

**Community Action Partnership of  
Kern**  
Child Education and Development Services Division

**Head Start & Early Head Start Program  
2013 Community Assessment Update**

**Executive Summary  
And  
Plenary Assessment Update**

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## **Executive Summary**

### **2013 Head Start Community Assessment Update**

The Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) Head Start Program has conducted a 2013 Community Assessment Update. The update details recent changes and trends within Kern County and the Head Start service population that could potentially impact CAPK's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This Executive Summary provides some highlights from the report.

In May 2012 Community Action Partnership of Kern Head Start terminated its partnership with the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) to provide services to 120 children; however, in the fall of 2012, a new Head Start center located on Faith Avenue in southeast Bakersfield was opened providing 40 additional, part-day/part-year slots. CAPK Head Start is continuing its efforts to locate facilities for center-based options. In April of 2012, a survey was conducted by CAPK Head Start in the unincorporated community of Boron located in eastern Kern County. The survey indicated that there are unmet needs for childcare in Boron which may provide an opportunity for Head Start to establish future Home-Based services in that community.

Kern County's economy has shown signs of recovery with an unemployment rate of 12.4% in November, 2012 - a significant decrease from the 15% rate in 2011.<sup>1</sup> Poverty rates, however, have continued to remain high. For Kern County families, the poverty rate rose to 20.2% in 2011 from 17.2% in 2010. Similarly, the estimated median household income fell from \$46,952 in 2010 to \$45,224 in 2011. Certain sectors of the economy, however, are showing signs of improvement. For instance, the percentage of persons employed in agriculture and oil-related industries has increased from 15.5% in 2010 to 16.2% in 2011.<sup>2</sup> For Head Start programs, the slow economic recovery may result in a gradual increase in the need for childcare services.

Enacted in 2010, the Kindergarten Readiness Act (Senate Bill 1381) changed admission requirements for kindergarten and established a transitional kindergarten program. Previously, to be eligible for kindergarten, children were required to have had their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The legislation moves that date back one month each school year over the next two years until 2014/2015, when the age cutoff will be September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Coinciding with this change has been the implementation of transitional kindergarten, the first year of a two-year kindergarten program for four year olds who will turn five between September 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Implementation of transitional kindergarten programs in Kern County began in the fall of 2012 and may be a factor in the of declining enrollment numbers at some Head Start Centers, particularly in the communities of Arvin and Lamont.

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<sup>1</sup> California Employment Development Department (cited by Bakersfield Californian 12/23/12).

<sup>2</sup> 2011 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimate-CP03: Selected Economic Characteristics.

The California Department of Education Special Education Division data (report cycle December 1, 2011) indicates a total of 1,580 children ages 0-5 that were enrolled in Special Education Programs (565 children ages 0-2 and 1,015 children between the ages of 3 and 4).<sup>3</sup> Kern County SELPAs have implemented the Response to Intervention (RTI) model, an intervention designed to provide early, effective assistance to children who are experiencing difficulty with learning. Local education agencies in Kern County have expanded the use of these interventions at an earlier age, reducing the number of children that are referred for special education assessment. The result has been fewer children who have Individual Education Programs (IEPs) and Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs), a change which presents challenges to Head Start with respect to achieving the 10% enrollment requirement for children with disabilities.

In a 2010/2011 study conducted in conjunction with the California Physical Fitness Testing, 49.5% of Kern County students tested had unhealthy body composition, an increase from the previous year's 34.3%. A 2011 UCLA Center for Health Policy Research report listed Kern County as one of just 10 California counties in which over 43% of students were found to be overweight. According to the report, from 2005 to 2010 the percentage of overweight students in Kern County increased from 41% to 44%. It is estimated that 60% of adults in Kern are obese or overweight. In response to this epidemic, CAPK Head Start identified overweight children as a priority for enrollment in its 2012/2013 Recruitment and Selection Plan. Head Start will continue this enrollment priority in 2013/2014 and will utilize the "I Am Moving, I Am Learning" curriculum in classrooms as a prevention and intervention tool.

Additional findings and information are available in the following 2013 CAPK Head Start Community Assessment Update Report.

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<sup>3</sup> California Department of Education, Special Education Division Reporting Cycle: December 1, 2011.

# PREFACE

## **Community Assessment: A Living Document**

In 2011, CAPK and CEDS completed a comprehensive three-year community assessment and report detailing the most current data and source material available. With this information, the CAPK Head Start & Early Head Start Program 2011 Community Assessment was prepared and provided a detailed understanding of the characteristics of Kern County's children and families, their child care needs, and the conditions that impact their health, development, and economic stability.

The 2011 community assessment incorporated 2010 U.S. Census data available at the time. Other sources of local, state, regional, and national data and intelligence included the American Community Survey (ACS), Head Start Program Information Reports (PIR), Children Now Score Cards (Kern), Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Kern Council of Governments, Kern County Department of Health and Human Services, California Department of Education, 2-1-1 Kern, California Department of Public Health, California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, Early Childhood Council of Kern, Central Eligibility List (CEL) of Kern, Kern County Health Status Profile, HealthyKern.org, California Department of Housing and Community Development, Kern County Homeless Collaborative, Kern County Housing Authority, California Department of Justice, Kern County Network for Children, Kern County Regional Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, California Department of Finance, Kids Count, and Children Now.

In accordance with the requirements of 45 CFR Part 1305 Section 1305.3(e), the CAPK Head Start & Early Head Start Program 2012 Community Assessment Update was completed and approved by the CAPK Board of Directors on June 27, 2012. This document provided a review to determine if there had been significant changes in the information presented in the 2011 Community Assessment and to use that new information to evaluate program decisions. Additional focus in 2012 was provided with detailed information for the communities of Bakersfield, Delano, Oildale, Rosedale, and Buttonwillow.

This 2013 community assessment update presents new data available, including County and incorporated community population numbers, household characteristics and relationships, estimates of income eligible children, disability data, educational attainment data, health and mortality data, child welfare statistics, prenatal health, 2-1-1 and community needs, data on homeless children and families, and Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data including Head Start/Early Head Start and Home-Based locations and enrollment data. The information presented herein may be used for future planning and program decision-making.

# 1

## Introduction to CAPK AND CEDS

Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) has been serving Kern County, California for over 45 years. Established in 1965, CAPK is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. In carrying out its mission, *to provide and advocate for resources that will support Kern County residents to have the skills and resources necessary to improve their quality of life and become self-sufficient*, CAPK develops and implements programs that meet specific needs of individuals and families who are disadvantaged, disabled, and/or elderly.

CAPK is one of the largest nonprofit agencies in Kern County and one of the oldest and largest community action agencies in the United States. Originating as the Community Action Program Committee of Kern County in 1965, CAPK later became the Kern County Economic Opportunity Corporation and in 2002 become the Community Action Partnership of Kern.

CAPK operates seven divisions, three service-based and four administrative. Service divisions include **Child Education & Development Services (CEDS)**, **Health and Nutrition**, and **Family and Community Services**. Administrative support is provided through the Facilities, Finance, Human Resources, and Planning, Research and Development Divisions. Head Start & Early Head Start programs are managed by the CEDS Division.

As Kern County's federally designated Community Action Agency in the fight against poverty, CAPK provided assistance to over 83,538 (unduplicated) low-income individuals annually through 11 direct-service programs including WIC, Head Start; Central Kitchen, HIV Testing/Prevention, Migrant Alternative Payment Program, Food Bank, Friendship House Community Center, Shafter Youth Center, 2-1-1 Kern County, VITA (Free Income Tax Filing), and Green Energy.<sup>4</sup>

CAPK has offices located in 27 cities/communities and offers services at over 100 sites in 37 cities/communities throughout Kern County. Various locations include Arvin, Bakersfield, Bodfish, Boron, Buttonwillow, California City, China Lake, Delano, Frazier Park/Lebec, Havilah/Caliente, Inyokern, Johannesburg, Kernville, Lake Isabella, Lamont, Lost Hills, McFarland, Mettler, Maricopa/Cuyama, Mojave, Mountain Mesa, North Edwards, Oildale, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi, Wasco, and others. The agency operates a statewide Migrant Childcare Alternative Payment (MCAP) Program enrolling families

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<sup>4</sup> State of California Department of Community Services and Development CSBG Programmatic Data- Client Characteristic Report (Report Period 1/1/11-12/31/11).

through six Central Valley counties including Kern, Madera, Merced, Tulare, Kings, and Fresno. In 2012, CAPK contracted to provide Women, Infants and Children (WIC) services in northwest San Bernardino County.

## **Head Start Services and Related Programs**

### CHILD EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CEDs)

Head Start & Early Head Start - Comprehensive child education, development, child care and preschool services for children six weeks to five years of age. Home-Based, an in-home child care option, is also available to qualifying families.

Parent and Family Engagement- Provides services to build relationships with families that support family well-being, strong relationships between parents and their children, and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children.

## **Other CAPK Programs**

### HEALTH AND NUTRITION

WIC - Women, Infants, and Children - Provides nutrition education, breast feeding support, and food vouchers for infants, children, and women who are pregnant, postpartum, or breast feeding and who are at nutritional risk. Foster parents, grandparents, and single parents can apply on behalf of their children.

CAPK Food Bank - Third largest food bank in California provides emergency food assistance to eligible food-insecure Kern County residents. Food Bank programs include Backpack Buddies, Supplemental Senior Nutrition, and monthly community resource fairs. Community support as well as financial/volunteer hours are essential to the operation of the Food Bank.

HIV Prevention/Testing - HIV Outreach, Prevention and Testing Services available to high-risk individuals and substance users in treatment.

### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Green Energy Program - Weatherization and utility payment assistance provided to eligible low-income residents in Kern County.

VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance - Free tax preparation and e-filing for individuals and families through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Also, Individual Development Accounts (IDA) offers matched savings accounts that can be used for purchasing a home, capitalizing a small business, or continuing education.

2-1-1 Kern County - 2-1-1 links individuals to information and referrals for services in the community. Callers find help with child care, medical clinics, food, utilities, counseling, disasters and more. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Shafter Youth Center - Educational and support services provided to children and adults in Shafter, including parenting classes and summer and after school programs with a focus on education, nutrition, recreation, and healthy living.

Friendship House Community Center - Provides educational and recreational services to children from low-income families, such as after-school and summer programs, as well as resources for the entire community, including plans for medical services, food distribution, job training, and an outreach center.

Migrant Childcare Alternative Payment (MCAP) Program - State child care program available throughout California providing children of migrant farm workers with a safe, nurturing, and educationally growing environment.

# 2

## Community Assessment Process

***1305.3(c) Each Early Head Start and Head Start grantee must conduct a Community Assessment within its service area once every three years.***

In accordance with Head Start regulation 45 CFR, Subpart 1305.3, paragraph (e), the Community Action Partnership of Kern conducts a Community Assessment every three years and updates the assessment annually for the intervening two years. The goal of the CAPK 2013 Assessment Update and Report is the delivery of detailed and accurate information as it relates to the development, health, and education of Kern County children and their families and the planning and delivery of Head Start and Early Head Start services. Areas in which updates were not available or that had not experienced any significant change are not included in this report but are available for reference in the 2011 Report.

In pursuit of this goal, the primary objectives were 1) identify any significant changes or shifts within the service area and population, 2) identify program and participation trends, 3) update longitudinal data and tables used to identify and track trends, and 4) gain an in-depth understanding of specific “focus” communities or geographic areas.

Included in this 2013 Assessment Update Report is any updated or new information made available since the completion of the 2011 Community Assessment. In addition to county-wide data, subject areas include enrollment and attendance data and the characteristics of Head Start eligible children in Kern County. The unincorporated community of Boron in eastern Kern County has been identified by Head Start as a “focus area” for research and study in the 2013 Community Assessment Update Report.

### **Assessment Data**

Data and information used for the 2013 Community Assessment Update include the following sources: California Employment Development Department; 2010 U.S. Census; 2011 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates; California Department of Education; State of California Department of Community Services and Development CSBG Programmatic Data; State of California Department of Finance- Demographic Research Unit; City of Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce; California Department of Education-Educational Demographic Office; California Department of Education-Special Education Division; Kern County Superintendent of Schools; 2011 Child Care Portfolio-California Child Care Resource & Referral Network; Community Connection for Childcare; Wind in the Willows Preschool; Kern County Homeless Collaborative; Kern County School

Districts; Kern County Network for Children- Report Card 2012; 2011-12 Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) PIR Summary Reports-Grant Level; Bakersfield Californian; BakersfieldNow.com.; California Department of Finance, Kern Regional Center; Kern County Superintendent of Schools; Children Now; Food Research and Action Center; CSAP 2012 Kern County, California-Campaign for Grade Level Reading; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center); Kern County Department of Human Services; Child Welfare Services Reports for California (University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research); and HealthyKern.org.

### **Coordinating Team**

This 2013 Community Assessment Update was completed under direction of CAPK Child Education and Development (CEDS) Division Director, Yolanda Gonzales. Data analysis and document preparation was completed by Planning, Research and Development Administrative Analysts with assistance from Head Start staff, parents, and community members.

# 3

## The Service Area<sup>5</sup>

***1305.3(b) The grantee's service area must be approved, in writing by the responsible OHS official in order to assure that the service area is of reasonable size and... does not overlap with that of other Head Start grantees.***

Kern County was approved as the Head Start service area in 1965, the year the agency was created. As the following adjoining map illustrates, Kern County is a large and primarily rural county at the southern end of California's San Joaquin Valley, northeast of Los Angeles County. The size, geography, and natural resources of the Service Area have profoundly shaped the people and communities of the county, and continue to influence the social and economic prospects of the agency's Head Start communities and their children.



