



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

Values Statement: *Through respectful inquiry, genuine interest, and intention to learn from its diverse members, this committee operates as a safe space in order to fulfill our purpose to advise the Commission on how best to serve all children and families in Sacramento County.*

February 14, 2025

2:00-3:30PM

This is an In-Person Meeting for Committee Members

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 330
Sacramento, CA 95833

Community/Public May Join By Zoom:

<https://saccounty-net.zoomgov.com/j/1619371049?pwd=WERsdjJHNStjWmIyRVMOVzB4bmhpQT09>

Members:

Javeed Ahmad, Robin Blanks, Kairis Chiaji, Carolyn Curtis, Junior Goris (Chair), Janea Hackett-Little, Kesha Harris, Heidi Keiser, Maria Lopez, Fatima Malik, Jennifer Mohammad (Vice Chair), Alexandria Paige, Silvia Rodriguez, Chase Smith, Tony Smith, Linda Thrift, Darsey Varnedoe, Darla Williams, Walter Wyniarczuk

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Welcome, Introductions & Teambuilder | 10 minutes |
| 2. Public Comments on Off-Agenda Items | 5 minutes |
| 3. Approve Consent Agenda: Minutes from Nov. 8, 2024;
Subcommittee Reports (SOS, Finance);
Participatory Grant Making Update; Long Range Calendar;
2025 Policy Priorities | 10 minutes |
| 4. Executive Director Update | 15 minutes |
| 5. Presentation: Child Death Review Team <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion | 45 minutes |
| 6. Member Announcements | 5 minutes |
| 7. Adjourn | |



Advisory Committee Meeting Agreements

Be Present: Engage in active listening and be aware of your thoughts and feelings in the moment. What do you need to stay present and engaged? Limit technology and distractions to only that which furthers your learning.

Honor Confidentiality: Share themes and learning outside of the space, but not individual stories.

Establish Brave Space: In difficult conversations our learning often comes through our own discomfort and risk taking. By avoiding conflict or keeping others "comfortable" you may miss the opportunity to authentically engage with others or further your own understanding. However, we also recognize that sometimes our words create harm despite our best intentions. We acknowledge we are here to learn in community with one another. By centering our work on our shared goals and values and approaching conversations with respect and generosity we will further our shared learning.

Expect and Accept Non-Closure: We want to solve problems and resolve conflict, and this is lifelong work. These are processes and awareness-raising conversations intended to further individual transformation, not the transformation of others. Sometimes you may have to revisit conversations to reconcile differences, and in other cases, things will go left unsaid, unfinished.

Power Dynamics: This is a non-hierarchical space. Remember, power dynamics change based on individual's identities and positionality. Be cognizant of the fact that some voices and identities have been given privilege while other voices and identities have been discriminated against.

Take Space/Make Space If you are someone who tends to not speak a lot, challenge yourself to contribute by speaking more. If you tend to speak a lot, make space for others to participate and focus on listening. As a group, notice and acknowledge power dynamics in the room - who is talking first?

Who is holding power because of their role (like the facilitator), status, or identity? Who is disengaging or observing instead of actively participating?

Speak Your Truth and Let Others Speak Theirs: Different perspectives are welcome and encouraged. Speak from your own lived experience and not from experience that you do not personally have. Your normal may not be my normal.

Together We Know a Lot: Each of us brings knowledge to our discussions. And together, we know more than anyone of us alone. Shared learning is a practice in humility because we have something to learn from everyone in the room. It also means we all have a responsibility to share what we know and our questions, so that others may learn from us.

We Are Human, Not Perfect: As much as we'd like to be, we are human and therefore imperfect. We can't always be articulate. Often people feel hesitant to participate for fear of "messing up" or stumbling over their words. We encourage everyone to participate, even if you can't get it right all the time.

When Your Mind Starts to Judge, Instead Turn to Wonder: Approach problems and challenges from a place of curiosity and creative thinking rather from a point of frustration or judgment. This includes staying open to feedback and inquiry that others may offer you.

Make a Commitment as a Group: Keep the Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Cultural Responsiveness (REDI+CR) conversations going.



ADISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT ACTION SUMMARY

November 8, 2024, 2:00 PM

Members: Javeed Ahmad, Robin Blanks, Kairis Chiaji, Carolyn Curtis, Junior Goris (Vice Chair), Janea Hackett-Little, Kesha Harris, Heidi Keiser, Maria Lopez, Fatima Malik, Jennifer Mohammad, Alexxandria Paige, Silvia Rodriguez (Chair) Chase Smith, Tony Smith, Linda Thrift, Darsey Varnedoe, Darla Williams, Walter Wyniarczuk

Staff: Julie Gallelo, Executive Director
Lindsay Dunckel, Early Learning Coordinator
Erin Maurie, Communications and Policy Director
Maria Hammill, Administrative Services Officer 1

Call to Order/Roll Call

ACTION: The meeting was called to order at 2:07 PM by Vice-Chair Junior Goris.

Absent: Kairis Chiaji, Janea Hackett-Little, Maria Lopez, Alexxandria Paige, Silvia Rodriguez, Darla Williams and Darsey Varnedoe. Fatima Malik attended via zoom and was unable to vote.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Teambuilder

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Junior Goris. The Committee welcomed Commissioner LaWanda Wesley, Ed.D.

2. Public Comment and Off-Agenda Items

No Public Comment.

3. Meet & Greet with Commissioner LaWanda Wesley

Commissioner Wesley has served on the Commission for almost two years. She is the Director of Government Relations with the Child Care Resource Center. She shared her career in policy and advocacy, her passion for early care and education and her role as a Commissioner and Co-Chair of the SOS Committee. LaWanda has been instrumental with First 5 policy and advocacy activities representing us at our Annual Advocacy Day. It was a robust conversation with members eager to learn more about her expertise in the early care and education field.

4. Approve Minutes from August 9, 2024 & October 11, 2024

ACTION: Motion to approve the August 9, 2024 minutes from Robin Blanks, seconded by Kesha Harris. Motion passed. Motion to approve the October 11, 2024 minutes from Carolyn Curtis, seconded by Tony Smith. Motion passed.

5. Executive Director's Update

Julie Gallelo provided the following First 5 highlights:

- October 26 Commission Meeting
- 25th Anniversary Regional Power Building Summit
- REDI Updates
- Parent Leader Highlights
- Sac Family Connect Summit

6. Report Outs from Committee Reps

Committee members suggested receiving updates on the activities of the various First 5 Committees (Evaluation, Financial Planning and System Optimization and Sustainability "SOS"). Carolyn Curtis provided the SOS update. Kristin Scheiber, Chief of Admin, provided the Financial Planning update. The Evaluation Committee did not meet last month.

7. Elect Chair & Vice-Chair for 2025

Members elected Junior Goris as Chair and Jennifer Mohammad as Vice-Chair.

8. 2025 Long-Range Agenda Planning

The Committee continued to discuss long range agenda items.

Members brainstormed topics for discussions, program and community data presentations, and playing an active role in the Commission's work. The agenda will be approved at February meeting.

9. Member Announcement

Junior announced the first meeting of a new parent mentor advisory group. They will serve as a peer support group for parents throughout the county.

Adjourned: 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Hammill
First 5 Sacramento Commission

SOS Committee Report to the First 5 Commission Meeting

Date: February 3, 2025

The SOS Committee met on December 18th.

1. The Committee reviewed and approved the 2025 Policy Priorities. We will continue to focus on our key umbrella areas while trying our best to take into consideration the projected cuts at the federal level.
2. We received an overview of the upcoming Strategic Planning process and also an update on the Participatory Grant Making Process from the two community assemblies. Both items will be discussed on today's agenda.
3. Commissioner Kothari has stepped down from SOS, but we know she is close to lend her expertise especially as First 5 and the County work together on building capacity for our community organizations.
4. We are delighted to welcome our new Commissioner Melissa Lloyd, to the SOS Committee. She will continue our collaboration with the County's Department of Child Family and Adult Services.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 19th.

And that concludes the SOS Committee Report.

