



2023

## Santa Clara County and San Benito County Head Start Community Assessment



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## Chapter 1: Introduction

### Background

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that provides low-income families and young children living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) with early childhood education, health and nutrition services, parent education, and social service support. The program is based on the premise that all children share certain needs and that children from low-income families can benefit from a comprehensive developmental program that meets those needs.<sup>1</sup>

### Purpose

Federal Head Start Performance Standards and Regulations define the overall program philosophy, goals, objectives, and service requirements but provide considerable local flexibility on the design and implementation of the program. Head Start is a dynamic program, growing and changing to meet the needs of the children and families it serves. A broad range of additional services through partnerships with other agencies has been essential to enhance support to children and families in Head Start. With high accountability, the program must address the national performance standards and initiatives. The purpose of this report is to assess community needs and program operations to ensure program quality and responsiveness.

Head Start regulations require each Early Head Start and Head Start grantee agency to conduct a Community Assessment within its service area once every three years with updates annually. The comprehensive Head Start Community Assessment (HSCA) is intended to assist the grantee in making important decisions about how best to serve eligible children and families. This includes determining:

- (1) Community strengths, needs, and resources;
- (2) Program structure; and,
- (3) Program management and quality improvement.



<sup>1</sup> Head Start History (2018). Head Start | Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/article/head-start-history> on November 17, 2023.



The contents of this community assessment are guided by the federal requirements, which state that it must “include, at a minimum:

- (1) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant parents, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
  - a. Children experiencing homelessness;
  - b. Children in foster care; and
  - c. Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;
- (2) The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social and 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 appropriate number of eligible children served;
- (5) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and,
- (6) Strengths of the community.”

- 45 CFR 1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs and resources<sup>2</sup>

## Overview of Data Sources

The comprehensive nature of the Community Assessment requires data from diverse sources. Key sources for the 2023 Community Assessment include:

- California Department of Education;
- California Department of Finance;
- Local Early Education Planning Council of Santa Clara County;
- Santa Clara County Social Services Agency;
- Santa Clara County Office of Education;
- Departments/Divisions of Public Health; and
- Santa Clara/San Benito County Head Start Program Information Reports.

Much of the demographic data presented in this report comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program (PEP) utilizes current data on births, deaths, and migration to calculate population change since the last decennial census to produce time series estimates of population, demographic components of change, and housing units. To ensure conformity with official estimates from the PEP, the Census Bureau controls data for American Community Survey reports by utilizing intercensal

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<sup>2</sup> <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-11-determining-community-strengths-needs-resources>

estimates during each decennial year and a few years following the decennial year.<sup>3</sup> To create the 2022 1-year estimates, data sources from various levels of demographic and regional details were integrated to create a blended base derived from 2020 Census Data, 2020 Demographic Analysis Estimates, and Vintage 2020 Population Estimates for April 1, 2020.<sup>4</sup> This blended base was developed to yield better population estimates than the previous estimates, including the Vintage 2020 postcensal estimates. However, at the time of compiling this report, the 1-year estimates for 2022 do not include relevant data for all locations within the service area, and the more comprehensive the 5-year 2018-2022 estimates were not yet released.<sup>5</sup> As a result, this report utilizes the 5-year 2017-2021 estimates that were presented in the previous annual report.

## Report Organization

This report is organized into a series of chapters, starting with a presentation of demographic and child population data (Chapter 2: Demographics) and ending with a review of key data elements collected from children and families served by Early Head Start (Chapter 9) and Head Start (Chapter 10) in San Benito and Santa Clara County. Additional chapters include information on income (Chapter 3), health (Chapter 4), education (Chapter 5), childcare (Chapter 6), and resources that can be leveraged to better meet the needs of children and families in the community (Chapter 7). Consistent with the 2022 report, the 2023 report includes a chapter that identifies children and families that meet federal income requirements and/or are categorically eligible for Head Start services (Chapter 8). The 2023 HSCA concludes with a summary of key assessment findings that are intended to guide discussions for program planners and decision-makers alike (Chapter 11: Observations and Recommendations).



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-01.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2023-06.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases/2022/release.html#fiveyear>

## Chapter 2: County Demographics

### Background

The Santa Clara County Office of Education is the Head Start grantee for Santa Clara and San Benito counties. Although they are neighboring counties, Santa Clara and San Benito differ in population, economics, and educational opportunities. Santa Clara County is located at the base of the Bay Area Peninsula, has urban areas in the north and central regions, and has rural communities such as Morgan Hill and Gilroy in the southern region. San Benito County is located south of Santa Clara County and is largely rural with small agricultural communities. San Benito's main cities are Hollister and San Juan Bautista.

### Population Overview

Santa Clara County is the sixth most populous county in the state of California, with a population approaching 2 million. It comprises 15 cities and various unincorporated areas, extending from Palo Alto in the northwest and Milpitas in the northeast to Gilroy in the south. Nearly eighty percent of the population is above the age of 18, and the median age is 38 years. Children under the age of eighteen comprise approximately 22% of the county population. Table 1 describes demographic details for Santa Clara County, utilizing the most recent available U.S. Census Bureau's five-year estimates (2017-2021).

**TABLE 1. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY (2021)**

	Count	Percent
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>1,932,022</b>	<b>--</b>
Male	983,824	50.9%
Female	948,198	49.1%
<b>Population Under 18</b>	<b>422,063</b>	<b>21.8%</b>
15 to 17 years	72,664	3.8%
5 to 14 years	238,409	12.3%
Under 5 years	110,990	5.7%
<b>Population 18 and over</b>	<b>1,509,959</b>	<b>78.2%</b>
<b>Median age (years)</b>	<b>38</b>	

**Note:** Percent column was calculated by dividing by the "Total Population" count.

**Source:** Table S0101, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

Despite being of comparable size in square miles to Santa Clara County, San Benito County is mainly rural, with a population of 63,329 – approximately 30 times smaller than Santa Clara County. San Benito's largest cities include Hollister and San Juan Bautista. Nearly three-quarters of the population are over the age of 18, and the median age is 36 years (see Table 2). Approximately one in four individuals in San Benito County are children under the age of 18, slightly greater than the proportion for Santa Clara County (22%).

**TABLE 2. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF SAN BENITO COUNTY (2021)**

	Count	Percent
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>63,329</b>	<b>--</b>
Male	32,006	50.5%
Female	31,323	49.5%
<b>Population Under 18</b>	<b>16,452</b>	<b>26.0%</b>
15 to 17 years	2,982	4.7%
5 to 14 years	9,334	14.7%
Under 5 years	4,136	6.5%
<b>Population 18 and over</b>	<b>46,877</b>	<b>74.0%</b>
<b>Median age (years)</b>	<b>36</b>	

**Note:** Percent column was calculated by dividing by the “Total Population” count.

**Source:** Table S0101, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

### Child Population Trends and Race/Ethnicity Distributions

Data presented in the following section is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) and the California Department of Finance (DOF). The American Community Survey is an annual nationwide survey designed to provide current estimates of population, social, economic, and housing characteristics.



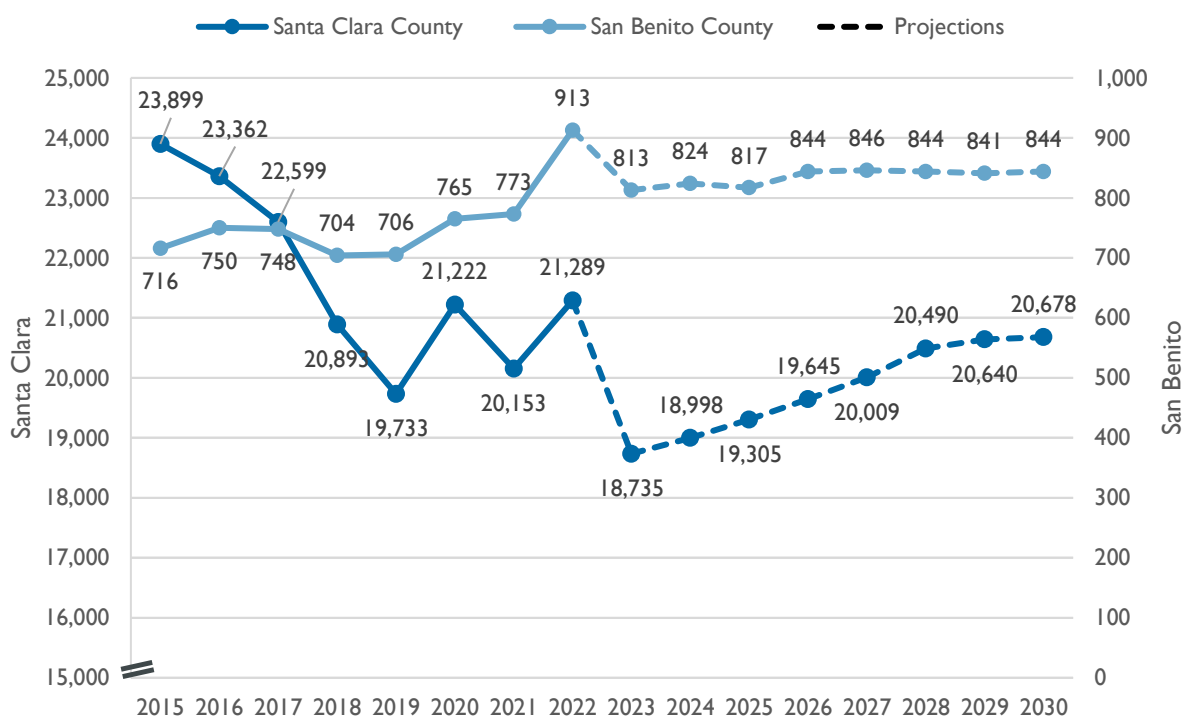


## Change in Number of Births

Population estimates for children ages 0-11 months serve as a proxy measure for child births. Figure 1 illustrates change in population estimates for children ages 0-11 months, by county, calculated by the Demographic Research Unit of the California Department of Finance using a component-change method that adjusts for natural increases and net migration. Between 2015 and 2022, births in Santa Clara County have declined by nearly 11%, while San Benito County experienced a 28% increase over that same period. In Santa Clara County, the steepest decline in child births occurred between 2015 and 2019. However, projections for 2023 indicate that both counties will experience their greatest single-year decline between 2022 and 2023, with a decline of an additional 12% for Santa Clara and 11% for San Benito.

Notably, projections through 2030 indicate that child births for both counties will increase following 2023. Child births in Santa Clara are projected to increase steadily over the next five years, while child births in San Benito are expected to plateau at around 844 births per year, starting in 2026.

**FIGURE 1. CHILD BIRTHS BY COUNTY (2022)**

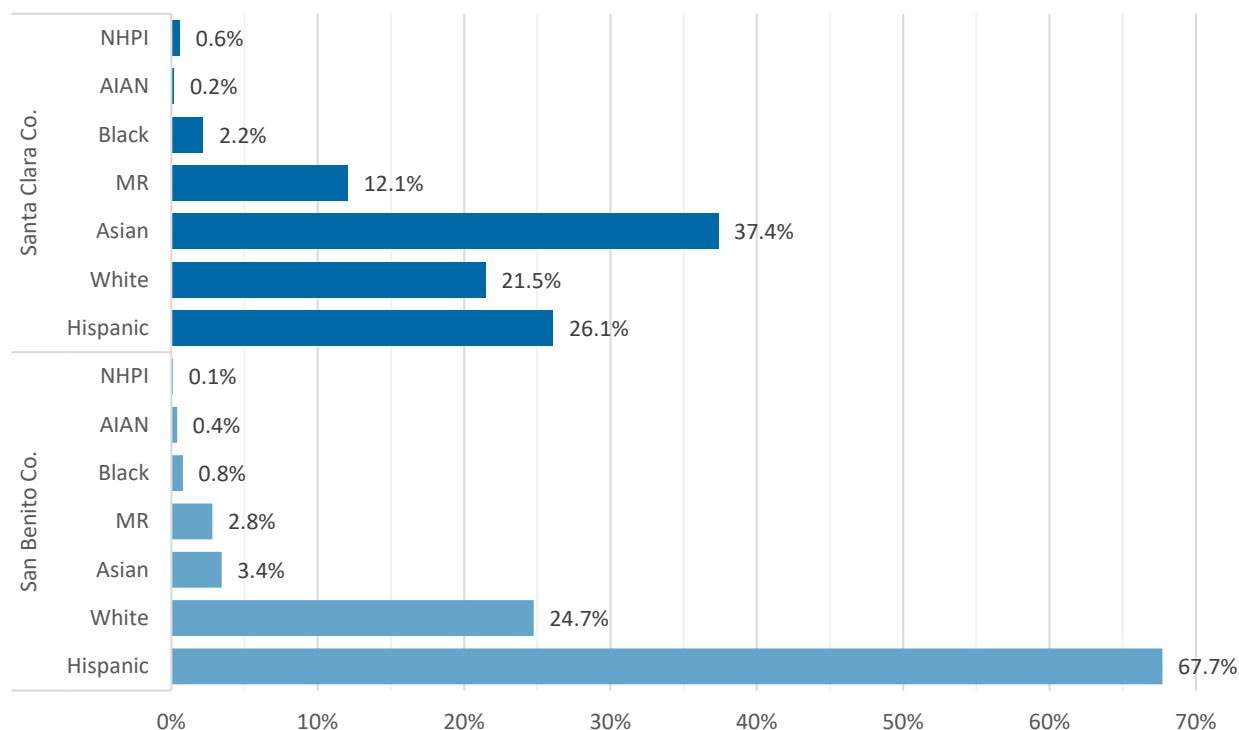


**Source:** P-2B County Population by Age, P-2, County Population Projections (2020-2060), Projections, CA Department of Finance. Retrieved from <https://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/> on October 27, 2023.

## Child Race/Ethnicity Distributions

Figure 2 displays 2023 projections for the race and ethnicity distributions of children under the age of six for Santa Clara and San Benito counties. In Santa Clara County, approximately 26% of children under the age of six are Hispanic, and approximately 37% are of Asian descent. In San Benito County, two-thirds of children under the age of six are Hispanic. The proportion of Hispanic children in this age range in San Benito is more than two times that of Santa Clara County.

**FIGURE 2. RACE/ETHNICITY DISTRIBUTIONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-5 YEARS (2023)**



**Abbreviations:** Co. = County; MR = Multiracial (two or more of above races), Non-Hispanic; AIAN = American Indian or Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic; NHPI = Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic.

**Source:** California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Report P-3. Retrieved from <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/projections/> on October 9, 2023.

## Child Population by City

Table 3 lists the number and proportion of children under 18 and under 6 years of age by city, along with the proportion of children within each city compared to respective countywide rates. Note: The up arrows (↑) indicate a higher proportion compared to the county overall while the down arrows (↓) indicate a lower proportion. The right arrows (→) indicate that the city proportion is equal to the overall county proportion.

San Juan Bautista has the highest share of children under six years old of all cities in both counties at 10%, followed by Morgan Hill, Hollister, and Sunnyvale, each at approximately 7% of the general population. Meanwhile, Monte Sereno and Saratoga have the lowest proportion of children under six, at approximately 2%. Gilroy and Hollister have the highest share of children under eighteen years of age, at nearly 29% of the general population.

**TABLE 3. CHILD POPULATION BY CITY (2021)**

	Children 0-5y		Children Under 18y		General Population
	No.	Pct.*	No.	Pct.*	
<b>Santa Clara County</b>	<b>110,990</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>422,063</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>1,932,022</b>
Campbell	2,967	6.8% (↑)	9,628	21.9% (↑)	43,954
Cupertino	2,917	4.8% (↓)	15,183	25% (↑)	60,681
Gilroy	3,968	6.7% (↑)	16,962	28.8% (↑)	58,802
Los Altos	1,348	4.3% (↓)	7,894	25% (↑)	31,562
Los Gatos	1,138	3.4% (↓)	7,483	22.5% (↑)	33,309
Milpitas	5,239	6.6% (↑)	17,458	21.9% (↑)	79,593
Monte Sereno	64	1.8% (↓)	806	23% (↑)	3,502
Morgan Hill	3,241	7.2% (↑)	11,726	25.9% (↑)	45,267
Mountain View	5,238	6.4% (↑)	16,718	20.3% (↓)	82,409
Palo Alto	3,257	4.7% (↓)	15,776	23% (↑)	68,624
San Jose	57,547	5.7% (→)	221,541	21.9% (↑)	1,013,337
San Martin	233	3.5% (↓)	921	13.8% (↓)	6,655
Santa Clara	8,433	6.6% (↑)	24,549	19.2% (↓)	127,922
Saratoga	609	2.0% (↓)	6,350	20.4% (↓)	31,194
Sunnyvale	10,898	7.0% (↑)	32,463	20.9% (↓)	155,550
<b>San Benito County</b>	<b>4,136</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>16,452</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>63,329</b>
Hollister	2,937	7.1% (↑)	11,701	28.5% (↑)	41,077
San Juan Bautista	196	10.3% (↑)	487	25.7% (↑)	1,896
Paicines/Tres Pinos	57	6.1% (↓)	162	17.3% (↓)	934

**Abbreviations:** y = Years Old; Pct. = Percent; No. = Number.

**Note:** \* = Calculated columns. Arrows next to percentages indicate whether the city proportion is higher or lower than the overall county proportion. Horizontal arrows indicate that the city proportion is equal to the overall county proportion.

**Source:** Table DP05, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-21), U.S. Census Bureau.

## Family Structure and Children's Home Life

The average household size varies by city, with Santa Clara County cities ranging from 2.4 in Mountain View to 3.4 in Gilroy; in San Benito County, the average ranges from 2.7 in San Juan Bautista to 3.5 in Hollister (see Table 4). The cities of San Jose, Sunnyvale, and Santa Clara have over 10,000 households with one or more children. San Jose has by far the greatest number of households with children, at 104,143 households. Nearly half of households with children under 18 have children ages 0-5 years in Mountain View, Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale. San Juan Bautista and Paicines/Tres Pinos in San Benito County have even higher percentages of households with children under six, at 53% and 57%, respectively.

**TABLE 4. HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE, BY CITY AND PRESENCE OF CHILDREN (2021)**

	Total Households		Households with children Under 18y	
	No. Households	Avg. Household Size	No. Households	Pct. with Child 0-5y*
<b>Santa Clara County</b>	646,847	2.9	208,224	39.1%
Campbell	17,346	2.5	5,230	44.8%
Cupertino	20,963	2.9	9,208	28.1%
Gilroy	17,023	3.4	7,090	36.6%
Los Altos	10,805	2.9	4,118	30.1%
Los Gatos	13,036	2.5	4,062	27.1%
Milpitas	23,681	3.3	8,354	45.4%
Monte Sereno	1,219	2.9	327	29.9%
Morgan Hill	14,721	3.1	5,382	38.6%
Mountain View	34,316	2.4	8,900	48.3%
Palo Alto	26,007	2.6	8,623	30.7%
San Jose	324,376	3.1	104,143	38.5%
San Martin	2,040	3.2	451	36.1%
Santa Clara	45,830	2.7	13,370	48.8%
Saratoga	11,039	2.8	3,657	15.1%
Sunnyvale	57,565	2.7	17,726	49.7%
<b>San Benito County</b>	19,144	3.3	6,934	41.3%
Hollister	11,736	3.5	5,003	39.6%
San Juan Bautista	699	2.7	168	53.0%
Paicines/Tres Pinos	276	3.4	56	57.1%

**Abbreviations:** y = Years Old; No. = Number; Avg. = Average; Pct. = Percent.

**Note:** \* = Columns calculated by totaling the number of households with only children under age 6 and the number of households with at least one child under age 6 and at least one between the ages of 6 – 17 divided by the total number of households with children under 18.

**Source:** Table SI 101, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, households headed by single women and families with young children (i.e., children under the age of six years) are at a greater risk for homelessness.<sup>6</sup> Though San Benito County has fewer single-parent, female-headed households with children, the proportion of these households with at least one child under 6 years old is similar to the proportions of these households in Santa Clara County (26% and 29% respectively; see Table 5). In San Jose, there are over 20,000 households with children that are headed by a single parent; over two-thirds of these households are female-headed. Thirty-one percent of single-parent, female-headed households in San Jose have one or more children under 6 years old. Additionally, in Campbell and Mountain View over 40% of single-parent, female-headed households have young children under 6. In Hollister, two-thirds of single-parent households with children are female-headed, 23% of which have at least one child ages 0-5. Though there are fewer single-parent families with children in San Juan Bautista compared to many other cities, all those that are female-headed have one or more children under 6 years old. These data suggest that the need for additional services, such as housing and food assistance, may be greater among areas

<sup>6</sup> U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). Characteristics and Dynamics of Homeless Families with Children. Retrieved from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/>



with high percentages of single-parent households with young children than in other cities within the Head Start service area. More information on poverty status and homelessness is provided in Chapter 3: Income Characteristics.

**TABLE 5. HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE OF FAMILIES WITH AT LEAST 1 CHILD, BY CITY (2021)**

	Married-Family Households		Male-Headed Households		Female-Headed Households	
	No. with 0-17y	Pct. with 0-5y*	No. with 0-17y	Pct. with 0-5y*	No. with 0-17y	Pct. with 0-5y*
<b>Santa Clara County</b>	<b>169,520</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>12,957</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>25,747</b>	<b>28.6%</b>
Campbell	3,916	48.5%	573	21.4%	741	42.8%
Cupertino	8,435	29.8%	196	17.9%	577	7.3%
Gilroy	5,204	39.8%	492	16.5%	1,394	31.8%
Los Altos	3,893	30.7%	56	26.8%	169	19.0%
Los Gatos	3,622	28.7%	193	25.9%	247	5.2%
Milpitas	7,169	50.0%	517	29.0%	668	8.7%
Monte Sereno	311	29.6%	10	60.0%	6	0.0%
Morgan Hill	4,334	45.3%	233	36.1%	815	3.5%
Mountain View	7,436	50.5%	506	29.4%	958	41.9%
Palo Alto	7,514	32.7%	420	24.6%	689	12.2%
San Jose	81,391	40.5%	7,177	31.1%	15,575	31.3%
San Martin	405	40.3%	21	0.0%	25	0.0%
Santa Clara	11,239	53.1%	848	24.8%	1,283	27.2%
Saratoga	3,470	15.7%	53	0.0%	134	7.5%
Sunnyvale	15,059	53.3%	1,009	38.8%	1,658	23.6%
<b>San Benito County</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>47.5%</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>25.9%</b>
Hollister	3,512	47.7%	454	16.7%	1,037	22.5%
San Juan Bautista	143	55.3%	15	0.0%	10	100.0%
Paicines/Tres Pinos	56	57.1%	0	N/A	0	N/A

**Abbreviations:** y = Years Old; Pct. = Percent; No. = Number.

**Note:** \* = Columns calculated by totaling the number of households with only children under age 6 and the number of households with at least one child under age 6 and at least one between the ages of 6 – 17 divided by the total number of households with children under 18.

**Source:** Table SI 101, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

## Characteristics of Birthing Parents

Table 6 describes the various characteristics of parents who gave birth within a 12-month period in Santa Clara County, San Benito County, and California as a whole. A lower proportion of Santa Clara County parents who gave birth in 2022 were Hispanic/Latino (22%) compared to the proportion within San Benito (53%) and throughout the state (47%). Santa Clara and San Benito both have lower rates of teenage parents who had recently given birth (0.5% and 0.0%, respectively) than California (1.5%). Moreover, a higher proportion of recent births in Santa Clara and San Benito were to foreign-born parents (52% and 45%) relative to the statewide proportion of 30%.

Santa Clara County parents with a recent birth also had much higher educational attainment than their peers in San Benito and California as a whole, with 63% having a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 47% in San Benito and 40% statewide. Santa Clara and San Benito parents who gave birth in 2022 were also more likely to be employed, with 71% in Santa Clara and 91% in San Benito in the labor force compared to 65% of California parents in the same category.

**TABLE 6. SELECT CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN WHO GAVE BIRTH DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS (2022)**

		California	Santa Clara	San Benito
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Hispanic/Latino origin (any race)	47.3%	22.4%	52.6%
<b>Age Group</b>	15 to 19 years	1.5%	0.5%	0.0%
	20 to 50 years	98.5%	99.5%	100.0%
<b>Nativity</b>	Native	70.2%	48.0%	55.2%
	Foreign born	29.8%	52.0 %	44.8%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>	High school graduate or less	31.9%	19.2%	22.3%
	Some college or associate's degree	28.5%	17.8%	31.0%
	Bachelor's or Graduate degree	39.6%	63.0%	46.7%
<b>Employment</b>	In labor force	65.1%	71.0%	91.5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>453,850</b>	<b>20,960</b>	<b>715</b>

**Note:** Data presented in this table refers specifically to people who have given birth during the 12-month period leading up to the point at which the data was collected; births that occurred before this 12-month period are not counted. The term “women” has been retained for this table as a reflection of the category that was reported by the data source. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Foreign born excludes people born outside the United States to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

**Source:** Calculated from Table S1301, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2022), U.S. Census Bureau.



## Summary

Notable demographic characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- Children of Asian descent make up the greatest share of children between 0-5 years at approximately 37%, followed by Hispanic (26%) and White (22%) children.
- There are 110,990 children aged 5 or younger in Santa Clara County, comprising approximately 6% of the general population.
- In some cities, the population of children under 6 years old exceeds 5,000; in San Jose alone, there are 57,547 children under the age of 6.
- About one in four households (22%) in Santa Clara County have children under the age of 18. Of households with children, approximately 40% have at least one child under the age of 6. Roughly half of households with children in Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and Mountain View have at least one child under age 6.

Notable demographic characteristics for San Benito County:

- Two out of three children aged 0-5 years in San Benito are Hispanic, and one quarter of children under 6 years old are White.
- There are just over 4,000 children aged 5 or younger in San Benito County, representing approximately 7% of the general population.
- Over forty percent of households with children in San Benito County have at least one child under 6 years old.

Notable demographic characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- The number of child births in both counties is expected to sharply decline between 2022 and 2023. In Santa Clara County, the number of child births will rise steadily for the next five years, while child births are expected to plateau in San Benito County by 2026.
- Children under the age of 6 years make up approximately 6-7% of the entire population in both counties.
- The proportion of Hispanic children is much greater in San Benito County than in Santa Clara County. Among children under 6 years old in Santa Clara County, 26% are Hispanic, whereas in San Benito, approximately 68% of children in the same age range are Hispanic.
- In 2022, 91.5% of parents in San Benito who gave birth in the past 12 months were in the labor force; by contrast, the proportion in Santa Clara County was 71.0% of parents who gave birth during the same year.

## Chapter 3: Income Characteristics

### Background

The economic status of families and individuals is linked to the health and well-being of children and demonstrates the need for community resources within a county. Included in this chapter is a summary of economic indicators, including family and household incomes, cost estimates for housing and rent, unemployment rates, and rates for families living in poverty in Santa Clara and San Benito County.

### Median Household Income and Median Family Income

Median household income divides households into two equal groups with half earning less than the median and half earning more. A household is defined as anyone living at the same residence; a family is defined as a group of two or more individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption living at the same residence. Families living in Santa Clara County generally have higher median household and family incomes compared to those in San Benito County.



The median household income (MHI) in Santa Clara County increased by nearly 58% between 2011 and 2021 (see Table 7). Meanwhile, in San Benito County the MHI increased by around 46% for the same period. Mirroring the trend for MHI, the median family income (MFI) increased in both counties between 2011 and 2021.

**TABLE 7. CHANGE IN MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD (MHI) AND MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME (MFI)**

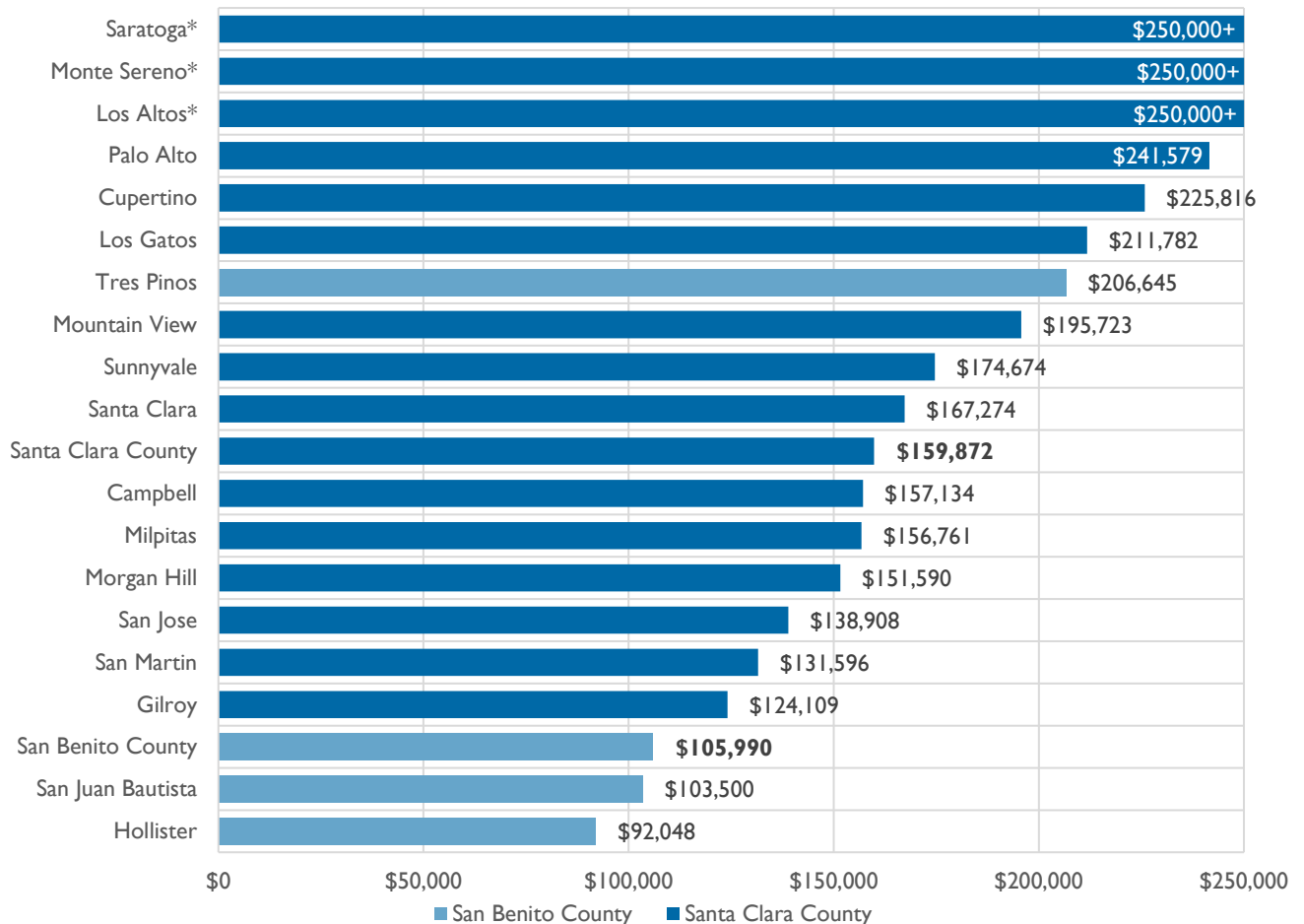
	MHI			MFI		
	2011	2021	Pct. Change	2011	2021	Pct. Change
Santa Clara County	\$89,064	\$140,258	<b>57.5%</b>	\$103,255	\$159,872	<b>54.8%</b>
San Benito County	\$65,570	\$95,606	<b>45.8%</b>	\$73,150	\$105,990	<b>44.9%</b>

**Source:** Table DP03, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2007-2011, 2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.



Figure 3 summarizes the 2021 median family income (MFI) for cities in Santa Clara and San Benito County. Cities within Santa Clara County have an MFI that ranges from a low of \$124,109 (Gilroy) to a high above \$250,000 (Saratoga, Los Altos, and Monte Sereno). San Jose, the city with the largest population, has an MFI of \$138,908. The highest MFI in San Benito County is in Paicines/Tres Pinos at \$206,645 and the lowest is in Hollister at \$92,048.

**FIGURE 3. MEDIAN FAMILY INCOMES BY CITY (2021)**



**Note:** \* = Median family income exceeds the \$250,000 tick mark in the above figure.

**Source:** Table DP03, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

## Housing Characteristics and Costs

As shown in Table 8, the median value of owner-occupied housing units (OHUs) in Santa Clara County (\$1,134,400) is nearly twice that of owner-occupied housing units located in San Benito County (\$623,000). Despite having a greater proportion of owner-occupied housing units and lower housing costs than Santa Clara, in San Benito over 40% of housing units have rent costs that are 35% or greater of tenants' income, compared to 36% of those in Santa Clara. However, both counties fall below the statewide average of approximately 45%.

**TABLE 8. HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS AND COSTS (2021)**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
Percent of OHUs that are owner-occupied	55.5%	56.1%	67.6%
Median housing value of owner-OHUs	\$573,200	\$1,134,400	\$623,000
Percent of OHUs that are renter-occupied	44.5%	43.9%	32.4%
Median monthly housing costs for renter-OHUs	\$1,698	\$2,530	\$1,703
Gross Rent is 35% or more of HI	44.8%	36.0%	40.2%

**Abbreviations:** OHUs = Occupied Housing Units; HI = Household Income.

**Source:** Table CP04, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.



Condominiums or townhouses offer a more affordable housing alternative but carry additional considerations such as Homeowners Association (HOA) fees, shared walls, and parking restrictions. As shown in Table 9, by the end of the 2022 calendar year, the median price of a single-family home and a condo/townhouse in San Jose were \$1,550,000 and \$827,500 respectively.

In just one year, the median price for a single-family home in San Jose increased by 9.5%. As of end-of-year 2022, the cities of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Monte Sereno, and Palo Alto had a median price for a single-family home above \$3 million. Gilroy had the lowest median price for a single-family home in Santa Clara County at \$1,125,000, a 32% increase since 2020.

**TABLE 9. MEDIAN PRICE FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY (2020-2022)**

	Single Family Residence			Condo/Townhouse		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Campbell	\$1,493,000	\$1,726,000	\$1,900,000	\$920,900	\$930,000	\$1,025,000
Cupertino	\$2,265,000	\$2,810,000	\$2,950,000	\$1,260,000	\$1,315,000	\$1,300,750
Gilroy	\$850,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,125,000	\$499,500	\$591,000	\$614,000
Los Altos	\$3,350,000	\$4,100,000	\$4,200,000	\$1,688,000	\$1,548,000	\$1,583,000
Los Altos Hills	\$4,169,000	\$5,175,000	\$5,525,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Gatos	\$2,150,000	\$2,602,500	\$2,799,000	\$1,280,000	\$1,317,500	\$1,400,000
Milpitas	\$1,180,000	\$1,393,000	\$1,515,000	\$900,000	\$1,007,444	\$1,155,001
Monte Sereno	\$3,325,000	\$3,950,000	\$4,100,000	N/A	N/A	\$2,270,000
Morgan Hill	\$1,075,000	\$1,325,000	\$1,460,000	\$715,000	\$820,000	\$899,988
Mountain View	\$2,200,000	\$2,450,000	\$2,605,000	\$1,217,000	\$1,285,000	\$1,285,000
Palo Alto	\$3,000,000	\$3,560,000	\$3,610,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,509,000	\$1,600,000
San Jose	\$1,230,000	\$1,415,500	\$1,550,000	\$710,000	\$771,100	\$827,500
San Martin	\$1,270,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,499,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Clara	\$1,430,000	\$1,641,000	\$1,800,000	\$970,000	\$932,880	\$960,000
Saratoga	\$2,900,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,800,000	\$1,060,000	\$1,370,000	\$1,252,500
Sunnyvale	\$1,916,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,237,500	\$1,291,875	\$1,370,000

**Abbreviations:** N/A = data not available.

**Note:** Prices are End-of-Year figures.

**Source:** Year-End Statistics, Marketing Housing Statistics, Santa Clara County Association of Realtors. Retrieved from <https://www.sccaor.com/housing-stats/>

## Area Rents

The cost for rental housing units in both Santa Clara County and San Benito County has steadily increased since 2019. For families that live in Santa Clara County, the average rent in 2023 ranged from \$2,223 for a studio (efficiency) to \$4,202 for a four-bedroom apartment (see Table 10). Projected costs for 2024 show an increase of rent by only as much as \$261 per month in Santa Clara County, whereas rents in San Benito County are projected to increase anywhere from \$266 at the lowest to as much as \$487 per month (more than a 15% increase from 2023 rates).

**TABLE 10. FAIR MARKET RENT FOR ALL BEDROOM SIZES BY COUNTY BY YEAR (2019-2024)**

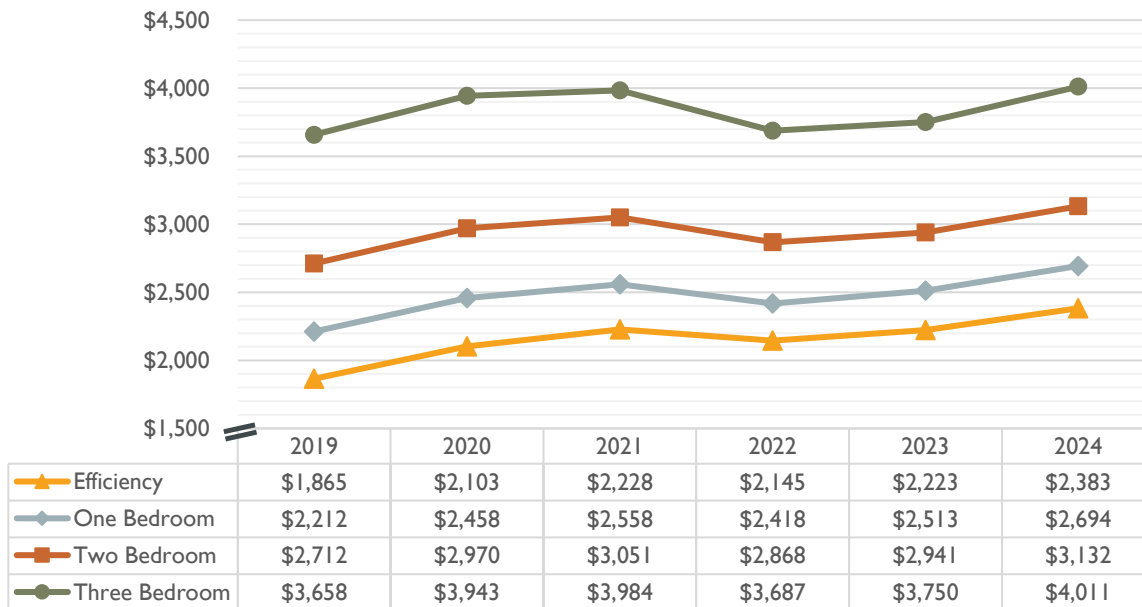
	Efficiency	One Bedroom	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom
<b>Santa Clara County</b>					
2024	\$2,383	\$2,694	\$3,132	\$4,011	\$4,425
2023	\$2,223	\$2,513	\$2,941	\$3,750	\$4,202
2022	\$2,145	\$2,418	\$2,868	\$3,687	\$4,213
2021	\$2,228	\$2,558	\$3,051	\$3,984	\$4,593
2020	\$2,103	\$2,458	\$2,970	\$3,943	\$4,525
2019	\$1,865	\$2,212	\$2,712	\$3,658	\$4,198
<b>San Benito County</b>					
2024	\$1,707	\$1,917	\$2,519	\$3,550	\$4,121
2023	\$1,441	\$1,637	\$2,155	\$3,063	\$3,671
2022	\$1,096	\$1,253	\$1,649	\$2,342	\$2,822
2021	\$1,200	\$1,270	\$1,674	\$2,396	\$2,898
2020	\$1,290	\$1,298	\$1,710	\$2,467	\$3,002
2019	\$1,314	\$1,323	\$1,750	\$2,530	\$3,074

**Source:** Fair Market Rents (FMRs), HUD USER, Department of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html>



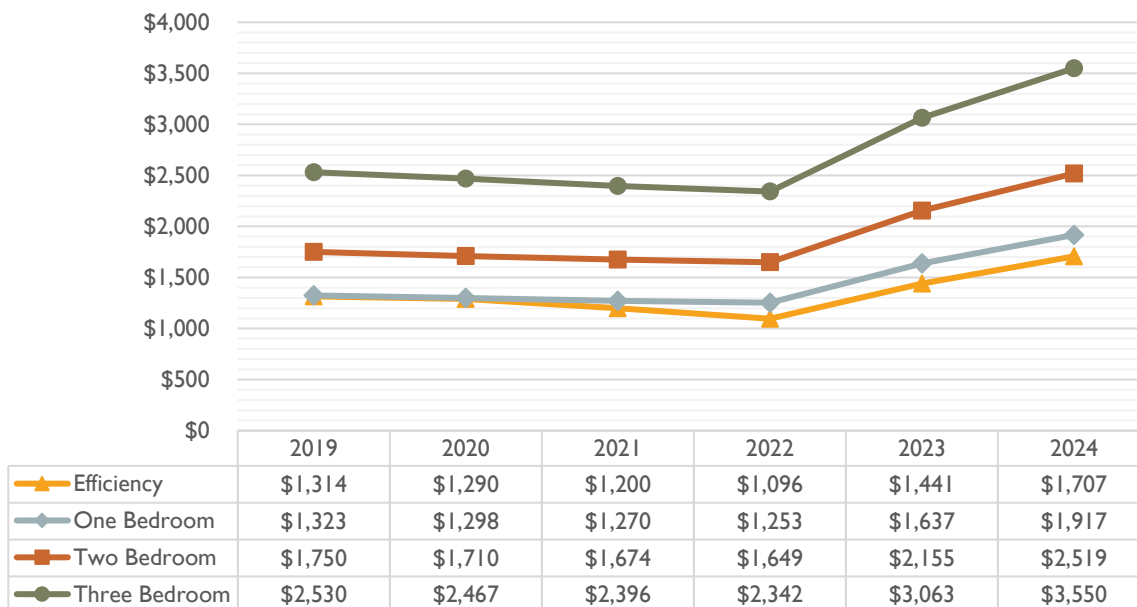
Figure 4 and Figure 5 further illustrate the trends in fair market rent for the two counties. As noted, rents are predicted to spike from 2022 to 2024 in San Benito County, whereas area rents are expected to increase moderately in Santa Clara County over the same time period.