### Kern County Geography

Kern County is located in Central California at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley and is the state's third-largest county in land area. At 8,172 square miles, Kern is larger than the land area of Massachusetts, New Jersey, or Hawaii and is as diverse as it is large. Terrain varies dramatically within the County, from the fertile lowlands of the San Joaquin Valley, rugged mountain peaks of the southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains, to the sweeping panoramas of the Mojave Desert. Because of this diversity, the county has a wide range of climates, determined largely by elevation and precipitation. Temperatures are marked by extremes, with summertime highs topping 100 degrees in the San Joaquin

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<sup>5</sup> Unless otherwise specified herein, data referenced in this section is based on 2011 American Community Survey- 1-Year Estimates (DP05:ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates; DP02: Selected Social Characteristics in the United States; S1101:Housholds and Families-California).

Valley and Mojave Desert and winter temperatures dipping into the teens during snowfalls in the higher mountains. Kern is primarily a rural county with one large city, the City of Bakersfield, and many small towns and communities.

## **Population**

In 2011, the total population of Kern County was 851,710. This figure represents an increase of less than .07% over the 1/1/2010 population of 844,480. Similarly, population estimates for the State of California reflect the same percentage increase of .07 from 37,427,946 (1/1/2011) to 37,678,563 (1/1/2012). Of the population of Kern County in 2011, 79.6% (671,679) were born in the United States, and 20.4% (173,413) were foreign born. Of the 180,031 of the population in Kern County who were born outside of the United States, 75.2% entered before 2000 and 79.3% of those foreign born were from Latin America.

Children under the age of 18 represent a large percentage of the population in Kern County- 30% of the total County population in 2011- one of the highest percentages for that age group in the State of California. By comparison, children under the age of 18 represented 25% of the population in the State of California.

With respect to population changes over the year for incorporated communities within Kern County, many cities actually lost population between 1/1/2011 and 1/1/2012. Only California City, Arvin and Bakersfield showed increases in population. In Kern County, California City's population increase was the highest at 3.7%. The City of Bakersfield population stayed relatively stable with a 1.8% increase. Cities losing population over the last year include Taft, Tehachapi, Delano, and Wasco as shown on Table 1 as follows:

**Table 1- Kern County/City/Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change<sup>6</sup>**

State/County/City	Total Population		Percent Change
	1/1/2011	1/1/2012	
California	37,427,946	37,678,563	0.7
Kern	844,480	850,006	0.7
Arvin	19,503	19,849	1.8
Bakersfield	350,020	354,480	1.3
California City	12,787	13,260	3.7
Delano	53,108	52,005	-2.1
Maricopa	1,156	1,163	0.6
McFarland	12,697	12,333	-2.9
Ridgecrest	27,835	28,089	0.9
Shafter	17,206	16,928	-1.6
Taft	9,284	8,906	-4.1
Tehachapi	14,432	13,872	-3.9
Wasco	25,893	25,324	-2.2
Balance of County	300,559	303,797	1.1

### Industry and Employment

Kern County is well known for its agricultural and oil industries. For total crop value, Kern County ranked 1st in both California and the United States, and it ranked 6th in California and 18th in the U.S. for value of livestock, poultry, and their products. According to the California Farm Bureau Federation and Kern County Farm Bureau, in 2011, Kern County's top-five crops by value were milk, almonds, table grapes, vegetable crops, and pistachios.

According to the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, Kern County leads the state in oil and natural gas production. It produces roughly 75% of California's in-state oil and nearly 58% of the state's total natural gas. California's top 5 oil-producing fields are located in Kern County, and 3 of those fields are ranked in the top 10 producing oil fields in the nation. In fact, if Kern County were a state, it would rank 4th in the nation for oil production.

Consistent with its historically natural resource-based economy, Kern County is in the foreground of the alternative energy industry, becoming the site for some of the largest wind farms and solar arrays. The ongoing development and operation of these facilities are expected to provide significant employment opportunities, as local colleges and vocational

<sup>6</sup> Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit; [www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic](http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic).

institutions continue to expand programs in these fields of study.

In 2011, there were 625,879 persons in Kern County over the age of 16 and eligible age to work. In 2011, the unemployment rate was 15.0%- up from the 2010 estimate of 14.6%. In 2012, unemployment rates in Kern County have decreased to 12.4% (November, 2012).

### Households and Families

In 2011 there were 12,468,743 households in the State of California with an average household size of 2.96 persons. Of all households in the state, 21.1% had children under the age of 18. By comparison, the total number of households in Kern County was 254,761 in 2011 with an average household size of 3.22. Of all households, 75.8% were families and of these, 41.4% had (their own) children under the age of 18 years. Of all households, 21.7% have one or more persons 65 years and over. Non-family households in Kern County constituted 24.2% of all households and most of these reported were people living alone. Some of these single head of households; however, many were living in households in which no one was related to the householder.

### Grandparents

Multi-generational households continued to be prevalent as a household type in Kern County with 28,713 grandparents living with their grandchildren (under 18 years of age) in 2011. Of these grandparents, 38% also had financial responsibility for their grandchildren.

### Nativity and Foreign Born

Of the 851,710 total population of Kern County in 2011, 79.6% (671,679) were born in the United States, and 20.4% (173,413) were foreign born and 75.2% of those entered the United States before the year 2000. 79.3% of those born outside of the United States were born in Latin America.

### Language

Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals in 2011 represented 19.8% of the population in State of California. In Kern County, 42% of the population reporting a language other than English being spoken at home and 17.3% reporting that they speak English less than "very well".

### Geographic Mobility

In 2011, 80.5% of all persons 1 year and over in Kern County resided in the same house as they did in 2010, and 14.9% of those who lived in a different house moved within the last year and from within Kern County. Only 3.4% moved to Kern County during the last year from a different County in California.

### Education

The total K-12 school enrollment for 2011 in Kern County was 173,373. Elementary enrollment was 119,529 and secondary enrollment was 54,211. The 2011-12 high school graduation rate for the State of California was 76.2% compared to 73.3% for Kern County. The difference in college graduation rates between the County and the State was much

greater as only 14.8% of persons in Kern County residents had a Bachelor's Degree or higher while the rate for the State of California was 30.3%.

### Persons with Disabilities

In 2011, among the civilian non-institutionalized population in Kern County, 23.3% reported a disability (10.6% males and 12.7% females). The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 5% of people under 18 years old, to 11.7% of people 18 to 64 years old, and to 40% of those 65 and over. In 2011, there were 1,580 children ages 0-5 who were enrolled in Special Education Programs in Kern County.

### Economy

From 2010 to 2011, the number of persons in Kern County over the age of 16 who were eligible for employment grew at a rate of slightly under 1 percent in Kern County. The percentage of persons unemployed in Kern County also increased from 14.6% in 2010 to 15.0% in 2011.

A steady upward trend in the percentage of persons employed in agriculture and mining continued in 2011 with 16.2% of the employed population employed in those industries. Employment levels in educational services, health care and social assistance remained relatively unchanged from the prior year at 19.6%. Retail trades were just slightly lower in 2011 with 11.4% of the employed population employed in that sector, while the construction industry continued to shed jobs as only 5.4% of the employed population was employed in that sector.

### Income, Poverty, and Participation in Governmental Programs

A significant number of households in Kern County continue to experience lower incomes and receive government assistance through federal "safety-net" programs. In 2011, the median household income in Kern County was \$45,224, down from the 2010 figure of \$46,952, and \$12,000 less than the California median household income of \$57,287. In 2011, 20.2% of all families in Kern County had incomes below the poverty level, up over 3% from the 2010 figure of 17%. Poverty rates were even higher for families with children under five. In 2011, 25% of all families with children under 5 years of age had incomes below the poverty level, up slightly from the 2010 rate of 24.4%.

In 2011, 7.9% of all households in Kern County received Supplemental Security Income (SSI); less than in 2010 when 8.4% of households received SSI. In 2011, 15.3% of households received food stamp/SNAP benefits, up from 2010 when 14.1% of household received these benefits. Between 2010 and 2011, there was an increase in the number of households receiving food stamp/SNAP benefits from 14.1% in 2010 to 15.3% in 2011.

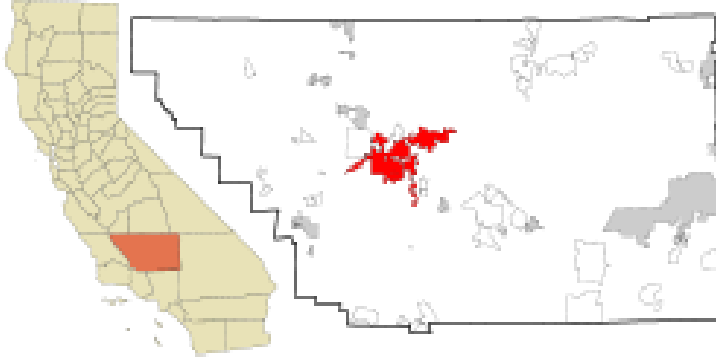
### Health Insurance

Among the civilian non-institutionalized population in Kern County in 2011, 79.5% had health insurance coverage, and increase over 2010's figure of 77.8%. In 2011, 20.5% did not have health insurance coverage. For those under 18 years of age, 9.4% had no health insurance coverage. Of those households who had no health insurance coverage in 2011,

54.1% had related children under the age of 18 years and of those households, 59.9% were households with related children under the age of 5.

#### Other Influences

Kern County student enrollment for 2011-12 was 173,740. The Kern High School District (KHSD) is the largest high school district in California with 34 high school sites and secondary enrollment in 2011 of 54,211. Kern County has an elementary school enrollment of 119,529 with 156 elementary school sites and 45 middle/junior high school sites.



## **City of Bakersfield**

### Population

Bakersfield is the largest city in Kern County. In 2011, there were 352,429 residents- 50.1% were males, 49.9% were females and 34.4% were 18 years of age or younger. With respect to race, 70.5% of the population was white, 8.1% African American, 6.9% Asian, and 1.1% Native American. 46.1% were reported to be of Hispanic ethnicity.

### Households and Families

There were 108,123 households in the City of Bakersfield in 2011. 75.4% of these were families of which 44.4% had their own children under the age of 18. Female householders with no husband present constituted 17.9% of the households, and 12.1% of these had children under the age of 18. Householders who were living alone constituted 20% of all households. There were 12,199 grandparents living in the City of Bakersfield in 2011, and 28.6% of them reported being responsible for their grandchildren.

### Nativity and Foreign Born

Of the total population in the City of Bakersfield, in 2011, 80.8% were born in the United States, and 18.7% were foreign born. Of those born outside of the United States, 91.1% entered before the year 2000.

### Language

In 2011, 121,444 persons or 37.8% of the City population over the age of 5 were reported to speak a language other than English, and 12.7% reported speaking English less than "very well".

### Geographic Mobility

Of the 347,430 persons ages 1 year or over, 79.4% were living in the same house as one year ago. Only 20.2% reported living in a different house in the United States and of these, 16.8% had moved within the same county.

### Education

- The 2011-12 high school graduation rate for residents of the City of Bakersfield was 79.2% compared to 73.3% for Kern County. The difference in college graduation rates was also significant as 20.1% of City of Bakersfield residents had a bachelor's degree or higher in comparison to 14.8% of County residents.
- The total school enrollment for 2011 in City of Bakersfield School District (K-8) was 28,321.

### Disability

Among the civilian non-institutionalized population in Bakersfield, 10.5% reported a disability in 2011. The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 3.2% of people under 18 years old, to 11% of people 18 to 64 years old, and to 40.3% of those 65 and over.

### Economy and Income

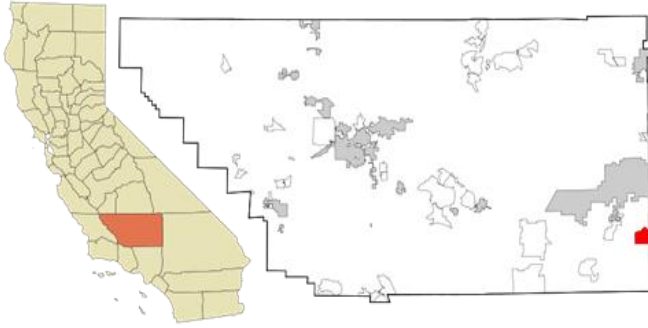
In the City of Bakersfield, the unemployment rate was 9.0%. Of those persons employed (16 years and over), 30.5% were employed in management, business, and science and arts, 24.1% had jobs in the sales and office occupations, and 19% were employed in service occupations. Top industries included: educational services and health care (23%); agriculture; retail trades (12.8%) and forestry fishing, hunting and mining (9.17%).

The 2011 median household in the City of Bakersfield was \$51,667. Of all families, 12.2% had incomes below \$15,000 per year and 10.5% had incomes over \$150,000 or more.

In 2011, 18.2% of families in the City of Bakersfield had incomes below the poverty level. Of those families, 24% had related children under 18 years of age. Only 9.2% of families with incomes below the poverty level were married, while 41.3% were families with female householder and no husband present.

