

Facts on child poverty in Santa Clara County

Key findings:

- Approximately 60,000 children are living in poverty in Santa Clara County.
- The rate of child poverty is increasing.
- The number of poor children living in high poverty neighborhoods is higher than ever before.
- Child poverty is now more spread out throughout the county, as pockets of child poverty have extended from historically poor areas like eastern San Jose and parts of Gilroy to other areas.

Children who grow up in poverty may experience poor health and social and cognitive development. These early-life experiences can have a profound effect on health and well-being later in life.

In 2010, 13% of children in Santa Clara County lived in poverty. Of the more than 400,000 children residing in the county under the age of 18, almost 60,000 fell below the federal poverty line. When using a higher threshold for federal poverty (200% of the Federal Poverty Level), this number rises to 125,000, or 29% of all children.

Over the last twenty years, child poverty has fluctuated in Santa Clara County. Child poverty dropped from 11% in 1990 to 9% in 2000 and then reversed direction and climbed to 13% in 2010. Approximately 21% of Latino and 18% of African American children live in poverty, a higher percentage than White (6%) or Asian/Pacific Islander children (7%).

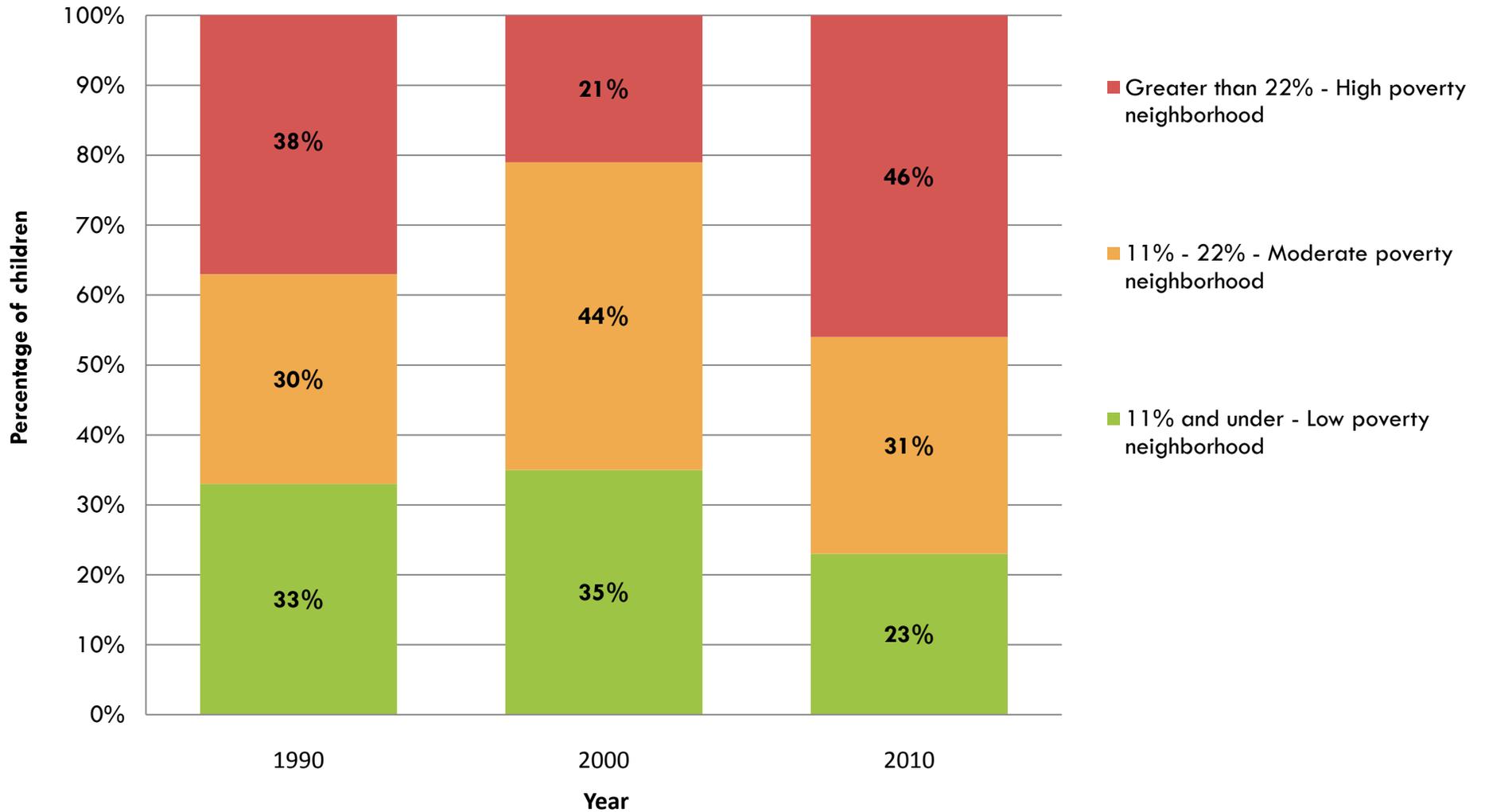
Table 1: Percentage of children in poverty by poverty level and age, 1990-2010

