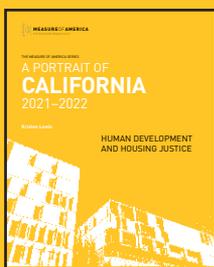
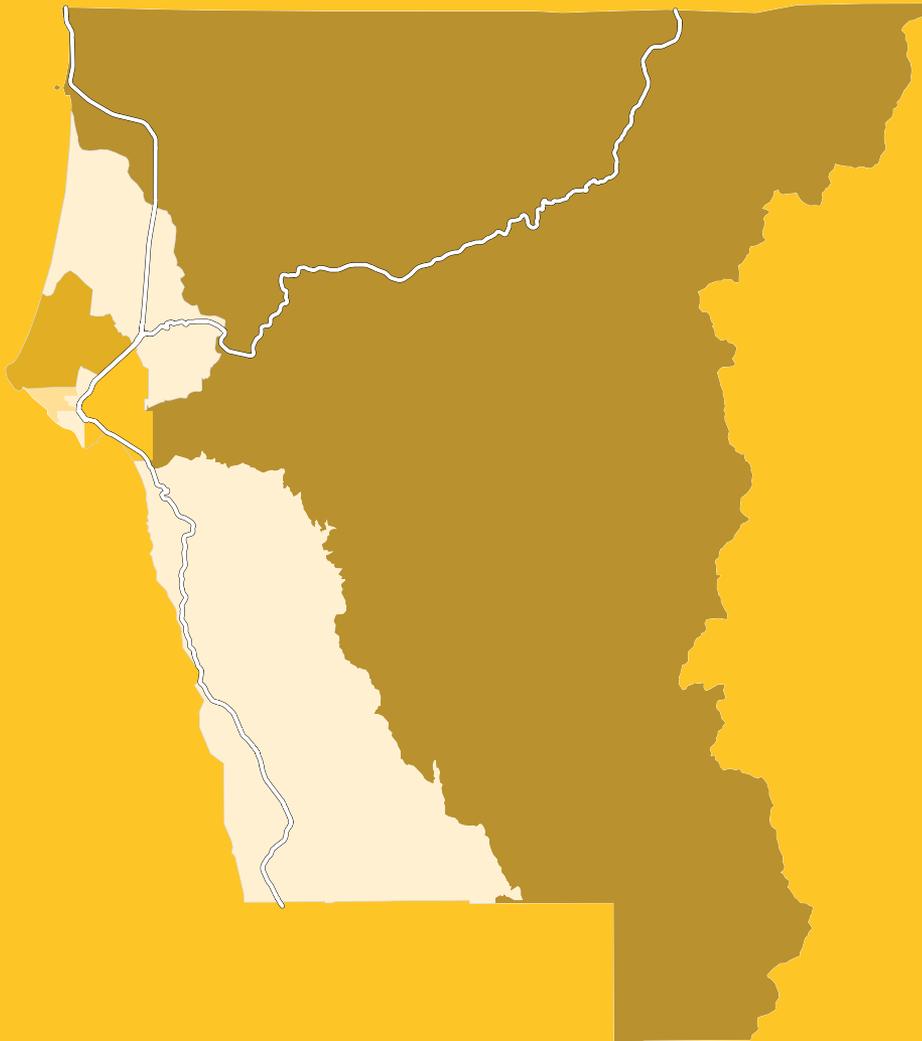


Spotlight on

# Del Norte County



REGIONAL REPORT SERIES

A PORTRAIT OF **CALIFORNIA** 2021-2022

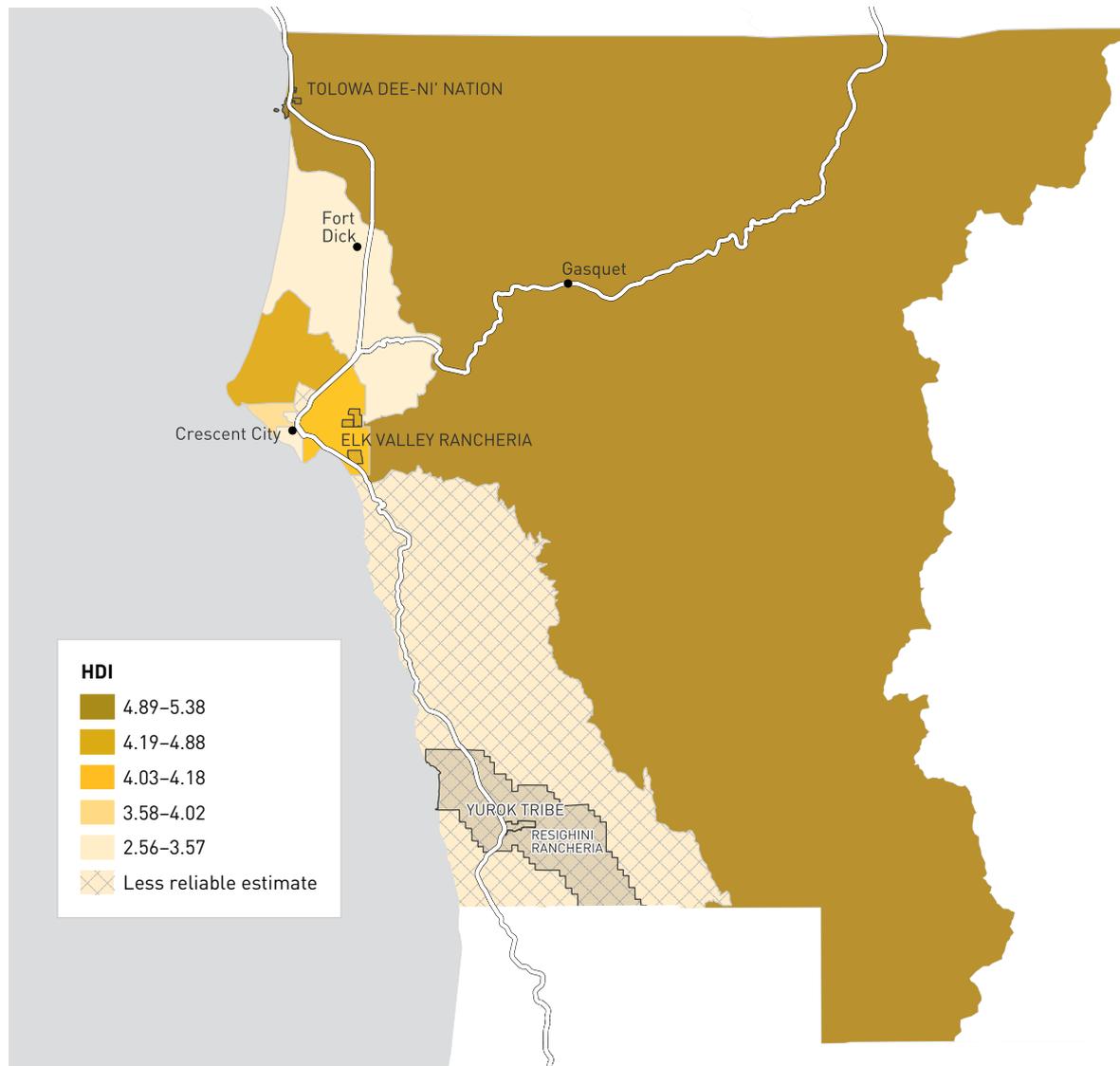
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING JUSTICE

Spotlight on

# Del Norte County



MAP 1 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX





## Introduction

This report paints a picture of well-being and access to opportunity in Mendocino County. It was guided by an advisory group of Mendocino County organizations and individuals and is part of a larger project, *A Portrait of California 2021–2022*, that explores well-being in the state as a whole, with a special focus on housing. It is informed by the human development approach and uses the American Human Development Index as a well-being gauge for places and population groups in the county.

## Acknowledgments

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**First 5 Del Norte**  
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During the course of our research, an advisory panel of public servants, advocates, scholars, and nonprofit leaders from Del Norte and Mendocino Counties contributed their expertise to guide our work with vision and care. We would like to thank them for their time, energy, ideas, generosity of spirit, and invaluable support in making this report a reality. Any mistakes or missteps are, of course, our own. These advisors included:

Amira Long, First 5 Del Norte  
 Aubrey Richeson, Northern CA Indian Development Council  
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thank you!

Kristen

# Understanding Human Development

The **American Human Development Index (HDI)** 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 of 0 to 10. Measure of America's HDI calculations provide a snapshot of community well-being, reveal inequalities between groups, allow for tracking change over time, and provide a tool for holding elected officials accountable. Broken down by race and ethnicity, by gender, and by census tract, the index shows how communities across Del Norte County are faring relative to one another and to the state and country as a whole.

The framework that guides this work is the **human development approach**. Human development is an expansive, hopeful concept that values people's dignity and freedom to decide for themselves what to do, how to live, and who to be. Formally defined as the process of improving people's well-being and expanding their opportunities to live freely chosen, flourishing lives, the human development approach puts people at the center of analysis. It is concerned with how political, social, environmental, and economic forces interact to shape the range of choices open to us.

The human development approach rests on a robust conceptual framework: Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen's seminal work on **capabilities**.<sup>1</sup> Capabilities can be understood as a person's tool kit for living a thriving life. We tend to think of capabilities as an individual's skills and talents. In the human development approach, the word's meaning is far more expansive. Valued capabilities include good health, access to knowledge, sufficient income, physical safety, religious freedom, political participation, love and friendship, dignity and societal respect, equality under the law, social inclusion, access to the natural world, self-expression, agency, the ability to influence decisions that affect one's life, and more.<sup>2</sup>

Another important idea in the human development framework is the concept of **human security**.<sup>3</sup> Human security is concerned with the safety and freedom of people, rather than the integrity and protection of the state. Human development can be understood as the freedom to—to enjoy choices and opportunities and to live a flourishing life. Human security can be understood as freedom *from*—from chronic and sudden threats to our lives, rights, and dignity. The challenges of the last two years—including Covid-19, the sharp economic downturn and fast-rising housing costs that the pandemic spurred, school closures, heatwaves and power outages, and wildfires and wildfire smoke<sup>4</sup>—and the disproportionate effects they have had on different groups, including Latino and Native American people, children, the elderly, and low-income communities, call out for a way to understand what is needed to keep people safe. Disasters like these threaten human life, shake our sense of safety, and wipe out years of progress and lifetimes of hard work in a matter of days or weeks. But preparedness, prevention, and protection can mitigate their effects.

