Evaluating Social Determinants of Health in Affordable Housing

Shivani Kakade

Introduction

Jamboree Housing is a non-profit, affordable housing company based in California that delivers high-quality affordable housing and services that transform lives and strengthen communities. This project aims to create a data-based guide to visualize levels of **social determinants of health (SDOH)** at each property to tailor future decisions.

Figure 2: SDOH are the non-medical factors that influence health, including aspects of a person's social and physical environment.

The impact of housing on health is considered a major component in SDOH, as healthy homes promote positive physical and mental health outcomes.

SDOH Objectives

Figure 1: All 5 SDOH listed with 4 unique objectives for each one.

Materials and Methods

Information collected included 36 compliance binders for 2019 from each property's manager. These contained materials tracking utilization of support programs at each property within the 5 SDOH: Education, Economic Stability, Health and Healthcare, Neighborhood and Built Environment, and Social and Community Context. We created 4 objectives or criteria to support each SDOH, depicted in Figure 1. Using the objectives, we quantified the events and resources relating to a specific SDOH for each property. From there, we were able to calculate percentages for each SDOH at each property. For example, Laurel Crest had 35% in 2019 allocated to Education and about 20% towards Health and Healthcare (Figure 3).

Results

The final product was a digital handout unique to each property visualizing resident-specific data such as: demographic, average income level, city median income, gender, age group, and average time lived in property. These measures are depicted using bar graphs comparing levels of SDOH measured at each property. The checklist of 4 objectives under each of the 5 SDOH in Figure 1 is included in the property guides.

Conclusion

We evaluated all resources and events across 36 Jamboree Housing properties in 2019 to create a visual guide tracking levels of SDOH that currently exist at each property and any gaps that need to be addressed. This will serve as a guide for property managers, residents, and other community stakeholders to ensure that Jamboree continues to evolve and improve upon its quality housing services to low-income communities across California.
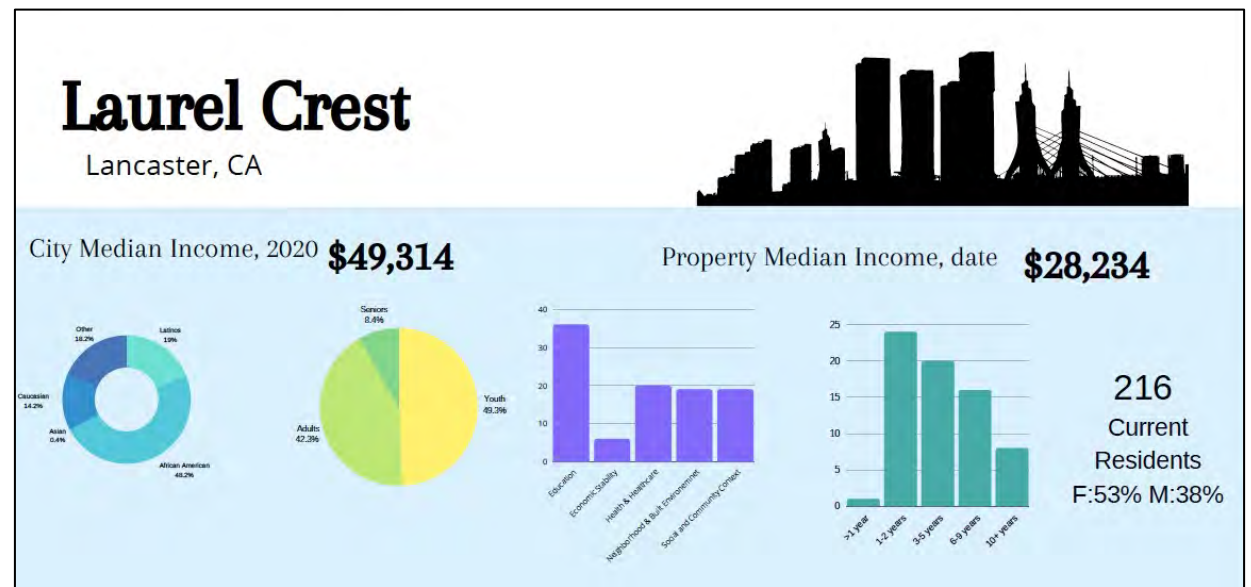
Sample Property Guide

Figure 3: Example of one property guide with resident-specific data and SDOH bar graph.

Future Directions

Jamboree has implemented the property guides and has plans to create a Community Impact model based on the data. This model will be expanded upon in the future to also focus on training surrounding SDOH in housing.