

Community Assessment

2024-2026

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Process

Purpose

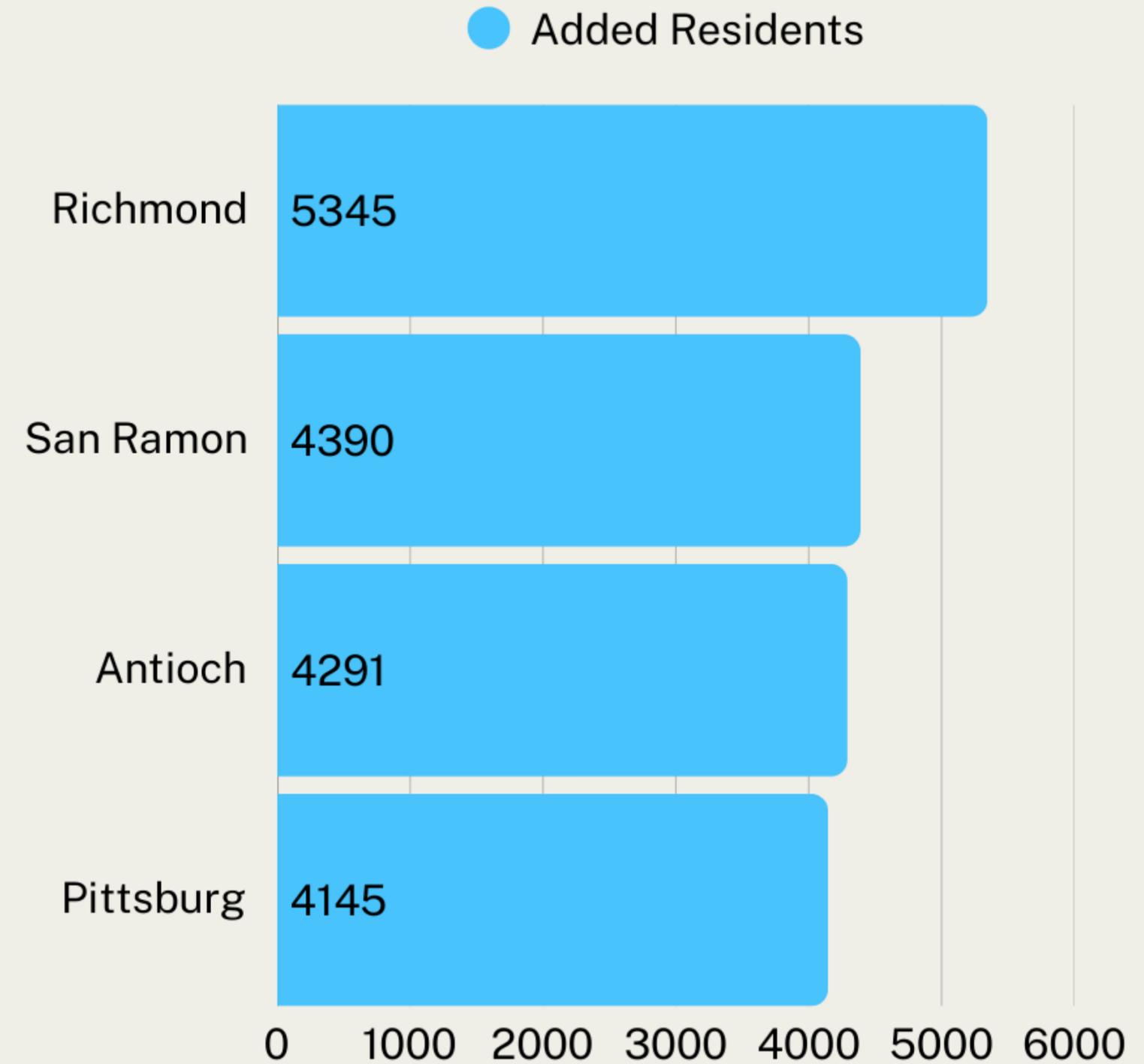
Provides a comprehensive profile of the health, economic, educational, and safety status of 76,479 children (ages 0-5) in Contra Costa County through ongoing data analysis and collaboration with policy leaders and parents to identify community strengths and needs.

How

The Community Assessment utilizes diverse data sources, including federal and state agencies (Census, Education, Employment), internal surveys, and program reports, to track demographics, community conditions, and Head Start family needs over time.

