



SANTA CLARA COUNTY

2023 CHILD CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

UPDATED • MARCH 2025



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INTRODUCTION FROM THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Children are our future. This is an undeniable concept that can serve as a reflection and catalyst for those serving and advocating on behalf of children. From this thinking innovative ideas, actions, and programs to better serve current and future children are refined and created.

At the core of ideas, actions, and programming are experiences. Whether they are lived as small children, parents, providers, and/or educators, experiences provide valuable insight to the needs of all children. In this collaborative assessment, the experiences and needs of families with children ages 0-12 years in the Santa Clara County community are told through data.

As of 2020, an estimated 307,376 children ages 0-12 years resided in Santa Clara County, with 67,551 of them identified as infants and toddlers (ages 0-2 years), 49,155 identified as preschool-aged (3-4 years), and 190,670 identified as school-aged children (5-12 years). While data indicates a decrease in births in Santa Clara County and a decrease in public school enrollment, there are increases among students with disabilities, bi and multilingual students, and students with specific learning disabilities. Thus continuing the work for creating, implementing, and evaluating inclusive programs that address needs during the early years of childhood, in particular child care.

When families have access to high-quality child care that meets the needs of their children, our greater community benefits. According to the Center of American Progress, the investment and creation of a comprehensive childcare structure support economic outcomes in four areas: lowering families' out-of-pocket costs and increasing their spending power in communities, reducing employee turnover, encouraging labor force participation, and boosting productive capacity.

Coupled with collaborative partnerships, the Santa Clara County Office of Education and Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC) continue to serve and support the community's most vulnerable children through public education, meeting individual needs from early childhood through adolescence. Equipping families with equitable access to high-quality childcare empowers them and their children for a thriving future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Dewan".

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan

County Superintendent of Schools

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a compilation of data in accordance with the requirement by the California Department of Social Services to conduct a needs assessment of early education and before- and after-school programs every five years. These data points describe key indicators of early care and education in Santa Clara County, which will serve to assist with planning and implementing programs and initiatives to serve children between the ages of 0-12 years in the community.

DATA SOURCES

Quantitative Data Sources

Consultants at the Indigo Project (Indigo) obtained data for this report from a variety of local, county, state, and national sources. The intent was to have the most recent information related to the target child population and their early care and education needs. Chart and table source data and relevant notes are documented throughout the assessment. In addition to the individuals listed in the Acknowledgements above, various agencies and organizations assisted with compiling these data.

Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) contributors included the Migrant Education Program, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), Inclusion Collaborative, Early Start, Head Start Program, and the Childcare Resource and Referral Program. Significant external contributions were made by the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, the San Andreas Regional Center, and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. Consultants at Indigo also utilized publicly accessible data available through the California Departments of Education and Finance, as well as the U.S. Census Bureau for this report. Finally, calculations for unmet child care needs were based largely on population and enrollment data collected from the American Institutes for Research's Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (ELNAT) and child care supply data provided by the Santa Clara County Childcare Resource and Referral program.

Qualitative Data Sources

In addition to the data described above, Indigo conducted four focus groups with child care providers and families to gain additional insights into the child care needs in Santa Clara County. Two focus groups (one in-person and one remote) were conducted with families with children in or seeking child care, and two additional focus groups (one in-person and one remote) were conducted with providers of child care. In all, Indigo spoke with 10 family members and 14 child care providers who provided information included in the report. Moreover, the SCCOE Research & Evaluation Team conducted an online survey about families' child care needs and preferences on behalf of the Local Early Education Planning Council. A total of 211 families shared their child care needs and preferences.

REPORT STRUCTURE

The needs assessment is organized into seven sections.

- Demographic Characteristics of Children
- Children with Additional Needs
- Children Eligible for Child Care Subsidy Programs
- Cost of Child Care
- Unmet Need for Child Care
- Perspective of Providers and Caregivers
- Perspective of Parents

Each of the first five sections include data elements that are required to be in the needs assessment of early education and before- and after-school programs every five years, as well as supplemental information relevant to the needs of children in the County. Perspective of Providers and Caregivers provides key findings about child care needs from focus groups with families and providers. The last section, Perspective of Parents, provides key findings about families' child care needs and preferences from an online survey conducted by the Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC). Each section begins with an overview of the key highlights from the section. Then all mandated and supplemental data elements are included in greater detail. Throughout the assessment, trends over time where appropriate are highlighted.



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN

CHILD POPULATION

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 2020, there were an estimated 307,376 children ages 0-12 years in Santa Clara County.
- Approximately 67,551 (22%) of these children were infants and toddlers (i.e., children ages 0-2 years), 49,155 (16%) were children of preschool age (i.e., children ages 3-4 years), and 190,670 (62%) were school-aged children (i.e., children ages 5-12 years).
- Actual births declined by 10% from 2017 to 2021.
- Births projections, which are consistently lower than actual rates, are expected to continue to decline, but at a much slower rate (3%) between 2022 and 2030.
- Approximately 69% of children under the age of 6 years reside in the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara Metropolitan Area.
- San Jose alone accounts for 52% of the child population.

MANDATED DATA

As of 2020, there were an estimated 307,376 children ages 0-12 years in Santa Clara County (see Table 1). Approximately 67,551 (22%) of these children were infants and toddlers (i.e., children ages 0-2 years), 49,155 (16%) were children of preschool age (i.e., children ages 3-4 years), and 190,670 (62%) were school-aged children (i.e., children ages 5-12 years). Children in these three age groups, their demographics, unique needs, and child care needs, are the focus of this assessment.

Table 1. Number of Children in the County by Age Cohort (2020)

Ages	Number	Group Totals
< 1 Year	21,498	0-2 Years 67,551
1 Year	22,750	
2 Years	23,303	
3 Years	24,061	3-4 Years 49,155
4 Years	25,094	
5 Years	22,273	5-12 Years 190,670
6-12 Years	168,397	
Total	307,376	

Source: Population Data (2020), Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, American Institutes for Research

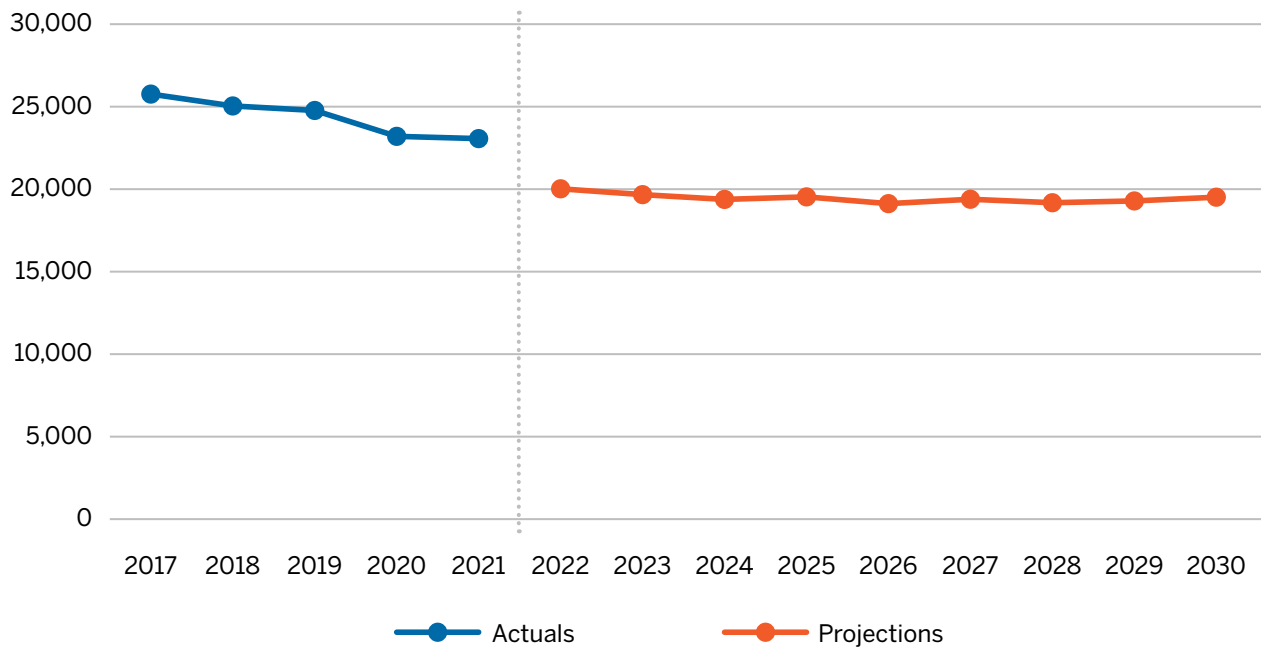
CHILD POPULATION

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Birth and Age Cohorts

As shown in Figure 1, the number of actual births in Santa Clara County has trended downward since 2017. Projections developed by the California Department of Finance are consistently lower than the actual rates for years with available data. Projections estimate a small decline between 2022 and 2030.

Figure 1. Births in Santa Clara County: Actual (2017-2021) and Projections (2022-2030)



Source: Actual birth data from California Department of Public Health; projected birth data from California Department of Finance

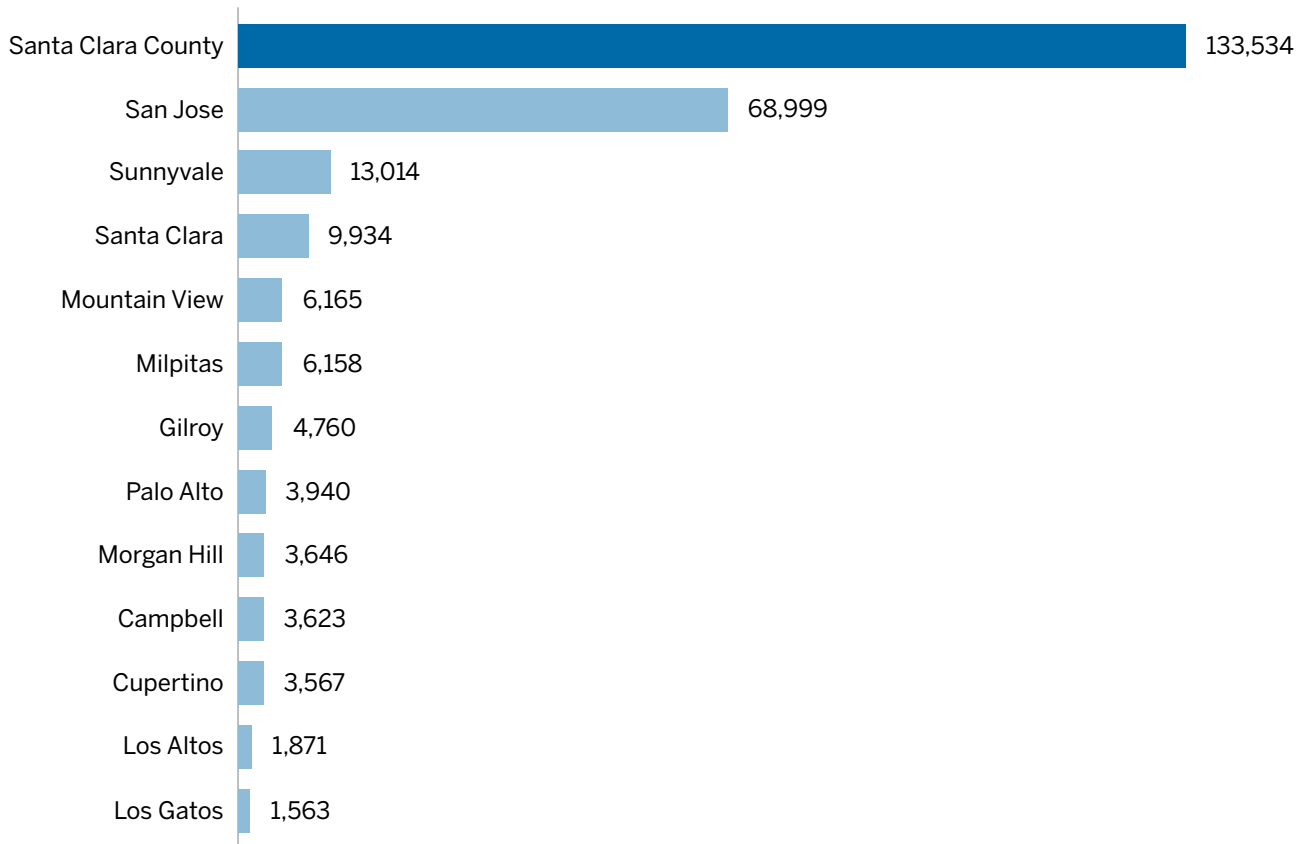


CHILD POPULATION

Children Under 6 Years By Major City

The data presented in Figure 2 are based on 5-year estimates calculated as part of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. In 2021, there were an estimated 133,534 children under the age of 6 years in Santa Clara County. Over half (52%, n=68,999) lived in San Jose, while approximately 10% (n=13,014) lived in Sunnyvale and 7% (n=9,934) lived in Santa Clara.

Figure 2. Children Under 6 Years by Major City (2021)



Source: Children Characteristics, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 38% of households in Santa Clara County have children under the age of 18 years of age living in the household.
- K-12 public school enrollment has decreased each year, from 272,312 in 2017/18 to 241,326 in 2021/22.
- The California Department of Finance projects that K-12 enrollment will fall to 217,444 by the 2026/27 academic year, a substantial 10% reduction from 2021/22 enrollment figures.
- Approximately 39% of all children enrolled in the 2021/22 academic year identified as Hispanic or Latino. The second largest subgroup was Asian Americans at 31%, followed by Whites at 17%. Remaining subgroups account for just 13% of K-12 enrollment.
- Despite changes in overall K-12 public school enrollment, the demographic characteristics of K-12 students have remained relatively stable from 2012/13 – 2021/22. Hispanic youth have consistently comprised approximately 39% of the K-12 population. The White population has slightly decreased during this period (from approximately 22% to 17% of K-12 students) while the Asian American population has slightly increased (from approximately 27% to 31% of K-12 students). Approximately 2% of K-12 students in Santa Clara County identified as African American in each of the three years sampled (2012/13, 2016/17, 2021/22); however, the proportion has declined from 2.4% in 2012/13 to 1.8% in 2021/22.
- The proportion of K-12 students who are English Language Learners has continued to decline, comprising 22% of K-12 students.
- The proportion of K-12 students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged also declined, from 37% in 2012/13 to 33% in 2021/22.
- The proportion of K-12 students with disabilities increased slightly in 2021/22, comprising 12% of the population, relative to 10% in both 2012/13 and 2016/17.

MANDATED DATA

Table 2 lists the number and percent of children enrolled in Santa Clara County K-12 schools by race and ethnicity. Approximately 39% of all children enrolled in the 2021/22 academic year identified as Hispanic or Latino. The second largest subgroup was Asian Americans at 31%, followed by Whites at 17%. Remaining subgroups account for just 13% of K-12 enrollment.

Table 2. Percent of Children K-12 by Race/Ethnicity (2021/22)

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent
African American	4,367	1.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	680	0.3%
Asian	74,290	30.8%
Filipino	9,153	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino	94,847	39.3%
Pacific Islander	978	0.4%
White	40,906	17.0%
Two or More Races	13,706	5.7%
Not Reported	2,399	1.0%
Total	241,326	100.0%

Source: 2021/22 Enrollment by Ethnicity, DataQuest, California Department of Education

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

General Population Characteristics

Data presented in Table 3 below allows for a comparison of Santa Clara County's K-12 race/ethnicity distribution relative to the County's general population. In drawing comparisons, however, it is important to note that unlike the California Department of Education classification, which nests the Hispanic category within race, the U.S. Census Bureau classifies race and ethnicity separately. As a result, the White population in the County, according to census data, is 22 percentage points (39%) higher than the White K-12 population (17%) based on California Department of Education (CDE) data. This is because many children who identify as White in the census also identify as Hispanic; in the K-12 school data many of these children are likely to be included in the Hispanic race category, not the White category. In addition, the K-12 Hispanic population (39%) is higher than the County's overall Hispanic population (25%). If the number of children under the age of 6 in Santa Clara County is 133,534 (see Figure 2), then children under the age of 6 account for approximately 7% of the general population.

Table 3. Population Characteristics of Santa Clara County (2021)

	Count	Percent
Total Population	1,932,022	100.0%
Male	983,824	50.9%
Female	948,198	49.1%
Race		
White	754,027	39.0%
African American	47,518	2.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	11,897	0.6%
Asian American	736,650	38.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	6,603	0.3%
Some Other Race	189,217	9.8%
Two or More Races	186,110	9.6%
Hispanic/Latino	485,092	25.1%
Population Under 18	422,063	21.8%
Population 18 and Over	1,509,959	78.2%
Households with Individuals Under 18	262,506	37.9%*

Sources: Selected Characteristics of the Total and Native Populations in the United States, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau

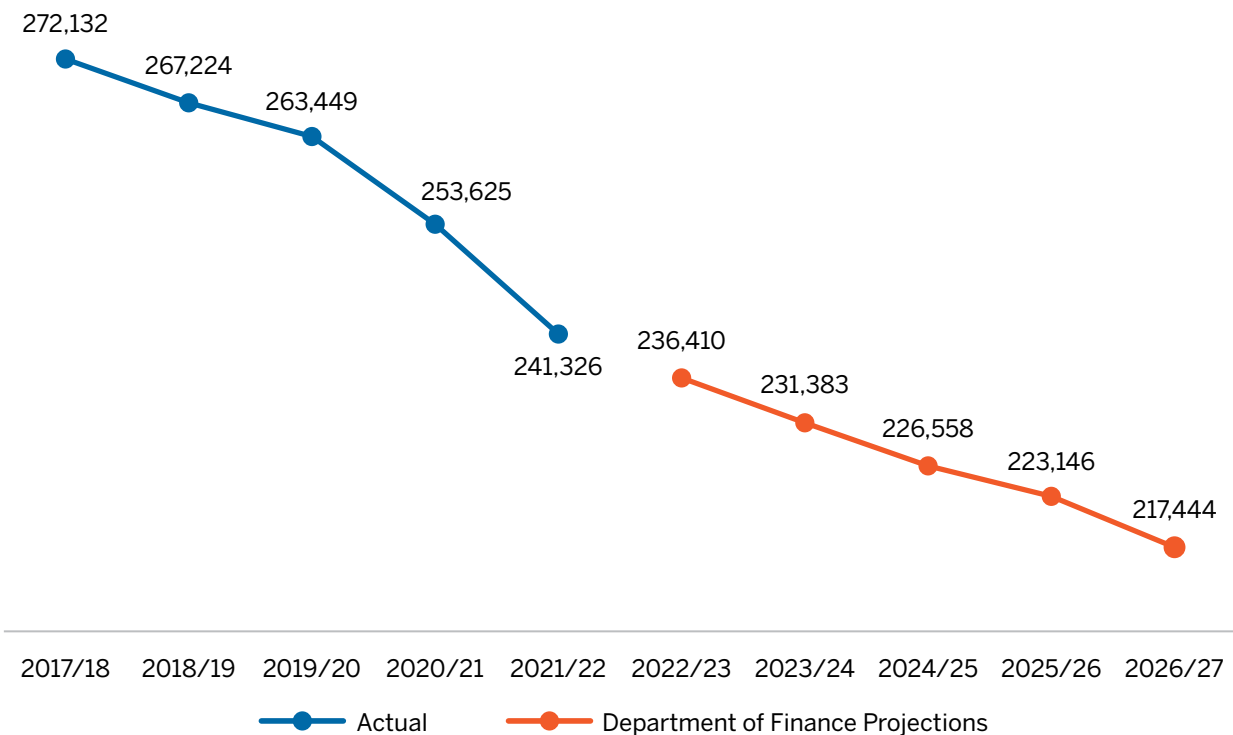
Note: *Of total housing units in Santa Clara County (n=693,284)

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Public School Enrollment

Like the number of actual and projected births, public school enrollment in Santa Clara County is expected to decline over the coming years. From 2017/18 to 2021/22 enrollment declined 11%, from 272,132 to 241,326 respectively. The California Department of Finance projects that K-12 enrollment will fall to 217,444 by the 2026/27 academic year, a substantial 10% reduction from 2021/22 enrollment figures (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Public School Enrollment: Actual (2017-2021) and Projections/Forecasts (2022-2027)



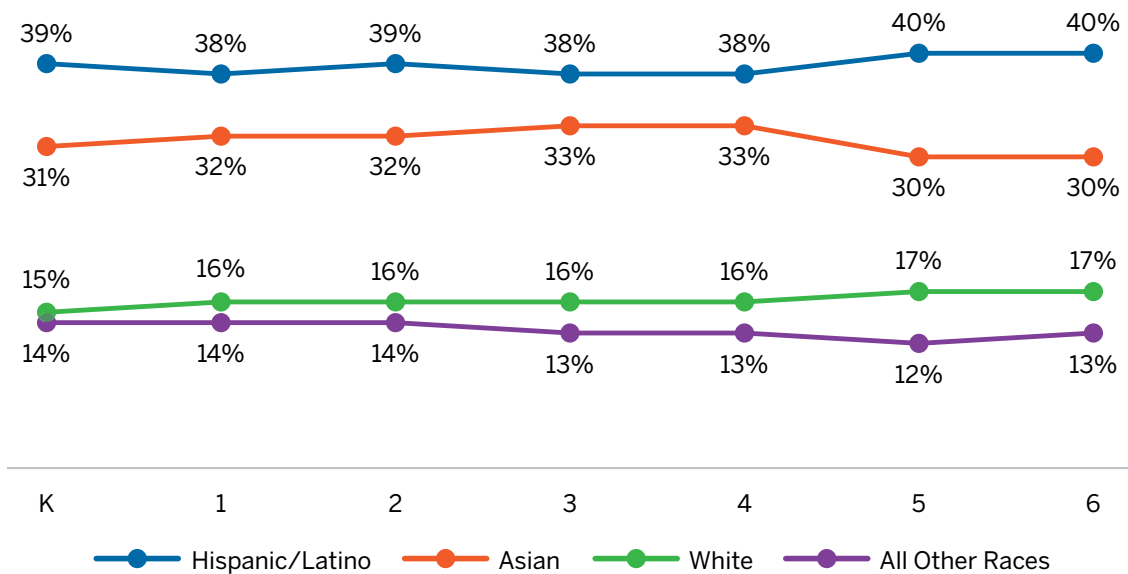
Source: Actual Enrollment from Enrollment by Ethnicity and Grade, DataQuest, California Department of Education; Projected Enrollment from California Department of Finance, California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Projections Table, 2022 Series

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Grade Level Comparison of K-12 Demographics

Race and ethnicity distributions by grade level for the 2021/22 academic year are displayed in Figure 4. The proportion of students identified as Hispanic, Asian American, White, and all other races (African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Filipino, Pacific Islander, Two or More Races) are roughly equivalent across grade levels.

