

# LOS ANGELES 2050

**PART 1: WHO WE ARE. HOW WE LIVE. WHERE WE'RE GOING.**

# LA2050

## IS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LOS ANGELES

It is an initiative rooted in a vision of a successful region – one that is a healthy, thriving, and desirable place to live. It provides the framework to harness the area’s untapped potential, and it lays out a roadmap to create a metropolis that boasts a robust middle class. It foresees an environment that fosters innovation and embraces creativity. And, in the end, it promotes a future where people are deeply engaged in building and shaping their region.

**THE MISSION STATEMENT OF LA2050 IS TO STIMULATE AN OUTBREAK OF IDEALISM THAT STRENGTHENS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, CHALLENGES THE STATUS QUO, AND DEMANDS MORE FOR THE FUTURE OF LOS ANGELES.**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## WHO WE ARE. HOW WE LIVE. WHERE WE'RE GOING.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of our region's people, government, businesses and communities. This report compiles critical demographic information, academic analyses and expert projections to update the status of life in Los Angeles initially measured in the 2012 publication LA2050.

This report measures life in Los Angeles through the lens of eight human development indicators:

- EDUCATION
- INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT
- HOUSING
- HEALTH
- ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS
- ARTS AND CULTURAL VITALITY

The report assigns a rating based on the most recent data available to measure the status of these indicators, providing an important baseline dashboard rating to describe our current status in order to imagine what Los Angeles can be in 2050.

The demographic changes in Los Angeles in recent decades are significant and present opportunities for the region's business, community and government leaders to incorporate newer Angelenos and plan for an older population. Who we are continues to emerge.

Recent progress in student achievement and graduation rates, as well as markedly reduced crime rates, underline our optimism that human development will improve in the years ahead. Very high housing costs, the ongoing drought and persistently low voter participation remain concerning. How we live often depends on where we live.

Based on analysis of current conditions and these trends' trajectory, the report's dashboard projects a mix of improvements and challenges. Since Los Angeles is a story of hope, where we are going is in our hands.

# ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

LA2050 tells the story of Los Angeles using eight indicators that paint a comprehensive picture of the region. Social scientists, economists, and political leaders are moving beyond traditional measures of economic health to assess the vibrancy of cities.<sup>1</sup> The field is embracing broader measures of human development\* and well-being – and so are we.

Based on a comprehensive review of the most recent literature on human development, we have selected eight indicators that form the basis of our analysis. We looked to organizations that are known for conducting innovative social science research, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)<sup>2</sup>, Brookings Institution<sup>3</sup>, the United Way<sup>4</sup>, the American Human Development Project<sup>5</sup>, and the Glasgow Indicators Project<sup>6</sup>. In addition, we consulted with the LA2050 Academic Advisory Committee<sup>7</sup> to ensure that we identified the most relevant measures. Based on these inputs, this document focuses on the following eight indicators:

\*Human development focuses on the “enlargement of the range of people’s choices” that allow them to lead full lives. This definition expands on international development approaches that emphasize meeting basic human needs and rely on economic growth as a performance criterion.

From: Streeten, P. (1995). Human Development: Means and Ends. *The Pakistan Development Review*, (34(4): 346

## EDUCATION

Evidence that students are engaged in a learning process that adequately prepares them to contribute their skills, talents, and abilities to society.

## INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Evidence of Angelenos’ economic self-sufficiency.

## HOUSING

Evidence of access to and the affordability of housing.

## HEALTH

Evidence of residents’ health status and their ability to access health care.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Properties and characteristics of the local environment that have measurable impacts on the life, health, and well-being of Angelenos and their environs.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Evidence of Angelenos’ exposure to crime and evidence that residents perceive their environment as safe.

## SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Evidence of individual and collective engagement in actions designed to identify and address issues of social well-being.

## ARTS AND CULTURAL VITALITY

“Evidence of creating, disseminating, validating and supporting arts and culture as a dimension of everyday life in communities.”<sup>8</sup>

## TRANSPORTATION: Why it isn't an indicator

Many of LA2050's supporters, contributors, and advisors have questioned the omission of transportation as a key indicator in this document. Before this report was authored, we had every intention of including transportation as a measure of well-being, given its importance in shaping how people experience their environs. We assumed that a robust transportation network that provides residents with a bevy of mobility options would be a key indicator of quality of life. However, an exhaustive literature review and consultation with transportation experts did not support these assumptions. It turns out that transportation is not a key indicator of human well-being.

LA2050 Academic Advisor and transportation expert Dr. Martin Wachs suggests that transportation should be contextualized as a means to an end. It's hard to measure the quality of life by calculating transportation costs or the amount of time spent in congestion. Instead, we should look at transportation as a means to achieving other goals. For instance, transportation affects access to health care, housing, jobs, education, and other services.

People live where they do because they want to get a quality education, a good job, an affordable home, and maintain (or build new) social ties. Transportation helps accomplish these goals, however, on the whole, transportation systems are not what attract people to cities and regions.

In this context, a great transportation network in and of itself doesn't say much about the health of a region. Indeed, a robust transportation system is often the outgrowth of a healthy and thriving environment. You'll see that as LA2050 details a shared vision for the future of Los Angeles and adapts the eight indicators to create long-term goals, transportation plays a more prominent role. Still, even as we recognize the centrality of transportation as a facilitator of human well-being, it does not meet the threshold to be considered an indicator in this report.

## LA2050 PART I

### WHO WE ARE. HOW WE LIVE. WHERE WE'RE GOING.

The original LA2050 report was released in 2011 as the first in a multi-part series that will comprise the narrative for LA2050. This report is an update to the original 2011 document and serves as a foundation for the second report--Vision for a Successful LA. This report documents the LA region in the present and forms a framework to craft an informed vision for the future. It is an assessment of Los Angeles as we know it now. It examines who we are, it describes how we live, and it projects where we're going if we continue on our current path. We conducted a thorough literature review and consulted with the LA2050 Academic Advisory Committee<sup>9</sup> to establish a snapshot of Los Angeles. This installment serves as the baseline for Part II of the narrative, which describes what Los Angeles can be in 2050.

## LA2050 PART II

### VISION FOR A SUCCESSFUL LA.

LA2050 believes in the power of Angelenos to shape the future of our region. We aim to ignite the creativity and passion of Angelenos to make LA's story one of hope for all. If we don't like what the projections are saying about our future, then we as residents, organizations, stakeholders, and policymakers can work together towards a more successful Los Angeles – one that empowers us and takes full advantage of the potential our region holds. With your help, together we will put Los Angeles on a path to vibrancy. Please join us.

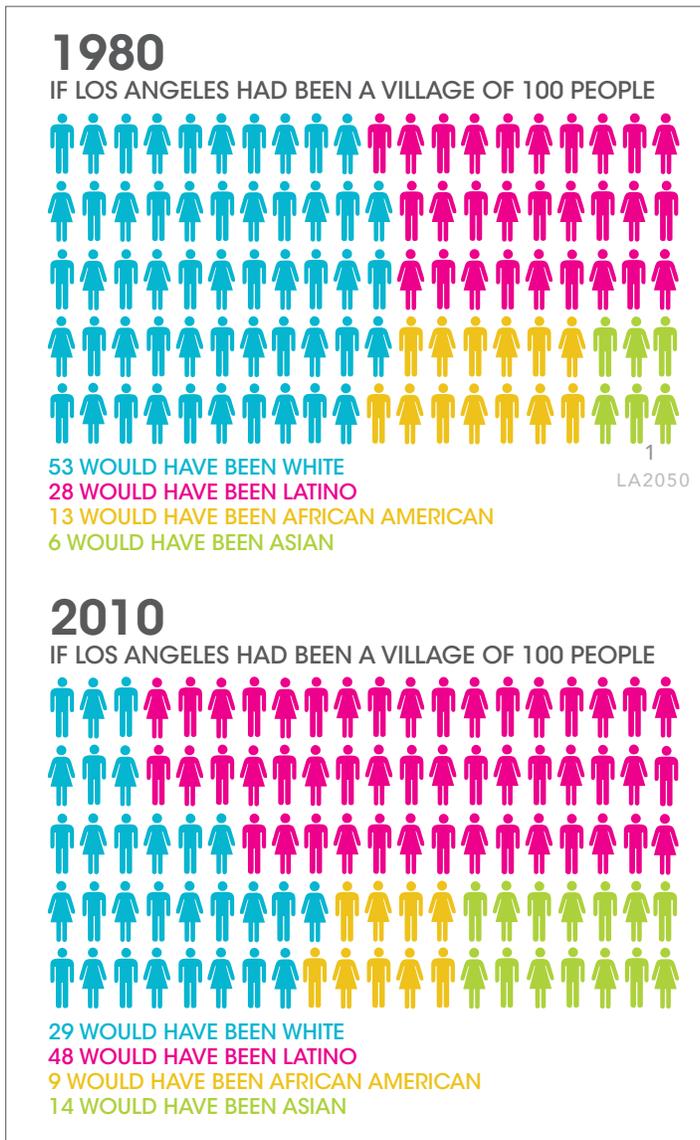
WITH THAT,  
LET'S LAUNCH INTO THE NARRATIVE OF  
**LA2050**

# The story of Los Angeles is a story of hope.

It's a story of resilience in the face of adversity, but it's also a story of neglect. It's a story of almost incomprehensible disparity, of unequal and uneven access, of dreams denied and opportunity deferred.

And, still, it's a story of hope.

## This is WHO WE ARE.



With over 9.8 million residents, Los Angeles County is the most populous county in the U.S.<sup>10</sup> Home to the largest city in California and the second largest in the United States, the county's population would make it the eighth largest state in the nation.<sup>11</sup> With more than a quarter of the state's labor force, it employs over 4.3 million people. The region is "the largest manufacturing center in the U.S.,"<sup>12</sup> employing more than 360,000 workers in that sector alone.<sup>13</sup>

It is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic group<sup>14</sup> and more than 57 percent of the population speaks a language other than English. That's more than double the figure for the nation as a whole, where just 20 percent of the population speaks a second language.<sup>15</sup> Although the county represents just three percent of the U.S. population, it is home to 17 percent of the nation's Koreans, 14 percent of its Mexicans, 14 percent of its Filipinos, 13 percent of its Chinese, and 13 percent of its Japanese.<sup>16</sup>

The region's recent history has been characterized by population swells and rapid shifts in the area's racial and ethnic makeup. After World War II, the region's population growth was fueled by migration from other states. This led to a relatively youthful, largely white populace. As migration from U.S. states began to dwindle in the 1970s, international immigration surged. This effectively caused an upheaval in the area's ethnic and racial makeup. And that shift came to define the latter part of the 20th Century.<sup>17</sup>

Myers, D. (2011). *The Future Demographic Outlook of Los Angeles*. Population Dynamics Research Group, Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA.

Now the demographic shifts and population surges have tempered. The racial and ethnic composition of Los Angeles has not been changing as rapidly due to reduced immigration. What is evident today is that the immigrant population that propelled the area's growth in recent decades is becoming more deeply settled, and they're rearing a new generation of California natives.<sup>18</sup>

## Racial and Ethnic Make-Up

In terms of race and ethnicity, Los Angeles has no single ethnic group that forms a majority. Latinos account for nearly 48 percent of the population; whites make up about 29 percent of the populace; Asian and Pacific Islanders are 14 percent of the population; and African Americans constitute about 9 percent of the county's residents.<sup>19</sup>

## Our Origins

As noted above, Los Angeles' history has been largely shaped by migration and immigration. During the 1950s and 60s "roughly half of Californians were drawn from other states."<sup>20</sup> When domestic migration slowed in the decades that followed, foreign immigration became the state's growth engine.<sup>21</sup> By 2000, more than 35 percent of the county's residents were foreign-born, up from 11 percent just three decades earlier. In the same year, Los Angeles had also become the "nation's major immigrant port of entry, supplanting New York City."<sup>22</sup>

Today, in-migration to California is slowing, and Los Angeles County is mirroring that trend. The number of native Californians is increasing as a proportion of the populace. California natives haven't made up such a large portion of the state's residents since 1900.<sup>23</sup> Today, the county's California-born population is 49 percent, while the foreign-born figure remains at 35 percent. However, the proportion of residents from other states has dropped to below 16 percent.<sup>24</sup>

## Aging Population

Historically, Los Angeles has been relatively youthful when compared to the nation<sup>25</sup>, but the region's populace is aging. With the ebbing tide of migrants into the county, there is no longer a steady stream of young adults to replace the influx from previous generations. Between 2000 and 2010, the proportion of children (aged 0-17) shrunk by more than 5 percent. Los Angeles lost 10 percent of its children between the ages of five and nine, representing the largest decline of any age group.<sup>26</sup>

In the same decade, the proportion of young adults (aged 18-34) shrank slightly, to just more than 26 percent of the population. Meanwhile, the proportion of middle-aged adults (aged 35-64) grew, inching toward the 40 percent mark. The proportion of older adults (aged 65+) rose incrementally in the same timeframe, to just over 10 percent of area residents.<sup>27</sup>

While our population remains relatively youthful, the Los Angeles region is on the cusp of a shift. Mirroring the national trend of a rapidly aging population, we're beginning to see losses in the region's child and young adult age groups.<sup>28</sup> The decline in the young adult population will significantly affect the region. This age group is "crucial to the future of Los Angeles because they represent the new workers, new parents, new housing consumers, new taxpayers, and new voters."<sup>29</sup> How this population changes in light of reduced domestic migration and international immigration is pivotal.

Although it may not be apparent today, the region's aging population will almost certainly change the status of all eight indicators moving forward. Whether it's changing housing needs, increasing reliance on our health care infrastructure, shifting consumption patterns, or the shrinking proportion of working-age adults, the aging populace will certainly affect where we're going. We address some of the implications that an aging population will have on the region later in this report.<sup>30</sup>

As we contemplate our future and the demographic shifts that will take place in LA, it becomes apparent that today's policies will have far-reaching implications; the next generation of adults are the young California-natives who are now working their way through the region's educational, health care, and social welfare systems.

These aspects of who we are as a region are determinants of who we will be. They influence what we can and cannot accomplish in the future. We're numerous. We're diverse. We're aging. We're increasingly native Californians. That's Los Angeles today and it sets the stage for the future.

## Now that we understand who we are, we can explore **HOW WE LIVE.**

In Los Angeles, how we live is largely a product of who we are. In many cases, race, income, and geography dictate how residents experience Los Angeles.

The county has large swaths of concentrated poverty, particularly in central Los Angeles and right around the Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex.<sup>31</sup> For residents in these areas, life in Los Angeles presents a host of challenges. The communities of color that reside in low-income neighborhoods are faced with dismal job prospects; unemployment rates for Latinos and African Americans are consistently higher than the countywide average.<sup>32</sup> Families struggling to get by have no choice but to enroll their children in the underfunded<sup>33</sup> and underperforming<sup>34</sup> public school system. Park space is scarce<sup>35</sup> and healthy food options are few and far between, so rates of obesity and chronic disease are more prevalent.<sup>36</sup> To boot, these Angelenos are exposed to the worst air in the region, further deteriorating their health.<sup>37</sup>

On the other end of the spectrum, Los Angeles has relatively large areas of concentrated wealth. The top 20 percent of households earn more than the bottom 80 percent combined.<sup>38</sup> Emerging from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, the job market is still challenging, but the unemployment rate among the county's white and Asian communities is significantly lower than those for African Americans and Latinos.<sup>39</sup> Families with high incomes have the option of sending their children to private schools, avoiding the dysfunction of the public school system. Park space is concentrated near higher-income neighborhoods<sup>40</sup> and healthy food options are plentiful.<sup>41</sup> Not surprisingly, relatively wealthy places like Santa Monica and Los Angeles' Westside have the lowest obesity rates in the county.<sup>42</sup>

Los Angeles is a region where opportunities are constrained for many segments of the population, including those families in the Gateway Cities or in the San Gabriel Valley who are finding affordable housing increasingly out of reach,<sup>43</sup> the two million residents scattered throughout the county who lack health insurance,<sup>44</sup> or the 3 in 5 students countywide who aren't prepared for college because they didn't (or couldn't) complete the necessary coursework.<sup>45</sup>

As this report delves into how Angelenos live, the theme of access and opportunity will surface time and time again. We'll find that in Los Angeles, who you are, where you live, and how much money you make is a strong predictor of your fate.

Based on our analysis, we've created a dashboard that provides a snapshot of the LA area today. Each of the indicators is assigned one of four colors (red, orange, light green, or green) based on its impact on human development in Los Angeles. The rating system is as follows:

**DASHBOARD RATING**

-  SIGNIFICANTLY HINDERS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
-  HINDERS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
-  ENHANCES HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
-  SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCES HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The ratings were informed by our research and in consultation with the LA2050 Academic Advisory Committee. To be clear, they are not meant to imply any numeric calculation or weighted score. They are based on the available data and provide only a high-level overview of each of the eight indicators.

We should note that these ratings will vary substantially within the county because of varying demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic factors. In the county's affluent communities, most of these indicators would earn much higher ratings. In the poorest neighborhoods, many would receive the lowest designation. The dashboard provides a snapshot of where Los Angeles stands today as a whole, but it doesn't account for the vast diversity of experiences that characterize the region. That said, it is a simple reference point against which we can chart the LA that we'd like to see in 2050.



# Education

## FACT SHEET



**DASHBOARD RATING**  
Significant impediment  
to human development

Education received the lowest rating, meaning that it is a significant impediment to human development. This outcome was based on the fact that the public school system in Los Angeles is failing many of its students. Graduation rates are low and too many kids throughout the county are not completing the necessary college preparatory coursework. Enrollment and investment in high-quality preschool is also lacking. Given that education is such a fundamental aspect of human development with far-reaching effects, the stark disparity in educational opportunities for the county's students is unacceptable.

### METRICS<sup>46</sup>

(1) test scores, (2) high school completion and drop rates, (3) college-going rates, (4) preschool participation, and (5) afterschool and summer school enrichment programs.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- LA County has 1,711,547 students; 158,843<sup>47</sup> are in private school; 1,552,704 attend public school.<sup>48</sup>
- There are 80 school districts in LA County. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is the largest in the state and the second largest in the nation.<sup>49</sup>
- LAUSD has about 664,000 students enrolled in 1,235 K-12 schools, centers, and charter schools in the 2011-12 academic year.<sup>50</sup>
- The LAUSD high school student body is 74 percent Latino, 10 percent African American, 4 percent Asian, and 2 percent Filipino. Seventy-one percent of this cohort is economically disadvantaged.<sup>51</sup>
- Overall, 46 percent of LAUSD's high school students are proficient in English and Language Arts; 50 percent are proficient in Math.
- High school students scoring "proficient" or "advanced" in English and Language Arts (ELA) and Math (M) by race:<sup>52</sup>
  - Asian: 73 percent (ELA)/ 86 percent (M)
  - White: 73 percent (ELA)/75 percent (M)
  - Filipino: 67 percent (ELA)/76 percent (M)
  - Latino: 41 percent (ELA)/46 percent (M)
  - African American: 40 percent (ELA)/37 percent (M)
  - Pacific Islander: 44 percent (ELA)/56 percent (M)
- In 2013 the overall Academic Performance Index (API) score for Los Angeles Unified School district was 750, a 4-point increase from 2012.<sup>53</sup>
- The increase in API scores district-wide obscures the disparities along racial/ethnic lines. API scores by race:<sup>54</sup>
  - White: 871
  - African American: 697
  - Latino: 729
  - Low-income: 734
- The LAUSD graduation rate for 2013-2014 was 77 percent, a 12 percent jump from the previous year.<sup>54</sup> The statewide graduation rate was 80.2 percent.<sup>55</sup>
- Countywide, just 2 in 5 students complete the necessary college preparatory coursework.<sup>56</sup>
- In LAUSD, only 22 percent "of all 9th graders graduate four years" after completing A-G college preparatory coursework. Only 16 percent of Latino 9th graders graduated after completing the A-G coursework.<sup>57</sup>
- More than a quarter of children in Los Angeles are enrolled in afterschool programs, compared to 19 percent at the state and 15 percent at the national level.<sup>58</sup>

# Let's start with EDUCATION

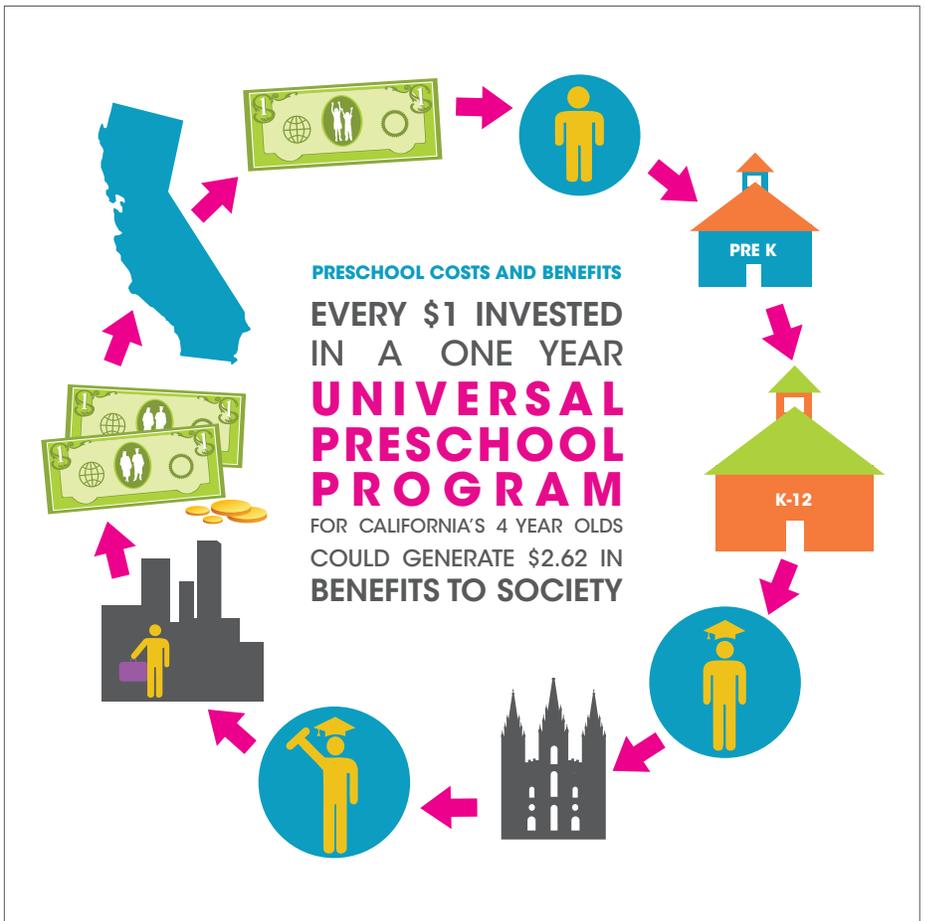
It's a "basic need and important aspiration of people."<sup>59</sup> A well-educated Angeleno is less likely to be unemployed and more likely to earn higher wages. She is more likely to report improved health and less likely to suffer from chronic disease. She is more inclined to be an engaged member of the community, and less likely to commit crime. She also relies less on social assistance. Collectively, better educated Angelenos lead to "higher GDP growth, higher tax revenues and lower social expenditures."<sup>60</sup> In short, an effective education system benefits us all. Unfortunately, public education in Los Angeles falls short.

Too few of our kids are enrolled in high quality pre-school education programs. Too many aren't making it to their senior year of high school.

For every dollar spent on the provision of high quality, universal pre-school, the state of California would net more than two dollars in economic benefits.<sup>61</sup>

But forget the statewide benefits for a moment; the estimated effects on Los Angeles County alone are impressive. Providing one year of pre-school funding keeps more than 4,000 kids from being held back a grade; it shrinks the special education cohort by nearly 3,000 kids; it decreases the ranks of high school dropouts by 3,200 students; and more than 2,300 kids will avoid the juvenile court system.<sup>62</sup> By investing money up front, the state can save millions on special education, remedial instruction, and the criminal justice system.

Despite the obvious payback on investment, the state's recent budget woes have led to reduced funding for these programs.



RAND Corporation (2005). *The Effects of Universal Preschool Programs in California: Estimates for Los Angeles County*. Santa Monica, CA.

In response to the budget crisis during the recession, the state cut funding to early childhood programs by \$547 million between 2010-2011 and 2011-12. While more drastic funding cuts were avoided, the \$2.207 billion in funding for early education in the 2013-14 budget is still nearly \$1 billion below the pre-recession allocation<sup>63</sup> of \$3.183 billion in 2008-09.

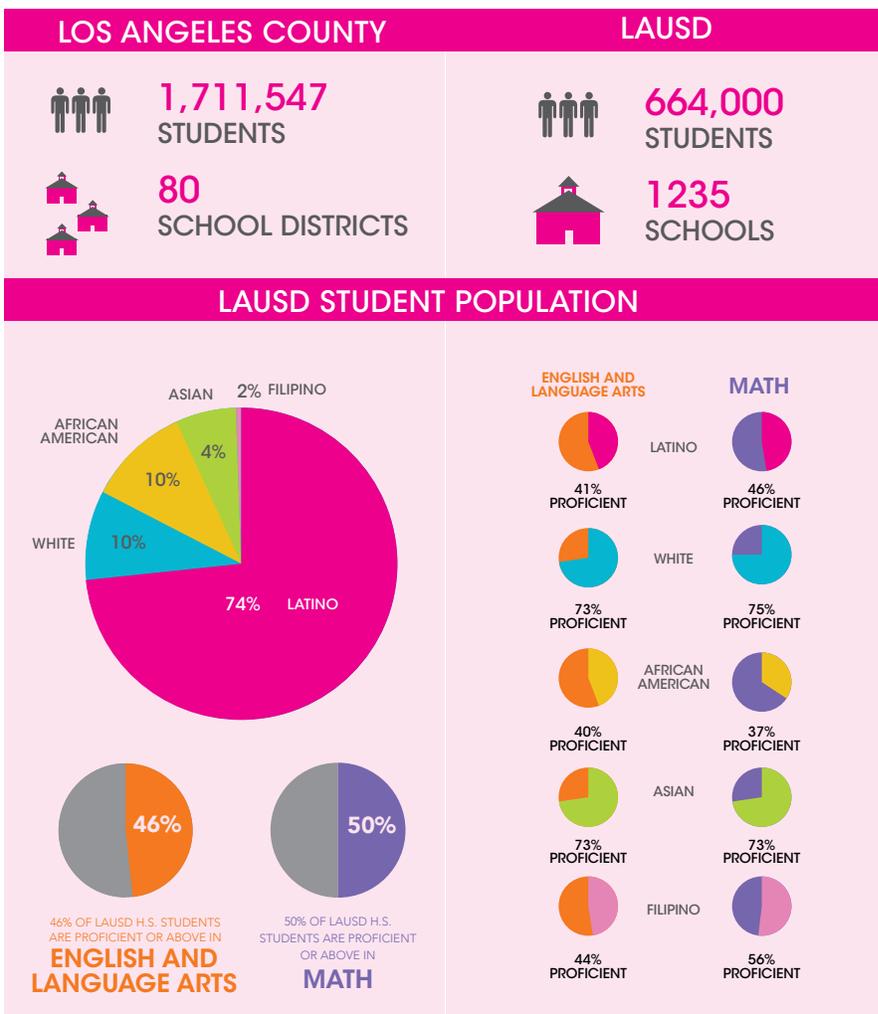
This has the broad effect of making early childhood education a luxury that is available only to those who can afford it. In Los Angeles County, less than one-fifth of pre-school aged children are enrolled in early education programs,<sup>64</sup> depriving many children of a much-needed leg-up when they enter the public school system.

For K-12 education, this report focuses on the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Its sheer scale and influence in the region is undeniable and its impacts are far-reaching.

LAUSD is the largest district in the state and the second largest in the nation. It serves more than 670,000 students.<sup>65</sup> That's enough kids to fill Dodger Stadium, the Hollywood Bowl, the Staples Center, the Greek Amphitheater, the Rose Bowl, and the Coliseum.

Three-quarters of LAUSD students are Latino, two-thirds will graduate, and nearly one in five will not finish high school.<sup>66</sup> For those of you keeping count, that's over 15,000 Angelenos entering the modern economy every year and competing without a high school degree.<sup>67</sup>

## LAUSD AT A GLANCE



California Department of Education. (n.d.). Educational Demographics Office, Cohort Outcome Data for the Class of 2013-14, District Results for Los Angeles Unified.

But even that statistic obscures a reality that is much more bleak. The district's white and Asian students report graduation rates of 84 and 87 percent, respectively. LAUSD's largest ethnic group, meanwhile, reports a graduation rate of 76 percent. And, while the graduation rates for African Americans and Pacific Islanders have increased since this report was first published, these ethnic groups report the highest dropout rates--18 and 16 percent, respectively--in the school district.<sup>68</sup>

Yet, there is reason for hope.

Enrollment in afterschool programs is a surprising bright spot in Los Angeles. Small-scale experiments in magnet, charter, and other locally controlled schools are creating islands of excellence in an otherwise underperforming system, helping the district achieve incremental improvements in test scores.

A sizeable portion of Los Angeles students are enrolled in afterschool programs. With 27 percent of kids (about 175,400 students) participating in these enrichment programs, the area outpaces the state (19 percent) and national (15

percent) averages. LA “stands out as a solid provider of afterschool programs for kids.”<sup>69</sup> This feat was accomplished largely because of deliberate policy decisions made at the state level. California’s After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program, the result of a voter-approved initiative, has some \$550 million in dedicated funding.<sup>70</sup> The program “funds local afterschool education and enrichment programs throughout California,” providing “tutoring and additional learning opportunities for students in kindergarten through ninth grade.”<sup>71</sup>

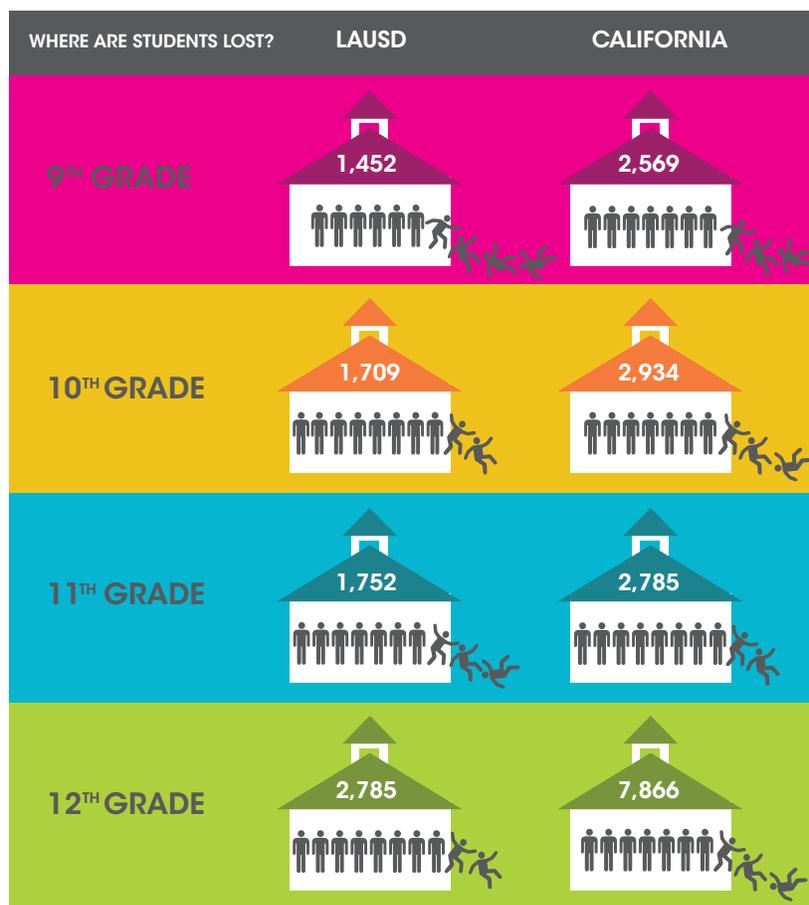
In addition, parents in Los Angeles demonstrate a “high degree of support for afterschool programs in the city.” Eighty six percent are in favor of public funding for these programs and nearly 90 percent would like to see public funding for summer learning programs. More than 220,000 children (34 percent of students) in Los Angeles participate in summer learning programs, again outpacing state (27 percent) and national (25 percent) figures.<sup>72</sup>

In 2012, Californians’ commitment to supporting education was tested by a ballot measure that asked voters to raise “income taxes on the wealthy and the sales tax on everyone,” in large part to stabilize the state’s education funding.<sup>73</sup> Surprising many, the measure passed easily in the November election and had the effect of stabilizing “school funding in California for the first time since the Great Recession began, allowing school districts to avert thousands of teacher layoffs.”<sup>74</sup>

Since the passage of Proposition 30, LAUSD has restored funding to programs that were shuttered or reduced in the wake of \$5.2 billion in budget cuts<sup>75</sup> brought on by the recession. In 2014, the board approved a \$7.27 billion operating budget, with the district set to “receive an extra \$334 million from the state in the coming year under the Local Control Funding Formula,” which is meant to allocate additional funding for school districts that serve high-needs students.<sup>76</sup>

LAUSD has continued to make improvements in test scores; it reported an uptick in graduation rates<sup>77</sup>; and it has seen a decline in the overall dropout rate. When this report was first published in 2011, the district reported a single-year gain of 19 points on the state’s academic performance index (API). It earned an average score of 728, falling short of the statewide 800-point target. In the last year, LAUSD experienced marginal improvement in API scores increasing by three points from 746 to 749, while statewide scores fell slightly from 791 to 780. In 2011, roughly 200 LAUSD schools met or exceeded the 800-point target. Since then, the number has jumped to just

### GRADUATION PIPELINE CLASS OF 2014 NUMBER OF STUDENTS LOST BY GRADE



California Department of Education. (n.d.). Educational Demographics Office, Dropouts by Ethnic Designation by Grade for the Class of 2013-14, District Results for Los Angeles Unified.

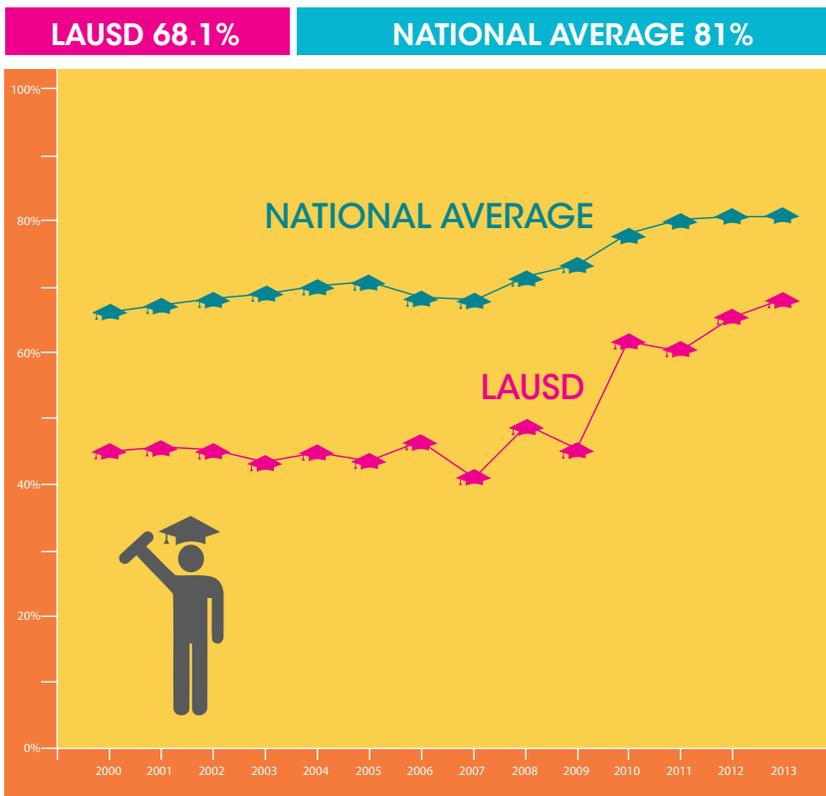
under 250 schools district-wide, accounting for one-third of all LAUSD schools.<sup>78</sup> But the fact remains, that although the district's scores are improving, the overwhelming majority of LAUSD students are attending underperforming schools.

Furthermore, the district-wide scores hide disparities that fall along racial and ethnic lines. In 2013, while LAUSD's white students have a collective API score of 871 (well above the target), Latino students scored just 729, and African American pupils fared worse still, with a score of 697.<sup>79</sup>

Too many students are inadequately prepared for college, vocational school, or the workforce.<sup>80</sup> Countywide, just 2 in 5 students complete the necessary college preparatory coursework. That number drops to just 1 in 5 for African American and Latino males. Most distressingly, in LAUSD, low-income students of color tend to be offered fewer college preparatory classes when "compared to their affluent, white and Asian counterparts across town."<sup>81</sup> This only perpetuates a long-established economic system that divides Los Angeles into haves and have-nots.

## GRADUATION ANALYSIS

### GRADUATION RATE FOR ALL STUDENTS, CLASS OF 2013



Which brings us to  
**INCOME AND  
EMPLOYMENT.**

Editorial Projects in Education (2011). Graduation Rate Trends 2006-2007 to 2011-2012. Washington, D.C. California Department of Education Data Reporting Office (2015). Cohort Outcome Summary Report. Los Angeles, CA. The Huffington Post (2015). U.S. High School Graduation Rate Reaches High of 81 Percent. New York, NY.

# Income and Employment FACT SHEET



DASHBOARD RATING

Hinders human  
development

Income and Employment is predicted to be a hindrance to human development, earning an orange on our scale. Los Angeles' bifurcated economic system creates a society of haves and have-nots. Too many families are struggling to get by and the persistently high unemployment rate is making the region a less attractive place to live.

## METRICS<sup>82</sup>

(1) employment & unemployment rates, (2) household income, (3) poverty rates and, (4) family supportive wages.

## KEY FINDINGS:

- More than 9 million Americans are looking for work<sup>83</sup> and there were only 4.6 million job openings.<sup>84</sup> The national unemployment rate is hovering at 6.1 percent.<sup>85</sup>
- As of November 2014, California's unemployment rate was 7.2 percent.<sup>86</sup>
- LA County's unemployment rate topped the national and state figures, with a rate of 7.2 percent.<sup>87</sup>
- Unemployment rates for African American and Latinos are the highest among any ethnic group. In Los Angeles County the unemployment rate for African Americans and Latinos is 17.6 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively.<sup>88</sup>
- In April 2014, the youth (ages 16-24) annual employment rate in LA County was 39 percent, compared to the national average of 21 percent.<sup>89</sup>
- In 2012, the median income in California was \$58,328.<sup>93</sup> In LA County the figure was \$53,001.<sup>91</sup>
- Of the 265 neighborhoods in Los Angeles County, Bel Air has the highest median income at \$207,938 and Downtown has the lowest median income at \$15,003.<sup>92</sup>
- In 2014, 45 percent of the county's households did not earn enough to cover basic expenses (i.e., an income of less than \$65,901 for a family of four with two school-age children)<sup>93</sup>
- Los Angeles has a higher poverty rate (15.2 percent)<sup>94</sup> than the nation (11.8 percent)<sup>95</sup> and the state (12.9 percent).<sup>96</sup>
- In LA County, to support a family's basic needs, a single parent household with two school-age kids must make \$57,495.<sup>97</sup>

# INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Income expands “people’s consumption possibilities, providing them with the resources to satisfy their needs.”<sup>98</sup> By extension, wealth protects us from “unexpected shocks that could lead to poverty and destitution.”<sup>99</sup> Armed with a sufficient education, an Angeleno with adequate income is more likely to be in better health. He is more likely to live in a safe neighborhood. And he is more likely to report higher life satisfaction.<sup>100</sup>

As a corollary, the availability of well-paying jobs allows individuals to fulfill their “ambitions, to develop skills and abilities, to feel useful in society and to build self-esteem.”<sup>101</sup> Collectively, high employment levels create societies that are “richer, more politically stable and healthier.”<sup>102</sup>

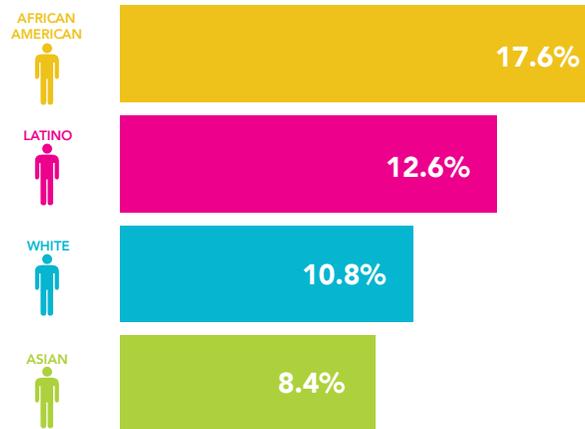
For many Angelenos, well-paying jobs are elusive. Too many families are struggling to get by on too little income.

The “Great Recession” of 2008 and 2009 had an especially strong effect on Los Angeles. The county’s unemployment rate has surpassed the national average since the middle of 2008, with eight percent of the workforce seeking employment.<sup>103</sup> The story is worse for the county’s sizeable communities of color. Most notably, nearly one sixth of the African American workforce is not participating in the regional economy.<sup>104</sup>

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY RACE

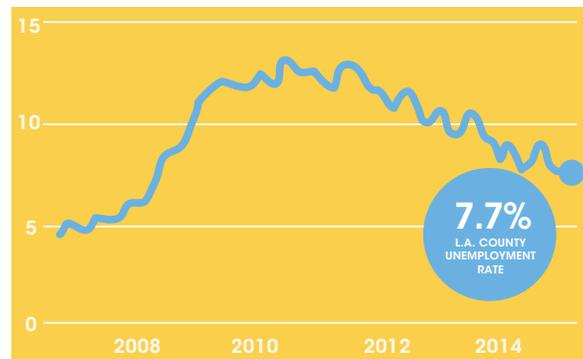
SINCE THE MIDDLE OF 2008 WITH MORE THAN ONE TENTH OF THE WORKFORCE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT. THE STORY IS WORSE FOR THE COUNTRY’S SIZEABLE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR.

### PERCENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN L.A. COUNTY 2013



U.S. Census Bureau (2013). American Community Survey Employment Status.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS FOR L.A. COUNTY



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2015). Los Angeles County, Unemployment Rate, 2015.

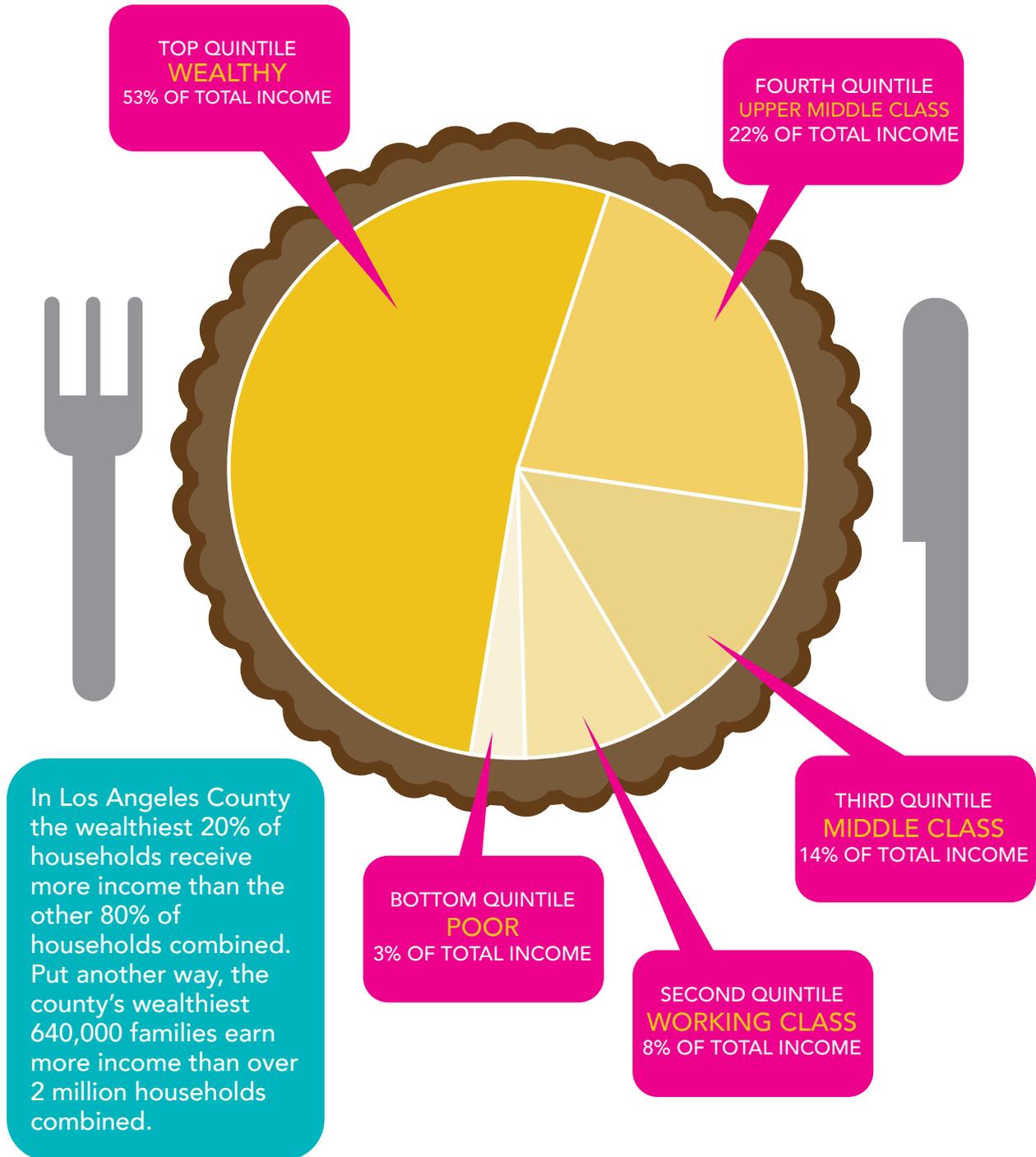
Given that “the experience of unemployment is one of the factors that have the strongest negative impact on people’s subjective well-being,”<sup>105</sup> this isn’t good news.

But it gets worse. The region’s poor employment statistics are reflected in its income distribution. The county’s median income of about \$53,000 is now below the state average (~\$58,000), and the manner in which income is distributed reinforces the notion of a bifurcated economic system.

The top 20 percent of households in the county earn more income than the bottom 80 percent combined.<sup>106</sup> Of large metropolitan areas in the U.S.,

# INCOME BY QUINTILES

## WHO GETS THE BIGGEST PIECE OF THE PIE?



U.S. Census Bureau (2013). American Community Survey Select Economic Statistics.

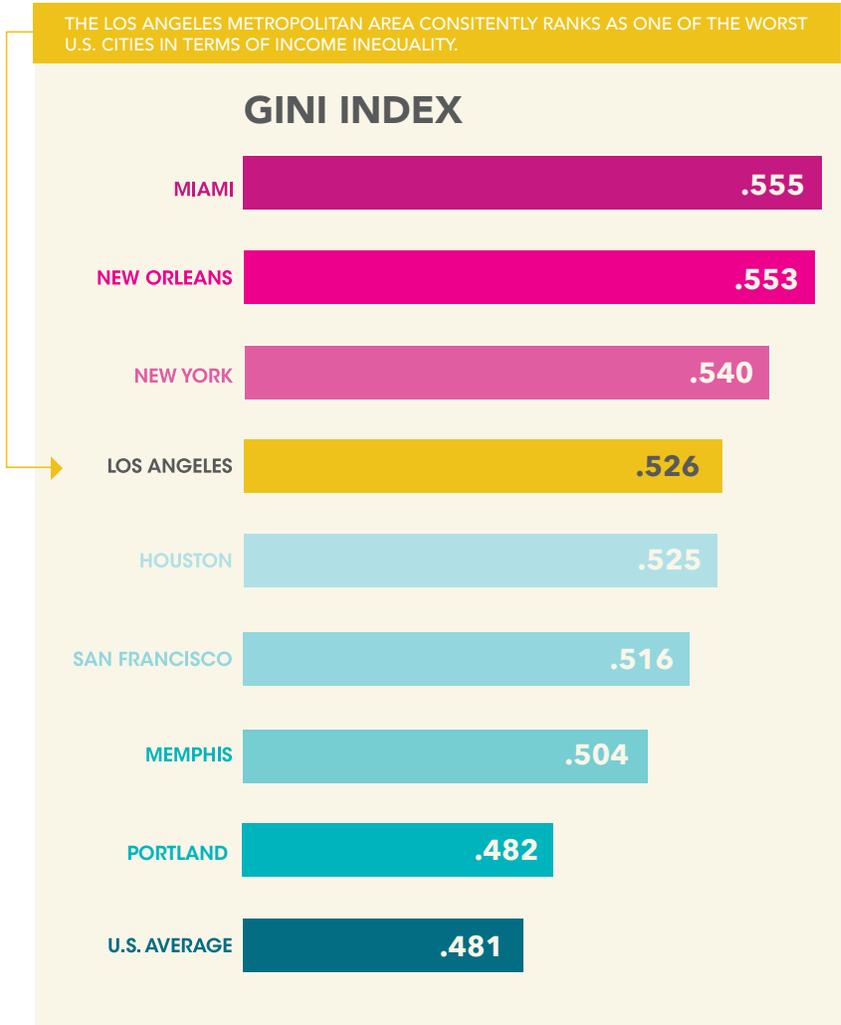
Los Angeles ranks third (behind New York and Miami) for income inequality. That means that a smaller proportion of Angelenos controls a larger share of income than in most other cities in the U.S.

Nearly half of the county's households struggle to meet the most basic needs of food, shelter, transportation, and healthcare. Three percent, or just "over 25,000 families have just enough income" to cover those basic necessities.<sup>107</sup> In Los Angeles, self-sufficiency requires about \$20,000 more household income more than the average family earns.<sup>108</sup>

Income disparity is exacerbated by the fact that LA is an expensive place to live. While Los Angeles is relatively cheap in comparison to places like New York<sup>109</sup>, the incomes of Angelenos don't allow them to keep pace. Simply put, LA's workers generally don't make enough income to live near their jobs, which is why the next statement shouldn't be surprising.

## INCOME DISPARITY RANKING

THE LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN AREA CONSISTENTLY RANKS AS ONE OF THE WORST U.S. CITIES IN TERMS OF INCOME INEQUALITY.



Weinberg, D.H. (2011). GINI Index of Income Inequality in the 2009-2013 Period. *American Community Survey Reports*. Washington, D.C.: United States Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration.

Los Angeles residents spend a lot on  
**HOUSING.**

# Housing

## FACT SHEET



Housing earned an orange on our scale, meaning that it hinders human development. Affordable housing is unavailable for many families, and too many low- and middle-income households are spending too much of their income on their apartments or mortgages.

### METRICS<sup>110</sup>

(1) vacancy rates, (2) median rent, (3) median sales price, and (4) housing affordability

### KEY FINDINGS:

- Los Angeles County needs about 500,000 units of affordable housing.<sup>111</sup>
- Overall, Los Angeles has relatively low vacancy rates of 6.2 percent for the City of Los Angeles and 6.8 percent for LA County as compared to a state average of 8.4 percent.<sup>112</sup>
- Los Angeles has relatively high median rents (\$1,175 for the county, \$1,148 for the city) when compared to other major cities like San Francisco (\$1,366), New York (\$1,196), Chicago (\$920, and Atlanta (\$940).<sup>113</sup>
- In the first half of 2014, the median home sales price in the Los Angeles area was \$423,000, approaching the \$473,000 figure seen during the peak of the housing bubble.<sup>115</sup>
- In the fall of 2014, only 32 percent of Los Angeles house holds could afford the median price home.<sup>116</sup>
- The median rent has skyrocketed by 25 percent from 2000-2012. Now, approximately 90 percent of the country's very low-income renter households spend 30 percent or more in rent. The average salary needed to be able to afford fair market rent in the county is \$55,920.<sup>117</sup>
- A substantial share of homeowners (40.7 percent) spend 30 percent or more on housing, and nearly one-fifth spend 50 percent or more.<sup>118</sup>
- Nationally, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area has the highest percentage of households with a housing cost burden. Twenty-six percent of the area's households spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing costs.<sup>119</sup>
- Nearly 76 percent of low-income owners and 93 percent of low-income renters spend 30 percent or more on housing.<sup>120</sup>
- Although housing costs in Los Angeles are below the pre-recession peak, potential buyers need to earn a minimum annual income of \$81,990 to qualify for the purchase of a home priced at the county median price, \$396,470.<sup>121</sup>
- Only 34 percent of Los Angeles' home buyers could afford the median home sales price, compared to 62 percent in San Bernardino County, 43 percent in Riverside County, and 20 percent in Orange County.<sup>122</sup>
- Los Angeles is considered the "homeless capital of the country."<sup>123</sup> There were an estimated 57,737 homeless persons countywide in 2013, representing a 15 percent increase over the previous year.<sup>124</sup>

# Los Angeles residents spend a lot on HOUSING

Putting a roof over one's head often consumes the largest portion of family income. Housing is at the "top of the hierarchy of human material needs . . . and is central to people's ability to meet basic needs."<sup>125</sup> Unaffordable housing leads to overcrowding, substandard safety and homelessness. These conditions and associated anxiety adversely impact health status, students' opportunity to excel, and neighborhood cohesion.

