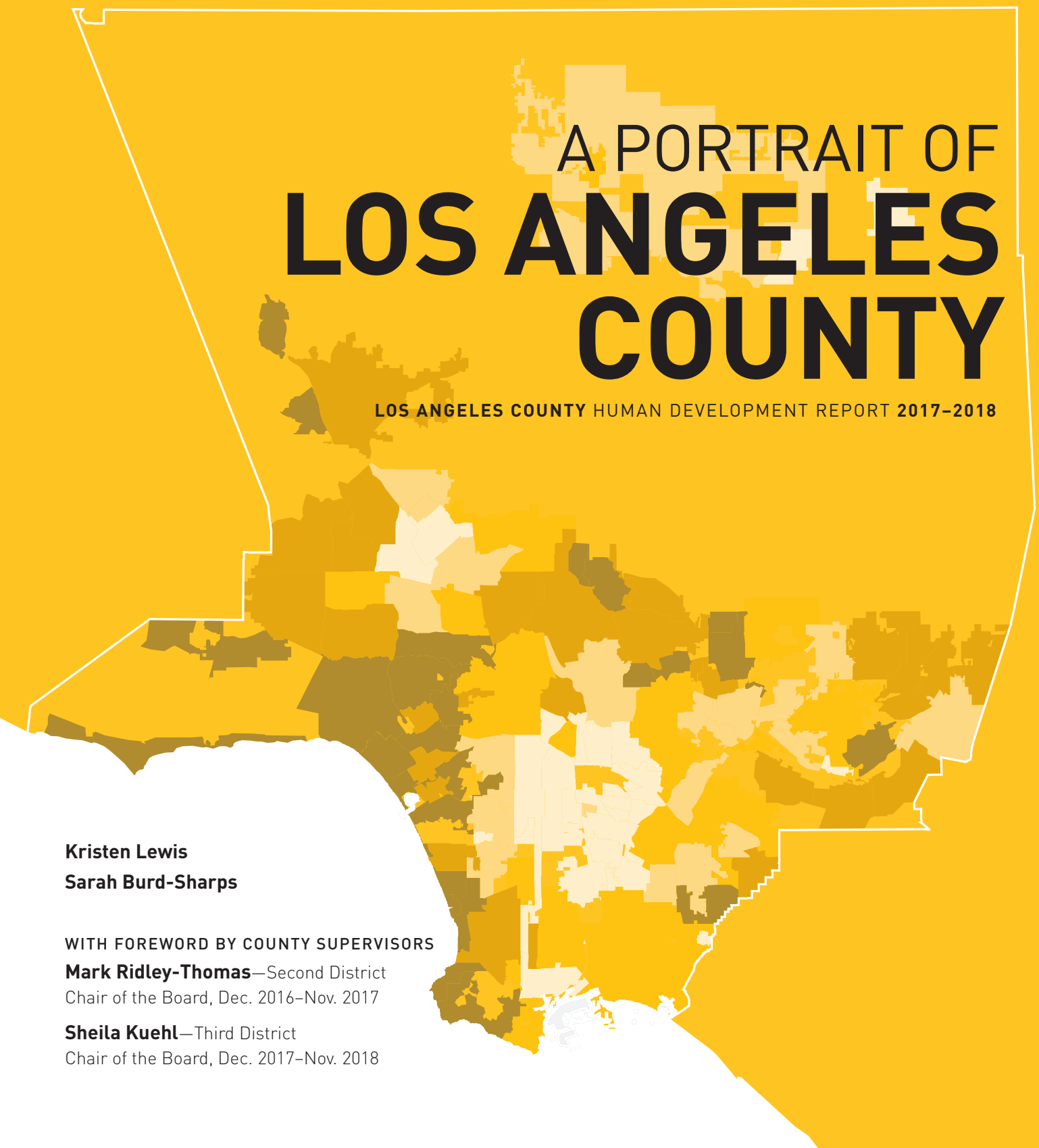
MEASURE OF AMERICA
of the Social Science Research Council

A PORTRAIT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT **2017–2018**



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Sarah Burd-Sharps

WITH FOREWORD BY COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Mark Ridley-Thomas—Second District
Chair of the Board, Dec. 2016–Nov. 2017

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Foreword

Los Angeles County is a place of boundless creativity and rich diversity, a place where people strive to pursue their dreams, better their lives, and invest in a brighter tomorrow for the next generation. Well-being and access to opportunity are central to these pursuits. But do we fully understand the variety of ways that opportunity and well-being are distributed in our county, what underpins those differences, and, most importantly, how best to address them?

The answers to these questions are exactly what a broad range of stakeholders from county and city institutions, philanthropy, business, nonprofits, researchers, and advocates sought by collaborating on *A Portrait of Los Angeles County 2017–2018.*

The *Portrait* looks squarely at a number of stark inequities and takes stock of the collective strengths we can use to address them utilizing the American Human Development Index, a measure of well-being comprised of health, education, and earnings indicators. It also proposes some bold goals, outlines opportunities for high-value, evidence-based investments, and spotlights promising initiatives already underway.

As the current and incoming chairs of the County Board of Supervisors, we support and affirm LA County's commitment as a partner in this work. More than ever before, the public sector is joining with businesses, philanthropy, nonprofits, and others to work across sectors and fight the fragmentation that hampered past efforts. The following are a few examples of the ways in which such partnering is working:

We're investing in prevention in unprecedented ways. We have made it a major county priority to reduce the number of children and families involved in the child welfare system as well as the intensity and duration of involvement for those who are brought into the system. The County's Prevention Plan expands community-based approaches to improving parenting skills, addresses stress and isolation among new parents through home visitation programs, and calls for increased access to high-quality early child care and education. Multiple LA County departments, First 5 LA, and other public and private institutions support the Office of Child Protection in this work.

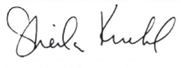
We're cracking the code on problems once thought too complex to tackle. Voter-approved Measure H, coupled with the county's comprehensive homelessness initiative, have been major game-changers. They've unleashed new momentum and funding for permanent supportive housing, coordinated service delivery, and innovative approaches to preventing and ending homelessness. But the need for affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents and supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness remains urgent.

Comprehensive action has never held more promise, especially for reengaging opportunity youth (young people aged 16 to 24 who are neither employed nor in school) and youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Los Angeles Performance Partnership Pilot (LAP3) has streamlined services and brought the voices of youth forward to design solutions. LAP3 coordinates the resources of the county, the City of Los Angeles, the LA Unified School District, and LA community colleges in collaboration with the LA Chamber of Commerce, community-based organizations, and philanthropy.

We will use this new *Portrait of Los Angeles* to inform our efforts to make LA County a place where all Angelenos can thrive and we encourage other leaders to do the same. The goal set out in the report is truly within our grasp—but only if we all work together to make certain we achieve it.

With hope,

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Los Angeles County Supervisor, Second District
Chair of the Board, December 2016–November 2017



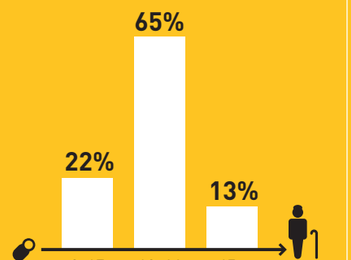
Sheila Kuehl
Los Angeles County Supervisor, Third District
Chair of the Board, December 2017–November 2018

Who Are We?

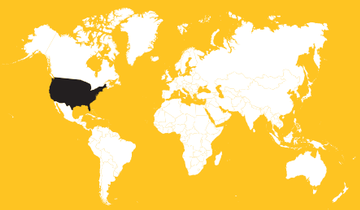
Los Angeles County population

10,170,292

AGE



BIRTHPLACE



65% NATIVE-BORN

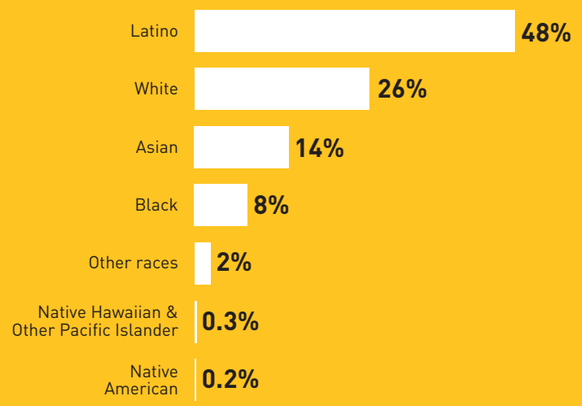
35% FOREIGN-BORN

HOUSING

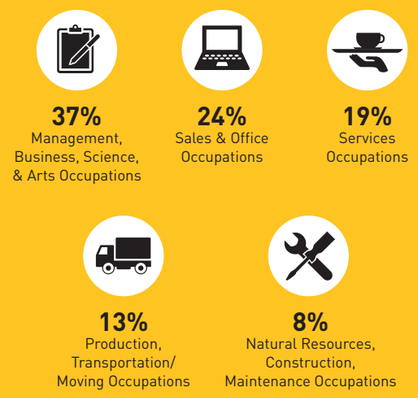
45% OWN

55% RENT

RACE/ETHNICITY



EMPLOYMENT



37% Management, Business, Science, & Arts Occupations

24% Sales & Office Occupations

19% Services Occupations

13% Production, Transportation/ Moving Occupations

8% Natural Resources, Construction, Maintenance Occupations

Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.
Note: Numbers do not always sum to 100 due to rounding.

Key Findings

A Portrait of Los Angeles County is an exploration of **how LA County residents are faring** in terms of well-being and equity.

***A Portrait of Los Angeles County* is an exploration of how LA County residents are faring.** It examines well-being and access to opportunity using the human development framework and index, presenting **American Human Development (HD) Index** scores for LA County places and demographic groups and exploring a range of critical issues, including health, education, living standards, environmental justice, housing, homelessness, violence, and inequality. The report concludes with an ambitious goal, developed in partnership with LA County departments and agencies and a wide range of stakeholders, for improving well-being countywide and closing the well-being gaps between places and racial and ethnic groups.

This project is the result of an unprecedented collaboration of organizations working in LA County. Measure of America's key partners were **Southern California Grantmakers and the Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection, Department of Children and Family Services, and Department of Public Health.** Fourteen foundations and the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission—Productivity Investment Fund provided funding, substantive input, logistical support, and encouragement. Over one hundred stakeholders from county and city departments, universities, nonprofit organizations, and philanthropic foundations served on the project's advisory committees, shared data and ideas, and helped develop the concluding goal and recommendations. The involvement and dedication of these contributors throughout the life of the project will ensure that the ideas on these pages come to life in the form of data-informed policies and meaningful on-the-ground action.

HOW DOES LA COUNTY FARE ON THE AMERICAN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX?

The American Human Development Index, a supplement to the gross domestic product and other money metrics, tells the story of how ordinary people are doing. The index is based on the Human Development Index developed by the United Nations, the gold standard for measuring the well-being of people in every nation. This report is the fifth that Measure of America has produced on the state of California; previous reports include *A Portrait of Marin, A Portrait of Sonoma County,* and two volumes of *A Portrait of California.*

The American Human Development Index uses official government data to measure three fundamental and interrelated building blocks of a life of freedom, choice, and opportunity—a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living. It combines indicators in these areas into a single number expressed on a 0-to-10 scale, allowing for well-being scores for places, racial and ethnic groups, women and men, and native- and foreign-born residents and empowering communities with a tool to identify priorities and track progress over time.

For this report, a ranked index has been calculated for 106 cities and unincorporated areas in LA County as well as the thirty-five community plan areas within the City of Los Angeles; for major racial and ethnic groups; for women and men; and for US- and foreign-born LA County residents.

Human Development Index

LA County's overall HD Index score is **5.43** out of 10, which is **higher** than the US value of **5.17**.

KEY FINDINGS: AMERICAN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

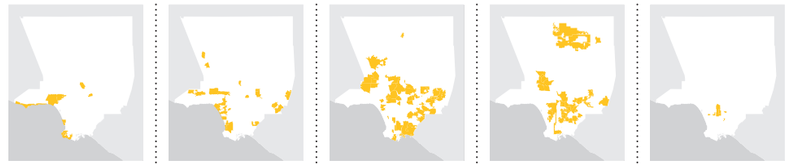
- **LA County's overall HD Index score is 5.43 out of 10,** which is higher than the US value of 5.17. This average masks huge variation, however. Some places and groups of Angelenos have very high scores and enjoy the highest levels of well-being in the country, while others face challenges akin to those found in impoverished areas of Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta.
- The highest-scoring city or unincorporated area in LA County is the **City of San Marino at 9.43,** and the lowest-scoring is **Florence-Graham at 2.44**. The gaps are wider still within the City of Los Angeles.
- The American Human Development Index scores of Los Angeles County's major racial and ethnic groups vary from relatively high scores for **Asian and white Angelenos** to far lower scores for **Native American, black, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (NHOPI), and Latino residents**. Among these groups, Asians score the highest on the HD Index (7.37), and Latinos score the lowest (4.32).
- Adding gender to this analysis, Asian women (7.43), black women (5.07), and Latina women (4.47) score higher on the HD Index than their male counterparts on the strength of better health and education outcomes; white men (6.98) and women (6.93) have similar scores; and NHOPI men (4.85) are well ahead of their female counterparts (3.70), thanks to much higher earnings. NHOPI women have the lowest score of any race/gender combination, and Asian women have the highest.
- This report also analyzes well-being for Asian subgroups. Among Asians, Indians have the highest HD Index score (9.10) and Cambodians have the lowest (5.17). Cambodians are the only Asian subgroup that scores below the countywide score of 5.43.
- There is a strong negative relationship between HD Index scores and exposure to pollution. Of the nineteen cities and unincorporated areas scoring below 4 on the HD Index, thirteen lie along the heavily polluted Interstate-710, and Latinos and blacks make up between 90 and 99 percent of the population in these places.

THE "FIVE LA COUNTIES"

We used the HD Index scores of LA County's communities to sort them into categories: the "Five LA Counties." This framework provides a way to compare areas of LA County with similar HD Index scores and gives a sense of the nature and extent of disparities within the county. The demarcations are as follows:

- **Glittering LA:** The nine cities, unincorporated areas, and neighborhoods that make up Glittering LA have HD Index scores above 9. They make up about 1.6 percent of the LA County population.
- **Elite Enclave LA:** These areas have HD Index scores equal to or greater than 7 and less than 9. They make up 15.9 percent of the LA County population.
- **Main Street LA:** These areas have HD Index scores equal to or greater than 5 and less than 7. They make up 30.5 percent of the population.
- **Struggling LA:** These areas have HD Index scores equal to or greater than 3 and less than 5. They make up 50.8 percent of the population.
- **Precarious LA:** These areas have HD Index scores less than 3 and make up 2.9 percent of the population.

TABLE 1 Human Development in the "Five LA Counties"



	Glittering LA	Elite Enclave LA	Main Street LA	Struggling LA	Precarious LA
HD Index	9 and above	7 to 8.99	5 to 6.99	3 to 4.99	below 3
Life Expectancy (years)	86.4	83.9	82.9	81.5	78.7
Less than High School (%)*	2.3	5.4	14.9	30.8	51.8
At least Bachelor's Degree (%)*	69.9	58.3	35.5	19.6	4.7
Graduate/Professional Degree (%)*	31.5	24.0	12.6	5.4	0.7
School Enrollment (%)	91.7	84.7	82.6	77.1	73.4
Median Earnings (2015 $)	$52,687 and up	48,347	35,773	25,469	19,060

*Percent of adults age 25 and up.

If LA County were a country, it would rank **eleventh** in the world in longevity, with a life expectancy of **82.1 years.**

Health

KEY FINDINGS: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE

- If LA County were a country, it would rank eleventh in the world in longevity, with a life expectancy of **82.1 years.** Angelenos can expect to live nearly three years longer than the average American and several months longer than the average Californian.
- **Walnut Park** has the county's longest life expectancy, a remarkable 90.5 years, while **Sun Village** has the shortest, 75.8 years. For an in-depth exploration of life expectancy in LA County by place, see our report *Highway to Health: Life Expectancy in Los Angeles County.*
- Among major racial and ethnic groups, the longest-lived population is Asians, with a life expectancy of **87.3 years. Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders** (NHOPI) have a life expectancy of 75.4 years—almost a dozen-year gap. Asian and Latino Angelenos live longer than the average LA County resident; the remaining groups have life expectancies below the county average.
- **Whites** live an average of 80.9 years—1.8 years longer than whites in the US as a whole. **Native Americans** have a life expectancy of 76.9 years, about half a decade lower than the LA County average. **Black Angelenos** have an average life expectancy of 75.6 years.
- Among Asian subgroups large enough to allow for reliable calculations, **Indian** and **Chinese** Angelenos have the longest life expectancy (88.1 years) and **Filipinos** have the shortest (85.5 years)—though the Filipino life expectancy is still 3.4 years longer than the countywide average.
- LA County **Latinos** outlive whites, on average, by three and a half years. The phenomenon of Latinos living longer than whites despite having lower education levels and incomes is referred to as the Latino Health Paradox and has been observed across the US.
- **Foreign-born LA County residents** live on average nearly six years longer than **US-born LA County residents.**
- **Women's** life expectancy is 4.9 years longer than **men's**. Women live longer than their male counterparts in every racial and ethnic group, though the size of the gap varies.

Education

KEY FINDINGS: ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

- LA County lags behind the United States as a whole in educational attainment, in large part due to the comparatively large share of adults without a high school degree. **LA County scores 4.96 on the Education Index (compared to 5.17 for the US), and more than one in five adult Angelenos lack a high school diploma.**
- The highest-ranking community in LA County is **Westwood in the City of LA** (home to UCLA), with an Education Index score of 9.95. The lowest-ranking community, with a score of just 1.24, is **Florence-Graham,** which also ranks the lowest on the overall HD Index.
- **Asians** score the highest on the Education Index at 7.12, followed closely by **whites** at 7.02. The next-highest scores are significantly lower—4.69 for **NHOPI** and 4.64 for **blacks.** The lowest-scoring group is **Latinos** at 2.80; more than 40 percent of Latino adults over age 25 lack a high school diploma.
- Overall, **women** (5.10) tend to have higher educational attainment levels than **men** (4.82) in LA County, though this trend is flipped among Asians and NHOPI; in these groups, men edge out women.
- The **disconnected youth rate**—the share of young people ages 16–24 who are neither working nor in school—is a statistic that MOA calculates using public use microdata areas (PUMAs). There is a strong relationship between well-being in a community and the rate of young people who are connected to school or work. The overall youth disconnection rate in LA County (11.8 percent) is slightly lower than the US rate (12.3 percent). The area in LA with the lowest youth disconnection rate is **West Central/ Westwood and West LA in the City of LA** (3.9 percent), and the area with the highest rate is **South Central and Watts, also in the City of LA** (23.0 percent).

LA County **lags behind** the United States as a whole in educational attainment**,** in large part due to the comparatively large share of adults without a high school degree.

Earnings

Median personal earnings in LA County are **$30,654,** slightly **less** than the US median of **$31,416.**

KEY FINDINGS: A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING

- **Median personal earnings in LA County are $30,654,** slightly less than the US median of $31,416. The range within LA County, however, is striking—from a peak of **$82,813 in Palos Verdes Estates** to a mere **$16,044 in Westwood,** no doubt due to the large student population there. Median personal earnings are the wages and salaries of the person in the middle of the earnings distribution; half the population earns more than the median, and half earns less.
- **Whites** earn the most ($47,600) in LA County among the major racial and ethnic groups; this is the only component of the index for which whites outscore **Asians** ($38,000). **Latinos** in LA County earn the least, with median personal earnings of $22,600. **Black Angelenos** earn $6,500 more than blacks in the United States as a whole.
- Despite outscoring men in the overall HD Index and in both health and education, **women earn less than men in every racial and ethnic group** and tend to occupy lower-paying occupations and industries. Women continue to take on a disproportionate amount of unpaid caretaking labor, incur motherhood penalties, and experience wage discrimination.
- LA County faces a crisis of **high housing costs and a scarcity of affordable housing** for low-income residents, contributing to the largest unsheltered homeless population of any US city or county. The homelessness rate in LA County increased 23 percent between 2016 and 2017, despite a countrywide decrease.
- There is a very strong correlation between **child poverty and the proportion of workers in service-sector occupations** such as fast food workers, servers, health aides, medical assistants, hotel clerks, and maids. This relationship is far stronger than the relationship between child poverty and any of the other five major occupational categories. This is particularly troubling for child well-being since service occupations are the fastest-growing segment of the labor market.

Conclusion

The report concludes with an ambitious but **realistic** goal.

SETTING A GOAL AND WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE IT

Shoring up the foundations of well-being for all county residents as well as building on the strengths and expanding the opportunities of the groups that are struggling today is key to a flourishing LA County tomorrow. The fates of different groups of Angelenos are inextricably linked. The report thus concludes with an ambitious goal: to increase well-being for all county residents and narrow the gaps between groups, **resulting in a one-point increase in the HD Index, from today's 5.43 to 6.43, by 2025.**

To achieve this goal in a way that results in measurable well-being improvements for all, with a focus on the county's most vulnerable residents, the following areas are priorities:

- **HEALTH:** Addressing the social determinants of health, including economic security, through targeted efforts will extend life expectancy for all and achieve significant gains for the groups with the lowest life expectancies. **Increase average life expectancy countywide by six months,** from 82.1 years to 82.6 years, over this eight-year period and increase life expectancy for black, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and Native American residents to 80 years.
- **EDUCATION:** Investing in parental education, quality child care, early childhood education, school integration, funding equality, and young people at risk for disconnection increases the likelihood that students will enroll in school and complete their degrees. **Increase enrollment by 10 percent** and boost adult educational attainment by 10 percent, focusing in particular on Struggling LA and Precarious LA and on Latinos countywide.
- **EARNINGS:** Increasing wages, improving workforce training and protections, and reducing the gender earnings gap will lift median personal earnings, enabling greater economic security and a chance for all Angelenos to invest in themselves and provide a safe, stable environment for the next generation. **Increasing median earnings in the county by $8,000** (in inflation-adjusted dollars) over the eight-year period with an eye toward income equality will require a laser focus on workers whose median personal earnings are very low, namely Latinos and those in Precarious LA ($19,000 annual median personal earnings) and Struggling LA ($25,000).

Understanding Human Development

IN THIS SECTION

Introduction

Los Angeles (LA) County boasts the biggest, best, and brightest in many categories. It is the most populous US county and among the most ethnically diverse. It has a dynamic and diversified economy, the country's busiest port, renowned educational institutions, and a thriving arts scene. Its environmental attributes are unrivalled: among the sunniest US counties and a perennial winner on "best weather" rankings, LA County is home to deserts and forests, snow-capped mountains and vast, shimmering beaches.

LA County also faces serious challenges, however. Topping most lists are crushing housing costs, an enduring homelessness crisis, poor air quality, traffic congestion that consistently ranks among the country's worst, and—a key focus of this report—stark and increasing inequality. A slice of the population lives in an opportunity Shangri-La, enjoying the highest levels of well-being in the United States if not the world. But more than half the population has been boxed out of the opportunities and resources that allow affluent Angelenos to realize their potential and live freely chosen lives. This inequality goes beyond the much discussed financial chasms between the "one percent" and everybody else. It takes myriad forms: gaps of more than a decade in life expectancy, educations that are separate and unequal, vastly different degrees of agency and voice, and neighborhoods that are worlds apart.

The good news is that a host of actors across the county are committed to addressing inequality, vulnerability, and disadvantage such that all Angelenos can not just survive, but thrive. Evidence of this commitment can be found in the unprecedented collaboration that made this report possible: fourteen foundations and the LA County Quality and Productivity Commission provided funding, substantive inputs, logistical support, and encouragement; representatives of over one hundred county and city departments, philanthropic foundations, universities, and nonprofit organizations served on the project's advisory committees, shared data and ideas, and helped develop the report's recommendations; and researchers in and around Los Angeles were amazingly generous with their time, expertise, and guidance. Their involvement and dedication over the life of this project will allow the ideas on these pages to come to life in the form of better policies and meaningful on-the-ground action. The *Portrait* and concluding goal are an integral part of the county's prevention work, which is outlined in the Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection report, "Paving the Road to Safety for our Children: A Prevention Plan for Los Angeles County." Several public and private partners across the county have made commitments and investments in countywide prevention efforts, and the *Portrait of Los Angeles County* will further catalyze the momentum for systems change to improve well-being for at-risk families and children. (See PAGE 2 for a full list of those who contributed support, leadership, and inputs to this project.)

A host of actors across the county are committed to addressing inequality, vulnerability, and disadvantage such that all Angelenos can not just survive, but **thrive.**

Human development is about the **real freedom** ordinary people have to decide what to do, who to be, and how to live.

Why have such a diverse range of stakeholders in LA County coalesced around this report and its framework, the human development approach? Because, **at its heart, human development is about the real freedom ordinary people have to decide what to do, who to be, and how to live.** Human development is formally defined as the process of improving people's well-being and expanding their freedoms and opportunities. The approach puts people at the center of analysis and considers how political, social, environmental, and economic forces interact to shape the range of choices open to them.

The human development concept is the brainchild of the late economist Dr. Mahbub ul Haq. In his work at the World Bank in the 1970s, and later as minister of finance in his home country, Pakistan, Dr. Haq argued that existing measures of human progress failed to account for the true purpose of development: to improve people's lives. He believed the closely tracked measure of gross domestic product (GDP) was a particularly inadequate measure of well-being. To explain why, Dr. Haq often cited the example of Vietnam and Pakistan. In the late 1980s, the two countries had the same GDP per capita—around $2,000 per year—but Vietnamese lived a full eight years longer than Pakistanis and were twice as likely to be able to read. In other words, money alone did not tell the whole story; the same income was buying two dramatically different levels of well-being.

Working with Harvard professor and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen and other gifted economists, Dr. Haq devised not only the idea of human development but also a way to measure it: the Human Development Index. He introduced this new way of thinking about and measuring progress in the first Human Development Report, which was released in 1990 under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program. The report ranked all the world's countries not by the size of their economies but rather by the well-being of their people. Since then, the annual Human Development Report has served as the global gold standard for understanding and tracking human well-being. In addition, more than 160 countries have produced national human development reports in the last two decades; these reports have raised taboo subjects, brought to light long-ignored inequities, and spurred public debate and political engagement.

In 2007, Measure of America adapted the approach and index, which were designed with developing countries in mind, to the context of an affluent democracy and released a first-ever American Human Development Report in 2008.[1] Since then, organizations and communities across the country have worked with Measure of America to understand community needs and shape evidence-based policies and people-centered investments using this powerful approach (see BOX 2).

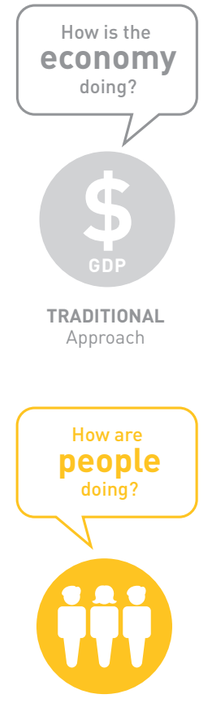
The human development approach rests on a sturdy conceptual framework: Amartya Sen's seminal work on capabilities.[2] Capabilities can be understood as a person's "tool kit" for living a freely chosen life of value. Capabilities shape the real possibilities open to people, govern the freedom they have to lead the kind of lives they want to live, and ultimately determine what a person can do and become. We tend to think of capabilities as an individual's skills and talents. In the human development approach, the word's meaning is far more expansive. Valued capabilities include good health, access to knowledge, sufficient income, physical safety, religious freedom, political participation, love and friendship, societal respect, equality under the law, social inclusion, access to the natural world, self-expression, agency, the ability to influence decisions that affect one's life, and more. Some capabilities are built through one's own efforts, such as working hard in school, eating a healthy diet, and getting physical exercise; others are the result of the conditions and institutions around a person, such as having access to high-quality schools, stores that sell nutritious food, and parks in which to safely walk or jog; many result from the interplay between the two. Some capabilities are bestowed on people through an accident of birth: having rich parents or well-connected, powerful relatives. Others are impeded by neglect or family violence. Capabilities can stem from legally protected rights, such as freedom of conscience or assembly, or freedom from arbitrary detention. Capabilities can be built or eroded by the state of the economy, the state of the natural environment, the state of public discourse, or the state of our democracy.

How Is Human Development Measured?

Trying to measure all the facets of this expansive concept would be madness. Thus, the UN Human Development Index as well as the adapted American Human Development Index measure just three fundamental human development dimensions: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living (see FIGURE 1). Why only three areas, and why these three in particular? People around the world view them as core building blocks of a life of value, freedom, and dignity; healthy lives, good educations, and decent wages are not controversial aims. In addition, these foundational capabilities make possible other capabilities, such as adequate housing in safe neighborhoods. From a practical perspective, these are areas that one can measure comparatively easily; reliable and regularly collected proxy indicators are available for each. From both a methodological and a communications point of view, indexes with large numbers of indicators can be tricky. Using many indicators can lead to counting the same phenomenon two or three times, to confusing results, and to a false equivalence between fundamental and derivative issues. Indexes that include scores of indicators can be difficult to explain and understand, diluting their advocacy power.

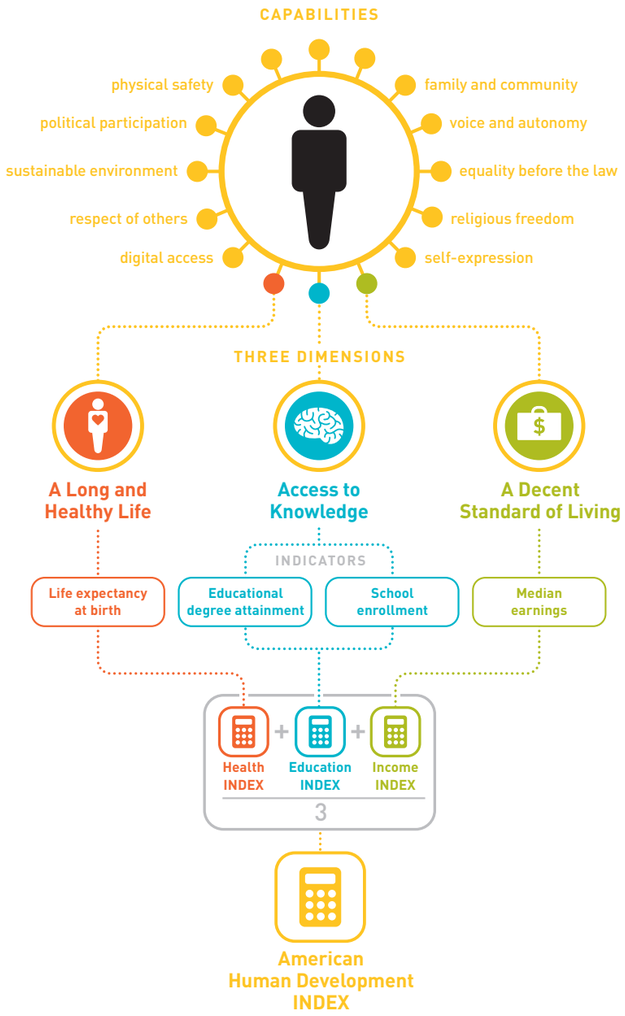
It is important, however, to be realistic about the limitations of a parsimonious index like this one. It doesn't include environmental indicators, for example, or indicators amendable to very short-term change. To address these limitations, this volume includes **a Global Goals Dashboard** that reflects what the global

Two Approaches to Understanding Progress in America



community has identified as the most pressing issues of our time (see PAGE 24). The Human Development Index is not the end of a discussion on well-being; it is the start. Once disparities in basic outcomes have been identified using the index and its constituent parts, the critical task is to examine the why—the underlying conditions, historical factors, policy choices, and more that have led to different outcomes for different groups of Angelenos. For this exploration, a whole host of other indicators is required—indicators that are included in the dashboard as well as others. The dashboard appears at the end of this chapter.

FIGURE 1 Human Development: From Concept to Measurement



Now for the technical part. The American Human Development Index for Los Angeles County is comprised of the following indicators:

• **A Long and Healthy Life** is measured using life expectancy at birth. It is calculated using mortality data from the Death Statistical Master Files of the California Department of Public Health and population data from the US Census Bureau for 2010–2014.

• **Access to Knowledge** is measured using two indicators: school enrollment for the population 3 to 24 years of age and educational degree attainment for those 25 and older. A one-third weight is applied to the enrollment indicator and a two-thirds weight to the degree attainment indicator to reflect the relative importance of earning degrees as compared to attending school. Both are from the US Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey.

• **A Decent Standard of Living** is measured using median earnings of all full- and part-time workers ages 16 and older from the same 2015 American Community Survey (See BOX 1, page 115).

The three components are weighted equally on the premise that each is equally important for human well-being.

In broad terms, the first steps for calculating the index are to compile or calculate the four indicators that comprise it: life expectancy, school enrollment, educational degree attainment, and median personal earnings. Because these indicators use different scales (years, dollars, percent), they must be put on a common scale so they can be combined. Three sub-indexes, one for each of the three dimensions that make up the index—health, education, and earnings—are created on a scale of 0 to 10. The process requires the selection of minimum and maximum values—or "goalposts"—for each of the four indicators. These goalposts are determined based on the range of the indicator observed from the data and also taking into account possible increases and decreases in years to come. For life expectancy, for example, the goalposts are ninety years at the high end and sixty-six years at the low end. The three sub-indexes are then added together and divided by three to yield the American Human Development Index value. (A description of how the index is calculated is contained in the Methodological Note.)

In this report and others, the index score is presented for the whole population—the score for LA County is 5.43 out of 10—as well as for different slices of the population. In Measure of America's national work, scores are presented, for instance, by state and congressional district. For this report, index scores are presented by **demographic group** and by **geography.** The sections that address well-being through a demographic lens present scores by race and ethnicity; by gender; and by nativity. The sections that address well-being through a geographic lens presents scores for LA County's cities and unincorporated areas; the City of Los Angeles's community plan areas; and county supervisorial districts. The pages that follow first present the results of the overall index, then explore in greater detail its constituent parts: health, education, and earnings.

The Benefits of the Human Development Index

Measure of America has used official government statistics to create something new for Los Angeles County: an American Human Development (HD) Index using an easy-to-understand composite of comparable indicators of health, education, and living standards. Four features of this work can make the American HD Index particularly useful for understanding and addressing inequities in LA County:

It supplements money metrics with human metrics. An overreliance on economic metrics such as GDP per capita can provide misleading information about the everyday conditions of people's lives. Connecticut and Wyoming, for instance, have nearly the same GDP per capita. Yet Connecticut residents, on average, can expect to outlive their western compatriots by two and a half years, are far more likely to have bachelor's degrees, and typically earn $7,000 more per year.

It connects sectors to show problems, and their solutions, from a people-centered perspective. The cross-sectoral American HD Index broadens the analysis of the interlocking factors that create opportunities and fuel both advantage and disadvantage. For example, if every adult in LA County who never completed high school magically did, the United Way/Measure of America Common Good Forecaster projects 283,259 more eligible voters would vote. Why? Because there is a robust relationship between an educated electorate and the quality of our democracy. Schooling instills greater acceptance of free speech and democratic values, more understanding of the issues on which we vote, and increased confidence to select able leaders.[3]

BOX 1 What about Cost of Living?

A common question about the standard of living indicator, median personal earnings, is whether it has been adjusted for the cost of living. It has not. The cost of living varies far more within Los Angeles County than between the county and other places, and methodologies for adjusting for cost of living do not sufficiently account for local variation. In addition, living costs are invariably higher in areas with desirable community assets and amenities that are conducive to higher levels of well-being. For example, neighborhoods with higher housing costs—the major portion of cost of living—are typically places with better public schools, more opportunities for recreation and entertainment, greater neighborhood safety, and better public transportation options. Thus, to adjust for cost of living would be to push to the side some of the factors that the HD Index is measuring. In addition, people pay more to live in places where they perceive the quality of life to be higher.

Numerous studies as well as common sense tell us that, for many people, sunny days and a temperate climate are key factors in quality of life;[4] people pay more to live in California in general and Southern California in particular because of the weather. Adjusting for cost of living could imply that living in LA County from November through March is not meaningfully different from living in Syracuse, NY, where the average yearly snowfall is 126 inches,[5] or Milwaukee, with an average winter temperature of 25 degrees, in terms of quality of life.

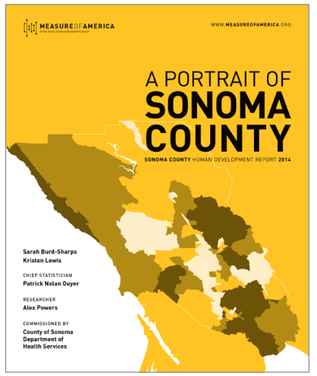
BOX 2 *A Portrait of Sonoma County 2014:* Moving from Shared Understanding to Community Action

The first question that comes up when presenting the Human Developement Index to a new audience is this: How is the index used to make a diffference? The *Portrait of Sonoma County* project offers some concrete examples. Aiming to confront well-being disparities in Sonoma County head on and develop a detailed roadmap to address them, the Sonoma County Department of Health Services commissioned Measure of America to produce *A Portrait of Sonoma County* in 2013. The project involved a collaborative process from development through to dissemination and implementation. The *Portrait of Sonoma County* report concludes with an "Agenda for Action" that outlines concrete recommendations for addressing the county's greatest challenges and identifies high-priority neighborhoods.

County leaders agreed that one year after its launch the *Portrait* had become the gold standard for data on need and well-being in Sonoma County. In the words of Alfredo Perez, executive director of First 5 Sonoma, "You can't go to a meeting in the community without the *Portrait of Sonoma* being talked about."

The report has been instrumental in catalyzing policy actions in a multifaceted range of areas, from identifying communities that need better access to parks and other public services to training Sonoma County health employees.

- County agencies have agreed to concentrate and coordinate substantial resources in the five communities identified in the *Portrait* as facing the greatest human development hardships.
- Shortly after the report's publication, the County Board of Supervisors voted to regulate e-cigarette use, citing the *Portrait's* findings on high teenage tobacco use in the county as an impetus for new limitations.
- The report prompted the formation of a new funder's circle that is coordinating the efforts of foundations, hospitals, and county government with an eye towards finding projects that they can collectively throw their support behind.
- Following the *Portrait's* recommendation to "make universal preschool a reality," the Board of Supervisors requested a cost estimate for this program. The Board is exploring financing options for the county's first-ever universal preschool program.
- A pilot program has begun, with the bottom-ranked census tract on the Human Development Index as the first site, to create a series of murals aimed at community engagement and healing. The goal is to use public art as a means for improved local law enforcement-community relations and to tap into cultural assets in underserved areas.



The report and its adoption by Sonoma County can serve as a model for other cities, counties, and states looking to improve the well-being of their residents.

It focuses on outcomes. The Human Development Index focuses on the end result of efforts to bring about change. While many data points help us understand specific problems related to people's lives (like unemployment rates) or quantify efforts to address these problems (for example, funding for job training or living wage policies), we often stop short of measuring the impact of these efforts: Are investments making a difference? Are people's median earnings increasing? Is economic security improving as a result? Are people's living standards improving?

It counts everyone. The Human Development Index moves away from the binary us–them view of advantage and disadvantage provided by today's poverty measure to one in which everyone can see him- or herself along the same continuum.

Global Goals Dashboard

As a supplement to the American HD Index, we have included this Global Goals Dashboard. It is a distilled version of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its associated indicators. The SDGs are the global blueprint for a just and sustainable future. The United Nations coordinated the inputs of 193 countries and thousands of civil society organizations to arrive at a set of seventeen goals and 169 targets to be achieved in all countries by 2030. The SDGs offer a way to understand and address critical barriers to well-being, economic growth and prosperity, and environmental sustainability in the United States and to put American challenges and opportunities within a global context. The United States played a leading role in negotiating these goals; as a result, they reflect American values and priorities.

The spirit behind the global goals is not just to meet the goals as measured by global or national averages, but rather to spur meaningful action in states and cities, counties and communities. The true aim is **meeting the goals everywhere and for everyone**, not just in aggregate at the national level. Doing so in the United States will require adapting the global goals in terms of relevant geographic units of analysis (states, metro areas, or counties), population groups (major racial and ethnic groups, women and men, foreign- and US-born residents), and indicators.

This Global Goals Dashboard was created by picking from among the seventeen goals those that are most meaningful to Americans and grouping and adapting them to the US context. A focus was placed on including those that were available by county and for the major US racial and ethnic groups. This dashboard is a work in progress, a foundation on which LA County and cities in greater LA can build in response to local well-being priorities. Over the course of 2018, Measure of America will support the City of Los Angeles as they create a city-focused global goals dashboard.

What does this Global Goals Dashboard show? First and foremost, it underscores the importance of calculating and analyzing disaggregated data. Compared to both California and the United States as a whole, LA County has a lower share of young people ages 16 to 24 who are out of school and work (the youth disconnection rate). LA County is thus closer to the SDG target on this indicator than the state and country. Yet one group of Angelenos, black young people, has a rate almost 10 percentage points higher than the county average, a fact that would be missed looking just at the countywide figure. Meeting the goals **everywhere and for everyone** demands particular attention to tracking the progress of historically disadvantaged groups and disaggregated data is vital for this task. Second, it shows, as do other data in this report, the continued salience of race and ethnicity for understanding the distribution of well-being and access to opportunity.

The Global Goals Dashboard

	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	NO POVERTY 1		ZERO HUNGER 2	GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING 3			QUALITY EDUCATION 4		INNOVATION 9	
	INDICATOR	**Poverty** (% in households with incomes below federal poverty line)	**Child Poverty** (% of children in households with incomes below 200% of federal poverty line)	**SNAP Benefits** (% of households based on race of household head)	**Low Birth Weight Babies** (% based on race of mother)	**Life Expectancy at Birth** (years)	**No Health Insurance** (% of total population)	**Preschool Enrollment** (% of 3- and 4-year olds)	**On-Time Graduation** (% of high school freshmen who graduate in 4 years)	**Did Not Complete High School** (% of adults age 25+)	**Completed at Least Bachelor's Degree** (% of adults age 25+)
	United States	14.7	42.8	12.8	8.0	79.3	9.4	47.6	83.2	13.1	30.1
	California	15.3	45.7	9.7	6.8	81.9	8.7	49.6	83.8	17.8	32.3
	LA County	16.6	50.8	9.2	7.0	82.1	11.2	56.1	81.6	21.9	30.9
LA COUNTY	Asian	12.1	32.5	3.0	6.7	87.3	7.8	62.0	93.9	12.2	49.7
LA COUNTY	Black	22.0	56.3	14.7	12.1	75.6	7.3	58.0	72.7	10.1	25.8
LA COUNTY	Latino	20.9	63.0	15.6	6.5	84.4	16.3	50.5	79.7	40.5	11.7
LA COUNTY	White	10.3	22.6	3.8	6.5	80.9	5.4	70.8	86.9	5.4	47.9
LA COUNTY	Men	15.5	50.4	N/A	N/A	79.6	12.7	56.7	78.2	21.8	30.8
LA COUNTY	Women	17.8	51.2	N/A	N/A	84.5	9.8	55.5	85.0	21.9	31.0

	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	GENDER EQUALITY 5		DECENT WORK 8		SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES 11			ACCESS TO JUSTICE 16		
	INDICATOR	**Teen Births** (births to girls ages 15 to 19 per 1,000)	**Ratio of Female to Male Earnings** Median personal earnings ($)	**Disconnected Youth** (% ages 16 to 24 not in school and not working)	**Unemployed** (% ages 16 and older)	**Renters Spending 30% or More on Housing** (%)	**Commute 60 Minutes or More One Way** (% of workers)	**Take Public Transportation,** walk, or bicycle to work (% of commuters)	**Juvenile Felony Arrests** (Arrests of youth ages 10 to 17 per 1,000 youth)	**Jail** (average daily population per 100,000 adults 16 and older based on last known residence)	**Homicide Victims** (per 100,000 residents)
	United States	26.5	71.2	12.3	6.3	50.6	9.0	9.0	7.7	341.4	4.5
	California	23.2	74.0	12.2	7.2	55.8	11.8	9.6	3.4	303.0	4.9
	LA County	23.5	82.1	11.8	7.1	58.8	13.4	10.5	3.5	263.2	5.9
LA COUNTY	Asian	3.0	82.5	6.1	5.3	54.7	13.2	8.1	N/A	10.8	1.3
LA COUNTY	Black	27.1	92.8	21.3	11.7	65.1	16.1	12.3	17.5	1,009.0	26.5
LA COUNTY	Latino	31.9	79.3	12.3	7.4	63.6	13.6	12.9	2.9	272.1	5.4
LA COUNTY	White	4.4	73.5	9.2	6.3	54.4	12.5	7.0	1.7	175.5	3.3
LA COUNTY	Men	N/A	N/A	11.5	6.9	N/A	14.2	10.0	5.8	479.4	10.1
LA COUNTY	Women	N/A	N/A	12.0	7.4	N/A	12.5	11.0	1.2	75.7	1.6

What the Human Development Index Reveals

IN THIS SECTION

Introduction

The American Human Development Index cannot measure many of Los Angeles County's defining characteristics: the endless sunshine, the iconic beauty of its beaches and mountains, its thriving creative scene, its unmatched cultural diversity, and the hopes and ambitions that compel so many to build their lives in this special place. The index does, however, capture outcomes in three areas that are essential to the well-being of county residents and which in large part determine the degree to which different groups of Angelenos are able to make their dreams a reality.

The three broad areas of the index—a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living—in turn encompass a range of factors central to well-being and access to opportunity. For example, the proxy used to represent a long and healthy life—life expectancy at birth—results from the interplay of a range of factors that affect health outcomes, including neighborhood safety, air quality, levels of exposure to toxic stress, health-risk behaviors like smoking, the quality of natural and built environments, and the presence or absence of occupational hazards, among others. The indicator that serves as a stand-in for living standards—median personal earnings—captures not just how much money people earn but also, by extension, what those earnings make possible, such as where people can afford to live, which in turn affects the quality of the schools their children attend and the neighborhood environments to which they are exposed.

Los Angeles County's Human Development Index value is 5.43 out of a possible 10. This score is higher than the US index value of 5.17. What will be more interesting to the readers of this report, however, is how different parts of LA County and different demographic groups fare in relation to one another. Some places in LA score over 9 on the 10-point HD Index scale, indicating levels of well-being among the highest not just in California but in the country as a whole. Others score less than 3 out of 10, indicating education levels, life expectancies, and earnings below those of the country's lowest-scoring congressional districts in struggling parts of Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta. Wide gaps separate racial and ethnic groups as well.

This chapter will present index scores by **demographic group** and by **geography.** It is worth noting that these categories are not unrelated—quite the opposite. Due to the sharp residential segregation by race and ethnicity, national origin, and income that characterizes LA County, there is significant overlap between demographics and geography (see BOX 1). In LA County, geography can sometimes serve as a proxy for the intersection between race, ethnicity, and national origin on the one hand and income on the other, as evidenced by places like View Park–Windsor Hills, home chiefly to affluent black households, or the City of Rosemead, whose residents are predominantly Asian immigrants earning

The **HD Index** covers three broad areas—**a long and healthy life, access to knowledge,** and **a decent standard of living.**

wages that fall well below the county median.

The section that addresses well-being through a **demographic lens** presents scores by race and ethnicity, by gender, and by nativity. The section that addresses well-being through a **geographic lens** presents scores in three ways. It presents index scores for seventy-eight of LA County's eighty-eight cities and twenty-eight of its fifty-three census-designated places—**106 distinct locales in all.** Ninety-seven percent of LA residents call one of these places home. This section also presents index scores for the **City of Los Angeles's thirty-five community plan areas,** shedding light on the great variation that exists within the county's largest city.

Analysis by Race and Ethnicity, Nativity, Gender, and Geography

VARIATION BY GENDER AND RACE AND ETHNICITY

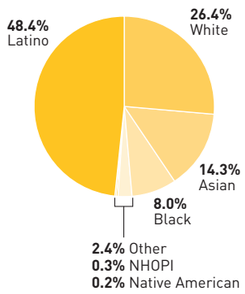
Los Angeles County's women and girls edge out men and boys on the HD Index; their score is 5.48 as compared with 5.17. Women outlive men by about half a decade, and women have a slightly higher level of educational attainment than men. But men out-earn women by $5,793.