		1990		2000		2010	
Poverty levels	FPL (federal poverty level) threshold	100% FPL	200% FPL	100% FPL	200% FPL	100% FPL	200% FPL
	FPL: annual household income for a family of four	\$13,359	\$26,718	\$17,603	\$35,206	\$22,314	\$44,628
Children living in households earning below this level	Total, ages 0-17	36,759	83,898	36,548	89,788	57,341	125,655
	Percent, ages 0-17	11%	24%	9%	22%	13%	29%
Total child population in Santa Clara County, ages 0 -17		349,495	349,495	407,478	407,478	426,257	426,257

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990, 2000 Summary Files and 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

There has been a big rise in the number of poor children living in low income areas in the last decade. High poverty neighborhoods often experience higher crime rates, lower performing schools, and lower access to resources, which may put children from poor families at an even higher risk of negative outcomes. In 2010, 46% of poor children in Santa Clara County lived in high poverty neighborhoods, compared to only 21% in 2000.

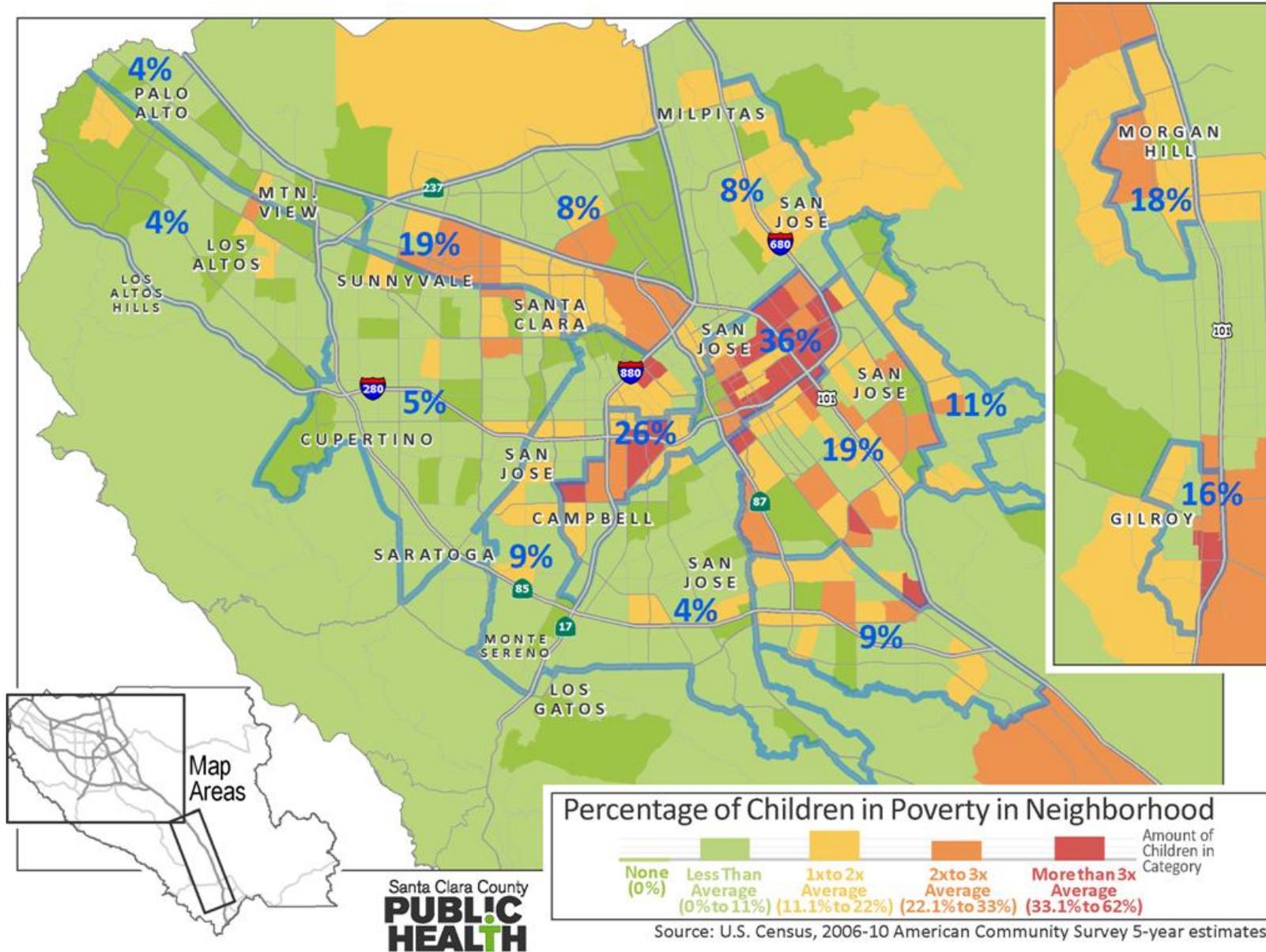
Figure 1: Percentage of children in poverty by neighborhood poverty level, 1990-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990, 2000 Summary Files and 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

