

Santa Clara County Community Assessment Project Secondary Data Committee Summary Findings

A component of the Community Assessment Project is an examination of existing data reports, research and studies conducted by other institutions and entities about this community. The Committee examined more than 50 reports, the list of those reports is found at the end of this summary. Links to the source material and Committee review comments will be on the Community Assessment Project web site. www.scc-cap.org These studies provide a perspective on demographics, current community conditions, and emerging issues and trends in Santa Clara County.

The Secondary Data Committee, with input and guidance from the Community Assessment Steering Committee, categorized their findings under three macro headings. Though these were considered separate areas for the purpose of this review, they are all interwoven, elements of each often intersect and in many ways these three are not stand alone categories.

- **Economic Security**
- **Education**
- **Health & Wellness**

As a further framework for analysis, the Secondary Data Committee used the following filters:

- **What are the most salient/meaningful key findings?**
- **Are there disparate outcomes and conditions for people in the community?**
- **Through a lens of our diversity (e.g. age, geography, ethnicity, etc.) what do these studies tell us?**
- **What are the community's strengths or assets?**
- **What aspects of community living, if strengthened, could improve the quality of life for people?**

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ECONOMIC SECURITY

For analysis of the economy and economic conditions, the Committee determined that achieving economic security is fundamental and includes three distinct and critical elements:

- **Sustaining Income**
- **Affordable Housing**
- **Savings and Assets**

KEY FINDINGS

Sustaining Income

Having an adequate income is fundamental to achieving economic self-sufficiency. This is defined as not having to forgo one basic need over another – such as housing, healthcare, childcare, or food - due to lack of income (40). For most people in Silicon Valley, their own or family's income comes from jobs. Income may also be derived from investments, pensions, social security, or other public benefit programs.

Jobs & Job Growth

Securing sustainable income is contingent on an adequate supply of good paying jobs. As the most populace county in the Bay Area region, with a population of 1,781,642, Santa Clara County is also one of the most affluent counties in the United States (45). A large population such as this requires significant employment opportunities to sustain its people.

While this is an affluent area overall, research shows that as many as 1 in 4 local households struggle to make ends meet. (40) Further, the 2010 US Census indicates that more Bay Area residents were leaving the area than moving in, due, in part, to local economics: costs of living and employment opportunities that match the costs of living. This population shift is very pronounced for Santa Clara County, where 24,000 new people arrived as 83,000 residents left between the years of 2005-2009. Those most likely to leave were older residents, who were leaving because of affordability. Additionally, college-aged residents were leaving to go to college or to find jobs elsewhere (8). Regionally, about half of residents who left the Bay Area moved out of state (8).

Unlike many parts of the country and California in general, Silicon Valley is viewed as being on the rebound economically and added a relatively significant number of jobs in 2011. Though the region added 42,000 jobs in 2011, those jobs were primarily being added to the fields of Information & Specialized Service and Innovation & Specialized Services (25). These are jobs that require academic skills and higher education. Silicon Valley continues to add jobs in 2012. Through the first half of 2012, Employment Development Department reported that construction jobs in the South Bay increased by 15 percent, retail jobs grew 3 percent, professional and business services was up 5 percent, and hotel jobs were up 4.9 percent. (39)

Two major local construction projects bring the promise of some additional employment and across an array of required skill levels. BART's four-year construction work will bring 2,500 construction-related jobs each year. The new 49er Stadium is projected to add 7,000 jobs (25).

The official unemployment rate at the time of this writing is at 8.7%, lower than the State average, but still above historical figures for what is deemed 'full employment' (9).

Changing Employment Picture

With projections of a significantly aging Santa Clara County population, this demographic shift will have implications for job growth, and in particular, the healthcare workforce. According to The Help Wanted Report (22) the majority of these aging-related jobs will be in what is known as allied health fields – which includes clinical, administrative and support positions – radiologic and laboratory technicians, nursing aides and medical secretaries. Between new job creation and the need to replace workers who retire, thousands of allied workers will need to be trained to fill the care

requirements of seniors. Some of these jobs can be filled by people with high school level education, yet many positions will require post-secondary certifications. Certified allied health positions are considered to well-paying, family-sustaining jobs. According to the Current Population Survey data, workers with such certifications earn 60% more on average over their lifetime than those without any post-secondary certification (22).

