



TRANSFORMING  
**SCHOOLS**  
INTO CENTERS OF  
**HEALTH &  
WELLNESS**

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

# **2024 CHILDREN'S SCORECARD**



# Why a Children's Scorecard?

- A collaborative vision for wellbeing
- Current information on key data points
- Celebration of recent accomplishments
- Identification of critical needs
- Continuous improvement throughout the system of care

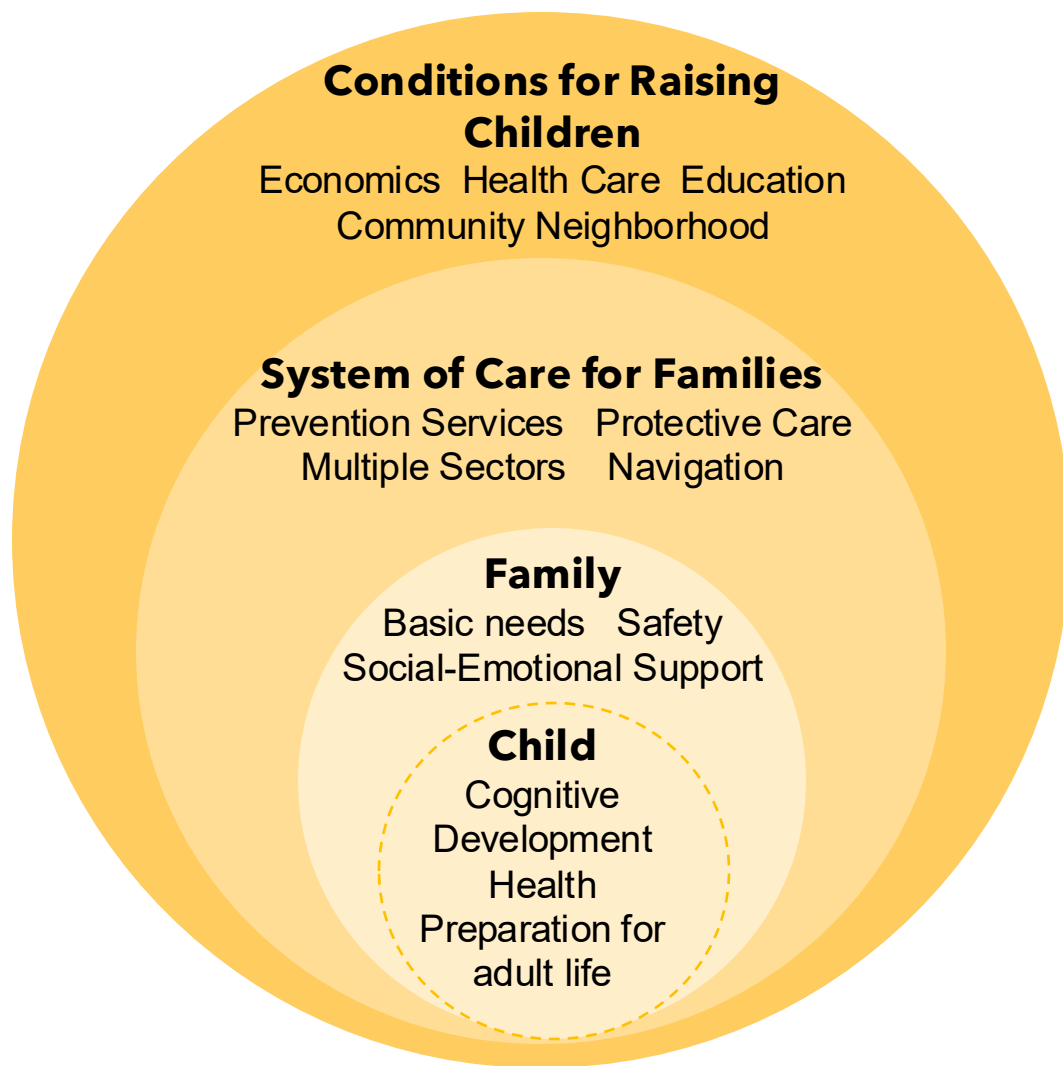


## Using the Scorecard: What to Know

- Approach data with curiosity and compassion
- County-level data masks regional differences
- Explore data pathways for deeper understanding
- Covid 19 pandemic caused major disruptions
- Current volatility will have impacts at every level



**The 2024 Scorecard is  
structured around a basic  
social-ecological model**





# 2024 Key Components

**Child & Family Outcomes**

**Conditions for Raising Children**

**System of Care for Families**

**Celebrations & Critical Needs**

**Conclusions and Recommendations**



# Child & Family Outcomes: **What We Know**

- **Families are nurturing and stable**
  - Most children's basic needs for food and housing are met
  - Most families meet children's safety needs
  - Many families are not connected to the traditional medical system
- **Children are healthy and successful**
  - Student achievement is lower than the state average
  - 4-year graduation rates are higher than the state average
  - Mental health needs are high
- **Fewer system-involved youth (Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice)**
  - Rate of child maltreatment is decreasing
  - Children in need of foster care are more frequently placed with relatives or extended family
  - Probation is matching youth needs to lower level interventions



# Child & Family Outcomes: **What We Don't Know**

Do children and teens get enough sleep?



