



California Budget  
& Policy Center

*Independent Analysis. Shared Prosperity.*

[calbudgetcenter.org](http://calbudgetcenter.org)

# COVID-19, Essential Workers, & Subsidized Child Care

@Femiwonk

@CalBudgetCenter

KRISTIN SCHUMACHER, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

ECE COALITION WEBINAR

MAY 8, 2020

# **The COVID-19 health and economic crisis has been devastating for California.**

**Even while a record number of people have applied for Unemployment Insurance, millions of workers – many of whom earn low wages – continue to stock the shelves in stores, draw blood at labs, and care for our children.**



# Essential Workers in California

---

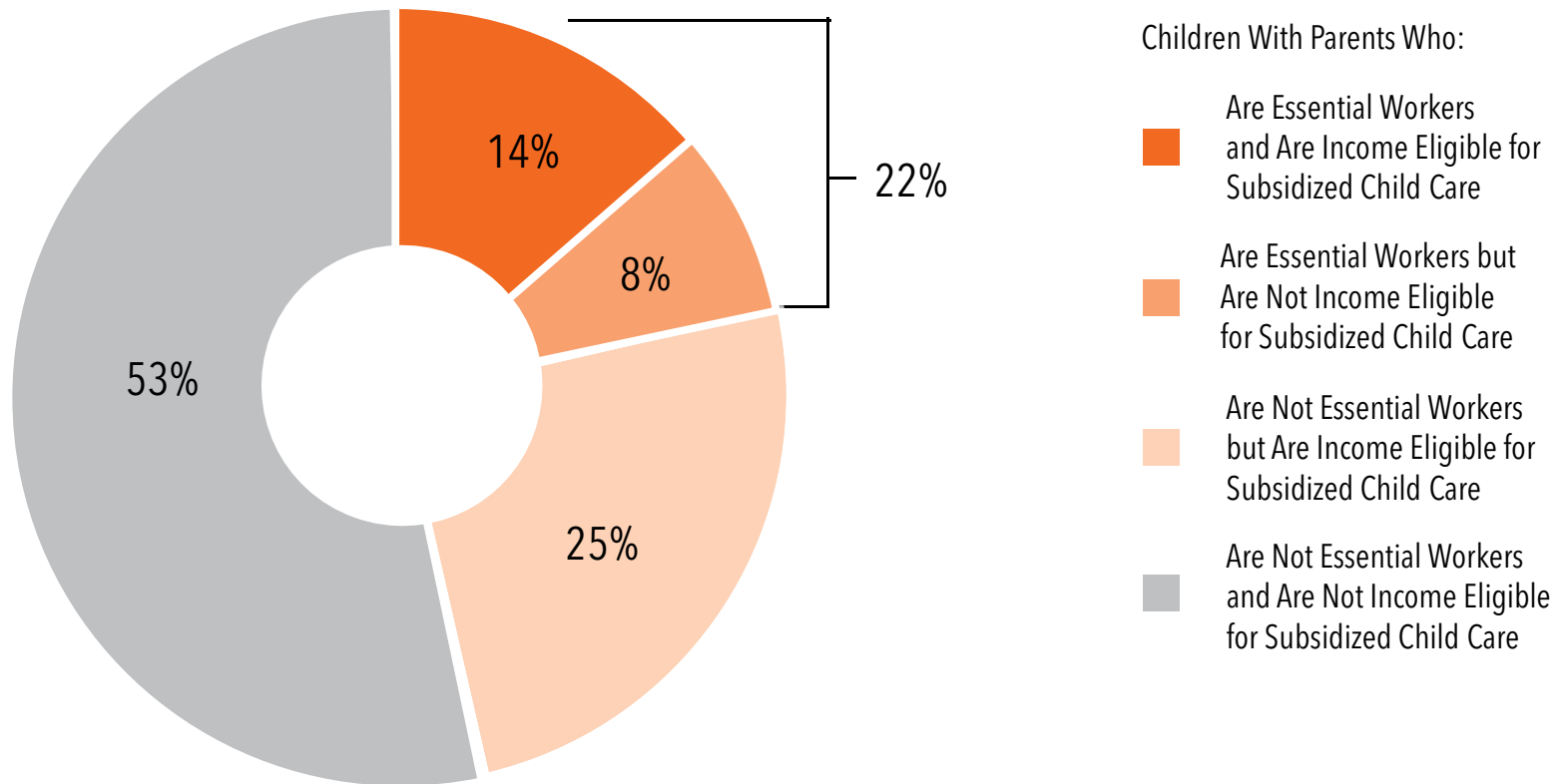
Workers in California were asked to shelter-in-place unless their jobs are critical to public health and safety or economic and national security. The 13 sectors considered essential include:

- Health and Public Health
- Emergency Services
- Food and Agriculture
- Energy
- Water and Wastewater
- Transportation and Logistics
- Communications and Information Technology
- Government Operations and Other Essential Community Functions
- Critical Manufacturing
- Financial Services
- Chemical
- Defense Industrial Base
- Industrial, Commercial, Residential, and Sheltering Facilities and Services



# More Than 1 in 5 Children in California Had Parents Who Were Essential Workers Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Eligibility for Subsidized Child Care Programs by Income and Parental Employment

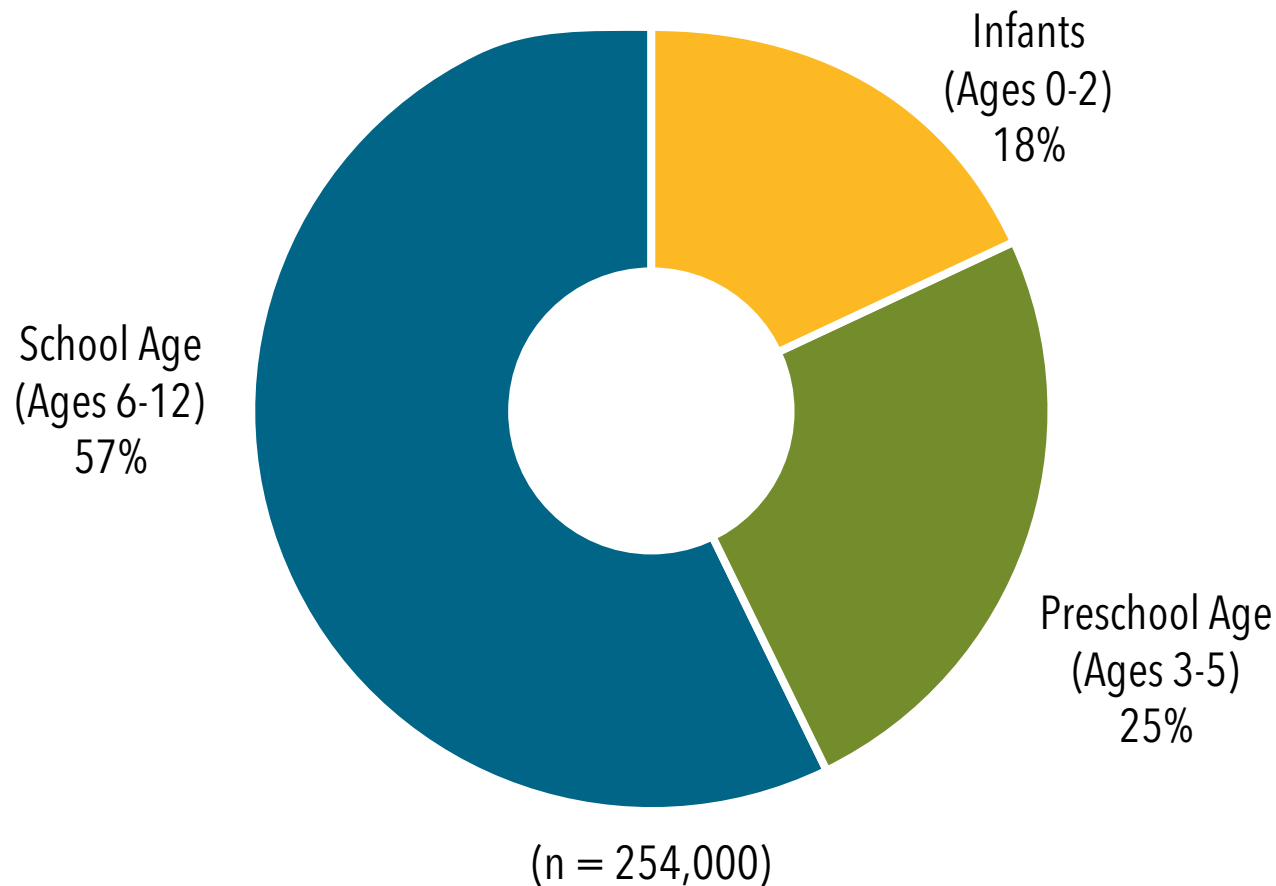


Children Age 12 and Younger in California = 6,260,000

Note: Income eligibility is based on 85% of the state median income adjusted for family size for the 2019-20 state fiscal year. In two-parent families, either both parents must be essential workers or the second parent must be "incapacitated" to be considered eligible. Definition of essential workers developed in partnership with the University of California Berkeley Labor Center.  
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey data



