Child and Family Data for Action

First 5 Alameda County is committed to advocating for and achieving equity, with a focus on racial and economic justice, to ensure that all children in Alameda County are born healthy and can achieve their full potential. Given the triple pandemics of COVID-19, racism, and poverty, we have a unique opportunity to remedy historic, structural racism with investments that recognize and correct injustice and exploitation of low-income people and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

ALAMEDA COUNTY FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population (2021)</td>
<td>1,656,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babies born (2019)</td>
<td>18,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under age 6 (2021)</td>
<td>113,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with children under age 6 (2019)</td>
<td>~71,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.8% of the total population are children under age 6 (2021).

FINANCIAL REALITIES FOR FAMILIES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

$137,660 Income required to meet a family's basic needs based on a family of two parents, one infant, and one preschooler.

$102,760 Gap between the income required to meet basic needs and the income of a family living at the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), with maximum 2021 tax credits.

$56,000 Income of 2 full-time workers at California minimum wage (2021).

$39,280 Average Income of ECE professional.

$34,900 = FPL + Maximum 2021 State/Federal Tax Benefits.

$26,500 2021 FPL for a family of 4.

1/3 of a family's income is going towards child care based on a family of two parents, one infant, and one preschooler.

IN ALAMEDA COUNTY...

Approximately 1 in 10 children under 6 lives below the Federal Poverty Level (2019).

59% of family child care providers reported earning less than $15 per hour.

+68% increase in child care cost 2014 - 2021.

34% increase in median family income 2000-2019.

50% of renters pay more than 1/3 of their income for rent.
Addressing Racial Disparities and Family Economic Security

We center equity in our research, advocacy, and policy to create conditions and systems where children can reach their full potential. Alameda is a wealthy county, but high in racial disparity.

Alameda ranks as the 4th most racially disparate county in California.\(^{15}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>4th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>most racially disparate county for food security</td>
<td>most racially disparate county for access to early childhood education</td>
<td>most racially disparate county for preventable hospitalizations</td>
<td>most racially disparate county for utilization of subprime mortgage loans by homeowners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black households take home roughly 1/3 the income of white households after rent.\(^{15}\)

Child Poverty 0-5 & COVID-19 Rates\(^{16,17}\)

We find that differences in kindergarten readiness are largely attributable to inequities in access to resources. The greatest moveable factor continues to be child health and well-being, which is tied to socioeconomics, housing stability, and stress among parents/caregivers.\(^{18}\)

Kindergarten Readiness\(^{18}\)

To learn more about how kindergarten readiness is assessed, view the

Legend

Kindergarten Readiness Zip Codes
- Lowest 25%
- 25% to 50%
- 50% to 75%
- 75% to 100%

*Zip codes with fewer than 5 participants are not shown.
**Readiness scores represent individuals living in the zip code and do not represent the overall readiness of children in that zip code.
The Social Safety Net for Families in Alameda County

First 5 advocates for policies that advance economic justice, and supports strategies such as Universal Basic Income, an improved public safety net, living wage jobs, education and apprenticeship programs, work supports, and savings and wealth-building that promote the health and well-being of families with young children.

Families with Children Accessing Health and Economic Supports

Children 0-6 Enrolled in Public Benefits in Alameda County 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Children 0-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Cal</td>
<td>32,008</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CalFresh</td>
<td>12,182</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Nationally, only 2%–3% of all children receive public early intervention services by age 3 years, compared with approximately 15% who are estimated to have a developmental disability during childhood.\(^{20}\)
- Among currently eligible kids in the 1 to 4 age range nationally, WIC enrollments are just 42%.\(^{21}\)
- In Alameda County, an estimated 9.9% of children live in a household that has experienced food insecurity in the past year.\(^{22}\)
- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alameda County Community Food Bank increased food distribution by 51%.\(^{23}\)

Helping Families Navigate the Challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic

With families facing historic levels of job loss, child care and school closures, health care challenges, and food and housing insecurity, the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated persistent health and economic inequities. These challenges pose a particular threat with long-term implications for the health and well-being of children under age five, especially children of color.

