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Preschool and Childcare Enrollment in California

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*Prepared at the Request of
Assemblymember Wilma Chan*

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
THE NUMBER OF 3 TO 5 YEAR OLDS.....	5
PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE ENROLLMENT	7
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	7
ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC PRESCHOOLS	8
ENROLLMENT IN PRIVATE PRESCHOOLS	9
WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO ENROLL IN A PRIVATE PRESCHOOL?	10
ENROLLMENT RATES	11
BY ETHNIC GROUPS.....	12
BY AGE.....	13
BY NUMBER OF PARENTS AT HOME.....	15
BY FAMILY INCOME.....	17
BY LINGUISTIC ISOLATION.....	21
BY COUNTY	23
THE UNITED STATES AND CALIFORNIA.....	24
CONCLUSION	27
APPENDIX: TABLE OF KEY INDICATORS BY COUNTY	29

INTRODUCTION

At the request of Assemblymember Wilma Chan, this report analyzes recent Census data to respond to the following questions:

- How many children are enrolled in preschool/childcare?
- Of those enrolled, how many are in public versus private preschools/childcare?
- Do enrollment rates vary by ethnic groups, and if so, why?
- How do California enrollment rates compare to those of other states and the rest of the nation?

According to the Census 2000, California has 1.17 million children, aged three to five, who are not yet in kindergarten. The ethnic/racial composition of these children is as follows: Latino children are the largest group (46 percent), White children second (34 percent), Asian and Pacific Islander children third (nine percent), African American children fourth (six percent), children of multiple races fifth (four percent), and Native American children sixth (0.5 percent).

Close to half of the state's children ages three to five are enrolled in preschool/childcare. As expected, children whose families tend to be in lower income groups (such as Latinos, African Americans, and Native Americans) primarily attend *public* preschool/childcare. Children whose families receive higher incomes like Whites and Asians are more likely to attend *private* preschool/childcare.

Preschool/childcare enrollment rates vary considerably by ethnic group. At the higher end are White and African American children with 58 and 56 percent, respectively, enrolled in preschool/childcare. At the lower end are Latinos with only 37 percent of the children in preschool/childcare.

How does one explain the differences in preschool/childcare enrollment rates? To answer this question, this report examines the following variables:

- The age of children
- The number of parents in a household (e.g., one-parent households versus two-parent households)
- The “linguistic isolation” of a family (which refers to the inability of persons aged 14 and older in a home to speak English “very well”)*
- Family income

Age is an important variable because enrollment rates increase with age. Three-year olds have lower enrollment rates than five-year olds. An ethnic group may have lower

* The Census utilizes the term “linguistic isolation” in the Census 2000, and it is used in this report.

enrollment rates because there are more three-year olds in that group relative to other groups.

In addition, the number of parents in a household may explain some of the variation in enrollment rates. The number of parents directly affects wealth and resources available to the members of a household. One-parent households tend to have significantly fewer resources than a two-parent household.[†]

Linguistic isolation, or the inability of persons older than 14 in the household to speak English fluently, may also explain lower enrollment rates for certain ethnic groups. Linguistic isolation is a major factor for Latinos and Asians since 31 percent of their children live in linguistically isolated households.

Higher family income partially explains why White and Asian children have relatively higher enrollment rates than other ethnic groups in preschool/childcare. However, family income is not a good predictor of enrollment rates for African American children, and only partially explains the case of Latino children.

In this report we also examine the Census 2000 data for the state's largest counties using the following variables:

- The number of children aged three to five who are enrolled in preschool/childcare
- The enrollment rates of children aged three to five who are enrolled in preschool/childcare
- The percent of children who are in private preschool/childcare
- The percent of children who live in a two-parent home
- The percent of children who live in a linguistically isolated home
- The median family income

How does California compare to the rest of the nation or rank against other states when it comes to preschool/childcare enrollment rates? The last section of the report compares California's enrollment rates to the United States as a whole as well as to other states by ethnic group.

Initially, we intended to compare enrollment rates to the citizenship of the child. However, our analysis found that citizenship is not an issue at this age since over 90 percent of children ages three to five in California are U.S. citizens. This is true regardless of ethnicity, since 99 percent of White children, 94 percent of Latino children, 91 percent of Asian children, and 99 percent of African American children are U.S. citizens.

[†] Elias S. Lopez and Rosa Maria Moller, *The Distribution of Wealth in California, 2000* (Sacramento: California Research Bureau, California State Library, 2003), p. 28.

About the Data Sources and the Methodology:

We utilize the 2000 Census 5% Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).[‡] With a state sample size of 59,424 for children ages three to five who are not yet in kindergarten, it is the largest dataset available. At the state level, estimates are reliable for smaller groups like Native Americans, and estimates can be made at the county level. Even with such a large sample size, however, there are limitations. We provide estimates at the state and county level only when the sample size is greater than 200 children.

This report uses the preschool-related questions asked in the long-form of the Census 2000. Adults in a household were asked if they had a child. If so, the parents were asked the child(ren)'s age(s) and whether they attended school. If the parents responded affirmatively, they were asked if the school was publicly or privately run. Unfortunately, parents were not asked to specify the type of nursery or preschool or childcare. Therefore we do not have more specific information about whether the children attending preschool/childcare were enrolled with Headstart, State Preschool, a child care center, a family day care, etc.

It should be noted that only children who met both of the following criteria were included in the analysis for this report:

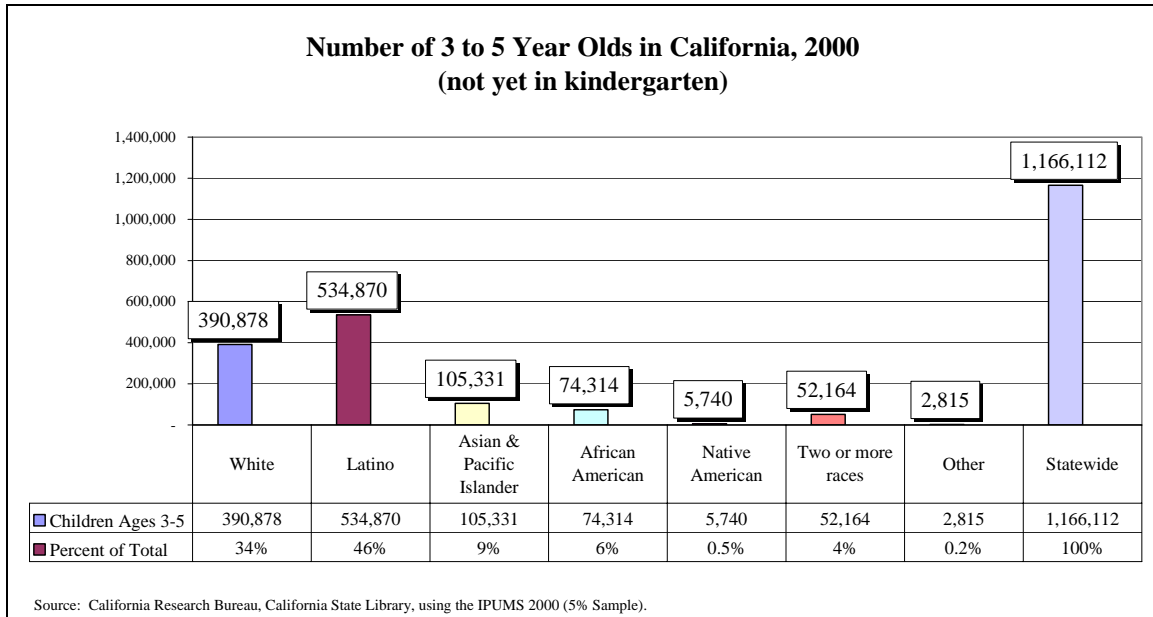
- The child was three, four, or five years of age, and
- The child was not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

[‡] The authors would like to acknowledge the IPUMS project for making the 5% PUMS readily available to researchers and for their user-friendly interface. Credit for access to the data goes to: Steven Ruggles and Matthew Sobek et al., *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 3.0*, Minneapolis: Historical Census Projects, University of Minnesota, 2003.

THE NUMBER OF 3 TO 5 YEAR OLDS

California's population has been diversifying in the past few decades. Figure 1 shows the diversity among children aged three to five in the state. Specifically, Latino children comprise 46 percent, White children 34 percent, Asian children nine percent, African American children six percent, children of two or more races four percent, Native American children 0.5 percent, and Other children 0.2 percent. Since Pacific Islander children are a relatively small group, they are grouped with Asian children in this report.