Underemployment

Data that looked at underemployment as a more comprehensive indicator of the health of the job market and overall economy counts three groups of workers: the total number of unemployed people, involuntary part-time workers who want full-time work but have had to settle for part-time hours, and “marginally attached” workers who are available and want to work but have given up actively looking. Studies (19) show that:

- Strictly speaking, underemployment alone (meaning underused and underutilized people, not counting those who are unemployed) impacts considerably more people than unemployment *per se* in San Jose and Santa Clara County (49).
- Statistics on total underemployment (unemployment & underemployment) are variable and fluid. In San Jose studies indicated a rate of as low as 25% and as high as 38%. For Santa Clara County as a whole, they showed a low estimate of 24% and the high estimate of 35%. With countywide unemployment, at 10.3%, according to EDD’s June 2011 estimate, even using the most conservative estimate of underemployment reveals that more local residents are affected by underemployment than those that are officially unemployed (49).
- The compensation and demand gap between the “High Performing” employment sectors and “Very Low Performing” employment sectors is getting bigger (19)

Education and Income

When the educational attainment of different population groups becomes more equal, wage gaps decrease, though they do not disappear. Higher education levels will result in higher rates of economic growth and lower unemployment (25). This disparity in educational achievement is most pronounced in the Hispanic population (25). Wages and incomes of this population have been greatly impacted due to the recession. Although, across Silicon Valley real per capita income increased for the second consecutive year in 2011 to about \$66,000, which represents a 4% gain over 2010. From 2008 to 2010, per capita income dropped across all other non-white groups, yet Hispanics saw the largest losses in income during this period falling 15%. (27) Hispanic women workers have the lowest median income in Santa Clara County, which is correlated to their lower average education level. (28)

Affordable Housing

Families in Santa Clara County struggle with housing affordability as throughout California, despite the ‘burst of the housing bubble’. According to the California Planning Roundtable, in the past 20 years, California’s housing prices have steadily outpaced its residents’ incomes. Housing production hasn’t kept up with the influx of new families from around the world and household growth within the state (29). Additionally, the location and type of new housing does not meet the needs of many new California households (29). As a result, only one in five households can afford a typical home, overcrowding doubled in the 1980s, and more than two million California households pay more than they can afford for their housing(29). Santa Clara County Housing Affordability Index is 56% (10)

According to Federal government definitions of affordable housing, families should devote no more than 30% of their income to rent or mortgage payments and utilities. “Affordable housing” often simply means housing whose residents don’t pay too large a share of their income on rent or mortgage.

- 46% of occupied units in Santa Clara County paid 30% or more of household income in rent and 50% of housing units with a mortgage paid 30% or more of household income on selected monthly owner costs(46)
- Affordable housing is becoming unattainable for many people. Rents have skyrocketed in Santa Clara County, in the last year they have increased 12.9% and in the city of San Jose increased by 10.1%(7)
- In 2012, the average monthly rent was \$1,811 in the Silicon Valley region (7)
- Minimum wage workers cannot afford the average monthly rents in Santa Clara County; their monthly earnings are below monthly rental rates(26)

Once a person becomes homeless, it is extremely difficult to get back into housing. The top obstacles cited as barriers to securing permanent housing were affordability of rent and difficulty in securing adequate incomes. The 2011 SCC Homeless Census & Survey of people in this county identified that more than 7,000 people were without permanent housing, and ¼ of them were unsheltered. ¾ of homeless people identified in the study were previously SCC residents before losing their home. Homelessness in SCC disproportionately affects: men (2/3), individuals (88%), Latinos (31% of homeless people vs. 23% of the population), and African Americans (17% of homeless people vs. less than 2% of the overall population) (3).

Savings and Assets

The community will be strengthened by eliminating inequities and providing opportunities for all families to build their wealth (meaning assets minus debts). Without wealth, families and communities cannot become and remain economically secure. Public policies have and continue to play a major role in creating and sustaining the racial wealth gap, and they can play a role in closing it.

Being a working member of our economy has associated costs, such as transportation to and from work and the expense of child care. As shown in the Family Budgets Report, child care costs, on average, account for around 25% of the typical budget for a family with two children. Thus, this particular expenditure is clearly an important leverage point for using work supports to narrow the gap between earnings and needs.

