



Trends: The Impact of COVID on Community Needs

Ballot Review Meeting, March 10 and 11, 2021

Member Survey: Community Needs

1. Health Care
2. Mental Health
3. Housing Assistance and Homelessness
4. Early Childhood Development
5. Education (K-12)
6. Family Support
7. Food & Nutrition

Health Care

Who is most at risk for COVID-19?

Seniors in Santa Barbara County:

- 11% over 70 years
- 67% of COVID related deaths

Latinx in Santa Barbara County:

- 45% of population
- 57% of COVID cases
- 67% of hospitalizations
- 50% of COVID related deaths

Homeless

- Often in poorer health
- Less access to services

Low Income

- Harder to social distance
- More pre-existing medical conditions

Mental Health

Nationally, Post pandemic:

People of all ages are reporting increases in mental health issues

Youth are reporting the MOST increases in:

- Moderate to severe anxiety and depression
- Suicidal ideation

In Santa Barbara, Pre pandemic:

- 5th graders: 19% felt sad
- 7th – 12th graders: 27% felt sad or hopeless & 11% considered suicide

Mental Health Costs:

\$5K for intervention VS. \$400K if unaddressed

Housing Assistance and Homelessness in Santa Barbara

- Homelessness increased in South County between 2019 & 2020
- Over 60% have lived in the County for 11 years or more
- Nearly half reported it was their first time experiencing homelessness
- Santa Barbara's average monthly rent is \$1,935
- Renters need to earn three times the state minimum wage to afford it

Early Childhood Development: Child Care

Child Care is a positive influence

California is one of the least affordable states for [child care](#)

In Santa Barbara:

- Cost can be 1/3 of a low-income family's budget
- Deficit of 28,000 child care spaces

Education (K-12)

Santa Barbara County, Pre pandemic proficiency in English/Language Arts

- 43% of all 3rd graders
- 32% of **low income** 3rd graders

On average, students returning to school next year will have learned

- **70% of what they need in reading**
- **50% of what they need in math**

Low-income children will be more affected because of less access to technology and support

Family Support

Nationally

- More than one-quarter of families now worry about paying for housing, utilities, food and medical costs
- Children's physical, mental and social health has been effected

In south Santa Barbara county:

- 90 families and 185 children were homeless in 2020
- 14% of households with families of four have incomes below \$25,000

Food & Nutrition

Local Impact of COVID

In all households with children:

- 30% increase in food insecurity

Latinx community:

- Has double the rate of food insecurity

Seniors:

- Now identify food insecurity as a top priority

Homelessness:

- Malnutrition and food insecurity adds to their vulnerability

References

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- [Annie E. Casey Foundation's Early Warning Report](#)
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