

The Future of San Antonio Working Together To Improve Long-Term Outcomes Of San Antonio Children

Hosted By:

children
atRisk



Family Service
SUPPORT. STRENGTHEN. SERVE.



Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mary Garr

President & CEO

Family Service





Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Robert Sanborn

President & CEO
CHILDREN AT RISK



children
atRisk

The Children Health Initiative Bexar County



Nadia Salibi,
Chief Impact Officer & Chief of Staff,
CHILDREN AT RISK



Christine Thomas,
Director of the Center for Social Measurement
& Evaluation (CSME),
CHILDREN AT RISK



Submit Questions Using Event Number: 18825



Submit Questions

We encourage your questions and live engagement throughout the event!
Scan this QR code and enter the event number to submit.

Event Number: 18825

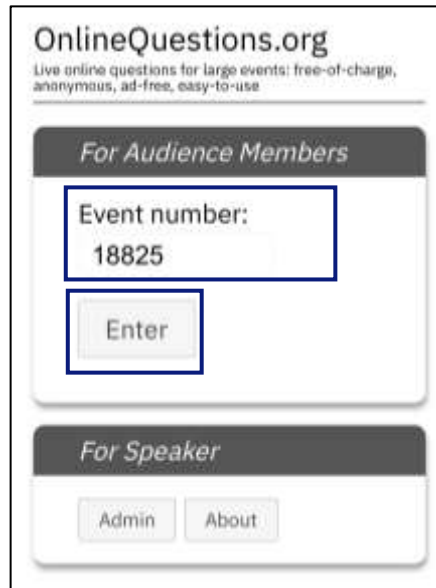
Step 1

Scan the QR (or visit
onlinequestions.org)



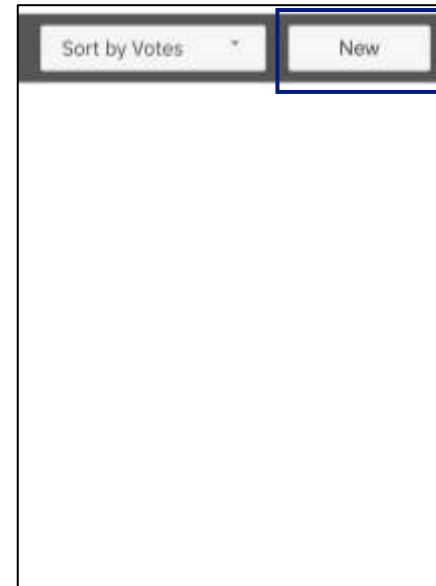
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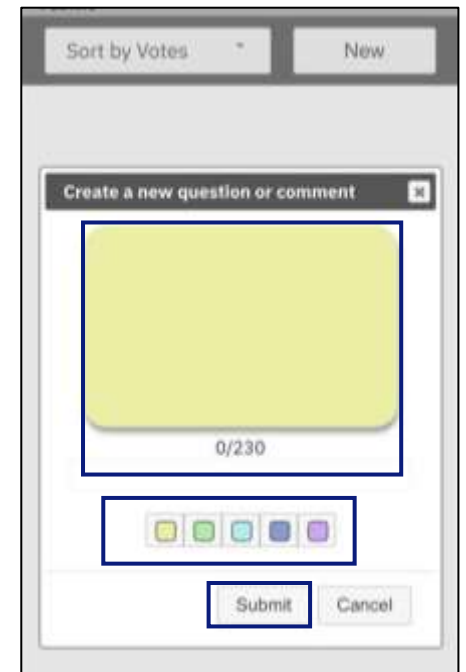
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Why We Are Here



Bexar County...

- Has **over half a million** children;
- About **27%** of the population under 20 years of age;
- Is projected to add **1.1 million new residents** by 2040;
- Has 22% of residents living in poverty being under the age of 18;

AND, is asset rich with over 1,700 nonprofits.

We hope to tell a systems story.

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The Children's Health Initiative of Bexar County



With support from the San Antonio Area Foundation, the Mays Family Foundation, and others, this report highlights opportunities to strengthen impact through cross-sector coordination, place-based strategies, and alignment with evidence-based practices. Schools, early childhood settings, and trusted community organizations emerge as critical hubs for delivering services, improving outreach, and reducing fragmentation.

By building on existing assets, simplifying pathways to care, investing in community-rooted solutions, and aligning partners around shared priorities, we hope to collaboratively chart a path for a hopeful, prosperous future.



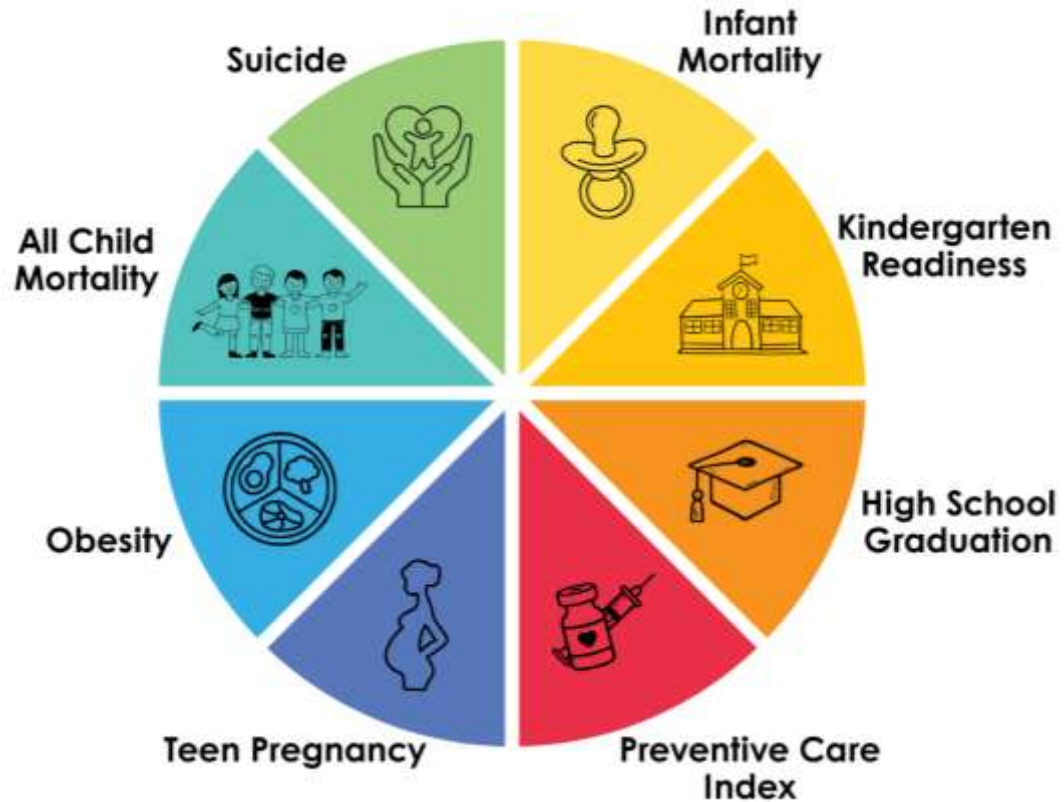
Explore more from Children's Health Initiative (CHI) Bexar County.
childrenatrisk.org/bexar-county-chi-2026/



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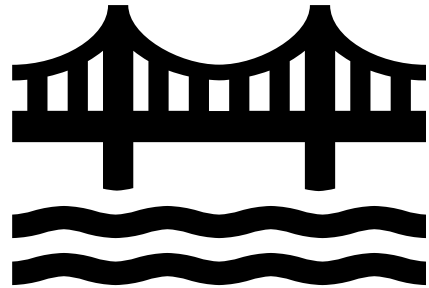
We Looked To Models of Population Based Health



CHILDREN AT RISK leveraged the [Pediatric Vital Signs](#), an initiative led by Nationwide Children's Hospital in collaboration with community partners.