The difference in life expectancy between men and women can be found the world over; women have an average four- to five-year advantage in lifespan over men. Part of this difference is rooted in biology, and part is rooted in the different ways in which women and men are socialized to approach health and risk. See PAGE 73 for more on this topic.

Women have taken to heart the notion that education is key to opportunities beyond traditional, and low-paying, "female" occupations and that competing in the globalized knowledge economy requires high school and college degrees; girls and young women today graduate high school and college at higher rates than men. Yet, as the numbers show, greater educational achievement has not translated into higher earnings. The earnings gap remains stubbornly persistent. Median personal earnings include the wages of both full- and part-time workers, so part of the earnings gap can be attributed to a higher proportion of women than men working part time; nonetheless, even in occupations where women predominate, like nursing, men earn more than women, on average. This is particularly consequential because 25 percent of households in the county with children under 18 are headed by women.[1]

The American Human Development Index scores of Los Angeles County's major racial and ethnic groups vary from relatively high levels of well-being among Asian and white Angelenos to far lower levels among Native American, black, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and Latino residents (see TABLE 1).

Population of LA County's Major Racial and Ethnic Groups



Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.

Below are some notable human development strengths and challenges for each major racial and ethnic group in Los Angeles County.

Asians, who make up just over 14 percent of Los Angeles County's population, have the highest well-being score, 7.37. Their strongest human development dimension is health; Asians live longer than members of any other racial and ethnic group. Their educational attainment levels are also remarkably high; more than half (50.2 percent) have at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 47.9 percent of white LA County adults. One area in which the group lags both white and black residents, though, is high school completion; roughly 12 percent of the county's Asian adults aged 25 and older did not complete high school. This split record on educational attainment stems from the differing educational opportunities available to immigrants in their countries of origin, discussed further below.

While the overall educational outcomes of Asians are better than those of whites, median personal earnings—the wages and salary of the typical worker—are considerably lower, with a gap of more than $10,000 ($38,016 for Asians, compared to $47,607 for whites). This earnings disparity is explored in greater depth in the chapter on standard of living.

Asian women have a higher HD Index score than Asian men. Although men earn much more, Asian women can expect to live five years longer than their male counterparts.

It is important to note that the category "Asian" is extremely broad. It encompasses US-born citizens who trace their heritage to a wide range of Asian countries as well as Asian immigrants. These immigrants,

TABLE 1

Human Development Index by Race and Ethnicity and Gender

	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	EDUCATION INDEX (out of 10)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)
United States	**5.17**	**79.3**	**5.17**	**31,416**
California	**5.54**	**81.9**	**5.17**	**31,733**
Los Angeles County	**5.43**	**82.1**	**4.96**	**30,654**
GENDER				
LA County Women	5.48	84.5	5.10	26,652
LA County Men	5.17	79.6	4.82	32,444
RACE AND ETHNICITY				
Asian	7.37	87.3	7.12	38,016
White	6.96	80.9	7.02	47,607
Native American	4.64	76.9	3.77	35,429
Black	4.54	75.6	4.64	32,433
NHOPI	4.44	75.4	4.69	31,152
Latino	4.32	84.4	2.80	22,617
RACE AND ETHNICITY AND GENDER				
Asian Women	7.43	89.7	6.99	34,496
Asian Men	7.26	84.6	7.28	41,812
White Men	6.98	78.7	6.95	55,348
White Women	6.93	83.1	7.10	40,702
Black Women	5.07	78.7	5.02	32,033
NHOPI Men	4.85	74.1	5.33	36,684
Latina Women	4.47	86.8	3.02	20,258
Latino Men	4.16	81.7	2.58	25,547
Black Men	4.07	72.1	4.23	34,533
NHOPI Women	3.70	76.6	4.17	22,748

Sources: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.
Note: Data on Native American men and women have been suppressed due to unreliable estimates.

BOX 1

Who Lives Where and Why It Matters

Los Angeles County is highly diverse; the entire range of human experience, or close to it, can be found among its ten million inhabitants. But like most large urban areas, LA County is also highly segregated—by race and ethnicity, by national origin, by income, by educational level, and by occupational category. Residential segregation matters because where you live is closely connected to your well-being and life chances; place shapes outcomes to a large extent.[2] For those excluded from opportunity-rich communities—either financially or by virtue of discrimination, past and present—segregation harms well-being and hinders mobility. The map at right provides a visualization of residential segregation in LA County, color-coded by race and ethnicity. Each dot represents 300 residents.

Residential segregation by race and ethnicity, while prohibited since a 1976 Supreme Court ruling,[3] is nonetheless the de facto, on-the-ground reality for many Los Angeles residents. Of the 102 most-populous US metropolitan areas, greater Los Angeles (which also includes Orange County) ranks second in terms of the level of segregation of Latinos, tenth for the segregation of blacks, and twelfth for the segregation of Asians. Nationwide as well as within Los Angeles, black people experience the highest levels of segregation, in LA scoring 68 out of 100 on a commonly used measure called the Segregation Index.[4] The Latino score, 62, is also very high, and the Asian score, 48, is moderate but growing; it increased 5 percent between 1990 and 2010. Recent research suggests that some of the most racially integrated parts of greater LA are in the process of resegregating, on track to become nearly all-Latino or all-Asian communities with few white or black residents within two decades.[5] Angelenos, like Americans across the country, are also sorted into neighborhoods by education and income.[6] Measure of America analysis for this report found that LA County residents disproportionately live in locales with people who share their level of educational attainment, work in the same occupational categories, and have similar earnings.

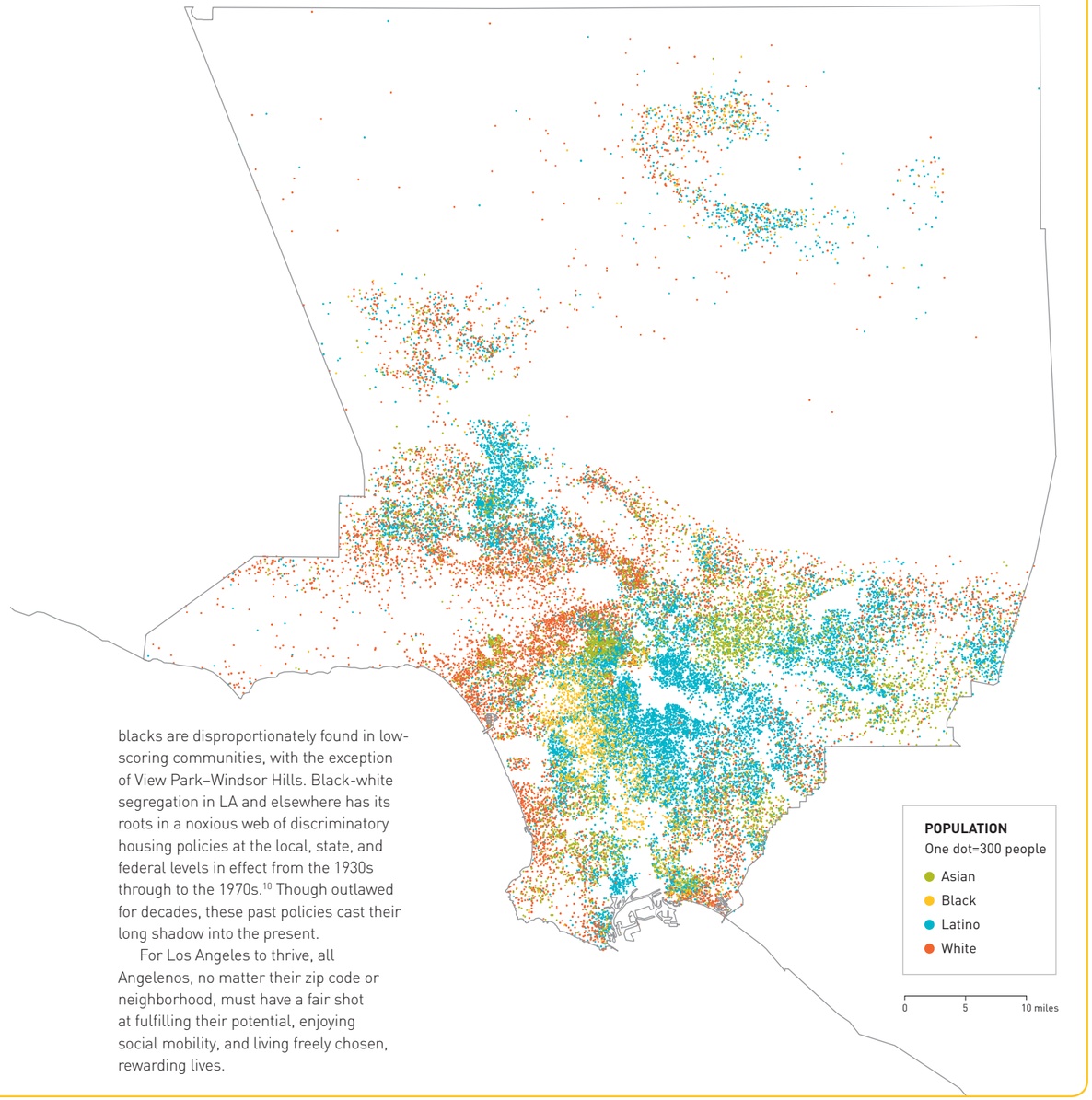
Residential segregation has dramatic and distinct consequences for different groups. Because "opportunities and resources are unevenly distributed in space, some neighborhoods have safer streets, higher home values, better services, more effective schools, and more supportive peer environments than others."[7] In LA County, both areas with very high HD Index scores and areas with very low HD Index scores tend to be quite segregated. Angelenos living in the high-scoring locales clustered along the coast and in the hills, the majority of whom are white or Asian, benefit from cumulative, concentrated advantage—the affluence, educational attainment, political power, and social networks of their neighbors supercharge their personal capabilities and dramatically expand their access to resources and opportunities. Angelenos living in low-scoring communities are harmed by concentrated, cumulative disadvantage—a piling on of challenges such as poverty, violence, incarceration, housing instability, exposure to pollution, and family fragility; the struggles of individual families are magnified by the struggles of those around them. These communities tend to be geographically isolated and comprised largely of Latinos, blacks, and immigrants with limited formal education.[8]

> Residential **segregation** by race and ethnicity, while prohibited since a 1976 Supreme Court ruling, is nonetheless the reality for many Los Angeles residents.

In LA County, communities with large shares of immigrants can be found at both ends of the well-being spectrum. For first- and second-generation immigrants, living among others who share a common language and cultural traditions can foster social cohesion and offer a host of other distinct advantages. Current residents can literally and figuratively translate for newcomers, connecting them to jobs, plugging them into social networks, and helping them access information and navigate institutions. High-scoring communities like Arcadia and Monterrey Park serve that function for Angelenos of Chinese descent, for example. But immigrant enclaves can also suffer harmful isolation from mainstream opportunities and protective systems, especially when the majority of residents live in poverty. The situation can be particularly grave for the undocumented. In addition, immigrants with limited education and incomes are more likely to settle in historically under-resourced neighborhoods, where opportunities are few and far between, and neighborhoods undergoing demographic change tend to have weakened social bonds thus less capacity for collective action.[9]

Communities where native-born Angelenos predominate are likewise found at both ends of the well-being scale, but racial differences are stark. US-born whites are disproportionately found in high-scoring communities, and US-born blacks are disproportionately found in low-scoring communities, with the exception of View Park–Windsor Hills. Black-white segregation in LA and elsewhere has its roots in a noxious web of discriminatory housing policies at the local, state, and federal levels in effect from the 1930s through to the 1970s.[10] Though outlawed for decades, these past policies cast their long shadow into the present.

For Los Angeles to thrive, all Angelenos, no matter their zip code or neighborhood, must have a fair shot at fulfilling their potential, enjoying social mobility, and living freely chosen, rewarding lives.



some of whom arrived long ago and others who arrived more recently, came from extraordinarily diverse circumstances—from uprooted refugees carrying the trauma of war and displacement to affluent elites on a freely chosen search for exciting educational and economic opportunities. Fortunately, thanks to the activism of Asian advocacy groups, the state of California now collects data by Asian subgroup. This disaggregation has allowed Measure of America for the first time to calculate HD Index scores for eight subgroups as well as two smaller composite groupings. This exercise revealed important differences among the subgroups and surfaced two striking commonalities—all Asian subgroups save one, Cambodians, have much higher well-being scores than the average Angeleno; and school enrollment rates among all Asian subgroups but Thai are higher than the LA County average. See BOX 2 for HD Index scores for Asian subgroups.

Whites, about one in four county residents, have an index score of 6.96, the second highest among the racial and ethnic groups. White life expectancy is 80.9 years, below that of Asians and Latinos and below the countywide average. White educational outcomes and earnings, on the other hand, are high. The typical white wages and salaries in LA County far outstrip those of the other five racial and ethnic groups and are nearly $10,000 above median earnings for the nearest group, Asians. LA County whites earn about 50 percent more than the typical American, Californian, or LA County resident and over $16,000 more than whites lower than the countywide average for high school completion; three in ten adults did not complete high school. The share with bachelor's degrees is on par with the countywide rate, and earnings are slightly above the county average.

The **Thai** score, 6.24, is higher than the LA County score, but lower than the overall score for Asians in Los Angeles County. The share of adults with a high school diploma is about the same as the US average, and the share with college degrees, 43.4 percent, is 40 percent higher than the LA County average. Earnings, about $28,000, are lower than the LA County median, however.

LA County residents of **Cambodian** descent are the only Asian subgroup with a score below the LA County average, 5.17 as compared to 5.43. A third of Cambodian adults lack high school diplomas, and only 18 percent hold bachelor's degrees. Earnings are about $5,000 less than the LA County median.

LA County's **Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, Nepali, Indonesian, Burmese, Laotian, Hmong,** and **Malaysian** communities are too small to allow for calculation of distinct HD Index scores. The closest approximation the numbers allow is via regional groupings for South Asians (Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, and Nepali) and Southeast Asians (Indonesian, Burmese, Laotian, Hmong, and Malaysian). The South Asian score, 6.66, reflects the strong educational attainment of this group—half the adults hold bachelor's degrees and one in five holds a graduate degree. Earnings for this group are below the countywide median, however. The Southeast Asian score, 6.81, is buoyed by a strong showing in bachelor's degree attainment and earnings that exceed the countywide median.

Note: Life expectancy figures for Asian subgroups shown are for the five largest groups for which reliable life expectancy estimates could be calculated—Chinese, Filipinos, Koreans, Indians, and Japanese. The countywide Asian life expectancy figure has been imputed for other subgroups to allow calculation of the HD Index; the educational and earnings figures shown are not imputed but rather represent the actual value for each subgroup.

BOX 2

Well-Being among Asian Subgroups

Among Asian subgroups, **Indians** have by far the highest HD Index score, 9.10. Seven in ten adults hold bachelor's degrees, and over one in three hold graduate degrees. Median personal earnings for this group, more than $56,000, are higher than the earnings of any racial and ethnic group and exceed white earnings by about $8,400.

LA County residents of **Japanese** descent have the next-highest level of well-being, with a score of 7.71. They live about two years less than Indians and roughly one year less than Asian LA County residents overall, but their earnings and educational attainment levels are among the highest in the county.

LA residents who trace their origins to **China** score 7.3 on the HD Index, with exceptionally high life expectancy (88.1 years). Earnings are about $5,000 higher than the LA median, but below the figure for Asians as a whole. This subgroup has a split performance on education; the share of adults without a high school diploma, 18.1 percent, is high for the United States as a whole though below the county average—but the share with bachelor's degrees, about half of all adults, is very high for the county. This difference reflects outcomes for US-born children and grandchildren of long-settled Chinese families, who have, on average, strong educational outcomes, as compared to education levels of more recently arrived Chinese immigrants. This story of the children of immigrants surpassing their parents in education is an iconic one in America; Irish, Italian, and Jewish immigrants, to name just a few, followed this same trajectory over a century ago.

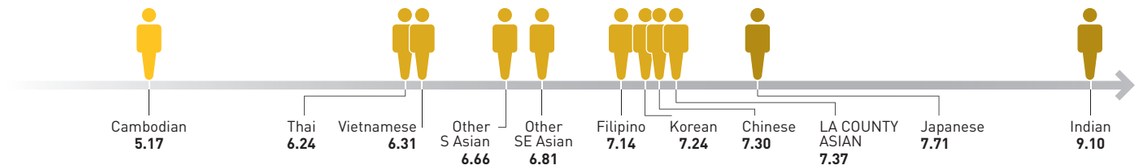
Korean immigrants and Korean Americans living in LA County have a score of 7.24. Educational attainment is particularly strong in this group; only 7.2 percent of adults lack high school diplomas, and more than half hold bachelor's degrees. Earnings are lower than the LA Asian median, but higher than the countywide median.

Filipino residents of LA County score 7.14 on the index. Their life expectancy, 85.5 years, is about two years less than the LA Asian average, but still three years higher than the LA County average. Their educational attainment levels are high, with over 94 percent of adults holding high school diplomas and 54 percent holding bachelor's degrees. Earnings, almost $39,000, are higher than the LA Asian median and about $8,000 above the countywide median.

For the next five groups—**Vietnamese, Thai, Cambodians,** other **South Asians** (Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis, and Nepalis combined), and other **Southeast Asians** (Indonesians, Burmese, Laotians, Hmong, and Malaysians combined)—index scores are calculated using the overall LA Asian life expectancy value of 87.3. There are two reasons for this. First, although the Vietnamese population is a large enough group for which to reliably calculate life expectancy, the result of these calculations was extremely high, over 95 years. While there are many reasons to assume that life expectancy for this group is indeed quite high,[11] it is also likely that some irregularity with the data created an inflated result, as a 95-year average life expectancy is, on its face, improbable.[12] Second, the other Asian subgroups in this category have populations that are too small to allow for reliable life expectancy estimates. Because the education and earnings data are available from the US Census Bureau for these subgroups, however, the index scores still impart meaningful information about their well-being.

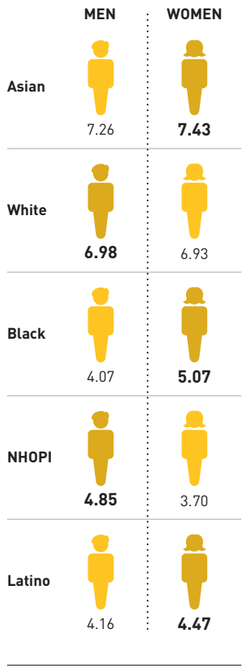
The **Vietnamese** score, 6.31, exceeds the LA County average. As mentioned above, it is quite possible that this group's score should be higher to reflect an even longer life expectancy, but the data are such that we cannot reliably make that claim. Education levels for this group are

Human Development Index in LA County for Asian Subgroups



Sources: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015
Note: Chinese includes Taiwanese. Other South Asian includes Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan. Other Southeast Asian includes Burmese, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, and Malaysian.

HD Index Race/Ethnicity and Gender Comparison



nationwide.

White women and men have remarkably similar HD Index scores, 6.93 and 6.98, respectively. But while their education scores are near mirror images, white men earn nearly $15,000 more than white women—the largest gender wage gap of any racial and ethnic group by far. Women, on the other hand, have a 4.4-year life expectancy advantage.

Native Americans, who make up 0.2 percent of the county's population, rank third, with an index score of 4.64. This score is surprisingly high given that Native Americans in the United States as a whole score just 3.47. Native Americans in LA live just shy of two years longer than their national counterparts and are much more likely to hold bachelor's degrees (26.8 percent do in LA County, compared to 14.6 percent nationwide). The difference in earnings is striking; Native American earnings in LA County, more than $35,000, are higher than the LA County median and $10,000 higher than Native American median earnings in the US as a whole, although the difference is not statistically significant due to small population size. Because the Native American population of Los Angeles County is quite small, calculating reliable scores for women and men separately is not possible.

Black Angelenos, who make up 8 percent of the county's population, rank fourth, with an index score of 4.54. The share of adults with high school diplomas is above the countywide average, and the share with bachelor's degrees slightly below. Median personal earnings are about $2,000 higher than the countywide median. As is the case in the nation and in California, however, the life expectancy for blacks is much less than for Asians, Latinos, or whites. A black baby born today in Los Angeles County can expect to live eleven fewer years than an Asian baby and over eight-and-a-half fewer years than a Latino baby. Blacks fare far better in Los Angeles County than in the US as whole; the national black index score is 3.91. Although the LA County and national black life expectancies are about the same, black LA County residents have higher levels of education and earn much more than their national counterparts.

Black women enjoy higher overall levels of well-being than black men in LA County, scoring 5.07 on the index, compared to men's score of 4.07. Blacks have the largest female-male life expectancy gap—6.6 years—and the smallest earnings gap, with men making $2,500 more than women. Women outperform men in education.

Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI) make up 0.3 percent of the county population and have a Human Development Index value of 4.44, just slightly above Latinos. They have the lowest life expectancy of the six groups, 75.4 years, and levels of postsecondary education below the county average. The heartening news is that the rate of children and young adults enrolled in school (from preschool through age 24) is above the county average.

NHOPI men have higher well-being levels than NHOPI women, scoring 4.85 to women's 3.70, the largest gender gap in the overall HD Index score among the six racial and ethnic groups. Women's health advantage is less pronounced in this group than in the others; women live 2.5 years longer than men.

Latino residents, a large and diverse group that makes up 48.4 percent of Los Angeles County's population, have the lowest score on the index, 4.32. Latino life expectancy in Los Angeles County is very high; Latinos outlive whites, on average, by about three-and-a-half years (see PAGE 67 for a discussion of this phenomenon). Education and income indicators are far behind, however. Four in ten Latino adults did not complete high school, and just 11.7 percent hold bachelor's degrees. Latino median earnings are $23,000, which is below the poverty line for a family of four. Latinos in LA County have a slightly longer life expectancy and slightly lower educational outcomes and incomes than Latinos nationwide, leading to very similar overall scores—the national Latino score is 4.34.

Latino men and women have remarkably similar rates for high school completion, but women have a slight edge in bachelor's and graduate degree attainment and school enrollment. Latinas live five years longer than their male counterparts, but earn $5,000 less, one of the smaller gender earnings gaps among the racial and ethnic groups.

There are significant well-being differences between US-born Latinos and foreign-born Latinos. In California as a whole, foreign-born Latinos live about three years longer than their native-born counterparts; the Latino life expectancy advantage erodes with residence in the US.[13] Looking just at Latinos in LA County, foreign-born Latino adults are about three times as likely to lack a high school

TABLE 2 Human Development by Latino Subgroup

ETHNICITY	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)	LA COUNTY LATINO POPULATION (% of total)
LA County Latino	**40.5**	**11.7**	**3.1**	**78.0**	**22,617**	**100.0**
Mexican	41.5	10.2	2.7	78.1	22,766	76.3
Central American	46.5	9.9	2.1	76.4	20,965	16.5
South American	13.8	34.3	10.4	81.6	29,919	2.6
Other	25.3	19.5	7.1	80.6	24,489	2.1
Puerto Rican, Dominican, Cuban	18.6	30.4	8.6	77.4	31,821	1.9
Spaniard	10.7	39.7	15.6	83.3	43,331	0.6
NATIVITY						
Native-Born Latino	17.1	19.5	5.1	80.1	24,883	60.1
Foreign-Born Latino	55.0	7.0	1.9	56.8	21,793	39.9

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

BOX 3 How Do US-Born Angelenos and Immigrant Angelenos Compare?

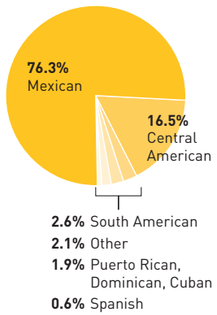
Angelenos who were born in the US have a higher well-being score than Angelenos who immigrated here. But in one important way, LA County immigrants have a huge advantage: their life expectancy is 86.5 years, compared to 79.9 years for US-born county residents.

Native-born residents, on the other hand, are much more likely to hold a high school diploma (91.1 percent vs. 63.5 percent) and are half again as likely to have earned a bachelor's degree. Their median earnings are also higher by about $7,000.

	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
Native-born	5.66	79.9	8.9	36.9	13.2	80.7	33,332	5.77	6.03	5.19
Foreign-born	4.97	86.5	36.5	24.2	8.0	68.4	26,319	8.53	2.83	3.55

Sources: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.

Population of Latino Subgroups in LA County



Sources: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.
Note: "Other" includes people of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin who do not identify with one of the listed subgroups.

diploma as native-born Latino adults. Native-born Latino adults in LA County are actually more likely than the average Angeleno adult to have a high school diploma, 82.3 percent compared with 78.1 percent, respectively. US-born Latinos in LA County are three times as likely as foreign-born Latinos to hold a bachelor's degree, and their median earnings are $3,200 more. Six in ten LA County Latinos were born in the US, and four in ten were born outside the US.

Three in four Latino LA County residents are of Mexican origin. Central Americans (Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Costa Ricans, Hondurans, Nicaraguans, and Panamanians) together comprise about 17 percent of the county's Latino population. South Americans account for about 3 percent of the Latino population in LA, and people from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Cuba) together account for roughly 2 percent (see SIDEBAR). Latinos of Mexican and Central American origin have similar earnings and education levels; both are below the countywide average. People from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean are roughly on par with the LA County average for bachelor's degree attainment and earn slightly more than the countywide median, whereas those from South America have slightly higher levels of bachelor's degree attainment than the LA County average and earn slightly less than the countywide median (see TABLE 2).

VARIATION BY GEOGRAPHY: CITIES, UNINCORPORATED AREAS, AND CITY OF LA COMMUNITY PLAN AREAS

Most county residents live in one of eighty-eight **incorporated cities,** ranging in population size from around four million people in the City of Los Angeles to fewer than one hundred in Vernon City. Some nine in ten LA County residents live in one of these incorporated cities. The vast majority of the roughly one million remaining county residents live in one of fifty-three **census-designated places.** Census-designated places are unincorporated areas that fall outside the borders of the eighty-eight cities but which are nonetheless recognized as distinct communities; they have names and resemble cities in many respects, but they lack their own municipal governments.[14] Communities around the City of Whittier like East Whittier, West Whittier, and South Whittier, for instance, are census-designated places, not cities. This analysis includes index scores for seventy-eight of the eighty-eight cities and twenty-eight of the fifty-three census-designated places—**106 locales in all.** Together, these cities and census-designated places account for all but 3 percent of LA County's total population. The remaining areas of LA County cannot be included in the index because the survey estimates for them are unreliable or unavailable, usually due to small population size.

This section also presents index scores for the **City of Los Angeles's thirty-five community plan areas.** The reason is simple: comparing the City of Los Angeles to the other cities in LA County is akin to comparing not apples and oranges, but rather apples and one large watermelon. The overall index score for the City of Los Angeles, home to some four million people, masks the tremendous variation within it.

The range of well-being found among LA County communities is larger than that found across the 435 US congressional districts—from a high of 9.43 in the City of San Marino to a low of 2.44 in Florence-Graham. A resident of San Marino can expect to live 8.5 years longer than a resident of Florence-Graham, is sixteen times as likely to hold a bachelor's degree, and earns nearly four times more.

The distribution of well-being has a strong spatial dimension in the county, as can be seen in MAP 1. High levels of well-being are shown in darker shades, low levels in lighter shades. Places in the top fifth of HD Index scores are disproportionately found on the county's edges—along the coast, on either side of the Santa Monica Mountains, in the Santa Clarita Valley, in the Crescenta Valley, near the San Gabriel Mountains, and on the border with Orange County. Generally, they are adjacent to other high–HD Index locales on at least one side, though there are some exceptions. Areas with lower levels of well-being are disproportionately found in the center of the county and in the Antelope Valley as well as in the east. Like communities at the top of the well-being scale, those at the bottom also tend to be adjacent to communities with similar levels of well-being.

This geographic concentration of advantage and disadvantages intensifies

The range of well-being found among LA County communities is **larger** than that found across the 435 US Congressional Districts.

the positive effects of living in a high HD Index locale and the negative effects of living in a low–HD Index locale. Job seekers, people in need of medical specialists, parents in search of enriching activities for their children, and families eager to spend a Saturday enjoying the outdoors don't have far to go to find what they are looking for when they live in a high–HD Index community; if their city doesn't have what they need, the one next door quite likely does. Those living in low–HD Index communities, on the other hand, are not only less likely to find parks, quality schools, jobs, doctors, and other resources in their own communities, they are also less likely to find them in neighboring communities.

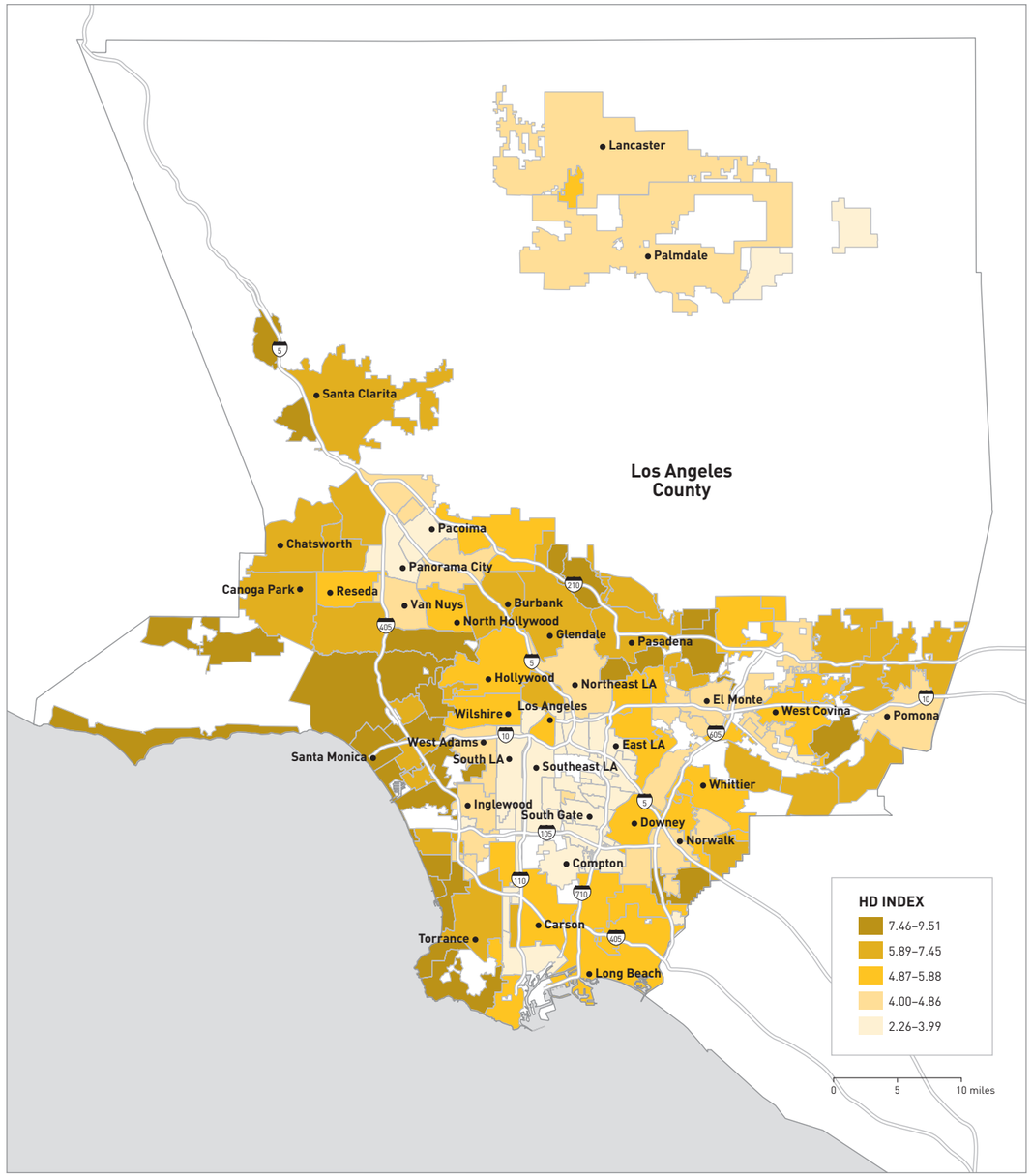
TABLE 3 HD Index by City of Los Angeles Community Plan Area

	HD INDEX
Bel Air, Beverly Crest	9.51
Brentwood, Pacific Palisades	9.24
Westchester, Playa del Rey	7.99
West Los Angeles	7.98
Venice	7.77
Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Toluca Lake, Cahuenga Pass	7.62
Encino, Tarzana	7.45
Chatsworth, Porter Ranch	6.57
Palms, Mar Vista, Del Rey	6.40
Westwood	6.36
Northridge	6.35
Granada Hills, Knollwood	6.23
Canoga Park, Winnetka, Woodland Hills, West Hills	6.02
Silver Lake, Echo Park, Elysian Valley	5.96
Hollywood	5.52
Central City	5.50
Wilshire	5.41
San Pedro	5.38
Sunland, Tujunga, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, East La Tuna Canyon	5.28
Reseda, West Van Nuys	5.04
North Hollywood, Valley Village	4.92
Northeast Los Angeles	4.85
Van Nuys, North Sherman Oaks	4.62
Sylmar	4.56
Sun Valley, La Tuna Canyon	4.19
West Adams, Baldwin Hills, Leimert	4.10
Mission Hills, Panorama City, North Hills	3.99
Harbor Gateway	3.91
Arleta, Pacoima	3.74
Wilmington, Harbor City	3.66
Central City North	3.50
Westlake	3.34
Boyle Heights	3.17
South Los Angeles	3.10
Southeast Los Angeles	2.26

LA COUNTY 5.43

Sources: Life Expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

MAP 1 Human Development in Los Angeles County Communities



BOX 4

Human Development and Environmental Justice

Living in a clean environment is essential to health and overall well-being. The effects of pollution on physical health are extensive and well documented.[15] But environmental degradation is inextricably linked to other capabilities as well. Capabilities like a decent standard of living, access to knowledge, and political voice and influence allow the affluent to avoid pollution by living in greener—more expensive—neighborhoods, by influencing policymakers to keep new polluting industries far away from their homes and schools, and by wielding enough social, political, and economic power to counterbalance the influence of formidable financial interests.[16]

Recently, the Flint water crisis and the Dakota Access Pipeline protests reignited a national conversation not just about environmental degradation but also about who bears the brunt of its effects. While all humankind benefits from preserving the environment, **the effects of environmental degradation are felt disproportionately by disenfranchised communities.** Michigan's Congressional District 5, where Flint is located, ranks number 403 of the 435 US congressional districts in terms of well-being; Sioux County, North Dakota, and Carson County, South Dakota, which cover the majority of Standing Rock Reservation, are among the country's poorest, with poverty rates of 35.7 percent and 47.4 percent, respectively. The goal of environmental justice is to create a healthy environment for all, not just for those who can afford it. Much like the capabilities approach that frames this report, environmental justice considers the unequal distribution of environmental risks and benefits along race and class lines to be a result of—and a contributing factor to broader inequalities.[17]

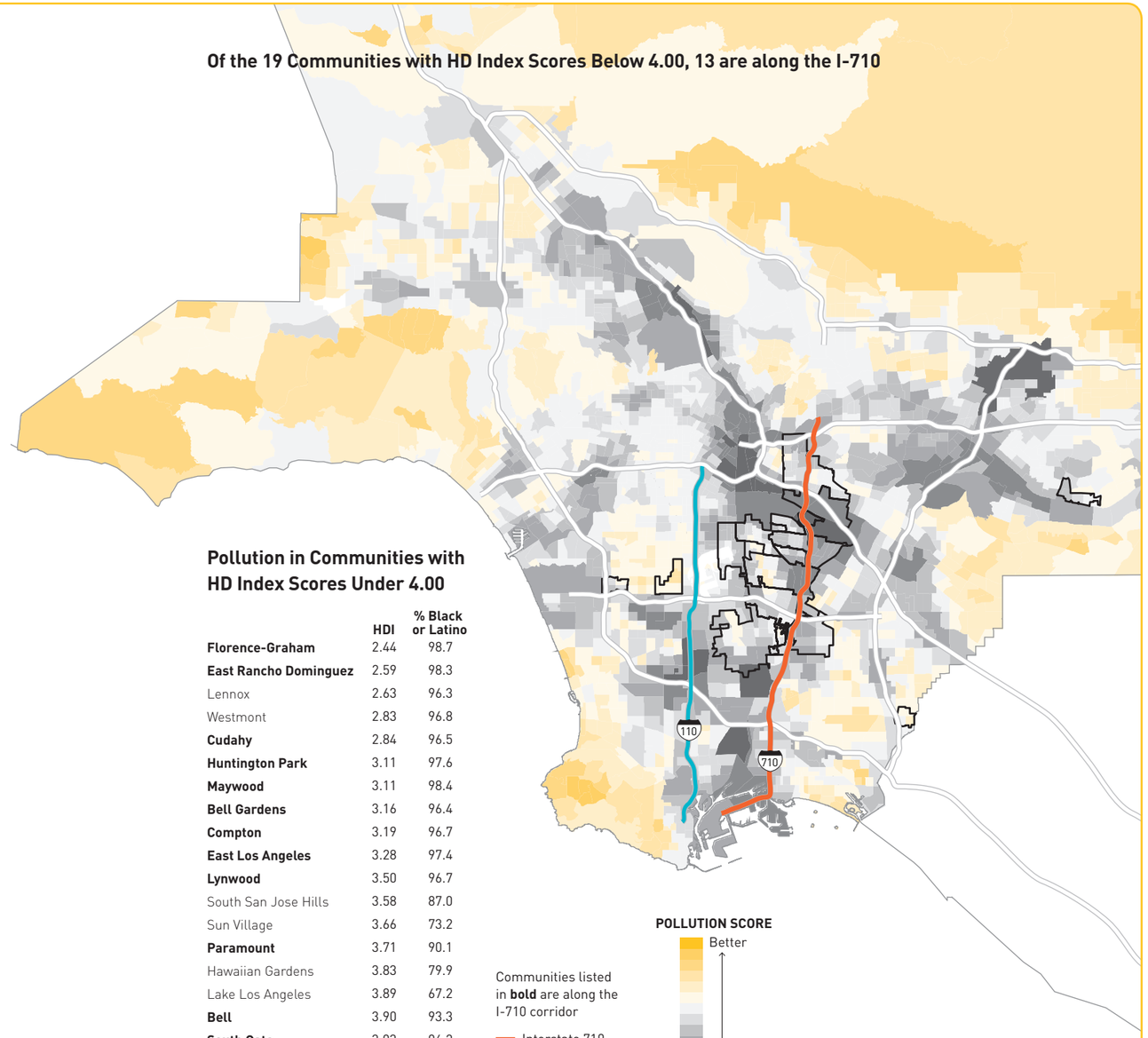
The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has operationalized this approach in its tool CalEnviroScreen; it shows which communities are most affected by—and vulnerable to the effects of—many sources of pollution. The HD Index provides an opportunity to view the issue of pollution in Los Angeles County through a holistic human development lens, and allows us to identify communities that may be least able to reject the siting of polluting industries or mitigate their harmful effects. Not surprisingly, there is a strong correlation between the HD Index score and the CalEnviroScreen Pollution Score.

Of the nineteen communities with HD Index scores below 4, thirteen of them are clustered together along Interstate-710, a major commercial traffic artery connecting the Long Beach port to railyards and distribution centers in the center of the county; roughly 260,000 cars and 40,000 diesel trucks travel this route every day.[18] Many of these thirteen cities and places are sandwiched between the I-710 and another major commercial traffic freeway, the I-110. **Latinos and blacks together make up between 90 and 99 percent of the population in every one of these thirteen cities and incorporated places.** Fewer than 60 percent of adults have a high school diploma, and college degree attainment rates are in the single digits. These communities have some of the lowest median personal earnings in the county, and all but two have life expectancies below the county average of 82.1 years.

Even after controlling for a number of variables like household income, land use, and population density, one California-wide study found that minorities are disproportionately exposed to harmful toxins.[19] The question of whether factories, waste facilities, major roadways, and other pollution epicenters are more likely to be sited near black and brown communities or if the concentration of minority communities near such sites is because the low-cost housing close to environmental hazards is all that poor families, who are disproportionately black and Latino, are able to afford is an important one. Research by Manuel Pastor, Jim Sadd, and John Hipp on this chicken-or-egg question found that "... disproportionate siting matters more than disproportionate minority move-in." It also found that a shift in neighborhood demographics from one racial or ethnic group to another also predicts siting; neighborhood bonds and social cohesion, critical to the collective action required to resist the siting of industry, tend to weaken as one group moves away and another moves in.[20]

The health impact of the I-710 on the surrounding communities has not gone unnoticed, but it remains one of the major unsolved equity issues in Los Angeles, despite significant improvements in air quality over the last two decades countywide. There is currently an opportunity to change that. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's I-710 Corridor Project to address increasing traffic and aging infrastructure promises to improve air quality and consider the community's input in the decision-making process. A coalition of community-based environmental justice and health organizations responded with the Community Alternative 7, an official proposal suggesting a zero-emission freight system and the comprehensive expansion of public transit, among other priorities. These initiatives offer promise for increasing environmental justice in some of LA County's most vulnerable communities.

Of the 19 Communities with HD Index Scores Below 4.00, 13 are along the I-710



Pollution in Communities with HD Index Scores Under 4.00

	HDI	% Black or Latino
Florence-Graham	2.44	98.7
East Rancho Dominguez	2.59	98.3
Lennox	2.63	96.3
Westmont	2.83	96.8
Cudahy	2.84	96.5
Huntington Park	3.11	97.6
Maywood	3.11	98.4
Bell Gardens	3.16	96.4
Compton	3.19	96.7
East Los Angeles	3.28	97.4
Lynwood	3.50	96.7
South San Jose Hills	3.58	87.0
Sun Village	3.66	73.2
Paramount	3.71	90.1
Hawaiian Gardens	3.83	79.9
Lake Los Angeles	3.89	67.2
Bell	3.90	93.3
South Gate	3.93	96.2
Commerce	3.96	95.0

Communities listed in **bold** are along the I-710 corridor

Interstate 710

Interstate 110

POLLUTION SCORE

Better

Worse

TABLE 4 Top- and Bottom-Scoring LA County Communities

		HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)
	United States	**5.17**	**79.3**	**13.1**	**30.1**	**11.4**	**77.1**	**31,416**
	California	**5.54**	**81.9**	**17.8**	**32.3**	**12.0**	**78.6**	**31,733**
	Los Angeles County	**5.43**	**82.1**	**21.9**	**30.9**	**10.8**	**79.5**	**30,654**
TOP TWENTY								
1	San Marino	9.43	86.5	5.5	71.1	37.5	92.1	77,948
2	Manhattan Beach	9.34	86.1	2.2	73.6	31.3	91.2	82,340
3	Palos Verdes Estates	9.30	85.5	1.4	75.1	34.8	92.8	82,813
4	Rancho Palos Verdes	9.12	86.7	2.4	64.9	31.1	94.3	58,699
5	Malibu	9.07	89.8	2.3	60.2	27.9	90.7	52,687
6	La Cañada Flintridge	9.03	83.9	2.4	76.1	36.1	91.2	67,500
7	Hermosa Beach	9.01	85.4	1.0	71.0	25.5	85.9	70,730
8	Stevenson Ranch	8.75	86.2	4.7	50.9	20.4	91.7	63,247
9	Beverly Hills	8.70	86.6	5.0	61.1	30.0	88.1	55,893
10	South Pasadena	8.27	85.2	4.5	59.0	26.6	90.3	50,629
11	Calabasas	8.24	84.0	3.0	63.7	31.6	88.1	51,611
12	Sierra Madre	8.24	81.8	1.6	63.7	27.5	92.8	56,026
13	Redondo Beach	7.99	82.3	4.2	56.9	21.9	85.4	59,819
14	View Park-Windsor Hills	7.88	83.3	4.5	51.5	27.4	91.2	49,375
15	Santa Monica	7.83	83.2	4.7	65.3	28.1	80.4	51,681
16	Castaic	7.81	88.9	8.1	32.8	8.7	86.4	47,795
17	Cerritos	7.61	86.4	8.3	48.2	17.2	87.1	43,340
18	La Crescenta-Montrose	7.58	82.3	4.6	52.5	18.3	91.5	48,518
19	Culver City	7.56	83.4	7.8	53.4	22.7	82.3	50,272
20	Agoura Hills	7.53	81.8	4.9	51.3	20.9	85.9	52,395
BOTTOM TWENTY								
87	Pomona City	4.13	81.7	32.5	17.6	5.0	76.9	22,457
88	Commerce	3.96	81.7	45.0	7.5	3.1	80.3	23,358
89	South Gate	3.93	83.6	47.6	7.6	1.7	76.6	22,228
90	Bell	3.90	86.5	52.6	7.3	1.1	76.3	19,207
91	Lake Los Angeles	3.89	76.2	24.8	5.9	1.8	84.3	26,694
92	Hawaiian Gardens	3.83	83.6	41.2	10.1	2.0	70.3	21,845
93	Paramount	3.71	80.2	42.1	8.2	2.2	77.3	23,480
94	Sun Village	3.66	75.8	34.7	9.9	1.7	74.4	29,487
95	South San Jose Hills	3.58	82.2	43.2	8.1	2.2	72.6	21,109
96	Lynwood	3.52	81.7	47.2	6.0	1.6	77.0	20,842
97	East Los Angeles	3.28	81.3	53.3	6.1	1.3	75.6	20,424
98	Compton	3.19	78.4	39.9	7.3	1.9	74.7	21,444
99	Bell Gardens	3.16	81.8	55.7	5.4	1.1	76.3	19,065
100	Maywood	3.11	81.3	58.8	4.7	0.7	75.2	19,651
101	Huntington Park	3.11	81.9	58.6	5.8	1.2	76.9	18,496
102	Cudahy	2.84	79.2	57.1	4.6	1.5	77.3	19,234
103	Westmont	2.83	76.3	30.4	7.3	1.5	71.7	20,503
104	Lennox	2.63	76.8	51.2	6.3	1.3	78.2	19,155
105	East Rancho Dominguez	2.59	76.1	47.3	4.3	1.2	74.7	20,391
106	Florence-Graham	2.44	78.0	58.5	4.4	0.9	73.0	18,405

Sources: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

In addition, they are likely to be affected by the disadvantages not just in their own communities, but also of those nearby—residents of low–HD Index locales suffer the spillover effects of pollution, gang activity, and other challenges that don't stop short when they reach a city's borders.[21] This phenomenon can be clearly seen in who experiences the environmental downsides of LA County's manufacturing and transportation sectors: low-income Latino and black communities (see **BOX 4**).

VARIATION BY GEOGRAPHY: CITY OF LOS ANGELES

The range of well-being scores within the City of Los Angeles surpasses that of the county. The top Los Angeles community plan area, Bel Air–Beverly Crest, edges out the LA County top performer, San Marino, with a score of 9.51. Sadly, the same is true at the other end of the spectrum; Southeast LA, with a score 2.26, falls below Florence-Graham. Residents of Bel Air–Beverly Crest live nearly a decade longer than residents of Southeast LA and are seventeen times as likely to hold bachelor's degrees. Median personal earnings in Bel Air–Beverly Crest are nearly quadruple those of Southeast LA.

Conclusion

The wide gaps in well-being and access to opportunity across different groups in LA County did not spring up overnight of their own accord. The LA County landscape of well-being we see today has its roots in a history of discrimination that favored some groups while curtailing the rights and opportunities of others as well as economic trends that have disproportionally impacted vulnerable groups. Some of this history is shared with the rest of the United States; some is unique to Los Angeles.

The LA County landscape of well-being has its roots in a **history of discrimination** that favored some groups while curtailing the opportunities of others.

