

# Report on the First 5 Sacramento Community Assessment Survey

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Prepared for the First 5 Sacramento Commission

by the First 5 Sacramento Advisory Committee

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## Table of Contents

Section	Page
Community Survey Report	3
Appendices	
Appendix 1: Community Survey	8
Appendix 2: Survey Locations and Interviewers	10
Appendix 3: Ethnicities and Zip Codes	12
Appendix 4: Response Frequencies for Utilization and Importance Scale	
Questions	14
Appendix 5: Importance Scale Questions Indexes	16
Appendix 6: Open-Ended Question Responses	17

## **Introduction**

The Community Assessment Survey was initiated to assist the Commission in its Strategic Planning process. The survey asked respondents about their level of interaction and contact with children 0-5, specific needs that are met or unmet for those with young children (child care, health care, etc.), and their views on the importance of a variety of activities and services for children and families. Demographic information, including zip code, ethnicity, language(s) spoke at home, and gender was also collected. The survey tool can be found in Appendix 1. This report describes the process used to conduct the survey and the information learned from it.

## **Process**

In April 2008, the Commission Evaluation Consultants, WRMA, in collaboration with Commission staff and with input from the Advisory Committee, developed a brief survey to be conducted by interviewers (i.e., verbally) with Sacramento County residents regarding the experiences, needs and priority issues of young children and families. In April and May 2008, members of the First 5 Sacramento Advisory Committee and others conducted the survey interviews at locations throughout the county. The findings of this survey will be included among the information and resources utilized by the Commission in its upcoming Strategic Planning process for the cycle to begin July 1, 2010. From mid-April through May, 177 community members were surveyed at 39 locations in Sacramento County by 18 interviewers. This level of success represents the hard work of many individuals, including Advisory Committee members, Commission staff, and other volunteers. A list of locations and interviewers can be found in Appendix 2.

## **Limitations**

The Advisory Committee relied upon an "Intercept Survey" approach, meaning only those individuals who were present at locations where surveys were conducted and who agreed to participate are included. This is of particular importance as more isolated families, those who are likely to have specific needs differing from the population at large, are not represented in the sample. In addition, individuals who do not speak English were only interviewed by three of the 18 interviewers, as these interviewers utilized their language skills to target speakers of the following languages: Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese. It was the intent of the committee to recruit interviewers with Hmong and Russian language-speaking abilities, but this effort was unsuccessful, and, as a result, these populations are not well-represented in the survey sample.

Additional limitations include the use of a self-report approach, meaning responses cannot be evaluated for accuracy, the creation of a survey tool via consensus rather than reliance entirely upon questions previously tested for reliability and validity, and very limited testing of the survey in the field (which resulted in no changes to the instrument). The results of this survey provide a "snapshot" of the experiences and views of county residents, but should not be considered a scientific research study in the academic sense.