Using the standard that housing is affordable if the rent or mortgage requires less than 30% of a household's income,<sup>126</sup> many Angelenos have difficulty finding housing within their means. Once again, low-income households have the hardest time locating suitably priced homes. Three fourths of low-income homeowners and more than 90% of low-income renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing.<sup>127</sup>

Families in Los Angeles spend more of their income on housing than families in most other large cities in the U.S.<sup>128</sup>

One reason for the city's high housing costs is the paucity of units for low- and middle-income wage earners. Just 32 percent of the city's home buyers can afford to purchase the area's median home price of \$417,000. A household would need an annual income of \$85,000 to afford a home at that price.<sup>129</sup>

Demand far outstrips supply, with Los Angeles reporting some of the lowest vacancy rates when compared to other large U.S. cities.<sup>131</sup> That doesn't bode well for millions of low-income and middle class households that are competing for Los Angeles' limited housing stock. Exacerbating the crisis is the

depletion of the affordable housing trust fund, due to the transition of state community redevelopment funds and federal budget cuts in recent years, which reduced a variety of housing programs, including valuable Section 8 vouchers.<sup>132</sup>

Even so, there is reason for hope.

On the whole, the county's population is younger than that of the nation. Economists predict that a younger populous "'buffeted by the boom and bust in the housing market'" will stimulate "more demand for urban rental units and less demand for suburban cul-de-sacs."<sup>133</sup> The market is already

beginning to respond to these pressures. In the Los Angeles metro area – including Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Anaheim – the number of single-family residential permits is up 52 percent, trailing only Atlanta. However, studies note that even with a recent surge in single family construction, "permitting in the 100 largest metropolitan areas was still 48 percent below average annual levels in the 2000s."<sup>134</sup> Los Angeles ranks among the top metro areas issuing multi-family housing permits, with 17,700 issued in 2013, coming second to New York City, which issued 30,000 permits.<sup>135</sup>

Still, the construction planned and currently in the pipeline is insufficient to help a significant number of the Angelenos who spend large sums of their income on expensive housing. This depletes financial resources that households need to afford other necessities. For some families, this erases the option of sending their child to a private school that may outperform the public school system. For others, it means curtailing their use of personal vehicles in a car-dominated region, potentially restricting mobility and access to jobs.

**And some families  
risk their  
HEALTH.**

# Health



Health status hinders human development in Los Angeles. The stark disparities in health outcomes based on race, class, and geographic location make the health landscape perilous for many Angelenos. Still, as a whole, we're less obese than the nation and the county has reported steady reductions in death rates from chronic conditions like heart disease and lung cancer.

## METRICS<sup>136</sup>

(1) rates of chronic disease, (2) access to healthcare, and (3) mortality & morbidity

## KEY FINDINGS:

- Race, income and educational attainment and geographic location are the primary influences on the health of different populations in LA County.<sup>137</sup>
- Obesity rates are about 24 percent for adults and 22 percent for children.
- From late 2013 through 2014, Medi-Cal was expanded to provide insurance to 2.7 million Los Angeles residents - an increase of 1 million persons covered.<sup>138</sup>
- An additional 500,000 or so Angelenos received premium support to purchase private insurance through Covered California.<sup>139</sup>
- About one million county residents, mostly undocumented, remain uninsured.<sup>140</sup>
- Comprising 22 percent of total deaths in the county, coronary heart disease kills the most people in LA County. However, the rates of death have fallen 37 percent in the last decade.<sup>141</sup>
- Stroke is the second leading cause of death in the county, which also declined by 35 percent in the last decade. Of the deaths caused by cancer, lung cancer leads with nearly 3,000 deaths in 2010. However, the county experienced a decline in death rate by 22 percent in the past decade.<sup>142</sup>
- Homicide was the leading cause of premature death for Black and Latino males between the ages of 15 and 44.<sup>143</sup>
- Studies have shown that the "economic well-being of local communities is the strongest and most consistent predictor of premature mortality among Latinos and the best way to decrease mortality rates in this group would be to address income disparities."<sup>144</sup>
- Black males are the only group for which HIV is in the top five causes of premature death.<sup>145</sup>
- Women have the most similar causes of death across all ethnicities.<sup>146</sup>
- Average life expectancy has risen from 78.8 years in 2001 to 81.5 years in 2010. But there is a nearly 15-year difference in life expectancy between black males and Asian/Pacific Islander females (72 vs. 87 years, respectively).<sup>147</sup>
- Los Angeles County life expectancy at birth (in years) by race and gender (female/male):<sup>148</sup>
  - All groups: 84.1/78.8
  - Whites: 83.1/78.5
  - Latinos: 85.6/80.3
  - African Americans: 78.9/72.0
  - Asians and Pacific Islanders: 87.6/83.6
- The overall death rate for African Americans (1,087 per 100,000) is significantly higher than the any other group and is also higher than the average (747 per 100,000).<sup>149</sup>

# HEALTH

It isn't news that "health is one of the most valued aspects of people's life."<sup>150</sup> International surveys have found that, combined with jobs, health status ranks as one of the most important determinants of people's living conditions. Good health enables us to participate as full citizens in our society.<sup>151</sup> A healthy Angeleno is far more capable of obtaining a quality education sustaining adequate employment, and thriving.

But, given the high cost of housing, environmental disparities and flat household income, a large proportion of the region's residents are unable to safeguard their health.

Geography, income, and race are strong predictors of the fate of L.A.'s residents, and health is no exception.

Low-income and non-white populations suffer the worst negative health consequences of modern life. These groups are more likely to live in neighborhoods where they are exposed to heavily polluted air. This increases their cancer risk and causes an increased incidence of respiratory ailments like asthma.<sup>152</sup>

In Los Angeles, air toxins concentrate in the highest quantities near the ports complex and in Central LA. Both locations are home to low-income communities of color, and both locations have the highest estimated cancer risk in Los Angeles. Near the ports, it's estimated that nearly four out of every 1,000 residents will be diagnosed with cancer as a result of the area's poor air quality. For the entire Los Angeles area, the estimated cancer risk is just over one in 1,000.<sup>153</sup> So, residents of Central Los Angeles and those living near the ports are almost four times more likely than everyone else to develop cancer because of where they live and the air they breathe.

Underserved neighborhoods are

## LEADING CAUSES OF PREMATURE \*\* DEATH BY RACE

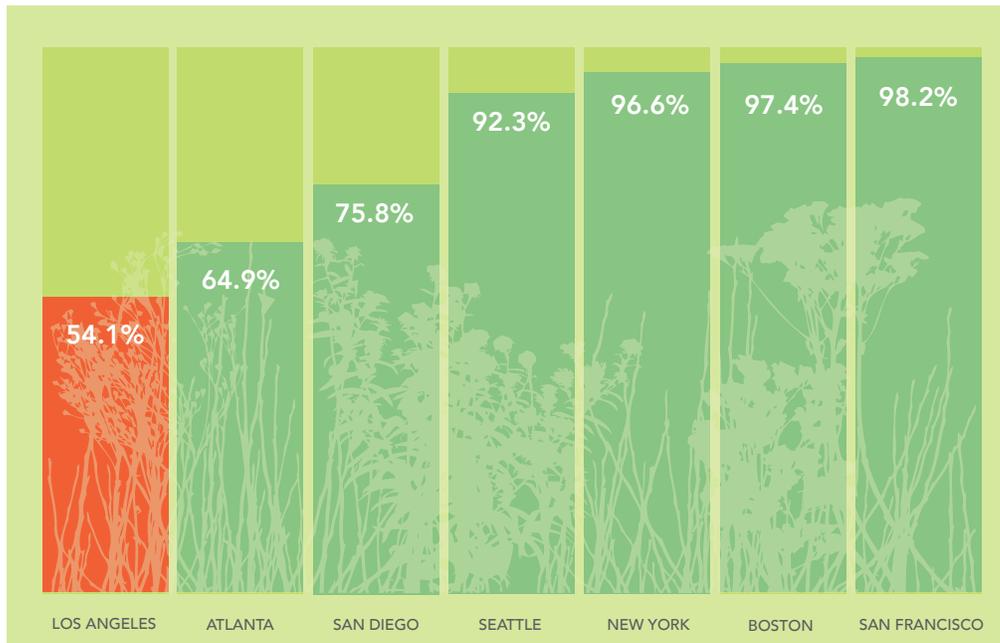
RACE	1	2	3	4
WHITE 	<b>HEART DISEASE</b> *21,482 	<b>DRUG OVERDOSE</b> *9,866 	<b>SUICIDE</b> *9,228 	<b>LUNG CANCER</b> *8,006 
HISPANIC 	<b>HOMICIDE</b> *15,128 	<b>HEART DISEASE</b> *13,672 	<b>LIVER DISEASE</b> *11,316 	<b>MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH*</b> 10,989 
AFRICAN AMERICAN 	<b>HEART DISEASE</b> *10,398 	<b>HOMICIDE</b> *7,694 	<b>LUNG CANCER</b> *3,360 	<b>DIABETES</b> *2,712 
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER 	<b>HEART DISEASE</b> *5,460 	<b>SUICIDE</b> *2,994 	<b>LUNG CANCER</b> *2,658 	<b>STROKE</b> *2,630 

\*years of life lost over the 10-year reporting period

\*\*note that "premature" is defined as any death that occurs before 75 years of age

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (2011). *Mortality in Los Angeles County 2011*. Los Angeles, CA.

## PERCENT OF CITY POPULATION WITH WALKABLE PARK ACCESS



Trust for Public Land (2015). *2015 City Park Facts*. San Diego, CA.

also less likely to have easy access to parks and open space where individuals can exercise, leading to an increased incidence of obesity.<sup>154</sup> In the U.S., South Los Angeles is the most park-poor area with just 1.2 acres of park space per 1,000 residents; compare that to West Los Angeles, which has 59 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. The national average of park space per 1,000 residents is 6 acres. Approximately two-thirds of the children in the county do not have access to a park near their residence.<sup>155</sup> The disparity between ethnic groups is particularly stark. In heavily Latino neighborhoods, residents have about one half acre of park space for every 1,000 people. African American neighborhoods must make do with fewer than two acres of open space per 1,000 residents. Predominantly white neighborhoods, however, average more than 30 acres per 1,000 residents.<sup>156</sup>

An additional environmental problem is the disparity of food retailers that sell fresh fruits and vegetables.<sup>157</sup> Largely white neighborhoods have three “times as many supermarkets as Black neighborhoods and nearly twice as many markets as Latino neighborhoods in Los Angeles.”<sup>158</sup> Predictably, a place like West Los Angeles, with its low poverty rate and higher incomes, has the lowest obesity rate in the county; just one in ten West Angelenos are obese.<sup>159</sup> South Los Angeles, with its concentration of low-income communities of color, reports the highest obesity rate in the county; more than one in three South Angelenos are obese.<sup>160</sup>

For LA’s low-income communities of color, the region’s health landscape is dismal. For many, it’s a story of access. There’s limited access to clean air, poor access to recreation spaces, and restricted access to healthy nutritional options. And for the one-fourth of county residents who are uninsured, there’s very little access to affordable health care.

All of this has conspired to create a region where 1 in 5 children are obese.<sup>161</sup> It has conspired to create a place where chronic conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease are curtailing life. It has conspired to create a

**PREVALENCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN L.A. COUNTY**  
 LOS ANGELES HAS BECOME A REGION WHERE 1 IN 5 CHILDREN ARE OBESE.



Los Angeles County WIC Data (2015). Obesity. Los Angeles, CA.

region where low-income people of color are the most likely to get sick and the least likely to get care. Rates of hypertension, obesity, and diabetes are higher for low-income people of color.<sup>162</sup> Health, with its fundamental impact on the human experience, is one of the starkest examples of the disparities between the haves and the have-nots in this region.

And still, there is hope. Adjusted for age and race, it is estimated that the overall obesity rate in Los Angeles County is significantly below the national average. More than one fifth of the residents are obese, versus one third of the national population. Places where people are “more affluent and better educated” were shown to have a much lower incidence of obesity, proving just how critical the link is between education, income, and health outcomes.

A major change in community health is the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.<sup>163</sup> Covered California and the California Department of Health Care Services – the entities charged with implementing the Affordable Care Act – provided new or expanded insurance coverage to millions of Angelenos. This directly led to a decrease in emergency room visits and will make it much easier for families to receive preventative and specialized care without going into debt.

While income and education are inextricably woven to health outcomes, the physical environment also plays a role. Although it’s improving, Los Angeles’ environmental landscape also demonstrates the disparity that has come to characterize this region.

**And with that, we move on to ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.**

# Environmental Quality

## FACT SHEET



Environmental Quality was also found to be a hindrance to human development in LA, earning an orange rating. There is no doubt that the environmental quality has dramatically improved in recent decades, and we're on a trajectory that is promising. Still, Los Angeles' water sources are imperiled, park access is lacking for many of the region's residents, and the poorest air quality is concentrated near low-income communities of color.

### METRICS<sup>164</sup>

(1) proximity to parks & access to open space, (2) air quality, and (3) water supply & quality.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- Los Angeles devotes 16 percent (47,221 acres) of its total land area to parks and open space, with about 12.3 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. <sup>165</sup> The figure is slightly higher than the national median figure of 11.1 acres per 1,000 residents. <sup>166</sup> However, access to the city's park infrastructure lags behind much of the nation. <sup>167</sup>
- Los Angeles offered its children and seniors some of the worst access to parks, leaving more than 400,000 children and roughly 200,000 seniors in the city without any easy way to get to a park facility. <sup>168</sup> Proximity to parkland in major U.S. metropolitan areas (percentage of children within one-half mile of a park):
  - **Boston:** 98 percent (3,312 children without easy access to a park)
  - **New York:** 97 percent (63,883 children)
  - **San Francisco:** 98 percent (2,695 children)
  - **Seattle:** 91 percent (10,035 children)
  - **San Diego:** 75 percent (78,240 children)
  - **Dallas:** 53 percent (169,074 children)
  - **Los Angeles:** 44 percent (428,833 children)
- A 2002 study found that heavily Latino neighborhoods have only 0.6 park acres per 1,000 people; African American communities have 1.7 park acres per 1,000 people; and largely Caucasian communities have 31.8 park acres per 1,000 residents. <sup>169</sup>
- Southern California "contains some of the highest concentrations of industrial and commercial operations in the country" and has the poorest air quality in the U.S. <sup>170</sup>
- Diesel particulate matter (DPM) contributes to 84 percent <sup>171</sup> of the estimated cancer risk, but programs to reduce DPM have had success. The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles have reduced DPM by 80 percent in a five-year period. <sup>172</sup>
- "Population-weighted cancer risk estimates from air toxics exposure are consistently about 50% higher for people of color, as compared to Anglos, at every level of income." <sup>173</sup>
- Average water use in Los Angeles today <sup>174</sup> is about the same as it was in 1981 "despite the fact that over 1.1 million additional people now live in Los Angeles." <sup>175</sup>
- On average, the city receives 51 percent of its water from the Metropolitan Water District, which sources its water from the Colorado River (8%) and from the Bay Delta (43%). <sup>176</sup>
- A major earthquake in or near the Delta could interrupt water supplies for "up to three years posing a significant and unacceptable risk to the California business economy." <sup>177</sup>

# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The environment where people live, work, and play is a key component of quality of life. Environmental pollutants also have a sizeable impact on health, “with around one fourth of the global burden of diseases deemed to be associated with poor environmental conditions.”<sup>178</sup> While the health impacts associated with our surroundings are not always readily apparent, our environs elicit a visceral response. People intrinsically “attach importance to the beauty and the cleanliness of the place where they live.”<sup>179</sup>

Although environmental conditions in Los Angeles are not ideal, the environmental quality of the city and the region has been steadily improving for decades. And there is no sign that the trend will reverse.

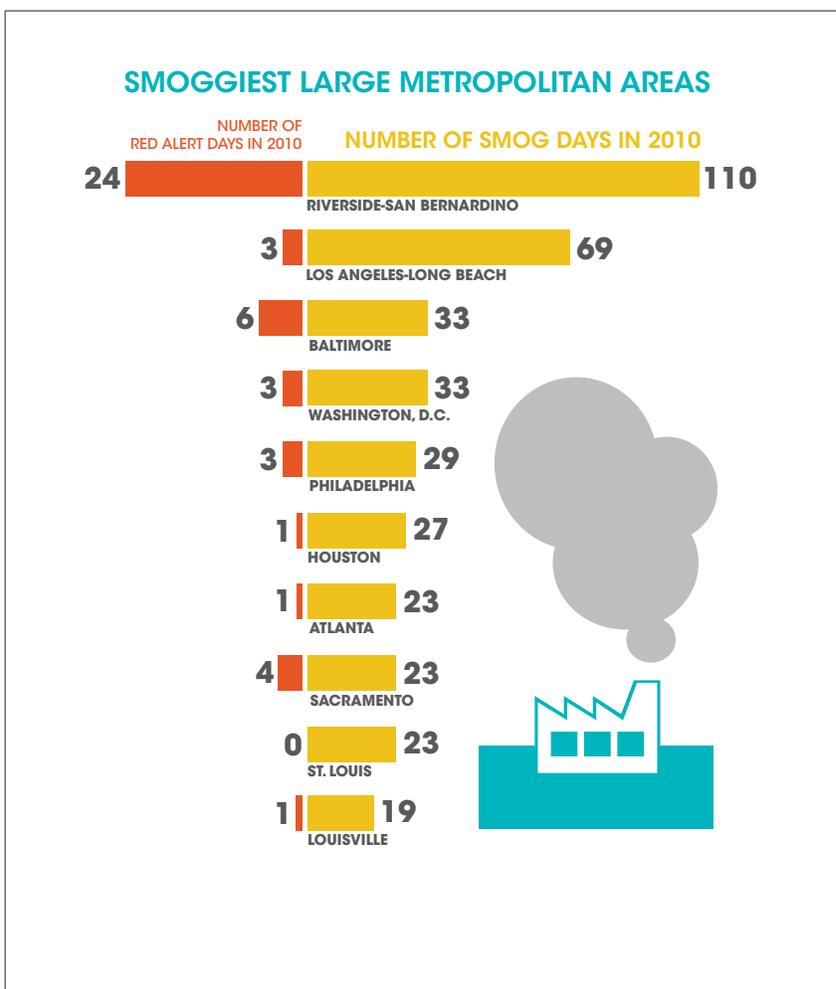
Longtime residents of Los Angeles (and air quality data) will tell you that the smog that once defined the image of the region is less persistent. However, the area continues to rank at the bottom of the nation in terms of air quality.<sup>180</sup>

In 2014, the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area tied with Bakersfield for the distinction of America’s third most polluted region by year-round particulate matter, just behind the Fresno-Madera and Visalia-Porterville-Hanford regions.<sup>181</sup> The region was dubbed the most

ozone-polluted city,<sup>182</sup> reporting 77 high ozone days between 2010 and 2012.<sup>183</sup> Among those days are a handful of “red-alert” days, where “air quality was so poor that anyone could experience adverse health effects.” Furthermore, “sensitive populations -- children, the elderly, and people with respiratory illness -- could experience worse effects.”<sup>184</sup> That’s not good, but things are much better than they were.

In 1976, the entire Southern Coast Basin (including Los Angeles, Long Beach, Riverside and San Bernardino) reported over 200 smog days. That number shrunk to 163 by 1990, and was below 100 by 2001.<sup>185</sup>

More recently, the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles have implemented regulations to curb emissions of diesel particulate matter, one of the more



Abrams, C. (2011). *Danger in the Air: Unhealthy Air Days in 2010 and 2011*. Boston, MA: Environment America.

toxic air pollutants. There has been an 80 percent reduction in diesel particulate matter at the ports since the clean trucks program was implemented in 2005.<sup>186</sup> The California Air Resources Board has approved a statewide regulation that should deliver similar results across the state. The estimated effect of the state’s truck and bus regulation “to significantly reduce particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen emissions from diesel vehicles” has been a reduction of 90 tons of truck-related particulate pollution statewide.<sup>187</sup>

But incremental improvements should not take away from the urgency of the issue. In spite of the gains made in environmental quality over the last half century, the negative impacts associated with poor air quality fall disproportionately on low-income communities of color.<sup>188</sup>

Compared to whites, African American and Latino residents are more than three times as likely to live close to hazardous facilities. They are also more likely to live in the region’s most polluted areas, including neighborhoods near the Los Angeles-Long Beach Ports complex, and neighborhoods in South Los Angeles. Middle- and high-income

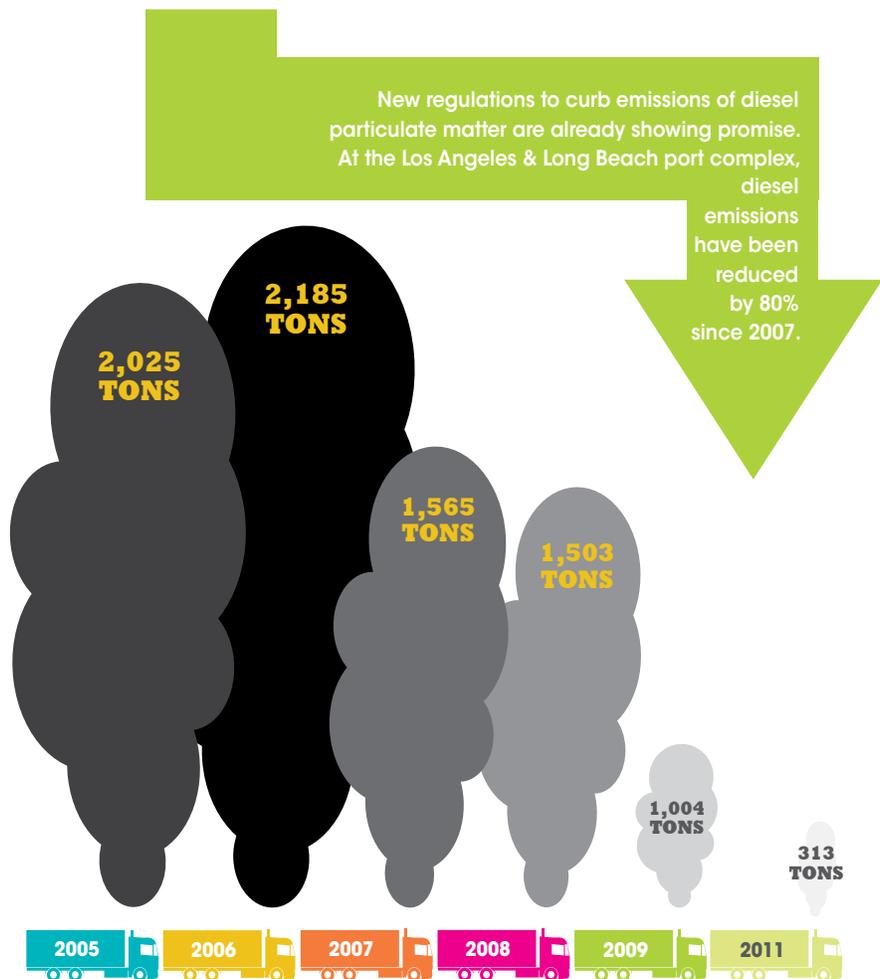
African Americans and Latinos don’t fare any better. Their “cancer risk estimates for air toxics exposures are consistently about 50% higher” when compared to Caucasians.<sup>190</sup>

In terms of water, the region is heavily dependent on increasingly volatile sources of imported water to meet its needs. The city imports nearly 90 percent of its water.<sup>191</sup>

One of the biggest sources for L.A. (and Southern California) is the Bay Delta in Northern California. This “hub of California’s water delivery system” has had its output restricted due to

## CLEAN TRUCKS REGULATIONS

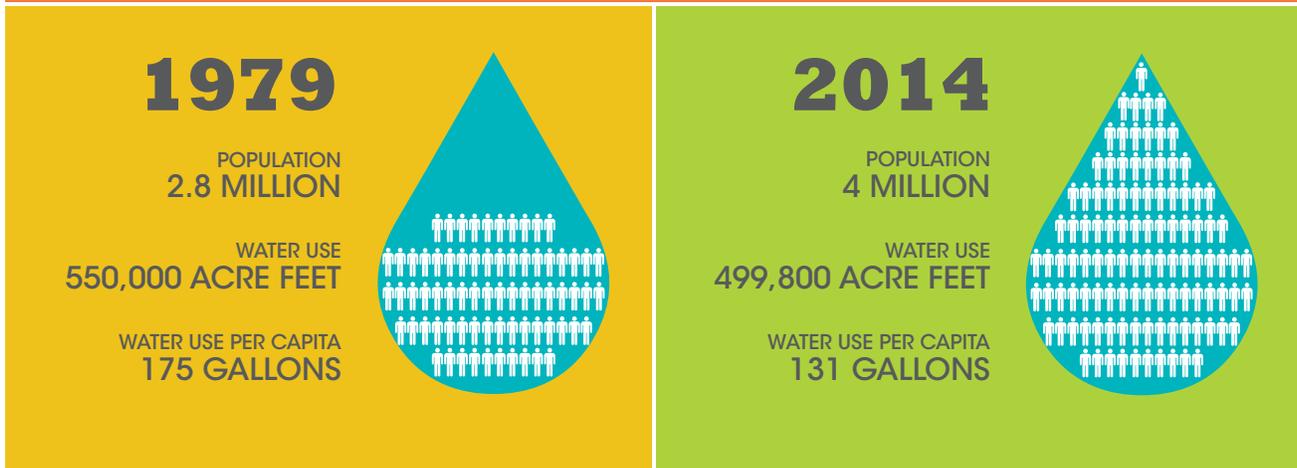
### Diesel particulate matter emissions by year



Port of Los Angeles & Port of Long Beach (2010). 2010 Update: San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan. Los Angeles, CA.  
 Port of Los Angeles (2012). Port of Los Angeles Clean Truck Program Fact Sheet. Los Angeles, CA.

# WATER USE PER CAPITA

LOS ANGELES' WATER USAGE IN 2014 DECREASED FROM 1979 despite an increase in population of over 1,000,000 residents.



Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (2015). *2015 Briefing Book*. Los Angeles, CA.

environmental degradation.<sup>192</sup> A variety of factors, including agricultural runoff and the use of water pumps that alter the water's natural flow, have severely degraded the Bay Delta's natural ecosystem. A series of regulations have been implemented to restore the area's natural habitats, but the restrictions have had the cumulative effect of reducing supplies by about 30 percent in an average year.<sup>193</sup>

On top of that, the Delta is ill-equipped to handle a major flood or earthquake in the near term. A major seismic event or a large flood could introduce saltwater into a freshwater system, making it unsuitable for agricultural or urban uses. The Delta is protected by an antiquated system of levees built more than a century ago. These earthen barriers that protect "low-lying islands, farmland, three state highways, a railroad, and several utility lines are weak and widely expected to fail in the event of an earthquake."<sup>194</sup> Without adequate preparation and mitigation measures, water deliveries to Southern California can be disrupted for "up to three years posing a significant and unacceptable risk to the California business economy."<sup>195</sup> That amounts to 21 million people facing a water shortage<sup>196</sup> that would cost the state more than \$40 billion in economic losses, or twice the cost of the Northridge earthquake.<sup>197</sup> Fortunately, federal and state agencies are creating a framework, dubbed the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, to restore the Delta's fragile ecosystems while securing the state's water supply against natural disasters.<sup>198</sup> But until the plan is fully implemented, Los Angeles' water supplies remain at risk.

Given this reality, the region has made enormous strides in reducing the per capita consumption of water in Los Angeles. Average water use today<sup>199</sup> is about the same as it was in 1981, despite the addition of roughly 1.1 million people to the local population. As a result, Los Angeles consistently ranks among the lowest in per person water consumption rates when compared to California's largest cities.<sup>200</sup>

Indeed, the story of environmental quality in Los Angeles is one of tremendous progress. While there are still missed opportunities, the region's environmental trajectory is promising.

**And with that hopeful note,  
we move onto another positive story:  
PUBLIC SAFETY.**

# Public Safety



Public Safety was found to enhance human development in Los Angeles, earning a light green designation. Crime rates are at historic lows throughout the county. Still, the experience of crime and perceptions of safety still vary widely along racial and socioeconomic lines.

## METRICS<sup>201</sup>

(1) per capita crime rates, and (2) perceptions of crime and safety.

## KEY FINDINGS:

- Mirroring national trends, Los Angeles' crime rate has steadily declined over the past two decades. As of 2012, there were about 28 incidents per 1,000 residents, lower than the national average of 32 and higher than the average for large cities with populations of more than 500,000 (39.5).<sup>202</sup>
- Crime rates have reached historic lows, with the homicide rate in 2010 the lowest since 1966.<sup>203</sup> The trend continues at both the City and County levels "while other cities either don't change or go up."<sup>204</sup>
- Crime rates per capita vary widely throughout the city. In Watts there are 66 violent crimes per 10,000 people annually; in Westwood there are four.<sup>205</sup>
- Neighborhoods with perceived social disorder and a lack of "collective efficacy" are more associated "with crime-related outcomes."<sup>206</sup>
- In Los Angeles, higher rates of ethnic diversity tends to be associated with increased perceptions of safety in both neighborhoods<sup>207</sup> and schools.<sup>208</sup>
- Foreign-born residents and recent immigrants are less likely to commit and be victims of crime in Los Angeles (and nationally).<sup>209</sup>
- U.S. born men "are incarcerated at a rate over two-and-a-half times greater than that of foreign-born men."<sup>210</sup>
- California cities like Los Angeles "that had a higher share of recent immigrants saw their crime rates fall further than cities with a lower share."<sup>211</sup>
- The LAPD has nearly 10,000 police officers patrolling an area of 485 square miles and a population of roughly 4 million inhabitants.<sup>212</sup> That translates to roughly 2.6 officers for every 1,000 residents, a number just on par with the national average, but below other large cities such as New York (4.2), Chicago (4.4), and Philadelphia (4.3).<sup>213</sup>
- Los Angeles' physical footprint is larger than Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, Manhattan, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and St. Louis combined. Yet, the city "has fewer than half the police officers of all those cities combined."<sup>214</sup>
- "Though Los Angeles is under-policed compared to cities such as New York and Chicago, eight of the nation's 15 biggest cities have fewer officers per capita."<sup>215</sup>

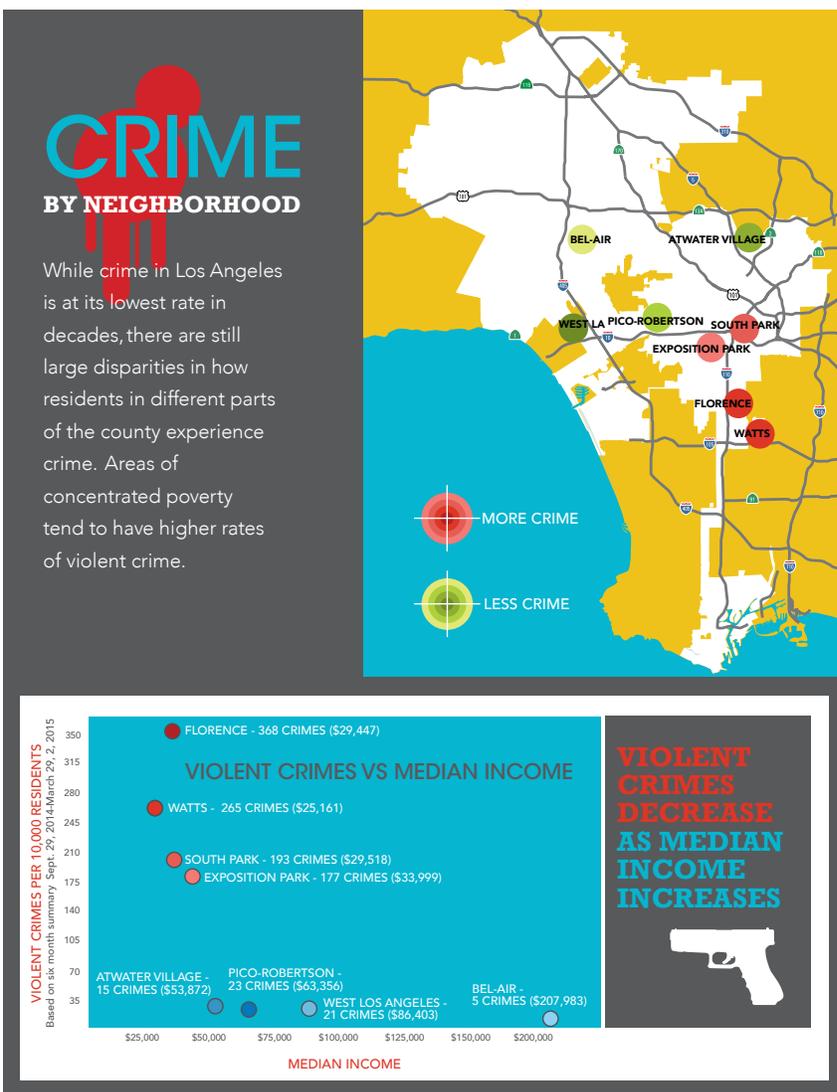
# PUBLIC SAFETY

Safety and security is “a core element for the well-being of individuals and society as a whole.”<sup>216</sup> Crime can lead to loss of life and property; it has detrimental physical and mental health consequences; it can reduce economic productivity; and, most detrimentally, it creates a pervasive feeling of vulnerability.<sup>217</sup>

The reality and perception of safety in Los Angeles is a remarkable bright spot in a region that reported, just two decades ago, about 1,200 murders a year.<sup>218</sup>

Against all economic odds, and contrary to the common perception of the region, crime rates are the lowest that they’ve been in decades, and they’re continuing to drop.<sup>219</sup> The region has mirrored the national trend of steadily declining levels of crime in recent decades.. In 2014 the city of LA and county of LA reported fewer than 600 homicides, a dramatic decline over several decades ago.

Still, the experience of crime and safety in Los Angeles depends on who you are and where you live.<sup>220</sup> Areas of concentrated poverty with less ethnic diversity are more likely to experience higher levels of crime.<sup>221</sup> The citywide violent crime rate is 48 incidents for every 10,000 residents. But in Watts that number jumps to 66 incidents; in Exposition Park the figure is 53.2 incidents. Compare that to higher-income



Los Angeles Times (2015). Mapping L.A.: Violent Crime. *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles, CA.

locations like Cheviot Hills, Bel-Air, and Century City.<sup>222</sup> Each of them reports fewer than 10 incidents of violent crime per 10,000 capita, with Century City reporting fewer than two incidents for every 10,000 residents.

Given those statistics, it should come as no surprise that people in low-income neighborhoods are more likely to perceive their environment as unsafe.<sup>223</sup> Areas “with higher levels of violence have a greater share of high school dropouts, individuals below poverty, households receiving welfare,” and a higher unemployment rate.<sup>224</sup> Los Angeles neighborhoods with the highest crime rates are predictably ethnically homogenous with high rates of poverty,

lending credence to the notion that community violence “is correlated with multiple measures of disadvantage.”<sup>225</sup>

Angelenos who feel that they can work with family, friends, and neighbors to bring about positive, collective change are also more likely to report feeling safer.<sup>226</sup> Surprisingly, it is the residents of ethnically diverse neighborhoods who are more likely to feel that they can trust their neighbors.<sup>227</sup>

Which brings us to our next contrarian factoid. Even though there is a common misconception that immigrant populations increase crime, they are statistically unlikely to perpetrate crime.

Compared to foreign-born men, males born in the U.S. are more than twice

## IMMIGRANTS’ IMPACT ON CRIME

CRIME RATE PER 10,000 PEOPLE BETWEEN 2000-2005 AND PERCENT FOREIGN BORN



Butcher, K.F., Piehl, A.M. (2008). Crime, Corrections, and California. *California Counts: Population Trends and Profiles*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California.

as likely to be incarcerated. Los Angeles, with its large share of immigrants, has seen crime rates drop faster than in other cities with a smaller proportion of foreign-born people.<sup>228</sup> Furthermore, residing in an immigrant household reduced the instance of experiencing youth violence.

Studies have found “that youth from immigrant households of Latin American origins have significantly reduced odds of more serious forms of youth violence relative to non-Latinos.”<sup>229</sup>

While the reduction in region’s crime rate may be tied, in part, to its immigrant-rich community, we should also note that federal immigration policies aimed at reducing crime – and enacted here in Los Angeles – have had international implications. In an effort to curb gang violence that plagued Los Angeles in the 1980s and 1990s, local and federal law enforcement officials stepped up deportations of undocumented immigrants charged with gang-related crimes.<sup>230</sup> These policies have been tied to the rise of transnational gangs in countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, who “received more than 90 per cent of the deportations from the United States” between 1998 and 2005.<sup>231</sup> The rise of organized crime in those countries is tied the current migrant crisis, where migrants are fleeing “gang violence [and] a related rise in drug trafficking through the region.” Although Los Angeles’ reduction in crime rates has

been largely successful, it's worth highlighting instances where crime fighting policies have had unintended, and far-reaching, consequences.

Still, the crime rate's precipitous drop has positively affected the quality of life for many Angelenos. And because this bears repeating, ethnically diverse neighborhoods encourage safety and reduce criminal acts.<sup>232</sup> In the case of public safety, racial diversity is one of Los Angeles' greatest assets. This diversity also affects how we interact and connect with each other.

It affects our  
**SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS.**

# Social Connectedness

## FACT SHEET



Social Connectedness received an orange rating. Low rates of trust, voting, and social engagement in Los Angeles are not promising. In addition, levels of social connectedness are often tied to educational attainment. Still, research shows that lower levels of social interaction and civic engagement are typical in large, diverse regions like Los Angeles.

### METRICS<sup>233</sup>

(1) volunteerism, (2) voting, and (3) civic and social engagement.

### KEY FINDINGS:

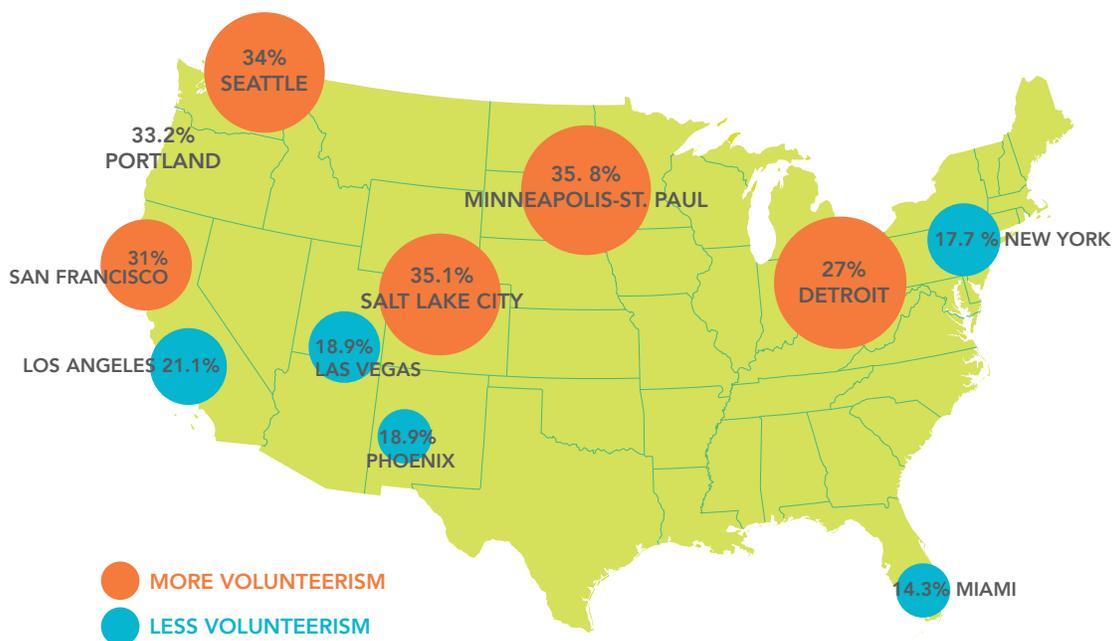
- Like other urban communities in the southwest that were surveyed – Houston, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Jose/Silicon Valley, Los Angeles tends to score lower than the national average across a wide range of the indices.<sup>234</sup>
- In ethnically diverse places like Los Angeles or Houston, college graduates are 4 or 5 times more likely to be politically involved than their fellow residents who did not get past high school. In ethnically less diverse places like Montana or New Hampshire, the class gaps in political participation are less than half that large.<sup>235</sup>
- Los Angeles metropolitan statistical area has a volunteerism rate of 21.7 percent, lower than San Francisco’s 31.1 percent rate. In Los Angeles, 2.2 million adults volunteered, ranking the city 45th among the largest 51 metro areas.<sup>236</sup>
- The voting rate in Los Angeles, following national trends, has picked up. The national average in 2012 was 61.8 percent (compared to 56.7 percent in 2008),<sup>237</sup> while Los Angeles’s rate is 57.7 percent (compared to 46.7 percent in 2008). San Francisco, by comparison, has a voting rate of 61.5 percent.<sup>238</sup>
- While fewer than 1 in 12 people with less than a high school education report voting in presidential elections, the number jumps to 1 in 3 for high school graduates. The rate is 3 in 4 for college graduates. And it is 9 in 10 for those with a graduate degree.<sup>239</sup>
- Los Angeles scores are comparable to the national average for diversity of friendships.<sup>240</sup>
- 36 percent of Angelenos say that people can be trusted; 55 percent say you can’t be too careful; and 9 percent say that it depends. This profile is a less trusting one than the national profile, in which 47 percent say people can be trusted, 46 percent say you can’t be too careful, and 7 percent say that it depends.<sup>241</sup>
- Fewer Angelenos expect to remain in their communities; 66 percent of Angelenos expect to be living in their current community 5 years from now, compared to 76 percent nationally.<sup>242</sup>
- In Los Angeles 31 percent rate their community as an “excellent” place to live, 44 percent “good,” 21 percent “fair” and 4 percent “poor.” Nationally, the numbers are 41 percent (excellent), 44 percent (good), 13 percent (fair), and 2 percent (poor).<sup>243</sup>
- Thirty-seven percent of Angelenos do not discuss politics at all, while almost 28 percent report discussing politics frequently<sup>244</sup>; the numbers are on par with national averages of 36.6 percent and 26 percent, respectively.<sup>245</sup> Seven percent reported contacting a public official<sup>246</sup> (compared to about 10 percent nationally<sup>247</sup>).
- Angelenos read the newspaper less often than the national average (2.8 days versus 3.3 days).<sup>248</sup>

# SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

## RATES OF VOLUNTEERISM IN LARGE AMERICAN CITIES

In terms of volunteerism, Los Angeles ranks near the bottom of large U.S. cities.

It is worth noting that cities with large minority populations and cities with the highest income inequality (i.e., New York and Miami) are also at the bottom of that list.



Corporation for National and Community Service (2013). *Volunteer Rates in Larger Cities*. Washington, D.C.

Social connectedness attempts to measure the frequency of our contact with others and quality of our personal relationships. For this report, we've also included the element of civic and social engagement into this measure. The fundamental nature of human social bonds makes it one of the "crucial determinants of well-being."<sup>249</sup> But data on the subject is nascent. It's a hard concept to capture, and it's a difficult research question to quantify.

Los Angeles is socially disjointed and stratified.<sup>250</sup> The city's connectedness indicators are perhaps the most concrete (and disheartening) manifestation of LA's inadequate education system.

For Angelenos, social interactions, civic engagement, and social capital are all heavily dependent on education. Angelenos with higher levels of education are more engaged with their community, both civically and socially. In the same vein, higher levels of income are associated with higher rates of giving and larger social networks.<sup>251</sup>

Compared to the nation, Angelenos are less likely to be involved in groups, less likely to engage in organizational activism, less likely to vote, less likely to be engaged in faith-based organizations, less likely to socialize informally, and less likely to be trusting.<sup>252</sup>

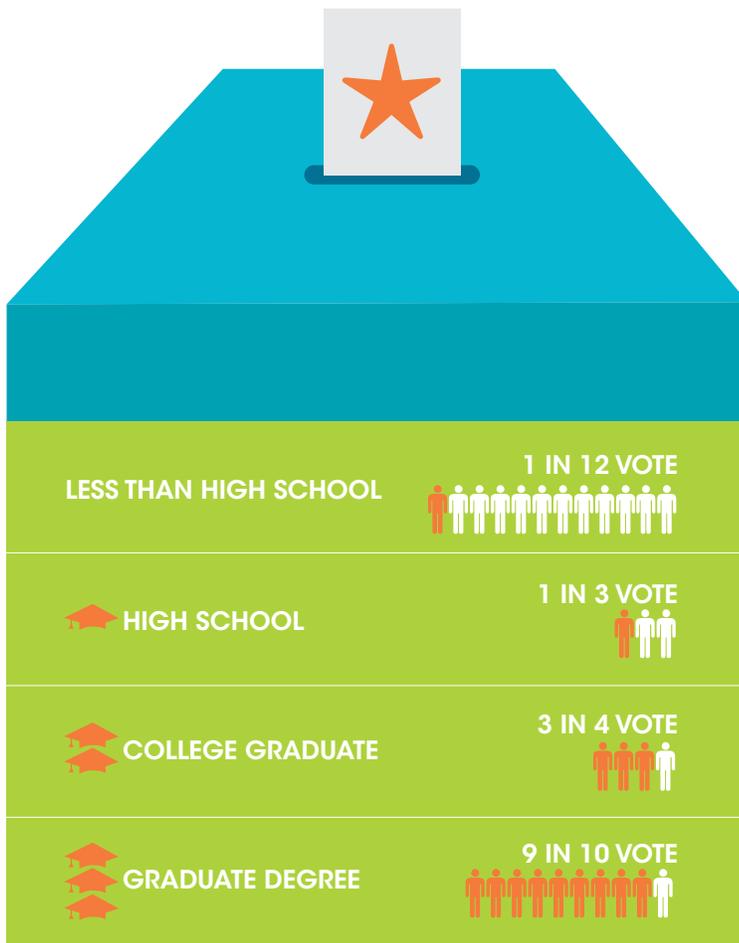
That’s depressing, but it makes sense. Participating in any society relies on some basic level of interpersonal trust. And trust is a byproduct of education. Social trust “increases with education across the scale, with a big jump corresponding to having completed a four-year college degree.”<sup>253</sup>

If you’ve finished high school, you’re more likely to report trusting the local police; you’re more likely to trust the clerks where you shop; you’re more likely to trust your coworkers; and you’re more likely to trust your neighbors.<sup>254</sup> You’re more likely to trust that the society that helped you get an education, earn an income, and that provides you with a certain quality of life will be able to deliver more. If you were denied the benefits associated with that social system, you’re less likely to be an active participant.

And that’s why Los Angeles suffers when it comes to social connectedness. We have a city with too many people who have been failed by civic and social institutions. Too many Angelenos feel that society does not operate with their interests at heart. Too many Angelenos have been left behind.

## VOTING RATES BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Small increases in education levels significantly increase voter participation rates.



And, once again, there is hope.

Levels of trust increase as people acclimate to a place. Los Angeles is a city of newcomers, but living here “is apparently a positive enough experience that, after 5 years, residents voice trust in far greater proportions than they do when they are recent arrivals.”<sup>255</sup> Furthermore, small increases in education levels yield significant advantages. While fewer than 1 in 12 people with less than a high school education report voting in presidential elections, the number jumps to 1 in 3 for high school grads. It’s 3 in 4 for college grads. And it is 9 in 10 for those with a graduate degree.<sup>256</sup>

In spite of the disjointed nature of social connection in Los Angeles, there are communities and social networks that are thriving. One that bucks the trend is the region’s arts community.

## Which opens our discussion of ARTS AND CULTURAL VITALITY.

California Community Foundation (n.d.). *Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey: Data Highlights from the Los Angeles Sample*. Los Angeles, CA.



# Arts and Cultural Vitality

## FACT SHEET



Arts and Cultural Vitality was found to significantly enhance the quality of life in Los Angeles, earning our highest rating. The arts and cultural scene in Los Angeles is thriving, providing residents with ample opportunities to participate in a variety of formal and informal activities. The creative industries in the region are attracting a steady pool of artists and creative professionals. Furthermore, the region is home to a variety of institutions that are training the next generation of arts professionals.

### METRICS<sup>257</sup>

(1) presence of opportunities for cultural participation, (2) participation in cultural and artistic activities, and (3) support for cultural participation.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- There are 11,235 arts establishments in the county, translating to 0.88 per 1,000 residents (compared to 0.46 per 1,000 in New York and a national average of 0.64 per 1,000 capita).<sup>258</sup>
- Los Angeles and Orange Counties are home to 66 institutions that offer degree programs in the creative industries, providing a pipeline to attract, train, and retain creative professionals.<sup>259</sup>
- The City of Los Angeles has five National Association of Schools of Art and Design accredited schools: (1) American Film Institute; (2) California State University, Los Angeles; (3) Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, Los Angeles; (4) Loyola Marymount University; and (5) Otis College of Art and Design.<sup>260</sup>
- Los Angeles has the highest concentration of working artists and arts professionals in the U.S. With over 57,000 residents employed in arts occupations, it employs about 14 percent of the nation's arts professionals and is the top net attractor of young artists.<sup>261</sup>
- As a share of the metro area workforce, arts careers make up 1.01 percent of the area's total employment, trailing the national average of 1.52 percent.<sup>262</sup>
- There are 9.54 artist jobs per 1,000 people in Los Angeles. That's higher than the national average of 5.95 jobs per 1,000 people, and higher than many other major metropolitan areas, including New York (7.24), San Francisco (7.2), Washington, D.C. (5.02), and Chicago (3.15).<sup>263</sup>
- The city's "high cost of living, high unemployment rates, and setbacks in the entertainment industry place its artist super-city status at risk."<sup>264</sup>
- LAUSD has led the way in creating a standards-based arts program that has served as the model for the countywide Arts for All program that has been adopted by school districts throughout Los Angeles County.<sup>265</sup>
- "Los Angeles Unified's arts program has been particularly hard hit [by recent budget cuts]. In 2008, there were 335 full-time elementary arts teachers. [In 2011], after state and federal funding dried up, there were about 250, according to district officials."<sup>266</sup>
- Los Angeles' public arts expenditures (\$9.62 million) are below the national average, and well below the levels seen in other major metropolitan areas including New York, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.<sup>267</sup>
- At \$75.87 per capita, foundation and nonprofit expenditures in support of the arts is above the national average (\$63.31), but it lags behind cultural hubs like Washington, D.C. (\$654.19), San Francisco (\$202.88), and New York (\$259.45).<sup>268</sup>

# ARTS AND CULTURAL VITALITY

Arts and cultural vitality relates to the vibrancy and strength of the region's cultural, creative, and artistic institutions. Public participation in both formal (e.g., museums) and less formal (e.g., community festivals) arts and cultural events has direct economic impacts<sup>265</sup> and has direct impacts on the iconic nature of a place.<sup>270</sup>

Metropolitan Los Angeles is, in most respects, the national leader in arts and culture.

The city succeeds in attracting, training and retaining a steady corps of artists and creative professionals in spite of the conspicuous lack of a comprehensive arts-nurturing policy.<sup>271</sup>

The city of Los Angeles is home to the largest concentration of working artists in the nation and is the top net attractor of young artists.<sup>272</sup> And by that, we mean that for every artist that moves out of LA, more than 2 move in.

The county boasts over 11,000 arts establishments<sup>273</sup>, which makes it possible for the area to support more performing artists than New York.<sup>274</sup> The LA metro area boasts 88 arts establishments for every 100,000 residents. That's almost twice as many as New York (46 establishments per 100,000 residents) and well above the national figure (64 establishments per 100,000 residents).<sup>275</sup>

In terms of employment, LA has over 680,000 residents employed in arts industries.<sup>276</sup> The city has roughly 9 artists jobs for every 1,000 residents. That outpaces the national average of 6 jobs per 1,000 capita and surpassing cultural hubs like New York (7 jobs/1,000 capita), San Francisco (7 jobs/1,000 capita), Washington, D.C. (5 jobs/1,000 capita), and



Urban Institute (2010). Arts and Culture Indicators Project Data: 2006-2008. Washington, D.C.

Chicago (3 jobs/1,000 capita).<sup>277</sup>

Local colleges and universities are well-prepared to train the artists that flock to the region. Los Angeles and Orange Counties are home to nine independent visual and performing arts colleges, 28 colleges and universities, and 29 community colleges that offer degree programs in the creative industries.<sup>278</sup>

In spite of all this, funding for the arts in Los Angeles is not on par with other large cultural centers. The region fails to match its peers when it comes to expenditures on the arts. Although we're above the national average, Los Angeles lags behind comparable metropolitan areas in per capita expenditures on arts and culture. On this front, Washington, D.C., New York, and San Francisco all heartily beat our annual investment of \$125 per person.<sup>279</sup>

Experts also note that Los Angeles' status as an arts hub is threatened by the city's "high cost of living, high unemployment rates, and setbacks in the entertainment industry."<sup>280</sup> Furthermore, there is no coherent arts-retaining policy at either the city or county level.<sup>281</sup> These demerits make it even more astonishing that the arts and cultural scene in Los Angeles is thriving. Given the relative lack of institutional and structural investment, this truly bright area of the Los Angeles experience should have already ceded to the competition – but it hasn't.

Some of the resiliency of the Los Angeles arts and culture community comes from its variety. The largest employment areas in the creative industries involve diverse sectors, including entertainment, fashion,

## ART EXPENDITURES PER CAPITA



Urban Institute (2010). Arts and Culture Indicators Project Data: 2006-2008. Washington, D.C.

visual and performing arts, and furniture and home furnishings.<sup>282</sup>

Furthermore, the arts have proven to be a major force for entrepreneurship. Los Angeles County's creative industries had more than 132,000 independent firms in 2011. The largest sector included "independent artists, writers and performers."<sup>283</sup> Among that group, there are nearly two self-employed artists in the visual & performing arts for every employee on payroll. The ratio is nearly one-to-one for communications arts (e.g. graphic design); and for every five payroll employees in art galleries, there are six independent workers.<sup>284</sup>

The dynamic L.A. arts scene continues to expand and evolve in unexpected and astonishing ways. But to continue to outpace its competitors, Los Angeles must keep the in-migration pipeline flowing. It must recruit, train, and retain the next generation of creative artists.

We've come to the end of our indicators and we hope we've painted a sufficiently detailed portrait of this vast and diverse metropolitan region. We've explained who we are, and we've extracted the high points of how we live. But one question remains.

## Which brings us to **WHY THIS MATTERS.**

Who we are and how we live now sets us on a course for who we will be and how we will live tomorrow. Our current environment, priorities, and choices sets us on a trajectory towards a future that may not look like anyone's idea of a successful place. While we have revealed some surprising bright spots (lower crime rates, improved environmental conditions, stellar cultural vitality), other indicators -- education, income, and housing -- paint a picture of growing disparity that does not improve the region's overall well-being.

Let's draw upon demographic projections to imagine how we are likely to live tomorrow if we continue our current trajectory. If we don't like where we are going, Angelenos can rewrite the script and imagine a better ending. We can draw on the extraordinary collective spirit of creativity and ambition of the region to achieve a brighter LA by 2050.

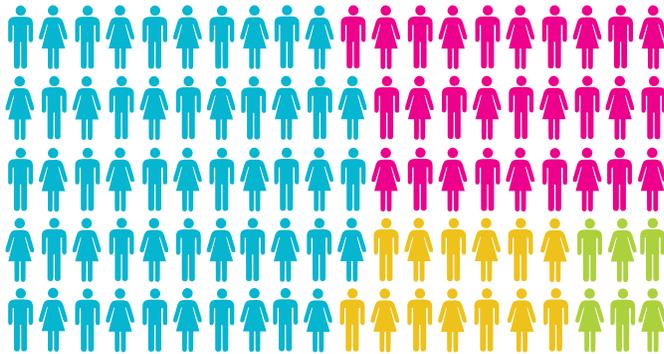
And once we know where we want to be, we can create a plan to arrive at the LA2050 of our aspirations.

## But to understand where we're going, we need to know how we are changing and **WHO WE WILL BE.**

Earlier, we noted that Los Angeles' population is growing older, with a populace that is increasingly made up of native Californians. That trend is likely to continue in coming decades. By 2050, the county population will increase by 25 percent to reach an estimated 12.5 million residents.<sup>285</sup> The demographic shifts that characterized the last half of the 20th century will not be as dramatic. The growth in the Latino residents and the decline in the white populace aren't as pronounced. Asians and Pacific Islanders and African American populations are projected to remain relatively stable.

# 1980

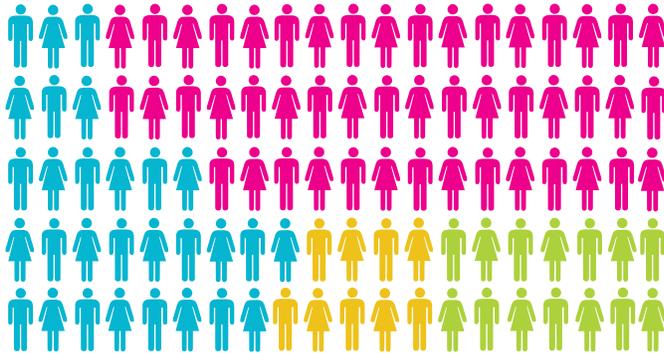
IF LOS ANGELES HAD BEEN A VILLAGE OF 100 PEOPLE



53 WOULD HAVE BEEN WHITE  
 28 WOULD HAVE BEEN LATINO  
 13 WOULD HAVE BEEN AFRICAN AMERICAN  
 6 WOULD HAVE BEEN ASIAN

# 2010

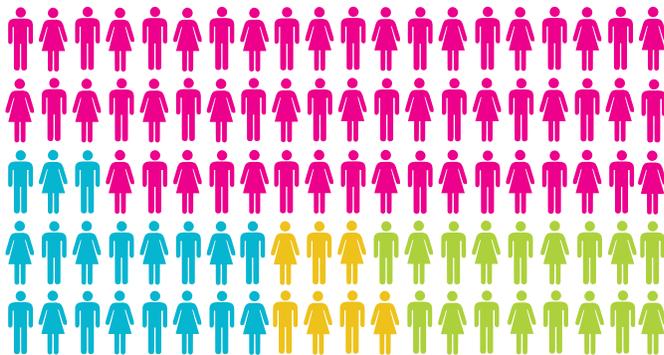
IF LOS ANGELES HAD BEEN A VILLAGE OF 100 PEOPLE



29 WOULD HAVE BEEN WHITE  
 48 WOULD HAVE BEEN LATINO  
 9 WOULD HAVE BEEN AFRICAN AMERICAN  
 14 WOULD HAVE BEEN ASIAN

# 2050

IF LOS ANGELES WERE A VILLAGE OF 100 PEOPLE



19 WOULD BE WHITE  
 57 WOULD BE LATINO  
 7 WOULD BE AFRICAN AMERICAN  
 17 WOULD BE ASIAN

## Racial and Ethnic Make-Up

Latinos will constitute the majority of Angelenos by 2020. By 2050 this demographic group will comprise almost 57 percent of the county population, an increase of 9 percent from its current figure. Whites will remain the second largest ethnic group, but the proportion of Caucasians will shrink to just under 19 percent, representing a 10 percent drop from current figures. The third largest racial/ethnic group will be Asians and Pacific Islanders. With a slight three percent rise in this group's proportion of the county population, this racial/ethnic category will comprise about 17 percent of the population. African Americans will continue to diminish as a share of the populace, comprising about 7 percent of county residents, down two percent from current levels.<sup>286</sup>

## Our Origins

In coming decades the foreign-born population is projected to decline slightly, due to the sharp decrease in immigration. Peaking at 36.3 percent in 2000, the proportion of foreign-born Angelenos is expected to drop slightly to 32.6 percent in 2050, down nearly three percent from current levels. California natives will make up the majority (56 percent) of the population in 2050, climbing seven percent from current levels.<sup>287</sup>

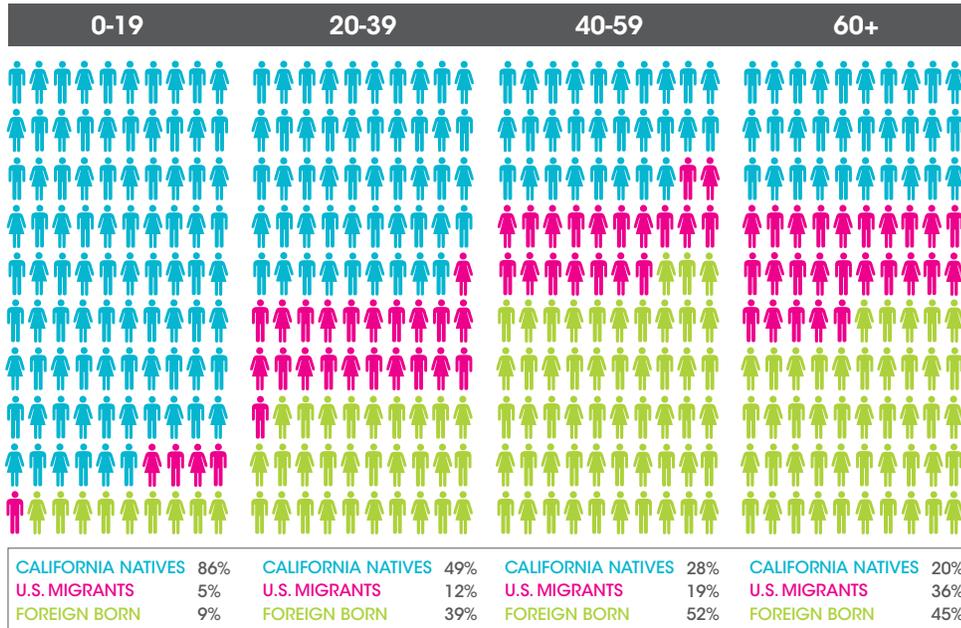
## Aging Population

Los Angeles will see a rapidly aging population in coming decades, mirroring the national trend. A simple way of demonstrating this shift is by looking at the senior ratio, "an index that divides the number of people who are ages 65 and older by the total who are ages 25 to 64."<sup>288</sup> In the county, the state, and the nation, the "number of seniors per 100 residents of prime working age was virtually constant for the last four decades."<sup>289</sup> As the baby boom generation (born 1946 to 1964) began to pass the age of 65 in the late 2000s, the senior ratio began to rise dramatically.

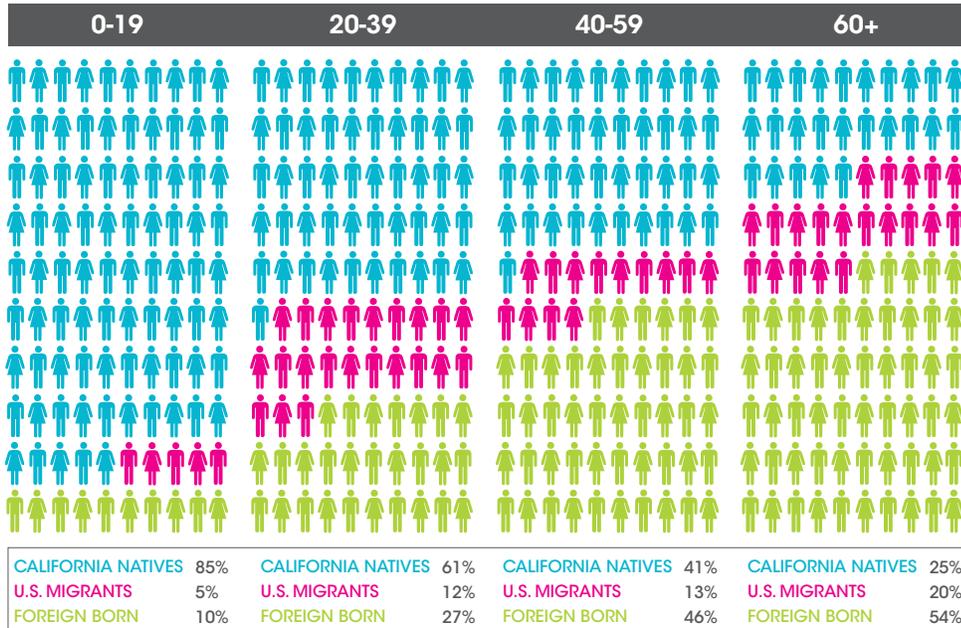
Myers, D. (2011). *The Future Demographic Outlook of Los Angeles*. Population Dynamics Research Group, Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA.

PERCENTAGE OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

2010



2030



Myers, D. (2011). *The Future Demographic Outlook of Los Angeles*. Population Dynamics Research Group, Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA.

In Los Angeles County there were about 20 seniors for every 100 working age adults in 2010. The state figure was about 21 seniors per 100 working age adults, and the national figure sat at about 25 seniors. By 2050, there will be 40 seniors for every 100 working adults in LA County. Figures for California (41 seniors) and the U.S. (42) will rise dramatically as well.<sup>290</sup>

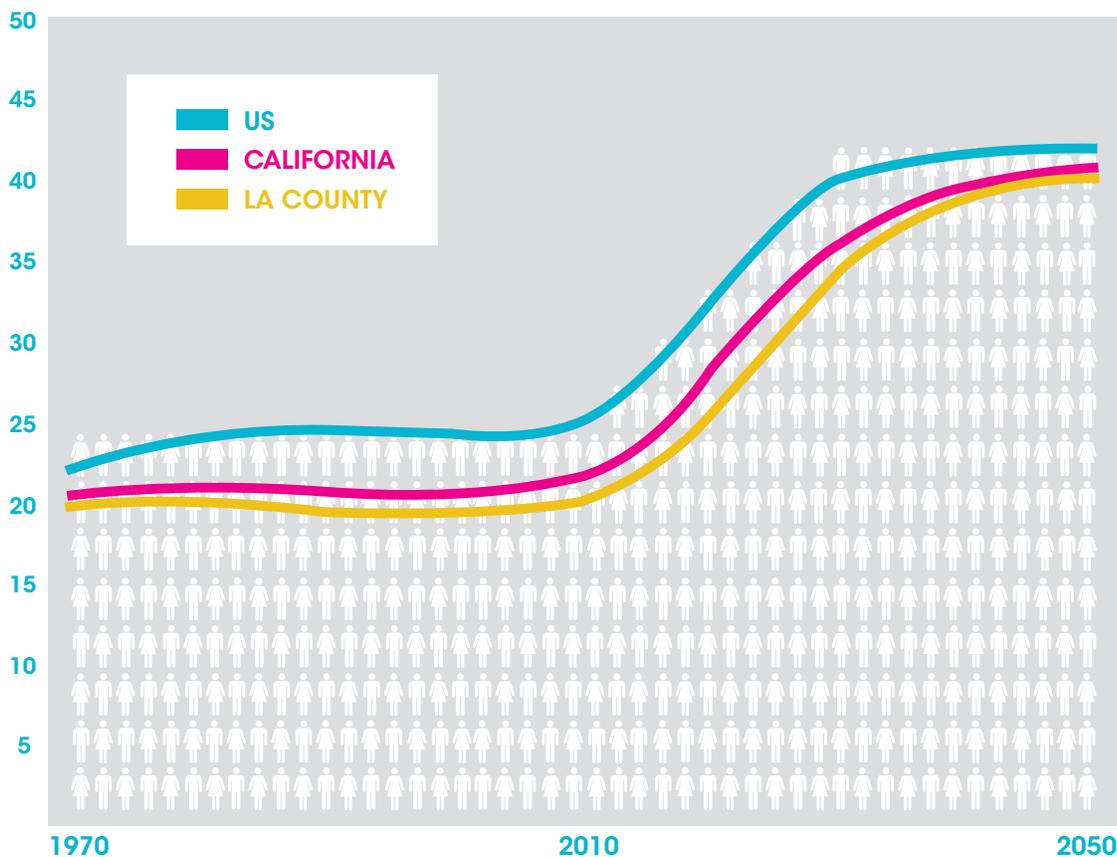
This will have serious implications as we plot our course moving forward. As demographers note, Los Angeles is facing a “growing loss of our productive population.”<sup>291</sup> Health care professionals warn that our current system is “inadequately prepared in geriatrics,” and our health care “work-force is not large enough to meet older patients’ needs.” By 2030,

the U.S. will need “an additional 3.5 million formal health care providers – a 35 percent increase from current levels – just to maintain the current ratio of providers to the total population.”<sup>292</sup>

As the state’s Health and Human Services Agency notes, “California’s sheer size, diversity, and large older adult population make it a barometer of how the nation will grapple with the challenges and opportunities of population aging.”<sup>293</sup> Los Angeles, the state’s largest and most diverse metropolitan region, may well serve as a barometer for California.

The Angelenos of 2050 will, for the most part, be native-Californians. They will be diverse, and they will be older. We are already beginning to see these changes manifest themselves, as evidenced in the county’s most recent demographic profile. It’s imperative that we understand that the decisions and actions we take today will shape the outcomes for the 12.5 million county residents of the future.

