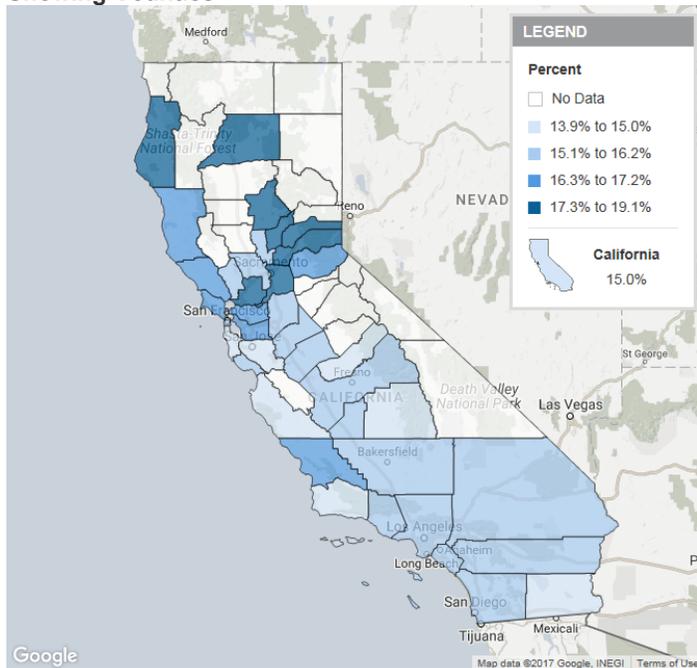


## Children with Special Health Care Needs

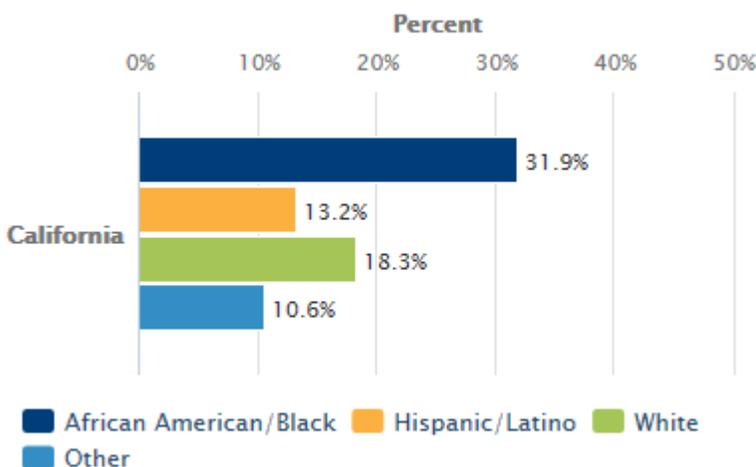
**Prevalence of Special Health Care Needs Among Children: 2011-2012; Showing Counties**



**Definition:** Estimated percentage of children ages 0-17 with special health care needs (e.g., in 2011-2012, an estimated 15% of California children had special health care needs).

**Data Source:** Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, *Advancing data-in-action partnerships for children and children with special health care needs in California counties and cities using synthetic estimation from the 2011/12 National Survey of Children's Health and 2008-2012 American Community Survey* (Apr. 2016).

**Prevalence of Special Health Care Needs Among Children, by Race/Ethnicity: 2011-2012**



### What It Is

On kidsdata.org, indicators related to children with special health care needs (CSHCN) include data on demographics and other characteristics of children with special needs, the impact of conditions on CSHCN and their families, health insurance coverage, and access to and quality of health care and other services (1). See kidsdata.org's [CSHCN category](#) for a full list of indicators.

In this topic on characteristics of children with special needs, kidsdata.org also provides the number and percent of children under 18 with major disabilities, as single-year and 5-year estimates, by county, city, and school district. The 5-year estimates are available by legislative district, as well. These data also are available by health insurance status (2).

In addition, the number and percent of public school students enrolled in special education by county and school district is available, as is the number and percent by disability and by race/ethnicity at the county level (3).

Finally, kidsdata.org offers the number of active enrollees in the California Children's Services (CCS) program (i.e., enrollees with paid claims), by age group and county (4).

### Why This Topic Is Important

More than 1 million California children and youth have a need for health care services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally. Their ongoing health problems—physical, behavioral, or developmental—can affect their ability to function and participate in important educational and social activities. In some cases their health problems can shorten their lives (1). Medical care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN) is often complicated by the co-occurrence of social, emotional, and academic problems (1, 2). Because of the higher caregiving burdens, families of CSHCN tend to experience more stress and difficulties with employment and finances than other families (1, 2).

CSHCN account for more than 40% of all health care costs among children nationwide, despite making up only about 16% of the U.S. child population (1). Though advances in medical care have extended and improved the lives of millions of children, obtaining timely, appropriate, and affordable care remains a problem for many families. More than four in five CSHCN do not receive one or more basic

**Definition:** Estimated percentage of children ages 0-17 with special health care needs, by race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2011-2012, an estimated 13.2% of Hispanic/Latino children in California had special health care needs).

**Data Source:** Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, *Advancing data-in-action partnerships for children and children with special health care needs in California counties and cities using synthetic estimation from the 2011/12 National Survey of Children's Health and 2008-2012 American Community Survey* (Jun. 2016).

