicides (16%), 4 deaths from suicide (7%) and 12 deaths of undetermined manner (21%).
- Between 2009 and 2013, deaths involving motor vehicle and traffic related accidents represented 50% of the accidental death cases reviewed by CDRT members.
- Four of the children killed in automobile crashes in 2013 were occupants in the car.
- Of the remaining cases reviewed for 2013 involving motor vehicles, 4 children died as pedestrians.
- Among 2013 child homicide victims, 6 children died from being beaten or from blunt force trauma, 2 children died from gunshot wounds and 1 child died from stab wounds.
- 43% of the cases of child deaths reviewed in 2013 involved the deaths of infants.

- The 25 cases reviewed involving infants included 8 deaths from natural causes, 3 deaths caused by an accident and 2 homicides from blunt force trauma.
- The Coroner categorized 12 infant deaths as "undetermined," meaning a final manner of death could not be identified, however, these deaths were associated with an unsafe sleep environment.

Youth Violence

- More than half of Kern County students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades self-reported feeling safe or very safe at school in 2009-2011; 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 43% of surveyed 7th graders report being bullied or harassed at school.
- 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.

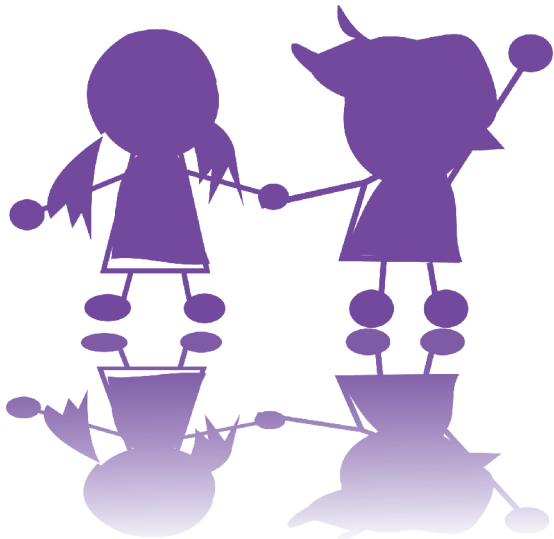
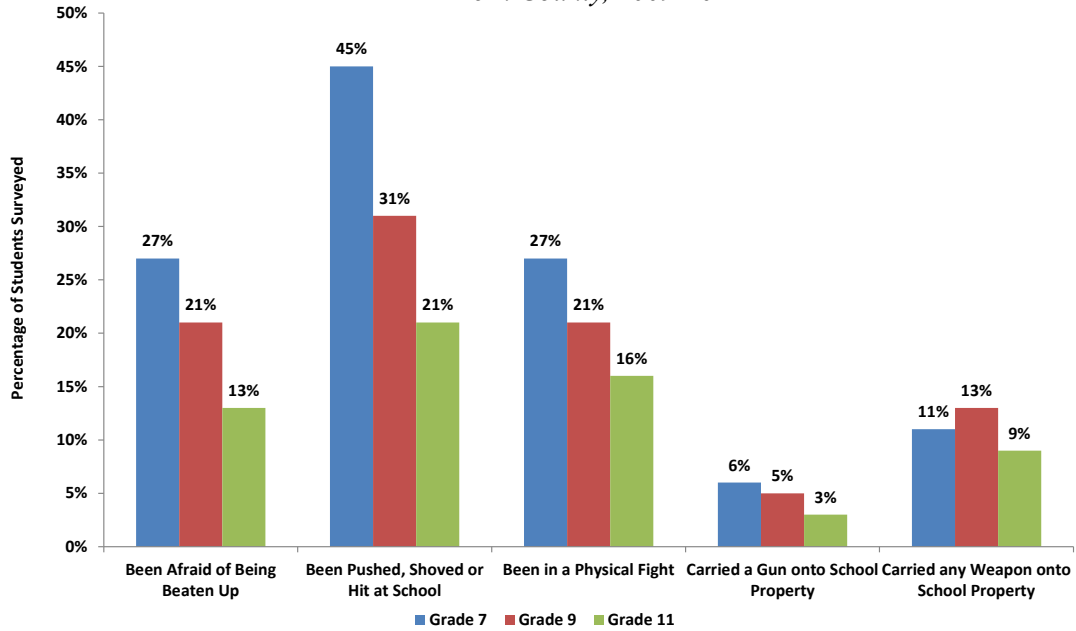
Bullying includes assault, tripping, intimidation, rumor-spreading and isolation, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, destruction of another's work, and name-calling.

- In 2009-2011, 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 2009-2011 survey data.
- 8% of Kern's 7th grade students identified themselves as gang members.
- Among high School Students, 9% of 9th graders and 8% of 11th graders in Kern County identified themselves as gang members.

Additional customizable Kern County and California school safety data are available using Kidsdata.org.



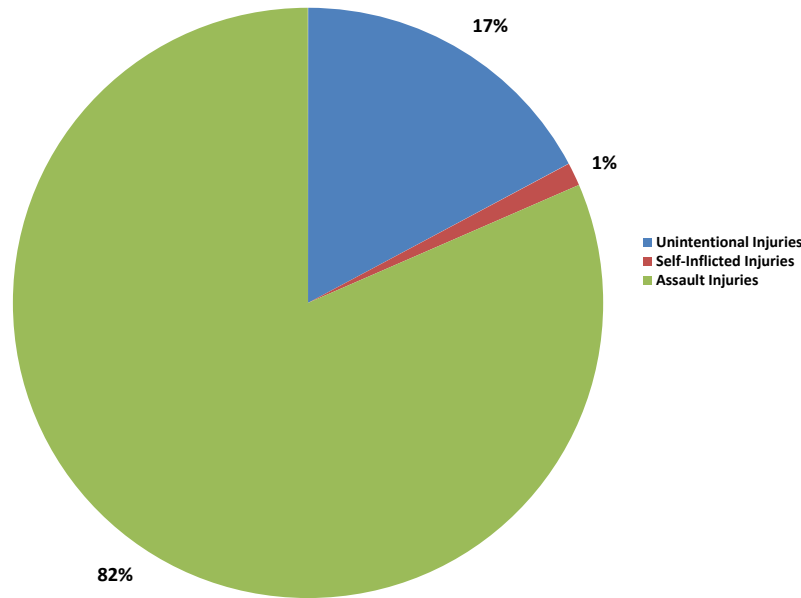
Violence-Related Behavior & Experiences During the Past 12 Months at School Kern County 7th, 9th & 11th Graders *Kern County, 2009-2011*



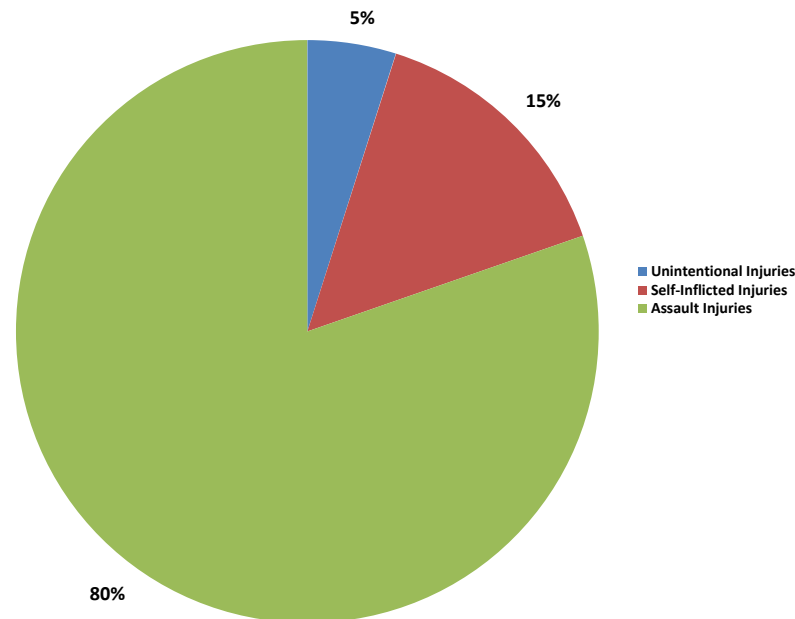
Gun Violence

- In Kern County, 37 children and youth died from firearm-related injuries between 2003 and 2013.
- These include homicides, assaults, suicides and unintentional injuries. Homicide accounted for 76% of the deaths; 16% were the result of suicide and 8% were the result of accidents.
- Latino (49%) and African-American (30%) youth were most likely to be homicide victims from gunshot wounds from 2003 to 2013.
- The average youth who died as a victim of homicide or from an accidental shooting was 14.9 years old.
- Male children and youth were about 13 times more likely to be murdered with a firearm than females.
- Between 2003 and 2013, another 109 Kern County children required hospitalization because of gun-related injuries.
- 80% of the firearm related injuries were the result of assaults and 20% were the result of accidents.
- Again, males (86%) were more likely than females to be involved in intentional and accidental shootings that caused injuries.

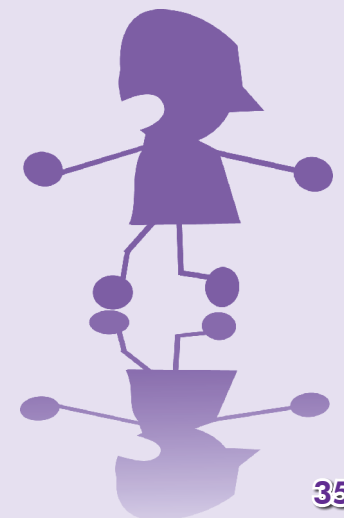
Firearm-Related Hospitalizations, Children Under 18 Years
Kern County, 2003-2013



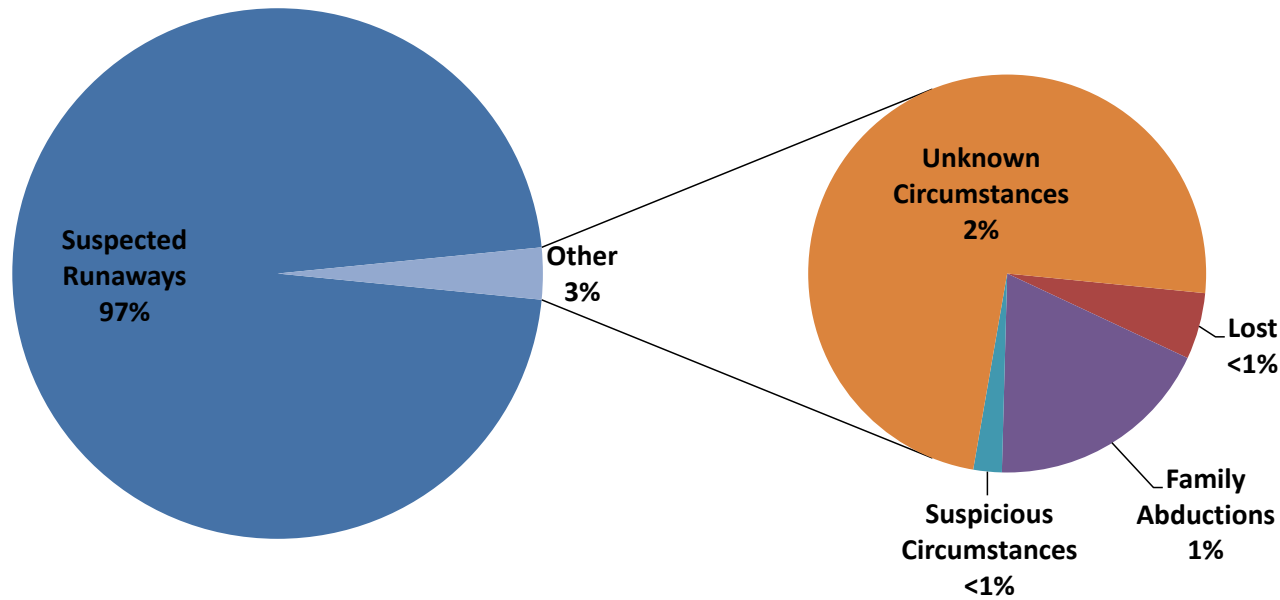
Firearm-Related Fatalities, Children Under 18 Years
Kern County, 2003-2013



- The average age of youth who were injured in assaults with a firearm was 15.5 years old.
- Caucasian (40%) and African-American (39%) children /youth were more likely to be injured by an intentional shooting in Kern County than Latino (20%) and Native American (1%) from 2003 to 2013.
- Children were more likely to be injured accidentally with firearms averaged 13.5 years old.
- Caucasian (54%) children and youth were more likely to be injured by an accidental shooting in Kern County than Latino (27%) and African-American (18%) from 2003 to 2013.



