



# 2023 Needs Assessment

## Purpose of report

This 2023 Community Needs Assessment Report serves multiple purposes aligned with our agency vision and mission to advance racial and economic justice in Marin County, California: to meet Head Start Program Performance Standards (as an update to Marin Community Action’s 2021 Community Assessment Enhancement Report and the 2021 Head Start Community Assessment),; to meet the organizational standards for the federal Community Services Block Grant, including as a key input into our Community Action Plan; and to provide data and community perspective that will help to ensure Community Action Marin has the most current, accurate, and comprehensive information for response to needs and for strategic and program planning.

Per **Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS)**, Section 1302.11<sup>i</sup>, community assessment requirements include:

- 1) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
  - a) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));
  - b) Children in foster care;
  - c) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;
- 2) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;
- 3) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- 4) Other child development, childcare centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;
- 5) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and,
- 6) Strengths of the community.

The **Community Services Block Grant Organizational Standards** state:

Local control of Federal CSBG resources is predicated on regular comprehensive community assessments that take into account the breadth of community needs as well as the partners and resources available in a community to meet these needs. Regular assessment of needs and resources at the community level is the foundation of Community Action and a vital management and leadership tool that is used across the organization and utilized by the community to set the course for both CSBG and all agency resources.

- Standard 3.1: The organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.
- Standard 3.2: As part of the community assessment, the organization collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s).
- Standard 3.3: The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.
- Standard 3.4: The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.
- Standard 3.5: The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment.
- Standard 1.2: The organization analyzes information collected directly from low-income individuals as part of the community assessment.
- Standard 2.2: The organization utilizes information gathered from key sectors of the community in assessing needs and resources, during the community assessment process or other times. These sectors would include at minimum: community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions.
- Standard 4.2: The organization's Community Action plan is outcome-based, anti-poverty focused, and ties directly to the community assessment.

## Organization of Report

The report is structured as follows:

- an overview of the service area and characteristics of poverty
- sections focused on demographics specifically related to eligibility for Head Start children
- sections for different sectors of need in the community using quantitative and qualitative data provided by clients, staff, and community (in each highlighting the cross-cutting factors of persistent inequities)
- closing with an overview of community assets, including childcare resources.

We highlight data for families under 5 where possible to best capture the needs of those in our high-quality early childhood education program, supported by federal, state, county, and private funding. A summary of this report will be submitted as Appendix D to our Community Action Plan.

# Marin County Demographics Focused on Poverty and Head Start Program Eligibility

## Geographic Boundaries

Community Action Marin provides services in Marin County, California. Marin County is in northwestern California, bordering the Pacific Ocean and north of the City of San Francisco.

Marin County is 520 square miles,<sup>ii</sup> south of Sonoma County and north of San Francisco County. The population density (people per square mile) in Marin County is 504.<sup>iii</sup> The county is a mix of suburban (for example San Anselmo, with a population density of 4796) and rural (for example Point Reyes Station, with a population density of 82) areas.<sup>iv</sup>

## Head Start Eligible Children

As the county's Head Start grant recipient agency, we examine needs by assessing the eligibility pool of children in the community. Children must meet both an age requirement as well as a family income/category of need requirement to participate in Early Head Start or Head Start. The age requirement is 0 to 2-years-old (up to a child's third birthday) for Early Head Start and 3 to 5-years-old for Head Start. Children must also meet one or more of the following eligibility requirements related to income/need:

- their family has an income at or below the federal poverty level
- the family is eligible for public assistance, e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- the child is homeless
- the child is in foster care

Table 1 shows the number of children served by Community Action Marin's Head Start/Early Head Start program by primary eligibility, which captures only one factor by which a child is eligible for services; many children have needs that fall into multiple categories. We include a discussion of these categories in the sections that follow.

**Table 1: Number of Children Served in CAM's Preschool and Infant/Toddler Early Childhood Education programs by primary eligibility (2021-2022 program year)**

Eligibility Criteria	Number of Eligible Children Served
Income: 0-100% of federal poverty level	254
Receipt of public assistance	12
Homeless	5

Foster care	1
Income: 100-130% of federal poverty level	80
Other Eligibility (e.g. State Funded)	146
Total Enrollment 2021-2022	498

Below are estimates of the number of children in our Marin County service area who qualify for early childhood education programs by eligibility criteria (details on information sources and how these estimates were derived is covered in the sections that follow). A child may qualify based on more than one of these criteria:

- Approximately 1,003 children are income-eligible due to family income below the federal poverty level (based on US Census poverty data)
- Approximately 1,191 children are eligible due to their family receiving public assistance (based on US Census data on public benefits and population)
- Approximately 563 children are eligible due to being homeless or precariously housed (based on Marin County Local Education Agencies count of homeless students)
- Approximately 22 children are eligible due to being in foster care (based on Child Welfare Services data)

Community Action Marin is not able to serve all the children in the county eligible for early childhood education benefits. A key reason is a shortage of qualified teaching staff, a state-wide and nation-wide challenge. CAM is actively recruiting and training additional teaching staff, and enrolls additional children from our waitlist (which contains over 200 children) as additional staff are brought on board. In addition, CAM is leading an 18-month apprenticeship program in partnership with ECEPTS (Early Care & Education Pathways To Success) to address this critical staffing shortage.

Children with disabilities are also eligible for early childhood education (ECE) services. In the 2021-2022 program year, CAM’s ECE programs served 163 children with disabilities, some of whom also qualify for services based on other criteria. We estimate there are at least 368 children under 5 years old in our service area with disabilities (based on California Department of Education data on children in special education and US Census data).

## Poverty and Geographic Location

The population in Marin County has been relatively stable in recent years. The number of children under 5 years old has been decreasing over time, while the population over 65 has been increasing. There are fewer children and more senior citizens in Marin County compared to California overall.

The changes to Marin poverty rates in 2021 census data (used in this report) compared to the 2019 census data used in our last Community Needs Assessment are mixed. There were reductions in the

poverty rate overall (-0.3%), as well as for children under 5 (-1.0%), and under 18 (-0.7) but an increase in the 65 and over (+1.2%) poverty rate. Table 2 shows high level data on Marin’s population and poverty.

**Table 2: Marin County Population and Poverty**

Marin County Population <sup>v</sup>		Poverty in Marin County <sup>vi</sup>	
Population of Marin County	262,387	Total in Poverty (and Poverty Rate)	17,840 (6.9%)
Population (and % of total) under 5 years old	11,748 (4.5%)	Under 5 years old in Poverty (and Poverty Rate)	1,003 (8.6%)
Population (and % of total) under 18 years old	52,454 (20%)	Under 18 years old in Poverty (and Poverty Rate)	3,858 (7.4%)
Population (and % of total) 65 years and older	58,676 (22%)	65 years and older in Poverty (and Poverty Rate)	3,906 (6.8)%

Table 3 shows the distribution of poverty in Marin County by zip code. Higher rates of poverty are concentrated in some areas of the county, such as southern San Rafael (especially the Canal neighborhood), Marin City, and parts of Novato, reflecting the realities of large income disparities and the limited availability of affordable housing in addition to historic patterns of segregation and exclusion. The high rates of child poverty in these neighborhoods is especially concerning and illustrates the need for focused attention to understand distinct community needs in the face of a relatively low overall poverty rate in the county. Table 3 also shows that there are several areas of the county with very few people living in poverty, demonstrating our county’s lack of economic integration.

**Table 3: Marin County Poverty Rates and Number of Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty by Zip Code (2021)<sup>vii, 2</sup>**

Geographic Area	Total Population	Overall Poverty Rate	Child Poverty Rate (0-18)	Poverty Rate for Children Under 5	Number of Children Under 5 Living in Poverty	Trend for # of Children Under 5 in Poverty vs. 2021 Report
94901 (San Rafael)	41,437	10.3%	16.0%	19.4%	398	Decreasing
94903 (San Rafael)	30,189	5.7%	2.5%	2.5%*	29	Decreasing
94904 (Greenbrae)	13,308	5.7%	3.0%	3.6%	22	Decreasing
94920 (Belvedere/Tiburon)	12,774	2.1%	0.6%	0.6%*	3	insufficient data to compare

<sup>2</sup> The margins of error on the numbers of children living in poverty in specific zip codes are high given small populations. Zip code level data should be interpreted with caution and understanding that there may be more or less children living in poverty than indicated. Zip codes with very small populations (under 500 residents) are excluded from this table due to lack/uncertainty of data.

94924 (Bolinás)	1,214	21.3%	30.8%	30.8%*	4	insufficient data to compare
94925 (Corte Madera)	10,145	4.9%	7.2%	18.2%	117	Increasing
94930 (Fairfax)	8,777	9.0%	6.4%	17.0%	71	Increasing
94937 (Inverness)	1,109	8.1%	8.1%*	8.1%*	6	insufficient data to compare
94939 (Larkspur)	7,274	7.6%	3.7%	3.7%*	16	insufficient data to compare
94941 (Mill Valley)	32,339	5.0%	3.4%	5.0%	69	Decreasing
94945 (Novato)	17,432	7.5%	8.8%	5.6%	45	Decreasing
94946 (Novato)	654	2.9%	2.9%*	2.9%*	0	insufficient data to compare
94947 (Novato)	25,339	8.9%	15.9%	10.9%	107	Increasing
94949 (Novato)	18,273	5.1%	4.2%	5.6%	55	Increasing
94956 (Point Reyes Station)	1,174	10.1%	11.6%	-	-	insufficient data to compare
94960 (San Anselmo)	15,675	4.0%	3.1%	2.7%	22	Increasing
94965 (Sausalito)	11,760	8.9%	6.5%	2.1%	10	Decreasing
94970 (Stinson Beach)	594	8.2%	8.2%*	8.2%*	1	insufficient data to compare
Marin County	257,160	6.9%	7.4%	8.6%	1003	Decreasing

\*A poverty rate was not reported in the census data due to the small number of children, so the poverty rate for children under 5 was assumed to be the same as for children under age 18.

