



## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Thursday, June 5, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

County Administration North  
First Floor, Multi-Purpose Room  
400 West Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Katelyn Brazer Aceves, Chair**  
*2nd District Representative*

**Christine Marick, Vice Chair**  
*4<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

**Vacant**  
*1st District Representative*

**Jolynn Mahoney**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> District Representative*

**Joanne Weiss**  
*5<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

**Laura Ramos**  
*At Large Representative*

**Crystal Miles**  
*At Large Representative*

#### County Executive Office Liaison

Liz Guillen-Merchant

#### Data Analytics

Chrislyn Nefas

#### Health Care Agency Liaison

Brandy Miller

#### Social Services Agency Liaison

Dr. Sara Marchese

#### Clerk of the Commission

Valerie Sanchez

#### County Counsel Liaison

Cynthia Inda

#### OC Community Resources Liaison

Mary Beth Anderson

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Brazer Aceves, Mahoney, Marick, Miles, Ramos and Weiss

ABSENT: Commissioner(s):

#### CALL TO ORDER

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Brazer Aceves led the pledge of allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and confirmed quorum

## **SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Patty Cabada – Urged the Commission to support biological girls in girls’ sports; that it is not hateful or political to oppose biological boys competing as girls because they have physical and biological advantages making it unfair for biological girls to compete.

Lucy Santana – CEO of Girls Inc. of OC announced that Dr. Archer had taken a position at UCI and that she (Lucy) would be attending CSWG meetings when possible and looks forward to working with the Commission on important issues facing young women and girls.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Approve minutes of the May 1, 2025, regular meeting of the Commission.

**On the motion of Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Marick, the Commission approved the minutes as recommended**

2. Ad Hoc Committee Reports.
  - a. Data Ad Hoc Committee Report

**Data Ad Hoc Committee reported they had met to discuss the data to be presented in the first annual report and suggested to focus the first report on economic equity because when asking why women face higher barriers related to many of the focus areas, almost all of them comes down to money and closing the gap through workforce readiness and education**

**On the motion of Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Miles, the Commission approved the focus of the first annual report to be on the Economic Equity Gap with an emphasis on workforce readiness and education**

3. Presentation on the challenges and issues faced by women and girls with disabilities in Orange County

**Brooke Weitzman, Executive Director of the Elder Law & Disability Rights Center, presented information on how low-income senior women and women living with disabilities are an especially vulnerable population and at risk of homelessness without the planning, resources and supports needed to retain independent living; and Deanna Parga of Help Me Grow OC presented information and data on their work to connect children with physical, cognitive and behavioral disabilities and their families with resources through family and community outreach, child health provider outreach, data collection and analysis and acting as a centralized access point for the services families need.**

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

4. Finalize guidance for guest speakers invited to present on topics of interest to the Commission

**Continued to August 7, 2025**

### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS & ROUNDTABLE

None

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:30 a.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** August 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Signed by:

*Valerie Sanchez*

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Valerie Sanchez, Clerk of the Commission

Signed by:

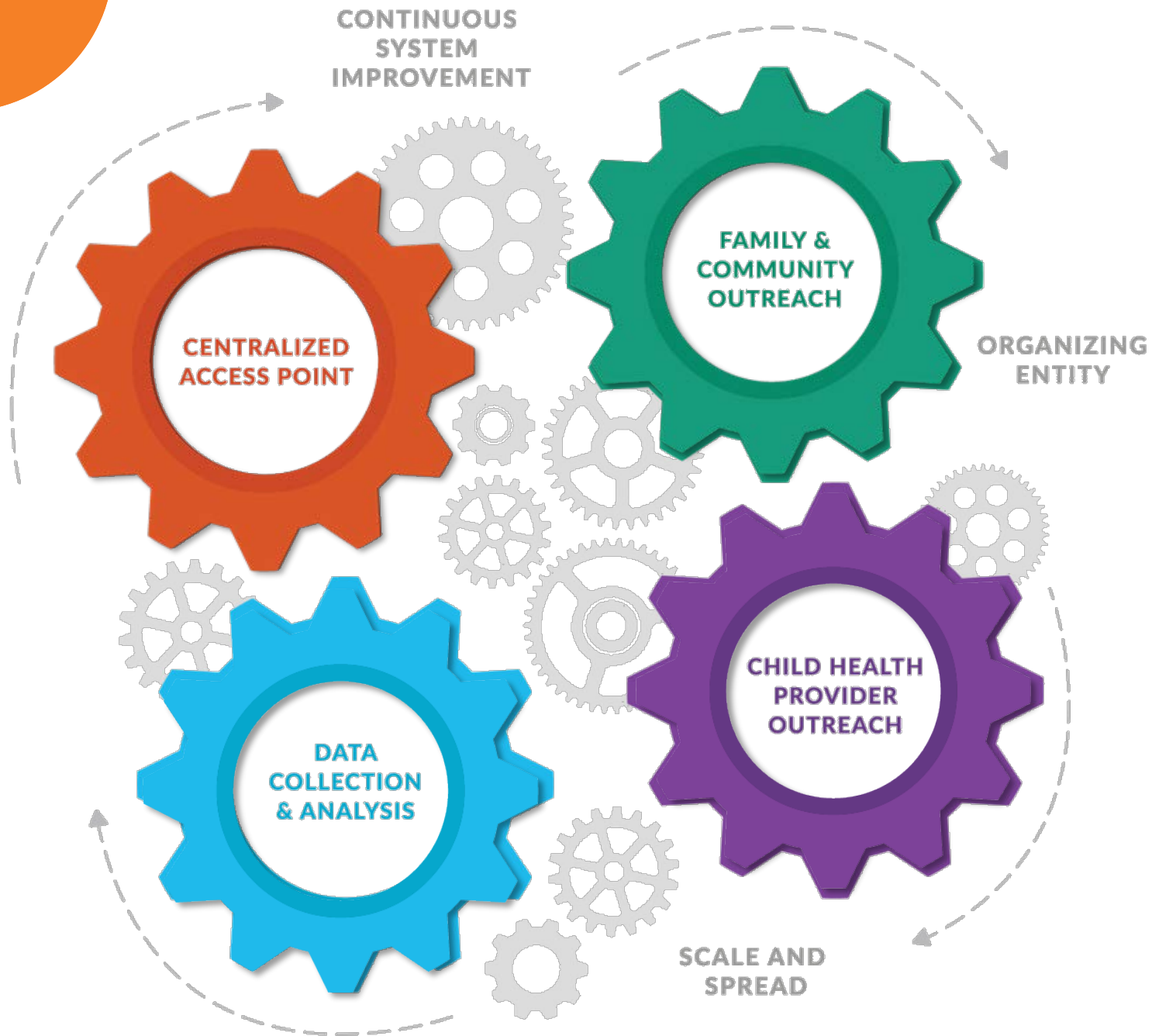
*Katelyn Brazer Aceves*

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Katelyn Brazer Aceves, Chair

# **Help Me Grow: Connecting Children and Families in Orange County**





# The Help Me Grow Model



# Centralized Access Point

- Families or providers can call **1-866-GROW-025** (1-866-476-9025)
- Care Coordinators are available communicate with families via phone, email or text
- All Care Coordinators are bilingual English & Spanish
- Call center hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
- Online portal available at [www.helpmegrowoc.org](http://www.helpmegrowoc.org)
- Partnership with 211 Orange County
- Enhanced resource inventory for developmental services



# Family and Community Outreach

- Resource inventory maintenance
- Community collaborative participation
- Early Development Index efforts
- Early Childhood Educators: preschool & childcare centers
- Parent education and activity programs
- Resource Fairs/Family Events
- Trainings on developmental screening tools



# Health Care Provider Outreach

- Outreach to Pediatric, Family Practice and OB/GYN Practices in OC
- Conduct presentations in person or via Zoom
- Engage physicians, PAs, nurse practitioners, RNs and all office staff
- Train medical residents on screening tools and HMG
- Participate in conferences and meetings with health care providers
- Collaborate with CHOC Population Health to support CHOC Health Alliance physicians with quality improvement including connection to resources, developmental screening and use of OC Children's Screening Registry





# Data Collection and Analysis

- System for Tracking Access to Referrals: A web-based platform designed for Help Me Grow to document:
  - Intake with family
  - Referrals and their outcomes
  - Care coordination
  - Developmental screening results
  - Outreach efforts – families and health care providers
- STAR links to ASQ Online and OC Children's Screening Registry for referrals to HMG
- Annual Fact Sheets & 3 year evaluations completed