Bridging Comprehensive Care



Clinical
Care



Social
Deter-
minants



Proactive
monitoring of
child wellbeing
beyond
traditional
doctor visits





What We Already Know

A photograph of two young girls looking out of a window. The girl on the left, with dark skin and curly hair, is wearing a yellow shirt and waving her right hand. The girl on the right, with light skin, is wearing a light blue patterned shirt and smiling. The window frame is white with yellow accents. The background outside the window is bright and slightly blurred.

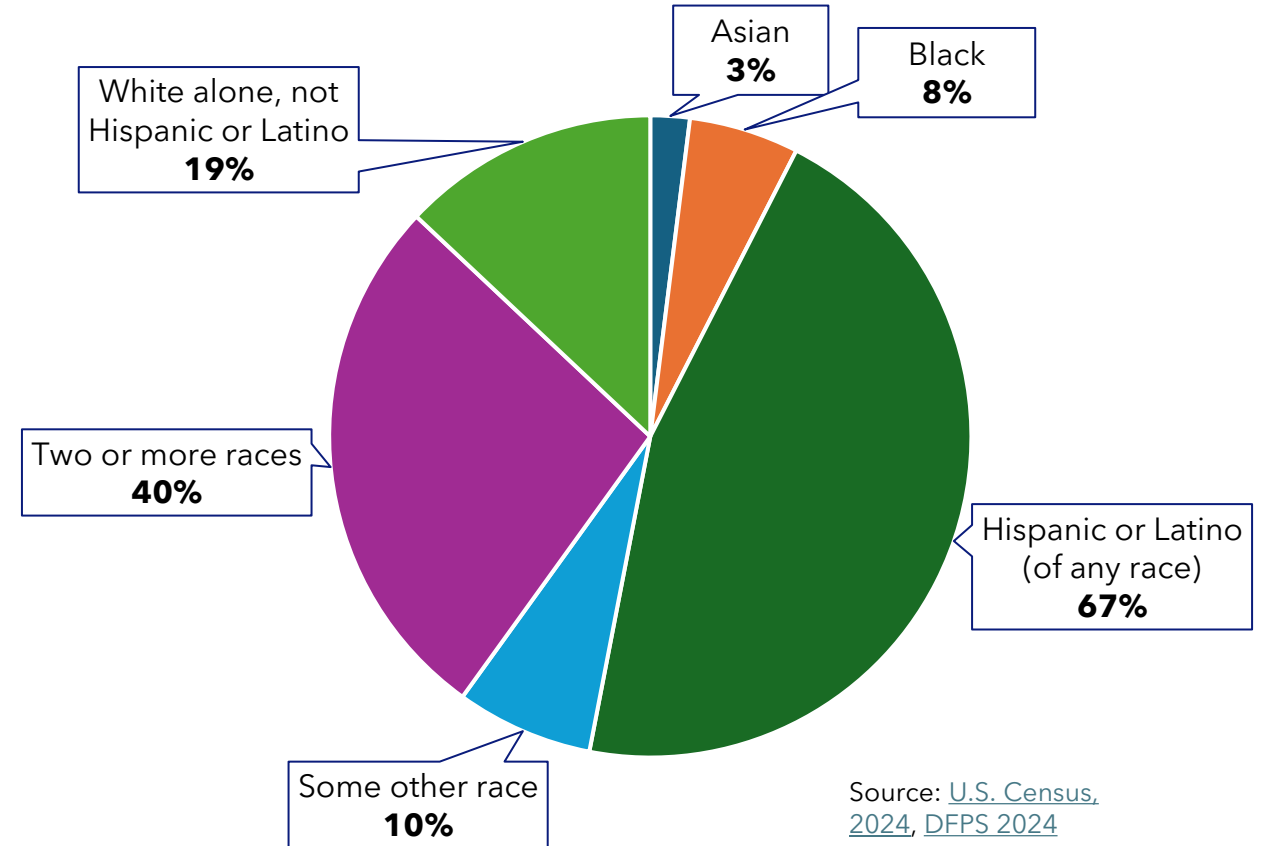
Bexar County Demographics

- Half million children
- 31% of children younger than 6
- 16% of children are uninsured

Special Population

1,059 Foster Children live in Bexar County – 2nd highest in the state

Race/ Ethnicity of Children in Bexar County



Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, 2024](#)
[Texas Department of Family and Protective Services](#)

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Bexar County - Poverty

Public Assistance

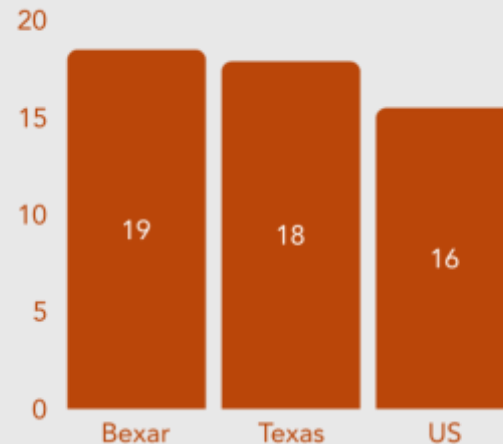
The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of four in 2024 is **\$31,200**.

32% A greater proportion of San Antonio children rely on assistance compared to the proportion across Texas overall.

Source: [US Census Bureau, 2024](#)

Poverty Level

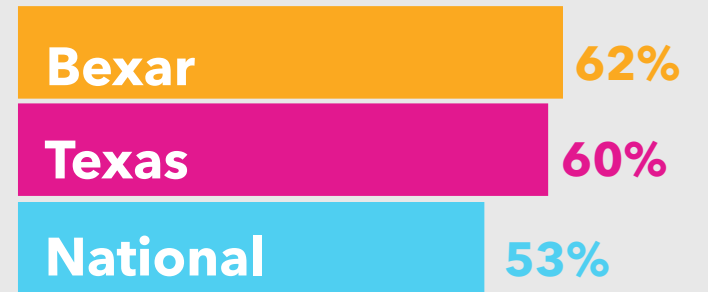
18.5% of children live below the poverty level.



[U.S. Census, 2024](#)

Free and Reduced Lunch

62% of students in Bexar public schools qualify for free and reduced lunch.

