



This community profile is intended to provide insight on the conditions – both strengths and challenges – of a particular neighborhood through a variety of data gathered between 2010-2012*. Bridges seeks to engage the collective resources of this community and take action to improve conditions for children and families.

The Lake Park neighborhood that Bridges targets has approximately 1,906 households and a population of 6,039 residents. In 2010, approximately 12% of the population was 0 to 8 years old (745 children).

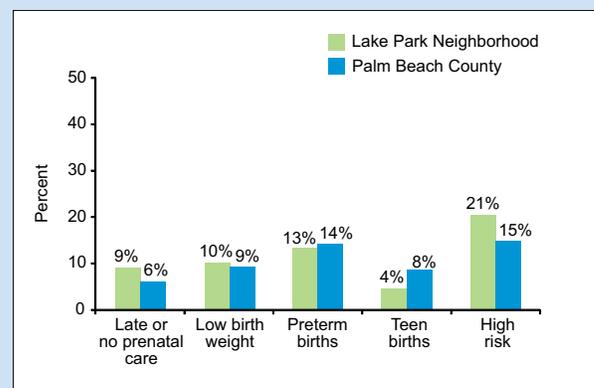
Census Tract = 11.01 Population: 6,039 Population 0–8 years: 745

The first goal of the Bridges initiative is to increase the number of children born healthy. Children born in the Lake Park neighborhood in 2010 fared worse than children in Palm Beach County on several birth indicators (Figure 1-1). In 2010, 10% of infants were low birth weight, and 13% were born preterm. Approximately 21% of births in the Lake Park neighborhood were considered high risk. Approximately 9% of women received late or no prenatal care, and 4% of births were to teen mothers.

The infant mortality rate in the Lake Park neighborhood was higher than in Palm Beach County. 6.2 infants died for every 1,000 live births in the neighborhood compared with 5.5 in Palm Beach County.

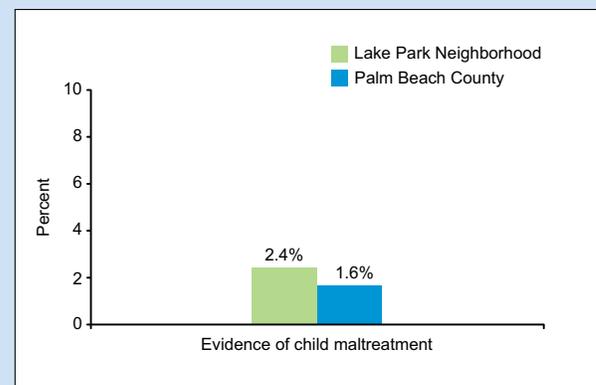
The second goal of the Bridges initiative is to make sure children are in safe and nurturing environments and remain free from abuse and neglect. Evidence of child maltreatment was higher in the Lake Park neighborhood than in the county (Figure 1-2). Data provided by the Department of Children and Families of Palm Beach County show that 2.4% of children in the neighborhood had evidence of maltreatment compared with 1.6% of children in Palm Beach County overall.

Figure 1-1. Prenatal Care and Births in the Lake Park Neighborhood (2010)



Source: Florida Department of Health

Figure 1-2. Evidence of Child Maltreatment in the Lake Park Neighborhood (2010)



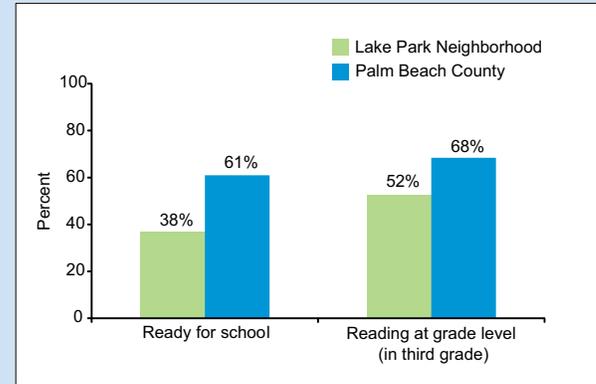
Source: Department of Children and Families in Palm Beach County. Note: Only 60% of children with evidence of maltreatment could be linked to a physical residence and geocoded to the neighborhood level.

*Information contained in the profile represents a point in time; perceptions and staff insight may not express the views of the entire community.

The third goal of the Bridges initiative is to increase the number of children who enter kindergarten ready to learn. In 2010, 38% of children in the Lake Park neighborhood were ready for school at kindergarten entry compared with 61% in Palm Beach County (Figure 1-3).

