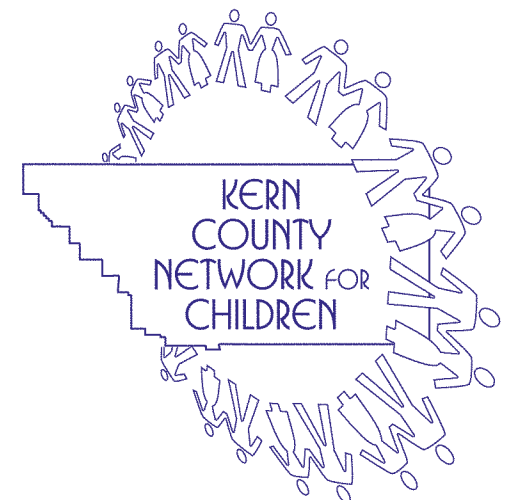


2013 Report Card



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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Report Card 2013. Bakersfield, California
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**To report suspected abuse or neglect,
call the Kern County Child Abuse Hotline at**

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

(661) 375-6049 (*Ridgecrest*)

Report 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

For all emergencies call 9-1-1.

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 2013 edition continues to track and update more than 150 data indicators on child and family well-being including: family economics, education, child/adolescent health, child safety and at-risk youth behavior. It has also become more focused on raising the visibility of key issues affecting child safety and well-being community's children, specifically child abuse and neglect. In addition to raising awareness of these issues, the *Report Card* features suggestions for the reader to help meet the needs of children in their community so they may have healthy, safe lives.

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

It is our hope that the facts and figures within the 2013 *Report Card* are not only informative, but also prompt more community action to improve the lives of children. We invite the community to join the [Kern County Network for Children](#) and discover positive, proactive ways that they can contribute to building a strong future for our children.

Staff:

[Tom Corson](#), Executive Director [Carrie Bloxom](#), Supervising Case Manager for Foster Youth
[Martha Gómez](#), Administrative Assistant [Kimberley Silva](#), Research Associate
[Jayme Stuart](#), Child and Family Services Facilitator

Contact Information:

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(661) 636-4488 www.kcnc.org



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



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[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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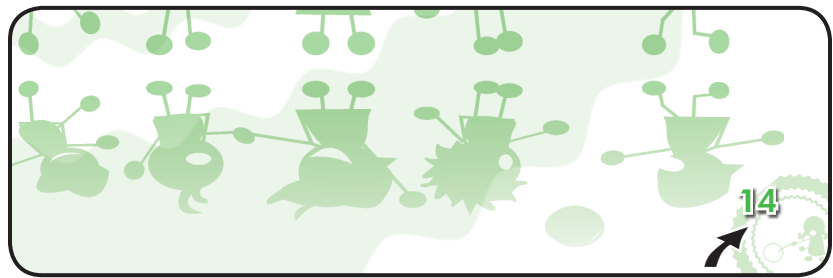
- Family Income
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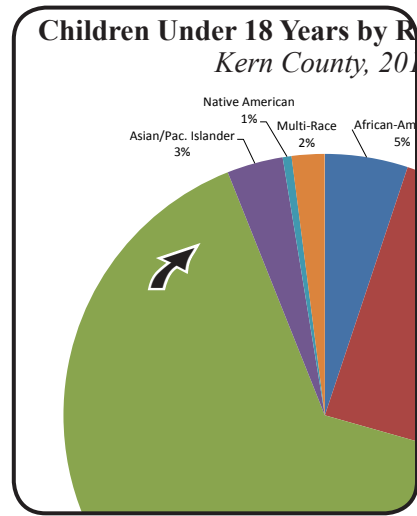
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Clicking on a 1) chart will take you to its original data source and 2) kidsdata.org icon will allow you to customize data.



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

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





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Welcome

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

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

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

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

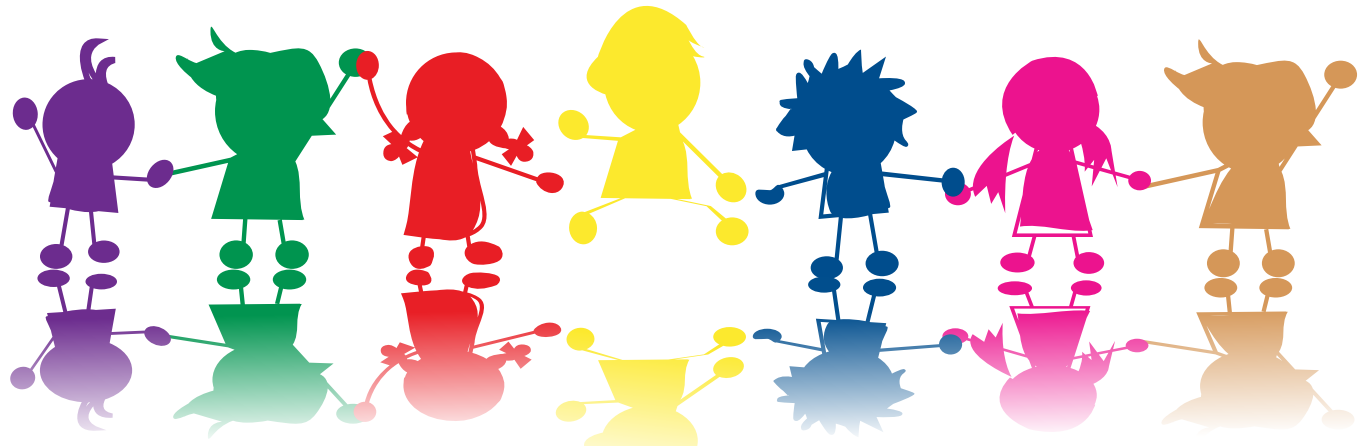
Working collaboratively is vitally important and is something Kern does well. However, we can always do better. We need to strive each and every day to be the best we can be, because one interaction with a child or family in need can change the outcome of their situation. We need to collaborate. Improving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

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

Sincerely,



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



Children and Families

The 2013 Report Card's chapter *Children and Families* presents an overview of the Kern County child population and their families. Located in the southern Central Valley, Kern County is California's third-largest county in land area and covers 8,170 square miles of valley, mountains and desert. Kern is also one of the State's youngest counties with children constituting almost one in three of the people living within the County during 2012.

Key Facts

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

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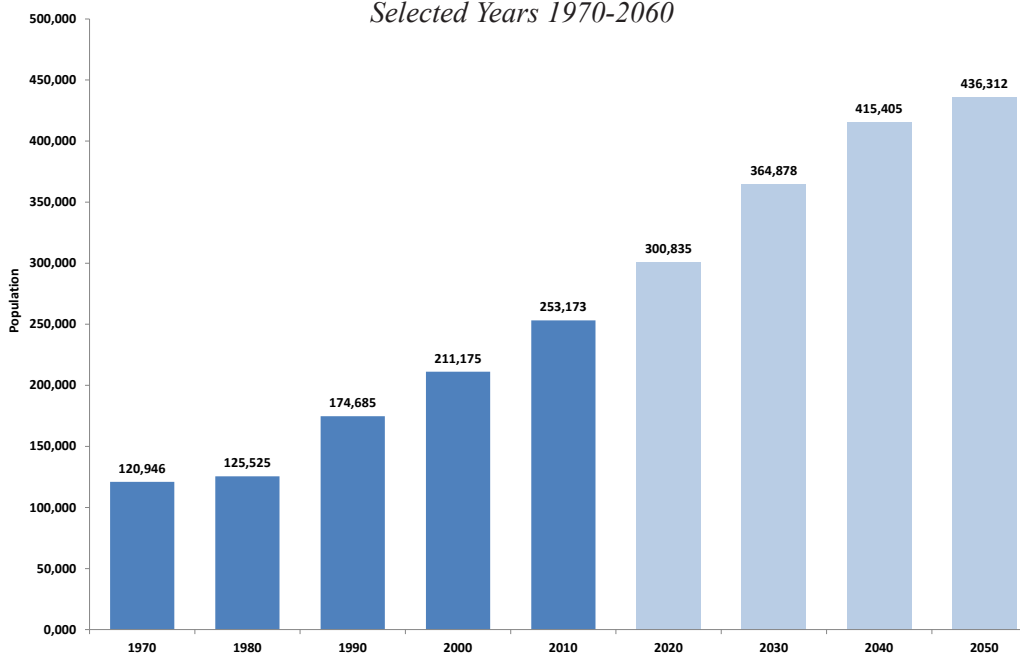
- [Kern County Children](#)
- [Families Raising Children](#)
- [Contents Page](#)



Kern County Children

- According to the California Department of Finance, Kern County's population grew less than 1% between July 1, 2011 and July 1, 2012 to 855,522 residents, continuing the county's pattern of modest growth rates over the past few years.
- The natural increase of 9,028 in the past year is composed of roughly 14,324 births minus 5,296 deaths. This accounted for all of the 2011-12 fiscal year population growth.
- Kern County is one of the youngest counties in California. In 2012, a total of 251,294 children under the age of 18 resided in Kern County, about 40,000 more than in 2000.
- The county's child population is projected to increase to 436,312 by 2050.
- The county's child population made up 30% of its total population, the 3rd largest percentage in the state.
- The child population will continue to grow for the foreseeable future, though it will account for a smaller share of the total population in coming decades.
- Males accounted for 51% and females 49% of Kern's 2012 child population.

Projected Number of Children Under Age 18 in Kern County
Selected Years 1970-2060



Age Group	Ethnic Group						Total
	African-American	Caucasian	Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	Multi-Race	
Under 1	798	4,101	8,835	415	69	431	14,649
1-2	1,456	7,807	17,496	740	100	848	28,447
3-5	2,169	10,930	27,896	1,144	212	1,229	43,580
6-10	3,401	17,981	43,404	1,968	381	1,824	68,959
11-15	3,372	18,677	41,346	2,258	439	1,706	67,798
16-17	1,519	8,050	16,445	943	197	707	27,861
Total	12,715	67,546	155,422	7,468	1,398	6,745	251,294

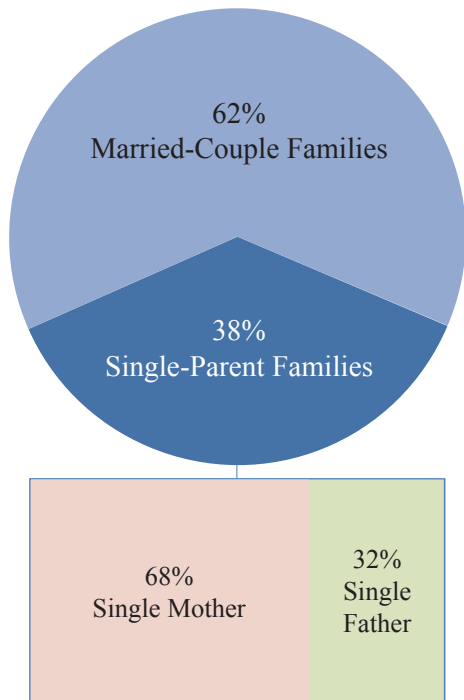
- Kern County's children are highly diverse, with the largest group being of Hispanic or Latino origin (61.8%).
- Caucasian children were the second largest group (26.9%), followed by African-Americans (5.1%), Asian and Pacific Islanders (3.0%), Native Americans (0.6%) and all others (2.7%).
- Few children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

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



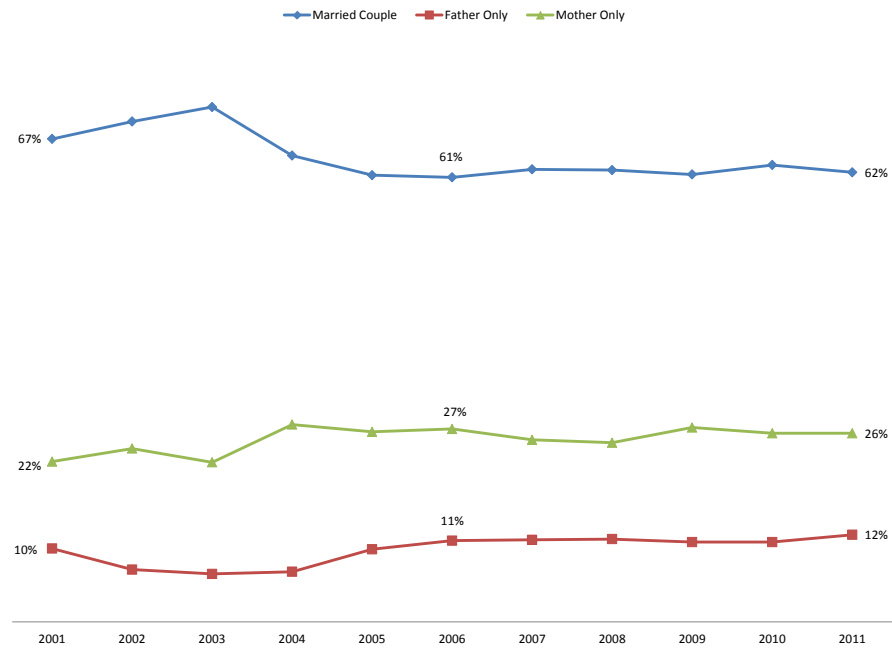
Families Raising Children

Families with Children
Kern County, 2011

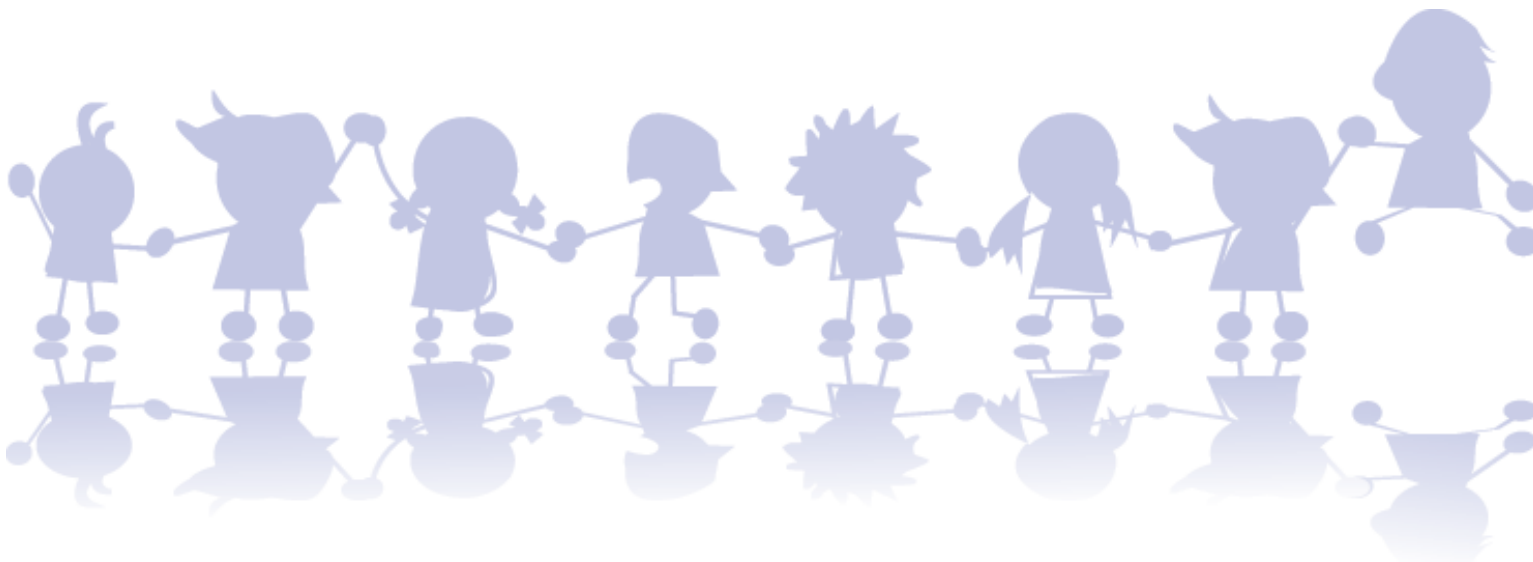


American Community Survey, 2011

Living Arrangements of Children by Family Structure
Kern County, 2001-2011



- In 2011, 47% of households in Kern County had children under age 18.
- At the same time, 37% of California's households had children under age 18.
- Of these Kern County households raising their own children, 62% were headed by married couples; 26% were headed by a single mother; and 12% by a single father.
- During 2011, an estimated 81,878 Kern County children lived with just one parent (37% of the total child population).
- Children living in single parent homes were more likely to live with their mothers than with their fathers (72% versus 28%) in Kern County.
- According to 2011 estimates, 10,280 Kern County children lived in the care of their grandparents, or 4% of all children under age 18 in county households.
- 71% of these children had one or both parents also present in the grandparent's home.
- In 2011, 42% of Kern County children ages 0-17 lived with one or more foreign-born parents. This percentage has been relatively steady over the last decade.



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 declining median family income in 2011 was 29% less than the state and 28% less than the nation.
- Kern's average annual unemployment rate decreased slightly in 2012, but remains double-digit.
- Children in single mother families were nearly three times as likely to be poor as children in married-couple families in Kern County.
- Every third child in Kern County was poor in 2011 and very young children continue to be most at risk of experiencing poverty.
- A Kern County renter earning minimum wage must work 76 hours weekly to afford a two bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent.
- Since 2007, 27,938 more households receive food assistance in Kern County, an increase of 91%.

Jump to -

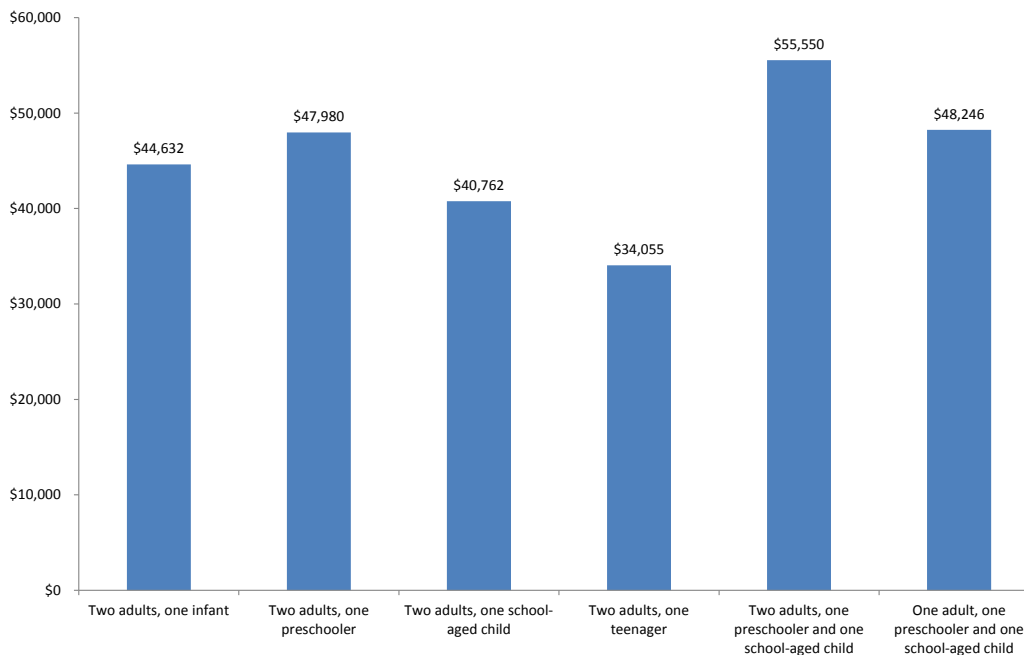
- [Family Income](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Poverty](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Food](#)
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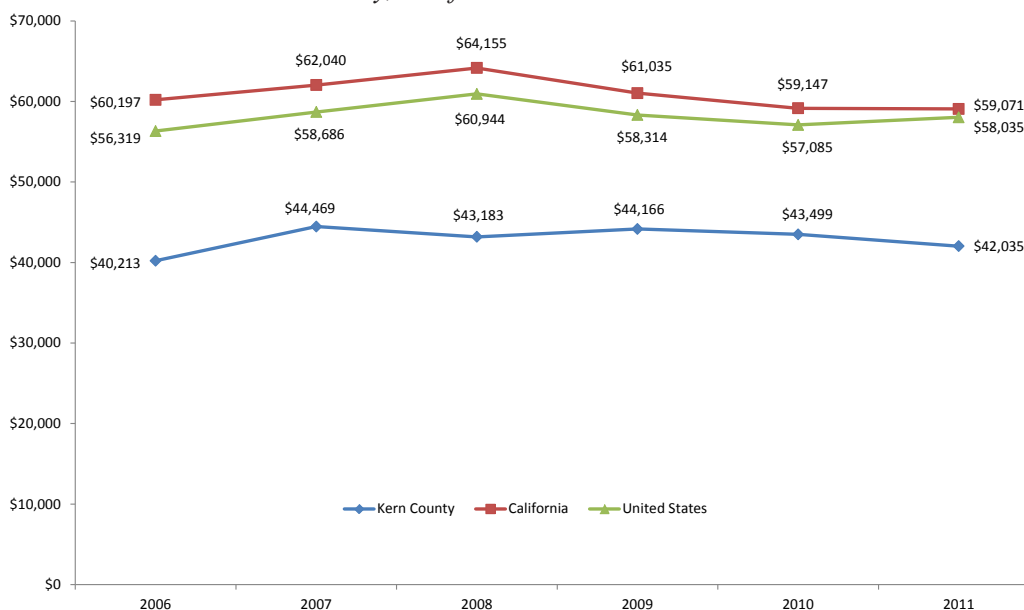
Family Income

- 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 \$55,550 in 2011.
- The Census Bureau estimates the median income for Kern County families with children was \$42,035 in 2011.
- By comparison, the 2011 median income for families raising children in California was \$59,071 and \$58,035 nationwide.
- Kern County's 2011 median family income was 28.8% less than the state and 27.6% less than the nation.
- Median income varies by type of family. The income of single parents was far lower than the income of a married-couple family with children (\$57,395) in 2011.
- The median family income for single fathers in Kern County in 2011 was nearly twice the median income for single mothers (\$32,970 versus \$18,029).
- The Kern County Department of Child Support Services served over 60,000 children in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Self-Sufficiency Standard for Selected Families with Children
Kern County, 2011

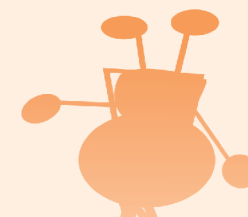
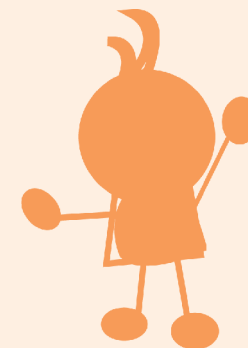


Median Annual Income for Families with Children by Year
Kern County, California & United States – 2006-2011

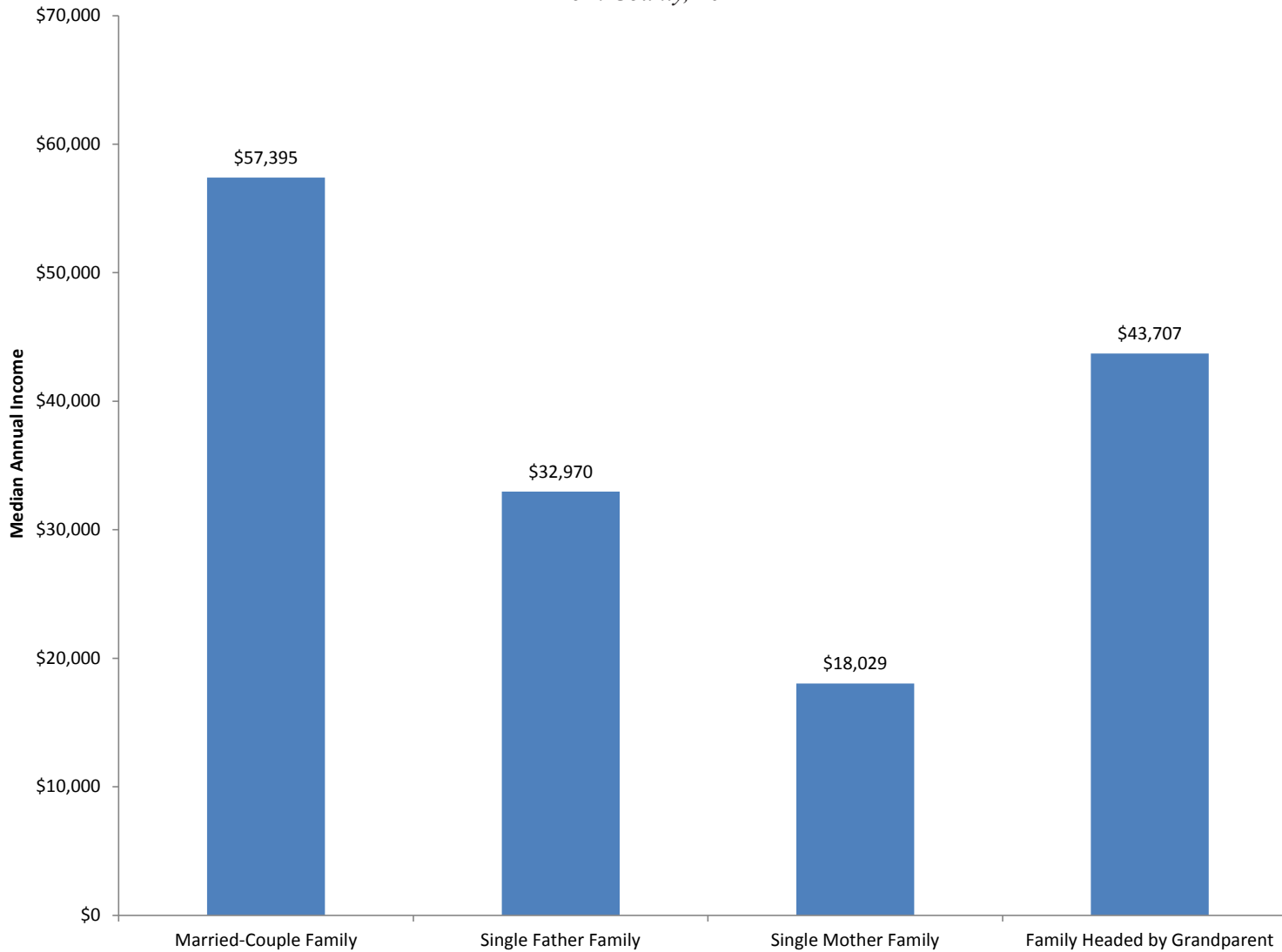


- Child Support Services established child and medical support orders on 85.5% of open cases over the past FFY 2011-2012.
- The Department was able to increase the percent of child support payments collected and distributed to these children by 6.8% over the prior year, for a total of over \$73 million dollars.
- 39% of children in Kern County lived in households receiving public assistance in 2011.
- In California, 26% of children resided in homes receiving public assistance in 2011.

Additional customizable Kern County and California family economic data are available using KidsData.Org.



Median Annual Income for Families with Children
Kern County, 2011



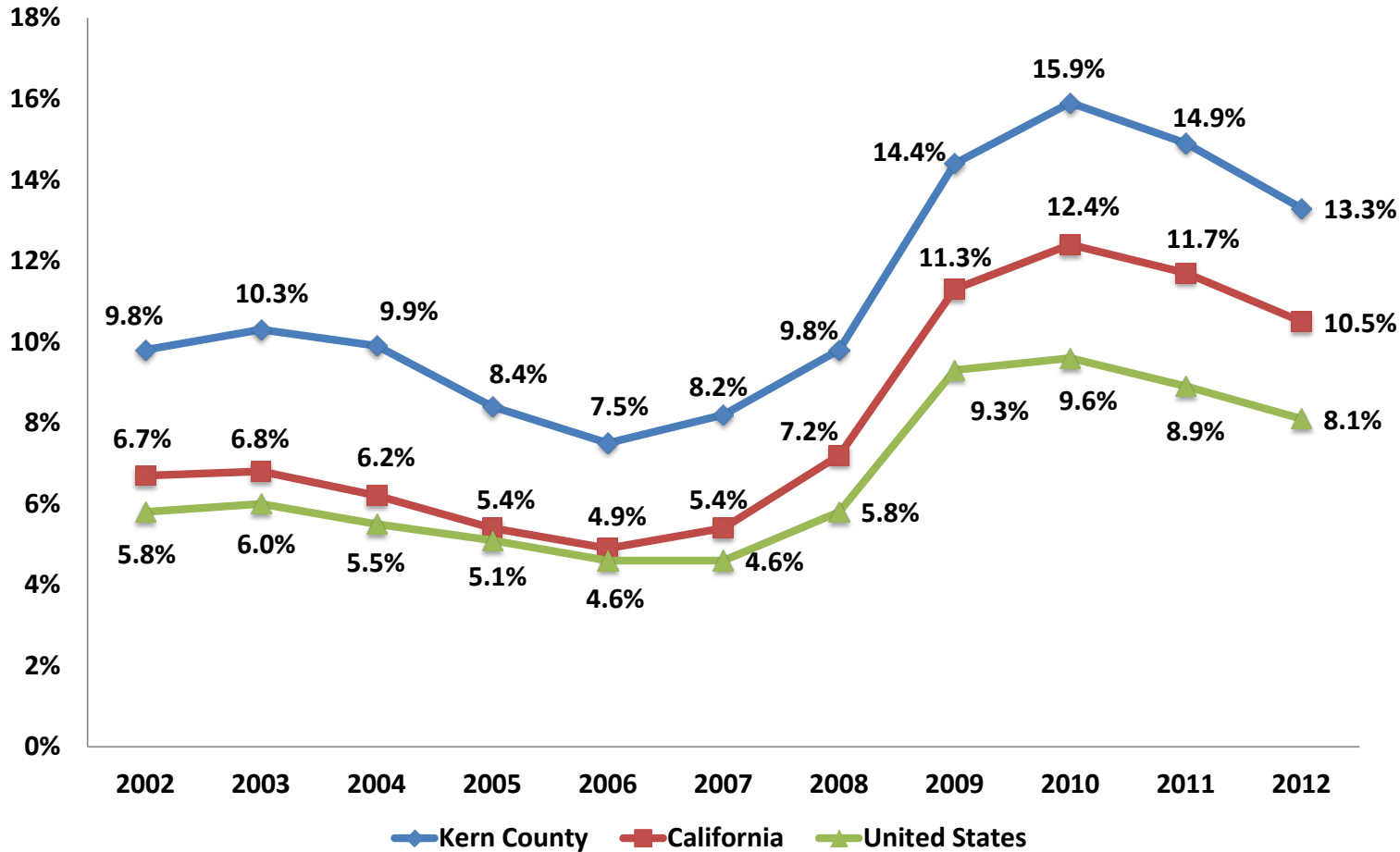
- Kern County licensed child care providers and programs have the capacity to serve 20% of the estimated child care need of working parents county-wide.
- The average annual cost of full-time care for an infant or toddler in Kern County is \$10,598 in a licensed center and \$6,185 in a family child care home in 2011.
- The cost of care for a preschooler is \$7,274 for a center and \$5,979 in a family child care home.

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



Employment

Annual Average Unemployment Rate
Kern County, California & United States – 2002-2012



- Kern County’s annual average unemployment rate has fallen slightly from 14.9% in 2011 to 13.3% in 2012.
- In comparison, the 2012 average unemployment rate for California 10.5% and 8.1% for the nation.
- According to the American Community Survey, 29,464 children, 12% of Kern’s child population, lived with parents who were unemployed in 2011.
- In comparison, California’s rate of children with unemployed parents was 9%.
- In 2011, 24% of Kern County children in single parent families were being raised by a parent who was not working.

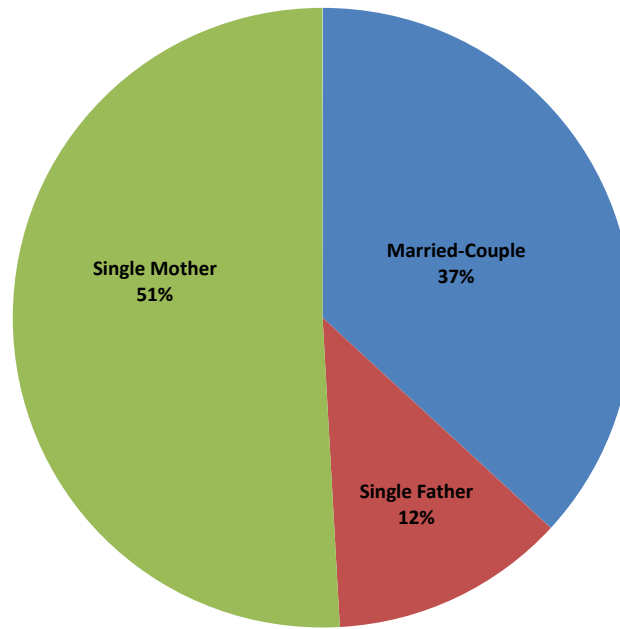
Additional customizable Kern County and California employment data are available using KidsData.Org.