Financial Planning Committee Report to the Commission – February 3, 2025

- The Financial Planning Committee met on January 23rd and established a quorum.
- Staff updated the committee on staffing vacancies. Staff are currently working on filling a vacant ASO I position and restructuring the First 5 Programmatic Team to create succession planning to offer the same advancement ladder as the Administrative Team. Two Program Planner positions will be reclassified as a Human Services Program Manager and a Human Services Program Specialist. This will result in cost savings of roughly \$14,000.
- Staff also reported good news for First 5's PLTI Program. Staff were happy to report that the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services is funding an additional PLTI cohort for Fiscal Year 2024-25. This is Item #11 on today's agenda.
- The Fiscal Year 2023-24 audit was issued on October 31st, 2024, and reviewed by the committee. Having no findings, the committee voted to approve the audit which is on today's agenda for a public hearing and approval by the Commission.
- Lastly, Commission financial statements for the second quarter were reviewed and in line with budget expectations.
- This concludes my report.

First 5 Sacramento
Participatory Grantmaking
Project
Phase I Report

Prepared by:
Kula Koenig, Lead Consultant
Community Engagement,
Touchstone Leadership Group

Date: December 13, 2024



Introduction

In 2021, the First 5 Sacramento Commission (Commission) adopted a resolution recognizing racism as a fundamental cause of disparities in health, early learning, and family resilience. As part of this commitment, the Commission pledged to actively and intentionally engage in efforts to dismantle systemic racism. This commitment was further reinforced through the approval of the 2024–2027 strategic plan, which allocates \$5.2 million to advance racial equity.

To support this initiative, Touchstone Leadership Group (TLG) was engaged to implement a Participatory Grantmaking (PGM) Process—one of the recommended strategies for First 5 Sacramento to address and dismantle systemically racist structures.

The project is divided into two phases:

1. **Community Engagement:** Developing a process to identify a deliberative panel responsible for managing the participatory grantmaking process.
2. **Participatory Grantmaking:** Convening the selected panel to evaluate proposals and allocate grants.

This report focuses on Phase One, which involved organizing two community assemblies—one in-person and one virtual—to gather input on designing the panel recruitment process. Suggestions related to Phase Two, where relevant, are also noted.

Through the deliberative process, First 5 Sacramento aims to equitably fund BIPOC-led and -serving community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-traditional organizations dedicated to improving outcomes for children aged 0–5. This community-driven approach fosters trust, ensures community-informed decision-making, and builds capacity for meaningful engagement.

Planning and Outreach

In September 2024, the TLG team developed a comprehensive invitee list that included targeted organizations and individuals. This list was informed by resources provided by First 5 Sacramento, the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) Cohorts, and Touchstone Leadership Group's contacts. The goal was to ensure diverse representation across geographic areas, organizational affiliations, and community backgrounds.

A bilingual (English and Spanish) registration form was created, and the team conducted personalized follow-ups via email, text, and phone. To incentivize participation, attendees received a \$50 stipend, with additional provisions such as dinner and childcare for in-person participants.

Participants were asked to register if they met the following criteria:

1. Staff of a BIPOC-led or serving community-based organization (CBO) supporting children and families aged 0–5. (*OR*)
2. A community member who has received services from such an organization. (*OR*)
3. An individual or business interested in serving children aged 0–5. (*AND*)
4. Their organization had not received funding from First 5 Sacramento since 2010.

To gather feedback on the sessions, an evaluation form was also distributed to participants.

Community Assemblies: Setting the Stage for Discussion

Attendance & Demographics

The primary goal of the assemblies was to convene a diverse group of participants, fostering an inclusive and collaborative environment. The target attendance was 20–35 individuals per session, with the in-person event hosting 25 participants and the virtual event drawing 35. The assemblies prioritized BIPOC-led and serving organizations, resulting in a highly representative turnout:

- **78%** of participants were from BIPOC-led organizations.
- **87%** served BIPOC communities.
- Attendees represented Black, Latino, Asian, Middle Eastern, and White communities.

Participant Affiliations

- **10%** Business
- **72%** CBOs
- **10%** Community members

Neighborhood Representation

North Sacramento, South Sacramento, North Highlands, Rancho Cordova, and Arden Arcade, Fair Oaks, Elk Grove, Galt, and Wilton.

Agenda & Grounding

Each session began by clearly outlining the purpose and desired outcomes, ensuring participants understood the importance of their contributions. Facilitators established group agreements to create an inclusive and productive environment. These agreements emphasized sharing space, fostering brave discussions, and welcoming first drafts of ideas.

Facilitators also provided background on the initiative to ground participants in the project's goals. This structured approach ensured the sessions were productive, and participants left feeling valued and optimistic about their contributions.

Community Assemblies: Discussion & Breakout Groups

Probing Questions & Insights

Facilitators posed several thought-provoking questions to encourage discussion and prepare participants for the breakout sessions. Below are the key questions and a summary of participant responses:

1. What comes to mind when hearing this statement?

"First 5 Sacramento has set aside \$4 million in grant funding to be decided by a panel of community members for BIPOC-led and serving organizations."

- **Positives:** Intentionality, equitable distribution, diverse representation, community leadership, and empowerment.
- **Concerns:** \$4 million feels insufficient for long-term impact and may increase competition among organizations.

2. What are some benefits of this approach?

- Transparency, community hope, cultural representation, and a shift in power dynamics toward grassroots organizations.

3. What are potential drawbacks?

- Barriers to selecting appropriate panelists, cumbersome county processes, and concerns about sustainability.

4. What questions do you have about this approach?

- Topics included inclusivity for specific groups (e.g., boys, youth, refugees), logistical concerns (e.g., criminal background checks, funding parameters), and long-term sustainability.

5. What suggestions or considerations do you have?

- Educational workshops, leveraging funds for additional grants, and ensuring equity in panelist recruitment.

On occasion, discussions veered toward Phase II, focusing on grant specifics and fund allocation. Facilitators redirected participants to Phase One objectives, emphasizing the focus on recruiting a deliberative panel.

Breakout Groups

In breakout groups, participants designed recruitment strategies for the deliberative panel, focusing on the following areas:

1. **Key Criteria:** Desired qualifications, expertise, and frameworks for panel members.
2. **Recruitment Sources:** Targeted organizations and geographic areas for outreach.
3. **Recruitment Messages:** Key themes and values to convey during recruitment.
4. **Key Messengers:** Individuals or groups responsible for outreach.
5. **Wildcard:** Additional considerations such as compensation and meeting accessibility.

Breakout Groups

The following themes emerged from the breakout groups:

1. **Excitement and Equity:** Participants expressed enthusiasm about equitable funding and the shift in power dynamics, emphasizing the importance of grassroots and BIPOC-led organizations.
2. **Sustainability Concerns:** Many felt \$4 million was insufficient for long-term impact and suggested using the funds to secure additional resources.
3. **Accessibility:** Recommendations included simplifying applications, using plain language, translating materials, and leveraging social media to reach underrepresented groups.
4. **Representation:** Participants stressed the importance of lived experience, diverse perspectives, and avoiding "the usual suspects" in panel recruitment.
5. **Youth Involvement:** Several suggested involving youth as panelists and messengers, given their unique insights into community needs.

Participants provided actionable recommendations, demonstrating their commitment to a transparent and community-centered grantmaking process.

Recommendations

Panel Recruitment

- Ensure panelists represent diverse geographic, cultural, and professional backgrounds.
- Include individuals with lived experience in BIPOC communities and grassroots work.
- Adopt a nomination or referral process to identify strong candidates.

Accessibility

- Simplify the application process with user-friendly language and translations.
- Provide adequate compensation and support for panelists (e.g., transportation, childcare).

Community Trust

- Share this report with assembly participants to demonstrate transparency.
- Clearly communicate the panel selection process and how community feedback was incorporated.

Evaluation of Assemblies



Participants rated the assemblies highly with over 80% agreeing it was effective in terms of achieving its purpose.



They also noted clear goals, effective facilitation, and a safe environment for discussion.



Most expressed confidence that their feedback would inform First 5 Sacramento's decision-making. However, some were concerned about whether their feedback would be heard or if this would be another instance of community being summoned to provide input that was only used to "check a box."

