



**Preschool Services Department**



# COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

2020-2025 Program Years

*January 2020*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County of San Bernardino, a regional government created by charter in 1853 and overseen by a five-member Board of Supervisors, provides leadership and oversight over the geographically largest county in the contiguous United States. Collectively, the Board of Supervisors work to create a county where residents can prosper and achieve overall well-being. Through its Preschool Services Department (PSD), the County administers over \$65 million to serve 5,191 children. PSD is the largest provider of early childhood services in the county. Services are provided across 41 center-based locations and 33 private family childcare homes. Services are provided across 20,160 square miles that includes 24 incorporated cities.

## History of Head Start and State-Funded Programs in San Bernardino

In January 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared “The War on Poverty” in his State of the Union speech. Shortly thereafter, Sargent Shriver took the lead in assembling a panel of experts to develop a comprehensive child development program to help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. Head Start was designed to help break the cycle of poverty, providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. A key tenet of the program established that it be culturally responsive to the communities served and that the communities have an investment in its success through the contribution of volunteer hours and other donations.

At the same time, California introduced the State Preschool Program in 1965, which became one of the first state-funded preschool programs in the country. The State Preschool program targeted low-income children receiving protective services and those who are at risk for abuse, neglect, or family violence. The California State Preschool Program Act of 2008 consolidated the state’s multiple preschool programs to create the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). The CSPP provides services to 3- and 4-year-olds through local education agencies, private nonprofit agencies, colleges, and community agencies.

## Early Childhood Programs in San Bernardino

The County of San Bernardino has been providing comprehensive early childhood education services since 1965. Initially, preschool services were provided under the County’s Community Action Agency, which received a diversity of funding from the federal government. Through its Preschool Services Department (PSD), the County administers over \$65 million to serve 5,191 children. PSD is the largest provider of early childhood services in the county. Services are provided across 41 center-based locations and 33 private family childcare homes. PSD implements three program options: center-based, family childcare, and home-based through Early Head Start (EHS), Head Start (HS), Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (CCP), California State Preschool Program (CSPP) funding, the Low Income First Time (LIFT) Pregnant Mothers Program, and the Home Visitation Program (HVP).

## Purpose of Community Assessment

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), released in 2016, led to significant changes to the Head Start program. PSD uses the information from the community assessment for program planning and decision making that ultimately affect services provided to children and families. The types of program decisions that stem from the community assessment include:

1. Grantee philosophy, goals, and pillars of responsibility
2. Strategic planning
3. Comprehensive services and program options most needed
4. Service and recruitment areas for each delegate
5. Locations and areas to be served by center- and home-based programs, family childcare (FCC) homes, and socialization spaces
6. Selection criteria for prioritizing children and families recruited for enrollment

## Community Assessment Regulatory Requirements

The United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 45 Part 1302 requires Head Start grantees<sup>1</sup> to determine community strengths, needs, and resources. Specifically, Head Start grantees must engage in community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment to design a program that meets community needs and builds on strengths and resources.<sup>2</sup> The community assessment must use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources.

## Community Assessment Methodology and Structure

In October 2019, PSD secured the services of Breakwater Associates LLC (“Breakwater”) to assist in the completion of the community assessment. Breakwater has extensive experience conducting literature reviews and environmental scans for research, evaluation and community assessments that comply with federal regulations and support strategic planning.

Breakwater worked closely with PSD staff to conduct gap and trend analysis through the collection of primary and secondary data sources. Initially, Breakwater worked with PSD leadership to identify the most relevant community indicators affecting its programs. PSD’s most recent Community Assessment and 2019 Program Information Reports served as the foundation for this community assessment. In addition, journal articles, public and private sector briefs, and the US Census data in the American Community Survey was reviewed and compiled. Where available, 2018 data was used; however, 2017 was the most prevalent data available. Data was gathered at a county and zip code level, and when appropriate, organized into the PSD service area and by delegate agency service area.

## Service Area Description

The County of San Bernardino is located in southeastern California, with Inyo and Kern Counties to the north, Orange and Los Angeles Counties to the west, and Riverside County to the south. The County of San Bernardino is the largest county in the state and the United States by geographic area (excluding Alaska). The overall size of the County is larger than the states of New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island.

The county is commonly divided into three distinct areas, including the Valley (sometimes divided into East and West Valley), Mountain Region and Desert Region. The Valley Region contains the majority of the county’s incorporated areas and is the most populous region. The Mountain Region is primarily comprised of public lands owned and managed by federal and state agencies. The Desert Region is the largest (over 93% of the county’s land area) and includes parts of the Mojave Desert. Given that these regions are broad and the cities and unincorporated areas within the regions are unique, data throughout this community assessment is further disaggregated by sub-regions.

Each sub-region is uniquely different and as will be seen throughout this report, characterized as follows.

- Mountain – The Mountain region and sub-region is the smallest regions within the County. Residents make their life in the San Bernardino Mountains and are primarily White, living in married-couple households with high educational attainment, and have the fewest number of children.
- West Valley – The West Valley is closest to LA County and has the largest population within the County. The sub-region has the greatest numbers of Asian residents, many of whom are foreign-born from East Asia.
- Central Valley - The Central Valley has the largest percentage of Hispanic/Latinos and African Americans. This sub-region is characterized as having the most residents without post-secondary education and the greatest number of residents without a high school diploma. Many of its residents are foreign-born from Mexico.
- East Valley – The East Valley is primarily White with a median income that is slightly higher than the County’s. The majority of residents have post-secondary degrees.
- High Desert – This sub-region is characterized as having the greatest numbers of Hispanic/Latinos with growing numbers of African Americans. Many of its residents are native-born with some college or associate degree.
- Low Desert – This sub-region is characterized as primarily White with some smaller communities where immigrants from Latin America reside.

## PSD Program Profile

To qualify for services, families must meet either income qualifications or be categorically eligible. The federal poverty threshold mandates income qualifications for Head Start programs and State poverty thresholds for state programs. The typical family served by PSD is led by a single-parent Hispanic/Latina mother, with a high school diploma, who is working in the service or retail industry and who qualifies for Head Start based on income eligibility, earning less than the federal poverty threshold. While the majority of families served are income eligible, an overwhelming majority (67%) have at least one-person in the household that is working. This indicates that families are working in low-paying industries, such as the service or hospitality industries. In many of these cases, families may not be working full-time or are considered under-employed.

Based on a Parent Survey that was conducted in December 2019, an overwhelming majority of parents report that the PSD program is preparing their children for their next academic year. Nearly all respondents indicated they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the overall quality of their child's school (90.45%).

## Summary of Trends and Findings

The comprehensive community assessment resulted in several trends and findings. Primarily, data show that the population and economy are changing within the County.

### Demographic Trends

- San Bernardino County is expected to continue growing over the next 25 years; growing by 28% between 2020 and 2045. Population growth is expected among all age groups, with the largest growth rate experienced by seniors older than 65. Young children's (under 5) growth is expected to remain steady through 2030 and then projected to grow by 7% through 2045.
- IRS data show that 30,000 LA county residents moved east to San Bernardino County, while slightly more than 19,000 relocated from San Bernardino to LA County.
- An excess of 6 in 10 households in the Central Valley and High Desert are single-parent households, with most residing within the city of San Bernardino and Barstow.

- Latino/Hispanic residents are the majority throughout the county and are projected to continue grow to 64% of the population by 2045. The White population is projected to decrease from 28% to 18% during the same period.
- There has been a significant decline in the number of new immigrants from Latin America. Increasingly, the County's growth comes from natural increase of the already settled population as well as domestic net-migration and immigration from overseas (i.e., East Asia).
- African American residents, which consist of approximately 1 in 10 residents across the County, tend to make the Valley Region and the High Desert home. Approximately 1 in 4 residents within San Bernardino city's 92401 zip code and 1 in 5 residents in Victorville's 92307 zip code are African American.
- Barstow and Crestline have the highest percentages of children under age 3 (in excess of 60%).
- San Bernardino County falls behind the country as a whole in its overall educational attainment, as a greater percentage of residents lack a high school diploma when compared to the United States and California. Residents in Central Valley are most likely to have a high school diploma or less, 33% of residents not having a high school diploma.

### Economic Trends

- The median household income for San Bernardino County in 2017 was \$57,156, approximately \$14,649 less than the state's median income of \$71,805. Five communities have less than 50% of the County's median income.
- The County's unemployment rate has continued to improve with a rate of 3.5% in October 2019, which is significantly lower than the all-time high of 14.7% in 2010, after the impact of the great recession of 2008. However, the cities/communities of San Bernardino, Hesperia, and Joshua Tree have twice the unemployment rate of the county.

- While the youth of the County (ages 16 to 24) have higher labor force participation rates than their coastal counterparts, the labor force participation rates for the prime working age population (age 25-64) is trending downward for workers of all educational attainment levels.
- The poverty rate for San Bernardino County and the state is six percent higher than the national average of 11.8%; yet, 1 in 4 residents of the Central Valley and more than 1 in 5 residents in the High Desert live in poverty, which exceed the county's rate.
- The Central Valley, High Desert, and Mountain Regions have significantly larger percentages of individuals living in extreme poverty than the county as a whole.
- More than 1 in 4 children under the age of 18 live in poverty; of which, 27.3% of children under 5 live in poverty. More children in the city of San Bernardino and the High Desert live in poverty.
- Home prices in the county are approximately 60% less than in Orange County and 50% less than in Los Angeles County resulting in higher home ownership rates in the last 5 years; increasing by 46%.
- Data show that median rents in San Bernardino increased by 6% between 2018 and 2019, with the average cost of a two-bedroom apartment being \$1,283 in 2019.
- The Living Wage Calculator projects that a two-parent household with two children must earn \$27.39 per hour or \$56,964 annually to afford housing and other expenses in San Bernardino County, while a single parent with two children must earn \$32.73 per hour or \$68,081 annually.
- The waiting lists for subsidized housing are extremely high, with over 40,000 households waiting to receive a rental voucher.

## Social Determinants of Health & Well-Being

- 61% of Hispanic/Latinos and 70% of African American children did not meet or exceed the literacy standards. In math, the percentages are even more substantial, as 78% of Hispanic/Latinos and 87% of African American children do not meet basic math standards.
- 17% of all children in San Bernardino County had two or more ACEs in 2016; of these, 8.4% had four or more ACEs.
- Over the past five years, mental health care for children ages 0-5 has grown 145%.
- Overall, more than a third (37%) of clients served by Behavioral Health in 2016/17 were under 18, including 3,405 children between the ages of 0-5.
- Feeding America reports that 10.4% of households in San Bernardino County are food insecure. Among children, 18.7% of children in San Bernardino County are living in food insecure household.
- Students enrolled in the San Bernardino City School District have the highest proportion of overweight students enrolled at 48.2%.
- The American Lung Association issues an annual report card of the "State of the Air." In 2019, San Bernardino County received a grade of "F" for high ozone days and particle pollution, which indicates that breathing the air in the County could put residents' health at risk. A total of 35,481 children are affected by pediatric asthma in San Bernardino County.
- Across San Bernardino County, there are roughly 660 prescriptions for opioids per 1,000 people.
- National reports rank the city of San Bernardino as being the 14th most dangerous city to live in the country with high crime rates. The overall crime rate for the county is 112% higher than the national average, as 14.98 daily crimes occur for every 100,000 residents. There has been an increase in violent crime, rape, and robberies in 2018.

## Eligible Children

- San Bernardino County has 89,481 children under the age of 3 residing throughout the County, most reside in the Central and West Valley, and the High Desert. Taking the poverty rate into account, 16,286 children under the age of 3 are eligible for EHS services.
- For preschool-age children (3-4-year-olds), the total number eligible for HS services is 11,741. As with infants and toddlers, the majority of eligible preschool-age children reside in the Central Valley, High Desert, and West Valley.
- Across the County, TK services have increased by 52% - from 3,174 children served in 2013-14 to 4,823 served in 2017-18. Local school districts target families with older siblings in the school system to promote their TK program, which are largely full day programs.
- San Bernardino County has a significant need for subsidized infant/toddler care. Only 15% of the EHS eligible children receive care through either state or federally funded programs. There is no need for additional subsidized preschool slots, as it is over-saturated with access to TK programs.

## Special Populations

Through this community assessment, PSD has identified several special populations to target: pregnant women, children with disabilities, children in foster care, dual language learners, homeless families, and single parent fathers.

- **Pregnant Women:** the majority of births are to Hispanic/Latinas who are on average 27 years of age.
- **Dual Language Learners:** Spanish is the primary language spoken at home.
- **Children in Foster Care:** Over 2,500 children under the age of 5 are in the foster care system in the County.
- **Children with Disabilities:** Children under the age of 5 with disabilities are primarily diagnosed with Other Health Conditions, Speech or Language Delays, or Autism.
- **Homeless Families:** More than 50% of Pre-K through fifth grade students in the San Bernardino school system meet the definition of homeless, according to the McKinney Vento Act.

- **Single Parent Fathers:** 30% of single parent fathers within San Bernardino County are raising children under the age of 5.
- The majority of births are to Hispanic/Latina women who are on average 27 years of age.
- Spanish is the primary language spoken at home for dual language learners.

Since its inception, PSD has served the neediest children and families in San Bernardino County. It remains well-positioned to continue to meet the needs of children and families throughout the County by targeting families that are the most vulnerable.

## Strengths of the Community

Overall, San Bernardino County has enjoyed successes over the past five years. Namely:

- Unemployment rates have dropped
- Home ownership rates are increasing
- County departments are working closer together to provide seamless services to residents most in need.
- More preschool services are being provided across the county, thus increasing the numbers of children participating in a preschool program.



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## INTRODUCTION

The County of San Bernardino, a regional government created by charter in 1853 and overseen by a five-member Board of Supervisors, provides leadership and oversight over the geographically largest county in the contiguous United States. Collectively, the Board of Supervisors work to create a county where residents can prosper and achieve overall well-being. The Countywide vision includes:

- A complete county that capitalizes on the diversity of its people, its geography, and its economy to create a broad range of choices for its residents in how they live, work, and play.
- A vibrant economy with a skilled workforce that attracts employers who seize the opportunities presented by the county's unique advantages and provide the jobs that create countywide prosperity.
- A sustainable system of high-quality education, community health, public safety, housing, retail, recreation, arts and culture, and infrastructure, in which development complements the natural resources and environment.
- A model community which is governed in an open and ethical manner, where great ideas are replicated and brought to scale, and all sectors work collaboratively to reach shared goals.
- A county that is a destination for visitors and a home for anyone seeking a sense of community and the best life has to offer.

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gary McBride, is charged with providing timely and accurate information to the Board of Supervisors. His office ensures the implementation of Board-approved programs in an effective and efficient manner. All departments, programs and services are divided into the following over-arching sectors:

- Administration
- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- Community Development and Housing Agency
- Economic Development Agency
- Fiscal, Human Services
- Law and Justice
- Operations and Community Services
- Special Districts Department
- Fire Protection District
- Other Agencies.

Through its Preschool Services Department (PSD), the County administers over \$65 million to serve 5,191 children. PSD is the largest provider of early childhood services in the county. Services are provided across 41 center-based locations and 33 private family childcare homes. Services are provided across 20,160 square miles that includes 24 incorporated cities.

## History of Head Start and State Funded Programs in San Bernardino

In January 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared “The War on Poverty” in his State of the Union speech. Shortly thereafter, Sargent Shriver took the lead in assembling a panel of experts to develop a comprehensive child development program to help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. New research on the effects of poverty, as well as on the impacts of education, was the foundation for “The War on Poverty” programs. This research abolished a long-standing belief that poverty was based on one’s genetics and one’s intelligence quotient, but rather demonstrated that poverty was based on socio-economic opportunities. Creating an obligation to help disadvantaged groups, compensating for inequality in social or economic conditions.

The concepts of the War on Poverty were first introduced during President Johnson’s State of the Union address in January 1964. Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act in the same year to combat the significant numbers of U.S. residents, many of them children, living in poverty (in excess of 40 million people or 19% of the total population). Through the Office of Economic Opportunity, which was created by this legislation to administer federal funds targeted to fight poverty, the U.S. government sought to reduce poverty through educational and health care programs. In President Johnson’s words: “Our aim is not only to relieve the symptom of poverty, but to cure it and, above all, to prevent it.” Through this national movement, programs such as Volunteers in Service to America, TRiO, Job Corps, Peace Corps, Legal Aid, and Head Start were born.

As such, Head Start was designed to help break the cycle of poverty, providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. A key tenet of the program established that it be culturally responsive to the communities served and that the communities have an investment in its success through the contribution of volunteer hours and other donations.

Head Start has served more than 30 million children since 1965, growing from an eight-week demonstration project to include full day, full-year services and many program options. In 1994, the Early Head Start program was created to address new research on the importance of brain development in infants and toddlers. Further understanding the impact of Head Start on communities, the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships program began in 2015 to create strategic partnerships between the childcare community and Head Start to increase quality services to infants and toddlers across the country. Currently, Head Start is administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the Department of Health and Human Services. Head Start serves over a million children and their families each year in urban and rural areas across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories, including American Indian, Alaska Native, and Migrant and Seasonal communities.

At the same time, California introduced the State Preschool Program in 1965, which became one of the first state-funded preschool programs in the country. The State Preschool program targeted low-income children receiving protective services and those who are at risk for abuse, neglect, or family violence. The California State Preschool Program Act of 2008 consolidated the state’s multiple preschool programs to create the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). The CSPP provides services to 3- and 4-year-olds through local education agencies, private nonprofit agencies, colleges, and community agencies.

To accompany CSPP, the state created the General Child Care and Development (CCTR) programs, which are state and federally funded programs that use centers and family childcare home networks operated or administered by either public or private agencies and local educational agencies. These agencies provide child development services for children from birth through 12 years of age and older children with exceptional needs. These programs provide an educational component that is developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate for the children served. The programs also provide meals and snacks to children, parent education, referrals to health and social services for families, and staff development opportunities

to employees. The majority of services to young children under the age of five are provided through full-day services.

In 2010, the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 (the Act) was passed in California to ensure that children are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. The Act created a transitional kindergarten program to be “the first of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate.” All elementary and unified school districts were required to offer transitional kindergarten beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

Over the course of the past few years, California has invested significantly in early childhood education. All state-funded programs are administered by the California Department of Education Early Learning and Care Division. While most of the state’s early childhood programs rely on multiple funding sources from both state and federal funding streams, approximately \$4 billion dollars are invested on early childhood education programs.

## Early Childhood Programs in San Bernardino

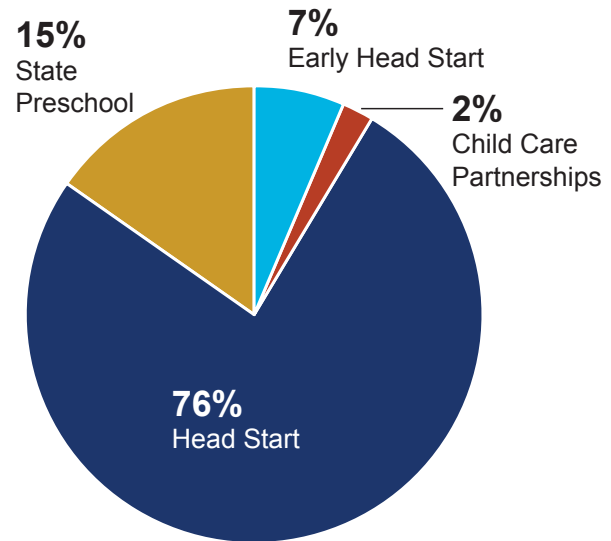
The County of San Bernardino has been providing comprehensive early childhood education services since 1965. Initially, preschool services were provided under the County’s Community Action Agency, which received a diversity of funding from the federal government. In order to fully dedicate services to young children and their families, the Head Start program seceded from the Community Action Agency in the mid-1970’s and the San Bernardino County Head Start/State Preschool agency was formed as an autonomous agency. In 1999, the San Bernardino County Head Start/State Preschool agency was formally established under the County of San Bernardino, as the Preschool Services Department. This new status allowed the vast resources of the County to be provided to Head Start.

Through its Preschool Services Department (PSD), the County administers over \$65 million to serve 5189 children, as seen in Table 1. PSD

is the largest provider of early childhood services in the county. Services are provided across 41 center-based locations and 33 private family childcare homes. PSD implements three program options: center-based, family childcare, and home-based through Early Head Start (EHS), Head Start (HS), Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (CCP), California State Preschool Program (CSPP) funding, the Low Income First Time (LIFT) Pregnant Mothers Program, and the Home Visitation Program (HVP).