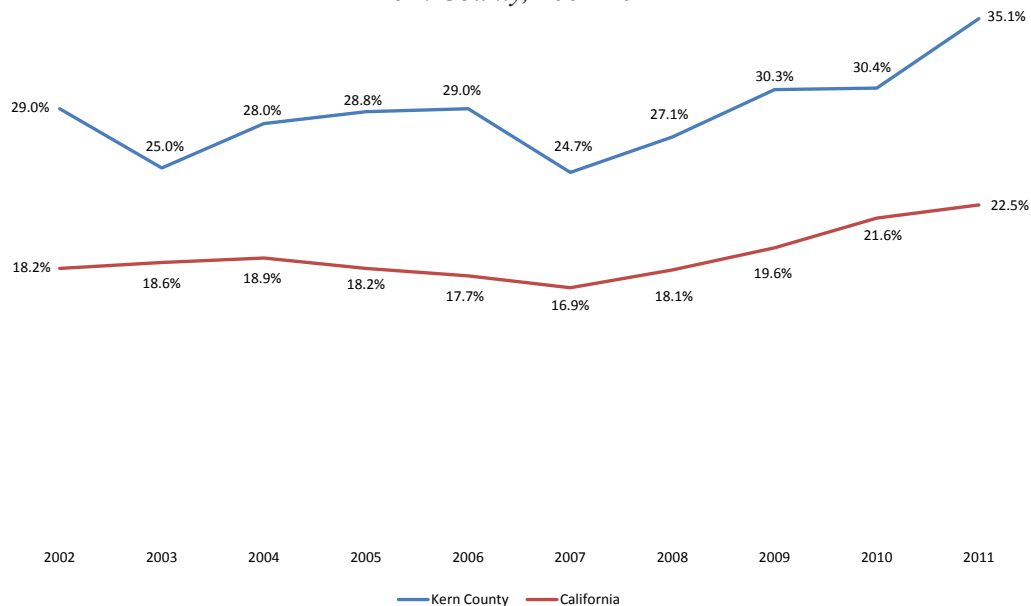
Poverty



Poverty by Family Type – Kern County, 2011



Child Poverty Trend by Year
Kern County, 2002-2011



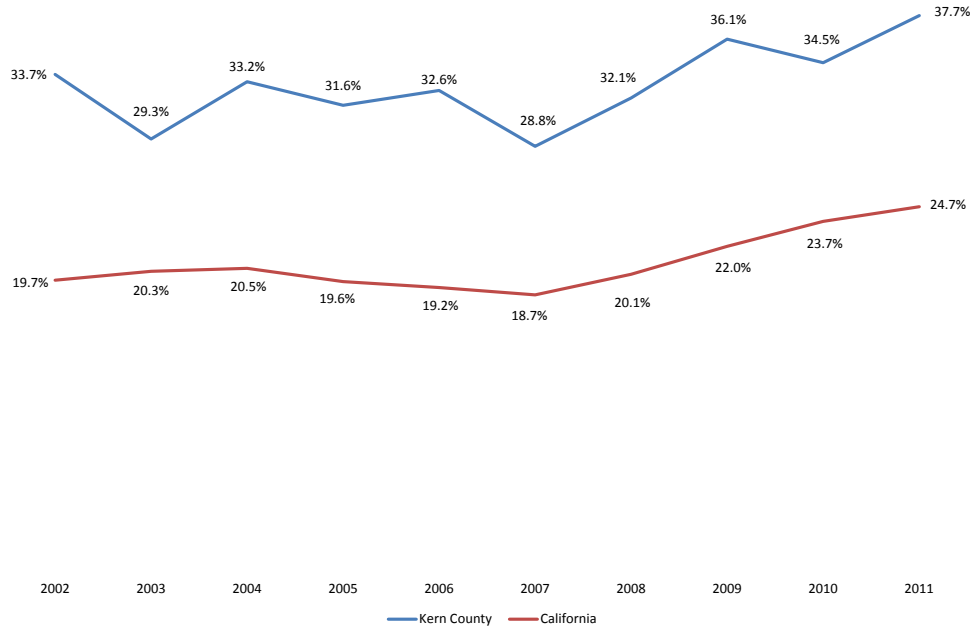
- For 2011, the federal poverty level was \$22,350 for a family of four.
- According to Census estimates, 29.2% of Kern County families were raising their children with incomes below the poverty line in 2011.
- In California, 18.6% of families with children lived in poverty.
- The poverty rates for single father and single mother households were 28.5% and 54.1%, respectively, compared to 17.9% of married-couple families.
- Among families whose householder had less than a high school diploma, 33.6% lived in poverty during 2011.
- Of those families whose householder had a high school diploma, the rate of poverty dropped to 23.9%.
- For those families with householders having at least a bachelor's degree, the poverty rate fell dramatically to 3.2%.
- According to the 2011 Census, 88,801 children in Kern County (35.1 % of all children) lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty line, an increase of 12,393 children from the previous year estimates.
- By comparison, 22.5% of children in California lived in poverty during the past year.

- In 2011, 37.7% of Kern County children under age 5 lived below the poverty threshold.
- Statewide, the poverty rate of young children was 24.7% during the same year.
- The 2011 poverty rate for children under five years of age being raised by single mothers was 64.6% compared to 40.7% of young children in single father homes and 22.7% in married-couple families.
- African-American and Latino children were more likely to live in poor families in Kern County than are Caucasian and Asian children.
- In 2011, 23.4% of Caucasian children and 16.4% of Asian children, were poor, compared with 54.3% of African-American children and 40.3% of Latino children.

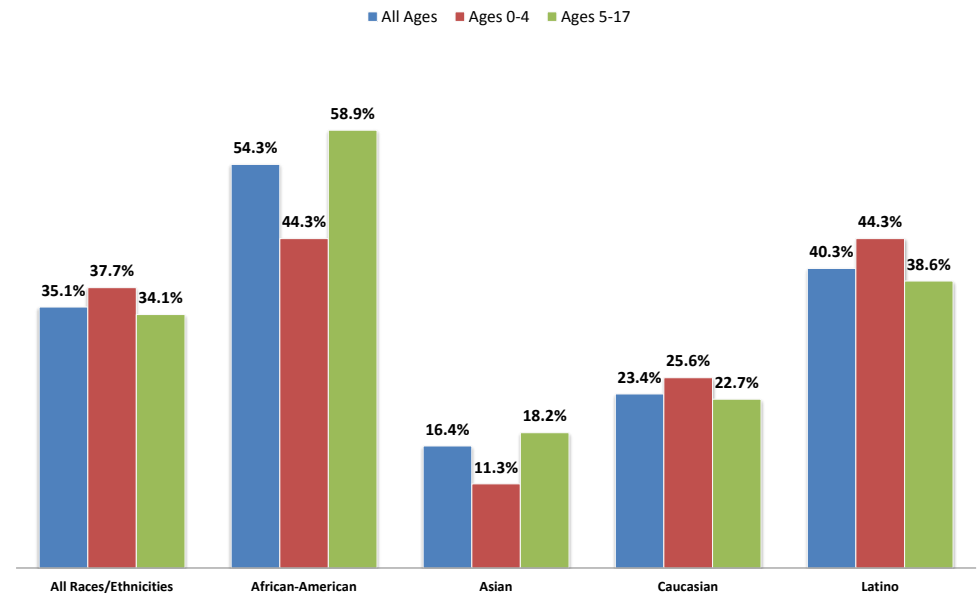
Additional customizable Kern County and California poverty data are available using KidsData.Org.



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



Child Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity & Age Kern County, 2011



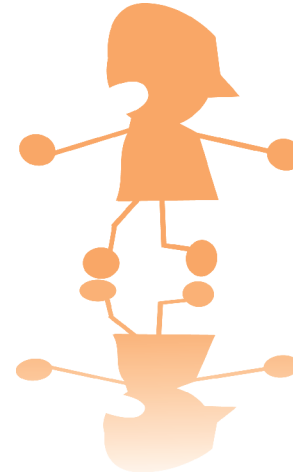
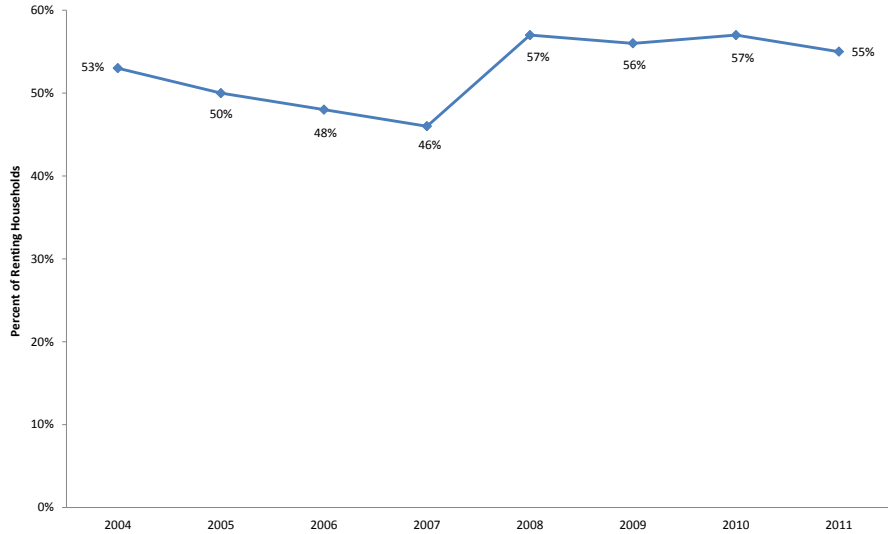
Children in Poverty (0-17)	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	30.3%	30.4%	35.1%
California	19.6%	21.6%	22.5%
All Families with Children Percent Living in Poverty	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	25.2%	24.9%	29.2%
California	15.8%	17.6%	18.6%

Children in Poverty (0-4)	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	36.1%	34.5%	37.7%
California	22.0%	23.7%	24.7%
Single Moms with Children Percent Living in Poverty	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	47.5%	47.1%	54.1%
California	33.5%	35.4%	37.4%

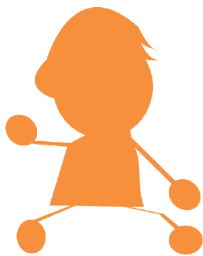
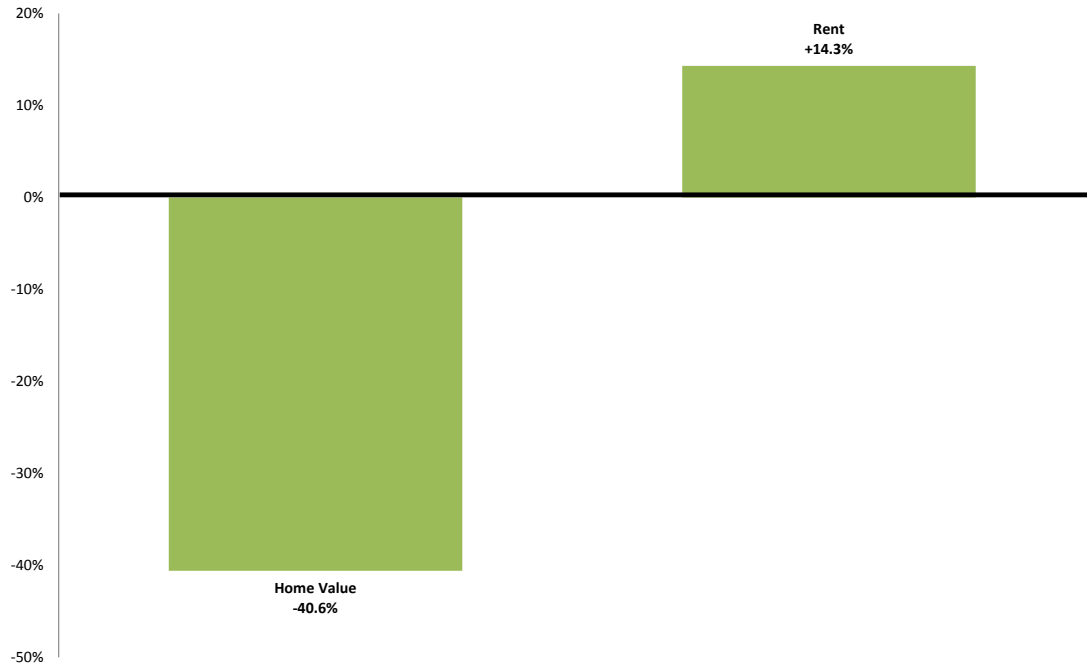
Children in Poverty (5-17)	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	27.8%	28.7%	34.1%
California	18.5%	20.9%	21.7%
Students Enrolled in Free or Reduced Price Meal Program	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Kern County	68.1%	69.2%	67.1%
California	55.9%	56.7%	57.5%

Housing

Renting Households Spending More than 30% of Income on Rent
Kern County, 2004-2011



Percent Change in Home Value & Residential Rent
Kern County, 2006-2011



- In 2011, Kern County had 255,000 occupied housing units - 144,000 (57%) owner occupied and 111,000 (43%) renter occupied.
- 56% of Kern County children lived in a rented housing unit during 2011.
- During 2011, the median gross rent in Kern County was \$839.
- Families paying more than 30% of their gross income for housing are cost burdened and often have difficulty meeting other important financial obligations.
- The Census estimated 55% of renting households spent 30% or more of their household income on rent in 2011, a rate lower than California's figure of 58%.
- The 2013 Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kern County is \$804 a month.
- In 2013, Kern County's monthly housing wage is \$2,680; the full-time hourly housing wage is \$15.46.
- Kern County's housing wage represents 193% of the current minimum wage.
- A renter in Kern County earning minimum wage must work 77 hours per week to afford a two bedroom rental unit at fair market rent.

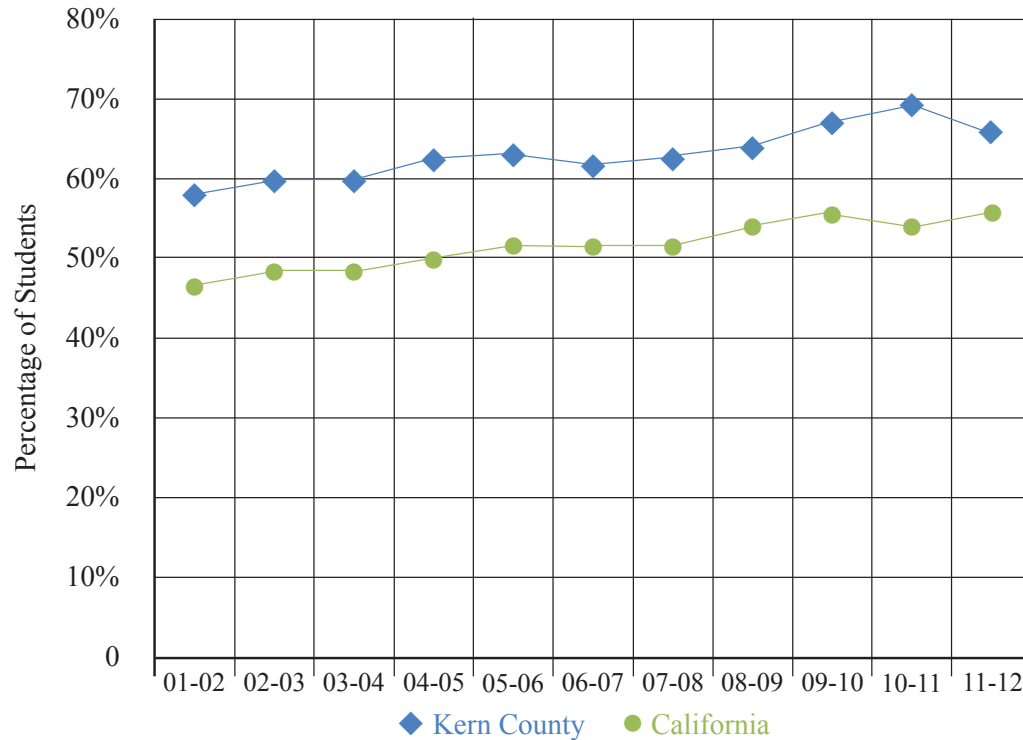
Additional customizable Kern County and California cost of living data are available using KidsData.Org.



Food

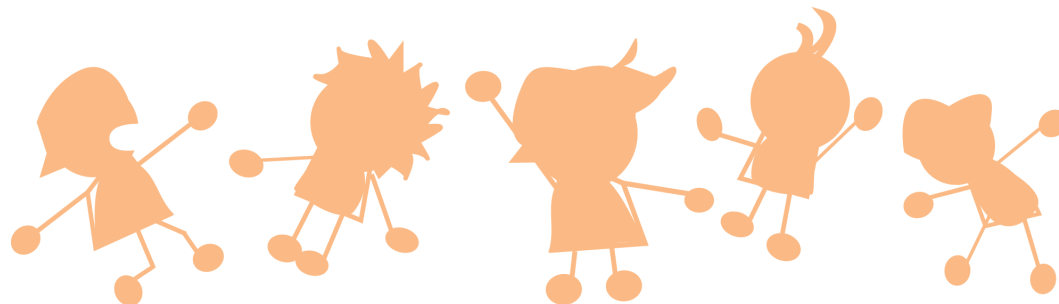
- In December 2012, 58,724 households in Kern County participated in the food assistance program called CalFresh.
- Since the recession began in late 2007, the number of Kern County households participating in CalFresh has increased 91%, a total of 27,938 more households.
- In November 2009, 53,975 participants in Kern County received WIC services administered by Community Action Partnership of Kern and Clinica Sierra Vista.
- The California Department of Health Services estimates that 89% of Kern County's eligible women, infants and young children were enrolled in the WIC program, a figure higher than the state rate of 82%.
- In 2009, there were 181 WIC-authorized stores throughout Kern County, a rate of 0.22 WIC-authorized stores per 1,000 population.
- In Kern County, the free/reduced meal enrollment in the 2011-12 school year was a participation rate of 67% in the program.

Free/Reduced Meal Enrollment
Kern County & California, 2001-02 through 2011-12



California Department of Education

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



K-12 Education

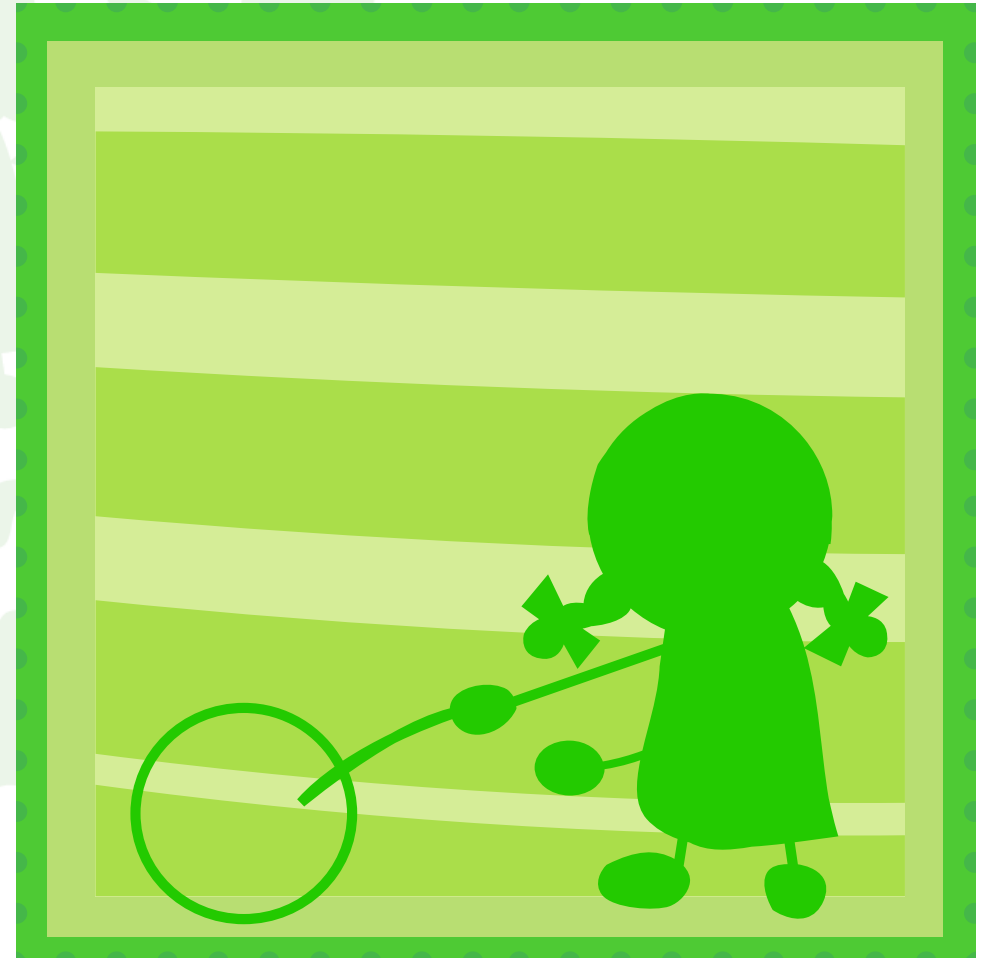
The chapter *K-12 Education* presents an overview of Kern County's public K-12 students and their educational achievements. Education provides young people a gateway to more opportunities and greater success in life. Indicators related to academic performance, such as standardized testing and completing high school, often serve as a predictor of a child's current and future social, economic and physical well-being.

Key Facts

- Public school enrollment begins to increase after three consecutive years of decline.
- Student achievement on the California Standards Test continues to increase throughout Kern County schools, however, an achievement gap remains among socio-economic groups.
- The majority of Kern students are passing the high school exit exam on their first try in 10th grade.
- Kern's high school graduation rate rose for the 3rd straight year with more than two-thirds of students entering high school in the fall of 2008 graduating 4 years later as the class of 2012.
- Nearly one-third of Kern County high school graduates were meeting entrance requirements for UC/CSU systems.

Jump to -

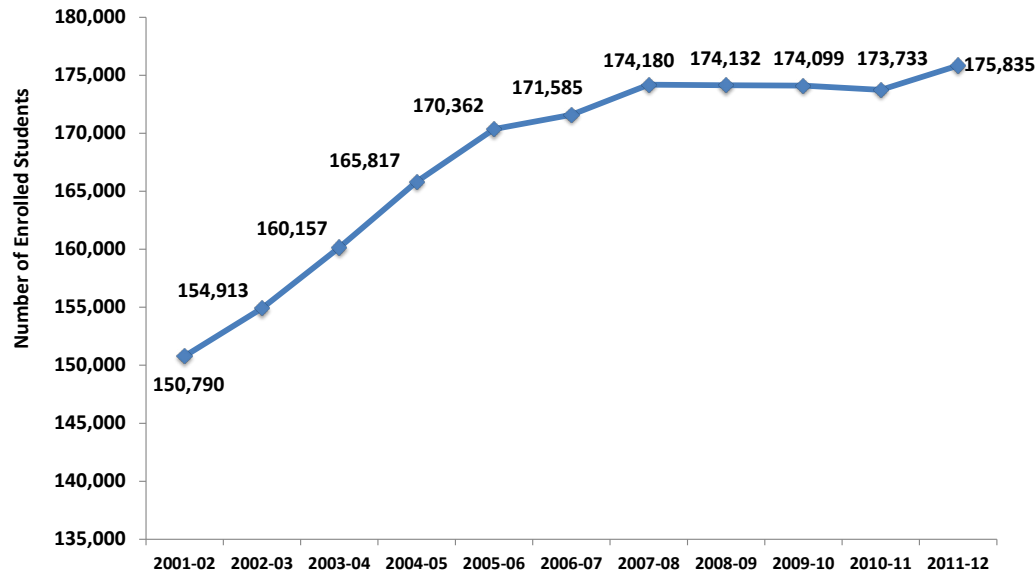
- [Students](#)
- [Academic Achievement & Educational Attainment](#)
- [Contents Page](#)



Students

- In the 2011-12 school year, 175,835 students were enrolled in the county's 269 public schools, 2,102 more students than the previous year.
- Kern County averaged 23.4 students in each classroom during the 2011-12 academic year, a figure slightly lower than the state's average of 23.6 students.
- The student-teacher ratio in Kern County was 22.7 students for every full time teacher during the 2011-12 school year, the same as the student-teacher ratio statewide.
- Kern schools are linguistically diverse, with 43 languages or dialects represented by students county-wide.
- During the 2011-12 academic year, 36,801 students (21% of total county enrollment) were English Learners.
- Most English Learner students were in the earlier grade levels, and nearly all spoke Spanish as their first language (95%).
- Kern County's Special Education system served 16,911 children and young adults from newborn to age 22 during the 2011-12 school year.

K-12 Public Student Enrollment by Year
Kern County, 2001-02 through 2011-12

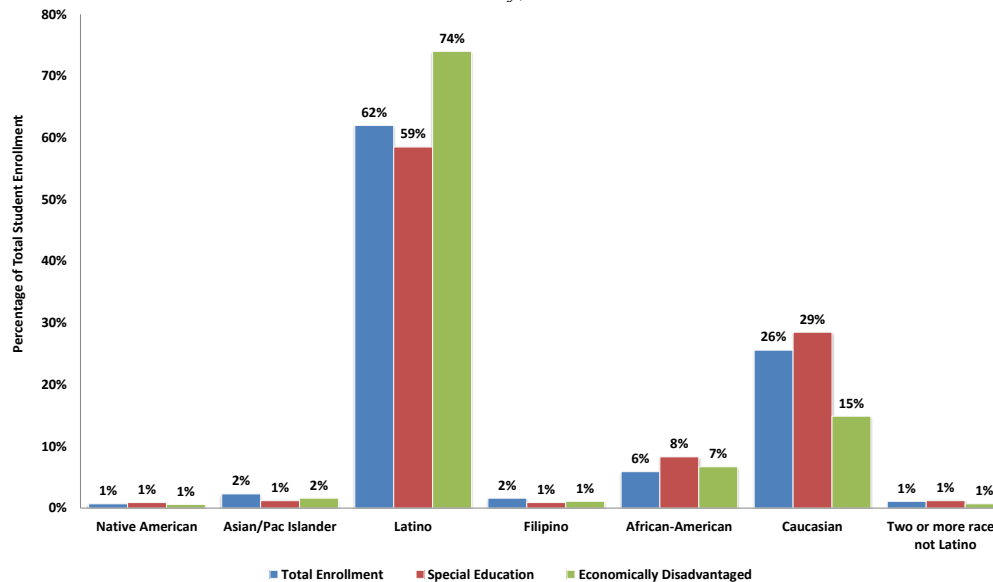


- Of the 5th grade students surveyed in Kern County, 77% believed there was a teacher or other adult who cared about them all or most of the time and 87% reported that there was a teacher or other adult who believed they could do a good job.

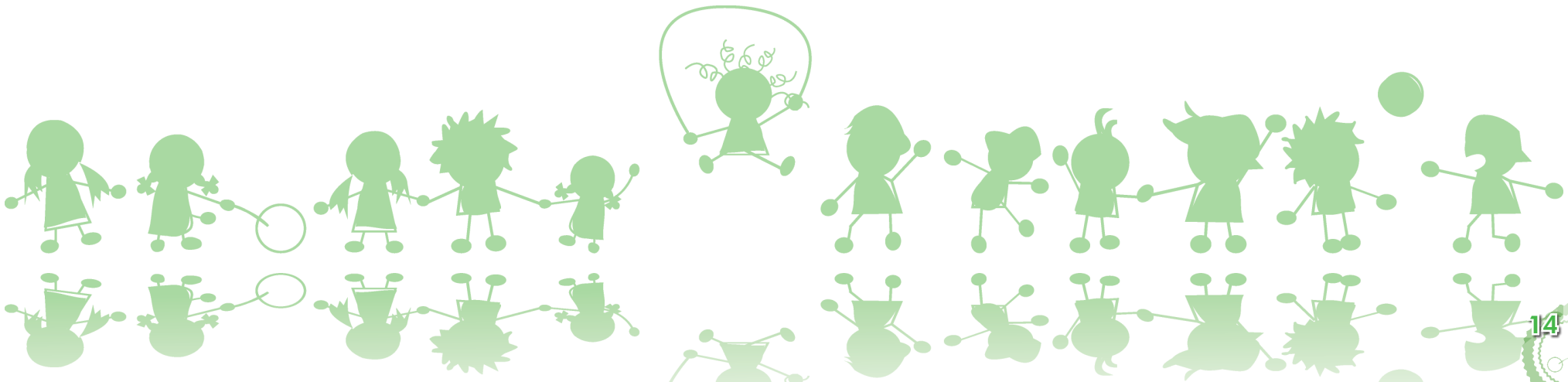
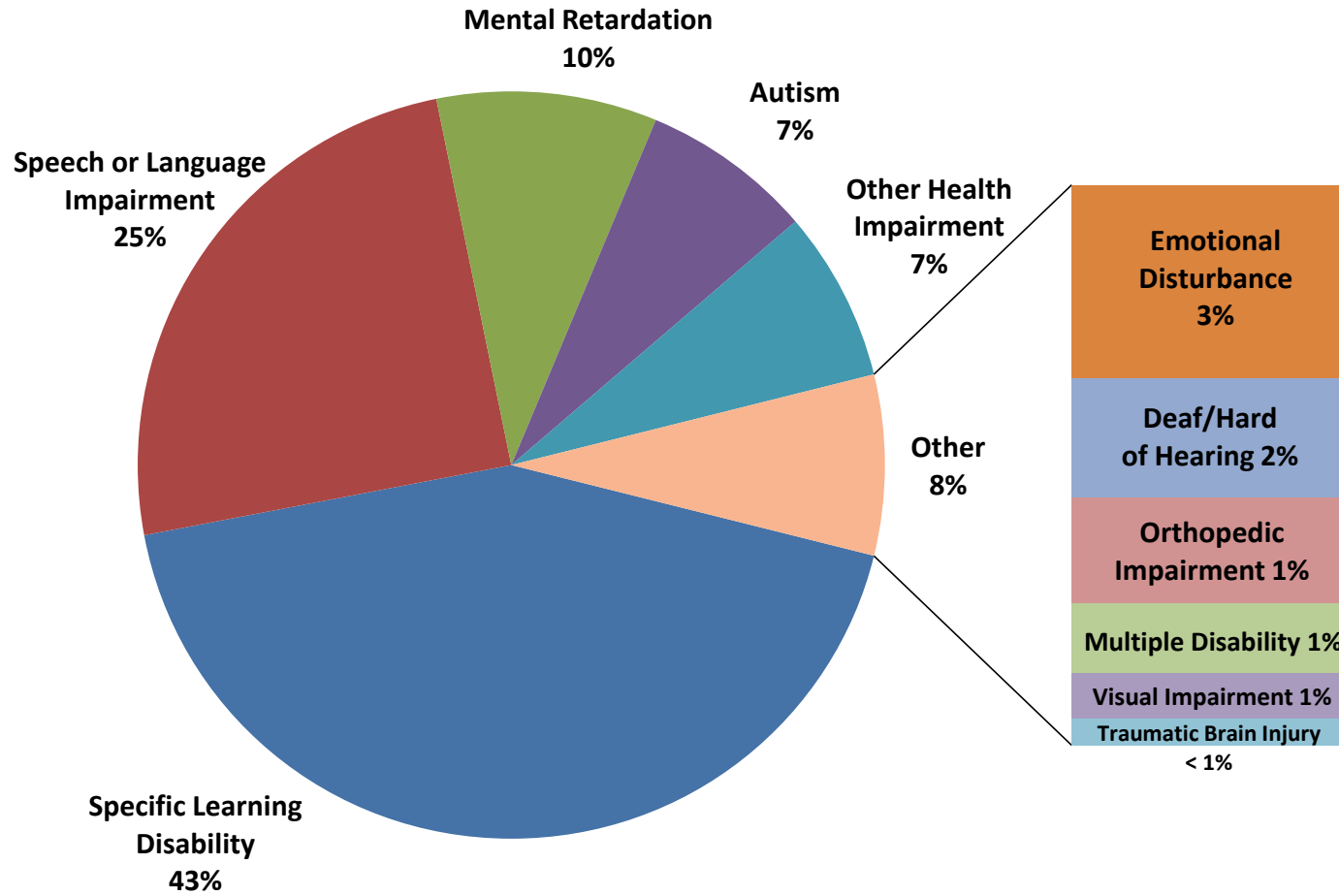
Additional customizable Kern County and California child educational data are available using KidsData.Org.



