



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

¹ Vanessa X. Barrat & BethAnn Berliner, *The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part 1: Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care in California's Public Schools*, Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, WestEd (2013).

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).

³ Michelle R. Lillie, *An Unholy Alliance: The Connection Between Foster Care and Human Trafficking*, OLP Foundation (2013).

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 Attendance⁶

- **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.

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.

⁷ Donald J. Hernandez, *Double Jeopardy: How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation*, The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2012).

⁸ Robert Balfanz, et al., *Sent Home and Put Off-Track: The Antecedents, Disproportionalities, and Consequences of Being Suspended in Ninth Grade*, Journal of Applied Research on Children (2014).

⁹ *In School + On Track: Attorney General's Report on California's Elementary School Truancy & Absenteeism Crisis*, Office of the Attorney General, California Department of Justice (2013).