

A SNAPSHOT OF YOUNG CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

Thanks to the support of local teachers, Santa Monica recently completed a community school readiness assessment using the Early Development Instrument (EDI). This report summarizes findings from the EDI, both for the community as a whole and for local neighborhoods. We hope this report will serve as a catalyst for bringing together individuals, organizations and community leaders working to improve school readiness and create better environments for our children.

The EDI is a population measure of school readiness, which means that it collects information about kindergarten age children in participating geographic areas and then creates an overall snapshot of their developmental progress. The EDI does not label or identify individual children with specific problems. Instead, it looks at how experiences at home and in the community can help prepare children for the school environment.

The EDI provides local leaders with the information they need to evaluate school readiness, plan how to improve programs and supports and better

coordinate services to help children develop and learn before and during their school years.

The EDI provides information about children in five developmental areas that are known to affect well-being and school performance:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive skills
- Communication skills and general knowledge

The Snapshot includes a summary of the EDI results for Santa Monica and provides tips for interpreting tables and maps as a first introduction to the EDI.

UNDERSTANDING EDI RESULTS

EDI results are reported as the percentage of children who are “developmentally vulnerable” and “very ready” in each of the five areas. Children who score at or below the 10th percentile of the national EDI population in each area are considered developmentally vulnerable, and those who score at or above the 75th percentile in each area are considered very ready.

The results in this Snapshot reflect data collection by participating kindergarten teachers during the 2012-2013 school year. In addition, data were combined with the prior two years for schools that did not collect data again in 2012-2013, if applicable. Lastly, this Snapshot reflects all valid records for children who live or go to school in the community.

Figure 1 shows that EDI data were reported for 616 children in Santa Monica. It also provides some additional background information about the children surveyed.

Figure 1: Children’s Background Information – Santa Monica (2013)

School Information	
Participating school districts	1
Participating schools	8
Classrooms collecting EDI information	28
Community Information	
Children*	616
Children who are English Language Learners (ELL)	17%
Children who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for children with disabilities	6%
Race/Ethnicity:	
African-American, Black	4%
Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	6%
Hispanic, Latino/a	22%
White	51%
Other	16%

**Includes records from participating schools located in Santa Monica and 1 record collected from a child who lives in Santa Monica but attend schools outside of the study area.*

Figure 2 summarizes results from the EDI. The first column describes each of the five developmental areas assessed by the EDI. The second column lists the percentage of children living in Santa Monica considered developmentally vulnerable in each area, and the third shows the percentage of children considered very ready. Small percentages are better in column 2 and large percentages are better in column 3.

Figure 2: Summary of EDI Results by Developmental Area – Santa Monica (2013)

EDI Developmental Area	(2) Percent of children developmentally vulnerable	(3) Percent of children very ready
Physical Health and Well-being: <i>Physical readiness for school work, physical independence, gross and fine motor skills</i>	10%	31%
Social Competence: <i>Overall social skills with peers, respect and responsibility, independence and adjustment, readiness to explore new things</i>	7%	24%
Emotional Maturity: <i>Pro-social and helping behavior, anxious and fearful behavior, aggressive behavior, hyperactive and inattentive behavior</i>	8%	31%
Language and Cognitive Development: <i>Basic literacy, interest and memory, complex literacy skills, basic literacy and numeracy</i>	6%	33%
Communication Skills and General Knowledge: <i>Storytelling ability, communication with adults and children</i>	7%	33%

Children who fall at or below the 10th percentile are considered “developmentally vulnerable,” while children who score at or above the 75th percentile are considered “very ready.”

Figure 3 reports the percentage of children considered developmentally vulnerable by individual neighborhood. Column 1 lists the neighborhoods in which EDI data were collected. Column 2 shows the number of EDI surveys completed in each neighborhood. Columns 3-7 show the percentage of children developmentally vulnerable in each of the five development areas. Column 8 shows the percentage of children who were vulnerable in one or more developmental areas, column 9 shows the percentage of children who were vulnerable in two or more developmental areas, and column 10 shows the percentage of children who were very ready in at least four of the five developmental areas.

