INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2015 Orange County Community Indicators report. We hope you enjoy the new format. The report was restructured to focus attention on pivotal issues which impact the wellbeing of the county so significantly that solving them must be Orange County’s top priority. At the same time, the report retains the core components of past reports while updating the presentation with clear graphics and headlines that highlight how Orange County is doing.

Three pivotal issues currently facing Orange County are related to housing, children’s health, and the opportunity gap between high- and low-income families and their children. These issues are not new, but shifts in Orange County’s population and economy mean they are more important than ever.

With the third largest population of all counties in the state of California, Orange County continues to grow. However, the proportion of seniors among our population is increasing, while the proportion of children is shrinking - a trend that is projected to continue for the next 25 years. As these demographic trends bear out in Orange County, we will have fewer people of working age paying taxes needed to sustain schools, pensions and other community supports. The impacts of these demographic shifts are compounded by steadily growing poverty and economic disparities in Orange County, making it all the more challenging for families to help their children reach their full potential.

The imperative, then, is to foster Orange County’s human capital, maximizing our future workforce’s access to housing, healthcare, and education. Our hope is that by examining these issues more deeply and building commitment from across multiple sectors, we can galvanize community action through innovative partnerships between business, government and the philanthropic community.

We embrace the opportunity to work with you to make Orange County the best it can be.
Typically, working age is considered 15-64, however for this analysis the productive population is calculated using those ages 18-64. While many residents over age 65 continue working, this is the approximate age that residents may begin drawing on benefits such as pensions, social security, and Medicare.

**PLACE**

- **799** square miles
- **42** miles of coastline
- **3,860** persons per square mile
- **34** cities and several large unincorporated areas
- **8%** of the California population lives in OC on **0.5%** of the state’s land area

**PEOPLE**

- **3,150,934** Population 2015
- **3,449,498** Population 2040
- **9%** Percent Growth

**Age**

Orange County residents 65 and older are the only age group that is projected to grow proportionate to the other age groups in the next 25 years. All other age groups will shrink proportionately. While growth in the number of seniors mirrors national and statewide trends, this growth is more pronounced in Orange County than the nation.

**Senior Population Growing While All Others Shrink**

![](chart.png)

**THE DEPENDENCY PRINCIPLE**

Demographic trends like those occurring in Orange County may have serious ramifications. The fewer people of working age, the fewer there are to sustain schools, pensions and other supports to the youngest and oldest members of a population. In 25 and 45 years, the burden on the average working-age resident to financially support the dependent population will be substantially higher than it is today.1

**NUMBER OF WORKING AGE RESIDENTS FOR EACH RESIDENT 65 AND OVER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2040</th>
<th>2060</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NUMBER OF WORKING AGE RESIDENTS FOR EACH CHILD OR YOUTH AGES 0-17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2040</th>
<th>2060</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NUMBER OF WORKING AGE RESIDENTS FOR EACH DEPENDENT RESIDENT (0-17 AND 65+)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2040</th>
<th>2060</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 Typically-working age is considered 15-64, however for this analysis the productive population is calculated using those ages 18-64. While many residents over age 65 continue working, this is the approximate age that residents may begin drawing on benefits such as pensions, social security, and Medicare.
Race/Ethnicity

TREND TOWARD INCREASING DIVERSITY WILL CONTINUE

ECONOMY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median household income (2015)</td>
<td>$74,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (Dec 2014)</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median single-family home price (Jan 2015)</td>
<td>$674,340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41% Of Orange County neighborhoods have a high concentration of families experiencing financial instability

24% Of Orange County residents live in poverty

OVER 120,000 CHILDREN (0-17) IN ORANGE COUNTY LIVE IN POVERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2040</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATA NOTES

The California Poverty Measure combines a family’s annual cash income—including earnings and cash benefits from the government like CalWORKs and Social Security—with two types of resources excluded from the official poverty calculation: tax obligations and credits, and in-kind benefits, such as CalFresh, federal housing subsidies, and school lunch programs. Then, major nondiscretionary expenses are subtracted, such as child care, commuting, and out-of-pocket medical expenses. Finally, the California Poverty Measure compares these resources to a poverty threshold specific to family size and location.

The racial and ethnic categories as presented are not mutually exclusive. Latino includes children of any race who are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. “Other” is comprised of black, Native American, other race alone, and two or more races and include both Hispanic and non-Hispanic. Asian/Pacific Islander is comprised of these races alone and includes both Hispanic and non-Hispanic. White, non-Hispanic includes only white alone and non-Hispanic.

30% are foreign born

52% of foreign born are U.S. citizens

45% of all residents over age five speak a language other than English at home

30% have less than a high school diploma

37% have a Bachelor’s degree or higher

33% of the voting-eligible population voted in the 2014 mid-term general election

Poverty - Public Policy Institute of California/Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, California Poverty Measure, 2011
Child Poverty - U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (overall), 3-Year Estimates (by race/ethnicity)
Family Financial Instability - 2013 Family Financial Stability Index (see page 22)
Income - U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, Table DP03
As the Orange County economy recovers from the Great Recession, it returns to the long-time condition of being job rich and housing poor, which makes renting or buying in Orange County an expensive proposition. This is especially true for the large numbers of workers who are employed in low wage jobs, and for many young professionals and families just starting out.

**JOB RICH**

Orange County’s unemployment has fallen to nearly pre-recessionary levels and employment is growing in key sectors (see pages 16 and 17). But are we growing jobs that earn a high enough income for residents to afford housing in Orange County? Some signs point to “yes.” Employment trends suggest that the Orange County job market is made up of a greater proportion of well paid jobs than before the recession: 18% in 2014 vs. 13% in 2006.1 And thanks in large part to the pre-recessionary housing bubble, the California Association of Realtors estimates that more households can afford an entry-level home today than before the recession: 44% in 2014 vs. 24% in 2006 (see page 26). However, other trends highlighted below suggest that the higher proportion of well paid jobs, while beneficial in a high cost region like Orange County, is not enough to overcome the twin challenges of rising prices and insufficient supply.

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1 Occupations are considered “well paid” if the median annual income is greater than the minimum qualifying income for a home priced at 85% of median in 2014 and adjusted for inflation back to 2006.

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**MORE WELL PAID JOBS TODAY THAN BEFORE THE RECESSION**

[Graph showing percentage of jobs above the “well paid” threshold from 2006 to 2014.]
Housing Poor

The Orange County Business Council’s Workforce Housing Scorecard documents that Orange County homebuilding isn’t keeping up with job growth, creating a shortfall of 50,000 to 62,000 homes for the county’s growing workforce. The pent up demand for housing is not helped by the fact that – due to a variety of constraints – Orange County jurisdictions have fallen well short of state-monitored targets for the construction of new housing, particularly with respect to building low and very low cost housing. Between 2006 and 2014, only 40% of the new housing needed to accommodate all income levels was constructed. Most new housing construction was in the “above moderate” income category, followed by units in the “moderate” income category. Only 12% of the “very low” income units needed were built, and only 10% of “low income” units needed were built.

Home Building Falls Far Short of Need

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Housing Construction Needed</th>
<th>Housing Construction Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Low Income</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Income</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above Moderate Income</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Priced Out Of The Market

The dearth of affordable housing means many workers and families are priced out of the market. Several trends support this claim, including demand for affordable rental housing, a long waiting list of households seeking rental assistance, housing insecurity among Orange County K-12 students, and the proportion of families spending 50% or more of their income on rent.

More Than Half of Jobs Don’t Pay Enough to Afford Rent

$24.67 Hourly wage needed to afford a one-bedroom unit (Housing Wage)
63% Proportion of OC jobs with median wages less than the Housing Wage
103,379 Number of Orange County households on waiting lists for rental assistance

More Students Are Homeless or Have Insecure Housing

32,510 Number of OC homeless and housing insecure students
+236% 10-year change in percentage of homeless and housing insecure students

Housing Costs Swallow More Than Half of Income for Many Families

31% Percent of “families with children” spending more than 50% of income on rent
19% Percent of “families with children with a mortgage” spending more than 50% of income on housing

Notes:

1 Progress Toward Regional Housing Needs Assessment, Orange County, 2006-2014
Source: Community Indicators analysis of Regional Housing Needs Assessment by selected Orange County jurisdictions. Note: Data summarized include a majority of Orange County cities. Some city data was unavailable; some cities’ reporting period was from 2008-2014, rather than 2006-2014.
A HIT TO ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

As the Orange County Business Council Workforce Housing Scorecard states, “Although economic conditions in Orange County will likely remain strong enough to attract a share of talented workers and employers, an overall high cost of living driven primarily by housing prices will deter recent graduates, young entrepreneurs, and talented workers from staying and encourage them to relocate to more affordable counties and states.” Indeed, population trends suggest an exodus of younger-middle adults (25-44) leaving the county in search of more affordable housing. Migration data support this trend, showing more 25-29 year olds moving out of the county to neighboring counties than moving in. For those who continue to work in Orange County, the impact on mobility and commutes is substantial; a morning commuter on the westbound SR-91 can take 51 minutes to go nine miles. Quality of life impacts like these are hard on families and could lead companies to follow their employees to more affordable regions, taking their economic assets with them.