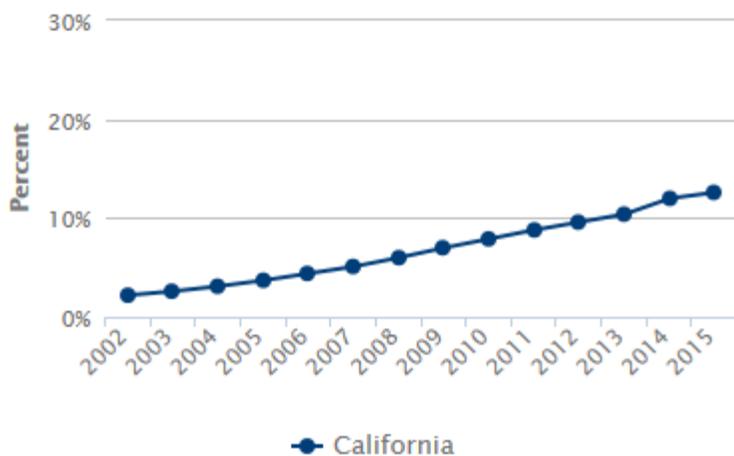
### Active California Children's Services (CCS) Enrollees, by Age: 2012

California	Number
Under 1 year	6,784
1-21 years	121,014

**Definition:** Number of active enrollees in the California Children's Services (CCS) program (i.e., enrollees with paid claims), by age group and county.

**Data Source:** Sanders, L., Sundaram, V., Chamberlain, L., & Wise, P. (2014). *User-driven analysis of CCS claims data: Guidance for policy reform*. Stanford Center for Policy, Outcomes, and Prevention.

### Children in Special Education Receiving Services for Autism



**Definition:** Percentage of public school children in grades K-12 receiving special education services, by type of disability (e.g., 12.6% of special education students in California in 2015 had autism).

**Data Source:** Special Tabulation by the California Dept. of Education, Special Education Division; Assessment, Evaluation and Support (Oct. 2015); California Dept. of Education, *California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS)*; National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2014, Table 204.30*: "Children 3 to 21 years old served under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, by type of disability: Selected years, 1976-77 through 2012-13" (Oct. 2015).

aspects of quality health care, in California and nationally (1). The demographic data provided here can be useful for projecting needs and developing policies to ensure that all CSHCN reach their maximum health potential.

### How Children Are Faring

An estimated 15% of California children under age 18 have special health care needs, according to a 2011-2012 survey; among counties with data, estimates range from 14% to 19%. In 2009-2010, more than half of CSHCN in California had two or more chronic conditions, and 16% had four or more. Commonly reported conditions among California children with special health care needs (CSHCN) included allergies, asthma, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, and developmental delay.

In 2015, about 3% of California children had major disabilities including serious impairments in vision, hearing, walking, cognition, or self-care. Among uninsured children, 1.9% had one or more major disabilities, compared to 3.1% of insured children. Across counties, estimates of children with major disabilities ranged from about 1% to more than 8% in 2010-2014.

More than 700,000 K-12 public school students in California—about 12% of all students—received special education services in 2015. Together, students with learning disabilities and speech or language impairments comprised the majority of students in special education in California, accounting for more than 60% of all special education students. The percentage of students enrolled in special education for autism has grown in recent years, increasing from 2% to 13%, or 11 percentage points, between 2002 and 2015. Across all counties with data, the rate of students receiving services for autism rose from between five and 16 percentage points in the same period.

*View references for this text and additional research on this topic:*

<http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/14/characteristic-s-of-children-with-special-needs/summary>

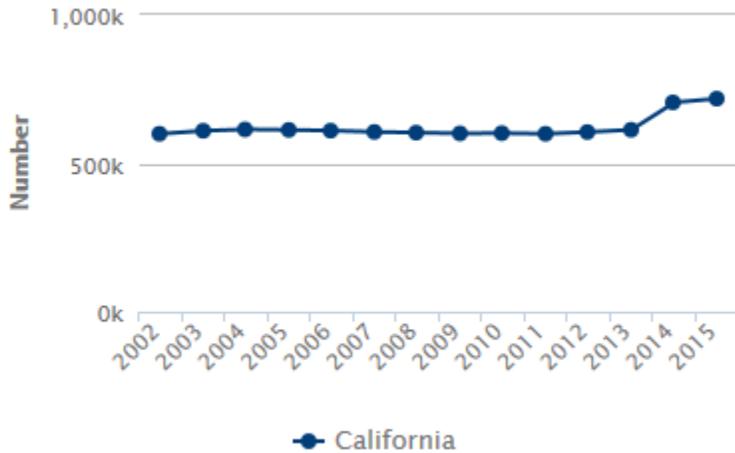


**More Data:** [www.kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org)

**Sign Up for Data Updates:** [www.kidsdata.org/signup](http://www.kidsdata.org/signup)

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## Special Education Enrollment: 2002 to 2015



**Definition:** Number of public school children in grades K-12 receiving special education services.

**Data Source:** Special Tabulation by the California Dept. of Education, Special Education Division; Assessment, Evaluation and Support (Oct. 2015); California Dept. of Education, [California Basic Educational Data System \(CBEDS\)](#); National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 2014, [Table 204.30](#): "Children 3 to 21 years old served under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, by type of disability: Selected years, 1976-77 through 2012-13" (Oct. 2015).



**More Data:** [www.kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org)

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