Figure 3: Summary of EDI Results by Domain and by Neighborhood – Santa Monica (2013)

(1) Neighborhoods	(2) Number of surveys*	Percent of Children Developmentally Vulnerable by Domain					(8) Developmentally Vulnerable in 1+ Developmental Areas	(9) Developmentally Vulnerable in 2+ Developmental Areas	(10) Developmentally Very Ready in 4+ Developmental Areas
		(3) Physical Health and Well-being	(4) Social Competence	(5) Emotional Maturity	(6) Language and Cognitive Development	(7) Communication and General Knowledge			
Mid-City (Santa Monica)	72	10%	6%	11%	4%	6%	22%	8%	7%
North of Montana**	74	5%	4%	7%	0%	4%	16%	4%	26%
Northeast (Santa Monica)	40	8%	8%	3%	0%	3%	13%	8%	13%
Ocean Park	55	4%	5%	11%	4%	5%	15%	9%	13%
Pico	85	16%	9%	12%	15%	15%	29%	18%	15%
Sunset Park**	86	9%	3%	7%	8%	3%	17%	6%	10%
Wilshire/Montana	127	13%	8%	9%	9%	6%	22%	11%	14%
Neighborhood-wide	539	10%	6%	9%	7%	6%	20%	9%	14%
Community-wide¹	616	10%	7%	8%	6%	7%	20%	9%	14%

Data Source: Teacher Reported EDI Checklist. Children who score at or below the 10th percentile of the national EDI population in each area are considered developmentally vulnerable, and those who score at or above the 75th percentile in each area are considered very ready.

* N is the number of records valid for analysis received for a neighborhood. The actual N for each domain may be lower.

** Fewer than 70% of kindergarten-age children living in this neighborhood had completed EDIs, so the results may not represent all kindergarten children living in this neighborhood.

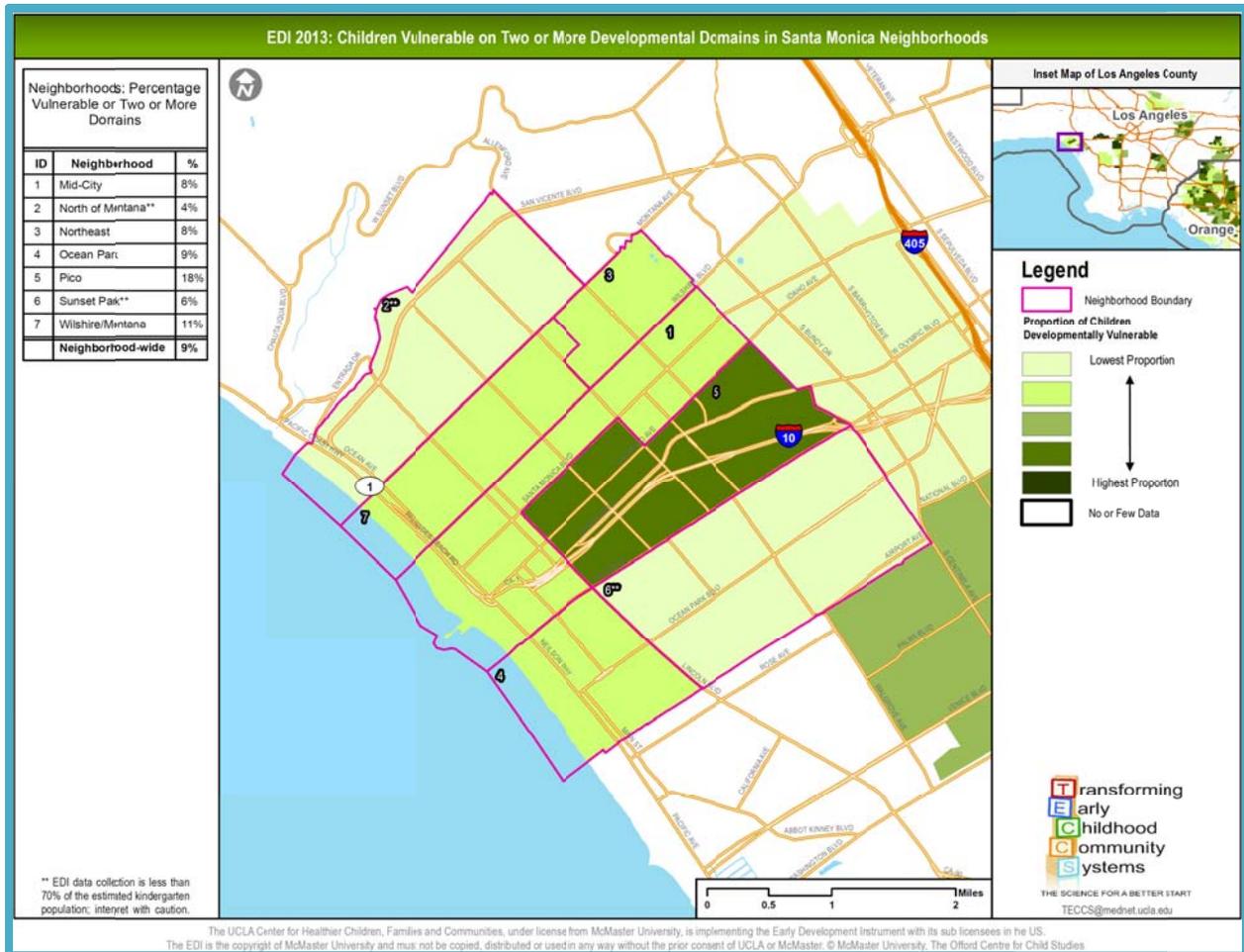
¹ Community-wide (“All valid records”) includes EDI records for children who: 1) attend school in the community and live in the community; 2) attend school outside of the community but live in the community; 3) attend school in the community but live outside of the community; and 4) attend school in the community but have no valid address due to either incomplete data (“not geo-coded”) or homelessness.