The concept of human development is very broad; it includes all the factors that shape our lives. Because measuring everything in a single index is not possible, the

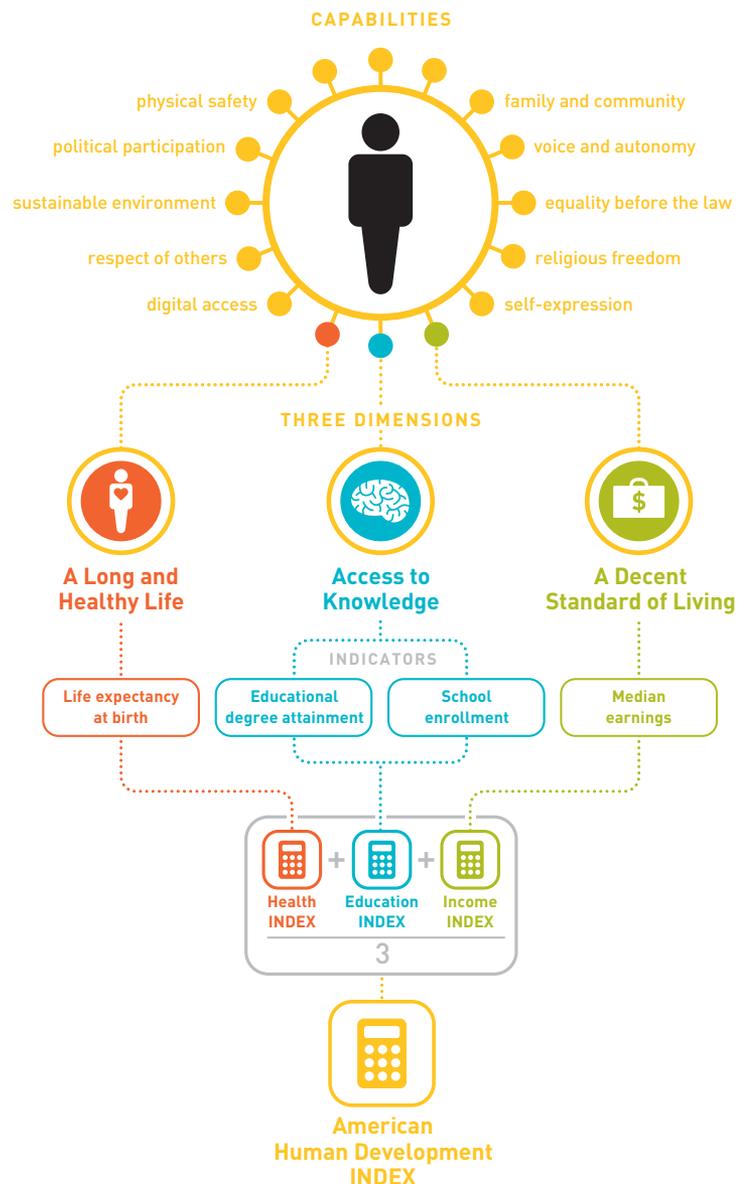
Human development is an expansive, hopeful concept that values people's dignity and freedom to decide for themselves what to do, how to live, and who to be.

HDI includes just three dimensions of well-being: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living. People around the world value these areas as core building blocks of a life of freedom and dignity. In addition, good proxy indicators that are collected and tracked in a consistent way across time and place are available for each. These indicators are not perfect, however. For example, one-third of the index is called “access to knowledge,” but the indicators used, school enrollment and degree attainment, measure only *access to formal education*, leaving aside other valuable ways of knowing. A decent standard of living is measured using median personal earnings; this indicator tells us about the wages and salaries of typical Del Norte residents but nothing about their assets and wealth, such as the value of their homes or investments, which are very important ingredients of human security. It is important to keep in mind that the index is just the start of a conversation about well-being, access to opportunity, and inequality. To understand the *why* behind the scores and craft effective policies to address inequality requires additional quantitative data as well as qualitative data—interviews, narratives, life histories, and more.

**A Long and Healthy Life** is measured using life expectancy at birth, which is calculated using data from the California Department of Public Health, population data from the US Census Bureau, and USALEEP data for census tract-level estimates.

**Access to Knowledge** is measured using data on school enrollment for children and young people ages 3 to 24 and educational degree attainment for adults 25 and older from the American Community Survey of the US Census Bureau.

**A Decent Standard of Living** is measured using median personal earnings of all full- and part-time workers ages 16 and older from the American Community Survey of the US Census Bureau.



# Human Development in Del Norte County

The HDI score for Del Norte County is 4.17 out of 10, compared to 5.85 for the state as a whole. Residents of Del Norte County live nearly three fewer years, are less likely to hold high school diplomas and bachelor's degrees, and earn about \$9,700 less than their statewide counterparts.

In Del Norte County, as in the state and country, HDI scores vary significantly by gender, by race and ethnicity, and by place. Women have an HDI score of 4.47, whereas men have a score of 3.83. This disparity is due to a 4.7-year difference in life expectancy as well as women's higher levels of school enrollment and degree attainment. Men in Del Norte, however, outearn women; their median personal earnings are \$6,400 higher than women's.

The racial and ethnic categories used in this report are defined by the White House Office of Management and Budget and used for data collection across US agencies. Of the racial and ethnic groups in Del Norte County for which it is possible to calculate HDI values, Latino residents have a score of 4.60 and white residents have a score of 4.90.

The Native American score is not reliable due to inadequate data on education and earnings; it likely falls in the 1.70 to 3.00 range, much lower than the scores

The HDI score for Del Norte County is 4.17 out of 10, compared to 5.85 for the state as a whole.

**TABLE 2 Human Development Index by Gender and by Race and Ethnicity in Del Norte County**

RANK	HDI	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	EDUCATION INDEX (out of 10)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (\$)
<b>California</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>5.45</b>	<b>39,900</b>
<b>Del Norte</b>	<b>4.17</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>30,200</b>
<b>GENDER</b>				
1 Women	4.47	80.8	4.25	26,500
2 Men	3.83	76.1	2.82	32,900
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>				
1 White	4.90	77.6	5.33	33,300
2 Latino	4.60	86.2	3.15	23,800
3 Native American	2.38*	72.1	3.12*	21,400*
Asian			7.09*	
Black			4.77*	
<b>GENDER AND RACE/ETHNICITY</b>				
1 White Women	5.35	80.9	5.90	30,500
2 Latina Women	4.82	89.4	3.87	19,500
3 White Men	4.55	74.6	4.76	37,100
4 Latino Men	4.30	83.5	2.63	26,600
5 Native American Men	2.55*	71.4	2.57*	25,900*
6 Native American Women	2.19	73.0	3.64*	17,300

Source: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health, 2014–2020. Education and Earnings: US Census Bureau.

Note: ACS, 2016–2020.

\* Asterisks indicate estimates with higher unreliability.

for either Latino or white residents. In California as a whole, the Native American score is 3.66. The score for Native American women in Del Norte is reliable, however—2.19—well below that of other groups in Del Norte and Native Americans statewide. This striking difference stems from California’s history of genocide, displacement, discrimination, land theft, family separation, and exclusion toward Native American peoples, and the trauma and unequal distribution of resources of all sorts that resulted: political power, public goods like schools, labor market opportunities, land and housing, money in the form of earnings and assets, and more. For more on Native Americans in Del Norte County, see **BOX 4**.

Both Latina and white women have higher HDI scores than their male counterparts. Latina women score 4.82, and Latino men score 4.30. White women, who have the highest index value of the race/gender combinations, score 5.35, compared to white men, who score 4.55. In both groups, women live some six years longer than men and have better educational outcomes but earn about \$7,000 less. Native American women in California as a whole have a higher HDI score than their male counterparts, 4.06 and 3.30, respectively. The score for Native American women in Del Norte (2.19) is alarmingly low in comparison to that of Native American women statewide and white and Latina women countywide.

Well-being also varies by place across Del Norte County. This report uses census tracts to present scores by place. Census tracts are areas defined by the Census Bureau; they generally have a population of between 1,200 and 8,000 people, with an optimum number of 4,000 people. There are nine census tracts in Del Norte County, and the populations are sufficiently large to calculate a human development index score in eight of them. Census tracts are not intuitive—no one knows their census tract number—and can be a bit difficult to see on the maps in this report; please refer to our online map at <https://measureofamerica.org/california2021-22/>, where you can enlarge the view and hover over tracts to see both their number and score.

The range of HDI scores by census tract in Del Norte County runs from a high of 5.38 in Census Tract 2.02, which includes much of the western parts of Del Norte

Both Latina and white women have higher HDI scores than their male counterparts.

**TABLE 3 Human Development Index by Census Tract in Del Norte County**

RANK	HDI	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (\$)
<b>California</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>77.2</b>	<b>39,923</b>
Census Tract 2.02	5.38	79.7	10.6	89.4	21.4	83.5	35,904
Census Tract 1.06	4.89	75.1	8.6	91.4	22.1	81.3	40,250
Census Tract 1.02	4.19	75.4	14.7	85.3	15.1	73.3	34,883
Census Tract 1.07	3.92	75.1	15.7	84.3	8.3	75.9	33,083
Census Tract 2.01	3.58	78.0	30.4	69.6	10.7	56.4	31,273
Census Tract 1.04	3.37*	77.0	21.0	79.0	17.2	76.2	22,333*
Census Tract 2.03	2.74*	77.1	17.4	82.6	14.9	70.3	17,917*
Census Tract 1.01	2.56	73.1	31.7	68.3	16.1	70.3	22,414

\* Indicate estimates with higher unreliability.

County and towns such as French Hill, Idlewild, and Douglas Park, to a low of 2.56 in Census Tract 1.01, comprising mostly southern Crescent City.

In the statewide report that accompanies this *Spotlight on Del Norte County, A Portrait of California 2021–2022*, we use a framework called the Five Californias to explore the range of well-being and access to opportunity across the Golden State. The Five Californias, which are created by grouping areas<sup>10</sup> not by geographic region but rather by HDI scores, include the following:

**One Percent California** consists of neighborhood clusters that score 9.00 or above out of 10 on the HDI. The 900,000 people, 2.3 percent of the state population, living in these mostly Bay Area communities enjoy higher levels of well-being and greater access to opportunity than almost anyone in the country. No Del Norte County communities meet the criteria for One Percent California.

**Elite Enclave California** is made up of neighborhood clusters that score between 7.00 and 8.99 on the index. It is home to roughly eight million people, or one-fifth of the state's population, living mostly in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and San Diego. No Del Norte communities fall into this category.

**Main Street California** comprises neighborhood clusters that score between 5.00 and 6.99. More than eighteen million people, 46 percent of the population, live in this California. Main Street Californians have higher levels of well-being than the average US resident. Nonetheless, California's high cost of living means that some Main Streeters face levels of economic insecurity similar to that of Struggling California. In Del Norte County, one community, Census Tract 2.02, meets the criteria for this California.

**Struggling California** is home to neighborhood clusters scoring between 3.00 and 4.99 on the index. They are found chiefly in greater Los Angeles, the Inland Empire, the Central Valley, greater San Diego, and northern California. Struggling California's residents, who make up roughly 30 percent of the state's population, have lower levels of well-being than the typical American. The plurality of Del Norte communities, five, fit into this category—Census Tracts 1.06, 1.02, 1.07, 2.01, and 1.04.

**Disenfranchised California** comprises neighborhood clusters that score below 3.00. Two Del Norte County communities meet the criteria for this California, Census Tracts 2.03 and 1.01. Other communities in this group can be found in the Inland Empire, the San Joaquin Valley, and Los Angeles County. People living in Disenfranchised California experience many more barriers to opportunity than do those who live in the higher-scoring areas of Del Norte County. This group of residents has much lower levels of well-being—shorter lives, less access to education, and extremely low earnings—than others in the region or state, on average. Burdened by unremitting economic pressure to make ends meet in the face of high living costs and reliant on overstretched and often inadequate public services, from schools to transportation to health care, people living in low-scoring areas face a circumscribed set of choices and opportunities. They also face tremendous human insecurity, as the pandemic made tragically clear; they were more vulnerable before Covid-19, they were hardest hit by its health, social, and economic effects, and they face the steepest climb to recovery.



#### BOX 4 Native American Communities in Del Norte County

Approximately 2,140 Native Americans plus another 1,380 people who list Native American plus another race or ethnicity on census surveys call Del Norte County home. The traditional and modern-day homelands of the Yurok Tribe—the largest tribe in California—and the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation lie in Del Norte County. The County is also home to the Elk Valley Rancheria and the Resighini Rancheria.

##### Health

To calculate life expectancy, Measure of America—like state and federal health agencies—relies on mortality data that state and county coroners' offices collect and classify by race and ethnicity. The coroners denote race and ethnicity by marking a check box; they do not have the option to code somebody as two or more races as of 2020 in the state of California. When a coroner does not know the race or ethnicity of a deceased person, their only options are to check "other" or "unknown." Due to this restrictive classification, it is not yet possible to calculate the life expectancy for "two or more races." Yet research shows that, since 2010, Native American people have been increasingly self-identifying as "two or more races" in demographic surveys, rather than as "Native American alone."<sup>5</sup> To keep up with shifts in the way in which people self-report their racial and ethnic identities, changes need to be made in how racial and ethnic data are classified by coroners' offices across the state and the nation. Today there is a growing mismatch between the way people see themselves—for instance, as biracial—and the way funeral home employees and coroners classify them at the time of their deaths.

The life expectancy for Native Americans in Del Norte County is 72.1 years—73.0

years for women and 71.4 years for men—the lowest of the county's major racial and ethnic groups. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted tribal communities disproportionately, though the leadership of local tribal leaders displayed through public awareness campaigns and other measures and the strength of the community mitigated Covid's effects.

##### Access to Knowledge

The enrollment and educational attainment data for Native Americans in Del Norte County is insufficient to allow for accurate estimates in many categories. We were able to calculate an Education Index, however, which is 3.12 out of 10, about the same as the Latino Education Index in the county. Girls and women perform better than their male counterparts, with an Education score of 3.64 compared to 2.57.

The indicators for this category do not capture many important sources of knowledge and ways of knowing that matter to Native American people. One is language. There are only 16 advanced-level Yurok language-keepers alive today. In an effort to sustain the Yurok language, it is offered as an elective at four high schools in northern California. Yurok language classes are also offered in local Head Start preschool programs as well as in some K-8 schools when there is teacher availability, and at the College of the Redwoods, the regional community college. Eight high school seniors have been awarded California's State Seal of Bilingualism in Yurok, a prestigious accomplishment.<sup>6</sup>

##### Living Standards

The data on median personal earnings for Native American individuals in Del Norte are not reliable—the estimate for

2016--2020 is earnings of \$21,400, plus or minus \$10,200—a very large range of possible outcomes well above commonly accepted thresholds for reliable Census data. Directionally, it is more likely than not that Native American residents in Del Norte have annual earnings below the statewide median for Native Americans, \$32,400, as well as below the county median for all races, \$30,200.

The California 30x30 plan is a policy to protect 30 percent of California's lands and waters by 2030 and an opportunity to return land and stewardship of natural resources back to Native people.<sup>7</sup> If coupled with financial assistance and land return, this plan could both restore the environment and provide some economic and cultural sustenance to tribal communities.<sup>8</sup> Return of tribal land is not always smooth: a tangle of bureaucracy (and a high purchase price) is inhibiting the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation's request to have Reservation Ranch, comprising 1,668 acres of lands surrounding the Smith River—near the location of a catastrophic massacre in 1853 committed by white settlers, followed by internment in concentration camps—returned to them.<sup>9</sup>

The Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation is a prominent stakeholder in the Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery of Del Norte County, the only private and tribally owned hatchery in the state of California. One of the main goals of the project is to restore the native runs of Steelhead and Chinook salmon in the Smith River for Indigenous fishing practices. The combination of environmental stewardship, education, and sustainable farming practices bolsters the Tolowa Dee-Ni' economy and is a small yet notable contributor to an environmentally secure, freely chosen future for residents of Del Norte County.

**BOX X Why Don't All Groups and Places Have an HDI Score?**

You will notice that on some maps, specific areas appear in gray, and that in some tables, values for certain groups or locales are missing or have an asterisk. Gray areas and missing and asterisked values indicate that the data for that place or demographic group are less statistically reliable than data for more populous areas or larger groups.

Ideally, we would be able to provide scores not just for large demographic groups, such as Asian, Latino, Native American, and white Mendocino residents, but also for smaller ones like Black county residents. One barrier to doing so is that the method we use to calculate life expectancy at birth requires a minimum number of deaths in each five-year age category. Even combining several years of California Department of Public Health mortality data did not include deaths in a number of age groups for Black residents, making it impossible to accurately calculate life expectancy for them. Because we don't have life expectancy for Black residents, and because some indicators for education and earnings were unreliable due to the small size of this population (about 600 people), we could not calculate an HDI score for them.

We were able to address data challenges around calculating life expectancy for Latino residents by combining the Mendocino County Latino population with the Latino populations in Del Norte County (for which we also wrote a report like this one) and

Humboldt County, which lies between the two along the Pacific Coast. We used this combined-county life expectancy alongside Mendocino-specific education and earnings data to calculate the HDI, allowing us to provide a score for Latino residents as well as for Latino men and women.

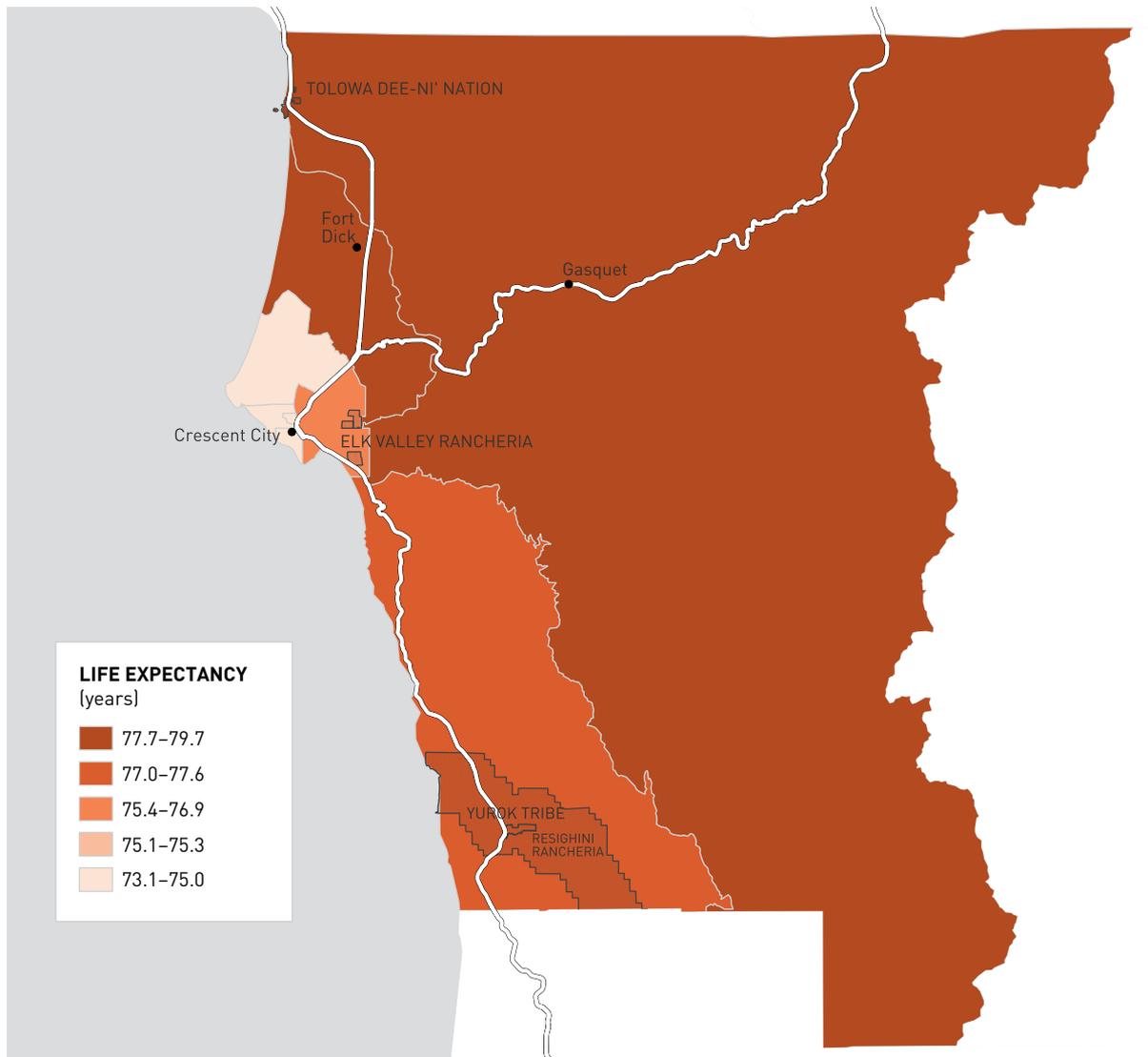
Another limitation in our ability to provide everyone an HDI score stems from the way in which the data we use for the index are collected. We would like, for example, to calculate scores for LGBTQ residents, but are unable to do so because the American Community Survey does not provide a way for people to report information about their sexual and gender identities beyond marking the box for male or female. One bright spot: starting in July 2021, the Census has included questions on sexual orientation and gender identity on its Household Pulse Survey. Measure of America has asked the Census to extend these questions to the American Community Survey and its Decennial Census. This would greatly enhance human-centered research.

In short, Measure of America can only calculate scores for groups that are given the chance to self-identify on the American Community Survey and that are sufficiently large as to allow reliable calculations. We understand the frustration and potential harms of not having reliable data on each and every demographic group in the county; individuals and communities can be made invisible in cases like this.

## Health

Improving human development requires, first and foremost, increasing people's real opportunities to avoid premature death by disease or injury, to enjoy protection from arbitrary denial of life, to live in a healthy environment, to maintain a healthy lifestyle, to receive quality medical care, and to attain the highest possible standard of physical and mental health. Amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, health and its relationship with income and education, safety and human security, and race and place have come into sharp focus.

**MAP 6 Life Expectancy**



In the American Human Development Index, the proxy for a long and healthy life is life expectancy at birth, defined as the number of years that a baby born today can expect to live if current patterns of mortality continue throughout their lifetime. Although living a long life and living a healthy life are not synonymous, those who manage to elude all causes of mortality until their eighties or nineties are generally healthier than the average person, and life expectancy is a widely used summary measure of population health.

## Life Expectancy in Del Norte Today

- The average life expectancy for residents of Del Norte County is 78.3 years, 2.7 years shorter than the state average. Life expectancy in Del Norte was 75.7 years in 2008 and 76.2 years in 2012.
- The life expectancy of women in Del Norte is 80.8 years, compared to that of men: 76.1 years. In other words, a baby girl born in Del Norte today can expect to live nearly five years longer than a baby boy. This gap is similar to the statewide gap in gender life expectancy (5.2 years).
- Latino residents have the longest life expectancy, 86.2 years, with Latina women having the longest life expectancy of any race/gender combination, 89.4 years.<sup>11</sup> Native American residents have the shortest life expectancy, 72.1 years. The white population of Del Norte lies in between, with a life expectancy of 77.6 years. Due to the small population sizes of the Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and Black populations in Del Norte, life expectancy calculations are not possible for these groups.
- Native American men have the lowest life expectancy of any race/gender combination, 71.4 years. This is 18 years shorter than the group with the longest life expectancy, Latina women.
- Among census tracts in Del Norte, life expectancy ranges from 73.1 years in Census Tract 1.01, comprising mostly southern Crescent City, to 79.7 years in Census Tract 2.02, which includes much of the western parts of Del Norte County and towns such as French Hill, Idlewild, and Douglas Park.

Latino residents have the longest life expectancy, 86.2 years, with Latina women having the longest life expectancy of any race/gender combination, 89.4 years.

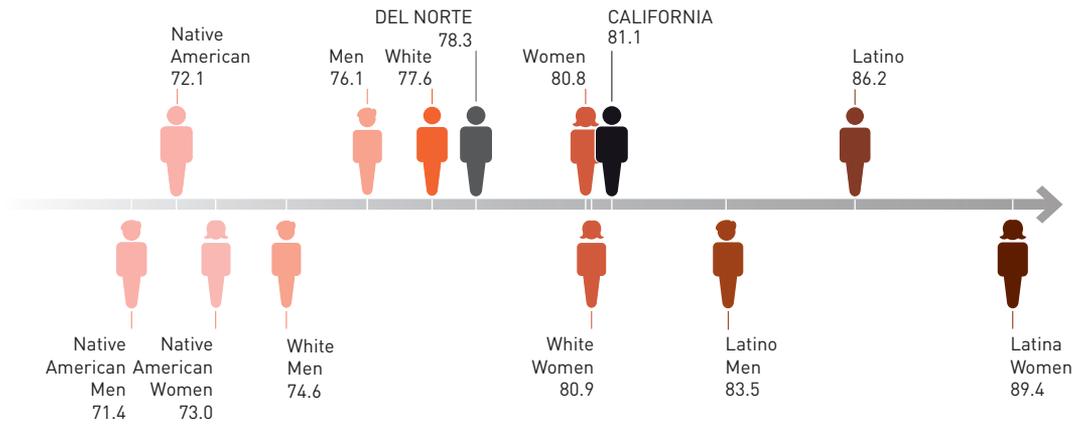
## Other Factors Affecting Health

No discussion of life expectancy would be complete without mention of Covid-19's impact. As of November 2022, Del Norte's share of the population killed by Covid-19, 219 per 100,000 residents, is slightly below that of California, 252 per 100,000.<sup>12</sup> Half (50.5 percent) of all Del Norte residents have completed a primary series of Covid-19 vaccination, compared to 72.3 percent of all Californians.

A larger proportion of Del Norte residents die from chronic lower respiratory diseases and accidents than in California as a whole. The rate of Del Norte residents who die in land transport accidents (accidents involving pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcycles, cars, trucks, buses, and any other land vehicle) is 21.8 per 100,000 residents, double the California rate of 10.7 per 100,000.<sup>13</sup>

**BOX 7 Life Expectancy by Gender and by Race and Ethnicity in Del Norte County**

**LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (YEARS)**

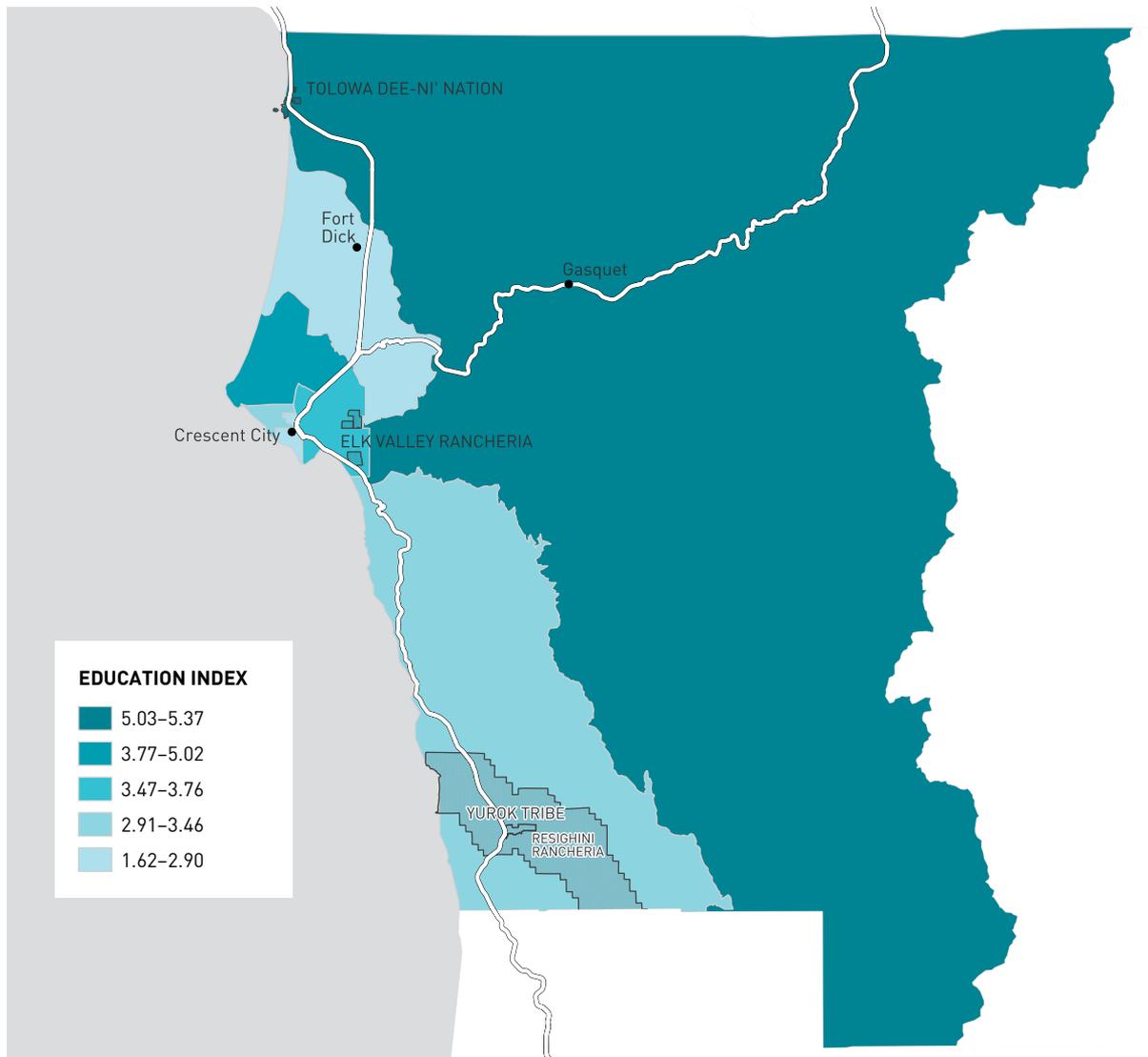


Source: Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health, 2014–2020.  
 Note: Data were not reliable for Asian, Black, or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander overall. Latino life expectancy is a pooled estimate for Mendocino, Del Norte, and Humboldt counties. For more info, see methodological note.

# Education

It is common knowledge that more education typically leads to better jobs and bigger paychecks—a relationship stronger today than ever before. Globalization and technological change have made it difficult for people with limited formal education to achieve the economic self-sufficiency, peace of mind, and human security enabled by a living wage across the United States. Less well-known are the ways in which education and knowledge more broadly also make desirable noneconomic outcomes more likely. More than just allowing for the acquisition of skills and credentials, education builds confidence, confers status and dignity, and

**MAP 8 Education Index**



provides access to a wider range of possible futures. More education is associated with better physical and mental health, a longer life, and greater marital stability, tolerance, and ability to adjust to change.

Access to knowledge is measured using data on school enrollment for children and young people ages 3 to 24 and educational degree attainment for adults 25 and older from the American Community Survey of the US Census Bureau. It is important to note that the indicators used to measure access to knowledge—school enrollment and degree attainment—measure only access to formal education. Using indicators of formal education as a stand-in for the broad concept of knowledge is commonplace in social science research and has many advantages (for instance, the data are collected and made available every year). But doing so leaves unmeasured and unacknowledged all other valuable and important ways of knowing that allow communities to survive and flourish and that are sources of strength, resilience, pride, and identity. Access to knowledge includes not just what people learn in school but also what they learn at home and in their communities about how the world works, what is valuable, what it means to be a good person, how to overcome challenges, and how to carry out most of the practical tasks of living, to name just a few.

Access to knowledge includes not just what people learn in school but also what they learn at home and in their communities.

**TABLE 9 Education Index by Race and Ethnicity in Del Norte County**

DEL NORTE	EDUCATION INDEX	HIGHEST DEGREE ATTAINED				SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
		Less than high school	High school diploma	Bachelor's degree	Graduate degree	
Asian	7.09*	27.7%	27.3%	27.7%	17.3%	95.3*%
White	5.33	12.7	69.9		10.7 6.7	87.3
Black	4.77*	38.3		46.8	9.1* 5.8*	57.1*
Latino	3.15	48.9		46.9	2.6* 1.6*	89.9
Native American	3.12*	14.6	82.9		1.6* 0.9*	74.7*

Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2016–2020.  
 \*Estimates with an asterisk have a higher degree of uncertainty. Data were not reliable for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander overall.

## Educational Outcomes in Del Norte Today

- Compared to the populations of California and the United States as a whole, adult residents of Del Norte are less likely to have earned high school diplomas and about half as likely to have earned bachelor's degrees. While 79.7 percent of adults have at least a high school diploma, only 15.4 percent hold at least a bachelor's degree and 5.9 percent hold a graduate degree.
- Compared to boys and young men, girls and young women ages 3 to 24 have notably higher rates of enrollment in Del Norte (76.2 percent of females ages 3 to 24 are enrolled compared to 69.6 percent of males), and women enjoy an edge across all educational outcomes.
- About half of Latino adults ages 25 and up in Del Norte graduated high school, compared to eight in ten adults for the county overall. This is the lowest share of adults with high school diplomas of any racial or ethnic group. This disparity in high school diploma attainment is largely due to the limited opportunities that Latino immigrants had to complete their educations in their home countries. Nine out of ten Latino young people ages 3 to 24 are enrolled in school, a far higher share than Del Norte County at large (just above seven in ten).
- Whites have the highest share of adults with high school diplomas in Del Norte County at 87.3 percent, followed closely by Native Americans with 85.4 percent having completed high school. About seven in ten Asian adults in Del Norte are high school graduates compared to about six in ten Black residents and—as mentioned earlier—five in ten Latino adults. This gap—between nine in ten for one group and five in ten for another—is dramatic and larger than the high school credential gap at the statewide level.
- There are dramatic educational gaps between places in Del Norte: 22.1 percent of residents in Census Tract 1.06, which includes the areas immediately north and east of Del Norte County Regional Airport, hold at least a bachelor's degree, whereas 8.3 percent of residents in Census Tract 1.07, which contains much of Crescent City North, hold one, less than half the share of Tract 1.06. Even more dramatic is the gap between Census Tract 2.01, which includes Pacific Shores, Yontocket, Fort Dick, Pelican Bay State Prison, and part of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, where 56.4 percent of young people ages 3 to 24 are enrolled in school, compared to tract 2.02, which includes much of the western parts of Del Norte County and towns such as French Hill, Idlewild, and Douglas Park, where 83.5 percent of young people are enrolled. The second-lowest enrollment tract is Census Tract 1.01, comprising mostly southern Crescent City, with an enrollment rate of 70.3 percent.

Compared to boys and young men, girls and young women ages 3 to 24 have notably higher rates of enrollment in Del Norte, and women enjoy an edge across all educational outcomes.

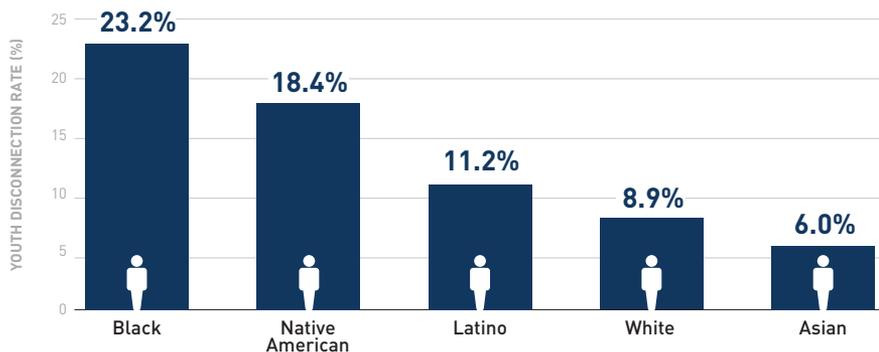
## Youth Disconnection

The youth disconnection rate—the share of young people ages 16 to 24 who are not in school or working—is a strong indicator of a community’s collective assets and a telling gauge of its residents’ access to opportunity. Emerging adulthood—the late teens and early twenties—is when people develop many of the capabilities required to live a good life: knowledge and credentials, social skills and networks, a sense of mastery and agency, an understanding of one’s strengths and preferences, and the ability to handle stressful events and regulate one’s emotions, to name just a few. At school and on the job, connected young people set goals and lay the groundwork to realize them. Out-of-school, out-of-work youth also have dreams and aspirations but have far less support to make them a reality.

The youth disconnection rate for Del Norte County for 2015–2020 is 32.3 percent, the second-highest rate of any county in California. This translates to 790 young adults out of school and work, or **one in three young adults from 16 to 24 who are not in school and not working**.<sup>14</sup> California as a whole has a youth disconnection rate of 12.3 percent—less than half the rate of Del Norte.

Disconnection is not a spontaneous occurrence; it is years in the making, stemming from deep structural issues, long-standing inequities, and a paucity of educational and employment opportunities available to young people in certain groups and areas. Addressing it successfully will require a diversity of tactics, focusing not only on education and employment but also on poverty, disability, and gender equality.

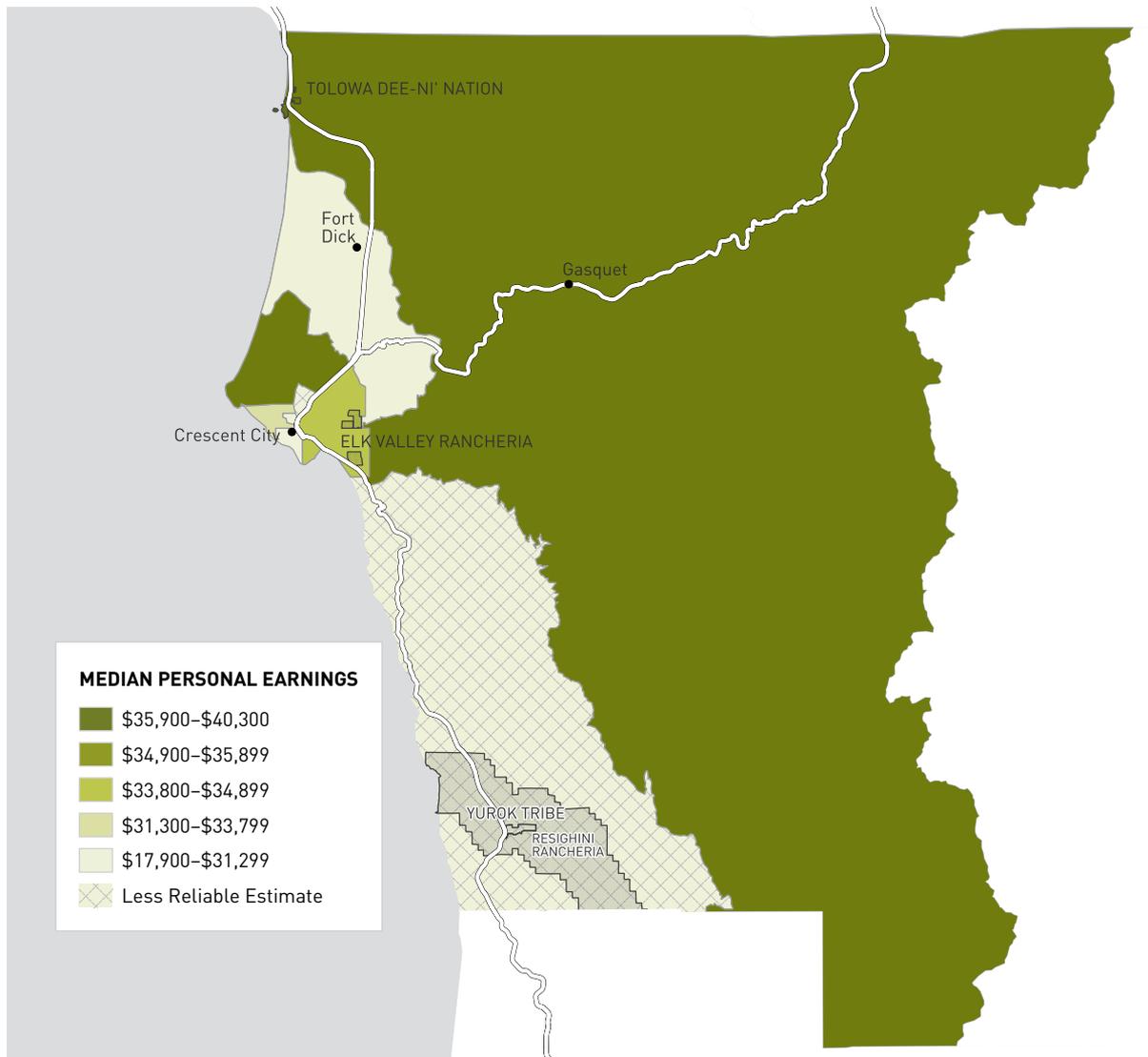
**TABLE 11 Youth Disconnection Rates by Race and Ethnicity in California**