Figure 4. Percentage Child Population by Grade and Race/Ethnicity (2021/22)



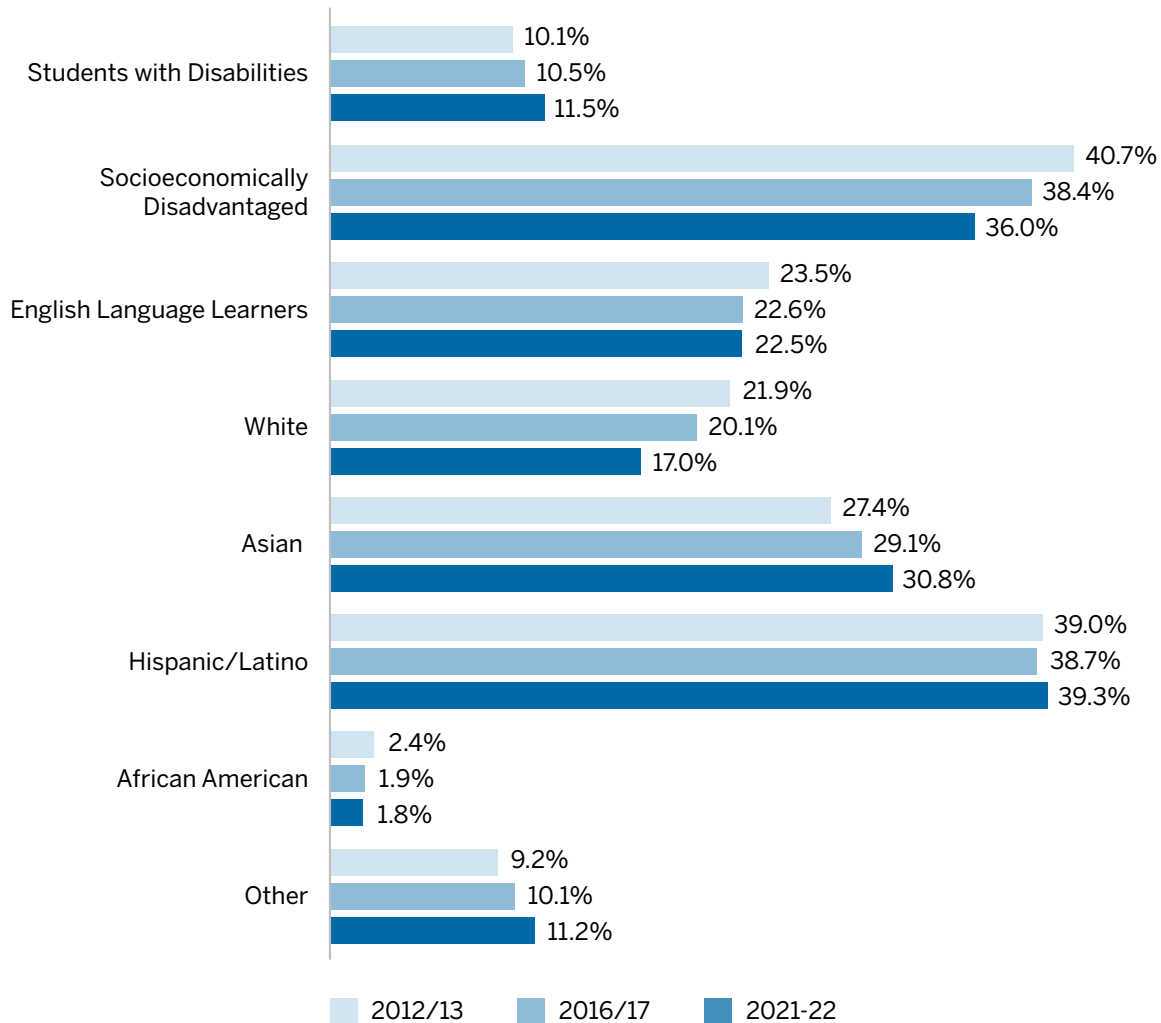
Source: 2021/22 Enrollment by Ethnicity, DataQuest, California Department of Education

K-12 Demographics Over Time

Figure 5 provides insights into K-12 demographic shifts over time. Data are provided for three academic years (2012/13, 2016/17, and 2021/22). In addition to race and ethnicity distributions, data on other, relevant K-12 subpopulations are included, such as students with disabilities (SD), socioeconomically disadvantaged students (SED), and English language learners (ELL). These data demonstrate that the demographic characteristics of K-12 students have remained relatively stable from 2012/23 – 2021/22. Hispanic youth have consistently comprised approximately 39% of the K-12 population. The White population has slightly decreased during this period (from approximately 22% to 17% of K-12 students) while the Asian American population has slightly increased (from approximately 27% to 31% of K-12 students). Approximately 2% of K-12 students in Santa Clara County identified as African American from 2012/13 to 2021/22, however the proportion has declined from 2.4% in 2012/13 to 1.8% in 2021/22.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Figure 5. Demographic Shifts in K-12 Public School Enrollment (2012/13, 2016/17, 2021/22)



Source: Enrollment by Ethnicity, Special Education, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, DataQuest, California Department of Education (2012/13, 2016/17, and 2021/22)

Minor changes in the proportion of K-12 students who have disabilities, are socioeconomically challenged, or are English Language Learners (ELL) have also taken place. The percent of socioeconomically disadvantaged students has declined over time. In 2012/13, 41% of the student population were identified as socioeconomically disadvantaged compared to 36% of the student population in 2021/22. Fewer K-12 students were also English Language Learners in 2021/22 (23%) compared to 2012/13 (24% of K-12 students were identified as English Language Learners). Finally, the proportion of K-12 students with disabilities increased slightly in 2021/22. In both 2012/13 and 2016/17, approximately 10% of the K-12 student population had an identified disability, while 12% of the K-12 population had an identified disability in 2021/22.

CHILD THRESHOLD LANGUAGES

HIGHLIGHTS

- Spanish and Vietnamese are the two most common languages spoken by ELL and FEP K-12 students.
- While the total number of Spanish-speaking and Vietnamese-speaking ELL and FEP students decreased somewhat substantially from 2016/17 to 2021/22 (by 10,071 and 3,768), the proportion of total enrollment who are Spanish-speaking or Vietnamese-speaking ELL or FEP K-12 students only decreased slightly, from 25.4% to 24.6% and 7.1% to 6.5% of total enrollment respectively.
- The third most common language spoken by ELL and FEP K-12 students is Mandarin. While the total number of ELL or FEP students who speak Mandarin declined slightly from 12,265 in 2016/17 to 12,045 in 2021/22, the proportion of total enrollment who are Mandarin-speaking increased from 4.5% to 5.0% of K-12 students during this period.

MANDATED DATA

Table 4 provides information on the languages spoken by ELL and Fluent English Proficient (FEP) K-12 students in Santa Clara County. Students classified as FEP are students whose primary language is not English but have met district criteria for determining proficiency in English. Languages spoken by fewer than 500 students have been collapsed into the "Other, Non-English Languages" category. Among ELL students, the majority (47%) speak Spanish. The second and third most common languages spoken are Vietnamese (12.5%) and Mandarin (9.5%). Combined, ELL and FEP students account for approximately 52% of the entire K-12 student population in Santa Clara County.

Table 4. Child Population (K-12) by Threshold Language (2021/22)

Language	English Language Learners (ELL)	Fluent English Proficient (FEP) Students	ELL and FEP Students	Percent of ELL and FEP Students	Percent of K-12 Population
Spanish	34,769	24,686	59,455	47.1%	24.6%
Vietnamese	5,912	9,806	15,718	12.5%	6.5%
Mandarin (Putonghua)	2,530	9,515	12,045	9.5%	5.0%
Hindi	677	2,921	3,598	2.9%	1.5%
Korean	879	2,314	3,193	2.5%	1.3%
Filipino (Pilipino or Tagalog)	1,126	1,706	2,832	2.2%	1.2%
Cantonese	600	2,075	2,675	2.1%	1.1%
Telugu	673	1,977	2,650	2.1%	1.1%
Tamil	463	1,720	2,183	1.7%	0.9%
Japanese	949	1,177	2,126	1.7%	0.9%

(continued on next page)

CHILD THRESHOLD LANGUAGES

Table 4. Child Population (K-12) by Threshold Language (2021/22)

Language	English Language Learners (ELL)	Fluent English Proficient (FEP) Students	ELL and FEP Students	Percent of ELL and FEP Students	Percent of K-12 Population
Russian	697	1,380	2,077	1.6%	0.9%
Punjabi	538	818	1,356	1.1%	0.6%
Hebrew	363	1,107	1,470	1.2%	0.6%
Farsi (Persian)	366	835	1,201	1.0%	0.5%
Marathi	165	823	988	0.8%	0.4%
Arabic	345	588	933	0.7%	0.4%
Kannada	159	679	838	0.7%	0.4%
Gujarati	120	640	760	0.6%	0.3%
French	120	537	657	0.5%	0.3%
Urdu	189	460	649	0.5%	0.3%
Portuguese	226	372	598	0.5%	0.3%
Other, Non-English Languages	2,400	5,809	8,209	6.5%	3.4%
Total	54,266	71,945	126,211	100%	52%

Source: Language Group Data – Countywide (2021/22), DataQuest, California Department of Education

Note: Percent of ELL and FEP Students calculated by dividing the number of ELL and FEP students per language by the total number of ELL and FEP students. Languages spoken by fewer than 500 students are collapsed into “Other, Non-English Languages.”

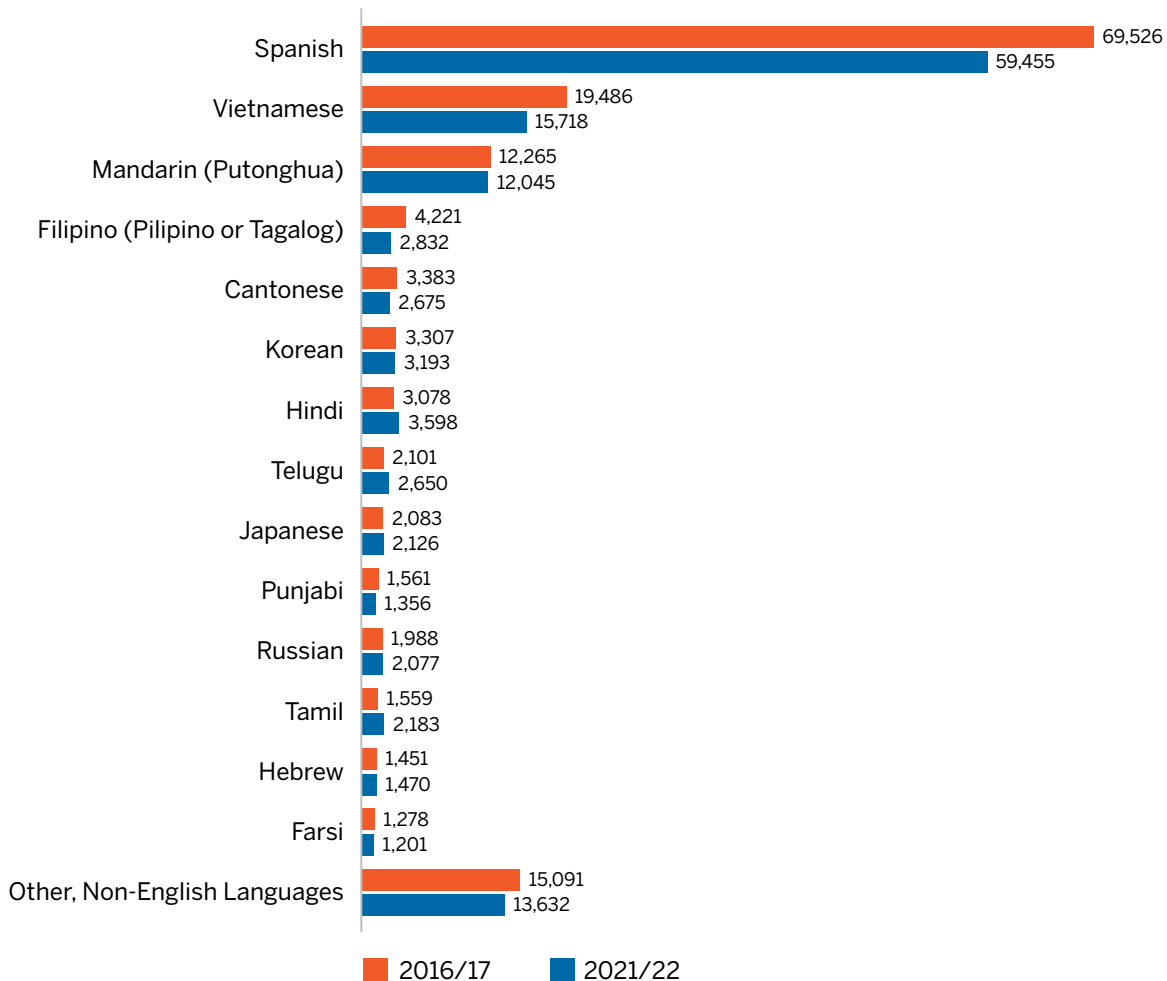
CHILD THRESHOLD LANGUAGES

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Two-Year Comparison of K-12 Spoken Languages

A two-year comparison of common languages spoken by ELL and FEP K-12 students is provided in Figure 6 below. Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin are the three most common languages spoken by ELL and FEP K-12 students. While the total number of Spanish-speaking and Vietnamese-speaking ELL and FEP students decreased quite substantially from 2016/17 to 2021/22 (by 10,071 and 3,768), the proportion of total enrollment who are Spanish-speaking or Vietnamese speaking only decreased slightly, from 25.4% to 24.6% of total enrollment and 7.1% to 6.5% of total enrollment respectively. The third most common language spoken by ELL and FEP K-12 students is Mandarin. While the total number of students who speak Mandarin declined slightly from 12,265 in 2016/17 to 12,045 in 2021/22, the proportion of total enrollment who are Mandarin-speaking ELL or FEP students increased from 4.5% to 5.0% of K-12 students during this period.

Figure 6. Number of K-12 English Language Learners (2016/17 and 2021/22)



Note: Total numbers displayed are for English Learners (ELL) and Fluent English Proficient (FEP) students. Languages spoken by fewer than 1,000 students are collapsed into “Other, Non-English Languages.”

Source: Language Group Data – Countywide (2016/17; 2021/22), DataQuest, California Department of Education



CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of December 2022, a total of 2,142 children under the age of 3 had an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP).
- As of the last reporting cycle in the 2018/19 academic year, 17,203 children 3-12 years in age in Santa Clara County had an IEP. Of these children, 10% were of preschool age.
- Specific learning disabilities (38%), speech or language impairments (21%), and autism (17%) were the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most common disability diagnoses for K-12 students.
- Speech and language impairments were more commonly diagnosed at earlier ages whereas disability diagnoses involving specific learning disabilities were more commonly made when children were in middle or high school.
- During the 2018/19 school year, approximately 4% of K-12 students were diagnosed with a specific learning disability such as dyslexia or dysgraphia.

MANDATED DATA

A child is eligible for an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) if she or he is under the age of 3 years and meets certain criteria. For example, children under the age of 2 years are eligible for an IFSP if they exhibit a 33% delay in an area (e.g., cognitive, communication, social or emotional, adaptive, or physical and motor development including vision and hearing) or are age 2-3 years and exhibit (a) a 33% delay in two areas or (b) a 50% delay in one area. The Santa Clara County Office of Education is the sole provider of services for those children who are considered “Solely Low Incidence” or have delays only in one domain of vision, hearing, or orthopedic impairment. The most current count for the number of children with IFSPs in Santa Clara County were provided by the San Andreas Regional Center (SARC) Early Start Program. As shown in Table 5, as of December 2022, a total of 2,142 children under the age of 3 had an IFSP.

Table 5. Number of Children Ages 0-2 Who Have an IFSP (December 2022)

Age Group	w/IFSP
0-2 Years	2,142

Source: IFSP – San Andreas Regional Center, Santa Clara County Early Start Program

Data on the number of children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) are available through the California Department of Education's open access data system known as DataQuest. Counts reflect the most recent publicly available data (collected as of the December 1, 2018 reporting cycle). Like IFSPs, children must meet certain criteria to be eligible for an IEP. Individualized Education Plans are provided to children between 3 and 21 years of age who are diagnosed with a disability or condition that adversely affects their educational performance. Disabilities are classified into 1 of 13 Federal Categories for Special Education and are determined by an IEP team. As of the last reporting cycle in the 2018/19 academic year, 17,203 children 3-12 years in age in Santa Clara County had an IEP. Of these children, 10% were of preschool age.

Table 6. Number of Children Who Have an IEP by Age Group (December 2018)

Age Group	# of Children w/ IEP
3-4 Years	1,766
5-12 Years	15,437
Total	17,203

Source: Special Education Enrollment by Age and Grade (2018/19), DataQuest, California Department of Education

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Table 7. Description of IFSP And IEP Features

IFSP	IEP
Used in early intervention for children ages birth through 2 and their families	Used in special education for children ages 3 to 21
Includes information about the child's present levels of development	Includes information about the child's present levels of educational performance and participation in developmentally appropriate activities
With the family's approval, it may also include information regarding the family's resources, priorities, and concerns related to the development of the child	Includes information about the family's concerns for enhancing the child's education
After the team determines a list of priorities and concerns, the IFSP team determines which outcomes will be included on the IFSP	The IEP team, including the parents or guardians and related service providers who work with the child, determines the goals
Includes the major outcomes desired for the child and family, as well as the methods, timelines, and a plan to measure progress	Includes measurable annual goals, academic and functionality, designed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable the child to be involved in and make progress in the general curriculum • Describe how progress will be measured and how often • Describe how progress will be reported to the family
Includes the natural environments where services will be provided	Describes services provided in the least restrictive environments (LREs) and an explanation of the extent, if any, that the child will not participate with typically developing children
Includes the early intervention services and supports necessary to meet the unique needs of the child and family in order to achieve the identified outcomes	Includes the special education, related services, supplemental aides and services, modifications, and supports to be provided to help the child make progress and participate in developmentally appropriate activities
Team membership includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parent or parents of the child • Other family members as requested by the parent • An advocate or person outside the family, if parent requests that the person participate • Service coordinator • A person or persons involved in conducting evaluations and assessments 	Team membership includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parent or parents of the child • Regular education teacher • Special education teacher • A representative of the school district who can commit resources • A person who can interpret results of the evaluations • Others who have knowledge or special expertise about the child

Source: PACER Center (2011). "What is the Difference Between an IFSP and an IEP?"; retrieved from www.pacer.org/parent/php/PHP-c59.pdf; updated 4/10/2018 by the Santa Clara County Office of Education

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Special Education Enrollment by Age Group

Students receiving Special Education services accounted for approximately 10% percent of total student enrollment in Santa Clara County during the 2018/19 school year.¹ Counts for the number of children with disabilities by category and age group are provided in Table 8. In the 2018/19 academic year a total of 27,545 children between the ages 0-17 years were enrolled in Special Education. Thirty-eight percent of these children (n=10,351) were diagnosed with a specific learning disability such as dyslexia or dysgraphia. Twenty-one percent of students (n=5,733) were diagnosed with a speech or language impairment. Autism was the third most common diagnosis at 17% (n=4,670).

