Orange County

2002 community indicators

2002

There is an old saying that in order to know where you are going, you have to know where you have been. Community indicators provide a region the opportunity to assess past performance and current trends, while developing plans for the future.

For the past two years, the Orange County Community Indicators have tracked economic, social, and environmental trends in Orange County, as well as provided a comparative assessment to other similar regions. The 2002 Orange County Community Indicators Report continues to provide measurements of the county's wellbeing through a variety of indicators. The information promotes an awareness of areas in which the community is performing well and any areas in which the community falls short of meeting a recognized standard or goal. The report is now being utilized by several governmental, business, and community organizations as they formulate and update their organizational goals and strategic plans.

The indicators presented in the third annual Community Indicators Report are grouped into seven primary sections: Economic and Business Climate, Technology and Innovation, Education, Health and Human Services, Public Safety, Environment, and Civic Engagement. Individual indicators within each section include data that is collected on an annual basis or, in some cases, when data is available. New indicators this year include: Senior Wellbeing (previously included in the 2001 report as a special feature), Workforce Supply and Demand (compares education levels and the workforce needs of Orange County businesses), and Mobility (presents data on commute times, transit performance, and roadway construction).

The Special Features contained in this year's report include Electric Power (focuses on the issue of power supply and cost) and Census 2000 (examines the demographic and ethnic make-up of Orange County).

In presenting this report, the Project Team acknowledges the unforgettable events of September 11, 2001 and their impact on our daily lives. Although the data contained in the report was largely collected prior to that date, a highlight has been added in the Charitable Organizations indicator which demonstrates how residents of Orange County showed generosity and compassion toward those directly affected by the terrorist attacks on our nation.

The preparation of this report would not be possible without the support of many Orange County organizations and their data-gathering efforts. Thanks go out to all who have contributed and to those who have provided feedback on prior annual Community Indicator Reports. We welcome your continued input and support.

Michael M. Ruane
Project Director

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New Indicator

◆ Data for at least one element of this indicator are not available on an annual basis.

Introduction

What Is a Good Indicator?

Good indicators are objective measurements that reflect how a community is doing. They reveal whether key community attributes are going up or down; forward or backward; getting better, worse, or staying the same. Effective indicators meet the following criteria:

- Reflect the fundamental factors which determine long-term regional health
- Can be easily understood and accepted by the community
- Are statistically measurable on a frequent basis
- Measure outcomes, rather than inputs

Why Are Community Indicators Important?

The value of community indicators is to provide balanced measurements of the factors which contribute to sustaining community vitality and a healthy economy, including economic, social, quality of life, and environmental measurements. They also provide a picture of the county's overall social and economic health over time. The narrative for each community indicator defines why the indicator is important to the community and measures community progress.

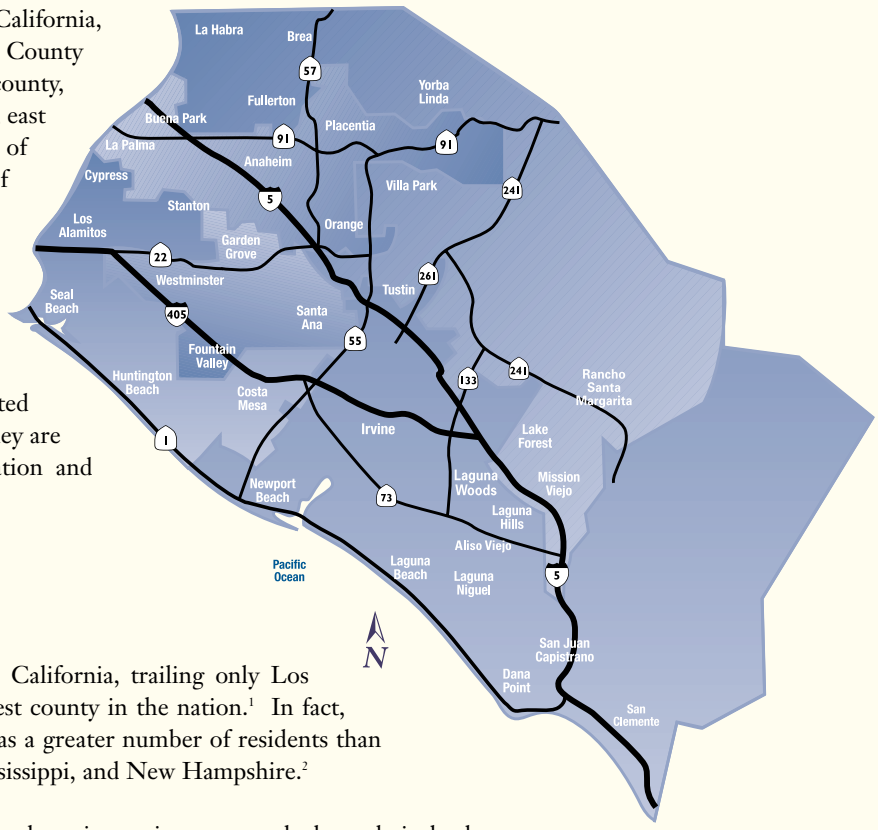
Selection Criteria

The indicators selected for inclusion in the Orange County Community Indicators Report represent broad interests and trends in Orange County and are comparable to indicator efforts in similar communities throughout the nation. The indicators that were selected also meet the following specific criteria:

- Illustrate countywide interests and impacts as defined by impacting a significant percentage of the population
- Include the categories of economic development, technology, education, health and human services, public safety, environment, and civic engagement
- Reflect data that is both reliable and available over the long-term

County Profile

Orange County is located in the heart of Southern California, with Los Angeles County to the north and San Diego County to the south. There are currently 34 cities within the county, which extends north to the cities of La Habra and Brea, east to the city of Rancho Santa Margarita, west to the cities of Los Alamitos and Seal Beach, and south to the city of San Clemente.



Several cities in Orange County have been incorporated within the last decade. The most recent cities to incorporate were the cities of Laguna Woods (1999), Rancho Santa Margarita (2000), and Aliso Viejo (2001). While the unincorporated land area and related populations remain significant, they are declining in size and number due to recent annexation and incorporation activities.

POPULATION

Growth

Orange County is now the second largest county in California, trailing only Los Angeles and surpassing San Diego, and the sixth largest county in the nation.[1] In fact, according to the 2000 Census, Orange County now has a greater number of residents than twenty of the country's states, including Montana, Mississippi, and New Hampshire.[2]

Over the past 30 years, Orange County's population has been increasing at a steady, but relatively slow rate compared with its growth in the previous 30 years. In 1950, Orange County's population numbered 216,224. By 1970, that number had increased to over 1.4 million people, growing an average of 22% per year during the 50's and 10% per year in the 60's. During the 70's, the county's population growth slowed to an annual average of 3.5%, and during the 80's it slowed even further to 2.5%. Between 1990 and 2000, the annual rate of increase was 1.8%.[3]

Despite the slowing rate of growth since the 50's, the 2000 Census revealed that Southern California remains one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. In 2000, Orange County's population was 2,846,289. Out of the over 3,000 counties in the nation, Orange County ranks 5th in terms of numeric population growth between 1990 and 2000, adding over 435,000 people. Los Angeles County is 2nd, Riverside County is 6th, and San Diego County is 10th. Outside of California, only Maricopa County (Phoenix), Clark County (Las Vegas), and Harris County (Houston) have higher numeric population growth than Orange County. However, compared to rapid county growth rates upwards of 100% in places like Colorado and Georgia, Orange County's 18.1% growth rate puts it at 746th in the nation in terms of percent change between 1990 and 2000. Nonetheless, the county's steady population growth rate is expected to continue, with population projections in Orange County of over three million by 2005 and over 3.3 million by 2020.[4]

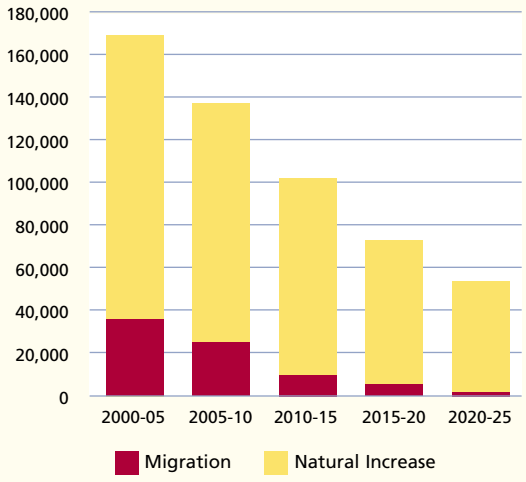
Of the cities incorporated by 1990, Anaheim accounted for the largest population growth between 1990 and 2000 in Orange County, adding 61,608 residents, and its growth rate of 23.1% outpaced the county average growth rate of 18.1%. Santa Ana saw an increase of 44,235 and a growth rate of 15.1%. Irvine grew by 32,742, equaling a percent change of 29.7%. Garden Grove added 22,146 new residents, a change of 15.5%. Mission Viejo came in 5th with 20,282 more people within the city limits in 2000 than in 1990. This equals a 27.9% change.

