

# Head Start Needs Assessment

Created for



By



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# Acknowledgements

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# Introduction

Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC) created this report for Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD). The purpose of this report is to give a demographic profile of the residents of this district, as well as provide information on these residents' needs. The data presented in this report is intended to help DSUSD identify gaps in services for children between birth and 5 years old in order to guide program and service goals for the DSUSD Head Start programs.

This report consists of several distinct sections:

**Section I:** First, in order to give context for the DSUSD community as a whole, this report presents research collected on all residents of the DSUSD by the U.S. Census Bureau. This information is designed to give a demographic profile of the DSUSD community.

**Section II:** Next, in order to give further context for the DSUSD as a whole, this report presents research collected by the California Department of Education. This information is designed to give context about the district as a whole.

**Section III:** In order to focus in on the Head Start population of interest, this report then details the results of a customized survey conducted by HARC. This survey targeted families with children from 0 to 5 currently in the DSUSD Head Start Program. This information is designed to give information about the target audience's status and their needs.

**Section IV:** Finally, to compare DSUSD to the other two districts in the region (PSUSD and CVUSD), a brief compilation of relevant tables and charts are presented to compare the earlier findings to the neighboring school districts.

# Section I: Community Profile

This portion of the report summarizes relevant data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau in the American Community Survey (ACS). Unless otherwise noted, the data in this section of the report reflect the 1-year estimates for the year 2015, which was the most recent year available at the time of this report. For the ‘grandparents as caregivers’ section, data was not available at the 1-year level for 2015 for the CVUSD community. Because of this, the five-year 2011-2015 ACS estimates were used.

The survey methodology used by the Census Bureau for the ACS is available at the Census Bureau website. The tables in this report do not account for sampling error estimates that are used in the tables presented by the Census Bureau. For more information on the data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

Relevant information is described in text, tables, and graphs. The data described in this report are taken at the individual person, household, and family levels in different instances. The definition for each of these units is as follows:

- Individual: one single person.
- Household: the number of people residing in a single occupied housing unit. This includes all individuals occupying the housing unit, such as householder, occupants related to the householder, lodgers, roommates, etc. All people who are not institutionalized (that is, who do not live in group housing such as prison) live in households.
- Family: a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

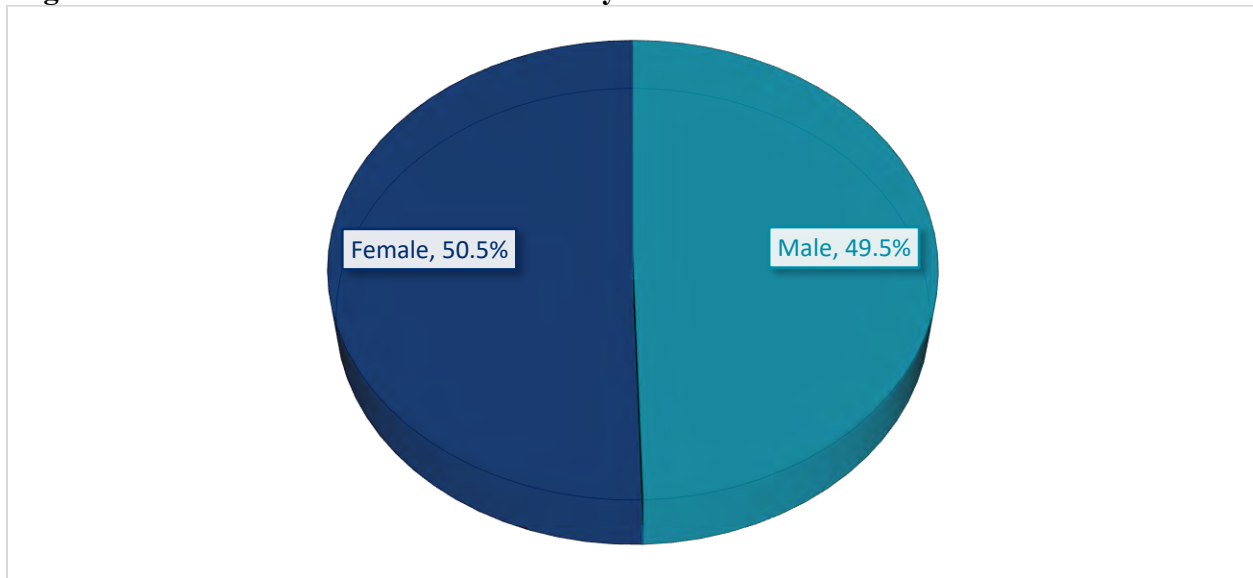
Additionally, some topics are restricted by age (for example, the topic of working adults is only relevant to those age 16 and older). Therefore, the text should be read carefully to assess what population is included. Each table or chart contains the N (population size) used for each specific demographic variable calculation.

# Demographic and Social Characteristics

## General Demographics

There are approximately 193,567 people living in the DSUSD community. As illustrated in Figure 1, the population is nearly evenly divided between genders.

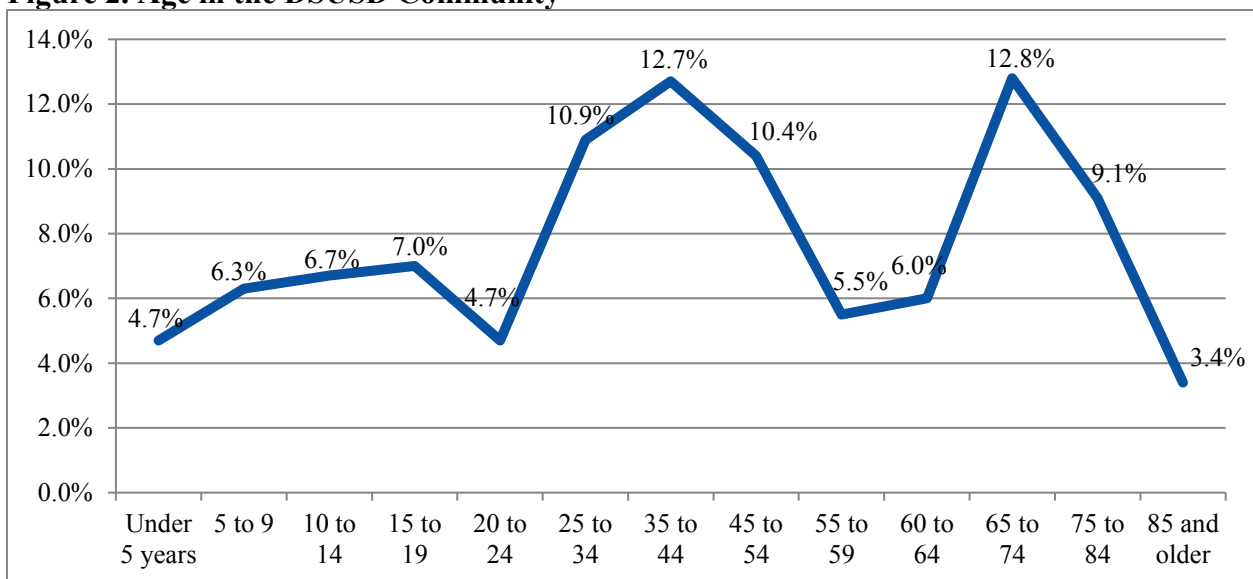
**Figure 1. Gender in the DSUSD Community**



*Note.*  $n = 193,567$  people.

The median age in the DSUSD community is 42.7. Of relevance to Head Start, there are approximately 9,098 children under the age of 5 years (4.7% of the total population).

**Figure 2. Age in the DSUSD Community**



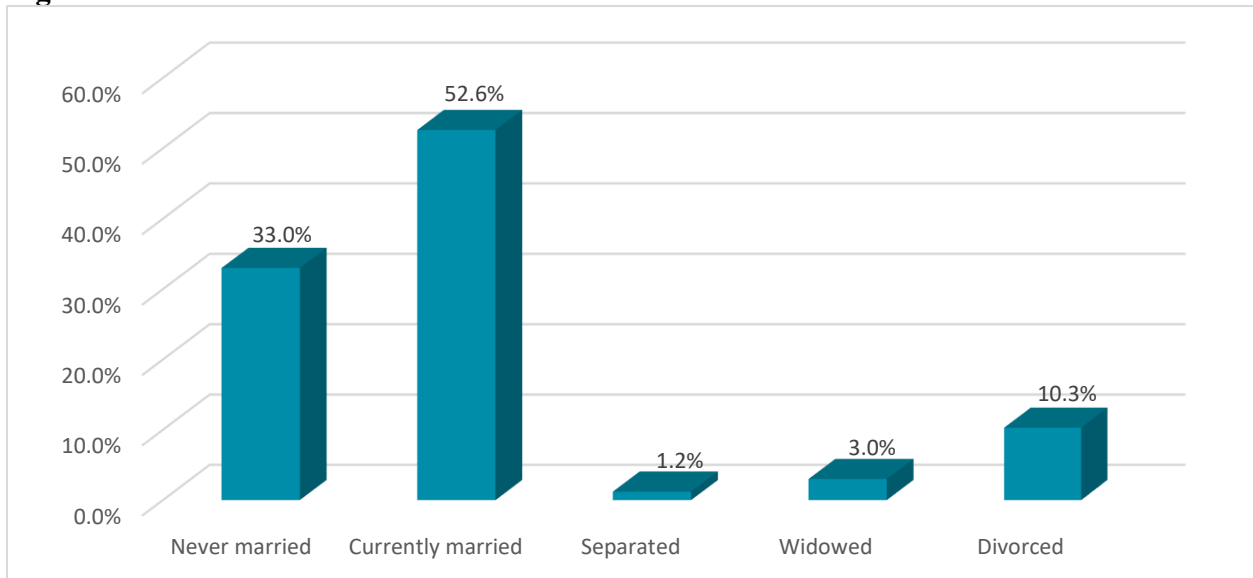
*Note.*  $n = 193,567$  people.



## Marital Status

There are approximately 78,103 men age 15 and over in the DSUSD community. As illustrated in Figure 3, over half of these men are currently married.

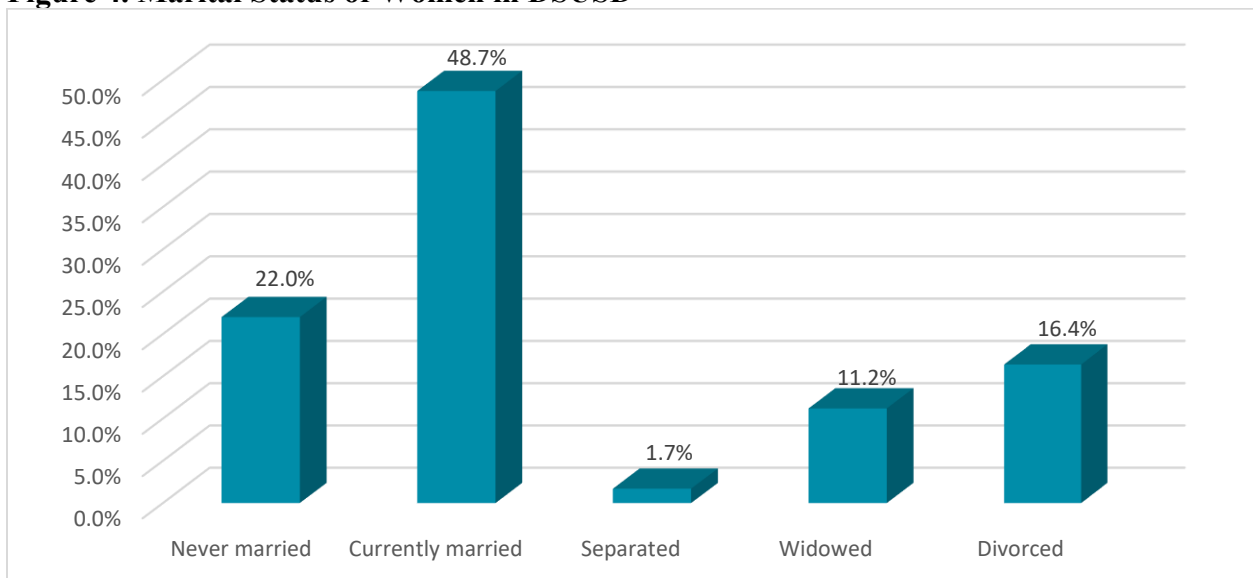
**Figure 3. Marital Status of Men in DSUSD**



*Note.*  $n = 78,103$  men age 15 and older.

There are approximately 81,243 women age 15 and older in the DSUSD community. As illustrated in Figure 4, almost half of these women are currently married.

**Figure 4. Marital Status of Women in DSUSD**



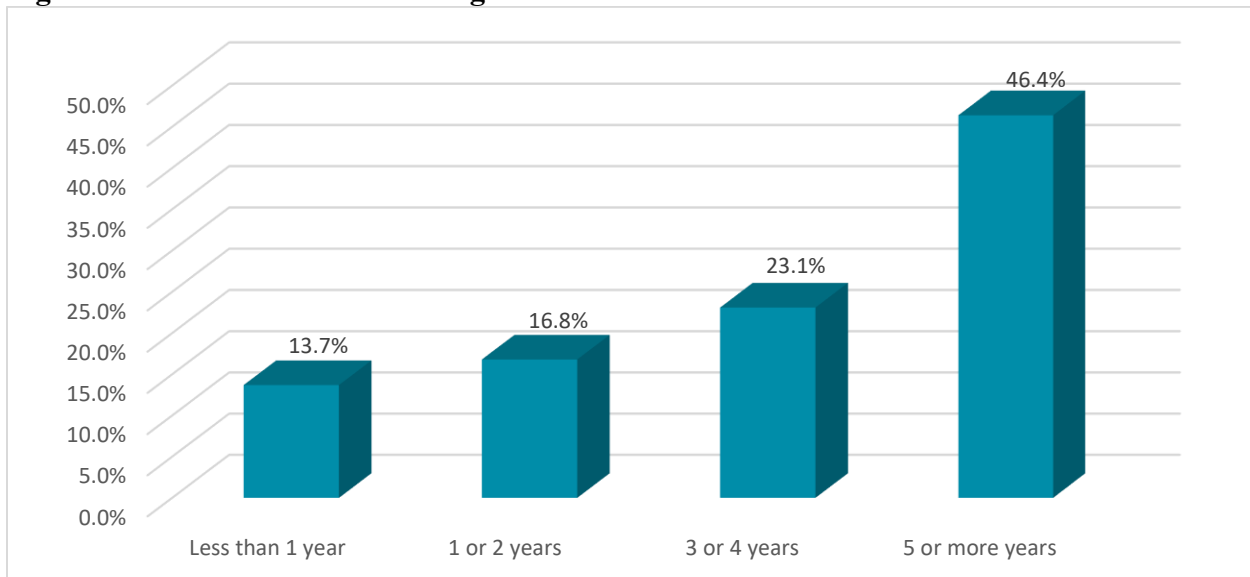
*Note.*  $n = 81,243$  women age 15 and over

## Grandparents as Caregivers

Note: The data presented on this subject (grandparents and grandchildren) are not available in the ACS 1-year dataset. Thus, this data is pulled from the 2011-2015 ACS, and represents a five-year estimate.

There are approximately 4,041 grandparents living with their own grandchildren under the age of 18 in the DSUSD community. Over a quarter of these grandparents (26.4%, or 1,068 grandparents) are responsible for those grandchildren. Most grandparents who are raising their grandchildren have been doing so for five or more years, as illustrated in Figure 5.

**Figure 5. Number of Years Raising Grandchildren**



Note. n = 1,068.

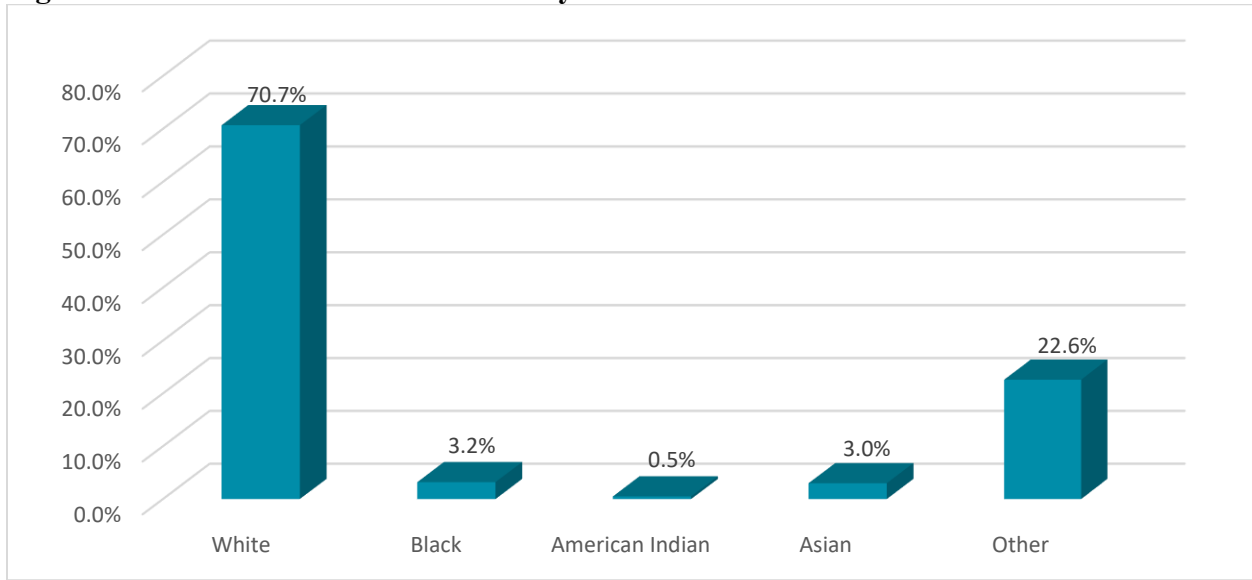
Approximately 61.3% of these grandparents caring for grandchildren are female and 38.7% are male. Around 67.6% of these grandparents are married.

# Race, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Language

## Race and Ethnicity

The majority of people in the DSUSD community (96.9%, or 187,483 people) identify with one primary race. Of these people, the majority (70.7%) are White, as illustrated in Figure 6.

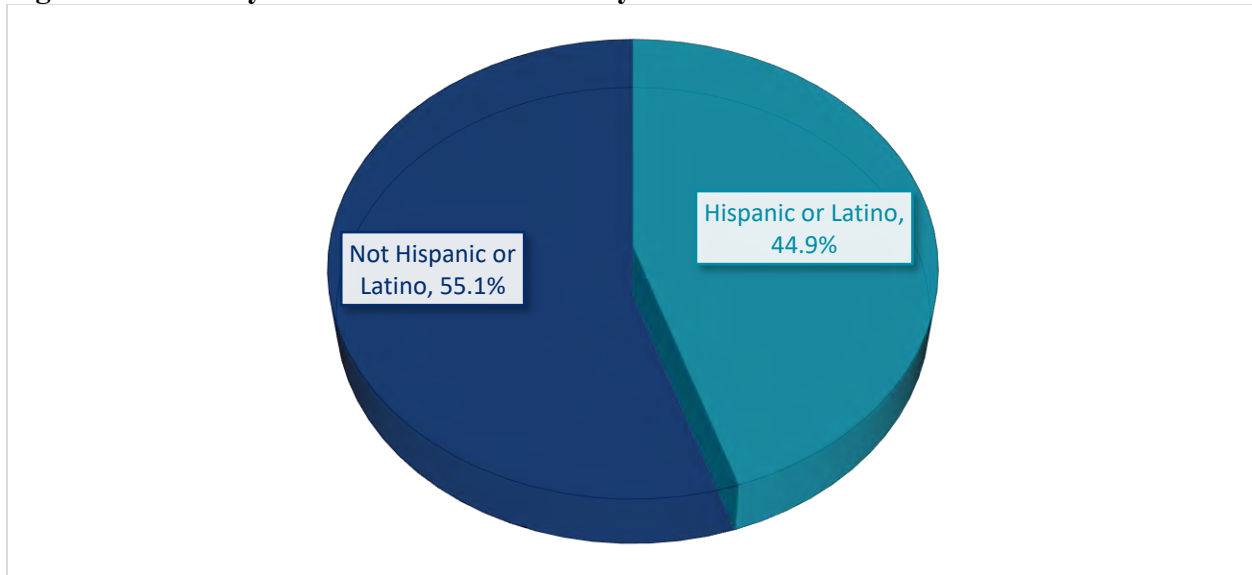
**Figure 6. Race in the DSUSD Community**



*Note.*  $n = 187,483$  people who are of one primary race.

The DSUSD community consists of slightly more non-Hispanics compared to Hispanics, as seen in Figure 7. Nearly all of the Hispanic/Latinos are Mexican in origin.