# Prior to COVID-19, a Quarter of a Million Income-Eligible Children Had Parents Working in Health Care or Emergency Services

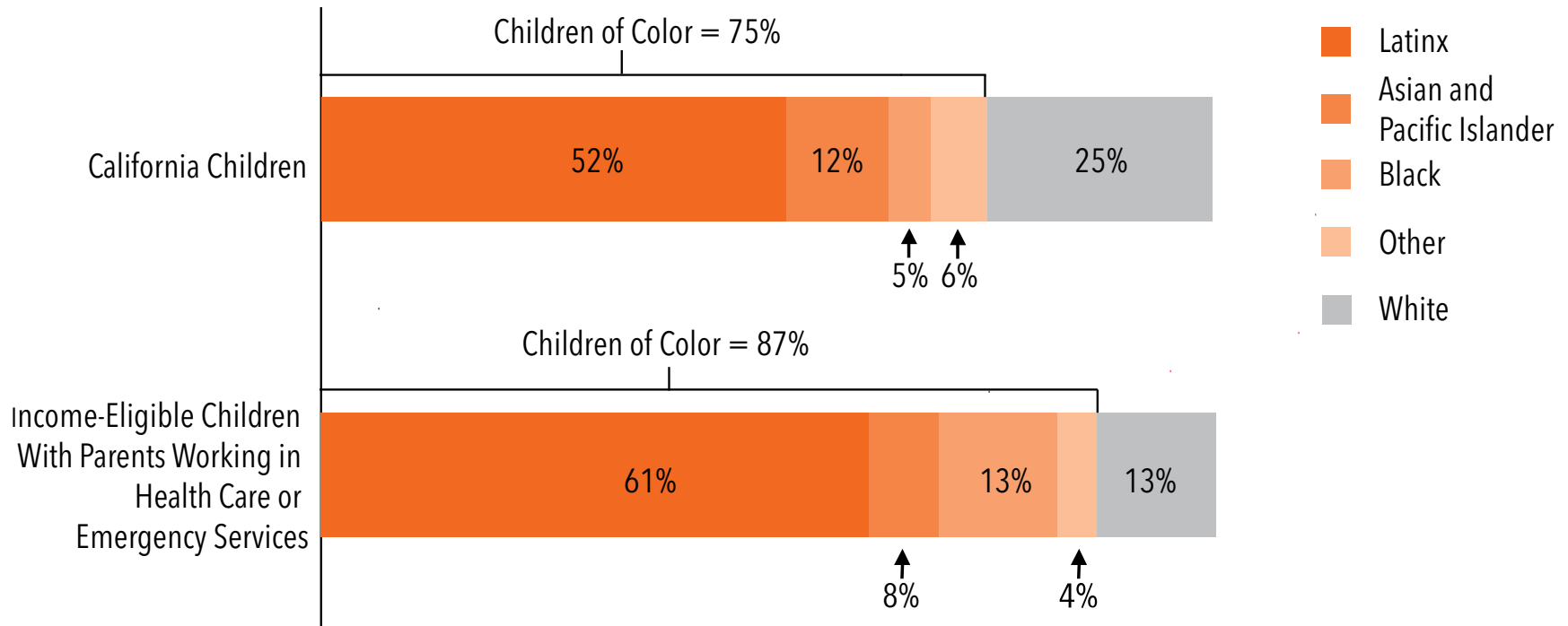


Note: Income eligibility is based on 85% of the state median income adjusted for family size for the 2019-20 state fiscal year. In two-parent families, either both parents must be essential workers or the second parent must be “incapacitated” to be considered eligible. Definition of essential workers developed in partnership with the University of California Berkeley Labor Center.  
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey data



# Prior to COVID-19, Children of Color Were More Likely to be Income-Eligible With Parents Working in Health Care or Emergency Services

## Share of California Children Birth Through Age 12 by Race and Ethnicity, 2018



Note: Income eligibility is based on 85% of the state median income adjusted for family size for the 2019-20 state fiscal year. In two-parent families, either both parents must be essential workers or the second parent must be "incapacitated" to be considered eligible. Numbers may not sum due to rounding. Definition of essential workers developed in partnership with the University of California Berkeley Labor Center.

Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey data





California Budget  
& Policy Center

*Independent Analysis. Shared Prosperity.*

1107 9th Street, Suite 310

Sacramento, California 95814

[kschumacher@calbudgetcenter.org](mailto:kschumacher@calbudgetcenter.org)

@Femiwonk

@CalBudgetCenter

Support for this work provided by  
First 5 California.

[calbudgetcenter.org](http://calbudgetcenter.org)