While a savings account is an important first step, or owning a house provides some stability, having only one kind of asset is not enough to remain secure. The following statistics speak to the state of the average American family, and can surely apply to Santa Clara County families:

- In 2010, median household income in Santa Clara County was \$85,002, which is much higher than the national average, as is the local cost of living (47)
- The average American family has \$3,800 in the bank(41)
- 50% of American households don't have a retirement account(41)
- Households with retirement accounts only have about \$35,000 saved per family(41)
- Average credit card debt is \$2,200(41)
- 40% of working Americans are not saving for retirement(41)
- 25% of households have no savings whatsoever(41)
- 24% of American workers have postponed retirement(41)
- Only 18% of people polled are very confident about their retirement situation.(41)
- \$2 trillion is the combined amount of personal debt held by Americans.(41)
- 7.7% of Americans don't own a bank account(41)

FACTORS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE: ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **Increasing Educational Attainment**

Strategies to increase educational attainment levels for all racial/ethnic groups is needed and can translate into sustainable wage increases, particularly for the segments in lower to moderate income ranges (which continues to decline, or be pushed out by high wage, high skilled workers).

- **Public Policies/Benefits Supporting Work**

Many families with low-wage and middle-wage jobs do not earn enough market-based income to meet their family's basic needs. Publicly provided work supports can assist workers. Work supports such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), child care subsidies and tax credits, and subsidies for housing, transportation, and health care are effective in increasing post-tax incomes and consumption for working families.

- **Policies that Encourage Savings**

Whether for retirement, education, starting a small business, policies and programs that encourage and provide incentives for families to build assets will benefit the whole community.

EDUCATION

The most significant factors in education in recent years are the changing make up of the school population and the significant decline in resources available to local school districts.

Enrollment patterns over the past ten years show an increasingly ethnically diversified student population. Hispanic/Latino enrollment has increased by 19.6% and the Asian student population increased by 21.8%. Caucasian student enrollment has decreased by 28.5%. African American students reflect a very small number of students overall, and have decreased by 21.8% (4). Changing demographics will require a public education system capable of appropriately and competently serving an increasingly more diverse group of students.

Changing demographics also includes the enrollment of children in public education for special education:

School Year 2011-2012 Number	Special Education	All Students
African American/Black	4%	2%
Asian American	14%	27%
Caucasian/White	26%	23%
Filipino	3%	4%
Hispanic/Latino	48%	39%
Native American or Alaska Native	.05%	.03%
Pacific Islander	.08%	.08%
Multiracial	2%	3%

(Percentages are based on public school enrollment total 269,858 and for special education 24,191. Data provided by California Department of Education 2011-2012. Special needs /or developmental disabilities include autism, deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other developmental delays.)

This component examined all age levels of education including preschool through college. While reviewing the available reports, the Committee identified several gaps in the data. Most of the existing reports are focused on K – 12th, so there was a lack of information about the number of individuals who are enrolled in post-secondary education. Additionally, there is insufficient information on middle school students. What information is available indicates that this is a pivotal age and a range of interventions are needed for a positive impact resulting in higher school achievement. Numerous reports identify Asian children as excelling in many measures. However the data does not breakdown within subgroups of the Asian community by ethnicities or geographies.

Silicon Valley school districts, as well as those across the state have been struggling with fewer resources. According to EdWeek Education Resource Center, California spends about \$3,000 less per capita (regional cost of living adjusted) on its students than the average state. What this has meant is the elimination of many support or enrichment programs that help struggling students succeed. School counselors, librarians, nurses, administration staff positions have been eliminated. And in some districts, this has resulted in increased average class sizes. Additionally, California's student-teacher ratio is higher than the US average 20:1 vs. 15.4:1, according to the Digest of Education Statistics 2011 Report.

Regardless of the outcome of the 2012 election statewide ballot measures on education, local school districts have a 'steep hill to climb' to restore programs, services and teaching capacities to national average levels.

KEY FINDINGS

School Readiness & the Achievement Gap

School readiness is a key predictor of academic success. School readiness is impacted by opportunities that children have for learning during their pre-Kindergarten years. According to the School Readiness and School Achievement report (38) children entering Kindergarten with strong Kindergarten Academics and Self-Regulation skills were more

likely to be successful in third grade CST Math and English tests. Third grade reading proficiency is a strong correlative indicator to high school graduation. And yet, family socio-economic status is a strong correlative factor as well. Annie E. Casey Foundation's work indicates that a child in poverty is 13 times less likely to graduate from high school – even if that student is at reading proficiency by end of 3rd grade.

