



MISSION PROMISE
COMUNIDAD PROMESA DE LA MISION
NEIGHBORHOOD

The Story of the Mission Promise Neighborhood Community



Baseline Results from the 2014 MPN Neighborhood Survey



U.S. Department of Education
Promise Neighborhood Initiative

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Introduction

Mission Promise Neighborhood (MPN) is a neighborhood initiative to address concentrated poverty and increase opportunity for community members. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Innovation and Improvement, MPN works within 1.865 square miles of San Francisco’s Mission District—in an area known as the Mission Promise Neighborhood (the MPN)—to create a community where all children succeed in school and families thrive. Together with nonprofits, government, and business partners, MPN provides services relevant to the language and the culture of its children and families to contribute to a safe, culturally relevant, and economically strong community.

In spring 2014, MPN administered the first Neighborhood Survey of the MPN community. The goal of the survey is to better understand MPN families and capture a current picture of the neighborhood. Starting with this snapshot, MPN can understand trends in the neighborhood over time. The survey asked families with children under 24 years old about their experiences living, working and raising families in the MPN, including quality of life, health, community engagement and other community strengths. Survey distribution was focused on reaching Latino families in order to gather this information and to inform future MPN efforts.

This report presents the first data of its kind—data gathered from families who live in or who have children in schools in the MPN. Because this is the first year of findings from the Neighborhood Survey, they should be considered as baseline data—in other words data that create the introduction to and beginning of the story the Neighborhood Survey will track over the following years.

Each section of the report begins with context specific to the MPN and the section’s theme, followed by survey findings, and concluding with main takeaways from the section. The report includes the following sections:

- A brief summary of the research methods (full methods available as appendix);
- Three descriptive sections that give context to the MPN community—its diversity, its housing trends, and economic circumstances in which MPN families live;
- Three sections about the children of the survey respondents—from their earliest years, to their schooling, to preparing for college and careers;
- Several sections of community and household level findings;
- And, a conclusion and series of 17 calls to action.

The findings that emerge from the Neighborhood Survey, connecting children, families and the community as a whole are stark, although not inconsistent with prevailing narratives about the Latino community in the Mission District. They paint a picture that contrasts deep hardship with uplifting community pride and resilience. While the findings cannot represent all families living in the MPN footprint, the data that follow outline the experiences of a specific community whose voice is often not elevated—and whose story is urgent.

Methods Summary

Following the guidelines issued by the Urban Institute, MPN contracted with an external evaluator—Harder+Company Community Research, a community-based research and evaluation firm. Harder+Company assisted with survey design, pilot testing, survey administration training, data management, analysis, and reporting. A full description of methods is in the appendix.

Research questions. The Mission Promise Neighborhood Survey was designed to answer the research questions outlined below. The survey included five Government Performance and Results Act (GRPA) indicators and additional questions to capture more in-depth information about survey participants.

- What are the characteristics of residents living in the Mission Promise Neighborhood?
- What is the baseline for the GRPA indicators in the MPN?
- How do families in the MPN experience quality of life, education, health services and childcare?

Sampling and response. Surveys were collected both from a random, address-based sample as well as a convenience sample by volunteer interviewers who completed a pencil and paper survey. A total of 407 household surveys were completed, and 342 of those surveys were included in this sample.¹ Within these 342 surveys, information was collected on 512 children ages 0–23.

Oversampling Latino Families. The MPN team chose to focus on collecting surveys from Latino families. The sample yielded very few non-Latino respondents, although only 38 percent of people living in the MPN footprint are Latino.² This oversampling strategy was motivated by a few key factors: (1) Latinos comprise the majority of children and young adults ages 0–24, in the Mission;³ (2) Latino families are the primary target recipients of MPN services; (3) MPN had limited time and resources to collect survey responses; (4) MPN is particularly interested in how the current context of rental instability, displacement and high cost of living in San Francisco is impacting Latino families. This fourth motivation for oversampling is explored further in the description of local context that introduces each of the following data sections.

¹ Surveys were excluded if place of residence or child’s school could not be confirmed to be within the MPN or if a single household completed the survey multiple times.

² U. S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (2007–2011).

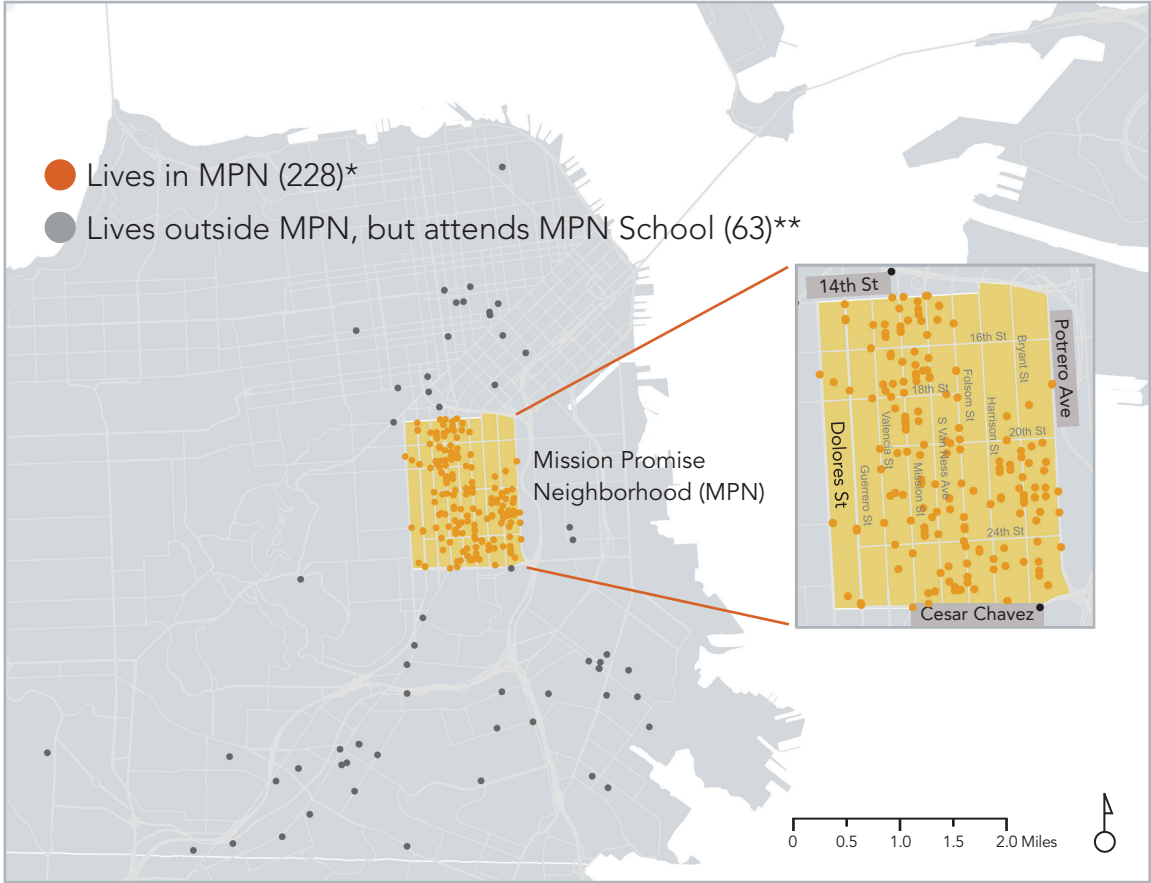
³ Center for Latino Policy Research. (2012). Mission Promise Neighborhood Needs Assessment Study: Spring 2012.

Survey Respondent Profile

Household Survey Responses

Both households located within the MPN footprint and those with children attending school within the defined area were included in the analysis for this report, creating a total sample of 342 respondents. From the perspective of the MPN team, these groups together represent the MPN community. As the map below illustrates, surveys were collected from throughout the MPN district. The northeast corner of the district had the lowest concentration of surveys collected, which corresponds to the area with the lowest density of residential units, largest land parcels, and greatest concentration of non-residential units such as those used for industrial production, distribution, and repair.⁴ The map below (Exhibit 1) shows surveyed households that provided street addresses (291 households, or 85 percent of surveyed households). Households who did not provide a street address are not included on the map.

Exhibit 1: Household Survey Responses (n=291)



* Only includes households who provided a street address. Sample also includes 44 households who self-identified as living in the MPN without providing a street address. The sample includes a total of 272 households who live in the MPN.

** Only includes households who provided a street address. Sample includes 7 households with children who attend school in the MPN, whether or not they provided a street address. The sample includes a total of 70 households who do not live in the MPN.

⁴ Geographic Information Systems data, San Francisco Planning Department, March 2014.

Exhibit 2:
Respondent Gender
(n=336)

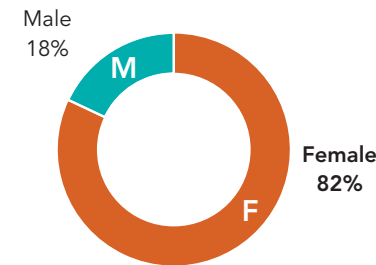


Exhibit 3:
Respondent Age
(n=333)

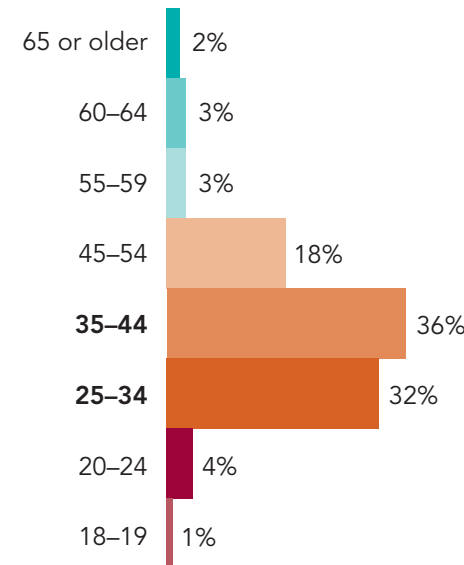
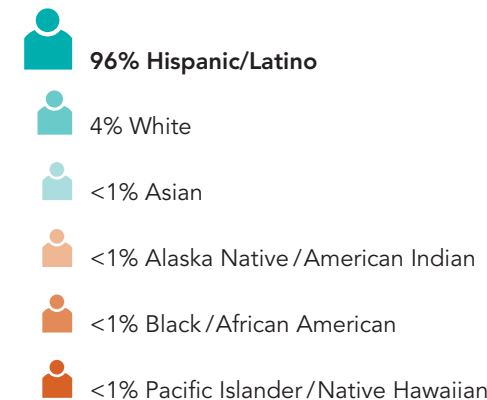


Exhibit 4:
Respondent
Race / Ethnicity
(n=335)



Children and School Attendance

For each household that participated in the survey, specific questions were asked about the children living there— a total of 512 children. Data were collected on 127 children aged zero to five years old, 255 children in kindergarten through 8th grade, 82 children in 9th through 12th grade and 48 children beyond high school but under 24 years of age (Exhibit 5). This distribution mirrors the school enrollment of students who live in the MPN, most of whom are in elementary school.⁵

⁵ John Gardner Center. (2012). Issue Brief: Mission Promise Neighborhood and SFUSD Student Enrollment Patterns 2011–2012.

Exhibit 5: Children by Age Group (n=512)

	Number of Children
0—5 Years Old	127
Kindergarten—8th Grade	255
9th—12th Grade	82
Beyond High School, but under 24 Years Old	48

School-aged children of surveyed households attend school throughout San Francisco. About a quarter of children in both the kindergarten through 8th grade group and the 9th through 12th grade group attended one of the four MPN target schools (Chavez Elementary, Bryant Elementary, Everett Middle School, O’Connell High School). While not all respondents lived in the MPN, for reference, SFUSD enrollment data shows that 15 percent of students living in the MPN attend an MPN target school.⁶

Exhibit 6: School Attendance—Kindergarten through 8th Grade (n=251)

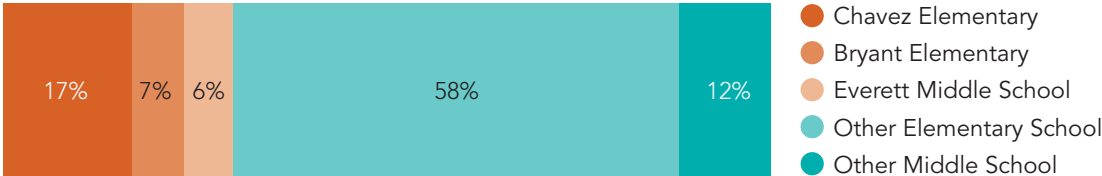
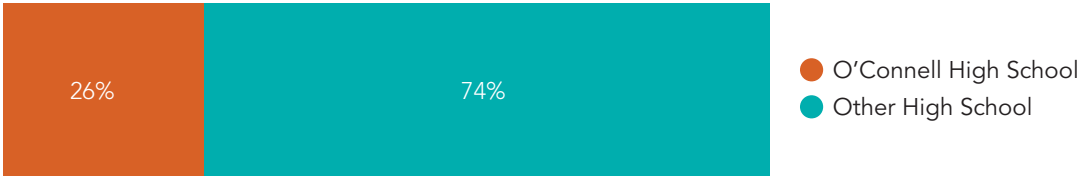


Exhibit 7: School Attendance—9th through 12th Grade (n=80)

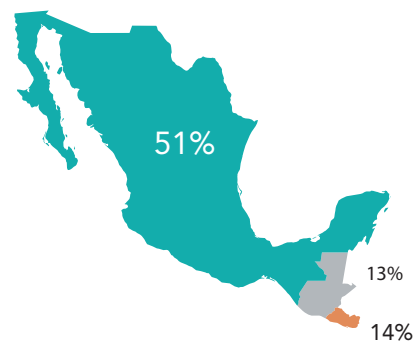


⁶ Center for Latino Policy Research. (2012). Mission Promise Neighborhood Needs Assessment Study: Spring 2012.

Maintaining the Mission as a Cultural Hub

Context

Exhibit 8: Percent of Respondents from Top Countries of Origin (n=326)



San Francisco’s Mission District is a critical hub of services and home for much of San Francisco’s immigrant Latino community, many of whom migrated from Mexico in the 1940s—1960s or from Central and South America in the 1980s and 1990s, driven by war and political instability. The neighborhood’s community services have a long tradition of prioritizing cultural relevance and access in multiple languages. Today, the Mission District is one of the city’s most well-known neighborhoods—loved for its vibrant arts and cultural communities, diverse restaurants and bustling commercial hubs. However, the same community who helped to shape the Mission is finding life in the neighborhood increasingly difficult due to things like high cost of living and rental instability. Many households rely on the district’s community services, and as

economic and political pressure on the neighborhood has intensified, these services have become especially valuable to maintaining the diversity of the Mission District and San Francisco.

Current Snapshot of the MPN

- **Eighty-eight percent of respondents were born outside of the United States, predominantly in Latin America** (Exhibit 8). While 12 percent of respondents were born in the United States, over 50 percent were born in Mexico, 14 percent in El Salvador and 13 percent in Guatemala (n=326).
- **Most households, 75 percent, speak only Spanish at home.** An additional 17 percent speak both English and Spanish. Only 7 percent of households speak only English. Families who live in the MPN were much more likely to speak English and less likely to speak Spanish than those outside the MPN (n=333).
- **Immigration status, history of fear and mistrust within immigrant communities, and language barriers hinder access to services (e.g., income assistance, transportation assistance, food and nutrition assistance, etc.)** (Exhibit 9). Half of respondents were prevented from accessing services for their families because of concern for their privacy and confidentiality, including immigration status (n=309). A third of respondents reported their family could not access needed services due to language barriers (n=307).

Exhibit 9: Barriers to Access Services



My family can’t access services because ...

- [49%] I am concerned for my family’s safety.
- [48%] I’m concerned about privacy & confidentiality, like immigration.
- [34%] Staff doesn’t speak my language.

Key Takeaways

1. The Mission neighborhood is home to a large immigrant community, and Spanish continues to be a primary, or the only, language spoken at home for many families.
2. Language-appropriate and culturally relevant services are critical for the MPN community, and more are needed. Fear and trauma related to immigration status and deportations should be a particular focus.

Housing, Displacement and Community Fragmentation

Context

Historically, the Mission has been a central location for gentrification and the displacement of low-income communities of color in the city. More recently (post-Great Recession), dynamic market forces—driven by the thriving regional technology economy—continue to accelerate the changing landscape of this formerly affordable neighborhood, tightening the squeeze on low-income families. With rising land values and housing prices, market conditions are ripe for speculative real estate activity and for owners to convert properties into higher-end uses, which are reflected in the city’s boom of no-fault evictions (e.g., Ellis Act, demolitions, and owner move-ins). As families across the city continue to get displaced, and the threat of being pushed or priced out of their homes escalates, the call for equitable housing policies and affordable housing continues to be important for communities most at risk. This includes the MPN, where the families who are in the most precarious position for displacement are the same families that create the fabric of this vibrant community.

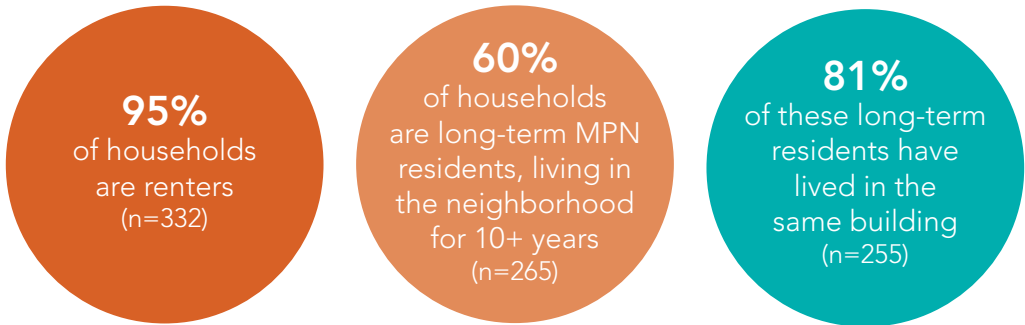
Current Snapshot of the MPN

- **A majority of surveyed households are severely burdened by housing costs, spending an exorbitant share of their income on rent or a mortgage.** Fifty-eight percent of MPN community respondents are severely cost-burdened,⁷ with housing costs exceeding 50 percent of their monthly income. An additional 28 percent of respondents reported spending “about half” of their monthly income (n=241).⁸ This rent burden is more intense than the quarter of renters citywide who spend 50 percent or more of their income on rent.⁹
- **Housing displacement is a prominent concern for most respondents.** Three-quarters “agreed” or “strongly agreed” they worried about being forced to move due to increased rent or cost of living (n=335).



Housing is a severe cost burden for **58%** of respondents (n=241)

Exhibit 10: Community of Long-Term Renters



⁷ The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines “cost-burden” as monthly housing costs that exceed 30 percent of monthly income and “severe cost burden” as monthly housing costs that exceed 50 percent of monthly income.

⁸ While respondents were asked about the percent of income they spent on various expenses, these percentages may sum to greater than 100%. This may be due to a variety of factors, including: imperfect perceptions of expense distribution, numeracy issues, rounding, and income supplementation through debt or other means.

⁹ U. S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimate (2012).

- **Housing and housing related needs went unmet for families in the direst financial situations.** Of the small percentage (22 percent) of households that reported going without basic needs in the last 12 months, 44 percent went without paying their rent or mortgage and 27 percent went without housing (n=71). From these data it is unclear how households that went without housing coped with this deficit; some may have stayed with family and friends while others may have been pushed into shelters or the street.
- **Families in need of housing assistance are not sufficiently connected to services.** Of the almost 30 percent of surveyed households that needed housing assistance (n=294) (e.g., tenant counseling, affordable housing and homeownership assistance, Section 8, foreclosure prevention) in the last 12 months, fewer than half received related services (n=290).

Key Takeaways

1. High housing costs reduce families’ financial resources for meeting other basic needs, such as accessing healthy foods, health care, and child care. Furthermore, it can lead families to limit expenditures for enrichment activities that promote children’s cognitive development.¹⁰
2. Without stable, affordable housing, families may have to increase the frequency of unwanted moves, which can disrupt home life and impede the continuity of educational instruction.
3. The lack of affordable housing can increase overcrowding in dwelling units, producing unhealthy living conditions that can have a negative effect on educational attainment and lead to poor educational outcomes.¹¹
4. Families forced out of the city to find affordable housing may lose health benefits (Healthy SF) which are critical for their well-being.

¹⁰ Newman, S. J., & Holupka, C. S. (2014). Housing affordability and investments in children. Journal of Housing Economics, 24, 89–100.
¹¹ Braconi, F. (2001). Housing and Schooling. The Urban Prospect.

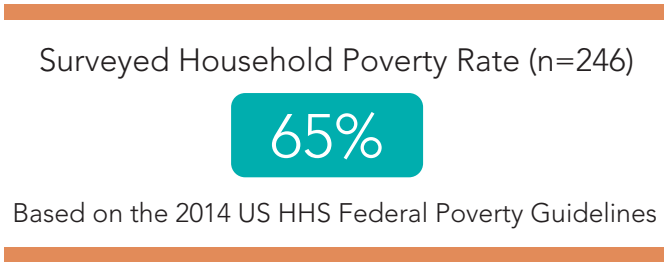
The Working Poor

Context

At the end of 2013, President Obama called income inequality “the defining challenge of our time.” In contrast to the prevailing narrative of the “American Dream,” in which anyone who works hard enough can get ahead, many people in the United States find themselves unable to find work or struggling as part of the growing “working poor”—they are employed but live below the poverty line. Just to pay basic expenses, respondents often work physically demanding, minimum wage jobs with limited benefits. The high cost of living and recent economic changes in the San Francisco Bay Area exacerbate these struggles and disparities. Bouncing back quickly from the Great Recession, the Bay Area has seen economic growth since 2009, in large part due to the technology industry which has fueled debate over the inequitable distribution of growing wealth. Respondents to the Neighborhood Survey were asked about employment, income and education to assess how the MPN fits into San Francisco’s context of growth and questions of equity and economic justice.

Current Snapshot of the MPN

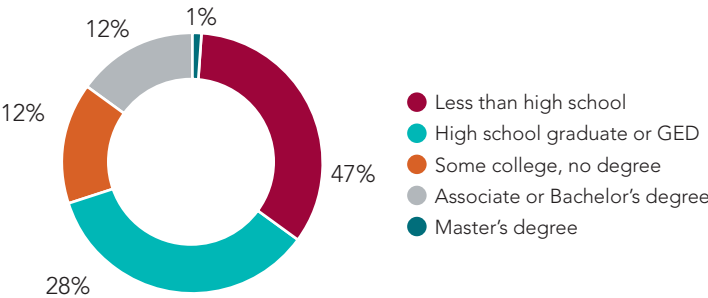
- **Over 20 percent of MPN community respondents in the labor force were unemployed or looking for work (n=212).** This excludes a third of respondents who reported staying home to care for their families or being retired. This rate is far greater than the city rate; May 2014 marked the lowest unemployment rate in San Francisco since the Great Recession—4.4 percent, which economists consider “full employment.”¹²
- **Over 90 percent of all surveyed households earn significantly less than the median household income in San Francisco** ¹³ (Exhibit 11), and over two-thirds of households earn less than \$50,000 annually (n=253).
- **Most families are living in poverty.** Based on household size (average 4.4 individuals) and income, over 65 percent of surveyed families were living below the federal poverty line (n=246). Using Public Policy Institute of California’s more nuanced and county specific Poverty Measure this proportion jumps up to over 75 percent of households.¹⁴
- **Job opportunities for the community are limited.** Less than a third of MPN community respondents reported that there were local job opportunities for them and their neighbors (n=327). Almost half of those who had work were only employed part time, suggesting underemployment (n=328).
- **Most respondents have relatively low educational attainment, but many individuals were taking steps to bolster their skills.** Only 53 percent of respondents had received a high school diploma or GED. Less than half of those who graduated high school went on to higher



¹² State of California Employment Development Department. (2014). Historical Data for Unemployment Rate and Labor Force.
¹³ U. S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (2008–2012).
¹⁴ Bohn, S., Danielson, C., Levin, M., Mattingly, M., & Wimer, C. (2013). The California Poverty Measure.

education (Exhibit 12) (n=318). Relatively, based on the most recent census data, 33 percent of individuals who live in the MPN have a Bachelor's degree and 17 percent have an advanced degree.¹⁵ For 75 percent of surveyed families, current school-aged children would be first-generation college students upon matriculation. About a third of families had utilized programs, classes or workshops to build job skills (e.g., business development, GED, job training).

Exhibit 12: Survey Respondent Educational Attainment (n=318)



Key Takeaways

1. The citywide job boom is not felt equally throughout San Francisco. Disparities in employment exist and many surveyed households report being unemployed. Because most surveyed households are Latino, this is largely a story of Latino unemployment.
2. Families are struggling despite the fact that they are working. Many families are earning very low incomes and are living in poverty. Adults are continuing to work and look for employment despite the low earnings and other common challenges, such as maintaining transportation to and from their jobs, paying for out-of-home childcare, losing eligibility for certain income-based services,¹⁶ and finding time to engage in their child's education. This financial struggle exists in stark contrast to the city's economic boom and high median income among many other San Francisco residents.
3. Adults in the community have limited opportunities for employment. Limited skill sets due to low education, language barriers, and issues of documentation may all fuel the feeling that many families do not see job opportunities for themselves and their neighbors in the community.