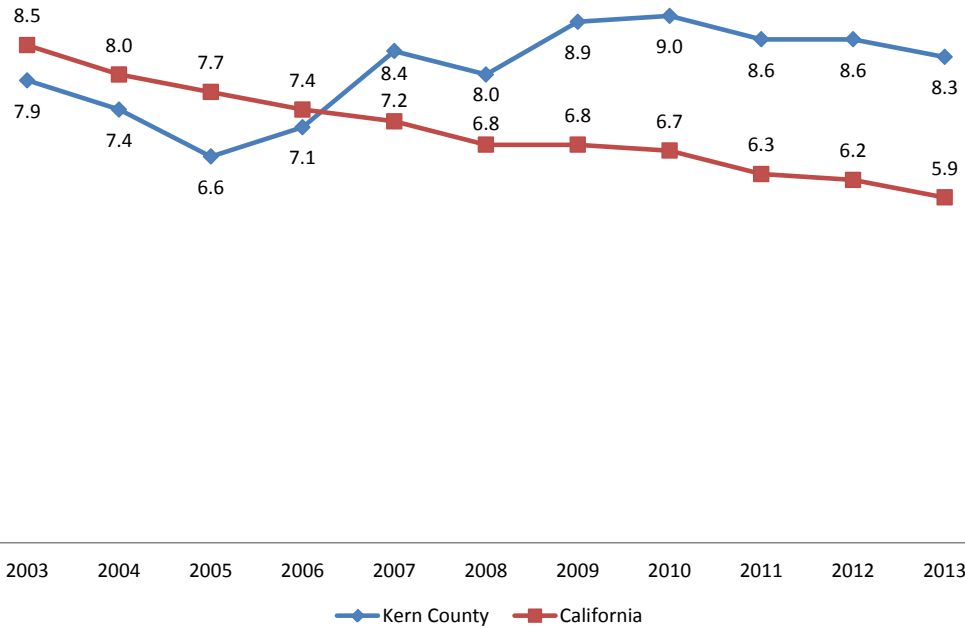
Missing Children



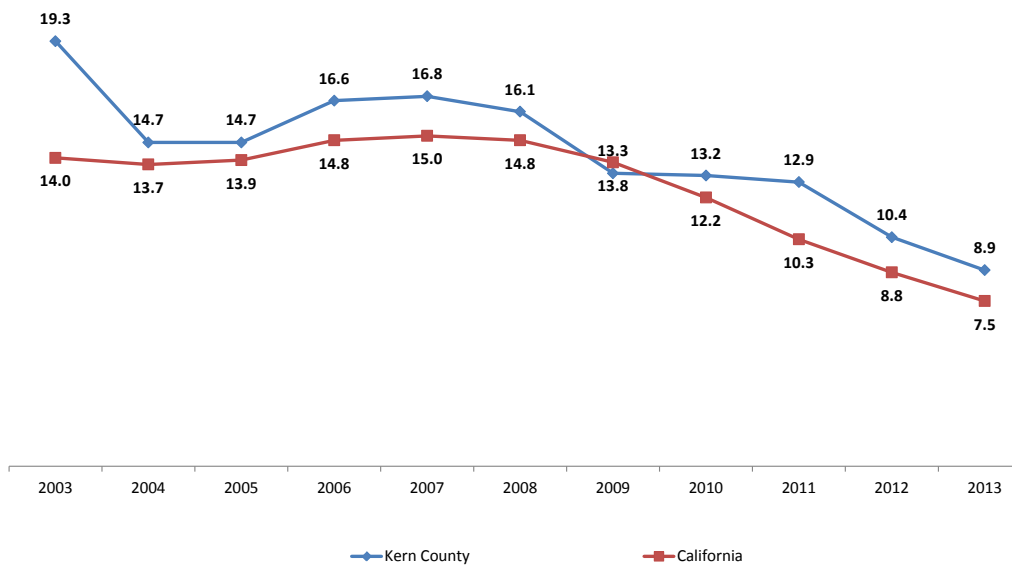
- In 2013, 4,129 children were reported missing in Kern County.
- Of these, 3,999 were suspected runaways, 7 were lost, 24 were suspected family abduction, 3 were missing under suspicious circumstances and 96 were reported under unknown circumstances.
- At the end of 2013, 3,976 of the missing child 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.

Crime & Arrest Rates

Domestic Violence Calls for Assistance - Incidence Per 1,000 Population
Kern County & California, 2003-2013



Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate by Year - Incidence per 1,000 Youth
Kern County & California, 2003-2013



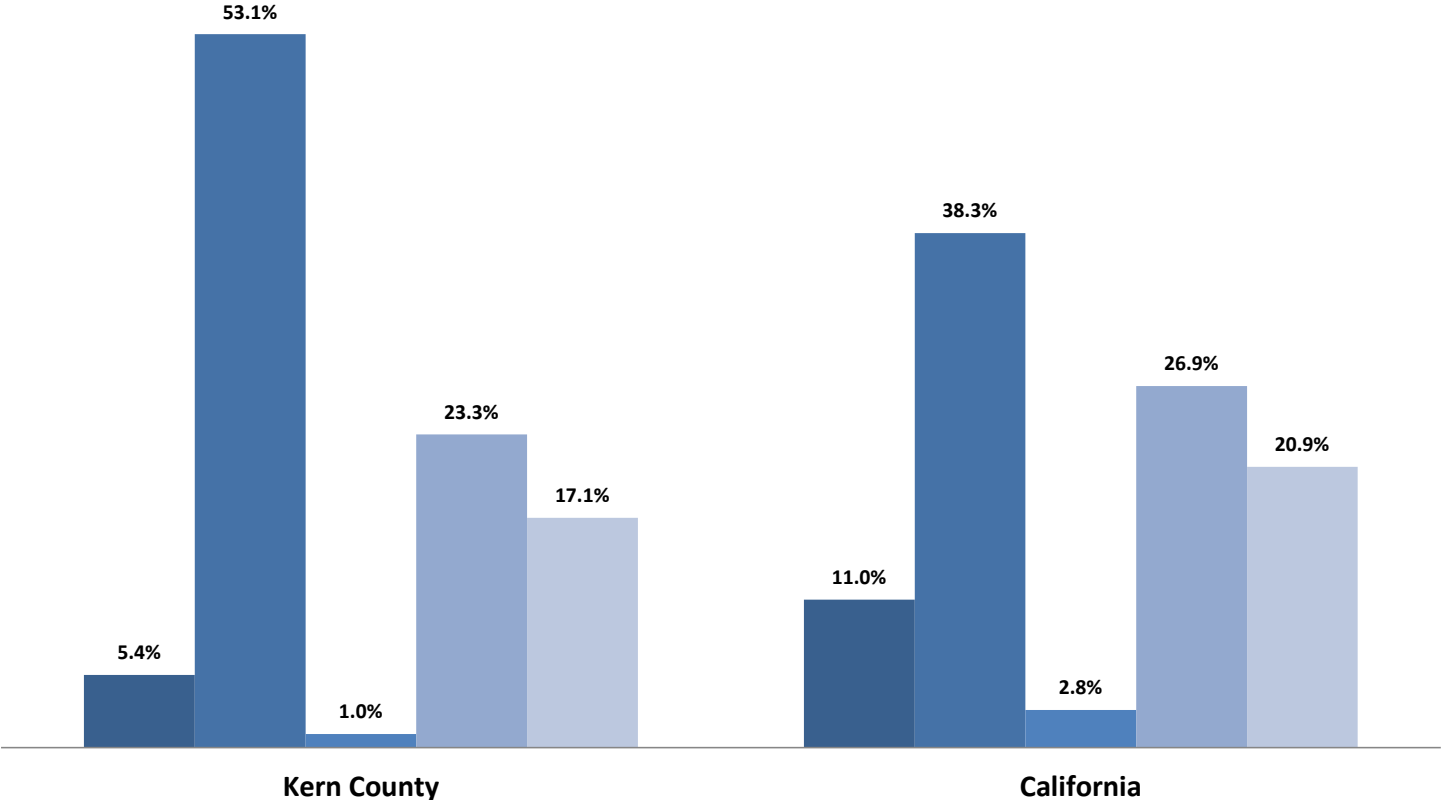
- Among surveyed Kern County students, 4 % of 7th graders, 5% of 9th graders, and 8% of 11th graders reported that they had been hit, slapped, or intentionally physically hurt by a girlfriend or boyfriend in the past 12 months, according to 2009-11 data.
- During 2013, Kern County law enforcement officers recorded 4,666 calls for assistance in domestic violence situations, a rate of 8.3 calls per 1,000 population.
- In comparison, California rate of calls for assistance was 5.9 calls per 1,000.
- In total, 19% of these calls for assistance involved weapons: 36% involved the use of firearms, knives, or other dangerous weapons and the remaining 64% involved personal weapons, such as hands, fists or feet.
- During 2013, the rate of juveniles (ages 10-17) arrested for a felony was 8.9 per 1,000 youth compared to 7.5 statewide.
- Kern's juvenile felony arrest rate has fallen by 54% between 2003 and 2013, from 19.3 per 1,000 youth to 8.9 per 1,000 youth.

- In 2013, 53% of juvenile felony arrests in Kern County were for property offenses, 23% for violent offenses, 17% for other offenses (e.g., weapons, hit-and-run), 5% for drug and alcohol offenses, and 1% for sex offenses.
- The 2013 juvenile felony arrest rate for males (14.6 per 1,000) was nearly five times the rate of females (3.0 per 1,000) in Kern County.
- In 2013, African American and Latino youth together comprised 80% 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 47.3 per 1,000 youth aged 10-17 years.

Additional customizable Kern County and California juvenile arrest rates data are available using Kidsdata.org.



Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate by Offense
Kern County & California, 2013



■ Drug and Alcohol Offenses ■ Property Offenses ■ Sex Offenses ■ Violent Offenses ■ Other Offenses



Child Well-Being

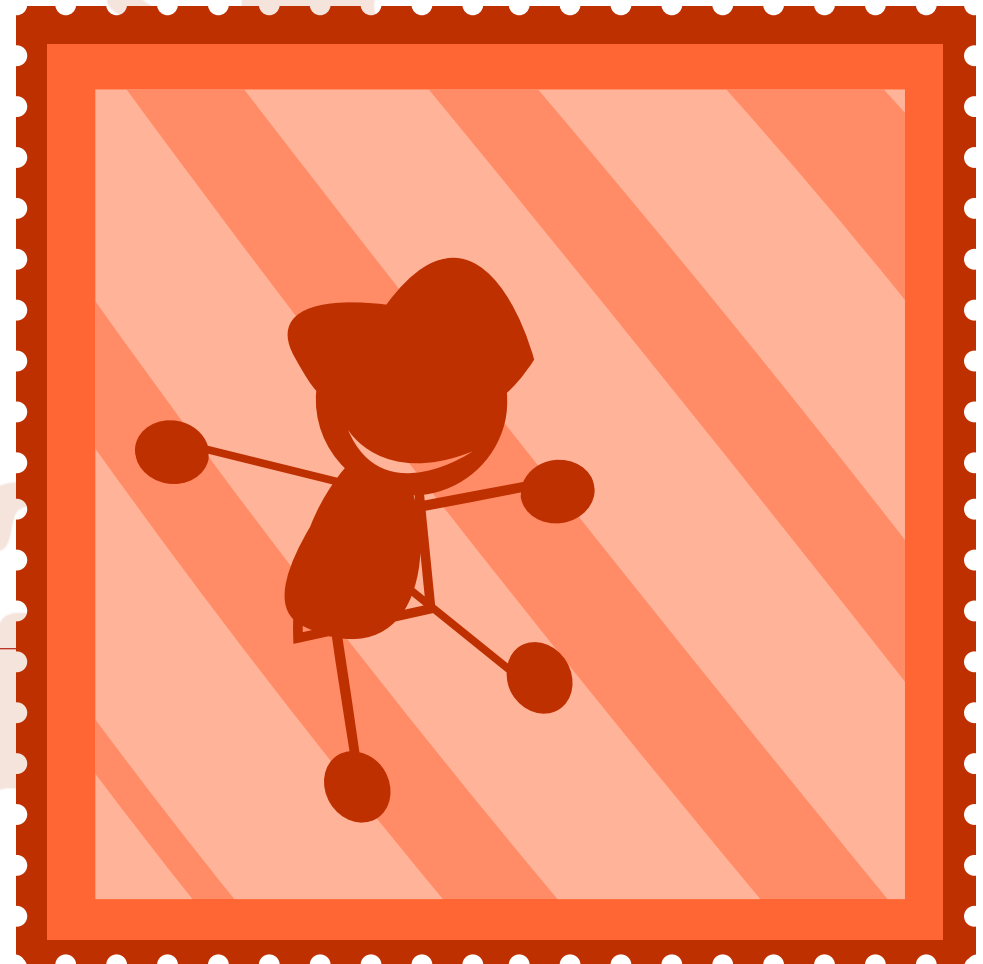
Children, regardless of age, gender or socioeconomic status, are abused and neglected every day in Kern County. The consequences of child maltreatment can be profound and may endure long after the abuse or neglect occurs. The Report Card's Child Well-Being chapter presents the most recent data available on children who came into contact with Kern County's child welfare system due to abuse or neglect.

Key Facts

- In 2014, 18,602 children – 51 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 6th straight year – down 43% from its peak in 2001.
- Child neglect comprised 92% of Kern's total cases of child maltreatment.
- Younger children, particularly infants, were the most vulnerable to abuse and neglect at a rate more than 3 times the County's overall rate.
- 20 Kern County children died from abuse or neglect between 2011 and 2014 – 95% were younger than 5 years old.
- Kern's foster youth population has declined by 48% since 2003.

