

2017 – 2021 COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose and Objective

- CSB conducts an annual Community Assessment to provide a complete profile of the current economic, health, safety and educational status of the estimated 64,668 children age 0-4 and their families who call Contra Costa County home.
- The Community Assessment is a multi-phase, ongoing process of data collection and assimilation that describes community strengths, needs and resources, and integrally involves the Head Start Policy Council, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and active parents.
- Findings are used to revise programmatic approaches, optimize and coordinate service delivery across resources, and keep the Policy Council and Board of Supervisors informed.

Methodology

- A wide variety of data collection techniques and sources are used to conduct the Community Assessment. Federal and state agency data sources, internal programmatic data sources, local committees, commissions and community-based entities' utilization data, Community Care Licensing reports, and collaboration with McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons helps provides reliable and regularly updated estimates of residents and conditions by geography, information about the demand for and utilization of childcare, and the number and location of age-eligible children experiencing homelessness.

Population Profile

- Since 2010, the population of Contra Costa County has grown 5% to 1,096,068, compared to 3% in California.
- Since 2009 the largest growth has been among Latino residents (up 46,918 or 20.7%), Asian residents (up 30,836 or 22.6%), and White residents (up 30,816 or 4.9%).
- In 2015, 31% (79,511) of the county's 260,864 children are under 6 and 15% (37,787) are under 3. About 6% (64,668) of all residents are 0-4 year olds, compared to 7% in the state overall. The zip codes of 94565 (89,712), 94509 (64,406), 94806 (60,627) and 94513 (58,399) are the most populous and home to the largest population of children under 5 with 27% (17,654) of the county's 64,668 0-4 year olds.

Economic Profile

- Median family income is \$95,824 countywide, with lower medians in San Pablo, Antioch, Concord, Oakley, Pittsburg and Richmond. In 2015, 11% of individuals, 8% of families, 14% of children and 12% of families with children live below the FPL.
- Contra Costa's January 2017 unemployment rate (4.0%) compares favorably to the state (5.0%), but rates are much higher for residents in Vine Hill (9.8%), Tara Hills (9.2%), San Pablo (7.0%), Pacheco (7.0%), Antioch (6.3%), Bethel Island (5.9%) and Oakley (5.7%). Rates are also higher than average in the population centers of Concord (4.9%), Pittsburg (5.4%) and Richmond (5.2%), and unemployment among African American residents is still nearly twice that of the county.
- About 29% of homes in the region are affordable to a median income household, compared to 67% in 2010 and 61% nationally. The pace of rent increases has escalated dramatically since 2015, and in 2017, the median rent for a 2-bedroom unit is \$2,173 per month. From 2015 to 2017, the median monthly rent for a 2-bedroom unit in the county increased 37%, compared to 16% from 2013 to 2015. About 35% of mortgages (85,522 homes) and 55% of rentals (71,114 units) are considered unaffordable in 2015.
- In 2016, 3,500 individuals in the county are homeless (1,730) or at risk of becoming homeless (1,770). Of these homeless, 1,110 sleep on the streets, 364 are in families, 21 are parenting youth with 21 children, 6 are unaccompanied children and 11% overall are age 0-17. Since 2011, Central and West County saw a decline in homelessness, while East County saw an increase.
- In 2015, 1.9% of residents are CalWORKs cash grant recipients, down from 2.1% in 2014. The county now has 7,837 CalWORKs cash grant cases involving 13,744 children. About 5% of local households rely on SSI benefits in 2015, receiving between \$1,319 and \$9,114 annually. About 6% (24,417) of households

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participate in SNAP benefits, and 17% (44,752) of all children live in a home with SSI, cash PA or SNAP benefits, versus 27% statewide.

Health Profile

- In Contra Costa, 10% are uninsured compared to 15% statewide, but both rates have improved since 2014. In Contra Costa, 10% are uninsured compared to 15% statewide, but both rates have improved since 2014.
- In 2016, the county received a D for air quality from the American Lung Association, putting up to 23,069 asthmatic children and 158,199 elderly adults at special risk. Asthma diagnoses among children and residents of all ages continue to decline relative to the state; however, the county sees higher rates of asthma-related hospitalizations.
- Infant mortality rose to 4.3 per 1,000 in 2015 and is projected to top 5.0 in 2017. Although still lower than the state (5.0 per 1,000), the county's rate (4.3) has worsened while the state's has improved. About 88% of pregnant women receive first trimester prenatal care in the county, with multi-racial (80%) and Latino mothers (81%) least likely to receive care.
- From 2013 to 2014, the adult felony arrest rate in Contra Costa also rose nearly 4% with 11,519 arrests. Contra Costa's incarceration rate dropped 8% since 2014 from 315 per 100,000 to 291 per 100,000, while California's rate declined 9%. The rates of juvenile misdemeanor and felony arrests in both state and county have fallen sharply in recent years and this trend continues in 2014, with 1,025 juvenile misdemeanor arrests in the county and 627 juvenile felony arrests.

Education

- About 9,845 children age 0-5 are income-eligible for Head Start in Contra Costa, but access to childcare remains a problem. Barriers to access include a 7% drop in the number of childcare slots in licensed centers and homes, down from 38,237 slots in 2004 to 35,459 slots in 2014, and a 27% drop in the number of facility sites.
- In 2017, the county has 18,465 preschool daycare center slots and 1,888 infant center slots in licensed centers, with 42% of requests for licensed childcare involving preschoolers and 39% involving infants. Cost also remains a barrier, as full-time infant care in 2014 tops \$14,979 annually, up \$2,329 or 18% from 2010. Notably in California as a whole, only 9% of 0-2 year olds and 40% of 3 year olds eligible for childcare subsidies receive them, and even when available, subsidies may cover as little as 55% of a family's out-of-pocket costs for childcare.
- Contra Costa schools enrolled 176,437 children in 2015, up 7% since 2007, with a 5% growth in preschoolers and a 6% growth in kindergarteners.
- Of 2,744 students in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in Contra Costa County, 29% are English Learners (EL) and 40% are socio-economically disadvantaged (SD), but SD rates are higher among Pacific Islander (71%), African American (68%) and Latino (64%) TK students.
- About 89% of residents have at least a high school education, including 95% of U.S.-born residents, 86% of naturalized citizens and 63% of non-citizens.