**FIGURE 4. FAIR MARKET RENT FOR ALL BEDROOM SIZES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**



**Source:** Fair Market Rents (FMRs), HUD USER, Department of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html>

**FIGURE 5. FAIR MARKET RENT FOR ALL BEDROOM SIZES IN SAN BENITO COUNTY**



**Source:** Fair Market Rents (FMRs), HUD USER, Department of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html>

## State Income Limits for HUD Section 8 Housing Assistance

State income limits for HUD Section 8 housing assistance are provided in Table 11 (Santa Clara County) and Table 12 (San Benito County). As of 2023, a family of four in Santa Clara earning \$137,100 (i.e., low income) or less per year may qualify for housing assistance. Those earning less than \$53,500 are considered extremely low income.

**TABLE 11. HOUSING ASSISTANCE INCOME LIMITS FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY (2023)**

	Number of People in Family							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
LI	\$96,000	\$109,700	\$123,400	<b>\$137,100</b>	\$148,100	\$159,050	\$170,050	\$181,000
VLI	\$62,450	\$71,400	\$80,300	<b>\$89,200</b>	\$96,350	\$103,500	\$110,650	\$117,750
ELI	\$37,450	\$42,800	\$48,150	<b>\$53,500</b>	\$57,800	\$62,100	\$66,350	\$70,650

**Abbreviations:** LI = Low Income; VLI = Very Low Income; ELI = Extremely Low Income

**Note:** Low income is defined as 80% of area median income. Very low income is defined as 50% of area median income. Extremely low income is 30% of area median income. Income Limit areas are based on FY 2023 Fair Market Rent (FMR) areas.

**Source:** Income Limits, HUD USER, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>.

In San Benito County, a family of four earning less than \$89,050 is considered low income (see Table 12). A family of four earning less than \$33,400 is considered extremely low income. Families falling into the “Extremely Low” classification in either county have incomes that exceed income eligibility criteria for Head Start.

**TABLE 12. HOUSING ASSISTANCE INCOME LIMITS FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY (2023)**

	Number of People in Family							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
LI	\$62,350	\$71,250	\$80,150	<b>\$89,050</b>	\$96,200	\$103,300	\$110,450	\$117,550
VLI	\$39,000	\$44,550	\$50,100	<b>\$55,650</b>	\$60,150	\$64,600	\$69,050	\$73,500
ELI	\$23,400	\$26,750	\$30,100	<b>\$33,400</b>	\$36,100	\$40,280	\$45,420	\$50,560

**Abbreviations:** LI = Low Income; VLI = Very Low Income; ELI = Extremely Low Income

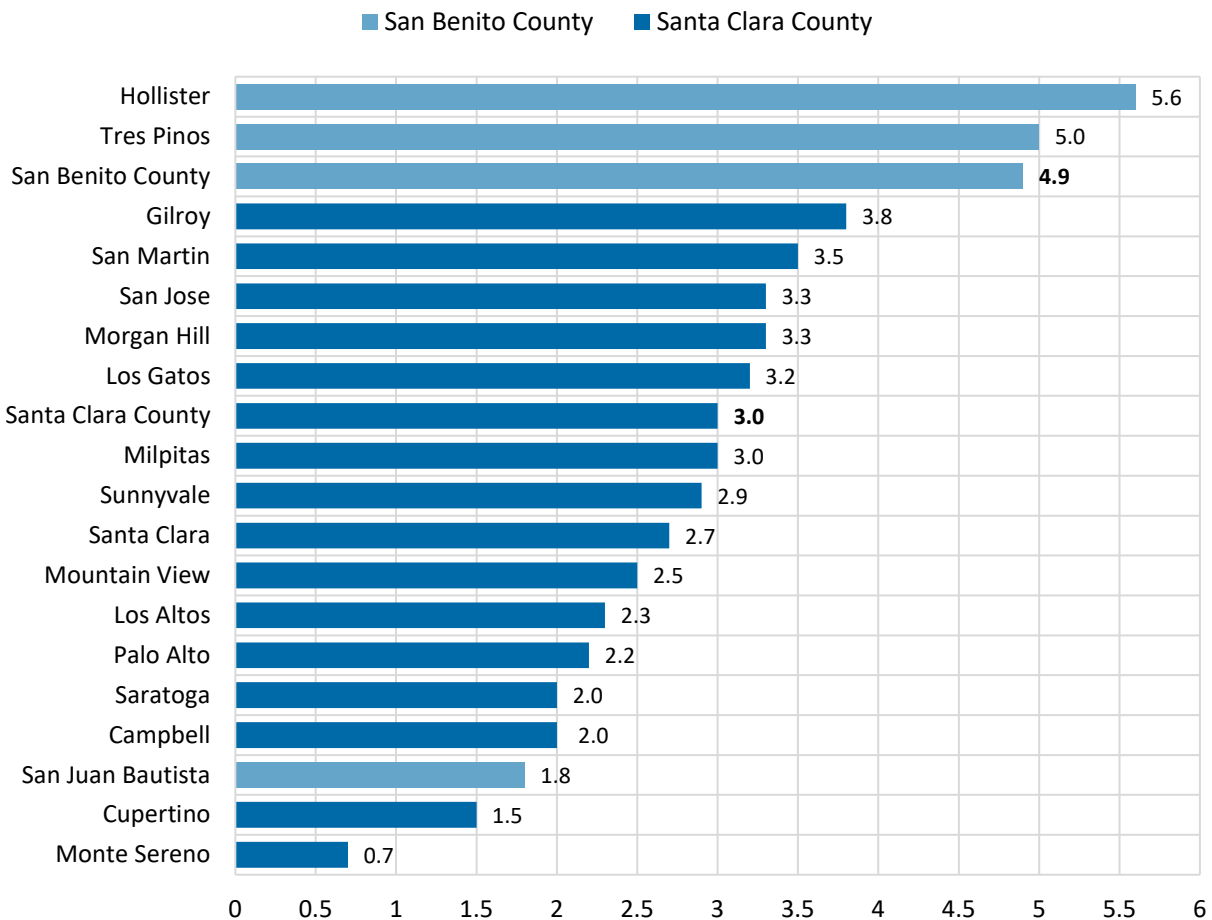
**Note:** Low income is defined as 80% of area median income. Very low income is defined as 50% of area median income. Extremely low income is 30% of area median income. Income Limit areas are based on FY 2023 Fair Market Rent (FMR) areas.

**Source:** Income Limits, HUD USER, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>.

## Unemployment

As shown in Figure 6 below, unemployment rates for San Benito County (4.9%) are higher than Santa Clara County (3.0%). In 2021, the city of Hollister had the highest unemployment rate at 5.6% of the adult working population. In general, cities that are considered more rural, such as Tres Pinos, Hollister, and Gilroy, where there may be fewer opportunities for work, have the highest unemployment rates. In 2021, the city of San Jose had the third-highest unemployment rate (3.3%) in Santa Clara County.

**FIGURE 6. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY CITY (2021)**



**Source:** Table DP03, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

## The Impact of COVID-19 on Employment

According to the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, the Bay Area fully recovered its pre-pandemic jobs in January 2023, but still lags behind other regions nationwide. This is especially true for service industries such as leisure and hospitality, which have yet to fully recover from pre-pandemic levels. Job postings in San Jose have dropped 33% between July 2018-19 and July 2022-23, reflecting the shift in hiring and headquartering to states such as Texas, Arizona, and Florida.<sup>7</sup>

As the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center reports, both essential and non-essential Black, Native American, and Hispanic/Latinx workers face a disproportionately higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 when compared to White workers. Because over half of Black, Native American, and Hispanic/Latinx workers hold lower-paying jobs that cannot be done remotely, exposure sources are more varied and frequently include coworkers, clients, and the general public, both at work and during commute to worksites.<sup>8</sup> The disproportionate risk extends to household members as well, placing children living in the same home of the lower-wage and essential workers at a higher risk of exposure to the virus due to efficient household transmission.

As of October 2023, Hispanic/Latinx youth (ages 0-17) represent only one-fourth (24%) of vaccinated children in Santa Clara County, despite representing over one-third (35%) of the county's youth.<sup>9</sup> (More information on youth health and wellbeing is provided in Chapter 5: Health Characteristics).

Compounding the strain on workers seeking to remain or become employed, supports for the labor force have narrowed, including the expiration of federal provisions for unemployment which ended on September 4, 2021, and provided financial supports not otherwise available through state systems. Without assistance for services workers formerly employed in these lower-wage positions and industries, the socio-economic gap will likely continue as further support systems and public safety measures are lifted, reduced, or allowed to expire.

## Self-Sufficiency Standard Income

The Self-Sufficiency Standard Index (SSSI) is a tool to calculate the income necessary for families of various sizes and types to meet basic needs such as childcare, housing, food, and transportation. This index assumes that adults in the household are non-disabled adults between 18 and 65 years old who work full-time, year-round, with no public (e.g., public housing) or private/informal (e.g., babysitting by a relative) assistance. Table 13 shows the various incomes necessary for families to be considered self-sufficient in Santa Clara County, utilizing the most recent available data (2021).

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<sup>7</sup> Economic Profile 2023: Bay Area Economic Recovery Tracker, Bay Area Council Economic Institute. Retrieved from <http://www.bayareaeconomy.org/report/bay-area-economic-recovery-tracker/> on Oct. 27, 2023.

<sup>8</sup> How Risk of Exposure to the Coronavirus at Work Varies by Race and Ethnicity and How to Protect the Health and Well-Being of Workers and Their Families (2020). Urban Institute. Available at: [https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/103278/how-risk-of-exposure-to-the-coronavirus-at-work-varies\\_1.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/103278/how-risk-of-exposure-to-the-coronavirus-at-work-varies_1.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> COVID-19 vaccinations among county residents by race/ethnicity. SCC GOV COVID-19 Open Data Portal. Retrieved from <https://data.sccgov.org/COVID-19/COVID-19-vaccinations-among-county-residents-by-ra/cj2d-vr2e> on Nov. 14, 2023.

Depending on the number of children, a family in Santa Clara must earn \$50,000 more annually than a family of equal size in San Benito, and single-parent families in Santa Clara generally must earn a higher annual income than two-parent families in San Benito to meet the self-sufficiency standard. For example, a single parent with one infant and one preschooler in need of childcare earning \$98,417 annually could potentially cover the cost-of-living expenses in San Benito County. In Santa Clara County, the same family would need to earn \$150,633.

For two-parent families with one infant and one preschooler both in need of childcare, an annual income of \$104,995 could meet self-sufficient living expenses in San Benito County, whereas a family with the same structure would need an annual income of \$153,682 as residents of Santa Clara County.

It should be noted that for families in San Benito County fitting this demographic and family structure, the Self-sufficiency Standard Index threshold is \$74,995 higher than the 2023 qualifying income limit for Head Start. The threshold would be \$123,682 higher than the qualifying income limit if that same family resided in Santa Clara County.

**TABLE 13. ANNUAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD INCOMES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE (2021)**

	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
<b>One-Adult Households</b>		
1 Infant	\$112,559	\$76,744
2 Infants	\$156,200	\$105,855
1 Infant, 1 Preschooler	\$150,633	\$98,417
1 Preschooler	\$107,001	\$70,691
2 Preschoolers	\$145,067	\$91,669
<b>Two-Adult Households</b>		
1 Infant	\$117,531	\$86,982
2 Infants	\$159,074	\$111,426
1 Infant, 1 Preschooler	\$153,682	\$104,995
1 Preschooler	\$112,259	\$81,280
2 Preschoolers	\$148,289	\$98,799

**Source:** Self-Sufficiency Standard Tables (2021), California, Self Sufficiency Standard, University of Washington. Retrieved from <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

### Children in Families with Incomes at or Below the Federal Poverty Level

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, if a family's total pre-tax income, not including capital gains or noncash benefits, is less than the income needed by that family to cover the cost of basic necessities such as food, utilities, and accommodations (i.e., pre-tax income for the family size falls below annual Federal Poverty Level (FPL) calculations) then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty.



A higher percentage of families with children in poverty live in San Benito County (9.0% of 7,986 families) than in Santa Clara County (5.1% of 226,056 families; see Table 14). From 2011 to 2021, countywide poverty rates among families with children under the age of 18 years decreased by nearly 5 percentage points in San Benito County and nearly 4 percentage points in Santa Clara County.

**TABLE 14. FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS LIVING AT OR BELOW FPL**

	2011		2021		Pct. Difference
	No. with Children	Pct. in Poverty	No. with Children	Pct. in Poverty	
<b>Santa Clara County</b>	<b>229,106</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>226,056</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>
Campbell	5,072	5.9%	5,419	3.1%	-2.8%
Cupertino	9,288	2.4%	9,518	3.4%	1.0%
Gilroy	6,861	11.4%	7,787	5.9%	-5.5%
Los Altos	3,952	0.9%	4,332	2.8%	1.9%
Los Gatos	3,710	2.2%	4,222	1.3%	-0.9%
Milpitas	8,517	6.1%	9,287	5.8%	-0.3%
Monte Sereno	416	0.0%	348	0.0%	0.0%
Morgan Hill	5,623	10.1%	5,889	3.1%	-7.0%
Mountain View	8,258	5.9%	9,196	2.8%	-3.1%
Palo Alto	8,706	3.5%	8,758	3.1%	-0.4%
San Jose	121,765	11.0%	115,800	6.3%	-4.7%
San Martin	773	13.7%	573	0.0%	-13.7%
Santa Clara	14,696	8.3%	14,108	4.1%	-4.2%
Saratoga	4,144	3.1%	3,742	1.4%	-1.7%
Sunnyvale	18,156	5.4%	18,712	4.0%	-1.4%
<b>San Benito County</b>	<b>7,882</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>7,986</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>-4.9%</b>
Hollister	5,226	17.3%	5,768	10.50%	-6.8%
San Juan Bautista	231	13.0%	189	16.40%	3.4%
Tres Pinos	44	6.8%	68	4.40%	-2.4%

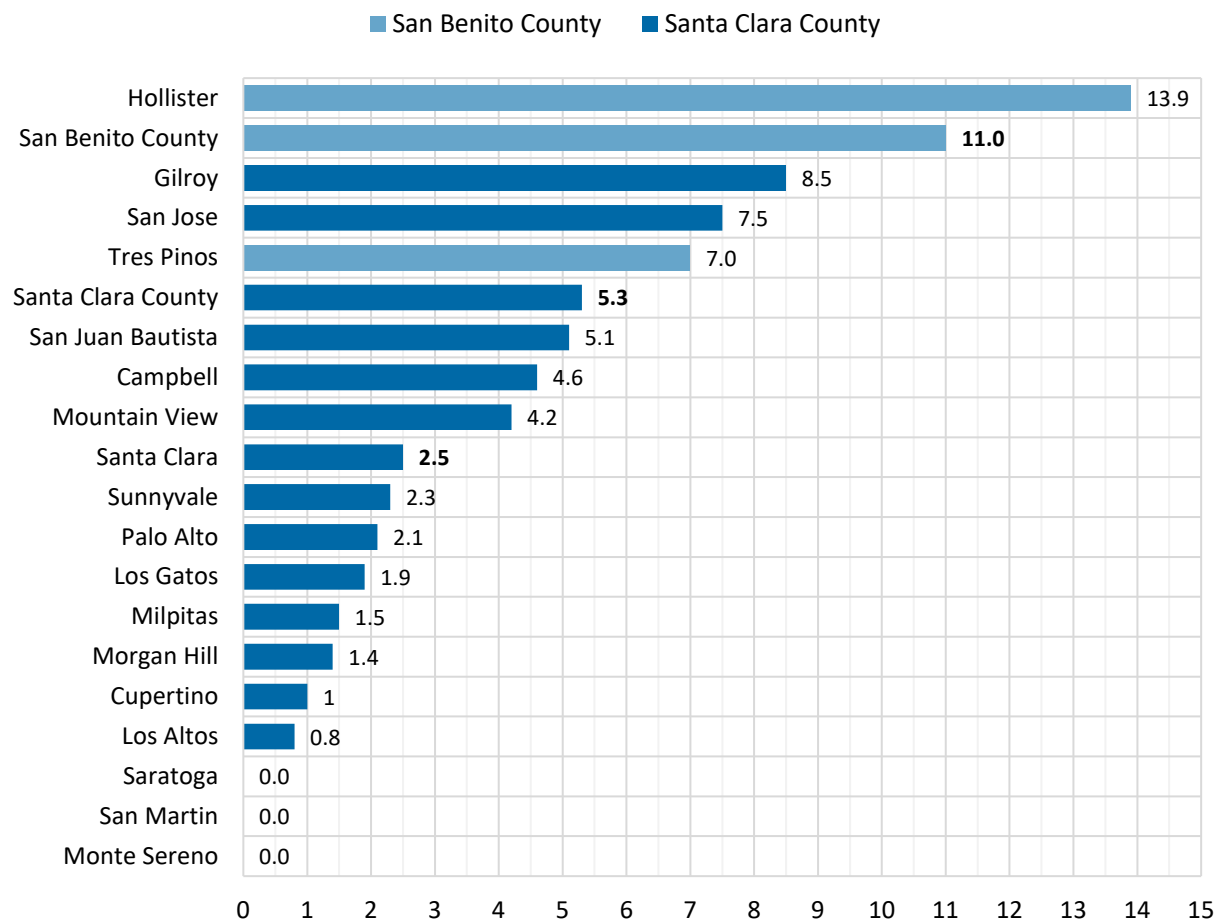
**Abbreviations:** FPL = Federal Poverty Level; Pct. = Percent; No. = Number.

**Note:** Counts of families with children include all families with related children under 18 years old, regardless of poverty status.

**Source:** Table S1702, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2007-2011, 2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

Data on children under six years who are living at or below the federal poverty level (FPL) are provided in Figure 7. Hollister had the highest child poverty rate (13.9%) among all cities across both counties, almost two times greater than that of San Jose, Santa Clara’s most populated city (7.5%). Overall, the child poverty rate for San Benito County is twice as high as that of Santa Clara County, at 11.0% compared to 5.3%. It should be noted that, due to population differences, the estimated number of children under six living at or below FPL is higher in Santa Clara County (n=5,825) relative to San Benito County (n=443).

**FIGURE 7. POVERTY RATES AMONG CHILDREN AGES 0-5 YEARS BY CITY (2021)**



**Source:** Table SI701, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

### California Cash Aid Programs

The State of California provides cash aid to needy families through several public assistance programs. This section contains information related to two of those programs, CalWORKs and CalFresh, and the number of recipients who reside in Santa Clara and San Benito County.

## CalWORKs

CalWORKs is an assistance program that gives cash aid and services to eligible California families.<sup>10</sup> The program serves all 58 counties in the state and is operated locally. If a family has little or no cash and needs housing, food, utilities, clothing, or medical care, they may be eligible to receive immediate short-term help. Families that apply and qualify for ongoing assistance receive money each month to help pay for housing, food, and other necessary expenses.

To be eligible for the program, residents must be unemployed or underemployed and have a very low income. Additionally, one or more the following criteria must apply:

- Have a child 18 years of age or younger, or
- Be pregnant, or
- Be 18 years of age or younger and be head of household.

A summary of the number of persons in Santa Clara and San Benito County who benefitted from the CalWORKs Cash Grant program is provided in Table 15. Both counties have seen an overall reduction since 2017-18 across caseloads. In Santa Clara County, the total for average monthly persons benefiting from CalWORKs has decreased by over 10%. In San Benito County, there were 230 fewer average monthly persons benefiting from CalWORKs in 2022-23, down approximately 21% from 2017-18.



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<sup>10</sup> California CalWORKs (TANF), Financial Assistance, Benefit Categories, Benefits.gov.

Notably, the percent change in persons benefitting from CalWORKs varied significantly by caseload type, particularly for TANF Timed-Out, Safety Net/Fleeing Felon/LTS, and Two-Parent Families. A TANF “timed-out” case is one in which the head of household or spouse of the head-of household (parent, stepparent, or caretaker relative) has received Federal TANF assistance for a total of 60 cumulative months and continues to be eligible for CalWORKs assistance.<sup>11</sup> Across both counties, persons benefitting from CalWORKs in the TANF Timed-Out category increased by 89% and 103% in Santa Clara and San Benito respectively, indicating that the number of persons on long-term CalWORKs assistance has increased considerably in the last five years. Conversely, the number of persons receiving CalWORKs in the Safety Net/Fleeing Felon/LTS category has decreased by 74% and 73% in Santa Clara and San Benito, respectively, over the same period. Additionally, the average monthly persons receiving CalWORKs in two-person families increased by 77% for Santa Clara, while staying relatively stable for San Benito (5% increase).

**TABLE 15. AVERAGE MONTHLY PERSONS BENEFITING FROM CALWORKS CASH GRANT**

	2017-18	2022-23	Difference	Percent Change
<b>Santa Clara County</b>	<b>14,336</b>	<b>12,830</b>	<b>-1,506</b>	<b>-10.5%</b>
Two-Parent Families	1,040	1,843	803	<b>77.2%</b>
Zero-Parent Families	4,995	3,142	-1,853	<b>-37.1%</b>
All Other Families	4,666	5,015	349	<b>7.5%</b>
TANF Timed-Out	1,152	2,177	1,025	<b>89.0%</b>
Safety Net/Fleeing Felon/LTS	2,483	653	-1,830	<b>-73.7%</b>
<b>San Benito County</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>-230</b>	<b>-21.4%</b>
Two-Parent Families	107	112	5	<b>4.7%</b>
Zero-Parent Families	280	230	-50	<b>-17.9%</b>
All Other Families	456	305	-151	<b>-33.1%</b>
TANF Timed-Out	78	158	80	<b>102.6%</b>
Safety Net/Fleeing Felon/LTS	156	42	-114	<b>-73.1%</b>

**Abbreviations:** TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; LTS = Long-term Sanction.

**Note:** Average monthly persons benefiting from CalWORKs cash grant calculated by averaging the number of total persons in 8a cases (see 8a3 values) reported in the annual CalWORKs Cash Grant Caseload Movement Report (CA 237 CW) by available months for all caseload types. The “Total” is the sum of averages across caseload types.

**Source:** CA 237 CW – CalWORKs Cash Grant Caseload Movement Report (2017-18, 2022-23), CA Department of Social Services. Retrieved from <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/research-and-data/calworks-data-tables/ca-237-cw>.

<sup>11</sup> All County Letter No. 01-66; State of California Department of Social Services. Retrieved from <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl01/pdf/01-66.pdf> on Oct. 11, 2023.

## CalFresh

CalFresh is a public assistance program that provides financial assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families dealing with food insecurity. Like CalWORKs, the program serves all 58 counties in the state and is operated locally. The amount of financial assistance provided depends on several factors, including income, the number of people who are eligible, and the special needs of any of those family members. In addition to financial assistance, CalFresh provides supports such as education services and resources, food distribution, and employment and training access assistance. Starting in 2022-23, families who demonstrate proof of CalFresh receipt are considered categorically eligible for enrollment in Head Start in California.



Data on households with children under 18 years that received public assistance in 2022 and 2023 are provided in Table 16. The percentage of CalFresh individuals who are children under 18 years old are calculated in the table below. Overall, the proportion of CalFresh recipients in California who are children is 34% and nearly 40% in San Benito County, whereas the proportion in Santa Clara County is lower than both, at 28% of recipients.

**TABLE 16. FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS RECEIVING CALFRESH**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
CalFresh Households	3,069,157	78,024	3,459
CalFresh Persons	5,339,053	123,092	6,692
CalFresh Children under 18 years old	1,815,938	35,040	2,591
CalFresh Child-Only Households	155,824	4,741	221
Pct of CalFresh recipients who are under 18 years old	34%	28%	39%

**Note:** Table is populated from the most recent available data. CalFresh Households and Persons – August 2023, Monthly summary table. Children under 18 years old – July 2022, Annual summary table. CalFresh Child-Only Household – January 2022, Annual summary table. Percent of CalFresh persons under 18 years old were calculated by dividing CalFresh Children under 18 years old by CalFresh Persons.

**Source:** CalFresh Data Dashboard, Research and Data, Data Portal, CA Department of Social Services. Retrieved Nov. 13, 2023, from <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Data-Portal/Research-and-Data/CalFresh-Data-Dashboard>



## Summary

Notable economic characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- The median family income for Santa Clara County cities ranges widely, from \$124,109 in Gilroy to over \$250,000 in Saratoga, Los Altos and Monte Sereno.
- San Jose, the city with the largest population, has one of the highest unemployment rates in the county, at 3.3 in 2021, and a median family income that is nearly \$21,000 lower than the county median family income, at \$138,908.
  - According to 2022 data, the median price for a single-family home in San Jose was \$1,550,000; the median price of a townhouse was \$827,500.
  - San Jose has the highest number and proportion of families with children living in poverty for the county, at 6.3% and representing approximately 7,000 families.
- Gilroy has the highest unemployment rate in the county, at 3.8 in 2021, but also has the lowest median family income, at \$124,109 during the same year.
  - The median price for a single-family home in Gilroy is \$1,125,000; for townhouses, the median price is \$614,000.
  - The poverty rate for children under 6 years old is 8.5 in Gilroy; by contrast, the rates for San Jose and the overall county are 7.5 and 5.3, respectively.

Notable economic characteristics for San Benito County:

- The unemployment rate in San Benito County has been consistently higher than the rate in Santa Clara County; in 2021, San Benito had an unemployment rate of 4.9%, while Santa Clara had a 3.0% unemployment rate.
- The city of Hollister had the highest child poverty rate (13.9) among all cities within the service area, and higher than the countywide rate of 11.0. According to 2021 data, Hollister had the highest unemployment rate in both counties, at 5.6%.
- Though San Juan Bautista has only 189 families with children, the proportion living in poverty is the highest (16.4%) in the area; in Hollister, among the 6,000 families with children, approximately 11% are living below the poverty level.

Notable economic characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- Housing costs and income levels are typically higher in Santa Clara County compared to San Benito County.
  - The median household income in Santa Clara is \$44,652 higher than that of San Benito.
  - In Santa Clara County, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit is \$511,400 higher than that of San Benito County, and the median monthly rent is \$827 more expensive in Santa Clara than in San Benito.
- In 2022-23, the average monthly persons who receive CalWORKS in Santa Clara County was 12,830; in San Benito, the average was 847. Approximately 35,000 Santa Clara County children under 18 years old received CalFresh; approximately 2,591 San Benito children under 18 years old received CalFresh.
- The poverty rate for children under 6 years old is 2.5 in Santa Clara; the rate is 11.0 in San Benito.

## Chapter 4: Health Characteristics

### Background

This chapter provides an overview of the health status of the residents in Santa Clara and San Benito County. Emphasis is placed on county-level children's health data. It is acknowledged that certain areas within each county face differing challenges with healthcare and health outcomes. Areas within Santa Clara County with residents of lower socioeconomic status can translate into poorer health through social isolation and unequal access to the resources that would help residents live healthier, longer lives. The information in this chapter is intended to help guide the delivery of Head Start health services.

### Health Ranks

Many factors intersect to determine the health status of individuals and communities. The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) program from the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation utilizes county-level data from a variety of national sources to measure health metrics of nearly all counties within the country.<sup>12</sup> The CHR&R standardizes and combines these metrics based on a conceptual model of health to develop rankings that measure population health outcomes (mortality and morbidity) and health factors (determinants of health). A composite score of county-level data is summarized and averaged to create the rankings for each county within a state. A county that ranks first within the state would indicate that the county is healthiest among all ranked counties. Additional measures are summarized and reported by the CHR&R program but may not be included the calculated rankings; these additional topics include related topics such as life expectancy, food insecurity, and gender pay gap.



<sup>12</sup> County Health Rankings Model; County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) via University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Retrieved Nov. 7, 2023 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/county-health-rankings-model> on Nov. 7, 2023.

In 2023, Santa Clara County ranked second in Health Outcomes and fourth in Health Factors out of the 58 counties in California; by contrast, San Benito was ranked 19th and 22nd in Health Outcomes and Health Factors, respectively (see Table 17). In comparison, Los Angeles County was ranked 22nd and 30th in Health Outcomes and Health Factors, respectively, and San Francisco County ranked 7th and 3rd in these two categories. Rankings for sub-areas demonstrate similar patterns, with Santa Clara County having high rankings for metrics such as length of life, health behaviors, and clinical care.

Rankings demonstrate the strong position held by Santa Clara County in the list of healthiest counties when compared to other large counties, both nearby and in Southern California. San Benito County, much like other sparsely populated counties in California, has a lower ranking.

**TABLE 17. HEALTH RANKINGS BY COUNTY**

	Santa Clara County	San Benito County	Los Angeles County	San Francisco County
<b>Health Outcomes</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>
Length of Life	4	17	21	11
Quality of Life	4	23	29	7
<b>Health Factors</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>
Health Behaviors	1	19	10	3
Clinical Care	7	28	44	4
Social & Economic Factors	4	20	37	5
Physical Environment	21	41	58	3

**Note:** Ranks for 2023 are based on the 58 counties in California (CA). A lower number represents better health outcomes and factors.

**Source:** County Health Rankings & Roadmap (2023), University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/california/data-and-resources>

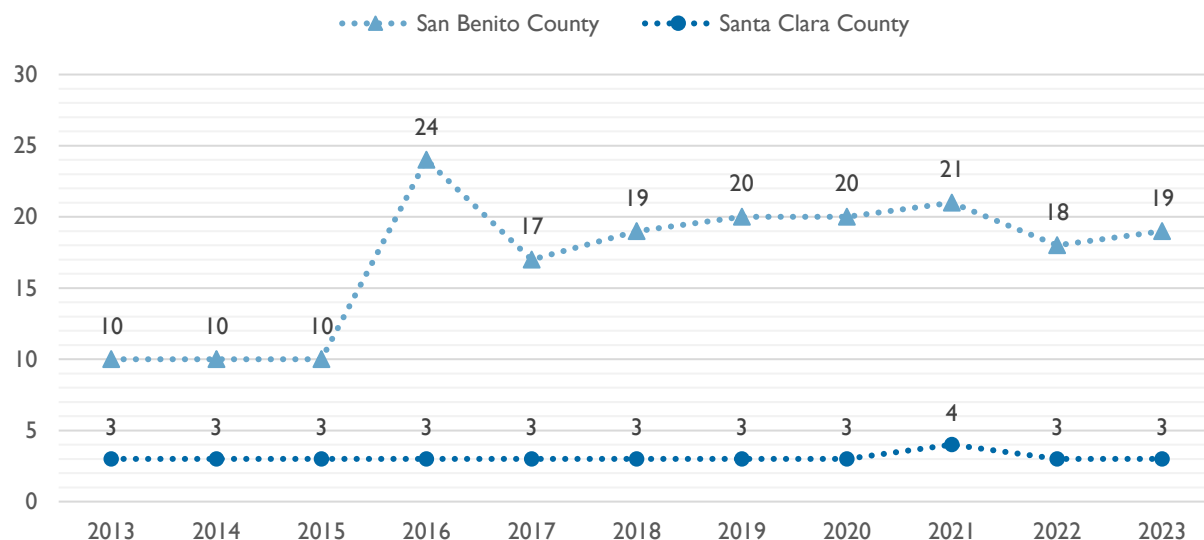
## Health Outcomes

The two primary sub-areas of Health Outcomes are length and quality of life. Further, the quality-of-life sub-area utilizes self-report data on fair or poor health and the average number of poor physical and mental health days among adults. Though not used in the CHR&R rankings, other relevant health outcome metrics include life expectancy, child mortality, infant mortality, HIV prevalence, and diabetes prevalence. Metrics that are reported annually under the category of Health Outcomes include but are not limited to:

- Life Expectancy: The average number of years a person can expect to live.
- Premature Death: Number of deaths (among residents under age 75) per 100,000 population.
- Child mortality: Number of deaths (among residents under age 18) per 100,000 population.
- Infant mortality: Number of infant deaths that occur within 1 year of birth, per 1,000 live births.
- Low birth weight: Percentage of live births with low birthweight (defined as < 2,500 grams).
- Poor or fair health: Percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health.
- Poor Physical Health Days: Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days.
- Poor Mental Health Days: Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days.

Overall ranks over time for the Health Outcomes of Santa Clara and San Benito County are plotted in Figure 8. In 2023, San Benito's Health Outcomes rank increased by one point. Santa Clara's rank has held relatively stable since 2013. By comparison, San Benito's rank has fluctuated and has generally worsened since that time. The decline in San Benito's rank over the past ten years can be attributed to a combination of worsening performance on key health outcomes indicators and improvements made in other counties such as Santa Cruz; however, San Benito County's overall Health Outcomes ranking has been relatively stable for the past five years.

**FIGURE 8. HEALTH OUTCOMES RANKS OVER TIME BY COUNTY**



**Source:** 2013-2023 County Health Rankings & Roadmap, University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Rank differences between counties can also be explained by differences in performance on length of life and quality of life measures (see Table 18). On average, life expectancy in San Benito is nearly three years lower than the life expectancy in Santa Clara County. Though not included in ranking calculations, there is also a difference in child mortality rates between the two counties, with a rate of 27 per 100,000 individuals under 18 years old in Santa Clara County and a rate of 31 per 100,000 individuals in San Benito County. Santa Clara County performs better in physical health quality of life indicators relative to the state average, but San Benito County's indicators are similar to or worse than statewide metrics. Santa Clara County residents tend to have fewer poor physical health days on average (2.5 days) than residents of San Benito County (3.3 days), where a greater percentage of adults self-reported being in poor or fair health (16% vs. 11% of respondents from Santa Clara).

**TABLE 18. HEALTH OUTCOMES INDICATORS BY COUNTY**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
<b>Length of Life</b>			
Life Expectancy	81.0 years	84.7 years	81.9 years
Premature Death	5,679 per 100,000	3,683 per 100,000	5,285 per 100,000
Child mortality	35 per 100,000	27 per 100,000	31 per 100,000
Infant mortality	4 per 1,000	3 per 1,000	*
<b>Quality of Life</b>			
Low birth weight	7%	7%	7%
Poor or fair health	14%	11%	16%
Poor Physical Health Days	3.0	2.5	3.3
Poor Mental Health Days	4.8	4.0	4.0

**Note:** Poor or fair health is age adjusted and only includes adults. Data for poor or fair health are based on self-report survey data from adult participants. Not all metrics were included in the calculations for the 2023 Health Rankings.

\* = Data for this measure are not available.

**Source:** Data presented here are sourced from the compiled metrics as presented in the County Health Rankings & Roadmap (2023) Analytic Data, University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, available at <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/rankings-data-documentation>





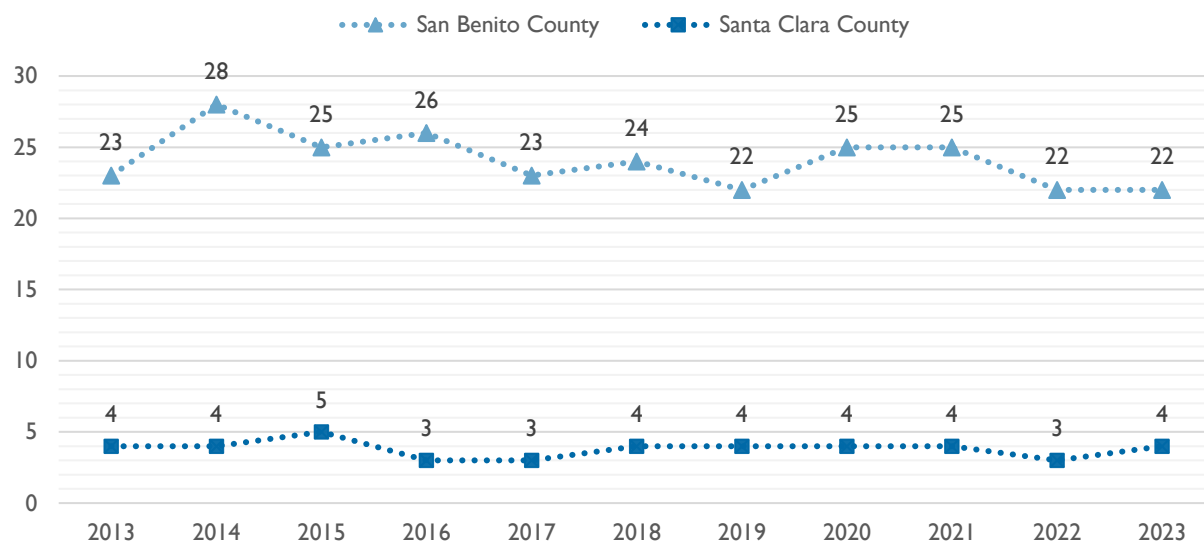
## Health Factors

The four sub-areas of Health Factors are health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment. A brief description of each sub-area is provided below:

- Behavioral health includes data such as tobacco and alcohol use, diet and exercise, and sexual activity.
- Clinical care concerns access to healthcare (i.e., insurance status, availability of primary care physicians and dentists) and quality of care (i.e., preventable hospital stays and health screenings).
- Social and economic factors encompass education, employment, income, family supports, and community safety.
- Physical environment metrics factor in the impact of air and water quality along with housing, commute, and transit availability on community members.

Like Health Outcomes ranks, differences between counties on Health Factors ranks over time are evident (see Figure 9). Since 2013, Santa Clara has ranked among California's top five counties, holding an average rank of 4 out of 58, while San Benito's ranking has held an average rank of 24.1 out of 58. These rankings can be attributed to differences in social and economic factors, health behaviors, and disparities in healthcare access.

**FIGURE 9. HEALTH FACTORS RANKS OVER TIME BY COUNTY**



**Source:** 2013-2023 County Health Rankings & Roadmap, University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Table 19 compares select health factor metrics for Santa Clara and San Benito Counties and California at large. Overall, Santa Clara County experiences lower rates of teen births and preventable hospital stays when compared to the state average and to San Benito County. Higher proportions of adults 20 years or older in San Benito County have been diagnosed with diabetes. Social and environmental factors also differ between the two counties, including metrics such as voter turnout and census participation rates. Further, a higher percentage of the San Benito County workforce drive to their workplace alone (76%) compared to Santa Clara County (67%), and over half of the San Benito workforce not only drive to work alone but

also have a commute of over 30 minutes (53%), compared to less than half of the Santa Clara County workforce (42%).

**TABLE 19. SELECT HEALTH FACTORS BY COUNTY**

	California	Santa Clara	San Benito
<b>Health Behaviors</b>			
Teen Births	15.6 per 1,000	8.5 per 1,000	15.9 per 1,000
<b>Clinical Care</b>			
Preventable Hospital Stays	2,256 per 100,000	1,868 per 100,000	2,080 per 100,000
Diabetes Prevalence	9%	9%	10%
<b>Social &amp; Economic Factors</b>			
Voter Turnout	68%	73%	73%
Census Participation	*	75%	66%
<b>Physical Environment</b>			
Driving Alone to Work	70%	67%	76%
Long Commute - Driving Alone	42%	42%	53%

**Note:** The rate for teen births utilizes the number of births per 1,000 female population, age 15-19. Census participation is the percent of all households in the area who provided a response to the 2020 U.S. census. Long Commute refers to a commute of more than 30 minutes.