Table 8. Santa Clara County Special Education Enrollment (December 2018)

Disability	0-2 Years	3-4 Years	5 Years	6-12 Years	13-17 Years	Total
Intellectual Disability	13*	50	37	531	514	1,145
Hard of Hearing	101	36	15	168	96	416
Deaf	*	*	*	*	*	*
Speech/Language	0*	978	655	3,681	419	5,733
Visual Impairment	0*	*	12	50*	35*	97
Emotional Disturbance	0	0	*	363	681	1,044
Orthopedic Impairment	12*	17*	12	141	91	273
Other Health Impairment	12*	99	78	1,723	1,725	3,637
Specific Learning Disability	0	0	12	5,123	5,216	10,351
Deaf- Blindness	0	0	0	0*	0*	0
Multiple Disability	0*	26	14	88*	51*	179
Autism	0*	560	367	2,367	1,376	4,670
Traumatic Brain Injury	0	0*	*	0*	0*	0*
Total	138	1,766	1,202	14,235	10,204	27,545

Source: Special Education Enrollment by Age and Grade (2018/19), DataQuest, California Department of Education

*Denotes values under 11

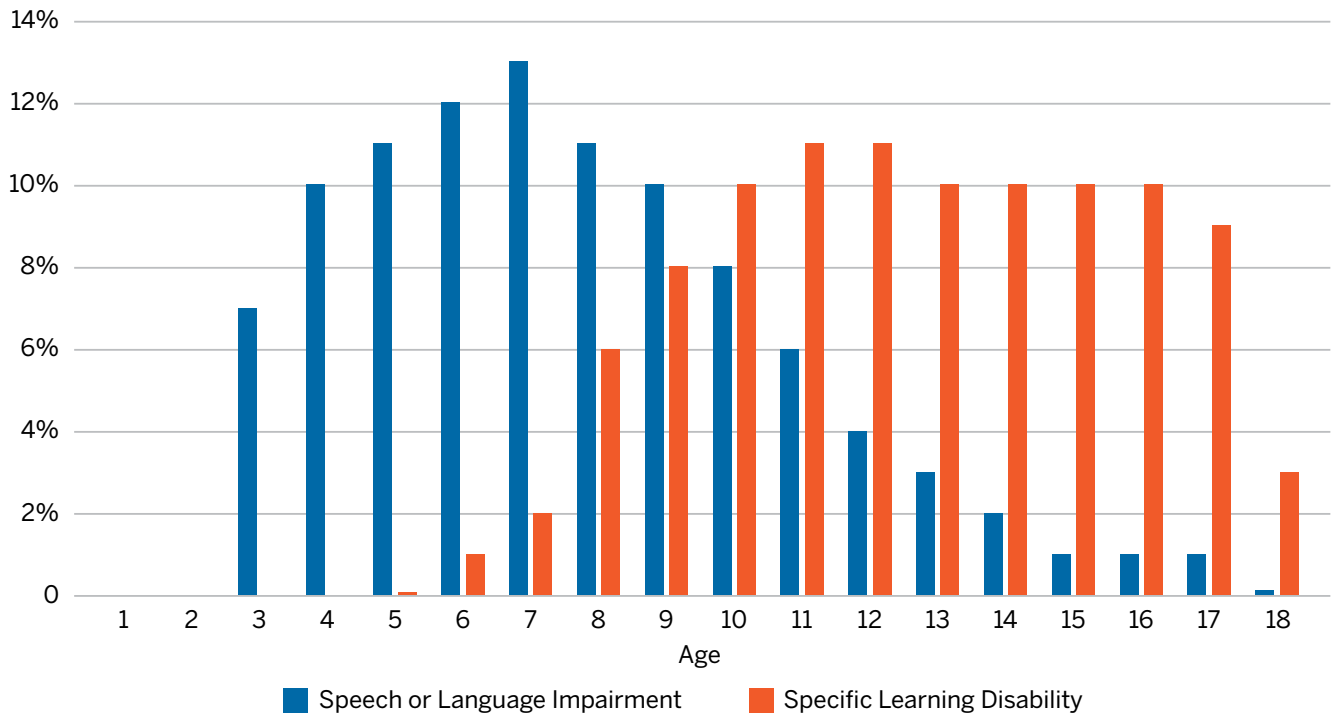
¹ Aggregate data on K-12 students with disabilities suggest 12% had a disability in academic year 2021/22 (however these data do not disaggregate by disability type.)

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Speech and Language and Specific Learning Disability Diagnoses by Age

These data indicate that the vast majority (83%) of diagnoses for speech or language impairment are made during the elementary school grade levels whereas the majority (74%) of diagnoses for specific learning disabilities are made later, during middle and high school. These trends are visible in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Speech or Language Impairment and Specific Learning Disability Enrollment by Age (2018/19)



Source: Special Education Enrollment by Age and Grade (2018/19), DataQuest, California Department of Education



CHILDREN IN CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2022, 1,157 children had open child protective service cases. Open cases include families receiving voluntary services (i.e., families participating in services without court jurisdiction).
- Slightly more than half of all cases (55%) were children ages 5-12 years.
- There were 54% fewer children with open Child Protective Services (CPS) cases in 2022 (n=1,157) compared to 2017 (2,493).
- Children ages 5-12 comprised over half of children each year with open CPS cases; this age group also saw the steepest decline (56%) in the number of open cases from 2017 to 2022.
- The number of children in out-of-home placements decreased by 71% from 2013 to 2017.

MANDATED DATA

Information on the number of children receiving Child Protective Services (CPS) was provided by the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency (SSA), Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS). Table 9 below indicates that in 2022, 1,157 children had open child protective service cases. Open cases include families receiving voluntary services (i.e., families participating in services without court jurisdiction). Slightly more than half of all cases (55%) were children ages 5-12 years.

Table 9. Number of Children with Open Child Protective Service Cases (2022)

Age Group	In the CPS System	Child Care Payments Issued
0-2 Years	313	Data not available
3-4 Years	203	Data not available
5-12 Years	641	Data not available
Total	1,157	

Source: County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency (SSA), Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS)

Notes: SSA does not track referrals because many people call but do not submit a referral/application for child care. Data on child care payments issued were not available.



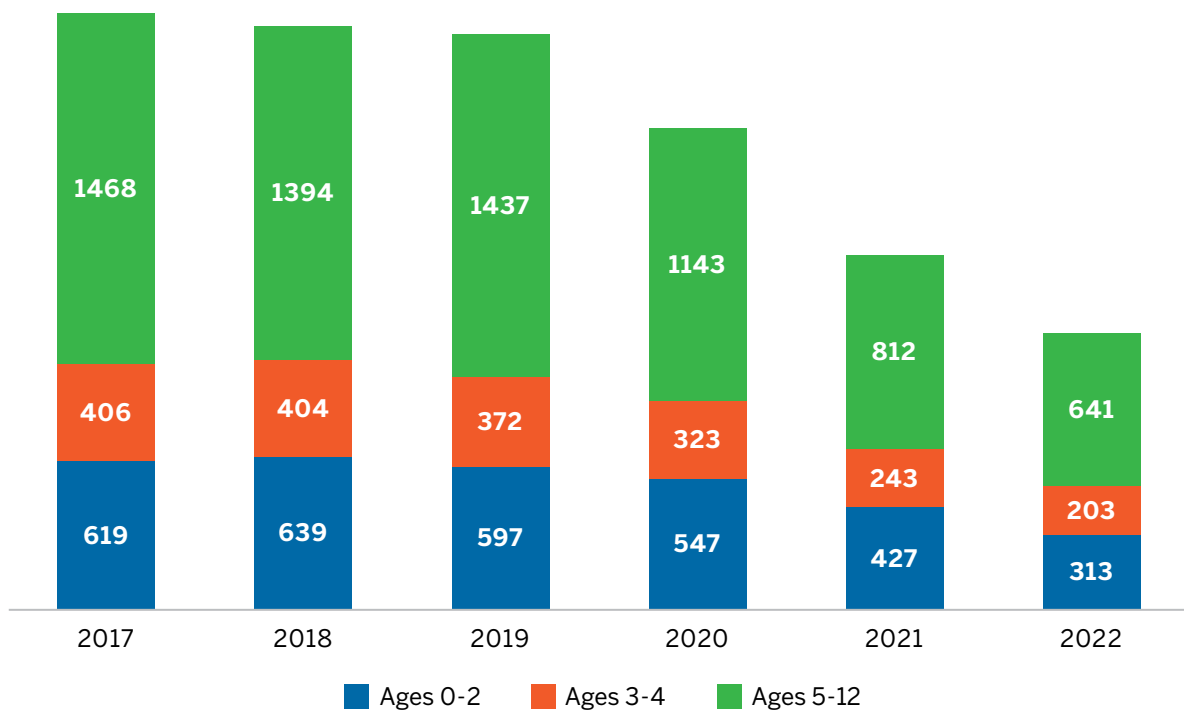
CHILDREN IN CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Number of Children in Child Protective Services (2017-2022)

A comparison of the number of CPS cases from 2017 to 2022, by age group, is provided in Figure 8. Reductions in the number of CPS cases are apparent across age groups, with steep declines beginning in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic began. From 2017 to 2022 the total number of open CPS cases declined by 54%. The steepest decline in the number of cases is observed for children ages 5-12 years. For this group, the number of cases in 2022 is 54% percent lower than the number of cases in 2017. The number of infants (ages 0-2) and toddlers (ages 3-4) with open cases were 49% and 50% lower in 2022 relative to 2017, respectively.

Figure 8. Child Protective Services Cases in Santa Clara County by Age Group (2017-2022)



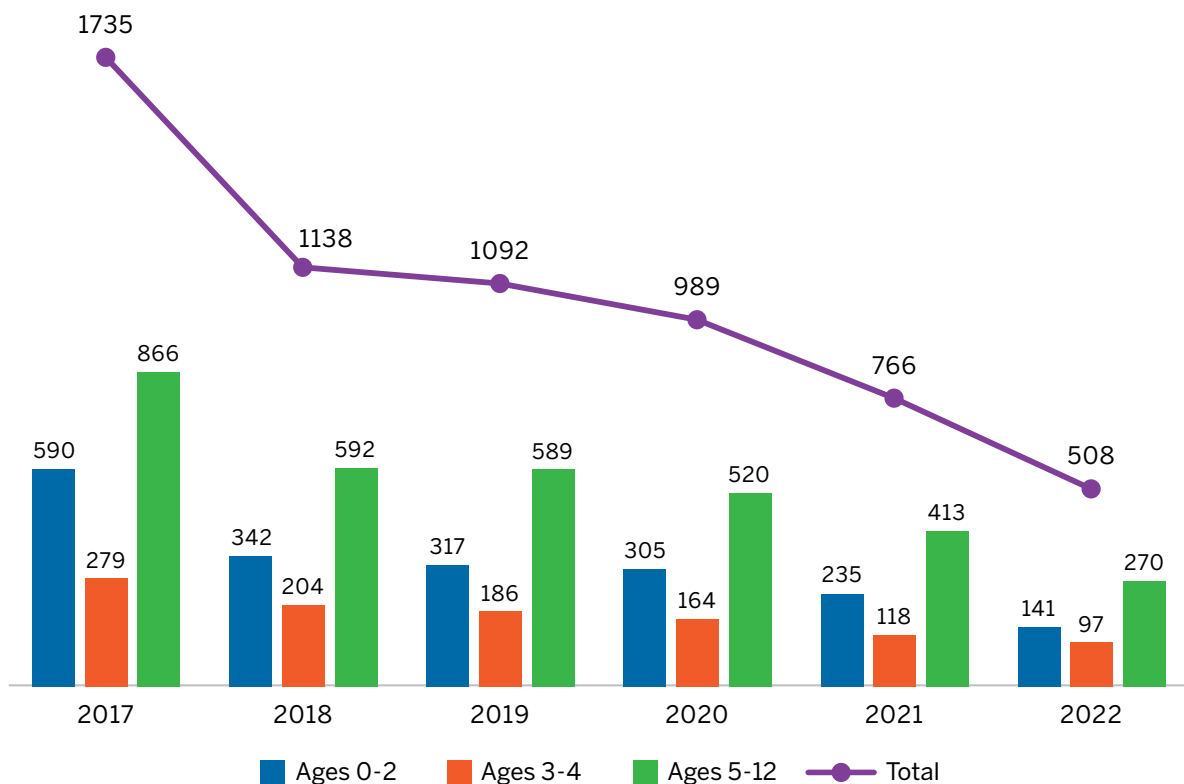
Source: County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Family and Children's Services

CHILDREN IN CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Comparison of the Number of Children in Out-of-Home Placements (2017-2022)

Reductions in the number of children in out-of-home placements are also evident. According to administrative records, the total number of children in out-of-home placements decreased by 71%, from 1,735 cases in 2017 to 508 cases in 2022. Consistent with trends on all open CPS cases presented in Figure 9, children ages 5-12 comprise over half of all out-of-home placements each year. Children of all ages saw steep declines in out-of-home placements from 2017 to 2022; children ages 0-2 experienced the steepest decline (76%) with 590 out-of-home placements in 2017 compared to 141 in 2022.

Figure 9. Out of Home Placements in Santa Clara County (2017-2022)



Source: County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Family and Children's Services

CHILDREN IN MIGRANT FAMILIES

HIGHLIGHTS

- Records as of December 2022 indicate that a total of 3,036 children ages 0-12 years were participating in Santa Clara County's Migrant Education Program. The number of children ages 3-21 years enrolled in Migrant Education declined by 32% from 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- The number of children ages 3-5 years enrolled in Migrant Education declined by 44% from 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Alum Rock, Franklin-McKinley Elementary, and Santa Clara Unified School Districts saw the steepest declines in Migrant Education preschool enrollment.

MANDATED DATA

Children are eligible to receive Migrant Education Program services if they meet the definition of "migratory child" and if the basis for their eligibility is properly recorded on a certificate of eligibility (COE). To be eligible for this program, a child must fit the following criteria:

- Younger than 22 and has not graduated from high school or does not hold a high school equivalency certificate (this means that the child is entitled to a free public education or is of an age below compulsory school attendance);
- Is a migrant agricultural worker or a migrant fisher or has a parent, spouse, or guardian who is a migrant agricultural worker or a migrant fisher;
- Has moved within the preceding 36 months in order to obtain (or seek) or to accompany (or join) a parent, spouse, or guardian to obtain (or seek) temporary or seasonal employment in qualifying agricultural or fishing work;
- Has moved from one residence to another or across school district boundaries due to economic necessity.

Migrant Education Program data for Santa Clara County is collected by the Santa Clara County Office of Education's Migrant Education Program, Region 1, which includes neighboring counties of San Mateo, Alameda, Santa Cruz, San Francisco and San Benito. Records as of December 2022 indicate that a total of 3,036 children ages 0-12 years were participating in Santa Clara County's Migrant Education Program (see Table 10).

Table 10. Number of Children in Migrant Families (December 2022)

	Number
Children in Migrant Families (Ages 0-12)	3,036

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education Migrant Education Program, Region 1 (2023)



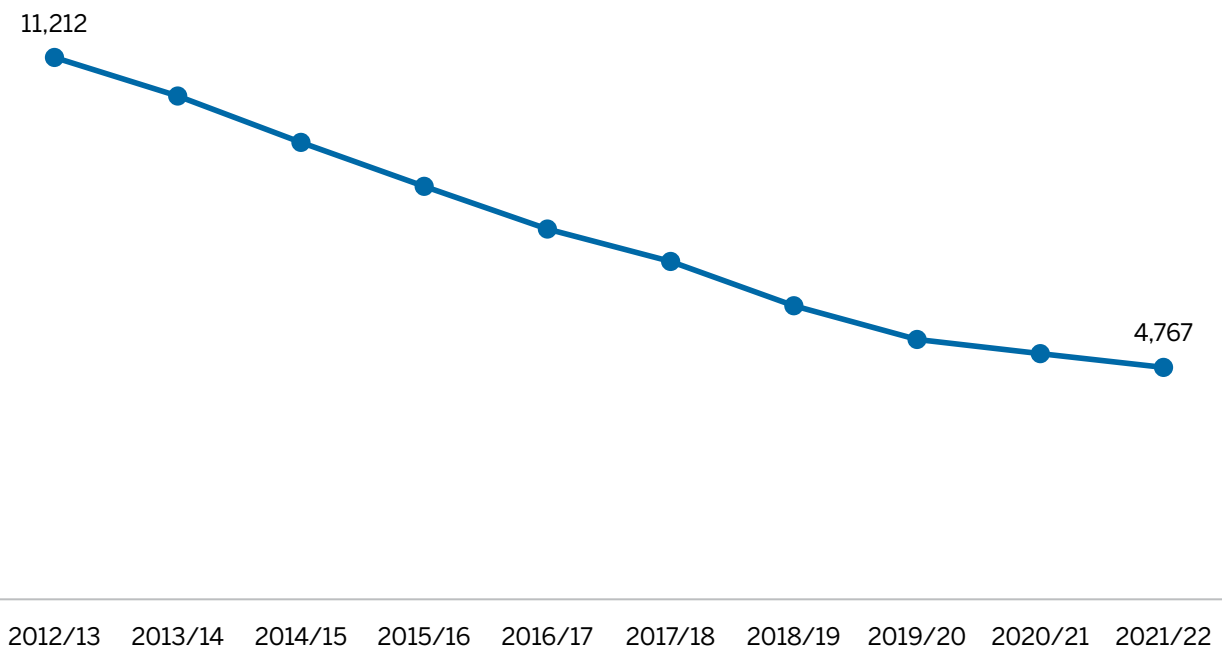
CHILDREN IN MIGRANT FAMILIES

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Migrant Education Program Participation Over Time

The number of students in Santa Clara County participating in the Migrant Education Program has declined every year since 2004/05. At that time, 21,403 children were enrolled. Figure 10 below shows the number of children in Santa Clara County's Migrant Education Program since the 2012/13 school year. During the 2021/22 school year, 4,767 students ages 3 to 21 years were enrolled in Migrant Education.

Figure 10. Number of Children (Ages 3 to 21) in Migrant Education Program, Region 1 (2012/13 – 2021/22)



Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education Migrant Education Program, Region 1 (2023)

In the 2018 Needs Assessment it was reported that the percent change in the number of Migrant Education students decreased by 32% over a 5-year period, from 2012/13 to 2016/17. As shown in Table 11, that population further declined, again by 32% from the 2017/18 to the 2021/22 academic year.

Table 11. Number of Children (Ages 3 to 21) in Migrant Education Program, Region 1 (2017/18 - 2021/22)

	Percent Change 2013-2017	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Percent Change 2017/18 - 2021/22
Number/Percent	-32%	6,970	6,049	5,348	5,053	4,767	-32%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education Migrant Education Program, Region 1 (2023)

CHILDREN IN MIGRANT FAMILIES

Migrant Education Preschool Enrollment Over Time

Declines in student numbers are evident as early as the preschool level. Counts for Migrant Education Program preschool enrollment for the past five academic years are provided in Table 12 by district. Percent declines from 2017/18 to 2021/22 range from 0% in Evergreen Elementary Unified School District (n=5) to 75% in Mt. Pleasant Elementary Unified School District. In addition to Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Alum Rock, Franklin-McKinley Elementary, and Santa Clara Unified School Districts have seen significant reductions in Migrant Education Program enrollment.

Table 12. Migrant Education Preschool Student Enrollment (Ages 3-5 Years) (2017/18 - 2021/22)

School District	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Percent Decline 2017/18 - 2021/22
Alum Rock Elementary	25	20	20	12	7	72%
Evergreen Elementary	5	2	2	5	5	0%
Franklin-McKinley Elementary	9	10	7	2	3	67%
Gilroy Unified	73	62	52	58	57	22%
Morgan Hill Unified	124	108	97	64	71	43%
Mt. Pleasant Elementary	8	5	2	2	2	75%
Oak Grove Elementary	34	39	29	16	18	47%
Santa Clara Unified	34	24	15	14	12	65%
SCCOE Charters	11	9	7	7	5	55%
Total	323	279	231	180	180	44%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education Migrant Education Program, Region 1 (2023)





CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

CHILDREN IN FAMILIES RECEIVING CALWORKS

HIGHLIGHTS

- In October 2020, there were a total of 3,129 children that benefitted from the CalWORKs child care program. Of these children, 9% were recipients of Stage 1. Stage 2 represented 30% of recipients while Stage 3 had the majority of children receiving services at 61%.
- Across CalWORKs, almost half of children (49%) were school age while 42% were ages two to five and only 9% were under two.
- The total number of children in families receiving CalWORKs has decreased from 4,039 in 2016 to 3,129 in 2020, representing a 23% decrease.
- Children benefitting from CalWORKs across all age groups decreased between 2016 and 2020.

MANDATED DATA

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Child Care program helps families access immediate child care as the parent works or performs their welfare-to-work (WTW) plan activity. The purpose of the CalWORKs child care program is to support parents as they transition to the stable, long-term child care necessary for the family to leave and remain off aid. This program is administered in three different stages.

Stage One child care is administered by the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency (SSA). The program begins when a family starts receiving CalWORKs cash aid and the parent indicates an intent to participate in employment-related activities. Families may be served in Stage One until SSA determines the family situation is stable, which is defined as when the participant is employed or transitioning off cash assistance.

Stages Two and Three child care is administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) through contracts with the Alternative Payment Program (APP). The APPs are agencies that contract with CDSS to make payments to subsidized child care providers and to provide other related child care and development services. Stage Two serves CalWORKs recipients, whose situation has stabilized or are transitioning off aid, for up to 24 months. Former CalWORKs recipients are served in Stage Three when they have exhausted the two years under Stage Two and may continue until they no longer meet the eligibility criteria (child under 13, child with exceptional need under 21, under 85% of the State Median Income). In Santa Clara County, the APPs are Go Kids and Choices for Children.