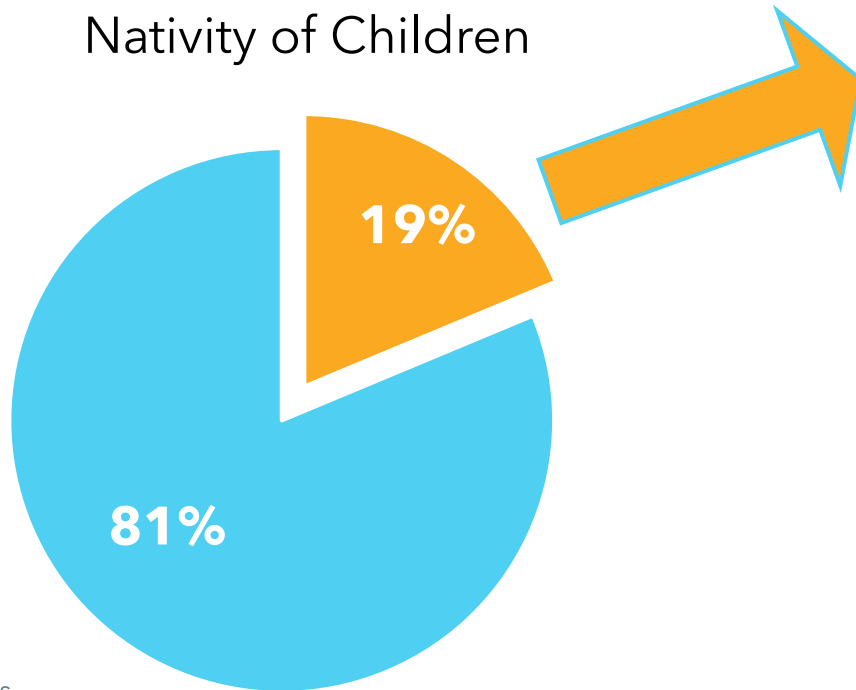


[TEA 2025](#)



Bexar County Demographics

Nativity of Children



Source: [U.S. Census, 2024](#); [U.S. Census 2024](#)

■ Children of Immigrants ■ Children of U.S. Born Parents

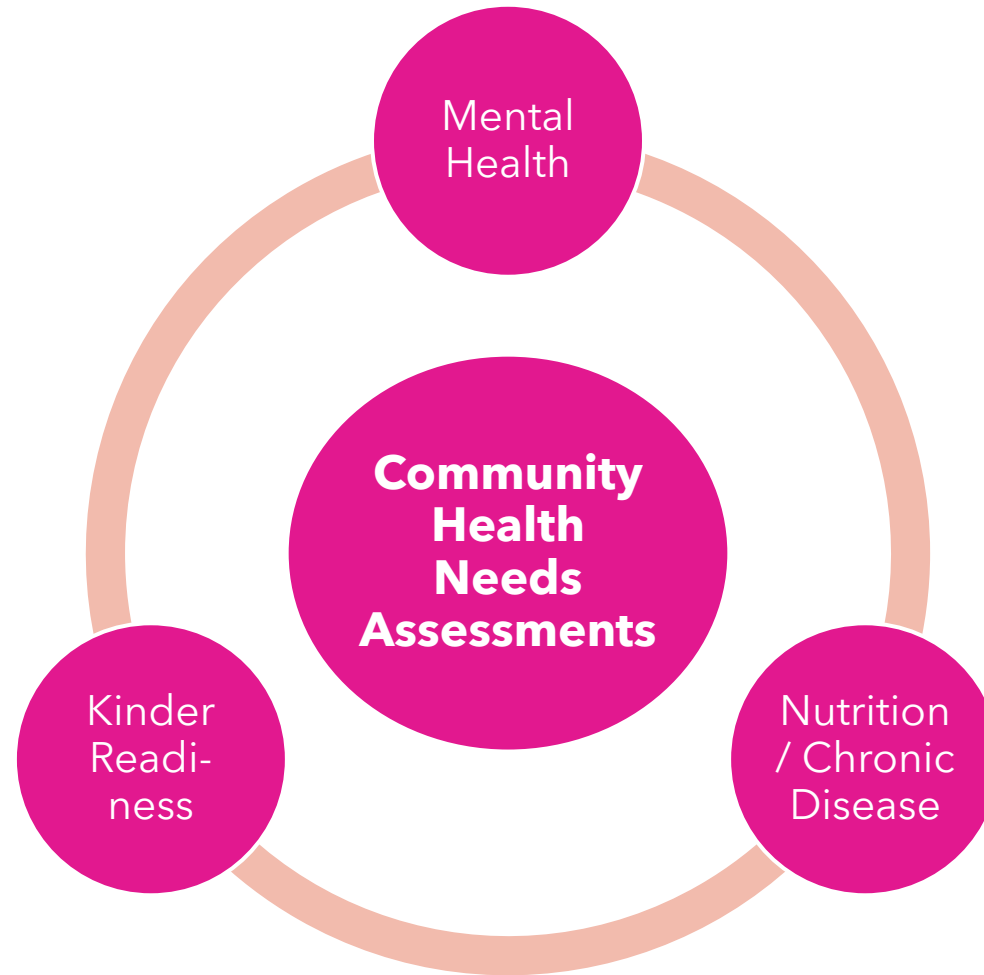
60% of the foreign-born population are not U.S. Citizens.

38% speak a language other than English at home.

- Language barriers and citizenship status limit access to services.
- Fear, eligibility rules, and lack of interpretation worsen inequities.



CHI Indicators



CHI Bexar County Indicator: Mental Health

Teen Mental Health Trends are Improving

14%

of the total teens reported ideas of self harm

25%

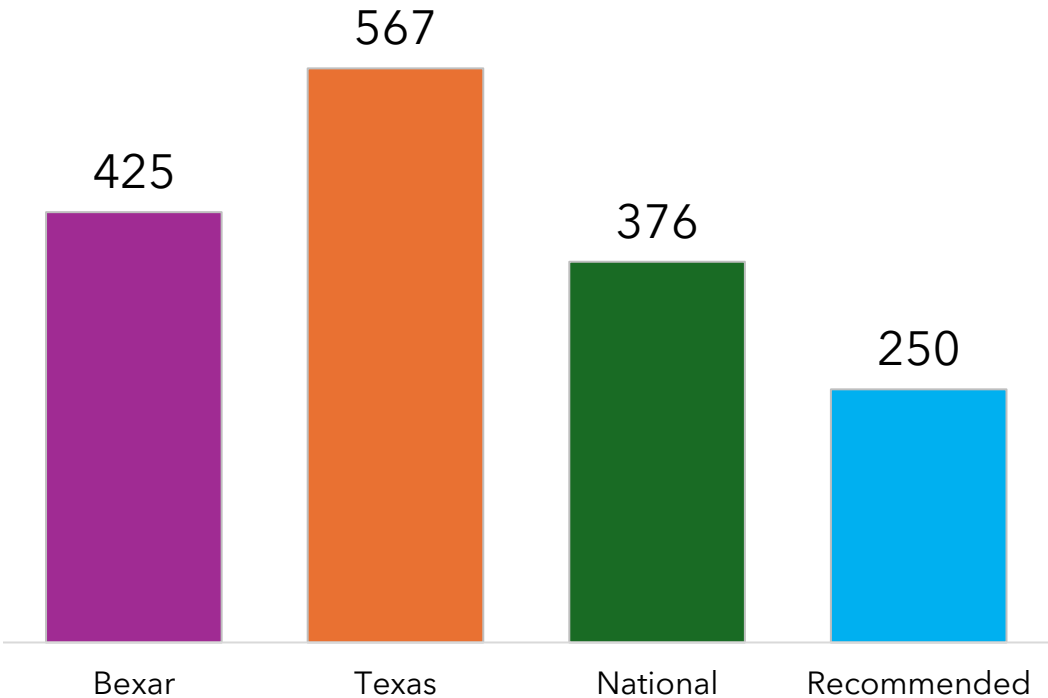
of the total teens reported difficulty with daily tasks