## Earnings

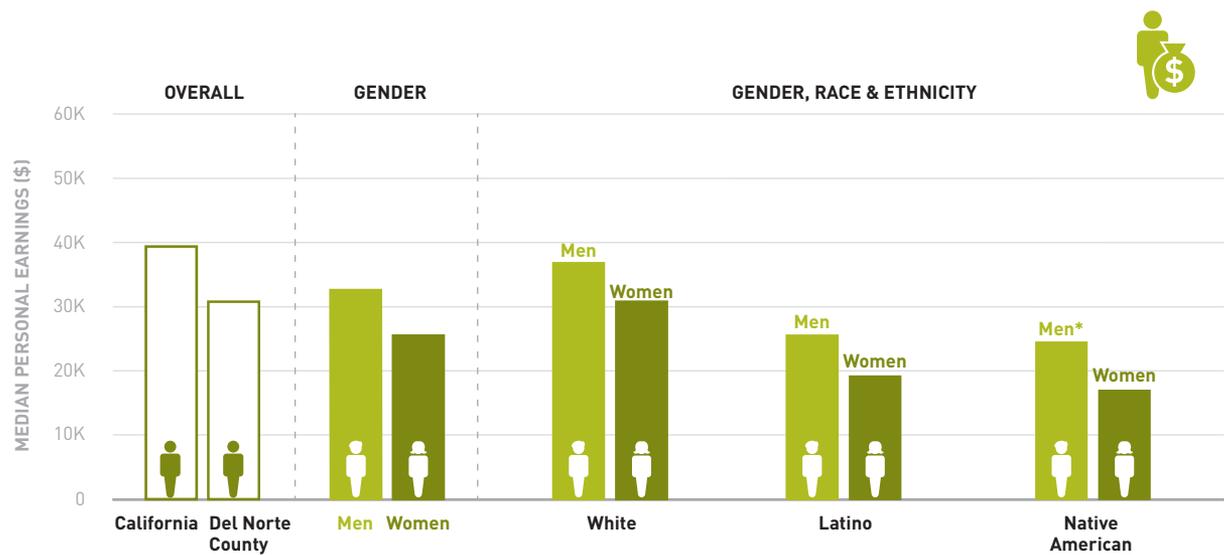
Money alone is a faulty gauge of well-being; that idea is central to the human development approach. A good life is built on much more: physical health, safety and security, love and friendship, freedom to practice one's faith, equality before the law, being treated with dignity and respect, and having a say in the decisions that affect us, to name just a handful. But while money isn't everything, adequate financial resources are nonetheless a critical ingredient for a freely chosen, flourishing life. Without money, the range of the possible is vastly curtailed.

**MAP 12 Median Earnings**



Many different measures can be used to gauge people’s material standard of living. The American Human Development Index uses median personal earnings—the wages and salaries of all full- and part-time workers 16 years of age and older. This measure reflects the resources of the ordinary worker (thus the median, or midpoint, of earnings rather than mean, or average, earnings) and captures the command that both women and men have over economic resources (thus the focus on personal rather than household earnings). Many people ask if wages are adjusted for cost of living; they are not. The cost of living varies far more within California than between the state and other places, and methodologies for adjusting for cost of living do not sufficiently account for local variation.

**BOX 13 Median Earnings by Gender and by Race and Ethnicity in Del Norte County**



Source: US Census Bureau ACS, 2016–2020.

\* Estimates with an asterisk have a higher degree of uncertainty. Due to small population sizes and survey sampling the standard error of the estimate is greater than 20% of the estimate. Data were not reliable for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander overall, or for Black men and women once disaggregated at the gender level.

## Living Standards in Del Norte Today

- Median personal earnings in Del Norte are \$30,200, about \$9,700 less than in the state overall.
- Among the two racial and ethnic groups in Del Norte with reliable earnings data—Latinos and whites—white residents earn more, \$33,300, while Latino residents earn less, \$23,800. A difference of \$9,400 separates these groups.
- Native American women have the lowest earnings of any race/gender combination in Del Norte County, \$17,300. White men in Del Norte make more than double what Latina women earn: roughly \$19,800 more. The gender gap between white men and white women comes out to \$6,600 in annual earnings; the earnings gender gap between Latino men and women is \$7,100 annually.
- By census tract, earnings range from \$17,900 in Census Tract 2.03—which contains part of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, Requa, Klamath, part of the Yurok Reservation, and the Resighini Rancheria—to \$40,300 in Census Tract 1.06, which includes the areas immediately north and east of Del Norte County Regional Airport.

Native American women have the lowest earnings of any race/gender combination in Del Norte County, \$17,300.

## Other Factors Affecting Earnings

Between 2010 to 2021, the number of state government jobs in Del Norte dropped by 202, the biggest drop in terms of number of positions of any industry sector (if this were combined with military, federal, and local government jobs, the government sector as a whole would have shrunk by 271 positions). Bright spots of growth include the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector, where employment has grown by 112 percent; manufacturing, where employment has increased by 53 percent; and construction, where employment has grown by 21 percent (all relative to 2010). Employment growth in Del Norte lags behind job growth in California and the United States as a whole.<sup>15</sup>

Undocumented immigrants work disproportionately in agriculture, construction, and manufacturing. A 2017 Public Policy Institute of California analysis estimated the count of undocumented immigrants across Del Norte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Siskiyou Counties to be 1,500.<sup>16</sup> Undocumented workers are vulnerable to labor exploitation due to their immigration status.

A living wage for a single adult in Del Norte County is approximately \$16.10 an hour, and roughly \$34.40 per hour for a single adult with a child.<sup>17</sup>

# Housing

The events of recent years showed more clearly than ever why housing is a critical human development issue. More than just a place to lay our heads at night, housing is a fulcrum of opportunity. Where we live governs the jobs we can easily access, the quality of the air we breathe, how vulnerable we are to the effects of climate change or pandemics, and much more. Stable, affordable housing—free of hazards such as asthma-inducing fumes, peeling paint, or fraying electrical wires—is particularly important for the youngest Inlanders, whose health and safety are compromised by poor housing conditions, whose school outcomes and emotional health are put at risk by the instability of frequent moves, and whose development is threatened when financial insecurity and overcrowding create debilitating stress in the household.

The centrality of housing to well-being means that the housing conditions in Del Norte shape residents' choices and opportunities in numerous ways. Increasing housing costs contribute to the erosion of the region's once relatively affordable cost of living, entrench generational and racial inequities, and limit poor children's access to quality public schools. As climate change makes wildfires more frequent and severe, families living in ecologically vulnerable areas in the wildland-urban interface are at great risk. Funding affordable housing, preserving and acquiring affordable units, and providing rental subsidies and services to vulnerable populations—such as people experiencing homelessness, seniors on fixed incomes, people with disabilities, young people aging out of foster care, people with mental illness, people with very low earnings, and formerly incarcerated people—are necessary to ensure that all Inlanders can live with safety, dignity, and stability.

Housing costs in Del Norte have been, and remain, low relative to other areas in California, with an owner-occupied median home value of \$238,100 in 2021, far below the state median of \$648,100. Since 2015, the median value of owner-occupied homes in California has increased over 40 percent. For Del Norte, median home value has increased 24 percent. This increase in home value has not yet come at the expense of homeownership; residents of Del Norte have higher homeownership rates than California as a whole—68.4 percent of Del Norte residents live in owner-occupied housing, compared to 55.3 percent of all Californians. The share of households in Del Norte that own their homes has increased 13 percent since 2015.

Caveats to this rosy picture abound. Nearly 20 percent of Del Norte's housing stock are mobile homes, the fourth-highest rate of any county in California. Aside from San Francisco, Alameda, and Los Angeles Counties—all part of metro areas with transit systems—Del Norte has the highest share of households without vehicles (cars, trucks, vans) of any county in California: 8.6 percent. This is a critical mechanism for accessing jobs and opportunity.

Where we live governs the jobs we can easily access, the quality of the air we breathe, how vulnerable we are to the effects of climate change or pandemics, and much more.

Del Norte has the third-highest share of renters experiencing rent burden—defined as spending more than 30 percent of household income on rent—of any county in the state, at 60 percent.<sup>18</sup> This is well above the statewide average of 54 percent of renters who are rent-burdened. Rent burden has been increasing in Del Norte; the share of renters who are rent-burdened has increased 17 percent from 2015, when 51 percent of renters were so classified. Rent burden in Del Norte is increasing faster than it is statewide; the share of all Californians who are rent-burdened actually dropped nearly 3 percentage points from 2015 to 2020.

Encouragingly, the share of housing in Del Norte lacking complete kitchen facilities dropped from 2 percent in 2015 to 0.8 percent in 2020; similarly, the share of housing in Del Norte without complete plumbing facilities dropped from 0.7 percent in 2015 to 0.3 percent in 2020. Del Norte also fares better than California as a whole in terms of overcrowding: 4 percent of households in Del Norte have more than one person per bedroom, compared to 8 percent statewide. Broadband connectivity in Del Norte is far higher than many rural areas elsewhere in the nation: 68 percent of Del Norte households have a wired broadband connection, compared to 75 percent of all Californians and 70 percent of all Americans.

About 2 percent of households in Del Norte have moved within the last two years, well below the statewide share of 4 percent of households having moved within two years.

#### BOX 14 Homelessness

Homelessness in California is driven by a number of factors, chief among them the state's outsized housing costs and related lack of affordable housing. California overall had the largest increase in homelessness of any state from 2019 to 2020, a 6.8 percent increase, roughly three times the national increase of 2.2 percent.<sup>19</sup>

In California, 70 percent of homeless residents are unsheltered, compared to 39 percent nationwide, meaning they live outdoors in places like streets or parks. California has the highest rate of unsheltered homelessness in the country in part because the state provides fewer shelter beds and spends less money on resources to support

people experiencing homelessness than several other states (see [PAGE 49](#) in *A Portrait of California 2021–2022* for more on homelessness statewide).

