Children in Poverty: The State of Children in Los Angeles County

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Child Poverty in Los Angeles

1. Child poverty rates in Los Angeles are high.
2. Poverty rates and the needs of children vary across a number of dimensions including age, race/ethnicity, and nativity.
3. Poverty is simultaneously concentrated in central-city neighborhoods and suburbanizing which creates challenges for both families and service providers.
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Nearly one quarter of all children in Los Angeles live in poverty; this rate:

- is higher than for other age groups;
- is higher than the child poverty rate for California and the U.S.; and
- has increased during this recession.
Poverty Status by Age – Los Angeles
(American Community Survey, 2008-10)

- 1-17:
  - Below Poverty: 24%
  - 100-199% Poverty: 27%
  - Above Low Income: 50%

- 18-64:
  - Below Poverty: 15%
  - 100-199% Poverty: 20%
  - Above Low Income: 65%

- 65+:
  - Below Poverty: 14%
  - 100-199% Poverty: 23%
  - Above Low Income: 62%
Poverty Status of Children (0-17) Los Angeles, California, and U.S. (ACS, 2008-10)
Poverty rates and the needs of children vary across a number of dimensions including age, race/ethnicity, and nativity.
Poverty Rate by Age (Los Angeles)
(American Community Survey, 2008-10)
Poverty Rate by Age and Race/Ethnicity
Los Angeles (American Community Survey, 2008-10)

NH White: 9% 11%
NH Black: 31% 21%
Hispanic: 29% 18%
Al/Native Alaskan: 34% 21%
Asian: 12% 12%
Poverty Rate by Age and Nativity
Los Angeles (American Community Survey, 2008-10)

- 0-17: 26% Native Born, 31% Foreign Born
- 18-64: 15% Native Born, 26% Foreign Born
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Family Poverty, Los Angeles
American Community Survey, 2006-2010
Children in Los Angeles by Poverty Status and Residence (ACS, 2006-8)

- Poverty: 54% Central City, 46% Suburb
- Above Poverty: 40% Central City, 60% Suburb
What do we know?

• **We need to intervene:** Childhood poverty has lingering negative effects on individuals’ life chances—educational attainment, labor force participation and earnings, poverty rates, social/emotional development, health, etc.

• **We need to research:** To develop policies, researchers need to better understand the specific mechanisms that contribute to child poverty (i.e. the relative contribution of parents, households, neighborhoods, the economy, institutions, and policies, etc.).

• **We need to act:** Research needs to complement efforts to develop and implement “promising policies and practices.”