At the national level, many of the federal social policies that fueled the expansion of a large American middle class in the mid-twentieth century discriminated against African Americans and Latinos.[22] Occupational exclusions, for example, denied Social Security benefits to maids and farmworkers, occupations in which blacks (particularly in the South) and Mexican Americans (chiefly in the West) were overrepresented.[23]

Redlining, the assessment of neighborhoods for "mortgage risk" according to federal guidelines, was used to determine who could qualify for federally-backed loans to buy property. This practice, which labeled black and brown neighborhoods as "risky" investments, blocked many non-white communities in Los Angeles (and throughout the country) from accessing—and building—capital during the New Deal era.[24] Redlining also prevented black World War II veterans and their families from benefiting from the federally-backed housing loans that were part of the GI Bill.[25] Racially restrictive covenants—community-wide agreements about who could buy or rent property that were used to prevent minorities from moving into white neighborhoods—became popular in the county at the beginning of the

BOX 5

Spotlight on Long Beach

With a population of just over 470,000, Long Beach is the seventh largest city in California. Its middle-of-the-pack HD Index score of 5.00 obscures the sharp variation among different neighborhoods. The Census Bureau divides Long Beach into four regions for statistical purposes. Three have HD Index scores that fall into the Struggling LA category: the southwest and port area, containing downtown, Wrigley, and the West Side, has an index score of 3.83; the central region, which also includes Signal Hill, scores 4.25; and the north, encompassing North Long Beach and Bixby Knolls, scores 4.52. In contrast, the east is part of Elite Enclave LA, with a score of 7.18.

Health. In contrast to many other places throughout the county, the region of Long Beach with the smallest share of foreign-born residents also has the longest life expectancy; the east is only 15 percent foreign-born, and residents there have an average life expectancy of 81.5 years, 1.5 to 4 years longer than residents of other parts of the city.

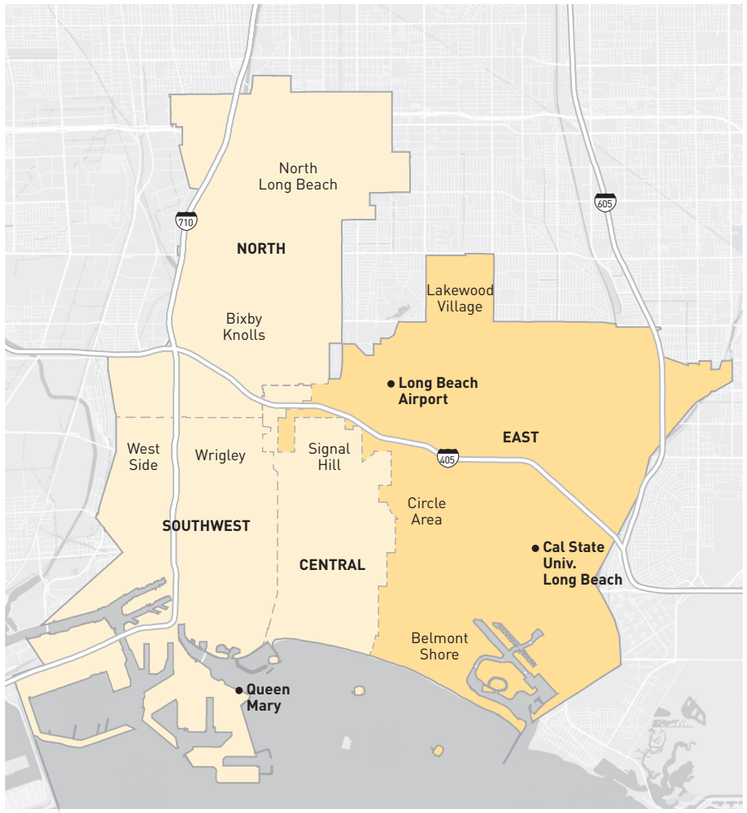
Education. Educational attainment is similar across the north, southwest, and central regions of Long Beach, where between three-fourths and two-thirds of adults have high school diplomas and only between one-fifth and one-fourth have bachelor's degrees. In contrast, in the east, nearly all adults have high school diplomas and about half have bachelor's degrees.

Income. Median earnings in the north and central regions—$28,000 and $27,000, respectively—are higher than in the southwest and port area, where the typical worker earns about $23,000. The poverty rate, however, is highest in the central region, closely followed by the southwest and port area. The child poverty rate in the central region is a staggering 41 percent. The central region includes most of Cambodia Town, and given the high child poverty rate among Cambodians countywide, this is likely a contributing factor. Nearly half of LA County's Cambodians reside in Long Beach, which has the largest population of Cambodian ancestry of any city outside of Cambodia.[26]

Human Development in Long Beach

RANK	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)
Los Angeles County	**5.43**	**82.1**	**21.9**	**30.9**	**10.8**	**79.5**	**30,654**
Long Beach (East)	7.18	81.5	5.1	47.7	18.7	85.6	47,968
Long Beach (North)	4.52	79.9	24.7	20.1	6.0	75.5	28,102
Long Beach (Central) and Signal Hill	4.25	77.7	25.8	25.3	8.4	76.2	27,110
Long Beach (Southwest and Port)	3.83	79.2	31.7	19.5	6.6	74.8	22,987

Sources: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.



Long Beach HD Index

- HD Index: **5.00**
- Life Expectancy: **79.4 years**
- Education Index: **4.75**
- Earnings: **$30,848**

Youth well-being. The north has the city's highest rate of youth disconnection—one in five young people in this area is neither working nor in school, twice the rate for youth in the east—as well as the highest rate of births to teenagers, 34.4 births per 1,000 girls and young women ages 15 to 19, three times the rate in the central and southwest regions and seven times the rate in the east.

Housing. Housing is a serious concern in Long Beach, in terms of both affordability and security. Citywide, 56.6 percent of households face high rent burdens, and in the southwest and port area, 62.5 percent do. In addition, Long Beach is home to one of the largest populations of renters living in a California city with neither rent control nor a just-cause eviction law, making low-income renters particularly vulnerable to displacement in this fast-gentrifying city.[27]

twentieth century.[28] These and other discriminatory housing policies prevented black families from accumulating wealth the way white families typically did—by buying homes and benefiting from appreciation and tax savings—and are the root cause of the huge black-white wealth gap we see today.[29] These policies also shaped the patterns of residential segregation that persist in modern-day LA County.

In the realm of education, California's decades-long underinvestment in K–12 education (see PAGE 104) has disproportionately hurt low-income black and Latino families—precisely those who rely on education to improve their economic situation. Nationwide economic trends in the second half of the twentieth century further disadvantaged Los Angeles's working class and minorities and chipped away at upward mobility. The stagnation of real wages in the United States—which today are roughly where they were in 1979—means that the American middle class has been treading water economically for some thirty-five years.[30] Since 1979, wages for top earners in the county have increased by 13 percent, while wages for bottom earners have decreased by as much as 25 percent.[31] The widening wage gap, combined with ever-rising rents, stifled prosperity for working-class Angelenos and has given rise to a housing affordability crisis. Regional and national economic trends also have differential impacts across racial lines; for example, the presence of manufacturing jobs and unions are the two factors that have historically most affected the wages of black men,[32] making the decline of the manufacturing industry and the gutting of unions a disproportionate blow to black

BOX 6 LA County Comings and Goings: Mobility and Well-Being

HD Index scores are a snapshot of well-being; they include all the people living in a place at a given point in time—those who have lived there all their lives, those who moved in yesterday, and everyone in between. It is important, in seeking to understand why different groups and places score as they do, to also look at data on domestic and international mobility, national origin, immigration status, and more.

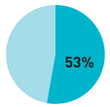
PEOPLE MOVING IN LA COUNTY

Number who are **moving in**

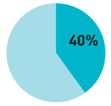
Number who are **moving out**

HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Of those who are **moving in**



Of those who are **moving out**



Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.

According to recent data, about 300,000 people move into LA County annually and about 322,000 move out.[33] Mobility is an important part of the well-being story; people's health, education, and income affect their ability to move freely around the globe, and mobility can offer new avenues for increasing human development by, for instance, expanding career or educational opportunities. On the other hand, mobility can also be sign of displacement and exclusion, as when people priced out of their long-time communities are forced to decamp to cheaper locales.

Not surprisingly, young people are more mobile than any other age group. About one in four people moving to and from LA County are teens and young adults (between the ages of 18 and 24), though they make up just 10 percent of the total county population. Only about one-third of migrants to and from LA is between the ages of 35 and 64, though this age group accounts for about 40 percent of the county's population.

Asians and whites are the two most mobile groups. Whites are disproportionately likely both to move to LA and to leave LA. Asians are disproportionately likely to come to LA, but are neither more nor less likely to leave than their population share would suggest. Blacks are overrepresented among leavers by about 20 percent, and move to LA at rates their overall population share would suggest. Latinos, in contrast, are underrepresented among both leavers and arrivers. Latinos comprise a plurality of LA's population (48 percent) but a small proportion (one-fourth) of those moving to LA in any given year, and just under a third of those moving away. It is important to acknowledge, however, that as with any census survey, these data likely undercount an important and often mobile group, undocumented immigrants.

Two-thirds of all international migrants to LA County come from Asia or the Americas. China and Mexico alone account for 28 percent of this traffic (17.7 percent and 10.3 percent, respectively). Is in-migration a net gain for LA in terms of education, or a net loss? **New migrants to LA County are more educated than the general population—a little more than half of adults coming in have at least a bachelor's degree, in contrast to only about 30 percent of county residents overall.**

Angelenos, who made up one in five manufacturing workers in the county in 1980.[34]

This history is deeply troubling. The idea that many of the inequalities that exist today are the direct result of federal, state, county, and municipal policies flies in the face of our notions of fairness and justice. The bit of hope that can be extracted is this: If people can create inequalities through public policy, they can dismantle inequalities the same way—through policymaking. Doing so matters not just for people of color living in poverty, whose opportunities in the here and now are constrained by the legacy of the past, but for all Angelenos. Equity and inclusivity are key to an economically thriving and environmentally sustainable Los Angeles and thus in everyone's interest.

TABLE 6 Human Development Index by Supervisorial District

DISTRICT 1
Supervisor
Hilda Solis

Walnut	7.52
Claremont	7.06
Silver Lake/ Echo Park/ Elysian Valley	5.96
Monterey Park	5.85
West Covina	5.63
Central City	5.50
Avocado Heights	5.18
Montebello	4.92
Northeast LA	4.85
Rosemead	4.58
Citrus	4.49
Pico Rivera	4.44
Walnut Park	4.35
West Puente Valley	4.35
La Puente	4.34
Valinda	4.31
El Monte	4.31
Azusa	4.27
Baldwin Park	4.24
Vincent	4.20
South El Monte	4.15
Pomona	4.13
Commerce	3.96
South Gate	3.93
Bell	3.90
South San Jose Hills	3.58
Central City North	3.50
Westlake	3.34
East Los Angeles	3.28
Boyle Heights	3.17
Bell Gardens	3.16
Maywood	3.11
Huntington Park	3.11
Cudahy	2.84

DISTRICT 2
Supervisor
Mark Ridley-Thomas

Westchester/ Playa del Rey	7.99
West Los Angeles	7.98
View Park-Windsor Hills	7.88
Culver City	7.56
Palms/Mar Vista/ Del Rey	6.40
Del Aire	6.38
West Carson	6.13
Central City	5.50
Gardena	5.46
Wilshire	5.41
Carson	5.07
Hawthorne	4.49
Lawndale	4.23
Inglewood	4.22
West Adams/ Baldwin Hills/ Leimert	4.10
Harbor Gateway	3.91
Lynwood	3.52
Compton	3.19
South Los Angeles	3.10
Westmont	2.83
Lennox	2.63
East Rancho Dominguez	2.59
Florence-Graham	2.44
Southeast LA	2.26

DISTRICT 3
Supervisor
Sheila Kuehl

Bel Air/ Beverly Crest	9.51
Brentwood/ Pacific Palisades	9.24
Malibu	9.07
Beverly Hills	8.70
Calabasas	8.24
West Los Angeles	7.98
Santa Monica	7.83
Venice	7.77
Sherman Oaks/ Studio City/ Toluca Lake/ Cahuenga Pass	7.62
Agoura Hills	7.53
Encino - Tarzana	7.45
West Hollywood	6.64
Westwood	6.36
Northridge	6.35
Canoga Park/ Winnetka/ Woodland Hills/ West Hills	6.02
Hollywood	5.52
Wilshire	5.41
Reseda/ West Van Nuys	5.04
North Hollywood/ Valley Village	4.92
Van Nuys/ North Sherman Oaks	4.62
San Fernando	4.61
Sylmar	4.56
Sun Valley/ La Tuna Canyon	4.19
Mission Hills/ Panorama City/ North Hills	3.99
Arleta/Pacoima	3.74

DISTRICT 4
Supervisor
Janice Hahn

Manhattan Beach	9.34
Palos Verdes Estates	9.30
Rancho Palos Verdes	9.12
Hermosa Beach	9.01
Westchester/ Playa del Rey	7.99
Redondo Beach	7.99
Cerritos	7.61
El Segundo	7.39
Diamond Bar	7.38
Torrance	7.30
Hacienda Heights	6.43
Rowland Heights	6.26
La Mirada	5.99
Lakewood	5.84
Whittier	5.67
East Whittier	5.55
Signal Hill	5.43
San Pedro	5.38
Lomita	5.33
Santa Fe Springs	5.20
Downey	5.12
Long Beach	5.00
West Whittier/ Los Nietos	4.87
South Whittier	4.86
Bellflower	4.74
Artesia	4.69
Norwalk	4.67
Harbor Gateway	3.91
Hawaiian Gardens	3.83
Paramount	3.71
Wilmington/ Harbor City	3.66

DISTRICT 5
Supervisor
Kathryn Barger

San Marino	9.43
La Cañada Flintridge	9.08
Stevenson Ranch	8.75
South Pasadena	8.27
Sierra Madre	8.24
Castaic	7.81
La Crescenta/ Montrose	7.58
Arcadia	7.50
East San Gabriel	6.94
Altadena	6.76
Pasadena	6.75
Santa Clarita	6.65
San Dimas	6.62
Chatsworth/ Porter Ranch	6.57
La Verne	6.46
Burbank	6.40
Northridge	6.35
Temple City	6.31
Granada Hills/ Knollwood	6.23
Glendora	6.06
Glendale	6.04
Monrovia	5.88
Alhambra	5.76
Quartz Hill	5.56
San Gabriel	5.53
Duarte	5.49
Covina	5.40
Sunland/Tujunga/ Lake View Terrace/ Shadow Hills/ East La Tuna Canyon	5.28
Palmdale	4.49
Lancaster	4.46
Vincent	4.20
Sun Valley/ La Tuna Canyon	4.19
Lake Los Angeles	3.89
Sun Village	3.66

Note: Places are listed according to the Supervisorial District in which they are primarily located. When a large portion of a locale's land straddles two districts, it is included in both.

Five Los Angeles Counties

The "Five Los Angeles Counties" framing featured in this section offers a way to make sense of the vast metropolis of villages that is LA County and get a better grasp on how Human Development Index scores translate into the day-to-day realities and real-life opportunities of regular people. The Five LAs open a new window through which to understand advantage and disadvantage countywide and can help make common cause among different places and groups of people, all with a view to addressing the constraints on human freedom that hold back far too many Angelenos.

The Five Los Angeles Counties, which build on the "Five Californias" introduced in *A Portrait of California 2011,* are created by grouping cities and places not by geography but by their scores on the 10-point American Human Development Index scale (TABLE 7). The data in this section come chiefly from the annual American Community Survey of the US Census Bureau. Not everyone will share all the traits ascribed to the Los Angeles in which they live—there is a range of well-being to be found in each—but these vignettes, rooted in analysis of US government and state of California data, reflect outcomes of the typical resident. Although each of the 106 places included in this report is unique in its combination of human development outcomes, demographics, environment, resources, history, and more, those with similar HD Index scores share a great deal.

TABLE 7
The Five LA Counties

	Glittering LA	Elite Enclave LA	Main Street LA	Struggling LA	Precarious LA
HD Index	9 and above	7 to 8.99	5 to 6.99	3 to 4.99	below 3
Life Expectancy (years)	86.4	83.9	82.9	81.5	78.7
Less than High School (%)*	2.3	5.4	14.9	30.8	51.8
At least Bachelor's Degree (%)*	69.9	58.3	35.5	19.6	4.7
Graduate/Professional Degree (%)*	31.5	24.0	12.6	5.4	0.7
School Enrollment (%)	91.7	84.7	82.6	77.1	73.4
Median Earnings (2015 $)	$52,687 and up	48,347	35,773	25,469	19,060

*Percent of adults age 25 and up.

THE FIVE LA COUNTIES

1 Glittering LA

San Marino, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Malibu, La Cañada Flintridge, Hermosa Beach; within the City of Los Angeles, Bel Air–Beverly Crest and Brentwood–Pacific Palisades.

Comprised of seven cities—five cities that hug the Pacific coast, one in the Verdugos, and one in the San Gabriel Valley—as well as two tony City of Los Angeles neighborhoods, Glittering LA is a well-being Valhalla where affluent residents enjoy unrestricted access to opportunity. With HD Index scores above 9—a higher level of well-being than that found almost anywhere else in the United States—people living in Glittering LA have unrivaled freedom to pursue the goals that matter to them and are able to offer their children a smorgasbord of advantages and opportunities.

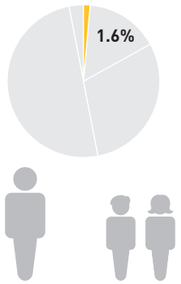
Life expectancy in Glittering LA is 86.4 years—about four years longer than the county average. Virtually all adults completed high school, seven in ten adults have at least a four-year bachelor's degree, and three in ten hold graduate degrees. These high levels of educational attainment translate into high earnings: median personal earnings in Glittering LA range from about $53,000 in Malibu to about $83,000 in Palos Verdes Estates, compared to roughly $31,000 for the county as a whole. Poverty is nearly nonexistent, at less than 5 percent. Three in four households own their own homes—quite a feat given median home prices that range from $970,000 in Rancho Palos Verdes to $1.9 million in Malibu.[35]

Outcomes for children are overwhelmingly positive. More than 80 percent of 3- and 4-year-olds attend preschool, the child poverty rate is less than 5 percent, and the teen birth rate is vanishingly small—less than one birth per one thousand girls aged 15–19 (compared to seventeen per one thousand countywide). Children growing up in Glittering LA have abundant access to outdoor recreation, with five of the seven cities earning the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation's best park-access score.

Glittering LA Stats

- HD Index: **9.00 and above**
- Life expectancy: **86.4 years**
- Bachelor's degree: **69.9%**
- Earnings: **$52,687+**

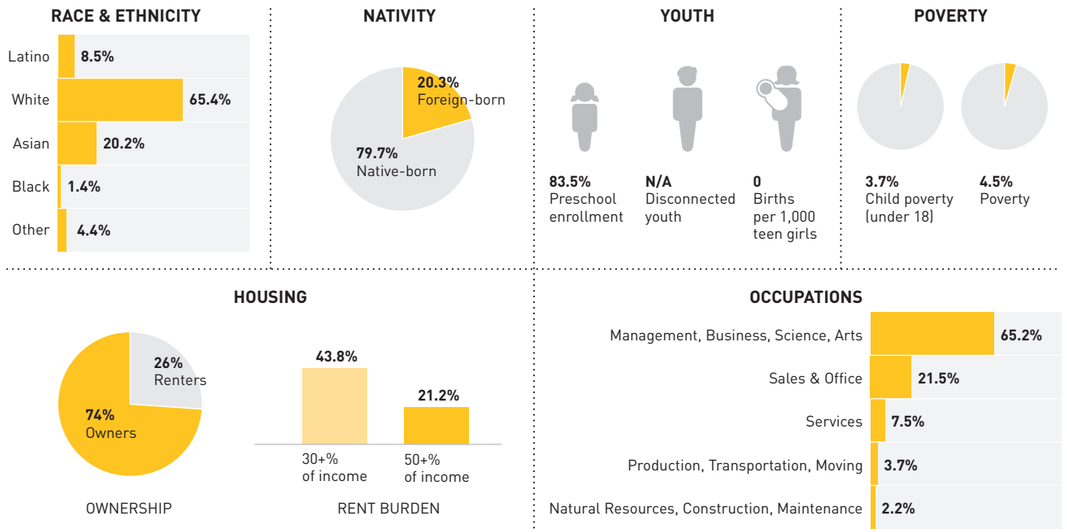
% OF LA COUNTY POPULATION



With **HD Index scores above 9**—a higher level of well-being than that found almost anywhere else in the United States—people living in Glittering LA have unrivaled freedom to pursue the goals that matter to them.

Just 1.6 percent of Los Angeles County residents live in Glittering LA; the sky-high housing costs put these high–HD Index communities out of reach for all but a fortunate few. Two in three residents of Glittering LA are white, and one in five residents is Asian. All but one Glittering LA locale, San Marino, where 51.6 percent of the population is Asian, are majority white. One in five residents was born outside the US, the lowest share of foreign-born residents of any of the Five LA Counties.

FIGURE 1 **Glittering LA Well-Being Statistics**



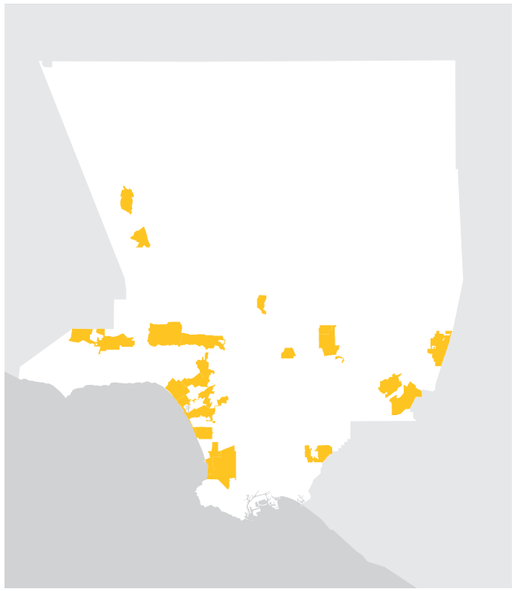
THE FIVE LA COUNTIES

2 Elite Enclave LA

The majority of the twenty-four locales that make up Elite Enclave LA are found on the outer edges of the county, from the South Bay, north along the coast to the Santa Monica Mountains, east to the Verdugos, and south to the San Gabriel Valley. Nineteen cities and census-designated places along with five City of Los Angeles neighborhoods in West LA and the South Valley are part of Elite Enclave LA. The HD Index score for Elite Enclave LA, 7.74, is higher than the well-being score of every US state and all but five of the country's 435 congressional districts.[36]

Residents of Elite Enclave LA may not see themselves as privileged; the nearly 50 percent who grapple with high rent burdens, for instance, probably don't feel as though they are on easy street. Neither they nor their fellow county residents in Glittering LA are immune to hardship, but their rich set of capabilities—which include educational credentials, jobs with benefits like health insurance and sick leave, comparatively high incomes, assets like retirement accounts and home equity, access to public goods such as parks and high-quality schools, safe living environments, and social capital and societal respect, to name just a few—acts as a buffer against the vagaries of life and provides the means to recover from serious misfortune.

The affluent, credentialed residents of Elite Enclave LA are, by and large, highly educated professionals with the resources to lead freely chosen, fulfilling lives. They can expect to live, on average, just shy of 84 years, and no place included in this group has a life expectancy below 82 years. Almost six in ten adults are college graduates, and about one in four has a graduate degree. The majority of workers in these prosperous places have high-paying occupations in management, business, science, and the arts. Median personal earnings, roughly $48,000, are over 50 percent higher than the county median, and the poverty rate, 9.3 percent, is well below the countywide rate of 16.6 percent.



Elite Enclave LA Stats

- HD Index: **7.00–8.99**
- Life expectancy: **83.9 years**
- Bachelor's degree: **58.3%**
- Earnings: **$48,347**

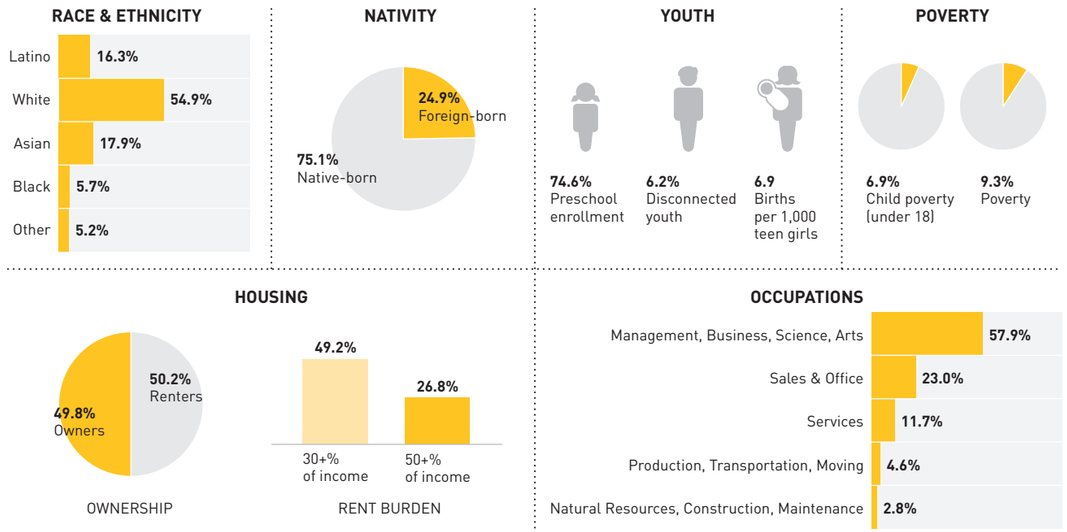
% OF LA COUNTY POPULATION

Their rich set of **capabilities** acts as a **buffer** against the vagaries of life and provides the means to recover from misfortune.

The vast majority of children in Elite Enclave LA live in households with the resources required to set them on a positive life trajectory. Three quarters of all 3- and 4-year-olds are enrolled in preschool, and the child poverty rate, 6.9 percent, is less than a third the countywide rate. The teen birth rate is half the statewide rate, and just 6.2 percent of young people fall into the category of "disconnected youth"—teens and young adults aged 16–24 who are neither working nor in school.

Elite Enclave LA is home to 15.9 percent of the county population. It is majority white, 54.6 percent; 17.9 percent of residents are Asian; 16.3 percent are Latino; and 5.7 percent are black. Although blacks are underrepresented in this LA County, one area of the group, View Park–Windsor Hills, has one of the highest proportions of black residents in the county, 75.6 percent. This area is among the country's wealthiest majority–black communities.[37] Elite Enclave LA has the smallest share of children of the five Los Angeles Counties; 19.4 percent of residents are under 18. In many ways, residents of Glittering and Elite Enclave LA are able to keep problems that affect the rest of county at bay by, for instance, securing access to good schools for their own children, enjoying private green spaces, bypassing public transportation, and living in low-crime areas. But as recent wildfires have shown, the fates and futures of different LA County communities are inextricably linked by regional economic, social, and environmental realities.

FIGURE 2 **Elite Enclave LA Well-Being Statistics**

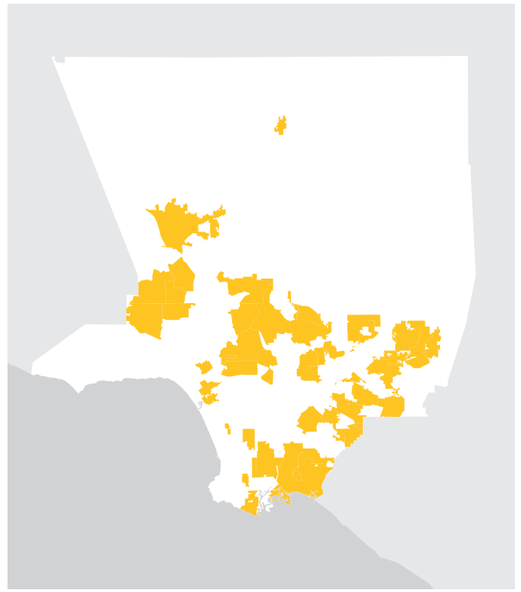


3 THE FIVE LA COUNTIES
Main Street LA

Some three million Angelenos, roughly 30 percent of the population, call Main Street LA home. Residents of the thirty-five cities and census-designated places (a plurality of which are in the San Gabriel Valley) and thirteen City of Los Angeles neighborhoods (mostly in the North and South Valley and Central Los Angeles) that make up Main Street LA enjoy higher levels of well-being than the majority of Americans, Californians, and fellow Angelenos. Main Street's HD Index value of 6.19 is higher than that of 377 of the 435 US congressional districts. But LA County's high cost of living, driven by housing costs, keeps markers associated with middle class life out of reach for many Main Streeters with scores near the bottom of this grouping; they share some of the economic insecurity experienced by those in Struggling LA.

Life expectancy in Main Street Los Angeles, 82.9 years, is less than that found in Glittering and Elite Enclave LAs, but still higher than the LA County average. Main Street is also faring better than Los Angeles County as a whole when it comes to the share of adults with high school diplomas, four-year college degrees, and graduate degrees. Median personal earnings, $36,000, exceed the countywide median. About four in ten workers have jobs in the highest-paying occupation category—management, business, science, and arts—and one in four works in sales and office occupations. Interestingly, a larger share of residents in Main Street LA than in Elite Enclave LA are homeowners, 54.6 percent and 49.8 percent, respectively. For Main Street renters, covering the cost of housing is a significant burden; 56.6 percent spend more than 30 percent of their incomes on rent.

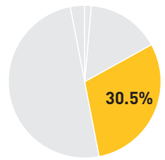
Children, on average, are getting a strong start in Main Street LA; two-thirds of 3- and 4-year-olds attend preschool; the teen birth rate is just 4.7 per one thousand, lower than the Elite Enclave rate; and the youth disconnection rate, 10.4 percent, is below the county and national averages. There is, however,



Main Street LA Stats

- HD Index: **5.00–6.99**
- Life expectancy: **82.9 years**
- Bachelor's degree: **35.5**
- Earnings: **$35,773**

% OF LA COUNTY POPULATION



Total number **3,098,511**

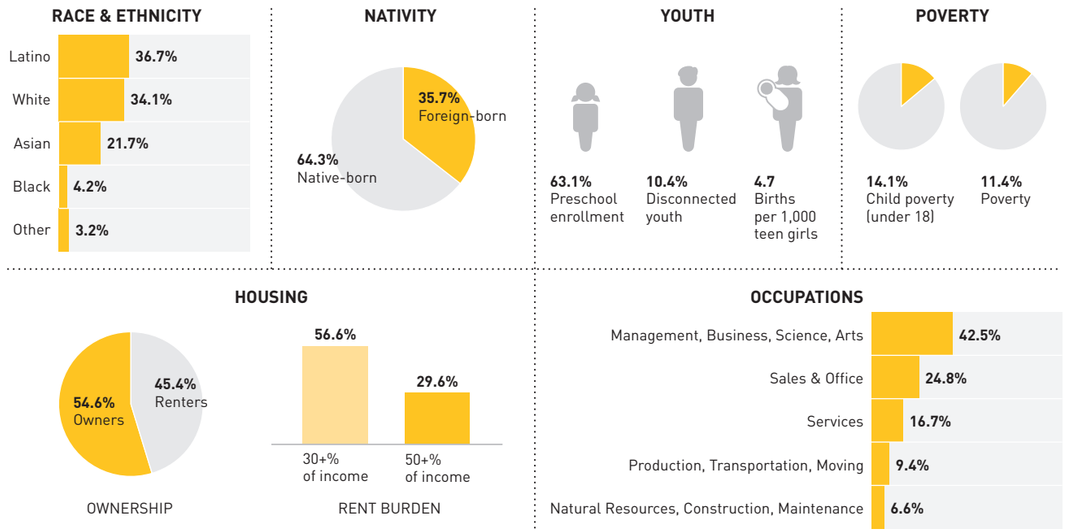
Under age 18 **17.8%**

For Main Street renters, covering the cost of housing is a significant burden; **over half** spend more than **30 percent** of their incomes on rent.

a concerning jump in child poverty between Elite Enclave LA and Main Street LA; the rate doubles to 14.1 percent.

Main Street is arguably the most diverse of the Five Los Angeles Counties when taken as a whole; the largest share of the population is Latino (36.7 percent), followed by whites (34.1 percent), Asians (21.7 percent), and blacks (4.2 percent). This diversity is not present in all the places that make up Main Street Los Angeles, however; in twenty locales, one group (either Latinos, whites, or Asians) makes up more than half the population. There are no majority-black places in Main Street. About one-third of residents are foreign-born, and two-thirds are native-born.

FIGURE 3 **Main Street LA Well-Being Statistics**



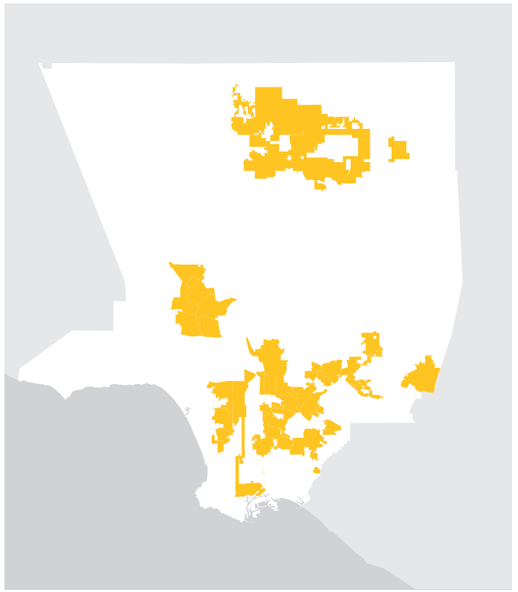
THE FIVE LA COUNTIES

4 Struggling LA

The most populous of the Five Los Angeles Counties, Struggling Los Angeles is home to half the county's residents, some five million people. Thirty-nine cities and census-designated places and fourteen City of Los Angeles neighborhoods are part of Struggling LA. With an HD Index score of 4.45, Struggling LA has a lower level of well-being than the majority of US congressional districts and states as well as California and LA County as a whole. Communities in Struggling LA are concentrated in the center of the county, in the east, in the harbor area, and in the Antelope Valley. Within the City of Los Angeles, Struggling LA neighborhoods are found in Central, South, and East LA as well as in the eastern portions of the North and South Valley. No Struggling LA communities are located along the coast from San Pedro to Malibu.

Residents of Struggling LA do not enjoy the same access to opportunity or levels of well-being as inhabitants of Glittering LA, Elite Enclave LA, or Main Street LA. Residents of Struggling LA have slightly lower life expectancies than residents of either California or Los Angeles County as a whole, 81.5 years, though they surpass the average American by a full two years. This life expectancy advantage over the national average may be attributed to the fact that Los Angeles County has larger shares of immigrants, Latinos, and Asians than does the country as a whole, and these groups tend to live longer than native-born Americans, blacks, and whites (see PAGE 71 for a discussion of this phenomenon). In terms of education, however, Struggling LA faces significant challenges. Three in ten adults lack a high school diploma, and only one in five holds a four-year bachelor's degree, roughly a third less than the national and countywide averages.

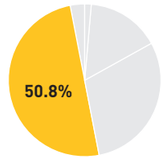
Economic indicators paint a picture of financial insecurity and an unremitting struggle to make ends meet in the face of some of the highest living costs in the country. Median personal earnings are only



Struggling LA Stats

- HD Index: **3.00–4.99**
- Life expectancy: **81.5 years**
- Bachelor's degree: **19.6%**
- Earnings: **$25,469**

% OF LA COUNTY POPULATION



Total number **5,162,914**

Under age 18 **24.2%**

Economic indicators paint a picture of **financial insecurity** and an unremitting struggle to make ends meet in the face of some of the highest living costs in the country.

a bit above $25,000, and 20.8 percent of households live in poverty. The majority of Struggling Los Angeles residents are renters; six in ten spend more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing, and three in ten spend more than half. One in four workers is employed in management, business, science, and arts, far fewer than in Main Street LA. A far larger share, 22.2 percent, work in services occupations, where pay tends to be lower and benefits fewer. Many Struggling LA communities are far from the opportunity-rich, economically vibrant areas of the county, limiting the jobs to which residents have easy access. Often long commutes and disproportionate reliance on public transportation mean that Struggling LA residents frequently have less time than more affluent Angelenos. This time poverty limits the hours parents can spend caring for their children, preparing healthy meals, exercising, and learning new skills.

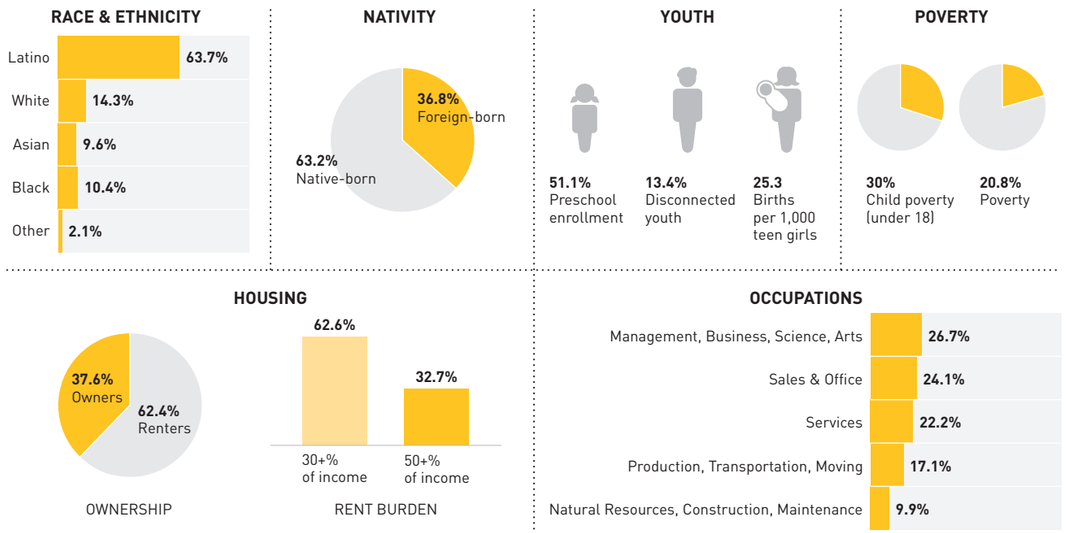
One in four residents of Struggling LA is a child, and the largest absolute number of Angelenos under age 18 are growing up here. Like mothers and fathers everywhere, Struggling LA parents strive to give their children the best possible start in life, but the resources they have to devote to this all-important task are far fewer than those available to Main Street, Elite Enclave, and Glittering LA parents. Only half of all 3- and 4-year-olds are enrolled in preschool, and the child poverty rate, 30 percent, is about 50 percent higher than the national rate. The teen birth rate is high, about twenty-five births per one thousand girls aged 15–19, and 13.4 percent of teens and young adults are neither working nor in school. In terms of access to public goods, Struggling LA neighborhoods are disproportionately home to under-resourced schools with fewer experienced teachers, AP classes, and enrichment activities. The Department of Parks and Recreation has classified the majority of cities and census-designated places in Struggling LA as "very high need" or "high need" in terms of access to parks; this lack of park access limits the amount of outdoor exercise and recreation children there experience.

Struggling LA is largely Latino (63.7 percent). Whites are the second-largest group, making up 14.3 percent of the population, and blacks and Asians each account for about 10 percent of the population. Slightly over a third of residents are foreign-born, and slightly under two-thirds are US-born.

It is important to note that Struggling LA is the largest of the Five Los Angeles Counties and considerable variation exists within it. HD Index scores range from close to 5.0 in North Hollywood—a score on the line between Main Street LA and Struggling LA—to 3.11–3.19 in the cities of Compton, Bell Gardens, Maywood, and Huntington Park—numbers that just missed the Precarious LA cut-off. There are high points in this group: Walnut Park, which lies in Struggling LA, has the highest life expectancy of any place in Los Angeles County, 90.5 years (see further discussion on PAGE 68); in the San Gabriel communities of Vincent, Valinda, and West Puente Valley, about eight in ten households own their homes, placing them in the top fifth of Los Angeles County locales in terms of homeownership. And there are low points: the City of Artesia in Southeast LA, which has an HD Index near the top of the Struggling LA scale, 4.69, has the county's second-highest teen birth rate; the City of Lancaster in the Antelope Valley, with an HD Index of 4.46, is nonetheless in the bottom five of all places in LA County in terms of life expectancy, 76.4 years.

One in four residents of Struggling LA is a **child,** and the largest absolute number of Angelenos under age 18 are growing up here.

FIGURE 4 Struggling LA Well-Being Statistics

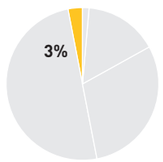


Growing up in Precarious LA exposes children to a range of developmental risks, **poverty** chief among them.

Precarious LA Stats

- HD Index: **Below 3.00**
- Life expectancy: **78.7 years**
- Bachelor's degree: **4.7%**
- Earnings: **$19,060**

% OF LA COUNTY POPULATION



Total number **296,513**

Under age 18 **33%**

5 THE FIVE LA COUNTIES

Precarious LA

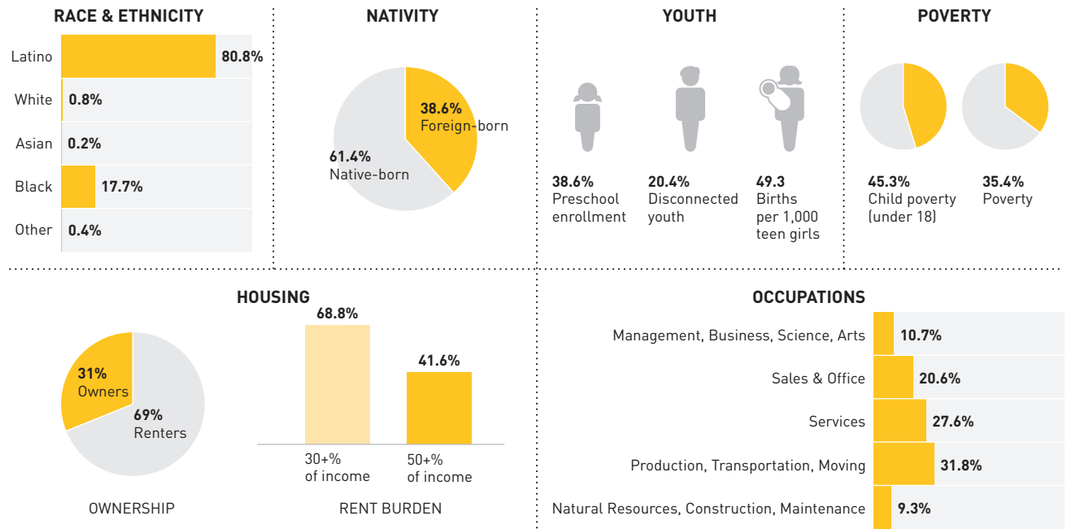
Precarious Los Angeles makes up only about 3 percent of the county's population, but its vast challenges cannot be ignored. With HD Index scores below 3.0, the five cities and unincorporated areas in Precarious LA—Cudahy, Westmont, Lennox, East Rancho Dominguez, and Florence-Graham—plus one neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, have educational attainment levels and earnings typical of those that prevailed in the United States in the 1960s.[38] These communities, which lie south of downtown LA, north of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, east of the 405 and west of the 710, are in the county's urban core, but cut off from the lion's share of its resources and opportunities.

Life expectancy for the approximately three hundred thousand residents of Precarious LA is 78.7 years—7.7 years less than life expectancy in Glittering LA. More than half the adults in Precarious LA lack high school diplomas; without this barebones credential, economic security is largely out of reach. The poverty rate, 35.4 percent, is more than double the countywide rate, driven by exceptionally low median personal earnings, just $19,000. Seven in ten households rent; 68.8 percent of them spend more than 30 percent of their monthly income on housing costs, and 41.6 spend more than half their incomes on housing. Given the extremely low incomes in Precarious LA, that families are able to survive off the limited funds that remain after half the household's income goes to rent is a testament to their resourcefulness. A plurality of workers, about three in ten, works in production, transportation, and moving occupations, and the next-biggest group, 27.6 percent of workers, hold jobs in services occupations. These occupational categories tend to offer low wages, few benefits, and poor working conditions as well as limited opportunities for advancement. Many of the industries like steel that once offered solid wages to unionized workers in these communities are long gone, replaced by warehouses and other employers that pay much less.

A full third of Precarious LA residents are children. Growing up in Precarious LA exposes children to a range of developmental risks, poverty chief among them; the child poverty rate is 45.3 percent. A loving, stable connection to a sensitive primary caregiver lessens poverty's harmful effects on a child,[39] and strong familial ties doubtless promote the healthy development of countless children in Precarious LA. Even so, factors outside parents' control, such as some of the county's highest levels of exposure to pollution, under-resourced schools, and high rates of violent crime, disproportionality threaten child well-being in Precarious LA. The lack of educational and employment opportunities for young people in Precarious LA contributes to a high youth disconnection rate (20.4 percent) and a high teen birth rate (49.3 births per one thousand girls aged 15–19, nearly three times the countywide rate).

Four in five Precarious LA residents are Latino, the highest share of the Five Los Angeles Counties. Black Angelenos, underrepresented in all other LA Counties, are overrepresented in Precarious LA; they make up 17.7 percent of the population. Most residents of Precarious LA—61.4 percent—are US-born, a rate similar to that of Struggling LA.

FIGURE 5 Precarious LA Well-Being Statistics



A Long and Healthy Life

IN THIS SECTION

Introduction

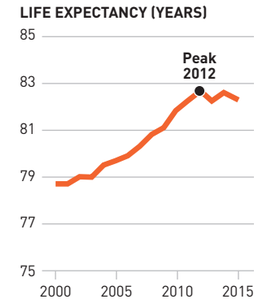
A baby born today in Los Angeles County can expect to live **82.1 years, on average**—a longer life expectancy than that of the average Californian or the average American. If Los Angeles County were a country, it would rank an impressive eleventh in the world in terms of longevity (see FIGURE 1).

Defined as the number of years that a baby born today can expect to live if current patterns of mortality continue throughout that baby's life, life expectancy is a widely used summary measure of population health. Knowing how long different groups of people live is vitally important for understanding what contributes to long lives, for designing and delivering health services, and for monitoring the impact of efforts made to improve health.

In the American Human Development Index, life expectancy serves as a proxy for the capability to live a long and healthy life. It counts as one-third of the overall index value. Advancing human development requires, first and foremost, expanding the real opportunities people have to avoid premature death by disease or injury, to enjoy protection from arbitrary denial of life, to live in a healthy environment, to maintain a healthy lifestyle, to receive quality medical care, and to attain the highest possible standard of physical and mental health. Securing a long and healthy life is integrally connected to the other two components of the index: access to knowledge and a decent standard of living.[1] Life expectancy is calculated for this report using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from the US Census Bureau and CDC.

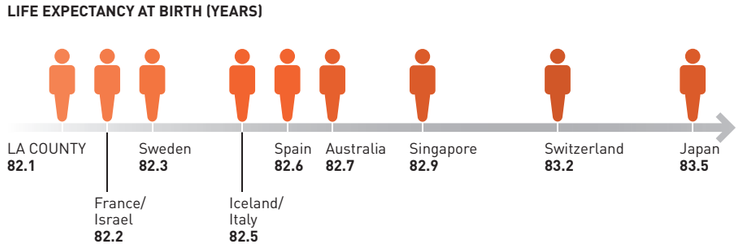
Life expectancy in Los Angeles County steadily increased over the first decade of the 2000s (see SIDEBAR). In 2000, the average county resident could expect to

Life Expectancy in Los Angeles County since 2000



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

FIGURE 1 If LA County Were a Country, It Would Rank Eleventh in Longevity



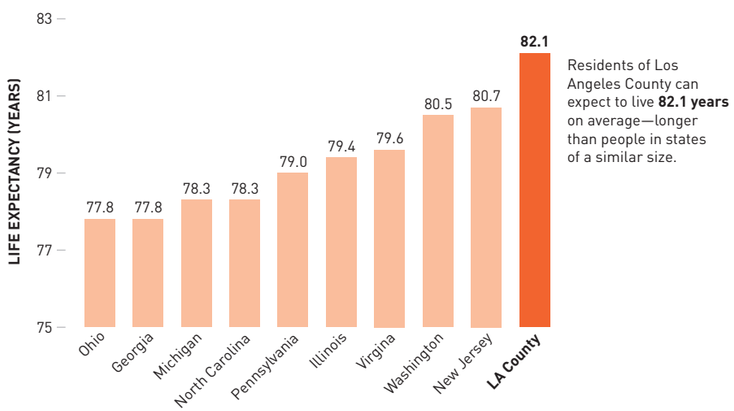
Sources: Countries: World Health Organization, World Health Statistics, 2014. LA County: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014.

live to 78.7 years; ten years later, life expectancy had increased to 81.5 years—an improvement of almost three years. The trend line shows a very slight drop-off in 2013 but an uptick in 2014.