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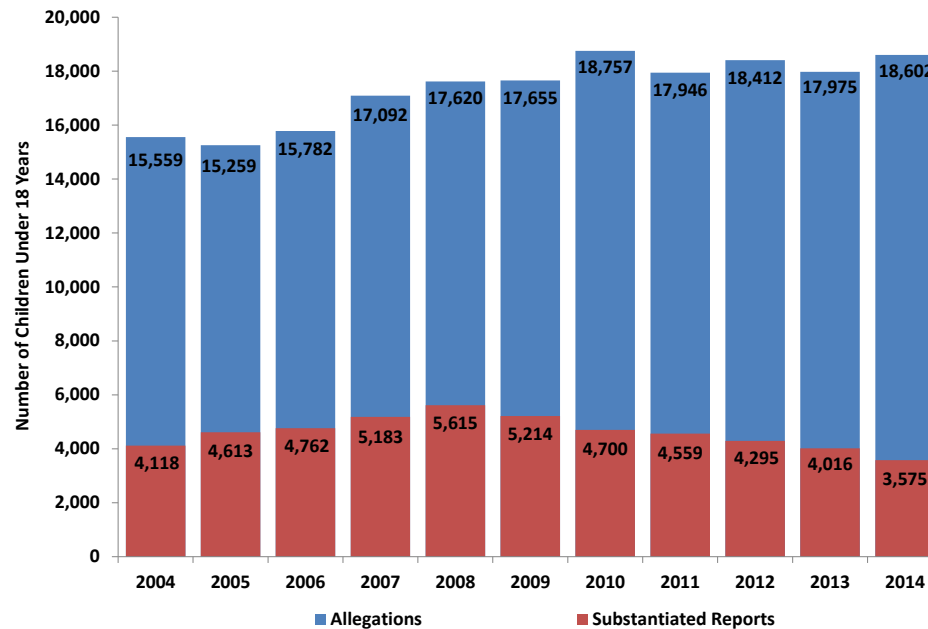
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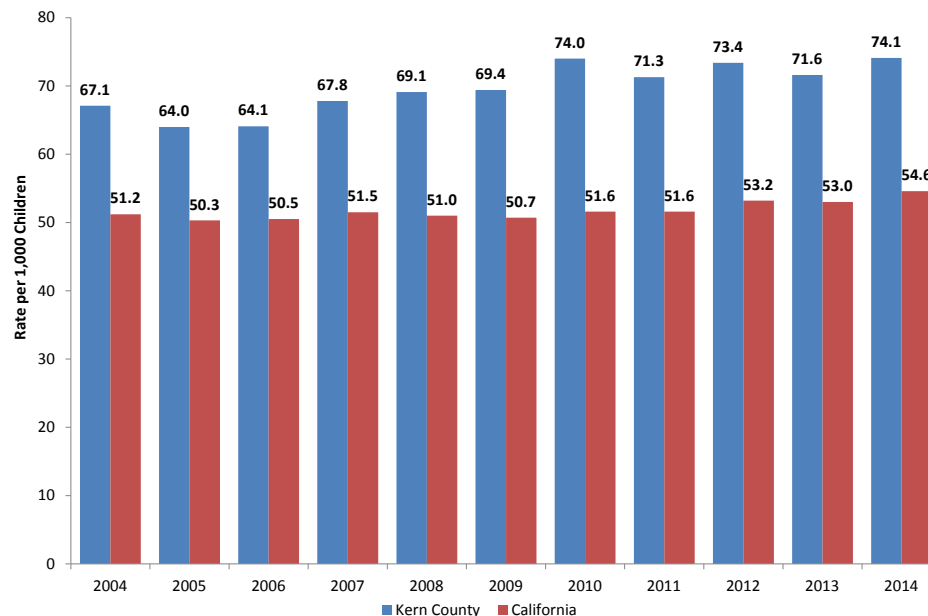
Child Abuse & Neglect Reports

- During 2014, Kern County CPS received 18,602 reports (allegations) of suspected child abuse or neglect of children -- an average of 51 children per day.
- Of these reports, 3,575 Kern County children were found to have been victims of abuse and neglect after investigation by CPS--an average of 10 children per day.
- Kern County's referral rate was 74.1 children per 1,000 children in 2014. Kern's overall referral rate increased 4% from the previous year's rate of 71.6 per 1,000 children.
- Kern's substantiated abuse rate declined 11% from 16.0 per 1,000 children in 2013 to 14.2 in 2014, however, this rate remains nearly twice California's child abuse rate of 8.7.
- Child abuse rates per 1,000 children in California counties ranged from 0 to 32.3 in 2014.
- Kern County had the 12th highest substantiated child abuse rate in the state during 2014.
- In 2014, 92% 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.

Child Maltreatment - Allegations & Substantiated Reports
Kern County, 2004-2014



Child Maltreatment Allegation Rates - Incidence per 1,000 Children
Kern County & California - 2004-2014

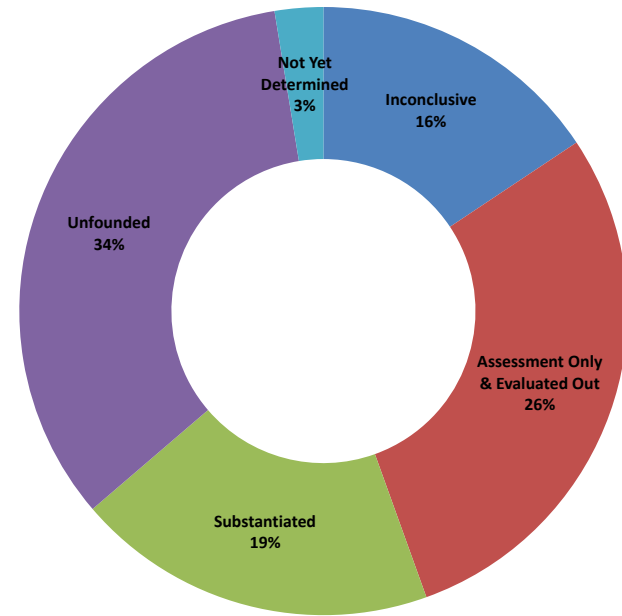
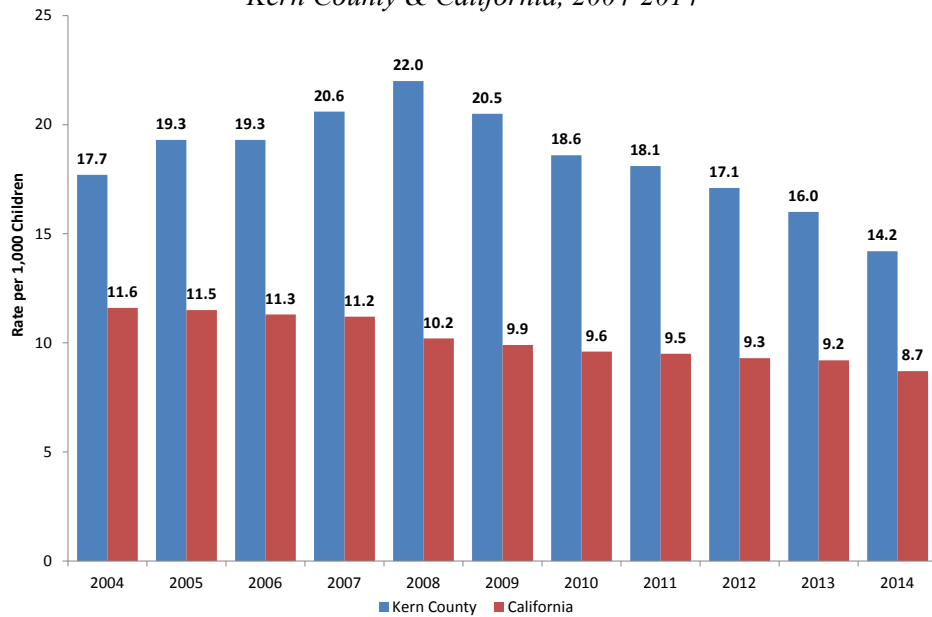


- Fewer children had allegations for physical abuse (3%), caretaker absence/incapacity (2%), or sexual abuse (1%) substantiated.
- In 2014, 654 infants were the victims of child abuse in Kern County, a rate of 46.1 per 1,000 infants. This rate is three times higher than Kern's overall rate of substantiated 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 38.7 per 1,000 African-American children.
- Kern County child maltreatment data shows 90.9% 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 2014 to June 2014.

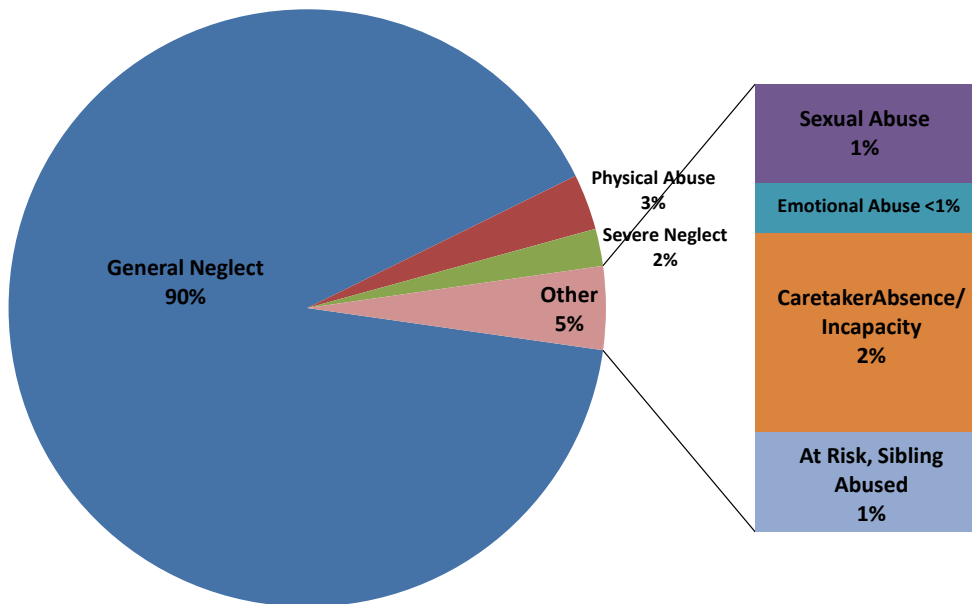
Additional customizable Kern County and California child abuse & neglect data are available using Kidsdata.org.

Child Abuse & Neglect Reports cont.

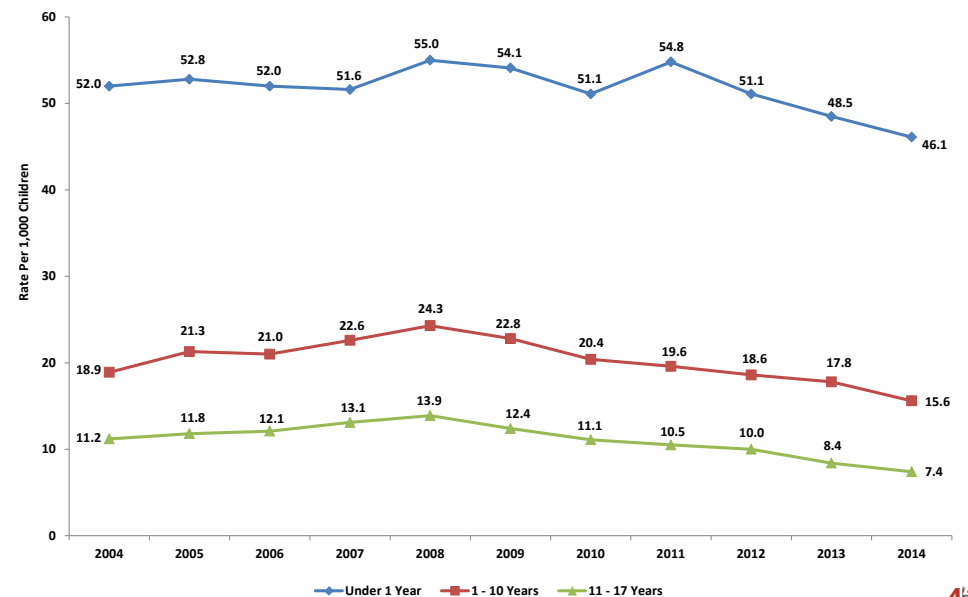
Substantiated Child Maltreatment Rates - Incidence per 1,000 Children
Kern County & California, 2004-2014



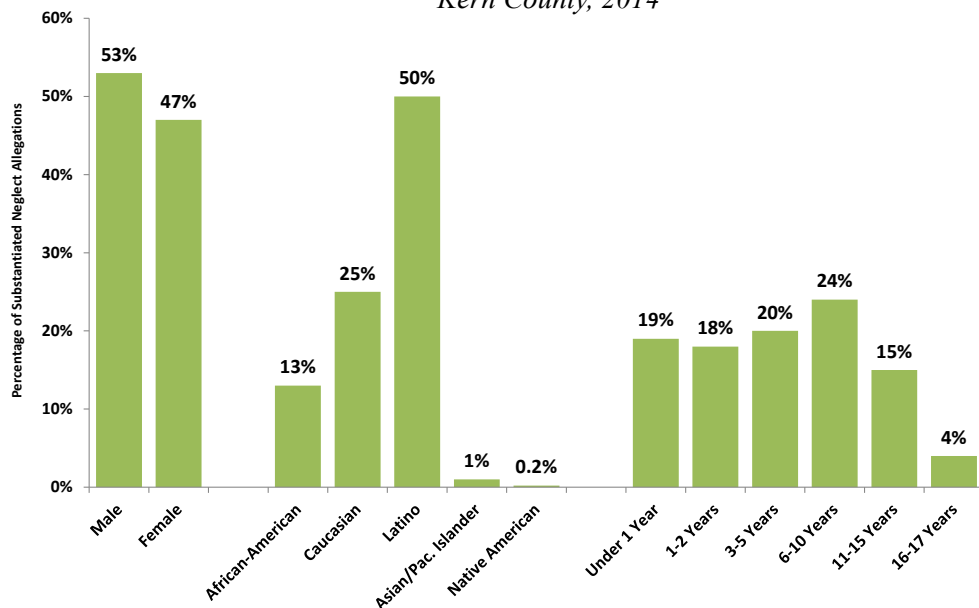
Substantiated Child Abuse & Neglect by Type
Kern County, 2014



