

OVERVIEW

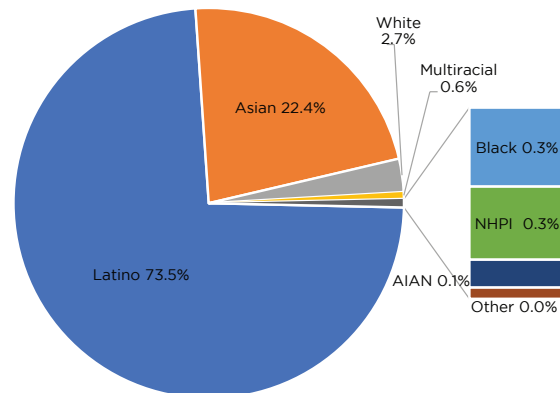
South El Monte / El Monte is a Best Start Community located in East Los Angeles and is made up of primarily Latinx and Asian communities. The total population has grown by approximately 1,400 since 2012, with the majority of growth driven by Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Similar to many other Best Start Communities, the number of children 0 to 5 dropped by approximately 3,000. South El Monte / El Monte experienced significant improvements in community strength indicators, including an increase in park space and the addition of a new public library and ten new service providers for youth. Rates of services per 1,000 children were helped by the decrease in children over the time period. The picture of community need is more mixed, with an increase in families with children under 5 receiving public assistance but decrease in unemployment.



DEMOGRAPHICS

6,358 CHILDREN AGES 0-5
6.2% 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?
3. Which findings resonate with your experience in this Best Start Community and which surprise you?

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Findings/Implications

South El Monte / El Monte experienced improvements across several community strength indicators. The increased rate in service providers, park space, nonprofits and child care center seats is due to the total number of resources increasing and the reduced 0 to 5 population. A new public library was added to the community while the number of foundations remained consistent. The only community strength indicator that regressed since 2012 is prenatal, maternal and pediatric grant dollars, which decreased from \$175,000 to \$0.

● Decrease ● Increase ○ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Child Care Center Seats/100	●	16.9	11.3
Service Providers/1k	●	10.5	6.1
Nonprofits/1k	●	2.5	1.3
Support Groups/1k	●	1.3	0.7
Libraries/1k	●	0.5	0.2
Foundations/1k	●	0.3	0.2
Parks square miles/1k	●	0.3	0.2
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatrics Grants/1k	●	0.0	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

The number of teen births and late prenatal care births decreased by roughly half despite the reduced prenatal, maternal and pediatric grant dollars being invested in the area. Both the rate and total number of families receiving public assistance increased since 2012, despite the number of families in poverty showing little change and the unemployed population decreasing. This could suggest that wages are not sufficient to cover the cost of living, or that the majority of jobs available are lower paying.

● Decrease ● Increase ○ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	●	16.5	10.6
Low Birthweight Births	●	6.8	5.5
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	●	1.8	2.1
Unemployment	●	7.0	9.3
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	●	46.5	51.6
Teen Births	●	6.5	11.6
Late Prenatal Care Births	●	13.1	18.4

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. South El Monte / El Monte improved across the majority of the community strength indicators. Given your perspective in the field, do these findings align with the community's lived experiences?
2. More families are receiving public assistance even though fewer are living in poverty. How does this impact families 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	6,358	9,384
Total	102,236	100,819
Latino	75,193	77,523
Black	295	329
White	2,807	3,191
Asian	22,942	19,172
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	273	42
American Indian/Alaska Native	104	105
Other	42	111
Multiracial	580	346

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Indicator	2019	2012
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatric Grants (\$)	0	175,000
Foundations	2	2
Parks (area square miles)	3	2
Libraries	3	2
Service Providers	67	57
Support Groups	8	7
Nonprofits	16	10
Child Care Center Seats	1,074	1,063

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Indicator	2019	2012
Teen Births	109	256
Late Prenatal Care Births	220	405
Low Birthweight Births	114	121
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	385	394
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	4,300	2,879
Unemployed	3,278	4,036
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	30,240	28,442

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. Are there lessons from South El Monte / El Monte that First 5 LA can apply to other Best Start Communities?
6. What does an increase in families receiving public assistance mean for First 5 LA?

