

Executive Summary

Who is Tulsa?

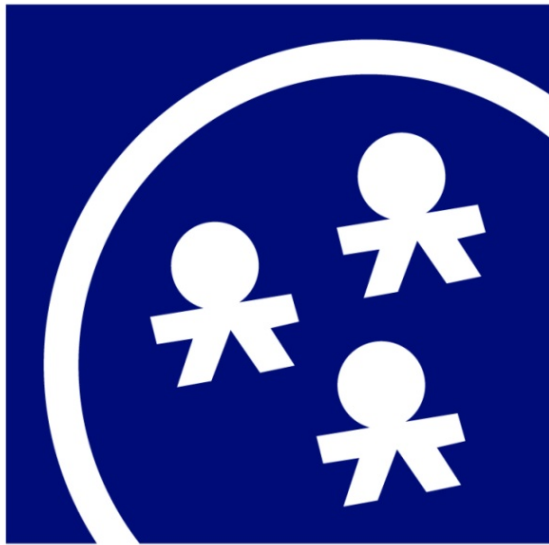
VOLUME 2: YOUNG CHILDREN

July 2016

Prepared by the Community Service Council
with support from the Metropolitan Human Services Commission

Find the complete educational report, *Who is Tulsa? Volume 2: Young Children*, on our website at www.csctulsa.org.





COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL

**Improving Oklahomans'
Lives Through Research,
Planning and Action**



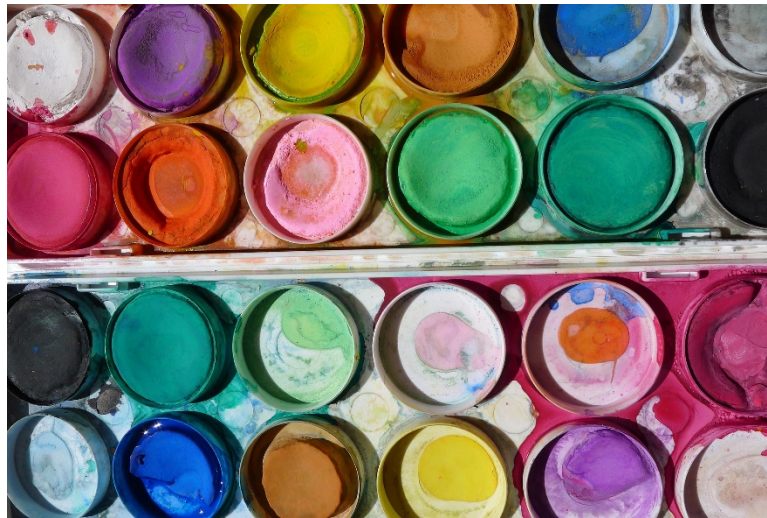
Metropolitan
Human
Services
Commission

A Tulsa partnership including:

- Union Public Schools
- Tulsa Technology Center
- Tulsa Public Schools
- Tulsa County
- Tulsa Community College
- Tulsa Health Department
- Tulsa Area United Way
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services
- City of Tulsa
- Ad hoc member
Tulsa Regional Chamber

MHSC Mission: To serve as a leadership catalyst for coordination of funding, planning and policy decisions affecting the human development sector in Tulsa County, and provide guidance for the use of MHSC partners' and other resources in addressing priority community concerns.





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Executive Director

Community Service Council

July 2016

Introduction

Who is Tulsa? Volume 2: Young Children is the second report in our *Who is Tulsa?* series. The purpose of this series is to inform and educate community leaders, elected officials and the public in general about the changing demographic and socioeconomic makeup of Tulsa and Tulsa County, and the imperative of understanding how these trends affect the future of our community. *Volume 2: Young Children* spotlights conditions and trends specifically related to children under age 5 in Tulsa and Tulsa County.

As the youngest members of our community, young children are often the first to feel the impact of change – from the seismic shifting of our age structure and our rapidly diversifying racial composition, to changing family dynamics and the mounting challenges of earning a living wage. This report sheds light on how these and other trends are taking shape locally, with a focus on implications for young children.

For this report we used the most current and most reliable data available from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau, and Oklahoma State Departments of Health, Education, and Human Services. For Tulsa County population estimates by age and race we used 2015 estimates produced by the Population Estimates program of the U.S. Census Bureau. Because such estimates are not produced at the city level, for Tulsa we used estimates from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS), which is also a program of the Census Bureau. For consistency, when the county and city are directly compared in this report, we used 2014 ACS data for both.

We hope this report gives you a clearer understanding about the young child population in Tulsa and Tulsa County, and that you find the information valuable in your efforts to help shape a positive future for all children of our community.



Who is Tulsa? Volume 2: Young Children

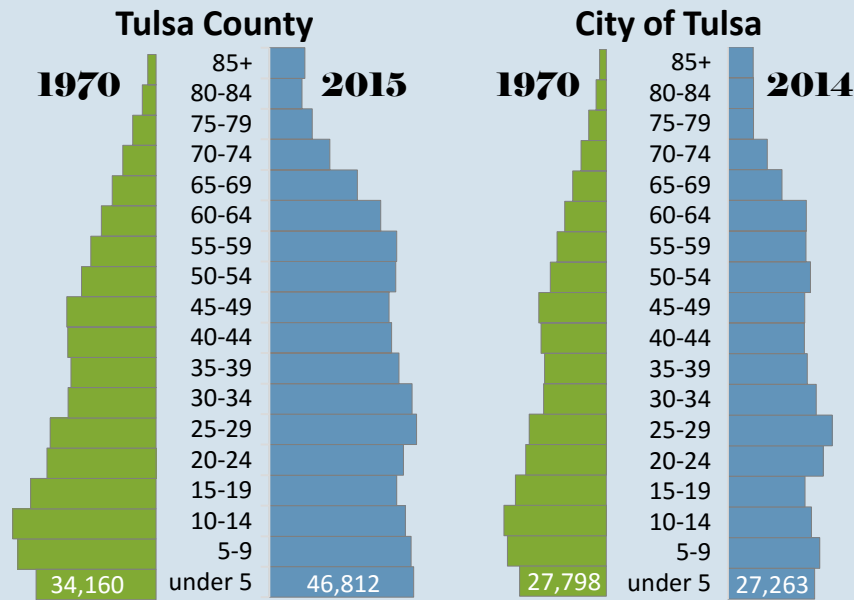
Key Findings

July 2016

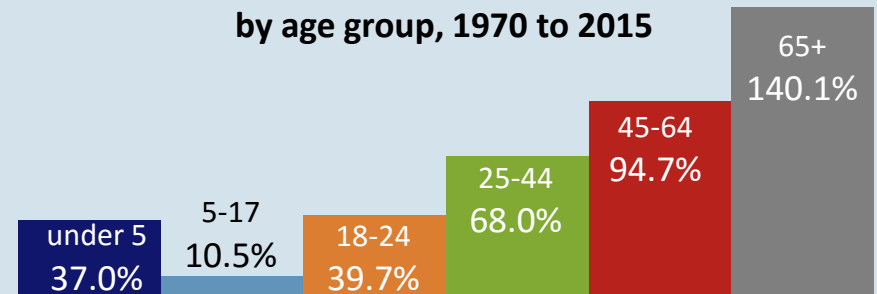
1

Number and proportion of young children declining in comparison to other age groups

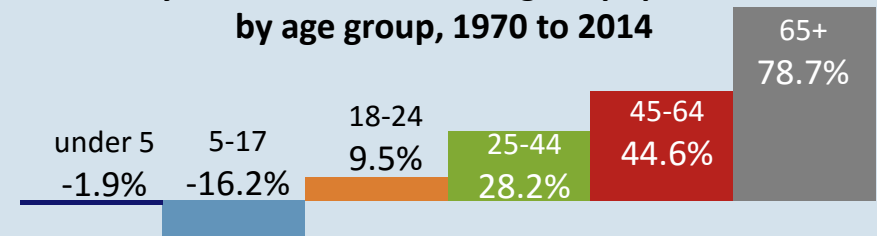
Since 1970, the number of children under age 5 grew modestly in Tulsa County from 34,160 to **46,812** (2015) and actually declined in the city of Tulsa from 27,798 to **27,263** (2014), while other age groups, especially 45 to 64 and 65 and older, grew substantially.



Tulsa County: Percent change in population by age group, 1970 to 2015



City of Tulsa: Percent change in population by age group, 1970 to 2014



Who is Tulsa? Volume 2: Young Children

Key Findings

July 2016

2

Geographic distribution continues to shift to certain areas of Tulsa and out of Tulsa



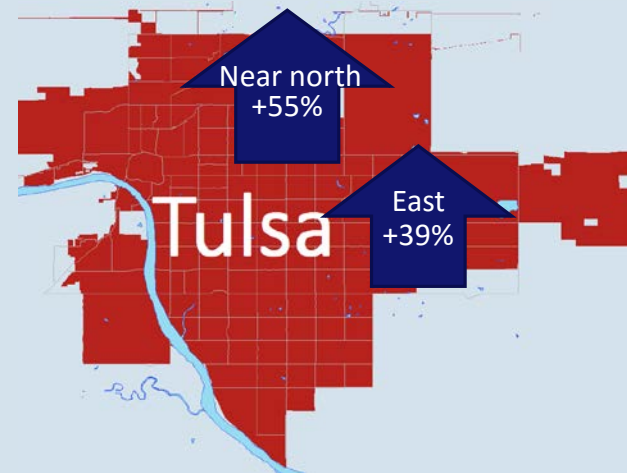
In **1970, 8 out of 10** Tulsa County children under age 5 lived in the city of Tulsa. Two out of 10 lived in areas of the county outside of Tulsa.



