

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

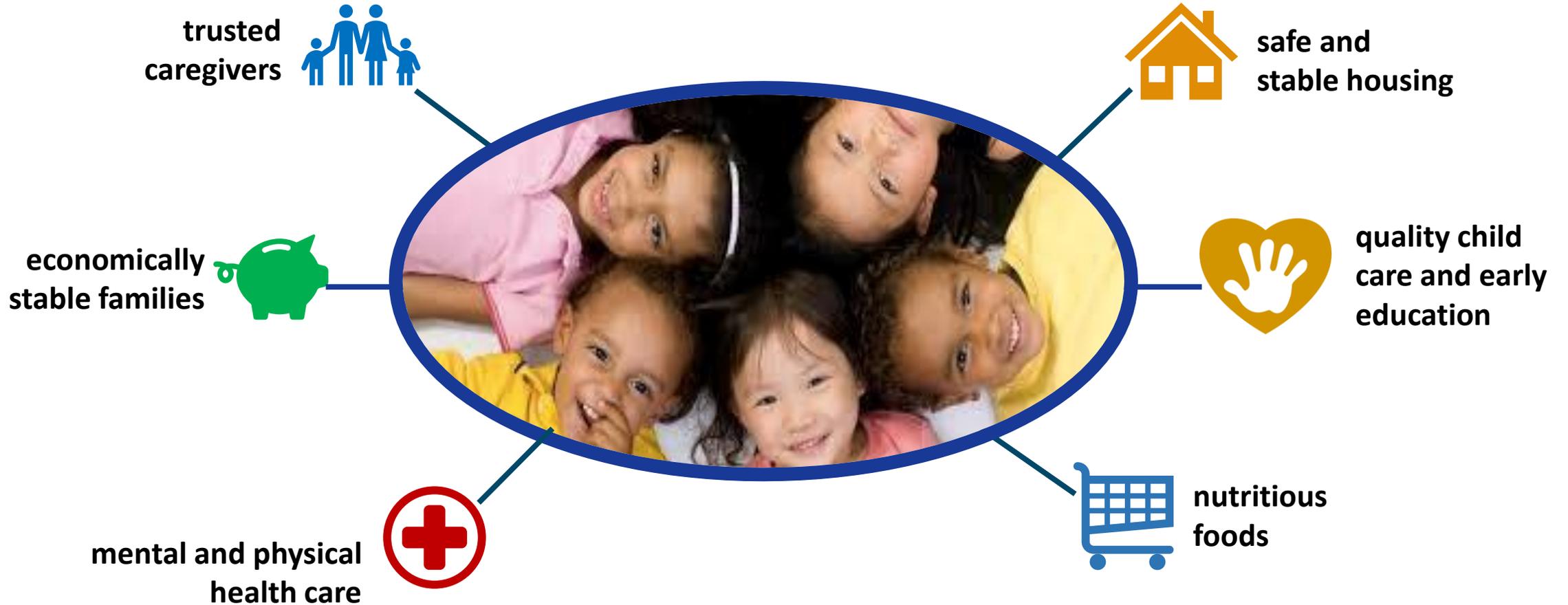
May 20, 2021

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



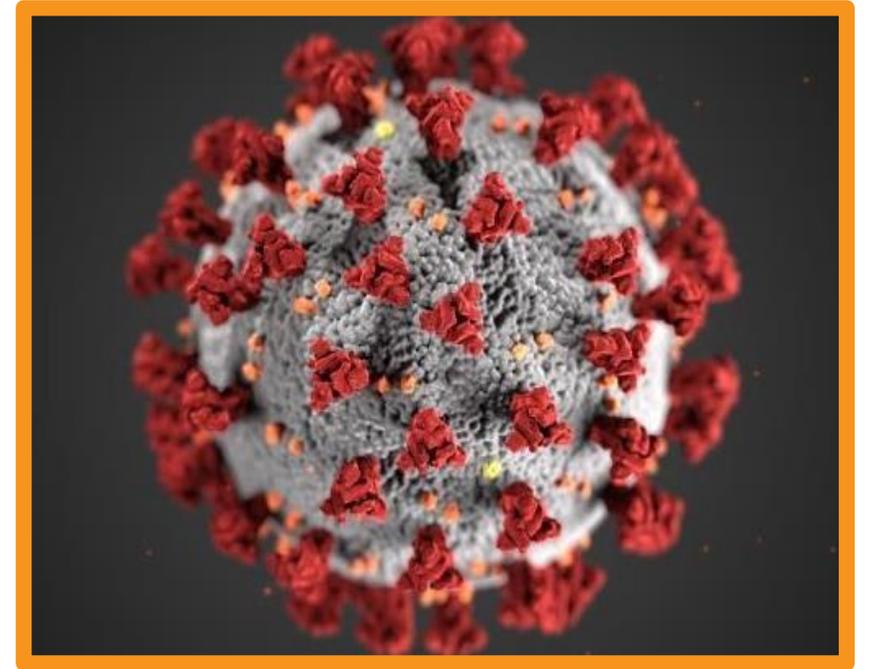
COVID-19 Child Data



- **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



EARLY EDGE
CALIFORNIA

The Education Trust—West



Center for
District Innovation
And Leadership
in Early Education



Child360™



ADVANCEMENT
PROJECT
CALIFORNIA



**The Children's
Partnership**