Conclusion and Acknowledgments

First 5 Sacramento has an unprecedented opportunity to address racism as a public health crisis through a community-designed and community-led process of participatory grantmaking that seeks to invest in BIPOC-led and serving organizations committed to improving outcomes for children aged 0-5. This approach is an outgrowth of the agency's work to build internal capacity for Racial, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural Responsiveness (REDI+CR).



Touchstone Leadership Group acknowledges First 5 Sacramento team's support and deeply appreciates the the Commission's continued commitment to advancing racial equity in service to community health.

Figure 2: Breakout Group Responses

Key Criteria	Recruitment Sources	Recruitment Messages	Key Messengers	Wild Card
Must have first hand knowledge of BIPOC community	Advocacy orgs and orgs that serve 0-5; shelters, school districts, social service agencies, Head Start and childcare providers	Calling on community leaders to help other community leaders	Peer to Peer. The youth!	Compensate people
Proven lived experience	Therapists and mental health professionals	Building a new model for other counties. Making history.	Grassroots organizers- the people who do the work	Accessible location for meetings – virtual and in person; rotate meeting locations
From a boots on the ground organization	K-12 parent orgs	Empowerment. An opportunity to create change.	Foster parents	Accessible language not jargon (e.g. BIPOC)
Must represent those without a voice	Low income housing complexes	Building a transparent process for all.	LGBTQIA+ Parents and families	Accessible application format
Cultural competency and sensitivity	Hospitals/clinics	Proof that the County isn't bad.	Undocumented families	Panel should be geographically, educationally, and professionally diverse
Org should be primarily BIPOC	Tribal orgs	Looks good on your resume. Build leadership skills.		Feed people! Real food, not pizza or sandwiches
From the community to be served	Small businesses in underinvested areas	Hope filled message. Invitation to 0-5 success.		Be clear about time commitment
Have children 0-5	Smaller groups and organizations to get something different	Use the village metaphor.		Don't forget refugee community.
Experience with early childhood education	Community Nominations "who would you want to represent you?"	Dismantle power dynamics		Consider criminal background check
Able to engage with community to be served	Libraries			Ask if they were referred
Youth 16+	Grocery stores, beauty salons, nail salons, supermarkets			Use videos for recruitment in addition to text

Thank you!

Touchstone Leadership Group Team

Stephanie McLemore Bray, Founder and Lead Consultant

Kula Koenig, Community Engagement Lead

Erin Thuston, REDI+CR Evaluation Lead

Mellonie Richardson, Community-Building Lead and Facilitator

Cha Vang, Outreach Lead and Facilitator

Taunya Miles, Executive Administrator



First 5 Advisory Committee Long-Range Calendar 2025

Date	Presentation
February 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilder • Consent Agenda: Subcommittee reports; Draft Action Summaries; Participatory Grant Making update; Long Range Calendar; Policy Priorities • Presentation: Child Death Review Team
April 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilder • Subcommittee report outs • Presentation: Parent Cafés • Discussion: Parent Engagement
June 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilder • Commissioner Meet & Greet • Consent Agenda: Subcommittee reports; Draft Action Summaries • Strategic Planning Update • Presentation: First 5 Budget • Participatory Grant Making update
August 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilder • Subcommittee report outs • Presentation: 2-1-1 data • Sac Family Connect Update
October 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilder • Commissioner Meet & Greet • Consent Agenda: Subcommittee reports; Draft Action Summaries; Participatory Grant Making update • Brainstorm Long-Range Calendar
November 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilder • Subcommittee report outs • Vote on Long-Range Calendar • Elect Chair & Vice Chair • Presentation: Birth & Beyond Family Resource Centers
Other Desired Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for site visits to funded programs • Behavioral Health Presentation • Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) updates



2025 Policy Priorities

In partnership with parents, caregivers, and their communities, First 5 Sacramento seeks to advance equitable, inclusive, and culturally responsive prevention and early intervention policies, systems, and practices that eliminate racial inequities, promote optimal health and development, and improve the lives of children prenatal through age five and their families.

First 5 Sacramento's 2025 policy, advocacy and systems improvement efforts will focus on the following priorities:

Health and Wellness

1. Seek to repair harm done to communities of color and eliminate racial inequities in parental and infant health outcomes by removing systemic racist practices and barriers to care for people of color, and increasing culturally relevant services for birthing people.
2. Support and promote coordination across systems of care to connect young children to screenings and early intervention services.
3. Support initiatives that address equitable access to skilled lactation care and other breastfeeding supports and resources.
4. Support and promote efforts to improve the systems of healthcare for birthing people to reduce disparities in perinatal morbidity and mortality.

Early Care and Development

5. Support efforts to increase the supply of high-quality early care and education programs for children by advocating for equitable access to affordable childcare and early learning programs.
6. Support systems improvement for the early care and education workforce by advocating for fair compensation and higher education, while valuing diversity across the field.

Empowered Families

7. Support programs and policies that prioritize primary prevention to build resiliency through trauma informed approaches and fortify family strengths.
8. In coordination with local early childhood systems building efforts, expand and strengthen the home visiting workforce by supporting professional development, with the goal of ensuring home visitors represent the diversity of Sacramento's families.

9. Empower parents to be effective community leaders and advocates to improve the well-being of children and families through expanded leadership programming and policies.

Systems Improvement and Sustainability

10. Support the sustainability of First 5 Sacramento programs, services and outcomes impacting children and families through capacity building initiatives.
11. Support systems change efforts, policies, legislation and programs that prioritize racial equity, diversity and inclusion (REDI), anti-black racism, and social justice.
12. Implement policies and leverage resources to strengthen the capacity of funded partners to effectively serve children and families.
13. Explore and advance additional revenue sources for ensuring sustainable, comprehensive, equitable and integrated systems and services for children and families.

FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION
Advisory Committee Update
February 2025

Honoring Steve Wirtz

The newly created Champion for Prevention Award, sponsored by Child Safety First Sacramento (The Prevention Cabinet) was created to honor Commissioner Steve Wirtz. An award will be provided to one community member each year during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

Staffing Update

Sheng Yang, who joined the First 5 staff in December 2023 as an Administrative Services Officer I (ASO I), has accepted a promotion with the Coroner's Office as an Administrative Services Officer II (ASO II). Her last day with First 5 was Friday, December 27th. We are currently working on filling the vacant ASO I position.

LaTina Price retired in December. For eight years, she served as our Systems Change, Sustainability and REDI Director, a Human Services Program Planner Range B position. Staff is working on restructuring the programmatic team to create succession planning and offer the same advancement ladder as the administrative team. Two Program Planner positions will be reclassified as (1) a Human Services Program Manager and (2) a Human Services Program Specialist. This will result in a cost savings of \$14,037 per Fiscal Year (FY).

Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Cultural Responsiveness (REDI +CR) Update

Lindsay Dunckel, First 5 Staff, has transitioned to the team lead on our REDI + CR priority programs. She will manage the current REDI contracts related to the Participatory Grant Making Process, external communications, evaluation and the community funding contracts. In addition, Lindsay will represent First 5 Sacramento on Sacramento County's Government Alliance on Racial Equity and DEI interdepartmental cohort.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

On January 4, First 5 Sacramento kicked off the third year of PLTI with a retreat at the Sacramento Children's Home. In total 25 parents are participating in the Spanish language cohort with 20 weeks of sessions on civic engagement on Wednesday evenings at Valley Hi Family Resource Center. Staff is working on a funding partnership with Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services on adding an English language cohort class. First 5 Sacramento has partnered with Health Net, Anthem, and Sacramento County Dept of Health Services, Public Health to implement three cohorts in the past two years.

Advisory Committee members are encouraged to get the word out about the English language cohort that begins in March.

2025 Policy Priorities

First 5 Sacramento's policy priorities continue to cover four high level key umbrella areas: Health, Early Care and Development, Empowered Families, and Systems Change and Sustainability. After review and approval from the SOS Committee, there were no recommended changes to the 2025 policy priorities. Our key umbrella areas provide the necessary support for continued advocacy and also take into consideration potential federal administration changes under the new leadership that could affect children and families. Our advocacy efforts remain aligned with the First 5 Association's policy agenda. The 2025 policy priorities are included in your packet.

