

Kern County

Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Community Profile 2017-18

Demographics

Our Community

Total Population ¹	878,356
Total Population, African American	50,098
Total Population, American Indian/ Alaskan Natives	6,306
Total Population, Asian/Pacific Islander	37,066
Total Population, Hispanic	446,924
Total Population, White	337,962
Total Live Births ²	14,145

Our Mothers and Babies

% of women delivering a baby who received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester of their pregnancy ²	97.0%
% of births covered by Medi-Cal ²	55%
% of women ages 18-64 without health insurance ³	25.6%
% of women giving birth to a second child within 24 months of a previous pregnancy *	62.2%
% live births less than 37 weeks gestation ²	12.4%
Gestational diabetes per 1,000 females age 15-44	6.0
% of female population 18-64 living in poverty (0-200% FPL) ³	46.3%
Substance use diagnosis per 1,000 hospitalizations of pregnant women*	14.5
Unemployment Rate ⁴	15.2

Our Children and Teens

Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 births (ages 15-19) ²	57.6
Motor vehicle injury hospitalizations per 100,000 children age 0-146	21.1
% of children, ages 0-18 years living in poverty (0-200% FPL) ³	59.9%
Mental health hospitalizations per 100,000 age 15-24*	991.4
Children in Foster Care per 1,000 children ⁵	8.8
Substance abuse hospitalization per 100,000 aged 15-24*	509.3

Data sources: ¹ CA Dept. of Finance population estimates for Year 2015, January 2013; ² CA Birth Statistical Master Files 2011-2013 Annual Average, 3 year average; ³ California Health Interview Survey, 2014; ⁴ [State of California, Employment Development Department, February 2017](#); ⁵ [Data from CA Child Welfare Indicators Project, UC Berkeley Point in Time Jul 2015](#); ⁶ [California Department of Public Health, Safe and Active Communities Branch](#); *Data carried over from the Community Profile 2015-2016. Not updated.

About Our Community – Health Starts Where We Live, Learn, Work, and Play

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Kern County has a total area of 8,163 square miles, of which 8,132 square miles is land and 31 square miles is water (2017). The county is located in the southern Central Valley of California and it is the third-largest county in the state. It borders the Sierra Nevada range on the East; from the Sierras it spans the San Joaquin Valley to the Temblor Range and Coastal Ranges on the West; the Tehachapi Mountains to the South; and the San Joaquin Valley floor to the North.
- There are six major industries in Kern County. Agriculture provides over 53,000 private sector jobs. Transportation and Logistics provides over 13,000 jobs in road, air, rail, logistics, and wholesale trade. Energy and Natural Resources provides 18,000 private sector jobs in oil and gas production, field services, electricity, refining, chemicals, and plastics. Aerospace and Defense and Tourism, Recreation and Entertainment provides 23,000 jobs each. Healthcare Services provides over 21,000 jobs.

- Kern County is a large county with several rural towns in the outlying areas that afford themselves a walkable community. Bakersfield is the largest city in the county with a population of 373,640 (2015) and a total area of 114 square miles. The mean travel time to work is 22.8 minutes (U.S. Census). There are numerous neighborhoods that within themselves are walkable communities i.e. North of the River, Northeast, Southwest, etc..

