



## Children & Family Services In Orange County

Calendar Year 2025

Produced on April 30, 2026

### Population<sup>1,2</sup>

- Orange County is the 3rd most populous county in the State of California: 3,165,820.
  - Ethnic breakdown: Asian 22.4%, Black 1.6%, Hispanic 34.2%, White 36.9%, Native American 0.9%, Other 4.0%.
  - Has the 3rd greatest youth (under 18) population when compared to other counties: 665,133.
  - Median Family Income: \$132,827.

### Social Services<sup>3</sup>

- Orange County children receiving financial assistance through CalWORKs: 21,722.

### Child Abuse and Referral Details

- Number of referrals<sup>4</sup> for abuse and neglect in Orange County was 40,294.
  - 12.7% of referrals were made by a non-mandated reporter.
  - 87.3% of referrals were made by the following mandated reporters:
    - Counselor/Therapist (26.0%), School Personnel/Teachers (28.1%), Other Professionals combined (24.7%), Law Enforcement (15.8%), and SSA, Probation, other Government Agency (5.4%).

- The 40,294 referrals<sup>4</sup> represent 25,848 distinct children in Orange County identified below by Sex at Birth & Age:

Sex at Birth <sup>5</sup>					Age in Years <sup>5</sup>					
	Male	Female	Intersex	Unknown		Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 & Up	Unknown
Count	12,388	13,362	0	98	Count	1,241	5,461	10,950	8,196	0
Percent	47.9%	51.7%	0.0%	0.4%	Percent	4.8%	21.1%	42.4%	31.7%	0.0%

- Characteristics of the 992 Children brought into Protective Custody (PC) between 01/01/2025 and 12/31/2025.

### Abuse Allegations<sup>5,6,7</sup>

	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Exploitation	General Neglect	Severe Neglect	Law Violation	Caretaker Absence / Incapacity	Status Offense
Count	46	11	5	0	819	35	*	73	*
Percent	4.6%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	82.6%	3.5%	*	7.4%	*

Sex at Birth <sup>5</sup>				Age in Years <sup>5</sup>				
	Male	Female	Intersex		Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 & Up
Count	502	490	0	Count	133	262	329	268
Percent	50.6%	49.4%	0.0%	Percent	13.4%	26.4%	33.2%	27.0%

Ethnicity <sup>5</sup>						
	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Native American	Other
Count	61	64	666	190	*	9
Percent	6.1%	6.5%	67.1%	19.2%	*	0.9%

- Characteristics of the 1,202 Children placed in Out of Home Care in Orange County as of 12/31/2025.

### Placement Type<sup>5</sup>

	Relative	Non-Relative	Guardian	Foster	Small Family	Foster Family Agency	Court Specified	Congregate Care
Count	498	147	111	167	6	123	29	121
Percent	41.4%	12.2%	9.2%	13.9%	0.5%	10.2%	2.4%	10.1%

### Sex at Birth<sup>5</sup>

	Male	Female	Intersex
Count	620	582	0
Percent	51.6%	48.4%	0.0%

### Age in Years<sup>5</sup>

	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 & Up
Count	43	363	348	448
Percent	3.6%	30.2%	29.0%	37.3%

### Ethnicity<sup>5</sup>

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Native American	Other
Count	66	82	836	205	*	12
Percent	5.5%	6.8%	69.6%	17.1%	*	1.0%

- 597 youth in placements received or were referred for Mental Health Services.
- 1,840 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 community<sup>5</sup>.

Area	PC	Placed Back	Placements by PC (Removal) Area
Orange County	992	327	28.9%

### Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program: Non-Minor Dependents<sup>5</sup>

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 252 non-minor dependents residing within Orange County as of 12/31/2025.

### 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](http://www.oc4kids.com)

Inquiries and/or suggestions for continued improvements of this report is encouraged. Please submit email to: [SmartSupport@ssa.ocgov.com](mailto:SmartSupport@ssa.ocgov.com)

<sup>1</sup> U.S Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> U.S Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

<sup>3</sup> SSA Reseach Analyst Team.

<sup>4</sup> Youth can have more than one referral within the calendar year.

<sup>5</sup> When the count is less than 5, then an \* will be shown to protect the identity.

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

<sup>7</sup> Youth can have more than one Abuse Allegation within the calendar year.