The fourth goal of the Bridges initiative is to increase the number of children who are proficient readers in third grade. In 2010, 52% of children in the Lake Park neighborhood were reading at grade level in third grade compared with 68% of children in Palm Beach County (Figure 1-3).

Figure 1-3. School Readiness and Third-Grade Reading in the Lake Park Neighborhood (2010)



Source: Palm Beach County School District.
 Note: Measured by the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

Lake Park Neighborhood: At A Glance

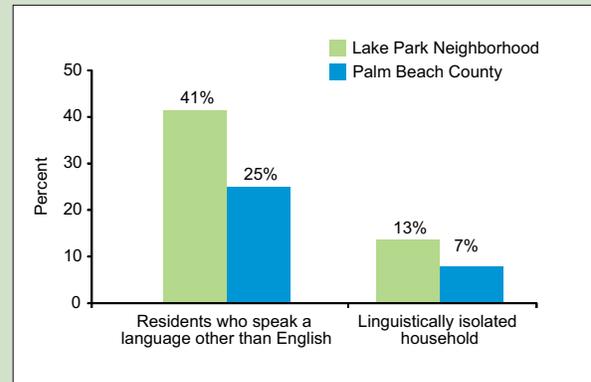
Race & Ethnicity. The racial composition in this neighborhood is 60% black and 32% white, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. The majority of residents in this neighborhood are non-Hispanic; just 7% identified their ethnicity as being Hispanic. The majority of individuals served by Bridges at Lake Park describe themselves as Haitian (61%) or African American (20%).

Language. (Figure 1-4). Among Lake Park neighborhood residents, 41% reported speaking a language other than English at home, and 13% of households are considered linguistically isolated. Linguistically isolated households are those where no one 14 years old or older can speak English fluently.

Education. (Figure 1-5). High school graduates accounted for 78% of the population in the Lake Park neighborhood compared with 87% in Palm Beach County, which indicates 22% of residents did not complete high school or obtain a GED. Among Lake Park neighborhood residents 25 years old or older, 22% completed an associates degree or higher compared with 40% in Palm Beach County.

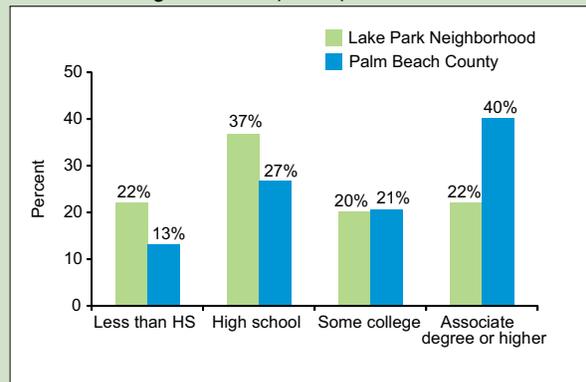
Housing & Household Composition. In this neighborhood, 56% of households are owner-occupied and the remaining 44% are renter-occupied. According to census data, 84% of residents report residing in the same household as one year ago (compared with 85% for Palm Beach County). Almost half of the children (49%) live in single-parent households compared with 37% in Palm Beach County.

Figure 1-4. Language of Residents and Households in the Lake Park Neighborhood (2010)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 1-5. Highest Education Attained by Residents in the Lake Park Neighborhood (2010)



Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.

Economic Indicators:

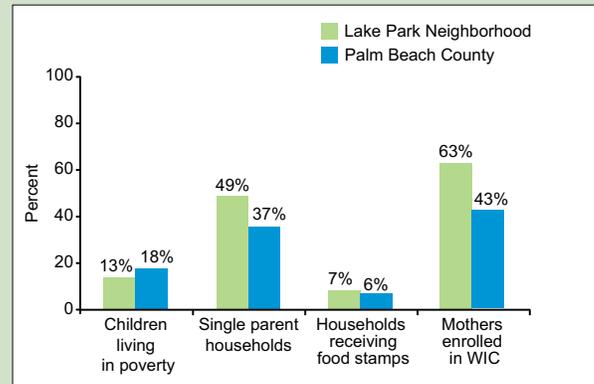
The median household income was \$47,931, compared with \$58,709 in Palm Beach County. The unemployment rate in the neighborhood was 11% compared with 9% in Palm Beach County.

Among children in the Lake Park neighborhood, 13% live below the federal poverty level in 2010 compared with 18% in Palm Beach County. (Figure 1-6).

Households receiving food stamps accounted for 7% of the neighborhood compared with 6% in Palm Beach County.

Births to mothers enrolled in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program was 63% in the Lake Park neighborhood and 43% in Palm Beach County. (Figure 1-6).

