

2023 Edition — Quality of Care: Children’s Health

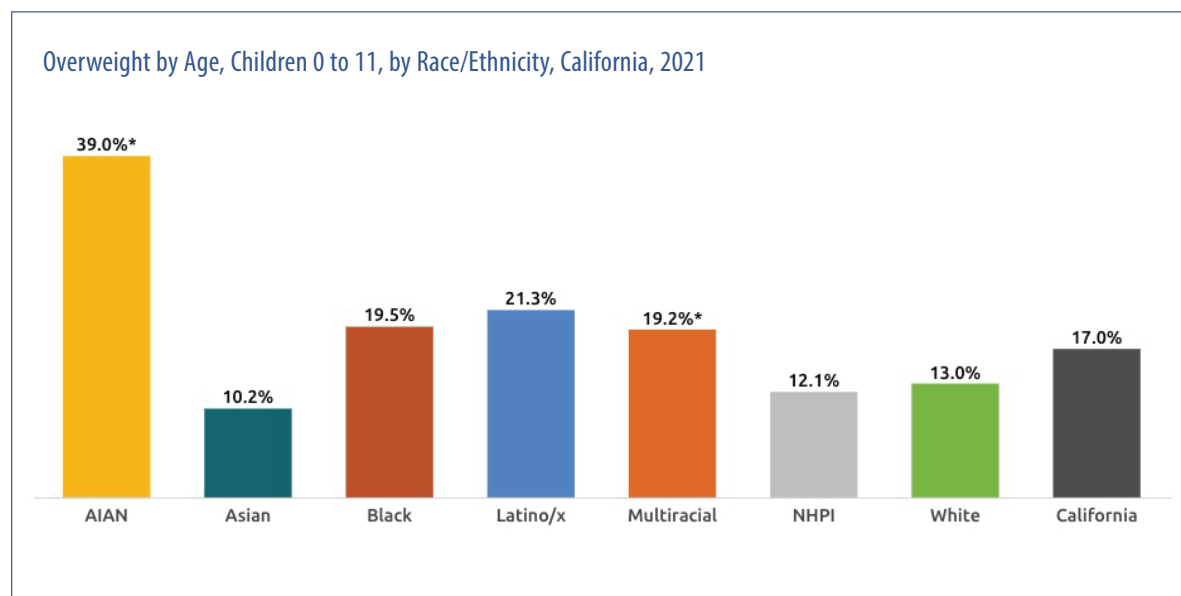
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Over the last few decades, the measurement and reporting of health care quality outcomes has grown significantly. As health care evolves, it is important to continue to monitor and report on the quality of care delivered to patients in California and across the US. This set of quality measures is part of a series CHCF publishes on the quality of care in our state. Topics range from maternal to end-of-life care, and include measures on behavioral health, chronic conditions, and providers.

This set of quality measures focuses on children’s health.

Latino/x adolescents were more likely to be overweight or obese than adolescents of other races and ethnicities, and a higher percentage of Latino/x and Black children were overweight for their age.

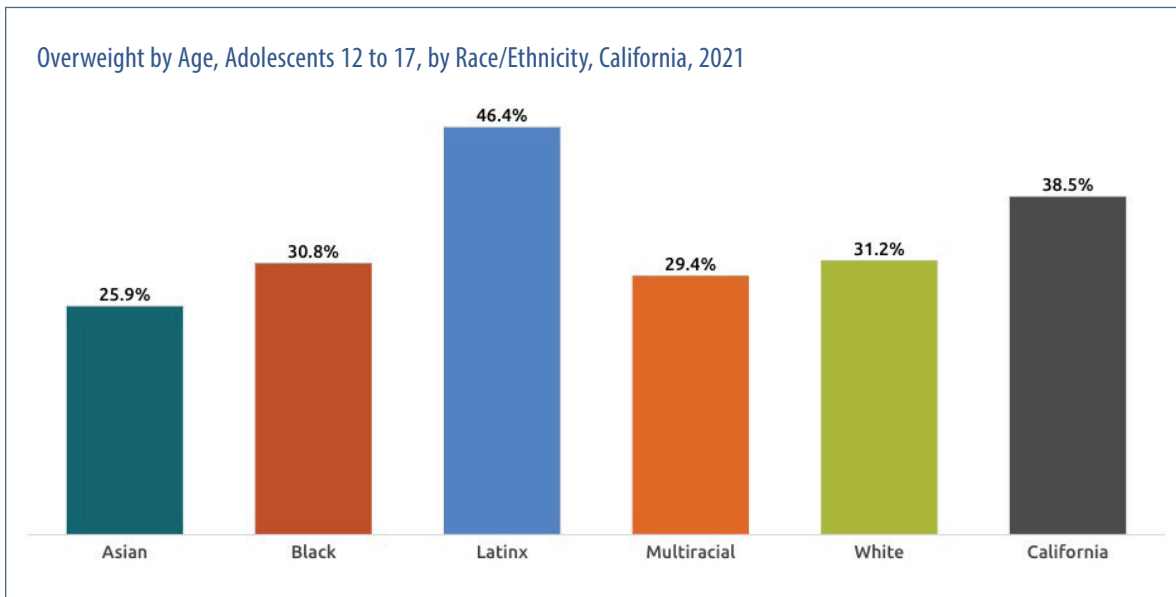
Nearly one in two Latino/x adolescents and nearly two in five California adolescents overall were overweight or obese. One in five Latino/x and Black children was overweight for their age. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of various health problems, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and asthma.