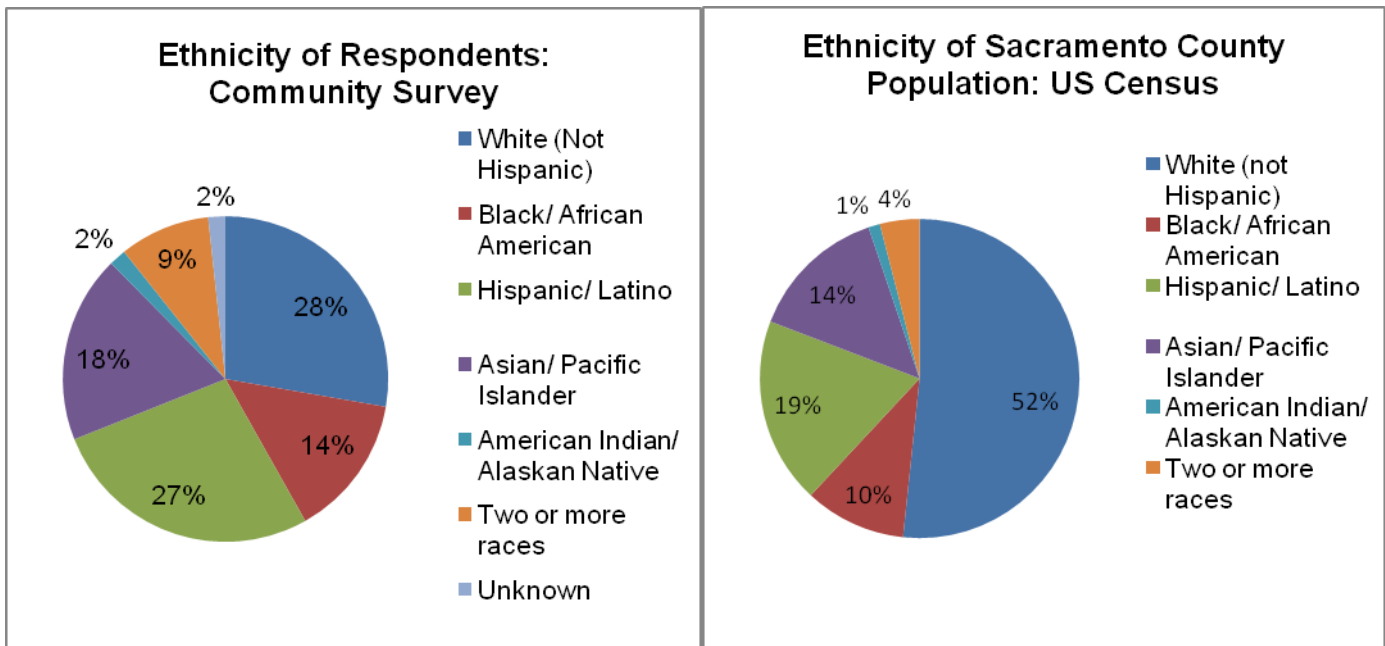
## **Description of Respondents**

### *Ethnicity*

The survey participants represent the diversity of Sacramento County residents. Figure 1 shows the ethnicity of respondents alongside the ethnicity profile of the county according to US Census data (2006). As the table

shows, all ethnicities were included in the sample, although whites are underrepresented, while all other ethnicities are overrepresented.

**Figure 1: Comparison of Ethnicities: Community Survey and Sacramento County Population**



See Appendix 3 for a table summarizing the number of Community Survey respondents by ethnicity.

*Languages Spoken*

In addition to documenting the ethnicity of respondents, the survey also sought to determine the language(s) respondents spoke at home. 88.6% (156) of respondents speak English at home, either solely or along with another language or languages. 26.1% (46) of respondent households are multi-lingual, primarily speaking both English and Spanish at home. Additional non-English languages spoken at home include Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, Hmong, Filipino, and Thai. 14.6% (19) of respondents may be considered “linguistically isolated” from the general population of the county, as they did not report English as a language spoken at home.

*Location of Residence*

In order to assess how well the survey reached residents throughout the county, as well as to check that only Sacramento County residents were included, home zip code data was collected. While at least one survey was conducted with residents of the majority of the county zip codes, key areas where we know families reside were not reached, particularly in the River Delta and adjacent areas in the southern part of the county. A table of zip codes of respondents can be found in Appendix 3.

## *Level of Interaction with Children 0-5*

Finally, the survey also collected information on respondents' relationships/level of interaction with children 0-5. 84.2% (149) of respondents indicated they were a parent or a primary caregiver of one or more 0-5 year olds. The survey also asked how many children respondents interacted with at least once a week, with the intent of identifying respondents who, while they might not be parents or primary caregivers, do interact with young children regularly. Ten respondents reported they did not interact with any children weekly, and for an additional eight, no response was recorded for this question. For the remaining 159 cases, the range of number of children was 1-45, with a median of 2.

## **Findings**

### *Service Utilization*

A series of questions were asked exclusively of the 159 respondents interacting with children at least once a week. These questions sought to assess how well child care, preschool, and health care needs children in the respondents' lives are being met.

#### ➤ Child Care & Preschool

For both child care and preschool, a majority of respondents regularly interacting with children reported success in finding and using quality care (63.3% and 60.4%, respectively). For a table listing the frequency of responses to these questions, see Appendix 4. Analyzed by ethnicity, for both child care and preschool, Hispanic/Latino respondents were least likely to report success on finding and using quality care (51.1% for child care and 50.0% for preschool).

It is important to note that the child care and preschool questions asked if respondents were able to both *find* and *use* quality care, so it is not possible to know if those who did not report success on these variables could not find care, did not view the care received as being of good quality, or simply did not use any care. Additionally, there were a significant number of respondents who reported they did not know whether these needs were being met for the children in their lives.

