

Table of Contents

4 Demographics of Kern Women

- 4 Race/Ethnicity and Age
- 6 Women Born Outside the U.S.
- 6 Languages Other than English Spoken in Kern County
- 7 Literacy

9 Education

- 9 K-12 Education
- 11 English Learners
- 12 Postsecondary Education
- 13 Educational Attainment
- 15 Fields of Study

17 Economic Wellbeing

- 17 Employment
- 17 Occupations
- 19 Earnings
- 20 Poverty
- 22 Educational Attainment and Economic Wellbeing

23 Women and the STEM Professions

- 23 Representation of Kern Women in the STEM Workforce
- 24 Earnings
- 25 Challenges Faced by Kern Women in STEM Jobs
- 25 A Broader Definition of STEM Jobs

28 Family and Home

- 28 Marital Status
- 28 Birth Statistics
- 30 Housing
- 31 Single Women and Their Families

33 Health and Safety

- 33 Selected Indicators of Health Status
- 33 Access to Healthcare
- 35 Infant and Maternal Health
- 36 Substance Use Disorders
- 37 Domestic Violence

39 About the Authors

40 Acknowledgments

List of Tables

- 1. Distribution of Kern Women by Race and Ethnicity
- 2. Distribution of Kern Women by Age
- 3. Characteristics of Kern's Spanish Speakers
- 4. Kern's Multilingual Residents and Facility with the English Language
- 5. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), 2017
- 6. Average High School Dropout Rate for Four-Year Adjusted Cohorts of Kern Girls in Grades 9-12
- 7. 2018-2019 Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates for Kern County
- 8. Proportion of Graduating Kern Girls Who Meet UC/CSU Requirements
- 9. Percentage of English Learners Who Test at the Beginning Level: Kern Girls, 2018-2019
- 10. College-Going Rate of Kern High School Graduates, 2017-2018
- 11. Educational Attainment of Kern Adults 25 Years and Over
- 12. Educational Attainment of Kern Women by Race and Ethnicity
- 13. Educational Attainment of Kern Women, 25-34 Years of Age, 2010 and 2018
- 14. Educational Attainment of Bakersfield Women by Race and Ethnicity
- 15. Bachelor's Degrees by Field Reported by Kern Women and Men, 25 Years and Over
- 16. Unemployment Rate and Educational Attainment
- 17. Percentage of Kern Women Relative to Men in Occupational Clusters
- 18. Percentage of Kern Women Relative to Men Employed Full Time in Selected Professions
- 19. Median Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Working Women by Occupational Cluster
- 20. Women's Median Earnings as a Percentage of Men's for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers
- 21. Kern and California Females and Males Living in Poverty
- 22. Kern and California Families Living in Poverty
- 23. Educational Attainment, Earnings, and Poverty of Kern Women
- 24. Kern Women Employed Full Time, Year Round in STEM Professions, 2018
- 25. Median Earnings of Women in STEM Jobs, 2018
- 26. Kern Women in STEM or STEM-Related Occupations and the Percentage Requiring a Bachelor's Degree
- 27. Marital Status of Kern Women (15 Years and Over)
- 28. Birth Statistics of Kern Women (Ages 15-50 Years), 2018
- 29. Trends in Kern's Teen Birth Rate, 2010-2018
- 30. Educational Attainment and Rate at Which Kern Women Give Birth
- 31. Characteristics of Kern Housing Units
- 32. Economic Characteristics of Types of Family Households
- 33. Single Mother Households and Percent Living Below the Federal Poverty Level
- 34. The Poverty Rate of Kern's Single Women and Their Families by Educational Attainment of the Woman
- 35. Indicators of Health Status of Adults, 2017
- 36. Number of Residents per Health Professional
- 37. Percentage of Kern's General and Uninsured Population by Educational Attainment
- 38. Trend in Infant Mortality, 2010-2016
- 39. Impact of Substance Use Disorder on Kern Women
- 40. Calls to Law Enforcement for Domestic Assistance, 2010-2018

List of Sources

Brookings Institute Research

California Department of Education

California Department of Public Health

California Health Interview Survey

California State University, Bakersfield

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Kern Community College District

Kern County Department of Public Health

Kern Economic Development Foundation

Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Kern County: 2015

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Taft College Institutional Research Reports

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

United Health Foundation

Urban Institute

U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN KERN COUNTY 2020

Kern County is one of 58 counties in the state of California, located at the southern edge of California's Central Valley. It is the third largest county in terms of area and is home to 2% of the state's population.¹ Forty-three percent of Kern's population reside in Bakersfield, the county's largest urban center and its county seat. Another 23% of the county's population live in the 10 other incorporated cities ranging in population from 53,000 to around 1,000. One in three people (34%) resides in more rural areas.² Kern County's major industries employing a large proportion of the workforce include agriculture and energy production.

In this report, we look at the status of women and girls across the county in terms of economic wellbeing, family and homes, health and safety—and the correlation of educational attainment of women to these issues. A special chapter focuses on women in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce. On key issues, data from the 2015 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Kern County are referred to for comparison with updated figures.

Demographics of Kern Women

Race/Ethnicity and Age

Race/Ethnicity

Of the nearly 900,000 (896,764) residents of Kern County, 49% are women. The majority of women are Latinas.³

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF KERN WOMEN BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

	COU	COUNTY WOMEN		BAKERSFIELD WOMEN	
African American	23,408	5%	15,962	8%	
Asian	22,136	5%	12,824	7%	
Latina	233,225	53%	97,724	51%	
White	148,719	34%	61,701	32%	
Other	9,507	2%	3,138	2%	
Total	436,995		191,349		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates

Bakersfield women largely mirror the demographics of the county, but there is a larger proportion of African American and Asian women in the city than the county as a whole.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 Community Profiles: Kern County, California. data.census.gov

² U.S. Census Bureau. Quick Facts for Places and Cities over 5,000 Population. (2018 population estimates). census.gov/quickfacts

³ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Tables B01001, B01001B, D, H, and I): Sex by Age. data.census.gov

2015 UPDATE: Latinas comprised half of Kern County women in the 2015 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Kern County (based on this 2020 report indicate that Latinas comprise a majority (53%) of Kern women. For well over a decade, 5% of Kern women identify as African American and roughly another 5% as Asian. About 2013 U.S. Census numbers). The 2018 U.S. Census numbers in one-third of Kern women are white, decreasing from 36% reported in 2015 to 34% reported in 2020.⁴

Age

On the whole, Kern women are slightly older than men. The median age of women is 32.6 years, while that of men is 31.5 years, slightly higher than reported in 2015 (31.6 years and 30.4 years, respectively). Among women, white women are the oldest and Latinas are the youngest group.⁵

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF KERN WOMEN BY AGE

	All	African American	Asian	Latina	White
NUMBER OF WOMEN	436,995	23,408	22,136	233,225	148,719
< 5 yr	8%	9%	4%	10%	5%
5-17 yr	21%	24%	14%	26%	14%
18-24 yr	10%	11%	9%	12%	6%
25-44 yr	27%	27%	30%	28%	25%
45-64 yr	22%	19%	29%	18%	28%
65-84 yr	10%	9%	13%	5%	18%
85 yr and over	2%	0.3%	0.9%	0.8%	3%
KERN WOMEN MEDIAN AGE (yr) *Women *Men	32.6 31.5	27.4 29.1	40.0 35.1	26.3 26.7	44.0 40.5
BAKERSFIELD WOMEN MEDIAN AGE (yr) *Women *Men	32.5 30.1	27.9 25.3	37.4 35.9	26.4 25.8	45.3 39.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

This table indicates that different age-appropriate community support services may be needed by populations when disaggregated by race and ethnicity. Across the county, over 1 in 3 Latinas (36%) is a minor (under the age of 18 years) and services for younger children may be needed. One in five (21%) of the white population is over the age of 64 years—3% are 85 years and over—and services for seniors may be appropriate.

⁴ The 2015 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Kern County. <u>kernfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2015-Report-on-the-Status-of-Women-and-Girls-in-Kern-County.pdf</u>

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S0101: Age and Sex; Tables B01001B, D, H and I: Sex by Age; Tables B01002B, D, H, I: Median Age by Sex <u>data.census.gov</u>

Women Born Outside the U.S.

One in five Kern women was born in another country, a proportion that has been constant for roughly a decade. Today, 37% of Kern's immigrant women have become naturalized citizens. Women and men have emigrated to Kern from around the world:

- 78% from Latin American countries (South America, Central America, Mexico, and some island nations of the Caribbean);
- 18% from Asia:
- 2% from Europe;
- 1% from Africa; and
- 0.7% from Canada and other northern American countries.

Forty-three percent of Kern's immigrants speak a language other than English at home, and nearly one in five (19%) report that they speak English "less than very well."

Languages Other than English Spoken in Kern County

Languages spoken by Kern residents have been classified into four groups: Spanish, Other Indo-European languages, Asian and Pacific Island languages, and Other. In the 44% (120,000) of Kern households where English is not the primary language,⁷

- Spanish is spoken in 38%;
- An Indo-European language other than Spanish is spoken in 2%;
- An Asian or Pacific Islander language is spoken in 3%; and
- Some other language is spoken in just under 1%.