Figure 1



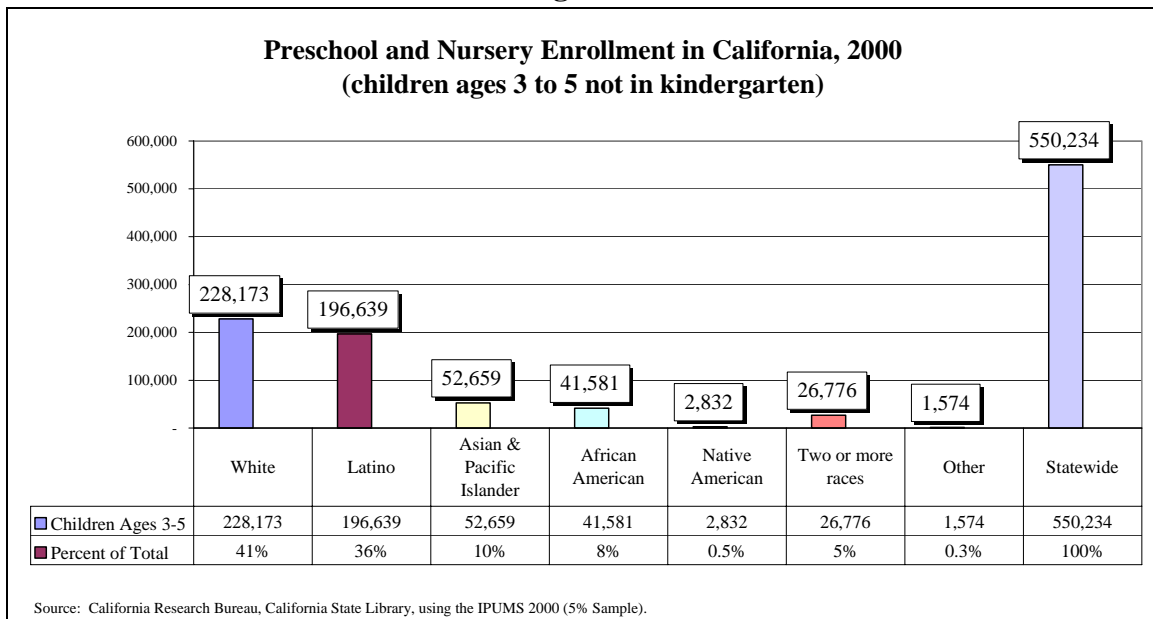
PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE ENROLLMENT

This section describes the total number of children who are enrolled in preschool or childcare in California. This enrollment information is then broken out by the public or private status of the preschool or childcare.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

According to the Census 2000 data, California has 550,234 children ages three to five who are not yet in kindergarten, but are enrolled in preschool/childcare (both public and private). Figure 2 shows that of the children enrolled, 41 percent are White, 36 percent are Latino, 10 percent are Asian, eight percent are African American, five percent are of multiple races, and 0.5 percent are Native American.

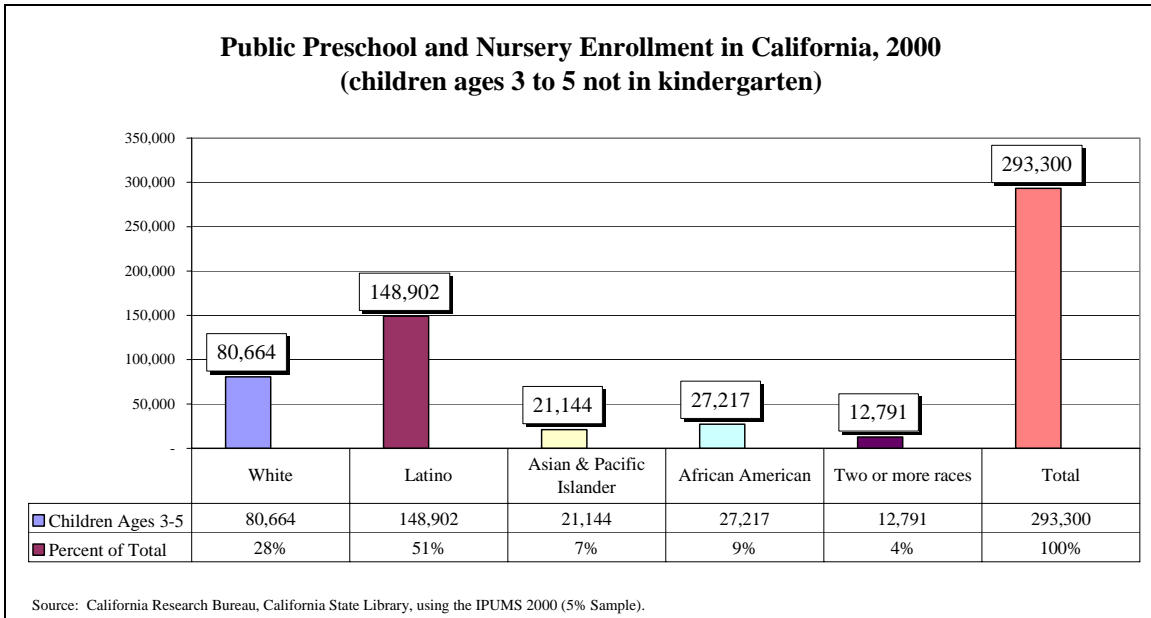
Figure 2



ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC PRESCHOOL OR CHILDCARE

How many children are enrolled in a *public* preschool/childcare program? According to the Census 2000, there are 293,300 young children in public preschool/childcare. Latino children are the largest group, and they make up 51 percent of the enrollment. White children comprise 28 percent, African American children nine percent, and Asian children seven percent of the three- to five-year old children who are not yet in kindergarten.

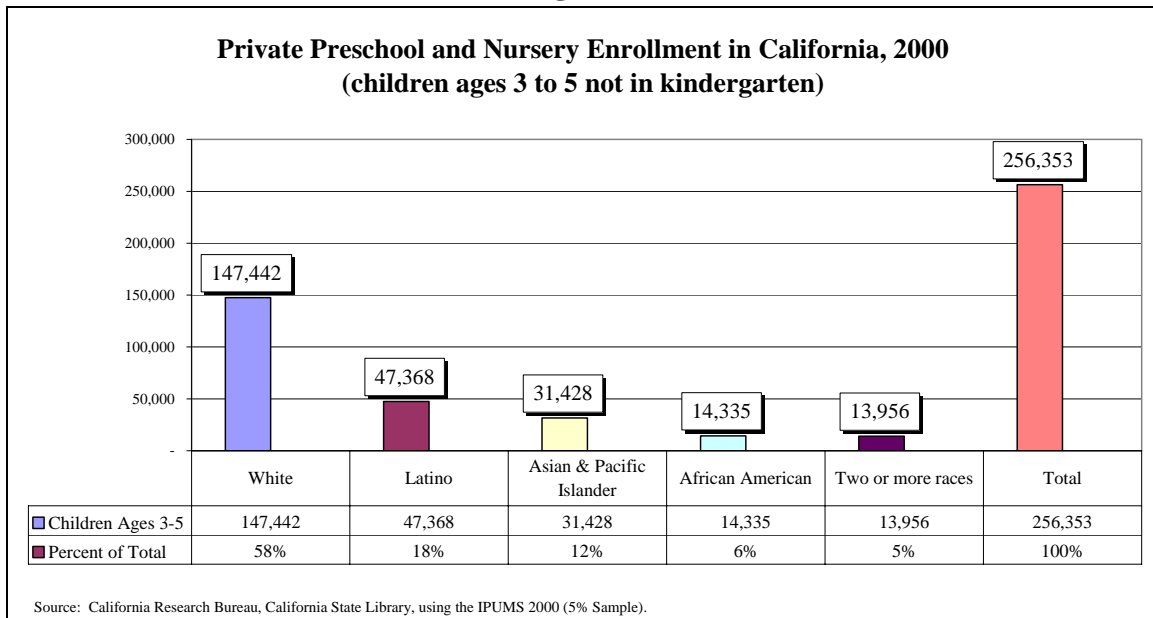
Figure 3



ENROLLMENT IN PRIVATE PRESCHOOL OR CHILDCARE

Figure 4 extracts from Figure 2 the number of children enrolled in a *private* childcare or preschool program in California. Of those children enrolled in a private preschool or childcare, 58 percent are White, 18 percent are Latino, 12 percent are Asian, and six percent are African American.

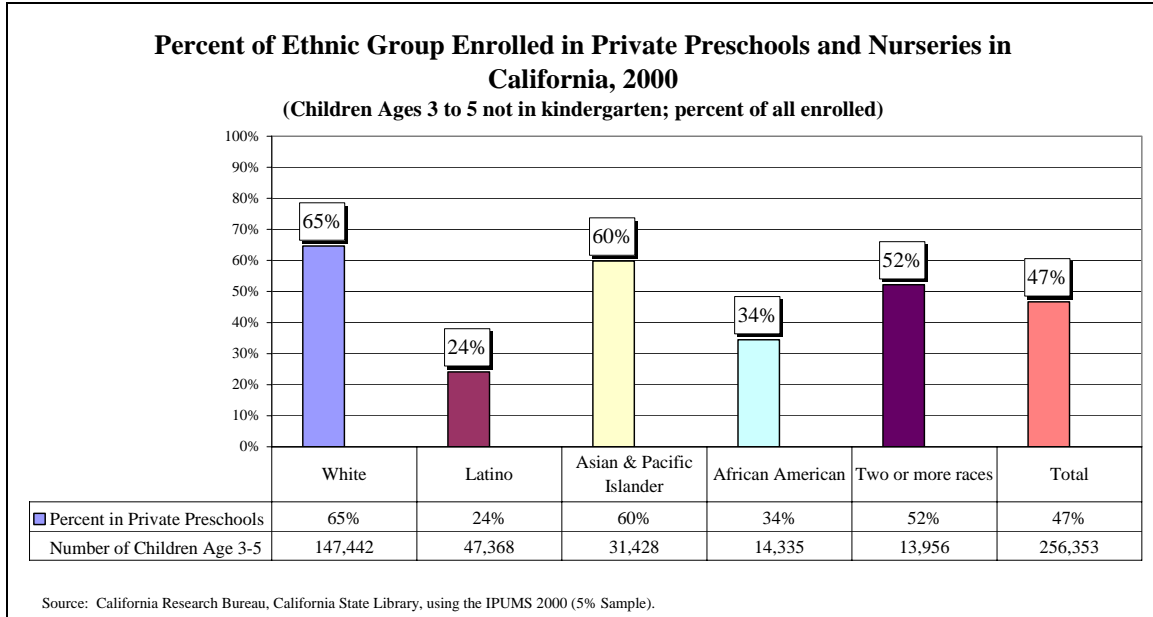
Figure 4



WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO ENROLL IN A PRIVATE PRESCHOOL OR CHILDCARE?

