

2015

Ventura County (VC-Pact) Trend Report



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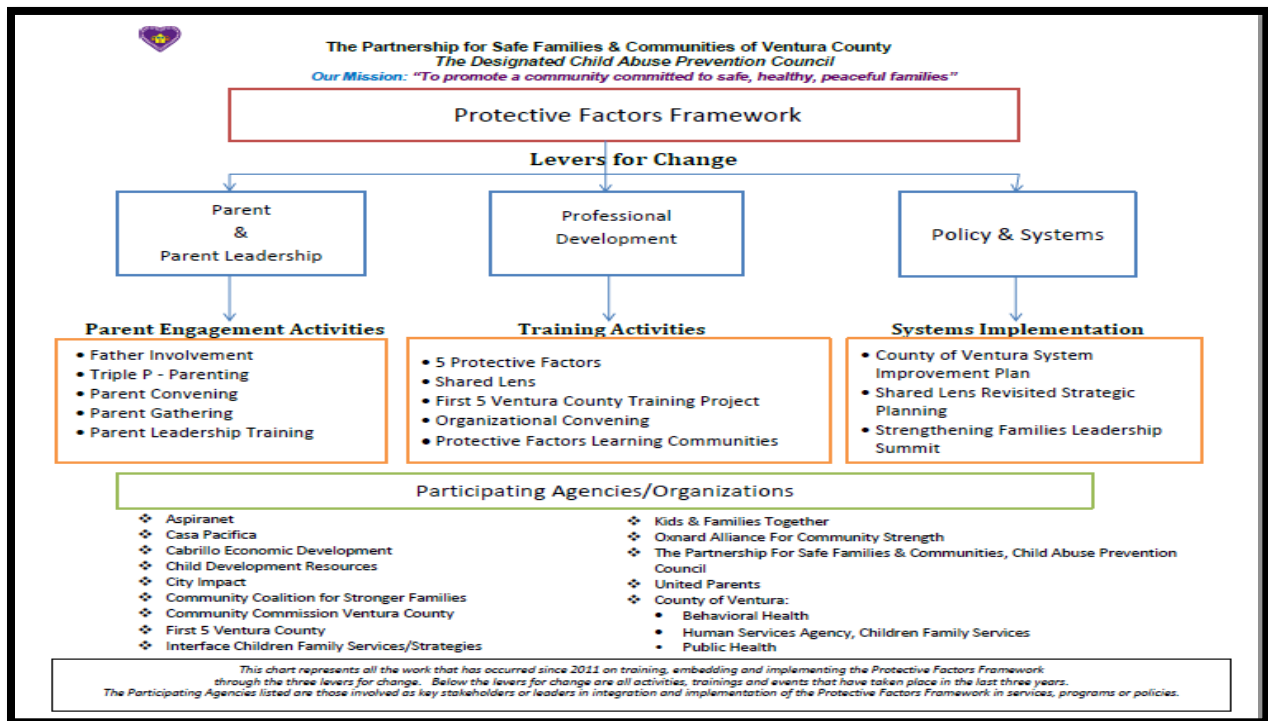
Ventura County Pact (VC-Pact) Coalition

Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) received a grant from Lucille Packard Foundation for Children’s Health to participate in the California Community Care Coordination Collaborative (5 Cs) as a new coalition. This grant allows VCPH to convene multiple agencies, community based organizations, health care providers and payers with the goal of improving the quality and consistency of health care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN) in Ventura County through collaboration, coordination and a focus on strengthening families.

The goals of the VC-Pact are two-fold:

1. Increase awareness of programs in the county with key contacts to assist in appropriate and timely referral.
2. Provide additional care coordination and brainstorm ideas for policy changes using examples of children within the system that have had delay of care and/or barriers to care that have hampered their ability to thrive.

Ventura County Public Health has adopted the Strengthening Families Framework (see graphic below) as a key prevention strategy in providing health care services for children with special health care needs. California began its Strengthening Families effort in 2007. Partners include the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP), Strategies (a statewide capacity building network funded by OCAP), the California Department of Public Health, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Division, First 5 county commissions, the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services, and cross-sector prevention planning teams in Los Angeles. Currently, 35 states have leadership teams. Because of the prevalence of the framework in our community and coalition partners, the framework is a cohesive way to align the goals of the VC-Pact.



Strengthening Families Framework

The Strengthening Families Framework focuses on mobilizing partners, communities and families to build family strengths, promote optimal development, and reduce child abuse and neglect. The Five Protective Factors are the foundation of the Strengthening Families approach; they include parental resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, social and emotional competence of children, social connections, and concrete support in times of need. Extensive evidence supports the common sense notion that when these Protective Factors are present and robust in a family, the likelihood of abuse and neglect diminish. Research also shows that these are the factors that create healthy environments for the optimal development of all children (Harper Browne, C. (2014, September). *The Strengthening Families Approach and Protective Factors Framework: Branching out and reaching deeper*. Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy. Retrieved from: http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/2014/The-Strengthening-Families-Approach-and-Protective-Factors-Framework_Branching-Out-and-Reaching-Deeper.pdf)

In order for the VC-Pact coalition to begin their work, it was important to first become knowledgeable about the social, economic, and health trends that relate to CSHCN and their families in the state and county. Therefore, this report is broken down into sections based upon the data available that it relevant to each of the Five Protective Factors. The acuity screening tool, being developed by the VC-Pact coalition to identify families with CSHCN experiencing gap in services, is utilizing the Strengthening Families framework as the basis for the assessment and screening process.

The Acuity Tool is broken into five sections:

1. Concrete Supports: Ability to identify, access, and receive needed child, adult, and family services
2. Social Connections: The ability to create relationships and connect with constructive, supportive people and professional support.
3. Knowledge of Parenting Child with Special Health Care Needs/Child's Development: the understanding of developmentally appropriate skills and behaviors of child; the use of parenting best practices.
4. Parental Resilience: The ability to manage stress and function well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.
5. Social/Emotional Competence of Child: The ability to form secure adult and peer relationships; experiencing, regulating, and expressing emotions.

Within each section is a group of descriptors to identify if the child/family is in need of additional care coordination because they have fallen through system gaps in the delivery of care and brainstorm ways to make policy changes so that other children do not fall into those same gaps.

Health Disparities

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), health disparities are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations. Populations can be defined by factors such as race or ethnicity, gender, education or income, disability, geographic location (e.g., rural or urban), or sexual

orientation. Health disparities are inequitable and are directly related to the historical and current unequal distribution of social, political, economic, and environmental resources.

The data presented in this trend report has been stratified by race or ethnicity, gender, education, income, disability, or geographic location so that the work of the VC-Pact coalition can be informed by the health disparities present within Ventura County.

Ventura County Population Demographics

In Ventura County, 25.2% of the population is under the age of 18 years, an estimated 208,912 children. Figure 1 shows the percent of children less than 18 years of age within each city. Fillmore (34.3%), Santa Paula (30.9%), and Oxnard (28.9%) have the highest percent of children less than 18 years.

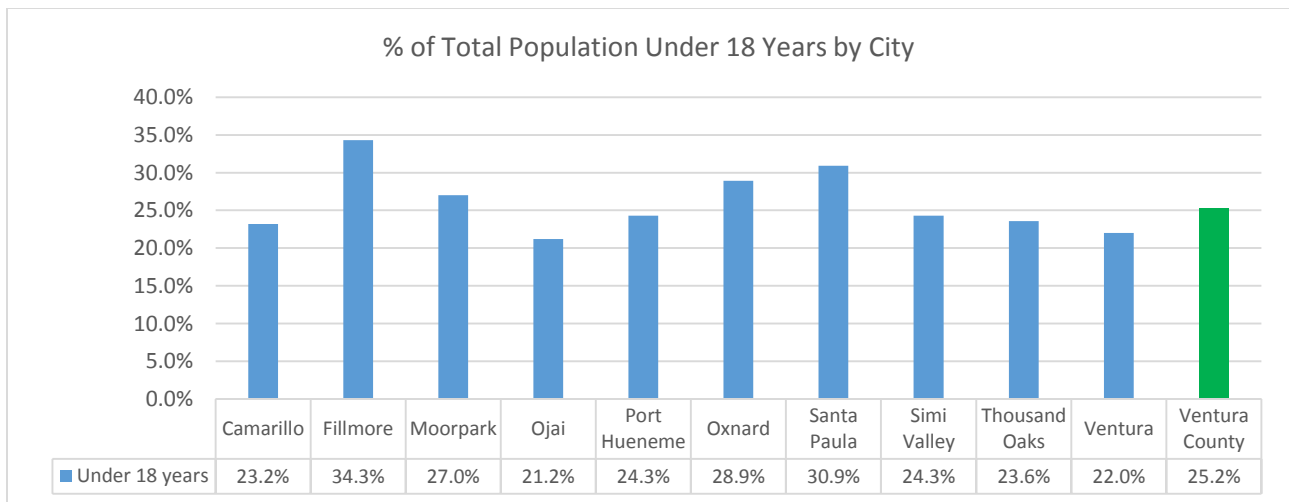


Figure 1 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 American Community Survey (5-year estimates).

In Ventura County, 6.6% of the population is under the age of five years, an estimated 54,715 children under five years. Figure 2 shows the percent of children less than 5 years of age within each city. Fillmore (10.2%), Santa Paula (8.8%), and Oxnard (8.6%) also have the highest percent of children less than five years. Information from the U.S. Census shows that most cities with a higher percentage of Hispanics have higher percentage of children less than five years of age. This is also true in Ventura County where Oxnard, Santa Paula, and Fillmore have a higher percentage of Hispanics and also a higher percentage of children under the age of five.

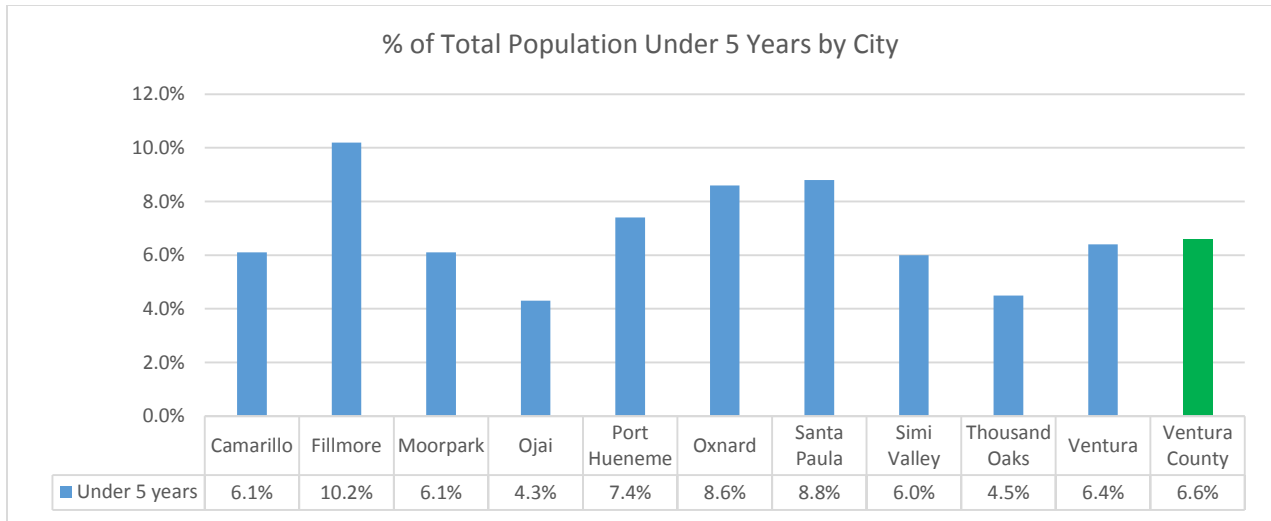


Figure 2 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 American Community Survey (5-year estimates).

In Ventura County, 39.4% of the female population is of child-bearing age, 15-44 years, as shown in Figure 3. The cities of Fillmore, Moorpark, Port Hueneme, Oxnard, and Santa Paula all have more than 40% of the female population of child-bearing age.

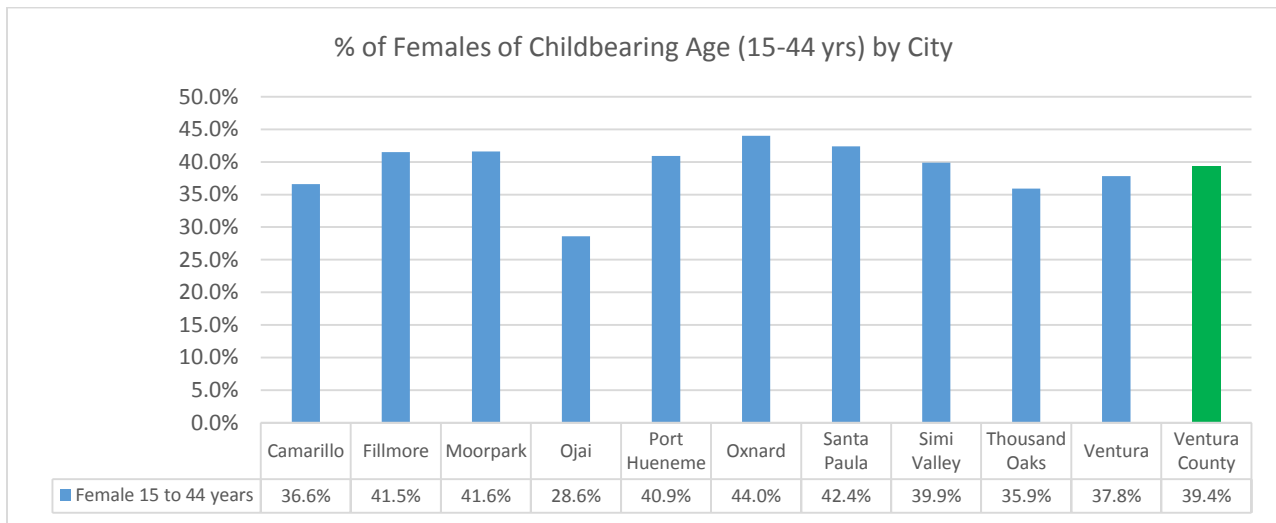


Figure 3 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 American Community Survey (5-year estimates).