The CalWORKs data in Table 13 come from two sources. Stage 1 data was provided by the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Employment and Benefit Services. Counts reflect the number of children in families receiving Welfare to Work aid in October 2020. Stage 2 and 3 data was downloaded from the American Institute for Research's Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (ELNAT). The original data source for Stage 2 and 3 data is the CDE's CD-801 Monthly Report for October 2020. Each of these data sources represent a point in time count from October of 2020.

In October 2020, there were a total of 3,129 children that benefitted from the CalWORKs child care program. Of these children, 9% were recipients of Stage 1. Stage 2 represented 30% of recipients while Stage 3 had the majority of children receiving services at 61%. Across CalWORKs, almost half of children (49%) were school age while 42% were ages two to five and only 9% were under two.

CHILDREN IN FAMILIES RECEIVING CALWORKS

Table 13. Number of Children in Families Receiving CalWORKs by Age Group and Stage (October 2020)

Age Group	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total	Percent
0 - < 2 Years	46	122	124	292	9%
2-5 Years	144	487	673	1,304	42%
6+ Years	82	325	1,126	1,533	49%
Total	272	934	1,923	3,129	100%
Percent	9%	30%	61%		

Source: CalWORKs Stage 1, County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Employment and Benefit Services; CalWORKs Stage 2 & 3, Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, American Institutes for Research

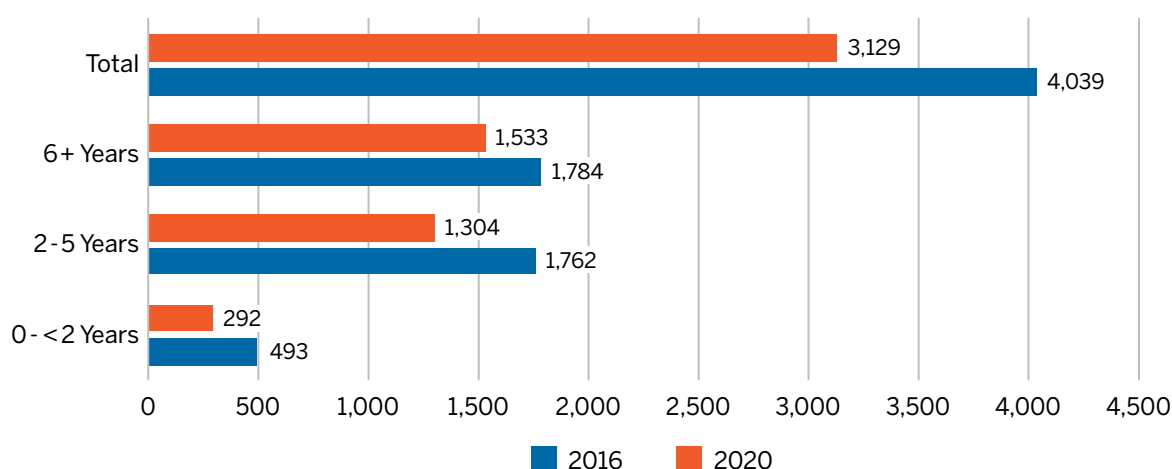
Notes: Counts for CalWORKs Stage 1 are the number of children in families receiving CalWORKs Welfare to Work (October 2020) provided by County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Employment and Benefit Services; CalWORKs Stage 2 & 3 counts come from the California Department of Education's CD-801A Monthly Report (October 2020). This table groups the ages to align with publicly available data for CalWORKs Stage 1 which is grouped into less than two years of age, two through five years of age, and six years or older.

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Four-Year Comparison of the Number of Children in Families Receiving CalWORKs

Aggregate counts for the number of children in families that benefitted from the CalWORKs child care program are provided in Figure 11. In October 2016, 4,039 children ages 0-12 years received assistance. In October 2020, that number decreased by 23% to 3,129.

Figure 11. Number of Children in Families Receiving CalWORKs by Age Group (2016 and 2020)



Source: CalWORKs Stage 1, County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Employment and Benefit Services; CalWORKs Stage 2 & 3, Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, American Institutes for Research

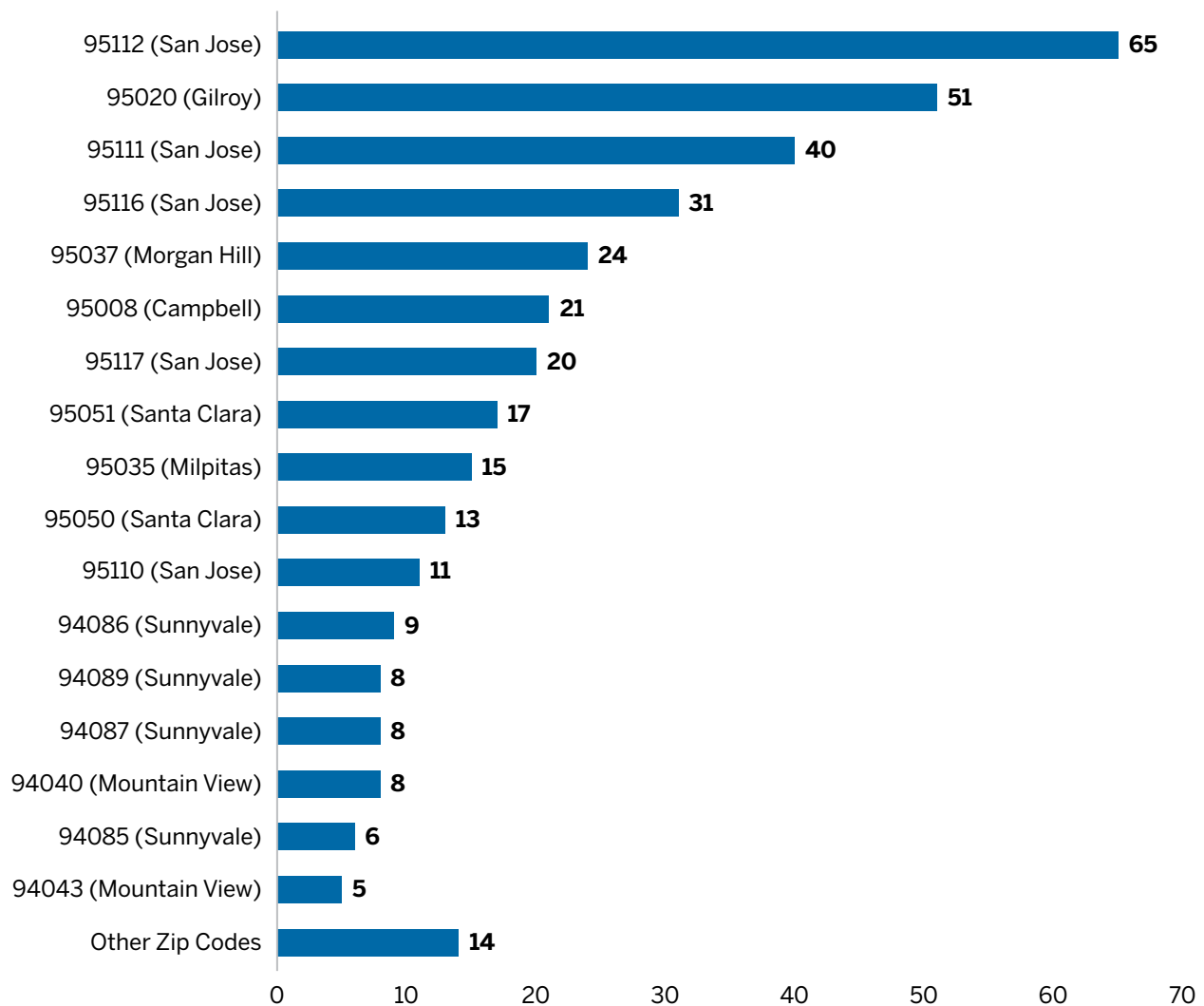
Notes: Counts for CalWORKs Stage 1 are the number of children in families receiving CalWORKs Welfare to Work (Oct 2020 and Oct 2016) provided by County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Employment and Benefit Services; CalWORKs Stage 2 & 3 counts come from the California Department of Education's CD-801A Monthly Report (Oct 2020 and Oct 2016). This figure groups the ages to align with publicly available data for CalWORKs Stage 1 which is grouped into less than two years of age, two through five years of age, and six years or older.

CHILDREN IN FAMILIES RECEIVING CALWORKS

Children in Families Receiving Stage 1 CalWORKs by Zip Code

Figure 12 provides data on the number of children in Santa Clara County ages 0-5 years (by ZIP) who are in families receiving Stage 1 services from license-exempt and licensed (CCTR, CSPP) center-based providers. In Fiscal Year 2022/23, there were 366 children receiving Stage 1 aid in Santa Clara County, a slight decrease from the previous year's count of 382 children. While the largest share of families receiving Stage 1 services live in San Jose (46%), cities where more than 20 children who receive child care subsidies reside include Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and Campbell.

Figure 12. Stage 1 Child Care Subsidy Recipients Ages 0-5 in Santa Clara County by Zip Code (FY 2022/23)



Source: Santa Clara County Social Services Agency

CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR HEAD START AND STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

HIGHLIGHTS

- From 2015 to 2020, the percentage of families with children under the age of 18 who are living in poverty decreased by three percentage points, from 8.5% to 5.5%.
- As of 2020, San Jose (6.7%), Milpitas (6.4%), and Gilroy (5.6%) had the highest poverty rates among families with children under the age of 18.
- Poverty rates of families with children under the age of 5 years are consistent with the poverty rates for families with children under 18 years.
- Approximately 115,655 children between ages 0-12 qualified for subsidized child care in Santa Clara County in 2020.

MANDATED DATA

Head Start is a Federal program that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Head Start programs provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in many areas such as language, literacy, and social and emotional development. Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. These programs help build relationships with families that support family well-being and many other important areas.

Children from birth to age five from families with low income, according to the Poverty Guidelines published by the Federal government, are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services.²

In order to qualify, a family must have an annual household income (before taxes) that is below the following amounts:

Table 14. Head Start Income Guidelines (2022)

Household Size	Maximum Income Level (Per Year)
1	\$13,590
2	\$18,310
3	\$23,030
4	\$27,750
5	\$32,470
6	\$37,190
7	\$41,910
8	\$46,630

Source: Poverty Guidelines (2022), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

*For households with more than eight people, add \$4,720 per additional person.
Always check with the appropriate managing agency to ensure the most accurate guidelines.

Children in foster care, homeless children, and children from families receiving public assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income) are also eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services regardless of income.³

² California Head Start, Benefits.gov. <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1899>

³ <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1899>

CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR HEAD START AND STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

Head Start programs may enroll up to 10 percent of children from families that have incomes above the Poverty Guidelines. Programs may also serve up to an additional 35 percent of children from families whose incomes are above the Poverty Guidelines, but below 130 percent of the poverty line if the program can ensure that certain conditions have been met. Families with incomes that exceed Head Start income eligibility guidelines can qualify for other, state- and federally-funded subsidized child care programs that use centers and family child care home networks operated or administered by either public or private agencies and local educational agencies.

As of July 1, 2023, families can qualify for subsidized child care through California State Preschool Program (CSPP) if their incomes do not exceed 100 percent of the 2020 State Median Income (SMI) from California Department of Finance.⁴

Families can qualify for child care contracts under California Department of Social Services (CDSS) (e.g., General Child Care and Development Program (CCTR), Alternative Payment (AP)) if their income does not exceed 85% SMI. In order to qualify, a family must have an annual household income (before taxes) that is below the following amounts:

Table 15. State Income Guidelines for Subsidized Child Care (FY 2022-23)

Household Size	Maximum Income Level 85% SMI (CCTR/AP) (Per Year)	Maximum Income Level 100% SMI (CSPP) (Per Year)
1-2	\$72,095	\$84,818
3	\$82,102	\$96,590
4	\$95,289	\$112,105
5	\$110,536	\$130,042
6	\$125,790	\$147,988
7	\$128,640	\$151,342
8	\$131,501	\$154,705

Abbreviations: SMI = State Median Income

Source: Revised State Median Income (SMI) Ceilings and Income Ranking Table for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022–23, California Department of Education

Counts for the number of children in families at or below the federal poverty level (i.e., eligible for Head Start) and the number of children that fall at or below 85% SMI in 2020 are provided in Table 16.

Table 16. Estimated Number of Children by Income Category, by Age (2020)

Age Group	Under 50% of FPL	Under 100% of FPL	Under 85% SMI	Above 85% SMI
0-2 Years	2,090	5,052	24,121	43,430
3 & 4 Years	1,588	3,776	18,551	30,604
5-12 Years	7,600	17,043	72,983	117,687
Total	11,278	25,871	115,655	191,721

Abbreviations: FPL = Federal Poverty Level, SMI = State Median Income

Source: Population Data (2020), Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, American Institutes for Research

Note: Above 85% SMI was calculated by subtracting the number of children under 85% SMI by the total number of children per age group.

⁴ These changes are not reflected in this Needs Assessment as the most recent data used for subsidized programs is from 2020.

CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR HEAD START AND STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Proportion of Families with Children Under 18 Years Who Are Living Below the Poverty Level

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, if a family's total income is less than the family's threshold (based on size), the family and everyone in it is considered in poverty. Poverty rates among families with children under the age of 18 years are provided in Table 17. As of 2020, 5.5% of families with children under the age of 18 countywide lived below the poverty level. From 2015 to 2020, the percentage of families with children under the age of 18 decreased by three percentage points, from 8.5% to 5.5%. The proportion of families with children living below the poverty level decreased in 10 of 15 cities during this time and remained the same in one city (Saratoga). The most stark decline was in Gilroy, where the poverty rate declined by 11.4 percentage points.⁵

Table 17. Percentage of Families with Children Under the Age of 18 Years that are Below Poverty Level (2015 and 2020)

	2015		2020		Percentage Point Change 2015-2020
	Total # Families with Children	% of Families with Children in Poverty	Total # Families with Children	% of Families with Children in Poverty	% of Families with Children in Poverty
Santa Clara County	237,613	8.5%	225,621	5.5%	-3.0
Campbell	4,689	3.5%	5,264	4.6%	+1.1
Cupertino	9,936	2.6%	9,608	3.1%	+0.5
Gilroy	7,065	17%	7,076	5.6%	-11.4
Los Altos	4,324	1.6%	4,230	2.9%	+1.3
Los Altos Hills	916	3.8%	851	1.5%	-2.3
Los Gatos	3,923	5.1%	3,981	2.1%	-3.0
Milpitas	8,847	6.9%	8,619	6.4%	-0.5
Monte Sereno	426	1.4%	364	0.0%	-1.4
Morgan Hill	5,371	9.4%	5,830	3.7%	-5.7
Mountain View	9,448	6.7%	8,963	3.6%	-3.1
Palo Alto	9,231	3.8%	8,859	4.6%	+0.8
San Jose	125,499	10.6%	117,957	6.7%	-3.9
Santa Clara	14,955	6.3%	14,214	4.8%	-1.5
Saratoga	4,144	2.6%	3,725	2.6%	0.0
Sunnyvale	19,935	5.9%	18,346	4.1%	-1.8

Note: Families with Children are defined as families with related children of householder under 18 years of age.

Sources: 2015: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families.
2020: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families.

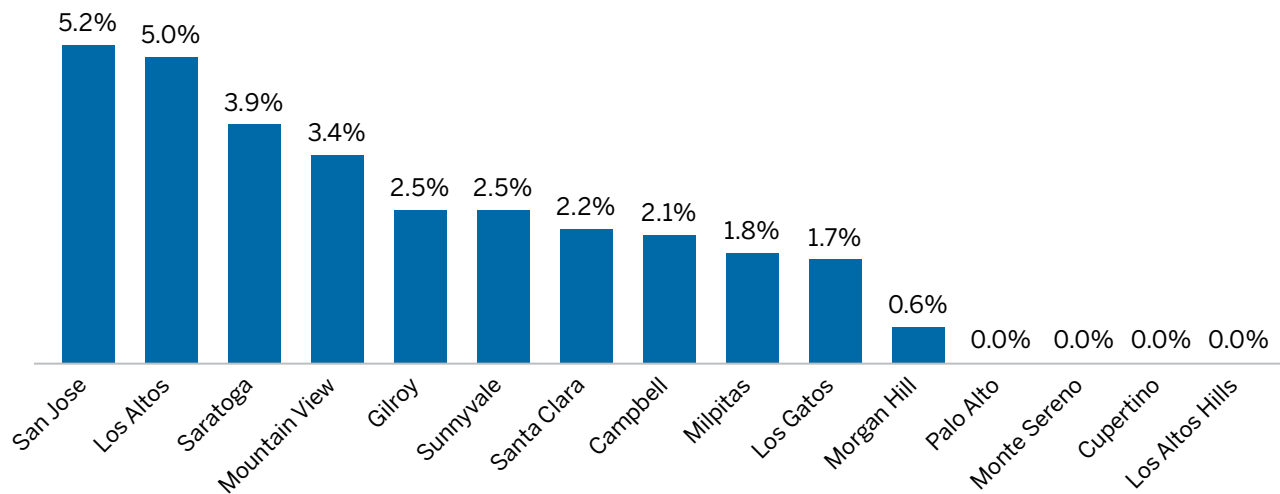
⁵ The official poverty definition uses income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits such as public housing, Medicaid, or food stamps. <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html>

CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR HEAD START AND STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

Children Under Five Years Who Are Living Below Poverty by City

Poverty rates among families with children under the age of 5 years are consistent with the poverty rates for families with children under 18 years presented in Table 17. According to American Community Survey 5-year estimates, over 5% of families with children under 5 who reside in San Jose live below poverty. The cities with the second and third highest proportion of families with children under 5 living in poverty were Los Altos and Saratoga (5.0% and 3.9% respectively).

Figure 13. Percent of Families with Children Under Five Years that are Below Poverty Level, by City (2020)



Source: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2016-2020), U.S. Census Bureau



CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR HEAD START AND STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

Until very recently, a family's household income was used to determine whether or not a child is eligible for free or reduced price meals under the California National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. To qualify for free meals, a student needed to be from a household with an income at or below 130% of the poverty income threshold. Those with incomes between 130% and 185% of the poverty level were eligible for free or reduced price meals. Ahead of the 2022/23 school year, the Governor signed into law legislation that establishes a universal meal program, making California the first state to provide free meals to all students regardless of family income. Despite this change, looking back over the past several years before the universal meal program was enacted provides information about families with children in Santa Clara living with lower incomes.

Counts for the number of children in Santa Clara County that qualified for free or reduced price meals by grade level (Kindergarten through 6th grade) are provided in Table 18. Across grades K-6, the number of children who qualified for free or reduced price meals declined by approximately 24% from the 2016/17 academic year to the 2021/22 academic year (from 57,332 children K-6 to 43,518 children). There are two main factors driving the decline. First, during this period the K-6 population declined by approximately 17% overall, corresponding with the decline in the total number who qualified for free or reduced lunch. In addition, fewer families with children in Santa Clara lived in poverty in 2020 relative to 2015 (8.5% in 2015 to 5.5% in 2020). This suggests that in addition to the student population decreasing overall, the proportion who qualify for free or reduced lunch also declined from 2016/17 to 2021/22.

Table 18. Number of Children that Qualify for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch, by Grade (2016/17 - 2021/22)

Grade Level	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Percent Change 2016-2021
Kindergarten	8,393	8,588	7,879	7,501	6,049	6,069	-28%
1	7,731	7,631	7,117	6,766	6,130	5,732	-26%
2	7,757	7,920	7,367	6,999	6,305	6,041	-22%
3	8,199	7,901	7,592	7,223	6,521	6,254	-24%
4	8,266	8,331	7,584	7,314	6,690	6,364	-23%
5	8,626	8,442	7,957	7,327	6,790	6,581	-24%
6	8,360	8,749	8,009	7,687	6,738	6,477	-23%
Total	57,332	57,562	53,505	50,817	45,223	43,518	-24%

Source: Enrollment by Ethnicity and Grade (2016/17 - 2021/22), DataQuest, California Department of Education

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Combined, 9,865 children ages 0-12 years in Santa Clara County were served by child care subsidy programs in 2020. This represents a 28% decrease since 2016 when 13,732 children were served by child care subsidy programs. At this time it is unclear how much to attribute the decrease to COVID, as 2020 is the most recent data available.
- Infants and toddlers accounted for 17% of children (n=1,683) served across all child care subsidy programs, while preschool children accounted for 43% (n=4,231), and school-aged children accounted for approximately 40% of children (n=3,951) served.
- A total of 5,120 children were served in direct-service programs such as General Child Care and Development (CCTR) and California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and by licensed FCCH and license-exempt providers.
- Fifty-nine percent of children (n=3,021) served by direct-service programs were of preschool-age. Among preschool-age children, 1,727 were enrolled in full or part-day state preschool making up 57% of enrollment. The second largest share were enrolled in Head Start at 31% (n=934).

MANDATED DATA

Child care subsidy program enrollment data were compiled by the American Institutes for Research (AIR). All data, with the exception of CalWORKs Stage 1 counts, were downloaded from AIR's Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool. Data on the number of children in families receiving CalWORKs Stage 1 assistance was provided by the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Employment and Benefit Services.