### RATIO OF SENIORS (65+) PER 100 WORKING AGE (25-64) FROM 1970-2050



Myers, D. (2011). *The Future Demographic Outlook of Los Angeles*. Population Dynamics Research Group, Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA.

Now that we have an understanding of who we will be, we can now begin to contemplate

# WHERE WE'RE GOING

IF WE CHOOSE TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO.

Based on our analysis of our current conditions and the trajectory of each of the eight indicators that we've examined, we've created a dashboard that projects where L.A. will be in 2050 if we continue along the same path. We consulted with the LA2050 Academic Advisory committee to gather their input about the future of Los Angeles, and their contributions are reflected in the dashboard. We used the same rating system that we devised to examine the eight indicators in 2011:

-  SIGNIFICANTLY HINDERS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
-  HINDERS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
-  ENHANCES HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
-  SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCES HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Here is our estimate of what LA will be like in 2050 if the region stays on its current path:

**EDUCATION** in 2050 will improve and move from “significantly hinders human development” to “hinders human development,” if we stay on our current course. The largest school district in the county (LAUSD) is making incremental improvements in test scores and graduation rates, but better budget prospects and a shrinking cohort may mean that the education system has more resources to dedicate to its pupils. California’s recently enacted Local Control Funding Formula can be expected to direct more than \$1 billion in supplemental funding to LAUSD schools serving low-income students.<sup>294</sup> The region’s 425 high-poverty schools<sup>295</sup> that serve approximately 384,000 students<sup>296</sup> have the most to gain.

Shifting to more equitable funding mechanisms will produce a higher quality learning environment in 2050 for all Angelenos. Even with multiple improvements in place, the continued underfunding of early childhood education, the lack of students that graduate from high school college- or career-ready, and the increasing costs of post-secondary education are serious impediments for students. Because of this, Los Angeles’ learners in 2050 will only have a mildly improved outlook in an economy that increasingly depends on a highly-educated workforce.<sup>297</sup>

**INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT** in 2050 also receives our lowest ranking. Based, in part, on the region’s poor education system and on the region’s lack of a coherent economic development strategy aimed at creating good-paying jobs in growth sectors, we don’t foresee the income and employment situation getting much better. Although proposals to increase the minimum wage are on the horizon as are measures to add higher-paying construction jobs through large infrastructure projects, income and wealth in the region is being concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. It’s a trend that’s been unfolding nationwide for decades; at the moment, there isn’t any strategy at the federal, state, or local levels likely to reverse that trend. Furthermore, the area’s demographic make-up (with a large share of the

population being Latino and African American) might mean that the region will persistently suffer from elevated rates of unemployment. Based on these factors, the Los Angeles of 2050 will continue to be a region of haves and have-nots.

**HOUSING** in 2050 is also predicted to “significantly hinder human development.” This analysis is based on the substantial affordability gap that still confronts the region. Without a drastic increase in average household incomes and without significant growth in the number of housing units that are affordable to low- and middle-income earners, Los Angeles in 2050 will remain a place where housing isn’t available to young wage-earners, families, seniors and much of the middle class.

**HEALTH** in 2050 is predicted to remain a “hindrance to human development,” earning an orange rating. Better environmental quality and the prospect of universal health care hold the promise of lifting the health landscape for all Angelenos. Still, the region lacks a cohesive strategy to address the disparities in health outcomes along racial and socioeconomic lines. While we do think that Angelenos of the future will have better access to healthcare and will generally be healthier, we still anticipate that health outcomes for the area’s large low- and middle-income communities of color to be worse than average. Moreover, our inadequate preparation to meet geriatric healthcare needs could prove significant in a region where the senior ratio is expected to double by 2050.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** in 2050 moves from “hindering human development” to “enhancing human development.” Los Angeles’ air quality is steadily improving. Plans, policies, and initiatives in the works are having demonstrably positive effects, and track record of past decades is encouraging. The state has identified the Bay-Delta as a serious issue, and mitigation plans are currently underway as officials devise a permanent solution. Local water agencies are increasing their share of local water sources that are more sustainable and secure. The environment of 2050 will almost certainly be better than it is today if we continue down our current path.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** in 2050 is also anticipated to “enhance human development.” Given the correlation between a youthful population and the incidence of crime<sup>298</sup>, a Los Angeles comprised of many more older residents in 2050 will likely see crime rates drop further. The experience of crime and perceptions of safety throughout the region are still anticipated to vary widely based on geographic and socioeconomic factors.

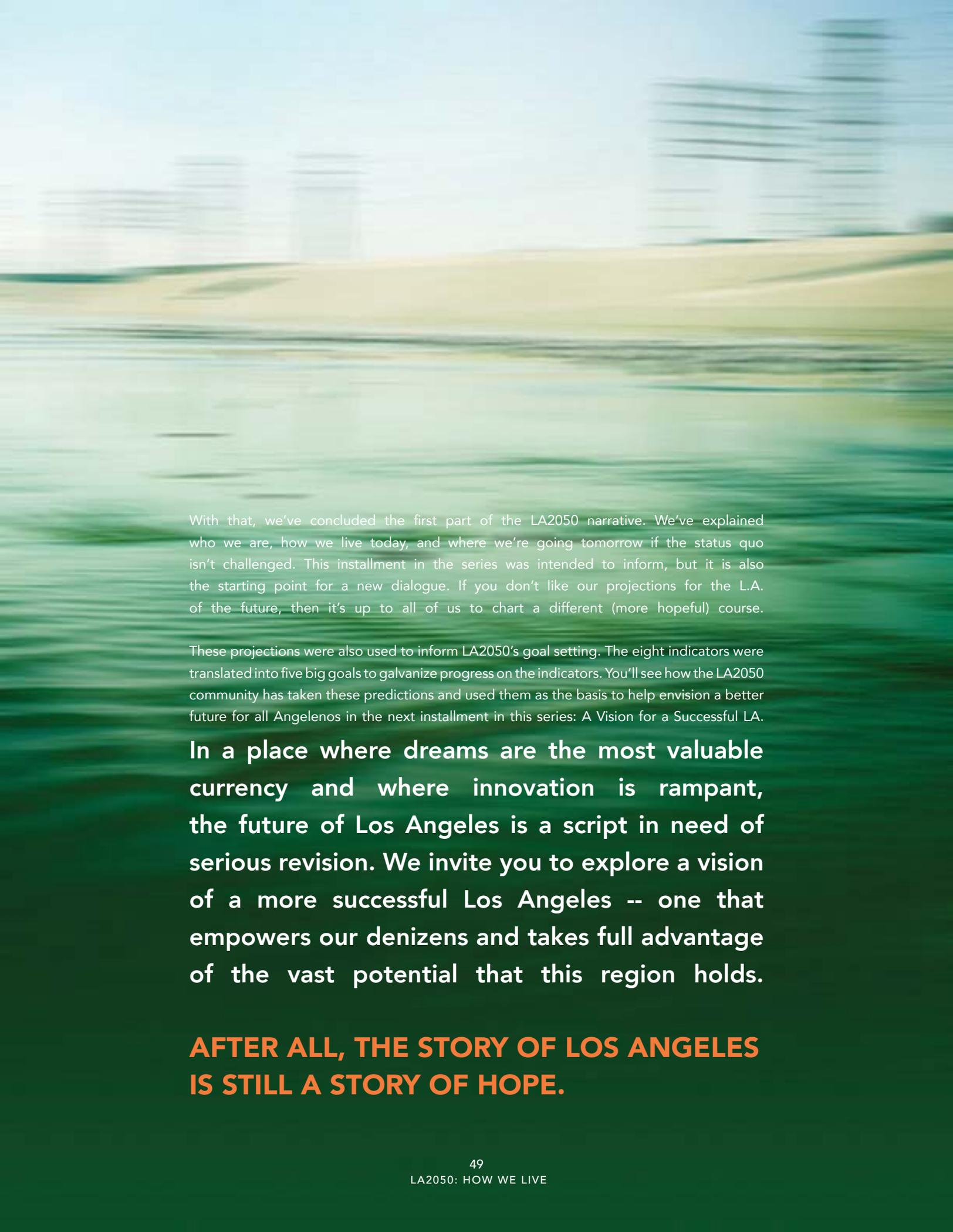
**SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS** in 2050 is anticipated to “hinder human development.” Positive factors include a more rooted population. Los Angeles in 2050 will be home to more native-Californians than in any other period in recent history. As we’ve noted, living in a place for an extended period of time increases social connections within communities. Weighing heavily against any improvement in this metric, however, is the struggling education system. Education levels are highly correlated with levels of social connectedness, and we don’t foresee a dramatically different education landscape for Los Angeles if we continue on our current course. Additionally, it is increasingly difficult for young adults in the region to find a well-paying job, locate affordable housing, and raise a family, threatening the rootedness that fosters increased social connections.

**ARTS AND CULTURAL VITALITY** in 2050 is expected to go from “significantly enhancing human development” (green) to “enhancing human development” (light green). The primary reason for this projection is the fact that Los Angeles lacks a coherent arts-nurturing policy at the local or regional level. Likewise, if public support for the arts continues to diminish as it has in recent decades, the region may cede some of its arts and cultural dominance to other locales. Still, arts and cultural communities have thrived in LA in spite of challenges in the past, and we expect that Los Angeles will remain an attractive place for artists and arts professionals in the future.

# LA2050 DASHBOARD

INDICATOR	2015	2050
EDUCATION		
INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT		
HOUSING		
HEALTH		
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY		
PUBLIC SAFETY		
SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS		
ARTS AND CULTURAL VITALITY		

-  Significantly hinders human development
-  Hinders human development
-  Enhances human development
-  Significantly enhances human development



With that, we've concluded the first part of the LA2050 narrative. We've explained who we are, how we live today, and where we're going tomorrow if the status quo isn't challenged. This installment in the series was intended to inform, but it is also the starting point for a new dialogue. If you don't like our projections for the L.A. of the future, then it's up to all of us to chart a different (more hopeful) course.

These projections were also used to inform LA2050's goal setting. The eight indicators were translated into five big goals to galvanize progress on the indicators. You'll see how the LA2050 community has taken these predictions and used them as the basis to help envision a better future for all Angelenos in the next installment in this series: A Vision for a Successful LA.

**In a place where dreams are the most valuable currency and where innovation is rampant, the future of Los Angeles is a script in need of serious revision. We invite you to explore a vision of a more successful Los Angeles -- one that empowers our denizens and takes full advantage of the vast potential that this region holds.**

**AFTER ALL, THE STORY OF LOS ANGELES IS STILL A STORY OF HOPE.**

# END NOTES

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For test scores, the research focused on the following: (1) academic Performance Index (API) of schools and students from K to 12

For **high school completion** and **dropout rates**, the research focused on the following: (1) high school completion and dropout rates for students entering high school in 2006 and (2) high school completion/dropout rates for minority and low income students

For **college-going rates**, the research focused on the following: (1) students entering college from public schools and (2) students prepared to enter college

For **preschool enrollment**, the research focused on the following: (1) enrollment of preschool age children and (2) levels of state and local funding of preschool programs

For **afterschool and summer school enrichment program participation**, the research focused on the following: (1) enrollment of students in afterschool and summer school programs and (2) spending on afterschool and summer school programs

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<sup>71</sup> Afterschool Alliance. (2010). America After 3 PM: Los Angeles After 3PM. Washington, D.C. Retrieved from: <[http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM\\_Los\\_Angeles\\_10202010.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM_Los_Angeles_10202010.pdf)>: 1

<sup>72</sup> Afterschool Alliance. (2010). America After 3 PM: Los Angeles After 3PM. Washington, D.C. Retrieved from: <[http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM\\_Los\\_Angeles\\_10202010.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM_Los_Angeles_10202010.pdf)>: 1

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<sup>75</sup> Jones, B. (2013). "LAUSD Prop 30 Money: School Board Members Divided Over How to Spend," Los Angeles Daily News. Los Angeles, CA. Retrieved from: <[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/01/lausd-prop-30-money\\_n\\_3371549.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/01/lausd-prop-30-money_n_3371549.html)>

<sup>76</sup> Wave Wire Service (2014). "LAUSD Budget Approved this Year Without Cutbacks," Los Angeles Wave. Los Angeles, CA. Retrieved from: <[http://wavenewspapers.com/news/article\\_eed84b96-fe4a-11e3-bf1f-001a4bcf6878.html](http://wavenewspapers.com/news/article_eed84b96-fe4a-11e3-bf1f-001a4bcf6878.html)>

<sup>77</sup> California Department of Education. (n.d.). Educational Demographics Office, Cohort Outcome Data for the Class of 2012-13, District Results for Los Angeles Unified. Retrieved from: <<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/CohortRates/GradRates.aspx?Agg=D&Topic=Dropouts&TheYear=2012-13&cds=1964733000000&RC=District&SubGroup=Ethnic/Racia>>

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<sup>80</sup> The Education Trust-West. (2005). Preparing LAUSD High School Students for the 21st Century Economy: We Have the Way, But do We Have the Will? Oakland, CA. Retrieved from: <<http://www.cgu.edu/PDFFiles/Preparing%20LAUSD%20High%20School%20Students%20for%20the%2021st%20Century%20Economy%20-%20We%20Have%20The%20Way,%20But%20Do%20We%20Have%20The%20Will%202005.pdf>>

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<sup>82</sup> The metrics and sub-metrics for Income and Employment are listed below:

For employment and unemployment, the research focused on the following: (1) rates of employment and unemployment in the U.S., California, and L.A. County

For household income, the research focused on the following: (1) median household income for Los Angeles County

For poverty, the research focused on the following: (1) federal & state poverty rates

For family supportive wages, the research focused on the following: (1) minimum salary and wage needed to sustain a family in Los Angeles

<sup>83</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics (2014). The Employment Situation Summary -- July 2014. U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. Retrieved from: <<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>>

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- <sup>89</sup> Employment Policies Institute: <https://www.minimumwage.com/2014/06/summer-bummer-for-teens-in-countrys-largest-metro-areas/>
- <sup>90</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2012). American Community Survey Select Social Statistics. Retrieved from <[http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/state\\_census\\_data\\_center/american\\_community\\_survey/#ACS2012x](http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/state_census_data_center/american_community_survey/#ACS2012x)>
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- <sup>92</sup> Los Angeles Times (2011). Mapping L.A.: Median Income. Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles, CA. Retrieved from: <<http://projects.latimes.com/mapping-la/neighborhoods/income/median/neighborhood/list/>>
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[census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_12\\_1YR\\_S2301&prodType=table](http://census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_1YR_S2301&prodType=table) >

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For vacancy rates, research focused on the following: (1) city and countywide vacancy rates, compared to other large metropolitan areas

For median rent, research focused on the following: (1) City of Los Angeles median rents compared to other large metropolitan areas

For median sales price, research focused on the following: (1) quarterly median sales price reports for the L.A. metropolitan statistical area

For housing affordability, research focused on the following: (1) number of households with housing costs exceeding 30 percent of income

<sup>111</sup> <http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/centers/ucla-ziman-center-for-real-estate/>

<sup>112</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). American Community Survey Select Housing Statistics. Retrieved from: <[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_12\\_1YR\\_DP04&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_1YR_DP04&prodType=table)>

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<sup>120</sup> California Budget Project. (2008). Locked Out 2008: A Profile of California Counties. Sacramento, CA. Retrieved from: <[http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2008/080213\\_CountyProfiles.pdf](http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2008/080213_CountyProfiles.pdf)>: 16

<sup>121</sup> California Association of Realtors (2014). C.A.R.Reports 4th quarter housing affordability. Retrieved from: <<http://www.car.org/newsstand/newsreleases/2014releases/4qtr2013hai>>

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 For access to health care, research focused on the following: (1) insurance rates, (2) prevalence of facilities (hospital beds per 1,000 people), (3) maternal health (including pre-natal care and infant mortality rates)  
 For mortality and morbidity, research focused on the following: (1) life expectancy and (2) causes of death
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For proximity to parks and open space, research focused on the following: (1) proportion of city land dedicated to parks and open space, acres of park space per 1,000 residents, and (3) acres of park space per 1,000 residents, by race

For air quality, research focused on the following: (1) particle pollution rates, (2) estimated cancer risk associated with exposure to air toxics, and (3) estimated cancer risk associated with exposure to air toxics, by race

For water quality, research focused on the following: (1) drinking and irrigation water sources, (2) historic water usage (measured in acre feet), (3) historic water demand (acre feet), (4) water conservation (acre feet), (5) amounts of pollutants and contaminants in drinking water, and (6) concentrations of fecal bacteria in the surf zone

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- For crime rates, research focused on the following: (1) number of violent crimes per 1,000 capita, (2) number of non-violent crimes per 1,000 capita, and (3) police officers per 1,000 capita
- For perception, research focused on the following: (1) neighborhood perceptions of crime, (2) effects of immigration on crime, and (3) perception of crime based on socioeconomic status
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For volunteerism and giving, the research focused on: (1) rates of volunteerism and (2) rates of charitable giving to religious and non-religious organizations or causes

For voting, the research focused on: (1) voting rates for presidential elections and (2) voting rates by educational attainment

For civic and social engagement, research focused on: (1) political engagement (discussing politics, reading newspapers, contacting a representative), (2) diversity of friendships and number of reported social interactions, (3) levels of social trust, and (4) levels of community satisfaction

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- For presence, research focused on the following: (1) art establishments per capita, (2) the number of nonprofit community celebrations, festivals, fairs and parades, (3) access to higher education arts institutions
- For participation, research focused on the following: (1) K-12 arts education and after-school arts programs and (2) presence of working artists
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