In 2013, Hispanics (people who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino of any race) made up 41.5% of the total population in Ventura County according to the American Community Survey. However, as shown in Figure 4 below, Hispanics account for 55.8% of the population under the age of 18 years in Ventura County, followed by Whites at 33.1%, Asians at 5.6%, Blacks at 1.2%, American Indian and Alaska Native at 0.2%, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders at 0.1%, and multiracial at 3.9%.

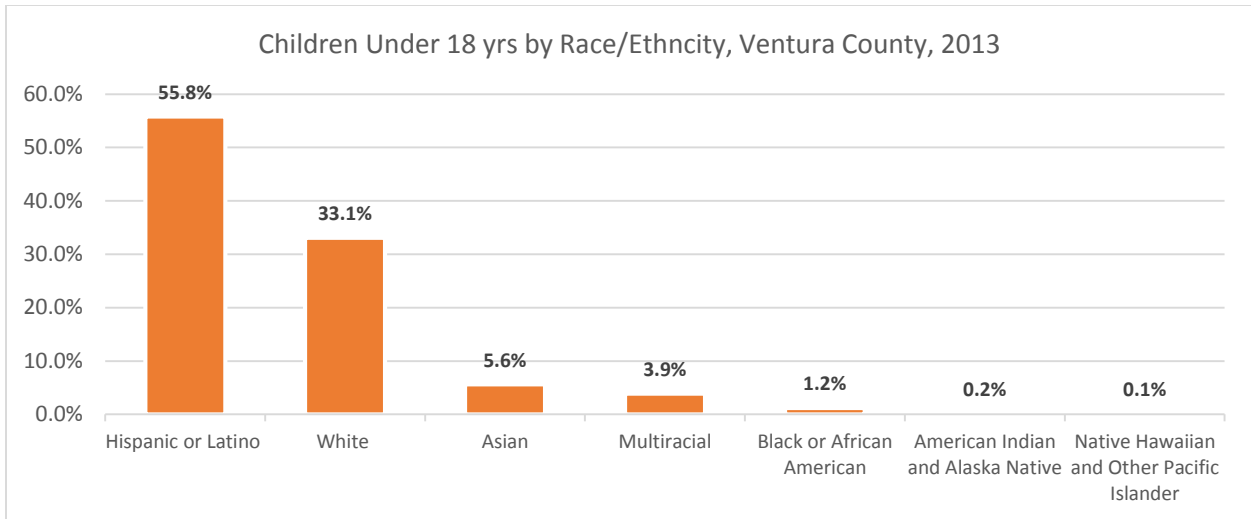


Figure 4 - Source: As cited on www.kidsdata.org, California Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, June 2014, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Births

In 2014, there were 10,449 births to Ventura County residents, and 56.7% were to Hispanic mothers. Births to White mothers accounted for 34.0% of all births followed by Asians (2.7%), Pacific Islanders (2.4%), other (1.8%), and Blacks (1.1%). Figure 5 shows the number of births to Ventura County residents from 2004-2014 as well as the number of Hispanic births. Hispanics make up 41.5% percent of the population but consistently account for almost 60% of all births in Ventura County; population projections indicate that Hispanics will be the majority ethnic group by 2050 in Ventura County and California. The California Department of Finance projects that births will increase by 9.2% from 2014 to 2023.

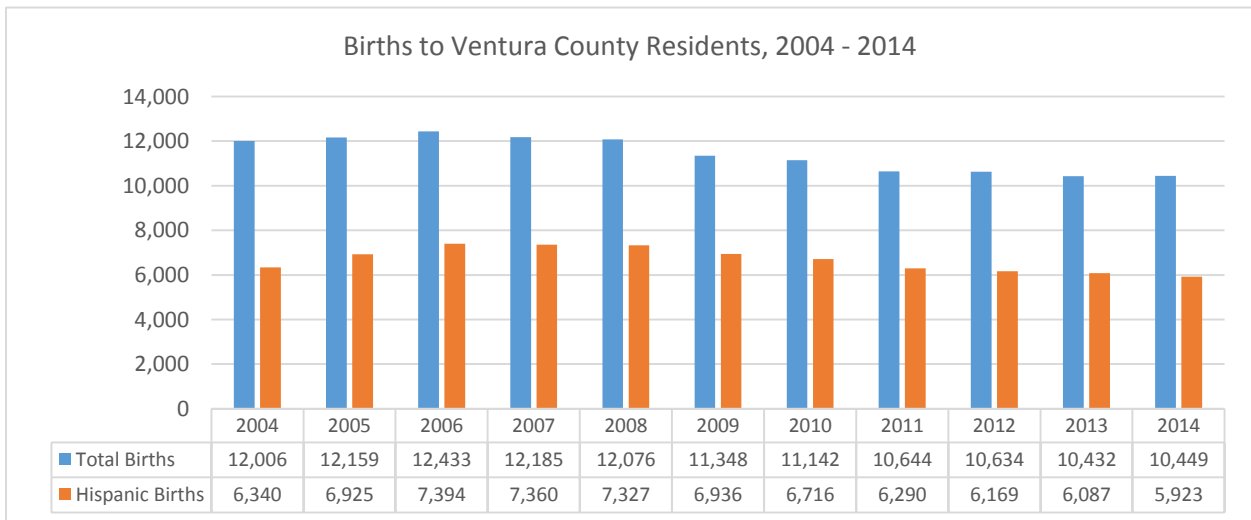


Figure 5 – Source: Automated Vital Statistics System, CB Info, 2004-2014.

In 2014, there were 584 births to teen mothers (under 20 years) in Ventura County. This is a 12.1% decrease from 2013 to 2014 and a 38.3% decrease in the past five years. Hispanics makes up 56.7% of overall births but 87.1% of all teen births in Ventura County followed by Whites (11.1%), Blacks (0.9%), and Pacific Islanders (0.7%). This is a trend that has remained consistent over time.

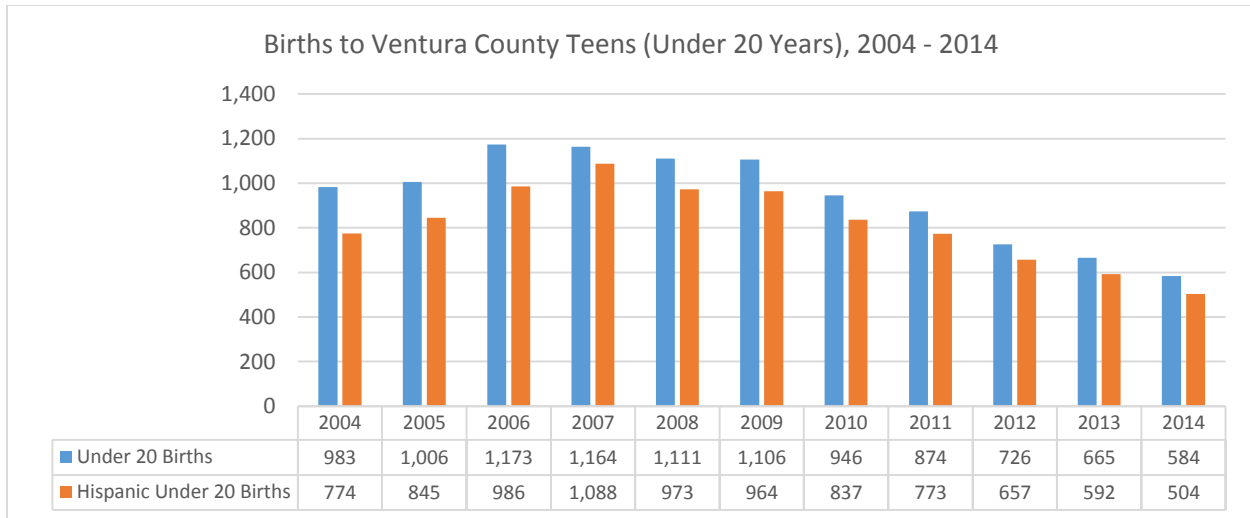


Figure 6 – Source: Automated Vital Statistics System, CB Info, 2004-2014.

Preterm Births

In Ventura County, 8.0% of all babies were born prior to 37 weeks gestation; 61.4% of all babies were born between 37 and 39 weeks. Ventura County is meeting the Healthy People 2020 goal for preterm births which is 11.4% (<http://www.healthypeople.gov/>).

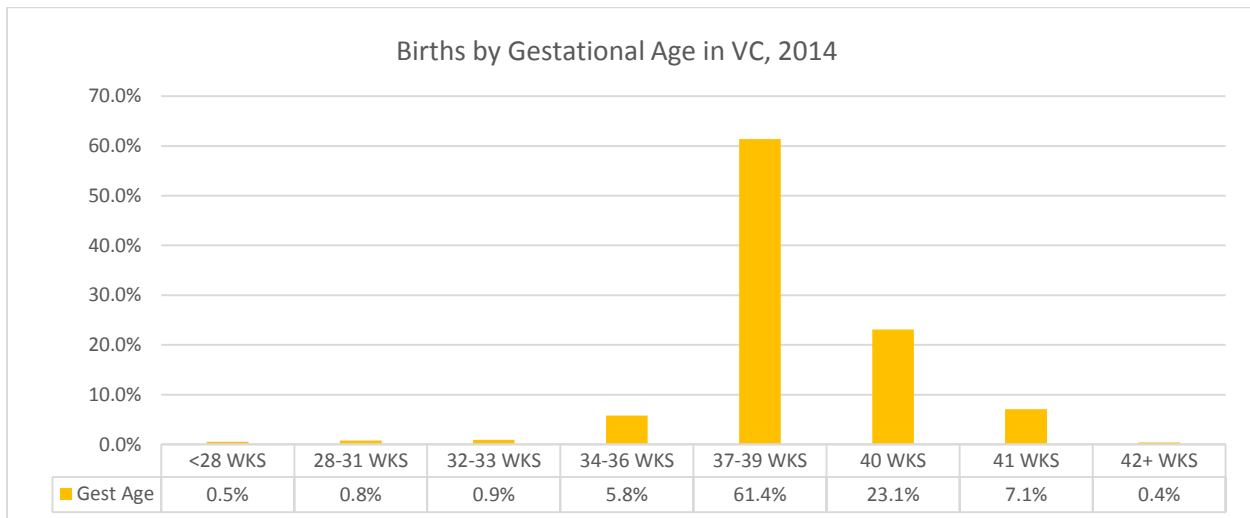


Figure 7 – Source: Automated Vital Statistics System, CB Info, 2014.

There are some ethnic groups that are above the Ventura County average: Asians, Hispanics, and Pacific Islanders, but none of them exceed the Healthy People 2020 goal.

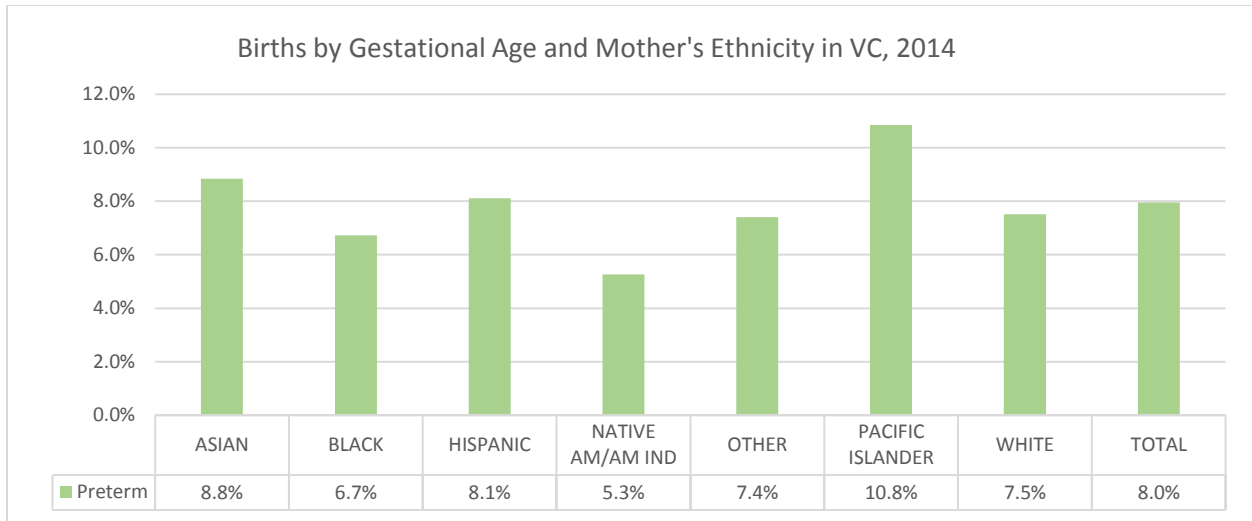


Figure 8 – Source: Automated Vital Statistics System, CB Info, 2004-2014.

