

## High School Dropouts in California

### High School Dropouts, by Race/Ethnicity: 2009

California	Percent	Range: 0 - 45%
African American/Black	36.8%	
Asian American	9.6%	
Caucasian/White	14.1%	
Filipino	10.7%	
Hispanic/Latino	26.7%	
Native American/Alaska Native	30.0%	
Pacific Islander	25.4%	
Two or More Races	5.3%	

**Definition:** Estimated percentage of public high school students who drop out of high school, based on the adjusted four-year derived dropout rate, by race/ethnicity. This adjusted dropout rate estimates the percentage of high school students who would drop out in a four-year period based on data collected for a single year (e.g., in 2009, 14.1% of Caucasian/White students in grades 9-12 in California were expected to drop out of high school).

**Data Source:** California Department of Education, California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS). Accessed online at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/> (March 2011).

### High School Dropouts in California's Largest Counties: 2009

Region	Percent
California	21.5%

Region	Percent
Alameda County	26.7%
Contra Costa County	15.9%
Fresno County	23.7%
Los Angeles County	24.3%
Orange County	14.3%
Riverside County	21.9%
Sacramento County	23.3%
San Bernardino County	21.6%
San Diego County	20.2%
Santa Clara County	16.1%

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### WHAT IT IS

Kidsdata.org shows the California Department of Education's adjusted four-year derived dropout rate, which reflects the [estimated percentage of public high school dropouts](#) over four years based on a single year's data, and the [grade 9-12 dropout count](#). Data also are provided [by race/ethnicity](#).

### WHY THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT

Research has shown that young people who drop out of high school are more likely to use drugs/alcohol, get involved in criminal activity, and become teen parents. High school dropouts also have higher unemployment rates and are more likely to receive public assistance. Nationwide, high dropout rates among youth of color are of particular concern to educators.

### HOW CHILDREN ARE FARING

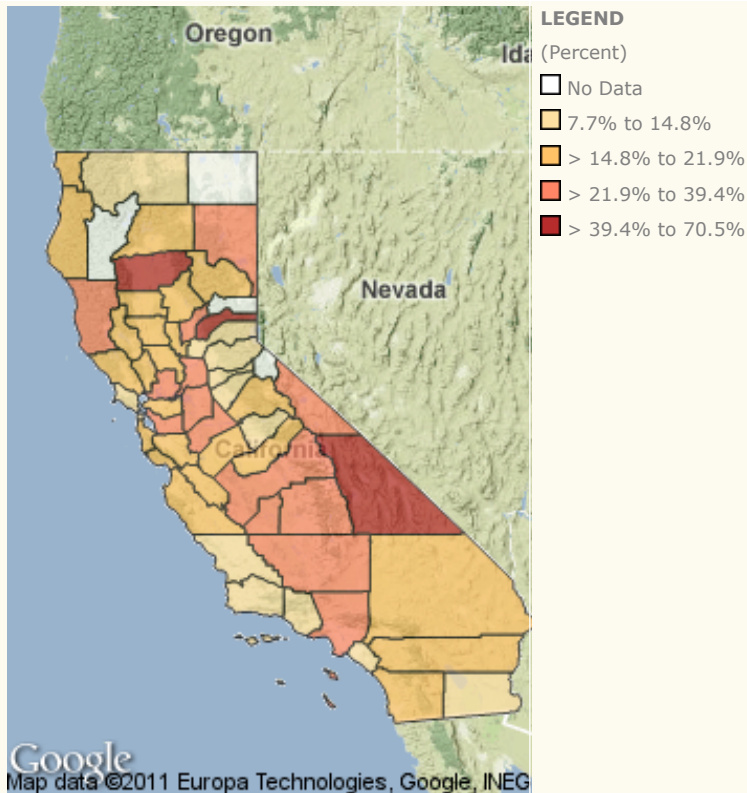
According to 2009 estimates, 114,826 California students in grades 9-12 were expected to drop out at some point during high school – about one in every five students (21.5%). Starting in 2007, high school dropout estimates were calculated using student-level data, as opposed to school-level data, as it was in previous years. This resulted in more accurate estimates, but comparisons before and after this date are not recommended.

Projected dropout rates vary widely at the county and school district levels. Generally, higher percentages of African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander students were expected to drop out of high school than Asian, Caucasian/White, and Filipino students.

*View references for this text and additional research on this topic:*

<http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/dashboard.aspx?cat=21#whatitis>

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Kids Data Offers Data for Every City,  
County, and School District in California