A revamped homelessness point-in-time survey in Del Norte conducted in late January 2022 found more than 460 individuals in Del Norte who are unhoused. Eighty-five percent of this population are unsheltered, 48 percent report being homeless for more than three years, and 55 percent of those surveyed said they had lived in Del Norte for more than ten years. A 2020 count of homelessness in Del Norte found 248 individuals experiencing homelessness.<sup>20</sup> Even in the best of times, surveys of the

difficult-to-reach homeless population understate the true scope of the situation, which is especially likely to be the case against the backdrop of Covid-19.

Covid-19 exacerbated homelessness nationwide—loss of work, loss of housing, and public health restrictions on shelter capacity all made the problem worse. The good news is that since the pandemic began, more housing programs have developed in Del Norte to help residents experiencing homelessness. State funds from Project Homekey have been channeled to Del Norte to buy a motel in Crescent City, renamed Legacy, as well as to the Yurok Tribe to build housing in Klamath Glen.<sup>21</sup>

# Recommendations

This report was developed by Measure of America in collaboration with a thoughtful, engaged group of advisors and funders, who are listed in the acknowledgments and to whom we are very grateful.

The stark well-being differences by race and ethnicity and by place across Del Norte County are rooted in interlinked social and economic inequalities that together circumscribe the life chances of some while easing the paths of others. Addressing thorny structural issues like gender inequality, income inequality, racism, and residential segregation is a complex challenge but one that is required to make the California dream a reality for all in Del Norte County. Expanding well-being requires short-term action focused on Covid-19 recovery, medium-term action aimed at building human security, and a long-term commitment to addressing structural inequalities.

Addressing the harmful impacts of Covid-19 is a top short-term priority. Black, Latino, and Native American people as well as low-income communities were hardest hit; they are more likely to work in frontline jobs where they could be exposed to Covid-19, more likely to live in intergenerational and sometimes overcrowded homes, and more likely to have underlying health conditions that make the coronavirus more dangerous. As a result, they have disproportionately lost not just their jobs, but their lives.

The pandemic made clear that our thin, frayed safety net is inadequate to both chronic threats like unemployment and health inequities and sudden disasters like pandemics, heatwaves, and wildfires. Investing in systems and services that allow people to care for themselves and their families during both normal and challenging times is critical to well-being.

## TARGET RESOURCES TO THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

The HDI scores by census tract and demographic group presented in this report create a map of pandemic vulnerability and impact; low scores flag areas and groups that were already grappling with threats to their health, access to education, and economic security pre-Covid-19; that were hardest hit during the pandemic; and that face the steepest climb to recovery. **Targeting recovery efforts and dollars toward the two census tracts with HDI scores below 3.0 will prioritize the places and people who need the most assistance in rebuilding their lives. Another priority population is Native American women, the group with the lowest HDI value in Del Norte County, 2.19, and Native American men, who have the lowest life expectancy in the county.**

## ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES MAGNIFIED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Underlying health conditions like heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes increase the risk of complications and death from Covid-19. Communities of color, who suffer disproportionately from these conditions, have borne the brunt of the

Targeting recovery efforts and dollars toward the two census tracts with HDI scores below 3.0 will prioritize the places and people who need the most assistance in rebuilding their lives.

pandemic. The American Public Health Association warns that health inequities are likely to worsen in the coming years, including an increase in chronic medical conditions in communities of color. Attentiveness to Covid-19's outsized impact on Black, Native American, and Latino residents, on people living in poverty, on older Californians, and on men will offer critical lessons as the state recovers. The low life expectancies among Native American men (71.4 years), Native American women (73.0 years, 16.4 years fewer than Latina women in Del Norte County), and white men (74.6 years) indicate underlying health conditions that are not receiving the attention and treatment required and that heighten Covid-19 vulnerabilities.

### **EXPAND ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Del Norte County Department of Health and Human Services' 2019 Community Health Assessment reported that the county had the "highest estimated need" for mental health services in the state, with the need among people living in poverty being particularly acute. It also noted that older high school students experienced more depression and suicidal ideation than their counterparts in the rest of the state.<sup>22</sup> The Sutter Coast Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment, also conducted in 2019, likewise flagged the need for behavioral health services of all sorts, including for substance use, particularly methamphetamine and opioids.<sup>23</sup> The fear, loss, uncertainty, and isolation Covid-19 engendered among people of all ages, particularly young people, has doubtless increased psychological and emotional distress and heightened further the need for behavioral health services. The country and state are experiencing a shortage of mental health care providers, something the county has long suffered; this worsening shortage requires short-term strategies like expanding access to support groups, telepsychiatry, and peer counseling, alongside a long-term strategy for expanding the mental health care labor force.

### **INVEST IN THE CARE AND EDUCATION OF THE YOUNGEST DEL NORTE RESIDENTS**

High-quality, affordable early-care and education programs as well as support services for families with young children are essential for Del Norte County residents, yet in very short supply; the county has few licensed child-care providers. Though transitional kindergarten has helped alleviate the child-care shortage somewhat and enhanced access to services for preschoolers, there are still far too few spots for babies and toddlers up to age 3. Without reliable childcare, parents cannot work to support their families and businesses struggle to find workers. In addition, high-quality early care and education can support the healthy development of the region's smallest residents. The social, emotional, and cognitive development of young children, particularly children living in poverty, is enhanced by high-quality care; key to quality is the educational background of care providers. Quality care can alleviate parents' stress by bringing them into contact with people, services, and organizations that can provide support.

The Del Norte County Department of Health and Human Services' 2019 Community Health Assessment reported that the county had the "highest estimated need" for mental health services in the state.

## SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOUNG MOTHERS

Del Norte County has a high rate of births to teenagers relative to other California counties, around 50 per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19, roughly double the state rate.<sup>24</sup> Comprehensive sexual health education in middle and high school and access to affordable, long-lasting birth control are important tools for reducing the rate of teenage pregnancy. Supporting young mothers is also critical. Young mothers need support in three ways: first, to experience healthy pregnancies and safe births; second, to envision and realize their own dreams and ambitions; and third, to be the mothers they want to be to their much-loved children. Access to caring, comprehensive, culturally sensitive reproductive health care, which includes prenatal care, protects the health of young women during and after pregnancy. Del Norte County has worse pregnancy outcomes than the rest of the state, and teenage mothers are at particular risk from high blood pressure and preeclampsia.<sup>25</sup> Young mothers disproportionately live in poverty, and the accompanying stress and lack of material resources join forces to hinder healthy child development and erode young mothers' health and well-being. Free or subsidized childcare, some form of basic income, and subsidized housing and transportation for vulnerable families would alleviate poverty's negative impacts and open space for greater joy and well-being. Mental health and parenting supports are likewise vital in helping young families thrive. Young mothers should be supported to continue their education and advance along rewarding career paths, which is possible provided those paths are designed with young mothers' schedules and needs at the center. Competency-based educational pathways—which evaluate people based on their mastery of certain skills rather than the number of hours spent in a classroom—can provide the flexibility many parents and caretakers need and deserve.

## ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF AT-RISK YOUNG PEOPLE

In Del Norte County, 32.3 percent of young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither working nor in school, a group referred to as disconnected youth or opportunity youth. The Del Norte rate is the second highest among the state's counties for which we were able to calculate youth disconnection estimates, after Lassen County. Although youth disconnection is associated in the minds of many with urban centers, rural areas actually tend to have the highest disconnection rates. At the national level, rural counties have a youth disconnection rate of 17.3 percent, on average, compared to 11.2 percent in urban centers and 9.9 percent in suburban counties. Many young people who grow up in rural areas leave after high school, drawn by the opportunities metro areas afford. For those who stay, disconnection is a serious challenge. Efforts to help them should respond to local labor market demands as well as build transferable skills. The recent shift away from the “college for all” mantra is lessening the misguided sense that anything but a four-year college degree is somehow a second-best option. But

Free or subsidized childcare, some form of basic income, and subsidized housing and transportation for vulnerable families would alleviate poverty's negative impacts and open space for greater joy and well-being.

the alternative must be high-quality vocational and technical education that is relevant to local employment needs and equips rural youth for economic security in the new economy. Paying attention to gender differences is critical. Although the disconnection rate for boys and young men tends to be higher than that of their female counterparts, girls and young women face their own outsized challenges; for instance, young women between the ages of 18 and 24 have the county's highest poverty rate,<sup>26</sup> and the teenage pregnancy rate is one of the highest among California counties.

### **IMPROVE SERVICE COORDINATION AND NAVIGATION**

Vulnerable populations can struggle to locate, access, and coordinate physical, mental, and behavioral health services, income supports, workforce training, housing assistance, and more. Expanding navigation and coordination services can help people identify and access sources of assistance in ways that are more efficient, effective, and people-centered than a siloed approach and that improve well-being, foster independence, and respect people's dignity.

### **IMPROVE WAGES AND CLOSE GENDER AND RACIAL WAGE GAPS**

California has led the nation in increasing the minimum wage, and doing so was crucial for improving the standard of living of the lowest-paid Californians. But more is needed. This higher minimum still does not cover the cost of living in Del Norte County, and many workers are exempt from minimum-wage requirements. In addition, wage gaps by race and ethnicity and by gender imperil the well-being of families across the region. Increasing economic security for low-income workers by raising wages, strengthening equal pay protections, and protecting the right to unionize are important priorities. Universal basic income pilots have shown promise.

### **INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF HOUSING**

In the popular imagination, the California housing crisis is centered in cities, where limited land, sky-high costs, NIMBY-ism, and restrictive regulations conspire to make building affordable housing near impossible. Yet rural areas in the state also face a housing shortage. State funding formulas prioritize urban areas, private developers aren't able to realize economies of scale because rural populations are small and often spread out, existing infrastructure is often inadequate, and rural residents disproportionately live in poverty, making even "affordable" housing unaffordable to many. As a result, affordable housing is increasingly out of reach for Del Norte residents. The current rate of housing construction is far from sufficient to mitigate rising prices or meet demand. Public funding is necessary to expand access to affordable housing in order to overcome obstacles to private development and the higher-than-average rates of poverty in the county.

Increasing economic security for low-income workers by raising wages, strengthening equal pay protections, and protecting the right to unionize are important priorities.