Low Birth Weight

Figure 9 shows the percent of low birth weight and very low birth weight babies from 2004-2014. For Ventura County mothers, in 2014, the % low birth weight was 6.5% and the % very low birth weight was 1.1%.

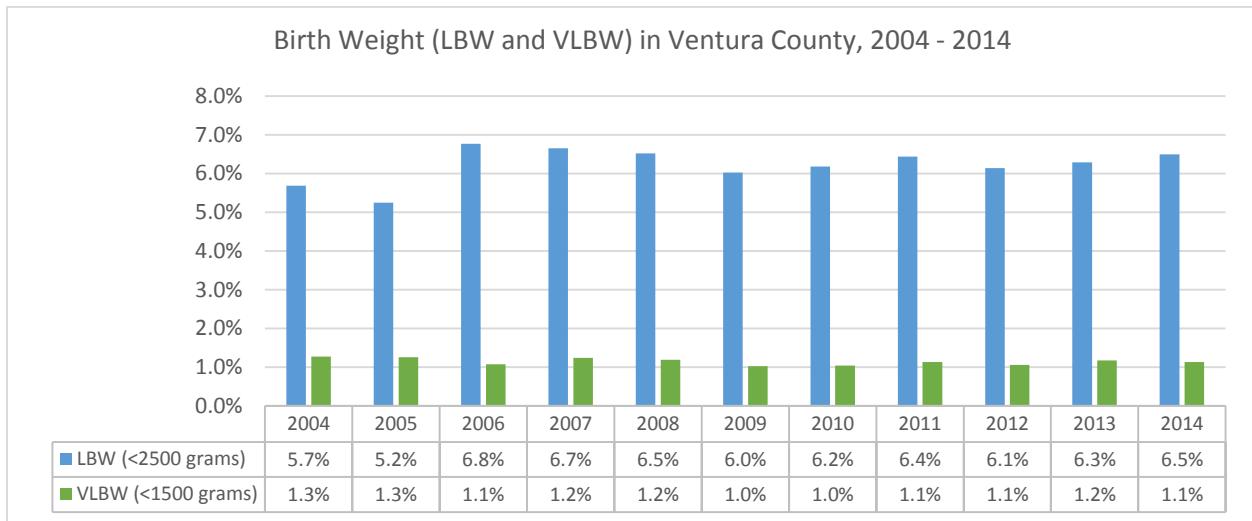


Figure 9 – Source: Automated Vital Statistics System, CB Info, 2004-2014.

The low birth weight value does meet the Healthy People 2020 goal of 7.8% for babies born to Ventura County mothers, however, there are certain age groups that do not meet this goal (15-19 years and 40+ years). The Healthy People 2020 target for very low birth weight is 1.4% which is being met by Ventura County mothers, but again there are certain age groups that do not meet this goal (15-19 years and 40+ years).

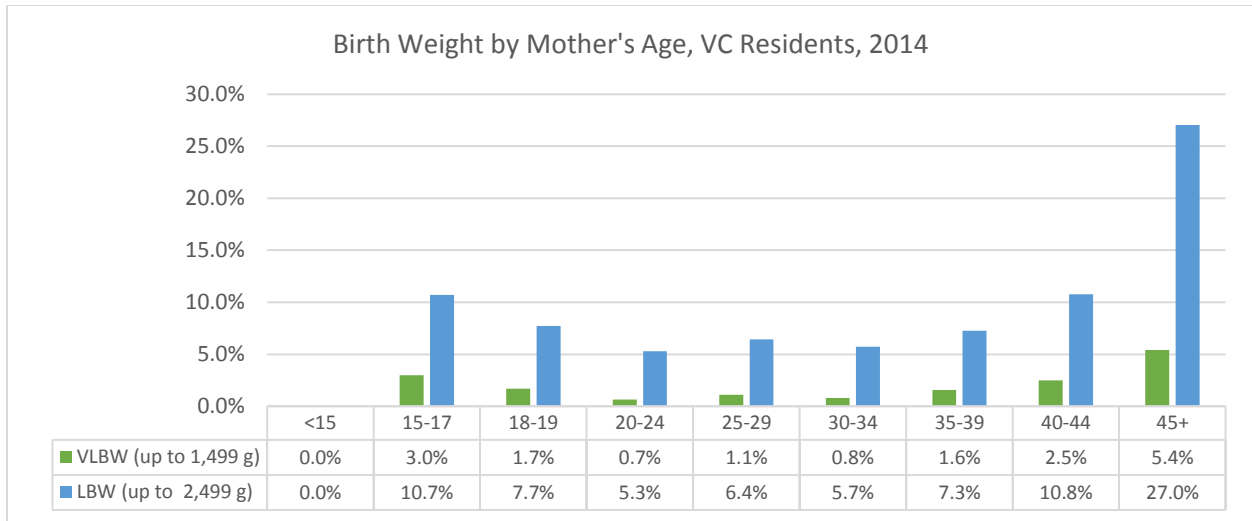


Figure 10 – Source: Automated Vital Statistics System, CB Info, 2014.

Although Ventura County is meeting the Healthy People 2020 goal, there are certain ethnicities that have a higher percentage of low birth weight babies: Asians, Blacks, and Pacific Islanders. However, these ethnic groups only make up 6.2% of all births to Ventura County mothers.

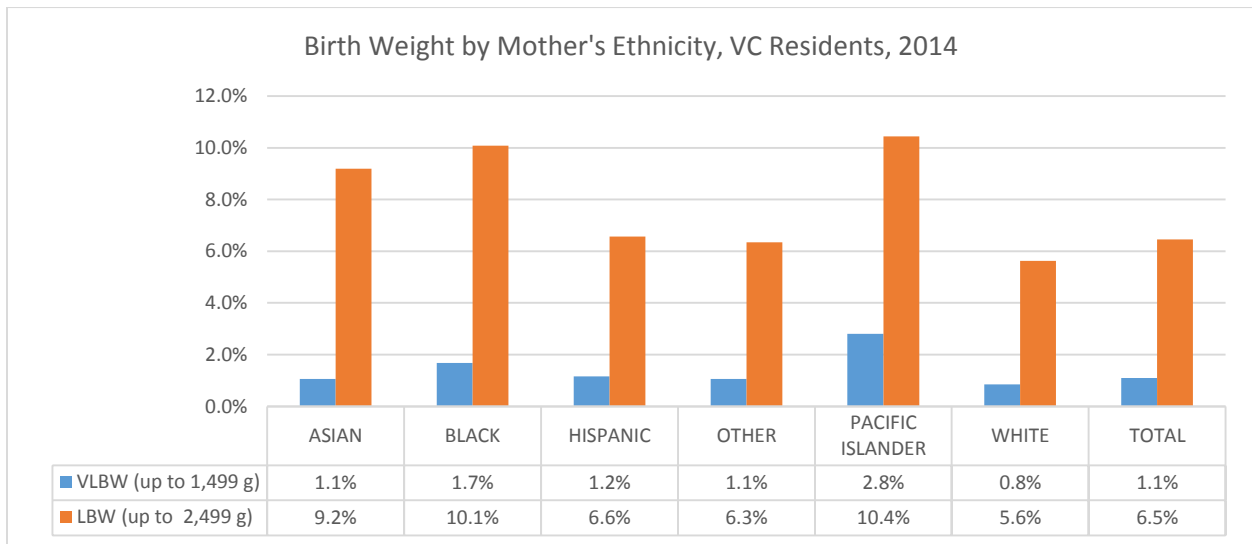


Figure 11 – Source: Automated Vital Statistics System, CB Info, 2014.

Concrete Supports

Concrete Supports, one of the most critical Protective Factors, is the ability of an individual (child, adult) and/or family to identify, access, and receive basic needed services. The lack of basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, transportation and access to medical, dental and/or mental health services may participate in increasing family overall stress. It may lead to family crisis and reveal ineffective coping behaviors such as substance abuse and adverse events. Although a variety of services are available to families in Ventura County, including food pantries, WIC, shelters, transportation and translation via Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP, managed care plan) and social referral center 211, many families do not utilize these services.

Building the Concrete Supports Protective Factor is about not only ensuring that the families' basic needs are met but also connecting parents and children to available community resources, providing them with the necessary tools to navigate through the system.

This section of the report will focus on the social and economic characteristics of children and families in Ventura County. The VC Pact Acuity Screening Tool includes a section aiming to evaluate concrete supports as defined above. The tool particularly assesses the history of domestic violence, childhood trauma and substance abuse, often associated with stigma, making it even more challenging for families to request and access needed services.

Poverty, Housing, and Food Security

In Ventura County (VC), 11.1% of the population was living below the federal poverty level in 2013. In 2013, the poverty guideline for a family of four was \$23,550. Families were more likely to be living below poverty. 15.9% of families with children under 18 years in VC lived below the poverty line. However, poverty status varied significantly by head of household. Female householders with no husband were 4 times more likely to be living in poverty than married couples with children (39.0% versus 9.5%). The median household income for Ventura County residents was \$76,544. The median income for female householders with no husband with children under 18 years was \$35,314 and \$51,833 for male householders with no wife with children under 18 years.

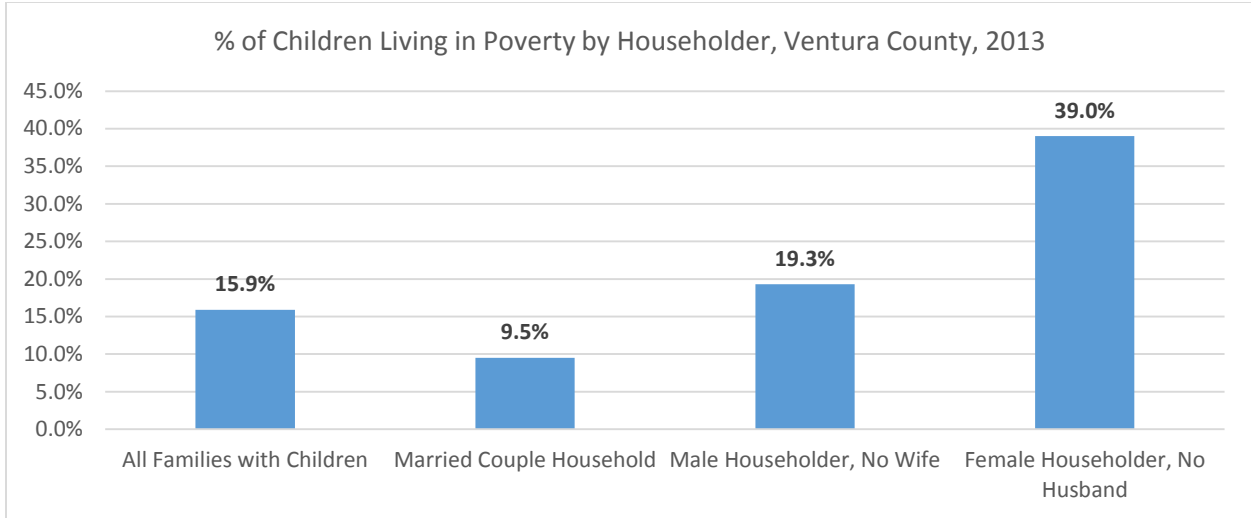


Figure 12 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 American Community Survey (5-year estimates).

According to the American Community Survey, the median home value in 2013 was \$442,200 in Ventura County, and 64.9% of residents owned their place of residence. Again, female householders with no husband were least likely to own their place of residence at 33.0%, compared to 42.2% of male householders with no wife and 63.9% of married couples.

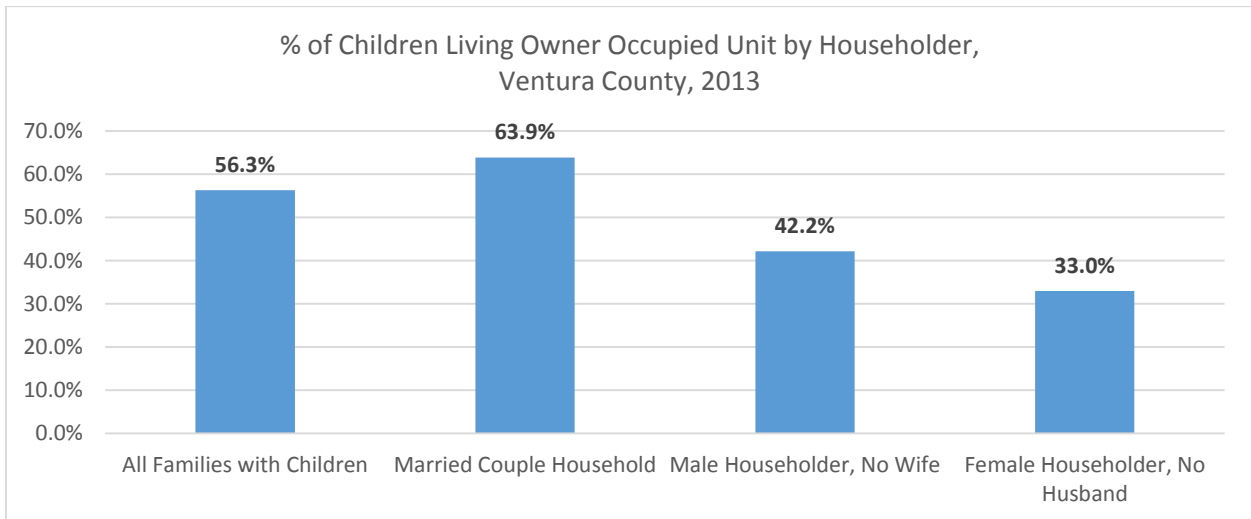


Figure 13 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 American Community Survey (5-year estimates).

