

OVERVIEW

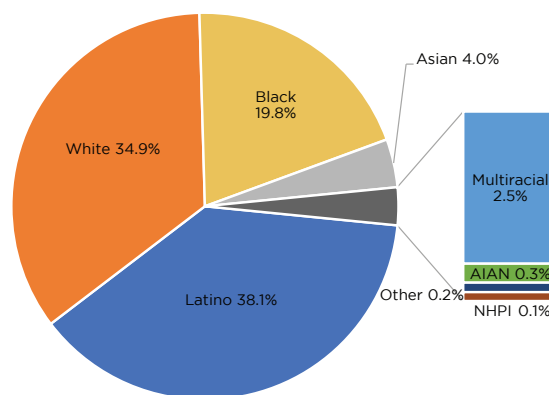
Lancaster is a Best Start Community located in Northeast Los Angeles, and is made up of primarily White and Latinx residents. Population growth in the area between 2012 and 2019 was driven by Latinx and Black communities. The percent of children ages 0 to 5 in Lancaster decreased from 9.9% to 7.7% of the total population, aligning with the trend seen in most Best Start Communities. There is a significant increase in the number of service providers and support groups, which combined with the lower number of children in Lancaster provides more available resources for each child. Community needs have slightly decreased or remained about the same. The teen birth rate decreased by half and fewer families with children under 5 are using public assistance along with a lower unemployment rate among adults.



DEMOGRAPHICS

12,941 CHILDREN AGES 0-5
7.7% of population
 (6.3% in LA County)

RACE/ETHNICITY (TOTAL POPULATION)



GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Explore the demographics of this Best Start Community. Were there changes from 2012 that surprise you?
2. How have the numbers and percentages of children 0-5 changed (or remained stable)?
3. Which findings resonate with your experience in this Best Start Community and which surprise you?

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Findings/Implications

The rate of support groups and service providers increased substantially, which is a result of both the reduced 0 to 5 population and the increased number of support groups and service providers. The number of libraries remained consistent from 2012, but the rate increased because there is more access per child. The number of prenatal, maternal and pediatric grant dollars being invested in Lancaster increased from \$0 in 2012 to \$13,000. This will ideally translate into future positive outcomes.

● Decrease ● Increase ○ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Service Providers/1k	●	9.4	4.4
Child Care Center Seats/100	●	18.5	14.2
Support Groups/1k	●	1.5	0.3
Nonprofits/1k	●	2.7	2.2
Parks square miles/1k	●	0.9	0.7
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatrics Grants/1k	●	0.1	0.0
Foundations/1k	○	0.3	0.3
Libraries/1k	○	0.2	0.2

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What do changing demographics mean for this community?
2. What is behind the changes in the 0-5 population?

Data Sources

Libraries, Childrens Service Providers, and Support Group Providers from 2-1-1 LA; Foundations and Pediatric Grants from Foundation Center; Parks and Open Space from California Protected Areas Database; Childcare Seats from Community Care Licensing Division.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Findings/Implications

There was a substantial drop in teenage births from 2012, while late prenatal care and low birthweight births decreased slightly. The percent and number of families using public assistance decreased while the rate of families in poverty remained consistent. Other community needs decreased, including the unemployment rate and the percentage of adults with less than a high school diploma.

● Decrease ● Increase ○ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	●	1.8	2.0
Low Birthweight Births	●	9.5	9.8
Late Prenatal Care Births	●	32.3	32.9
Unemployment	●	8.0	10.2
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	●	16.4	18.8
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	●	9.9	13.4
Teen Births	●	6.2	12.5

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Lancaster experienced improvements across most of the community strength indicators. Does this align with the lived experiences of this community based on your perspective in the field?
2. Lancaster experienced improvements across all of the community need indicators. Does this align with the lived experiences of this community based on your perspective

Data Sources

Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty, Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma, and Unemployment from American Community Survey 5-year Census Tract Estimates 2013-2017; Teen Births, Late Prenatal Care Births, and Low Birthweight Births from Childcare Data Network.

BY THE NUMBERS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	2019	2012
Age 0-5	12,941	15,551
Total	167,877	164,248
Latino	63,880	60,492
Black	33,309	29,634
White	58,617	61,292
Asian	6,746	6,530
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	251	323
American Indian/Alaska Native	533	729
Other	269	502
Multiracial	4,272	4,746

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Indicator	2019	2012
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatric Grants (\$)	13,000	0
Foundations	4	4
Parks (area square miles)	24	10
Libraries	3	3
Service Providers	121	68
Support Groups	20	4
Nonprofits	35	31
Child Care Center Seats	2,394	2,204

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Indicator	2019	2012
Teen Births	170	375
Late Prenatal Care Births	880	987
Low Birthweight Births	260	293
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	704	682
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	4,749	6,409
Unemployed	5,273	6,443
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	16,901	16,372

METHODOLOGY NOTES

Introduction

This retrospective report compares data presented for Best Start communities in the 2012 F5LA Best Start Communities Report with related data today. It helps answer the question, “What’s changed in Best Start communities since they’ve begun?” The report is written from an outsider’s perspective and does not evaluate specific First 5 LA programming. Instead, it seeks to identify key birth, child, adult, and community factors that might have shifted over the past eight years or so.

This is version 1.0 of the report. Future versions will include new indicators, regional boundaries, and an examination of racial disparities.

About the data

Data for this report come from widely-used, public data sources, such as the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Education. Where possible, the same source and methodology used in the 2012 report are used in this report. To view the 2012 report and methodology, visit [URL](#). In some cases, data sources have changed the ways they’ve collected data or stopped publishing altogether. In those cases, this report finds comparable 2012 data, or makes no comparison.

Methodology

The primary work involved in creating estimates for Best Start communities is to gather data available at other geographies – such as addresses, census tracts, or ZIP codes – and transform them into Best Start estimates based on geographic overlap. For example, census tract data are used in Best Start community estimates if at least 10% of a census tract’s area overlaps a Best Start community. ZIP code estimates are also included in Best Start community estimates if 10% or more of a ZIP code’s area overlaps a Best Start community. Data by address are counted in Best Start community estimates if an address falls on or within a Best Start boundary. The school-to-Best-Start-community transformation is a hybrid exception, in that school data are used in Best Start community estimates if a school’s address falls on or within a Best Start boundary OR 10% or more a school’s attendance area overlaps a Best Start community.

For more detailed information on the data sources and indicators used in this report, see [URL](#).

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. How do changing demographics affect First 5 LA’s work in this Best Start Community?
2. How does a reduced 0 to 5 population change First 5 LA’s approach to serving this Best Start Community?
3. How could the findings from this brief inform First 5 LA’s strategic plan implementation?
4. How could the findings from this brief inform the way we think about equity in Best Start Communities?
5. Given the success Lancaster experienced based on the indicator data, are there lessons First 5 LA can apply from this Best Start Community to others?