On the other end of the spectrum, Seal Beach and Villa Park witnessed a decrease in population of 941 (-3.7%) and 300 (-4.8%), respectively. La Palma saw the smallest amount of growth with 16 new residents (0.1% change). Laguna Beach added 557 more people (2.4%) and Fountain Valley added 1,287 (2.4%).[5]

Migration Versus Natural Increase

In the 1950's and 60's, there was enormous migration into Orange County from surrounding counties and other locations. The majority of our population growth came not from natural increases, but from people moving to Orange County from elsewhere. That trend is long over. Today, despite mistaken public perception, the vast majority of Orange County's population growth is generated internally through natural increase (births minus deaths).[6] This trend is projected to continue, with natural increase eclipsing migration as the reason for our population growth.

Components of Population Growth - 2000-2025



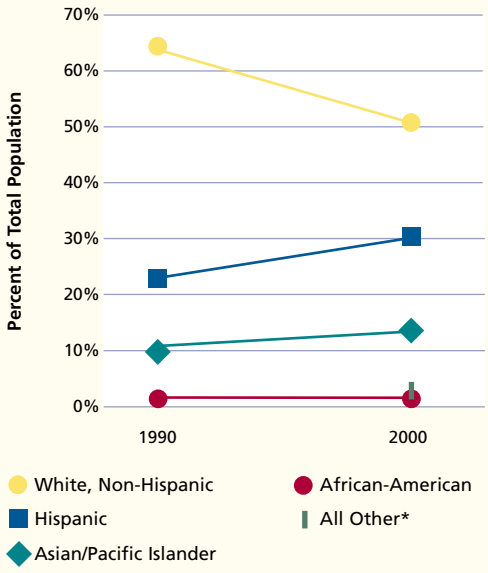
Density

Orange County is one of the most densely populated areas in the United States. As of January 2001, Orange County's population density was estimated at 3,665 persons per square mile, a 2% increase in density over the course of one year. It is denser than Los Angeles County, more than 2.5 times denser than Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties and five times denser than San Diego County, which has roughly the same population.[7] Within the county, densities vary by location, from a low of 492 persons per square mile in unincorporated areas to 2,733 in Los Alamitos, 3,691 in Rancho Santa Margarita, 7,095 in Huntington Beach, and 12,355 in Stanton.[8]

Ethnicity and Age

The 2000 Census reports that Whites comprise 51% of the total population, Hispanics 31%, Asians & Pacific Islanders 14%, African-Americans 1.5% percent, and all other races 2.7%. While racial and ethnic classifications changed with the inclusion of multi-racial groupings in the 2000 Census, the new classifications do not alter the trend toward greater ethnic diversity.[9] The following chart shows this trend.

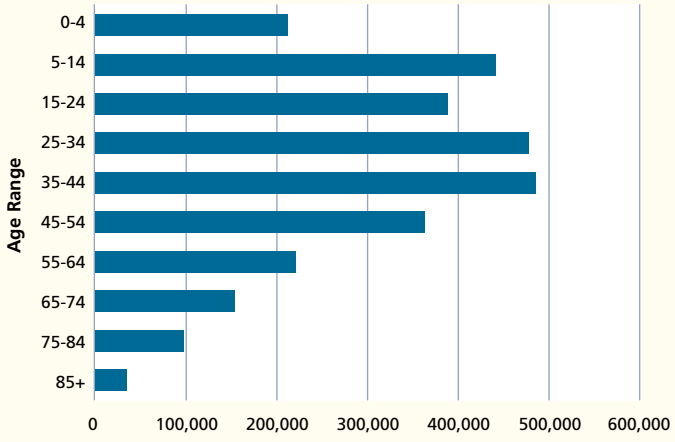
Orange County Population by Ethnicity, *1990 - 2000*



* The addition of the category "All Other" in 2000 reflects the change in racial and ethnic classifications employed in the 2000 Census.

Source: California Department of Finance and U.S. Census Bureau (April Decennial Census 1990 and 2000)

Orange County Population by Age *- 2000*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

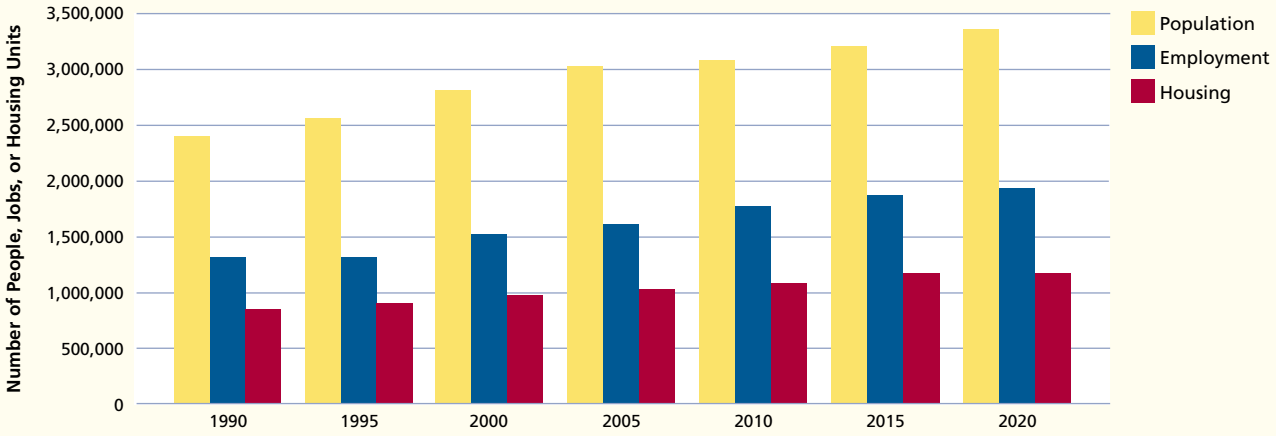
Orange County's total population distribution approximates a bell curve across the traditional age brackets, with the greatest numbers of the population in the 35 to 44 year age-range. However, projected growth among the various age groups differs by ethnicity. Orange County's White population is aging while all other races and ethnicities are projected to show a significant growth in the child and young adult populations.[10]

EMPLOYMENT

Orange County enjoys a diverse economy, with no single sector accounting for more than one-third of the county's economic output or labor market. The employed labor force at the end of 2000 was approximately 1.49 million, with the largest labor markets comprised of services (31%), trade (24%), and manufacturing (17%). The trend over the past ten years has been a rapid increase of the service sector, while manufacturing employment has fluctuated.[11] Overall, employment is expected to grow over the next ten years to 1,796,726 – an increase of approximately 23%.