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



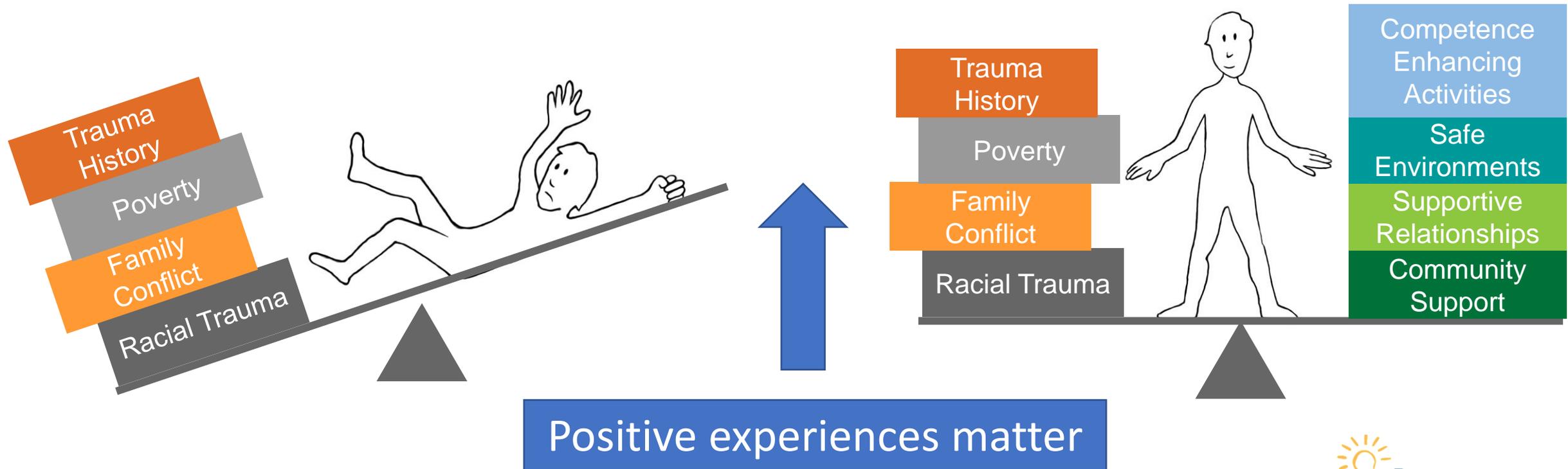
- 70% are **worried about the mental health** of the adults and/or child in their family.
- 87% of parents agree that receiving **referrals to mental health supports could help them**; only 13% **have received or currently have access** to mental health referrals.
- 73% of parents **worry about their 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



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