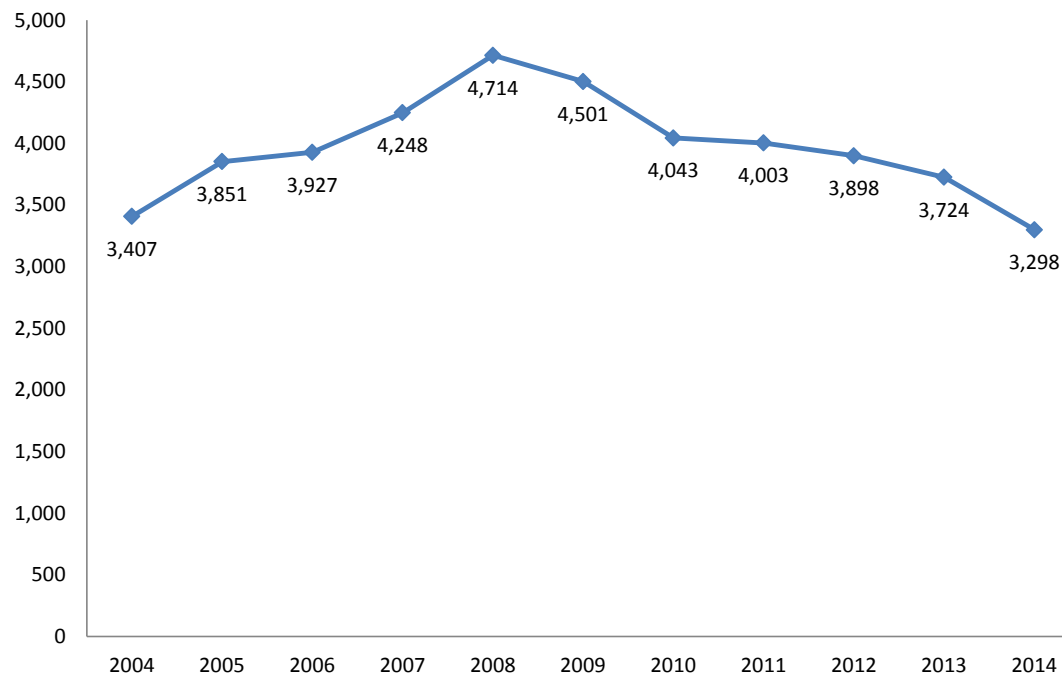
Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect by Age - Incidents per 1,000 Children
Kern County, 2004-2014



**Substantiated Cases of Child Severe & General Neglect
by Gender, Race/Ethnicity & Age**
Kern County, 2014



Number of Children with Substantiated Cases of Severe & General Neglect
Kern County, 2004-2014

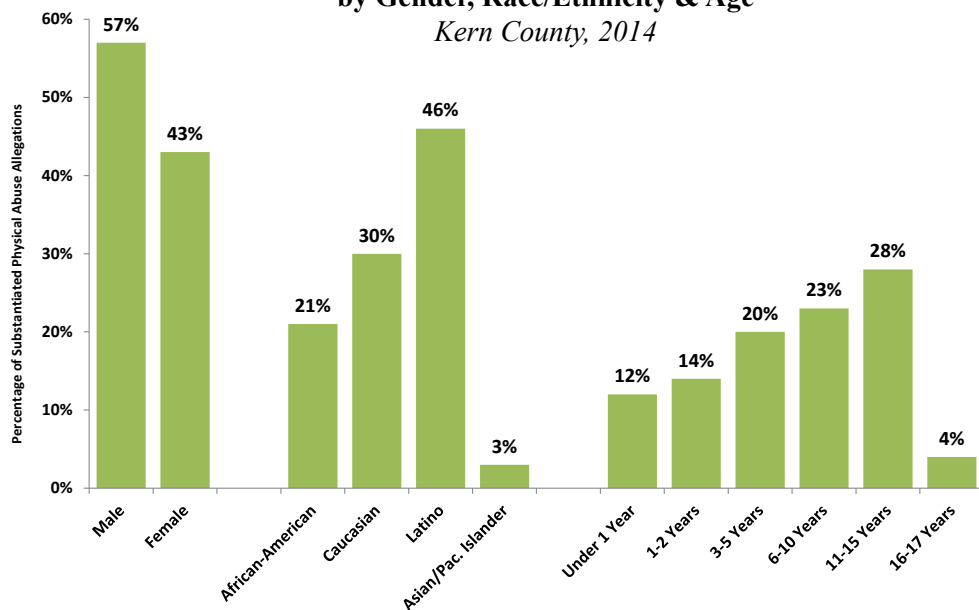


Child neglect is failure to provide for a child's basic physical, emotional, medical or educational needs which threatens the child's health or welfare. General neglect is the negligent failure of a parent/guardian or caretaker to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or supervision where no physical injury to the child has occurred. Severe neglect refers to those situations of neglect where the child's health is endangered, including severe malnutrition.

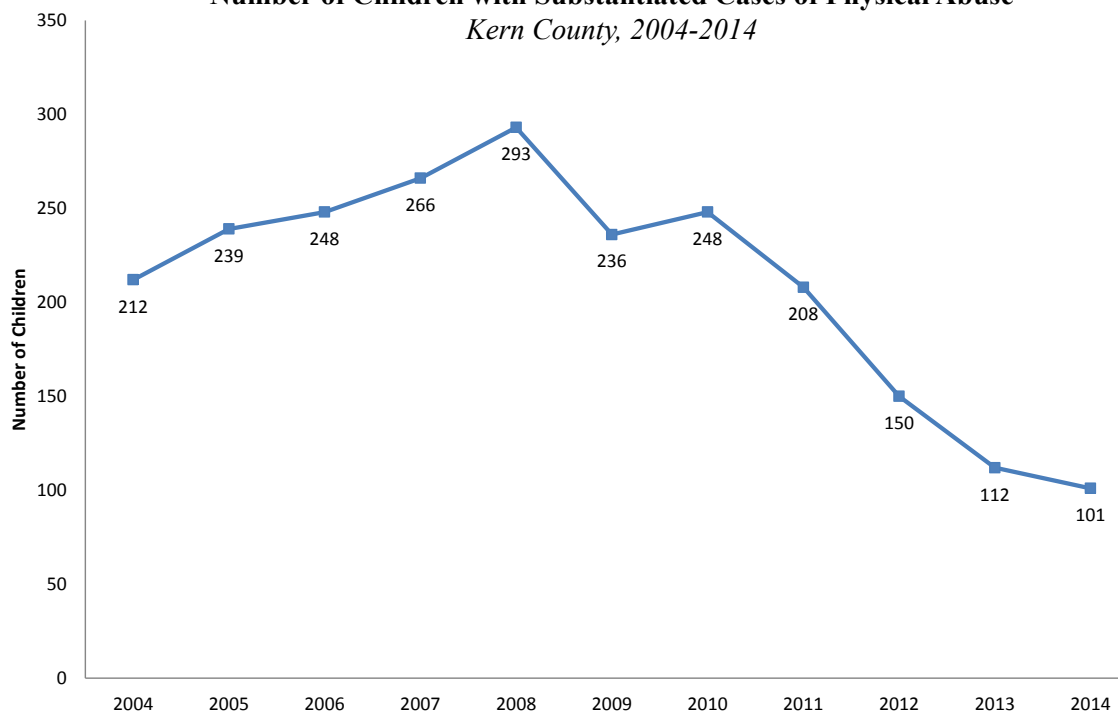
- During 2014, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of severe and general neglect for 14,436 children to ensure they were safe, 78% of Kern County's total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 3,298 Kern County children were confirmed as cases of neglect upon investigation, a substantiation rate of 23%.
- 781 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 (58%), other mandated reporter professionals (15%) and medical professionals (9%).
- 65% of children placed in foster care due to neglect returned home in less than 12 months during 2014 calendar year.

Physical Abuse

**Substantiated Cases of Child Physical Abuse
by Gender, Race/Ethnicity & Age**
Kern County, 2014



Number of Children with Substantiated Cases of Physical Abuse
Kern County, 2004-2014

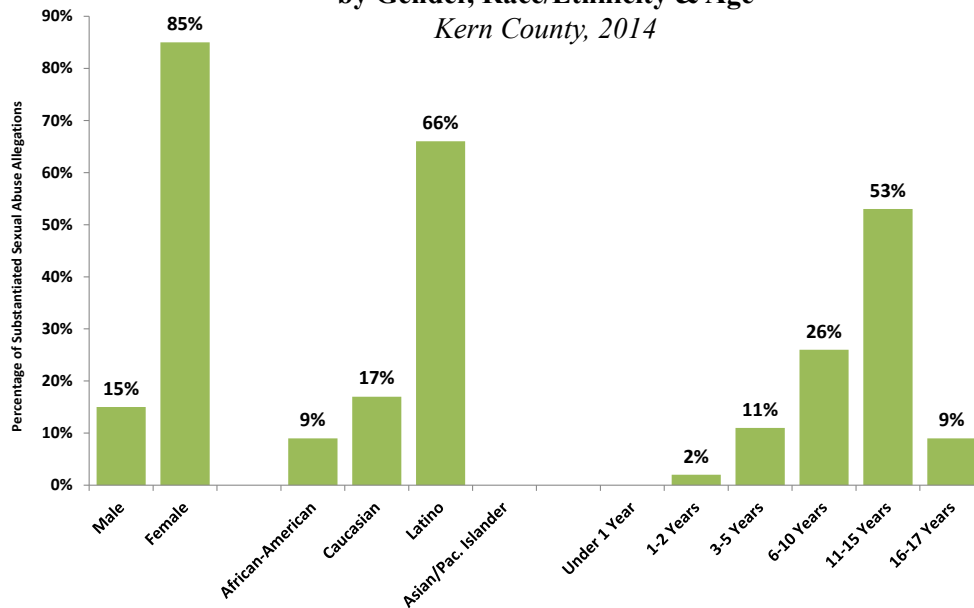


Physical abuse is the injury to a child that is not an accident. This may include: beating, burning, biting, kicking, cutting, shaking, or punching a child.

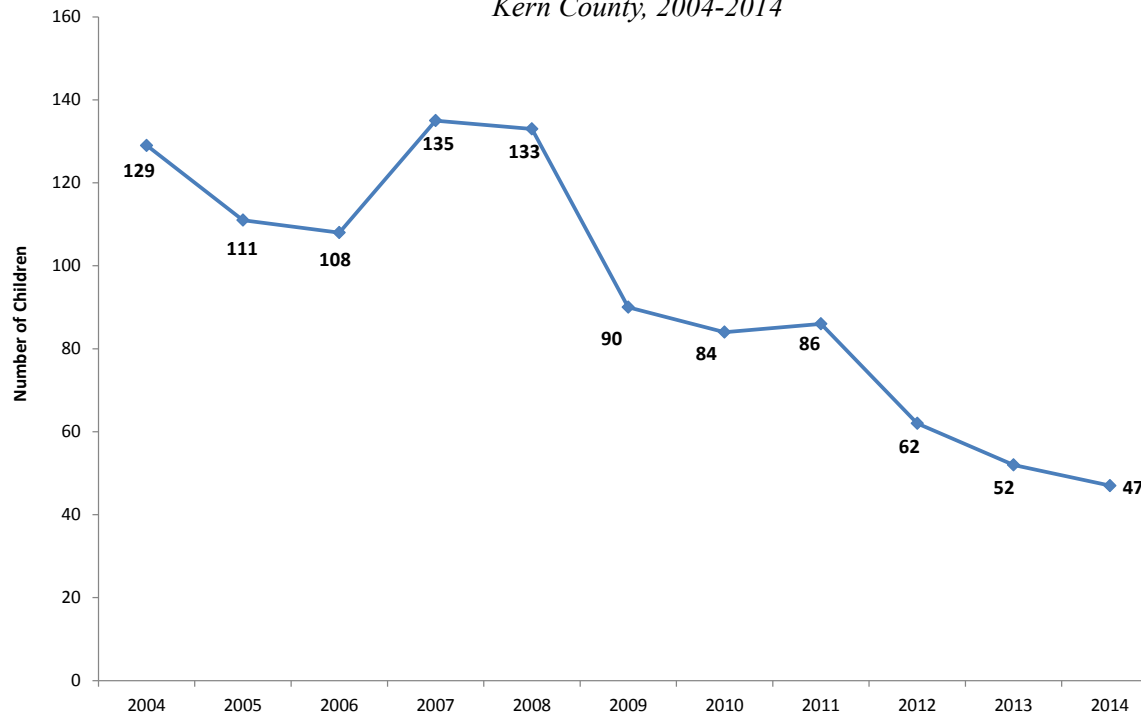
- During 2014, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of physical abuse for 1,613 children to ensure they were safe, 9% of Kern County's total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 101 Kern County children were confirmed to be victims of physical abuse upon investigation, a substantiation rate of 6%.
- 46 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS' investigation of physical abuse allegations.
- The three largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (48%), education (19%) and family/friend (9%).
- 46% of children placed in foster care due to physical abuse returned home in less than 12 months during 2014 calendar year.