1. Early Head Start (EHS): Serves children from birth to three years old and pregnant women. EHS promotes school readiness and provides program support in education, health, nutrition, mental health, disabilities, and family and community services.
2. Head Start (HS): Provides preschool-aged children with program support in education, health, nutrition, mental health, disabilities, and family and community services. Head Start focuses primarily on helping children acquire the necessary school-readiness skills to succeed.
3. Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP): increases high-quality infant and toddler care in private childcare and family childcare settings through collaborative agreements between Early Head Start grantees and private childcare providers.
4. California State Preschool Program (CSPP) or State Preschool (SP): Serves three- to five-year-old children in a part-day, comprehensive program. CSPP supports education, disabilities, health, nutrition, and parent participation.
5. Low Income, First Time Prenatal Program (LIFT): The LIFT Program provides pregnant women prenatal education, support and empowerment to have the healthiest pregnancy possible. Services are provided through home visits by a Registered Nurse and continue through the newborns sixth week.
6. Home Visiting Program (HVP): The HVP is designed for overburdened families who are at risk for Adverse Childhood Experiences, including child maltreatment, domestic violence, substance abuse and mental illness. Services are provided through home visiting.

## Funding Sources by Percentage of Overall Funded Enrollment



**Table 1: Distribution of Funded Slots by Program Option and Program Type**

Program Option	EHS	HS	CCP	CSPP	Current Totals
Home-based	274	144	-	-	418
Center-based Services	128	3,781	18	754	4,681
Family Child Care	-	-	90	-	90
<b>Totals</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>3,925</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>5,189</b>

PSD implements its program through direct services, contracts with local school districts and a childcare resource and referral agency, as well as one delegate agency, as reflected in Table 2. Delegates and partners serve 921 or 22 percent of the funded enrollment.

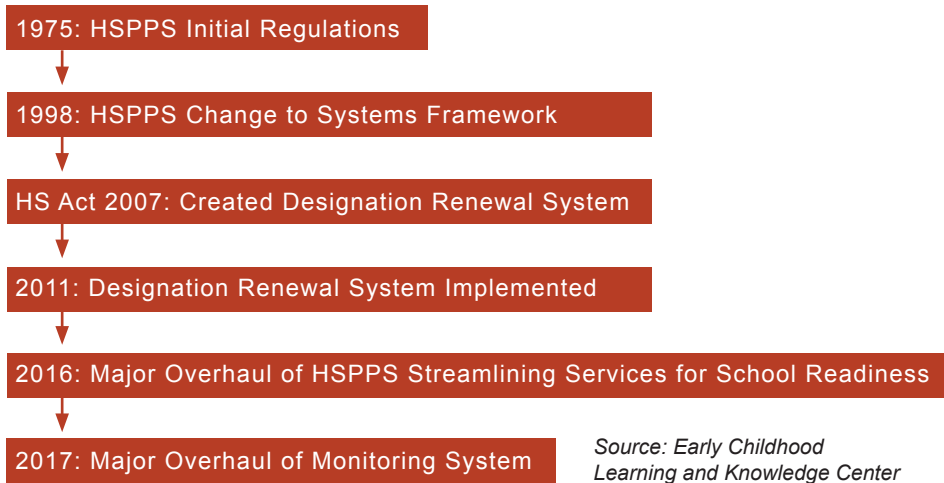
**Table 2: Allocation of Funded Slots by Program to Delegate and Partners**

Delegate/Partners	HS	EHS	EHS-CCP	Total Funded Slots
Easter Seals (delegate)	515	80	-	595
Fontana Elementary School District (contractor)	-	24	-	24
Colton Elementary School District (contractor)	128	-	-	128
Bloomington School District (contractor)	64	-	-	64
Child Care Resource Center (contractor-resource and referral agency)	-	-	108	110
<b>Totals</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>921</b>

## PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), released in 2016, led to significant changes to the Head Start program. Figure 1 illustrates the significant milestones in the national Head Start program that have had led to major transformations in the implementation of the program.

**Figure 1. Head Start Timeline of Regulatory Changes**



An integral part of promoting school readiness in children involves not only addressing the needs of individual children, but also the challenges experienced by their families and communities. To address the changing needs of families, Head Start programs must continue to bring together partners (traditional and non-traditional) at the local level to develop a common vision and plan for children and their families. Given this, Head Start programs across the country embark in intentional long-term strategic planning to set the course of future five-year project periods.

Research has shown that an organization that conducts thoughtful long-term strategic planning begins with comprehensive community assessments. A community assessment is a process of identifying the strengths, assets, needs, and challenges of a specific community. This process is critical to effectively serve a community, as it provides a general context for the community an organization serves. The findings from a community assessment define the extent of the needs that exist and the depth of the assets available within the community to address those needs.<sup>3</sup>

PSD uses the information from the community assessment for program planning and decision making that ultimately affect services provided to children and families. The types of program decisions that stem from the community assessment include:

1. Grantee philosophy, goals, and pillars of responsibility
2. Strategic planning
3. Comprehensive services and program options most needed
4. Service and recruitment areas for each delegate
5. Locations and areas to be served by center- and home-based programs, family childcare (FCC) homes, and socialization spaces
6. Selection criteria for prioritizing children and families recruited for enrollment

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 45 Part 1302 requires Head Start grantees<sup>4</sup> to determine community strengths, needs, and resources. Specifically, Head Start grantees must engage in community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment to design a program that meets community needs and builds on strengths and resources.<sup>5</sup> The community assessment must use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:

1. The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
  - a. Children experiencing homelessness
  - b. Children in foster care
  - c. Children with disabilities
2. The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being.
3. Typical work, school and training schedules of parents with eligible children.
4. Other child development, childcare centers and family childcare programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served.
5. Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families.
6. Strengths of the community.

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY & STRUCTURE

In October 2019, PSD secured the services of Breakwater Associates LLC (“Breakwater”) to assist in the completion of the community assessment. Breakwater has extensive experience conducting literature reviews and environmental scans for research, evaluation and community assessments that comply with federal regulations and support strategic planning.

Breakwater worked closely with PSD staff to conduct gap and trend analysis through the collection of primary and secondary data sources. Initially, Breakwater worked with PSD leadership to identify the most relevant community indicators affecting its programs. PSD’s most recent Community Assessment and 2019 Program Information Reports served as the foundation for this community assessment. In addition, journal articles, public and private sector briefs, and the US Census data in the American Community Survey was reviewed and compiled. Where available, 2018 data was used; however, 2017 was the most prevalent data available. Data was gathered at a county and zip code level, and when appropriate, organized into the PSD service area and by delegate agency service area.

Examples of external data used include:

- The demographic makeup of children and families eligible for Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS), including estimated numbers and geographic locations
- Other child development and childcare programs serving eligible children (publicly funded state and local preschool programs) and approximate number of HS-eligible children served by each
- County demographic data, including:
  1. Estimated number of children with disabilities, including types of disabilities
  2. Poverty rates
  3. Foster care youth
  4. Homeless children and families
  5. Employment trends
  6. Public assistance programs
  7. Topics for consideration are related to mental health, health and nutrition, disabilities, dual language learners, and homelessness

Trend analysis was conducted by analyzing data over periods of time, from one year to the next, three-year cycles or in the case of the economy, over a ten-year span. Consistent with federal requirements, data sources are cross-referenced to ensure integration of internal data with related external data sources. Where applicable, PSD service area, County, and state data are used for comparison purposes.

Eleven sections make up this comprehensive community assessment. Below is a brief synopsis of each section.

1. *Introduction*: Provides an overview of the community assessment and how it connects to the planning process; lays out the structure of the document.
2. *Early Childhood Programs in San Bernardino*: Details PSD's infrastructure and service area design of six geographical regions, including specific slot allocation for each contracted delegate.
3. *Service Area Description and Maps*: Describes PSD's service area.
4. *Comprehensive Services/Program Profile*: Details results from the 2018-19 PIR data on services provided to participating children and their families in PSD programs.
5. *Demographics*: Provides a snapshot of SB county, including population, race and ethnicity, language, and family structure. Where possible, various target population characteristics are compared to the population served by PSD delegates.
6. *Poverty, Income, and Housing*: Provides a snapshot of SB County's poverty, income, employment and housing conditions.
7. *Social Determinants of Health & Well-Being*: This section provides data and literature review on social determinants that affect the health and well-being of children, including those exposed to trauma, mental health conditions, nutrition, food deserts, life expectancy rates, and overall health conditions.
8. *Early Childhood Education: Eligible Children, Availability of Other Child Development Programs, and Unmet Need*: This section also presents data on the unmet needs of children, birth to five, who are eligible for EHS and HS programs in the county, with an analysis of the target population eligible for services.
9. *Special Populations*: Reviews literature on issues related to dual language learners, homelessness, immigrant children, and children with disabilities.
10. *Community Resources*: Describes PSD's key community resources to offer support to children and families served.
11. *Summary Implications*: Summarizes information and identifies opportunities for PSD to allocate resources and focus its efforts.



## SERVICE AREA DESCRIPTION AND MAPS

The county of San Bernardino is located in southeastern California, with Inyo and Kern Counties to the north, Orange and Los Angeles Counties to the west, and Riverside County to the south. The county is bordered on the east by the states of Nevada and Arizona. The county is one of California's oldest communities, as it was first established by Spanish Missionaries in 1810. Following the purchase land from Mexican citizens in 1851 by U.S. Mormons, the county was formed in its current shape in 1853.

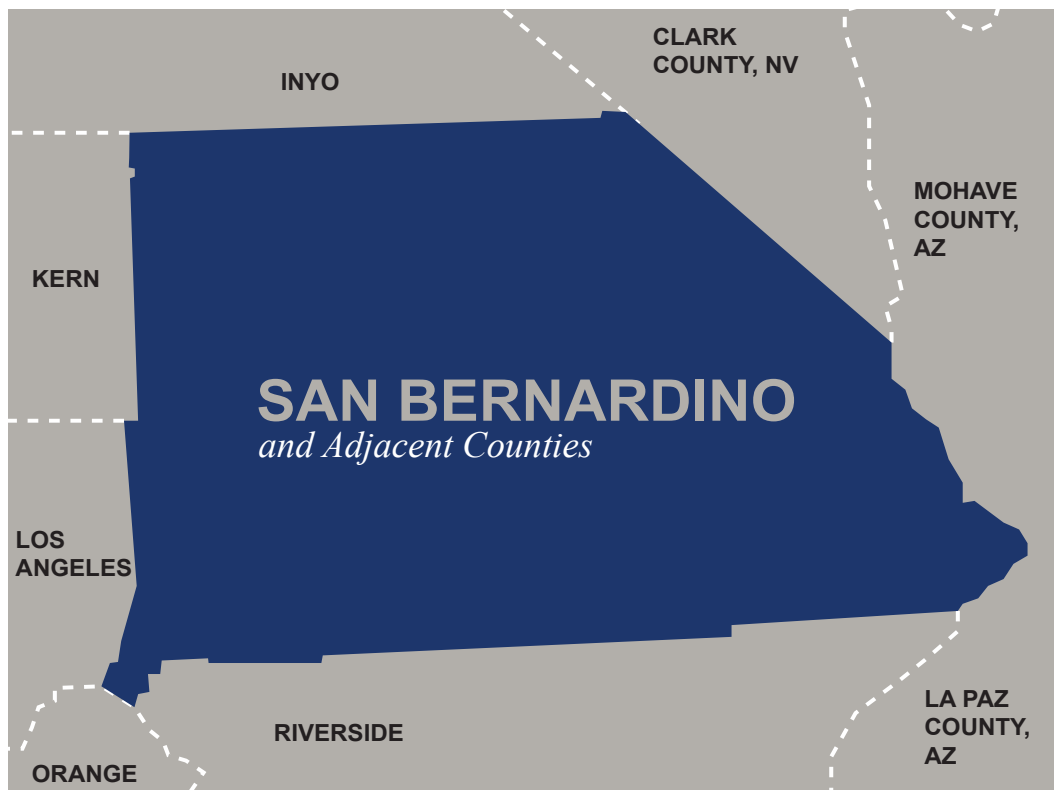
San Bernardino is the largest county in the state and the United States by geographic area (excluding Alaska):

- It covers over 20,000 square miles of land
- There are 24 cities and towns in the county and multiple unincorporated communities
- 81% of the land is outside the governing control of the County Board of Supervisors or local jurisdictions; the majority of the non-jurisdictional land is owned and managed by federal agencies.

The overall size of the county is larger than the states of New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island.

Aside from open or undeveloped land, the largest land use in the county is for military purposes:

- Almost three-quarters (74.1%) of the county is open or undeveloped land.
- 14.3% of the land is used for military purposes.
- Residential housing comprises 8.9% of the land areas.
- Retail, commercial and industrial uses make up 1.7% of the county's land use.
- Agriculture (0.4%), transportation/utilities (0.4%), government (0.2%) and other uses (0.4%) make up the remainder.





The county is commonly divided into three distinct regions, Valley, Mountain and Desert Regions, as shown in the following table.

<b>Table 3: Regions, Cities, and Unincorporated Areas of San Bernardino County</b>		
<b>REGION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CITIES &amp; MAJOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS</b>
<b>VALLEY</b>	Contains the majority of the county’s incorporated areas and is the most populous region.	Chino, Chino Hills, Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, San Bernardino, Upland, Yucaipa.
<b>MOUNTAIN</b>	Primarily comprised of public lands owned and managed by federal and state agencies.	Big Bear Lake, Crestline, Lake Arrowhead, Running Springs, Wrightwood.
<b>DESERT</b>	The largest (over 93% of the county’s land area) and includes parts of the Mojave Desert.	Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Joshua Tree, Lucerne Valley, Needles, Newberry Springs, Twentynine Palms, Victorville, Yermo, Yucca Valley.

Given that these regions are broad and the cities and unincorporated areas within the regions are unique, data throughout this community assessment is further disaggregated by sub-regions, as illustrated in Table 4.

<b>Table 4: San Bernardino County’s Regions, Sub-Regions and Cities and Unincorporated Areas</b>		
<b>REGION</b>	<b>SUB-REGION</b>	<b>CITIES &amp; UNINCORPORATED AREAS</b>
<b>VALLEY</b>	West Valley	Chino, Chino Hills, Montclair, Upland, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana
	Central Valley	San Bernardino, Fontana, Rialto and Colton
	East Valley	Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Redlands, Yucaipa
<b>MOUNTAIN</b>	Mountain	Big Bear Lake, Crestline, Lake Arrowhead, Running Springs, Wrightwood.
<b>DESERT</b>	High Desert	Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Victorville, Yermo, Phelan
	Low Desert	Joshua Tree, Lucerne Valley, Needles, Newberry Springs, Twentynine Palms, Yucca Valley

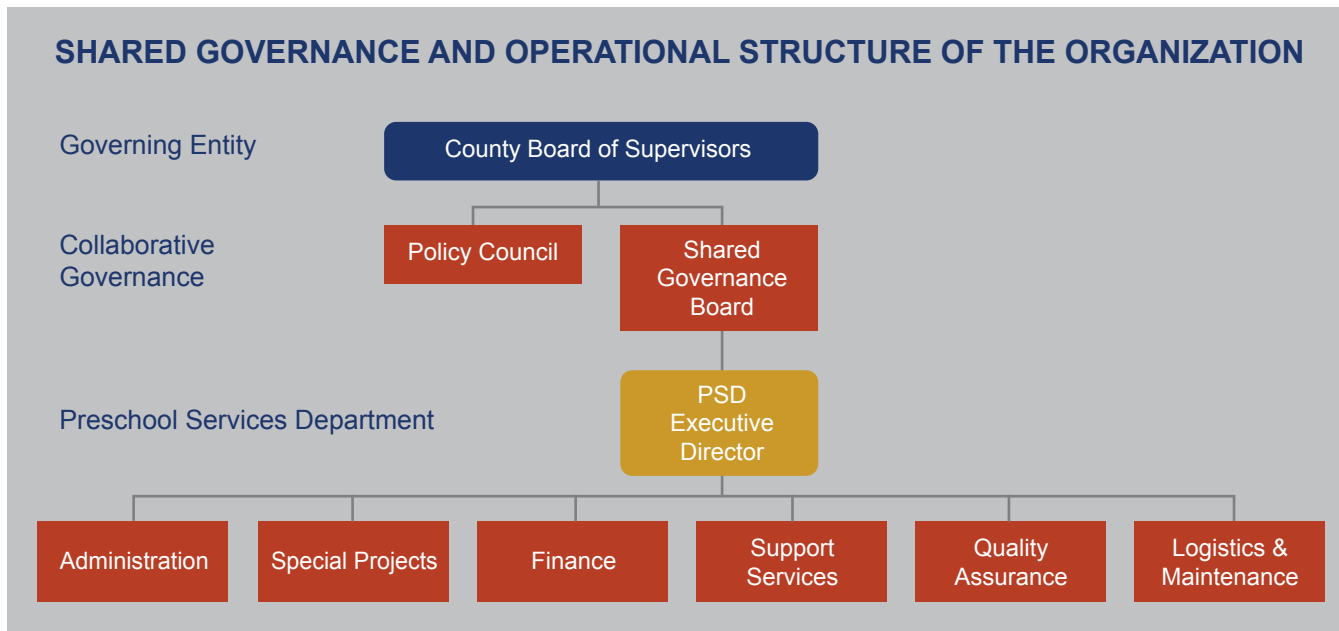
## COMPREHENSIVE PSD PROGRAM PROFILE

PSD operates under the County umbrella, which supports the department in accessing community resources, services, and provides administrative oversight. The County Board of Supervisors and the Shared Governance Board are responsible for the governance responsibilities of PSD.

- **County Board of Supervisors** - The County Board of Supervisors, an elected body, has legal and fiscal responsibility for the PSD programs. The Board of Supervisors consists of 5 elected officials representing the entire county. The overarching responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors are to execute all of the powers and duties required relating to the management of the County, its property and conduct of the County’s affairs.
- **Shared Governance Board** - In accordance with federal Head Start regulations, the County Board of Supervisors created a Shared Governance Board to carry-out the required monthly, quarterly, and annual governance activities of the Head Start program. The HS Shared Governance Board consists of a member of the Board of Supervisors, as well as Department Directors from various County Departments and the Superintendent of San Bernardino County Schools.
- **Policy Council** - In addition, PSD works with a Policy Council that consists of currently enrolled parents and community members.
- **Management** – The Management staff provides daily oversight and implementation of all PSD programs.

The Executive Director of PSD works closely with the governing bodies described above. The organizational structure of PSD is divided into sub-divisions: Administration, Special Projects, Finance, Operations, Support Services, Logistics & Maintenance, and Quality Assurance.

1. **Administration** – responsible for the areas of program design, management, human resources, administrative support, contracts, parent engagement, technology, training, and governance.
2. **Special Projects** – responsible for one-time projects that occur annually in a program cycle: community assessment, grant application, research, development of policies, annual reports, and annual self-assessment.
3. **Finance** – responsible for budget development, grant administration, audit preparation, maintenance, facilities, and budget implementation.
4. **Operations** – oversees services to children, including school readiness, education, licensing, teacher-child interactions, and enrollment, recruitment, and attendance.
5. **Support Services** – oversees all comprehensive services, including health, nutrition, mental health, family/community engagement, and disabilities.
6. **Logistics & Maintenance** – responsible for warehousing and distribution of supplies, as well as the ongoing maintenance of all PSD sites.
7. **Quality Assurance** – responsible for compliance, record-keeping, and continuous improvement.



## Program Eligibility

To qualify for services, families must meet either income qualifications or be categorically eligible. The federal poverty threshold mandates income qualifications for Head Start programs and State poverty thresholds for state programs (Table 5). Families receiving cash aid (or public assistance) are automatically income qualified. Categorical eligibility includes families experiencing homelessness and children in the child welfare system.

### PSD's priority population includes:

- Children in Foster Care
- Children under Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Children with Disabilities and/or Special Needs
- Children and families experiencing homelessness

### Characteristics of the Typical PSD Family

The typical family served by PSD is led by a single-parent Hispanic/Latina mother, with a high school diploma, who is working in the service or retail industry and who qualifies for HS based on income eligibility, earning less than the federal poverty threshold.