#### ➤ Health and Dental Care

Three questions assessed respondents' experiences with health-related issues. Specifically, the survey asked about having health insurance and whether or not any needs for child health or dental care went unmet in the last year. A majority of respondents indicated both that children had health insurance (85.0%) and no health or dental needs were unmet (68.3% and 62.4%, respectively). See Appendix 4 for a table summarizing the frequency of responses to these questions. Analyzed by ethnicity, Asian/Pacific Islander respondents were least likely to report having health insurance (72.7%), while Hispanic/Latinos were most likely to report unmet health and dental care needs (56.5% and 53.2%, respectively).

Additional analysis sought to assess the unmet health and dental care needs of respondents based on whether or not children had health insurance. The purpose of asking this question is to determine if there are barriers to care, even for those with insurance. As one would expect, those children without health insurance had much higher instances of unmet needs. However, even among the insured, needs went unmet for 21.3% of

respondents requiring health care and 25.7% of respondents requiring dental care. Table 1 below summarizes these findings.

Table 1: Unmet Health and Dental Needs for Insured and Uninsured Children

	Have health insurance?	
	Yes	No
Had an unmet health care need in last year	21.3% (29)	72.2% (13)
Had an unmet dental care need in last year	25.7% (35)	66.7% (12)

*Rating Importance of Children’s Needs*

➤ Importance Scale Questions

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 23 potential needs of families with young children using a three-point scale: “Very Important,” “Somewhat Important,” or “Not Important.” “Don’t Know” was also an option. Almost all respondents rated almost all 23 issues as “Very Important” or “Somewhat Important.” The top five priorities, defined as those questions receiving the highest number of “Very Important” ratings, beginning with the highest-rated question, were: (1) Making sure young children have health insurance; (2) Books and other learning materials for young children; (3) Dentists for young children; (4) Access to regular health care for young children; and (5) Access to quality care for young children with learning and other types of disabilities. The lowest priorities, beginning with the lowest-rated question, were: (1) Opportunities for parents to meet other parents; (2) Services and programs in languages other than English; (3) Support and education for breastfeeding mothers; (4) Physical fitness programs for young children; and (5) Counseling services for young children. See Appendix 4 for a complete table of questions and responses.

In order to glean additional meaning from the importance scale questions, five indexes were created combining similar types of programs, services, and activities. These indexes have been labeled Community, Early Interventions, Education, Health, and Preventative Health. In cases where some variables might fit into multiple categories, the best fit was selected. Each index is based on the number of variables which each respondent ranked highest, or “Very Important.” For example, in the Community Index, which consists of three variables, each respondent’s score ranges between 0 (none of the three variables are “Very Important”) to 3 (all three variables are “Very Important”). In order to compare these indexes, mean scores were generated and then standardized to a scale ranging from zero to one. A score closer to one indicates higher importance among respondents. Table 2 presents the index scores from highest to lowest.

Table 2: Scores for Importance Scale Indexes

<b>Index</b>	<b>Score</b>
Health	0.68
Early Interventions	0.65
Preventative Health	0.59
Education	0.57
Community	0.49

This ranking of index scores is one way to speculate about respondents' priorities regarding the various programs and services relative to each other, but it is a simple mechanism and only one of many ways this data can be presented. It is important to remember that respondents were not asked to rank the importance of programs and services across questions. In addition, the range of values for the highest to lowest-scoring index is only 0.19, and the lowest-scoring index still has a score representative of a high level of importance for many respondents. A list of variables comprising each index can be found in Appendix 5.

In addition to the rating the importance of a variety of programs and services, one additional piece of information was gathered in the scale questions. As a follow-up to the question on the importance of services and programs in languages other than English, respondents who felt this issue was important were also asked in what language(s) materials should be made available. Respondents who answered this question listed one to four languages or language categories (e.g., "Asian languages"), with a total of 176 languages specified. Spanish was the most frequently listed language, mentioned in 34% of cases (60 instances), followed by Asian languages (including Chinese, Vietnamese, and Hmong) in 19% of cases (34 instances), and Russian in 6% of the cases (11 instances). However, it is also important to note that 40 % of respondents (71) who rated this issue as Important or Very Important did not suggest any specific language(s).