Total K-12 Public Student Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity
Kern County, 2011-12



Students Receiving Special Education Services by Primary Disability
Kern County, 2011-12



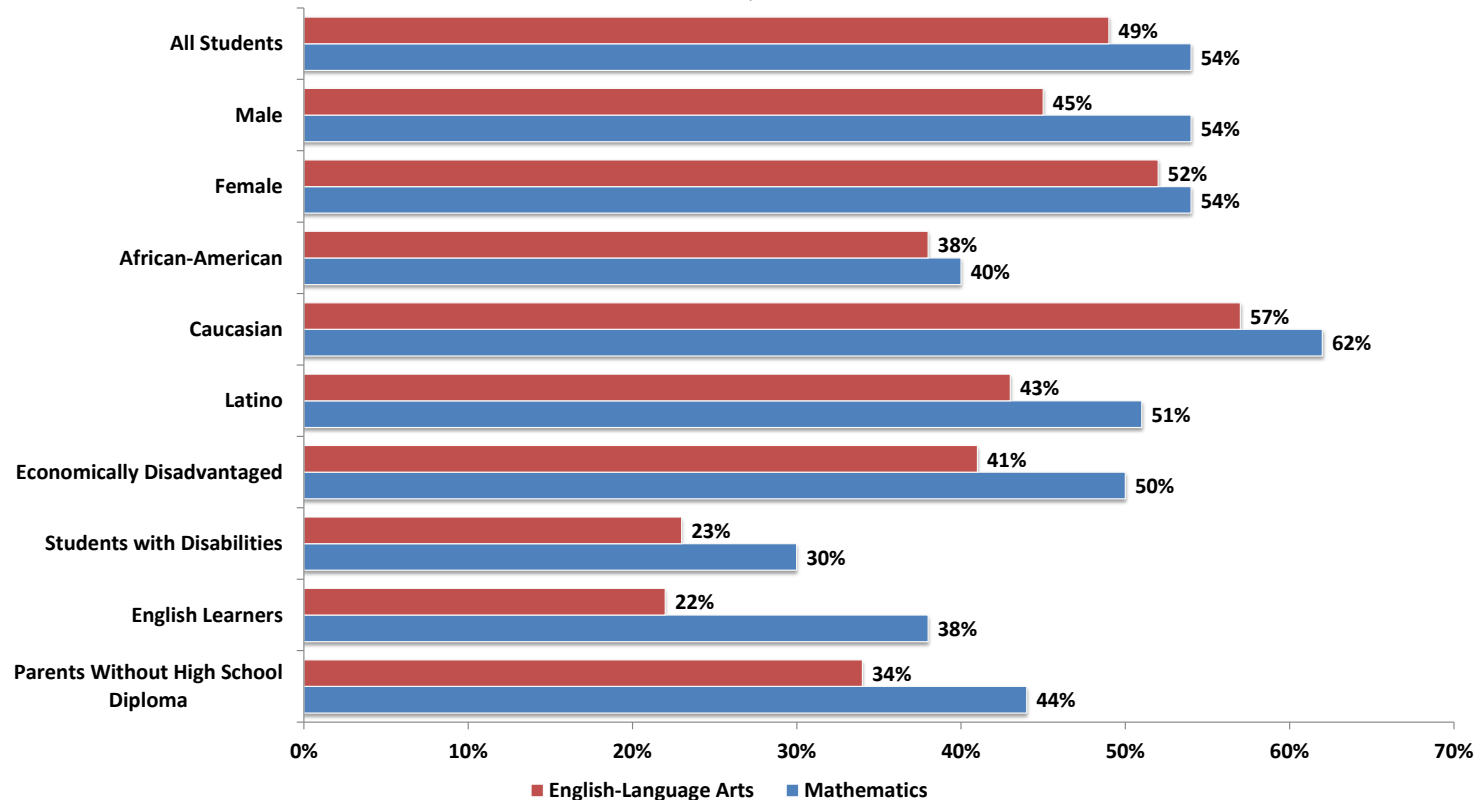
Academic Achievement

California Standards Test Scores Kern County & California, 2009-10 through 2011-12

Kern County			
3rd Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	09-10	10-11	11-12
English Language Arts	34%	37%	38%
Mathematics	57%	60%	62%
7th Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	09-10	10-11	11-12
English Language Arts	45%	47%	52%
Mathematics	42%	42%	45%

California			
3rd Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	09-10	10-11	11-12
English Language Arts	44%	46%	48%
Mathematics	65%	68%	69%
7th Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	09-10	10-11	11-12
English Language Arts	55%	57%	62%
Mathematics	49%	50%	52%

Students (Grades 2-7) Scoring Proficient or Higher on English Language Arts & Mathematics CST
Kern County, 2012



Educational Attainment

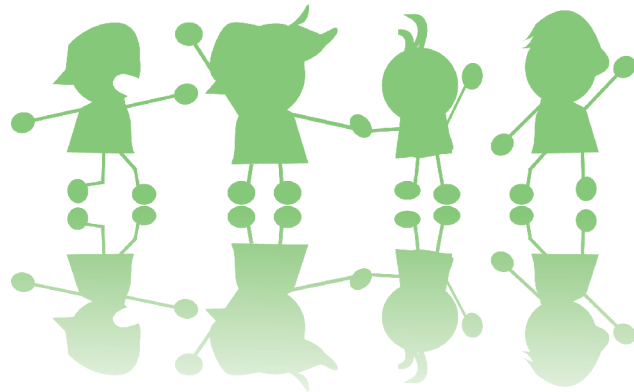
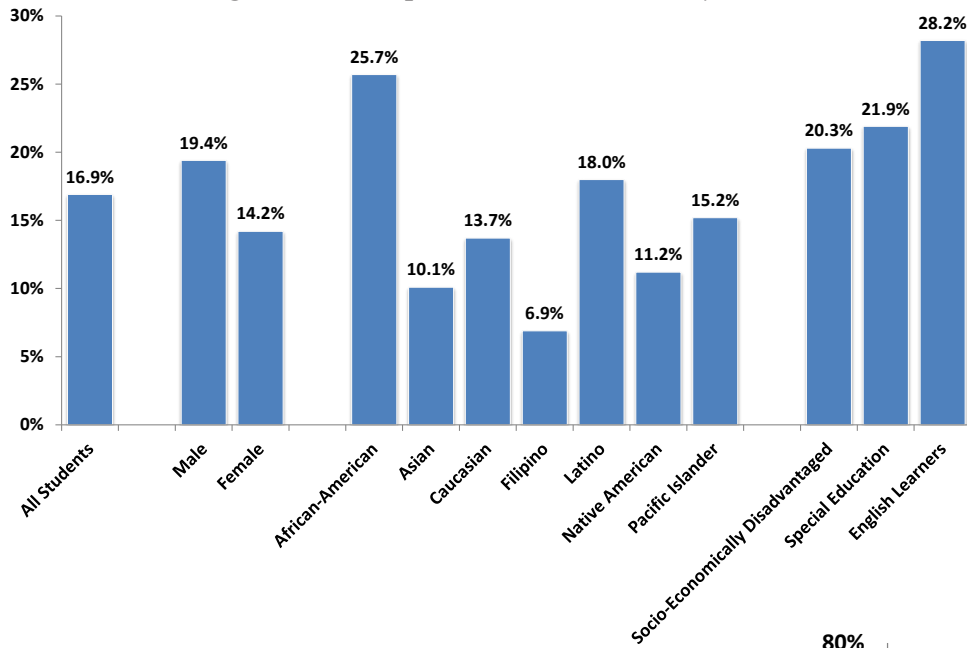
Educational Attainment Indicators Kern County & California, 2009-10 through 2011-12

Kern County			
Out-of-School Youth Percent of youth ages 16-19 not in school and without high school diploma	2009	2010	2011
American Community Survey, US Census	6.1%	7.8%	8.5%
CAHSEE %of 10th graders taking exam	09-10	10-11	11-12
English Language Arts	77%	80%	80%
Mathematics	79%	80%	80%
Graduation Rates	09-10	10-11	11-12
Cohort Graduation Rate	74.0%	75.3%	76.1%
High School Dropout Rate	09-10	10-11	11-12
Cohort Dropout Rate	17.6%	16.6%	16.9%
College Prepared Youth	09-10	10-11	11-12
% Grads w/ CSU/UC Require	26.1%	29.0%	29.2%
% 12th Graders Taking SAT	20.4%	26.6%	n/a
Community Education Levels Percent of all adults 25 and older without at least high school diploma	2009	2010	2011
American Community Survey, US Census	28.5%	28.9%	27.2%

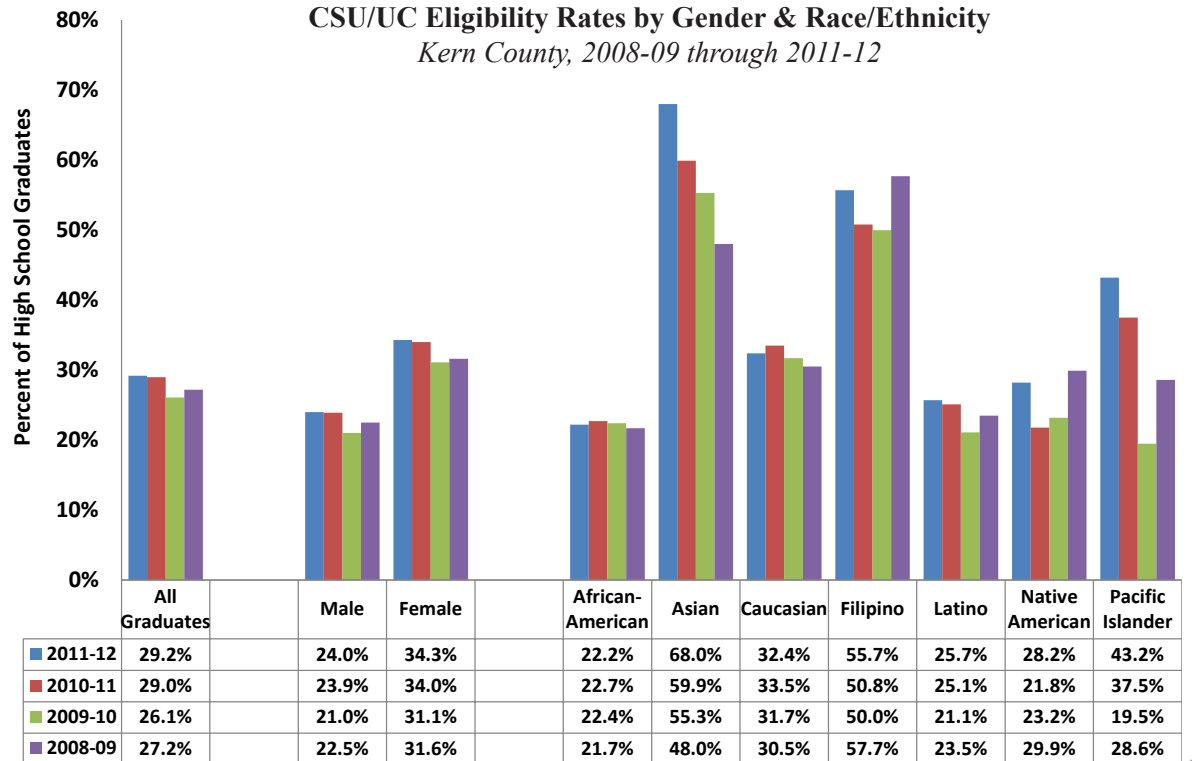
California			
Out-of-School Youth Percent of youth ages 16-19 not in school and without high school diploma	2009	2010	2011
American Community Survey, US Census	3.5%	5.3%	5.4%
CASHEE %of 10th graders taking exam	09-10	10-11	11-12
English Language Arts	81%	82%	83%
Mathematics	81%	83%	84%
Graduation Rates	09-10	10-11	11-12
Cohort Graduation Rate	74.7%	77.1%	78.5%
High School Dropout Rate	09-10	10-11	11-12
Cohort Dropout Rate	16.6%	14.7%	13.2%
College Prepared Youth	09-10	10-11	11-12
% Grads w/ CSU/UC Require	35.6%	36.9%	38.3%
% 12th Graders Taking SAT	33.4%	38.0%	n/a
Community Education Levels Percent of all adults 25 and older without at least high school diploma	2009	2010	2011
American Community Survey, US Census	19.4%	19.3%	18.9%

Educational Attainment cont.

High School Dropout Rates – Kern County, 2011-12

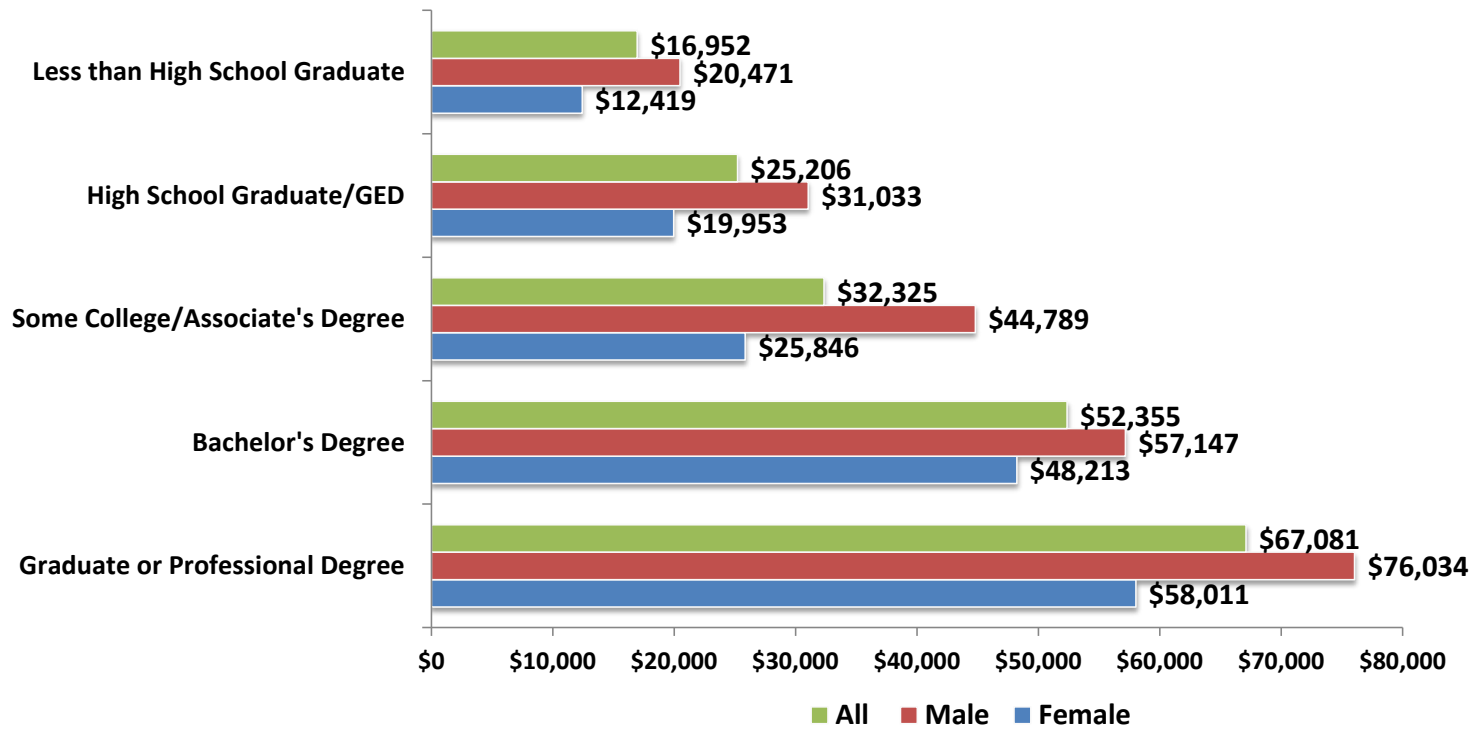


CSU/UC Eligibility Rates by Gender & Race/Ethnicity Kern County, 2008-09 through 2011-12

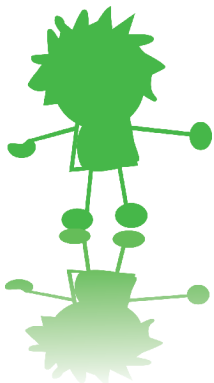
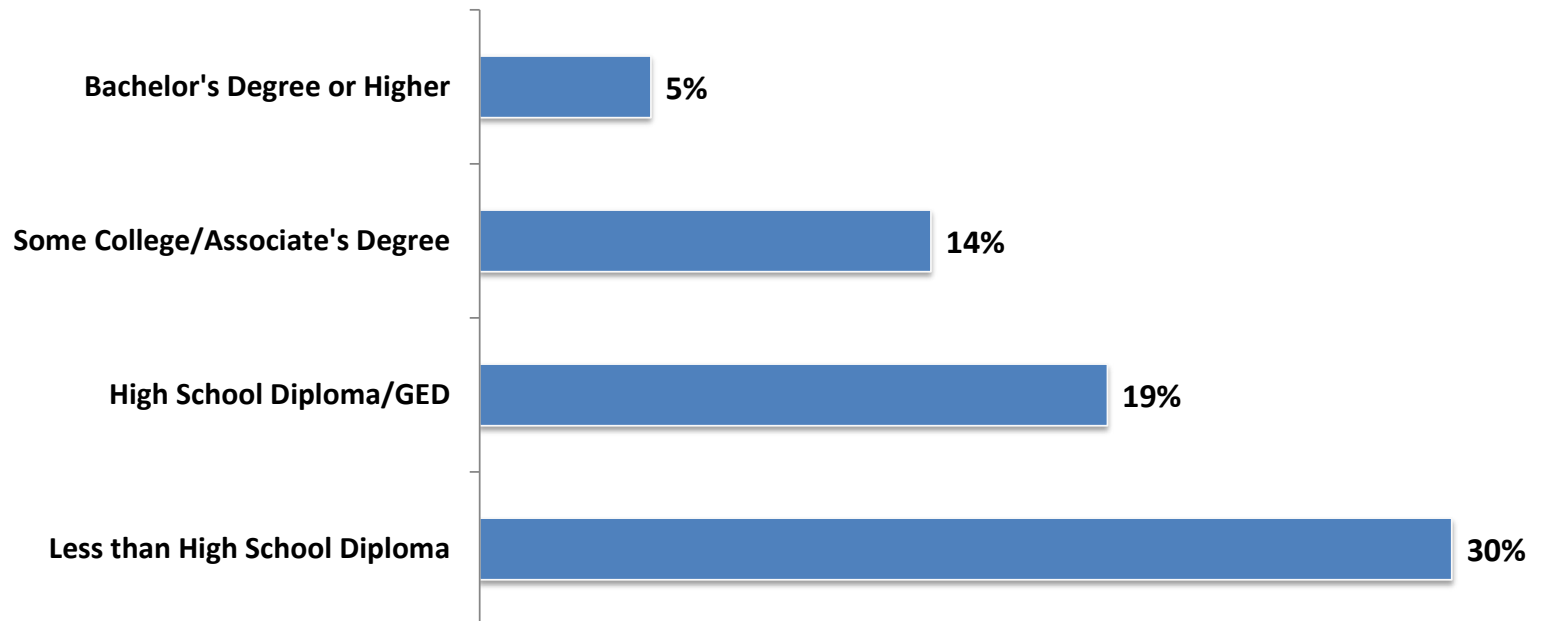


Educational Attainment *cont.*

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



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



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

- A higher percentage of Kern County pregnant mothers received prenatal care in their first trimester than the previous year.
- The rate of Kern County infants dying before their first birthday declined 27% since 2008.
- More than a third of Kern County's 5th graders fell within the high-risk category for body composition.
- Despite a 21% decline since 2011, Kern County's teen birth rate was ranked the 3rd highest in the State.
- Kern continues to have the highest Chlamydia infection rate in State with rates highest among teen girls.
- Alcohol is the leading drug used by Kern County teens.
- In Kern County, survey results show more 7th, 9th and 12th graders regularly smoked marijuana than tobacco.

Jump to -

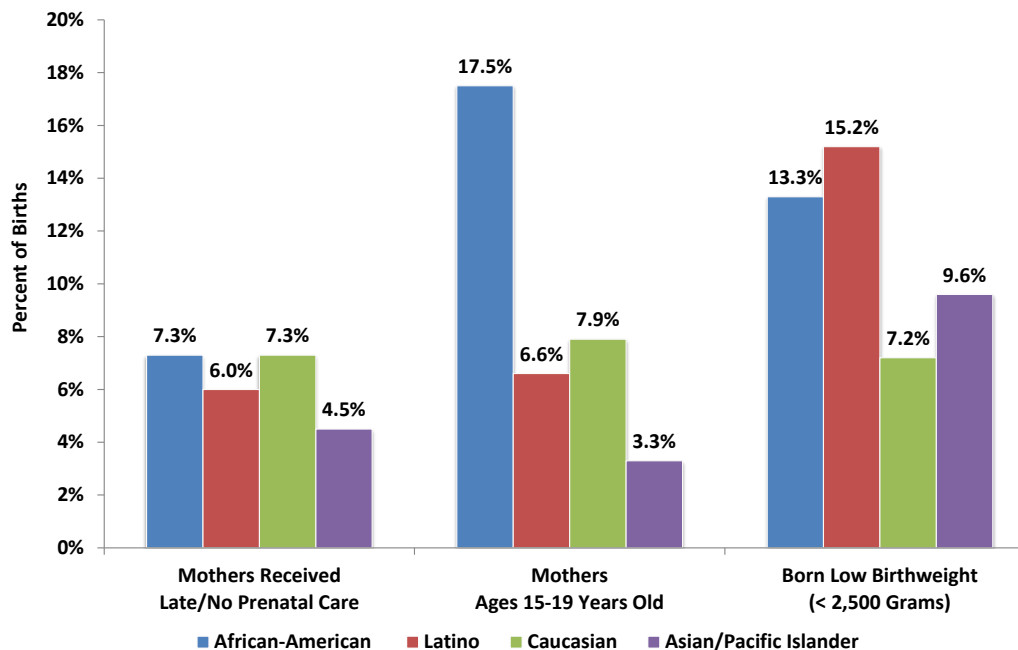
- [Infant Health](#)
- [Child Health](#)
- [Contents Page](#)
- [Adolescent Health](#)
- [Tobacco, Alcohol & Substance Use](#)



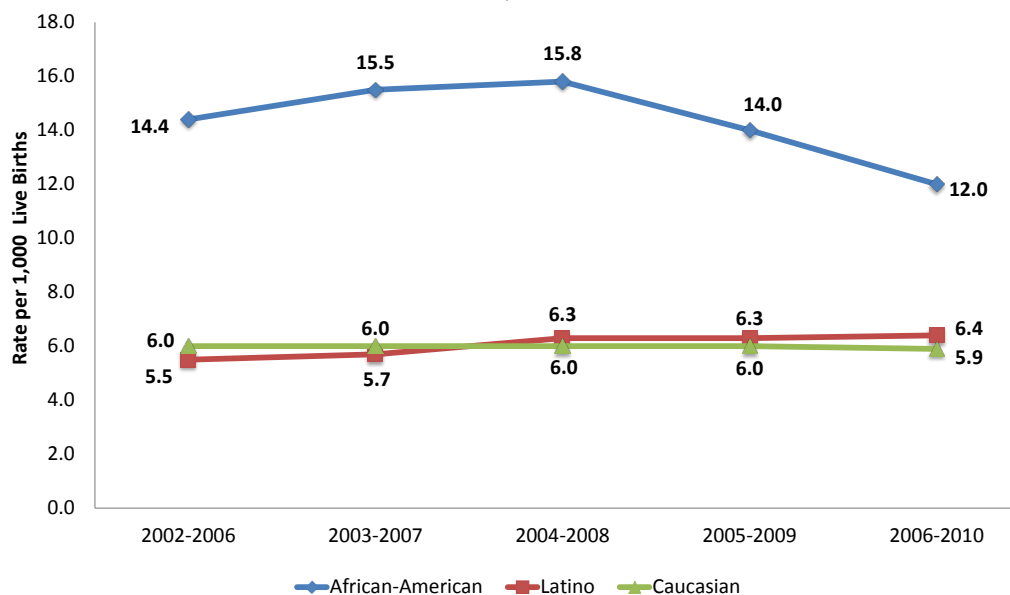
Infant Health

- In 2011, 73.0% of pregnant mothers in Kern County obtained prenatal care services during the first trimester of their pregnancies, compared to 71.3% the previous year.
- In California, 81.7% of mothers received care during their first trimester during 2011.
- During 2011, 14,287 babies were born in Kern County.
- In 2010, the most recent year data is available, 12.2% of Kern County babies were born prior to 37 weeks, placing them at greater risk of disability and dying during infancy.
- By comparison, 10.0% of California's babies were premature during 2010.
- In 2011, 1,034 babies were born at a low birthweight, 7.2% of Kern County's total live births.
- In California, 6.8% of babies were born with a low birthweight.
- Since 2006, a total of 32 newborns in Kern County have been delivered to a "safe surrender site," a direct result of California's Safely Surrendered Baby Law to reduce the number of abandoned baby deaths in the state.
- In 2010, the most recent year data is available, 71

Percentage of Babies Born by Selected Measures & Race/Ethnicity
Kern County, 2011



Infant Death Rate by Race/Ethnicity
Kern County, 2002-2010

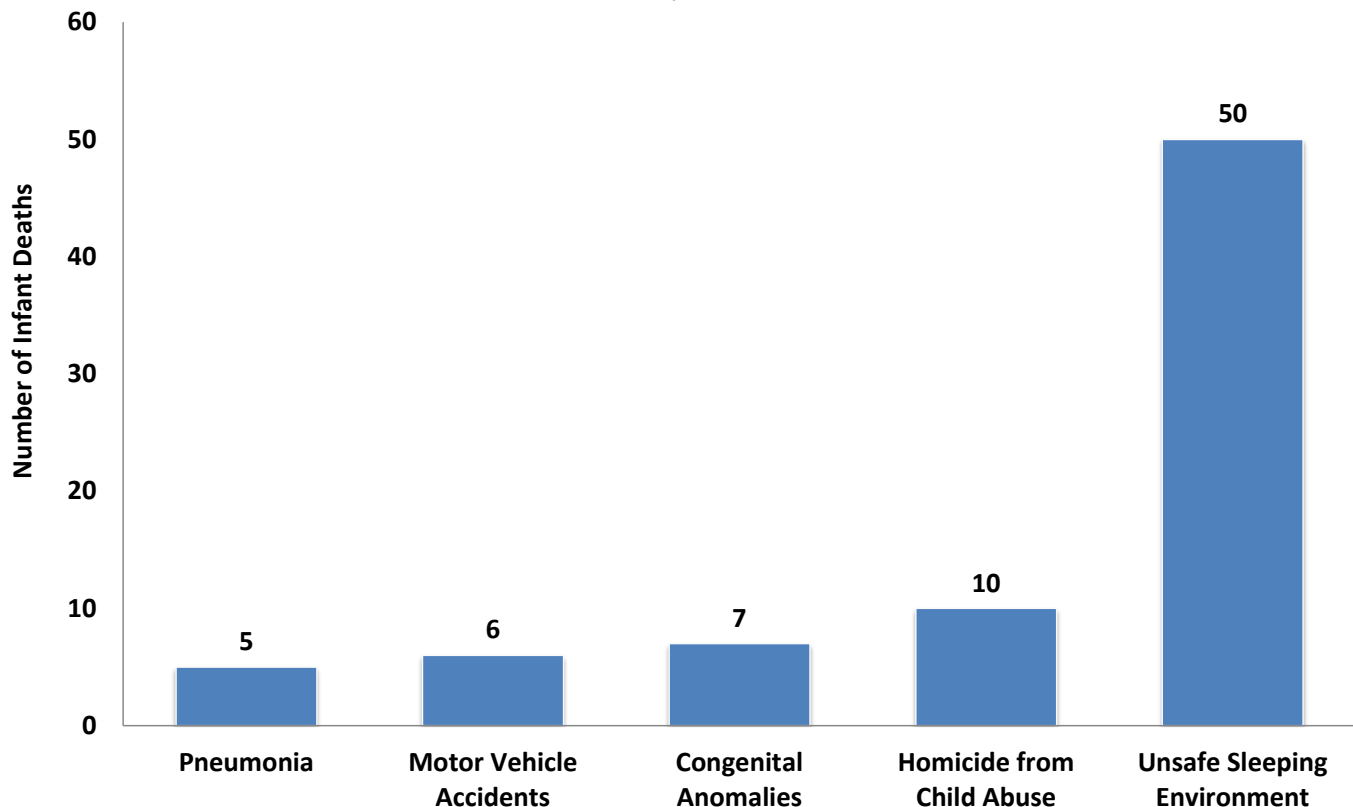


- Kern County babies died before their first birthday.
- The three-year (2007-2009) average mortality rate for infants in Kern County was 7.2 per 1,000 live births.*
- Kern's infant mortality rate was higher than the rate for California (5.2 per 1,000).
- Deaths linked to an unsafe sleeping environment were the leading cause of infant death in cases reviewed by the Kern County Child Death Review Team.
- From 2007 through 2011, 51 infants died in their sleep, representing 53% of the infant deaths reviewed.
- 50 infant deaths were linked to unintentional suffocation and "undetermined" causes from unsafe sleeping environments.
- The majority of these deaths linked to an unsafe sleep environment occurred between the years of 2009 and 2010 when 28 babies died in their sleep.*
- 85.1% of Kern County mothers breastfed in the hospital after giving birth, while only 45.7% of mothers breastfed exclusively after giving birth.

*Most recent data available.

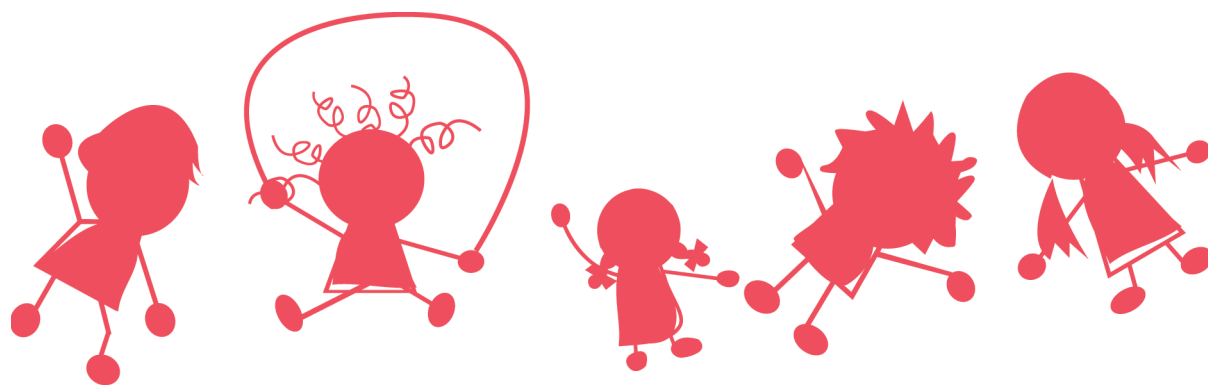
Infant Deaths by Top Five Causes - Cases Reviewed by Child Death Review Team

Kern County, 2007-2011



- Similar to statewide trends, Caucasian mothers were more likely to breastfeed exclusively than other racial/ethnic groups (60.6%) in Kern County.
- African American and Latina mothers were less likely as Caucasian mothers to breastfeed their newborns exclusively after giving birth, 27.9% and 40.5%, respectively.

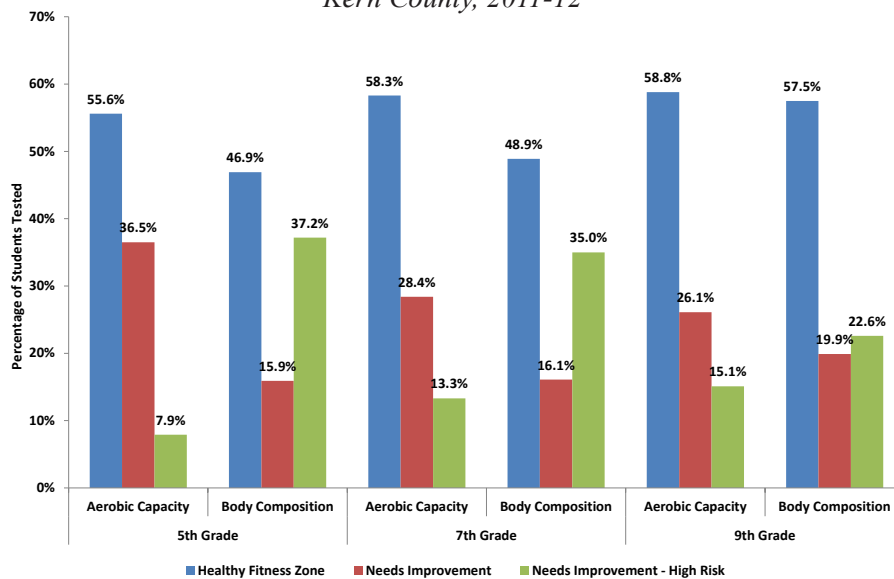
Additional customizable Kern County and California infant health data are available using KidsData.Org.



