

A Portrait of Marin: Marin County Human Development Report 2012

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Known for its natural beauty and the affluence of its residents, Marin County is also marked by disparities in health, access to knowledge, and standard of living, a Social Science Research Council report commissioned by the Marin Community Foundation finds. Based on indicators such as life expectancy, school enrollment, educational attainment, and median personal earnings, the report, *A Portrait of Marin: Marin County Human Development Report 2012* (PDF, 74 pages), finds wide variations in the well-being of the county's population by neighborhood, race/ethnicity, and gender. For example, roughly 60 percent of Asian Americans and whites living in the county have at least a bachelor's degree and reported median personal earnings of \$51,462 (Asian Americans) and \$43,534 (whites), while among African Americans and Latinos, only about 20 percent have a bachelor's degree and median personal earnings were \$31,608 and \$23,795, respectively. The authors argue that such disparities are fueled by things like unequal access to asset-building opportunities, different levels of public school funding, and inadequate access to healthy foods, and recommend that county government do more to create middle-class jobs and affordable housing opportunities and support public transportation options.