- No children in the age range were reported in the census

Another area of poverty concern is West Marin, a region of about 400 square miles made up of seven unincorporated communities. For two of these communities (Bolinás and Point Reyes Station) the 2019 census reported a poverty rate of zero and the 2021 census reported 21% (Bolinás) and 10% (Point Reyes Station) poverty. This difference reinforces the uncertainty of data collection in more rural, low population areas and validates the efforts of CAM and other community organizations who promoted the last census in West Marin, including using bilingual materials, leveraging social media, and educating staff to answer questions (e.g., if providing census data could impact immigration status).

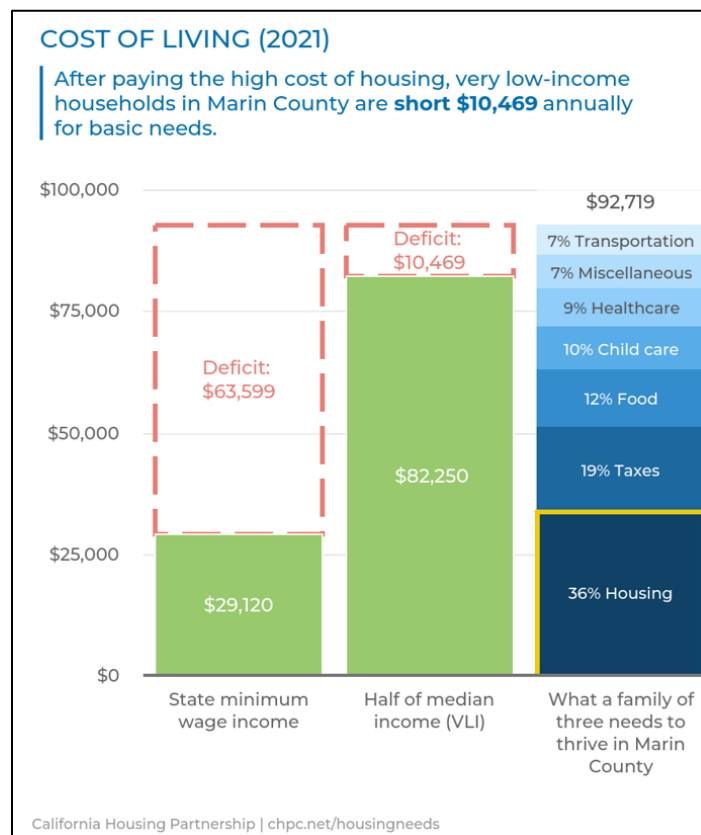
Laurel Hill, CAM’s Director of Safety Net Services, notes that the West Marin economy is dependent on agriculture and tourism, with a higher fraction of housing dedicated to the short-term rental market than the rest of the county, contributing to an extreme shortage of housing which also impacts workers who provide vital services (such as education and public safety) to the area. These unique geographic and economic challenges make it more effective for community organizations like CAM to provide services locally in West Marin for easy access by low-income residents.

In a March 2023 community focus group discussion, CAM heard from a Spanish-speaking West Marin resident who shared about the unique challenges of living on a low-income budget in a rural area, including

poor quality / high-cost housing, difficult access to healthcare, and slow emergency response to extreme weather events.

## Cost of Living

While poverty levels are important, self-sufficiency and living wage data present a fuller picture of the day-to-day financial struggles for families in our high-cost county. The Family Needs Calculator used by the United Way Bay Area Spark Point program estimates that a family of four in Marin County needs annual wages of \$158,761 to be self-sufficient, and that 24,130 (37%) Marin households make less than this standard.<sup>viii</sup> California Housing Partnership’s 2021 cost of living graphic also shows the challenge for low-income Marin County families in meeting basic needs.<sup>ix</sup>



Debt is another challenge due to the high cost of living of Marin County. County-wide data indicates 25% of people have auto or retail loans and 11% have debt in collections<sup>x</sup>, but the observations of CAM’s Economic Justice program financial coaches suggest debt impacts a much larger fraction of Marin’s low-income population.

## Race, Culture, and Family Trends

### Race

Table 4 shows the racial make-up of Marin and in our Head Start and Early Head Start programs, as well as poverty level by race in the county.<sup>3</sup> There are limitations to the reporting of census data for small populations (for example, the number of Black/African American and Hawaii/Pacific Islander children in poverty under 5 years old is below the reporting threshold). Notably, there is a clear trend with race and poverty: only 36% of the county is non-white, but 57% of the population in poverty and 86% of children under 5 in poverty are non-white. According to Race Counts, Marin County ranks the second most racially disparate county in California<sup>xi</sup>. CAM's Head Start and Early Head Start early education programs serve nearly 100% non-white families.

**Table 4: Race and Ethnicity in Marin County by Poverty Level and within CAM Early Childhood Education Programs<sup>xii</sup>**

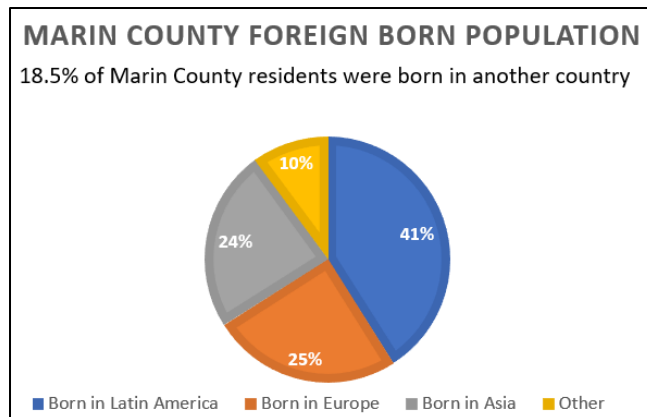
	Marin County Population	% of Total Population	Population in Poverty	% of Population in Poverty	Children under 5 in Poverty	% of Children under 5 in Poverty	Children in CAM ECE	% of Children in CAM ECE
White, not Hispanic or Latino	181,006	63.7%	9,407	42.5%	180	14.3%	4	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino origin (any race)	41,468	14.6%	5,401	24.4%	640	50.8%	459	92.2%
Black or African American	5,039	1.8%	802	3.6%	0	0.0%	14	2.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	915	0.3%	152	0.7%	33	2.6%	0	0.0%
Asian	15,265	5.4%	1,020	4.6%	14	1.1%	9	1.8%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	387	0.1%	6	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.4%
Some other race	20,047	7.1%	3,578	16.2%	299	23.7%	2	0.4%
Two or more races	20,000	7.0%	1,756	7.9%	93	7.4%	8	1.6%

### Culture

Regarding cultural diversity, in Marin County 18.5% of the population is foreign born and 38% of children live with foreign-born parents.<sup>xiii</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The nature of gathering race and ethnicity information leads to some people being counted more than once, and differences between data collection tools, such as the census and our early education programs, which can result in some discrepancies. We believe the data is accurate enough to represent the community and lead to meaningful conclusions.





## Family

In Marin County, 22% of children live in single parent households, lower than the statewide rate of 33%. These rates have been steady for several years.<sup>xiv</sup> Of Community Action Marin’s Head Start/Early Head Start programs families in 2021-2022, 39% were single parent families, almost all headed by the mother.<sup>xv</sup>

Rates of poverty in the community are slightly higher for women (7.4%) than men (6.4%)<sup>xvi</sup>, likely reflecting the higher share of single-mother families and the challenges they face. But as a positive trend the poverty rate gap between women and men reduced from 1.7% to 1.0% from the 2019 to the 2021 census.

Regarding pregnant women in Marin County and who qualify for Head Start, applying the poverty rate for children under age 5 in Marin County (8.6%) to the number of live births per year (2,226)<sup>xvii</sup>, it can be estimated there are 191 pregnant women in Marin County who will be income eligible for Early Head Start services.

## Language

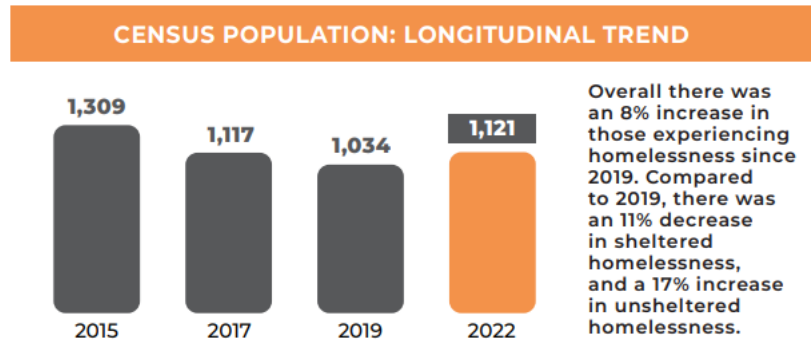
As might be expected from Marin County’s demographic distributions, the largest language group in Marin County other than English is Spanish speakers, who make up 12% of the population over age 5. 46% of these Spanish speakers (13,363 people) speak English “less than very well” (this phrase is used in the U.S. census). These residents are highly geographically concentrated; in the Canal neighborhood, approximately 70% of the population speaks Spanish, with about half of that group speaking English less than very well<sup>xviii</sup> As seen in Table 4 we serve mostly Hispanic families in our preschool programs, many requiring all communication in Spanish due to limited English proficiency.

## Homelessness

Community Action Marin served 13 children in our early childhood education programs who experienced homelessness during the 2021-2022 program year.<sup>xix</sup> In Marin County, the K-12 2021-2022 LEA (Local Education Agencies) count of homeless students was 1,473 (4.8%)<sup>xx</sup>, a 30% increase from 2019-2020. It is difficult to get an accurate count of homeless preschool aged children, but we estimate that number at 564

children (4.8% of the 11,748 children under 5) in our Marin County service area who are categorically eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services due to homelessness.

The Marin County Homeless Point-In-Time Count and Survey counted 1,121 unhoused people in 2022<sup>xxi</sup>.



### Children in Foster Care

Community Action Marin served one child who was in foster care at any point during the 2021-2022 program year.<sup>xxii</sup>

2021-2022 data from California Child Welfare Services estimates there are between 11 and 22 children 1-5 years old in foster care in our service area of Marin County. We use 22 as our estimate for foster children in Marin who are categorically eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services<sup>xxiii</sup>.