Health System – Health and Human Services for the MCAH Population

- The 2011 RWJ County Health Rankings report ranked Kern 51 for poor Health Outcomes and 56 for poor Health Factors, out of 56 counties reporting for California. Proportion of children under the age of 18 living in poverty has increased locally and statewide (see Figure 29). Kern County residents continue to experience more poverty than the state average. In 2010, Kern County was ranked 47 out of 58 jurisdictions. In 2016, Kern County was ranked 54 out of 58 jurisdictions.
- The California Department of Health Services conducts an immunization assessment of enrolling Kindergartners to monitor compliance with California’s School Immunization Law. In 2010, 91.7% of children enrolling in Kindergarten had all required immunizations. CA’s rate for the same year was 90.8%.
- Childhood asthma is widespread in the Central Valley and is often linked to the Valley’s poor air quality, heavy trucking corridors, and physical geography. Results from the 2009 California Health Interview Survey estimate that 13% of children (ages 1-17 years) in Kern have been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetime.
- Kern County still has a much higher rate of births to teens than the state average, but is at its lowest rate since the indicator was evaluated. In 2010, Kern County was ranked 52 out of 56 jurisdictions. In 2016, Kern County was ranked 56 out of 57 jurisdictions.
- Kern County continues to have a higher proportion of births with low birth weight compared to the State. The increase in low birth weight births is increasing at a faster rate in Kern County compared to the state as a whole, widening the gap. In 2010, Kern County was ranked 46 out of 56 jurisdictions.
- Kern’s infant mortality rate has risen for the third consecutive year. The infant mortality rate in Kern (7.2 per 1,000) (ranking 1st) was more than double the rate in Santa Clara County (3.3 per 1,000) in 2008 (CDPH HVNA, 2010). The Kern County Child Death Review reported that there were 148 child deaths in 2012. Of these deaths, the 55 children met the criteria as Sheriff-Coroner’s cases for referral and review (see table below). There were 19 (34%) of the children were under the age of 1; 13 (24%) were between 1 and 4 years of age; 8 (15%) were between 5 and 9; and 11 (20%) were between 10 and 14 years, and 4 (7%) were between 15 and 17 years.

Health Status and Disparities for the MCAH Population

- The proportion of the population that is uninsured has decreased over the past five years both locally and statewide (see Figure 19). While Kern County still has a slightly larger proportion of its population which is uninsured, it is close the state average. In 2012, Kern County was ranked 46 of 58 jurisdictions. In 2016, Kern County ranked 41 out of 58 jurisdictions.
- The primary care physician ratio has increased both locally and statewide. This indicates more patients per physician, likely indicating a shortage of providers. This can put more pressure on urgent care and emergency room facilities, and may result in a lack of preventative care. Kern County has nearly twice as many patients per physician than the state average. This indicator also spreads all of the physicians throughout the county. Since many physicians are located in the greater Bakersfield metropolitan area, patients in more rural areas may face an even more dramatic shortage of providers. In 2011, Kern County was ranked 41 out of 56 jurisdictions. In 2016, Kern County was ranked 43 out of 57 jurisdictions.
- Kern has 9 hospitals, 63 health care clinics, and 78 dental providers to serve 839,631 residents. Out of the 9 hospitals, there are 5 birthing centers. There are a total of 33 CPSP providers. All other areas of the county are served by FQHC’s that are part of Clinica Sierra Vista and National Health Services Inc. All FQHC sites in the county are CPSP- approved.
- Mammography screenings have decreased both locally and statewide (see Figure 25). Kern County has a smaller proportion of Medicare enrollees being screened compared to the rest of the state. Despite having a smaller proportion screened compared to 2012, the proportion in 2016 was higher than the previous two years in Kern County and may indicate an improving trend. In 2012, Kern County was ranked 47 out of 56 jurisdictions. In 2015, Kern County was ranked 50 out of 57 jurisdictions.

- The percentage of pregnant mothers in Kern who obtained prenatal care services during the first trimester increased between 2008 and 2009, from 68.8% to 72.2% (CDPH, 2010). In CA overall, 81.3% of mothers received care during their first trimester during 2009.
- Kern County continues to have the highest rate of chlamydia incidence in the state, and is increasing at a faster rate than the state average. In 2010, Kern County was ranked 57 out of 58 jurisdictions. In 2016, Kern County was ranked 56 out of 56 jurisdictions.
- In terms of domestic violence, during 2009, Kern law enforcement officers recorded 4,650 calls for assistance in domestic violence situations, a rate of 8.5 calls per 1,000 populations (KCNC, 2010). This rate increased from 7.6 calls per 1,000 populations in 2008. The CA rate of calls for assistance declined slightly from 6.6 calls per 1,000 in 2008 to 6.5 calls per 1,000 in 2009 (KCNC, 2010)