Among individuals five years and older, over 358,000 speak a language other than English: Spanish is spoken by 89% of them.8

TABLE 3. CHARACTERISTICS OF KERN'S SPANISH SPEAKERS9

Age	24% are minors aged 5-17 years; 69% 18-64 years; 7% 65 years and over
Nativity	58% are born in the U.S.
Poverty	22% live on incomes below the federal poverty level
Educational attainment	49% have less than a high school education 25% have a high school diploma 20% have some college or an associate's degree 6% have a bachelor's degree or higher

Note: The population sample is 317,500 residents of Kern who speak Spanish and are five years and over; data are not disaggregated by gender.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S0201: *Selected Population Profile in the United States*. data.census.gov

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1602: *Limited English Speaking Households*.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1601: Language Spoken at Home. data.census.gov ⁹U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1603: Characteristics of People by Language Spoken at Home. data.census.gov

While most of Kern's multilingual residents are able to speak English with little difficulty, 43% (just over 154,000 residents five years and over) indicate that they have limited facility with English.¹⁰ In Bakersfield, 32% of multilingual residents have a limited facility with English.

TABLE 4. KERN'S MULTILINGUAL RESIDENTS AND FACILITY WITH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE¹¹

	Spanish	Other Indo-European	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other languages
COUNTY-WIDE				
Number of language speakers	317,486	14,595	22,588	3,691
Percent with limited facility in English	43%	41%	46%	35%
BAKERSFIELD				
Number of language speakers	115,024	11,440	9,421	2,116
Percent with limited facility in English	30%	45%	34%	50%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

The greatest number of residents across the county and the state who report limited facility with English speak Spanish.

Literacy

The third U.S. assessment of adult competencies was carried out in 2017, following similar surveys in 2012 and 2014. While literacy, numeracy and problem solving were all assessed, this discussion focuses on English literacy skills associated with reading and writing. Scores are broken out into three levels:

- LEVEL 1 (reading/writing at 1st-3rd grade) Individuals may struggle with reading and writing needed for daily activities; those who score below 1 may be "nonliterate."
- LEVEL 2 (reading/writing at 4th-5th grade level)
 May encounter difficulty in understanding text and analysis; and
- LEVEL 3 or higher (competency at 6th-8th grade or higher)
 Proficient (to varying degrees based on score) at understanding and working with ideas in text.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1601: Language Spoken at Home. data.census.gov

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1601: Language Spoken at Home. data.census.gov

¹² The Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) Web Report, U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics.

nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/current_results.asp

TABLE 5. PROGRAM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF ADULT COMPETENCIES (PIAAC), 2017¹³

	KERN	CALIFORNIA	U.S.
Level 1 or below	40%	28%	22%
Level 2	29%	25%	32%
Level 3 or above	31%	46%	46%

Note: These results are for the 2017 PIAAC literacy assessment of 12,330 U.S. adults 16-74 years of age. State and county estimates utilize PIAAC survey data with that from the American Community Survey.

Source: PIAAC, National Center for Education Statistics

The 40% of Kern adults who score at level 1 or lower have difficulty carrying out daily tasks associated with basic reading and writing in the English language. Kern County is one of about a half-dozen California counties with 40% or more of residents at level 1 or below. Kern has a smaller proportion of English proficient population (level 3 or above) than the state or nation.

English literacy is correlated with educational attainment. Forty percent of U.S. adults who did not complete high school scored at level 1 or below, while just under 1 in 4 scored as English proficient (level 3 or above). Among those adults who have some post-secondary education, 8% scored at the lowest literacy level and nearly two-thirds (64%) scored at the proficient level.

8

¹³ PIAAC State and County Estimates Report. Interactive Skills Map: State and County Indicators of Adult Literacy and Numeracy. (2020) National Center for Education Statistics. nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/skillsmap/

Education

K-12 Education

Enrollment

In the 2018-2019 school year, there were 192,446 students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools across the county. Just about half (49%) of these students were girls. Of the 94,423 girls enrolled.

- 5% were African American;
- 4% were Asian, Filipina, or Pacific Islander;
- 66% were Latina; and
- 22% were White.

The remaining 3% of students identified as multiracial or did not report their race or ethnicity. There is a higher percentage of Latinas among Kern school age girls (66%) compared to women across all ages (53%).

High School Dropout Rates

In general, the high school dropout rate of Kern girls is less than that of girls across the state. Based on four-year cohorts, the dropout rate of Kern girls has hovered around 6.0-6.5% in recent years, compared to the statewide average of 6.9-7.3%.¹⁵

TABLE 6. AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE FOR FOUR-YEAR ADJUSTED COHORTS OF KERN GIRLS IN GRADES 9-12

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
AFRICAN AMERICAN	12%	11%	13%
ASIAN	2%	3%	2%
LATINA	6%	5%	6%
WHITE	7%	7%	6%
ALL GIRLS	6.5%	6.0%	6.5%

Source: California Department of Education

The dropout rate of Kern boys is higher than that for girls—9.5% compared to 6.5%—but Kern boys still drop out at a lower rate than boys statewide (dropout rate of 10.7%).

High School Graduation Rates

In Kern County and across the state, girls graduate from high school at a higher rate than boys. Overall, Kern girls have a four-year graduation rate of 90% compared to an 84% graduation rate for boys. Graduation rates vary by race/ethnicity, but in nearly all cases girls graduate at a higher rate than boys.¹⁶

¹⁴ 2018-2019 Enrollment by Ethnicity and Grade: Kern County Report. California Department of Education.

¹⁵ Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcomes Report generated online, selected for Kern County females. California Department of Education. <u>dq.cde.ca.gov</u>

¹⁶ 2018-2019 Cohort Graduation Rate: Kern County Report. California Department of Education. <u>dq.cde.ca.gov</u>

TABLE 7. 2018-2019 FOUR-YEAR ADJUSTED COHORT GRADUATION RATES FOR KERN COUNTY

RACE/ETHNICITY	Number in cohort of girls	4-year cohort graduation rate (GIRLS)	4-year cohort graduation rate (BOYS)
African American	371	82%	79%
Asian Filipino Pacific Islander	152 111 18	94% 97% 83%	93% 98% *
Latinx	4,509	90%	85%
White	1,536	90%	84%
ALL STUDENTS	6,902	90%	84%

Note: These racial/ethnic groups account for over 98% of this cohort of girls; the four largest groups (Latinx, White, African American and Asian) account for 96%. An asterisk means that the number of students in the cohort is 10 or less and data are suppressed due to privacy concerns.

Source: California Department of Education 2018-2019

The graduation rate of the four-year cohort of both girls and boys has shown a modest increase of one to two percentage points over the past three years. In 2016-2017 Kern County girls had a graduation rate of 88% while that for boys was 83%.

Of Kern students graduating from high school in four-years, 44% of girls and 32% of boys graduate having completed all prerequisites for entrance to the UC/CSU system. The proportion of girls who graduate ready for UC/CSU admission has remained unchanged from the 2016-2017 school year through 2018-2019. However, disaggregating the data by race and ethnicity shows some interesting short-term trends. The proportion of African American girls who graduated in 2019 meeting UC/CSU admission requirements has increased by three percentage points relative to 2017, while that for Asian girls has decreased by nine percentage points. ¹⁷

TABLE 8. PROPORTION OF GRADUATING KERN GIRLS WHO MEET UC/CSU REQUIREMENTS

RACE/ETHNICITY	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
African American	36%	34%	39%
Asian	80%	67%	71%
Latina	43%	41%	44%
White	43%	44%	42%
ALL GIRLS	44%	43%	44%

Note: These data are for four-year adjusted cohorts as defined by the California Department of Education. Source: California Department of Education

¹⁷ 2018-2019 Cohort Graduation Rate: Kern County Report. California Department of Education. dq.cde.ca.gov

10

2015 UPDATE: The 2017-2018 data show a modest, but promising, increase in the high school graduation rate of Kern girls. The 2015 Report noted a girls' graduation rate of 84%, with 38% completing all courses required for UC/CSU admissions in 2013-2014. The good news is that the graduation rates for African American girls and Latinas have shown a notable increase. In 2013-2014, African American girls had a graduation rate of 72% compared to 82% in 2017-2018. In 2013-14, Latinas had a graduation rate of 84% compared to 90% in 2017-2018. Graduation rates of Asian and white girls in 2017-2018 were 94% and 90% respectively, and are greater than those in 2013-14 when 90% Asian and 87% white girls graduated.

English Learners

In 2018-2019, 17% of Kern girls in grades K-12 were English learners (EL), commensurate with the statewide average of 18%. While there are over three dozen languages documented by EL students in Kern County, over 15,000 Latinas account for 93% of girls who are English learners. Put another way, 1 in 4 Latina girls enrolled in Kern schools is identified as an English learner.

The English proficiency of California's EL students is assessed by measuring skills in speaking, reading, writing and listening. Students whose primary language is other than English are given the initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) when they enroll in the school system and are tested for progress annually. In general, oral skills (listening and speaking) are better developed than written performance (reading and writing).

TABLE 9. PERCENTAGE OF ENGLISH LEARNERS WHO TEST AT THE BEGINNING LEVEL: KERN GIRLS, 2018-2019

	INITIAL		SUMMATIVE		
	Oral Performance	Written Performance	Oral Performance	Written Performance	
Kindergarten	59%	95%	11%	11%	
Grade 1	69%	76%	9%	24%	
Grade 3	56%	75%	16%	21%	
Grade 8	67%	72%	16%	22%	
Grade 12	39%	39%	34%	38%	
All	60%	89%	12%	20%	

Note: These 2018-2019 figures are for Kern Girls whose primary language is other than English; initial and summative assessments are for different groups of girls.

