today's agenda

the CDN at USC
Who we are, what we do.

website walk-through
Website, maps, stories...

project context
Motivation, opportunity

CA strong start index
Informing resource allocation to promote greater equity
the children’s data network.
Harnessing the scientific potential of linked, administrative data to inform children’s programs and policies.
“Each person in the world creates a Book of Life. This Book starts with birth and ends with death. Its pages are made up of the records of the principal events in life. Record linkage is the name given to the process of assembling the pages of this Book...”

Halbert L. Dunn, 1946
1. **birth**
   - 1999-2017

2. **linkages**
   - (range of data sources)

3. **analysis**
   - cohort, prospective

4. **dissemination**
   - evidence-based policy development
birth record data

- Universally collected
- First data collected about an individual (start to life!)
- Provides a population-base for prospective analyses
- Decent amount of information can be harvested
- Standardized fields with documentation (simple files)
- Information for three individuals (child, mother, father)
project context.
## data driven investments...

### need data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>limitations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Costly community needs assessments</td>
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<td>- Survey-based, county-level estimates</td>
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<td>- Data focused on adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Discrete / unidimensional indicators</td>
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<td>- Deficit focused</td>
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Could information from birth records, thoughtfully assembled and simply scored, be used to help communities more efficiently and equitably allocate resources?

<table>
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<th>opportunities</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Consistently collected, population data</td>
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<td>- Local to communities / neighborhoods</td>
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<td>- Holistic, child &amp; family level information</td>
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<td>- Asset focused</td>
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strong start index.
The California Strong Start Index **summarizes the conditions into which children are born**

It comprises **12 indicators from birth records** that have been shown to be related to good outcomes for children

It can be used to more **holistically (and efficiently) characterize children** across (and within) California communities, making it an important tool that can help First 5s and policy makers target resources where they are needed most
Strong Start scores are calculated by simply counting the number of assets present (0-12).

Child-specific scores are geocoded by the mother’s residential address, and then aggregated by census tract.

Means for all census tracts in California are placed along a continuum, and then grouped into quintiles (e.g., 20% groupings), each representing where that census tract’s mean score falls relative to all other census tracts in California.
website walk-through.
Watch the animation and learn more at
strongstartindex.org
**Strong Start Data Overall Map**

- Absolute asset levels calculated at tract / community level
- Relative presentation as statewide quintiles (can choose specific combinations to view on map)
- County, Senate, Assembly boundaries (+ for LA)
- Zoom to specific county, zip code centroid, point and click on map
- Download PDF = formatted download of what is being viewed at that time
- Stories provide context for the data; offer examples of use by Commissions and other stakeholders
strong start data quintiles
strong start boundaries

Geographic boundaries can be overlaid, but absolute / relative asset levels continue to be calculated at the tract / community level.
Los Angeles County

Births 2016

Los Angeles County
TRACT 0037900104
Tract Quintile 0-1%

- Births in Census Tract: 98
- Births in County: 122,139
- Births in State: 485,573

Strong Start Scores (County)

- COUNTY AVERAGE: 8.8
- STATE AVERAGE: 8.8
- CENSUS TRACT AVERAGE: 6.5

- 12 babies: 2,453 babies
- 11 babies: 22,379 babies
- 10 babies: 24,911 babies
- 9 babies: 23,121 babies
- 8 babies: 20,081 babies
- 7 babies: 12,694 babies
- 6 babies: 7,477 babies
- 5 babies: 4,406 babies
- 4 babies: 2,006 babies
- 3 babies: 1,062 babies
- 2 babies: 241 babies
- 1 baby: 29 babies

Download PDF  FAQ
Los Angeles County

Births 2016

Los Angeles County
SPA 1: Antelope Valley
TRACT 06037900104
Tract Quintile 0.19%

Births in Census Tract 98
Births in SPA 5,546
Births in County 122,139
Births in State 485,573

Strong Start Scores (County)

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Trash Can
thank you
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