Population trends suggest an exodus of younger-middle adults (25-44) leaving the county in search of more affordable housing.

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6 Orange County Business Council, Workforce Housing Scorecard, 2015
7 Orange County Transportation Authority
8 U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year Estimates, 2006-2010 (http://flowsmapper.geo.census.gov/flowsmapper/map.html)
AS OUR CHILDREN GO, SO GOES OUR COUNTY

Orange County’s housing supply challenges negatively impact the most important and vulnerable members of our community – our children. At the most extreme end of the housing insecurity continuum, homeless children of all ages are significantly more likely to have poorer nutrition, emotional and physical health, and academic achievement than their housed peers. Homeless preschoolers are more likely to be developmentally delayed, while homeless teens are at an increased risk for criminal victimization and involvement.8

As the data indicates, many families are steering clear of outright homelessness by doubling up with another family, placing strain on city services as well as on the families themselves. Even among families that rent or own their own home, the financial instability that results from having to spend more than half of their income on housing can cause considerable stress. Families struggling to keep their heads above water are not well positioned to support their children financially, academically or emotionally, which limits children’s ability to reach their full potential and contribute to a skilled, productive workforce.

NEEDED: NEW APPROACHES TO AN OLD PROBLEM

Housing is not a new issue for Orange County, but it’s time to look at this stubborn problem with fresh eyes. We must understand the situation, shine a light on what’s at stake, and launch new approaches to solving the problem. Keeping our future workforce may depend on it.

8 The 13th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County, 2007
Orange County employers say it is becoming increasingly difficult to find workers with both the technical and soft skills to fill openings – the so-called “skills gap.” At the same time, economists have documented a growing disparity between high- and low-income earners over the past several decades, as those with lower educational attainment struggle to keep up – the so-called “opportunity gap.”

### OUR WORKFORCE SKILLS GAP

A recently penned article by the Orange County Business Council pointed out that middle-skill jobs (those requiring a high school diploma but not a college degree) “account for 54 percent of the U.S. labor market, but only 44 percent of U.S. workers are able to fill them.” Given Orange County’s high concentration of technology-driven industries (see Innovation, page 19) with middle-skilled jobs that support this sector, the nationwide skills gap is very much a local issue as well. The Business Council is currently working with JPMorgan Chase to document the extent of the skills gap in Orange County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>54%</th>
<th>Proportion of U.S. labor market made up of middle-skill jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>Proportion of U.S. workers able to fill middle-skill jobs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### OUR GROWING WAGE GAP

Nationwide, while the recession moderately impacted the number of jobs for college-educated workers, the number of jobs for those with a high school diploma or less fell precipitously and has not recovered.

The good news is that high-skilled, higher-wage jobs are growing. Orange County appears to mirror this national trend, when comparing 10 common occupations in leading Orange County industry sectors. Further, median wages for these higher wage occupations are increasing faster than inflation. That’s important, since these high-wage jobs are the types of jobs residents need in order to afford Orange County’s relatively high costs of living.

The bad news is that for lower-wage, lower-skilled occupations, wages have stayed the same or decreased (not kept up with inflation). Similar to the nation, where researchers have documented a decades-long trend toward increasing wages for higher wage occupations and decreasing wages for lower wage occupations, Orange County is experiencing a growing wage gap. This trend bears out in the poverty rate for Orange County, which has increased 53% in the past nine years from 8.8% of all residents to its current level of 13.5%.

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1 Orange County Register, April 6, 2015 (www.ocregister.com/articles/jobs-656943-county-workforce.html)
3 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (Table S1701)
JOBS ARE GROWING FOR THOSE WITH HIGHER EDUCATION; FALLING FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADS OR LESS  

WAGES INCREASE FOR HIGHER WAGE OCCUPATIONS

WAGES DECREASE FOR LOWER WAGE OCCUPATIONS

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There is a long-standing gap in academic achievement between lower income and higher income students, with lower income students, on average, lagging behind their higher income peers.\footnote{Economically disadvantaged is defined as eligible to participate in free or reduced-price meals, or the parent education level was coded as “not high school graduate.” A family of four would be eligible for the subsidized school meals program if they earned approximately $48,000 or less annually.}

In Orange County, despite a slight narrowing of the achievement gap in high school math, the gap remains in English language arts. These trends point to the persistent opportunity gap - entrenched barriers for low-income students who continue to struggle to catch up to their higher income peers. The lack of progress in English language arts is concerning for employers who increasingly demand so-called “soft skills,” which include the ability to communicate effectively in writing and speech.

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN MATH NARROWS SLIGHTLY\footnote{10th Grade Students Scoring Proficient and Above in Math or English Language Arts on the California High School Exit Exam, Orange County, 2009/10-2013/14. Source: California Department of Education}**

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT INCREASINGLY PROTECTS ORANGE COUNTY FAMILIES AGAINST POVERTY\footnote{Poverty Status of Families by Householder Educational Attainment, Orange County, 2007-2013. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates}**
WHAT'S AT STAKE?

The growing divergence in income and wages, and the educational and societal disparities between families in high and low socioeconomic conditions, results in what many experts refer to as the “opportunity gap” - abundant supports and resources for the children of higher income families and stalled or declining social mobility for the children of many lower income and less educated families.

If our local graduates are inadequately educated and trained or mismatched for jobs in key Orange County industries, employers will have to import skilled workers or positions will go unfilled for longer periods of time, impacting productivity. Further, students whose educational path ends after high school graduation (or before) are increasingly likely to become a burden on the community, with significantly diminished long-term economic opportunities.

Decreasing wages for lower paid occupations, combined with high and rising costs of living, equate to financial instability for thousands of families in Orange County. This means a substantial number of households must have dual incomes or two or more jobs to afford housing. In Orange County, 32% of children under 18 in families led by a single parent are in poverty compared to 11% of children under 18 living in two-parent families.\(^9\) The combination of low wages, high cost of living, and a single wage earner constrains the ability for these families to accumulate resources that will provide a safety net for their child. Financial instability contributes to family stress and less time parents have to oversee and support their child’s educational path.

CLOSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP

The challenges lower income students face are a likely contributor to the skills gap, but also a window into possible strategies to change the trajectory for these Orange County children and our future workforce. Education and training are widely viewed as both the way out of low wage jobs and poverty, as well as the way to fill the skills gap. While the county has seen some progress in educational achievement, college readiness and high school dropouts, the skills gap persists. The opportunity, then, is to continue to make gains in educational and skill attainment for all Orange County students by supporting our vulnerable families, reducing financial instability, and stacking the deck in favor of children’s success today and a skilled, high-wage workforce in the future.

\(^9\) U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey, Table B05010 5-Year Estimates
Continued high rates of childhood obesity, along with increasing rates of serious depression and suicide among youth and young adults, are a wake-up call to focus resources on prevention and early intervention.

**OBESITY AND CHRONIC DISEASE**

Nationwide, the increase in childhood obesity is staggering, having more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years. In line with national trends, one-third (32.8%) of Orange County children are overweight or obese, suggesting that as a community, we are not successfully addressing this issue.¹ In some communities in Orange County as many as half of children are obese. The only exceptions are preschoolers (ages 2-5) who, as a group, show some improvement at the national level over the past 10 years – a glimmer of hope for continued prevention strategies.²

Two obesity-related chronic diseases, diabetes and heart disease, are on the rise. More residents are living with these debilitating conditions, a trend that is likely to continue if we don’t find ways to reduce childhood obesity.

¹ Data are the combined results of 5th, 7th and 9th grade students taking the California Department of Education Fitnessgram. See page 38, Overweight and Obesity.


² Prevalence of Diabetes and Heart Disease Orange County, 2003-2012. Source: California Health Interview Survey (http://askchis.ucla.edu/main/
MENTAL HEALTH

The hospitalization rate for major depression among children and youth is rising, increasing 28% since 2003. In 2012 there were 882 youth admitted for major depression or mood disorders, compared to 747 in 2003. Furthermore, the suicide death rate for youth and young adults (ages 15-24) – an extreme indicator of mental health – has also grown over this period, up 34%. In 2012, there were 31 suicide deaths committed by young people between the ages of five and 24 in Orange County.

