



# DATA FOR ACTION 2025



Building coordinated systems that center the whole community, whole family, and whole child requires teamwork, collaboration, and data-informed collective action from partner agencies, community-based organizations, advocates, and decision-makers to promote equitable policies and inform systemic solutions across local, state, and federal levels.

## ALAMEDA COUNTY IS A POPULOUS COUNTY

**1,663,823**  
total population in 2022<sup>1</sup>

**16,900**  
babies born in 2021<sup>2</sup>

**109,579**  
children under age 6,  
6.4% of the total  
population (2022)<sup>3</sup>

**~71,000**  
households with  
children under age 6<sup>4</sup>

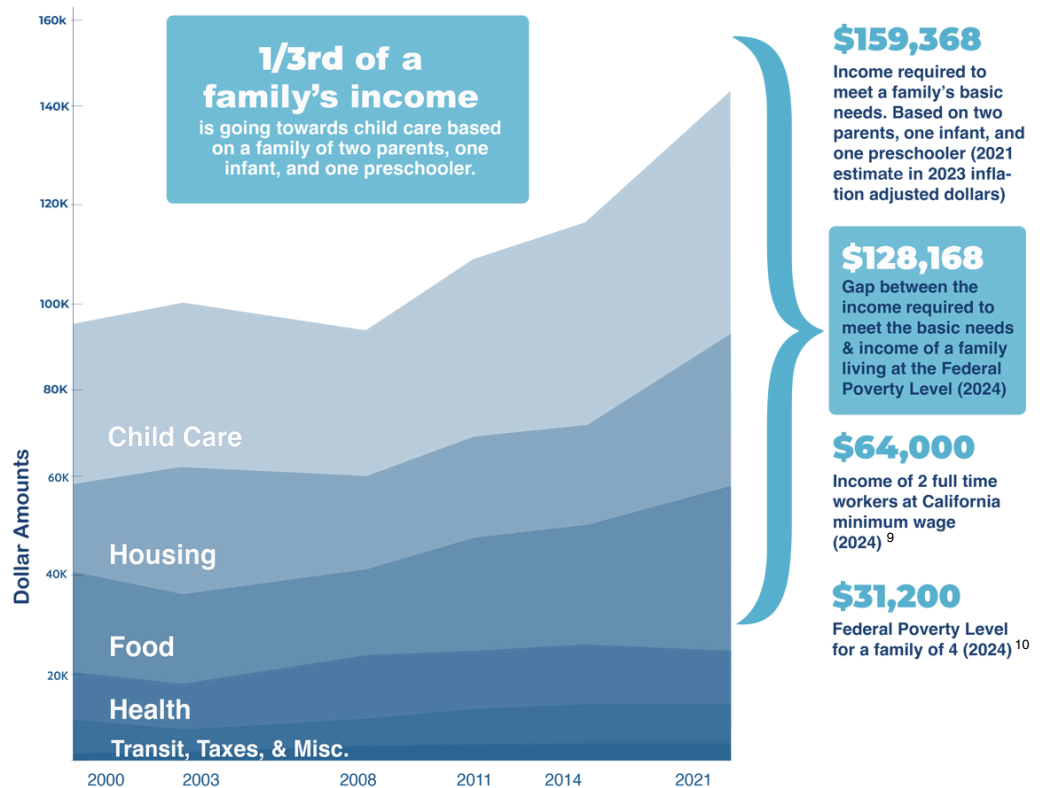
## ALAMEDA COUNTY IS A DIVERSE COUNTY

**7th**  
most diverse county in  
the US (2020)<sup>5</sup>

**53%**  
of children under 6  
estimated to live in  
families with at least  
one foreign-born  
parent (2022)<sup>6</sup>

**46%**  
of Alameda County residents  
over 5 live in households where  
a language other than English is  
spoken at home (2022)<sup>7</sup>