Family income and ethnicity are correlated with performance on third grade test scores. Family factors can impact children learning in the early grades. According to the School Readiness and School Achievement report (38) children who were “ready” at kindergarten but not thriving at third grade were more likely to be:

- English Learners
- Hispanic/Latino students
- Students from lower-income families
- Students with mothers who had lower education levels

National research shows that investments in early education can long term societal benefit. For every \$1 spent on early learning, there is a \$3 - \$7 return in investment (30). Economists have found that high-quality early childhood education offers one of the highest returns of any public investment. Saving benefits are realized on government spending for K-12 education, public assistance and the criminal justice system, and increases tax revenues as a result of higher earnings.

High School & Academic Support

Data collected about local drop-out rates are inconsistent among reports and school districts. However, it appears that approximately 1 in 5 local students are not graduating high school (4). Regardless of the exact numbers there is an ethnic disparity observed among students. The California Department of Education, Education Demographic Unit (11) report showed that approximately 23% of Latino/Hispanic students are not graduating, compared to 19% of African American students, 8% of White students and 5% of Asian students. Other key findings were:

- Local school districts with the highest reported drop out rates include Gilroy Unified, East Side Union High, Santa Clara Unified and Campbell Union High (11)
- Higher household income correlates to higher graduation rates(38)
- Latino/Hispanic student graduation rate is 5% lower in SCC as compared to other California counties(4)
- Career Technical Education (CTE) classes can impact drop-out rates. Students who take one CTE class for every two academic classes are less likely to drop out of high school vs. non-CTE students(4)
- 4 out of 5 CTE graduates pursued post-secondary education immediately after high school(4)

Post Secondary Education

Santa Clara County has the strongest correlation of high education levels and higher household income compared to other counties in the Bay Area (5). The combined cities of Cupertino, Saratoga and Los Gatos have the highest percentage of resident's with a Bachelor's Degree at 70.8%, followed closely by Los Altos, Mountain View and Palo Alto grouping at 69.7% (5). These communities also have the county's highest number of graduate or professional degrees. For many, having a bachelor's degree is the key to a better life. The college experience develops cognitive skills, and allows learning about a wide range of subjects, people, cultures, and communities. Overall, 45% of Santa Clara County residents, aged 25+ reported having a Bachelors degree or higher. However, only 14% of Latino/Hispanic adults ages 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or higher. This compares to 60% of Asians, 52% of Whites and 30% of African Americans (50).

Having any kind of post-secondary degree also opens up career opportunities in a variety of fields, and is often the prerequisite to a higher-paying job. It is estimated that college graduates earn about \$1 million more per lifetime than their non-graduate peers. (44)

After School Supports

Programs and services that provide s informal or formal learning opportunities in safe, nurturing environments can supplement education gained in schools.

- Research shows that low-income youth, especially teens, need access to high quality afterschool programs to help close the achievement gap and to prevent learning loss during the summer (31).
- Because middle school is a critical transition point for many youth, it is advised that programs geared to serve these students offer specialized activities to increase retention of students, calibrated to needs and appropriate for school achievement goals.
- Family engagement matters. Older youth are more likely to stay engaged in these supplemental programs when their families are involved as well (20).

FACTORS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE: EDUCATION

Access to Early Learning Opportunities

Ensure all children have access to quality early learning opportunities. Strengthen "kindergarten academic" and "self regulation" levels before children enter kindergarten to increase academic success by 3rd grade. Focus especially on kids from families with low socio-economic status.

Community Supports

- Increase school safety, unsafe environments do not promote learning
- Provide access to quality after-school activities that provide a space to 'spark' learning and/or provide academic support. Youth after-school programs need to be located in the community where youth live, and engage the entire family
- Provide opportunities to bring more adult role models/caring adults into a child's life
- Address family social and economic needs that create obstacles to student achievement

Academic & School Policies

- Restore funding levels for local school districts to national state averages
- Incorporate vocational and career opportunities into K-12 curriculum

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Committee used a broad definition of Health & Wellness. Health status encompasses more than just health care. It means all aspects that contribute to being healthy. The definition of wellness was expanded to include: aspects of mental health, self-reported health status, access to insurance, access to care, feelings of personal safety and relationship to the physical environment.

The committee identified “family supports” as a key contributing factor related to achieving and maintaining health and wellness. This factor is connected to health and wellness in a range of areas such as: child and elder care, overall family wellness, parent education, etc. Further, family support is a key element cutting across all aspects of one’s quality of life: economic security, education and health & wellness.