Despite increasing need, Orange County has a ratio of 804 residents per mental health care provider, compared to the statewide average of 623 residents per mental health provider. Among 57 California counties with data, 31 counties have a better mental health care provider ratio than Orange County.

CHILDREN’S HOSPITALIZATION RATE FOR MAJOR DEPRESSION IS UP 28%\(^4\)

![Hospitalizations per 10,000 Children/Youth](chart1)

SUICIDE RATE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IS UP 34%\(^5\)

![Suicide Deaths per 100,000](chart2)

PRESCHOOL EXPULSIONS\(^7\)

A national study of expulsions among preschoolers at state-funded preschools suggests that behavioral health interventions are needed long before children enter the elementary school system. Nationwide, the expulsion rate at state-funded preschools was 6.67 children per 1,000 enrolled – more than three times the rate of expulsions for K-12 students. In California, state-funded preschools surveyed reported a slightly higher rate of 7.49 preschoolers expelled per 1,000 enrolled; again, about three times the California K-12 expulsion rate of 2.52 per 1,000 students enrolled. One insightful component of the study was that preschool expulsion rates decreased significantly when teachers had access to classroom-based mental health consultation, such as on-site or on-call psychologists, psychiatrists, or social workers.

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\(^4\) Major Depression or Mood Disorder Hospitalizations Among Children and Youth. Orange County, 2003-2012. Sources: Office of Statewide Planning & Development. Patient Discharge Data prepared by Orange County Health Care Agency, Research and Planning, California Department of Finance, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

\(^5\) Suicide Death Rate Among Youth and Young Adults, Orange County, 2003-2012. Note: Data reflect three-year averages. Source: California Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics Query System.

\(^6\) Residents per Mental Health Provider (State) Residents per Mental Health Provider (Orange County)

THE BURDEN OF DISEASE
As unhealthy children grow into adulthood, the downstream effects are significant, leading to more chronic disease, higher health care costs, more demand on health care services, and compromised workforce productivity. Add to that the impact of poor health on individual wellbeing and the costs grow even greater.

The direct costs of chronic disease affect all members of society – even healthy individuals – through rising health insurance premiums and public health insurance programs supported by taxpayers. In addition to medical costs, chronic disease leads to productivity loss through missed work time due to illness (absenteeism). These indirect costs of chronic disease impact both employers and employees.8

CHRONIC ILLNESS COSTS ORANGE COUNTY BILLIONS9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>$1.50 Billion</td>
<td>$44 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Disease</td>
<td>$3.26 Billion</td>
<td>$113 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>$811 Million</td>
<td>$70 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5.57 Billion</strong></td>
<td><strong>$227 Million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAKING THE SHIFT TO PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Obesity

Preventing obesity in children is viewed as a critical pathway out from under the personal and societal burden of chronic disease. This is partly because once weight is gained, it is difficult to lose in the short-term and maintain in the long-term. As obese children grow up, they are likely to be obese as adults, too, and suffer the attendant health impacts associated with obesity.10 The hope that most children will “grow out of it” is not supported by the data. In fact, research shows that overweight or obese preschoolers are five times as likely to become overweight or obese adults as their non-obese peers.11 Indeed, while one third of Orange County’s youth are obese or at risk for obesity, fully half of Orange County’s adults are obese or at risk for obesity.

If the national trend toward leaner preschoolers continues and is mirrored in Orange County, we may start to chip away at the proportion of school-age youth, and eventually adults, with an unhealthy weight. Obesity is not an equal opportunity condition; young children who live in poverty have higher rates of obesity than those who do not, and children of parents who have completed college have lower rates of obesity.12 These and other facts can help us identify and address the root causes of obesity. Our families, cities, schools, child care centers, medical providers, faith communities, and government agencies can all play a role in creating environments that foster a healthy weight.

CHANGES TO POLICY MAKE A DIFFERENCE13

In February 2014, the U. S. Department of Agriculture Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) took steps to further improve the nutrition and health of the nation’s low-income pregnant women, new mothers, infants and young children. The changes – which increase access to fruits and vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy - are based on the latest nutrition science and are the first comprehensive revisions to the WIC food packages since 1980. In some parts of Orange County, as many as 33% of children ages three or four who participate in WIC are overweight. These changes to what foods WIC participants can buy is one strategy to reduce that percentage.

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8 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Chronic Disease Calculator User Guide, November 2013
9 Burden of Disease in Orange County (children and adults) Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Chronic Disease Calculator (www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/calculator/index.htm)
10 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/obesity/facts.htm)
12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/childhood.html)
13 Sources: U. S. Department of Agriculture (www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2014/003114); WIC offices serving Orange County
Depression

Children who develop depression often continue to have episodes as they enter adulthood (especially if their depression goes untreated). Increasing access to treatment and addressing environmental factors contributing to depression could reduce incidence.\(^{14}\) While many factors contribute to depression, strong parental support, positive peer relationships and social activities, physical activity, and good sleep are demonstrated strategies to reduce depression.\(^{15}\) The ability to access services when needed is also key, building the case to work toward increasing mental health providers for children and youth.

Access

Making prevention, early intervention and treatment a reality requires access to quality health care. Better access to health care can mean increased access to preventative care and a higher likelihood of treating conditions before they get worse (and more costly to treat). Health insurance coverage has improved for children in recent years and the trend is toward increasing levels of coverage. This is a significant step in a positive direction toward better access to health care, but it is not the end of the story. The next challenges will be related to how residents access care and whether we have a sufficient number of health care providers to meet the growing demand.

\(^{14}\) National Institute of Mental Health (www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/depression/index.shtml)

\(^{15}\) Mayo Clinic (www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-living/tween-and-teen-health/in-depth/teen-depression/art-20046847?pg=1)

A CASE FOR ACTION

Investments that promote health from the beginning of a child’s life are likely to have lifelong positive impacts and will provide substantial value for the community. The trends outlined in childhood obesity and depression are just two examples of why early intervention is so critical. Through coordinated, comprehensive action that focuses investments on prevention, we can make substantial gains for our children’s health and our community’s wellbeing.
EMPLOYMENT

Orange County’s overall unemployment rate continued to fall, ending the year at 4.4% in December 2014. This is down from the 10-year high of 9.9% in January 2010 and is just over one point from the 10-year low of 3.1% in December 2006. Orange County’s December 2014 unemployment rate fell below the state and national rates of 6.7% and 5.4%, respectively.

UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO DECLINE

Among the 10 industry clusters tracked, two posted steady job growth even through the recession. Between 2006 and 2013, Biomedical jobs grew 22% and Health Services grew 18%. Tourism rebounded quickly, growing 11% between 2006 and 2013. Computer Software jobs also reached pre-recession levels in 2013 (1% job growth since 2006). The remaining clusters have not yet regained pre-recession numbers, despite some recent job growth. Construction, Communication, and Defense and Aerospace experienced the sharpest declines, down 29%, 28% and 25%, respectively, since 2006. Average salaries in the four largest industry clusters have kept pace with inflation, but have not experienced significant growth. Energy and Environment jobs witnessed the greatest salary growth (14%), while Biomedical witnessed the largest decline in average salaries since 2006 (down 11%).

1 Unemployment Rate, Orange County, California and United States, December 2004 - December 2014. Source: California Employment Development Department (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov) and Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/data/)
FOUR LARGEST INDUSTRIES SHOW RECENT JOB GROWTH

In Thousands of People

SALARIES KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION IN LARGEST INDUSTRIES

In Thousands of Dollars

BIOMED GROWTH LEADS SMALLER INDUSTRIES

In Thousands of People

SALARIES OUTPACE INFLATION FOR THREE OF SIX SMALLER INDUSTRIES

In Thousands of Dollars

DATA NOTES

The 10 major Orange County industry clusters tracked in this indicator account for over half of Orange County jobs. Average salary data is inflation-adjusted to 2013, such that $100 earned in 2006, for example, has the same buying power as $116 in 2013. Unemployment rate data is not seasonally adjusted.

RELATED REPORTS

The 2014-2015 Orange County Workforce Indicators Report details trends in employment, education and workforce training, and spotlights the skills gap and veteran employment in Orange County. OC Connect published a special report on veterans, Our Orange County Heroes, which includes a focus on employment, along with housing, health and education.

ocbc.org  connectoc.org

2 Clusters with 40,000 Jobs or More. Employment and Average Salaries in Selected Orange County Clusters, 2006-2013. Source: California Employment Development Department

3 Clusters with 35,000 Jobs or Less. Employment and Average Salaries in Selected Orange County Clusters, 2006-2013. Source: California Employment Development Department
HIGH-TECH DIVERSITY AND GROWTH

Looking at the 22 industries within the high-tech sector, Orange County has higher employment concentration than the national average in 16 out of 22 high-tech industries, making it the 4th most diverse high-tech economy among 200 metro areas nationwide and the 3rd among selected peers. Looking at the high-tech sector overall, Orange County’s high-tech employment concentration is 1.49 compared to the national average of 1.0 placing it 28th of the 200 metro areas. Orange County’s one-year growth in high-tech sector output was slightly less than the national average in 2013 (99.2 compared to 100). Five-year high-tech sector output growth was also below the national average of 100 at 98.7, but it remains on an upward trend since 2009.

