

Santa Clara County Girls Fact Sheet

Compiled by Alliance for Girls

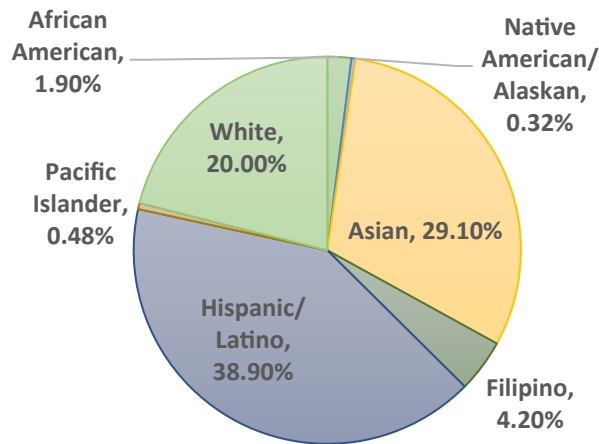
August 2017

Population and Demographics

- In July 2016, Santa Clara County had an estimated population of 1,919,402¹ residing in the County's 15 cities.
- There are 214,181 girls in Santa Clara County, meaning they comprise 11.2% of Santa Clara County's population.²

School Enrollment

Racial/Ethnic Makeup of Girls in Santa Clara County Public Schools³



- Of the 132,038 girls enrolled in school (K-12) in Santa Clara County, 38.4% are socioeconomically disadvantaged, 0.51% are migrants, 0.26% are foster kids, and 1.1% are homeless.⁴
- 23.3% of students in Santa Clara County public schools are English language learners.⁵
- There are 227 private schools in Santa Clara County, CA, serving 47,328 students. The minority enrollment in the private schools is 45%.⁶
- There are 9 alternative education schools in Santa Clara County as of 2016, with 13,086 kids in alternative programs and 2,245 kids enrolled in online school.⁷

Special Education

- Santa Clara County Special Education student body makeup is 64 percent male and 36 percent female, and the total minority enrollment is 82 percent.⁸

¹ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Santa Clara County <https://www.census.gov/>, 2016

² Kidsdata.org, "All Data: Santa Clara County, Demographics" <http://www.kidsdata.org/>, 2016

³ California Department of Education, DataQuest, "2016-17 Enrollment by Ethnicity, Santa Clara County" <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus/EnrEthLevels.aspx?cds=43&agglevel=county&year=2016-17>, 2017

⁴ ibid

⁵ EdData, "Santa Clara County Office of Education," <http://www.ed-data.org/district/Santa-Clara/Santa-Clara-County-Office-of-Education>, 2016

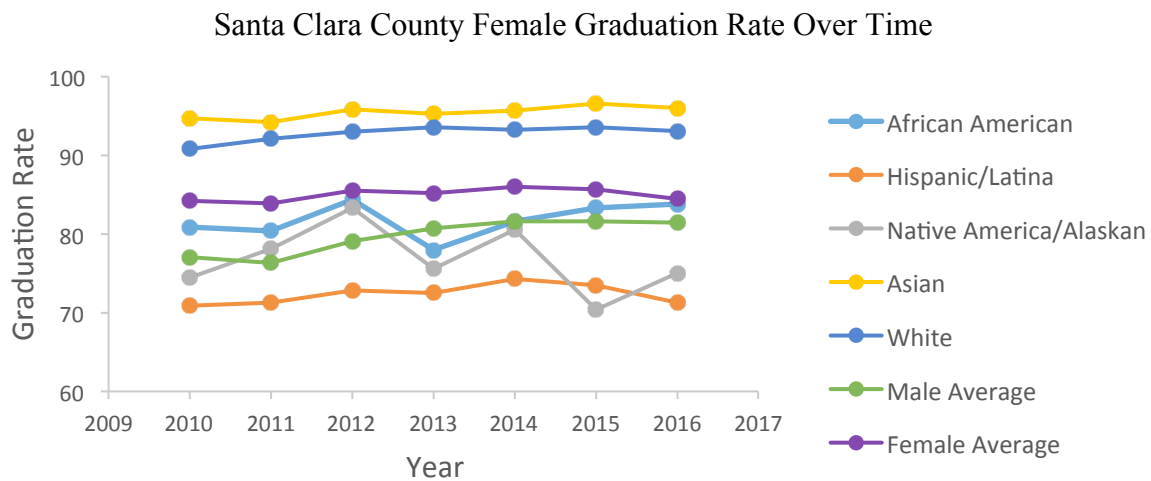
⁶ Private School Review, "Santa Clara County