Figure 5 shows us that White and Asian children are most likely to be enrolled in a *private* preschool. Enrollment for children of multiple races is nearly equally distributed in private and public preschool/childcare settings. The children who are least likely to enroll in a private preschool/childcare are Latino, African American, or Native American.

Figure 5



ENROLLMENT RATES

Since some ethnic groups have very large numbers relative to other groups, it is important to present enrollment information by rates. The enrollment rate is determined by taking the number of children enrolled and dividing it by all the children (enrolled or not) in the group. This section presents enrollment rates by ethnic group. It then seeks to explain why some groups have higher or lower enrollment rates. The following variables are analyzed:

- Race/Ethnic Groups
- Age
- Number of parents at home
- Linguistic Isolation (inability of family members to speak English “very well”)
- Family Income

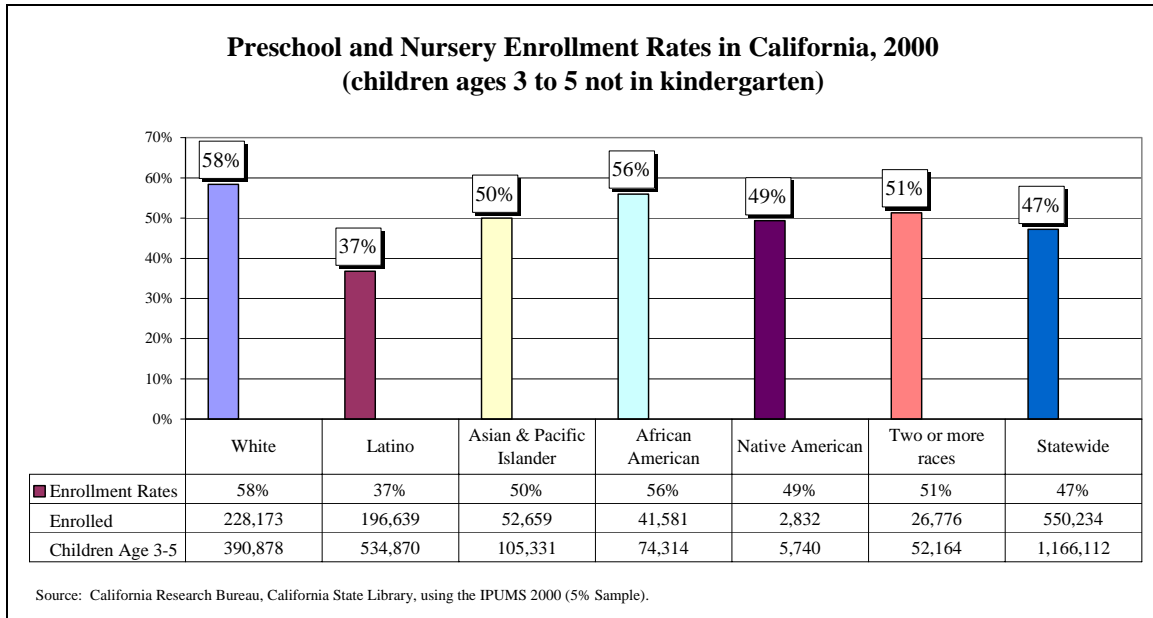
Age of the child is an important variable because enrollment rates increase with age. The number of parents in a home captures the structure of the family, and the need for preschool or childcare may be higher in a one-parent family. Linguistic isolation captures the primary language spoken at home. Families that do not speak English “very well” may be more hesitant to enroll their children in preschool/childcare where the children’s native language is not spoken. They may have less information about local programs or alternatives. There is an assumption that families with higher family incomes will have higher enrollment rates. These assumptions will be tested in the following pages.

This section of the report compares enrollment rates and other variables by county. Finally, the analysis turns our attention to how California’s enrollment rates compare with the nation as a whole and other states.

BY RACE/ETHNIC GROUPS

As Figure 6 shows, enrollment rates vary by ethnic group. Latino children have the lowest enrollment rates among all the groups. Thirty-seven percent of Latino children aged three to five are enrolled in preschool/childcare. The ethnic groups with the highest preschool/childcare enrollment rates in California are White (58 percent) and African American (56 percent) children. Children of multiple races, Asian, and Native American children have enrollment rates of around 50 percent.

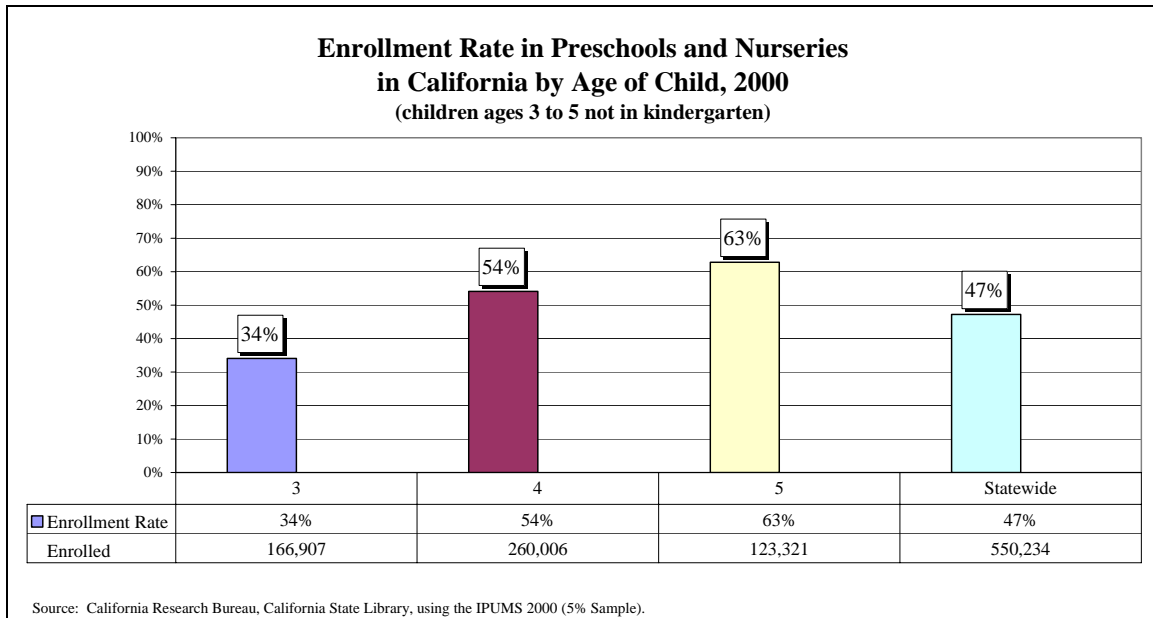
Figure 6



BY AGE

As Figure 7 shows, enrollment rates increase with age. That is, the older a child is, the more likely he or she will be enrolled in preschool/childcare.

Figure 7



Does age account for the different ethnic group enrollment rates shown in Figure 6? Figure 8 shows that for all ethnic/racial groups, enrollment rates increase with age. However, Latino children consistently have the lowest enrollment, while White and African American children have the highest. This is true at all ages shown.

Figure 8

Enrollment Rates by Age and Ethnicity of Child (children ages 3 to 5 not yet in kindergarten)						
Age	White	Latino	Asian & Pacific	African American	Two or more	Total
3	45%	24%	37%	46%	39%	34%
4	65%	43%	59%	63%	58%	54%
5	72%	55%	63%	64%	64%	63%
Total	58%	37%	50%	56%	51%	47%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

It is also important to look at the distribution of age for it could be that certain ethnic groups have higher enrollment rates because they have more five-year olds than three-year olds relative to other groups. However, the distribution of children by age is similar among the different ethnic groups as seen in Figure 9. The distribution of White children is slightly different, but this is unlikely to affect enrollment rates in a significant way.

Age, although valuable for understanding enrollment rates, by itself as a variable fails to explain why some groups have significantly higher enrollment rates than others.

Figure 9

Distribution by Age and Ethnicity of Children (all children ages 3 to 5 not yet in kindergarten)						
Age	White	Latino	Pacific Islander	African American	Two or more races	Total
3	40%	43%	43%	43%	42%	42%
4	41%	41%	42%	41%	42%	41%
5	19%	16%	15%	16%	17%	17%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

BY NUMBER OF PARENTS AT HOME

Can the number of parents in a household or the fact that some children live with relatives or foster parents account for the difference in preschool/childcare enrollment rates? Figure 10 indicates that there is very little difference in the enrollment rates between children living a one- or a two-parent home. However, children living with relatives or foster parents are significantly less likely to attend preschool/childcare, except for the case of African American children, as we will discuss below.