### Health Insurance

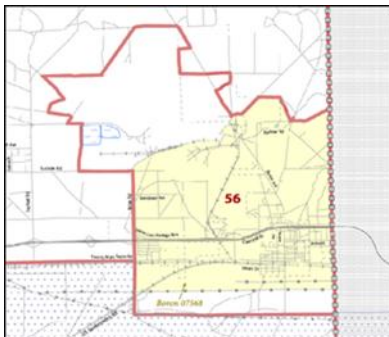
Among the civilian non-institutionalized population in the City of Bakersfield, Bakersfield city, 82.1% had health insurance coverage and 17.9% did not have health insurance coverage. For those under 18 years of age, 7.3% had no health insurance coverage. Of those individuals who were unemployed, 54.8% did not have health insurance.



## BORON

Boron is an unincorporated community located in the far southeastern portion of Kern County in the Antelope Valley region of California's Mojave Desert. Boron is a census-designated place (CDP) in Kern County and incorporates Census Tract 56 (Figure 1). Named after the chemical element boron, the community is located 91 miles southeast of Bakersfield on the western edge of the Mojave Desert at the border of Kern and San Bernardino Counties along State Route 58. Boron is the location of the world's largest borate mine, which is also the largest open-pit mine in California.

**Figure 1-Census Tract 56-Boron Census Designated Place**



### Demographics

According to the 2010 census, the population of Boron is 2,253, up from 2,025 at the 2000 census. Of the total 2010 population, 51.6% are male and 48.3% are female. The racial makeup of the community includes 77.50% white; 7.1% Black or African American; 2.1% American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian, 2.09%; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific native alone, 0.18%; and Other, 10.9%. Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin represent 18% of the population. Changes to note in the racial makeup of the population between the 2000 census and 2010 census include a 260% increase in Black or African American persons (45 vs. 162, respectively) and a 121.86% increase in persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin (223 vs. 406, respectively).

Data for population by age, according to the 2010 census, is persons 0 to 4 years, 164 (7.28%); 5 to 17 years, 457 (20.28%); 18 to 64 years, 1,336 (59.30%); and 65 years and over, 296 (13.14%). Changes to note between the 2000 census data and 2010 census data is an 11.56% increase in the number of children 0 to 4 years (147 to 164, respectively).

### Economy and Income

The primary employer in Boron is Rio Tinto Minerals which operates the borax mine and plant and employs more than 800 people.

According to the 2007-2011 ACS estimates, 45.2% of the population ages 16 and over were employed; 54.8% were not in the labor force; 76% were private wage and salary workers; 19.1% were government workers; and 4.4% were self-employed. According to the California Employment Development Department, the 2011 annual unemployment rate for Boron CDP was 13.3%. Since 2009, the annual unemployment rate for Boron has been lower than the Kern County rates for the same periods. According to the 2007-2011 ACS, the median household income for Boron CDP was \$36,687. Approximately 20% of the households had annual incomes below \$15,000 a year and would therefore qualify for Head Start programs. Of all households, 2.1% had annual incomes over \$150,000.

### Childcare Facilities and Needs Assessment

One licensed day care center, Wind in the Willows Preschool, is located in the community of Boron. The facility is licensed for 30 children and currently has 30 children attending with a waitlist of 9. According to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, Community Connection for Child Care, there are 0 homes licensed for child care in Boron. The number of unlicensed child care providers in Boron CDP is unknown.

In April 2012 the CAPK Head Start program staff conducted door-to-door outreach and education in Boron to gather information to determine the feasibility of establishing a Head Start program in the community. Staff distributed flyers and brochures that contained information about the Head Start program, including center and Home-Based services. Families who indicated an interest in receiving Head Start services were given a small card, entitled "Application to be Taken", to complete. The information requested included name, address, telephone number, primary language spoken, children's names and dates of birth, type of day care preferred (center, Home-Based, half day, full day, etc.) as well as whether or not a child had an identified or suspected disability. A minimum of 11 families were needed to implement Home-Based Program services in Boron, as well as a location where monthly socializations can be held. Fourteen families indicated interest; however, because of the difficulty of recruiting qualified staff in that community, the decision was made to not follow through with Home-Based in Boron. CAPK requires all Home-Based Educators to have the same number of units in Early Childhood Education as classroom educators. It's preferred that education staff have their associate's degree.

Evaluation / Recommendation:

Because a survey of the Boron area has been completed and found that families are interested in Home-Based services, CEDS should pursue further investigation for a facility where Home-Based can operate socializations monthly. Head Start should consider placing an employment advertisement for a Home-Based Educator to determine the qualifications of interested candidates in the area. Due to minimal access to early education, the community would benefit greatly from Head Start Home-Based services.

# 4

## Eligible Children and their Families<sup>7</sup>

*1305.3(c)(1) The demographic make-up of Head Start eligible children and families, including their estimated number, geographic location, and racial and ethnic composition.*

CAPK Head Start/Early Head Start's main focus is the provision of services and programs that impact the low-income children and their families. Income limits for eligibility to enroll into the Head Start program are set by current federal poverty guidelines. Additionally, disabled and homeless children, as well as, those on TANF/CalWORKs are all given priority.

## Kern County Households and Families<sup>8</sup>

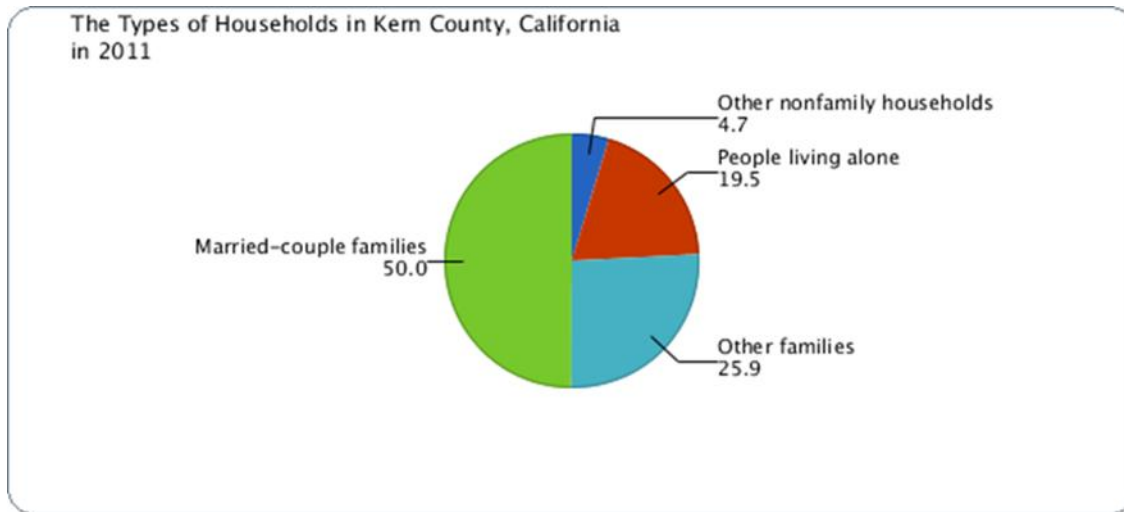
In 2011, there were 255,000 households in Kern County, California. The average household size was 3.2 people. Families made up 76 percent of the households in Kern County, California. This figure includes both married-couple families (50 percent) and other families (26 percent). Of other families, 11 percent are female householder families with no husband present and own children under 18 years. Nonfamily households made up 24 percent of all households in Kern County, California. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder. In Kern County, 47 percent of all households have one or more persons under the age of 18. Figure 2 on the following page provides an illustration of household types in Kern County.

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<sup>7</sup> Unless otherwise specified herein, data referenced in this section is based on 2011 American Community Survey- 1-Year Estimates (DP05:ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates; DP02: Selected Social Characteristics in the United States; S1101:Households and Families-California).

<sup>8</sup> "Family household" is defined by American Community Survey as "A group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption" ( [factfinder2.census.gov/help/en/american\\_factfinder\\_help.htm#glossary](http://factfinder2.census.gov/help/en/american_factfinder_help.htm#glossary)).

**Figure 2- Household Types in Kern County (Source: American Fact Finder Population and Housing Narrative Profile: 2011)**



By comparison, in the State of California, there were an estimated 12,468,743 households in 2011 with families making up 71% of the households in 2011. The State's average family size in 2011 was 3.56 persons. An estimated 4,064,364 (32.5%) households were estimated to have their own children under 18; 68.7 % (2,793,349) were married couple families, 22.5% (917,686) were female householder, families with no husband present, and 8.7% (353,329) were male householder with no wife present.

### **Grandparents Raising Children**

In 2010, 9,557 Kern County children lived in their grandparents' homes.<sup>9</sup> 2011 American Community Survey estimates indicate that 28,713 grandparents were living with their own grandchildren under 18 years of age.

### **Head Start Age Children**

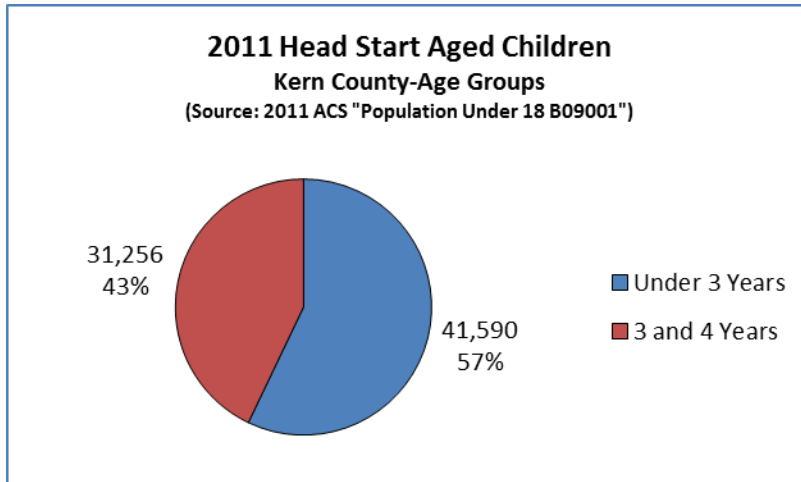
In 2011, there were 72,846 children in Kern County *households* under the age of 5 years. Household data reflects that there were 41,590 children under 3 years of age and 31,256 children 3-4 years of age. As part of the *total County population*, the 0-5 age group constituted 8.6% of the total County population. Of the 0-5 age group, 36,883 were males and 35,898 were females.

<sup>9</sup> Kern County Network for Children, Report Card 2012.

**Figure 3, 4- Head Start Age Children-Age and Gender**  
(Source: 2011 American Community Survey Estimate)

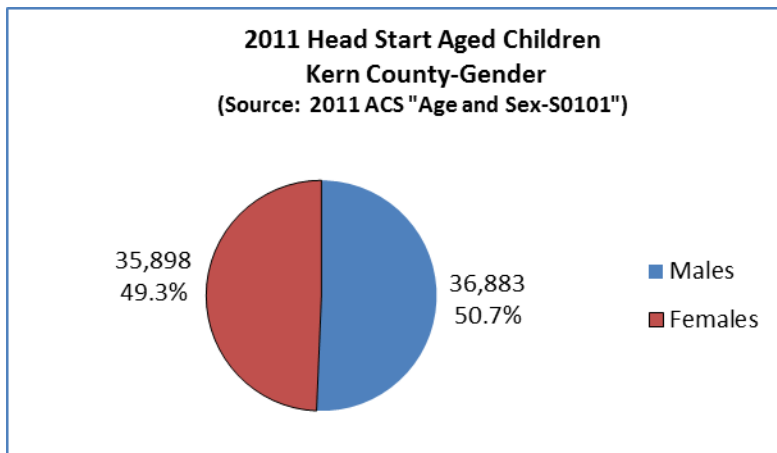
As shown on Figure 3 below, in 2011, there were 72,846 children in households ages 0-5 in Kern County households. Of these children, 31,256 or 43% were under 3 and 4 years of age and 41,590 or 57% were under 3 years of age.

**Figure 3-Head Start Aged Children-Age (2011)**



In 2011, it was estimated that there were a total of 439,088 males and 412,622 females in Kern County, as depicted on Figure 4 below. Of the 412,622 females, 8.7% or 36,883 (49.3% of all children 0-5) were under the age of 5, and of the 439,088 males, 8.7% or 36,883 (50.7% of all children 0-5) were under the age of 5.

**Figure 4-Head Start Aged Children-Gender (2011)**



## Head Start Aged Children-Race

From 2010 to 2011, there were only minor changes in race/ethnicity characteristics of Kern County residents, the most notable being a 3% increase in persons reported to be “white”, and a 3% decrease in the number of persons reporting “some other race” (see Table 2). In 2011, 78.5% of the population (668,592) was reported to be white, 6.6% black or African American, 2.5% American Indian/Alaska Native, 0.4% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 10.5% were reported as “Other”. Of all races, 50% in 2011 were reported to be of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

**Table 2- Kern County Racial Characteristics: 2010-11 Comparison**

RACE	2011		2010	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
All Races	851,710		842,207	
Race	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
White	78.5	668,592	75.2	633,339
Black or African American	6.6	56,212	6.7	56,427
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.5	16,715	2.4	20,212
Asian	5.1	43,437	5.1	42,952
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.4		0.5	
Some other race	10.5	89,429	14.6	122,962
Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino				
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	50.0	425,855	49.3	415,208

Source: 2011 American Community Survey-1-Year CP05: Demographic and Housing Characteristics

Note: Percentage figures have not been adjusted to account for data margins of error and may not equal 100%.

