AMERICA'S EDGE
Strengthening Businesses Through Proven Investments in Kids

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California

A profile of its children

Understanding the facts about children in California illustrates why smart, proven investments in California's children and youth are critical to protecting California's competitive edge in a global market place.

Children in California[i]

- 9,240,219 children (under the age of 18) live in the state;
- 2,167,000 children (24%) live in poverty (about $23,283 or less for a family of four);
- 925,000 children (10%) live in extreme poverty (about $11,641 or less for a family of four);
- 34 percent of children live in a household with only one parent.

Early Childhood[ii]

- Approximately 93,210 children participate in the federally-funded Head Start program. However;
- Only 16 percent of 3-year-olds and 31 percent of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded pre-kindergarten, Head Start or a special education preschool program;
- 61 percent of children under the age of 6 have both or their only parent in the workforce.

School Readiness[iii]

- Math:
  - 67 percent of fourth graders are below grade level in math;
  - 72 percent of eighth graders are below grade level in math.
- Reading:
  - 73 percent of fourth graders are reading below grade level;
  - 71 percent of eighth graders are reading below grade level.

Graduation Rates[iv]

- 24 percent of high school students do not graduate on time with a high school diploma,
- These rates are worse for youth of color:
  - 37 percent of African-Americans do not graduate on time;
  - 30 percent of Latinos do not graduate on time.
- Of those tested, only 33 percent of high school graduates met the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in all four core areas: English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science.[v]

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[i] Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2013). KIDS COUNT data center. Baltimore, MD: Author. Retrieved on August 8, 2013 from http://datacenter.kidscount.org
[ii] Barnett, W.S., Carolan, M.E., Fitzgerald, J., & Squires, J.H. (2013). The state of preschool- 2012. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University for Early Education Research; Annie E. Casey Foundation. U.S. Census Bureau 2011 population estimates and U.S. Census Bureau 2011 American Community Survey data. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2013). KIDS COUNT data center. Baltimore, MD: Author. Retrieved on August 8,2013 from http://datacenter.kidscount.org
[iii] National Center on Education Statistics (2011). The Nation's Report Card. National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
[iv] U.S. Department of Education. (2012). *Provisional data file: SY2010-11 four-year regulatory adjusted cohort graduation rates.* Retrieved on November 30, 2012 from
[v] 26% of students tested. ACT Inc. (2013). 2013 Condition of College and Career Readiness. Iowa City, IA: Author. Retrieved August 26, 2013 from http://www2.ed.gov/documents/http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/2013/press-releases/state-2010-11-graduation-rate-data.pdf