Source: California Department of Education 2018-2019 ELPAC Results

¹⁸ 2018-2019 Enrollment by Ethnicity and Grade: Kern County Report (selected for English learners). California Department of Education. dq.cde.ca.gov

¹⁹ English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) 2018-2019. California Department of Education. dq.cde.ca.gov

Combining oral and written performances, the 2018-2019 overall scores indicated that 63% of K-12 girls who are English learners initially tested at the beginning level and needed substantial help using English to learn new things at school and to interact in social situations; in summative testing, 13% of students needed substantial help using English.²⁰

Girls identified as English learners at some point in their high school years had a four-year graduation rate in 2018-2019 of 80%; 21% graduated having completed all prerequisites for entrance to the UC/CSU system.²¹ These figures may be compared to those for the 2016-2017 school year when Kern's EL girls had a graduation rate of 79%, and 18% had completed requirements for UC/CSU admission.

Postsecondary Education

College-Going Rate of High School Graduates

Nearly half (48%) of Kern graduates enroll in college or university within one year of graduating from high school. This proportion is lower than for graduates across the state, 64% of whom enroll in college. Three-fourths of Kern high school graduates who met UC/CSU requirements for admission (77% of girls) enrolled in a college within 12 months. In general, girls enroll in post-secondary institutions at a higher rate than boys.

The college-going rate varies among students of various races and ethnicities, with 45% overall enrolled in California colleges and universities.²²

TABLE 10. COLLEGE-GOING RATE
OF KERN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, 2017-2018

RACE/ETHNICITY	% of college-going students	% going to in-state colleges	% of girls enrolled in college
African American	44%	41%	50%
Asian Filipino Pacific Islander	71% 62% 48%	69% 60% 48%	79% 71% 50%
Latinx	46%	45%	52%
White	49%	42%	57%
ALL STUDENTS	48%	45%	54%

Source: California Department of Education

Public Postsecondary Institutions

Institutions of public higher education in Kern County include a California State University, along with Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso College, and Taft College, which are all California community colleges. Porterville College, a part of the Kern Community College District, is located in neighboring Tulare County. The community colleges primarily serve Kern County

12

²⁰ English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC),2018-2019. California Department of Education. cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep

²¹ 2018-2019 Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate: Kern County Report. California Department of Education. dq.cde.ca.gov

²² California Department of Education. 2017-2018 College-Going Rate. dq.cde.ca.gov

residents, altogether enrolling nearly 35,000 students in 2018-2019. The largest of the community colleges is Bakersfield College, which had an enrollment of approximately 25,000 students and enrolled more than 30% of graduates from high schools in its service area.²³ Each of these institutions offers a wide variety of programs leading to two- and four-year degrees, as well as career education programs.²⁴ California State University, Bakersfield, has an enrollment of approximately 11,000, which includes 13% post-baccalaureate students.²⁵

Of the 45% of Kern's 2017-2018 high school graduates who enrolled in California colleges and universities:²⁶

- 3% enrolled in a UC;
- 12% in a CSU;
- 28% in a community college; and
- 2% in private two- and four-year institutions in the state.

Educational Attainment

Among Kern women and men 25 years and over, 2% have had no formal schooling, and just over 1 in 4 women and men (26%) have not received a high school diploma. Altogether, 50% of women and 55% of men have a high school education or less; 16% of Kern women and men have a bachelor's degree or higher.²⁷

TABLE 11. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF KERN ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OVER

	WOMEN			MEN
<high school<="" td=""><td>69,744</td><td>26%</td><td>73,641</td><td>26%</td></high>	69,744	26%	73,641	26%
High School diploma	65,050	24%	81,770	29%
Some college, no degree	64,167	24%	61,749	22%
AA degree	24,794	9%	17,869	6%
Bachelor's degree	29,850	11%	26,980	10%
Master's degree	11,226	4%	12,827	5%
Professional degree	2,403	0.9%	2,798	1%
Doctorate	702	0.3%	1,671	0.6%
TOTAL	267,936		279,304	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

²³ Note that these data are based on enrollment prior to 2020, when the academic year was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁴ Kern Community College District 2018-2019 Fast Facts (January 2019). <u>kccd.edu</u>; Taft College Institutional Research Reports. taftcollege.edu

 ²⁵ California State University, Bakersfield. 2020 Fact Book. Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment. csub.edu/
 ²⁶ California Department of Education. 2017-18 College-Going Rate for California High School Students by

Postsecondary Institution Type. dq.cde.ca.gov

²⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B15002: *Educational Attainment for the Population 25 years and Over.* data.census.gov

The educational attainment of women varies by race and ethnicity, with Latinas overall having the lowest number of years of formal education: 41% of Latinas do not have a high school diploma compared to 12% of white women.²⁸

TABLE 12. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF KERN WOMEN BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

	All women	African American	Asian	Latina	White
Total women	267,936	13,093	16,175	122,262	110,010
< HS	26%	14%	20%	41%	12%
HS diploma	24%	27%	17%	24%	25%
Some college	24%	30%	13%	20%	29%
Associate's degree	9%	9%	13%	7%	11%
Bachelor's degree	11%	12%	25%	6%	15%
Graduate/professional degree	5%	8%	12%	2%	8%

Note: Percentages of each column may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

2015 UPDATE: The proportion of Kern women attaining a secondary degree (associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degree) appears to be gradually increasing. In 2015 we reported that 22% of Kern women had an associate's degree or higher, compared to 25% in this 2020 Report. While roughly 1 in 4 of all Kern women has less than a high school diploma as found in the 2015 Report, the education attained by young women is increasing.²⁹

The good news is that the proportion of young women having less than a high school diploma has decreased by five percentage points in 2018 relative to 2010, while those holding a minimum of a four-year college degree has increased from 15% to 19%.

TABLE 13. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF KERN WOMEN, 25-34 YEARS OF AGE, 2010 AND 2018

	2010	2018
No HS diploma	20%	15%
High School diploma	22%	27%
Bachelor's degree or higher	15%	19%
Graduate/professional	4%	5%

Note: Percentages of each column do not add to 100%; data for women who have some college or an associate's degree have not been included.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

²⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Tables B15002, B15002B, D, H, and I: *Educational Attainment for the Population 25 years and Over* data.census.gov

²⁹U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B15001: Sex by Age by Educational Attainment for the Population 18 Years and Over. <u>data.census.gov</u>

These trends among younger women are heavily influenced by the increasing educational attainment of Latinas who comprise a majority of women 25-34 years of age. In 2010, 49% of Latinas 25 years and over had less than a high school education and in 2018, that figure had dropped by eight percentage points to 41%. In 2010, 5.6% of Latinas 25 years and over had a bachelor's degree or higher; in 2018, that figure had risen two percentage points to 7.5%.³⁰

Bakersfield women tend to have a higher level of educational attainment than women countywide: 1 in 5 women in Bakersfield has less than a high school education, while about that same proportion holds a bachelor's degree or higher.³¹

TABLE 14. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF BAKERSFIELD WOMEN BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

	All women	African American	Asian	Latina	White
Total women	119,472	8,833	9,017	51,375	47,316
< HS	20%	13%	16%	30%	11%
HS diploma	23%	25%	19%	25%	23%
Some college	26%	35%	8%	24%	29%
Associate's degree	10%	4%	10%	10%	11%
Bachelor's degree	14%	12%	28%	9%	17%
Graduate/professional degree	7%	11%	19%	2%	10%

Note: Percentages of each column may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Fields of Study

In 2018,Kern women and men 25 years and over held nearly 95,000 bachelor's degrees. Nearly 1 in 5 graduates holds a bachelor's degree in business, followed by 1 in 8 with a bachelor's degree in education. Both of these percentages have held relatively steady since 2012. Collectively, in 2018 just over 20% held a bachelor's degree in a natural science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) field. While the percentage of those holding a bachelor's degree in a STEM field has held relatively constant over the past six years, the proportion of those whose bachelor's degrees are in technology and mathematics (computers, mathematics, statistics) and engineering appears to be slightly decreasing.³² Another 10% of Kern women and men hold a bachelor's degree in a STEM-related field such as health and architecture occupations.

³⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B15002I: *Educational Attainment for the Hispanic Population 25 years and Over.* data.census.gov

³¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Tables B15002, B15002B, D, H, and I: *Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over.* data.census.gov

³² U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B15012: *Fields of Bachelor's Degrees Reported* (population 25 years and over with a bachelor's degree). data.census.gov

TABLE 15. BACHELOR'S DEGREES BY FIELD REPORTED BY KERN WOMEN AND MEN, 25 YEARS AND OVER

	2012	2015	2018
TOTAL BACHELOR'S DEGREES	81,967	89,427	94,732
Business	18%	17%	19%
Education	12%	11%	11%
*Computers, Mathematics, Statistics	3%	3%	2%
*Biological, Agricultural, Environmental Sciences	7%	7%	7%
*Physical and related sciences	4%	6%	5%
*Engineering	9%	9%	7%
Psychology	5%	4%	7%
Social sciences	7%	7%	8%
**Science and Engineering related fields	9%	10%	10%
Literature and Languages	4%	4%	3%
Liberal Arts and History	8%	8%	10%
Visual and Performing Arts	3%	3%	3%
Communication	2%	3%	2%
Multidisciplinary and Other	7%	7%	7%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

Note: These Kern data are not disaggregated by gender and are reported by those 25 years and over with a bachelor's degree. Traditional STEM degrees are marked by an asterisk; STEM-related fields are marked by a double asterisk. Percentages of each column may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Since the field of study during undergraduate years has an impact on the type of employment pursued, the choice of major has a bearing on economic wellbeing.

