

## Annual Report AR-3

### San Diego County Evaluation Summary and Highlights

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

## County Evaluation Summary

### Evaluation Activities Completed, Findings, and Policy Impact

First 5 San Diego utilizes a standardized evaluation design for five major initiatives that include quantitative process and outcome data and qualitative data (e.g., focus groups and testimonials). Each initiative tracks client demographic data and the following: 1. Oral Health Initiative (OHI): tracks screenings, examinations, and treatment for children; care coordination services and oral health education for parents/pregnant women; and training for OBGYN's, pediatricians and dentists. 2. Healthy Development Services (HDS): tracks services for children identified with mild to moderate developmental and/or social emotional needs and families receiving care coordination support and screenings, assessments and/or treatment for behavior, development, and speech/language concerns. 3. Learn Well Initiative (LWI): focuses on strengthening the existing early care and education system structures and expanding FCC, FFN and non-subsidized childcare provider participation in quality early learning and care with a targeted focus on providers serving infants and toddlers. 4. KidSTART: KidSTART Center tracks gains measured for children with multiple, complex disorders. 5. First 5 First Steps (F5FS): home visiting program tracks services for children and pregnant women. It measures parenting skills, overall safety and developmental appropriateness of the home environment, and each child's health and well-being. There are 229,227 children ages 0-5 in San Diego County. First 5 San Diego programs intensively served 24,940 children, 9,842 parents/caregivers, and 2,582 providers (unduplicated counts). Hispanic/Latino children (61.7%) and parents/caregivers (36.5%) were the most prominent group intensively served, followed by White non-Hispanics children and parents/caregivers (14.2% and 11.2% respectively). Through OHI, 7,254 children received oral health screenings and 9,321 dental exams. 99.5% of high-risk children and pregnant women with dental disease received treatment. HDS provided developmental and/or behavioral screenings, assessments, and/or treatment to 8,655 children. 6,098 caregivers participated in developmental and/or behavioral classes, consultations, or therapy. LWI provided 11,583 children with a quality preschool experience. 478 early learning and care sites participated in LWI. Of those, 317 worked with experienced coaches to develop site-specific Quality Improvement Plans. KidSTART served 216 children with complex needs via assessments and/or treatment or were connected to treatment services for multiple behavioral and/or developmental concerns. F5FS served 1120 caregivers/pregnant women and 601 children. 54.6% of mothers receiving F5FS services reported breastfeeding their children when they were 6 months. At 12 months of age, 84.1% of children were up-to-date with their Well Baby Checks and 85.3% were up to date with their immunizations. First 5 San Diego publishes its evaluation report annually and shares it with the Commission, First 5 San Diego contractors, other government agencies, community organizations and the public. The report is posted on the First 5 San Diego website and report findings are presented to the Commission for review and approval. The evaluation results are reviewed with contractors and used to identify successful practices and to implement strategies for continuous improvement. Data is used by the First 5 staff to support strategic planning, funding priorities, partner engagement/collaboration and is accessible to others. An example of this is, during FY20-21, First 5 San Diego leveraged its evaluation data to secure philanthropic funding for the creation of a report outlining a new approach for tracking participation in Quality Preschool Initiative preschool children into the k-12 systems. It is anticipated that this report will lay the foundation for a future quality preschool longitudinal study whose results would significantly add to the state and national knowledgebase.

# County Highlights

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During FY20-21, the COVID19 pandemic continued to present unique challenges for staff, community partners, and San Diego families. First 5 San Diego staff joined County partners in a joint countywide COVID response effort. Under the leadership of the First 5 Executive Director, First 5 staff worked to provide families and providers of children birth to 5 years of age with supportive resources and services to ensure their safety and well-being. First 5 San Diego initiated ongoing communication with the Early Childhood Education Coalition to assess the impact of the pandemic on the childcare sector. They maintained the Early Care sector support webpage to provide up-to-date information on the rapidly evolving public health situation with local, state, and national guidance tailored to the childcare community. First 5 San Diego also began hosting informative telebriefings and engaged a diverse provider group throughout the county, all while following public health guidelines and utilizing digital methods of communication. This response effort led to the re-activation of the Child Care Disaster Council (CCDC) co-chaired by the First 5 Executive Director. The CCDC developed the "Child Care Emergency Response Plan" that outlined a means to coordinate, receive and distribute emergency supplies from the State and the First 5 CA Commission through regional distribution sites. First 5 service providers continued to offer services, including virtual/phone check-ins, virtual developmental/behavioral services, virtual home visits and virtual preschool. Maintaining these connections and supporting families through these most difficult times has been critical for family's well-being. Despite the pandemic, thousands of families benefited from community-wide services such as daily activities on social media and the First 5 SD website, distribution of the Kit for New Parents, maintaining the parent warm line, and providing community health screenings and outreach.