

The Los Angeles Metro Area on the American Human Development Index

The Los Angeles metro area is home to one out of every three Californians. *A Portrait of California 2011* reveals a wealth of data about well-being and opportunity within this major metropolitan center. Overall, the Los Angeles area, made up of Los Angeles and Orange counties, scores better than the United States on the American Human Development Index, a measure that combines indicators of health, education, and income.

However, wide variation exists in these three vital areas within the Los Angeles metro area. A resident of the Newport Beach–Laguna Hills area can expect to live 15 years longer, is 15 times more likely to have a bachelor’s degree, and earns \$33,000 more than a resident of Watts in Los Angeles.

HD Index	
UNITED STATES	5.09
California	5.46
Los Angeles Metro Area	5.52
TOP Newport Beach to Laguna Hills, Orange County	8.88
BOTTOM Watts, Los Angeles	1.91
United States in the mid-60’s	1.91

What does *A Portrait of California 2011* reveal about the incredible range of opportunities open to some in the Los Angeles metro area and the incredible challenges facing others in these basic building blocks?

Education in Los Angeles:

The Los Angeles metro area has relatively high levels of bachelor’s and higher degrees alongside tremendous challenges with basic educational attainment. For example:

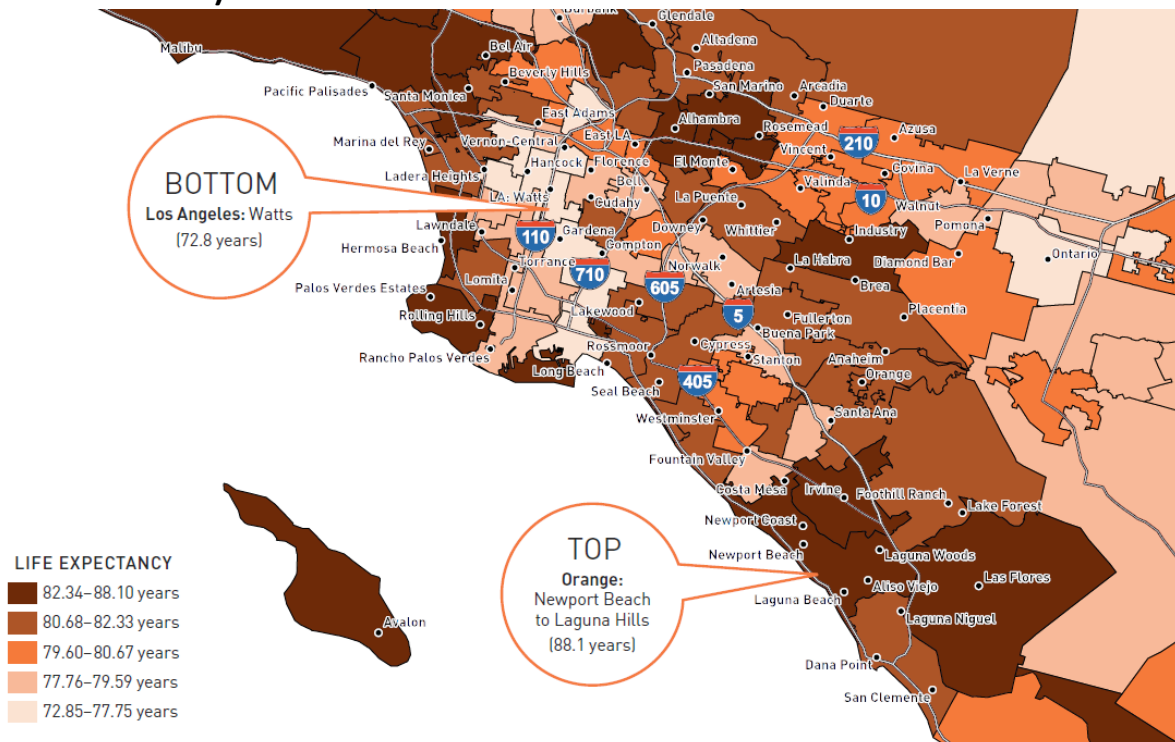
- In the Orange County city of Irvine, the LA communities of Bel Air, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, and the Beach Cities, two out of three adults have a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- However, **LA has the largest proportion of adults who never completed high school of the five largest metro areas in California**, with over 22 percent of adults lacking a high school diploma or GED. In the Vernon Central neighborhood in LA, almost two out of every three adults never completed high school.
- LA high school completion is highest among whites, at 94 percent, followed by African Americans at 89 percent, Asian Americans at 87 percent. Only about 55 percent of LA Latino adults have completed high school.

Health in Los Angeles:

A baby born today in the Los Angeles metro area can expect to live 80.7 years, about half a year longer than the average for the state and two years longer than the average for the nation. But this average obscures staggering variation:

- Life expectancy at birth by community ranges from 88.1 years in the Orange County communities around Newport Beach and Laguna Hills to only 72.8 years in the Watts section of Los Angeles, a gap of 15 years within the same metropolitan area (see map below).
- Latinos in LA outlive whites by an average of 3.3 years.
- An Asian American baby born today in LA can expect to outlive an African American baby by about 12 years. Asian Americans live, on average, to 85.6 years, Latinos to 83.4 years, whites to 80.1, and African Americans to 73.4 years.

Life Expectancy by Neighborhood Group in the LA Metro Area (LA and Orange counties)



Earnings in Los Angeles:

Median personal earnings in the Los Angeles area are around \$29,000 per year. This represents the wages and salaries of the typical worker 16 years of age and over. Median earnings in LA are roughly equal to the typical earnings of workers in California and in the nation as a whole. However, earnings vary extensively by race/ethnicity and by neighborhood:

- Earnings range from \$58,000 in the Beach Cities of Manhattan, Redondo and Hermosa to about \$15,000 a year around East Adams and Exposition Park. This is below the wages and salaries of the typical American worker (\$17,000) one half century ago—in inflation-adjusted dollars.
- Earnings are highest among whites, \$43,000 per year, followed by \$35,000 for Asian Americans, \$30,000 for African Americans, and \$21,000 for Latinos.

For more information visit: www.measureofamerica.org
 Contact: John Keaten, JKeaten@groupgordon.com (212) 784-5701