Figure 10

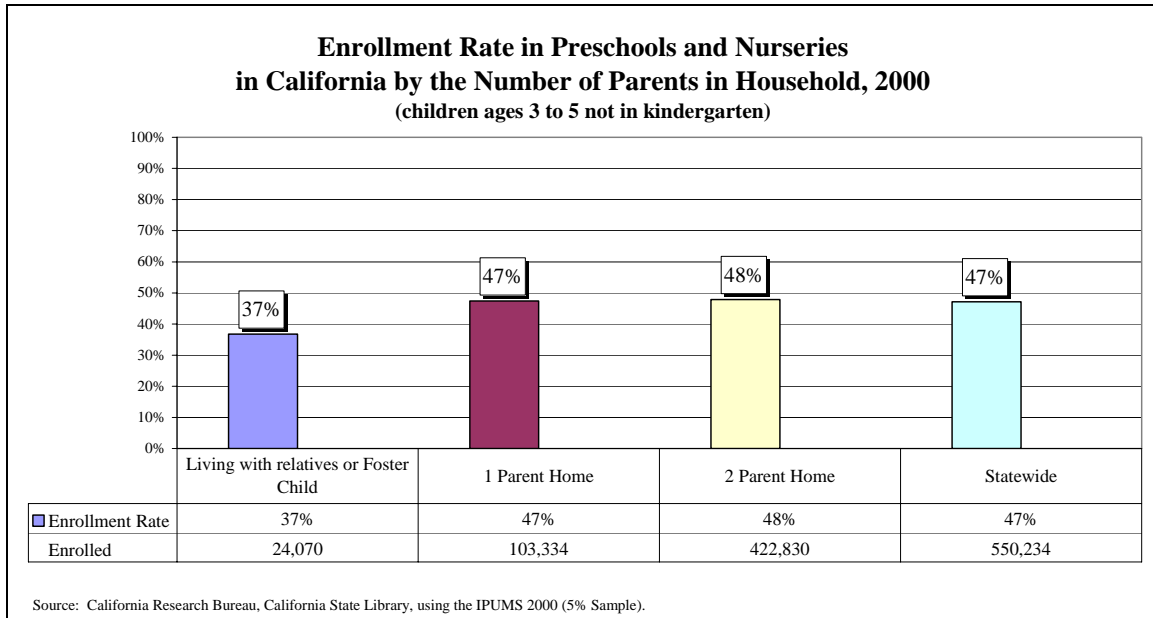


Figure 11 indicates that about three quarters of the children ages three to five in California live in a two-parent home. However, the percent varies by ethnic group. For example, 83 percent of White children, 86 percent of Asian children, 74 percent of Latino children and children of multiple races, and 41 percent of African American children live in a two-parent household.

Figure 11

Percent Living with a relative or in a One or Two Parent Home
(children ages 3 to 5 not yet in kindergarten)

	White	Latino	Asian & Pacific	African American	Two or more races	Total
Living with relatives or Foster Child	3%	7%	3%	11%	4%	6%
1 Parent Home	14%	19%	10%	48%	22%	19%
2 Parent Home	83%	74%	86%	41%	74%	76%
Statewide	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

African American children are the least likely to live in a two-parent home and are most likely to be living with relatives or foster parents than any other ethnic group.

Nonetheless, African American children have one of the highest preschool/childcare enrollment rates in California.

In general, children living with relatives or foster parents in all ethnic groups are least likely to attend preschool/childcare. For Asian/Pacific Islander children living in one-parent households are also less likely to be enrolled in preschool/childcare in California.

Figure 12

Enrollment Rates by the Number of Parents in the Household and Ethnicity of Child (children ages 3 to 5 not yet in kindergarten)						
Parents at Home	White	Latino	Asian & Pacific Islander	African American	Two or more races	Total
Living with relatives or Foster Child	44%	31%	38%	50%	46%	37%
1 Parent Home	57%	39%	39%	57%	53%	47%
2 Parent Home	59%	37%	52%	57%	51%	48%
Statewide	58%	37%	50%	56%	51%	47%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

BY FAMILY INCOME

Perhaps family income can provide a better explanation for the differences in preschool/childcare enrollment rates. As Figure 13 shows, enrollment rates increase with family income.

Figure 13

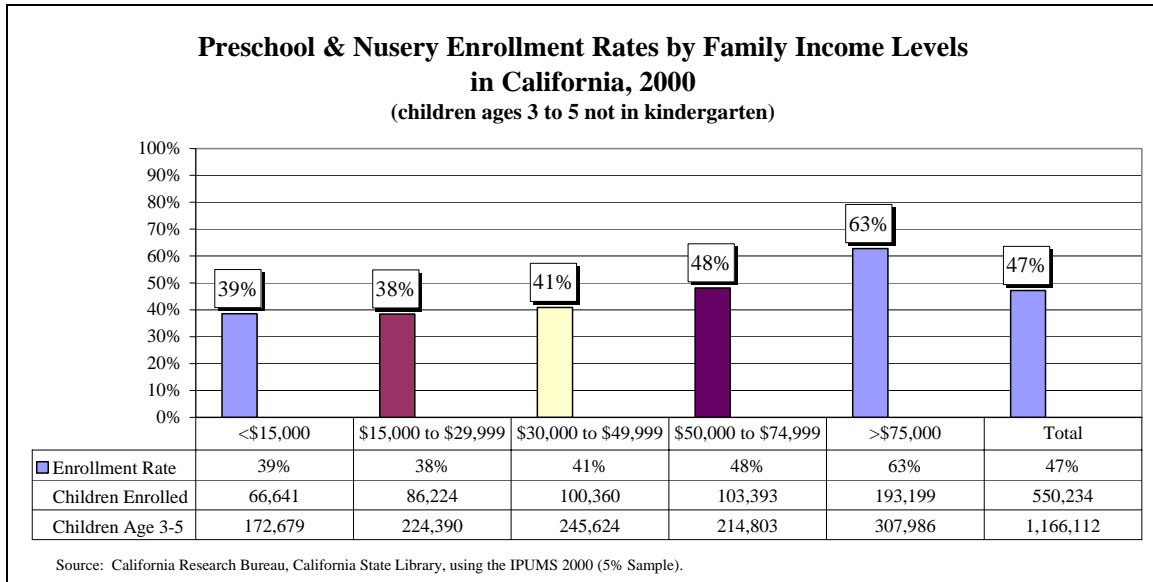


Figure 14 shows the median family income by ethnic group, and suggests a link between family income and preschool/childcare enrollment. White families with children aged three to five have the highest median family income and the highest preschool/childcare enrollment rate. Latino families with young children have much lower median family incomes and enrollment rates. Family income is clearly not the only determining factor. While African American children live in households with the lowest family incomes, they have one of the highest enrollment rates in preschool/childcare in the state.

Figure 14

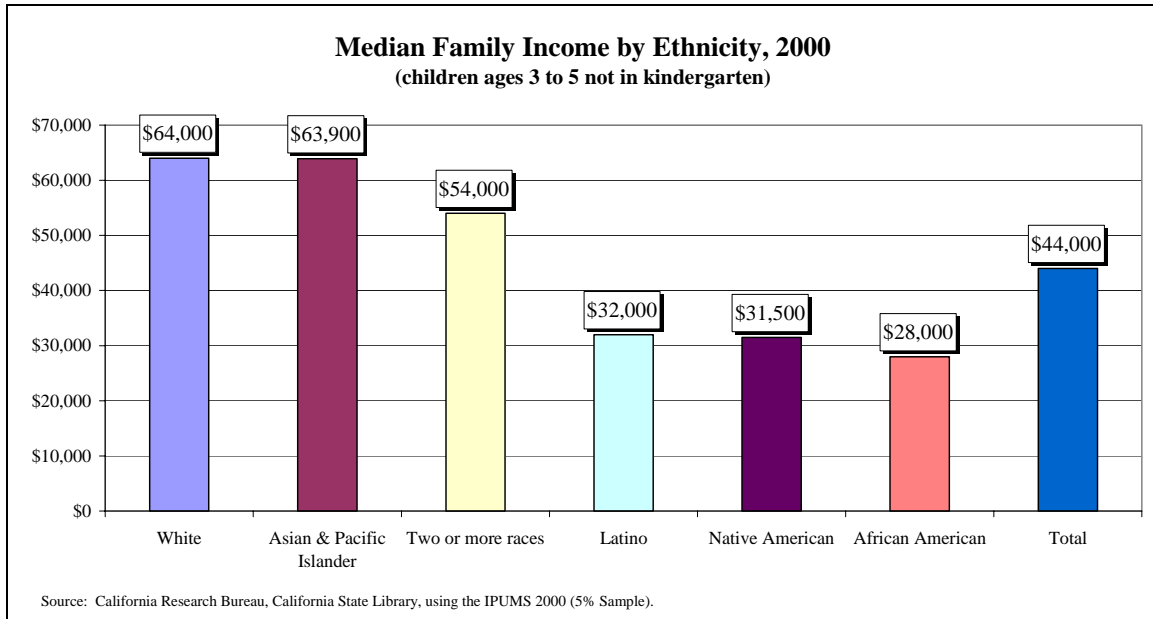
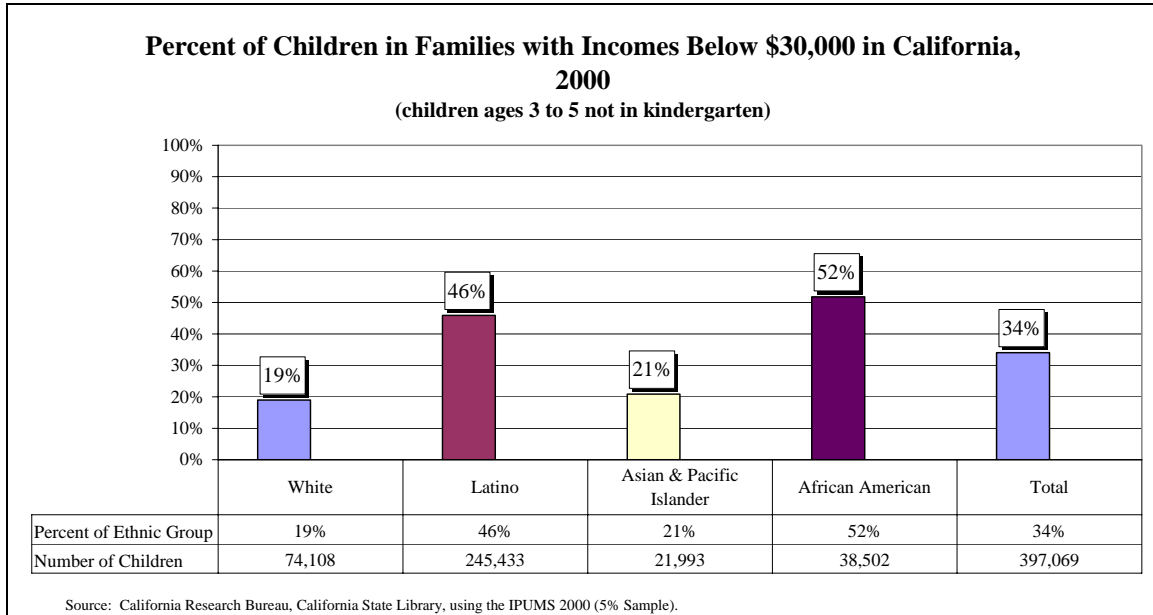


