



# Child Poverty in California

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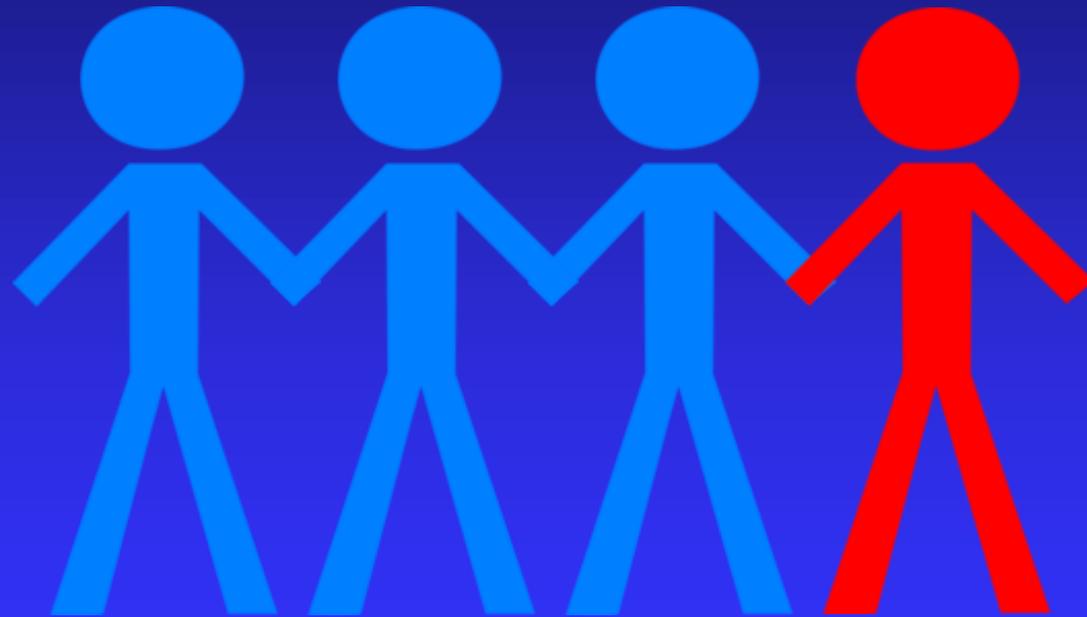
Assemblymember Holly Mitchell, Chair

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- How many children are poor?
- How is poverty distributed across CA?
- What the implications of child poverty?

# Nearly One in Four California Children Lives in Poverty



# Poverty is Experienced Disproportionately by Children of Color

- 32% of African American children
- 31% of American Indian children
- 30% of Latino children
- 13% of Asian/Pacific Island children
- 10% of Caucasian children