¹⁵ U. S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (2007–2011).

¹⁶ Acs, G. (1998). Does work pay? An analysis of the work incentives under TANF.

Early Childhood Development

Context

The initial five years of a child's life has been shown to be critical for shaping childhood outcomes in areas of health and educational development, both of which are foundational for future success. High quality, affordable childcare plays a major role in supporting the development of children who are the future of the MPN neighborhood. Moreover, childcare plays an important role in sustaining and increasing the economic well-being of families. Childcare is also a direct source of support that helps adults enter the workforce and stay connected to the labor market.

High rates of poverty and unemployment among families in the MPN, coupled with soaring housing and childcare costs across the City, elevates the concern about families' ability to access childcare as well as their ability to find the time and resources to support healthy early child development. Families in the MPN were asked several questions about the type and cost of childcare they use, as well as the extent to which they engage in activities that support literacy and kindergarten readiness.

Current Snapshot of the MPN

- *Nearly two-thirds of parents of children 0–5 years of age report reading to their child at least three times per week (n=122).* Recent research has shown that children whose parents read to them more frequently, regardless of income or education, are more likely to do well in school.
- *Paying for childcare was a major challenge for many families.*
 - One of every six families spends an exorbitant share of their income on childcare. These families report spending about half or more of their monthly income on childcare expenses (n=168).¹⁷ California was one of the top 10 least-affordable states for center-based infant care in 2012 with an average annual cost of \$12,068.¹⁸
 - Some families struggling to meet their basic needs went without childcare. Of the small percentage (21 percent) of families that reported going without basic needs in the last 12 months, over 25 percent went without childcare (n=71).
- *A large majority of young children are cared for by their parents or guardians. In seven out of ten families, children aged zero to five are cared for by their parents or guardians (n=123).* This percent is far lower nationally, where less than half of children zero to five have parental or guardian care without non-parental care arrangements (40 percent).¹⁹ For those MPN respondents with other care arrangements, some families use center-based care (17 percent) (n=122), while others use home-based care (13 percent) (n=112) or a combination of both (7 percent) (n=112) (Exhibit 13).

GPRA 12 Summary (n=122)
Encouraged to Read, Children 0–5

64%

Children who had a parent or other family member read to them at least three times a week were considered encouraged to read.

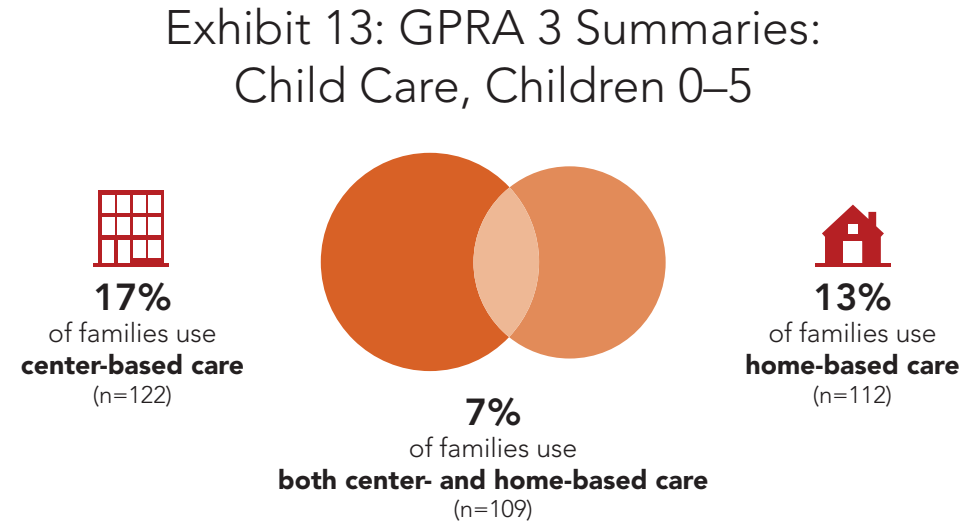
¹⁷ While respondents were asked about the percent of income they spent on various expenses, these percentages may sum to greater than 100%. This may be due to a variety of factors, including: imperfect perceptions of expense distribution, numeracy issues, rounding, and income supplementation through debt or other means.

¹⁸ Child Care Aware of America. (2013) Parents and the High Cost of Child Care 2013 Report.

¹⁹ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Program Participation Survey of the 2012 National Household Education Surveys Program (ECP-P-NHES:2012). <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013029.pdf> (accessed October 2014).

Key Takeaways

- 1. High-quality learning and development opportunities should be available to all children regardless of ability to pay or where they receive care, whether it is center- or home-based care or other informal arrangements with family, friends, or neighbors.
- 2. Parents or guardians are typically the primary caregiver for young children in the MPN. It is critical to educate, train, and support them so that they can provide their children with the best possible opportunities to develop into healthy adults.
- 3. Access to quality, affordable and culturally relevant child care is critical for parents, particularly for those who would like to enter the workforce, but are unable to access affordable care. Raising a single-parent's earning potential through full-time work or creating dual-income households can help lift families out of poverty.

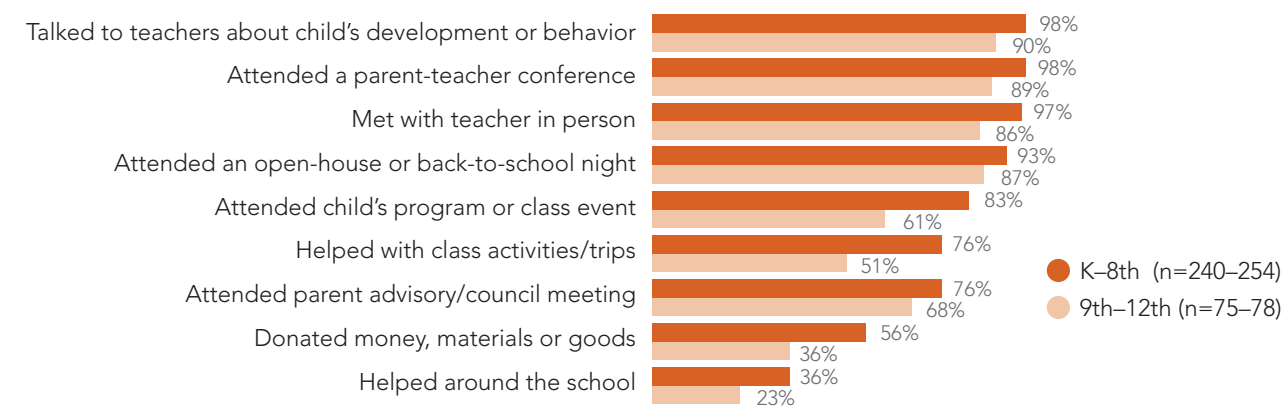


Raising a Lifelong Learner

Context

Parental and family engagement in a child’s education makes a difference. Research has shown that when families and schools work together, students—regardless of socioeconomic factors—were more likely to earn higher grades, pass classes, earn credits, attend school regularly, graduate, and go on to postsecondary education.²⁰ Accordingly, promoting and supporting family involvement at school may be an important strategy for lifting expectations for academic achievement, raising a lifelong learner, and addressing the persistent achievement gap that unduly impacts low-income students of color.

Exhibit 14: In the last year, parents or family members...



Current Snapshot of the MPN

- *Parents and families are highly engaged in their children’s education, particularly around seeking information about their child’s educational and personal development.* A large majority of parents reported that they or other members of their family attended various types of teacher or school meetings to track the progress of their child or stay informed about school-related issues. It is important to note that, comparatively, parents of high school students were less likely than parents of K–8th grade students to attend similar meetings or events.
- *Volunteering time and providing monetary support to schools are two of the most challenging forms of engagement for parents.* Although parents and families are highly engaged in their child’s education, they are much less likely to donate money or goods to a school program and volunteer to help with school improvements (e.g., repairs, gardening, or painting) (Exhibit 14). Limited financial resources and the need to prioritize time may limit their participation in these areas.
- *Although a large majority of parents feel informed about their child’s education, language barriers prevent parents from deepening their level of engagement in their child’s education:*
 - 22 percent of parents K–8th students(n=245) and 33 percent of parents of high school students (n=73) believe that schools can do a better job of providing translated documents.
 - 20 percent of parents of K–8th students (n=245) and 25 percent of parents high school students (n=73) find it difficult to make the best choices about their child’s education due to language barriers.

²⁰ Henderson, A. T., & Mapp, K. L. (2002). A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement. Annual Synthesis, (2002).

- 10 percent of parents K–8th students(n=245) and 15 percent of parents of high school students feel frustrated that language barriers may be preventing them from advocating for their child.
- *Over 80 percent of students in K–8th grade read to themselves at least three times a week according to parents (n=250).*²¹ Not only that, but a majority of parents reported their child read to themselves outside of school **every day** (60 percent).
- *The proportion of children engaged in out-of-school activities decreases as they get older.* Two-thirds of parents with children in K–8th grade reported that their child attends an after-school program at school or in a center on a regular or drop-in basis (n=249). However, for their high school counterparts, only 54 percent of parents reported that their children are engaged in similar activities (n=80).

Key Takeaways

1. Although parents are generally engaged in their children's education, trends indicate that levels of engagement diminish as children enter high school. While it is natural for children to increase their level of independence as they get older, it is important that parents are engaged during the years when students are making critical decisions about pursuing a postsecondary education.
2. Research confirms that children who participate in after school programs benefit in multiple outcome areas, including academic, social/emotional, and health and wellness.²² Particularly for high-risk youth, it is important that children have access to safe and healthy after school activities that promote their development.
3. Schools play an important role in providing and structuring opportunities that impact levels of parental involvement. This includes providing culturally appropriate materials, outlining expectations of parents, regularly communicating with parents, and offering sufficient opportunities for parents to act as a partner in decision-making processes that affect their children.

²¹ Due to the exclusion of GPRA13Q1 on the survey, GPRA 13 Summary was only calculated including GPRA13Q2.

²² Harvard Family Research Project (2008). After-school programs in the 21st Century: Their Potential and What it Takes to Achieve It. Cambridge, M.

College and Career Readiness

Context

From President Obama to local schools, the message is clear: a post-secondary education is an imperative for rebuilding our economy and a requisite for closing the skills gap that impedes workers from attaining jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. Studies have consistently shown that attaining a post-secondary degree provides significant economic benefits to individuals, and it can be used to break cycles of generational poverty. For families and communities to prosper, it is critical that young adults advance through the educational pipeline, a path that has several cracks and barriers that disproportionately impact students of color. Parents play an important role in motivating and supporting their children in ways that encourage them to succeed in school, transition to college, and persist till post-secondary degree attainment.

Exhibit 15: GPRA 14 Summaries: College and career, 9th–12th grade



Current Snapshot of the MPN

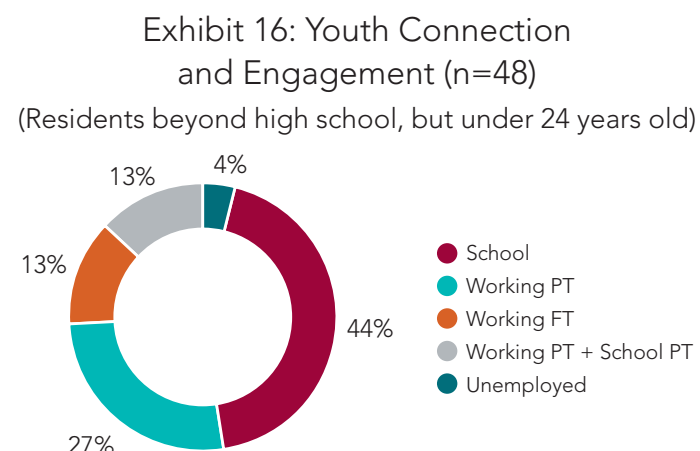
- *Two-thirds of parents with high school age children speak to their children about college (n=73) or careers (n=76) (Exhibit 15).* Occupations that require post-secondary education are projected to grow faster (14 percent) between 2012 and 2022 than occupations that require a high school diploma or less (9 percent). Furthermore, in 2012, the median wage for occupations that typically require post-secondary education was double (\$57,770) that of occupations that require a high school diploma or less (\$27,670).²³
- *Two out of five parents with high school age children frequently ("often") provided advice or information to their child about:*
 - Selecting courses or programs at school (n=78);
 - College entrance exams such as ACT, SAT or ASVAB (n=77);
 - Applying to college or other schools after high school (n=76);
 - Specific jobs that students can apply for after completing or leaving high school (n=73).

²³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment Projections: 2012–2022.

- **Parents are less likely to discuss financial aid options with their children.** Over 40 percent of parents with high school age children reported that they “never” provided advice or information to their child about financial aid opportunities for higher education (n=75).
- **Over half of children beyond high school, but under 24 years old were continuing school either full or part time (Exhibit 16).** Another quarter of children were working full time, and 13 percent were working part time, which may suggest underemployment. Only four percent of these children were unemployed (n=48).

Key Takeaways

1. Since three-quarters of parents have no college experience and most may have limited knowledge about college and financial aid requirements, school or community-based programs that focus on college readiness and knowledge are critical resources for students.
2. High schools readily provide college and financial aid workshops for parents, but parent engagement is frequently cited by school staff as an ongoing challenge. There may be opportunities to leverage the MPN’s rich nonprofit sector to help schools increase parent participation in these workshops.
3. While most youth are still in the educational pipeline or connected to the labor market, it appears that a large share of youth may be joining the workforce directly after high school. Working without a post-secondary credential or degree has long-term implications on their lifetime earnings potential and opportunities for advancement.
4. Students can benefit from work-based learning opportunities in high school to build technical and soft skills to help them excel in the workforce. Students can also benefit from community college Career Pathways that are designed to prepare and link students to high-wage, growth sectors in the regional economy.



Neighborhood Safety

Context

The well-being of individuals is directly influenced by the places in which they live, learn, and play, making neighborhood safety a fundamental quality of life issue. Without the ability to feel and be safe, residents—regardless of their demographics (i.e., race, gender, age, sexuality or socioeconomic status)—cannot fully and freely participate in civic life. This includes walking to and from school, staying connected to and engaged in school, participating in healthy physical activity, utilizing public space, interacting with community members, and building a strong community.

Current Snapshot of the MPN

- **Most respondents feel safe in their neighborhood during the day, but not as much in the evening (Exhibit 17).** Nearly three-quarters of families reported feeling safe walking in their neighborhood during the day. After the sun sets, however, only 28 percent of families reported feeling safe outside (n=337).
- **The perceived quality of neighborhood life and safety for children is mixed among families:**
 - Although a majority (57 percent) of families reported that the MPN is a good place to raise children, nearly a quarter of families do not share this sentiment. Additionally, 19 percent of families are undecided about the extent to which the neighborhood is a good place to raise children (n=337).
 - Nearly two-thirds of families reported that there are safe parks for children to play in the neighborhood. On the contrary, a quarter of families felt the parks are not safe for children (n=336).
- **Sense of support among neighbors is moderate. Just under half (49 percent) of families living in the MPN reported that people in the neighborhood are willing to help their neighbors (n=332).** This has important implications for perceived safety, as trust in and support from neighbors are important elements for building a strong and safe community.

Exhibit 17: Perceived Safety Walking in the Neighborhood



73% of families feel safe walking in their neighborhood during the **day** (n=337)



28% of families feel safe walking in their neighborhood after **dark** (n=337)

Exhibit 18: Perceptions of school safety



Percent of families believe **school is safe for students**

K–8th
95%
(n=253)

9th–12th
90%
(n=247)



Percent of families believe **traveling to and from school is safe**

K–8th
89%
(n=78)

9th–12th
75%
(n=80)

- *Schools sites and travel to/from school are largely viewed by parents as being safe for children of various ages (Exhibit 18).* Notably, safety concerns are more elevated for high school students. About 10 percent more parents perceived schools as safe than students at MPN target schools surveyed through the MPN school climate survey.²⁴

When asked to name two things they would like to improve about the Mission District, safety concerns like: more safety (más seguridad), cleanliness (limpieza), drugs (drogas), violence (violencia) and gangs (pandillas) were among the top concerns.

Exhibit 19: What are the two things you would like to improve about the Mission?



Key Takeaways

1. The question of whether or not a neighborhood is a good place to raise children is a defining standard for measuring the quality of a neighborhood. With only 57 percent of families agreeing at some level that the MPN is a good place to raise children, it raises the question of what needs to be done to improve the quality of the neighborhood.
2. Safety after-dark is a salient concern in the neighborhood. This has implications on civic participation, as extracurricular and enrichment activities for children, as well as other civic activities for adults, often extend into the evening hours.
3. Safe travel to and from school plays an important role in ensuring that children attend and persist in school. Safety concerns appear to increase for students in higher grade levels.