Census 2010 ethnicity and race data for Head-Start aged children was reported in the 2011 Community Assessment. The following data (Table 3) from the Kern County Network for Children, Report Card 2012 is the most current information available for racial characteristics for 0-5:

**Table 3-Head Start-Aged Children-By Racial/Ethnic Group\***

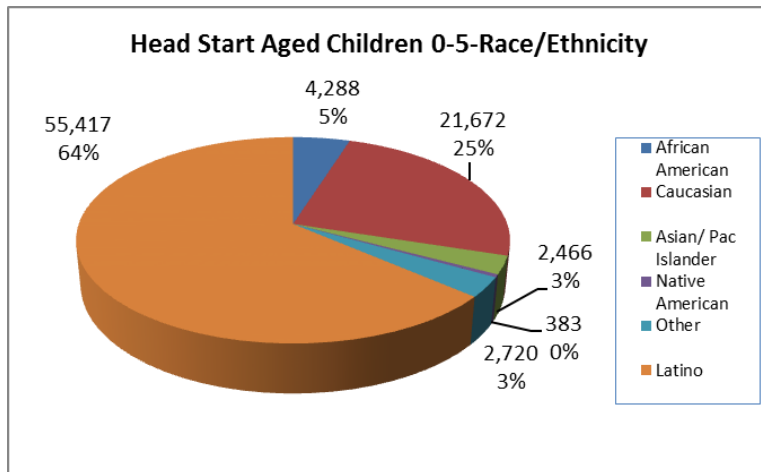
Age Group	African American	Caucasian	Asian/ Pac Islander	Native American	Other	Latino	Total
Total 0-5	4,288	21,672	2,466	383	2,720	55,417	86,946
3-5	2,132	10,906	1,223	197	1,283	27,421	43,162
0-3	2,156	10,766	1,243	186	1,437	27,996	43,784

Source: Kern County Network for Children, Report Card 2012

\*Note: The total number of children 0-5 in Table 6 is greater than those provided by the 2011 ACS Estimates in Table 3 and may be the result of overlap of enumeration of the ethnic category of “Latino” with other racial groups.

The breakdown of racial/ethnic groups of children ages 0-5 in Kern County for 2011 is as follows: 64% Latino; 25% Caucasian; 5% African Americans, 3% Asian/Pacific Islander; 0.0% Native American ; and 3% Other.

**Figure 5-Head Start Aged Children-Race/Ethnicity (2011)**



Source: Kern County Network For Children, Report Card 2012

### Homeless Children

The most recent Kern County Homeless Collaborative Homeless Survey was conducted over a 24-hour period on January 26 and 27 of 2011. The survey found 1,418 homeless people in Kern County, 81 fewer than the previous count in January of 2009. Of the homeless people counted in 2011, only 115 of them were found outside Bakersfield. Delano had 30 homeless people and Tehachapi had 15. Almost 40 percent of the homeless were found in southeast Bakersfield. A total of sixty-nine homeless families accounted for 134 homeless children ages 0-18.<sup>10</sup> According to representatives of the Homeless Collaborative, the Homeless Survey does not capture specific data for the 0-5 age group. The next Homeless Survey is scheduled to be conducted in January of 2013.

### **Income Eligible Families and Children**

Income Eligible Families (Note: additional County-wide household and family data can be found in Chapter 3-“The Service Area”)

In 2011, one out of five families in Kern County lived below the poverty level. Of all Kern County families in Kern County, 20.2% or 39,022 were determined to have poverty status. Of these families, 25% or 9,756 had related children under 5 years of age. Of all children in Kern County under the age of 18, 35.3% were in households with incomes below poverty level and of those, 37.7% (27,613) were under the age of 5 (see Table 4).

<sup>10</sup> BakersfieldNow.com (Wednesday, March 16th, 2011, 3:31pm, “Homelessness is down in Kern County”).

In 2011, poverty rates were highest among female householders with children under the age of 18. Of the 193,108 family households in Kern County, 17.1% or 33,021 were female householder families *with no husband present*, and of these households, 44% or (14,529 households) had incomes below the poverty level, 49.9% of these (7,250) had children 5 year of age and younger. By contrast, in 2011, there were 4,605 *married couple* families in Kern County for whom poverty status was determined , and of these only 249 had related children under the age of 5 years.

**Table 4-Kern County Poverty Rates: Families, People, Children (2011)**

<b>POVERTY RATES FOR FAMILIES AND PEOPLE FOR WHOM POVERTY STATUS IS DETERMINED</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
All families	39,022	20.2%
With related children under 5 years only	9,756	25.0%
Married-couple family	4,605	11.8%
With related children under 5 years only	249	5.4%
Female householder, no husband present, family	14,529	44.0%
With related children under 5 years only	7,250	49.9%
All people	208,669	24.5%
Related children under 18 years	73,243	35.10%
Related children under 5 years	27,613	37.7%
<b>Kern County Totals</b>		
Total number of female households, no husband present	33,031	
Total number of families	193,180	
Total population	851,710	

(Source: 2011 American Community Survey-1-Year: S0201: Selected Population Profile in the United States)

### Household Income

The median income of Kern County households in 2011 was \$45,224, down from the 2010 median household income of \$46,952. In 2011, 7.9% of households received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) which was lower than in 2010 when 8.4% of households were receiving SSI. Likewise, in 2011, fewer households (7.0%) were receiving cash public assistance income than in 2010 when 7.5% of all households were receiving cash public assistance income.

### Income Eligible Children

Of the 851,710 persons living in Kern County in 2011, 24.5% or 208,669 were determined to have poverty status. Of these persons, 35.10% or 73,243 were identified as “related children

under 18 years of age".<sup>11</sup> Of the related children under 18 years of age who were in poverty, 37.7% or 27,613 were under 5 years of age.

**CAPK Head Start Programs-Eligible Children**

*Additional data is included in this section of the Community Assessment to provide a more detailed estimate of the number of Head Start Program age and income-eligible children in Kern County.*

*Age-Eligible Children*

2011 Kern County population data for children is provided in the County Network for Children- Report Card 2012. See Table 5 below.

**Table 5-Kern County Child Population by Ethnicity and Age (2011)**

Kern County Child Population by Ethnicity & Age (2011)	African American	Caucasian	Latino	Asian/ Pac Islander	Native American	Other	Total
Total Children (0-17)	12,950	67,551	156,463	8,317	1,431	7,369	254,081
Percentage of Total Children	5.1%	26.6%	61.6%	3.3%	0.6%	2.9%	100.0%
Under 1	706	3,616	9,289	416	67	507	14,601
1-2	1,450	7,150	18,707	827	119	930	29,183
3-5	2,132	10,906	27,421	1,223	197	1,283	43,162
6-10	3,385	17,762	42,535	2,300	364	1,924	68,270
11-15	3,638	19,414	41,430	2,507	471	1,912	69,372
16-17	1,639	8,703	17,081	1,044	213	813	29,493

Source: Kern County Network for Children Report Card 2012

Based on the above data, percentage figures for particular age groups (0-2 and 3-5) relative to the total number of children ages 0-5 are identified in Table 6 below. Of all children in Kern County ages 0-5 in 2011, 50.4% were ages 0-2 and 49.5% were ages 3-5.

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11 "Related children"- Includes all people in a household under the age of 18, regardless of marital status, who are related to the householder. Does not include householder's spouse or foster children, regardless of age (American Fact Finder Glossary, <http://factfinder2.census.gov>).

**Table 6- Kern County, Head Start Program Age-Eligible Children (2011)**

Age Group	Number of Children	Percent of Total Children Ages 0-5
Under 1	14,601	
1-2	29,183	
<b>0-2 (subtotal)</b>	<b>43,784</b>	<b>50.4</b> (ages 0-2)
<b>3-5*</b>	<b>43,162</b>	<b>49.6</b> (ages 3-5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,946</b>	

\*3-5 group includes children under 6 years of age.

Source: Kern County Network for Children Report Card 2012 (taken from 2011 California Department of Finance population projections)

### **Income-Eligible Children**

Based on 2011 American Community Survey data (Table 7 below), in 2011 there were 32,457 children in Kern County ages 0-5\* whose income in the past 12 months was below the poverty level.

**Table 7-Kern County- Poverty Status of Children 0-5 (2011)**

Under 5 Years of Age and Under-Income Below Poverty Level in past 12 months	Number
<b>Males</b> 5 years and under	15,769
<b>Females</b> 5 years and under	16,688
<b>Total below poverty level 5 years and under</b>	<b>32,457*</b>

\*includes children under the age of 6

Source: American Fact Finder- 2011 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates- B17001- Poverty Status in the past 12 months by Sex and Age

Table 8 below shows that in 2011, there were 32,457 income-eligible children ages 0-5. Of these children, 50.4% or 16,358 children were ages 0-2 and 49.6% or 16,099 children were ages 3-5\*.

**Table 8- CAPK Head Start Programs Income-Eligible Children (2011)**

Number children 0-5 years of age below poverty level*	Ages 0-2 (50.4 %)	Ages 3-5* (49.6)
32,457	16,358	16,099

\*Includes children under age of 6

Sources: Kern County Network for Children Report Card 2012 and American Fact Finder- 2011 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates- B17001-Poverty Status in the past 12 months by Sex and Age.

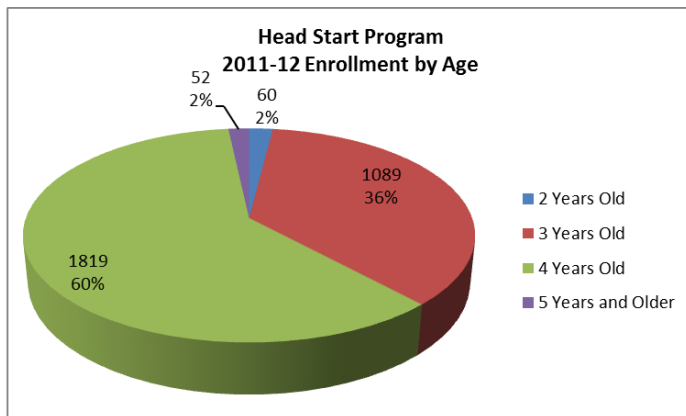
**CAPK Head Start and Early Head Start Enrolled Children<sup>12</sup>**

2011-12 CAPK Head Start Program Information Reports (PIR) provide a wide variety of information pertaining to children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start programs and their families. The following information is provided concerning enrollment by age, ethnicity, language, race, and body mass index.

*Head Start Program -Age*

Of the 3,020 children enrolled in the CAPK Head Start Program during the 2011-12 report year, 2% were 2 years old, 36% were 3 years old, 60% were 4 years old, and 2% were 5 years and older (see Figure 6 below).

**Figure 6- CAPK Head Start Program Enrollment 2011-12-Age**



*Head Start Program-Ethnicity*

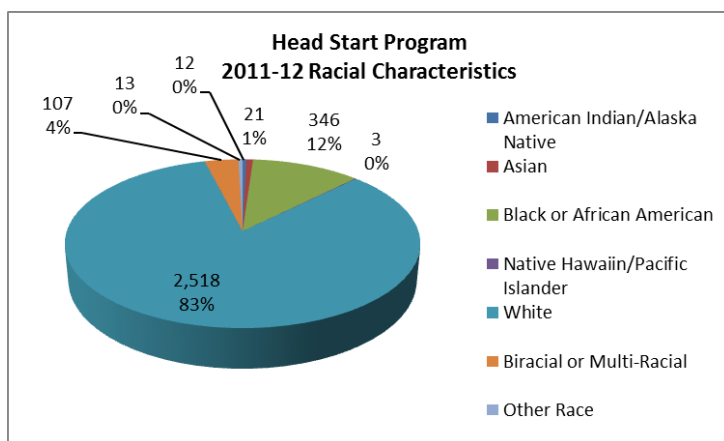
<sup>12</sup> 2011-12 Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Report-Grant Level.

72% of children enrolled in the CAPK Head Start Program in 2011 were of Hispanic/Latino origin, and 28% were of Non-Hispanic/Latino origin. 1136 children or 38% enrolled were from families where Spanish is the primary language.

*Head Start Program-Racial Characteristics*

Of the children enrolled in the CAPK Head Start Program during the 2011-12 report year, 83% were White, 12% were Black or African American, 4% were Biracial or Multi-Racial, 1% were Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native represented less than 1%.

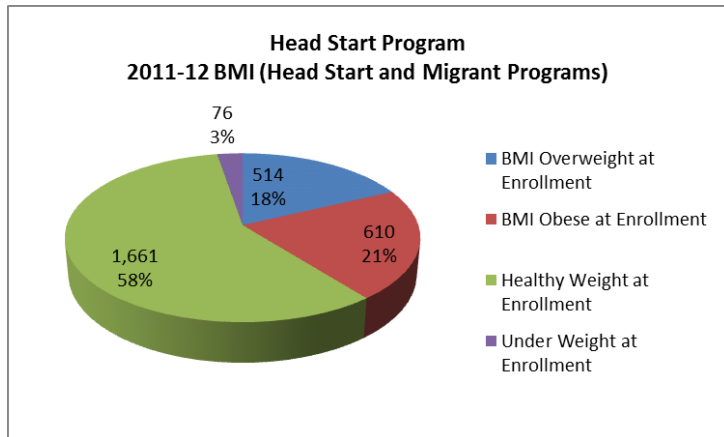
**Figure 7-CAPK Head Start Program 2011-12-Racial Characteristics**



*CAPK Head Start Program -Obesity*

While 58% of children were at a healthy weight upon enrollment, overweight/obese children (as determined based on Body Mass Index or BMI) constituted 39% of children enrolled in CAPK Head Start Programs in 2011-12. This group continues to be a priority for enrollment in the CAPK Head Start Program which currently utilizes the “I Am Moving, I Am Learning” curriculum in classrooms as a prevention and intervention tool for obesity.