Sexual Abuse

**Substantiated Cases of Child Sexual Abuse
by Gender, Race/Ethnicity & Age**
Kern County, 2014



Number of Children with Substantiated Cases of Sexual Abuse
Kern County, 2004-2014



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 2014, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of sexual abuse for 863 children to ensure they were safe, 5% of Kern County's total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 47 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 of sexual abuse allegations.
- The three largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (38%), school personnel (18%), and counselor/therapist (18%).
- No children placed in foster care due to sexual abuse returned home in less than 12 months during 2014 calendar year.

Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics

CPS Referral Rates per 1,000 Children	2012	2013	2014
Kern County	73.4	71.6	74.1
California	53.2	53.0	54.6

Foster Care Rates per 1,000 Children (Entry + Re-Entry)	2012	2013	2014
Kern County	3.3	3.2	3.8
California	3.4	3.5	3.5

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children	2012	2013	2014
Kern County	17.1	16.0	14.2
California	9.3	9.2	8.7

Percentage of CPS Referrals Substantiated	2012	2013	2014
Kern County	23.3%	22.3%	19.2%
California	17.4%	17.4%	15.9%

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children (2014)	African American	Caucasian	Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	All Children
Kern County	38.7	13.8	11.4	5.0	5.5	14.2
California	23.1	7.2	9.3	2.4	22.6	8.7

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children (2014)	Under 1	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	16-17 yrs
Kern County	46.1	22.4	16.8	12.1	8.4	5.1
California	22.6	10.8	9.8	8.3	6.4	4.8

Foster Care Prevalence Rate per 1,000 Children (Children in care on 7/1/14)	African American	Caucasian	Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	All Children
Kern County	13.1	8.0	5.3	1.9	1.6	6.1
California	24.0	5.2	6.0	1.2	21.6	6.0

Foster Care Prevalence Rate per 1,000 Children (Children in care on 7/1/14)	Under 1	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	16-17 yrs
Kern County	10.0	7.2	5.9	5.3	5.8	6.5
California	7.8	8.2	6.3	5.2	5.1	6.8

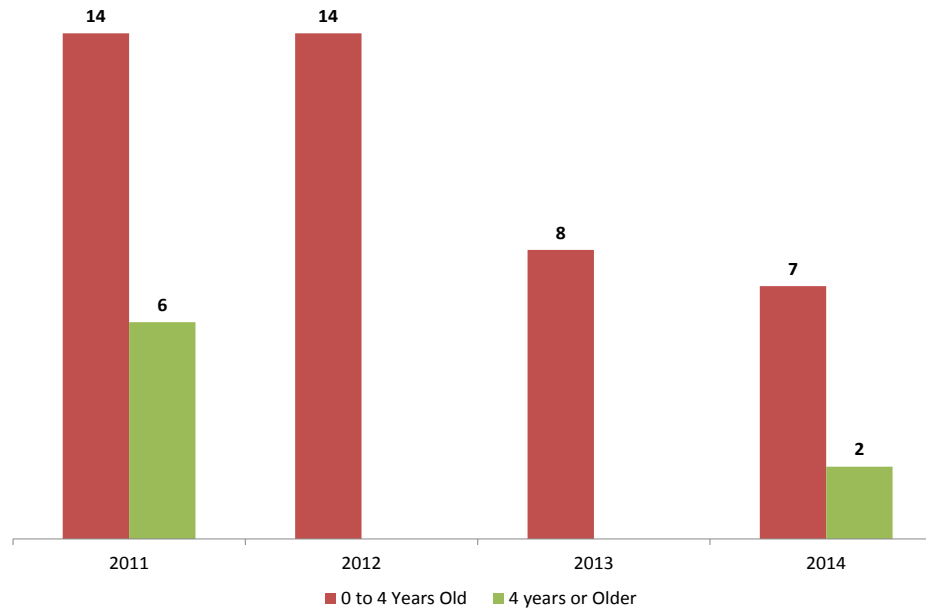
Foster Care Population (2009-14)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Kern County	2,080	1,990	1,808	1,744	1,541	1,537
California	59,141	54,734	53,455	51,734	53,016	54,631

Severe Injury To Children

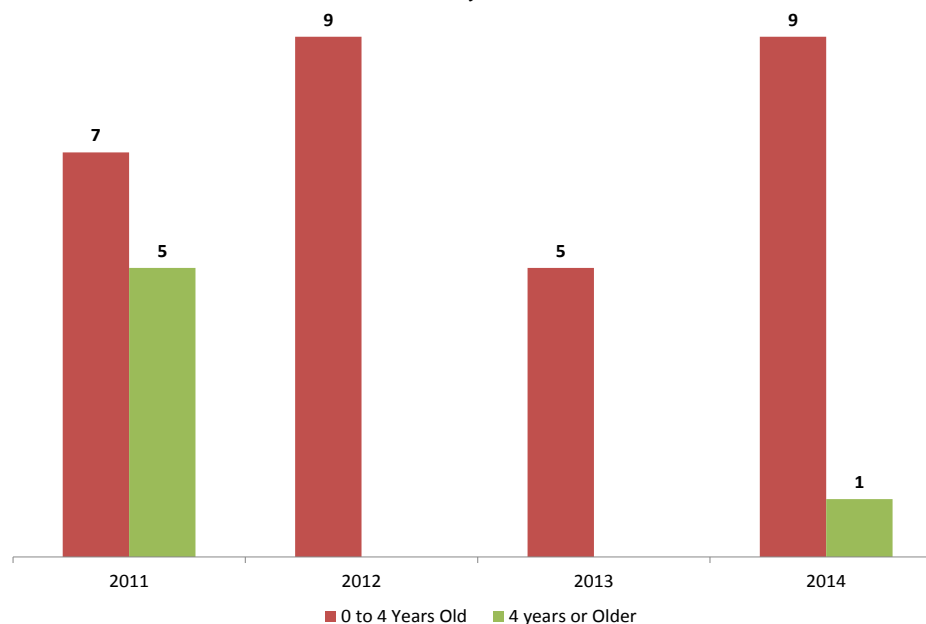
Child Near Fatalities

- In 2014, 9 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 were the most vulnerable population to sustain severe injuries. In Kern County, seven children who experienced severe injuries from abuse or neglect in 2014 were under the age of five years (78%).
- Among the children who suffered severe injuries, two were five years old, one child was 16 months old and six children were under age one year old.
- In 2014, more boys (67%) than girls (33%) were victims of severe injury from child maltreatment.
- Between 2011 and 2014, 51 children have experienced severe injuries from abuse or neglect in Kern County.

Reported Severe Injuries From Abuse/Neglect by Child Age
Kern County, 2011-2014



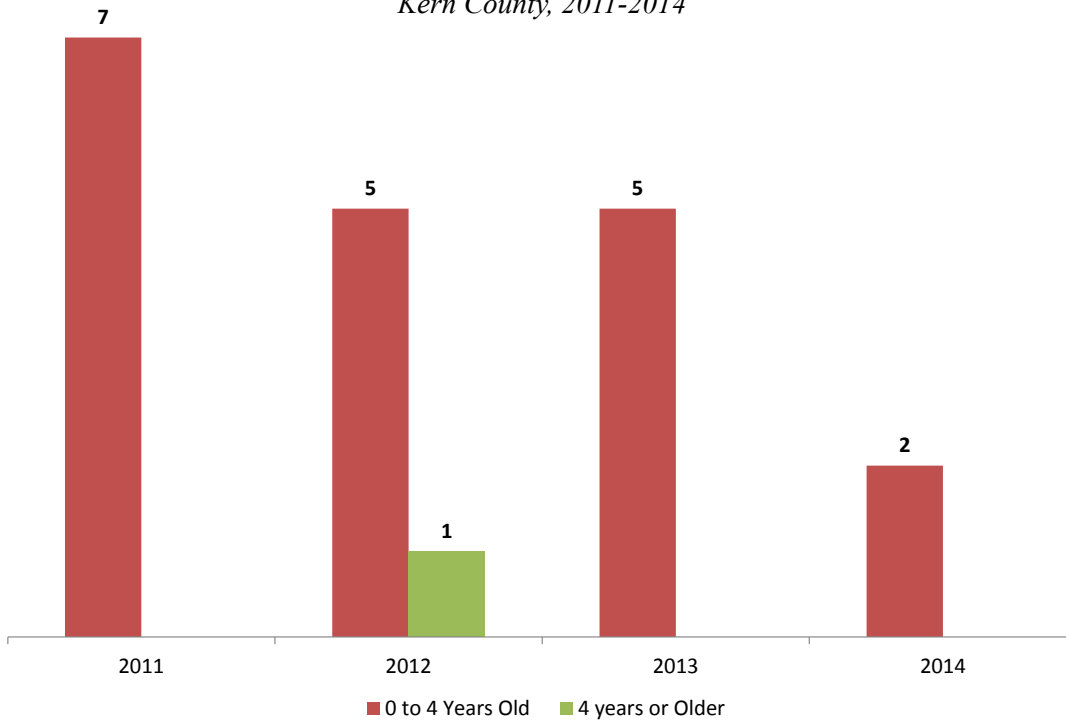
Reported Near Fatalities From Abuse/Neglect by Child Age
Kern County, 2011-2014



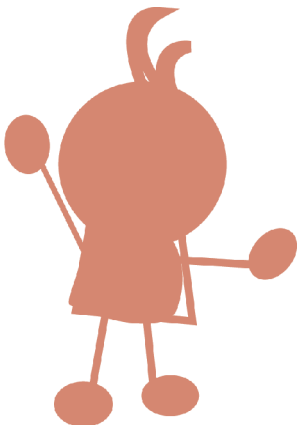
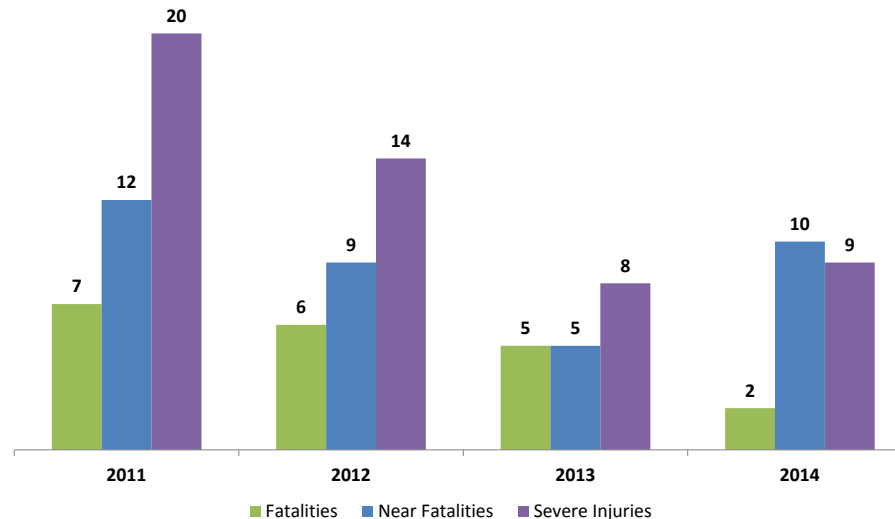
- A near fatality is defined by the state as: a severe childhood injury or condition caused by abuse or neglect which results in the child receiving critical care for at least 24 hours following the child's admission to a critical care unit in a hospital.
- In 2014, there were 10 near fatalities resultant from abuse or neglect in Kern County.
- All child near fatalities from abuse or neglect in 2014 were under the age of 5 years.
- For near fatalities, the number of incidents involving females (60%) was greater than the number involving males (40%).
- Between 2011 and 2014, 36 Kern County children experienced near fatal injuries from either abuse or neglect.

Child Fatalities

Reported Fatalities From Abuse/Neglect by Child Age
Kern County, 2011-2014



Number of Child Fatalities, Near Fatalities, and Severe Injuries Due to Abuse/Neglect
Kern County, 2011-2014

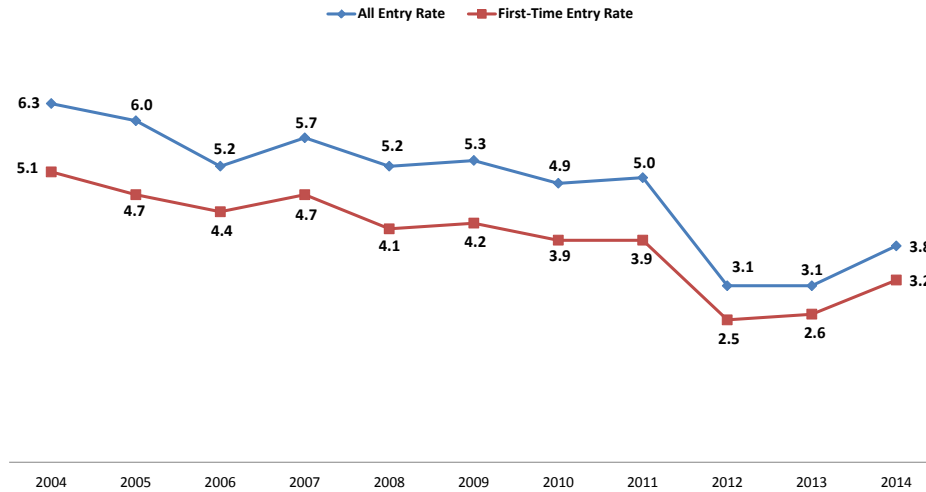


- In 2014, 2 Kern County children died as a direct result of child abuse or neglect.
- Both fatalities were less than a year old, consistent with national and previous county data that found very young children to be most vulnerable.
- In 2014, the two infants killed were a boy and a girl.
- Between 2011 and 2014, 20 children have died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kern County.
- Of the children who died because of abuse or neglect, 95% were younger than five years old between 2011 and 2014.
- Boys (50%) and girls (50%) were equally likely to be killed from abuse or neglect from 2011 to 2014.