Do families seek support in times of need?



Do young children get support if developmental milestones are not met?



# Conditions for Raising Children in Santa Barbara County

Community well-being influences children's health and success

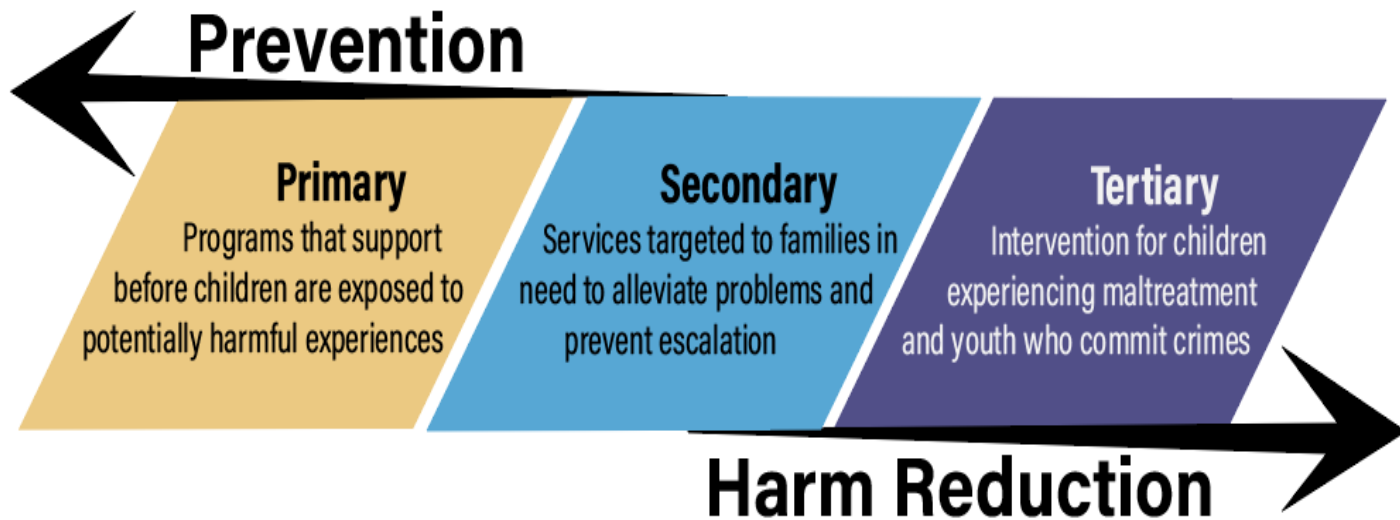
Five interdependent drivers:

- Economic stability
- Access to quality health care
- Access to quality education
- Social and community context
- Neighborhood and built environment





# System of Care for Children & Families in Santa Barbara County



# Celebrations

Cross-sector  
collaborations  
to improve the  
system of care



Strong  
commitment to  
creating a  
community of  
belonging

# Critical Needs

- Address workforce shortages
- Build data infrastructure
- Emphasize positive childhood experiences





## Recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors

- Maximize opportunities to improve families' economic stability
- Ensure County departments use "no wrong door" approach
- Increase investment in North County, where needs are greatest
- Address workforce issues at a county level
- Adopt data infrastructure across County departments

***Raising children is a collective endeavor - success requires investment, coordination across sectors, and a commitment to a more equitable future for all children and families.***



# Recommendations for Community Partners

- Understand that many families are losing access to services and supports
- Stress within families may make it hard for children to learn and self-regulate
- Positive experiences and supportive relationships are critical
- Do your best to support one another and offer smiles when you can
- Learn about the services in your community and stay abreast of changes
- Honor the resilience and fortitude that has grown from the past

***Raising children is a collective endeavor - success requires investment, coordination across sectors, and a commitment to a more equitable future for all children and families.***

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## SYSTEM OF CARE PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS SERIES



REGISTER HERE



[tinyurl.com/partnerhighlights](https://tinyurl.com/partnerhighlights)

### Introducing Our New Bi-Monthly Series

We're excited to announce the launch of the System of Care Partner Highlights Series – a collaborative initiative designed to showcase important services across Santa Barbara County that are available for qualifying families.

Participating organizations will also have an opportunity to interact with fellow providers across the county and share information about using the Findhelp closed-loop referral platform.

Dates: October 7, December 2, 2025  
February 3, April 7 & June 2, 2026

Time: 9 -10 am

Who: All service providers and leaders invited







For the electronic version of this document, go to [www.sbckids.net/publications](http://www.sbckids.net/publications)



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