A New Normal: Supporting Recovery and Reimagining the Future for Young Children in California

Mayra E Alvarez MHA
President

COVID One Year Later: Where Do We Stand?
Early Childhood Funders Collaborative

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The Children’s Partnership (TCP) is a policy and advocacy organization committed to advancing child health equity.

We advocate for breakthrough solutions at the intersection of research, policy, and community engagement.
The Impacts of COVID-19 on Children: A Whole Child Perspective

- trusted caregivers
- safe and stable housing
- economically stable families
- quality child care and early education
- nutritious foods
- mental and physical health care

Graphic Source: CLASP
COVID-19 Child Data

- Over 3.9 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic.
  - Nearly 49,000 new child cases were reported last week. This marks the lowest number of new weekly cases since late-October (AAP).

- While the number of children contracting COVID-19 in the U.S. is much lower than the record highs set at the start of the new year, children now account for almost a quarter of new coronavirus cases in states that release data by age (AAP).
  - Just one year ago, child COVID-19 cases made up only around 3% of the U.S. total.

- Across the nation, of the at least 284 children who have died from COVID, approximately 65% of these deaths are Black and brown children (CDC).
  - In children <14 years, Black children are 2.5 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than white children, and Hispanic children are nearly three times more likely to die from COVID-19 than white children (The COVKID Project).
COVID-19 and Young Children

- Perception that children are not impacted by COVID-19
- “Vaccine-hesitant” caregivers
- Combatting racism and its effects
A Data Snapshot from California Families with Young Children

February 2021
Survey Results: Struggles with Health Care

● 50% of unemployed parents enrolled in state sponsored health insurance (Medi-Cal and Covered California) after losing their job.

● Over a third of parents overall (34%) have attempted to enroll in Medi-Cal during the pandemic.
  ○ Half (50%) cited that they had problems and/or issues when applying and enrolling in Medi-Cal, the most common being the need for a lot of follow-up (23%).

● 26% say they have not been able to access medical care using telehealth during the pandemic.
  ○ 94% of parents agree that accessing their child’s doctor via telehealth could help them, but only 48% currently access their child’s doctor using telehealth.

● 32% have missed well-child health appointments for their child.
Survey Results: The Pandemic's Impact on Children's Development and Wellbeing

- 70% are worried about the mental health of the adults and/or child in their family.
- 87% of parents agree that receiving referrals to mental health supports could help them; only 13% have received or currently have access to mental health referrals.
- 73% of parents worry about their child’s ability to socialize with other children.
- 74% are worried that their child’s education and development will suffer.
Survey Results: Other Concerns from Parents

- 88% worry about exposing their family to COVID-19.

- 69% of parents report that the pandemic has significantly disrupted their home and family life (74% in April 2020).

- 64% worry they’ll have to make sacrifices in schooling or career to care for their child during the pandemic (+5% since April 2020).

- 31% of parents are worried about the impact issues like substance abuse and domestic violence will have on their family as a result of the pandemic (+8% since April 2020).
Supporting Child Well-being in COVID Recovery and a Reimagined Future

- Trauma History
- Poverty
- Family Conflict
- Racial Trauma

Positive experiences matter

Source: Ghosh Ippen, 2011
Moving Forward for Families with Young Children

- Invest in community-centered early childhood mental health services for families and providers.
- Increase investment in food and other public benefits programs available to all families regardless of their immigration status.
- Provide more access to health and mental health services through continuous coverage in Medi-Cal for young children 0-5 post-pandemic and for 12 months postpartum.
- Advance digital equity and increase community engagement and outreach in order to expand access to telehealth services.
- Create whole-family wellness hubs in our most under-resourced communities that connect families to social supports such as housing, health care, legal services, and education.
- Streamline enrollment across public benefits programs to make it easier for families to enroll in programs and quickly access health, food, housing, and other supports.
Thank you

Mayra E Alvarez
Phone: 202-701-3662
Email: malvarez@childrenspartnership.org

Social Media:
@kidspartnership
@mayraealvarez