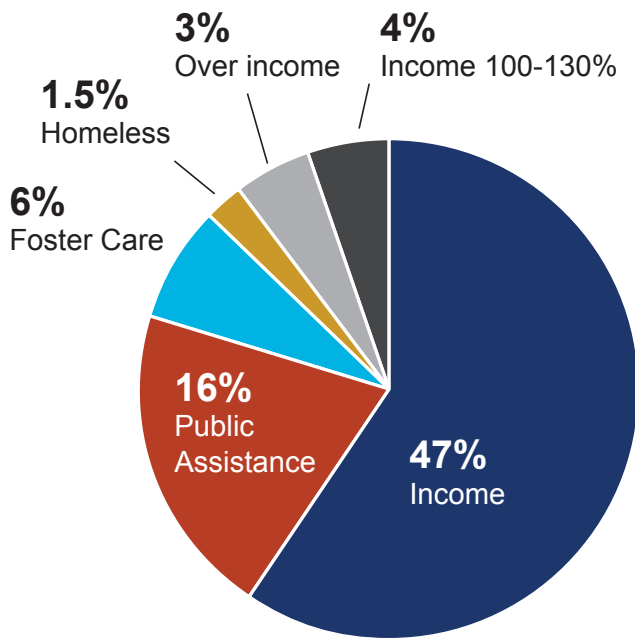
**Table 5: Program Income Eligibility for Federal and State Programs**

Family Size	Income Eligibility for Head Start/Early Head Start		Income Eligibility for CDE/CDD Programs	
	Annual Income (100% of FPL)	Annual Income (130% of FPL)	Monthly Income (70% of SMI)	Annual Income (70% of SMI)
1	\$12,140	\$15,782	\$3,283	\$39,396
2	\$16,460	\$21,398	\$3,518	\$42,216
3	\$20,780	\$27,014	\$3,908	\$46,896
4	\$25,100	\$32,630	\$4,534	\$54,408
5	\$29,420	\$38,246	\$5,159	\$61,908
6	\$33,740	\$43,862	\$5,276	\$63,312
7	\$38,060	\$49,478	\$5,394	\$64,728
8	\$42,380	\$55,094	\$5,511	\$66,132

Source: Office of Head Start and California Department of Education, Child Development Division

The figure below illustrates that the majority of families with children served by PSD in PY 2018-19 were income eligible. Nearly half of all children enrolled (47%) were income eligible, indicating that families lived at or below the federal poverty thresholds described in Table X above. The second most prevalent eligibility category are families receiving public assistance (16%), which is defined as receiving cash-aid from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/ Cal-Works or receiving Social Security Income (SSI).

**Enrolled children by eligibility type, PY 2018-19**



While the majority of families served are income eligible, an overwhelming majority (67%) have at least one-person in the household that is working. This indicates that families are working in low-paying industries, such as the service or hospitality industries. In many of these cases, families may not be working full-time or are considered under-employed.

As previously mentioned, PSD’s priority population include children in foster care, children with disabilities, and children who are homeless. Over the last four years (from PY 2015-16 to PY 2018-19), the percentage of foster care children has been steady in the HS program. In EHS, the percentage of children in foster care fluctuates from year to year. While in the CCP program, the percentages of children in foster care served has declined over the past four years.

**Program Enrollment**

In Program Year (PY) 2018-19, PSD served a total of 4,969 children and their families across the three federal programs (HS, EHS, and CCP), indicating a 29% turnover rate of children, as 833 children left the program at some time during the program year.

Table 6: PSD Cumulative Enrollment, PY 2018-19				
Program Option	EHS	HS	CCP	Totals
Funded Enrollment	402	3,925	108	4,435
Total Served	606	4,188	175	4,969
<b>Total Who Left the Program</b>	<b>-204</b>	<b>-263</b>	<b>-67</b>	<b>-1,129</b>
Turnover Rate	-51%	-6.7%	-62%	-25%

Based on the table above, the EHS and CCP programs had the greatest numbers of children who left the program during the program year, due to children aging out of the program at the age of three. PSD worked to replace children who left the program within the required 30-day period.

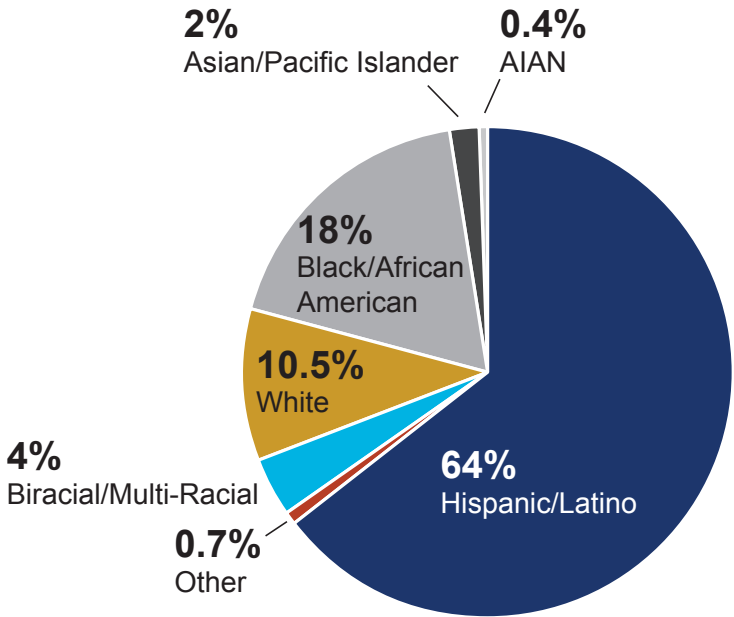
As previously mentioned, PSD’s priority population include children in foster care, children with disabilities, and children who are homeless. Over the last four years (from PY 2015-16 to PY 2018-19), the percentage of foster care children has been steady in the HS program. In EHS, the percentage of children in foster care fluctuates from year to year. While in the CCP program, the percentages of children in foster care served has declined over the past four years.

Table 7: PSD Foster Care Over 4-Year Period				
Program	PY 2016	PY 2017	PY 2018	PY 2019
EHS	9%	15%	7%	16%
HS	5%	7%	7%	6%
CCP	19%	13%	13%	10%

Over the past four years, the percentages of children with insecure housing or homeless has remained constant. On average, 2% of PSD’s enrollment numbers have been children with insecure housing.

Table 8: PSD Homeless Enrollment Over 4-Year Period				
Program	PY 2016	PY 2017	PY 2018	PY 2019
EHS	5%	3%	2%	2%
HS	2%	1%	2%	2%
CCP	3%	2%	3%	2%

**Race/Ethnicity by Percentage of Total Enrollment, PY 2018-19**



For children with diagnosed disabilities, 10% of the total enrollment were children with disabilities (or 415 children across all three programs). The majority of children entered the program with a diagnosed disability (73%) and the program helped to identify the remaining third (27%), through initial screenings and referrals to outside entities.

The majority of PSD children and families are Hispanic/Latino (64%), followed by African American (18%) and White (10.5%). All other races make-up less than 7% of the total population.

The majority of children enrolled in PSD live in single-parent households, as seen in Table 9. Single parent households are primarily female-led households, with an average of 97% being female-headed households. While only 3% of these households are led by males that have primary caregiver responsibilities, this represents 121 households.

Table 9: PSD Household Type, PY 2018-19					
	EHS	HS	CCP	Total	Percentage
Two-Parent	246	1790	29	2065	45%
Single Parent	277	2115	118	2510	55%

Overall, 43% of enrolled parents have either an advanced degree, associate degree, vocational credential, or some college experience. As illustrated in Table 10, 60% of parents of children enrolled in the CCP program have post-secondary education, which is in line with higher incomes. Across all programs, more than 1 in 5 have less than a high school degree. Over the course of the past two years, PSD established a

collaboration with the County Library and First 5 San Bernardino to provide an Online High School Diploma program. To date, 468 individuals have enrolled in the program and 19 have graduated. It is important to note that the program is a self-paced, on-line program. While completion times vary, the average time for completion is approximately 18 months.

Table 10: PSD’s Educational Attainment of Enrolled Families, PY 2018-19			
Education	EHS	HS	CCP
Advanced degree or BA/BS	10%	6%	6%
Associate, vocational, or some college	42%	35%	54%
High school or GED	32%	36%	31%
Less than high school	17%	23%	9%

## PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

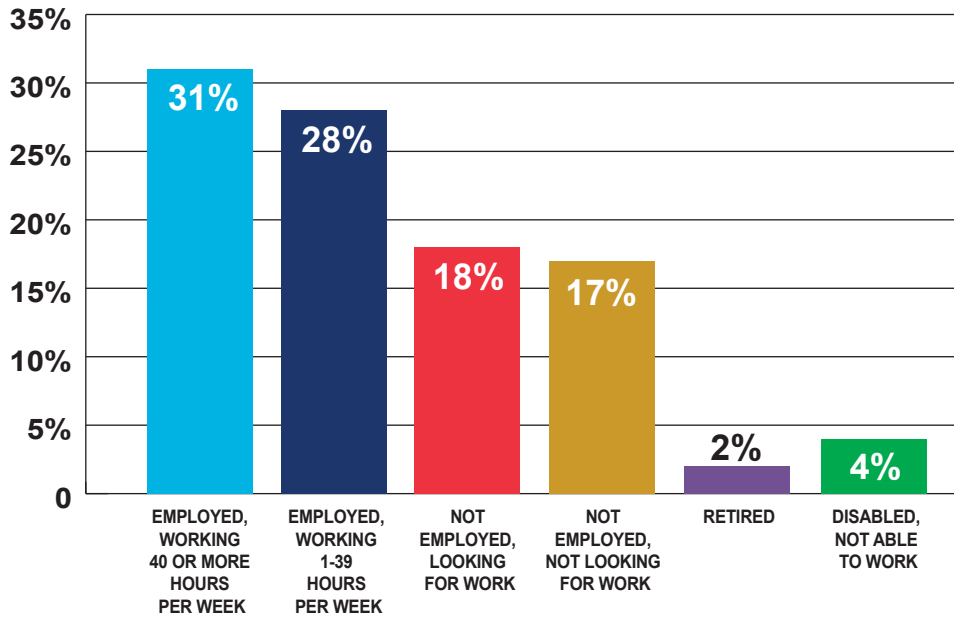
In December 2019, PSD distributed a survey to all currently enrolled parents in the program, as well as to key community partners. The survey was distributed to all directly operated centers, as well as to families served by the delegate agency and partners. The survey was distributed via an on-line web-based system, SurveyMonkey, and was designed to take less than 15 minutes to complete. All centers and program options participated in the survey, and 30 community partners participated. A total of 818 responses were received, which approximately represents 20% of families in the program.

The purpose of the survey was to determine overall satisfaction with the program, as well as to determine needs. In addition, the survey sought to collect demographic information on parents in the program.

### Demographics of Survey Participants

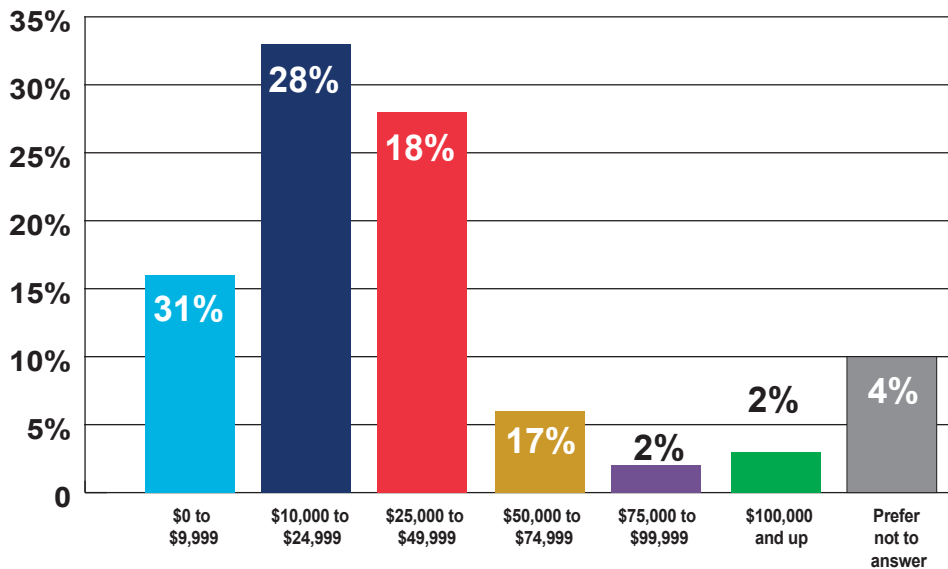
Of those who participated, the majority were female (86% or 701) respondents between the ages of 30-39 (43.1%), followed by 21-29-year-olds (31.7%). The majority of survey participants had attended some college but had not received a degree (36.9%). An almost equal number of participants had received a post-secondary degree (28.1%) or completed high school (25.2%). Only a small percentage of respondents (9.8% or 80 respondents) did not have a high school diploma. The majority of respondents were employed (58.7%), but nearly half of those employed were less than 40 hours per week.

### Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?



While more than half of respondents worked, 1 in 3 respondents reported total household income between \$10,000 to \$24,999 annually. Respondents who reported incomes in excess of \$50,000 could be community representatives, as opposed to parents in the program.

### How much total combined money did all members of your household earn last year?



## Overall Satisfaction with the Program

A series of questions were asked on the overall satisfaction with the program.

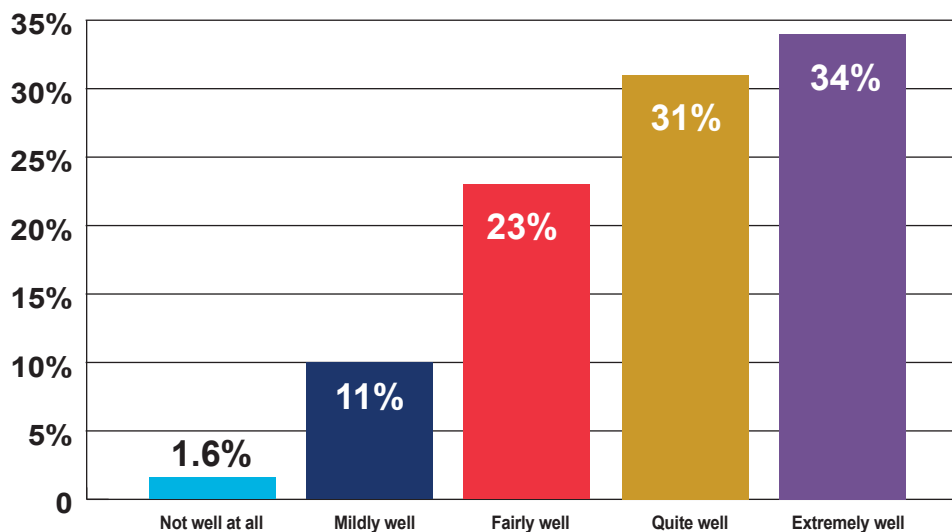
1. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the overall quality of instructions at your school?
2. Do you feel your child is safe at his/her school?
3. Do you feel your child is happy at his/her school?
4. How well do you feel your child's school is preparing him or her for their next academic year?

Nearly all respondents indicated they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the overall quality of their child's school (90.45%). Only a small percentage (2.59%) indicated they were not satisfied. Respondents did not indicate the reasons why they were not satisfied with the program. Similarly, nearly all respondents indicated their child was safe at school (96.4%) and happy at school (96.4%). In response to the most important question on whether the program was preparing their child for their next academic year, an overwhelming majority (87.9%) reported the program was preparing their children for the next academic year.

### PSD Supports Children for their Next Academic Year

An overwhelming majority of parents report that their PSD program is preparing their children for their next academic year.

#### How well do you feel your child's school is preparing him or her for his or her next academic year?





In addition to the above questions, the survey asked about parents' overall satisfaction with a series of program characteristics. As can be seen in Table 11, the overwhelming majority are satisfied with all aspects of the program.

<b>Table 11: Overall Satisfaction with Program Characteristics</b>			
	<b>Very Satisfied</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Not Satisfied</b>
A. Hours of operation	48.78%	42.63%	8.59%
B. Location of program	58.44%	37.01%	4.55%
C. Number of adults working with children	60.52%	35.60%	3.88%
D. Background and experience of staff	54.89%	41.37%	3.75%
E. Languages spoken by staff	60.62%	37.44%	1.94%
F. How program staff communicate with you	58.58%	34.95%	6.47%
G. Meeting the individual needs of your child	57.44%	38.35%	4.21%
H. Interaction between staff and children	59.02%	38.21%	2.76%
I. Interaction with other parents	44.70%	47.80%	7.50%
J. Parent involvement	42.97%	48.53%	8.50%
K. Equipment and materials	55.19%	41.40%	3.41%
L. Cultural activities	46.72%	46.89%	6.39%
M. Daily activities	53.08%	43.51%	3.41%
N. Environment	54.56%	42.35%	3.09%
O. Nutrition	56.73%	38.57%	4.70%
P. Health and safety policies and procedures	57.91%	39.15%	2.94%
Q. How the program promotes your child's learning and development	58.54%	37.89%	3.58%

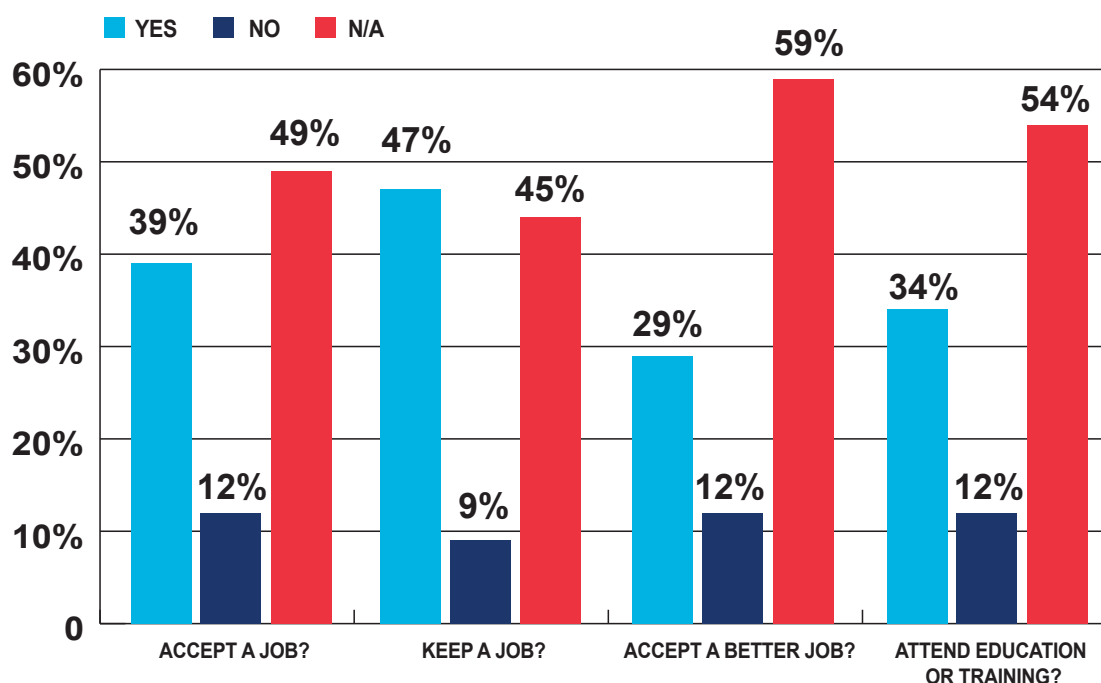
## **PSD Services and Resources to Families**

The survey asked a series of questions on the services or resources provided by PSD, and in some cases, inquired as to the benefits of these services.

1. Has enrollment in the program made it easier for you to work or attend school?
2. Have you received information from the program about the following?

The majority of families reported that the child's enrollment in the program did not have an impact on their ability to attend school or to work, by responding not applicable. However, more than 1 in 3 respondents reported that enrollment helped them accept employment or attend school or training and almost half reported that participation in the program allowed them to keep their job. Respondents also reported that the primary reason for not being able to secure employment was lack of reliable childcare (31.7%).

## Has your child's enrollment in the program made it easier for you to:



Respondents also reported that they received information from the program on a variety of topics, as seen in Table 12.

**Table 12: Information Provided to Families**

	Yes	No
A. How children develop at different ages (e.g., walk, talk, etc.)	74.8%	25.2%
B. How your child is growing and developing	82.9%	17.2%
C. How your child is doing in the program	87.3%	12.7%
D. Schedule of daily activities	76.5%	23.6%
E. What you can do to help your child learn and develop	87.2%	12.8%
F. Parenting skills	74.9%	25.1%
G. How to find other services in the community (e.g., employment and training opportunities, parenting classes, health care)	78.2%	21.8%
H. Where to report health or safety concerns and complaints	76.3%	23.7%
I. Experience and training of program staff	69.4%	30.6%
J. Discipline procedures	69.4%	30.6%
K. How you can get involved with your child's program	83.3%	16.7%



### **Top five most important needs of families:**

1. Assistance with employment and/or job training
2. Assistance with paying necessary bills
3. Assistance with before and after-school care for their children
4. Assistance with affordable housing
5. Assistance with child behavior issues and/or discipline.