Figure 15 illustrates the stark economic differences among families with children ages three to five in different racial/ethnic groups. About 50 percent of Latino and African American children live in families with incomes below \$30,000 compared to a fifth of White and Asian/Pacific Islander children.

Figure 15



Although Latino and African American children live with families in similar economic situations, their enrollment rates are very different as seen in Figure 16. Preschool/childcare enrollment rates are high for African American children irrespective of their family income. For Latino children, preschool/childcare enrollment rates are the lowest among all ethnic groups, even for children whose family income is high. Thus, family income only partially explains the preschool/childcare enrollment rates of Latino children.

Figure 16

Enrollment Rates by Ethnicity and Family Income (children ages 3 to 5 not in kindergarten)					
Family Income	White	Latino	Asian & Pacific Islander	African American	Total
<\$15,000	45%	34%	38%	50%	39%
\$15,000 to \$29,999	46%	34%	39%	57%	38%
\$30,000 to \$49,999	48%	35%	39%	56%	41%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	55%	39%	48%	59%	48%
>\$75,000	70%	47%	61%	63%	63%
Total	58%	37%	50%	56%	47%

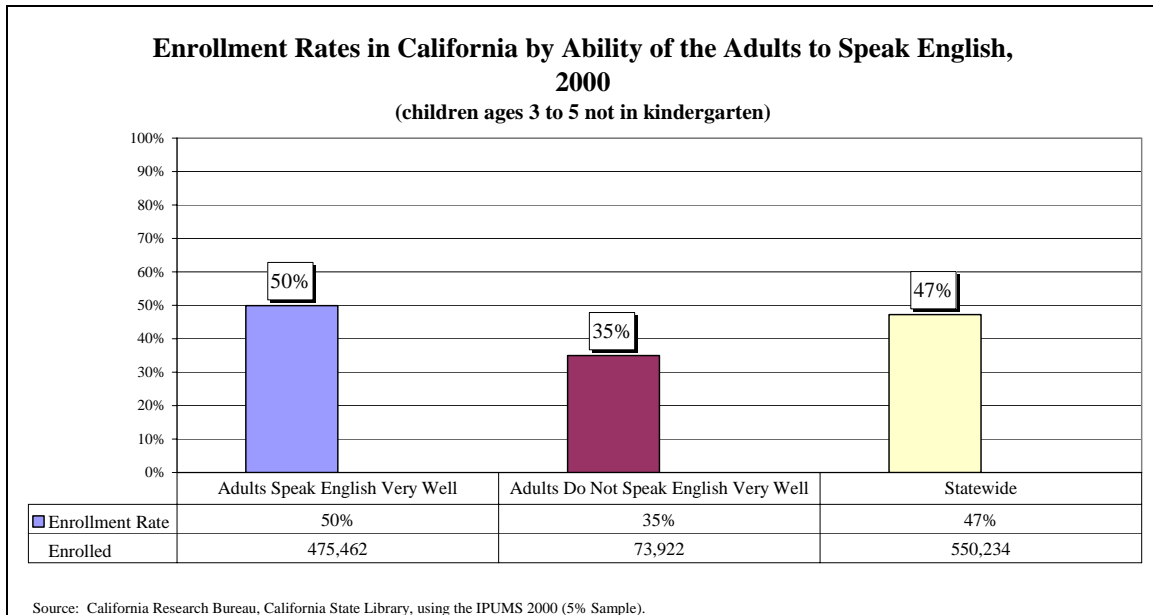
Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

BY LINGUISTIC ISOLATION*

The question remains as to why African Americans and Latino children have very different preschool/childcare enrollment rates, since their families share the same economic circumstances? One reason may result from the linguistic isolation, or the ability of persons over the age of 14 in a house to speak English “very well.”

In California, 31 percent of Latino and Asian children aged three to five live in a household where members of the household over the age of 14 do not speak English fluently. In other racial/ethnic groups, less than five percent of the children live in a linguistically isolated environment. Therefore, Figure 17 presents information for Latino and Asian children only. It appears that enrollment rates in preschool/childcare are higher for children ages three to five in households where the adults speak English fluently.

Figure 17

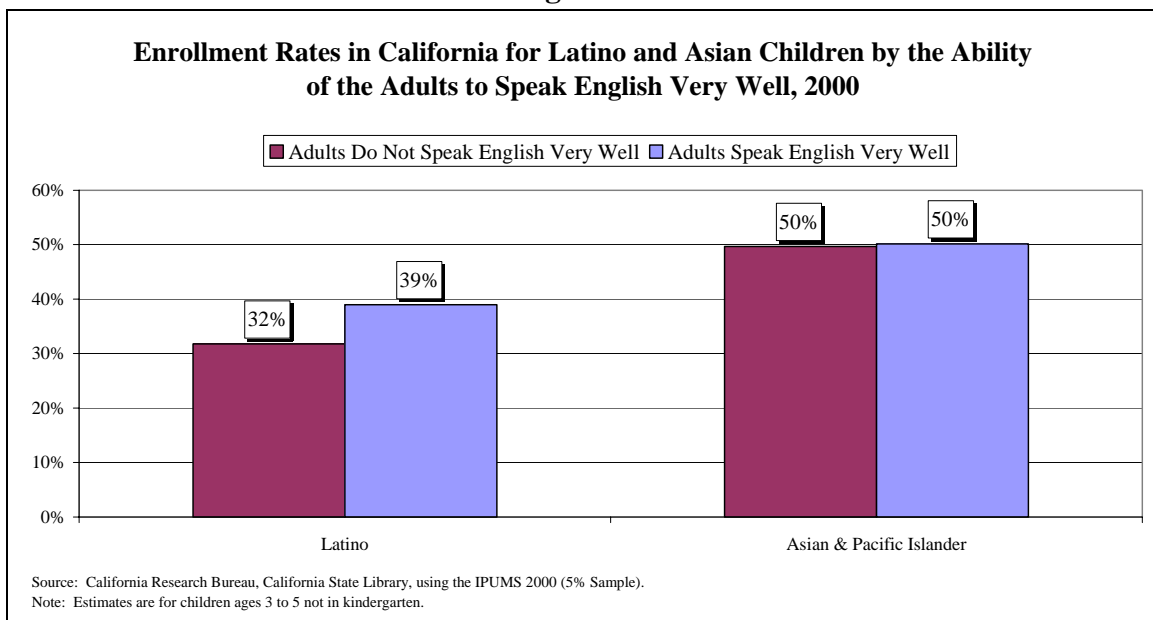


* Information on the ability of very young children to speak English is not available and thus not presented.

A closer examination, however, reveals that the ability of persons aged 14 and older to speak English fluently in a household does not explain the differences between preschool/childcare enrollment rates of Latino and Asian children. There is a slight increase in the enrollment rate of Latino children if the members of the household, over the age of 14, speak English fluently (from 32 to 39 percent). Only 39 percent of Latino children whose parents speak English “very well” are enrolled in preschool/childcare in California.

In contrast, the enrollment rate for Asian children in preschool/childcare remains unchanged at 50 percent irrespective of the ability of persons over the age of 14 to speak English fluently.

Figure 18



BY COUNTY

Figure 19 shows the preschool/childcare enrollment rates by county, ranked by median family income from the highest (Marin) to the lowest (Madera).^{*} Several smaller counties are grouped together. Notice that counties with higher family incomes tend to have higher enrollment rates. They also tend to have a higher percentage of children enrolled in private preschools.