Figure 1-6. Child and Family Socioeconomics in the Lake Park Neighborhood (2010)



Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.

WIC provides vouchers for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Neighborhood Strengths, Existing Resources, and Partners

Staff at Bridges identified many resources and supports as the community's strengths, including their community ambassadors and volunteers, partners, and community organizations.

Bridges at Lake Park is located in office space within a shopping plaza at a high-traffic intersection of Northlake Boulevard and 10th Street. Immediately surrounding the site are other businesses such as a veterinary hospital, dry cleaners, gas stations, restaurants and retail stores. The majority of residential structures are single-family homes and smaller apartment complexes located to the south and east of the site location. To the west of Lake Park is the city of Riviera Beach, and Bridges at Lake Park is no more than a ten-minute drive to the Bridges in Riviera Beach. Lake Park also borders the Intracoastal Waterway that separates the mainland from the Atlantic Ocean.

Bridges staff describe specific strengths that include:

- **This is a close-knit community.** Census data show that there is a low mobility with approximately 84% of residents reporting to be in the same household as one year ago (compared with 85% for Palm Beach County).

- **Residents of this neighborhood generally feel safe when walking through the neighborhood** and there is a good relationship between community residents and local police. People in the neighborhood are not afraid to ask for help when they need it and they are strong advocates for their needs.
- **Residents regularly attend a local church or faith-based organization,** and there are 17 churches in the greater Lake Park area. Bridges at Lake Park currently works with St. Mark Episcopal Church and Renewed Deliverance Church. They've provided donated items for Bridges families (clothing, baby supplies, diapers, etc.). They also provide volunteers to assist with Bridges events and activities.



There are collaborative efforts and partnerships happening in the Lake Park neighborhood.

- **The town government and Lake Park elementary school** have been willing to collaborate with Bridges at Lake Park on behalf of community children and families. Bridges partners with Lake Park Elementary during kindergarten roundup to ensure parents are aware of the school's expectations so their child can be prepared when they start kindergarten. Bridges at Lake Park actively encourages parents to be involved at the School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting and other school functions.
- **Other nonprofits and Bridges frequently communicate and share resources.** As an example, Bridges and Community Voice have worked together to reach males in the community and, together, they offered a class emphasizing the importance of father involvement.
- **Local businesses have been supportive to Bridges in its endeavors** by offering discounts to families who are Bridges members. Local media such as radio, television news, and newspapers have been helpful in advertising and bringing awareness of Bridges to local families.
- **By developing partnerships with dedicated volunteers,** such as Catrina Bush of LaFay Productions, Meg Scholp of Mothers On a Mission (MOMs), and the Lake Park Kiwanis Club, Bridges has been able to offer parent-child activities and events to its families.
- **Additional partners of the Bridges at Lake Park include some of the following community agencies:** C.R.O.S. Ministries, DCF (Florida ACCESS partner), Healthy Mothers / Healthy Babies, Mercy Me Ministries, Operation Hope, Resource Depot, Safe Kids, Women's Health Initiative (WHIN), and businesses such as Sports Planet, a restaurant that allows Bridges to host events at their location.



The map (Figure 1-7) shows the census tract area that Bridges at Lake Park targets for services as well as the location of the Bridges site. It also includes a one-half mile area outside the census tract to show potential resources available to families living in the Lake Park neighborhood. The services indicated in the map and descriptions below were those identified in a scan of area resources using 211 online registry, accessible registries for licensed child care providers, health, schools, libraries, parks, and locally developed resource guides that were believed to be current at the time the resource list was developed in fall of 2012. This may not represent all area resources.

Services and resources exist in the Lake Park area, these include the following:

- Non-medical resources for expectant parents
- Licensed child care providers
- Counseling/mental health services
- Parks/playgrounds/recreational facilities.

There are seven social service and nonprofit organizations in the Lake Park area as shown in the map in light blue (e.g., Feeding the Flock Food Pantry, Federation of Families, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Joann’s Cottage).

There are three organizations that provide health care or medical services. Two of the three are drug and alcohol treatment programs, and the other one is the Molina Medical Clinic, which is a general practice that accepts Medicaid reimbursement.

Five parks and other recreational facilities are shown in the map in purple. Kelsey Park is a local gathering place located on the Intracoastal Waterway that Bridges at Lake Park uses occasionally for family activities and events.

Two educational resources are shown on the map in green, which includes the Lake Park Library and Lake Park Elementary school. In partnership with the library, Bridges at Lake Park is able to offer interactive story time, “Twilight Tales” to local children and their families. Lake Park Bridges is active at the Lake Park Elementary School Advisory Committee (SAC), where they outreach to and inform families of the services offered at Bridges.