**Figure 7. Ethnicity in the DSUSD Community**

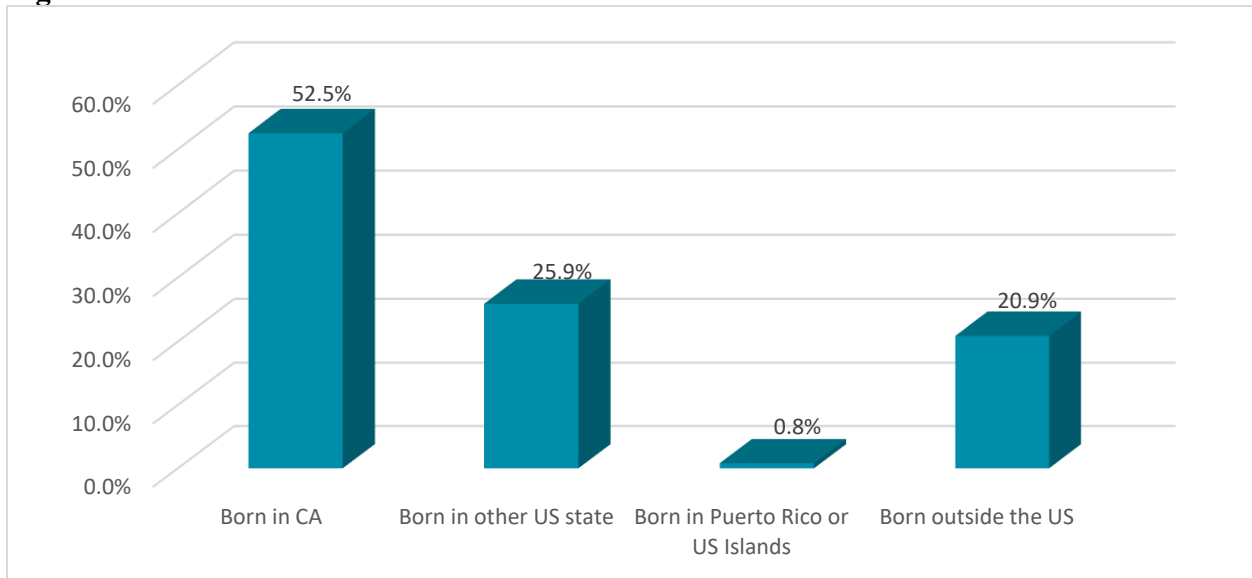


*Note.*  $n = 193,567$  people.

## Nationality

As illustrated in Figure 8, about 79.2% of the DUSD community were born in the United States; 20.9% are foreign-born.

**Figure 8. Place of Birth**



*Note.*  $n = 193,567$  people.

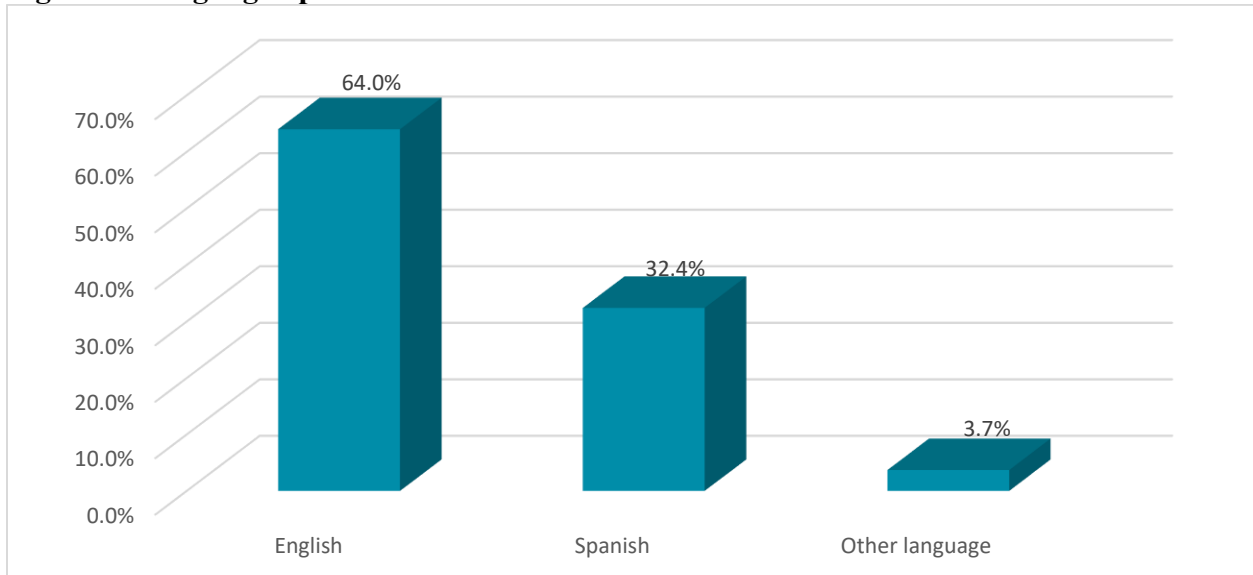
Approximately 43.3% of the foreign-born population in the DSUSD community are naturalized U.S. citizens. The remaining 56.7%, or 22,886 adults are not U.S. citizens.

The majority of the foreign-born people living in the DSUSD community (83.6%, or 33,753 people) entered the U.S. before 2010. About 16.4% of the foreign-born DSUSD community entered in 2010 or more recently.

## Language Spoken at Home

There are approximately 184,408 people age 5 and older in the DSUSD community. About two-thirds of these people (64%, or 117,999 people) speak English at home. As illustrated in Figure 9, about a third of the community speak Spanish at home (32.4%, or 59,662 people).

**Figure 9. Language Spoken at Home**



*Note.*  $n = 184,408$  people age 5 and over.

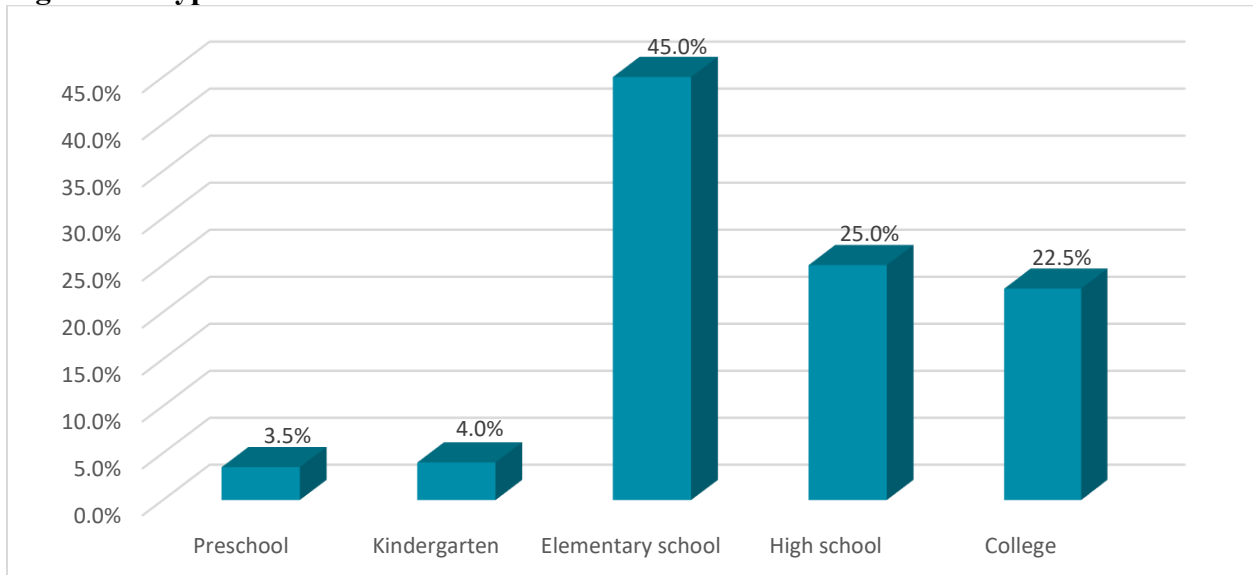
Approximately 37.3% of people who speak Spanish at home report that they speak English less than “very well”.

# Education, Employment, and Income

## Education

There are approximately 46,517 people age 3 and over enrolled in some form of school in the DSUSD community. As illustrated in Figure 10, the majority of these are in elementary school and high school.

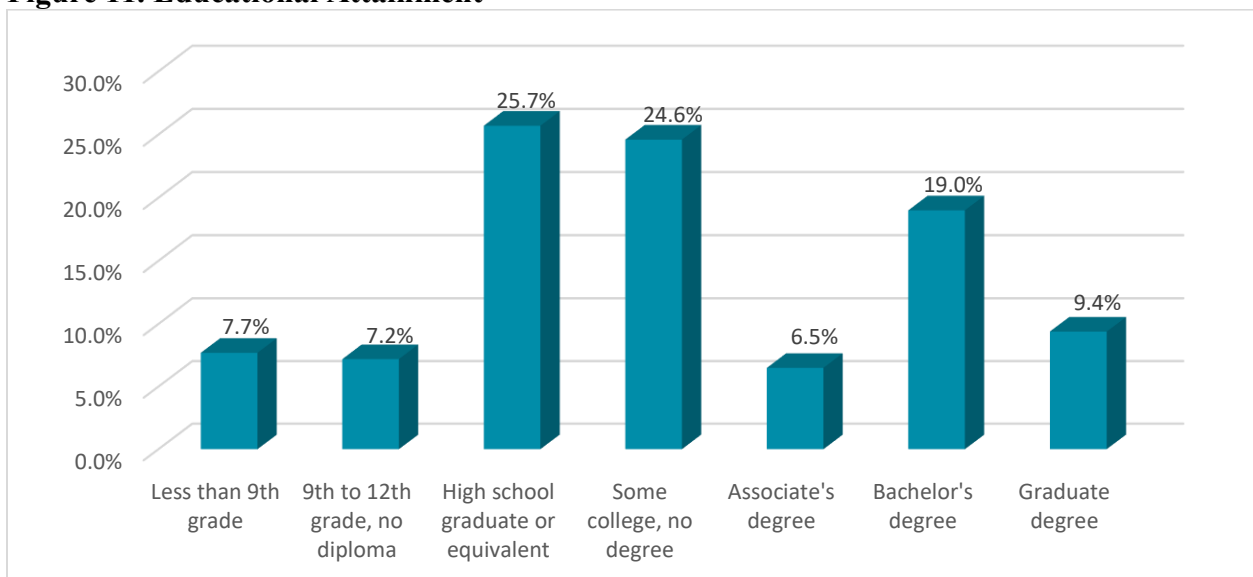
**Figure 10. Type of School Enrollment**



*Note.*  $n = 46,517$  people age 3 and over enrolled in school.

There are approximately 136,809 adults age 25 and older in the DSUSD community. As illustrated in Figure 11, the majority of these adults (85.2%) have a high school degree or higher.

**Figure 11. Educational Attainment**



*Note.*  $n = 136,809$  adults age 25 and over.

## Employment

There are approximately 156,969 people age 16 and over in the DSUSD community. About 56.1% of these people are currently in the labor force: 52% are employed and 4.1% are unemployed. This is a 7.4% unemployment rate. The remaining 43.9% of people age 16 and over are not currently in the labor force.

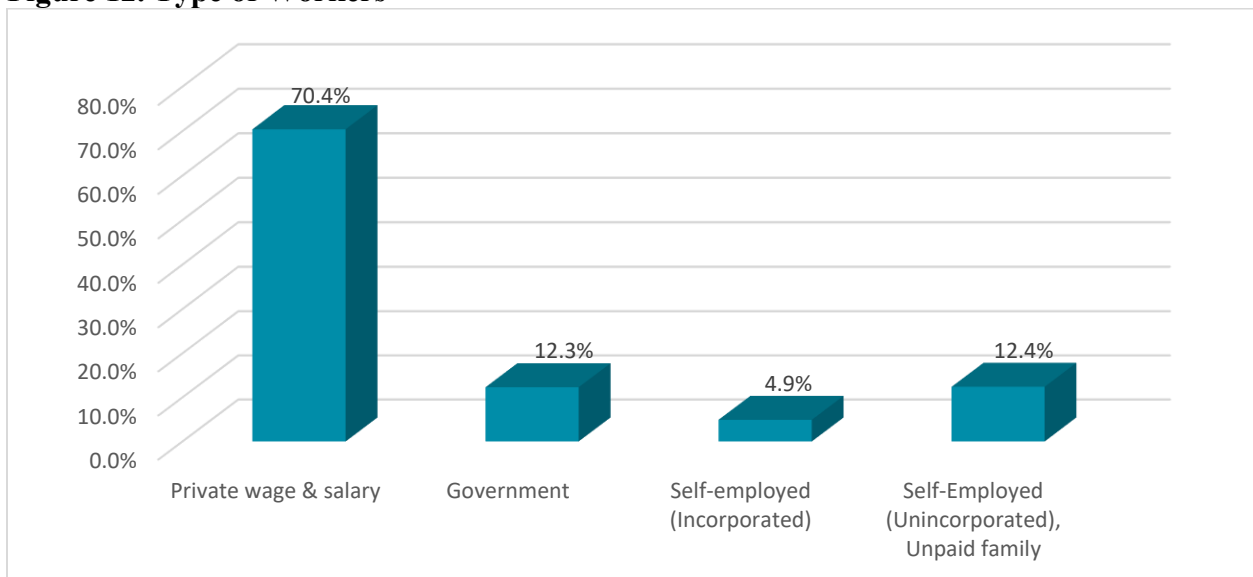
There are approximately 81,549 employed workers age 16 and over in the DSUSD community. The occupational breakdown of these workers is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Occupation of Employed Workers**

Occupation	Number of workers	Percent of workers
Management, business, science, and the arts	23,265	28.5%
Service	21,918	26.9%
Sales and office	21,951	26.9%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	9,302	11.4%
Production, transportation, and material moving	5,113	6.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,549</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As illustrated in Figure 12, the majority of workers in the DSUSD community are private wage and salary workers.

**Figure 12. Type of Workers**

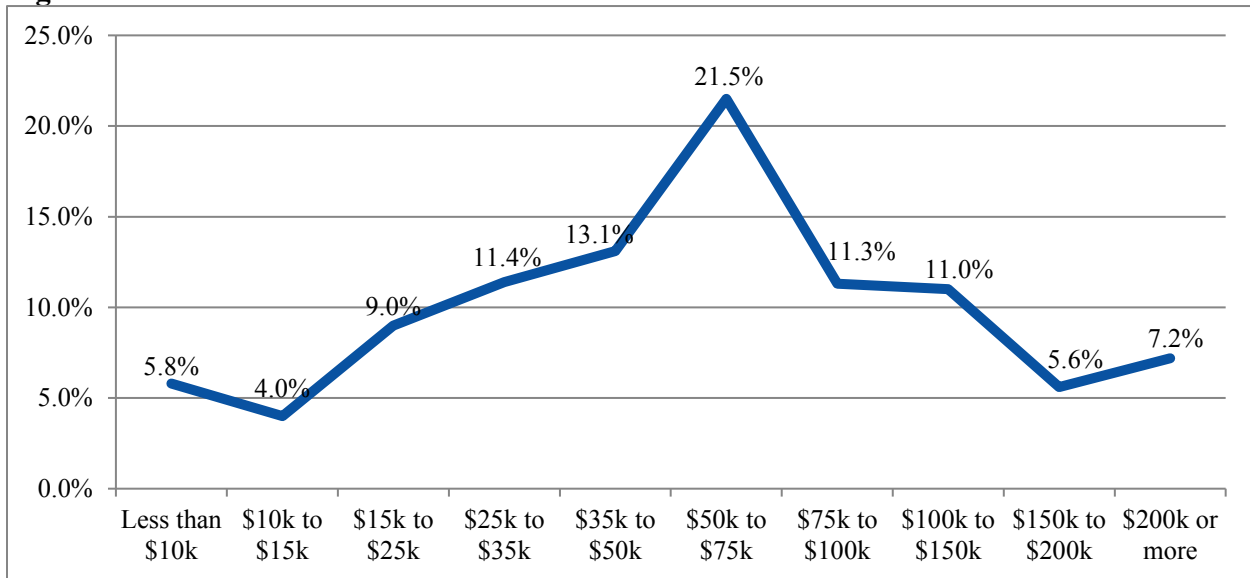


Note.  $n = 81,549$  workers age 16 and over.

## Income

The median household income in DSUSD is approximately \$55,845. The mean household income in DSUSD is approximately \$86,691.

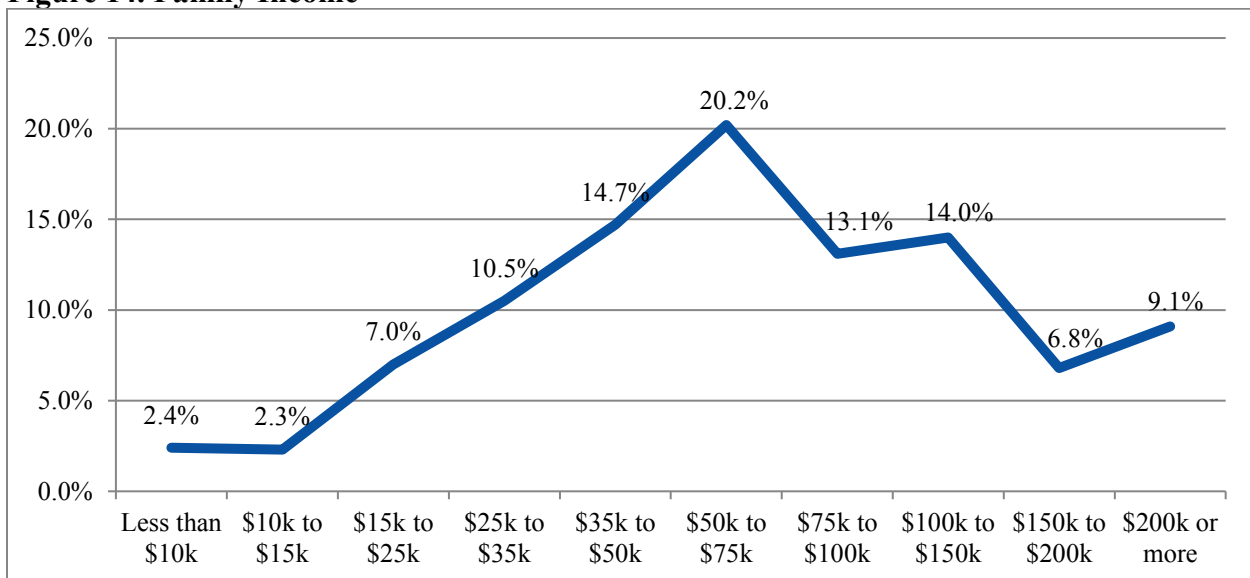
**Figure 13. Household Income in DSUSD**



Note.  $n = 74,389$  households.

The median family income in the DSUSD community is approximately \$65,108, and the mean family income in the DSUSD community is approximately \$100,783.

**Figure 14. Family Income**



Note.  $n = 48,046$  families.



Approximately 8.9% of families have had an income in the past 12 months that is below the poverty level. About 15.9% of families with related children under the age of 18 have been living in poverty in the past year.