Figure 19

Enrollment and Enrollment Rates by County (children ages 3 to 5 not in Kindergarten)							
Counties	Enrolled in			Percent in			Median Family Income
	All Children Ages 3-5	Preschool or Nursery	Enrollment Rates	Private Preschool or Nursery	Percent in a 2-parent home	Percent Linguistically Isolated	
Marin County	6,161	4,634	75%	73%	81%		\$85,600
Santa Clara County	55,630	29,386	53%	62%	82%	18%	\$82,000
San Mateo County	21,032	13,593	65%	66%	83%		\$81,700
Placer County	7,909	4,910	62%	56%	84%		\$72,200
Contra Costa County	33,376	19,516	58%	57%	79%		\$65,620
San Francisco County	13,168	8,480	64%	55%	72%		\$62,900
Alameda County	44,744	24,988	56%	53%	76%	15%	\$61,900
El Dorado County	4,791	2,600	54%				\$60,000
Ventura County	26,924	13,572	50%	61%	82%		\$58,780
Sonoma County	13,618	7,547	55%	56%	80%		\$55,700
Orange County	102,545	48,221	47%	59%	81%	21%	\$54,000
Solano County	13,468	6,035	45%	45%	75%		\$54,000
Santa Cruz County	7,227	3,310	46%		74%		\$52,500
San Luis Obispo County	6,649	3,593	54%		80%		\$50,000
San Diego County	94,024	47,032	50%	49%	77%	14%	\$45,000
Yolo County	5,483	3,054	56%		76%		\$45,000
Monterey, San Benito	15,562	7,095	46%	35%	80%		\$44,900
Santa Barbara County	12,122	5,932	49%	47%	82%		\$43,500
Riverside County	58,190	21,177	36%	48%	76%	15%	\$41,300
Sacramento County	43,942	19,146	44%	43%	73%	13%	\$40,000
Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Tuolumne	4,367	2,233	51%				\$40,000
Imperial County	4,919	2,229	45%		72%		\$39,000
Stanislaus County	17,658	6,848	39%	39%	76%		\$39,000
San Bernardino County	67,836	27,175	40%	38%	73%	14%	\$38,000
San Joaquin County	20,192	8,957	44%	39%	73%		\$38,000
Los Angeles County	337,509	158,594	47%	41%	72%	25%	\$36,900
Butte County	5,108	2,242	44%		76%		\$36,000
Sutter, Yuba	5,125	2,005	39%		74%		\$35,650
Kings County	4,334	1,443	33%				\$32,400
Merced County	9,127	3,438	38%		78%		\$32,000
Shasta County	5,207	2,681	51%		74%		\$32,000
Del Norte, Lassen, Modoc, Siskiyou	3,172	1,523	48%		74%		\$32,000
Humboldt County	3,409	1,937	57%				\$30,200
Kern County	25,965	9,691	37%	31%	73%	16%	\$30,000
Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, Trinity	3,581	1,374	38%		77%		\$29,100
Fresno County	32,672	12,070	37%	30%	72%	19%	\$28,000
Lake, Mendocino	3,956	1,633	41%				\$27,300
Tulare County	15,202	5,982	39%	26%	73%	23%	\$26,840
Madera County	4,273	1,369	32%				\$25,000
California	1,166,112	550,234	47%	47%	76%	18%	\$44,000

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

Note: Blank cells mean that the sample size was less than 200 for that cell. The counties of Napa, Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra did not meet this criteria and are therefore not shown.

^{*} There are 54 counties represented in Figure 19.

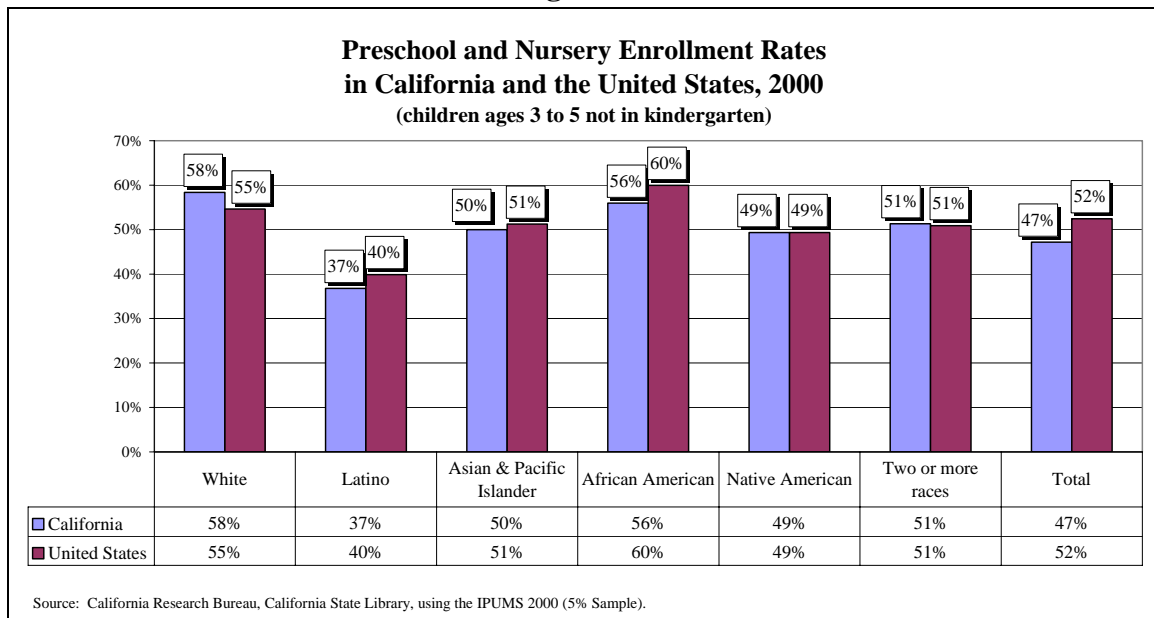
THE UNITED STATES AND CALIFORNIA

How does the preschool/childcare enrollment rate of California children compare with the rate nationwide? According to Figure 20, California has a lower enrollment rate (47 percent) than the nation as a whole (52 percent).

How do we explain California's lower enrollment rate? The answer lies in the state's unique demographic composition. At the national level, White children comprise the largest group, whereas in California Latino children are the largest group of three to five year olds.[†] The preschool/childcare enrollment rates for Latino and African American children are lower than the national rate, and for White children the rate is higher. The key to raising enrollment rates in California appears to lie with increasing the participation of the state's largest group, Latino children.

Nationally, African American children ages three to five have the highest enrollment rates of all racial/ethnic groups.

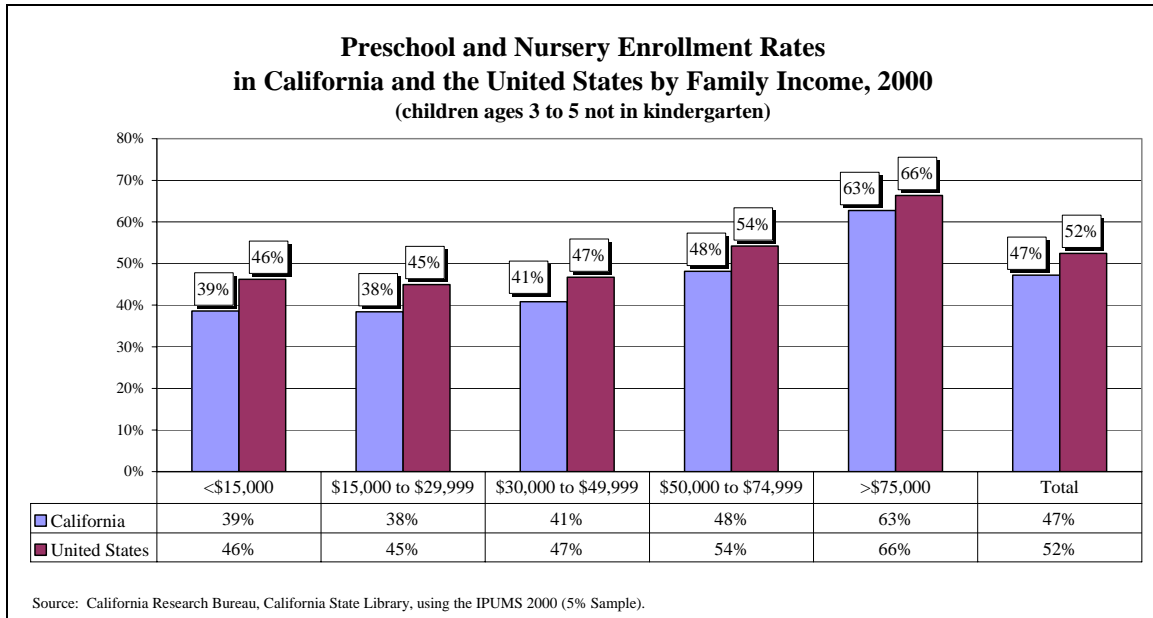
Figure 20



[†] In the United States, White children ages three to five who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten comprise 61 percent of the total; Latino children 18 percent, African American children 14 percent, Asian children three percent, children of multiple races three percent, and Native American children one percent. There are 9.5 million children in the United States ages three to five who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

Preschool/childcare enrollment rates are lower in California than in the United States, regardless of family income level; however, the gap closes as the income rises (Figure 21).

Figure 21



Among all states, California ranks 37th in the preschool/childcare enrollment rates.