Economic Wellbeing

Employment³³

In 2018, about 350,000 people 16 years and over were employed in Kern County: 44% of them were women.³⁴ Among Kern's population 20-64 years of age, 75% of Kern men participated in the labor force, compared to 62% of women. The unemployment rate of this age group was slightly higher for men than women, with 9% of Kern men and 8% of Kern women in the labor force unable to find work. Working mothers with children under the age of 18 fare worse than women as a whole in this age group: 10% are unable to find work.³⁵

Unemployment and Educational Attainment

The unemployment rate of women and men is lower the higher the educational attainment. For the population 25-64 years of age, the unemployment rate of Kern women and men with less than a high school diploma is roughly six times that of those who hold a minimum of a four-year college degree.³⁶

TABLE 16. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	Kern County	Bakersfield	California
No high school diploma	10.4%	9.0%	7.0%
High school diploma	9.8%	9.5%	5.8%
Some college or 2-year degree	6.4%	4.3%	4.7%
4-year college degree or higher	1.7%	1.7%	3.1%
TOTAL POPULATION	7.3%	5.7%	4.6%

Note: These 2018 data are for women and men, ages 25-64 years

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Occupations

According to 2018 census data, more of Kern's employed workforce hold jobs in business, management, science or the arts than in any other occupational cluster. The U.S. Census Bureau classifies occupations into six broad occupational clusters. Among Kern's employed individuals, women comprise the majority in three of the broad occupational clusters: business/management/science/arts occupations; service occupations; and sales/office occupations.

Among those working full time, year round, however, women hold the majority of jobs in sales/office occupations only. The distribution of women among occupations in Bakersfield is similar to that countywide; and, similarly, full-time working Bakersfield women hold the majority of jobs in sales/office occupations only.

³³ This report was prepared during the uncertain times and spiking unemployment of early 2020; employment statistics are for 2018 as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

³⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B24010: Sex by Occupation for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over. data.census.gov

³⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S2301: *Employment Status*. data.census.gov

³⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S2301: Employment Status. data.census.gov

TABLE 17. PERCENTAGE OF KERN WOMEN RELATIVE TO MEN IN OCCUPATIONAL CLUSTERS

	ALL EMPLOYED CIVILIANS ³⁷		CIVILIANS EMPLOYED FULL TIME, YEAR ROUND ³⁸	
OCCUPATIONAL CLUSTER	Total	% Women	Total Full Time	% Women
Business, management, science, arts	91,328	54%	64,125	48%
Service	69,228	55%	36,860	46%
Sales and office	64,929	65%	40,074	57%
Natural resources, construction, maintenance	73,195	18%	43,273	11%
Production, transportation, moving	49,813	20%	35,796	16%
ALL OCCUPATIONS	348,493	44%	220,128	37%

Notes: These data are based on a one-year average and have a high uncertainty; the total employed includes all full-time plus part-time and seasonal workers 16 years and over.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

It is difficult to explore the representation of Kern women in more specific occupations due to the relatively small numbers of people involved. An average of 2013, 2015 and 2018 data suggests that women are under-represented among full-time employees in several occupations.³⁹ For example, women represent roughly 27% of those in top management positions, just slightly less than the state (29%). Based on the average of 2013, 2015, and 2018, roughly 1 in 5 (21%) of Kern's physicians and surgeons are women and 45% of the county's attorneys and law clerks are women. Although more men are now entering the nursing field, nursing remains a highly-skilled profession where Kern women hold the vast majority (87%) of positions.

³⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S2401: *Occupation by Sex for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over.* data.census.gov

³⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S2402: Occupation by Sex for the Full-time, Year-round Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over. data.census.gov

³⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B24020: Sex by Occupation for the Full-time, Year-round Employed Population 16 Years and Over. <u>data.census.gov</u>

TABLE 18. PERCENTAGE OF KERN WOMEN RELATIVE TO MEN EMPLOYED FULL TIME IN SELECTED PROFESSIONS

	KERN COUNTY 2013, 2015, 2018 Average		CALIFORNIA 2018	
	Total (average/year)	% Women countywide	Total in profession (2018)	% Women statewide
Top Executives in management	3,493	27%	261,696	29%
Accountants, auditors	1,566	73%	211,455	60%
Lawyers, judicial clerks	1,057	45%	118,857	40%
Post-secondary teachers	748	33%	90,662	45%
Physician, surgeons	737	21%	79,285	37%
Registered Nurses	4,208	87%	234,276	81%

Note: Figures for Kern are an average of the years 2013, 2015, and 2018; figures for California are based on the one year collected for 2018. These figures for the full-time civilian employed population, 16 years and over.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Earnings

The median earnings of all employed women in Kern is \$24,779;⁴⁰ for women working full time throughout the year, median earnings are \$36,323.⁴¹ In general, Kern women earn less than their counterparts across the state and the nation. Bakersfield women more closely reflect the national median earnings in several occupational clusters.

TABLE 19. MEDIAN EARNINGS OF FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND WORKING WOMEN BY OCCUPATIONAL CLUSTER

	Bakersfield	Kern	California	U.S.
TOTAL	\$40,678	\$36,323	\$49,177	\$42,295
Management, business, science, arts	\$58,632	\$60,198	\$71,963	\$58,498
Service	\$25,777	\$25,956	\$28,539	\$26,372
Sales and office	\$36,832	\$35,443	\$41,506	\$37,068
Natural resources, construction, maintenance	\$17,408	\$21,092	\$28,311	\$33,877
Production, transportation, material moving	\$21,410	\$21,629	\$28,495	\$30,009

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

⁴⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S2411: Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings (in 2018 inflation-adjusted dollars) for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over. data.census.gov

⁴¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S2412: Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings (in 2018 inflation-adjusted dollars) for the Full-time, Year-round Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over. data.census.gov

Gender-Based Inequities

At the county, state, and national levels, full-time working women have median earnings less than men in every broad occupational cluster.

TABLE 20. WOMEN'S MEDIAN EARNINGS
AS A PERCENTAGE OF MEN'S FOR FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND WORKERS

	Bakersfield	Kern	California	U.S.
TOTAL	85%	83%	88%	81%
Management, business, science, arts	77%	79%	76%	73%
Service occupations	64%	64%	80%	75%
Sales and Office occupations	91%	87%	81%	73%
Natural resources, construction, maintenance	46%	57%	67%	78%
Production, transportation, material moving	58%	59%	73%	73%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Across all occupational clusters, there is greater gender-based inequity in earnings countywide than statewide. In service occupations, where Kern women comprise almost half (46%) of the full-time workforce, women earn just 64 cents to every dollar earned by men. However, in sales and office occupations, a workforce comprised of 57% women, Kern women earn 87 cents to every dollar earned by men—a more equitable earnings ratio than across either the state or the nation.

2015 Update: The median earnings for Kern women working full time, year round have risen 14% over five years from \$31,853 in 2013 to \$36,323 in 2018. Over this same time period, however, the median earnings for Kern men working full time have remained stagnant at \$44,704 in 2013 and \$44,022 in 2018. Based on median earnings, women earned 71 cents for every dollar earned by men in 2015; in 2018, women earned 83 cents for every dollar earned by men.⁴²

Poverty

The official poverty rate is defined as the percentage of those whose annual earnings are less than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In 2018, the FPL was \$12,784 for individuals and \$25,701 for a family of four.⁴³ Based on the FPL, just over 1 in 5 (21%) women and men in Kern lived in poverty, with 9% living in extreme poverty on incomes less than half of the FPL. More Kern women and men live in poverty than across the state as a whole, where 13% of the population had incomes less than the FPL (and 6% lived in extreme poverty).⁴⁴

In Kern, as across the state, a greater proportion of women and live in poverty than men and boys.

⁴² U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B24022: Sex by Occupation and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) for the Full-time, Year-round Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over. data.census.gov

⁴³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2019, September 26). 2018 Poverty Thresholds. census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html

⁴⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B17001: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age; and Table C17002: Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months. data.census.gov

TABLE 21. KERN AND CALIFORNIA FEMALES AND MALES LIVING IN POVERTY

	KERN COUNTY				CALIFORNIA	4
	Total	% Females in Poverty	% Males in Poverty	Total	% Females	% Males
Percentage in poverty Extreme poverty	21% 9%	23%	18%	13% 6%	14%	12%

Note: These figures are for individuals of all ages. Poverty is when annual earnings are less than the federally-established Federal Poverty Level (FPL); extreme poverty is when annual earnings are less than half of the FPL.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

In Bakersfield, the overall poverty rate for individuals is 18%, with 8% living in extreme poverty. Consistent with the county and the state, the poverty rate for women and girls is higher than that for men and boys: 21% and 16%, respectively.

It is worth noting that the poverty rate of Kern's children under the age of 18 years is staggering. While 17% of children across the state live in poverty, 28% of county children (and 26% of those in Bakersfield) live in poverty.⁴⁵

Poverty of Families

Countywide, the poverty rate of families is nearly twice that for the state. Among Kern's 202,000 households, 34,000 live on income that is less than the FPL, and over 17,000 of these households in poverty are headed by single women.⁴⁶

TABLE 22. KERN AND CALIFORNIA FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY

	KERN		BAKERSFIELD		CALIFORNIA
	Total family households	% in poverty	Total family households	% in poverty	% family households in poverty
Family households	201,894	17%	91,454	15%	9%
Households headed by women (no spouse present)	44,357	39%	22,019	36%	22%
Households headed by men (no spouse present)	21,362	21%	9,310	21%	11%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Where households are headed by a single individual, the poverty rate is higher than the average for all types of families. Single households headed by women—two times or more than the number headed by single men—have a poverty rate that is also nearly twice that for men.