WITH 16 INDUSTRIES, ORANGE COUNTY’S HIGH-TECH SECTOR IS 3RD MOST DIVERSE

DATA NOTES

The diversity of Orange County’s high-tech economy is measured by counting the number of high-tech sector industries out of 22 that have employment concentrations above the national average. Employment concentration is relative to a national average of 1.0, where results below 1.0 signal lower employment in a particular industry than the national average and results above 1.0 signal greater employment in a particular industry than the national average. High-tech sector output growth is relative to the national average of 100.0. High-tech sector output growth data is not available for 2005.

HIGH-TECH EMPLOYMENT CONCENTRATION ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE

HIGH-TECH SECTOR GROWTH SLIGHTLY BELOW NATIONAL AVERAGE
INNOVATION

Venture capital funding in Orange County declined 19% in 2014, dropping to $499.9 million from $613.3 million in 2013. In contrast, national venture capital investment grew 58% between 2013 and 2014. Orange County’s 2014 share of national venture capital was approximately 1.0% - a proportion that has fallen steadily since 2011 when Orange County’s share was 3.1%. In 2014, investment in firms developing products or services related to software and medical devices garnered the largest amount of venture capital (41% and 39%, respectively, of total venture capital investments in Orange County).

VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FALLS FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW IN ORANGE COUNTY

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4 High-Tech Sector Employment Concentration, Orange County compared to selected peers within 200 Metro Areas, 2013. Source: Milken Institute, Best Performing Cities Report (www.milkeninstitute.org)

5 Number of High-Tech Industries with Employment Above the National Average (out of 22 industries), Orange County compared to selected peers within 200 Metro Areas, 2013. Source: Milken Institute, Best Performing Cities Report (www.milkeninstitute.org)

6 High-Tech Sector Output Growth Relative to the National Average, Orange County, 2004-2013. Source: Milken Institute, Best Performing Cities Report (www.milkeninstitute.org)

7 Venture Capital Investment in Orange County-Based Firms, 2005-2014. Source: MoneyTree Report prepared by National Venture Capital Association and PricewaterhouseCoopers, based on data provided by Thomson Reuters (www.pwcmoneytree.com/MTPublic/ns/index.jsp)
HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND COST OF LIVING

Orange County’s median household income increased for the first time in five years when adjusted for inflation. The 2013 median income of $74,163 is up 2% from 2012 but down 6% since 2005. The longer-term decline is due to lackluster median income growth combined with a cumulative inflation rate of 19% between 2005 and 2013. Orange County’s cost of living remained third highest among peer markets. With 100.0 being average, Orange County measured 145.6 on the Cost of Living Index in 2014. Orange County’s high cost of living is driven by high housing prices, which are 142% higher than the national average.

ORANGE COUNTY ADJUSTED INCOME LOWER THAN 10 YEARS AGO

DATA NOTES

All income data in this report are inflation-adjusted to 2013 dollars, such that $1,000 earned in 2000, for example, has the same buying power as $1,353 in 2013. Household income is the annual income of all members of a household age 15 or older, whether related or unrelated. The Cost of Living Index compares the prices of housing, consumer goods, and services in Orange County and peer metro areas. Cost of living for San Jose metro area is 2nd quarter 2013; 2nd quarter 2014 data was not available.

Despite Orange County’s relatively high cost of living (46% higher than the national average), the county’s median household income has roughly kept pace at 42% higher than the national median. However, high relative housing costs place a particularly significant burden on the half of households earning less than median income. Among peers, Los Angeles has the least favorable differential between income and cost of living due to a low median household income, while Austin and San Jose have the most favorable differential owing to low cost of living (Austin) or high income (San Jose).

**3rd Highest Cost of Living Among Peers**

![Cost of Living Index](image)

**Orange County Median Income Roughly On Par With Cost of Living**

![Income](image)

**Orange County Poverty Rates Higher Than San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties; Young Children Are Hardest Hit by Poverty**

24.3% of Orange County residents live in poverty according to the California Poverty Measure which accounts for high housing costs. This is higher than neighboring counties of San Bernardino (19.5%), Riverside (20.4%), and San Diego (22.7%), and lower than Los Angeles County (26.9%).

An even greater proportion of children under 12 years old live in poverty in Orange County (33% for 0-5 years and 32% for 6-12 years), greater than in the surrounding counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego.

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1 Cost of Living, Regional Comparison, 2014. Source: Council for Community and Economic Research (www.c2er.org)

2 Median Household Income Compared to Cost of Living Index. Regional Comparison, 2013 (Income) or 2nd Quarter 2014 (COL). Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates; Council for Community and Economic Research (www.c2er.org)

3 Source: Public Policy Institute of California

4 Source: Public Policy Institute of California

ppic.org
FAMILY FINANCIAL STABILITY

The 2013 Family Financial Stability Index (FFSI) indicates that 41% of neighborhoods in Orange County have a high concentration of families that are financially unstable, based on income, employment, and housing expenses. This is an increase from 2012 when 39% of neighborhoods were financially unstable. Among neighborhoods that are not considered stable, about two-thirds are in the “unstable” range (scores of 3 and 4) and one-third are “very unstable” (scores of 1 and 2). On average, the cities with the highest level of family financial instability are Anaheim and Stanton (scoring 2), followed by La Habra, Santa Ana and Westminster (scoring 3). Orange County’s overall FFSI score is 4, the same as the California and United States averages.

The FFSI score distribution from 1 to 10 generally follows a bell curve, with the exception of the neighborhoods in the moderately stable range (5 and 6). The comparatively smaller number of neighborhoods in the middle suggests Orange County experiences geographic concentrations of wealth and poverty.

SLIGHT SHIFT TOWARD MORE FINANCIALLY UNSTABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

DATA NOTES

The Orange County United Way’s Family Financial Stability Index (FFSI) measures financial stability at the neighborhood level using a composite of three metrics, including employment (percent of families with children under age 18 (FWC<18) with one or more unemployed adults), income (percent of FWC<18 with incomes less than 185% of the federal poverty level), and rent burden (percent of FWC<18 that are paying 50% or more of income on rent). A score of one represents the least financial stability and 10 represents the most financial stability. Results for 2012 have been updated since previously published.
Areas on the map that are red or dark orange represent neighborhoods with a high concentration of families that are financially unstable. Families in these neighborhoods are more likely to have a low income, spend more than 50% of their income on rent, and/or have one or more adults unemployed who are seeking employment. Areas on the map that are green represent areas with a lower concentration of families that are financially unstable.
RENTAL AFFORDABILITY

In 2015, the hourly wage needed to afford a one-bedroom unit was $24.67, equivalent to an annual income of $51,320. This is down from $25.23 in 2014 and lower than the five-year average of $25.38. Workers earning above minimum wage, but below the Housing Wage of $24.67 may experience increased economic insecurity as a larger proportion of their earnings must go towards housing. A minimum-wage worker must work 110 hours per week to afford a one-bedroom unit at fair market rent in Orange County.

ORANGE COUNTY'S HOUSING WAGE IS HIGH COMPARED TO PEERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MINNEAPOLIS</td>
<td>$15.31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTIN</td>
<td>$16.64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEATTLE</td>
<td>$17.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAN DIEGO</td>
<td>$18.38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOS ANGELES</td>
<td>$20.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEATTLE</td>
<td>$22.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOSTON</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORANGE COUNTY</td>
<td>$24.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAN JOSE</td>
<td>$27.79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAN FRANCISCO</td>
<td>$31.44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATA NOTES

“Housing Wage” refers to the hourly wage a resident needs to afford “Fair Market Rent” (the median rent in the Orange County market). Minimum wage in California increased from $8.00 per hour to $9.00 per hour between 2014 and 2015.

MINIMUM WAGE EARNER MUST WORK 110 HOURS PER WEEK TO AFFORD RENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rent Type</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAIR MARKET RENT</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE BEDROOM</td>
<td>$1,312</td>
<td>$1,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWO BEDROOM</td>
<td>$1,644</td>
<td>$1,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THREE BEDROOM</td>
<td>$2,300</td>
<td>$2,250</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rent Type</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMOUNT A HOUSEHOLD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WITH ONE MINIMUM</td>
<td>$416</td>
<td>$468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAGE EARNER CAN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFFORD TO PAY IN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RENT (MONTHLY)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rent Type</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF HOURS</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PER WEEK A MINIMUM</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAGE EARNER MUST</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORK TO AFFORD A</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE-BEDROOM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APARTMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RELATED REPORTS

The 2014-2015 Orange County Workforce Indicators Report includes trends in homeownership and renting in Orange County. The Orange County Business Council annually creates a Workforce Housing Scorecard which ranks Orange County cities based on their balance of jobs and housing.

ocbc.org

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1 Hourly Wage Needed to Afford a One-Bedroom Unit, Regional Comparison, 2015. Sources: Community Indicators Report analysis of Fair Market Rent data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (www.huduser.org) using the methodology of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (www.nlihc.org)

2 Sources: Community Indicators Report analysis of Fair Market Rent data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (www.huduser.org) using the methodology of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (www.nlihc.org)
Rent remains unaffordable for low wage, full-time workers.

Hourly Wage Needed to Afford a One-Bedroom Unit in Orange County Compared to Local Wages in Selected Occupations, 2014 (first quarter wages) and 2015 (Housing Wage). Sources: Community Indicators Report analysis of Fair Market Rent data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (www.huduser.org) using the methodology of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (www.nlihc.org); California Employment Development Department (www.edd.ca.gov)

1 Hourly Wage Needed to Afford a One-Bedroom Unit in Orange County Compared to Local Wages in Selected Occupations, 2014 (first quarter wages) and 2015 (Housing Wage). Sources: Community Indicators Report analysis of Fair Market Rent data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (www.huduser.org) using the methodology of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (www.nlihc.org); California Employment Development Department (www.edd.ca.gov)
HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

As housing prices rise, the ability for first-time homebuyers to afford a home remains constrained. The minimum household income needed for a first-time homebuyer to purchase an existing single-family home at the entry-level price of 85% of the Orange County median price is approximately $83,230. Less than half (44%) of households in Orange County in 2014 could afford an entry-level home priced at $592,430. This is 15 percentage points less affordable than the most affordable period in the past 10 years (59% of residents could afford an entry-level home in 2011). Orange County is less affordable than all peers compared except the San Francisco Bay Area, which was also only affordable to 44% of residents in 2014. When comparing median salaries for 10 selected occupations to the minimum income needed to qualify for financing of an entry-level home, only five occupations would earn enough to qualify.

HOME SALE PRICES CONTINUE UPWARD CLIMB\(^4\)

44% OF FIRST-TIME BUYERS CAN AFFORD AN ORANGE COUNTY HOME\(^5\)

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\(^5\) First-Time Homebuyer Housing Affordability Index, Regional Comparison, 2005-2014. Source: California Association of Realtors (www.car.org)
ENTRY-LEVEL HOME OUT OF REACH FOR MANY OCCUPATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Annual Salary in Thousands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Engineer</td>
<td>$101,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Developer</td>
<td>$100,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
<td>$86,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Programmer</td>
<td>$84,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Teacher</td>
<td>$81,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>$53,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>$38,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinist (precision manufacturing)</td>
<td>$37,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Salesperson</td>
<td>$22,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care Aide</td>
<td>$21,755</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATA NOTES

The California Association of Realtors’ First-Time Homebuyer Housing Affordability Index measures the percentage of Orange County households that can afford a home priced at 85% of median (an “entry level” home). Annual median salaries in common, growing or strategic occupations are compared to the minimum income needed to qualify for financing.

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6 Income Needed to Afford a Home Compared to Median Salaries in Selected Occupations Orange County; First Quarter 2014. Sources: California Association of Realtors; California Employment Development Department
FAMILY HOUSING SECURITY

In 2013/14, the number of Pre-K through 12th grade students in public school who were identified as homeless or living in insecure housing arrangements rose by 6%, bringing the total to 32,510 students. Most of these students (29,300) live in families that are doubled- or tripled-up with another family due to financial hardship. Since 2004/05, the number of students living in motels rose 5%, while the number of students living in shelters rose 326% and the number of unsheltered students rose 589%.

At 6.5% of total enrollment, Orange County has proportionately more students with insecure housing than the statewide average and all California regions compared except Riverside/San Bernardino.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS LIVING DOUBLED-UP CONTINUES TO RISE

![Graph showing the number of students living doubled-up, tripled-up, in shelters, hotels/motels, and unsheltered over the years.]

ORANGE COUNTY HAS MORE HOMELESS OR HOUSING-INSECURE STUDENTS THAN STATE AVERAGE

![Graph showing the percentage of homeless or housing-insecure students in Orange County and other regions.]

HOMELESS IN ORANGE COUNTY

On any given night in Orange County, the 2013 County of Orange Point-in-Time (PIT) count estimates that approximately 4,300 people are homeless. More than 12,700 people are homeless over the course of the year. About one-third of the homeless population are in households with children; among the 1,553 people living in these households, 58% are children (approximately 900). Virtually all households with children are housed in either emergency or transitional shelters. These PIT estimates are based on the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department

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7 Homeless and Housing Insecure Students by Primary Nighttime Residence Orange County, 2004/05-2013/14. Source: California Department of Education
8 Regional Comparison of Homeless and Housing Insecure School Age Students, by Percent of Total Enrollment, 2013/14. Source: California Department of Education
9 Sources: County of Orange, Orange County Homeless Count and Survey Report, July 2013 (www.pointintimeoc.org/); California Department of Education, 2012/13
The four housing authorities in Orange County provided rental assistance for approximately 21,700 low-income households as of December 2014. This figure is about 1,000 households less than the previous year due to federal budget sequestration, which went into effect in 2013 and carried into March 2014. Funding reductions under sequestration restricted local housing authorities from reissuing rental assistance vouchers when a voucher became available due to someone leaving the program. As a result, the waiting list for rental vouchers remains high, at just over 100,000 applicants.

Families with children typically represent the largest proportion of applicants to the housing authorities, but elderly without children are the largest proportion assisted countywide (46% or 9,963 households) due to high mobility among families and criteria that favor veteran, elderly and disabled applicants.

**BUDGET SEQUESTRATION REDUCES RENTAL ASSISTANCE BY 1,000 VOUCHERS**

The County’s PIT estimate of 900 sheltered children is less than the California Department of Education’s 2013 estimate of 1,621 sheltered and unsheltered students; however, the two are not directly comparable since one is point-in-time and the other is cumulative. The 2015 PIT took place on January 24, 2015 and results are forthcoming.

**RELATED REPORTS**

The 2013 Orange County Health Profile provides trend data on crowded living conditions including detail by race/ethnicity.

[ochealthinfo.com](http://ochealthinfo.com)

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10 Supply and Demand of Rental Vouchers, Orange County Housing Authorities, 2011-2014. Note: Combined wait list data for all Housing Authorities is not available prior to 2014. Sources: Anaheim Housing Authority; Garden Grove Housing Authority; Santa Ana Housing Authority; Orange County Housing Authority; Housing and Urban Development (https://pic.hud.gov/pic/RCRPublic/rcrmain.asp)

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE

In Orange County, 6.7% of students who entered 9th grade in 2010 dropped out of high school before graduating in 2014. This dropout rate is lower than the statewide dropout rate of 11.6% and the lowest level since the new cohort tracking methodology was adopted in 2009/10. In 2013/14, Latino students had the highest dropout rate at 10.0% and Asian students had the lowest rate at 3.3%, but all racial and ethnic groups have witnessed significant declines in the percentage of dropouts since 2009/10. The dropout rate also varies by school district, with Los Alamitos Unified posting the lowest dropout rate at 1.1% and Anaheim Unified posting the highest at 8.6%.

A related measure is the graduation rate, which was 88.6% for the class of 2013/14. The graduation rate measures the percentage of students who receive a diploma in four years. The 11.4% of the class of 2013/14 who did not graduate in four years (100% minus 88.6%) is made up the following: students who receive a special education certificate (0.7%) or certificate of high school equivalency or GED (0.0%), students who dropped out (6.7%), and students who are still enrolled (4.0%).

STEADY DECLINE IN ORANGE COUNTY DROPOUT RATE

88.6% OF ORANGE COUNTY STUDENTS GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS

1 Data from 2010/11 have been revised since reported in the 2013 Indicators Report. The California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), initiated in 2006, allows tracking a class of students through their four years of high school to determine what proportion of that class dropped out over that period. The class of 2009/10 is the first class for which the cohort dropout rate could be calculated.