### Disabilities

Approximately 33% of children served in Community Action Marin Head Start/Early Head Start have a disability or disability concern<sup>xxiv</sup>.

According to 2020 data from Disabled World, 9.5% of people in Marin County have a disability.<sup>xxv</sup> The most recent special education data available from the California Department of Education (CDE) is for the 2018-2019 school year, which shows 368 Marin County children ages 3-5 enrolled in special education.<sup>xxvi</sup> 311 of these children have speech or language impairments, and 57 have autism.

The CDE data also shows children aged 0-5 with other categories of disability such as deafness/hard of hearing and orthopedic impairment, but there are fewer than 11 children with each of these disabilities, so the specific numbers are not reported. So, we estimate there are at least 368 children in Marin County who are eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services based on disability.

One other data set on disability is the most recent American Community Survey (i.e. US Census) that estimates there are 73 children under 5 years old with a hearing difficulty and 39 with a vision difficulty<sup>xxvii</sup>.

## Public Assistance

During the 2019-2020 program year, Community Action Marin Head Start/Early Head Start served 12 children whose primary eligibility was receipt of public assistance <sup>xxviii</sup>, although the families of 316 children were receiving public assistance at the beginning of the 2021-22 program year. WIC is the type of public assistance most commonly accessed by Community Action Marin Head Start/Early Head Start families (62% of families) followed by SNAP (27%), TANF (3.5%), and SSI (<1%)<sup>xxix</sup>.

Table 5 shows the number of Marin County households with children receiving public assistance increased significantly from 2019 to 2021, especially in female-headed single parent households. This trend was even more noticeable in San Rafael and most stark in the Canal neighborhood, where many of our Head Start/Early Head Start children live.

**Table 5. Households with children that Receive Public Assistance**

(SSI, cash public assistance income, or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits)

	2021: Percent of households with children under 18 years old that received public assistance <sup>xxx</sup>	2019: Percent of households with children under 18 years old that received public assistance <sup>xxxi</sup>
Marin County	10%	7.7%
Marin County, single female household	28%	22%
San Rafael	16%	15%
San Rafael, single female household	42%	33%
Canal neighborhood of San Rafael	36%	30%
Canal neighborhood of San Rafael, single female household	77%	58%

We estimate there are 1,191 children in Marin County eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services based on their family's receipt of public assistance<sup>4</sup>.

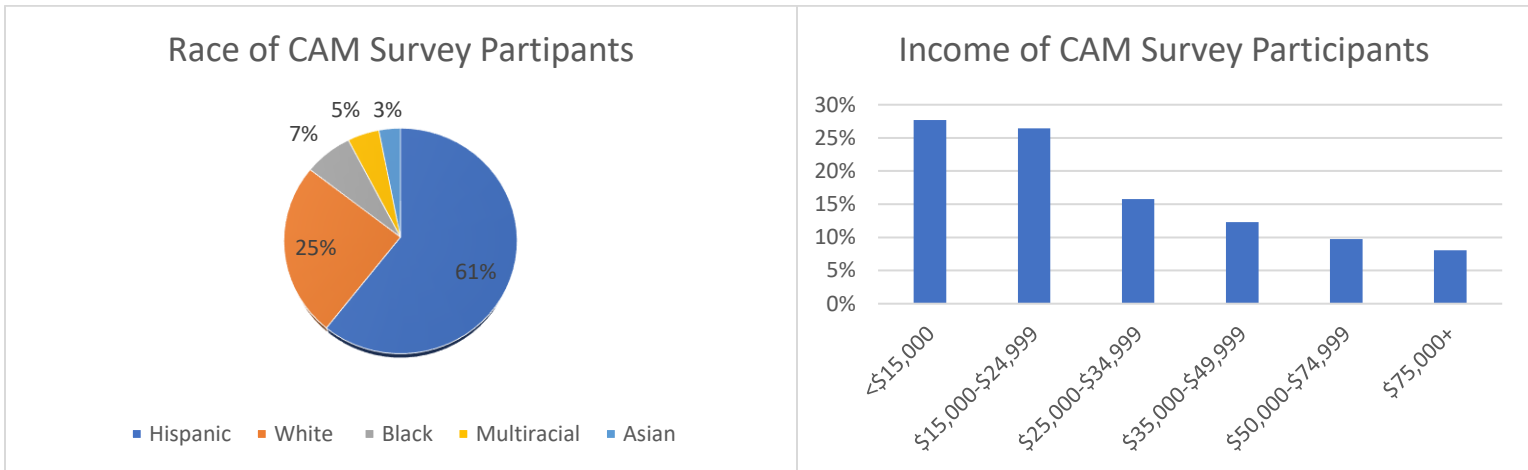
<sup>4</sup> Estimated as 10.2% of households with children receiving public assistance multiplied by the recent census count of 11,683 children under 5

# Needs of Children, Families, and Residents of Marin

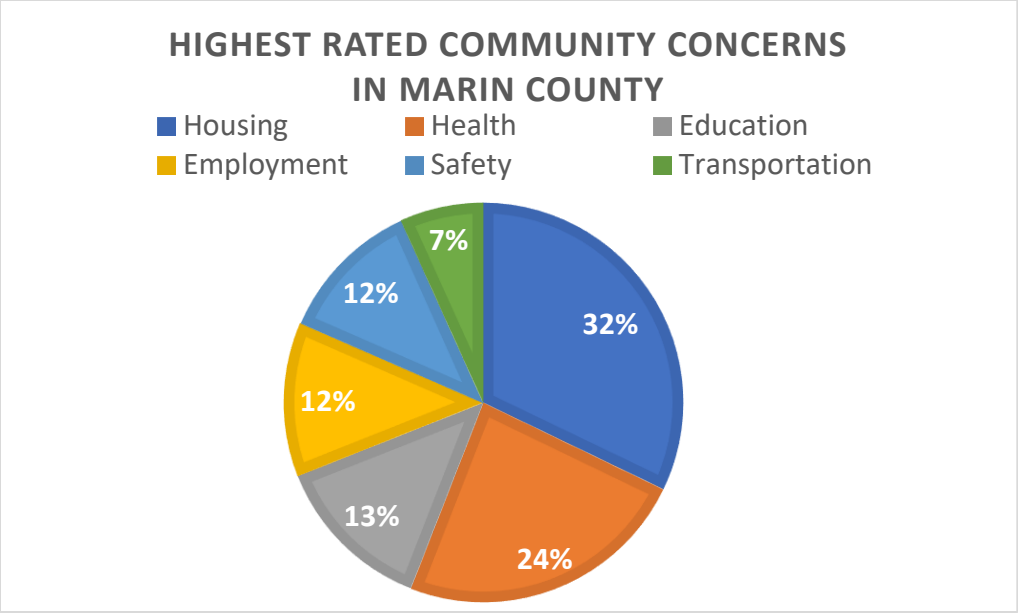
Community Action Marin (CAM) makes it possible for people to achieve well-being by providing the vital services they need and breaking down the barriers that get in the way of fair and lasting change in service to better outcomes for all. We are more effective in advancing our mission by understanding the needs of our fellow Marin residents, including the families in our early childhood programs, clients receiving other CAM program services, partner agencies, and the community at large. Community needs are multi-faceted and interconnected, so we continually strive to better understand those needs through both the formal needs assessment process as well as on-going engagement with those we serve, our employees, our fellow service providers as well as public and private partners across the county.

As part of this 2023 Community Needs Assessment process, CAM conducted a community needs survey in February 2023. We made the survey available in multiple languages to clients receiving CAM services, including our early childhood education (Head Start/Early Head Start) programs, and other members of the Marin County community. We sent the survey to community members by email through community partners and shared the survey link in-person outside local businesses, schools, community clinics, food distribution sites, and other locations in the community that are frequented by our target populations.

The results reported here reflect a total of approximately 600 completed surveys, coming from all of the distinct geographies in our county. The racial and income demographics of survey participants tend toward community members who have sought assistance with basic needs.



This section of our Needs Assessment is organized by areas of community concern in order of priority by respondents of the community needs survey. Housing and Health were rated as the highest areas of community concern.

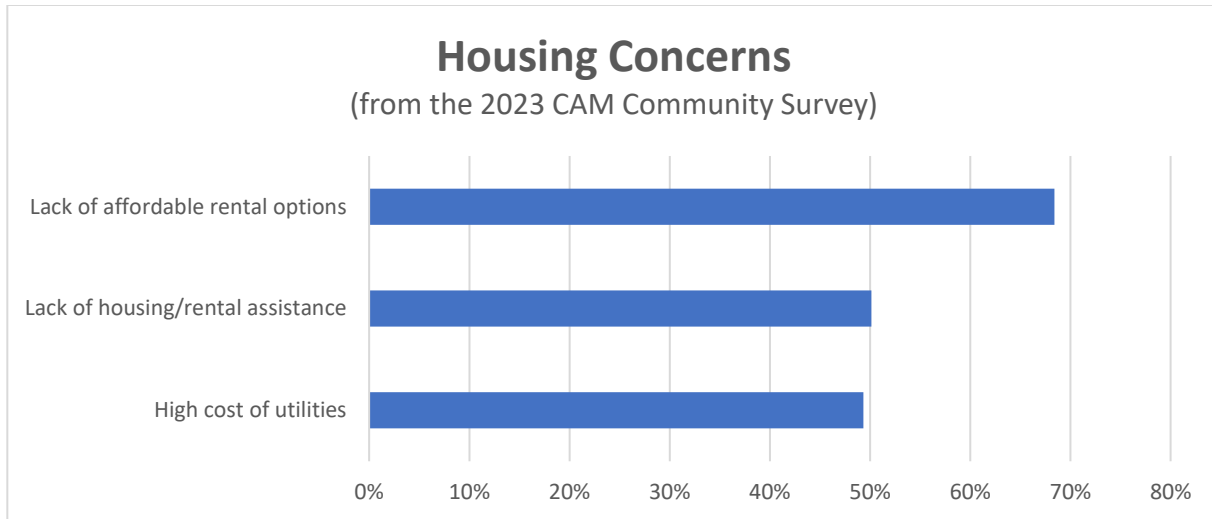


As we discuss the various areas of community concern in this report, it is important to keep in mind that Marin County ranks among the most racially disparate counties in California across all indicators of well-being. The pandemic highlighted many longstanding inequities in our community, including systemic inequality in housing security, economic stability, and healthcare. This needs assessment shows that the burdens continue to fall unfairly on low-income populations and people of color, reinforcing the need for policies and action to help all Marin County residents achieve well-being.

