



BRIDGES at LAKE WORTH WEST

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 Worth West neighborhood that Bridges targets has approximately 2,360 households and population of 10,396 residents. In 2010, approximately 18% of the population was 0 to 8 years old (1,898 children).

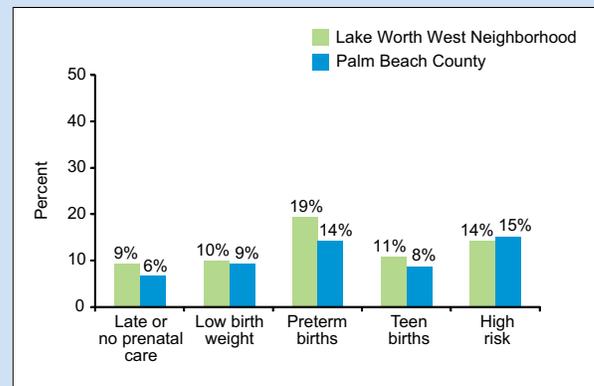
Census Tract=49.03 & 49.04 Population:10,396 Population 0-8 years:1,898

The first goal of the Bridges initiative is to increase the number of children born healthy. Children born in the Lake Worth West neighborhood in 2010 fared worse than children in Palm Beach County on most birth indicators. In 2010, 10% of infants were low birth weight, and 19% were born preterm. Fourteen percent of births in the Lake Worth West neighborhood were considered high risk. Approximately 9% of women received late or no prenatal care, and 11% births were to teen mothers.

The infant mortality rate in the Lake Worth West neighborhood was higher than in Palm Beach County. 6.0 infants died for every 1,000 births in the neighborhood compared with 5.5 in Palm Beach County.

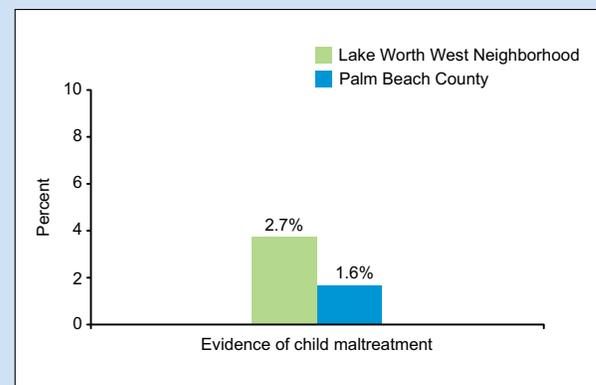
The second goal of the Bridges initiative is to make sure children are in safe and nurturing environments and remain free from abuse and neglect. Evidence of child maltreatment was higher in the Lake Worth West neighborhood than in the county (Figure 5-2). Data provided by the Department of Children and Families of Palm Beach County show that 2.7% of children in the Lake Worth West neighborhood had evidence of maltreatment compared with 1.6% of children in Palm Beach County overall.

Figure 5-1. Prenatal Care and Births in the Lake Worth West Neighborhood (2010)



Source: Florida Department of Health.

Figure 5-2. Evidence of Child Maltreatment in the Lake Worth West Neighborhood (2010)



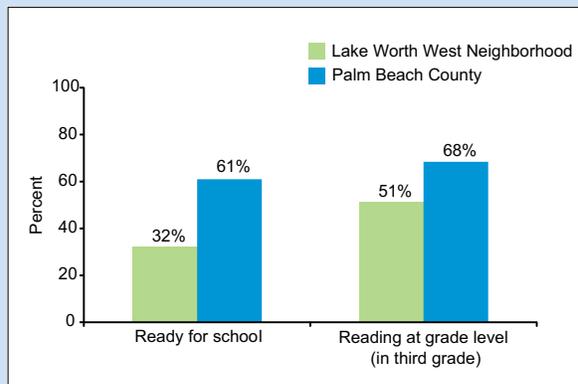
Source: Department of Children and Families in Palm Beach County. Note: Only 60% of children with evidence of maltreatment could be linked to a physical residence and geocoded to the neighborhood level.

*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, 32% of children in the Lake Worth West neighborhood were ready for school at kindergarten compared with 61% in Palm Beach County (Figure 5-3).

The fourth goal of the Bridges initiative is to increase the number of children who are proficient readers in 3rd grade. In 2010, 51% of children in the Lake Worth West neighborhood were reading at grade level in third grade compared with 68% of children in Palm Beach County (Figure 5-3).

Figure 5-3. School Readiness and Third-Grade Reading Skills in the Lake Worth West 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 Worth West Neighborhood: At A Glance

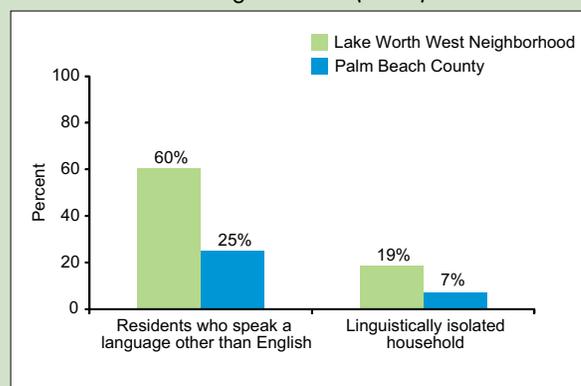
Race & Ethnicity. The racial composition in this neighborhood is 53% white and 24% black, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Just over half of residents in this neighborhood identified their ethnicity as being Hispanic (51%). Individuals served by Bridges at Lake Worth West describe their ethnicity or cultural background as Mexican (39%), or from other Central or South American countries (27%), including Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Colombia.

Language. Among Lake Worth West neighborhood residents, 60% reported speaking a language other than English at home, and 19% of households are considered linguistically isolated. Linguistically isolated households are those where no one 14 years old or older can speak English fluently.

Education. High school graduates accounted for 60% of the population in the Lake Worth West neighborhood compared with 87% in Palm Beach County, which indicates 40% of residents did not complete high school or obtain a GED. Among Lake Worth West residents 25 years old or older, 19% completed an associates degree or higher compared with 40% in Palm Beach County.

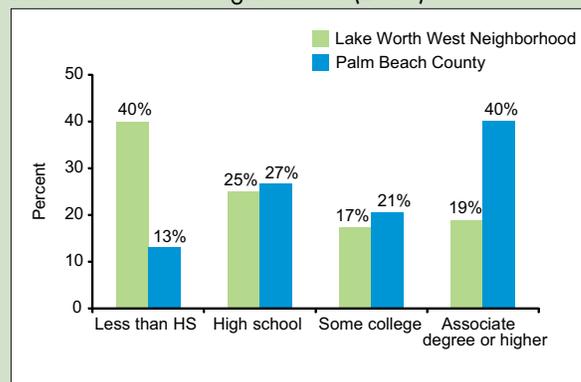
Housing & Household Composition. In this neighborhood, 29% of households are owner-occupied and the remaining 71% are renter-occupied. According to census data, 68% of residents report residing in the same household as one year ago (compared with 85% for Palm Beach County). More than half (53%) of the children live in single-parent households compared with 37% in Palm Beach County.

Figure 5-4. Language of Residents and Households in the Lake Worth West Neighborhood (2010)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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



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

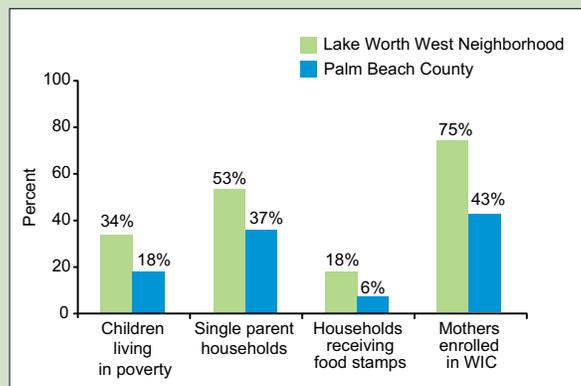
The median household income was \$44,083 compared with \$58,709 in Palm Beach County. The unemployment rate in the neighborhood was 14% compared with 9% in Palm Beach County.

Among children in the Lake Worth West neighborhood, more than one third (34%) lived below the federal poverty level in 2010 compared with 18% in Palm Beach County (Figure 5-6).

Households receiving food stamps accounted for 18% of the neighborhood compared with 6% in Palm Beach County.

Births to mothers enrolled in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program was 75% in the Lake Worth West neighborhood and 43% in Palm Beach County.

Figure 5-6. Child and Family Socioeconomics in the Lake Worth West 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 community strengths, including the resources available at the Lake Worth West Community Center. Lake Worth West Residential Planning Group, the organization that operates Bridges at Lake Worth West and the Lake Worth West Community Center, has a long-standing history in the neighborhood where members of the community trust staff and see it as a safe environment.

The Bridges at Lake Worth West office is located in small one-story house built in 1937 in the Lake Worth West neighborhood park. The site location itself is tucked in at the end of a relatively quiet street, immediately surrounded by mostly rental apartments and duplexes; though nearby there is a commercial plaza, bus stop and several businesses.

Bridges staff describe specific strengths that include:

- **This is a close-knit community, and residents are willing to work together** to improve neighborhood conditions and to ask for help when they need it. The Lake Worth West Community Center was established in 1995 as a result of residents coming together seeking to improve neighborhood conditions.
- **This community has family friendly events periodically that are open to the public.** Examples include: holiday events such as Thanksgiving in the Park, Papa Noel, and events with an emphasis on awareness such as the Annual Back to School Bash, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office "Night Out on Crime," and the Great American Cleanup.
- **Residents regularly attend a local faith-based organization,** and there are 8 churches in the larger surrounding area. Bridges is interested in further developing relationships with churches serving local families and children.



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

- **Businesses are willing to collaborate with and have been supportive of Bridges.** For example, Publix supermarket partners with Bridges to provide member incentives, Bread Basket Program, healthy family tours and snacks for students in afterschool care.
- **Nonprofits and social service providers frequently communicate and share resources.** For example, Bridges at Lake Worth West partners with Project Aspiration, also known as Estella's Brilliant Bus, which is a mobile learning center that provides tutoring in reading, math, FCAT readiness, homework help, and Internet workshops. Also, through partnership with Planned Parenthood, Bridges offers workshops to Lake Worth West residents about pre-pregnancy health, family planning services, prenatal care, and promoting healthy births.

The map (Figure 5-7) shows the census tract area that Bridges at Lake Worth West 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 Worth West neighborhood. The services indicated in the map and in the 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 Worth West area include the following:

- Family planning/pregnancy prevention
- Medical care for pregnant women
- Non-medical resources for expectant parents
- Pediatricians/family medical practices
- Counseling/mental health services
- Licensed child care providers
- Parks/playgrounds/recreational facilities.



There are five social service and nonprofit organizations as shown in the map in light blue (Home Safe, Salvation Army, Lake Worth West Community Center, C.R.O.S. Ministries, and Mid-County Senior Center).

Twelve organizations provide health care or medical services in this larger area including several medical centers (JFK Medical Center, Guadalupe Medical Center, and Health First Medical Center), mental and behavioral health services (Henderson Mental Health Center and Behavioral Health of the Palm Beaches), and drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs (Central Florida Treatment Center, Stephanie’s Family Sober House, and Genesis House Recovery Residence).

Nine parks and other recreational facilities are shown on the map in purple. In addition to several neighborhood parks, there is the John Prince Park, which has a splash park, picnic areas, fishing and boating, playgrounds, and many athletic fields and courts. Additionally the Duncan Theater at Palm Beach State College offers a Saturday family fun series including music, dance and theater.

