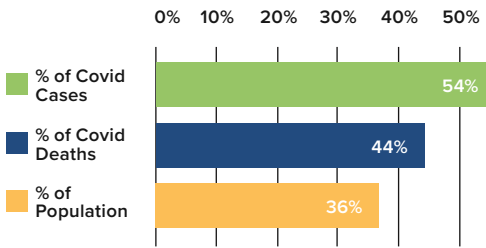




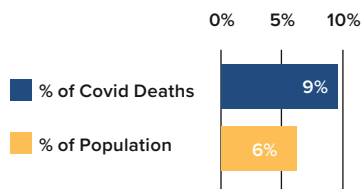
# Urgent Federal Action Needed to Protect California's Children and Families from Impacts of COVID-19

## Racial Inequities

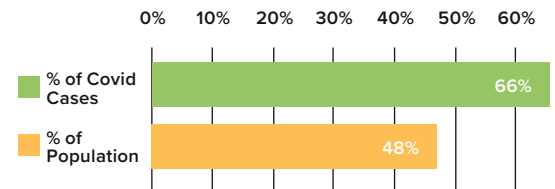
COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black and Latinx communities in California.



Among adults, Latinx people make up **54% of cases** and **44% of deaths**, yet are **36%** of the state's population



Among adults, Black people make up **9% of deaths**, yet are **6%** of the state's population



Latinx children make up **2 in 3 (66%)** of COVID-19 cases among children in the state, but are less than half (**48%**) of the state's population

## Poverty and Food Insecurity

- ▶ In California, more than twice as many Black households with children as white households with children reported that in the previous 7 days, they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat (20.3 percent versus 7.9 percent, respectively)
- ▶ More than 11 percent of Latinx households with children and 9.6 percent Asian American households with children sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in the past 7 days.
- ▶ When someone in a California household with children became sick with coronavirus symptoms, nearly one in five (19.6 percent) said their household did not have enough to eat sometimes or often in the previous week.
- ▶ When household income was below \$25,000 per year, more than one in five (21.1 percent) reported sometimes or often not having enough to eat in the previous week.

**Congress must increase the maximum benefit for SNAP by at least 15% and raise the minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30 per month, and extend pandemic-EBT to infants and toddlers.**

## Threatened Evictions and Homelessness

Many families across our state are one paycheck away from homelessness, or are already experiencing any number of hardships due to this pandemic.

- ▶ Roughly 25 percent of California's households are experiencing housing insecurity, including over 3 million California households (3,159,189) who say they have little or no confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent.
- ▶ Nearly 40 percent of Latinx households (1,977,363) and 21 percent of Black households (185,664) have little or no confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent compared to 15 percent of white households (557,275).
- ▶ Over 1 in 3 or nearly 2 million California households with children (37% or 1,818,768) have little or no confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent.

Previously enacted federal legislation set a moratorium on evictions in rental properties with federal subsidies or backing. Protections against evictions will expire on July 25. California families could face an unprecedented surge in homelessness as lost income makes it impossible for households to afford rent once the partial moratorium expires.

**Congress must provide \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance and broaden and extend the moratorium on evictions.**

## Access to Health Care

Providing quality health insurance and care to all Californians is an investment in the future of our children and State as a whole. However, inequities by race continue to persist among Californians without health insurance. Studies show that increasing coverage for parents also increases the number of children with health coverage, creating what's known as a "welcome mat" effect for children. The health of parents can play an important role in the well-being of their children as parents in poor health may have greater difficulty attending to their children's health needs.

- ▶ While less than 6 percent of white people in California have no health insurance, close to 17 percent of Latinx Californians and nearly 12 percent of Black people in California are uninsured.
- ▶ California's Medicaid program (Medi-Cal) is a lifeline for 1 in 3 Californians and roughly 6 in 10 children.

Given the magnitude of both the public health and economic crises the nation continues to face, state and local governments need more support to provide health care services to children, individuals and families.

**Congress must increase the share it pays states for Medicaid (known as the federal medical assistance percentage or FMAP) by a total of 14 percentage points. In addition, the enhanced FMAP should not be reduced until the national unemployment rate falls below 5 percent.**

## Household Income Losses Not Seen Since the Great Depression

- ▶ Fully two-thirds of Latinx households in California have experienced earnings losses since March 13 (66 percent), as have 55 percent of Black households, 50 percent of white households, and 46 percent of Asian American households.
- ▶ If pandemic unemployment benefits are allowed to expire, as of July 27, 3.6 million Californians receiving unemployment benefits will start losing nearly \$2.2 billion per week, causing great harm to their families, their children, and to the economy.

Income losses disproportionately impact immigrant communities and roughly half of California's nine million children have at least one immigrant parent.

**Congress must provide cash aid similar to the \$1,200 cash payments made earlier this year to families unable to regain earnings or to work at all, with expedited distribution of the aid to people with income too low to owe federal income tax. Stimulus payments must also be modified to include immigrants and their citizen family members.**



*If you have any questions, please contact Gabriella Barbosa at the Children's Partnership at [gbarbosa@childrenspartnership.org](mailto:gbarbosa@childrenspartnership.org).*

## End Notes

*Sources: Census Household Pulse Survey Data and the California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Race and Ethnicity Data.*