Combined, 9,865 children ages 0-12 years in Santa Clara County were served by child care subsidy programs in 2020. A total of 5,120 children were served in direct-service programs such as CCTR and CSPP and by licensed FCCH and license-exempt providers. Fifty-nine percent of children served by direct-service programs were of preschool-age. Among preschool-age children, 1,727 were enrolled in full or part-day state preschool making up 57% of enrollment. The second largest share were enrolled in Head Start at 31%. Infants and toddlers accounted for 16% while school-aged children accounted for approximately 25% of children served. The majority of direct-service care for infants and toddlers was provided by Early Head Start (45%).

An additional 4,745 children ages 0-12 years countywide benefitted from indirect child care subsidy programs. This count includes 858 infants and toddlers, 1,210 preschool-aged children, and 2,677 school-aged children. Alternative Payment was the most common type of program for each age group, with the notable exception of CalWORKs Stage 3 for school-age children which served 1,346 or approximately 50% of school-age children benefiting from indirect child care subsidy programs.



CHILDREN ENROLLED IN CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

Table 19. Number of Children Served in Child Care Subsidy Programs (2020)

Funding/Program Type	Infant/Toddlers (0-2 Years)	Preschool (3-4 Years)	School-Age (5-12 Years)
General Child Care (CCTR)	270	16	565
Full-day State Preschool (CSPP)	N/A	676	N/A
Part-day State Preschool (CSPP)	N/A	1,051	N/A
Family Child Care Home (CFCC)	57	199	56
Migrant Education (CMIG)	2	3	1
Handicap Program (CHAN)	0	0	0
Head Start	N/A	934	N/A
Early Head Start	368	N/A	N/A
Other (License-Exempt)	128	142	652
Subtotal	825	3,021	1,274
Alternative Payment (CAPP)	355	428	833
CalWORKs Stage 1	46	144	82
CalWORKs Stage 2	249	269	416
CalWORKs Stage 3	208	369	1,346
Subtotal	858	1,210	2,677
Total	1,683	4,231	3,951

Sources: Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (2020), American Institutes for Research; CalWORKs Stage 1 counts from County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Employment and Benefit Services

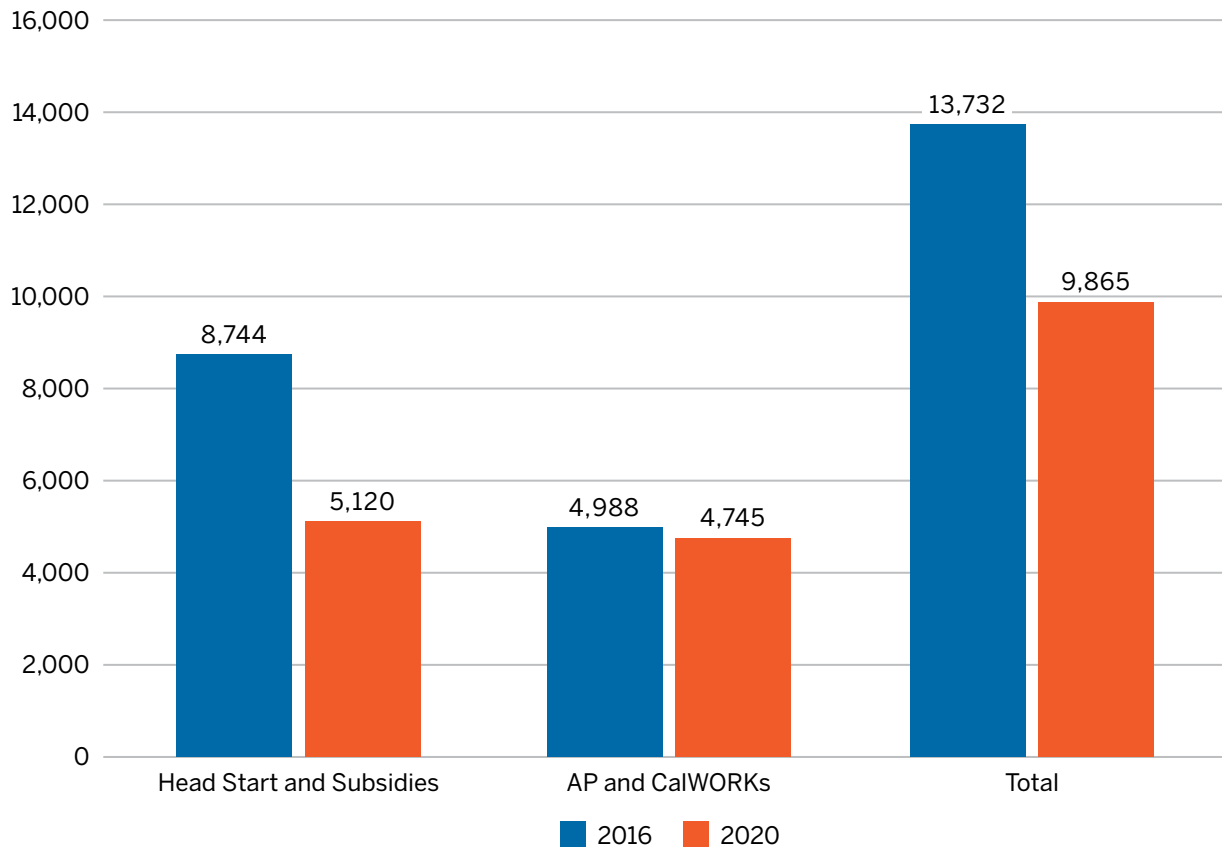
Notes: Counts for CalWORKs Stage 1 are the number of children in families receiving CalWORKs in October 2020 provided by the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Employment and Benefit Services. CalWORKs Stage 1 is grouped slightly differently from the rest of the table into less than two years of age; two through five years of age; and six years or older.

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

The number of children served in child care subsidy programs decreased from 13,732 in 2016 to 9,865 in 2020. This represents a 28% decrease. At this time, it is unclear how much to attribute the decrease to COVID as 2020 is the most recent data available. There were decreases in both direct service programs as well as AP and CalWORKs.

Figure 14. Number of Children Served in Child Care Subsidy Programs (2016 and 2020)



Sources: Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (2020), American Institutes for Research; CalWORKs Stage 1 counts from County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency, Department of Employment and Benefit Services



COST OF CHILD CARE

REGIONAL MARKET RATES ALLOWED FOR STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

HIGHLIGHTS

- Maximum annual reimbursements for subsidized, full-time care increased from 2018 to 2022 for all age groups at both licensed centers and family child care homes.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines child care as affordable when it costs families no more than 7% of their household income per child. A family of four with one infant and one preschool-aged child in need of full-time care at a licensed center would have to earn \$247,742 for that care to be affordable. Even with steady increases over the past six years, 50% of households in Santa Clara County earn \$140,258 or less.

MANDATED DATA

Rates collected through the Regional Market Rate survey are used to set maximum reimbursement ceilings by type, age, and hours of child care. Ceilings are set so that licensed providers are reimbursed up to the 85th percentile of the rates charged by private providers in the area offering the same type of child care. This means that parents should be able to access 85% of providers in their market. If a parent chooses a provider above the maximum ceiling then the parent would need to pay the additional cost of care. The purpose of the maximum ceiling was to increase parental choice for low-income families so that they would have quality child care options in the face of a limited supply of licensed care and consistent with the choices available for private-pay families.⁶

Maximum and average reimbursement ceilings for full- and part-time subsidized child care at licensed centers and family child care homes (FCCHs) are provided in Table 20. Data on maximum reimbursements reflect ceilings as of January 1, 2022. Data on average reimbursements were collected as part of the 2016 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Providers. These data will be updated when the 2023 Average Tuition Survey is completed.

Table 20. Weekly Regional Market Rates by Age and Type of Care (2016 and 2022)

Center Regional Market Rates	Center Full-Time Maximum	Center Full-Time Average	Center Part-Time Maximum	Center Part-Time Average
Infant/Toddler (0-2 years)	\$470.64	\$362.73	\$389.59	\$255.23
Preschool (3-4 years)	\$391.91	\$288.13	\$290.90	\$193.87
School-Age (5-12 years)	\$304.30	\$199.21	\$152.49	\$119.21
FCCH Regional Market Rates	FCCH Full-Time Maximum	FCCH Full-Time Average	FCCH Part-Time Maximum	FCCH Part-Time Average
Infant/Toddler (0-2 years)	\$340.99	\$257.67	\$247.09	\$185.86
Preschool (3-4 years)	\$327.54	\$244.97	\$256.85	\$170.18
School-Age (5-12 years)	\$279.09	\$191.32	\$163.25	\$134.78

Sources: Reimbursement Ceilings for Subsidized Child Care (January 1, 2018; January 1, 2022), California Department of Social Services, 2016 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Providers

⁶ California Child Care Resource and Referral Network

REGIONAL MARKET RATES ALLOWED FOR STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

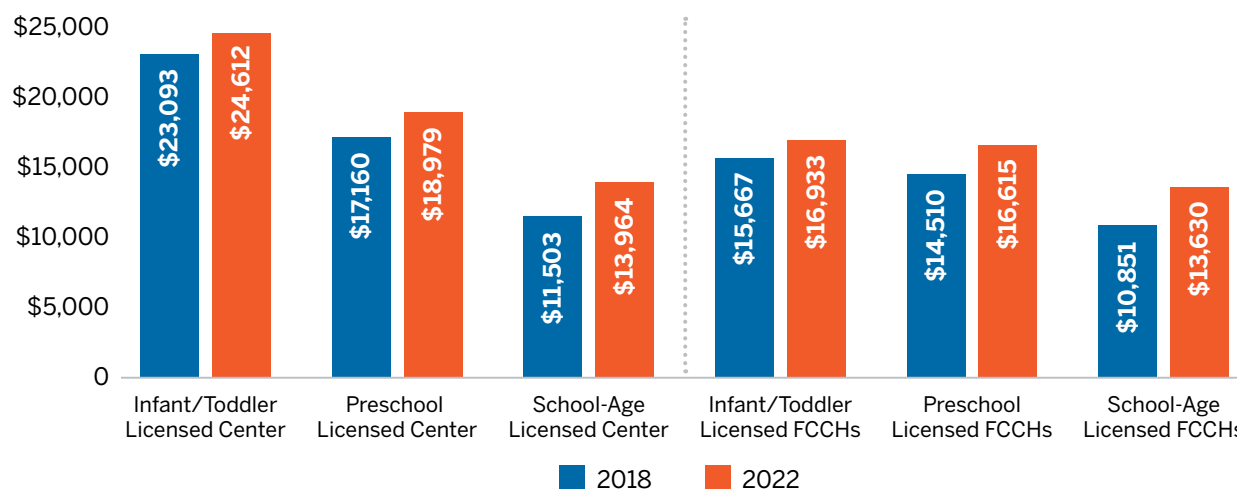
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Annual Maximum Reimbursement Ceilings for Full-Time Subsidized Child Care by Age Group

Between 2018 and 2022, the maximum annual reimbursement rates for full-time, subsidized infant/toddler, preschool, and school-age child care in Santa Clara County increased for both licensed centers and FCCHs (see Figure 15).

The maximum annual reimbursement ceiling for subsidized care for school-age children saw the greatest increases at 21% in licensed centers and 26% in licensed FCCHs.

Figure 15. Comparison of Annual Maximum Reimbursement Ceilings for Subsidized Full-Time Child Care (2018 and 2022)



Sources: Reimbursement Ceilings for Subsidized Child Care (January 1, 2018; January 1, 2022), California Department of Social Services

In terms of dollar amounts compared to 2018, in 2022, center-based providers in Santa Clara County can receive a per child maximum reimbursement that is just over \$1,500 more for the provision of subsidized infant/toddler care, just over \$1,800 more for the provision of preschool, and nearly \$2,500 more for the provision of care to school-aged children (see Table 21). Licensed FCCH providers can be reimbursed between approximately \$1,250 and \$2,750 more per child in 2022 depending on the age of the child.

Table 21. Dollar Increase in Annual Maximum Reimbursement Ceilings for Subsidized Full-Time Child Care (2018 and 2022)

	2018	2022	Difference
Licensed Centers			
Infant/Toddler	\$23,092.80	\$24,611.52	+\$1,508.72
Preschool	\$17,159.76	\$18,978.96	+\$1,819.20
School-Age	\$11,502.60	\$13,964.40	+\$2,461.80
Licensed FCCHs			
Infant/Toddler	\$15,667.08	\$16,933.44	+ \$1,266.36
Preschool	\$14,509.56	\$16,615.20	+\$2,105.64
School-Age	\$10,850.88	\$13,629.96	+\$2,779.08

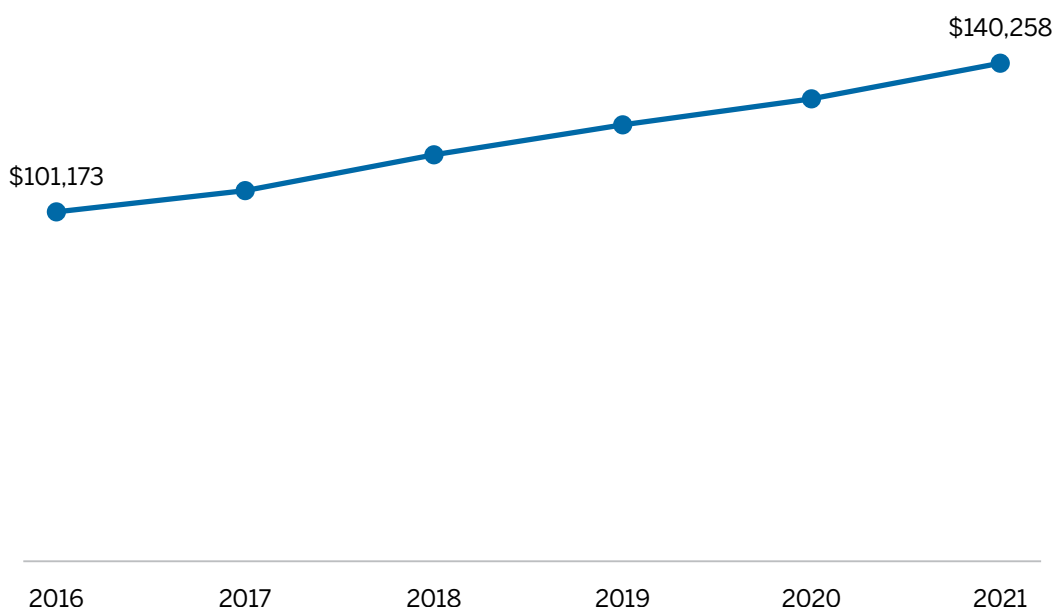
Sources: Reimbursement Ceilings for Subsidized Child Care (January 1, 2018; January 1, 2022), California Department of Social Services

REGIONAL MARKET RATES ALLOWED FOR STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

Median Household Income Over Time

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines child care as affordable when it costs families no more than 7% of their household income per child. Based on information collected from a Santa Clara County Market Rate survey conducted in January 2018, a family in Santa Clara County can expect to pay \$19,864 annually for full-time infant care at a licensed center and \$14,820 for preschool. Using the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services definition, a family of four with one infant and one preschool-aged child in need of full-time care at a licensed center would have to earn \$247,742 for that care to be affordable. As shown in Figure 16, even with steady increases over the past 6 years, 50% of households in Santa Clara County earn \$140,258 or less.

Figure 16. Median Household Income in Santa Clara County (2016 - 2021)



Source: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2016-2020, 2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau

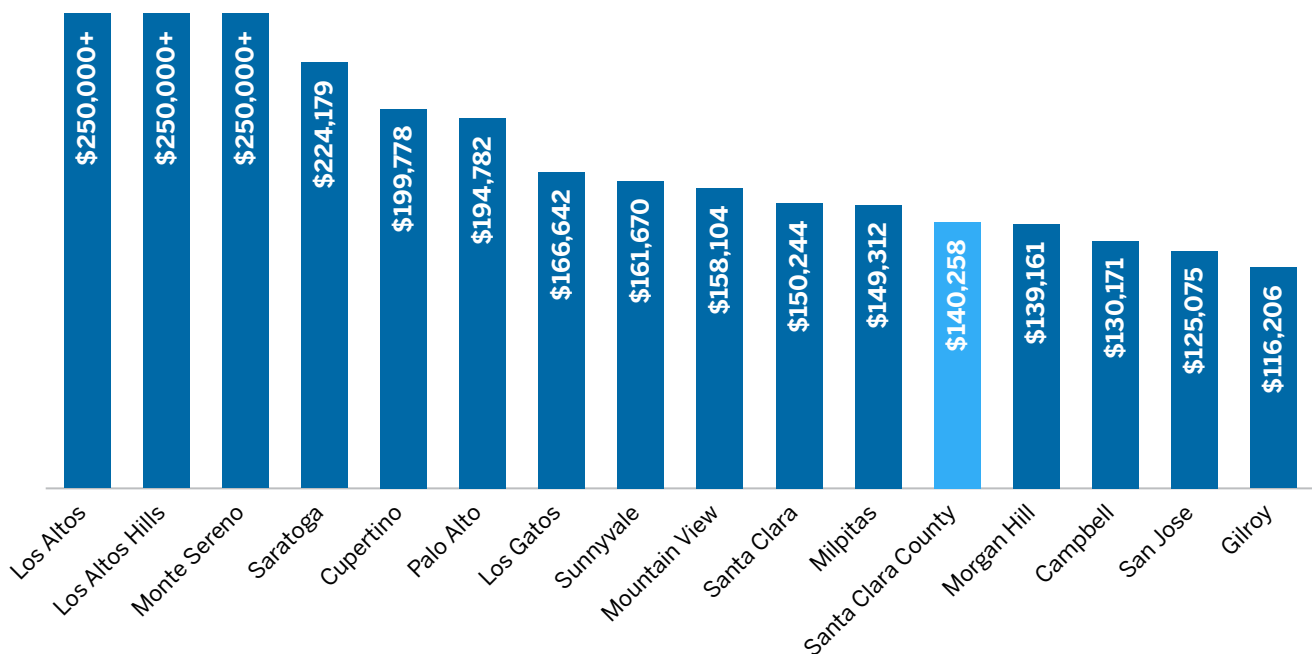


REGIONAL MARKET RATES ALLOWED FOR STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

Median Household Income by Major City

A deeper analysis of median household incomes in Santa Clara County reveals that wealthier families reside in cities that are proximally located to San Mateo and Santa Cruz County (see Figure 17); these are Los Altos and the Los Altos Hills, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. Conversely, the median household income in Morgan Hill, Campbell, San Jose, and Gilroy fall below the County median of \$140,258. Morgan Hill and Gilroy are Santa Clara County's more rural cities and are proximally located to San Benito County. It is noteworthy that the city with the county's largest child population under 6, San Jose, has nearly the lowest median household income, approximately \$15,000 lower than the median household income across the County.

Figure 17. Median Household Income for Major Cities in Santa Clara County (2021)



Source: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021), U.S. Census Bureau





UNMET NEED FOR CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE DEMAND

HIGHLIGHTS

- Of the 307,376 children ages 0-12 years in Santa Clara County, 192,929 (63%) are in working families.
- There were 72,037 children ages 0-12 in working families who were at or below 85% State Median Income (SMI), meaning 37% of children in working families qualify for child care subsidy programs.
- Of the 49,155 children ages 3-4 years in Santa Clara County, 29,373 (60%) are in working families (require full-time care), and 11,614 (24%) are in families with incomes at or below 85% SMI.
- The number of children enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten has fluctuated over the past few years but is expected to increase as more families enroll in TK programs.

MANDATED DATA

A summary of the number of children that require child care given parent workforce participation and income characteristics is provided in Table 22. Of the 307,376 children ages 0-12 years in Santa Clara County, 192,929 (63%) are in working families. There were 72,037 children ages 0-12 in working families who were at or below 85% SMI, meaning 37% of children in working families qualify for child care subsidy programs. Of the 49,155 children ages 3-4 years in Santa Clara County, 29,373 (60%) are in working families (require full-time care), and 11,614 (24%) are in families with incomes at or below 85% SMI.