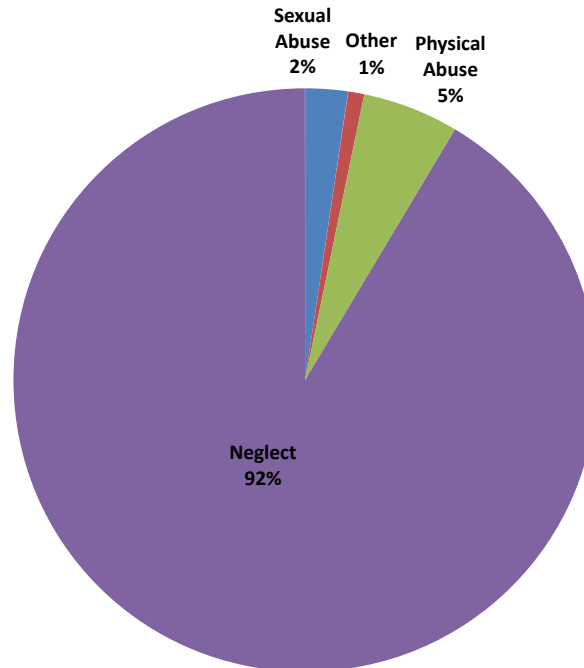
Children Entering into Foster Care

Children Served in Foster Care

Foster Care Entry & First Time Entry Rate - Incidence per 1,000 Children
Kern County, 2004-2014



First Time Entry into Foster Care by Removal Reason – Kern County, 2014



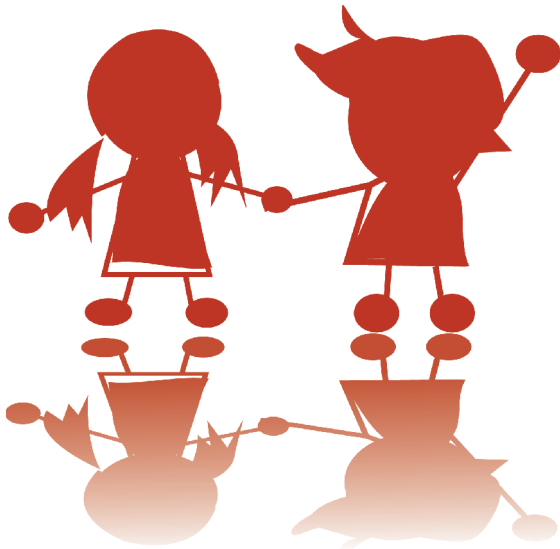
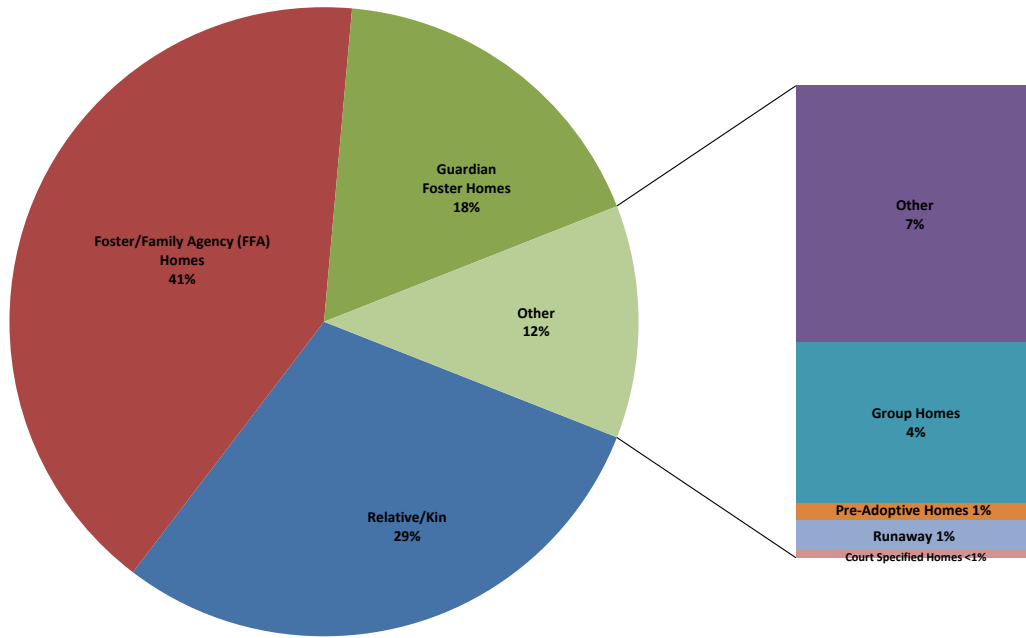
- Of the 3,575 Kern County children with substantiated reports of abuse and neglect during 2014, 961 were removed from their family home and spent at least one day in an out-of-home placement in order to ensure their safety (27% of substantiated cases).
- The 2014 rate of foster care placement was 3.8 per 1,000 children compared to California’s rate of 3.5 entries per 1,000 children.
- The number of children and youth in foster care continues to decline from a decade peak of 2,950 in 2003 to 1,537 in 2014, a 48% overall decrease.
- During the calendar year 2014, 796 children (83% of all entries) entered foster care for the first time in Kern County.
- Kern County’s first time entry rate of children into foster care increased 23% from 2.6 in 2013 to 3.2 per 1,000 children in 2014.

- On July 1, 2014, there were 1,537 children in the foster care system across Kern County.
- Infants (10.0 per 1,000 infants) and toddlers (7.2 per 1,000 children 1-2 years old) experienced the highest in-care rates in Kern’s foster care system.
- In 2014, African-American children (13.1 per 1,000 African-American children) were in foster care at a rate greater than children in any other racial/ethnic group.
- During 2014, 23% of children in the Kern County foster care system experienced more than two placements in less than 12 months.
- Statewide, the placement in stability rate was 13% in 2014.

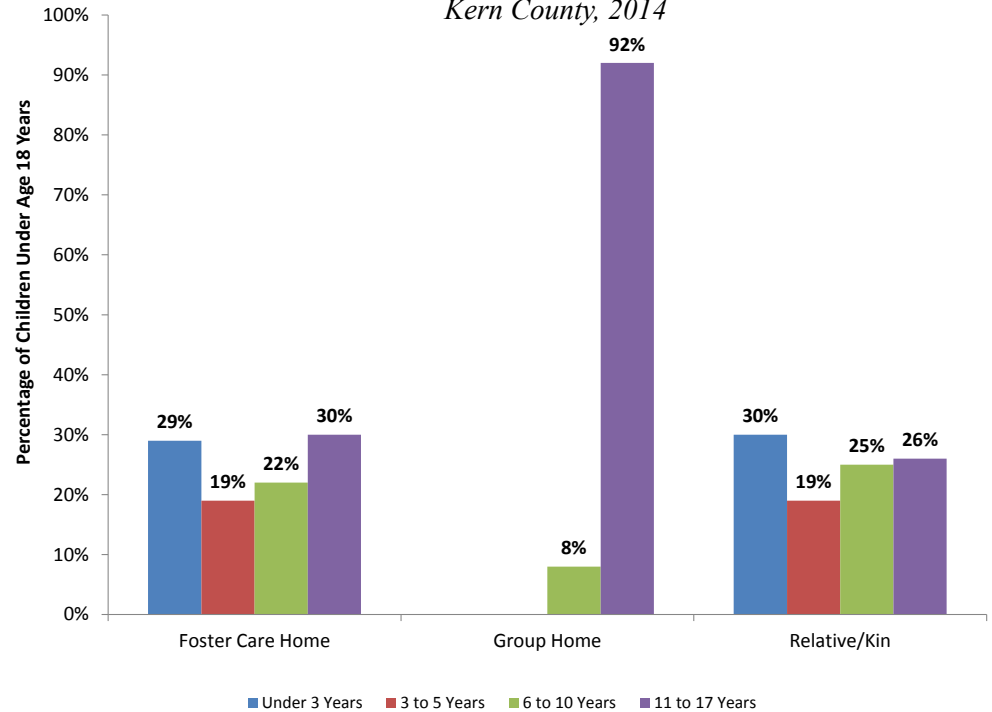
Additional customizable Kern County and California foster care data are available using Kidsdata.org.

Children Served in Foster Care *cont.*

Placement Settings for Children in Foster Care – Kern County, July 1, 2014



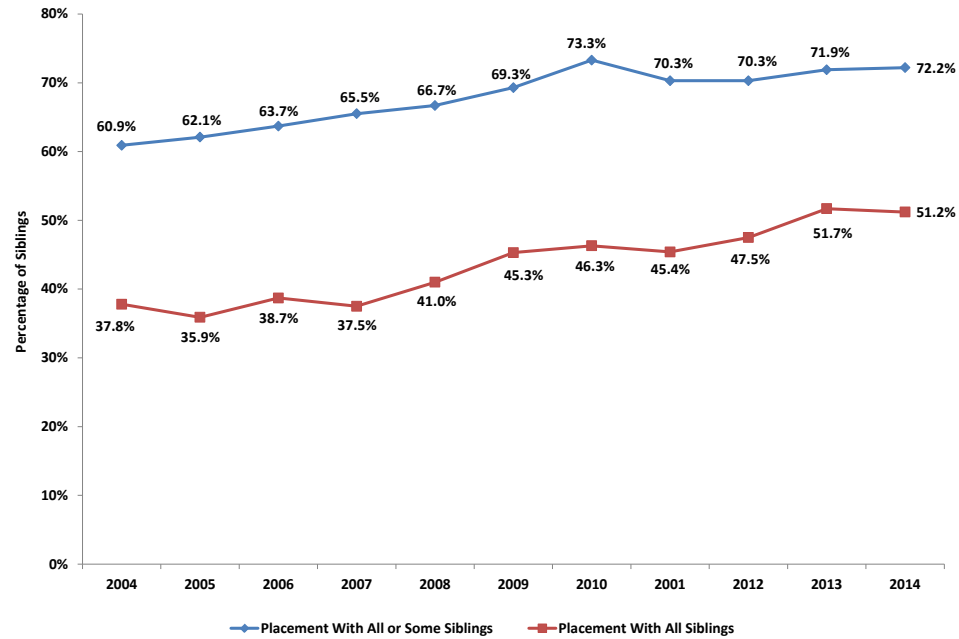
Selected Foster Care Placement Settings by Age Group
Kern County, 2014



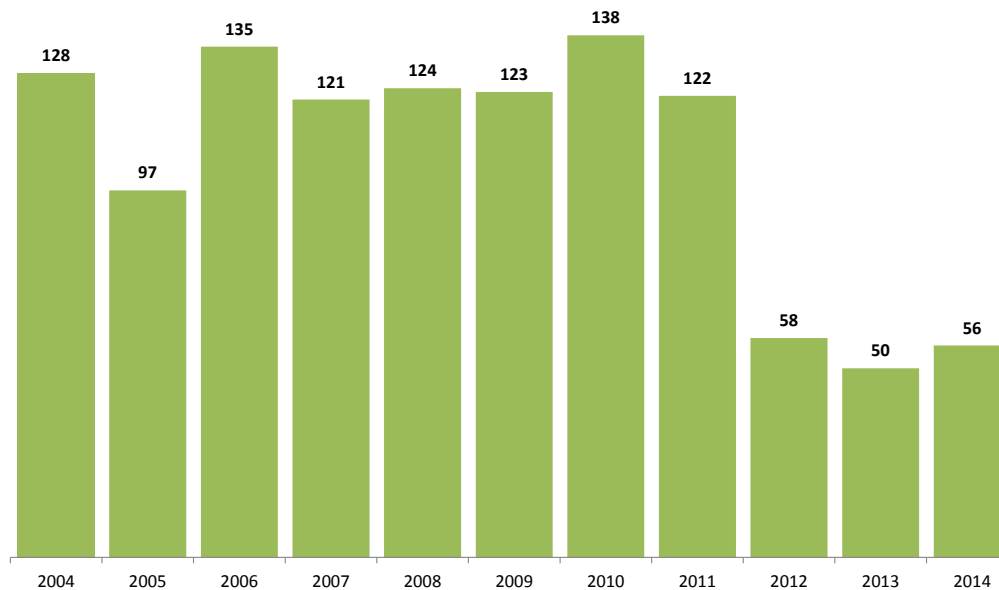
- Whenever possible, sibling units are placed in the same foster home. On July 1, 2014, the share of Kern County's foster youth placed with at least one sibling was 72% in comparison to 71% throughout California.
- Kinship care is the full time care of children by relatives, godparents, step-parents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child. On July 1, 2014, 30% of the Kern County children in out-of-home care lived with relatives compared to 39% state-wide.
- Among children placed with kin, 49% were between the ages of 0 and 5 years and 57% were Latino.

