

About the Data – Child Mortality

Indicator Description

The child mortality rate is the number of deaths per 100,000 children aged 1–9 years.

Data Sources

California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics and Informatics. Death Statistical Master File, 2010–2013: Compiled from information on death certificates, including demographic information related to the decedents.

California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics and Informatics. California Comprehensive Death File, 2014–2023: Compiled from information on death certificates, including demographic information related to the decedents.

For 2010–2019: State of California, Department of Finance, California and Counties Intercensal Population by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender: 2010–2020. Sacramento, California, January 2025.

For 2020–2023: California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. 2024. State And County Population Projections 2020–2070 [P-3: Complete State and County Projections Dataset]. Sacramento: California Department of Finance. September 2024.

National Comparison

Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Federally Available Data (FAD) Resource Document. May 19, 2025; Rockville, MD: Health Resources and Services Administration. Retrieved June 24, 2025.

Data Analysis

The child mortality rate shown in these dashboards is the number of deaths per 100,000 children aged 1–9 years who resided in California at the time of death, stratified by county, age, race alone and ethnicity, and sex. The distribution, or percent, of the leading causes of death is the number of child deaths by stated cause among all child deaths aged 1–9.

The 95% confidence interval presented in the tooltips indicates there is a 95% chance that the range contains the true prevalence or rate in the population. Rates or percentages with wide confidence intervals should be interpreted with caution.

The state dashboard uses single-year data that are comparable with national single-year data.

Overlapping time periods show the general direction or slope of the trendline across the entire timeframe. Rates should not be compared for overlapping time periods; for example, rates for 2020–2022 and 2021–2023 should not be compared. Only non-overlapping periods can be compared; for example, rates for 2018–2020 and 2021–2023 can be compared.

See Category and Subcategory Definitions below for additional inclusion/exclusion criteria.

Data Suppression

The numerator, rate, and confidence interval are not shown when the numerator is less than 10.

Category and Subcategory Definitions

Age: Age of decedent at time of death. Excludes records with unknown age.

Cause of death: The leading causes of child death are defined based on International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) coding provided in the National Center for Health Statistics' List of 113 selected causes of death and Enterocolitis due to *Clostridium difficile* (Heron M. Deaths: Leading causes for 2019. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 70 no 9. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2021.). The following causes are shown in this dashboard: Malignant neoplasms (Cancer) (ICD-10 C00–C97); Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities (Congenital malformations) (ICD-10 Q00–Q99); Diseases of the heart (Heart disease) (ICD-10 I00–I09, I11, I13, I20–I51); Assault (Homicide) (*U01–*U02, ICD-10 X85–Y09, Y87.1); Influenza and pneumonia (ICD-10 J09–J18); Accidents (Unintentional injuries) (ICD-10 V01–X59, Y85–Y86); and All other causes. An asterisk (*) preceding a cause-of-death code indicates that the code is used only in the United States and not included in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD–10).

Geography: State or county of decedent's residence at time of death.

Race alone and ethnicity (previously labelled Race/Ethnicity as shown below): Mutually exclusive categories of race and ethnicity reported by the mother/parent giving birth; percentages across the categories sum to 100 percent. Hispanic includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race, including Other and Unknown race. Multiracial includes those of non-Hispanic origin who reported more than one race. The remaining groups are of non-Hispanic origin who reported a single race: American Indian or

Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (NHPI), White, Other, or Unknown. Other and Unknown race are not shown on the dashboards but are available in the downloadable data table. Race and Hispanic-origin ethnicity are reported independently on the birth certificate, with reporting of more than one race allowed.

Race/Ethnicity (previous label)	Race Alone and Ethnicity (current label)
AIAN	AIAN alone
Asian	Asian alone
Black	Black alone
Hispanic	Hispanic of any race
Multi-Race	Multiracial alone
Pacific Islander	NHPI alone
White	White alone

Sex: Sex of decedent is defined as either male or female. Excludes records with unknown and nonbinary sex.

Suggested Citation

California Department of Public Health, Center for Family Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division, Child Mortality Dashboard, Last Modified July 2025.
go.cdph.ca.gov/Child-Mortality-Dashboard