Fact Sheet

Foster Care

- **42%** of students in the foster care system do not graduate from high school, compared to 12% of all California students.¹
- **38%** of children who have aged out of California’s foster care system are unemployed at the age of 24.²
- **50%** of children sold into trafficking in California are in the foster care system.³

Childhood Trauma

- **1 in 6** Californians have experienced severe childhood trauma—such as abuse, neglect, or violence at home—which is strongly linked to serious health problems in adulthood.⁴
- A Californian with four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences is **12.96x** as likely to have been removed from home as a child when compared to a person with no ACES.⁵

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² *Coming of Age: Employment Outcomes for Youth Who Age Out of Foster Care Through Their Middle Twenties*, Urban Institute and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2008).
⁴ *A Hidden Crisis: Findings on Adverse Childhood Experiences in California*, Center for Youth Wellness (December 2014).
⁵ *A Hidden Crisis: Findings on Adverse Childhood Experiences in California*, Center for Youth Wellness (December 2014).
Elementary School Attendance\(^6\)

- **250,000** elementary students in California were **chronically absent** (absent for at least 10% of the school year) in the 2012–13 school year.
- **90%** of elementary students in California with the most severe attendance problems are **low-income**.
- **24.9%** of African American kindergartners and **14.2%** of Latino kindergartners in California were chronically absent in the 2013–14 school year.
- **83%** of chronically absent kindergartners and first graders in California are at **below-proficient reading** levels by the end of 3rd grade.

Dropout Risk

- Children who are **not reading proficiently** by the end of 3rd grade are **4x** more likely to **drop out** than proficient readers.\(^7\)
- **53%** of ninth graders who receive four or more **suspensions** drop out of high school.\(^8\)
- **39%** of African American and **26%** of Latino students have been suspended at least once, compared to **22%** of White and **10%** of Asian students.
- **82%** of **prisoners** in America are high school dropouts.\(^9\)
- High school dropouts cost California **$46 billion** annually in **decreased revenue** and **increased costs** of social services.

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\(^6\) Statistics from this section are drawn from *In School + On Track: Attorney General’s 2014 Report on California’s Elementary School Truancy & Absenteeism Crisis*, Office of the Attorney General, California Department of Justice.