* Estimate is statistically unstable.

Notes: Children age 0 to 11 who are overweight for their age based on sex, age in months, and weight. *AIAN* is American Indian / Alaska Native. *NHPI* is Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. Source uses *African American*.

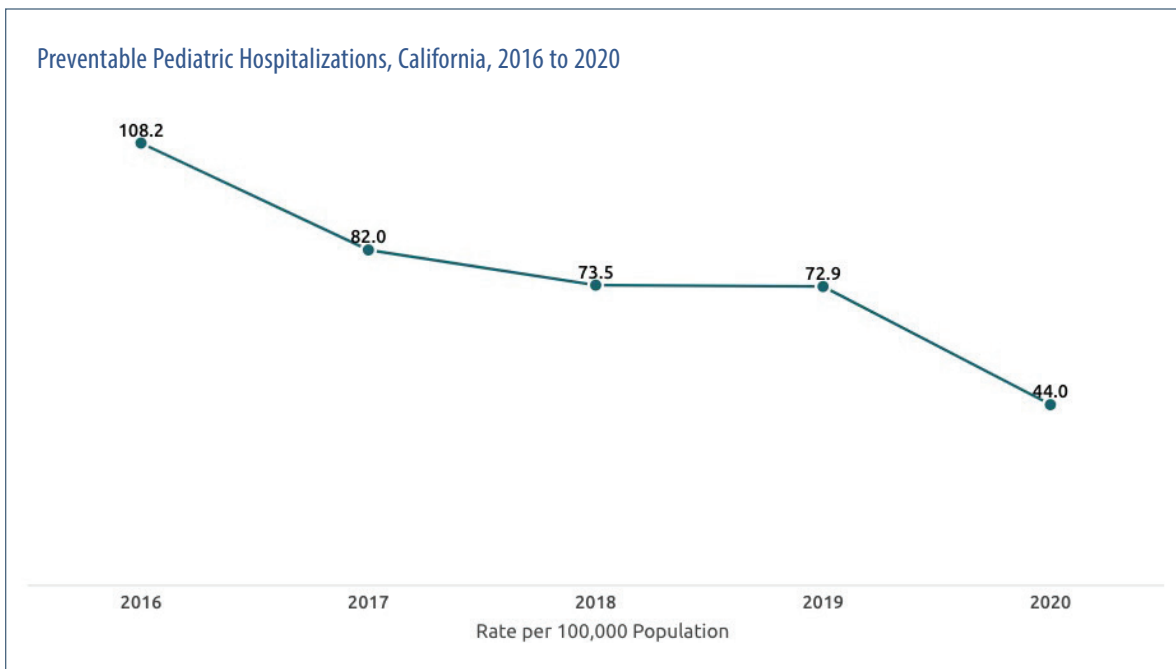
Sources: “California Health Interview Survey,” UCLA.



Notes: Adolescents age 12 to 17 who are overweight or obese based on BMI equal to or greater than the 85th percentile of teens of the same age and sex. *AIAN* is American Indian / Alaska Native. *NHPI* is Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. Source uses *African American*. Sources: “California Health Interview Survey,” UCLA.

Pediatric hospital admission rates for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions declined sharply in 2020.

