

# One-Quarter of California Children Receive Food Assistance, and in Some Counties the Level Is Nearly One-Half

## Percentage of Children Under 18 Receiving CalFresh Benefits

In 2013, one in four California children (24.8) were receiving CalFresh benefits – a level more than twice as high as that for the state population overall (11.1). While striking, this statistic actually masks wide variation among counties. For example, in Tulare and Fresno counties, nearly half of residents under 18 receive CalFresh, while in Marin, Placer, and Mono counties, just under 10 percent do. Yet even the lowest county rate of children receiving CalFresh (9.2 percent in Marin) is more than twice as high as that for the county population overall. These data underscore the fact that children are more likely to live in poverty than adults.

COUNTY	PERCENT SHARE OF CHILD POPULATION		
	2011	2012	2013
Alameda	17.8%	17.8%	18.5%
Alpine	19.3%	21.7%	25.6%
Amador	19.2%	20.5%	21.9%
Butte	27.7%	28.1%	29.7%
Calaveras	21.8%	22.7%	22.6%
Colusa	17.3%	17.1%	16.9%
Contra Costa	13.7%	13.9%	14.5%
Del Norte	40.3%	40.5%	38.9%
El Dorado	12.2%	12.3%	12.3%
Fresno	43.4%	44.5%	44.6%
Glenn	25.1%	24.9%	26.2%
Humboldt	24.9%	24.7%	26.9%
Imperial	35.9%	35.7%	37.5%
Inyo	22.7%	23.6%	26.3%
Kern	32.5%	32.7%	33.7%
Kings	29.9%	30.7%	31.3%
Lake	32.5%	33.1%	34.4%
Lassen	22.0%	22.6%	23.7%
Los Angeles	25.0%	25.6%	27.0%
Madera	38.1%	39.8%	39.5%
Marin	8.2%	8.4%	9.2%
Mariposa	23.2%	23.2%	23.9%
Mendocino	29.1%	30.0%	30.0%
Merced	37.4%	38.6%	39.7%
Modoc	25.1%	24.2%	22.6%
Mono	9.1%	11.0%	9.4%
Monterey	24.6%	26.7%	26.6%
Napa	13.5%	13.6%	13.2%
Nevada	14.1%	15.1%	16.8%

COUNTY	PERCENT SHARE OF CHILD POPULATION		
	2011	2012	2013
Orange	16.8%	18.1%	19.3%
Placer	9.6%	9.4%	9.3%
Plumas	19.5%	21.1%	20.7%
Riverside	22.4%	23.5%	24.8%
Sacramento	28.3%	28.7%	29.4%
San Benito	22.0%	21.3%	21.8%
San Bernardino	30.6%	32.3%	33.8%
San Diego	17.0%	17.4%	18.2%
San Francisco	17.6%	16.8%	16.4%
San Joaquin	29.7%	30.3%	32.0%
San Luis Obispo	16.4%	16.2%	16.4%
San Mateo	9.0%	9.9%	10.6%
Santa Barbara	20.8%	20.8%	20.5%
Santa Clara	13.3%	13.0%	13.5%
Santa Cruz	21.4%	20.8%	21.2%
Shasta	27.3%	26.9%	27.0%
Sierra	15.3%	19.8%	22.9%
Siskiyou	29.4%	30.4%	32.8%
Solano	19.7%	19.8%	20.8%
Sonoma	16.0%	16.3%	16.8%
Stanislaus	30.0%	31.0%	32.1%
Sutter	24.4%	24.7%	26.2%
Tehama	30.9%	31.3%	32.8%
Trinity	25.9%	25.9%	27.3%
Tulare	43.6%	44.9%	46.9%
Tuolumne	21.8%	21.3%	21.5%
Ventura	16.8%	17.1%	18.4%
Yolo	18.5%	18.6%	18.5%
Yuba	31.8%	30.9%	31.9%

Note: Enrollment data are from July of each year.  
Source: California Department of Social Services

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