



# San Pablo Needs Assessment Report



**Prepared by**

Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates and the City of San Pablo's Youth, School & Community Partnerships Division

**June 2021 Update, April 2020**

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## Preface

The City of San Pablo's 2020 Needs Assessment report was concluded near the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Covid). Since the past year brought new challenges for a large percentage of the population and especially the youth population, the City of San Pablo decided to update some of the data to better reflect the changes experienced by the community. An appendix section has been added at end of the report, which includes updated data.<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction and Methodology

In 2020, the City of San Pablo conducted a needs assessment for young people and their families to identify gaps in service areas. The assessment focused on three service areas: mental and physical health for youth; education and post-secondary attainment for youth; and economic development for families with children and youth. This report includes relevant data and findings from family focus groups and youth surveys on needed services.

The family focus groups included eight adult participants, all of whom live in San Pablo and whose children attend San Pablo schools. The participants were facilitated into two groups, one Spanish-speaking and one English-speaking. They were also interviewed one-on-one, using the focus group questions.

The youth surveys were distributed via teachers and conducted online. In total, 281 youth completed the survey. Almost all (275) youth attended Helms Middle School, Richmond High, or Middle College High. Just over half, 53% (147) of the youth surveyed live in San Pablo and 42% live in Richmond. The remaining 5% of youth respondents live in one of the surrounding cities of Pinole, Hercules, or El Sobrante.

It is important to note that family focus groups were conducted two weeks prior to the shelter-in-place order issued by nine San Francisco Bay Area counties, including Contra Costa County, in an effort to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The youth surveys were distributed by email and text during the shelter-in-place order. The survey included a specific question regarding the particular needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The youth survey has come at unique time when San Pablo and communities around the Bay Area are addressing inequities highlighted by the pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that some of the data in the appendix section was incomplete or not available due to still being collected.

## About San Pablo

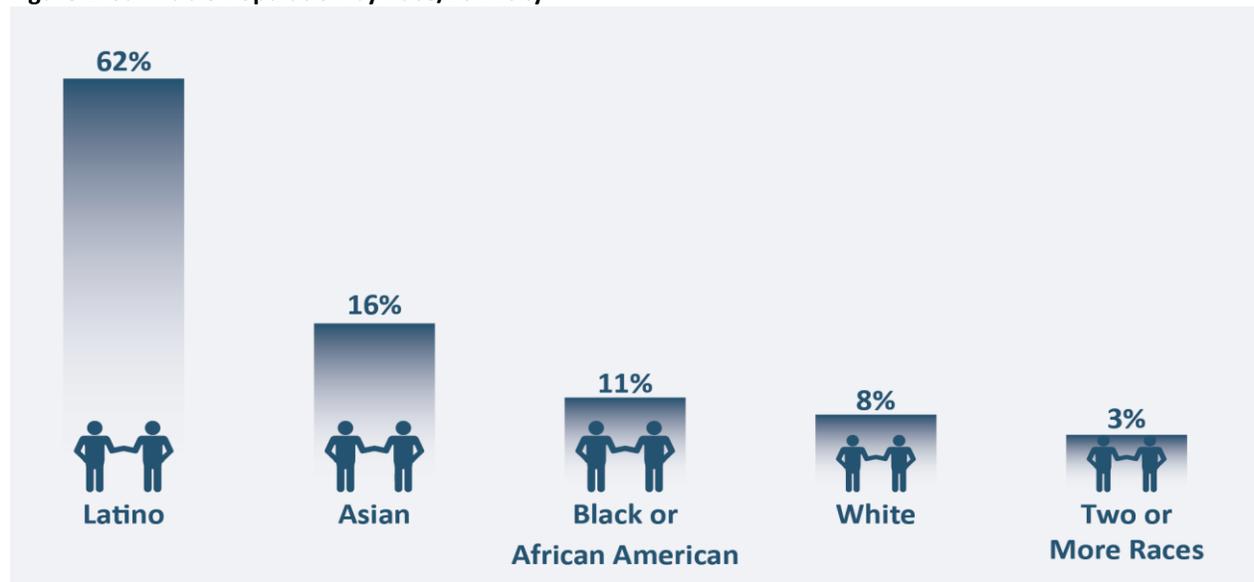
San Pablo is a diverse and vibrant city of 2.6 square miles located in west Contra Costa County. San Pablo is bordered on almost all sides by the larger City of Richmond. The relatively young city (median age is 33) has 30,839 residents. Almost half (46%) of residents were born outside of the U.S., and 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.<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> 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%.<sup>3</sup>

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.



<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

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.

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<sup>4</sup> 2018 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates and 2010 Census

<sup>5</sup> Population Reference Bureau analysis of the 2016 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates



## Health

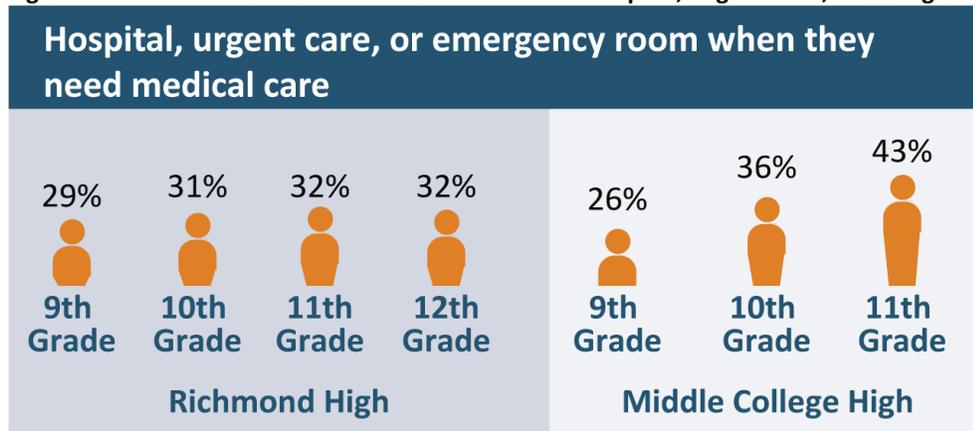
### Physical Health and Insurance

In the family focus groups, adults reported that there were adequate general health resources in San Pablo and the surrounding cities; however, the closest emergency room is in Richmond. Families reported needing more access to dental and vision services for their children. The high cost of living in San Pablo and the Bay Area in general prevents families from purchasing robust health insurance plans.

The lack of consistent work affects access to health benefits.  
~ Family Focus Group Participant

At Richmond High and Middle College High, 26% to 43% of youth reported going to a hospital, urgent care, or an emergency room when they need medical care or advice. This would suggest that those students are unable to seek regular medical care, likely because they are underinsured.

Figure 3. Percent of San Pablo Youth Who Go To the Hospital, Urgent Care, or Emergency Room



Source: 2017-18 California Health Kids Survey School Reports

### Mental Health and Connectedness

In 2017-18, youth at Helms Middle, Richmond High and Middle College High schools took the California Healthy Kids Survey. On average 32% to 39% of youth were chronically sad or experienced feelings of hopelessness. Eight percent to 14 percent of youth seriously considered suicide. See Figure 4 below. It is important to note that tenth graders at Middle College High experienced higher levels of hopelessness and consideration of suicide.

It is critical to offer mental health services because as youth we are not use to being home. Some youth don't feel safe being home. (Shelter-in-place) is affecting many peoples mental health and I believe we all need support.  
~ Youth Survey Respondents

According to the California Healthy Kids Survey less than 20% of youth felt connected to their school and just 13% to 32% have a caring relationship with an adult at their school. The Youth Truth Survey was administered to youth at Richmond High in February 2019; of those youth, 60% reported having at least one adult at school who would be willing to help them with a personal problem,

while only 33% of respondents reported feeling like a part of their school’s community.