14%

reported having a trusted adult at school to talk to regarding mental health struggles



Student Counselor Ratio



Source: [City of San Antonio, 2024](#); TEA PIR, 2025, [ASCA, 2024](#)



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CHI Bexar County Indicator: Nutrition

21.1% children are food insecure.

Regular access to fresh, nutritious food can help prevent and manage health conditions including Obesity and Diabetes

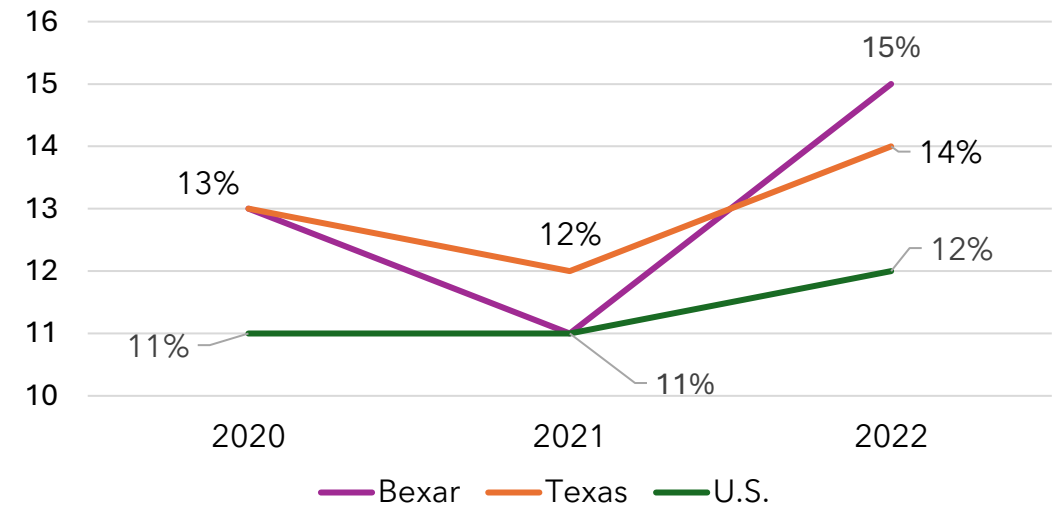


children
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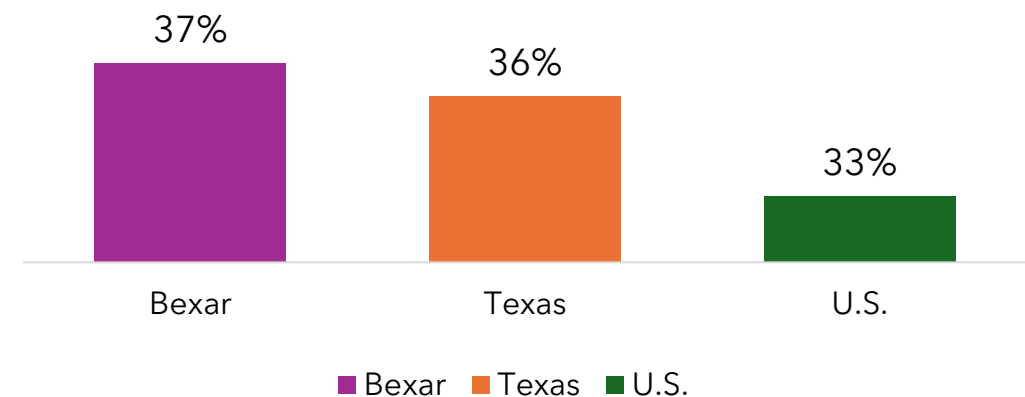


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Prevalence of Diabetes



Prevalence of Obesity



Source: [CDC, BRFFS, 2022](#), [Feeding America, 2024](#)

CHI Bexar County Indicators - Kindergarten Readiness

49.6% children are considered Kindergarten Ready.

46.4% of public kindergarten students attended public pre-K

Research shows that access to Pre-K can close the achievement gaps early.

Access

Only 24.4 subsidized child care seats are available for every 100 children in low-income working families

Source: [TEA, 2024](#); [Children at Risk, 2024](#)

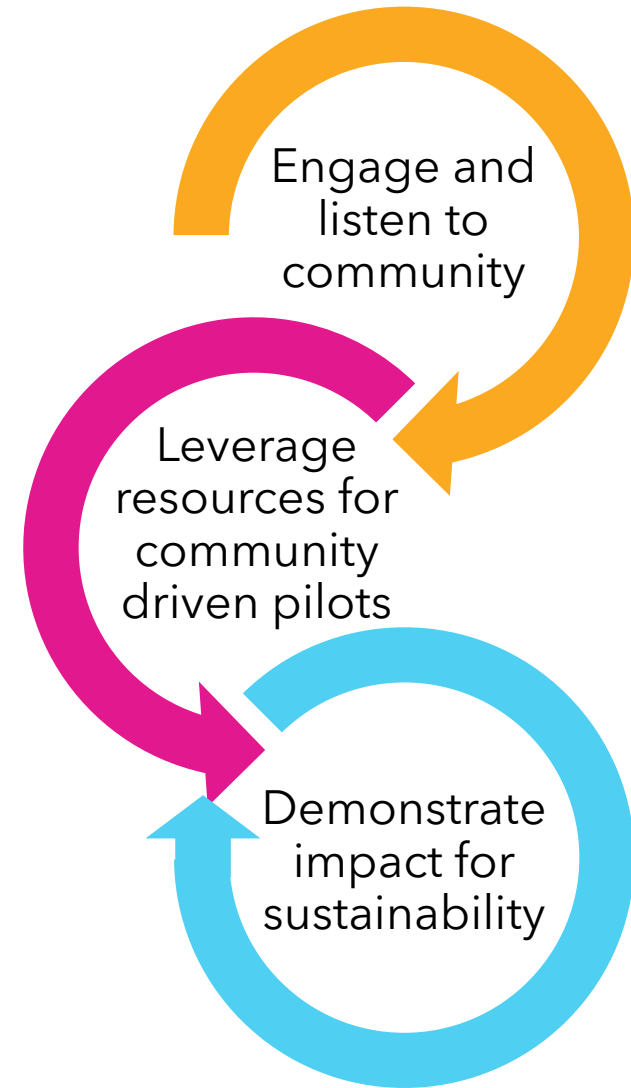


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The Children Health Initiative Model



