



The California Strong Start Index

helps us understand the conditions into which babies are born, so we can raise healthy, resilient kids.

Half a million babies are born in California each year. Some have access to more resources than others. By measuring the resources all babies have at birth across the state, California can allocate supports and services equitably and earlier in a child's life, to make a greater impact.



Ninety percent of a child's brain develops by age five. The earlier we can build resilience, the better.

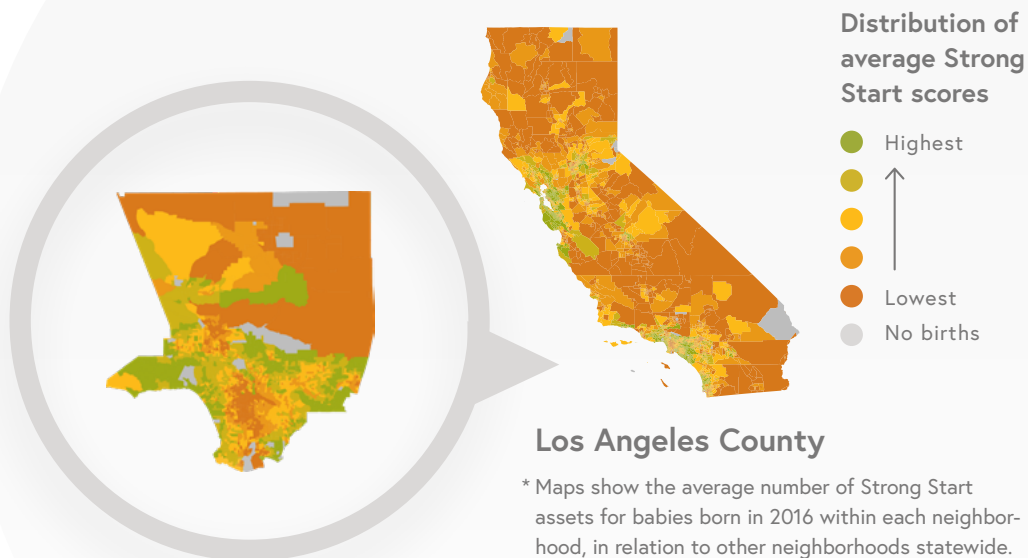
First 5 Association of California and Children's Data Network launched the Strong Start Index to help policymakers and service providers support children more effectively—ensuring resources go where they are needed most.



The Strong Start Index

is a unique tool that uses information collected at birth from every child in the state. It paints a portrait of the resources that promote resilience for children in a given neighborhood, county, or region.

Strong Start Scores by Neighborhood (2016)*



Family



Health



Service



Financial Assets

Resources in the form of family, health, service, and financial assets—such as healthy birth weight, parental education level, and ability to afford and access health care—are used to create a Strong Start score for every child.

Over time, the Strong Start Index can grow to include even more indicators for resilience and success.

The Strong Start Index creates a robust picture of our kids' and families' resources across California. With it, we can ensure children grow up on a more equal footing, and help all children get what they need to thrive. Because every child deserves a strong start.

The California Strong Start Index launches in February 2019 at strongstartindex.org.