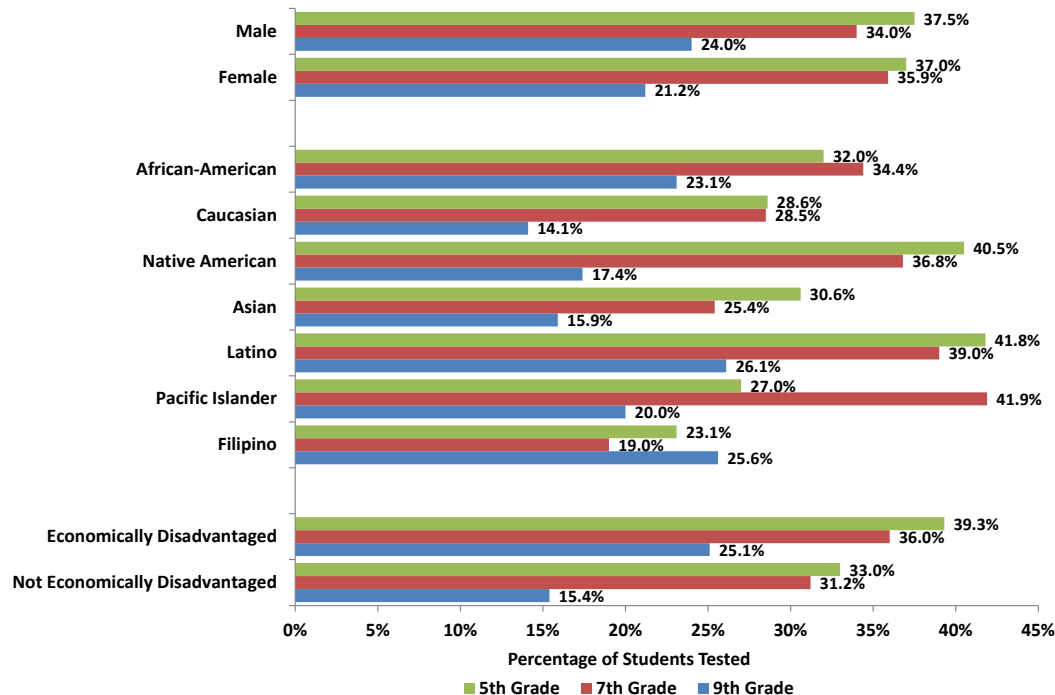
Child Health

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

Kern County, 2011-12



Percentage of 5th, 7th & 9th Graders within High-Risk Category for Body Composition By Selected Demographics – Kern County, 2011-12



- In 2011, 93% of Kern County children enrolling in Kindergarten had all required immunizations, surpassing the state's goal of 90% coverage.
- In 2011, 98.1% of 7th-12th grade students enrolled in Kern County schools reporting data completed the pertussis immunization (Tdap) requirement to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough).
- During the 2011-12 school year, 37,269 Kern County 5th, 7th and 9th graders completed California Physical Fitness Testing for aerobic capacity, abdominal, trunk and upper body strength, body composition and flexibility.
- Among these students, 21.3% of 5th graders, 29.1% of 7th graders and 29.1% of 9th graders passed all six exercises.
- About 7.9% of Kern County's 5th graders, 13.3% of 7th graders and 15.1% of 9th graders fell into in the high-risk category for aerobic capacity, indicating their fitness levels are not sufficient for good health.
- Kern County results show 37.2% of 5th graders, 35.0% of 7th graders and 22.6% of 9th graders were in the high-risk category for body composition.

- Results from the 2009 California Health Interview Survey estimate that 13% of children (ages 1-17 years) in Kern County have been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetime.*
- Approximately, 35% of the Kern County students diagnosed with asthma missed between five and ten days of school in the past year.
- About, 95% of students with asthma experienced one or more asthma attacks during the last year
- During 2009, there were 2,052 emergency room visits by Kern County children and youth due to asthma. Children under age five accounted for 44% of all emergency room visits.*
- According to the 2009 California Health Interview Survey, 84% of Kern County's children, ages 2-11 years, had visited a dentist at least one time in the last 12 months. Further, 15% of Kern County children surveyed, ages 2-11, had never seen a dentist.*
- As of 2009, 11% of Kern County's children under 18 years of age had not visited a physician within the past year.*

*Most recent data available.

... CONTINUED

Late or No Prenatal Care (Percentage of live births)	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	5.4%	5.9%	6.7%
California	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%

Premature Births (Percentage of live births)	2008	2009	2010
Kern County	13.9%	13.5%	12.2%
California	10.7%	10.4%	10.0%

Births to Teen Mothers 15-19 (Percentage of live births)	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	14.3%	13.9%	12.8%
California	9.1%	8.5%	7.6%

Births to Teen Mothers 15-19 (Rate per 1,000 population)	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	59.7	56.0	50.7
California	32.1	29.0	26.0
United States	39.1	34.3	31.3

Low Birth Weight Births (Percentage of live births)	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	7.4%	7.0%	7.2%
California	6.8%	6.8%	6.7%

Infant Mortality Rate (Rate per 1,000 live births)	2008	2009	2010
Kern County	7.2	6.7	4.9
California	5.1	4.9	4.7

Healthy Body Weight (Percentage of 5 th /7 th /9 th grade)	2009 -2010	2010 -2011	2011 -2012
Kern County	64.6%	50.5%	51.0%
California	69.5%	55.6%	55.6%

Chlamydia Infection in Female Youth (Ages 15-19) (Rate per 100,000 population)	2009	2010	2011
Kern County	3,069.5	3,267.3	3,505.7
California	2,216.6	2,247.0	2,293.4
United States	3,329.3	3,378.2	3,416.5

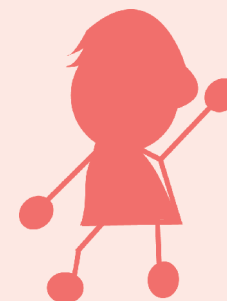
Kern County Births to Teens 15-19 (2011)	African American	Caucasian	Latino	Asian/ Pac Islander	Native American	Total *
Number of Live Births	144	330	1,304	16	9	1,825
Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 females in race/ethnicity group	64.7	25.0	70.3	12.9	27.8	50.7

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

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

*Most recent data available.

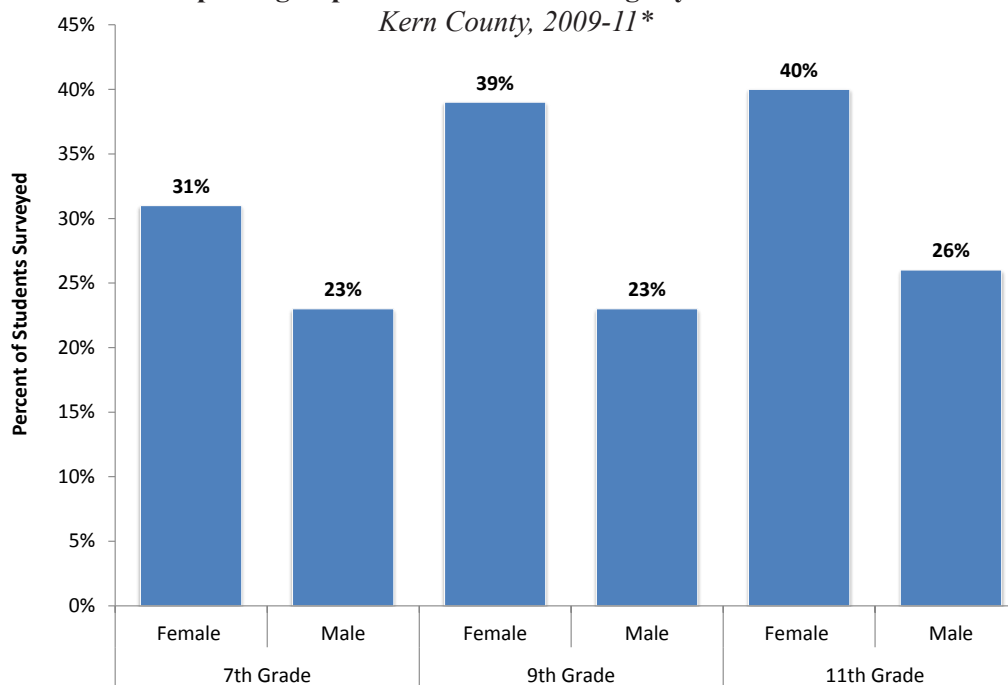
Additional customizable Kern County and California child health data are available using KidsData.Org.



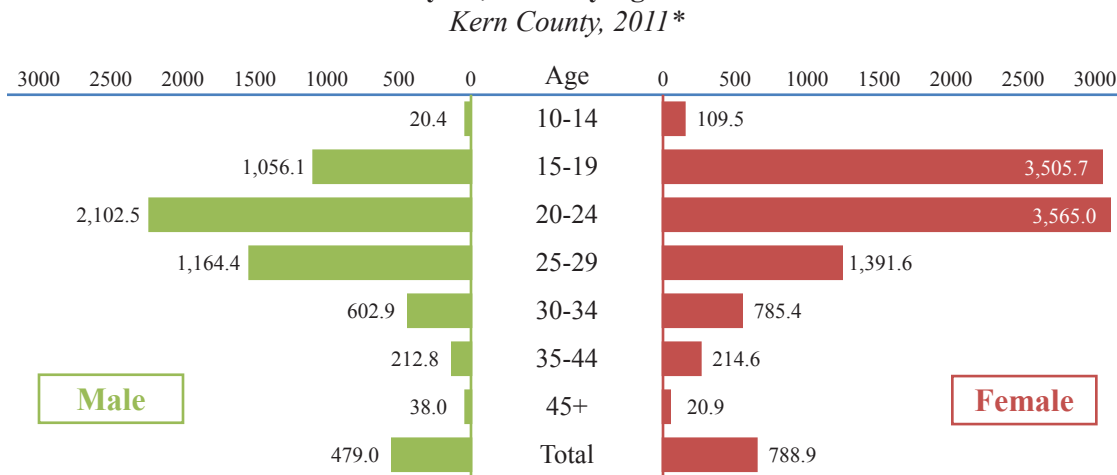
Adolescent Health

- In 2011, 1,825 babies were born to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 years in Kern County, a birth rate of 50.7 per 1,000 females in this age group.
- During the same year, California's teen birth rate was 26.0 per 1,000 females.
- The 2009-11 three-year average of 57.2 per 1,000 females ranks the county 3rd for highest rate of teen births in the state.
- In 2011, the chlamydia infection rate among females aged 15-19 was 53% higher than the state's rate and 3% higher than the national rate.
- Findings from the 2009-11 California Healthy Kids Survey show older students and female students were most likely to report feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more consecutive weeks in the last year.
- In Kern County, 20% of 9th graders and 17% of 11th graders reported on the 2009-11 California Healthy Kids Survey that they seriously considered attempting suicide during the past year.
- From 2000 to 2010, Kern County lost 25 youth the ages of 11 and 17 years to suicide.

Students Reporting Depression-Related Feelings by Gender & Grade Level



Chlamydia, Rates by Age & Gender



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

- Males accounted for 80% of Kern's suicides in this age group.
- Youth committed suicide between 2000 and 2010 with either by hanging/suffocation (44%), a firearm (32%) or poisoning (4%).
- From 2000 to 2010, 276 children and youth between were hospitalized for self-inflicted injuries.
- Females (75%) had a higher rate of attempted suicide than males (25%).
- The attempted suicide rate for Caucasian youth (63%) was considerably higher than any other racial or ethnic group.
- Latino (27%), African American (5%) and Asian/Pacific Islander (2%) comprised the remaining racial/ethnic groups with self-inflicted injuries.
- Most youth attempted suicide by poisoning themselves (90%), followed by cutting/piercing (6%) and hanging/suffocation (1%).

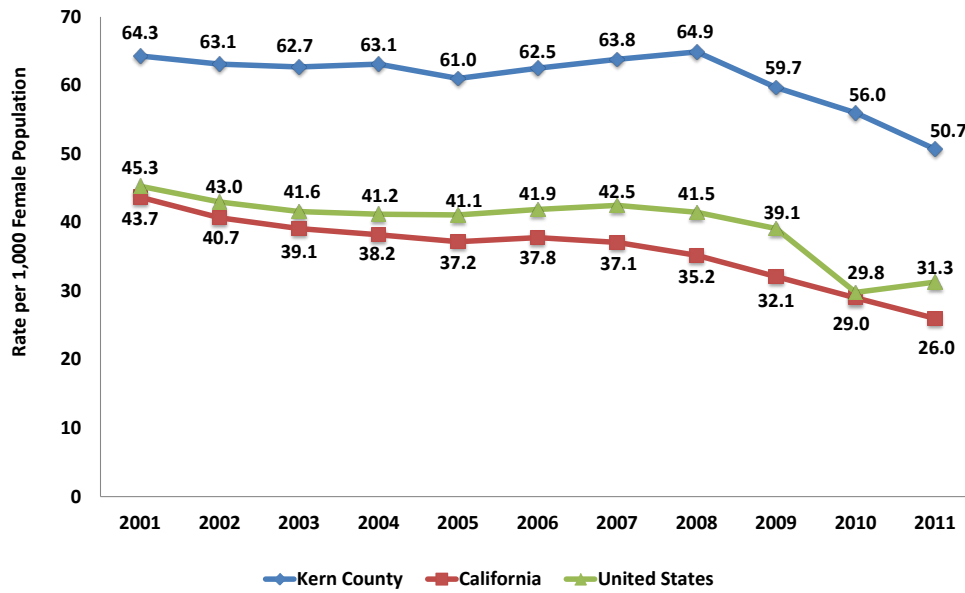
**Most recent data available.*

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

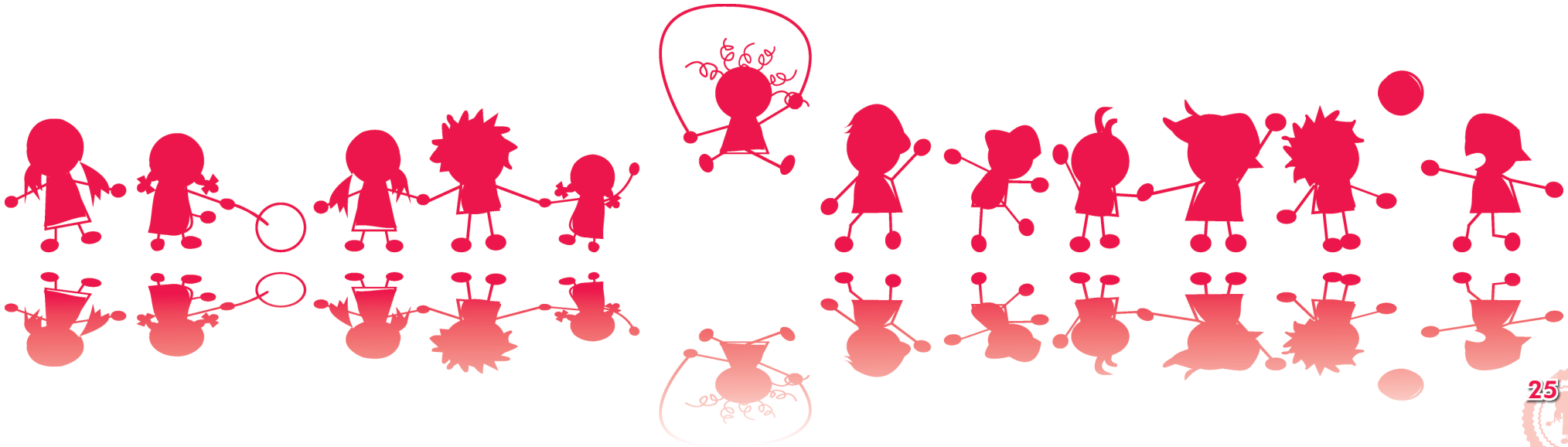
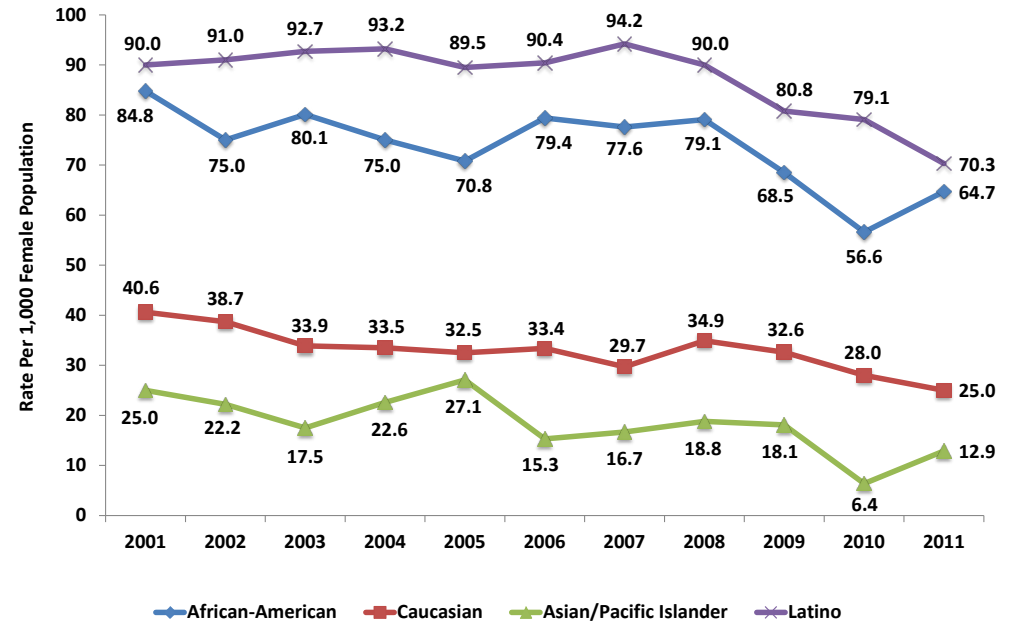


Adolescent Health *cont.*

Birth Rates for Teenage Females Aged 15 - 19 Years
Kern County, California & United States – 2001-2011

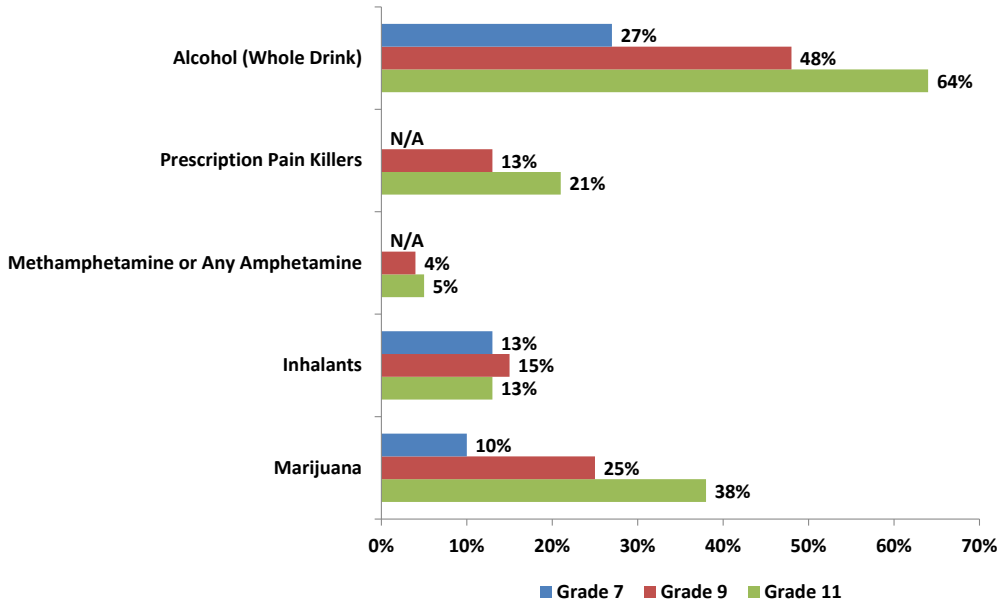


Birth Rates for Teenage Females Aged 15 - 19 Years by Race/Ethnicity
Kern County, 2001-2011

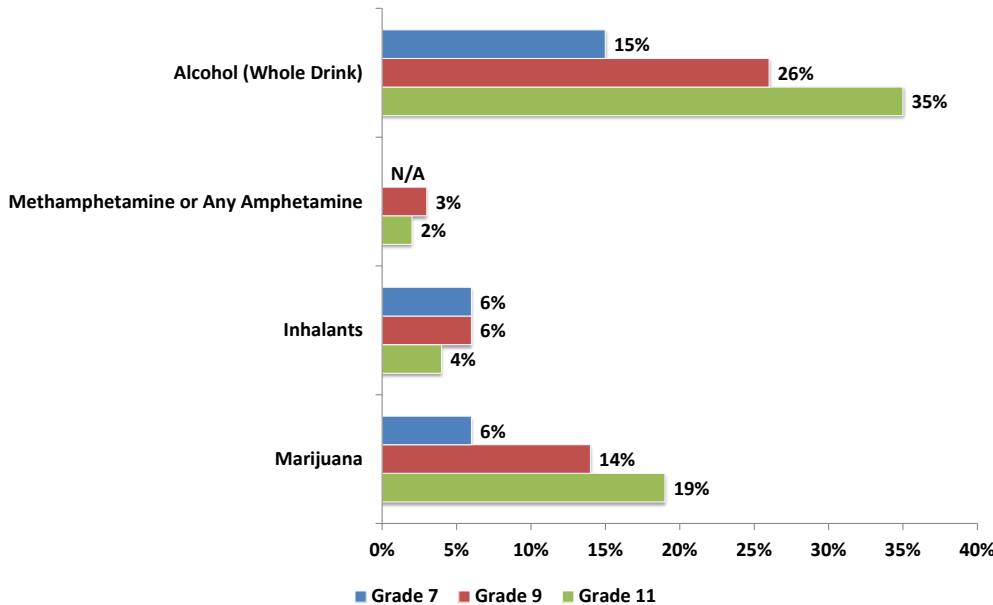


Tobacco, Alcohol & Substance Use

Percent of Students Reporting Use of Alcohol or Other Drugs At Least Once in Their Life by Grade – Kern County, 2009-11



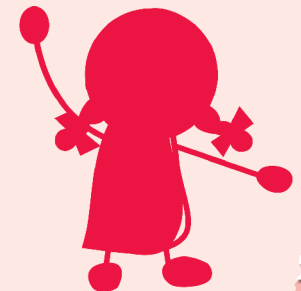
Percent of Students Reporting Use of Alcohol or Other Drugs During Past 30 Days (Current Use) by Grade – Kern County, 2009-11



The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is administered every two years in order to meet the requirements of the federal Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act. Between the fall of 2009 and spring of 2011, the Survey asked 7th, 9th, 11th graders health and behavior questions to find out what problems students face in regards to substance abuse and violence to help put programs in place to effectively address problems.

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

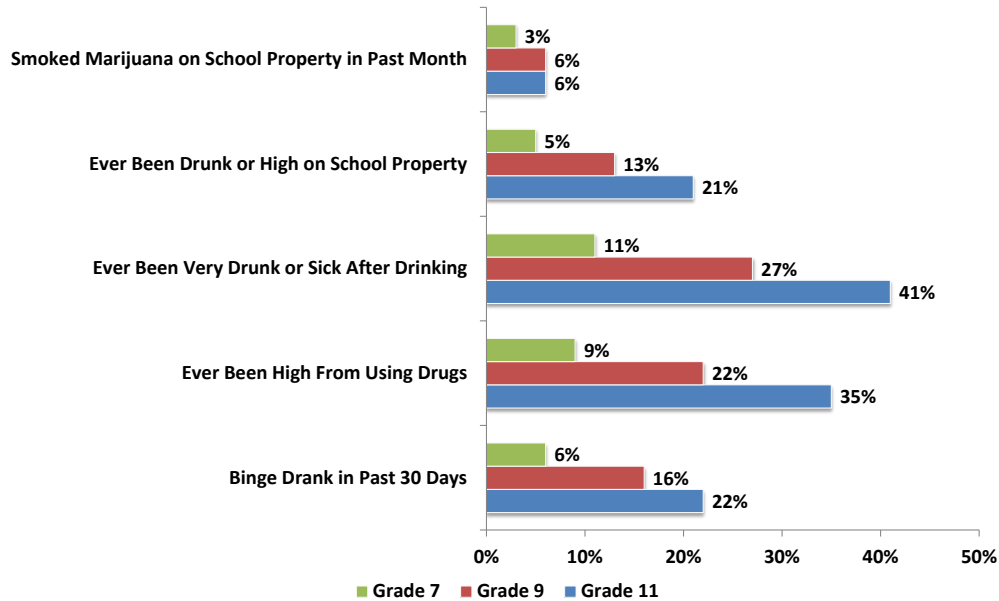
Additional customizable Kern County and California tobacco, alcohol & substance use data are available using KidsData.Org.



Tobacco, Alcohol & Substance Use *cont.*

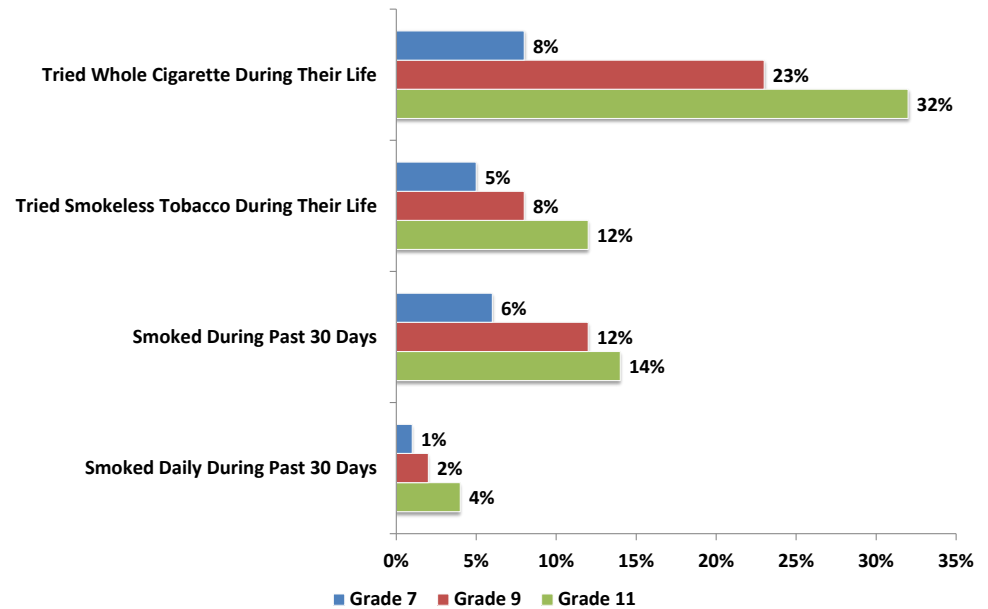
Percent of Students Reporting Participation in High Risk Behaviors Associated with Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs by Grade

Kern County, 2009-11

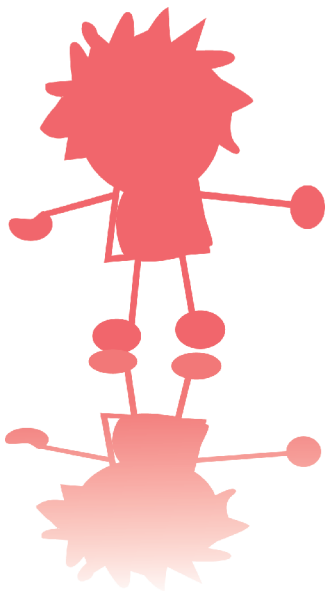
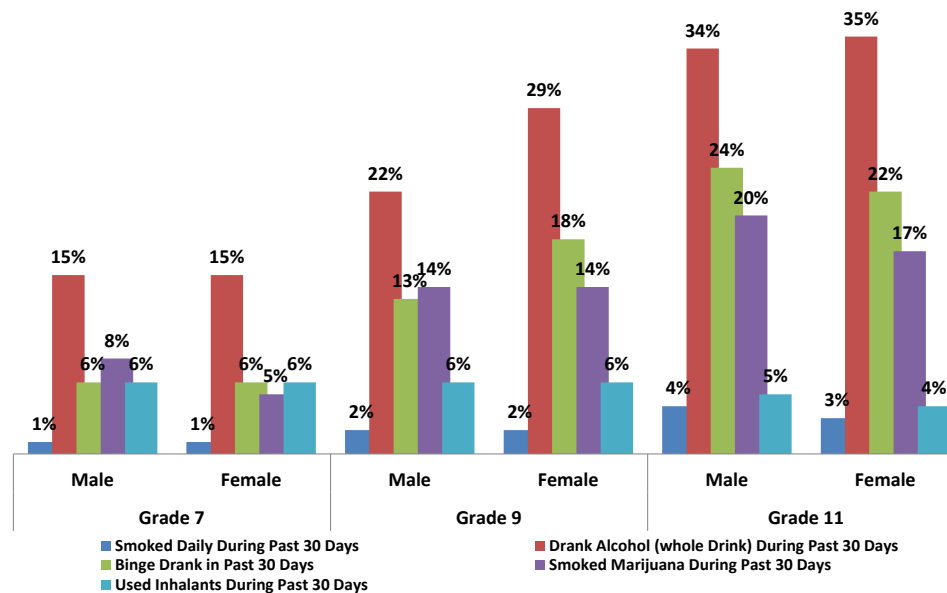


Percent of Students Reporting Participation in Various Levels of Tobacco Use by Grade

Kern County, 2009-11



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



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 2000, Kern County averaged 31 child deaths annually from unintentional injury with motor vehicle crashes the leading cause of unintentional death of children.
- About 1 in 10 Kern County students in grades 7, 9 and 11 considered themselves a gang member.
- 97% of the Kern County children reported missing were identified as runaways.
- Over half of Kern County students in 7th, 9th and 11th felt safe or very safe at their school.
- Although reports decline as students age, about 1 out of every 3 Kern County high school students said they were bullied in the past year.
- Kern County's rates of domestic calls for assistance, violent and property crimes and juvenile arrests remain higher than California's overall rates.