**What do  
families need?**



# Connect Families to Resources Including:

**Early  
intervention/  
SPED services**

**Developmental  
screening**

**Home visitation  
programs/  
parenting  
education**

**Perinatal services**

**Infant/child  
mental health  
services**

**Childcare/  
Preschool**

**Inclusion support**

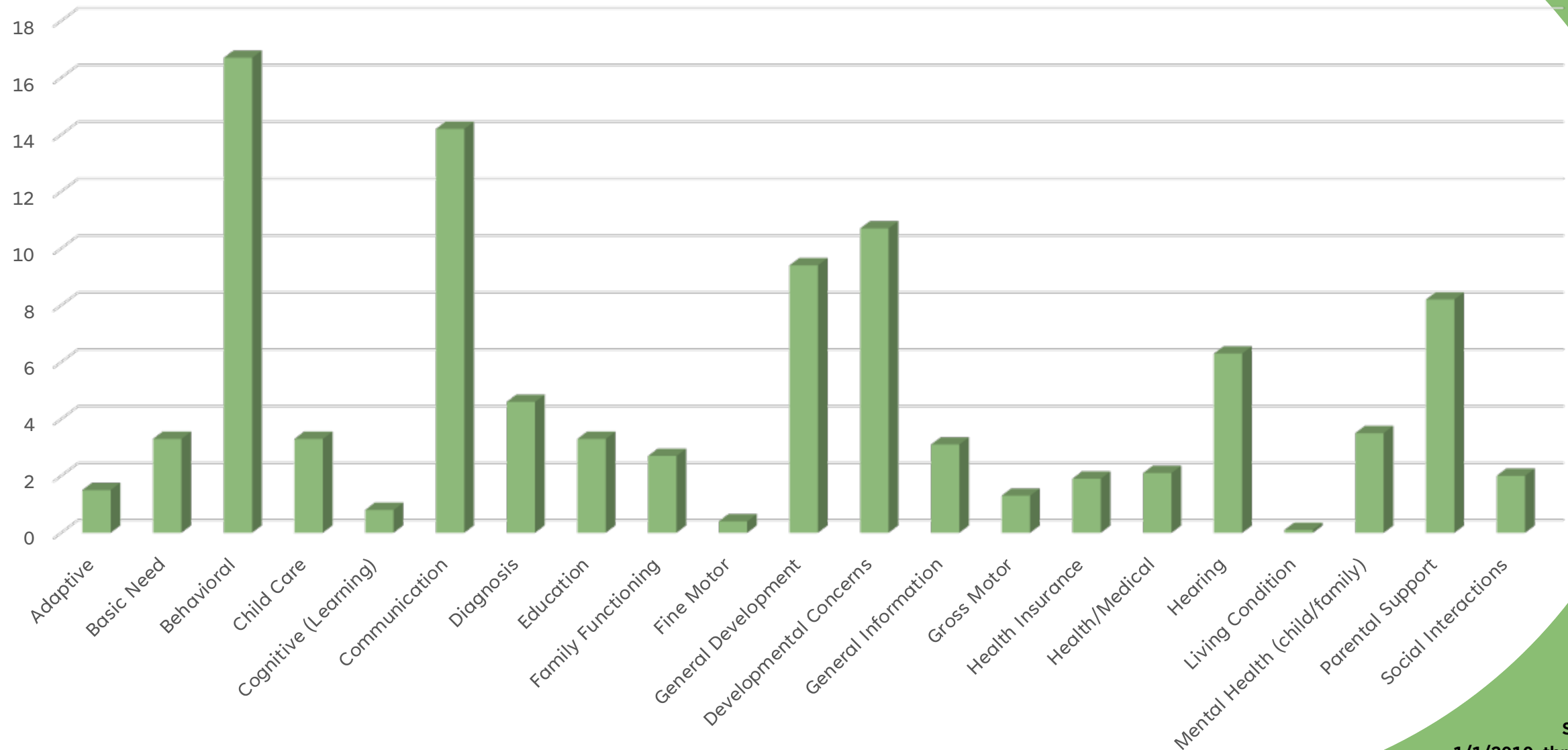
**Parent support  
groups**

**Early literacy  
programs**

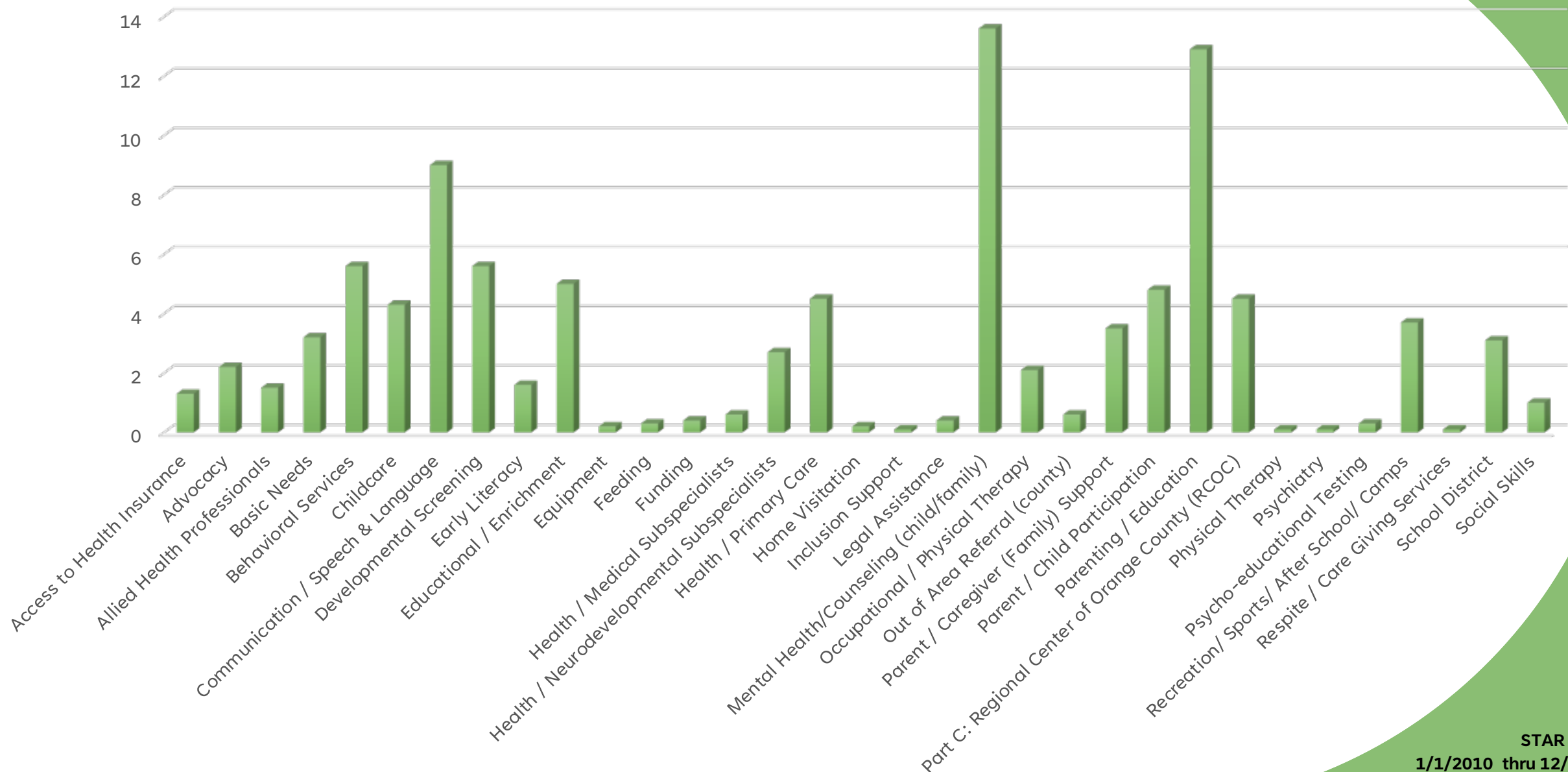
**Basic needs**

**And many other  
services**

# Reasons Parents Contact Us

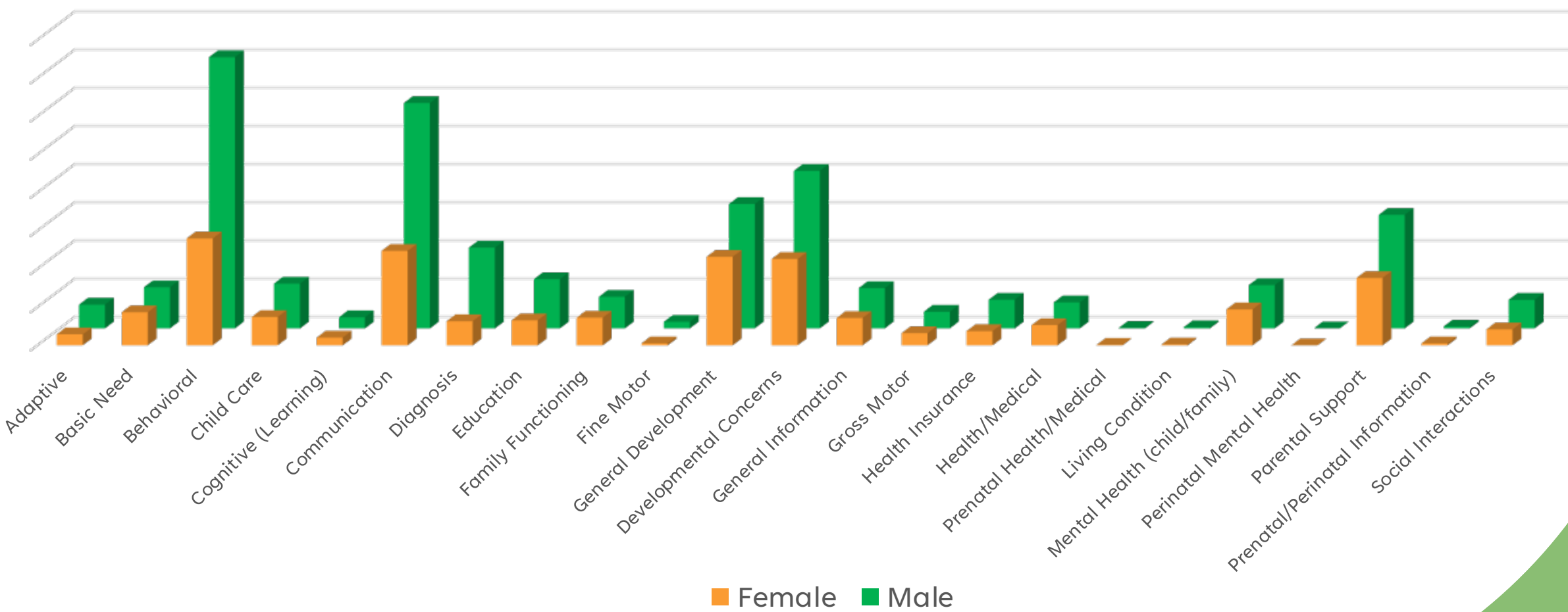


# Referrals Provided



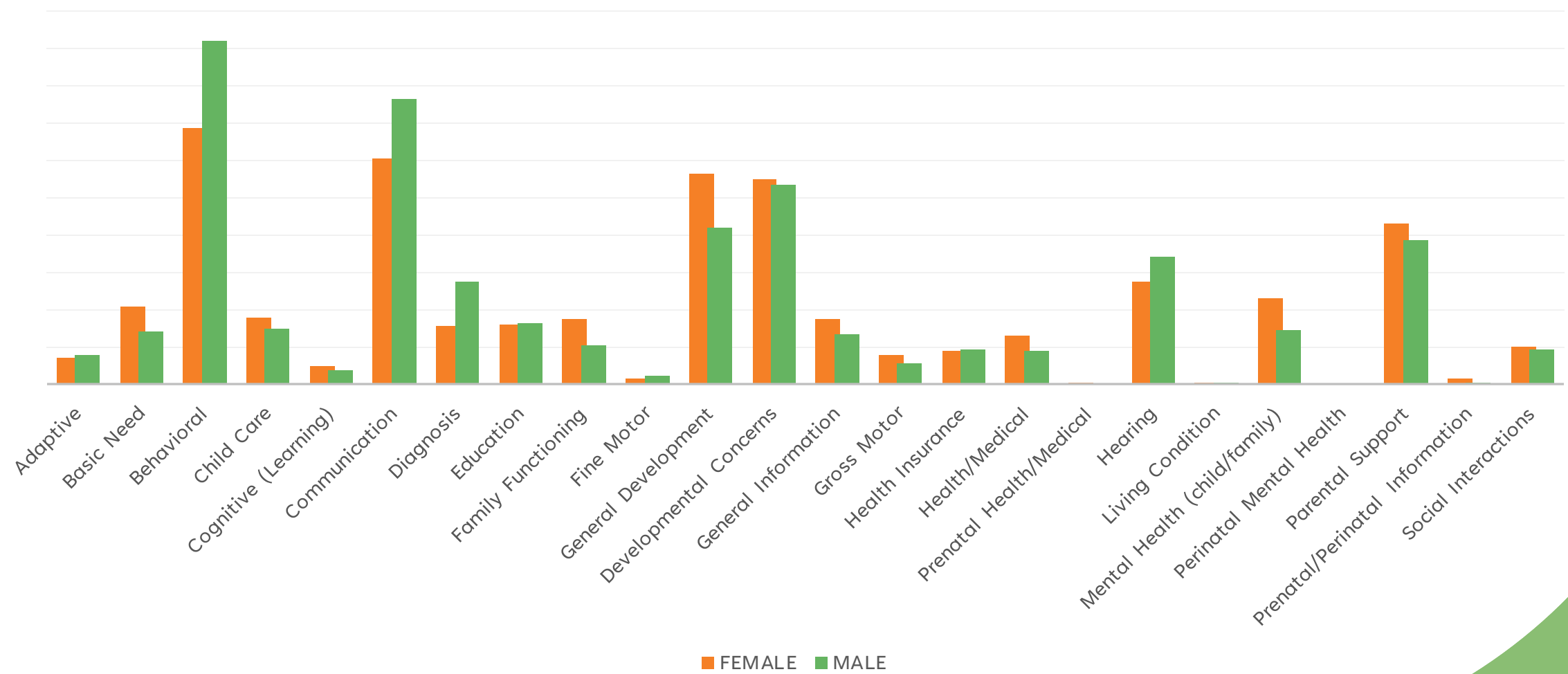
# Reasons Parents Contact Us



Concerns by Gender



# Reasons Parents Contact Us

## GENDER DIFFERENCES







**How can we help  
collaborate to create  
meaningful change?**