**Table 2. Source and Amount of Household Income**

Type of Income	Number of Households	Percent of Total Households	Mean Income Received
Earnings	50,659	68.1%	\$77,031
Social Security	33,177	44.6%	\$20,380
Retirement	18,002	24.2%	\$37,051
Supplemental Security	3,124	4.2%	\$9,448
Cash public assistance	1,860	2.5%	\$7,087
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in past 12 months	4,708	6.3%	N/A

The per-capita mean income in the DSUSD community is \$34,421

**Table 3. Median Earnings**

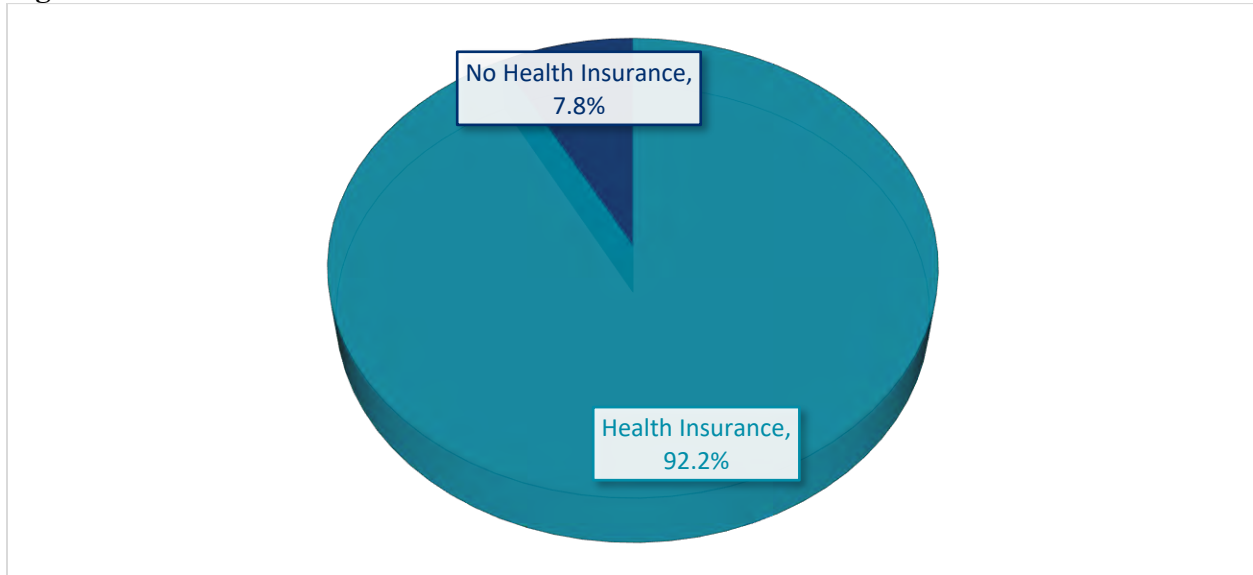
Type of worker	Median Earnings
All workers	\$27,129
Male full-time, year-round workers	\$45,060
Female full-time, year-round workers	\$36,906

# Health

## Health Insurance

The majority of people in the DSUSD community (92.2%) have health insurance. The remaining 7.8% do not have any type of health insurance coverage. These people may be unable to access the healthcare that they need.

**Figure 15. Health Insurance**



*Note.*  $n = 192,835$  civilians.

## Disability

There are many different definitions of what a “disability” is. The ACS defines a disability as a serious difficulty with four basic areas of functioning – hearing, vision, cognition, and ambulation. Additionally, the ACS considers a serious difficulty caring for oneself or living independently as a disability.

Thus, the ACS definition of a disability encompasses any of these six types of disability:

- Hearing difficulty: deaf or serious difficulty hearing
- Vision difficulty: blind or serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses
- Cognitive difficulty: difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition
- Ambulatory difficulty: serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs
- Self-care difficulty: difficulty dressing or bathing
- Independent living difficulty: difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor or shopping, due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition.

Children under 5 years old are considered to have a disability if they have a hearing and/or vision difficulty. Children between the ages of 5 and 14 are considered to have a disability if they have one or more of the following difficulties: hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, or self-care. People age 15 years and older are considered to have a disability if they have one or more of the six difficulty types.

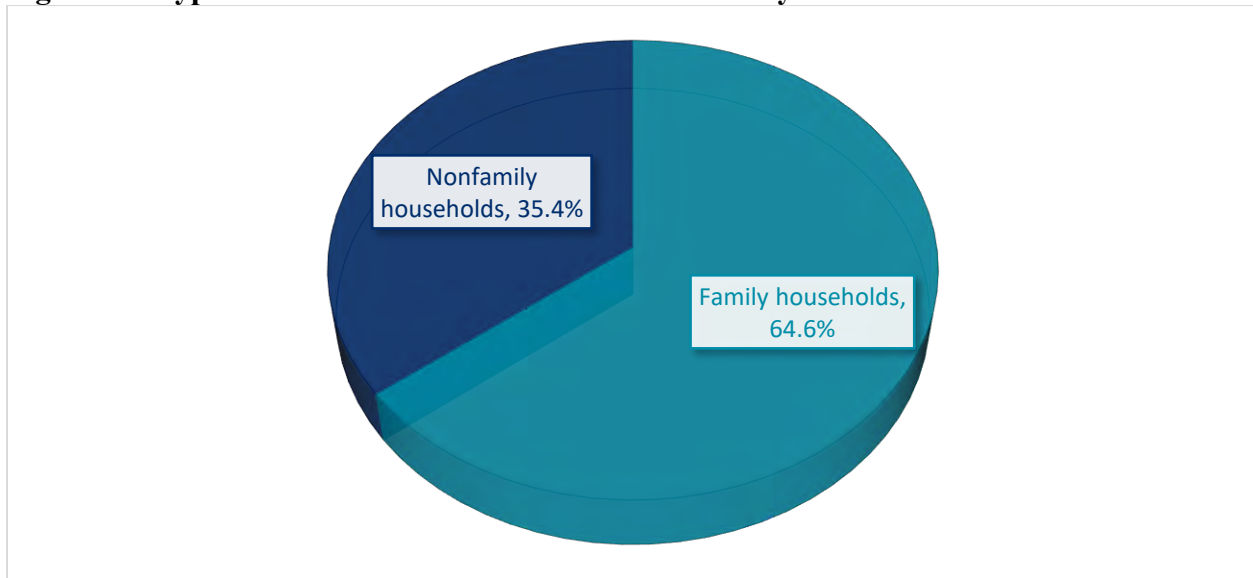
Approximately 10.8% of people in the DSUSD community (20,855 people) have a disability as defined above. Relevant to Head Start, 4.4% of children under the age of 18 (1,033 children) have a disability.

# Household Characteristics

## Households

There are approximately 74,389 total households in the DSUSD community. As illustrated in Figure 16, about two-thirds of these households (66.4%) are family households.

**Figure 16. Type of Households in the DSUSD Community**

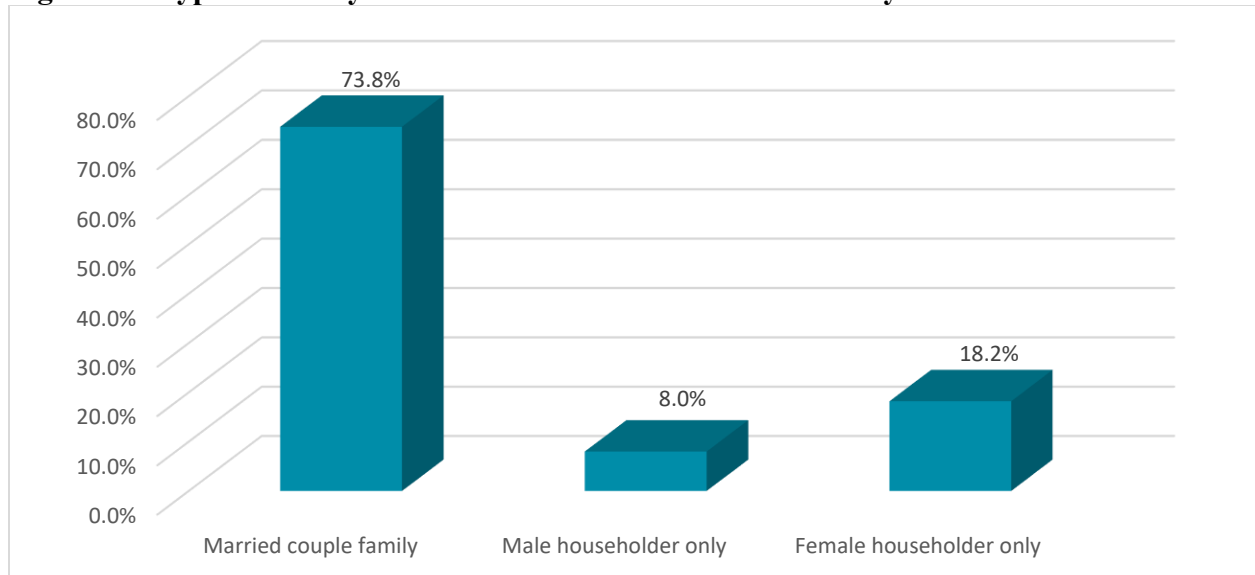


*Note.*  $n = 74,389$  households.

The average household size in the DSUSD community is 2.59 people, and the average family size is 3.2 people. Approximately 16,814 households (22.6% of all households) have one or more children under the age of 18.

Of the 48,046 family households in the DSUSD community, the majority (73.8%) are headed by a married couple. However, approximately 26.2% of households have a single householder with no spouse.

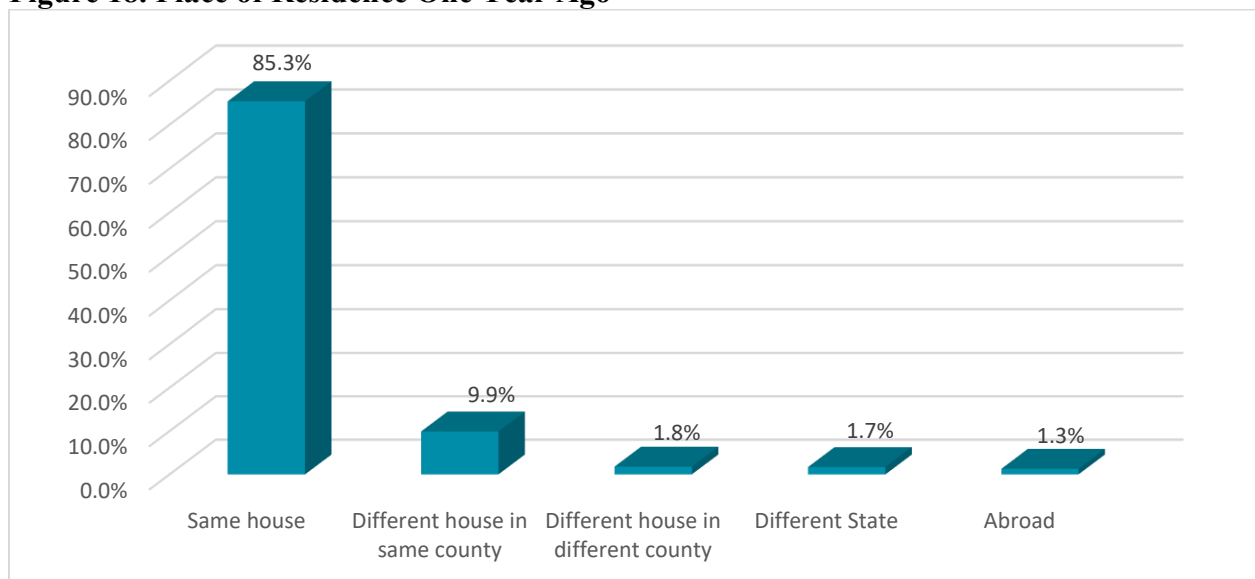
**Figure 17. Type of Family Households in the DSUSD Community**



*Note.*  $n = 48,046$  families.

There are approximately 191,371 people in the DSUSD community age 1 year and older. The majority of these people (85.3%) are currently living in the same house they were a year ago, indicating relative geographic stability in the DSUSD community.

**Figure 18. Place of Residence One Year Ago**

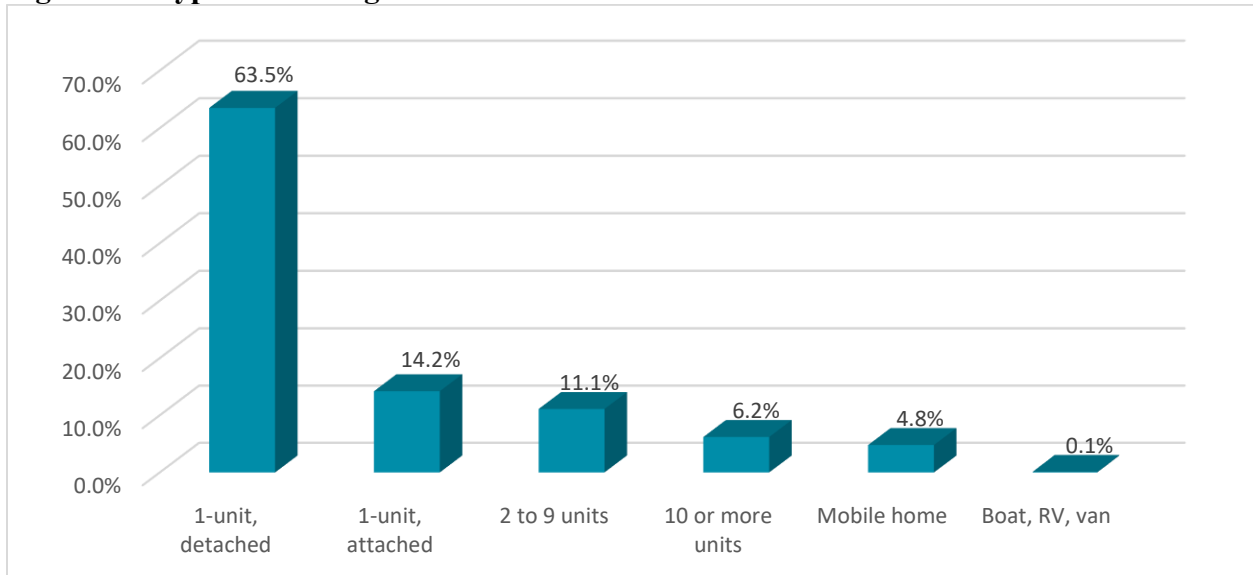


*Note.*  $n = 191,371$  people age 1 and older.

## Housing Units

There are approximately 104,332 housing units in the DSUSD community. About 71.3% of these housing units are occupied; the remaining 28.7% are vacant. As illustrated in Figure 19, most of these housing units (63.5%, or 66,234 housing units) are stand-alone houses.

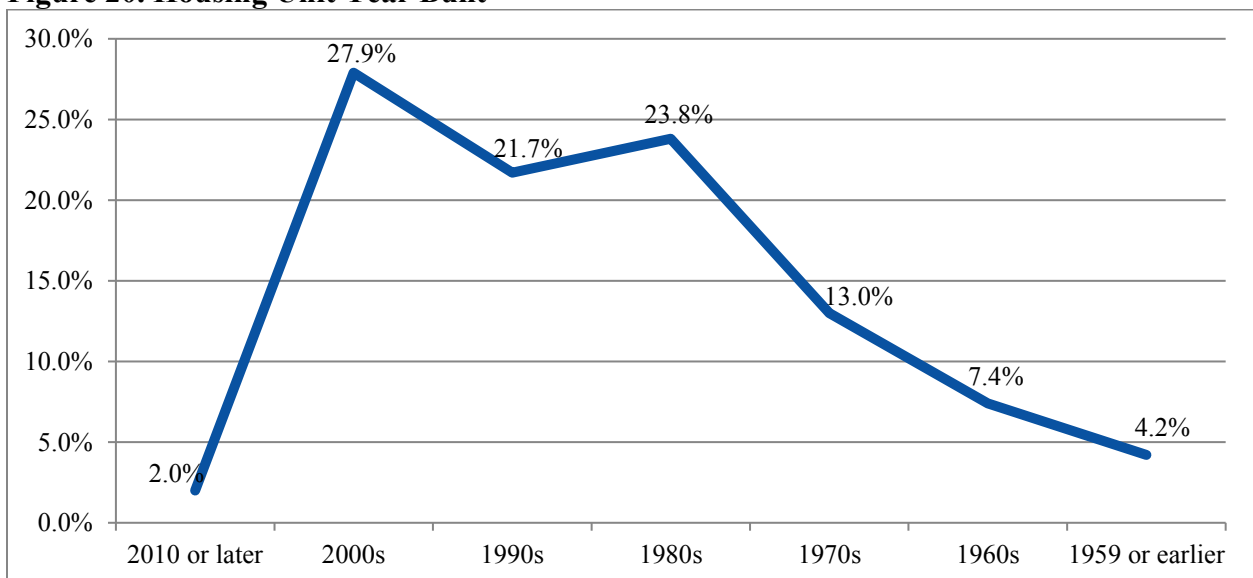
**Figure 19. Type of Housing Units**



Note.  $n = 104,332$  housing units.

The majority of homes in the DSUSD community were built between the 80s and 2010 as illustrated in Figure 20.

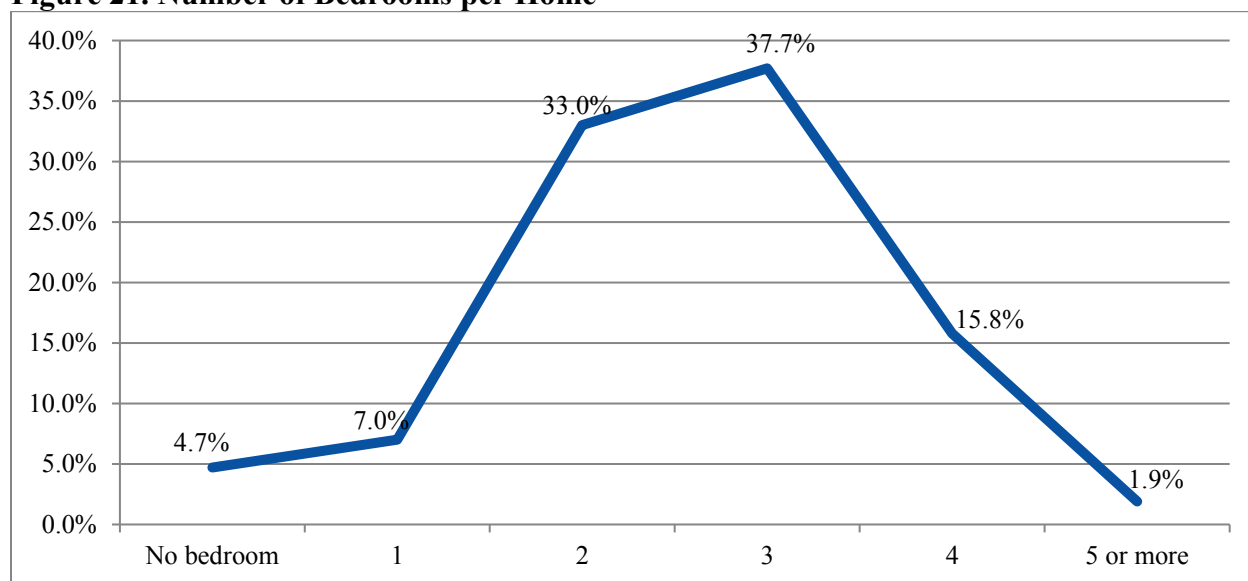
**Figure 20. Housing Unit Year Built**



Note.  $n = 104,332$  housing units.

As illustrated in Figure 21, most housing units in the DSUSD community have two or three bedrooms.

**Figure 21. Number of Bedrooms per Home**



Note. n = 104,332 housing units.

Roughly two-thirds of occupied housing units in the DSUSD community are owner-occupied (64.5%, or 47,979 homes) while about one-third (33.5% or 26,410 homes) are renter-occupied.

## Housing Deficiencies

Plumbing facilities are considered “complete” when it includes all three of the following facilities: 1) hot and cold running water, 2) a flush toilet, and 3) a bathtub or shower.

A kitchen is considered “complete” when it has all three of the following facilities: 1) a sink with a faucet, 2) a stove or range, and 3) a refrigerator.

Of the 74,389 occupied housing units in DSUSD community, hundreds are lacking in basic household equipment, as illustrated in Table 4.

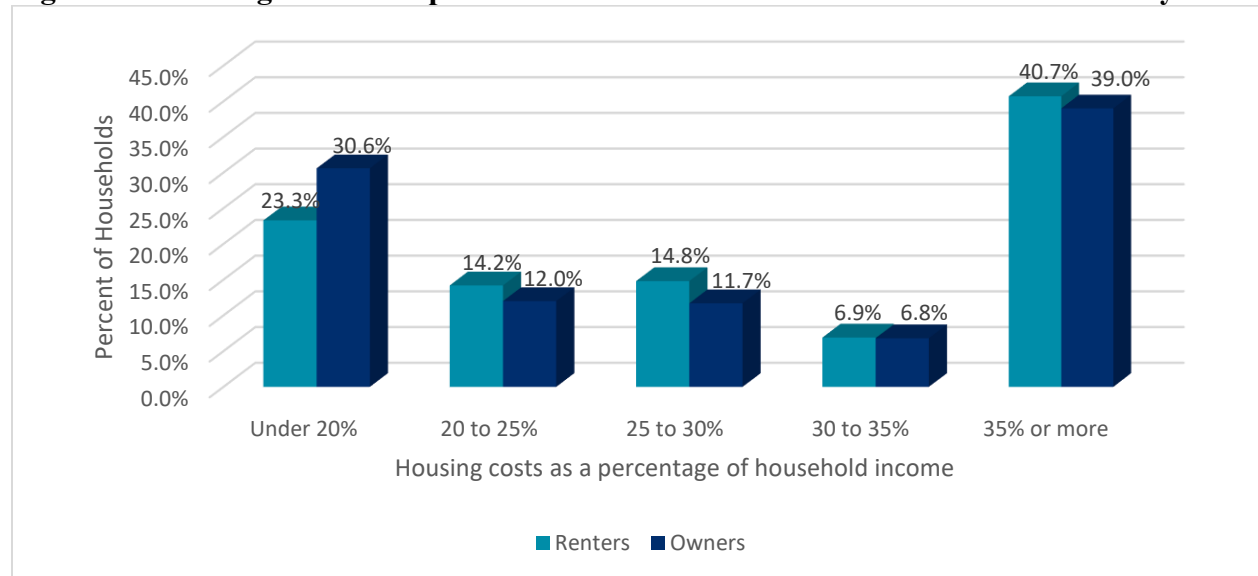
**Table 4. Housing Issues in the DSUSD Community**

Issue	Number of Housing Units	Percent of Occupied Housing Units
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	215	0.3%
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	798	1.1%
Lacking telephone service	1,958	2.6%

## Housing Costs

Generally speaking, a household is considered “overextended” if they spend 35% or more of their income on housing. Results of the ACS show that a large proportion of both home-owners and renters are spending 35% or more of their household income on rent or mortgage costs, which may put them in a precarious financial situation should other costs arise.

**Figure 22. Housing Costs Compared to Household Income in the DSUSD Community**



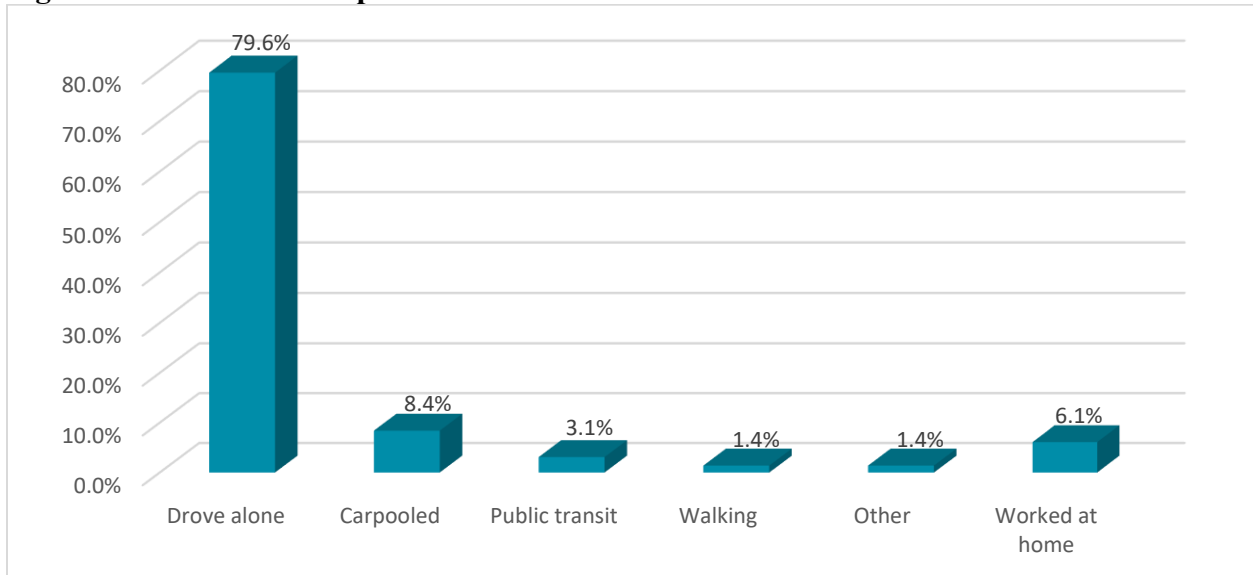
*Note.* *n* renters = 24,614, *n* owners with mortgage = 27,876.



# Transportation

There are about 80,129 workers age 16 and over in the DSUSD community that commute to work. The majority of these workers (79.6%, or 63,760 workers) reach their workplace by driving alone. The average length of the commute to work was approximately 22.9 minutes.

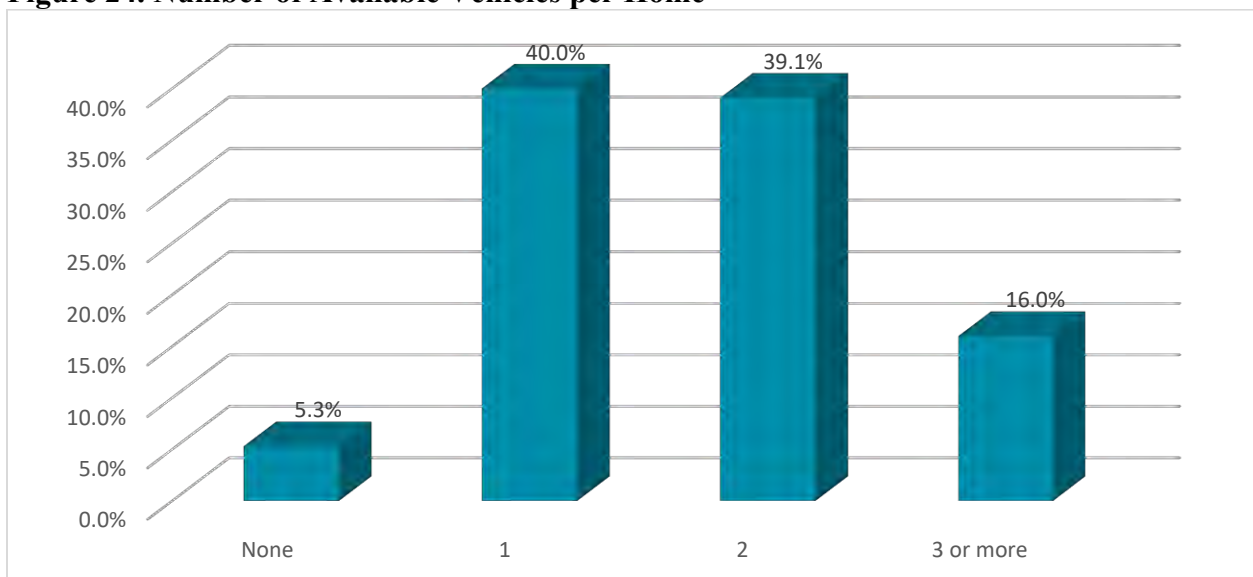
**Figure 23. Mode of Transportation to Work**



*Note.*  $n = 80,129$  workers age 16 and over.

There are approximately 74,389 occupied housing units in the DSUSD community. The majority of these homes have one or two vehicles available. However, approximately 5.3% of households, or 3,977 homes, have no vehicles available to them.

**Figure 24. Number of Available Vehicles per Home**



*Note.*  $n = 74,389$  occupied housing units.

## Summary of Section I: Community Profile

There are approximately 193,567 people living in 74,389 households in the DSUSD community. Approximately 64.6% of these households are family households, most of which are headed by a married couple. Over 9,098 of these residents are children under the age of 5 who may be current or future Head Start children.

### **Race, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Language**

About 44.9% of DSUSD community residents are Hispanic or Latino. Around 20.9% of the DSUSD community are foreign-born, and over half of these (56.7%) are not naturalized U.S. citizens, indicating they may not get some of the services they need. Almost all foreign-born residents in DSUSD were born in Latin America. Almost a third of people age 5 and over in the DSUSD community (32.4%) speak Spanish at home. Further, 37.3% of these people speak English less than “very well”, indicating a need for bilingual services.

### **Employment, Education, and Income**

Currently about 81,549 people age 16 and over are employed in the DSUSD community. Approximately 4.1% of the labor force is unemployed. Over half of all adults age 25 and over (59.5%) have attended at least some college or attained a college degree. The median household income is approximately \$55,845, while the median family income is substantially higher at \$65,108. Approximately 6.3% of households have received SNAP benefits (known as “food stamps”) within the past year. However, about 8.9% of families are living below the poverty line, indicating that this important benefit may be underutilized.

### **Health and Disability**

Approximately 7.8% of the DSUSD lack health insurance, indicating they may not be receiving needed care. About 10.8% of DSUSD community members have one or more disabilities, which may mean they need additional care.

### **Housing**

The majority of the DSUSD population lives in a detached home that was built between 1980 and 2010. Most homes have two or three bedrooms. About two-thirds of occupied houses are occupied by their owners (64.5%), the remaining third are currently renting (33.5%). The majority of the DSUSD population (85.3%) have been living in their same house for at least a year, indicating geographic stability.

### **Transportation**

The majority of households have at least one vehicle available to them, however, over 3,977 households do not have access to a vehicle. This may provide barriers in terms of transportation.

## Section II: District Profile

This portion of the report summarizes relevant data collected by the California Department of Education for DSUSD for the 2015-2016 academic year, except where noted. The data are available online, and are searchable via the DataQuest tool:

<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dataquest.asp>

### Demographics

There are 28,719 students in 34 schools in DSUSD. Approximately 72.8% of these students identify as Hispanic/Latino. Approximately 65.6% of students in DSUSD qualify for free or reduced price meals, which is a strong poverty indicator.

### Language

There are several key language metrics identified by the California Department of Education. Here are the relevant definitions:

- English Language Learner (EL): “Students for whom there is a report of a primary language other than English on the state-approved Home Language Survey and who, on the basis of the state approved oral language (grades K-12) assessment procedures and including literacy (grades 3-12 only), have been determined to lack the clearly defined English language skills of listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing necessary to succeed in the school's regular instructional programs.”
- Fluent-English-Proficient: (FEP): “Students whose primary language is other than English and who have met the district criteria for determining proficiency in English (i.e., those students who were identified as FEP on initial identification and students redesignated from Limited-English-Proficient (LEP) or English learner (EL) to FEP).”

Approximately 24.2% of DSUSD students are categorized as “English Language Learners”, and approximately 19.3% are categorized as “Fluent-English-Proficient”.

### Staffing

Data for the academic year of 2015-2016 was not available for staffing. Because of this, 2014-2015 academic year data were used. DSUSD has approximately 71.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) administrators and 1,177.2 FTE teachers. The average class size at DSUSD is 23.2 students, and the pupil-to-teacher ratio is 24.6.

## Section III: Parent Survey

The Parent Survey instrument was developed by HARC and DSUSD in conjunction with two other local districts, PSUSD and CVUSD. The survey contained 20 questions, and was created in both English and Spanish. DSUSD distributed the survey to each of the twelve Head Start locations within the district, who were then responsible for inviting parents to complete the survey. Data collection was conducted in mid-December 2016. The full text of the survey instrument can be found in Appendix A.

A total of 210 parent/guardians from twelve sites completed the surveys.

**Table 5. Completed Parent/Guardian Surveys**

Head Start Site	Number of Participants
Van Buren	32
Johnson	25
Summerfield	25
Adams	24
Eisenhower	24
Palm Desert	23
Jackson	20
Hoover 2	15
Home Based	11
Hoover 1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>

## Demographics

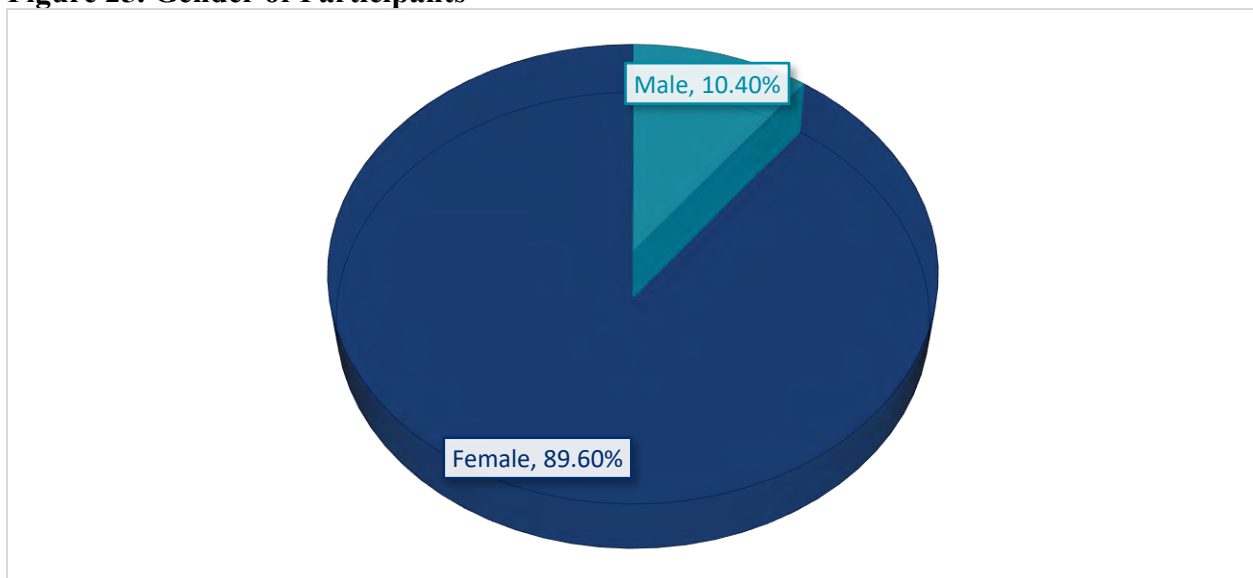
The majority of participants identify as Hispanic or Latino, as illustrated in Table 6.

**Table 6. Race/Ethnicity of Participants**

Race/Ethnicity	% of Participants	# of Participants
Hispanic/Latino	90.7%	185
White/Caucasian	5.4%	11
Black/African American	2.5%	5
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.5%	1
Multi-Racial	0.5%	1
Other	0.5%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>204</b>

As illustrated in Figure 25, the majority of participants (89.1%) were female.

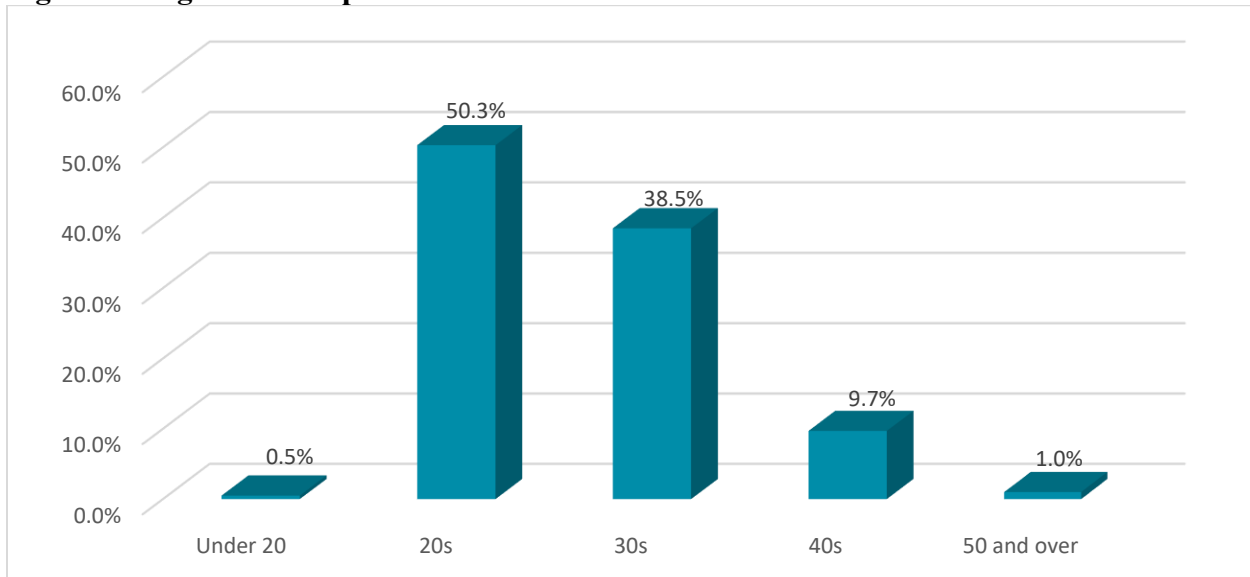
**Figure 25. Gender of Participants**



*n* = 201.

Participants ranged from 19 to 62 years of age. The average participant was about 31 years old. As illustrated in Figure 26, most participants were in their 20s and 30s.

**Figure 26. Age of Participants**



*Note.*  $n = 195$ .

As illustrated in Table 7, the majority of participants live in the 92201 zip code, indicating they live in Indio.

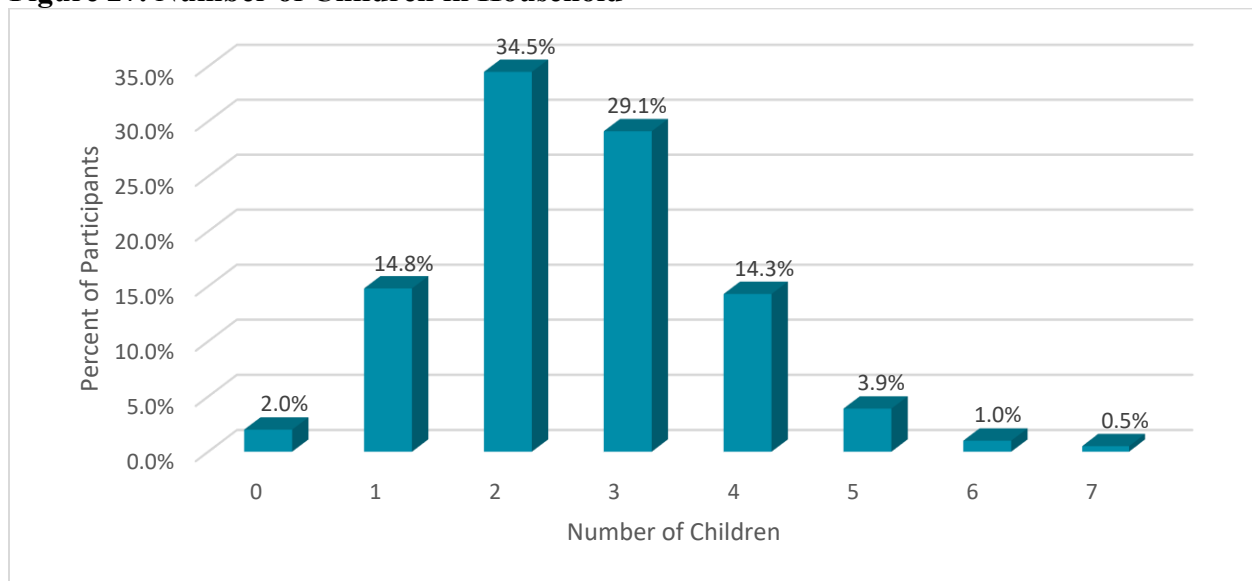
**Table 7. Geographic Location of Participants**

Zip Code	% of Participants	# of Participants
92201	64.6%	128
92203	10.6%	21
92260	9.6%	19
92253	6.1%	12
92211	3.0%	6
92236	3.0%	6
92274	1.5%	3
Other zip codes	1.0%	2
92202	0.5%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>198</b>

## Household Size

Participants were asked to report the number of children under 18 years of age that live with them. The number of children living with participants ranged from zero to seven children. As illustrated in Figure 27, most participants (63.6%) live with just two or three children in their home.

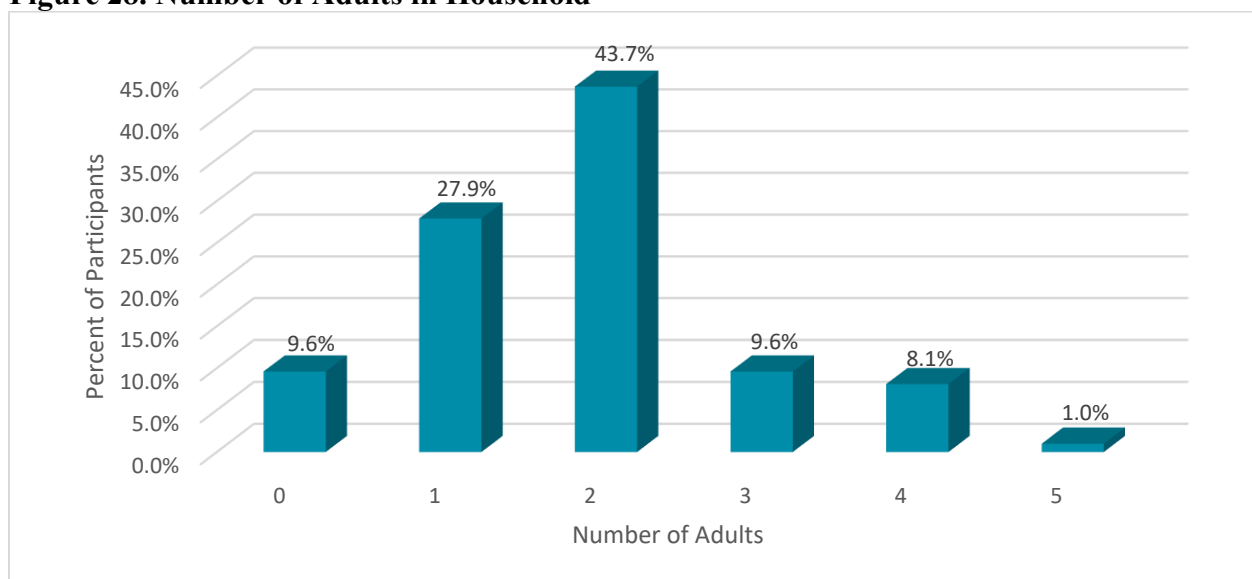
**Figure 27. Number of Children in Household**



*Note.*  $n = 203$ .