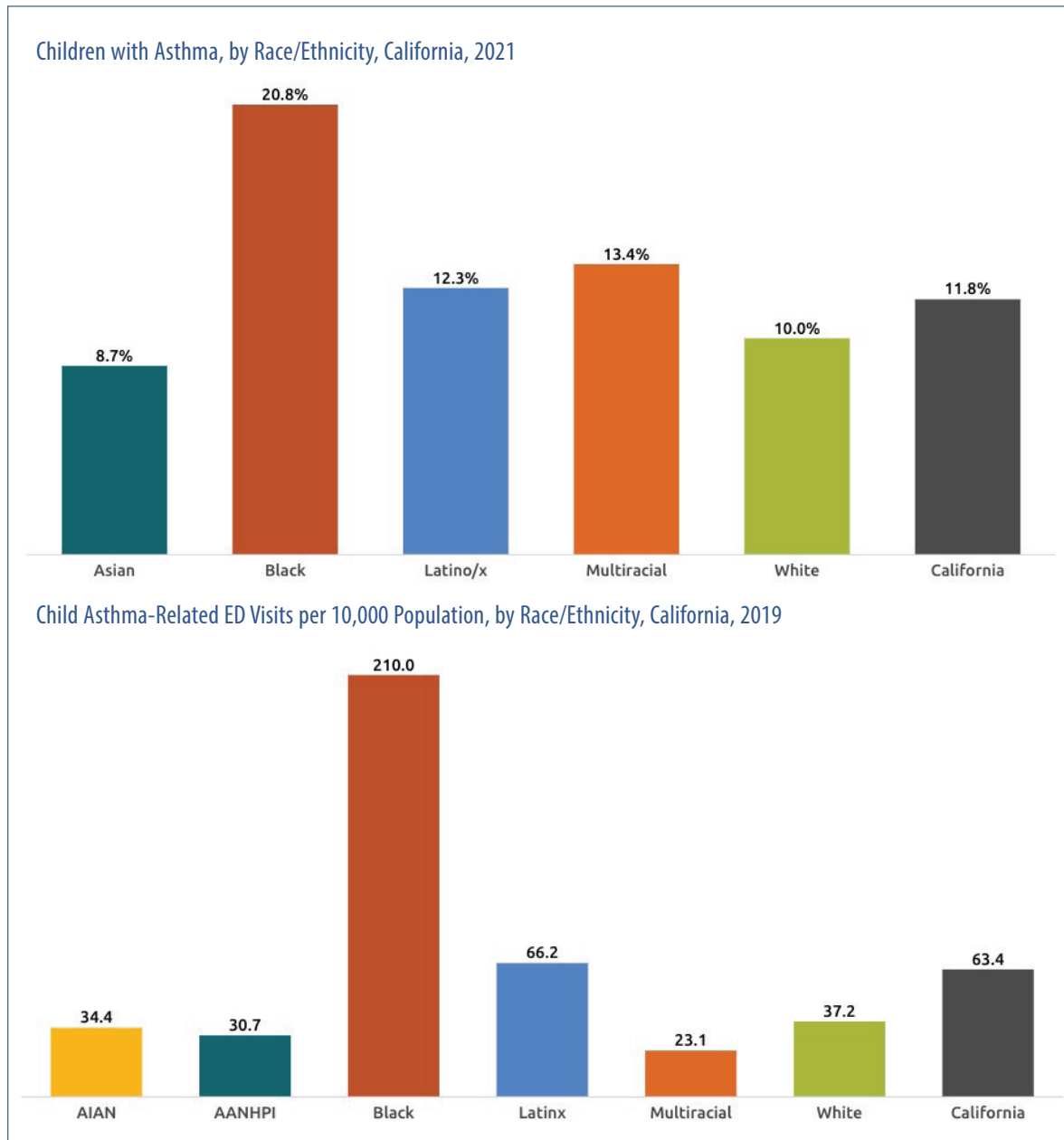
Based on a composite measure for four conditions, 44 hospitalizations per 100,000 children (age 6–17) in 2020 were potentially preventable through effective chronic care management and access to high-quality primary care. This rate has been declining since 2016. However, the large drop in the rate from 2019 to 2020 may have been due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Note: Composite measure of child (age 6 to 17) hospitalization rate (observed) per 100,000 population for four ambulatory care-sensitive conditions: asthma, diabetes short-term complications, gastroenteritis, and urinary tract infection. Source: “Rates of Preventable Hospitalizations (age<18) for Selected Medical Conditions by County,” California Health and Human Services (CHHS), last updated April 22, 2022.

Black children were more likely to have asthma and had much higher rates of asthma-related ED visits than children of other races/ethnicities.

In 2021, 21% of Black children, 13% of multiracial children, 12% of Latino/x children, 10% of White children, and 9% of Asian children had been told by a doctor that they had asthma. Black children were also much more likely to visit an emergency room for asthma symptoms than children of other races/ethnicities. Asthma can have many negative impacts on a child’s health and well-being, including making it difficult to exercise, play, and attend school.



Notes: Children age 1 to 17 who were ever told by a doctor that they have asthma. ED visits with asthma as the primary diagnosis among children age 0 to 17. *AIAN* is American Indian / Alaska Native. *AANHPI* is Asian American / Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. California Health Interview Survey uses *African American*. Let’s Get Healthy California uses *African American* and *Hispanic*.

Sources: “California Health Interview Survey,” UCLA; and “Healthy Beginnings / Reducing Childhood Asthma ED Visits,” Let’s Get Healthy California.

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The companion Excel data file, which provides these data and more, as well as links to each data source, is available for download at www.chcf.org/publication/2023-edition-quality-care-childrens-health. These materials are part of CHCF’s California Health Care Almanac, an online clearinghouse for key data and analyses describing the state’s health care landscape. See our entire collection of current and past editions of Quality of Care at www.chcf.org/collection/quality-care-almanac.