**Figure 4. Percent of San Pablo Youth with Mental Health and School Connectedness Indicators**

	Helms Middle		Richmond High				Middle College High		
	7th Graders	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	
Chronic Sadness or Hopelessness	32%	35%	35%	39%	39%	30%	47%	36%	
Considered Suicide	N/A	11%	8%	12%	12%	13%	20%	14%	
School Connectedness	19%	16%	9%	11%	11%	11%	18%	17%	
Caring Adult Relationships	27%	32%	21%	25%	26%	13%	20%	23%	
High Expectations from Adults in School	38%	41%	31%	32%	30%	21%	24%	22%	
Meaningful Participation in School	9%	11%	10%	7%	10%	6%	12%	11%	

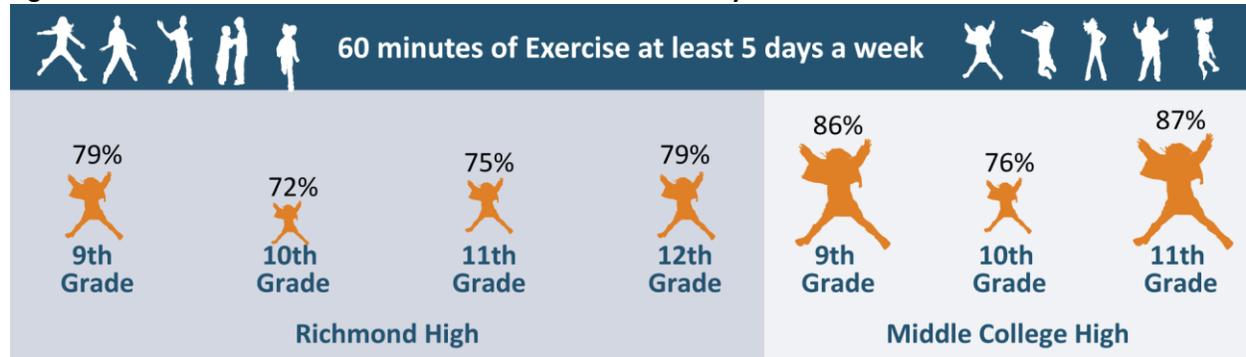
Source: 2017-18 California Health Kids Survey School Reports

Among youth survey respondents, 37% reported using mental health or counseling services and 37% of youth requested more access to these services.

### Physical Activity/ Healthy Eating

Among 2017-18 California Health Kids Survey respondents, 72% to 87% of the Richmond High and Middle College High youth exercise for at least 60 minutes a day, five days a week.

**Figure 5. Percent of San Pablo Youth Who Exercise at least five days a week for 60 minutes**



Source: 2017-18 California Health Kids Survey School Reports

In California, students take the Fitness Gram, a series of tests that measure flexibility, strength, and endurance to determine if a student is in the Healthy Fitness Zone, Needs Improvement, or in Health Risk. The test is administered to fifth, seventh and ninth grade students. In the past ten years, the City of San Pablo has worked to support youth and family fitness. The number of youth in the healthy fitness zone increased from 44.6% in 2010-2011 to 57.4% in 2018-19.

**Figure 6. 2010-11 and 2018-19 Percent of Students in the Healthy Fitness Zone**

	2010-2011			2018-2019		
	In Healthy Fitness Zone	Needs Improvement	At Health Risk	In Healthy Fitness Zone	Needs Improvement	At Health Risk
Bayview ES	44.6%	16.9%	38.5%	57.4%	18.0%	24.6%
Dover ES	48.3%	11.2%	40.5%	46.0%	22.2%	31.8%
Downer ES	38.6%	14.8%	46.6%	56.5%	19.6%	23.9%
Ford ES	41.1%	21.4%	37.5%	40.4%	29.8%	29.8%
Lake ES	34.0%	10.6%	55.4%	57.5%	10.0%	32.5%
Riverside ES	46.8%	6.4%	46.8%	48.3%	26.7%	25.0%
Helms MS	40.0%	11.9%	48.1%	57.4%	18.0%	24.6%
Middle College HS	49.4%	19.0%	31.6%	44.0%	27.3%	28.7%
Richmond HS	43.6%	14.5%	41.9%	55.7%	21.4%	44.3%

Source: 2010-11 and 2018-19 California Department of Education

The California Health Kids Survey asks students if they eat breakfast. In 2017-18, 23% of fifth graders across the West Contra Costa Unified School district did not eat breakfast. At Helms Middle, 48% of students ate lunch at the right time of day, 49% had enough time to eat lunch, and 50% had access to clean and drinkable water.

According to the family focus group participants there used to be more physical education and sports programs at San Pablo schools but many of those programs have been cut.

Almost all of the youth who attend the San Pablo schools are socio-economically disadvantaged and qualify for the free and reduced priced meal (FRPM) program at school. Over 90% of the youth at all of the San Pablo elementary schools and Helms Middle participate in the school lunch program. At Richmond High 93% of the students qualified for FRPM in the 2016-17 school year but only 85% qualified in the 2017-18 school year. It is unclear if the number of socially economically disadvantaged students actually decreased by 8% or if there were other factors that prevented students and their families from participating in the school lunch program. At Middle College, half of the students qualified for FRPM in 2016-17, which increased to almost 60% in the 2017-18 school year. With the exception of Middle College High, the percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch in the 2017-18 school year is significantly higher than the District rate of 70% and the County rate of 41%.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> 2016-17 and 2017-18 California Department of Education

## Asthma Rates

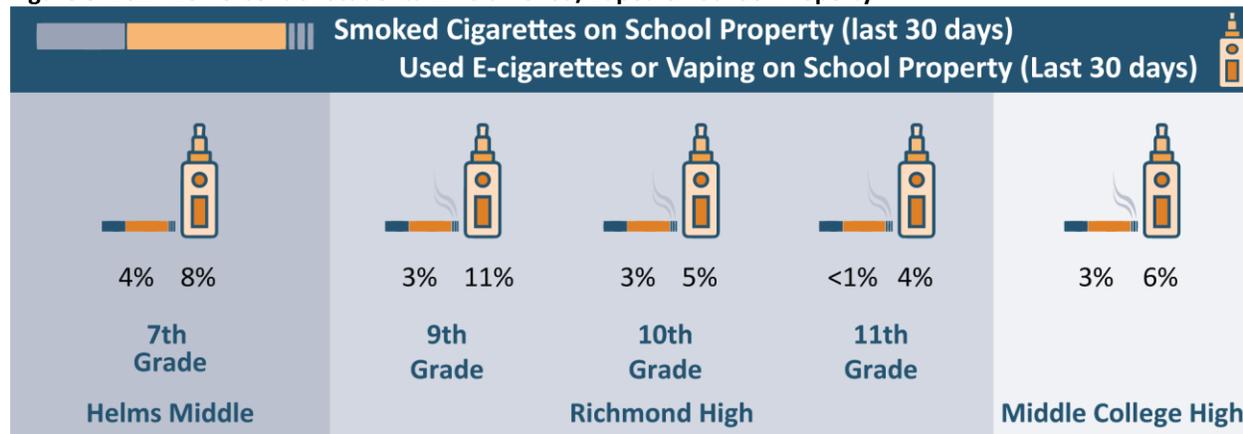
In 2016, 15.2% of all children in California were diagnosed with asthma. The percent of children with asthma (23.6%) is significantly higher in Contra Costa County, which has the state's fourth highest county asthma rate. Children ages 0-4 are the most impacted with an asthma-related hospitalization rate of 17.6/10,000.<sup>7</sup> Historically, the rate of asthma in San Pablo has been more than double the County-wide rate.<sup>8</sup>

Children are harmed by (refinery) smoke.  
~ Family Focus Group

## Tobacco / E-cigarette Rates

The California Healthy Kids Survey is distributed to every school in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. The survey asks students to self-report the number of times they have smoked or vaped on school property. Overall, the rates are relatively low. Only 2% of 5<sup>th</sup> graders reported smoking a cigarette or vaping on school property. The vast majority of 5<sup>th</sup> graders (92%) reported that cigarettes were very bad for your health, and 79% indicated that vaping was very bad for your health. In 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, 3% of students reported having smoked a cigarette on school property. The percentage of older students who reported vaping were higher; 6% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 7% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 4% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The percentages of students who reported smoking or vaping at San Pablo schools (see Figure 8 below) are similar to districtwide numbers.