# What role does community engagement play?







# **What are the biggest barriers women face in affordable, quality childcare?**





# How can workplace policies be improved to support caregivers?





**What are some  
innovative programs or  
models that have  
addressed dependent  
care needs?**



**What are the most significant trends or disparities you see affecting women and girls in OC?  
How have these trends changed over the past 5 to 10 years?**



# Thank you

Deanna Parga, M.Ed.

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[www.helpmegrowoc.org](http://www.helpmegrowoc.org)

# Disability Census Data 2023

CEO DATA ANALYTICS TEAM

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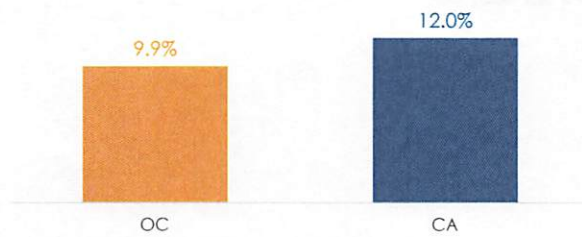
## Introduction

The U.S. Census Bureau defines disability based on whether individuals report having serious difficulty in any of six functional areas, as captured in the American Community Survey (ACS). A person is considered to have a disability if they answer "yes" to at least one of the following:

- **Hearing Difficulty** – Deaf or serious difficulty hearing.
- **Vision Difficulty** – Blind or serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses.
- **Cognitive Difficulty** – Serious difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition.
- **Ambulatory Difficulty** – Serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.
- **Self-Care Difficulty** – Difficulty dressing or bathing.
- **Independent Living Difficulty** – Difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition.

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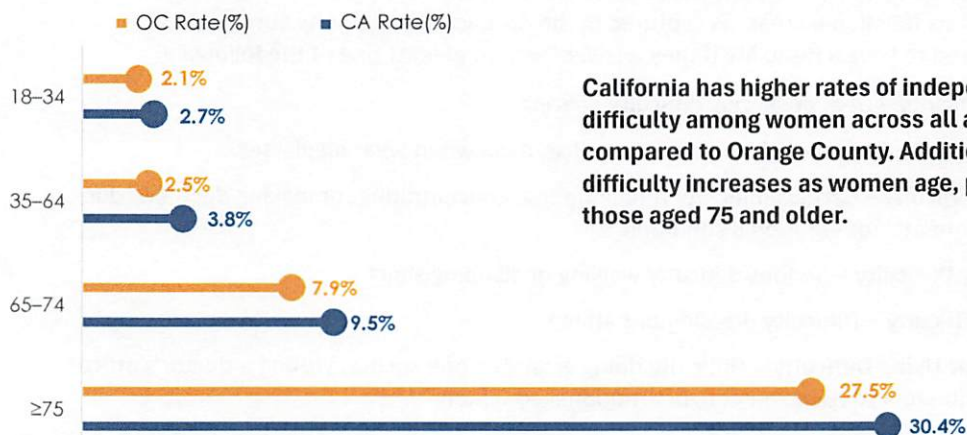
### Women with Disabilities: OC vs. CA



Orange County has a lower percentage of women with disabilities than California (9.9% vs. 12.0%).