### Housing

Housing was the top concern among those who responded to our survey, with 32% ranking it their number one concern out of six options and 70% ranking it in their top 3 three. Our Community Action Marin staff members also see housing as one of the biggest challenges for clients receiving services across our agency’s programs. Laurel Hill, CAM’s Director of Safety Net Services observes “Whether a client comes to CAM for financial coaching, utility assistance, or enrollment in early childhood education, housing is almost always one of the biggest challenges for them and their family, with a huge impact on their family’s overall well-being”.

Our survey asked which aspects of housing were of most concern, and lack of affordable rentals was the most frequently cited issue.



To supplement the quantitative data from our survey, CAM held focus group meetings in March 2023. These focus groups were conducted in English and Spanish and allowed us to gain deeper understanding around specific issues and topics. There was a robust discussion on housing, during which the community participants shared heart-felt comments that reinforce what a major concern housing is in our county:

- “I can’t find anywhere to live – not even a studio – for under \$2,000”
- “They are asking me to prove I make 3-4 times the rent to get approved ... I don’t make that kind of money!”
- “It isn’t fair because I’m not good with technology, so by the time I get help paying the application fee on-line I lose out on the apartment”
- “If you don’t have an advocate, someone working on your behalf – like a case manager – you may get incorrect information and have an even harder time getting housing support”

Table 6 demonstrates the fundamental issue for renters in Marin – the cost of rent is much higher than average in the state and country, and rental costs continue to climb each year.

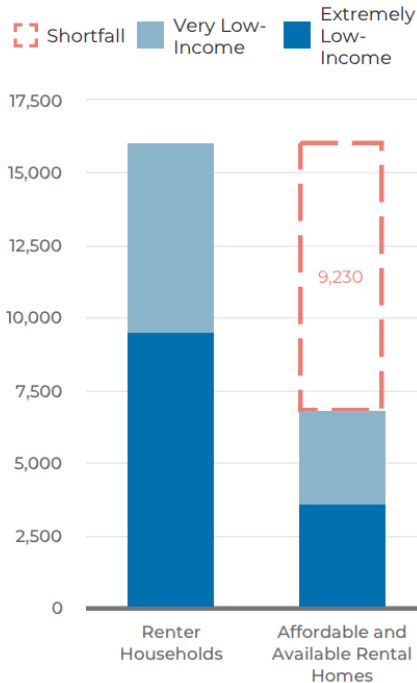
**Table 6: Median Rents, Rent Increases, and Relative Rents<sup>xxxii</sup>**

	Marin County (% increase)	California (% of Marin County)	United States (% of Marin County)
2021	\$2307 (11.5% increase from 2019)	\$1698 (74%)	\$1163 (50%)
2019	\$2069 (11.0% increase from 2017)	\$1503 (73%)	\$1062 (51%)
2017	\$1863	\$1358 (73%)	\$1012 (54%)

There is a very limited supply of affordable or public housing to help buffer these high costs. According to this graphic from the California Housing Partnership, over 9,000 low-income renter households in Marin do not have access to affordable housing.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

### AFFORDABLE HOMES SHORTFALL

**9,230 low-income renter households** in Marin County do not have access to an affordable home.



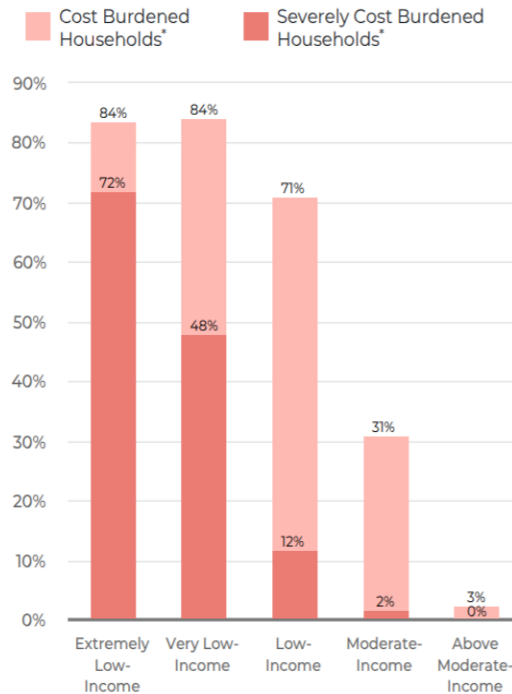
Low-income residents turn to rental assistance to get housed or maintain housing to prevent eviction, but they face challenges. Multiple focus group participants shared that receiving a housing voucher feels impossible because they never seem to move up on the priority list. “It feels like I won’t get housing help until my situation becomes desperate” said one person. Staffing challenges at public and private agencies are also an issue for those seeking housing assistance. One community member observed: “Covid created a lot of barriers. I can’t get anyone to answer the phone, and many service providers are still working from home, so there’s no office to go into and talk to a real person to get help. It is so frustrating!”.

The affordable housing that does exist is sometimes only affordable because it is low-quality and/or overcrowded. A West Marin community member who participated in our focus group expressed frustration that she pays very high rent for very poor-quality housing, but she feels stuck because she doesn’t have a better housing option a reasonable distance from her job.

This graphic from the California Housing Partnership shows that the high cost of housing in Marin County consumes a very large share of lower-income residents’ income.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

### Housing Burden in Marin by Income Level

(Cost Burdened means paying 30% or more of income for rent; Severely Cost Burdened means paying 50% or more of income for rent)



This housing burden falls more heavily on residents of color, with 58% of Latino and 56% of Black renters spending greater than 30% of their income on housing.<sup>xxxv</sup> In addition, Marin has one of the highest gaps in homeownership by race of all counties in California, with 69% of White households owning homes but only 26% of Black households and 33% of Latino households.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

Our survey respondents were concerned with racial inequities in housing, with 26% reporting housing discrimination as a concern. Racial inequity in Marin County housing is very visible, with affordable housing often concentrated in certain crowded and segregated neighborhoods, resulting in Marin having some of the most segregated towns in the Bay Area<sup>xxxvii</sup>.

## Health

Health was the second highest concern identified in Community Action Marin’s 2023 community needs survey, with 24% identifying it as their area of greatest concern and over 70% ranking it in their top three. In addition, Health was the top community concern identified by the parents of CAM’s early childhood education programs.

In 2022 MarinHealth, in partnership with Healthy Marin Partnership, completed a Community Health Needs Assessment.<sup>xxxviii</sup> This work is a valuable and comprehensive resource to understand the health needs of our Marin County community. The top items in their list of prioritized significant health needs are:

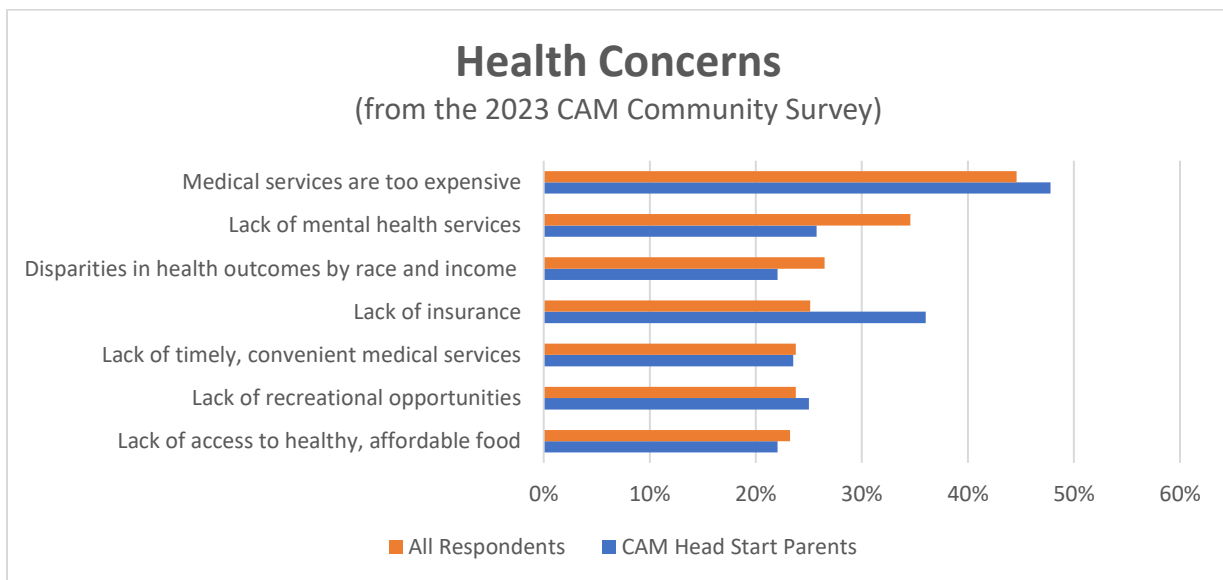
- Access to basic needs (housing, jobs, food)



- Access to behavioral health, mental/substance use services
- Access to quality primary health care health services

These findings reinforce the strong connection between social issues - such as housing, income, and food – and health, and the importance of collaboration between community organizations to provide services and conduct advocacy with these connections in mind. An example is the partnership between Ritter Center, Spahr Center, and Community Action Marin to field a mobile health and wellness project bringing services to unhoused residents across Marin County. Ritter Center, the primary partner, provides medical and behavioral health services while the Spahr Center provides harm reduction services and Community Action Marin’s homeless outreach team provides homeless outreach services including housing navigation and case management.

In the 2023 CAM community survey, we asked participants to choose their three top concerns from a list of 13 health-related issues. The highest ranked health concerns for all survey respondents and the subgroup of parents of our Head Start preschool students are shown below.