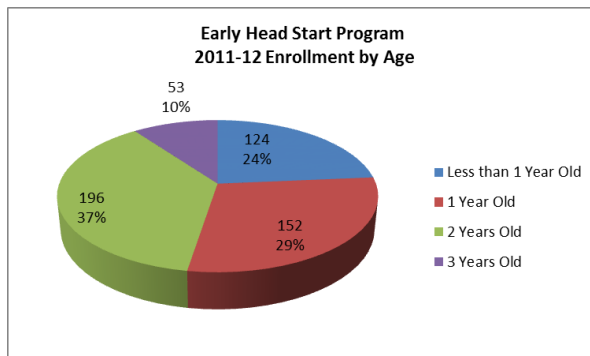
**Figure 8-CAPK Head Start Program-Children BMI (2011-12)**



*CAPK Early Head Start Program- Age*

Of the 525 children enrolled in the CAPK Early Head Start Program during the 2011-12 report year, 24% (124) were less than 1 year old, 29% (152) were 1 year old, 37% (196) were 2 years old, 10% (53) were 3 years old.

**Figure 9-CAPK Early Head Start 2011-12 Program Enrollment-Age**



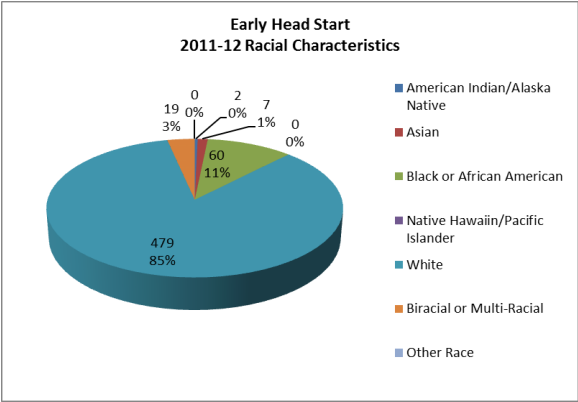
*CAPK Early Head Start- Ethnicity*

74% of children enrolled in the CAPK Early Head Start Program in 2011-12 were of Hispanic/Latino origin, and 26% were of Non-Hispanic/Latino origin. 137 children or 24% enrolled were from families where Spanish is the primary language.

*CAPK Early Head Start-Racial Characteristics*

Of the children enrolled in the CAPK Early Head Start Program during the 2011-12 report period, 85% were White, 11% were Black or African American, 3% were Biracial or Multi-Racial, 1% was Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native represented less than 1%.

Figure 10- CAPK Early Head Start 2011-12 Enrollment-Racial Characteristics



# 5

## HEAD START & OTHER CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

*1305.3(c)(2) Other child development and child care programs that are serving Head Start eligible children, including publicly funded State and local preschool programs, and the approximate number of Head Start eligible children served by each.*

### Supply And Demand

The availability of quality, affordable child care is essential for working families. According to the Kern County Network for Children, Report Card 2012, licensed child care and school age programs in Kern County are available for only 31% of children with working parents compared to 34% in the previous year,<sup>13</sup> and as the economy continues to improve, parents going back to work may have difficulty finding care that best fits the needs of their families.

#### *Trends in Licensed Child Care Supply (2008-10)*

Data from the 2011 Child Care Portfolio (Child Care Resource & Referral Database January 2008 and 2010), show that between 2008 and 2010, the number of licensed childcare slots in Kern County increased by 179 (see Table 5). During this same period, the number of Family Childcare Home slots decreased by 1,218. This decrease may have been attributed to the failing economy and the higher than usual unemployment, and these conditions caused the close of a number of licensed home care facilities.

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<sup>13</sup> Kern County Network for Children, Report Card 2012.

**Table 9-Child Care Supply in Kern County (2011)**

CHILD CARE SUPPLY KERN COUNTY	LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS			LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES		
	2008	2010	Change	2008	2010	Change
Total number of slots	12,401	12,580	1%	10,510	9,292	-12%
Infant slots (under 2 years old)	640	651	2%			
Preschool slots (2-5 years old)	9,472	10,264	8%			
School-age slots (6 years and older)	2,289	1,665	-27%			
Total number of sites	215	198	-8%	1,076	917	-15%
Source: Child Care Resource & Referral Database January 2008 and 2010						
2011 Child Care Portfolio is produced by the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network						

The 2011 Portfolio also provided insight into the nature of 2010 childcare requests countywide. The 2011 Child Care Portfolio shows that while 33% of requests for provider referrals were from parents seeking infant/toddler care, but only 5% of licensed center slots in Kern County were specifically for children under age 2.

***Child Care Centers in Kern County (March, 2012 data)\****

In March of 2012, Kern County child care was provided through 841 family child care homes, 194 licensed child care centers/half-day enrichment programs, and 148 license-exempt programs (school-age: 6 years and up). Of the 34,533 number of licensed spaces, 25% (8,612) were in family child care homes, 37% (12,638) were licensed child care center/half day enrichment programs, and 38% (13,283) were license-exempt programs (Community Connection for Child Care, Kern County Network for Children, Report Card 2012.) \* **Note: Current child care provider data from Community Connection for Child Care, including family child care homes, is expected in the spring of 2013.**

***Licensed Child Care Centers (November 15, 2012 data)***

According to the State of California-Child Care Resource Referral Network and CAPK Head Start data (November, 2012), the *total* number of licensed pre-school "slots" in Kern County was 11,253.<sup>14</sup> **A detailed listing of licensed child care sites is provided in Appendix 1 of the Community Assessment 2013 Update.** Of this total, 2,345 CAPK Head Start/Early Head Start spaces were included and consisted of: 214 full day-full year Head Start slots; 1,477 part day-part year Head Start slots; and 654 full day-full year Early Head Start slots. Non-Head Start preschool slots totaled 8,909.

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<sup>14</sup> State of California-Child Care Resource and Referral Network (November, 2012); and CAPK Head Start Program (November, 2012).

## CAPK Head Start Program Enrollment<sup>15</sup>

A variety of data is generated for each program year for Head Start and Early Head Start Programs through the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR). In the 2011-12 report period, Head Start *funded* enrollment totaled 2,348. *Cumulative* enrollment for the Head Start Program was 3,020 (includes Head Start- Ages 3-5) Funded enrollment numbers were unchanged from the 2009-10 Program Year. (Because funded enrollment for 2010-11 was impacted by State of California budget cuts, that data was not considered for comparison.)

2011-12 *cumulative* enrollment data for the Head Start Program (i.e. - all children enrolled during the report year) is more specifically described on Table 6 and Head Start *funded* (Administration for Children and Families-funded) enrollment by program option is provided on Table 7 below:

**Table 10-CAPK Head Start Program Cumulative Enrollment (2011-12)**

Cumulative Enrollment- 2011-12 PIR Head Start Children by Age	Number Enrolled
2 Years Old	60
3 Years Old	1089
4 Years Old	1819
5 Years and Older	52
Total Enrollment	3020

**Table 11- CAPK Head Start Enrollment by Program Option (2011-12) \*Total enrollment figure does not include enrollment at child care partner**

Program Option 2011-12 PIR Enrollment Data	Number Enrolled
Head Start Total Funded Enrollment (Administration for Children and Families)	2348
Center-based Option Full Day	260
Center-based Option Part Day	1908
Home-Based Option	180
Funded Enrollment at Child Care Partner	120
Total	2348

<sup>15</sup> 2011-2012 Head Start Program Information Report (PIR), PIR Summary Report-Grant Level (Head Start and Early Head Start Programs).

### 2011-12 Head Start Program Eligibility:

The majority of children enrolled in 2011-12 (52%) were eligible for Head Start Program enrollment based on their families' receipt of public assistance. Children eligible based on income represented 35% of children enrolled. 87 foster children and 77 homeless children were enrolled, and 241 children were over income.

### **Early Head Start Program**

In the 2011-12 report period, Early Head Start funded enrollment was 244 and cumulative enrollment was 525.

**Table 12-Early Head Start Program Cumulative Enrollment (2011-12)**

<b>Cumulative Enrollment- 2011-12 PIR Children by Age</b>	<b>Number Enrolled</b>
Less than 1 Year Old	124
1 Year Old	152
2 Years Old	196
3 Years Old	53
Total Enrollment	525

The majority of Early Head Start funded enrollment slots were center-based/full-day option slots (180), 44 were of the Home-based option, and 20 were pregnant women.

**Table 13-Early Head Start Program Option Enrollment (2011-12)**

<b>Program Option 2011-12 PIR Enrollment Data</b>	<b>Number Enrolled</b>
Early Head Start Total Funded Enrollment (Administration for Children and Families)	244
Center-based Option Full Day	180
Center-based Option Part Day	
Home-Based Option	44
Funded Enrollment of Pregnant Women	20
Total	244

### Early Head Start Eligibility:

Of the 525 children enrolled in Early Head Start during the 2011-12 report year, 48% (273) were eligible based on their families' receipt of public assistance, 35% (196) were income eligible, 10% (56) were foster children, 4% (23) were homeless, 2% (13) were over income and 1% (6) were from families who had incomes between 100% and 130% of poverty.

## **Additional Considerations**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that parents not spend more than 10% of their family income on child care. Currently, the average annual cost of full-time care for an infant or toddler in Kern County is \$10,598 in a licensed center and \$6,185 in a family child care home. The cost of care for a preschooler is \$7,274 for a center and \$5,979 in a family child care home. With over 20% of all families below the poverty level, there are many families in Kern County who cannot afford child care. In the spring of 2011, there were 2,717 families waiting to enroll 4,220 children in subsidized child care or child development programs in Kern County.

# 6

## *Children with Disabilities*

***1305.3(c)(3) The estimated number of children with disabilities four years old or younger, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies.***

### Kern County Special Education Enrollment Trends (2009-2011)

The Kern County Network for Children (KCNC), 2012 Report Card reported that 1,416 Kern County children under the age of 5 received special education services during the 2010-11 school year. This represented a decrease of 128 students from the 1,544 children who were reported for the 2009-10 school year; and an increase from 1,479 reported for 2008-09. As noted in the 2011 Community Assessment, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in California. In the 2009-10 school year, 985 or 6% of children/youth ages 1-22 years who received special education services in Kern County had autism. Kern's student population with autism has increased 154% since the 2004-05 school year."

### Current Kern County Children with Disabilities Data

The California Department of Education's Special Education Division provides data on the number of children enrolled in special education programs as well as the types of disabilities. Data is available by county, school district and in some cases, school site.

Table 10 provides data with respect to children with disabilities ages 0-5 years for Kern County. According to the California Department of Education-Special Education Division, a total of 1,580 children between the ages of 0-5 in Kern County were enrolled in Special Education Programs and had Individual Learning Plans (IEPs).

**Table 14-Kern County Children with Disabilities (0-5)**

	Mental Retardation	Hard of Hearing	Deaf	Speech or Language Impairment	Visual Impairment	Emotional Disturbance	Orthopedic Impairment	Other Health Impairment	Specific Learning	Deaf-Blindness	Multiple Disability	Autism	Traumatic Brain Injury	Total
<b>Age</b>														
<b>0</b>	9	5	0	2	0	0	0	29	0	0	2	0	0	47
<b>1</b>	8	7	1	47	1	0	6	94	0	0	0	0	0	164
<b>2</b>	30	6	3	224	6	0	3	71	1	0	2	8	0	354
<b>0 to 2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>565</b>
<b>3</b>	43	9	4	241	5	0	5	23	4	0	12	75	1	422
<b>4</b>	61	5	6	374	5	2	10	24	12	0	5	88	1	593
<b>3 to 4</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1015</b>
<b>0 to 5</b>														<b>1580</b>

Source: California Department of Education, Special Education Division; Reporting Cycle: December 1, 2011; Prepared: 12/28/2012 (10:39:32 AM)

During the 2011 report period, 565 children ages 0-2 were enrolled in Special Education programs. 273 of these children (48%) had a speech or language impairment, and 194 (34%) had an “other” health impairment. There were 1,015 children ages 3-4 who were enrolled in Special Education programs in Kern County during the 2011 report period. 615 of these children (60.5%) had a speech or language impairment, 163 (16%) had autism, and 47 (4.6%) had an “other” health impairment.

CAPK Head Start Program Children with Disabilities<sup>16</sup>

During the 2011-12 Head Start program year, 285 or 9.56% of all enrolled children ages 3-5 had Individual Education Plans and were receiving Disabilities Services. Approximately 92% of children enrolled in Disabilities Services were diagnosed with “Speech or Language Impairments” as their primary disability (see Table 11).

16 2011-2012 Head Start Program Information Report (PIR), PIR Summary Report-Grant Level (Head Start and Early Head Start Programs).