Small businesses flourish in Orange County's entrepreneurial climate, with only 20% of residents working in companies employing more than 500 people, compared with the state average of 25%. Small businesses have accounted for the bulk of job creation in the past few years.[12]

Orange County Population, Employment and Housing 1990-2020



Source: Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton

Unemployment

The Orange County economy has produced some of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation in recent years. As of October 2001, Orange County's unemployment rate was 3.4% – lower than the California and national rates, both at 5.4%. After a declining rate for much of the 1990's, Orange County's unemployment rate has been rising since the beginning of 2001. Still, Orange County has a lower unemployment rate than our neighboring counties and a rate similar to several regions considered our peers – Boston, Austin, Santa Clara County, and San Francisco.[13]

GROSS COUNTY PRODUCT

If Orange County were a country, its gross product in 2000 would rank approximately 31st in the world – ahead of such nations as Thailand, Finland, Greece, Israel, Portugal, Ireland, and Singapore. Among metro areas in the U.S., Orange County has the 11th largest gross product, behind Los Angeles (2nd) and ahead of Seattle (13th). However, Orange County's economy is not growing fast enough to be among the top 100 metro areas for gross metro area product growth in the last decade.[14]

STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES

Orange County is what is referred to as a "donor county" – the county government receives from the state the least amount of property taxes per capita among large counties in California. The same is true for Orange County cities – Anaheim and Santa Ana are at the bottom of the allocation among large cities. To return the share of property tax allocated to schools to pre-Proposition 13 levels, the state modified the allocation formulas in 1992 such that in 2000/01 about $4.2 billion of property taxes were shifted from cities, counties, and special districts and given to schools.[15] About 76% of this amount is attributable to counties.[16]

Per Capita Property Tax Allocation Among Large Counties and Cities - 1997/98

Large Counties	Per Capita Property Taxes	Large Cities	Per Capita Property Taxes
Los Angeles	$127	Los Angeles	$133
Santa Clara	$108	Oakland	$129
Contra Costa	$105	Sacramento	$104
Sacramento	$90	San Diego	$101
Riverside	$85	Long Beach	$99
San Diego	$79	Fresno	$79
San Bernardino	$64	San Jose	$69
Fresno	$63	Anaheim	$53
Orange	$44	Santa Ana	$50
Statewide County Average	**$113**	**Statewide City Average**	**$81**

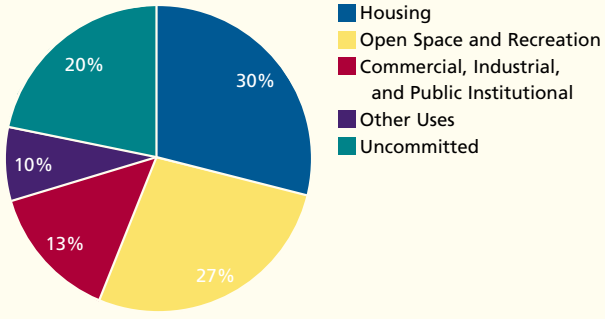
Source: California Legislative Analysts Office

LAND USE

Orange County covers 798 square miles of land, including 42 miles of coastline. Substantial portions of the county are devoted to residential housing of various types (30%). There are 969,484 housing units available to county residents, the majority of which are single-family detached units.[17] As described further in the following report, the cost of single-family homes and multiple-family dwellings is increasing, along with rental costs. The median price of a home in Orange County as of September 2001 was $361,379 and 2001 Fair Market Rents range from $845 for a one-bedroom unit to $1,046 for a two-bedroom unit, and $1,455 for a three-bedroom unit.[18] Housing projections for the county anticipate almost 91,000 housing units to be added over the next ten years.

Commercial, industrial, and public institutional uses account for only 13% of the county's land area. One-fifth of the county is classified as uncommitted, meaning it is either vacant or devoted to agricultural or mineral extraction activities. Twenty-seven percent of the land is dedicated to open space and recreation. The County of Orange maintains nine beaches, three harbors and approximately 35,000 acres of regional parks (over 54 square miles) for the enjoyment of county residents and the protection of natural resources. Orange County's many cities and other state or federal agencies also maintain local park and open space facilities, adding upwards of 65,000 acres to the county total.

Orange County Land Uses - 2001



Source: County of Orange, Public Facilities and Resources Department, October 2001

[1] National Association of Counties (www.naco.org/counties/queries)
[2] U.S. Census Bureau (http://factfinder.census.gov)
[3] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton (www.fullerton.edu/cdr)
[4] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton
[5] U.S. Census Bureau
[6] According to the Public Policy Institute of California Statewide Survey: Special Survey of Orange County, 2001, 82% of county residents think that the biggest factor causing the county's population to grow is migration (48% think growth is due to immigration from other countries, 34% think growth is due to migration from elsewhere in California or the United States).
[7] U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov/population/censusdata) and National Association of Counties
[8] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Progress Report 2001
[9] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton; U.S. Census Bureau; and California Department of Finance (www.dof.ca.gov)
[10] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton
[11] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton
[12] Orange County Business Council (www.ocbc.org) and California Employment Development Department (www.calmis.ca.gov)
[13] California Employment Development Department and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (http://stats.bls.gov/)
[14] U.S. Conference of Mayors, U.S. Metro Economies: The Engine of America's Growth (www.econdata.net/)
[15] Proposition 13, passed by California voters in 1978, limits property tax rates to no more than 1% of the cash value of the property and increases in assessed valuation are capped at 2% unless the property is sold or there is new construction (California Department of Education, www.eddata.k12.ca.us/Finance/Proposition13.asp).
[16] California Legislative Analysts Office (www.lao.ca.gov/2000_reports/calfacts/2000_calfacts_state-local.pdf)
[17] U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html)
[18] The median home price is reported by the California Association of Realtors. Fair Market Rents are established by Housing and Urban Development based on 50th percentile (or median) rents in the market area.

Special Features

County Electric Power Prices Higher Than Most Peer Metropolitan Areas; Power Alerts Increase Dramatically in 2001

Description of Indicator

This indicator shows average prices (revenue per kilowatt-hour) for residential, commercial, and industrial electricity customers in Orange County and comparable metropolitan areas in 1999. This indicator also shows average electricity prices for California from 1990 through February 2001and the number of Stage One, Stage Two, and Stage Three emergencies in California in each year from 1998 through 2001.[1]

Why is it Important?

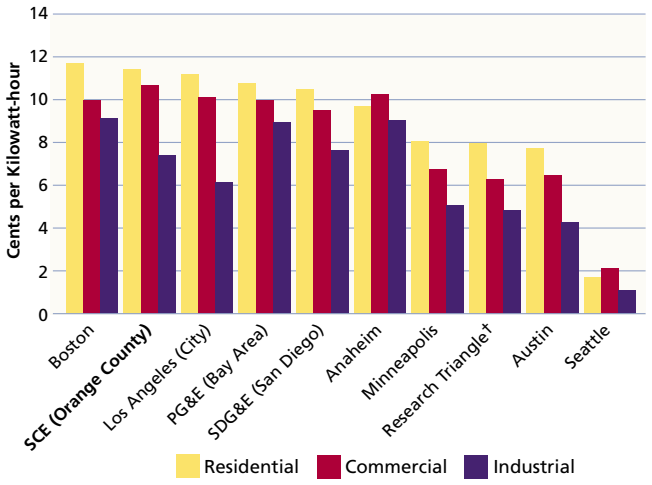
Electric power prices are one factor affecting the cost of operating a business in Orange County. During 2001, California's electricity crisis highlighted the importance of a reliable, as well as affordable, electric power supply. Many of the businesses that signed contracts agreeing to reduce power usage when reserves were low (in exchange for lower rates) were severely burdened by the unprecedented number of requests for reduced power usage in 2000 and 2001. The long-term threat of an unreliable power supply and fluctuating rates could influence some firms' decision to remain in, or relocate to, Orange County.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County (which, with the exception of the City of Anaheim and portions of South County, is served by Southern California Edison) has some of the highest electricity rates among comparable metropolitan areas. The rates for metropolitan areas are for 1999 and do not reflect the one cent per kilowatt-hour surcharge approved by the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in January of 2001 or the three cent per kilowatt-hour surcharge approved by the PUC in March of 2001. Thus electric power rates in Orange County, and most of California, are somewhat higher now in comparison to other similar metropolitan areas than the 1999 data show. While at first glance energy intensive industries may be deterred by Orange County's higher relative energy rates, closer inspection would suggest that the high rates could be counterbalanced by the county's mild climate which allows businesses to spend less on heating and cooling, arguably resulting in overall energy costs similar to peer regions.

Stage Two electric power emergencies were rare before 2000, and there were no Stage Three emergencies in 1998 or 1999. As demand for electric power in California grew, there were 65 Stage Two emergencies and 38 Stage Three emergencies as of October 2001. The state experienced rolling blackouts, mostly in northern California, in the Winter and Spring of 2001 due to electricity shortages.