The number of individuals receiving CalFRESH (Food Stamp) benefits increased by 113% from 2008 to 2014 in Ventura County. Of those households that received CalFRESH benefits, 58% were Hispanic/Latino, followed by 36% White, 3% Black, 3% Asian/Filipino/Pacific Islander, and 1% American Indian/Alaskan Native.

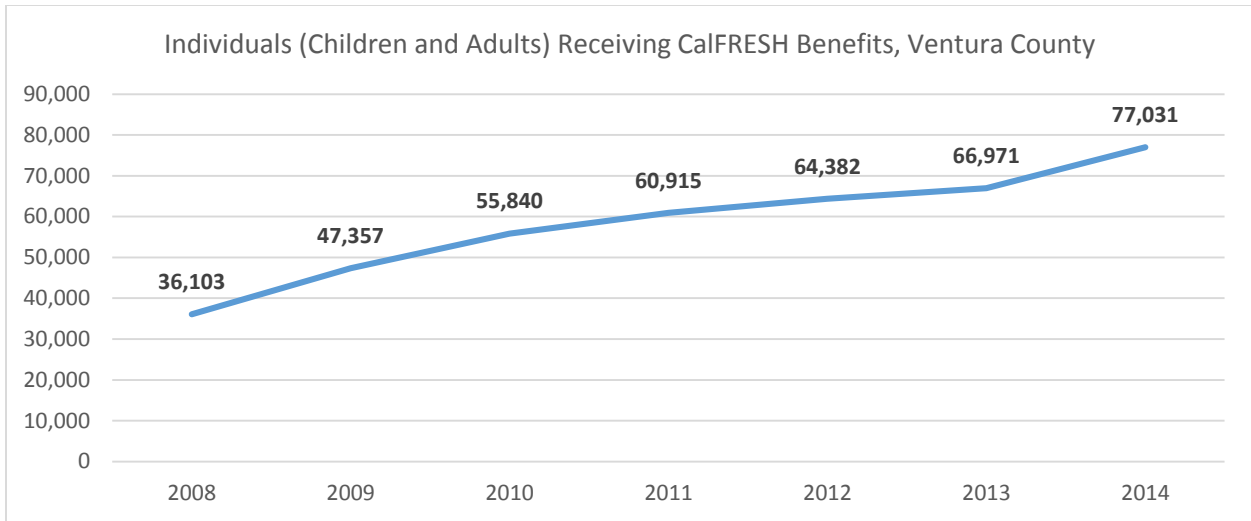


Figure 14 - Source: As cited on www.kidsdata.org, California Department of Social Services CalFRESH Data Files, October 2014, accessed on April 22, 2015.

According to the California Department of Education, 49.9% of students in Ventura County were eligible to receive free or reduced priced school meals in the 2014-15 school year. The percent eligible varied by school district with 6.1% eligible from Oak Park Unified compared to 81.8% eligible from Ocean View School District as shown in Figure 15.

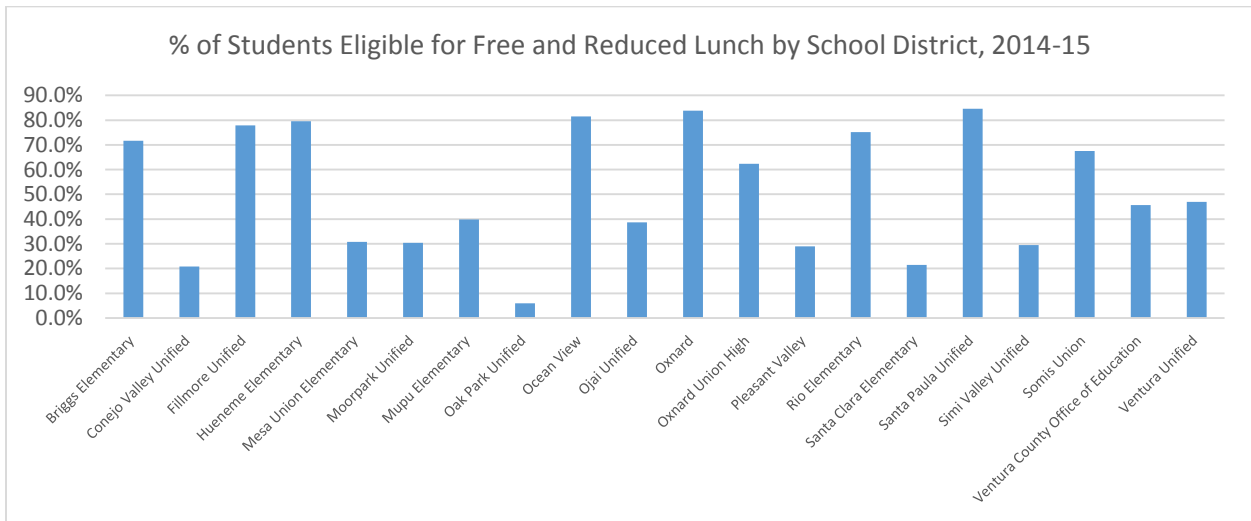


Figure 15 - Source: As cited on <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>, California Department of Education, 2014-15, accessed on July 2, 2015.

Medical Home and Insurance Coverage

In Ventura County, 13.7% of residents under 25 years of age were without health insurance coverage in 2013. Males under 25 years were more likely than females to be without health insurance (15.2% of

males versus 12.1% of females). The percent of Ventura County residents under 25 years without health insurance coverage increased with age.

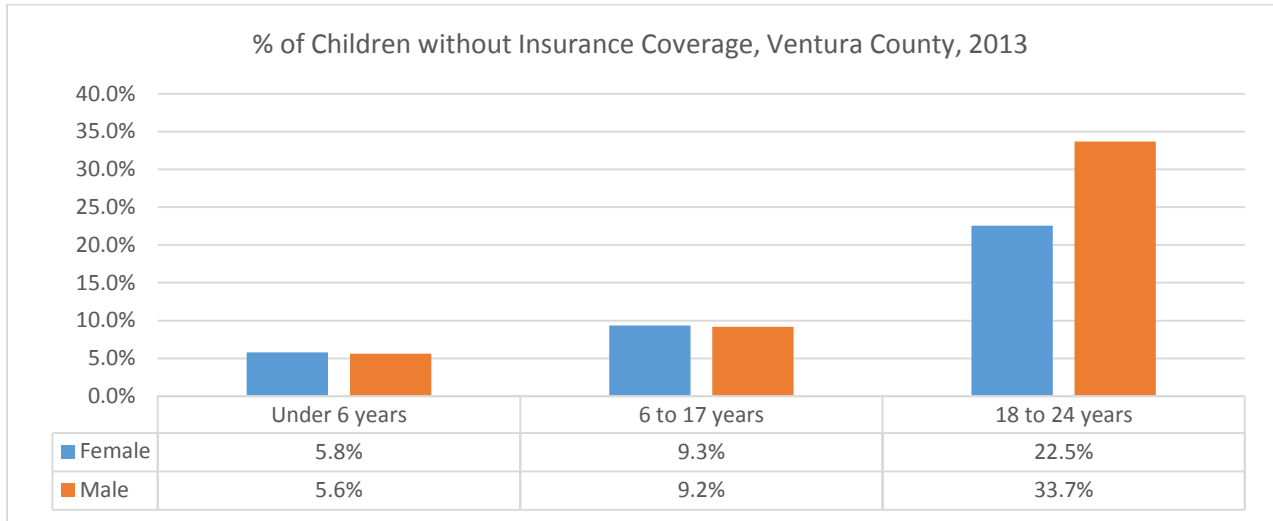


Figure 16 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 American Community Survey (5-year estimates).

According to the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), 66.0% of Ventura County teens (12-17 years) received a routine health check-up within the last 6 months. The percent of teens receiving routine health check-ups has improved from 47% over the past 10 years. CHIS also reports that 13.5% of children 2-17 years from Ventura County have never had a dental visit.

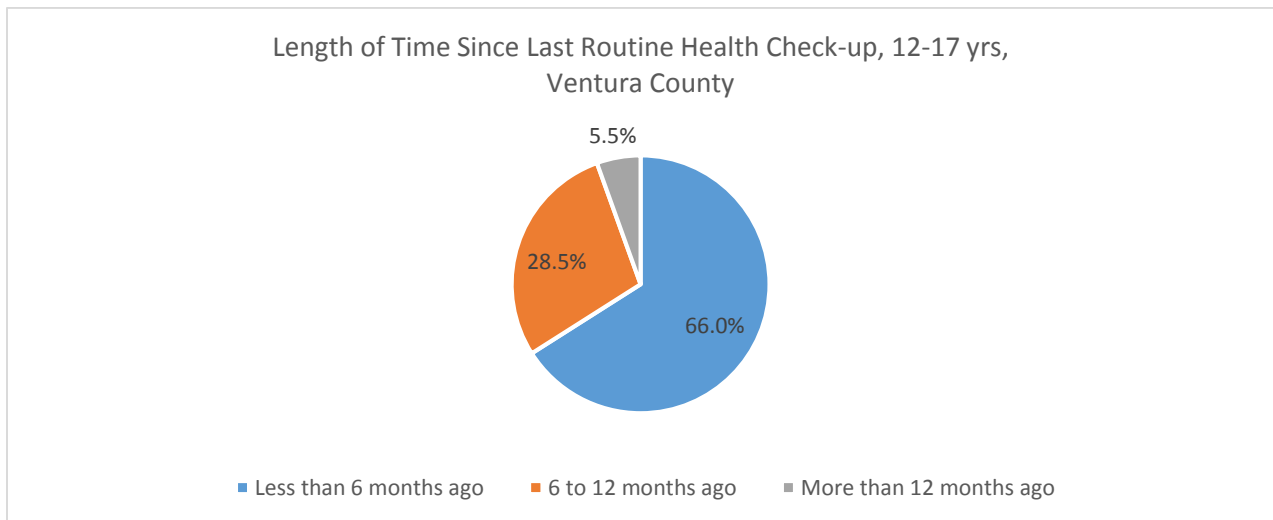


Figure 17 - Source: As cited on www.kidsdata.org, California Health Interview Survey, 2011-12, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Domestic Violence, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse

In 2012, there were a total of 7,478 calls to police for violent or aggressive behavior within the home in Ventura County for a rate of 917.0 calls per 100,000 population. Although there has been a statistically

significant drop in the rate from 2001 to 2012, the rate per 100,000 population is still more than double the rate for the state of California (917.0 versus 427.7 per 100,000 population for CA).

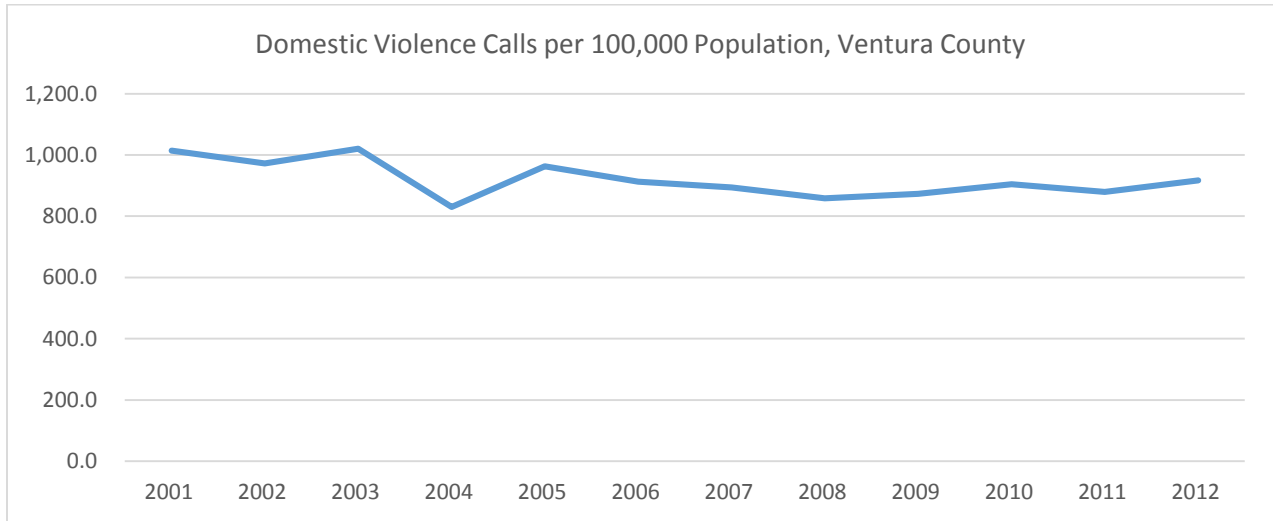


Figure 18 - Source: Office of the Attorney General and California Department of Finance, accessed from Family Health Outcomes Project, UCSF at http://familymedicine.medschool.ucsf.edu/fhop/htm/ca_mcah/databooks_2013/56ventura.html.