**Figure 8. 2017-18 Percent of Students Who Smoked/Vaped on School Property**



Source: 2017-18 California Healthy Kids Survey Data

## Oral Health

There is little data available identifying oral health needs for children and youth in San Pablo. However, there is some data available at the county level. We can assume, given the overall level of health among youth in San Pablo, that county-wide averages are correct or even slightly better than the city-wide data. In 2017, there were 80,587 Medi-Cal eligible children ages 0-17 and only 31 general dentists accepting new Medi-Cal dental patients in 2018. Eleven of those general dentists are located in San Pablo or the surrounding cities of Richmond, El Cerrito, Pinole, and Hercules. In

<sup>7</sup> 2016 Asthma Summary from Kidsdata.org

<sup>8</sup> 2018 Contra Costa County Health Services. Asthma in Contra Costa County: Presentation for the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

2016, only 37% of Medi-Cal eligible children and youth ages 0-20 visited a dentist and only 14% of children 12-24 months old had an annual cleaning and exam. County-wide in 2017, 49% of Medi-Cal eligible students completed a kindergarten oral health assessment, and 25% of those students who returned an assessment in the West Contra Costa Unified School District had untreated tooth decay.<sup>9</sup>

## Violence

The City of San Pablo Police department provides a School Resource Officer at Helms Middle school, and resource officer services at the five elementary schools located in San Pablo. Overall, between 2018 and 2016, violent crime in San Pablo has decreased by 14.6%. There has been a similar decrease in juvenile felony arrests; in 2017 there were 25 arrests compared to 22 arrests in 2018.<sup>10</sup>

## COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place

During this needs assessment, youth and families in San Pablo and around the world were subject to an unusual shelter-in-place and social distancing order. On March 15, 2020 all West Contra Costa Unified Schools closed at noon. The schools moved to a distance and online learning campaign for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. The District has provided a number of online resources for families, including mobile hotspots via families' smart phones, however, there are more

applicants than mobile hotspots. The District is providing Tech Exchange staff for families to support home technology needs. The District has also provided Chromebook and tablets to students. While 31% of the youth survey respondents indicated a need to access to high speed internet and computers for distance learning, the extent of the City's digital divide is unknown.

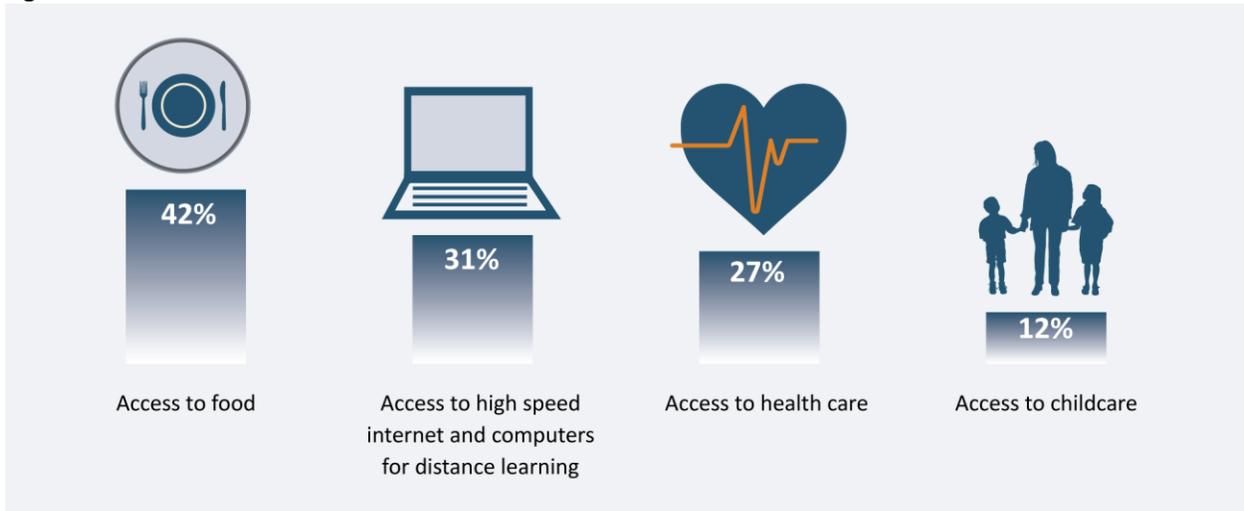


<sup>9</sup> 2018 Contra Costa County Oral Health Needs Assessment

<sup>10</sup> 2019 San Pablo Police Department

Access to food was identified as the largest need for youth. The school district is continuing to distribute school lunches at select school sites, however, the survey suggests that is not enough to meet the demand for the 42% of youth respondents who reported this need. A small percent (4% or under) reported the need for income/rent money, supplies (masks and toiletries), homework support/tutoring, sports or exercise, mental health services, and entertainment.

**Figure 9. Additional Needs Related to COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place**



Source: 2020 San Pablo Youth Survey



## Education

Young people in San Pablo are served by the West Contra Costa Unified School District. The District serves the cities of Richmond, El Cerrito, San Pablo, Pinole, and Hercules, and the unincorporated areas of Bayview-Montalvin Manor, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, North Richmond, and Tara Hills.

### Access to High Quality Child Care and Preschools

In 2017, San Pablo had 43 family child care homes, 11 licensed child care centers, and 7 license-exempt child care centers that provide a total of 1,582 child care slots for children 12 years and under. These slots only meet 56% of the total child care demand of 2,840 slots, which includes out-of-school-time care for school-aged children.<sup>11</sup>

In 2017, San Pablo needed 848 preschool slots to serve all preschool age children; however, there were only 428 available slots meeting only 50% of the total need. This is significantly lower the Contra Costa County as a whole where 88% of the total preschool need was met.<sup>12</sup>

Schools that are located in or serve the majority of San Pablo youth are as follows:

- Bayview Elementary
- Dover Elementary
- Downer Elementary
- Lake Elementary
- Riverside Elementary
- Helms Middle
- Richmond High
- Middle College High

### Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

The West Contra Costa Unified School District has a goal for all schools to achieve a 95% attendance rate. Among the schools serving San Pablo children and youth, Downer and Bayview Elementary schools had the lowest attendance rates ranging from 92.0% to 93.7%. All other schools were very close to the 95% goal, with attendance rates between 94.2% and 98.4%.<sup>13</sup>

**Figure 10. 2016-17 through 2018-19 Attendance Rates by School**

	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19
Bayview ES	93.0	↑	93.2	↓	92.0
Dover ES	95.1	↓	94.8	↓	94.4
Downer ES	93.7	↓	92.9	↑	93.5
Lake ES	94.5	↑	94.8	↑	95.2
Riverside ES	94.9	↓	94.5	↓	94.4
Helms MS	94.6	↑	94.9	↓	94.0
Middle College HS	98.4	→	98.4	↓	98.3
Richmond HS	94.2	↑	94.9	→	94.9

Source: 2018-19 West Contra Costa Unified School District

Chronic absenteeism is defined as the percent of students who miss more than 10 days of school per year. Chronic absenteeism rates at most of the San Pablo schools are much higher than the statewide

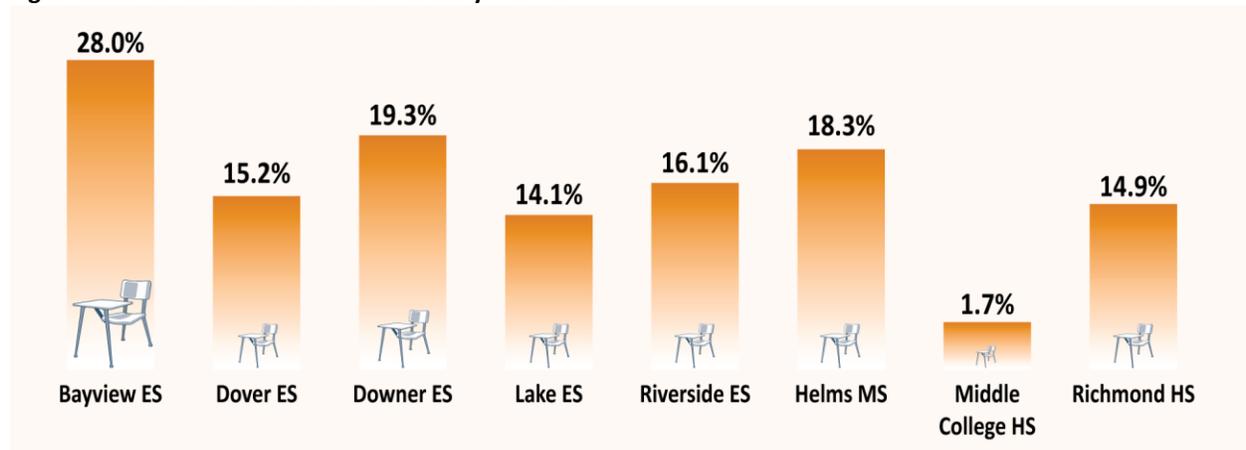
<sup>11</sup> 2018. Contra Costa County Comprehensive Countywide Child Care Needs Assessment: 2017 to 2027

