

POVERTY IN SILICON VALLEY: WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE KIDS

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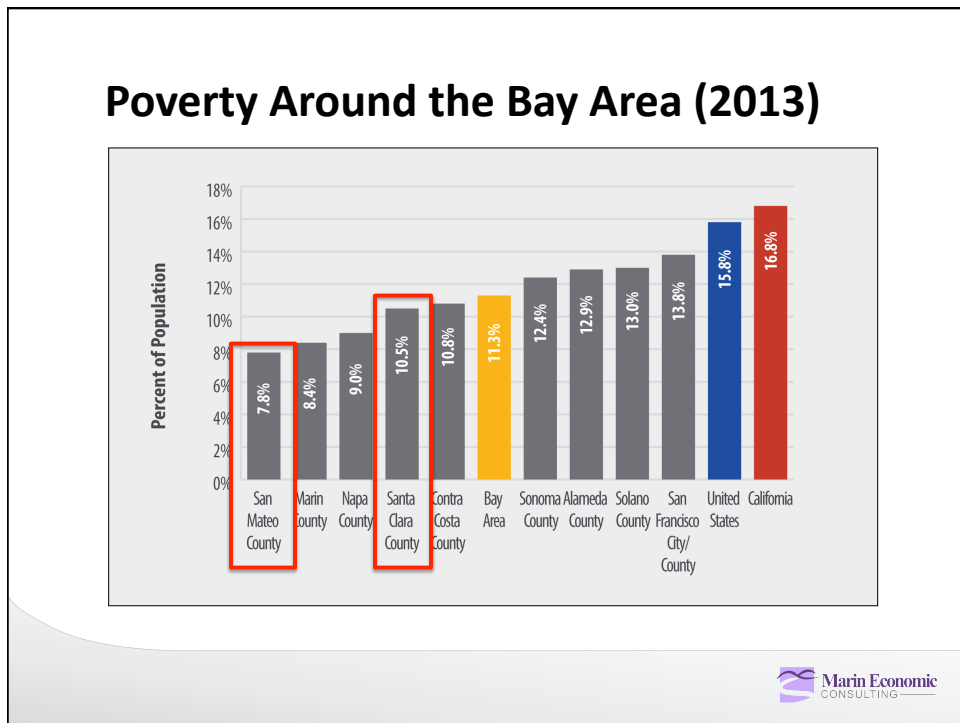
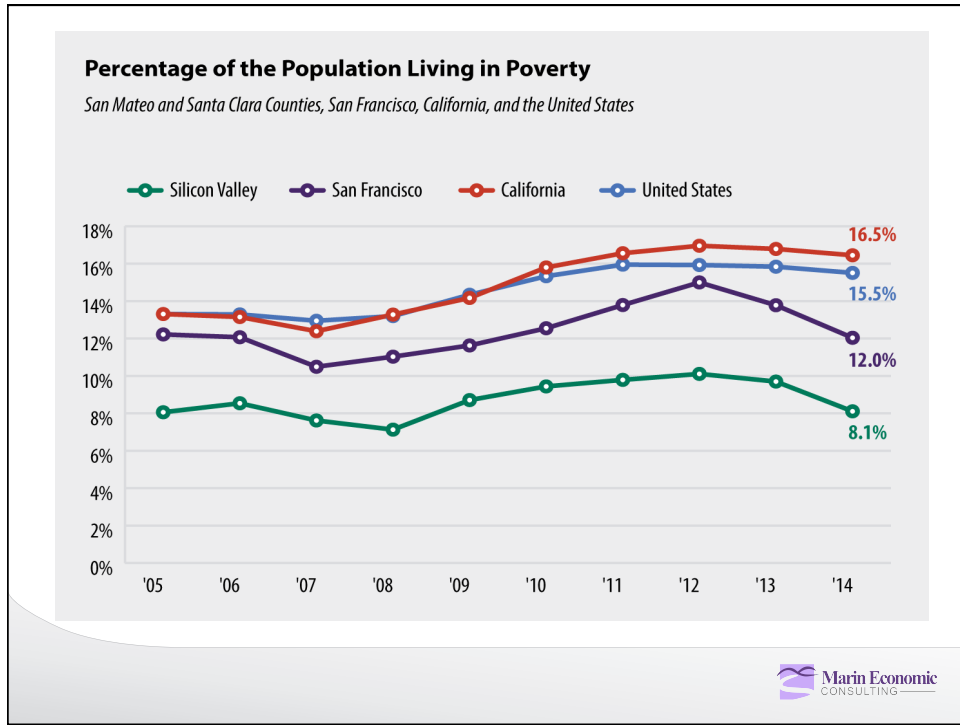
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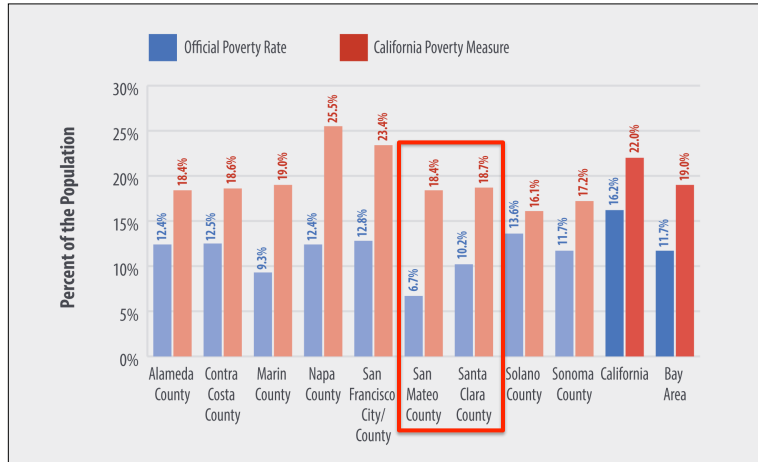
Outline