Participants were also asked to report the number of adults (18 years of age or older) that live with them. Results show that participants live with between zero and five adults. As illustrated in Figure 28, the majority of participants (71.6%) have one or two adults in their home.

**Figure 28. Number of Adults in Household**



*Note.*  $n = 197$ .

## Literacy

Participants were asked, “How would you rate the literacy skills of your family members in your household?” and then further prompted, “Most of my family members in my household read English...” and “Most of my family members in my household read Spanish...”

As illustrated in Table 8, the majority of participants’ family members read both English and Spanish “well” or above (81.2% and 75.5%, respectively).

**Table 8. Literacy Level**

Language	Literacy Level			
	Very well	Well	Not well	Not at all
English	61.3% (144)	19.9% (37)	15.1% (28)	3.8% (7)
Spanish	50.5% (95)	25.0% (47)	15.4% (29)	9.0% (17)

Participants were also asked, “What languages do you speak at home?” As illustrated in Table 9, the largest percentage of participants (64.3%) indicated that some combination of both English and Spanish was spoken at home.

**Table 9. Language Spoken at Home**

Language Spoken at Home	% of Participants	# of Participants
Mostly English, some Spanish	23.4%	44
English and Spanish equally	21.8%	41
English only	19.7%	37
Mostly Spanish, some English	19.1%	36
Spanish only	14.4%	27
English and another language other than Spanish	1.6%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>188</b>



## Transportation

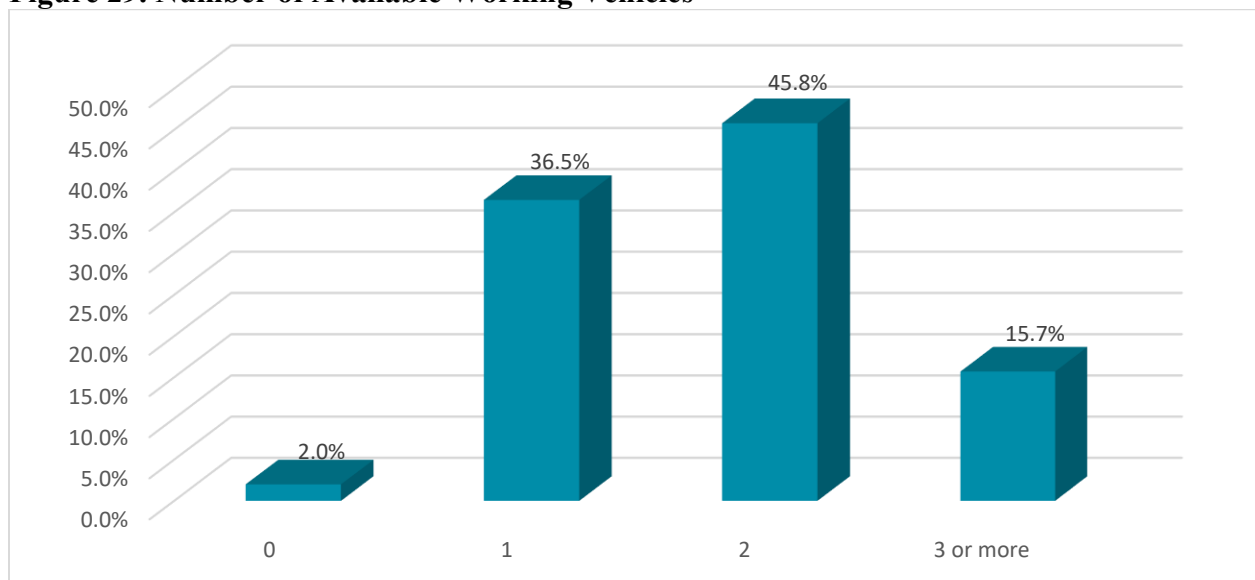
Participants were asked, “What is your family’s primary mode of transportation?” As illustrated in Table 10, the vast majority of participants indicated that a car, truck, or van was their family’s primary mode of transportation.

**Table 10. Primary Mode of Transportation**

Mode of Transportation	% of Participants	# of Participants
Car, truck, or van	96.5%	194
Public transportation	2.0%	4
Walking	1.0%	2
Other	0.5%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>201</b>

Participants were also asked, “How many working vehicles do you have in your household?” Results show that the majority of participants had one or two working vehicles in their household.

**Figure 29. Number of Available Working Vehicles**



Note. n = 203.

## Pregnancy and Prenatal Care

Participants were asked, “Are you, or is anyone who lives with you, currently pregnant?” Results showed that 8 participants had a pregnant person in the household. These participants were subsequently asked, “How often does this pregnant person receive prenatal care?” As illustrated in Table 11, the largest percentage of these pregnant women receive prenatal care about once a month.

**Table 11. Prenatal Care**

<b>Frequency of Prenatal Care</b>	<b>% of Participants</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
About once a month	75.0%	6
About every two weeks	25.0%	2
<i><b>Total</b></i>	<i><b>100%</b></i>	<i><b>8</b></i>

## Childcare Arrangements

Participants were asked, “Other than a parent or guardian, who typically takes care of your preschool-aged child when they are not in the Head Start or other State preschool program?” As illustrated in Table 12, the largest percentage of participants indicated that a family member typically takes care of their preschool-aged child.

**Table 12. Source of Care for Preschool-Aged Child**

Source of Care	% of Participants	# of Participants
A family member	69.0%	136
No one other than a parent or guardian	22.3%	44
A friend	3.6%	7
A licensed childcare provider	3.6%	7
Someone else	1.0%	2
Some other preschool or nursery school	0.5%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>197</b>

Participants were also asked, “Other than a parent or guardian, who typically takes care of your infant or toddler?” Results showed that approximately 25.3% did not have an infant or toddler. Of the 133 parents who do have an infant or toddler, 63.9% indicated their infant or toddler was cared for by a family member in addition to a parent or guardian, as illustrated in Table 13.

**Table 13. Source of Care for Infant or Toddler**

Source of Care	% of Participants	# of Participants
A family member	63.9%	85
No one other than a parent or guardian	24.1%	32
Early Head Start program	5.3%	7
A licensed childcare provider	3.0%	4
Someone else	2.3%	3
A friend	0.8%	1
Some other preschool or nursery school	0.8%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>133</b>

## Major Life Events

Participants were asked, “Have you or other family members that you live with experienced any of the following major changes within the last 6 months?” Participants were asked to circle all that applied. As illustrated in Table 14, moving and starting a new job were the most frequently indicated major life events.

**Table 14. Major Life Events in Past Six Months**

Major Life Event	% of Participants	# of Participants
Moving	16.7%	35
Starting a new job	11.4%	24
Death in the family	10.5%	22
Job loss	10.0%	21
Birth of a new baby	10.0%	21
Divorce or marital separation	5.2%	11
Serious injury, illness, or hospitalization	3.8%	8
Pregnancy	3.3%	7
New marriage	2.4%	5
Imprisonment or incarceration in jail or prison	1.4%	3
Victim of violence	0.5%	1
Other	2.4%	5

## Unmet Needs

Participants were asked, “Below are some common things that families need help with. Please check one box per line to indicate how much you and your household need each type of help.” As can be seen in Table 15, the area in need of the most assistance was childcare. At least 16% need help with finances, 18.2% need help with food, 20.0% need help with housing, and 23.5% need help with childcare

**Table 15. Needed Assistance**

Type of Help	Level of Need		
	We do not need this type of help	We need some help with this	We are greatly in need of this type of help
Food assistance	81.8% (121)	16.2% (24)	2.0% (3)
Financial assistance	84.0% (121)	12.5% (18)	3.5% (5)
Housing assistance	80.0% (120)	11.3% (17)	8.7% (13)
Assistance with obtaining quality childcare	76.5% (114)	14.8% (22)	8.7% (13)

Participants were asked, “Have you received assistance from any of these local organizations in the past year?”

As illustrated in Table 16, Catholic Charities was the most frequently utilized *local* source of assistance for DSUSD Head Start families. However, it is worth noting that not many families received assistance in the past year.

**Table 16. Received Assistance**

Source of Help	% of Participants	# of Participants
Catholic Charities	4.3%	9
Barbara Sinatra’s Children’s Center	1.9%	4
F.I.N.D. Food Bank	1.4%	3
Kids First Program	1.4%	3
Workforce Development	1.0%	2
Martha’s Village and Kitchen	0.5%	1
YMCA	0.5%	1
Student Assistance Program	0.5%	1
Other	4.8%	10

“Other” responses included Cal Fresh, Coachella Rescue Mission, food stamps, and WIC.

## Adult Activities

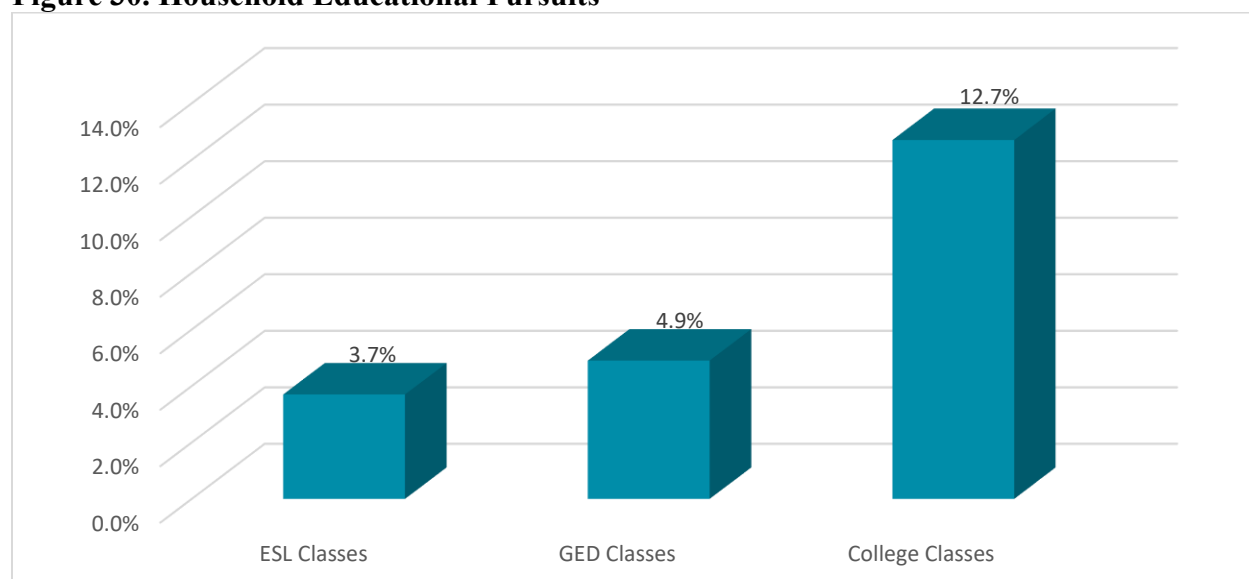
Participants were asked what the employment status of the adult family members in their household was. They were asked to check one box for each adult. As illustrated by Table 17, the second adult working full-time was reported the most frequently.

**Table 17. Employment status**

Family Member	Employment Status						
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Out of Work	Home-Maker	Retired	Unable to Work	Other
Yourself	36.3% (70)	22.3% (43)	11.4% (22)	22.8% (44)	0.0% (0)	4.7% (9)	2.6% (5)
Second Adult	73.2% (115)	11.5% (18)	5.1% (8)	4.5% (7)	1.3% (2)	2.5% (4)	1.9% (3)
Third Adult	47.8% (22)	26.1% (12)	4.3% (2)	13.0% (6)	2.2% (1)	4.3% (2)	2.2% (1)
Fourth Adult	5.6% (1)	11.1% (2)	22.2% (4)	22.2% (4)	11.1% (2)	16.7% (3)	11.1% (2)

Participants were also asked to indicate if any of their household family members currently were taking ESL, GED, or College Classes. As illustrated in Figure 30, 12.7% of participants indicated they had family members currently attending college classes.

**Figure 30. Household Educational Pursuits**



Note. ESL  $n = 190$ , GED  $n = 185$ , College  $n = 189$ .

## Current Head Start Activities

Participants were asked, “How many of the following Head Start activities or events have you attended since September 2016?” They were asked to circle all activities that applied from the list below.

As illustrated in Table 18, parent center meetings were the most frequently attended activities at the DSUSD Head Start.

**Table 18. Parental Participation in Current Head Start Activities**

Activity or Event	% of Participants	# of Participants
Parent center meeting	40.0%	84
Policy committee meeting	19.0%	40
Nutrition classes	18.6%	39
Family stories	9.0%	19
Wednesday workshops	4.8%	10
PRICE parenting classes	3.8%	8
Rosetta Stone	0.5%	1
Latino Literacy	0.5%	1

## Summary of Section III: Parent Survey

A total of 210 parent/guardians of current Head Start children completed the survey. The majority of these participants were Hispanic females in their 20s and 30s living in Indio. Most participants live with two or three children and one or two adults.

### Literacy

The majority of participants' family members read both English and Spanish "well" or "very well" (81.2% and 75.5%, respectively). About 14.4% of participants speak only Spanish at home.

### Transportation

Most participants have one or two cars available to their household. The vast majority of participants cite private vehicles as their primary mode of transportation.

### Pregnancy and Prenatal Care

A total of 8 participants reported having a pregnant woman in their household. Most of these pregnant women were receiving prenatal care once a month.

### Childcare

Outside of Head Start, most preschool-aged children were cared for by a family member (69.0%). Approximately 74.7% of participants had an infant or toddler; these children were primarily cared for by family members (63.9%) and parents/guardians (24.1%).

### Major Life Events

About 16.7% of participants have moved in the past six months, while another 11.4% have started a new job. Other major life events included death in the family, job loss, and the birth of a new baby.

### Needs

Between 2.0% and 8.7% of participants were greatly in need of assistance with food, finances, housing, and childcare. The area in need of most assistance in general was childcare (23.5%). For local sources, Catholic Charities (4.3%) was the most commonly utilized source of assistance in the past year. However, overall, very few participants reported receiving assistance from any of the local organizations designed to provide assistance for low-income families.

### Adult Activities

Over half of the participants (58.6%) were currently employed either part-time or full-time. About 12.7% of participants reported that someone in their home was attending college; attendance at ESL classes was about 3.7%, and GED classes was about 4.9%.

### Head Start Activities

Parent center meetings were the most commonly attended Head Start activity (40.0% of parents have attended at least once since September 2016), followed by policy committee meetings (19.0% participation). In contrast, Latino Literacy and Rosetta Stone offerings are relatively underutilized.

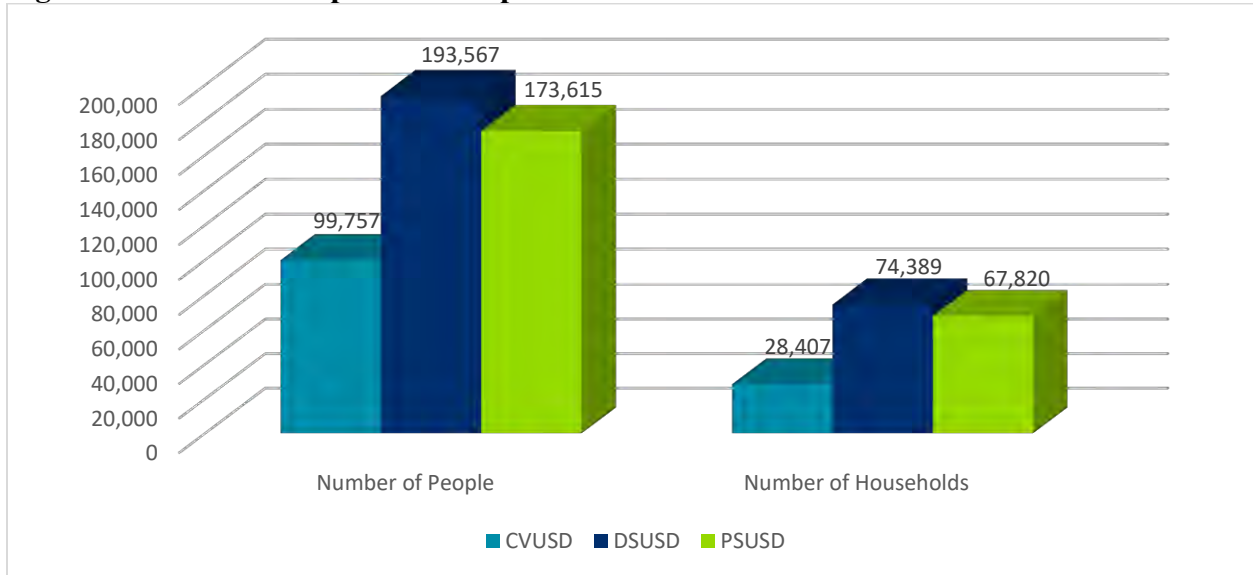


## Section IV: District Comparisons

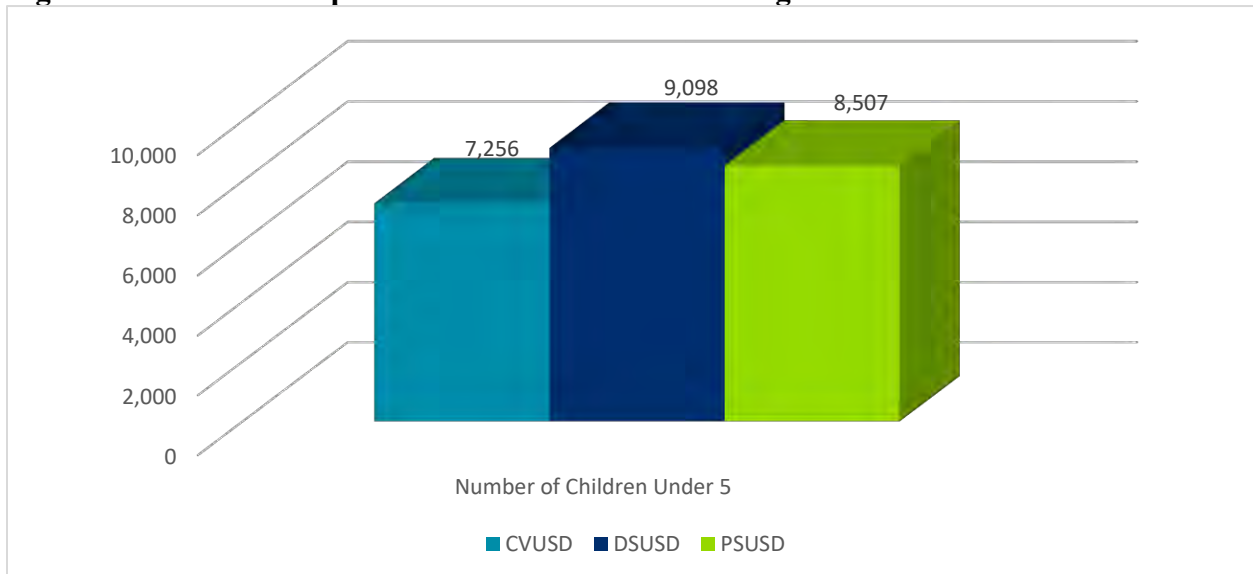
This portion of the report compares the data presented in sections 1, 2, and 3 to the comparable data from the other two school districts in the Coachella Valley, CVUSD and PSUSD.