Sac Family Connect (SFC) Summit

The SFC Collaborative hosted an in-person meeting in November for the first time since its inception in 2020. The focus of the summit was: *Centering families in our work by building stronger inter-agency collaboration for wrap-around services*. With 140 attendees representing 55 agencies and 12 community members, we reached room capacity at the Health Net Campus in Natomas. Chair Serna gave a welcome address setting the tone for the day and Commissioner Wesley closed the conference with inspiration for taking our work to the next level. Some of the hands-on networking included: teambuilding, family referral scenarios, and breakout groups on different topics to discuss how SFC can support collaboration around these topics. There was also an engaging parent led panel sharing their experiences navigating services through multiple agencies.

Evaluation Update

During the 2022-23 Birth and Beyond Annual Report presentation at the August 2024 Commission meeting, Commissioners and members of the public raised concerns about our lack of ability to report specific race/ethnicity data for clients who identify as multiracial. Staff has been working with our database contractor, Persimmony, to address these issues and change the way in which multiracial ethnicity is collected in Persimmony. We are pleased to announce that Persimmony developers are working to implement the change later this year which will allow us to collect and track multiracial data. In the meantime, First 5 staff have created an assessment to begin collecting the data now.

25th Anniversary Regional Power Building Summit Recap

In November, the First 5 Sacramento Region hosted a *Power Building Summit* to commemorate our 25th Anniversary. Commissioners and staff from 10 surrounding First 5s came together to connect, network and share local successes. Thank you to Chair Serna for participating in a panel highlighting local sustainability and partnerships and to Commissioner Moak for being a dynamic emcee and bringing the energy to the Sacramento Region.

Breakout sessions provided attendees with the chance to dive into sector-specific conversations (early childhood systems, community-based

organizations, healthcare and education) discussing both new opportunities and current obstacles. These discussions highlighted the need for innovative solutions and an ongoing commitment to sustainability. Participants explored strategies to strengthen systems, ensure long-term impact and better support families across the region.

To end the day, attendees were asked to take a poll on next steps and action items. The overarching response was to have consistent and clear strategic messaging for multiple audiences and to continue to advocate at the local and state level.

State Budget

The Governor released the proposed 2025-26 and at first review the administration is maintaining their commitment to investments in early care and education rates and the continued rollout of additional childcare spaces. Staff will work with the First 5 Association and the SOS Committee to prioritize investments that are responsive to the needs of families and ensure long-term funding. Top on the list is advocating for funding to implement continuous Medi-Cal eligibility for children ages 0-5 and the reauthorization of the ACEs Aware program.



Sacramento County
Child Death Review Team
Fetal Infant Mortality Review
Five-Year Report
2017-2021

First 5 Advisory Committee
February 14, 2025

Jasmine Brosnan
Child Abuse Prevention Center, Evaluation Program Manager

34 Years (1990-2024)

Sacramento County Child Death Review Team

Purpose

- Ensure that all child abuse deaths are identified.
- Enhance the investigations of all child deaths through multi-agency review.
- Develop a statistical description of all child deaths as an overall indicator of the status of children.
- Develop recommendations for preventing and responding to child deaths based on the reviews and statistical information.

2017-2021 Child Deaths

Sacramento County Residents (0-17 years)

	2017-2019		2020-2021		2017-2021	
	Total Deaths	Mortality Rate	Total Deaths	Mortality Rate	Total Deaths	Mortality Rate
All Child Deaths	353	32.3	247	34.2	600	33.0
Injury-Related Classification	86	7.9	69	9.6	155	8.5
Natural Classification	246	22.5	173	24.0	419	23.1
Undetermined Classification	21	1.9	5	0.7	26	1.4
Child Maltreatment Deaths	22	2.0	23	3.2	45	2.5
Child Abuse & Neglect Homicides	12	1.1	8	1.1	20	1.1
FIMR: Fetal Deaths Only* (per 1,000 births)	249	4.4	155	4.3	404	4.3

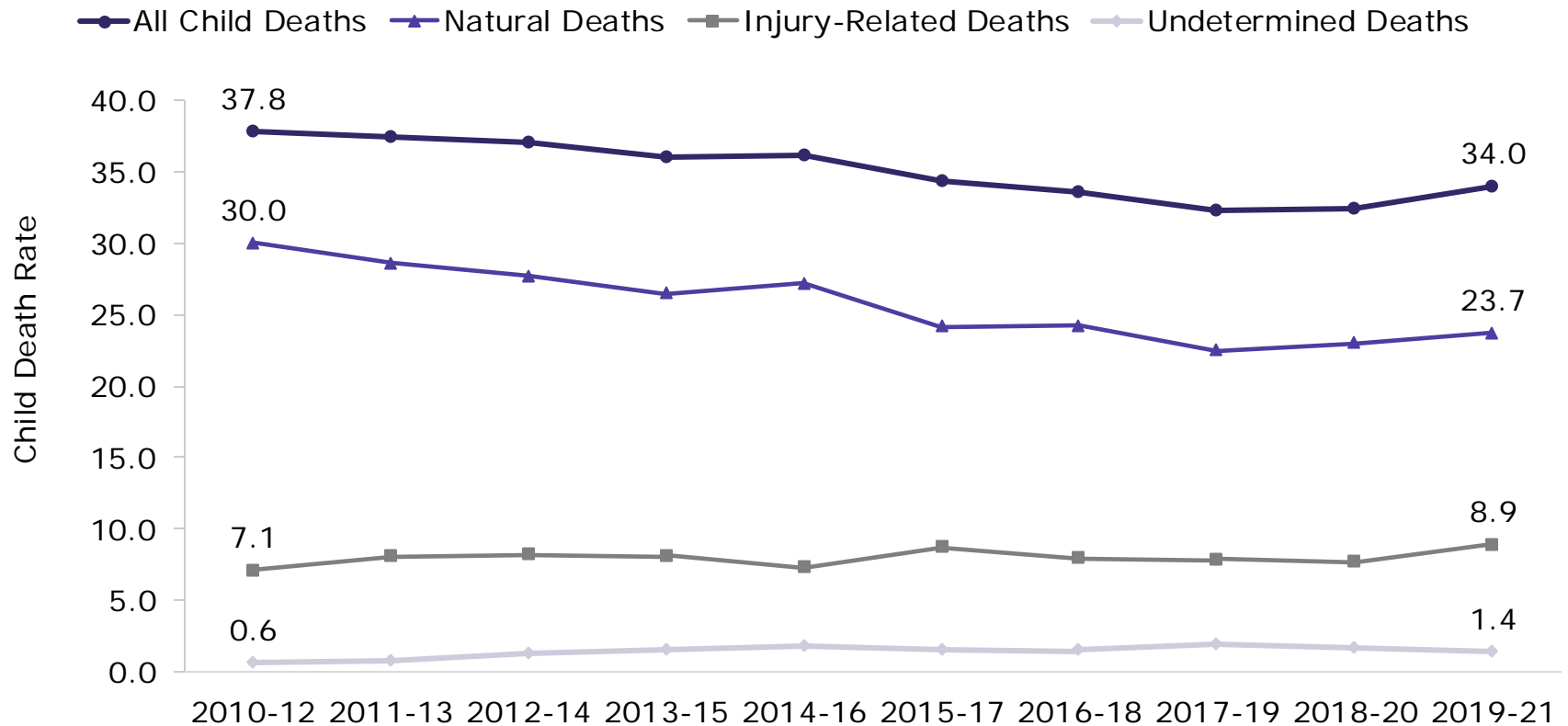
*FIMR reviews both fetal deaths and live births (born prior to 23 weeks of gestation); however, this rate does not include the infant deaths that are counted in the "All Child Deaths" category (to prevent a duplicate count). Fetal Mortality Rate is calculated using number of births in Sacramento County, per 1,000; all other child death rates calculated using child population per 100,000.

