



The California Strong Start Index

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

Roughly a half a million babies are born in California each year. By leveraging information routinely collected at birth for every child in the state, the Strong Start Index can help communities ensure that all babies begin life with a strong, thriving start.



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

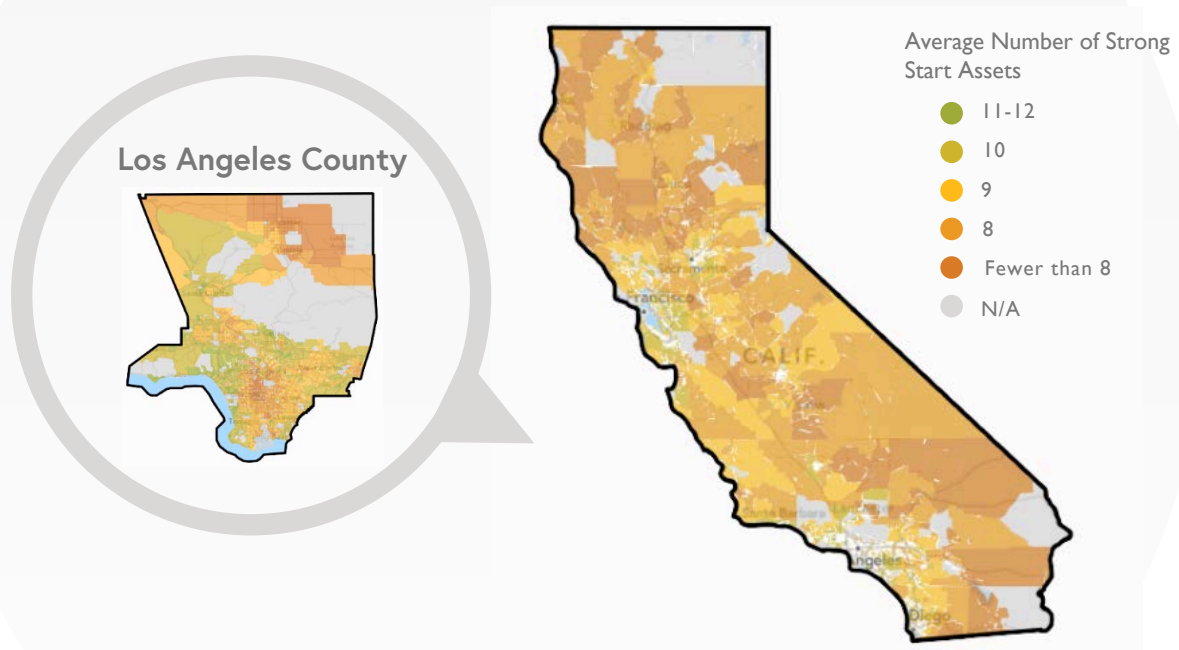
The First 5 Association of California and the Children's Data Network launched the Strong Start Index to help policymakers and service providers allocate services more equitably – ensuring resources go where they are needed most.



The Strong Start Index is a unique tool

that uses information collected at birth from every child in the state. Grounded in an upstream, preventative approach, the Strong Start Index focuses on assets present at birth. Some infants are born with more assets that promote resilience than others, which means that we can use these data to create a holistic view of the conditions into which children are born – and examine differences across communities.

Strong Start Scores by Neighborhood (2020)



Family



Health



Service



Financial Assets

When a baby is born, parents provide important information about the infant's health and well-being, including assets, such as parental employment history and the ability to afford and access health care.

These assets are carefully documented in birth records, making them a rich source of information about infants, families and communities.

By measuring these assets, California can allocate supports and services more equitably – and earlier in children's lives. That's the aim of the California Strong Start Index.

Visit the California Strong Start Index at strongstartindex.org to see how you can improve child well being in your community.