### Community Comparisons

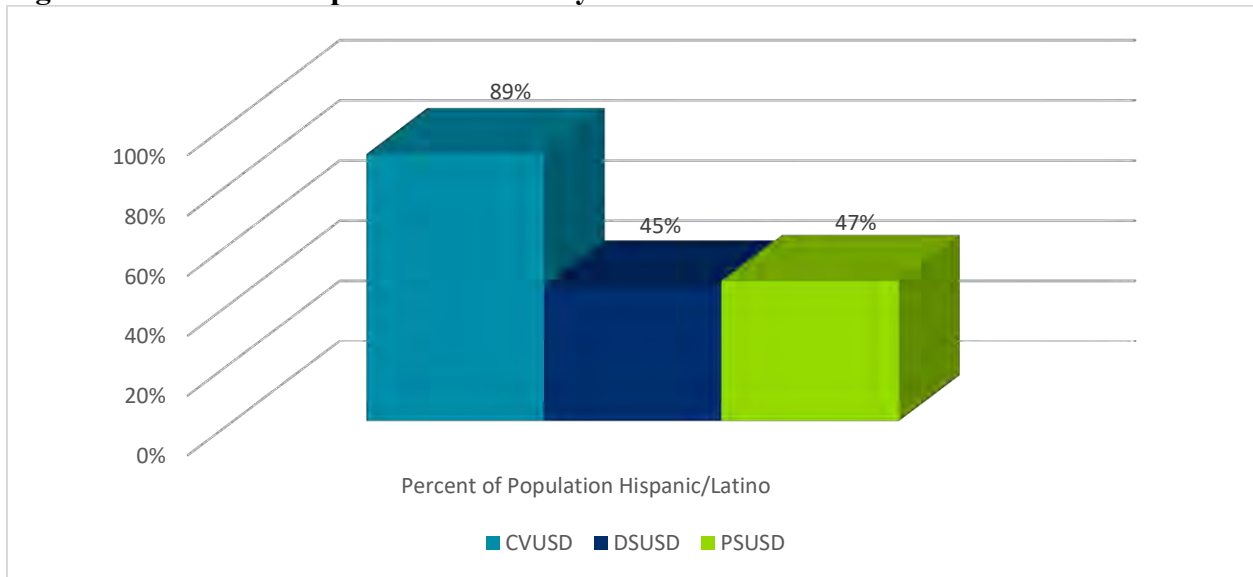
**Figure 31. District Comparisons: Population**



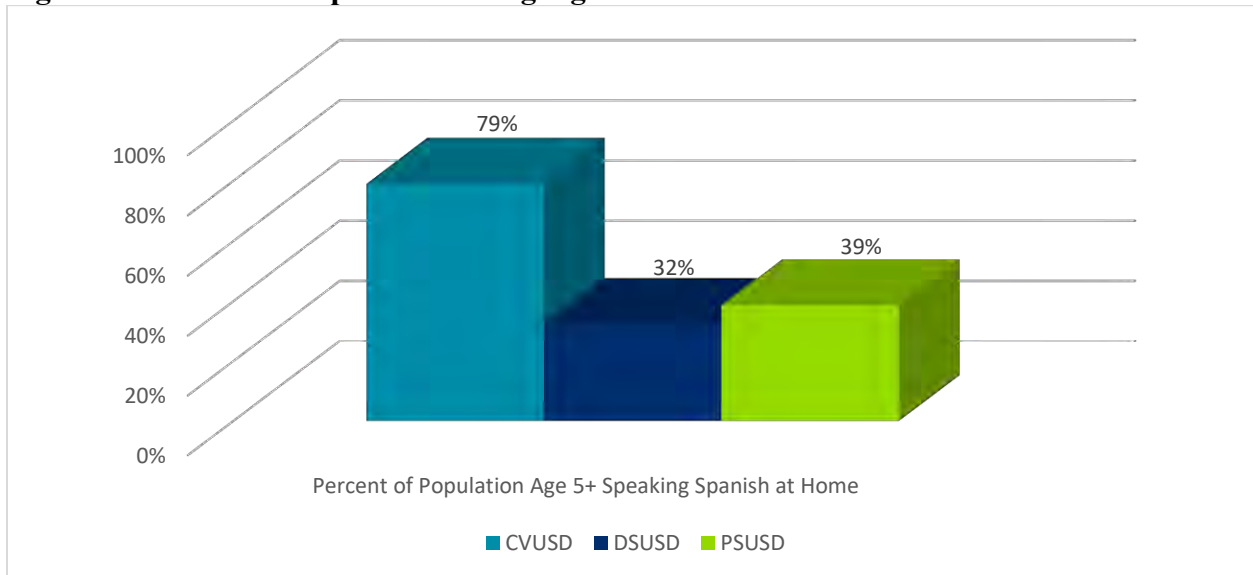
**Figure 32. District Comparisons: Number of Children Age 5 or Under**



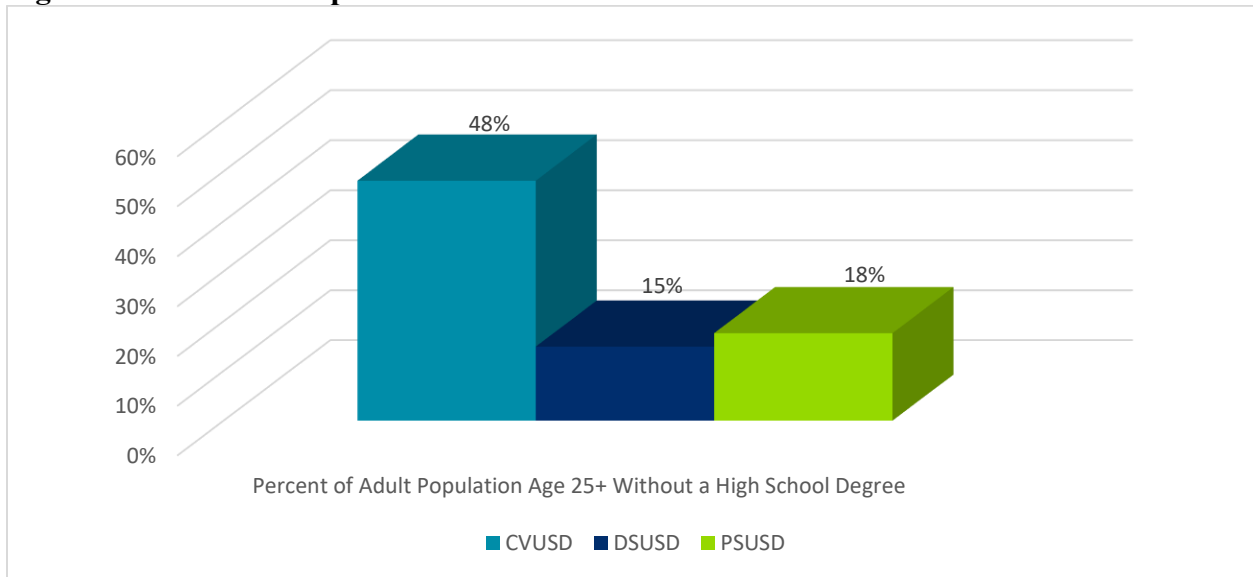
**Figure 33. District Comparisons: Ethnicity**



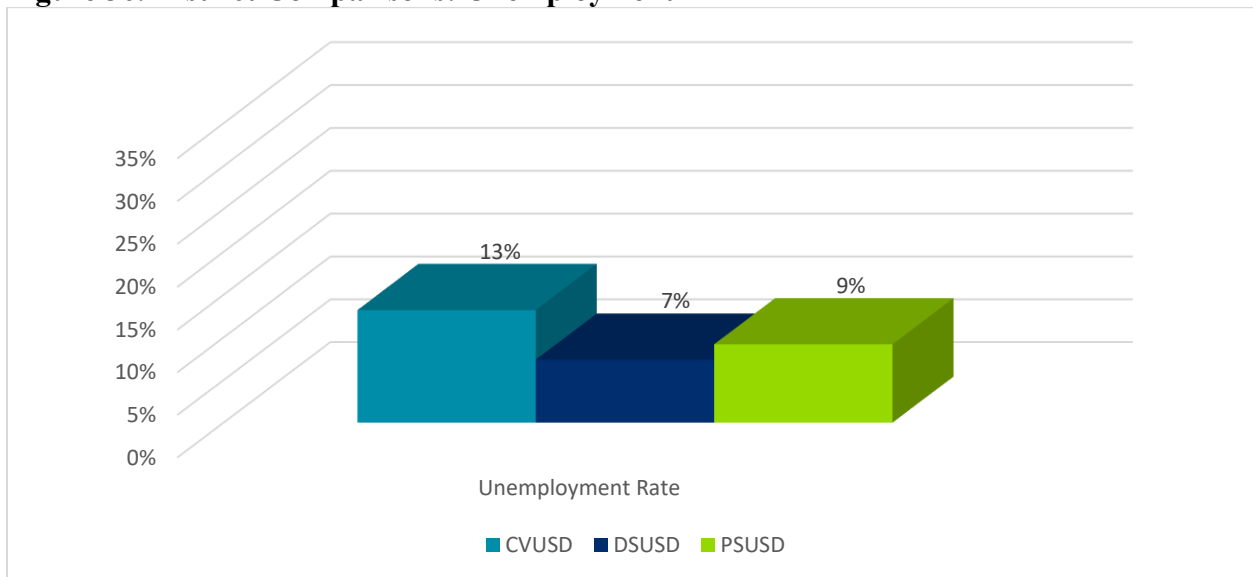
**Figure 34. District Comparisons: Language**



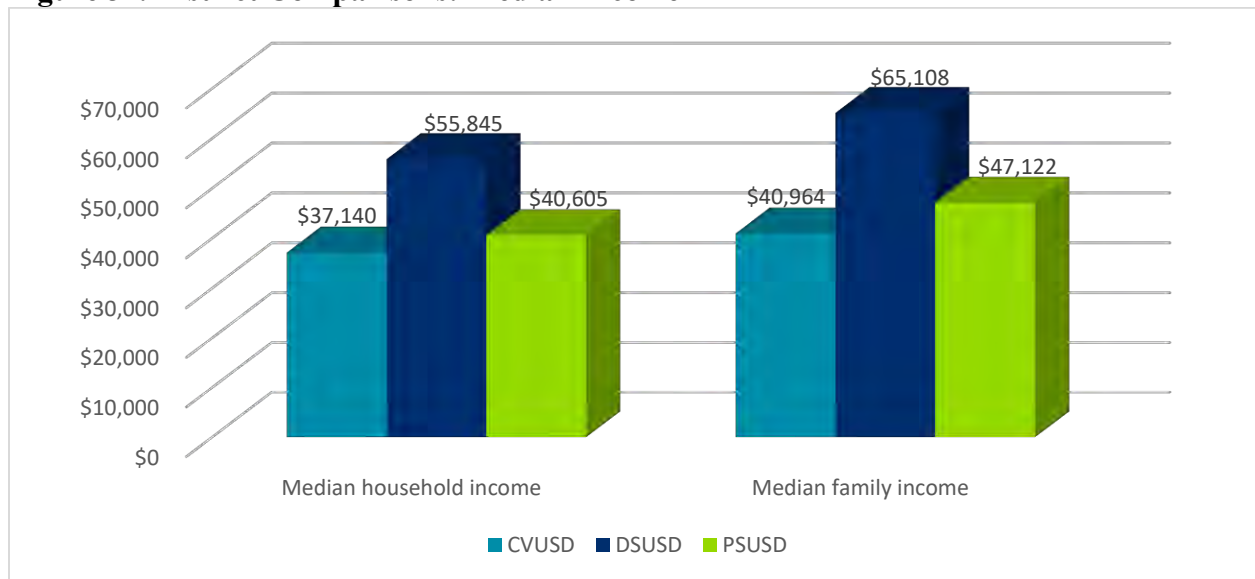
**Figure 35. District Comparisons: Education**



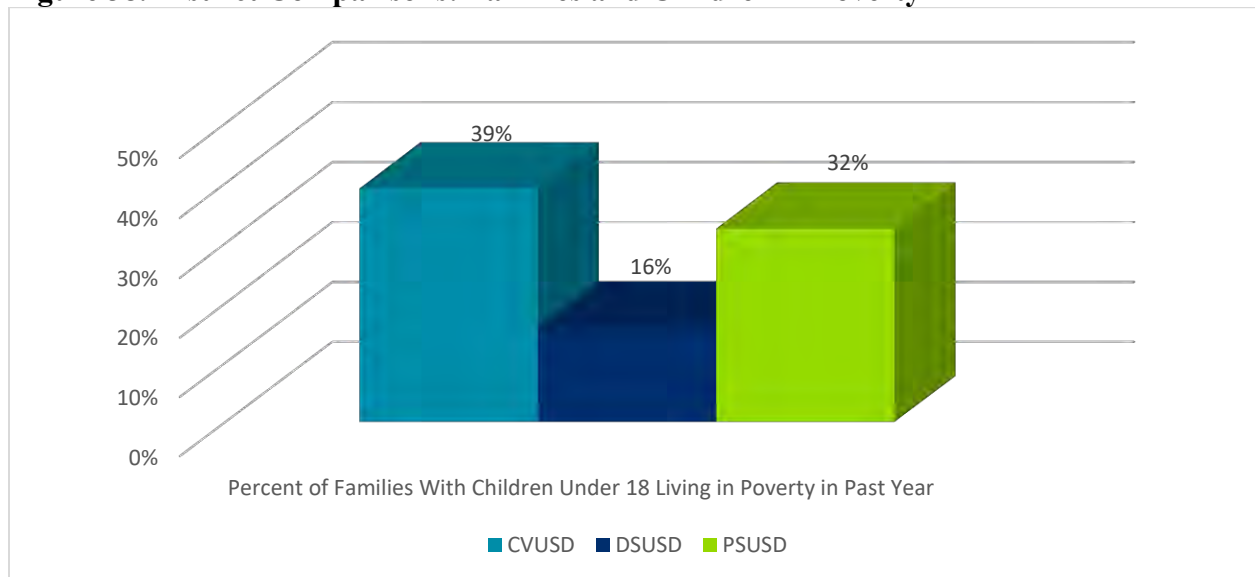
**Figure 36. District Comparisons: Unemployment**



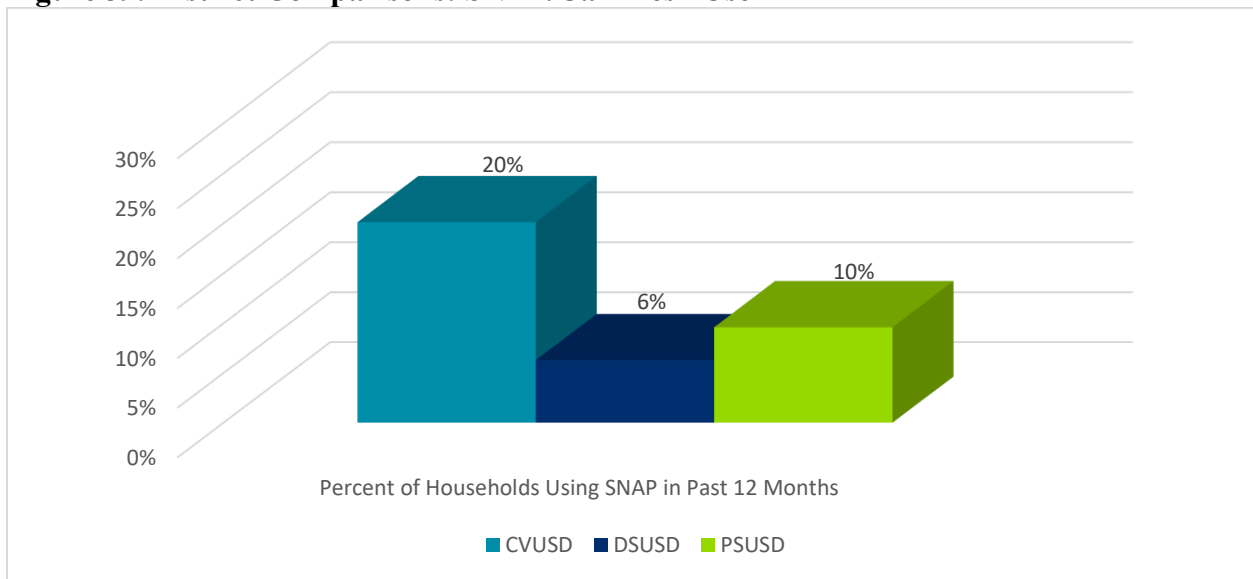
**Figure 37. District Comparisons: Median Income**



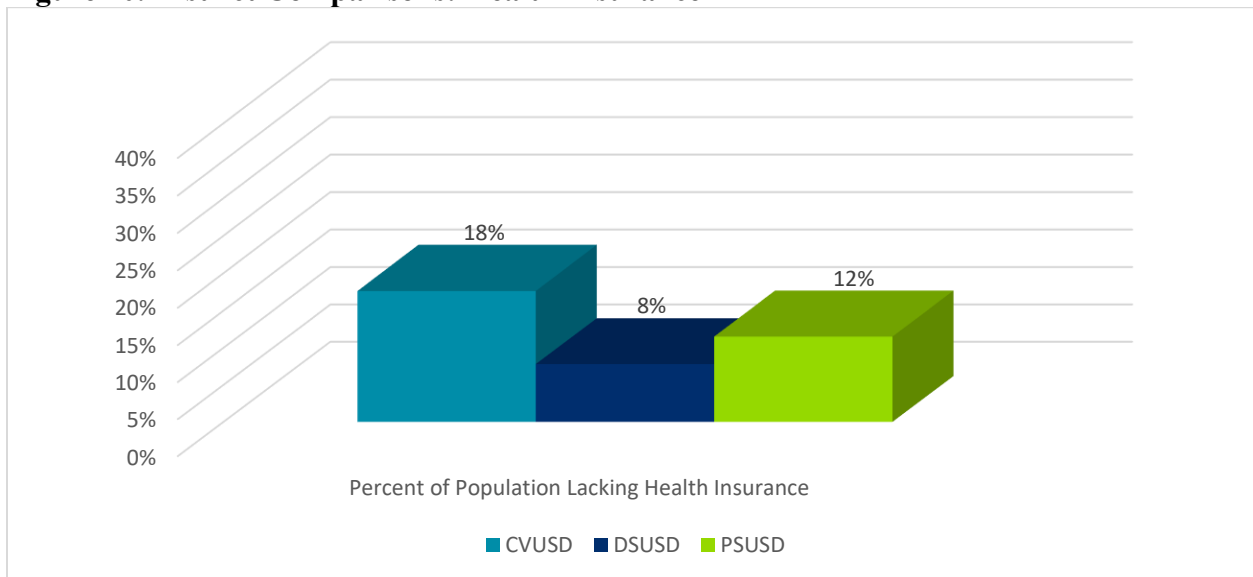
**Figure 38. District Comparisons: Families and Children in Poverty**



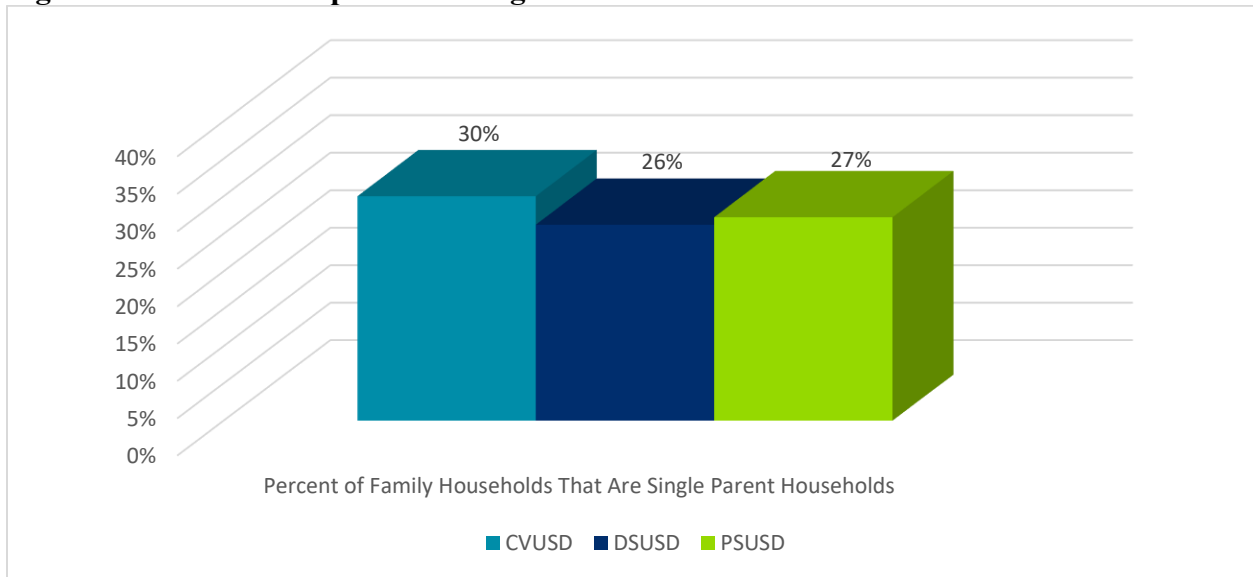
**Figure 39. District Comparisons: SNAP/Cal-Fresh Use**