\* = Data for this measure are not available for 2023.

**Source:** Data presented here are sourced from the compiled metrics as presented in the County Health Rankings & Roadmap, University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/> on September 7, 2023.

## Health Behaviors

Health behaviors data that are factored into the calculation of county Health Factors ranks come from various sources, including national surveys and databases such as the United States Diabetes Surveillance System and CDC WONDER. Other data are not included in the calculations but are reported by the CHR&R Rankings Report each year. Metrics that are reported annually under the category of Health Behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Food Environment Index: An index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment.
- Physical inactivity: Percent of adults (age 20 or older) reporting no leisure-time physical activity.
- Exercise Access: Percent of the population with adequate access to locations for physical activity.
- Excessive drinking: Percentage of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking.
- Smokers: Percent of adults who are current smokers.

A data summary of the select health behavior indicators measured throughout California and in Santa Clara and San Benito counties is provided in Table 20 on the following page. Though Santa Clara County and San Benito counties have similar food environment indices that are higher than the state index, the metrics for physical activity and exercise access differ between the two regions. One in four San Benito residents (23%) report no leisure-time physical activity, while 19% of Santa Clara County residents report the same. However, the differences in exercise access in these counties must be considered as well: almost 100% of Santa Clara County residents have adequate access to locations for physical activity, only 85% of San Benito residents have the same level of access.

Rates for substance use such as smoking and excessive drinking are also reported in the table below. Nearly 21% of adults in San Benito report binge or heavy drinking while this figure is approximately 19% for Santa Clara County adults – both rates are higher than the statewide rate of 18.4% of adults in California. However, the rates for smoking in Santa Clara (8.4%) are lower than the rate in San Benito (11.8%) or the statewide rate (9%)

**TABLE 20. HEALTH BEHAVIORS INDICATORS**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
Food Environment Index	8.8	9.2	8.8
Physical Inactivity	21.1%	18.5%	22.8%
Exercise Access	94.6%	99.5%	85.4%
Excessive Drinking	18.4%	19.1%	20.8%
Adult Smokers	9.0%	8.4%	11.8%

**Note:** Not all metrics reported above were included in the calculations for the 2023 Health Rankings. Food Environment Index ranges from 0 (worst) to 10 (best).

**Source:** Data presented here are sourced from the compiled metrics as presented in the County Health Rankings & Roadmap, University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/> on September 7, 2023.

## Children's Health and Wellness

Additional data on factors that contribute to the health and wellness of individuals and communities is provided in this section, beginning with information on high-level metrics on the accessibility of health care professionals.

### Access to Health Care

As shown in Table 21, the ratio of residents to healthcare providers demonstrates disparities between the state and two counties. In 2023, residents in Santa Clara County had access to more than twice as many dentists and over three times as many primary physicians and mental health professionals compared to residents in San Benito County. Since 2022, the availability of physicians, dentists, and mental health professionals has improved in Santa Clara County and statewide. In San Benito County, the availability of physicians has improved but the availability of mental health professionals has worsened.

**TABLE 21. PATIENT-PROVIDER RATIOS BY COUNTY**

	California		Santa Clara County		San Benito County	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Patients: Physicians*	1,240:1	1234:1	950:1	936:1	3,490:1	3371:1
Patients: Dentists**	1,130:1	1102:1	830:1	805:1	2,000:1	1961:1
Patients: MH Professionals ***	240:1	236:1	250:1	242:1	780:1	901:1

**Abbreviations:** MH = Mental Health

**Note:** \* = Data reported for 2022 and 2023 utilizes metrics that were collected in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

\*\* = Data reported for 2022 and 2023 utilizes metrics that were collected in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

\*\*\* = Data reported for 2022 and 2023 utilizes metrics that were collected in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

**Source:** Data presented here are sourced from the compiled metrics as presented in the County Health Rankings & Roadmap, University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/> on September 7, 2023.

Accessing prenatal care early in a pregnancy can prevent childbirth complications and reduce risks for both the fetus and pregnant person.<sup>13</sup> Prenatal care initiated in the first trimester provides an opportunity to address the health of the pregnant person and fetal development issues that may become more complicated or difficult to treat as the pregnancy progresses. Between 2018 and 2021, there was an overall increase in the proportion of births with prenatal care beginning during the first trimester for residents of California, Santa Clara County, and San Benito County (see Table 22). However, from 2020 to 2022, the proportion of births where the parent received prenatal care in the first trimester decreased from 92% to 89% in Santa Clara County and from 91% to 83% in San Benito County, which were roughly at or lower than the proportion observed in the respective counties in 2018.

**TABLE 22. BIRTHS WITH PRENATAL CARE BEGINNING IN FIRST TRIMESTER**

	California		Santa Clara County		San Benito County	
	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.
2018	379,476	84%	18,645	88%	659	85%
2019	382,568	86%	19,221	91%	704	89%
2020	361,441	86%	17,953	92%	652	91%
2021	364,573	87%	17,346	91%	758	92%
2022	353,236	84%	16,933	89%	716	83%
2023*	243,403	82%	11,999	88%	411	77%

**Abbreviations:** Pct. = Percent.

**Note:** Suppressed records were excluded from calculations. Counts are the number of births wherein prenatal care began during the first trimester of the pregnancy. Percents are calculated using the total number of births to residents of the respective regions.

\* = Data collection is ongoing and therefore incomplete for this year.

**Source:** Calculated from California Vital Data (Cal-ViDa) Birth Query for births by place of residence, California Department of Public Health. Retrieved from <https://cal-vida.cdph.ca.gov/> on November 18, 2023.

## Health Insurance

Children who have health insurance are more likely than uninsured children to receive early care for health problems and experience improved outcomes that extend beyond health.<sup>14</sup> The estimated percent of children ages 0-5 years without health insurance has decreased overall since 2016 (from 3.9% to 2.5% in California), the rate for San Benito County children under 6 years old who are uninsured was consistently higher than the rates for both Santa Clara County and the overall state (see Table 23). However, from 2016 to 2021, the proportion of uninsured children under age 6 dropped from 4.7% to 3.9% in San Benito County and from 2.1% to 1.3% in Santa Clara.

<sup>13</sup> What is prenatal care and why is it important? Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Retrieved from <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pregnancy/conditioninfo/prenatal-care> on Nov. 19, 2023.

<sup>14</sup> Murphey, D., Health Insurance Coverage Improves Child Well-Being (May 2017), Research Brief, Child Trends. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/health-insurance-coverage-improves-child-well> on Nov. 19, 2023.

**TABLE 23. UNINSURED RATES FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-5 BY COUNTY**

	California		Santa Clara County		San Benito County	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
Total Children (0-5)	3,000,497	2,825,387	145,240	133,503	4,650	4,832
No. Uninsured	117,651	71,432	3,115	1,747	219	187
Pct. Uninsured	3.9%	2.5%	2.1%	1.3%	4.7%	3.9%

**Abbreviations:** No. = Number; Pct. = Percent.

**Source:** Table S2701, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2011-2016, 2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

States that have expanded Medicaid have been associated with increased access to healthcare services, prescription medication, and preventive care, and improved financial well-being of patients.<sup>15</sup> Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program, is a state-federal program that offers free or low-cost health coverage to low income families. Medi-Cal enrollees generally include children and parents, adults under 65 who gained eligibility under the ACA, people with disabilities, undocumented adults, and people in foster care and long-term care. To qualify for comprehensive Medi-Cal, most adults must have an annual income that is 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and "satisfactory" immigration status, whereas children under age 19 are eligible if their family incomes are below 266% FPL regardless of immigration status. In addition, people who live in California but are not legal residents can receive coverage for all medically necessary services while pregnant and for one year following the end of pregnancy.<sup>16</sup> Further, middle-income pregnant individuals with incomes between 138% and 213% FPL may qualify for "modified adjusted gross income" (MAGI) Medi-Cal, and those with incomes between 213% and 322% FPL may qualify for Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP) which charges a small fee and provides comprehensive coverage.<sup>17</sup>



Medi-Cal is a common method of payment for labor and delivery costs in California, covering the costs of forty percent of all births in 2022 (see Table 24). Though the overall number of people who have given birth each year has decreased statewide and in Santa Clara County, the proportion who utilized this payment type has stayed relatively stable. Approximately 23% of residents in Santa Clara County who gave birth in 2017 utilized Medicaid for their payment type to cover the cost of childbirth, representing approximately 5,000 Santa Clara County residents. In 2022, this proportion was 22% of birthing parents in the county, representing roughly 4,200 residents.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.ppic.org/publication/the-medi-cal-program/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.coveredca.com/health/medi-cal/pregnant-women/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.healthforcalifornia.com/covered-california/income-limits>



**TABLE 24. CHILDBIRTH DELIVERY COST PAYMENT TYPE (2017-2022)**

	California			Santa Clara County		
	Total Births	Pct. Medicaid	Pct. Private Insurance	Total Births	Pct. Medicaid	Pct. Private Insurance
	Count	Pct.	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Pct.
2017	471,658	43%	49%	22,130	23%	73%
2018	454,920	42%	50%	21,288	22%	74%
2019	446,479	40%	51%	21,176	21%	74%
2020	420,259	40%	53%	19,567	21%	74%
2021	420,608	39%	54%	19,165	22%	75%
2022	419,104	40%	53%	19,080	22%	74%

**Abbreviations:** Pct. = Percent.

**Note:** Suppressed records were excluded from calculations. Data for San Benito County is not available due to data suppression. Counts are only reflective of the data for delivery payment method.

**Source:** Calculated from Number of Births by Source of Payment for Delivery Expanded, Santa Clara County, CA, 2021, via Natality Records (2016-2021), National Vital Statistics System, Natality on CDC WONDER Online Database, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html> on November 17, 2023.

## Immunizations

Immunizations guard against the contraction of communicable diseases.<sup>18</sup> As such, California law requires students to be immunized when they enroll in school and public childcare programs, with some exceptions. Child immunization is measured as the percentage of enrolled Kindergarteners who have received all required immunizations. As shown in Table 25, approximately 97% of all children entering Kindergarten in the 2021-22 academic year in Santa Clara and San Benito County received all required immunizations.

**TABLE 25. PERCENT OF KINDERGARTENERS RECEIVING ALL REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS OVER TIME**

	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
California	94.8%	555,735	94.3%	554,250	92.8%	485,538	94.0%	503,722
Santa Clara Co.	97.3%	25,505	96.4%	24,963	96.0%	21,759	96.5%	21,901
San Benito Co.	97.0%	1,052	96.3%	1,099	91.2%	991	97.0%	983

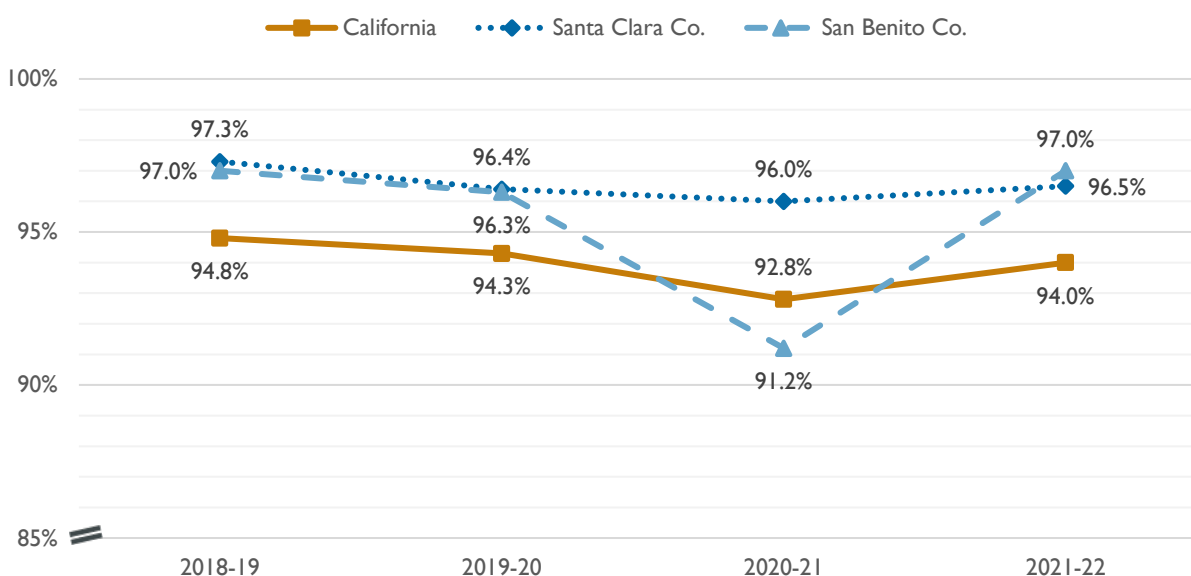
**Abbreviations:** Pct. = Percent; No. = Number; Co. = County.

**Source:** Reporting Data for Kindergarten and 7th Grade. Immunization Branch CA Department of Public Health. Retrieved from <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/tk-12-reports.aspx> on October 12, 2023.

<sup>18</sup> Vaccines Protect Children from Harmful Infectious Diseases. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/vaccines-protect-children-harmful-infectious-diseases> on Oct. 12, 2023.

Despite the small decline in the percentage of students receiving vaccines, the immunization rate in Santa Clara County has remained consistently higher than the state average since 2018-19 (see Figure 10). However, in San Benito, the immunization rates decreased substantially from 96% of kindergarteners in the region receiving all required vaccines in 2019-20 to 91% in 2020-21. This proportion increased again the following year, and 97% of San Benito kindergarteners received their required immunizations in 2021-22. Overall, the high immunization rates among residents of both Santa Clara County and San Benito County are likely due to the increased availability of pharmacies, clinics, and county sites offering vaccinations, as well as the availability of information in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, thereby allowing the largest three language communities to be served.<sup>19</sup>

**FIGURE 10. PERCENT OF KINDERGARTENERS WITH REQUIRED VACCINATIONS**



**Source:** Reporting Data for Kindergarten and 7th Grade. Immunization Branch CA Department of Public Health. Retrieved from <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/tk-12-reports.aspx>.

Guidance on mitigating communicable diseases within in-person childcare settings for the 2023-24 academic year was provided by the California Health Department with consultation from the California Department of Social Services and the California Department of Education.<sup>20</sup> This guidance offers strategies grounded by the principle that safe, in-person care is critical to the well-being and development of children. Among the suggestions within this guidance are recommendations to encourage children, families, and staff to stay up to date on the vaccinations that their healthcare providers recommend. The guidance also notes that although COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations are not required, they can greatly reduce the risk of serious illness, outbreaks, and absences in childcare and educational settings.

<sup>19</sup> School Age Children and Vaccines. Immunizations; Santa Clara County Public Health. Retrieved from <https://publichealth.sccgov.org/health-information/immunizations/school-age-children-and-vaccines> on Sept. 13, 2021.

<sup>20</sup> Public Health Guidance for K–12 Schools and Child Care Settings to Support Safe In-Person Services and Mitigate the Spread of Communicable Diseases, 2023-2024 School Year. California Department of Public Health, California Department of Social Services, and California Department of Education. Retrieved from <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2023-24-School-Year.aspx> on Nov. 7, 2023.

As of November 10, 2023, approximately 22.0% and 6.2% of youth aged 0 to 4 years old have completed their primary series for the COVID-19 vaccination<sup>21</sup> in Santa Clara and San Benito counties, respectively (see Table 26).

**TABLE 26. YOUTH WITH COMPLETED COVID-19 VACCINATION PRIMARY SERIES BY AGE**

	0-4y		5-11y		12-17y	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
California	8.5%	190,045	37.6%	1,318,607	67.4%	2,155,231
Santa Clara Co.	22.0%	23,132	59.4%	100,517	80.6%	125,068
San Benito Co.	6.2%	220	48.5%	2,454	81.7%	4,090

**Abbreviations:** Pct. = Percent; No. = Number; Co. = County; y = Years Old.

**Source:** Vaccination status by Healthy Places Index and other groups, primary series completion by age. Retrieved from <https://data.ca.gov/dataset/covid-19-vaccine-progress-dashboard-data/resource/d734e3d7-bdbc-4726-8cd0-ce4c161394c3> on November 13, 2023 (data as of November 10, 2023).

## Child Maltreatment

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that in the United States, an estimated one in four children experience abuse or neglect.<sup>22</sup> The long-term effects of maltreatment are wide-reaching, including physical, emotional, or behavioral issues. Children who are abused or neglected are at increased risk for anxiety and depression, delinquency, difficulty in school, and sexual risk-taking. Abuse and neglect can also cause toxic stress, which disrupts brain and physical development and can increase the risk of health problems in adulthood, including heart disease, cancer, substance abuse, and mental illness.<sup>23</sup>

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, young children between the ages of 0-5 (especially infants) and those with special needs are at particularly high risk for maltreatment. Additional risk factors include poverty, substance abuse or mental illness in the family, parental stress, social isolation, unintended teen pregnancy, and domestic or neighborhood violence. Furthermore, social services systems disproportionately intrude on the lives of families and youth of color, such as American Indian/Alaska Native and Black youth. Additionally, LGBTQ+ youth are over two times more likely to be placed into foster care than heterosexual youth.<sup>24</sup>

Child maltreatment allegation rates and child maltreatment substantiation rates involving children under the age of six years are provided in Table 27 and Table 28 respectively. In general, both San Benito and Santa Clara counties had lower allegation rates relative to the rates at the state level. Although the rate of child abuse and neglect allegations reported for all three age groups slightly decreased throughout 2019 to 2021 in California and Santa Clara County, the rates for Santa Clara County increased from 2021 to 2022 (32.4 per 1,000 to 33.3 per 1,000). In San Benito County, the rate of maltreatment allegations varied

<sup>21</sup> "Primary Series" = received either the first dose of a single-dose series or the second dose of a two-dose series (see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>).

<sup>22</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Essentials for childhood: Creating safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/essentials> on Oct 25, 2023.

<sup>23</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2019). Long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau. Retrieved from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/long-term-consequences> on Oct. 25, 2023.

<sup>24</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway. (n.d.). 2021/2022 Prevention Resource Guide. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau. Retrieved from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/resource-guide/> on Oct. 26, 2023.

by age group: the rate of reports decreased overall for the 3–5-year-old age range from 2019 to 2022 but report rates involving infants steadily increased during the same period.

**TABLE 27. CHILD MALTREATMENT ALLEGATION RATES, BY AGE GROUP**

	California			Santa Clara County			San Benito County		
	<1y	1-2y	3-5y	<1y	1-2y	3-5y	<1y	1-2y	3-5y
2019	67.8	45.9	49.7	35.5	27.0	28.4	39.7	38.1	47.1
2020	62.2	40.9	41.8	32.9	23.0	23.1	38.6	25.5	51.2
2021	62.3	41.1	43.5	32.4	24.8	25.0	57.9	36.0	41.8
2022	60.0	40.8	45.7	33.3	26.2	26.7	45.6	36.6	43.0

**Note:** Rates are calculated by age group per 1,000.

**Source:** University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project reports. Retrieved from <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu> on November 14, 2023.

Presented in the table below are the rates of substantiated allegations over the past four years throughout the state and within Santa Clara County; the rates in San Benito County have been suppressed due to low counts. Since 2019, rates across all three age ranges have decreased from 2019 to 2022 for Santa Clara County and California, though the rate for Santa Clara County has been lower than the statewide rate across all age groups. Further, rate of substantiated allegations for the abuse and neglect of children under 1 years old have been consistently higher than the rates for children in the 1-2y and 3-5y age groups.

**TABLE 28. SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, BY AGE GROUP**

	California			Santa Clara County			San Benito County		
	<1y	1-2y	3-5y	<1y	1-2y	3-5y	<1y	1-2y	3-5y
2019	23.4	9.5	8.1	11.3	5.9	4.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	22.2	8.7	7.2	11.6	4.8	3.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	21.2	8.2	6.9	8.9	3.9	3.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	18.7	7.4	6.5	6.4	2.8	1.9	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Abbreviations:** y = Years old. N/A = Suppressed data.

**Note:** Rates are calculated by age group per 1,000. Any values or calculations that are based on counts lower than 11 are suppressed.

**Source:** University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project reports. Retrieved from <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu> on November 14, 2023.

## Mental Health

Current national and state data on mental health and wellness is not readily available for children in the 0-5 age group or the local level. To complicate things further, issues involving mental health that originate in early childhood often do not manifest into diagnosable problems or disorders until late childhood or adolescence. Despite these limitations, it is important to note that factors presented elsewhere in this report place children and families serviced by Head Start at increased risk for poor mental health and wellness outcomes. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing health disparities along economic and racial lines and created additional stress for youth, due to decreased housing and economic stability resulting from school and business closures, prolonged social isolation, and disruption of school routines and schedules that normally provided structure in the lives of youth.

Data on mental health and wellness that are available at the National and State levels provide some insight into the impact of COVID-19 on youth. Data reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention collected through the regular administration of the Household Pulse Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that rates for the experience of symptoms of anxiety and depression (a) are elevated among younger age groups and (b) have increased over the past year (see Table 29).

**TABLE 29. PERCENT OF ADULTS REPORTING SYMPTOMS OF ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION**

	9/14/22 - 9/26/22	4/26/23 - 5/8/23	9/20/23 - 10/2/23
<b>State Average</b>			
California (All)	37.2%	33.9%	33.5%
<b>Age Group*</b>			
18-29	48.7%	47.2%	48.4%
30-39	41.8%	36.4%	39.5%
40-49	38.1%	34.8%	35.8%
50-59	37.8%	30.6%	32.3%
60-69	27.8%	24.2%	24.8%
70-79	19.5%	20.1%	19.8%
80 +	19.1%	18.1%	18.8%

**Note:** \* = Age breakdown reflects pulse survey results at the national level.

**Source:** Indicators of Anxiety or Depression Based on Reported Frequency of Symptoms During Last 7 Days. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from [https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Indicators-of-Anxiety-or-Depression-Based-on-Report/8pt5-q6wp/about\\_data](https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Indicators-of-Anxiety-or-Depression-Based-on-Report/8pt5-q6wp/about_data) on October 13, 2023.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide was the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10-14 and 25-34 in 2020.<sup>25</sup> Research conducted in recent years suggests that across the United States, youth suicides increased at higher than expected rates during the pandemic, particularly for American Indian or Alaskan Native youth and Black youth.<sup>26</sup> This data underscores the need to further understand the underlying cause of the increase in youth suicides, and to develop resources and other preventative measures to effectively support at-risk youth.

<sup>25</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention (n.d.). WISQARS Leading Causes of Death Visualization Tool. Retrieved from <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/data/lcd/home> on Oct. 25, 2023.

<sup>26</sup> National Institute of Mental Health. (2023). Youth Suicide Rates Increased During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Retrieved from <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2023/youth-suicide-rates-increased-during-the-covid-19-pandemic> on Oct. 25, 2023.



Table 30 below provides data on the rate of youth suicides per 100,000 by age group in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties between 2018-2021. Due to the smaller population size of San Benito County, all data has been suppressed for the given years, complicating efforts to interpret suicide data at the county level. For Santa Clara County, the youth data for 2020 and 2021 is considered statistically unreliable due to low counts (<20 deaths per year).

**TABLE 30. YOUTH SUICIDES BY AGE GROUP (2017-2020)**

	California		Santa Clara County		San Benito County	
	All Ages	<25	All Ages	<25	All Ages	<25
2018	11.4	4.3	8.1	3.9	Suppressed	Suppressed
2019	11.2	4.2	8.9	3.8	Suppressed	Unreliable
2020	10.5	4.3	9.1	Unreliable	Suppressed	Unreliable
2021	10.6	4.5	8.1	Unreliable	Suppressed	Unreliable

**Note:** The <25y age group was summarized from source using the “Five-Year Age Groups” query field. Unreliable rates are those that have death counts of less than twenty and therefore are considered statistically unreliable. Suppressed rates are those that have death counts of less than 11.

**Source:** CDC WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. California Department of Public Health. Retrieved from <https://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10-expanded.html> on November 12, 2023.

## Maternal Mental Health

According to the California Department of Public Health, one in three pregnant people experience clinically significant anxiety or depression symptoms during or after pregnancy.<sup>27</sup> In 2022, California introduced a law (Senate Bill 1207) which mandates that all licensed health care practitioners providing prenatal or postnatal care must establish and maintain a Maternal Mental Health program. Effective July 1, 2023, this law builds on findings related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and the importance of outreach, education, and access to quality mental health treatment.

These Maternal Mental Health Programs require that practitioners screen all patients receiving prenatal or postnatal care.<sup>28</sup> Screenings are intended to ensure timely access to assessment and diagnosis, effective treatment, and appropriate monitoring and follow-up, based on severity. By law, mental health screenings are required at least once during pregnancy and at least once within 12 weeks postpartum. However, screenings are recommended to be conducted at a higher frequency: once during the three-month pediatric visit, once during the nine-month pediatric visit, and once during the 12-month pediatric visit.

Depression screening tools approved for use include but are not limited to the Edinburgh Perinatal Depression Scale (EPDS) and Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9). Additionally, questionnaires such as the Mood Disorder Questionnaire (MDQ), General Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7), and Primary Care PTSD Screen for DSM-5 (PC-PTSD-5) test for other mood disorders, anxiety, and PTSD, respectively. To learn more about the Maternal Mental Health Program requirements or to access mental health screening and scoring tools, visit <https://www.acog.org/programs/perinatal-mental-health/patient-screening>.

<sup>27</sup> California Department of Public Health. (n.d.). Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division. Retrieved from <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Pages/Communications/Maternal-Mental-Health.aspx> on Nov. 6, 2023.

<sup>28</sup> California Legislative Information (2022). SB-1207 Health care coverage: maternal and pandemic-related mental health conditions. Retrieved from [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB1207](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1207) on Nov. 6, 2023.

## Environmental Exposures

Children's rapid development, from before they are born through early childhood, and their engagement in age-appropriate behaviors such as crawling and learning by placing things in their mouths, makes them more vulnerable to environmental exposures that can have a negative impact on health and development.<sup>29</sup> Local data related to common exposures, including contaminants in the air and water, are provided in this section.

### Air Quality

Children, due to their daily behaviors, more narrow airways, rapid respiration rate, and high metabolism, are at an increased risk for exposure to poor air quality, in particular excess ozone levels and particulate matter pollutants, which have been found to have a negative impact on one's health and development.



Particulate matter (PM) refers to the mixture of solid particles and liquid in the air. PM is broken down into two categories:

- PM<sub>10</sub>: particles that are 10 micrometers or less in diameter,
- PM<sub>2.5</sub>: fine particles less than 2.5 micrometers<sup>30</sup>

Both types of particles can be inhaled and enter the lungs and bloodstream, causing health issues. PM<sub>2.5</sub> are especially dangerous due to their small size.<sup>31</sup> Common sources of particulate matter include construction sites, fires, fields, power plants, or vehicles.

Ozone is a gas that occurs in the Earth's atmosphere and on the ground. Ground-level ozone comes from chemical reactions from nitrogen and volatile organic compounds, which happen when pollutants from sources such as vehicles or power plants are exposed to sunlight.<sup>32</sup> Inhaling ozone can trigger chest pain, coughing, airway inflammation, and exacerbate health issues like asthma.<sup>33</sup>

Table 31 displays data for the number of days where PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ozone levels were above National regulatory standards from 2020 to 2022. Relative to 2020, both Santa Clara and San Benito counties displayed a sharp decrease in the number of days where PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ozone levels were above National regulatory standards. In 2022, Santa Clara County only had 2 days in which the PM<sub>2.5</sub> level was above the National standard of 35 mcg/m<sup>3</sup>, compared to 16.2 such days in 2020; San Benito County had zero such days during both 2021 and in 2022, a decrease from 14.1 days above the National standard in 2020.

Ozone levels were above the National regulatory standard for three days in Santa Clara County and zero days in San Benito County in 2022, compared to five and three days, respectively, in 2020.

<sup>29</sup> Protecting Kids from Environmental Exposure/ Center for Disease Control and Exposure. Retrieved from <https://blogs.cdc.gov/yourhealthyourenvironment/2015/10/09/protecting-kids-from-environmental-exposure/> on Nov. 7, 2023.

<sup>30</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency (2018). Particulate Matter (PM) Basics.

<sup>31</sup> <https://blissair.com/what-is-pm-2-5.htm>

<sup>32</sup> United States Environmental Agency (2018). Ground-level Ozone Basics.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/health-effects-ozone-pollution>

**TABLE 31. MEASURES OF AIR QUALITY (2022)**

	Santa Clara County			San Benito County		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Estimated days > National standard of 35 mcg/m <sup>3</sup>	16.2	1	2	14.1	0	0
Days with ozone levels above regulatory standard	5	7	3	3	0	0

**Abbreviations:** mcg/m<sup>3</sup> = Micrograms per cubic meter.

**Source:** County-level Ozone (National) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> Reports, Air Quality Trends Summary, CA Air Resources Board. Retrieved from <https://www.arb.ca.gov/adam/trends/trends1.php> on October 13, 2023.

The Spare the Air Program was established in 1991 by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to reduce air pollution and provide advance notice when air quality is forecast to reach unhealthy levels.<sup>34</sup>

Table 32 lists the number of Spare the Air advisories issued for the Bay Area for the past ten years. As of October, there have been 11 Spare the Air advisories in 2023 due to increased ozone and particulate matter concentrations resulting from wildfires – two more and five fewer advisories than in 2022 and 2021, respectively, and approximately nine fewer advisories than the 10-year average.

**TABLE 32. NUMBER OF BAY AREA SPARE THE AIR ADVISORIES BY YEAR**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Number of Days	6	10	9	27	18	13	26	52	16	9	11

**Note:** \* = Data collection is ongoing and incomplete as of date of retrieval from source.

**Source:** Ozone Historical Data, Data and Records, Spare the Air, Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Retrieved from <https://www.sparetheair.org/understanding-air-quality/data-and-records/ozone-data> on October 13, 2023.

## Lead Exposure

Childhood lead poisoning is considered one of the most preventable environmental diseases in young children.<sup>35</sup> Exposure to high lead levels greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL) may inhibit normal neurological growth and development in children and cause hearing deficits, speech/language impairments, and poor attention spans. However, as of October 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) utilizes a blood lead “reference value” (BLRV) as low as 3.5 mcg/dL as a threshold for what it is considered abnormally high blood lead levels.<sup>36</sup> Testing is recommended for all children at risk for lead exposure and is required for children enrolled in Medicaid at ages 12-24 months and for slightly older children (24-27 months) if there no records of previous testing. Upon initial screening, children shown to have a blood lead level of 3.5 mcg/dL or higher should undergo additional testing, further developmental screening, and treatment.<sup>37</sup> In 2021, of the 18,011 children under 6 years old in Santa Clara County who were screened for blood lead levels, 1.49% tested positive for elevated blood lead levels which was higher than the local 2020 rate at 1.12%. In San Benito, 1.87% of the 588 screened children under 6 years old in

<sup>34</sup> What is Spare the Air? Spare the Air, Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Retrieved from <https://www.sparetheair.org/about/what-is-spare-the-air> on Sept. 13, 2021.

<sup>35</sup> Lead level poisoning. Santa Clara County Consumer Protection Division. Retrieved from <https://cpd.sccgov.org/programs-and-services/lead-poisoning-prevention> on Nov. 17, 2023.

<sup>36</sup> Blood Lead Reference Value. Santa Clara County Consumer Protection Division. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/blood-lead-reference-value.htm> on Nov. 17, 2023.

<sup>37</sup> Recommended Actions Based on Blood Lead Level, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/advisory/acclpp/actions-blls.htm> on Nov. 17, 2023.

2021 were considered to have blood lead levels above the BLRV. These positivity rates were both below the 2021 statewide positivity rate of 1.88% for this age group.<sup>38</sup>

### Water Quality

Contaminants in the water supply can cause gastrointestinal illness and contribute to other issues such as reproductive disorders, cancers, or neurological disorders.<sup>39</sup> Similar to issues with problematic air quality, developing children are especially sensitive to harmful effects from water contamination. Table 33 lists the number of total and Class I violations discovered in a report submitted by a discharger and issued to agencies located in San Benito and Santa Clara County during each calendar year from 2018 to 2023. Class I violations are violations that pose an immediate and substantial threat to water quality and can cause significant detrimental impacts to human health and the environment. While the number of total violations issued to agencies in San Benito County far exceeds the number issued in Santa Clara, neither county was issued a Class I violation over the six-year period.



**TABLE 33. NUMBER OF WATER VIOLATIONS BY COUNTY BY YEAR**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Santa Clara County</b>						
Total Violations	18	3	1	8	4	7
Class I Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>San Benito County</b>						
Total Violations	91	172	42	29	22	12
Class I Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Note:** Class I Violations are defined as violations that pose an immediate and substantial threat to water quality and that have the potential to cause significant detrimental impacts to human health or the environment.

**Source:** County-level Local Agency Violations by Calendar Year, “Report” violation source (Jan. 1, 2018, to Jan. 1, 2024). Interactive Violation Reports for the CA Integrated Water Quality System Project (CIWQS) Public Reports, State Water Resources Control Board, CA Environmental Protection Agency. Retrieved from <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/publicreports.html> on January 22, 2024.

<sup>38</sup> Blood Lead Level (BLL) Data by Jurisdiction. Blood Lead Data. California Department of Public Health. Retrieved from <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDC/DEOD/CLPPB/Pages/data.aspx> on Nov. 17, 2023.

<sup>39</sup> Drinking Water Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Center for Disease Control. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/index.html> on Nov. 7, 2023.

## Summary

Notable health characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- Since 2011, Santa Clara County has ranked among the top five of California's 58 counties on Health Outcomes and Health Factors rankings calculated by the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute.
- Santa Clara County's patient-to-doctor ratio, patient-to-dentist, and patient-to-mental health specialist ratios decreased from 2022 to 2023, which means medical, dental, and mental health care have become more accessible in 2023.
- Nearly 99% of Santa Clara County's children ages 0-5 years have health insurance, above the state average of 97.5%.

Notable health characteristics for San Benito County:

- The number of mental health professionals per capita in San Benito County decreased from 2022 to 2023; however, the patient to dentist and patient to primary care physician ratios improved from 2022 to 2023.
- The percent of San Benito kindergarteners who received all required immunizations decreased between the 2018-19 and 2020-21 academic years (from 97% to 91%) but recovered in 2021-22.

Notable health characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- Santa Clara and San Benito County rank among the lower 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of California's counties in terms of Health Outcomes and Health Factors ranks, indicating relatively positive health outcomes and health factors among residents of both counties.
- Only six percent of eligible children ages 0-4 years old in San Benito County have completed their primary series for the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine immunizations; nearly one in four children in this age range in Santa Clara County have completed their primary series.
- No Class I water violations have been issued in either Santa Clara or San Benito County over the past five years.
- Since 2021, the proportion of childbirths with prenatal care beginning in the first trimester has decreased for birthing parents in the service area, with the proportion of San Benito residents who gave birth each year dropping from 91% to 83% in one year.



## Chapter 5: Education Characteristics

### Background

Data in this chapter is sourced from the following California Department of Education resources: DataQuest, CALPADS, and California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS). Actual and projected public school enrollment data, including enrollment in public charter schools, are provided for both San Benito County and Santa Clara County.

This information is followed by data on student outcomes ranging from standardized test performance to high school graduation rates. Key teacher demographics by county are included, as are U.S. Census Bureau estimates for educational attainment.

### Public School Demographics

Table 34 provides data on public schools including the number and types of schools, both traditional and non-traditional, and student enrollment by district/school type. Across both counties, over 97% of students are enrolled in traditional school settings. Around half of students enrolled in non-traditional schools in Santa Clara County attend Alternative Education schools.

**TABLE 34. COUNTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS BY LOCATION (2022-23)**

	California		Santa Clara		San Benito	
	Schools	Students	Schools	Students	Schools	Students
<b>Districts</b>						
Elementary School District	518	1,151,076	20	93,192	9	7,317
Unified School District	345	3,987,409	6	80,062	1	993
High School District	76	573,030	5	50,889	1	3,556
Other	79	127,564	3	11,920	1	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>5,839,079</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>236,063</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11,900</b>
<b>Traditional Schools</b>						
Elementary	5,857	2,756,485	251	109,327	19	7,025
Inter./Middle/Jr. High	1,314	888,647	65	41,822	2	1,008
High	1,299	1,692,058	57	76,605	2	3,741
K-12	369	299,999	4	1,597	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,839</b>	<b>5,637,189</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>229,351</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11,774</b>
<b>Non-Traditional Schools</b>						
Alternative Education	389	101,108	12	3,194	0	0
Community	189	15,299	3	101	1	11
Continuation	421	50,137	11	1,626	1	91
Special Education	139	19,254	1	912	0	0
Other	597	16,092	42	879	2	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>201,890</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>6,712</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>5,839,079</b>		<b>236,063</b>		<b>11,900</b>	

**Note:** Total for California Traditional Schools does not include traditional Preschools. There are ten Preschools with a total enrollment of 283 students. The “Other” category of educational types for Non-Traditional Schools includes home and hospital, opportunity school, and N/A.

\* = The totals include nonpublic/nonsectarian students (students with disabilities receiving special education and related services outside of the district or county office).

**Source:** CALPADS UPC Source File (K12), California Department of Education. Retrieved from [www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/files/upc.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/files/upc.asp)

Table 35 shows historical enrollment in charter schools for both counties as well as for the state. All three regions show an increase in charter enrollment from 2016-17 through 2019-20, followed by a plateau in enrollment in recent years. The changes in enrollment are driven both by increases in the number of students in charter schools and decreases in total enrollment in the counties or statewide.

The proportion of students enrolled in charter schools in San Benito County (4.5%) is significantly lower than the proportion of students enrolled in Santa Clara County and statewide (about 12%). As of 2022-23, charter schools in Santa Clara County make up 5.1% of California charter schools (63 out of 1,285).<sup>40</sup>

**TABLE 35. ENROLLMENT IN CHARTER SCHOOLS BY YEAR**

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>California</b>							
Count	602,837	628,849	652,933	675,374	690,657	678,057	685,553
Percent	9.7%	10.1%	10.6%	11.0%	11.5%	11.5%	11.7%
<b>Santa Clara County</b>							
Count	31,259	32,278	31,611	31,584	30,088	29,198	28,575
Percent	11.4%	11.9%	11.8%	12.0%	11.9%	12.1%	12.1%
<b>San Benito County</b>							
Count	361	426	480	542	542	535	539
Percent	3.2%	3.8%	4.2%	4.7%	4.7%	4.5%	4.5%

**Note:** As of October 2023, there is one charter school in operation in San Benito County, 63 charter schools in Santa Clara County and 1,285 charter schools in California. Percent rows are the percent of students in that location who are enrolled in a charter school.

**Source:** Enrollment by Subgroup for Charter and Non-charter Schools, DataQuest, California Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>. School-Level CALPADS UPC data in [www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/files/cupc.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/files/cupc.asp)

## Historical and Projected Student Enrollment

Table 36 shows historical and projected student enrollment figures for San Benito County, Santa Clara County, and California. Average enrollment in San Benito County is projected to increase by almost 5% over the next five years relative to 2022-23 enrollment, and by almost 7% relative to average enrollment in the past five years. By contrast, Santa Clara County's average enrollment is projected to decrease by over 8% over the next five years relative to 2022-23 enrollment, and by over 14% relative to average enrollment in the past five years, a much steeper decline compared to the 7% decline relative to average enrollment in California at large.

<sup>40</sup> Number of charter schools retrieved from the School-Level CALPADS UPC data in [www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/files/cupc.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/files/cupc.asp)

**TABLE 36. HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT AND ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

		California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
Historical Enrollment	2018-19	6,186,278	267,224	11,438
	2019-20	6,163,001	263,449	11,545
	2020-21	6,002,523	253,625	11,427
	2021-22	5,892,240	241,326	11,897
	2022-23	5,852,544	236,428	11,901
Projected Enrollment	2023-24	5,810,993	232,168	12,041
	2024-25	5,762,586	228,041	12,174
	2025-26	5,746,479	225,834	12,361
	2026-27	5,650,609	220,459	12,396
	2027-28	5,571,378	216,369	12,448

**Source:** Enrollment by Ethnicity and Grade, DataQuest, California Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>. California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, Demographic Research Unit, Department of Finance. Retrieved from <https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/public-k-12-graded-enrollment/>

These contrasting enrollment trends could be attributed to rising inflation contributing to the high cost of living in Santa Clara County, which may be driving families to less-expensive adjacent counties like San Benito. Declining enrollments may also be explained by declining birth rates and the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may include families choosing home-schooling or private schools for safety/health reasons, or migration from the Bay Area and California in general due to cost of living and/or employment.