<sup>12</sup> 2018. Contra Costa County Comprehensive Countywide Child Care Needs Assessment: 2017 to 2027

<sup>13</sup> West Contra Costa Unified School District, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 School Year

rate of 12.0% and the Contra Costa County rate of 12.1%. Moreover, four of the San Pablo schools have seen substantial increases in chronic absenteeism from the 2016-17 school year to the 2018-19 school year. The rate of students who are chronically absent at Bayview Elementary increased from 23% to 28%, Dover Elementary increased from 12.4% to 15.2%, Helms Middle increased from 16.3% to 18.3%, and Riverside Elementary increased from 11.4% to 16.1%. Districtwide, the chronic absenteeism rate for West Contra Costa Unified schools is 17.3%, which is also higher than the state-wide and county-wide rates.<sup>14</sup>

**Figure 11. 2018-19 Chronic Absenteeism by School**



Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

Students with excessive or ongoing absences or tardiness over time are referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). The SARB is a community-based effort to bring together resources to assist families with attendance, truancy and behavior issues, and is not merely a punitive body but rather serves as another safety net to help students stay in school. It is the last chance to keep students and families out of the court system.

In the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years there were 12 Richmond High youth who live in San Pablo seen by the SARB. None of them had ongoing medical issues or were referred to the Courts.

Of Helms Middle school students there were 18 San Pablo youth seen by the SARB. Of those 18, two youth had ongoing medical issues and three youth were referred to the courts.

From the five elementary schools there were 15 San Pablo youth seen by the SARB. One of those youth had an ongoing medical issue and one youth was referred to the courts.<sup>15</sup>

### English Language Learners

San Pablo schools serve large numbers of English Language Learners. This is the case for over 60% of the students at Dover, Downer, and Lake Elementary Schools. At Helms Middle, 38% of students are English Language Learners. Of the English Language Learners at Richmond High, 33% are classified as being at-risk for a lifetime English Language Learner status.

<sup>14</sup> California Department of Education 2018-19, 2017-18, and 2016-17 School Years

<sup>15</sup> 2018-19 and 2019-20. West Contra Costa Unified School District.

**Figure 12. 2018-19 English Learners by School**

	English Only	Initial Fluent English Proficient	English Learner	Reclassified Fluent English Proficient	At-Risk or Life Time English Learners (Percent of English Learners)
Bayview Elementary	42.4%	2.5%	46.3%	8.4%	27.2%
Dover Elementary	17.5%	3.3%	65.4%	13.7%	27.7%
Downer Elementary	23.1%	3.4%	61.8%	11.7%	25.9%
Lake Elementary	25.9%	3.2%	60.5%	10.4%	24.1%
Riverside Elementary	42.3%	5.1%	41.0%	11.5%	23.9%
Helms Middle	18.5%	4.1%	37.3%	40.2%	37.7%
Richmond High	12.4%	3.3%	39.6%	44.7%	33.2%
Middle College High	31.6%	10.4%	2.4%	55.6%	4.2%

Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

### Suspension/Expulsion Rates

The suspension rate at schools serving San Pablo students range from 0% to 9.7%, with the highest rates at Helms Middle, Bayview Elementary, and Richmond High. See Figure 13 below. The majority of students suspended in 2018-19 were only suspended one time.

**Figure 13. 2018-19 Suspensions Rates by School**

	Total Suspensions	Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended	Suspension Rate	% of Students Suspended with One Suspension	% of Students Suspended with Multiple Suspensions	% of Suspensions for Violent Incidents or Weapon Possession
Bayview ES	76	56	9.5%	68%	32%	88%
Dover ES	37	27	3.9%	85%	15%	68%
Downer ES	70	38	6.0%	68%	32%	93%
Lake ES	29	19	4.5%	68%	32%	69%
Riverside ES	8	7	1.6%	86%	14%	100%
Helms MS	127	92	9.7%	72%	28%	87%
Richmond HS	226	150	8.8%	76%	24%	62%
Middle College HS	0	0	0.0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

West Contra Costa schools avoid expulsions and work with youth and their families to continue serving all students. In the 2018-19 school year, there was only one student expelled in the District and no students expelled from any of the San Pablo schools. In the 2017-18 school year, there were 10 students expelled district-wide, of which three attended a San Pablo school.<sup>16</sup>

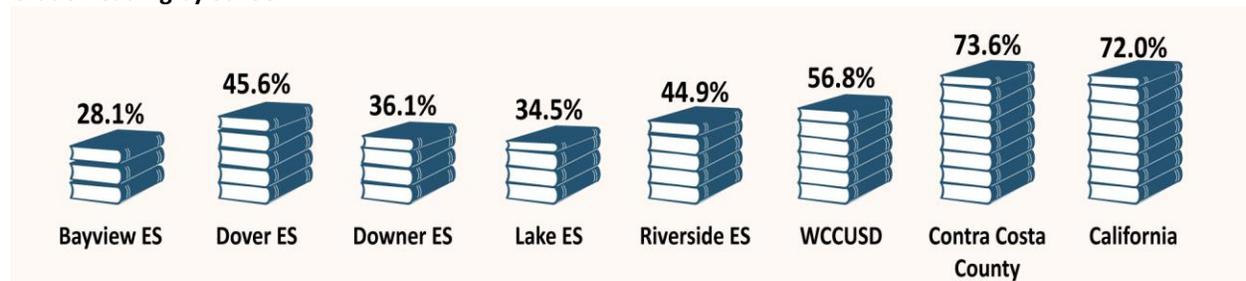
<sup>16</sup> California Department of Education 2018-19 and 2017-18 School Years

## Academic Success



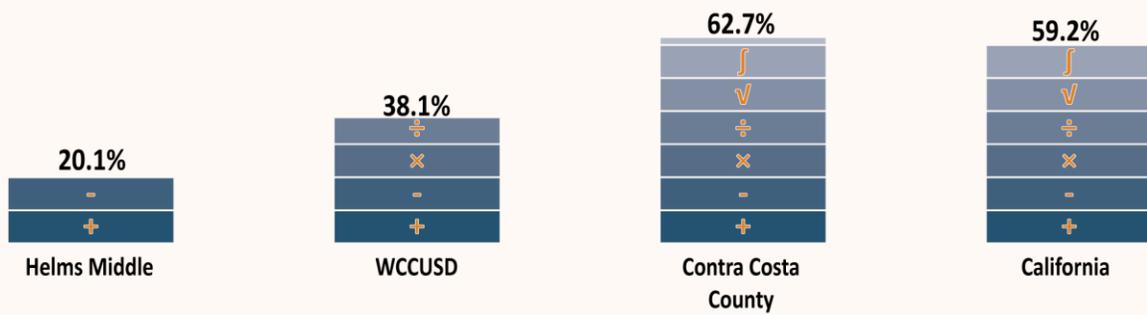
Two commonly-cited predictors of a young person’s academic success are 3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math proficiency. The California Assessment of Student Performance and Academic Progress determines if students are performing at grade level; results are reported as Standard Exceeded, Standard Met, Standard Nearly Met, and Standard Not Met. For the purposes of this report we looked at students who exceeded, met, or nearly met the grade level standards. As shown in the Figure 14, none of the San Pablo elementary schools had a majority of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who scored “nearly met” or higher. Students as an aggregate at these schools are performing lower in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy than their peers district-, county-, and state-wide. The same is true of students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Helms Middle School, in math (Figure 14).

**Figure 14. 2018-19 Percent of Students Who Exceeded, Met, or Nearly Met the Grade Level Standard for Third Grade Reading by School**



Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

**Figure 15. 2018-19 Percent of Students Who Exceeded, Met, or Nearly Met the Grade Level Standard for Eighth Grade Math by School**



Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

### High School Graduation Rate

Almost half (44%) of San Pablo residents over the age of 18 are not high school graduates.<sup>17</sup>

The majority of youth in San Pablo attend Richmond High School (located on the boundary of Richmond and San Pablo). The 2018-19 high school graduation rate for Richmond High is 83.7%. Compared to other WCCUSD high schools, this percentage is only higher than the graduation rate at the



district’s two alternative high schools and Kennedy High. The graduation rate at Richmond High is lower than the Contra Costa county-wide rate of 89.2% and the statewide rate of 84.5%.