⁷ EdData, "Santa Clara County Office of Education," <http://www.ed-data.org/district/Santa-Clara/Santa-Clara-County-Office-of-Education>, 2016

⁸ US News, High Schools, "Santa Clara County Special Education," <https://www.usnews.com/education/>, 2017

Graduation Rates

- The general graduation rate in Santa Clara County is 83%, while the graduation rate for girls is 84.5%.⁹



- In Santa Clara County schools, Latina and Native American/Alaskan girls are least likely to graduate, with graduation rates of 71.3% and 75.0%, respectively, in 2016.¹⁰

Truancy, Dropouts, and Suspensions

- The general dropout rate in Santa Clara County is 12%, while the dropout rate for girls is 11.2%.¹¹
- Santa Clara county has a truancy rate of 25.71 per 100 students.¹²
- Girls of color make up 82.8% of all suspensions of girls in San Jose Unified School District, the largest district in the county, while they make up 74.9% of girls enrolled. Thus, girls of color are suspended at 1.11 times the rate of their enrollment in this school district.¹³

Academic Achievement

The achievement gap between girls and boys K-12 has closed in SCC. Girls are on par and, in some instances, exceeding the achievement rates of boys. However, an unacceptable percentage do not read at grade level or graduate from high school.¹⁴

- In Santa Clara County, girls are consistently more ready for kindergarten than boys. Girls are also more likely than boys to have the readiness skills (kindergarten academics and self-regulation) most strongly associated with 3rd grade success.¹⁴
- In elementary school, 50% of the girls reportedly have the skills needed for later success as compared to 38% of boys.¹⁴
- Latinas are less likely to be kindergarten ready in Santa Clara County.¹⁴

⁹ California Department of Education, DataQuest, "Graduates: Cohort Outcome Data by Gender, Santa Clara County," <http://data1.cde.ca.gov>, 2017

¹⁰ California Department of Education, DataQuest, "Graduates: Cohort Outcome Data by Gender, Santa Clara County," <http://data1.cde.ca.gov>, 2017

¹¹ California Department of Education, DataQuest, "Dropouts: Cohort Outcome Data by Gender, Santa Clara County," <http://data1.cde.ca.gov>, 2017

¹² California Department of Education, DataQuest, "Truancy Report: Santa Clara County 2014-2015," <http://data1.cde.ca.gov>, 2015

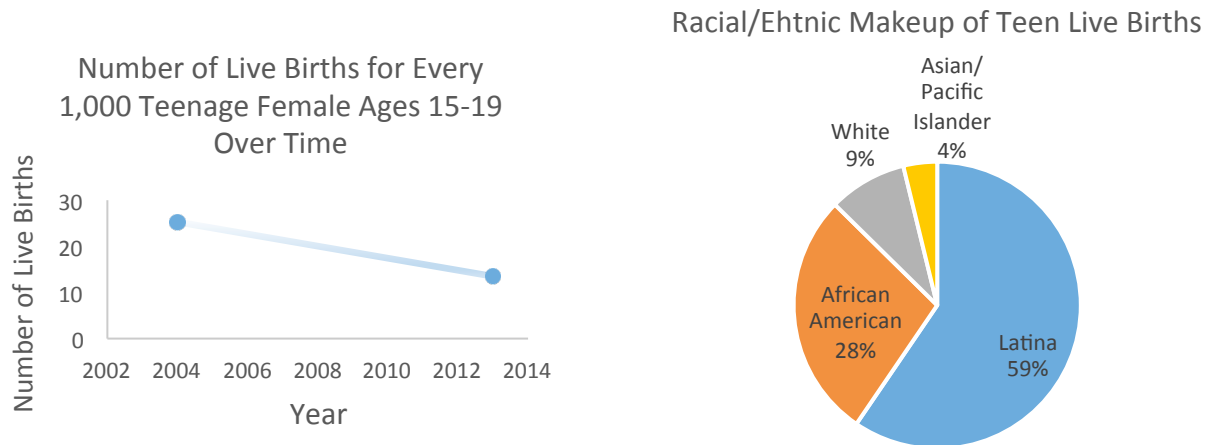
¹³ National Women's Law Center, "Suspensions of Girls of Color by School District," <https://nwlc.org/resources/2013-2014-suspensions-for-girls-of-color-by-school-district/>, 2017

¹⁴ Santa Clara County, "Women and Girls 2012: The State of Women and Girls in Santa Clara County," <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2012

- Results from the California High School Exit Exam reveal that 10th grade girls in Santa Clara County passed the Math and ELA sections at 90% and 91%, respectively. This is higher than the boys passing rates in Santa Clara County and statewide average percentages.¹⁵

Teen Birth Rate

- While the number of teen live births for every 1,000 girls aged 15-19-years-old has steadily decreased from 2004 to 2013 (25.3 to 13.5), girls of color still experience teen pregnancy at higher rates.¹⁶



Physical Activity & Athletic Participation¹⁷

- 27% of children ages 5 to 11 and 17% of middle and high school students in Santa Clara County were physically active for at least 60 minutes each day in the past 7 days. The percentage was lower for females than males across all age groups (26% vs. 29% for ages 5 to 11; 13% vs. 22% for middle and high school students).¹⁸
- 27.2% of 5th grade girls in SCC passed 3 or less of the 6 fitness standards for the Meeting Healthy Fitness Zone test.¹⁹
- SB 1349 is a state law requiring public K-12 schools to publish information about how many girls and boys are participating in school athletics. Numbers for the 2015-2016 school year from 4 of the largest high schools in Santa Clara County are listed here:²⁰

High School	Girls in Sports	Boys in Sports
Independence High School	292	345
Evergreen Valley High School	310	422
Silver Creek High School	255	393
Homestead High School	396	479

Juvenile Justice

¹⁵ California Department of Education, DataQuest, "CAHSEE Results for Mathematics and ELA by Gender and Race/Ethnicity Designation for Grade 10, Santa Clara County," <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/>, 2015

¹⁶ Santa Clara County, "Women and Girls 2012: The State of Women and Girls in Santa Clara County," <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2012

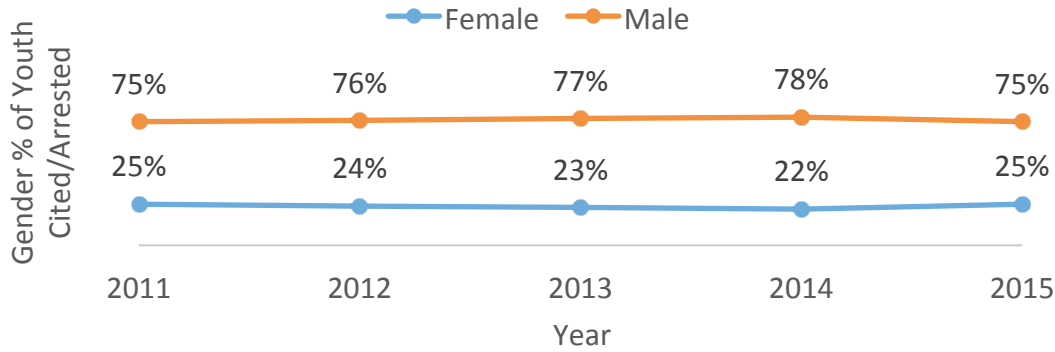
¹⁷ For more information on AB 2404, a state law prohibiting gender discrimination in community sport, and how to track with the athletic participation equality in your city, reference this [checklist](#) distributed by Legal Aid at Work.

¹⁸ Santa Clara County, "Status of Children's Health: 2016," <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2016

¹⁹ California Department of Education, DataQuest "Physical Fitness Test, Santa Clara County," <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/>, 2016

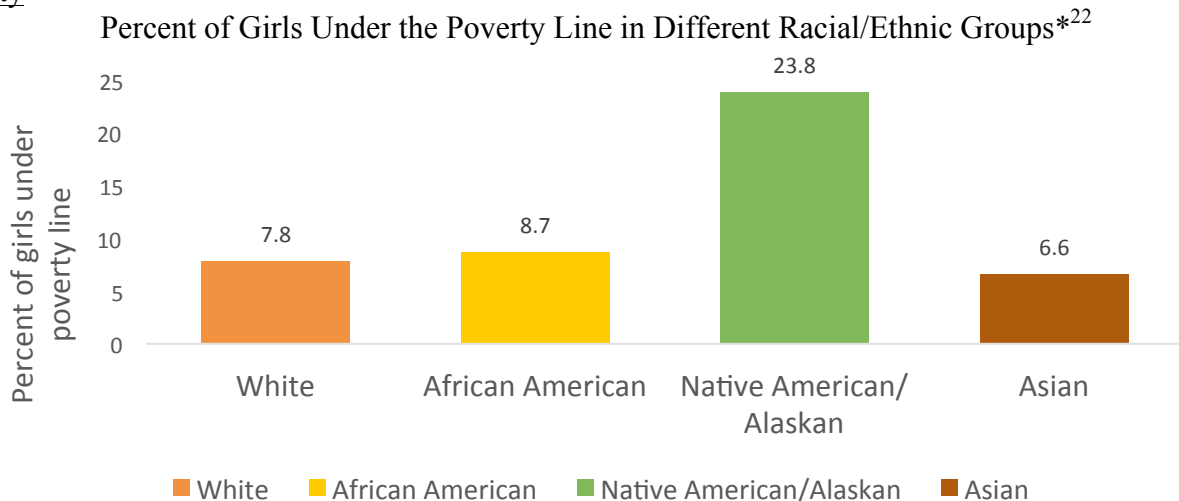
²⁰ Independence High School, <https://ihs.schoolloop.com/genderequity>, Evergreen Valley High School, <http://www.evhs.schoolloop.com/cms/>, Silver Creek High School, <http://schs.schoolloop.com/athletics/genderequity>, Homestead High School, <http://homesteadmustangs.com/hq/title-ix-information>