**INVEST IN WEALTH BUILDING AND PERMANENT EXITS OUT OF GENERATIONAL POVERTY**

Given the historical context of housing discrimination,<sup>27</sup> it is important to target nonwhite people for opportunities to build wealth through homeownership and other means, such as business development and income and savings supports. Policies to provide purchase assistance and homeownership counseling to first-time homebuyers, particularly from low-income neighborhoods, and help community organizations purchase and resell homes to people with moderate incomes could create greater racial equity in the housing market.<sup>28</sup> Policies are needed to ensure that residents receive quality, nonpredatory loans to prevent foreclosure and loss of these assets, as was the case during the housing crash in 2008.

# Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Sen, "Development as Capability Expansion."
- <sup>2</sup> Burchardt and Vizard, "Developing a Capability List."
- <sup>3</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 1994*.
- <sup>4</sup> Thompson, "A Running List of Record-Breaking Natural Disasters in 2020."
- <sup>5</sup> US Census Bureau, "2010 Census Shows Nearly Half of American Indians and Alaska Natives Report Multiple Races."
- <sup>6</sup> Gellman, "Indigenous Languages Make Inroads into Public Schools."
- <sup>7</sup> 30x30 California, "Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature."
- <sup>8</sup> Dominguez, "Plan to Protect Land, Water Presents Opportunity for Native Californians."
- <sup>9</sup> Xia, "A River of Secrets."
- <sup>10</sup> The units of analysis here are Census Bureau-defined Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs). The population of PUMAs typically range from 100,000 to 200,000 people.
- <sup>11</sup> Due to characteristics of the mortality records in Del Norte, the life expectancy calculations for the Latino population are combined across Mendocino, Del Norte, and Humboldt Counties. See the Methodological Note here: <https://measureofamerica.org/california2021-22/>
- <sup>12</sup> New York Times, "California Coronavirus Map and Case Count: Del Norte County."
- <sup>13</sup> Measure of America Calculations using CDC WONDER 2015–2019 and California Department of Public Health, "Death Profiles by County: 2014–2020."
- <sup>14</sup> Measure of America custom tabulation of US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2016–2020.
- <sup>15</sup> Smith, "Shift-Share Analysis of Employment Growth for Del Norte County over 2010–2021."
- <sup>16</sup> Hill and Hayes, *Undocumented Immigrants in California*.
- <sup>17</sup> Glasmeier, "Living Wage Calculator."
- <sup>18</sup> The US Department of Housing and Urban Development defines a rent-burdened household as one that spends more than 30 percent of pretax income on rent. This threshold was once set at 25 percent, but Congress altered that limit in 1981 to reduce the amount the federal government spent on housing subsidies. See Pew Charitable Trusts, *American Families Face a Growing Rent Burden*.
- <sup>19</sup> US Department of Housing and Urban Development, "The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report."
- <sup>20</sup> Cejnar Andrews, "462 Del Norters Identify As Homeless, According to New 'More Accurate' 2022 Point-in-Time Count."
- <sup>21</sup> Barry-Jester, "In a Remote Corner of California, a State Program Successfully Shelters Homeless People"; Cejnar Andrews, "Yurok Tribe Awarded \$2.2 Million in State Homekey Dollars for 'Homeless Housing Klamath Glen' Project."
- <sup>22</sup> Resource Development Association, "County of Del Norte Community Health Assessment."
- <sup>23</sup> Sutter Health, "Sutter Coast Hospital 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment."
- <sup>24</sup> Resource Development Association, "County of Del Norte Community Health Assessment."
- <sup>25</sup> Resource Development Association, "County of Del Norte Community Health Assessment."
- <sup>26</sup> US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2016–2020, Table B17001.
- <sup>27</sup> A recent Urban Institute analysis predicts California will see significant gains in Latino homeownership over the next two decades. Goodman and Zhu, "Increasing Racial and Ethnic Diversity Will Drive Homeownership over the Next Two Decades."
- <sup>28</sup> Roadmap Home 2030 includes several proposals along these lines in recommendations A10, A11, A12, and E7.

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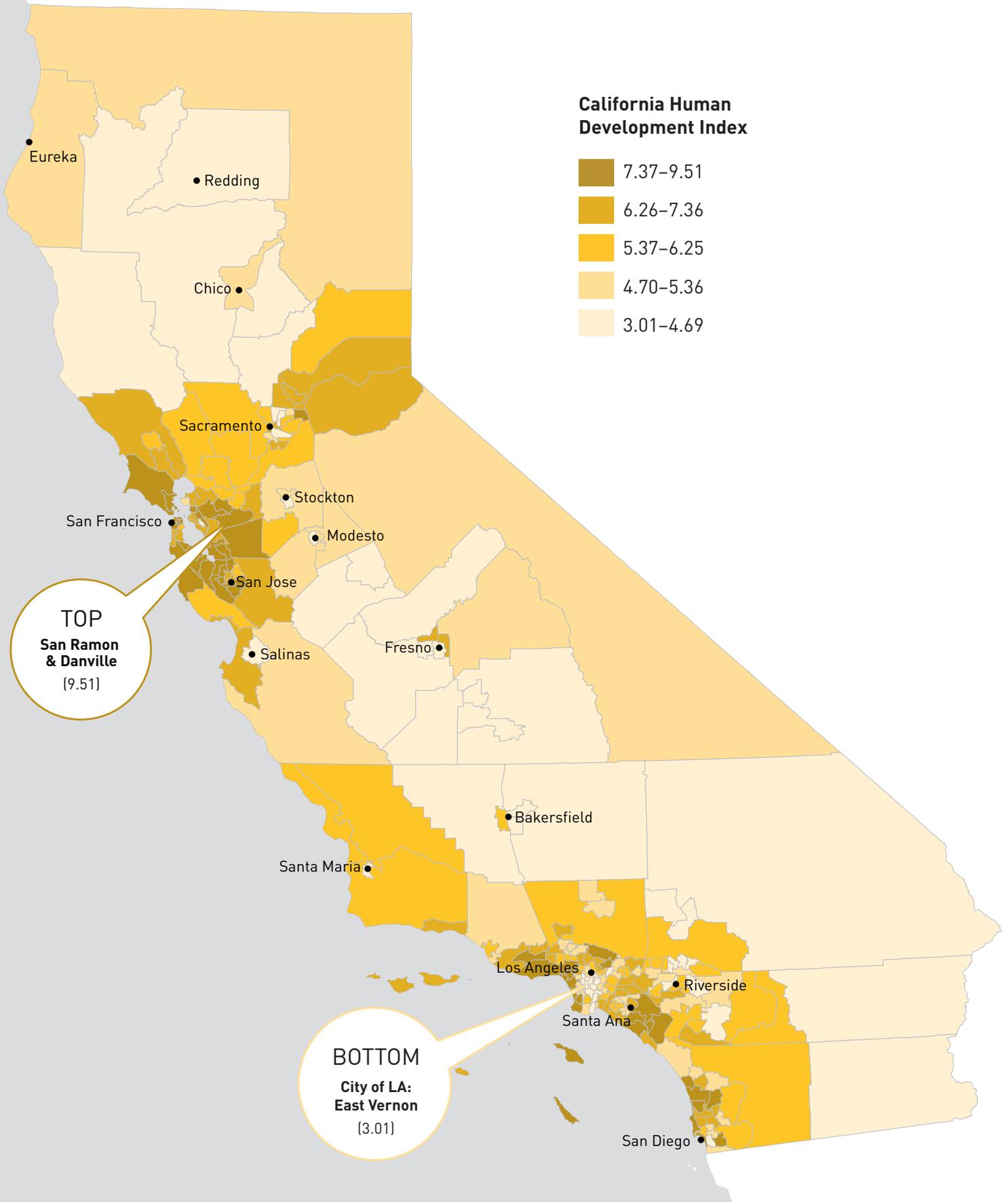
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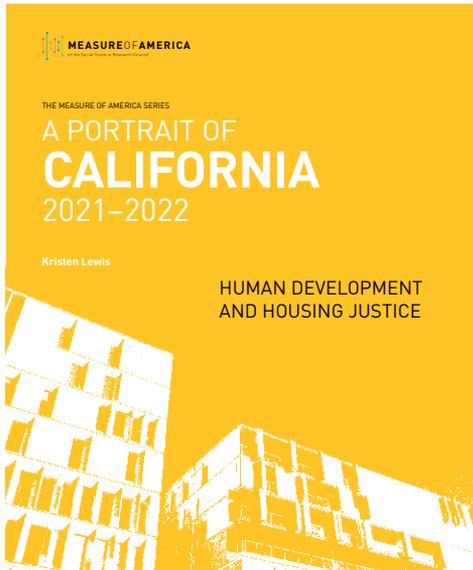
# CALIFORNIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX



REGIONAL REPORT SERIES  
SPOTLIGHT ON DEL NORTE COUNTY

# A PORTRAIT OF CALIFORNIA 2021–2022

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING JUSTICE



*A Portrait of California 2021–2022* uses the American Human Development Index, a measure that distills **health, education,** and **earnings** indicators into a single gauge of well-being, in order to measure and track real progress in quality of life and the opportunities available to all Californians. This regional report shines a spotlight on Del Norte County.

Within *Spotlight on Del Norte County*, readers will find analysis informed by the Index focused on places (county and census tracts) as well as demographic groups (gender and race and ethnicity).

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*“Studies like this one prove to be invaluable tools for policymakers to understand how the state has changed over time—to know, using data, who has been left behind and how to better serve communities in need.”*

Toni G. Atkins, California Senate President pro Tempore

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Measure of America** is a nonpartisan project of the nonprofit Social Science Research Council. It creates easy-to-use and methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America and stimulates fact-based dialogue about these issues. Through reports, interactive maps, online tools, custom-built dashboards, community engagement, and commissioned research, Measure of America works closely with partners to breathe life into numbers, using data to identify areas of need, build consensus about priorities, pinpoint levers for change, and track progress over time.

**Kristen Lewis** is the director of Measure of America and author or coauthor of The Measure of America series of national, state, county, and city reports.

### ABOUT THE REPORT

*A Portrait of California 2021–2022* is an exploration of how California residents are faring. It analyzes well-being and access to opportunity using the human development framework and index, presenting American Human Development Index scores for California places and demographic groups, and examines a range of critical issues, including health, education, living standards, housing, homelessness, residential segregation, and inequality.

### ABOUT THE DESIGN

**Humantific** is an internationally recognized SenseMaking for ChangeMaking firm located in New York and Madrid.



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