Given the low-income demographics of our survey population (over 50% of respondents earn less than \$50,000 per year) it is not surprising that cost of care and access to services are primary concerns, or that they see disparities in health outcomes due to race and income. Lack of insurance stands out as a concern among our early childhood education families, and concerns about food access are consistent with survey responses about food insecurity.

Marin County ranks very high, and often the best in the state, for health metrics. For example, Marin County ranked 1<sup>st</sup> out of 58 counties in California for access to clinical care, with only 4% of individuals uninsured, compared to 8% statewide<sup>xxxix</sup>. The ratio of Marin County care providers (primary care, dental, and mental health) to individuals is better than the statewide rate and consistent with top U.S. performers.

Additional health metrics are compiled by County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which ranks communities across many health and wellness factors. According to the 2023 rankings, Marin County ranks as the top county in California for Overall Health, including in health factors (Table 7) and health outcomes (Table 8).

**Table 7: Adult Health Factors by Geographic Area<sup>xi</sup>**

Geographic Area	% Smokers	% Obese	Physical inactivity	STD Prevalence Rate (cases per 100,00 population)
Marin County	9% (-10%)	23% (+28%)	14% (+7.7%)	217 (-30%)
California	9% (-18%)	30% (+25%)	21% (+17%)	452 (+17%)

Note: numbers in parentheses are the % change relative to the data reported in our 2021 Community Needs Assessment report

**Table 8: Health Outcomes Data by Geographic Area<sup>xii</sup>**

Geographic Area	Years of Potential Life Lost (yrs prior to age 75 per 100,000 population)	% Poor or Fair Health	Physically Unhealthy Days (in last 30 days)	Mentally Unhealthy Days (in last 30 days)
Marin County	3600 (+12%)	10% (-17%)	2.6 (-21%)	4.4 (+22%)
California	5700 (+7.5%)	14% (-22%)	3.0 (-23%)	4.0 (+8.1%)

Note: numbers in parentheses are the % change relative to the data reported in our 2021 Community Needs Assessment report

In comparing the latest County Health Rankings to the results reported in our 2021 needs assessment, Marin made improvements in some areas such as smoking and physical health. However, several key health indicators moved in a negative direction, namely obesity & physical activity, years of potential life lost, and mental health.

Across all of these measures, it is important to note barriers to access and the impact of the social determinants of health that reflect racial and economic disparities. Without data disaggregated by race, Marin County residents of low income and people of color are often invisible given the broader demographics of our community.

Other Marin health metrics include:

Life expectancy: A census tract analysis shows a lower life expectancy in higher poverty areas such as Marin City (76 years) and in Novato (77 years) compared to more affluent areas such south San Anselmo (91 years).<sup>xiii</sup>

Infant and Child Well-being: The number and percent of infants born at low birth weight is 5.5%, lower than the statewide rate of 6.9%.<sup>xiii</sup> The infant mortality rate in Marin County is 1 per 1,000, lower than the statewide rate of 4 per 1,000. The child mortality rate (ages 0-18) in Marin County is 20 per 100,000, also lower than the statewide rate of 40 per 100,000; however, there are disparities by race and ethnicity.<sup>xiv</sup>

Marin County has one of the lowest rates of reported child abuse and neglect among counties in California, with the most recent data (2020) by Kidsdata.org showing a rate of 19.8 per 1,000. While the rate of reported

abuse and neglect have dropped for all races, there are significant disparities: 88.7 per 1,000 for Black children, 28.1 For Hispanic children, and 11.4 for White children.<sup>xlv</sup>

Teen Pregnancy: Teen (ages 15-19) birth rate in Marin County is 6 per 1,000. While this rate is the lowest in the state, California Department of Public Health data reports significant racial disparities, with the teen birth rate 21 per 1,000 for Hispanic, 7 for Black, and 1 for White teens.

Substance Use: The percentage of Marin adults that report binge or excessive drinking is 22% (compared to the state rate of 18%). An encouraging trend is Marin County’s rate of alcohol-involved driving deaths, which dropped from the 32% reported in our last needs assessment report to 26% (compared to the state rate of 28%).<sup>xlvi</sup> The rate of drug overdose deaths is 17 per 100,000, the same as the statewide rate.<sup>xlvii</sup> California has a relatively low rate of opioid-related drug overdose deaths compared to the national rate, but there has been an increase in overdose deaths due to synthetic opioids (e.g., fentanyl).<sup>xlviii</sup>

Mental Health: Mental health is a critical factor in the health and well-being of our community, as seen in the MarinHealth Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)<sup>xlix</sup>. Mental health is a complex issue, intersecting with physical health and social factors. MarinHealth reports these topics in the Access to Mental/Behavioral Health and Substance Use Services section of their CHNA: substance use and substance use care, homelessness and mental health, youth and mental health, and access to mental health care.

35% of the respondents in our CAM community survey ranked mental health as a top three health issue. CAM staff note that mental health is a significant issue with clients, but they often don’t have the luxury of addressing mental health concerns because their focus is on basic needs such as housing and food. Mental health is an especially important issue in our housing navigation work, due to the prevalence of mental health issues with the homeless residents we serve. Fatai Tokolahi, who leads CAM’s homeless outreach team, observes that “Many of our unhoused Marin residents struggle with mental health, which impacts their ability to meet their basic needs for housing, health care, and food.”

In our March 2023 focus group discussions, mental health was a recurring theme, with participants raising issues such as: lack of mental health benefits, inability to get appointments, and reluctance to talk about mental health.

## Food

At a county level, Marin has food access and insecurity rates better than the statewide rates in California, however according to County Health Rankings data for 2021 and 2023, the percentage of the population who lack adequate access to food improved in California but reduced slightly in Marin.

**Table 9: Food Access by Geographic Area<sup>l</sup>**

Geographic Area	% Food Insecurity 2021	% Food Insecurity 2023
Marin County	7%	8%
California	11%	9%

There is one low-income and low-access census tract (i.e. “food desert”) in the county, census tract 06041106001<sup>li</sup> in the San Rafael area. Community Action Marin staff note that, while there may appear to be

an adequate number of grocery stores in many communities in the county, there are neighborhoods in which shopping at those grocery stores is cost prohibitive for lower income families.

The pandemic greatly impacted the ability of families to access food – in our 2021 survey 50% of our early childhood education program families reported increased need in this area. Access to food continues to be an issue; 23% of respondents to our 2023 survey ranked “lack of access to healthy, affordable food” one of their top three health concerns.

Our 2023 survey also asked questions about food insecurity. In response to this prompt: “We were worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more”, 67% of respondents said they **often** or **sometimes** had that fear during the past 12 months. Drilling down into the subpopulation of CAM’s early childhood education program parents, nearly 70% worried about having enough food for their families in the past year, and disaggregating the data by race and income, 75% of our Hispanic families with incomes under \$50,000 experienced food insecurity.

Food access was a topic of great interest in our 2023 community focus groups, with participants expressing frustration at the high cost of food due to inflation, poor quality of food available at food banks, challenges getting food for those on restricted diets, and loss/reduction of CalFresh benefits.

Eligibility for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM)<sup>iii</sup> varies widely based on demographics, similar to other poverty measures in our county. In 10 of the 41 public elementary schools in Marin County, over half the students qualify for FRPM, and in four of those schools over 75% of the students qualify. At the same time, in 14 of the county’s elementary schools under 10% of the students qualify for FRPM. Not surprisingly, the schools with the highest rates of FRPM are in low-income neighborhoods with higher populations of students of color.

School	Area	Eligible FRPM 2021-2022
Bahia Vista Elementary	San Rafael (Canal)	97%
San Pedro Elementary	San Rafael	95%
Bodega Bay Elementary	West Marin	72%
Hamilton Meadow Park	Novato	60%
Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy	Marin City	53%

## Education

Education was reported as the top community concern by 13% of all our 2023 community survey respondents and 19% of our early childhood education program parent respondents.

Marin is a highly educated county on average with quality public education, however there are large gaps in measures of academic success by race and income level, consistent with our findings in other areas. Marin County’s population as a whole is much more educated than California’s, with less than half of the rate of

non-high school graduates and a much higher rate with college degrees. As illustrated in Table 10, Community Action Marin serves families with lower levels of educational attainment than individuals in Marin County or California.

**Table 10: Educational Attainment of Families: California, Marin County<sup>liii</sup> and Served by Community Action Marin Head Start/Early Head Start (highest level of education obtained by parent(s)/guardian(s))<sup>liv</sup>**

	California	Marin County	CAM Head Start Parents
Less than a high school degree	16%	6.6%	52%
High school graduate or GED	20%	10%	27%
Associate’s degree or some college	29%	23%	10%
Bachelor’s or advanced degree	35%	60%	11%

In Marin, the countywide cohort graduation rate for the 2021-2022 school year was 90.4%, the same as the statewide rate<sup>lv</sup>, but graduation rates vary across schools. Table 11 shows the graduation rates from the county’s four public high schools. Tamalpais Union, with a higher population of students from higher-income families, was the best in 2022. For schools with a larger population of students of color and lower-income families, Novato’s graduation rate dropped slightly, and San Rafael improved significantly compared to 2020.

**Table 11: 4-Year Graduation Rate for Class of 2020 by School District<sup>lvi</sup>**

School District	Cohort Graduation Rate 2020	Cohort Graduation Rate 2022
Novato Unified School District	92%	91%
San Rafael City High School District	74%	80%
Shoreline United School District	100%	93%
Tamalpais Union High School District	96%	98%

Note: Shoreline has a very small student population - only 38 graduates in 2022 – so their drop in graduation rate is not statistically significant.