### **Least important areas for families:**

1. Assistance with family conflicts
2. Access to mental health services
3. Trauma victimization
4. Domestic violence/personal safety
5. Alcohol or drug use/abuse counseling



## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Understanding the County’s demographics is a critical aspect of any community assessment. Demographics, statistics about the population, impact how important decisions are made<sup>7</sup>. Demographics are integral for planning purposes; allowing organizations to make informed decisions on populations to target; recruitment strategies; where to locate facilities, and special programming to create. Throughout this section, demographic data, primarily captured from the U.S. Census Annual Community Survey five-year estimates and the California Department of Finance Projections, on population, age, foreign-born, and educational attainment are presented.

As previously stated, San Bernardino county is located in southeastern California. The county is the largest county in the State and the contiguous United States, as it covers over 20,000 square miles of land. There are 24 cities, towns and multiple unincorporated communities.

Over the course of the past 10 years, the county has been impacted by the outmigration of low- and middle-income families from adjacent Los Angeles and Orange Counties. As such, the population has increased by 6.7% since the 2010 U.S. Census. It is expected that this increase will continue through 2045. Table 13 provides an overview of the County demographics, illustrating that Hispanic/Latinos and females represent more than half of the County’s population.

**Table 13: San Bernardino County Quick Facts, 2018 Census Estimates**

<b>Fact</b>	<b>San Bernardino County</b>
Population estimates, July 1, 2018	2,171,603
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010	2,035,201
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018	6.7%
Persons under 5 years, percent	7.1%
Persons under 18 years, percent	26.4%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	11.6%
Female persons, percent	50.2%
Black or African American alone, percent	9.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	2.1%
Asian alone, percent	7.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0.5%
Two or More Races, percent	3.5%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	54.0%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	27.9%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2013-2017	20.9%

As stated earlier, all data will be presented by Regions and Sub-Regions.

Table 14: San Bernardino County's Regions, Sub-Regions and Cities/Unincorporated Areas		
Official Region	Sub-Regions	Cities and Unincorporated Areas
Mountain	Mountain	Big Bear, Crestline, Lake Arrowhead, Running Springs, Wrightwood
Valley	West Valley	Chino, Chino Hills, Montclair, Upland, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana
	Central Valley	San Bernardino, Fontana, Rialto and Colton
	East Valley	Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Redlands, Yucaip
Desert	High Desert	Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Victorville, Yermo, Phelan
	Low Desert	Joshua Tree, Lucerne Valley, Needles, Newberry Springs, Twentynine Palms, Yucca Valley

Each sub-region is uniquely different and as will be seen throughout this report, characterized as follows.

- **Mountain** – The Mountain region and sub-region is the smallest regions within the county. Residents make their life in the San Bernardino Mountains and are primarily White, living in married-couple households with high educational attainment, and have the fewest number of children.
- **West Valley** – The West Valley is closest to LA County and has the largest population within the county. The sub-region has the greatest numbers of Asian residents, many of whom are foreign-born from East Asia.
- **Central Valley** - The Central Valley has the largest percentage of Hispanic/Latinos and African Americans. This sub-region is characterized has having the most residents without post-secondary education and the greatest number of residents without a high school diploma. Many of its residents are foreign-born from Mexico.
- **East Valley** – The East Valley is primarily White with a median income that is slightly higher than the County's. The majority of residents have post-secondary degrees.
- **High Desert** – This sub-region is characterized as having the greatest numbers of Hispanic/Latinos with growing numbers of African Americans. Many of its residents are native-born with some college or associate degree.
- **Low Desert** – This sub-region is characterized as primarily White with some smaller communities where immigrants from Latin America reside.

## Population

Knowing the rate of population growth is important because it affects a community’s ability to provide the necessary infrastructure and social services (including roads, schools, parks, and sewage treatment) within a given period to support the increase in population. Population growth in San Bernardino county has been inconsistent over the past decades. In 1977, San Bernardino had a booming middle class and widespread business. In the 1980s and 1990s, the county began a long economic and social decline, resulting in a middle-class exodus that was followed by an influx of low-income families seeking lower cost housing from Los Angeles and Orange Counties. With the economic recession in 2007, thousands of home foreclosures, declining home values and high unemployment led to a sudden and rapid escalation in demand for human service programs; however, profound and historic cuts in State funding seriously eroded County services.<sup>8</sup>

With an official population count of 2,035,201 in 2010, the county has seen a 7% population growth in 2018. If compared to population in 2000, the County’s population has increased in excess of 25%; higher than its LA County neighbor and less than Riverside County.

By 2030, the population in the county will continue to grow<sup>9</sup> exponentially. It is projected that in the next five-year period, population will increase by 7.9% from 2018 numbers, and by 13.7% in 2030. The County’s government body is preparing for a 28% growth between 2020 and 2045.<sup>10</sup> When compared to its neighbors (LA and Riverside Counties), San Bernardino’s expected population growth in the next 10 years is three times higher than LA County’s and slightly lower than Riverside County’s.

Population growth occurs as a result of natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (in-migration minus out-migration, both domestic and foreign). The primary factor in local population growth tends to be net migration with people moving from one location to another for a better life, new job, affordable housing, better schools, or lifestyle change.<sup>11</sup> The Internal Revenue Service recently released migration data for various counties across the country. Four of the top 10 largest net migration flows originated from LA County, where the county lost a net total of 40,000 residents to other parts of the country between 2014 and 2015.<sup>12</sup> This data illustrates that LA County’s residents are moving to nearby Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. For example, the IRS data<sup>13</sup> show that 30,000 LA county residents moved east to San Bernardino County, while slightly more than 19,000 relocated from San Bernardino to LA County.

When the County’s population is viewed from a regional perspective, the majority of residents reside in the Valley, where 88.5% of the population live. Within the Valley, the majority reside in the West Valley, with the largest population center being the city of Rancho Cucamonga. This city has over 295,000 residents and sits south of the San Gabriel foothills and is approximately 30 miles from downtown Los Angeles.

**Table 15: Population Growth, 2000-2018**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>% Increase 2000-2018</b>
San Bernardino County	1,709,434	2,005,287	2,171,603	27.04%
LA County	9,518,808	9,818,605	10,105,518	6.16%
Riverside County	1,545,387	2,109,464	2,450,758	58.59%

## Continuing Population Growth

San Bernardino County is expected to continue growing over the next 25 years; growing by 28% between 2020 and 2045. Growth is expected among all age groups, with the largest growth rate experienced by seniors older than 65. Young children's (under 5) growth is expected to remain steady through 2030 and then projected to grow by 7% through 2045.

**Table 16: Population by Sub-Region, 2017 US Census**

Region	Sub-Region	Population	% of Total Population
County	San Bernardino County	2,171,603	-
Valley	East Valley	221,347	10.2%
	Central Valley	554,966	25.6%
	West Valley	1,146,806	52.8%
Desert	High Desert	343,525	15%
	Low Desert	147,564	6.8%
Mountain	Mountain	39,371	1.8%

### Population Density

Population density is important to understand because it has implications for over-crowding and strains on housing or other government services, while under-population can lead to fewer government services provided. On average, the population density across U.S. cities is approximately 1,600 people per square mile, thus the countywide population density is one-sixth of the country's density. However, when the population density for the Valley Region (3,072 persons per square mile)<sup>14</sup> is compared to the country's, this region's overall density is nearly twice the density of the country's and higher than the density for LA County (2,478 persons per square mile).<sup>15</sup>

### Population by Household

Understanding the makeup of households and the relationships within them reflect shifts in a community's economy, its social norms, and its choices of where and how to live. San Bernardino County has 473,703 families, defined as having at least two people related by birth, marriage or adoption. Of these, 68% are married couples and 32% are single parent households. The vast majority of single parent households, 69%, are led by single females. Forty-eight percent of all family households have children under the age of 18.

**Table 17: Population by Household, 2017 US Census**

Region	Sub-Region	Total Families	% Married Couples	% Single Parent	Households with Children Under 18
County	San Bernardino County	473,703	68%	32%	48%
Valley	East Valley	51,209	71%	29%	44%
	Central Valley	116,137	60%	40%	51%
	West Valley	1,146,806	72%	28%	48%
Desert	High Desert	343,525	66%	34%	48%
	Low Desert	147,564	73%	27%	41%
Mountain	Mountain	39,371	74%	26%	37%

While the majority of the County’s households are reflective of two-parent married households, there are 13 communities/cities where significant single parent households reside. The Central Valley, followed by the High Desert, have greater percentages of single-parent households than all other sub-regions.

Table 18 shows that more than 1 in 2 households in zip codes 92401, 92410, 92309, and 92327 are reflective of single-parent households. The vast majority of these single parent households are led by single females with children under the age of 18.

**Table 18: Cities and Unincorporated Areas with Highest Percent of Single Parents**

Region	Sub-Region	City/Community	Zip Code	% Single Parent
Valley	Central Valley	San Bernardino	92401	56%
		San Bernardino; Crestline; Highland	92404	49%
		San Bernardino	92405	46%
		Colton; San Bernardino; Loma Linda	92408	43%
		Colton; San Bernardino; Rialto; Highland	92410	52%
		San Bernardino	92304	61%
		San Bernardino	92411	49%
Desert	High Desert	Victorville; Adelanto	92301	44%
		Baker	92309	53%
		Barstow; Lenwood	92311	44%
		Barstow	92327	64%
		Lucerne Valley	92356	46%
	Low Desert	Needles	92363	46%



## Population by Race/Ethnicity

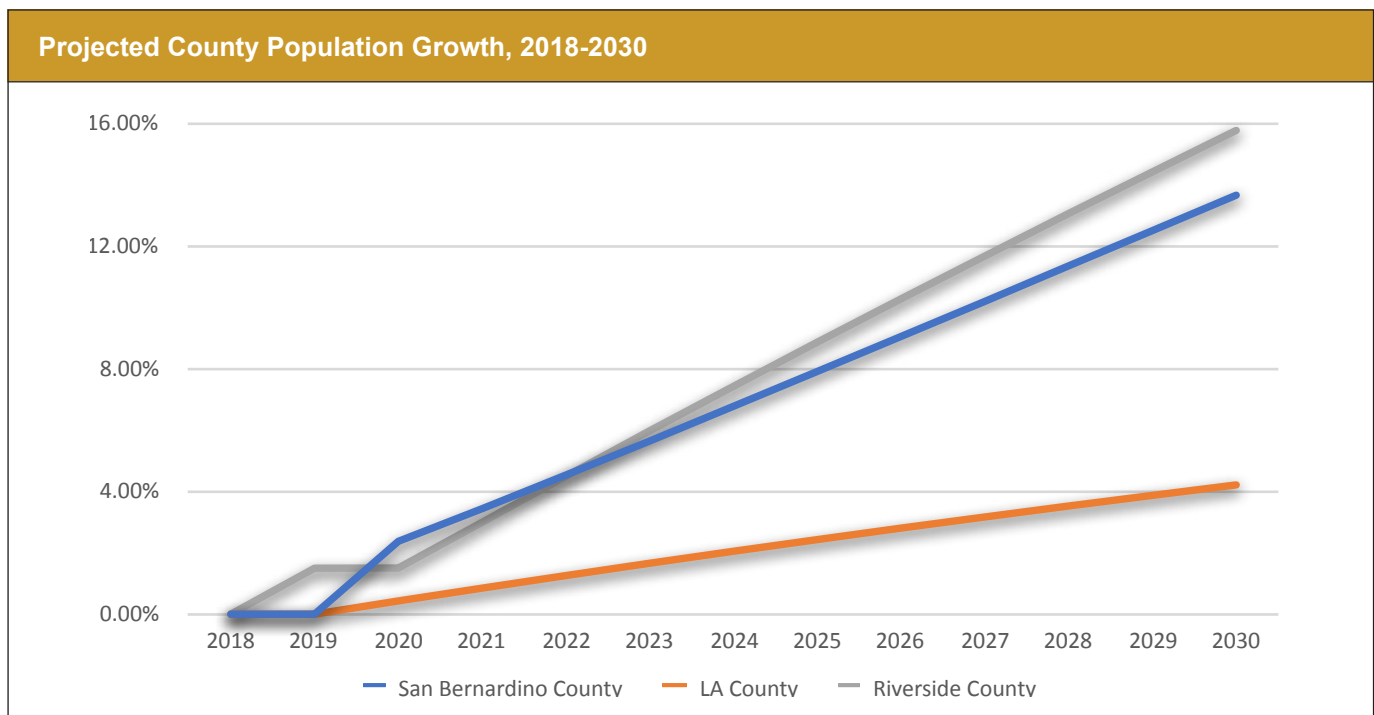
Understanding a community’s racial and ethnic make-up is critical to understanding its diversity. Census data show that people of color (non-White residents, including Hispanics/Latinos) will represent nearly half or more of the population by 2050. In California, the “minority majority” transition has already occurred, where 6 in 10 residents are considered people of color (39.3% Hispanic/Latino, 15.8% Asian/Pacific Islander, 6.5% African American, and 3.9% Other, including bi-racial groups).

People of color are already the majority within the county. Hispanic/Latinos represent 54% of the total population and according to the California Department of Finance, are projected to increase to 64% of the total population in the county by 2045. The remaining races/ethnic groups are expected to remain the same or decrease by 2045, with the largest decrease being White residents.

Hispanic/Latinos are centralized in the Valley Region and in the High Desert where this ethnic group is the majority. The cities and communities of Bloomington, San Bernardino city, Highland, Fontana, Ontario, and Victorville/Adelanto have significant numbers of Hispanic/Latinos (in excess of 60% of the total population).

African American residents, which consist of approximately 1 in 10 residents across the county, tend to make the Valley Region and the High Desert home. Approximately 1 in 4 residents within San Bernardino city’s 92401 zip code and 1 in 5 residents in Victorville’s 92307 zip code are African American.

White residents consist of the majority in the Low Desert and Mountain Regions. For example, the communities of Big Bear, Lytle Creek, and Lake Arrowhead are overwhelming (an average of 80%) White.



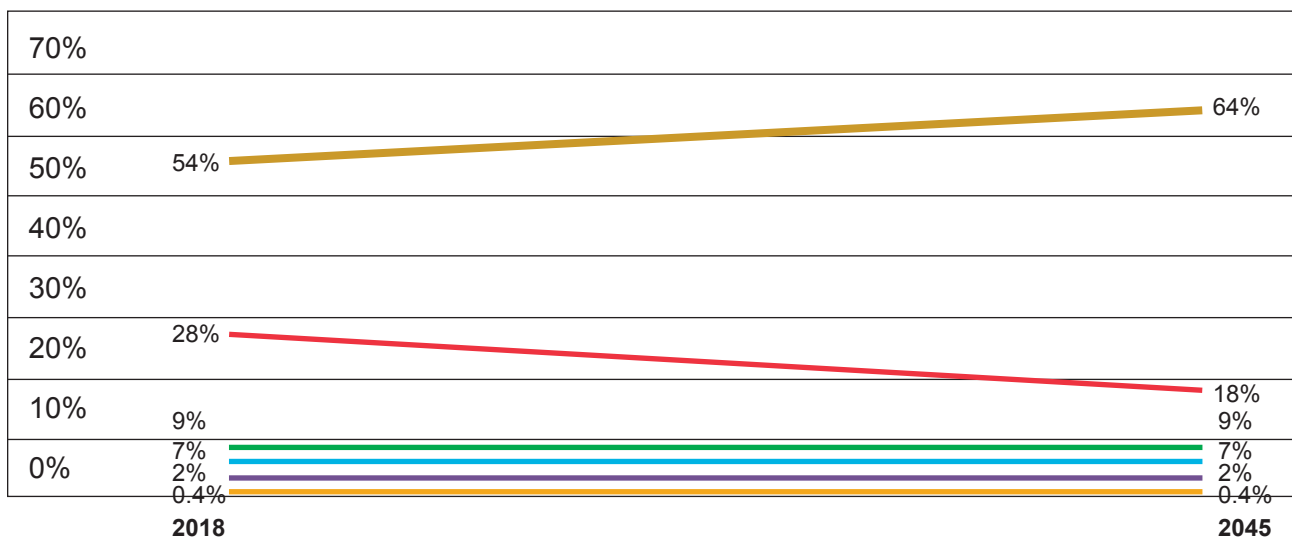
**Table 19: Race/Ethnicity by County and Sub-Regions**

Region	Sub-Region	Pop.	Hispanic Latino	White	African American	Asian/PI	Other
County	San Bernardino County	2,171,603	54%	28%	9%	8%	6%
Valley	East Valley	221,347	33%	47%	7%	11%	0.5%
	Central Valley	554,966	71%	14%	10%	3%	.4%
	West Valley	1,146,806	50%	30%	8%	9%	0%
Desert	High Desert	343,525	46%	39%	9%	3%	1%
	Low Desert	147,564	22%	67%	4%	2%	1%
Mountain	Mountain	39,371	20%	74%	1%	2%	1%

### Increasing Racial and Ethnic Change

At 54% of the total San Bernardino County population, Latino residents, who may be of any race, are the largest race and ethnic group in the county. Latino residents are projected to increase to 64% of the total population by 2045. The White population is projected to decrease from 28% to 18% during the same period. The remaining race or ethnic groups, including White, Black/African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, and Two or More Races are projected to remain the same or decrease.

**Projected Change in Race/Ethnic Group Proportions of the Total San Bernardino County Population, 2018 and 2045**



## Foreign-Born Population

According to demographers, the foreign-born population in a county is an indication of the number of immigrants in a community, notwithstanding their citizenship status. One in five (20%) of residents are foreign-born immigrants. This represents nearly half a million residents (434,321 immigrants). According to a report from UC Riverside’s Center for Social Innovation, the Inland Empire’s (includes San Bernardino and Riverside Counties) economic strength and cultural vitality depends on the contributions of immigrants and native born;<sup>16</sup> the economy in essence is highly dependent on immigrant labor. Among the different regions of San Bernardino County, greater percentages of foreign-born immigrants reside in the West Valley followed by the Central Valley.

According to this report,

- 49% of the County’s immigrants are naturalized U.S. citizens
- 69% of immigrants are Hispanic/Latinos
- 33% of the Asian immigrant population in the Inland Empire are Filipinos
- When compared with the average for Southern California, immigrants in Riverside County are more likely to work in construction and agriculture, while immigrants in San Bernardino County are more likely to work in transportation.
- 21% of immigrants in San Bernardino County have post-secondary education
- 26% of immigrants lack health insurance compared to immigrants statewide (23%)

**Table 20: Percent Foreign Born by Sub-Region**

Region	Sub-Region	Population	Percent Foreign Born
County	San Bernardino County	2,171,603	20%
Valley	East Valley	221,347	16%
	Central Valley	554,966	26%
	West Valley	1,146,806	31%
Desert	High Desert	343,525	11%
	Low Desert	147,564	11%
Mountain	Mountain	39,371	8%

When looking at the Sub-Regions by zip code, seven zip codes (Table 21) have greater percentages of foreign-born immigrants. It is important to note that while 61% of residents in 92304 are foreign-born, this zip code has a total of only 23 residents.