With a population of over ten million, LA County is the country's largest county, twice the size of next-in-line Cook County, home to Chicago. This means that comparisons with other counties are less useful than comparisons with places of similar population size. North Carolina, which has nearly the same population as Los Angeles County, has a life expectancy of 78.3 years—almost four years shorter. In fact, Los Angeles outperforms all nine states with populations of similar size (see FIGURE 2).

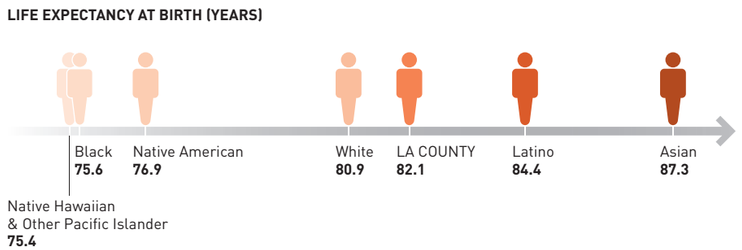
Part of the difference stems from the racial and ethnic composition of Los Angeles County as well as its share of immigrants. Immigrants, Asians, and Latinos are all overrepresented in Los Angeles County, and these groups live longer, on average, than US-born white or black residents. This topic will be discussed further below.

FIGURE 2 LA County Residents Can Expect to Live Longer than Residents of Similar-Sized States



Sources: States: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDC National Center for Health Statistics and population data from the CDC WONDER database, 2014. LA County: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014.

FIGURE 3 Life Expectancy by Race and Ethnicity



Source: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014.

Overall, Los Angeles is a healthy county in a state with very good health outcomes. But averages mask important differences. Detailed data on local communities and population subgroups are essential in order to study success and take action to reduce disadvantage and vulnerability. The remainder of this chapter will explore disparities in life expectancy through a demographic lens and a geographic lens. As discussed in the preceding chapter, demography and geography overlap because major metro areas, including LA County, tend to have high levels of racial and ethnic residential segregation.

Analysis by Race and Ethnicity, Nativity, Gender, and Geography

VARIATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

The life expectancy variations by race and ethnicity in Los Angeles County mirror those of the state and nation as a whole. The longest-lived population is **Asians,** with a life expectancy of **87.3 years. Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders** (NHOPI) have a life expectancy of **75.4 years**—almost a dozen-year gap. Asian and Latino Angelenos live longer than the average LA County resident; the remaining groups have life expectancies below the county average (see FIGURE 3).

Asians make up 14.3 percent of the county population. They have an impressive life expectancy of **87.3 years,** outliving Latinos by roughly three years and whites by more than six years, on average. As will be discussed below, education is generally viewed as an important determinant of health and, in Los Angeles County, Asian educational outcomes are the best among the major racial and ethnic groups. The category of Asian is far from homogenous, however, and disaggregating the population further provides useful information. Both Indians and Chinese (including Taiwanese) have a life expectancy of 88.1 years. Korean life expectancy is 87.6 years, and Japanese life expectancy is 86.2 years. Filipino life expectancy, the lowest of the five major Asian subgroups for which we have sufficient data, at 85.5 years, is still above the average for every other major racial or ethnic group in the county (see FIGURE 4). Asian subgroups with populations too small to allow for reliable calculations, such as Cambodians and Laotians, however, may not be as healthy as the five major Asian subgroups. In addition, life expectancy for the Asian subgroup with the fourth-largest population size, Vietnamese, cannot be included due to statistical anomalies in the data (see BOX 1). As advocates for Asian communities in Los Angeles and across the United States have long argued, data disaggregated by subgroup is imperative for understanding this incredibly diverse population.

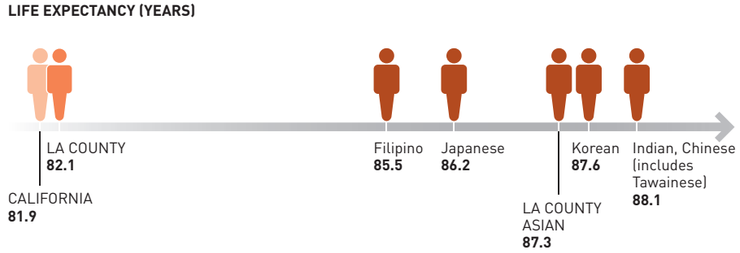
Latinos make up 48.4 percent of the county population, comprising nearly five million residents. They have the second-highest life expectancy, 84.4 years. This is a higher life expectancy than that of Japan, Sweden, and Switzerland.[5] Los Angeles County's Latinos outlive whites, on average, by three and a half years. The phenomenon of Latinos living longer than whites despite having lower education levels and incomes is referred to as the Latino Health Paradox and has been observed across the US (see BOX 2).

Despite the high Latino life expectancy for the county as a whole, however, some predominately Latino communities experience cumulative disadvantages that wear away health and shorten lives (see BOX 3).

Latinos have the **second-highest** life expectancy, **84.4 years.**

FIGURE 4

Life Expectancy of Five Major Asian Subgroups in Los Angeles County



Source: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014.

BOX 1 Life Expectancy of the Vietnamese Population in LA County

Measure of America calculated life expectancies for the Asian subgroups for which sufficient data were available. These calculations resulted in an implausibly high life expectancy for the county's fourth-largest Asian subgroup, Vietnamese. Further research yielded some possible reasons for this debatable result.

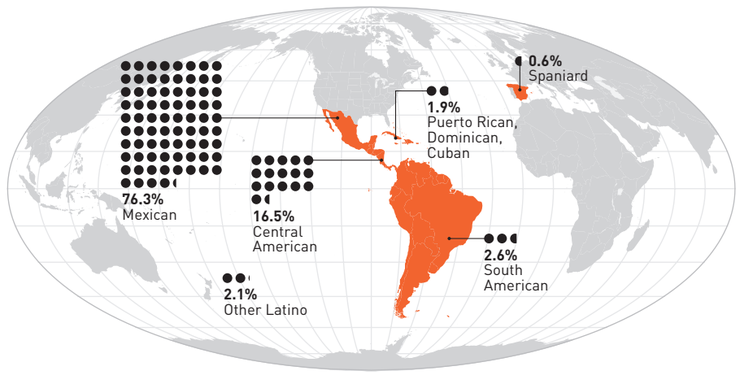
One possibility is anomalies in the data of various sorts. First, death certificates, from which our calculations are derived, sometimes misclassify the race or ethnicity of the deceased, resulting in a distortion of the data. Subgroup misclassifications for racial and ethnic subgroups are a known impediment to accuracy.[2] A second possibility is that the census estimate of this population may be inaccurate, creating a distortion between the total population count and the number of recorded deaths. And finally, we observed in the data the possibility of elderly adults leaving the county, perhaps to live with relatives; if this is the case, it is possible that their deaths are being recorded in another county, while they are still counted as LA County residents. This mismatch would inflate the life expectancy estimate. Indeed, a significantly sized older Vietnamese population lives in Orange County, though when and from where they moved to Orange County has not been well documented.

Another possibility is that this group actually has a very high life expectancy. Further qualitative research provided some additional insight into this question. Vietnamese immigration was chiefly a result of US involvement in the Vietnam War, making them a relatively long-settled population. A Pew Research Center survey from 2013 found that, compared to other US Asian groups, Vietnamese immigrants tended to see the conditions in the US as far better than those they fled. They were upbeat about their children's futures, expecting their offspring's standard of living to be better than theirs when they reach the same age.[3]

Perhaps an optimistic outlook on the future along with strong intergenerational family ties and the benefits of a relatively well-established and cohesive community are all contributing to unusually long lives.[4] This is an important topic for further research.

FIGURE 5 Ethnic Heritage of LA County's Latinos

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL LA COUNTY LATINO POPULATION



Source: Measure of America calculations using ACS, 2011–2015.
Note: Other includes people of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin who do not identify in the above subgroups.

One particularly interesting aspect of the Latino Health Paradox is that this protective health benefit seems to wear off the longer Latinos live in the United States. Foreign-born Latinos tend to have better health outcomes than those who were either born in the United States or have spent a significant amount of time in this country, leading researchers to believe that immigrants take on the preferences and (both good and bad) habits of the people among whom they live over time, a process of acculturation that has significant adverse impacts on health (with some beneficial impacts as well).[6] Greater understanding of acculturation's negative health impacts on immigrant groups could help the second generation remain as healthy as their parents.

Over three-fourths of LA County Latinos and Hispanics trace their ancestry to Mexico (see FIGURE 5 for full breakdown), the remaining one-quarter to Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Spain. Separate life expectancy estimates for these groups would be valuable for targeted health actions, but such calculations are not possible. Subgroup life expectancy calculations rely on the availability of death certificates that list the subgroup of the deceased. In many cases, only the ethnicity Latino or Hispanic is noted, a situation that holds true for other racial and ethnic subgroups as well.

Whites in Los Angeles County make up 26.4 percent of the county's population and live an average of 80.9 years—1.8 years longer than whites in the US as a whole. Despite having far higher earnings and benefitting from other socioeconomic advantages, whites have shorter lives, on average, than both Asians and Latinos. One factor may be smoking. While smoking is on the decline, it remains the leading cause of preventable death in LA County, as in the country. White LA County women are far more likely to smoke than Asian women (13.5 percent vs. 4.6 percent) or Latina women (7.7 percent).[7]

Native Americans make up 0.2 percent of the LA County population, a total of about twenty thousand residents. They have a life expectancy of 76.9 years, about half a decade lower than the county average. Unlike in many Native American communities outside California, Native Americans in LA County are widely dispersed. Only two areas, Leona Valley and Mayflower Village, have populations of over 1 percent Native Americans. California's Native Americans remain the most land-poor in the US, and federal funding for them is the lowest per capita of any state.[8] In the 1950s, LA became a major relocation destination for Native Americans because it had a growing supply of low-wage jobs. The life expectancy of Native Americans in LA County, though low by county standards, is 1.9 years longer than the national average for Native Americans. Research suggests that the legacy of the cultural trauma, discrimination, and dispossession Native American communities experienced at the hands of the US government continues to influence their health and well-being today.[9]

Black Angelenos make up 8 percent of the county population and live an average of 75.6 years. As is the case in many metropolitan areas, black and Latino LA County residents tend to live in racially segregated areas due to a long history of discriminatory housing policies. Our research has shown that

BOX 2 The Latino Health Paradox

The world over, people with higher levels of educational attainment tend to have longer lives. A range of factors contribute to this phenomenon. More highly educated people typically have better access to health care, particularly high-quality care, and are more likely to comply with treatment regimens, to use seat belts, to refrain from smoking, and to embrace new treatments and technologies.[10] In addition, low educational attainment can chip away at health in a number of ways—limiting career options to low-wage jobs with limited or no benefits and wages that consign families to neighborhoods with struggling schools, more crime, fewer parks and recreational opportunities, and proximity to environmental hazards.

But for Latinos in Los Angeles County, as in states and cities across the US, this relationship is considerably weakened. In LA County, Latino levels of education are among the lowest of the main racial and ethnic groups, and earnings are at the very bottom.

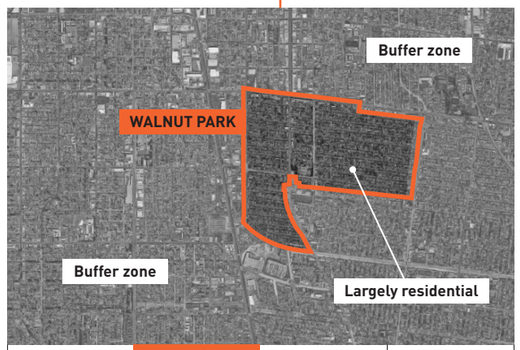
While further research is needed on this phenomenon, several factors may contribute to longer Latino life spans. Latinos have lower smoking rates than non-Hispanic whites,[11] which is important because smoking can contribute to premature death from heart disease, stroke, and cancer. In addition, some research shows that aspects of Latino culture, such as strong social support and family cohesion, help bolster better health outcomes, particularly for mothers and infants.[12]

residential segregation by race often leads to concentrations of disconnection, marginalization, and poverty, which affect voice, power, and local revenue streams. These in turn have an impact on public services, including parks, schools, and public transportation options, as well as exposure to pollution, crime, and other neighborhood conditions that affect health.[13] In addition, the health impacts of poverty that have resulted from discriminatory policies appear in the form of psychological stress, unhealthy behaviors such as smoking and substance abuse, and increased vulnerability to heart disease.[14] Segregation also limits access to social networks and connections vital to job opportunities.[15] Each of these sets of community conditions, in turn, affects health.

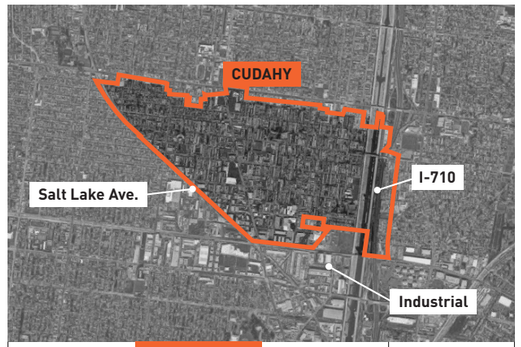
Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders make up 0.3 percent of the county population; about 26,000 residents trace their ancestry to these groups. NHOPI have the shortest life expectancy of the six major racial and ethnic groups included in this study, 75.4 years. As with Native Americans, NHOPI residents are widely dispersed. West Carson (2.9 percent) and Carson (2.1 percent) are the only areas where they represent over 2 percent of the population.

NHOPI are often grouped together with Asians, and sometimes with Native Americans, in health and other surveys. Given that Asians have better health indicators than every other major racial and ethnic group, data focusing on the NHOPI community alone are essential in order to address the pressing health

BOX 3 Two Miles Away and Eleven Years Apart: Walnut Park and Cudahy



Human Development Index	Life expectancy (years)	Has earned a bachelor's degree	Residents below poverty line
4.35	90.5	5.7%	19%



Human Development Index	Life expectancy (years)	Has earned a bachelor's degree	Residents below poverty line
2.84	79.2	7.3%	31%

Walnut Park is a small, densely populated, almost entirely Latino community in Southeast LA. The average life expectancy at birth of Walnut Park residents is an astonishing 90.5 years. This is over eight years longer than the Los Angeles average and longer than that of any other city or unincorporated area covered in this study, including communities like Malibu and Beverly Hills that are among the country's most affluent. Some two miles to the east is a slightly larger community of roughly the same population density, also more than 96 percent Latino, but with very different health outcomes: the **City of Cudahy,** where life expectancy is 79.2 years.

At first glance, Walnut Park and Cudahy seem quite similar. Each is among the most densely populated communities in California. In both places, median personal earnings hover around $19,000, and most workers have low-wage jobs in service, production, and transportation. Adult educational levels in both communities are likewise low, and health insurance coverage is around 70 percent. More than half the residents in both locales are foreign-born. Three in four immigrants hail from Mexico and 12 percent come from El Salvador.[16]

Yet the statistics markedly diverge in other important areas. Despite nearly identical personal earnings, Cudahy has a poverty rate of over 31 percent, compared to 19 percent in Walnut Park. The child poverty rate in Cudahy is a worrying 43.6 percent, over 15 percentage points higher than in Walnut Park.

Cudahy residents are far more likely to rent their homes than Walnut Park residents (84 percent and 48 percent, respectively). This could contribute to greater community cohesion, as owners tend to be more invested, socially as well as financially, in their neighborhoods than renters.[17] It could also flag greater financial stability among Walnut Park's homeowners, who were able to save for a down payment and document a solid salary history in order to qualify for a mortgage.

Indicators of child well-being also diverge. In Walnut Park, 13.5 percent of families are headed by a single parent, and in Cudahy, 23.8 percent[18] are; growing up in single-parent households is associated with poorer outcomes for children.[19] The youth unemployment rate in Cudahy, 28 percent, is more than double that of Walnut Park, 13 percent.

Lastly, a visit to Walnut Park and Cudahy makes abundantly clear yet another important difference: their levels of exposure to environmental pollution. Directly to the east of Cudahy lies the heavily trucked **I-710**, a key route from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to distribution and processing centers inland in Los Angeles and beyond. The southern portion of Cudahy as well as its western border, the **Salt Lake Avenue Corridor**, is replete with industry and manufacturing, including furniture, paint, rubber, and plastics factories, machine shops, truck depots, waste and recycling businesses, and warehousing and storage units. The "City of Cudahy 2010 General Plan" notes that "illegal hazardous material/waste dumping is a concern in the City."[20] As a result, people living in Cudahy, which is just one-mile square in size, may be exposed to higher levels of particulate matter and industrial releases like lead,[21] increasing their risk of cancer,[22] heart disease,[23] and asthma.[24]

Walnut Park, on the other hand, lies at the center of a large square formed by four freeways, yet a **buffer zone** of some two miles or more lies between Walnut Park's modest but meticulously kept houses and these diesel-spewing routes. This buffer means that people living in Walnut Park have a slightly lower exposure level to traffic-related pollutants.[25] In addition, Walnut Park is largely residential, with the light industry primarily located at the periphery.

Any one of the differences between Walnut Park and Cudahy explored above may contribute to the divergent life expectancies of these two areas; this study is not able to determine whether and to what degree one factor or another affects life expectancy. But research suggests that the cumulative disadvantages we see in Cudahy act together to wear away human health in the city.

The health **impacts of poverty** appear in the form of psychological stress and increased vulnerability to heart disease.

TABLE 1 **Blacks Have the Greatest Male-Female Life Expectancy Gap**

	MEN	WOMEN	GAP
Black	72.1	78.7	6.6 years
Asian	84.6	89.7	5.1
Latino	81.7	86.8	5.1
Los Angeles County	79.6	84.5	4.9
White	78.7	83.1	4.4
NHOPI	74.1	76.6	2.5

Source: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014.

challenges in this population. One important finding from these estimates is that NHOPI women (76.6 years) tend to live 2.5 years longer than NHOPI men (74.1), a smaller male-female gap than any of the other groups. This is discussed further below.

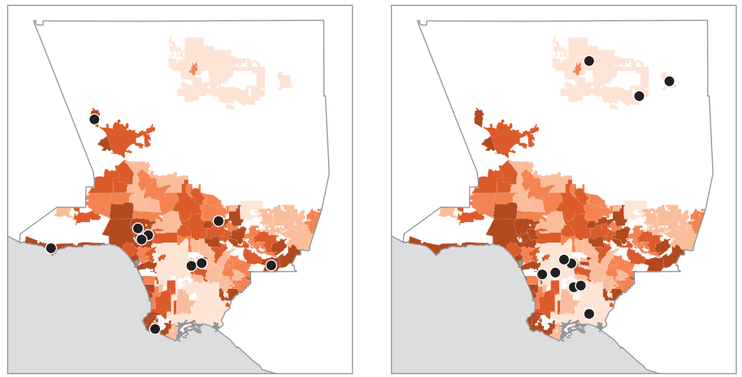
Because of the dearth of local data on the NHOPI population alone, national sources must often be relied upon. National life expectancy findings align closely with Measure of America's LA County life expectancy numbers. A 2014 CDC survey found NHOPI people rate themselves quite low in terms of self-reported health, with Samoans tending to report worse health than Native Hawaiians, Guamanian or Chamorro, and other Pacific Islanders.[26] In terms of the greatest NHOPI health challenges, the CDC survey identified very high rates of hypertension, obesity, and asthma and a higher risk for cancer and cancer fatalities than whites and Asians, specifically prostate and lung cancers among men and breast and lung cancers among women.[27]

One in five NHOPI adults have asthma; the next highest-rate is black adults at 15 percent. The US average is 13 percent.[28] Native Hawaiians have an unusually high rate of childhood asthma—24.3 percent compared to 9.5 percent for Pacific Islanders and 13.5 percent in the US overall.[29] A 2012 study in two Pacific Islander community clusters, one in LA County, found similar results with regards to asthma, hypertension, and obesity.[30]

VARIATION BY NATIVITY: NATIVE-BORN AND FOREIGN-BORN

Foreign-born LA County residents outlive those born in the US by a surprising 6.6 years. This offers quite a different picture from the early twentieth-century stereotype of immigrants arriving in the United States weak from hunger and poor sanitation, their cramped passage a breeding ground for contagious disease. Immigrants, who make up about a third of the county population today, tend to

FIGURE 6 **Top-Ten and Bottom-Ten Communities in Life Expectancy**



TOP-TEN COMMUNITIES

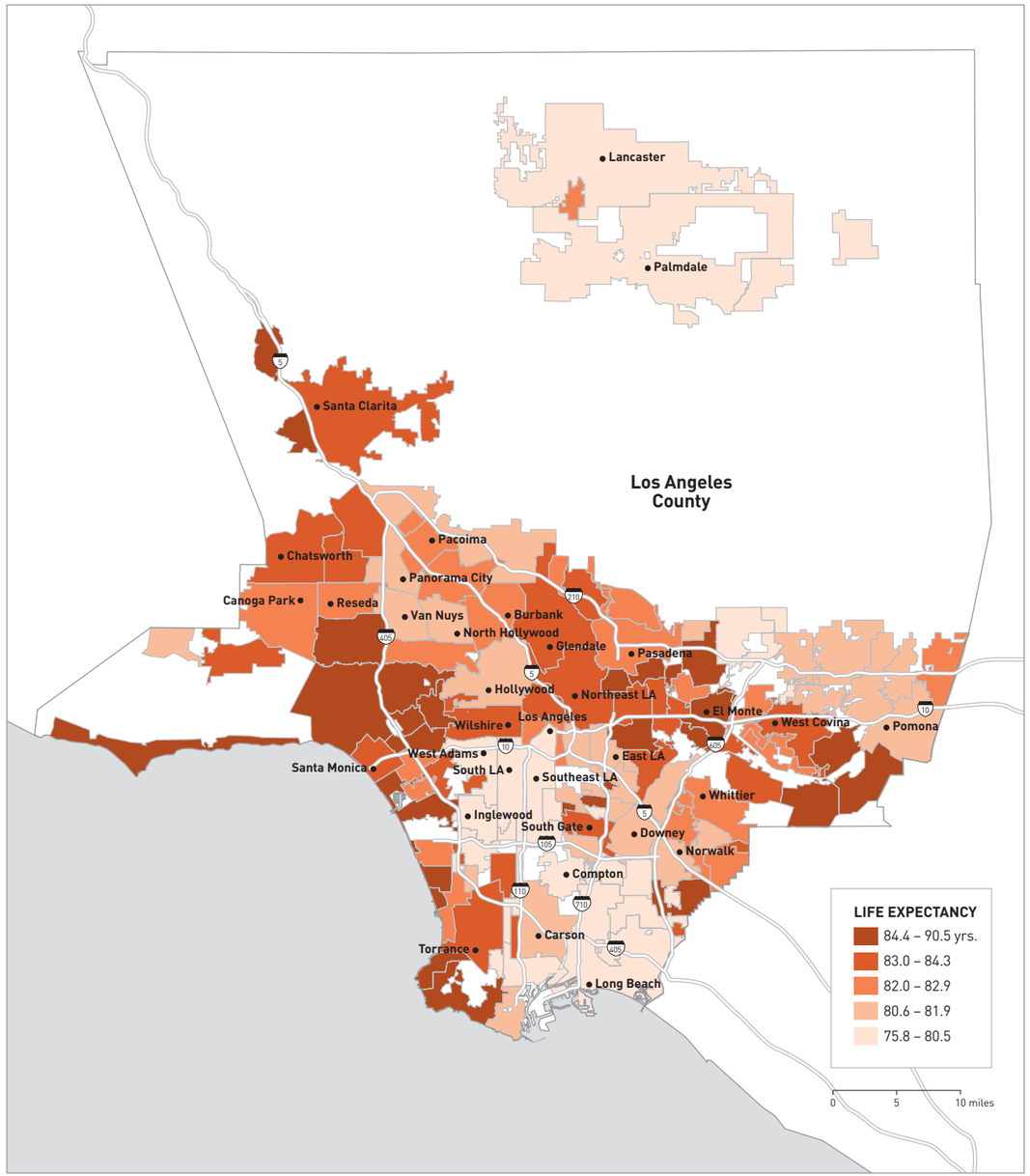
1	**Walnut Park**	90.5 years
2	**Malibu**	89.8
3	**Castaic**	88.9
4	**Westwood**	87.7
5	**Bel Air-Beverly Crest**	87.4
6	**Rowland Heights**	87.0
7	**Rancho Palos Verdes**	86.7
8	**Beverly Hills**	86.6
9	**San Marino**	86.5
10	**Bell**	86.5

BOTTOM-TEN COMMUNITIES

131	**Compton**	78.4 years
132	**Signal Hill**	78.4
133	**Florence-Graham**	78.0
134	**Southeast Los Angeles**	77.7
135	**Lennox**	76.8
136	**Lancaster**	76.4
137	**Westmont**	76.3
138	**Lake Los Angeles**	76.2
139	**East Rancho Dominguez**	76.1
140	**Sun Village**	75.8

Source: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014.

MAP 1 **Life Expectancy in Los Angeles by Community and City of LA Community Plan Area**



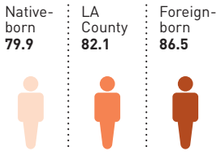
be far healthier than US-born Angelenos. This is not to say that the immigrant experience is monolithic. Trauma, malnutrition, and other negative conditions experienced in their home countries can have a lifelong impact on the health of refugees, for example. But in spite of both pre-migration hardships and the considerable challenges many face in a new country—mastering a new language and adjusting to a new life, securing employment, paying for health care, and in some cases, enduring the stress of undocumented status—the average life expectancy of foreign-born Angelenos is extremely high.

What is contributing to this immigrant health advantage? A comprehensive National Academies study on this topic outlines three possible explanations. First, it is possible that healthier individuals tend to be the ones with the fortitude and resilience to migrate and start life anew. Immigrants tend to have fewer infectious diseases; lower levels of diabetes, obesity, and other chronic diseases; and a lower incidence of cancer. Second, immigrants may return home if they fall ill to receive care in a more familiar environment or from family members or in order to die in their country of birth; their deaths are thus not recorded in the US. Finally, social and cultural factors, such as the social cohesion and family support described above as part of the Latino Health Paradox, may serve to protect immigrant health. For many Asian groups, diets tend to be healthier than typical American fare, and various non-Western practices, such as acupuncture, yoga, tai chi, and meditation, are widely valued imports for their help with stress and wellness.[31] But one thing is clear: many of the social and cultural factors that have a protective effect on health tend to wear off the longer immigrants are in the United States.

In addition to being healthier themselves, immigrants safeguard the health of the native-born through their work caring for the ill and elderly. As the US population ages and the shortage of health-care workers becomes more acute, immigrants fill vital roles at every level. They make up 28 percent of physicians and surgeons and 24 percent of nurses and home health aides.[32]

Current national immigration policy may weaken their positive contributions in both areas. The heightened threat of deportation and the social stigma and fear that result will likely have a negative impact on both immigrant health and the ability of immigrants to contribute to the health-care industry—and thus the health of everyone.

Life Expectancy of LA County Residents (years)



Source: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau 2010–2014.

VARIATION BY GENDER AND RACE AND ETHNICITY

LA County women have a life expectancy (84.5 years) that is nearly five years longer than that of their male counterparts. And a male-female gap is seen among all racial and ethnic groups for which the data are available.

Why do we see a life expectancy gap between men and women not just in LA County, but the world over? Part of the difference is rooted in biology; women have some biological advantages over men in terms of the types of chronic diseases they tend to develop and the ways in which estrogen and testosterone affect

Part of the male-female life expectancy gap is rooted in how **gender norms** create differing patterns of health and risk behaviors.

the risk of heart disease, the most common cause of death.[33] But part of the difference is rooted in how gender norms create differing patterns of health and risk behaviors.[34] Compared to women, men are more likely to die by homicide, by suicide, and in accidents like car crashes;[35] are more likely to engage in substance abuse;[36] are more impulsive;[37] are more likely to have adverse occupational exposures;[38,39] more often resort to violence;[40] and are less likely to seek medical care[41]—all of which lowers their collective life expectancy in ways that are largely preventable.

In addition, the size of the gap varies by race and ethnicity (see TABLE 1). The largest range in life expectancy is for black men and women, a gap of 6.6 years. The life expectancy of black women is 5.8 years less than the average for women in LA County, but the life expectancy of black men is even farther from the county average for men, 7.5 years. Black men have the lowest life expectancy at birth of all racial/gender combinations, in part the result of tragically high premature death rates among black men due to heart disease, homicide, and cancer.

NHOPI men and women have the smallest male-female gap, 2.5 years. Because NHOPI residents make up just 0.3 percent of the county's population (and this gap is not statistically significant due to the small survey sample size), it is difficult to infer much about the reasons for this. But in addition to the issues raised above of health challenges for both NHOPI men and women, surveys reveal that NHOPI women are not getting basic preventive screenings—especially mammograms and pap smears—at recommended times, resulting in higher cancer mortality rates.[42]

VARIATION BY GEOGRAPHY: CITIES, UNINCORPORATED AREAS, AND CITY OF LA COMMUNITY PLAN AREAS

LA County's average life expectancy is impressive, but effective health policymaking depends on data at much more granular levels. Among the county's 106 communities plus the City of Los Angeles's thirty-five community plan areas, life expectancy ranges from **90.5 years** in Walnut Park, a community in densely populated Southeast Los Angeles, to **75.8 years** in Sun Village, high in the sparsely populated Antelope Valley—a range of a decade and a half within one county (see FIGURE 6).

The "top ten" areas include two cities with populations that are half Asian (Rowland Heights and San Marino), two predominantly Latino communities (Walnut Park and Bell), and two cities and two City of LA community plan areas that are largely white (Malibu, Beverly Hills, Westwood, and Bel Air–Beverly Crest). This group of long-lived communities can be found in the county's north, south, east, and west. In contrast, the ten shortest-lived communities are found in the county's southern areas and in the Antelope Valley.

FIGURE 7 The Social Determinants of Health

These are defined as the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work, and age, as well as the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics. —*World Health Organization* [43]

- Green spaces
- Sidewalks and bike paths
- Affordable housing

- Fresh produce stores
- High-quality schools
- Affordable health care
- Accessible public transportation

- Jobs with decent wages
- Work/life balance
- A diverse economy
- Affordable, safe childcare

- Equality under the law
- Accountable government
- Safety and security

The City of LA has an overall life expectancy nearly identical to that of the county as a whole, 82.2 years. But a further zoom into the city's community plan areas reveals a ten-year gap within it. A baby born today in Westwood (87.7 years) can expect to outlive a baby born at the same time in Southeast LA (77.7 years) by a full decade. The top two community plan areas are adjacent to one another in West Los Angeles: Westwood and Bel Air–Beverly Crest.

Closing the Gaps in Health: What Will It Take?

While many Americans assume that income and health rise and fall in tandem, the data from LA County challenge that belief. The typical worker in Bell, a top-ten community in terms of life expectancy, earns about $20,000, while his or her counterpart in San Marino, also in the group of longest-lived, has median earnings of about $78,000 (see FIGURE 6 and FIGURE 4), a four-fold difference. Likewise, a worker in Florence-Graham, among the "bottom ten" for life expectancy, makes around $18,000, while a worker in Signal Hill, another bottom-ten area, has median personal earnings almost twice as high. In fact, the relationship between earnings and health across Los Angeles County shows only a weak positive correlation.[44] In other words, knowing about the wages and salaries in LA neighborhoods gives you little of the information necessary to predict life span.

What, then, does matter for longer and healthier lives?

While access to affordable, quality health care is vital once a person is sick, a key set of factors driving health outcomes that is too often overlooked lies outside the realm of doctors and medicine: the conditions of our daily lives. Increasingly, access to healthy food to eat, clean air to breathe, safe places to play and get exercise, secure jobs that reduce the damaging stress of economic uncertainty, good schools to learn and grow, and safe neighborhoods in which to build thriving families and communities are joining doctors and medicines on the list of ingredients essential for good health. **These conditions are called the social determinants of health** (see FIGURE 7).

A look at today's leading causes of death, in Los Angeles County as in the nation, shows that many of the chronic diseases that cause premature death have contributing factors that are often preventable through changes in social and environmental conditions. What follows is a discussion of several social determinants of health that are important for closing life expectancy gaps.

Uncertainty and fear about the future takes its **toll** on our psychological and physical health.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

In LA County, recent policy actions to shore up the economic situation of those earning the least is one extremely important step toward reducing the toxic stress of economic insecurity. Having the resources to not only survive but also to weather unforeseen crises is crucial for health and overall well-being. Uncertainty and fear about the future takes its toll on our psychological and physical health; toxic stress leads to mental health disorders like anxiety and depression and behavioral responses such as poor diet, smoking, and interpersonal conflict and may eventually manifest as cardiovascular disease. Chronic stress from economic insecurity also contributes to low birth weight babies, as evidenced by the prevalence of low birth weight babies among blacks and Native Americans in LA County.[45] Economic security is also crucially important for family stability and child well-being.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and recreational opportunities make obvious, yet sometimes undervalued, contributions to health and well-being. Parks in urban settings facilitate exercise, provide safe places for children to play, and allow city dwellers to enjoy the therapeutic benefits of nature. By absorbing carbon dioxide and pollutants, the vegetation in parks also helps improve air quality and reduce urban heat.[46] Parks serve as convenient neighborhood venues for wellness programs and educational activities and as spaces for creating community. The LA County Department of Parks and Recreation has recognized the huge potential of its parks with many programs and community partnerships designed to contribute to safer, more cohesive communities.[47]

In 2016, the Department of Parks and Recreation undertook a comprehensive park assessment that involved a set of metrics on the level of park need for each of the county's cities and unincorporated areas.[48] The assessment took into considersation park land, access, pressure, condition, and amenities. The metrics show stark park inequalities. The county averages 3.3 acres of parkland per one thousand residents. Thirty-three geographic areas (of a total of 188) have a salubrious average of 52 acres of parkland per one thousand residents. These areas include large parts of the Westside Cities, the northeastern part of Antelope Valley, and Bel Air-Beverly Crest. In marked contrast, forty-three areas average a sparse 0.7 acres per one thousand residents (see FIGURE 8). These areas are found in East LA, Compton, Hawthorne–Alondra Park, Bell, Baldwin Park, Huntington Park, and other South LA neighborhoods. The county would need to add 8,600 acres of parkland in very high-need areas to bring them up to the modest county average.[49]

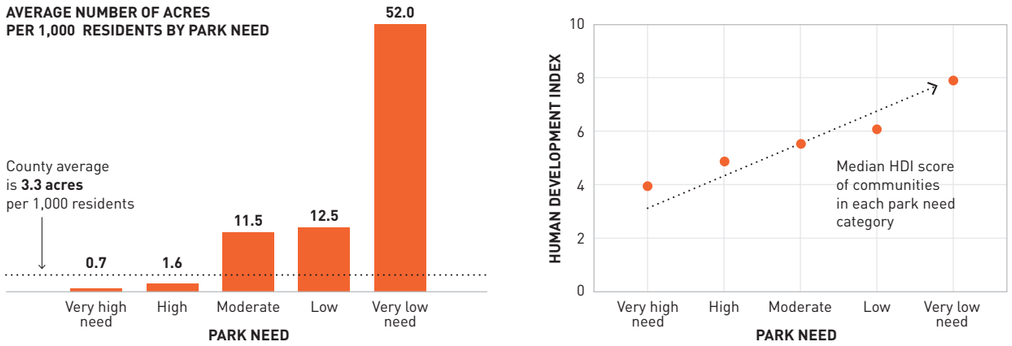
Places with serious **park deficits** have life expectancies below the county average.

Park space per person is also associated with race and ethnicity. Blacks and Latinos are more likely to reside in cities and communities with less park space per capita (56 percent and 50 percent of residents, respectively) than whites and Asians (27 percent and 36 percent).[50]

How does this assessment match up with health and well-being outcomes? Nearly 60 percent of areas with very low park need have life expectancies above the county average. Conversely, 64 percent of places with serious park deficits have life expectancies below the county average.[51] Perhaps more striking is the way in which park need is inversely related to human development, moving in lock-step along a gradient. Neighborhoods rated with very low park need have an American HD Index that is a third higher than those with very high need (see FIGURE 8).

Given parks' importance for public and environmental health, such disparities in available park space and quality are troubling. Furthermore, the presence of

FIGURE 8 There is a Strong Relationship Between Community Well-Being and Park Infrastructure and Access



Source: Measure of America calculations using Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, "Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment," 2016.

recreational space alone is insufficient; accessibility and safety are required to encourage use and realize benefits.

ABSENCE OF HEALTH-RISK BEHAVIORS: FOCUS ON SMOKING

While smoking rates have fallen sharply, smoking remains the country's leading cause of preventable death; it is linked to heart and respiratory disease, cancer, asthma, and sudden infant death syndrome. One in every seven deaths annually in LA County is directly linked to cigarette smoking.[52] The county's 12 percent adult smoking rate is the same as the state average and lower than that of neighboring counties Kern (15 percent) and San Bernardino (14 percent), but slightly higher than rates in San Diego (11 percent) and San Francisco Counties (10 percent).[53]

In order to push these numbers even lower, California has recently enacted sweeping anti-tobacco policies, with a steep tobacco tax increase from $0.87 to $2.87 per pack and a comparable tax for e-cigarettes. Cigarette sales dropped by more than 50 percent within months of this tax coming into effect.[54] California recently became the second state to raise the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 and closed loopholes in smoke-free workplace and hotel lobby laws.[55] In tandem with these laws, the LA County Department of Public Health has expanded its smoking-cessation resources and services.[56]

The benefits of progress have not reached all county residents equally, however. A 2012 study showed wide racial and ethnic disparities. Asians have the lowest rate of adult smoking, at 9.2 percent, followed by Latinos (11.9 percent), whites (15.2 percent), and blacks (17.2 percent).[57] In a 2017 report, the American Lung Association gave Glendale, Huntington Park, Manhattan Beach, Pasadena, and Santa Monica high marks ("A") for tobacco control policies and implementation. Forty-five cities in the county received an F, signifying weak policies in areas critical for reducing smoking as well as secondhand exposure indoors and out.[58] Focused prevention efforts and tobacco cessation services for black Angelenos and the cities lagging behind are needed.

Asians have the lowest rate of adult smoking, at **9.2%**, followed by **Latinos** at **11.9%.**

INCOME INEQUALITY

Greater income inequality translates into a lower average life expectancy.[59 60] Thus far, this report has focused on the health effects of poverty and material deprivation. Now we turn our attention to the relationship between income inequality and health, a related but separate topic. Income inequality is about relative income and wealth and the distance between the richest and the poorest. Enormous gaps in income undermine the health of those at the lower end of the scale in two distinct ways. The first has to do with comparing oneself and ones' family to others. For those at the bottom, an awareness of one's relative place in society can increase stress, lower self-esteem, and fray the bonds of social cohesion, all of which can harm health.[61 62]

Second, the inherent power imbalance that comes with rising income inequality influences the distribution of health-giving resources. The rich have greater influence over public policy and public investments than the poor do because elected officials tend to be more attentive to their demands.[63] Increasingly, the rich live among themselves in affluent enclaves, concentrating their financial and social capital in their own resource- and opportunity-rich communities. Because they have most of what they need in their ring-fenced communities and can afford to buy the rest privately, they are less likely to rely on and therefore to demand public goods designed to serve the whole population, such as public transportation systems, policing, and parks.[64 65] The underinvestment in public goods that results from the affluent exiting the system rarely harms the health of the wealthy, who can pay for many of these amenities privately, but has a damaging impact on the health of the rest.

Inequality is arguably the defining socioeconomic problem of our time, but its impacts are not well understood. More research is needed to better understand this persistent economic trend and raise awareness of its effects, both direct and indirect, on health and overall well-being.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Of the ninety-nine female homicides recorded in the twelve-month period from September 12, 2016, to September 11, 2017, in Los Angeles County, 41 percent were related to domestic disputes.[66] The staggering toll of intimate partner

violence in communities across the US makes it clear why domestic violence is central to any discussion of a long and healthy life. Its direct impact on the physical and mental health of victims and their families in California, as in every US state, is staggering.

Domestic violence has also been shown to increase the risk to survivors of other diseases and chronic conditions. Women survivors of domestic violence are at far higher risk of stroke, heart disease, and arthritis.[67] They face high levels of stress, sometimes for years at a time, and are twice as likely to experience depression and have alcohol-use disorders as a result.[68] Children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence face a heightened risk of poor academic performance and health and behavioral problems.[69]

Intimate partner violence disproportionately harms women, and men make up the majority of perpetrators. But it can occur among people in every form of relationship and at many ages—including during teen dating, in LGBTQ couples, and in heterosexual couples where women are the abusers.

Since 2006, the number of domestic violence–related calls for assistance recorded by the California Department of Justice in Los Angeles County has hovered around forty thousand calls per year.[70] Nearly two-thirds of these calls involved a weapon. An estimated 12.7 percent of Angelenos have experienced domestic violence by the age of 18, and 3.1 percent have experienced domestic violence in the last year.[71]

The 2015 Los Angeles County Health Survey found that black women are the most likely to have experienced intimate partner violence (25.4 percent).[72] White women followed at 24.0 percent, then Latinas at 13.1 percent, and Asian women at 6.9 percent.[73]

A number of actors are actively tackling this pressing issue in Los Angeles. But several factors hamper these efforts. One is the dearth of reliable and updated data. Data on domestic violence come from law enforcement when a crime may be involved, hospitals when physical injuries are sustained, and surveys where survivors report on abuse. Each of these data systems tells a part of the story, but they are often incompatible and stored in individual department systems. The City of LA has recently established new initiatives,[74] but unlike other large metro areas, the LA Police Department does not have a dedicated domestic violence unit. Rather, the department contracts with community organizations to respond to calls, which leads to coordination challenges.[75] A 2016 Board of Supervisors motion called for greater collaboration between county agencies. This motion demands urgent follow-up action. Responding to this public health menace requires augmented resources for shelter beds, legal support and other services for survivors today, but as importantly, a focus on eliminating exposure to violence and victimization among children, which is a strong predictor of cycles of violence in the future.

HOMELESSNESS

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's 2017 point-in-time homeless count reported close to sixty thousand homeless individuals in the county,[76] one of the largest homeless populations in any city or county in the United States.[77] Despite deep commitments from every sector, strong public support, and unprecedented collaboration to tackle this issue, the homeless population continues to grow. The relationship between homelessness and human development is explored more fully in the standard of living chapter, but some mention must be made here because of the simple fact that housing is one form of health care.[78]

Homelessness and health are inextricably linked. Poor physical or mental health can make it difficult to earn a living and maintain support networks, spurring a downward spiral that can eventually result in homelessness. Conversely, the daily conditions inherent in living on the street contribute to ill health among homeless people. Homeless residents face an increased risk of communicable diseases, violence, accidents, and malnutrition. Living on city streets and in homeless shelters can exacerbate existing health issues, including addiction and depression, as well as minor complaints, such as common colds or cuts that rapidly escalate with limited or no access to personal hygiene or basic first aid. Without housing, chronic conditions such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and persistent and severe mental illness are exceedingly difficult to treat or control.

The 2017 LA County homeless count documents this vicious cycle of causes and consequences. One in three homeless individuals in the county had experienced some form of intimate partner violence in his or her lifetime (though women are disproportionately impacted), 30 percent suffered severe and persistent mental illness, and nearly one in five struggled with substance abuse.[79] With the average life expectancy of homeless people in the United States estimated as between 42 and 52 years,[80] one intervention to increase life expectancy in LA County, and thus the LA index score, is to double down on the root causes of homelessness.

Conclusion

Increasing life expectancy countywide requires commitment and action focused on eliminating the persistent inequities in health outcomes that start at the beginning of life and continue across the life span, culminating in the dramatic gaps discussed in this chapter. The health disparities that disproportionately harm black, NHOPI, and Native American individuals as well as residents of many communities in the Antelope Valley and South LA are not inevitable. Reducing these gaps will require addressing the conditions in which people are born and grow up. These social determinants of health—clean air to breathe, safe places to play and get exercise, secure jobs that reduce the damaging stress of economic uncertainty, good schools to learn and grow, healthy food, and safe neighborhoods in which to build thriving families and communities—are essential ingredients for good health.

TABLE 2 **Life Expectancy by Supervisorial District**

DISTRICT 1
Supervisor
Hilda Solis

Walnut Park	90.5
Bell	86.5
Walnut	85.8
South El Monte	85.6
Monterey Park	85.1
El Monte	85.1
Avocado Heights	84.1
Silver Lake/ Echo Park/ Elysian Valley	84.0
Rosemead	83.8
Montebello	83.7
South Gate	83.6
Northeast LA	83.3
West Covina	83.2
Claremont	82.9
La Puente	82.9
Westlake	82.7
Baldwin Park	82.6
Valinda	82.3
Central City North	82.3
South San Jose Hills	82.2
West Puente Valley	82.2
Huntington Park	81.9
Citrus	81.9
Boyle Heights	81.9
Bell Gardens	81.8
Pomona	81.7
Commerce	81.7
East Los Angeles	81.3
Pico Rivera	81.3
Maywood	81.3
Azusa	80.7
Central City	79.4
Cudahy	79.2
Vincent	79.0

DISTRICT 2
Supervisor
Mark Ridley-Thomas

West Los Angeles	85.4
Westchester/ Playa del Rey	85.1
Del Aire	83.8
Wilshire	83.7
Gardena	83.5
West Carson	83.5
Culver City	83.4
View Park-Windsor Hills	83.3
Palms/Mar Vista/ Del Rey	82.4
Lynwood	81.7
Carson	80.8
Lawndale	80.6
Hawthorne	80.5
Inglewood	79.8
Central City	79.4
South Los Angeles	79.3
West Adams/ Baldwin Hills/ Leimert	79.0
Harbor Gateway	78.7
Compton	78.4
Florence-Graham	78.0
Southeast LA	77.7
Lennox	76.8
Westmont	76.3
East Rancho Dominguez	76.1

DISTRICT 3
Supervisor
Sheila Kuehl

Malibu	89.8
Westwood	87.7
Bel Air/ Beverly Crest	87.4
Beverly Hills	86.6
Brentwood/ Pacific Palisades	86.3
Venice	85.9
West Los Angeles	85.4
Encino/Tarzana	85.2
Northridge	84.3
Calabasas	84.0
Wilshire	83.7
West Hollywood	83.3
Santa Monica	83.2
Arleta/Pacoima	82.9
Canoga Park/ Winnetka/ Woodland Hills/ West Hills	82.8
San Fernando	82.7
Reseda/ West Van Nuys	82.7
Sherman Oaks/ Studio City/ Toluca Lake	82.7
Sun Valley/ La Tuna Canyon	82.1
Hollywood	81.9
Agoura Hills	81.8
Mission Hills/ Panorama City/ North Hills	81.6
North Hollywood/ Valley Village	81.6
Sylmar	81.4
Van Nuys/North Sherman Oaks	80.9

DISTRICT 4
Supervisor
Janice Hahn

Rowland Heights	87.0
Rancho Palos Verdes	86.7
Cerritos	86.4
Manhattan Beach	86.1
Palos Verdes Estates	85.5
Hermosa Beach	85.4
Diamond Bar	85.4
Westchester - Playa del Rey	85.1
Hacienda Heights	84.3
Torrance	84.1
Hawaiian Gardens	83.6
East Whittier	83.6
El Segundo	82.7
Santa Fe Springs	82.3
Redondo Beach	82.3
La Mirada	82.2
Whittier	82.1
West Whittier-Los Nietos	82.0
Downey	81.4
South Whittier	81.1
Norwalk	81.0
San Pedro	80.9
Artesia	80.3
Lakewood	80.2
Bellflower	80.2
Paramount	80.2
Lomita	80.2
Wilmington/ Harbor City	80.0
Long Beach	79.4
Harbor Gateway	78.7
Signal Hill	78.4

DISTRICT 5
Supervisor
Kathryn Barger

Castaic	88.9
San Marino	86.5
Stevenson Ranch	86.2
Arcadia	85.3
South Pasadena	85.2
East San Gabriel	85.2
San Gabriel	84.3
Northridge	84.3
Glendale	84.1
Santa Clarita	84.0
La Cañada Flintridge	83.9
Chatsworth - Porter Ranch	83.7
Alhambra	83.7
Granada Hills/ Knollwood	83.2
Altadena	82.9
Pasadena	82.9
Temple City	82.6
Burbank	82.4
Quartz Hill	82.4
La Crescenta-Montrose	82.3
Sun Valley - La Tuna Canyon	82.1
San Dimas	81.9
La Verne	81.8
Sierra Madre	81.8
Sunland/Tujunga/ Lake View Terrace/ Shadow Hills	81.2
Glendora	81.1
Covina	80.8
Duarte	80.5
Monrovia	80.3
Palmdale	79.8
Vincent	79.0
Lancaster	76.4
Lake Los Angeles	76.2
Sun Village	75.8

Note: Places are listed according to the Supervisorial District in which they are primarily located. When a large portion of a locale's land straddles two districts, it is included in both.