⁴⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1701: *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months.* data.census.gov

⁴⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B17019: *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families by Household Type by Tenure*. data.census.gov

2015 Update: The 2015 Report indicated that 25% of Kern women lived in poverty which can be compared to this year's poverty rate of 23%. Given the one to two percentage point uncertainty in these figures, one cannot conclude that the poverty rate for Kern women has decreased. Similarly, in 2015 we reported that 44% of households headed by women lived in poverty, and this year that percentage has dropped to 39%. While the data look promising, the uncertainty in these numbers is on the order of eight percentage points and preclude making any sound conclusions on poverty trends in the county.

Educational Attainment and Economic Wellbeing

Evidence shows that education is a mitigating factor to poverty: a higher level of educational attainment generally optimizes economic opportunity by maximizing income and minimizing poverty. While the median earnings of men are higher than those for women at all levels of educational attainment, a woman with a four-year bachelor's degree earns more than twice as much as one with a high school diploma, and nearly three times more than a woman who did not complete high school.⁴⁷

TABLE 23. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, EARNINGS, AND POVERTY OF KERN WOMEN

Educational attainment	Median earnings (women)	Median earnings (men)	Percent of women living in poverty ⁴⁸
Did not graduate high school	\$16,776	\$26,395	31%
High school graduate	\$20,229	\$35,542	22%
Some college or a 2-year degree	\$29,195	\$42,238	18%
Bachelor's degree	\$47,158	\$67,288	5% (includes
Graduate or professional degree	\$76,610	\$82,188	bachelor's degree or higher)
All educational levels	\$25,922	\$37,326	20%

Note: These figures are for Kern County women who are 25 years and over Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Based on the median earnings data above, a woman in Kern without a high school education is six times more likely to live in poverty than one with a bachelor's degree or higher.

⁴⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B20004: *Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2018 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over.* data.census.gov

⁴⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B17003: *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Individuals by Sex by Educational Attainment (for the Population 25 Years and Over).*data.census.gov

Women and the STEM Professions

The definition of a STEM profession has been expanded in recent years to include many occupations where the critical nature of skills and knowledge developed in studies of science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics are applied. STEM fields have long been recognized as providing relatively well-paying and stable jobs that are critical to progress across many industries.

Representation of Women in the STEM Workforce

Women have been traditionally under-represented in STEM jobs. While the proportion of women in these fields has increased in recent years, women remain particularly under-represented both in engineering and technology (especially computer) occupations. This observation is true for full-time workers in Kern as well as for the state and the nation.

TABLE 24. KERN WOMEN EMPLOYED
FULL TIME, YEAR ROUND IN STEM PROFESSIONS, 201849

STEM OCCUPATION	Number of Kern jobs	% Women countywide	% Women statewide
[S] Life and Physical scientists	754	34%	46%
[T] Computer occupations	2,947	30%	23%
[E] Engineering	3,545	7%	16%
[M] Mathematical occupations	445	21%	46%
ALL STEM PROFESSIONS	7,691	19%	24%

Note: STEM refers to science (S), technology (T), engineering (E), and mathematics (M) occupations as defined by the U.S. Census; data are for the full-time, year-round employed civilian population 16 years and over. The small sample sizes make these percentages particularly uncertain.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

The 2018 one-year estimates provided by the U.S. Census show some unexpected results regarding the representation of women in Kern's STEM workforce. For example, women have generally represented nearly half of the mathematics occupations. In 2018, however, only 21% of Kern's full-time employed women reported jobs that involve mathematics, compared to 46% statewide. Nationally, women have held 20% or less of engineering and computer occupations. In 2018, only 7% of Kern's women report being engineers compared to 16% statewide. On the other hand, 30% of Kern's full-time working women were employed in computer occupations compared to 23% statewide. While the representation of Kern women in STEM occupations is unexpected, the sample size of full-time working women in these occupations is small, making statistical comparisons based on a single year unreliable.

23

⁴⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B24020: *Sex by Occupation for Full-Time, Year-Round Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over.* Data for Bakersfield are not available at this source. <u>data.census.gov</u>

In order to smooth fluctuations in annual data, we have averaged the figures related to women in STEM professions from 2013, 2015, and 2018 (as in Table 18). Based on these consolidated figures, Kern women working full time in STEM more closely resemble California's figures. Kern women comprise:

- 40% of physical and life scientists,
- 23% of those in employed in computer occupations,
- 16% of engineers, and
- 49% of mathematicians.

2015 Update: In 2018, Kern's full-time STEM workforce as defined above is 19% women—less than the state (24%). If we consider all STEM workers in the county, including those who worked part time or part year, 19% are women. This figure for all employed women in STEM is not significantly different from the 17% of all STEM workers published in the 2015 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Kern County. ⁵⁰ In 2018, as reported in 2015, women remain vastly under-represented in both computer and engineering occupations.

Earnings

The earnings of those holding a job in a STEM field is generally above the median earnings of the region.

TABLE 25. MEDIAN EARNINGS OF WOMEN IN STEM JOBS. 2018

STEM Field	Kern County Women	Bakersfield Women	CA Women
All civilian women employed:51	\$24,779	\$27,297	\$33,912
Computer workers (all areas) and mathematicians	\$48,135	\$47,889	\$84,639
Architects and engineers	\$68,570	NA	\$81,575
Life, physical, and social scientists	\$110,338	\$113,015	\$64,681
All civilian women employed full time, year round:52	\$36,323	\$40,678	\$49,177
Computer workers (all areas) and mathematicians	\$60,894	\$49,037	\$91,725
Architects and engineers	\$85,035	NA	\$91,305
Life, physical, and social scientists	\$112,833	NA	\$75,827

Note: Missing entries, designated by NA, are not reported due to small sample size; the small sample size also affects the reliability of the figures.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

_

⁵⁰2015 Report on the Status of Women in Kern County. (2015) The Women and Girls Foundation. Data in the report were based on U.S. Census Data 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. kernfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2015-Report-on-the-Status-of-Women-and-Girls-in-Kern-County.pdf

⁵¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B24012: *Median Earnings (in 2018 inflation-adjusted dollars) by Sex by Occupation for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over.* data.census.gov ⁵²U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B24022: *Median Earnings (in 2018 inflation-adjusted dollars) by Sex by Occupation for the Full-time, Year-round Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over.* data.census.gov

Because there are so few Kern and Bakersfield women in some of these STEM occupations, a large range in the value of median earnings is needed to encompass a statistically reliable number. For example, the median earnings of women in computer and mathematics jobs is reported as \$60,894, with a margin of error of \$40,000. The margin of error magnitude makes it difficult to report salaries with any certainty and to examine gender-based inequities in the individual STEM occupational groups at the county and city levels.

We can say that whether working full or part time, women in STEM jobs are significantly better paid than women across the entire workforce. Despite the fact that STEM jobs pay relatively well, there is a gender-based earnings gap evident when STEM jobs across the state are considered. Collectively, California women working full time in computer, engineering, and science occupations earn 86 cents to each dollar paid to men.⁵³

Challenges Faced by Kern Women in STEM Jobs

In 2017, the Kern Economic Development Foundation (KEDF) took a closer look at county women as a way to expand the STEM workforce—a workforce recognized as being critical to the county's economic future. In order to determine the barriers Kern women face in STEM occupations, KEDF surveyed over 120 Kern women in STEM jobs and convened a focus group to explore workplace challenges.⁵⁴ Two-thirds of women who participated indicated they had faced gender issues in the workplace. Some of the most frequently mentioned issues included a gender-based wage gap, not having a voice that's heard or respected, and maintaining a good balance of work and life.

Women who participated in this study suggested strategies to support women in STEM, both in their careers and preparation for that work. Some strategies included:55

- Training in leadership, communication and presentation skills;
- Support through mentoring, networking and role models; and
- Personal attitudes that include the ability to work in teams and openness to opportunities and new career paths.

These strategies, building on a solid STEM knowledge foundation, increase the probability of professional success and personal satisfaction in both STEM education and careers.

A Broader Definition of STEM Jobs

Based on a broader definition of what STEM encompasses, a 2013 study by the Brookings Institute suggests that roughly 18% of jobs in Kern County are STEM jobs. ⁵⁶ Among Kern's leading industries, there are many jobs that require some of the skills, reasoning, and knowledge of science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics. In agriculture, STEM occupations may include food, soil and water scientists, biological and irrigation engineers; in healthcare, broader STEM occupations include physicians, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, and healthcare aides;

⁵³ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table B24022: *Median Earnings (in 2018 inflation-adjusted dollars) by Sex by Occupation for the Full-time, Year-round Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over.* data.census.gov

⁵⁴ Kern County Women in STEM (2017). Kern Economic Development Foundation. <u>kedf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Kern-County-Women-in-STEM-Report.pdf</u>

⁵⁵ Kern County Women in STEM (2017). Kern Economic Development Foundation. <u>kedf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Kern-Couny-Women-in-STEM-Report.pdf</u>

⁵⁶ Rothwell, J. (2013). The Hidden STEM Economy: Bakersfield-Delano, California Metropolitan Area Profile. Brookings Institute Research. <u>Brookings.edu/research/the-hidden-stem-economy</u>

energy production includes engineers, geologists, technicians and database managers; logistics includes STEM jobs such as analysts, schedulers, and maintenance technicians.⁵⁷

STEM Jobs and Education

While almost all "traditional" STEM jobs require a bachelor's degree, 56% of the more broadly defined STEM jobs require an associate's degree or less. Specifically for Kern, jobs that can be broadly classified as STEM are found in many occupational clusters. In some occupational groups, nearly all jobs will require a bachelor's degree or higher, while in other occupational groups no jobs require a bachelor's degree.⁵⁸

TABLE 26. KERN WOMEN IN STEM OR STEM-RELATED OCCUPATIONS AND THE PERCENTAGE REQUIRING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

OCCUPATIONS	% of Kern women in workforce ⁵⁹	% of jobs requiring a bachelor's degree	% of jobs requiring an associate's degree or less
Healthcare (health diagnosing and treatment)	72%	38%	62%
Engineers	7%	100%	0%
Construction trade workers (does not include extraction workers)	2%	0%	100%
Computer occupations	32%	89%	11%
Vehicle and mobile equipment maintenance (includes other maintenance and repair workers)	4%	0%	100%
Drafters, engineers, technical and mapping technicians	21%	13%	87%
Financial specialists	65%	95%	5%
Business operation specialists (includes human resources)	47%	66%	34%
Health technology and technicians	69%	4%	96%

Note: Parenthetical phrases clarify which occupations were selected from the census figures to include in calculating the percentage of Kern women in the workforce. Occupational groups are listed in order of Kern jobs available cited in the 2013 Brookings Report.

