

About San Pablo

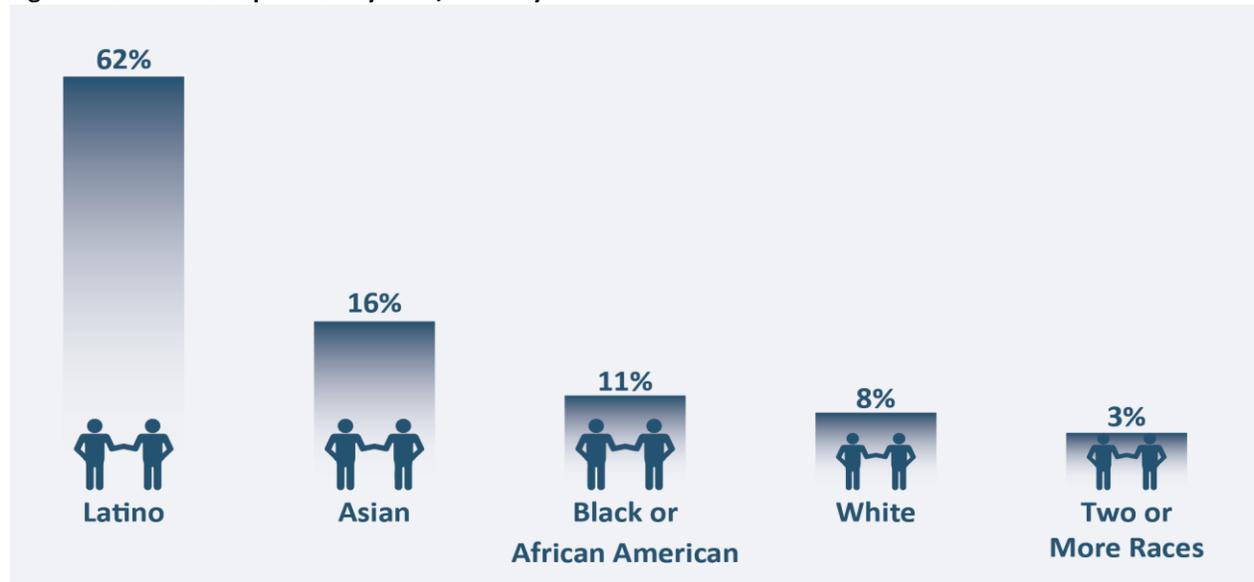
San Pablo is a diverse and vibrant city of 2.6 square miles located in west Contra Costa County. San Pablo is bordered on almost all sides by the larger City of Richmond. The relatively young city (median age is 33) has 30,839 residents. Almost half (46%) of residents were born outside of the U.S., and almost three-fourths (73%) speak a language other than English at home. A quarter (25%) of residents are under the age of 18.

San Pablo struggles with low educational attainment and poverty. Almost half (44%) of residents over age 18 are not high school graduates. Unemployment across the Bay Area has decreased including in San Pablo, where the known unemployment rate, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was 3.6%. However, this is misleading as many residents are underemployed or do not earn enough to meet all basic necessities due to the high cost of living (especially housing) in the Bay Area. The median household income is \$49,226 per year. Eighteen percent of San Pablo residents have an income level below the federal poverty line, including 23% of all children under age 18.² The extent of the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on unemployment and poverty rates in San Pablo is not known at the time this report was prepared.

Race and Ethnicity

San Pablo has a majority and growing Latino population, which increased from 56% of all residents in 2010 to 62% in 2018. Sixteen percent of residents are from Asian backgrounds, and the city has a shrinking population of Black or African American residents (11%) and White residents (8%). Individuals who identify themselves as American Indian/Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, or some other race comprise less than one percent of the San Pablo population.

Figure 1. San Pablo Population by Race/Ethnicity



Source: 2018 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates

² 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The racial/ethnic makeup of the youth who completed the survey was similar to that of the overall community. Three-quarters (75%) of the youth identify as Latino, 16% as Asian or Pacific Islander, 10% as Black or African American, 5% as White, and 3% as two or more races.

The racial/ethnic makeup of the focus group participants was also similar to that of the overall community. Half of the participants were Latino and reported speaking primarily Spanish at home. A quarter of the participants were Black/African American and spoke English at home and a quarter of the participants were Asian who spoke primarily Mien at home.

Age

San Pablo's median age of 33.0 is an increase from 31.6 in 2010. While the median age has increased, it is still below the median age of Contra Costa County residents (39.4). Children under age 18 make up 25% of San Pablo's residents, a decrease from 28% in 2010, and children under five years of age make up 6% of residents. Despite the decrease in the percent of residents under 18, San Pablo's rate of 25% is higher than the Contra Costa County rate of 23%.³

The age of respondents for the youth survey is distributed relatively equally. Percent of respondents by age are as follows: 11-year-olds (1%), 12-year-olds (10%), 13-year-olds (12%), 14-year-olds (14%), 15-year-olds (18%), 16-year-olds (21%), 17-year-olds (16%), and 18-year-olds (8%). The age of the focus group participants was varied: one participant was between the ages of 25 to 34; three participants were between the ages of 35 to 44; two participants were between the ages of 45 to 54; and two participants were between the ages of 55 and 64.



³ 2018 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates and 2010 Census

Language

Almost half (46%) of San Pablo residents were born outside of the U.S., a small increase over the 45% in 2010. While less than half of the city's residents are foreign-born, 73% of residents speak a language other than English at home. Other than the 27% of residents who speak English at home, 56% of residents speak Spanish at home, and 12% speak Asian/Pacific Islander languages. These numbers are significantly higher than Contra Costa County overall, where 25% of residents are foreign-born and 35% speak a language other than English at home.⁴

In 2016, almost one-third (29%) of children in San Pablo lived in a linguistically-isolated household, that is, a household in which the adult members do not speak English.⁵

Among youth survey respondents, 79% reported speaking English at home, suggesting that 21% of the youth live in linguistically-isolated homes. Many youth (58%) spoke English and an additional language at home. In total, 79% of youth spoke a primary or secondary language that is not English at home. The predominate non-English language is Spanish, spoken by 69% of youth. Six percent of youth surveyed speak Asian languages including Cantonese/Mandarin, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Laos, Nepali, and Mien, and 2% speak Hindi or Punjabi.

⁴ 2018 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates and 2010 Census

⁵ Population Reference Bureau analysis of the 2016 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates