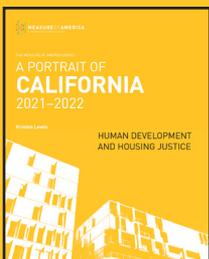
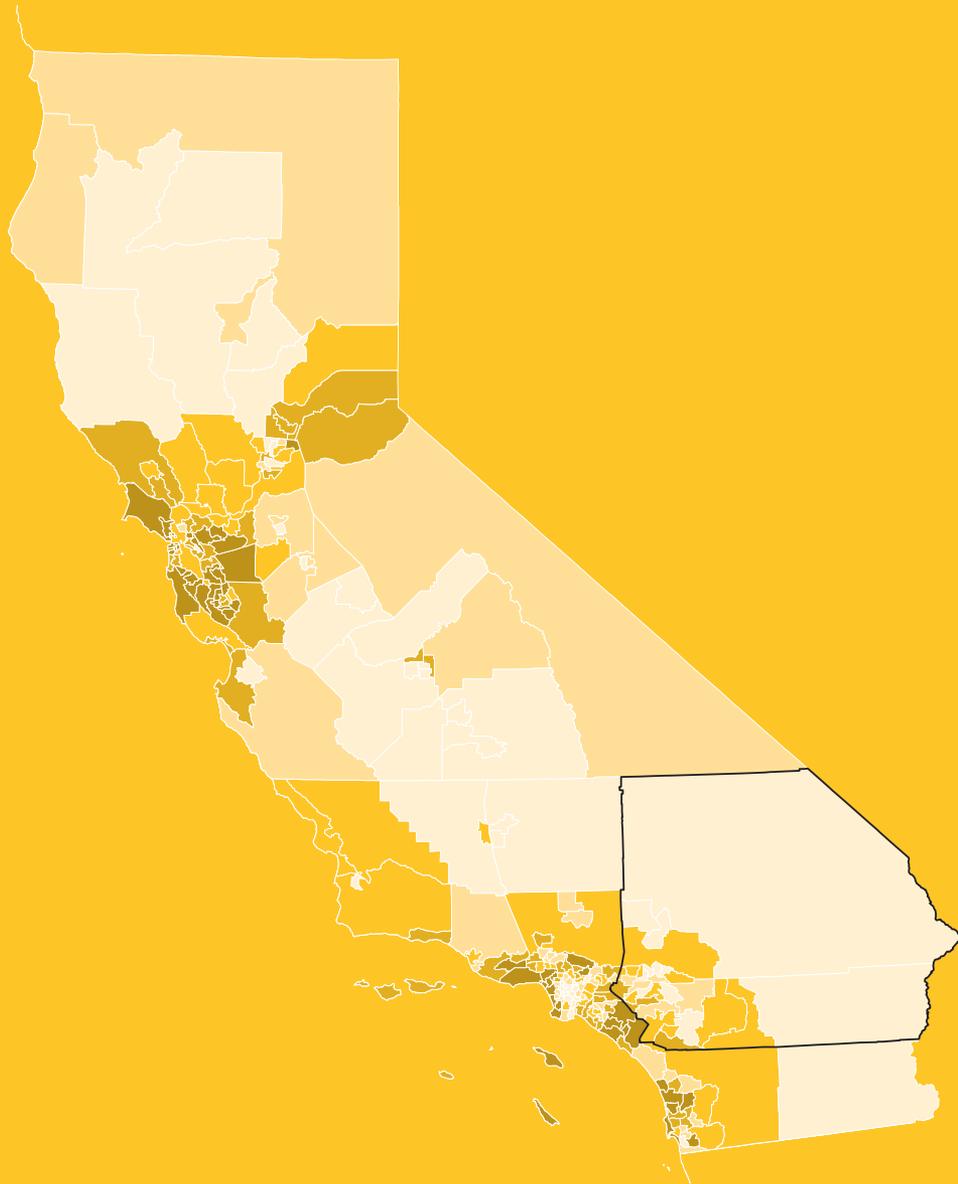


# Spotlight on the Inland Empire



REGIONAL REPORT SERIES

A PORTRAIT OF **CALIFORNIA** 2021-2022

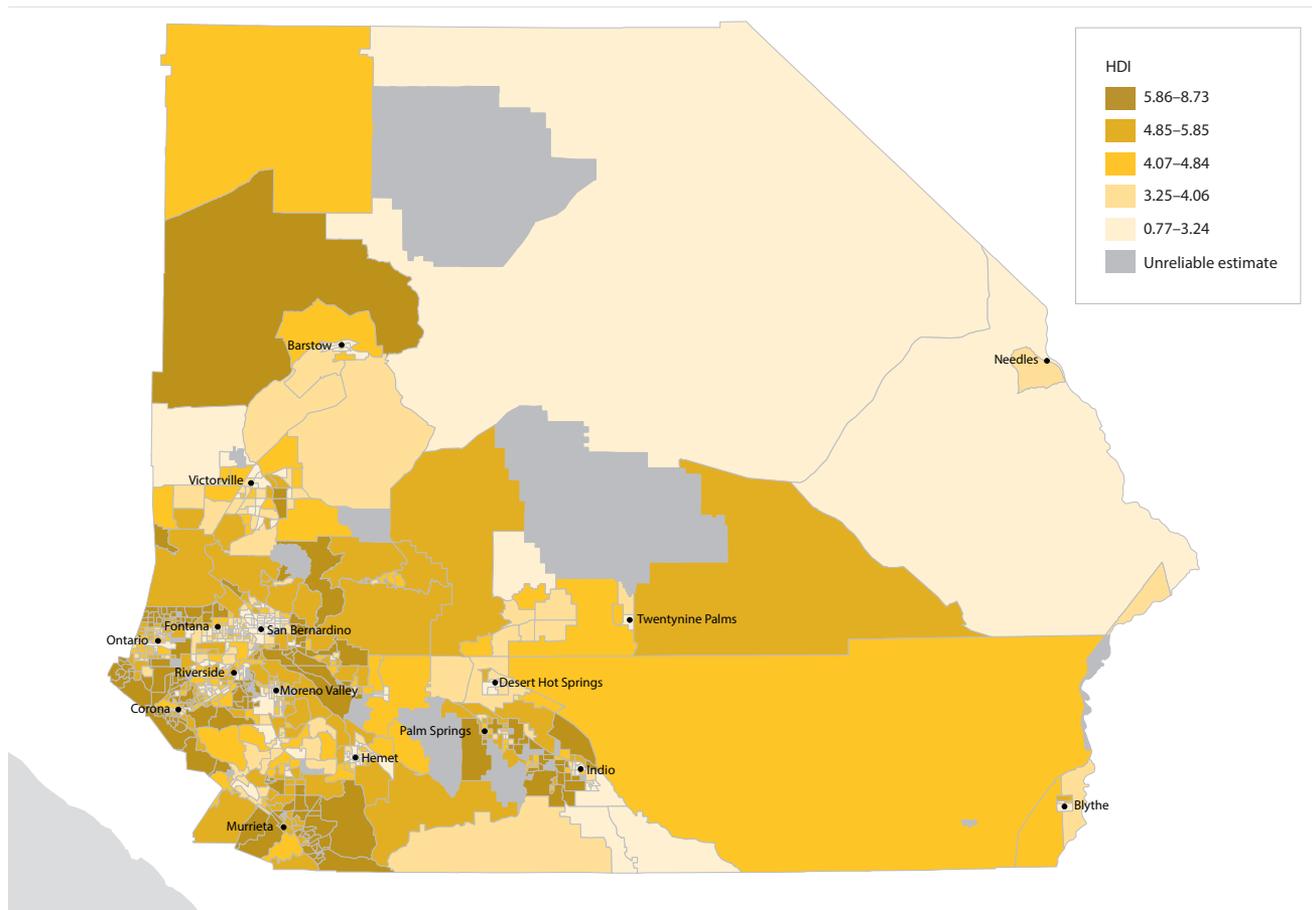
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING JUSTICE

# Spotlight on the Inland Empire

This report is part of the **Portrait of California 2021–2022 Regional Report Series**. It shines a spotlight on well-being and access to opportunity in the Inland Empire, providing Human Development Index scores by county, census tract, race and ethnicity, and gender.



**MAP 1 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**



# Acknowledgments

This *Spotlight on the Inland Empire*, part of the **Regional Report Series** associated with *A Portrait of California 2021–2022*, was made possible thanks to the leadership of the Parkview Legacy Foundation and the support of the James Irvine Foundation, along with the following funders:

- Center for Social Innovation at the University of California, Riverside
- First 5 Riverside County
- Inland Empire Health Plan
- Inland SoCal United Way
- Loma Linda University Health

During the course of our research, an advisory panel of eminent public servants, advocates, scholars, and nonprofit leaders from across the Inland Empire contributed their expertise to guide our work with vision and care. We would like to thank them for their generous contributions and their support in making this report a reality.

Special thanks to our Social Science Research Council colleagues Anna Harvey, Ron Kassimir, Fredrik Palm, Mary Kelly, Brandi Lewis, Juni Ahari, Lisa Yanoti, Calvin Chen, and Zachary Zinn for their support. We are beyond thankful for Clare McGranahan’s careful eye and lovely, clean writing. We are grateful to Julie Burns for translating this *Spotlight* into Spanish so that it is accessible to more Californians. Thanks as well to Bob Land for his exactingly careful proofreading and editing.

We could not ask for better colleagues in our design team at Humantific | UnderstandingLab, the most collaborative and thoughtful partners we could imagine. Special thanks to Elizabeth Pastor, Garry VanPatter, Patricia Dranoff, and Jon Arriaga for transforming words, numbers, and ideas into beautiful, informative design.

Lastly, the lion’s share of thanks goes to the Measure of America team. Preparing these reports is invariably an all-hands-on-deck affair, and all of us wore many hats, from fundraising and stakeholder engagement to project management to research and writing right through to the final editing and design process. To the Measure of America team: what a privilege it is to work with all of you.

Thank you!  
Kristen



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Inland SoCal United Way

# Foreword

Parkview Legacy Foundation is intent on advancing the equitable distribution of well-being and we are so very pleased and grateful for our partnership with Measure of America and the support of First 5 Riverside County, Inland Empire Health Plan, Loma Linda University Health, UCR Center for Social Innovation, and Inland SoCal United Way to bring this effort to the Inland Empire.

As you will see in this report and in its parent, *A Portrait of California 2021–2022*, certain neighborhoods and groups of people are struggling more than others to benefit from current opportunities for well-being and socioeconomic advancement. This doesn't have to be the case! Time and time again, we have seen that when we focus our efforts and work together things can change for the better, and we know that making this positive change will require us all to succeed in our various efforts. We also know that, if we are strategic, we can make impacts in specific areas that will have positive compounding effects toward achieving our collective hopes and dreams. It is our intention to use this report as a catalyst for transformative collaboration, and we need you to help us figure out how.

This *Spotlight on the Inland Empire* provides us with one more tool to help us understand what is working and who needs help. In mid-2020, we began working with Measure of America and over fifty stakeholder advisors—scholars, advocates, and leaders throughout the region—to bring this *Spotlight* to fruition, and our intention has always been to use the information it provides to help guide a community-wide, focused, and collective effort toward making a difference where it is most needed in our region. To that end, it is our hope that you will join us in deciding where to go from here! The last section of this report includes some initial ideas for next steps, but they are only a starting point for discussion. We will not be making any decisions for others without involving the communities those decisions may affect. That means that we need you at the planning table. If you are interested in partnering with others to advance efforts that will increase the Human Development Index score of the Inland Empire, especially for those with the lowest scores, please reach out to us to find out more about opportunities to do so at [info@parkviewlegacy.org](mailto:info@parkviewlegacy.org).

## **Damien O'Farrell**

President and CEO

Parkview Legacy Foundation

It is our intention to use this report as a catalyst for transformative collaboration, and we need you to help us figure out how.

# Understanding Human Development

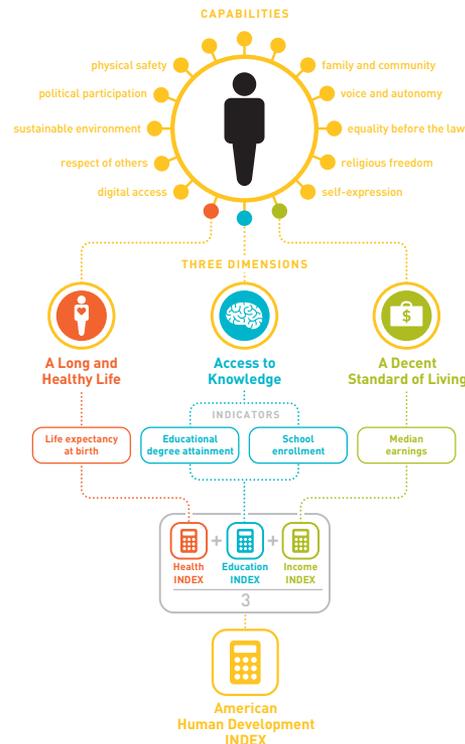
**The American Human Development Index (HDI)** is a composite measure of well-being and access to opportunity made up of health, education, and earnings indicators. The index is expressed on a scale of 0 to 10. Measure of America’s HDI calculations provide a snapshot of community well-being, reveal inequalities 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 the Inland Empire 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.

**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.



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 a record-breaking wildfire season<sup>4</sup>—and the disproportionate effects they have had on different groups, including Black, 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 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 Inland Empire 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.

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.

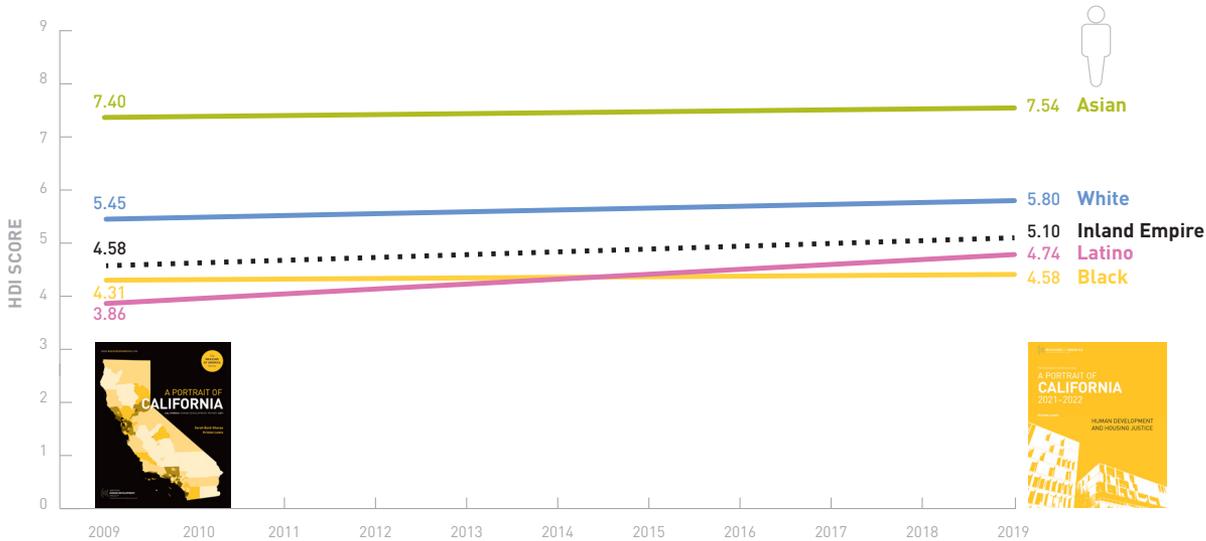
# Human Development in the Inland Empire

The HDI score for the Inland Empire is 5.10 out of 10, compared to 5.85 for the state as a whole. This score places the Inland Empire right in the center of the ranked list of California metro areas—fifteen metro areas have a higher score, and sixteen have a lower score. Over the last ten years, the Inland Empire’s score has improved more than the state score; a decade ago, the Inland Empire scored, 4.58 and California scored 5.46. The HDI score of the Inland Empire increased at a slightly higher rate than that of California: 11.4 percent versus 7.1 percent. Today, residents of the Inland Empire live over two years longer, are more likely to hold high school diplomas and bachelor’s degrees, and earn about \$7,000 more than Inland Empire residents in 2009.

In the Inland Empire, HDI scores vary significantly by gender, by race and ethnicity, and by place (SEE TABLE 3). Women across the two counties have an HDI score of 5.30, whereas men have a score of 4.93. This disparity is largely due to a 7.2-year difference in life expectancy as well as women’s slightly higher levels of degree attainment. Men in the Inland Empire, however, outearn women by a large margin; their median personal earnings are \$11,000 higher than women’s.

Today, residents of the Inland Empire live over two years longer, are more likely to hold high school diplomas and bachelor’s degrees, and earn about \$7,000 more than Inland Empire residents in 2009.

**FIGURE 2 HDI in the Inland Empire, 2009–2019**



Source: 2019—Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014–2019. Education and Earnings: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019. 2009—Life expectancy: Measure of America calculations using 2006–2008 mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from US Census Bureau Population Estimates Program, 2009. Education and Earnings: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2009.

Of the four racial and ethnic groups in the Inland Empire for which it is possible to calculate HDI scores, Asian residents have the highest HDI score by far, 7.54. The score for white Inland Empire residents is 5.80; for Latino residents, 4.74; and for Black residents, 4.58. Looking at change over the last decade, the Asian American score increased by just 0.14 on the scale, a 1.9 percent increase; the Black score by 0.27; and the white score by 0.35. The Latino score, on the other hand, jumped from 3.86 to 4.74, a difference of 0.88 and a 22.8 percent increase from 2009.

The racial and ethnic categories used in this report, which are defined by the White House Office of Management and Budget and used for data collection across US agencies, are quite broad. For instance, the category “Asian” encompasses US-born citizens whose families have called the United States home since the mid-1800s as well as first-generation Asian immigrants, some long-settled

**TABLE 3 Human Development Index by Gender and by Race and Ethnicity in the Inland Empire**

RANK	HDI	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	EDUCATION INDEX (out of 10)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (\$)
<b>United States</b>	<b>5.33</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>5.41</b>	<b>36,533</b>
<b>California</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>5.51</b>	<b>39,528</b>
<b>Inland Empire</b>	<b>5.10</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>4.39</b>	<b>34,517</b>
<b>GENDER</b>				
1 Women	5.30	84.3	4.56	29,316
2 Men	4.93	77.1	4.23	40,343
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>				
1 Asian	7.54	87.9	7.37	41,474
2 White	5.80	78.7	5.45	44,870
3 Latino	4.74	83.4	3.04	30,234
4 Black	4.58	75.5	4.66	35,938
5 Native American			3.65	32,300
6 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI)		70.5	5.78	
<b>GENDER AND RACE/ETHNICITY</b>				
1 Asian Men	7.64	84.9	7.49	51,024
2 Asian Women	7.50	90.2	7.27	36,455
3 White Men	5.82	76.4	5.41	52,371
4 White Women	5.68	81.1	5.50	36,438
5 Black Women	5.07	78.5	4.81	36,432
6 Latina Women	4.71	85.8	3.26	25,112
7 Latino Men	4.65	80.9	2.82	34,897
8 Black Men	4.04	72.3	4.49	35,461
9 Native American Men			3.96	
10 Native American Women			3.49	29,718
11 NHOPI Men			6.06	
12 NHOPI Women			5.53	

Sources: Life expectancy: CA: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014–2019. US: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 2019. Education and earnings: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019.

and others newly arrived. These immigrants came from extraordinarily diverse circumstances—from uprooted refugees carrying the trauma of war and displacement to affluent elites in search of educational and economic opportunities. At the statewide level, we were able to calculate scores for Asian subgroups. While many groups scored very highly (Taiwanese and Indian residents scored above 9.00; Chinese and Korean residents above 8.00; and Japanese, Filipino, and Vietnamese above 7.00), Cambodian, Hmong, and Laotian Californians scored between 4.00 and 5.00, lower than the statewide score. We discuss education and income indicators for Asian subgroups in the Inland Empire later in this report.

Black and Latina women have higher HDI scores than their male counterparts, while the opposite is true for Asian and white women. This disparity is due to significantly larger wage differentials between white and Asian men and women—since men in these groups so vastly outearn women, their HDI scores are higher despite lower life expectancy and, in white residents' case, lower levels of educational attainment. For Black and Latino residents, higher life expectancy and educational attainment result in a higher HDI for women in these groups. The striking differences by gender and by race and ethnicity stem from California's history of discrimination and exclusion and the 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.

Well-being also varies dramatically by place across the Inland Empire—even on the county level. Riverside County's HDI score is 0.43 higher than that of its neighbor, San Bernardino County, where residents live 2.1 fewer years and have slightly lower education outcomes. Differences are much more pronounced for smaller geographies like census tracts. Census tracts are areas defined by the Census Bureau; they generally have a population size of between 1,200 and 8,000 people, with an optimum size of 4,000 people. There are 822 census tracts in the Inland Empire. Census tracts can be a bit difficult to see on the maps in this report; please refer to our online map at <https://www.measureofamerica.org/california2021-22>, where you can enlarge the view and hover over tracts to see their number and score.

The range of HDI scores by census tract in the Inland Empire run from a high of 8.73 in Census Tract 85 in Redlands Heights in San Bernardino County, to a low of 0.77 in Census Tract 94 in Barstow, near the Fort Irwin National Training Center. While Census Tract 94 is an outlier in terms of its dramatically low score, 103 census tracts in the Inland Empire have an HDI score below 3.00. In the statewide report that accompanies this Spotlight on the Inland Empire, *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>5</sup> not by geographic region but rather by HDI scores, include the following:

Well-being also varies dramatically by place across the Inland Empire.

**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 Inland Empire 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. Fifty-one Inland Empire communities (of the Inland Empire's 803 census tracts, 776 have enough residents to calculate an HDI score) 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 the Inland Empire, 238 communities meet 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 Inland Empire communities, 383, fit into this category.

**Disenfranchised California** comprises neighborhood clusters that score below 3.00. There are 104 Inland Empire communities that meet the criteria for this California. Other communities in this group can be found in the San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles County.

People living in Disenfranchised California—the 104 Inland Empire communities that score below 3.00—experience many more barriers to opportunity than do those who live in the Inland Empire's higher-scoring areas. Disenfranchised residents have 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 some of the highest living costs in the country 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.



People living in the fifty-one areas that score 7.00 and above—Elite Enclave California—are not in any way immune to hardship or misfortune. In addition to the setbacks that are part and parcel of human existence, these residents also suffered the impacts of wildfires and Covid-19 and are affected by high housing costs. But their rich set of capabilities—which tend to include educational credentials, jobs with benefits like health insurance and sick leave, comparatively high incomes, and access to public goods such as parks, high-quality schools, and safe living environments—acts as a buffer against sudden and chronic threats and provides the means to recover from serious misfortune.



#### BOX 4 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 like Latino and white Inland Empire residents, but also for smaller groups, such as Native Americans, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI), and members of various Asian subgroups. The primary 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 for the Inland Empire did not include deaths in a number of age groups for Native American residents, making it impossible to accurately calculate life expectancy for this group. Because we don't have life expectancy for Native American residents, we cannot calculate an HDI score for them. This is also true of Asian subgroups (though we discuss their education and income outcomes in this report). For NHOPI residents, data on income were unreliable, so we could not calculate a NHOPI score.

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.

In short, we 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 Inland Empire; vibrant communities can be made invisible in cases like this. To address data gaps, we provide all the data that make up the education and earnings subindices in the data tables at the end of this report and discuss these data in the education and earnings sections.

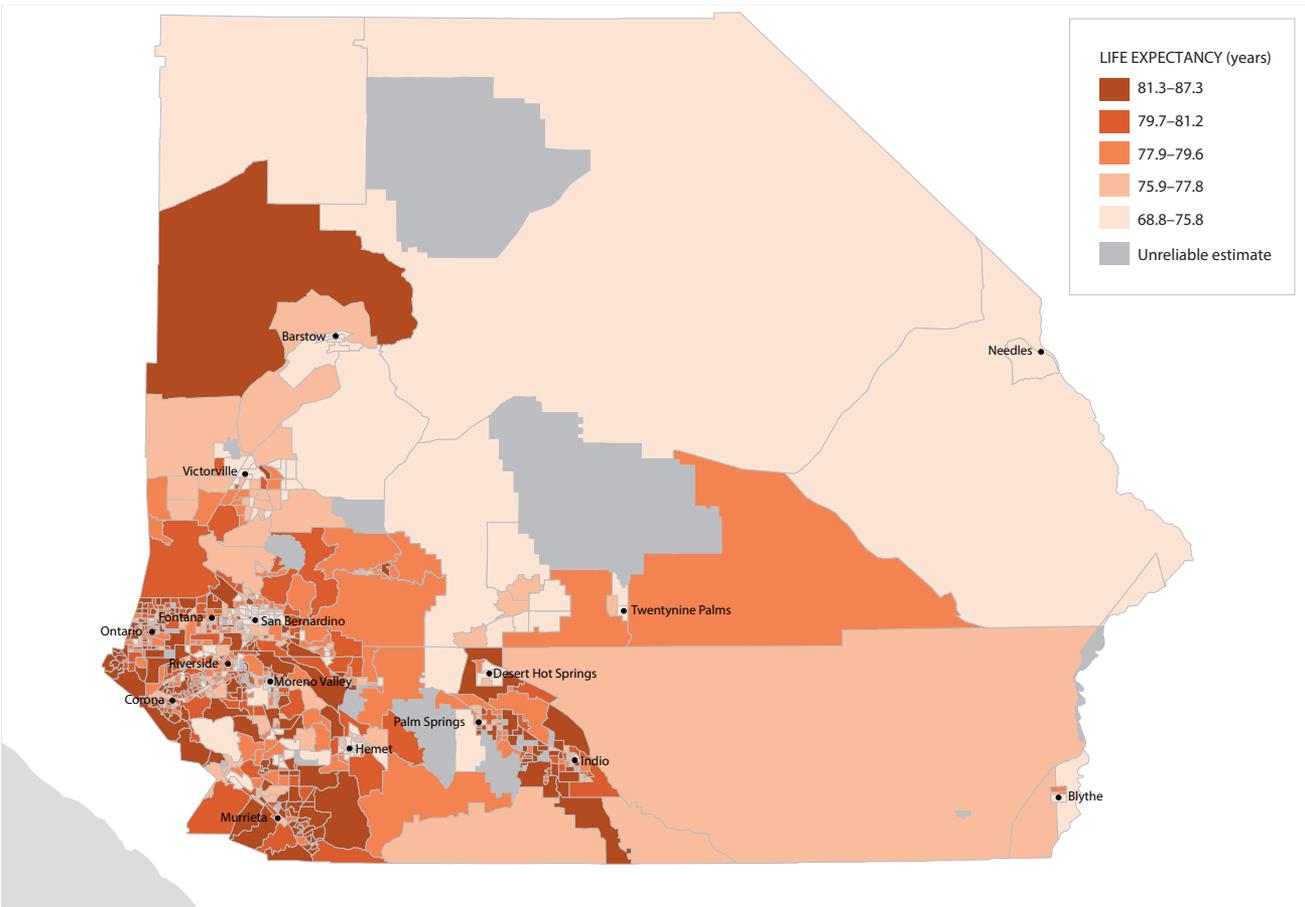
# Health

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.

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, in general, those who manage to elude all causes of mortality until their eighties or nineties are healthier than the average person, and life expectancy is a widely used summary measure of population health.

Amid the pandemic, health and its relationship with income and education, safety and human security, and race and place have come into sharp focus.

**MAP 5 Life Expectancy**



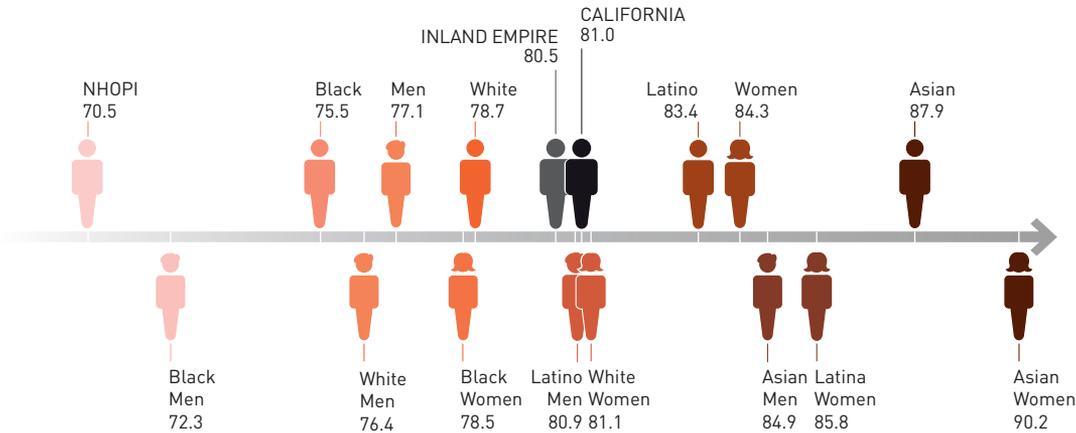
**LIFE EXPECTANCY IN THE INLAND EMPIRE TODAY**

- The average life expectancy for residents of the Inland Empire is 80.5 years, 0.5 years shorter than the state average. Life expectancy is 81.0 years in Riverside County and 78.9 years in San Bernardino County. Since 2012, life expectancy increased by 0.4 years in Riverside County and stayed the same in San Bernardino County.
- Asian residents have the longest life expectancy, 87.9 years, with Asian women having the longest life expectancy of any race/gender combination, 90.2 years. Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) residents have the shortest life expectancy, 70.5 years. In other words, an Asian baby born today in the Inland Empire can expect to live over seventeen years longer than a NHOPI baby born today. The life expectancy of Inland Empire NHOPI residents is roughly two years shorter than that of NHOPI residents across the state.
- Latino residents have the second-longest life expectancy, 83.4 years, followed by white residents, 78.7 years.
- Black residents of the Inland Empire can expect to live 75.5 years, five years fewer than the average resident. The life expectancy for Black men is lower still, 72.3 years.
- Among census tracts in the Inland Empire, life expectancy ranges from 68.8 years in Census Tract 62.04, part of the Del Rosa neighborhood of San Bernardino, to 87.3 years in Census Tract 451.15, in the south of Palm Desert in Riverside County.

The average life expectancy for residents of the Inland Empire is 80.5 years, 0.5 years shorter than the state average.

**BOX 6 Life Expectancy by Gender and by Race and Ethnicity in the Inland Empire**

**LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (YEARS)**



Source: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014–2019.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Living in a clean environment free of environmental hazards is essential to health and overall well-being. The effects of pollution on physical health are extensive and well documented.<sup>6</sup> But environmental degradation is inextricably linked to other capabilities as well. Capabilities like high earnings and political voice allow the affluent to avoid pollution by living in greener—more expensive—neighborhoods, by influencing policymakers to keep new polluting industries far away from their homes and schools, and by wielding enough social, political, and economic power to counterbalance the influence of formidable financial interests.<sup>7</sup>

Disenfranchised communities are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. The goal of environmental justice is to create a healthy environment for all, not just for those who can afford it. Much like the capabilities approach that frames this report, environmental justice considers the unequal distribution of environmental risks and benefits along race and class lines to be a result of—and a contributing factor to—broader inequalities.<sup>8</sup>

According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment’s CalEnviroScreen tool, census tracts in the corridor along the I-10 and the 60 Freeway from Ontario and Chino to Redlands and Riverside are among the most polluted in the state. Tracts stretching south through the Chino Valley to Corona, in parts of Moreno Valley, in Perris, and in other areas scattered across the region are also highly polluted; in fact, all these tracts are in the top tenth of tracts statewide. Four-fifths of these tracts are majority Latino, and the remainder have substantial Black and Asian populations. Just two are majority white.<sup>9</sup>

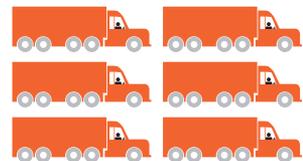
Since the 1970s, the Inland Empire has transformed into the home of a booming logistics industry due to comparatively inexpensive land and ready access to freeways, railways, airports, and shipping ports. In recent years this transformation picked up steam; the square footage of warehouses and other logistics industry facilities doubled between 2004 and 2020.<sup>10</sup> A substantial increase in online shopping during the pandemic has only accelerated this trend. An estimated 40 percent of the nation’s consumer goods come through the Inland Empire.<sup>11</sup> All of these warehouses mean thousands of diesel-powered trucks driving the region’s freeways and residential streets daily. People living in tracts along the I-10, 60, 91, and 215 Freeways breathe air with some of the highest levels of diesel particulate matter in the state.<sup>12</sup>

Census tracts scoring 7.00 and above on the HDI are largely isolated from the worst of diesel pollution. They are located far enough from freeways that most experience low levels of diesel particulate matter (see **MAP 7**). Of course, diesel trucks are just one of many sources of pollution in the region, and the surrounding mountains tend to trap pollutants in the air. Despite this, most communities scoring over 7.00 experience only low to moderate overall levels of pollution. The average Pollution Burden Score is 13 percent higher in tracts scoring under 3.00 than in tracts scoring 7.00 and over.



The goal of environmental justice is to create a healthy environment for all, not just for those who can afford it.

**Residents living near major freeways breathe air with some of the highest levels of diesel pollution in the state.**



Exposure to air pollution is a significant health hazard, raising the risk of cancer and heart disease, worsening asthma symptoms, and increasing complications from Covid-19.<sup>13</sup> According to a national study, low-income Americans are more likely than others to have respiratory problems, such as asthma and lung disease, largely due to air pollution exposure.<sup>14</sup> A Los Angeles County study found that communities with poor air quality had Covid-19 mortality rates 35 to 60 percent higher than communities with the best air quality, even when controlling for other demographic and health factors.<sup>15</sup>

The use of pesticides is also a major environmental and health issue in the Inland Empire. The southern Coachella Valley, the Palos Verde Valley near Blythe, the San Jacinto and Domenigoni Valleys outside of Hemet, and the Chino Valley are among the parts of the state where the largest quantities of pesticides are applied per square mile.<sup>16</sup> Pesticides are dangerous not only to farmworkers, who are most exposed to them, but also to everyone who drinks water contaminated by agricultural runoff.

Exposure to air pollution is a significant health hazard, raising the risk of cancer and heart disease, worsening asthma symptoms, and increasing complications from Covid-19.

**MAP 7 Diesel Pollution Is Low in Tracts Scoring 7.00 and Above**



Source: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, 2021.

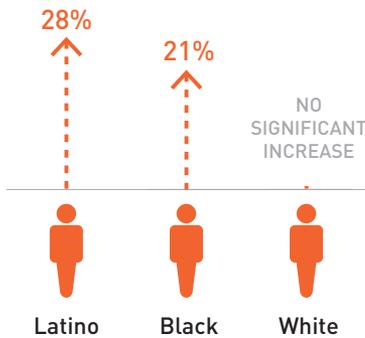
**BOX 8 Covid-19 and the Leading Causes of Death in 2020**

In 2020, the mortality rates in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties were higher than in previous years. Both counties have had much higher Covid-19 death rates than the rest of the state; as of November 2021, Riverside County ranked twelfth and San Bernardino County ranked second in cumulative Covid-19 deaths per 100,000 residents.<sup>17</sup> The region’s high Covid-19 case and death rates could be due to the high proportion of residents deemed essential workers<sup>18</sup> and to outbreaks in multiple nursing homes in both counties.<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, at the time of this writing, only 52 percent of residents in Riverside and 50 percent of residents in San Bernardino were fully vaccinated, some 10 percentage points lower than the statewide vaccination rate of 62 percent.<sup>20</sup>

In Riverside County, Covid-19 ranked third among the leading causes of death (after heart disease and cancer) in 2020 and contributed substantially to the higher-than-average mortality rate.<sup>21</sup> But the burden of Covid-19 deaths was not borne equally across groups. An analysis by the Riverside University Health System comparing deaths between January 1 and August 25, 2020, to deaths during the same period over the previous five years found significant mortality disparities by race and ethnicity. The mortality rate was 28 percent higher for Latino

**From January to August 2020, the mortality rate in Riverside County was 28 percent higher for Latino residents and 21 percent higher for Black residents than the 2015–2019 average. The mortality rate for white residents was about the same.**

**Covid-19 Increased Mortality for Latino and Black Residents**



residents and 21 percent higher for Black residents than the 2015–2019 average but was about the same as it had been for white residents.<sup>22</sup> Covid-19 was the second-leading cause of death for Latino residents, the third-leading cause of death for Black residents, and the sixth-leading cause of death for white residents.<sup>23</sup>

Covid-19 case rates also varied by race and ethnicity in San Bernardino County. As of February 2021, Pacific Islanders had been infected at rates nearly four times as high as Asians, the group with the lowest case rate. There were about 20,000 cases per 100,000 Pacific Islander residents, 12,000 cases per 100,000 Native American residents, and 10,000 cases per 100,000 Latino residents, compared to 5,000–6,000 cases per 100,000 Asian, white, and Black residents.<sup>24</sup> While data on the leading causes of death in 2020 were not yet available for San Bernardino County at the time of this writing, data from 2019 provide context on the scale of Covid-19 deaths. The Covid-19 death rate from the beginning of the pandemic through February 2021 was higher than that of the third-leading cause of death in 2019, respiratory diseases.<sup>25</sup>



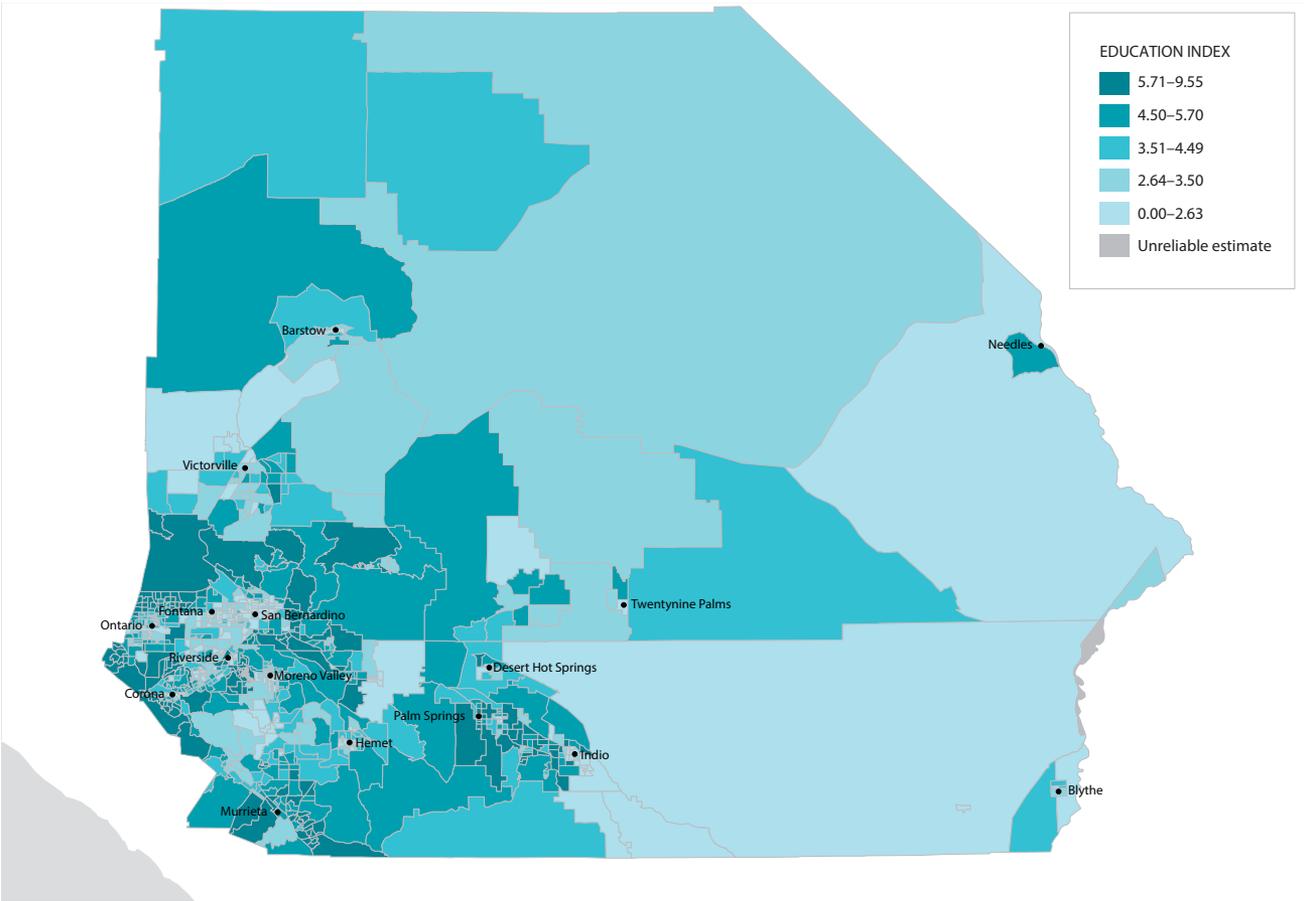
# Education

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 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

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.

MAP 9 Education Index

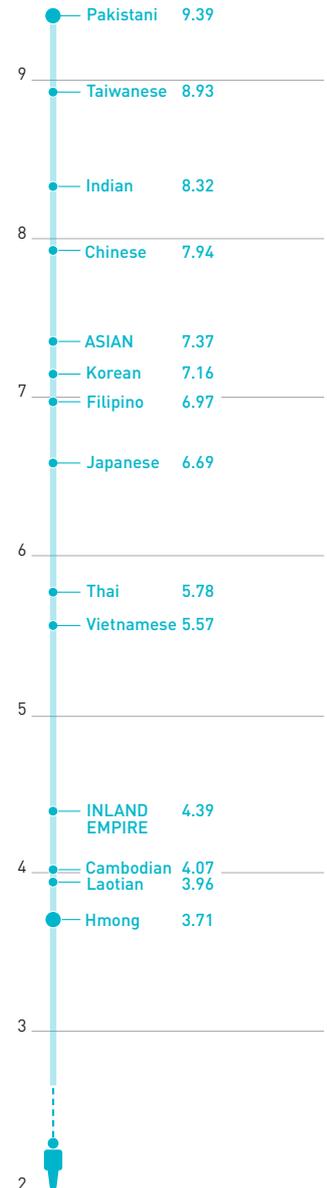


important to note that the indicators used to measure access to knowledge, school enrollment, and degree attainment measure only *access to formal education*. Using indicators of formal education as a stand-in for the broad concept of knowledge is commonplace in social science research and has many advantages (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.

### EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN THE INLAND EMPIRE TODAY

- Compared to the populations of California and the United States as a whole, adult residents of the Inland Empire are about as likely to have earned high school diplomas and less likely to have earned bachelor’s degrees. While 82.1 percent of adults have at least a high school diploma, only 22.9 percent hold at least a bachelor’s degree and 8.2 percent hold a graduate degree.
- Compared to boys and young men, girls and young women ages 3 to 24 have slightly higher rates of enrollment in the Inland Empire and enjoy a slight edge across all educational outcomes.
- About seven in ten Latino adults ages 25 and up in the Inland Empire graduated high school, compared to at least nine in ten adults from each of the other four major racial and ethnic groups. Latino adults also have the lowest rates of bachelor’s and graduate degree attainment, at 11.7 and 3.3 percent, respectively. The disparities in degree attainment are largely due to the limited opportunities that Latino immigrants had to complete their educations in their home countries. Three in four Latino young people ages 3 to 24 are enrolled in school, higher than the school enrollment rates among Black or Native American residents.
- Asians have the highest rates of school enrollment and bachelor’s and graduate degree attainment among all racial and ethnic groups. Significant disparities exist across Asian subgroups, however. Pakistani, Taiwanese, and Indian residents are the highest-scoring groups, with Education Index scores above 8.00. Hmong, Laotian, and Cambodian residents have the lowest scores, all below 4.50. The data for Hmong Inland Empire residents have a greater degree of uncertainty than the data for other subgroups because the Hmong population is quite small; nonetheless, it is clear from these and other data points that Hmong

**Education Index by ASIAN Subgroup in the Inland Empire**



Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2015–2019.

residents face many well-being challenges in the Inland Empire.

- Asian, Native American, and NHOPI men have higher Education Index scores than their female counterparts while Black, Latina, and white women have higher index scores than men from those groups. Slightly over half of Asian men in the Inland Empire hold bachelor’s degrees, compared to 10.4 percent of Latino men. Native Americans have the largest gender gap in school enrollment rates among all racial and ethnic groups: 12.9 percentage points.
- There are dramatic educational gaps between places in the Inland Empire: 6.3 percent of residents in Census Tract 466.01 in Norco in Riverside County hold at least a bachelor’s degree, whereas 64.2 percent of residents in Census Tract 85 in Redlands Heights in San Bernardino County hold one, a tenfold difference.

Compared to men, women have slightly higher rates of enrollment in the Inland Empire and enjoy a slight edge across all educational outcomes.

**TABLE 10 Education Index by Race and Ethnicity and by Gender**

	EDUCATION INDEX	HIGHEST DEGREE ATTAINED				SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
		Less than high school	High school diploma	Bachelor’s degree	Graduate degree	
<b>INLAND EMPIRE</b>	<b>4.39</b>	17.9%	59.2%	14.7%	8.2%	<b>76.6%</b>
Asian Men	7.49	9.1	38.8	33.5	18.6	86.5
Asian Women	7.27	10.5	38.4	35.4	15.8	86.6
NHOPI Men	6.06	6.4	67.5	11.3*	14.8*	84.2
NHOPI Women	5.53	6.5	74.8	9.3*	9.5*	84.6
White Women	5.50	5.7	65.1	16.0	13.2	77.3
White Men	5.41	6.5	62.5	19.3	11.6	76.6
Black Women	4.81	7.6	64.8	17.9	9.8	73.3
Black Men	4.49	11.5	65.2	16.4	6.9	75.0
Native American Men	3.96	7.4	81.6	8.8*	2.2*	75.5
Native American Women	3.49	11.5	65.5	11.6*	11.4*	62.6
Latina Women	3.26	29.5	57.5	8.9	4.1	76.7
Latino Men	2.82	31.4	58.2	7.9	2.5	75.0

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019.  
 \*Estimates with an asterisk have a greater degree of uncertainty. Due to small population sizes and survey sampling the standard error of the estimate is greater than 20% of the estimate.

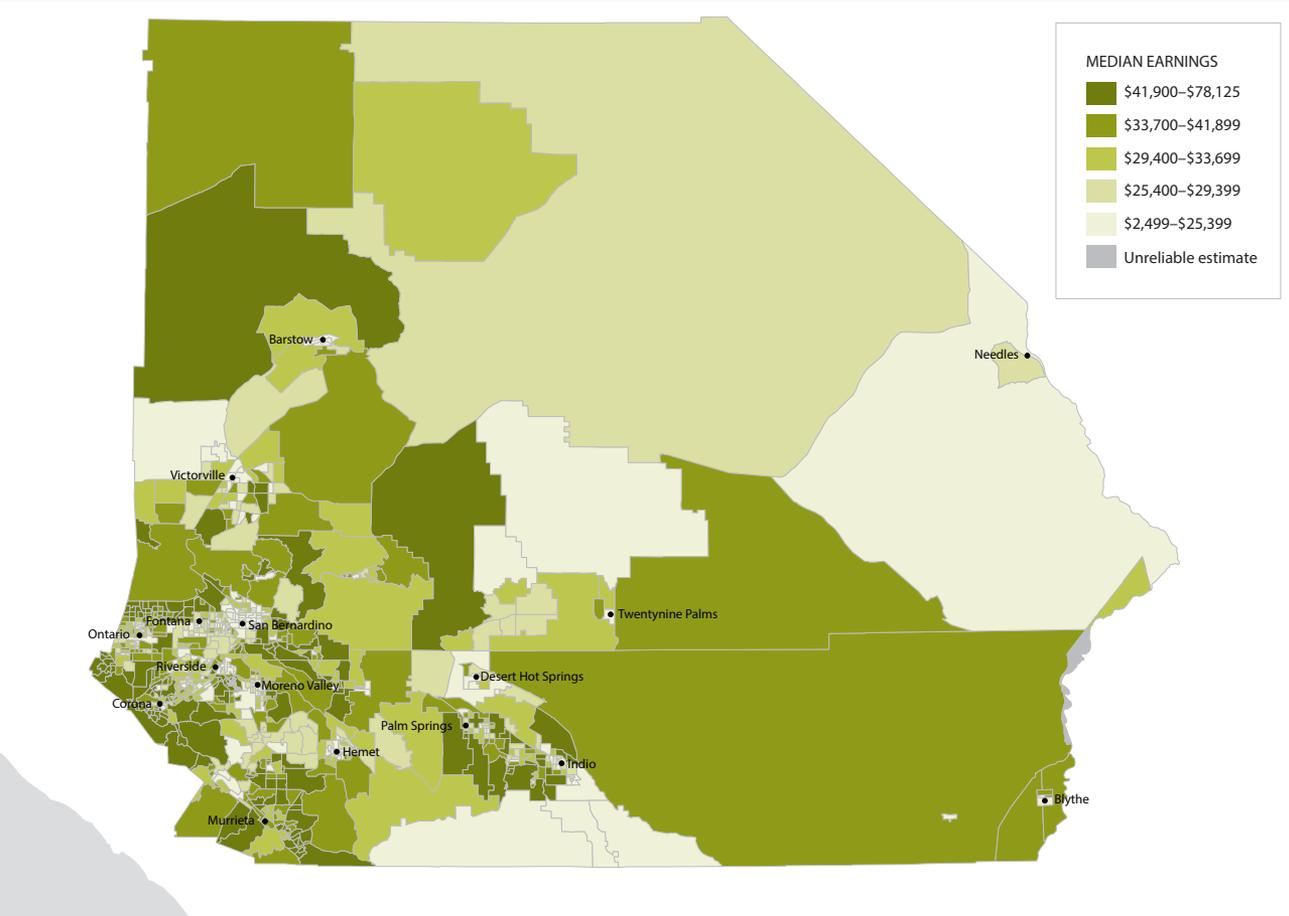
# Earnings

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.

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

While money isn’t everything, adequate financial resources are nonetheless a critical ingredient for a freely chosen, flourishing life.

MAP 11 Median Earnings



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.

**LIVING STANDARDS IN THE INLAND EMPIRE TODAY**

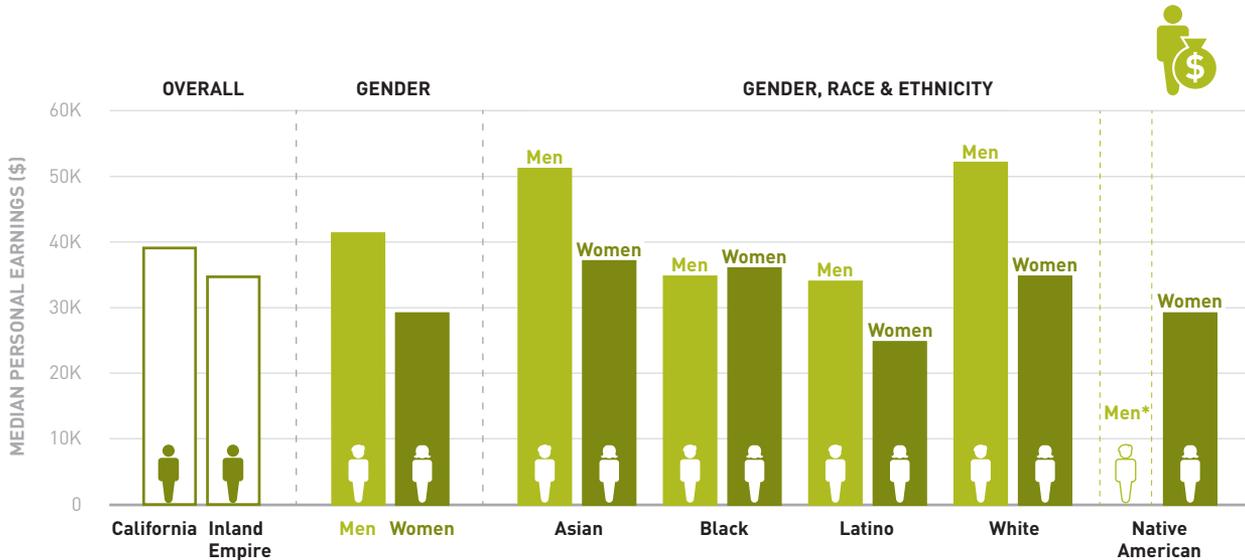
- Median personal earnings in the Inland Empire are \$34,500, about \$5,000 less than in the state overall.
- Among racial and ethnic groups in the Inland Empire, white residents earn the most, \$44,900, while Latino residents earn the least, \$30,200. Latina women have the lowest earnings of any race/gender combination in the Inland Empire, \$25,100. White men in the Inland Empire make more than double what Latina women earn: roughly \$27,300 more.
- Earnings by Asian subgroup range from about \$27,000 for Hmong and Laotian residents to \$50,000 and \$53,000 for Indian and Japanese residents, respectively. The Hmong estimate has a greater degree of uncertainty due to small population size, but the Hmong are undoubtedly one of the lowest-earning groups in the Inland Empire.
- By census tract, earnings range from \$2,500 in Census Tract 123 (in the City of San Bernardino), where the Patton State Hospital, a forensic psychiatric hospital, is located, to \$78,100 in Census Tract 456.08 (in La Quinta in Riverside County), which includes Coral Mountain Golf Club. Excluding tracts where prisons or jails, psychiatric hospitals, or universities make up most of the population, Census Tract 456.05 (Riverside County) has the lowest earnings, \$15,000: \$63,100 less than the highest-earning census tract. Census Tract 456.05 contains Thermal, La Quinta, Vista Santa Rosa, and Oasis and portions of the Torres-Martinez reservation within its boundaries.

**Earnings by ASIAN Subgroup in the Inland Empire**



Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2015–2019.  
 \*Hmong earnings have a greater degree of uncertainty due to a small population size and survey sampling.

**BOX 12 White and Asian Men Earn Far More Than Other Groups**



Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019.  
\*Earnings for Native American men, NHOPI men, and NHOPI women have a greater degree of uncertainty.

**BOX 13 Low-Wage Workers in the Inland Empire**

Over the past four decades, several economic transformations—including the shift of agriculture to the Central Valley, the closing of Kaiser Steel in 1983, and the rise of the warehouse and logistics industry that now dominates the area—dramatically altered the working conditions of Inland Empire residents,<sup>26</sup> particularly low-income people, people of color, and the undocumented.

Between 2010 and 2019, the number of transportation and warehousing jobs in the Inland Empire jumped from 82,000 to 198,000, a whopping 142 percent increase, far higher than employment growth in any other industrial sector.<sup>27</sup> Amazon is the second-largest employer in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, with over 10,000 employees in each county.<sup>28</sup> Companies with a heavy logistics presence in the Inland Empire, such as Walmart and Stater Bros., cumulatively employ tens of thousands of Inlanders.<sup>29</sup> Warehouse and transport jobs have become even more dominant as the pandemic boosted e-commerce, raising the salience of labor concerns in these industries. Nonunionized warehouse workers incur many of the same risks as workers in other physically demanding jobs—repetitive stress injuries, workplace accidents,

and increasingly demanding productivity quotas—without the wages or labor protections of unionized workers in manufacturing, logistics, material-moving, and transport.

While many warehouse giants tout that they pay “above a living wage” and provide benefits, these figures obscure the large number of temporary, contract, and underemployed workers who make suboptimal wages and miss out on benefits.<sup>30</sup> The average hourly wage for a nonsupervisory warehouse worker in the Inland Empire is roughly \$15.00; this is 7 percent higher than the national average but the lowest average wage of any major industrial market in California.<sup>31</sup>

Waning union membership in the warehouse industry has resulted in deflated wages even for workers who have been in the industry for some time.<sup>32</sup> While they are overrepresented in the labor force for these low-wage jobs, Black Inland Empire residents are underrepresented in opportunities for upward mobility, such as supervisory roles.<sup>33</sup>

In addition to shipping and logistics, the service sector is another area of employment dominated by vulnerable groups. Native Americans, who are overrepresented in the gambling

services sector of the Inland Empire, are particularly vulnerable to economic tumult, as casino-based tourism reflects cyclical fluctuations in the wider regional economy.<sup>34</sup> Many undocumented immigrants, who make up around 20 percent of Latinos and Asians in the area, work in the tourism and service industries and experience labor exploitation due to their immigration status.<sup>35</sup> Undocumented immigrants contribute an estimated \$87.6 million in taxes to the Inland Empire yet are not eligible for social services that would increase well-being in the face of subminimum wages.<sup>36</sup> These low-wage jobs mean that even when unemployed residents do find work, their problems may not be over—5.3 percent of Inland Empire residents over age 16 in the labor force with jobs were living in poverty.<sup>37</sup>

A living wage for a single adult in the Inland Empire counties is approximately \$16.50 an hour, and roughly \$36.50 per hour for a single adult with a child.<sup>38</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 which 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 decreasing affordability of housing in the Inland Empire shapes 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.

The cost of housing in the Inland Empire has been, and remains, low relative to other metropolitan areas in California, with an owner-occupied median home value of \$379,000, below the state median of \$569,000 and Los Angeles median of \$667,000. This cost differential has long attracted homebuyers who were priced out of coastal communities to the west and has contributed to notably high homeownership rates for Inland Empire residents. Owners occupy 64 percent of housing units in the Inland Empire, the sixth-highest share of any metro area in California, and well above the state average of 55 percent.

However, the underlying fundamentals have changed. Since 2017, housing prices in the Inland Empire have consistently grown at a faster clip than in greater Los Angeles and California as a whole. This divergence has accelerated since the start of Covid-19: the price of housing in the Inland Empire has increased 26 percent since the first quarter of 2020, whereas Los Angeles prices have increased 16 percent and California prices increased 19 percent.<sup>39</sup> This is, in part, enabled by the advent of remote work. Lessened emphasis on in-person



Since 2017, housing prices in the Inland Empire have consistently grown at a faster clip than in greater Los Angeles and California as a whole.

knowledge work has freed high earners to relocate out of expensive metro areas. Data from Realtor.com, a listings website, indicates that the majority of search activity for Inland Empire properties is coming from outside the metro area, and that the lion's share of external interest comes from Angelenos.<sup>40</sup> These patterns are sustained in the rental market; analysis by Marcus & Millichap, a real estate firm, finds that the Riverside–San Bernardino apartment market has the lowest vacancy rate among every major rental market in the nation at 1.6 percent, and is likely to “realize double-digit annual rent growth for the first time in more than two decades.”<sup>41</sup>

Even before the pandemic, renters in the Inland Empire struggled with housing affordability. The share of Inland Empire renters with a high rent burden (spending more than 30 percent of income on rent) in 2019 was 56 percent, the sixth-highest rate for all California metro areas and above the statewide average of 53 percent. This burden varies by race and ethnicity. On the low end, 53 percent of Asian renters and 55 percent of white renters in the Inland Empire face a high rent burden; in contrast, 66 percent of Black renters face a high rent burden. Latino, Native American, and NHOPI renters lie between these two poles, with high-rent-burden shares at 60 percent, 61 percent, and 63 percent, respectively.

Racial disparities are also apparent in terms of homeownership; 71 percent of Asian and white households in the Inland Empire own their own homes, far above the rate of Black households (42 percent) and higher than the share of NHOPI, Latino, and Native American households (50 percent, 57 percent, and 57 percent, respectively). Disparities in the value of these homes are striking as well. The median home value for Asian homeowners is \$429,000, the highest for any racial/ethnic group in the Inland Empire. For Black homeowners, median home value is \$349,000—slightly higher than the median home value for white homeowners, \$348,000. Latinos have a median home value of \$298,000, followed by Native Americans with a median home value of \$274,000. These differences in homeownership and home values—in concert, not in isolation—translate into a significant wealth gap between Asian and white residents on the one hand and Black, Latino, and Native American residents on the other. By census tract, median home values range from in \$1.03 million in Census Tract 512, Riverside County (west of Temecula), to a shocking \$25,000 in Census Tract 434.05, Riverside County (central Hemet). This cost difference reflects the personal wealth chasm within the Inland Empire between denizens of richly resourced housing adjacent to expansive protected parkland and residents of precarious mobile-home-centered developments in city centers.

One might expect a strong correlation between low HDI scores or low earnings and high rental burden, but these links are surprisingly weak. While the general trend is toward higher rental burdens in lower-earning areas, census tracts in which at least half of all renters spend 30 percent or more of their income on rent are found across the Inland Empire, in high-, medium-, and low-income areas. Of

Even before the pandemic, renters in the Inland Empire struggled with housing affordability.

course, for a person making \$100,000 per year, paying 30 percent of one's wages in rent still leaves \$70,000 for everything else. The case is very different for a highly rent-burdened person making \$20,000, who would have just \$14,000 per year left for food, taxes, health care, childcare, transportation, clothing, and other needs. But while high housing costs affect low-income people the most, the problem is felt all along the income scale.

#### 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>42</sup> Both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties saw increases in their homeless populations over this time period as well. As of January 2020, 2,884 individuals were experiencing homelessness in Riverside County, an increase of about 3 percent since 2019.<sup>43</sup> San Bernardino County's count of 3,125 individuals represents an alarming increase of 20 percent since 2019 and 48 percent since 2018.<sup>44</sup>

Homelessness has been exacerbated nationwide by Covid-19—loss of work, loss of housing, and public health restrictions on shelter capacity have made the problem worse. The most recent systematic counts of the homeless population in the Inland Empire and at the national level concluded in January 2020, on the eve of the pandemic. Even in the best of times, surveying the difficult-to-reach homeless population understates the true scope of the situation, and that is especially likely to be true against the backdrop of Covid-19.

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). The Inland Empire follows this trend; 75 percent of Riverside County residents and 76 percent of San Bernardino County residents experiencing homelessness are unsheltered. In other words, only about one in four of the Inland Empire's homeless population have access to temporary shelter (which includes a vehicle, emergency shelter, and transitional housing).<sup>45</sup>

In interviews with unsheltered people in Riverside County, 25 percent reported having a physical disability, 28 percent reported mental health issues, and 34 percent reported struggling with substance use. Roughly one in four unsheltered San Bernardino residents had been incarcerated in the past twelve months. As is the case with homelessness across the country,<sup>46</sup> Black and Native American people are overrepresented among the homelessness population in the Inland Empire. In San Bernardino County, Black residents comprise about 7.9 percent of the population and Native Americans make up 0.4 percent, yet among those experiencing homelessness in the county, 23.6 percent

are Black and 2.3 percent are Native American.<sup>47</sup> In Riverside County, Black residents comprise about 6.1 percent of the population and Native Americans make up 0.4 percent, yet these groups constitute 18.3 percent and 2.4 percent of the county's homeless population, respectively.<sup>48</sup>

The good news is that since the pandemic began, more housing programs have developed in the Inland Empire to help residents experiencing homelessness. State and federal funds from Project Roomkey, Project Homekey, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have put millions of dollars into temporary and permanent housing solutions across the Inland Empire.<sup>49</sup> These projects include the conversion of a former Highland church and school into housing in San Bernardino County and new transitional housing units for LGBTQ young people and for people living with HIV in the City of Riverside. Despite recent funding commitments from federal, state, and county governments to help residents struggling with homelessness, there is still a need to enact policies that will fully end homelessness countywide over the long term. These include providing rental subsidies and services and supporting human-centered, trauma-informed services as opposed to criminalization. Comprehensively addressing the root causes of housing unaffordability and insecurity are necessary to move toward an end to homelessness.



**BOX 15 People on the Move**

Between 2015 and 2019, 148,000 people moved out of the Inland Empire each year, on average. These departing residents were replaced by about 207,000 new residents annually.<sup>50</sup> Who is moving to the region and who is leaving?

Nearly 65 percent of people who moved to the Inland Empire came from other metro areas in California. The Los Angeles metro area, comprising Los Angeles and Orange Counties, was the most common place people moved from by far. An astounding 41 percent of all new residents in the Inland Empire are from the Los Angeles metro area. The next-most-common places people moved from are the San Diego (10 percent), Bakersfield (2 percent), and Sacramento (2 percent) metro areas. Two in ten people moved to the region from other parts of the United States, and one in ten from abroad.<sup>51</sup>

Of those who left the region, just over half moved to a different part of California. People were more likely to be moving to other states in the US than to be arriving from them. While just two in ten people who moved to the region came from other states, nearly five in ten people who left the region moved out of state. Los Angeles is the metro area that Inland Empire residents are most likely to depart to, but a much smaller share moved there than arrived from there. About 27 percent of people who left the region moved to Los Angeles or Orange County. In raw

numbers, over twice as many people arrived each year from the LA metro area than moved to it. About 9 percent of departing residents moved to San Diego, 3 percent to Phoenix, AZ, and 3 percent to Las Vegas, NV.<sup>52</sup>

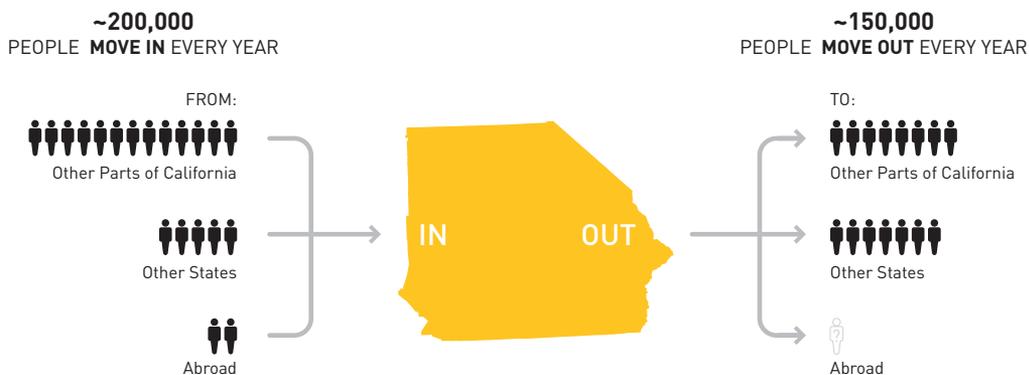
Movers both into and out of the Inland Empire tended to be younger and better

**An astounding 41 percent of all new residents in the Inland Empire are from the Los Angeles metro area.**

educated and to have lower earnings than the region overall. This combination of youth, higher levels of education, and low earnings suggests that many of these movers are recent college graduates relocating for new jobs. Those who moved to and from places outside of California have the highest levels of educational attainment; this may be because people with bachelor's degrees have more choice in the labor market than those without. About 28 percent of those who left for somewhere out of state have at least a bachelor's degree, as do 36 percent of those who arrived from out of state and 37 percent who arrived from

abroad, compared to 21 percent of those who didn't move at all. The educational attainment of those arriving from abroad is more bifurcated, however; 21 percent don't have a high school diploma. The median earnings of those who moved are \$2,000 to \$5,000 less than those of residents who stayed in the same home. People who arrived to the region from abroad have the lowest earnings.<sup>53</sup>

In terms of race and ethnicity, people moving to and from states outside of California are disproportionately white; 54 percent of both groups are white compared to only about 30 percent of residents in the region overall. Black residents are moving in all directions at rates higher than their share in the region overall; particularly high are the percentages of residents arriving from out of state and leaving to places within California who are Black, 11 percent of each group. Asians make up an exceptionally large share of those arriving from abroad: 23 percent of new residents from outside the US are Asian compared to just 7 percent of Inland Empire residents overall. Latinos, while underrepresented among out-of-state movers, are moving within California at rates about equivalent to their share in the region overall. This may be influenced by undercounting of migrant workers in the American Community Survey, however.<sup>54</sup>



# Recommendations

This report was developed by Measure of America in collaboration with an engaged group of advisors and funders, who are listed in the acknowledgments. While Measure of America took the lead on the data and analysis, the Inland Empire-based advisors and funders will take the lead in the second phase. During the first half of 2022, this group will hold a series of events and other forms of community engagement with a view to developing an expanded list of recommendations and collaborating around a region-wide list of priority actions. The text below is a starting point for that exercise. It will be expanded and fine-tuned, and a finalized version will be incorporated into this document.

The stark well-being differences by race and ethnicity, by gender, and by place across the Inland Empire are rooted in interlinked social and economic problems 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. 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.

## **MITIGATE THE HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL, AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19 BY FOCUSING ON THE MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES**

Addressing the harmful impacts of Covid-19 is the region's 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 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 HDI scores by census tract and demographic group presented in this report create a map of pandemic vulnerability; 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 103 census tracts with HDI scores below 3.00 will prioritize the places and people who need the most assistance in rebuilding their lives.**

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.

## BUILD HUMAN SECURITY THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND INCOME

The pandemic made clear that our thin, frayed safety net is inadequate both for chronic threats like unemployment and health problems and sudden disasters like pandemics 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.

**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.

**Invest in the care and education of the youngest Inlanders.** High-quality, affordable early-care and education programs are essential for Inland Empire residents. 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 youngest residents. The social, emotional, and cognitive development of young children, particularly those 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 who can support them. Today, there are far too few affordable, high-quality-care spots to meet this need.

**Make higher education "student ready" rather than focusing just on making young people "college ready."** The higher education system was built for recent high school graduates who were largely white and middle-class, attending school full time, living on campus, financially dependent on their parents, and lacking significant caregiving responsibilities. Nationwide, fewer than one in five college students today meet this description.<sup>55</sup> Today's college students are more likely than in the past to be people of color, attending college part time while working full or part time, and parenting or otherwise caring for others. Colleges and universities must continue to adapt their model to provide such students with accommodations like flexible schedules, childcare, easy parking, and advising informed by the realities of students' lives.

**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 most parts of the Inland Empire, and many workers are exempt from minimum-wage requirements. In addition,

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.

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.

**Treat broadband as a public utility akin to electricity.** Treating broadband as a twenty-first-century utility akin to electricity rather than an optional luxury is imperative. In the age of coronavirus, the existing gaps in internet access have created an opportunity chasm between the broadband haves and have-nots. Remote learning, working from home, and seeing a doctor virtually—the new normal for many in the Inland Empire—are only possible with reliable broadband. Even when the threat of Covid-19 ebbs, broadband will remain critical for job searches, school projects, accessing benefits, and myriad other life tasks. Closing the digital divide with infrastructure, affordable services, and skill-building will promote equity and inclusion for everyone. In recent years the region has made strides in expanding access in rural areas, thanks to the efforts of many groups, including the Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium.<sup>56</sup>

**Dramatically increase the supply of housing.** Housing is increasingly out of reach for Inlanders across most of the income spectrum, and the rate of housing construction is far from sufficient to mitigate rising prices or meet demand.<sup>57</sup> Projections from the California Department of Finance indicate that the Inland Empire’s population is set to grow by 10.0 percent from 2020 to 2030, double the 5.2 percent population growth rate for California as a whole and far above that of Los Angeles County, 1.5 percent.<sup>58</sup> The population growth rate for the Inland Empire is set to accelerate relative to the last decade, whereas the growth rate for California overall is slowing down. These trends will create a housing crunch in the Inland Empire without a substantial trajectory change from the status quo.

**End homelessness.** Keeping people in their homes by providing rental subsidies and services; supporting human-centered, trauma-informed street engagement, rather than criminalization; and pursuing a “housing first” strategy are all key to addressing homelessness. Comprehensively addressing the root causes of housing unaffordability and insecurity is necessary as well.

**Invest in wealth building and permanent exits out of generational poverty.** Given the historical context of housing discrimination,<sup>59</sup> it is important to target Black, Latino, and Native American 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>60</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.

Housing is increasingly out of reach for Inlanders across most of the income spectrum, and the rate of housing construction is far from sufficient to mitigate rising prices or meet demand.

## Inland Empire HDI by Race and Ethnicity and by Gender

RANK	HDI	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (% of adults 25+)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (% of adults 25+)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (% ages 3 to 24)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (\$)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
<b>United States</b>	<b>5.33</b>	78.8	11.4	33.2	12.8	77.3	36,533	5.33	5.41	5.24
<b>California</b>	<b>5.85</b>	81.0	15.9	35.0	13.1	79.5	39,528	6.25	5.51	5.79
<b>Inland Empire</b>	<b>5.10</b>	80.5	17.9	22.9	8.2	76.6	34,517	6.05	4.39	4.85
<b>GENDER</b>										
1 Men	<b>5.30</b>	84.3	17.2	23.6	8.9	77.4	29,316	7.63	4.56	3.71
2 Women	<b>4.93</b>	77.1	18.7	22.2	7.5	75.9	40,343	4.63	4.23	5.93
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>										
1 Asian	<b>6.86</b>	85.1	10.5	46.3	18.4	87.8	37,083	7.95	7.28	5.34
2 White	<b>6.74</b>	81.6	4.0	41.5	15.7	80.0	44,131	6.50	6.49	6.55
3 Latino	<b>4.93</b>	85.5	36.2	13.3	4.2	77.1	29,066	8.13	3.02	3.65
4 Black	<b>3.99</b>	71.0	10.1	32.1	4.8*	69.3	38,511	2.07	4.30	5.60
5 Native American			13.5	10.4*	2.4*	94.8	28,864		5.51	3.61
6 Native (NHOPI)			11.1	23.7*	11.3*	77.2	26,378*		4.93	2.98*
<b>GENDER AND RACE/ETHNICITY</b>										
1 Asian Men	<b>7.64</b>	84.9	9.1	52.1	18.6	86.5	51,024	7.88	7.49	7.56
2 Asian Women	<b>7.50</b>	90.2	10.5	51.2	15.8	86.6	36,455	10.00	7.27	5.22
3 White Men	<b>5.82</b>	76.4	6.5	31.0	11.6	76.6	52,371	4.32	5.41	7.74
4 White Women	<b>5.68</b>	81.1	5.7	29.2	13.2	77.3	36,438	6.31	5.50	5.22
5 Black Women	<b>5.07</b>	78.5	7.6	27.6	9.8	73.3	36,432	5.19	4.81	5.22
6 Latina Women	<b>4.71</b>	85.8	29.5	13.0	4.1	76.7	25,112	8.24	3.26	2.64
7 Latino Men	<b>4.65</b>	80.9	31.4	10.4	2.5	75.0	34,897	6.22	2.82	4.92
8 Black Men	<b>4.04</b>	72.3	11.5	23.3	6.9	75.0	35,461	2.61	4.49	5.03
9 Native American Men			7.4	11.0*	2.2*	75.5	55,430*		3.96	8.13*
10 Native American Women			11.5	23.0*	11.4*	62.6	29,718		3.49	3.81
11 NHOPI Men			6.4	26.1*	14.8*	84.2	40,325*		6.06	5.92*
12 NHOPI Women			6.5	18.7*	9.5*	84.6	48,351*		5.53	7.18*

### DATA SOURCES:

**Life expectancy:** California and Inland Empire: Measure of America calculations using mortality data from the California Department of Public Health and population data from US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample. Estimates for California use 2019 data, and estimates for the Inland Empire use 2014–2019 data. US: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 2019.