Family & Sibling Connections

Teenagers in Foster Care



Number of Youth Aging Out of Foster Care – Kern County, 2004-2014

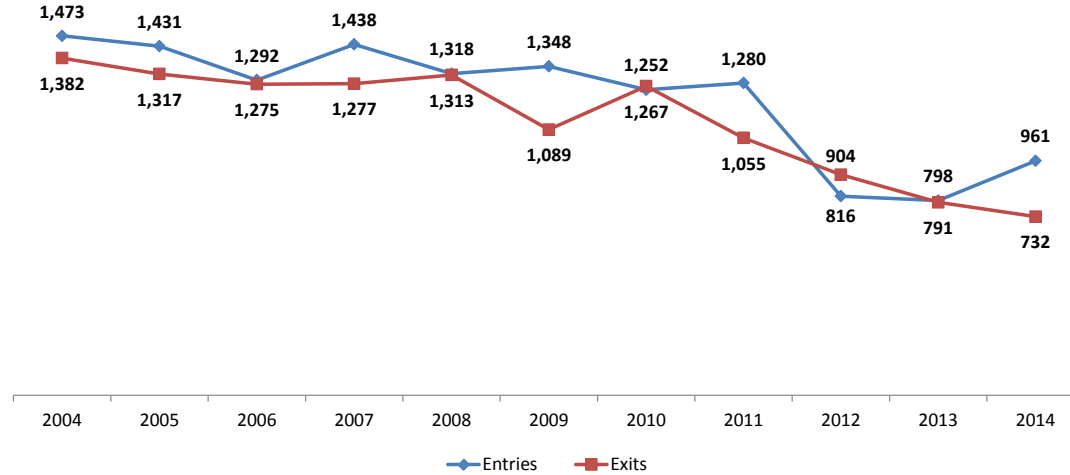


- On July 1, 2014, 419 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 lived in foster care in Kern County, 27% of the county's foster care population.
- Teens exiting foster care were reunited with their families in less than a year 53% of the time during 2014.
- Some children remain in foster care until they are 18 or have graduated from high school. In Kern County, 56 youth were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in foster care in 2014.
- 66% 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 receive services until age 20 years. On July 1, 2014, 224 youth between 18 and 20 years elected to remain in the foster care system.

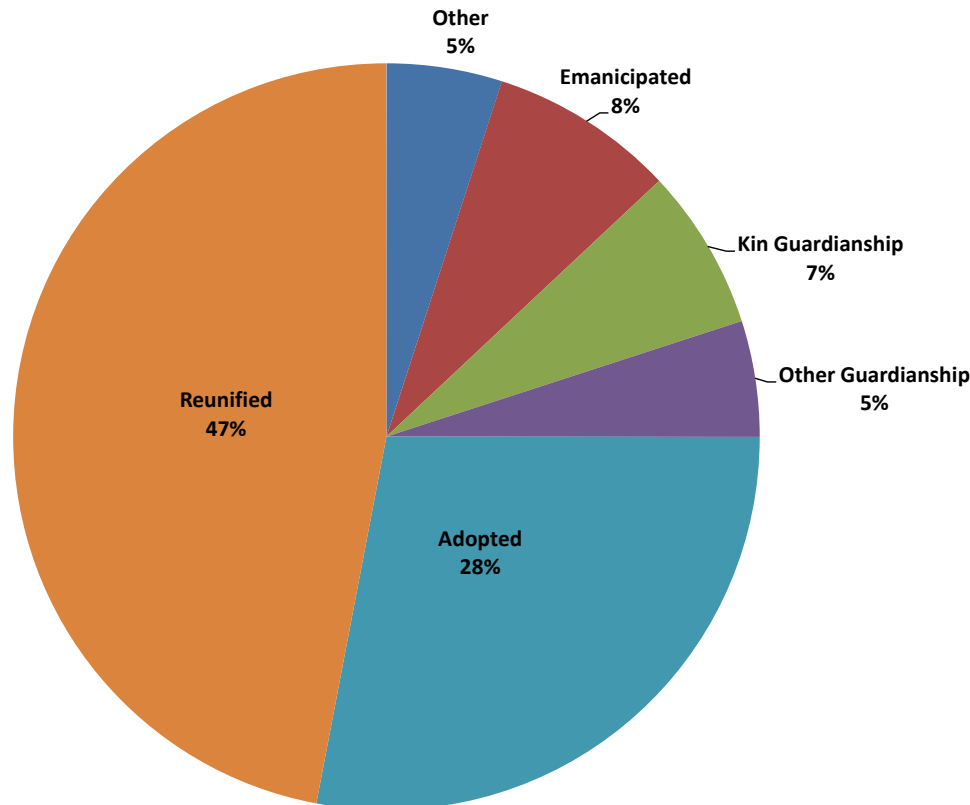


Exiting Foster Care

Number of Children Entering & Exiting Foster Care Placement – Kern County, 2004-2014



Where Children Went After Exiting Foster Care – Kern County, 2014

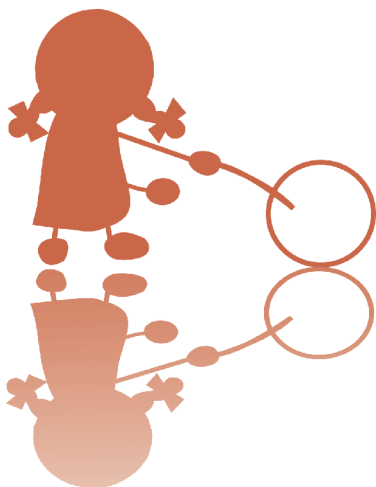
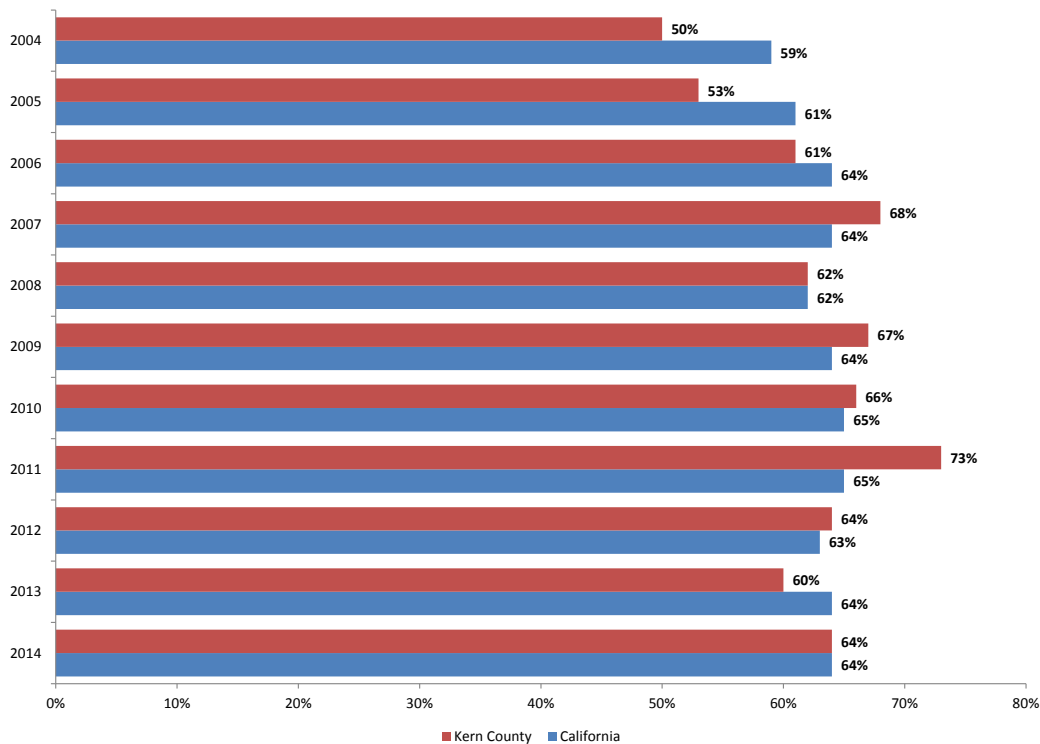


- During 2014, 732 children and youth exited foster care in Kern County.
- 64% of Kern’s exiting children and youth were reunified with their families in less than 12 months equal to California’s reunification rate of 64%.
- The median length of time before Kern County children in foster care were reunified with their families was 8.9 months in 2014.
- Youth between the ages 11 and 15 were the least likely to reunify in 12 months (42%), and infants were the most likely in Kern (100%).
- Children whose first placement type was a foster care home were most likely to reunify in less than a year (90%) while kin caregivers (62%) and FFA homes (62%) were the least likely.
- Of the 486 Kern County children discharged from foster care to reunification during 2013, 89% 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%.

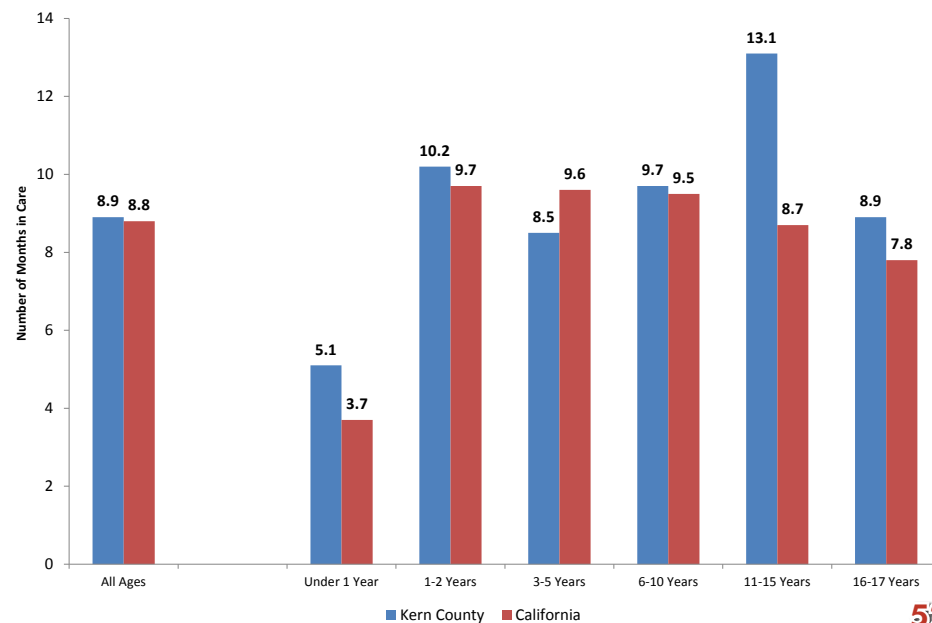
Additional customizable Kern County and California exit from foster care data are available using Kidsdata.org.

Exiting Foster Care *cont.*

Percentage of Children Who Exited Foster Care to Reunify with Family in Less Than Year
Kern County & California, 2004-2014



Median Length of Time in Foster Care by Age Group
Kern County & California, 2014

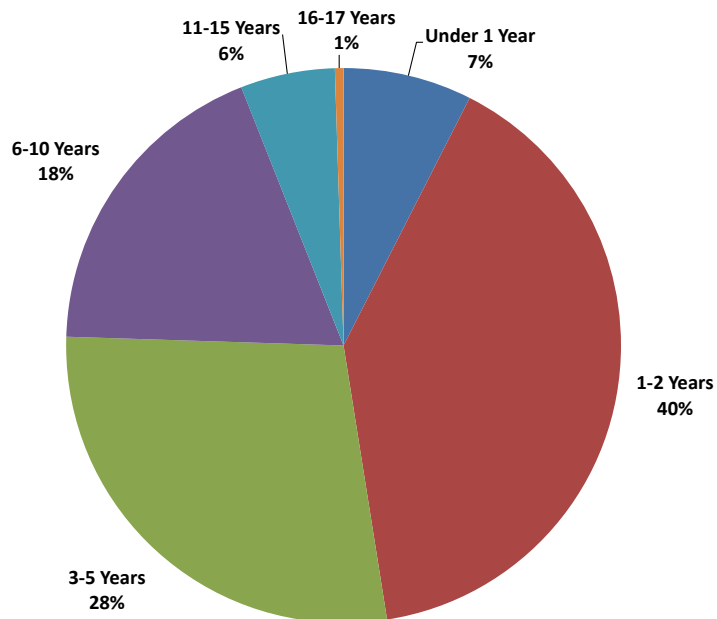


The goal for most foster children is to return to their family, however, sometimes children are not able to return home and need a permanent family through adoption and guardianship.