According to the California Health Interview Survey, 2011-12, 18.4% of adults in Ventura County needed help for an emotional/mental health problem or use of alcohol/drugs. In 2012, there were 905.2 hospital admissions for substance use and 1,714.5 hospital admissions for a mental health diagnosis per 100,000 15-24 year olds in Ventura County. Both of these rates have been climbing over the past 3 years and were statistically significantly higher than the rates for California.

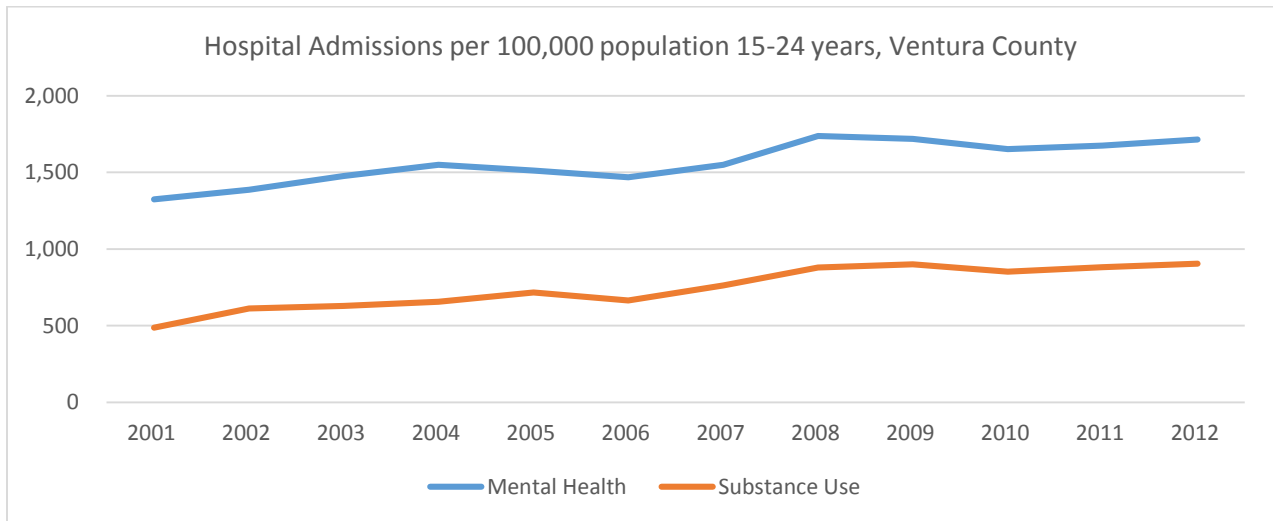


Figure 19 - Source: Office of Statewide Planning and Development and California Department of Finance, accessed from Family Health Outcomes Project, UCSF at http://familymedicine.medschool.ucsf.edu/fhop/htm/ca_mcah/databooks_2013/56ventura.html.

Social Connections

Friends, family members, neighbors, and other members of a community provide emotional support and concrete assistance to parents. Social connections help parents build networks of support that serve multiple purposes: they can help parents develop and reinforce community norms around childrearing, provide assistance in times of need, and serve as a resource for parenting information or help solving problems. Because isolation is a common risk factor for abuse and neglect, parents who are isolated need support in building positive friendships.

This section of the report will focus on data regarding social connections and child abuse and neglect. The VC Pact Acuity Screening Tool will focus on assessing the ability to connect with constructive, supportive people and institutions.

Volunteerism and Social Associations

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), 2011-12, found that 18.4% of Ventura County adults had met informally with others about community problems within the past year; females were more likely than males to meet about community problems (20.4% versus 15.9%). CHIS also found that 13.2% of adults had engaged in formal volunteer work regarding community problems within the past year. Ventura County only has 6.1 membership associations per 10,000 people as opposed to the top U.S. county performers at 22 associations per 10,000 people.

Community and School Connectedness

Caring relationships with adults both at school and within the community play an important role in a child’s development and overall health. In Ventura County, 2011-13, only 37.6% of students reported that they highly agreed that teachers or other adults at school cared about them. Non-traditional students reported higher levels of school connectedness than traditional students. Conejo Valley Unified had the highest percentage of students report a high level of connectedness at 43.9%, and Fillmore had the lowest percentage of students report a high level of connectedness at 27.7%.

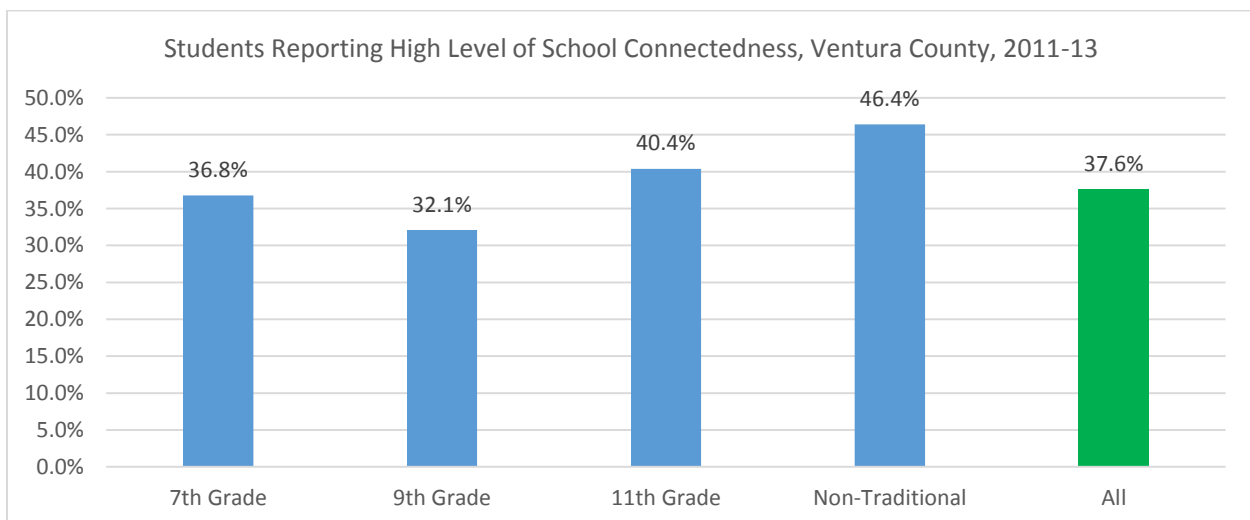


Figure 20 – Source: As cited from www.kidsdata.org, California Healthy Kids Survey and California Student Survey, 2011-13, accessed on April 22, 2015.

However, 65.0% of students reported that they highly agreed that adults in their neighborhood or community cared about them. 7th grade students reported higher levels of community connectedness, but community connectedness was higher than school connectedness for all grade levels, as well as, non-traditional students. Oak Park had the highest percentage of students report a high level of connectedness at 74.7%, and Rio Elementary had the lowest percentage of students report a high level of connectedness at 55.3%.

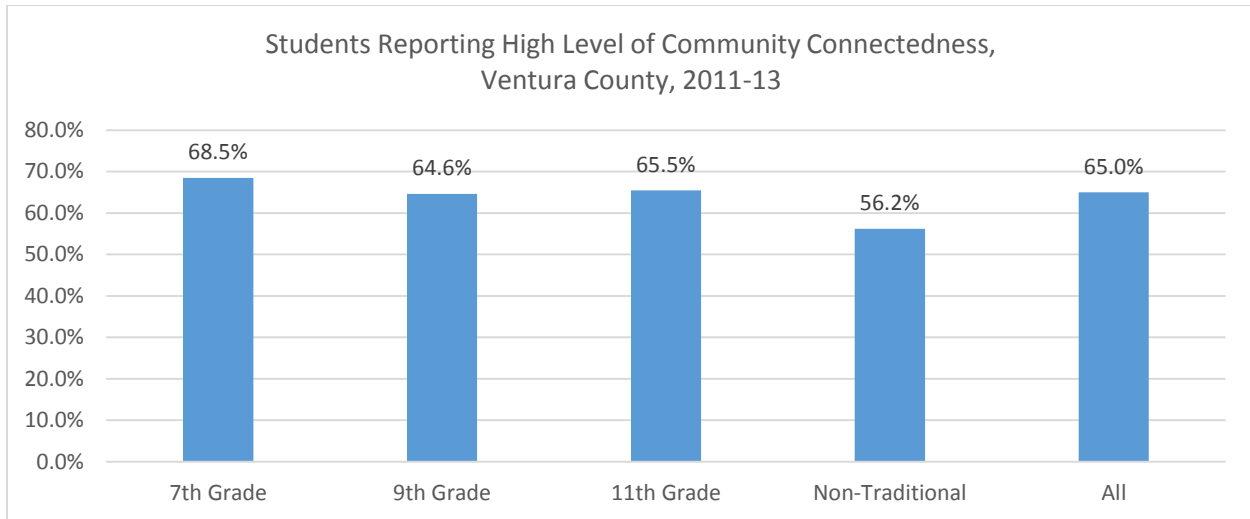


Figure 21 – Source: As cited from www.kidsdata.org, California Healthy Kids Survey and California Student Survey, 2011-13, accessed on July 2, 2015.

Child Abuse and Neglect

From 2009-2012, there was a steady increase in the rate of child abuse and neglect reports, but there was a decline from 2012 to 2013. In 2013, there were 52.3 child abuse and neglect reports per 1,000 children under 18 years in Ventura County; 7.4 child abuse and neglect reports were substantiated per 1,000 children during this same time period.

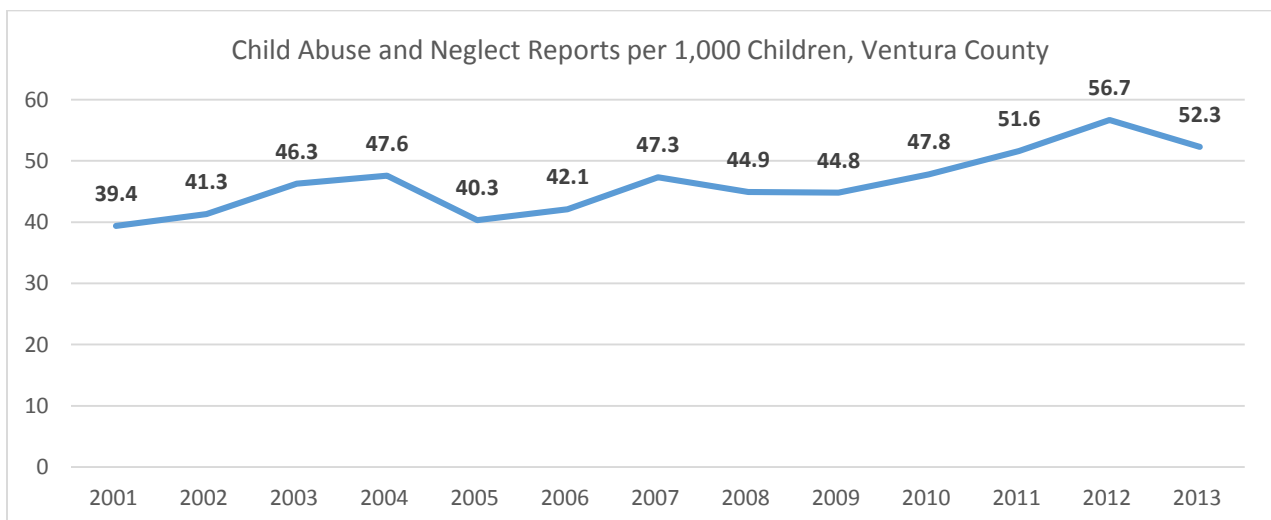


Figure 22 – Source: As cited from www.kidsdata.org, Child Welfare Services Reports for California, U.C. Berkeley Center for Social Services Research, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Children 6-10 years (26.4% of cases) comprised the largest percentage of substantiated child abuse cases, followed by children ages 3-5 years (20.5% of cases), and then ages 11-15 years (19.3% of cases). In 2013, African-Americans (17.2 per 1,000 children) had the highest rates of substantiated child abuse, followed by Hispanic/Latinos (9.4 per 1,000 children), and then Whites (4.6 per 1,000 children).