#### ➤ Open-Ended Question

Following the list of specific programs and services, respondents were asked to add any additional issues of importance of their own. For 57.1% of respondents, no additional issues were noted. For the remainder, some items fit into one of the 23 previously asked questions. For those not responses not fitting into a pre-existing category, the need for child care, and the need for care that is affordable and accommodating of working parents' schedules, was most often cited (14 instances). The need for a variety of community supports (support groups, reducing isolation, etc.) and safety were mentioned ten times each. Transportation was the fourth most cited need, mentioned by eight respondents. Other needs included a variety of specific recreational activities (e.g., dance class, affordable sports activities) and reading and literacy programs. See Appendix 6 for a transcript of responses to the open-ended question grouped by topic/issue.

## **Conclusion**

The Community Survey provides a "snapshot" of experiences and views of Sacramento County residents on the needs of children 0-5 and their families. The survey findings will be used by the First 5 Sacramento Commission to assist it in developing its next Strategic Plan. The Advisory Committee, with the support of Commission staff and other volunteers, put forth a committed effort throughout the process of conducting surveys and respectfully submits this report for the Commission's review.

**Appendix 1: First 5 Sacramento Community Survey 2008**

We would like to ask you some questions that will help improve services for children and families in Sacramento County.

This survey will only take 5 minutes.

1. Do you currently live in Sacramento County?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No → <i>END SURVEY</i>
2. Are you the parent or primary caregiver of any children 5 years of age or younger?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3. How many children 5 years of age or younger do you see at least once a week (e.g., your own children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, children who you baby-sit)?	<b>If answer is 0 skip to #9</b>	

4. Do you feel like you are able to find and use good child care for your child(ren)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
5. Do you feel like you are able to find and use good preschool programs for your child(ren)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
6. Do/Does your child(ren) have health insurance?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
7. Has/Have your child(ren) needed health care services from a doctor or nurse in the last year but you weren't able to get it?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
8. Has/Have your child(ren) needed services from a dentist in the last year but you weren't able to get it?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know

9. We are interested in what young children ages 0 to 5 and their parents need most in Sacramento County. Do you think that funding for each of the following things is very important, somewhat important, or not important?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know
a. Classes to teach people to become better parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Opportunities for parents to meet other parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Services and programs in languages other than English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What other languages: _____				
d. Preparing young children for Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Support and education for breastfeeding mothers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Making sure young children have health insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Access to regular health care for young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Dentists for young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Counseling services for young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Reducing the number of overweight young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Reducing drug and alcohol abuse among pregnant women, parents, and caregivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Providing testing to identify conditions in young children, such as learning, seeing, hearing, or speaking problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Improving neighborhood safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Healthy teeth in young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Services to prevent families from going into the foster care system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Physical fitness programs for young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. Safe places such as parks with play equipment for young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r. Activities for young children and their families	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s. Access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know
t. Books and other learning materials for young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u. Access to quality care for young children with learning and other type of disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v. Providing education on healthy eating habits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
w. Providing education to reduce the rate of teenage parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Are there other programs, services and/or activities for children ages 0 to 5 and their families that you would like to add?

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11. What is your home zip code? \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. If you're not sure, what are the nearest cross streets?

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Don't know/Decline to Answer

12. What language do you and your child(ren) mostly speak at home? Please read each individual answer. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

English

Spanish

Hmong

Russian

Ukrainian

Vietnamese

Another language (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Don't know/Decline to answer

13. How would you identify your race or ethnicity? Please read each individual answer. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

White/Caucasian

American Indian/Alaskan Native

Asian/Pacific Islander

Black/African American

Hispanic/Latino

Don't know/Decline to answer

Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

14. Gender? (Observed Answer)

Female

Male

Those are all my questions. Thank you for your help today!

