



The Status of San Diego County's Children 0-5

2008

Prepared for the First 5
Commission of San Diego

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Executive Summary

The vision of the First 5 Commission of San Diego is that “every child in San Diego County will enter school ready to learn.”¹ As part of their commitment to this vision, the First 5 Commission of San Diego has compiled the first report on “The Status of San Diego County’s Children 0 to 5.” This report is a compilation of key data from the Commission’s 2005 and 2008 Family Surveys, as well as key data from other available sources. In viewing the data as a whole, the report provides the first comprehensive overview of the well being of San Diego County’s young children ages 0 to 5.² This endeavor stems from the First 5 San Diego Family Survey, a project launched in 2005, to collect baseline data from over 1,200 local parents and caregivers of young children on key well being indicators, not collected by other sources. The intent of the Family Survey is to “fill the gaps” in available information to better assist the Commission in fulfilling its mission. The survey is intended to be administered every three years to establish trend data, and was repeated in the fall of 2008.

The results from the 2005 and 2008 Family Surveys, as well as key data from secondary sources, are discussed in the report. The overall goal is to provide valuable information to help guide planning, strategic decision-making, program enhancements and service delivery efforts of the First 5 Commission of San Diego, as well as for other entities that focus on improving the lives of young children and their families.

The Status of San Diego County’s Children 0-5 is organized around the child stages of child development as well as the important systems that support families and young children:

- Prenatal Health
- Children’s Health
- Children’s Learning & Social-Emotional Development
- Parent and Family Development and Resources
- Systems Improvement and Community Change

The 2008 and 2005 Family Surveys were designed to gather information in all five of the above areas. However, given the dearth of existing data on social-emotional development, special emphasis was given to this area in

Uses of Findings

- Informs Commission strategic planning
- Identifies community perceptions of the Commission
- Provides useful evaluation-related comparison data for county-wide contracts (i.e., 2-1-1, Kit for New Parents, media)
- Informs individual programs about the emerging trends of children and families
- Provides regional data of interest and trending of early childhood issues
- Creates a teaching tool about the status of children 0-5 for local service providers and parents/caregivers

¹ First 5 Commission of San Diego. Vision, Mission, Values document. <<http://first5sandiego.org/vision>>.

² U.S Census. American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates. The best estimate of children ages 0-4 in San Diego County is currently 218,382. Accessed 10 March 2008. www.census.gov

the 2008 Family Survey. This data represents an important contribution to the field and provides both researchers and practitioners to further explore critical questions about the social-emotional development of young children.

In an effort to capture data on social-emotional development, the 2008 Family Survey included the use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE). The ASQ:SE is a screening tool that provides information specifically addressing the social and emotional assessment of children ranging in age from 3 to 66 months.³ Understanding and identifying social and emotional problems in young children is essential to building their social and emotional competence and reducing the likelihood of enrollment in special education, residential treatment, and later, incarceration.⁴ The response rate for the ASQ:SE was 85.4% (n=848), far surpassing expectations for this groundbreaking data collection effort.

As a whole, the Status of San Diego County’s Children 0-5 reports on the 2005 and 2008 Family Survey findings along with trend data on key health and early learning indicators from secondary sources. State and national comparison data are also provided when available. Throughout the report, data are presented by total sample characteristics as well as by San Diego County Health and Human Services (HHSA) regions.⁵

The following summary tables provide a snap shot of key indicator data on the well-being of children ages 0-5 in San Diego County. The “Improved” column denotes positive (Y) or negative (N) change in 2008, compared to 2005. The tables are separated based on source: secondary data gathered from other sources and Family Survey data gathered locally. See the full report for detailed tables on each indicator. See the First 5 San Diego website (www.First5SanDiego.org) for a technical report.

Prenatal Health

Issue Area 1: Children’s Health focuses on children’s preventative and comprehensive health care services, which includes prenatal health.

Prenatal Health – Secondary Data			
Indicator-Secondary Data	2005	2008 [^]	Improved
1.1 Alcohol Consumption During Pregnancy	17.0%	15.2%	Y
1.2 Smoking During Pregnancy	8.0%	10.8%	N
1.3 Percent of Households in which Someone Smokes	2.9%	3.5%	N

[^] The most recent data available was used for 2008; see Appendix E for source data

Y Data improved between 2005 and 2008

N Data did not improve between 2005 and 2008

³ Squires, Jane, Diane Bricker and Elizabeth Twombly. The ASQ:SE User’s Guide. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company, 2003.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ In some cases, findings by San Diego County HHSA regions are excluded due to small sample size.

Children's Health

Issue Area 1: Children's Health focuses on children's preventative and comprehensive health care services.

Children's Health – Secondary Data			
Indicator-Secondary Data	2005	2008 [^]	Improved
2.1 Live Births to Mothers Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care	2.7%	3.6%	N
2.2 Live Births to Teen Girls Ages 15 to 17 (Rate per 1000 Births)	19.2	18.5	Y
2.3 Babies Born with Low Birth Weight (< 2,500 grams)	6.7%	6.9%	N
2.4 Babies Born with Very Low Birth Weight (<1,500 grams)	1.2%	1.2%	n/a
2.5 Children Breastfeeding at Hospital Discharge	**	90.0%	n/a
2.6 Children Breastfeeding at 6 Weeks	69.7%	69.4%	N
2.7 Children Breastfeeding at 6 Months	48.1%	**	n/a
2.8 Children with a Usual Source of Health Care	97.5%	98.9%	Y
2.9 Children 19-35 Months with Recommended Immunizations (4:3:1:3)	81.1%	83.5%	Y

Children's Health – Family Survey Data			
Indicator-Family Survey Data	2005	2008 [^]	Improved
2.10 Children with Health Insurance	91.3%	95.3%	Y [†]
2.11 Children who Received Well-Child Checkups by Age 2	95.6%	**	n/a
2.12 Parent/Caregiver Rating of Child Health: Child Health Excellent/Very Good	82.6%	90.1%	Y [†]
2.13 Children Ages 1-5 with a Dental Visit in the Past Year	52.7%	65.8%	Y
2.14 Children Ages 1-5 with Dental Insurance	*	78.6%	n/a
2.15 Children Who Received a Developmental Screening	65.0%	62.7%	N
2.16 Time Lapsed Since Developmental Screening	8.24	6.26	Y [†]
2.17 Children Ages 3-5 who Received a Vision Exam	69.1%	83.8%	Y [†]
2.18 Time Elapsed Since Vision Exam	7.13	6.45	Y
2.19 Child Overweight for Age	*	5.1%	n/a
2.20 Children Ages 1-5 Who Consumed 5 or More Servings of Fruits/Vegetables Yesterday	*	61.9%	n/a
2.21 Children Ages 1-5 Who Consumed Any Fast Food Yesterday	*	16.5%	n/a

- [^] The most recent data available was used for 2008; see Appendix E for source data
- * This question was added to the 2008 Family Survey
- ** Secondary data not available
- Y Data improved between 2005 and 2008
- N Data did not improve between 2005 and 2008
- n/a Comparison between years not applicable
- † Difference between 2005 and 2008 is statistically significant (p≤.05)

Children’s Learning & Social-Emotional Development

Issue Area 2: Children’s Learning and Social-Emotional Development focuses on children’s cognitive and social-emotional health and development.

Children’s Learning & Social-Emotional Development – Secondary Data				
Indicator-Secondary Data	2005	2008 [^]	Improved	
3.1 Preschool Enrollment for Children Ages 3-4	*	49.0%	n/a	
3.2 Spaces for Infants in Licensed Childcare Centers	*	5.0%	n/a	
3.3 Spaces for Children Ages 2-5 in Licensed Childcare Centers	*	73%	n/a	
Children’s Learning & Social-Emotional Development – Family Survey Data				
Indicator-Family Survey Data	2005	2008 [^]	Improved	
3.4 Children Attended Group Childcare/Preschool	57.8%	64.2%	Y [†]	
3.5 Parent/Caregiver with Access to Adequate Childcare	88.9%	**	n/a	
3.6 Child Ever Sent Home from Group Childcare/Preschool Due to Behavior	2.3%	2.6%	N	
3.7 Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE) Screening Results Positive (No Risk)	*	76.8%	n/a	
3.8 Percentage of Parent/Caregivers Expressing Concern in Each ASQ:SE Behavioral Area:				
3.9 Affect	Child’s ability or willingness to demonstrate his/her own feelings and empathy with others.	*	7.9%	n/a
3.10 Compliance	Child’s ability or willingness to conform to the direction of others and follow rules.	*	9.0%	n/a
3.11 Communication	Child’s ability or willingness to respond to or initiative verbal or nonverbal signals to indicate feelings, affective, or internal states.	*	9.1%	n/a
3.12 Autonomy	Child’s ability or willingness to self-initiate or respond without guidance.	*	9.1%	n/a
3.13 Adaptive Functioning	Child’s success or ability to cope with physiological needs.	*	19.1%	n/a
3.14 Interaction with People	Child’s ability or willingness to respond to or initiate social responses to parents, other adults, and peers.	*	22.0%	n/a
3.15 Self-Regulation	Child’s ability or willingness to calm or settle down or adjust to physiological or environmental conditions or stimulation.	*	26.0%	n/a

[^] The most recent data available was used for 2008; see Appendix E for source data

* This question was added to the 2008 Family Survey.

n/a Comparison between years not applicable

Children's Learning & Social-Emotional Development – Family Survey Data

Indicator-Family Survey Data	2005	2008 [^]	Improved
3.16 Daily Living Routines that Support Social-Emotional Health (Occurring Nearly Everyday):			
Eats Meals with Family	*	62.5%	n/a
Eats Breakfast at the Same Time and Place	*	74.4%	n/a
Eats Dinner at the Same Time	*	63.1%	n/a
Bedtime at the Same Time	*	69.8%	n/a
Follows Same Bedtime Routine	*	76.9%	n/a
3.17 Daily Living Routines Average Composite Score ¹	*	17.5	n/a

[^] The most recent data available was used for 2008; see Appendix E for source data

* This question was added to the 2008 Family Survey.

