



Calendar Year 2023

Produced on August 8, 2024

Population^{1,2}

- **Orange County** is the 3rd most populous county in the **State of California**: 3,175,227.
 - Ethnic breakdown: Asian 21.7%, Black 1.7%, Hispanic 33.9%, White 38.5%, Native American 0.6%, Other 3.6%.
 - Has the 3rd greatest youth (under 18) population when compared to other counties: 680,041.
 - Median Family Income: \$124,132.

Social Services³

- Orange County children receiving financial assistance through CalWORKs: 23,725.

Child Abuse and Referral Details

- Number of referrals⁴ for abuse and neglect in Orange County was 40,927.
 - 9.2% of referrals were made by a non-mandated reporter.
 - 90.8% of referrals were made by the following mandated reporters:
 - Counselor/Therapist (23.5%), School Personnel/Teachers (30.9%), Other Professionals combined (22.3%), Law Enforcement (17.0%), and SSA, Probation, other Government Agency (6.4%).

- The 40,927 referrals⁴ represent 26,915 distinct children in Orange County identified below by Sex at Birth & Age:

	Sex at Birth ⁵				Age in Years ⁵					
	Male	Female	Intersex	Unknown	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 & Up	Unknown	
Count	12,590	14,246	*	77	Count	1,362	5,498	10,995	9,060	0
Percent	46.8%	52.9%	*	0.3%	Percent	5.1%	20.4%	40.9%	33.7%	0.0%

- Characteristics of the 1,013 Children brought into Protective Custody (PC) between 01/01/2023 and 12/31/2023.

Abuse Allegations^{5,6,7}

	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Exploitation	General Neglect	Severe Neglect	Law Violation	Caretaker Absence / Incapacity	Status Offense
Count	79	31	16	0	527	120	*	247	*
Percent	7.8%	3.1%	1.6%	0.0%	52.0%	11.8%	*	24.4%	*

	Sex at Birth ⁵			Age in Years ⁵				
	Male	Female	Intersex	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 & Up	
Count	489	524	0	Count	173	265	295	280
Percent	48.3%	51.7%	0.0%	Percent	17.1%	26.2%	29.1%	27.6%

Ethnicity⁵

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Native American	Other
Count	57	47	730	172	*	6
Percent	5.6%	4.6%	72.1%	17.0%	*	0.6%

- Characteristics of the 1,339 Children placed in Out of Home Care in Orange County as of 12/31/2023.

Placement Type⁵

	Relative	Non-Relative	Guardian	Foster	Small Family	Foster Family Agency	Court Specified	Congregate Care
Count	638	144	135	147	*	153	8	111
Percent	47.6%	10.8%	10.1%	11.0%	*	11.4%	0.6%	8.3%

Sex at Birth⁵

	Male	Female	Intersex
Count	655	684	0
Percent	48.9%	51.1%	0.0%

Age in Years⁵

	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 & Up
Count	65	402	399	473
Percent	4.9%	30.0%	29.8%	35.3%

Ethnicity⁵

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Native American	Other
Count	62	73	950	248	*	*
Percent	4.6%	5.5%	70.9%	18.5%	*	*

- 668 youth in placements received or were referred for Mental Health Services.
- 1,924 parents of youth served were referred for Substance Abuse Service.
- Children brought into Protective Custody (PC) and placed in Out of Home Care within that same community⁵.

Area	PC	Placed Back	Placements by PC (Removal) Area
Orange County	1,013	327	28.5%

Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program: Non-Minor Dependents⁵

The EFC Program, created by Assembly Bill 12 in January, 2012, allows foster youth to receive foster care benefits and services after age 18 and up to age 21. These young adults remain under the jurisdiction of the court and supervision of the county as they transition to independence.

- There are 217 non-minor dependents residing within Orange County as of 12/31/2023.

How can the Orange County Community help to Preserve and Reunite their Children and Families?

- Support community-based responses to protect children and preserve families.
- Become a resource family and encourage others to do so (short or longer term foster care).
- Participate in team decision making meetings that bring together people to help children at risk.
- Provide space for foster care orientation, training or family visitation.
- Help with community mentoring for birth parents working towards reunification.



Interested in Getting More Involved with Children in Your Community?

To find out more information about becoming a resource family, foster or adoptive parent: Call 1-888-871-KIDS (5437) or visit us at www.oc4kids.com

Inquiries and/or suggestions for continued improvements of this report is encouraged. Please submit email to: CWSReports@ssa.ocgov.com

¹ U.S Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

² U.S Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

³ SSA Research Analyst Team.

⁴ Youth can have more than one referral within the calendar year.

⁵ When the count is less than 5, then an * will be shown to protect the identity.

⁶ A hierarchy is used to record the most 'severe' allegation for youth with multiple allegations.

⁷ Youth can have more than one Abuse Allegation within the calendar year.