- **The evidence**
- **The long term consequences**
- **The solutions**





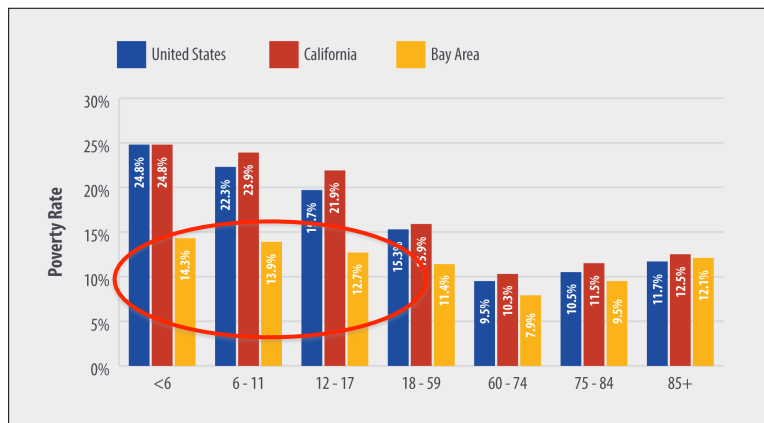
Economic Hardship is Understated by Federal Poverty Statistics (2011)



**San Mateo: Fed Pov 6.7%
CPM 18.4%**



Child Poverty is a Significant Problem 13.8% Aged < 18 Live in Poverty (2013)



Less of a Problem in Silicon Valley, But Still a Problem

Share of Children Living in Poverty

	2013	2014
SANTA CLARA & SAN MATEO COUNTIES	12.1%	8.9%
SAN FRANCISCO	12.0%	11.6%
CALIFORNIA	23.5%	22.7%
UNITED STATES	22.2%	21.7%

Silicon Valley statistics say 1 in 11. Maybe 1 in 5 adjusted?

75,000-150,000 Children in Silicon Valley



Poverty Summary

- **1 in 12 (8.1%) Silicon Valley residents are living in poverty**
 - 1 in 6 suffer from economic hardship by other measures
- **1 in 11 children live in poverty**
 - Child poverty rates are highest among those less than 5 years old
- **As high as the poverty numbers are, they understate the problem.**
 - It is understated in all high cost regions
 - It is therefore particularly understated in Silicon Valley



Child Poverty Has Important Long Term Effects:

- **Physical Health**
 - Low birth weight: stunted growth, speech and hearing problems
- **Cognitive Abilities**
 - Retarded brain development and cognitive functions
- **School Achievement Outcomes**
 - Hunger leads to poor performance
- **Emotional and Behavioral Outcomes**
 - Aggression and difficulty forging relationships
- **Teenage Pregnancy**
 - Birth rates are 3 times higher among poor teens



Policy Options

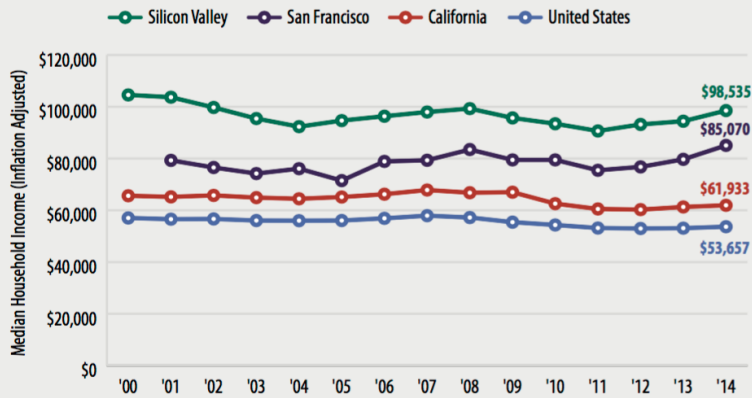
- **Providing direct assistance to impoverished residents**
 - Financial support, housing support, before school services, pre-natal assistance
- **Providing access to impoverished residents**
 - Employment services, job training, interview skills, or assistance with day to day issues, such as child care.
- **Investments in future populations**
 - Improving public education, early childhood development



Can Silicon Valley Do More? Yes

Median Household Income

San Mateo & Clara Counties, San Francisco, California, and the United States



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Summary

- The United States leads the developed world in child poverty
- Silicon Valley does better, but it is still a huge problem (> 100,000 kids)
- The long term consequences are significant
- Silicon Valley is almost uniquely positioned to do more
- **United Way of Silicon Valley** is a terrific vehicle for accomplishing more

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