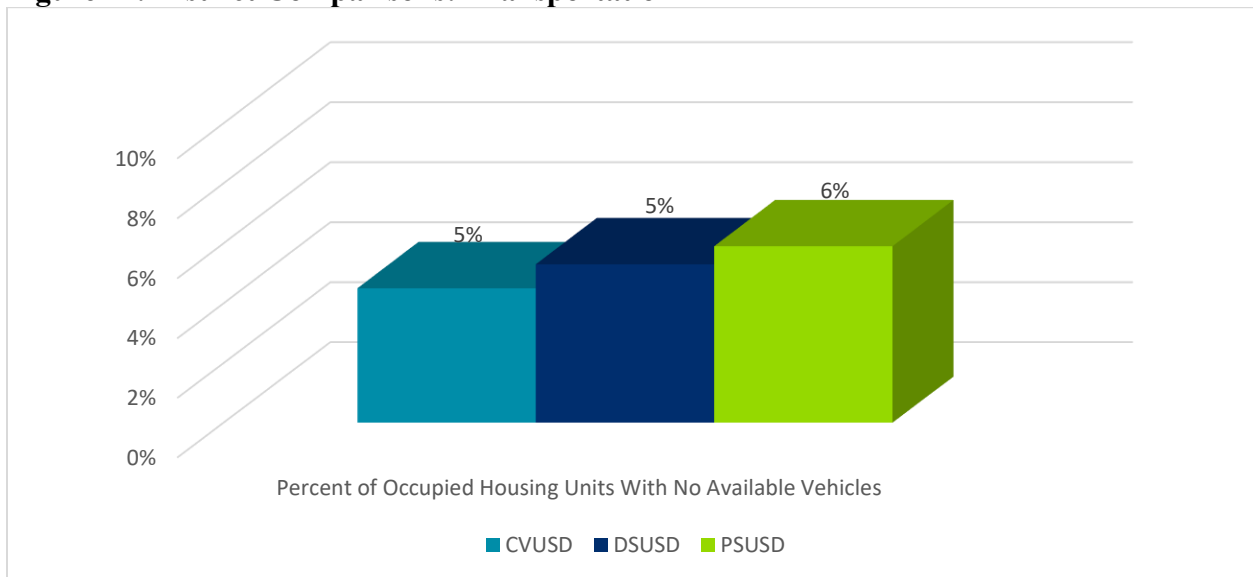
**Figure 40. District Comparisons: Health Insurance**



**Figure 41. District Comparisons: Single Parent Homes**



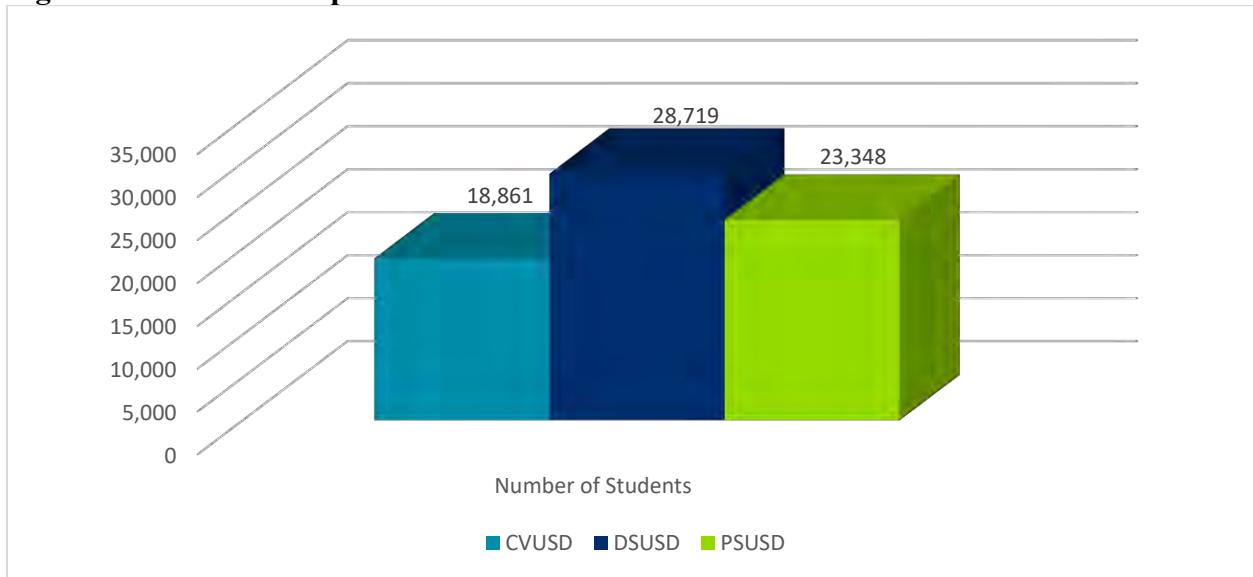
**Figure 42. District Comparisons: Transportation**



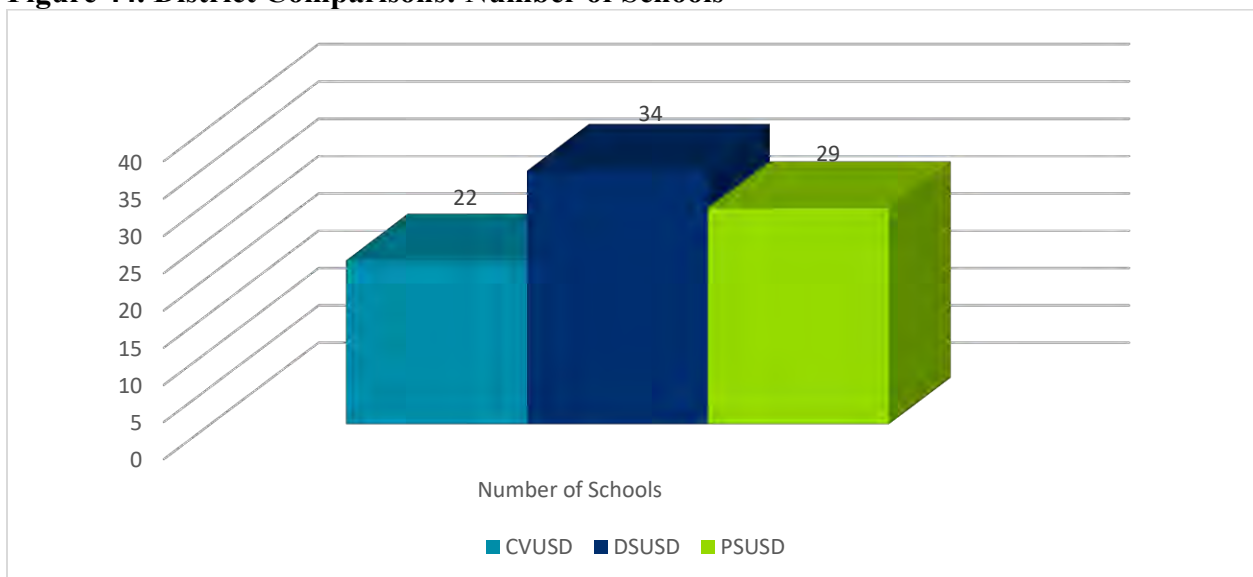
## School District Comparisons

These graphs compare select findings from this report's Section 2 (District Profile) with that of the other two districts in the Coachella Valley.

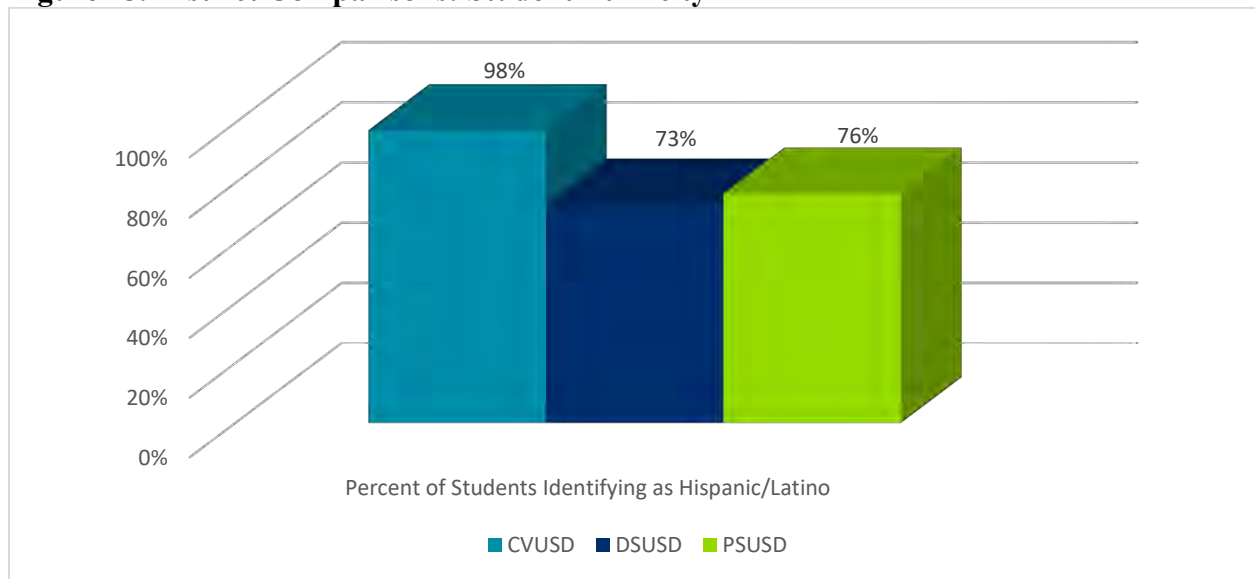
**Figure 43. District Comparisons: Number of Students**



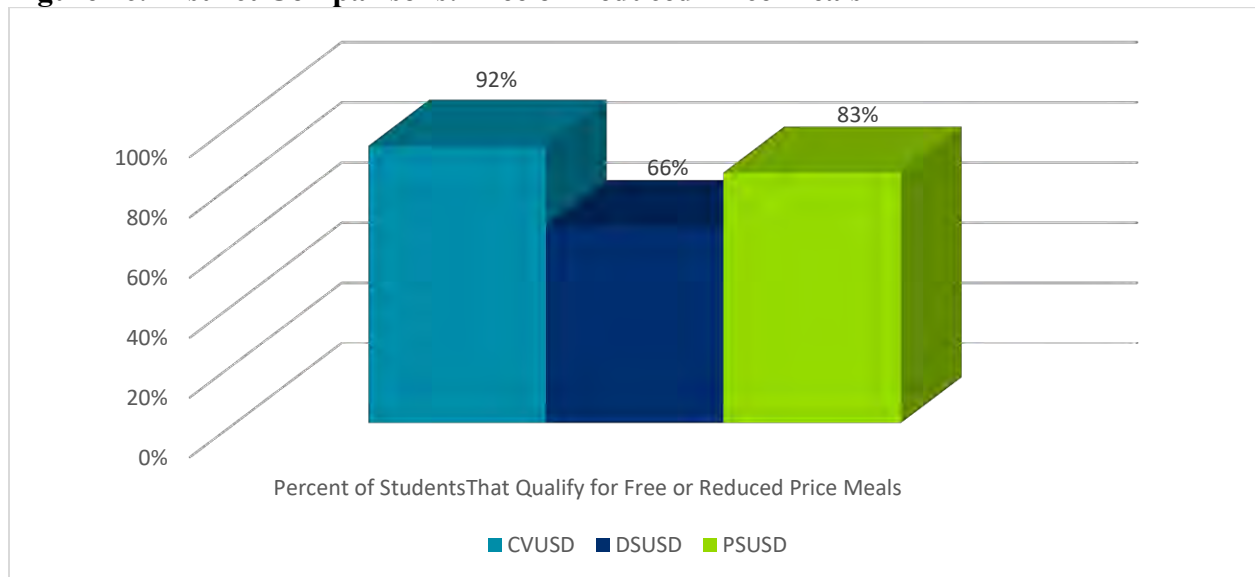
**Figure 44. District Comparisons: Number of Schools**



**Figure 45. District Comparisons: Student Ethnicity**

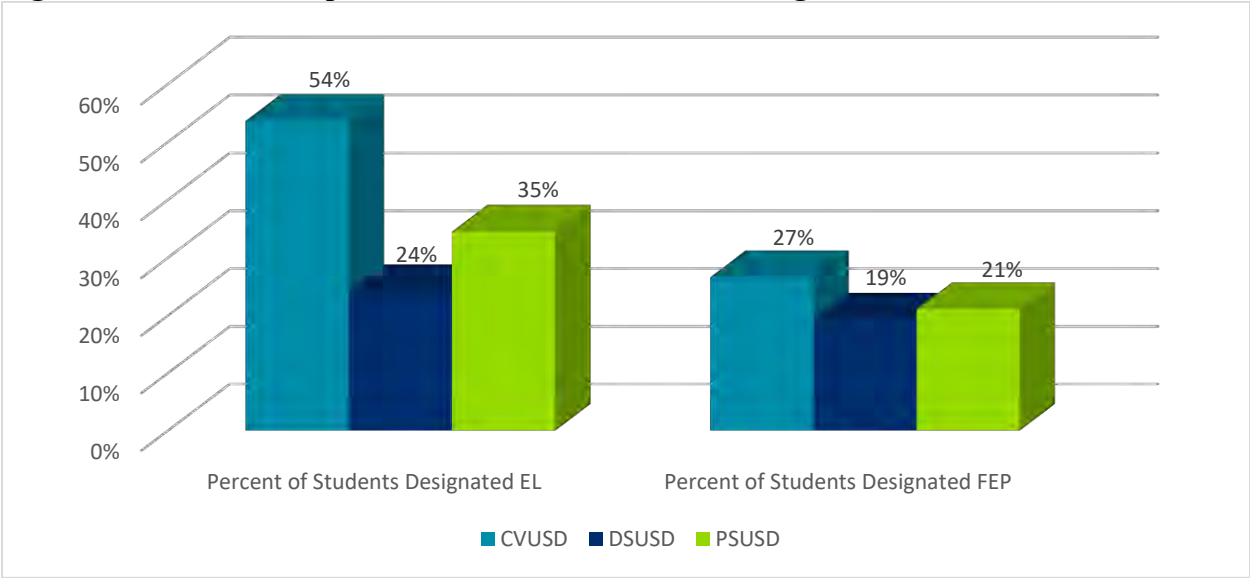


**Figure 46. District Comparisons: Free or Reduced Price Meals**

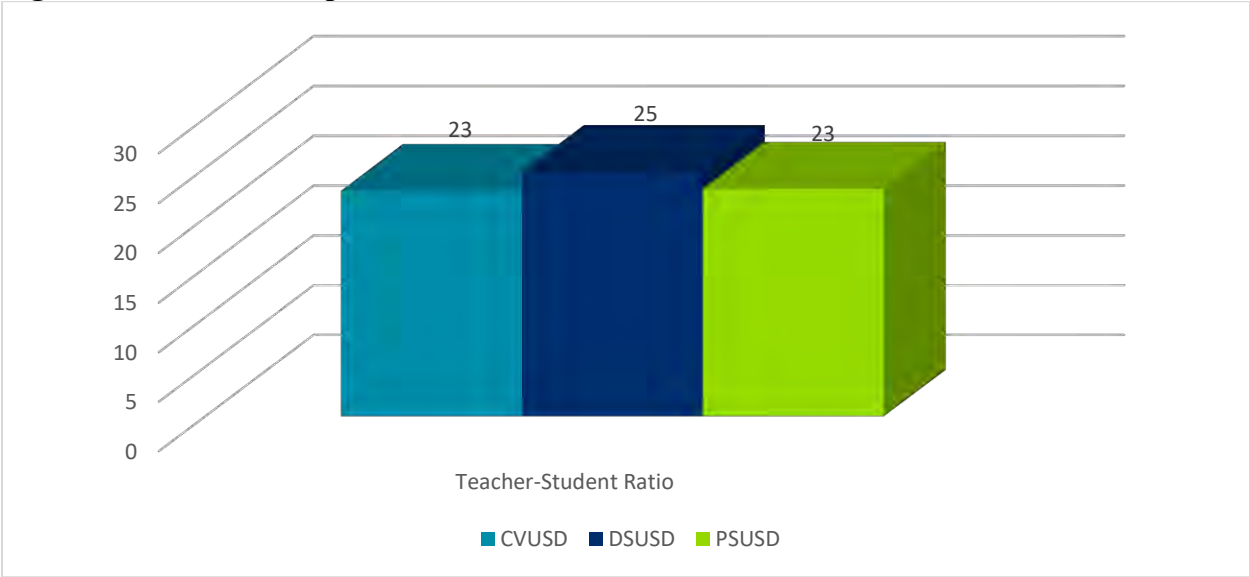




**Figure 47. District Comparisons: Percent of Students Designated “EL” and “FEP”**



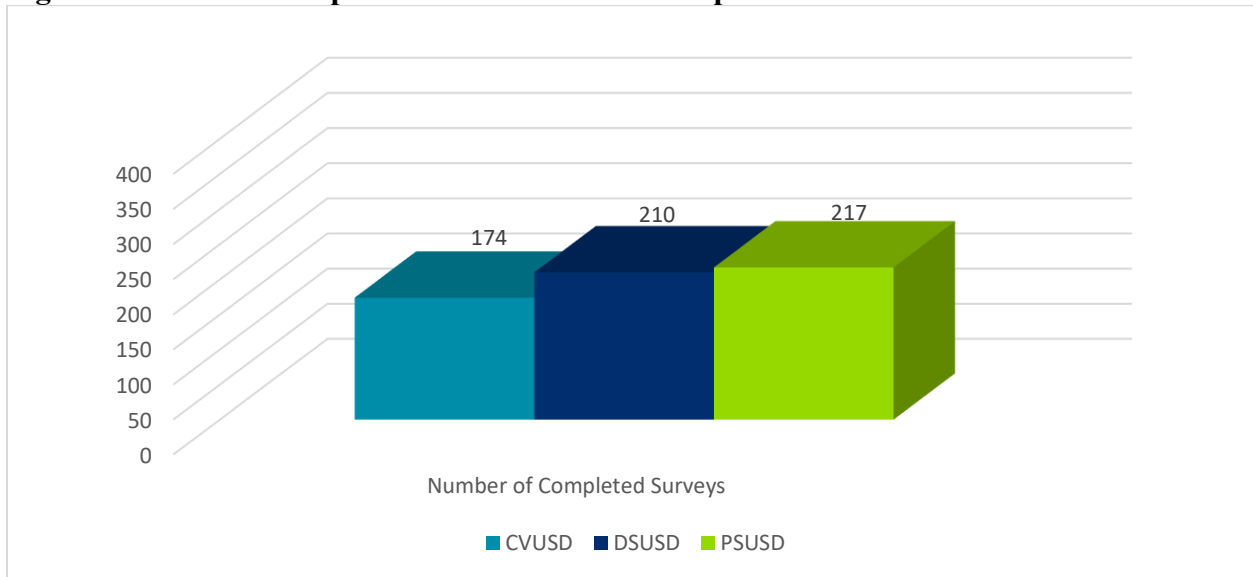
**Figure 48. District Comparisons: Teacher-Student Ratio**



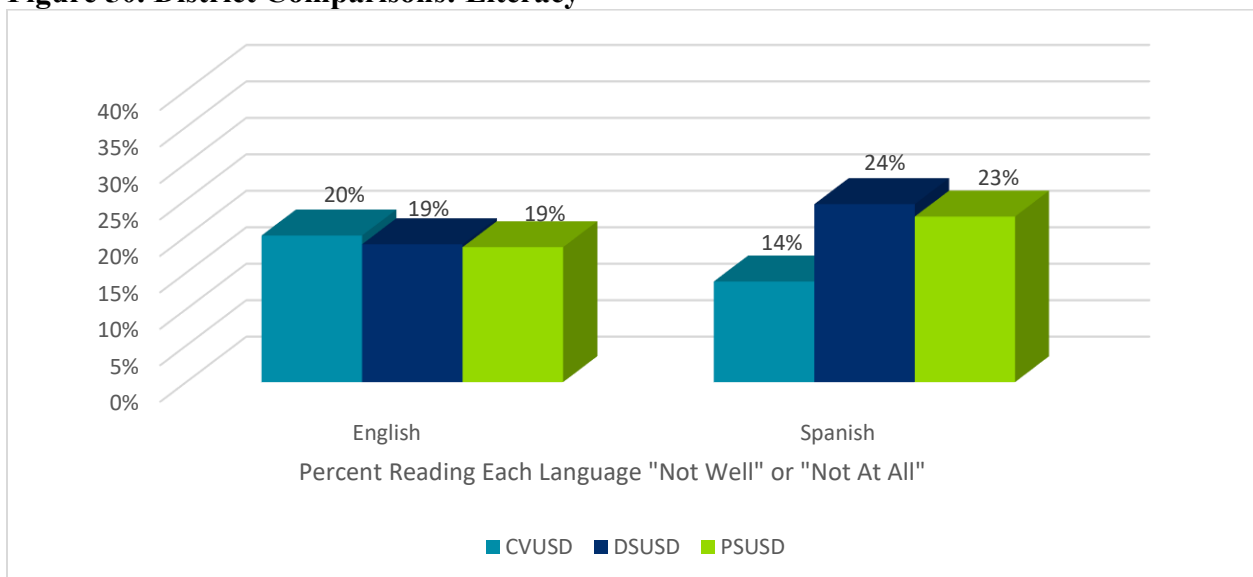
## Parent Survey Comparisons

These graphs compare select findings from this report's Section 3 (Parent Survey) with that of the other two districts in the Coachella Valley.