3

### Independent Living Difficulty Among Women by Age: OC vs. CA

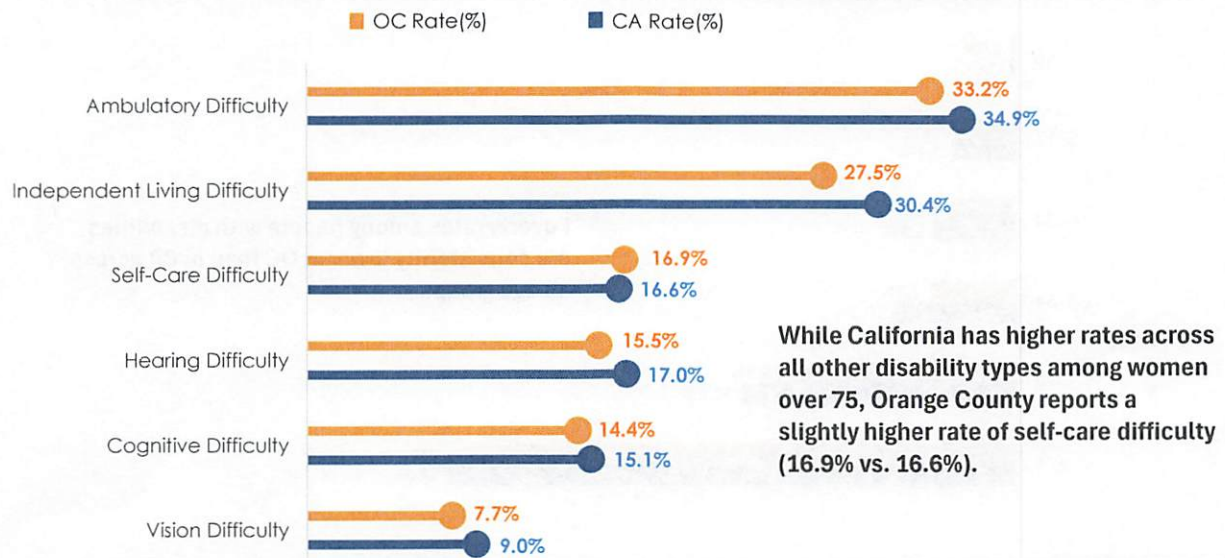


California has higher rates of independent living difficulty among women across all age groups compared to Orange County. Additionally, the rate of difficulty increases as women age, peaking among those aged 75 and older.

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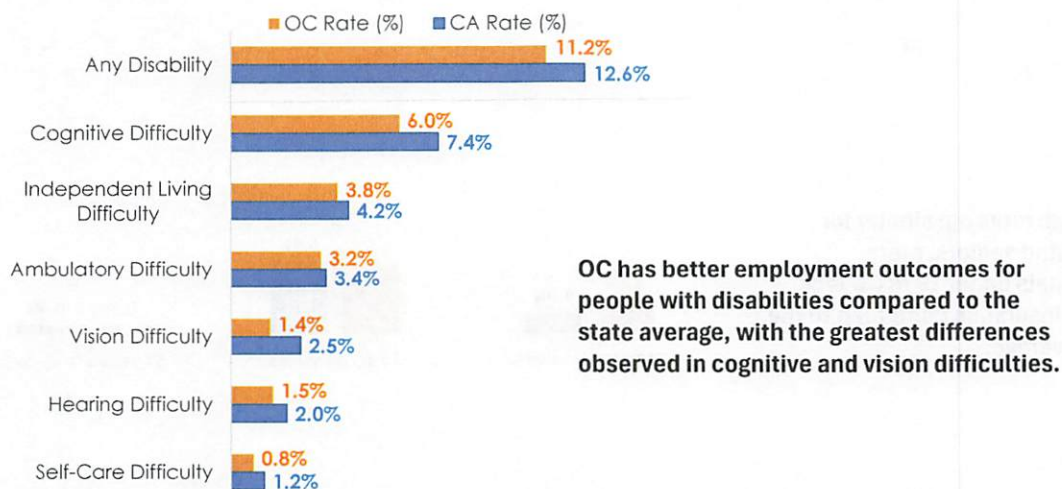


### Disability Type Comparison Among Women 75 and Older: OC vs. CA



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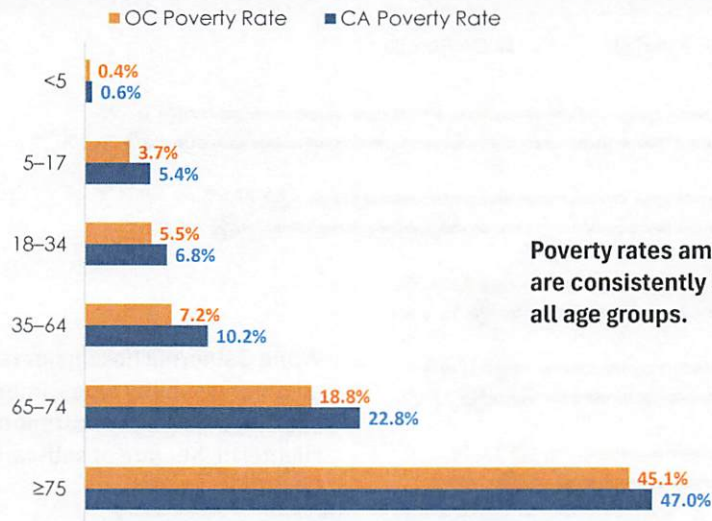
### Unemployment Rates Among All Individuals with Disabilities: OC vs. CA



Note: Based on the American Community Survey, the data reflects the civilian noninstitutionalized population aged 18 to 64 years in the labor forces (the labor force is the sum of the employed and unemployed actively seeking work).

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### Poverty Rates Among All Individuals with Disabilities by Age: OC vs. CA

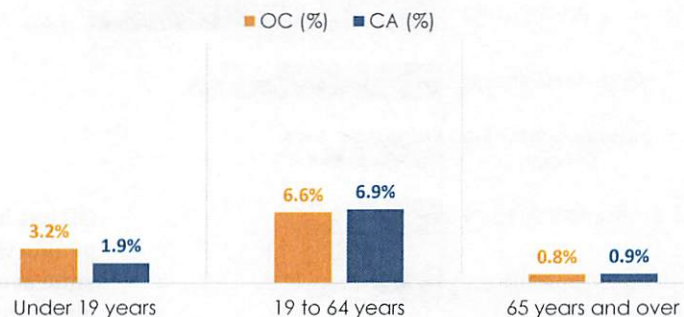


Poverty rates among people with disabilities are consistently lower in OC than in CA across all age groups.

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### Uninsured Rates Among All Individuals with Disabilities by Age Group: OC vs. CA

Although rates are similar for adults and seniors, more individuals under 19 in OC lack health insurance compared to the state average.



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# Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

## Summary of Population with Disability

### Summary

1. Overall, OC has less percentage of women with disability than CA (9.9% vs 12.0%).
2. Among different types of disabilities, women over 75 years old with self-care difficulty is slightly higher in OC than CA (16.9% vs 16.6%).
3. OC disabled people have lower unemployment rates across all disability types than CA.
4. OC disabled people have lower poverty rates across all age groups than CA.
5. The percentage of individuals under 19 years old with a disability who lack health insurance coverage is higher in OC than in CA (3.2% vs 1.9%).

### 1. Overall (only women)

Table 1.1. Women Disability Conditions in OC and CA

	total	with a disability	percentage
OC	1,577,836	156,614	9.9%
CA	19,401,729	2,336,416	12.0%

Table 1.2. Different Disability Types of Women in OC and CA by Age

OC							
	total	Hearing Difficulty	Vision Difficulty	Cognitive Difficulty	Ambulatory Difficulty	Self-Care Difficulty	Independent Living Difficulty
≤5	76,359	0.0%	0.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
5 - 17	237,803	0.4%	0.4%	1.9%	0.5%	0.9%	NA
18 - 34	354,995	0.3%	0.8%	3.5%	0.7%	0.6%	2.1%
35 - 64	622,043	1.2%	1.2%	2.6%	3.2%	1.3%	2.5%
65 - 74	158,411	5.0%	3.5%	4.9%	11.4%	4.3%	7.9%
≥75	128,225	15.5%	7.7%	14.4%	33.2%	16.9%	27.5%
CA							
≤5	1,018,992	0.5%	0.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA
5 - 17	3,093,860	0.5%	0.8%	2.9%	0.6%	1.1%	NA
18 - 34	4,479,437	0.6%	1.4%	4.2%	1.1%	0.8%	2.7%
35 - 64	7,410,320	1.7%	2.1%	4.0%	5.2%	2.0%	3.8%
65 - 74	1,922,488	5.1%	4.0%	5.4%	15.3%	5.0%	9.5%
≥75	1,476,632	17.0%	9.0%	15.1%	34.9%	16.6%	30.4%

## 2. Employment Status (both men and women)

Table 2.1. In Labor Force Unemployment Status by Disability Status in OC and CA

	CA	OC	CA	OC
<b>With a disability:</b>	129,433	7,270	12.6%	11.2%
With a hearing difficulty	21,065	975	2.0%	1.5%
With a vision difficulty	26,083	927	2.5%	1.4%
With a cognitive difficulty	76,373	3,864	7.4%	6.0%
With an ambulatory difficulty	34,534	2,067	3.4%	3.2%
With a self-care difficulty	12,445	498	1.2%	0.8%
With an independent living difficulty	42,882	2,491	4.2%	3.8%