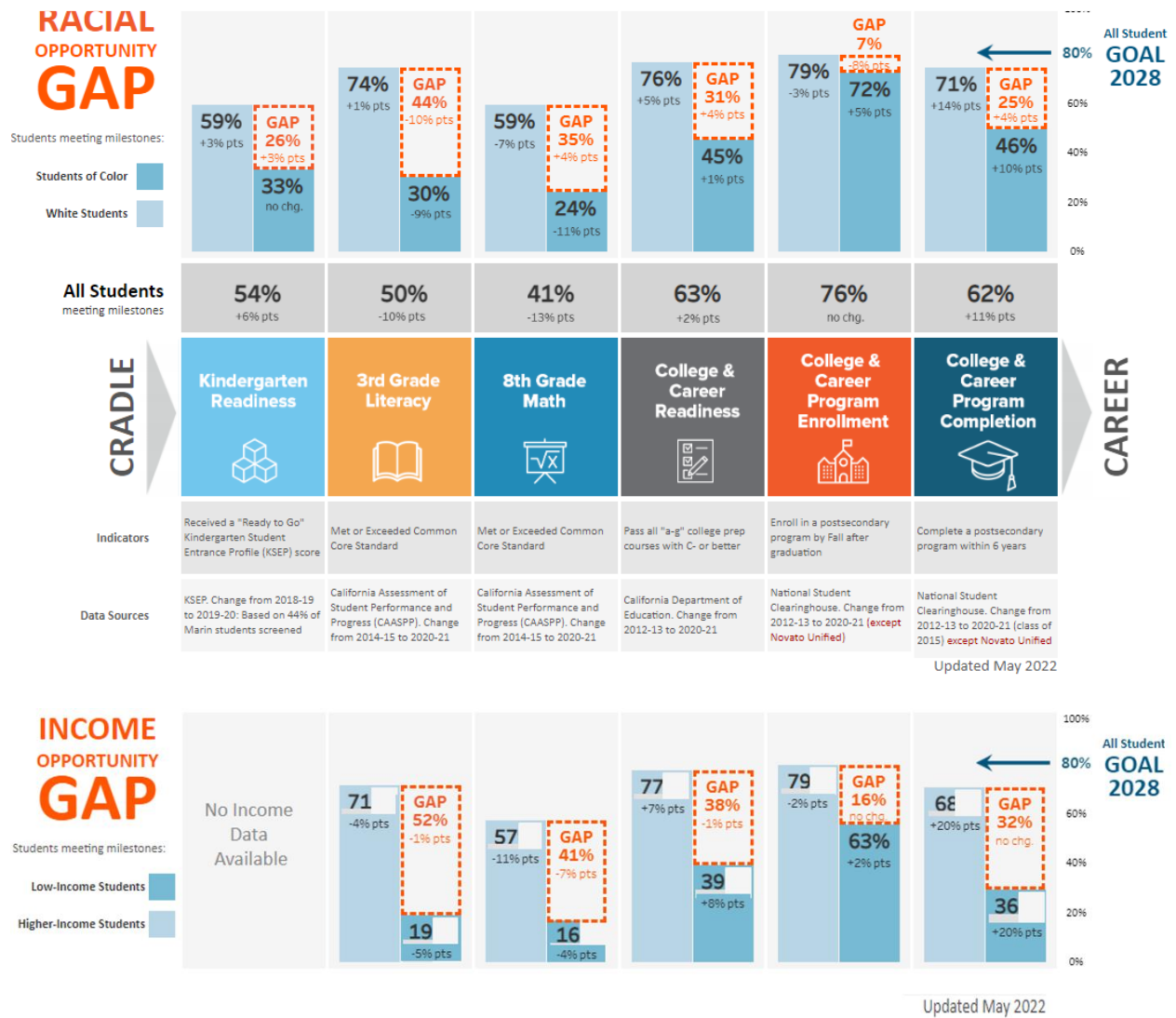
Nearly half of our survey respondents chose “disparities in educational access and outcomes by race and income” as one of their top three educational concerns. These concerns by community members are validated by Marin public school test results in the state’s 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade Smarter Balanced Assessments. Table 12 shows results for the 2021-2022 school year and gaps in academic achievement between the county overall and students at schools in lower-income areas and with greater numbers of students of color such as Marin City (Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy) and San Rafael (Bahia Vista).<sup>lvii</sup>

**Table 12: California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, 2021-2022, % of Students who Met or Exceeded the Standard<sup>lviii</sup>**

	Marin County Elementary Schools	Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy	Bahia Vista Elementary	Marin County High Schools	San Rafael City High School
	3rd Grade			11th Grade	
English Language Art/Literacy	59%	28%	19%	65%	48%
Mathematics	60%	26%	19%	45%	28%

Another example of Marin’s educational gaps by race and income is shown in the data compiled by Marin Promise Partnership. Figure 6 shows the projected racial and income gaps between white students and students of color beginning with kindergarten readiness all the way through college and career planning (i.e “cradle to career”). Their latest data shows a racial opportunity gap of 26% for kindergarten readiness for students of color and an income opportunity gap of 52% for students of color based on 3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy. <sup>lix</sup>

**Figure 6. Marin County Educational Disparities by Race and Income, Marin Promise Partnership**



There are likely lingering educational effects of the COVID pandemic, including disparities by race and income. An income gap for access to technology and the internet was revealed by the pandemic, and while progress has been made, the latest Marin County census data shows 19% of households with income under \$35,000 have no internet access (down from 25% in our 2021 report) compared with only 3% of households making over \$75,000. <sup>lix</sup> These results are consistent with our community survey, in which 22% of people chose technology access as a significant educational concern. The community consortium Digital Marin is working to close gaps in internet access. <sup>lix</sup>

## Employment and Income

High-level employment statistics for Marin County are very favorable. The unemployment rate in December 2022 was only 2.4%, one of the lowest in the state, and a significant improvement from 5.5% in December 2020.<sup>lxii</sup> However, there are inequities in employment by race, evidenced by the latest census data showing Black/African American residents twice as likely to be unemployed.<sup>lxiii</sup>

The top three occupations (civilian employed population age 16 and over) in Marin County are: management, business, science and arts occupations (57%); sales and office occupations (20%); and service occupations (14.8%), and education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations (16%)<sup>lxiv</sup>, which overtook service occupations for 3<sup>rd</sup> place since our 2021 community needs report.

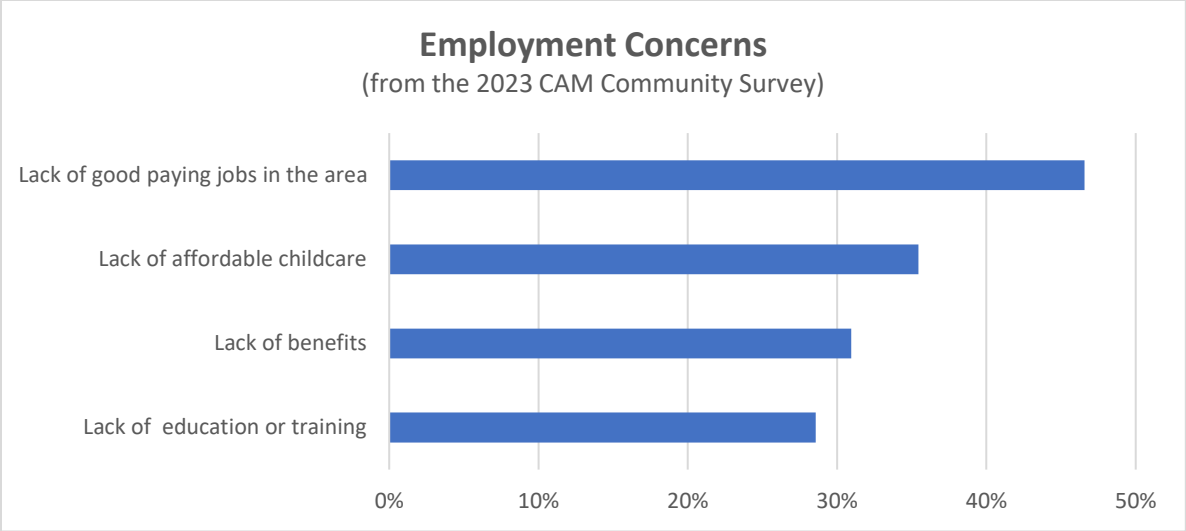
The top three industries (civilian employed population age 16 and over) are: educational services, and health care and social assistance (21%); professional, scientific, and administrative services (20%); and retail trade (10%)<sup>lxv</sup> which overtook finance and insurance and real estate for 3<sup>rd</sup> place since our 2021 community needs report.

The North Bay Workforce Alliance and partners 2021-2024 strategic plan is a good resource for more detailed additional employment sector data and needs.<sup>lxvi</sup>

Strong employment levels in various industries and occupations contribute to Marin’s health economy relative to many parts of the state and country. However, many of our residents struggle to achieve economic well-being because of a gap between wages/income and cost of living, with massive racial disparities in income continuing across races as shown below.<sup>lxvii</sup>

	2019 Median Income	2021 Median Income
Asian	\$107,849	\$155,338
Black or African American	\$48,602	\$60,849
Hispanic	\$58,639	\$67,125
White	\$126,501	\$138,214

For those who responded to CAM’s community needs survey, many of whom struggle to meet basic needs, a lack of good paying jobs was the most frequently cited “top 3” employment concern.

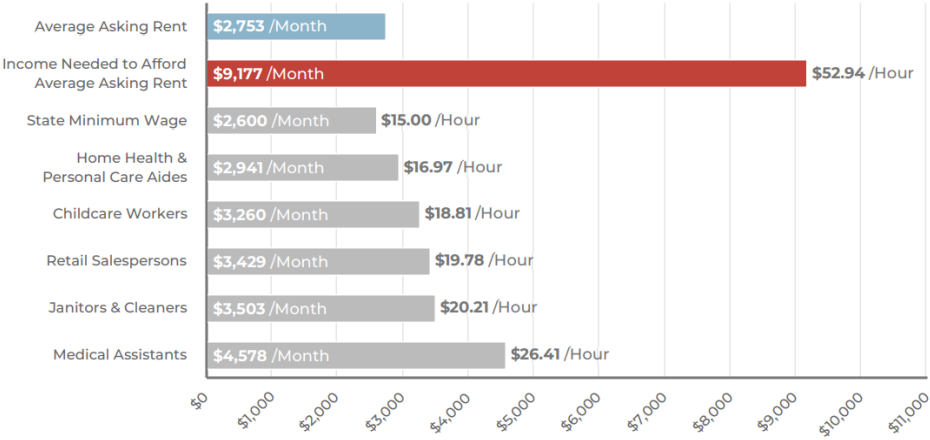


This is consistent with the fundamental connection between income and well-being, and the significance of employment and income in the community needs discussions on housing and health.