## Student Enrollment by Race and Ethnicity

Table 37 presents the slight shifts in demographic makeup of student populations within counties between 2018 to 2023. The proportion of Hispanic/Latino students in San Benito County has increased by more than two percentage points since 2018-19, whereas the proportion of White students has decreased by almost 5 percentage points in the same period (though it is important to note that there has been a two-percentage point increase in the share of students in San Benito whose race/ethnicity has not been reported). The proportion of White students in Santa Clara County has decreased by 3 percentage points since 2018-19, corresponding to slight increases in Hispanic/Latino students and students of two or more races.

**TABLE 37. STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY BY YEAR**

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>San Benito County</b>					
African American	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Asian	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%
Filipino	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%
Hispanic/Latino	75.1%	76.0%	76.6%	76.4%	77.2%
Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
White	19.4%	18.4%	16.9%	15.2%	14.5%
Two or More	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Not Reported	1.7%	1.6%	2.4%	4.0%	3.5%
<b>Santa Clara County</b>					
African American	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Asian	30.2%	30.4%	31.0%	30.8%	30.6%
Filipino	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%
Hispanic/Latino	38.2%	38.3%	38.4%	39.3%	40.2%
Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
White	19.2%	18.7%	17.8%	17.0%	16.2%
Two or More	5.1%	5.3%	5.5%	5.7%	5.9%
Not Reported	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%

**Note:** Total enrollment in San Benito County ranged from 11,438 students in 2018-19 to 11,901 students in 2022-23. Total enrollment in Santa Clara County ranged from 267,224 students in 2018-19 to 236,428 students in 2022-23.

**Source:** Enrollment Multi-Year Summary by Ethnicity, DataQuest, CA Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

## Student Characteristics and Completion Rates

Table 38 presents characteristics of English Learners in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. About 25% of students enrolled in San Benito County were classified as English Learners in 2022-23, compared to 23% in Santa Clara County and 19% statewide. English Learners are further classified as Long-Term English Learners (LTELs) if they have been classified as ELs for six or more years and have remained at the same proficiency level on the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) for two or more years. Of all English Learners in San Benito County, 22% are classified as LTELs; in Santa Clara County and statewide, LTELs make up 19% and 20% of all English Learners, respectively.

**TABLE 38. ENGLISH LEARNER CHARACTERISTICS (2022-23)**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
K-12 Enrollment	5,852,544	236,428	11,901
Percent of Students who are English Learners (ELs)	19.0%	22.5%	24.9%
Percent of ELs who are Long Term ELs	20.4%	18.9%	22.0%
Languages Spoken in Schools*	108	67	22

**Note:** \* = Includes all other non-English language spoken at schools.

**Source:** English Learner Enrollment Report, DataQuest, California Department of Education. Retrieved from <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

Table 39 details information on the 2021-22 graduation cohort's outcomes. Both Santa Clara and San Benito Counties outperform California at large in their graduation rates: the statewide graduation rate is 87%, whereas Santa Clara and San Benito's rates are approximately 2 and 4 percentage points higher, respectively. While San Benito's graduation rate is higher than both Santa Clara County and California, the share of graduates from San Benito who meet the UC/CSU A-G subject requirements is 3 percentage points lower than that of the state and almost 12 percentage points lower than that of Santa Clara. This suggests that while San Benito students were more likely to graduate high school, they were far less likely to be college-ready than their peers in Santa Clara or across the state.

**TABLE 39. COMPLETION AND GRADUATION (2021-22)**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
Number of Students in Cohort	497,884	21,369	857
Graduation Rate*	87.0%	88.9%	91.1%
UC/CSU Eligible High School Graduates	44.7%	57.5%	41.7%

**Note:** \* = Graduation Rate represents the 4-Year adjusted cohort graduation rate.

**Source:** Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate and Outcome Data, DataQuest, California Department of Education. Retrieved from <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>



## Students with Disabilities

Table 40 provides the most recent data on the number of students with disabilities enrolled in each county. The four most diagnosed disabilities categories for both counties include Autism, Specific Learning Disabilities, Speech or Language Impairment, and Other Health Impairment (displayed in bold).

**TABLE 40. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES BY TYPE (2018-19)**

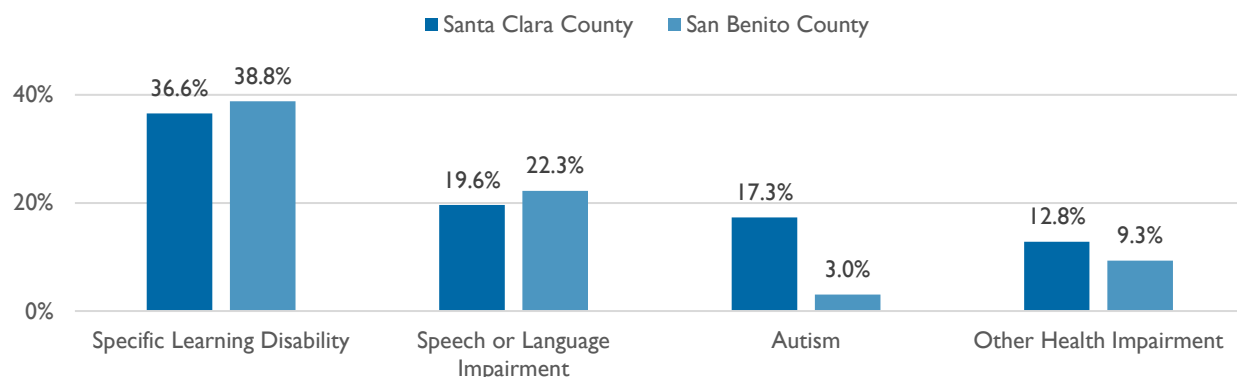
	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
<b>Autism</b>	<b>5,081</b>	<b>45</b>
Deaf	0	0
Deaf Blindness	0	0
Emotional Disturbance	1,102	0
Hard of Hearing	416	0
Intellectual Disability	1,493	11
Multiple Disability	207	0
Orthopedic Impairment	295	0
<b>Other Health Impairment</b>	<b>3,756</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Specific Learning Disability</b>	<b>10,711</b>	<b>574</b>
<b>Speech or Language Impairment</b>	<b>5,748</b>	<b>329</b>
Traumatic Brain Injury	0	0
Visual Impairment	97	0

**Note:** In instances where there are 11 or fewer students of an age year with a specific disability, those values are excluded from the count of disabilities by type. Each disability type had at least one suppressed value, as such, these are underapproximations of the actual count of students with each disability type.

**Source:** Special Education Enrollment by Age and Disability (2018-19), DataQuest, CA Department of Education.

Figure 11 compares the most frequently reported disabilities among students in each county for the most recent available year of data. Among students with disabilities, 39% in San Benito and 37% of those in Santa Clara have a specific learning disability. Among students with disabilities, autism rates are five times greater in Santa Clara County than in San Benito County (17% vs. 3%, respectively).

**FIGURE 11. RATES FOR MOST COMMONLY DIAGNOSED DISABILITIES (2018)**



**Note:** Percentages are calculated using the reported total number of students with disabilities. Due to data suppression within each disability type, the calculated percentages are slight underapproximations.

**Source:** Special Education Enrollment by Age and Disability (2018-19), DataQuest, CA Department of Education.

## Student Expenditures

Based on average daily attendance, the average annual cost per student in San Benito County is \$14,267 (see Table 41).<sup>41</sup> In Santa Clara County the average annual cost expended per student is over \$3,000 more at \$17,936. The annual average per-student expenditures in Santa Clara County ranged from a low of \$13,666 in Morgan Hill Unified to a high of \$36,224 in Lakeside Joint Union School District.<sup>42</sup>

**TABLE 41. AVERAGE ANNUAL EDUCATION COST PER STUDENT BASED ON ADA (2021-22)**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
Cost per Average Daily Attendance (ADA)	\$17,021	\$17,936	\$14,267

**Source:** Current Expense of Education (2021-22), Data and Statistics, CA Department of Education. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/ec/currentexpense.asp>.

## Teacher Demographics

Table 42 provides the most recent data available for teachers in the state, Santa Clara County, and San Benito County. In 2021-22, Santa Clara County had a higher average teacher salary than San Benito County (\$102,933 vs. \$81,178). Over half of full-time equivalent teachers on salary schedules in Santa Clara County were eligible for salary bonus for having a Master's degree or Doctorate (55.8%), over twice the statewide rate (22.4%) and over five times the rate in San Benito (9.4%). Overall, Santa Clara County, and California had similar student-to-teacher ratios (~22:1) in 2020-21, whereas San Benito County had a slightly higher ratio at 23 students per teacher.

**TABLE 42. COMPARISON OF TEACHER CHARACTERISTICS**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
Number of full-time teachers	270,867	11,728	254.6
Average teacher salary	\$88,508	\$102,933	\$81,178
Master's or Doctorate (Pay Eligibility)	22.4%	55.8%	9.4%
Student-to-Teacher Ratio	22:1	21:1	23:1

**Source:** Count of FTE and salary data calculated from the "Salary and Benefits Schedule for the Certificated Bargaining Unit" annual report (2021-22, Form J-90) California Department of Education School Fiscal Services Division; retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/index.asp> on October 16, 2023. Student-to-teacher ratios were sourced from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Local Education Agency (School District) Universe Survey", 2021-22 v.1a., and retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/expressTables.aspx> on November 2, 2023. County-level ratios were calculated by summing district-level data. All other data sourced from California Department of Education reporting system DataQuest, available at <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.

<sup>41</sup> The CDE defines total average daily attendance (ADA) as the total days of student attendance divided by the total days of instruction. The type of ADA used is annual district ADA (for the same year as the expenditures) from CDE's "Attendance School District" and "Attendance Charter School" reports and includes ADA from special education programs and applicable charter schools (i.e., those charter schools with data in the district's Current Expense of Education calculation). ADA credited to districts for the attendance of pupils in county-operated programs is not included.

<sup>42</sup> Current Expense of Education (2020-21), Data and Statistics, California Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/ec/currentexpense.asp>.

## Student Performance

In the 2013-14 school year, the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) was introduced as the new suite of assessments for students in California. This assessment system uses computer-based tests and performance tasks to assess students' mastery of California's Common Core standards. Students in Grades 3-8 and Grade 11 are tested annually in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. Figure 12 and Figure 13 present data on student performance by grade level on the 2022-23 ELA and Math Smarter Balanced Assessments for Santa Clara County, San Benito County, and California.

Consistent with student data from the 2021-22 school year, in 2022-23 students in Santa Clara County met or exceeded ELA standards at a higher rate than the statewide average at all tested grade levels, whereas San Benito County students performed below the state average. In San Benito, 42% of third graders and 40% of fourth graders did not meet standards, the highest percentages out of all grade levels across both counties and higher than the state average.

**FIGURE 12. STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN 2022-23 ELA SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT**



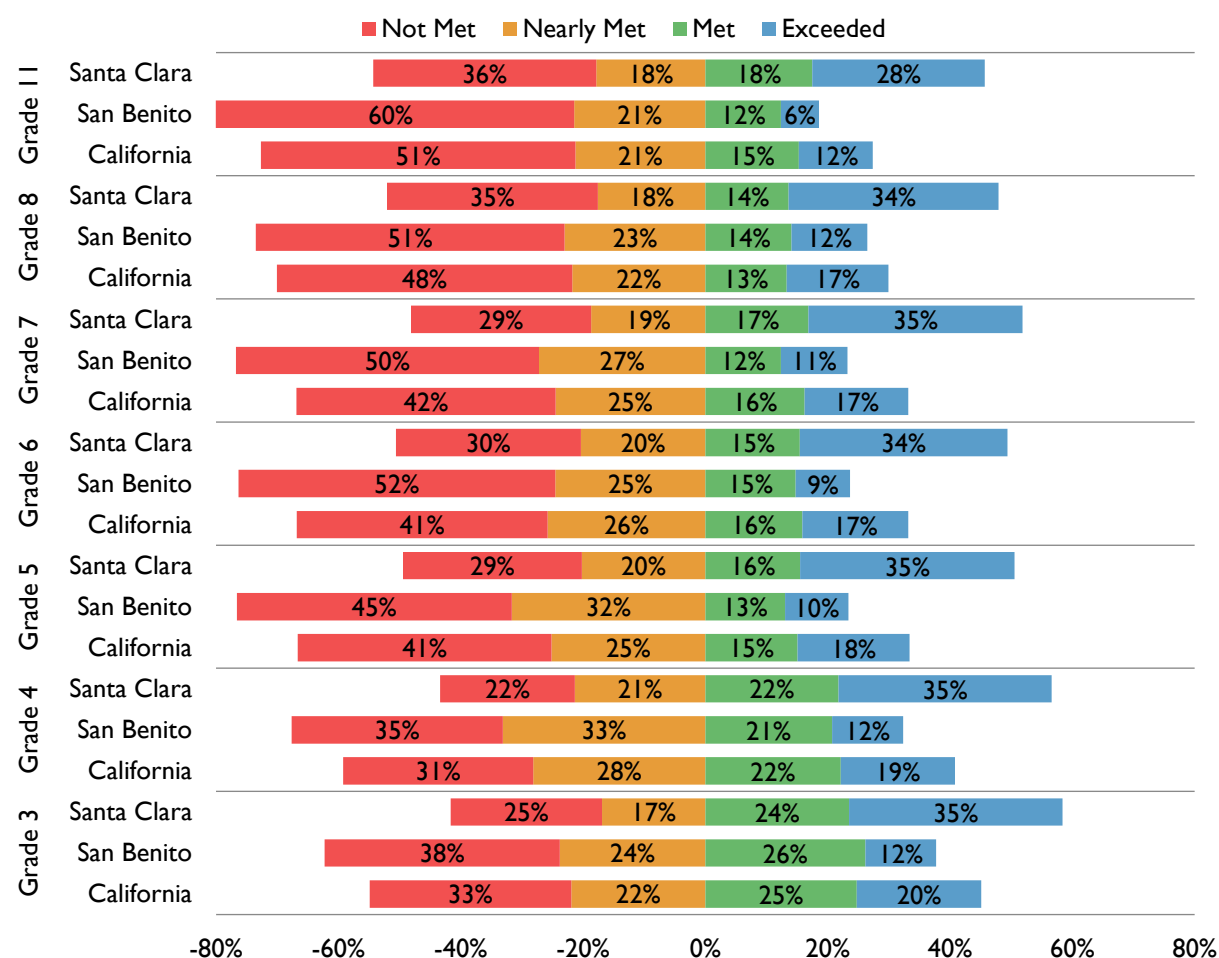
**Source:** Test Results for California's Assessments, CA Department of Education. Retrieved from <https://caaspp-elpac.cde.ca.gov/caaspp/>

In terms of student achievement, the pattern noted above is more prominent in math performance, where Santa Clara County students in all tested grades met or exceeded Mathematics standards at a higher rate than the statewide average, whereas San Benito County students performed below the state average. However, contrary to ELA trends, performance on the math Smarter Balanced Assessment worsened in higher grade levels in all three regions.

Across grade levels, students performed far better in ELA than in math. This gap is narrower in Santa Clara County than in San Benito County. The shares of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in San Benito County and across California who met or exceeded ELA standards were 28 percentage points higher than the share who met or exceeded standard in math, but among 11<sup>th</sup> graders in Santa Clara County, the difference in the shares of student who met or exceeded standards in ELA and math was only 20 percentage points. As shown in Figure 13, 60% of in 11<sup>th</sup> graders in San Benito County had "not met" standards for math, compared to 51% in California and 36% in Santa Clara County.

These disparities do not necessarily mean that Santa Clara County schools have better ELA and math programs than schools in San Benito or across California; it is possible that students in Santa Clara County have more access to extra-curricular resources to improve their understanding of ELA and math.

**FIGURE 13. STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN 2022-23 MATH SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT**



**Source:** Test Results for California's Assessments, CA Department of Education. Retrieved from <https://caaspp-elpac.cde.ca.gov/caaspp/>

Figure 14 and Figure 15 illustrate the respective changes in overall ELA student performance and overall Math student performance for the past seven years in each region. As California suspended testing in 2019-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no state assessment data available from that year. Furthermore, it should be noted that the pandemic affected testing participation in 2020-21; thus, results should be interpreted with these limitations in mind.

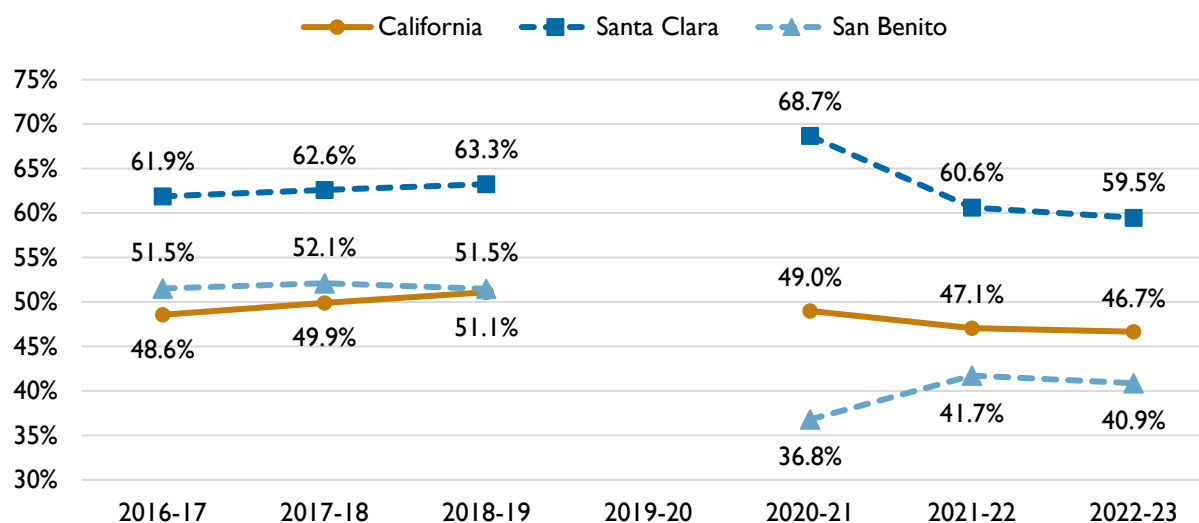
ELA performance was relatively steady from 2016-17 to 2018-19 in all three regions, with Santa Clara County consistently outperforming San Benito County and the state by about 10 percentage points.

The pandemic had a major impact on student learning as schools across the state transitioned to remote instruction for most of the 2020-21 academic year. Statewide ELA performance dipped slightly in 2021-22 and remained stable in 2022-23, albeit at a slightly lower percentage than pre-pandemic levels.

However, San Benito and Santa Clara Counties had contrasting trends: from 2018-19 to 2020-21, the share of students meeting or exceeding standards in ELA dropped by almost 15 percentage points in San Benito and increased by over five points in Santa Clara.

In the past two academic years, ELA performance in all three regions has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Compared to last year, Santa Clara and San Benito County performances dropped by about one percent each, while statewide performance remained relatively stable. As of 2022-23, Santa Clara performance remains four percentage points below 2018-19 levels, while San Benito is 10 percentage points lower than 2018-19.

**FIGURE 14. PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO MET OR EXCEEDED ELA STANDARDS**



**Source:** English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics, Test Results at a Glance, Test Results for California's Assessments, CA Department of Education. Retrieved from <https://caaspp-elpac.cde.ca.gov/caaspp/>

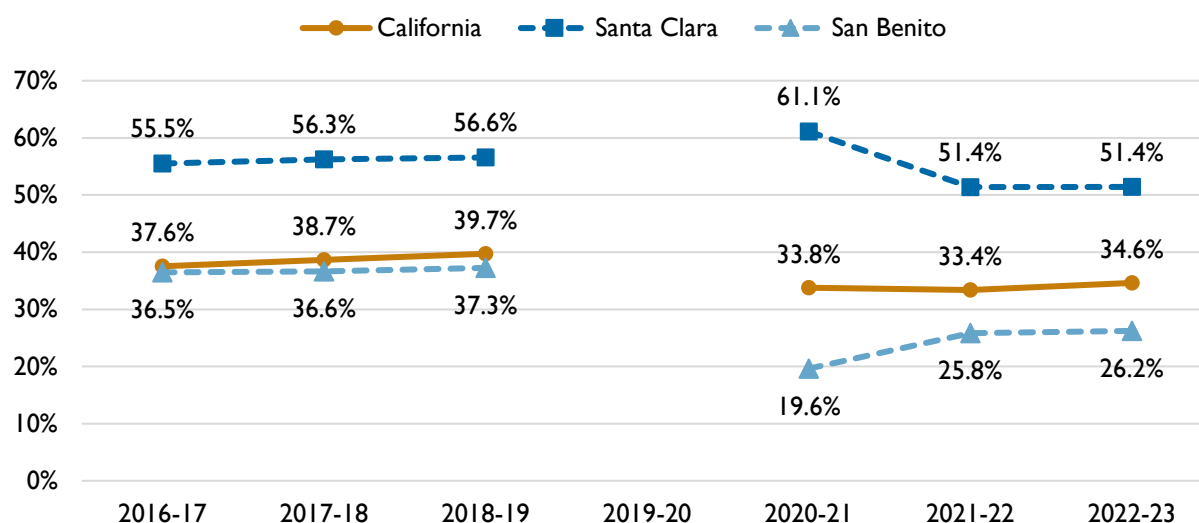
**Note:** No state assessment data was collected in 2019-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trajectories and level differences in overall performance in Math are similar to those observed for ELA. As of the 2022-23 school year, a greater proportion of Santa Clara County students (51%) met or exceeded Math standards compared to students in San Benito (26%) or California (35%).



In each of the three regions, the proportion of students meeting or exceeding standards in Math is lower than the proportion of respective students meeting or exceeding standards in ELA. In other words, students tend to perform better on ELA test items and performance tasks than on math. As with ELA, both San Benito County and California at large experienced a drop in performance in 2020-21 and recovered slightly in the past two school years, although still below pre-pandemic levels. Santa Clara County experienced a four-percentage point improvement in math performance in 2020-21, but a subsequent 10-percentage point drop in 2021-22. In the last year, performance for all three regions have remained consistent with 2021-22 levels. The pandemic's effects on student performance have been most pronounced in San Benito County, where the proportion of students who met or exceeded standards in both subjects has decreased by over 10 percentage points since 2016-17.

**FIGURE 15. PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO MET OR EXCEEDED MATH STANDARDS**



**Source:** English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics, Test Results at a Glance, Test Results for California's Assessments, CA Department of Education. Retrieved from <https://caaspp-elpac.cde.ca.gov/caaspp/>

**Note:** No state assessment data was collected in 2019-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Educational Attainment

Parent educational attainment is a factor commonly associated with household and family income. According to the 2021 American Community Survey five-year estimates, educational attainment of residents 25 years of age or older in Santa Clara County is 19 percentage points higher compared to that of San Benito County, and 12 percentage points higher than that of the State (see Table 43). In San Benito, 57% of adults over 25 years old have attended college or have received a post-secondary educational degree, compared to three-quarters in Santa Clara and almost two-thirds in California.

**TABLE 43. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY RESIDENTS AGES 25 YEARS AND OLDER (2021)**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
High School Graduate or Lower	36.2%	24.5%	43.5%
Some college or Higher	63.8%	75.5%	56.5%

**Source:** Table S1501, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau.

## Summary

Notable education characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- Approximately 230,000 students attend traditional public schools in Santa Clara County, with an additional 6,700 students attending non-traditional schools such as alternative education and continuation schools.
- Enrollment in public charter schools has slowly increased from 11.4% in 2016-17 to 12% in 2019-20 and has stayed consistent at around 12% over the past three years.
- Over three-quarters of residents aged 25 and older have attended some college or higher in Santa Clara County, compared to 57% in San Benito County.

Notable education characteristics for San Benito County:

- In San Benito County, the proportion of students enrolled in non-traditional schools (Alternative Education, Community Day, Continuation, etc.) was 1.1% in 2022-23, lower than Santa Clara County's rate of 2.8%.
- In San Benito County, 9.4% of full-time equivalent teachers in 2021-22 were eligible for a pay bonus due to having a Master's degree or higher.
- In San Benito County, nearly three-quarters of students did not meet or exceed standards in mathematics in 2022-23.

Notable education characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- Students in Santa Clara County outperformed students statewide and in San Benito in terms of the proportion that met or exceeded CAASPP standards in ELA and Math in 2022-23. Half of students met or exceeded math standards in 2022-23, 25 percentage points higher than San Benito County and 16 percentage points above the state.
- The average teacher in Santa Clara County earns \$102,933, over \$20,000 more annually than teachers in San Benito County.
- While the high school graduation rate is slightly lower in Santa Clara County than in San Benito County, 58% of high school graduates in Santa Clara County were UC and CSU eligible compared to 42% in San Benito County.
- The average annual education cost per student is over \$3,500 greater in Santa Clara County than in San Benito County, at \$17,936.
- Though the proportion of enrolled Hispanic students enrolled has slowly but steadily increased in both counties, the overall student race/ethnic distributions have also remained relatively stable since 2018.
- The rate of teachers in Santa Clara County eligible for a pay bonus due to their Master's or Doctorate degree is over five times greater than the rate in San Benito County (55.8% and 9.4%, respectively).

## Chapter 6: Childcare Access and Availability

### Background

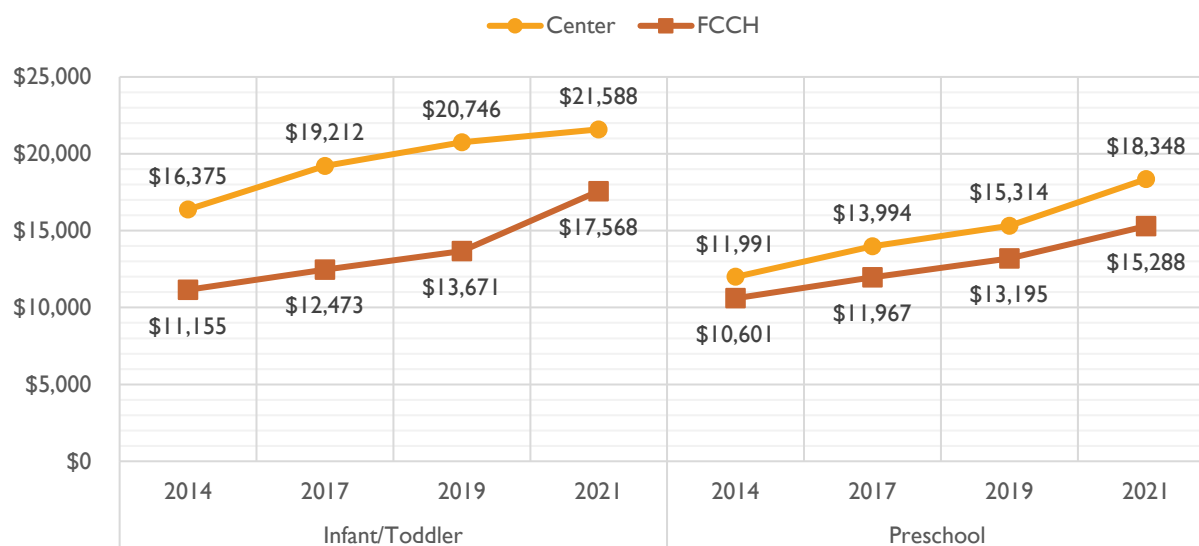
Concerns related to childcare are common among all working parents. Issues most important to families range from the availability of childcare programs (both general and those available to meet the needs of low-income families) to cost. This chapter highlights county-level data on childcare costs, capacity, and demand. Information on Title 5 providers that operate in San Benito and Santa Clara County is provided along with descriptions of eligibility criteria and enrollment trends for Title 5 programs, Transitional Kindergarten, and Migrant Education Services.

### Cost of Childcare for Infant/Toddlers and Preschool-Aged Children

Data on the cost of childcare are collected as part of the California Department of Education's Regional Market Rate Survey and are reported in the California Childcare Resource & Referral Network's Childcare Portfolio. In 2021, the cost of licensed care was 38-70% higher in Santa Clara compared to San Benito County, depending on the childcare setting (see Figure 16 and Figure 17). Though childcare through family childcare home (FCCH) providers remains the more affordable option for families in both counties, the affordability is more pronounced for families needing care for an infant or toddler.

In either county, the annual cost of infant and toddler care at a licensed center is approximately \$4,000 more than the annual cost of an FCCH as of 2021. However, families in Santa Clara County needing care for a preschooler would save \$3,000 by seeking care at an FCCH, whereas families in San Benito County would save approximately \$1,000 by seeking care at an FCCH for a child in the same age group.

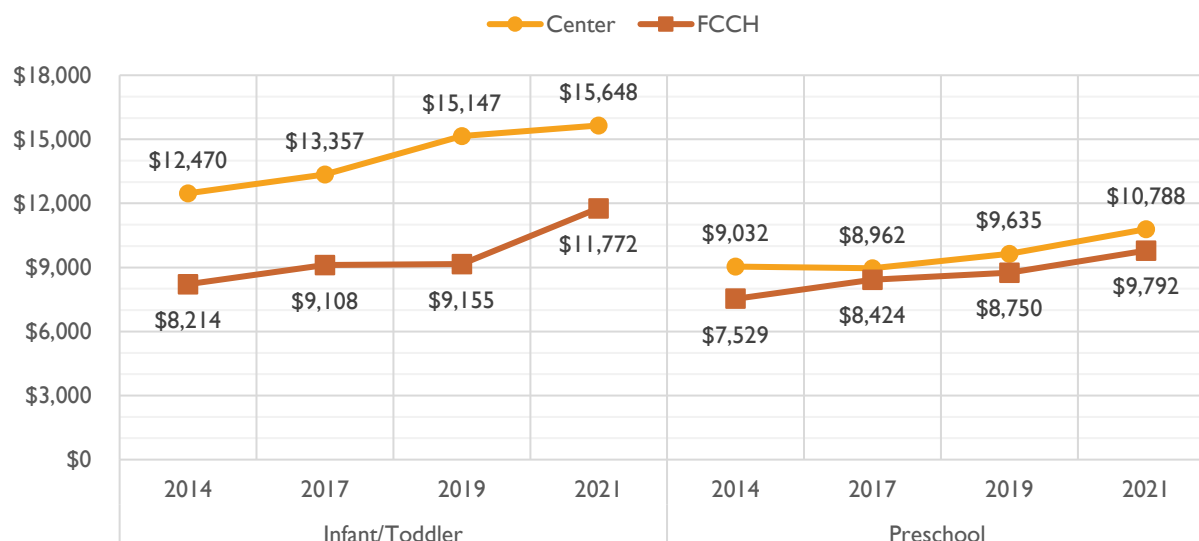
**FIGURE 16. ANNUAL COST OF FULL-TIME CHILDCARE BY AGE GROUP AND FACILITY TYPE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**



**Abbreviations:** FCCH = Family Child Care Homes.

**Source:** California Child Care Portfolio (2014, 2017, 2019, 2021), California Child Care Resource & Referral Network; California Department of Education, Fiscal Administrative Services Division. Retrieved from <https://rrnetwork.org/research/child-care-data-tool/#!0> on October 16, 2022.

**FIGURE 17. ANNUAL COST OF FULL-TIME CHILDCARE BY AGE GROUP AND FACILITY TYPE IN SAN BENITO COUNTY**



**Abbreviations:** FCCH = Family Child Care Homes.

**Source:** California Child Care Portfolio (2014, 2017, 2019, 2021), California Child Care Resource & Referral Network; California Department of Education, Fiscal Administrative Services Division. Retrieved from <https://rrnetwork.org/research/child-care-data-tool/#10> on October 16, 2022.

A review of cost data over time reveals that families seeking care at an FCCH experienced the substantial cost increases from 2019 to 2021 (see Table 44). The average annual cost of childcare increased by 4.1-28.5% in Santa Clara County and by 3.3-28.6% in San Benito County, depending on setting type and the age of the child being served. The greatest cost increases were observed for childcare at FCCH in both counties, with the annual costs increasing by \$3,897 in Santa Clara County and by \$2,617 in San Benito County. Further, the overall costs for center-based preschool care in Santa Clara and San Benito counties increased by \$3,034 and \$1,153, respectively, since 2019.

**TABLE 44. ANNUAL COST OF FULL-TIME CHILDCARE BY AGE GROUP AND FACILITY TYPE**

	Infant/Toddler Care (0-2 Years)			Preschool (3-5 Years)		
	2019	2021	Pct. Change	2019	2021	Pct. Change
<b>Santa Clara County</b>						
Center	\$20,746	\$21,588	4.1	\$15,315	\$18,348	19.8
FCCH	\$13,671	\$17,568	28.5	\$13,195	\$15,288	15.9
<b>San Benito County</b>						
Center	\$15,147	\$15,648	3.3	\$9,635	\$10,788	12.0
FCCH	\$9,155	\$11,772	28.6	\$8,750	\$9,792	11.9

**Abbreviations:** FCCH = Family Child Care Homes; Pct. = Percent.

**Source:** California Child Care Portfolio (2014, 2017, 2019, 2021), California Child Care Resource & Referral Network; California Department of Education, Fiscal Administrative Services Division. Retrieved from <https://rrnetwork.org/research/child-care-data-tool/#10> on October 16, 2022.

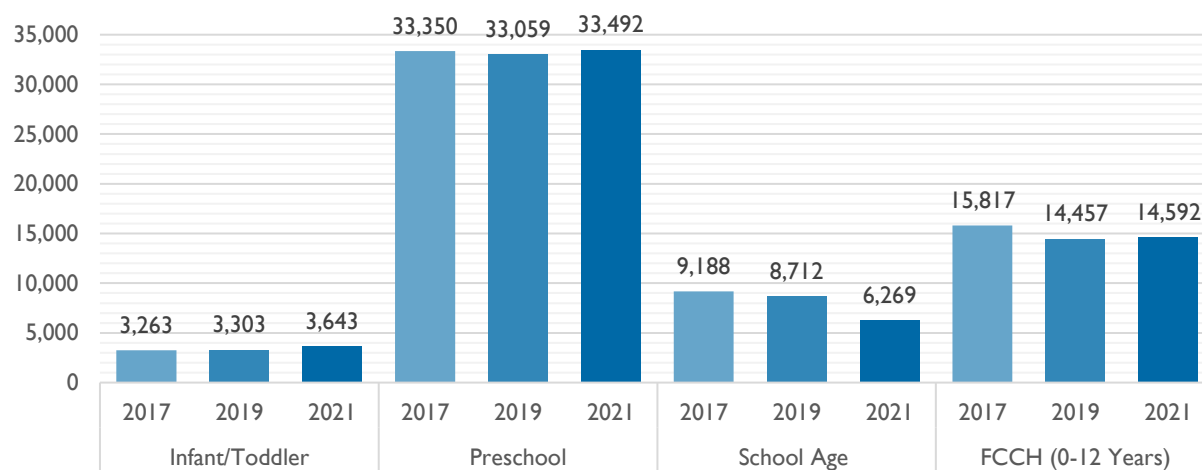
## Childcare Capacity and Parent Needs

Family childcare homes offer a more economically viable option for childcare in both Santa Clara County and San Benito County. While there are a greater number of licensed family childcare homes than licensed centers in both counties, the capacity (i.e., number of childcare slots) at family childcare homes is less than that of centers. Small family childcare home providers can care for up to eight children depending on the age distribution of the children served. The maximum capacity for most large family childcare homes is fourteen children. By comparison, centers can serve approximately eight children in each infant/toddler room and approximately 24 children in each preschool classroom. Summaries of the number of childcare slots that are available to children in each age group by facility type are provided in Figure 18 and Figure 19.

The data in Figure 18 indicate that 75% of the current slots available to families in Santa Clara County are provided through more costly childcare centers. In San Benito County licensed childcare supply is split more evenly between centers and FCCHs (see Figure 19). Supply data also show that the total number of slots available to children in Santa Clara and San Benito fell from 2017 to 2021, by 3,622 slots in Santa Clara County and 206 slots in San Benito.



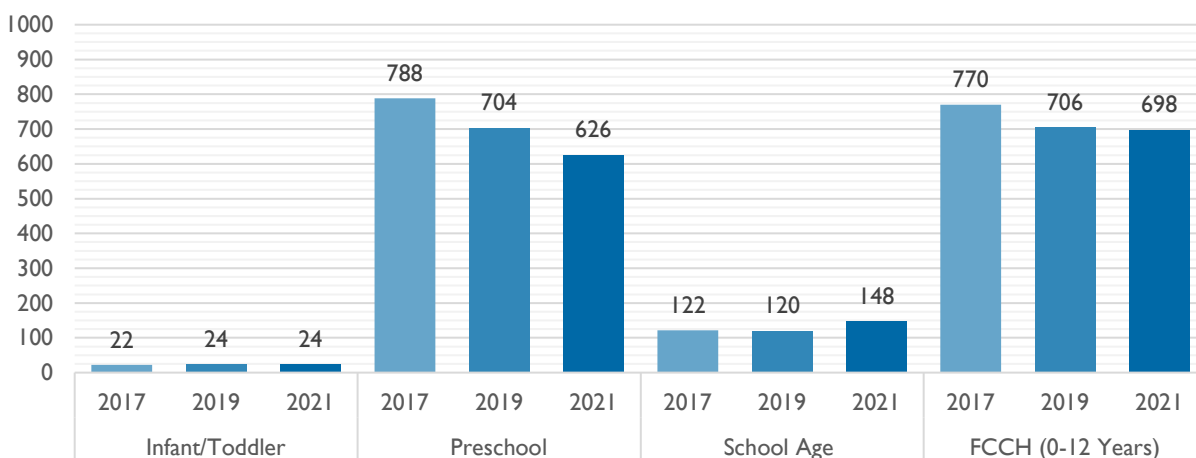
**FIGURE 18. NUMBER OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHILDCARE SLOTS BY AGE GROUP AND FACILITY TYPE**



**Abbreviations:** FCCH = Family Child Care Homes.

**Source:** California Child Care Portfolio (2017, 2019, 2021), California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. Retrieved from [https://rrnetwork.org/research/child\\_care\\_portfolio](https://rrnetwork.org/research/child_care_portfolio)

**FIGURE 19. NUMBER OF SAN BENITO COUNTY CHILDCARE SLOTS BY AGE GROUP AND FACILITY TYPE**



**Abbreviations:** FCCH = Family Child Care Homes.

**Source:** California Child Care Portfolio (2017, 2019, 2021), California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. Retrieved from [https://rrnetwork.org/research/child\\_care\\_portfolio](https://rrnetwork.org/research/child_care_portfolio)

## Requests for Childcare

Data compiled and reported by the California Child Care Resource & Referral (R&R) Network in the 2021 Child Care Portfolio indicate that parents in Santa Clara County and San Benito County have different needs when it comes to childcare. In San Benito County, where a lower proportion of centers have childcare subsidy contracts, care requests for children 6 years and older account for the greatest proportion of parent requests received by the R&R (see Table 45). In Santa Clara County, parents more commonly request care for preschool-aged children.

**TABLE 45. LICENSED CHILDCARE AND PARENT REQUEST DATA (2021)**

	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
Child Care Centers with One or More Federal, State, or Local Subsidized Child Care Contracts	40% (+ 21 PP)	10% (- 11 PP)
<b>Requests for Child Care</b>		
Children Under 2 Years	38% (+ 3 PP)	5% (- 39 PP)
Children 2-5 Years	62% (+ 21 PP)	37% (+ 14 PP)
Children 6 Years and Older	0% (- 24 PP)	58% (+ 25 PP)

**Abbreviations:** PP = Percentage Points.

**Note:** Increase or decrease in percentage points since 2019 is noted in parentheses.

**Source:** California Child Care Portfolio (2021), California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. Retrieved from [https://rrnetwork.org/research/child\\_care\\_portfolio](https://rrnetwork.org/research/child_care_portfolio).



## Child Care and Development Programs

A wide array of state subsidized child development services is available to children and families residing in Santa Clara County and San Benito County. In general, while some overlap exists in terms of eligibility criteria for state and federal programs, federal income guidelines ensure that Head Start serves the families of most need in both counties.