2 Dropout Rate by Race/Ethnicity. Orange County, 2009/10 - 2013/14. Note: “Asian” includes Asian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino. “Other” includes Native American/Alaskan Native, African American, two or more races, or not reported. Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)

3 High School Student Outcomes. Orange County, 2013/14 Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)
STUDENTS OUTCOMES VARY BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Cohort Graduation Rate</th>
<th>Cohort Dropout Rate</th>
<th>Still Enrolled Rate</th>
<th>Special Ed Completers and/or GED Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAHEIM UNION HIGH</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANTA ANA UNIFIED</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORANGE COUNTY AVERAGE</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORANGE UNIFIED</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLACENTIA YORBA-LINDA UNIFIED</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SADDLEBACK VALLEY UNIFIED</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
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<td>IRVINE UNIFIED</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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<td>BREA-OLINDA UNIFIED</td>
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<td>CAPISTRANO UNIFIED</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
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<td>TUSTIN UNIFIED</td>
<td>97.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAGUNA BEACH UNIFIED</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COLLEGE READINESS

In 2013/14, nearly half (49%) of Orange County students completed the necessary coursework to be eligible for admission to University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses. To be UC/CSU eligible at graduation, high school students must successfully complete a specified number of courses in “A-G” subjects. This rate of 49% is well above the previous 15-year average of 40% and surpasses the statewide rate of 42%. The long-term trend is toward gradual improvement among most races and ethnicities. However, the gap between the race or ethnic groups with the highest and lowest eligibility rates (Asian and Latino students, respectively) remains substantial and persistent, showing little lasting improvement. There are also wide geographic disparities in UC/CSU eligibility, ranging from a high of 72% of students eligible at Laguna Beach Unified to a low of 39% at Anaheim Unified. Asian students are the most likely to be UC/CSU eligible (75%), but comprise only 19% of all high school graduates. Latino students are the least likely to be UC/CSU eligible (34%), but comprise 43% of all high school graduates.

MORE STUDENTS ARE UC/CSU ELIGIBLE

CLOSING THE COLLEGE READINESS GAP PROVES CHALLENGING

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3 Percentage of High School Graduates that are UC/CSU Eligible, Orange County, 2005-2014. Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)

4 Percentage of High School Graduates Eligible for UC/CSU, by Race/Ethnicity, Orange County, 2010-2014. Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)
UC/CSU ELIGIBILITY VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY DEPENDING ON DISTRICT

DATA NOTES

Data is for public high school graduates who have fulfilled minimum course requirements to be eligible for admission to University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses. For more information about UC/CSU eligibility, visit: www.ucop.edu/agguide/. “Asian” includes Asian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino. “Other” includes African American, Native American/Alaskan Native, two or more races, or not reported.

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Percentage UC/CSU Eligible

1 Percentage of Graduates that are UC/CSU Eligible, by District, Orange County. 2013/14. Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)
STEM-RELATED DEGREES

Buoyed by 39% growth in undergraduate degrees in health professions, the overall number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduate and undergraduate degrees conferred by large Orange County universities grew 7% between 2012/13 and 2013/14. Over the past five years, STEM-related degrees granted in all areas have grown, with the exception of biological sciences. The proportion of all degrees that are STEM-related increased from 22% of all degrees granted in 2009/10 to 26% in 2013/14. Without the health profession degrees, the five-year increase in the proportion of all degrees that are STEM-related is one percentage point, from 18% to 19%.

STEM-RELATED GRADUATE DEGREES GROW IN ALL FIELDS EXCEPT BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES8

STEM-Related Degrees Conferred at Orange County Universities, 2010-2014

Sources: California State University, Fullerton; Chapman University; and University of California, Irvine

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8 STEM-Related Degrees Conferred at Orange County Universities, 2010-2014
Sources: California State University, Fullerton; Chapman University; and University of California, Irvine
PROPORTION OF STEM-DEGREES GROWS

DATA NOTES

Degrees granted in health professions have been added to STEM degrees tracked since previously published in the 2014 Community Indicators Report.

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* College Degrees Granted and Proportion that are STEM-Related: Orange County, 2010 - 2014. Sources: California State University, Fullerton; Chapman University; and University of California, Irvine.
HEALTH CARE ACCESS

In 2013, before Covered California was implemented, 16.9% or 523,895 residents in Orange County were uninsured. In the six-month period between October 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014, a total of 131,804 Orange County residents enrolled in a Covered California health plan. While the rate of uninsured residents in 2014 was not available at the time of printing this report, it is expected that the percentage of uninsured Orange County residents will decrease. In 2013, high school dropouts were the most likely cohort to be uninsured (41.4%), while Latino residents were the race or ethnic group most likely to be uninsured (28.7%); 29% of Orange County residents with a household income of less than $50,000 were uninsured in 2013.


Uninsured residents are considerably less likely to access timely health care or have a usual place to go when they are sick or need health advice. One out of six (16.7%) uninsured individuals in Orange County (2013 data) reported they delayed or didn’t get medical care in the 12 months prior to being surveyed. This is six percentage points higher than the 10.3% of individuals with insurance delaying or forgoing care. Further, 38.4% of uninsured residents had no usual source of medical care, compared to 8.8% of insured residents. Orange County had slightly better health care utilization rates than the statewide average.

**UNINSURED ARE LESS LIKELY TO GET PREVENTIVE OR TIMELY CARE**

![Bar chart showing the percentage of uninsured and insured individuals delaying care or having no usual source of care.]

**DATA NOTES**

“Covered California” is California’s implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which was launched in 2013. Census health insurance data represents the civilian, non-institutionalized population.

**RELATED REPORTS**

The 20th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County details access to health care for children including by race/ethnicity.

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OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY

In 2014, an average of 33% of Orange County students in 5th, 7th and 9th grades were overweight or obese compared to 38% statewide. Of the 33% of Orange County students with an unhealthy body composition in 2014, 16% were considered to be obese, while 17% were considered overweight. This compares to the statewide rates of 19% obese and 19% overweight. Santa Ana and Anaheim school districts had the highest proportion of overweight youth in 2014, while Laguna Beach and Capistrano school districts had the lowest proportion.

ONE IN THREE ORANGE COUNTY STUDENTS ARE OBESE OR OVERWEIGHT

STUDENT WEIGHT STATUS VARIES BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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4 Percent of Students with Unhealthy Body Composition, Orange County, 2011-2014. Source: California Department of Education Physical Fitness Test (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/). Note: See Data Notes on the next page.

5 Percentage of Students with Unhealthy Body Composition, by School Districts, Orange County, 2014. Source: California Department of Education Physical Fitness Test (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)
In 2011/12, 32% of Orange County adults were overweight and 23% were obese. Weight status has worsened in Orange County, decreasing from 50% of adults with a healthy weight in 2001 to only 43% in 2011/12. However, at 43%, a greater proportion of Orange County adults have a healthy weight compared to the state (39%) and nation (36%).

DATA NOTES

In 2014, the California Department of Education modified the body composition standards to be more aligned with the Center for Disease Control percentiles to identify lean, normal, overweight, and obese students. The category “Needs Improvement” approximates overweight, while the category “Needs Improvement – Health Risk” approximates obesity. Due to these changes, 2014 data should not be compared to previous years.

Anaheim, Fullerton and Huntington Beach represent combined data of the high school districts and their feeder school districts. Anaheim includes Anaheim Union High School District and the elementary districts of Cypress, Centralia, Magnolia, Savanna, and Anaheim City. Fullerton includes Fullerton Joint Union High School District and the elementary districts of Fullerton, Buena Park, and La Habra City. Huntington Beach includes Huntington Beach Union High School District and the elementary districts of Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Ocean View, and Westminster. Charter schools and Orange County Department of Education alternative programs are not included.

RELATED REPORTS

The 20th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County provides information about obesity for 5th grade students, while the 2013 Orange County Health Profile focuses on 9th grade students.

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* Weight Status of Adults, Orange County, 2001-2012. Source: California Health Interview Survey
Health

CHRONIC DISEASE

Deaths due to each of the chronic diseases tracked are declining, but the percentage of people diagnosed with chronic diseases is generally rising.

PREVALENCE INCREASES, DEATH RATES FALL

DIABETES

In 2011-12, 7.4% of Orange County adults had been diagnosed with diabetes in their lifetimes, compared to 6.6% of adults in 2003. While more residents are living with diabetes, fewer are dying of the disease than 10 years ago; there has been a 15% decline in the diabetes death rate between 2003 and 2012.

STROKE

The percentage of Orange County adults who have experienced a stroke rose from 1.9% in 2005 to 2.5% in 2011-12; however, fewer are dying from a stroke. Between 2003 and 2012, the death rate for stroke fell 38%.

RELATED REPORTS

The 2013 Orange County Health Profile reports on chronic disease in Orange County, with detail by race/ethnicity, gender and age. An entire section of the Health Profile is devoted to cancer.