**Table 21: Cities and Unincorporated Areas by Zip Code with Highest Percent of Foreign Born**

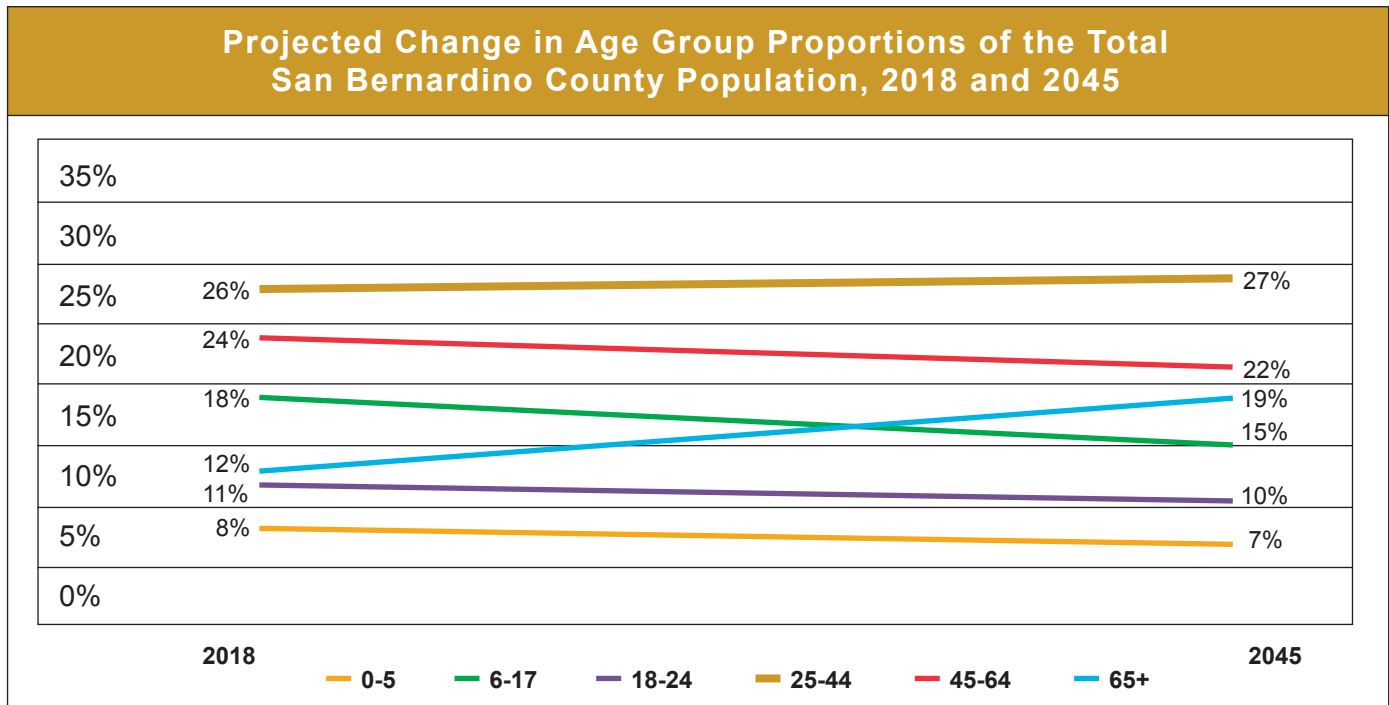
Region	Sub-Region	Community/City	ZIP Code	Percent Foreign Born
Valley	Central Valley	Fontana; Rialto; Bloomington	92335	34%
	Central Valley	Colton; San Bernardino; Loma Linda	92408	31%
	East Valley	Redlands; San Bernardino; Loma Linda	92354	31%
	West Valley	Montclair	91763	33%
Desert	High Desert	Baker	92309	41%
	Low Desert	Amboy; Chamless	92304	61%
Mountain	Mountain	Lake Arrowhead	92378	31%

## Population by Age

The measurement of the population by age is important because it speaks to the ongoing viability of a geographic community. A society with high fertility rate, for example, will have a significant proportion of children and a smaller portion of older individuals. A population that has experienced declines in fertility tend to have relatively small numbers of both children and aged persons and large percentages of adults in the middle ages.<sup>17</sup>

The San Bernardino Community Indicators Report of 2018 shows that all age groups in the county are projected to increase at varying rates between 2018 and 2045. Young children between 0-5 will show a 7% growth rate and seniors older than 65 will see a 100% growth, as the overall population gets older.

Among children under the age of 18 in the county, 16% of all children are under the age of 3, and 11% are between the ages of 3 and 4. The distribution by age by Region mirrors that of the overall county.



**Table 22: Population by Children Under 18**

Region	Sub-Region	Population Under 18	Percent Under 3	Percent 3-4
County	San Bernardino County	573,723	16%	11%
Valley	East Valley	53,500	15%	13%
	Central Valley	164,601	16%	11%
	West Valley	192,517	15%	11%
Desert	High Desert	127,912	16%	12%
	Low Desert	25,238	21%	11%
Mountain	Mountain	8,384	15%	12%

Within the Sub-Regions, children under 3 consist of more than 20% of the population under 18 in 13 communities/cities, as seen in Table 23, whereas children between the ages of 3 and 4 reflect more than 20% of the population under 18 in five communities/cities, Table 24.

<b>Table 23: Cities and Unincorporated Areas with Highest Percent of Children 0-3</b>				
<b>Region</b>	<b>Sub-Region</b>	<b>Community City</b>	<b>ZIP CODE</b>	<b>Percent Under 3</b>
Valley	East Valley	Loma Linda; Yucaipa; Calimesa	92373	23%
Desert	High Desert	Fort Irwin	92310	28%
		Barstow; Lenwood	92311	21%
		Barstow	92327	65%
		Yucca Valley; Joshua Tree	92252	21%
	Low Desert	Twentynine Palms	92277	28%
		Twentynine Palms	92278	22%
		Adelanto; Oak Hills; Phelan	92371	24%
		Pinon Hills; Wrightwood	92397	23%
Mountain	Mountain	Crestline	92322	64%
		Lytle Creek	92358	23%

<b>Table 24: Cities and Unincorporated Areas with Highest Percent of Children 3-4 Years of Age</b>				
<b>Region</b>	<b>Sub-Region</b>	<b>Community City</b>	<b>ZIP CODE</b>	<b>Percent between 3&amp;4</b>
Valley	Central Valley	San Bernardino	92401	29%
Desert	Low Desert	Bluewater; Big River	92242	20%
		Twentynine Palms	92278	33%
		Yermo	92398	25%
Mountain	Mountain	Lake Arrowhead	92385	25%

## Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a powerful predictor of well-being, as young adults who have completed higher levels of education are more likely to achieve economic success than those who have not.<sup>18</sup> Studies show that higher levels of educational attainment have a direct correlation with higher wages and income.<sup>19</sup> “In 2015, Americans with bachelor’s degrees or higher earned a median income that was more than 73 percent higher than that of their peers with only high school diplomas.”<sup>20</sup>

Among the Sub-Region’s, the Central Valley has a greater percentage of residents without a high school diploma. This Sub-Region has a greater percentage of Hispanic/Latino immigrants, who tend to have less education.<sup>22</sup> According to the U.S. Census, 56.5% of foreign-born immigrants from Mexico have less than a high school degree, as opposed to Asian immigrants from Eastern Asia (e.g., China, Japan, South Korea), who typically reside in the West Valley, where 72.5% have completed some college or obtained a post-secondary degree.

San Bernardino County falls behind the country as a whole in its overall educational attainment, as a greater percentage of residents lack a high school diploma when compared to the United States and California. For example, more than 1 in 5 county residents (21%) lack a high school diploma, compared to 12.9% in the United States and 17.9% statewide. If all adults in the county were to receive a high school diploma, their personal income would increase by \$1,800.<sup>21</sup>

**Table 25: Educational Attainment by Sub-Region**

Region	Sub-Region	No Dipl.	High School	Some College & AA/AS	Bachelors	Graduate
County	San Bernardino	21%	26%	33%	13%	7%
Valley	East Valley	12%	23%	33%	18%	14%
	Central Valley	33%	28%	28%	8%	4%
	West Valley	16%	22%	34%	18%	10%
Desert	High Desert	17%	27%	33%	9%	5%
	Low Desert	16%	28%	40%	10%	7%
Mountain	Mountain	9%	28%	40%	13%	10%

## Income and Employment, Poverty and Housing

### Income and Employment

#### Median Income

Median household income reports the amount of money earned by all working members of a household. Within the county, median household income continues to grow, although it remains below statewide averages. The median household income for San Bernardino County in 2017 was \$57,156, approximately \$14,649 less than the state’s median income of \$71,805.<sup>23</sup> Residents of the East and West

Valleys are the only residents within the county with incomes that exceed the median income. Within the Regions and Sub-Regions, five cities or unincorporated communities have median incomes below \$30,000 per year, and eight communities far exceed the state median income.

**Table 26: Median Household Income by Sub-Region**

Region	Sub-Region	Median Household Income
County	San Bernardino County	\$57,156
Valley	East Valley	\$60,630
	Central Valley	\$46,673
	West Valley	\$77,577
Desert	High Desert	\$48,417
	Low Desert	\$47,992
Mountain	Mountain	\$52,016

**Table 27: Cities and Unincorporated Areas with Lowest and Highest Median Household Income**

Region	Sub-Region	Community/City	ZIP Code	Income Below \$30k	Income Above \$80k
Valley	Central Valley	San Bernardino	92401	\$23,043	
		Colton; San Bernardino, Rialto, Highland	92410	\$27,383	
	West Valley	Rancho Cucamonga; Upland	91701	-	\$89,067
		Chino	91708	-	\$89,622
		Chino Hills; Chino	91709	-	\$102,746
		Rancho Cucamonga	91737	-	\$102,610
		Rancho Cucamonga; Fontana	91739	-	\$103,974
		Rancho Cucamonga; Upland; San Antonio Heights	91784	-	\$110,945
		Rancho Cucamonga; Fontana; Rialto	92336	\$87,744	-
Desert	High Desert	Lucerne Valley	92356	\$27,708	-
	Low Desert	Bluewater; Big River	92242	\$29,714	-
		Homestead Valley	92285	\$28,650	-

According to the San Bernardino Community Indicators Report of 2018<sup>24</sup>:

- While the median income for the county has increased over the past 10 years, it has not reached the pre-recession rates of 2008. In 2008, the median income was \$62,641 and in 2017, it was \$57,156.
- The county has the lowest cost of living in Southern California; however, it is still 28% higher than the national average.
- The county has less income inequality than 48 of the state's 58 counties. Income inequality measures the gap between the rich and poor.

## Unemployment

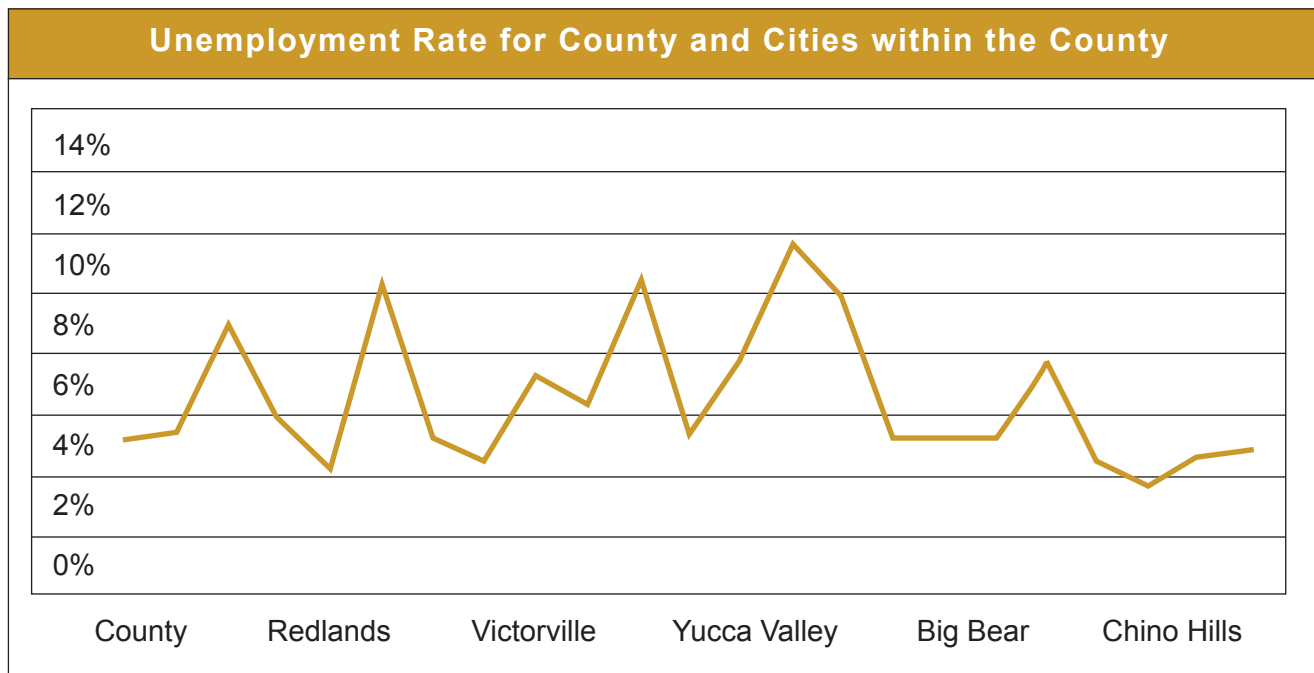
The unemployment rate is an important indicator used to determine the health of an economy. The U.S. government uses the unemployment rate to set monetary policy and investors and businesses use it to determine trends in employment.

The County's unemployment rate has continued to improve. As of October 2019, the unemployment rate was 3.5%, which is significantly lower than the all-time high of 14.7% in 2010, after the impact of the great recession of 2008. The existing unemployment rate is similar to the national average of 3.6% and in

line with the state's unemployment rate. In October 2019, San Bernardino County's unemployment rate was the 28th lowest out of the 58 counties in California, a position that has improved from 32nd in 2017.<sup>25</sup>

While the county has fared well over the nine years, unemployment rates continue to remain high in nine cities within the county. The city of San Bernardino and Hesperia's unemployment rate are 116% above the statewide.

According to the Labor Market Intelligence Report,<sup>26</sup> the county has had lower labor force participation rates than surrounding areas. However, the gap between San Bernardino County and other counties in the region widened after the Great Recession. Furthermore, San Bernardino County is the only region where there was a sharp decline in labor force participation rates during and after the Great Recession.<sup>27</sup> Even as the country is in an economic expansion, the County's labor force participation rate has flattened and failed to rebound. Among the prime working age population (ages 25-64), the labor force participation rate has been trending down for workers of all educational attainment levels; however, the downward trend is more pronounced among those with less than a high school education.<sup>28</sup>





**Table 28: Cities with the Highest Unemployment Rates**

<b>Geography</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>Difference from State Average</b>
California	3.7%	-
County	3.9%	5.4%
Fontana	7.0%	89.2%
San Bernardino	8.0%	116.2%
Victorville	5.6%	51.4%
Apple Valley	4.8%	29.7%
Hesperia	8.0%	116.2%
Yucca Valley	6.0%	62.2%
Joshua Tree	9.0%	143.2%
Adelanto	7.6%	105.4%
Rancho Cucamonga	6.0%	62.2%

### Labor Force Participation Rates

While the youth of the county (ages 16 to 24) have higher labor force participation rates than their coastal counterparts, the labor force participation rates for the prime working age population (age 25-64) is trending downward for workers of all educational attainment levels.



## Poverty

Poverty as an indicator measures economic well-being over the federal poverty threshold. Measuring and understanding poverty is critical to understanding its relationship to a communities overall economic well-being, as well as to evaluate and project the need for government interventions. In the Head Start community, understanding poverty is critical to understanding the numbers of individuals who qualify for the program.

Eighteen (18) percent (or 375,000 residents) of San Bernardino County’s residents live in poverty, which is consistent with the statewide rate of 18.2%. The poverty rate for San Bernardino County and the state is six percent higher than the national average of 11.8%. Among the Regions and Sub-Regions of the county, 1 in 4 residents of the Central Valley and more than 1 in 5 residents in the High Desert live in poverty.

**Table 29: Percent Poverty by Sub-Region**

Region	Sub-Region	Percent in Poverty
County Valley	San Bernardino County	18.2%
	East Valley	14.7%
	Central Valley	25.9%
	West Valley	9.9%
Desert	High Desert	22.0%
	Low Desert	17.3%
Mountain	Mountain	17.9%

## Extreme Poverty

The U.S. Census Bureau defines “deep poverty” or “extreme poverty” as living in a household with a total cash income below 50% of the poverty threshold, or \$12,550 which equals to \$34.38 per day for a family of four. The percentage of individuals living in extreme poverty is measured by dividing the total number of individuals with incomes below 50% of the poverty threshold by the total number of individuals living in poverty. In 2017, over 19 million (6%) people were living in extreme or deep poverty in the United States, 2.3 million (5.8%) in California, and over 140,000 (or 6.8%) in San Bernardino County.

A larger percentage of children younger than 18 live in extreme poverty than adults in any other age group in the country.<sup>29</sup> In 2017, nearly 8.2% of all children in the country lived in deep poverty. For comparison, only 3.3% of those over the age of 65 live in deep poverty. Census Bureau data also show that those who are African American, or Latino/Hispanic are most likely to live in deep poverty, with poverty rates of 10.8% and 7.6%, respectively. Those who are White or Asian are least likely to live in deep poverty, with poverty rates of 4.1% and 5.2%. A study by the Urban Institute found that deep poverty is generational.<sup>30</sup>

**Table 30: Percent in Extreme Poverty, 2017 US Census**

Geography	Less than 50% of FPL	% Children Under 18	African American	Hispanic/Latino	White
United States	6.0%	8.1%	10.7%	7.7%	4.5%
California	5.8%	7.2%	9.4%	6.7%	4.6%
San Bernardino County	6.8%	9.6%	7.9%	7.4%	5.5%

Among San Bernardino County’s Regions and Sub-Regions, more residents in the Central Valley, High Desert, Low Desert, and Mountain Sub-Regions live in extreme poverty than residents throughout the county. On average, nearly 1 in 4 residents

in nine zip codes live in extreme poverty (92401 26%, 92410 18.7%, 92301 19.6%, 92311 16.8%, 92368 27.8%, 92304 39.1%, 92398 16.8%, 92341 37.9%).

**Table 31: Extreme Poverty by Sub-Region**

Region	Sub-Region	Percent in Extreme Poverty
County	San Bernardino County	6.8%
Valley	East Valley	7.9%
	Central Valley	11.3%
	West Valley	4.2%
Desert	High Desert	9.4%
	Low Desert	9.3%
Mountain	Mountain	10.1%

## Family Poverty

While the general poverty threshold measures poverty of individuals, if a family’s total income is less than the family’s threshold, then the U.S. Census Bureau considers the family and every individual in it as living in poverty. Slightly more than 10.5% of the country’s families reside in poverty, with female, single parent

households more likely to live in poverty (28.8%) than married-couple families. Statewide, 11.1% of families live in poverty and 26% of single parent female households live in poverty. In San Bernardino County, 14.5% of families live in poverty with nearly 1 in 3 single parent, female households residing in poverty. More than 1 in 5 families in the Central

**Table 32: Family Poverty by Sub-Region**

Region	Sub-Region	Percent Families in Poverty
County	San Bernardino County	14.5%
Valley	East Valley	9.8%
	Central Valley	22.2%
	West Valley	7.7%
Desert	High Desert	16.6%
	Low Desert	11.3%
Mountain	Mountain	12.4%

## Child Poverty

The measurement of child poverty is important because research has shown that poverty is the single most significant threat to children's well-being. Child poverty often has an impact that carries throughout a lifetime.<sup>31</sup> In San Bernardino County, more than 1 in 4 children under the age of 18 live in poverty; of which, 27.3% of children under 5 live in poverty.

When looking at the sub-regions, children under 5 living in the city of San Bernardino, Apple Valley, and Victorville are more likely to live in poverty than their counterparts countywide. The top 10% of communities where more than half of the children under 5 live in poverty are depicted in Tables 33 & 34.

**Table 33: Percent of Child Poverty by Sub-Region**

Region	Sub-Region	Child Poverty (Under 18)	Child Poverty (Under 5)
County	San Bernardino County	26.3%	27.3%
Valley	East Valley	19.1%	20.7%
	Central Valley	33.8%	35.6%
	West Valley	13.7%	13.5%
Desert	High Desert	33.9%	32.9%
	Low Desert	23.2%	22.2%
Mountain	Mountain	23.9%	24.4%

**Table 34: Cities and Unincorporated Areas with Highest Child Poverty Rates**

Region	Sub-Region	City/Community	ZIP Code	Child Poverty (Under 5)
Valley	Central Valley	San Bernardino	92401	50.7%
		San Bernardino	92405	55.4%
Desert	High Desert	Victorville; Adelanto	92301	51.4%
		Adelanto; Victorville	92368	56.4%

## Public Assistance

Numerous public programs assist low-income individuals and families with needs such as housing, jobs, and nutrition. Such programs available to families include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as CalFresh in California, is the largest federal program designed to provide low-income individuals and families with nutritional assistance by giving additional funds to purchase food.<sup>32</sup> In 2017, 10.7% (1,091,333) of the county's 10.2 million households were CalFresh recipients.<sup>33</sup> As of October 2019, over 330,000 individuals received CalFresh subsidies in San Bernardino.<sup>34</sup>

### Supplemental Security Income (SSI)


Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a supplemental assistance program designed to provide financial assistance to people with limited income and resources and to those who are blind, disabled, and aged over 65 years. It provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.<sup>35</sup>

### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal program designed to provide financial assistance and support services, such as job preparation, to families with children under the age of 18. California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) is the TANF program in California. There is a steady decline in the percentage of families receiving CalWORKs, both at the state and county levels. In fiscal year 2018, 20,164 households received CalWORKs in San Bernardino County.

### Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is a federal assistance program specifically designed to assist low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children under the age of five, with health care referrals, nutrition education, and food.<sup>36</sup> Eligibility for WIC is 185% of the federal poverty level. A recent report from the national WIC program shows that California only serves 65% of the total individuals eligible for the program.<sup>37</sup> The total number of WIC recipients for California, declined by 8% from (1.17 million) in 2016 to 1.08 million in 2017, given declining birth rates and eligibility requirements.<sup>38</sup>

Quick Facts — San Bernardino			
<b>October 2019</b>		<b>January 2019</b>	
CF persons	330,490	Child-only households	14,326
CF households	160,309	Child-only persons	31,282
Applications received	12,555	CalFresh/Medi-Cal dual-enrollees	292,358
Online applications received	5,152		
Total issuances	\$41,786,588		
Federal issuances	\$41,691,525		
		<b>Point-in-time 2018</b>	
		CalFresh children under 18	166,608
		CalFresh persons age 18-59	152,270
		CalFresh persons age 60 and over	21,422
		CalFresh persons ESL	53,670

## Housing

The county's economy is sensitive to changes in the housing market. Home sale prices are a key measure of the health of the community's housing market, as well as consumer confidence. Home prices in the county are approximately 60% less than in Orange County and 50% less than in Los Angeles County. With this affordability advantage, the movement of households from the coastal regions to San Bernardino County is significant. This has resulted in higher levels of homeownership over the last five years, increasing by 46%. The homeownership boon, however, has been concentrated among the county's older population (55 and older) while ownership levels for those under 55 has actually fallen.<sup>42</sup>

Lack of affordable rental housing can lead to overcrowding and household stress. Less affordable housing restricts the ability of renters to save for a down payment on a home, and the lack of affordable housing can perpetuate a cycle of poverty among residents.<sup>43</sup> Data show that median rents in San Bernardino have increased by 6% between 2018 and 2019, with the average cost of a two-bedroom apartment being \$1,283 in 2019 for 817 square feet.<sup>44</sup> According to the Living Wage Calculator, a two-parent household with two children will need to earn \$27.39 per hour or \$56,964 annually to afford housing and other expenses in San Bernardino County. A single parent with two children would need to earn \$32.73 per hour or \$68,081 annually. Thus, median monthly rent for lower wage occupations, such as those in the service industry, is not affordable.

### Home Ownership Rates on the Rise

The homeownership boon has been concentrated among the county's older population (55 and older) while ownership levels for those under 55 has actually fallen.

While many residents may turn to rental subsidies from their local Housing Authority, the waiting period is reported at being many years long. According to the San Bernardino Community Indicators Profile:

- In 2017, there were over 40,000 households waiting to receive a rental voucher.
- Affordable housing in 2017 was limited and met only 6% of the demand for public housing assistance.

The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino has worked with several County Departments to provide homeless families with children a safe place to live. Through the No Child Left Unsheltered (NCLU) initiative, 160 people (100 of these are children) have been housed through this program. The NCLU works with the County's Department of Behavioral Health and the Knowledge and Education for Your Success (KEYS) program to offer comprehensive mental health services and stable housing. The program was evaluated by the Loma Linda University and its evaluation conclusions found that stable housing helped the families stabilize themselves, which in turn helped their children succeed in school.<sup>45</sup>



## Social Determinants of Health & Well-Being

Head Start programs were designed to meet the needs of children and families living in poverty by providing a comprehensive program that address their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs.<sup>46</sup> The original founders of the program, which included Dr. Robert Cooke and Edward Zigler, strongly believed that a successful program that helped break the cycle of poverty in children and families must be comprehensive, involving health, education, and social services.<sup>47</sup> Seven objectives<sup>48</sup> were set for the Head Start program by its founders, which continue to serve as the foundation of the program:

- Improve a child’s physical health and physical abilities.
- Develop a child’s social and emotional development by encouraging self-confidence, spontaneity, curiosity, and self-discipline.
- Improve a child’s cognitive skills with specific attention to their conceptual and verbal skills.
- Create environments that promote confidence in children.
- Enhance parent-child interactions.
- Create connections to community.
- Increase the sense of dignity and self-worth within children and families.

As such, Head Start programs, like PSD, across the country provide a variety of innovative services to address the unique needs of children and families in their communities. Understanding a community’s social determinants of health and well-being, such as health, nutrition, mental health, physical environments, access to health care, and social environments, is critical to meeting the original intents of the Head Start program. Similar to Head Start, state programs in California also support the philosophy of a holistic approach to service delivery.

## Literacy and Math Proficiency

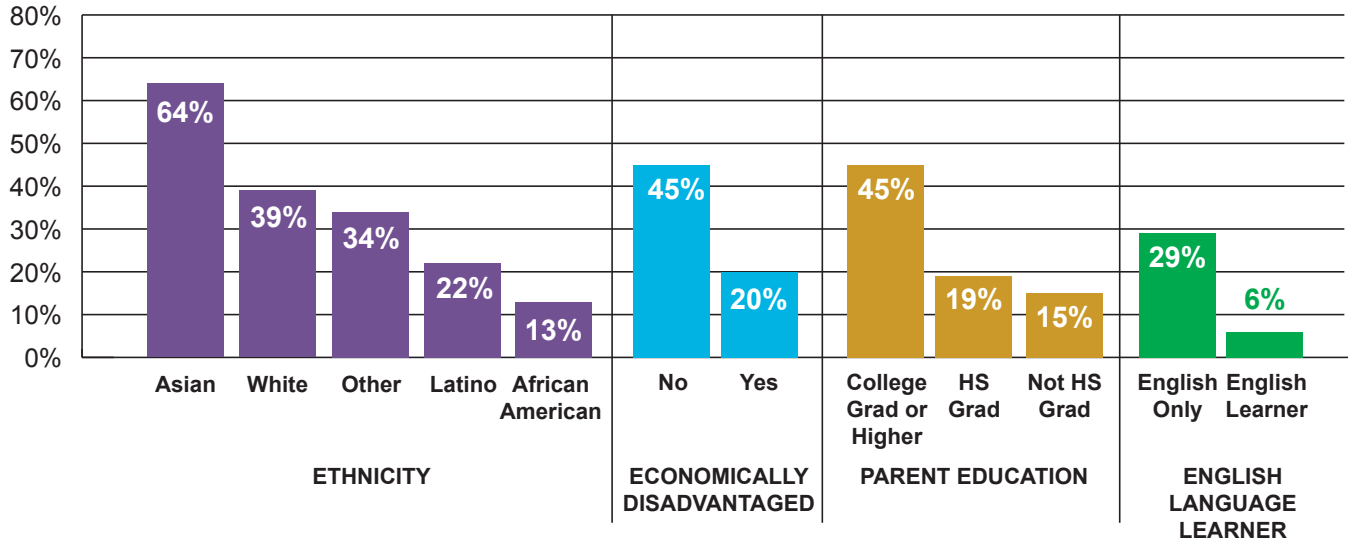
Research shows that children who are not proficient readers by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a high school diploma than proficient readers and are more likely to engage in criminal activity.<sup>49</sup> Similarly, basic math proficiency has a direct correlation with workplace readiness and economic stability.<sup>50</sup> Literacy and math proficiencies are measured through the California Assessment Performance and Progress (CASPP) assessment instrument, which is administered annually to all third graders for literacy and fifth graders for math. The results of the most recent CASSP paint a mixed picture for San Bernardino County, specifically:

- While the percentage of fifth graders who met or exceeded math standards has continued to increase from 2015 to 2018, starting at 21% and increasing to 27%; the county continues to remain behind the rest of the state by nearly 10% points.
- The literacy skills of the County’s third graders continue to grow for the fourth consecutive year and approaching statewide percentages (43% for San Bernardino County in 2018 compared to 48% statewide).
- Hispanic/Latino and African American children continue to lag behind their White and Asian peers significantly, as 61% of Hispanic/Latinos and 70% of African American children did not meet or exceed the literacy standards. In math, the percentages are even more substantial, as 78% of Hispanic/Latinos and 87% of African American children do not meet basic math standards.



## Percentage of Fifth Graders Meeting Math Standards

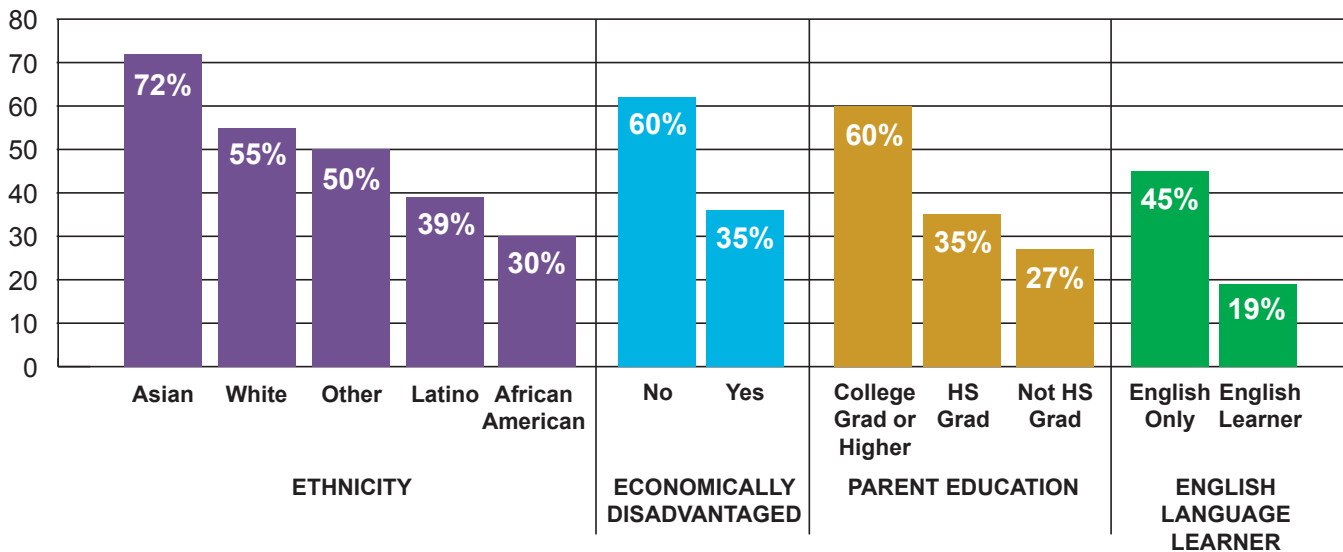
San Bernardino County, 2017/18



Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest  
 Note: Asian includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino.  
 Other includes two or more races and American Indian or Alaska Native.

## Percentage of Third Graders Meeting English/ELA Standards

San Bernardino County, 2017/18



Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest  
 Note: Asian includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino.  
 Other includes two or more races and American Indian or Alaska Native.



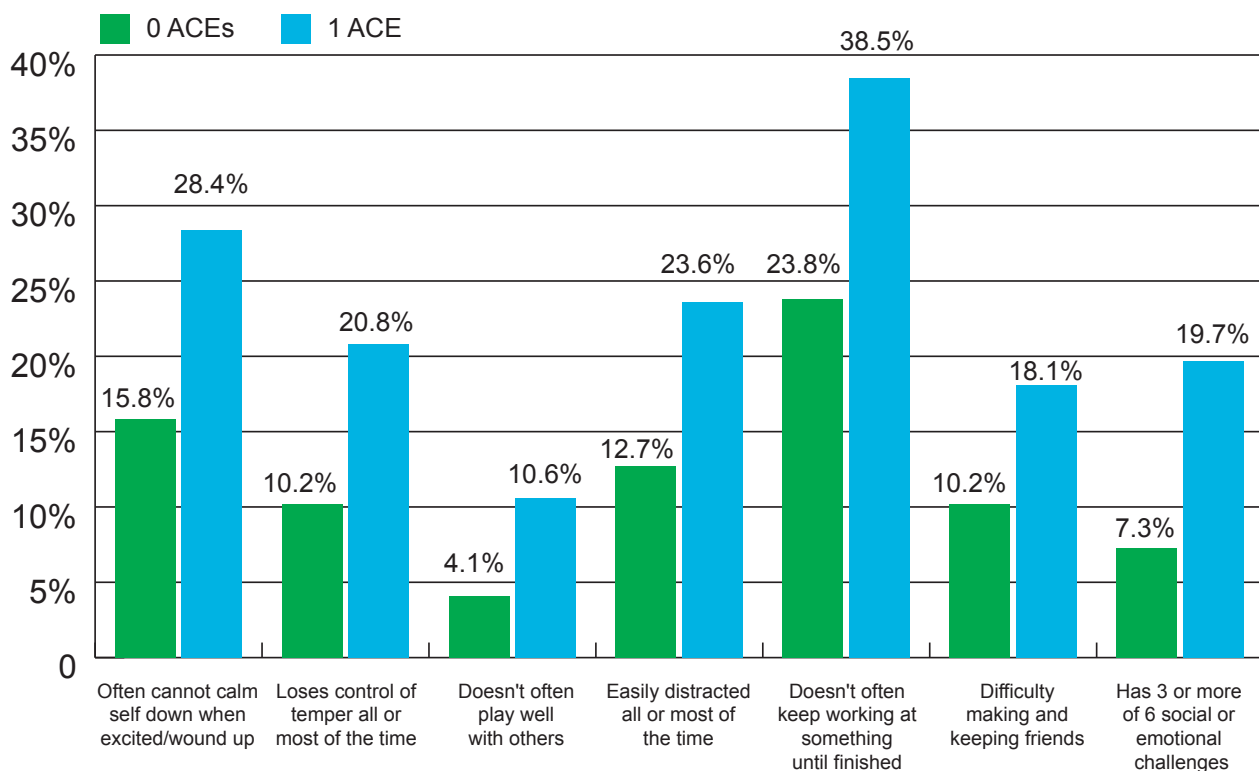
## ACEs and Trauma

New research has found that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) (i.e., potentially traumatic events in a child’s life) can have lasting effects on the health and well-being of children into adulthood.<sup>51</sup> These long-lasting health impacts are generally associated with the development of toxic stress<sup>52</sup>. A recent National Survey of Children’s Health revealed that 18% of California’s children (ages 0-17 years of age) experienced two or more ACEs. These ACEs are due to suffering extreme poverty, family disorder, parental alcohol/drug abuse, victim or witness to neighborhood violence, parental incarceration, the death of a parent or witness of domestic violence.

The impact of ACEs can be seen in the physical, mental, social and emotional health of the child.<sup>53</sup> The most remarkable impact of ACEs can be seen in the executive function skills (such as attentional control, cognitive inhibition, working memory, and cognitive flexibility<sup>54</sup>).

The Figure below illustrates the impact of ACEs on a child’s social and emotional skills. For example, 38.5% of children suffering from one set of ACEs have difficulty persevering on a task until completing the task; 28.4% often cannot calm themselves when excited or wound up, and 20.8% children (ages 3-5) with 1 ACE lose control of their temper all or most of the time compared to 10.2% of peers with no ACEs.

### Impact of ACEs on a Child’s Social/Emotional Skills



The American Psychological Association (APA) estimates that more than two-thirds of children experience a traumatic event by the time they reach 16 years of age.<sup>55</sup> APA estimates that 39% to 85% of children in community samples have witnessed community violence, with up to 66% of children experiencing victimization.

The effects of trauma are far-reaching and have a negative impact<sup>56</sup> on:

- Early Brain Development
- Cognitive Development
- Learning
- Social-Emotional Development
- Ability to form secure attachments
- Physical Health

Responsive and dependable interactions facilitate a child’s healthy development, while chronic stress and trauma can interfere with the brain’s growth. Infants and toddlers exposed to frequent and prolonged trauma—such as extreme poverty, abuse, neglect,

parental substance use—are more likely to have an developmental delays.<sup>57</sup> Children exposed to trauma are likely to develop distress following the event, ranging from separation anxiety, sadness, nightmares, difficulty concentrating, anger, and irritability<sup>58</sup>. Also, the following behaviors may be present:

- Development of new fears
- Loss of interest in normal activities
- Decline in school work
- Somatic complaints, such as stomach aches, and nausea

The California Data Dashboard, created as a product of the California Essentials for Childhood Initiative, reports that 17% of all children in San Bernardino County had two or more ACEs, as of 2016. Of these children, 8.4% had four or more ACEs. Some of the most prevalent hardships that led to ACEs include those listed in Table 35.

Table 35: Most Common ACEs from Maternal Perspective		
Hardship/ACE	San Bernardino County	California
Basic Needs Not Being Met	20.6%	21.3%
Parental Drinking/Drug Problem	12.8%	14.9%
Parental Legal Trouble or Incarceration	13.8%	10.1%
Parental Divorce or Separation	29.1%	29.6%
Family Hunger	8.8%	9.5%
Moved due to Problems Paying Rent or Mortgage	14.8%	14.2%

## Mental Health

Predictors that may interfere with the recovery from trauma include community stress, prior exposure to trauma, safety concerns, poverty, and racism<sup>59</sup>. The National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCAND) defines risk factors as characteristics of a child or caregiver that could

increase the likelihood of child maltreatment<sup>60</sup>. Table 36 provides information on twelve identified risk factors for caregivers and nine risk factors for children that increase the risk of maltreatment.

Approximately one in five American adults has a diagnosable mental or addictive disorder in any given year, with similar rates among children and adolescents, thus placing children at-risk for child maltreatment.<sup>61</sup> Mental disorders affect men and women of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds and affect personal well-being, family and interpersonal relationships and communities overall.<sup>62</sup>

The County of San Bernardino's Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), specifically under the Children and Youth Collaborative Services provides screening, assessment, and treatment services to San Bernardino's youth. DBH is responsible for providing mental health and substance use disorder services to county residents who are experiencing major mental illness or substance abuse issues. DBH provides mental health/substance use disorder treatment to all age groups, with a primary emphasis placed on treating children/youth who may be seriously emotionally disturbed, adults who are experiencing a serious and persistent mental illness, and individuals who are experiencing substance use disorders. Through its Screening, Assessment, Referral and Treatment (SART) and Early Identification and Intervention Services (EIS) programs, DBH served 2,628 children in FY 2017-18. The core needs of the majority of children included anxiety or adjustment disorder diagnosis, family functioning, attachment disorders and adaptability.

### Mental Health Services for Children Under 5 Has Grown throughout the County

Over the past five years, mental health care for children ages 0-5 has grown 145%.

Overall, more than a third (37%) of clients served in 2016/17 were under 18, including 3,405 children between the ages of 0-5.



**Table 36: Risk Factors that Increase Likelihood of Child Maltreatment**

Caregiver Risk Factors	Child Risk Factors
Alcohol Abuse-Caregiver	Alcohol Abuse-Child
Drug Abuse-Caregiver	Drug Abuse-Child
Mental Retardation-Caregiver	Mental Retardation-Child
Emotionally Disturbed-Caregiver	Emotionally Disturbed-Child
Visually or Hearing Impaired-Caregiver	Visually or Hearing Impaired-Child
Learning Disability-Caregiver	Learning Disability-Child
Physically Disabled-Caregiver	Physically Disabled-Child
Other Medical Condition-Caregiver	Other Medical Condition-Child
Domestic Violence	Behavior Problem-Child
Inadequate Housing	
Financial Problem	
Public Assistance	

### Prenatal Care, Breastfeeding, Low Birthweight, and Infant Mortality

Healthy birth outcomes and early identification and treatment of health conditions among infants can prevent death or disability and enable children to reach their full potential.<sup>63</sup> Prenatal care has been found to be critical to a healthy pregnancy, which can reduce premature birth.<sup>64</sup> Similarly, the Academy of Pediatrics highlight several benefits of breastfeeding to the overall health and well-being of infants with the primary benefit tied to reducing common infections.<sup>65</sup> Low birth weight, defined as a baby that is born weighing less than five pounds, eight ounces<sup>66</sup>, can cause serious health problems in children, especially with nutrition, weight gain, and infection prevention.<sup>67</sup> Infant mortality is the death of an infant before his or her first birthday, and the rate of infant mortality is the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births, which is an important indicator of the overall health of a community.<sup>68</sup>

Among San Bernardino County’s births, the average birth weight was 3,246.52 grams or an average, 7.2 pounds. According to the Obstetrics Estimates, 9.3% of San Bernardino County’s infants were born pre-term, higher than the 8.6% statewide average.

### Health Services

One of the original tenets of Head Start was that the program must work to improve a child’s physical health and physical abilities.<sup>69</sup> Federal regulations require Head Start programs to ensure that children and their families have a regular and continuous source of health care within 30 days of enrollment into the program.<sup>70</sup>

Research finds that individuals who have health insurance and regular source of health care, and not the emergency rooms, are more likely to seek routine health care, and be on a schedule of preventative health screening. As such, it is important to understand how a Head Start community’s fare in terms of health care.



## Access and Health Care Insurance

While the rate of the uninsured continues to decline in San Bernardino County, given the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, people of color and low-income residents continue to be uninsured. For example<sup>71</sup>:

- Hispanic/Latinos, American Indian and Alaska Natives had higher rates of being uninsured (10.1% and 11% compared to 7.2% statewide and 8.7% nationwide).
- Residents with incomes in the second to lowest income ranges (\$25,000 to \$49,000) were more likely to be uninsured (10.7%).
- Individuals with less than a high school graduation degree were more likely to be uninsured (18.4%).
- Medi-Cal, the health care program for low-income populations, has seen significant increases since the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2009, seeing a 127% increase in that 10-year period, which has led to more children under five being insured.