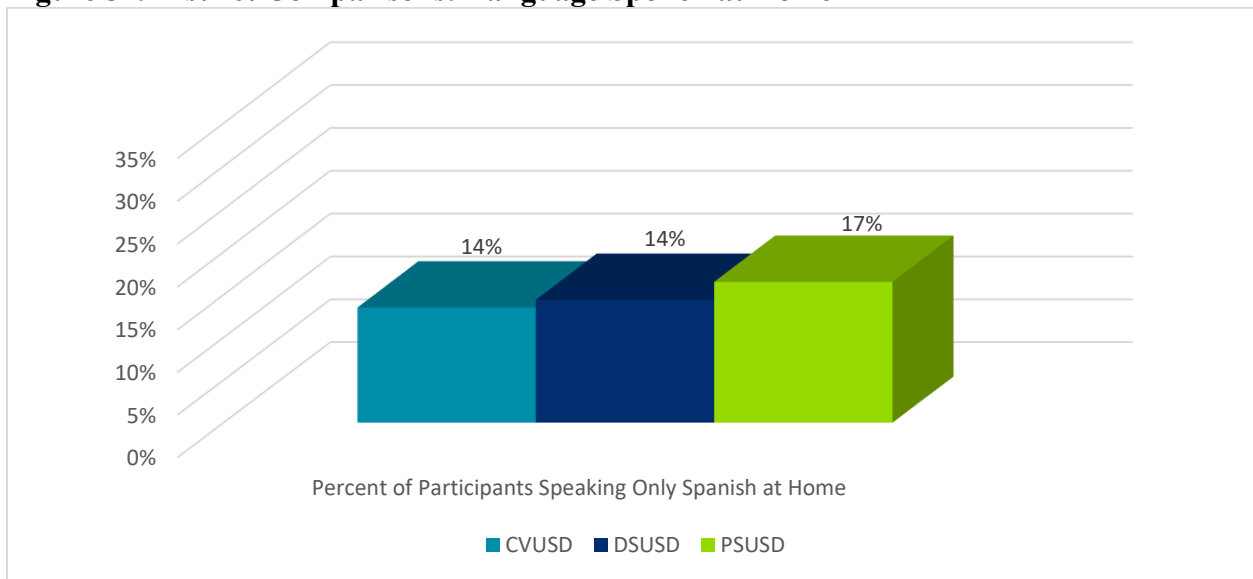
**Figure 49. District Comparisons: Number of Participants**



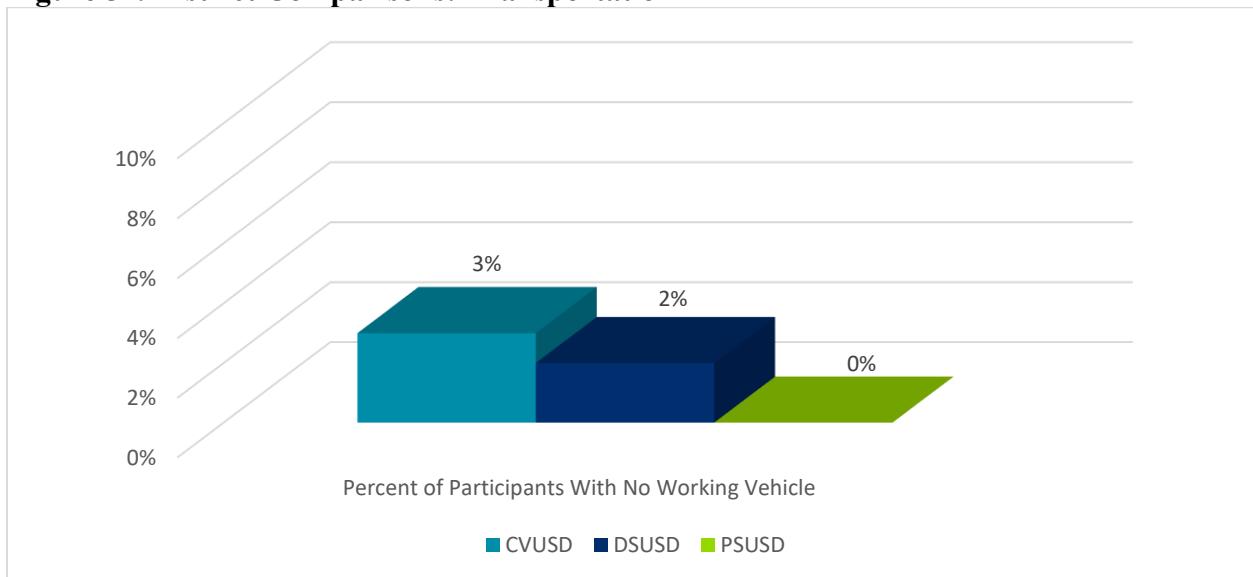
**Figure 50. District Comparisons: Literacy**



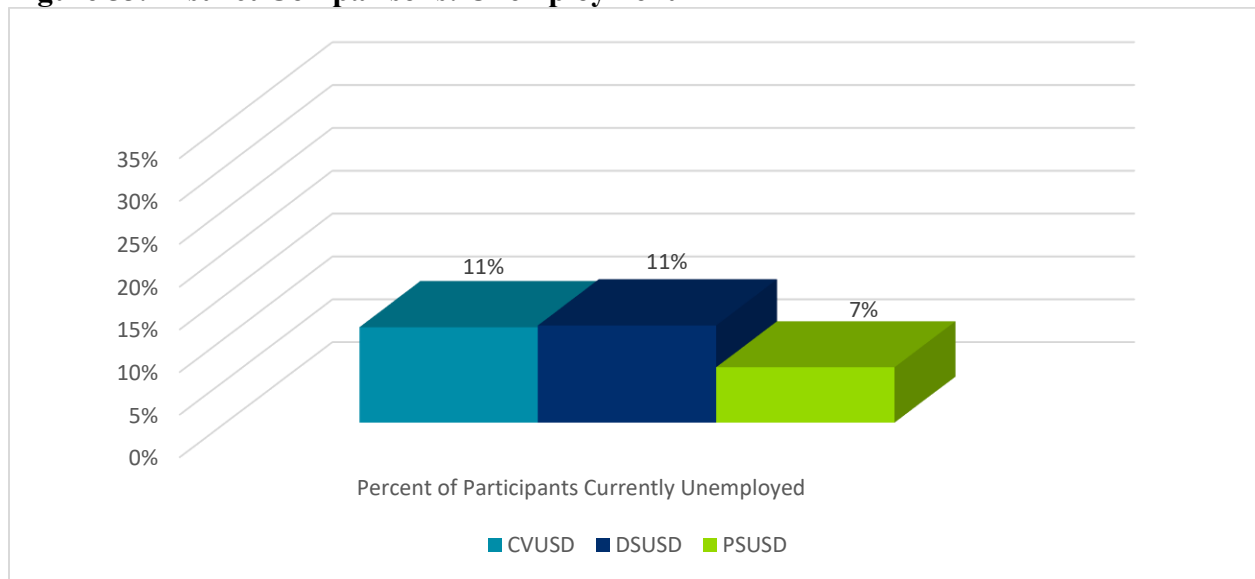
**Figure 51. District Comparisons: Language Spoken at Home**



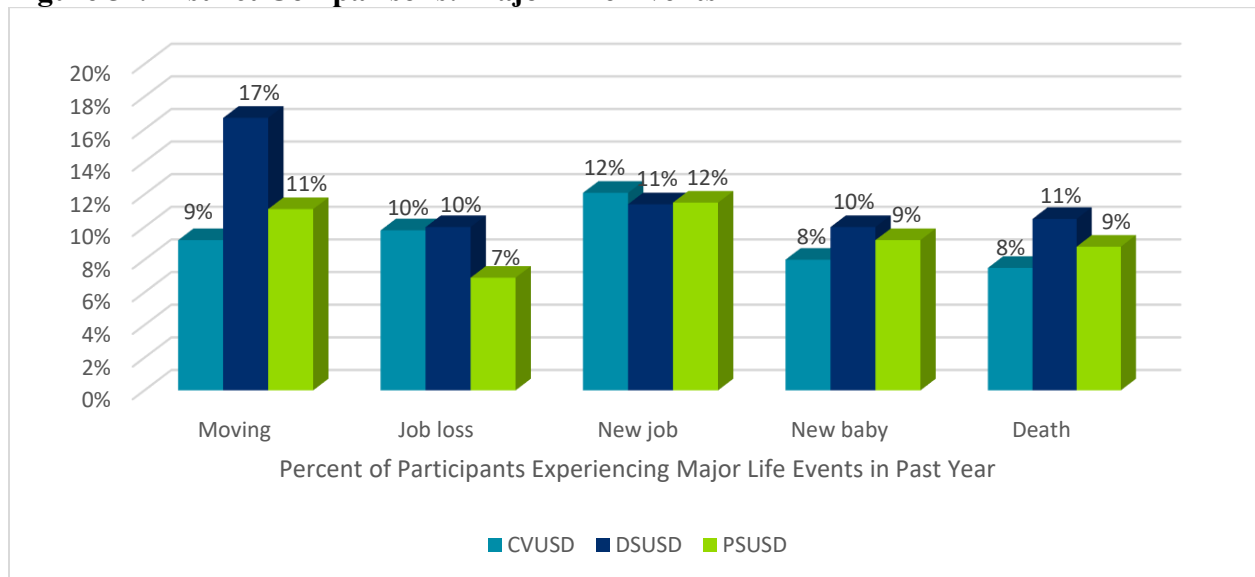
**Figure 52. District Comparisons: Transportation**



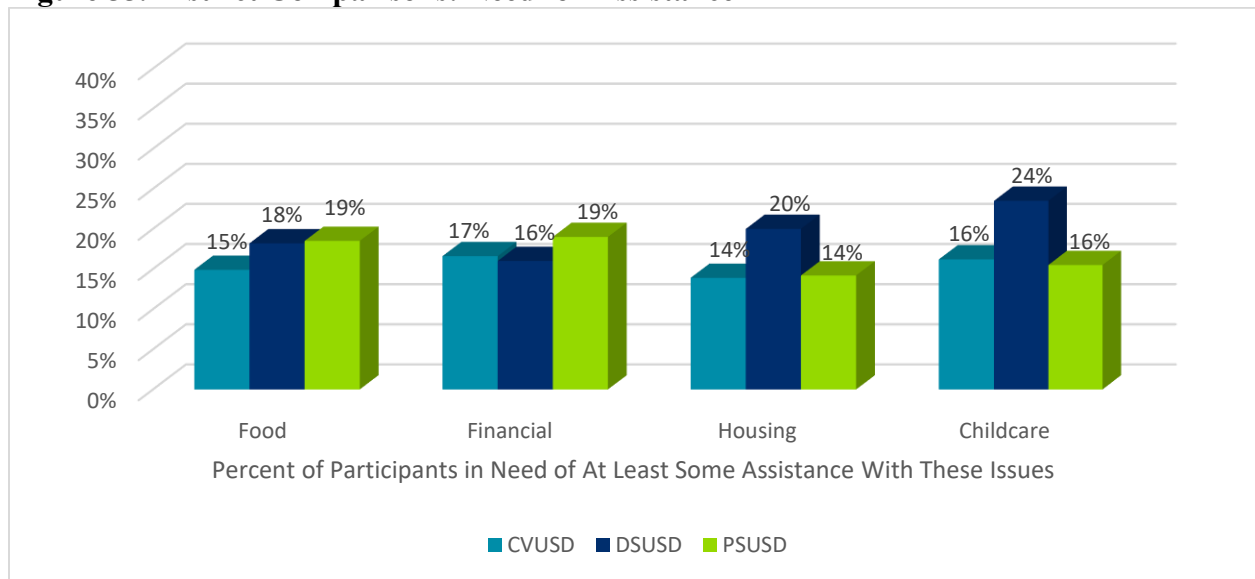
**Figure 53. District Comparisons: Unemployment**



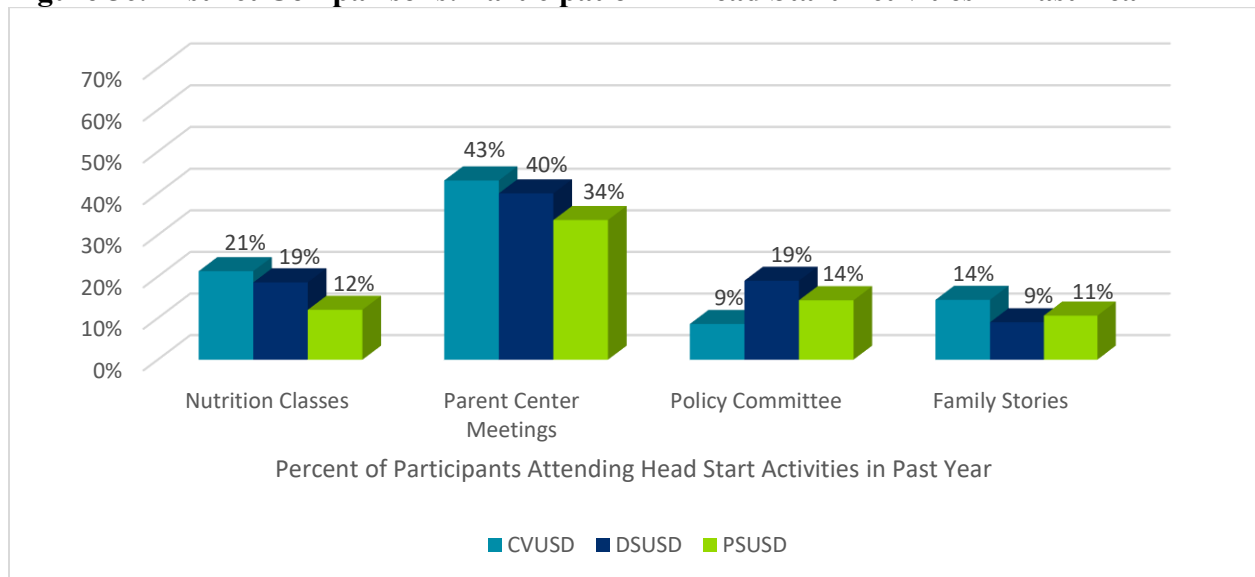
**Figure 54. District Comparisons: Major Life Events**



**Figure 55. District Comparisons: Need for Assistance**



**Figure 56. District Comparisons: Participation in Head Start Activities in Past Year**



## Conclusion

This information was written by HARC, Inc. (Health Assessment and Research for Communities) for Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD) to support the Head Start Program.

For questions regarding this report, please contact HARC's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jenna LeComte-Hinely.

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# **Appendix A**

## **Head Start Needs Assessment Instrument**

Note: Versions of this instrument were provided in both English and Spanish. Only the English version is presented here.

## Head Start Parent Survey – 2016

In order to provide you and your family with the services you need the most, we need to know a little more information about you. To help us serve you better, please fill out this brief survey.

1. How many of the following Head Start activities or events have you attended since September 2016? Please circle all activities that you have attended.
  - a. Family stories
  - b. Nutrition classes
  - c. Parent center meeting
  - d. Wednesday workshops
  - e. Policy committee meeting
  - f. PRICE parenting classes
  - g. Latino Literacy
  - h. Rosetta Stone
  
2. Are you, or is anyone who lives with you, currently pregnant?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No [*Please skip to #4*]
  
3. How often does this pregnant person receive prenatal care (such as vitamins, check-ups, etc.)?
  - a. No prenatal care has been received
  - b. Less than once a month
  - c. About once a month
  - d. About every two weeks (twice a month)
  - e. Weekly
  
4. Have you or other family members that you live with experienced any of the following major changes within the last 6 months? Please circle all that apply.
  - a. Birth of new baby
  - b. Death in the family
  - c. Divorce or marital separation
  - d. Imprisonment or incarceration in jail or prison
  - e. Job loss
  - f. New marriage
  - g. Moving
  - h. Starting a new job
  - i. Pregnancy
  - j. Serious injury, illness, or hospitalization
  - k. Victim of violence
  - l. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Other than a parent or guardian, who typically takes care of your preschool-aged child when they are not in the Head Start or other State preschool program?
  - a. A family member (such as a grandparent or sibling)
  - b. A friend
  - c. Some other preschool or nursery school
  - d. A licensed childcare provider (that is NOT a preschool)
  - e. No one other than a parent or guardian cares for my preschool-aged child
  - f. Someone else takes care of my preschool-aged child (please specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Other than a parent or guardian, who typically takes care of your infant or toddler?
  - a. I do not have any infants or toddlers [*Please skip to #6*]
  - b. A family member (such as a grandparent or sibling)
  - c. A friend
  - d. Early Head Start program
  - e. Some other preschool or nursery school
  - f. A licensed childcare provider
  - g. No one other than a parent or guardian cares for my infant/toddler  
Someone else takes care of my infant/toddler (please specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. How would you rate the literacy skills of your family members in your household? Please circle the most accurate level for each language.
 

Most of my family members in my household read <b>English...</b>	Very well	Well	Not well	Not at all
Most of my family members in my household read <b>Spanish...</b>	Very well	Well	Not well	Not at all

8. Below are some common things that families need help with. Please check one box per line to indicate how much you and your household need each type of help.

Type of Help	We do not need this type of help	We need some help with this	We are greatly in need of this type of help
Food assistance			
Financial assistance			
Housing assistance			
Assistance with obtaining quality child care			



9. Have you received assistance from any of these local organizations in the past year?
- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| a. Barbara Sinatra's Children's Center | i. Kids First Program           |
| b. Bridges of Hope                     | j. Martha's Village and Kitchen |
| c. Catholic Charities                  | k. Student Assistance Program   |
| d. DHS Community Center                | l. United Way                   |
| e. F.I.N.D. Food Bank                  | m. Workforce Development        |
| f. Family Services of the Desert       | n. YMCA of the Desert           |
| g. Infant Circle                       | o. Other: _____                 |
| h. Jewish Family Service of the Desert |                                 |

**Please tell us a little more about yourself.**

10. Gender
- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| a. Male   | 12. Age: _____ |
| b. Female |                |
11. Race/Ethnicity:
- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| a. Hispanic/Latino                 | 14. What languages do you speak at home?           |
| b. White/Caucasian                 | a. English only                                    |
| c. Black/African American          | b. Mostly English, some Spanish                    |
| d. American Indian/Native American | c. English and Spanish equally                     |
| e. Asian                           | d. Mostly Spanish, some English                    |
| f. Multi-Racial                    | e. Spanish only                                    |
| g. Other: _____                    | f. English and another language other than Spanish |

**Please tell us a little more about the other family members that live in your household.**

15. How many children (under 18 years old) live with you? \_\_\_\_\_
16. How many adults (18 years old or older) live with you? \_\_\_\_\_
17. How many *working* vehicles do you have in your household? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What is your family's primary mode of transportation? Please only circle one.
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. Car, truck, or van                   |  |
| b. Public transportation (bus, SunDial) |  |
| c. Bicycle                              |  |
| d. Walking                              |  |
| e. Other, please specify: _____         |  |
19. What is the employment status of the adult family members in your household? Please check *one* box for each adult.

Family member	Full-time	Part-time	Out of Work	Home-maker	Retired	Unable to work	Other (please specify)
Yourself							
Second adult <i>Check here if there is no 2<sup>nd</sup> adult in your home:</i> <input type="checkbox"/>							
Third adult <i>Check here if there is no 3<sup>rd</sup> adult in your home:</i> <input type="checkbox"/>							
Fourth adult <i>Check here if there is no 4<sup>th</sup> adult in your home:</i> <input type="checkbox"/>							

20. Are any of your household family members currently...

Taking ESL classes?	Yes	No
Taking GED classes?	Yes	No
Attending college?	Yes	No

**Thank you for your time!**