WHAT HAS CHANGED?
WATTS / WILLOWBROOK

1st LA first 5 la
Giving kids the best start
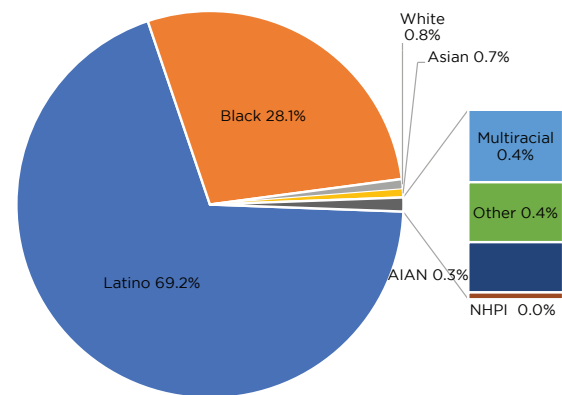

DEMOGRAPHICS

8,399 **CHILDREN AGES 0-5**
9.8% of population
(6.3% in LA County)

RACE/ETHNICITY
(TOTAL POPULATION)

White 0.8%
Asian 0.7%
Black 28.1%
Multiracial 0.4%
Other 0.4%
Latino 69.2%
AIAN 0.3%
NHPI 0.0%

OVERVIEW

Watts / Willowbrook is located in South Los Angeles and made up of primarily Latinx and Black communities. The number of children ages 0 to 5 decreased by about 1,000 since 2012, but still make up 9.8% of the total population, which exceeds the percentage in Los Angeles County. Watts/Willowbrook either remained consistent or saw improvements across most community strength indicators, including increases in the number of service providers and support groups. The significant amount prenatal, maternal, and pediatric grant dollars being invested may be contributing to the reduced teen, late prenatal care and low birthweight births. There are no foundations in this area.

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

Watts / Willowbrook experienced improvements across most of the community strength indicators. These improvements increase the availability of resources, including service providers and support groups, on a per child basis. The amount of dollars in prenatal, maternal and pediatric grants increased substantially since 2012, despite there still being no foundations in the area. The number of service providers and support groups all increased while libraries and park space remain consistent.

● Decrease ● Increase ○ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Service Providers/1k	●	**10.4**	7.6
Support Groups/1k	●	**1.5**	0.7
Nonprofits/1k	●	**1.7**	1.0
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatrics Grants/1k	●	**0.2**	0.0
Libraries/1k	●	**0.4**	0.3
Parks square miles/1k	●	**0.04**	0.03
Foundations/1k	○	**0.0**	0.0
Child Care Center Seats/100	●	**14.2**	14.7

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What do changing demographics mean for this community?

2. What is behind the changes in the 0-5 population?

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Findings/Implications

Watts / Willowbrook experienced a significant drop in the number and rate of teen births. This might be attributed to the large amount of prenatal, maternal, and pediatric grant dollars being invested in the area. Families with children living in poverty also decreased, which is an encouraging sign that the economic growth in Los Angeles County is also affecting this area. However, the number of families using public assistance increased along with the number of unemployed individuals.

● Decrease ● Increase ◯ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	●	30.6	25.3
Late Prenatal Care Births	●	21.4	19.4
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	●	44.9	44.0
Unemployment	●	12.8	12.0
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	●	2.2	2.8
Low Birthweight Births	●	8.0	9.7
Teen Births	●	8.6	16.7

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. The rate of service providers in Watts / Willowbrook increased from 7.6 to 10.4. Given what you know about child wellness, is this sufficient to meet the needs of children in this Best Start Community?

2. The number of adults with less than a high school diploma increased. How might this impact the wellness of children living 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.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	2019	2012
Age 0-5	8,399	9,352
Total	85,972	80,010
Latino	59,512	52,876
Black	24,152	25,296
White	729	705
Asian	575	178
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	37	63
American Indian/Alaska Native	266	122
Other	317	148
Multiracial	384	622

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Indicator	2019	2012
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatric Grants ($)	3,167,031	0
Foundations	0	0
Parks (area square miles)	0.3	0.3
Libraries	3	3
Service Providers	87	71
Support Groups	13	7
Nonprofits	14	7
Child Care Center Seats	1,192	1,372

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Indicator	2019	2012
Teen Births	176	541
Late Prenatal Care Births	436	504
Low Birthweight Births	164	316
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	361	437
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	8,697	7,278
Unemployed	4,517	3,522
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	20,817	17,158

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 new opportnities for First 5 LA given the increase in service providers working in this Best Start Community?

6. What does an increase in the number of adults with less than a high school diploma mean for First 5 LA?