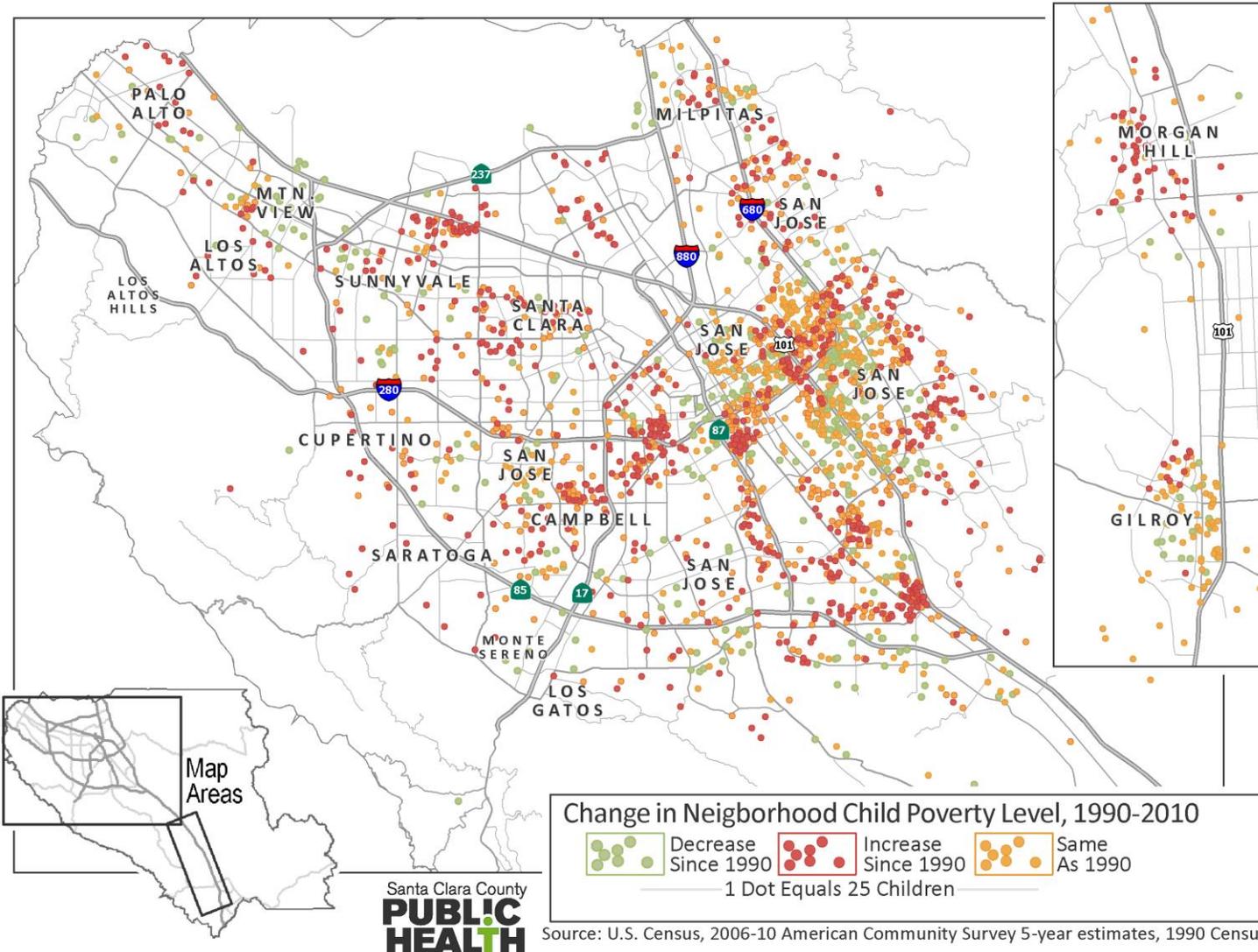
Children in households under the poverty line live throughout urban, suburban, and rural areas in Santa Clara County, but are more common in some parts of the county than in others. Northwestern parts of the county have low rates of child poverty (approximately 4%). This climbs to nearly 1 in 5 children (16%-18%) in the south and to over 1 in 3 children (36%) in the east of Santa Clara County.

Map 1: Percentage of children in poverty by neighborhood



In the last two decades, there has also been a change in the specific areas of the county that have high numbers of children in poverty. There was a drop in the number of children in poverty in central and south eastern San Jose, eastern Mountain View and southern Gilroy. There were large increases near the freeway intersections of 280/880, Highway 101 near Blossom Hill Rd, Highway 101 near Fair Oaks Ave and in other areas of the county.

Map 2: Change in neighborhood child poverty level, 1990-2010



In addition to a big jump in the number of children in poverty overall, pockets of child poverty are now more spread out in the county as these pockets have extended from historically poor areas like eastern San Jose and parts of Gilroy to other areas. As a result, it may be harder to meet the needs of poor children and their families, as well as to locate services close to where they live. Additional resources and planning are needed to decide how to best support these county residents.

See the full report, *Child poverty in Santa Clara County, 2013*, for further information.