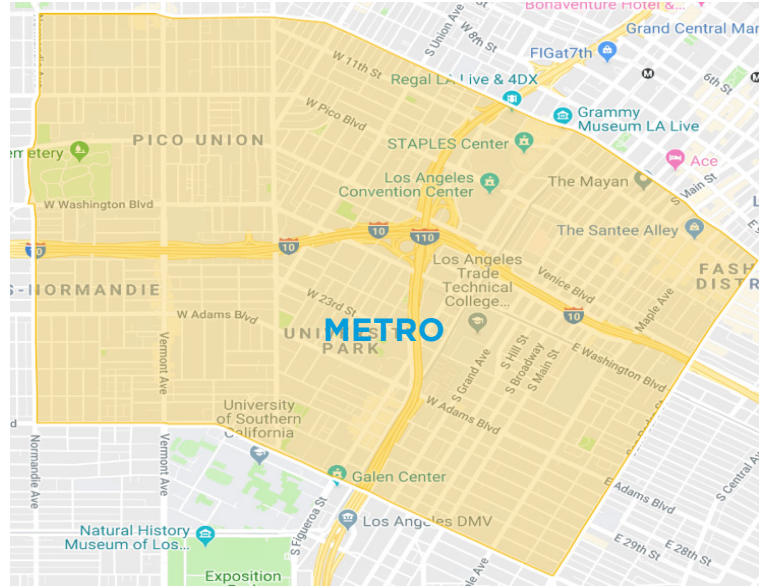


## OVERVIEW

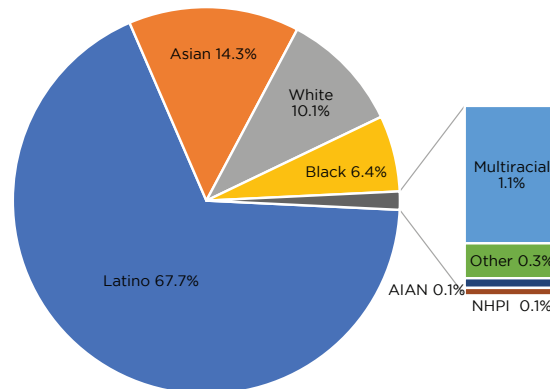
Metro LA is a primarily Latino Best Start Community located in the heart of Los Angeles. About 5.8 percent of the population are children ages 0 to 5, similar to the percent across LA County and lower than percentages seen in the majority of Best Start Communities. Since 2012, the community has seen an increase in total population primarily from more Asian, Latinx, and White communities. The number of children ages 0 to 5 has not increased with the population. Since 2012, the Metro LA BSC has seen substantial improvements in a number of community strengths. Resources like foundations, support groups, and service providers have increased in number and rates in the area. The teen birth rate decreased by more than half since 2012. Conversely, prenatal, maternal, and pediatric grants have decreased. Increases in the rate of late prenatal care births and families with children under 5 receiving public assistance suggest higher community needs.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

**6,691** CHILDREN AGES 0-5  
**5.8% 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

Metro LA had a variety of community strengths improve since 2012. The number and rate of foundations, support groups, nonprofits, and service providers have all increased significantly since 2012. This Best Start Community also saw the addition of one library and 12 foundations. The number of prenatal, maternal and pediatric grant dollars decreased substantially since 2012, which could be due to nonprofits closing or large grants ending in the area.

● Decrease ● Increase ○ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Service Providers/1k	●	17.3	13.1
Foundations/1k	●	2.4	0.6
Nonprofits/1k	●	10.2	9.3
Support Groups/1k	●	1.8	1.2
Libraries/1k	●	0.3	0.1
Parks square miles/1k	●	0.004	0.003
Child Care Center Seats/100	○	25.6	25.6
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatrics Grants/1k	●	0.6	1.2

### 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

Metro LA saw a significant decrease in teen birth rates while the rate of late prenatal care and low birthweight births increased. The percent of adults with less than a high school diploma also decreased, which speaks to the overall population change in Metro LA as opposed to the state of educational attainment. The number of families in poverty decreased from 2012, while the number of families using public assistance increased.

● Decrease ● Increase ○ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	●	19.9	14.4
Late Prenatal Care Births	●	22.8	17.8
Low Birthweight Births	●	7.8	6.5
Unemployment	●	9.6	10.0
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	●	2.8	4.8
Teen Births	●	4.7	13.8
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	●	41.9	51.0

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. The number of foundations increased from 4 to 16. What impacts do you expect this to have for local communities?
2. Unemployment increased in this Best Start Community even though it is decreasing county-wide. How could this be impacting families living in Metro LA?

#### 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	6,691	6,859
Total	114,639	108,215
Latino	77,654	75,330
Black	7,287	7,201
White	11,602	10,358
Asian	16,348	13,559
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	70	65
American Indian/Alaska Native	89	118
Other	321	385
Multiracial	1,268	1,199

### COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Indicator	2019	2012
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatric Grants (\$)	180,000	1,849,940
Foundations	16	4
Parks (area square miles)	0.02	0.02
Libraries	2	1
Service Providers	116	90
Support Groups	12	8
Nonprofits	68	69
Child Care Center Seats	1,714	1,758

### COMMUNITY NEEDS

Indicator	2019	2012
Teen Births	59	554
Late Prenatal Care Births	284	305
Low Birthweight Births	97	261
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	545	688
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	4,801	2,792
Unemployed	5,691	4,106
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	28,431	23,104

## 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. Does an increase in foundation activity affect First 5 LA’s work in this Best Start Community?
6. What does it mean for First 5 LA if there is increased unemployment?