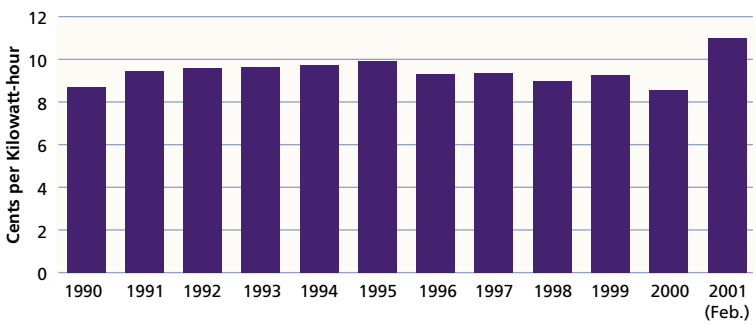
***Electric Power Prices,** Regional Comparison – 1999*



† Durham, Orange, and Wake Counties, North Carolina

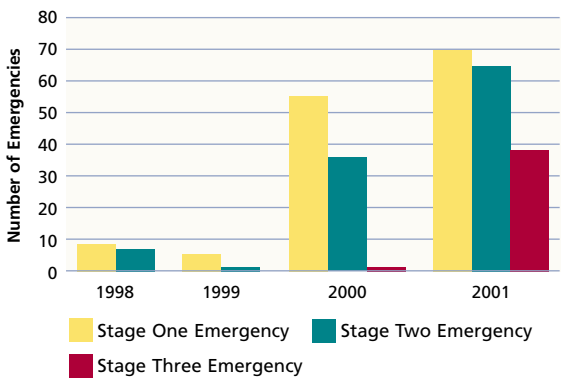
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (www.eia.doe.gov)

***Average Electric Power Prices in California** – 1990-2001*



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (www.eia.doe.gov)

***Stage One, Stage Two, and Stage Three Emergencies in California** – 1998-2001*



Source: California Independent System Operator (www.caiso.com)

[1] Stage One emergencies are called by the California Independent System Operator when electric power reserves are below 7% of demand, Stage Two emergencies are called when reserves are below 5%, and Stage Three emergencies are called when reserves are below 1.5%.

One Out of Ten Residents Live in Poverty; County Has More Young Families

Description of Indicator

This indicator describes the changing character of Orange County through analysis of the 2000 Census results, to provide a balance between reality and the many perceptions of growth that exist in the community.

Why is it Important?

The Census results are important for two reasons. First, the Census gives actual data with which a community can understand itself, and second, it generates data which allows for comparisons with other communities and the population as a whole.

How is Orange County Doing?

The 2000 Census tells us:

Growth

Growth is a reality of metropolitan living. The county witnessed an 18.1% increase in population from 1990 to 2000, adding over 500,000 people – equal to 50,000 people per year added to the county, or a new city the size of Fountain Valley every single year. As noted on page 4, most of the current and future growth is due to births in the county and not migration.

Diversity

Diversity is likewise a reality. Orange County is more diverse than its reputation, although there are more non-Hispanic Whites in Orange County (51.3%) than the state overall (46.7%). The racial contrast between Orange County and California overall is notable for the greater percentage of Asians (13.6% and 10.9% respectively), and the significantly smaller percentage of African Americans (1.7% and 6.7%). The rising Latino population (30.8%) is also significant to the future of the county.

Families

Compared to statewide figures, Orange County is skewed to young families. Orange County has a larger percentage of its population in the zero to five, 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 age categories than the state as a whole. The county also has a higher percentage of households comprised of families (71.4%) than the state (68.9%).

Age

While Orange County's percentage of people 65 and over (9.8%) is below the figures for both the nation (12.4%) and California (10.7%), that number and the young family figures disguise a noteworthy split across the county. In South County communities such as San Clemente, Newport Beach, Dana Point, Mission Viejo, and Lake Forest, the median age is well over the countywide and California figures. But, in some of the larger North and Central County towns (Santa Ana, Anaheim, La Habra), the median age is well below the countywide figure. The younger towns also tend to be predominately Hispanic.

Poverty

One out of ten (10.4%) Orange County residents lives below the poverty line, and more (13.6%) children are below the poverty line. Still, these levels are dramatically below the state and national averages. Fully 17.0% of the nation's children are in poverty, compared to 19.4% of California's children. The poverty rate for all ages is 12.5% across the nation and 13.9% in California.

Sources: Steve Pon Tell, La Jolla Institute, Ontario, California; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/demoprofile.html); and U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/c2ss.html)

Economic and Business Climate

The indicators in this section show that Orange County's economic growth slowed as the national economy began showing signs of a recession in 2000, but Orange County has so far fared substantially better during the economic slowdown than many other parts of the country. Our economy is well diversified, insulating the county from shocks to specific sectors (such as the slowdown in Internet-related businesses in 2000) and from economic downturns abroad. Several indicators in this section raise red flags about structural problems that will threaten the county's economic growth if not addressed.

- Many potential homeowners continue to find the housing market beyond reach. Stated simply, there is not enough housing being developed in Orange County to match the growing population of either residents or employees and this shortfall is one cause of home ownership and rental housing costs that are among the highest in the nation.
- Measure M funds led to a significant growth in freeway lane miles, but vehicle miles traveled (the total number of miles traveled on Orange County roads) continue to rise. Road and transit infrastructure must be built and maintained at levels consistent with growth in vehicle miles traveled lest residents find themselves back in the gridlock prior to Measure M.
- The county's per capita income has not grown as fast as economic peer regions during the 1990's.
- Consumer confidence and expectations about business growth have declined from the record high levels in the late 1990's.

Business Optimism Down, but County Remains Attractive for Firms

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County's business climate through two studies: a survey of how business executives in Orange County feel about doing business in Orange County (Business Sentiment, Orange County Executive Survey), and a ranking of the best regions in the nation for entrepreneurship (Best Cities, Dun & Bradstreet and Entrepreneur Magazine).

Why is it Important?

A region's business climate reflects its attractiveness as a location, the availability of business support and resources, opportunities for growth, and barriers to doing business. Since businesses provide jobs, sales tax dollars, and accessibility to consumer goods and amenities, a strong business climate is important for maintaining Orange County's economic health and high quality of life.

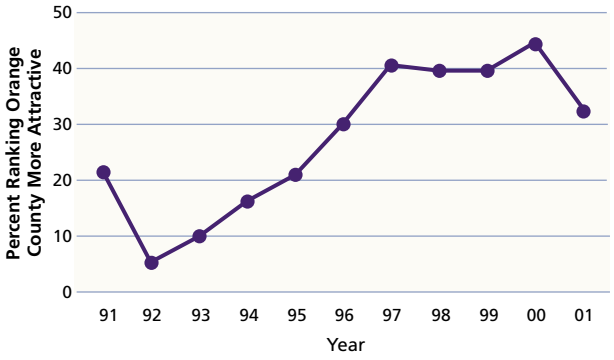
How is Orange County Doing?

In 2001, 33% of Orange County executives surveyed stated that the county was becoming a more attractive place to do business – the lowest rating since 1996. This is down from a ten-year high of 44% in 2000. Yet from 1990 to 1995, fewer than 25% of executives polled thought the county was becoming more attractive for business, so even with the recent drop, business sentiment is substantially above the levels of the early and mid-1990's.

The most often cited reasons for the county's attractiveness as a business location were: Orange County is a desirable place to live, it is centrally located, and the particular business' customers are here. The most cited problems with Orange County's business climate were traffic and the high cost of housing. Those responses showed little change from 2000 to 2001.

In 2000, Orange County ranked 3rd out of the top five best regions for entrepreneurship in the west. Orange County is also among the top 20 best regions in the nation, ranking 19th. Regions were evaluated based on the number of young businesses, small company employment growth, overall employment growth, and rate of business failures.