## ALAMEDA COUNTY IS A HIGH COST OF LIVING COUNTY<sup>8</sup>



Source: Insight Center for Community Economic Development

# FINANCIAL REALITIES FOR FAMILIES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

## COST OF LIVING CONTINUES TO RISE AT AN UNSUSTAINABLE RATE



increase in cost of child care (2014-2021)<sup>11</sup>



cumulative inflation rate over the past four years<sup>12</sup>



renters pay more than 1/3 income for rent<sup>13</sup>

## WHAT DOES THE HIGH COST OF LIVING MEAN?



of households where all parents are in the labor force<sup>14</sup>



of households in Alameda County struggle to meet their basic needs<sup>8</sup>



families unable to afford diapers<sup>15</sup>



children in Alameda County experienced food insecurity<sup>16</sup>



people in families were estimated to be homeless in 2024 count<sup>17</sup>

## THE COST OF LIVING DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS WOMEN & PEOPLE OF COLOR



women face economic insecurity<sup>8</sup>



of households that struggle to meet their basic needs are headed by a person of color<sup>8</sup>

# FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ACCESSING SOCIAL SAFETY NET SUPPORTS

First 5 advocates for policies that advance economic justice and support strategies that guarantee families have sufficient income to meet basic needs and create enriching home environments. Accessing safety net services such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh and early care and education subsidies and supports is a key strategy to address the financial strain families face.



children under 6 are enrolled in Medi-Cal (~4 out of 10 children under 6)<sup>18</sup>



families utilizing WIC benefits in 2021 (~1 out of 3 families with children under 6)<sup>19</sup>



children under 6 are enrolled in CalFresh (~2 out of 10 children under 6)<sup>20</sup>



of people in families experiencing homelessness were in sheltered care - a 24% increase from 2022<sup>17</sup>



families use Medi-Cal to pay for the birth of their children<sup>21</sup>



children under 6 accessed a subsidy for children (~1 out of 10 children under 6)<sup>22</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT ON GUARANTEED INCOME PILOT

100% families in the 2021-22 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment who participated in the Oakland Resilient Families Guaranteed Income pilot reported significantly higher kindergarten readiness than other similar families. The pilot, which ran from 2021-2023 provided \$500 monthly payments to 600 participants.

## ADDRESSING RACIAL DISPARITIES IN FAMILY HEALTH & WELL-BEING

We center equity in our research, advocacy, and policy to create conditions and systems where children can reach their full potential. Infants, children and women, especially those who identify as people of color, bear the brunt of structural inequities. These disparities most impact Black, Asian Pacific Islander and Native American communities.

### STRUCTURAL INEQUITIES LEAD TO RACIAL DISPARITIES



**Black women and birthing people are 3x more likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth and to experience more maternal health complications.**<sup>24</sup>



**Black babies are 3-4x more likely to be born too early, too small, or to die before their first birthday.**<sup>24</sup>



**Pacific Islander babies are 1.7x more likely than White babies to be born premature.**<sup>25</sup>

### STRUCTURAL RACISM IMPACTS BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH



#### NEIGHBORHOOD CONDITIONS

In Alameda County, **Black women and families are 2x more likely** to live in poverty or experience hardships during pregnancy<sup>26</sup>



#### CHRONIC STRESS

In Alameda County, **Black mothers have the highest gestational hypertension rates** — 2.5x > than Asian mothers<sup>26</sup>



#### LACK OF ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY, RESPECTFUL CARE

A recent national survey of Black women who used health care in the past three years found that **34% report at least one of three consequences because of a negative experience with a health care provider** for any reason: worse health (13%), being less likely to seek care (19%), or switching providers (27%).<sup>27</sup>

## SUPPORTING THE HEALTH & WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES

Family health and well-being is supported by connection to community-based resources through family navigations and access to health and mental health services that are culturally inclusive and include vision, dental, screenings, and preventive care.