The state uses two mechanisms for subsidizing childcare and development services. The first is through direct contracts with agencies for center-based child development and care services. The contracts generally provide for a total number of child-days of service in licensed childcare centers. Standards for the services are governed by either Title 5 of the Education Code or Title 22 of the Social Service Code, depending upon the program. The second mechanism for subsidized childcare and development is known as Alternative Payment, or AP. The state contracts with an AP agency that helps families arrange childcare services and makes the payment for those services directly to the childcare provider selected by the family. Families may choose a licensed childcare center, a licensed family childcare home, or, under some circumstances, unregulated childcare such as extended family.



While these programs are intended to serve low-income families, their low-income standard is significantly higher than the federal poverty guidelines for Head Start. As of July 1, 2023, part-day and full-day California State Preschool (CSPP) contractors are required to use the Schedule of Income Ceilings to determine a family's eligibility which is approximately 100% of the state median income (SMI) adjusted for family size.<sup>43</sup> As shown in Table 46, the annual income ceiling for a family of four for this state-subsidized program is nearly three times greater than the annual income ceiling for Head Start.

**TABLE 46. INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR (2023)**

	Annual Income Ceiling
Head Start*	\$30,000
California State Preschool Program (CSPP)**	\$113,292

**Source:** \* = U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines Used to Determine Financial Eligibility for Certain Federal Programs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

\*\* = California Department of Education (2023, August). Management Bulletin 23-06, Revised State Median Income Ceilings and Income Ranking Table for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb2306.asp> on October 13, 2023.

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb2306.asp>

## CSPP and CCTR Childcare Operators in the Head Start Service Area

California State Preschool (CSPP) and General Child Care (CCTR) programs are provided by local education agencies and nonprofit organizations through contracts with the California Department of Education (CDE). As of 2023, the CDE contracted with a combined 30 agencies located in Santa Clara County and San Benito County to provide subsidized center-based childcare and development services to pre-kindergarten and younger children within those regions (see Table 47 and Table 48).

**TABLE 47. CHILD DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTORS WITH SITES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

Agency	City	CCTR	CSPP	Other
ABC Learning Preschool & Childcare Inc.	Gilroy	✓		
Alum Rock Union Elementary School District	San Jose		✓	
Associate Students San Jose St University	San Jose	✓	✓	
California Young World, Inc.	Sunnyvale	✓	✓	
Campbell Union School District	Campbell	✓	✓	
Child Development Inc.*	San Jose			✓
Catalyst Family Inc.*	Morgan Hill	✓	✓	✓
East Side Union High School District	San Jose	✓	✓	
Foothill-De Anza Community College District	Los Altos Hills	✓	✓	
Gilroy Unified School District	Gilroy		✓	
Go Kids*	Gilroy	✓	✓	✓
Luther Burbank Elem School District	San Jose	✓	✓	
Mandala Children's House, Inc.	San Jose			✓
Martinson Child Dev Center Inc.	Alviso	✓	✓	
Milpitas Unified School District	Milpitas	✓	✓	
Moreland Elementary School District	San Jose		✓	
Morgan Hill Unified School District	Morgan Hill		✓	
Mountain View-Whisman School District	Mt. View		✓	
Palo Alto City Unified School District	Palo Alto	✓	✓	
San Jose Conservation Corps Charter School	San Jose		✓	
San Jose Grail Family Services	San Jose		✓	
San Jose Unified School District	San Jose		✓	
San Jose/Evergreen Community College District	San Jose	✓	✓	
Santa Clara County Office of Education*	San Jose	✓	✓	✓
Santa Clara Unified School District	Santa Clara	✓	✓	
SJB Child Development Centers	San Jose	✓	✓	
Sunnyvale Elementary School District	Sunnyvale		✓	
West Valley-Mission Community College	Saratoga	✓	✓	
YWCA Silicon Valley	San Jose		✓	

**Abbreviations:** CCTR = General Child Care; CSPP = California State Preschool Program; Mt. = Mountain.

**Note:** “Other” includes CalWORKs Stages 2 and 3, Alternative Payment program, Family Child Care, Resource and Referral, and Migrant Child Care. Listed under “City” are locations in which corporate headquarters are based.

\* = Multi-county contractor.

**Source:** California Department of Education, Child Care Data Reports, Contractor List by County (2021), Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/cdddata.asp> on November 8, 2023.

Many of the agencies (16 of 30) listed in Table 47 hold both CCTR and CSPP contracts. In addition to CCTR and CSPP, larger agencies, such as Child Development Centers, Go Kids, Kidango, and the Santa Clara County Office of Education, participate in other subsidized CDE programs such as CalWORKs, Alternative Payment, and Resource & Referral. One contractor in Santa Clara County, Mandala Children's House, Inc., is a sole FCCH contractor.

There is only one agency, the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District, in San Benito County with a CDE contract (see Table 48), and it only provides CSPP services.

**TABLE 48. CHILD DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTORS WITH SITES IN SAN BENITO COUNTY**

Agency	City	CCTR	CSPP	Other
Aromas-San Juan Unified School District	San Juan Bautista		✓	

**Abbreviations:** CCTR = General Child Care; CSPP = California State Preschool Program.

**Note:** Listed under "City" are locations in which corporate headquarters are based.

**Source:** California Department of Education, Child Care Data Reports, Contractor List by County (2021), Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/cdddata.asp> on November 8, 2023.

## Alternative Payment Programs

Alternative Payment (AP) programs offer an array of subsidized childcare arrangements for parents, including in-home care, family childcare, and center care. Alternative Payment agencies help families arrange childcare services and make payments for those services directly to the childcare provider selected by the family. The AP program is intended to increase parental choice and accommodate the individual needs of the family. Currently, of the agencies in San Benito County and Santa Clara County with CDE CCTR and CSPP contracts, three have Alternative Payment contracts: (1) Child Development Inc., (2) Catalyst Kids, and (3) Go Kids. These agencies also have contracts for CalWORKs Stages 2 and 3, which are described in greater detail below.

### CalWORKs Child Care Programs

Recipients of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) grant program are required to engage in work and/or work preparation activities. CalWORKs programs provide an array of services to adults who are in need of job training or other employment-related support.<sup>44</sup> Childcare is provided with state and federal funds in three stages.

- Stage 1 is administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) through county welfare departments (CWDs). In Santa Clara County, the Social Services Agency (SSA) administers Stage 1 Child Care. The program begins when a family begins receiving CalWORKs cash aid. CalWORKs clients are served in Stage 1 until the family is considered stable or if no funds are available in Stage Two.
- Stage 2 is administered by CDSS through contracts with participating providers. In Santa Clara County and San Benito County, CalWORKs Stage 2 and 3 contractors include Child Development Inc., Catalyst Kids, and Go Kids, Inc. Families can be eligible for up to two years (24 months) in Stage 2, and then the providers transfer the families to Stage 3.

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calworks-child-care>

- Stage 3 is also administered by CDSS and provides services for former CalWORKS families who have received lump-sum diversions or who were laid off 24 months prior. A family can remain in Stage 3 until its income exceeds 85% of the SMI or until the child/children are over the eligibility age.

## Title 5 Program Eligibility

The American Institutes for Research derive Title 5 eligibility and enrollment estimates on a biennial basis. According to the most recent update, almost 44,000 children in Santa Clara County were eligible for Title 5 programs in 2020 but only 10% were enrolled. Similarly, an estimated 3,528 children were eligible for Title 5 programs in San Benito County, but only 6% were enrolled (see Table 49). The lower enrollment observed in San Benito County is likely a function of Title 5 capacity rather than parent demand.

**TABLE 49. ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT IN TITLE 5 PROGRAMS BY AGE GROUP (2020)**

	0-11 mo.	12-23 mo.	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	Total
<b>Santa Clara County</b>							
Eligible	5,703	5,800	8,198	8,423	7,870	7,932	<b>43,926</b>
Enrolled	131	418	535	948	1,864	598	<b>4,494</b>
CCTR	31	86	153	9	7	106	<b>392</b>
CSPP Full day	0	0	0	233	443	0	<b>676</b>
CSPP Part-day	0	0	0	170	881	0	<b>1,051</b>
CalWORKs Stage 2	26	96	127	147	122	91	<b>609</b>
CalWORKs Stage 3	42	82	84	162	207	220	<b>797</b>
Alternative Payment	32	153	170	227	201	180	<b>963</b>
Migrant Child Care	0	1	1	0	3	1	<b>6</b>
<b>San Benito County</b>							
Eligible	456	563	1,009	734	441	325	<b>3,528</b>
Enrolled	6	17	32	33	74	37	<b>199</b>
CCTR	0	0	1	0	0	3	<b>4</b>
CSPP Full day	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
CSPP Part-day	0	0	0	0	30	0	<b>30</b>
CalWORKs Stage 2	0	0	2	4	4	1	<b>11</b>
CalWORKs Stage 3	0	2	5	1	5	5	<b>18</b>
Alternative Payment	6	15	24	28	35	28	<b>136</b>
Migrant Child Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

**Abbreviations:** mo. = Months; CCTR = General Child Care; CSPP = California State Preschool Program.

**Source:** Infant/Toddler and Preschool Reports, Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, American Institutes for Research. Retrieved from <https://elneedsassessment.org/>.

As shown in Table 50, the average number of child CalWORKs Stage 1 beneficiaries aged 0-5 benefiting from this program has steadily decreased since 2019-20 in San Benito County. An average of 11 children in this age range benefitted from the subsidy in San Benito County during 2022-23 (decreasing by 71% since 2019-20), and in Santa Clara County during the same year, the average was 342 children (increasing overall by 17% since 2019-20). Note that Table 50 does not include data on the number of children ages 0-5 years whose families are receiving CalWORKs Stage 1 childcare subsidies.

**TABLE 50. CHANGE IN CALWORKS STAGE I CHILD CARE SUBSIDY RECIPIENTS (AGES <6)**

	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22			2022-23		
	0-2	2-5	0-5	0-2	2-5	0-5	0-2	2-5	0-5	0-2	2-5	0-5
San Benito County	12*	33*	38*	*	28*	28*	0	19*	19*	*	11*	11*
Santa Clara County	87	205	292	52	157	209	74	191	265	101	242	342

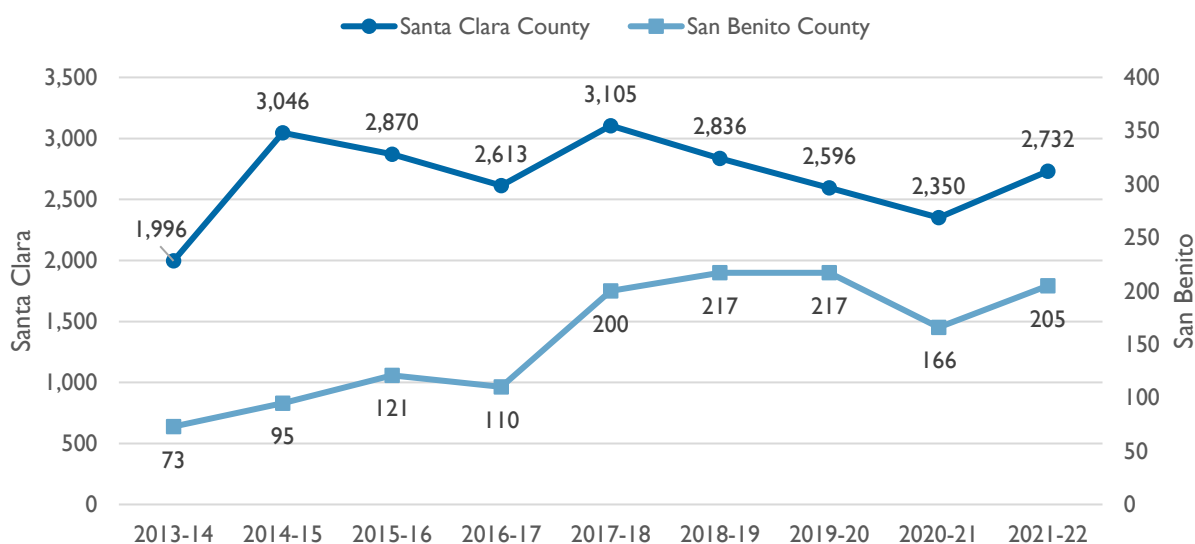
**Note:** Averages calculated by summing the number of children recipients per month from July through June and dividing by the number of available months. Asterisks for San Benito indicate that data were suppressed; averages with an asterisk (\*) are therefore over approximations based on available data. Counts include Welfare to Work, Cal-Learn, and CalWORKs Safety Net recipients.

**Source:** CW115 – Child Care Monthly Report, CalWORKs Families, California Department of Social Services. Retrieved from <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/research-and-data/calworks-data-tables/cw-115> on October 20, 2023.

### Transitional Kindergarten Enrollment

The Kindergarten Readiness Act, signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2010, changed the cutoff date for kindergarten entry from December 2 to September 2 so that children who turn 5 years of age within that period can enroll in a developmentally appropriate Kindergarten program known as Transitional Kindergarten (TK). The TK program is an entitlement program that must be offered by districts and staffed by credentialed teachers. Districts have the flexibility to determine the schools where TK programs are offered and whether to provide a blended TK program (i.e., one where TK eligible students are enrolled in regular Kindergarten classrooms).

Transitional Kindergarten enrollment for the past seven academic years is displayed in Figure 20. Student enrollment in TK programs in Santa Clara County has fluctuated over time, from a low of 1,996 students in 2013-14 to 2,732 students in 2021-22. Enrollment in San Benito County has steadily increased since 2013-14, though there was a 24% decrease in enrollment between the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

**FIGURE 20. CHANGE IN TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT OVER TIME**

**Source:** Transitional Kindergarten Participation by Ethnicity (2012-13 to 2021-22) at Census Day, DataQuest, CA Department of Education.

## Migrant Education Enrollment

Migrant Education services for children ages 3-5 years who reside in Santa Clara County and San Benito County are provided by licensed child development centers and district-operated preschools. Among the licensed child development providers that service migrant children seasonally are two larger agencies, Go Kids, Inc., and Catalyst Kids (formerly Continuing Development, Inc.). Migrant Education services for Region I, which includes the counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, San Benito, and Santa Cruz, are managed by the Santa Clara County Office of Education.<sup>45</sup>

Migrant Education enrollment data uses point-in-time enrollment using the ages of migrant students at the start of the academic year. As such, the majority of children who were two years old at the start of the year turned three years old at some point during the program year and were eligible to enroll in migrant preschool. A multi-year summary of the number of children ages 2-5 years served by migrant preschool programs operating in Santa Clara County and San Benito County is provided in Table 51. Since 2017-18, the number of children enrolled in migrant preschool programs has declined.

**TABLE 51. CHANGE IN MIGRANT PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY AGE**

	Age	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
San Benito County	Two-year-old	72	48	52	52	57	53
	Three-year-old	99	77	59	67	70	64
	Four-year-old	99	106	89	71	84	86
	Five-year-old	112	94	102	93	80	92
	<b>Children 2-5 Yrs</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>295</b>
Santa Clara County	Two-year-old	50	49	30	35	45	26
	Three-year-old	65	63	51	33	52	39
	Four-year-old	94	68	62	48	52	62
	Five-year-old	101	91	60	55	50	44
	<b>Children 2-5 Yrs</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>171</b>
Head Start Service Area	Two-year-old	122	97	82	87	102	79
	Three-year-old	164	140	110	100	122	103
	Four-year-old	193	174	151	119	136	148
	Five-year-old	213	185	162	148	130	136
	<b>Children 2-5 Yrs</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>466</b>

**Abbreviations:** Yrs = Years old.

**Note:** Head Start Service Area refers to San Benito County and Santa Clara County.

**Source:** Migrant Preschool Enrollment, Region I, Migrant Education Program Reports, Santa Clara County Office of Education.

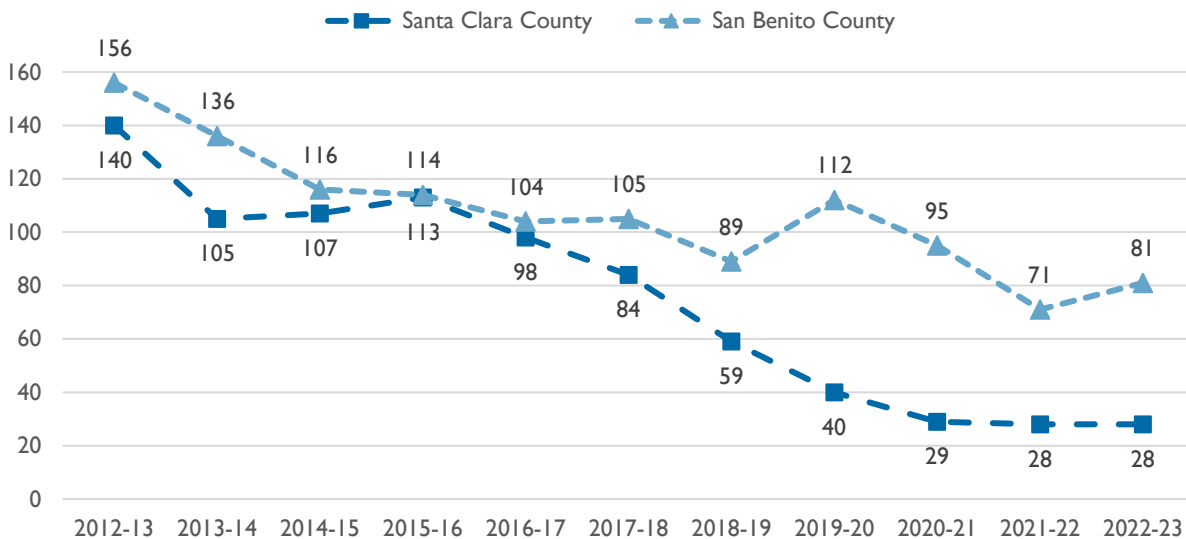
The decline in migrant education enrollment extends beyond that observed for preschool-aged children. As shown in Figure 21, migrant children enrolled in kindergarten in Santa Clara County and San Benito County have fallen since 2012-13. In Santa Clara County, 112 fewer children were served in 2022-23

<sup>45</sup> Migrant Education Program (Region I), Santa Clara County Office of Education.



compared to ten years earlier, an 80% reduction. In San Benito County, the number of migrant children enrolled in kindergarten has fallen by 48% since 2012-13.

**FIGURE 21. NUMBER OF MIGRANT CHILDREN ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN**



**Source:** Enrollment by Ethnicity and Grade (2012-13 to 2022-23), DataQuest, CA Department of Education.



## Summary

Notable childcare characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- The annual cost of full-time, center-based care for infants/toddlers and preschool-aged children is \$21,588 and \$18,348 respectively.
- In 2021, approximately 25% of the childcare slots available to children are through licensed family childcare homes, with 75% provided through childcare centers.
- The majority (62%) of childcare requests received by Resource & Referral agencies are for preschool, and over one third (38%) are for children under two years old.
- Twenty-nine agencies operating childcare centers in Santa Clara County have contracts to provide subsidized childcare.
- Of the children eligible for Title 5 programs, an estimated 4,494 (10%) are enrolled.
- While Transitional Kindergarten enrollment declined by 24% from 2017-18 to 2020-21, there has been a 16% increase in enrollment from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

Notable childcare characteristics for San Benito County:

- The annual cost of full-time, center-based care for infants/toddlers and preschool-aged children is \$15,648 and \$10,788 respectively.
- The majority (58%) of parent requests for childcare are for children 6 years and older, followed by children ages 2-5 (37%).
- Only one agency with centers operating in San Benito County has a contract to provide subsidized childcare in 2023.
- Of the children eligible for Title 5 Programs, an estimated 199 (5.6%) are enrolled.
- Transitional Kindergarten enrollment in San Benito County has increased by 23% from last year.

Notable childcare characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- The cost of infant/toddler care and preschool is on the rise. From 2014-2021, the annual cost of infant/toddler care increased by roughly \$5,000 in Santa Clara, and preschool costs have increased by over \$1,700-\$2,200 (depending on facility type) in San Benito in that same time period.
- The number of childcare slots available to children in both counties has fallen since 2017, by over 3,500 slots in Santa Clara County and over 200 slots in San Benito County.
- The income eligibility cutoff for a family of four for General Child Care and State Preschool is more than three times higher than the income cutoff that qualifies a family of four for Head Start.
- There are more children enrolled in migrant preschool in San Benito County than in Santa Clara County. The number of migrant children enrolled in preschool in the Head Start service area has steadily declined since 2017-18.

## Chapter 7: Community Resources

### Background

Information on community resources and services that are available to families that reside in Santa Clara County and San Benito County is provided in this chapter. The number of agencies and scope of services is much greater in Santa Clara compared to San Benito. Key agencies that serve low-income children and families in Santa Clara include the Public Health Department, Social Services Agency, United Way Bay Area, Catholic Charities, and FIRST 5. FIRST 5, among many other services, works with partner agencies to conduct health screenings in early learning settings that are designed to identify children at risk for poor developmental and behavioral health. Key agencies in San Benito County include the Public Health Division and the Health and Human Services Agency. This chapter concludes with an overview of agencies that provide services to children with disabilities.

### Resources in Santa Clara County

A wide array of organizations and community resources serve children and families who are in need throughout Santa Clara County. Most of these organizations are listed in the online countywide informational and referral database known as 211bayarea.org. The database lists and links over 100 non-profit and government agencies and resources that provide services such as food pantries, shelter for the homeless, and rent assistance (see Table 52 below). Supports and services are clustered within 14 resource types that include food, housing, income and expenses, crisis services, transportation, health care, mental health, substance abuse, children and family, youth, seniors, education, legal services, and reentry.



**TABLE 52. SERVICES AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

Resource	Services
Food	(1) Food Expense Assistance, (2) Food Programs, (3) Meals
Housing	(1) Housing Expense Assistance, (2) Emergency Housing & Shelters, (3) Landlord/Tenant Assistance, (4) Homeless Individuals & Families, (5) Residential Housing Options
Income & Expenses	(1) Money Management, (2) Public Income and Benefits, (3) Utility Assistance, (4) Personal/Household Items, (5) Employment, (6) Housing
Crisis Services	(1) Crisis Intervention, (2) Protective Services/Report Potential Abuse, (3) Law Enforcement/Emergency Services
Transportation	(1) Bus & Train Services, (2) Medical Transportation, (3) Senior Ride Programs
Health Care	(1) Medical Care, (2) Health Insurance & Medical Expense Assistance, (3) Specialty Screenings & Services, (4) Dental Care, (5) Immunizations, (6) Home Nursing & Caregiving, (7) Sexual & Reproductive Health, (8) End of Life Care
Mental Health	(1) Counseling, (2) Addiction, (3) Abuse, (4) Support Groups, (5) Hotlines/Crisis Response, (6) Psychiatric Services, (7) Grief & Loss
Substance Abuse	(1) Alcohol Treatment & Facilities, (2) Education & Prevention, (3) Drug Treatment & Facilities
Children & Family	(1) Child Care & Early Education, (2) Expectant & New Parents, (3) Family Counseling, (4) Family Resource Centers, (5) Foster Care & Adoption, (6) Parenting Resources, (7) Child Abuse Prevention
Youth	(1) Teen Pregnancy, (2) Prevention & Intervention, (3) Youth Programs
Seniors	(1) Senior Centers, (2) Senior Support Services, (3) Senior Health Care, (4) Senior Housing, (5) Senior Meals, (6) Elder Abuse, (7) Senior Transportation
Education	(1) Computer Literacy, (2) Schools & Libraries, (3) Educational Programs, (4) Educational Services
Legal Services	(1) General Legal Services, (2) Records & Certificates, (3) Family Law, (4) Citizenship & Immigration, (5) Courts, (6) Victim Assistance
Reentry	(1) Basic Needs, (2) Substance Abuse, (3) Education, (4) Employment, (5) Health, (6) Legal

Source: [211bayarea.org](http://211bayarea.org).

Specific services under Children & Family range from childcare provider referrals and childcare expense assistance (see Child Care & Early Education Services) to developmental screening (see Expectant & New Parents Services) and co-parenting workshops (see Parenting Resources Services). Under Education, parents can access services for computer classes (see Computer Literacy Services) and English as a second language and GED/high school equivalency (see Educational Programs Services). Similarly, under Food, pregnant or new mothers can access food assistance programs such as WIC (see Food Expense Assistance Services), formula and baby food (see Food Programs Services), and summer food services programs for children (see Meals Services).

To increase accessibility and meet the needs of county residents, many of the agencies providing these services have regional offices located throughout the county. The two largest organizations serving low-income children and families in Santa Clara County are the Public Health Department and the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency. Each are described in greater detail in the following sections.



## Public Health Department

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department focuses on the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, disease and injury, and the promotion of health policies.

The Department provides a wide range of programs and services focused on helping children and families, including expecting parents as they prepare for newborns. These programs and services provide families with parenting resources, assistance, and education. A brief summary of Public Health Department services are provided below and in Table 53; information for other programs and services can be found on the agency's [website](#).

- **Black Infant Health (BIH):** Through the BIH Program, Pregnant African American women can access empowering group classes, Public Health Nurse home visits, assistance with medical appointments, breastfeeding help, and more. BIH services are also available for fathers, including 12-week recurring workshops which provide men with parenting resources, with a focus on being positive role models.
- **California Children's Services:** A statewide program for children and young adults under 21 years old with complex medical conditions, connecting enrolled children with health care professionals. Benefits and eligibility staff are available by phone at (408) 793-6200, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm.
- **Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP):** Services focus on providing early detection and prevention of health problems among children and youth of low-to-moderate-income families (ages 0 to 19 years old) or who are on Medi-Cal (ages 0 to 21 years old). Program staff work collaboratively with health care providers and child advocate agencies to provide children with regular exams, including well-baby and well-child exams, preschool/Head Start exams, first grade exams, school exams, sport or camp physicals, and teen physicals. For more information on eligibility and services, contact: Santa Clara County Child Health and Disability Prevention at 1-800-689-6669.
- **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:** Through a coordinated team effort, the program provides education and outreach to reduce lead poisoning and case management for children and youth (ages 0-21) diagnosed with or at risk for lead poisoning. The program also works with health care providers to ensure timely reporting of lead test results.
- **Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program:** A Medi-Cal program that provides enhanced obstetric services for eligible low-income pregnant and postpartum women. Women receive comprehensive nutrition services, psychosocial support, health education, and case management from conception through 60 days postpartum.
- **Pregnancy and Parenting Referral Line:** The referral line is open to all residents of Santa Clara County and provides resources and referrals for reproductive health, family planning, pregnancy, birth defects, infants, children, and teens. Contact the referral line for services at (800) 310-2332.
- **Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC):** Low to medium-income families may qualify for food assistance, nutrition tips, and breastfeeding assistance. For more information, call (408) 792-5101 or text (888) 413-2698. In-person appointments are also available. For other WIC offices in Santa Clara County, contact Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley at (408) 960-0900 or Gardner Health Services at (408) 254-5197. An interactive map of WIC locations can be accessed on the SCC WIC [website](#).

**TABLE 53. SANTA CLARA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

	Location(s)	Contact Information	
Santa Clara County Black Infant Health (BIH) Program	1993-B McKee Rd. San Jose, CA 95116	Phone: (408) 937-2270	<a href="#">Website</a>
California Children's Services Administration	720 Empey Way San Jose, CA 95128	Phone: (408) 793-6200	<a href="#">Website</a>
Santa Clara County Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP)	1993-B McKee Rd. San Jose, CA 95116	Phone: (800) 689-6669	<a href="#">Website</a>
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CHDP) Program	S. Fair Oaks Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94086	Phone: (408) 992-4900	<a href="#">Website</a>
Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program	1993-B McKee Rd. San Jose, CA 95133	Main Line Phone: (408) 937-2250 Perinatal Services Coordinator: (408) 937-2262	<a href="#">Website</a>
Pregnancy and Parenting Referral Line	1993-B McKee Rd San Jose, CA 95133	Phone: (800) 310-2332	<a href="#">Website</a>
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program	An interactive map of WIC locations is available on the county WIC website	Phone: (408) 792-5101 Text line: (888) 413-2698	<a href="#">Website</a>

**Note:** Retrieved on January 23, 2024.

### Santa Clara County Social Services Agency

The Santa Clara County Social Services Agency provides a host of family support, income assistance, and employment preparation services to residents of Santa Clara County. These services include:

- **Food Assistance** – The CalFresh Program helps families and individuals with little or no income to buy food. Eligibility is based on family size, income, and living costs.
- **Financial Assistance** – Families and individuals with little or no income can receive cash assistance through the publicly funded programs listed below.
  - Cash Assistance for Families with Children – CalWORKs
  - General Assistance (GA)
  - Refugee Cash Assistance Program (RCA)
  - Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)
  - Employment Assistance – CalWORKs Employment Services (CWES) Program
- **Medical Assistance** – No-cost or low-cost health coverage and services are provided to children and adults.
- **In-Home Care** – The In-Home Supportive Services program provides in-home personal assistance to eligible aged and disabled individuals, including personal care services, paramedical services, transportation to and from medical appointments, and more. For additional information or to apply, call (408) 792-1600 or visit their [website](#).



- **Adoption & Foster Parent Recruitment** – Support and assistance is available for those interested in adopting a child and those who want to give up a child for adoption. For more information or to access the Resource Family Recruitment Line, call (408) 299-KIDS (5437).
- **Foster Youth Services** – Transitioned Age Youth (TAY) services and programs assist and provide developmental and transition support to current and former foster care youth to prepare them for independent living and ensure their success in adulthood. For more information on these services, call the toll free line at (877) 975-1225 or visit the Santa Clara County TAY services contact [webpage](#).
- **Investigation of Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect** – The Child Abuse and Neglect Center (CANC) operates a year-round, 24-hour hotline that residents can use to file non-emergency reports of child abuse and neglect. The toll-free number is (833) SCC-KIDS (722-5437).

Information on these and other Social Services Agency services for families and children can be found on the agency [website](#). Individuals can use the online tool “[See if I Am Eligible](#)” before completing an actual application to estimate eligibility for financial assistance, food assistance, and medical services assistance. Applications for the program can be completed online, in-person, phone, fax, or mail. Resources for applying for benefits are listed in Table 54 below.

**TABLE 54. SANTA CLARA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION**

Mail		Fax	
PO Box 11018, San Jose, CA 95103		(408) 295-9248	
Online			
For CalFresh Food Only: <a href="http://www.getcalfresh.org">www.getcalfresh.org</a>		To apply, report changes, or learn more: <a href="http://www.mybenefitscalwin.org/#/home">www.mybenefitscalwin.org/#/home</a>	
Phone			
To apply, request an application, or learn more:		(408) 758-3800 Toll Free: (877) 962-3633	For individuals receiving only Medi-Cal Coverage: (408) 758-3600
In Person and Drop Box			
Benefits Assistance Center: (408) 758-4689	1867 Senter Rd. San Jose, CA 95112	North County Office: (408) 278-2400	1330 W. Middlefield Rd. Mt. View, CA 94043
General Assistance Services: (408) 758-3800	1919 Senter Rd. San Jose, CA 95112	South County Office: (408) 758-3300	379 Tomkins Court Gilroy, CA 95020
Drop Box Only			
CalWORKs Employment Services: 1879 Senter Rd. San Jose CA 95112		Continuing Benefit Services: 1877 Senter Rd. San Jose CA 95112	

**Note:** In person services are available Monday - Friday 8:00am-5:00pm except for [county holidays](#). In-person locations also include drop box options. Call 408-758-3800 to get an application mailed or to arrange to pick up an application in the lobby of an in-person location.

**Source:** <https://socialservices.sccgov.org/how-do-i/apply-for-benefits>

## Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospital and Clinics (SCVMC) provides accessible healthcare to all persons in the region regardless of ability to pay, and serves patients of all ages, including infants and children, pregnant parents, and families. Acute care provisions include the highest level of pediatric emergency medical and trauma services and a regional high-risk Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In addition to these critical facilities and services, SCVMC helps connects patients directly to public health programs such as WIC, the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Program, and travel clinic immunizations.

Patients at SCVMC or partnered community clinics also have access to free virtual health education and wellness classes through the Ambulatory Health Education department (AHED). Courses include Prenatal Yoga and the Maternal Health and Baby Education program which birthing parents are encouraged to join by week 20 of pregnancy and cover topics such as lactation, childbirth preparation and caring for newborns and parents after delivery. Services through AHED are made available in English and Spanish (translators may be available for other languages) and require a referral from a primary care provider (including medical doctors, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants). Patients with a referral can register for classes by calling (408) 885-5436. A full listing of courses offered by the ambulatory health education department can be found by visiting the AHED website [www.scvmc.org/ahed](http://www.scvmc.org/ahed).

To take a virtual tour or learn more about the SCVMC Birth Center (including the Maternal Health and Baby Education program, labor and delivery department, NICU, or high-risk pregnancy services), visit the SCVMC [website](#).

## United Way Bay Area

In 2016, the United Way of Silicon Valley merged with its counterpart in San Francisco to form the United Way Bay Area. The United Way Bay Area (UWBA) has funded and supported numerous non-profit agencies that provide needed services to the residents of Santa Clara County that address the specific needs of the community through four pillars of impact: youth development, adult empowerment, providing for basic needs, and community development.<sup>46</sup>

Some of the highlights for how financial contributions to the UWBA have impacted the lives of residents in 2022 include: (1) 123,215 individuals who were connected to basic needs services and community resources; (2) 40,480 individuals who received help with rent and food through the Emergency Assistance Network; and (3) 13,500 individuals who were reached through outreach and education from the Labor Community Services partnership.<sup>28</sup>

The UWBA has also conducted advocacy work, from supporting the expansion of the Golden State stimulus to advocating for expanding the Child Tax Credit to include caregivers.<sup>47</sup> Several of the community impact initiatives supported by UWBA that are of particular relevance to Head Start children and families are described below:

- **2-1-1 Bay Area** – 2-1-1 Bay Area is a free, comprehensive information and referral service for San Francisco, San Mateo, Napa, Marin, Santa Clara, and Solano County residents. Like 911, residents can dial 211 by phone or text their zip code to 898211 to obtain non-emergency assistance and information 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 150 languages including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Mandarin. Information is also provided online at [www.211bayarea.org](http://www.211bayarea.org), a database that contains access to over 11,000 programs and services. 2-1-

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<sup>46</sup> United Way Bay Area (2018). <https://uwba.org/>

<sup>47</sup> United Way Bay Area's Report to the Community – Annual Report 2022. <https://uwba.org/our-impact/research-and-publications/access-annual-report-2022/>

The Bay Area has proved to be a critical lifeline for local families and individuals impacted by emergencies (such as the North Bay wildfires). Top reasons people contact 2-1-1 Bay Area include: Basic Needs (for example, food, clothing, rent assistance, emergency shelter), Criminal Justice and Legal Services, Organizational/Community/International Services, Income Support and Employment, and Individual and Family Life (such as community centers and arts/culture programs).

- **Emergency Assistance Network** – United Way Bay Area’s collaboration with seven local Santa Clara County partner agencies offers support to Santa Clara County residents struggling for financial stability and independence. The goal is to stabilize individuals and families during times of trouble and help them return to self-sufficiency. The collaboration helps families and individuals recover from emergency situations by providing food assistance, rent and mortgage aid, utility assistance and medical and transportation aid.<sup>48</sup> Participating agencies include LifeMoves, Sacred Heart Community Services, the Salvation Army, St. Joseph’s Family Services, Sunnyvale Community Services, West Valley Community Services, and the Community Services Agency of Mountain View and Los Altos:

**Community Services Agency of  
Mountain View & Los Altos**

(650) 968-0836  
204 Stierlin Rd.  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
[csacares.org/](http://csacares.org/)

**LifeMoves**

(408) 271-1630  
2550 Great America Way, Suite 201  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
[lifemoves.org](http://lifemoves.org)

**Sunnyvale  
Community Services**

(408) 738-4321  
1160 Kern Ave.  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085  
[svcommunityservices.org](http://svcommunityservices.org)

**West Valley  
Community Services**

(408) 255-8033  
10104 Vista Dr  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
[wvcommunityservices.org](http://wvcommunityservices.org)

**St. Joseph’s  
Family Center**

(408) 842-6662  
7950 Church St, Suite A  
Gilroy, CA 95020  
[stjosephsgilroy.org](http://stjosephsgilroy.org)

**Sacred Heart  
Community Service**

(408) 278-2160  
1381 S. First Street  
San Jose, CA 95110  
[sacredheartcs.org](http://sacredheartcs.org)

**Salvation  
Army Silicon Valley**

408-998-2064  
359 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
San Jose, CA 95112  
[siliconvalley.salvationarmy.org](http://siliconvalley.salvationarmy.org)

## Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

A ministry of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of San Jose, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County works toward alleviating the conditions of chronic poverty through food, housing assistance, access to benefits, senior services, and mental health services, and provisions of jobs, immigration legal services, refugee foster care, financial literacy, and asset development. More information on the programs and services can be found on the ministry’s [website](#).

## Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Clipper START Pilot Program

In July 2020, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the San Francisco Bay Area,<sup>49</sup> launched its pilot Clipper START program to provide single-ride transit fare discounts for eligible low-income individuals in the Bay Area’s nine counties.

<sup>48</sup> United Way Bay Area (2018). <https://uwba.org/emergency-services/>

<sup>49</sup> <https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc>; <https://511.org/transit/rtc-card>.

While originally conceived as a 36-month pilot, the program has been extended through June 30, 2025.<sup>50</sup> To qualify for the Clipper START program, individuals must be between ages 19 and 64, reside in one of the nine Bay Area counties, have a household income that is at or below a certain threshold, and not currently have a Regional Transit Connection (RTC) Discount Card.<sup>51</sup> It is important to note that individuals 18 and younger or age 65 or older may receive separate types of discount Clipper cards which offer similar transit discounts. The Clipper START program provides qualifying individuals with a Clipper START card which function similarly to the regular Clipper Cards and other Clipper discount cards: The Clipper START card must be loaded with cash value, which can be done at a retailer, ticket machine, Clipper Customer Service Center, transit agency ticket office, online, or over the phone at 877-878-8883. With a few limited transit operator exceptions, the program discount is automatically applied to pay the reduced fare for single rides and discounts when using the Clipper START card on participating transit agencies.

Applicants have the option of submitting the paper application found in the Clipper START brochure, which is made available at community-based organizations, social service agencies, local transit agency customer service centers, and at the Clipper In-Person Customer Service Centers (located at the AC Transit at 1600 Franklin Street in Oakland, the Embarcadero BART station, and the San Francisco Ferry Building). Applications for the Clipper START program can also be completed online by visiting the Clipper START Program website at [www.clipperstartcard.com/s/application](http://www.clipperstartcard.com/s/application). Prospective applicants who do not already have a Clipper account can call the Clipper START Customer Service line at 855-614-9149 (Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for questions about the program or the application process, requirements, or qualifications. Individuals who have a Clipper account and would like to learn more information about or apply to the Clipper START program can call the Clipper Customer Service at 877-878-8883.



<sup>50</sup> <https://mtc.ca.gov/news/clipperr-start-pilot-extended-through-june-30-2025>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.clipperstartcard.com/s/faqs>

## Santa Clara County Childcare Resource and Referral (R&R) Program

The Childcare Resource & Referral (R&R) Program provides families with the information they need to access high-quality early care and education that meets their specific preferences. The R&R also supports the full variety of early care and education providers in the county with access to a system that aids their programmatic and financial success.

All families and providers in Santa Clara County may contact the R&R to receive support and information, including:

- For families: obtaining a list of childcare providers of choice, where to find help with paying for childcare, information about public services, and much more.
- For providers: help with getting an account on the county's Childcare Portal, how to become a childcare provider, professional development, and much more.

R&R Program Specialists are available to help families and providers via phone at 669-212-KIDS (5437) or by email at [childcarescc@sccoe.org](mailto:childcarescc@sccoe.org). For a list of resources, visit the agency's [website](#).

## FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County was formed when California voters approved Proposition 10 in November 1998. Proposition 10 established a tax on tobacco products, with 80% of the revenues allocated to county commissions to fund local initiatives and more than \$30 million invested each year.