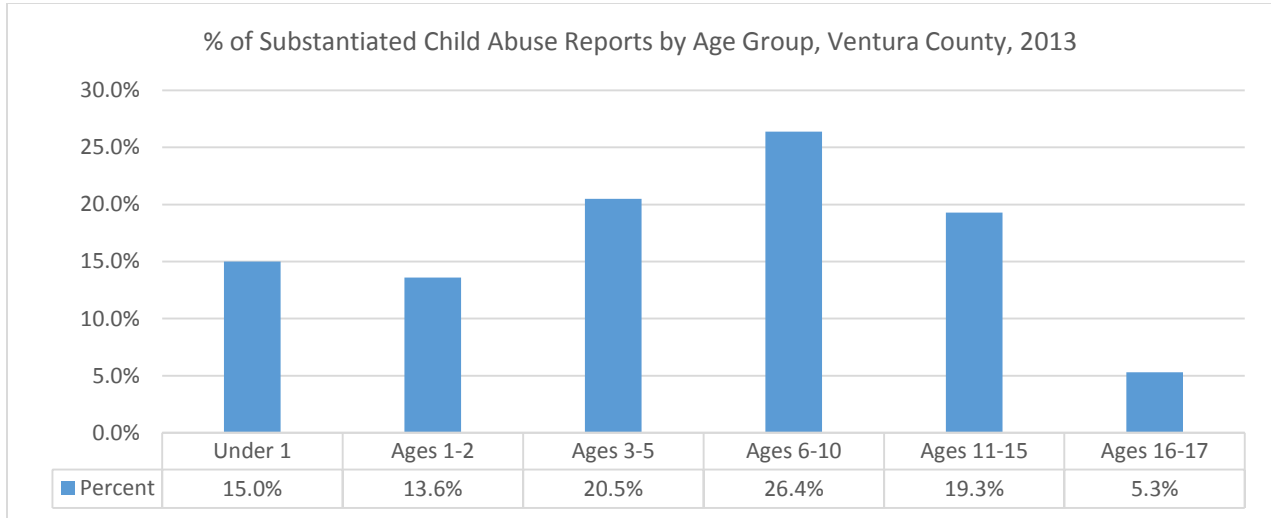


Figure 23 – Source: As cited from www.kidsdata.org, Child Welfare Services Reports for California, U.C. Berkeley Center for Social Services Research, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Having accurate information about raising young children and appropriate expectations for their behavior help parents better understand and care for children. It is important that information is available when parents need it, that is, when it is relevant to their life and their child. Parents whose own families used harsh discipline techniques or parents of children with developmental or behavior problems or special needs require extra support in building this Protective Factor.

This section of the report will focus on health data regarding children with special health care needs. The VC Pact Acuity Screening Tool will focus on assessing the ability of the parent to understand developmentally appropriate skills and behaviors of their child and utilize parenting best practices.

Children with Special Healthcare and Educational Needs

In 2012, there were 193 infants (under 1 year) and 2,137 children enrolled in California Children’s Services in Ventura County. The American Community Survey estimated that 3.4% of children in Ventura County had a major disability in 2013; this estimate ranged from 1.4% in the City of Ventura to 4.8% of children the City of Oxnard (only cities with 65,000+ population are included). The percentage of public school children, K-12, that were receiving special education services ranged from 6.2% at Mupu Elementary School District to 16.3% at Ojai Unified School District, with an average of 11.0% for Ventura County in 2014.

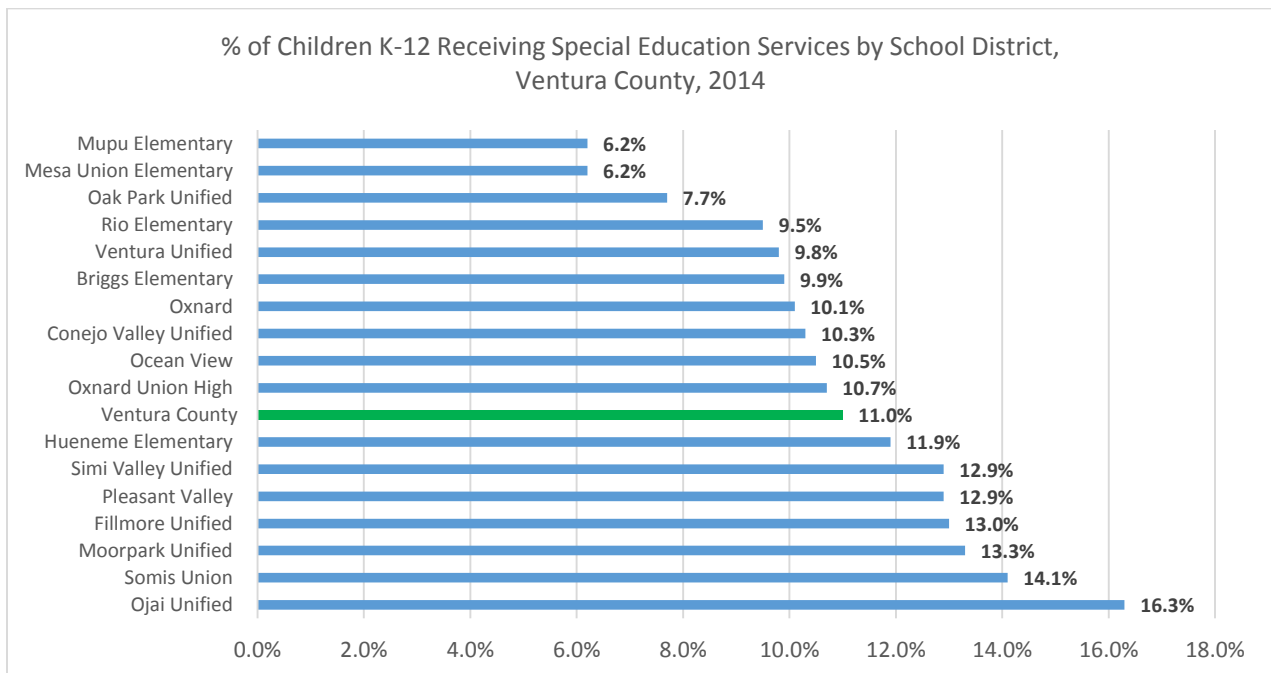


Figure 24 – Source: As cited from www.kidsdata.org, California Department of Education, Special Education Division; Assessment, Evaluation, and Support, accessed on April 22, 2015.

In 2014, most children receiving special education services in Ventura County had been diagnosed with a learning disability (37.7%), followed by children with a speech or language impairment (25.8%), and then autism (11.8%). Figure 25 below shows that 59.6% of children receiving special education services were Hispanic/Latino, followed by Whites at 32.6%, and Asians at 2.2%.

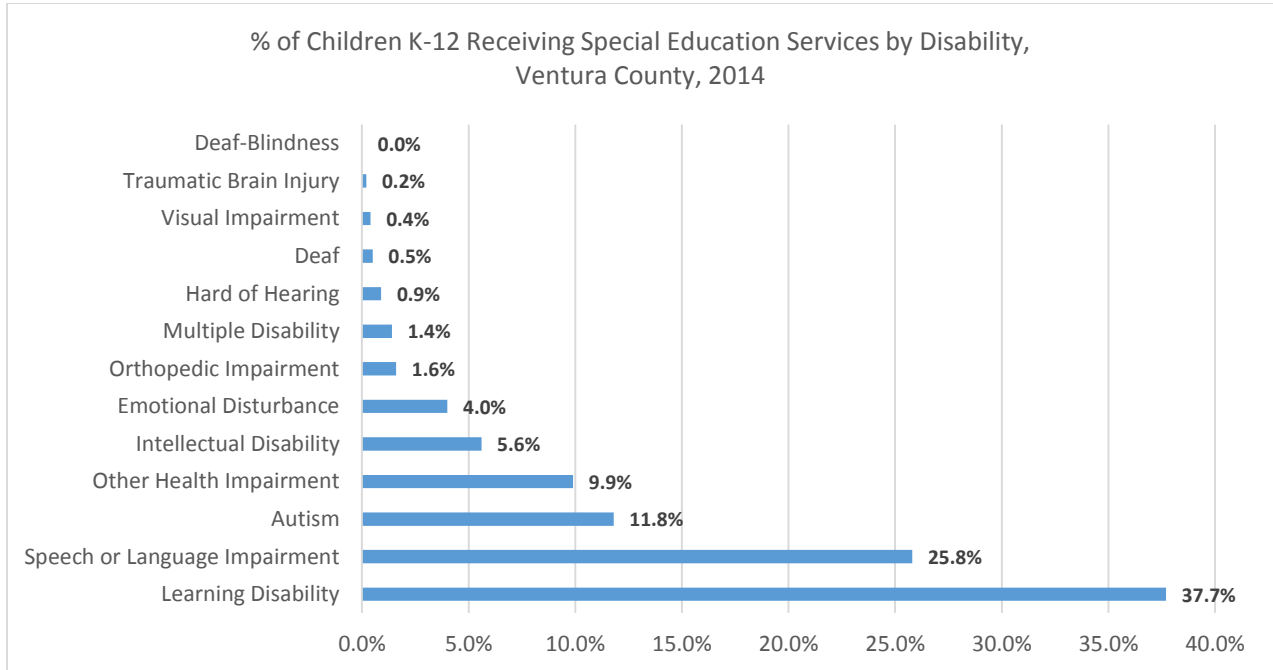


Figure 25 – Source: As cited from www.kidsdata.org, California Department of Education, Special Education Division; Assessment, Evaluation, and Support, accessed on April 22, 2015.

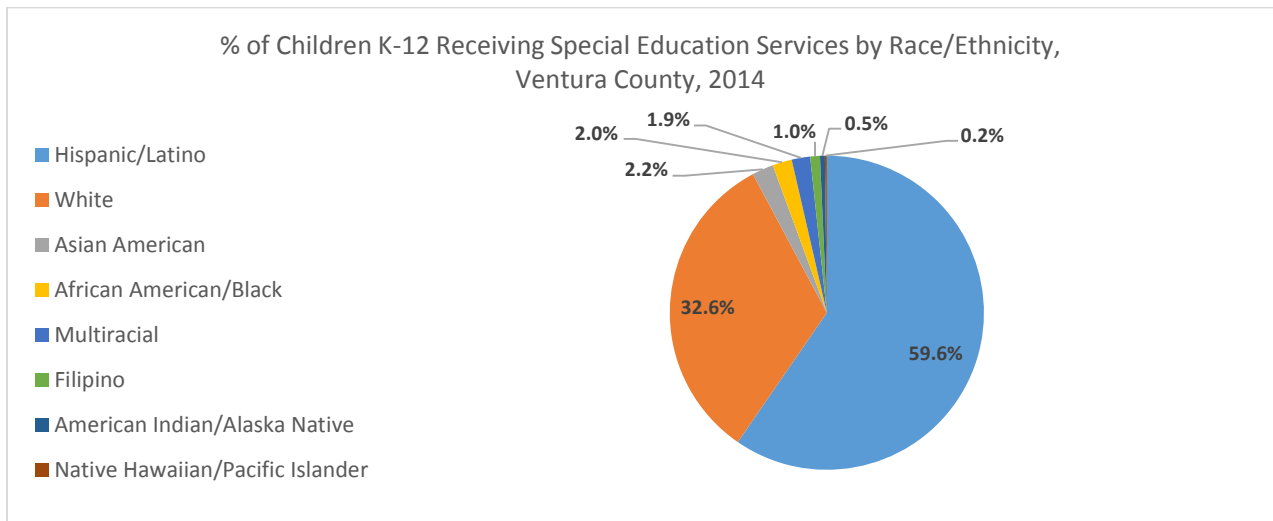


Figure 26 – Source: As cited from www.kidsdata.org, California Department of Education, Special Education Division; Assessment, Evaluation, and Support, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Tri-Counties Regional Center provides supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities living in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties so that they may live fully and safely as active and independent members of our community. As shown in Figure 27, 57.0% of the individuals served are under the age of 18 years. The most common primary diagnoses are autism or intellectual disability as show in Figure 28. Individuals being served by Tri-Counties are most likely from Oxnard (33.6%), Simi Valley (15.1%), and Ventura (13.9%).

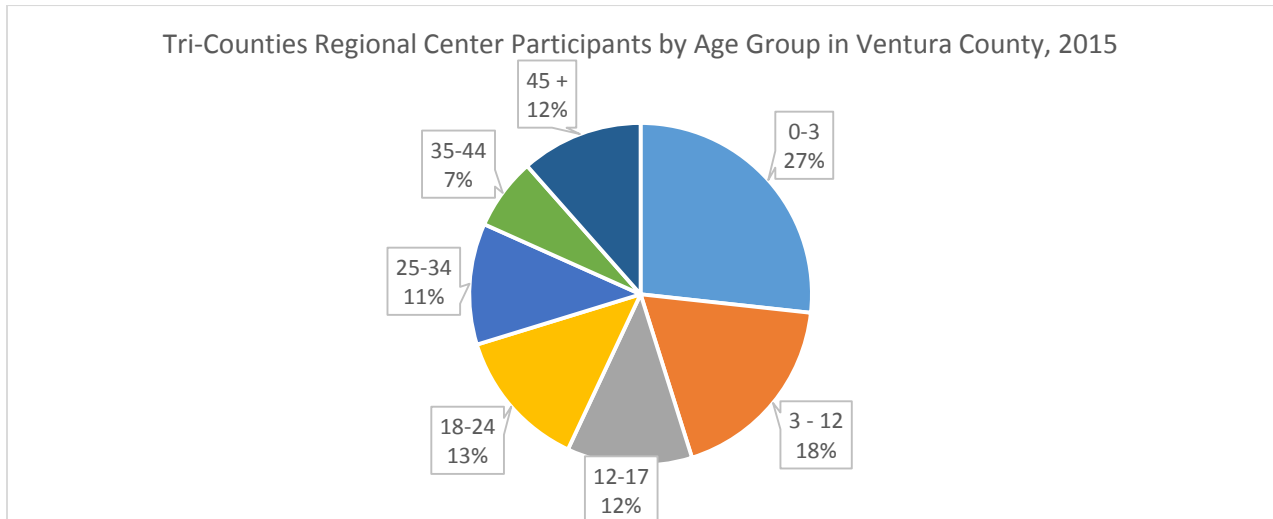


Figure 27 – Source: Tri-Counties Regional Center, 2015.