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CHRONIC DISEASE PREVALENCE IN CHILDREN

Epidemiologic studies suggest that as many as 1 out of 4 children in the U.S., or 15 to 18 million children age 17 years and younger, suffer from a chronic health problem. In the U.S. alone, 9 million children suffer from asthma and approximately 13,000 children are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes annually. As many as 200,000 children nationwide live with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is still extremely rare in children and adolescents (0.22 cases per 1,000 youth) but these rates are increasing rapidly with rising obesity rates.

7 Disease Prevalence and Death Rate. Orange County, 2003-2012. Sources: California Health Interview Survey (http://ski.chis.ucla.edu/main/), California Department of Public Health, County Health Status Profiles (www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohr/Pages/CHSP.aspx)

HEART DISEASE

In 2011-12, 7.6% of Orange County adults had been diagnosed with heart disease in their lifetimes, compared to 5.9% in 2003. Despite the rise in heart disease cases, medical advances have lead to a 45% decline in the death rate for heart disease in the 10-year period between 2003 and 2012.

DATA NOTES

Prevalence and death data is not available for all years for all diseases or causes of death. The latest prevalence data reflects adults surveyed in 2011 and 2012 and is referred to as “2011-12” or “2012” data; previous prevalence data was collected in a single year. Death data reflect three-year averages. For example, “2012” is an average of 2010, 2011 and 2012 data. Counties with varying age compositions can have widely disparate death rates since the risk of dying is largely a function of age. Age-adjusted rates control for this variability.

ASTHMA/
CHRONIC LOWER RESPIRATORY DISEASE

Asthma prevalence has fluctuated since 2003, but is generally trending upward, whereas deaths due to chronic lower respiratory disease (which includes asthma) have fallen 10% between 2005 and 2012.

THE COST OF CHRONIC DISEASE

Chronic illnesses contribute to approximately 60% of deaths in Orange County each year and, nationwide, account for about 75% of health related costs. Four modifiable behaviors, including lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excessive alcohol consumption, are responsible for much of the illness, suffering, and early death related to chronic diseases.

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*Orange County Health Care Agency, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/overview/index.htm)
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

In 2012, there were 50.6 behavioral health hospitalizations per 10,000 Orange County residents, less than the statewide rate of 61.1 per 10,000 California residents, and lower than 10 years ago when there were 51.6 hospitalizations per 10,000 Orange County residents. The hospitalization rate among older adults (age 65 and over) declined 40% between 2003 and 2012. During this same period, the hospitalization rate among children and youth (0-17) rose 14% and the rate rose 2% among adults ages 18-64.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITALIZATIONS RISING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH; FALLING FOR SENIORS

MOST CHILDREN HOSPITALIZED FOR DEPRESSION; MOST ADULTS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Hospitalizations, by Age, Orange County, 2003-2012. Sources: Office of Statewide Planning & Development Patient Discharge Data prepared by Orange County Health Care Agency, Research and Planning; California Department of Finance; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Mental Health or Substance Abuse Hospitalizations, by Age and Disorder, Orange County, 2012. Sources: Office of Statewide Planning & Development Patient Discharge Data prepared by Orange County Health Care Agency, Research and Planning; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Among children and youth, the most common diagnosis leading to hospitalization was major depression, which has risen 28% since 2003. Major depression was also the most frequent reason for a behavioral health admission among older adults age 65 and over, followed closely by the category “other” which includes cognitive disorders such as dementia. Among non-senior adults, substance-related hospitalizations were most common and have increased 8% since 2003.

Between 2003 and 2012, suicide deaths in Orange County among all ages rose 12%, while the drug-induced death rate grew by 33%. The death rate due to chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, which is associated with alcohol abuse, rose 7%.

**MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE-RELATED DEATH RATES RISING**

![Graph showing age-adjusted deaths per 100,000 people](image)

**WHAT PROPORTION OF ALL HOSPITALIZATIONS ARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-RELATED?**

In 2013, serious mental health and substance abuse-related admissions made up 6% of all Orange County hospitalizations. Adults between ages 18 and 64 have the highest proportion of behavioral health related admissions at 10% of all hospitalizations, compared to 3% for children and youth and 2% for older adults.

**RELATED REPORTS**

The 20th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County reports mental health data for children including race/ethnicity detail. The 2013 Orange County Health Profile tracks adult suicide rates, depression, and mental health hospitalizations by race/ethnicity and age.

**DATA NOTES**

Schizoaffective disorder is a condition in which a person experiences a combination of schizophrenia symptoms (such as hallucinations or delusions) and of bipolar mood disorder symptoms (such as mania or depression).
WELLBEING OF OLDER ADULTS

While poverty among older adults (65+) increased about 2% nationwide in the past 10 years, the increase has been much greater in California and Orange County, at 33% and 39% respectively. In 2013, 9.2% of Orange County older adults were living below the poverty level, equivalent to about 36,000 Orange County residents age 65 and older living with annual incomes under $11,173 (living alone) or $14,095 (two people).

SENIOR POVERTY RISING FASTER IN ORANGE COUNTY THAN STATE AND NATION

In 2012, 44.7 per 10,000 older adults were hospitalized for a mental health condition, a significant decline since 2003 when 80.5 per 10,000 older adults were hospitalized. Sharp declines in hospitalizations for major depression and schizophrenia are behind the 44% decrease in hospitalization rates. These declines are attributed to a reduction in depressive symptoms among the oldest residents (age 80+), an increase in seniors with no symptoms, and an increase in prescription drug coverage by Medicare leading to more older adults taking anti-depressant medications. At 8.2 per 10,000, substance abuse hospitalizations in 2012 were above the rate of 7.4 per 10,000 older adults in 2003.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVES FOR OLDER ADULTS

The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality recently developed the California Poverty Measure, which factors in geographic differences as well as population-based differences in costs of living. The California Poverty Measure calculated a senior poverty rate of 18.9% in 2011, compared with the traditional Census Bureau measure of poverty (8.8% in 2011) owing in large part to high out-of-pocket medical costs.

DIFFERENT MEASURES OF POVERTY

The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality recently developed the California Poverty Measure, which factors in geographic differences as well as population-based differences in costs of living. The California Poverty Measure calculated a senior poverty rate of 18.9% in 2011, compared with the traditional Census Bureau measure of poverty (8.8% in 2011) owing in large part to high out-of-pocket medical costs.

1Percent Age 65 and Over in Poverty, Orange County, California and United States, 2004-2013. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

2Source: California Poverty Measure

3Impact of Medicare Part D on anti-depressant treatment, medication choice, and adherence among older adults with depression (American Journal of Psychiatry, December 2011); Trends in Depressive Symptom Burden Among Older Adults

4In the United States from 1998 to 2008 (Journal of General Internal Medicine, December 2013)

5Older Adult Behavioral Health Hospitalizations per 10,000 by Disorder, Orange County, Selected Years 2003-2012. Sources: 2003, 2005, and 2007-2011 Office of Statewide Planning & Development Patient Discharge Data prepared by Orange County Health Care Agency, Research and Planning; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates
The death rate due to Alzheimer’s disease is rising faster in Orange County than statewide, increasing 61% in Orange County between 2005 and 2012, compared to a 38% increase statewide. Only 13 of the 58 counties in California have a higher rate of death due to Alzheimer’s than Orange County, which ranks 45th, falling five places from the previous year. Direct costs of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias were estimated to be $214 billion in 2014 and Alzheimer’s death rate trends suggest this figure will rise.

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE GROWING FASTER IN ORANGE COUNTY THAN CALIFORNIA

![Graph showing the death rate due to Alzheimer's disease in Orange County compared to California from 2005 to 2012.](image)

Older adults’ need for social support services related to food and medical care has outpaced population growth. There was a 237% increase in CalFresh enrollment between 2010 and 2014, a 26% increase in Medi-Cal enrollment, and a 13% increase in the in-home supportive services caseload. Over the same period, the older adult population grew 17%. Home delivered and congregate meals served fell again in 2014, owing in part to the sequester (federal spending cuts that began in March 2013).

ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO GROW IN MOST SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES

![Graph showing enrollment trends in senior support services from 2010 to 2014.](image)

DATA NOTES

Schizoaffective disorder is a condition in which a person experiences a combination of schizophrenia symptoms, such as hallucinations or delusions, and of bipolar mood disorder symptoms, such as mania or depression (Mayo Clinic). Death data for Alzheimer’s disease reflect three-year averages and are age-adjusted. Counties with varying age compositions can have widely disparate death rates since the risk of dying is largely a function of age. Age-adjusted rates control for this variability.

RELATED REPORTS

Connect OC prepared a special report on aging in Orange County, A Generation’s Journey: The Aging of Orange County.