Child Mortality Rate 10-Year Trend

(3-year rolling average rate, per 100,000 children)

Sacramento County Residents

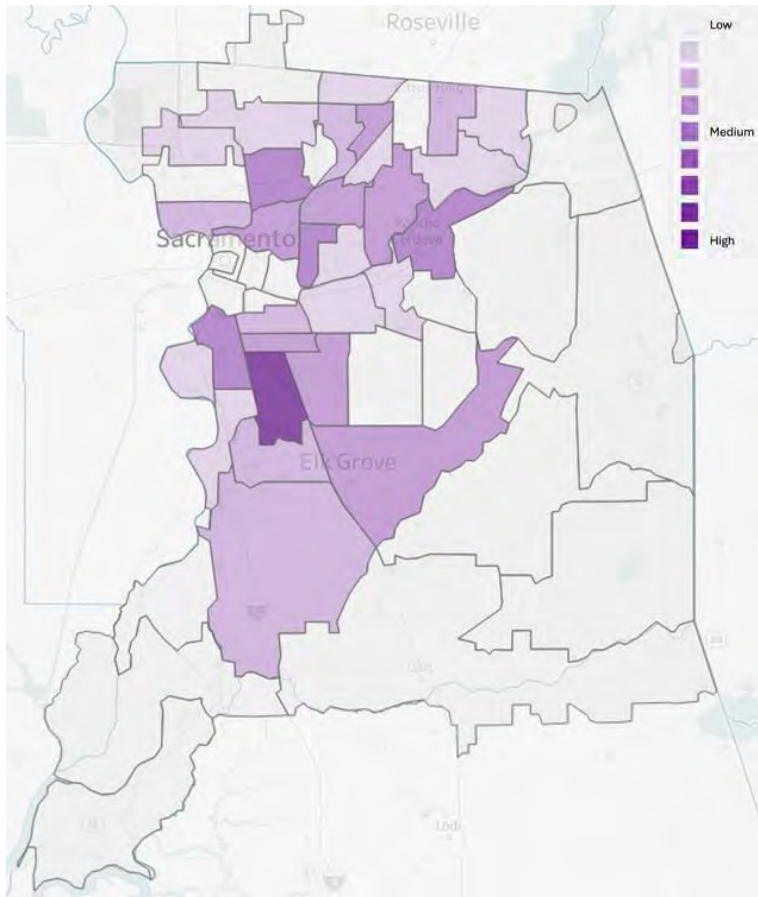
Over the past decade, the All Child Death rate for children living in Sacramento County **decreased**, while Injury-Related and Undetermined Death rate **increased**.



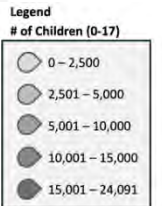
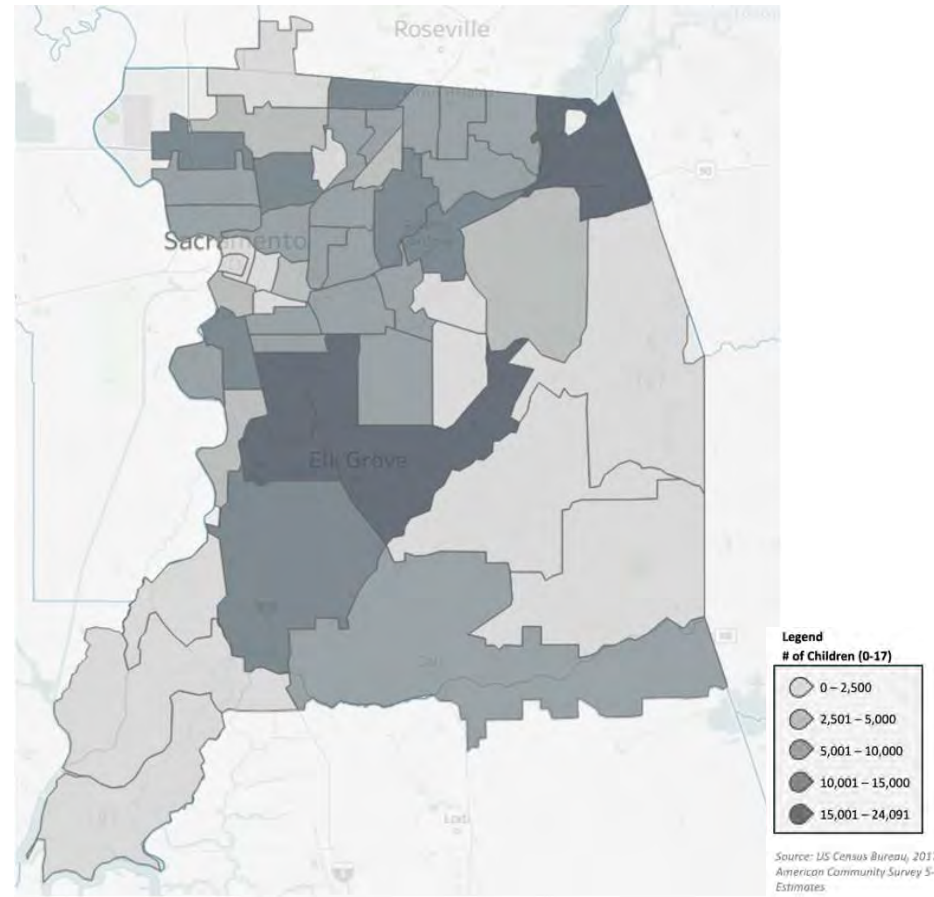
Child Mortality Location

Density of All Child Deaths by ZIP Code, 2017-2021

Sacramento County Resident Deaths



Child Population in Sacramento County



Source: US Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-2021)

- Respiratory Deaths due to COVID 19 were lower than reportable (<5)
- Increase in overall child deaths, 116 in 2020 (31.1 per 100,000) to 135 in 2021 (37.3 per 100,000) can be linked to COVID-19 social support challenges
 - Parental stress soared as families struggled with income loss, illness, and difficulties accessing basic needs.
 - Parents, already vulnerable, faced overwhelming pressures with diminished social and economic support systems.
 - Services that normally help families were either shut down or moved online and inaccessible to families without stable internet access, equipment, or literacy to navigate services (Help ChildrenNow | UNICEF USA).
 - Closure of healthcare and child protection services meant children were at greater risk of abuse and neglect going unnoticed, with fewer eyes on them due to reduced social support (JAMA Network).

Systems Involvement

All Child Deaths (2017-2021)

- **85%** (522 of 611) of all child deaths had one or more systems involvement.
- Infants with CPS were **5.1 times more likely** to suffer an infant sleep-related deaths

2017-2019	Government Aid	Sacramento County CPS	Crime	Alcohol/ Drug Use	Domestic Violence
Injury-Related Total	58%	60%	49%	48%	31%
Natural Total	61%	41%	35%	23%	15%
Undetermined Total	76%	71%	71%	67%	48%
Total (All Manners)	61%	48%	41%	32%	21%
2020-2021	Government Aid	Sacramento County CPS	Crime	Alcohol/ Drug Use	Domestic Violence
Injury-Related Total	52%	68%	58%	59%	36%
Natural Total	66%	44%	35%	28%	18%
Undetermined Total	60%	51%	40%	80%	40%
Total (All Manners)	62%	44%	41%	38%	24%

Homicide Deaths 2017-2021

Sacramento County Residents

Child Abuse & Neglect (CAN) Homicides

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017-2021
8	1	3	3	5	20

- **20 Total**
- **75%** (15 of 20): Sacramento County Child Protective Services involvement
- **70%** (14 of 20): Aged 0-5 years

