



Missing kids

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from families below the drastically low federal poverty line (FPL), which applies in the lower 48 states. The FPL for a single parent with two children is \$19,760, or \$1,647 a month.

HSA's figures show 1,146 "poor children" in the TL in 2000 and just 527 in the neighborhood in 2011, a loss of 619.

"100% (of the FPL) is very poor given the city's high standard of living, utter destitution," said Tiffany Torrevillas, HSA planning analyst and census wonk, in an email to The Extra. "It might be more realistic to run these numbers at a higher threshold (it would yield a higher number of 'poor children'). Many SF departments define poverty at 200% or 300% FPL because even at these higher levels families are struggling to survive." She said that for a family of three, 200% is about \$39,600; 300% is \$59,400.

"The self-sufficiency standard from the Insight Center is \$61,100 for a single parent with two children," she added. "This is about 309% FPL."

The Oakland-based Insight Center calculates the income needed by working families to meet their basic needs in every California county.

"The census data just isn't there

to understand where the families that left the Tenderloin ended up moving to," Torrevillas added. "We can look at movement between cities, but not at the neighborhood level."

The city itself has been bleeding children for some time. Census figures show there were 116,749 kids under 18 in San Francisco in 1990, or 16% of the population. By 2010, it was 107,524, or 13%. Possibly, the squeeze on the Tenderloin is part of the trend, only more pronounced.

HSA reported that 8,200 households with incomes of over \$75,000 moved into the city in 2007. Five years later, 12,200 with \$75,000 incomes moved here. Another HSA report shows that from 1990 to 2012 San Francisco's upper class grew by 2%, the middle class shrank by 9% and the lower class grew by 4%. What this means to the 3,421 families in the Tenderloin, as of 2012, is anybody's guess. "But in schools all over the city we see enrollment trends going up," says Su.

Yet another census figure HSA uses — an American Community Survey update on the population of Tenderloin children — showed 2,087 of them living in the Tenderloin in 2012 with 535, or 26%, below FPL.

What can the gain of 168 kids mean?

"I wouldn't dare to guess," Su said.

Clockwise from top **Kimberly Romero**, 10, front right, Bessie Carmichael Elementary School fifth-grader, shoots baskets at the Tenderloin Children's Playground. With her are Jobana Guzman, 9, center, a fourth-grader at Bessie Carmichael, and Ashley Razo, 9, back, also a fourth-grader at Bessie Carmichael. The three visited the playground during a field trip with the Janice Mirikitani Family, Youth and Childcare Center. **Silas Moberg**, 8, a third-grader at San Francisco City Impact Academy, reads during a science lecture. **Jaeya Bayani**, 12, an eighth-grader at San Francisco City Impact Academy, etches an image of a Thanksgiving turkey during class.

This is a double issue of The Extra, for December and January. We will be back to our regular monthly publishing in February.

Meantime, Central City Extra and San Francisco Study Center wish our readers happy holidays and a joyful new Year.