**67%**

of parents/caregivers expressed concern about their child's health and well-being<sup>23</sup>



**65%**

of families indicated that help connecting to resources was **important to them**; only 12% of all families had received this assistance<sup>23</sup>



**40%**

of children who regularly attended well-child visits missed these visits over the past three years<sup>23</sup>



**2 out of 3**

Parents of children ages 3-6 reported that their children had not received a developmental screening and only 6% of parents reported their children having an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) screening.<sup>23</sup>



**Ranked 51**

of 58 counties for adequacy of prenatal care. 6 in 10 women receive adequate prenatal care. Less than half of mothers who identify as Pacific Islander received adequate prenatal care—the lowest of any race group.<sup>28</sup>



**1,400**

children in Alameda County are in the child welfare system<sup>29</sup>




### SPOTLIGHT ON PEDIATRIC CARE COORDINATION


First 5 Alameda County Pediatric Care Coordination services connect children to preventive care, early intervention and community supports for optimal growth and development. First 5's care coordinators provide families with culturally tailored navigation assistance to resources such as mental health, dental care, regional center programming, food access, housing, child care, healthcare and other basic needs. In a recent survey of Alameda County parents, children who regularly attended well-child visits had a higher level of kindergarten readiness.


# ACCESS TO CHILD CARE

Scarcity of public resources limits the existence of, and access to, quality child care and quality community-based programming. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ECE system suffered from low supply and high cost. The shortage of licensed child care is particularly acute in infant and toddler settings.

## A STABLE & SUPPORTED WORKFORCE IS CRITICAL FOR ENSURING ACCESS TO EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

 75% of early childhood educators in the county worry about paying monthly bills and over 50% worry about food security.<sup>30</sup>

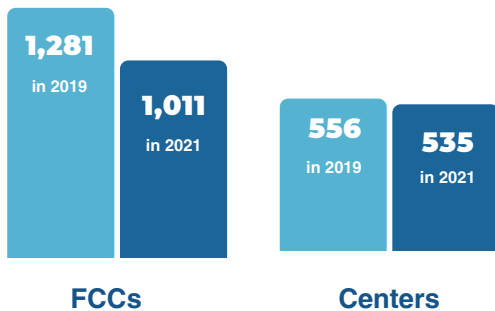
 The earnings range from a mean of \$55K for preschool teachers to \$46K for ECE workers in our region, leaving many educators to worry about meeting their own basic needs.<sup>33</sup>


 The adverse effects of low compensation disproportionately impact women, and in particular, women of color, with 96% of our ECE workforce identifying as women and nearly 80% as women of color.<sup>32</sup>


 On average, ECE educators earn half of elementary school teachers.<sup>33</sup>

## EVERY CHILD DESERVES ACCESS TO SAFE SPACES

From 2019 to 2021, there were 21 fewer licensed centers and 270 fewer family child care (FCC) sites in Alameda County.<sup>33</sup>

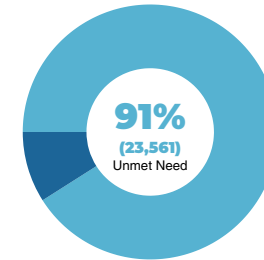


 There is a significant need for investment and expansion in ECE licensed facilities. We estimate that the facilities cost to meet demand for licensed ECE child care in Alameda is likely in the range of \$2 billion to \$4 billion.<sup>34</sup>

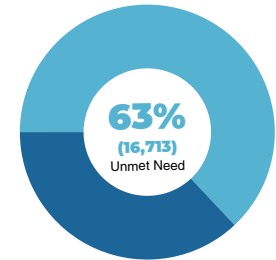
 65% of child care sites reported at least one of their property components is inadequate, substandard, or worse, while 29% of sites reported that six or more of their property components are inadequate, substandard, or worse.<sup>35</sup>

## ACCESS TO SUBSIDIZED CARE<sup>36</sup>

Infant/Toddler Unmet Need for Subsidized Care (2021)



Preschool Unmet Need for Subsidized Care (2021)