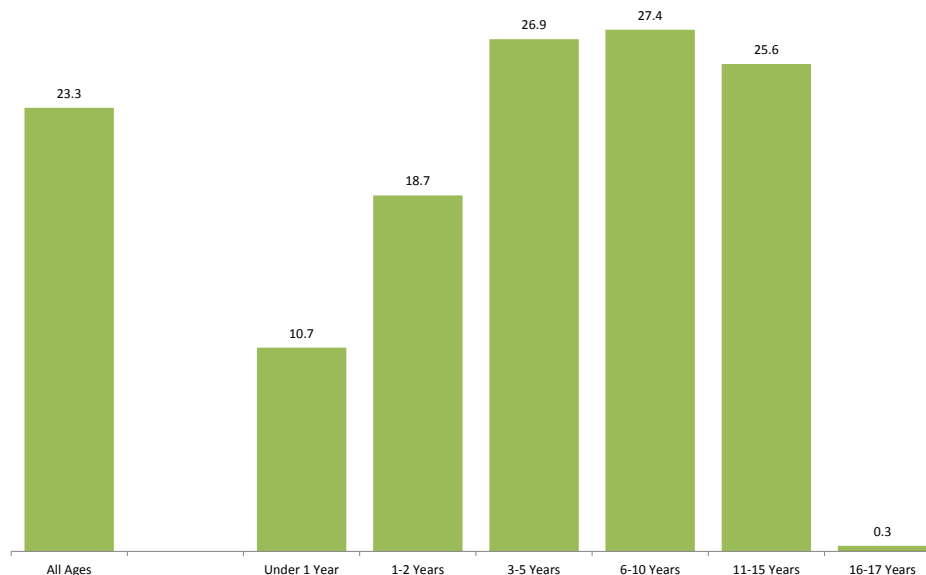
- During the calendar year 2014, 201 children left foster care in Kern County through adoption.
- 47% of the Kern County children adopted were younger than age 3 when their adoption became final.
- 51% of the finalized adoptions in 2014 were female children.
- Over half of the children adopted in 2014 were Latino (49%) followed by Caucasian (38%), African-American (14%), and Asian/ Pacific Islander (0.5%) children.
- While the length of time to achieve adoption varies by age, the median time to adoption was 23.3 months for children whose adoptions were finalized in Kern County during 2014, a decrease from 24.3 months in 2013.

Adoption & Guardianships

Children Exiting Foster Care with Finalized Adoptions by Age Group
Kern County, 2014



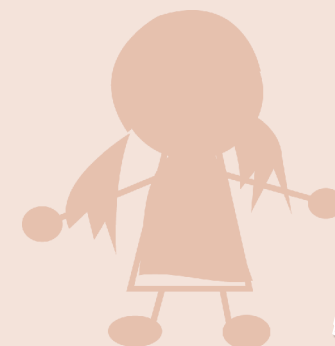
Median Number of Months in Foster Care to Adoption by Age Group
Kern County, 2014



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 2014, 92 children exited foster care to a guardianship.
- Over half of Kern County guardianships (57%) were for children ages 6 and older in 2014.
- 51% of the Kern County children who left foster care to guardianship were females during 2014.
- Half of the children who exited foster care to guardianship during 2014 were Latino (59%) followed by Caucasian (26%) and African-American (12%) 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 -

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Ways to Get Involved

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 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. 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*

Jasmine Williams
Kern County Public Health Department

Brian J. Mendiburu
*Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Administrator,
Kern High School District*

Shirelle Perez
Program Facilitator II, Community Connection for Child Care

Kristin Price
Reporter, KGET 17 News

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.

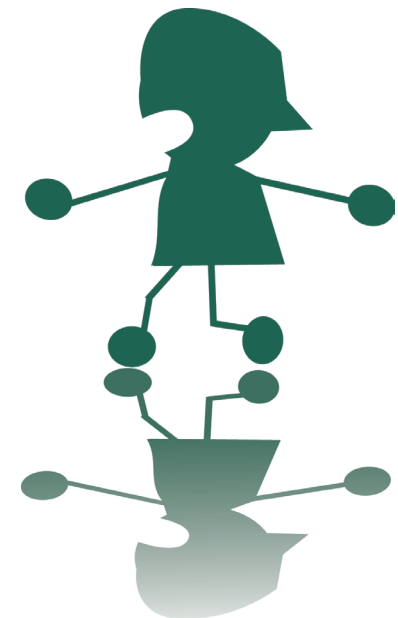
KCNC's Annual Leadership Development Program

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 almost 800 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.



Community Collaboratives

Since 1992, Kern County communities have partnered together as [Community Collaboratives](#) to better care for children and families. Seventeen 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	661.854.6526
Bakersfield	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	661.631.5895
	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	661.758.7100
Kern County	Richardson Special Needs Collaborative and FRC	661.336.5482

Other Community Collaboratives

Bakersfield	34th Street Neighborhood Partnership	661.324.3213
	Oildale Collaborative and CRCs	661.392.2110, ext. 106
Delano	Delano Neighborhood Partnership and CRC	661.721.5000
Kern County	Kern Senior Network	661.832.1324

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Executive Director, Kern County Network for Children

Theresa Goldner

KCNC Legal Counsel, Office of Kern County Counsel

2015 Data Sources

Children and Family			
INDICATOR	PAGE NUMBER	DATA SOURCE	DATA LOCATION
County and State Population	2	California Department of Finance	http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates
Child Population and Race/Ethnicity	2	Center for Social Services Research, UC Berkeley	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Population.aspx
Child Population Projections	2	California Department of Finance	http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates
Foreign-Born Children	2	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Family Structure	3	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Children in Families	3	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	3	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Foreign Born Parents	3	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

Family Economics			
INDICATOR	PAGE NUMBER	DATA SOURCE	DATA LOCATION
Self-Sufficiency Standard	5	Kidsdata.org	http://www.Kidsdata.org/data/topic/table/self-sufficiency-standard.aspx?loc=362
Family Median Income with Children	5	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Median Income by Family	5	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Child Support	5	Kern County Child Support Services	<i>Data obtained through special request</i>
Children in Households Receiving Public Assistance	5	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Children with All Parents in Workforce	6	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Child Care Supply and Demand	6	California Resource & Referral Network	http://my.rnnetwork.org/site/DocServer/Kern_County.pdf?docID=980
Child Care Cost	6	California Resource & Referral Network	http://my.rnnetwork.org/site/DocServer/Kern_County.pdf?docID=980

2015 Data Sources cont.

Unemployment	7	California Employment Development Department	http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/Content.asp?pageid=1006
Children Living in Households Without Secure Parental Employment	7	Kidsdata.org	http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/761/secure-employment65/table#fmt=1163&tf=67
Poverty Level	8	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/11poverty.shtml
Child Poverty Demographics	8	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Family Poverty	8	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Household Poverty by Educational Level	8	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Occupied Housing Units	10	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Children Living in Housing Units	10	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Home Value	10	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Median Gross Rent	10	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Income Spent on Housing	10	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Fair Market Rent	10	HUD User, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development	http://www.huduser.org
Housing Wage	10	National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)	http://www.nlihc.org
Children Living in Crowded Housing	10	Kidsdata.org	http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/721/crowded-housing65/table#fmt=1022&tf=67
Homeless Children in School	10	Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office	Data obtained through special request
Food Insecurity	11	Feeding America	http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/data-by-county-in-each-state.html
CalFresh Enrollment	11	California Department of Social Services	http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/default.htm
Free/Reduced School Meal Enrollment	11	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=Profile&submit1=Submit

2015 Data Sources cont.

K-12 Education			
INDICATOR	PAGE NUMBER	DATA SOURCE	DATA LOCATION
Public School Enrollment	13	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=Enrollment&submit1=Submit
Public School Student Demographics	13	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=Enrollment&submit1=Submit
Average Classroom Size	13	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=Profile&submit1=Submit
Student-Teacher Ratio	13	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=Profile&submit1=Submit
English Learners	13	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=LC&submit1=Submit
Special Education	13	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=SpecEd&submit1=Submit
School Connectedness	13	California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/HKids/HKSearchName.asp?TheYear=&c-Topic=HKids&cLevel=County&cName=&cCounty=15,KERN&cTime-Frame=S
CAHSEE High School Exit Exam	13, 16	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=ExitExam&submit1=Submit
Graduation Rates	13, 16	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=Graduates&submit1=Submit
High School Drop Out Rate	13, 16	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=Graduates&submit1=Submit
Graduates with CSU/UC Requirements	14, 16	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=Graduates&submit1=Submit
California Standards Test (CST) Scores	15	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=STAR&submit1=Submit
Youth Not in School and Not Working	16	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/S0902/0100000US 0400000US06 0500000US06029
12th Grade SAT Participation	16	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=SAT&submit1=Submit
Education Attainment for Population 25 Years and Over	16	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Median Earnings by Educational Attainment	18	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment	18	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

2015 Data Sources cont.

Child and Adolescent Health			
INDICATOR	PAGE NUMBER	DATA SOURCE	DATA LOCATION
Prenatal Care	20, 23	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp
Births	20, 23	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp
Preterm Births	20, 23	Kidsdata.org	http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/560/pretermbirths/table#fmt=753&tf=67
Low Birthweight Infants	20, 23	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp
Safely Surrendered Babies	20	Kern County Department of Human Services	<i>Data obtained through special request</i>
Infant Mortality	20, 23	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System & California Health Profiles	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp , https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohir/Pages/CHSP.aspx
Sleep-Related Infant Deaths	20	Kern County Child Death Review Team	<i>Data obtained through special request</i>
Breastfeeding	20	California Department of Health Care Services	http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Pages/BreastfeedingStatistics.aspx
Immunizations	22	Kidsdata.org	http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/53/immunizations/
Student Body Composition	22, 23	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=STAR&submit1=Submit
Student Physical Fitness	22	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=STAR&submit1=Submit
Asthma	22	Environmental Health Investigation Branch, California Health Interview Survey	http://www.ehib.org , http://www.chis.ucla.edu
Oral Health Care	22	California Health Interview Survey	http://www.chis.ucla.edu
Health Care Insurance	22	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Births to Teen Mothers and Birth Rate	23, 24, 25	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp
Chlamydia Infection	23, 24	California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch	http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Pages/STDData.aspx
Depression	24	California Health Interview Survey	http://www.chis.ucla.edu

2015 Data Sources cont.

Suicide	24	California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11	EpiCenter CA Injury Data Online - http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov/
Alcohol, Tobacco and Substance Use	26	California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/HKids/HKSearchName.asp?TheYear=&cTopic=HKids&cLevel=County&cName=&cCounty=15,KERN&cTimeFrame=S

Child and Community Safety			
INDICATOR	PAGE NUMBER	DATA SOURCE	DATA LOCATION
Unintentional Childhood Injuries and Deaths (Falls, Fire/Burn, Motor Vehicle, Assault/Homicide, Bicycle, Pedestrian Traffic, Drowning)	29-32	EPICenter California Injury Data Online	http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/epicdata/
Child Deaths	32	Kern County Child Death Review Team	<i>Data obtained through special request</i>
Feel Safe at School	33	California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/HKids/HKSearchName.asp?TheYear=&cTopic=HKids&cLevel=County&cName=&cCounty=15,KERN&cTimeFrame=S
Bullying/Harassment	33	California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/HKids/HKSearchName.asp?TheYear=&cTopic=HKids&cLevel=County&cName=&cCounty=15,KERN&cTimeFrame=S
Youth Gang Membership	33, 34	California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/HKids/HKSearchName.asp?TheYear=&cTopic=HKids&cLevel=County&cName=&cCounty=15,KERN&cTimeFrame=S
Violence-Related Behavior on School Property	34	California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/HKids/HKSearchName.asp?TheYear=&cTopic=HKids&cLevel=County&cName=&cCounty=15,KERN&cTimeFrame=S
Firearm Injuries and Deaths	35	EPICenter California Injury Data Online	http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/epicdata/
Missing Children	36	Missing Persons, California Office of the Attorney General	http://ag.ca.gov/missing/stats.php
Dating Violence	37	California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/HKids/HKSearchName.asp?TheYear=&cTopic=HKids&cLevel=County&cName=&cCounty=15,KERN&cTimeFrame=S
Domestic Violence Calls for Assistance	37	Kidsdata.org	http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/12/domesticviolence-rate/table#fmt=1097&tf=67
Juvenile Felony Arrests, Ages 10-17	37	Kidsdata.org	http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/165/juvenilearrest-rate/table#fmt=1098&tf=67

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Child Well-Being			
INDICATOR	PAGE NUMBER	DATA SOURCE	DATA LOCATION
Referred and Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect Allegations	40, 41, 45	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/RefRates.aspx
Allegation Demographics & Disposition	40, 41, 45	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx
Recurrence of Allegations	40	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/S1M1.aspx
Neglect	42	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx
Physical Abuse	43	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx
Sexual Abuse	44	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx
Foster Care Prevalence Rate and Demographics	45	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/InCareRates.aspx
Foster Youth Population	45, 48	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx
In-Care Rates	45	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/InCareRates.aspx
Foster Care Entry Rate and Demographics	45, 48	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/EntryRates.aspx
Severe Injury, Near Fatality and Fatality Due to Abuse/Neglect	46, 47	Kern County Department of Human Services	<i>Data obtained through special request</i>
Foster Care Placement	48, 49	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx

2015 Data Sources cont.

Family and Sibling Connections	50	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/siblings.aspx
Teenagers in Foster Care	50	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx , http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Exits.aspx
Reunification	51, 52	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C1M1.aspx
Foster Care Exits	51	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Exits.aspx
Median Time to Reunification	51, 52	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C1M2.aspx
Re-Entry After Reunification	51	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C1M4.aspx
Adoptions	53	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C2M2.aspx , http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Exits.aspx
Guardianship	53	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2014	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Exits.aspx