***Business Sentiment** - 1991-2001*



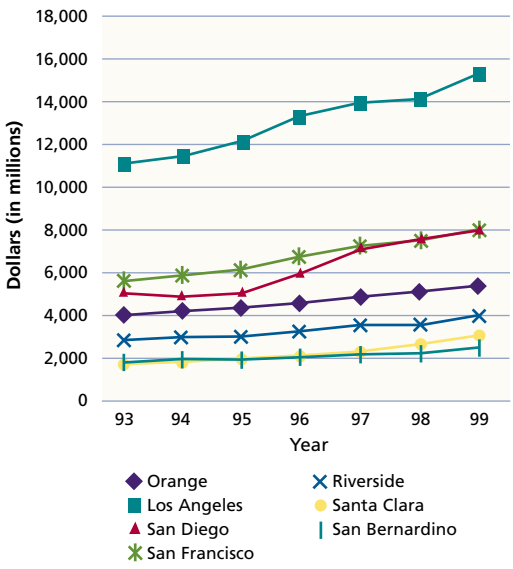
Source: Orange County Executive Survey, 2001

Top 5 Entrepreneurial Western Cities/Regions - 2000		Rank in the Nation
1	San Jose, California	15
2	Seattle/Bellevue/Everett, Washington	16
3	**Orange County, California**	**19**
4	San Diego, California	21
5	Sacramento, California	29

Source: Dun & Bradstreet and Entrepreneur Magazine, 2000

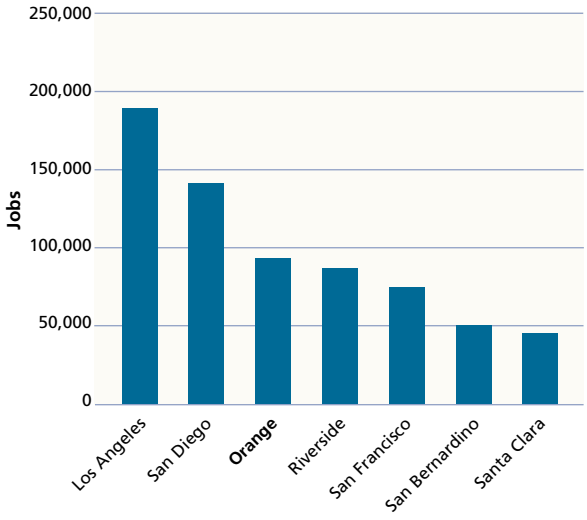
County is Among State Leaders in Visitor Spending and Tourism-Related Jobs

***Visitor Spending by County** - 1993-1999*



Source: California Division of Tourism (http://gocalif.ca.gov/research/)

***Travel Industry Jobs by County** - 1999*



Source: California Division of Tourism (http://gocalif.ca.gov/research/)

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures total dollars spent by travelers to Orange County on accommodations, food, ground and air transport, recreation, retail sales and travel arrangements. It also measures the number of jobs supported by Orange County's tourism industry.

Why is it Important?

Visitors traveling to Orange County for recreation and business generate revenue and jobs for the local economy. Tourism is the second largest employer in California, following business services, and it is one of the leading industries in Orange County. Hotels, shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues rely on the tourism market for a significant percentage of their business. Additionally, Orange County cities benefit from tourism due to the Transient Occupancy Tax, a local tax applied to hotel charges.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County has the fourth largest total of visitor spending in California, following Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego Counties. Tourism spending in Orange County, as in the rest of the state, has increased during the 1990's. Travel and visitor spending in Orange County increased at an annual rate of 5.5% from 1993 through 1999, consistent with the 5.3% annual increase in Los Angeles County but trailing San Diego County (7.8%) and San Francisco County (6.2%). Tourism-related jobs in Orange County totaled 90,170 in 1999, making the county the third largest center for travel-related employment in California, behind Los Angeles and San Diego Counties.

Amusement Parks, such as Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm, and the county's 42 miles of beaches continue to be among the most popular tourist destinations in California.

Japan is Hot Export Market for County's Tech Firms

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures top export markets for Orange County companies in leading high-tech sectors and the percent of Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego County exports in dollars to the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Africa, Australia and the Middle East.

Why is it Important?

As trade agreements continue to increase free trade opportunities and competition, Orange County companies must be increasingly able to access foreign markets. Due to the county's strong Latino community and proximity to Mexico, Orange County is well positioned to take advantage of growing markets in Latin America, as well as more traditional export markets in Europe and Asia.

How is Orange County Doing?

The top five export markets in 2001 for Orange County companies in leading high-tech sectors include a majority of European and English-speaking countries, however, Japan and Korea have made strong gains in all sectors. China, with its inclusion into the World Trade Organization, will provide increasing export opportunities for Orange County businesses. Between 1993 and 1999, Orange County's exports to the world have increased by 64.9%, slower than growth in San Diego County (105.7%) but faster than growth in Los Angeles County (19.4%). Orange County's exports are well distributed between the Americas, Asia, and Europe, making the county more able to weather economic crises abroad. Los Angeles County is heavily invested in Asian markets while San Diego County is primarily exporting to the Americas.

***Top Five Export Markets for Orange County Companies by Sector** – 2001*

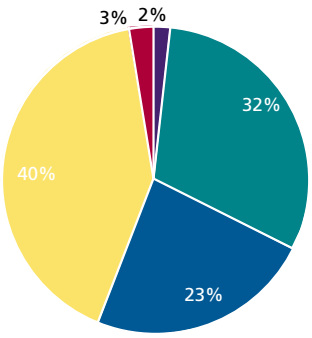
	Sectors			
	Biotechnology	**Electronics**	**Information Technology**	**Telecommunications**
1	Japan	Japan	Germany	Korea
2	France	Korea	Japan	Finland
3	Germany	Germany	United Kingdom	United Kingdom
4	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	France	Japan
5	China	France	Australia	Germany

Source: California State University, Fullerton Center for Study of Emerging Markets, International Trade Action Program Database, 2001

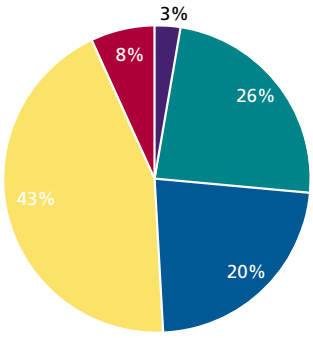
***Exports by Region** – 1999*

Source: Metropolitan Merchandise Export Totals to Selected Destinations, Office of Trade and Economic Analysis, ITA, Department of Commerce

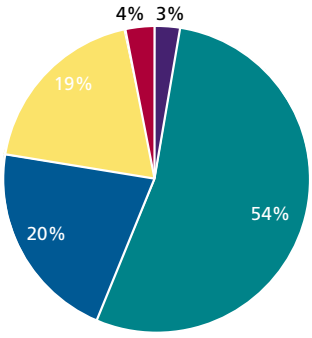
Orange County



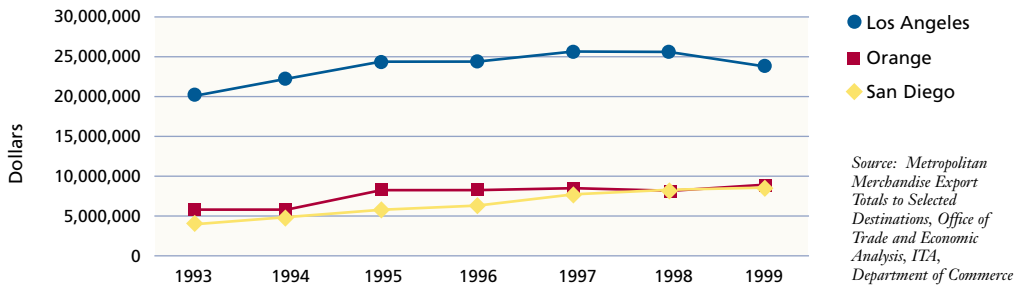
Los Angeles County



San Diego County



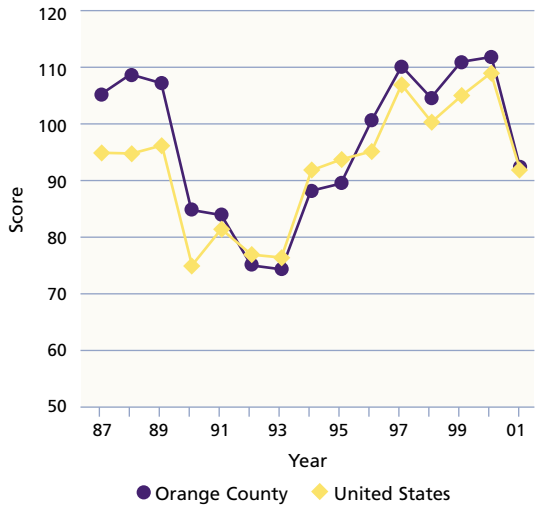
***Technology Exports to World** – 1993-1999*



Source: Metropolitan Merchandise Export Totals to Selected Destinations, Office of Trade and Economic Analysis, ITA, Department of Commerce

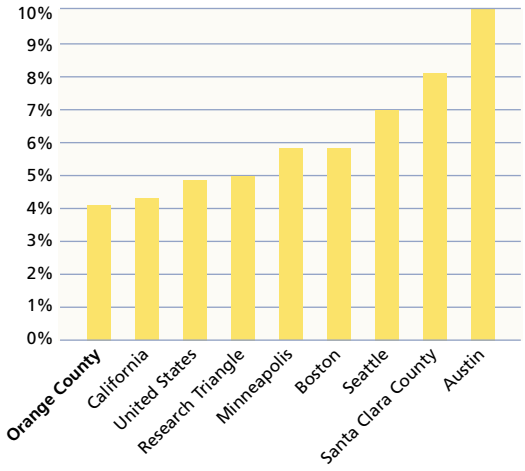
Consumer Confidence Falls From Record High in 2000