## Nutrition/Food Insecurity

Proper nutrition is essential to the growth and development of children, helping to maintain a healthy weight while reducing the risk of chronic health conditions across the lifespan.<sup>72</sup> Studies have also demonstrated the link between proper nutrition and a child's cognitive development, beginning in utero. The effects of malnourishment during pregnancy can have a lasting adverse impact on an infant's brain development.<sup>73</sup> Children who are under-nourished may have decreased activity level, decreased social interactions, decreased curiosity and decreased cognitive functioning, which may lead to chronic absenteeism in school. Proper nutrition begins with access to healthy foods.

A food desert is an urban area in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food. Food deserts do indicate that there is no access to food. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), food deserts have a severe lack of whole food, fruit, and vegetable providers but have an endless supply of very cheap processed, sugary, and fat-laden foods that destroy the human body over time and can lead to obesity. Food deserts are typically associated with limited grocery stores that can provide healthy food options. In San Bernardino County, more than 1 in 5 people (or 21.3%)<sup>74</sup> live more than one mile away from a supermarket.

Food insecurity is defined as “the limited availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food by a household.”<sup>75</sup> It also takes into account the percent of people who worry they could run out of food before they have enough funds to purchase more food. Feeding America reports that 10.4% of households in San Bernardino County are food insecure. Among children, 18.7% of children in San Bernardino County are living in food insecure household.



## Childhood Obesity

Research has proven that the lack of access to healthy foods contributes to obesity and poor health outcomes. For example, a study of more than 28,000 low-income children under the age of five enrolled in the Massachusetts WIC program found that persistent household food insecurity, without hunger, was associated with 22% greater odds of child obesity at two to five years of age.<sup>76</sup> Childhood obesity is considered an epidemic, with one out of every six children being obese.<sup>77</sup> The Centers for Disease Control report that the prevalence of obesity among 2-5 year-olds nationwide is 13.9%. Childhood obesity has a greater prevalence in Hispanic/Latinos (25.8%) than in African American (22.0%) and White (14.1%) populations. Childhood obesity is associated with a range of physical health—and mental health—problems, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, sleep apnea, bone and joint problems, asthma, type 2 diabetes, and depression.<sup>79</sup> In California, the rate of childhood obesity amongst 2-4-year old's enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) has declined from 18.4% (in 2010) to 16.6% (in 2014). In fact, in Southern California, there is a reported 8.4% decline in childhood obesity amongst children and teenagers from 2008-2013.<sup>80</sup>

The state collects data on elementary students who are overweight or obese by race/ethnicity and grade level. This data is collected through the California Department of Education's Physical Fitness Test, which is administered to public school students in grades 5, 7, and 9. Students with body compositions above the "Healthy Fitness Zone" on the FitnessGram assessment are considered overweight or obese. Similar to national data, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders and Hispanic/Latino students are at greater risk of being overweight/obese than their Asian American or White counterparts, as seen in Table 37. The San Bernardino Community Indicators Report of 2018 shows that students enrolled in the San Bernardino City School District have the highest proportion of overweight students (48.2%) enrolled.

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders and Hispanic/Latino students are at greater risk of being over-weight or obese.

**Table 37: Students Who Are Overweight/Obese by Race/Ethnicity and Grade Level, 2018**

Race/Ethnicity	Grade 5	Grade 7	Grade 9
African American/Black	38.9%	38.8%	38.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	40.4%	35.5%	47.1%
Asian American	28.1%	25.0%	26.2%
Filipino	36.6%	30.3%	27.8%
Hispanic/Latino	46.5%	45.5%	43.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	51.4%	61.5%	57.6%
White	30.1%	30.3%	32.1%
Multiracial	34.1%	35.1%	35.4%

## Asthma & Air Pollution

San Bernardino County is considered one of the country's worst ozone pollution areas and consistently ranks among the worst counties for year-round particulate pollution or soot. The American Lung Association issues an annual report card of the "State of the Air." In 2019, San Bernardino County received a grade of "F" for high ozone days and particle pollution, which indicates that breathing the air in the county could put residents' health at risk. A total of 35,481 children are affected by pediatric asthma in San Bernardino County.

The county's geography and the influx of warehouse distribution centers contribute to the high pollution rates. For example, the county sits in a valley between the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains, which form a bowl that traps air heavy with car emissions. According to an article published in *Grist*,<sup>81</sup> rapidly proliferating warehouse, the busy railway that runs on the west side of the city of San Bernardino, and the thousands of trucks that move inventory to the distribution centers contribute to the air pollution.

## Opioid and Methamphetamine Crises

Research shows that children who reside with parents who use, or abuse drugs are at higher risk for educational delays, inadequate medical and dental care, poor developmental outcomes, and child maltreatment.<sup>82</sup> In the past few years, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has called the use and abuse of opioids an epidemic<sup>83</sup> in the country. CDC has also determined that young children exposed to opiates may exhibit mental and motor deficits, cognitive delays, hyperactivity and impulsivity, behavior disorders, aggressiveness, poor social engagement, and failure to thrive

In California, there were almost 2,000 opioid overdose deaths in 2016. In 2017, San Bernardino County suffered 2.7 deaths from opioids for every 100,000 people or 57 deaths across a population of over 2 million.<sup>84</sup> This number is well below the national and state averages, and one of the lowest in the country. However, that number is almost double the 36 deaths that happened in 2016. The opioid epidemic in the county continues to grow, as medical professionals continue to prescribe huge numbers of opioids across the county (1,408,704 opioids prescribed in 2017).

While opioid use and abuse continues to grow throughout the county, methamphetamine abuse continues to be a significant issue across the county. Looking at the admissions to county funded treatment services, there have been over 2,000 admissions a year since 2009 and almost hit 3,000 in 2016.<sup>85</sup> 2017 was the first year that there were more admissions into treatment facilities for people suffering from an opioid addiction than meth addiction. However, when looked at collectively, more people in San Bernardino County are entering rehab year after year.

### Opioid Epidemic

Across San Bernardino County, there are roughly 660 prescriptions for opioids per 1,000 people. 2,753 admissions into treatment facilities for opioid addiction.

## Transportation

A study on upward mobility found that commuting time is the single most significant factor in helping families or individuals escape poverty.<sup>86</sup> According to the study, the longer the average commute in a county, the less likelihood a low-income family will move up the economic ladder.<sup>87</sup> In 2017, most of San Bernardino County commuters drove to work alone (79.6%), 11.3% carpooled, 1.8% walked to work and 1.2% took public transportation.<sup>88</sup> The average commute time was 31.8

minutes, which was higher than the state's commute time of 29.8 minutes and the country's (26.9 minutes).<sup>89</sup> In addition to the average commute time, approximately 6% of the workforce have 'super commutes' in excess of 90 minutes.<sup>90</sup> In addition to the number of workers that commute outside of the county, there are significant numbers of workers that commute into the county from neighboring Riverside County.<sup>91</sup>

## Crime

Living in areas with high crime rates affects a child in multiple ways, increasing the child's risk of developing poor behavioral and medical outcomes as adults.<sup>92</sup> Research has found that witnessing or being a victim of a traumatic event, such as a violent act, has profound effects on brain structure. Anxiety disorders, impaired memory, and difficulty in self-regulation can surface as a result of living within a violent or crime-ridden environment.

The San Bernardino County Community Indicators Report 2018 shows that the overall crime rate for the county has decreased over the past few years; however, violent crimes have continued to increase since 2014. National reports that rank the most dangerous cities in the country consistently rank the city of San Bernardino as 14th in the country. The overall crime rate for the county is 112% higher than the national average, as 14.98 daily crimes occur for every 100,000 residents. Table 38 shows an increase in violent crime, rape, and robberies in 2018.

**Table 38: Crime Rates in San Bernardino County, 2018**

Crimes	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Violent Crimes	8,281	9,947	10,469	10,217	10,577
Homicide	110	109	129	128	126
Rape	474	625	703	846	939
Rape (Forcible Rape prior to 2014)	426	557	656	803	873
Attempted Rape	48	68	47	43	66
Robbery	2,435	2,878	2,910	2,982	3,090

Source: State of California Department of Justice – Open Justice



## Eligible Children, Availability of Other Child Development Programs, and Unmet Need

To qualify for services, families must meet age, income qualifications or be categorically eligible. The federal poverty threshold mandates income qualifications for Head Start programs and State poverty thresholds for state programs. Families receiving cash aid (or public assistance) are automatically income qualified. Categorical eligibility includes families experiencing homelessness and children in the child welfare system.

### Eligible population

Over 16,000 infants and toddlers are eligible for Early Head Start services in San Bernardino County and only 15% have a subsidized childcare slot available to them.

### Eligible Population

To understand the number of eligible children in the county, the total number of children by age group is multiplied by the overall poverty rate of that community. As seen in Table 39, San Bernardino County has 89,481 children under the age of 3 residing throughout the county, most reside in the Central and West Valley, and the High Desert. Taking the poverty rate into account, 16,286 children under the age of 3 are eligible for EHS services.

Table 39: Number of Eligible Children Under Age 3

Region	Sub-Region	Under 3 Years of Age No. of Children	Poverty Rate	No. EHS Eligible
County	San Bernardino County	89,481	18.2%	16,286
Valley	East Valley	25,758	14.7%	5,991
	Central Valley	25,758	25.9%	6,490
	West Valley	28,692	9.9%	2,841
Desert	High Desert	20,308	20.0%	4,060
	Low Desert	5,189	17.3%	898
Mountain	Mountain	1,237	17.9%	221

**Table 40: Cities and Unincorporated Areas with the Highest Number of EHS Eligible Children**

Region	Sub-Region	Community/City	Zip Code	No. EHS Eligible
Valley	Central Valley	Colton; Grand Terrace; San Bernardino;	92324	523
		Loma Linda; Highgrove Colton; San Bernardino;	92376	769
		Rialto San Bernardino; Crestline;	92404	846
		Highland San Bernardino; Muscoy	92407	768
		San Bernardino; Colton; Rialto;	92410	1,165
		Highland San Bernardino	92411	522
Desert	High Desert	Victorville; Adelanto	92301	669
		Barstow; Lenwood	92311	738
		Victorville; Adelanto	92394	558

For preschool-age children (3-4-year-olds), the total number eligible for HS services is 11,741. As with children under 3, the majority of eligible preschool -age children reside in the Central and West Valleys, and the High Desert.

**Table 41: Number of Eligible Children Ages 3-4 Years of Age**

Region	Sub-Region	No. of Children 3-4 Years of Age	Poverty Rate	No. HS Eligible
County	San Bernardino County	64,511	18.2%	11,741
Valley	East Valley	6,807	14.7%	1,084
	Central Valley	18,771	25.9%	4,657
	West Valley	20,273	9.9%	2,007
Desert	High Desert	14,773	20.0%	2,953
	Low Desert	2,763	17.3%	478
Mountain	Mountain	973	17.9%	174

Table 42 illustrates the zip codes and communities with more than 500 eligible HS children.

**Table 42: Number of Eligible Children Ages 3-4 by Zip Code with More than 500 Eligible**

Region	Sub-Region	Community/ City	ZIP Code	No. HS Eligible
Valley	Central Valley	Fontana; Rialto; Bloomington	92335	670
		Colton; San Bernardino; Rialto	92376	606
		San Bernardino; Crestline; Highland	92404	758
		San Bernardino; Muscoy	92407	555
		San Bernardino; Colton; Rialto; Highland	92410	693
Desert	High Desert	Victorville; Adelanto	92301	570
		Apple Valley; Hesperia	92345	698

## Availability of Other Childcare Programs

### Home-Based Programs

The home-based program option provides parents with comprehensive Head Start/Early Head Start services in their home on a weekly basis. Across the country, high-quality home visiting programs offer vital support to parents as they face the challenge of raising newborns and young children.<sup>93</sup> Recent research found that high-quality and comprehensive home visiting programs have lasting effects on child development, school readiness, and overall pre- and post-natal health of pregnant women, at-risk mothers (such as teen mothers), and young children.<sup>94</sup> Rigorous evaluation studies have also found a direct correlation with high-quality home visiting programs and positive impacts on the reduction of child abuse and neglect incidences, improvements in birth outcomes, and increased high school graduation rates for teen mothers.<sup>95</sup>



In San Bernardino County, four home visiting programs are offered:

1. PSD EHS – In its existing EHS program, PSD provides services to 250 families in a home-based program option. The services include weekly, 90-minute home visits and two socialization activities per month per family. Services are only provided to pregnant women and families with infants/toddlers. Services are delivered by a paraprofessional that has a minimum of a Child Development Associate credential or Associate Teacher Credential with family services experience.
2. LIFT Home Visitation Program – The County of San Bernardino’s Behavioral Health Department provides home visitation programs to first-time, low-income mothers and their children. The LIFT Home Visitation Program is provided in coordination with PSD and serves 120 pregnant women annually. All services are provided through a licensed registered nurse. Services include prenatal screening, postpartum depression screening, maternal attachment support, substance use/abuse screening, support services, parenting education, life and employment skills development, case management, and assistance understanding the development of children. All services are provided through a licensed nurse.
3. Home Visiting Program – through a partnership with the Transitional Assistance Department (TAD), PSD serves 283 families (and can serve up to 450 families) through a home visitation program. Services are targeted to Pregnant women and parents with children under two years of age.
4. Volunteers of America – provides EHS services to 244 pregnant women, infants, and toddlers throughout the East Valley of San Bernardino. Like PSD services, the organization provides weekly, 90-minute home visits and two socialization activities per month per family. Services are only provided to pregnant women and families with infants/toddlers. Services are delivered by a paraprofessional that has a minimum of a Child Development Associate credential or Associate Teacher Credential with family services experience.

All other family support programs offered and funded by First 5 San Bernardino are family resource centers that provide parenting classes, family goal setting, and resources to families. Over the course of the next year, First 5 San Bernardino will be implementing a new home visitation program for vulnerable families throughout the county.

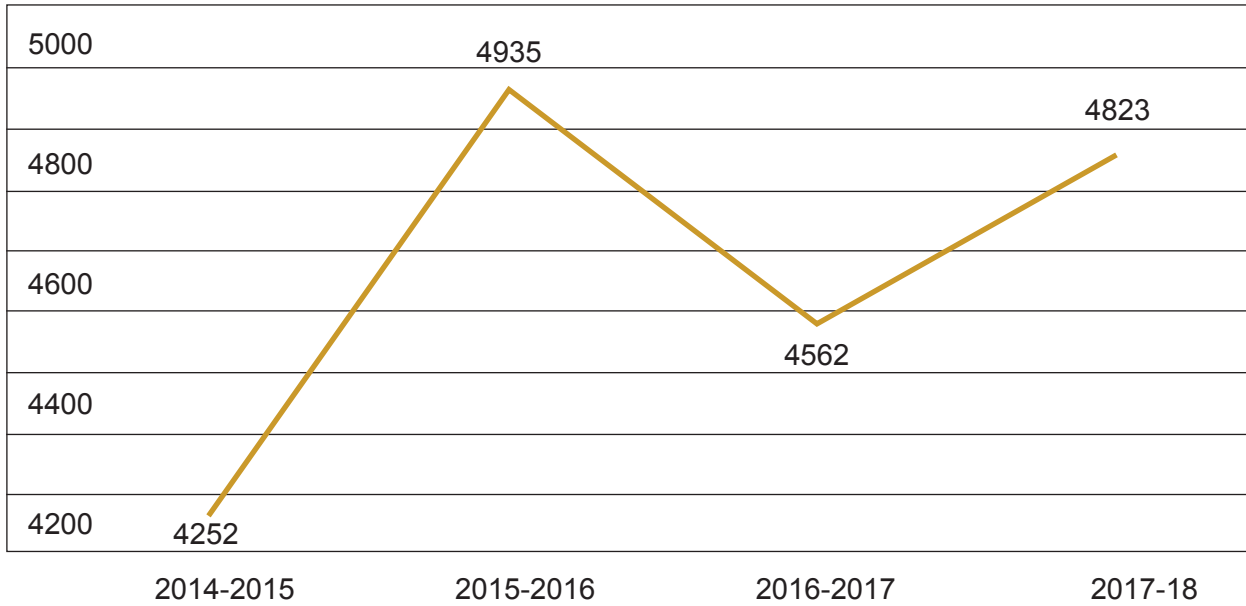
## Transitional Kindergarten

Transitional kindergarten has roots in a state law that took effect in fall 2012. The School Readiness Act of 2010 (SB 1381) established transitional kindergarten (TK) in California. TK is the first of a two-year kindergarten program; using a modified curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate; taught by credentialed teachers and funded through the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funds. As many more school districts face declining school enrollment, many have turned to TK to address their enrollment needs.

Age determines eligibility for TK, and it is available to children whose fifth birthday is between September and December of the academic school year. Income does not play a factor in TK eligibility. It requires children to be 5 years old by Sept. 1, rather than Dec. 2, to enroll in traditional kindergarten classes. To serve younger children who used to be eligible for kindergarten – 4-year-olds who turn 5 from Sept. 2 to Dec. 2 – California added a new public-school grade called transitional kindergarten. Those children then attend regular kindergarten the following year.

Thirty school districts in San Bernardino County provide TK services to children. School districts began providing TK services during PY 2013-14 and in most school districts, TK enrollment has increased over the past five school years. Across the county, TK services have increased by 52% - from 3,174 children served in 2013-14 to 4,823 served in 2017-18. Local school districts target families with older siblings in the school system to promote their TK program, which are largely full day programs.

## TK Enrollment for San Bernardino County



Thirty school districts in San Bernardino County provide TK services to children. School districts began providing TK services during PY 2013-14 and in most school districts, TK enrollment has increased over the past five school years. Across the county, TK services have increased by 52% - from 3,174 children served in 2013-14 to 4,823 served in 2017-18. Local school districts target families with older siblings in the school system to promote their TK program, which are largely full day programs.

TK enrollment by school district is shown in Table 43.

Due to the expansion of TK services, many HS programs across the state, inclusive of PSD, have:

- struggled with meeting full enrollment early in the program year.
- struggled with maintaining waitlists and enrolling eligible four-year-old's.
- revisited recruitment priorities to younger children needing care.



**Table 43: TK Participation Rates PY 2013-14 to PY 2017-18**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Kindergarten TK Participation PY 2013-14</b>	<b>Kindergarten TK Participation PY 2017-18</b>	<b>Kinder. TK – Increase/ Decrease</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Adelanto Elementary	125	210	85	68%
Alta Loma Elementary	75	175	100	133%
Apple Valley Unified	127	213	86	68%
Baker Valley Unified	0	0	0	-
Barstow Unified	46	92	46	100%
Bear Valley Unified	0	21	21	-
Central Elementary	0	0	0	-
Chino Valley Unified	107	123	16	15%
Colton Joint Unified	327	290	-37	-11%
Cucamonga Elementary	0	70	70	-
Etiwanda Elementary	185	350	165	89%
Fontana Unified	308	329	21	7%
Helendale Elementary	20	42	22	110%
Hesperia Unified	15	300	285	1900%
Lucerne Valley Unified	38	45	7	18%
Morongo Unified	48	58	10	21%
Mountain View Elementary	49	64	15	31%
Mt. Baldy Joint Elementary	1	1	0	0%
Needles Unified	0	11	11	-
Ontario-Montclair	571	549	-22	-4%
Oro Grande Elementary	0	24	24	-
Redlands Unified	150	222	72	48%
Rialto Unified	135	236	101	75%
Rim of the World Unified	30	34	4	13%
San Bernardino City Unified	333	560	227	68%
San Bernardino County Office of Education	0	31	31	-
Silver Valley Unified	62	75	13	21%
Snowline Joint Unified	0	33	33	-
Trona Joint Unified	0	2	2	-
Upland Unified	104	130	26	25%
Victor Elementary	195	383	188	96%
Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified	106	150	44	42%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>4,823</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>53%</b>

## Unmet Need

Understanding the unmet need and childcare supply is instrumental in understanding the need for services within the community. This indicator measures the availability of childcare and costs, as well as the availability, or lack of availability, of subsidized childcare for low-income families.