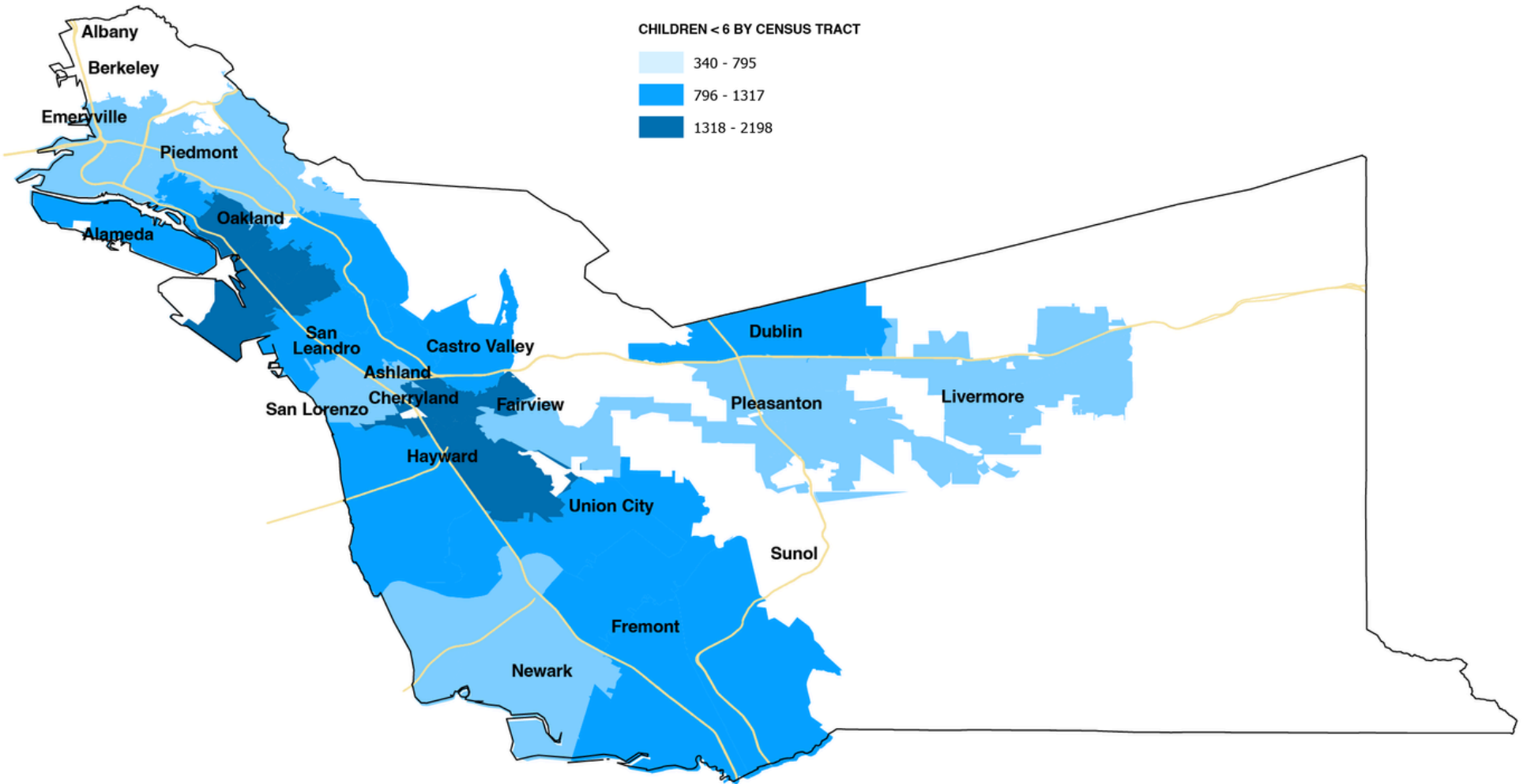
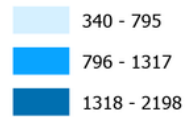


## SPOTLIGHT ON MEASURE C

Measure C, the Children's Health and Child Care Initiative, is a 0.5% sales tax that was approved by voters in March 2020 to generate approximately \$150 million annually for expanding access to early childhood education and health care in Alameda County. Measure C funding will help enhance the quality of early care and education (ECE) programs and increase access to high-quality early learning programs for low- and middle-income families in Alameda County. It will also improve compensation for participating ECE providers and enhance professional development programs and the eligibility and enrollment system for providers, as well as fund facilities improvements to ECE sites and other early childhood spaces.

# CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX WHO LIVE IN FAMILIES EARNING LESS THAN 85% THE STATE MEDIAN INCOME (2021)<sup>37</sup>

CHILDREN < 6 BY CENSUS TRACT

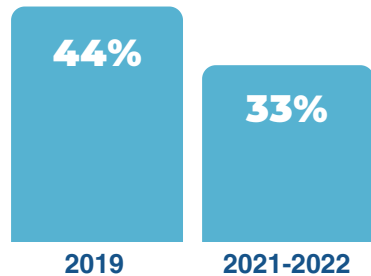


# KINDERGARTEN READINESS

At First 5 Alameda County our “North Star,” the population result that guides our work, is that all children are ready for kindergarten. Our work is to ensure that policies, systems, communities, and schools support families and children by creating the conditions that position all for success. We find that differences in kindergarten readiness are closely associated with socioeconomic conditions rooted in structural racism and classism and disinvestment in neighborhoods.

## KINDERGARTEN READINESS IN 2021-2022

According to parents/caregivers, 33% of children were fully ready for kindergarten compared to 44% in 2019. **Structural inequities compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted children, families, and communities.**<sup>23</sup>



Achievement gaps persist for children who are not ready for kindergarten.

**4 out of 5**

children who are not ready for kindergarten continue to struggle academically in third grade (2018).<sup>38</sup>



Our 2021-22 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment found that receiving support from the place-based Neighborhoods Ready for School initiative was associated with higher readiness overall.<sup>23</sup>

## UNIVERSAL COUNTY-WIDE TOOL TO ASSESS KINDERGARTEN READINESS

First 5 Alameda County is proud to share that the Early Development Instrument (EDI) has been formally adopted countywide to comprehensively measure the various factors that impact kindergarten readiness. First 5 engaged in a participatory process, in partnership with the Alameda County Office of Education, to select a tool that will help us better understand kindergarten readiness among the County’s youngest learners. The goal is to administer the EDI to every kindergarten-age public school student in the county beginning in academic year 2025-26. The data we collect will paint a detailed picture of what our communities’ young children are experiencing, and where we can invest to help them and their families thrive. This new assessment tool is an important step towards a future where every child in Alameda County starts kindergarten ready to succeed.