Jump to -

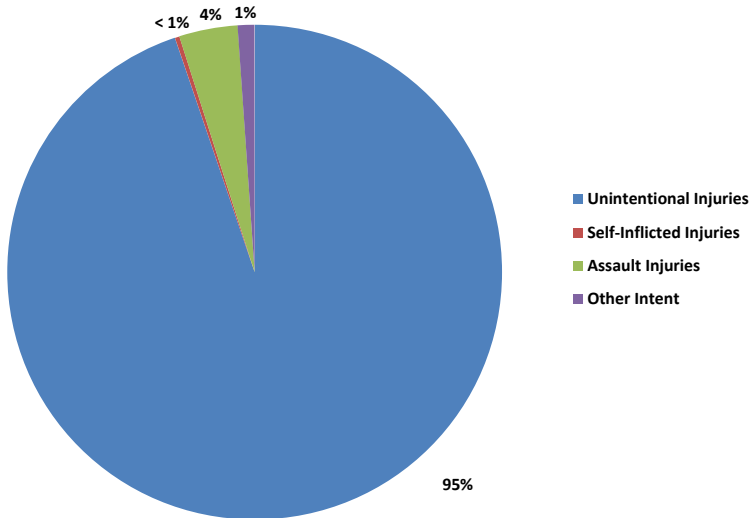
- Childhood Unintentional Injury
- Falls
- Burn Injuries
- Motor Vehicle Related Injuries
- Drowning
- Contents Page
- Child Deaths
- Youth Violence
- Gun Violence
- Missing Children
- Crime & Arrest Rates



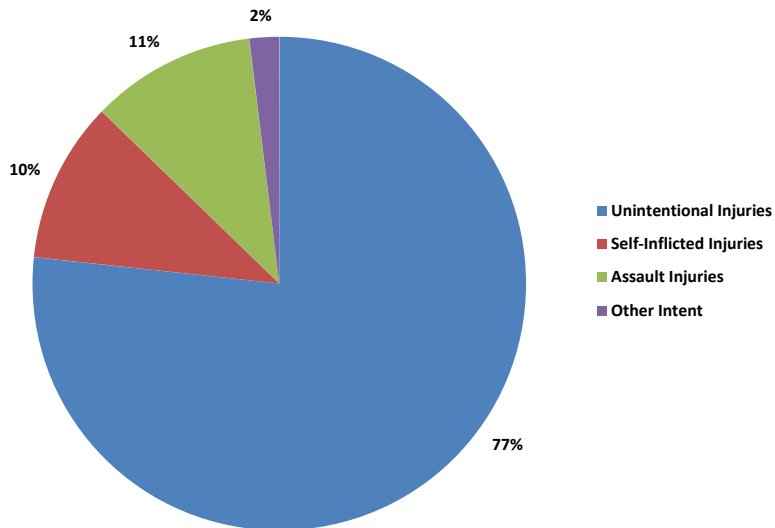
Childhood Unintentional Injury

Hospitalizations Caused by Injury Type
Kern County, 2000-2010

Children Ages 0-12 Years

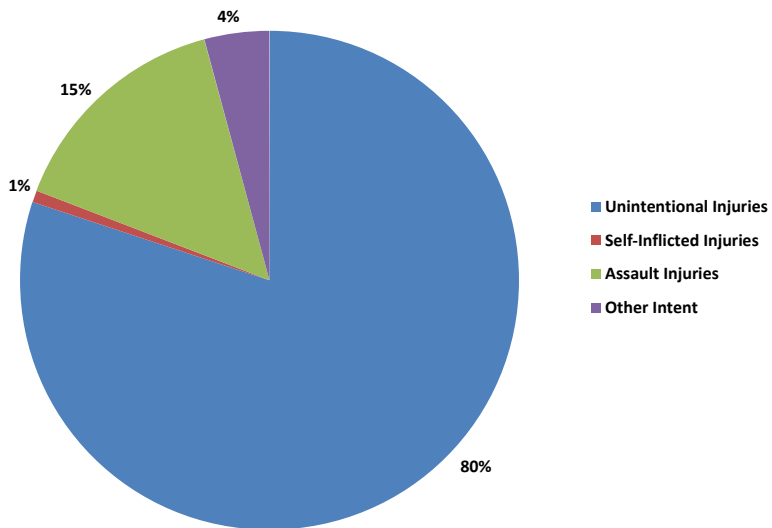


Teens Ages 13-17 Years

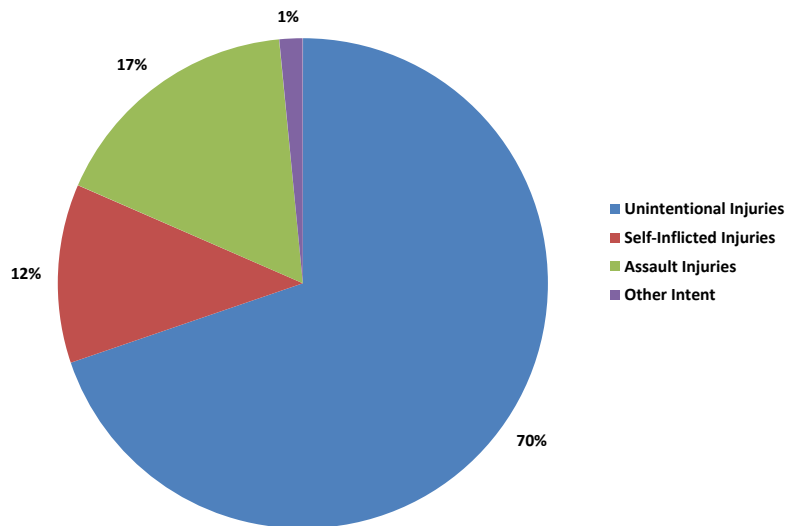


Fatalities Caused by Injury Type
Kern County, 2000-2010

Children Ages 0-12 Years

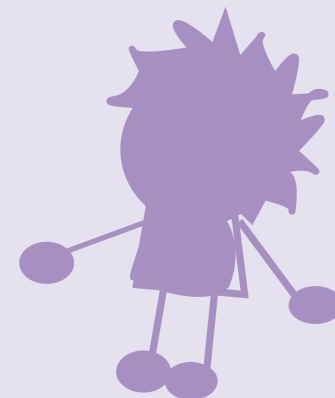


Teens Ages 13-17 Years



- During 2010, unintentional injuries killed 17 Kern County children under the age of 18 years and caused serious, non-fatal injury to 518 other children.
- Over the past decade, the majority of child nonfatal unintentional injuries were from four causes: falls, burns, motor vehicle related and drowning accidents.
- On average, 31 Kern County children under age 18 years died each year from an unintentional injury between 2000 and 2010.

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

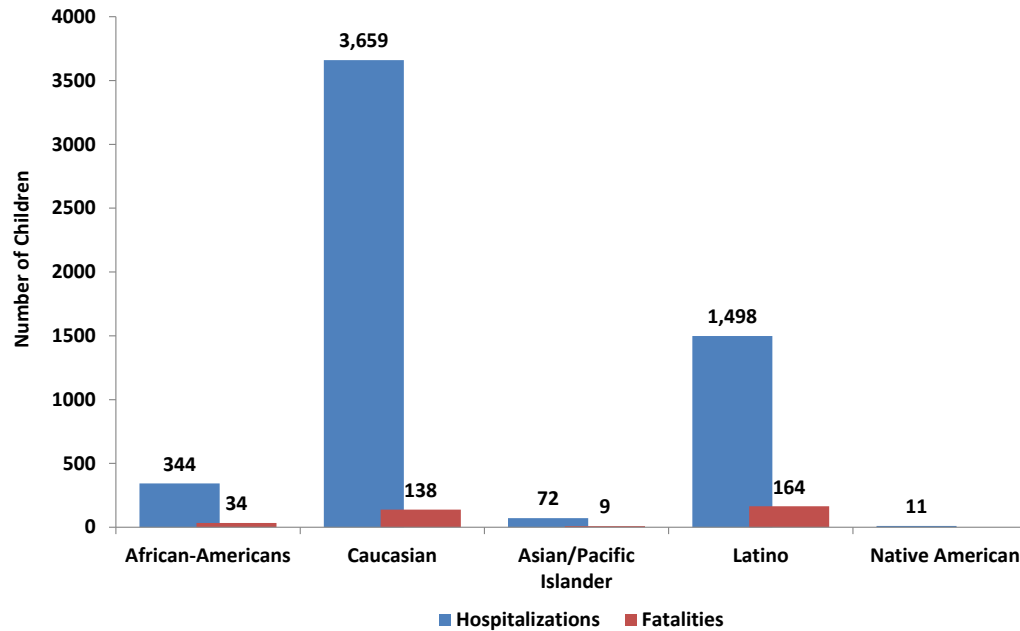


Falls

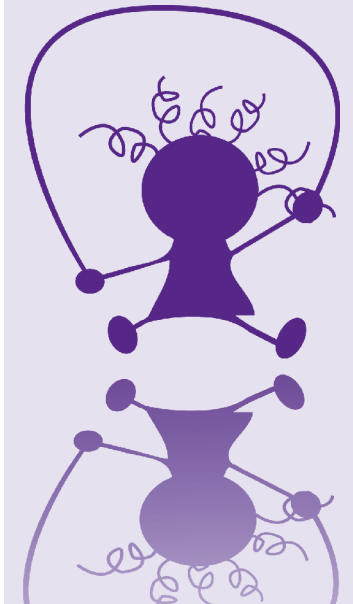
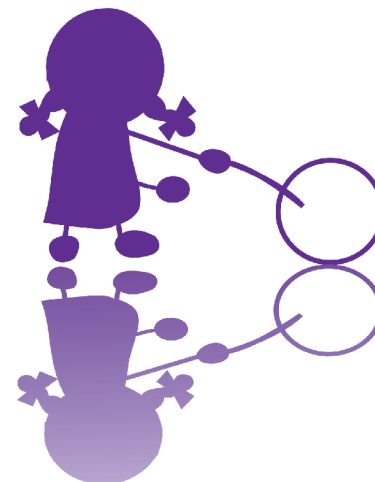
- Falls are the leading cause of emergency room visits among Kern County children under 18 years.
- In 2010, 5,799 children had an initial emergency department visit for injuries from a fall in Kern County.
- Between 2000 and 2010, there were 1,667 Kern County children admitted as inpatients with injuries caused by a fall, an average of 152 children each year.
- Boys regardless of age were more likely to have injuries (66%) from a fall than girls (34%).
- Caucasian and Latino children had the highest rates of fall-related injuries, 64% and 27%, respectively.
- Kern County children aged 0 to 5 years had a higher rate of injuries from falls than any other age group.
- Falls accounted for one-third of the total nonfatal unintentional injuries for children less than 6 years of age between 2000 and 2010.

Burn Injuries

Hospitalizations & Fatalities From Unintentional Injuries Among Children Under 18 Years by Race/Ethnicity
Kern County, 2000-2010



- From 2000 to 2010, 277 children were hospitalized for non-fatal injuries caused by fire, flames, and hot objects or substances in Kern County, an average of 25 children a year.
- Boys are at a higher risk of fire and burn-related injuries (53%) than girls (47%).
- Children under the age of six years were most likely to be injured by accidents involving fires and hot objects (64%) during these years.
- Latino and Caucasian children had the highest rates of fire/burn injuries, 44% and 31%, respectively.

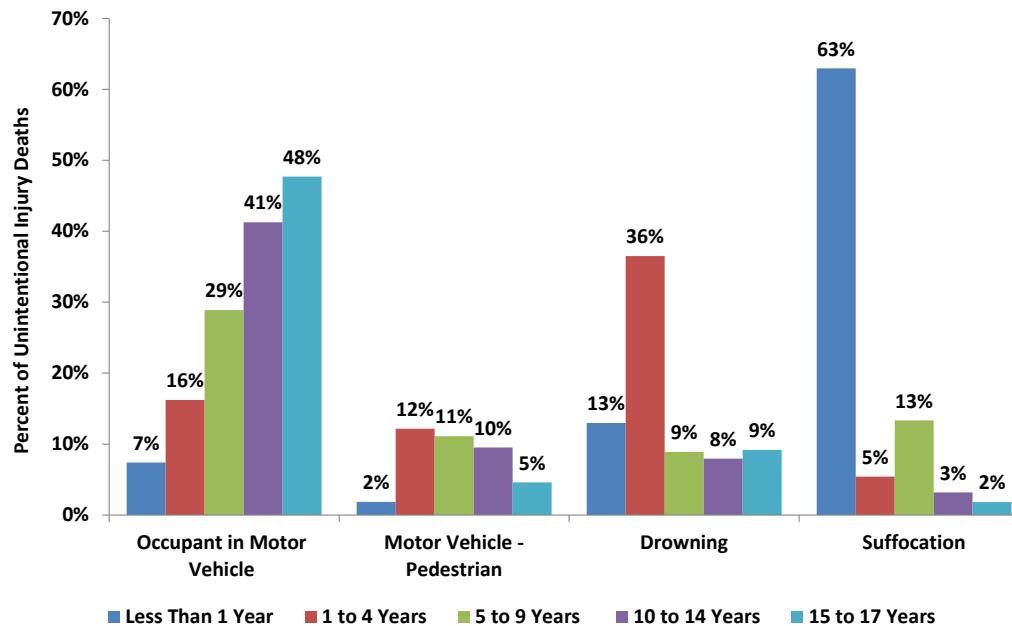


Motor Vehicle Related Injuries

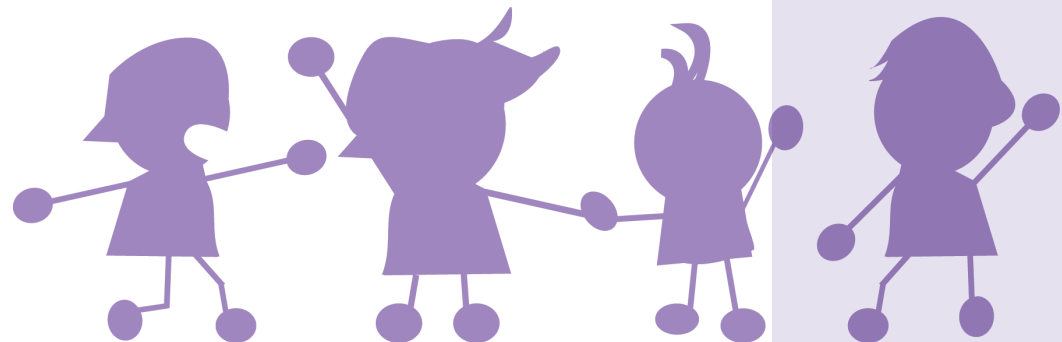
Drowning

- Motor vehicle-related injuries are the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death of Kern County children.
- From 2000 to 2010, 175 children died and 1,333 children were hospitalized from injuries caused by motor-vehicle related accidents throughout Kern County.
- Most children injured or killed in motor-vehicle related accidents between 2000 and 2010 were occupants in a motor vehicle (58%).
- Traffic-related injuries also include those sustained while walking, riding a bicycle, or riding a motorcycle.
- From 2000 to 2010, 26 children died from traffic-related pedestrian injuries and an additional 304 children were admitted to Kern County hospitals with serious injuries after being struck by a motor vehicle.
- In Kern County, 219 children were injured after being struck by motor vehicles while riding a bike or motorcycle and another 18 were killed from 2000 to 2010.

**Unintentional Injury Deaths Among Children 0 to 17 Years
by Age Group & Selected Causes**
Kern County, 2000-2010



- Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death among children under the age of 18 in Kern County.
- From 2000 to 2010, 53 Kern County children drowned and another 104 children were sent to the hospital for near-drowning injuries.
- More than half of the children who drowned in Kern County between 2000 and 2010 were male (58%).
- Young children had the highest rate of drowning with 66% of child drowning victims under the age of six years.
- Rates of fatal drowning were highest among Latino (45%) and Caucasian (45%) children.



Child Deaths

- In 2011, the Kern County Child Death Review Team (CDRT) investigated 41 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 12 accidental deaths, 8 deaths from natural causes, 8 homicides, 1 suicide and 12 deaths of undetermined manner.
- Between 2007 and 2011, deaths involving motor vehicle and traffic related accidents represented 50% of the accidental death cases reviewed by CDRT members.
- During 2011, 6 children were killed in motor vehicle related accidents.
- All 3 of the children killed in automobile crashes were unrestrained/improperly restrained as an occupant in the car.
- Of the remaining cases reviewed involving motor vehicles, 2 children died as pedestrians.
- Deaths from natural causes and homicide each comprised 20% of the child mortality cases reviewed in 2011.

Submersion/Drowning			
<i>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</i>	2008	2009	2010
Fatal Injury	5	8	5
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	8	7	5

Assault/Homicide			
<i>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</i>	2008	2009	2010
Fatal Injury	11	10	9
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	47	40	39

Motor Vehicle Occupant			
<i>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</i>	2008	2009	2010
Fatal Injury	5	6	2
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	31	52	38

Pedestrian/Traffic			
<i>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</i>	2008	2009	2010
Fatal Injury	3	3	1
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	20	19	25

Self-Inflicted Injury/Suicide			
<i>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</i>	2008	2009	2010
Fatal Injury	2	3	5
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	19	22	38

Firearm			
<i>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</i>	2008	2009	2010
Fatal Injury	2	6	4
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	18	10	4

Bicycle			
<i>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</i>	2008	2009	2010
Fatal Injury	1	0	0
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	19	28	31

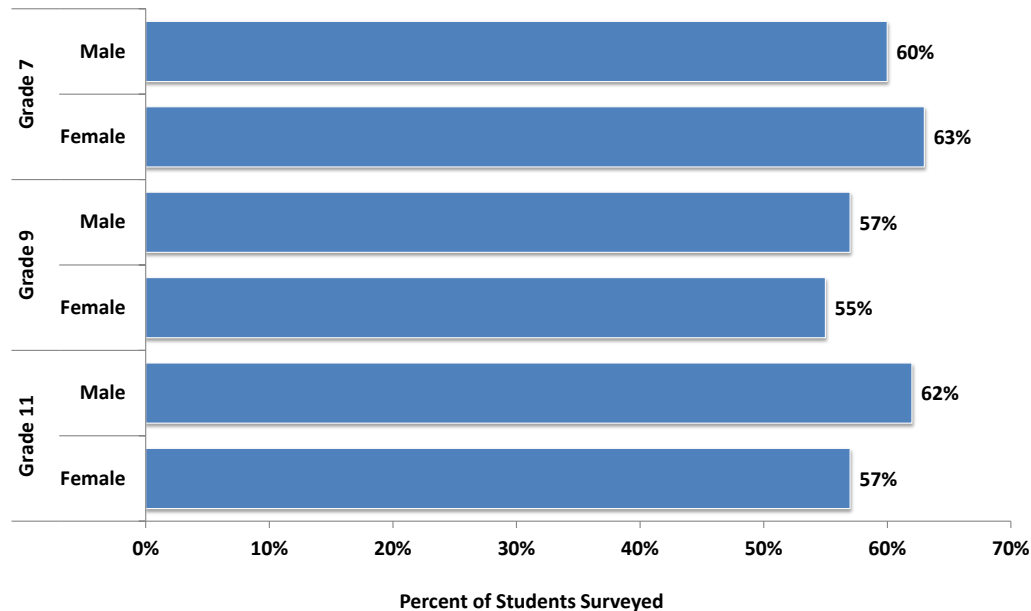
Falls			
<i>(Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)</i>	2008	2009	2010
Fatal Injury	1	2	0
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	115	155	146

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

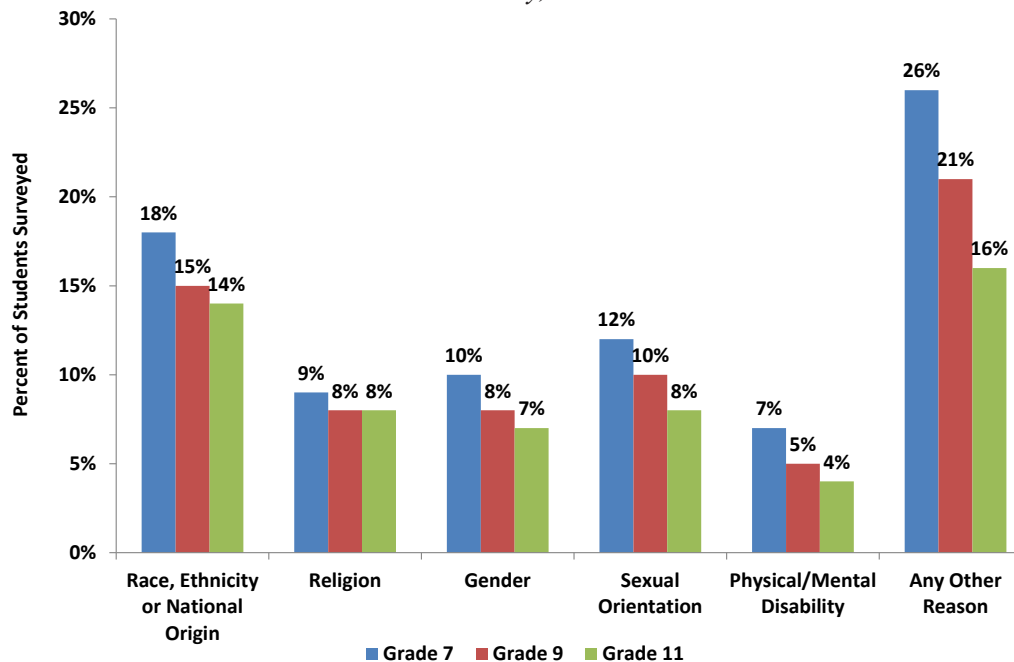
- More than half of Kern County students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades self-reported feeling safe or very safe at school in 2009-11; 10% of 7th graders, 9% of 9th graders, and 7% of 11th graders reported they felt unsafe or very unsafe.
- Bullying is highest in Kern County middle schools, where its prevalence is 43% in 7th grade.
- When Kern County youth are bullied or harassed at school, the most common specific reason cited was their race or national origin.
- Although reports of bullying decline among older students, it is still relatively high at 34% in 9th grade and 29% in 11th grade.

Youth Violence

Percent of Students Who Feel Safe at School by Gender & Grade Level
Kern County, 2009-11



Reason for Bullying/Harassment by Grade Level
Kern County, 2009-11



- In 2009-11, 16% of 7th graders, 21% of 9th graders and 21% of 11th graders reported they have been harassed, threatened or humiliated through electronic means such as email, texting or by using social networking sites.
- In Kern County, 4.5% of 7th graders, 5.3% of 9th graders, and 7.5% of 11th graders reported that they had been hit, slapped, or intentionally physically hurt by a girlfriend or boyfriend during the past year, according to 2009-11 survey data.

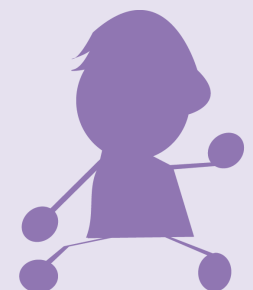
Additional customizable Kern County and California school safety data are available using KidsData.Org.



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.

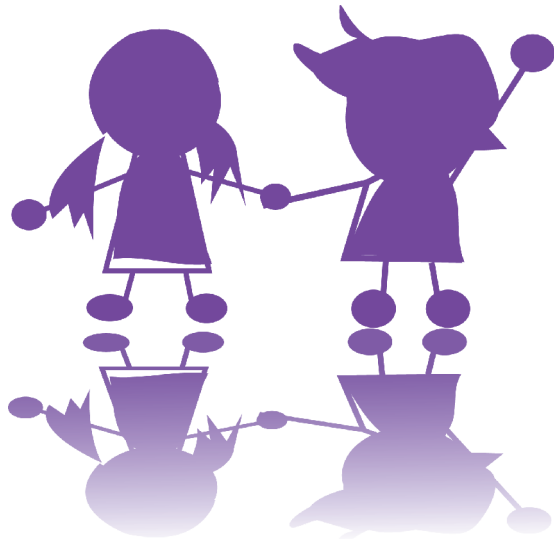
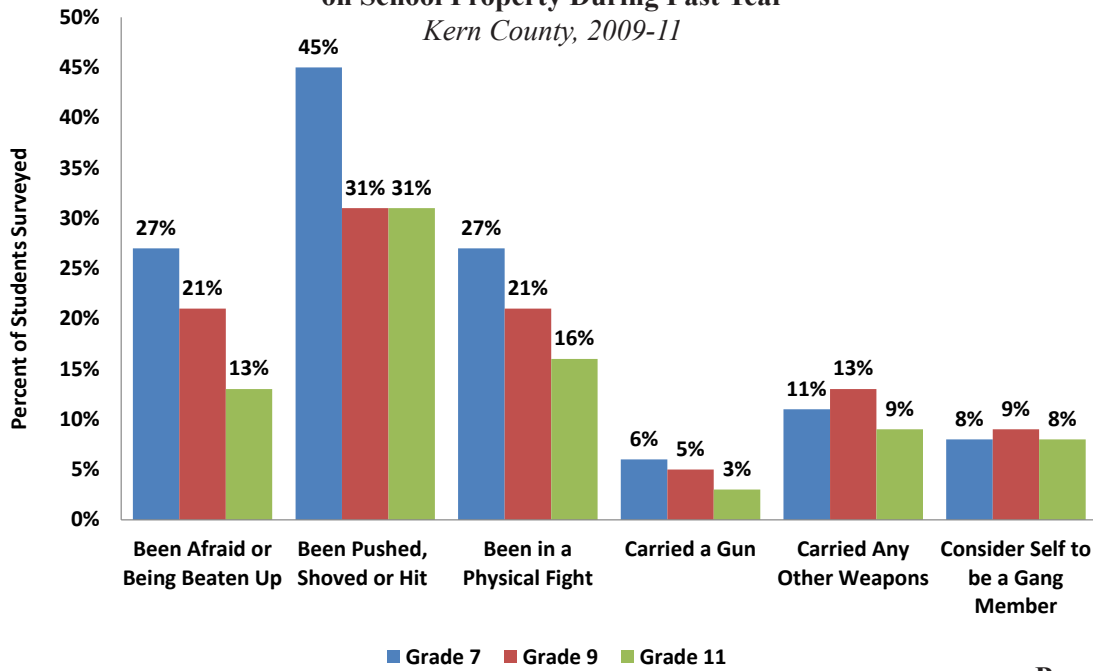
Bullying includes assault, tripping, intimidation, rumor-spreading and isolation, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, destruction of another's work, and name-calling.



Youth Violence *cont.*

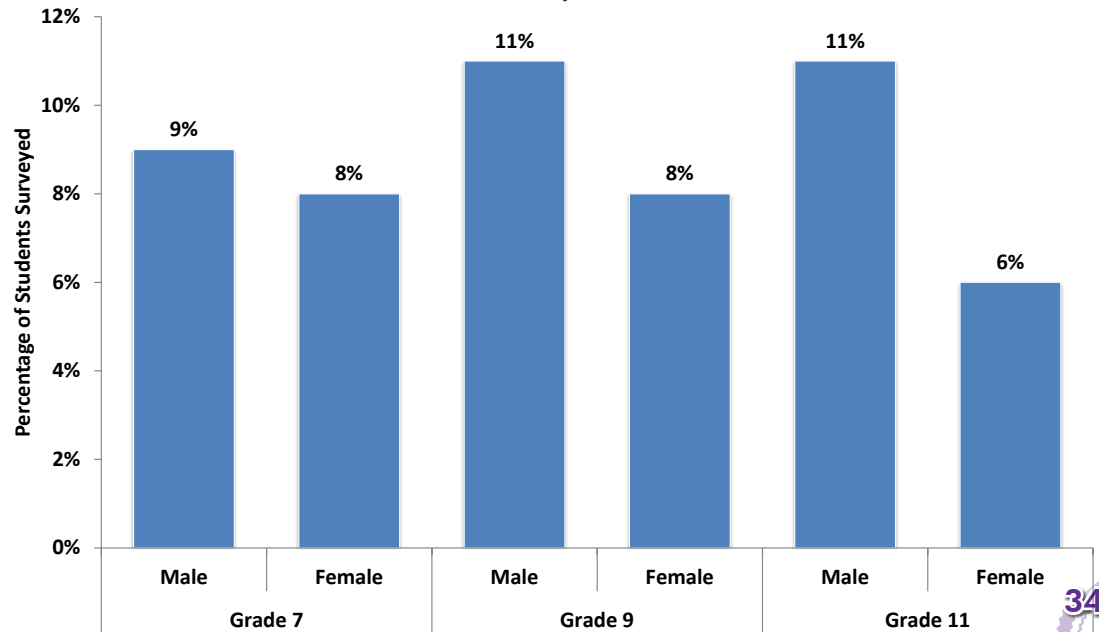
Percent of Students Reporting Violence-Related Behavior & Experiences on School Property During Past Year

Kern County, 2009-11



Percentage of Students Who Consider Themselves a Gang Member by Gender & Grade

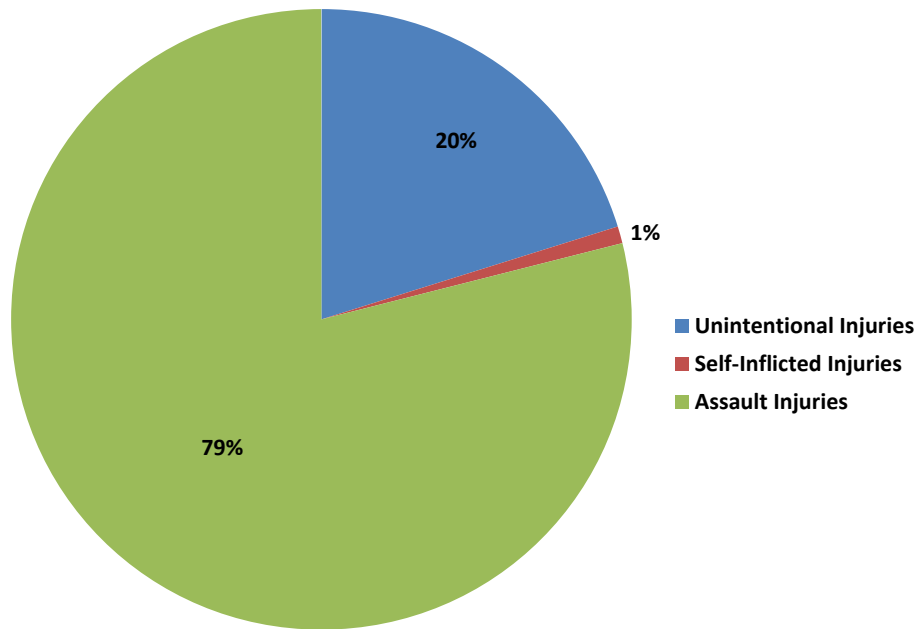
Kern County, 2009-11



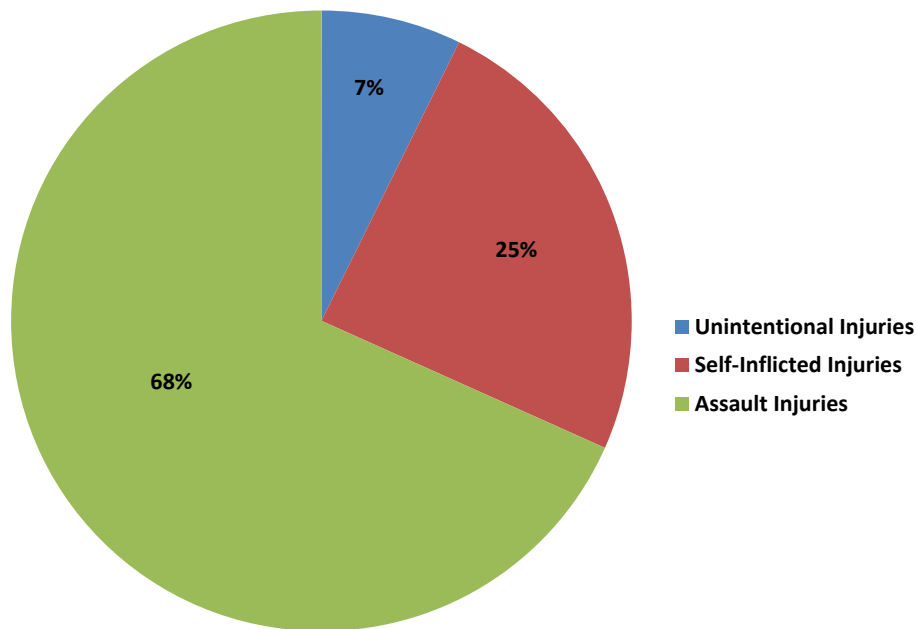
Gun Violence

- In Kern County, 41 children and youth died from firearm-related injuries between 2000 and 2010. These include homicides, assaults, suicides and unintentional injuries. Homicide accounted for 68% of the deaths; 24% were the result of suicide and 8% were the result of accidents.
- African-American (50%) and Latino (43%) youth were most likely to be homicide victims from gunshot wounds during 2000 to 2010.
- The average youth who died as a victim of homicide or from an accidental shooting was 15.1 years old.
- Male children and youth were 13 times more likely to be murdered with a firearm than females.
- Between 2000 and 2010, another 114 Kern County children required hospitalization because of gun-related injuries.
- 79% of the firearm related injuries were the result of assaults; 20% were the result of accidents; 1% were the result of self-inflicted injuries.
- Again, males (84%) were more likely than females to be involved in intentional and accidental shootings.

