



Study: H.D. among "Struggling California"

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Local residents are among the 38 percent of Californians "who work hard but find it nearly impossible to gain a foothold on security," according to a study released Tuesday.

The new quality-of-life study called "A Portrait of California" explored "well-being and access to opportunity" among the state's five most populous metro areas and 233 communities. It used the American Human Development Index, which is a 0 to 10 scale to measure health, education and standard of living.

While four metro areas exceeded the national average in every category, the Inland Empire scored lower than the U.S. average in all categories.

The majority of San Bernardino County fell into "Struggling California," which made up 38 percent of the population from the suburbs and rural areas of the Central Valley to parts of major metro areas and the Inland Empire to swaths of Northern California.

Here are some key findings from the study:

- Nearly 44 percent of Latino adults in California do not have a high school diploma — almost triple the state average.
- Over 50 percent of California's public school children are Latino; 27 percent are white; 11.6 percent are Asian American; 6.9 percent are African American; and fewer than 1 percent are native American.
- Life expectancy is longer in California (80.1 years) than in the nation as a whole (78.6 years). The foreign-born outlive the native-born by an average of four years in California.
- Just 100 of California's nearly 2,500 high schools account for nearly half of the state's dropouts.
- A gap of \$58,000 in earnings of the typical worker separates the Santa Clara area (about \$73,000) from the Los Angeles area (about \$15,000).

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