Social isolation and lack of support are critical for many people. With the high percentage of foreign born residents, cultural competency is critical for those who provide health and wellness services. Family caregiver and peer support also will become critical as the population ages.

- 22% of Santa Clara County residents identify themselves as being with inadequate social support, reporting they never, rarely or sometimes get the support they need (17).
- 21% of Santa Clara County seniors live alone and more than 1 in 4 are over age 75 (16)

While reviewing existing data, the committee identified gaps in available information, such as in the area of mental health. Mental health issues are identified across the board, but it is not clear who is getting the help and treatment they need. This is an issue across the full spectrum of ages. Additionally, mental health issues may often go undiagnosed, since they often manifest themselves and present as physical health ailments.

KEY FINDINGS

An Aging Population

The County population is aging and doing so quickly. This will impact community life in numerous ways. In health and wellness, the need for services and support systems will increase:

- By 2030, 25% Santa Clara County residents will be 60+ years of age (currently they are 15% of population)(16)
- Women are an increasingly older population, it is projected that the number of women aged 65+ will increase 145% in the next 40 years (50).
- Currently, 25% of adults provide caregiving services to family members or friends with an illness or disability. 42% of these caregivers themselves are over age 55(16).
- Caregivers have significantly worse health indicators, access to care, work life impairment and substance use , than non-caregivers (16)
- While 8% of elderly Santa Clara County residents live below the Federal poverty level, almost half of local seniors have difficulty making ends meet due to the high cost of living (46).
- 34% of Santa Clara County residents over age 65 report some sort of disability and this percentage increases as senior’s age (46).
- Seniors with disabilities are at significantly higher risk for poverty than their non-disabled counterparts (16).

Health Care Access and Underutilization

More people have health insurance in this County than many other communities. However, this does not correlate to a guarantee of access to health care. While locally 87% of adults and 95% of children are insured (44), actual reported utilization of health services does not reflect these rates.

- While most people have health insurance, access to affordable care impacts a significant proportion of residents due to high deductibles and copays which are barriers to utilization

- 20% of adults reported delaying prescription drugs or medical service in the past year due to the cost and as a result these people are more likely to experience severe health problems down the road (48).
- Due to access issues there is underutilization of preventative care and services
- Residents generally lack an awareness of what constitutes 'age-milestone' comprehensive care and thus often do not seek age-appropriate services
- Transportation challenges are a major factor for the aging and disabled populations to access health services

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the Federal health care reform law, will be very influential beginning in 2014 in affecting issues around access to services. Local impacts are unknown at this time and will require monitoring.

Mental Health

Psychological distress can affect all aspects of life at an individual, family and community level. It is important to recognize and address potential psychological issues before they become critical. Experiencing occasional down days is normal, but persistent mental/emotional health problems need evaluation and treatment by a qualified professional. Comprehensive health exams can be more effective if they include mental health screenings.

Misconceptions and misunderstanding contribute to stigma against people with mental illness. This leads to under treatment or self-medication in the form of substance abuse, and/or discrimination of people with mental illness. Understanding this illness, education and available treatment options are important to address this very real issue.

- Currently, and as the population ages, gerontological mental health status and depression are issues of growing concern. There are few qualified professionals to address this need of seniors, and often family members are unable to identify the need for help.
- The primary reasons for many people being homeless are related to health conditions. 39% of homeless people were found to have mental health issues, 47% had depression and 50% of homeless vets have serious mental illness (3).
- Eight percent of local middle and high school students attempted suicide (13)
- The number of suicides in Santa Clara County in 2009, 2010 and 2011 were 150, 148, and 158 respectively. The average rate of suicides over the last three years (2009-2011) is 8.54 per hundred thousand. While Santa Clara County figures are lower than other counties this is important because suicide is a major, preventable public health problem. (44)

Obesity's Effect on Chronic Conditions

The percentage of overweight and obese adults is an indicator of the overall health and lifestyle of a community. Being overweight or obese affects quality of life and puts individuals at risk for developing many diseases, especially heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. Being overweight or obese also carries significant economic costs due to increased healthcare spending and lost earnings.

- 19% of all Santa Clara County residents are categorized as obese(44)
- 55% of adults are either overweight or obese(36)
- 25% of teens are either overweight or obese(44)
- Obese children and adolescents are more likely to become obese as adults. In a recent study, it was found that nearly 80% of children who were overweight as teenagers were obese adults at age 25(44)
- Obese and overweight youth are more likely to have risk factors associated with cardiovascular diseases, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and Type 2 diabetes(44)
- A positive sign is that 60% of Santa Clara County teens engage in regular physical activity for at least one hour on three or more days per week(44)

Built Environment

Santa Clara County ranks 22nd overall among all California counties in terms of living in a quality physical environment (17). This measure includes air pollution, access to recreational facilities, healthy food access and percentage of fast food restaurants.

County metrics:

- Seven days of unhealthy air quality days due to fine particulate matter, which is low compared overall to California which is 16 days annually. (17)
- 12 unhealthy air quality days due to ozone, again low compared to California overall of 51 days (17)
- The rate of recreational facilities per capita is 11 facilities per 100,000 population, we are slightly higher than the state average of 9 per 100,000 (17)
- Limited access to healthy foods, *1% of the county population are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store where there is access to fresh fruits and vegetables, the state average is 5%* (17)
- 47% of all restaurants in Santa Clara County are fast food establishments, compared to 49% statewide average. (17)

Walkability as defined as the ease with which people can walk in the area was much stronger in neighborhoods with higher incomes. 92% of these Santa Clara County adults agree it was easy to walk in their local community. However, adults in areas with lower annual household incomes were much less likely to report their area as walkable. 56% of those in households with incomes of \$75,000+ agreed strongly that it was easy to walk in their neighborhood compared to 26% of those with incomes less than \$20,000 (32).

Community Safety

Perceptions and realities of safety affect mental and physical health at the individual, family and neighborhood level. There is a great disparity among residents regarding perceptions of safety. People living in higher income areas have less concern about safety. While 1/3 of adults in Santa Clara County feel that crime, violence and drug activity are not a problem at all in their neighborhood, 20% of households with lower incomes (less than \$20,000) report these as major problems in their neighborhoods, as compared to 3% of those with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more (32).

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence impacts people throughout the community, and does not discriminate based on income levels or geography.

- The rate of domestic violence deaths from 2000-2010 in Santa Clara County was 6.7 per 100,000 people (33). There were 16 domestic violence deaths in 2011 compared to 5 deaths in 2010. (33)
- There are some variances among ethnic groups. The rate among Latinos/Hispanics was 10.7 compared to 7.1 among Asians and 3.9 among Whites(33)
- In 2011, of the 52 juvenile referrals for domestic violence offenses(35); 73% of referrals were among Latinos/Hispanics, 13% were among Whites, 6% were among African Americans and 4% were among Asians

Elder Abuse

This includes both intentional and negligent acts that cause harm, or the risk of harm, to a vulnerable elder adult. It includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse, financial exploitation, neglect and abandonment. The County's Department of Aging and Adult Services receives and investigates an average of 230 reports of elder and dependent abuse per month and provides protective services to an average of 414 elder and dependent adults each month. This represents a 2% increase from 2010. (37)

Child Abuse

There are several types of child abuse including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Child abuse and neglect can have lasting physical, intellectual, and psychological effects into adolescence and adulthood; damaging a child's sense of self, ability to have healthy relationships, and ability to function at home, at work, and at school.

In 2010, there were 12,670 child maltreatment allegations in Santa Clara County. (*Technical Note: The distribution is based on data from 58 California counties. Rates are based on unduplicated counts of children at the county level with substantiations of child abuse entering care during the time period. Population estimate sources differ across some years; analysis of trends across years is not recommended*), 12% of which were substantiated, and 10% of children were maltreated within six months of a substantiated maltreatment allegation (14).

School Safety

Schools should be a safe place for children to build healthy relationships. However, many students attend schools that are either unsafe or they face unsafe situations. Girls are more likely to be subjected to unsafe encounters.

- 47% of female students reported they experienced psychological bullying at school compared to 40% of male students(50)
- 24% of female students reported cyber bullying, compared to 17% of male students(50)

FACTORS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE: HEALTH & WELLNESS

Improve Access

- Provide Information about how access to resources needs in Asian and Spanish languages
- Support Federal A.C.A. implementation and local efforts to increase availability of affordable primary health care
- Increase access to substance abuse treatment programs and to mental health treatment
- Increase access to safe recreational and walkable areas and support strategies promoting regular physical activity

Assistance/Support

- Promote expansion of family and caregiver social supports
- Expand assistance for applying for public/government benefits

Cultural Proficiency

- Increase cultural and linguistic proficiency of health and wellness providers across the spectrum to deliver services in a culturally proficient manner.

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