WHAT HAS CHANGED?
PALMDALE
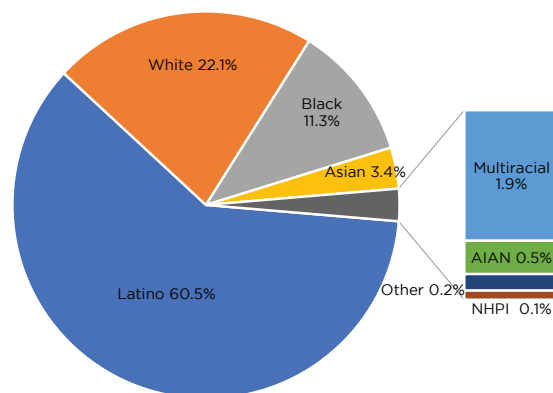
first 5 la
Giving kids the best start

OVERVIEW

Palmdale is a Best Start Community located in Northeast Los Angeles, and its population is 60.5% Latinx and 22.1% White. The population has increased since 2012, with most of its growth driven by Latinx communities. Similar to the trend in other Best Start Communities, the number of children ages 0 to 5 decreased by approximately 3,000. In Palmdale service providers and support groups both doubled from 2012 to 2019, however the rate increase is reflective of the 0-5 population decrease. Despite economic growth in Los Angeles County since 2012, the number of families in poverty and using public assistance increased in Palmdale.

DEMOGRAPHICS

14,851 **CHILDREN AGES 0-5**
8.2% of population
(6.3% in LA County)

RACE/ETHNICITY (TOTAL POPULATION)

White 22.1%
Black 11.3%
Asian 3.4%
Latino 60.5%
Other 0.2%
Multiracial 1.9%
AIAN 0.5%
NHPI 0.1%

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

Palmdale saw improvements across several community strength indicators since 2012. The number and rate of service providers and support groups available to children and families increased significantly, along with the addition of a new library, many new nonprofits, and 353 more child care center seats, despite the reduced number of children living in Palmdale. As in 2012, there are no prenatal, maternal or pediatric grant dollars being invested in Palmdale.

● Decrease ● Increase ○ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Child Care Center Seats/100	●	13.1	9.3
Service Providers/1k	●	4.6	2.2
Nonprofits/1k	●	2.4	1.6
Support Groups/1k	●	1.2	0.5
Parks square miles/1k	●	0.4	0.2
Libraries/1k	●	0.1	0.0
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatrics Grants/1k	○	0.0	0.0
Foundations/1k	●	0.1	0.3

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 and rate of unemployment in Palmdale decreased since 2012. Even so, the number of families with children in poverty and on public assistance increased substantially. This could suggest that wages are not high enough to support the cost of living, or that people are experiencing underemployment. Improvements were made in reducing the number of teen births, late prenatal care births and low birthweight births despite the lack of prenatal, maternal and pediatric grants in Palmdale.

● Decrease ● Increase ◯ No Change

Indicator		2019 Report	2012 Report
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	●	15.0	12.0
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	●	2.3	1.4
Low Birthweight Births	●	8.5	8.7
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	●	27.8	29.5
Unemployment	●	10.7	12.6
Late Prenatal Care Births	●	30.3	32.4
Teen Births	●	6.6	12.6

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. The number of service providers and support groups nearly doubled. How might this impact children in this Best Start Community? Are these impacts being felt by the community?

2. Given what we know about Palmdale, what might explain the high prevalence of nonprofits?

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	14,851	17,126
Total	180,486	174,582
Latino	109,266	97,861
Black	20,335	22,531
White	39,816	43,715
Asian	6,202	5,648
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	235	224
American Indian/Alaska Native	854	597
Other	425	425
Multiracial	3,353	3,581

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Indicator	2019	2012
Prenatal/Maternal/Pediatric Grants ($)	0	0
Foundations	2	5
Parks (area square miles)	1,025	3
Libraries	1	0
Service Providers	69	38
Support Groups	16	8
Nonprofits	35	23
Child Care Center Seats	1,949	1,596

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Indicator	2019	2012
Teen Births	162	345
Late Prenatal Care Births	748	888
Low Birthweight Births	211	237
Families w/ Children under 5 in Poverty	896	538
Families w/ Children under 5 rec Public Ast	8,353	6,822
Unemployed	7,939	9,220
Adults w/ less than a H.S. Diploma	29,677	27,312

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. How could the increase in service providers and support groups affect the scope of First 5 LA's work in this Best Start Community? Does it provide new opportunities for First 5 LA?

6. What conditions in Palmdale make it favorable for nonprofits, and are there lessons that First 5 LA can apply to other Best Start Communities?