**Education and earnings:** Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019.

\*Estimates with an asterisk have a greater degree of uncertainty. Due to small population sizes and survey sampling the standard error of the estimate is greater than 20% of the estimate.

See the Methodological Note in *A Portrait of California 2021–2022* for an overview of this report's methodology.

## 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> 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>6</sup> Kaufman et al., "Association between Air Pollution and Coronary Artery Calcification within Six Metropolitan Areas in the USA (the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis and Air Pollution)"; IARC, *Outdoor Air Pollution*; Guarnieri and Balmes, "Outdoor Air Pollution and Asthma."
- <sup>7</sup> Cushing et al., "The Haves, the Have-Nots, and the Health of Everyone."
- <sup>8</sup> Alkon, Cortez, and Sze, "What Is in a Name?"
- <sup>9</sup> California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, Pollution Burden, 2021.
- <sup>10</sup> Horseman, "Inland Empire Is Warehouse Central, but How Did It Happen?"
- <sup>11</sup> Sisson, "The Quest to Green an Empire of Mega-Warehouses."
- <sup>12</sup> California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, Diesel Particulate Matter, 2016.
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- <sup>14</sup> Rabin, "Poor Americans More Likely to Have Respiratory Problems, Study Finds."
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- <sup>16</sup> California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, Pesticide Use, 2017–2019.
- <sup>17</sup> *New York Times*, "California Coronavirus Map and Case Count."
- <sup>18</sup> San Bernardino County, *2020 Community Indicators Report*.
- <sup>19</sup> *New York Times*, "California Coronavirus Map and Case Count."
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> Horseman, "Coronavirus Now Third-Leading Cause of Death in Riverside County."
- <sup>22</sup> Gardner, Hetherington, and Patel, *Excess Mortality in Riverside County during the COVID-19 Pandemic*, January 1–August 25, 2020.
- <sup>23</sup> Horseman, "Coronavirus Now Third-Leading Cause of Death in Riverside County."
- <sup>24</sup> San Bernardino County, *2020 Community Indicators Report*.
- <sup>25</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER.
- <sup>26</sup> Patterson, *From Acorns to Warehouses*.
- <sup>27</sup> California Regional Economic Analysis Project (CA-REAP).
- <sup>28</sup> County of Riverside, *Fiscal Year 2021/22 Recommended Budget*; San Bernardino County, *2021–22 Adopted Budget*.
- <sup>29</sup> Katzaneck, "Walmart Taking Over Operations at Inland Distribution Centers, and Could Add 200 New Workers"; Steinberg and Hagen, "Report: All Jobs Lost through San Bernardino Base Closure Have Been Restored."
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- <sup>31</sup> CBRE, *2020 North America Industrial Big Box Review & Outlook*.
- <sup>32</sup> Semuels, "What Amazon Does to Poor Cities."
- <sup>33</sup> Inland Empire Black Worker Center Project Advisory Group, Labor Studies Program at University of California, Riverside, and Los Angeles Black Worker Center, *Ain't No Sunshine: The State of Black Workers and Demands for a Brighter Future in the Inland Empire*.
- <sup>34</sup> Patterson, *From Acorns to Warehouses*.
- <sup>35</sup> Center for Social Innovation at the University of California, Riverside, California Immigrant Policy Center, and Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, *State of Immigrants in the Inland Empire*.
- <sup>36</sup> Wiehe and Hill, *State and Local Tax Contributions of Undocumented Californians*.
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- <sup>38</sup> Glasmeier, "Living Wage Calculator."
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- <sup>40</sup> Realtor.com, "2021 Q3 Cross-Market Demand."
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- <sup>42</sup> US Department of Housing and Urban Development, "The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report."

- <sup>43</sup> Riverside County Health Informatics, “General Sheltered and Unsheltered Information.”
- <sup>44</sup> San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership, *San Bernardino County 2020 Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey*.
- <sup>45</sup> Riverside County Health Informatics, “General Sheltered and Unsheltered Information”; San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership, *San Bernardino County 2020 Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey*.
- <sup>46</sup> Fusaro, Levy, and Shaefer. “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Lifetime Prevalence of Homelessness in the United States.”
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- <sup>48</sup> Riverside County Health Informatics, “General Sheltered and Unsheltered Information.”
- <sup>49</sup> Iyer, “More Housing Solutions Emerge for Inland Empire Homeless after Pandemic.”
- <sup>50</sup> Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Migration/Geographic Mobility Data Tables, 2015–2019.
- <sup>51</sup> Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Migration/Geographic Mobility Data Tables, 2015–2019.
- <sup>52</sup> Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS Migration/Geographic Mobility Data Tables, 2015–2019.
- <sup>53</sup> Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS tables B07002, B07402, B07009, B07409, B07011, and B07411, 2015–2019.
- <sup>54</sup> Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau ACS tables B07004 and B07404, 2015–2019.
- <sup>55</sup> Pelletier, “Success for Adult Students.”
- <sup>56</sup> CENIC, “CENIC Recognizes Inland Empire Consortium for Pioneering Solutions to Expand Rural Internet Access.”
- <sup>57</sup> Kleinhenz, “A Good Year for Housing in the Inland Empire, Time to Plan Ahead.”
- <sup>58</sup> California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Report P-2A: Total Population Projections, California Counties, July 2021.
- <sup>59</sup> 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>60</sup> Roadmap Home 2030 includes several proposals along these lines in recommendations A10, A11, A12, and E7.

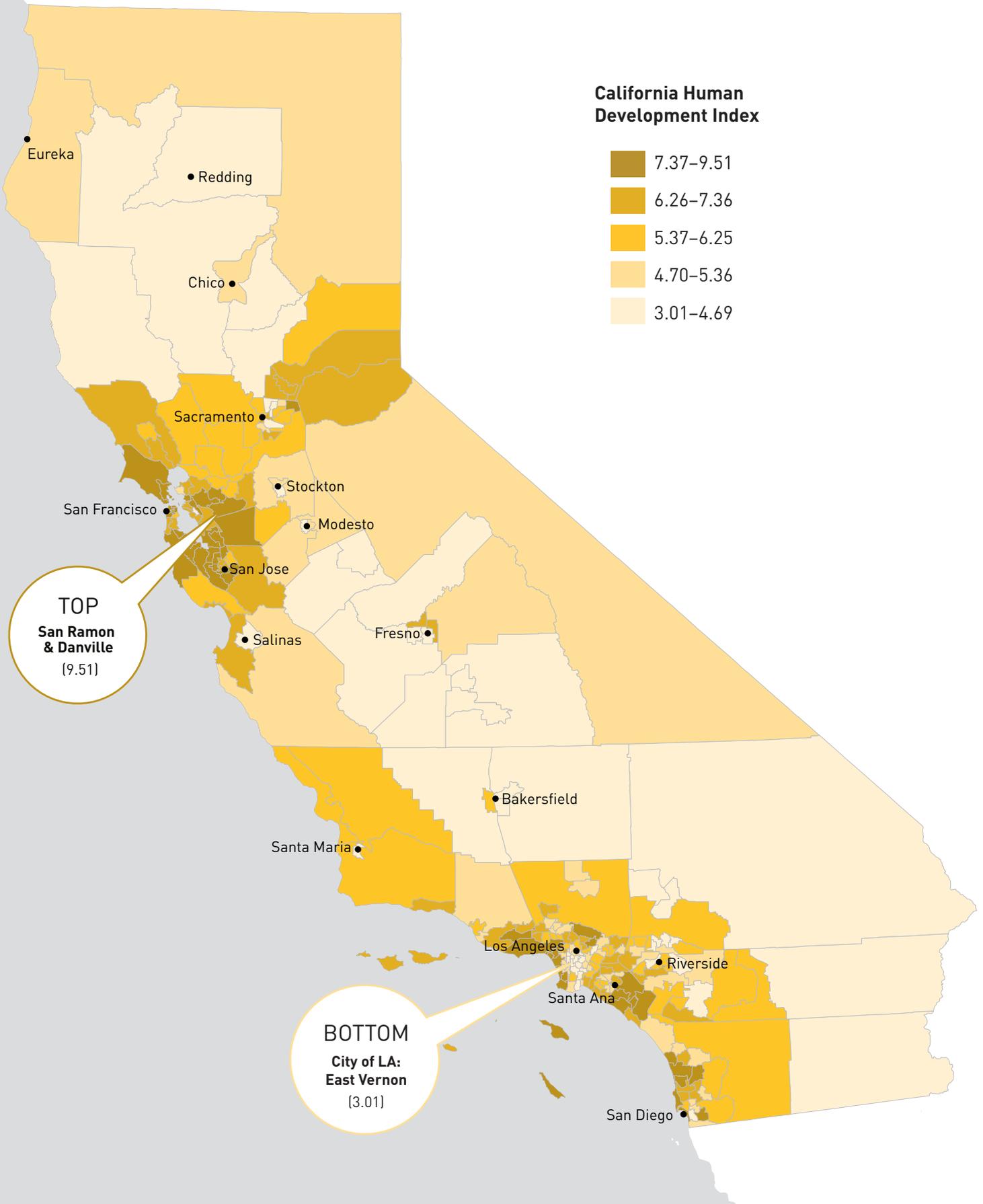
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# CALIFORNIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

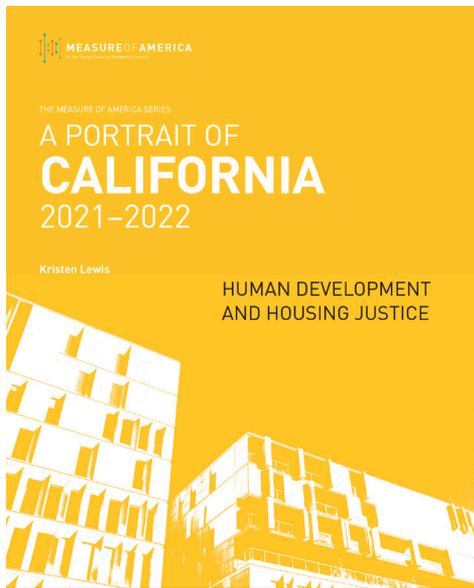


## REGIONAL REPORT SERIES

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE INLAND EMPIRE

## 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 the Inland Empire.

Within this *Spotlight*, readers will find analysis informed by the Index focused on places (region, counties, census tracts) as well as demographic groups (gender and race and ethnicity). The *Spotlight* also contains special features on housing, migration, homelessness, environmental justice, low-wage workers, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

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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 examines 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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