FIRST 5 funding promotes, supports, and improves early childhood development for children prenatal through age five and their families. By working with parents, community leaders, social services, and health care agencies, FIRST 5 funds and sponsors essential services in the areas of early learning, family strengthening, health, and development. Among the most relevant services provided to parents are:

- **Kit for New Parents**<sup>52</sup> – FIRST 5 California offers a free resource to California residents called Kit for New Parents, which includes helpful information, such as the booklet What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick, the California Parent Guide,<sup>53</sup> children's books, regional resources, and more. Kits are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. Kits can be ordered online for free at <https://first5parentingkits.com/>.
- **Health Screenings**<sup>54</sup> - FIRST 5 offers free developmental screenings for children ages 0-5 years through its Family Resource Centers. Parents that bring their children in for screening will learn if their children are achieving developmental milestones and receive information on what to expect as their children grow. Parents will also learn about activities they can do with their children to strengthen development. Parents may also receive a referral to Help Me Grow/KidConnections Network if their child needs additional support in a certain area.
- **Healthy Lifestyle**<sup>55</sup> - Since 2008, the FIRST 5 Santa Clara County Commission's strategic plan has focused on supporting prevention and early intervention of early childhood obesity among Santa Clara County children from birth to age 5. FIRST 5 is transitioning to focusing more broadly

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<sup>52</sup> <https://www.first5california.com/en-us/articles/kit-for-new-parents-newborn/>

<sup>53</sup> <https://parentguide.first5california.com/en-US/>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.first5kids.org/what-we-fund/community-health-wellness-initiative/health-screenings/>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.first5kids.org/health-development/healthy-eating/>



on supporting healthy lifestyles. FIRST 5 has developed a series of resources for tips and recipes that parents can access to learn more about how to make healthy changes as a family, including “10 Steps to a Healthier You”, a three-workshop series that promotes overall health and wellness, and Double Up Food Bucks, a pilot project to help families participating in the CalFresh program by matching funds to provide better access to more affordable fresh fruits and vegetables.

- **Oral Health<sup>56</sup>** – FIRST 5 supports free and low-cost comprehensive dental services for children at various locations across Santa Clara County, including:

<b>Western Dental Kids of San Jose</b>	<b>Western Dental Kids of Sunnyvale</b>	<b>Gardner South County Health Center</b>
(408) 240-0250	(408) 701-5882	(408) 457-7101
1153 S. King Road Ste. B San Jose, CA 95122	897 W. El Camino Real Sunnyvale, CA 94087	7526 Monterey Hwy. Gilroy, CA 95020

FIRST 5 partners with The Healthier Foundation to provide oral health education and connect families to dental insurance and dental clinics. Oral health education classes are conducted in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. To learn more about this resource, visit <https://hkidsf.org/our-program/dentalfirst/>.

**Neonatal Intensive Care<sup>57</sup>** – FIRST 5 and the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) have partnered to provide family-centered and technologically advanced care for premature and other babies admitted into the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). FIRST 5 supports these infants and their families by investing in:

- Giraffe Beds, which provide premature infants with controlled, stress-reduced environments, similar to the mother’s womb.
  - Total Body Cooling Program, a life-saving technology that benefits infants who have been deprived of oxygen at birth.
  - Family-Centered Care Program, which gives families personalized support from a Family Baby Advocate and Family Support Specialist along with support emergency assistance for low-income families, including meal and transportation vouchers and bereavement support.
  - Infants Exposed to Substances, a program that refers mothers to community-based support programs that help them closely monitor and appropriately care for their babies.
- **Family Resource Centers (FRCs)<sup>58</sup>** – FIRST 5’s vision for the Family Resource Center Initiative is that families in Santa Clara County have the skills and capacity to promote their children’s development, ensure their children are ready for school, build strong family relationships, and create a connected community. FIRST 5 has established Family Resource Centers throughout Santa Clara County that increase access to services and provide opportunities for parents/caregivers to become more engaged in their children’s healthy development, school readiness, and other collaborative efforts to improve their lives and the communities in which they live. Contact information for FRCs located in Santa Clara County is provided in Table 55.

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.first5kids.org/what-we-fund/community-health-wellness-initiative/healthy-lifestyle/>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.first5kids.org/what-we-fund/community-health-wellness-initiative/neonatal-intensive/>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.first5kids.org/what-we-fund/family-strengthening-initiative/family-resource-center/>



**TABLE 55. FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

Center Name	Location	Address	Phone
Adelante	Rebekah Children's Services	290 IOOF Ave. Gilroy, CA 95020	408.846.2100
AACSA	African American Community Service Agency	304 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> St. San Jose, CA 95112	408.292.3157
Dahl	Captain Jason Dahl Elementary School	3200 Water St., Bldg. P-5 San Jose, CA 95111	408.363.5650
Cesar Chavez	Cesar Chavez Elementary School	2000 Kammerer Ave., Rm. 20 San Jose, CA 95116	408.928.7270
Cureton	Horace Cureton Elementary School	3720 E. Hills Dr., Rm. 1 & 2 San Jose, CA 95127	408.928.7390
Educare	Educare at Silicon Valley	1399 Santee Dr. San Jose, CA 95122	408.573.4804
Evergreen	Katherine R. Smith Elementary School	2025 Clarice Dr., Rm. B6 San Jose, CA 95121	408.270.6752
Gardner	Gardner Family Care Corporation	160 East Virginia St., Ste. 280 San Jose, CA 95112	408.282.4320
Generations	ConXion to Community	749 Story Rd., Ste. 10 San Jose, CA 95122	408.213.0961 Ext. 35
George Shirakawa	George Shirakawa Elementary School	645 Wool Creek Dr., San Jose, CA 95112	408.549.4512
Hubbard	Hubbard Media Arts Academy	1680 Foley Ave., Rm. H2 & H3 San Jose, CA 95122	408.928.7725
ICAN	Vietnamese American Cultural Center	2072 Lucretia Ave. San Jose, CA 95122	408.509.1958
Josephine Guerrero	Robert Randall Elementary School	1300 Edsel Dr., Portable 3 Milpitas, CA 95035	408.635.2662 ext. 1637
Luther Burbank	Luther Burbank Elementary School	4 Wabash Ave., Rm. 12 San Jose, CA 95128	408.903.4673
Mercy Street	Trinity United Methodist Church	748 Mercy St. Mountain View, CA 94041	650.967.4813
Painter	Ben Painter Elementary School	500 Rough and Ready Rd., Rm. 10 San Jose, CA 95133	408.928.7282
Roots	Roots Community Health Center, South Bay	1898 The Alameda San Jose, CA 95112	408.490.4710
San Miguel/Columbia	Columbia Middle School	739 Morse Ave., Rm. PS-4 Sunnyvale, CA 94085	408.522.8200 ext. 1890
Seven Trees	Daniel Lairon Elementary School	3975 Mira Loma Way San Jose, CA 95111	408.283.6251
Sherman Oaks	Sherman Oaks Elementary School	1800 Fruitdale Ave. San Jose, CA 95128	408.364.4200 ext. 4993

**Source:** FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. Retrieved from <https://www.first5kids.org/what-we-fund/family-strengthening-initiative/family-resource-center/>

## Resources in San Benito County

San Benito has neither the population nor the community resources of Santa Clara County. Most services are located in Hollister, San Benito's main population center, and local government agencies are the key providers of services. A directory of local nonprofit and service organizations can be found at GiveSanBenito.org.<sup>59</sup>

### San Benito County Public Health Division

The San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency Public Health Division offers many programs similar to the programs offered by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department for families, including unhoused individuals and families, and children in foster care. The Public Health Division implements local, state, and federal goals and mandates for health improvements, tackles social problems specific to the community, educates the public, partners with physicians and their patients, and assesses and reports community health statistics.<sup>60</sup> Programs and services implemented by the San Benit Public Health Division include:

- California Childrens Services
- Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP)
- Immunization Program
- Maternal and Child Adolescent Health (MCAH)
- Public Health Nurse Home Visits and Case Management
- Services for Patients with HIV/AIDS
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Health

Table 56 on the following page provides a list of health clinics available to residents of San Benito County. The full resource guide prepared by the San Benito County Public Health Services Department can be accessed on the agency's [website](#).

Within the local California Children's Services program, the San Benito County Medical Therapy Program (MTP) is a special program that provides physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT) and medical therapy conference (MTC) services for children who have handicapping conditions, generally due to neurological or musculoskeletal disorders. Anyone, such as a parent, teacher, school nurse, or physician can refer a child to the MTP. Upon referral, the child's medical records are reviewed to determine if the child qualifies for the MTP. Once it has been determined that the child is medically eligible for the MTP, the child is then referred to the local Medical Therapy Unit for a therapy evaluation.

The MTC is an interdisciplinary team meeting where the child's medical case management regarding the MTP eligible condition is determined. Comprehensive evaluations are completed by MTP staff and findings and recommendations are discussed with the parents. This evaluation includes physical assessment and may involve home, classroom, and community access assessment. MTP staff may attend Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) meetings, when requested, to make sure school staff understands the child's therapy needs and are aware of the child's participation in the MTP. There is no financial eligibility requirement for MTP services, there is a financial eligibility requirement for specialized equipment.

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<sup>59</sup> <https://givesanbenito.org/nonprofit-directory>

<sup>60</sup> <http://hhsa.cosb.us/public-health-2/>

**TABLE 56. HEALTH CLINICS IN SAN BENITO COUNTY**

Clinic Name	Location	Phone
<b>Doc Finder</b>	<b>Phone Only</b>	831-636-2666
<b>Pinnacle Health Care</b>	<b>Hollister Location</b> 591 McCray St., Ste. 101 Hollister, CA	831-634-4444
<b>Gilroy Health Center</b>	<b>Planned Parenthood</b> 760 Renz Ln. Gilroy, CA 95020	408-847-1739
<b>SBC Public Health Services</b>	<b>Immunization Clinic</b> 351 Tres Pinos Rd., Suite A-202 Hollister, CA 95023	831-637-5367
	<b>Medical Therapy Unit (MTU)</b> 761 South St. Hollister, CA 95023	831-637-1989
	<b>SBC Behavioral Health</b> 1131 Community Parkway Hollister, CA 95023	831-636-4020
	<b>24 Hour Crisis Line and Services</b> 1131 Community Parkway Hollister, CA 95023	888-636-4020
	<b>Esperanza Center (Mental Health &amp; Substance Abuse Services)</b> 544 San Benito St., Ste. 202 Hollister, CA 95023	831-636-4020 ext. 309
<b>Hazel Hawkins Community Health Clinics</b>	<b>Mabie First Street Health Care Center</b> 321 First St. Hollister, CA 95023	831-638-1652
	<b>Mabie 4<sup>th</sup> Street Health Care Center</b> 991 4 <sup>th</sup> St. Hollister, CA 95023	831-636-3277
	<b>Hazel Hawkins Community Health Center (Sunset Clinic)</b> 930 Sunset Dr., Bldg. 3 Hollister, CA 95023	831-636-2664
	<b>Hazel Hawkins Community Health Center at San Juan Bautista</b> 301 The Alameda, Space B-3 San Juan Bautista, CA 95045	831-623-4615
	<b>Hazel Hawkins Hospital Childbirth Education Program</b> 911 Sunset Dr. Hollister, CA 95023	831-637-5711

**Source:** San Benito County Public Resource Guide 2023. Retrieved from <https://hhsa.cosb.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SBC-Pocket-Resource-Guide-2023-2024-2.pdf> on January 23, 2024.

The San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency implements the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care.<sup>61</sup> This program seeks to meet children and youth's medical, dental, mental, and developmental health needs in court-ordered out-of-home placement or foster care. Public Health Nurses (PHN) work with local government agencies and collaborate with social workers and probation officers to ensure that health care resources are provided to children placed in foster homes and group homes.

### San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency

Most county support services are provided through the central office in Hollister, located at 1111 San Felipe Road. These services include:

- Adult Protective Services;
- America's Job Center of California (AJCC);
- Child Protective Services;
- HOME Resource Center;
- In-Home Supportive Services; and
- Public Assistance (including CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Assistance, Medi-Cal).<sup>62</sup>

### Community Food Bank

The Community Food Bank offers meal programs to San Benito County residents, through food pantry distribution services including drive-thru pickup, "Brown Bag Delivery," sit-down meals, and mobile meals for those who cannot reach a food distribution center. Foodbank services are available throughout San Benito County, including Hollister, Aromas, San Juan Bautista, and Tres Pinos. For a listing of Community Food Bank pick-up locations, visit the agency's [website](#).

The Student Snack Bag program<sup>63</sup> reaches out directly to students in San Benito County schools each week during the school year. Student Snack Bags are given to students every Friday, filled with kid-friendly food that provides two weekend breakfasts, lunches and snacks. Residents can contact their child's school to find out about the availability of the Student Snack Bag program.

### Resources for Children with Disabilities

Although most special education services are provided through the public education system, there are also community-based organizations that provide services such as occupational and physical therapy, speech and language services, and transportation. Some of these organizations that serve Santa Clara and San Benito Counties are discussed in this section.

### San Andreas Regional Center

The San Andreas Regional Center is a community-based, private nonprofit corporation that the State of California funds to serve individuals with developmental disabilities. It is one of the 21 Regional Centers throughout California serving children and their families who reside in Santa Clara, San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz Counties.<sup>64</sup> San Andreas provides diagnostic and prevention services are available with a referral from a physician to help ameliorate developmental disabilities. Examples of such service includes amniocentesis, chorionic villus screening or genetic screening for pregnant people. Residents in the service

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<sup>61</sup> <https://hhsa.cosb.us/foster-care/>

<sup>62</sup> San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency (2022). <https://hhsa.cosb.us/hours-locations/>

<sup>63</sup> Community Food Bank of San Benito County (2020). Student Snack Bag Program.

<https://www.communityfoodbankofsbcc.org/student-snack-bag-program/>

<sup>64</sup> <http://www.sanandreasregional.org/>

area who are believed to have a developmental disability (regardless of age, cultural background, or income) are encouraged to apply for services. Eligible individuals who have conditions that the staff can identify receive assistance services, while individuals identified as not eligible for services are referred to appropriate agencies in the community.

The San Andreas Regional Center also provides services for young children called their Early Start program. They serve high-risk children under the age of three with genetic, medical, or environmental histories that place them at greater risk for developmental disability. Once young children are assessed and found to be at-risk, they are eligible for the Early Start Prevention Program. To arrange for an assessment, families in San Benito County or Santa Clara County should call 844-700-9889 or request an assessment [here](#).

More information on San Andreas Regional Center services can be found on the agency's [website](#).

### Parents Helping Parents

Parents Helping Parents (PHP) is a nonprofit, community-based, and parent-directed family resource center. PHP supports children and families with any special needs – such as cancer, accidents, congenital disabilities, premature birth, and attention deficit (hyperactivity) disorder – and the professionals who serve them. The PHP menu of services and programs includes resources for education, assistive technology (AT), health care, support, and other services that a family or child may need throughout their lifetime.<sup>65</sup> Although PHP does not offer therapies, they provide one-to-one support with identifying and locating relevant resources, help with accessing referrals, and offer “hands-on” training experiences with their AT specialists. For support, contact (408) 727-5775.

### Special Parents Information Network

Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) is a non-profit parent-to-parent support and information network serving parents, guardians and families in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties who have a child or children with special needs of any age.<sup>66</sup> The network houses a Family Empowerment Center on Disabilities as well as a Family Resource Center. Specific SPIN services include:

- Information on and referral to local resources for children with special needs.
- Mentor program for parents who want support and information from another parent who has a child with a similar disability or has experience navigating the system of services.
- Support Groups for both English and Spanish-speaking parents.
- Educational workshops and training on various topics to educate parents and professionals to better meet and advocate for a child's needs at home, school, and in the community.
- IEP Clinics that provide individual assistance on issues regarding children's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).
- Networking opportunities through support groups, events, workshops and training, and parent-to-parent support.
- Resource library of books, periodicals, journals, brochures, and videos on various special needs topics.
- Special Connections services and resources for families who have children ages 0-3.

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<sup>65</sup> Parents Helping Parents (2019). About Us. Website: <https://www.php.com/about-parents-helping-parents-disability-support-resources-and-information/>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.spinsc.org/about>

Support can be provided via phone call, in person (appointment only), zoom, and email. For more information on SPIN Services, San Benito families can contact (831) 722-2800.

### Santa Clara County Office of Education Inclusion Collaborative

The Inclusion Collaborative of Santa Clara County provides information, professional development workshops, annual conferences, and resources that promote the inclusion of children with special needs or disabilities in child care, preschool, and community settings.<sup>67</sup> Some of the topics covered in trainings and workshops held by the Inclusion Collaborative include understanding special education referrals, adapting toys and activities for children with disabilities, and understanding the impact of language on behavior. The Inclusion Collaborative also operates a Warmline that offers free individualized support, information, and referrals for children of all ages with disabilities and other needs.<sup>68</sup> Parents and educators can contact the Warmline to receive the below supports:

Referrals to inclusive community activities	Referrals to local resources, agencies, & services	Technical assistance & supports to increase inclusive services
Positive behavior support for parents & professionals	Developmental screening for ages one month to 5-½ years	Answers to questions about inclusive practices
Resources for parents & educators (such as visual supports & social stories)	Resources for transitions between programs (such as elementary to middle school)	Referrals & recommendations for COVID-19 distance learning support & digital access resources

The Warmline offers support in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and other languages and can be accessed by phone at (408) 453-6651 or email at [inclusionwarmline@sccoe.org](mailto:inclusionwarmline@sccoe.org).

### Family and Children Services of Silicon Valley

Family & Children Services (FCS) of Silicon Valley is a private, nonprofit health and human services agency that has been a resource for residents in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties since 1948, providing a variety of comprehensive and affordable counseling, education and prevention programs.<sup>69</sup> With a staff of over 100 full- and part-time therapists, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, facilitators, and clinical interns, Family & Children Services has extensively collaborated with agencies at more than 100 community-based locations in addition to their own offices located in Palo Alto and San Jose. Services for children, teens, and their families include:

- **Counseling services** – Therapists apply evidence-based, proven practices and strategies to address a range of emotional and mental health needs, including grief and loss, anxiety, depression, peer and family relationships, co-occurring disorders (dual diagnosis), mood disorders, and the effects of trauma (including witnessing or experiencing violence or abuse). Specialized services are available for adults with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, students, survivors of domestic violence, LGBTQ youth and young adults, and children and adults who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.<sup>70</sup>
- **Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Program** – Services include culturally-competent individual and family counseling services for children and families. Trainings, workshops, and adult American Sign

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.inclusioncollaborative.org/>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.inclusioncollaborative.org/warmline.aspx>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.fcservices.org/>

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.fcservices.org/individual-and-family-counseling-services/>



Language (ASL) classes are provided for those who are interested in learning about Deaf culture and want to learn ASL.<sup>71</sup>

- **School-Based Services** – FCS partners with schools and districts to provide on-campus counseling (general or special education), mental health assessments, teacher or parent education workshops, or the Teen FAST Program. Using evidence-based practices and strategies, therapists assist children and teens with a wide variety of concerns, including bullying, depression, anxiety, stress, home life issues, and behavior. FCS also offers comprehensive mental health assessments for students, which may be used for developing Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).<sup>72</sup>
- **LGBTQ Wellness** – The LGBTQ Wellness Program was founded in 2015 to support the mental health of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning) community members and allies by providing outreach, education, and advocacy services that encourage social support and holistic wellness. Program services include one-on-one support and resource and referral, peer support groups, educational programs, cultural competency training programs, and community needs identification and advocacy.<sup>73</sup>
- **LGBTQ Youth Space** – The LGBTQ Youth Space Program empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and ally youth and young adults in Santa Clara County through culturally competent, youth-driven counseling and support services. The program brings together in-person and online support, extensive youth development opportunities, community outreach and education, and a safe and welcoming drop-in center.<sup>74</sup>
- **Family Violence & Abuse Prevention Services** – Through the Positive Solutions Programs, Family and Children Services of Silicon Valley addresses the root causes of domestic violence, child abuse, and neglect to end cycles of violence and abuse. The program provides services in English and Spanish, and include a cognitive behavioral intervention program, intimate partner violence program, domestic violence survivor services, and the Blackbird House.<sup>75</sup>

More information on these services can be found on the agency [website](#).

## Resources for Homeless Children and Families

The number of unhoused individuals in Santa Clara County increased by 34% from 2017 to 2023.<sup>76</sup> Of the unhoused population, 1,226 (12%) were members of family units and 764 (8%) were classified as youth. Of unhoused youth, only 14% were sheltered at the time of the count. These data suggest that the need for programs that service the unhoused population is high, especially in Santa Clara County where there is a lack of affordable housing and work opportunities for people with limited education. This environment, combined with a single, triggering event, are all that is needed to force a family without emergency funds out of stable housing. For example, among surveyed unhoused individuals, 14% were unhoused due to conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are several agencies that service the unhoused population in Santa Clara County and the surrounding region. Listings of important resources are provided by Destination: Home<sup>77</sup> and Project WeHOPE.<sup>78</sup> HomeFirst, the San Jose Family Shelter, and Housing

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<sup>71</sup> <http://www.fcservices.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing-program/>

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.fcservices.org/services-in-collaboration-with-schools/>

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.fcservices.org/lgbtq-wellness/>

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.fcservices.org/lgbtq-youth-space-program/>

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.fcservices.org/family-violence-abuse-prevention-positive-solutions-program/>

<sup>76</sup> <https://osh.sccgov.org/continuum-care/reports-and-publications/santa-clara-county-homeless-census-and-survey-reports>

<sup>77</sup> <https://destinationhomesv.org/>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.wehope.org/>

Trust of Silicon Valley are among the homeless population service providers operating in Santa Clara County. A directory of homeless shelters and services for the needy operating in San Benito and Santa Clara County can be found on the [Homeless Shelters Directory](#).

### HomeFirst

HomeFirst is a leading provider of services, shelter, and housing opportunities to unhoused individuals and families and those at risk of becoming unhoused in Santa Clara County.<sup>79</sup> The organization serves more than 5,000 adults, veterans, families, and youth each year through offices at seven locations. HomeFirst's Boccardo Regional Reception Center, the county's largest homeless services center, provides shelter and transitional housing as well as a wide array of additional services to the unhoused population year-round. Currently, HomeFirst operates two family living centers, the Sobrato Family Living Center for transitional aged youth in Santa Clara and the Boccardo Family Living Center located in San Martin. For more information, contact (408) 539-2100.

In 2020 HomeFirst announced a pilot program in partnership with the City of San Jose. HomeFirst's Bridge Housing Communities (BHC) Program provides safe and secure interim housing to eligible individuals enrolled in the Santa Clara County and City of San Jose Rapid Rehousing Programs. Participants receive an array of on-site supportive services and access to resources needed to build a lifestyle of self-sufficiency.

Though the BHC does not offer drop-in services, linkage to alternative resources such as Overnight Warming Locations (OWLs) can be accessed by contacting the 24/7 HomeFirst Homeless Helpline at 408-510-7600 or emailing [outreach@homefirstscc.org](mailto:outreach@homefirstscc.org), or by calling Santa Clara County's shelter hotline at 408-385-2400 for assistance finding shelters. Additional emergency shelter or housing opportunities are available at the Here4You Hotline at (408)-385-2400 or Homelessness Prevention Services at (408)-786-8538.

### The San Jose Family Shelter

The San Jose Family Shelter is the only shelter in Santa Clara County that exclusively serves single- and two-parent families.<sup>80</sup> The shelter can serve up to 35 families at a time. Each family is provided with a private room and case management services designed to help them identify barriers to self-sufficiency and develop a plan to secure permanent housing. Families that participate in the program are provided with housing for up to three months, are referred to other agencies for services such as short-term rental assistance, transitional housing, permanent housing and public benefits. According to program data, seventy-five percent of families who participated in the program have moved into permanent housing. For more information, contact (408) 926-8885.



<sup>79</sup> <https://www.homefirstscc.org/>

<sup>80</sup> <http://familysupportivehousing.org/programs-and-services/the-san-jose-family-shelter-2/>

## COVID-19 and Other Resources in Santa Clara and San Benito County

Public health resources for vaccines, testing, and emotional supports for COVID-19 and other airborne diseases are listed below. Walk-in vaccination clinics for COVID-19 are listed in Table 57 below.

**TABLE 57. RESOURCES FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

		California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
COVID-19 Public Health Information and Resources	Guidance	<b>Public Health Information</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> for guidance and recommendations	<a href="#">Click here</a> for local guidance
		<b>Isolation and Quarantine</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> for guidance and recommendations	<a href="#">Click here</a> for local guidance
		<b>Schools and Childcare</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> for information and resources	<a href="#">Click here</a> for local guidance
		<b>Additional Assistance</b>	CA COVID-19 Hotline: 1-833-4CA-4ALL (1-833-422-4255)	24/7 Free Medi-Nurse Call Line for COVID-19 Questions: 877-409-9052
	Testing	<b>Testing Information</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> for local resources	Public Health Services: 831-637-5367
		<b>Testing Appointments</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> to find testing sites or free at-home test pickup locations	<a href="#">Click here</a> to schedule online or to view walk-in locations
	Vaccination	<b>Vaccine Information</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> for COVID-19 vaccine resources	<a href="#">Click here</a> for local resources
		<b>Vaccine Appointments</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> for the CA COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Locator	<a href="#">Click here</a> to view walk-in vaccination clinic information
	Treatments	<b>Treatment Programs and Therapeutics</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> for a Test-to-Treat Locator	<a href="#">Click here</a> for Local Test-to-Treat Information
			<a href="#">Click here</a> for a Therapeutics Locator	<a href="#">Click here</a> to learn about free virtual appointments and treatment, or call: 408-793-7440
Other Resources		<b>Mental Health (MH) Services</b>	CA Parent and Youth Helpline: Call or text: 855-427-2736 or <a href="#">click here</a>	MH Services Call Center: 1-800-704-0900 Behavioral Health Urgent Care: 408-885-7855
		<b>Required Vaccinations for Schools and Childcare</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> for general information about school vaccine requirements	<a href="#">Click here</a> for local forms and updates for schools and childcare providers
			<a href="#">Click here</a> for childcare vaccine requirements	<a href="#">Click here</a> for school and childcare vaccine requirements
		<b>Other Communicable Diseases</b>	<a href="#">Click here</a> for information and resources	<a href="#">Click here</a> for information and local resources, or call: 831-637-5367

**Note:** Retrieved on January 23, 2024.

## Summary

### Services for low-income children and families:

#### **Santa Clara County:**

##### *Public Health Department*

- Provides a wide range of services, parenting resources, assistance, and information focused on helping children, families, and expecting parents who are preparing for newborns.

##### *Social Services Agency*

- Provides a host of family support, income assistance, and employment preparation services to residents of Santa Clara County. Examples include:
  - Childcare and employment assistance through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program.
  - Monthly electronic benefits through the CalFresh Program for eligible families that can be used to buy food at participating market and food stores.

##### *Santa Clara Valley Medical Center*

- Provides accessible healthcare to all persons in the region regardless of ability to pay, and serves patients of all ages, including infants and children, pregnant parents, and families. Patients at SCVMC or partnered community clinics also have access to free virtual health education and wellness classes such as Prenatal Yoga and the Maternal Health and Baby Education program. Translators are available for all services.

#### **San Benito County:**

##### *Health and Human Services Agency*

- Services align with those provided by the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, which include CalWORKs and CalFresh programs for eligible families.

##### *The Community Food Bank*

- Provides food pantry distributions such as drive-thru pickup, “Brown Bag Delivery,” sit-down meals, and mobile meals for those who cannot reach a food distribution center.
- Services are available to residents throughout San Benito County, including Hollister, Aromas, San Juan Bautista, and Tres Pinos.

### Services for children who experienced or are at-risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation:

#### **Santa Clara County**

##### *Santa Clara County Social Services Agency*

- Operates the Child Abuse and Neglect Center (CANC), a year-round, 24-hour hotline where residents can file non-emergency reports of child abuse or neglect. Toll-free number: 833-722-5437.

#### **San Benito County**

##### *The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care*

- Coordinates medical, dental, mental, and developmental health services to children in foster care through a network of Public Health Nurses (PHN), social workers, and probation officers.

## **Services for children with disabilities:**

### ***Santa Clara County:***

#### *Public Health Department:*

- Focuses on protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, disease and injury, and the promotion of health policies. Examples include:
  - The California Children's Services program coordinates medical services for children and young adults (under 21 years) with special health care needs.
  - The Child Health and Disability Prevention program provides services for early detection and prevention of disease in children.
  - The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provides prevention education, outreach, and case management for children and youth diagnosed with or at risk for lead poisoning.

#### *FIRST 5:*

- Works with partner agencies to promote, support, and improve early childhood development and to identify children at-risk of poor developmental and behavioral health.
- Countywide Family Resource Centers offer free developmental screenings for children ages 0-5 years and provide opportunities for caregivers to engage in their children's healthy development.

### ***San Benito County:***

#### *Public Health Division*

- The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program provides periodic preventative health assessments and services to income eligible children.
- The San Benito County Medical Therapy Program (MTP) is a special program that provides services for children with medical conditions such as neurological or musculoskeletal disorders.

#### *Special Parents Information Network (SPIN)*

- Establishes non-profit parent-to-parent support and information networks that serve parents, guardians and families in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties who have a child or children with special needs of any age.
- Houses a Family Empowerment Center on Disabilities and provides services such as Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) Clinics that provide individual assistance on issues regarding children's IEP.

## **Services for homeless children and families:**

### ***Santa Clara County***

#### *United Way Bay Area*

- Collaborates with partner agencies located in Santa Clara County. In addition to other support services (i.e., food assistance, utility assistance, medical and transportation aid), UWBA provides emergency rental assistance and mortgage aid to families.

#### *HomeFirst*

- Provides year-round shelter and transitional housing services to Santa Clara County's unhoused population. Operates two Family Living Centers located in Santa Clara and San Martin.

#### *The San Jose Family Shelter*

- Provides transitional housing for single- and two-parent families for up to 90 days, and offers referrals to other programs, planning services, and jobs training.



## Chapter 8: Head Start Eligible Children

### Background

This chapter includes data on children who are income and categorically eligible for Head Start services. Estimates for children who meet federal income eligibility guidelines are provided at the city level for all major cities located in Santa Clara and San Benito County. Data on the number of children who are categorically eligible for Head Start services are derived from California Department of Education annual enrollment figures and are provided at the county level.

### Income Eligible Children

Children in families with household incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are eligible for Head Start services. For a family of four, that equates to an annual household income of \$30,000.<sup>81</sup> In the Santa Clara County-San Benito County service area, an estimated 3,421 children ages 0-2 years qualify for Early Head Start, and 4,212 children ages 3-4 years qualify for Head Start based on household income. See Table 58 on the following page for number of income-eligible children in service area.



<sup>81</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Poverty Guidelines for 2023.



A comparison of income eligibility rates between counties reveals that the proportion of San Benito's child population that is income eligible for Head Start (23.5%) is three times greater than that of Santa Clara County (7.7%). Yet, the number of children who are income eligible for services in Santa Clara (6,887) far exceeds that of San Benito County (746).

**TABLE 58. INCOME ELIGIBLE CHILDREN BY CITY AND AGE GROUP (2020)**

	Children Ages 0-2 Years			Children Ages 3-4 Years		
	No. of Children	Children Living Below 100% FPL	Percent of Children Living Below 100% FPL*	No. of Children	Children Living Below 100% FPL	Percent of Children Living Below 100% FPL*
<b>Santa Clara Co.</b>	<b>44,248</b>	<b>3,111</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>49,155</b>	<b>3,776</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
Alviso	61	3	4.9%	66	4	6.1%
Campbell	1,108	56	5.1%	1,401	98	7.0%
Cupertino	904	12	1.3%	1,126	9	0.8%
Gilroy	1,605	147	9.2%	1,871	172	9.2%
Livermore	1,219	70	5.7%	1,475	78	5.3%
Los Altos	981	61	6.2%	859	18	2.1%
Los Gatos	759	28	3.7%	942	40	4.2%
Milpitas	1,824	80	4.4%	235	89	37.9%
Morgan Hill	1,275	117	9.2%	1,486	137	9.2%
Mountain View	1,807	113	6.3%	1,573	32	2.0%
Palo Alto	2,724	254	9.3%	2,426	115	4.7%
San Jose	23,993	1,978	8.2%	27,249	2,650	9.7%
San Martin	179	16	8.9%	208	0	0.0%
Santa Clara	3,376	148	4.4%	3,975	272	6.8%
Saratoga	446	5	1.1%	565	5	0.9%
Sunnyvale	4,142	243	5.9%	4,477	229	5.1%
Watsonville	1,975	290	14.7%	2,247	381	17.0%
<b>San Benito Co.</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
Aromas	100	17	17%	121	18	14.9%
Hollister	1,375	273	19.9%	1,637	385	23.5%
King City	446	89	20.0%	532	126	23.7%
Paicines	19	3	15.8%	22	5	22.7%
San Juan Bautista	115	23	20.0%	137	32	23.4%
Tres Pinos	11	2	18.2%	13	3	23.1%
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>45,803</b>	<b>3,421</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>51,007</b>	<b>4,212</b>	<b>8.3%</b>

**Abbreviations:** Co. = County; No. = Number; FPL = Federal Poverty Level.

**Note:** \* = Columns are calculated by dividing the number of children living below 100% FPL by the total number of children.

**Source:** Infant/Toddler and Preschool Reports (2020), Five-year estimates from American Community Survey, Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (ELNAT), American Institutes for Research (AIR).

## Capacity to Serve Income Eligible Children

As displayed in Table 59 below, there are 2,188 slots available to an estimated 7,633 children under the age of 5 years who (a) reside in the Santa Clara-San Benito County service area and (b) meet income eligibility criteria for Head Start services. These data indicate that Head Start has the capacity to serve an estimated 28.7% of the income eligible child population.

**TABLE 59. CAPACITY TO SERVE INCOME ELIGIBLE CHILDREN BY COUNTY**

	No. of Children Living Below 100% FPL	No. of Available Slots (Capacity, 2022)	No. of Slots Needed to Service 100% of Income Eligible Children*	Pct. of Children that Can be Served with Available Slots**
<b>Santa Clara Co.</b>	<b>6,887</b>	<b>2,028</b>	<b>4,859</b>	<b>29.4%</b>
Children 0-2y	3,111	498	2,613	16.0%
Children 3-4y	3,776	1,530	2,246	40.5%
<b>San Benito Co.</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>21.4%</b>
Children 0-2y	310	0	310	0.0%
Children 3-4y	436	160	276	36.7%
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>7,633</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>5,445</b>	<b>28.7%</b>
Children 0-2y	3,421	498	2,923	14.6%
Children 3-4y	4,212	1,690	2,522	40.1%

**Abbreviations:** Co. = County; y = Years Old; No. = Number; Pct. = Percent; FPL = Federal Poverty Level.

**Note:** \* = Column calculated by subtracting the number of available slots from the number of children living below 100% FPL.

\*\* = Column indicates percent capacity and is calculated by dividing the number of available slots by the number of children living at or below 100% FPL.

**Source:** No. of Children Living at or Below 100% FPL – Five-year estimates from American Community Survey, Infant/Toddler and Preschool Reports (2020; age groups included 0 to 35 months and 3 to 4 years), Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (ELNAT), American Institutes for Research (AIR); No. of Available Slots – Program Information Report (2022-23), Early Learning Services, Santa Clara County Office of Education.

## Categorically Eligible Children

Children may qualify for Head Start on a basis other than income. Those under the age of five (5) years that meet any one or more of the following criteria are categorically eligible for Head Start services:

- Children who are in families that are recipients of CalFresh;
- Children who are homeless; and/or,
- Children in foster care.

Unfortunately, current population data on children who are categorically eligible for Head Start services are not readily available for various reasons. Data on children under 18 years old who receive CalFresh is presented in Table 16 of Chapter 3: Income Characteristics.

Data for homeless children are limited for both Santa Clara and San Benito Counties; point-in-time data for children in foster care who are 0 to 5 years old are available only for Santa Clara County (see Table 60). In 2023, an average of 131 children under 6 years old in Santa Clara County were in foster care and therefore eligible for Head Start. While imprecise, data on Kindergartners who are homeless or in foster care can serve as a proxy for the number of preschool-aged children that potentially qualify for Head Start based on categorical criteria. A combined 383 children enrolled in Kindergarten in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties were homeless in the 2022-23 academic year. An additional five children enrolled in kindergarten in San Benito County were in foster care during the same year. These children would have been eligible for Head Start services if their circumstances were also present one or two years prior to Kindergarten enrollment.

**TABLE 60. CHILDREN IN SERVICE AREA BY CATEGORICAL SUBGROUP (2023)**

	No. of Children in Foster Care	No. of Kindergartners Who Are Homeless	Aggregate Count
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>519</b>
Santa Clara County	131	341	472
San Benito County	5	42	47

**Abbreviations:** No. = Number.

**Source:** Number of children in foster care for Santa Clara County was calculated using point-in-time data for the average count of the aggregated number of children ages 0 to 5 who were in foster care during 2023; CCWIP reports, University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project. Retrieved from <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu> on November 2, 2023. All other data is sourced from Kindergarten Enrollment by Ethnicity and Grade (2022-23), DataQuest, CA Department of Education.



## Pregnant and Perinatal Parents

Pregnant and perinatal parents receiving State and/or Federal payments due to their low-income status are potential candidates for the Early Head Start Program. However, as previously mentioned, the annual income eligibility ceiling for a family of four for California State Preschool programs is nearly three times greater than the annual income ceiling for Head Start.

Table 61 presents the poverty status of women<sup>82</sup> who had given birth and who had not given birth during a 12-month period. Among women in Santa Clara County and San Benito County who gave birth in 2022, a lower proportion had a poverty status of <200% of the federal poverty level (15% and 8% respectively), relative to women who had not given birth during this time period (17% in Santa Clara County and 27% in San Benito County). However, statewide, women who had given birth during this 12-month period had higher rates of poverty (35%) relative to women who had not given birth (28%). In San Benito County, no women who gave birth had a poverty status determined to be <100% of the federal poverty level; however, this figure was 7.9% for women in Santa Clara County and 18% for women statewide who gave birth.

**TABLE 61. WOMEN WITH AND WITHOUT BIRTHS WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY POVERTY LEVEL (2022)**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
<b>Women with no births</b>			
< 100% FPL	13.1%	8.2%	8.5%
100%-199% FPL	15.2%	8.9%	19.1%
≥ 200% FPL	71.7%	82.9%	72.4%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>8,776,357</b>	<b>419,492</b>	<b>15,570</b>
<b>Women who gave birth</b>			
< 100% FPL	18.0%	7.9%	0.0%
100%-199% FPL	16.5%	6.9%	8.4%
≥ 200% FPL	65.5%	85.2%	91.6%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>453,224</b>	<b>20,960</b>	<b>715</b>

**Abbreviations:** FPL = Federal Poverty Level.

**Note:** Data presented in this table refers specifically to people who have or have not given birth during the 12-month period leading up to the point at which the data was collected; counts are only reflective of the data for these groups. Births that occurred before the 12-month period were not counted. The term “women” has been retained for this table as a reflection of the category that was reported by the data source. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

\* = Counts of women who did and did not give birth are only inclusive of women aged 15-50 years for whom their poverty status was able to be determined.

**Source:** Calculated from Table S1301, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2022), U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>82</sup> The term “women” has been retained for this section as a reflection of the category that was reported by the data source.

As displayed in Table 62, presents the recipient of public assistance by women<sup>83</sup> who had given birth and who had not given birth during a 12-month period. Statewide, women who had given birth during this 12-month period had higher proportions who received public assistance income (5.8%) relative to women who had not given birth (2.6%). Similarly, among women in Santa Clara County who gave birth during 2022, 3.3% received public assistance income; among women who did not give birth during this time period, the proportion was 1.2% in Santa Clara County.

**TABLE 62. WOMEN WITH AND WITHOUT BIRTHS WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INCOME**

	California	Santa Clara County	San Benito County
<b>Women with no births</b>			
Did not Receive Assistance	97.4%	98.8%	S
Received Assistance	2.6%	1.2%	S
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,926,144</b>	<b>431,166</b>	<b>15,579</b>
<b>Women who gave birth</b>			
Did not Receive Assistance	94.2%	96.7%	S
Received Assistance	5.8%	3.3%	S
<b>Total</b>	<b>453,850</b>	<b>20,960</b>	<b>715</b>

**Abbreviations:** S = Suppressed.

**Note:** Data presented in this table refers specifically to people who have or have not given birth during the 12-month period leading up to the point at which the data was collected; counts are only reflective of the data for these groups. Births that occurred before the 12-month period were not counted. The term “women” has been retained for this table as a reflection of the category that was reported by the data source. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Data for San Benito County is not available due to data suppression.

