

Flintridge Foundation Community Needs Assessment

Purpose

Flintridge Foundation's Community Assessment project examines unmet needs in the Northwest Pasadena and Altadena communities. The assessment is not intended to present a complete picture of the Northwest Pasadena/Altadena communities, since it does not reflect the many positive assets and resources that exist.

- To meet the requirements of the federal government for the Northwest Echo Program.
- To provide the Flintridge Foundation board with information concerning the factors affecting Northwest Pasadena/West Altadena (NWP/A) community.
- The information is intended for community groups, organizations, foundations, government agencies and others to use in understanding community needs and developing services to further the well-being of children and families in Northwest Pasadena and Altadena.

Criteria

- Specific to Northwest Pasadena/West Altadena (NWP/A)
- Focused on issues impacting children, youth and families
 - What are the most pressing needs of children and families?
 - How well are children and families doing in our community?
 - What are the challenges of connecting people to services?
 - What efforts are underway to address challenges?

Information Sources

Three information sources:

- 14 previously conducted assessments from the years 2003-2007
 - Assessments used included MAP Forces of Change Assessment, Fuller Youth Initiative, City of Pasadena Policy on Children, Youth and Families, and the Community Health Profile by Madison Neighborhood Partners.
- Focus groups with 160 participants representing service providers, youth and parents. More than 90% of participants were from NWP/A.
- Data analysis – census tracts representing NWP/A were analyzed using data from sources including the California Department of Education, 2000 U.S. Census, Los Angeles County and the city of Pasadena.

Findings

Demographics:

Population: 80,006

Ethnicity: Latino 44%; African American 31%; White 19%; Asian, 5%

Ages: 32% of the population is children ages 0-19.

Four Compelling Issues:

Family and Community Violence

- Drug-related offenses accounted for 854 arrests among adults and 43 arrests among juveniles in 2005.
- Most domestic violence calls in Altadena and Pasadena report a weapon involved and these calls have increased over the past several years.
- Only 20% of students in 7th grade reported feeling safe at school, and that percentage dropped to only 11% in the 9th and 11th grades.
- Nearly one-third of 7th and 9th graders report having been in a fight over the past year.
- Over one-quarter of all the middle and high school students said they have been harassed.
- Students also expressed a fear of being beat up.
- In the summer of 2007, there were no organized gang intervention programs; currently three programs working in gang intervention are new and under funded: Amer-I-can, Alive & Free, and NOW.
- 35% of males surveyed know someone who was shot or shot at with a gun.
- In 2005, 584 adults and 120 youth were arrested for violent crimes.

Youth and Family Support

- The census indicates that 243 foster children live in family households and 74 foster children are in non-family households in the Altadena and Northwest Pasadena. An additional 255 foster children live in non-institutionalized group homes.
- Issues identified across several studies included the lack of youth involvement in civic activities and issues, the need for programs that strengthen families, the need for preventive programs, and educational enrichment services tailored to youth and young adults.

Education

- Of residents age 25 and over, 30% have not graduated high school.
- In West Altadena and Northwest Pasadena, only 11.1% of the children and youth in grades K-12 attend private schools.
- Four area schools exceed the District-wide Academic Performance Index (API) score of 701, and five area schools fall below the District average.
- On average, only 55% of students have achieved basic proficiency in math, and only 56% of students have basic proficiency in language arts.
- There is increased illiteracy among youth and adults.
- Students with potential are often not encouraged by the schools to think about their futures or to prepare for and apply to college.

Financial Security

- The median family income is \$53,450, yet this masks the underlying poverty; nearly one-half (45%) of Northwest Pasadena/West Altadena residents were living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2000, including 19% living at or below the 100% rate.
- Over 8 in 10 children (83%) in area schools are eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program; females head nearly one in five (18%) of the households.
- Unemployment in Northwest Pasadena/West Altadena was 8.2% in 2000, notably higher than the overall rate for Pasadena and Altadena of 6.4%. The County rate was also 8.2%, and the statewide rate was 7.0%.
- Madison Neighborhood residents identified *cost of housing* and *availability of jobs* as the number one and two issues facing both families and the community, with 82% of residents naming cost of housing and 57% naming availability of jobs.
- Parents shared frustration at their lack of ability to provide for children and making trade-offs to get by (e.g., living in unsafe neighborhood, sharing living space with family and friends).
- Youth need access to entry-level jobs, as well as meaningful employment opportunities.