Consumer Confidence



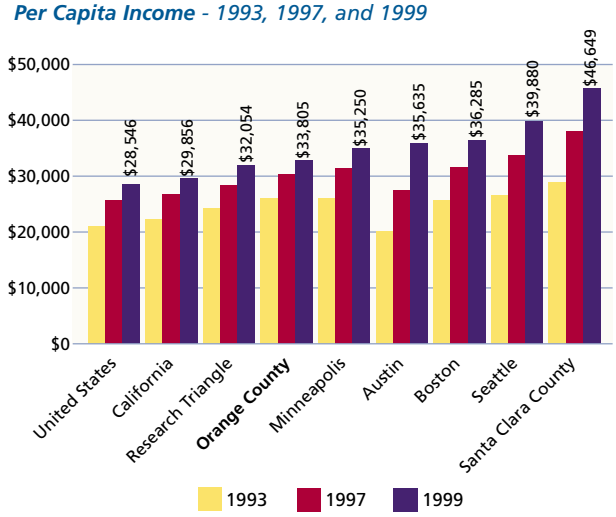
Source: Public Policy Institute of California Statewide Survey: Special Survey of Orange County, 2001, in collaboration with the University of California, Irvine

Per Capita Income
Percent Annual Change, 1993-1999



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Per Capita Income - *1993, 1997, and 1999*



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Description of Indicator

This indicator uses the Consumer Confidence Index (CCI), a five-question survey conducted nationally by the University of Michigan and locally by the University of California, Irvine, to measure the confidence that consumers have in their present and future personal income situations.

Why is it Important?

The CCI is a leading indicator of the future spending habits of consumers. It is important because it measures the willingness of Orange County consumers to make major purchases such as a new home or new automobile, invest in new business endeavors, or take a risk with their career such as starting a new business or pursuing additional education. A high CCI indicates that consumers feel generally optimistic about the state of the economy and their wellbeing.

How is Orange County Doing?

In 2001, the CCI score in Orange County was 93, down from a record high score of 112 in 2000. Nationwide, the CCI in 2001 was 92, down from 109 in 2000. For the national index, a score of 100 or more is considered very good, since a score of 85 is the average for the 50-year history of the national survey.

Per Capita Income Growth Lags Peers

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures real per capita income levels and income growth in Orange County, compared to economic peer counties. Total personal income includes wages and salaries, proprietor income, property income and transfer payments, such as pensions and unemployment insurance.

Why is it Important?

The overall increase in wealth of Orange County residents is important because higher disposable incomes result in additional purchases of goods and services which provide jobs, tax receipts, and a sense of material satisfaction as residents have what they need to survive and prosper.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's per capita income level is higher than the United States and California averages. However, Orange County's per capita income, when compared to economic peers, is only higher than the per capita income in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina. This is a relatively recent occurrence. In 1993, Orange County's per capita income of $26,361 was higher or essentially equal to the income level in all of the economic peer metropolitan areas shown except Santa Clara County. Because Orange County's economic peers have had faster income growth over the past six years, Orange County now lags all peers except the Research Triangle.

County's Housing Market Hottest in Nation; Demand Outpaces Supply

Description of Indicator

This indicator gives two measures of housing market demand: the Hotness Index and the ratio of jobs created per housing permit granted. The "Hotness Index," constructed by the Meyers Group, measures housing permits relative to job growth, adjusted for existing housing stock. Higher values of the Hotness Index indicate that housing permit activity is not keeping pace with employment increases – in short, that housing demand is growing faster than housing supply. The Hotness Index is new for 2000, and so is not comparable to past data. The ratio of new housing permits divided by new jobs for Orange County, California, and the United States is provided for comparison with past years.

Why is it Important?

Housing demand that exceeds available supply contributes to Orange County's poor performance in the housing and rental affordability indices. A balance must exist between the number of jobs in an economy and the number of housing units. Provision of housing for workers should not fall behind Orange County's ability to create jobs. When an economy is growing, new housing must be created to handle the additional workers employed. The inability to meet housing demand has the potential to make housing unaffordable to workers by:

- Driving up housing prices and apartment rents, already at record levels;
- Making it more difficult for employers to attract and retain workers; and,
- Forcing more employees to make longer commutes.

How is Orange County Doing?

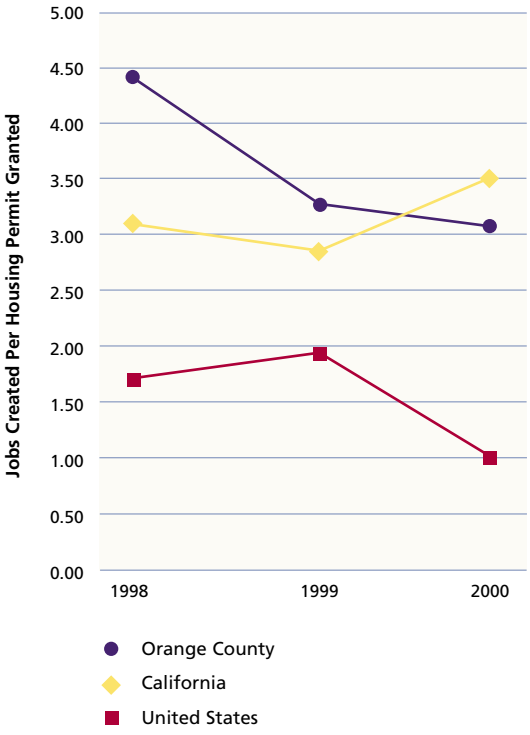
In 2000, Orange County had the hottest housing market in the nation, implying that housing demand outpaced increases in supply by a larger gap in Orange County than in any other metropolitan area. More than three new jobs were created for every house built during the past year in Orange County. While the ratio of new jobs divided by new permits in Orange County improved slightly from 1999 to 2000 (3.26 and 3.14 respectively), the county still exceeds the national average for that measure. Both the Hotness Index and the ratio of new jobs created divided by housing permits granted indicate that housing supply is not keeping pace with the growth of the county's economy.

***Housing Demand** – 2000*

	2000 Job Growth	2000 Housing Permits	Hotness Index	Rank
Orange County	41,900	12,520	2.99	1
Los Angeles	115,800	16,968	2.85	4
San Diego	43,300	15,592	1.92	6
Boston	-11,671	17,370	2.45	7
Inland Empire	68,800	21,496	1.54	8
San Francisco Bay Area	121,400	27,577	1.24	17
Seattle	-12,712	25,342	0.62	39
Austin	30,638	21,774	0.57	40
Minneapolis	15,130	22,306	0.42	46
Atlanta	63,980	64,216	0.32	50
Research Triangle	18,237	18,553	0.24	52
Phoenix	-2,580	45,310	0.21	54
California	494,300	145,580	3.40	
US	1,683,400	1,592,267	1.06	

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, California Employment Development Department, and Meyers Group

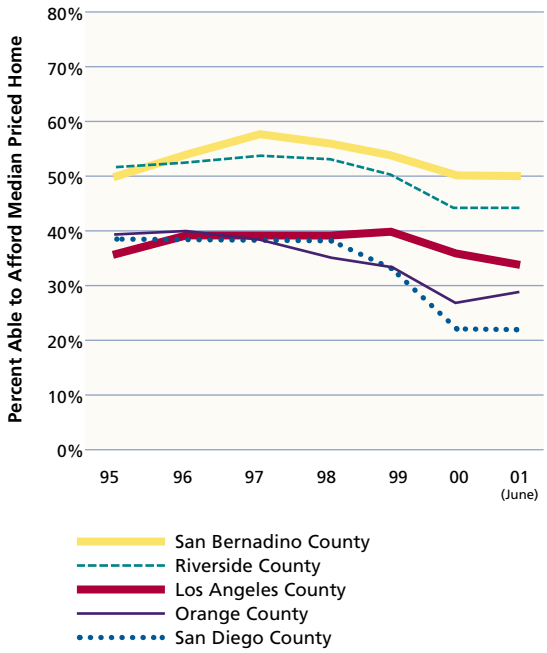
***New Jobs Created Per Housing Permit Granted** – 1998-2000*