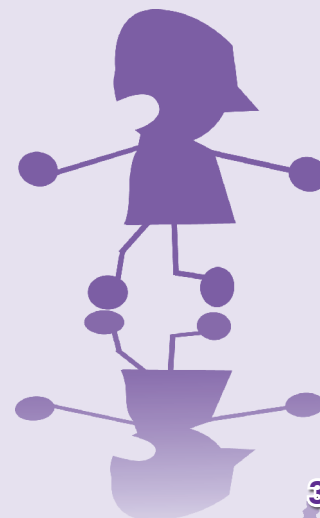
Firearm-Related Hospitalizations, Children Under 18 Years
Kern County, 2010



Firearm-Related Fatalities, Children Under 18 Years
Kern County, 2010

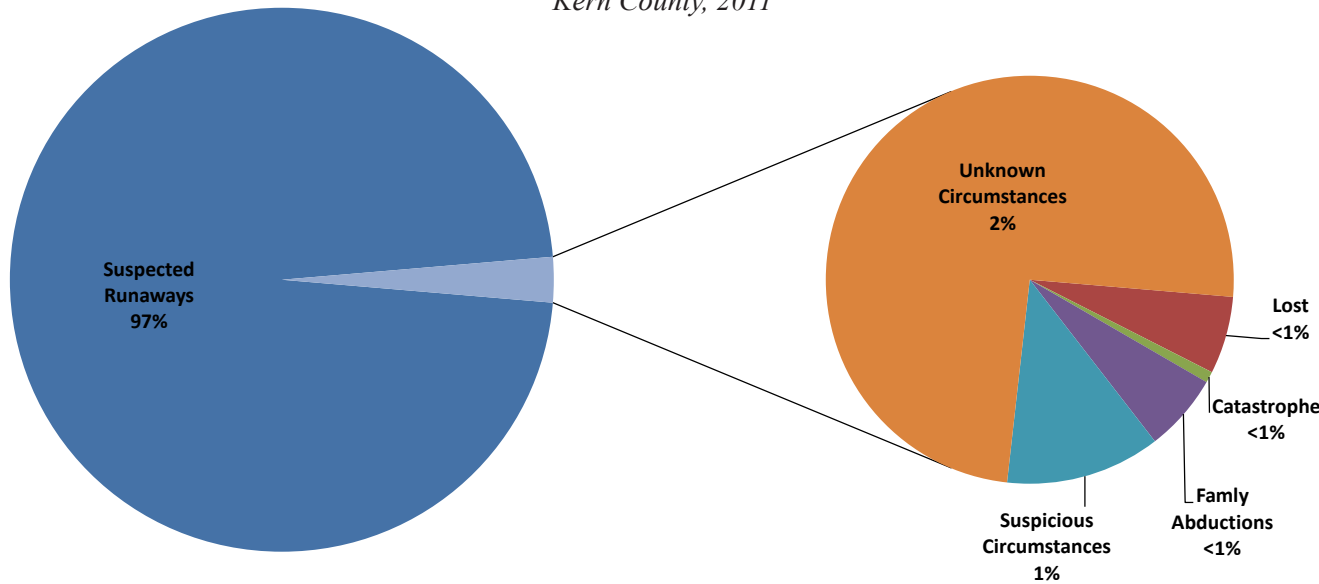


- The average age of youth who were injured in assaults with a firearm was 15.2 years old.
- Caucasian (46%) and African-American (42%) youth were more likely to be injured by an intentional shooting in Kern County than Latino (9%) and Native American (1%) children from 2000 to 2010.
- Children were more likely to be injured accidentally with firearms averaged 13.2 years old.
- Caucasian children (61%) were more likely to be injured by an accidental shooting in Kern County than Latino (26%) and African-American (13%) children between 2000 and 2010.

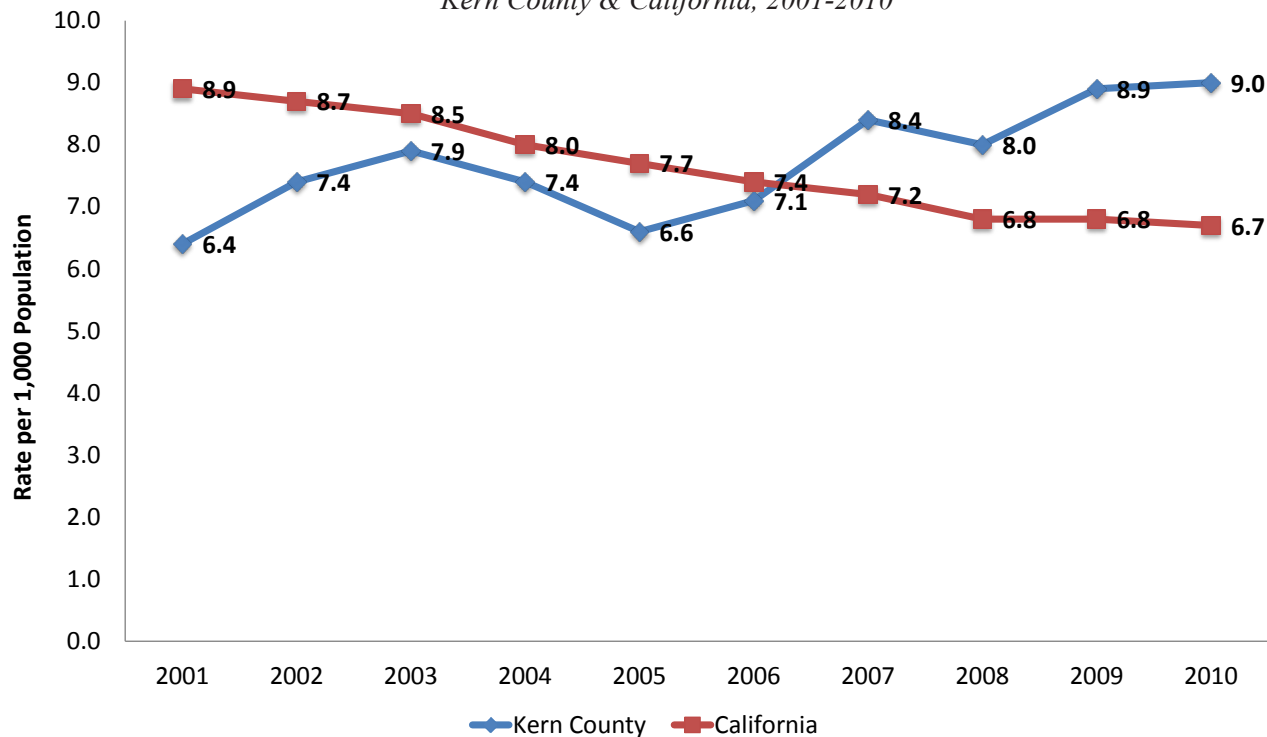


Missing Children

Missing Children by Circumstance
Kern County, 2011



Domestic Violence Calls for Assistance - Incidence Per 1,000 Population
Kern County & California, 2001-2010



- In 2011, 4,252 children were reported missing in Kern County.
- Of these, 4,136 were suspected runaways, 7 were lost, 1 was catastrophe, 7 were suspected family abduction, 14 were missing under suspicious circumstances, 2 were stranger abductions and 85 were reported under unknown circumstances.
- At the end of 2011, 4,042 of the missing child reports previously noted were canceled.
- 2,875 children were returned, 808 were located, 170 were arrested, 3 became emancipated, 2 were voluntary missing, 25 were withdrawn or invalid and 159 were removed from the system for other reasons.
- A total of 210 children remained missing at year end.

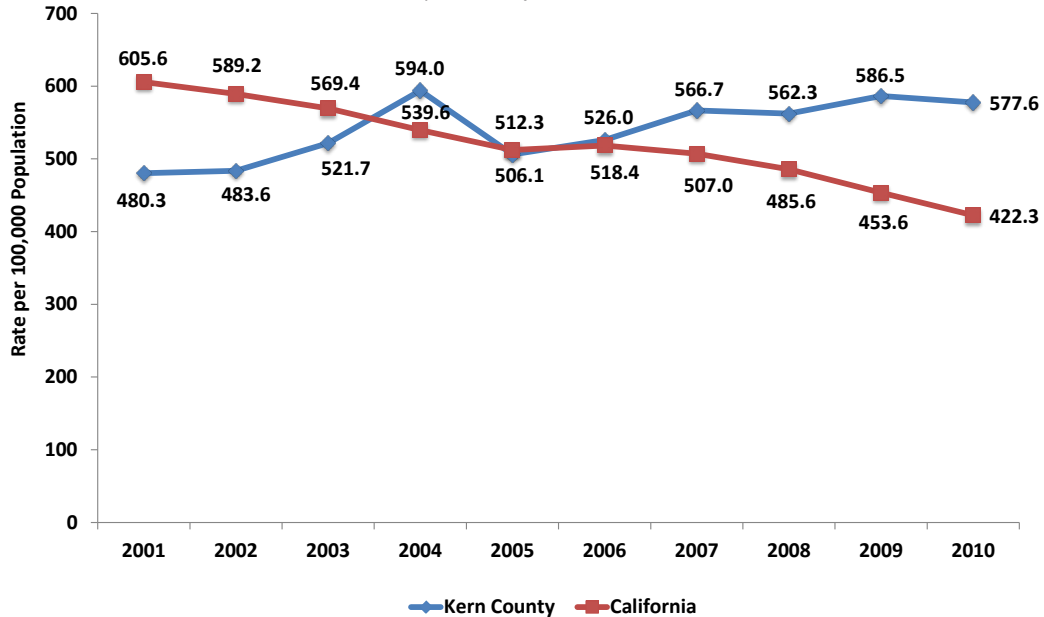
Additional customizable Kern County and California dating and domestic violence data are available using KidsData.Org.



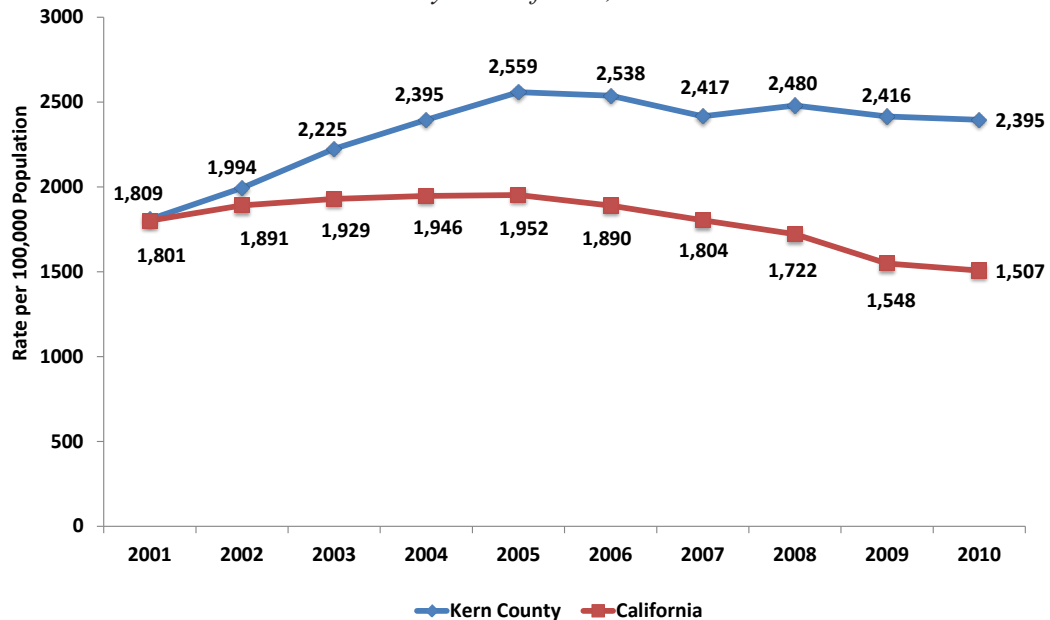
- In 2010, 4,879 violent crimes were reported to Kern County's law enforcement agencies county-wide.
- Violent crimes committed within Kern County include aggravated assault (404.9 per 100,000 population), forcible rape (19.4 per 100,000 population), homicide (8.8 per 100,000 population) and robbery (144.6 per 100,000 population).
- During 2010, Kern County law enforcement officers recorded 4,824 calls for assistance in domestic violence situations, a rate of 9.0 calls per 1,000 population.
- In comparison, California rate of calls for assistance was 6.7 calls per 1,000.
- In total, 22% of these calls for assistance involved weapons. 31% involved the use of firearms, knives, or other dangerous weapons. The remaining 69% involved personal weapons, such as hands, fists or feet.
- Kern County's law enforcement agencies received 4,879 property crimes in 2010.
- Property crimes within Kern County include burglary (1,118.2 per 100,000 population); larceny-theft (over \$400) (659.7 per

Crime & Arrest Rates

Violent Crime Rate - Incidence Per 100,000 Population
Kern County & California, 2001-2010



Property Crime Rate - Incidence Per 100,000 Population
Kern County & California, 2001-2010



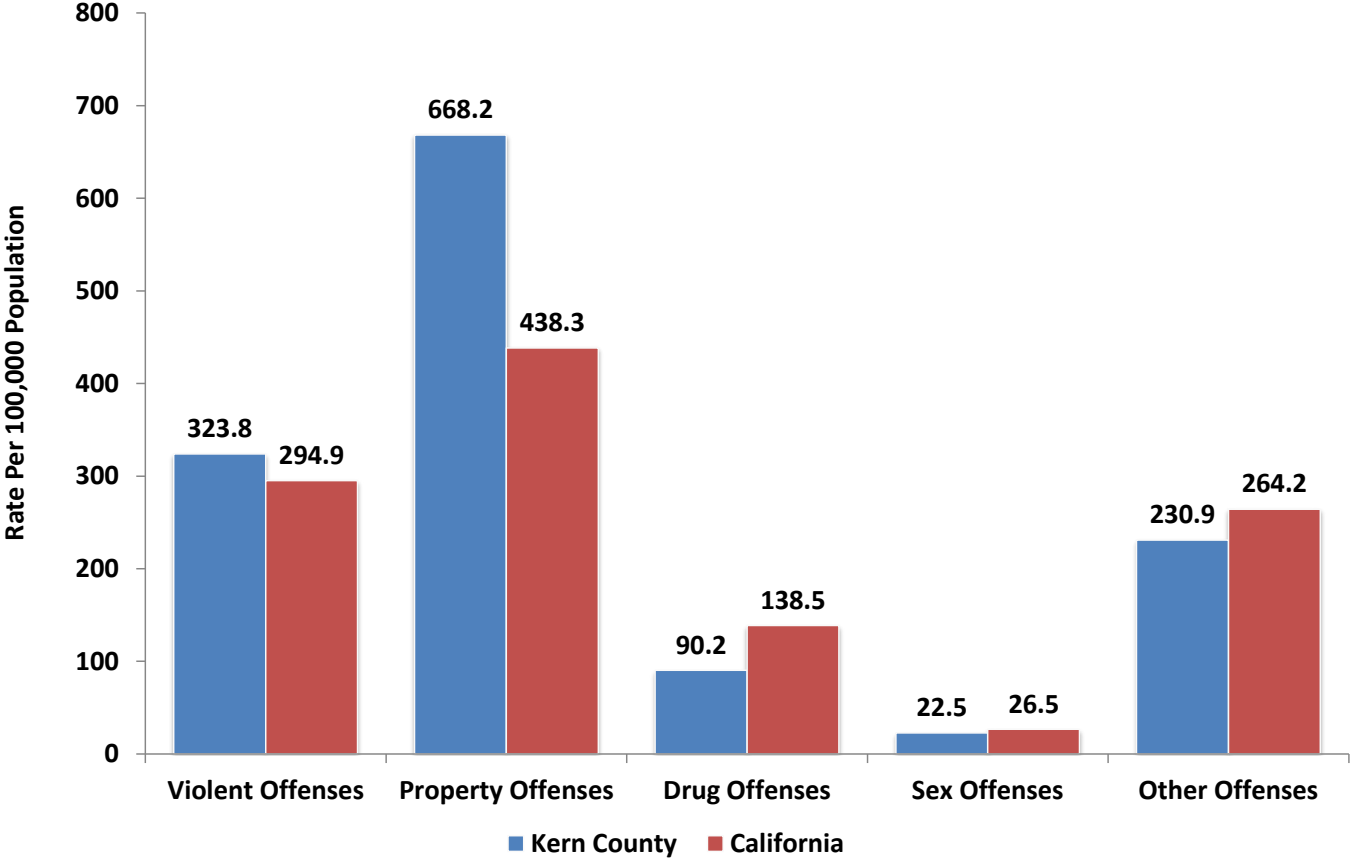
- 100,000 population); and motor vehicle theft (617.2 per 100,000 population).
- In 2010, there were 1,481 juvenile felony arrests in Kern County, a rate of 1,335.6 felony arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17 compared to California's rate of 1,466.6 statewide.
- A total of 2,507 juvenile misdemeanor arrests were recorded within Kern County during 2010, a rate of 2,260.9 misdemeanor arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17 compared to a rate of 2,374.2 statewide.

Additional customizable Kern County and California juvenile arrest rates data are available using KidsData.Org.



Crime & Arrest Rates cont.

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



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 2012, 18,329 children – 50 children each day – were reported to Child Protective Services with child abuse and neglect allegations.
- Kern's substantiated child abuse/neglect rate fell for the 4th straight year – down 34% from its peak in 2001.
- Child neglect comprised 90% of Kern's total cases of child maltreatment.
- Younger children, particularly infants, were the most vulnerable to abuse and neglect at a rate nearly 3 times the County's overall rate.
- 28 children died from abuse or neglect between 2009 and 2012.
- Kern's foster youth population has been reduced by 24% since 2004.

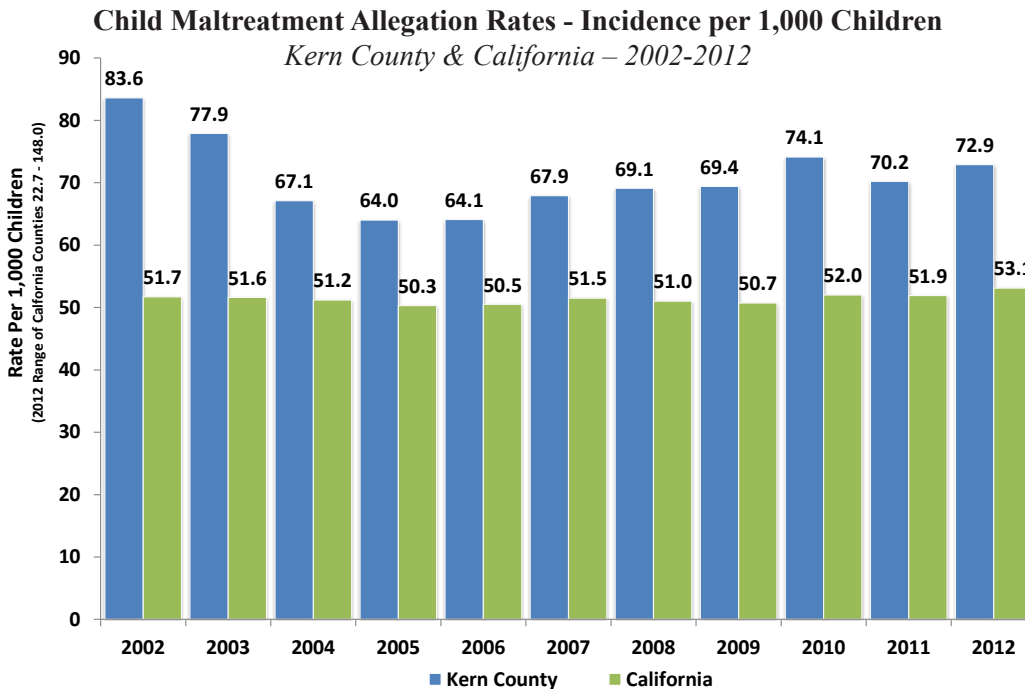
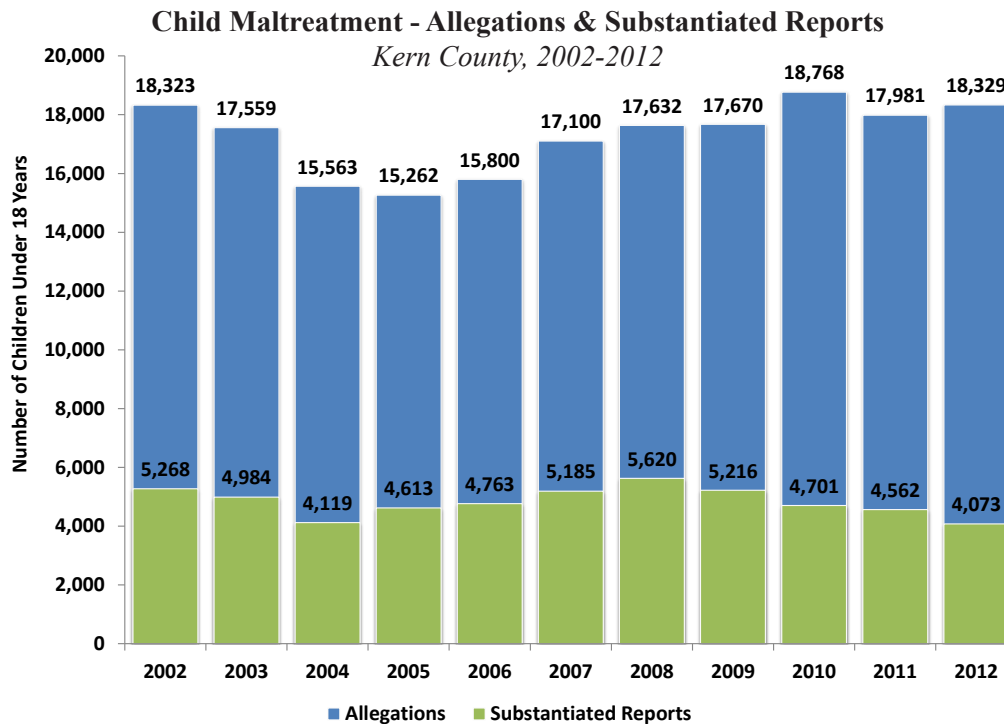
Jump to -

- Child Abuse & Neglect Reports
- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Child Abuse & Neglect Stats
- Severe Injury to Children
- Child Near Fatalities
- Child Fatalities
- Children Entering into Foster Care
- Children Served in Foster Care
- Family & Sibling Connections
- Teenagers in Foster Care
- Exiting Foster Care
- Adoption & Guardianships
- Contents Page



Child Abuse & Neglect Reports

- During 2012, Kern County CPS received 18,329 reports (allegations) of suspected child abuse or neglect of children -- an average of 50 children per day.
- Kern County's referral rate of 72.9 children per 1,000 children. Kern's overall referral rate increased approximately 4% from the previous year's rate of 70.2 per 1,000 children.
- Of these reports, 4,073 Kern County children were found to have been victims of abuse and neglect after investigation by CPS--an average of 78 children per week.
- Kern's substantiated abuse rate declined 9% from 17.8 per 1,000 children in 2011 to 16.2 in 2012, however, this rate remains nearly twice California's child abuse rate of 8.9.
- Child abuse rates per 1,000 children in California counties ranged from 0 to 35.5 during 2012.
- Kern County had the 12th highest substantiated child abuse rate in the state.
- In 2012, 90% of all child victims of maltreatment in Kern experienced general or severe neglect, meaning a caretaker failed to provide for the child's basic needs.



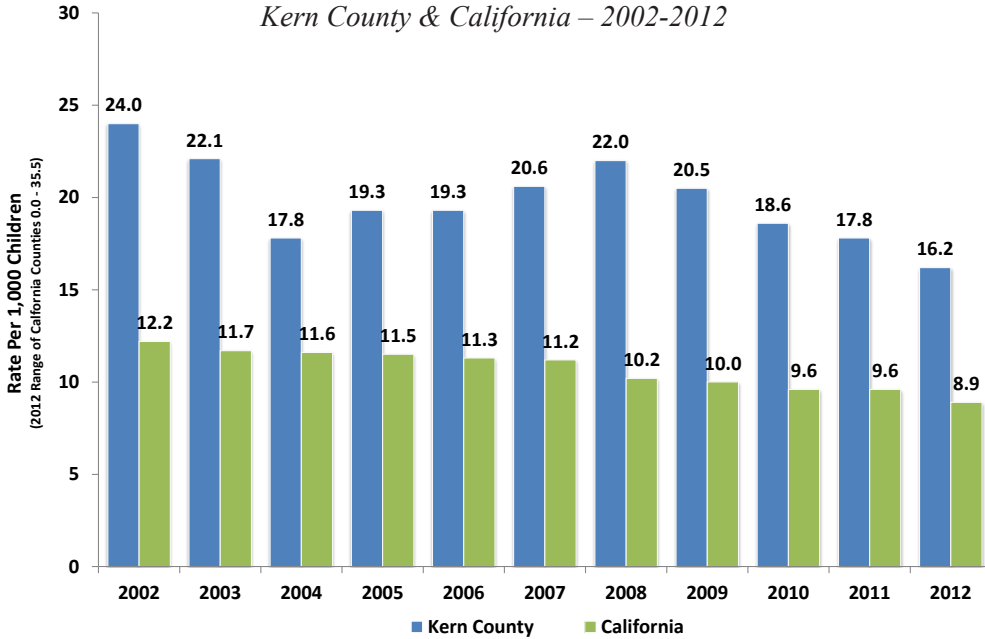
- Fewer children had allegations for physical abuse (3.5%), caretaker absence/incapacity (3%), or sexual abuse (1.5%) substantiated.
- In 2012, 693 infants were the victims of child abuse in Kern County, a rate of 47.3 per 1,000 infants. This rate is about three times higher than Kern's overall rate of substantiated abuse and neglect.
- When compared to other race/ethnic groups, African-American children experienced the highest rate child abuse and neglect in Kern County with 39.1 per 1,000 African-American children.
- Kern County child maltreatment data shows 91% of children for whom there was a substantiated abuse/neglect allegation did not have another substantiated incident within six months of their first founded report from January 2012 to June 2012.

Additional customizable Kern County and California child abuse & neglect data are available using KidsData.Org.

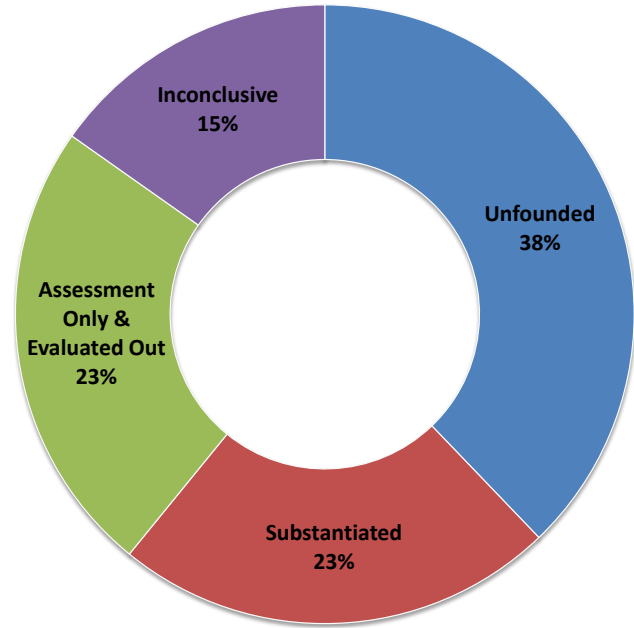


Child Abuse & Neglect Reports cont.

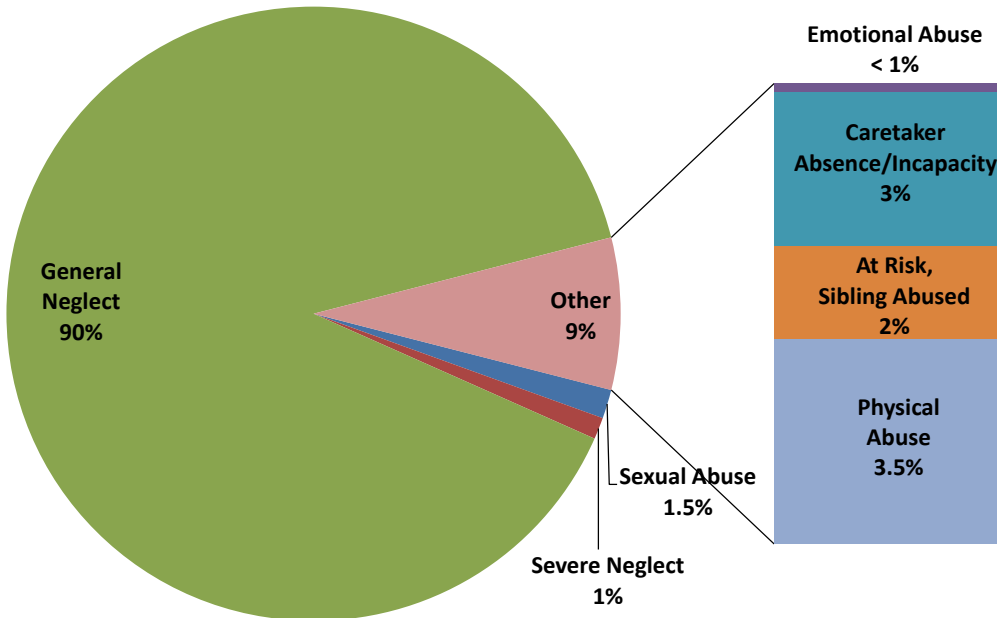
Substantiated Child Maltreatment Rates - Incidence per 1,000 Children
Kern County & California – 2002-2012



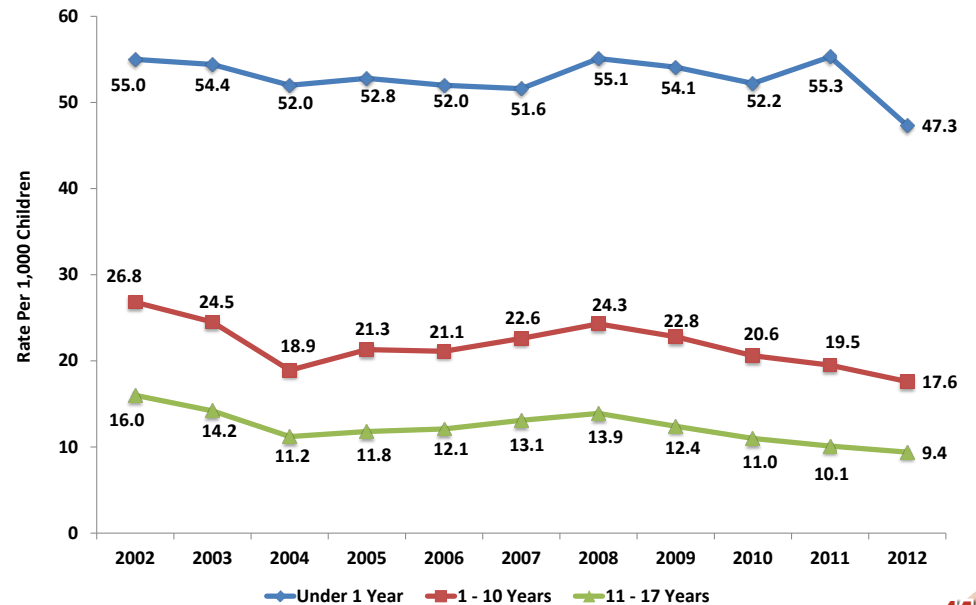
Substantiated Child Abuse & Neglect by Type
Kern County, 2012



Disposition of Child Abuse & Neglect Allegation
Kern County, 2012

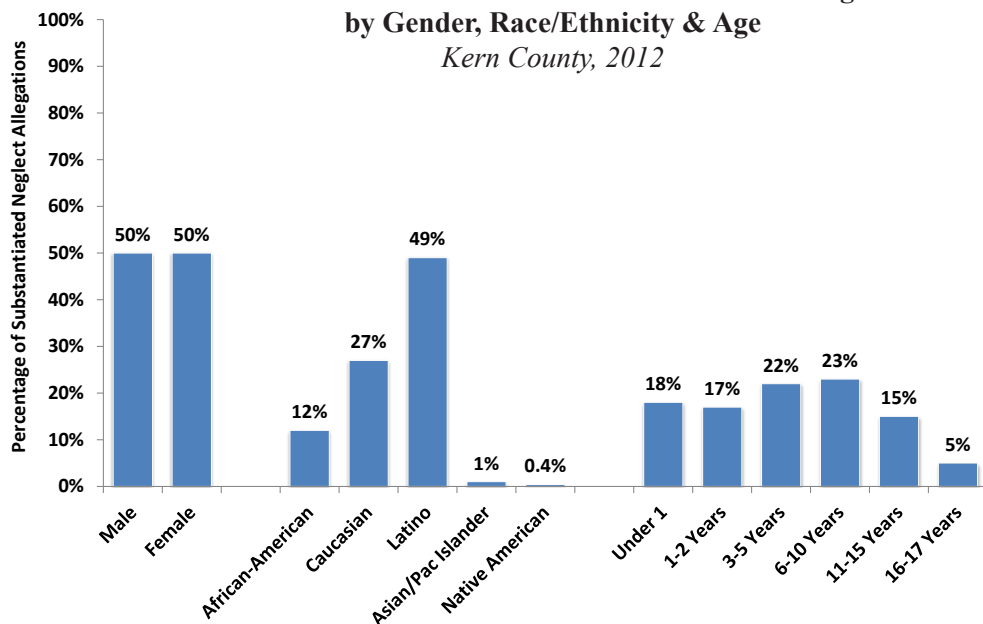


Substantiated Child Abuse by Age - Incidents per 1,000 Children
Kern County, 2002-2012

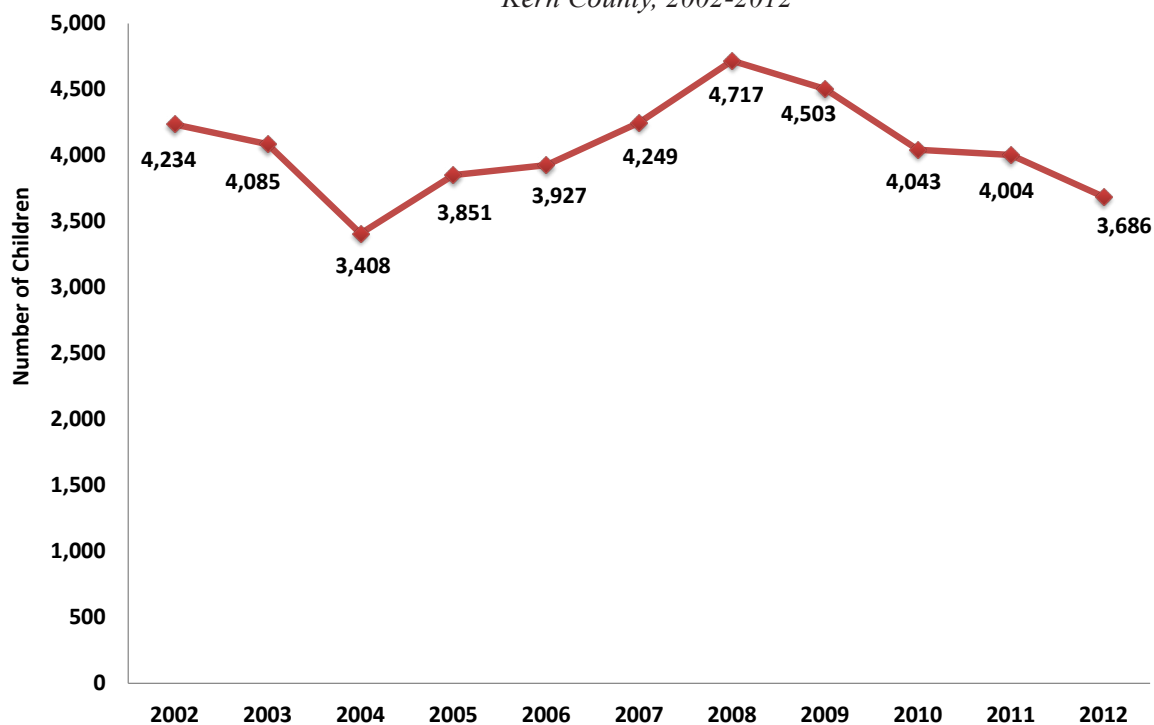


Neglect

**Substantiated Cases of Child Severe & General Neglect
by Gender, Race/Ethnicity & Age**
Kern County, 2012



Number of Children with Substantiated Cases of Severe & General Neglect
Kern County, 2002-2012

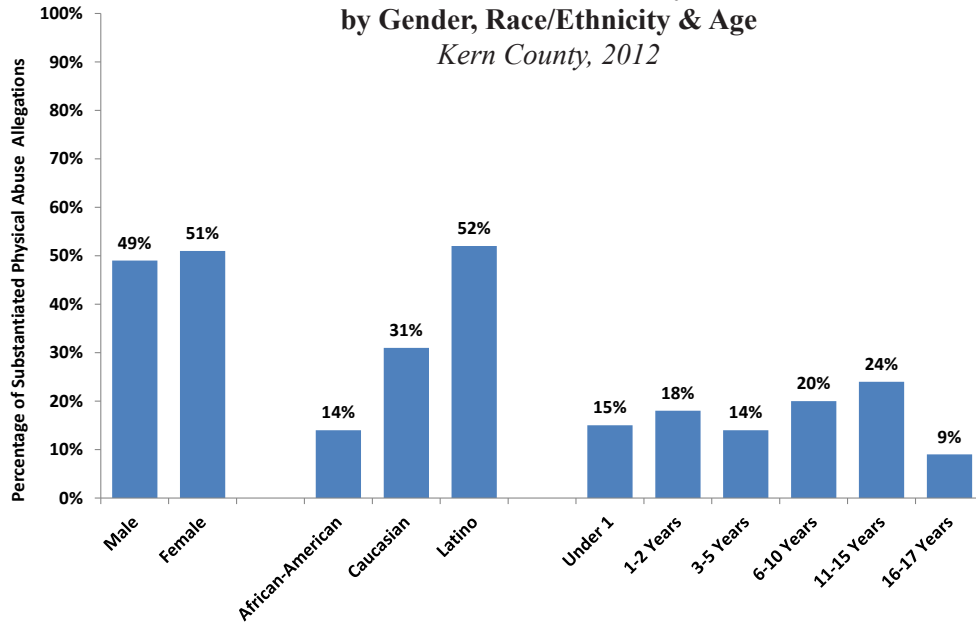


Child neglect is failure to provide for a child's basic physical, emotional, medical or educational needs which threatens the child's health or welfare. General neglect is the negligent failure of a parent/guardian or caretaker to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or supervision where no physical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

- During 2012, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of severe and general neglect for 12,755 children to ensure they were safe, 70% of Kern County's total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 3,686 Kern County children were confirmed as cases of neglect upon investigation, a substantiation rate of 29%.
- 543 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS' investigation.
- The three largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (43%), other mandated reporter professionals (11%) and medical professionals (7%).
- 60% of children placed in foster care due to neglect returned home in less than 12 months during 2012 calendar year.