Figure 22

Enrollment and Enrollment Rates in Preschools and Nurseries by State, 2000 (children ages 3 to 5 not in Kindergarten)						
Rank	State	Enrolled in		Enrolled in Private		
		Total	Preschool/Nursery	Enrollment Rate	Preschool/Nursery	% in Private
1	New Jersey	277,986	181,034	65%	105,604	58%
2	Connecticut	106,512	66,694	63%	34,756	52%
3	Massachusetts	194,601	121,371	62%	64,875	53%
4	Georgia	292,996	177,959	61%	71,931	40%
5	New York	566,672	334,708	59%	167,398	50%
6	Maryland	162,162	95,001	59%	53,515	56%
7	Louisiana	152,732	88,990	58%	36,717	41%
8	Delaware	26,446	15,346	58%	8,478	55%
9	Illinois	446,161	256,230	57%	103,569	40%
10	Florida	470,791	269,947	57%	145,057	54%
11	South Carolina	120,745	68,438	57%	29,415	43%
12	Virginia	228,008	125,409	55%	71,703	57%
13	Vermont	17,596	9,590	55%	4,605	48%
14	Colorado	148,675	80,733	54%	35,910	44%
15	Rhode island	29,091	15,720	54%	8,190	52%
16	Mississippi	101,034	54,057	54%	17,690	33%
17	Michigan	329,119	174,805	53%	62,322	36%
18	Iowa	98,248	51,862	53%	20,193	39%
19	New Hampshire	38,408	20,217	53%	12,282	61%
20	Pennsylvania	388,863	203,834	52%	110,690	54%
21	Kansas	96,978	50,705	52%	21,838	43%
22	Minnesota	173,063	90,191	52%	34,472	38%
23	Ohio	394,736	205,260	52%	87,333	43%
24	North Carolina	255,215	132,415	52%	64,806	49%
25	Missouri	196,966	102,145	52%	44,331	43%
26	Hawaii	34,200	17,653	52%	9,929	56%
27	Nebraska	61,632	31,685	51%	14,245	45%
28	Alabama	149,250	76,439	51%	36,880	48%
29	Wyoming	15,978	8,149	51%	2,779	34%
30	Oklahoma	120,274	60,884	51%	19,634	32%
31	Wisconsin	177,027	87,589	49%	40,422	46%
32	Texas	791,784	390,835	49%	170,884	44%
33	Washington	204,114	99,666	49%	51,144	51%
34	Tennessee	186,833	89,999	48%	39,919	44%
35	Arkansas	91,563	43,736	48%	16,003	37%
36	Maine	36,100	17,119	47%	7,697	45%
37	California	1,166,112	550,234	47%	256,353	47%
38	Kentucky	130,260	61,410	47%	23,007	37%
39	South Dakota	27,806	12,887	46%	4,644	36%
40	Indiana	230,845	106,186	46%	51,078	48%
41	Montana	30,284	13,891	46%	5,636	41%
42	Utah	99,582	45,205	45%	21,652	48%
43	Oregon	110,812	50,186	45%	25,779	51%
44	New Mexico	64,699	28,358	44%	9,925	35%
45	Alaska	26,152	11,460	44%	4,681	41%
46	Arizona	187,402	81,332	43%	32,460	40%
47	Idaho	50,823	21,585	42%	9,578	44%
48	West Virginia	54,328	22,294	41%	6,834	31%
49	North Dakota	19,915	7,793	39%	2,762	35%
50	Nevada	71,487	27,678	39%	12,310	44%
	United States	9,467,264	4,966,199	52%	2,297,044	46%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

CONCLUSION

Enrollment rates for children ages three to five vary by ethnic group in California. White and African American children have the highest enrollment rates at 58 percent and 56 percent, respectively. Asian, Native American, and children of multiple races follow with enrollment rates around 50 percent. The group with the lowest enrollment rate is Latinos with 37 percent of the children ages three to five enrolled in preschool/childcare.

This report reveals that the age of the children, the number of parents in the household, the linguistic isolation of a family, and family income are important variables in understanding enrollment rates. In isolation, however, these factors do not explain why African American children have comparatively high enrollment rates or why “high income” Latino children have persistently the lowest enrollment rates among the ethnic groups.

One of the more striking results of the analysis is the high enrollment rate of African American children. African American children have the lowest family income and are the least likely to live in a two-parent home. Despite these factors, they have the second highest preschool/childcare enrollment rate in California, and nationwide, they have the highest enrollment rate.

California currently ranks 37th relative to other states with respect to preschool/childcare enrollment rate. To increase the number of children enrolling in preschool/childcare, the state would need to address the issues facing California’s largest group of children, Latinos. One key issue is low family income. Close to 50 percent of Latino children live in homes with family incomes of \$30,000 or less. It is unlikely that the parents of these children will be able to enroll their children in a private preschool without some form of subsidy. The availability of public preschool/childcare programs, and the dissemination of information about their availability throughout Latino communities across the state are important considerations. According to a report published by the Policy Analysis for California Education, there are fewer preschools located in predominantly Latino communities than in other communities.*

This data analysis improves our understanding of preschool/childcare enrollment rates in California. However, there are still many questions unanswered.

- What types of preschool/childcare programs improve children’s ability to do well in kindergarten and the primary grades?
- Since not all programs are of equal quality, do parents know how to evaluate a “high quality” preschool/childcare program? What are the criteria for evaluating quality in preschool/childcare?

* Fuller, Coonerty, Choong, and Kipnis, *An Unfair Head Start: California Families Face Unequal Access to Child Care* (Berkeley, CA: University of California, PACE, 1998)

- How can the state increase the preschool/childcare enrollment rates for Latino children? What are the best outreach models? Do Latino parents know where to enroll their children in their community? Are there enough programs and facilities in Latino neighborhoods?
- Should California develop a mechanism to keep track of the preschool/childcare enrollment rates by region to observe changes in the future?

Answers to these questions could only be answered through longitudinal study that follows children from prekindergarten through second grade. Given the state's unique population, it should be specific to California. This study could follow three-year olds that are enrolled in preschool/childcare, and follow another cohort of three-year olds who are not. A carefully targeted survey of parents might also provide information and insight about family decision-making to policymakers.

APPENDIX

TABLE OF KEY INDICATORS BY COUNTY

For each county or county group, this appendix makes estimates of the following key indicators:

All Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten
Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery
Enrollment Rates
Percent in Private Preschool or Nursery
Percent in a 2-parent home
Percent Linguistically Isolated
Median Family Income
Enrollment Rates by Ethnic Group
White
Latino
Asian & Pacific Islander
African American
Native American
Two or more races
Total
Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten
White
Latino
Asian & Pacific Islander
African American
Native American
Two or more races
Other

The following steps were taken to ensure that the estimates at the county level are reliable:

- Smaller counties, usually with less than 4,000 children ages 3-5 not in kindergarten, were grouped with other smaller nearby counties.
- Estimates were not produced if the sample size for a particular group was less than 200 children.

The only exception is the section labeled “Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten.” The percent by ethnic group is shown because the sample size for the county or county group consists of at least 200 individuals (counties were grouped to have a sample size of at least 200 children).*

* The ethnic distribution of children ages three to five who are not in kindergarten produced from the 5% PUMS is very similar to the one produced using the Summary File 1 for children ages three to five.

Key Indicators	Alameda County	Butte County	Contra Costa County	El Dorado County	Fresno County
All Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten	44,744	5,108	33,376	4,791	32,672
Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery	24,988	2,242	19,516	2,600	12,070
Enrollment Rates	55.8%	43.9%	58.5%	54.3%	36.9%
Percent in Private Preschool or Nursery	52.5%		56.6%		30.1%
Percent in a 2-parent home	76.0%	76.4%	79.2%		71.8%
Percent Linguistically Isolated	14.9%				18.8%
Median Family Income	\$61,900	\$36,000	\$65,620	\$60,000	\$28,000

Enrollment Rates by Ethnic Group

White	65.5%		67.5%		47.8%
Latino	39.4%		46.6%		31.4%
Asian & Pacific Islander	55.5%				
African American	65.0%				
Native American					
Two or more races					
Total	55.8%	43.9%	58.5%	54.3%	36.9%

Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten

White	30.9%	72.0%	47.5%	76.9%	24.5%
Latino	25.9%	18.0%	26.1%	13.9%	58.6%
Asian & Pacific Islander	19.8%	4.0%	9.5%	4.3%	7.4%
African American	15.3%	1.0%	9.4%	0.6%	5.2%
Native American	0.6%	1.8%	0.4%	1.6%	0.3%
Two or more races	7.2%	3.3%	6.5%	2.6%	3.8%
Other	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

Note: Blank cells mean that the sample size was less than 200 for that cell.

Key Indicators	Humboldt County	Imperial County	Kern County	Kings County	Los Angeles County
All Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten	3,409	4,919	25,965	4,334	337,509
Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery	1,937	2,229	9,691	1,443	158,594
Enrollment Rates	56.8%	45.3%	37.3%	33.3%	47.0%
Percent in Private Preschool or Nursery			31.1%		40.7%
Percent in a 2-parent home		71.8%	72.7%		72.4%
Percent Linguistically Isolated			15.8%		25.2%
Median Family Income	\$30,200	\$39,000	\$30,000	\$32,400	\$36,900

Enrollment Rates by Ethnic Group

White			40.9%		63.8%
Latino		44.4%	32.4%		38.6%
Asian & Pacific Islander					52.2%
African American					59.2%
Native American					
Two or more races					54.3%
Total	56.8%	45.3%	37.3%	33.3%	47.0%

Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten

White	70.7%	12.0%	37.4%	32.0%	19.0%
Latino	12.0%	82.4%	50.9%	57.7%	59.8%
Asian & Pacific Islander	1.8%	1.6%	2.2%	2.2%	8.8%
African American	0.9%	1.6%	5.2%	3.9%	9.0%
Native American	7.4%	1.6%	0.3%	1.5%	0.2%
Two or more races	7.2%	0.3%	3.7%	2.8%	3.0%
Other	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

Note: Blank cells mean that the sample size was less than 200 for that cell.

