Poverty is more prevalent among families with kids in California than in the rest of the US. In California, 18% of all families with kids and 20% of families with kids under age 6 have incomes below the poverty line – much higher than in the rest of the US.

Growing up in poverty can have lasting, harmful effects. The longer kids spend in poverty, the less likely they are to complete high school, attend college, and be consistently employed in early adulthood, and the more likely they are to live in poverty as adults.

Policymakers can help more children reach their potential by investing in families. Promising approaches include investing in early care and education and boosting families’ resources through larger CalWORKs grants and an increased CalEITC.

Funding for this Data Hit was provided by First 5 California.