Sources: Brookings Institute Research; U.S. Census Bureau 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

In these broad STEM occupations less than one in three workers in construction, maintenance, drafting technicians and engineering, and computers is a woman. These suggest obvious areas for increasing the workforce by engaging women.

⁵⁷ Kern County Women in STEM (2017). Kern Economic Development Foundation. <u>kedf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Kern-County-Women-in-STEM-Report.pdf</u>

⁵⁸ Rothwell, J. (2013). The Hidden STEM Economy: Bakersfield-Delano, California Metropolitan Area Profile. Brookings Institute Research. Brookings.edu/research/the-hidden-stem-economy

⁵⁹U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. *Table B24010: Sex by Occupation for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over.* data.census.gov

Workforce Development

For jobs that require an associate's degree or less, Kern County has a rich resource in its community colleges. The Kern Community College District (KCCD) consists of Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso College, along with Porterville College located in neighboring Tulare County. Taft College in western Kern County is a single college district. In 2018-2019, these four colleges enrolled over 30,000 students, over half of whom were women. Roughly one in three Kern County high school graduates enrolls in a Kern County college within 12 months of graduation. In the KCCD alone, about 44% are first generation college students and roughly 3% are enrolled in vocational degree and/or certificate programs that focus on preparation for employment in a technical area. Vocational and certificate programs include career support in energy production, environmental compliance, engineering, industrial technology and safety—programs that provide a trained workforce for industries in the county.

It should be noted that while a STEM job may not require a four-year college degree, earnings are still determined in part by educational attainment. For STEM jobs that require a bachelor's degree, it was reported that median earnings are nearly \$92,000, while the median earnings for jobs that require an associate's degree or less are \$58,000.61

⁶⁰ Kern Community College District (KCCD) 2018-2019 Fast Facts, Institutional Research Reports. <u>Kccd.edu</u>; Taft College website Taftcollege.edu.

⁶¹ Rothwell, J. (2013). The Hidden STEM Economy: Bakersfield-Delano, California Metropolitan Area Profile. Brookings Institute Research. <u>Brookings.edu/research/the-hidden-stem-economy</u>

Family and Home

Marital Status

Nearly half (45%) of Kern women 15 years and over are currently married, and 1 in 3 (33%) have never been married. Half (49%) of women 65 years and over are either widowed or divorced. These numbers have remained relatively constant since 2010.

TABLE 27. MARITAL STATUS OF KERN WOMEN (15 YEARS AND OVER)

	Number of women	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Never married
15-19 yr	31,585	1%	0	0	0.2%	98%
20-34 yr	94,992	38%	0.5%	3%	2%	57%
35-44 yr	53,759	61%	1%	12%	6%	19%
45-54 yr	49,255	62%	2%	18%	5%	13%
55-64 yr	47,608	57%	11%	19%	5%	8%
65 yr and over	52,572	43%	35%	14%	3%	5%
All women	329,771	45%	8%	11%	4%	33%

Note: Percentages across a line may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Birth Statistics

In 2018, there were just under 13,000 women who gave birth in Kern County. While 4% of births were by teen mothers aged 15-19 years, over 80% of mothers were between 20 and 34 years of age. Since the majority of Kern women are Latina, it is no surprise that the majority of babies (69%) were born to Latinas. One in four babies was born to white women, 2% to Asian, and 4% to African American women.⁶³

TABLE 28. BIRTH STATISTICS OF KERN WOMEN (AGES 15-50 YEARS), 2018

		KERN	CAL	IFORNIA
	Birth rate/ 1000 women	% single mothers	Birth rate/ 1000 women	% single mothers
African American	40	76%	44	59%
Asian	17	0%	45	13%
Latina	72	45%	50	43%
White	51	36%	44	20%
All women	61	43%	47	32%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

⁶² U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1201: Marital Status. data.census.gov

⁶³ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1301: Fertility. data.census.gov

The rate which women give birth varies among races and ethnicities. In Kern County, the lowest birth rate is for Asian women, with 17 out of 1,000 Asian women giving birth in the past 12 months. Latinas are about four times more likely to give birth than Asian women, with 72 out of 1,000 Latinas giving birth over the same time period.

Single Mothers

The proportion of women giving birth who are single is much higher in Kern County (43%) than across the state (32%). Aside from Asian women, all other races and ethnicities exceed the California average. While there are relatively few African-American women in Kern County, the percentage of single mothers is remarkably high with three out of four African-American women who give birth being single.

Teen Mothers

While only 4% of births in 2018 were to Kern mothers 15-19 years of age, nearly two out of every three teen mothers were single. For all other age groups, the majority of women were married.⁶⁴ The 2018 rate at which teens give birth has decreased by more than 40 percentage points relative to 2010.

TABLE 29. TRENDS IN KERN'S TEEN BIRTH RATE, 2010 - 2018

	2010	2013	2015	2018
Kern County				
Number of teens giving birth	1,996	1,560	602	523
Teen birth rate	59	49	19	17
California				
Number of teens giving birth	31,049	20,735	17,512	11,644
Teen birth rate	23	16	14	9

Note: The teen birth rate is calculated as the number of births per 1,000 girls, 15-19 years of age. Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

2015 Update: In the 2015 Report, the downward trend in Kern's teen birth rate between 2010 and 2012 was noted, a trend which has continued through 2018. Despite the remarkable recent decrease in teen birth rate, in 2018 there were still over 500 teen girls in Kern County who gave birth.

In Bakersfield, 126 teens gave birth in 2018. This figure computes to a much lower rate of birth than countywide: 9/1,000 girls in Bakersfield who were 15-19 years of age gave birth compared to 17/1,000 teen girls across the county.

29

⁶⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1301: Fertility. data.census.gov

Educational Attainment and Birth Rate

While a single woman may give birth by choice, the birth rate of single mothers with a bachelor's degree or higher is significantly less than for those mothers with a high school education or less.⁶⁵

TABLE 30. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND RATE AT WHICH KERN WOMEN GIVE BIRTH

	KERN		BAKERSFIELD	
Educational attainment	Birth rate per 1,000 women	% single mothers	Birth rate per 1,000 women	% single mothers
Less than high school diploma	45	47%	69	37%
High school diploma	69	52%	83	40%
Some college or associate's degree	67	48%	67	44%
Bachelor's degree	77	5%	51	0
Graduate or professional degree	28	0	42	0

Note: These data are a snapshot in time for 2018 and for women 15-50 years of age.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

In Bakersfield, the birth rate for those with a high school education or less is 69/1,000 women compared to 45/1,000 women across the county. However, the percentage of those mothers who are single is 37% compared to 43% of mothers countywide.

Teen mothers drop out of high school at a higher rate than those who do not give birth and are less likely to receive a high school diploma. Across the U.S., 50% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by 22 years of age, compared to 90% of girls who do not give birth in their teens.⁶⁶

Housing

There are approximately 300,500 housing units in Kern County; 273,167 units are occupied with an average of three inhabitants per residence. Over half (57%) of the occupied housing units are occupied by owners, while 43% are occupied by renters. Over 4,000 units across the county lack either complete plumbing, kitchen facilities, or both.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1301: Fertility. data.census.gov

⁶⁶ Reproductive Health: Teen Pregnancy, and the Importance of Prevention (online). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm

⁶⁷U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table DP04: *Housing Characteristics*. data.census.gov

TABLE 31. CHARACTERISTICS OF KERN HOUSING UNITS

	OWNER OCCUPIED	RENTAL UNITS
Number of Kern units	156,852	116,315
Median monthly costs of owner-occupied houses with a mortgage/median monthly rent	\$1,536	\$974
Percentage of households where costs exceed 35% of income	26%	47%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

A slightly greater proportion of housing units in Bakersfield are owner occupied (59%) and just over 2,800 lack complete plumbing, kitchen facilities, or both.

Housing Instability

Estimated median monthly housing costs across the county are greater for owners with a mortgage (\$1,536) than for renters (\$974). In Bakersfield, housing costs are greater than countywide with owners of mortgaged houses having expenses of about \$1,684. Bakersfield's median rent is \$1,078. In Bakersfield, 26% of owner-occupied units with a mortgage and 49% of renter-occupied units have monthly costs that exceed 35% of household income.

When household costs exceed 35% or more of income, a family may have no disposable income available to cover emergencies. By this measure, over 70% of households in the county and in Bakersfield may be financially vulnerable in the face of unexpected expenses or loss of income.

Single Women and Their Families

Two-thirds of Kern family households are occupied by married couples as head of household, but over 1 in 5 households (22%) are headed by single females. Just under 1 in 10 households (11%) are headed by single males.