²⁴ Lopez, M E. (2014). Mission Promise Neighborhood School Climate Survey: Understanding the Experiences of Students in San Francisco’s Mission District.

Health, More than Insurance

Context

The health of children and their parents has a deep and far reaching impact on many domains of family life—from success at school to holding a steady job. Health is also influenced by a wide range of factors. While access to health care services and individual behavior generally dominate public discourse about health, the roles of social, economic and environmental determinants of health are increasingly being recognized. Examples include discrimination, access to healthy food and traumatic or stressful situations like violence or fear of deportation. The City of San Francisco has made access to health care services a priority and provides its own health care access program, Healthy San Francisco. In addition, this survey was conducted after new enrollees of the Affordable Care Act began receiving coverage. Despite the dedication to and success of these access programs, access to insurance and services alone does not ensure healthy families.

Current Snapshot of the MPN

- *Many adults and most children have health care coverage.* Eighty-two percent of surveyed adults and 95 percent of their children reported having coverage through health insurance, or public access programs (n=328). In June 2014, the uninsured rate of California adults was estimated to be 11 percent, indicating that MPN adults are somewhat less likely than average to have health coverage.²⁵
- *Despite health care coverage, many adults and children still lack a medical home.* Older children are less likely to have a medical home (Exhibit 20). Many adults also lack a medical home. Seventeen percent of respondents reported using the hospital emergency room or hospital outpatient department when they are sick or need advice (n=311). Nationally, an average of only 3 percent of adults use these facilities for their day-to-day health needs.²⁶
- *Chronic health problems are prevalent and obesity is a key factor.* Forty-one percent of adults reported that they have one or more chronic illnesses—most commonly high cholesterol and diabetes (n=328). The survey showed a staggering 96 percent of adults living with obesity suffered from two or more chronic health problems, compared to 20 percent of those who were not obese (n=328).
- *Compared to a national sample, MPN adults tended to report poorer health status.* Only 29 percent of adults reported their health was very good or excellent, while the remaining 71 percent reported their health was good, fair or poor (n=328). These proportions are inverted nationally, where 65 percent reported their health was very good or excellent.²⁷ While adults with chronic health problems were more likely to report poor health, over 70 percent of respondents without any chronic health problems still reported their health was less than “very good” and a quarter rated their health as “fair” or “poor” (n=328).
- *Respondents with health care coverage were actually more likely to have poor health and suffer from chronic health problems (n=328).* This relationship suggests that poor health may be a motivating factor for individuals to seek health care coverage programs and insurance.

GPRA 1 Summary (n=12)
Medical Care, Children 0–5

72%

A medical home is a place where families have an ongoing relationship with a physician who provides continuous and comprehensive care coordinated with other services

²⁵ The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Surveys, July–Sept. 2013 and April–June 2014.

²⁶ National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Adult Questionnaire (2012).

²⁷ National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Adult Questionnaire (2012).

- *One in five children aged 0 to 5 has been diagnosed with a special need, health problem, delay or disability, according to parents (n=123).* This is higher than the citywide estimate of 7 percent.²⁸
- *Children tend to participate in less physical activity as they get older, but their eating habits appear more stable over time (Exhibit 21).* Only 46 percent of children ate at least two servings of fruit per day (n=502), while 65 percent of children ate at least two servings of vegetables per day (n=500).

Exhibit 20: Percent of children with a medical home

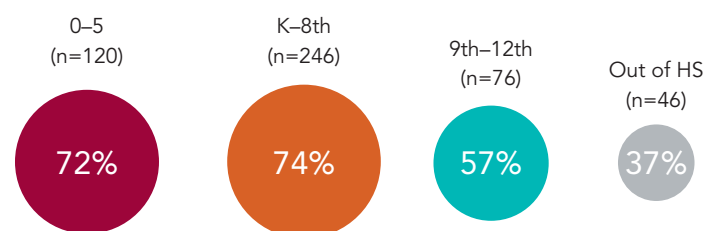
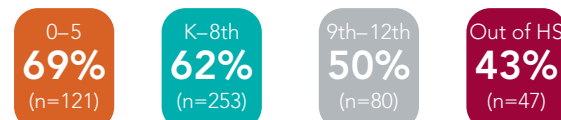


Exhibit 21: Percent of children who participate in at least 1 hour of physical activity each day



Key Takeaways

1. Healthy SF and the Affordable Care Act have been largely successful at improving access to healthcare. Despite this coverage, maintaining continuity of a medical home for children is a challenge as they grow. Without a medical home, children are less likely to receive preventative health services.
2. Despite health care coverage, health is generally poor for the MPN community, especially for adults with chronic illnesses and obesity. Access to health care services is not enough.
3. Many adults reported poor health despite not reporting chronic health problems. This suggests that health in the MPN is adversely affected by other factors. This may include acute illness, injury, disability or socioeconomic determinants of health such as safety or economic hardship.
4. Maintaining healthy lifestyles appears to become more difficult as children get older. Older children are less likely to have a medical home and less likely to participate in daily physical activity. Without access to these types of preventative activities, children are at risk of health problems later in life.

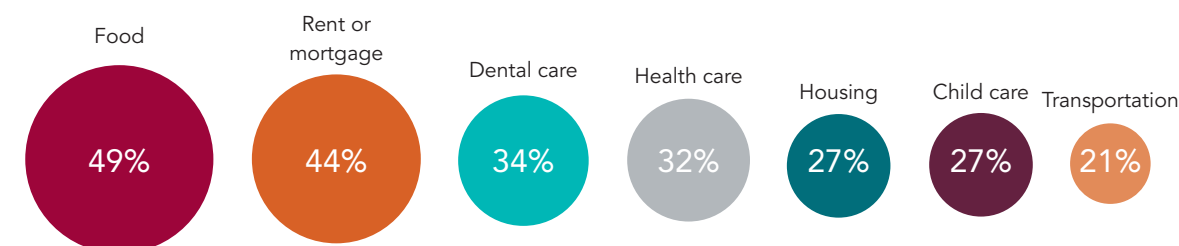
²⁸ San Francisco Child Care Planning and Advisory Council. (2014) Early Care and Education Needs Assessment 2012–2013.

Basic Needs and Vital Services

Context

Services provided by the government and community organizations are vital for all neighborhoods, but for vulnerable communities like the MPN who disproportionately face barriers, such as limited education, immigration status, scarce employment opportunities and community trauma, awareness of and access to services becomes especially critical. Many families in the MPN community struggle to earn a family-sustaining income, made even more difficult in an expensive city like San Francisco. While cost of living estimates vary, the Housing Wage in San Francisco—the wage a full-time worker must earn to afford a two bedroom rental home while spending no more than 30% of income on housing costs—was a staggering \$37.62 per hour or \$78,249 a year in 2014.²⁹ With this extreme cost of housing and overall high cost of living in the area, when families do not receive needed relief from services, many are forced to make difficult decisions about where to spend their money. Families forego basic needs like food, housing and health care. Respondents were asked about their household expenses, whether they had to forego any basic needs as well as their experiences with social services in the community.

Exhibit 22: Families who went without basic needs, which needs did they go without? (n=71)



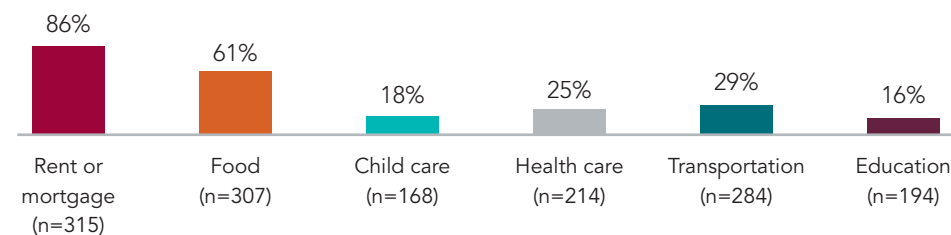
Current Snapshot of the MPN

- *In the last year, one in five families went without basic needs including housing, health care, food and childcare (n=326).* The most commonly foregone need was food, followed by rent or mortgage payments, dental and healthcare, housing, childcare and transportation (Exhibit 22).
- *Almost half of families who went without basic needs did not know where to go to for support (n=70).* This is a missed opportunity. Despite the Mission District's concentration of services, the data suggests families are not aware of available services or that there are not ample services available to meet their needs.
- *Only 30% of respondents had heard of MPN before taking the survey (n=324).* While this might be expected given that MPN is still a new initiative, this presents an opportunity to improve the visibility of MPN and increase the community's awareness of the services it provides.
- *Food is one of the areas most impacted by limited family income.* Over 60 percent of respondents spent half or more of their monthly income on food and groceries (n=307).³⁰
- *Many families needed and utilized social services (e.g., food and nutrition assistance, income assistance, healthcare coverage, housing assistance, public transportation assistance, free tax preparation services, mental health and substance abuse services, legal services) in the last year.* The most widely used services were health coverage services

²⁹ National Low Income Housing Coalition, (2014). Out of Reach 2014.

