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Contra Costa County California
Employment & Human Services

Poverty In Contra Costa County

February 25, 2014

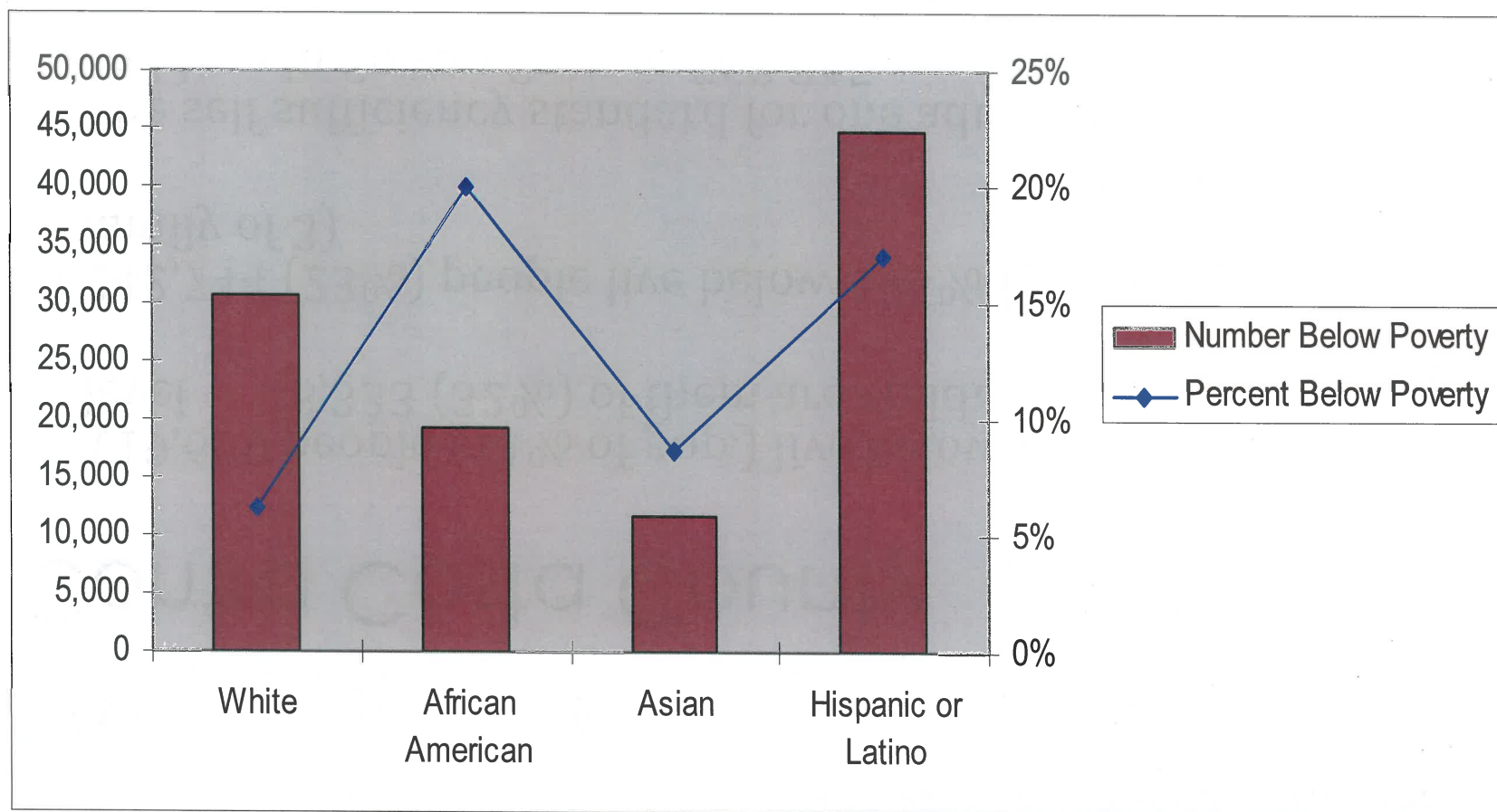
Measuring Poverty

- The 2014 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of four is \$23,850
- The FPL is a national measure that does not adjust for cost of living in high cost parts of the country
- Contra Costa is the 4th wealthiest county in California (median household income \$74,177)
- Many Contra Costa families are in crisis and more are struggling to make ends meet than the poverty rates alone suggest

