



Calendar Year 2024

Produced on May 5, 2025

Population^{1,2}

- **Orange County** is the 3rd most populous county in the **State of California**: 3,164,063.
 - Ethnic breakdown: Asian 21.8%, Black 1.7%, Hispanic 34.1%, White 38.6%, Native American 0.6%, Other 3.2%.
 - Has the 3rd greatest youth (under 18) population when compared to other counties: 674,833.
 - Median Family Income: \$128,689.

Social Services³

- Orange County children receiving financial assistance through CalWORKs: 23,246.

Child Abuse and Referral Details

- Number of referrals⁴ for abuse and neglect in Orange County was 41,213.
 - 11.2% of referrals were made by a non-mandated reporter.
 - 88.8% of referrals were made by the following mandated reporters:
 - Counselor/Therapist (24.6%), School Personnel/Teachers (28.9%), Other Professionals combined (24.4%), Law Enforcement (16.1%), and SSA, Probation, other Government Agency (6.0%).

- The 41,213 referrals⁴ represent 26,755 distinct children in Orange County identified below by Sex at Birth & Age:

Sex at Birth⁵

	Male	Female	Intersex	Unknown
Count	12,915	13,772	*	67
Percent	48.3%	51.5%	*	0.3%

Age in Years⁵

	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 & Up	Unknown
Count	1,363	5,432	11,216	8,744	0
Percent	5.1%	20.3%	41.9%	32.7%	0.0%

- Characteristics of the 1,098 Children brought into Protective Custody (PC) between 01/01/2024 and 12/31/2024.

Abuse Allegations^{5,6,7}

	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Exploitation	General Neglect	Severe Neglect	Law Violation	Caretaker Absence / Incapacity	Status Offense
Count	101	32	7	0	752	60	*	155	*
Percent	9.2%	2.9%	0.6%	0.0%	68.5%	5.5%	*	14.1%	*

Sex at Birth⁵

	Male	Female	Intersex
Count	533	565	0
Percent	48.5%	51.5%	0.0%

Age in Years⁵

	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 & Up
Count	192	293	351	262
Percent	17.5%	26.7%	32.0%	23.9%

Ethnicity⁵

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Native American	Other
Count	63	48	775	194	5	13
Percent	5.7%	4.4%	70.6%	17.7%	0.5%	1.2%

- Characteristics of the 1,254 Children placed in Out of Home Care in Orange County as of 12/31/2024.

Placement Type⁵

	Relative	Non-Relative	Guardian	Foster	Small Family	Foster Family Agency	Court Specified	Congregate Care
Count	572	115	107	156	7	159	13	125
Percent	45.6%	9.2%	8.5%	12.4%	0.6%	12.7%	1.0%	10.0%

Sex at Birth⁵

	Male	Female	Intersex
Count	643	611	0
Percent	51.3%	48.7%	0.0%

Age in Years⁵

	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 & Up
Count	60	381	362	451
Percent	4.8%	30.4%	28.9%	36.0%

Ethnicity⁵

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Native American	Other
Count	47	67	913	214	5	8
Percent	3.7%	5.3%	72.8%	17.1%	0.4%	0.6%

- 649 youth in placements received or were referred for Mental Health Services.
- 1,970 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	1,098	399	32.5%

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 214 non-minor dependents residing within Orange County as of 12/31/2024.

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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

² U.S Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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.