³⁰ While respondents were asked about the percent of income they spent on various expenses, these percentages may sum to greater than 100%. This may be due to a variety of factors, including: imperfect perceptions of expense distribution, numeracy issues, rounding, and income supplementation through debt or other means.

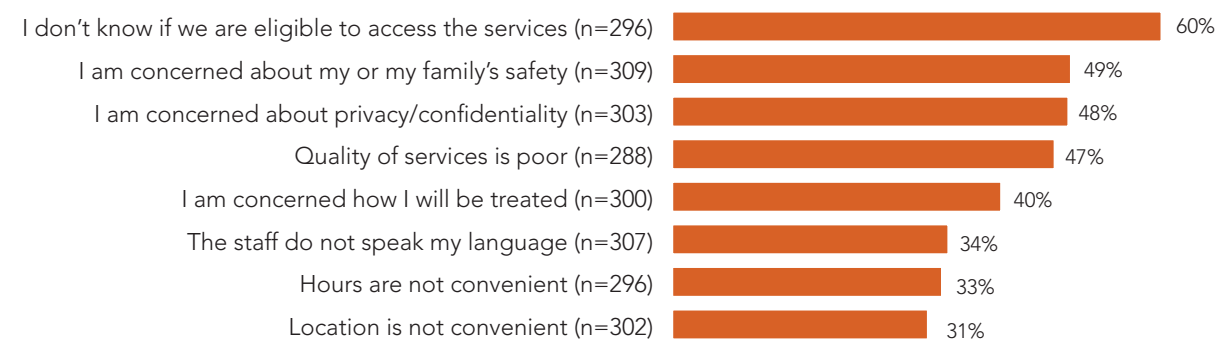
Exhibit 23: Percentage of families who spent half or more of their monthly income on a single expense



(81 percent of households; n=307), public transportation assistance services (53 percent; n=303) and food and nutrition assistance services (52 percent; n=305).

- *While 29 percent of households needed housing assistance in the last year (n=294), only 12 percent actually received services (n=290).* This may reflect a lack of awareness of these services—only 59 percent (n=333) of households were aware of them in their community—but it may also reflect a shortage of assistance for housing needs or fear in accessing such services. Most households reported that they received other services they needed.
- *Many families faced significant barriers to accessing services in their community.*

Exhibit 24: The following has kept me or my family from getting services we need ...



Key Takeaways

1. Many families in the MPN community need services. This need is largely a reflection of the high cost of living coupled with systemic barriers that limit opportunities for immigrant families to earn a family-sustaining income. At the same time, the Mission District is a service hub for the city, and most households who needed services in the last year were able to utilize them in the community.
2. Despite high service utilization, service gaps still exist. Government and nonprofit network serving MPN residents may benefit from strengthening their awareness raising efforts and assessing their accessibility, particularly for immigrant, monolingual Spanish speaking families.
3. Furthermore, even households who successfully utilized services went without basic needs like food and housing. This suggests current services are not enough to address the challenges families face. Going without basic needs has severe implications for families and for their children who rely on a secure, consistent, healthy home environment to ensure their physical and social-emotional development as well as their success in the classroom.

Access: Technology & Financial Institutions

Context

Technology and financial institutions are two key points of access for households, which can allow them to more easily and more effectively engage with institutions such as school, government, and community organizations. They affect a family's ability to apply for a low-rate loan, apply for a job or buy a home. While the Bay Area is a world leader in new technology, access to technology for the communities that live in San Francisco varies. Similarly, despite the region's economic growth, many households may lack the resources to help them establish savings and build their financial assets.

Current Snapshot of the MPN

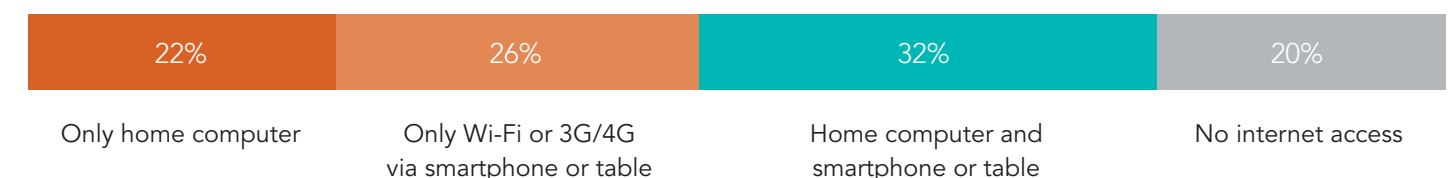
- *Almost half of households do not have a home computer with internet access (n=320).* A total of 69 percent of households had a computer at home (n=332), but not all of these computers were equipped with internet access.
- *Smartphones and tablets that use Wi-Fi or 3g/4g networks are the sole source of internet at home for over a quarter of households (n=320) (Exhibit 25).* While mobile access reduces the number of households without internet, it provides limited access. It can be difficult to access all content on mobile devices, especially important tools, such as job applications, forms for services, research for school projects and the school portal where parents and students can check grades, attendance, assignments, communicate with teachers and learn about upcoming events.
- *Households who lived in the MPN were more likely to have internet at home than those who live outside of the MPN footprint but have children who attend school in the MPN (n=320).* Households outside of the MPN were also more likely to have a smartphone or tablet as their sole source of internet.
- *About a quarter of households used digital literacy programs such as computer courses in the last year (n=293).* This suggests that families are interested in building their skills and see value in using technology.
- *Forty percent of households do not have any bank or credit union accounts and are considered "unbanked" (n=317) (Exhibit 26).* Almost half of respondents did not have a personal account. In contrast, only about eight percent of Californians are unbanked, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.³¹
- *Only about 15 percent of families utilized financial education or asset development programs in the last year (n=296).* This low participation rate may be due to low awareness of these services; only 57 percent of households said they were aware of these services in their community. It may also reflect disinterest or distrust in financial institutions.

Households without Home Computer with Internet (n=320)

46%

Internet access may or may not be high speed

Exhibit 25: Internet Access at Home (n=320)

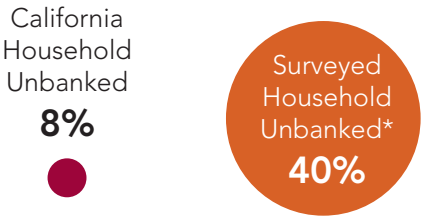


³¹ FDIC. (2012). 2011 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households.

Key Takeaways

- 1. Despite San Francisco’s reputation as a technology forward city, many households lack access to basic technology, such as a home computer with internet. While smartphones and tablets are helping to bridge this divide, they have limitations in what content and tasks can be accessed. This has particular consequences for parents attempting to engage with their child’s education through the online school portal or for individuals seeking employment.
- 2. Households surveyed disproportionately lack bank services, which may be due to barriers to access such as transportation, language appropriate service and administrative hurdles for individuals without citizen documentation. Without banking services, many households may not have the resources to effectively develop and manage their financial assets, leaving them at greater risk if there is an unexpected family expense or change.

Exhibit 26: Percent of Households Unbanked (n=317)*



Supporting a Resilient Community

Context

The idea of “resilience” is a common thread in the history of the Mission District—from the intimate resilience of a fresh start for immigrant families fleeing violence in their home countries to the community’s resilient birth of a strong Latino led community organizing movement against displacement. Continuing this legacy of resiliency in this new chapter of change for the Mission is a challenge, but many community members are dedicated to the people of the Mission and the places they live, work and play. While community members can be called on to bring the dedication, enthusiasm and pride required to define, maintain and cultivate a cohesive, vibrant Mission, the extent to which longtime residents in the neighborhood are able to be involved in their community, specifically in leadership positions, will have a significant impact on the outcomes for the community.

Current Snapshot of the MPN

- *Surveyed households value the Mission for what it offers in amenities like public transportation and stores (transporte publico and tiendas), location (cerca de todo), community environment (lugar tranquilo) and culture (mucho Latino and diversidad).*
- *Many households are interested in bettering their community and being involved, but most respondents felt opportunities to do so are limited.* Half of households said they work with others to make the neighborhood a better place (n=334).
- *Only 15 percent of households participating in community organizing such as community asset building, neighborhood planning or anti-eviction efforts (n=295).* Only 56 percent of households were even aware of these opportunities (n=332).