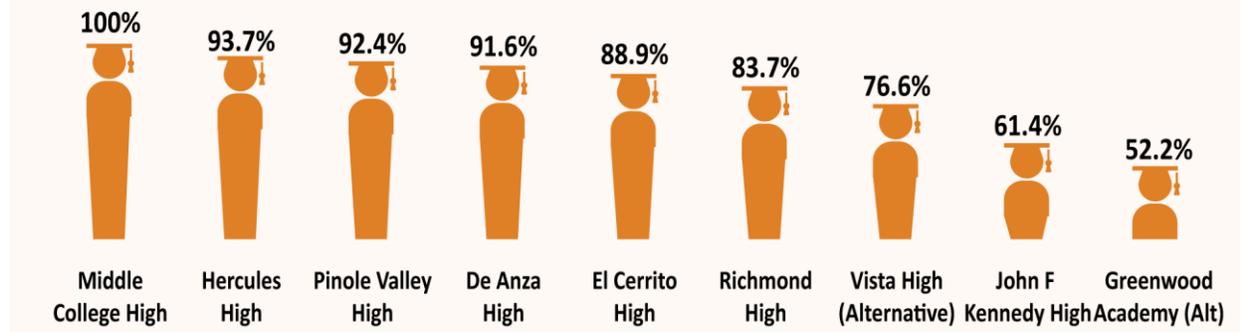
The only high school located within San Pablo is Middle College High<sup>18</sup> on the Contra Costa College campus, which is attended by students from across West Contra Costa Unified School District. Middle College High had a 100% graduation rate in 2018-19, by far the highest in the district.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> 2018 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates

<sup>18</sup> Middle College High Schools are secondary schools located on a college campus. These schools offer challenging academic programs designed to serve high-potential, high-risk students. Middle Collee High Schools feature effective support services, small class size, and the opportunity for students to concurrently take some college classes at typically minor cost to the student. (California Department of Education: [www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/midcolhs.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/midcolhs.asp))

<sup>19</sup> 2018-19 California Department of Education

**Figure 16. 2018-19 High School Graduation Rates for West Contra Costa Unified School District by School**



Source: 2018-19 California Department of Education

The Youth Truth Survey was administered at Richmond High in February 2019; 23% of respondents reported seriously considering dropping out of high school.

The “A-G” requirements are a sequence of high school courses that students must complete (with a C grade or better) to be minimally eligible for admission to the University of California and California State University systems. These requirements represent the basic level of academic preparation that high school students should achieve to undertake university work.<sup>20</sup> From the 2016-17 school year to 2018-19, the percent of graduating students at Richmond High meeting the A-G requirements increased from 34% to 39%. During this same time frame, there was a corresponding rise from 46% to 48% of graduates across the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

### Academic Support

Many of the youth survey respondents reported using academic support services and needing additional academic support. Opportunities to learn about going to college and support for going to college were the two most used and needed services reported by students. Additionally, two students suggested a need for better sports and physical education programs, and four students reported needs for mental health or counseling services. Finally, one student suggested there should be more life skills classes (e.g., how to file taxes, prepare for interviews, etc.).

**I need more help on scholarships and guidance after high school.**  
~ Youth Survey Respondents

<sup>20</sup> West Contra Costa Unified School District. [www.wccusd.net/Page/13496](http://www.wccusd.net/Page/13496)

**Figure 17. Youth Survey Respondents Use and Need for Academic Supports**

Services	Use this Service	Need More of this Service
Homework help	61%	39%
Tutoring	61%	39%
Computer classes	51%	23%
Access to or better access to internet at home	50%	18%
Opportunities to learn about going to college	80%	58%
Support to apply for college	71%	60%
Summer, evening, and weekend programs	53%	38%

Source: 2020 San Pablo Youth Survey



Participants in the family focus groups cited the need for more tutoring services and support for parents to assist their children with homework. They also stated that services for parents need to be offered at varying times especially because many families work during the morning when parent activities are offered.



## Post-Secondary Attainment

### College Going Rate

At Richmond High, 46% of the student in 2018 graduating class enrolled in college, compared to 39% of students in the 2017 graduating class and 40% in the 2016 graduating class.

Of those students who enrolled in college, 54% registered as full-time student in 2017 graduating class and 36% registered as full-time students in the 2016 graduating class. The majority of students enrolled in a two-year college. However, those students who enrolled full-time were more likely to attend a four-year college or university.<sup>21</sup>

### Student Aid for College

Many San Pablo Youth apply for financial assistance to college; the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and grants from the California Student Aid Commission (Cal Grants) are the two most common types of aid for youth in California. At Richmond High School, 58% of seniors in the 2020 graduating class completed a FAFSA application and 38% completed a Cal Grants application.

In the West Contra Costa Unified School District, 61% of all youth in the 2013-14 school year submitted a FAFSA -- an increase of almost 20% from the 2011-12 school year (45%). Seventy percent of youth in the West Contra Costa Unified School District applied for Cal Grants, which is a significant increase from 38% in the 2011-12 school year.

### Family Contribution

Almost all youth survey respondents (95%) anticipate they will need a scholarship for college tuition and expenses with nearly half (42%) anticipating the need for a full scholarship.

My parents encourage me to (pursue) secondary education; however, they do not know the process of enrolling since they never went to college.  
~ Youth Survey Respondents

Youth reflected on their family’s capacity to financially support college and other post-secondary education. Over three-quarters (78%) estimated they would need full or partial tuition and 90% estimated the need for full or financial support for educational supplies. Additionally, 79% will need housing support, 78% will need transportation support, and 85% will need food support.

Figure 18. Family Support for College

College Supports	Full Support	Partial Support	No Support
Tuition	21%	57%	22%
Educational Supplies	38%	52%	10%
Housing	35%	44%	21%
Transportation	36%	43%	22%
Food	47%	39%	15%

Source: 2020 San Pablo Youth Survey

<sup>21</sup> Richmond/West Contra Costa College Success Learning Convening data from the National Student Clearing House

## Degree Attainment

Of San Pablo residents age 18 years or older, 19% have earned a post-secondary degree, including 7% who received an Associate's degree, 9% a Bachelor's degree, and 3% who earned a graduate or professional degree.<sup>22</sup>

I want to be able to help the youth in my community.

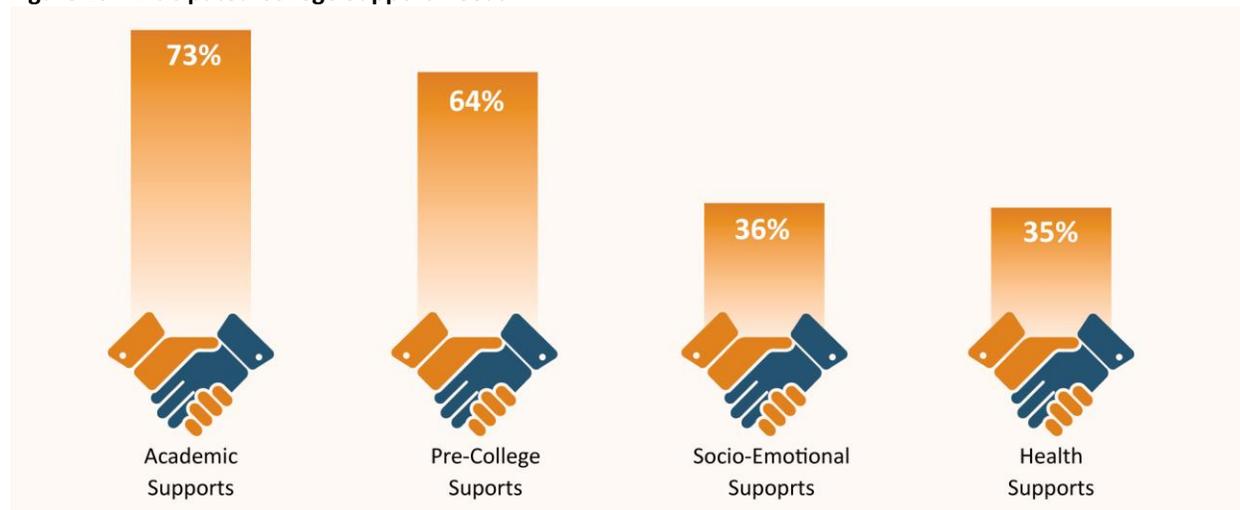
~ Youth Survey Respondents

The focus group participants had little post-secondary education: two participants completed an Associate's degree; three participants had a high school diploma or passed the general educational development test; one had some high school education; and two had an elementary or middle school education.