The 2022 graphic “Who Can Afford To Rent” from the California Housing Partnership underscores the challenge for low wage workers to afford the high cost of living, especially rent, in Marin County.<sup>lxviii</sup>

**WHO CAN AFFORD TO RENT**

Renters need to earn **3.5 times** minimum wage to afford the average asking rent in Marin County.



Marin residents in low wage jobs such as home health aides and childcare earn a fraction of what is needed to afford rent in our county, which means living further from work and school. This further strains family schedules and finances with longer commutes and higher transportation costs. 83% of our community survey respondents earn under \$50,000 per year and may be in similar low-income jobs.

Information from current CAM clients reinforces the financial challenges faced by Marin families. Of 213 responses to a recent new client survey, 80% said if they lost their main source of income they could only

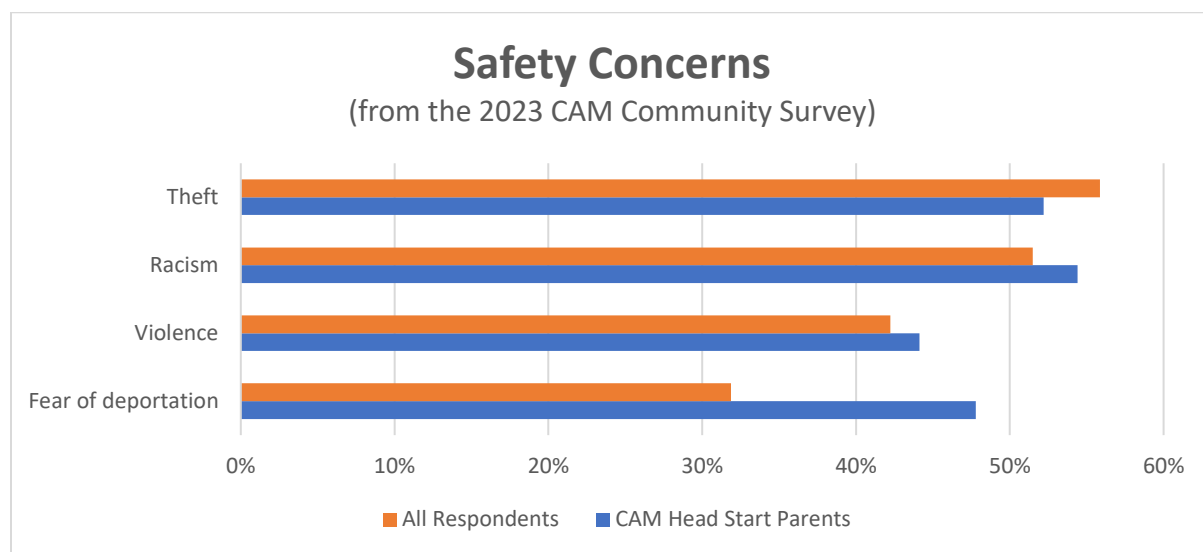


cover their basic expenses for a month or less (56% for less than two weeks, 24% for a month). This data underscores why safety net programs are so critical to low-income Marin residents.

## Safety

Marin is overall a very safe city, with the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of violent crime in the state and low rates of murder, rape and aggravated assault. Rates of robbery, property crime, and larceny theft are higher (ranking 24<sup>th</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, and 42<sup>nd</sup>, respectively, out of 58 California counties).<sup>lxix</sup>

12% of those who responded to our 2023 community survey ranked safety as their number one community concern, and over 40% ranked it in their top three. A primary safety concern is theft, consistent with county crime data.



These results are similar between all survey respondents and the subgroup of parents with children in our early childhood education programs. The safety results diverge when it comes to fear of deportation, with nearly half of our parents (90% of whom are Hispanic) ranking it in their top three safety concerns. This issue can be a barrier in assisting Hispanic community members applying for government benefits.

## Transportation

County-wide statistics on commuting are shown in Table 13. Updated census results show fewer people driving alone in Marin County compared to the data used in our 2021 report, but also fewer people carpooling and taking public transportation (expected post-pandemic outcomes). Not surprisingly, Marin has seen a sharp increase in people working from home, although this option is more likely for higher-income workers.

**Table 13: Commuting to Work<sup>lxx</sup>**

Geographic Area	Car, Truck, or Van - Alone	Car, Truck, or Van - Carpool	Public Transportation	Worked at Home
Marin County	59% (-5%)	7.8% (-0.4%)	6.6% (-3.0%)	22% (+10%)
California	70% (-4%)	9.6% (-0.5%)	4.1% (-1.0)	11% (+5%)

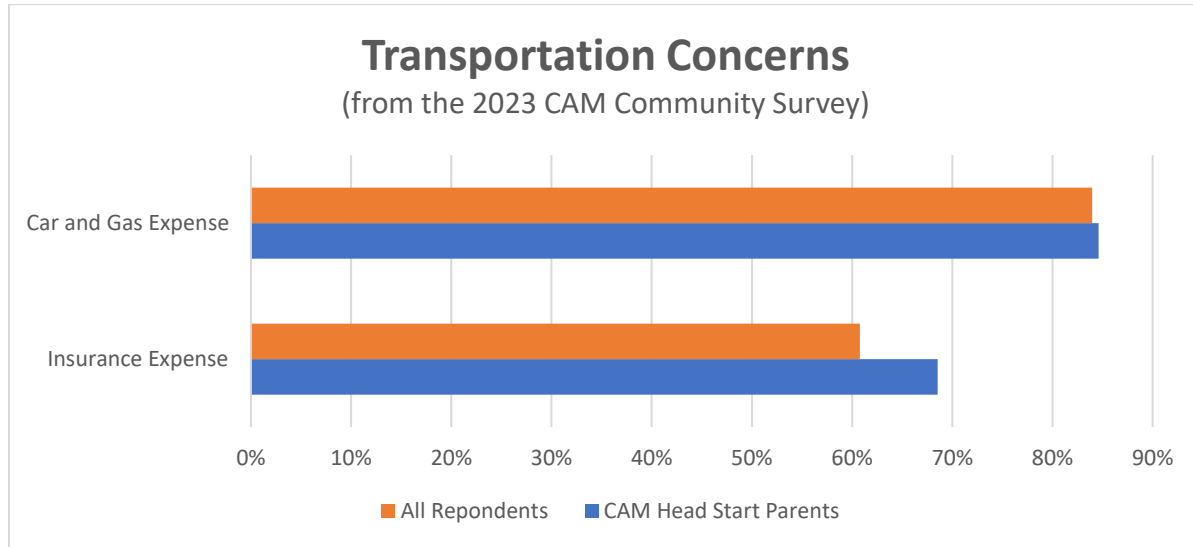
Note: numbers in parentheses are the % change in the data reported in our 2021 Community Needs Assessment report

Marin has a high fraction of people who do not both live and work in the county; at 70% it is among the highest rates in California. Pre-pandemic data (which is the latest available) showed that about one-third of Marin commuters work outside the county, and about one-third of people who commute to jobs in Marin come from outside the county.<sup>lxxi</sup>

Public bus transportation is available in Marin County through Marin Transit bus service, and public train service is available in limited areas of the county through Sonoma-Marín SMART Area Rail Transit. Train stations are in Novato and San Rafael. Public transportation is not available in western Marin County, making low-income residents in these communities more dependent on car transportation.

CAM Head Start/Early Head Start staff report that some families rely on public transportation for travel to our preschool centers and their jobs. In some cases this poses a significant challenge when bus routes are not aligned with their needs.

While only about 7% of our survey respondents ranked transportation as a top community concern, vehicle-related expenses – including gas and insurance – were the top concerns related to transportation.



CAM employees and volunteers working in the Economic Justice program area report that spending related to vehicles is often an important component of their work in helping clients improve their finances. Poor credit scores and lack of consumer awareness lead some Marin residents into high interest auto loans and potentially even predatory lending situations.

## Community Input and Feedback

Input from our Marin County community, including low-income residents who receive services from Community Action Marin and/or other public or private agencies, was included in this needs assessment in various ways:

- participating in our community survey, including providing personal experience and perspective in answering open-ended survey questions
- participating in focus groups
- responding to CAM client surveys, including surveys of parents who have children in our early childhood education programs, and clients of our Safety Net Services and Economic Justice programs
- CAM clients sharing information and perspectives with CAM staff
- Input from CAM staff and Board members

One additional opportunity for input was Community Action Marin's public hearing which was held on 5/9/2023 using a hybrid format with participants online and in-person. We did widespread outreach in advance of the hearing to invite robust community participation and conducted the hearing in English and Spanish. A draft of this community needs assessment was made available for public review prior to the biennial public hearing, and input from community members have been incorporated into the final community needs assessment and CAM's Community Action Plan, which are required of all Community Action Agencies to ensure alignment between agency plans and community needs the participation of the community.

Comments from community members during the public hearing were consistent with the results of our survey and input received during focus groups. There was strong agreement that lack of affordable housing is the most critical issue in our county. One attendee shared she was not surprised by the data we shared about the high cost of housing in Marin County, and that Hispanic families are hit especially hard by housing challenges. She noted three families sharing a small apartment in the Canal neighborhood and knows many people working service jobs who must live outside the county to find affordable housing. She observed that the pandemic has made all these issues worse, with families, especially Hispanic families, having to work and struggle even harder just to meet basic needs like rent and food.

Another community member raised awareness of residents living on marine vessels in Richardson Bay due to a lack of housing. He said his is one of over 50 "anchor out" vessels currently serving as housing, and is very concerned because he said the county plans to remove all "anchor outs" by 2026. He shared that this tight-knit community of residents struggles to meet basic needs and was severely impacted by this past winter's storms, yet they are largely overlooked by social service resources.

Community members also shared concerns on topics such as racial inequities in health outcomes, lack of mental health support for low-income residents, and how transportation challenges impact accessibility of health and mental health care. Comments and input were also provided on our website, including an interest in innovative approaches to helping the homeless, employment challenges for the disabled, and mental health support for girls.

