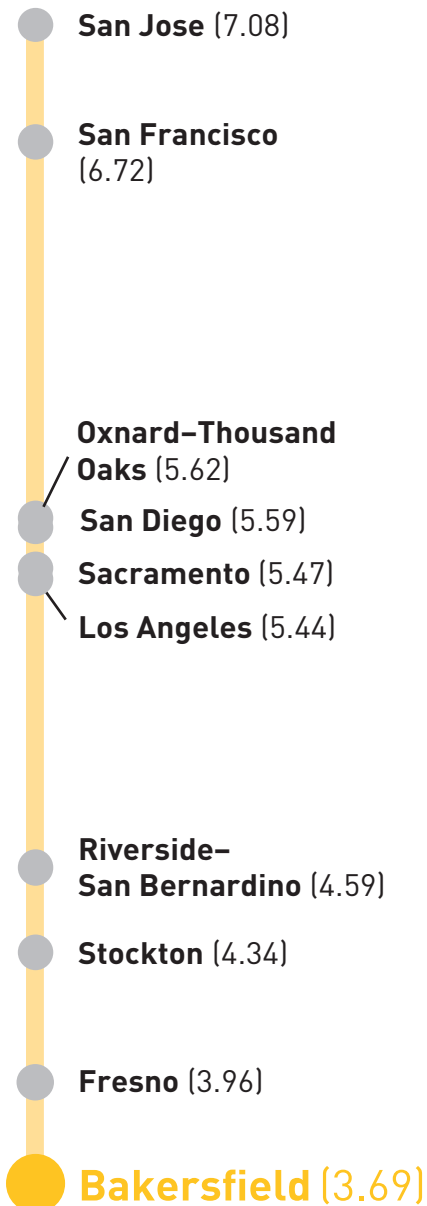


BAKERSFIELD

METRO AREA CLOSE-UP



The Bakersfield–Delano metropolitan area **ranks last among the ten most populous metro areas in California** in terms of well-being and access to opportunity, as measured by the **American Human Development Index**. Its human development (HD) Index score of **3.69** out of a possible 10 is 30 percent below the California average.

The Bakersfield metro area, with a population of over 800,000, comprises only Kern County and contains one principal city, Bakersfield.

THIS CLOSE-UP IS A COMPANION TO *A PORTRAIT OF CALIFORNIA 2014–2015*, AVAILABLE AT WWW.MEASUREOFAMERICA.ORG.

Bakersfield Today

HOW HAS BAKERSFIELD FARED SINCE THE GREAT RECESSION?

Unlike most metro areas across the nation, Bakersfield saw a slight increase in well-being and access to opportunity since the Great Recession. Unfortunately, the increase from pre–Great Recession to the present was minimal, and even with the increase, Bakersfield still continues to track behind the other nine major metro areas in California.

The American Human Development Index

The American Human Development (HD) Index for California is a composite measure of well-being and access to opportunity made up of health, education, and earnings indicators. The Index is expressed on a scale from 0 to 10.

A Long and Healthy Life

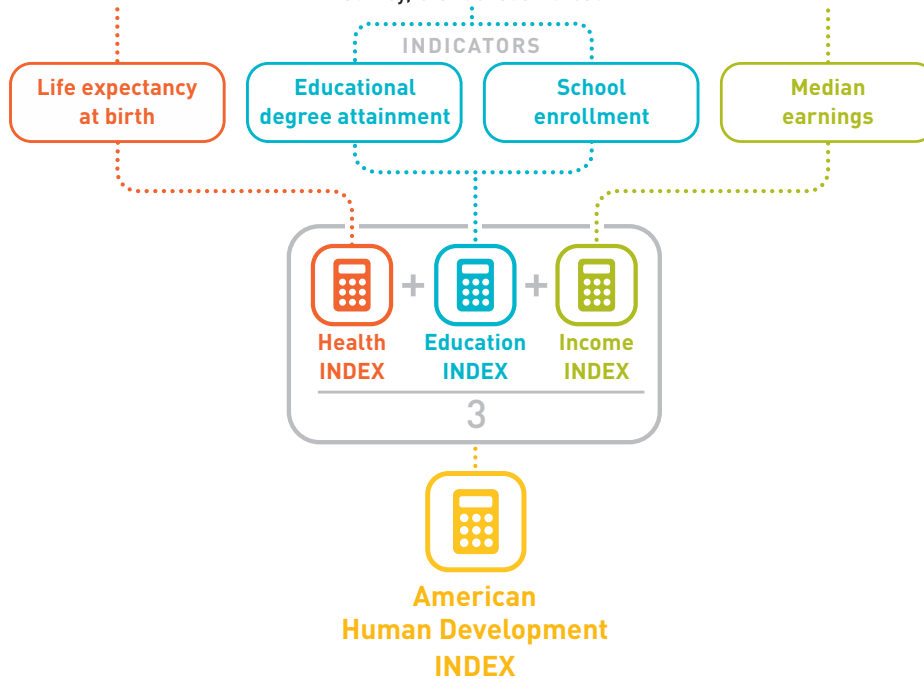
is measured using life expectancy at birth, calculated using 2010–2012 mortality data from the **California Department of Public Health** and population data from the **U.S. Census Bureau**.

Access to Knowledge

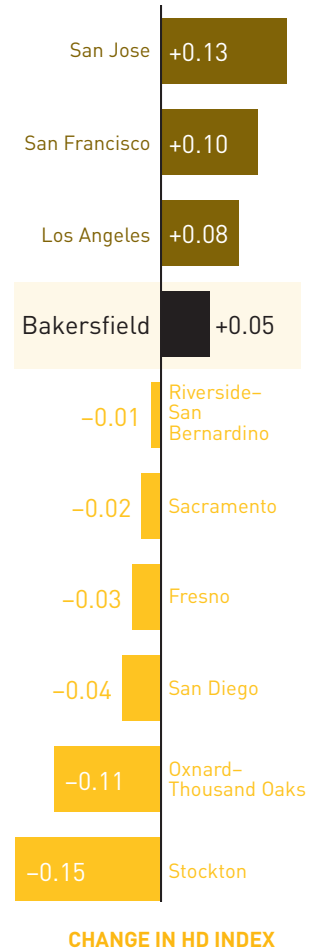
is measured using school enrollment for those ages 3 to 24 and educational degree attainment for those 25 and older, with 2010–2012 data from the **American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau**.

A Decent Standard of Living

is measured using median earnings of all full- and part-time workers 16 years and older from the **American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010–2012**.



Human Development before and after the Great Recession



Human Development by Neighborhood Cluster in Bakersfield

	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (%)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2012 dollars)
CALIFORNIA	5.39	81.2	18.5	30.9	11.3	78.5	30,502
BAKERSFIELD METRO AREA	3.69	77.8	27.9	15.0	5.1	72.9	23,763
1. Bakersfield City West	5.22	79.3	14.4	24.5	8.4	77.2	33,515
2. Ridgecrest, Arvin, Tehachapi and California Cities	3.79	76.5	20.6	15.3	5.5	72.3	25,683
3. Delano, Wasco and Shafter Cities	3.36	78.8	36.3	12.0	3.6	71.4	21,520
4. Bakersfield City Northeast	2.94	77.3	34.2	11.8	4.5	69.6	19,666
5. Bakersfield City Southeast	2.51	76.1	45.8	5.1	1.3	73.4	19,177

Source: Measure of America calculations using California Department of Public Health 2010–2012 mortality data and U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates and American Community Survey 2010–2012.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT NEIGHBORHOOD BY NEIGHBORHOOD

The Bakersfield metro area is divided by the U.S. Census Bureau into five neighborhood clusters, each with a population between about one hundred thousand and two hundred thousand residents. The HD Index scores of different neighborhood clusters in the Bakersfield metro area vary considerably, from 5.22 in the highest-scoring cluster of neighborhoods, Bakersfield City West, to less than half that, 2.51, in the lowest-scoring neighborhoods of Bakersfield City Southeast.

The range of educational attainment across the Bakersfield metro area varies significantly. In Bakersfield City West, six and a half times as many people have graduate or professional degrees than in Bakersfield City Southeast. In Delano, Wasco, and Shafter, 36.3 percent of those 25 and older have not completed high school. This is twice the California average and two and a half times the U.S. average.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Another lens for understanding access to opportunity is race and ethnicity. African Americans have the lowest HD Index score of all racial and ethnic groups in the metro area. At 2.98, it is almost 40 percent lower than the HD Index score for whites, the highest-scoring group. Latinos, with an HD Index score of 3.11, do not perform much better. Almost half of all Latino adults in the Bakersfield metro area did not complete high school. This is more than twice the rate for African Americans in the Bakersfield metro area, and the highest rate of any group in any of the ten biggest metro areas.

Median earnings range from \$36,031 for whites to \$18,865 for Latinos, a spread of over \$17,000. African Americans in Bakersfield earn \$21,957, almost 30 percent less than the typical African American in California, though still \$1,000 more the typical African American in the Fresno metro area.

Racial and Ethnic Makeup of the Bakersfield Metro Area

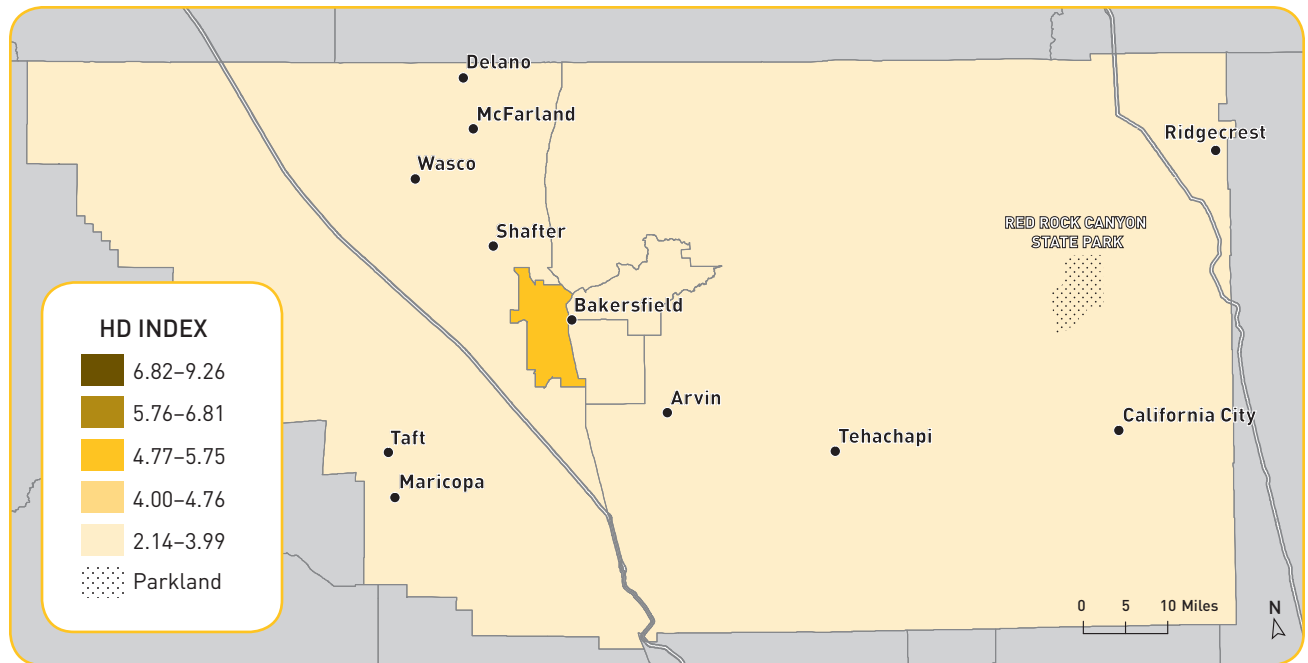


- 49.8% Latinos
- 37.9% Whites
- 5.3% African Americans
- 4.2% Asian Americans
- 2.1% Two or More Races or Some Other Race
- 0.7% Native Americans

The demographic profile of the Bakersfield metro area is unique compared to California or the United States as a whole. Almost 50 percent of residents in the Bakersfield metro area are Latino, and 30 percent are under 18. The Bakersfield metro area’s share of Latinos as a percentage of the total population is almost three times the U.S. average and 30 percent higher than the California average.

No major California metro area has a sufficiently large Native American population to allow for reliable calculations of the HD Index at this level, unfortunately; the HD Index score for Native Americans in the state is 4.51.

Human Development by Neighborhood Cluster



Bakersfield **Forecast:** The Next Generation

Although HD Index scores are a good proxy for potential risks to child well-being, the HD Index uses a set of indicators that chart the life course of adults and are therefore less suited to capturing how the next generation will fare. Additional indicators can help round out the picture.

Below are a set of faster-moving indicators that shed light on the overall physical and social conditions children and youth face as they grow up in Bakersfield today. These factors, which operate “behind the scenes,” affect the degree to which children and teens in Bakersfield are sheltered from harm, have their fundamental needs met, and are able to build the capabilities required to flourish in the future.

In 2013 Bakersfield had one hundred days with air quality categorized by the Environmental Protection Agency as unsafe for children. This statistic is particularly worrying considering that 20 percent of residents do not have health insurance. At around 35 percent, Bakersfield has the lowest preschool enrollment rate of any of California’s major metro areas. Unsurprisingly, Bakersfield’s dropout rate is the highest of all the metro areas. The rate of disconnected youth, 24 percent, is also the highest of all the major metro areas in the state.

Violent crime is also a concern in Bakersfield. At 579 violent incidents per 100,000 residents, Bakersfield’s crime rate is second-highest of all the major metro areas in the state (Stockton has the highest rate). In addition to health and safety concerns, finding a decent job is also a struggle for Bakersfield residents. Ten percent are unemployed, and 29 percent of those lucky enough to find a full-time position earn less than \$25,000 a year.

Overall, health, safety, educational attainment, and employment are serious concerns for children and youth in Bakersfield. Bakersfield currently ranks last among the major metro areas in California in these areas. Given the current conditions, without significant policy interventions, it is unlikely that the next generation of Bakersfield residents will be able to improve their relative position in the near future.

These indicators track important risks that children and youth are facing as they grow up in Bakersfield today.

Forecast Indicators: The Next Generation



RANKING (BASED ON HD INDEX)	NEWBORNS WITH LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (% of births less than 5.5 lbs.)	AIR QUALITY (# of unhealthy days per year)	NO HEALTH INSURANCE (% of residents)	GREEN SPACE (square miles per 100,000 residents)
1. San Jose	6.9	8	11.9	26
2. San Francisco	7.0	7	11.9	18
3. Oxnard	6.2	5	16.3	121
4. San Diego	6.5	19	17.3	65
5. Sacramento	6.7	35	13.4	80
6. Los Angeles	7.1	80	21.4	12
7. Riverside–San Bernardino	6.8	130	20.8	418
8. Stockton	7.0	30	17.5	3
9. Fresno	7.8	109	20.4	256
10. Bakersfield	7.0	100	20.7	242

Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2010 Birth Records; Environmental Protection Agency Air Quality Index Report 2013; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010–2012, Table DP03; California Protected Areas Database.



RANKING (BASED ON HD INDEX)	PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% of 3 and 4 year olds)	HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT (% of cohort)	DISCONNECTED YOUTH (% 16–24 year olds not working or in school)
1. San Jose	58.7	11.1	11.6
2. San Francisco	60.3	12.9	12.3
3. Oxnard	51.7	10.7	10.4
4. San Diego	49.3	9.2	11.9
5. Sacramento	49.2	9.5	14.3
6. Los Angeles	53.6	11.4	14.1
7. Riverside–San Bernardino	37.6	11.2	18.2
8. Stockton	40.7	12.3	21.0
9. Fresno	38.4	14.6	19.4
10. Bakersfield	34.9	16.2	24.2

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010–2012, Table S1401 and analysis of 2010–2012 PUMA microdata; California Department of Education cohort dropout rate.



RANKING (BASED ON HD INDEX)	UNEMPLOYMENT (% 16 years old and older)	EARNING UNDER \$25,000/YEAR (% of full-time workers)	INCOME INEQUALITY (gini)
1. San Jose	5.3	13.1	0.47
2. San Francisco	5.0	13.4	0.49
3. Oxnard	5.9	21.0	0.44
4. San Diego	5.8	20.4	0.47
5. Sacramento	6.7	17.7	0.45
6. Los Angeles	7.2	24.8	0.49
7. Riverside–San Bernardino	8.0	23.8	0.44
8. Stockton	10.3	20.0	0.46
9. Fresno	10.5	29.4	0.48
10. Bakersfield	10.1	29.0	0.46

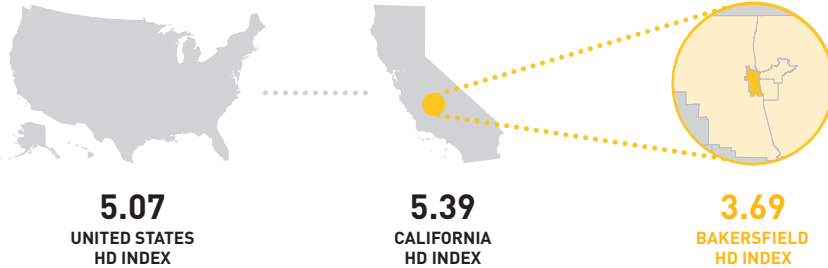
Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2012, Tables S2001 and B19083.

RANKING (BASED ON HD INDEX)	AFFORDABLE HOUSING (% who spend less than 30% of income on housing)	AVERAGE COMMUTE TIME (minutes/day)	VIOLENT CRIMES (per 100,000 residents)
1. San Jose	58.5	26	274
2. San Francisco	55.2	30	551
3. Oxnard	53.9	25	198
4. San Diego	50.9	25	374
5. Sacramento	54.7	25	441
6. Los Angeles	48.6	29	393
7. Riverside–San Bernardino	51.3	31	369
8. Stockton	53.2	30	889
9. Fresno	54.2	23	540
10. Bakersfield	57.6	24	579

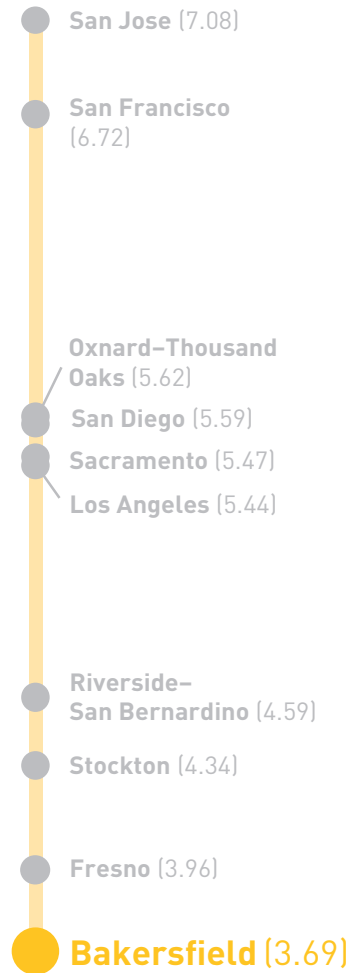
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2012, Tables S2503 and S0802; FBI Uniform Crime Reports 2012.

Human Development in Bakersfield at a Glance

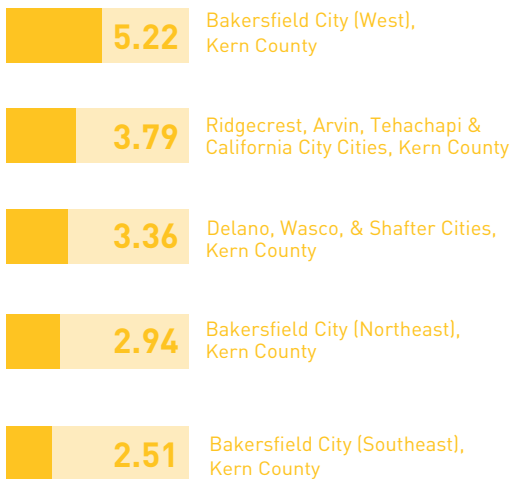
Bakersfield in the National Context



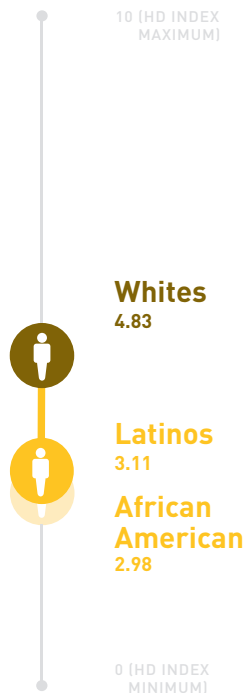
Human Development in California's Ten Most Populous Metro Areas



ALL Neighborhood Clusters



Race/Ethnicity



Measure of America is a nonpartisan project, founded in 2007, of the Social Science Research Council. It creates easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America and stimulates fact-based dialogue about these issues.

Through hard copy and online reports, interactive maps, and custom-built dashboards, Measure of America works closely with partners to breathe life into numbers, using data to identify areas of need, pinpoint levers of change, and track progress over time.

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