Many youth survey respondents (86%) want to earn a college degree and 30% also want to earn a certificate. Over half (53%) want or need to get a job immediately after high school. Eight percent want to learn a trade. A small number of students report wanting to join the military or be professional athletes.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of youth survey respondents anticipated needing academic support in college and 64% anticipated needing pre-college support. Just over a third anticipated needing social-emotional supports (36%) and health supports (35%).

**Figure 19. Anticipated College Support Needs**



Source: 2020 San Pablo Youth Survey

Additionally, 10% of youth said their families can support them by providing motivation and emotional support.

<sup>22</sup> American Community Survey Five Year Estimates



# Economic Development

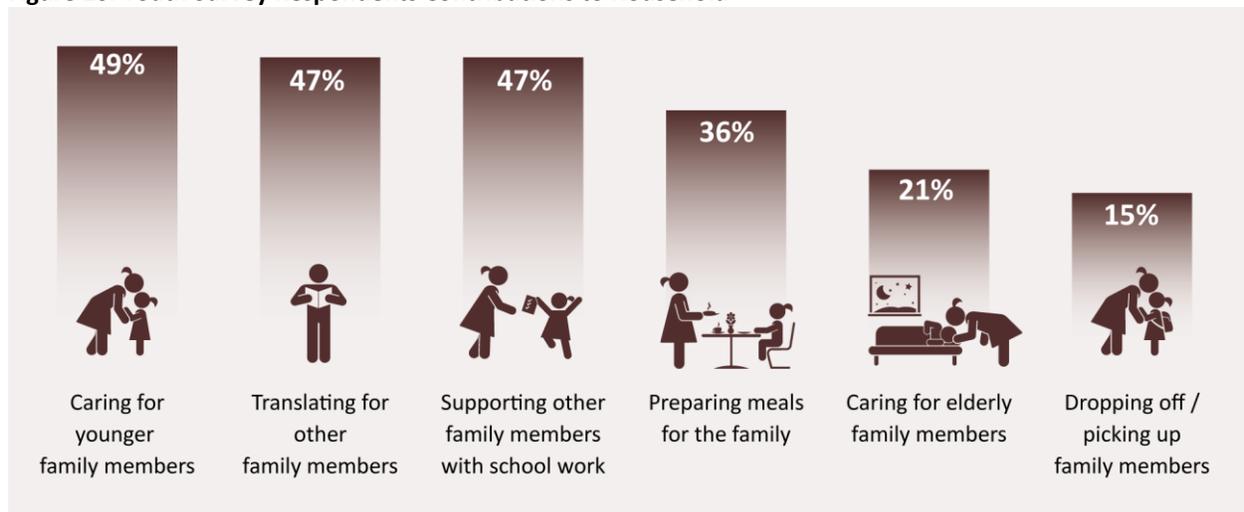
## Family Household Income

The median household income in San Pablo is \$49,226 per year. Eighteen percent of San Pablo residents have incomes below the federal poverty line, including 23% of all children under age 18. Families with children under the age of 18 and a single female head of household are more likely to be in poverty (24%) compared to households with two adults (20%).<sup>23</sup>

In the youth survey, 10% of youth reported that they had a job and contributed to family expenses. Of those youth with jobs, 44% worked at least 20 hours per week. However, several youth reported that they have been laid off or their place of employment has been closed during the shelter-in-place order.

In addition to income, youth reported contributing to their families in other ways, freeing up limited income for other needs. Almost half (49%) of youth care for younger family members and 21% reported caring for elderly family members. See Figure 20 below for the additional ways youth support their families.

**Figure 20. Youth Survey Respondents Contributions to Household**



Source: 2020 San Pablo Youth Survey

The cost of living in San Pablo, the San Francisco Bay Area, and California, is significantly higher than the national cost of living which means the federal poverty rate<sup>24</sup> does not tell the whole picture.

In San Pablo, 62% of all units (houses and apartments) are renter-occupied. Additionally, 64% of all owner-occupied homes have a mortgage. Median gross rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the U.S. is \$912, whereas it is \$1,295 in San Pablo. In San Pablo, the median monthly mortgage payment is \$1,643.

<sup>23</sup> 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

<sup>24</sup> The 2010 Census defined poverty level is based on the number and age of persons in household. For example, the poverty level for a household with two adults and two children is \$24,250. (*Federal Register*, Vol. 80, No. 15, January 22, 2015, pp. 3236-3237. Also see [aspe.hhs.gov/poverty](https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty))

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development considers families who pay more than 30% of their income on housing to be cost-burdened, which means they will have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care since so much of their income is committed to housing costs. In San Pablo, median household income is \$49,226; therefore, more than half of the households spend at least 32% of their total income on rent/mortgage and are cost-burdened.

## Housing

Just over half (57%) of the youth survey respondents' families rented a home or an apartment. Thirty-six percent of respondents reported living in a home owned by their family and 4% reported living in shared housing with another family or roommates. No youth reported living in temporary housing; however, 2% reported living in mobile housing or being homeless.

**My mom is laid off and can't afford rent. Please enforce a rent freeze. People shouldn't be homeless during this quarantine because they can't afford rent.**

**~ Youth Survey Respondents**

A third (37%) of youth reported living with two adults and 9% reported living with one adult. Over half (53%) of the youth reported living with three or more adults suggesting that, while families may not live with non-family members in shared housing, there are many multigenerational family households. Over half (56%) of the youth reported 1-2 children living in their household, 29% reported 3-4 children in their household, and 6% reported five or more children living in their household.

Nine percent reported no children living in their household; this aligns to the number of youth who were 18 years old or older.

Of the eight focus group participants three (38%) owned their own home, three (38%) rented and two (24%) declined to state where they lived.

## Workforce Areas and Industry

Residents of San Pablo work primarily in lower-wage occupations. Jobs in entertainment, recreation, hospitality (including food service), and retail account for 29% of all occupations among San Pablo residents.

Construction, transportation, utilities, and manufacturing jobs account for 23% of all occupations. Nineteen percent of residents work in educational services, health care, or social assistance occupations. See Figure 21 below.



**Figure 21. 2018 Industry for the Civilian Workforce (Age 16 Years or Older)**



Source: 2018 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates

### Commute Data

The average commute time for San Pablo residents 16 years and older is 35.8 minutes, which is only slightly lower than Contra Costa County average of 40.0 minutes. However, 21% of residents spend more than 60 minutes commuting each way. Forty-three percent of all residents leave for work before 7 a.m.<sup>25</sup>

### Unemployment

In January 2020, San Pablo had an unemployment rate of 3.6%, slightly higher than the county-wide rate of 3.2% and lower than the statewide rate of 3.9%.<sup>26</sup> It is important to note that with the emergence of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and the subsequent shelter-in-place order, the unemployment rate is expected to rise substantially throughout California and the nation.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>25</sup> 2018 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates

<sup>26</sup> See Appendix section for updated unemployment figures

<sup>27</sup> 2020 California Employment Development Department: Labor Force and Unemployment Rate for Cities and Census Designated Places

## Summary of Findings

There are three primary areas of improvement that emerged from this report; early childhood education, community health support, and college and career support.

**Early Childhood Education.** There is a need for additional childcare slots, access to early education programs, and literacy development.

**Community Health Support.** There is a need for physical fitness, mental health, and nutrition supports. During this era of COVID19 and shelter-in-place orders there is a growing need for food support and household supplies.

**College and Career Supports.** Richmond Promise provides a number of support programs in addition to funding for youth to attend college. While San Pablo youth benefit from some of these services by virtue of attending Richmond High school, there is not a corresponding program for San Pablo youth.