## Appendix 2: Survey Locations and Interviewers

### Locations

Location	Number of Surveys Collected
Festival de la Familia	19
Pacific Rim Festival Old Sacramento	16
Black Infant Health Rap Session	12
McKinley Park	12
UCD OB/GYN	12
South Natomas Community Center- Healthy Kids Event	11
First 5 Sacramento Bright Futures Event	10
Sacramento- not specified	7
Whittier Ranch Elementary School- church services	6
Panell Center- Meadowview Health Fair	5
Sacramento- not specified	5
Sacramento Montessori School	4
Whole Foods	4
Day care- not specified	4
SF Market 65 <sup>th</sup> Street	3
Sacramento International Kids Festival Fair Oaks Park	3
Church- not specified	3
Arcade Library	2
Arden Dimick Library	2
Bel Air Market Florin Road	2
CARES Clinic	2
Greenhaven- not specified	2
Jones Dental Office	2
Southside Park	2
Target Store Riverside Boulevard	2
Boys & Girls Club	1
Earth Day Festival Downtown Sacramento	1
Elk Grove- not specified	1
Madison House	1
Park- not specified	1
Raley's Supermarket Fair Oaks	1
Rancho Cordova- not specified	1
Seely Park Play Area	1
South Sacramento- not specified	1
Telephone	1
Missing	15

### Interviewers

Interviewer	Number of Surveys Conducted
<b>Advisory Committee Members</b>	
Ernie Brown	5
Jillian Faucett	12
Terry Jones	26
Matt Mengelkoch	10
Amy Lin Tan	7
Gloria Torres	32

Tosca Toussaint	17
Betsy Uda	13
Kathleen West	8
<b>Commission Staff</b>	
Lin Batten	13
Erin Blount	1
Julie Field	7
Carmen Garcia-Gomez	3
Debra Payne	8
Cheryl Rookwood	2
<b>Other Interviewers</b>	
Jon Benorden, CSPC Staff	2
Nancy Bui, CSPC Staff	8
Maggie Thomas, Associate of Advisory Committee Member	3

## Appendix 3: Community Survey Respondents' Ethnicities and Zip Codes

### Ethnicities Table

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>N</b>
White (Not Hispanic)	49
Hispanic/ Latino	48
Asian/ Pacific Islander	33
Black/ African American	25
Two or more races	16
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	3
Don't know/ decline to answer	2
Missing	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>

### Zip Codes Table

<b>zip code</b>	<b># surveys</b>	<b>location detail</b>
95608	2	Carmichael
95610	1	Citrus Heights
<b>95615</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Courtland</b>
95621	2	Citrus Heights
95624	5	Elk Grove
<b>95626</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Elverta</b>
95628	2	Fair Oaks
95630	2	Folsom
<b>95632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Galt</b>
<b>95638</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Herald</b>
<b>95641</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Isleton</b>
95652	1	McClelland
<b>95655</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Mather</b>
95660	7	North Highlands
95662	3	Orangevale
95670	2	Rancho Cordova
<b>95673</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Rio Linda</b>
<b>95683</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Sloughhouse</b>
<b>95690</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Walnut Grove</b>
95693	1	Wilton
<b>95742</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Rancho Cordova</b>
95757	4	Elk Grove
95758	7	Elk Grove
95814	6	Sacramento
95815	7	Sacramento
95816	5	Sacramento
95817	1	Sacramento
95818	4	Sacramento
95819	2	Sacramento
95820	6	Sacramento
95821	7	Sacramento

95822	11	Sacramento
95823	10	Sacramento
95824	6	Sacramento
95825	4	Sacramento
95826	2	Sacramento
95827	3	Sacramento
95828	7	Sacramento
95829	1	Sacramento
<b>95830</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>
95831	15	Sacramento
95832	1	Sacramento
95833	4	Sacramento
95834	8	Sacramento
95835	14	Sacramento
<b>95836</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>
<b>95837</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>
95838	2	Sacramento
95841	1	Sacramento
95842	3	Sacramento
95843	3	Antelope
95864	1	Sacramento
missing	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	

## Appendix 4: Response Frequencies for Utilization and Importance Scale Questions

### Utilization Questions

N=177

Utilization Questions	Frequencies of Responses				
	Yes	No	Don't Know	N/A*	Missing
<b>Child Care &amp; Preschool</b>					
Do you feel like you are able to find and use good child care for your child(ren)?**	105	35	26	8	3
Do you feel like you are able to find and use good preschool for your child(ren)?**	99	33	32	10	3
<b>Health &amp; Dental Care</b>					
Do/Does your child(ren) have health insurance?*	136	18	6	10	7
Has/Have your child(ren) needed services from a doctor or nurse in the last year but you weren't able to get it?*	43	112	9	10	3
Has/Have your child(ren) needed services from a dentist in the last year but you weren't able to get it?*	50	103	12	10	2

\* N/A- applies to respondents who indicated they do not interact with any children at least once a week.