Gender Make-up of Youth Cited/Arrested in Santa Clara County



- In Santa Clara County, as of 2012, Hispanic girls comprise 70% of the female ward population, but represent just 27% of the female population of Santa Clara County. African-Americans constitute 7% of the female juvenile ward population, but represent only 2% of the female population in the county.²¹

Poverty



*Information about Hispanic/Latina girls was not available with this data set

- Among age groups, younger women currently have the highest unemployment rates in Santa Clara County. Women/girls aged 16-19 and 20-24 each have unemployment rates of approximately 19%, compared to 9% for women aged 25-44.²³

Safety and Wellness

- While suicide affects all demographics in Santa Clara County, a higher percentage of females report having attempted suicide, while males are more likely to die from suicide.²⁴
- While males (23%) were physically bullied more than females (15%), females were psychologically bullied and cyber bullied at higher percentages (41% and 22%, respectively) than males.²⁵

²¹ Santa Clara County, "Women and Girls 2012: The State of Women and Girls in Santa Clara County," <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2012

²² American Fact Finder, <https://factfinder.census.gov/>, 2015

²³ Santa Clara County, "Women and Girls 2012: The State of Women and Girls in Santa Clara County," <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2012

²⁴ Santa Clara County, "Status of Children's Health: 2016," <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2016

²⁵ Ibid

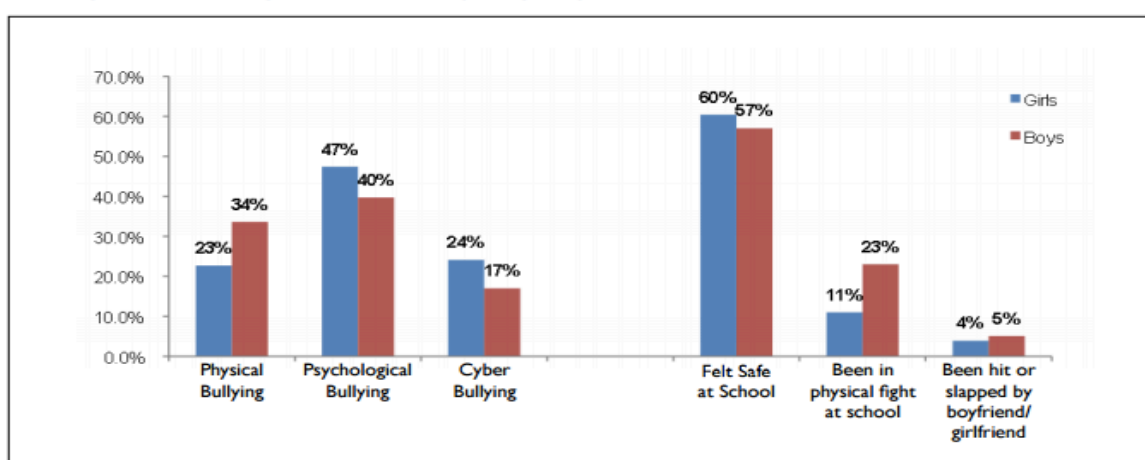
- The non-fatal self-inflicted injury rate among females was higher for both emergency department visits and hospital discharges than males (see chart below).²⁶

Non-Fatal Self-Inflicted Injuries Rates Per 100,000 Children Ages (0-17)

	African American	Asian/PI	Latino	White	Male	Female	Santa Clara County
Emergency department visits							
Children (ages 0-17)	37.0	7.4	18.0	23.6	7.5	27.1	17.0
Hospital discharges							
Children (ages 0-17)	--	2.4	4.4	7.8	1.8	8.4	5.0

- A similar percentage of male (66%) and female students (65%) reported they feel safe at school. White (74%) and Asian/Pacific Islander (68%) students were most likely to feel safe at school.²⁷

Percentage of middle and high school students reporting safety issues at school, 2009



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-10.

- A 2015 report on the state of Muslim children in California schools revealed that 29% of hijab-wearing students experienced offensive touching or pulling of their hijab and 27% of hijab-wearing girls reported administrator or teacher discrimination.²⁸
- Girls are more likely to be victims of reported sexual abuse, and this gendered pattern of abuse is also observed statewide.²⁹
- Hispanic girls overwhelmingly comprise the largest proportion of substantiated cases of maltreatment of girls.³⁰
- Because girls are more likely than boys to be victims of child abuse and neglect, women and girls bear a greater share of the long-term social, psychological, emotional, and economic consequences of child abuse and neglect.³¹

Developmental Assets

- The Search Institute surveys millions of youth about how they experience 40 “Developmental Assets” that are the fundamental bases of human development. The more assets youth have, the

²⁶ Santa Clara County, “Status of Children’s Health: 2016,” <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2016

²⁷ Santa Clara County, “Violence Profile 2012,” <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2012

²⁸ Council on American-Islamic Relations, “Mislabelled: The Impact of School Bullying and Discrimination on California Muslim Students,” <https://ca.cair.com/>, 2015

²⁹ Santa Clara County, “Women and Girls 2012: The State of Women and Girls in Santa Clara County,” <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2012

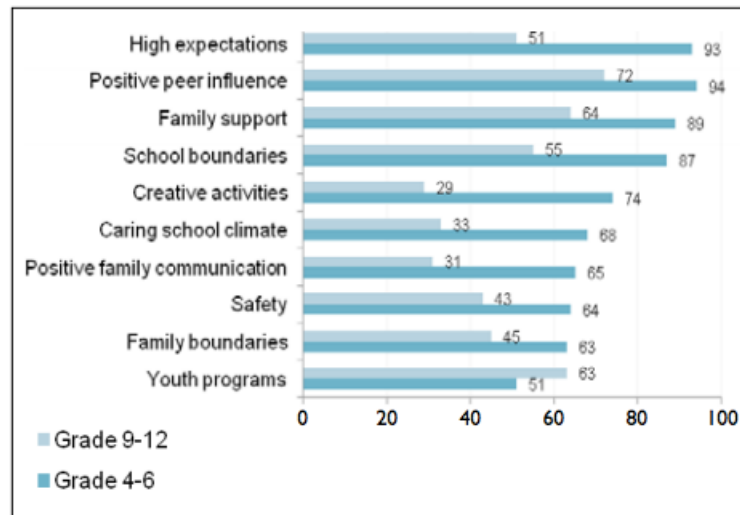
³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid

less likely they are to engage in high-risk behaviors, and the more likely they are to engage in thriving behaviors:³²

- Elementary school girls report high levels of positive peer influence, high expectations, and family support.
- The top 3 Internal Assets for girls are honesty, peaceful conflict resolution, and caring.
- The lowest ranked External Assets among elementary school girls are community values youth, service to others, and time at home, while the lowest-ranked Internal Assets are sense of purpose, planning and decision-making, and interpersonal competence.
- The figure below shows the top 10 Internal Developmental Assets of elementary school girls and compares those Asset levels to those of high school girls. Substantially lower levels of Assets are observed among high school girls.

Percent of Santa Clara County girls with key Internal Developmental Assets: grades 4-6 and grades 9-12



Source: Project Cornerstone. 2011. "Helping Youth Thrive: A Profile of Santa Clara County Elementary School Students" and "Helping Youth Thrive: A Profile of Santa Clara County High School Students."