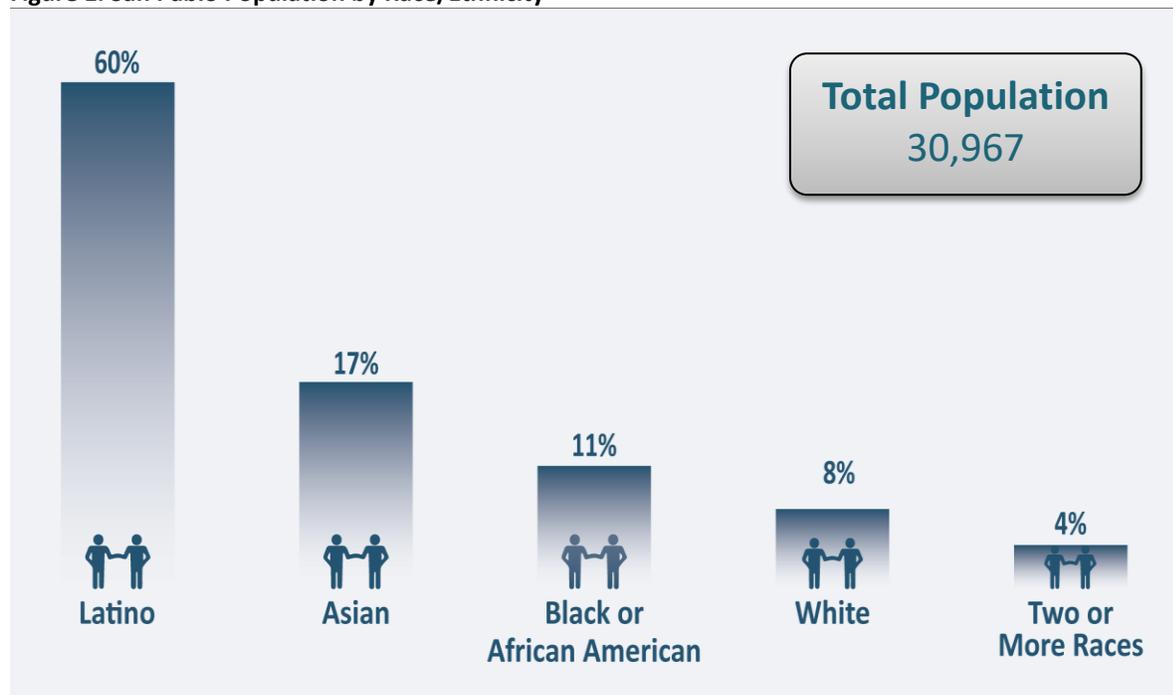
## Appendix: Needs Assessment Summary Updates

The City of San Pablo 2020 Needs Assessment report was concluded near the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Covid). Since the past year brought new challenges for a large percentage of the population and especially the youth population, the City of San Pablo decided to update some of the data to better reflect the changes experienced by the community. Please note that some of the data for the sections below was incomplete or not available due to still being collected.

### Demographics.

The previous data reported was derived from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. In the 2019 ACS population estimates for San Pablo there was a slight increase in the total population from 30,839 (2018) to 30,967 (2019). The race/ethnicity make up of San Pablo experienced a shift from 2018. For instance, the Latino population, which is more than half the total population of San Pablo decreased from 62% in 2018 to 60% in 2019. The Asian population experienced an increased by 1% from 2018 (16%) to 2019 (17%).<sup>28</sup> The black/African American (11%) and white (8%) population of San Pablo remained at the same levels. Given that some of the ACS data from 2020 is still being updated, the population shifts will need to be further analyzed when post-Covid data are available.

Figure 1. San Pablo Population by Race/Ethnicity



Source: 2019 American Community Survey Five Year Estimates

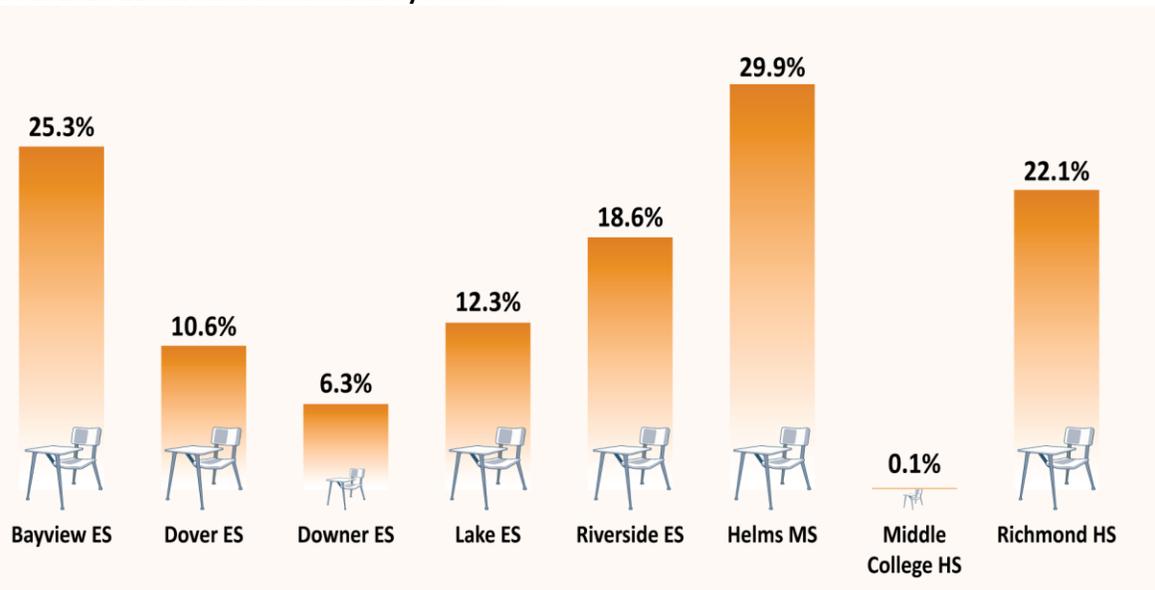
<sup>28</sup> 2019, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

In San Pablo 72% of the total population speak a language other than English at home, and 34% speak English less than “very well”<sup>29</sup> for ages 5 and up.<sup>30</sup> This is similar to the previously reported data from 2018, which stood at 73% for a language spoken at home other than English and 35% for residents who speak English less than “very well”.<sup>31</sup>

## Academic Success

Student school attendance is one of the key predictors of academic success. For the 2020-21 school year, there was data available only from September to April on average daily attendance and chronic absenteeism. In the 2020-21 school year, 15% of San Pablo elementary and 26% of secondary students were chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism was 19% of all WCCUSD students, and 12% of all County students from 2020-21. In 2018-19 17% of elementary and 19% of secondary students were chronically absent in San Pablo.<sup>32</sup> In 2018-19 the chronic absenteeism rate for the district was at 17% and the county at 12%.

**Figure 2. 2020-21 Chronic Absenteeism by School**



**Source: 2020-21 West Contra Costa Unified School District (\*9-month data, September to April)**

In 2020-21 the following San Pablo schools experienced a decrease in average daily attendance. Bayview (90.6%), Lake (94.1%), Helms (88.9%), and Richmond High School (91.8%).<sup>33</sup> The following schools were above the West Contra Costa Unified School District goal of 95% attendance rate. Dover, Downer, and Middle College, while Riverside was close at 94.3%. See figure 2 below for a comparison to additional school years.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>29</sup> The U.S. Census defined limited English proficient as the population 5 years or older who self-identify as speaking English less than “very well”.

<sup>30</sup> 2019, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

<sup>31</sup> 2018, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

<sup>32</sup> 2021, West Contra Costa Unified School District

<sup>33</sup> 2021, West Contra Costa Unified School District

<sup>34</sup> 2021, West Contra Costa Unified School District

**Figure 3. 2017-18 through 2020-21 Attendance Rates by School**

	2017-18		2018-19		2020-21*
Bayview ES	93.2	↓	92.0	↓	90.6
Dover ES	94.8	↓	94.4	↑	95.3
Downer ES	92.9	↑	93.5	↑	96.1
Lake ES	94.8	↑	95.2	↓	94.1
Riverside ES	94.5	↓	94.4	↓	94.3
Helms MS	94.9	↓	94.0	↓	88.9
Middle College HS	98.4	↓	98.3	↑	99.9
Richmond HS	94.9	→	94.9	↓	91.8

Source: 2020-21 West Contra Costa Unified School District (\*denotes data from September 2020 to April 2021)

### High School

The percentage of high school graduates in the total San Pablo adult population increased from 56% in 2018 to 67% in 2019.<sup>35</sup> However, there was approximately an 8% decline in the graduation rate for Richmond High School (RHS) in the 2019-20 (76%) school year compared to the 2018-19 (84%)<sup>36</sup>. San Pablo students completed a survey in spring 2020 and 23% of RHS students reported a change in their post-graduation plans since the school building closed due to Covid.<sup>37</sup>