Table 22. Demand for Child Care Among All Children and Children that Qualify for Subsidized Child Care (At 85% SMI) (2020)

Demand Populations	Age Groups		
	0-2 Years	3-4 Years	5-12 Years
Number of Children in Working Families Who Are At or Below 85% SMI	12,613	11,614	47,810
Number of Children in Working Families (All Income Levels)	37,913	29,373	125,643

Source: Population Data (2020), Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, American Institutes for Research



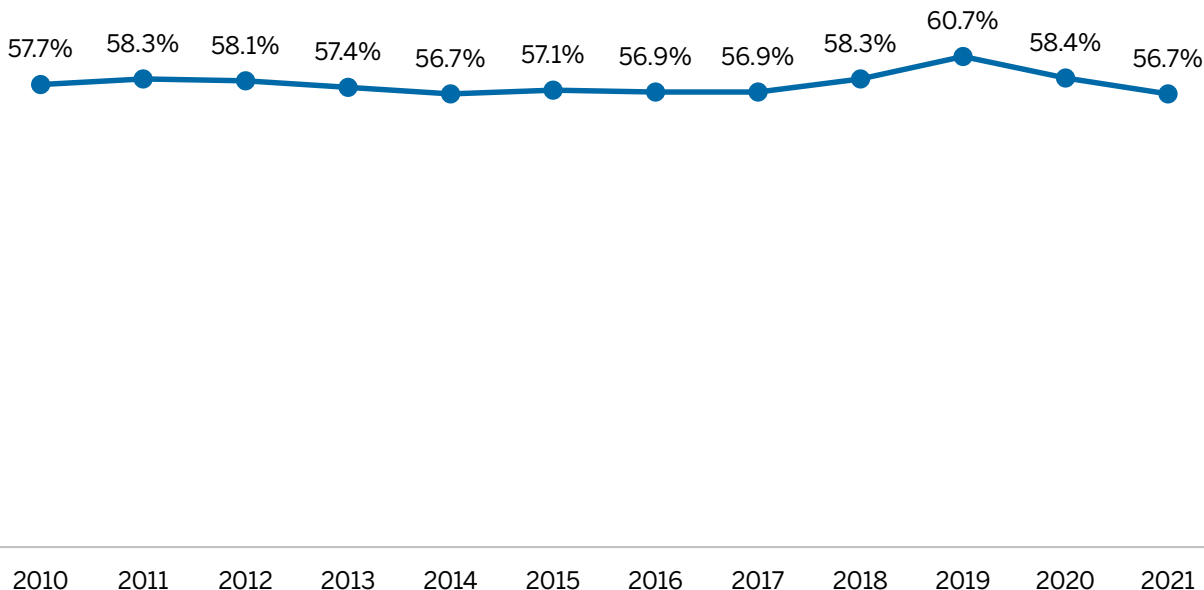
CHILD CARE DEMAND

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten Enrollment

According to American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, the proportion of children ages 3-4 years in Santa Clara County that are enrolled in preschool has remained relatively stable from 2010 (57.7%) to 2021 (56.7%). There were slight increases in the proportion of three- and four-year-olds enrolled in preschool in 2018, 2019, and 2020 relative to 2017, however in 2021, the number declined to 2014-2017 levels. ACS 1-year estimates (not shown here), which have larger margins of error but also better capture large fluctuations from one year to the next, show much larger declines from 2019 to 2021 in preschool enrollment. ACS 1-year estimates suggest that 67% of children age 3-4 were enrolled in preschool in 2019, compared to 48% in 2021; these data likely better estimate the proportion of children age 3-4 that were enrolled in preschool in 2021.

Figure 18. Proportion of Children Ages 3-4 Years Enrolled in Preschool in Santa Clara County (2010-2021)



Source: School Enrollment (2006/10 – 2017/21), American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



CHILD CARE DEMAND

The reduction in the proportion of children ages 3-4 years that are enrolled in preschool could be explained, in part, by the introduction and spread of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) programs in Santa Clara County. Transitional Kindergarten is an entitlement program introduced to the California public school system in 2010 in an effort to prepare qualifying children (i.e., children that turn five years between September 1 and December 1) for the rigors of elementary school. It is free to parents.

It is expected that over time, more and more families that may have traditionally enrolled their children in preschool will choose instead to enroll their qualifying children in TK programs. However, as requirements for TK have changed over the years combined with the added complexity of COVID, TK enrollment has fluctuated. Between 2014 and 2020, the highest enrollment was in 2016 at 3,248 students. In 2020, only 2,350 children were enrolled in TK, but this number is expected to increase in future years due to increased accessibility. California is expecting to offer TK for all 4-year-olds by academic year 2025-26.

Figure 19. Number of Children Enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten in Santa Clara County (2014-2020)



Source: Transitional Kindergarten Data, Kindergarten TK Program Participation (Census Day), by location of service provider (2014, 2016, 2018, 2020), California Department of Education. Provided from Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, American Institutes for Research



CHILD CARE SUPPLY

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of January 5, 2023, there were 69,363 child care slots available to children ages 0-12 years in Santa Clara County through licensed centers and family child care homes (FCCH).
- The majority of slots (78%) were available through licensed centers, and 73% of slots available were for preschool age children.
- During Fiscal Year 2021/22, 642 sites participated in Quality Matters: 139 centers, 362 FCCHs, and 141 Alternative Sites including 110 Family, Friend, and Neighbor providers, 25 Family Resource Centers, and 6 Parks and Recreation Centers.
- Since Fiscal Year 2013/14 the number of children participating in Quality Matters has increased steadily from 3,248 children to 10,986 children in Fiscal Year 2021/22.

MANDATED DATA

Data on child care supply was provided by the Santa Clara County Office of Education Childcare Resource and Referral Program. Counts for the number of children licensed centers and licensed family child care home are willing to serve (i.e., desired capacity) are provided in Table 23 by age group, as well as counts for child care supply for license-exempt centers. As of January 5, 2023, there are 69,363 child care slots available through licensed centers and family child care homes to children ages 0-12 years in Santa Clara County. The majority of slots (78%) are available through licensed centers. Seventy-three percent of slots are available to children of preschool age. Slots available to children ages 0-2 years account for just 11% of all child care slots.

Table 23. Licensed Capacity by Age Group and Provider Type (2023)

Provider Type	Age Group			Total
	Infants (0-2 Years)	Preschool (3-4 Years)	School-Age (5-12 Years)	
Licensed Centers	4,302	41,408	8,525	54,235
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	3,394	9,116	2,618	15,128
License-Exempt Centers	34	33	281	348
Total	7,696	50,524	11,143	69,363

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education Childcare Resource and Referral (R&R) Program for “Licensed Centers and Licensed Family Child Care Homes”; Go Kids and Choices for Children provided capacities by age groups for “License-Exempt Centers”.

Notes: Counts reflect licensed capacity of licensed centers and family child care homes. Count reflects agency-reported capacity for license-exempt centers. For family child care homes, staffing regulations for maximum number of children that can be served by age and per designation (Small, Large) were applied. For example, slots at a small family child care home licensed to serve 8 children were divided among infants (2), preschoolers (4), and school-age children (2). Slots at a large family child care home licensed to serve 14 children were divided among infants (3), preschoolers (9), and school-age children (2). Data are current as of January 5, 2023.

CHILD CARE SUPPLY

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

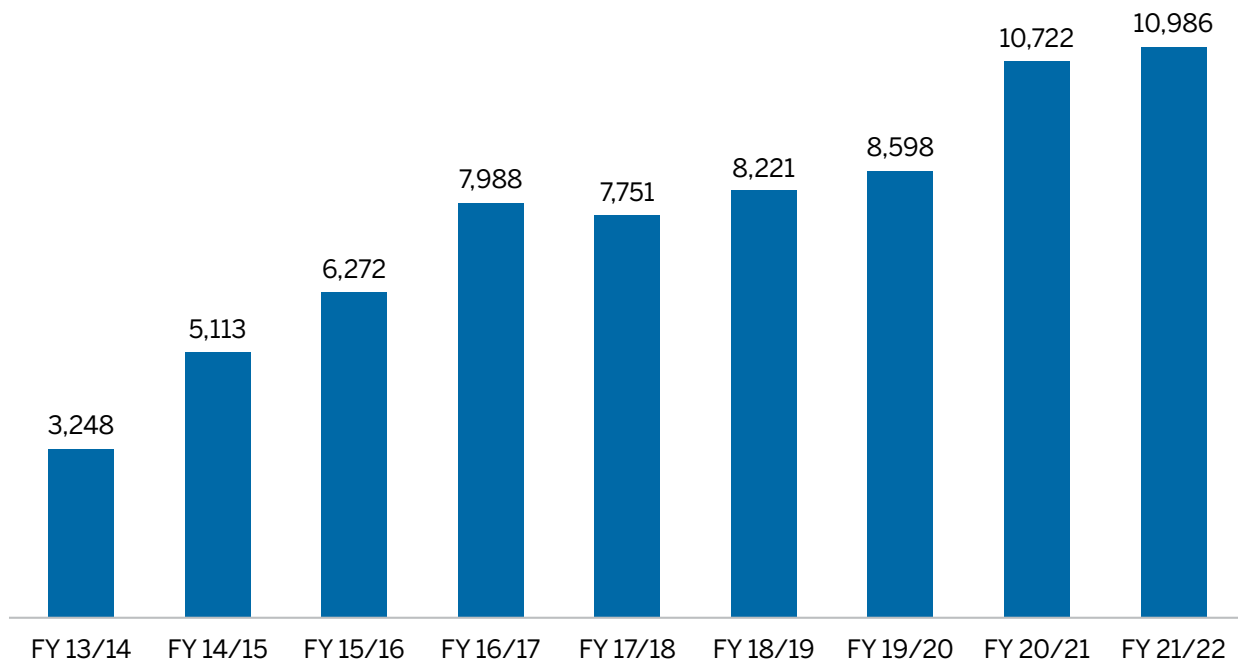
Quality Counts Participation Rates

Born out of a three-year grant first issued by the California Department of Education in 2012 in response to the Federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC), FIRST 5 Santa Clara County developed a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for licensed early care and education providers operating in Santa Clara County. The system was designed to:

- Define a common understanding of quality for early care and education programs;
- Measure programs against standards and give programs a quality rating;
- Provide educators with training and support to achieve higher levels of quality; and
- Inform the community on the importance of high quality care and education for children.

To address inequities in the early learning and care system, Quality Matters has de-emphasized quality rating as a major focus of its implementation since 2019 and pivoted to expand and invest in quality improvement supports for all early learning sites to reach greater numbers of Family, Friend, and Neighbor providers (FFNs). As a result, since 2019 the County has seen significant growth in the number of FFNs participating in the Quality Matters initiative. In all, 642 sites participated in Quality Matters during FY 2021/22: 139 centers, 362 FCCHs, and 141 Alternative Sites including 110 FFNs, 25 Family Resource Centers, and 6 Parks and Recreation Centers. Figure 20 below shows the increase in the number of children participating in Quality Matters programs over time.

Figure 20. Children Participating in Quality Matters (FY 2013/14 - FY 2021/22)



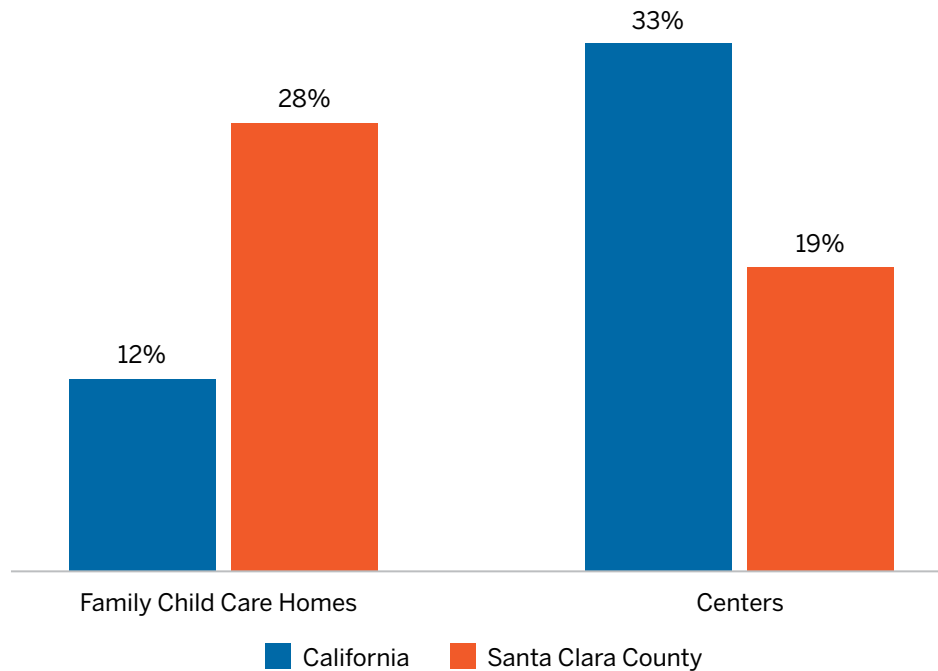
Source: FIRST 5 of California

Note: Extracted from the Common Data File.

CHILD CARE SUPPLY

As of January 2023, there were an estimated 1,310 Licensed Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) and 730 Licensed Centers in Santa Clara County. Of these, approximately 28% of Licensed FCCHs participated in Quality Counts California, which is more than twice the proportion of Licensed FCCHs participating statewide (12%). Nineteen percent (19%) of Licensed Centers in Santa Clara County participated in Quality Counts California in FY 2021/22, compared to 33% statewide.

Figure 21. Comparison of State and County Quality Counts California Participation Rates (FY 2021/22)



Source: FIRST 5 of California (January 2023), California Department of Social Services Child Care Licensing Division (January 2023)



UNMET NEED FOR CHILD CARE

HIGHLIGHTS

- There are only enough child care slots for 20% of infants age 0-2 who are in working families.
- Unmet need for infant/toddler care exists in every major city in Santa Clara County, from 128 children in San Martin to nearly 20,000 children in San Jose.
- Countywide, there are 19,803 more slots available to children ages 3-4 than there are children ages 3-4 in working families.
- Subsidized child care providers have the capacity to serve approximately 13% of children ages 0-2, 36% of children ages 3-4, and 8% of children ages 5-12 in working families that qualify for subsidized child care under the child care subsidy pilot.

MANDATED DATA

Estimates for unmet need for child care by age group are provided in Table 24.⁷ Child care supply and demand data indicate that there are enough child care slots to care for approximately 20% of children ages 0-2 years in working families and less than 10% of children ages 5-12 countywide. At the same time, there are 21,151 more child care slots available for 3-4 years old than there are 3-4 years olds in working families living in Santa Clara County, meaning there is a surplus of childcare slots for this age group while there are large deficits for all other ages.

Combined, subsidized child care providers in Santa Clara County have the capacity to serve approximately 37% of children ages 3-4 years in working families and who qualify for subsidized child care under the child care subsidy pilot.



⁷ Previous 2018 assessment data indicated that in 2017, 90% of license-exempt centers provided care for 5-12 year olds, and the capacity for this age group in 2017 was 17,605. This means the child care need of approximately 100,000 children age 5-12 would likely remain unmet after accounting for license-exempt programs.

UNMET NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Table 24. Unmet Need for Full- and Part-Day Child Care (2020)

	Infant/Toddler (0-2)		Preschool (3-4)		School-Age (5-12)	
	No. Unserved	Pct. In Need	No. Unserved	Pct. In Need	No. Unserved	Pct. In Need
a. Full-time care for working parents	30,217	80%	- 21,151	- 72%	114,500	91%
b. Full-time care for working families eligible for state subsidy (at 85% SMI)	10,930	87%	7,383	64%	43,859	92%
c. Part-time preschool for enrichment/school readiness	N/A	N/A	18,731	95%	N/A	N/A
d. Part-time preschool for enrichment/school readiness and eligible for state subsidy (at 85% SMI)	N/A	N/A	5,886	85%	N/A	N/A

Sources: Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (2020), American Institutes for Research for (a) estimated number of children in working families and (b) enrollment in subsidized child care programs; Counts for CalWORKs Stage 1 are the number of children in families receiving CalWORKs from California Department of Social Services, Santa Clara County Office of Education Resource and Referral Program (January 5, 2023) for licensed center and family child care home capacity data.

Notes: a – Number of children with parent in the workforce (all incomes) minus capacity in licensed centers and family child care homes (license-exempt centers capacity unavailable)

b – No. unserved calculated by subtracting the estimated number of children with working parents and who qualify for subsidized child care within each age group (at 85% SMI) from the number of children serviced in subsidized child care programs.

c – No. unserved calculated by subtracting the number of children ages 3-4 years in families with at least 1 non-working parent (19,782) from the number of children enrolled in part-day CSPP (1,051). Estimate does not account for children enrolled in licensed, non-subsidized child care programs.

d – No. unserved calculated by subtracting the number of children ages 3-4 years in families with at least 1 non-working parent and who qualify for subsidized child care at 85% SMI (6,937) from the number of children enrolled in part-day CSPP (1,051). Estimate does not account for children enrolled in licensed, non-subsidized child care programs.

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Unmet Need for Full-Time Care Among Children in Working Families by Age Group

A more detailed summary of the data used to calculate unmet need for full-time care among children with both parents in the workforce is provided in Table 25. Combined, if all licensed centers and family child care homes served children of all ages, there would be enough child care slots to meet the need for 36% of children ages 0-12 years in Santa Clara County. However, because there is a surplus of child care slots for preschool age children, we see that much smaller proportions of the child care needs of infant/toddlers and school age children are met (approximately 20% and 9% respectively).

UNMET NEED FOR CHILD CARE

Table 25. Summary of Demand, Supply and Unmet Need for Full-Time Care Among Children in Working Families (2020, 2023)

Age Group	Demand		Supply (No. of Slots)				Need	
	No. of Children with Parents in Workforce	No. in Working Families under 85% SMI	Licensed Centers	Family Child Care Homes	License-Exempt Centers	Total	Unmet Need	Pct. of Need Met
0-2 Years	37,913	12,613	4,302	3,394	-	7,696	30,217	20%
3-4 Years	29,373	11,614	41,408	9,116	-	50,524	-21,151	172%
5-12 Years	125,643	47,810	8,525	2,618	-	11,143	114,500	9%
Total	192,929	72,037	52,235	15,128	-	69,363	123,566	36%

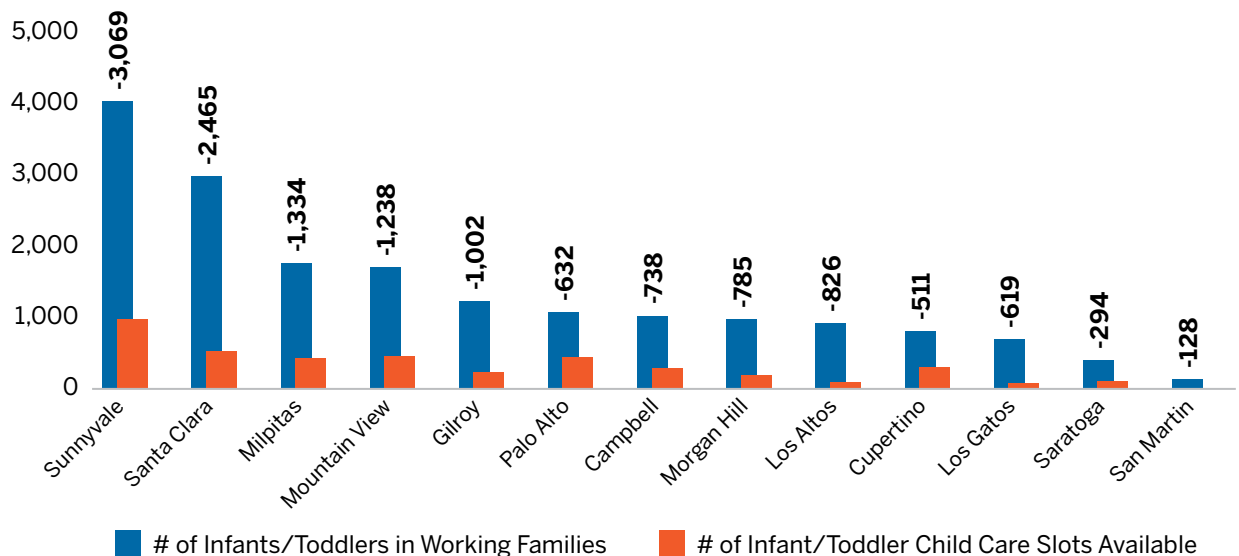
Sources: Demand – Population Data (2020), Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, American Institutes for Research; Supply – Santa Clara County Office of Education Childcare Resource and Referral (R&R) Program for Licensed Centers and Licensed Family Child Care Homes. Data are current as of January 5, 2023.

Notes: For demand, number of children reflects children in families with working parents who are at or below 85% SMI. Counts under supply reflect desired capacity of licensed centers and family child care homes. Data for capacity of license-exempt centers was unavailable. Additional details on these data are provided in the previous sections.

Unmet Need for Full-Time Infant/Toddler Care and Preschool by Major City

As shown in Table 25 above, there are approximately 30,217 children ages 0-2 years that may need full-time care in Santa Clara County, and unmet need for infant/toddler care exists in every major city in the County (see Figure 22).

Figure 22. Unmet Need for Full-Time Infant/Toddler Care by Major City (2023)

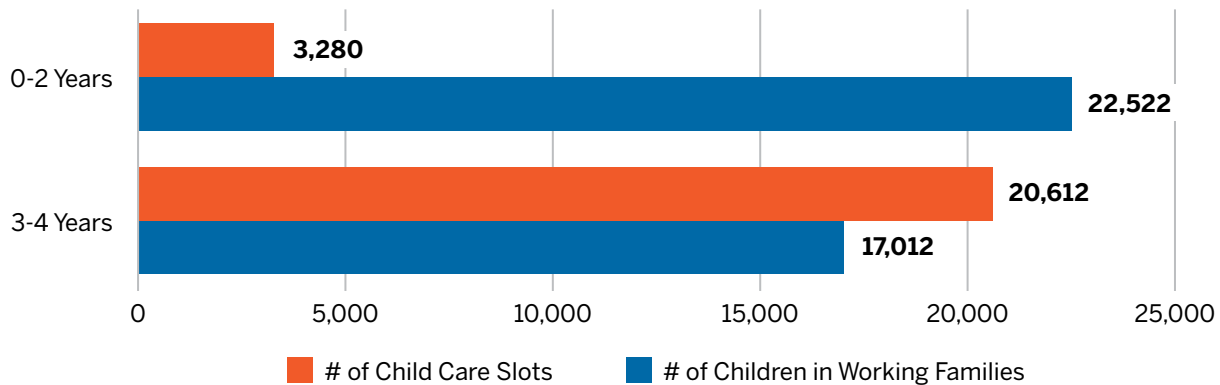


Sources: No. of Children in Working Families – Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (2020), American Institutes for Research; No. of Child Care Slots – Santa Clara County Office of Education (January 5, 2023)

UNMET NEED FOR CHILD CARE

In San Jose, there are approximately 19,242 children ages 0-2 years for whom there is no child care slot (see Figure 23). Next to San Jose, Sunnyvale (-3,069), Santa Clara (-2,465), Milpitas (-1,334), Mountain View (-1,238), and Gilroy (-1,002) have the highest levels of unmet need (see Figure 22).