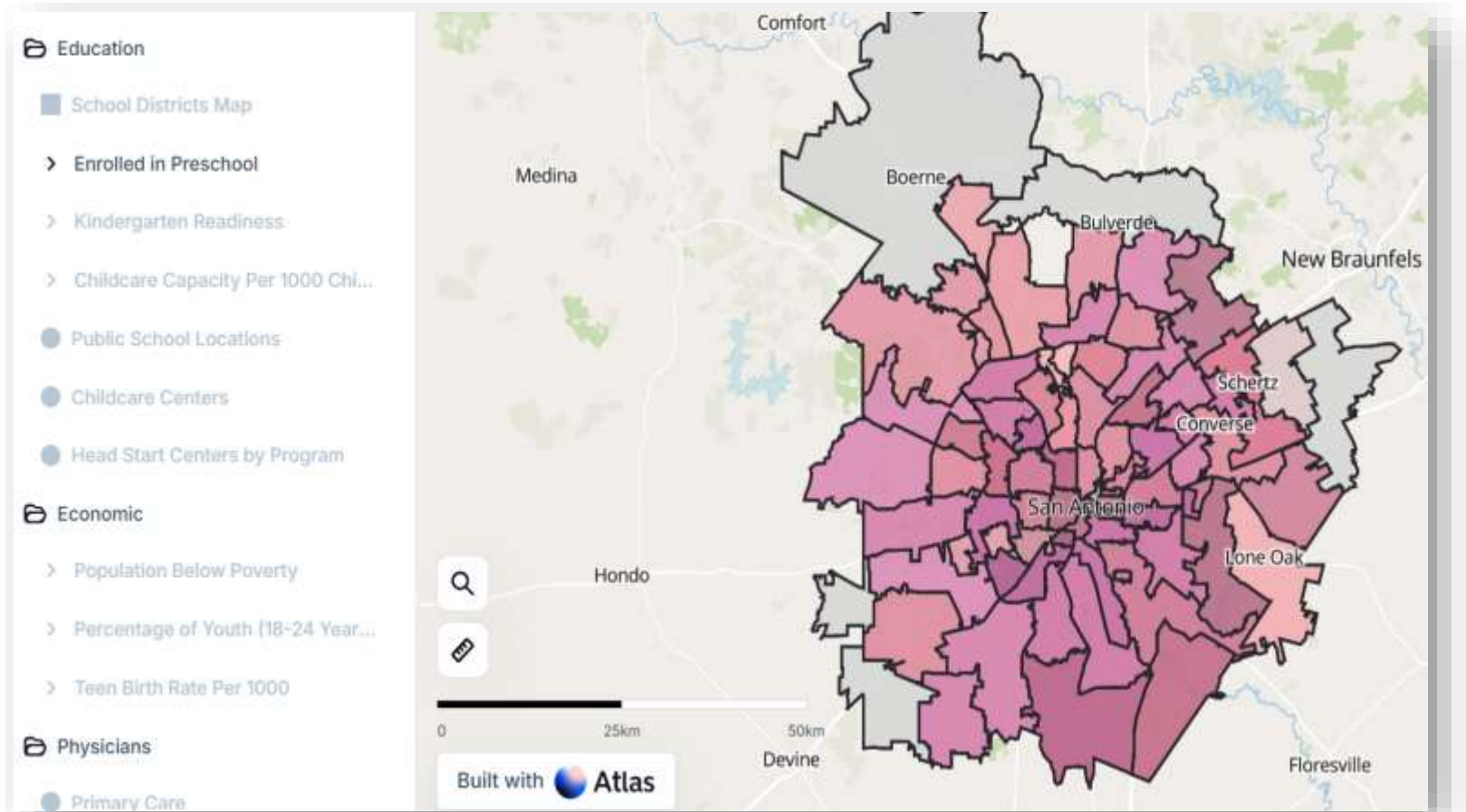
Children's Health Initiative in Bexar County

Stacked Risk Map

The map demonstrates overlaying access gaps:

- Schools without TCHATT
- Food insecurity
- Preschool enrollment

The darker areas, most notably in the south and east areas demonstrate disparities.



Community Partner Perspectives

The following access and utilization needs were identified by community partners.

Systems need to communicate

"Need for bidirectional referral system between providers and community programs"

Complex navigation systems & digital literacy

Growing demand
Geographic disparities
Provider shortages

Service equity

"San Antonio definitely has treatment deserts. There are certain zip codes without providers..."

Minimize Barriers

"Deploying mobile community health workers to provide coaching and connection services to families ...focusing on barrier removal"

Language
Transportation
Lack of in-person services

Underutilized city-supported programs

Effective outreach

"Resource awareness is a major challenge as families frequently assume...costs...and are unaware of available free services."

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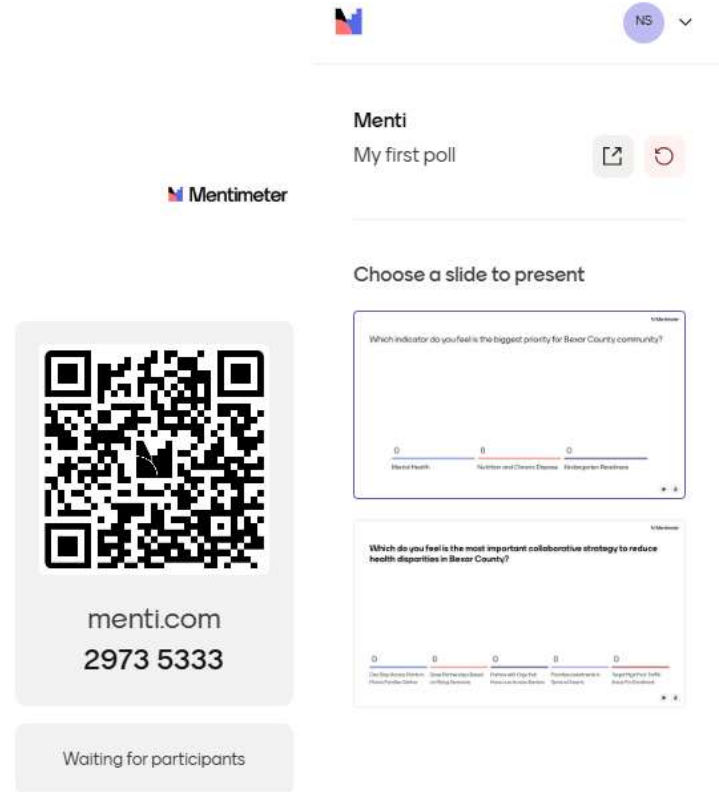
Community Members

**What
were the
biggest
challenges
to access
services?**



So, what do you think?

Which indicator do you feel is the biggest priority for Bexar County community?



Mentimeter

Menti
My first poll

Choose a slide to present

Which indicator do you feel is the biggest priority for Bexar County community?

