

# Alameda County Girls Fact Sheet

Compiled by the Alliance for Girls ([www.alliance4girls.org](http://www.alliance4girls.org))

## **Population and Demographics**

- Alameda County consists of over 1.5 million people (1,510,271), residing in the County's 14 cities and \_ unincorporated cities. It is the second most populous county in California. <sup>1</sup>
- 166,153, or 21.6% of Alameda County's population are girls. <sup>2</sup>

## Demographics

- Alameda County's racial demographics showed that the County is significantly more racially diverse than the country. Where the US population is 74% white, Alameda County is only 43% White. Alameda County has around the same percentage of African Americans as the US (US: 13%; Alameda County: 12.6%), but it is almost double the California percentage, which is only 6%. Its Asian, mixed race and other minority representations are also much larger. The Asian population in Alameda County is about six times the national percentage (US: 4.7%; Alameda County: 26.1%).<sup>3</sup>

Race	US (%)	California (%)	Alameda County (%)
White	74	57.6	43
Black or African American	13	6.2	12.6
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.8	1	0.6
Asian	4.7	13	26.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.4	0.8
Some Other Race	5	17	10.8
Two or More Races	3	4.9	6

- The demographic representation of girls (under 18) is similar to that of the overall population in Alameda County.

Race of Girls in Alameda County	% of Girls	Alameda County (%)
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<sup>1</sup> United States Census Bureau, "QT-P1-Geography-Alameda County, California: Age Groups and Sex: 2010." <[factfinder2.census.gov](http://factfinder2.census.gov)>, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> United States Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. ACS 2010 3-Year Estimates. "Sex by Age." "Sex by Age (White Alone); Sex by Age (Black or African American alone), etc." <[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_10\\_3YR\\_B01001&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_10_3YR_B01001&prodType=table)>

White Alone	38.2	43
Black or African-American Alone	12.8	12.6
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.6	0.6
Asian Alone	25.3	26.1
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Alone	0.9	0.8
Some Other Race Alone	11.9	10.8
Two or More Races	10	6

### **Poverty**

*Though Alameda County has a lower percentage of persons living in poverty than California or the United States, specific geographic communities and racial/ethnic groups bear a disproportionately acute level of poverty.*

- The 2011 Federal Poverty threshold for a family of four is \$22,891.<sup>4</sup>
- 11.4% of persons in Alameda County live below the poverty level. This is a lower percentage than California as a whole where 13.7% of persons live below the poverty level, and 13.8% in the United States.
- Of the 95,669 women whose income is below the poverty level, 25,344 of those are under 18 years old. This accounts for 26% of women in poverty in Alameda County and 15% of all people in poverty in AC.
- 42.2% of students in Alameda County are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunches, a program that requires a child's family income must be 130% below the federal poverty guidelines.<sup>5</sup>
- As of 2009, 32.2% of African-American children and 18.3% of Hispanic/Latino children live in poverty. Only 8.4% of Asian-American children, 6.4% of Caucasian/White children, and 9% multiracial children live in poverty.<sup>6</sup>
- An alternate income measure is the Self-Sufficiency Standard, which accounts for geographic differences in costs, suggests \$49,444 as a sufficient income for a family of two adults and one school-aged child.<sup>7</sup>

### **Drop Out/Graduation Rates**

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<sup>4</sup> The US Census Bureau uses a threshold to determine poverty. For more information on their calculations:

<<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html>>

<sup>5</sup> California Dept. of Education, Free/Reduced Price Meals Program & CalWORKS Data Files, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/cw/filesafdc.asp> (Feb. 2012); U.S. Dept. of Education, NCES Common Core of Data, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/bat/index.asp> (Feb. 2012).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Accessed at <http://factfinder2.census.gov> (Apr. 2011), via kidsdata.org.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/>;  
<http://www.insightccd.org/uploads/cfes/2011/Alameda.pdf>

*Female students are not at highest risk of dropping out of high school, but dropout and graduation rates among girls vary widely between racial groups.*

- The average student dropout rate in Alameda County is 14.8%. The average female student dropout rate is 12.3%; and male dropout rate 17.3%.<sup>8</sup>
  - Overall, female students are dropping out with less frequency than boys, and at lower than average rates. Females who did not report their race, African-American females and Hispanic/Latino females are the most at risk among girls for high school dropout.
  - The average graduation rate for all female students is 82.3%. Girls who are American Indian or Alaska Native, African American, Hispanic or Latino, or Pacific Islander are graduating at below average rates.<sup>9</sup>
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### ***Academic Performance***

Overall, girls are performing as well if not better than boys on standardized testing such as the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).<sup>10</sup>

- Girls of Alameda County are also out-testing girls in California.
- However, almost 70% of girls are still *not* passing the CAHSEE in English Language Arts or Math.

### ***Safety***

Girls in Alameda County face serious threats to their safety both at school and in their communities.

- The California Health Kids Survey reports that as girls grow older in schools, their perception of safety decreases. From 7<sup>th</sup> grade to 11<sup>th</sup> grade in Alameda County public schools, girls feel increasingly very unsafe. In non-traditional schools, however, girls feel safe at higher percentages than at regular public schools. Whereas only 14.20% of girls in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade feel “very safe,” 18.3% of girls at non-traditional schools feel “very safe.”<sup>11</sup>

### ***Dating Violence***

Dating Violence, Sexual Abuse, and Sex Trafficking are very important safety issues for the girls in Alameda County and especially in Oakland.

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<sup>8</sup> California Department of Education Office, Data Quest, “Alameda County Cohort Outcome Data for the Class of 2010-11.”

<<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/Expulsion/ExpReports/CountyExp.aspx?cCounty=01,ALAMEDA&cYear=2010-11&cChoice=CoEpx1&Pageno=1>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> California Department of Education, Testing and Accountability. “CAHSEE Results for Mathematics and English-Language Arts.” <http://cahsee.cde.ca.gov/reports.asp>, 2011.

<sup>11</sup> California Healthy Kids Survey, prepared by Kidsdata.org “Perceptions of School Safety, by Gender and Grade Level: 2006-2008.” <[http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/table/school\\_safety-gender.aspx](http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/table/school_safety-gender.aspx)>

- There is a discrepancy in data collected regarding teen dating violence and sex trafficking in AC. On the California Health Kids Survey, only 6% of 11<sup>th</sup> grade girls reported that they had experienced dating violence in the past year (2006-2008).<sup>12</sup>
- However, in a survey conducted by the Oakland branch of the national nonprofit Girls, Inc., 30% of teens surveyed in Alameda County reported experiencing dating violence.<sup>13</sup>

Visit <http://www.alliance4girls.org/resources/> for further resources.

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<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Girls' Inc, Oakland ACT (Advocating Change Together), "Perspectives of Teens in Oakland on Teen Dating Violence, Healthy Relationships and Resources: Survey Results 2011."