## 3. Poverty Status (both men and women)

Table 3.1. Age by Disability Status by Poverty Status in OC and CA

	CA	OC	CA	OC
<b>Under 5 years:</b>	2,049,032	154,056	5.4%	5.0%
With a disability:	13,091	647	0.6%	0.4%
Income in the past 12-months below poverty level	3,974	0	30.4%	0.0%
<b>5 to 17 years:</b>	6,272,029	482,488	16%	16%
With a disability:	3,383,68	17,964	5.4%	3.7%
Income in the past 12-months below poverty level	65,121	2,557	19.2%	14.2%
<b>18 to 34 years:</b>	8,796,041	694,653	23.1%	22.5%
With a disability:	596,601	38,383	6.8%	5.5%
Income in the past 12-months below poverty level	115,178	4,993	1.3%	0.7%
<b>35 to 64 years:</b>	14,817,902	1,236,784	38.9%	40.0%
With a disability:	1,504,558	89,421	10.2%	7.2%
Income in the past 12-months below poverty level	362,011	15,297	24.1%	17.1%
<b>65 to 74 years:</b>	3,624,968	299,575	9.5%	9.7%
With a disability:	828,026	56,272	22.8%	18.8%
Income in the past 12-months below poverty level	147,874	8,334	17.9%	14.8%
<b>75 years and over:</b>	2,579,371	224,801	6.8%	7.3%
With a disability:	1,213,000	101,396	47.0%	45.1%
Income in the past 12-months below poverty level	190,716	13,378	15.7%	13.2%

#### 4. Health Insurance (both men and women)

Table 4.1. Age by Disability Status by Health Insurance Coverage Status in OC and CA

	CA	OC	CA	OC
Total:	38,495,524	3,122,040	100%	100%
Under 19 years:	8,958,890	685,307	23.3%	22.0%
With a disability:	395,302	21,225	4.4%	3.1%
No health insurance coverage	7,318	672	1.9%	3.2%
19 to 64 years:	23,332,291	1,912,357	60.6%	61.3%
With a disability:	2,083,411	127,197	8.9%	6.7%
No health insurance coverage	143,986	8,367	6.9%	6.6%
65 years and over:	6,204,343	524,376	16.1%	16.8%
With a disability:	2,041,026	157,668	32.9%	30.1%
No health insurance coverage	18,186	1,248	0.9%	0.8%

**Guidance for Guest Presenters**

**Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls**

Purpose: The Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls seeks to engage guest speakers who can provide valuable insights, data, research, and lived experiences related to issues impacting women and girls in the county. This guidance ensures presentations are relevant, actionable, and aligned with the Commission's mission to assess and improve the status of women and girls across Orange County.

**General, Cross-Cutting Questions:**

1. What are the most significant trends or disparities you see affecting women and girls in Orange County in your area of expertise?
2. How have these trends evolved over the past 5 to 10 years? Are there any new or emerging issues we should be aware of?
3. Which populations are most impacted or underserved (e.g., by race, income, age, immigration status, or ability)?
4. What data or evidence do you use to track outcomes and measure impact? Are there any gaps in the data?
5. What promising programs, policies, or practices have successfully addressed these issues?
6. What role does the County currently play, and where are the biggest opportunities for government to intervene?
7. What barriers prevent women and girls from accessing services, protections, or opportunities in this area?
8. What specific recommendations would you make to the Board of Supervisors?
9. How can this Commission help amplify or support your work?
10. What would meaningful progress look like over the next 35 years?

## **Topic-Specific Questions:**

### **Affordable Housing**

- How does the housing crisis disproportionately affect women, and which women are most likely to be impacted?
- What solutions have improved access to housing for women?
- How can local policies better support women facing housing insecurity?

### **Child and Dependent Care**

- What are the biggest barriers to affordable, quality childcare?
- How can workplace or public policy better support caregivers?
- What models or programs have addressed dependent care effectively?

### **Discrimination Against Women**

- How does discrimination affect women's access to education, employment, housing and leadership?
- What policy or advocacy efforts have been effective in addressing gender discrimination?

### **Economic Equity and Financial Security**

- What challenges do women face in achieving financial security?
- How does the gender wage gap impact economic mobility?
- What financial literacy efforts, workforce development or policies have empowered women?

### **Education**

- What educational disparities impact girls and women?
- How can institutions better support their academic journeys?
- What role does mentorship play in advancing educational success as well as college and career readiness?

## Healthcare

- What are the disparities in healthcare access and quality for women in Orange County?
- Are there disparities in healthcare access and quality among different demographics of women (e.g., by race, income, age, immigration status, or ability)?
- How does reproductive healthcare affect women's health, mental health and economic stability?

## Leadership and Representation

- What barriers prevent women from accessing leadership roles?
- What initiatives have been successful in promoting women's leadership?
- How can governments and organizations increase women's representation in decision-making?

## Mental Health

- What mental health issues disproportionately affect women?
- Are there specific demographics of women that are disproportionately affected and why?
- How do domestic violence, financial insecurity, and other issues women face impact mental health outcomes?
- What strategies can improve access to mental health services?

## Violence and Domestic Abuse

- What trends exist in domestic violence affecting women locally?
- What prevention or intervention efforts have proven effective?
- What barriers do survivors face, and how can they be reduced?