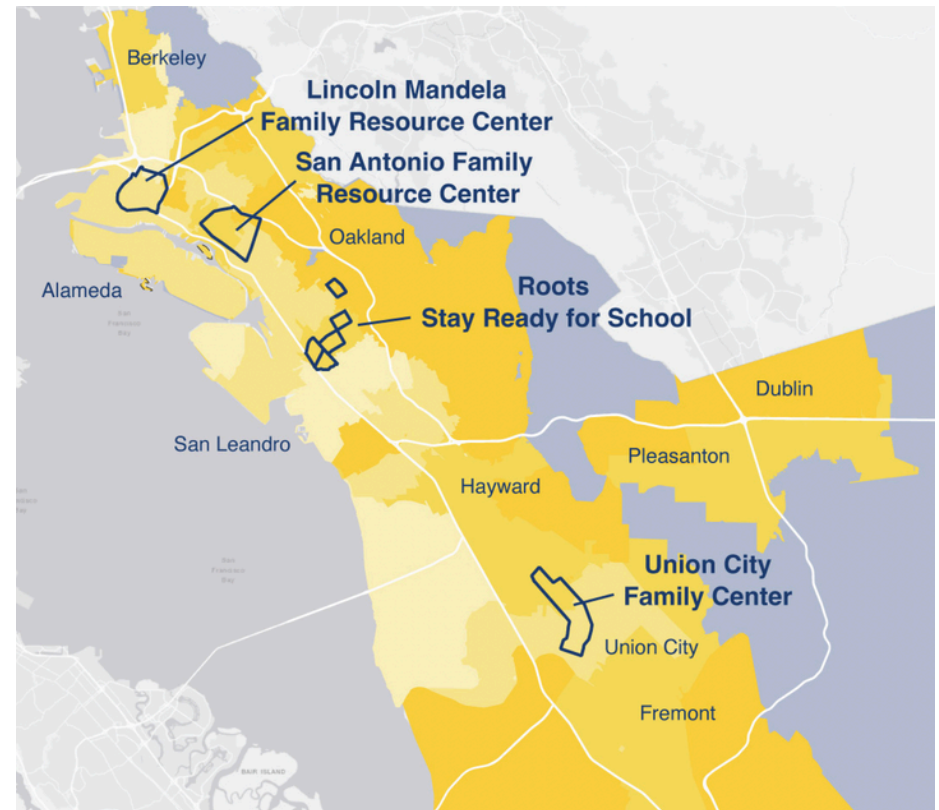
## FIRST 5 PLACE-BASED STRATEGIES AND KINDERGARTEN READINESS<sup>23</sup>

### Legend

- First 5 Neighborhoods Ready for School Grantee Service Areas
- Alameda County

### Parent’s perception of their child’s readiness for kindergarten

- More than 50%
- 33% to 50%
- 20% to 33% (County Average)
- Less than 20% of parents feel their child is ready



# CITATIONS

1. U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Table B01003: Total Population. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/>.
2. California Department of Public Health (2021). "Cal-Vida Birth Data." California Department of Public Health, <https://cal-vida.cdph.ca.gov/>. Accessed 8/23/2024.
3. U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Table B27001: Health Insurance Coverage Status by Sex by Age. 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/>.
4. U.S. Census Bureau (2022). Family Type by Presence and Age of Own Children Under 18. American Community Survey 5-year estimates (B11003). Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/>.
5. U.S. News & World Report. "The 15 Most Diverse Counties in the U.S." U.S. News & World Report, 2021, <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/slideshows/the-15-most-diverse-counties-in-the-us>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2024.
6. U.S. Census Bureau. "Age and Nativity of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Nativity of Parents: 2022." American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B05009, [https://data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov/).
7. U.S. Census Bureau. "Household Language by Household Limited English Speaking Status: 2023." American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B16002, [https://data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov/).
8. Insight Center (2021). California Family Needs Calculator (formerly the California Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard or Self-Sufficiency Standard), Alameda County. Retrieved from <https://insightccd.org/family-needs-calculator/>
9. California Department of Developmental Services. (2024). Minimum Wage – 2024. Based on two workers working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year. Retrieved from <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/minimum-wage/>
10. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Poverty Guidelines." Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2023, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>. Accessed 8/23/2024.
11. Insight Center (2021). Family Needs Indicator - Alameda County Fact Sheet. Retrieved from: <https://insightccd.org/the-cost-of-being-californian-alameda-county-fact-sheet/>
12. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Consumer Price Index." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>. Calculated using December CPI change from 2020-2023.
13. U.S. Census Bureau. "Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months: 2022." American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B25070, [https://data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov/).
14. U.S. Census Bureau. "Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents: 2022." American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008, [https://data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov/).
15. National Diaper Bank Network. (2021) Diaper Need and Its Impact On U.S. Families. Retrieved from <https://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Diaper-Need-and-Its-Impact-on-US-Families.pdf>
16. ACPHD. Healthy Alameda County website. Child Food Insecurity Rate. (2018). Retrieved from <http://www.healthyalamedacounty.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=2108&localeId=23>
17. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. "Alameda County EveryOne Counts! 2022 Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey Report." EveryOne Home, September 2022, [https://everyonehome.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-Alameda-County-PIT-Report\\_9.22.22-FINAL-3.pdf](https://everyonehome.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-Alameda-County-PIT-Report_9.22.22-FINAL-3.pdf). Accessed 11 Dec. 2024.
18. Alameda County Social Services Agency. (2021). Medi-Cal enrollment numbers represent a cumulative count for 2023. Data Analysis, Research and Evaluation Section. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Division, California Department of Public Health. 2023. WIC-Redemption-by-County-by-Participant-Category-Data.csv. Alameda County Social Services Agency. (2021). CalFresh enrollment numbers represent a cumulative count for 2023.
19. California Department of Public Health (2021). "Cal-Vida Birth Data." California Department of Public Health, <https://cal-vida.cdph.ca.gov/>. Accessed 8/23/2024.
20. Department of Public Health, <https://cal-vida.cdph.ca.gov/>. Accessed 8/23/2024. Subsidy utilization is a combination of contractor reporting to Quality Counts (22- 23),
21. Alternative Payment Voucher claims (22-23) and California Department of Education TK enrollment (SED students only)
22. Applied Survey Research. (2021). 2021-2022 Kindergarten Readiness in Alameda County. Retrieved from <http://www.first5alameda.org/child-development/assessment>
23. Alameda Public Health Department (n.d), Perinatal Equity Initiative webpage. Retrieved from <https://acphd.org/programs-and-services/perinatal-equity-initiative/>
24. Alameda County Public Health Department. "Alameda County Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Health Indicators Table." Alameda County Public Health Department, February 2023, <https://acphd-web-media.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/media/data-reports/mpca/docs/acphd-mpcah-indicators-table-feb-2023.pdf>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2024.
25. Alameda County Public Health Department. "Alameda County Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Health Indicators Table." Alameda County Public Health Department, February 2023, <https://acphd-web-media.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/media/data-reports/mpca/docs/acphd-mpcah-indicators-table-feb-2023.pdf>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2024.