Four educational facilities are shown in the green in the area surrounding the Lake Worth West neighborhood, including Palm Beach State College, Diamondview Elementary, and two public middle schools (Tradewinds and L.C. Swain). Bridges at Lake Worth West offers a homework assistance program to local elementary school students and works with teachers at Diamondview Elementary to best align their efforts to improve students’ academic performance. Palm Beach State College is also partnering with Bridges at Lake Worth West to provide internships for Early Childhood Education students through the kindergarten readiness programs Bridges offers families.

Bridges at Lake Worth West is beginning to partner with two nearby child care programs (Salem Child Learning Center and Teddy Bear Daycare) to promote school readiness. There are five licensed child care providers in the area surrounding Lake Worth West. Of those, one participates 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 5-7. Greater Lake Worth West Neighborhood



Challenges to Improving Child Outcomes

Staff identified several challenges to improving outcomes for children and families in the Lake Worth West neighborhood:

More than a third of children in this neighborhood lived below the federal poverty line in 2010.

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. Sixty percent of residents speak a language other than English at home in the Lake Worth West neighborhood compared to 25% in Palm Beach County. Additionally, 19% of households in the neighborhood are considered linguistically isolated compared to 7% in Palm Beach County.

The percent of residents 25 and older without a high school degree or equivalency is more than three times higher in the Lake Worth West neighborhood than in the rest of Palm Beach County (40% vs 13%).

Immigration issues and fear of deportation are challenges for this neighborhood. Deportations adversely affect the neighborhood and families living in it. In addition, residents in the community have lower levels of education and many only speak Spanish.

More recently, families move several times a year seeking employment opportunities or because of lack of employment. Census data showed that 68% of residents reported to be in the same households for the most recent year (compared with 85% for Palm Beach County), suggesting that more than one-third of residents moved in the last year.



Participation Rates: Of the families who visited Lake Worth West Bridges,

- 28% participated in parent-child activities.
- 36% participated in Triple P individual sessions, groups, or seminars.
- 80% participated in navigation activities.
- 24% participated in adult education or capacity-building workshops and activities.

Service Reach (between June 2011 and December 2012):

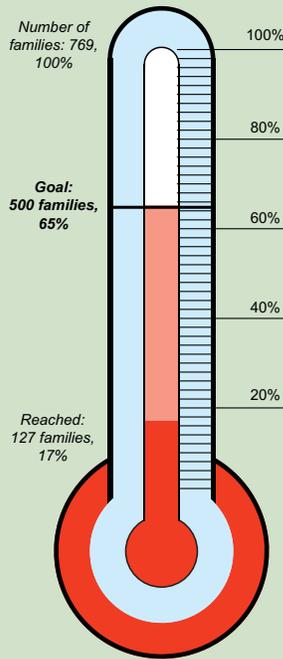
- 287 parents of children 0–17 participated in services or activities at Bridges at Lake Worth West.
- 285 families participated, and of those families, 72% had children ages 0–5 (n = 206).
—Of those families with children 0–5, 58% resided in a target neighborhood (n = 120).

- 769 families with children age 0–5 lived in the Lake Worth West neighborhood during the 2010 census.

- 127 families with children age 0–5 who live in the Lake Worth West neighborhood participated in activities at Bridges.

—Therefore, we estimate Bridges has been successful in reaching approximately **17%** of the families with children 0-5 in the Lake Worth West 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 Worth West since January 2011.

Bridges at Lake Worth West 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: "Get Ready for Kindergarten," Pre-K University, Preschool Art Class
- Individual and group parent support and education: Triple P, "Healthy Babies, Happy Mom"

- Developmental screenings using Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) for children age 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: Zumba, Health and Nutrition classes, Girls Golf class (K-12)
- Community engagement: "Family Togetherness" Community Block Party, Strong Starts Community Dialogues, Family Fun Nights, Health and Resource Fair.



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Bridges is a program of
Children's Services Council
PALM BEACH COUNTY
Healthy. Safe. Strong.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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561-649-9600

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.