Physical Abuse

**Substantiated Cases of Child Physical Abuse
by Gender, Race/Ethnicity & Age**
Kern County, 2012



Number of Children with Substantiated Cases of Physical Abuse
Kern County, 2002-2012

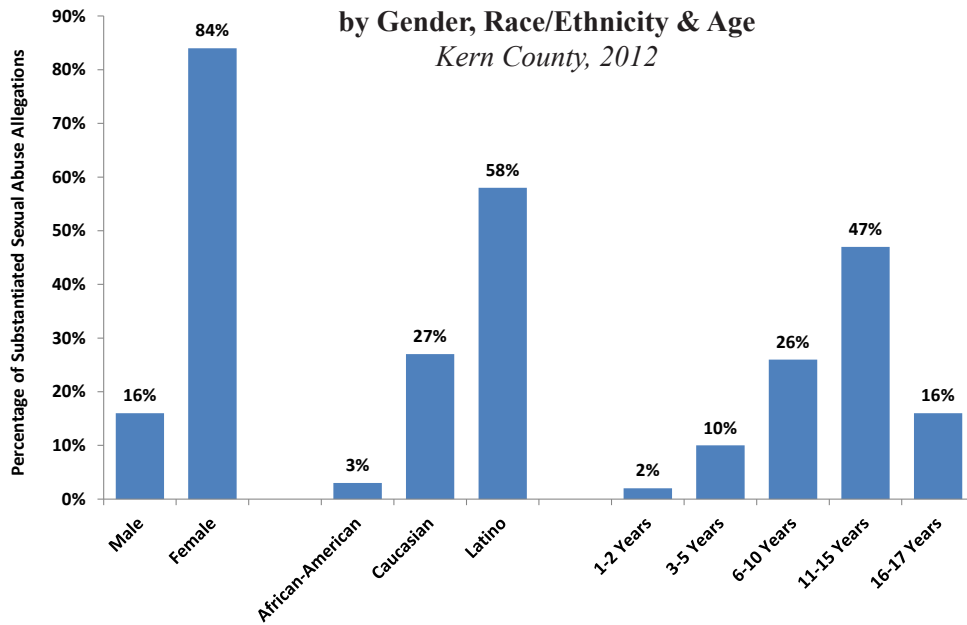


Physical abuse is the injury to a child that is not an accident, may include: beating, burning, biting, kicking, cutting, shaking, or punching a child.

- During 2012, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of physical abuse for 2,120 children to ensure they were safe, 12% of Kern County's total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 144 Kern County children were confirmed to be victims of physical abuse upon investigation, a substantiation rate of 7%.
- 63 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS' investigation.
- The three largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (56%), education (15%) and medical professionals (9%).
- 81% of children placed in foster care due to physical abuse returned home in less than 12 months during 2012 calendar year.

Sexual Abuse

**Substantiated Cases of Child Sexual Abuse
by Gender, Race/Ethnicity & Age**
Kern County, 2012



Number of Children with Substantiated Cases of Sexual Abuse
Kern County, 2002-2012



Sexual abuse is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification. This may include indecent exposure, fondling, rape, or commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.

- During 2012, Kern County CPS responded to the allegations of sexual abuse for 1,197 children to ensure they were safe, 6.5% of Kern County's total allegations of child maltreatment.
- 62 Kern County children were determined to be victims of sexual abuse, a substantiation rate of 5%.
- 18 children were placed into foster care as a result of CPS' investigation.
- The three largest percentages of substantiated report sources were from such professionals as legal and law enforcement personnel (35%), school personnel (11%) and other mandated reporter professionals (16%).
- 83% of children placed in foster care due to sexual abuse returned home in less than 12 months during 2012 calendar year.

Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics

CPS Referral Rates per 1,000 Children	2010	2011	2012
Kern County	73.9	70.2	72.9
California	51.6	51.9	53.1

Foster Care Rates per 1,000 Children (Entry + Re-Entry)	2010	2011	2012
Kern County	4.9	5.0	3.1
California	3.3	3.3	3.3

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children	2010	2011	2012
Kern County	18.5	17.8	16.2
California	9.6	9.6	8.9

Percentage of CPS Referrals Substantiated	2010	2011	2012
Kern County	25.0%	25.4%	22.2%
California	18.5%	18.4%	16.8%

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children (2012)	African American	Caucasian	Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	All Children
Kern County	39.1	16.5	13.0	2.9	11.4	16.2
California	22.7	8.0	9.2	2.6	21.9	8.9

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children (2012)	Under 1	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	16-17 yrs
Kern County	47.3	24.3	19.6	13.6	9.9	8.2
California	21.0	11.3	10.3	8.4	6.8	5.2

Foster Care Prevalence Rate per 1,000 Children (Children in care on 7/1/12)	African American	Caucasian	Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	All Children
Kern County	16.7	9.2	5.2	2.1	3.5	6.7
California	24.0	5.6	5.1	1.2	20.7	5.7

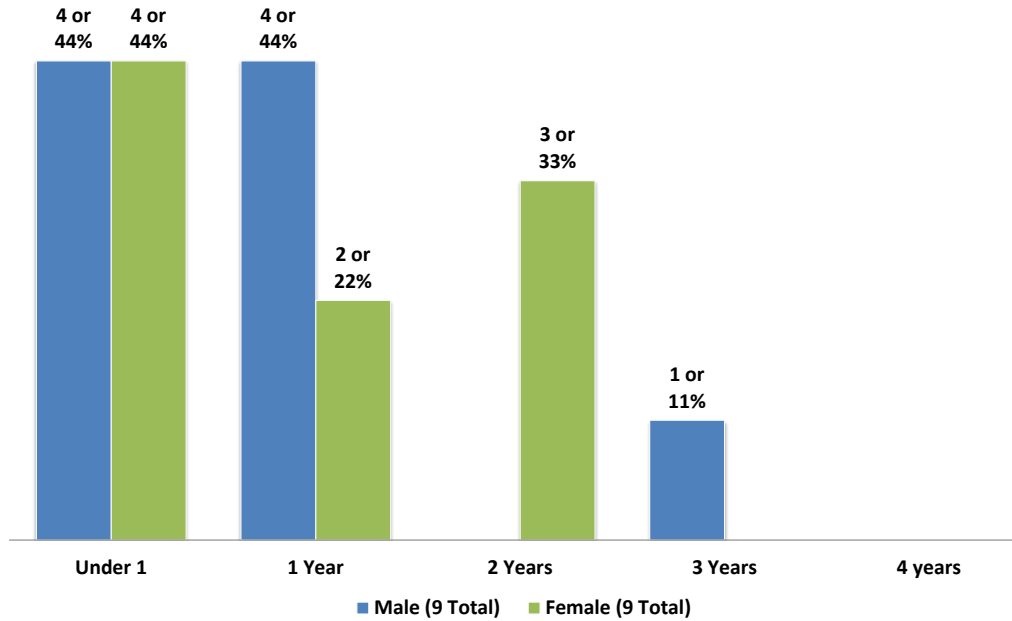
Foster Care Prevalence Rate per 1,000 Children (Children in care on 7/1/12)	Under 1	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	16-17 yrs
Kern County	9.4	9.1	6.4	5.7	6.5	7.9
California	6.5	7.3	5.7	4.6	5.1	7.0

Foster Care Population (2007-12)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Kern County	2,478	2,233	2,108	2,029	1,835	1,804
California	74,934	67,950	61,970	57,391	55,983	55,218

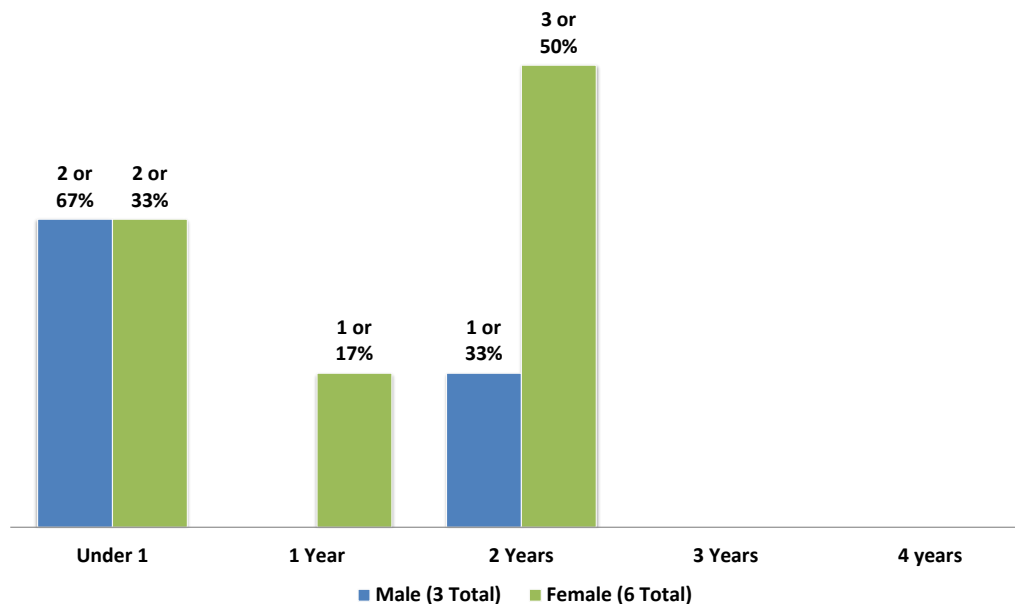
Severe Injury To Children

Child Near Fatalities

Child Age & Gender of All Reported Severe Injuries From Abuse/Neglect
Kern County, 2012



Child Age & Gender of All Reported Near Fatalities From Abuse/Neglect
Kern County, 2012

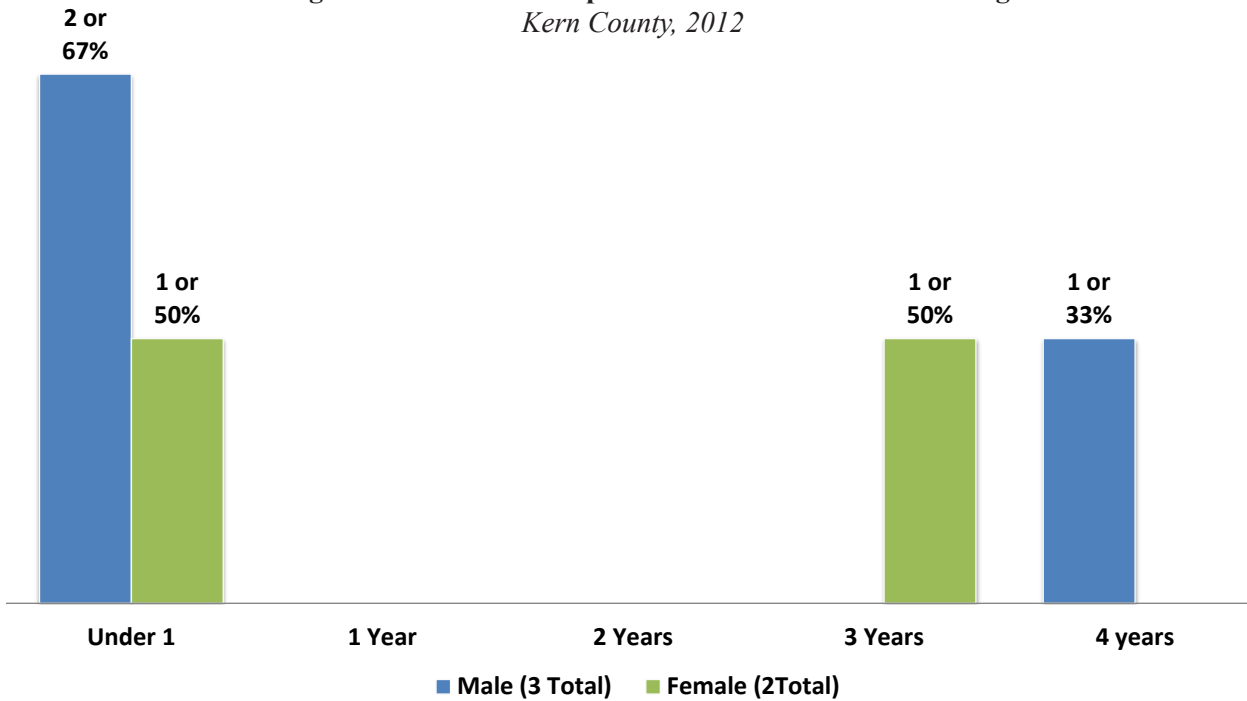


- In 2012, 18 children suffered from severe injuries as a result of abuse or neglect. Kern County defines severe injury as any injury that includes, but is not limited to, multiple fractures, amputation of limbs, burns requiring hospitalization, severe sexual abuse and torture.
- Consistent with state and national trends, very young children are the most vulnerable population to sustain severe injuries. In Kern County, all 18 children who experienced severe injuries from abuse or neglect in 2012 were under the age of four years and averaged 13.1 months in age.
- The ages of severely injured children included infants (44%) and children ages 1 year (33%), 2 years (17%) and 3 years (6%).
- An equal number of boys (50%) and girls (50%) were victims of severe injury from child maltreatment.

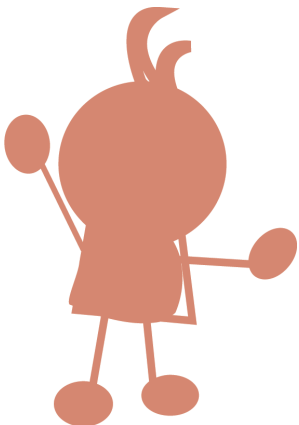
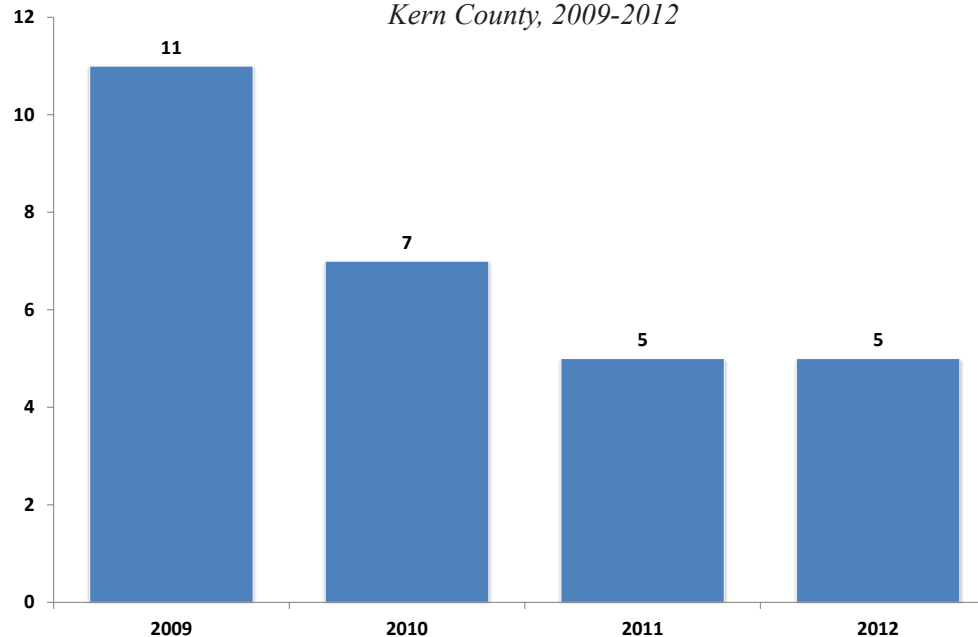
- A near fatality is defined by the state as: a severe childhood injury or condition caused by abuse or neglect which results in the child receiving critical care for at least 24 hours following the child's admission to a critical care unit. In 2012, there were 9 near fatalities resultant from abuse or neglect.
- In Kern County, all 9 child near fatalities from abuse or neglect in 2012 were under the age of 3 years and averaged 13.7 months in age.
- Infants less than one year of age and two year olds each accounted for 44% of the child near fatalities in 2012. The remaining child who nearly died from abuse or neglect was one year old.
- For near fatalities, the number of incidents involving females (67%) was greater than the number involving males (33%).
- Abusive head trauma injuries were diagnosed in 6 of the 9 near fatalities. Of the remaining 3 children, 1 child had multiple fractures, 1 child had severe dehydration and 1 child ingested methamphetamines.

Child Fatalities

Child Age & Gender of All Reported Fatalities From Abuse/Neglect
Kern County, 2012



Number of Child Fatalities Due to Abuse/Neglect
Kern County, 2009-2012



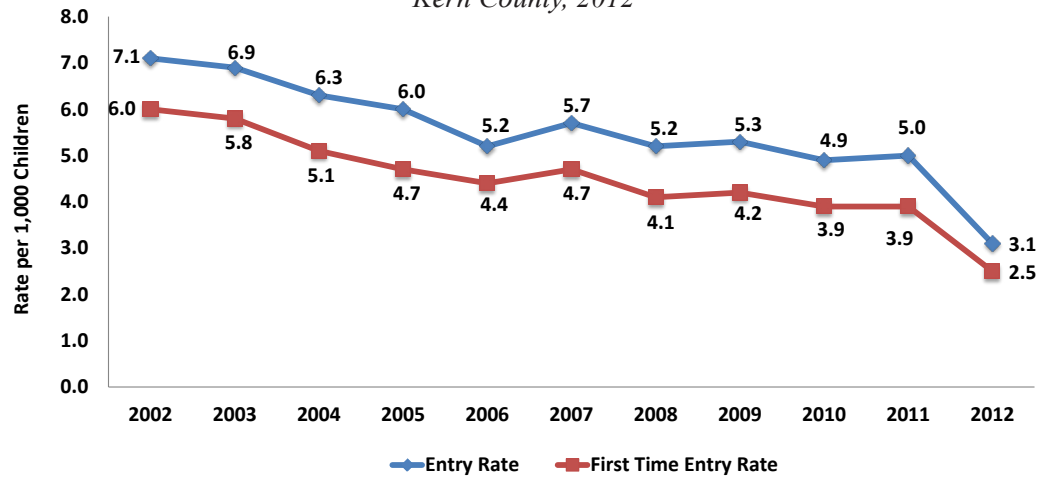
- Child deaths are the most tragic result of abuse and neglect. Between 2009 and 2012, 28 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kern County.
- In 2012, 5 children died as a direct result of child abuse or neglect.
- Children less than a year old accounted for 4 out of the 5 abuse-related fatalities reported.
- Four of these children were infants under the age of one year, consistent with national and previous county data that found very young children to be most vulnerable.
- In 2012, 3 of the 5 children who died from abuse were male.
- Blunt force trauma to the head was diagnosed in 3 of the 5 abuse-related fatalities. The remaining 2 children were killed by blunt force trauma.
- Parent(s) were responsible for 4 of these 5 abuse-related child deaths.

Children Entering into Foster Care

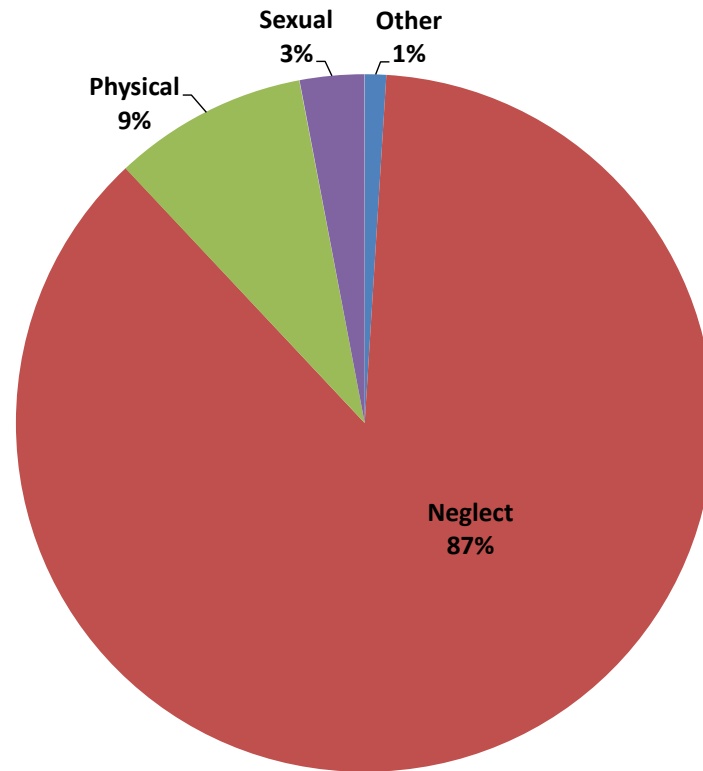
Children Served in Foster Care

- Of the 4,073 Kern County children with substantiated reports of abuse and neglect during 2012, 784 were removed from their family home and spent at least one day in an out-of-home placement in order to ensure their safety (19% of substantiated cases).
- The rate of foster care placement was 3.1 per 1,000 children compared to California's rate of 3.3 entries per 1,000 children.
- The number of children and youth in foster care continues to decline from a decade peak of 2,970 in 2003 to 1,804 in 2012, a 39% overall decrease.
- During the calendar year 2012, 639 children (82% of all entries) entered foster care for the first time.
- Kern County's first time entry rate of children into foster care decreased from 4.0 in 2011 to 2.5 per 1,000 children in 2012.

Foster Care Entry & First Time Entry Rate - Incidence per 1,000 Children
Kern County, 2012



First Time Entry into Foster Care by Removal Reason – Kern County, 2012



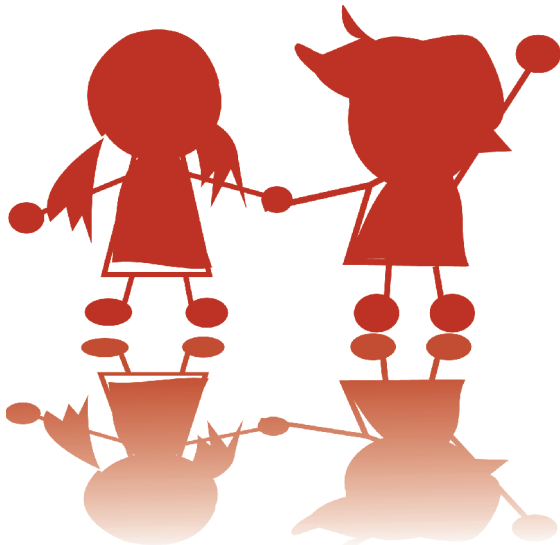
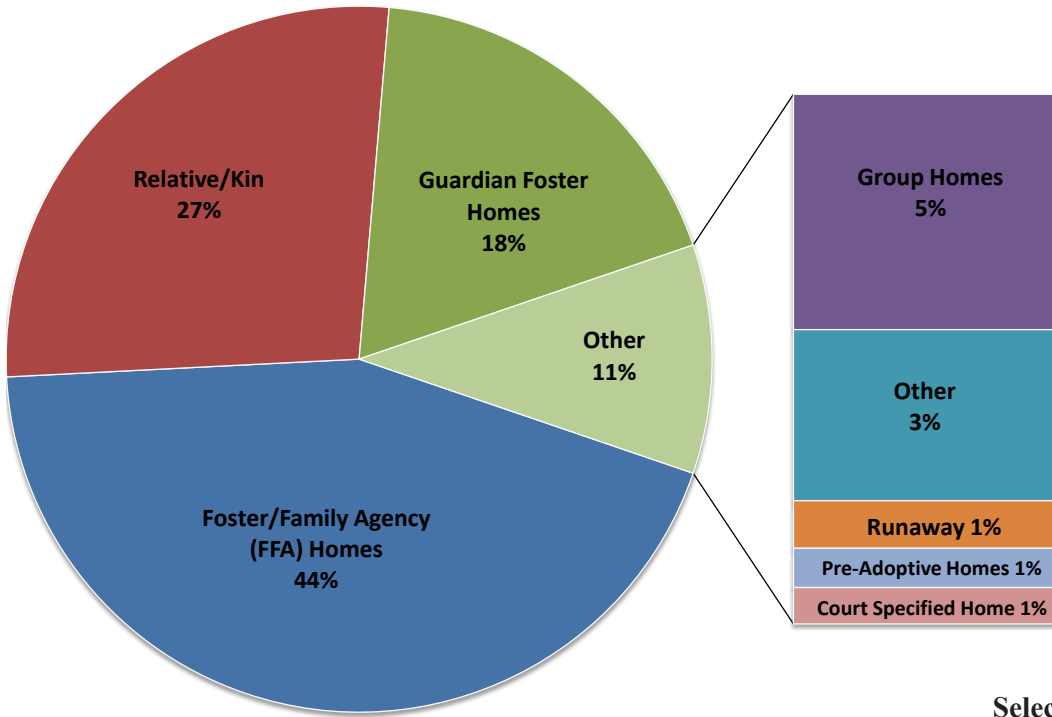
- On July 1, 2012, there were 1,804 children in the foster care system across Kern County, 32 fewer children than the previous year's count.
- Infants (9.4 per 1,000 infants) and toddlers (9.1 per 1,000 children 1-2 years old) experienced the highest in-care rates in Kern's foster care system.
- In 2012, African-American children (17.5 per 1,000 African-American children) were in foster care at a rate greater than children in any other racial/ethnic group.
- In 2012, 27% of children in the Kern County foster care system experienced more than two placements in less than 12 months.
- Statewide, the placement stability rate was 14% in 2012.

Additional customizable Kern County and California foster care data are available using KidsData.Org.