Exhibit 27: What are two things you like most about living in the Mission?



Key Takeaways

- 1. In spite of the many challenges currently facing the Mission District at present, longtime community members still maintain pride in their community, suggesting that neighbors remain invested in their community despite the turbulent times.

2. Despite this pride and dedication to the community, many of the surveyed households were not actively involved in community organizing, and many individuals felt that opportunities to be involved as a leader in the neighborhood were not available to them. This suggests that decision-making about the neighborhood is being pushed forward by forces outside the area or that the specific segment of the neighborhood targeted in MPN’s work—primarily immigrant, monolingual Spanish speaking families with children—has not been engaged in community efforts existing within the neighborhood.
3. Giving voice and leadership to longtime Mission residents, like many of the surveyed families, as the community is undergoing dramatic changes can help maintain inclusivity during this transition. Without lifting the voices of these particular families, the young children of these families are more likely to be disrupted and put under greater stress.

I am proud to live in my neighborhood (n=334)

73%

Only half
of households feel residents are included in decisions and actions that impact their neighborhood (n=333)

Less than a quarter
of households feel there are opportunities for them to be a leader in their neighborhood (n=330)

Conclusion and Calls to Action

Conclusion

Just as the Promise Neighborhood program takes a holistic, place-based approach to educational success, the key findings from this first year of the Neighborhood Survey are varied and crosscutting. If the baseline data from the survey can be considered a description of where the MPN story begins, it is an introduction with a great weight of urgency. The data present a call to action articulated in the following series of 17 calls to action.



Calls to Action

1. Prioritize disparities to improve the health, education and well-being of the MPN community. Rising tides do not appear to be lifting all boats. Across many areas of family life (e.g., household income, health, access to technology) survey respondents, who belong to predominantly low-income, Latino families, report outcomes disproportionately lower than city and national averages. San Francisco has a booming economy and a wealth of social services, but many residents in the MPN of San Francisco are struggling. Services, programs, agencies and policy should work with the MPN community to close the disparities gap, inclusive of the long-time community of the MPN.
2. Address rental instability and ensure that longtime residents stay in the neighborhood. A majority of households are severely burdened by housing costs, with residents spending an exorbitant share of their income on rent or a mortgage. High housing costs reduce families’ financial resources for meeting other basic needs. The inability to find and maintain affordable housing may have deep and varied impacts for families and the educational continuity of their children, including: increasing frequency of unwanted moves; overcrowding in dwelling units; and losing health benefits through Healthy SF if families are forced out of the city. Housing should be affordable and family-friendly (i.e., access to courtyards for children to play, free of lead paint and mold, etc.)
3. Support creation of local, family-sustaining jobs, and provide the training and resources necessary for members of the MPN community to gain and maintain these jobs. The citywide job boom is not felt equally throughout San Francisco, and families are struggling despite the fact that they are working. Many families are earning very low incomes and over 65 percent of surveyed families are living in poverty. Limited skill sets, due to low education (only 53 percent of respondents received a high school diploma or GED), language barriers and issues of documentation contribute to limited opportunities for adults in the MPN community looking for family-sustaining work.
4. Address access to affordable childcare by raising household income and supporting efforts to make childcare more affordable. One of every six families reported spending about half or more of their monthly income on childcare expenses. California was one of the top 10 least-affordable states for center-based infant care in 2012, with an average annual cost of \$12,068. Some families struggling to meet their basic needs went without childcare. Raising a single-parent’s earning potential through full-time work or creating dual-income households can help lift families out of poverty.
5. Create high-quality early learning and development opportunities available to all children regardless of where they receive care. Whether children receive care at a center, at home-based care or informally with family, friends or neighbors, all providers of childcare should have the resources to provide the highest quality care (e.g., home-visitation services, training programs, access to toys and materials).
6. Provide education, training and support for parents to help them encourage healthy child development, specifically through reading. Parents or guardians are typically the primary caregiver for young children in the MPN—in seven out of ten families, children aged zero to five are cared for by their parents or guardians. A key part of encouraging healthy development is frequently

reading to the child. Children whose parents read to them more frequently, regardless of their household income or level of education, are more likely to do well in school. Supporting parents to read to their children should consider low literacy and limited English skills of many families; support must also be culturally relevant.

7. Support increased culturally relevant parent engagement in their children's education, especially during high school years. Respondents reported diminished levels of parent engagement as children enter high school—a time when students are making critical decisions about pursuing a postsecondary education. Schools play an important role in facilitating this engagement, including: providing culturally relevant materials, outlining expectations of parents, regularly communicating with parents, and offering sufficient opportunities for parents to act as a partner in decision-making processes. One in five respondents found it difficult to make the best choices about their child's education due to language barriers. Culturally relevant support should be defined by the community.
8. Support after-school activities and encourage youth participation. The proportion of children engaged in out-of-school activities decreases as they get older—two-thirds of parents with children in K-8th grade compared to 54 percent of their high school counterparts. Children who participate in after school programs benefit academically as well as in their social/emotional development and health and wellness.
9. Focus on building college-readiness culture. Three-quarters of parents have no college experience and most may have limited knowledge about college and financial aid requirements. High schools readily provide college and financial aid workshops for parents, but parent engagement is frequently cited by school staff as an ongoing challenge. Many MPN youth join the workforce directly after high school. However, working without a post-secondary credential or degree has implications for their lifetime earning potential and opportunities for advancement.
10. Support pathways to high-wage growth sectors in the regional economy. Students can benefit from work-based learning opportunities in high school to build technical and social skills to help them excel in the workforce.

Students can also benefit from community college Career Pathways.

11. Address safety after dark. Safety after dark is a salient concern in the neighborhood, and 72 percent of respondents reported not feeling safe walking in their neighborhood after dark. This has implications on civic participation, as extracurricular and enrichment activities for children, as well as other civic activities for adults, often extend into the evening hours.
12. Ensure all children and adults have a patient-centered medical home. Despite extensive healthcare coverage through Healthy SF and the Affordable Care Act, maintaining continuity of a medical home is a challenge as children grow. Without a medical home, children are less likely to receive preventative health services.
13. Address the health needs of the MPN community, which exist far beyond providing health care. Despite health care coverage, health is generally poor for the MPN community, especially for adults with chronic illnesses and obesity. Access to health care services is not enough. A broader approach to health should include such acute illness, injury, disability and socioeconomic determinants of health as safety or economic hardship. Maintaining healthy lifestyles, such as daily physical activity, appears to become more difficult as children get older. Without access to these types of preventative activities, children are at greater risk of health problems later in life.
14. Ensure residents have basic needs met and can access culturally relevant services. Over 80 percent of surveyed families needed and utilized social services in the last year. Gaps in service appear to be driven by lack of awareness of services, barriers to access (e.g., language barriers, fear of safety and confidentiality related to immigration status, and uncertainty of eligibility) and insufficient services. Despite high service utilization, many households who successfully accessed services went without such basic needs as food and housing. This suggests current services are not enough to address the challenges families face. Services should be expanded and made more accessible. Going without basic needs has severe implications for families and for their children who rely on a secure, consistent, healthy home environment to ensure their physical and social-

emotional development, as well as their success in the classroom.

15. Improve access to the Internet and technology for families. Almost half of households do not have a home computer with internet access. While smartphones and tablets are helping to bridge this divide, these devices may not be able to access certain content or complete certain tasks, such as the online school portal or online applications for employment or government services.
16. Improve access to and knowledge of local, culturally relevant financial institutions. Households surveyed disproportionately lack banking services, which may be due to such barriers to access as transportation, language appropriate service and administrative hurdles for individuals without documentation. Without banking services, many households may not have the resources to effectively develop and manage their financial assets, leaving them at greater risk if there is an unexpected family expense or change.
17. Engage low-income, Latino families in community decision-making, and develop more local leadership opportunities accessible to this community. Less than a quarter of respondents felt that opportunities to be involved as a leader in the neighborhood were not available to them. This suggests that decision making about the neighborhood is being moved forward by forces outside the area or by MPN neighbors other than Latino families. Giving voice and leadership to longtime Mission residents, such as many of the surveyed families, as the community is undergoing dramatic changes can help maintain inclusivity during this transition.

Artwork on page 6 (Exhibit 9) and page 27 of the report was created and made publicly available by artist and activist Rini Templeton.

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