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, California Employment Development Department, and Meyers Group

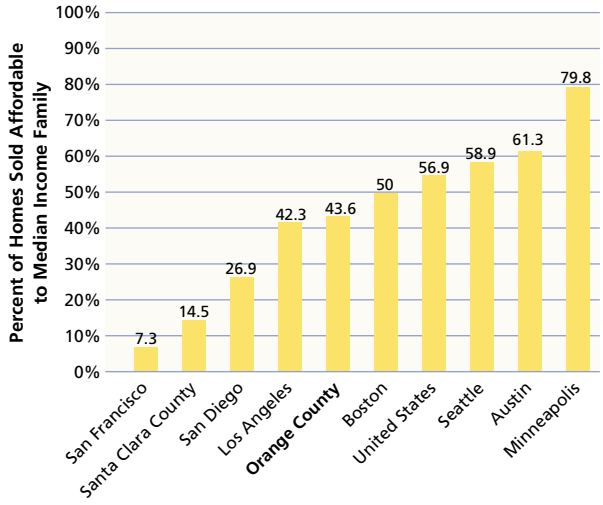
Housing Affordability Continues to Drop After Year of Strong House Price Appreciation

Housing Affordability Index
1995-2001



Source: California Association of Realtors

Housing Opportunity Index *- 1st Quarter 2001*



Source: National Association of Home Builders

Description of Indicator

The Housing Affordability Index measures the percentage of Orange County households that can afford the median priced home in the county. The Housing Opportunity Index is a measure of the percentage of homes sold that a family earning the median income can afford to buy.

Why is it Important?

A lack of affordable housing can be a major barrier to a strong, reliable economy. High relative housing prices may potentially influence location decisions of corporations, causing some to consider whether to relocate or remain in a region. A shortage of affordable housing (particularly for first-time buyers) may discourage young families from moving to Orange County or staying here after graduating from local colleges and universities. Alternatively, high housing costs can encourage Orange County workers to settle outside the county, resulting in longer commutes, increased traffic congestion and pollution, decreased productivity, and an overall diminished quality of life.

How is Orange County Doing?

According to the California Association of Realtors, in September 2001, the median home sale price in Orange County was $361,379, an increase of 11.1% from September 2000. In 2000, only 27% of households in Orange County could afford the median priced home, down from 34% in 1999 and far below the United States average of 53%. According to the Housing Affordability Index, Orange County is less affordable than all our neighbors except San Diego County. In the first quarter of 2001, 43.6% of homes sold in Orange County were affordable to a family earning the median income, down from 53.9% in 1999. According to the Housing Opportunity Index, Orange County is more affordable than peer northern California counties and San Diego County, but is less affordable than economic peers in other parts of the country. Orange County ranked 162nd among U.S. metropolitan areas for the Housing Opportunity Index in 2001.[1]

[1] A rank of one indicates the most affordable region.

Rental Housing Not Affordable to Low and Moderate Income Earners

Description of Indicator

The rental affordability indicator measures the Housing Wage – the hourly wage a resident would need to afford Fair Market Rent.[1]

Why is it Important?

Rental housing can provide low- and moderate-income workers with affordable places to live. Lack of affordable rental housing can cause high occupancy levels, leading to crowding and household stress. Less affordable rental housing also restricts the ability of moderate-income renters to save for a down payment on a home, limiting their ability to become home owners and build personal wealth through housing appreciation. Ultimately, a shortage of affordable housing for renters can instigate a cycle of poverty with potentially debilitating effects throughout the county.

How is Orange County Doing?

The Housing Wage in Orange County ranges from $17.06 per hour for a one-bedroom apartment to $29.37 per hour for a three-bedroom apartment. The hourly wage needed for a one-bedroom apartment ($17.06) is equivalent to an annual income of $35,485. Orange County's Housing Wage rates have increased since 2000, when Housing Wages were $15.23, $18.85, and $20.86 for, respectively, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom apartments. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, an Orange County household earning minimum wage can afford to pay no more than $325 per month in rent. A household earning 30% of the Orange County median family income ($22,980) can only afford to pay $574 per month in rent. Orange County's rental affordability, as measured by Housing Wage, is similar to the California state average and economic peers. However, none of the rents in these regions would be considered affordable to a large percentage of renters.

[1]Fair Market Rent is the 50th percentile (or median) rent in the market.

Renting in Orange County

Average Monthly Rent, Second Quarter 2001
$1,206
Source: M/PF Research, Orange County Register, July 24, 2001

Fair Market Rent

One Bedroom	$ 845
Two Bedroom	$1,046
Three Bedroom	$1,455

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

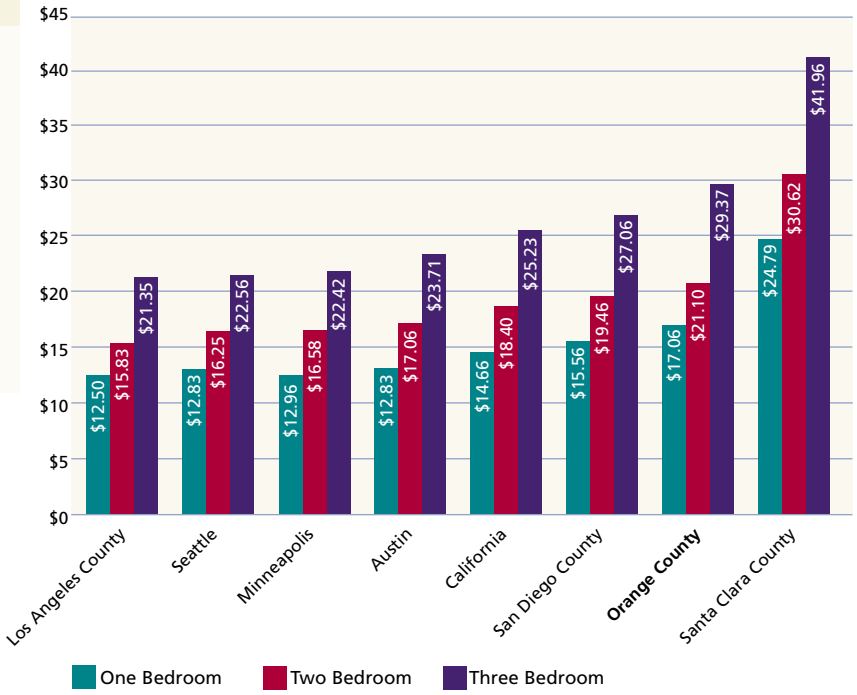
Estimated Orange County Median Family Income, 2001
$76,600
Source: U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development

Who can help pay the rent?

Section 8 is a federally-funded housing program that issues vouchers to low-income families and individuals to help them pay rent. Unfortunately, the demand for the vouchers far outweighs the supply of funds. In 2000 there were nearly 20,000 on waiting lists for Section 8 housing assistance, while funding only allowed about 5,500 vouchers to be issued.

Source: Santa Ana, Garden Grove, Anaheim, and County of Orange Housing Authorities, and Orange County Executive Office

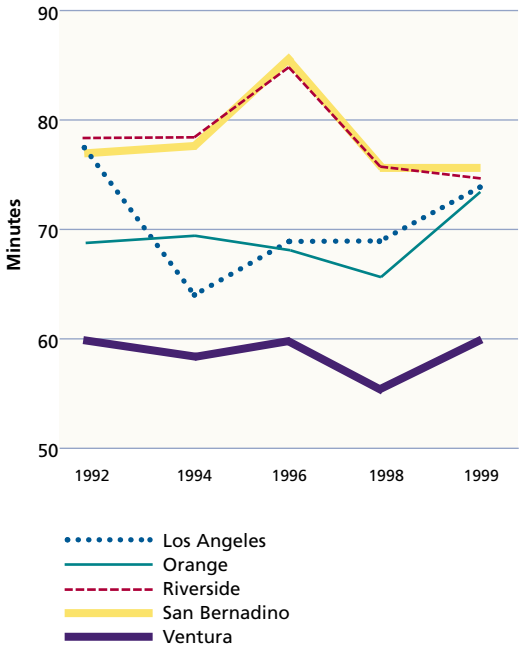
Hourly Wage Needed to Afford Fair Market Rent – 2001



Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition (http://www.nlihc.org/oor2001/index.htm)

Congestion Expected to Worsen; Transit Performs Well, but County Spends Much Less Than Peers on Bus Service

Average Daily Two-way Commute Time
by Home County – 1992-1999



Source: Southern California Association of Governments, State of the Commute Report, 1999

Lane Miles and Vehicle Miles Traveled Defined

An arterial lane mile is one mile of a single lane of roadway (if two lanes are added to a mile stretch of road, it would be considered two lane miles). Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) measures the total number of miles traveled annually by automobiles on Orange County roads. For this indicator, only roadways on the Master Plan of Arterial Highways are measured, which includes Orange County's network of major streets and freeways.