\*\* Percentages presented in page 5 of the report are calculated based upon the first three columns of data, or responses of Yes, No, and Don't Know exclusively, omitting N/A and missing values.

### Importance Scale Questions

N=177

Importance Scale Questions	Frequencies of Responses				
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know	Missing
Classes to teach people to become better parents	128	44	1	3	1
Opportunities for parents to meet other parents	84	78	11	3	1
Services and programs in languages other than English	99	44	15	12	7
Preparing young children for Kindergarten	147	23	5	2	0
Support and education for breastfeeding mothers	106	55	6	8	2
Making sure young children have health insurance	159	17	1	0	0
Access to regular health care for young children	153	20	1	0	3
Dentists for young children	154	20	1	1	1
Counseling services for young children	112	41	16	8	0
Reducing the number of overweight young children	123	43	4	5	2
Reducing drug and alcohol abuse among pregnant women, parents, and caregivers	147	20	2	8	0
Providing testing to identify conditions in young children, such as learning, seeing, hearing, or speaking problems	138	33	1	5	0
Improving neighborhood safety	144	30	2	1	0
Healthy teeth in young children	149	27	1	0	0
Services to prevent families from going into the foster care system	127	29	8	13	0

Physical fitness programs for young children	112	53	8	4	0
Safe places such as parks with play equipment for young children	143	29	3	1	1
Activities for young children and their families	120	51	3	2	1
Access to affordable fruits and vegetables	135	37	4	1	0
Books and other learning materials for young children	156	18	1	2	0
Access to quality care for young children with learning and other types of disabilities	151	21	1	4	0
Providing education on healthy eating habits	132	40	4	1	0
Providing education to reduce the rate of teenage parents	137	27	4	9	0

## **Appendix 5: Importance Scale Questions Indexes**

### Health Index (Standardized Score 0.68)

- Support and education for breastfeeding mothers
- Making sure young children have health insurance
- Access to regular health care for young children
- Dentists for young children
- Reducing the number of overweight young children
- Healthy teeth in young children

### Early Interventions Index (Standardized Score 0.65)

- Classes to teach people to become better parents
- Services and programs in languages other than English
- Counseling services for young children
- Reducing drug and alcohol abuse among pregnant women, parents, and caregivers
- Providing testing to identify conditions in young children, such as learning, seeing, hearing, or speaking problems
- Services to prevent families from going into the foster care system
- Access to quality care for young children with learning and other type of disabilities
- Providing education to reduce rate of teenage parents

### Preventative Health Index (Standardized Score 0.59)

- Physical fitness programs for young children
- Safe places such as parks with play equipment for young children
- Access to affordable fruits and vegetables
- Providing education on healthy eating habits

### Education Index (Standardized Score 0.57)

- Preparing young children for kindergarten
- Books and other learning materials for young children

### Community Index (Standardized Score 0.49)

- Opportunities for parents to meet other parents
- Improving neighborhood safety
- Activities for young children and their families

## Appendix 6: Responses to Open-Ended Question, Grouped by Topic/Issue

“Are there other programs, services and/or activities for children ages 0-5 and their families that you would like to add?”

Topics are grouped as follows: New Topics and Repeated Scale Question Topics. The number of responses per topic area is listed in parentheses next to the topic label. Respondent ID numbers are listed in parentheses after each response.

### NEW TOPICS

*Child care (14 responses)*

Child care (25)

Head start (51)

Child care that works for parents that work full-time- expanded hours (51)

Weekend “mini-camps” (61)

Head start (55)

Good child care programs locally (60)

Affordable day care for working parents (137)

Affordable child care (114)

Affordable day care (123)

High-quality infant-toddler child care (168)

Early childhood education schools (25)

Respite drop-off child care (11)

Respite child care, conveniently located (82)

Drug tests for preschool teachers (169)

*Community Supports (10 responses)*

Reduce social isolation (10)

Increase social interaction (10)

Linking families to resources (10)

Programs for new moms (27)

Mothers of newborns meetings (83)

Grandparent support programs (131)

Playgroups (133)

Community activities (30)

More emphasis on religion and citizenship (128)

Marriage classes (179)

*Safety (10 responses)*

Safety (1)

Safety awareness (29)