Third-Party Homicides

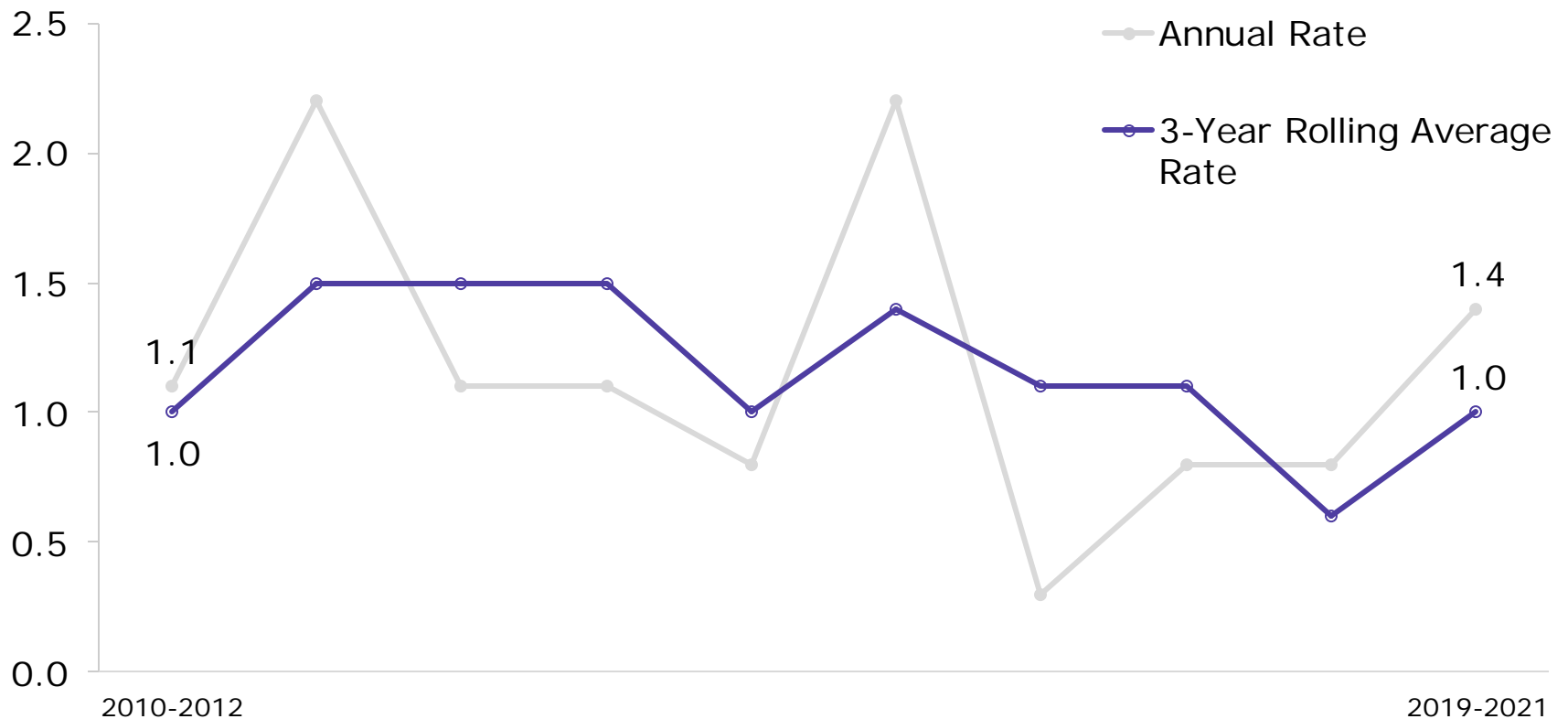
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017-2021
Sacramento County Resident	7	3	4	4	6	24

- **24 Total**
- **88%** (21 of 24): Family Involvement with Law Enforcement
- **75%** (18 of 24): Youth aged 10-17 years

CAN Homicide Child Mortality Rate

(Annual & 3-year rolling average per 100,000 children)

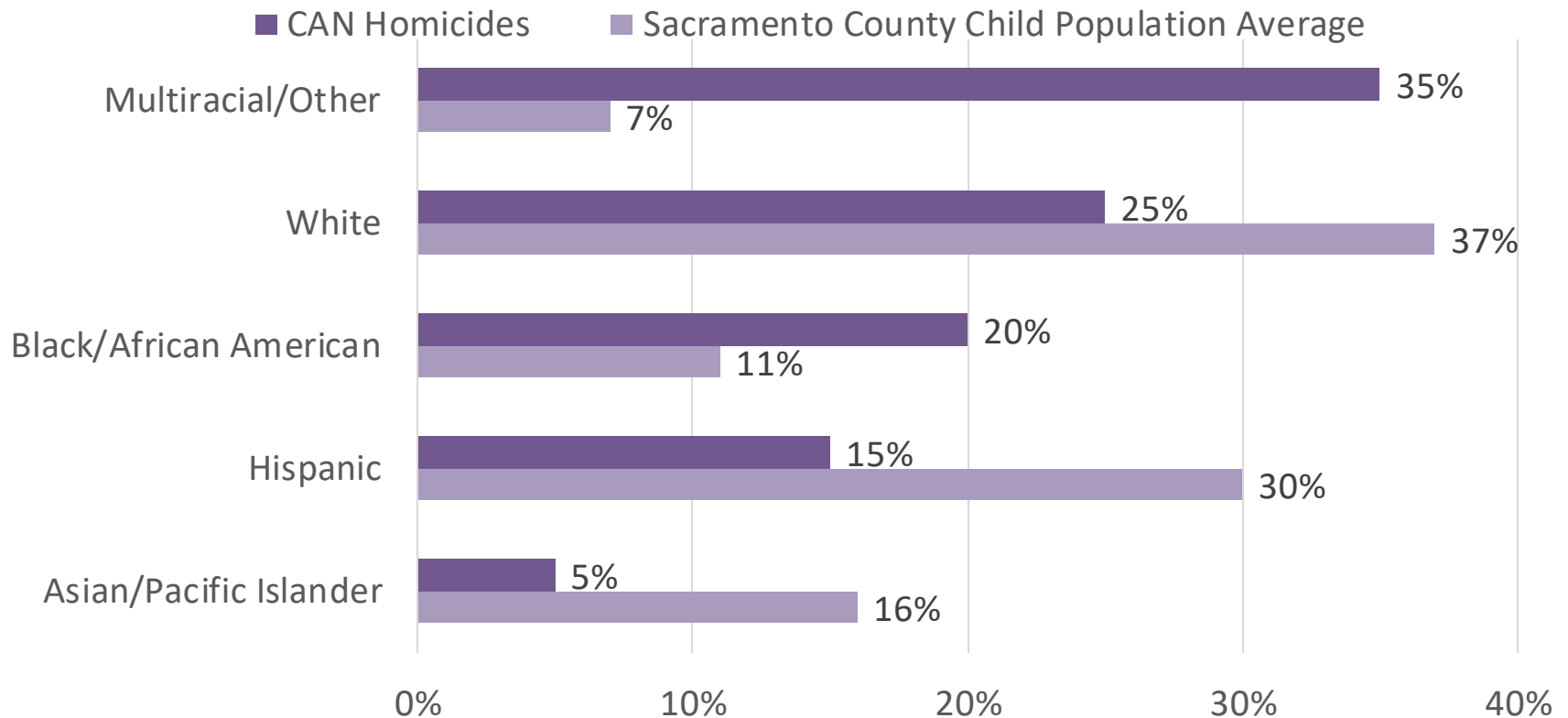
Sacramento County Residents The 3-year rolling average rate of CAN Homicide Deaths is **1.0 for 2010-2012 and 2019-2021.**



CAN Homicide Child Mortality Rate

Characteristics

CAN Homicides by Race/Ethnicity, Sacramento County Residents, 2017-2021
(n=20)



Natural Deaths by Category

Pre and During COVID-19

Natural Classification	2017-2019		2020-2021		Five-Year Total	
					2017-2021	
Perinatal Conditions	96	39%	62	36%	158	38%
Congenital Anomalies	84	34%	56	32%	140	33%
SIDS	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUIDS	22	9%	21	12%	43	10%
Cancer	19	8%	18	10%	37	9%
Infections/Respiratory	12	5%	10	6%	22	5%
Natural: Other	8	3%	4	2%	12	3%
Natural: Undetermined	5	2%	2	1%	7	2%
Total	246	100%	173	100%	419	100%

Injury-Related Youth Deaths

(Age 10-17 Years)