Foster Care

- There were 1,357 children in foster care in Santa Clara County in 2015.³³
- Hispanic/Latino children make up the largest proportion of children in foster care (70.7%) in 2015. This trend is consistent over time.³⁴

Engagement in STEM

- In Santa Clara County only 25% of bachelor degrees in math and 22% of bachelor degrees in engineering are conferred to women.³⁵
- CAASPP scores averaged out over 7 grade levels show that 33% of girls in Santa Clara County exceed the standard for Mathematics, but 22% do not even meet the standard.³⁶
- Data on female enrollment from a sample of 49 elective STEM courses offered across 6 different Santa Clara County high schools is detailed below:³⁷

³² Santa Clara County, "Women and Girls 2012: The State of Women and Girls in Santa Clara County," <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2012

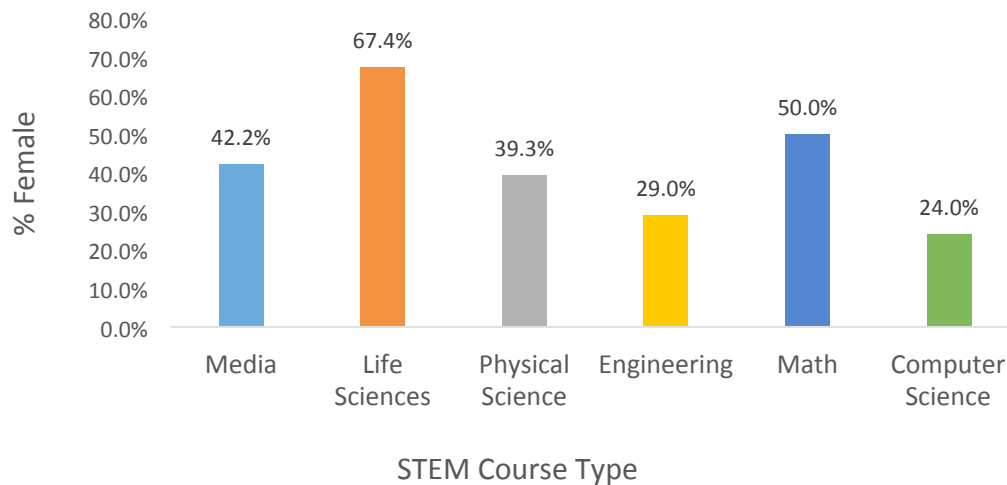
³³ Kidsdata.org, "All Data: Santa Clara County, Children in Foster Care" <http://www.kidsdata.org/>, 2015

³⁴ Kidsdata.org, "All Data: Santa Clara County, Children in Foster Care by Race/Ethnicity" <http://www.kidsdata.org/>, 2015

³⁵ GetSet, "The Facts," <http://www.getset.org/home/the-facts>

³⁶ CAASPP, "Test Results: Santa Clara County," <http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/>, 2016

³⁷ This information was gathered with the help of the Santa Clara County Office of Education.



LGBTQIA+ Youth

All of the following information, data, and quotes were pulled from Santa Clara County's "Status of LGBTQ Health" 2013 Report³⁸ unless otherwise cited.

- Some key challenges identified by Santa Clara County LGBTQ community members included family acceptance, including rejection, verbal and physical abuse, and being kicked out of the home or disowned.
- Family acceptance is a critical issue for transgender children and youth.
- Because of legal and social discrimination, the children of LGBTQ parents can face obstacles to receiving high-quality services that promote health and well-being.
- In 2011-12, there were at least 3,000 LGBTQ adults with children living in Santa Clara County. A small percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents indicated that they needed, but had a hard time accessing, child care services (7%) and child welfare or protective services (4%).
- Participants also described bullying that LGBTQ children and children of LGBTQ parents have experienced at their schools, noting that teachers and administrators only intervened to address the bullying after pressure from the parents.
- Nearly half of transgender respondents in the County's health assessment seriously considered suicide or hurting themselves during the past 12 months.
- In Santa Clara County, LGBTQ individuals comprise 29% of homeless youth and young adults under the age of 25.³⁹

Immigration and Refugees

- Santa Clara County is considered a refugee-impacted county by the California Department of Social Services.⁴⁰
- 1 in 10 children are immigrants in Santa Clara County and 60% of children have an immigrant parent.⁴¹
- The three countries with the highest immigrant populations in Santa Clara County are Mexico (23%), Vietnam (14%), and India (12%).⁴²

³⁸ Santa Clara County, "Status of LGBTQ Health," <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2013

³⁹ Santa Clara County, "Homeless: Point-In-Time Census and Survey," <https://www.sccgov.org/>, 2013

⁴⁰ California Department of Social Services, "Refugee Impacted Counties," <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/>

⁴¹ Julian Chow, PhD and Catherine Vu, PhD, "Immigrant Poverty Alleviation Efforts: Safety-Net Programs and Self Sufficiency in Santa Clara County," <http://www.sssp1.org>, 2014

⁴² Ibid.