Key Indicators	Madera County	Marin County	Merced County	Orange County	Placer County
All Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten	4,273	6,161	9,127	102,545	7,909
Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery	1,369	4,634	3,438	48,221	4,910
Enrollment Rates	32.0%	75.2%	37.7%	47.0%	62.1%
Percent in Private Preschool or Nursery		73.3%		59.1%	56.1%
Percent in a 2-parent home		80.7%	78.1%	81.3%	83.9%
Percent Linguistically Isolated				20.9%	
Median Family Income	\$25,000	\$85,600	\$32,000	\$54,000	\$72,200

Enrollment Rates by Ethnic Group

White		78.2%		63.5%	62.3%
Latino			30.8%	30.5%	
Asian & Pacific Islander				52.1%	
African American					
Native American					
Two or more races				55.3%	
Total	32.0%	75.2%	37.7%	47.0%	62.1%

Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten

White	26.0%	72.7%	28.7%	38.6%	76.7%
Latino	65.6%	16.6%	55.3%	44.4%	16.3%
Asian & Pacific Islander	1.1%	2.0%	7.1%	11.0%	2.0%
African American	0.6%	3.5%	5.5%	1.3%	0.2%
Native American	2.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.6%
Two or more races	4.6%	4.9%	2.7%	4.0%	3.5%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.3%	0.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

Note: Blank cells mean that the sample size was less than 200 for that cell.

Key Indicators	Riverside County	Sacramento County	San Bernardino	San Diego County	San Francisco County
All Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten	58,190	43,942	67,836	94,024	13,168
Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery	21,177	19,146	27,175	47,032	8,480
Enrollment Rates	36.4%	43.6%	40.1%	50.0%	64.4%
Percent in Private Preschool or Nursery	47.6%	43.1%	38.4%	48.5%	54.7%
Percent in a 2-parent home	76.3%	72.7%	72.8%	76.6%	71.7%
Percent Linguistically Isolated	15.4%	12.7%	13.7%	13.9%	
Median Family Income	\$41,300	\$40,000	\$38,000	\$45,000	\$62,900

Enrollment Rates by Ethnic Group

White	46.0%	47.8%	48.1%	60.1%	
Latino	27.6%	40.9%	34.1%	39.4%	
Asian & Pacific Islander		37.0%		42.9%	63.9%
African American		45.6%	48.3%	59.9%	
Native American					
Two or more races				49.9%	
Total	36.4%	43.6%	40.1%	50.0%	64.4%

Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten

White	36.8%	45.3%	29.3%	41.1%	23.2%
Latino	50.5%	22.7%	53.1%	39.2%	23.9%
Asian & Pacific Islander	2.1%	12.3%	3.1%	7.9%	33.8%
African American	6.5%	10.6%	9.1%	5.9%	11.8%
Native American	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.1%
Two or more races	3.4%	8.3%	4.7%	5.4%	5.3%
Other	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	1.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

Note: Blank cells mean that the sample size was less than 200 for that cell.

Key Indicators	San Joaquin County	San Luis Obispo	San Mateo County	Santa Barbara County	Santa Clara County
All Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten	20,192	6,649	21,032	12,122	55,630
Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery	8,957	3,593	13,593	5,932	29,386
Enrollment Rates	44.4%	54.0%	64.6%	48.9%	52.8%
Percent in Private Preschool or Nursery	38.8%		65.6%	46.6%	62.5%
Percent in a 2-parent home	73.5%	79.8%	83.3%	81.6%	82.4%
Percent Linguistically Isolated					18.0%
Median Family Income	\$38,000	\$50,000	\$81,700	\$43,500	\$82,000

Enrollment Rates by Ethnic Group

White	55.4%	59.2%	77.5%	62.9%	65.8%
Latino	37.6%		47.7%	37.2%	40.0%
Asian & Pacific Islander			60.9%		52.1%
African American					
Native American					
Two or more races					
Total	44.4%	54.0%	64.6%	48.9%	52.8%

Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten

White	35.2%	64.4%	39.9%	38.9%	32.5%
Latino	42.3%	26.1%	31.9%	52.4%	32.4%
Asian & Pacific Islander	11.3%	2.0%	17.8%	2.2%	26.4%
African American	6.0%	0.2%	2.4%	2.6%	2.1%
Native American	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%
Two or more races	4.5%	7.0%	7.0%	2.9%	6.0%
Other	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

Note: Blank cells mean that the sample size was less than 200 for that cell.

Key Indicators	Santa Cruz County	Shasta County	Solano County	Sonoma County	Stanislaus County
All Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten	7,227	5,207	13,468	13,618	17,658
Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery	3,310	2,681	6,035	7,547	6,848
Enrollment Rates	45.8%	51.5%	44.8%	55.4%	38.8%
Percent in Private Preschool or Nursery			45.3%	56.2%	38.8%
Percent in a 2-parent home	74.3%	74.2%	75.4%	79.8%	76.5%
Percent Linguistically Isolated					
Median Family Income	\$52,500	\$32,000	\$54,000	\$55,700	\$39,000

Enrollment Rates by Ethnic Group

White		51.6%	52.9%	65.1%	45.2%
Latino				36.5%	31.4%
Asian & Pacific Islander					
African American					
Native American					
Two or more races					
Total	45.8%	51.5%	44.8%	55.4%	38.8%

Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten

White	43.9%	76.1%	40.0%	57.6%	43.1%
Latino	47.7%	10.7%	26.2%	30.2%	44.8%
Asian & Pacific Islander	4.1%	2.7%	9.3%	3.2%	3.3%
African American	1.0%	0.6%	12.7%	1.4%	2.5%
Native American	0.5%	3.5%	0.1%	0.5%	0.4%
Two or more races	2.5%	6.4%	11.7%	6.8%	5.5%
Other	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

Note: Blank cells mean that the sample size was less than 200 for that cell.

Key Indicators	Ventura		Yolo County	Monterey and	Lake and
	Tulare County	County		San Benito	Mendocino
				Counties	Counties
All Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten	15,202	26,924	5,483	15,562	3,956
Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery	5,982	13,572	3,054	7,095	1,633
Enrollment Rates	39.4%	50.4%	55.7%	45.6%	41.3%
Percent in Private Preschool or Nursery	25.9%	60.5%		34.5%	
Percent in a 2-parent home	73.4%	82.0%	75.9%	79.7%	
Percent Linguistically Isolated	22.7%				
Median Family Income	\$26,840	\$58,780	\$45,000	\$44,900	\$27,300
Enrollment Rates by Ethnic Group					
White	43.9%	64.5%		61.7%	
Latino	37.5%	32.4%		36.9%	
Asian & Pacific Islander					
African American					
Native American					
Two or more races					
Total	39.4%	50.4%	55.7%	45.6%	41.3%
Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten					
White	27.0%	47.1%	45.4%	27.9%	60.9%
Latino	66.2%	41.8%	42.9%	61.9%	24.6%
Asian & Pacific Islander	1.8%	4.2%	4.7%	4.4%	2.3%
African American	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.7%	2.1%
Native American	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	7.3%
Two or more races	3.0%	4.9%	5.2%	3.7%	2.8%
Other	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

Note: Blank cells mean that the sample size was less than 200 for that cell.

Key Indicators	Del Norte, Lassen, Colusa, Glenn, Modoc, and Siskiyou Counties	Tehama, and Trinity Counties	Sutter and Yuba Counties	Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne Counties	Statewide
All Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten	3,172	3,581	5,125	4,367	1,166,112
Enrolled in Preschool or Nursery	1,523	1,374	2,005	2,233	550,234
Enrollment Rates	48.0%	38.4%	39.1%	51.1%	47.2%
Percent in Private Preschool or Nursery					46.6%
Percent in a 2-parent home	74.3%	77.4%	74.0%		75.7%
Percent Linguistically Isolated					18.1%
Median Family Income	\$32,000	\$29,100	\$35,650	\$40,000	\$44,000
Enrollment Rates by Ethnic Group					
White					58.4%
Latino					36.8%
Asian & Pacific Islander					50.0%
African American					56.0%
Native American					49.3%
Two or more races					51.3%
Total	48.0%	38.4%	39.1%	51.1%	47.2%
Ethnicity of Children Ages 3-5 Not in Kindergarten					
White	69.5%	55.3%	56.3%	71.6%	33.5%
Latino	14.2%	35.7%	25.3%	18.5%	45.9%
Asian & Pacific Islander	2.5%	2.7%	10.6%	1.7%	9.0%
African American	1.6%	0.3%	1.4%	0.0%	6.4%
Native American	5.3%	1.6%	1.9%	4.3%	0.5%
Two or more races	6.0%	4.4%	4.0%	3.9%	4.5%
Other	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: California Research Bureau, California State Library, using the IPUMS 2000 (5% Sample).

Note: Blank cells mean that the sample size was less than 200 for that cell.