# □ Which looks like...

## African American and Latino Children



## Caucasian Children



# Child Poverty Across California



Humboldt  
22%

Lake  
36%

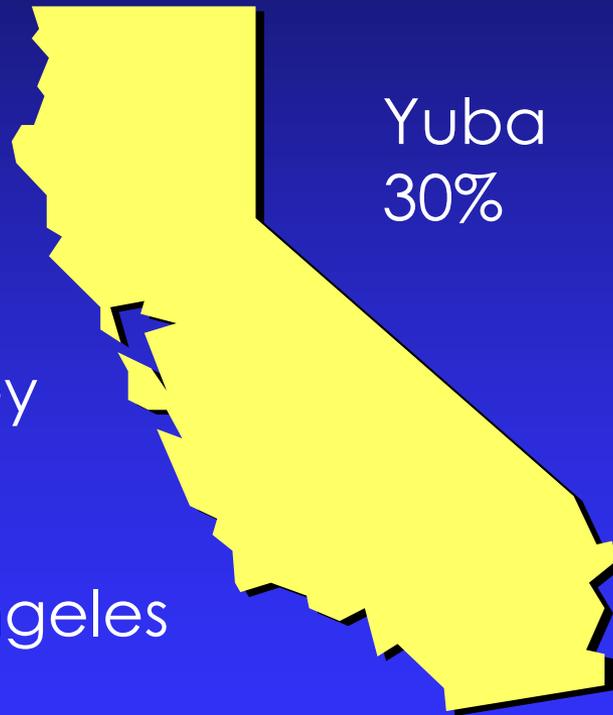
Monterey  
27%

Los Angeles  
23%

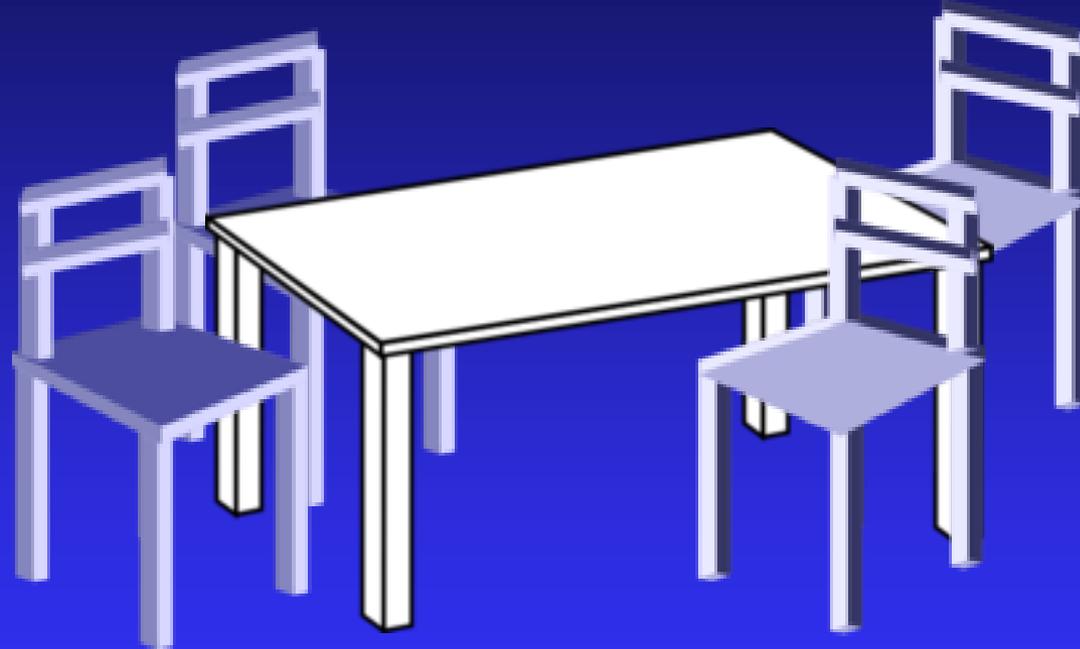
Orange  
15%

Yuba  
30%

Riverside  
19%



Are these our children?



# Why should we care?

Equity values

Negative effects

Economic costs



# Equity

*“In the game that determines how our national income is distributed, there are winners, there are losers, and there are those who aren’t even in the game.”*

R. Haveman, *Starting Even*



# Effects

*Poverty is not a benign event.*



# Poverty's Effects on Child Well-Being

- Infant deaths
- Low-birth weight
- Birth complications
- Poor nutrition
- Chronic health conditions
- Stunted growth
- More illnesses & injuries



# Poverty's Effects on Child Well-Being



- Environmental toxins
- Poor quality education
- High drop-out rates
- Teen pregnancy
- Criminal activity
- Brain development

# Poverty's Effects on Learning

The achievement gap starts early.

At age 3, poor children have a vocabulary 1/3 as large as children in middle-class or higher families



# Poverty Across Childhood

Depth



Age



Duration



# Economic Costs

- Adult outcomes for children raised in poverty:
  - Lower educational attainment
  - Lower rates of employment and earnings
  - Higher rates of adult poverty
  - Higher rates of single parenthood
  - Poorer health



# Economic Costs

- *“The costs to the U.S. associated with childhood poverty total about \$500 billion per year, or the equivalent of 4% GDP.”*

H. Holzer, et al.



# Summary

- Child poverty:
  - Is rising
  - Is likely to persist
  - Has significant and long-lasting effects
  - Has implications that will be felt by children directly, and by all Californians indirectly
  - Demands collective response



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