When evaluating neighborhood-level findings, it's important to consider both the percentages and the number of children surveyed. High rates of vulnerability may translate to a small number of children vulnerable because few children live in the neighborhood. In contrast, moderate rates of vulnerability may translate to a large number of children vulnerable when many children live in the neighborhood. Consideration should also be given to the reasons some communities may have lower vulnerability. It may be that they have achieved positive results because of sustained and effective prevention and intervention programs.

Figure 4 provides a visual snapshot of children's developmental status in different neighborhoods. The shading on the map represents the range of developmental vulnerability. Areas with lighter shading have a lower percentage of developmentally vulnerable children, while areas with darker shading have a higher percentage of developmentally vulnerable children.

The EDI maps may also overlay other information that may influence child development outcomes. For example, family poverty rates can be overlaid on top of EDI results to help provide the community context for the EDI outcomes. The maps can also be used to identify service gaps by including the locations of early learning, health and family support services.

Figure 4: Map of EDI Results – Santa Monica (2013)



COMMUNITY USE OF THE EDI TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

This EDI Snapshot gives individuals, organizations and community leaders the information they need to work more effectively to improve the lives of young children. Communities are using EDI results in many creative ways, including:

- Identifying and/or increasing awareness of local needs, assets and other important indicators
- Providing baseline information on the readiness of children entering kindergarten to inform curriculum and program needs
- Improving or creating initiatives and programs
- Strengthening coordination and alignment of services
- Supporting applications for public and private funding opportunities
- Engaging communities in mapping local assets
- Building a framework for understanding child development and the importance of investing in young children
- Taking collective actions to meet the developmental needs of children
- Building networks of school readiness advocates and creating partnerships between organizations
- Improving professional development opportunities and supports for those caring for young children
- Assisting with strategic planning for organizations and community initiatives
- Learning from differences in strengths and needs between local neighborhoods

ABOUT US AND WHO TO CONTACT

This effort to track and improve conditions for young children is led by the *Kindergarten Readiness in Santa Monica Initiative*, a collaborative effort funded by the City of Santa Monica, and coordinated by the Santa Monica - Malibu Unified School District and Connections For Children. This initiative

Aligned with *Cradle to Career Santa Monica (C2C)*, this effort aims to guide planning for investment in Santa Monica's young children by providing community-wide data on the well-being and developmental readiness of the City's Kindergarteners. Key data on the assets and challenges that exist in the City's neighborhoods affords a look at how well the community supports young children's social / emotional development.

This local effort is part of a national initiative called Transforming Early Childhood Community Systems (TECCS). TECCS is a partnership with the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families

and Communities and United Way Worldwide. TECCS uses EDI data to improve school readiness by providing accurate information about young children's developmental progress that guides state, regional and local efforts to make effective improvements in early childhood systems. Since 2008, TECCS has spread to over thirty communities nationwide.

To learn more about the local initiative or to receive the full EDI Community Profile Report, please contact Patti Oblath at Connections For Children at 310-452-3325 or via email at POblath@cfc-ca.org.

For updates on *Cradle to Career Santa Monica*, please also visit www.SantaMonicaYouth.net

For questions about the national TECCS initiative, please go to www.TECCS.net or email TECCS@mednet.ucla.edu.

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