Safety (166)

Feel safe (107)

Safety (126)

Children learning how to stay safe from child abuse (166)

Car seats (40)  
Gang prevention activities (2)  
Domestic Violence (1)  
Child abuse and neglect- school-based counseling (39)

*Transportation (8 responses)*

Transportation- medical appointments (5)  
Transportation- dental appointments (8)  
Mobile vans to transport kids (8)  
Safe transportation to school (136)  
Transportation (132)  
Transportation (119)  
Mobile dental van (8)  
Mobile vaccinations van (11)

*Recreation Activities (7 responses)*

Free kids activities- dancing, martial arts, etc. (7)  
Aztec dance (21)  
Affordable extra-curricular activities (66)  
More sports programs such as t-ball, soccer, for ages 3 and up (68)  
Drop-off fitness program for kids (80)  
Lower cost sports programs (139)  
Movement/ dance classes (156)

*After school programs (5 responses)*

After school programs (30)  
After school programs (61)  
After school programs (140)  
After school activities (123)  
More programs for older children (103)

*Financial Assistance and Related Comments (5 responses)*

banking (29)  
Food banks (85)  
Progress for all children at all income levels (51)  
Programs for middle-income families, to help with mobility (119)  
Financial support for foster kids (133)

*Literacy (5 responses)*

Reading (3)  
Literacy activities, story times (4)  
Reading (86)  
Libraries for kids to check out books (163)  
Book mobiles to schools and child care facilities (175)

*Other (5 responses)*

Interactive computer software education for young children (141)

Speech (156)  
In home services (12)  
Support not provided by public schools (42)  
Group homes (42)

*Multicultural approaches (2 responses)*  
Multi-cultural materials (4)  
Cultural classes- learn other cultures (147)

### REPEATED SCALE QUESTION TOPICS

*9a. Classes to teach people to become better parents (6 responses)*

Parenting classes (1)  
Parenting skills (1)  
Education for parents (6)  
Good effective communication skills among all family members (26)  
Parenting classes (145)  
Programs to assist parents interacting with their own children (167)

*9b. Opportunities for parents to meet other parents*

*9r. Activities for young children and their families (4 responses)*

Meeting other children and parents (69)  
Social activities for “healthy interactions” (105)  
More educational activities for children and parents (64)  
Child and parent interaction (69)

*9c. Services and programs in languages other than English (13 responses)*

Services for children in Spanish- free programs at zoo, library, etc. (17)  
Bi-lingual for preschool age children (20)  
Food labels in Spanish and Hmong (25)  
Preschool programs to help learn English (27)  
English as a second language instruction (86)  
Services providing for other languages (120)  
Programs, services and activities for parents and grandparents in Chinese to inform them about programs, services and/or other activities for young children (157)  
I’m bi-lingual but know lots of friends and relatives who are not. They need bi-lingual (Chinese and English) services in order to access services for their children (158)  
Bi-lingual services (160)  
Bi-lingual (English and Chinese) programs or information (161)  
Programs that help parents who are not proficient in English and help their children (162)  
Bi-lingual preschool (163)  
Language learning (126)

*9f. Making sure young children have health insurance*

*9g. Access to regular health care for young children (4 responses)*

More affordable health care plans (8)

Free health care for all children (173)  
Free health insurance for families (177)  
Free health care (178)

*9j. Reducing the number of overweight young children (1 response)*  
Weight management (48)

*9k. Reducing drug and alcohol abuse among pregnant women, parents, and caregivers (1 response)*  
More drug and alcohol education (127)

*9l. Providing testing to identify conditions in young children, such as learning, seeing, hearing, or speaking problems*

*9u. Access to quality care for young children with learning and other type of disabilities (2 responses)*  
Identifying and counseling parents with children who have learning or physical disabilities (48)  
Physical disabilities (124)

*9p. Physical fitness programs for young children (1 response)*  
Physical education- after school/weekend physical activities (16)

*9q. Safe places such as parks with play equipment for young children (1 response)*  
Age and developmentally appropriate play areas/activities for children 0-3 (44)

*9v. Providing education on healthy eating habits*  
*9s. Access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables (1 response)*  
Healthy eating habits and money for food (25)

*9w. Providing education to reduce the rate of teenage parents (1 response)*  
Teen pregnancy prevention extremely important (166)