

Racial Equity Snapshot 2022

A Cross-Sector Data Review of Select Initiatives in Sacramento County

The purpose of this document is to synthesize key findings, identify promising practices, and lessons learned from community organizations and support a cross-systems approach to addressing disparities in Sacramento County. This snapshot, funded by First 5 Sacramento, focuses on select initiatives impacting younger children and their families.



Sacramento County stakeholders and community members are working to address the preventable health inequities and disparities caused by racial bias and discrimination.



The initiatives selected for this snapshot aim to reduce racial disparities by:

- Embedding **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism** into program design and delivery
- Focusing on **culturally conscious and responsive** support
- Using available **data** to inform program focus and guide improvements
- Including, empowering, and **mobilizing community** members to advocate for change

Baseline Disparities Across Systems

The following disparities reflect some of the pervasive systemic barriers that Black/African American families experience.

Compared to children in other ethnic groups at respective project baselines, Black African American children had:

- ▶ **9.3** times higher **substantiated allegation** rates (ages 0-5) (2012)
- ▶ **5.3** times higher rates of CPS removals from home due to maltreatment (2019)
- ▶ **8.4** times higher **critical injury** rates (2009-2018)
- ▶ **5.7** times higher **child abuse related death** rates (2009-2018)
- ▶ **2.8** times higher **infant mortality** rates (2012-2014)

These disparities (among others) were the drivers for cross-systems racial equity work.

Comparison groups vary based on available data. Please see full report for details.

County Initiatives (0-5)*

The following initiatives aim to reduce barrier so services and supports for Black/African American families:

First 5 Sacramento Reduction of African American Child Deaths (RAACD)

- ▶ Pregnancy Peer Advocates
- ▶ Safe Sleep Baby
- ▶ Birth & Beyond Family Resource Centers
- ▶ Public Education Campaign

Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAPC)

- ▶ Birth & Beyond Home Visiting Program
- ▶ Child Safety Forward

Sacramento County Department of Public Health

- ▶ Black Infant Health
- ▶ African American Perinatal Home Visiting
- ▶ Nurse Family Partnership

Department of Child, Family, and Adult Services

- ▶ Child Protective Services Cultural Broker Program

* Select initiatives, does not represent all county efforts.

“Because of the Black Infant Health Program, I’m a better me, which makes me a better mother, daughter, and friend.” - Kentisha, Black Infant Health participant

Countywide (% change)

Initiative Highlight

Birth Outcomes

Sacramento County still faces persistent gaps in birth outcomes.

Since 2012-2014, healthy birth outcomes for Black/African Americans have **slightly decreased** (-1%) countywide. Furthermore, the disparity gap between Black/African Americans and all others **increased** for each measure below.



Healthy Birthweight Disparity Gap 29%



Full Term Birth Disparity Gap 27%



Any Breastfeeding Disparity Gap 5%
(2016 to 2019)

Participants in the African American Perinatal Home Visiting and Nurse Family Partnership programs were **more likely to have a healthy birth** than the most recent countywide estimates. About **9 out of 10** Black/African American program participants initiated **breastfeeding** in FY 2021-22.

Infant Mortality

Rates of infant mortality for African Americans have decreased.

Rates of infant mortality among Black/African Americans have **decreased** overall and for leading causes of death. By 2017-2019, the disparity gap between Black/African Americans and all others in Sacramento County decreased 32%.



Sleep Related Disparity Gap 65%



Perinatal Causes Disparity Gap 10%



Child Abuse & Neglect Disparity Gap 79%

RAACD Pregnancy Peer Support Program participants served in 2016-2018 had **lower infant mortality rates (3.5) than countywide (9.0).**

Child Welfare

CPS involvement is decreasing for African American children.

Substantiated allegations among Black/African American children ages 0-5 **decreased** between 2012 and 2020.



Substantiated Allegations 17%



Disparity Gap 18%

Between 2019 and 2021, CPS removal rates **decreased** for Black/African Americans ages 0-5.



Removals from Home 27%



Disparity Gap 28%

Race/ethnicity was not a significant predictor of substantiated recurrence among children who received at least eight hours of Birth & Beyond home visiting demonstrating that **receiving the minimum amount of home visiting dosage may decrease racial disparities in CPS recurrence.**

How to Improve Racial Equity Across Systems

The following includes promising practices and lessons learned from the Sacramento County initiatives profiled above. Our hope is that these insights can provide a roadmap for other initiatives seeking to improve racial equity.

1. Maintain an ongoing commitment to culturally responsive programming rather than “one-size-fits-all” approaches
2. Conduct authentic and intentional efforts to include community voice in planning/development and decision making
3. Ensure accessibility of program information and reporting to wide range of stakeholders and community members
4. Share organization-level outcomes with policymakers and advocates to “scale up” successful initiatives
5. Monitor population and organization-level data by race/ethnicity to identify disparities and guide current/future needs
6. Form multi-sector collaboratives with experts from different systems to create long-lasting systems change
7. Utilize knowledge and experience gleaned from other initiatives (e.g., lessons learned, challenges, promising practices)