90 Total

- **29%** (26 of 90) involved Firearms

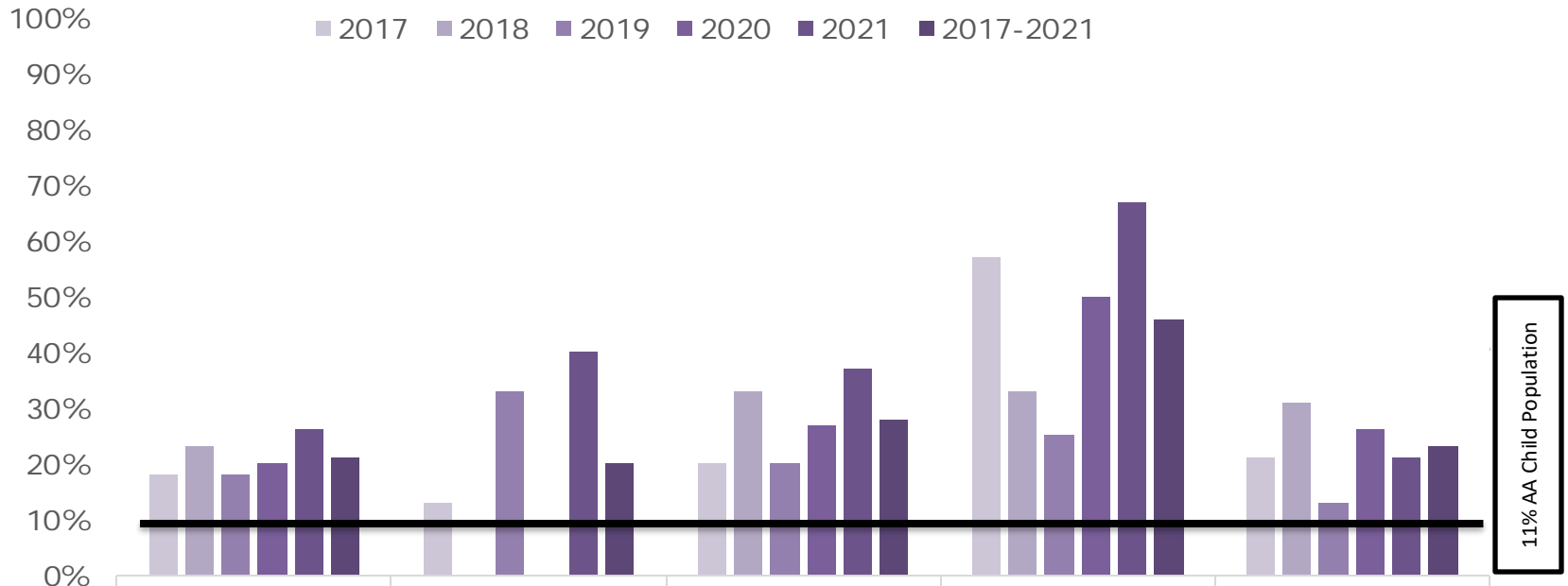
Three Leading Categories

- **29%** (26 of 90) Suicides
- **22%** (20 of 90) Third-Party Homicides
- **12%** (11 of 90) Poisoning/Overdose
 - **82%** (9 of 11) from 2020-2021
 - **89%** (8 of 9) Involved Fentanyl 2020-2021
Compared to zero from 2017-2019

School Engagement

41% (37 of 90) detailed school information unknown

African American Child Death Disproportionality



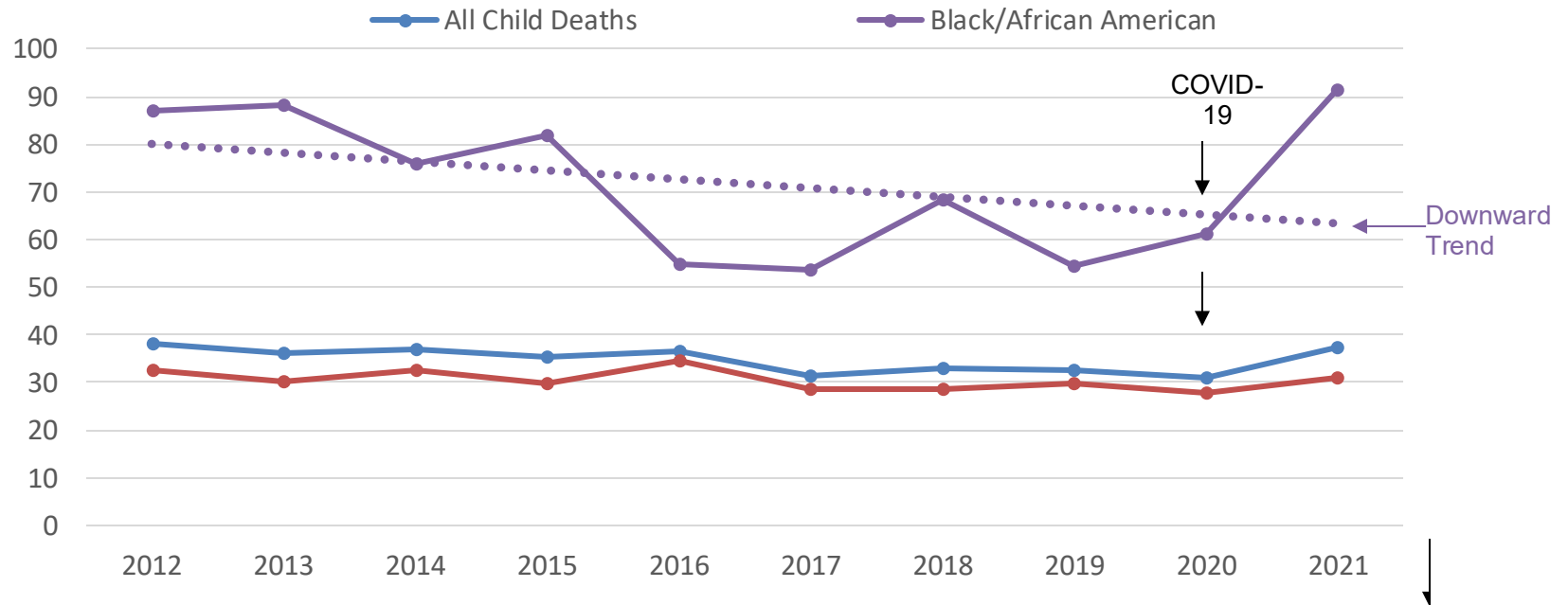
	All Categories	CAN Homicide	Infant Sleep-Related	Third-Party Homicide	Perinatal Conditions
2017	18%	13%	20%	57%	21%
2018	23%	0%	33%	33%	31%
2019	18%	33%	20%	25%	13%
2020	20%	0%	27%	50%	26%
2021	26%	40%	37%	67%	21%
2017-2021	21%	20%	28%	46%	23%

11% AA Child Population

African American Child Death Disproportionality

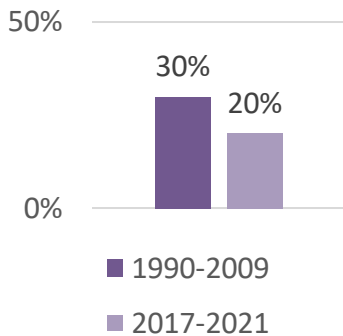
Child Death Rates, Per 100,000 Children, 2012-2021, Sacramento County Residents

Child Mortality Rate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
All Child Deaths	38.3	36.1	37	35.2	36.5	31.4	33	32.4	31.1	37.3
Black/African American	87.1	88.4	75.8	81.7	54.9	53.5	68.5	54.3	61.3	91.3
All Other Race/Ethnicity	32.5	30.0	32.5	29.9	34.4	28.7	28.7	29.8	27.6	31.1



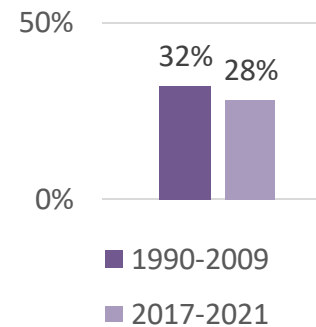
African American Child Death Disproportionality (CAN Homicide & Infant Sleep-Related Deaths)

CAN Homicide, 1990-2009 and 2017-2021



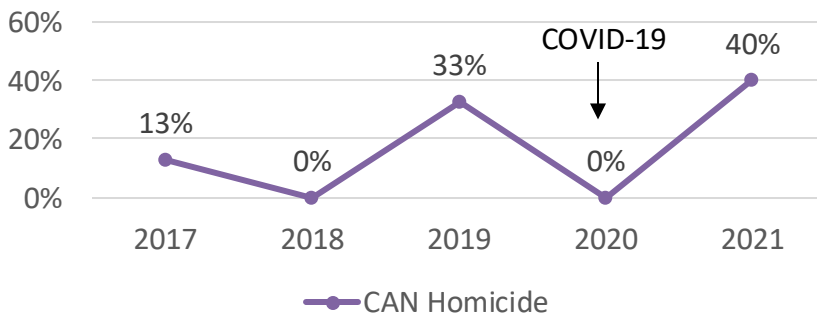
Decrease in CAN Homicides from 30% in 1990 to 2009, to **20%** in the five-year period, 2017-2021.