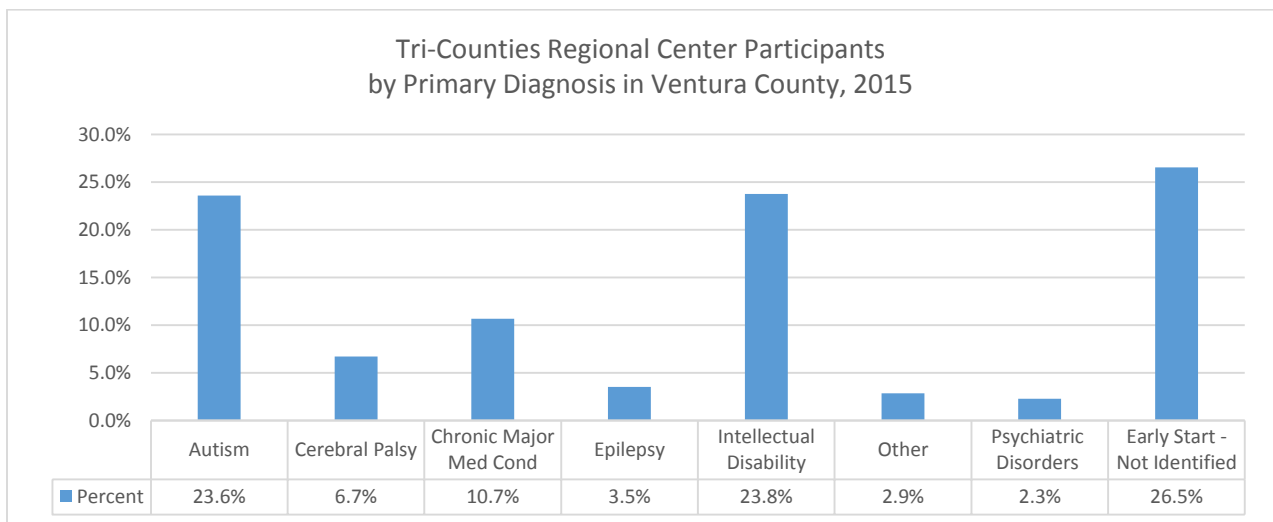


Figure 28 – Source: Tri-Counties Regional Center, 2015.

The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) is a preventive program that delivers periodic health assessments and services to low income children and youth in Ventura County. CHDP provides care coordination to assist families with medical appointment scheduling, transportation, and access to diagnostic and treatment services. Health assessments are provided by enrolled private physicians, local health departments, community clinics, managed care plans, and some local school districts. Figure 29 shows the top 20 primary diagnoses for CHDP clients that received a health assessment from July-December 2014.

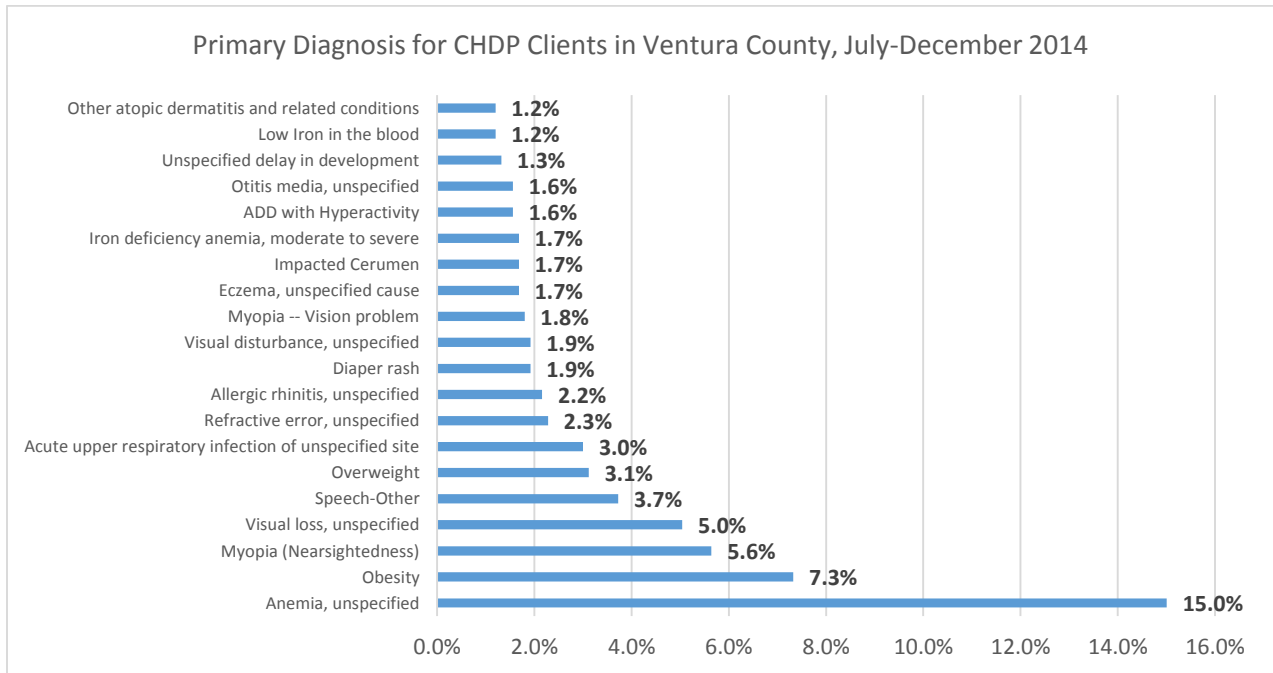


Figure 29 – Source: Ventura County Public Health, CHDP Program, 2014.

Other Health Issues

Asthma

According to the California Health Interview Survey, 2011-12, 16.5% of children ages 0-17 have been diagnosed with asthma in Ventura County. In 2013, the rate of asthma hospitalizations in Ventura County residents was 5.2 per 10,000 population; the rate was the highest among children 0-4 years (11.0 hospitalizations per 10,000).

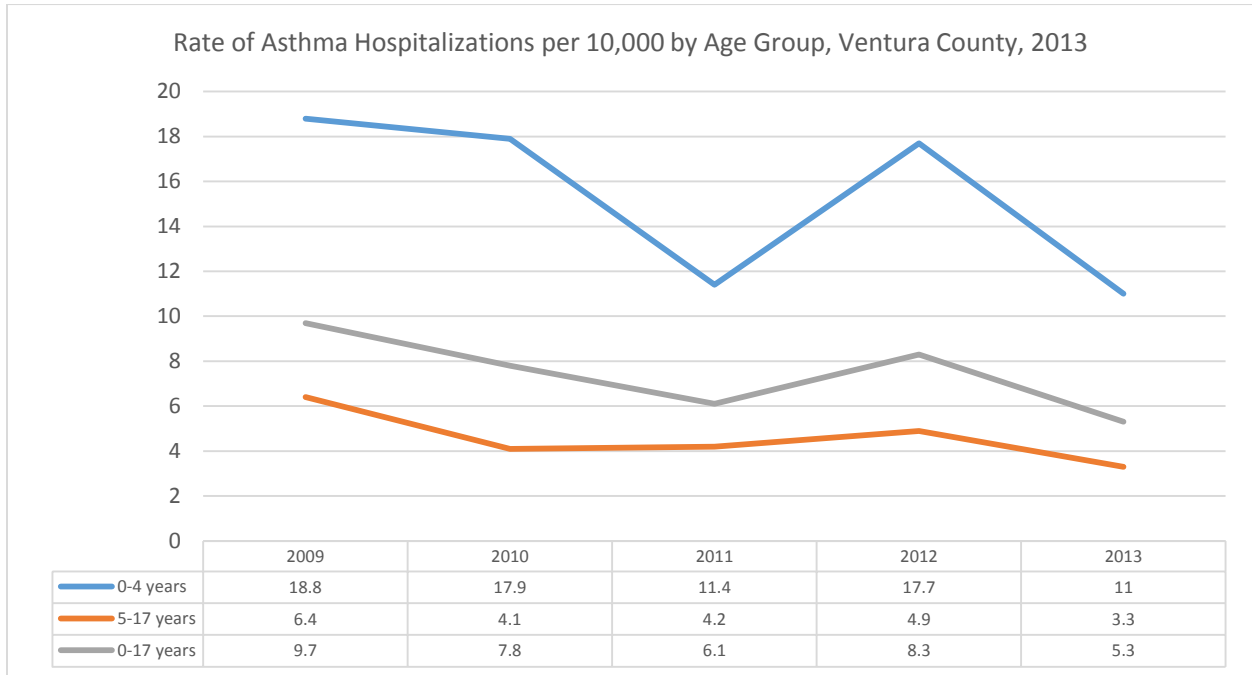


Figure 30 – Source: As cited on www.kidsdata.org, California Office of Statewide Planning and Development (OSHPD) Patient Discharge Database, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Weight Status

In 2014, 62.0% of 5th graders, 64.0% of 7th graders, and 68.0% of 9th graders were at a healthy weight or underweight in Ventura County, which means approximately 1 in 3 students were not at a healthy weight. The percentage of 5th graders at a healthy weight ranges from 47.7% in Ocean View School District to 84.3% in Oak Park Unified. The percentage of 7th graders at a healthy weight ranges from 49.2% in Hueneme School District to 84.4% in Oxnard Union School District. The percentage of 9th graders at a healthy weight ranges from 55.6% in Fillmore Unified to 83.6% in Oak Park Unified.

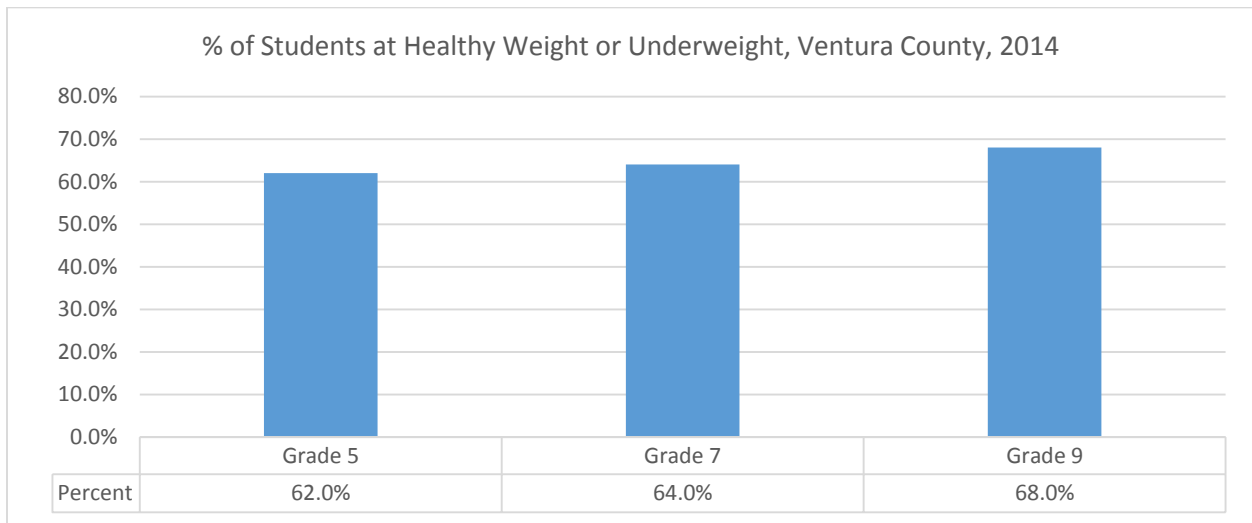


Figure 31 – Source: As cited on www.kidsdata.org, California Department of Education, Physical Fitness Testing Research Files, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Parental Resilience

No one can eliminate stress from parenting, but building parental resilience can affect how a parent deals with stress. Parental resilience is the ability to constructively cope with and bounce back from all types of challenges. It is about creatively solving problems, building trusting relationships, maintaining a positive attitude, and seeking help when it is needed.

This section of the report will focus on parents and managing care for their children. The VC Pact Acuity Screening Tool will focus on the ability of the parent to manage stress and function well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.

Relationship to Householder and Secure Parental Income

Figure 28 shows that children in Ventura County have various living arrangements; 86.7% of children live with their parent (biological, step, or adopted), 11.5% live with their grandparent or other relative, and 1.9% of children live with a foster parent.

