

Next Steps

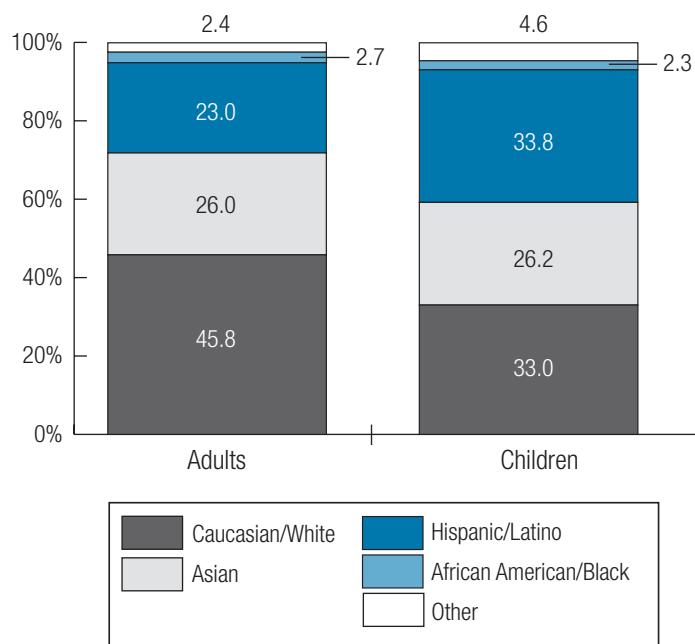
This report does not prescribe specific strategies but, instead, highlights critical issues that warrant attention. The findings in this report should be examined in depth with subject experts to plan appropriate actions.

The report demonstrates one clear conclusion: Santa Clara County's top priority for children should be the elimination of disparities in outcomes among rich and poor and across ethnic and racial groups, which have long-term negative impacts not only on those directly affected by them, but also on the county as a whole.

Demographic Snapshot

In 2007, more than 1.8 million people call Santa Clara County home,¹ about 25% of whom are children under the age of 18. More than 26,000 babies are born to Santa Clara County residents each year.² As a result of immigration and new births, the child population in Santa Clara County is becoming more diverse than the adult population (see Figure 1). In 2007, about one-third of the children in the county were Caucasian/White, another third were Hispanic/Latino, one quarter were Asian American, 2% African American/Black and about 5% multiracial or other groups such as Pacific Islander or Native American.³ Approximately one-fourth of the students enrolled in Santa Clara County public schools (65,110 students) were classified as English Learners in 2006.⁴

Figure 1. Race/Ethnicity of Adult and Child Populations in Santa Clara County (2007)



Source: California Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1990-1999 and Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2050. May 2005, http://www.dof.ca.gov/html/Demograp/DRU_datafiles/DRU_datafiles.htm.

¹ All endnotes for this report are available online at www.kidsdata.org/santaclarareport.