0 0 0

Mental Health Nutrition and Chronic Disease Kindergarten Readiness

menti.com
2973 5333

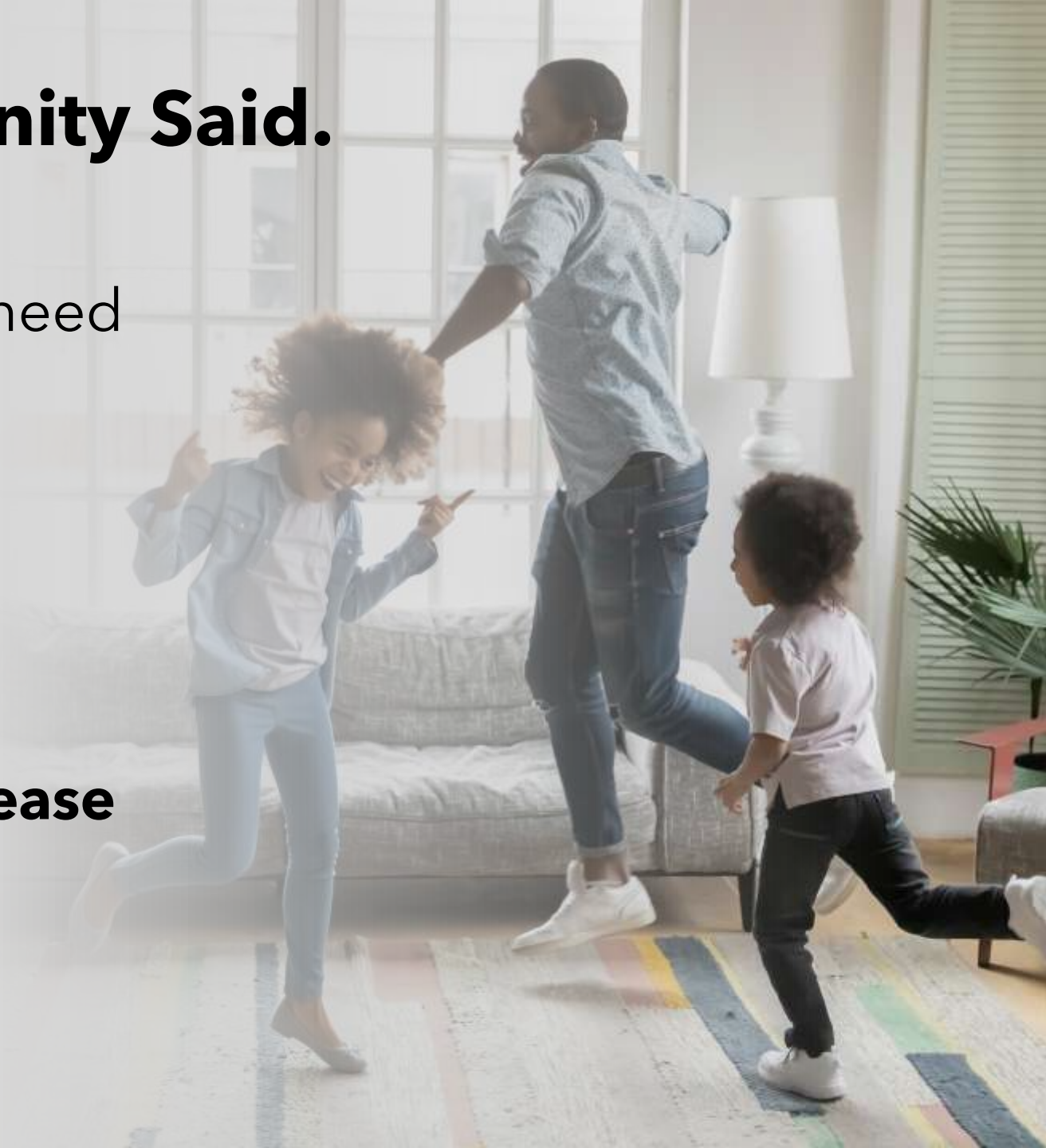
Waiting for participants



This is what the Community Said.

While community members communicated they value the need for services across all the focus areas; they ranked them in the following priority order:

- 1. Mental Health**
- 2. Nutrition and Chronic Disease**
- 3. Kindergarten Readiness**





System Gaps



A close-up photograph of a young child's face, showing a wide, joyful smile. The child's eyes are squinted, and their mouth is open, revealing a set of primary teeth. There is a noticeable gap between the upper front teeth, and the lower front teeth also show some spacing. The child has dark hair and is wearing a blue garment. The background is dark and out of focus.

System Gaps

1

Service deserts: Large geographic gaps in mental health and food resources, particularly on the West and South sides.

2

Transportation barriers: Universal challenge across all domains, limiting paths to consistent access.

3

System fragmentation: Lack of coordinated referrals between healthcare, social services, and schools and the need for more resources to devote to federal benefits navigation.



Community Partners Emphasized Systemwide Needs

**Cross-sector
coordination
with regular
community
organization
convenings**



**Collectively
engage
philanthropy in
partnerships to
align funding
with community
needs to address
services gaps**



**Invest in
culturally
appropriate
programming
and staffing to
match
community
background**





Opportunities: What Partnerships Make Possible



#1 One Stop Access Points in Places Families Gather



Go from Referral Lists to Actionable Navigation



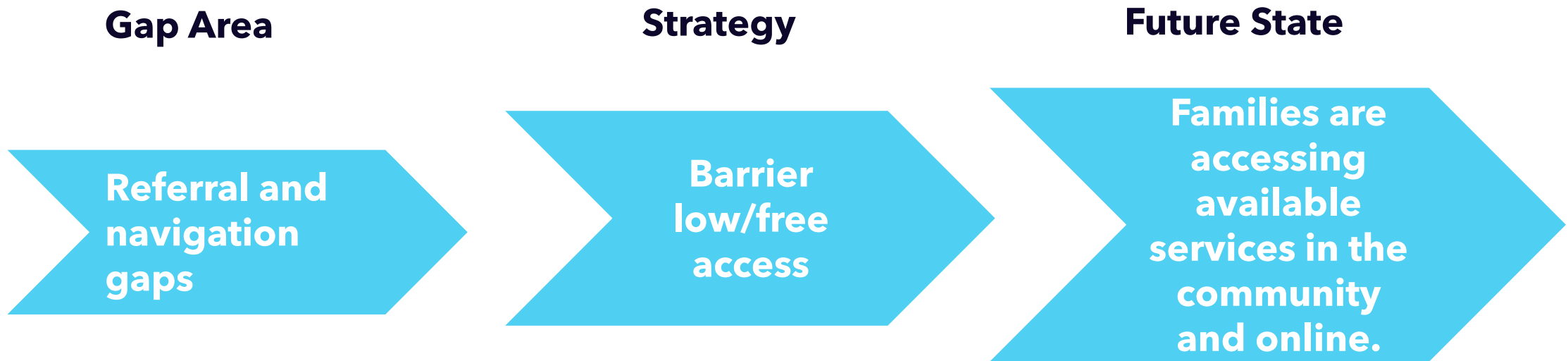
#2 Grow Partnerships Based on Rising Demands