Single women and their families are hit particularly hard in nearly all measures of economic wellbeing: family income is lower, and the likelihood of living in poverty is dramatically greater than for married-couple families or even families headed by a single male.⁶⁸

TABLE 32. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF TYPES OF FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

	KERN			BAKERSFIELD		
	All families	Married couples	Single woman	All families	Married couples	Single woman
Percent with income below poverty threshold (FPL)	17%	9%	39%	16%	7%	36%
Income deficit (dollars required to raise income to FPL)	\$10,375	\$9,926	\$10,617	\$10,072	\$9,470	\$10,389

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

⁶⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1702: *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families*. data.census.gov

For Kern family households living in poverty, the median annual income needed to raise the family out of poverty is on the order of \$10,000 to \$11,000.

There are over 44,000 households across the county headed by single women and 25,000 of them are headed by single mothers who care for their own children under the age of 18 years.⁶⁹

TABLE 33. SINGLE MOTHER HOUSEHOLDS AND PERCENT LIVING BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

	KE	RN	BAKERS	SFIELD	CALIFO	RNIA
Number of own children under 18 years	Number of households	% in poverty	Number of households	% in poverty	Number of households	% in poverty
0	19,554	20%	8,871	16%	905,752	11%
1-2	16,880	46%	9,424	42%	625,141	29%
3-4	6,397	71%	3,039	71%	137,352	61%
5 or more	1,526	80%	685	55%	16,389	80%
All single woman family households	44,357	39%	22,019	36%	1,685,084	22%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

In general, the greater the number of children, the greater the poverty rate of single mothers and their families. Across the county, 46% of the families of single mothers with one or two children live in poverty, but 71% of single-mother families with three or four children live in poverty.

While an education is no guarantee of life above the poverty line, the poverty rate of single women and their families is greatest among those who have less than a high school diploma. The poverty rate decreases with increasing educational attainment of the woman, dropping from roughly 7 or 8 in 10 for single women without a high school education to fewer than 1 in 10 for those with a four-year college degree or higher.⁷⁰

TABLE 34. THE POVERTY RATE OF KERN'S SINGLE WOMEN
AND THEIR HOUSEHOLDS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE WOMAN

	KERN COUNTY	BAKERSFIELD	CALIFORNIA
No HS diploma	70%	80%	38%
HS diploma	40%	37%	26%
Some college/associates degree	28%	25%	19%
Bachelor's degree or higher	11%	7%	9%

Note: These poverty rates are for all households headed by a single woman, regardless of the number of children present and whether those children are their own or related in some other way.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

⁶⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1702: *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families* data.census.gov

⁷⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1702: *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families* data.census.gov

Health and Safety

Health and safety are interconnected issues, with a safer environment generally being a healthier environment. Kern County adults report poorer overall health than do adults statewide, and this section explores some indicators of health status. Coincidentally, the county has a higher violent crime rate than the state average. In 2018, there were 545 violent crime incidents reported per 100,000 people in the county, compared to 421 incidents per 100,000 Californians.⁷¹

Selected Indicators of Health Status

Kern adults report poorer health than do adults statewide in several ways. Nearly 1 in 4 (23%) of Kern adults report their overall health as poor to fair, compared to 17% of adults across the state. Moreover, they report having experienced a greater number of both physical and mental unhealthy days in the past 30 days than do California adults in general. Additional measures of healthy behaviors and characteristics are consistent with the generally lower health status of the county:⁷²

TABLE 35, INDICATORS OF HEALTH STATUS OF ADULTS, 2017

	KERN COUNTY	CALIFORNIA
% population who smoke	15%	11%
% population who are obese	32%	24%
% population who are physically inactive	22%	18%
Number of cases of STD per 100,000 population Chlamydia Gonorrhea in females (15-44 years of age) ⁷³	769 419	553 252

Note: These data are not disaggregated by gender.

Source: County Health Rankings: 2020; California Department of Public Health County Health Status Profiles 2019 for gonorrhea data

It should be noted that only 76% of Kern women and men report adequate access to exercise facilities compared to 93% of women and men across the state.⁷⁴

Access to Healthcare

Number of Health Professionals

Kern has more residents per health professional than the state as a whole. Fewer health professionals may impede access to healthcare not only due to longer wait times for service but also due to difficulty of rural residents reaching distant medical centers.

73 Ca.

⁷¹ County Health Rankings: 2020. California: Kern County. A collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

countyhealthrankings.org/app/California/2020/compare/snapshot?counties=06_029

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ County Health Status Profiles, 2019. Table 22F 2015-2017 (three-year average crude case rate). California Department of Public Health. cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CountyProfiles 2019.pdf

⁷⁴ County Health Rankings: 2020. A collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

countyhealthrankings.org/app/California/2020/compare/snapshot?counties=06 029

TABLE 36. NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER HEALTH PROFESSIONAL⁷⁵

	KERN COUNTY	CALIFORNIA
Primary Care Physicians	2020	1260
Dentists	2080	1180
Mental Health Professional	530	280

Source: County Health Rankings 2020

Despite the high ratio of county population to health professionals, a majority of Kern women (74%) report having had a routine medical check-up in the last 12 months. Among those who reported delaying healthcare, almost 40% reported the delay as a result of cost or insurance issues. Nearly one in three women said they were unable to pay for basic necessities because of medical debt.⁷⁶

Insurance Coverage

In general, a greater proportion of women than men are covered by health insurance. Across the county, 93% of women and 90% of men were insured in 2018. The percentage of those carrying insurance has increased and the percentage of those uninsured has decreased dramatically since 2010.⁷⁷

2015 Update: Since 2010, the percentage of Kern's uninsured women has decreased from 20% to 7% in 2018. Since 2013, the percentage of uninsured women in Kern has decreased by 10 percentage points.

Kern's uninsured population in 2018, roughly 72,000 women and men, consists of:78

- 41% female and 59% male:
- 16% have a minor child of 18 years or younger;
- 58% native born and 43% foreign born;
- 6% disabled and 94% no disability; and
- Of those 16 years and over: 61% employed, 11% unemployed, and 29% not in the labor force.

One in four of Kern's uninsured population lives in poverty on incomes below the federal poverty level —with 16% living in extreme poverty. Additionally, the uninsured population 25 years and over tends to have a lower educational attainment, with nearly three-quarters (72%) having a high school education or less.

⁷⁵ County Health Rankings: 2020. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For California data: countyhealthrankings.org/app/California/2020/compare/snapshot?counties=06 029

⁷⁶ California Health Interview Survey. Despite pooling data over 2017-2018, the small sample size makes these percentages only approximations. ask.chis.ucla.edu

⁷⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S2701: *Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States*. data.census.gov

⁷⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S2702: *Selected Characters of the Uninsured Population.* Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding. <u>data.census.gov</u>

TABLE 37. PERCENTAGE OF KERN'S GENERAL AND UNINSURED POPULATION BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

	Total Population	No high school diploma	High school diploma	Some college or associate's degree	Bachelor's degree or higher
General population	524,313	26%	27%	31%	17%
Uninsured population	49,780	41%	31%	24%	5%

Note: These figures are not disaggregated by gender and are for the population 25 years and over.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Infant and Maternal Health

Infant Mortality

On average, babies born in Kern have a lower probability of surviving one year than babies statewide. In 2014-2016, six out of every 1,000 babies born in the county died within one year of birth, compared to four out of 1,000 born statewide. While a slight downward trend can be seen in California, the infant mortality rate in Kern County has hovered around six out of every 1,000 babies born from 2010 to 2016.⁷⁹

TABLE 38. TREND IN INFANT MORTALITY. 2010-2016

	2010-2012	2012-2014	2014-2016
Kern County	5.9	6.2	5.6
California	4.7	4.5	4.3

Note: These numbers are three-year averages and represent the number of infants per 1,000 live births who died within one year of birth.

Source: Kids Data

Over half of Kern's infant deaths within one year of birth are sudden unexplained infant deaths (SUIDs). The 2018 Report of Kern County's Child Death Review Team identified three maternal factors correlated to SUID risk: babies of women who are between 15-19 years of age, mothers who are unmarried, and those who are African American.⁸⁰

Teen Mothers and Infant Mortality

While the rate at which Kern's teens give birth has been decreasing dramatically (see discussion in Family and Home), the 2018 rate at which the county's teens gave birth was still nearly twice that of the state.⁸¹ Across the state, the mortality rate of infants to mothers under 20 years of age is higher than for any other age group: babies born to teen mothers are less likely to survive and thrive than those born to mothers of other age groups.⁸²

⁷⁹ Infant Mortality Rate. (2020) Kids Data, Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health. kidsdata.org/topic/294/infantmortality/table - fmt=2521&loc=2,362&tf=120,86,76&sortType=asc

⁸⁰ 2018 Child Death Review Team and Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Annual Report. (2019) (Pages 8, 21) Kern County Department of Public Health. <u>kernpublichealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CDRT-Annual-Report-Final pdf</u>

⁸¹ County Health Rankings: 2020. A collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

countyhealthrankings.org/app/California/2020/compare/snapshot?counties=06_029

⁸² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. Linked Birth/Infant Death Records 2007-2017. CDC WONDER On-line Database. <u>wonder.cdc.gov/lbd-current-expanded.html</u>

Among the top causes of infant mortality are preterm birth and low birthweight babies.⁸³ Mothers under the age of 15 and those above the age of 40 are most likely to give birth to babies of low birthweight.⁸⁴ In 2018, nearly 1 in 8 (12%) births in Kern were preterm, a higher proportion of births than the state average.⁸⁵

Maternal Health

Data on maternal deaths provided by multiple U.S. Maternal Mortality Review Committees from 2008-2017 indicate that nearly 1 in 4 (24%) of pregnancy-related deaths occur during pregnancy and another 16% occur during or within 24 hours of delivery⁸⁶. Over half of pregnancy-related deaths occur in the remaining time up to one year following termination of pregnancy. It is estimated that two-thirds of these deaths are preventable, with the main preventable causes of death including cardiovascular events, hemorrhage, infections, and mental health issues (e.g., suicide, drug overdose, and unintentional fatal injuries).

