



Annual Report AR-3

San Diego County Evaluation Summary and Highlights

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

County Evaluation Summary

Evaluation Activities Completed, Findings, and Policy Impact

First 5 San Diego utilizes a standardized evaluation design for five major initiatives that includes quantitative process and outcome data and qualitative data (e.g., interviews, focus groups and client and provider 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. 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): tracks the percentage of children ages 0-5 enrolled in quality early care and education environments with a highly qualified workforce; parents' and caregivers' knowledge and capacity to promote the healthy development of children ages 0-5; and parents' and caregivers' access to needed services for their children. 4. KidSTART: tracks gains measured for children with multiple, complex needs. 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 227,844 children ages 0-5 in San Diego County. First 5 San Diego programs intensively served 32,517 children, 9,363 parents/caregivers, and 2,706 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, 8,034 children received oral health screenings and 9,137 dental exams. 99.7% of high-risk children with dental disease received treatment. HDS provided developmental and/or behavioral screenings, assessments, and/or treatment to 8,009 children. 5,984 caregivers participated in developmental and/or behavioral classes, consultations, or therapy. LWI provided 14,324 children with a quality preschool experience. 513 early learning and care sites participated in LWI. Of those, 471 worked with experienced coaches to develop site-specific Quality Improvement Plans. KidSTART served 195 children with complex needs via assessments and/or treatment or were connected to treatment services for multiple behavioral and/or developmental concerns. F5FS served 523 caregivers/pregnant women and 477 children. 58.8% of mothers receiving F5FS services reported breastfeeding their children when they were 6 months. At 12 months of age, 85.9% of children were up to date with their Well Baby Checks and 83.5% 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 FY21-22, 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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After a challenging year and a half of shut down and consequent shift to virtual or hybrid services because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many First 5 San Diego providers returned to offering in-person services during FY21-22. The evaluation of First 5 San Diego programs adapted during the height of COVID to document and understand the challenges providers and families were facing in giving and receiving services virtually, while navigating unprecedented day-to-day life challenges. During FY21-22, amidst ongoing COVID challenges and record high inflation, First 5 San Diego providers also contended with stagnant funding levels, increased costs to serve the same child, and staffing and workforce retention issues across many funded providers. Du