Diaper Need

Without a supply of clean diapers, families cannot leave their children with child care providers and cannot go to work. Diaper need is a predictor of postpartum depression in mothers and can make it difficult for mothers and babies to form an attachment.\(^{24}\)

It costs approximately $18 a week to diaper one child, and $1,872 per year to diaper two.\(^{25}\)
For a parent earning the federal minimum wage, diapering two children accounts for about 12% of their annual gross income.\(^{26}\)

1 in 3 families struggled to afford diapers prior to the pandemic.\(^{27}\)
California provides $30 a month for families receiving CalWORKs to purchase diapers.\(^{28}\)

First 5 funded an evaluation of the diaper distribution efforts of Help a Mother Out (HAMO) in Alameda County. The evaluation of HAMO’s work demonstrated success to make the case for expanded public investment.

Families who received diapers, a form of income support, reported being healthier and happier.\(^{25}\)

- 97% say their child is healthier
- 98% say their family feels less stressed
- 95% have more money in the budget for food
- 99% say they are a happier caregiver

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The COVID-19 Pandemic’s Effects on Early Care and Education

Our flagship research on kindergarten readiness in Alameda County consistently shows the importance of early care and education (ECE) participation for children’s kindergarten readiness. High quality, affordable child care is critical for healthy child development, families’ ability to thrive, and the county’s successful economic recovery from COVID-19.

Between March 2020 and January 2021 an estimated 153 (7%) of licensed child care facilities permanently closed.29

We estimate that the Alameda County ECE field lost $395 million in FY2020-21 alone ($220 million without taking the increased cost of providing care into consideration) and continues to experience losses in the current fiscal year.30

The state has increased reimbursement rates, which could bring an increase of over $20 million countywide to subsidized child care programs for children birth-5. Yet the new rates are still far below the true cost of care.31

96% of Alameda County ECE educators identify as women8
79% of Alameda County ECE educators identify as women of color8
87% of ECE educators are considered very low income for Alameda County8
20% of providers at child care centers reported earning less than $15 per hour8

Support for Access to Essential Supplies

Through our established Community Resilience Fund, First 5 launched a massive relief effort, based on an equity framework, that prioritizes investment in people and places disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to structural race and class bigotries.

Essential Supplies Distributed by First 5 and Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>diapers</td>
<td>4,398,760+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baby wipes</td>
<td>102,965+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gloves</td>
<td>462,400+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bottles of sanitizer</td>
<td>51,764+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>masks</td>
<td>881,947+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coloring books</td>
<td>22,549+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feminine hygiene products</td>
<td>51,472+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>air purifiers</td>
<td>1,044</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Children and Families

For Child Care Providers

Inadequate Reimbursement Rates for Providers


6. Analysis by First 5 Alameda County calculating the difference between Income Required to Meet Basic Needs [see citation 5] - (FPL + 2021 Max Tax Credits) [see citation 9] = $102,760. Based on a family of two adults and two children under age 6 filing with an Individual Tax Identification Number.


8. California Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Registry. (October 2020). Note: Self-reported data for 2,348 people registered in the Alameda County Workforce Registry as of October 2020. The Workforce Registry only represents a subset of the ECE workforce as it is a voluntary database. The registry includes an overrepresentation of those working at child care centers and Title 5 programs compared to other child care program types. Registry participants report wages as an hourly gross rate or annual, monthly, or weekly gross salary. Annual wage was calculated by multiplying their self-reported wage and their self-reported number of hours worked by 50 weeks.

9. Analysis by First 5 Alameda County calculating the sum of the income of a family of four living at the 2021 Federal Poverty Level ($25,560) plus the maximum tax credits available from the expanded federal 2021 Child Tax Credit ($7,200) and the 2021 California Golden State Stimulus ($1,200) = $34,900. Based on a family of two adults and two children under age 6 filing with an Individual Tax Identification Number.


26. Calculated by Public Profit. $7.25/hour (federal minimum wage as of 07/2020) * 40 hours/week (parent working full time) * 52 weeks (1 year of work) = $15,080. $1,872 (estimated cost to diaper 2 children for 1 year) / $15,080 (annual earnings for full-time work at federal minimum wage) * 100 = 12.4% of annual gross income.


30. Estimate based on extrapolation from survey data and administrative data from October 2020 Alameda County Child Care Program Survey conducted by the Alameda County Early Care and Education Program Local Planning Council and First 5 Alameda County.

31. First 5 Alameda County analysis conducted in October 2021. Estimates suggest that, based on population, Alameda County could see nearly 4,000 more subsidized slots based on the 2021-22 adopted budget. Meanwhile, estimates suggest that if the new reimbursement rates continue as an increase of over $20 million countywide to subsidized child care providers just for the slots for children age 0-5 currently in the system (estimates based on assumption of full day care rates). The Center for American Progress provides estimates of the true costs of care for child care programs in California.