Although Covid changed the post graduating plans for a percentage of students, the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rate saw a slight change. In 2021 55% of graduating senior class from RHS completed a FAFSA application, while 58% in 2020.<sup>38</sup>

### Health

San Pablo, like cities across the country, had to cope with the increasing infection rate and deaths due to Covid. As of June 2021, the infection rate for San Pablo stood at 12%, which was double the infection rate of Contra Costa County at 6%. The mortality rate of San Pablo (.11%) was close to double that of the county (.07%).<sup>39</sup>

<sup>35</sup> 2019, American Community Survey

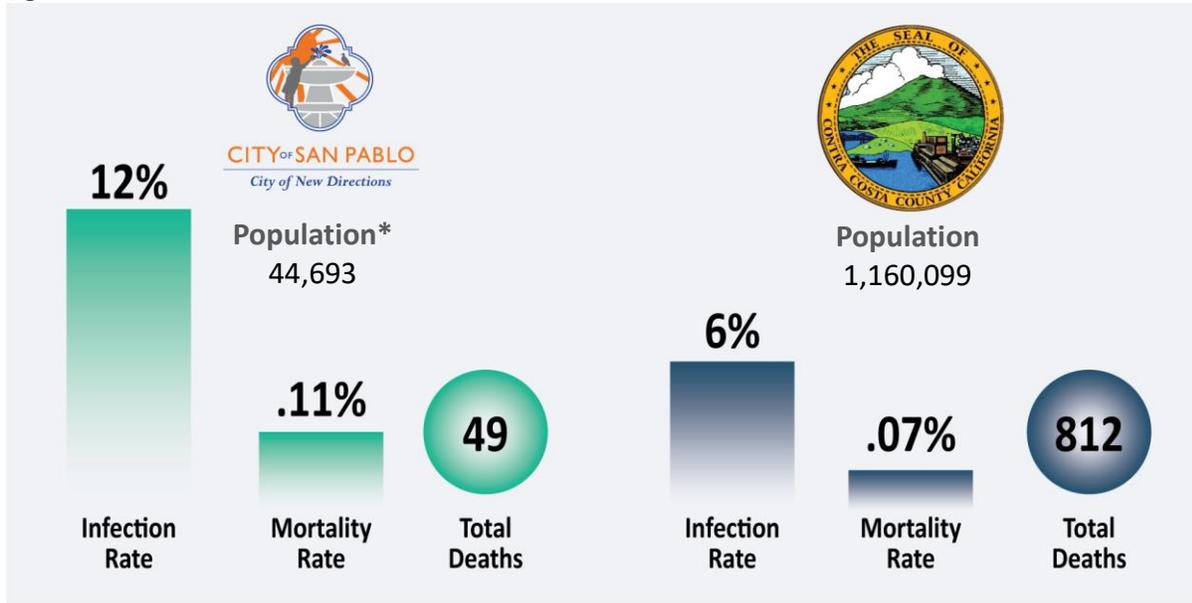
<sup>36</sup> 2020, West Contra Costa Unified School District

<sup>37</sup> 2020, Youth Truth Student Survey

<sup>38</sup> 2021, California Student Aid Commission

<sup>39</sup> 2021, Contra Costa Health Services

Figure 4. June 2021 COVID-19 Data



Source: 2021, Contra Costa Health Services (\*includes population living in both incorporated and unincorporated parts of the city)

In 2021 there was a significant increase in meal distribution due to Covid especially in schools. From the meal distribution data available for San Pablo schools between July 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31, 2021, there were approximately 106,000 meal boxes distributed at Bayview, 264,000 at Helms, and around 458,000 at Richmond High.<sup>40</sup> In WCCUSD meal boxes were distributed only on Thursdays at 15 school sites between 8am to 1pm. One box is given per child and each meal box contains 7 days' worth of meals including breakfast, snack, lunch and supper. In addition to the school sites there were a couple of community sites that distributed food with varying schedules.<sup>41</sup>

### Economic Development

The unemployment rates have experienced significant shifts from pre-Covid data to current numbers available. In San Pablo the unemployment rate in 2019 stood at 3.4%.<sup>42</sup> The 2020 unemployment average for San Pablo went up to 11.4%. The unemployment rate for San Pablo as of April was at 8.2%. Through all these fluctuations the unemployment rates experienced by San Pablo have been consistently higher than the county.<sup>43</sup>

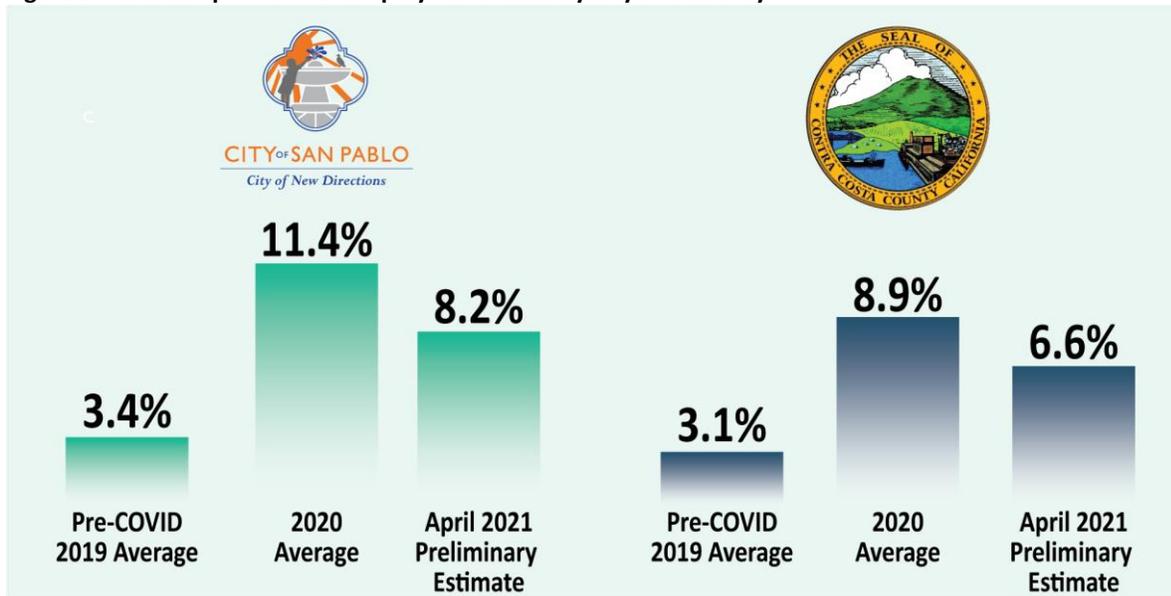
<sup>40</sup> 2021, West Contra Costa Unified School District Food Services Department

<sup>41</sup> 2021, West Contra Costa Unified School District Food Services Department

<sup>42</sup> 2019, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

<sup>43</sup> 2021, California Employment Development Department

**Figure 5. 2019 to April 2021 Unemployment Rates by City and County**



Source: 2019-2021 California Employment Development Department

Another important factor to consider along with the unemployment data is the number of individuals who received some type of rent/housing assistance. During the FY2019-20, in San Pablo 100 applicants were approved for housing assistance of up to \$2,000 per household with a total of \$142,000 funds expended. The updated numbers for FY2020-21 as of June 2021 stand at 99 applicants approved for housing assistance of up to \$1,000 and \$75,200 funds expended.<sup>44</sup>

## Summary of Findings

There are two additional areas of improvement that emerged from this update to the report; Covid prevention and economic development. The updated summary of findings reflects these additions:

**Early Childhood Education.** There is a need for additional childcare slots, access to early education programs, and literacy development.

**Community Health Support.** There is a need for physical fitness, mental health, and nutrition supports. During this era of Covid 19 and shelter-in-place orders there is a growing need for food support and household supplies, as well as Covid prevention to slow down infection rates.

**College and Career Supports.** Richmond Promise provides a number of support programs in addition to funding for youth to attend college. While San Pablo youth benefit from some of these services by virtue of attending Richmond High school, there is not a corresponding program for San Pablo youth. Youth need pre-college support, financial aid, and emotional/family support.

**Economic Development.** There is a need for housing assistance and workforce development.

<sup>44</sup> 2021, San Pablo Housing Rental Assistance Program