Infant Sleep-Related Deaths, 1990-2009 and 2017-2021

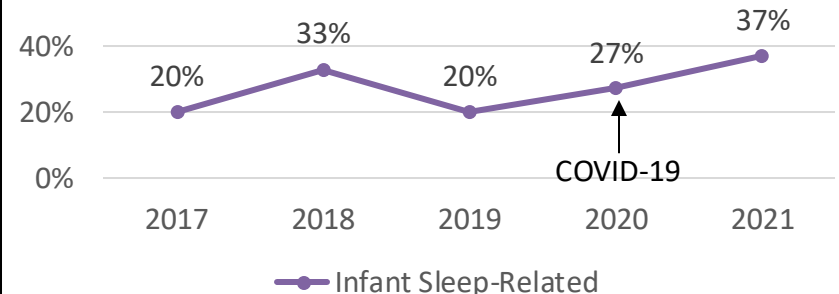


Decrease in Infant Sleep-Related Deaths from 32% in 1990 to 2009, to **28%** in the five-year period, 2017-2021.

CAN Homicide, 2017-2021



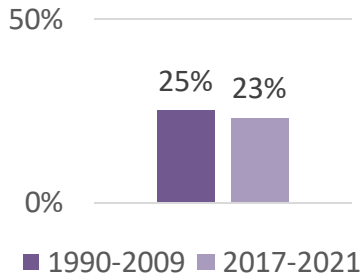
Infant Sleep-Related Deaths, 2017-2021



African American Child Death Disproportionality

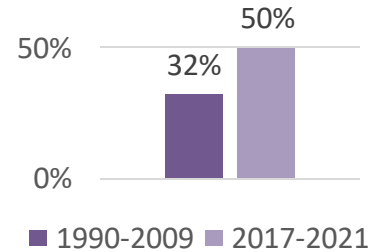
(Perinatal Conditions & Third-Party Homicide Deaths)

Perinatal Conditions, 1990-2009 and 2017-2021



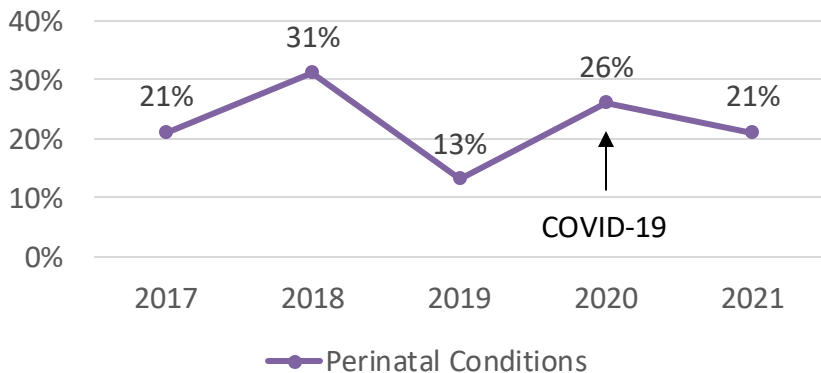
Decrease in **Perinatal Deaths** from 25% in 1990 to 2009, to **23%** in the five-year period, 2017-2021.

Third-Party Homicides, 1990-2009 and 2017-2021

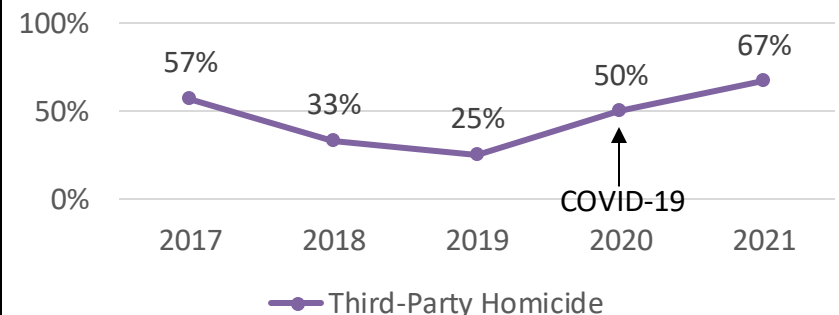


Increase in **Third-Party Homicides** from 32% in 1990 to 2009, to **50%** in the five-year period, 2017-2021.

Perinatal Conditions, 2017-2021



Third-Party Homicides, 2017-2021



CDRT Recommendation Highlights

- Finalize and implement the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) plan to increase and improve cross-sector collaboration, communication, and assessments for acuity, as it relates to quality referrals, warm handoffs, and follow up for services, by the end of 2025.
- The Child Safety Forward Sacramento Prevention Cabinet should prioritize and implement their recommendations most directly related to children ages 0-5 in order to eliminate child abuse and neglect death and critical injuries.
- Expand and enhance neighborhood-based programs focused on reducing Third-Party Homicide through violence prevention, interruption, and intervention, through cross-sector collaboration.
- Expand training and education efforts to parents and caregivers of infants with Child Protective Services (CPS) referrals to decrease the prevalence of Infant Sleep-Related Deaths.
- Improve data collection for Injury-Related Youth Deaths by encouraging full participation of Sacramento County School Districts, and Private and Charter Schools on the Youth Death Review Subcommittee (YDRS).

7 Years

Sacramento County Fetal Infant Mortality Review

Purpose

Seek to reduce fetal and infant deaths by:

- Reviewing selected cases
- Identifying factors associated with these deaths
- Determining if these factors represent social or system problems which require change
- Presenting recommendations for systems changes to improve outcomes

FIMR Findings (2017-2021)

Pregnancy Complications

- Premature Rupture of Membranes | **18%**
- Pregnancy-Related Infections | **18%**
- Incompetent Cervix | **12%**

Pre-Pregnancy Maternal Health

- Mothers were overweight/obese (BMI 25+) |
 - **66%** (Fetal Loss)
 - **54%** (Live Birth prior to 23 weeks' gestation)
- Prior fetal loss | **26%**
- Late Term Loss | **19%** (37+ weeks gestation)

FIMR Findings (2017-2021)

Race*

- White | **27%** of deaths; 37% of births
- Hispanic | **21%** of deaths; 28% of births
- Asian/Pacific Islander | **21%** of deaths; 19% of births
- Black/African American | **19%** of deaths; 10% of births
- Multiracial/Other | **12%** of deaths; 6% of births

Systems Involvement

- Government Aid | **65%**
- Sacramento County CPS Involvement | **44%**

*For fetal deaths, mother's race identified on the Fetal Death Certificate is used. Infant deaths use the race identified for the infant on the death certificate. This is a change from the 2015 CDRT Report. **Not shown here:** 19 decedents where their race (or Mother's Race) was unknown.

FIMR Recommendations

Joint recommendations of FIMR and CDRT

- Continue quality improvements and culturally responsive updates to Mandated Child Abuse Reporter Training (MCART).
- Parents with Sacramento County Child Protective Services History as a Minor Child, Youth and Family System of Care (AB2083) and Child Safety Forward Sacramento should review data and continue to identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration.
- Continue to offer services to break generational cycles of child welfare involvement.
- Support local domestic violence service agencies in providing services to pregnant and parenting families.

FIMR Recommendations

- Continue to provide current and new education, supports, and services for maternal health.
- Provide trauma informed support and care for families who have experienced prior fetal loss and/or late term loss.

Sacramento County
Child Death Review Team
Fetal Infant Mortality Review
Five-Year Report
2017-2021

Questions & Comments