

People's Health

Outcomes • Planning • Evaluation



Language Fact Sheet

DID YOU KNOW?:

In California, 32.0% of the population 25 years old and over that speak a language other than English at home will not graduate high school, whereas only 7.0% of the population that speaks English will not graduate high school.

In Shasta County, 26.7% of the population that speaks a language other than English at home are below the poverty level, which is higher than the 16.1% of English speakers that are below the poverty level.

| Language | California | Shasta County |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Speak only English | 56.0% | 91.4% |
| Speak Spanish | 28.8% | 4.6% |
| Speak other Indo-European languages | 4.4% | 1.9% |
| Speak Asian and Pacific Island languages | 9.8% | 1.8% |
| Speak other languages | 1.0% | 0.3% |

| Primary Language | English Abilities by Primary Language Spoken in the Home | California | Shasta County |
|--------------------------|--|------------|---------------|
| Spanish | Speak English "very well" or "well" | 74.6% | 88.3% |
| Spanish | Speak English "not well" or "not at all" | 25.4% | 11.7% |
| Indo-European | Speak English "very well" or "well" | 87.0% | 91.7% |
| Indo-European | Speak English "not well" or "not at all" | 13.0% | 8.3% |
| Asian & Pacific Islander | Speak English "very well" or "well" | 77.0% | 74.3% |
| Asian & Pacific Islander | Speak English "not well" or "not at all" | 23.0% | 25.7% |
| Other | Speak English "very well" or "well" | 86.1% | 100.0% |
| Other | Speak English "not well" or "not at all" | 13.9% | 0.0% |

KEY POINTS

- In California, 44.0% of the population speaks a language other than English at home, which is higher than in Shasta County (8.6%)
- In general, the population in Shasta County that speaks English as a second language speaks it better than California, with an exception of the Asian and Pacific Islander population.
- In Shasta County, 1,963 people (13.5%) that speak English as a second language speak it “not well” or “not at all.”



SUMMARY

Language barriers can adversely impact the health and well-being of those whose ability to speak English is “not well” or “not at all.” Maps, brochures, forms, and other means of communication are often solely written in English, limiting access to healthcare, public transportation and other public benefit programs. One of the best ways to reach out to this population is to ensure that all public service providers have interpreter services to bridge the gap in communication, ensuring that everyone’s needs are being met.



Updated: August 2018 by Miriam Rupp

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates