

Community Characteristics

San Pablo is a diverse and vibrant city of approximately three square miles, located in West Contra Costa County, across the bay from San Francisco. Its location and rich history has meant that the city has seen continual shifts in its population and its needs over the past several decades. As such, there are several factors that affect the young people living in San Pablo and attending schools in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.



Population

San Pablo is a relatively small city with just under 30,000 residents. The majority of San Pablo's population is of Hispanic or Latino descent (57%), an increase from the 45% in the 2000 Census. Moreover, San Pablo is unique in Contra Costa County where the overall Latino population is approximately 25%. Additionally, 32% of the population is White, 16% is African American, and 15% is Asian. More than two-thirds of the population (67%) speaks a language other than English at home (primarily Spanish), further reflecting the diverse ethnic composition of the city.⁵

San Pablo is also a “young” city, in that the median age of residents is 32.2, well below the median age of 38.6 for the county. In addition, children under the age of 18 account for over a quarter of San Pablo's population (26%).⁶

Poverty and Unemployment

While the nation as a whole is recovering from the recession, the median household income in San Pablo is \$44,938, well below the California median of \$61,094. Approximately one-fifth (20%) of individuals live below the poverty level. Although unemployment rates have decreased statewide, San Pablo's unemployment rate is still greater than the state as a whole at nearly 7%, compared to 5.5%.⁷

Educational Attainment

Education is a primary factor of future income and parental education levels are related to their children's academic success. In San Pablo, 63% of residents 25 years or older have at least a high school diploma, but less than 13% have obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher.⁸ This is in stark contrast to Contra Costa county as a whole, where 89% of residents 25 years and older have at least a high school degree and 39% have obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher.⁹

⁵ US Census 2010.

⁶ 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

⁷ United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed November 2015.

⁸ 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

⁹ 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.