**Table 15-CAPK Head Start Preschool Primary Disabilities**

Disabilities Services	Total Enrolled
Children with Individual Education Plan (IEP)	283
Children with Speech Impairment	263
Children with Health Impairment	3
Children with Intellectual Disabilities	4
Children with Hearing Impairment	2
Children with Orthopedic Impairment	1
Children with Visual Impairment	2
Children with Specific Learning Disabilities	2
Children with Autism	2
Children with Non-Categorical/ Developmental Delay	4
Total with IEP	283

(Source: 2011-12 Head Start PIR Summary Report)

CAPK Early Head Start Program Children with Disabilities

In the 2011 Report Year, 35 children were enrolled in Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Services Program and had Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) as shown on Table 12.

**Table 16- CAPK Early Head Start Enrolled Children with Disabilities**

Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Services-Children with IFSP	Number
Children with an IFSP	35
Children with an IFSP-Determined Eligible Prior to Enrollment Year	30
Children with IFSP-Determined Eligible for Services During Enrollment Year	5
Children with an IFSP-Not Receiving Services	0

(Source: 2011-12 Early Head Start PIR Summary Report)

**Other Resources**

CAPK publishes a list of agencies that may offer information and support for people needing disability services. Several offer child care services, others are support networks or county planning agencies. Eighteen such resources are in Bakersfield, one is in Delano. Annual updates of detailed disabilities and special education programs including language services information can be downloaded by county, school district, or school at: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/Dataquest/>.

## Kern Regional Center

Kern Regional Center (KRC) provides early intervention services to infants between birth and three years of age who are believed at high risk of having a developmental disability and is the Administrative Unit for Kern Early Start Services, in collaboration with Bakersfield City Schools, and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. Early Start works with infants and toddlers and their families to increase skills and development through direct intervention, support and consultation or assistance in accessing other services and agencies in the community. Children in this program are evaluated and have an IFSPs developed to address their needs and describe the services that they will receive. Services are provided in the home, infant centers, and other environments suitable for that child and his or her family.<sup>17</sup>

## Kern County SELPAs

The Kern County Consortium Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) is a Multi-District/County Office SELPA. Currently, 44 school districts, 3 charter schools and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office are members of this SELPA which provides special education programs and services to over 10,000 students from birth until age 21 years.<sup>18</sup>

## **Additional Considerations-Response to Intervention**

In many areas in Kern County, there is increasing competition among publicly funded child care providers (public schools) to serve children with disabilities. While the situation may be advantageous for parents of children with disabilities, it creates a challenge for Head Start in meeting the requirement to serve at least 10% children with IEPs.

Kern County Superintendent of School's (KCSOS) SELPA has implemented the Response to Intervention (RTI) model. RTI is a method of academic intervention that is designed to provide early, effective assistance to children who are experiencing difficulty with learning. Local education Agencies (LEA) in Kern County are expanding the use of these academic interventions at an earlier age, reducing the number of children that are referred for special education assessment. Therefore, a larger number of children may be held in an assessment period and in categories without an IEP/IFSP for longer periods of time, resulting in fewer children with official diagnoses than in the past.

The CAPK Head Start/Early Head Start program seeks to provide a minimum of 10% of enrollment opportunities to children with disabilities. The families of these children may participate in the county's multi-agency collaborative, which is designed to simplify the

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<sup>17</sup> Source: Kern Regional Center Website: <http://www.kernrc.org>.

<sup>18</sup> Source: Kern County Superintendent of Schools Website: <http://kcsos.kern.org/SpecialEd/>.

process of obtaining help by providing a one-stop referral and identification process to infants and toddlers from birth until age three. CAPK staff is invited by school districts to sit in on creation of most Individual Education Plans (IEP's) for preschool children. This means that the opportunity to enroll in Head Start/Early Head Start is presented to many children entering the SELPA system.

CAPK Head Start staff is working with the children and will continue to incorporate IEP/IFSP goals into the individualized curriculum. Staff is also working with parents and will continue to provide information and education in a supporting and purposeful manner.

# 7

## The Needs of Eligible Children and their Families<sup>19</sup>

### *1305.3(c)(4) Data regarding the education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start eligible children and their families.*

#### Overview of Needs

Since the Great Recession of 2007, economic conditions in the country have led to record levels of unemployment and poverty as well as increases in applications for income assistance programs. The impact of poverty with respect to education, health, and well-being of children and their families cannot be understated. Although economic conditions are slowly stabilizing nation-wide, there remain significant levels of poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity in Kern County which affect Head Start-eligible children and their families. In 2011, 25% of persons in Kern County were in poverty, and 20.2% of all families had incomes under the poverty level.<sup>20</sup> Poverty affects children and female householders at greater rates than other population groups. In 2011, 35% of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 9% of people 65 years old and over. Twenty percent of all families and 44 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.<sup>21</sup>

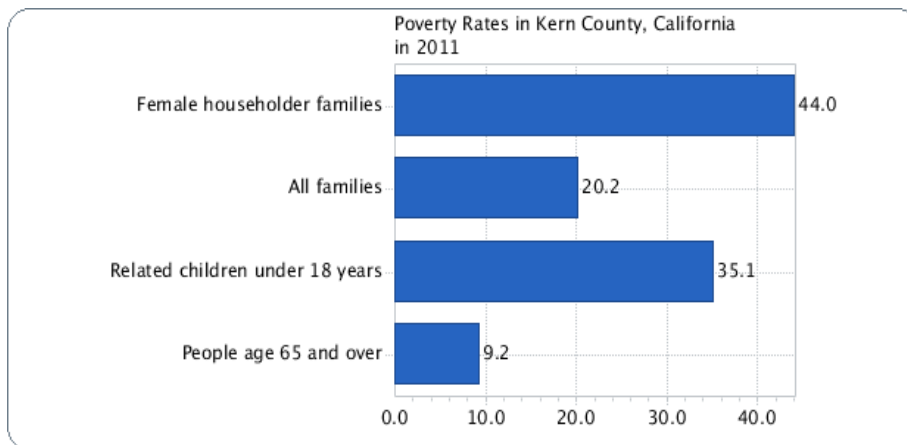
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19 Unless otherwise noted, data for this chapter is provided from the ChildrenNow, 2012 California County Scorecard; website- <http://scorecard.childrennow.org/2012/county/kern//>. Primary funding and support for the 2012 California County Scorecard is provided by The California Endowment. This tool relies in part on survey data from United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), and WestEd's California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). Trend designations are based on percent change as assigned as follows: up (≥5%); down (≤5%); neutral (+4 to -4%).

20 In 2012, the Federal poverty level for a family of four was \$23,050.

21 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates NP01 Population and Housing Narrative Profile: 2011.

**Figure 11-Poverty Rates in Kern County (2011)**

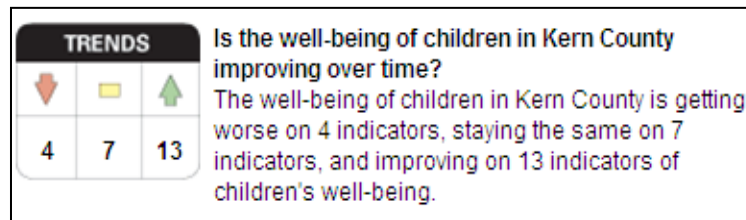
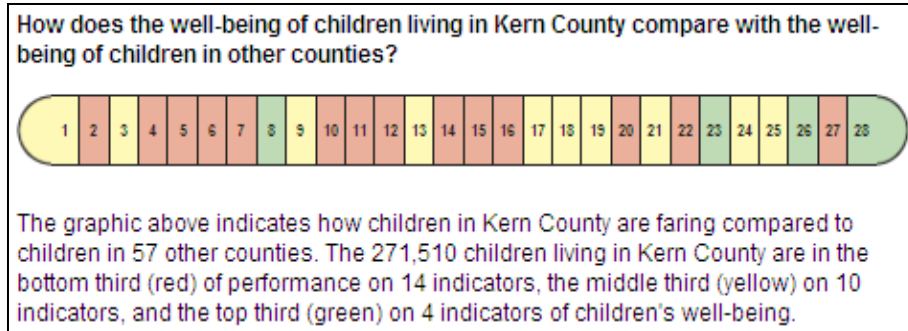


Poverty and unemployment are inextricably linked. Although the local economy is showing signs of recovery, the unemployment rate for Kern County continued to be high at 12.4% at the end of 2012. Furthermore, in many of the county's outlying communities, such as Arvin, Lamont, and Delano, unemployment rates exceed 30%. Poverty and unemployment affect a family's ability to purchase nutritious and sufficient food. Despite the fact that Kern County is one of the world's most productive agricultural regions, Bakersfield ranks highest among major cities in the United States for food hardship, and currently over 162,000 individuals face food insecurity in Kern County.

### **Education, Health, and Well-Being Indicators**

This chapter addresses the education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start-eligible children and their families. In October 2012, an interactive, online report, the *2012 California County Scorecard of Children's Well-Being*, was completed. A snapshot of the *Scorecard* is presented in this Community Assessment Update and identified as **Figure 12**. The *Scorecard* delivers a current and comprehensive picture of children's condition in every one of California's 58 counties and provides county-level data based on 28 key indicators of child well-being across counties, over time, and by race and ethnicity. Overall, Kern County was ranked by the *Scorecard* in the bottom third of performance on 14 indicators, in the middle third on 10 indicators, and the top third on 4 indicators. Of the 28 indicators measured, however, the well-being of children in Kern County is improving on 18 of these indicators, staying the same on 7 indicators, and getting worse on 4 indicators. Kings and Tulare Counties were selected as comparative counties as they are similar to Kern County with respect to their designation as "low-income, rural counties."

Figure 12-Children Now- 2012 California County Scorecard-Kern County<sup>22</sup>



INDICATOR ⓘ	COUNTY COMPARISON ⓘ				DATA BY RACE/ETHNICITY ⓘ				
	Bottom	Middle	Top	Trend ⓘ	Latino	White	African American	Asian	Other
1. Women who receive early prenatal care ⓘ	56%	83%	100%	↓ -10%	73%	80%	69%	79%	73%
2. Newborns who are exclusively breastfed while in the hospital ⓘ	21%	57%	88%	NA	29%	59%	24%	40%	NA
3. Young children who are read to every day ⓘ	54%	65%	79%	↔ +2%	54%	NA	NA	NA	NA
4. Children, ages 0-3, who do not experience recurring neglect or abuse ⓘ	71%	93%	100%	↑ +8%	89%	91%	88%	100%	87%
5. 3- and 4-year olds who attend preschool ⓘ	34%	50%	73%	↔ -4%	31%	40%	39%	40%	50%
6. 3rd-graders who read at grade level ⓘ	27%	46%	69%	↑ +37%	31%	49%	28%	56%	44%
7. 7th-graders who meet or exceed state standards in math ⓘ	33%	50%	68%	↑ +83%	38%	51%	29%	64%	37%
8. Elementary and middle school students who are supervised by an adult after school ⓘ	42%	80%	87%	↑ +8%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
9. Students who are "ready" or "conditionally ready" for college-level math courses ⓘ	28%	58%	77%	↑ +15%	49%	60%	45%	79%	NA
10. 12th-graders who graduate on time ⓘ	38%	76%	93%	↔ -3%	70%	80%	66%	88%	61%

INDICATOR ⓘ	COUNTY COMPARISON ⓘ				DATA BY RACE/ETHNICITY ⓘ				
	Bottom	Middle	Top	Trend ⓘ	Latino	White	African American	Asian	Other
11. Classrooms with high-speed Internet access ⓘ	80%	92%	100%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12. High school science classes that are taught by a "highly qualified teacher" ⓘ	90%	92%	100%	↑ +5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
13. Children who feel connected to their school ⓘ	45%	44%	58%	↑ +51%	43%	51%	42%	50%	46%
14. Suspensions that are limited to serious offenses, not "willful defiance" ⓘ	50%	58%	84%	↑ +7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15. Expulsions that are limited to serious offenses, not "willful defiance" ⓘ	91%	92%	100%	↓ -4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
16. Children who are in a healthy weight zone ⓘ	63%	69%	82%	↓ -5%	59%	70%	67%	74%	65%
17. Eligible students who eat free or reduced-price breakfasts during the school year ⓘ	34%	30%	51%	↑ +3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
18. Children who live near grocery stores, produce stands or farmers markets ⓘ	72%	79%	100%	↑ +91%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
19. Eligible students who eat free or reduced-price meals during the summer ⓘ	7%	16%	48%	↓ -56%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
20. Schools that have a health center ⓘ	0%	2%	14%	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
21. Children who have health insurance for the entire year ⓘ	92%	92%	97%	↑ +7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

INDICATOR ⓘ	COUNTY COMPARISON ⓘ				DATA BY RACE/ETHNICITY ⓘ				
	Bottom	Middle	Top	Trend ⓘ	Latino	White	African American	Asian	Other
22. Children who have a usual source of health care ⓘ	90%	92%	95%	↑ +1%	93% <sub>s</sub>	NA	NA	NA	NA
23. Asthmatic children who have been given an asthma management plan ⓘ	37%	36%	55%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
24. Adolescents who are not at risk for depression ⓘ	69%	70%	79%	↑ +7%	69%	69%	73%	71%	63%
25. Children who visited a dentist in the last year ⓘ	87%	87%	93%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
26. Children in the child welfare system who have visited a dentist in the last year ⓘ	83%	71%	100%	↑ +18%	84%	82%	83%	89%	0%
27. Children in the child welfare system who have stability in their placement ⓘ	71%	85%	100%	↓ -10%	71%	72%	65%	100%	88%
28. Children in the child welfare system who exit to permanency within three years ⓘ	95%	88%	97%	↑ +16%	93%	98%	94%	NA	NA

NA - Not Available; †/ - Statistically Unstable

*Education Indicators: preschool attendance; reading/math; graduation rates*

- 34% of children in Kern County ages 3-5 attend preschool, which ranks at the bottom end of the range for this indicator (lowest is 34%; highest is 73%; state average is 50%). Comparing with other similar counties, Kern County ranked lower than both Kings and Tulare Counties with 38% and 39%, respectively.
- 37% of Kern County 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are reading at grade level. This ranking was at the bottom end of the range (lowest is 27%; highest is 69%; state average is 46%). Comparing with other similar counties, Kern County ranks lower than Kings (40%) but higher than Tulare County (36%).
- 67% of young children 0-5 years of age in Kern County are read to every day, which falls in the middle range of the California County Scorecard ranking (lowest is 54%; highest is 79%; state average is 65%). Kern County ranks higher than both Kings County (64%) and Tulare County (59%).
- 42% of 7<sup>th</sup>-graders meet or exceed state standards (California Standards Test) in math. This ranking falls near the bottom end of the range (lowest is 33%; highest is 68%; state average is 50%). Kern County ranks lower than both Kings and Tulare Counties with 53% and 47%, respectively.
- 73% of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders graduate on time (within 4 years). This ranking falls near the bottom of the range (lowest is 38%; highest is 93%; state average is 76%). Kern County ranks higher than Kings County (70%) but lower than Tulare County (78%).