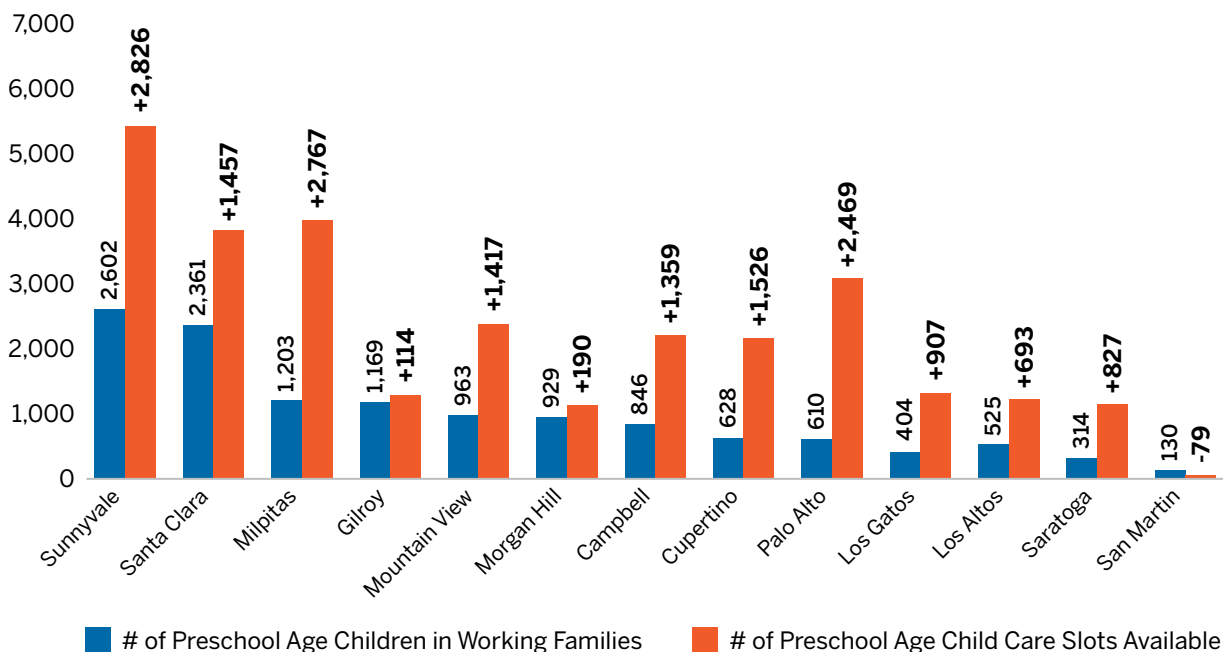
Figure 23. Unmet Need for Full-Time Infant/Toddler Care and Preschool in the City of San Jose (2023)



Sources: No. of Children in Working Families – Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (2020), American Institutes for Research;
No. of Child Care Slots – Santa Clara County Office of Education (January 5, 2023)

For preschool age children, there is only one city (San Martin) where the demand for child care exceeds the number of preschool slots (see Figure 24). In all other cities, child care supply for preschool age children exceeds demand. In San Jose, supply exceeds the demand by 3,600 slots.

Figure 24. Unmet Need for Full-Time Preschool by Major City (2023)



Sources: No. of Children in Working Families – Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (2020), American Institutes for Research;
No. of Child Care Slots – Santa Clara County Office of Education (January 5, 2023)

DATA CONSIDERATIONS FOR CALCULATING UNMET NEED

There are many factors that apply to families and providers that influence child care access and utilization. As such, all demand, supply, and unmet need estimates should be interpreted with the understanding that the analyses of unmet need completed above assume the following:

- Need for full-time child care is based on the number of children with one (for single-parent families) or both (for two-parent families) parents in the workforce;
- Need for part-time care is based on the number of children with at least one, non-working parent;
- All school-aged children with one (for single-parent families) or both (for two-parent families) parents in the workforce require full-time care;
- Families utilize child care providers in the cities where they reside;
- Licensed center-based providers for which desired capacity data were unavailable fully enroll children in accordance with licensed capacity regulations;
- Licensed family child care home providers for which desired capacity data were unavailable enroll the maximum number of infants/toddlers and preschool-aged children for whom care can be provided in accordance with licensing regulations;
- With the exception of part-day CSPP and Head Start slots, child care slot data are considered full-time slots; and
- Counts for children enrolled in subsidized child care programs are unduplicated.



PERSPECTIVES OF PROVIDERS AND CAREGIVERS

Four focus groups were conducted with child care providers and families to gain additional insights into child care needs in Santa Clara County. Two focus groups (one in-person and one remote) were conducted with families with children in or seeking child care, and two additional focus groups (one in-person and one remote) were conducted with providers of child care. Below are key findings from these focus groups.

KEY FINDINGS

Families and providers both report that they struggle to connect when there is a child care opening.

Across the focus groups conducted, the most common theme for both providers and caregivers was the challenges connecting children to available child care spaces.

For families, there appears to be an overall lack of awareness about how to find child care, especially for parents of young children. Parents reported consistently that they did not know how to go about finding child care in their area. Several reported conducting various web searches or asking friends; however, especially for parents of young children, the challenge of knowing where to go to find child care was stressful and confusing. Many families do not know how to even start searching. As an example, several participants came to the focus group to learn more about child care options in the County. One parent described wanting to place their child in the child care they had used with a sibling, but when there was no availability, they did not know where else to go. Another parent, with a child who has special needs, reported not knowing how to find child care that would be able to accept and meet the needs of her child.

Providers reported they similarly struggle to quickly and efficiently fill an opening in their child care, which often leads to stress about fluctuations in income based on enrollment. Challenges with enrollment varied based on individual provider situations. For providers who had a long-standing child care home, they are able to rely on their own networks and “word of mouth” to let people know about a new opening. For another provider, who is located near a large company, they have been able to rely on finding employees at the company who need child care for their children. **However, in each of these cases, the provider was relying on their own network and communication strategies.** For new providers who are less established, the process of filling an available opening is often much harder and more stressful. One provider described the financial struggles associated with not being at full capacity and the financial loss when an available spot cannot be easily filled. This provider described contemplating closing their business because of this challenge. Anecdotally, providers in San Jose appear to face more challenges. As one provider in San Jose stated, “I have heard Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Santa Clara are great areas for a daycare. Not sure what is going on in the area I am in. I have advertised a lot and no one calls. I have thought about closing.” It may be worth further exploration about the specific challenges for providers in San Jose as compared to other regions of the County.

The biggest ask among both providers and families was more awareness building of what supports are available and more assistance in connecting to available slots. For many parents and providers, there is not a lot of awareness of what resources are available to them. For example, most parents were not aware of the role of the resource and referral network and other supports that may be available to them to identify available spots.

“As child care providers, we are not sure... our work is not stable. We have full capacity and then tomorrow we have 2/3 children and the cost to stay open is very high. Then if the provider is not at full capacity, we are losing money.”

– Provider

PERSPECTIVES OF PROVIDERS AND CAREGIVERS

Parents reported the importance of not just finding an available spot, but also finding a good fit for their family.

In the focus groups, families' child care preferences varied greatly; for some a small in-home child care was optimal while others wanted a larger center that would focus on education and prepare their child for school. **However, across parents, several priorities emerged. Parents reported that they first need to find a child care that is affordable; convenient to their home or work; and can provide the hours to meet their needs. Beyond that, families look for child care settings that align with other needs and wants, such as having Spanish speaking providers.**

The process of searching, calling, and visiting child care providers to find one that is both available and meets their needs is time consuming. Families asked for easier ways to search for child care. For example, several asked for an easy-to-use database that could help them search for providers. Families reported that being able to search for things like price and hours would be helpful, and that being able to look at neighborhoods, rather than only a whole city like San Jose would be optimal. Similarly, providers requested support with letting families know about their home or center and publicizing when there is an available slot. Finally, both families and providers mentioned how they would ideally like the search for child care to be built into the materials given to families in other environments. For example, partnering with local pediatricians to let parents know of local resources to help them find child care was one idea that was endorsed by both parents and providers.

Anecdotally, many of the families in the focus groups had young children, while only a few of the providers in the focus groups reported providing care to infants and toddlers. This disconnect may be part of the challenge connecting families and providers. Quantitative data from the Needs Assessment points to an increasing challenge finding child care spots for infants and toddlers while resources for pre-school age children are increasing and supply is greater than demand. It may be worth further exploration about what supports would be needed for providers to consider serving infants and toddlers.

Some families reported having an easier time connecting to care if they qualified for a subsidy, but others faced challenges. One parent, who is monolingual Spanish-speaking reported receiving calls about a subsidized spot, but the call was only in English. The parent had trouble understanding the message, called back but could not communicate. This led to the parent not being able to take advantage of available openings.



PERSPECTIVES OF PROVIDERS AND CAREGIVERS

Despite the challenges finding care, parents overwhelmingly reported being satisfied with their care once they connected with a provider who could meet their family's needs.

Parents reported their experience changed once they were able to connect directly with a provider. Most reported the process of enrolling their child was manageable, even for subsidized care. For families that had child care subsidies, they reported the process was made easier because the provider helped explain what documentation was needed, provided assistance, and often had support materials like checklists to keep the process on track.

Families reported the guidance and support they receive from providers as valuable in helping them as parents. One parent, who received child care through CalWORKs, reported how the child care has assisted her in creating routines for her child and helping her child sleep in their own bed. Additionally, for many parents who have younger children who have been more isolated as a result of the pandemic, the child care has helped the child interact with other children.

Families also reported the importance of finding providers who also speak the same language as their family. One parent reported concern about sending her child to a child care because the family speaks Spanish. However, they were happy to find a child care where the providers also speak Spanish that has been able to integrate their child and communicate with the parents.

"I got daycare through CalWORKs. Ended up going with a home daycare. It's been really good. Daycare communicated with me and how to make her more independent and how she could sleep in her own bed. They have helped me a lot."

"At first it was hard deciding where to take my daughter. I really liked this one place because the daycare provider spoke Spanish, but she was not close enough to my home or my son's school. The other one I met I liked too, and it was really convenient. The process was easy, she worked with me, she was good at communicating. The hardest part was just finding a place."

– Parents of children in care

"The Santa Clara County Office helped me with the documents and filling out the application. They were very helpful...I thought I would have to wait 6 months to a year. To me, it was a surprise. My daughter was very isolated at home....she is very happy with her teachers, and with her classmates. She was very timid at first because I speak Spanish and our conversations are always in Spanish. I was afraid that she would be interacting with people who never speak Spanish, but the teachers speak Spanish. They have been great at integrating her into the program."

– Parent

PERSPECTIVES OF PROVIDERS AND CAREGIVERS

“It’s difficult being a mom and a provider. A child is crying; parents worry that they are not okay. Then, she calms down after drop off; I give a snack, take a picture, and send it to the parents so they know.”

“Many parents need a simple log of what the child did today. Some children are not verbal, so it is important to get feedback. If you don’t get feedback, you don’t know what happened in the day.”

– Providers

Once in care, regular communication between providers and parents is an important component of cultivating a positive child care environment. For many parents, sending a child to care is stressful and a big transition. Having providers who are willing to communicate regularly was a major component to feeling connected and confident in the care their child is receiving. Parents and providers both reported the importance of daily updates as well as communication if there are any challenges in the course of the day. Some providers reported how sending a few pictures or sending along a daily log was an important part of their connection with parents. However, there can also be a disconnect when parents are expecting updates that are not aligned with the child care. For example, one provider described some parents expecting regular academic progress reports that was a challenge for their preschool; this further underscores the importance of communication between parents and providers before enrollment about what to expect to find a good fit.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a lasting impact on both providers and families.

Both providers and parents discussed how the pandemic has changed their lives and impacted their experience providing and receiving child care. Even prior to the pandemic, providers struggled to provide child care. The many different responsibilities of providers, including long hours and low rates make providing care financially challenging, time consuming, and often stressful. The pandemic was especially difficult and its after effects have exacerbated their challenges. **Providers overwhelmingly reported that they do this work, despite challenges, because of deep held beliefs of wanting to help families and children. Providers stressed that they want to continue to provide child care, but it is becoming increasingly difficult without more support.**

In part, this is due to fluctuations in capacity and the overall cost of providing care. Providers that were always full prior to the pandemic are now rebuilding their businesses. Some providers have seen a decrease in private pay families as more parents can work from home. Others noted that families left care during the pandemic and never returned for a variety of reasons. Providers also noted that the cost of supplies and food have increased, and it is hard to be financially sustainable without raising rates.

Additionally, many families now have more work flexibility and want part-day options. While providers want to meet a family’s needs, taking a family who only wants a few days or a few hours of care per day can be a challenge for the provider.

In addition to the financial challenges, providers, parents, and children have all experienced prolonged isolation due to the pandemic. Providers report having fewer connections with peers and a desire for more in-person networking and training. Several mentioned the support they have received as being appreciated and beneficial and a number of providers are currently connected to resources, such as First 5. Overall, providers would like to know

“Families left because of COVID, and they never came back. I was always at maximum capacity . . . it has affected me a lot because prices have come up a lot and we have not been able to recuperate for lack of work and high prices.”

– Providers

PERSPECTIVES OF PROVIDERS AND CAREGIVERS

“I would say something we do a lot is for parents to provide a parent component which has been hard during COVIDSome of our new young children without siblings were not comingling with other kids and so even the parents are COVID parents.”

– Providers

what opportunities are available and how there can be more in-person training and networking. Some mentioned having Spanish speaking training as well. For parents of younger children, they have missed out on parenting support groups and classes and their children have been more socially isolated. They are looking for child care as a way to reconnect and have their children socialize.

Facilities and workforce issues add to the challenge of providing care.

Several providers mentioned the added challenge of the cost of facilities. For centers, they mentioned that the cost of maintaining facilities can be a barrier to keeping child care costs affordable for families. Home-based providers frequently mentioned how providing care can be a challenge if they do not own their home. Instability in lease arrangements, raising rental costs, and expectations of landlords can make it hard to serve children in their homes.

Workforce was another area that was frequently mentioned by providers as a challenge. Once a provider is able to reach capacity, they need to find support. Providers mentioned the challenge of finding quality assistant teachers, especially as they are not able to pay adequate wages to recruit and retain staff. Providers wondered about ways to partner with community colleges or other ideas to build a workforce pipeline.

As the landscape of child care is changing, providers expressed concern, especially with the emergence of Transitional Kindergarten and Universal Preschool.

The combination of the pandemic and the policy changes with Transitional Kindergarten and Universal Preschool have left providers feeling concerned and uncertain about their future. As mentioned in the prior section, the pandemic exacerbated the challenges providers face in maintaining their child care businesses. In addition, many providers have changed their share of private pay versus subsidized care families. In some cases, providers have added subsidized care when private pay families have been harder to find and enroll, while others have increased private pay families. In both cases, providers expressed that it can be an administrative challenge managing both private pay and subsidized spaces. Additionally, providers reported a lot of concern about the emergence of Transitional Kindergarten and Universal Preschool and the fear that families will move their preschool age children to new programs and child care programs will no longer be able to stay in business. Overwhelmingly, providers requested support from the County to plan for upcoming policy changes. Additionally, as mentioned above, it may be useful to work with providers to find ways to support them to provide care in the changing landscape. This includes addressing the reduction of school age children overall in the County, and the pervasive gaps in care for infants and toddlers.

PERSPECTIVES OF PARENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey conducted early Spring 2023 to survey Santa Clara County families' child care need and preferences.
- Most common reason for child care among survey respondents was work (outside the home), with three-quarters (75%) of respondents reporting work outside the home as their primary reason for child care.
- 58% of survey participants report having missed work days due to lack of child care.
- 24% of respondents reported missing employment opportunities due to lack of child care.
- Respondents had difficulty finding childcare that was affordable (73%) and child care with year-round enrollment (59%).
- Most common source of information when searching for child care among respondents was using recommendations from family or friends.

As part of the 2023 Santa Clara County Child Care Needs Assessment, a countywide survey of parents was conducted. The Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey was conducted by the Santa Clara County Office of Education in early Spring of 2023. The survey was developed in SurveyMonkey, an online survey platform. The Parent Survey was offered online in English and Spanish. The survey contained 37 questions in total, with branching logic built in to streamline the survey for respondents. Based on their responses and the reported ages of their children, survey length differed for respondents, ranging from 29 to 37 questions.

Detailed response distributions are included in **Appendix A**.

METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS

In Spring of 2023, the SCCOE and the Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC) conducted an online survey of parents and child care decision-makers who live and/or work in Santa Clara County. A link to the survey was distributed via email, as a hyperlink, to the SCCOE Research & Referral Program's parent email list of 463 parents and the Bay Area Parents email subscriber list. Printed post cards with a QR code to the survey were posted in person at the San Jose Public Library and local FIRST 5 Family Resource Centers. The survey was open for a five-week period from March 21 to April 26, 2023.

To determine survey eligibility, participants were first asked whether they (a) live in Santa Clara County, (b) work in Santa Clara County, (c) have a spouse or partner who works in Santa Clara County, (d) have at least one child under 12 years old, and/or (e) make child care decisions. There was a total of 211 responses from families who live or work in Santa Clara County and have children under 12 years old. These families represented over 370 children under 12 years old.

Survey items queried current child care use and overall child care need for children between 0 and 12 years old. The survey also covered preferred child care use and other topics that affect child care use and need. A total of 173 parents (82% of respondents) completed the survey in English and a total of 38 parents (18% of respondents) completed the survey in Spanish. At the end of the survey, participants had the option to enter a drawing for one of several gift cards that were distributed after the survey closed.

PERSPECTIVES OF PARENTS

There may be limitations to the sample of parents who participated in the 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey. Firstly, the demographics of respondents may not be representative of all families in Santa Clara County. Forty percent (40%) of respondents reported being Hispanic or Latino, while the countywide average is 25% of residents.⁸ Asian may be underrepresented in the respondent sample, where 22% of survey participants identified as Asian, compared to the countywide average of 40.6%.⁹ Moreover, the Median Family Income for Santa Clara County was \$159,872 in 2022,¹⁰ yet 40% of respondents reported making \$100,000 or less. Secondly, 44% of the children represented by families who participated in this survey are under five years old. In particular, 12% are under two, and 32% are between two and four years old. This may result in the child care preferences of families with young children under the age of five being underrepresented in the survey results. Despite these limitations, the 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey results provide valuable information and insights into child care needs, preferences, and trends of Santa Clara County families.

SURVEY RESULTS & HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS

Survey participants have a total of 433 children between the ages of 0 and 18 years old. The 211 total responses represent families who make child care decisions for children under 12 years old. The survey included questions inquiring about family size, child age, child care use, school enrollment, child care preferences, and demographic information. The survey also asked about the family's experience when searching for child care.

The ages of respondents' children were collected, and the distribution of ages of respondents' children is shown in Table 26 below. The majority of respondents (77%) had one or more child between the ages of 5 and 12 years old. One-fifth (20%) of respondents had at least one child under 2 years old, and half (50%) had at least one child between the ages of 2 and 4 years old.

Table 26. Ages of Respondents' Children

Age(s) of Child(ren)	No. of Respondents with ≥ 1 Child in This Age Range	Percent of All Respondents
Under 2	43	20%
2-4 years old	105	50%
5-12 years old	162	77%
13-18 years old	34	16%
19+	16	8%
Total	211	

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Note: Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau (2022). *QuickFacts: Santa Clara County*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santaclaracountycalifornia>.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau (2022). *QuickFacts: Santa Clara County*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santaclaracountycalifornia>.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau (2021). Table B19113, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2017-2021). Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=median+family+income&g=050XX00US06085&tid=ACSDT5Y2021.B19113>.

PERSPECTIVES OF PARENTS

The leading reason for child care among survey respondents was work (outside the home), with three-quarters (75%) of respondents reporting work outside the home as their primary reason for child care. Other primary reasons included wanting their child(ren) to have time for play, socialization, or enrichment (15%), work from home (13%), and attending school or job training (6%).

Most (59%) of respondents were between the ages of 30 and 45 years old. Respondents live in 40 Zip codes across Santa Clara County, and 44 Santa Clara County Zip codes are represented as respondents' work location or a respondent's spouse/partner's work location. About 14% of respondents reported having a child with disabilities and/or special needs. Only 64% of these families reported that their child had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Forty-five parents reported that one or more child will be attending Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in Fall 2023.

Respondents were asked about how the need for child care has affected their work and search for work. Some findings include:

- 58% of survey participants report having missed work days due to lack of child care.
- 24% of respondents reported missing employment opportunities due to lack of child care.
- Approximately one-quarter of respondents (27%) reported coordinating work shifts with other household members to reduce the need for child care.