**Source:** Calculated from Table S1301, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2022), U.S. Census Bureau.

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is one of many federally funded health and nutrition program designed to assist low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and infants and children who are found to be at nutritional risk. Qualification for WIC participation requires meeting the 185% FPL threshold along with at least one of six criteria that includes current pregnancy, breastfeeding an infant, and being a primary caretaker of a child under 5 years old.<sup>84</sup> Current recipients of CalFresh, Medi-Cal beneficiaries, or persons receiving CalWORKs are also eligible.

<sup>83</sup> The term “women” has been retained for this section as a reflection of the category that was reported by the data source.

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DWICSN/Pages/HowCanIGetWIC.aspx#>

Though the overall number of families receiving WIC within the service area steadily decreased since 2016 (see Table 63), participation in the service area has generally increased during the past three years. A total of 24,909 families in Santa Clara and San Benito received assistance from WIC in 2022.

**TABLE 63. TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Santa Clara County	28,200	26,198	22,911	21,609	19,718	21,409	23,165
San Benito County	2,131	2,022	1,857	1,681	1,542	1,744	1,744
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>30,331</b>	<b>28,220</b>	<b>24,768</b>	<b>23,290</b>	<b>21,260</b>	<b>23,153</b>	<b>24,909</b>

**Source:** California Women, Infants and Children Program Redemption by County (2010-18, 2019-20, 2021, and 2021-2022), California Health and Human Services Open Data Portal. Retrieved from <https://data.chhs.ca.gov/dataset/california-women-infants-and-children-program-redemption-by-county> on November 17, 2023.

Since 2016, there was an overall decrease in the number of Santa Clara County residents who were recipients of WIC at the time of giving birth (see Table 64). However, since 2020 the proportion of birthing parents who were WIC recipients has steadily increased. Due to low counts, corresponding data for San Benito County have been suppressed.

**TABLE 64. SANTA CLARA COUNTY WIC RECIPIENTS OVER TIME**

	Births	Receiving WIC at Time of Delivery	
	Count	Count	Pct.
<b>2016</b>	23,042	4,669	20.3%
<b>2017</b>	22,133	3,620	16.4%
<b>2018</b>	21,292	3,232	15.2%
<b>2019</b>	21,184	3,049	14.4%
<b>2020</b>	19,575	2,475	12.6%
<b>2021</b>	19,174	2,373	12.4%
<b>2022</b>	19,080	2,945	15.4%

**Abbreviations:** WIC = Women Infant, Children; Pct. = Percent of total births in Santa Clara County.

**Note:** Suppressed records were excluded from calculations. Data for San Benito County is not available due to data suppression. Counts are only reflective of the data for WIC recipient status was able to be determined.

**Source:** Calculated from Number of Births by WIC and Source of Payment for Delivery Expanded, Santa Clara County, CA, 2021, via Natality Records (2016-2021), National Vital Statistics System, Natality on CDC WONDER Online Database, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html> on November 17, 2023.



## Summary

Notable eligibility characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- The proportion of San Benito's income-eligible child population Head Start (23.5%) is three times greater than that of Santa Clara County (7.7%).
- The estimated number of income-eligible children in Santa Clara (6,887) is substantially higher than the number of income-eligible children in San Benito County (746).
- Head Start has the capacity to serve approximately 29% of all income eligible children who reside in the service area.
- Nearly 3,000 income-eligible children ages 0-2 years reside in the service area are without an Early Head Start slot.
- There are 2,522 income-eligible children ages 3-4 years who reside in the service area without a Head Start slot.
- It is estimated that the number of children that qualify for Head Start services based on categorical criteria exceeds the number of available slots.

Eligibility of Pregnant and Perinatal Parents:

- Among the 20,000 parents in Santa Clara County who gave birth in 2022, three percent received public assistance, and early eight percent had an income level below the federal poverty guideline.
- The number of families receiving WIC within the service area has steadily increased since 2020, by 13% in San Benito County and 17% in Santa Clara County.
- In addition, the number of parents in Santa Clara County who received WIC at the time of giving birth has also increased in the same time period, despite a decrease in the overall number of births that occurred.

## Chapter 9: Early Head Start Program Information

### Background

This chapter summarizes key data elements from the Early Head Start Program Information Report (PIR), including but not limited to enrollment data and data on the characteristics of children and families from Santa Clara County and San Benito County who were served by the Early Head Start (EHS) program between 2013-14 and 2021-22. The PIR is a standardized statistical report submitted annually to the Administration on Children and Families (ACF). Data for the 2019-20 year in this chapter is unavailable or incomplete due to a disruption in normal data collection that occurred in the wake of the COVID-19 public health pandemic. Due to the public health pandemic, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Head Start suspended the requirement for grantees to submit PIR data for 2019-20.

In 2019-20, a new Early Head Start program was created, Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP). The program integrates the comprehensive services and resources from Early Head Start and an array of traditional childcare and family childcare settings. The benefits of the EHS-CCP program include lower teacher-to-child ratios and class sizes, ongoing supervision and coaching for teachers, and flexible and convenient full-day and full-year services that are grounded in the cultural, linguistic, and social needs of families and their communities. Enrollment counts for EHS-CCP and EHS-Basic are combined in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 counts in the remainder of the chapter unless otherwise specified.



## Early Head Start Enrollment

In 2019-20, a new Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership was added to existing partnerships, which resulted in a 78% increase in funded enrollment slots from the previous year (see Table 65).

**TABLE 65. NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START**

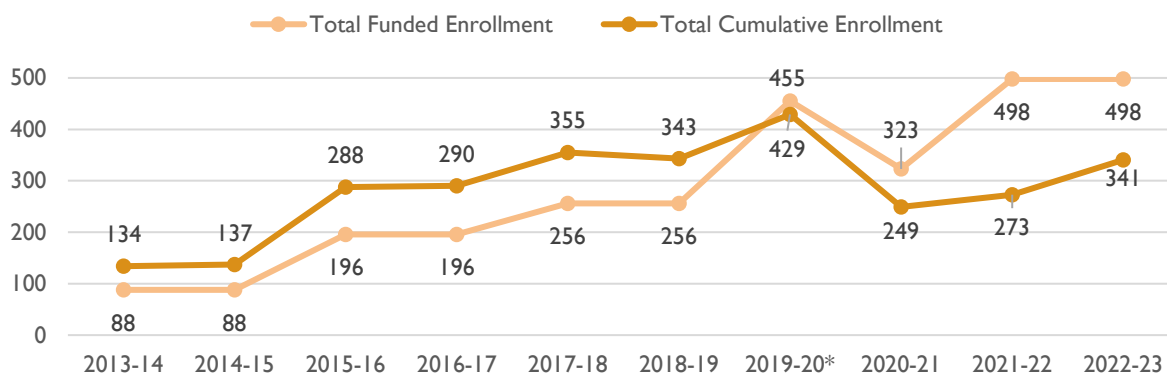
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total Funded Enrollment	88	88	196	196	256	256	455	323	498	498
Total Cumulative Enrollment	134	137	288	290	355	343	429	249	273	341

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Early Head Start Program Information Report.

Since 2019-20, the number of cumulative enrollments in Early Head Start (EHS) has not exceeded total funded enrollment capacity (see Figure 22). Although both cumulative and funded enrollment have fluctuated since 2018-19, there has been a steady increase since 2020-21, from 249 to 341 enrolled children in the 2022-23 academic year. In addition, the funded enrollment for Early Head Start has decreased to 391 funded slots during the 2023-24 academic year, effectively allowing for more funding to be allocated to each slot.

**FIGURE 22. NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START**



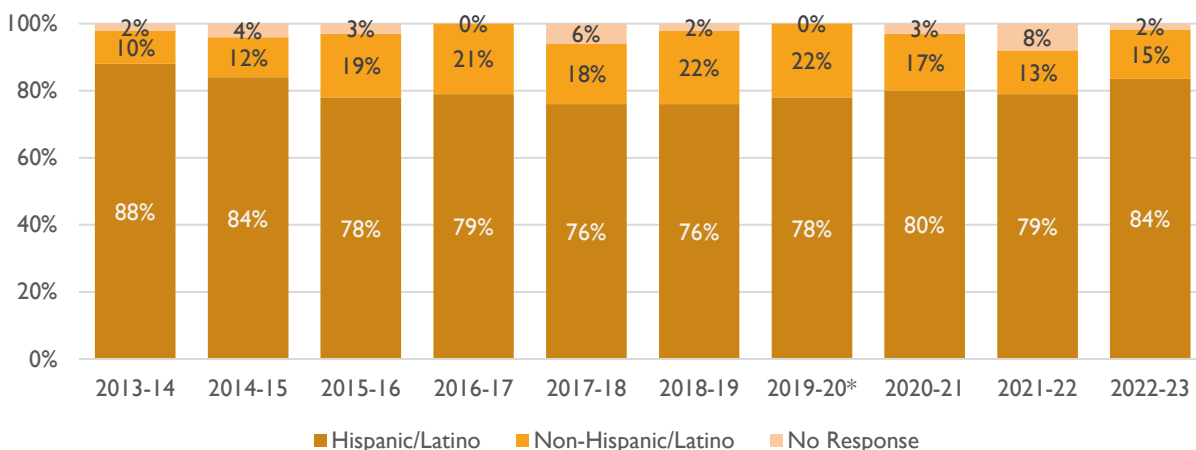
**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Early Head Start Program Information Report.

## Race & Ethnicity of Children Enrolled in Early Head Start

Hispanic/Latino children account for a sizable proportion of Early Head Start enrollment. The percentage of Hispanic/Latino children served through the Early Head Start program has remained steady over the past several years, currently accounting for 84% of EHS enrollment (see Figure 23).

**FIGURE 23. ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START**

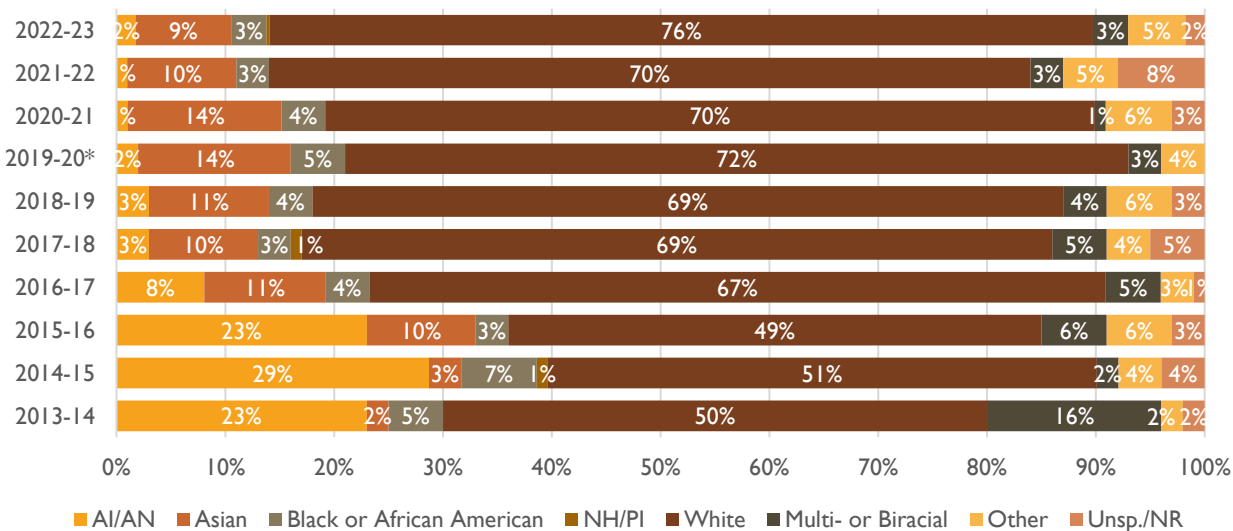


**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Early Head Start Program Information Report.

During the 2022-23 EHS program year, youth whose race was reported as “Asian” composed 9% of total enrollees, followed by 3% of youth whose race was reported as “Black or African American” (see Figure 24). Though 76% of enrollees were reported as White, 97% of those enrollees were also reported as Hispanic/Latinx, with the remaining 3% were reported as non-Hispanic and White.

**FIGURE 24. RACE OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START**



**Abbreviations:** AI/AN = American Indian or Alaskan Native; NH/PI = Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; Unsp./NR = Unspecified or not reported.

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. Subgroup sums may exceed 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Early Head Start Program Information Report.

## Primary Language of Children Enrolled in Early Head Start

As shown in Table 66, the two most common languages spoken by EHS children in 2022-23 were Spanish (56%) and English (35%). Included in the “Other” category are 8% of children with a primary home language of East Asian origin. As the primary language spoken at home, Spanish decreased slightly since the last year, from about 58% to 56%, while English increased by four percentage points from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

**TABLE 66. PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF CHILDREN IN EARLY HEAD START**

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Spanish	97	70	129	119	157	168	225	143	157	192
English	34	25	113	140	175	155	160	81	84	119
Other	3	42	46	31	23	20	44	25	32	30

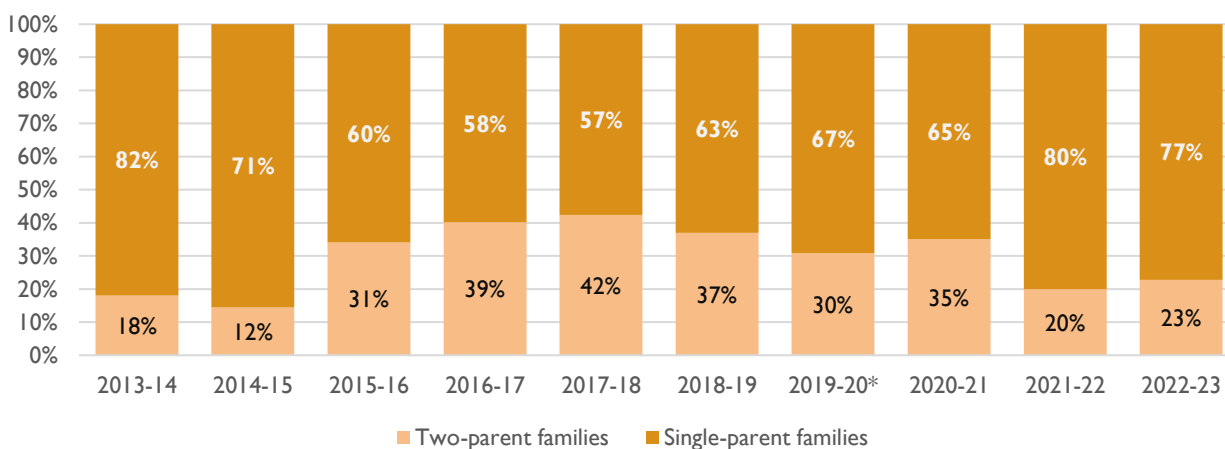
**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Early Head Start Program Information Report.

## Dual- and Single-Parent Families

Approximately 77% of the children served by EHS in 2022-23 were in single-parent families (see Figure 25). The proportion of EHS children in single-parent families is about three percentage points lower than the previous year.

**FIGURE 25. EARLY HEAD START TWO- AND SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES**



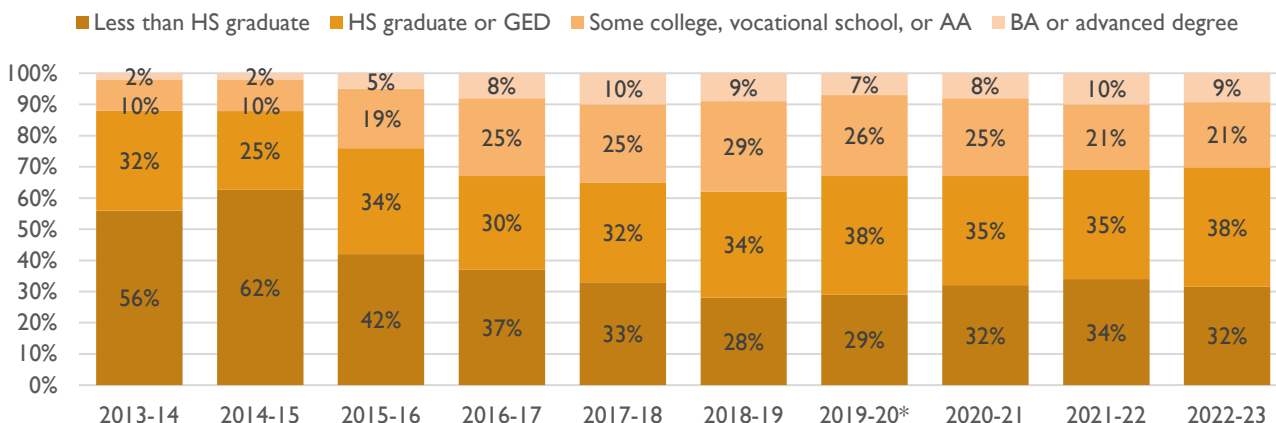
**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. The subgroups may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Early Head Start Program Information Report.

## Parent Education

Figure 26 provides data on the highest level of education obtained by EHS parents. The proportion of parents who report that they did not graduate from high school or obtain a GED has remained relatively steady over the past five years. The proportion of parents who have completed some college, obtained an associate degree, or completed vocational training have slowly decreased during the same period. The proportion of parents who obtained a high school diploma or GED have slightly increased since the previous year; as of 2022-23, over one-third of parents fell into this category.

**FIGURE 26. HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL OF EHS PARENTS**



**Abbreviations:** HS = High school; AA = Associate Degree; BA = Bachelor's Degree.

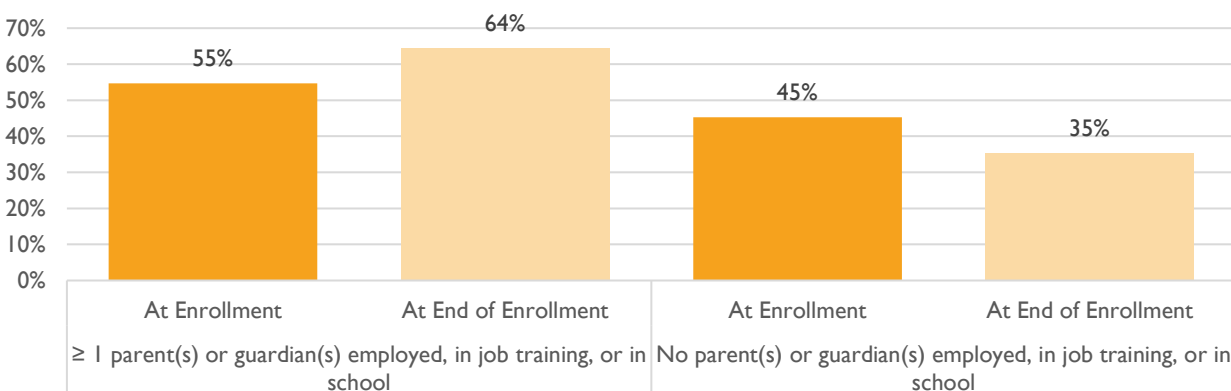
**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. The subgroups sum may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Early Head Start Program Information Report.

### Employment, Jobs Training, and School

Changes in job opportunities and the economy have impacted EHS families. At enrollment, 45% of EHS families were unemployed and were not in job training or school (see Figure 27). However, at the end of enrollment that percentage dropped 10 percentage points. The percentage of families with at least one parent or guardian employed, in job training, or school at the time of enrollment was 55%, and at the end of enrollment increased to 64%. This 9% increase in employment rate is made up of 32 families who were unemployed or not in job training or school at the time of enrollment who had found employment, job training or school by the end of enrollment.

**FIGURE 27. EHS FAMILIES WITH PARENT/GUARDIAN EMPLOYED, IN JOB TRAINING, OR IN SCHOOL (2022-23)**



**Note:** Employment distributions are independent of job training/school distributions. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Early Head Start Program Information Report.



## Summary

Early Head Start (EHS) demographics:

- The majority of children served by EHS in 2022-23 were Hispanic (84%); approximately 9% of children in the EHS program were Asian.
- Most EHS families reported that their home language was Spanish (56%); slightly more than one third reported primarily speaking English in the home (35%).
- From 2021-22 to 2022-23, the proportion of two-parent families served by EHS has increased by 3%, while the proportion of single-parent families served by EHS decreased by 3%.
- Thirty-two percent (32%) of EHS parents have not obtained a high school diploma or a GED.
- In 2022-23, slightly more than half (55%) of all EHS families had at least one parent or guardian who was employed, in training, or in school at the time of enrollment; this percentage increased to 64% by the end of enrollment.



## Chapter 10: Head Start Program Information

### Background

This chapter summarizes key data elements from the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR), including but not limited to enrollment data, services data (e.g., medical and dental homes) and characteristics of children and families from Santa Clara County and San Benito County who were served by the Head Start program between 2013-14 and 2022-23. Some data for this chapter is unavailable or incomplete for the 2019-20 year due to a disruption to normal data collection that occurred in the wake of the COVID-19 public health pandemic. Due to the pandemic, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Head Start suspended the requirement for grantees to submit PIR data in 2019-20. However, data submission resumed in 2020-21.

### Factors Impacting Head Start Enrollment

According to the California Head Start State Collaboration Office (CHSSCO), several interrelated factors are impacting state enrollment for Head Start. Staffing challenges remain a critical challenge for Head Start programs, as the early childhood education workforce has recovered from the pandemic-induced recession at a slower rate than other sectors,<sup>85</sup> and the childcare sector remains one of the lowest paid professions in the country.<sup>86</sup> In California, increases in minimum wage have resulted in the emergence of many entry level retail jobs that pay equal or better than entry level Head Start Teaching positions, as well as the exclusion of families from income qualification for Head Start programs. A 2022 nationwide study of Head Start conducted by the National Institute for Early Education Research found that in every state, Head Start and Early Head Start teachers earned less than public school teachers and less than the state median income. In California, Head Start teachers earn \$35,956 on average, two times less than California public school teachers (\$71,473).<sup>87</sup>

The expansion of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is also expected to have a significant impact on enrollment and staffing, as Head Start programs will compete to recruit teachers from a diminishing pool of applicants, while school districts are able to offer higher wages to recruit teachers for new TK classrooms. While Head Start programs can pivot their programs to focus primarily on younger children aged 0-2, significant investment in workforce, facilities, and outreach is required to convert these programs to Early Head Start Programs.<sup>88</sup>

Head Start's limitations in its ability to reach all children in poverty is not new. In fact, despite declines in child poverty over the past decade, Head Start has continued to enroll only 40% of children in poverty. CHSSCO reports that Early Head Start enrolled 9% of income-eligible infants in toddlers prior to the pandemic, an increase from 4% a decade ago. The expiration of federal relief funding on September 30, 2023, will exacerbate the issues surrounding the early childhood education field, with one estimate predicting the closure of over 13,500 child care programs statewide.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Child Care Sector Jobs BLS Analysis (2023). Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. Retrieved from <https://cscce.berkeley.edu/publications/brief/child-care-sector-jobs-bls-analysis/> on Oct. 27, 2023.

<sup>86</sup> Undervalued: A Brief History of Women's Care Work and Child Care Policy in the United States (2017). National Women's Law Center. Retrieved from [https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/final\\_nwlc\\_Undervalued2017.pdf](https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/final_nwlc_Undervalued2017.pdf) on Oct. 27, 2023.

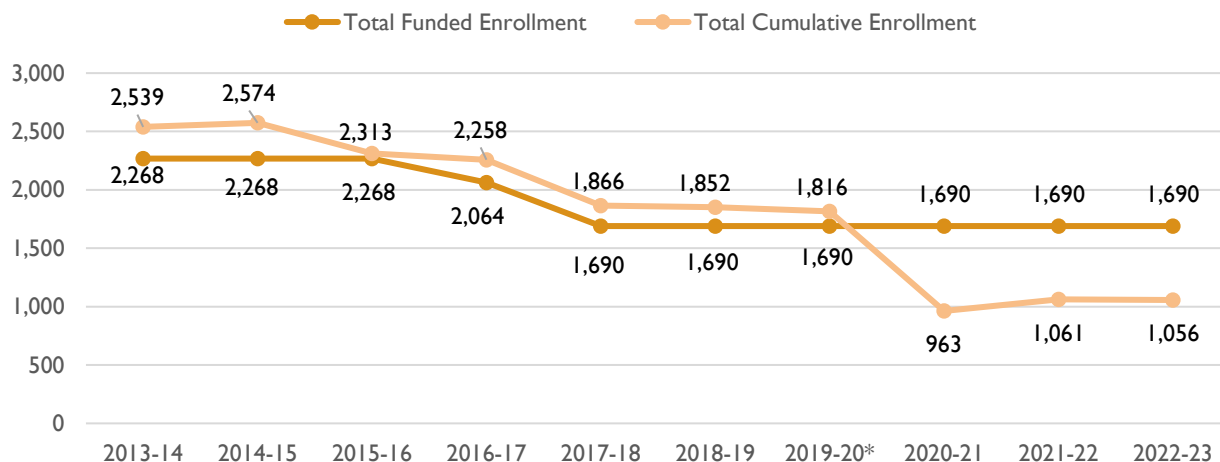
<sup>87</sup> The State(s) of Head Start and Early Head Start: Looking at Equity (2022). National Institute for Early Education Research. Retrieved from [https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HS\\_FullReport.pdf](https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HS_FullReport.pdf) on Oct. 27, 2023.

<sup>88</sup> Annual Report 2021-22 (2022). California Head Start Collaboration Office. Retrieved from <https://headstartca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CA-2022-Annual-Report.pdf> on Oct. 27, 2023.

<sup>89</sup> Children in California Set to Lose Child Care due to Child Care Cliff (2023). The Century Foundation. Retrieved from <https://tcf-ccs-map.netlify.app/assets/factsheets/Child%20Care%20State%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20California.pdf> on Oct. 23, 2023.

The total cumulative enrollment has remained comparable to last year's enrollment (see Figure 28), with the 2022-23 total funded enrollment (1,690 spots) exceeding the total cumulative enrollment (1,056 spots). Although the total funded enrollment for Head Start has been 1,690 spots for the last three years, the 2023-24 Head Start funded enrollment decreased to 1,217 slots, effectively allowing for more funding to be allocated to each slot.

**FIGURE 28. HEAD START ENROLLMENT OVER TIME**



**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

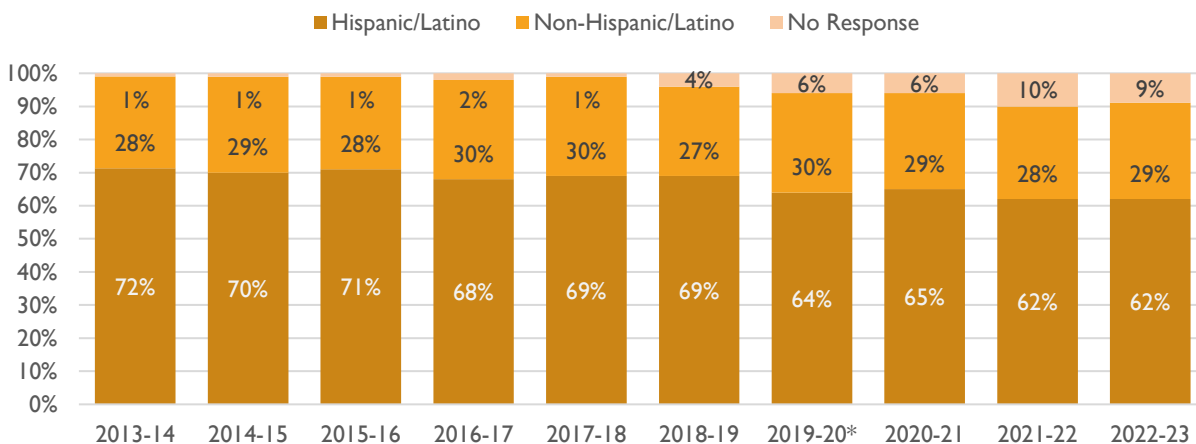
**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.



## Race and Ethnicity of Children Enrolled in Head Start

The majority (62%) of children enrolled continue to be Hispanic/Latino; the proportion has consistently stayed above 60% since 2013-14 (see Figure 29 and Table 67).

**FIGURE 29. HEAD START CHILDREN BY ETHNICITY**



**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. The subgroups sum may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

**TABLE 67. HEAD START ENROLLMENT BY ETHNICITY**

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Hispanic/Latino	1,820	1,806	1,646	1,530	1,279	1,284	1,164	622	662	655
Non-Hispanic/Latino	705	742	639	680	564	504	551	278	294	307
Unspecified	14	26	28	48	23	64	101	63	105	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>1,056</b>

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

More than half of children enrolled in Head Start are White (56%), with 95% of this group identifying as Hispanic White and 5% identifying as non-Hispanic White (see Table 68 and Figure 30). The second largest demographic enrolled are Asian children, consistently making up more than 20% of the HS population (23% in 2022-23).



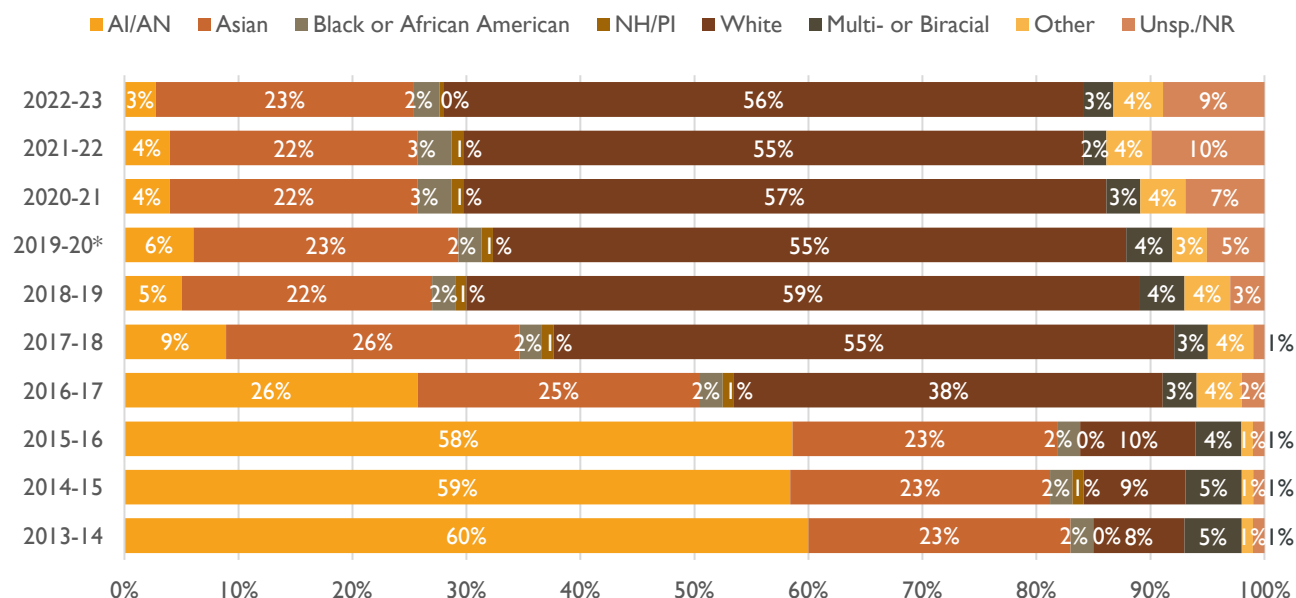
**TABLE 68. HEAD START ENROLLMENT BY RACE**

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
AI/AN	1,527	1,505	1,345	586	163	92	100	42	44	29
Asian	575	595	539	567	479	399	416	207	230	239
Black or African American	58	49	40	39	44	44	43	27	26	24
NH/PI	11	13	9	17	13	11	12	5	5	4
White	213	231	231	852	1,029	1,092	1,003	553	580	592
Biracial/Multi-racial	117	134	101	71	50	74	80	30	24	28
Other	24	21	20	78	65	76	61	36	47	46
Unspecified	14	26	28	48	23	64	101	63	105	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>1,056</b>

**Abbreviations:** NH/PI = Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; AI/AN = American Indian or Alaskan Native.

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. In 2011-12 and beyond, modified data collection methods were used to accurately reflect children identified as White or American Indian/Alaska Native. From 2015-16 and on, race/ethnicity not collected as mutually exclusive variables.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

**FIGURE 30. HEAD START CHILDREN BY RACE**

**Abbreviations:** AI/AN = American Indian or Alaskan Native; NH/PI = Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; Unsp./NR = Unspecified or not reported.

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. In 2011-12 and beyond, modified data collection methods were used to accurately reflect children identified as White or American Indian/Alaska Native. From 2015-16 and on, race/ethnicity not collected as mutually exclusive variables.

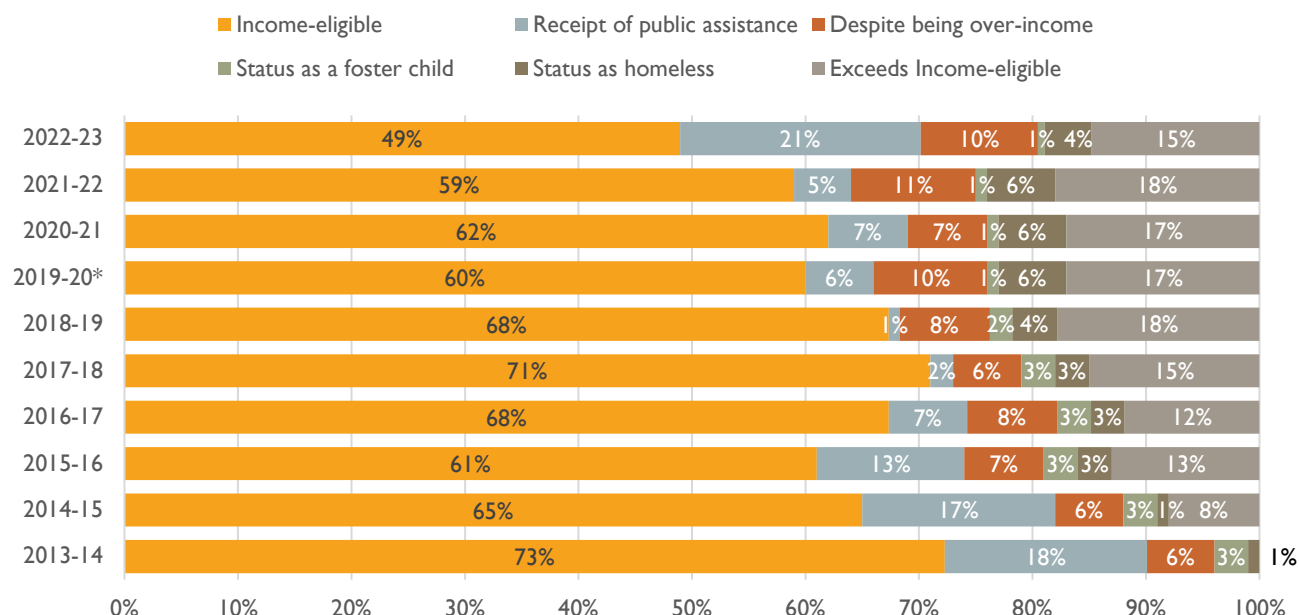
The race subgroups may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

## Head Start Eligibility Status

Nearly half (49%) of families who participate in Head Start meet income eligibility criteria. As of 2014-15, the PIR includes data on the percentage of families who are between 100% and 130% of the federal poverty line. This distinction applied to 15% of enrollees in 2022-23 (see Figure 31 and Table 69). Despite earning an income that exceeds the income-eligible guidelines, these are families that would find it difficult to meet the cost-of-living expenses, including childcare, in this service area. This year, one-fifth (21%) of Head Start families were eligible by receipt of public assistance, a 16% increase compared to the previous program year (2021-22).

**FIGURE 31. HEAD START ENROLLMENT BY TYPE OF ELIGIBILITY**



**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. Exceeds income-eligible (i.e., enrollees exceeding the allowed over income enrollment with family incomes between 100% and 130% of the federal poverty line) is a new variable collected in 2014-15.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

**TABLE 69. ACTUAL ENROLLMENT BY TYPE OF ELIGIBILITY**

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Income-eligible	1,850	1,668	1,405	1,532	1,333	1,240	1,090	597	624	517
Receipt of public assistance	452	428	306	162	34	22	109	64	56	224
Despite being over-income	142	154	158	178	121	138	176	64	116	109
Status as a foster child	68	83	77	59	50	35	25	14	13	6
Status as homeless	29	36	60	62	56	68	101	56	59	44
Exceeds Income-eligible	-	206	310	265	273	326	311	167	194	156

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. Hyphen-minus (-) indicates no data available.

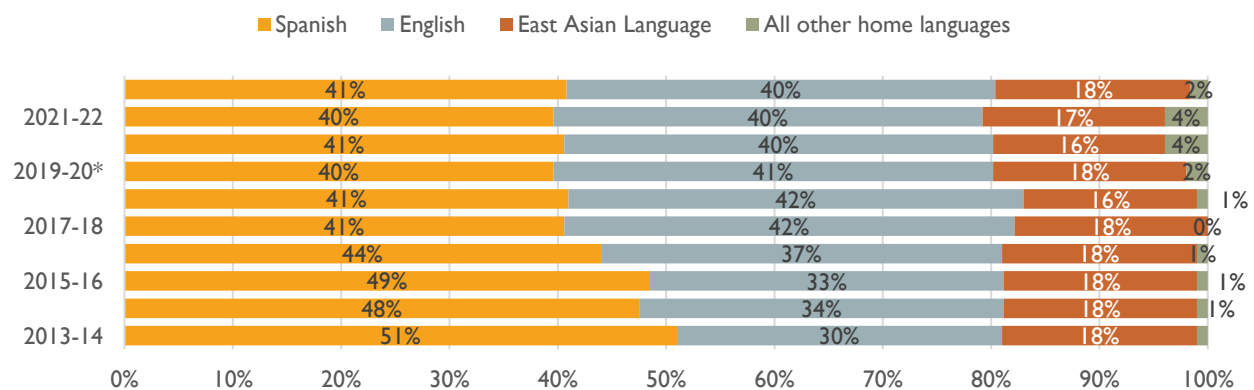
**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.



## Home Languages of Children in Head Start

As shown in Figure 32 and Table 70, the percentage of children speaking Spanish has remained consistent for the past six program years, with 40-41% of children having a home language of Spanish. Similarly, the percentage of students speaking English has also stayed in the 40-42% range during this same period. Over one-half of the Head Start children came from a home in which a language other than English is spoken, with 41% Spanish, 18% East Asian languages, and the remaining 2% speaking Middle Eastern/South Asian, Native North American/Alaskan, African, European/Slavic, and unspecified languages in the 2022-23 program year.

**FIGURE 32. HOME LANGUAGES IN HEAD START**



**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

**TABLE 70. HEAD START ENROLLMENT BY HOME LANGUAGE**

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Spanish	1,309	1,243	1,137	996	758	761	718	394	422	431
English	762	864	762	828	779	775	749	383	424	418
East Asian Language	460	452	406	409	327	296	320	150	177	190
Middle E. & South Asian	9	11	2	3	2	7	9	4	7	7
African Languages	4	3	1	0	0	1	3	2	4	2
Pacific Island Languages	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Eur. & Slavic Languages	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Caribbean Languages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Native N. American/Alaskan	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	3
Native Central, S. American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unspecified	1	0	8	22	2	12	14	28	25	4

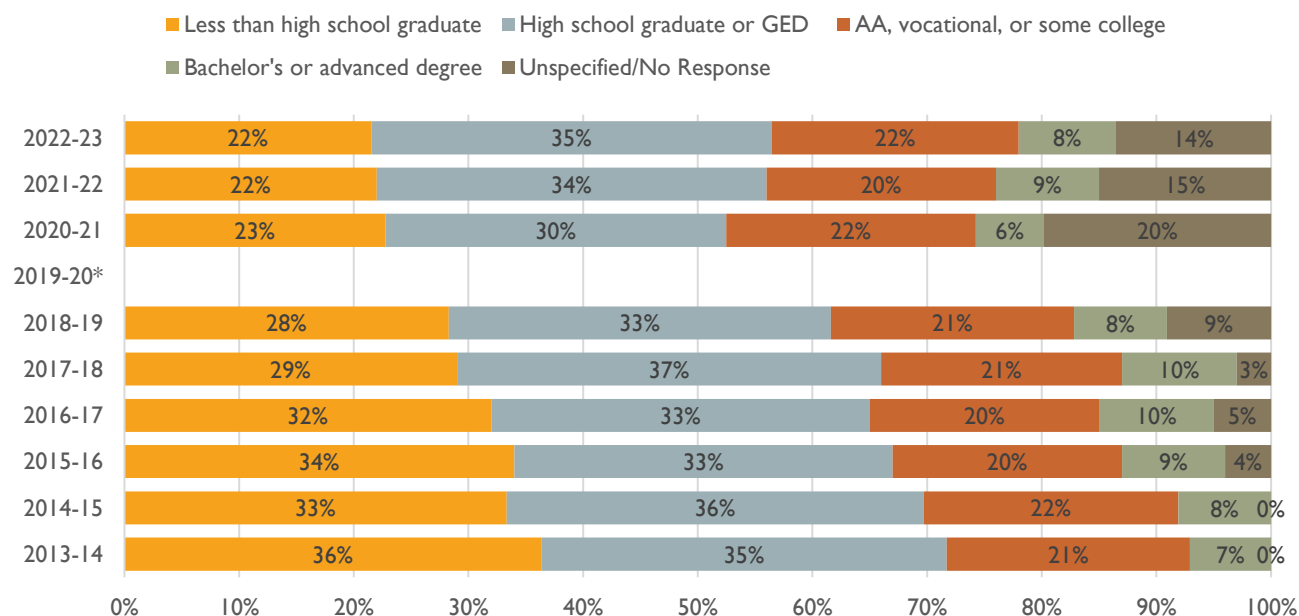
**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

## Parent Education Level

In 2022-23, approximately one-third of parents (30%) had some college or a bachelor's degree or higher (see Figure 33 and Table 71). The percentage of Head Start parents who have earned their bachelor's or advanced degree has remained between 8-9% over the past two years (8% in 2022-23). In the last five years, there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of parents with less than a high school diploma, with 22% of parents in 2022-23 not having graduated high school. Data on parent education level was unavailable for the 2019-20 program year due to data collection disruption.