Prenatal Care

Women receiving prenatal care tend to give birth to healthier babies and have fewer complications during pregnancy and delivery. Across the state, 84% of pregnant women receive prenatal care during the first trimester. Roughly 77% of pregnant Kern women receive similar prenatal care, ranking the county 31st in the state for the provision of early-stage prenatal care of pregnant women.⁸⁷

Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

In 2015, 33% of Kern residents—22% of women and 44% of men—reported engaging in binge drinking in the past year. These numbers were consistent with responses statewide and even slightly better than state figures. Across the state, 35% of Californians (28% women and 42% men) reported engaging in binge drinking.⁸⁸

In terms of illicit drugs, evidence indicates that the problem in Kern is significantly worse than the problem statewide. The rate of all drug-related deaths among Kern women is nearly twice that of the state. In 2018, there were roughly 16 deaths per 100,000 Kern women compared to 8 deaths per 100,000 women statewide.⁸⁹ Considering both fatal and nonfatal overdoses, the most misused illicit drugs appear to be opioids with the greatest proportion of opioid use disorders stemming from prescription opioids. Of the 6.0/100,000 opioid overdose deaths of Kern women in 2018, 5.3/100,000 resulted from misuse of prescription opioids.

⁸³ About Teen Pregnancy (online, based on 2017 data). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. dcc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm

⁸⁴ The Health of Women and Children Report 2019 (Sept. 2019). United Health Foundation. americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/birthweight/state/CA?edition-year=2018

⁸⁵ Maternal Child Adolescent Health Community Profile 2017-2018: Kern County. The percentage of preterm births is a 3-year average from 20101-2013. California Department of Public Health. cdph.ca.gov/programs/CFH/DMCAH/LocalMCAH/CDPH Document Library/Community-Profile-Kern.pdf

⁸⁶ Davis, N., Smoots, A., Goodman, D. (September, 2019). Pregnancy-Related Deaths: Deaths from 14 U.S. Maternal Mortality Review Committees, 2008-2017. Maternal Mortality Review Data Brief. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/erase-mm/mmr-data-brief.html

⁸⁷ County Health Status Profiles 2019. California Department of Public Health. cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/CDPH
Document Library/CountyProfiles 2019.pdf

^{88 2015} California Health Interview Survey: Health Behaviors, ask.chis.ucla.edu

⁸⁹ California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard, 2018. This online database allows substance use disorders to be tracked in multiple ways, including by gender. California Department of Public Health. cdph.ca.gov/CDIC/ODash

The Impact of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) on Kern Women and the Health System⁹⁰

TABLE 39. IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER ON KERN WOMEN

	Drug induced deaths per 100,000 population	Drug-related emergency department visits per 100,000 population	Drug-related hospitalizations per 100,000 population	
ALL ILLICIT DRUGS				
Women	16.24	191.27	64.98	
Men	33.28	165.98	45.90	
OPIOIDS				
Women	5.95	29.29	12.13	
Men	14.36	49.38	9.13	
AMPHETAMINES				
Women	7.78	4.58	3.66	
Men	23.05	5.87	10.0	
COCAINE				
Women	0.46	0.92	0.69	
Men	2.61	1.52	1.52	

Note: 2018 Data are downloaded from a self-assembled report filtered for Kern County by gender. Source: California Department of Public Health, California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard

According to the California Department of Public Health, there are an estimated 15,273 people in the county diagnosed with Opioid User Disorders (OUDs), and over 12,000 were without access to treatment. The number of diagnosed OUDs represents 2.1% of Kern's population and is consistent with the 2.0% of the state's population identified as having an OUD.⁹¹

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence (DV) is frequently used interchangeably in the literature with intimate partner violence (IPV), violence perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner. While both women and men are victims of DV, this crime disproportionately impacts women. Across the nation, 18% of women compared to 8% of men suffer contact sexual violence, and 21% of women compared to 15% of men endure severe physical violence by a current or former intimate partner.⁹²

 ⁹⁰ California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard, 2018. This online database allows substance use disorders to be tracked in multiple ways, including by gender. California Department of Public Health. cdph.ca.gov/CDIC/ODash
 ⁹¹ California Opioid Use Disorder and Treatment Needs: Kern County, 2019 Fact Sheet. Urban Institute. urban.org/sites/default/files/2019/11/05/kern.pdf

⁹²Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M. and Chen, J. (2018, November) The National intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2015 data brief – updated release. datasources/nisvs/2015NISVSdatabrief.html

Despite the fact that Kern accounts for only 2% of the state's population, in 2018 the county logged 6% of calls to California's law enforcement agencies for assistance in a domestic or intimate partner violence situation.⁹³

Trends in Domestic Violence

Domestic violence appears to be on the rise based on the number of calls for assistance made to law enforcement agencies.

TABLE 40. CALLS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE, 2010-2018

	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018
Kern County	4,824	4,726	4,881	6,803	10,159
California	166,361	157,634	162,302	169,362	166,890

Source: Kids Data

2015 Update: The 2015 Report noted 4,666 calls for DV assistance to Kern law enforcement agencies in 2013. Since that time, calls for DV assistance throughout the county have trended upward significantly. The number of calls reported in 2018 represented more than a two fold increase from those reported in 2015 and a nearly 50% increase from 2017, while the number of calls throughout the state in 2018 decreased from 2017. These figures bear watching to determine whether a dramatically increasing trend in DV is occurring throughout the county and, if so, to examine appropriate interventions to lessen or prevent the impact of domestic violence on women.

Educational Attainment and Domestic Violence

One of the risk factors for domestic violence is a lack of education of either the victim or perpetrator, or a disparity in educational attainment between the partners.⁹⁴

- Women with less than a high school or college education are at higher risk of being a victim of DV than those with a college degree; or
- Perpetrators with lower levels of education than their partners are more likely to be DV offenders than those with educational attainment equal to their partners.

⁹³Calls for Domestic Violence Assistance. Child and Youth Safety, reported by Kids Data (2020). Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health. <u>kidsdata.org/topic/12/domestic-violence-calls/table - fmt=940&loc=2,362&tf=108&sortType=asc</u>

⁹⁴ Domestic Violence and Education: Criminal Justice Research Topics (2017). <u>criminal-justice.iresearchnet.com/crime/domestic-violence/education/</u>

About the Authors

Kern Community Foundation

Kern Community Foundation is a vibrant nonprofit enterprise with a powerfully simple mission of growing community and growing philanthropy. The foundation is known as a home for local philanthropists, as a results-oriented grantmaker and as a trusted community leader. Since its establishment in 1999, the foundation has grown to hold more than 175 charitable funds with assets of more than \$28 million, and has awarded more than \$24 million in grants to improve the quality of life for all who live in Kern County. kernfoundation.org

The Women's and Girls' Fund at Kern Community Foundation

A leadership initiative of Kern Community Foundation, the Women's and Girls' Fund allows individuals to make a significant impact on their community through collective giving. Through The Women's and Girls' Fund, one person's gift combines with many others to build an endowment. The assets of the fund are professionally managed and invested by Kern Community Foundation. A percentage of the fund's value is available to grant each year while the principal remains intact, enabling the fund to make grants in perpetuity, and to respond to the changing needs of women and girls in Kern County.

Mount Saint Mary's University

Mount Saint Mary's is the only women's university in Los Angeles and one of the most diverse in the nation. The University is known nationally for its research on gender equity, its innovative health and science programs, and its commitment to community service. As a leading liberal arts institution, Mount Saint Mary's provides year-round, flexible and online programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. Weekend, evening and graduate programs are offered to both women and men. Mount alums are engaged, active global citizens who use their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their communities and the world. msmu.edu

This report is also available at kernfoundation.org.

For more information about this report, please call the Foundation at 661.325.5346.

Acknowledgments

This report would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work and persistence of so many individuals and institutions. We would like to say a special thank-you to the following individuals and organizations.

The Women's and Girls' Fund would like to thank the following for serving on the report committee:

Catherine E. Bennett

WGF Vision Committee, Grants Allocation Co-Chair,

Report on the Status of Women and Girls Chair

Sharon S. Goldsmith, Ph.D.

WGF Vision Committee

Debra Jackson. Ph.D.

WGF Vision Committee

Kay Pitts

WGF Vision Committee Chair

Grants Allocation Co-Chair

Kate Q. Tandy, Ph.D.

WGF Vision Committee

Kern Community Foundation Board of Directors Vice-Chair

The report committee would also like to thank the following individuals for their support and assistance:

Kristen A. Beall Watson, Ed.D.

President and CEO, Kern Community Foundation

Louis Medina

Director of Community Impact, Kern Community Foundation

Laura Lollar Wolfe

Executive Director, Kern Literacy Council

Mount Saint Mary's would like to acknowledge those at the University who contributed to the planning, research, editing and creation of this report, including:

Ann McElaney-Johnson, Ph.D.

President

Eleanor Siebert, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita & Lead Researcher

Emerald Archer, Ph.D.

Director, Center for the Advancement of Women