County Demography

- County Population: 1,161,458 Residents
 - Grown by 11% since 2010
 - Grown by 1% since 2020
- Ethnic Make up
 - White: 44%
 - Hispanic: 27%
 - Asian: 19%
 - Mutli-Racial: 15%
 - Black 9%
- Since 2020
 - Households rose 3%
 - Families rose 3%
 - Married-couple Families rose 2%
 - Single Females rose 4%
- Population of Children
 - 0-17 down 2%
 - 0-4 down 4%



Since
2020

COUNTY ECONOMY

Income

Since 2021

- Median family income rose by 22% (\$146,002)
- In 2024, the Self-Sufficiency Standard reported a cost of \$161,195 per year (~\$76/hour) for one adult with an infant and a preschooler.

Housing

Since 2021

- Monthly Rent cost rose by 20%
 - Costing upwards of \$2,322
 - Unaffordable for 69,491 people
- Monthly Housing cost rose by 18%
 - Home ownership unaffordable for 82,933 people.

Employment

• Since 2023

- 65% of residents are in the civilian labor force.
- Employment rate is 4.9% lower than the state 5.4%
- Females who work full times rose by 3%
- In 2021, 85% of parents sought child care.

POVERTY

In 2023, 8% of residents lived below the Federal Poverty Level.

- 25,484 of these residents are children below 16 years of age.
 - 8,024 children aged 0-5
- The number of married couples with a child under four years old living in poverty has increased by 27%.
- CalWORKs Cases rose by 20%
 - 6,703 grant cases tending to the needs of 12,248 children
- SNAP rose by 8%
 - tending the needs of 31,571 households
- 44,480 children live in public assistance households

HEALTH COVERAGE

- Since 2020
 - Only 5% of residents are uninsured
 - Children 0-17 made up 3%
- Medicaid only coverage among children remains unchanged at 27%
- Non-citizens at 17% have the highest uninsured rates.

HEALTH TRENDS

Pregnancy

- Women receiving first trimester prenatal care rose to 90%
 - Only 65% continue to receive adequate or better care throughout pregnancy .
- Infant mortality rose from 3.1 to 3.7 per 1000 in 2024

Air Quality

- In 2024
 - 14,057 Children and 79,110 adults with asthma are at risk from poor air quality
 - Asthma Hospitalization rates among 0–4-year-old improved from 15.5 to 12.9

Drug Use

- Since 2021
 - Drug-induced death rose by 22%
- Drug-induced deaths have risen by 7.7 points, reaching a rate of 252.0 per 100,000.

COUNTY SAFETY

- Felony Arrest fell by 22%
 - Violent Offense down 14%
 - Property Offense down 18%
 - Drug Offense down 21%
 - Sex Offense down 22%
- Firearm-related deaths rose from 7.4 to 9.0 per 100,000
- Juvenile arrest rose by 22%
 - 60% felonies, 40% Misdemeanors
 - Violent offense rose as well by 29%
- Domestic violence calls increased by 5%
- However child abuse rates have dropped by 32%

HEAD START POPULATION

- In 2024
 - Day Care slots in homes rose by 5%
 - Infant slots in centers rose by 4%
 - Centers gained 3,732 slots open to serve all ages
- Estimates for 2025-2026
 - Income-eligible 0-2 year old fell 3% to 7,592
 - Income-eligible pregnant women rose 13% to 2,379
 - Income-eligible 3-5 year olds also fell 10% to 5,518



COUNTY EDUCATION

- 40% (67,325) of Contra Costa students were Free and Reduced Priced Lunch-eligible
 - Antioch Unified (up 5%)
 - Mt Diablo Unified (up 4%)
 - San Ramon Valley Unified (up 32%)
- Residents in school (Since 2020)
 - 6% attend preschool (down 10%)
 - 51% of 3-4 year-olds attend school (down 11%)
 - College enrollment fell 4%
- Transitional Kindergarten
 - In 2023 enrollment rose by 29%
 - Socially economically disadvantaged students up 32%
- Chronic absenteeism rose a notable 77% in 2024.
 - Dropout rates rose to 7% which now exceed the state's (6%)

OBSERVATIONS

- The County is experiencing economic growth and demographic shifts
- In addition, the housing affordability, homelessness, and public dependence is also rising
- Crime Trends and educational gaps create a future of uncertainty.

Questions?

Thank you for your time!