# CITATIONS

27. California Department of Public Health. "Centering Black Mothers: Maternal and Infant Health in California." Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health, April 2023, <https://go.cdph.ca.gov/centering-black-mothers>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2024.
28. California Budget & Policy Center. "Women's Well-Being Index." California Budget & Policy Center, <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/womens-well-being-index/>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2024.
29. Webster, D., et al. California Child Welfare Indicators Project Reports. UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (Jul. 2019).
30. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. Alameda County SEQUAL Report. University of California, Berkeley, 2016.
31. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Wages by Area and Occupation." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2024.
32. California Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Registry. (October 2023). Note: Self-reported data for 5,637 people registered in the Alameda County Workforce Registry as of October 2023. 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.
33. Data provided by the California Resource and Referral Network (2021)
34. 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 the new reimbursement rates could bring 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.
35. First 5 Alameda County. "Facilities Needs Assessment 2022." First 5 Alameda County, 2022, <https://www.first5alameda.org/files/Facilities%20Needs%20Assessment%202022%20V2.pdf>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2024.
36. Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council (2021) Alameda County Early Care and Education Needs Assessment. Retrieved from: <http://www.first5alameda.org/files/2021%20Alameda%20County%20ECE%20Needs%20Assessment%20FINAL.pdf>
37. U.S. Census Bureau. "2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)." U.S. Census Bureau, <https://data.census.gov>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2024.
38. Applied Survey Research. (2018). Kindergarten Readiness and Later Achievement, A Longitudinal Study in Alameda County. Retrieved from <http://www.first5alameda.org/files/Alameda%20Longitudinal%20KRA%20Study%20Final.pdf>

## CONTACT US

First 5 Alameda County  
media@first5alameda.org  
1115 Atlantic Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501



## CONNECT WITH US



[www.first5alameda.org](http://www.first5alameda.org)