The California Child Care Portfolio for San Bernardino County,<sup>96</sup> produced by the California Resource & Referral Network, reported the following:

- The supply of licensed childcare centers has decreased by 15% between 2014 and 2017. A total of 4,538 slots were lost during this period.
- Licensed family childcare homes continued to decrease during this same period by 24% or a loss of 3,063 slots.
- Loss of licensed slots available for children ages 2-5 years of age were the most affected, a 12% loss or 2,822 slots.
- The majority of licensed spaces (both center-based and family childcare homes) provide both full-time and part-time care.
- Only 16% of centers offer full-time care.
- 15% of children ages 0-12 with parents in the labor force have a licensed childcare slot available to them.
- The majority of parents seeking childcare request care for employment (88%) reasons. Parents with young children, 0-5, requested full-time care in more than 90% of cases.
- Approximately 30% of children under the age of 5 are residing in low-income working families.<sup>97</sup>

Further analysis of the number of children served through state or federal subsidized programs in San Bernardino County revealed a significant need for subsidized infant/toddler care throughout the county. Only 15% of the EHS eligible children receive care through either state or federally funded programs. All HS eligible children have an opportunity to be served by either state funded or federally funded programs. Data show an over-saturation of preschool slots available because the total number of seats is calculated on the number of children living in poverty, or HS eligible. The numbers of children served by TK were not included in this analysis as eligibility requirements are age-based and not through means testing. However, it is important to understand that some HS eligible children may be participating in a local TK program, thus, there is an over-saturation of preschool slots available.

Access to a subsidized program for low-income families is critical, given the cost of childcare in San Bernardino County. With a cost of infant/toddler care ranging from \$8,400 to \$12,700 per year, the average working family earning \$52,000 will have approximately 30% of their family budget left for household expenses.<sup>98</sup>

**Table 44: Unmet Need by EHS and HS Eligible Children**

Unmet Need	Total Eligible	Total Served by State Subsidized Care	Total Served by EHS/HS	No. Unmet Need	% of Unmet Need
EHS Eligible	16,286	1,651	746	13,889	85%
HS Eligible	11,741	10,968	4,208	(3,435)	-29%

# Special Populations

## Pregnant Women

Pregnancy is an important time in a woman's life "when optimal health will not only impact the mother's future health but also that of her baby throughout its life."<sup>99</sup> EHS programs are required to provide services to pregnant women.<sup>100</sup> At a minimum, programs must determine whether pregnant women have a source of health care; provide comprehensive services through direct services or referrals, and conduct a post-natal visit with each new mother and baby to offer support and identify family needs.<sup>101</sup>

Over the course of 2018 year, 28,983<sup>102</sup> births occurred in San Bernardino County. If the poverty rate is applied to the total live births, 5,275 infants/toddlers would be eligible for the EHS program. The majority of births are to Hispanic/Latina women who are on average 27 years of age. On average, Hispanic women attend at least 10 prenatal visits during pregnancy. White women are the second racial group giving birth, with approximately 6,100 live births.



## Dual Language Learners

Research indicates that supporting bilingualism from the early years benefits children's cognitive and social development, as well as can have long-term positive implications for children's employment opportunities and competitiveness in the marketplace.<sup>103</sup> Research has also found that children are born with the ability to identify sounds from various languages and that children who have continuous, high-quality exposure to more than one language at younger ages have greater language processing skills, memory, attention and executive functioning skills.<sup>104</sup> Grounded in research, PSD recognizes that providing home language support is critical to the development of English language skills. The goal of PSD's approach to serving dual language learners is to create and implement policies, practices and systems that sustain language and literacy development throughout all aspects of the program and recognize bilingualism and biliteracy as strengths.

In PY 2018-19, 7,005 English Learners were enrolled in kindergarten throughout County schools. The majority (88.8%) entered kindergarten speaking Spanish, followed by Mandarin, Arabic, and Vietnamese. The percentage of kindergartners who enter school speaking a language other than English at home is on par with the overall Census information, which reports that 41.1% of all individuals over five years old speak a language other than English at home. Spanish is the predominant language, followed by Asian and Pacific Island languages. Over the course of PY 2018-19, nearly 1 in 4 PSD enrolled children spoke a language other than English at home; speaking primarily Spanish.



## Children in Foster Care

According to San Bernardino County Children and Family Services (CFS) Department, there were a total of 6,560 children in Foster Care placement in San Bernardino County for the period of 2018. Children whose families are served by the child welfare system often are developmentally vulnerable due to trauma stemming from early abuse and neglect and from risk factors that commonly co-occur, such as prenatal drug exposure, prematurity, low birth weight, poverty, homelessness, parental depression and other mental health problems.

Kidsdata shows 2,525 children under five in foster care in San Bernardino County. Of these, 18.7% are under the age of one, 37.9% are between the ages of 1-2, and the remaining 43.4% are between the ages of 3-5. PSD continues to strengthen its collaboration with CFS. This collaboration encourages referrals from CFS to Head Start/Early Head Start for enrollment opportunities.

Age	Number		Percent	
	SB County	California	SB County	California
Under Age 1	472	4,080	18.7%	19.5%
Ages 1-2	957	8,087	37.9%	38.6%
Ages 3-5	1,096	8,761	43.4%	41.9%

## Disabilities

A significant resource for children with special needs is the Local Education Agency (LEA). LEAs screen and evaluate all children (birth to 21) referred to determine eligibility and identify educational needs. The assessment information provides the basis for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) to ensure the individual receives a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

Additionally, the Inland Regional Center (IRC) provides comprehensive case management services to individuals with developmental disabilities. IRC was established to provide advocacy and assistance to the developmentally disabled residing in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. To qualify for IRC services, a person must live within either of the two counties and be diagnosed with a developmental disability.

Another resource for children with special needs is the countywide Screening, Assessment, Referral, and Treatment (SART) program. The program includes specialists from different disciplines: medicine, psychology, nursing and occupational therapy and is designed to serve this specific population. PSD refers children to (SART) service location in the High Desert, Central Valley, and West End.

As of December 1, 2018, 4,768 children under the age of 5 received special education services through a local education agency. Children under three were primarily served for Other Health Conditions, followed by Hard of Hearing, Multiple Disabilities, or Speech or Language Delay. Preschool-aged children were primarily served for Speech or Language Delay or Autism.

## Homeless Children and Families

The San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership conducted the most recent Point-In-Time homeless count on Thursday, January 24, 2019. The count is conducted on an annual basis. According to this report, 489 more persons were reported homeless than in 2018, many who were unsheltered.

The cities with the largest numbers of homeless persons were San Bernardino, Victorville, Redlands, and Rialto. Key highlights from the 2019 Point-In-Time Count:

- Unsheltered homeless adults were more likely White (52.6%) or African American (19.1%)
- Less than 1 in 3 unsheltered adults were Hispanic/Latino.
- More than 1 in 4 homeless were sheltered either in motels, shelters, or transitional housing.
- Of the sheltered homeless, 25 chronically homeless families were counted.
- Whites, Hispanic/Latinos and African Americans were the majority of the sheltered homeless (49%, 35%, and 38% respectively).

In addition to the Point-In-Time Count, Kidsdata collects data on the number of children recorded as being homeless at any point during a school year by grade level. School districts follow the

McKinney-Vento Act definition of homeless, which is different than the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless as follows:

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.
- Individuals or families with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Individuals or families who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train station.
- Individuals or families living in a supervised publicly operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
- An individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided.

As of 2017, the most recent year available, 38,077 students were considered homeless throughout San Bernardino County. Of these, the majority of students were Pre-K-Grade 5.

**Table 46: Homeless Point-In-Time Counts, 2018 and 2019**

Year of Count	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
2018 Homeless Count	675	1,443	2,118
2019 Homeless Count	687	1,920	2,607
Difference	+12 (1.8%)	+477 (33.1%)	+489 (23.1%)

**Table 47: Homeless Students, PY 2017-18**

Age	San Bernardino County	California
Pre-K-Grade 5	21,087 (52.4%)	144,106 (52.3%)
Grades 6-8	7,589 (19.9%)	55,276 (20.1%)
Grades 9-12	9,401 (24.7%)	75,888 (27.6%)

## Single Parent Fathers

A single parent family is defined as a family that is headed by a single parent, either led by a mother or father. The U.S. Census reports that over 40,400 families in San Bernardino County are led by single parent fathers. Of these families, 17% are raising children under the age of 3 and 13.3% have children between the ages of 3 and 4. Within the PSD program 121 households are led by single parent fathers.

Research shows that single parenting can be challenging. Some of the most significant challenges for all single parents can be associated to loneliness, disciplining children, low self-esteem, feeling a sense of guilt, and financial burdens. Single parent fathers face a set of unique challenges. According to a survey of single parent fathers,<sup>105</sup> the top five unique challenges are:

1. Support – this area is typically defined as lacking a strong support system to understand their child’s development and to handle the day-to-day challenges of parenthood.
2. Discipline – single parent fathers face challenges knowing how to discipline their children in a consistent basis.
3. Communication – typically associated with learning how to listen to children’s needs and learning how to be understanding of children’s feelings.
4. Overprotection – characterized by the need to protect their children at all cost, and not allowing children to take necessary risks or struggle with everyday developmental challenges.
5. Balance – characterized by lack of time to find a balance in their personal lives.



## Summary of Trends and Findings

The comprehensive community assessment resulted in several trends and findings. Primarily, data show that the population and economy are changing within the county. Specifically:

- Unemployment rates have dropped
- Home ownership rates are increasing
- More preschool services are being provided across the county, thus increasing the numbers of children participating in a preschool program.

In addition, County departments are working closer together to provide seamless services to residents most in need.

### Demographics

The following key demographic trends were identified throughout this community assessment.

- San Bernardino County is expected to continue growing over the next 25 years; growing by 28% between 2020 and 2045.
- Population growth is expected among all age groups, with the largest growth rate experienced by seniors older than 65. Young children's (under 5) growth is expected to remain steady through 2030 and then projected to grow by 7% through 2045.
- IRS data show that 30,000 LA County residents moved east to San Bernardino County, while slightly more than 19,000 relocated from San Bernardino to LA County.

- An excess of 6 in 10 households in the Central Valley and High Desert are singleparent households, with most residing within the city of San Bernardino and Barstow.
- Latino/Hispanic residents are the majority throughout the county and are projected to continue to grow to 64% of the population by 2045. The White population is projected to decrease from 28% to 18% during the same period.
- There has been a significant decline in the number of new immigrants from Latin America. Increasingly, the County's growth comes from the natural increase of the already settled population as well as domestic net-migration and immigration from overseas (i.e., East Asia).
- African American residents, which consist of approximately 1 in 10 residents across the county, tend to make the Valley Region and the High Desert home. Approximately 1 in 4 residents within San Bernardino city's 92401 zip code and 1 in 5 residents in Victorville's 92307 zip code are African American.
- Barstow and Crestline have the highest percentages of children under age 3 (in excess of 60%).
- San Bernardino County falls behind the country as a whole in its overall educational attainment, as a greater percentage of residents lack a high school diploma when compared to the United States and California. Residents in Central Valley are most likely to have a high school diploma or less, with 33% of residents not having a high school diploma.

## Income and Employment, Poverty and Housing

The following key economic trends were identified throughout this community assessment:

- The median household income for San Bernardino County in 2017 was \$57,156, approximately \$14,649 less than the state's median income of \$71,805.
- Five communities have less than 50% of the County's median income.
- The County's unemployment rate has continued to improve with a rate of 3.5% in October 2019, which is significantly lower than the all-time high of 14.7% in 2010. However, the cities of San Bernardino, Hesperia, and Joshua Tree have twice the unemployment rate of the county.
- While the youth of the county (ages 16 to 24) have higher labor force participation rates than their coastal counterparts, the labor force participation rates for the prime working age population (age 25-64) is trending downward for workers of all educational attainment levels.
- The poverty rate for San Bernardino County and the state is six percent higher than the national average of 11.8%; yet, 1 in 4 residents of the Central Valley and more than 1 in 5 residents in the High Desert live in poverty, which exceed the county's rate.
- The Central Valley, High Desert, and Mountain Regions have significantly larger percentages of individuals living in extreme poverty than the county as a whole.
- More than 1 in 4 children under the age of 18 live in poverty; of which, 27.3% of children under 5 live in poverty. More children in the city of San Bernardino and the High Desert live in poverty.
- Home prices in the county are approximately 60% less than in Orange County and 50% less than in Los Angeles County resulting in higher home ownership rates in the last 5 years; increasing by 46%.
- Data show that median rents in San Bernardino increased by 6% between 2018 and 2019, with the average cost of a two-bedroom apartment being \$1,283 in 2019.
- The Living Wage Calculator projects that a two-parent household with two children must earn \$27.39 per hour or \$56,964 annually to afford housing and other expenses in San Bernardino County, while a single parent with two children must earn \$32.73 per hour or \$68,081 annually.
- The waiting lists for subsidized housing are extremely high, with over 40,000 households waiting to receive a rental voucher.



## Social Determinants of Health & Well-Being Trends and Findings

The following key social determinants of health and well-being trends and findings were identified throughout this community assessment:

- 61% of Hispanic/Latinos and 70% of African American children did not meet or exceed the literacy standards. In math, the percentages are even more substantial, as 78% of Hispanic/Latinos and 87% of African American children do not meet basic math standards.
- 17% of all children in San Bernardino County had two or more ACEs in 2016; of these, 8.4% had four or more ACEs.
- Over the past five years, mental health care for children ages 0-5 has grown 145%.
- Overall, more than a third (37%) of clients served by the County's Behavioral Health Department in 2016/17 were under 18, of which more than 3,000 were under the age of five.
- Feeding America reports that 10.4% of households in San Bernardino County are food insecure. Among children, 18.7% of children in San Bernardino County are living in food insecure household.
- Students enrolled in the San Bernardino City School District have the highest proportion of overweight students enrolled at 48.2%.
- The American Lung Association issues an annual report card of the "State of the Air." In 2019, San Bernardino County received a grade of "F" for high ozone days and particle pollution, which indicates that breathing the air in the county could put residents' health at risk. A total of 35,481 children are affected by pediatric asthma in San Bernardino County.
- Across San Bernardino County, there are roughly 660 prescriptions for opioids per 1,000 people.
- National reports rank the city of San Bernardino as being the 14th most dangerous city to live in the country with high crime rates. The overall crime rate for the county is 112% higher than the national average, as 14.98 daily crimes occur for every 100,000 residents. There has been an increase in violent crime, rape, and robberies in 2018.

## Eligible Children Trends and Findings

The following key trends and findings for number of eligible children were identified throughout this community assessment:

- San Bernardino County has 89,481 children under the age of 3 residing throughout the county, most reside in the Central and West Valley, and the High Desert. Taking the poverty rate into account, 16,286 children under the age of 3 are eligible for EHS services.
- For preschool-age children (3-4-year-olds), the total number eligible for HS services is 11,741. As with infants and toddlers, the majority of eligible preschool-age children reside in the Central Valley, High Desert, and West Valley.
- Across the county, TK services have increased by 52% - from 3,174 children served in 2013-14 to 4,823 served in 2017-18. Local school districts target families with older siblings in the school system to promote their TK program, which are largely full day programs.
- San Bernardino County has a significant need for subsidized infant/toddler care. Only 15% of the EHS eligible children receive care through either state or federally funded programs. There is no need for additional subsidized preschool slots.



## Special Populations

The following key trends for special populations were identified throughout this community assessment.

- **Pregnant Women:** the majority of births are to Hispanic/Latinas who are on average 27 years of age.
- **Dual Language Learners:** Spanish is the primary language spoken at home.
- **Children in Foster Care:** Over 2,500 children under the age of 5 are in the foster care system in the county.
- **Children with Disabilities:** Children under the age of 5 with disabilities are primarily diagnosed with Other Health Conditions, Speech or Language Delays, or Autism.
- **Homeless Families:** More than 50% of Pre-K through fifth grade students in the San Bernardino school system meet the definition of homeless, according to the McKinney Vento Act.
- **Single Parent Fathers:** 30% of single parent fathers within San Bernardino County are raising children under the age of 5.



## Considerations for the Future

Since its inception, PSD has served the neediest children and families in San Bernardino County. In PY 2018-19, PSD served a total of 4,969 children and their families across the three federal programs (HS, EHS, and CCP). The typical family served by PSD is led by a single-parent Hispanic/Latina mother, with a high school diploma, who is working in the service or retail industry and who qualifies for HS based on income eligibility, earning less than the federal poverty threshold.

## Resources Available

To meet the needs of its community, PSD has developed strong partnerships that help coordinate services to low-income families and children. These strategic partnerships include:

Table 48: List of Community Partners	
Community Partner	Comprehensive Services Provided
First 5 Dental	Through a partnership, SBCPSD will provide dental screenings for children, free of charge, and assist with dental insurance to receive dental treatment.
Inland Regional Center	Through an inter-agency agreement, the Inland Regional Center provides early intervention and preventive services to children suspected and identified of having a disability.
California Baptist University	Through a formal partnership, graduate and undergraduate psychology students provide supportive mental health services.
Department of Behavioral Health	Through a Memorandum of Agreement, the Department of Behavioral Health provides MFT/ PEI interns to children and families. These services are instrumental in working with children, families and providers on identifying strategies to assist with challenging behaviors.
St. Joseph Health – St. Mary Medical Center	Through a collaborative relationship, nutrition counseling and follow-up services are provided to families with children experiencing nutritional concerns, such as being identified as being underweight or overweight.
San Bernardino County Screening, Assessment, Referral and Treatment (SART)	Children ages 0-6 are screened, assessed and referred for treatment through a universal collaborative and standardized process that strengthens and builds on existing programs in the community. The goal of SART is to improve the mental and social functioning of children as measured by school readiness and the achievement of appropriate developmental milestones.



## Political Implications

As a federally and state subsidized program, services provided by PSD are potentially affected by pending legislation. Some key pending legislation or legislative priorities can have significant impacts on the services provided by PSD.

Table 49: Pending Legislation or Priorities Impacting PSD Services		
Pending Legislation or Priorities	Description	Potential Effect on PSD Services
Immigration	Pending regulations will allow the Federal government to deport lawful permanent residents and other immigrants if they utilize any public programs aimed at reducing illness, hunger, and poverty.	Can create challenges in recruiting and enrolling immigrant families.
Public Benefit	Pending regulation proposes to change the status of Head Start from a public benefit to children to a public benefit to parents/families.	Would create challenges in enrolling undocumented, immigrant families.
AB 5 – Law on Consultants	The law redefines the relationship between employers and consultants in California.	Potentially impact service-level consultants hired by PSD to perform needed services for children and families.
ACEs Aware Initiative	Statewide effort for California health care providers to screen patients for ACEs that increase the likelihood of ACE-associated health conditions due to toxic stress.	Screening of children may include ACEs screening for referrals.
AB 387 – Unions for Family Child Care Providers	The law allows family child care providers the right to collectively bargain for a labor contract.	May impact childcare rates paid to family child care providers.
AB 123 Pre-K for All and SB 443 Funding for Expanded TK	Will allow expansion of State subsidized programs and TK programs across the State.	May create recruitment and enrollment challenges.

## Programmatic Implications

PSD has an opportunity to continue serving children and families with the greatest amount of need by taking the following into consideration.

- Prioritizing services to African American and immigrant families from Latin America, as data suggest that these populations have the greatest amount of need. These populations tend to live in the most poverty, sub-standard housing, have lower educational attainment, and have the lowest earning potential. In addition, these populations are the most affected by higher health risks and mental health challenges.
- Consider expanding its services to infants and toddlers through center-based programming. The county is over-saturated with preschool services and low-income children have opportunities to participate in quality preschool through state funded programs and transitional kindergarten. Yet, high-quality, center-based services for low-income infants and toddlers is minimal.
- Focus school readiness strategies on reading, language development, and mathematical skills. Providing young children with opportunities to develop these skills at an early age can lay the foundation for greater success in elementary school. In addition, provide parents with opportunities to extend these strategies into the home, as data show that many of the children who did not perform well in math and literacy in elementary school came from homes with low literacy levels.
- Continue to implement programming that promotes health and fitness for children and their families. Programming through Nike Start, I Am Moving I Am Learning, or through curricula such as Regie's Rainbow can help promote greater health outcomes in children.



## NOTES:

### Community Assessment Methodology and Structure

<sup>1</sup> The term Head Start is used to encompass all Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships programs.

<sup>2</sup> Head Start Program Performance Standards, released on September 6, 2016.

### Purpose of Community Assessment

<sup>3</sup> Strengthening Nonprofits: A capacity builder's resource library: Conducting a community assessment. Retrieved from <http://www.strengtheningnonprofits.org/>

### Community Assessment Regulatory Requirements

<sup>4</sup> The term Head Start is used to encompass all Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships programs.

<sup>5</sup> Head Start Program Performance Standards, released on September 6, 2016.

### Program Eligibility

<sup>6</sup> Categorical Eligibility is defined as children who are automatically eligible for a Head Start program if they are homeless, in foster care, or receiving public assistance such as CAL-Works or SSI. Source: Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, Poverty Guidelines and Determining Eligibility for Participation in Head Start.

### San Bernardino County Demographic Profile

<sup>7</sup> University of New Hampshire, Cooperative Extension. Community Planning New Hampshire, Information Brief #1, November 2014.

### Population

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**Preschool Services Department**





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