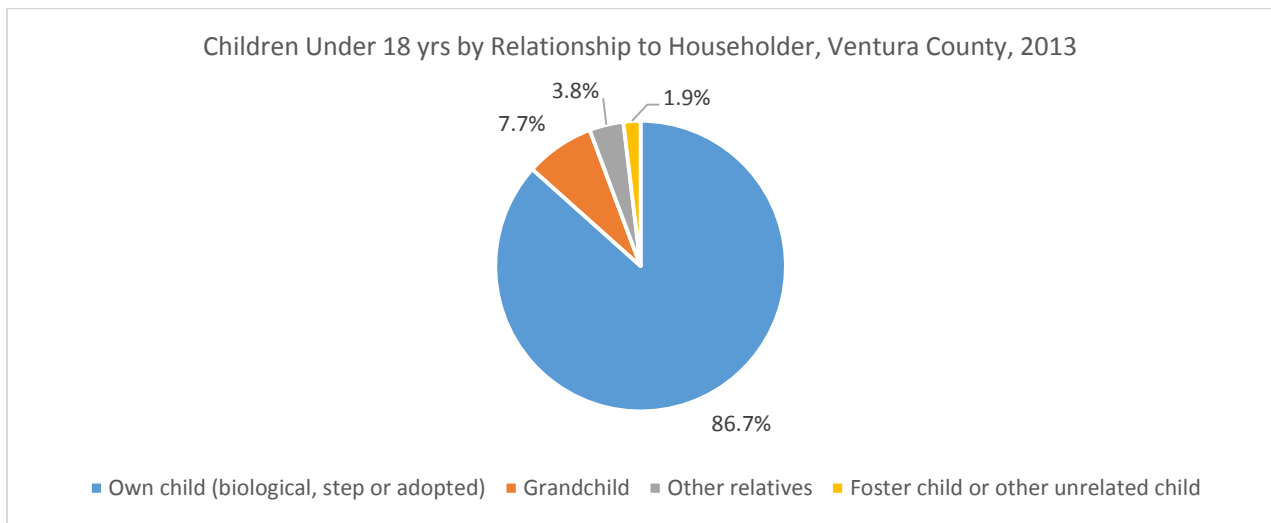


Figure 32 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 American Community Survey (5-year estimates).

In Ventura County, it is estimated that 29.9% of children live in homes where there is no resident parent that has worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the past 12 months, thereby not having secure parental income. This ranges from 18.4% of children in the City of Moorpark to 37.2% of children in the City of Oxnard.

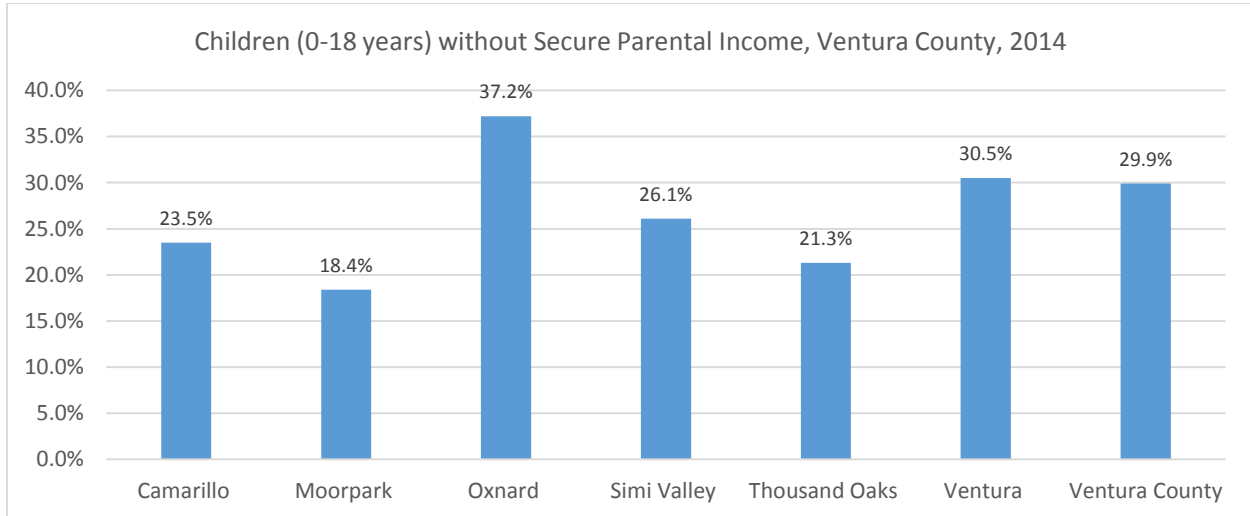


Figure 33 - Source: As cited on www.kidsdata.org, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Child Care

In Ventura County, according to the California Child Care Portfolio, the annual cost of childcare for an infant ranged from \$8,711 (home-based) to \$13,654 (center) and for a preschooler from \$8,155 (home) to \$9,740 (center). Even if the cost was not a barrier in finding quality childcare, the availability may be within Ventura County. Figure 30 shows the percentage of children with parents in the labor force for whom licensed child care is unavailable from 0-12 years at 73% (2008 and prior assessed for children 0-13 years). According to the California Health Interview Survey, only 43.1% of teens always have an adult around after school hours.

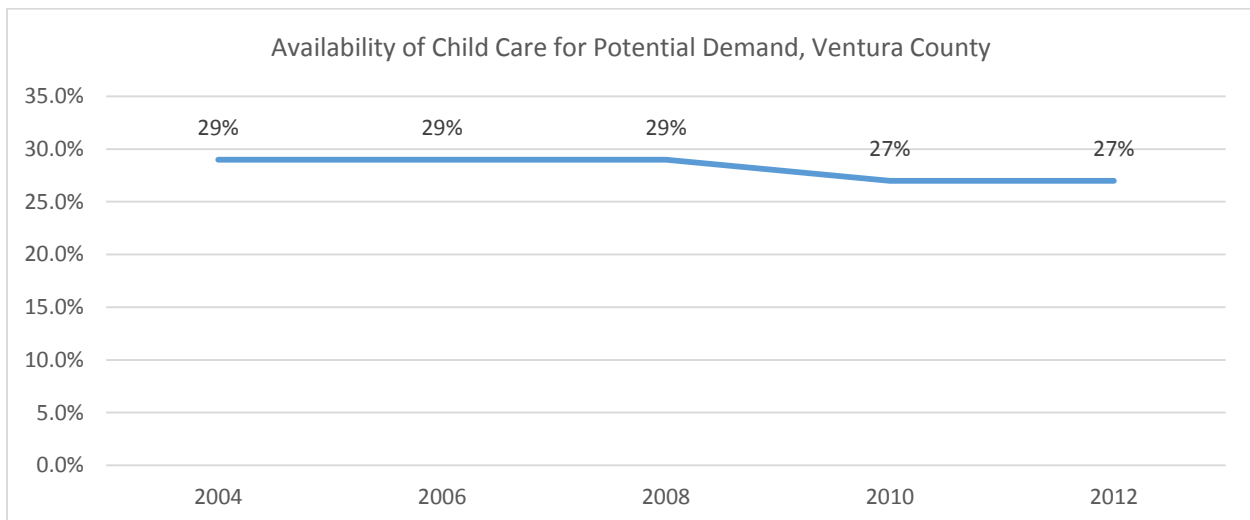


Figure 34 – Source: As cited on www.kidsdata.org, The California Child Care Portfolio, California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Social and Emotional Competence of Children

A child’s ability to interact positively with others, to self-regulate, and to effectively communicate his or her emotions has a great impact on the parent-child relationship. Children with challenging behaviors are more likely to be abused, so early identification and working with them helps keep their development on track and keeps them safe. Also, children who have experienced or witness violence need a safe environment that offers opportunities to develop normally.

This section of the report will focus on the data available regarding parent/child interactions and emotional health of children in Ventura County. The VC Pact Acuity Screening Tool will focus on the ability of the child to form secure adult and peer relationships; experiencing, regulating, and expressing emotions.

Parent/Child Interactions

In 2011-12, 66.0% of children 0-5 years in Ventura County had parents who reported reading to them every day. This percentage has declined from 77.3% in 2009; one-third of young children in Ventura County are not being read to on a daily basis.

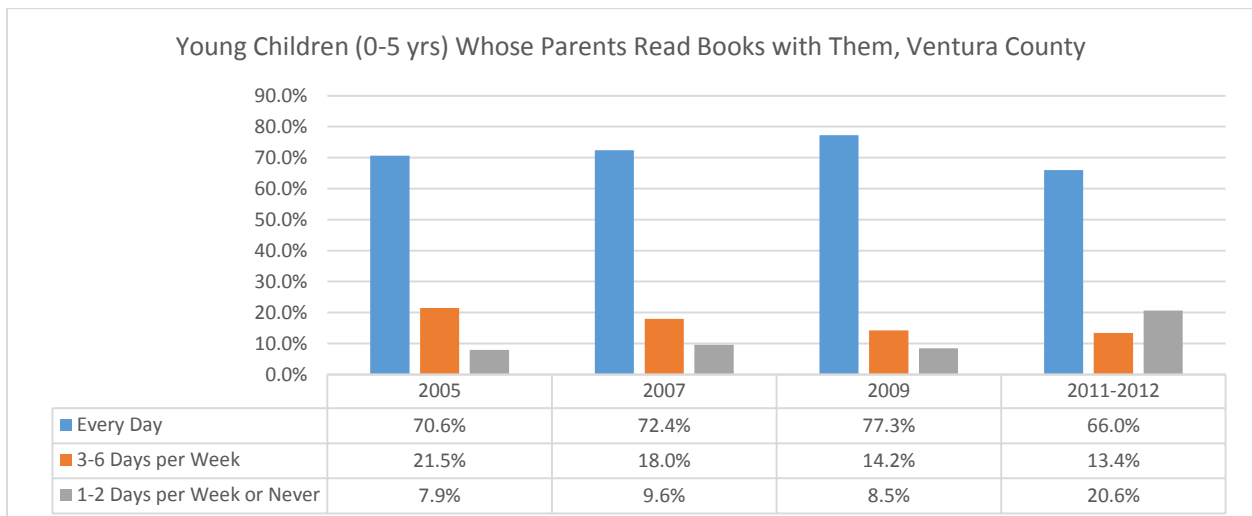


Figure 35 – Source: As cited on www.kidsdata.org, California Health Interview Survey, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Emotional Health and Behavioral Problems

The California Healthy Kids Survey, 2011-13, found that 38.4% of females and 24.2% of males in 7th, 9th, and 11th grade in Ventura County reported they had depression related feelings within the past 12 months. American Indian/Alaskan Natives had the highest level of depression-related feelings at 37.6%; Hispanic/Latino students had higher reports of depression-related feelings than White students (33.6% versus 28.6%). According to the California School Climate Survey, 71.5% of staff at Ventura County schools feel that their school emphasizes helping students with their social, emotional, and behavioral problems. This ranges from 58.3% of staff at Oxnard School District to 93.7% of staff at Oak Park Unified.

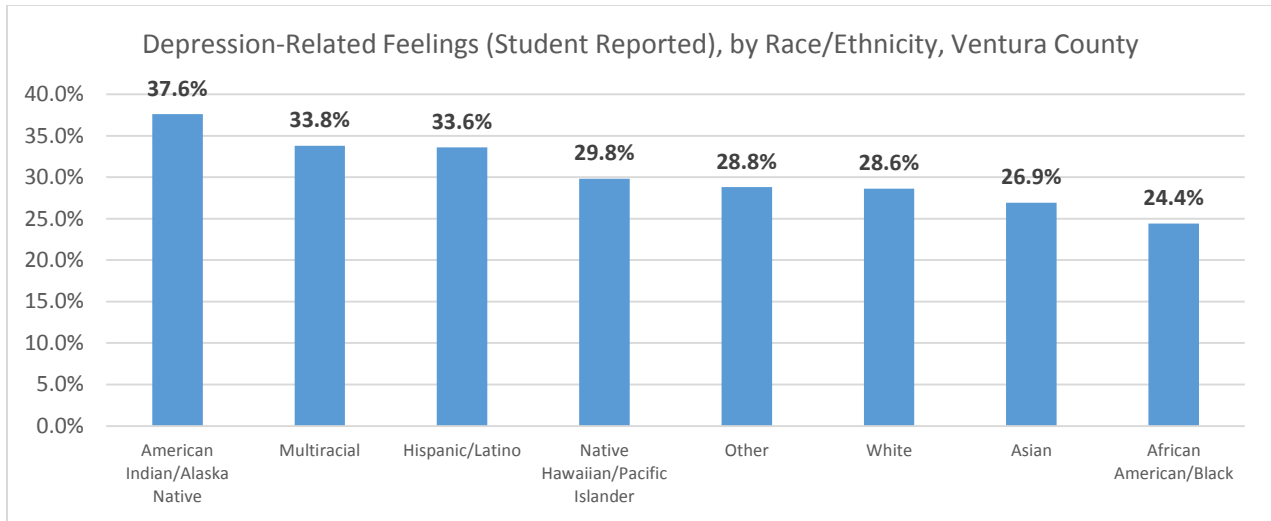


Figure 36 - Source: As cited on www.kidsdata.org, California Healthy Kids Survey, 2011-13, accessed on April 22, 2015.

Acknowledgements to VC-Pact Coalition Members

We would like to acknowledge all of the organizations that participate in the coalition and have provided input in the development of the acuity screening tool and this trend report.

Tri-Counties Regional Center

Ventura County Behavioral Health

Ventura County Human Services Agency

Ventura County Office of Education

Ventura County Probation

Ventura County Public Health