** Secondary data not available.

Y Data improved between 2005 and 2008

N Data did not improve between 2005 and 2008

n/a Comparison between years not applicable

† Difference between 2005 and 2008 is statistically significant ($p \leq .05$)

¹ Composite score ranges from zero (the least amount of stress) to nine (the most amount of stress)

Parent and Family Development

Issue Area 3: Parent and Family Development focus on whether families have the skills, support, and resources needed to promote their children’s optimal school readiness.

Parent and Family Development – Family Survey Data			
Indicator-Family Survey Data	2005	2008 [^]	Improved
4.1 Parent/Caregiver of Children without Health Insurance with the Knowledge of Where to Find Health Insurance	84.6%	78.6%	N
4.2 Parents/Caregiver Capability When Caring for Child, 2008	*	80.4%	n/a
4.3 Parents/Caregiver Enjoys Being a Parent, 2008	*	94.7%	n/a
4.4 Parents/Caregiver Feels Being a Parent is Harder than Expected	*	14.2%	n/a
4.5 Parent Stress Composite Score Average ²	*	1.41	n/a
4.6 Parents/Caregiver Feelings of Self as Caregiver, 2008	*	70.6%	n/a
4.7 Parent/Caregiver Positive Parenting Strategies:			
4.8 Verbal Reaction	96.2%	92.7%	N [†]
4.9 Isolation	99.5%	98.6%	N [†]
4.10 Redirection	89.9%	97.4%	Y [†]
4.11 Consequences	92.4%	93.4%	Y [†]
4.12 Incentives	59.6%	53.6%	N [†]
4.13 Observation	42.9%	27.9%	N [†]
4.14 Physical Reaction	70.0%	88.2%	Y [†]
4.15 Consistent Expectations	98.0%	100.0%	Y [†]
4.16 Modify the Environment	90.0%	100.0%	Y [†]
4.17 Modeling	100.0%	81.8%	N [†]

[^] The most recent data available was used for 2008; see Appendix E for source data

* This question was added to the 2008 Family Survey.

Y Data improved between 2005 and 2008

N Data did not improve between 2005 and 2008

n/a Comparison between years not applicable

† Difference between 2005 and 2008 is statistically significant ($p \leq .05$)

² Composite score ranges from zero (zero occurrences of any of the five items) to twenty (each of the five items occurring nearly every day)

Systems Improvement and Community Change

Issue Area 4 addresses the Commission’s commitment to impact systems of care, engage communities, provide service integration, and maximize the long-term impact on children ages 0 to 5 and their families.

Systems Improvement and Community Change – Family Survey Data			
Indicator-Family Survey	2005	2008 [^]	Improved
5.1 Parent/Caregiver Knowledge of Where to Call for Support in Raising Their Child	55.7%	51.9%	N
5.2 Parent/Caregiver Awareness of First 5 San Diego	45.0%	57.2%	Y [†]
5.3 Parent/Caregiver Who Received a Kit for New Parents	41.9%	53.8%	Y [†]
5.4 Parent/Caregiver Requested Information for Resources	58.1%	51.2%	N
5.5 Parent/Caregiver Requested Information about First 5 San Diego	34.9%	34.7%	N

[^] The most recent data available was used for 2008; see Appendix E for source data

Y Data improved between 2005 and 2008

N Data did not improve between 2005 and 2008

† Difference between 2005 and 2008 is statistically significant ($p \leq .05$)

Sample Demographics

The First 5 Commission reached over 1,200 parents/caregivers in each Family Survey. In general, the sample demographics are similar in 2005 and 2008. Only a few notable differences exist. See “Sample Demographics” on page 11 for full demographic breakdown of the 2008 and 2005 Family Surveys.

Below are the demographic categories that reflect the largest proportion of the 2008 Family Survey, compared with the 2005 Family Survey. These demographics represent a “typical” respondent parent/child/household in the 2008 Family Survey.

Overall, the 2005 and 2008 Family Survey sample demographics reflect the demographics of children 0-5 and adults over the age of 18 in San Diego County.

Sample Demographics		
Indicator	2005	2008
Child Gender: Female	52.5%	50.1%
Child Age: 3 Years	18.4%	19.9%
Parent/Caregiver Gender: Female	78.6%	76.5%
Parent/Caregiver Age: 35-44 Years	34.9%	43.0%
Parent/Caregiver Education: Some College or Associate Degree	33.5%	28.1%
Parent/Caregiver Race/Ethnicity: White/Caucasian	44.7%	40.8%
Primary Language Spoken in the Home: English	63.2%	65.0%
Average Household Size	4.51	4.62
Annual Household Income: \$100,000 and Greater	16.5%	25.6%