[connectoc.org](http://connectoc.org)

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18Age-Adjusted Deaths due to Alzheimer’s Disease, Orange County and California, 2005-2012. Source: California Department of Public Health (www.cdph.ca.gov)

19Older Adult Support Services, Orange County, 2009-2013. Sources: County of Orange Social Services Agency (IHSS, Medi-Cal, CalFresh); Orange County Community Services/Office on Aging (C/IHMS)
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Between 2004 and 2013, child abuse reporting increased 9% while confirmed reports of abuse (substantiated allegations) fell 43%. Over the same 10-year period, entries to foster care fell 42%. When possible, the Orange County Social Services Agency keeps families intact while providing stabilizing services. This may account for the fact that only 19% of confirmed reports in Orange County result in foster care placement, compared to 38% statewide.

DATA NOTES

Entries include first-time entries and reentries into the foster care system; not all reentries stem from a substantiated referral.

RELATED REPORTS

Emily Putnum-Hornstein, PhD, Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Southern California, recently completed a retrospective study of Orange County children born in 2006 and 2007, tracking the proportion of children reported for maltreatment by age five, and substantiation rates. The 2013 Orange County Health Profile details substantiated child abuse by race/ethnicity and age group and the 20th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County provides information about the types of abuse, age detail, and outcomes of children in foster care.

Emily Putnum-Hornstein’s report is available at occhildrenandfamilies.com, Trends and Research

1 Allegations, Substantiated Allegations and Entries to Foster Care, Orange County, 2004-2013. Source: University of California Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Research Center (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)

2 Substantiated Child Abuse Allegations and Entries to Foster Care, Regional Comparison, 2013. Source: University of California Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Research Center (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)
CRIME RATE

Orange County’s crime rate dropped 10% in 2013, reversing the increase of the previous year. This drop is driven by a 10% decline in the property crime rate, which comprises the majority of crime in Orange County and nationwide. The violent crime rate also declined 12% in Orange County in 2013. Overall, Orange County’s crime rate declined 21% in 10 years and is lower than the state and national averages and all peer regions compared.

ORANGE COUNTY VIOLENT AND PROPERTY CRIME RATES LOWEST IN 10 YEARS

![Data Chart]

ORANGE COUNTY HAS LOWEST OVERALL CRIME RATE COMPARED TO PEERS

![Data Chart]

DATA NOTES

Crime rate analysis includes violent felonies (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and property felonies (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft).

RELATED REPORTS

The 2013 Orange County Health Profile provides detailed violent crime rate data by Orange County jurisdiction. 

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Safety

JUVENILE CRIME

At 21 arrests per 1,000 juveniles, Orange County’s juvenile crime rate is lower than the statewide rate of 24 arrests per 1,000 juveniles. Orange County’s 2013 rate equates to a total of 6,892 juvenile arrests compared with 14,988 juvenile arrests in 2004, a decrease of 47%. Juvenile arrests comprised 9% of all arrests in 2013, compared with 13% in 2004. School expulsions are low compared to the statewide average and have remained relatively constant over the past three years.

DATA NOTES

Students are expelled due to violent or defiant behavior, or for committing a drug or weapon offense on school grounds.

RELATED REPORTS

The 20th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County provides information about the types of juvenile arrests, age detail, and map of juvenile arrests by jurisdiction.

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FEWER ORANGE COUNTY STUDENTS ARE EXPELLED THAN THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE

At 21 arrests per 1,000 juveniles, Orange County’s juvenile crime rate is lower than the statewide rate of 24 arrests per 1,000 juveniles. Orange County’s 2013 rate equates to a total of 6,892 juvenile arrests compared with 14,988 juvenile arrests in 2004, a decrease of 47%. Juvenile arrests comprised 9% of all arrests in 2013, compared with 13% in 2004. School expulsions are low compared to the statewide average and have remained relatively constant over the past three years.

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RELATED REPORTS

The 20th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County provides information about the types of juvenile arrests, age detail, and map of juvenile arrests by jurisdiction.

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5 Juvenile Arrest Rate (Ages 10-17), Orange County, 2004-2013. Sources: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center (http://oag.ca.gov/crime); California Department of Finance (www.dof.ca.gov)

6 Expulsion Rate, Orange County and California, 2012-2014. Source: Department of Education, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/Dataquest/)
DRINKING AND DRIVING

There were 250 victims (fatalities or severe injuries) in alcohol-involved collisions in Orange County in 2012. This is a 15% drop in victims since the peak of 294 victims in 2005, and a 3.5% drop over 10 years. On a per capita basis, Orange County’s rate of alcohol-involved fatalities and serious injuries decreased 8% over 10 years, dropping from 8.8 victims per 100,000 Orange County residents in 2003 to 8.1 victims in 2012. Accidents with minor injuries are not counted in this analysis due to wide variation in reporting by jurisdictions.

ALCOHOL WAS INVOLVED IN 30% OF TRAFFIC FATALITIES AND SEVERE INJURIES IN ORANGE COUNTY IN 2012\(^7\)

ORANGE COUNTY IS SIMILAR TO THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE FOR THE PROPORTION OF ALCOHOL-INVOLVED CRASH VICTIMS\(^8\)

**RELATED REPORTS**

The 20th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County reports on drinking and driving among youth.

\(^7\) Number and Percentage of Traffic Fatalities and Severe Injuries that Involved Alcohol, Orange County and California, 2003-2012. Source: Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS), California Highway Patrol

\(^8\) Percentage of Traffic Fatalities and Severe Injuries that Involved Alcohol, County Comparison, 2012. Source: Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS), California Highway Patrol
TRANSPORTATION

Most (78%) of Orange County residents drive to work alone, a proportion that has not changed appreciably since 2005. While small, the proportion of commuters biking to work has nearly doubled, increasing from 0.6% in 2005 to 1.0% in 2013. Those working at home increased from 4.5% to 5.0% over the same period. Commuters taking public transit to work were 2.5% of all commuters in 2013.

CONGESTION ON ORANGE COUNTY’S FREEWAYS AND ARTERIALS

Peak hour commuter delay due to freeway congestion was roughly the same in 2013 as in 2005, about six hours per commuter per year at speeds of less than 35 miles per hour. In contrast, the level of service at key intersections throughout the county has improved during both morning and evening peak hours.

1 Mode of Travel to Work. Orange County, 2005-2013. Note: Data for commute mode reports workers age 16 and over. “Drove alone” and “Carpooled” include commuters using a car, truck or van. “Other means” includes taxi, motorcycle or other means. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

2 Sources: Caltrans, PeMS; Orange County Transportation Authority, Congestion Management Plan
The Orange County Transportation Agency has recently begun tracking residents’ access to “high quality transit corridors” or HQTC, where the time between buses serving stops along these routes is 15 minutes or better during weekday peak periods. In 2014, 12% of the bus miles covered in Orange County were on HQTC. Currently, 31% of Orange County’s population lives within one-half mile of access to a HQTC, and in 2014, 40% of passenger boardings were on buses traveling on these corridors.

31% OF ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENTS LIVE NEAR HIGH-QUALITY BUS CORRIDORS³

³ Source: Orange County Transportation Authority
WATER USE AND SUPPLY

Between 2012/13 and 2013/14, per capita water usage rose 3% in Orange County. Despite the increase, long-term trends show per capita usage rates falling by approximately 1% annually, and overall acre-feet usage declining by 0.5% annually – even while population grew roughly 0.5% each year. Senate Bill 7 passed by the state legislature requires an approximate 20% reduction in per capita usage by the year 2020, and Orange County is on track to meet this required reduction due to increased conservation and recycling. Over the past 10 years, the cost of imported water has increased the most (107%), followed by desalination (83%) and conservation (72%).

WATER USE RISES FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

DROUGHT STATUS

Orange County continues to experience “exceptional” and “extreme” drought conditions – the two driest rankings in the U.S. Drought Monitor’s five-level scale. Rainfall in Orange County was at 50-70% of the average between October 2014 and March 2015. As the drought continues and State Water

Project allocations are 20% of what was requested by California water agencies for 2015, Orange County is turning to alternative – although more costly – water sources to meet demand, such as brackish groundwater desalination, water recycling, and expanded conservation.

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4 Urban Water Usage, Orange County, 2004/05-2013/14. Sources: Municipal Water District of Orange County; California Department of Finance (Tables E-4 and E-1)
5 Range of Cost of Water per Acre-Foot to Wholesaler, by Source, 2015. Sources: Municipal Water District of Orange County; Orange County Water District
6 Sources: U.S. Drought Monitor (http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; California Department of Water Resources (www.water.ca.gov/); Orange County Water District
The Orange County Community Indicators Project is sponsored by

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