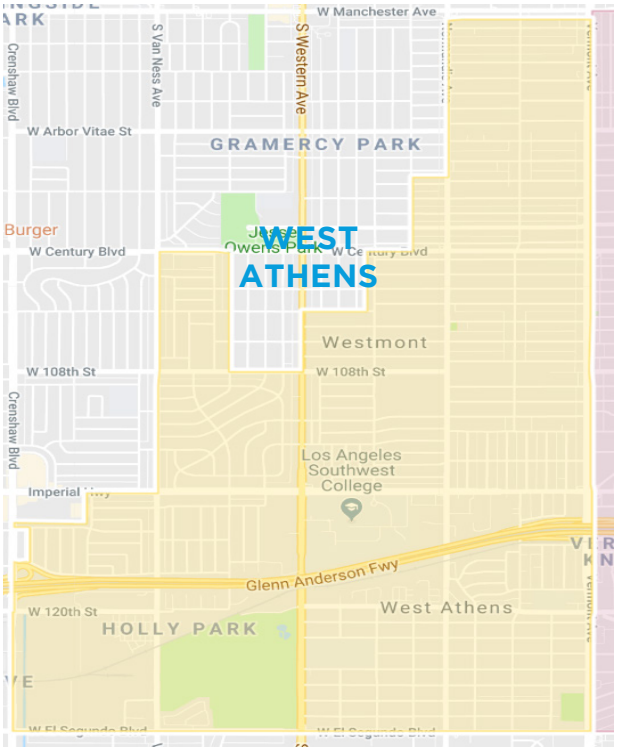
first 5 la
Giving kids the best start

BEST START COMMUNITY RETROSPECTIVE

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

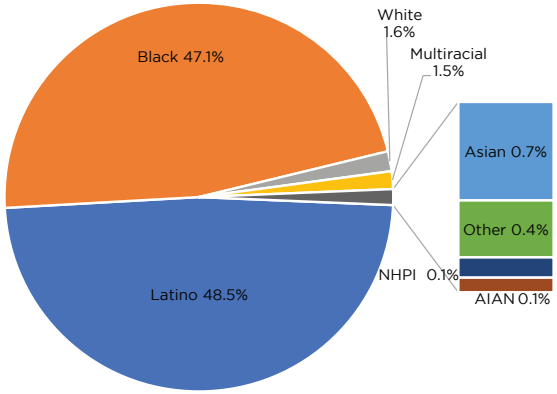
WEST ATHENS



DEMOGRAPHICS

3,732 CHILDREN AGES 0-5
8.2% of population
(6.3% in LA County)

RACE/ETHNICITY (TOTAL POPULATION)



OVERVIEW

West Athens is a primarily Latinx and Black community, with 8.2% of the population consisting of children ages 0 to 5. This is higher than the percentage of children in Los Angeles County. Since 2012, the overall population in West Athens has increased, with growth being driven by Latinx communities, while the number of children ages 0 to 5 has decreased. The number of community resources remained stable from 2012 to 2019, but because the number of children decreased in West Athens the availability of services per child increased in 2019. Higher rates of families with children living in poverty and on public assistance highlight needs that still need to be addressed in this community.

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?

3. Which findings resonate with your experience in this Best Start Community and which surprise you?

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Findings/Implications

Most community strength indicators in West Athens remained consistent or experienced improvement, with the addition of three new nonprofits and seven new service providers. From 2012 to 2019 there are still no foundations or prenatal, maternal and pediatric grant dollars in the area. While the number of child care center seats and support groups decreased slightly, rates of these services are still high because of the lower number of children living in the area.

● Decrease ● Increase ○ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Service Providers/1k	●	**6.7**	4.4
Child Care Center Seats/100	●	**23.1**	21.1
Nonprofits/1k	●	**2.9**	2.2
Libraries/1k	●	**0.3**	0.2
Parks square miles/1k	○	**0.1**	0.1
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatrics Grants/1k	○	**0.0**	0.0
Foundations/1k	○	**0.0**	0.0
Support Groups/1k	●	**0.5**	0.7

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 Prodivders, 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

The number of teen births and late prenatal care births decreased since 2012, while low birthweight births remained consistent. Even though the population of children ages 0 to 5 has decreased in West Athens, the number of families with children living in poverty and using public assistance increased. Considering the economic growth in Los Angeles County since 2012, this highlights the fact that not all communities are benefiting from the county's overall growth.

● Decrease ● Increase ◯ No Change

Indicator		**2019 Report**	2012 Report
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	●	**28.3**	21.9
Unemployment	●	**13.6**	11.6
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	●	**3.0**	1.9
Low Birthweight Births	●	**10.1**	9.1
Late Prenatal Care Births	●	**22.7**	23.2
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	●	**28.8**	32.7
Teen Births	●	**6.5**	13.2

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Several of the community strength indicators showed little change from 2012 to 2019. Does this reflect what you observed in the community given your perspective in the field?

2. West Athens gained three additional nonprofits. How might this impact families and children in this Best Start Community?

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	3,732	4,127
Total	45,355	43,021
Latino	21,983	19,078
Black	21,358	22,359
White	747	495
Asian	308	247
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	63	54
American Indian/Alaska Native	46	52
Other	178	208
Multiracial	672	528

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Indicator	2019	2012
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatric Grants ($)	0	0
Foundations	0	0
Parks (area square miles)	0.3	0.2
Libraries	1	1
Service Providers	25	18
Support Groups	2	3
Nonprofits	11	8
Child Care Center Seats	862	870

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Indicator	2019	2012
Teen Births	142	316
Late Prenatal Care Births	497	557
Low Birthweight Births	221	218
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	306	172
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	3,529	2,962
Unemployed	2,757	2,132
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	8,045	7,954

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. What does it mean for First 5 LA when indicators show little change over time?

6. Does the addition of new nonprofits in the area present opportunities for First 5 LA?

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ADVANCEMENT
PROJECT