Findings indicate that child care is most needed on weekdays (Monday through Friday). When asked about the frequency of child care needed, the majority of respondents (78%) indicated that they need child care five days a week, Monday – Friday. Eleven percent (11%) indicated a need for child care 3 or 4 weekdays, and 6% need 2 or fewer weekdays. Weekend child care was less common, with 7% of respondents reporting needing child care on Saturdays and 4% on Sundays.

Parents were asked at what hours of the day child care was needed. Findings indicate that child care is most needed by respondents during the work day, with half of respondents needing child care between 8am and noon. A high of 65% of survey participants report afternoon child care needs (between 3pm and 6pm), while 20% indicate early morning child care needs (between 6am and 8am). A full breakdown is shown in Table 27 below.

Table 27. Time of the Day When Child Care is Needed

Hours of the Day When Child Care is Needed	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Midnight – 6am	2	1%
6am – 8am	42	20%
8am – Noon	104	49%
Noon – 3pm	106	50%
3pm – 6pm	138	65%
6pm – 8pm	9	4%
8pm – Midnight	3	1%
Prefer not to answer	24	11%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Note: Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

PERSPECTIVES OF PARENTS

Survey participants were asked the location of their current child care. The most common locations were:

- At their child's school – 50%
- Near the family's home – 37%
- At the parent's home – 15%
- Near parent's work – 13%

Respondents were asked to identify which resources were used when searching for child care:

- Family and Friends: 55% of respondents indicated that they used child care recommendations from family or friends.
- School Recommendations: 40% used information from their child's school.
- Internet Search: 39% used Google searches to find child care.

When asked about the ease of finding particular child care attributes, the most difficult attribute to find was:

- Affordable: 73% of respondents reported that affordable child care was hard or very hard to find.
- Immediate enrollment: 59% had a hard or very hard time finding child care that they were able to enroll their child in right away.

On the other hand, it was easier to find child care that was:

- Linguistically compatible: 55% could somewhat easily or very easily find child care with staff that speak the same language as their family.
- On a desired schedule: 54% reported finding child care with a desired schedule was somewhat easy or very easy to find.
- Safe and healthy: 50% of survey participants said that it was somewhat easy or very easy to find childcare that was safe and healthy.

About 48% of participating families reported that they noticed a difference in the development of their child(ren) since the COVID-19 pandemic first began to impact their family. The most common developmental changes seen were:

- Increased anxiety – 27%
- Challenges in expression of emotions – 22%
- Challenges with conflict resolution – 17%

Respondents were surveyed on their child care preferences, outside of cost and availability constraints. In particular, survey participants were asked what their preferred child care format would be, if cost and availability were not an issue. Responses, shown in Table 28, indicate a relatively steady preference across age groups for the parent (survey respondent) themselves to provide child care to their child. Child care or preschool centers located in the community (19% for 0-2 year olds; 18% for 2-4 year olds) or located on a school campus (16% for 0-2 year olds; 24% for 2-4 year olds) are preferred by parents of young children (under 5 years old). Respondents indicate a leading preference for child care of children between 5 and 12 years old to be a before- or after-school program for school-aged children located on a school campus. More results are shown Table 28.

PERSPECTIVES OF PARENTS

Table 28. Child Care Preferences for Child(ren) By Age Group

	≤2 years old		2 to 4 years old		5 to 12 years old	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Survey Respondent as Provider	12	27.9%	23	21.9%	28	17.3%
Family	4	9.3%	0	0%	2	1.2%
Friend or neighbor	2	4.7%	5	4.8%	10	6.2%
Parent Participation or Parent Co-op Preschool/Nursery School	1	2.3%	2	1.9%	1	0.6%
Child care or preschool center						
<i>Located within the community</i>	8	18.6%	19	18.1%	N/A	N/A
<i>Located on a school campus</i>	7	16.3%	25	23.8%	N/A	N/A
Paid Child Care Provider						
<i>Child care provider within own home</i>	5	11.6%	1	1.0%	8	4.9%
<i>Child care within someone else's home</i>	2	4.7%	2	1.9%	3	1.9%
Before-/after-school program						
<i>Located within the community</i>	N/A	N/A	1	1.0%	7	4.3%
<i>Located on a school campus</i>	N/A	N/A	2	1.9%	86	53.1%
Transitional Kindergarten program	N/A	N/A	9	8.6%	N/A	N/A
Child's other parent or guardian	0	0%	5	4.8%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	1	1.0%	6	3.7%
Prefer not to answer	1	2.3%	2	1.9%	3	1.9%
Total	43		105		157	

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

In addition to the preferred method of child care, survey items also asked about preferred child care location, if cost and availability were not an issue. Responses to these items indicate that respondents' preferred child care location for children under 2 is in their home (56%) or near their home (28%). Similarly, for children between 2 and 4 years old, the preferred location was in their home (31%) or near their home (24%), followed by near or at child's school (17%). For older children, between the ages of 5 and 12 years old, the leading preference (if cost and availability were not an issue) was near or at child's school. In the family's home (23%) or near the home (19%) followed for this age group.

Detailed response distributions for survey items are included in **Appendix A**.

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

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APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-1. Survey Continuation Screening Item

	Count	Percent of All Respondents
I live in Santa Clara County.	206	97.6%
I work in Santa Clara County.	147	69.7%
My spouse or partner works in Santa Clara County.	93	44.1%
I have at least one child under 12 years old.	209	99.1%
I make child care decisions.	184	87.2%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-2. Language That the Respondent Utilized to Complete the Survey

	Count	Percent of All Respondents
English	173	82%
Spanish	38	18%
Total	211	100%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-3. Approx. Age of Respondent (Calculated by Year of Birth)

	Count	Percent of All Respondents
<25 years old	14	6.6%
25-29 years old	19	9.0%
30-34 years old	26	12.3%
35-39 years old	55	26.1%
40-45 years old	44	20.9%
>45 years old	20	9.5%
Did not respond	33	15.6%
Total	211	100%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-4. Number of Household Members (Including Respondent)

	Count	Percent of All Respondents
1 Household Members	1	0.5%
2 Household Members	11	5.2%
3 Household Members	49	23.2%
4 Household Members	68	32.2%
5 or more Household Members	59	28.0%
Prefer not to answer	5	2.4%
Did not respond	18	8.5%
Total	211	100%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-5. Age(s) of Respondent's Child(ren)

Age(s) of Respondent's Child(ren)	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Under 2	43	20.4%
2-4 years old	105	49.8%
5-12 years old	162	76.8%
13-18 years old	34	16.1%
19+	16	7.6%
Total	211	100%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-6. Weekly Childcare Use

Weekly Childcare Use	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Full time (average 40 hrs/week or 5 days/week or more)	122	57.8%
Part time (average 20 hrs/week or 2-3 days/week)	42	19.9%
Very Part Time (average less than 16 hrs/week or less than 2 days/week)	23	10.9%
Prefer not to answer	24	11.4%
Total	211	100%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

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Table A-7. Respondent Gender Identity

Respondent Gender Identity	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Woman/Female	158	74.9%
Man/Male	26	12.3%
Prefer not to answer	6	2.8%
Did not respond	21	10.0%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-8. Highest Educational Degree Completed by Either Parent or Guardian

Highest Educational Degree Completed by Either Parent or Guardian	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Bachelor's degree	44	20.9%
Master's degree	36	17.1%
Doctorate degree	28	13.3%
Some College	27	12.8%
High school diploma or GED	23	10.9%
Less than high school	11	5.2%
Prefer not to answer	11	5.2%
Associate degree	9	4.3%
Vocational school	7	3.3%
Prefer not to answer	7	3.3%
Did not respond	22	10.4%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-9. Range of Total Family Annual Income Before Taxes in 2022

Income Range	Count	Percent of All Respondents
\$10,000 and under	14	6.6%
\$10,001 - \$25,000	12	5.7%
\$25,001 - \$50,000	30	14.2%
\$50,001 - \$100,000	27	12.8%
\$100,001 - \$150,000	12	5.7%
\$150,001 - \$200,000	14	6.6%
\$200,001 - \$250,000	9	4.3%
More than \$250,000	44	20.9%
Prefer not to answer	28	13.3%
Did not respond	93	44.1%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-10. Respondent Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Hispanic/Latinx	85	40.3%
White	59	28.0%
Asian	46	21.8%
American Native/Alaskan Native	2	0.9%
Black or African American	2	0.9%
Middle Eastern or North African	1	0.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Other	1	0.5%
Prefer not to say	4	1.9%
Did not respond	11	5.2%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Note: Hispanic/Latinx includes Mexican, Central American, South American; White includes White American, European; Asian includes Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Indian, Laotian, Cambodian; Black or African American includes African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali; Middle Eastern or North African includes Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan.

Table A-11. Language(s) Spoken at Home

Language(s) Spoken at Home	Count	Percent of All Respondents
English	147	69.7%
Spanish	74	35.1%
Hindi	6	2.8%
Mandarin	6	2.8%
Vietnamese	5	2.4%
Tamil	3	1.4%
Punjabi	3	1.4%
Hebrew	3	1.4%
French	3	1.4%
Cantonese	2	0.9%
Korean	2	0.9%
Russian	2	0.9%
Tagalog (including Filipino)	2	0.9%
Japanese	1	0.5%
Other	9	4.3%
Did not respond	20	14.2%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-12. Days of Week When Childcare is Needed From Someone Other Than Parent

Days Child Care is Needed	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Monday - Friday	164	77.7%
2 or less weekdays (Monday - Friday)	12	5.7%
3 or more weekdays (Monday - Friday)	24	11.4%
Weekends	3	1.4%
Saturday	15	7.1%
Sunday	9	4.3%
Prefer not to answer	17	8.1%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-13. Hours of the Day When Child Care is Needed

Hours Child Care is Needed	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Midnight – 6am	2	0.9%
6am – 8am	42	19.9%
8am – Noon	104	49.3%
Noon – 3pm	106	50.2%
3pm – 6pm	138	65.4%
6pm – 8pm	9	4.3%
8pm – Midnight	3	1.4%
Prefer not to answer	24	11.4%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-14. Location of Current Child Care

Location of Current Child Care	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Near or at child's school	105	49.8%
Near home	78	37.0%
In parent's home	31	14.7%
Near work	27	12.8%
Near relative or friend	5	2.4%
Near public transportation	4	1.9%
At parent's work site	3	1.4%
Other	8	3.8%
Prefer not to answer	8	3.8%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-15: Primary and Secondary Reasons for Respondent's Use of Child Care

	Primary Reason		Secondary Reason	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Work outside the home	159	75.4%	10	4.7%
Want child to have time for play, socialization, or enrichment	32	15.2%	68	32.2%
Work from home	28	13.3%	36	17.1%
Attend school or job training	13	6.2%	13	6.2%
As needed to shop, run errands, attend appointments, etc.	7	3.3%	18	8.5%
Support for child/children's health condition or illness	5	2.4%	10	4.7%
Caregiver health condition or illness	4	1.9%	8	3.8%
Other	10	4.7%	2	0.9%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-16. Lack of Child Care Availability Causing Work Shift Coordination

<i>"Do you and other household members work different shifts to reduce the need for child care?"</i>	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Yes	56	26.5%
No	109	51.7%
Prefer not to answer	7	3.3%
Not applicable	39	18.5%
Did not respond	38	18.0%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-17. Lack of Child Care Availability has Caused Respondent to Turn Down Work

<i>"Have you ever had to turn down work due to a lack of child care?"</i>	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Yes, I've missed work days due to lack of child care.	122	57.8%
Yes, I've missed employment opportunities due to lack of child care.	50	23.7%
No	49	23.2%
Prefer not to answer	6	2.8%
Not applicable	19	9.0%
Did not respond	38	18.0%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-18. Respondent is a Current Recipient of Financial Assistance for Child Care Costs

	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Yes	39	18.5%
Voucher or subsidy from Go Kids, Inc. or Choices for Children	15	38.5%
Voucher or subsidy through Santa Clara County Social Services	7	17.9%
State-funded preschool or child care	5	12.8%
Head Start or Early Head Start	3	7.7%
Scholarship from a preschool or child care	2	5.1%
Fee assistance from my employer	3	7.7%
Free or low-cost after-school program	7	17.9%
Don't know the source of financial assistance	6	15.4%
Prefer not to answer	1	2.6%
Other	2	5.1%
No	160	75.8%
Prefer not to answer	12	5.7%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Tables A-19A – A-19C: Provider attributes that were easy/difficult for respondent to find when looking for child care.

Table A-19A. Provider Attributes Related to Staff Characteristics

		Well-trained, experienced educators or caregivers	Educators, caregivers, or staff speak same language(s) as respondent's family	Caregivers share respondent's family's cultural or racial background
Very Hard to Find	Count	24	21	18
	Percent	11.6%	10.0%	8.7%
Hard to Find	Count	47	17	17
	Percent	22.7%	8.1%	8.2%
Somewhat Easy to Find	Count	58	46	47
	Percent	28.0%	22.0%	22.6%
Very Easy to Find	Count	34	69	23
	Percent	16.4%	33.0%	11.1%
Total Responses		207	209	208

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Note: Percents are calculated by dividing response option count by total responses; remaining response options include "Don't know" and "Didn't Need/Want."

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-19B. Provider Attributes Related to Provider Characteristics

		Safe & healthy	Good quality	Supports potty training	Inclusive learning environment with support for children with disabilities
Very Hard to Find	Count	20	20	13	16
	Percent	9.8%	9.6%	6.2%	7.7%
Hard to Find	Count	44	57	22	16
	Percent	21.5%	27.4%	10.5%	7.7%
Somewhat Easy to Find	Count	61	55	39	24
	Percent	29.8%	26.4%	18.6%	11.5%
Very Easy to Find	Count	42	36	21	9
	Percent	20.5%	17.3%	10.0%	4.3%
Total Responses		205	208	210	208

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Note: Percents are calculated by dividing response option count by total responses; remaining response options include "Don't know" and "Didn't Need/Want."

Table A-19C. Provider Attributes Related to Logistical Factors

		Affordable	Convenient location	Able to enroll right away	Desired schedule	Transportation between child care & school
Very Hard to Find	Count	91	27	48	30	43
	Percent	43.8%	13.2%	23.3% ^a	14.5%	20.7%
Hard to Find	Count	60	51	73	41	22
	Percent	28.8%	24.9%	35.4%	19.8%	10.6%
Somewhat Easy to Find	Count	27	75	38	77	19
	Percent	13.0%	36.6%	18.4%	37.2%	9.1%
Very Easy to Find	Count	9	30	18	34	13
	Percent	4.3%	14.6%	8.7%	16.4%	6.3%
Total Responses		208	205	206	207	208

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Note: Percents are calculated by dividing response option count by total responses; remaining response options include "Don't know" and "Didn't Need/Want."

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-20. Current Primary Provider of Child Care for Children, by Age Group

	<2 years old		2 to 4 years old		5 to 12 years old	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Survey Respondent as Provider	14	32.6%	18	17.1%	27	16.7%
Child's other parent or guardian	0	0.0%	7	6.7%	8	4.9%
Child care or preschool center						
<i>Located within the community</i>	4	9.3%	26	24.8%	N/A	N/A
<i>Located on a school campus</i>	8	18.6%	29	27.6%	N/A	N/A
Paid Provider						
<i>Child care provider within own home</i>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%
<i>Child care within someone else's home</i>	3	7.0%	8	7.6%	3	1.9%
<i>Family</i>	6	14.0%	6	5.7%	4	2.5%
<i>Friend or neighbor</i>	2	4.7%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%
Before-/after-school program						
<i>Located within the community</i>	N/A	N/A	0	0.0%	8	4.9%
<i>Located on a school campus</i>	N/A	N/A	1	1.0%	90	55.6%
Unpaid family	3	7.0%	2	1.9%	3	1.9%
Transitional Kindergarten program	N/A	N/A	2	1.9%	N/A	N/A
Other (please specify)	2	4.7%	5	4.8%	7	4.3%
Prefer not to answer	1	2.3%	1	1.0%	5	3.1%
Total	43		105		157	

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-21. Preferred Method of Childcare for Respondent's Child/Children if Cost and Availability Were Not an Issue

	<2 years old		2 to 4 years old		5 to 12 years old	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Survey Respondent as Provider	12	27.9%	23	21.9%	28	17.3%
Family	4	9.3%	0	0%	2	1.2%
Friend or neighbor	2	4.7%	5	4.8%	10	6.2%
Parent Participation or Parent Co-op Preschool/Nursery School	1	2.3%	2	1.9%	1	0.6%
Child care or preschool center						
<i>Located within the community</i>	8	18.6%	19	18.1%	N/A	N/A
<i>Located on a school campus</i>	7	16.3%	25	23.8%	N/A	N/A
Paid Child Care Provider						
<i>Child care provider within own home</i>	5	11.6%	1	1.0%	8	4.9%
<i>Child care within someone else's home</i>	2	4.7%	2	1.9%	3	1.9%
Before-/after-school program						
<i>Located within the community</i>	N/A	N/A	1	1.0%	7	4.3%
<i>Located on a school campus</i>	N/A	N/A	2	1.9%	86	53.1%
Transitional Kindergarten program	N/A	N/A	9	8.6%	N/A	N/A
Child's other parent or guardian	0	0%	5	4.8%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	1	1.0%	6	3.7%
Prefer not to answer	1	2.3%	2	1.9%	3	1.9%
Total	43		105		157	

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

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Tables A-22A – A-22C: Preferred Child Care Location, if cost and availability were not an issue.

Table A-22A. Preferred Child Care Location if Cost and Availability Were Not an Issue, for Respondent's Children Aged <2 Years Old

<2 Years Old	1st Preference		2nd Preference		3rd Preference	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
In my home	24	56%	2	5%	0	0%
Near home	12	28%	16	37%	3	7%
At my work site	1	2%	6	14%	6	14%
Near work	3	7%	6	14%	9	21%
Near relative or friend	0	0%	0	0%	5	12%
Near or at child's school	1	2%	5	12%	9	21%
Near public transportation	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-22B. Preferred Child Care Location if Cost and Availability Were Not an Issue, for Respondent's Children Aged 2-4 Years Old

2-4 Years Old	1st Preference		2nd Preference		3rd Preference	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
In my home	33	31%	6	6%	6	6%
Near home	25	24%	28	27%	12	11%
At my work site	8	8%	12	11%	15	14%
Near work	8	8%	21	20%	21	20%
Near relative or friend	1	1%	2	2%	8	8%
Near or at child's school	18	17%	14	13%	16	15%
Near public transportation	0	0%	0	0%	4	4%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-22C. Preferred Child Care Location if Cost and Availability Were Not an Issue, for Respondent's Children Aged 5-12 Years Old

5-12 Years Old	1st Preference		2nd Preference		3rd Preference	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
In my home	38	23%	12	7%	17	10%
Near home	31	19%	64	40%	22	14%
At my work site	2	1%	15	9%	18	11%
Near work	8	5%	16	10%	44	27%
Near relative or friend	3	2%	4	2%	9	6%
Near or at child's school	87	54%	22	14%	13	8%
Near public transportation	1	1%	0	0%	4	2%
Other	1	1%	0	0%	2	1%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-23. One or More Child will be Attending TK in Fall 2023, Among Respondents with a 2-4 Year Old

Respondent Gender Identity	Count	Percent
One or more children will be attending TK in Fall 2023	45	42.9%
No children will be attending TK in Fall 2023	51	48.6%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

APPENDIX A: PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Table A-24. Differences That Respondent Noticed in the Development of Their Child(ren) Since the Covid-19 Pandemic First Began to Impact Respondent's Family

	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Increased anxiety	54	27.3%
Challenges in expression of emotions	44	22.2%
Challenges with conflict resolution	34	17.2%
Increased irritability with adults	28	14.1%
Acting younger or older than his/her age	26	13.1%
Changes in speech	24	12.1%
Increased irritability with other children	24	12.1%
Challenges with problem solving	21	10.6%
Changes in motor development	20	10.1%
Not meeting expected milestones	20	10.1%
Changes in physical development	15	7.6%
Increased trauma	9	4.5%
Unprepared to move to next grade level	8	4.0%
Other	3	1.5%
None of these apply	96	48.5%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

Table A-25. Disabilities and/or Special Needs Status of Respondent's Child(ren)

	Count	Percent
Child has disabilities and/or special needs	28	14.1%
<i>Child has an IEP or Individualized Family Service Plan</i>	18	64.3%
<i>Child does not have an IEP or Individualized Family Service Plan</i>	9	32.1%
<i>Prefer not to answer</i>	1	3.6%
<i>Did not respond to item</i>	9	32.1%
Child(ren) do not have disabilities or special needs	163	82.3%
Prefer not to answer	7	3.5%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey

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Table A-26. Methods and Resources Used in Search for Child Care

Used in Search for Child Care	Count	Percent of All Respondents
Recommendations from family or friends	115	54.5%
Information from child's school	84	39.8%
Google search	83	39.3%
Referrals from the Santa Clara County Resource & Referral (R&R) Program	44	20.9%
Yelp search	29	13.7%
Social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	28	13.3%
Referrals from another agency (e.g., County Social Services, County Public Health)	21	10.0%
Online childcare finder (i.e., Wonderschool, Tootris, Care.com, etc.)	11	5.2%
www.mychildcareplan.org	5	2.4%
Other	6	2.8%
Prefer not to answer	9	4.3%

Source: Santa Clara County Office of Education, 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment Parent Survey





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