Bridges at Lake Park partners with several local child care providers. Some of them include: Twiggs Early Learning Center, Bright Futures, Kidz Academy, Let Us Stand United Together (LUSUT), and First Learning. There are 30 licensed child care providers in the larger area. Of those, 17% participate in the Quality Counts system. Quality Counts is an early care and education improvement and support system that is designed to enhance the quality of child care so that children birth to five years of age are healthy and ready to learn when they enter school.

Figure 1-7. Greater Lake Park Neighborhood



Challenges to Improving Child Outcomes



Staff identified challenges to improving outcomes for children and families in the Lake Park neighborhood:

Many residents and families face language barriers that may impact access to services and make them reluctant to use services for which they may be eligible. Two-fifths of residents speak a language other than English at home (41%) compared to 25% in Palm Beach county. Additionally, 13% of households in the Lake Park neighborhood are considered linguistically isolated compared to 7% in the county.

There are resources and services not available within a close traveling distance, some of them including: family planning/pregnancy prevention, medical care for pregnant women, and pediatricians/family medical practices. This makes it difficult for families without reliable transportation to access these services.

The unemployment rate in the Lake Park neighborhood is higher than the county overall, and some families struggle to provide for their children's basic needs.

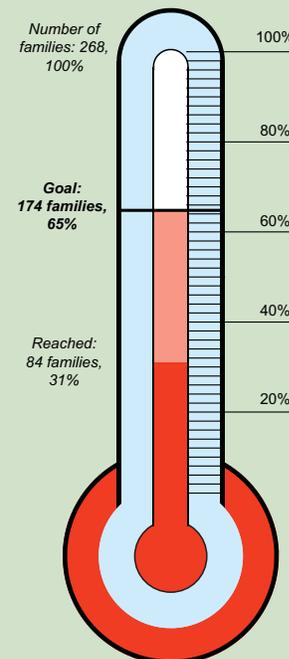
Participation Rates: Of the families who visited Lake Park Bridges,

- 41% participated in parent-child activities.
- 44% participated in Triple P individual sessions, groups, or seminars.
- 93% participated in navigation activities.
- 38% participated in adult education or capacity-building workshops and activities.

Service Reach (between June 2011 and December 2012):

- 268 parents of children 0–17 participated in services or activities at Bridges at Lake Park.
- 228 families participated, and of those families, 68% had children ages 0–5 (n = 155).
 - Of those families with children 0–5, 54% resided in a target neighborhood (n = 83).
- 268 families with children age 0–5 lived in the Lake Park neighborhood during the 2010 census.
- 84 families with children age 0–5 who live in the Lake Park neighborhood participated in activities at Bridges.
 - Therefore, we estimate Bridges has been successful in reaching approximately **31%** of the families with children 0-5 in the Lake Park neighborhood thus far.

Bridges works hard to meet the needs of families in order to enhance parents' ability to promote the health, early development, safety, and school success of their children. The Bridges model is inspired by the Harlem Children's Zone core principle of saturating a neighborhood with information and services to improve the environment for children and families living there. To achieve this saturation, Bridges hopes to reach at least 65% of families with young children 0–5 living in the neighborhood and cultivate an environment where children are healthy, safe, and ready to succeed in school.



Serving Lake Park since January 2011.

Bridges at Lake Park offers activities to reach the goals of the Bridges initiative, such as outreach, parent support and navigation. Examples of some of these activities include the following:

- Child development through parent-child activities to promote early literacy, social, and motor skills for kindergarten readiness: "Raise Me Up" Activities, "My Parents and Me," Bridges Play Room, Infant Massage
- Individual and group parent support and education: Triple P, MOMs (Mothers on a Mission), Father Talk
- Developmental screenings using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) for children ages 0-5
- Navigation services - connecting families with needed resources and helpful opportunities: FL ACCESS community partner (help with food, Medicaid, and cash assistance applications), Family Resource Library, car seat safety check/installations, and Business Center (allows members use of a computer, fax, copy, & notary service)

- Adult education and capacity-building workshops: Reading Enrichment Night, Resume Writing, Community Voice, Survival English workshop
- Community engagement: Strong Starts Community Dialogue Circles, Getting to Know Bridges, Holiday Sharing, "I Am Not Alone" Play, Community Baby Showers, Community Ambassador meetings.



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Bridges is a program of



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Monday-Friday: 8:30am-7pm
Evening events, activities, and appointments
available when scheduled between 5:30pm-7pm
Saturdays: 10:00am-2:00pm
Office hours may vary
based on scheduled community events.