*Health Indicators: weight management; health insurance; dental care; asthma care; prenatal care; breastfeeding*

- 63% of Kern County children are in a healthy weight zone (this figure includes the percentage of students in the seventh grade who are in the Healthy Fitness Zone for Body Composition). This ranking falls near the bottom of the *Scorecard* range (lowest is 57%; highest is 82%; state average is 69%). Kern County ranks below both Kings County (65%) and Tulare County (64%).
- 90% of children (0-17) have health insurance for the entire year which ranks near the bottom of the *Scorecard* range (lowest is 86%; highest is 97%; and the state average is 93%). Kern County ranks below Kings and Tulare Counties (92% for both counties).
- Tooth decay is the most prevalent chronic disease of childhood and can lead to problems with a child's nutrition, growth and academic performance. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends a dental check-up at least twice a year for children. According to the *Scorecard*, 87% of children in Kern County have visited a dentist in the last year, which ranks in the middle of the range (lowest is 82%; high is 93%; state average is 87%). Kern County ranks above both Kings and Tulare Counties (86% for both counties).

- Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease characterized by temporary coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath and chest tightness. Childhood asthma is widespread in the Central Valley and is often linked to the Valley's poor air quality, heavy trucking corridors, and physical geography. 37% of asthmatic children ages 0-17 in Kern County have been given an asthma management plan by a physician. Kern County ranks in the middle of the range (lowest is 23%; highest is 55%; state average is 36%). Kern County ranks higher than either Kings or Tulare County with 23% and 27%, respectively.
- Health care is vital to the well-being of both mother and baby. In 2011, 75% of pregnant women in Kern County received early prenatal care (at least one pre-natal care visit within the first trimester), which ranks in the middle of the *Scorecard* range (lowest is 56%; highest is 100%; state average is 83%). Kern County ranked lower than both Kings and Tulare with 76% and 79%, respectively.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention promotes breastfeeding as one of the most highly effective preventive measures a mother can take to protect the health of her infant and herself. In 2011, 38% of newborns were exclusively breastfed while in the hospital, which ranks toward the bottom of the *Scorecard* range (lowest is 21%; high range was 88%; and the state average was 57%). Kern County ranked higher than both Kings and Tulare Counties with 37% and 34%, respectively.

*Well-Being Indicators: Children in Child-Welfare System*<sup>23</sup>

The number of children in foster care is always changing; however, a point-in-time count is taken on July 1 of each year. On July 1, 2011, there were 1,838 children in the foster care system across Kern County, 192 fewer than in the previous year's count.<sup>24</sup> Children in foster care may have chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, cognitive abnormalities, visual/auditory problems, poor nutrition, and dental decay.

- According to the *Scorecard*, 83% of children ages 3-17 in the child welfare system who have had a child placement episode lasting 31 days or more have had at least one dental exam before their next birthday, which ranks on the high end of the range (lowest is 0%; highest is 100%; state average is 71%). Kern County ranks lower than Kings County (86%) and lower than Tulare County (59%).

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<sup>23</sup> Child Welfare Systems receive and investigate reports of possible child abuse and neglect; provide services to families that need assistance in the protection and care of their children; arrange for children to live with kin or foster families when they are not safe at home; and arrange for unification, adoption, or other permanent family connections for children leaving foster care.

<sup>24</sup> Kern County Network for Children; Report Card 2012.

- 71% of children who entered the child welfare system in Kern County had stability in their placement (children were placed for at least 8 days and up to 12 months, and had two or fewer out-of-home placements during that time), which ranks at the bottom end of the *Scorecard* range (lowest is 69%; highest is 100%; state average is 85%). Kern County ranks lower than Kings County (85%) and lower than Tulare County (76%).
- 95% of children ages 8-17 in the child welfare system exited to permanency within 3 years. For this *Scorecard* indicator, Kern County ranked in the high range (lowest was 50%; highest was 97%; state average was 88%). Kern County ranks the same as Kings County (95%) and higher than Tulare County (93%).

#### *Basic Needs Indicators-“Safety-Net” Programs*

Households with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty line are eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, provided they meet other eligibility criteria. Children in these households are eligible for free meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

- In 2011, 38.6% of children under the age of 18 in Kern County lived in households that received Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2011, 34% of eligible students ate free or reduced price breakfasts during the school year. For this indicator on the *2012 California Scorecard*, Kern County ranked in the middle range (lowest was 30%; highest was 51%; state average was 30%). The County ranked below both Kings and Tulare Counties with 41% and 35%, respectively.
- A February 2012 study released by the Food Research and Action Center named Bakersfield the “hungriest” city in America, with more than 25% of families reporting difficulty feeding themselves on a regular basis.<sup>26</sup> In 2011, the CAPK Food Bank distributed over 7.9 million pounds of food to 463,328 low-income food insecure children and families throughout Kern County.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> 2011 American Community Survey; S0901: Children Characteristics Food Research and Action Center.

<sup>26</sup> Food Research and Action Center-Food Hardship in America 2011; February, 2012.

<sup>27</sup> Community Action Partnership of Kern Food Bank, November, 2012.

### *Other Indicators: Child Abuse*

- According to the 2012 *California Scorecard*, 89% of children in Kern County, ages 0-3, did not experience recurring neglect or abuse (this number includes the percentage of children ages 0-3 who are victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation and who do not have a substantiated case of recurrent maltreat within 6 months of the initial allegation). For this indicator, Kern County ranked at the bottom of the range (lowest was 71%, highest was 100%; state average was 93%). Kern County ranked below both Kings and Tulare Counties with 94% and 90%, respectively.
- In 2011, 4,372 Kern County children were found to have been victims of abuse and neglect. Child abuse rates per 1,000 children in California counties ranged from 2.5 to 34.9 during 2011. Kern County's substantiated child abuse rate of 17.2 children per 1,000 children was nearly twice California's child abuse rate of 9.1. Kern County had the tenth highest substantiated child abuse rate in the state.<sup>28</sup>

### **CAPK Head Start Program Indicators-Families and Children (PIR 2011-12)**

The 2011-2012 Head Start Program Information Reports (PIR) provides additional information on the needs of enrolled children and families. Indicators for education, well-being, and other parameters are summarized below. (Note: PIR enrollment data and other PIR-generated information concerning Head-Start and Early Head Start children are presented and discussed in Chapter 5-Head Start and Other Child Care Programs).

#### *CAPK Head Start Program-Educational Attainment-Parent/Guardian*

The 2011-2012 PIR collects educational attainment data pertaining to Head Start and Early Head Start Program parents/guardians. As the following Table 13 shows, in 2011-2, 48% of Head Start/Early Head Start Program parents had a high school diploma or a GED; 28.5% had less than a high school diploma or GED; 22% had an Associate's Degree or degree from a vocational school, and 1.5% had an advanced or baccalaureate degree.

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28 Kern County Network for Children Report Card 2012.

**Table 17-CAPK Head Start Program- Parent/Guardian Education (PIR 2011-12)**

<b>Educational Level</b>	<b>Head Start</b>	<b>Early Head Start</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Advanced or BA Degree	33	10	43	1.5
Associates Degree, Vocational School, College	576	146	722	22
High School Graduate or GED	1371	227	1598	48
Less than High School Graduate	824	120	944	28.5

*CAPK Head Start/Early Head Start Program- Family Characteristics*

The majority of Head Start families enrolled in 2011-12 were two-parent families (52%). In only 13% of the families were both parents employed while 30% of families had one parent employed, and 27% had a parent not working. In 7% of families, one parent was in training/school. A majority of the families enrolled in Head Start in 2011-12 were receiving benefits from one or more “safety net” programs: 53% received TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) benefits; 81% received WIC (Women Infants and Children) benefits; and 38% received SNAP/CAL FRESH (food stamps) benefits.

**Table 18 - CAPK Head Start Program - Family Characteristics (PIR 2011-12)**

<b>Head Start Family Characteristics</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total Number of Families	2,804	—
Two Parent Families	1,467	52
One Parent Families	1,337	48
Both Parents Employed	377	13
One Parent Employed	845	30
Both Parents Not Working	245	8
Parent Employed	575	20
Parent Not Working	762	27
Parent in Training/School	198	7
Parent/Guardian in military	19	.00
Receiving TANF Benefits	1,502	53
Receiving SSI Benefits	182	6
Receiving WIC Benefits	2,294	81
Receiving SNAP Benefits	1,075	38

The majority of Early Head Start families enrolled in 2011-12 were one-parent families (67%). In only 14% of the families were both parents employed, while 15% of families had just one parent employed. In 34% of the families, one parent was not working, and 20% of families had at least one parent in training/school. A majority of the families enrolled in Early Head Start in 2011-12 were receiving benefits from one or more “safety net” programs: 47% received TANF benefits; 88% received WIC benefits; and 14% received SNAP/CAL FRESH benefits.

**Table 19-CAPK Early Head Start Program-Family Characteristics (PIR 2011-12)**

<b>Early Head Start Family Characteristics</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total Number of Families	503	—
Two Parent Families	168	33
One Parent Families	335	67
Both Parents Employed	70	14
One Parent Employed	77	15
Both Parents Not Working	21	4
Parent Employed	166	33
Parent Not Working	169	34
Parent in Training/School	99	20
Parent/Guardian is member of military	4	.07
Receiving TANF Benefits	236	47
Receiving SSI Benefits	23	5
Receiving WIC Benefits	444	88
Receiving SNAP Benefits	71	14

*CAPK Head Start Program-Homeless Children/Families*

During the 2011-2012 program year, 43 homeless families and 45 homeless children were served in the Head Start Program. Of these families, 20 acquired housing. In the Early Head Start Program, 10 homeless children and 9 homeless families were served. Of these families, three (3) acquired housing.

*CAPK Head Start Program-Foster Children/CPS Referral Children*

During the 2011-2012 program year, 47 foster care children and 52 child welfare agency referral children were served in the Head Start Program. In the Early Head Start Program, 31 foster care children and 43 child welfare agency referral children were served. Further discussion of child safety and foster care needs and services is provided in Chapter 8- Needs Defined by Parents and Other Community Sources Serving Young Children.

# 8

## Needs As Defined By Parents and Other Community Sources Serving Young Children

### School Readiness

CAPK Child Education and Development Services is committed to providing child-focused programs and has the overall goal of increasing school readiness of young children. The priority need to address school readiness for young children is shared by public and private agencies in Kern County. Implementation of transitional kindergarten programs in Kern County began in the fall of 2012, and will provide the first year of a two-year kindergarten program for four year olds who will turn five between September 2nd and December 2nd. In addition, Kern County business and education leaders have developed "Ready to Start," an innovative, research-based kindergarten readiness program targeted exclusively to children with no or limited preschool and preparing them for success in kindergarten and beyond. This five-week program - conducted during the summer before children enter kindergarten - currently serves 900 children annually in five school districts in the Greater Bakersfield area.<sup>29</sup>

In good and bad economic times, the need for quality child care remains constant. Studies show that the quality of child care and early education programs is linked to improved language, academic skills and social development when children enter school.

-Kern County Network for Children  
2012 Report Card

### Family Engagement and Services

The role of parents as a child's first teacher cannot be over-stated. We know that children learn from birth and that parents who routinely use everyday activities as learning opportunities are helping prepare their children for success in school and in life. Children with parents who read to them regularly and engage their children in conversation have remarkably greater language skills that translate into them being better prepared for school and reading. Part of the challenge for Kern County is that literacy levels among many of our parents are quite low, adding barriers for families to help their children be ready.

As research suggests, parents and family members are more likely to become engaged in their young child's development and learning when they have positive and trusting relationships with those who support them. In Head Start and Early Head Start, these

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<sup>29</sup> Source: CSAP 2012 Kern County, California: Campaign for Grade-Level Reading; Community Solutions Action Plan- Kern County, California.

relationships focus on goals that families develop with the support of program leadership, staff, and engaged community partners. These goal-directed relationships are part of the two-generational approach of working with children and adult family members and distinguish Head Start and Early Head Start from other early childhood initiatives. They are most likely to take root within programs that take intentional steps to promote parent and family engagement.<sup>30</sup>

Families play a critical role in helping their children to prepare for school and a lifetime of academic success. It matters when programs engage parents and families in their children's development and learning. In fact, research indicates that:

- Children with supportive home learning environments show increased literacy development, better peer interactions, fewer behavior problems, and more motivation and persistence during learning activities.
- Among the youngest children, daily parent-child reading from infancy prompts cognitive skills as well as early vocabulary gains that lead to more reading and vocabulary growth, a pattern of growth that has been compared to a snowball.
- Continued family engagement is important through the school years. Longitudinal studies of low-income children show that high family involvement offsets the risks of children growing up in low-income households and in households with low parent education.

### **CAPK Head Start/Early Head Start Families-Needs and Services Provided**

An integral part to Head Start/Early Head Start programs are family services. Information, referrals, and resources are provided to families in response to identified goals. Parent and Family Engagement programs build relationships with families that support family well-being and strong relationships between parents and their children. As Table 16 indicates, Head Start/Early Head Start Programs provided two (2) programs with father involvement, and 38 children participated with fathers. A total of 3,265 families received at least one family service/referral. Specific services were provided to families in 2011-12 as follow: emergency/crisis intervention (2,284); housing assistance (1,833); mental health (528); English as a second language (688); adult education (1,602); job training (766); substance abuse prevention (252); substance abuse treatment (223); child abuse and neglect (1,666); domestic violence services (370); child support assistance (512); health education (2,816), assistance to families of incarcerated individuals (224); parenting education (2,680); and relationship/marriage education (199).

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30 Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework, Head Start Approach to School Readiness (<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/sr/approach/pfcef>).

**Table 20- CAPK Head Start/Early Head Start Program-Family Services (PIR 2011-12)**

Family Services	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total
Emergency/Crisis Intervention	2,049	235	2,284
Housing Assistance	1,663	170	1,833
Mental Health Services	477	51	528
English as a Second Language (ESL) Training	627	61	688
Adult Education	1,382	220	1,602
Job Training	697	69	766
Substance Abuse Prevention	210	42	252
Substance Abuse Treatment	207	16	223
Child Abuse and Neglect Services	1,508	158	1,666
Domestic Violence Services	340	30	370
Child Support Assistance	455	57	512
Health Education	2,366	450	2,816
Assistance to Families of Incarcerated Individuals	191	33	224
Parenting Education	2,317	363	2,680
Relationship/Marriage Education	180	19	199
Received At Least One Family Service	2,769	496	3,265
Programs with Father Involvement	1	1	2
Children with Participating Fathers	24	14	38

*CAPK Head Start Program Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Literacy/English as a Second Language*

PIR Summary Reports show that in 2011-12, 28.5% of enrolled Head Start/Early Head Start parents had less than a high school diploma or GED (see Table 17). Adult basic education and literacy skills, therefore, remain a priority for Head Start families. In addition, 35.4% of Head Start/Early Head Start families reported that Spanish was the primary language of the family at home.

**Table 21- CAPK Head Start Program-Primary Language of Family in Home (2011-12 PIR)**

Language	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total	Percent
English	1851	423	2274	63.3
Spanish	1136	137	1273	35.4
Central/South American /Mexican	1	—	1	0.27
Middle Eastern/South Asian	14	1	15	0.4
East Asian	15	6	21	0.56
Pacific Island Languages	3	—	3	0.07
Total	3020	567	3587	100

Kern Adult Literacy Council Programs, United Way Raising a Reader Program, Bakersfield Adult School

With an increase in family literacy, English proficiency, and basic skills development, children will in turn be more successful learners. Head Start families needing ABE, GED, ESL, or Family Literacy services are provided referrals to educational programs to assist them achieving their goals. The Kern Adult Literacy Council provides tutoring in Adult Basic Education including basic reading, writing, arithmetic and other skills required to function in society, tutoring in the six subjects of the General Educational Development (GED) curriculum, small classes or one-on-one instruction in English as a Second Language, and family literacy for families who wish to improve their children’s grades with the help of the tutor and the parents. The Bakersfield Adult School provides classes ABE, High School Diploma, GED, ESL, and various vocational classes. The United Way sponsors a program known as “Raising A Reader” -which circulates books through preschools serving economically disadvantaged families—parent surveys revealed that 78% of the families served had fewer than 10 children’s books in their homes, and that reading with their preschoolers was not a regular part of the family’s routine.

*Child Well-Being Services*

Head Start/Early Head Start Programs collaborate with many agencies including the Kern County Department of Human Services, which provides a number of well-being services to children including a 24 emergency response program, family maintenance, family reunification, permanent placement, and adoptions. In 2011, 4,372 Kern County children were found to be the victims of abuse and neglect- a rate of 17.2 children per 1,000, which was nearly twice the state’s rate of 9.1.

### Emergency Child Services

The Jamison Center is a 24-hour emergency shelter and protective custody facility operated by the Human Services Department of Kern County. As the only emergency shelter in Kern County for abused, neglected and exploited children, Jamison Center temporarily houses children who are taken into protective custody by law enforcement agencies or social workers. The average length of stay at the center is 5 days. As Table 18 below indicates, the number of children 0-5 year olds admitted to the Jamison Center is down by 43%.

**Table 22-Jamison Center Admissions <sup>31</sup>**

Jamison Center	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change 1 Year
Number of Children Admitted	464	-41%
0-5 Years	191	-43%
Protective Custody/New Intakes	424	-41%
Change of Placement	40	-40%
Children released from Jamison	459	-41%

### Child Protective Services

In addition to emergency services, the County of Kern Department of Human Services is also responsible for Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, and Permanent Placement Programs. The Human Services Agency is also a full service adoption agency licensed by the California Department of Social services. Family Maintenance services are provided under certain circumstances in order to maintain the child in his/her home. Family Reunification services are provided to reunite a child separated from his/her parents because of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Permanent placement services are provided for children who cannot safely live with their parents and are not likely to return to their own homes.

### Foster Care

As of October 2012, there were a total of 1,750 children ages 0-20 in the Kern County Foster Care System. Of these, 655 children were ages 0-5. Table 19 provides a snapshot of the number of children in foster care in Kern County by type of placement.

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31 County of Kern Department of Human Services ([http://www.co.kern.ca.us/dhs/dps\\_rpts/f201210cwa.htm](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/dhs/dps_rpts/f201210cwa.htm)).

**Table 23- Children in Foster Care-Kern County (October, 2012)<sup>32</sup>**

Age Group	CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT TYPE- KERN COUNTY												Total
	Pre-Adopt	Kin	Foster	FFA	Court Specified Home	Group	Non-FC	Guardian Dependent	Guardian - Other	Run-away	Trial Home Visit	Other (?)	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	
Under 1	1	41	40	44	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	129
1 to 2	5	91	37	115	.	.	.	1	6	.	1	2	258
3 to 4	1	105	11	103	1	.	1	10	27	.	1	8	268
<b>Total 0-5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>655</b>
6 to 10	2	99	20	136	1	10	2	25	65	.	1	7	368
11 to 15	4	100	23	143	2	36	1	22	92	5	.	8	436
16 to 17	1	36	5	55	.	28	2	14	46	13	.	3	203
18 to 20	.	17	5	15	21	4	1	3	14	.	.	8	88
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,750</b>

The majority of children ages 0-5 who are currently in foster care have been placed in FFAs (Foster Family Agencies) or Kinship care (262 and 237 children, respectively). Kinship care is the full time care of children by relatives, godparents, stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child. For those children living in foster care, the preservation of natural family relationships is important in maintaining a child’s positive sense of identity and knowledge of cultural, personal, and familial histories.

32 Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Yee, H., Hightower, L., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Henry, C. (2013). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 1/18/2013, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)> .

## Healthy Kern-Kern County Community Health Needs Assessment<sup>33</sup>

Referenced in the Head Start Community Assessment 2012 Update as an on-going community-wide needs assessment being undertaken by Bakersfield Memorial Hospital, Delano Regional Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, Kern County Department of Public Health, Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield, San Joaquin Community Hospital, the 2010 Kern County Community Health Needs Assessment was completed in 2011. Since the Community Assessment 2012 Update, the top five priority areas of this needs assessment have been identified and ranked as follows:

- *Obesity*
- *Basic Needs/Unemployment Rate*
- *Education Attainment*
- *Access to Healthcare*
- *Mortality Rates*

### **Obesity**

Obesity increases the risk of many diseases and health conditions including heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, cancer, hypertension, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, respiratory problems, and osteoarthritis. Losing weight and maintaining a healthy weight help to prevent and control these diseases. Being overweight or obese also carries significant economic costs due to increased healthcare spending and lost earnings.

### **Basic Needs: Poverty and Unemployment**

The unemployment rate is a key indicator of the local economy: a high unemployment rate has personal and societal effects. During periods of unemployment, individuals are likely to feel severe economic strain and mental stress. Unemployment is also related to access to health care, as many individuals receive health insurance through their employer. A high unemployment rate places strain on financial support systems, as unemployed persons qualify for unemployment benefits and food stamp programs. Families with unemployed adults face significant challenges in caring for and meeting their health needs and the health needs of their children.

Children in poverty tend to exhibit cognitive difficulties, as shown in achievement test scores, and are less likely to complete basic education. Seniors who live in poverty are an especially vulnerable group due to increased physical limitations, medical needs, and social isolation.

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<sup>33</sup> Source: Kern County Community Health Needs Assessment ([www.HealthyKern.org](http://www.HealthyKern.org)).

## **Educational Attainment**

Kern County schools are struggling with low assessment rates and high dropout rates. From 2005 – 2008 the number of students who completed high school decreased from 81.6% to 73.5%. The dropout rate during this period was 5.5%, placing Kern County 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 56 reporting counties. Students who do not finish high school are more likely than people who finish high school to lack the basic skills required to function in an increasingly complicated job market and society. Adults with limited education levels are more likely to be unemployed, on government assistance, or involved in crime. Completion of high school and achieving standard literacy levels align with future employment opportunities, and encourage the transition from adolescence to responsible adulthood.

## **Access to Healthcare**

Although the access to healthcare indicators are not showing in the ‘red’ for Kern County, there is still concern by Kern County healthcare experts that this is an issue that needs to be addressed. The indicators for Kern County, based on 2007 data, show that adults with private health insurance and people with a usual source of health insurance are 57% and 87.5%, respectively, and children with Health Insurance is at 91%. African American and Latinos who have health insurance are lowest at 47.9% and 36.3%.

## **Mortality Rates**

The Infant Mortality Rate in Kern County is also exceedingly high. Kern County ranks 45<sup>th</sup> out of all 58 counties in California with an infant mortality rate of 7.2/1,000 and the trend is rising. The leading causes of death among infants are birth defects, pre-term delivery, low birth weight, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and maternal complications during pregnancy.

The high mortality rates in Kern County point to multiple systemic problems in the health care system. Mortality rates in Kern County rank in the bottom third of all California counties. In addition, the rates for nearly all causes of death are increasing over time. The age-adjusted death rates due to coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke, suicide, and influenza and pneumonia all place in the bottom quartile of all California counties.

It is evident that Kern County has many health and quality of life areas that need attention and concerted effort to improve. This 2010 Kern County Community Needs Assessment is the beginning effort to address the most pressing needs. These needs will be addressed by the individual hospitals, health and human service organizations within the community, as well as the collaborative efforts by the organizations gathered to create the most significant needs summarized in this needs assessment.

# 9

## Analysis and Conclusion

This 2013 Community Needs Assessment Update effort and others needs assessments referenced herein, bring to the foreground the scope and depth of challenging social and economic issues facing Kern County, and in particular, its youngest residents. Despite the many sobering disparities that exist between Kern County and other counties in the State of California, there is abundant opportunity and even some bright spots. Opportunity exists in the form of local, state, federal, and private sector support and resources for families raising young children concerted efforts toward improvement in the areas of education, health, and well-being.

From this Community Needs Assessment 2013 Update, it can be concluded that while certain socioeconomic indicators show gradual improvement over 2012, Kern County continues to face high rates of unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity. Some demographic information revealed through this assessment, such as the increase in 0-5 aged children in Boron, may provide cause for adaptation of Head Start/Early Head Start programs. In response to the continued obesity problem in Kern County, good nutrition practices and emphasis on physical activity will continue to be priorities for Head Start/Early Head Start programs. As RTI and Transitional Kindergarten programs are implemented, enrollment numbers for children with disabilities and the Head Start program may be affected. Future investigations will be conducted for the 2014 Community Assessment Update to determine and evaluate these impacts.

Family engagement is a principal catalyst for successful early childhood learning and school readiness. Parents must continue to be involved and participate in their children's learning and growth, and it will be incumbent upon teachers, administrators and others to facilitate their progress. Moving forward, one of the biggest challenges to be met will be that of collaboration and cooperation. Head Start and other partnering agencies must continue to work together with parents to accomplish common objectives and goals toward creating the future leaders of tomorrow.