# Community Assets

## Economic Opportunity

Throughout this report, we have highlighted the inequities in Marin. However, it is important not to forget that despite these inequities, Marin rates high in this state and country in terms of health, education and community resources. According to Opportunity Insights Opportunity Atlas,<sup>lxxii</sup> Marin has some of the highest rates of upward mobility in California. 24% of children born into low-income families in Marin will become high-income (move to top 20% of the income distribution), and 44% of children growing up in low-income families will graduate from college. The rates for Black and Hispanic children are also among the highest in the state.

## Agencies Serving Eligible Children

### Child Care, Preschool, and Family Child Care Programs

According to California Department of Social Services, there are 175 licensed and active childcare centers and large family childcare homes in Marin County with the capacity to serve 10,318 children (Table 15).<sup>lxxiii</sup>

**Table 15. Number and Capacity of Childcare and Early Learning Programs by Licensed Program Type and Zip**<sup>lxxiv</sup>

Geographic Area	Child Care – Infant/Toddler Center		Child Care – Preschool Center		School Age Day Care Center & Large Family Child Care Home	
	(age 0-2 yrs)		(age 3-5 yrs)		(age 5-17 yrs)	
	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity
94901 (San Rafael)	3 <sup>5</sup>	56	13 <sup>6</sup>	628	20	468
94903 (San Rafael)	5	79	20 <sup>7</sup>	1270	27 <sup>8</sup>	618
94904 (Greenbrae)	3	0	2	80	4	150
94920 (Belvedere/Tiburon)	0	0	7	407	1	56
94924 (Bolinas)	0	0	0	0	0	0
94925 (Corte Madera)	1	52	10	573	14	278
94930 (Fairfax)	2	43	5	177	2	135
94937 (Inverness)	0	0	0	0	0	0
94939 (Larkspur)	0	0	3	178	1	14
94940 (Marshall)	0	0	0	0	0	0
94941 (Mill Valley)	1	21	14	713	20	462
94945 (Novato)	0	0	1	70	4	188
94946 (Novato)	0	0	0	0	0	0
94947 (Novato)	1	42	12	785	17	591

<sup>5</sup> Includes Community Action Marin's De Colores Children's Center

<sup>6</sup> Includes Community Action Marin's San Pedro, De Colores, and Canal Children's Centers

<sup>7</sup> Includes Community Action Marin's Old Gallinas Children's Center

<sup>8</sup> Includes Community Action Marin's Old Gallinas Children's Center

94949 (Novato)	3 <sup>9</sup>	132	6 <sup>10</sup>	308	11 <sup>11</sup>	372
94956 (Pt. Reyes Station)	0	0	1 <sup>12</sup>	35	0	0
94957 (Ross)	0	0	3	80	1	14
94960 (San Anselmo)	0	0	5	241	7	316
94963 (San Geronimo)	0	0	2	50	1	52
94964 (San Quentin)	0	0	0	0	0	0
94965 (Sausalito)	1	28	8 <sup>13</sup>	364	2	134
94970 (Stinson Beach)	0	0	1	20	0	0
94971 (Tomales)	0	0	1	24	0	0
94973 (Woodacre)	0	0	0	0	1	14
<b>Marin County</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>6003</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3862</b>

This data allows us to see where childcare and early learning programs are available in the county. Some areas, particularly in West Marin, have very limited program availability. A serious challenge impacting early childhood programs since the pandemic is a shortage of qualified staff, which limits enrollment to below capacity. This particularly impacts children in low-income families who have fewer options and rely on free or reduced-cost programs. Feedback from clients, community members, and CAM staff are aligned with these concerns, identifying childcare supply as an important need of families in our local community. Results from our recent survey reinforce this, with 94% of respondents who are parents in CAM’s early childhood education programs saying their child’s participation helps them with employment, education, or caregiving issues.

Community Action Marin is the Head Start/Early Head Start grant recipient for Marin County, providing high-quality comprehensive services to children and families most in need.<sup>lxxv</sup> Table 15 notes in which Marin County zip codes CAM’s early childhood education sites are located. Feedback from parents of children in our early childhood education programs indicates over 97% satisfaction with the program, including that feel their children are safe, happy and feel like they belong in the program.

## Home-Based Option (Home Visiting)

Many children and parents receive Early Head Start and Head Start services right in their own home. Home visitors come once a week and work with parents and their children. Together, the home visitor and parents watch and think about the child. They plan ways to help the child learn using parent-child interactions, daily routines, and household materials. A small group of children, parents, and their home visitors also gets together on a monthly basis for group socializations.<sup>lxxvi</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Includes Community Action Marin’s Hamilton and Meadow Park Children’s Centers

<sup>10</sup> Includes Community Action Marin’s Hamilton and Meadow Park Children’s Centers

<sup>11</sup> Includes Community Action Marin’s Hamilton Children’s Center

<sup>12</sup> Includes Community Action Marin’s Papermill Creek Children’s Center

<sup>13</sup> Includes Community Action Marin’s Manzanita Children’s Center

A home-based program must provide home visits and group socialization activities that promote secure parent-child relationships and help parents provide high-quality early learning experiences in language, literacy, mathematics, social and emotional functioning, approaches to learning, science, physical skills, and creative arts. A program must implement a research-based curriculum that delivers developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate home visits and group socialization activities that support children’s cognitive, social, and emotional growth for later success in school<sup>lxxvii</sup>.

Community Action Marin provides home visiting services in Marin County through its Head Start and Early Head Start home-based program option. The agency is funded for 60 slots, 12 in Head Start and 48 in Early Head Start.<sup>lxxviii</sup>

## Publicly Funded Preschool

In California, in 2021, 35% of four-year-olds and 12% of three-year-olds participated in California State Preschool Program (CSPP), publicly funded preschool for three- and four-year-old children, or California Transitional Kindergarten. The state is ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 50 states for 4-year-old access and 19<sup>th</sup> for 3-year-old access. The number of children enrolled in CSPP decreased and the funding for CSPP increased from the year prior.<sup>lxxix</sup>

Marin County Office of Education provided county data (see Table 16) on enrollment in CSPP and General Center Child Care Program (CCTR) for 2020, the latest data available (which does not include Early Head Start and Head Start). Their data, influenced by pandemic effects, shows a gap between eligible and enrolled children and will be updated with their 2023-24 needs assessment.

**Table 16. Marin County Office of Education (2020 data) on subsidized childcare**

	<b>Number of Children Eligible for Subsidized Childcare</b>	<b>Number of Children Enrolled</b>
<b>CCTR age 0-35 months</b>	1509	245
<b>CSPP age 3-4</b>	1269	554
<b>CCTR age 5-12</b>	3251	187

## Resources Available to the Community

In Community Action Marin’s service area, there are a number of educational and social services resources available to families in addition to the educational and comprehensive services provided by Community Action Marin.

For Marin County children with disabilities, services are provided by the state and county. Preschool special education (Part B) is overseen by the California Department of Education. Marin County Department of Education coordinates early intervention (Part C) services to children birth to age 2-years-old. Early intervention services are implemented by local school districts and agencies in the community<sup>lxxx</sup>:

- Marin County office of Education

- Novato Unified School District Early Intervention
- San Rafael School District Early Intervention
- Corte Madera/Larkspur Early Intervention
- Mill Valley Early Intervention
- Ross Valley Early Intervention.

Community Action Marin has internal expertise as well as partnerships with community agencies that help it to meet the needs of our Child and Family Services families, clients of our other program areas such as Safety Net Services, Economic Justice, and Food Justice, and address disparities within the county.

One of the greatest strengths of Community Action Marin is its strong network with community service agencies in Marin County. Community Action Marin collaborates with educational agencies, health care providers, local and county departments, and other entities to coordinate resources and meet the needs of children and families. We estimate having 53 non-profit partners and two dozen more for-profit, institutional, or consortium-based partnerships.

As identified in the community needs assessment report, the need for affordable housing, living wage employment, education, food security, mental health, and other basic needs and services is significant in Marin County. This is particularly true for low-income families, who face challenges accessing services and benefits to fill gaps in basic needs.

Community Action Marin has internal expertise as well as partnerships with community agencies that help it to meet the unique needs of community members in the service area. Coupled with the history and infrastructure in place at Community Action Marin, the agency is well positioned to continue to provide the highest quality social services and early learning programs in Marin County.

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<sup>i</sup> Head Start ECLKC. *Head Start Policy and Regulations, 1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs, and resources*. Retrieved from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-11-determining-community-strengths-needs-resources>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts>

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid

<sup>v</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0101. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

<sup>vi</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

<sup>vii</sup> Ibid

<sup>viii</sup> [The Cost of Being Californian Marin County Fact Sheet - Insight Center \(insightcced.org\)](https://insightcenter.org)

<sup>ix</sup> [Marin County Housing Need Report 2022 - California Housing Partnership \(chpc.net\)](https://chpc.net)

<sup>x</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

<sup>xi</sup> <https://www.racecounts.org/county/marin/>

<sup>xii</sup> 2021-2022 Program Data and U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1017. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

<sup>xiii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0501. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

<sup>xiv</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B05009. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

<sup>xv</sup> 2021-2022 Program Data (PIR report)

<sup>xvi</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

<sup>xvii</sup> California Vital Data Reports (2022). <https://cal-vida.cdph.ca.gov/>

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- xix 2021-2022 Program Data (PIR report)
- xx [CALPADS UPC Source File \(K-12\) - Accessing Educational Data \(CA Dept of Education\)](#)
- xxi 2022\_marin\_county\_point\_in\_time\_census\_and\_survey\_-\_exec\_summary.pdf (marinhhs.org)
- xxii 2021-2022 Program Information Report (PIR)
- xxiii <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/PIT/MTSG/r/ab636/>
- xxiv 2021-2022 Program Data (PIR report)
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- xxvi California Department of Education, Dataquest Special Education report <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>
- xxvii U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1810. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- xxviii 2021-2022 Program Data
- xxix 2021-2022 Program Data (PIR Report)
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- xxxvi <https://www.racecounts.org/county/marin/>
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- xli Ibid
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