Access to Knowledge

IN THIS SECTION

Introduction

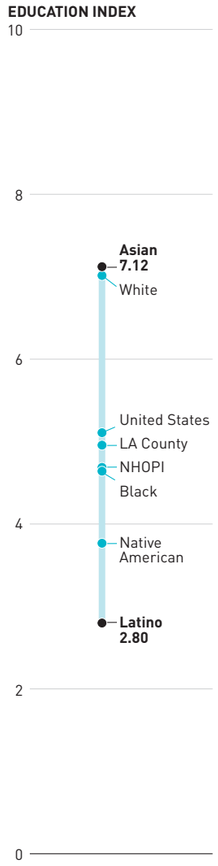
Education is a means to a host of desirable ends. The ones we hear about most are education's economic benefits—better jobs, bigger paychecks, and lower rates of unemployment, to name just a few. People with higher levels of education earn more and are less likely to be unemployed than those whose formal educations ended with high school; they are also concentrated in higher-paying occupations with better working conditions and benefits. In 2016, the unemployment rate for bachelor's degree holders was 2.7 percent, about half the rate for high school graduates (5.2 percent) and about one-third the rate for those without a high school diploma (7.4 percent). Earnings move in lockstep with educational attainment, with bachelor's degree holders earning about double, on average, what high school graduates earn, and those with professional degrees earning one and a half times what college graduates take home.[1] Research by Measure of America and United Way Worldwide found that if all adults in Los Angeles County without high school diplomas magically received them, median personal earnings in the county would increase by $1,800, and about 150,000 fewer people would live in poverty.[2]

But the benefits of education are not just economic. For society as a whole, adult educational attainment is associated with less crime and lower incarceration rates. The civic education and critical thinking skills that schools aim to provide impart the values, norms, and habits of mind essential to living in a democracy, and higher levels of education are associated with greater civic engagement and political participation. For individuals, more education is associated with better health and longer life expectancy; more stable romantic relationships; more sensitive, responsive parenting; and greater ability to adjust to change.[3] Measure of America research suggests that LA County life expectancy would increase by an estimated 1.5 years, the murder rate would fall by nearly 9 percent, and the voting rate would increase by almost 10 percent if all Los Angeles adults had graduated high school.[4]

Even these striking results, however, fail to capture how paramount access to knowledge is in the human development framework and how transformative it can be in the lives of individuals. Amartya Sen writes that, in addition to its contributions to productivity, more just income distribution, and the realization of many individual and societal aims, "education also helps in the intelligent choice between different types of lives that a person can lead."[5] Access to knowledge is essential to the real freedom a person has to decide what to do and who to be—and even to imagine the horizons of what is possible. More than just allowing for the acquisition of skills and credentials—essential in today's knowledge-based economy—education builds confidence, agency, and self-sufficiency; confers status and dignity; and helps people envision and realize futures that are different and better than their current circumstances. It's not just the opportunity to learn

Access to knowledge is essential to the **real freedom** a person has to decide what to do and who to be—and even to imagine the horizons of what is possible.

Education Index by Race and Ethnicity for LA County



Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.

academic subjects that matters, but also the opportunity to learn about oneself; "Collateral learning in the way of formation of enduring attitudes, of likes and dislikes, may be and often is much more important than the spelling lesson or lesson in geography or history that is learned."[6]

Los Angeles County is somewhat behind the United States as a whole on many key educational indicators. The greatest challenge is the high percentage of adults without high school degrees, the barebones credential for a secure livelihood and an important marker of the transition to adulthood. A far larger share of adults age 25 and older in Los Angeles County lacks a high school diploma than in the country as a whole, 21.9 percent in LA County compared to 12.9 percent in the US. The county is close to the national average in terms of adults with bachelor's degrees, about three in ten, and graduate degrees, about one in eleven. In LA County, 79 percent of teenagers graduate high school in four years, slightly less than in either California (82 percent) or the country as a whole (83 percent).[7] These middle-of-the-road countywide numbers obscure huge disparities by place and race, however, and these disparities are the subject of this chapter.

Access to knowledge in the American Human Development Index is measured using two indicators that are combined into an Education Index. The first is **school enrollment** for the population between the ages of 3 and 24; this indicator captures everyone who is currently in school, from preschool-age tots to 24-year-olds in college or graduate school. This age range covers not just the years of compulsory schooling but also the early years, during which disparities in access to knowledge are already taking hold, and the critical period of emerging adulthood, when young people acquire many of the capabilities needed for productive, independent lives. The second indicator is **educational degree attainment** for the population age 25 and older—it measures the share of adults with high school diplomas, four-year bachelor's degrees, and graduate and professional degrees. (Keep in mind that the share of the population with high school degrees in this indicator refers only to *adults 25 and older;* it is not a measure of the *current high school graduation rate.* The graduation rate of today's LA County high school students, 79 percent, is an important indicator, but it is not part of the index.)

The school enrollment indicator counts for one-third the weight of the education dimension of the Human Development Index, and the degree attainment indicator counts for the remaining two-thirds; these relative proportions reflect the difficulty of as well as the payoff for completing an education as compared to simply enrolling in school. Data for both indicators come from the annual American Community Survey of the US Census Bureau.

Finally, while access to education is critical, so is the quality of that education. Unfortunately, no comparable, reliable indicators of quality are available across the country, so none are included in the American Human Development Index. Measure of American does, however, incorporate such measures into the analysis when they exist.

Analysis by Race and Ethnicity, Nativity, Gender, and Geography

VARIATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, NATIVITY, AND GENDER

In the country as a whole as well as in most states, metro areas, and counties, educational attainment follows a similar pattern: Asians have the highest Education Index score, followed by whites, blacks, and Latinos. Los Angeles County follows suit. In LA County, the populations of Native Americans and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are sufficiently large to allow for calculations for these groups, as well.

Asians have the highest Education Index score, and their score for LA is nearly identical to their national score. Half of all adults have at least a bachelor's degree, and 15 percent have graduate degrees. Their educational enrollment rate is the highest of all racial and ethnic groups at 86.6 percent.

Asians are not a monolithic group, however. Los Angeles County residents of Indian descent have the highest education score by a mile, with nearly two points on the Education Index separating them from the next-highest-scoring group, Koreans. Seven in ten Indian adults hold a four-year bachelor's degree, and more than a third hold graduate degrees. LA County adults who identify as Korean,

TABLE 1 Education Index by Race and Ethnicity for LA County

	EDUCATION INDEX	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: Less than high school	High school diploma	Bachelor's degree	Graduate degree	School enrollment
United States	5.17	12.9%	56.5%	19.0%	11.6%	77.3%
LA County	4.96	21.9	47.2	20.2	10.8	79.5
Asian	7.12	12.2	37.6	35.0	15.2	86.6
White	7.02	5.4	46.8	28.7	19.1	81.6
NHOPI	4.69	10.4	71.5	16.9	1.2	81.7
Black	4.64	10.1	64.1	16.2	9.6	73.6
Native American	3.77	16.6	56.6	16.5	10.3	66.7
Latino	2.80	40.5	47.8	8.6	3.1	78.0

Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.

TABLE 2 Education Index for Asian Subgroups in LA County

	EDUCATION INDEX	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: Less than high school	High school diploma	Bachelor's degree	Graduate degree	School enrollment
United States	5.17	12.9%	56.5%	19.0%	11.6%	77.3%
California	5.17	17.8	49.9	20.3	12.0	78.6
LA County	4.96	21.9	47.2	20.2	10.8	79.5
LA County Asian	7.12	12.2	37.6	35.0	15.2	86.6
Indian	9.31	7.2	21.5	34.3	37.0	87.7
Korean	7.37	7.2	40.2	37.9	14.7	86.0
Other South Asian	7.32	10.2	40.0	29.4	20.3	85.6
Japanese	7.26	4.2	47.1	34.4	14.3	85.5
Filipino	7.04	5.4	40.6	45.7	8.3	84.0
Chinese	7.02	18.1	32.9	30.8	18.2	87.5
Other SE Asian	6.68	11.9	45.2	32.1	10.8	87.2
Thai	5.86	13.4	43.1	32.8	10.6	79.2
Vietnamese	5.27	29.5	40.5	22.1	7.9	88.1
Cambodian	3.44	36.0	45.7	15.3	2.9	79.7

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.
Note: Chinese includes Taiwanese. Other South Asian includes Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan. Other Southeast Asian includes Burmese, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, and Malaysian.

Japanese, and Filipino have uniformly high educational attainment; nine in ten or more hold high school diplomas and about half hold bachelor's degrees.

Chinese adults have a split performance in education; half hold bachelor's degrees, but nearly one in five did not graduate high school. Adult educational attainment is higher among Thais than among LA County adults in general in high school and college degree attainment and is on par in graduate degree attainment. Although Vietnamese are on par with the countywide average for college degree attainment, they are about twice as likely to lack a high school diploma. Cambodians fall behind the LA County average in all areas of the Education Index and are the only Asian subgroup to fall below the LA County average in education; more than a third of Cambodian adults did not graduate high school and fewer than one in five hold bachelor's degrees. The educational attainment of Cambodian adults reflects the challenging circumstances from which Cambodian immigrants, the majority of them refugees, fled in the mid- to late 1970s. **BOX 2** examines educational outcomes in two diverse majority-Asian communities in LA County.

What accounts for the comparative educational success of Asians, even those with low incomes? Immigration reform in 1965 brought a wave of Asian immigrants to LA County, many of them highly skilled and credentialed compared to both the population in greater LA and the population in their home countries. Though many were not able to find work in their fields of expertise due to language barriers, discrimination, and other factors, starting small businesses or working in the service sector instead, they of course retained their educational backgrounds. This influx of well-educated Asian immigrants to LA created a thriving middle class that "generates ethnic capital, creates ethnic institutions," and successfully imports "cultural institutions and practices from their countries of origin and recreates them in the United States." This social capital (highly educated parents) combined with institutions and practices (like after-school and weekend learning and test-prep centers) position second-generation children to succeed in school. Scholars argue that more socioeconomically disadvantaged Asian subgroups, such as Vietnamese, benefit from the institutions, norms, achievement "mind-set," and knowledge networks established by more affluent and settled Asian groups.[8]

TABLE 3 Education Index for Latino Subgroups in LA County

	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: Less than high school	High school diploma	Bachelor's degree	Graduate degree	School enrollment
Native-born Latino	17.1%	63.4%	14.3%	5.1	80.1%
Foreign-born Latino	55.0	38.1	5.1	1.9	56.8
Mexican	41.5	48.3	7.5	2.7	78.1
Puerto Rican, Domican, Cuban	18.6	51.0	21.8	8.6	77.4
Central American	46.5	43.6	7.8	2.1	76.4
South American	13.8	52.0	23.9	10.4	81.6
Spaniard	10.7	49.5	24.1	15.6	83.3

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

Whites have the next-highest Education Index score. Interestingly, the education gap between Asians and whites in LA is much smaller than it is in the US as a whole. The national Education Index score for Asians is 7.22, and for whites, 5.65; in LA, the groups are just 0.1 percentage points apart. This is due to the fact that nearly half of LA County whites have bachelor's degrees and one in five has a graduate degree; the LA rates are far higher than the rates for whites in the country as a whole.

Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI) in LA have a somewhat split performance. The rate of adults without high school diplomas is half the countywide rate, just 10.4 percent. But only 18 percent of adults have bachelor's degrees, and the share of adults with graduate degrees is tiny, just 1.2 percent.

Black adults are more likely than the average LA resident to have a high school diploma; nearly nine in ten do. They are less likely to have bachelor's degrees, however. An area of concern is the rate of school enrollment for young people ages 3–24; at 73.6 percent, it is below the LA County average. Black Angelenos are doing better in terms of educational attainment than blacks in the nation as a whole, but they lag behind their national counterparts slightly in school enrollment.

Native Americans have lower educational attainment than the average LA County resident, and the rate of adults without a high school diploma is high, 16.6 percent. Most alarming, though, is the share of young people between the ages of 3 and 24 who are enrolled in school, just 66.7 percent, the lowest rate by a large margin.

Latinos face the greatest challenges in the education arena. Four in ten adults lack high school diplomas, and the rates of adults with bachelor's and graduate degrees are roughly a third the rates for LA County residents overall. Low levels of educational attainment among Latinos are reflected in their comparatively low earnings.

TABLE 4 Education Index for Native-Born and Foreign-Born Residents

	HD INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: Less than high school	High school diploma	Bachelor's degree	Graduate degree	School Enrollment
United States	5.17	5.17	12.9%	56.5%	19.0%	11.6%	77.3%
Los Angeles County	5.43	4.96	21.9	47.2	20.2	10.8	79.5
Native-born LA County	5.66	6.03	8.9	54.2	23.7	13.2	80.7
Foreign-born LA County	4.97	2.83	36.5	39.4	16.2	8.0	68.4

Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.

MAP 1 Education Index in Los Angeles County Communities

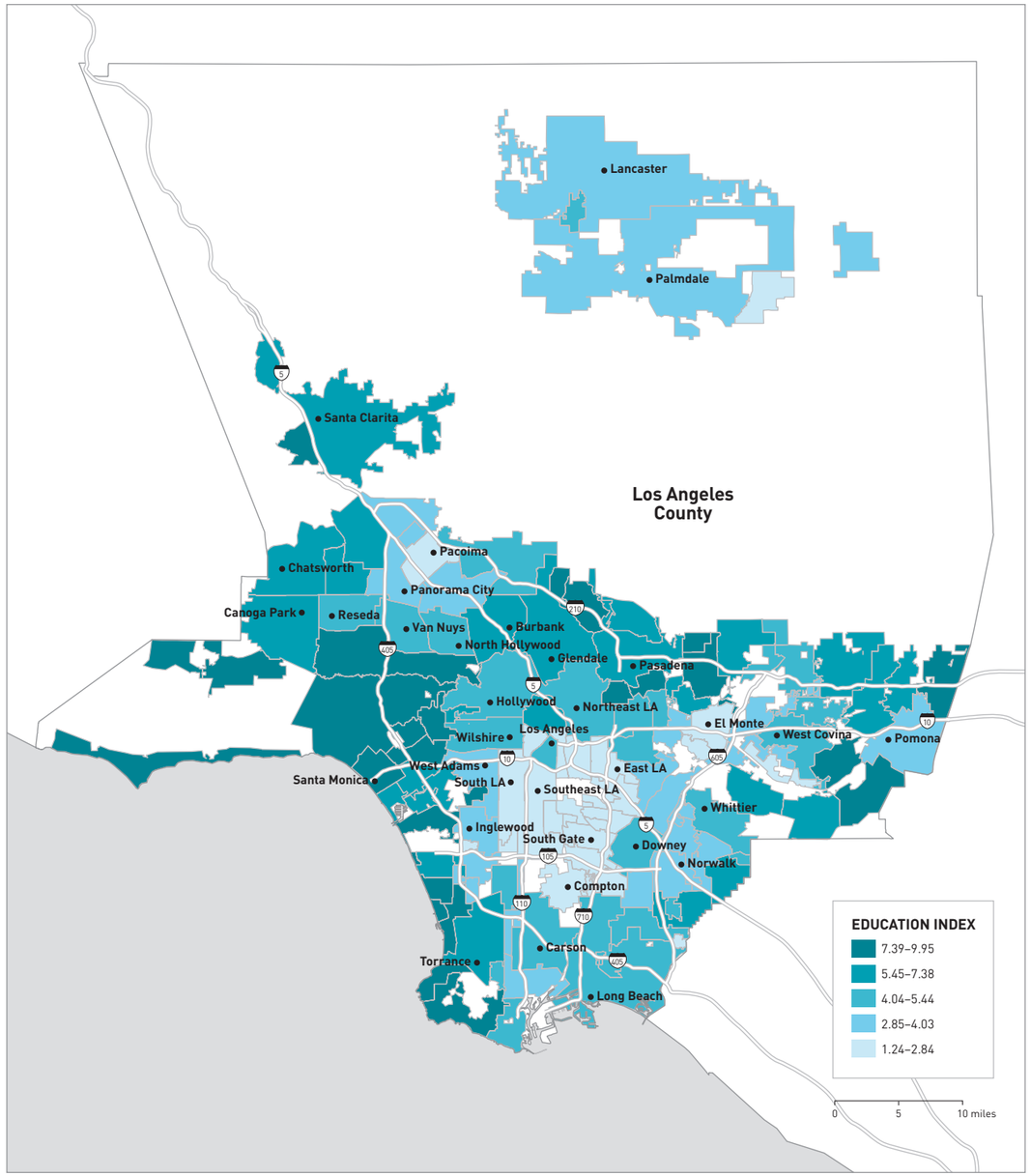
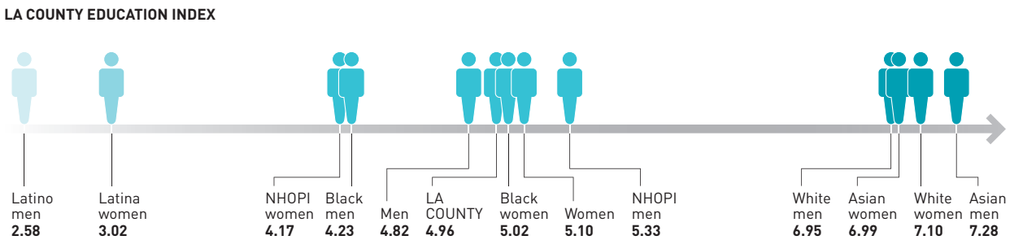


FIGURE 1 **Education Index by Gender and Race and Ethnicity**



Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.

Like Asians, however, Latinos are an internally diverse group. Adults from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and South America have much higher levels of educational attainment than do those who trace their origins to Mexico or Central America. In addition, US-born Latinos have much higher levels of high school and college degree attainment and are much more likely to be enrolled in school than foreign-born Latinos. The low level of school enrollment for children and young adults ages 3–24 years among foreign-born Latinos is concerning; more than three in ten young Latino immigrants are not enrolled in school. This may have to do with immigration status. Research has shown that the children of undocumented Mexican parents in greater Los Angeles attain two fewer years of education than those whose parents have legal status.[9]

Looking more broadly at immigrants, there are important differences between **US-born and foreign-born LA residents.** The most striking is the share of adults 25 and older without a high school degree; the rate is four times higher for immigrants than for people born in the US.

There are also important differences between **women and men** when it comes to education in LA County. Women outperform men, with a score of 5.10 versus 4.82. But combining gender and race/ethnicity creates a more nuanced ranking. Asian men top the charts, with white women coming in second. Asian women and white men, with very similar scores of 6.99 and 6.95, respectively, are next on the list. There is a large gap between NHOPI women and men, fueled by higher rates for men in both bachelor's degree attainment and school enrollment. Black and Latina women, on the other hand, perform better than their male counterparts in education.

VARIATION BY GEOGRAPHY

Women outperform **men**, with a score of **5.10** versus **4.82.**

The 106 cities and census-designated places in the county and thirty-five community plan areas in the City of Los Angeles for which there were sufficient data to calculate educational degree attainment run the gamut from one of the country's highest Education Index scores to one of its lowest. At the top of the scale, unsurprisingly, is Westwood, the City of Los Angeles neighborhood home to the University of California, Los Angeles. The presence of a large student body accounts for both the area's top education score and its low earnings. The next-highest education score is found in Palos Verdes Estates, where nearly every adult holds a high school diploma, an astonishing three in every four hold a bachelor's degree, and more than one in three holds a graduate degree. Almost 93 percent of young people are enrolled in school. This strong education showing fuels Palos Verdes Estates' high HD Index score and its high median personal earnings, which top the chart.

Florence-Graham, a census-designated place south of downtown LA and north of Compton, has the county's lowest Education Index score, 1.24. Close to six in ten adults did not graduate high school, and only 4.4 percent of adults hold bachelor's degrees. A third of residents in this heavily Latino neighborhood (nine in ten are Latino) live in poverty. The area also has the county's lowest HD Index score and lowest median earnings.

Typically, education is linked to both health outcomes and employment outcomes. The education-health link is more tenuous in Los Angeles than elsewhere in the United States, as discussed in the health chapter (see **BOX 2,** the Latino Health Paradox, on page 67); Latinos on average have low education scores, yet comparatively long life expectancies, and nearly half of all Angelenos are Latino. The link between education and employment is readily apparent in this dataset, however, particularly when it comes to occupation.

The Census Bureau divides occupations into several large categories: management, business, science, and the arts; sales and office; natural resources, construction, and maintenance; production, transportation, and material moving; and services. Among the 106 county places included in this analysis, there is a strong linear relationship between the Education Index score and the share of residents in management, business, science, and arts occupations, the highest-paying occupational category; the shares of residents in the other four occupational categories decrease with increasing education scores. In addition, the share of residents in management, business, science, and arts occupations is very positively correlated with education and income variables as well as with the percentage of the population that is white, and very negatively correlated with the percentage that is Latino. Production and transportation occupations, and to a slightly lesser extent, service occupations, show the opposite trends. In other words, whites are disproportionately found in higher-paying occupations, Latinos in lower-paying occupations (see **FIGURE 2**).

TABLE 5 Fifteen Los Angeles Communities with the HIGHEST Education Index Scores

	HD INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: Less than high school	High school diploma	Bachelor's degree	Graduate degree	School Enrollment
Westwood	6.36	9.95	3.1%	24.4%	35.3%	37.1%	94.4%
Palos Verdes Estates	9.30	9.79	1.4	23.5	40.3	34.8	92.8
San Marino	9.43	9.72	5.5	23.4	33.6	37.5	92.1
Bel Air-Beverly Crest	9.51	9.69	2.3	24.9	34.5	38.4	91.7
Rancho Palos Verdes	9.12	9.65	2.4	32.7	33.8	31.1	94.3
Manhattan Beach	9.34	9.64	2.2	24.3	42.3	31.3	91.2
La Cañada Flintridge	9.03	9.64	2.4	21.4	40.0	36.1	91.2
Sierra Madre	8.24	9.33	1.6	34.8	36.2	27.5	92.8
Brentwood-Pacific Palisades	9.24	9.33	1.8	20.2	40.2	37.8	87.9
Calabasas	8.24	9.00	3.0	33.3	32.1	31.6	88.1
Malibu	9.07	8.95	2.3	37.4	32.4	27.9	90.7
Claremont	7.06	8.95	6.8	37.0	24.8	31.4	92.9
Hermosa Beach	9.01	8.93	1.0	28.0	45.5	25.5	85.9
Beverly Hills	8.70	8.73	5.0	33.9	31.1	30.0	88.1
South Pasadena	8.27	8.71	4.5	36.4	32.5	26.6	90.3

Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

TABLE 6 Fifteen Los Angeles Communities with the LOWEST Education Index Scores

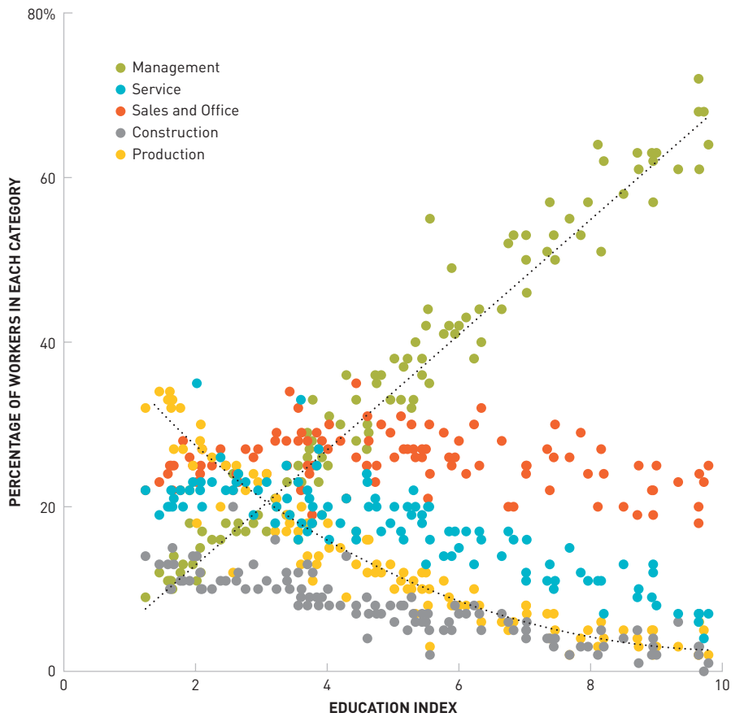
	HD INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: Less than high school	High school diploma	Bachelor's degree	Graduate degree	School Enrollment
Florence-Graham	2.44	1.24	58.5%		37.0%	3.5	73.0%
Southeast Los Angeles	2.26	1.42	55.3		40.2	3.6	74.8
Maywood	3.11	1.45	58.8		36.4	4.1	75.2
Bell Gardens	3.16	1.58	55.7		38.9	4.3	76.3
Huntington Park	3.11	1.61	58.6		35.6	4.6	76.9
Walnut Park	4.35	1.63	53.6		40.6	4.2	75.4
Cudahy	2.84	1.65	57.1		38.2	3.2	77.3
East Los Angeles	3.28	1.67	53.3		40.5	4.9	75.6
Boyle Heights	3.17	1.69	55.1		37.3	6.0	75.8
East Rancho Dominguez	2.59	1.77	47.3		48.4	3.1	74.7
Central City North	3.50	1.79	39.0	38.8	15.3	6.9	54.4
Bell	3.90	1.81	52.6		40.1	6.2	76.3
Hawaiian Gardens	3.83	1.91	41.2		48.7	8.1	70.3
South San Jose Hills	3.58	1.96	43.2		48.7	5.9	72.6
Arleta-Pacoima	3.74	1.99	47.0		44.5	6.4	74.5

Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.
Note: With the exception of Central City North, the share of adults with graduate degrees is less than 2 percent.

The education-occupation link also shines a spotlight on residential segregation in Los Angeles. Communities with a relatively high percentage of people in production occupations nearly all have very low percentages of people with college degrees or higher.[10] As soon as a community has even slightly more people with college degrees, the share of residents working in production occupations drops off sharply. This shows the high degree of residential segregation of people working in production occupations. The communities where these workers live have low levels of educational attainment, a high percentage of Latino residents and a low percentage of white residents, low median personal earnings, and a very low percentage of residents in management, business, science, and arts occupations.

FIGURE 2

LA County Communities are Highly Segregated by Occupation and Education Plays a Huge Role



Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.
Note: Each community has five dots, one per color. A dot represents the share of workers in that occupational category.

Closing the Gaps in Education: What Will It Take?

The differences in Education Index scores we see among places and racial and ethnic groups did not suddenly appear out of nowhere. They are years in the making, firmly rooted in the stark social, political, and economic inequities that divide LA County. Differences in home and community environments, resources, and levels of exposure to hazards or trauma in early childhood can set children on distinct educational trajectories before they enter kindergarten. These gaps can grow if not all children have access to safe, age-appropriate learning environments, preventative health care, skilled teachers, and sensitive caregivers in their elementary years. By high school, the gaps become chasms in the absence of engaging curricula, psychosocial support, caring and consistent adults, and sturdy bridges between high school and postsecondary educational and employment options.

Closing the gaps in preschool enrollment, high school completion, and access to higher education that the education scores reveal requires investment in at-risk children, their families, and the communities in which they live. Although parents in all corners of LA County want to provide their children with the very best start in life, and children can and do thrive in a wide variety of settings and circumstances, social and economic disadvantages throw up countless barriers to educational equity. Key to overcoming these barriers is strengthening families and ensuring that schools and other institutions better meet the educational, emotional, and health needs of all LA's children.

In its work with children and families, LA County is embracing the "strengthening families approach," which focuses on building family strengths, enhancing child development, nurturing young children, and building resilience to weather times of stress. Programs that incorporate these elements "can improve parenting skills, enhance child development, increase economic stability, and build a strong foundation for positive future outcomes."[11] Central to the strengthening families approach is the protective factors framework.[12] This framework identifies five factors key to child well-being (see **SIDEBAR**).

Incorporating these five protective factors at all stages of a child's development, from birth to the transition to adulthood, is key to narrowing the gaps in school readiness, performance, and persistence among children and improving educational outcomes in communities countywide. Doing so is also fundamental to children's healthy physical and psychological development as well as to child protection. What follows are priorities for action, presented to follow a child's development from birth to young adulthood. Each of these areas of intervention incorporates at least two of the five protective factors.

Five Protective Factors

1. **Parental resilience:** The ability to manage and bounce back from all types of challenges that emerge in every family's life.
2. **Social connections:** Connections to networks of support essential to parents.
3. **Concrete support in times of need:** Access to services to meet basic needs and address crises that may arise.
4. **Knowledge of parenting and child development:** Accurate information about child development and appropriate expectations for children's behavior.
5. **Social and emotional competence of children:** A child's ability to interact positively with others, self-regulate, and communicate effectively.

BOX 1 Essential Needs of Young Children

Children and adults share certain basic needs—food, warmth, shelter, clothing, and the like. But for our youngest children, attachment and protection are likewise basic needs, as essential to their ability to thrive as a roof over their heads. The material deprivation and stress of poverty can make it difficult for parents to meet these needs at times, but interventions can build parents' skills and resilience and connect them to sources of assistance.

A loving attachment. The importance of the relationship between our youngest children and their primary caregivers cannot be overstated. Primary relationships shape a young child's world. To thrive, infants and toddlers don't need costly cribs, clothes, or classes; what they need is a secure attachment to a loving, consistent, and emotionally available caregiver who is attuned to the child, protects him or her from harm, and provides appropriate stimulation. The love, protection, and sensitive care of a parent can mitigate the negative effects of poverty. These earliest relationships "lay the groundwork not just for a child's ability to love and be loved, to trust and be trusted; they also provide the foundation for all future cognitive, linguistic, social, regulatory and moral capabilities."[13] When these relationships are disrupted or lacking in warmth and sensitivity, a child's exploratory behavior is hampered, the earliest foundations of learning are poorly formed, and healthy development is imperiled.[14]

Protection. Protection is likewise vital. Children's still-developing brains and small bodies are particularly vulnerable to hazards of all sorts. Adverse events and environments disproportionately harm young children in the here and now and increase their vulnerability to harm in the future. These hazards include violence, exploitation, and abuse or neglect as well as chaotic environments and environmental toxins. Unfortunately, contrary to popular wisdom, adversity does not make children stronger or more resilient; rather, "prolonged exposure to stress creates nervous system and stress hormone reactions that damage the highly plastic brains of the youngest children, increasing their vulnerability and leading to lifelong problems in cognition, emotional regulation, behaviour and physical and mental health."[15]

HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS

Home visitation programs are designed to build the parenting skills of expecting and new mothers and fathers, particularly those living in poverty or facing other risk factors, such as being extremely young or having had contact with the child welfare system. Of all the babies born in Los Angeles County during 2006 and 2007, 14.6 percent, an astonishing one in every seven, were reported to child protective services before age five.[16] Although most of these cases were not serious enough to warrant action, the large number of calls suggests that far too many parents struggle with the demands of caring for infants and toddlers and have too few trusted people to turn to for guidance and practical assistance.

Effective home visitation programs connect families to resources and services and support parents in their efforts to provide nurturing, stable, safe environments for their children; promote optimal child development; cope with adverse, stressful experiences; and meet their children's needs for attachment and protection (see BOX 1). Specially trained nurses and other qualified outreach professionals work with parents in their homes to help them ensure healthy, full-term pregnancies; meet the physical and emotional needs of their infants; engage with their babies in sensitive, responsive ways; regulate their own emotions; and understand and address the ways in which adverse experiences from their own childhoods may negatively shape parenting behaviors. Home visitation has been found to reduce the stress and isolation that often accompany new parenthood. It has also been shown to enhance child health and development, reduce accidental injuries and ingestions, reduce child maltreatment, raise high school graduation rates, and lessen crime and juvenile justice involvement. A RAND Corporation analysis of the original visitation program, the Olds Nurse-Family Partnership in Baltimore, found that every dollar invested in the program yielded $2.88 in benefits—a figure that nearly tripled for children at highest risk.[17]

Home visitation has been found to reduce the stress and isolation that often accompany new parenthood.

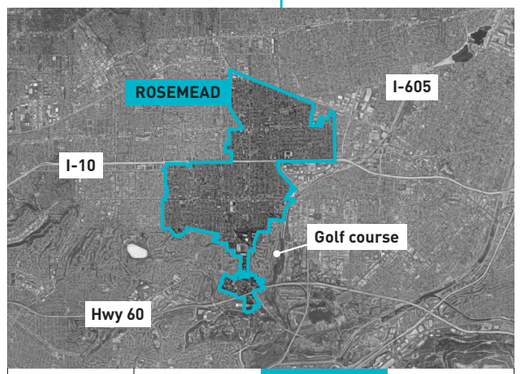
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Early care and education programs are essential for LA families; without reliable child care, working parents cannot support their families. The availability of affordable child care, particularly for infants and toddlers, is a massive challenge for the county. Los Angeles County and First 5 LA recently undertook a comprehensive assessment of the county's child care needs[18] and found that licensed centers and licensed family child care homes (where providers care for children in their own homes) have the capacity to serve just 13 percent of working parents of children and toddlers.

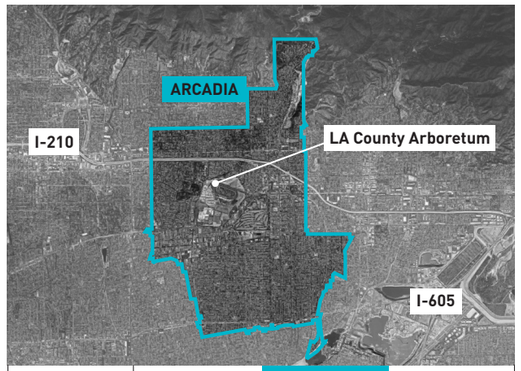
Cost is another barrier to access, even for middle class families. Infant and toddler care in Los Angeles County averages about $14,300 per year in a child care center and $9,200 in a family child care home. Median personal earnings in LA County are $30,654, meaning that costs are onerous even for a parent in the middle of the income distribution. A parent earning the county median would still be paying nearly half his or her salary for center-based care and a third for home-based care for just one child. In addition, needs-tested subsidized child care for infants and toddlers reaches only 15 percent of families who qualify—roughly 68,000 families eligible for subsidies don't receive them.[19] Expanding access to care by making it more affordable to poor families and investing in expansion of the system overall are high priorities.

The quality of early care in the county is a critical topic about which much less is known. Although the field is moving to the aspirational term "early care and education," child care and early childhood education are not the same thing in practice, although the lines are blurry and the data tend to lump them together. There are significant differences between being cared for in the home of a neighbor who did not complete high school and attending a center-based daycare staffed by

BOX 2 A Tale of Two Communities: Education in Rosemead and Arcadia



Human Development Index	Life expectancy (in years)	Has earned a bachelor's degree	Residents below poverty line
4.58	83.8	16.8%	19.3%



Human Development Index	Life expectancy (in years)	Has earned a bachelor's degree	Residents below poverty line
7.50	85.3	51.8%	9.6%

The cities of Rosemead and Arcadia lie some six miles apart in the San Gabriel Valley, situated amidst a number of majority-Asian communities, such as Monterey Park, Walnut, Cerritos, San Gabriel, Rowland Heights, and Temple City. Both cities have populations in the 55,000–60,000 range and, like nearby locales, are majority Asian—roughly six in every ten residents. But the two cities differ sharply when it comes to educational attainment: Rosemead is among the twenty-five LA County locales with the lowest scores on the Education Index (3.56), and Arcadia is among the twenty-five places with the highest scores (7.85).

Asians taken as a whole consistently have high scores on all components of the HD Index, not only in LA County, but also nationwide. These high averages mask important differences between subgroups, however. Asian immigrants who came to California in the years after the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act lifted discriminatory quotas tended to be well-educated professionals. Those who have immigrated in the last decade, largely from China and India and many on H-1B visas designed to attract highly skilled workers, likewise are a highly educated, affluent group. Immigrants from Southeast Asia who arrived as refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos in the mid- to late-1970s, on the other hand, generally came with much lower levels of education. Caught up in the Vietnam War and its aftermath, displaced, often traumatized, and, in the case of Vietnamese of Chinese descent, persecuted, these arrivals endured great hardship and had few educational opportunities. In LA County, three in ten Vietnamese adults lack a high school diploma. Though the populations are too small to allow for reliable calculations for LA County, research shows that, in the state of California as a whole, Hmong have the largest share of adults who lack a high school diploma (45 percent), followed by Cambodians and Laotians (40 percent).[20] These differences are reflected in educational and other outcomes in Arcadia and Rosemead.

In **Arcadia**, more than 90 percent of adult residents graduated high school, and half of all adults have bachelor's degrees. Median earnings are $41,000, and the poverty rate is 9.6 percent. The majority of the workforce is in management, business, science, and arts, the highest-paid occupational category, while just around 15 percent work in service and production, transportation, and moving combined. Arcadia's preschool enrollment (67.5 percent) is 30 percentage points higher than Rosemead's (37.6 percent). The median home value in Arcadia is $1.14 million, about double the median home value in Rosemead.[21] Half the population in Arcadia is foreign born, about half of residents trace their heritage to either China or Taiwan,[22] and about one-quarter of the population is white.

In **Rosemead**, just two-thirds of adults graduated high school, and only 16.8 percent have bachelor's degrees. These lower levels of education have implications for poverty and the workforce. Rosemead's poverty rate (19.3 percent) is ten percentage points higher than Arcadia's. Rosemead residents earn $17,000 less than Arcadians and $7,000 less than the typical American. The Asian population in Rosemead has a far larger share of Vietnamese people than does Aracadia's, and some Rosemead residents who identify as Chinese are ethnic Chinese who fled Vietnam; one in four people are Vietnamese, and one in three identifies as Chinese.[23] As is discussed above, in LA County, Vietnamese Americans tend to have lower educational attainment than the county average. Asians are less likely to occupy manual labor-type occupations in areas of production, transportation, and moving occupations (7.6 percent) than Americans overall (12.3 percent), with the exception of Vietnamese Americans (13.6 percent), another factor that explains the lower HD Index score in Rosemead.

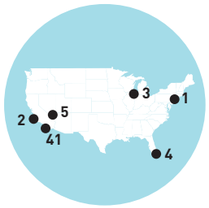
Assuming that all Asian communities excel across the board can lead policymakers and service providers to overlook needs for translation, trauma-informed care, literacy classes, income supports, and other interventions in communities like Rosemead.

college-educated child development specialists. Research shows that the social, emotional, and cognitive development of young children, particularly children living in poverty, is enhanced by high-quality, center-based care, and a key component of "high quality" is the educational level of care providers. The educational attainment of early child care and education workers correlates with quality of care[24] and affects the developmental gains of children.[25] In LA County, 60 percent of providers working in centers have at least an associate degree; in home-based care situations, only 36 percent have at least an associate degree.

Early care and education as a field fails to attract highly educated workers because it pays so poorly. The median wages of preschool teachers are $15.25 per hour, and those of child care workers are $11.61 per hour; the average hourly wage of all early child care and education workers, $14.65, is half that of kindergarten teachers. Unsurprisingly, nearly half of child care workers participate in at least one public income support program.[26] About half of workers do not have a college degree,[27] the minimum qualification recommended in a report by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council for the job.[28] This study identifies cost as the main barrier to the professional development of providers.[29]

Nearly all workers—97 percent—are female, making the undervaluing of early child care and education work not only an education and earnings issue but also a gender issue.[30] Investing in early care and education workers—by raising wages

FIGURE 3 **Student Need and Spending in Five Largest US School Districts**



PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT		PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS	
Size ranking/ Name	Spending per pupil	Eligible for free/ reduced price lunch	English language learners
United States	**$11,392**	**52%**	**9%**
1 New York City	$21,980	73%	14%
2 Los Angeles Unified, CA	$12,073	76%	25%
3 Chicago, IL	$13,784	N/A	18%
4 Miami-Dade, FL	$8,871	73%	19%
5 Clark County, NV (Las Vegas)	$8,254	58%	18%
41 Long Beach Unified, CA	$10,133	66%	23%

Source: US Census Bureau, Public Education Finances: 2015, G15-ASPEF, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2017. Note: Lunch data are not available for Chicago because many Chicago schools participate in the Community Eligibility provision, which allows schools in low-income areas to claim blanket eligibility for all students.

and creating more opportunities and incentives for professional development—would benefit not only thousands of women in the county, but also the littlest Angelenos.

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) are emerging as a way to both assess and improve the quality of child care providers. These systems rate child care sites and provide them with tools, training, and coaching to strengthen the quality of their programs. Currently, only a small portion of care providers in LA County are QRIS rated—one in five centers and less than 4 percent of home-based providers. However, the county has made significant progress in laying the foundation for a countywide system. Increasing funding for this system would be a high-impact investment.

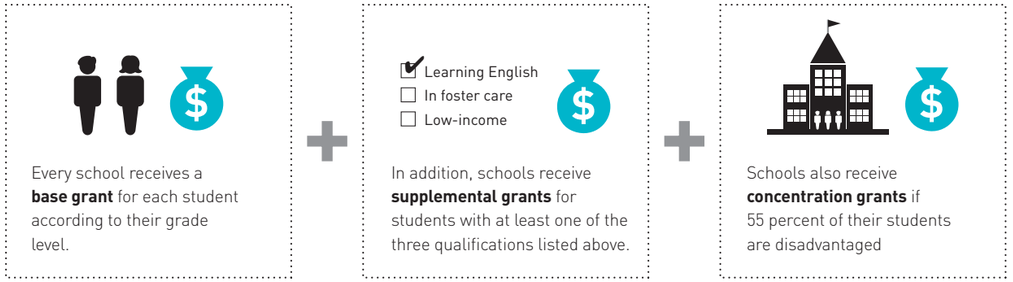
PRESCHOOL AND TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Preschool enrollment for 3- and 4-year-olds is one of the indicators included in the Education Index. Ample evidence demonstrates the benefits of preschool, particularly for low-income children. Disadvantaged children who benefit from a high-quality preschool experience are less likely to repeat grades and more likely to graduate from high school and college, marry, earn more, own a home, and enjoy positive health outcomes as adults than those who did not. They are also less likely to have children when they are teenagers, receive public assistance, or enter the criminal justice system. In fact, a quality preschool education for three- and four-year-old children has been shown to be the single most cost-effective educational intervention; it helps disadvantaged children enter elementary school on an equal footing, and its benefits last well into adulthood.[31] Experts argue that these benefits stem less from children learning academic skills like counting and recognizing letters than from having an opportunity to develop social and emotional skills like persistence, cooperation, emotional regulation, self-control, and self-awareness.[32]

In LA County, preschool enrollment varies greatly. The countywide average, 55.7 percent, is above the US and California rates, but the range is extremely wide. In Palos Verdes Estates, nearly all 3- and 4-year-olds, 94.9 percent, are enrolled in preschool. All fifteen locales where at least 75 percent of 3- and 4-year-olds are enrolled in preschool have very high HD Index scores. In areas at the other end of the HD Index scale, the majority of 3- and 4-year-olds do not attend preschool; the enrollment rate is 27.0 percent in Sun Village, 29.6 percent in East Rancho Dominguez, and 29.9 percent in La Puente, all locales with low well-being scores. The children who face the greatest challenges stand to benefit the most from high-quality preschool, but the data show that far too many don't have access.

A quality pre-school education for three- and four-year-old children has been shown to be the single **most cost-effective** educational intervention.

FIGURE 4 **California's Local Control Funding Formula**



Source: Kristen Lewis and Sarah Burd-Sharps, *A Portrait of California 2014–2015*, Social Science Research Council, 2015.

There is much to be optimistic about when it comes to preschool in LA County, however. First, there are sufficient preschool spots for all the county's 3- and 4-year-olds, though there is still significant unmet need for subsidized spots. LA County preschoolers are served by several programs, including the California State Preschool Program, Los Angeles County Universal Preschool, and Head Start. In addition, a positive recent development in California is transitional kindergarten, the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that is part of the free public K–12 system. This program is taught by credentialed teachers. In the 2014–2015 school year, 20,499 Los Angeles County children participated in transitional kindergarten, up 33 percent from 2013–2014. As more families learn about this program, participation will surely increase. Early evidence is quite promising; a 2015 study found that participating children were ahead of nonparticipating peers in literacy and preliteracy skills, math skills, and self-regulation.[33] Expanding the benefits of this free, high-quality program to all 4-year-olds would address the child care needs of families in addition to boosting school readiness.

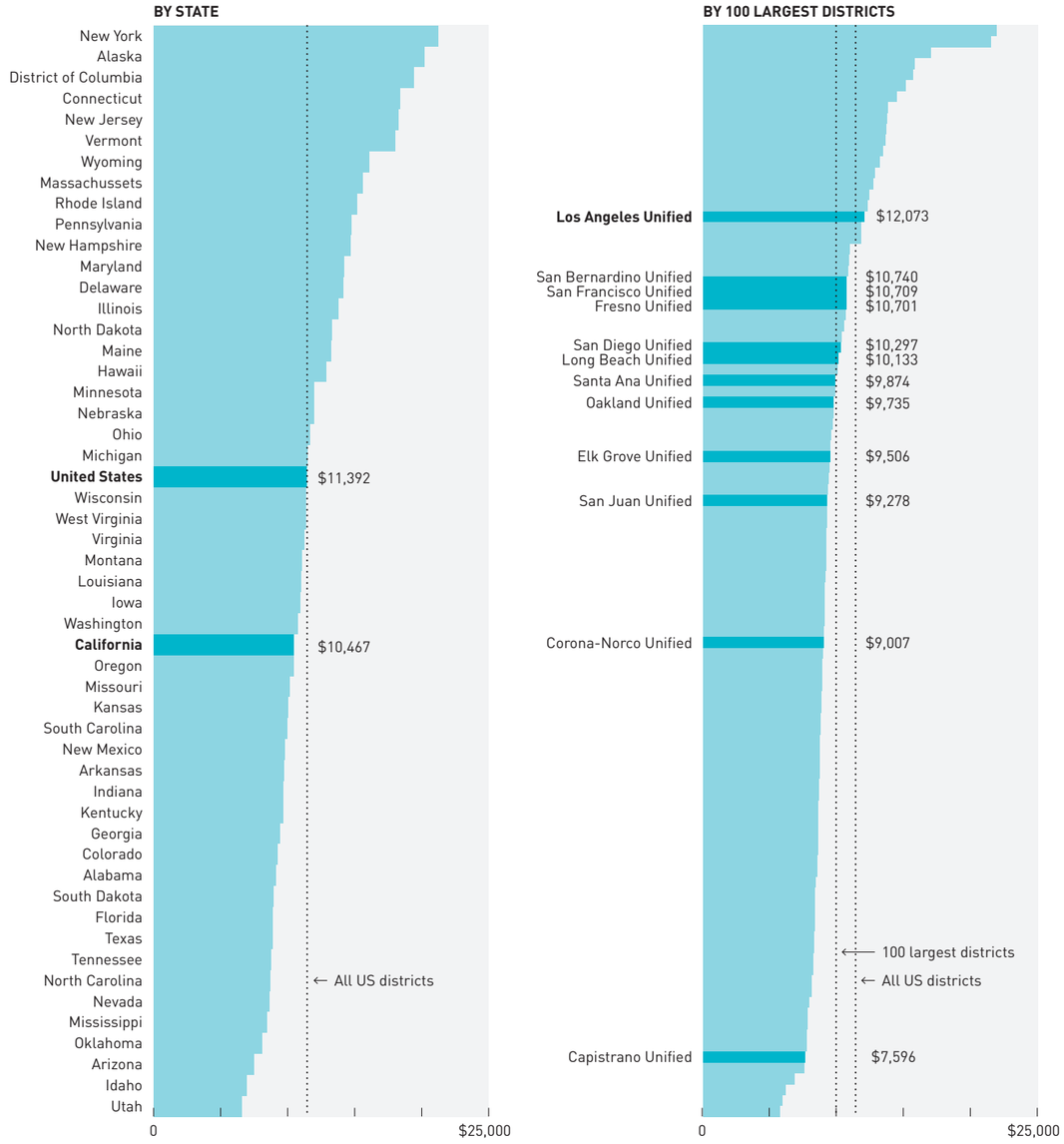
EDUCATIONAL EQUITY IN K–12 EDUCATION

A recent US Census Bureau report about funding for public education puts LA County in the national context and reveals a concerning mismatch between need and resources.[34] While funding alone does not automatically translate into better education quality and outcomes, it is nonetheless a very important ingredient in providing every child a high-quality education. In 2015, US K–12 public schools spent an average of $11,392 per student, which covers instruction plus support activities, including guidance counselors, building operations, food services, administration, and the like. In the LA Unified School District, which 42 percent of the county's public school students attend,[35] spending was slightly higher, $12,073 per student. In the Long Beach Unified School District, LA County's second largest, spending was $10,133 per pupil.