Training pipelines and CHW deployment



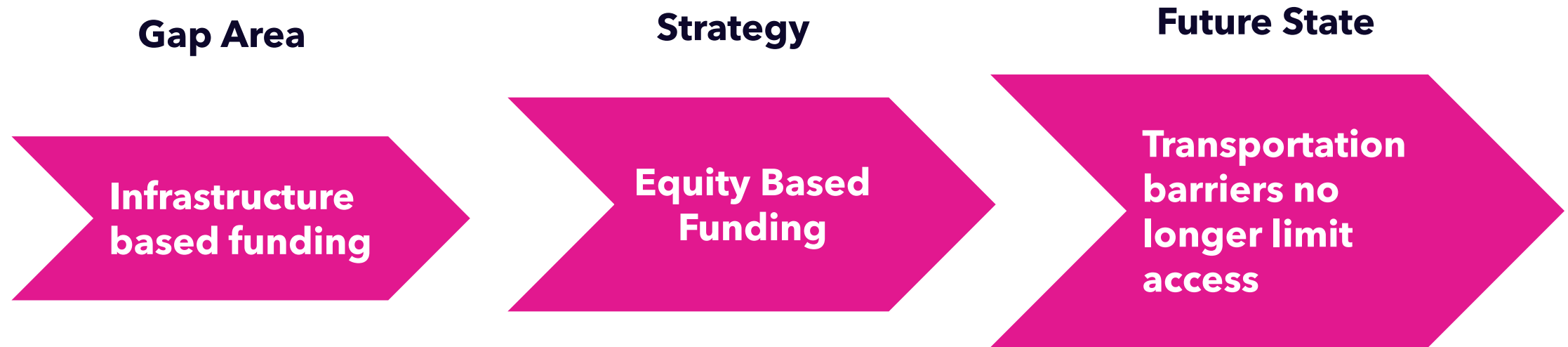
#3 Partner with Orgs that Have Low Access Barriers



Make intentional low barrier partnerships



#4 Prioritize investments in Service Deserts



Prioritize service deserts intentionally



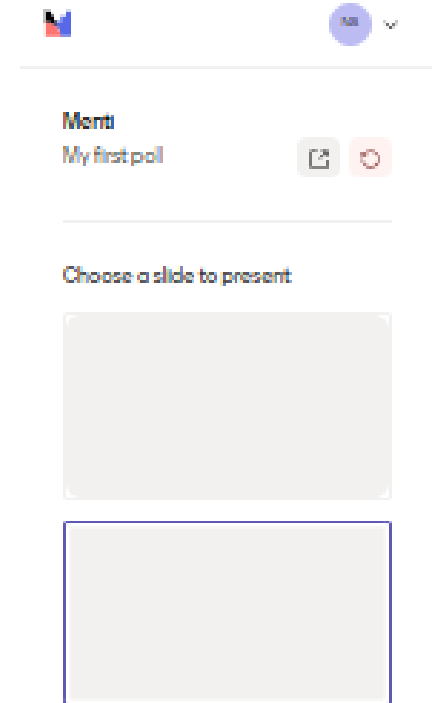
#5 Target High Foot Traffic Areas For Enrollment



Leverage foot traffic for enrollment and navigation.



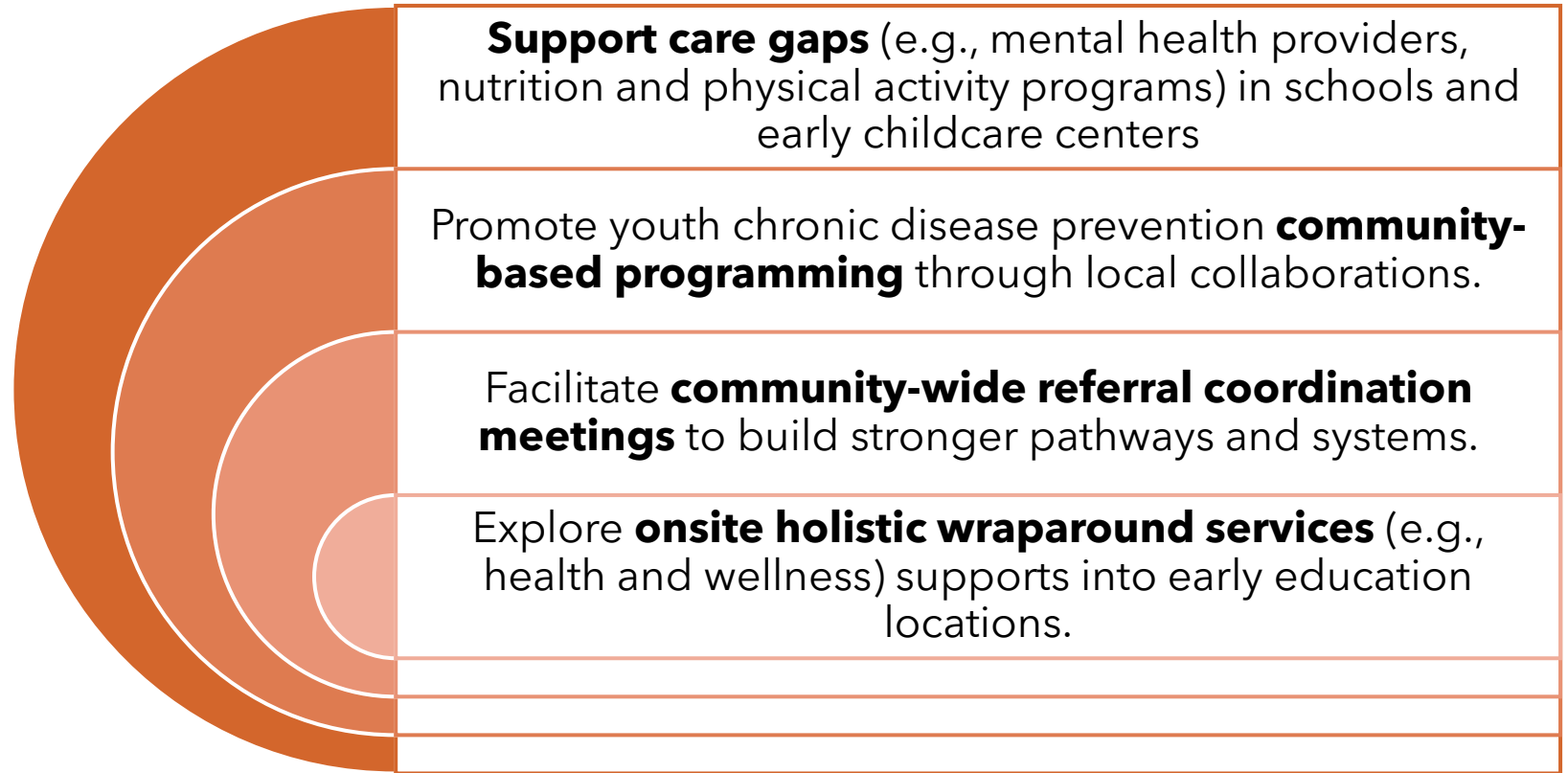
What Do You Think Is Possible?



What's Next: Moving From Data To Action

**Pilot partnership
action plans
based on
resource map
areas that are
data driven.**

**They could look
like....**





UNITED WAY
San Antonio and
Bexar County

Collaboration in Action

Data Review



Keamber McCracken,

Impact Manager, Ready Children,
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County



Jackie Hernandez,

Impact Data Analyst,
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County



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EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI)

Keamber McCracken

Impact Manager, Ready Children, UWSA

Jackie Hernandez

Impact Data Analyst, UWSA

[Read more here!](#)

What is the EDI?

The EDI is a developmental checklist used to assess the wellbeing and kindergarten readiness of children in five domains.

EDI Logistics

Who completes the EDI?

Completed by kindergarten teachers on all their students

How is it completed?

Teachers complete one EDI per student based on observational recall.

UWSA is in partnership with local school districts and UCLA.

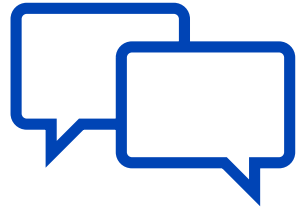
When is it completed?

At least 3 months after start of school (Nov-May)

What doesn't it do?

Not used to:

- Assess a teacher's performance
- Screen, Identify or Diagnose a child



Communication Skills



Emotional Maturity



**Physical Health and
Wellbeing**



**Language and Cognitive
Development**

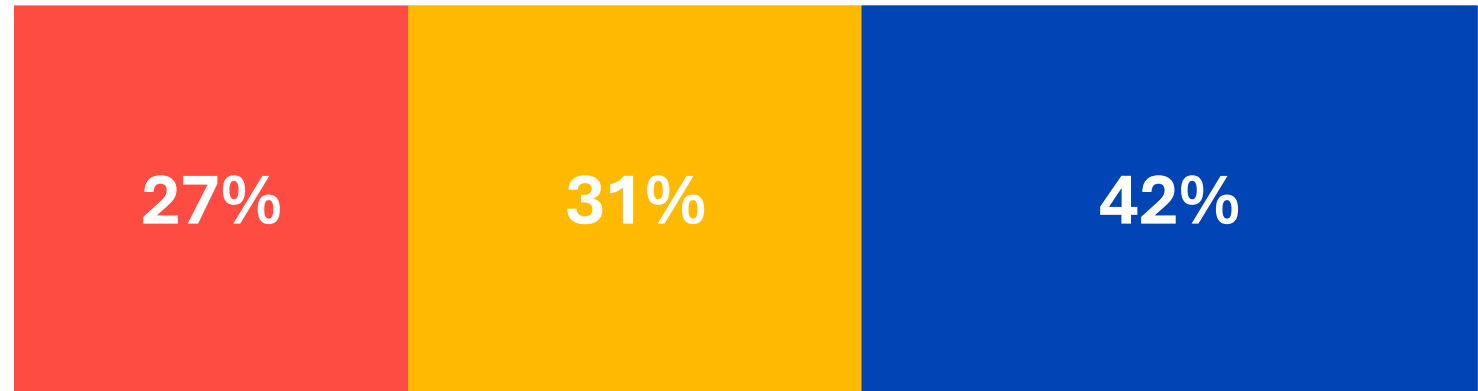


Social Competence

2023-2025 EDI Summary

■ Vulnerable ■ At Risk ■ On Track

- 6 participating school districts
 - 22,778 children assessed
- 27% vulnerable on one or more domains
 - Children scoring at or below 10th percentile



Opportunities to Improve Child Wellbeing

Panel Discussion and Q&A



Carmen Valdez, Ph.D.,

Associate Dean of Research and Partnerships, University of Texas San Antonio



Enrique Mata, MSPH, RN, PHNA-BC, NEA-BC,

Executive Director, Paso del Norte Center at the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute



Monica Ordoñez

Program Director,
Bachman Lake Together



Julia Rosenberg, MD, MHS, FAAP

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Yale University School of Medicine;
Co-Director, Yale Pediatric Refugee and Immigrant Clinic



Alfonso Mercado, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Psychological Science,
UT RGV



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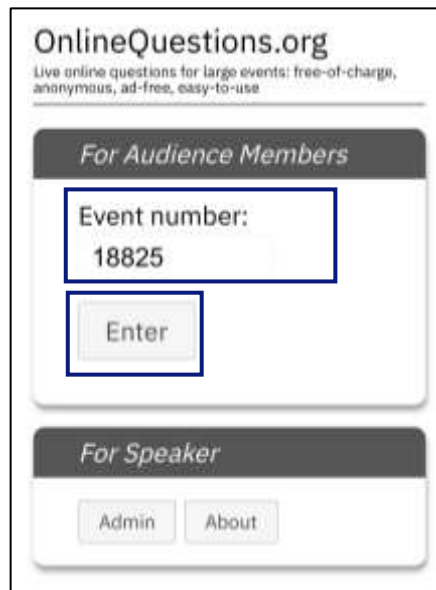
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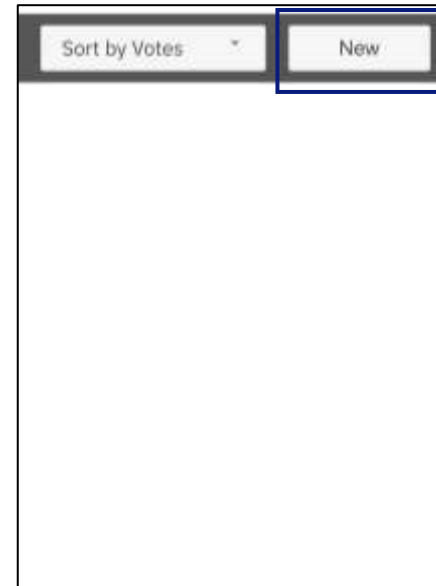
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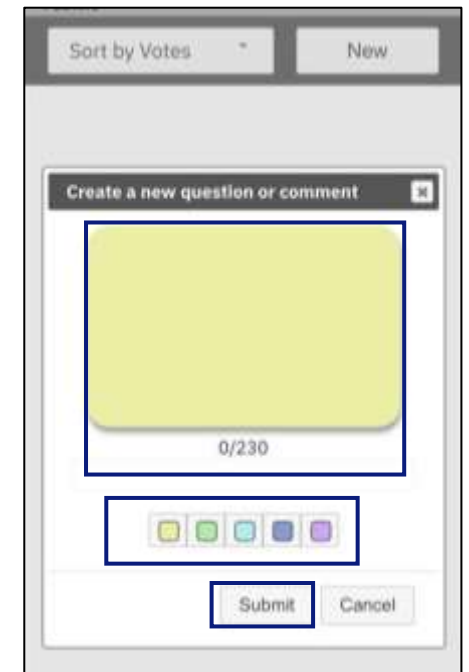
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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Help us improve future
programming by
completing this survey!