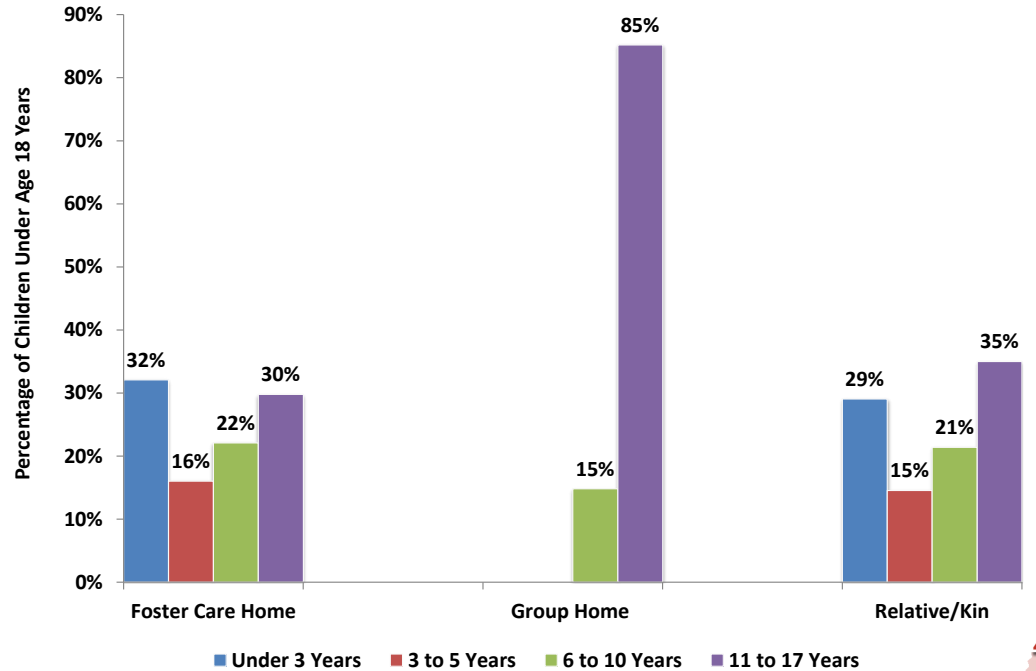


Children Served in Foster Care *cont.*

Placement Settings for Children in Foster Care – Kern County, July 1, 2012



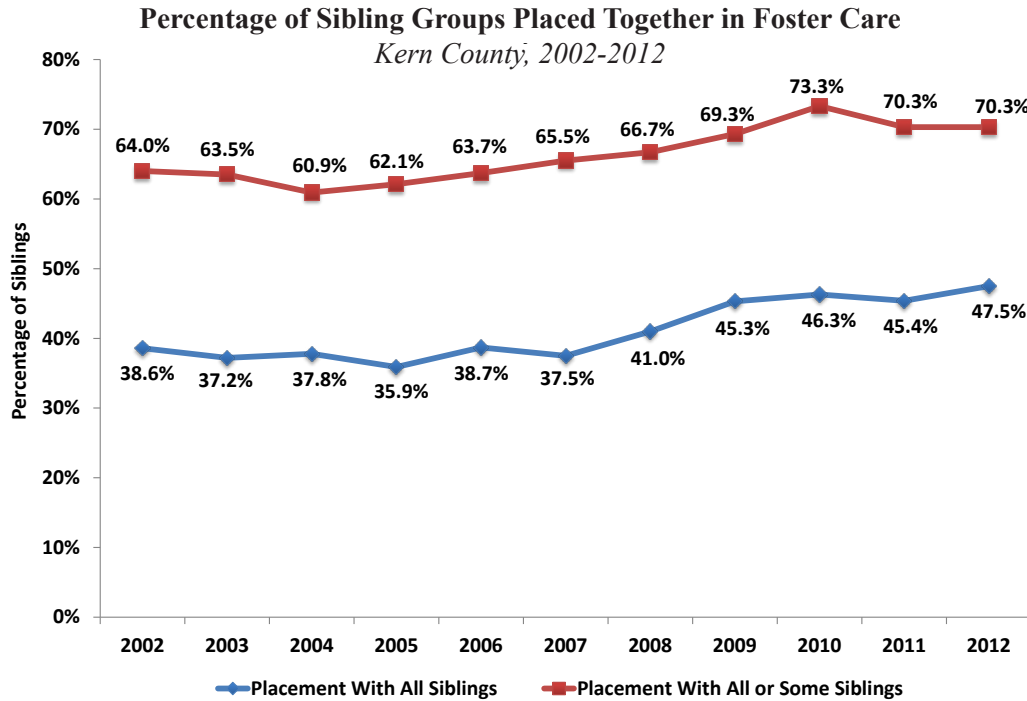
Selected Foster Care Placement Settings by Age Group – Kern County, 2012



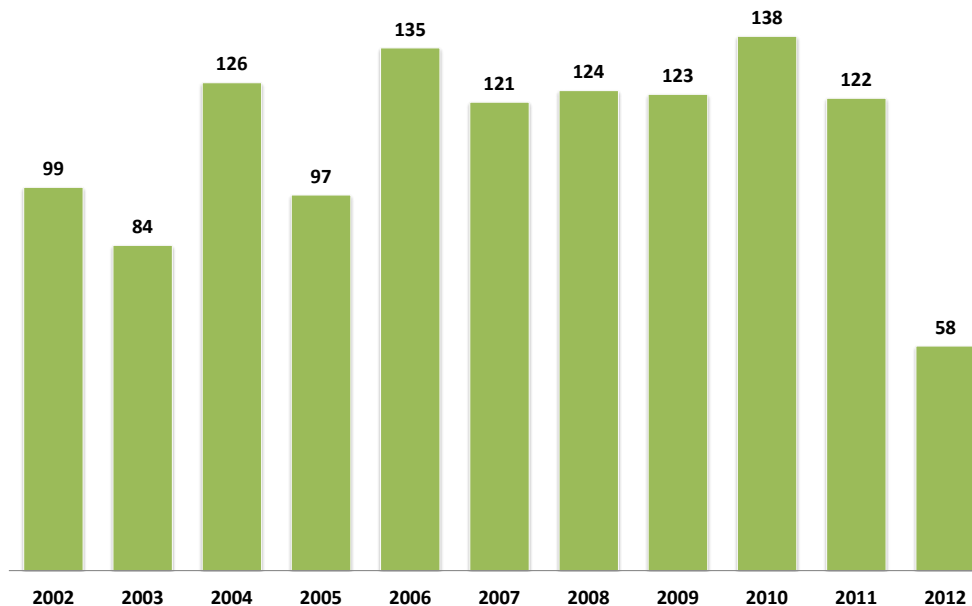
- Whenever possible, sibling units are placed in the same foster home. In 2012, the share of Kern County's foster youth placed with at least one sibling was 70% in comparison to 74% throughout California.
- Kinship care is the full time care of children by relatives, godparents, step-parents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child. On July 1, 2012, 27% of the Kern County children in out-of-home care lived with relatives compared to 36% state-wide.
- Among children placed with kin, 47% were between the ages of 0 and 5 years and 56% were Latino.

Family & Sibling Connections

Teenagers in Foster Care



Number of Youth Aging Out of Foster Care – Kern County, 2002 - 2012

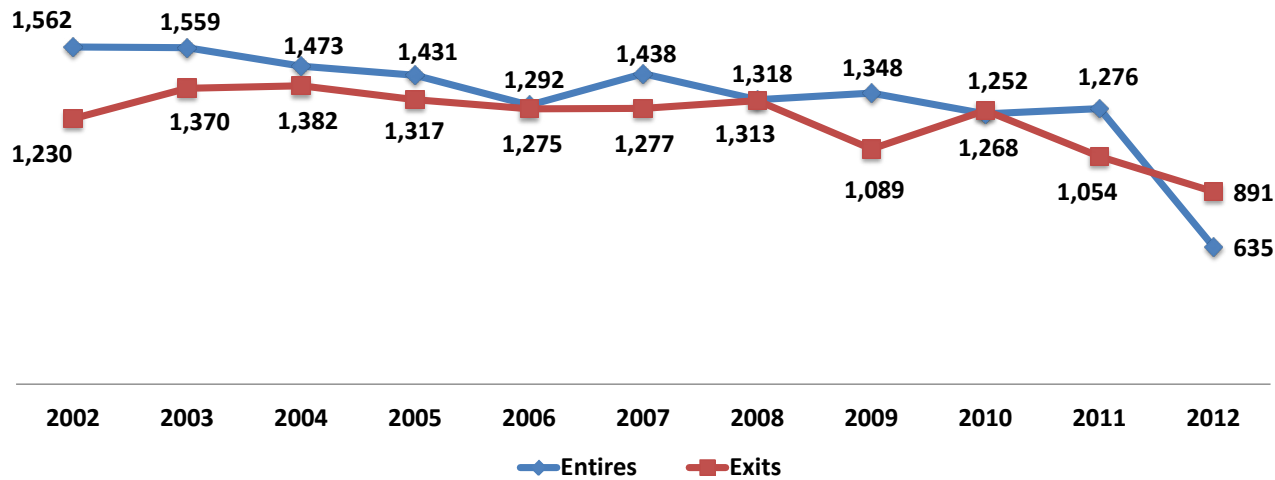


- One July 1, 2012, 500 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 lived in foster care in Kern County, 28% of the county's foster care population.
- Teens exiting foster care were reunited with their families in less than a year 59% of the time during 2012.
- Some children remain in foster care until they are 18 or have graduated from high school. In Kern County, 58 youth were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in foster care in 2012.
- 62% of youth aging out of foster care had been in care for three years or longer.
- Assembly Bill 12 (AB 12) allows foster youth the option to remain in foster care and received services until age 20 years. During 2012, 69 youth between 18 and 20 years elected to remain in the foster care system.

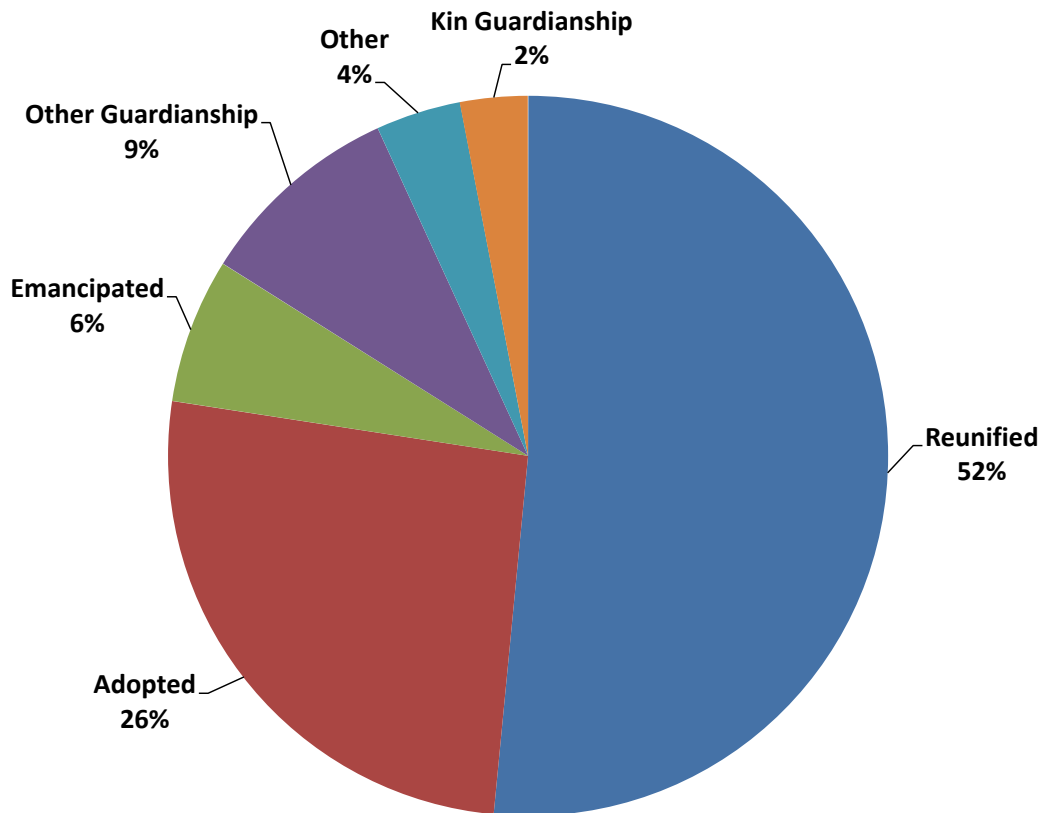


Exiting Foster Care

Number of Children Entering & Exiting Foster Care Placement – Kern County, 2002-2012



Where Children Went After Exiting Foster Care – Kern County, 2012



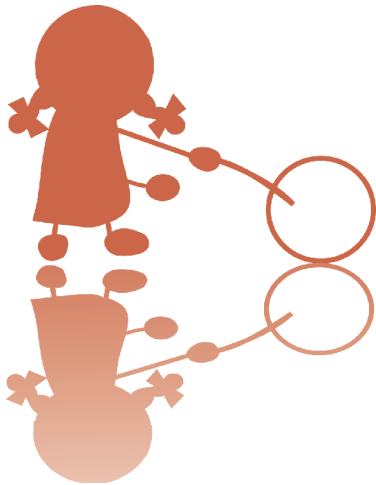
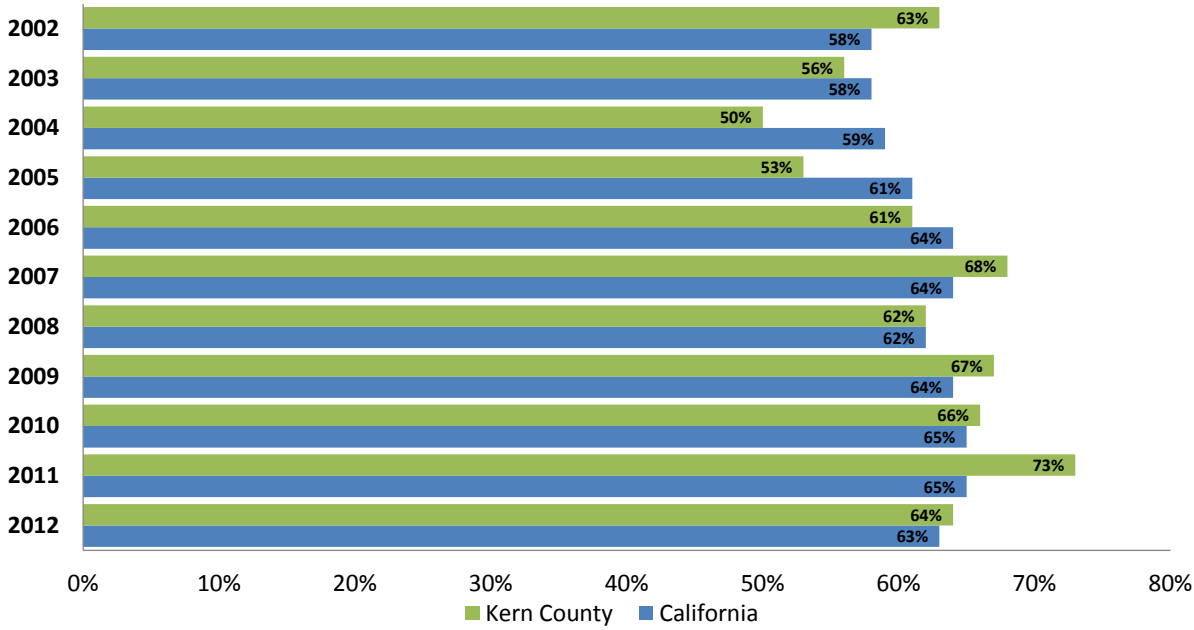
- During 2012, 891 children and youth exited foster care in Kern County.
- 64% of Kern’s exiting children and youth were reunified with their families in less than 12 months compared to California’s reunification rate of 63%.
- The median length of time before Kern County children in foster care were reunified with their families was 9.7 months in 2012.
- Teens between the ages 16 and 17 were the least likely to reunify in 12 months, and infants were the most likely in Kern.
- Children whose first placement type was a foster care home/FFA was most likely to reunify in less than a year (67%) and group homes were the least likely (55%).
- Of the 505 Kern County children discharged from foster care to reunification during 2011, 83% did not return to foster care in less than 12 months from the date of the earliest discharge to reunification, a figure slightly lower than the state rate of 88%.

Additional customizable Kern County and California exit from foster care data are available using KidsData.Org.

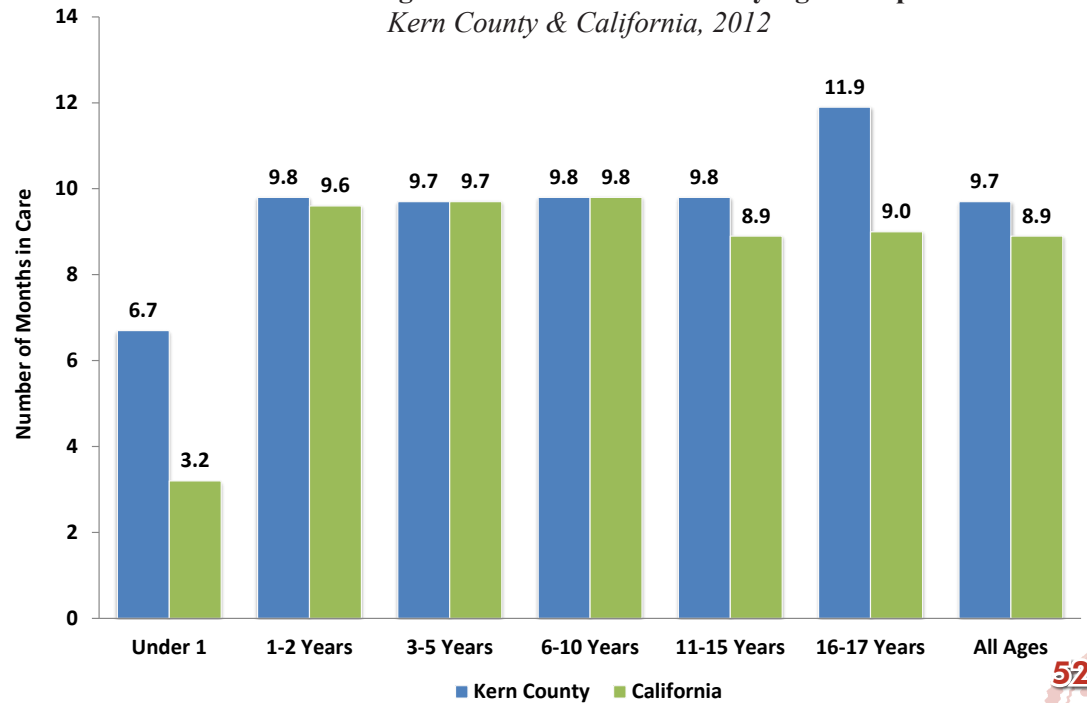


Exiting Foster Care *cont.*

Percentage of Children Who Exited Foster Care to Reunify with Family in Less Than Year
Kern County & California, 2002-2012



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



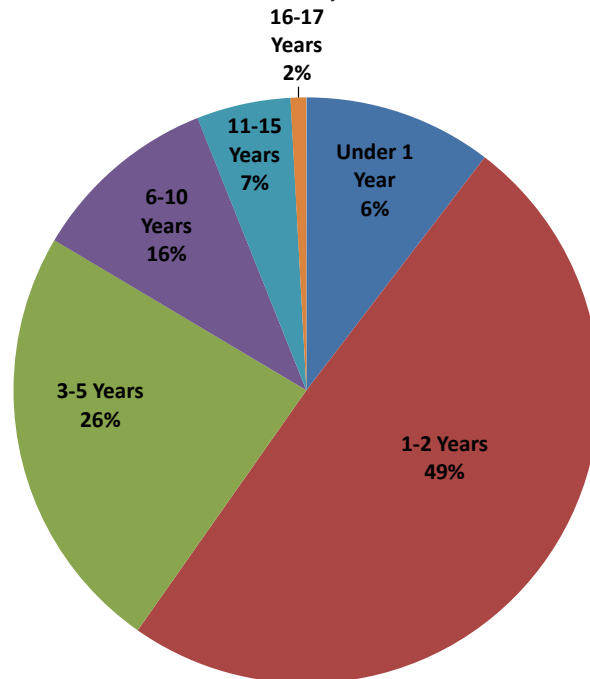
The goal for most foster children is to return to their family, however, sometimes children are not able to return home and need a permanent family through adoption and guardianship.

- During the calendar year 2012, 231 children left foster care in Kern County through adoption.
- 60% of the Kern County children adopted were younger than age 3 when their adoption became final.
- 55% of the finalized adoptions in 2012 were female children.
- Over half of the children adopted in 2012 were Latino (58%) followed by Caucasian (30%), African-American (9%), Native American (1%) and Asian/Pacific Islander (0.9%) children.
- While the length of time to achieve adoption varies by age, the median time to adoption was 20.5 months for children whose adoptions were finalized in Kern County during 2012, a decrease from 23.1 months in 2011.

Adoption & Guardianships

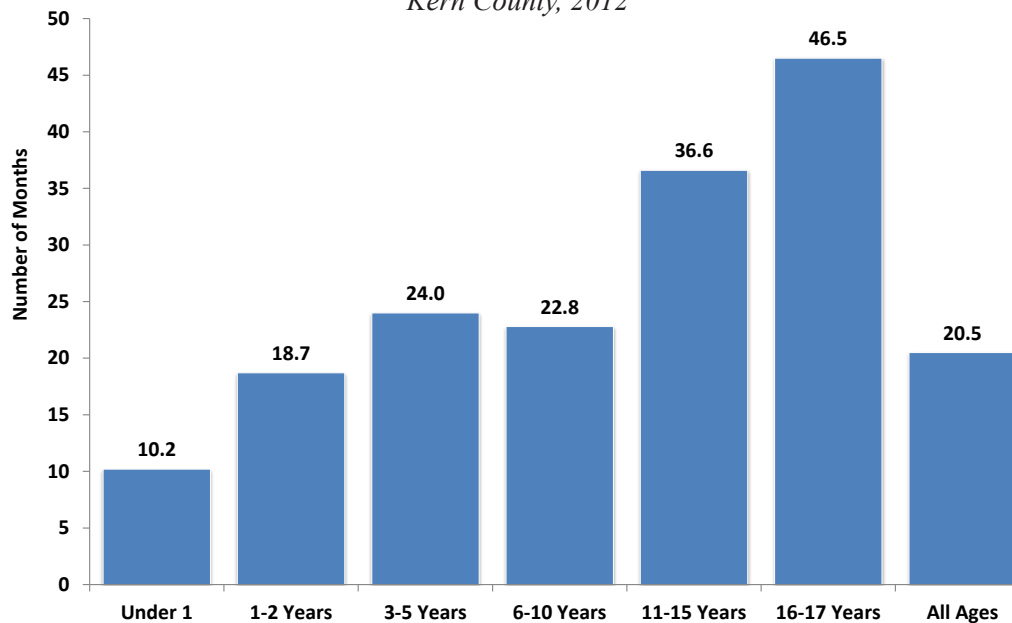
Children Exiting Foster Care with Finalized Adoptions by Age Group

Kern County, 2012



Median Number of Months in Foster Care to Adoption by Age Group

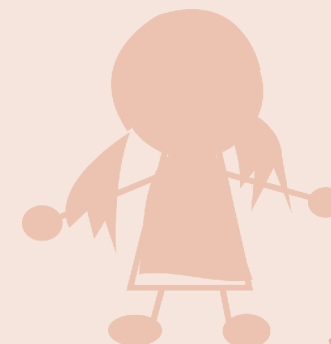
Kern County, 2012



When a child cannot be returned home and adoption is not in the child's best interests, then guardianship is considered to be a more permanent plan for a child.

- During 2012, 109 children exited foster care to a guardianship.
- The majority of Kern County guardianships (67%) were for children ages 6 and older in 2012.
- 53% of the Kern County children who left foster care to guardianship were females during 2012.
- Almost half of the children who exited foster care to guardianship during 2012 were Caucasian (43%) followed by Latino (37%) and African-American (17%) children.

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



What We Can Do

For many, the maltreatment of children can be very difficult to talk about. It may even be more difficult to acknowledge that children, regardless of age, gender or socioeconomic status, are abused and neglected every day in Kern County.

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

Mandated reporters and other concerned adults often refer potentially dangerous situations to [Child Protective Services \(CPS\)](#) for investigation. While the number of reports to CPS can indicate about how many children in the county are potentially at risk of abuse and neglect, referral rates also demonstrate the willingness of community members to report events where children may be in danger. By working together as a community, we all can play a part in strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect.

Jump to -

- [Ways to Get Involved](#)
- [Child Abuse in Public Places](#)
- [Contents Page](#)
- [Kern Cares](#)
- [Kern County Network for Children](#)



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](#) for children and families in need, or organize a donation drive at your workplace, school or place of worship for children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect at the [Dream Center](#) and [Jamison Center](#).

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. Sometime it is hard to keep up with them."

Divert the child's attention by talking to the child.

- "I like your t-shirt. Did you get that on vacation?"
- That's a great baseball cap. Are you a Dodger's fan?"

Look for an opportunity to praise the parent or child.

- "She has the most beautiful eyes."
- "That is a very nice shirt your little boy has on. Where did you get it?"
- "Your child is very cute. How old is she?"

If the child is in danger, offer assistance.

- If the child is left unattended in a grocery cart, stand near the child until the parent returns.

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

To learn more, please visit the [Kern Cares](#) website.

Taken from [Blue Ribbons For Kids](#).



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

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

2013/2014 Prevention Calendar

April Child Abuse Prevention	May Teen Pregnancy Prevention	June Water Safety	July Sexual Abuse Awareness
August Keeping Kids Safe In & Around Cars	September Adolescent Mental Health	October Safe Sleeping For Infants	November Substance Abuse Prevention
December Celebrating Our Youth & Families	January Gang & Youth Violence	February Safety Surrendered Baby Law	March Child Personal Safety

Who We Are
The mission of the Kern County Network for Children (KCNC) is to protect and enrich the lives of children in Kern County by helping to build and sustain healthy families through the commitment of all community partners.

What We Do
The prevention of child abuse requires the involvement of the entire community. In an effort to involve our community, the Children's Advocacy Committee was formed to help guide our outreach and education efforts. This committee of private business, faith-based, non-profit, education and public service organizations assists in development of the Kern Cares calendar of themes to promote child safety and well being.

How You Can Help
We all can do small things every day that help children have healthy, safe lives. Anything you do to support kids

and parents can help reduce the stress that often leads to abuse and neglect.
Visit www.kerncares.org to access information and resources for each monthly topic and ways to get involved.

What is Child Abuse and Neglect?
Child abuse is the purposeful physical injury inflicted on a child by a parent, guardian or other adult. *Child neglect* is the failure of a parent, guardian, or other caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs.

Report suspected abuse or neglect.
Child Abuse Hotline: (661) 631-6011

Visit www.kerncares.org each month to learn important prevention information and access free resources
It's Our Responsibility!

Committee Members

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

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

Tom Corson
Executive Director, Kern County Network for Children

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

Martha Gómez
Administrative Assistant, Kern County Network for Children

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

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

Shirelle Perez
Program Facilitator II, Community Connection for Child Care

Kim Silva
Research Associate, Kern County Network for Children

Eric Simpson
Pastor of Community Transformation, The Bridge Bible Church

Kristin N. Weber
Public Affairs Department, Kaiser Permanente

Barbara Zimmermann
Executive Coordinator, Department of Human Services

Information about child abuse and neglect, how to report suspected abuse and neglect 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 & Timed Reunification Services

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 and Coffee House

kcsos.kern.org/dreamcenter

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

Kern County Report Card

www.kcnc.org/reportcard

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

KCNC's Annual Leadership Development Program

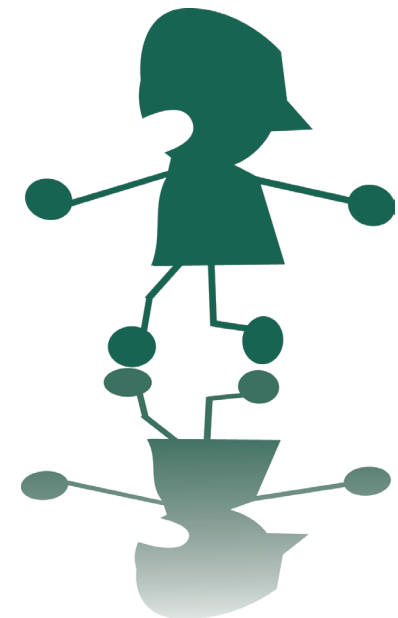
www.kcnc.org/leadership

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

Community Discussion Forums & Quality Trainings

www.kcnc.org/meetings_trainings

KCNC invites community partners and concerned individuals can take part in our regular monthly forums including the General Collaborative, Group Home Coalition, Foster Youth Advisory Board and Domestic Violence Advisory Committee to network, foster best practices, raise awareness and share information on behalf of children and families. KCNC helps partner agencies and family support programs increase their capacity to serve children and families with technical assistance, contract administration, evaluation services and high quality community trainings in the areas of child safety, Mandated Reporting, and issues that Kern communities and families face.



Community Collaboratives

Since 1992, Kern County communities have partnered together as [Community Collaboratives](#) to better care for children and families. Twenty of these partnerships have completed an in-depth application process and review by Kern County Network for Children and have been designated Accredited Community Collaboratives. Most Community Collaboratives host a Family Resource Center (FRC) or Community Resource Center (CRC). The following list can be used to refer individuals or families to needed services within their own community.

Accredited Community Collaboratives

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

Other Community Collaboratives

Bakersfield	Oildale Collaborative and CRCs	661.392.2110, ext. 118 or 661.392.8758, ext. 1
	Fairfax/Edison Community Collaborative	661.366.6783
Delano	Delano Neighborhood Partnership and CRC	661.721.5000

2013 KCNC Governing Board

Tammy Burns

Early Childhood Council of Kern

Dr. Don Carter

Kern High School District

Pat Cheadle

Kern County Department of Human Services

Morgan Clayton

Tel-Tec Security

Matt Constantine

Kern County Department of Public Health

Dr. Christine Lizardi Frazier

Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Supervisor Mick Gleason

Kern County Board of Supervisors

Leslie Golich

Kaiser Permanente

Jamie Henderson

First 5 Kern

Della D. Hodson

United Way of Kern County

Deborah Johnson

California Veterans Assistance Foundation

Chief David M. Kuge

Kern County Probation Department

Magda Menendez

Mexican American Opportunity Foundation

Konrad Moore

Kern County Public Defender

John Nilon

Kern County Administrative Office

Stephen Pelz

Housing Authority of the County of Kern

Bill Phelps

Clinica Sierra Vista

Eric Simpson

The Bridge Bible Church

Judge Louie Vega

Kern County Juvenile Justice Center

Dr. James Waterman

Kern County Mental Health System of Care

Chief Greg Williamson

Bakersfield Police Department

Sheriff Donny Youngblood

Kern County Sheriff's Department

Thomas J. Corson

Executive Director, Kern County Network for Children

Theresa Goldner

KCNC Legal Counsel, Office of Kern County Counsel

2013 Data Sources



Children and Family			
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/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?_afpt=table
Family Structure	3	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/S1101/0500000US06029
Children in Families	3	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/B09002/0500000US06029
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	3	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/B10002/0500000US06029
Foreign Born Parents	3	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/B05009/0500000US06029



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/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/B19125/0500000US06029
Median Income by Family	5	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/B19126/0500000US06029 http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/B10010/0500000US06029
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/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/S0901/0400000US06 0500000US06029
Child Care Supply and Demand	6	California Resource & Referral Network	http://my.rnetwork.org/site/DocServer/Kern_County.pdf?docID=980
Child Care Cost	6	California Resource & Referral Network	http://my.rnetwork.org/site/DocServer/Kern_County.pdf?docID=980

2013 Data Sources cont.

Unemployment	7	California Employment Development Department	http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/Content.asp?pageid=1006
Employed Parents	7	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/C23008/0500000US06029
Poverty Level	8	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/11poverty.shtml
Family Poverty	8	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?_afpt=table
Child Poverty Demographics	8	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?_afpt=table
Occupied Housing Units	10	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/S0901/0400000US06 0500000US06029
Median Gross Rent	10	US Census, American Community Survey	http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/S0901/0400000US06 0500000US06029
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
CalFresh Enrollment	11	California Department of Social Services	http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/default.htm
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	11	2010 Nutrition and Food Insecurity Profiles	http://ers.usda.gov/foodatlas/downloadData.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



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

2013 Data Sources cont.

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
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
High School Exit Exam	16	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=ExitExam&submit1=Submit
Graduation Rates	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	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	16	California Department of Education – DataQuest	http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/page2.asp?level=County&subject=Graduates&submit1=Submit
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/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/11_1YR/S1501/0400000US06 0500000US06029



Child and Adolescent Health

INDICATOR	PAGE NUMBER	DATA SOURCE	DATA LOCATION
Births	20	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp
Low Birthweight Infants	20, 23	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp
Preterm Births	20, 23	California Department of Public Health	http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/VSC-2010-0228.pdf

2013 Data Sources cont.

Infant Mortality	20, 23	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp
Safely Surrendered Babies	20	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	<i>Data obtained through special request</i>
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	Immunization Branch, California Department of Health Services	http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/ImmunizationLevels.aspx
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	California Health Interview Survey	http://www.chis.ucla.edu
Health Insurance	23	California Health Interview Survey	http://www.chis.ucla.edu
Late/No Prenatal Care	23	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp
Births to Teen Mothers and Birth Rate	23	California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System	http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/vsq/default.asp
Chlamydia Infection	23	California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch	http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/STD-Data-LHJ-Kern.pdf
Depression	24	California Health Interview Survey	http://www.chis.ucla.edu
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=&c-Topic=HKids&cLevel=County&cName=&cCounty=15,KERN&cTime-Frame=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=&c-Topic=HKids&cLevel=County&cName=&cCounty=15,KERN&cTime-Frame=S
Bullying/Harassment	33	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
Dating Violence	33	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
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
Violent Crime Rate	37	California Department of Justice	http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc-stats/2010
Domestic Violence Calls for Assistance	37	California Department of Justice	http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc-stats/2010
Property Crime Rate	37	California Department of Justice	http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc-stats/2010
Juvenile Felony Arrests, Ages 10-17	37	California Department of Justice	http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc-stats/2010
Juvenile Misdemeanor Arrests, Ages 10-17	37	California Department of Justice	http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc-stats/2010



Child Well-Being			
INDICATOR	PAGE NUMBER	DATA SOURCE	DATA LOCATION
Referred and Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect Allegations	40, 45	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/RefRates.aspx
Allegation Demographics	40, 45	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx
Recurrence of Allegations	40	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/S1M1.aspx
Neglect	42	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx
Physical Abuse	43	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx
Sexual Abuse	44	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	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, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/InCareRates.aspx
Foster Youth Population	45	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx
In-Care Rates	45	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	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, 2012	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	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx

2013 Data Sources cont.

Family and Sibling Connections	50	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/siblings.aspx
Teenagers in Foster Care	50	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx , http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Exits.aspx
Reunification	51	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C1M1.aspx
Foster Care Exits	51	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Exits.aspx
Median Time to Reunification	51	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C1M2.aspx
Re-Entry After Reunification	51	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C1M4.aspx
Adoptions	53	Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Quarter 4, 2012	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, 2012	http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Exits.aspx