At first glance, this seems like good news: LA's largest district is spending more per student than the national average. But LA Unified students differ from the average US student in important ways. Roughly half of US students are eligible for free or reduced price lunch, a proxy for poverty, and fewer than one in ten are English language learners.[36] In LA Unified, three in four students are eligible for free or reduced price lunch, and one in four are English language learners.[37] Among the five largest US school districts[38]—New York City, LA Unified, Chicago, Miami-Dade, and Clark County (Las Vegas)—LA Unified has the highest rates for both of these indicators of need (see **FIGURE 3**). Addressing the needs of children who are living in poverty and not yet proficient in English requires additional funding for both classroom instruction and various support services.

Per-pupil spending in the five largest districts ranges from $22,000 in New York City to roughly a third that sum in Las Vegas. Though they spend more than Las Vegas or Miami-Dade, neither LA Unified nor Long Beach Unified is directing

FIGURE 5 **Spending Per Pupil by State and 100 Largest US Public School Districts**



Source: US Census Bureau, *Public Education Finances: 2015*, G15-ASPEF, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2017.

significantly more resources to students than the national average, despite having greater needs, and Long Beach Unified is spending about 10 percent less. The New York City School District, by contrast, has a similar share of students in poverty as LA Unified and a lower share of English language learners, but spends nearly $10,000 more for each student.

Because funding for education is a complex combination of federal, state, and local dollars, funding in LA County districts has to be considered in the context of California overall. California has some of the lowest levels of investment in K-12 education in the country, particularly when accounting for cost of living.[39]

The decline in school funding is often traced to Proposition 13, enacted in the late 1970s, which capped local property taxes and thus dramatically cut the major local funding source for public schools. The state stepped in to fill the resulting funding gap, at least in part. On the upside, this restructuring of school financing made school district funding more equitable; budgets were no longer tied to local property taxes, which benefited rich districts with high property values, but rather were funded by taxes collected—and distributed—by the state of California. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), approved by voters in 2012, was designed to further enhance equity by channeling more state resources to schools educating the neediest students. Districts with large populations of low-income, English language learner, or foster care students are entitled to more funds under this new formula (see **FIGURE 4**).[40]

Nonetheless, Prop 13 severely limited a large, dependable source of funding for education. In addition, some argue that shifting the source of funding from local property taxes to a statewide pool of money also made Californians less amenable to educational investments, since tax dollars no longer went directly to the local school down the street, but rather to California public schools both near and far.[41] Another explanation for California's relatively low per-pupil spending lies in its demographics; as a young state, the ratio of schoolchildren to tax-paying adults is higher than in other states.[42] For all these reasons, while the school funding pie may be sliced more equitably in California today, the size of the pie is still small.

Compared to other large California school districts, Los Angeles Unified is getting a larger share of funding (see **FIGURE 5**). In fact, it is the only one of California's twelve largest districts to surpass the US per-pupil spending average. Thanks to the new funding formula, Los Angeles Unified, as one of the districts facing the greatest challenges, is receiving more funding per pupil to provide adequate services.

It is too soon to gauge if California's new formula to redistribute funds to the neediest school districts has a palpable impact on educational outcomes, but previous research is encouraging. Recent studies provide evidence that investing in schools can, in fact, lead to academic gains in the short term[43] and higher wages, lower rates of adult poverty, and more years of education for low-income students in the long term.[44] What will make a difference is the degree to which the additional funds the LCFF brings to LA Unified and other school districts in the county are directed specifically to meeting the needs of foster children, children living in poverty, and children learning English. If the LCFF funds are poured into the general budget rather than well-targeted programs and services as is their intended purpose, at-risk children are unlikely to see the educational equity gains the policy was designed to create.

STAYING CONNECTED IN THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

The period of young adulthood is critical for developing the capabilities required to live a good life: knowledge and credentials, social skills and networks, a sense of mastery and agency, an understanding of one's strengths and preferences, and the ability to handle stressful events and regulate one's emotions, to name just a few. Most young people develop these capacities through school and work experiences in their teens and early 20s. But some do not.

The period of **young adulthood** is critical for developing the capabilities required to live a good life.

Disconnected youth are teenagers and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither in school nor working; organizations that work with this group often use the term "opportunity youth." Being detached from both education or training programs and the labor market during the pivotal years of emerging adulthood can be dispiriting and damaging to a young person. Youth disconnection can also have a "scarring" effect in later years, leading to lower incomes, higher unemployment rates, and negative physical and mental health outcomes. The harms accrue not only to young people themselves but also to society at large in the form of higher rates of crime, incarceration, unemployment, and reliance on public assistance as well as lost tax revenue.[45] The loss of human potential is the highest cost paid by both individuals and society.

Youth disconnection is a serious problem in LA County. Far too many young people fall between the cracks in the transition to adulthood. The county is home to 153,457 young people who are neither working nor in school. The rate of youth disconnection, 11.8 percent, is on par with the national rate; however, the disparities between racial and ethnic groups as well as between neighborhoods are stark. Close to one in every four black young people (21.3 percent) is disconnected. About one in eight Latino youth (12.3 percent) is disconnected, as is one in nine white youth and one in sixteen Asian youth. Among Asian subgroups for which there are sufficient data to calculate the rate, Koreans have the highest rate (9.2 percent), followed by Filipinos (7.6 percent), and Chinese (6.3 percent).

Other factors are also associated with youth disconnection. Among LA County young people aged 16–24 who have a disability, the rate is 31.5 percent. For young mothers, the rate is 32.6 percent. Teens and young adults aged 19–21 who did not complete high school experience a youth disconnection rate of 33.6 percent, and those aged 22–24 who did not complete high school have a 35.7 percent youth disconnection rate.

Because calculations involving a small subset (16 to 24-year-olds) of an

TABLE 7 **Youth Disconnection by Neighborhood Cluster in LA County**

	DISCONNECTED YOUTH		HD INDEX
	Percent	Number	
LA County	**11.8**	**153,457**	**5.43**
LA: West Central/Westwood, West Los Angeles	3.9	1,563	7.08
Glendora, Claremont, San Dimas, La Verne	6.9	1,630	6.41
Arcadia, San Gabriel, Temple City	7.1	1,423	6.62
Santa Clarita	7.6	1,831	6.69
LA: Northwest/Chatsworth, Porter Ranch	7.6	1,927	6.55
LA: Central/USC, Exposition Park	8.3	2,522	3.23
LA: Northwest/Encino, Tarzana	8.7	1,657	5.79
Baldwin Park, Azusa, Duarte, Irwindale	9.4	2,676	4.59
Long Beach (East)	9.9	1,736	7.18
Diamond Bar, La Habra Heights, Rowland Heights	10.2	1,376	7.05
Pasadena	10.2	1,486	6.66
LA: Northeast/North Hollywood, Valley Village	10.4	1,774	4.85
LA: North Central/Granada Hills, Sylmar	10.4	1,929	5.41
Torrance	10.5	1,573	7.06
LA: Mount Washington, Highland, Glassell Park	10.5	2,744	4.89
Monterey Park, Rosemead	10.7	1,536	5.13
Glendale	10.9	2,142	5.99
East Los Angeles	11.4	2,187	3.34
LA: Central/Hancock Park, Mid-Wilshire	11.4	1,735	6.46
Carson	11.6	1,769	5.32
LA: East Central/Hollywood	11.7	2,371	4.99
El Monte, South El Monte	11.7	2,012	4.33
Lakewood, Cerritos, Artesia, Hawaiian Gardens	12.2	2,505	6.12
LA: East Central/Silver Lake, Echo Park, Westlake	12.2	2,988	4.48
La Mirada, Santa Fe Springs	12.3	2,571	5.27
Whittier, Hacienda Heights	12.4	2,655	5.95
West Covina	12.5	2,059	4.97
Alhambra, South Pasadena	12.7	1,646	6.15
LA: Canoga Park, Winnetka, Woodland Hills	12.8	2,886	6.03
LA: Central/West Adams, Baldwin Hills	12.8	2,623	4.08
Bellflower, Paramount	13.0	2,428	4.19
Burbank	13.0	1,413	6.40
Long Beach (Central), Signal Hill	13.0	2,011	4.25
Norwalk	13.1	2,453	4.83
Pico Rivera, Montebello	13.3	2,244	4.74
LA: Sunland, Sun Valley, Tujunga	13.4	2,367	4.62
Downey	13.7	2,248	5.11
Hawthorne	13.7	2,225	4.56
LA: North Central/Mission Hills, Panorama City	13.9	2,983	4.04
Gardena, Lawndale, West Athens	13.9	2,816	4.51
LA: Arleta, Pacoima, San Fernando	13.9	3,320	4.33
Long Beach (Southwest, Port)	14.1	2,070	3.83
Covina, Walnut	14.4	2,466	5.99
Bell Gardens, Bell, Maywood, Cudahy, Commerce	14.6	3,275	3.57
LA: Central/Koreatown	14.8	2,243	4.23
LA: South/San Pedro	14.9	3,613	4.48
Pomona	15.0	3,675	4.11
Inglewood	15.2	2,249	4.23
LA: Van Nuys & North Sherman Oaks	16.4	3,175	4.59
South Gate, Lynwood	16.7	4,413	3.92
Huntington Park, Florence-Graham, Walnut Park	16.7	3,649	3.19
La Puente, Industry	16.9	2,751	4.69
Castaic	17.5	3,161	6.22
Palmdale	18.6	4,453	4.73
LA: Southeast/East Vernon	18.9	3,656	2.72
LA: South Central/Westmont	19.5	5,022	3.27
Compton, West Rancho Dominguez	19.8	5,271	3.26
Long Beach (North)	20.2	4,131	4.52
Lancaster	21.1	4,547	4.58
LA: East Central/Central City, Boyle Heights	21.4	5,151	3.75
LA: South Central/Watts	23.0	6,118	2.37

Sources: HD Index: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the CDPH and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015. Disconnected Youth: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS, 2013–2015.

already small population (such as many LA cities and unincorporated areas) yields unacceptably high error margins, Measure of America calculated youth disconnection using a Census Bureau designation called public use microdata areas (PUMAs) as a proxy for neighborhoods. Using this geography, MOA was able to arrive at estimates for sixty-one places, covering the vast majority of the county. The disconnection rate ranged from just 3.9 percent in Westwood and West LA to 23.0 percent in Watts and South Central LA (see **TABLE 7**).

Both extremes of disconnection are found within the City of Los Angeles, only about ten miles from each other. Previous MOA research found that residential segregation fuels disconnection among minority youth. It is therefore not surprising that in the highly-segregated City of Los Angeles, the lowest rate of disconnection is found in the majority-white area of Westwood and West Los Angeles, while the highest rate is found in Watts, where the population is roughly three-quarters Latino and one-quarter black. There are two clusters of high disconnection in the county: one in South Central Los Angeles and another in the Antelope Valley. There are not enough data to calculate the disconnection rates in a cluster of West Los Angeles communities along the coast, likely a reflection of a very small number of disconnected youth in those areas.

Youth disconnection rates are closely linked to neighborhood conditions. In Los Angeles County, there is a strong correlation between the proportion of adults in a community with a college education and the rate of disconnected youth.

The good news is that Los Angeles is at the forefront of preventing disconnection and reengaging young people. Los Angeles is one of the grantees in the Performance Partnership Pilots (P3) program sponsored by the federal government, which funds innovative, collaborative strategies to tackle youth disconnection. The Los Angeles P3 model is based on collaboration of partners and integration of services. LAP3 brings together Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District, local Cal State Universities (CSU 5), the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles Housing Service Agency, and over fifty public, philanthropic, and community-based organizations with the goal of integrating the delivery of education, workforce, and social services to young people who are disconnected.[46]

The four main objectives of LAP3 are to align and coordinate public and private agencies, improve the regional Los Angeles Workforce Development System, champion policy and systems change, and develop programs and policies that empower youth to be self-sufficient and resilient by taking their voices into consideration.[47]

While coordination across agencies is vital, more is needed to make sure all young Angelenos have access to opportunity. Some of the service gaps identified by LAP3's strategic plan include insufficient options for youth in need of housing, a lack of services for undocumented youth, and insufficient public transportation options that make navigating the multiple services disconnected youth need—

Residential segregation **fuels** disconnection among minority youth.

which are often scattered geographically even more challenging.[48]

Previous Measure of America projects have identified a number of other best practices and recommendations that research shows are effective in reengaging young people who are not working or in school as well as preventing disconnection in the first place:[49]

PREVENTION

- **Prepare young people for school success.** Preventing youth disconnection is something that starts long before a young person decides to leave school or struggles to find a job. The priorities discussed above, such as strengthening the skills of parents, ensuring high-quality care in the early years, providing opportunities to develop social and emotional skills in preschool, and making educational equity a reality in LA County schools are all linked to lower rates of youth disconnection.
- **Continue the focus on the five protective factors.** Young people need trusted adults to help them navigate the rocky shoals of adolescence and chart a course to adulthood. They need social connections, concrete support in times of need, and help developing social and emotional competence.
- **Promote restorative over punitive discipline.** Restorative discipline, rather than punitive school suspensions and expulsions, reduces dropout rates and disrupts the school-to-prison pipeline.
- **Create diverse pathways to adulthood, such as apprenticeships.** Apprenticeships provide young people with a clear pathway to middle-skill jobs without the high cost of a bachelor's degree. Institutionalizing apprenticeships in the education system could potentially prevent disconnection in a systematic way by creating a legitimate alternative for young people who do not want to pursue a college degree but who need more than a high school diploma to qualify for well-paying jobs.
- **Promote civic engagement.** A joint research project between Measure of America and Opportunity Nation found that civic engagement may help youth, particularly low-income teens and young adults, build social capital and skills that can help them find meaningful education and career pathways. Youth who volunteer are less likely than their nonvolunteering peers to be disconnected from work and school. In fact, the likelihood that a young person will be disconnected drops nearly in half if he or she volunteers.[50]

REENGAGEMENT

- **Address challenges beyond employment over the long term.** Successful reengagement programs address a variety of challenges and needs and create long-term relationships and quality opportunities. They offer wages rather than unpaid internships or stipends. Doing so allows young people in acute financial need to participate, helps them build an employment record, and gives them a sense of agency, autonomy, and pride.
- **Create one-stop shops.** Job fairs that offer a range of services in one place on the same day maximize the chance to make a difference for disconnected young people. For example, job fairs held as part of the 100K Opportunities Initiative offer a range of services on the spot; volunteers help young people prepare their resumes, take part in mock job interviews, get outfitted in professional clothes, and even begin the process of expunging records and removing tattoos. Young people are then interviewed for jobs that same day.

Ensuring the strongest possible **start** for our smallest Angelenos is vital.

Conclusion

Education is path-dependent; the range of educational options open to a person today is shaped by the nature and quality of the educational opportunities and experiences he or she has had in the past. A strong foundation of social, emotional, and cognitive learning in the earliest years sets the stage for the development of language, core life skills like focus and self-control, and overall school readiness, all of which lead in turn to early school successes. Positive reinforcement of early school successes, mastery of literacy and numeracy basics, and the development of warm, supportive relationships with teachers and classmates in the early grades in turn lays the groundwork for mastery of more complicated material and builds self-confidence. Better readers read more often and thus become still better readers; children who are good at math take more advanced math classes and become still better math students. The idea that initial strengths or advantages make subsequent strengths and advantages more likely is known as the "Matthew effect."[51] [52]

Unfortunately, the Matthew effect also works in the opposite direction. Children whose early development is disrupted by abuse or neglect, chronic stress, harsh parenting or high levels of parental conflict, material deprivation, and environmental toxins like lead have less solid foundations upon which to build cognitive, social, and emotional skills. They enter school behind and the gap between them and other children often grows over time.

Ensuring the strongest possible start for our smallest Angelenos is thus vital. Investing in universal home visitation, which would broaden access to knowledge about child development, reasonable expectations for children's behavior, and age-appropriate disciplinary techniques to all LA County families and mitigate the stress and isolation many new parents feel, is a high priority for the county. Also critically important is ensuring that all families have access to high-quality care for infants and toddlers; such care is necessary for working families and can aid healthy child development, especially for families living in poverty. Once children start school, those who face challenges like poverty, family disruption, and limited English-language skills need more resources of many different kinds—experienced teachers, qualified specialists, and a variety of social services. Thus, ensuring that funds meant for such children are directed toward services for them, rather than being added to a school's general budget, is critical.

TABLE 8 **Education Index by Supervisorial District**

DISTRICT 1 Supervisor Hilda Solis		DISTRICT 2 Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas		DISTRICT 3 Supervisor Sheila Kuehl		DISTRICT 4 Supervisor Janice Hahn		DISTRICT 5 Supervisor Kathryn Barger	
Claremont	8.95	View Park-Windsor Hills	8.50	Westwood	9.95	Palos Verdes Estates	9.79	San Marino	9.72
Walnut	7.46	Westchester/ Playa del Rey	8.36	Bel Air/Beverly Crest	9.69	Rancho Palos Verdes	9.65	La Cañada Flintridge	9.64
Silver Lake/ Echo Park/ Elysian Valley	5.53	West Los Angeles	7.97	Brentwood/ Pacific Palisades	9.33	Manhattan Beach	9.64	Sierra Madre	9.33
Monterey Park	5.02	Culver City	7.38	Calabasas	9.00	Hermosa Beach	8.93	South Pasadena	8.71
West Covina	4.96	Palms/Mar Vista/ Del Rey	6.35	Malibu	8.95	Westchester - Playa del Rey	8.36	Stevenson Ranch	8.20
Azusa	4.60	Del Aire	5.53	Beverly Hills	8.73	Redondo Beach	7.96	La Crescenta-Montrose	8.16
Central City	4.27	West Carson	5.44	Santa Monica	8.11	Diamond Bar	7.44	Arcadia	7.85
Northeast LA	4.27	Wilshire	5.19	West Los Angeles	7.97	Cerritos	7.34	East San Gabriel	7.03
Avocado Heights	3.73	Gardena	4.63	Agoura Hills	7.68	Torrance	7.02	Pasadena	6.83
Montebello	3.70	Carson	4.44	Sherman Oaks/ Studio City/ Toluca Lake/ Cahuenga Pass	7.66	El Segundo	7.02	Altadena	6.75
Rosemead	3.56	Central City	4.27	Encino-Tarzana	7.57	Hacienda Heights	5.77	Northridge	6.71
Vincent	3.43	Hawthorne	3.87	Northridge	6.71	Rowland Heights	5.55	San Dimas	6.65
Pomona	3.39	West Adams/ Baldwin Hills/ Leimert	3.86	Venice	6.66	La Mirada	5.50	Chatsworth-Porter Ranch	6.36
Citrus	3.38	Inglewood	3.84	Canoga Park/ Winnetka/ Woodland Hills/ West Hills	5.69	Signal Hill	5.34	Temple City	6.34
Pico Rivera	3.23	Harbor Gateway	3.78	West Hollywood	5.56	Lomita	5.28	La Verne	6.31
Baldwin Park	3.08	Lawndale	3.60	Wilshire	5.19	Lakewood	5.16	Castaic	6.23
Valinda	2.95	South Los Angeles	2.84	Hollywood	5.18	San Pedro	4.95	Granada Hills-Knollwood	6.16
West Puente Valley	2.88	Westmont	2.38	North Hollywood/ Valley Village	4.51	Whittier	4.82	Monrovia	6.11
La Puente	2.76	Compton	2.25	Van Nuys/North Sherman Oaks	4.38	Long Beach	4.75	Glendora	6.00
El Monte	2.65	Lynwood	2.08	Reseda/ West Van Nuys	4.23	Artesia	4.61	Santa Clarita	5.94
Commerce	2.62	Lennox	2.02	Sylmar	3.60	East Whittier	4.44	Burbank	5.89
Westlake	2.53	East Rancho Dominguez	1.77	Sun Valley/ La Tuna Canyon	3.36	Downey	4.20	Glendale	5.85
South Gate	2.10	Southeast LA	1.41	San Fernando	3.21	Santa Fe Springs	4.03	Duarte	5.44
South El Monte	2.07	Florence-Graham	1.24	Mission Hills/ Panorama City/ North Hills	3.14	Bellflower	4.01	San Gabriel	5.31
South San Jose Hills	1.96			Arleta-Pacoima	1.99	South Whittier	3.92	Alhambra	5.22
Bell	1.81					Harbor Gateway	3.78	Covina	5.12
Central City North	1.79					Norwalk	3.61	Sunland-Tujunga-Lake View Terrace-Shadow Hills	4.56
Boyle Heights	1.69					West Whittier-Los Nietos	3.56	Quartz Hill	4.29
East Los Angeles	1.67					Wilmington/ Harbor City	2.90	Lancaster	3.78
Cudahy	1.65					Paramount	2.46	Lake Los Angeles	3.77
Walnut Park	1.63					Hawaiian Gardens	1.91	Palmdale	3.70
Huntington Park	1.61							Vincent	3.43
Bell Gardens	1.58							Sun Valley - La Tuna Canyon	3.36
Maywood	1.45							Sun Village	2.57

Note: Places are listed according to the Supervisorial District in which they are primarily located. When a large portion of a locale's land straddles two districts, it is included in both.

A Decent Standard of Living

IN THIS SECTION

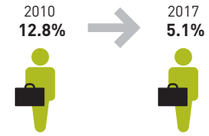
Introduction

As the analysis above amply demonstrates, Los Angeles County has a tremendous depth of human resources for contributing to a vibrant economy and adapting to today's fast-paced economic shifts. Policymakers face the dual challenges of implementing strategies that will position all residents to find safe, secure, and rewarding forms of employment and reducing the number of poor-quality jobs—employment characterized by low wages and insecurity, unpredictable hours, and little opportunity to develop new skills or control one's workday.

Because economic well-being is a critical ingredient for overall well-being, one-third of the American Human Development Index is devoted to the capabilities people have to enjoy a decent material standard of living. Many different measures

LA County unemployment has **decreased by 7.7 percentage points** over the last seven years.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN LA COUNTY



BOX 1 Measuring Living Standards in the American Human Development Index

Many different measures are used to understand and compare living standards across groups and places. The American Human Development Index uses median personal earnings, the wages and salaries of all full- and part-time workers 16 years of age and older, obtained annually through the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Median personal earnings differ from other income and earnings measures in important ways and were chosen as a meaningful proxy for a decent standard of living.

Earnings ← vs. → Income

Earnings are the wages or salaries people earn from their paid jobs. Income is a broader category that includes not just earnings, which make up the largest share of income for most Americans, but also pensions and Social Security benefits, child support payments, public assistance, annuities, stock dividends, funds generated from rental properties, and interest. Earnings figures are typically lower than income figures.

Median ← vs. → Average

The median gives a better indication than the average of how the ordinary worker is faring. The median earnings figure is the midpoint of the earnings distribution—half the population is earning more than the median amount and half is earning less. In contrast, averages can be misleading in situations of high inequality; the presence of a few people taking home enormous sums will pull the average far above what the vast majority are actually earning.

Personal ← vs. → Household

Using personal earnings rather than household earnings allows us to compare the relative command women and men have over economic resources. While many households are headed jointly by married couples, who typically share their incomes, more than half are not. The share of married-couple households has been falling since the 1970s; it fell below the halfway mark in 2011 and is continuing a downward trend. In addition, not all married couples stay that way, and cohabitating couples who share resources also often part company.

Part-time ← vs. → Full-time

The earnings of part-time workers are included in median personal earnings. While some workers prefer not to or do not need to work full time, others work part time because they cannot find full-time jobs or affordable child care, or they have responsibilities, such as elder care, that make full-time work impossible.

Over **700,000 workers** will be affected by the City of LA minimum wage raise.

can be used to gauge living standards. The American HD Index uses median personal earnings—the wages and salaries of all full- and part-time workers 16 years of age and older. This measure reflects the resources of the ordinary worker (thus the median, or midpoint, rather than the mean, or average) and captures the command that both women and men have over economic resources (thus the focus on personal rather than household earnings). See **BOX 1** for further details on this measure in relation to other ways to quantify living standards.

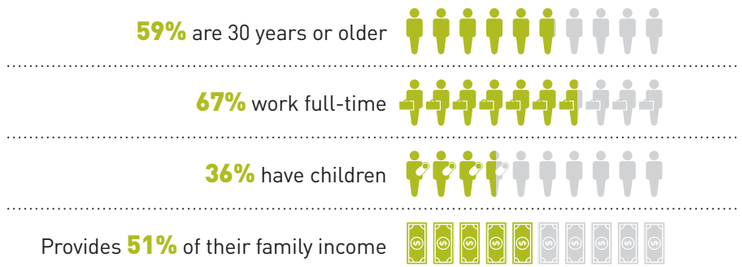
Since the Great Recession's employment low point in January 2010, Los Angeles County has added roughly 526,000 jobs and slashed unemployment from 12.8 percent in 2010 to 5.1 percent by January 2017.[1] In one sector that has brought important gains for the service industry, tourism, the county continues to set records, with 47.3 million tourists in 2016, up 4 percent over the previous year and the sixth year running that the county has broken tourism records.[2]

In a momentous shift for workers at the very bottom of the pay scale, the recent phased increase in the minimum wage for the City of LA, unincorporated areas in LA County, and many of the county's cities had an immediate effect on low-wage workers and their families. The impact that raising the wage floor has on poverty, consumer prices, and employment is a subject of much contentious debate, but this policy was enacted after a careful process of study and deliberation. Rigorous evaluations several years following any wage increase can help the county and cities to assess its impact and make any adjustments to enable the policy to achieve its goals.

Prior to the minimum wage raise, a total of 368,460 workers in the City of LA—roughly one in five—earned the minimum wage.[5] It was projected that, as the minimum wage gradually increased over the course of five years, more than 700,000 workers would be affected. A common stereotype of those working at minimum wage is that they are young, working part time, and do not count on their jobs to pay the rent or feed their families. In the City of LA, raising the minimum wage means providing a much-needed lift largely to full-time workers, most of whom are 30 or older, and over one-third of whom have children (see **FIGURE 1**). In short, this policy is an opportunity to transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of county residents.

These policy changes and trends are very important for human development gains. Notwithstanding this important progress, there are worrisome economic inequities in Los Angeles County, particularly relating to very high rates of child poverty, growing income inequality, and severe rent burdens—with rising homelessness as one side effect. These larger trends provide the backdrop for considerable variation in earnings by neighborhood, race and ethnicity, and gender.

FIGURE 1 **Who Benefits from a Minimum Wage Increase in the City of LA?**



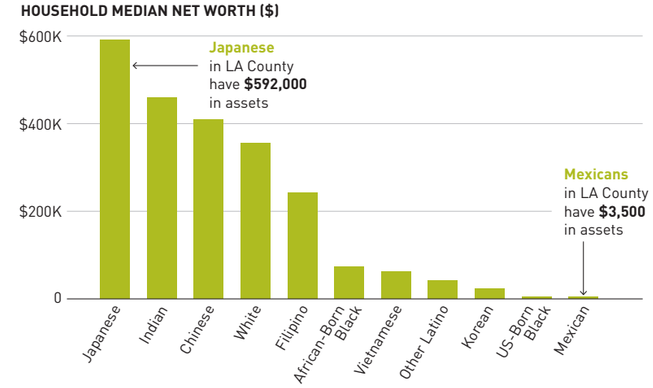
Source: Michael Reich, Ken Jacobs, Annette Bernhardt, and Ian Perry, "The Mayor of Los Angeles' Proposed City Minimum Wage Policy: A Prospective in Employment Dynamics."

BOX 2 **What about Wealth?**

Neither earnings nor incomes include wealth. Wealth (or net worth) is the value of everything a person owns—a house or other real estate, stocks, businesses, retirement savings, and more—minus anything they owe, including liabilities or debts such as unpaid mortgage principal. Wealth has a major impact on current well-being and future opportunities, and disparities in wealth eclipse disparities in income or earnings.

Unfortunately, wealth is extremely hard to measure, in part because the value of assets like stocks and real estate are in constant flux, and also because the very wealthiest are likely to be missed in random sampling and often decline to participate in surveys. Several surveys produce reliable wealth data on the United States as a whole, but few provide data on smaller geographic areas like counties or detailed information on racial and ethnic groups. Wealth thus cannot be incorporated into the American Human Development Index.

Duke University has conducted a unique National Asset Scorecard for Communities of Color in five metro areas.[3] Survey analysis on LA County exposed staggering differences in the accumulation of wealth for groups of different heritage. Median net worth ranged from $592,000 among studied participants of Japanese heritage to $3,500 among residents of Mexican heritage.[4] Wealth provides essential economic security today. It also improves children's life chances and expands their opportunities tomorrow by allowing parents to live in areas with good schools and save and pay for college. Savings and assets are also a cushion against future events beyond our control—recession, natural disasters, or illness. The racial wealth divide points to the urgent need for action to help those with few assets build a more stable future.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, *The Color of Wealth in Los Angeles,* 2016.

Analysis by Race and Ethnicity, Gender, and Geography

VARIATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

In Los Angeles County, median earnings by race and ethnicity range from nearly $48,000 for whites to less than half that for Latinos, just under $23,000. While the typical wages and salaries in LA County and in the United States are nearly equal at just over $30,000, the earnings highs by race and ethnicity are higher and the lows lower in LA County than in the country as a whole. (see FIGURE 2). Medians summarize the typical conditions of a group, but they are not destiny. A close look at two communities, both with majority-black populations, shows the role education and other factors can play in shaping economic outcomes (see BOX 4).

The following are some additional findings about earnings by race and ethnicity in Los Angeles County that merit attention:

- The top-earning group in the United States is **Asians,** with **whites** a close second; in LA County, this order is flipped. LA County white workers typically earn about $9,600 more than Asian workers.

- **Native Americans** in LA County fall third among the six largest racial and ethnic groups, with earnings above the county median. Because of the small sample size of this group and the associated challenges when making comparisons, the difference between their US and county earnings is not statistically significant.

- **Blacks** in LA County are out-earning US blacks by about $6,500. White and black LA County residents are the only two groups who significantly out-earn their US counterparts.

- **Latinos** have the lowest earnings of the six and are the only group in the county with earnings lower than their US counterparts. The difference is small but statistically significant. A further examination of earnings among Latino subgroups shows that those with Mexican and Central American heritage have earnings at about the median. The other three Latino subgroups have far higher earnings than the Latino median. Those of Spanish ancestry lead the pack with typical earnings just above $43,331 (see SIDEBAR, LEFT).

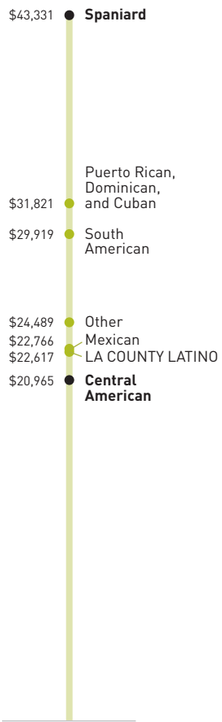
- Earnings for the **Asian subgroups** in this study range from $56,021 for Indians to $24,918 for Cambodians, more than a two-fold difference (see SIDEBAR, RIGHT).

VARIATION BY GENDER AND RACE AND ETHNICITY

Men in Los Angeles County earn about $5,800 more than women. Although men earn more than women in every one of the major racial and ethnic groups for which data are available (see TABLE 1), the size of the gap varies considerably, from about $14,500 for whites and $2,500 for blacks.

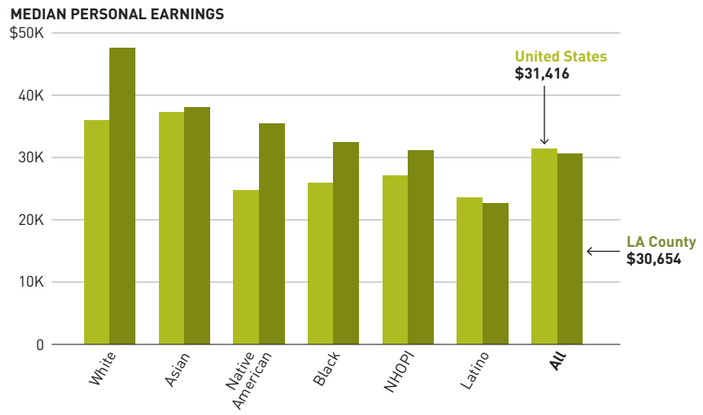
The gender gap in earnings is the result of a number of factors, but as the

Earnings by Latino Subgroup



Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.
Note: Other includes people of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin who do not identify with one of the listed subgroups.

FIGURE 2 LA County Whites Earn More than the US Median; Latinos Earn Less

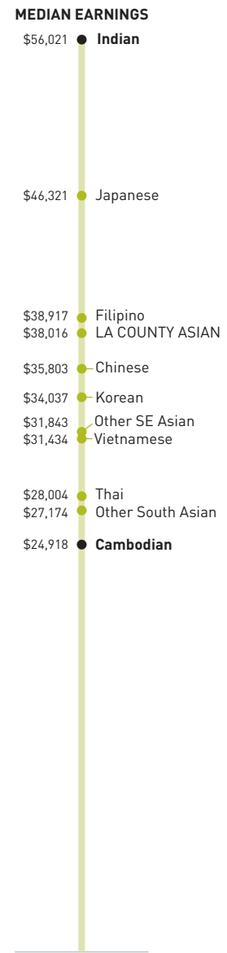


Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.
Notes: These data are not adjusted for cost of living. No official measurement of a nationally comparable cost of living currently exists, and cost of living variations within compact regions, such as counties, are often as pronounced as variations between counties. See Methodological Note for further details. Only the earnings differences between US and LA County blacks, Latinos, and whites are statistically significant.

BOX 3 Median Personal Earnings by Asian Subgroup

Linked in part to very high educational attainment levels, Indian Angelenos also have the highest median earnings in LA County. In fact, every Asian subgroup in this study, except those with Thai or Cambodian ancestry or those who fall in the "Other South Asian" category, has earnings above the county median. Thai educational attainment is well above the county average; 43 percent of adults have at least a bachelor's degree. Yet the composition of occupations of Thai workers in the county gives some insight into their relatively low earnings. More than one in three Thai workers (35.3 percent) are in the service sector, where employment tends to be in low-wage jobs. This high rate of service sector employment departs from service occupation rates under 20 percent for every other subgroup except Vietnamese. One major challenge in the Cambodian community is that 36 percent of adults never completed high school, the highest rate among the Asian subgroups and a clear impediment to higher earnings.

Earnings by Asian Subgroup



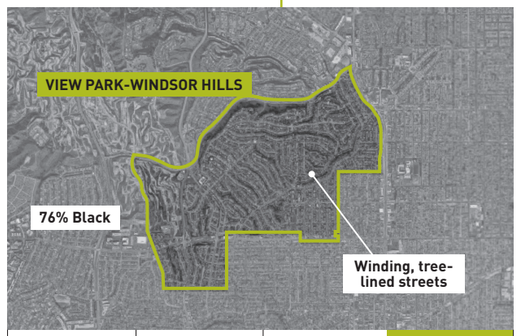
Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015. Note: Chinese includes Taiwanese. Other South Asian includes Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan. Other Southeast Asian includes Burmese, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, and Malaysian.

previous chapter illustrates, lack of education among women is not one of them. Several other factors contribute to the gap:

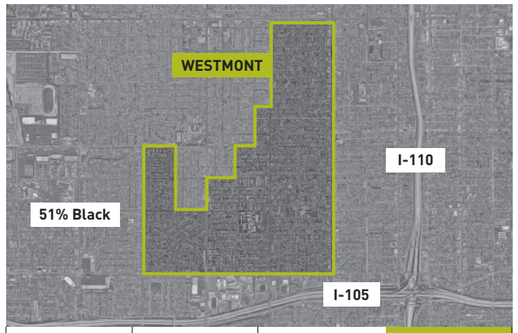
- **Part-time work.** Women are more likely to work part time, contributing to lower earnings. In 2015, 30 percent of LA County women worked less than full time, compared to 19 percent of men.[6]
- **Responsibilities for caretaking labor.** Social norms around work in and outside the home have changed significantly over the past generation, but the change has been dramatic in one direction and lackluster, at best, in the other. Women have joined men in the paid workforce in droves, but men have been slower to share caretaking responsibilities. As a result, women still shoulder the majority of the child and elder care, domestic work, and emotional labor that family life requires.
- **Motherhood penalty.** Women pay a wage penalty for leaving the workforce to care for children, and evidence indicates employers discriminate more against mothers than women in general in hiring and promotion decisions.[7]
- **Wage discrimination.** Even when working in the same occupational category, and even in female-dominated occupations, men tend to earn more than women. In LA County, women are twice as likely to be employed in health-care and social assistance professions as men, yet in 2015, the average monthly salary for female health-care workers was $3,300 while the average for male health-care workers was $4,500.[8]

Women still shoulder the **majority** of the child and elder care, domestic work, and emotional labor that family life requires.

BOX 4 A Tale of Two Communities: View Park–Windsor Hills and Westmont



Human Development Index	Life expectancy (in years)	Has earned a bachelor's degree	Median personal earnings
7.88	83.3	51.5%	$49,375



Human Development Index	Life expectancy (in years)	Has earned a bachelor's degree	Median personal earnings
2.83	76.3	7.3%	$20,503

Only two of the areas in this study have majority-black populations: View Park–Windsor Hills and Westmont. These two South LA unincorporated communities are located only six miles apart but are on opposite ends of the well-being scale. View Park–Windsor Hills, a small, affluent neighborhood, has an HD Index value of 7.88; Westmont scores 2.83. Though a life expectancy gap of seven years between the two areas is part of this well-being chasm, another notable distinction is the nearly $30,000 difference in median personal earnings. **Westmont workers typically earn $21,000; earnings in View Park–Windsor Hills are around $50,000.**

Up until the latter half of the twentieth century, when neighborhood race restrictions on homeownership were lifted, the View Park–Windsor Hills area was mostly white. Today this wealthy area is three-quarters black. **View Park–Windsor Hills,** along with Baldwin Hills and Ladera Heights, holds some of the highest concentrations of black wealth on the West Coast.[9] Less than six miles southeast is **Westmont,** an unincorporated area where blacks make up a little over half of the population and well-being outcomes more closely follow the usual LA earnings pattern by race.

Several factors likely play important roles in these divergent economic outcomes. In View Park–Windsor Hills, nearly all adults have at least a high school degree, half have at least a bachelor's degree, and just over one in four have a graduate degree, more than double the national average. Linked closely to these excellent educational outcomes, nearly 60 percent of working adults in View Park–Windsor Hills work in management professions, the highest-paid occupational category. Seventy percent of households own their homes.

By contrast, just two-thirds of Westmont residents have a high school degree and fewer than 10 percent have a bachelor's degree. Almost half of residents have service jobs or work in production, transportation, and moving occupations. Only 16 percent work in management-type occupations. The large majority (69 percent) of households rent their homes. Half the area's population is black and most of the other half is Latino (46 percent). A breakdown of earnings between the two major racial and ethnic groups in Westmont shows that black workers have median earnings of $22,014 and Latinos earn $19,431.[10] These poverty-level earnings suggest that both blacks and Latinos in Westmont face steep challenges in achieving a decent standard of living.

Education, wealth, and social capital all likely play some role in these contrasting economic circumstances. The relationship between educational attainment and earnings is especially important for black households. Having historically been denied other opportunities to build wealth, black Americans rely heavily on education for financial security. While whites tend to have higher levels of education than their black counterparts, comparing the wealthiest in both groups, blacks tend to have slightly higher levels of education than whites.[11]

Homeownership is also a cornerstone of American middle-class life. In addition to providing a place to live, homeownership allows parents the option to tap that equity to pay for children's college or help with a down payment on a first home, and it can be passed to the next generation. Equity in a home is a more significant source of wealth among black families than it is among white households,[12] and the high homeownership rates found in View Park–Windsor Hills likely are an important contributor to neighborhood stability. Finally, growing up in a tight-knit community of highly educated professionals such as View Park–Windsor Hills opens many doors to the community's young people, who have access not just to the financial resources of their parents but also to a solid social network of black professionals who can act as mentors and help provide contacts for a first internship or job.

TABLE 1 Whites Have the Largest Gender Earnings Gap

		MEN	WOMEN	GAP
LOS ANGELES COUNTY Median for all residents: $30,654	**All**	$32,444	$26,652	$5,792
	White	$55,348	$40,702	$14,646
	Asian	$41,812	$34,496	$7,316
	Latino	$25,547	$20,258	$5,289
	Black	$34,533	$32,033	$2,500

Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.
Note: Data on Native American men and women have been suppressed due to unreliable estimates. NHOPI are not included because the male-female gap is not statistically significant due to the small sample size.

- **Women work different jobs.** Women tend to be concentrated in lower-paying occupations and industries, in part because of their choices of fields of study. Fewer women major in science and engineering, for example, than in education or social work, which results in lower economic payoffs.

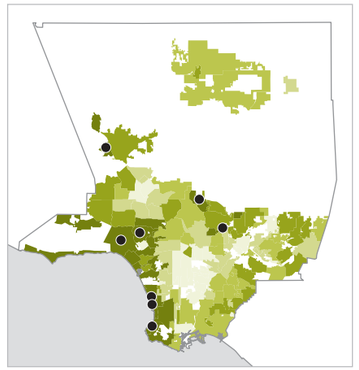
VARIATION BY GEOGRAPHY: CITIES, UNINCORPORATED AREAS, AND CITY OF LA COMMUNITY PLAN AREAS

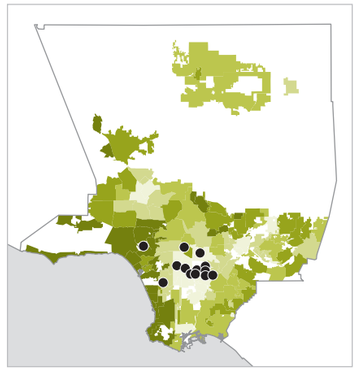
Median earnings in LA County are $30,654, which is roughly on par with those of California and the country as a whole. However, earnings within the county range from over $83,000 in Palos Verdes Estates—over two and half times the county median—to roughly $16,000 in Westwood, home of UCLA and many university students with strong health and educational outcomes but earnings that reflect their student status.

The earnings map shows a clear pattern, with coastal communities boasting the highest earnings; the San Fernando Valley and parts of the San Gabriel Valley also have earnings well above the county median. The lowest-earning areas are grouped largely in Southeast LA (see MAP 1). At the top end of the earnings scale are five cities, unincorporated Stevenson Ranch in the Northwest County region, and two Westside City of LA community plan areas, all with earnings upwards of $60,000. At the low end of the scale are thirteen areas with typical earnings under $20,000, mostly in the Southeast LA region (see FIGURE 3).

The highs and lows are likely not surprising to longtime residents. More interesting analysis lies in places that score high on the income component of the HD Index but do not have educational and/or health outcomes that match this economic force. Redondo Beach, for example, has the seventh-highest earnings of all cities and unincorporated areas. Yet in health, it ranks fifty-sixth out of 106

FIGURE 3 Communities with the Highest and Lowest Median Earnings





EARNINGS ABOVE $60,000	
Palos Verdes Estates	$82,813
Manhattan Beach	$82,340
San Marino	$77,948
Hermosa Beach	$70,730
La Cañada Flintridge	$67,500
Bel Air - Beverly Crest	$66,113
Brentwood-Pacific Palisades	$65,982
Stevenson Ranch	$63,247

COUNTY MEDIAN	
All residents of LA County	$30,654

EARNINGS BELOW $20,000	
Maywood	$19,651
Walnut Park	$19,368
Cudahy	$19,234
Bell	$19,207
Lennox	$19,155
Bell Gardens	$19,065
Boyle Heights	$18,739
Huntington Park	$18,496
Florence-Graham	$18,405
South Los Angeles	$17,988
Westlake	$17,026
Southeast Los Angeles	$16,921
Westwood	$16,044

Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

Earnings vary dramatically from **$83,000** in Palos Verdes Estates to **$16,000** in Westwood, home of UCLA.

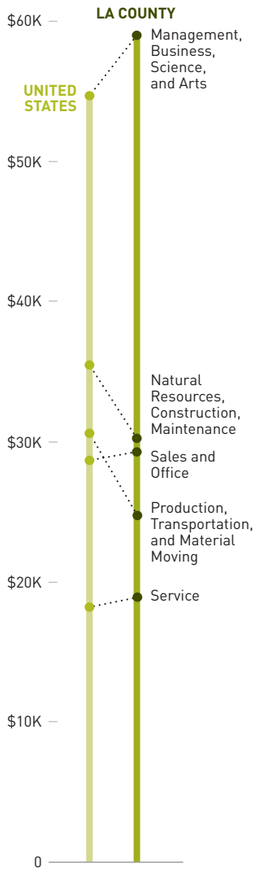
areas studied, with a life expectancy well below the other two high-income beach cities and neighboring Torrance. And educational attainment in Redondo Beach is far above the county average but not on par with other high-earning places. About 57 percent of adults have at least a bachelor's degree, but this does not match the roughly three in four adults in La Cañada Flintridge, Palos Verdes Estates, and Manhattan Beach. These are far lower health and education outcomes than would be predicted by income alone.

A key driver of these vast earnings differences is the type of work performed by residents. The earnings of workers in each of the five federally designated major occupational categories vary dramatically, from about $19,000 for those in the service industry (including jobs as health aides and medical assistants, food prep and service workers, janitors, maids, and personal care workers) to nearly triple that for those in the category of management, business, science, and the arts (see SIDEBAR). This includes STEM professionals, architects, lawyers, doctors, and managers in every field. The median earnings for workers in the three other major categories—sales and office occupations; natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations; and production, transportation, and material moving occupations—are more moderate, ranging from $25,000 to $30,000.

Interestingly, when you compare typical county earnings to the national median, higher-wage jobs are better remunerated in LA County. On the other hand, in the types of jobs that typically require manual labor—construction, maintenance, machine operators, and loaders—county wages are far lower than the US median (see SIDEBAR).

LA County neighborhoods are highly segregated by employment category. Countywide, 37 percent of workers are employed in higher-wage management occupations. But those workers tend to live in cities or unincorporated areas with others who share that general occupational type. In La Cañada Flintridge, San Marino, and Manhattan Beach, 65 percent or more of workers have management-

Earnings in LA County and the US by Occupational Category



Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.
Note: These data are not adjusted for cost of living. No official measurement of a nationally comparable cost of living currently exists, and cost of living variations within compact regions, such as counties, are often as pronounced as variations between counties. See Methodological Note for further details.