**FIGURE 33. PARENT EDUCATION LEVEL**



**Note:** \* = Data unavailable due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

**TABLE 71. EDUCATION LEVEL OF HEAD START PARENTS**

	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016 -17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20*	2020 -21	2021 -22	2022 -23
Less than high school graduate	900	831	751	703	515	496	-	209	225	218
High school graduate or GED	876	887	725	711	659	591	-	272	340	354
Some college, vocational school, or AA degree	511	556	453	423	369	374	-	197	207	218
Bachelor's or advanced degree	177	212	190	225	172	141	-	56	89	86

**Note:** \* = Data unavailable due to disruption in data collection.

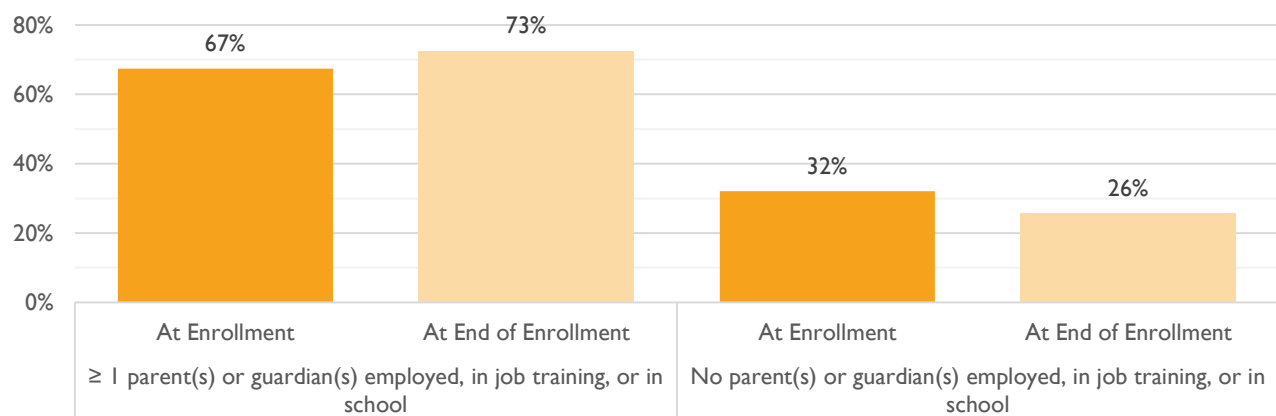
**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

## Parent Participation in Employment and/or Education/Training Programs

In 2020-21, data collection was modified to report data in which at least one parent was working, participating in job training, or attending school. Unlike in prior years, these data were not separated by one or both parents working.

In 2022-23, the proportion of families with at least one parent employed, in job training, or in school at enrollment increased from the time of enrollment (67%) to end of enrollment (73%; see Figure 34), suggesting that approximately 63 HS families found employment, participated in job training, or attended school during the year. The percentage of families who were unemployed or not in job training or school decreased over the program year, only dropping six percentage points over the course of the school year from 32% to 26%.

**FIGURE 34. EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING/SCHOOL OF HS FAMILIES (2022-23)**



**Note:** Employment distributions are independent of job training/school distributions.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

## Family Services Rendered

In the most recent year of data collection (2022-23), a total of 866 families have reported using at least one type of family service. Table 72 summarizes the number of families that received Head Start services by type of service. The most common family services received during 2022-23 were Health Education (661 families), involvement in discussion of their child's screening and assessment results (545 families), and education on nutrition (494 families). Data on family services rendered was not available for the 2019-20 program year due to data collection disruption. However, despite this interruption in data collection, families in Head Start used family services offered by the program.

**TABLE 72. NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVICED BY TYPE OF SERVICE**

	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016 -17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20*	2020 -21	2021 -22	2022- 23
Health education	782	1,231	1,197	1,092	956	1,146	-	352	607	661
Parenting education	1,030	1,619	1,429	1,258	951	881	-	190	191	268
ESL training	187	224	176	159	134	130	-	27	71	81
Emergency/crisis intervention	241	543	543	432	402	406	-	373	360	367
Adult education	322	545	430	407	209	229	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mental health services	227	324	188	246	114	144	-	75	107	73
Job training	68	115	51	75	39	48	-	72	N/A	N/A
Housing assistance	92	178	168	83	94	101	-	60	61	51
Domestic violence services	7	17	10	14	7	8	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Relationship/marriage education	16	10	12	19	8	6	-	1	12	15
Substance abuse prevention or Tx	7	101	4	13	7	12	-	7	7	6
Child abuse and neglect services	7	77	13	12	6	7	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Child support assistance	7	49	15	18	11	14	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Incarcerated families' services	6	13	12	22	17	10	-	1	1	4
Asset building services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	6	53	78
Child's screening/assessment results	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	173	459	545
Transitions between programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	115	259	377
Nutrition	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	187	452	494
Postpartum Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	3	14	9
<b>Unduplicated Count</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2,296</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>866</b>

**Abbreviations:** ESL = English as a Second Language; Tx = Treatment; N/A = Not Available.

**Note:** \* = Data unavailable due to disruption in data collection.

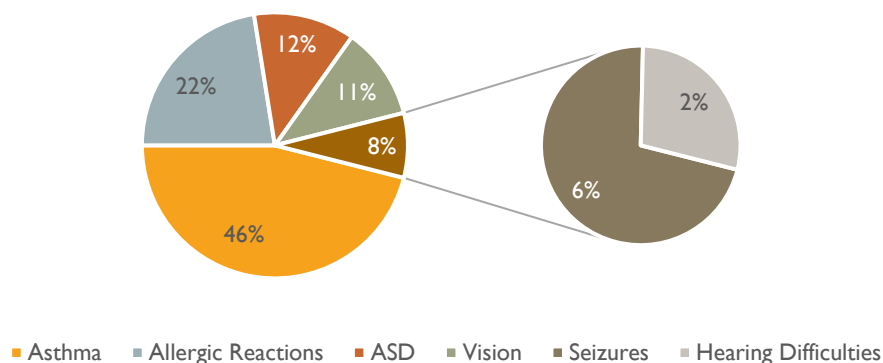
**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

### Health Conditions Requiring Treatment

In 2020-21, four new categories of diagnosed chronic health conditions were added to the Head Start Program Information Report: Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), seizures, and life-threatening allergies. Since the introduction of these categories, no students in the program have received an ADHD diagnosis. In the 2022-23 program year, approximately one in five students (22%) with a chronic health condition had a diagnosis of life-threatening allergic reactions. Twelve percent (12%) of students with a chronic health condition had a diagnosis of ASD and 6% had a diagnosis of seizures.

Asthma and vision issues were also common. Overall, asthma, allergic reactions, ASD, and vision issues were the most commonly diagnosed chronic health condition among Head Start children in 2022-23 (see Figure 35), with the remaining 8% of common chronic conditions including seizures and hearing difficulties.

**FIGURE 35. CHRONIC CONDITIONS AMONG DIAGNOSED CHILDREN (2022-23)**



**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

Though the counts for each diagnosed chronic condition have fluctuated over the past ten years (see Table 73), conditions that were consistently prevalent among Head Start children since 2013-14 were asthma, vision issues, and, after the category was introduced, life-threatening allergic reactions. It is important to note that due to the disruption in data collection and rendering services to Head Start families and children from 2019-20, the number of children who received treatment or were identified as needing treatment may be underestimated.

**TABLE 73. CHRONIC CONDITIONS OF DIAGNOSED CHILDREN OVER TIME**

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Asthma	154	131	111	110	95	83	44	27	36	41
Vision	19	90	153	110	81	112	71	23	S	S
Hearing Difficulties	S	S	35	23	23	30	14	S	S	S
High Lead Levels	S	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0
Diabetes	S	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allergic Reactions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	N/A	S	15	20
Seizures	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	S
ADHD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
ASD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	S	11

**Abbreviations:** N/A = Not Available; S = Suppressed (applies to cells with fewer than 11 children); ADHD = Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; ASD = Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

## Children in Head Start with Disabilities

The number of enrollees who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) had small fluctuations (see Table 74). On average, approximately 12% of children in Head Start each year reported a primary disability from 2013-14 to 2020-21. However, in 2021-22, the proportion increased to 18% of enrollees and has remained steady with 17% of enrollees in 2022-23.

**TABLE 74. NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, BY PRIMARY DISABILITY TYPE**

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Autism	23	38	35	47	45	34	47	14	38	41
Emotional/behavioral disorder	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Health impairment	6	1	3	8	11	7	7	1	10	8
Hearing impairment	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	1	1	2
Specific learning disabilities	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	2	2
Intellectual disabilities	12	9	5	6	7	6	7	1	2	0
Multiple disabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-categorical/DD	6	6	4	5	2	3	1	0	0	1
Orthopedic impairment	11	12	15	8	3	2	3	1	4	1
Speech or language impairment	202	214	236	203	159	161	160	81	132	121
Visual impairment	6	7	6	8	8	4	5	4	4	5
<b>Pct. with any disability</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>

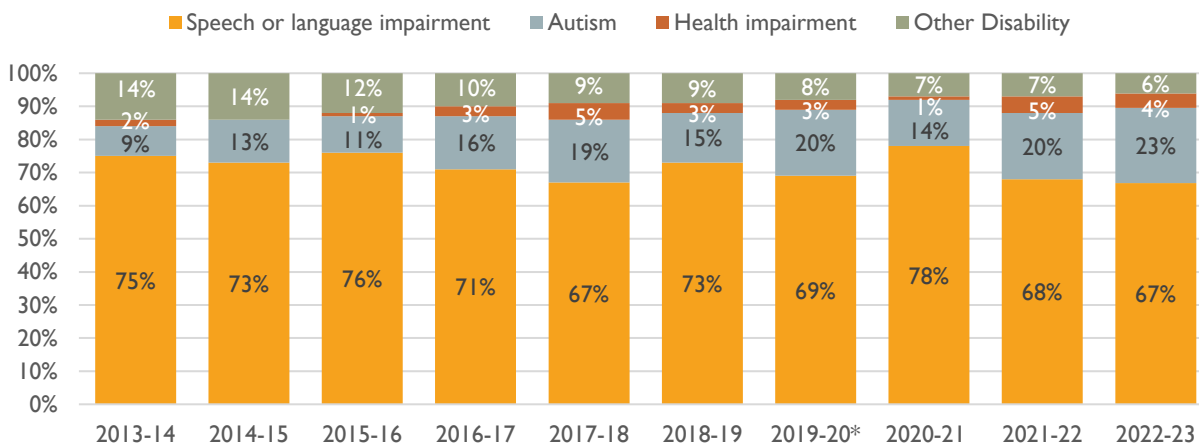
**Abbreviations:** DD = Developmental Delay; Pct. = Percent.

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. Percent calculated by summing column and dividing by total cumulative enrollment.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

The most common disability reported each year was speech/language impairments, with two-thirds (67%) of Head Start children with disabilities reporting their primary disability as a speech/language impairment in 2022-23 (see Figure 36). The second most common reported disability was autism, which accounted for 23% of enrollees with disabilities, an increase of three percentage points from the previous year. The third most common reported disability was health impairments, accounting for 4% of primary disabilities in 2022-23.



**FIGURE 36. PERCENT OF MOST COMMON PRIMARY DISABILITIES, BY PRIMARY TYPE**

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

### Dental Homes Among Head Start Children and Families

The Head Start program implements preventative dentistry education to parents and supports access to dental homes for children. Table 75 provides counts of dental care statuses of Head Start enrollees over the past ten years.

**TABLE 75. DENTAL CARE STATUSES**

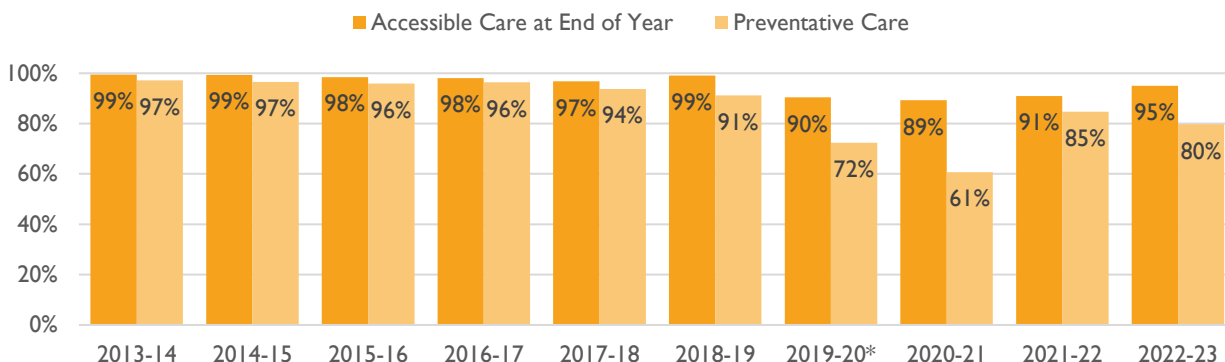
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Had Continuous Accessible Dental Care at Enrollment	2,523	2,557	2,267	2,217	1,806	1,828	1,630	859	945	982
Had Continuous Accessible Dental Care at End of Enrollment Year	2,526	2,557	2,278	2,215	1,806	1,835	1,642	860	965	1004
Received Preventative Care	2,466	2,486	2,218	2,177	1,749	1,689	1,315	585	899	842
Completed Professional Dental Exam	2,449	2,438	2,175	1,960	1,735	1,745	1,598	699	980	928
Diagnosed as Needing Treatment	877	513	535	430	428	426	272	98	169	133
Received/Receiving Treatment	852	461	483	382	375	394	242	88	139	120

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

Trends show a consistent pattern for children's dental enrollment, preventative care, and treatment. Ninety-five percent of children had an accessible, continuous dental care home at the end of the 2022-23 program year (see Figure 37). Though the proportion of enrollees who received preventative care each year decreased about 30 percentage points between 2018-19 and 2020-21, the proportion increased 19 percentage points between 2020-21 and 2022-23, from 61% to 80%.

**FIGURE 37. PERCENT OF HEAD START CHILDREN WITH DENTAL CARE ACCESS**

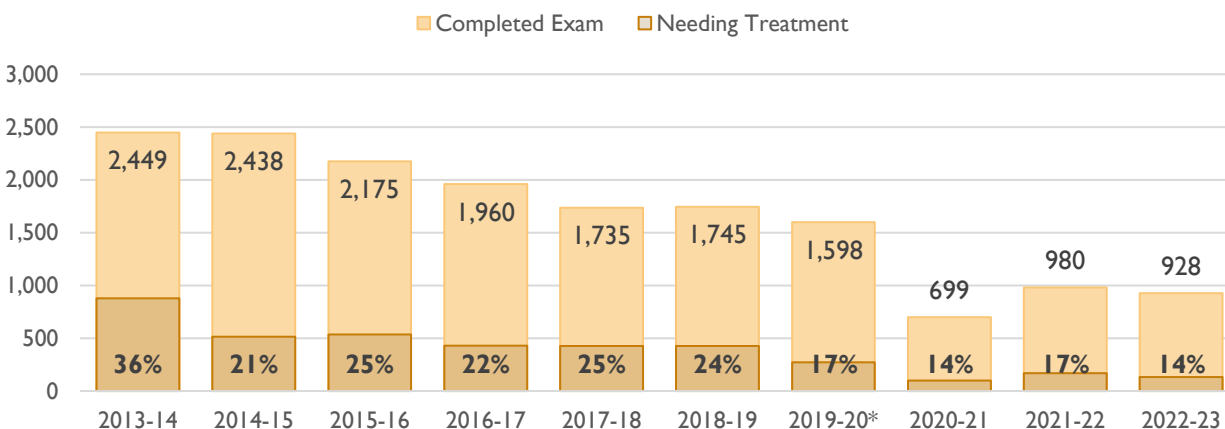


**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. The percentages are calculated by dividing the number of children with accessible care at the end of enrollment and the number of children who received preventative care by total cumulative enrollment.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

The proportion of enrolled children who had completed a dental examination began to decrease starting in 2018-19, and the proportion of those examined who were diagnosed as needing treatment began decreasing in 2019-20. About 88% of enrolled children completed a dental exam in 2022-23 (see Figure 38 below and Figure 39 on the following page), with 14% of the examined children needing treatment. The most recent program year (2022-23) saw a decrease in the proportion of students who completed a dental exam needing treatment.

**FIGURE 38. PERCENT OF HEAD START CHILDREN NEEDING FOLLOW UP TREATMENT**



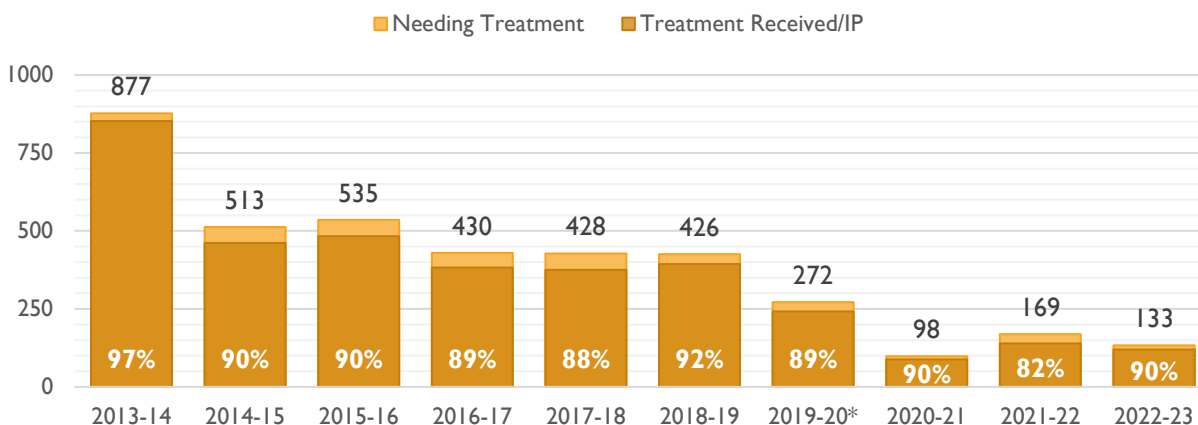
**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. The percent diagnosed as needing treatment is calculated by dividing the number of children identified as needing treatment by the children who completed the exam.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.

Follow up treatments have decreased since the 2019-20 program year as well. Of the children who needed treatment, 90% began or completed the follow-up treatment in 2022-23 (see Figure 39). Prior to 2019-20, the proportion of children receiving treatment following a diagnosis was consistently above 88%. In

the past three years, the proportion of children receiving follow up care in the following years remained at or below 90% of children determined as needing follow up dental services.

**FIGURE 39. PERCENT OF DIAGNOSED HEAD START CHILDREN RECEIVING FOLLOW UP DENTAL TREATMENT**



**Abbreviations:** IP = “In progress.”

**Note:** \* = Data may be incomplete due to disruption in data collection. The percent of children receiving treatment is calculated by dividing the number of children who have received or are receiving dental treatment by the number of children who were identified as needing follow up treatment upon completing the examination.

**Source:** Head Start Program Information Report.



## Summary

Head Start demographics for the 2022-23 program year:

- Approximately 62% of enrolled children were Latino/Hispanic. Twenty-three percent were Asian-American.
- Forty-nine percent of families who participated in Head Start were eligible based on income, and a combined 5% were eligible due to status as homeless or as a foster child.
- The proportion of families who reported that they primarily spoke Spanish at home has remained stable between 2017-18 to 2022-23 (ranging from 40-41%).
- The percentage of parents who have earned a bachelor's degree or higher was 8% in 2022-23, similar to the past year (9%).
- Approximately 73% of families had at least one parent working, participating in job training, or in school at the end of enrollment in 2022-23.

Head Start services:

- For the most recent year of available data (2022-23), the three most common family services for Head Start parents were Health Education, involvement in discussion of their child's screening and assessment results, and education on nutrition.
- The percentage of Head Start children with a diagnosed disability was 17% in 2022-23. The proportion of students whose primary disability was reported as autism increased from approximately 14% of enrolled children in 2020-21 to nearly 23% in 2022-23. The percentage of primary disabilities that were reported as speech/language impairments was 67% in 2022-23.
- At the end of enrollment in 2022-23, 95% of children had continuous access to dental care. The rate for children identified as needing dental treatment upon screening was 14%; further, 90% of these children received or are in the process of receiving treatment.

## Chapter 11: Observations and Recommendations

### County Demographics

#### Observations:

Notable demographic characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- There are 110,990 children aged 5 or younger in Santa Clara County, comprising approximately 6% of the general population.
- About one in four households (22%) in Santa Clara County have children under the age of 18. Of households with children, approximately 40% have at least one child under the age of 6.
- In some cities, the population of children under 6 years old exceeds 5,000; in San Jose alone, there are 57,547 children under the age of 6.
- Children of Asian descent make up the greatest share of children between 0-5 years at approximately 37%, followed by Hispanic (26%) and White (22%) children.

Notable demographic characteristics for San Benito County:

- Two in three children aged 0-5 years in San Benito County are Hispanic, and one quarter of children under 6 years old are White.
- There are just over 4,000 children aged 5 or younger in San Benito County, representing approximately 7% of the general population.
- Over forty percent of households with children in San Benito County have children under 6 years old, which is slightly higher than in Santa Clara County.

Notable demographic characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- Children under the age of 6 years make up approximately 6% of the entire population in both counties.
- The proportion of Hispanic children is much greater in San Benito County than in Santa Clara County. Among children under 6 years old in Santa Clara County, 26% are Hispanic, whereas in San Benito, approximately 68% of children in the same age range are Hispanic.
- The number of child births in both counties is expected to sharply decline between 2022 and 2023. In Santa Clara County, the number of child births will rise steadily for the next five years, while child births are expected to plateau in San Benito County by 2026.
- In 2022, 91.5% of people in San Benito who gave birth in the past 12 months were in the labor force; in Santa Clara County, 71.0% of parents who gave birth during were employed.

#### Recommendations:

- *Monitor and focus on cities with high counts and proportions of single-parent households to increase support of these families due to an increased risk of need for housing and food assistance.*
- *Continue to monitor cities with high numbers of children under six years of age, proportionate to the city population, for families that may require Head Start services.*
- *Monitor longitudinal trends in characteristics of pregnant people in both regions, with consideration given to the differences in characteristics between the counties.*

## Income Characteristics

### Observations:

Notable economic characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- The median family income for Santa Clara County cities ranges widely, from \$124,109 in Gilroy to over \$250,000 in Saratoga, Los Altos and Monte Sereno. San Jose, the city with the largest population, has a median family income of \$138,908, below the county median family income of \$159,872.
- San Jose has the highest percentage of families living in poverty for the county, at 6.3%. According to 2022 data, the median price for a single-family home in San Jose is \$1,550,000; the median price of a townhouse in San Jose is \$827,500.

Notable economic characteristics for San Benito County:

- The unemployment rate in San Benito County has been consistently higher than the rate in Santa Clara County; in 2021, San Benito had an unemployment rate of 4.9%, while Santa Clara had a 3.0% unemployment rate.
- The city of Hollister had the highest child poverty rate (13.9%) among all cities across both counties, above the San Benito County rate of 11%. According to 2021 data, Hollister had the highest unemployment rate in both counties, at 5.6%.

Notable economic characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- Housing costs and income levels are typically higher in Santa Clara County compared to San Benito County.
  - The median household income in Santa Clara is \$44,652 higher than that of San Benito.
  - In Santa Clara County, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit is \$511,400 higher than that of San Benito County.
  - Median monthly rent is \$827 more expensive in Santa Clara than in San Benito.
- Santa Clara County has a smaller percentage of families with children below poverty (5.1%) relative to San Benito (9.0%), but a higher number of families with children live in Santa Clara County (approximately 11,529 families) than in San Benito County (approximately 719 families).

### Recommendations:

- *Ensure that families serviced by Head Start are aware of local and state-operated housing assistance programs, especially within areas that have high rates of families that are considered to be low-income and areas with high rates child poverty.*
- *Ensure that families served by Head Start are connected to relevant job training and education services, especially in areas with low median family incomes, high cost of housing expenses, and high rates of unemployment, notably, San Juan Bautista, Hollister, and Gilroy.*
- *Continue and expand efforts to partner with local and state agencies to ensure that low-income families are referred to Head Start services.*



## Health Characteristics

### Observations:

Notable health characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- Since 2011, Santa Clara County has ranked among the top five of California's 58 counties on Health Outcomes and Health Factors rankings calculated by the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute.
- Santa Clara County has continued to rank higher for Health Outcomes than Los Angeles County and San Francisco County.
- Santa Clara County's patient-to-doctor ratio, patient-to-dentist, and patient-to-mental health specialist ratios decreased from 2022 to 2023, which means medical, dental, and mental health care have become more accessible in 2023.
- Almost 99% of Santa Clara County's children ages 0-5 years have health insurance, above the state average of 97.5%.

Notable health characteristics for San Benito County:

- San Benito County's County Health Outcomes rank dropped to 19 out of 58 counties in 2023, a one-point decrease in rank compared to 2022.
- The number of mental health professionals per capita in San Benito County worsened from 2022 to 2023; however, the patient to dentist and patient to primary care physician ratios improved from 2022 to 2023.

Notable health characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- Santa Clara and San Benito County rank among the lower 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of California's counties in terms of Health Outcomes and Health Factors ranks, indicating relatively positive health outcomes and health factors among residents of both counties.
- Fewer than four percent of children who enter Kindergarten are without all required immunizations in both counties, with rates of immunization across both counties being higher than the state average.
  - However, only six percent of eligible children ages 0-4 years old in San Benito County have completed their primary series for the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine immunizations; nearly one in four children in this age range in Santa Clara County have completed their primary series.
- No Class I water violations have been issued in either Santa Clara or San Benito County over the past five years.

### Recommendations:

- *Ensure that families serviced by Head Start are aware of food assistance programs within their communities where they can collect meals. Areas with a higher likelihood of need for these programs: Hollister, Gilroy, and Saratoga.*
- *The high ratio of residents to primary care physicians in San Benito County may exacerbate the worsening of health conditions amongst Head Start families. Head Start families should be made aware of their options for accessing physicians and other health care services throughout the region.*

- Equip parents and pregnant people with tools and resources to promote their physical and mental health and to support their children's development and social-emotional well-being. This could include information on smoking and drinking cessation programs and services, childhood immunization requirements for Head Start enrollment, and accessible nutrition and physical activity location options.
- Seek partnership opportunities from the County of Santa Clara to facilitate access to healthcare and mental health services in San Benito County.
- Continue to monitor research and data trends regarding the impacts on families who are affected by the lasting effects of COVID-19.
- Provide Head Start families with information about signs of child abuse and maltreatment and what to do if maltreatment is suspected.

## Education Characteristics

### Observations:

Notable education characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- Enrollment in public charter schools has increased slowly from 11.4% in 2016-17 to 12% in 2019-20 and has stayed consistent at around 12% over the past three years.
- The average teacher in Santa Clara County earns \$102,933, over \$20,000 more annually than teachers in San Benito County.
- Students in Santa Clara County outperformed students statewide and in San Benito in terms of the proportion that met or exceeded CAASPP standards in ELA and Math in 2022-23. Half of students met or exceeded math standards in 2022-23, 25 percentage points higher than San Benito County and 16 percentage points above the state.
- Over three-quarters of residents aged 25 and older have attended some college or higher in Santa Clara County, compared to 57% in San Benito County.

Notable education characteristics for San Benito County:

- In San Benito County, the proportion of students enrolled in non-traditional schools (Alternative Education, Community Day, Continuation, etc.) was 1.1% in 2022-23, lower than Santa Clara County's rate of 2.8%.
- In San Benito County, 9.4% of full-time equivalent teachers in 2021-22 were eligible for a pay bonus due to having a Master's degree or higher.
- In San Benito County, nearly three-quarters of students did not meet or exceed standards in mathematics in 2022-23.

Notable education characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- While the high school graduation rate is slightly lower in Santa Clara County than in San Benito County, 58% of high school graduates in Santa Clara County were UC and CSU eligible compared to 42% in San Benito County".
- The average annual education cost per student is over \$3,500 greater in Santa Clara County than in San Benito County, at \$17,936.

- Though the proportion of enrolled Hispanic students enrolled has slowly but steadily increased in both counties, the overall student race/ethnic distributions have also remained relatively stable since 2018.
- The rate of teachers in Santa Clara County eligible for a pay bonus due to their Master's or Doctorate degree is over five times greater than the rate in San Benito County (55.8% and 9.4%, respectively).

### **Recommendations:**

- *Increasing school enrollment numbers in San Benito County may indicate a similar increase in the pool of eligible candidates for the Head Start program. Increase availability of information in San Benito County schools about Head Start and applicable resources.*
- *Curate resources on early childcare education and make them available to Head Start families and those who are low-income but do not meet Head Start income-eligibility criteria.*
- *Continue to monitor trends in the early childcare educator workforce in both counties. Consideration should be given to the supply of educators in the workforce, as well as compensation rates and the educational background of potential Head Start teachers at a local level.*

## **Childcare Access and Availability**

### **Observations:**

Notable childcare characteristics for Santa Clara County:

- The annual cost of full-time, center-based care for infants/toddlers and preschool-aged children is \$21,588 and \$18,348 respectively.
- The majority (62%) of childcare requests received by Resource & Referral agencies are for preschool.
- Twenty-nine agencies operating childcare centers in Santa Clara County have contracts to provide subsidized childcare.
- Of the children eligible for Title 5 programs, an estimated 4,494 (10%) are enrolled.
- While Transitional Kindergarten enrollment declined by 24% from 2017-18 to 2020-21, there has been a 16% increase in enrollment from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

Notable childcare characteristics for San Benito County:

- The annual cost of full-time, center-based care for infants/toddlers and preschool-aged children is \$15,648 and \$10,788 respectively.
- The majority (58%) of parent requests for childcare are for children 6 years and older.
- Only one agency with centers operating in San Benito County has contracts to provide subsidized childcare in 2023.
- Of the children eligible for Title 5 Programs, an estimated 199 (5.6%) are enrolled.
- Transitional Kindergarten enrollment in San Benito County has increased by 23% from last year.

Notable childcare characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- The cost of infant/toddler care and preschool is on the rise. From 2014-2021, the annual cost of infant/toddler care increased by roughly \$5,000 in Santa Clara, and preschool costs have increased by over \$1,700-\$2,200 (depending on facility type) in San Benito in that same time period.
- The number of childcare slots available to children in both counties has fallen since 2017, by over 3,500 slots in Santa Clara County and over 200 slots in San Benito County.
- The income eligibility cutoff for a family of four for General Child Care and State Preschool is more than three times higher than the income cutoff that qualifies a family of four for Head Start.
- There are more children enrolled in migrant preschool in San Benito County than in Santa Clara County. The number of migrant children enrolled in preschool in the Head Start service area has steadily declined since 2017-18.

### **Recommendations:**

- *Continue to educate parents on CalWORKs, CalFresh, and other assistance programs and inform families of relevant continuing education and job training opportunities.*
- *Continue partnering with the local Santa Clara County Resource & Referral program efforts to screen and refer families to all qualifying public pre-Kindergarten programs, including State Preschool, Migrant Preschool, and Transitional Kindergarten.*
- *Establish and maintain communication between the Head Start program and family childcare homes in San Benito County to provide information and support services to eligible families.*

## **Community Resources**

### **Observations:**

Services for low-income children and families:

#### **Santa Clara County:**

##### *Public Health Department*

- Provides a wide range of services, parenting resources, assistance, and information focused on helping children, families, and expecting parents who are preparing for newborns.

##### *Social Services Agency*

- Provides a host of family support, income assistance, and employment preparation services to residents of Santa Clara County.

##### *Santa Clara Valley Medical Center*

- Provides accessible healthcare to all persons in the region regardless of ability to pay and serves patients of all ages, including infants and children, pregnant parents, and families. Patients at SCVMC and partnered community clinics also have access to free virtual health education and wellness classes such as Prenatal Yoga and the Maternal Health and Baby Education program. Translators are available for all services.

**San Benito County:***Health and Human Services Agency*

- Services align with those provided by the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, which include CalWORKs and CalFresh programs for eligible families.

*The Community Food Bank*

- Provides food pantry distributions to San Benito County residents such as drive-thru pickup, “Brown Bag Delivery,” sit-down meals, and mobile meals to those who cannot reach a food distribution center.

Services for children who experienced or are at-risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation:

**Santa Clara County***Santa Clara County Social Services Agency*

- Operates the Child Abuse and Neglect Center (CANC), a year-round, 24-hour hotline where residents can file non-emergency reports of child abuse or neglect. Toll-free number: 833-722-5437.

**San Benito County***The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care*

- Coordinates medical, dental, mental, and developmental health services to children in foster care through a network of Public Health Nurses (PHN), social workers, and probation officers.

Services for children with disabilities:

**Santa Clara County:***Public Health Department:*

- Focuses on protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, disease and injury prevention, and promotion of health policies.

*FIRST 5:*

- Works with partner agencies to promote, support, and improve early childhood development and to identify children at-risk of poor developmental and behavioral health.
- Established Family Resource Centers throughout Santa Clara County to increase access to services, including free developmental screenings for children ages 0-5 years.

**San Benito County:***Public Health Division*

- The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program provides periodic preventative health assessments and services to income eligible children.

#### *Special Parents Information Network (SPIN)*

- Establishes non-profit parent-to-parent support and information networks that serve parents, guardians and families in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties who have a child or children with special needs of any age.
- Houses a Family Empowerment Center on Disabilities and provides services such as Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) Clinics that provide individual assistance on issues regarding children's IEP.

Services for homeless children and families:

#### ***Santa Clara County***

##### *United Way Bay Area*

- Collaborates with partner agencies located in Santa Clara County. In addition to other support services (i.e., food assistance, utility assistance, medical and transportation aid), UWBA provides emergency rental assistance and mortgage aid to families.

##### *HomeFirst*

- Provides year-round shelter and transitional housing services to Santa Clara County's homeless population. Operates two Family Living Centers located in Santa Clara and San Martin.

##### *The San Jose Family Shelter*

- Provides transitional housing for single- and two-parent families for up to 90 days, referrals to other programs, planning services, and jobs training.

#### **Recommendations:**

- *Continue to ensure that staff is familiar with existing resources (including the services and supports provided by partner agencies) that are available to both income-eligible and categorically eligible children in Santa Clara County and San Benito County.*
- *Continue to train staff on effective methods of connecting Head Start families to existing resources (including the services and supports provided by partner agencies). Training should be culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and community-oriented to ensure that the resources shared by staff are inclusive, relevant, accessible, and tailored to the family's specific needs.*

## Head Start Eligible Children

#### **Observations:**

Notable eligibility characteristics for Santa Clara County and San Benito County:

- The proportion of San Benito's income-eligible child population Head Start (23.5%) is three times greater than that of Santa Clara County (7.7%).
- The estimated number of income-eligible children in Santa Clara (6,887) is substantially higher than the number of income-eligible children in San Benito County (746).
- Head Start has the capacity to serve 28.7% of all income eligible children who reside in the service area.
- There are 2,923 income-eligible children ages 0-2 years who reside in the service area without an Early Head Start slot.
- There are 2,522 income-eligible children ages 3-4 years who reside in the service area without a Head Start slot.



- It is estimated that the number of children that qualify for Head Start services based on categorical criteria exceeds the number of available slots.

#### Eligibility of Pregnant and Perinatal Parents:

- Nearly eight percent of Santa Clara County parents who gave birth in 2022 had an income level below the federal poverty guideline. In San Benito, this figure is 0%.
- The number of families receiving WIC within the service area has steadily increased since 2020. In addition, the number of birthing parents who received WIC at the time of delivery has also increased in the same time period, though the overall number of births has decreased in this time period.

#### Recommendations:

- *Expand partnerships with state and local government agencies to ensure that families who participate in programs that meet Head Start eligibility criteria are notified of their eligibility to receive Head Start services.*
- *Establish partnerships with local maternity services and pregnancy-related healthcare programs within the community to increase the awareness of prenatal and pregnancy-related Head Start supports.*

## Head Start Enrollment Data

#### Observations:

##### Early Head Start (EHS) demographics:

- The majority of children served by EHS in 2022-23 were Hispanic (84%); approximately 9% of children in the EHS program were Asian.
- The proportion of children with a reported home language of Spanish (56%) exceeded the proportion that primarily speak English in the home (35%).
- From 2021-22 to 2022-23, the proportion of two-parent families served by EHS has increased by 3%, while the proportion of single-parent families served by EHS decreased by 3%.
- Thirty-two percent (32%) of EHS parents have not obtained a high school diploma or a GED.
- In 2022-23, slightly more than half (55%) of all EHS families had at least one parent or guardian who was employed, in training, or in school at the time of enrollment; this percentage increased to 64% by the end of enrollment.

##### Head Start demographics for the 2022-23 program year:

- Approximately 62% of enrolled children were Latino/Hispanic. Twenty-three percent were Asian-American.
- Forty-nine percent of families who participated in Head Start were eligible based on income, and a combined 5% were eligible due to status as homeless or as a foster child.
- The percentage of children that speak Spanish decreased from 51% in 2013-14 to 41% in 2017-18 and has remained stable between 2017-18 to 2022-23 (ranging from 40-41%).

- The percentage of parents earning a bachelor's degree or higher was 8% in 2022-23, similar to the past year (9%).
- Approximately 73% of families had at least one parent working, participating in job training, or in school at the end of enrollment in 2022-23.

#### Head Start services:

- For the most recent year of available data (2022-23), the three most common family services for Head Start parents were Health Education, involvement in discussion of their child's screening and assessment results, and education on nutrition.
- The percentage of Head Start children with a diagnosed disability was 17% in 2022-23. The proportion of disabilities that were reported as autism increased from 14% in 2020-21 to 23% in 2022-23. The percentage of primary disabilities that were reported as speech/language impairments was 67%.
- At the end of enrollment in 2022-23, 95% of children had continuous access to dental care. The rate for children identified as needing dental treatment upon screening was 14%, and 90% of these children received or are receiving treatment.

#### Recommendations:

- *Strengthen partnerships with organizations that serve young children with disabilities, children in foster care, homeless children and families, and families receiving CalFresh to increase enrollment among children who are categorically eligible for Head Start services.*
- *Ensure that staff has the proper training (i.e., the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to provide trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and responsive care) to serve children in foster care, homeless youth, and children who experienced or are at-risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.*

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## About Us

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is a regional service agency that provides instructional, business, and technology support to the 31 school districts of Santa Clara County, in addition to academic and fiscal oversight for the 21 county board-authorized charter schools. The SCCOE directly serves students through special education programs, alternative schools, migrant education, and Opportunity Youth Academy. Housed within the SCCOE's Educational Services Division, the Early Learning Services Department operates Head Start, Early Head Start, and State Preschool programs within Santa Clara County and San Benito County. Research and evaluation services are coordinated by the Integrated Data, Research & Evaluation department of the SCCOE's Executive Services Division.

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