In **2014, 6 out of 10** Tulsa County children under age 5 lived in the city of Tulsa. Four out of 10 lived in areas of the county outside of Tulsa.

Growth in under 5 population from 1990 to 2010-14

In spite of overall slowed growth in Tulsa, new areas of population revitalization have emerged over recent years within the city, primarily due to the growing Hispanic population. Both the number of young children and their share of total population have soared in east Tulsa and in near north Tulsa.



Who is Tulsa? Volume 2: Young Children Key Findings

July 2016

3

Growing diversity key to population growth and stability

The growth of Hispanic and other minority populations is largely responsible for stabilizing the number of young children in Tulsa and Tulsa County. Substantial movement of Hispanic families into Tulsa beginning in the 1980s – especially into east Tulsa and near north Tulsa – is the primary reason for the huge rise in the Hispanic under 5 population in Tulsa.



Tulsa County: Numeric change in population under age 5 by race, 1990 to 2015

+7,627 = Gain of Hispanic children under 5

-7,229 = Loss of white children under 5

Tulsa: Percent change in population under age 5 by race, 1990 to 2014

+549% = Increase in Hispanic children under 5.

-50% = Decrease in White children under 5.

With birth rates exceeding those of other races, Hispanic births have greatly impacted this huge demographic shift in Tulsa County.

Change in births by race, 1991 to 2014



Number of births by race, 1991 and 2014

	Hispanic	Black	White
1991	289	1,417	6,552
2014	1,473	1,351	5,463



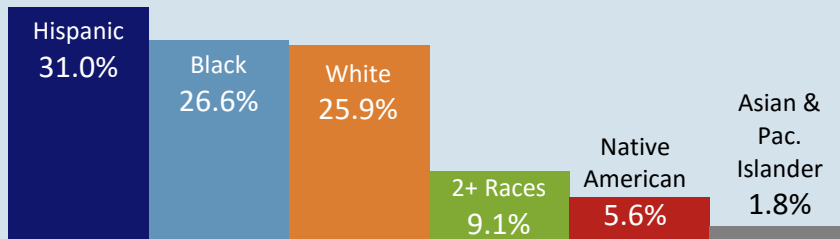
Who is Tulsa? Volume 2: Young Children Key Findings

July 2016

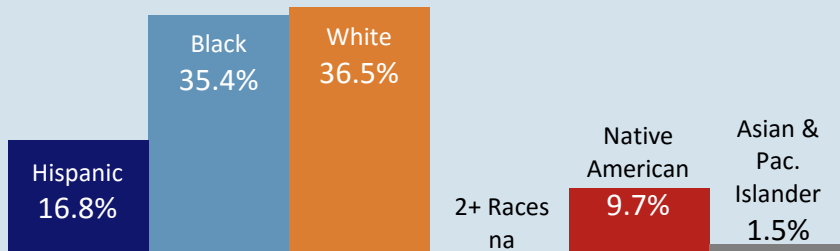
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Increasing diversity dramatically reflected in Tulsa Public Schools enrollment trends, as well as those of surrounding districts

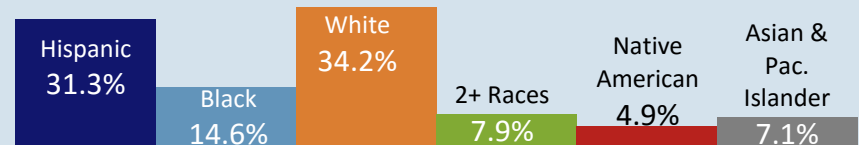
Tulsa Public Schools SY 2015-16 enrollment, by race
Total enrollment = 40,867



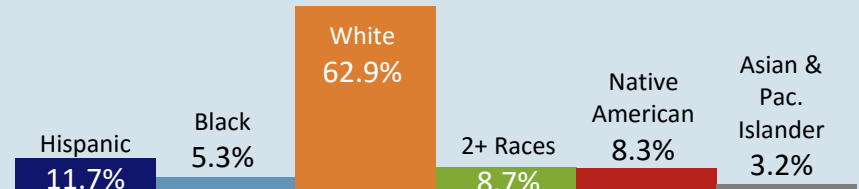
Tulsa Public Schools SY 2005-06 enrollment, by race
Total enrollment = 41,524



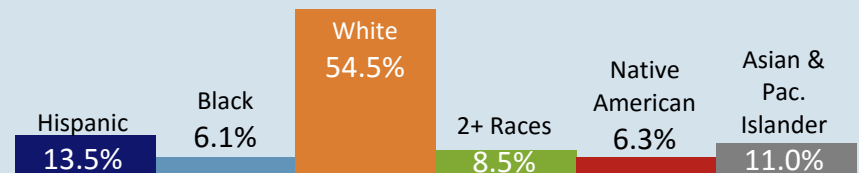
Union Public Schools SY 2015-16 enrollment, by race
Total enrollment = 16,006



Broken Arrow Public Schools SY 2015-16 enrollment, by race
Total enrollment = 18,868



Jenks Public Schools SY 2015-16 enrollment, by race
Total enrollment = 11,633



Who is Tulsa? Volume 2: Young Children Key Findings

July 2016

5

Participation in early childhood education opportunities stagnant

Although the majority of Tulsa County families enroll their four year olds in public Pre-K, still a large number of children enter kindergarten without benefiting from this opportunity.

6,514 = Tulsa County public Pre-K enrollment, school year **2015-16**

+17% = Increase in public Pre-K enrollment since school year **2005-06**

69% = Share of county's 2015-16 public school kindergartners who attended public Pre-K the prior year

Research indicates that a child who receives high quality early childhood education is more likely to have sustaining academic success, graduate from high school and earn a college degree than a child who did not experience high quality early childhood education. Early education is also linked to higher lifetime earnings, better health and lower likelihood of arrest.



Who is Tulsa? Volume 2: Young Children

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July 2016

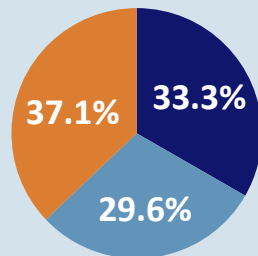
6

Adverse childhood experiences can contribute to high risk behaviors, poor health and early death

Research shows that higher numbers of adverse childhood experiences are associated with adoption of high risk behaviors, development of poor health conditions, and ultimately premature death. Adverse childhood experiences include economic hardship, a household member who is incarcerated, mentally ill, or substance abusing, parental separation or divorce, violence against mother, psychological, physical and sexual abuse, emotional and physical neglect, and death of a parent.

Number and percent of children under age 6 living below poverty, by level of poverty, City of Tulsa, 2014

10,643	= number below 100% of poverty
9,499	= number between 100% and 200% of poverty
10,643	= number above 200% of poverty



Oklahoma state rankings on ACE-related indicators: (#1 = worst)

#1 children with 2+ ACEs	#2 adults with mental illness
#3 children with incarcerated parent	#6 drug deaths



Closing thoughts

In Tulsa and across the nation, young children are not who they were a generation ago. They look different, sound different, communicate differently. They encounter a different collection of challenges, expectations and opportunities than did children of generations past. Today's children are much more diverse than ever before – one size does *not* fit all. For all of these reasons, we as parents, educators, leaders, and others who work with children must continually monitor and adapt our efforts to ensure that they are as effective and appropriate as possible.

Today's children are tomorrow's workforce, leaders and decision-makers. Their experiences during childhood help to shape who they will be as adults. The environments in which they live, learn and develop values impact their views of the world and their place in it.

Many of Tulsa's young children are exposed to optimal environments and opportunities, maximizing their potential to develop into productive, engaged citizens. Unfortunately, many others face daily struggles and challenges stemming from environments in which mere survival is the goal. These children can also develop into leaders and contributing members of the Tulsa community, but their paths are often much steeper and littered with obstacles.

These children and their families need supportive opportunities to counteract the effects of the challenges they face, to ensure that they have the tools to succeed and to end what is often a generational culture of inadequate education, poverty and low-income, teen births, poor health, incarceration, abuse and substance abuse.

The whole community benefits when a child grows into a healthy, educated, productive and engaged adult.



What can you do?

- ✓ Continue to expand your understanding about the implications of these trends as they relate to the well-being of your own family and the well-being of your community.
- ✓ Learn what you can do personally to improve the lives of young children – your own and other children in your community.
- ✓ Encourage your legislators and local elected officials to support policies and legislation that benefit all children.
- ✓ Find a need in your community that interests you, then get involved and give back.



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