FIGURE 4

A Plurality of People Work in Management, Business, Science, and Arts

EMPLOYMENT IN LA COUNTY BY OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORY (% OF WORKERS)

37% Management, Business, Science, & Arts

24% Sales & Office

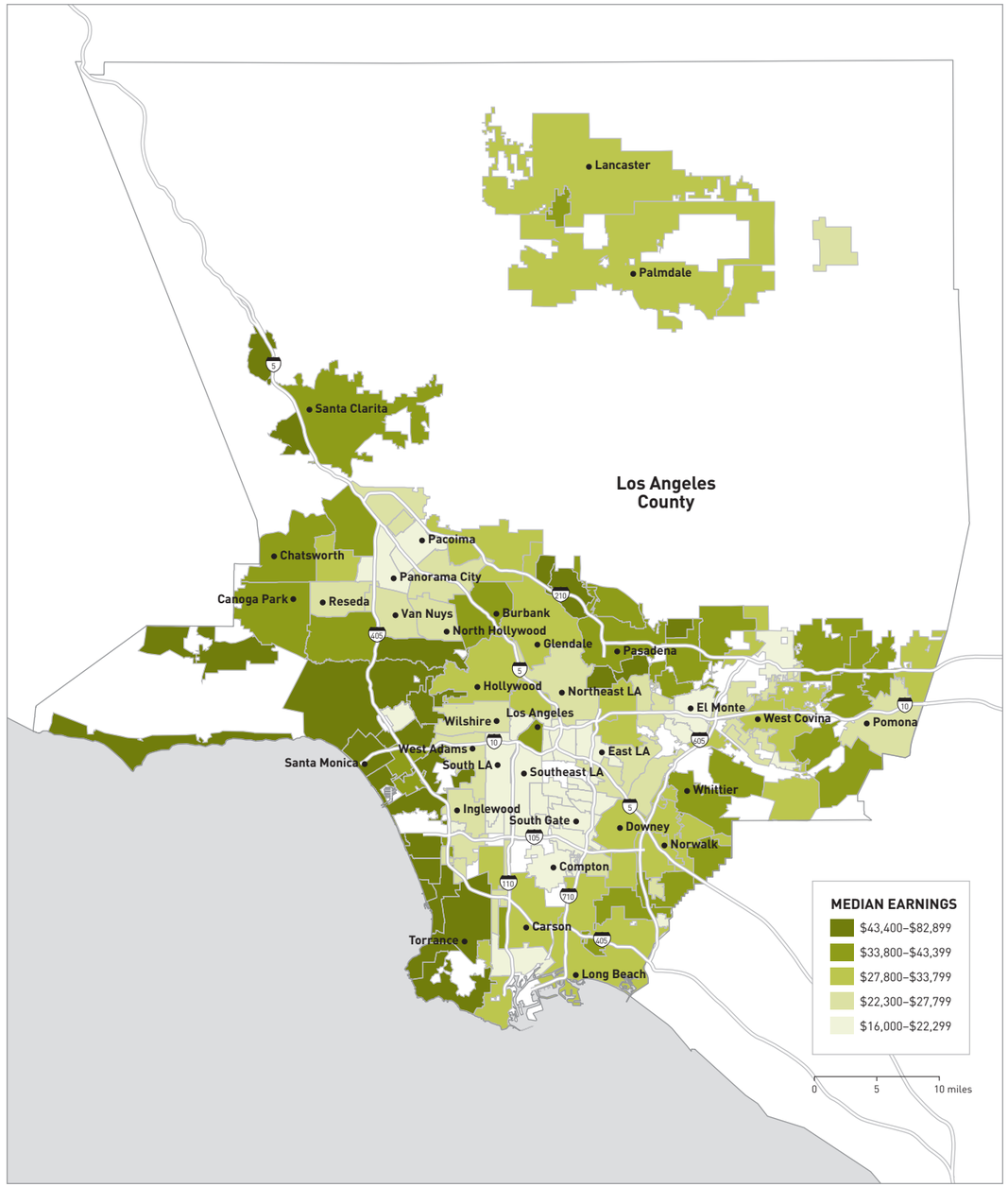
19% Services

13% Production, Transportation/ Moving

8% Natural Resources, Construction, Maintenance

Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.

MAP 1 **Median Personal Earnings by Community**



The county's **economic landscape,** a rich mix of industries, is currently undergoing a **transformation**.

level occupations. Conversely, in the communities with median earnings below $20,000, occupations in management are relatively rare.

There is also a very strong correlation between child poverty and workers in service occupations—far stronger than the relationship between child poverty and any other occupational category.[13] That service occupations, the fastest-growing segment of the labor market, are so strongly linked to child poverty is troubling.

Closing the Gaps in Standard Of Living: What Will It Take?

THE JOBS OF TOMORROW

Jobs that pay a good wage and offer secure, stable livelihoods enable Angelenos to invest in themselves and their families and to contribute to their communities. Los Angeles, synonymous with entertainment in the popular imagination, has long been known as a cultural exporter. But the county's economic landscape, a rich and diverse mix of industries—from manufacturing to aerospace to hospitality—extends far beyond the entertainment industry and is currently undergoing a transformation. The Kauffman Foundation's entrepreneurship ranking places Los Angeles an extraordinary third of the forty largest US metro areas in terms of startup activity—including new business ventures of any kind—after Miami and Austin.[14] In recent years, the tech startup industry in particular has blossomed, as evidenced by the vitality of Silicon Beach. This dynamic sector presents valuable employment opportunities, particularly for skilled workers.

In addition to the tech startup and entertainment industries, a wide range of other industries hold potential for increased demand for skilled workers. The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) studies the potential for high-wage job creation in areas where the county has a competitive advantage. In its latest workforce development assessment, the LAEDC identified a set of industry clusters that could be a focus of policy and workforce efforts. In addition to sectors mentioned above, they include hospitality and tourism, aerospace and defense, medical devices and biopharmaceuticals, fashion and apparel, clean transport and fuels, and trade and logistics.[15]

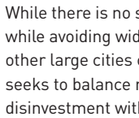
Building a regulatory system, infrastructure, and business climate that are friendly to these industries is necessary but not sufficient to stimulate growth in these areas. One consistent characteristic of the jobs of tomorrow is that many require some sort of certificate or credential beyond high school. In order to support more widely shared prosperity and to better position those who cannot compete for these jobs today, investments in education are essential. Priorities include improving high school graduation rates, making college affordable, and expanding career and technical programs such as apprenticeships, paid internships, and certificate programs. Such programs expand the options for young adults for whom a four-year degree is not the best fit and help those re-entering the workforce or in need of new skills prepare for jobs in the information economy.

URBAN REVITALIZATION THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE

Ideally, communities would welcome sidewalk repairs, a new Metro stop, a revitalized park, and other investments to spruce up the area. Too often in cities with neighborhoods undergoing rapid gentrification, however, these improvements are met with dread. *Will I be priced out of my home, displaced by redevelopment that has no space for me?* UCLA's 2017 survey on Quality of Life draws attention to a troubling dynamic affecting the well-being of many low-income Angelenos and residents of color. In the survey, 65 percent of Latinos and blacks viewed gentrification negatively. The lower the income of residents, the higher the level of concern. Areas where residents were the most worried about being priced out by those willing to pay more for housing are Central LA, the San Fernando Valley, and

BOX 5 Good Practices for Revitalization without Displacement

While there is no silver bullet for promoting urban revitalization while avoiding widespread displacement, the approaches of other large cities can offer valuable lessons as LA County seeks to balance revival of areas that experienced decades of disinvestment with protection of the communities already living in them.



BARCELONA, SPAIN

Transforming a decaying industrial neighborhood into a vibrant residential and commercial district with a burgeoning knowledge industry sector.[16] The ambitious 22@Barcelona project addressed both economic development and social concerns in the neighborhood of Poblenou through an inclusionary planning process. This process allowed for development to proceed only when 60 percent or more of local landowners on each city block agreed to it through a voting process. A ¨yes¨ vote would pave the way for development that could increase revenue, such as taller buildings than previously allowed. In exchange, 30 percent of a block's land would be allocated for shared community benefits, such as parks, subsidized housing, and knowledge-based activities.[17] [18] Over the past decade, Poblenou has successfully transitioned from an outdated industrial town to a bustling knowledge-based district, in part through a robust process of participation that balanced new development with the priorities of existing residents and allowed community members to share in the financial benefits that development brought.

BOULDER, COLORADO

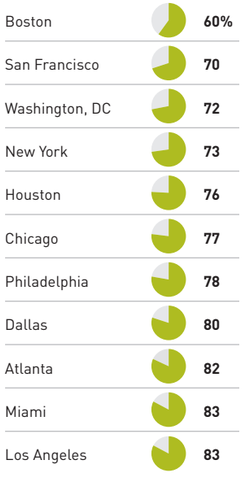
Linking affordable housing to large-scale developments. Boulder and other communities are ensuring that as new buildings spring up around a neighborhood, so do affordable housing units for lower-income residents. Boulder has incorporated a strong affordable housing mandate into the planning stages of large developments. Developers must make 20 percent of new units permanently affordable for low-income households or pay a fee to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to support housing elsewhere. To sweeten the mandate, developers who exceed the 20 percent requirement are rewarded with reduced permit fees.[19]

COLUMBIA PIKE, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Preserving diversity while reinvigorating commercial centers using a combination of carrots and sticks.[20] This community offered a wide range of incentives—tax incentives, loan programs, lot-size flexibility, and reduced parking ratios in exchange for preservation and affordability. These incentives were coupled with regulations related to building density, height, percentage of new affordable units, and more to guide redevelopment. Columbia Pike is still a work in progress, but the area is moving toward expanding affordable housing while building a pedestrian-friendly community that is better connected to transportation and jobs and features sought-after community amenities.

Severe Rent Burden in Select US Cities

LOW-INCOME RENTERS WHO SPENT OVER HALF OF THEIR INCOME ON HOUSING



Source: Ellen and Karfunkel, "Renting in America's Largest Metropolitan Areas," 2016.

the Westside and Gateway regions.[21]

Cities in the US and on every continent face inevitable cycles of urban disinvestment, revitalization, disruption, and regeneration. And they often struggle with the dual challenge of expanding housing and infrastructure to meet growing demand while also protecting the housing and service needs of a city's most disadvantaged residents. The challenge for cities to meet all these needs is a complex and difficult one.

From carrots to sticks to inclusive revitalization planning processes that involve existing residents in imagining the future, cities are striving to support revitalization without wholesale destabilization of often long-settled communities (see BOX 5). Rule changes, participatory community processes, incentives for affordable housing units, and other financial and policy levers are complex and involve careful planning and some tradeoffs. When signs of positive improvements and public investments in a community are instantly suspected as harbingers of displacement, action is needed to guide revitalization to support diverse communities, protect people such as older adults and those with low or no income, and contribute positively to parks, public transit, safe sidewalks, and other public goods that are essential ingredients for a high–human development community.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Stable, affordable housing is a fundamental condition for human development progress, especially for children, whose school performance and physical and mental health can be harmed by frequent moves, poor housing conditions, or perpetually tense family circumstances in precarious housing situations. Most of the country's largest metro areas have seen rents increase faster than incomes since 2006. All of the ten most populous US metro areas have been characterized by struggles with housing affordability over this period. In most of these cities, a quarter to a third of renters spend 50 percent or more of their income on housing-related costs (rent, utilities, etc.), which is defined as being severely rent burdened. In greater metro LA (comprised of LA and Orange Counties), this rate is on the high side—33 percent. In other major metro areas, such as Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, San Francisco, and Washington, DC, about one in four renters is severely rent burdened.[22]

But the LA metro area stands out in terms of housing availability and affordability for its poorest residents. In 2014, LA was tied with Miami for the highest proportion of low-income renters struggling with severe rent burdens (see SIDEBAR). In the LA metro area, 83 percent of renters in the lowest fifth of the income scale were spending half or more of their income on housing-related costs. The corresponding rates in Boston (60 percent), San Francisco (70 percent), New York City (73 percent), and Houston (76 percent) make it clear that in all of these cities, the poorest households are forced to make difficult tradeoffs between rent and other essential goods such as food, health care, and transportation.[23] But greater LA stands apart.

The impacts of this housing crisis reverberate on the human development not only of the most vulnerable but of all Angelenos. The county has made it a priority to address this crisis, focusing on the need for more housing stock, particularly affordable units, and the urgent necessity to expand permanent supportive housing for homeless Angelenos.

HOMELESSNESS

Stemming in part from the affordable housing crisis but also from the staggering toll of mental illness and the struggles of particular populations, such as veterans, foster youth, and formerly incarcerated Angelenos, to stabilize their lives, the rate of homelessness in the county is high and rising. According to the June 2017 homeless count, there are close to sixty thousand homeless individuals in Los Angeles County, two-thirds of whom are unsheltered.[24] [25] Nearly one-third are chronically homeless. LA County has the largest population of long-term homeless people with one or more disabling conditions of any US city or county.[26]

The United States saw an encouraging decline in homelessness from 2007 to 2015. But Los Angeles County's homeless population has been growing; between 2016 and 2017, the homeless population overall increased 23 percent and the homeless youth population grew a tragic 61 percent.[27]

The current gold standard of homeless intervention programs is permanent supportive housing, which links affordable housing with support services in health, mental health and substance abuse, job training and employment, and case management. Implementing supportive housing on a large scale, however, is a costly and lengthy process that faces a perennial impediment: local opposition from those living near the proposed sites for housing and services.[28]

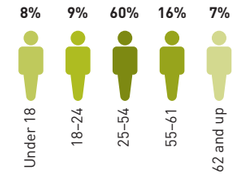
Recognizing the size and stubborn persistence of homelessness in LA, the county has rallied. Los Angeles County voters overwhelmingly approved Measure HHH last year, allocating $1.2 billion for new permanent supportive housing units. More recently, voters approved Measure H, a sales tax hike projected to raise $355 million annually for a ten-year campaign against homelessness. In addition, stakeholders have joined forces to make systematic reforms. Following a series of policy summits that drew on broad expertise and community involvement, in 2016 the county launched its Homeless Initiative, a blueprint for a more coordinated and coherent response to both prevent and end homelessness.[29] The plan recognizes that in order to stanch the rising tide of homelessness, the county must address every angle, from the underlying conditions that push residents out of their homes (involving issues like zoning and housing regulations) to prevention efforts focused on at-risk groups (such as foster youth, domestic violence survivors, and release-eligible inmates) to services for those who are already homeless.

Though the problem has reached crisis proportions, Los Angeles has unique advantages: widespread community support and public officials, philanthropies,

Recognizing the size and stubborn **persistence of homelessness** in LA, the county has rallied.

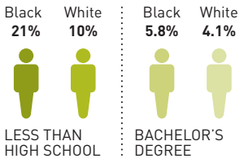
Homeless Population in LA County

PERCENTAGE BY AGE



Source: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Homeless Count Results, 2017.

LA County Adult Unemployment Rate



Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.
Note: Other includes people of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin who do not identify with one of the listed subgroups.

nonprofits, and businesses united behind the goal of preventing and ending homelessness. These advantages make the massive response required to face this crisis possible. Scaling up efforts to rehouse the tens of thousands of homeless individuals and families in the county is crucial, as are the systemic changes necessary to streamline the bureaucracy and increase the stock of affordable housing.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

There is no doubt that part of the gap in both earnings and employment rates between black and white workers is explained by education; lower high school and college graduation rates are linked to higher unemployment rates and lower-paying jobs. But the data suggest that diplomas and degrees alone will not close the earnings gap. Black adults who did not graduate from high school in LA County are twice as likely to be unemployed as whites (see SIDEBAR). The black-white unemployment gap narrows but does not disappear for those with bachelor's degrees; the unemployment rate for college-educated blacks is 5.8 percent, compared to 4.1 percent for college-educated whites.[30] Far-reaching changes in the structure of the labor market such as the decline of manufacturing—employer to a fifth of the county's black workers in 1980—partly explain the black-white earnings and employment gaps.[31] But the numbers suggest that discrimination in hiring practices may be a factor as well.

Employment discrimination, though illegal, still occurs. The gap in unemployment among college-educated blacks and whites exists not just in Los Angeles County but across the nation. Prejudice and bias—both conscious and not—that influence employers' hiring decisions are evident in large-scale studies. One peer-reviewed study found that fictitious applicants with "black-sounding" names (such as Lakisha and Jamal) are less likely to be called for interviews than those with "white-sounding" names (Emily and Greg), even when applicants have identical skills and credentials.[32] In another study by noted Harvard sociologist Bruce Western and others, white applicants with a criminal record were more likely to receive callbacks than black and Latino applicants without a criminal background.[33] The same study estimated that black applicants would have to search twice as long as white applicants with equal qualifications to find a job.[34] This bias is difficult, and costly, to prove on an individual basis, making the enforcement of existing laws challenging.

The county recently began an important effort to address employment discrimination at its roots. A 2016 motion approved by the Board of Supervisors focuses on training county employees and law enforcement personnel in implicit bias and cultural competency. The goal of this training is to reduce the influence of implicit bias in decision-making and to foster greater acceptance of and respect for different cultures as well as better communication across diverse groups.

TRANSPORTATION

While the movie *La La Land* presented a joyous interpretation of what traffic on a freeway exit ramp looks like, most Angelenos have a different take. Any rendezvous in the county generally involves careful calibration of time and distance first. UCLA's 2017 survey on Quality of Life, where dissatisfaction with transportation and traffic ranked as one of the most "negative" categories out of nine major areas surveyed, confirms a widely shared view: that too much traffic and too many cars are negatively impacting Angelenos' well-being.[35] Impacts are felt daily in terms of commute time, but they can also be measured in the quality of the air and LA's contribution to mitigating climate change.

By some basic transport metrics, the county looks quite a bit like the United States. The means by which residents get to work varies little from LA County to the California and US averages: roughly 78 to 80 percent drive alone, one-tenth carpool, and very few use public transportation or walk (see FIGURE 5). In terms of time spent commuting to work, again, LA does not stand apart. Only about 9 percent of US workers have a commute that is over an hour each way and average travel time to work is twenty-six minutes.[36] California's average commute time is slightly higher; 12 percent commute for over an hour each way and the average travel time is twenty-nine minutes. In LA, a slightly higher proportion of commuters spend over sixty minutes (13 percent), but average travel time is the same as the state average. Moreover, the commute times for those taking public transportation in these three geographies differ little.[37]

What, then, are the factors driving the dissatisfaction?

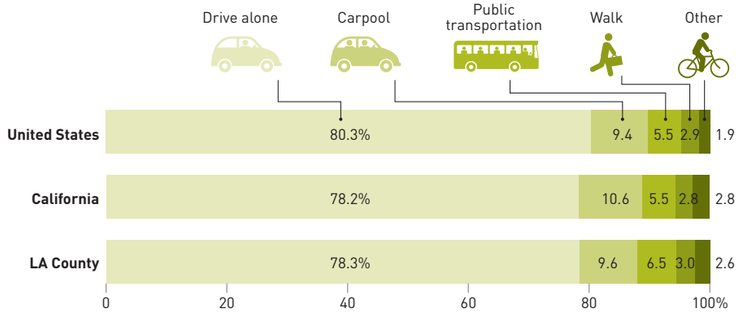
Judging by the average number of hours stuck in traffic, congestion seems to

Peak Hours Spent in Congestion

1	**Los Angeles**	**104 hours**
2	New York	89
3	San Francisco	83
4	Atlanta	71
5	Miami	65
6	Washington, DC	61
7	Dallas	59
8	Boston	58
9	Chicago	57
10	Seattle	55

Source: INRIX Global Congestion Ranking, 2016.

FIGURE 5 How We Commute to Work



Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.
Note: Includes workers ages 16 and older who do not exclusively work from home.

be one culprit. The average of 104 hours a year stuck in LA traffic jams compares poorly to 89 hours in New York and 83 hours in San Francisco.[38] And within the county, commute times vary from places like View Park–Windsor Hills and Beverly Hills, where under 5 percent of commuters spend an hour or more each way, to places like Palmdale and Sun Village, where more than a third of workers face two hours or more round-trip.[39]

Addressing this problem requires, in part, increased public transport options and convenience. But this solution ignores a more complicated dynamic. Public transport, to date, is largely used by those who lack other options. An LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) 2016 survey found that 84 percent of bus riders who took the survey did not have a car to make their trip.[40] The median household income of bus riders in 2016 was well below the poverty line, $15,620; for train riders, it was $21,852. This stands in stark contrast to the median household income in LA County in 2016 of $61,338.[41]

Metro has a number of programs underway to improve transportation, from earlier efforts to make walking, biking, and public transit more viable alternatives to the more recent Measure M, a forty-year plan passed in 2016 to extend rail and bus services and improve accessibility and infrastructure.[42] As an added bonus, the projects are expected to generate over 465,000 new jobs in the region. Despite major investments in public transportation, however, commuters do not seem to be trading in their cars. At a time when bus and rail services are expanding, overall ridership decreased 11 percent from 2014 to 2016, mostly due to a decrease in bus use.[43] Decreasing car traffic in the county will necessitate a switch to public transit by those who can afford to drive.

Conclusion

In today's growing economy, unemployment in the county is down and dynamism in important job-creating sectors is up. Roughly seven hundred thousand minimum-wage workers in the City of LA will get a long-overdue boost to $15 an hour by 2020. And while there is still work to be done, new voter-approved funds and unprecedented partnerships are in place to address the county's severe affordable housing shortage and homelessness crisis. Yet income and wealth inequalities are staggering. Addressing LA County's income and wealth inequalities will require providing career and technical programs such as apprenticeships and certificate programs for those who need a credential beyond high school to compete for the jobs of tomorrow; reducing the gender pay gap by expanding access to family-friendly benefits and enforcing existing regulations; and boosting wages for the nearly one in five workers in the service sector. Finally, addressing the affordable housing crisis is critical to combating the economic insecurity that erodes well-being for far too many Angelenos.

TABLE 2 **Median Personal Earnings by Supervisorial District**

DISTRICT 1
Supervisor
Hilda Solis

Walnut	$42,500
Central City	41,160
Claremont	33,380
Silver Lake/ Echo Park/ Elysian Valley	31,673
West Covina	31,285
Monterey Park	30,546
Avocado Heights	29,098
Vincent	27,213
Pico Rivera	26,960
Montebello	26,814
Citrus	26,044
West Puente Valley	25,872
La Puente	25,128
Valinda	25,026
Northeast LA	24,503
Rosemead	23,444
Baldwin Park	23,374
Commerce	23,358
Pomona	22,457
South Gate	22,228
El Monte	22,088
South El Monte	21,666
Azusa	21,371
S. San Jose Hills	21,109
Central City North	20,909
East Los Angeles	20,424
Maywood	19,651
Walnut Park	19,368
Cudahy	19,234
Bell	19,207
Bell Gardens	19,065
Boyle Heights	18,739
Huntington Park	18,496
Westlake	17,026

DISTRICT 2
Supervisor
Mark Ridley-Thomas

Culver City	$50,272
View Park-Windsor Hills	49,375
West Los Angeles	49,304
Westchester/ Playa Del Rey	47,527
Central City	41,160
Del Aire	38,517
Palms/Mar Vista/ Del Rey	37,491
West Carson	35,816
Carson	30,650
Gardena	30,074
Wilshire	26,683
Hawthorne	26,303
Inglewood	24,638
Lawndale	24,380
West Adams/ Baldwin Hills/ Leimert	24,254
Harbor Gateway	23,106
Compton	21,444
Lynwood	20,842
Westmont	20,503
East Rancho Dominguez	20,391
Lennox	19,155
Florence-Graham	18,405
South Los Angeles	17,988
Southeast LA	16,921

DISTRICT 3
Supervisor
Sheila Kuehl

Bel Air/Beverly Crest	$66,113
Brentwood/ Pacific Palisades	65,982
Beverly Hills	55,893
Venice	52,797
Malibu	52,687
Agoura Hills	52,395
Sherman Oaks/ Studio City/ Toluca Lake/ Cahuenga Pass	51,988
Santa Monica	51,681
Calabasas	51,611
West LA	49,304
West Hollywood	44,276
Encino/Tarzana	42,002
Canoga Park/ Winnetka/ Woodland Hills West Hills	34,243
Hollywood	31,319
Northridge	31,181
Reseda/ West Van Nuys	27,782
North Hollywood/ Valley Village	27,157
Sylmar	26,708
Wilshire	26,683
San Fernando	26,673
Van Nuys/ N. Sherman Oaks	25,343
Sun Valley/ La Tuna Canyon	22,596
Mission Hills/ Panorama City/ North Hills	22,095
Arleta/Pacoima	21,644
Westwood	16,044

DISTRICT 4
Supervisor
Janice Hahn

Palos Verdes Estates	$82,813
Manhattan Beach	82,340
Hermosa Beach	70,730
Redondo Beach	59,819
Rancho Palos Verdes	58,699
El Segundo	51,458
Westchester/ Playa del Rey	47,527
Torrance	45,422
Cerritos	43,340
Diamond Bar	41,012
Lakewood	40,060
Hacienda Heights	36,868
Signal Hill	36,280
La Mirada	35,942
Whittier	34,819
San Pedro	32,344
East Whittier	31,993
Lomita	31,616
Santa Fe Springs	31,495
Downey	31,152
Long Beach	30,848
Rowland Heights	30,042
West Whittier-Los Nietos	29,707
South Whittier	29,634
Bellflower	29,413
Norwalk	28,692
Artesia	26,175
Paramount	23,480
Harbor Gateway	23,106
Hawaiian Gardens	21,845
Wilmington/ Harbor City	21,728

DISTRICT 5
Supervisor
Kathryn Barger

San Marino	$77,948
La Cañada Flintridge	67,500
Stevenson Ranch	63,247
Sierra Madre	56,026
South Pasadena	50,629
La Crescenta-Montrose	48,518
Castaic	47,795
Arcadia	41,080
San Dimas	40,843
Santa Clarita	40,271
Altadena	40,237
La Verne	40,150
Burbank	40,055
Pasadena	39,731
Chatsworth/ Porter Ranch	37,281
Glendora	36,855
East San Gabriel	36,382
Temple City	35,579
Monrovia	35,389
Quartz Hill	35,214
Granada Hills/ Knollwood	34,221
Lancaster	33,736
Duarte	32,487
Covina	32,116
Sunland/Tujunga/ Lake View Terrace/ Shadow Hills	32,089
Northridge	31,181
Glendale	31,110
Alhambra	30,913
Sun Village	29,487
Palmdale	28,237
Vincent	27,213
Lake Los Angeles	26,694
San Gabriel	26,613
Sun Valley/ La Tuna Canyon	22,596

Note: Places are listed according to the Supervisorial District in which they are primarily located. When a large portion of a locale's land straddles two districts, it is included in both.

Conclusion

Setting a Goal and Working Together to Achieve It

A wide range of stakeholders from county government, philanthropy, the business community, the nonprofit sector, and service delivery organizations not only supported *A Portrait of LA County* but also committed themselves to acting on its findings. This dynamic, diverse group envisioned several uses for the report's data, analysis, and recommendations, including the following:

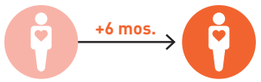
- **Mobilizing** their institutions around closing gaps in well-being and opportunity and addressing the root causes of inequity countywide.
- **Engaging** with local elected officials, community leaders, and residents, especially in the most vulnerable communities, to identify promising opportunities for partnership with the county, grant-makers, and other funders.
- **Taking stock** of innovative models from LA County and elsewhere that show promise for galvanizing new efforts and accelerating progress on key well-being challenges.
- **Strengthening** countywide service systems by making them more responsive to community needs.
- **Making decisions** based on the data in this report and collectively holding themselves accountable for achieving measurable results.

The data and analysis in *A Portrait of LA County* can be used not only to establish a baseline and track progress over time but also to set goals around which the project's stakeholders can rally. *Portrait* stakeholders have agreed that setting a bold but realistic goal for the future can energize existing efforts, stimulate new initiatives, and mobilize agencies, organizations, and communities to pull together toward a common end: improving well-being for all LA County residents and addressing well-being disparities in concrete, measureable ways. The goal, **to raise the level of well-being for all and narrow the gaps between groups by 2025,** and specific health, education, and earnings targets are described in BOX 1.

BOX 1 The Goal: Raise the Level of Well-Being for All and Narrow the Gap Between Groups by 2025

Today's LA County HD Index score is 5.43 out of a possible 10. **The target is a one-point increase in the HD Index score, to 6.43, by 2025.** Achieving this demanding but attainable goal in a way that results in measurable well-being improvements for all with a focus on the county's most vulnerable residents will require the following changes in health, education, and earnings over the next eight years.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

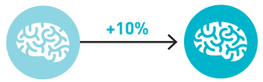


HEALTH: Extend life expectancy for all with targeted efforts for the groups with the lowest life expectancies, namely black, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and Native American residents.

☑ **All:** Increase LA County life expectancy at birth by six months, from 82.1 years to 82.6 years.

☑ **Narrow the Gap:** Increase the life expectancy at birth of black, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and Native American Angelenos to at least 80 years.

ENROLLMENT & ADULT EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



EDUCATION: Increase school enrollment and educational degree attainment with a focus on Struggling and Precarious LA County and Latino residents.

☑ **All:** Increase enrollment and adult educational attainment by approximately 10 percent.

We estimate that the county needs to enroll 250,000 more children and young adults between the ages of 3 and 24 in school, roughly 10 percent of all children and young adults in that age range. We also estimate that the following increases in adult educational attainment are required: 150,000 more adults 25 or older with high school or equivalency diplomas, 125,000 more adults with four-year college degrees, and 25,000 more adults with graduate or professional degrees. While the educational attainment target is ambitious, it involves less than than 4 percent of the adult population.

☑ **Narrow the Gap:** Focus school enrollment and educational attainment policies and programs in Struggling and Precarious LA, with particular attention to Latino families.

MEDIAN PERSONAL EARNINGS

EARNINGS: Lift median personal earnings (in inflation-adjusted dollars). It is easier to increase the wages of workers at the high end of the earnings scale, so moving the median with an eye toward income equality will require a laser focus on workers whose current median personal earnings range from $19,000 (Precarious LA County) to $25,000 (Struggling LA County).

☑ **All:** Increase LA County median personal earnings by $8,000, from $30,654 to $38,654.

☑ **Narrow the Gap:** Lift the lowest earnings from $19,000 to $27,000 in Precarious LA and from $25,000 to $33,000 in Struggling LA. Because women in every racial and ethnic group earn less than their male counterparts, increasing median personal earnings countywide will also require narrowing the gender wage gap.

Recommendations for Action

What will it take to boost the LA County HD Index score and narrow the well-being gaps between different groups of Angelenos?

Shoring up the foundations of well-being for all county residents as well as building on the strengths and expanding the opportunities of the groups that are struggling is key. Ten high-value, evidence-based areas of investment offer the potential to improve the overall well-being of county residents and narrow the well-being gaps this report highlights.

The stakeholders engaged in producing *A Portrait of LA County* champion the recommendations to follow, many of which were drawn from policies and programs already underway. Examples of ongoing cross-sector partnerships that offer great promise for addressing inequities are included in each section below. These examples are just a small sampling of the myriad efforts taking place countywide.

Particularly concerning are **racial and ethnic disparities** in social and economic outcomes.

ADDRESS THE GLARING RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN WELL-BEING IN THE COUNTY.

Closing gaps between racial and ethnic groups and increasing the countywide HD Index score will require investment in policies and programs that improve the health, education, and living standards of Latinos, black people, NHOPI people, and Native Americans.

While celebrating the assets of diverse groups in every corner of the county, this report also lays bare vast differences in well-being outcomes. Particularly concerning are racial and ethnic disparities both in social and economic outcomes and in the distribution of resources and opportunities. Although variations exist within every racial and ethnic group, on average, Asians and whites have much higher scores than Latinos, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, blacks, or Native Americans. Holding data and analysis up as a mirror to the county can help people better understand the stubborn legacy of past laws and practices, see clearly the challenges of the present, and commit themselves to building a better future. The new data available through this report is one resource among many that can inform policies and programs designed to ensure that everyone in LA County, no matter their neighborhood or racial or ethnic background, can realize their full potential.

- LA County, the City of Los Angeles, and other LA County cities have enacted policies to increase the minimum wage. These increases are expected to have significant benefits for workers and families. For example, the City of LA wage hike is expected to boost the earnings of four in ten workers. Half of all Latino workers will receive a wage increase.
- LA County will soon implement training on implicit bias and cultural competency for employees across county departments to help address the disproportionate representation of people of color in LA County systems.

- Thirteen county departments and several city governments have joined with jurisdictions nationwide to advance racial equity through the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.
- LA County is now implementing a countywide Prevention Plan to prevent people from entering the child welfare, foster care, and juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.
- The Department of Public Health seeks to expand partnerships to reduce health disparities through its recently launched Center for Health Equity.

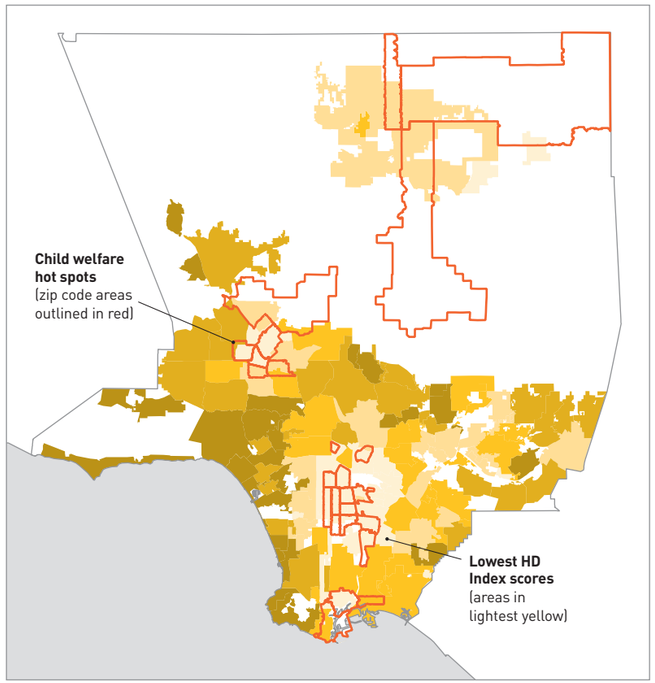
PRIORITIZE PLACES WHERE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IS AT RISK.

Closing gaps between high- and low-scoring places and increasing the countywide HD Index score will require investment in neighborhoods experiencing pervasive poverty, financial insecurity, poor health, trauma, low levels of education, exposure to pollution, and lack of neighborhood amenities like parks.

These places fall chiefly into Precarious LA and the roughly two dozen communities in Struggling LA that score below 4.0. These communities align closely with the child welfare hot spots that the Advancement Project identified using child welfare referrals and the presence or absence of abuse and neglect prevention programs in different zip codes. (Hot spot zip codes are outlined in red and superimposed on this LA County HD Index MAP 1. The lighter colors show lower HD Index scores.) People living in these neighborhoods have extremely low earnings (all but two have earnings below $23,500). Economic insecurity is their constant companion.

The county and its many partners could mitigate the severe financial stress and isolation that many families living in these communities experience by investing in economic opportunity and strengthening the five protective factors for child well-being. These factors, discussed on PAGE 97, include parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and children's own social and emotional competence.

MAP 1 Hot Spots Align Closely with Low HD Index Communities



- The Office of Child Protection's Prevention Plan is expanding resources at the community level to promote positive outcomes in early learning, healthy development, and a host of protective factors for families, especially those most vulnerable to child welfare system involvement.
- The Center for Financial Empowerment, with public and private funding from the county, CitiBank, and others, is working to build financial assets and promote economic security for low- and middle-income earners.
- The South Bay Counseling Center's "Thrive" program helps residents build upon their own skills to strengthen pathways to education and careers.
- Foundations are leading efforts to address inequities through innovative, intersectional, place-based approaches. For example, the Weingart Foundation has been explicit in its application of an equity lens to all of its funded projects.
- Community groups are working together using a variety of approaches to support families in fourteen Best Start Communities across the county.
- County libraries offer parent-and-me classes with mental health professionals in attendance to observe and talk with families about concerns and developmental issues.

REDUCE THE TOLL OF VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA.

Increasing the health and education components of the HD Index score requires reducing the violence to which children and other vulnerable groups are exposed.

Exposure to violence is inherently traumatic. Too many children experience mistreatment at the hands of family members, bullying by peers, and assaults in their neighborhoods, or witness violence at home or in their communities. Too many parents go about their daily lives carrying with them the trauma and pain of violent experiences in their childhoods. These experiences leave a mark. In the short term—in addition to causing immediate physical harm and even death—violent experiences can lead to a host of emotional, psychological, behavioral, and learning problems; they can also harm a child's brain and body in ways that affect physical and mental health in the long-term. Though violence affects all types of people and communities, its burdens fall with particular weight and frequency on people living in poverty. Intimate partner violence, for instance, impacts individuals and families at every income level and in every racial and ethnic group, but women—especially Native American and black women—LGBTQ people, and immigrant populations are at particular risk. Solutions include improving data collection to enhance accountability, investing in community-centered solutions, forging partnerships with law enforcement, building the five protective factors, and ensuring that service providers are trained to recognize and address the needs of trauma survivors.

- Synergies between county departments, along with cities and their partner organizations, are creating opportunities to reduce violence and improve the quality of life in communities. The Parks After Dark program, initially started in three LA parks as a summertime gang prevention effort in 2010, now involves twenty-three parks thanks to collaboration among the City of Los Angeles and the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Health, and Sheriff's Department. A 2017 study

Too many **children** experience **mistreatment** at the hands of family members, bullying by peers, and assaults in their neighborhoods, or witness violence at home or in their communities.

found that the program reached 178,000 participants in 2016 alone and increased physical activity among previously sedentary participants, reduced crime, and led to improvements in social cohesion.

- Countywide efforts to reduce stigma around mental health issues include a partnership between the Department of Mental Health and Univision (KMEX, Channel 34) that produced over one hundred Spanish language segments for Una Mente, Una Vida.

The **infant mortality rate** for black babies is three times as high as the rate for white babies.

PRIORITIZE THE HEALTH OF BLACK CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.
Increasing life expectancy in LA County requires improvements in the health of black families.

Black LA County residents have some of the shortest life expectancies among the county's racial and ethnic groups. The infant mortality rate for black babies is three times as high as the rate for white babies. Heart disease, homicide, and cancer disproportionately cut short the lives of black men. Black women are more likely to die of breast cancer, lung cancer, and diabetes than other LA women. The maternal mortality rate for black women is seven times higher than that of Latina women. Black Angelenos also have the highest smoking rate, although rates have dropped countywide. With education, early detection, preventative care, and improvements in the conditions of daily life, these gaps can be closed. Investing in public health campaigns and service delivery in the LA communities that have the highest shares of black residents would be high impact investments.

- The Black Infant Health Program, managed by the Department of Public Health, works with parents to build life skills and social support and reduce stress in culturally affirming ways. The program operates through the Children's Bureau in Lancaster and Magnolia Place in Los Angeles, Great Beginnings for Black Babies in Inglewood, the Children's Collective in South Los Angeles, and the Pasadena Public Health Department.
- City-level health policies throughout LA County restricting smoking in public places, along with other antismoking initiatives, can further hasten the decline in the overall smoking rate and reduce large disparities in smoking and resulting risks for premature death among black smokers. Great progress has been made, but work remains to be done.

INVEST IN UNIVERSAL HOME VISITATION.
Educational attainment rests on the foundations of school readiness laid during early childhood, and long-term health has its roots in our earliest experiences; home visitation thus contributes to both the health and education components of the HD Index.

Of all the babies born in Los Angeles County during 2006 and 2007, 14.6 percent, an astonishing one in every seven, were reported to child protective services before age five, evidence that far too many parents struggle with the sometimes overwhelming demands of caring for infants and toddlers and have too few trusted people to turn to for guidance and practical assistance. Effective home visitation programs connect families to resources and services and increase parents' understanding of the needs and typical behaviors of very young children. Home visitation professionals support mothers and fathers in their efforts to provide nurturing, stable, safe environments; promote optimal child development; cope with adverse, stressful experiences in healthy ways; gain skills and confidence; and meet their children's needs for attachment and protection.

- The county, First 5 LA, the Home Visiting Consortium, the Children's Data Network, the LA County Office of Education (LACOE), and other stakeholders are working together to expand home visitation programs for all mothers who want them.

INVEST IN HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS.
Lack of high-quality, reliable child care is an impediment to steady employment for parents in LA County, especially mothers; expansion of early childhood care and education could thus support higher incomes in the county while also bolstering positive child development outcomes.

Licensed centers and family child care homes have the capacity to serve just **13 percent** of working parents of children and toddlers.

Early care and education programs are essential for LA families for several reasons. First, without reliable child care, parents cannot work to support their families. Second, early care and education can support the healthy development of the tiniest Angelenos. The social, emotional, and cognitive development of young children, particularly children living in poverty, is enhanced by high-quality care; key to quality is the educational background of care providers. Third, quality care can model sensitive, appropriate care-giving and act as a bulwark against child maltreatment by alleviating parents' stress and bringing them into contact with people who can support them. Today, there are too few affordable, high-quality care spots to meet this need. Licensed centers and family child care homes have the capacity to serve just 13 percent of working parents of children and toddlers. Making quality care more affordable to poor families, investing in the early care and education workforce, strengthening the Quality Rating and Improvement Systems that improve and assess the quality of childcare providers, and investing in expansion of the system overall are high priorities.

- First 5 LA, the county, the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development, LACOE, school districts, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Universal Preschool, and other child care advocates are working to increase the supply of high-quality early childhood education and care spots, particularly infant/toddler care in licensed settings; improve access to early childhood education; and invest in a trained workforce prepared to deliver high-quality care.
- First 5 has joined with eight school districts to implement a kindergarten readiness assessment tool that will provide policymakers with valuable insights and identify population-wide vulnerabilities in social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, communication skills, and physical health and well-being.

Children whose families and communities face disadvantage and isolation **deserve the best schools** that we as a society can give them—but they often get the opposite.

MAKE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY A REALITY.

Black and Latino children, children living in poverty, and children who are learning English have too few high-quality educational opportunities. Latinos in particular have the lowest levels of education in LA County. Boosting the education score requires greater equity in educational resources and outcomes.

Latino and black children, children who haven't yet mastered English, and children living in poverty are more likely than white children to attend under-resourced and underperforming schools that are highly segregated by race and income; to endure overcrowding; to have inexperienced or unqualified teachers; and to lack access to the advanced classes that competitive colleges look for. Children whose families and communities face disadvantage and isolation deserve the best schools that we as a society can give them—but they often get the opposite. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) promises to enhance equity by channeling more state resources to schools educating the neediest students; districts like LA Unified with large populations of low-income, English language learner, or foster care students are entitled to more funds under this new formula. Funding does not automatically yield better education quality and outcomes, but it is an important ingredient. Even with the LCFF, however, LA County still falls short of the resources required to make educational equity a reality. Somehow, LA County must increase the financial resources available to schools; investing in children and schools today will benefit the whole county in terms of workforce skills, competitiveness, crime, poverty, and more tomorrow.

- LACOE's Road to Success Academy (RTSA) is an award-winning model of instruction and intervention for incarcerated youth. The approach features interdisciplinary, project-based learning focused on themes that address students' academic and mental health needs. It incorporates activities to promote self-esteem and empower students to make positive choices and behavioral changes. The goals of RTSA are to reduce recidivism and support students in becoming productive citizens prepared to focus on their education, finish high school, and transition to college and careers.
- Through its Foster Youth Services, LACOE has greatly expanded academic support for foster students by providing advocacy, connection to tutoring, mentoring, appropriate instruction, and other services. In addition, the program has created an integrated student record to assure that records follow students through moves to different schools.
- The Homeless Education Services program coordinates with school district liaisons to provide education services and coordinate with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which addresses the problems that homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.
- Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based strategy for creating more effective, efficient, and equitable learning environments for all students. PBIS is in its third year of implementation throughout LACOE's system of twenty-five charter, two faith-based, and 325 traditional schools. Data from the 2014–15 and 2016–17 school years found a 55 percent reduction in office discipline referrals and 30 percent reduction in out-of-school suspensions countywide.

HELP YOUNG PEOPLE GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL AND SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD.

Reducing the rates of high school dropout and youth disconnection will increase both the education and earnings components of the HD Index.

Young adulthood is a critical time for developing the capabilities required for a good life, such as educational and professional credentials, workforce skills and an understanding of workplace norms, and self-awareness and emotional regulation. The pride of completing high school, earning a postsecondary certification, or graduating college and the sense of belonging and purpose that come with a job are important rites of passage on the journey to adulthood. Too many young Angelenos do not have these valuable opportunities and experiences. The county rate of youth disconnection, 11.8 percent, is on par with the national rate, but for some groups and neighborhoods, the rate is roughly one in every five young people between the ages of 16 and 24. Dropping out of high school is often the first step in sometimes years-long periods of disconnection. Keeping young people in school is easier than reengaging them after they've left. Students facing challenges outside school, such as violence at home, mental or physical health issues, substance use, criminal justice involvement, trauma, or gang activity, need a more supportive, enveloping school environment. Schools should also act on the early warning signs for dropout, such as high rates of absenteeism, repeating grades, or failing classes.

The county rate of **youth disconnection**, **11.8 percent,** is on par with the national rate, but for some groups and neighborhoods, the rate is roughly **one in every five** young people between the ages of 16 and 24.

- The LA County strategic plan calls for improving educational outcomes for systems-involved youth. This work is a major focus of the LA County Education Coordinating Council and its partnerships with local school districts, community-based organizations, LACOE, the Juvenile Court, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Probation Department.
- The Los Angeles Performance Partnership Pilot (LAP3) is expanding its successful efforts to address the needs of disconnected young people, including those who research suggests face the highest barriers to connection, even in a strong economy. This group includes young people with disabilities, youth with involvement in the criminal justice system, young people of color, and young mothers. It is also addressing the unique challenges of LGBTQ youth and homeless youth. LAP3 coordinates the efforts of Los Angeles County, the City of LA, LA Unified, and LA County community colleges, in collaboration with the LA Chamber of Commerce, community-based organizations, and philanthropy.
- The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the California Community Foundation are funding the adoption of substance-use screening and early intervention approaches in four school wellness centers in Los Angeles County.

Affordable housing has the potential to **unlock greater social mobility** by enabling low-income families to live in safer neighborhoods with better schools, more amenities, and greater access to opportunity.

EXPAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

High housing costs shut low- and middle-income families out of neighborhoods with good schools and easy access to jobs, thus impacting both the education and income scores. The lack of affordable housing also fuels LA's homelessness crisis, which has negative health, education, and earnings impacts for families and individuals.

Addressing the affordable housing crisis through policies and incentives that expand the stock of housing, particularly affordable units, is an investment that will help to reduce and prevent homelessness and support neighborhood revitalization without the wholesale displacement of often long-settled communities. Affordable housing also has the potential to unlock greater social mobility by enabling low-income families to live in safer neighborhoods with better schools, more amenities, and greater access to opportunity.

- Voter-approved Measure H, decriminalization, and the development of comprehensive, coordinated regional initiatives and innovative strategies have reenergized efforts to eliminate homelessness. Permanent supportive housing, coordinated service delivery, subsidized housing, and prevention approaches are some of the many ways the county is addressing homelessness.
- Since 2011, United Way's Home for Good has supported efforts to end chronic homelessness among veterans.
- The Flexible Housing Funding Pool, funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and other public and private sources, supports a range of programs. For example, Just in Reach provides housing and support services for people with mental illnesses and other health conditions, whose previous options were jails and hospital emergency rooms—both costly and neither effective for their needs.
- The Southeast Los Angeles Collaborative is working to assure that housing associated with transit-oriented development and other public investments is designed to meet the needs and incomes of existing community residents. The SLATE-Z (South LA Transit Empowerment Zone), an example of such a model, successfully organized a Promise Zone around rail and transit investments.
- A June 2017 Board of Supervisors motion called for the Homeless Initiative to convene a work group comprised of the Department of Public Social Services, the CEO Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, the Department of Children and Family Services, First 5 LA, and others to provide the Board with an assessment of the need for child care among homeless families and recommendations for using Measure H and California Department of Education funds to meet that need.

PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY IN PAY.

The low relative pay of women is a drag on the Income Index score; boosting women's wages is a sure route to higher HD Index scores and better outcomes for children, especially those growing up in female-headed households.

Women in LA County are **more educated** than men, but they typically earn nearly **$6,000 less** per year.

Women in LA County are more educated than men, but they typically earn nearly $6,000 less per year. The gap is larger for some groups—about $15,000 for whites—and smaller for others—just $2,500 for blacks—but it exists for every racial and ethnic group. Some of the earnings gap can be traced to the courses of study women have traditionally chosen, to the fact that women are more likely to work part time, and to occupational differences; women are disproportionately concentrated in lower-paying occupational categories. The gender division of labor, a term that describes who does what when it comes to work in and outside the home, is also a culprit. One reason women are more likely to work part time is that, while they have joined the workforce in droves, they still shoulder a disproportionate share of unpaid work in the home, including child care and elder care. Discrimination against women, especially mothers, in pay, hiring, and promotion still exists. And, as the recent wave of sexual harassment claims and subsequent deluge of personal stories blanketing the media makes abundantly clear, women today encounter sexual pressure, coercion, and even assault in the workplace to an astonishing degree; too many women see their careers derailed by sexual harassment and the threat of retaliation. Several steps are needed: paid parental leave for fathers and mothers; subsidized child care; more support for girls and women in STEM fields; enforcement—with teeth—of existing employment discrimination laws; and zero tolerance for anyone who sexually harasses a colleague.

- The Women and Girls Initiative is working with county departments and the county system as a whole to assess gender equality in pay and workforce opportunities and to identify disparities in health, financial self-sufficiency, social services participation, and other metrics for women and girls.

The following indicator tables were prepared using the latest available US Census and California state government data. All data are standardized to ensure comparability.

To download Excel or .csv files for the indicators, go to: www.measureofamerica.org/download-agreement.

WWW.**MEASUREOFAMERICA**.ORG

Los Angeles County HD Index by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Nativity

RANK	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% OF ADULTS 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
United States	**5.17**	79.3	12.9	30.6	11.6	77.3	31,416	5.55	5.17	4.78
California	**5.54**	81.9	17.8	32.3	12.0	78.6	31,733	6.61	5.17	4.84
Los Angeles County	**5.43**	**82.1**	**21.9**	**30.9**	**10.8**	**79.5**	**30,654**	**6.73**	**4.96**	**4.60**
GENDER										
1 Women	**5.48**	84.5	21.9	31.0	10.8	80.9	26,652	7.71	5.10	3.63
2 Men	**5.17**	79.6	21.8	30.8	10.7	78.1	32,444	5.68	4.82	5.00
RACE/ETHNICITY										
1 Asians	**7.37**	87.3	12.2	50.2	15.2	86.6	38,016	8.89	7.12	6.10
2 Whites	**6.96**	80.9	5.4	47.9	19.1	81.6	47,607	6.19	7.02	7.66
3 Native Americans	**4.64**	76.9	16.6	26.8	10.3	66.7	35,429	4.54	3.77	5.61
4 Blacks	**4.54**	75.6	10.1	25.8	9.6	73.6	32,433	3.99	4.64	5.00
5 NHOPI	**4.44**	75.4	10.4	18.1	1.2	81.7	31,152	3.92	4.69	4.72
6 Latinos	**4.32**	84.4	40.5	11.7	3.1	78.0	22,617	7.66	2.80	2.50
GENDER AND RACE/ETHNICITY										
1 Asian Women	**7.43**	89.7	13.5	49.1	14.2	86.8	34,496	9.89	6.99	5.42
2 Asian Men	**7.26**	84.6	10.6	51.5	16.3	86.4	41,812	7.73	7.28	6.76
3 White Men	**6.98**	78.7	5.1	49.0	19.3	80.1	55,348	5.28	6.95	8.70
4 White Women	**6.93**	83.1	5.6	46.7	19.0	83.2	40,702	7.11	7.10	6.57
5 Black Women	**5.07**	78.7	9.7	27.4	10.6	76.1	32,033	5.30	5.02	4.91
6 NHOPI Men	**4.85**	74.1	12.9	20.6	0.0	89.1	36,684	3.36	5.33	5.85
7 Latina Women	**4.47**	86.8	40.2	12.6	3.5	79.6	20,258	8.65	3.02	1.73
8 Latino Men	**4.16**	81.7	40.8	10.8	2.7	76.4	25,547	6.55	2.58	3.34
9 Black Men	**4.07**	72.1	10.6	23.8	8.3	71.1	34,533	2.54	4.23	5.43
10 NHOPI Women	**3.70**	76.6	8.0	15.8	2.4	75.8	22,748	4.40	4.17	2.54
NATIVITY										
Native-Born	**5.66**	79.9	8.9	36.9	13.2	80.7	33,332	5.77	6.03	5.19
Foreign-Born	**4.97**	86.5	36.5	24.2	8.0	68.4	26,319	8.53	2.83	3.55

Source: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from the US Census Bureau 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.
Note: Data on Native American men and women have been suppressed due to unreliable estimates.

Five Los Angeles Counties

FIVE LOS ANGELES COUNTIES	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL % of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% AGES 3 TO 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)
1 Glittering LA	**9.00+**	86.4	2.3	69.9	31.5	91.7	52,687+
2 Elite Enclave LA	**7 to 8.99**	83.9	5.4	58.3	24.0	84.7	48,347
3 Main Street LA	**5 to 6.99**	82.9	14.9	35.5	12.6	82.6	35,773
4 Struggling LA	**3 to 4.99**	81.5	30.8	19.6	5.4	77.1	25,469
5 Precarious LA	**below 3**	78.7	51.8	4.7	0.7	73.4	19,060

Source: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from California Department of Public Health and population data from the US Census Bureau 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2015.

HD Index by 106 Cities and Unincorporated Areas

RANK	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
United States	**5.17**	79.3	12.9	30.6	11.6	77.3	31,416	5.55	5.17	4.78
California	**5.54**	81.9	17.8	32.3	12.0	78.6	31,733	6.61	5.17	4.84z
Los Angeles County	**5.43**	82.1	21.9	30.9	10.8	79.5	30654	6.73	4.96	4.60
1 San Marino	**9.43**	86.5	5.5	71.1	37.5	92.1	77,948	8.56	9.72	10.00
2 Manhattan Beach	**9.34**	86.1	2.2	73.6	31.3	91.2	82,340	8.37	9.64	10.00
3 Palos Verdes Estates	**9.30**	85.5	1.4	75.1	34.8	92.8	82,813	8.10	9.79	10.00
4 Rancho Palos Verdes	**9.12**	86.7	2.4	64.9	31.1	94.3	58,699	8.61	9.65	9.11
5 Malibu	**9.07**	89.8	2.3	60.2	27.9	90.7	52,687	9.91	8.95	8.36
6 La Cañada Flintridge	**9.03**	83.9	2.4	76.1	36.1	91.2	67,500	7.44	9.64	10.00
7 Hermosa Beach	**9.01**	85.4	1.0	71.0	25.5	85.9	70,730	8.08	8.93	10.00
8 Stevenson Ranch	**8.75**	86.2	4.7	50.9	20.4	91.7	63,247	8.41	8.20	9.63
9 Beverly Hills	**8.70**	86.6	5.0	61.1	30.0	88.1	55,893	8.60	8.73	8.77
10 South Pasadena	**8.27**	85.2	4.5	59.0	26.6	90.3	50,629	8.01	8.71	8.08
11 Calabasas	**8.24**	84.0	3.0	63.7	31.6	88.1	51,611	7.49	9.00	8.22
12 Sierra Madre	**8.24**	81.8	1.6	63.7	27.5	92.8	56,026	6.59	9.33	8.79
13 Redondo Beach	**7.99**	82.3	4.2	56.9	21.9	85.4	59,819	6.78	7.96	9.24
14 View Park-Windsor Hills	**7.88**	83.3	4.5	51.5	27.4	91.2	49,375	7.22	8.50	7.91
15 Santa Monica	**7.83**	83.2	4.7	65.3	28.1	80.4	51,681	7.15	8.11	8.23
16 Castaic	**7.81**	88.9	8.1	32.8	8.7	86.4	47,795	9.53	6.23	7.68
17 Cerritos	**7.61**	86.4	8.3	48.2	17.2	87.1	43,340	8.50	7.34	7.01
18 La Crescenta-Montrose	**7.58**	82.3	4.6	52.5	18.3	91.5	48,518	6.78	8.16	7.79
19 Culver City	**7.56**	83.4	7.8	53.4	22.7	82.3	50,272	7.26	7.38	8.03
20 Agoura Hills	**7.53**	81.8	4.9	51.3	20.9	85.9	52,395	6.60	7.68	8.32
21 Walnut	**7.52**	85.8	7.0	52.4	15.4	86.6	42,500	8.24	7.46	6.87
22 Arcadia	**7.50**	85.3	7.9	51.8	19.5	89.4	41,080	8.03	7.85	6.63
23 El Segundo	**7.39**	82.7	4.4	49.3	17.2	81.4	51,458	6.95	7.02	8.20
24 Diamond Bar	**7.38**	85.4	7.9	50.9	17.2	86.7	41,012	8.08	7.44	6.62
25 Torrance	**7.30**	84.1	6.5	45.9	15.4	84.8	45,422	7.54	7.02	7.33
26 Claremont	**7.06**	82.9	6.8	56.2	31.4	92.9	33,380	7.03	8.95	5.20
27 East San Gabriel	**6.94**	85.2	12.6	45.4	14.4	88.4	36,382	8.00	7.03	5.79
28 Altadena	**6.76**	82.9	10.5	46.3	19.5	81.7	40,237	7.06	6.75	6.49
29 Pasadena	**6.75**	82.9	12.6	50.0	23.7	79.8	39,731	7.03	6.83	6.40
30 Santa Clarita	**6.65**	84.0	11.0	32.7	10.4	84.1	40,271	7.51	5.94	6.50
31 West Hollywood	**6.64**	83.3	4.6	62.6	17.1	54.4	44,276	7.19	5.56	7.15
32 San Dimas	**6.62**	81.9	7.9	35.7	13.3	87.2	40,843	6.62	6.65	6.59
33 La Verne	**6.46**	81.8	8.9	36.7	14.0	83.5	40,150	6.59	6.31	6.48
34 Hacienda Heights	**6.43**	84.3	14.2	35.9	10.7	82.2	36,868	7.62	5.77	5.88
35 Burbank	**6.40**	82.4	11.3	38.3	11.4	80.6	40,055	6.84	5.89	6.46
36 Del Aire	**6.38**	83.8	19.1	34.1	11.3	82.4	38,517	7.41	5.53	6.19
37 Temple City	**6.31**	82.6	13.8	37.3	11.3	87.0	35,579	6.94	6.34	5.64
38 Rowland Heights	**6.26**	87.0	15.6	36.3	9.0	81.0	30,042	8.77	5.55	4.46
39 West Carson	**6.13**	83.5	15.2	34.5	8.5	80.8	35,816	7.28	5.44	5.68
40 Glendora	**6.06**	81.1	9.8	32.5	12.3	83.4	36,855	6.30	6.00	5.88
41 Glendale	**6.04**	84.1	15.6	37.9	13.0	81.7	31,110	7.55	5.85	4.71
42 La Mirada	**5.99**	82.2	11.2	29.8	11.7	80.4	35,942	6.76	5.50	5.71
43 Monrovia	**5.88**	80.3	11.2	36.6	12.5	83.1	35,389	5.94	6.11	5.60
44 Monterey Park	**5.85**	85.1	21.3	30.4	9.2	80.8	30,546	7.96	5.02	4.58
45 Lakewood	**5.84**	80.2	12.1	27.8	8.0	79.8	40,060	5.91	5.16	6.46
46 Alhambra	**5.76**	83.7	19.3	32.9	10.7	80.2	30,913	7.38	5.22	4.66
47 Whittier	**5.67**	82.1	16.7	24.2	9.4	79.4	34,819	6.71	4.82	5.49
48 West Covina	**5.63**	83.2	16.9	26.5	6.5	81.2	31,285	7.18	4.96	4.75
49 Quartz Hill	**5.56**	82.4	15.0	18.4	8.6	76.1	35,214	6.82	4.29	5.57
50 East Whittier	**5.55**	83.6	12.3	17.4	5.2	78.4	31,993	7.32	4.44	4.90
51 San Gabriel	**5.53**	84.3	21.9	30.6	8.1	84.6	26,613	7.64	5.31	3.62
52 Duarte	**5.49**	80.5	17.8	30.4	11.9	82.4	32,487	6.03	5.44	5.01
53 Gardena	**5.46**	83.5	18.2	23.2	5.5	80.4	30,074	7.29	4.63	4.47
54 Signal Hill	**5.43**	78.4	14.1	35.6	11.9	77.2	36,280	5.17	5.34	5.77
55 Covina	**5.40**	80.8	14.0	25.9	7.1	81.5	32,116	6.15	5.12	4.93
56 Lomita	**5.33**	80.2	13.2	28.1	8.8	81.0	31,616	5.90	5.28	4.82
57 Santa Fe Springs	**5.20**	82.3	23.2	14.2	4.3	81.1	31,495	6.78	4.03	4.79
58 Avocado Heights	**5.18**	84.1	27.0	15.4	5.0	78.9	29,098	7.56	3.73	4.24
59 Downey	**5.12**	81.4	23.9	21.4	6.1	79.1	31,152	6.43	4.20	4.72
60 Carson	**5.07**	80.8	20.4	24.4	6.4	78.4	30,650	6.16	4.44	4.60
61 Los Angeles	**5.02**	82.2	24.5	32.0	10.8	77.9	26,505	6.73	4.73	3.60
62 Long Beach	**5.00**	79.4	20.6	29.2	10.4	77.7	30,848	5.60	4.75	4.65
63 Montebello	**4.92**	83.7	28.3	18.7	5.3	77.5	26,814	7.38	3.70	3.68
64 West Whittier-Los Nietos	**4.87**	82.0	28.6	12.6	3.4	79.9	29,707	6.67	3.56	4.39
65 South Whittier	**4.86**	81.1	25.0	14.9	4.0	80.7	29,634	6.29	3.92	4.37
66 Bellflower	**4.74**	80.2	22.4	16.6	4.2	79.5	29,413	5.91	4.01	4.32
67 Artesia	**4.69**	80.3	23.1	26.5	7.7	79.9	26,175	5.94	4.61	3.51
68 Norwalk	**4.67**	81.0	26.5	15.4	4.1	77.8	28,692	6.24	3.61	4.15
69 San Fernando	**4.61**	82.7	41.5	12.0	2.3	83.1	26,673	6.98	3.21	3.64
70 Rosemead	**4.58**	83.8	33.8	16.8	3.9	80.1	23,444	7.43	3.56	2.75
71 Citrus	**4.49**	81.9	26.8	12.9	3.3	77.1	26,044	6.63	3.38	3.47
72 Palmdale	**4.49**	79.8	25.8	14.8	4.8	78.4	28,237	5.74	3.70	4.04
73 Hawthorne	**4.49**	80.5	26.2	19.0	4.9	78.3	26,303	6.05	3.87	3.54
74 Lancaster	**4.46**	76.4	18.6	15.1	5.3	75.5	33,736	4.32	3.78	5.27
75 Pico Rivera	**4.44**	81.3	31.8	11.2	2.6	79.0	26,960	6.37	3.23	3.71
76 Walnut Park	**4.35**	90.5	53.6	5.7	1.6	75.4	19,368	10.00	1.63	1.42
77 West Puente Valley	**4.35**	82.2	36.4	8.8	2.3	78.7	25,872	6.73	2.88	3.43
78 La Puente	**4.34**	82.9	39.5	9.2	2.1	78.8	25,128	7.02	2.76	3.23
79 Valinda	**4.31**	82.3	33.8	12.0	2.3	76.7	25,026	6.79	2.95	3.20
80 El Monte	**4.31**	85.1	42.2	11.7	2.3	77.7	22,088	7.94	2.65	2.33

Source: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from the US Census Bureau 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

HD Index by 106 Cities and Unincorporated Areas

RANK	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
81 Azusa	4.27	80.7	22.3	19.6	6.3	83.3	21,371	6.12	4.60	2.10
82 Baldwin Park	4.24	82.6	37.4	11.3	2.5	80.0	23,374	6.92	3.08	2.72
83 Lawndale	4.23	80.6	30.0	15.6	3.8	79.4	24,380	6.07	3.60	3.02
84 Inglewood	4.22	79.8	27.5	18.2	6.0	78.5	24,638	5.74	3.84	3.09
85 Vincent	4.20	79.0	27.9	11.4	2.1	79.3	27,213	5.40	3.43	3.78
86 South El Monte	4.15	85.6	50.1	7.4	2.1	77.3	21,666	8.18	2.07	2.20
87 Pomona	4.13	81.7	32.5	17.6	5.0	76.9	22,457	6.56	3.39	2.45
88 Commerce	3.96	81.7	45.0	7.5	3.1	80.3	23,358	6.55	2.62	2.72
89 South Gate	3.93	83.6	47.6	7.6	1.7	76.6	22,228	7.32	2.10	2.38
90 Bell	3.90	86.5	52.6	7.3	1.1	76.3	19,207	8.53	1.81	1.36
91 Lake Los Angeles	3.89	76.2	24.8	5.9	1.8	84.3	26,694	4.25	3.77	3.65
92 Hawaiian Gardens	3.83	83.6	41.2	10.1	2.0	70.3	21,845	7.33	1.91	2.26
93 Paramount	3.71	80.2	42.1	8.2	2.2	77.3	23,480	5.90	2.46	2.76
94 Sun Village	3.66	75.8	34.7	9.9	1.7	74.4	29,487	4.07	2.57	4.34
95 South San Jose Hills	3.58	82.2	43.2	8.1	2.2	72.6	21,109	6.76	1.96	2.02
96 Lynwood	3.52	81.7	47.2	6.0	1.6	77.0	20,842	6.55	2.08	1.93
97 East Los Angeles	3.28	81.3	53.3	6.1	1.3	75.6	20,424	6.39	1.67	1.79
98 Compton	3.19	78.4	39.9	7.3	1.9	74.7	21,444	5.18	2.25	2.13
99 Bell Gardens	3.16	81.8	55.7	5.4	1.1	76.3	19,065	6.58	1.58	1.31
100 Maywood	3.11	81.3	58.8	4.7	0.7	75.2	19,651	6.37	1.45	1.52
101 Huntington Park	3.11	81.9	58.6	5.8	1.2	76.9	18,496	6.64	1.61	1.10
102 Cudahy	2.84	79.2	57.1	4.6	1.5	77.3	19,234	5.51	1.65	1.37
103 Westmont	2.83	76.3	30.4	7.3	1.5	71.7	20,503	4.28	2.38	1.82
104 Lennox	2.63	76.8	51.2	6.3	1.3	78.2	19,155	4.51	2.02	1.34
105 East Rancho Dominguez	2.59	76.1	47.3	4.3	1.2	74.7	20,391	4.23	1.77	1.78
106 Florence-Graham	2.44	78.0	58.5	4.4	0.9	73.0	18,405	5.02	1.24	1.07

Source: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from the US Census Bureau 2010–2014. Education and earnings: US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

HD Index by 35 City of LA Community Plan Areas

RANK	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
City of Los Angeles	5.02	82.2	24.5	32.0	10.8	77.9	26,505	6.73	4.73	3.60
1 Bel Air & Beverly Crest	9.51	87.4	2.3	72.9	38.4	91.7	66,113	8.90	9.69	9.93
2 Brentwood & Pacific Palisades	9.24	86.3	1.8	78.0	37.8	87.9	65,982	8.47	9.33	9.92
3 Westchester & Playa del Rey	7.99	85.1	3.9	60.0	24.6	86.8	47,527	7.97	8.36	7.65
4 West Los Angeles	7.98	85.4	6.5	65.5	29.1	79.2	49,304	8.08	7.97	7.90
5 Venice	7.77	85.9	6.2	62.3	22.2	70.0	52,797	8.27	6.66	8.37
6 Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Toluca Lake & Cahuenga Pass	7.62	82.7	2.9	61.8	23.0	78.9	51,988	6.95	7.66	8.27
7 Encino, Tarzana	7.45	85.2	5.6	51.9	20.3	85.1	42,002	7.99	7.57	6.79
8 Chatsworth, Porter Ranch	6.57	83.7	11.6	39.8	13.8	83.9	37,281	7.39	6.36	5.96
9 Palms, Mar Vista & Del Rey	6.40	82.4	10.9	52.6	19.7	74.7	37,491	6.84	6.35	6.00
10 Westwood	6.36	87.7	3.1	72.4	37.1	94.4	16,044	9.03	9.95	0.12
11 Northridge	6.35	84.3	9.9	40.6	13.3	86.6	31,181	7.60	6.71	4.72
12 Granada Hills & Knollwood	6.23	83.2	11.9	36.3	11.8	84.4	34,221	7.16	6.16	5.37
13 Canoga Park, Winnetka, Woodland Hills & West Hills	6.02	82.8	14.8	37.2	12.9	79.9	34,243	7.00	5.69	5.37
14 Silver Lake, Echo Park & Elysian Valley	5.96	84.0	19.3	42.4	13.7	77.6	31,673	7.51	5.53	4.83
15 Hollywood	5.52	81.9	15.3	46.3	14.3	70.0	31,319	6.63	5.18	4.75
16 Central City	5.50	79.4	18.7	43.8	14.9	62.8	41,160	5.60	4.27	6.65
17 Wilshire	5.41	83.7	20.5	41.3	12.7	75.5	26,683	7.39	5.19	3.64
18 San Pedro	5.38	80.9	19.2	25.6	7.6	82.1	32,344	6.20	4.95	4.98
19 Sunland, Tujunga, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills & East La Tuna Canyon	5.28	81.2	16.1	24.7	7.2	77.2	32,089	6.35	4.56	4.92
20 Reseda & West Van Nuys	5.04	82.7	24.6	23.5	7.0	78.3	27,782	6.96	4.23	3.92
21 North Hollywood & Valley Village	4.92	81.6	19.9	32.8	8.4	74.1	27,157	6.48	4.51	3.76
22 Northeast Los Angeles	4.85	83.3	30.9	25.4	8.0	80.3	24,503	7.22	4.27	3.05
23 Van Nuys & North Sherman Oaks	4.62	80.9	23.3	29.0	8.3	76.1	25,343	6.19	4.38	3.29
24 Sylmar	4.56	81.4	31.8	16.9	4.5	79.3	26,708	6.43	3.60	3.65
25 Sun Valley & La Tuna Canyon	4.19	82.1	33.5	17.4	4.1	77.6	22,596	6.72	3.36	2.49
26 West Adams, Baldwin Hills & Leimert	4.10	79.1	25.3	20.3	7.4	76.1	24,254	5.44	3.86	2.98
27 Mission Hills, Panorama City & North Hills	3.99	81.6	34.4	17.8	3.6	75.7	22,095	6.49	3.14	2.33
28 Harbor Gateway	3.91	78.7	27.4	19.7	4.0	78.1	23,106	5.29	3.78	2.64
29 Arleta & Pacoima	3.74	82.9	47.0	8.5	2.1	74.5	21,644	7.05	1.99	2.19
30 Wilmington & Harbor City	3.66	80.0	36.5	12.5	3.1	76.9	21,728	5.85	2.90	2.22
31 Central City North	3.50	82.3	39.0	22.2	6.9	54.4	20,909	6.77	1.79	1.95
32 Westlake	3.34	82.7	45.9	17.5	3.9	74.7	17,026	6.97	2.53	0.53
33 Boyle Heights	3.17	81.9	55.1	7.6	1.6	75.8	18,739	6.62	1.69	1.19
34 South Los Angeles	3.10	79.3	39.6	11.6	2.9	78.2	17,988	5.55	2.84	0.91
35 Southeast Los Angeles	2.26	77.7	55.3	4.5	0.9	74.8	16,921	4.89	1.42	0.49

Source: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from the US Census Bureau, 2010–2014. Education and earnings: Custom tabulations obtained from the US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

HD Index by Asian Subgroup

RANK	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
Los Angeles County	**5.43**	82.1	21.9	30.9	10.8	79.5	30,654	6.73	4.96	4.60
Los Angeles County Asians	**7.37**	**87.3**	**12.2**	**50.2**	**15.2**	**86.6**	**38,016**	**8.89**	**7.12**	**6.10**
Indian	**9.10**	88.1	7.2	71.3	37.0	87.7	56,021	9.21	9.31	8.78
Japanese	**7.71**	86.2	4.2	48.7	14.3	85.5	46,321	8.41	7.26	7.47
Chinese (includes Taiwanese)	**7.30**	88.1	18.1	49.0	18.2	87.5	35,803	9.19	7.02	5.68
Korean	**7.24**	87.6	7.2	52.6	14.7	86.0	34,037	9.00	7.37	5.33
Filipino	**7.14**	85.5	5.4	54.1	8.3	84.0	38,917	8.12	7.04	6.26
Other Southeast Asian	**6.81**	87.3	11.9	42.9	10.8	87.2	31,843	8.89	6.68	4.87
Other South Asian	**6.66**	87.3	10.2	49.8	20.3	85.6	27,174	8.89	7.32	3.77
Vietnamese	**6.31**	87.3	29.5	30.0	7.9	88.1	31,434	8.89	5.27	4.78
Thai	**6.24**	87.3	13.4	43.4	10.6	79.2	28,004	8.89	5.86	3.98
Cambodian	**5.17**	87.3	36.0	18.2	2.9	79.7	24,918	8.89	3.44	3.17

Source: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from the US Census Bureau 2010–2014. Education and earnings: Measure of American calculations using American Community Survey 2011–2015.
Note: "Other South Asian" includes Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan. "Other Southeast Asian" includes Burmese, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, and Malaysian.

Human Development Indicators by Latino Subgroup

RANK	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)
Los Angeles County	21.9	30.9	10.8	79.5	30,654
Los Angeles County Latinos	40.5	11.7	3.1	78.0	22,617
Central American	46.5	9.9	2.1	76.4	20,965
Mexican	41.5	10.2	2.7	78.1	22,766
Other	25.3	19.5	7.1	80.6	24,489
Puerto Rican, Dominican and Cuban	18.6	30.4	8.6	77.4	31,821
South American	13.8	34.3	10.4	81.6	29,919
Spaniard	10.7	39.7	15.6	83.3	43,331
Foreign-Born Latino	55.0	7.0	1.9	56.8	21,793
Native-Born Latino	17.1	19.5	5.1	80.1	24,883

Source: Measure of America calculations using American Community Survey 2011–2015. from the US Census Bureau 2010–2014. Education and earnings: Measure of American calculations using ACS, 2011–2015.
Note: Other category includes people of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin who do identify with the listed subgroups.

HD Index by 15 City of LA Council Districts

COUNCIL DISTRICT	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS ($)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
City of LA	**5.02**	82.2	24.5	32.0	10.8	77.9	26,505	6.73	4.73	3.60
5	**7.76**	85.3	4.8	63.2	27.7	85.7	41,672	8.05	8.50	6.73
11	**7.69**	84.5	7.1	61.6	25.3	80.7	47,268	7.73	7.74	7.61
4	**7.13**	83.5	6.1	58.5	20.3	76.8	43,532	7.30	7.05	7.04
12	**6.59**	83.8	10.0	40.0	13.7	85.0	36,344	7.43	6.55	5.79
3	**5.57**	82.8	18.8	32.2	10.5	78.9	30,680	7.00	5.09	4.61
2	**5.03**	81.3	20.5	33.3	9.7	75.9	28,008	6.38	4.73	3.98
13	**4.57**	82.4	26.7	31.1	7.8	73.9	23,535	6.85	4.09	2.77
14	**4.45**	82.2	33.9	24.4	7.8	77.0	23,768	6.74	3.76	2.84
7	**4.44**	81.7	31.7	17.0	4.5	77.0	25,744	6.53	3.39	3.39
10	**4.25**	81.2	26.8	25.6	7.7	75.7	22,401	6.32	4.01	2.43
15	**3.93**	79.3	30.9	16.8	4.5	77.9	23,399	5.55	3.50	2.73
6	**3.89**	81.4	35.7	16.7	3.6	75.6	21,773	6.42	3.02	2.23
1	**3.72**	83.6	43.1	19.0	5.3	75.6	18,046	7.35	2.87	0.93
8	**3.24**	78.0	35.8	11.3	3.1	76.0	20,765	5.01	2.79	1.90
9	**2.44**	78.9	55.7	5.8	1.4	77.0	16,374	5.38	1.68	0.26

Source: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from the US Census Bureau 2010–2014. Education and earnings: Custom tabulations obtained from the US Census Bureau ACS, 2011–2015.

Methodological Note

Human Development

Human development is about what people can do and be. It is formally defined as the process of improving people's well-being and expanding their freedoms and opportunities. The human development approach emphasizes the everyday experiences of ordinary people, encompassing the range of factors that shape their opportunities and enable them to live lives of value and choice. People with high levels of human development can invest in themselves and their families and live to their full potential; those without find many doors shut and many choices and opportunities out of reach.

The human development concept was developed by the late economist Mahbub ul Haq. In his work at the World Bank in the 1970s, and later as minister of finance in his own country of Pakistan, Dr. Haq argued that existing measures of human progress failed to account for the true purpose of development—to improve people's lives. In particular, he believed that the commonly used measure of gross domestic product failed to adequately measure well-being. Working with Nobel laureate Amartya Sen and other gifted economists, Dr. Haq published the first Human Development Report, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme, in 1990.

The American Human Development Index

The human development approach is extremely broad, encompassing the wide range of economic, social, political, psychological, environmental, and cultural factors that expand or restrict people's opportunities and freedoms. But the American Human Development (HD) Index is comparatively narrow, a composite measure that combines a limited number of indicators into a single number. The HD Index is an easily understood numerical measure that reflects what most people believe are the very basic ingredients of human well-being: health, education, and income. The value of the HD Index varies between 0 and 10, with a score close to 0 indicating a greater distance from the maximum possible that can be achieved on the aggregate factors that make up the index.

Data Sources

Most residents of Los Angeles County live in one of eighty-eight incorporated cities, ranging in population size from around four million residents in the City of LA to fewer than one hundred inhabitants in Vernon City. Together these cities account for nearly 90 percent of the county's total population. The vast majority of the remaining roughly one million residents live in fifty-three census-designated places in unincorporated areas of the county.

The analysis in this report includes life expectancy estimates for seventy-eight of the eighty-eight cities and for twenty-eight unincorporated census-designated places. The remaining cities and unincorporated places are not included in the analysis due to their small population sizes and the resulting lack of data necessary for reliable life expectancy estimates. Together, the included cities and unincorporated places account for 97 percent of the county's total population. The cities and unincorporated areas not included in this analysis because their population sizes were too small for reliable calculations are listed below.

There is further breakdown of the City of LA into the thirty-five community plan areas, designated by the City of LA Department of City Planning.

The American Human Development Index for Los Angeles County was calculated using two main datasets: mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and education, earnings, and population data from the US Census Bureau. The American Community Survey (ACS), a product of the US Census Bureau, is an ongoing survey that collects data from a representative percentage of the population every year using standard sampling methods.

For places with large populations, such as Los Angeles County, the Census Bureau publishes one-year estimates; hence all figures for the total population of Los Angeles County in this report are calculated using one-year data from 2015, the most recent survey available at the time of writing. For smaller populations within the county, such as Asian subgroups, and less populous places such as incorporated cities in Los Angeles County and City of LA council districts, one-year estimates are often either unreliable due to small population sizes or simply not available. Therefore, multiyear 2011–2015 ACS estimates are used for smaller populations and less populous geographical areas. Please see the source notes below all tables in *A Portrait of LA County* for the exact year or years of data presented.

Los Angeles County boasts one of the largest immigrant populations in the US. The ACS contains responses from both documented and undocumented individuals but does not require respondents to indicate their immigration status. Nevertheless, undocumented immigrants are harder to accurately count than documented immigrants for various reasons. They are less likely to speak English, they may be reluctant to disclose information to strangers, and they are more likely to live in temporary housing. Estimating the size of the undocumented population is challenging and there are many different approaches to this calculation. Using one methodology developed by the Pew Research Center,[1] we estimate that in Los Angeles County, the undocumented population comprises about 25 percent of the total county foreign-born population, or approximately 879,000 people. This number comes close to an estimate from the Public Policy Institute of California, which estimated there were approximately 814,000 undocumented residents in 2013.[2] This is not to say that over 800,000 people are missing from the analysis contained in this report, but rather that a small percentage, an estimated 5 to 7 percent of this population, may be undercounted. Therefore, as with any data drawn from surveys, there is some degree of sampling and non-sampling error inherent in data from the Census Bureau's annual ACS. Not all differences between estimates for two places or groups may reflect a true difference between those places or groups. Comparisons between similar values on any indicator should be made with caution since these differences may not be statistically significant.

HEALTH: A long and healthy life is measured using life expectancy at birth.

Life expectancy at birth was calculated by Measure of America using data from the California Department of Public Health, Health Information and Research Section, Death Statistical Master File from 2010–2014 and population data from the US Census Bureau and the CDC WONDER Bridged-Race Population Estimates from 2010–2014. Population data for LA city council districts and community plan areas are custom tabulations obtained from the American Community Survey prepared by special arrangement with the US Census Bureau for this report.

Deaths were matched to census-designated places, public use microdata areas, LA city council districts, and LA community plan areas using the decedent's zip code of residence, the most complete subcounty geographic identifier included in the

Death Statistical Master File. Population-weighted correspondence files matching zip codes to the geographic units used in this report were generated by Measure of America in-house and using the MABLE/Geocorr14: Geographic Correspondence Engine. Deaths of unknown age were allocated to age groups proportionally based on the known distribution of deaths by age group within each population. Life expectancy was calculated using abridged life tables utilizing the Chiang methodology.[3] These abridged life tables aggregate death numerators and population denominators into age groups, rather than using single year of age as in complete life tables. The groups aggregate into ages under 1, 1–4, 5–9, 10–14.....80–84, and 85 and older. The upper age band is capped at 85 and over.

Age-specific mortality rates are used within the life table to calculate the probability of a death event at each age interval. These probabilities are then applied to a hypothetical population cohort of newborns (e0). Life expectancy at birth in a geographic area can be defined as an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would live if they experienced the particular area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout their life.

These geographic regions were selected after consultations with local LA community groups, local agencies, and project stakeholders. Geographic areas with fewer than fifty thousand residents over the 2010–2014 period were deemed too small to accurately calculate a life expectancy estimate. The 95 percent confidence interval is used because it is the most widely accepted and is comparable to international standards.

EDUCATION: Access to education is measured using two indicators: net school enrollment for the population ages 3 to 24 and degree attainment for the population ages 25 and older (based on the proportions of the adult population that has earned at least a high school diploma, at least a bachelor's degree, and a graduate or professional degree). All educational attainment and enrollment figures come from Measure of America analysis of data from the US Census Bureau ACS. Single-year 2015 ACS estimates were used for countywide HD Index calculations except those for Asian and Latino subgroups, which utilize multiyear 2011–2015 estimates. Multiyear 2011–2015 ACS estimates were used for HD Index calculations for incorporated cities and other census-designated places, public use microdata areas, City of LA council districts, and LA community plan areas. Educational attainment and enrollment data for City of LA council districts and LA community plan areas are custom tabulations from the ACS prepared by special arrangement with the US Census Bureau for this report.

INCOME: A decent standard of living is measured using the median personal earnings of all workers ages 16 and older. Median personal earnings data come from the US Census Bureau ACS. Single-year 2015 ACS estimates were used for countywide HD Index calculations except those for Asian and Latino subgroups, which utilize multiyear 2011–2015 estimates. Multiyear 2011–2015 ACS estimates were used for HD Index calculations for incorporated cities and other census-designated places, public use microdata areas, City of LA council districts, and community plan areas. Earnings data for City of LA council districts and community plan areas are custom tabulations from the ACS prepared by special arrangement with the US Census Bureau for this report.

Calculating the American Human Development Index

The first step in calculating the HD Index is to calculate a subindex for each of the three dimensions separately. This is done in order to transform indicators on different scales—years, dollars, etc.—into a common scale from 0 to 10. In order to calculate these indices—the health, education, and income indices—minimum and maximum values (goalposts) must be chosen for each underlying indicator. Performance in each dimension is expressed as a value between 0 and 10 by applying the following general formula:

FORMULA

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{\text{actual value - minumum value}}{\text{maximum value - minimum value}} \times 10$$

Since all three components range from 0 to 10, the HD Index, in which all three indices are weighted equally, also varies from 0 to 10, with 10 representing the highest level of human development.

The goalposts were determined based on the range of the indicator observed in all possible groupings in the United States, taking into account possible increases and decreases for years to come. The goalposts for the four principal indicators that make up the American Human Development Index are shown in the table below. To ensure that the HD Index is comparable over time, the health and education indicator goalposts do not change from year to year while the income goalposts are only adjusted for inflation using the CPI-U-RS from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Because earnings data and the earnings goalposts are presented in dollars of the same year, these goalposts reflect a constant amount of purchasing power regardless of the year, making Income Index results comparable over time. In rare cases where an estimate for a population group or geographic area falls above or below the set goalpost for that indicator, a maximum value of 10 or a minimum value of 0 is imputed for the purposes of calculating the HD Index.

INDICATOR	Maximum value	Minimum value
Life expectancy at birth	90 years	66 years
Educational attainment score	2.0	0.5
Combined net enrollment ratio	95%	60%
Median personal earnings*	$15,777	$66,751

*Earnings goalposts were originally set at $13,000 and $55,000 in 2005 dollars.

EXAMPLE

Calculating the HD Index for LA County

HEALTH Index

Life expectancy at birth for Los Angeles County is 82.15 years. The Health Index is then:

$$\text{Health Index} = \frac{82.15 - 66}{90 - 66} \times 10 = \mathbf{6.73}$$

EDUCATION Index

In 2015, 78.13 percent of Los Angeles County's residents 25 years and older had at least a high school diploma, 30.91 percent had at least a bachelor's degree, and 10.76 percent had a graduate or professional degree. Therefore, the Educational Attainment Score is 0.7813 + 0.3091 + 0.1076 = 1.198. The Educational Attainment Index is then:

$$\text{Educational Attainment Index} = \frac{1.198 - 0.5}{2.0 - 0.5} \times 10 = \mathbf{4.65}$$

School enrollment (net enrollment ratio) was 79.48 percent, so the Enrollment Index is:

$$\text{Enrollment Index} = \frac{79.48 - 60}{95 - 60} \times 10 = \mathbf{5.57}$$

The Educational Attainment Index and the Enrollment Index are then combined to obtain the Education Index. The Education Index gives a 2/3 weight to the Educational Attainment Index and a 1/3 weight to the Enrollment Index to reflect the relative ease of enrolling students in school as compared with the relative difficulty of completing a meaningful course of education (signified by the attainment of degrees):

$$\text{Education Index} = \frac{2}{3}\,\mathbf{4.65} + \frac{1}{3}\,\mathbf{5.57} = \mathbf{4.96}$$

INCOME Index

Median personal earnings for the typical worker in Los Angeles County in 2015 were $30,654. The Income Index is then:

$$\text{Income Index} = \frac{\log(30{,}654) - \log(15{,}777.62)}{\log(66{,}751.48) - \log(15{,}777.62)} \times 10 = \mathbf{4.60}$$

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Index

Once these indices have been calculated, the HD Index is obtained by taking the average of the three indices:

$$\text{HD Index} = \frac{\mathbf{6.73} + \mathbf{4.96} + \mathbf{4.60}}{3} = \mathbf{5.43}$$

Geographic and Population Groups Used in This Report

WITHIN LA COUNTY

The "Five Los Angeles Counties" framing is a way to compare different areas within Los Angeles County that share similar HD Index scores. For *A Portrait of LA County*, Measure of America sorted the geographic units for which HD Index scores have been calculated into one of the Five LA Counties using the following thresholds:

- **Glittering Los Angeles:** HD Index scores equal to or greater than 9.00
- **Elite Enclave Los Angeles:** HD Index scores equal to or greater than 7.00 and less than 9.00
- **Main Street Los Angeles:** HD Index scores equal to or greater than 5.00 and less than 7.00
- **Struggling Los Angeles:** HD Index scores equal to or greater than 3.00 and less than 5.00
- **Precarious Los Angeles:** HD Index scores less than 3.00

The Five LA Counties are also presented as five separate units of analysis in order to permit some exploration of the broad demographic and socioeconomic disparities between people living in communities with different human development outcomes. For this analysis, Measure of America aggregated public use microdata areas (PUMAs; see below for more details) based on their average HD Index scores to identify Elite Enclave, Main Street, Struggling, and Precarious Los Angeles. For Glittering Los Angeles, data for seven cities and unincorporated areas with HD Index scores of 9.0 were used since no PUMA in the county had an HD Index score in this range. Although the populations of these communities are already reflected in the PUMAs sorted into the other four Los Angeles Counties, this final step allows for a zoom in on demographic and socioeconomic conditions in those few communities within Los Angeles County with exceptionally high HD Index scores. The Five LA Counties represent the average score for that geography; there will always be individuals who are doing better or worse than the HD Index score for that geography—no place is homogenous.

Incorporated cities and other census-designated places correspond to city boundaries for the eighty-eight incorporated cities in Los Angeles County, of which the City of Los Angeles is the largest. Unincorporated areas and other settlements within Los Angeles County comprise the remaining fifty-three census-designated places. Population sizes for these units vary greatly, from fewer than fifty in Vernon to nearly four million in the City of Los Angeles. Due to small population sizes and data irregularities
in some of these places, HD Index calculations are presented for seventy-eight incorporated cities and twenty-eight other places in Los Angeles County, which together account for approximately 97 percent of the population of the county.

The following is a list of cities and unincorporated areas not included in this analysis because the population sizes were too small for reliable calculations:

Acton
Agua Dulce
Alondra Park
Avalon City
Bradbury City
Charter Oak
Desert View Highlands
East Pasadena
Elizabeth Lake
Green Valley
Hasley Canyon
Hidden Hills City
Industry City
Irwindale City
La Habra Heights City
Ladera Heights
Lake Hughes
Leona Valley
Littlerock
Marina del Rey
Mayflower Village
North El Monte
Rolling Hills City
Rolling Hills Estates City
Rose Hills
San Pasqual
South Monrovia Island
South San Gabriel
Topanga
Val Verde
Vernon City
West Athens
West Rancho Dominguez
Westlake Village City
Willowbrook

Public use microdata areas or PUMAs are substate geographic units designated by the US Census Bureau. PUMAs have populations of at least one hundred thousand and generally less than two hundred thousand. Los Angeles has a total of sixty-nine PUMAs. PUMAs used in this report were delineated for the 2010 census and were named by the California State Census Data Center.

Racial and ethnic groups in this report are based on definitions established by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and used by the US Census Bureau and other government entities. Since 1997 the OMB has recognized five racial groups and two ethnic categories. The racial groups include Native Americans, Asians, blacks, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and whites. For the US HD Index, the category for Asian includes Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders because the mortality data from the CDC does not specify beyond Asian. The ethnic categories are Latino and not Latino. People of Latino ethnicity may be of any race. In this report, these racial groups include only non-Latino members of these groups who self-identify with that race group alone and no other. Census data also include some detail on the specific ancestries of the resident population. Detailed race and ancestry data were used to identify members of the largest Asian subgroups and some Latino/Hispanic subgroups in Los Angeles County for the purposes of this report.

WITHIN THE CITY OF LA

LA community plan areas are used by the City of Los Angeles for zoning and transportation planning. There are thirty-seven community plan areas in the City of Los Angeles. Two of these could not be included in this analysis due to very small population sizes: Los Angeles International Airport and the Port of Los Angeles. Populations within the remaining thirty-five range from a high of nearly 290,000 residents in Wilshire to a low of 20,000 in Bel Air–Beverly Crest.

City of LA council districts are the constituencies from which the members of the Los Angeles City Council are elected. There are fifteen city council districts in the City of Los Angeles, each of which is home to roughly a quarter of a million people.

Accounting For Cost-of-Living Differences

There is currently no suitable nationwide measure, official or not, of the cost of living that could be used as a basis for adjusting for differences across regions. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, helps in understanding changes in the purchasing power of the dollar over time. The CPI is sometimes mistaken for a cost-of-living index, but in fact it is best used as a measure of the change in the cost of a set of goods and services over time in a given place.

The nonprofit membership organization the Council for Community and Economic Research's 2016 Cost of Living Index ranked Los Angeles below the top ten urban areas for the cost of consumer goods and services for professional households in the top income quintile. Orange County, in contrast, ranked fifth among urban areas. Like any summary of a large area, these rankings should be interpreted with caution. This is in part because cost-of-living variations within compact regions, such as states or cities or between neighborhoods in the same urban area, are often more pronounced than variations between states and regions. Further, while the cost of essential goods and services varies across the nation and within distinct regions, these costs are often higher in areas with more community assets and amenities that are conducive to higher levels of well-being and expanded human development. For example, neighborhoods with higher housing costs—the major portion of cost of living—are often places with higher-quality public services such as schools, recreation facilities, and transport systems and safer and cleaner neighborhoods. Thus, to adjust for cost of living would be to explain away some of the factors that the HD Index is measuring.

Measuring differences across region and place is a complex undertaking due to regional differences. For example, the percentage of a budget spent on particular items can vary significantly (e.g., heating in Texas versus Alaska). Regional Price Parities and the Personal Consumption Expenditure price index produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis are official statistics that can be used to adjust personal income for regional variations in the cost of living. Bureau of Economic Affairs cost-of-living adjustments are possible for all fifty states and Washington, DC, as well as metropolitan areas. Even the Bureau of Economic Affairs figures do not permit analysis of these localized differences in living costs.

Global Goals Dashboard

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Low Birth Weight Babies (% based on race of mother) Kidsdata.org, 2013.

Life Expectancy at Birth (years) CA and Los Angeles: Measure of America calculations using California Department of Public Health Death Statistical Master File and US Census Bureau Population Estimates Program, 2010–2014. US: Measure of America calculations using US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mortality data and population estimates from CDC WONDER, 2014.

No Health Insurance (% of population) CA and Los Angeles: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2015. US: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S2701, 2015.

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Disconnected Youth (% ages 16 to 24 not in school and not working) US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2015.

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Notes

Understanding Human Development

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What the Human Development Index Reveals

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[9] Freudenberg, Pastor, and Israel, "Strengthening Community Capacity to Participate in Making Decisions to Reduce Disproportionate Environmental Exposures."

[10] Rothstein, *The Color of Law.*

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[12] One assumption embedded in calculating life expectancy for a given population is that the population is stable. For the Vietnamese population in Los Angeles County, we question whether this assumption is valid; one possibility is that the improbably high life expectancy figure is influenced by the migration of older Vietnamese residents to Orange County.

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[33] The true mobility figure for those moving out of LA is incomplete and likely a bit bigger. This figure does not include those who moved from LA out of the United States as these people are not captured in the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

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[38] Lewis and Burd-Sharps, *The Measure of America 2010–2011.*

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A Long and Healthy Life

[1] Living a long life is of course not the same as living a healthy life, but the two are not unrelated, and life expectancy at birth is a more readily understood indicator than measures that calculate years of healthy life, such as health-adjusted life expectancy.

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[4] July 2017 conversation with Dr. Khatharya Um, PhD, associate professor and coordinator, Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies; chair, Peace and Conflict Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

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***A Portrait of Los Angeles County* is an exploration of how LA County residents are faring.** It examines well-being and access to opportunity using the human development framework and index, presenting **American Human Development Index** scores for LA County places and demographic groups and examining a range of critical issues, including health, education, living standards, environmental justice, housing, homelessness, violence, and inequality.

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Measure of America is a nonpartisan project of the Social Science Research Council. It creates easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America and stimulates fact-based dialogue about these issues. Through hard copy and online reports, interactive maps, and custom-built dashboards, Measure of America works closely with partners to breathe life into numbers, using data to identify areas of need, pinpoint levers for change, and track progress over time. **Kristen Lewis** and **Sarah Burd-Sharps** are co-founders of Measure of America and co-authors of *The Measure of America* series of national, state, and county reports. They both previously worked on human development issues in countries around the world.

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