2012 Status of Poverty Contra Costa County

- 119,600 people (11% of pop.) live below the federal poverty level -- 38,333 (32%) of them are children
- 242,744 (23%) people live below 185% FPL (\$36,611 for a family of 3)
- The self sufficiency standard for one adult and two young children in Contra Costa is \$63,945
- Nearly 50,000 Contra Costa residents live in deep poverty (less than 50% of FPL)

2012 Contra Costa Poverty by Race & Ethnicity



More than half of Contra Costa's population in poverty live in four cities: Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg and Richmond

2012 Contra Costa County Poverty by City	number in poverty	% in poverty	150% of poverty	% of children in poverty	% working at least part time and living in poverty
Richmond	18,454	18%	29%	18%	31%
Concord	15,181	12%	21%	19%	27%
Antioch	14,963	15%	23%	20%	28%
Danville	1,667	4%	5%	6%	8%
San Ramon	2,510	3%	6%	4%	16%
Pittsburg	12,428	19%	28%	29%	35%

Poverty Reduction Work

1. Safety Net Services – EHSD
2. Collective Impact Strategies – SparkPoint
3. Innovating & Organizing Strategies
 - Safety Net Initiative
 - Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP)
 - Rise Together

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Every day EHSD programs help thousands of residents in their efforts to escape poverty by:

- Connecting 60,000 people to health care via Medi-Cal
- Helping 65,000 people get food through CalFresh (formerly food stamps) each month



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- Helping hundreds of parents afford work by caring for their children at Head Start
- Helping hundreds of adults find jobs that pay sustainable wages each year through CalWorks and the local American Job Centers of California Network

Public Benefit Recipients

There is not an “average” public benefits recipient. Here’s a broad picture:

Race/Ethnicity

- CalFresh: Black 31%, Hispanic 29%, White 27%
- CalWorks: Black 38%, Hispanic 32%, White 20%
- Medi-Cal: Hispanic 34%, Black 20%, White 23%

Public Benefit Recipients

Age

- 50% of CalFresh recipients are children
- 80% of CalWorks recipients are children

Languages Spoken

- More than 19 languages spoken by benefits recipients
- 80% English, 18% Spanish, 2% other

CalFresh Highlights

- More than 65,000 low income people in Contra Costa County get help putting food on the table through CalFresh.
- 48,000 people in Contra Costa are **eligible** for CalFresh but **not enrolled**.
- If these 45,000 people were enrolled, hunger would be reduced, and
- \$96 million would be put into the local economy over the course of the year.

CalFresh

The CalFresh Partner group, consisting of staff from EHSD, the Food Bank, the Crisis Center, First 5/FESP and the Y&H Soda Foundation, is working on strategies to connect those 25,000 households to CalFresh

Strategies include:

- Streamline and improve EHSD business processes
- Improve benefits access through partner collaboration
- Increase community CalFresh education

Recommended Action

Pledge Contra Costa County support for Rise Together's Road Map to Cut Poverty

Direct staff to return to the Board in six months with an update on:

1. County poverty facts
2. CalFresh enrollment strategies and rates
3. Rise Together and other antipoverty initiatives

Collective Impact Poverty Reduction Strategies

Brief comments from community partners

- Safety Net Innovation Network,
Bob Uyeki, Y&H Soda Foundation
- SparkPoint, *Jim Becker, Richmond Community Foundation*
- Family Economic Security Partnership, *Sean Casey, First 5/FESP*
- Rise Together, *Lorne Needle, United Way of the Bay Area*