Description of Indicator

This indicator describes several transportation-related factors that reflect mobility – the ability of Orange County residents and workers to get around within the county. It includes measures of levels of traffic congestion: average commute times and growth trends in arterial lane miles, annual vehicle miles traveled and population. It also shows how Orange County's transit system is performing in terms of numbers of riders as well as dollars invested in the system. Finally, Orange County residents' use of alternative modes of travel is described.

Why is it Important?

As Orange County's population increases, our transportation infrastructure must be improved and expanded in order to maintain mobility. This may include maximizing the use of existing roadways and transit services, constructing additional roadway lanes, and adding transit facilities such as new bus and rail service. It may also include managing increases in traffic congestion, possibly by encouraging more carpooling or by expanding or altering the use of tolls during peak travel periods. Measuring the use of existing facilities and investment in transportation infrastructure will help the community determine how to address future mobility needs.

How is Orange County Doing?

Average Commute Times

The average daily two-way commute time for Orange County residents increased from 65 minutes in 1998 to 74 minutes in 1999. This was after commute times for Orange County had remained relatively stable from 1992 to 1998. While Orange County average commute times had been lower than Riverside and San Bernardino for much of the 1990's, the most recent data suggest that commutes for Orange County residents now are roughly as time-consuming as those in the Inland Empire. From 1998 to 1999, Orange County had the largest increase in commute times in the five-county Los Angeles metropolitan area. That increase could be partly due to statistical fluctuations, but rapid employment and population growth and a strong economy are also contributors to increased traffic.

Construction of New Roadways

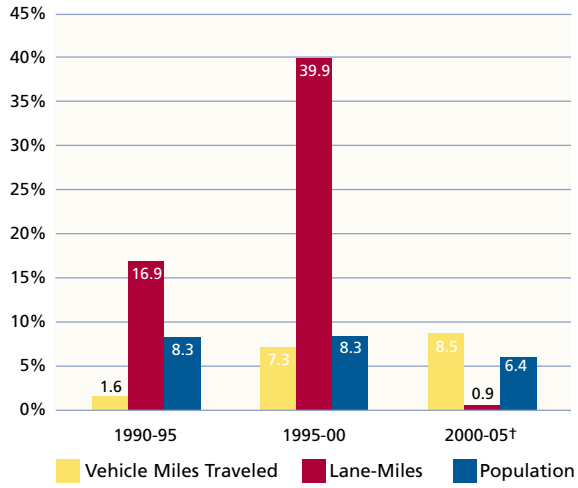
The total number of annual vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in Orange County has been steadily increasing along with our population. While the county's population grew faster than VMT growth in the early 1990's, VMT growth is projected to outpace population growth between 2000 and 2005, a trend that is likely to lead to increased traffic congestion. In 1990, traffic congestion on Orange County's roadways was severe. In June of that year, voters approved a one-half cent sales tax for transportation improvements called Measure M, providing for construction of new and widened roads and freeways. With the passage of Measure M, construction of new freeway lane miles increased significantly, totaling 64% growth between 1990 and 2000. However, with the exception of improvements planned for State Route 22, construction of new freeway facilities funded through Measure M are already complete or will be completed by 2005. Between 2000 and 2005, construction of new freeway lane miles is expected to be only 1%. So, while the total number of vehicle miles traveled in Orange County is projected to continue growing, construction of additional lanes is expected to drop significantly. If these projections prove true, traffic congestion and delays may return to 1990 levels of traffic congestion.

Transit Performance

The number of Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) bus passenger boardings per capita has gradually increased over the past six years from approximately 17 boardings per person in 1995/96 to 19.9 boardings per person in 1999/00. This increase can be attributed to several factors including increased bus service and marketing efforts, rising employment rates, and increasing traffic congestion. In 2000, OCTA made significant fare and route changes, including a new "straight-line" bus system, that may have impacted the boarding figure. When compared with peers, Orange County has the lowest per capita fixed route bus ridership.

Ridership on commuter rail has increased fifteen-fold in the last eight years. The Orange County line which runs between Oceanside and downtown Los Angeles grew to approximately 1.43 million riders in 2000/01 and the Inland Empire Line, running between San Bernardino and San Juan Capistrano, grew to 690,000 riders.

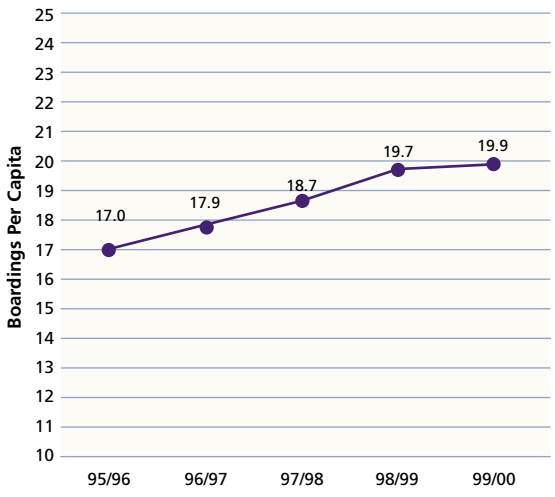
Percent Growth in Vehicle Miles Traveled, Lane-Miles, and Population in 5-Year Intervals – 1990-2005



† Projection

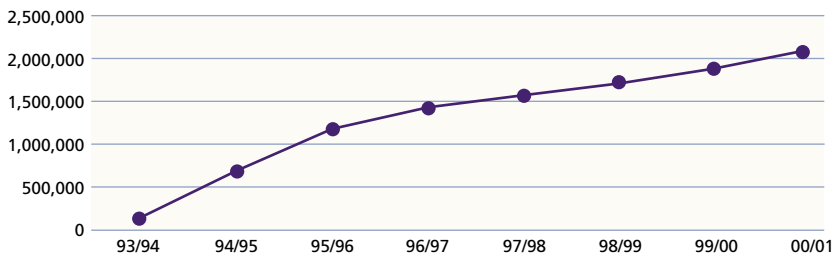
Source: Caltrans, California Motor Vehicle Stock, Travel and Fuel Forecast, November 1998; Master Plan of Arterial Highways; and California Department of Finance

OCTA Bus Passenger Boardings – 1995/96-1999/00



Source: Orange County Transportation Authority

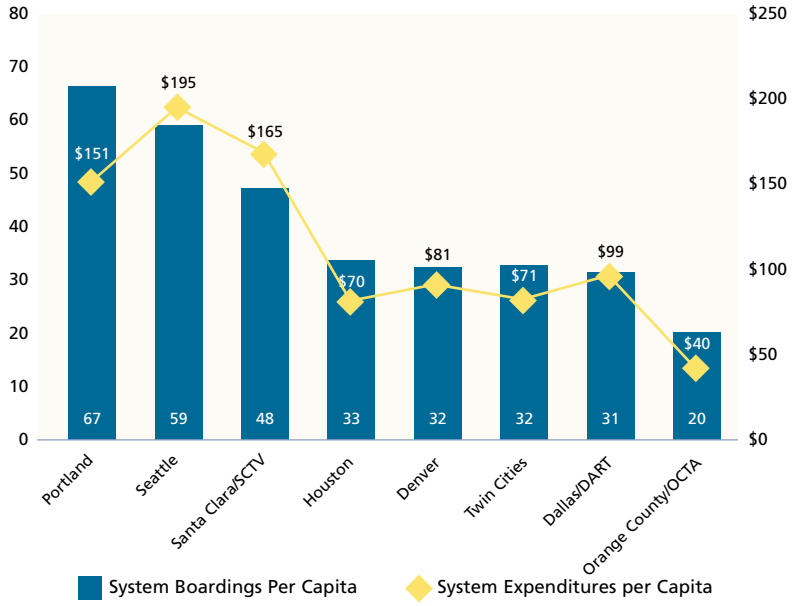
Number of Commuter Rail Riders – Orange County Line and Inland Empire Line 1994-2001



Source: Orange County Transportation Authority

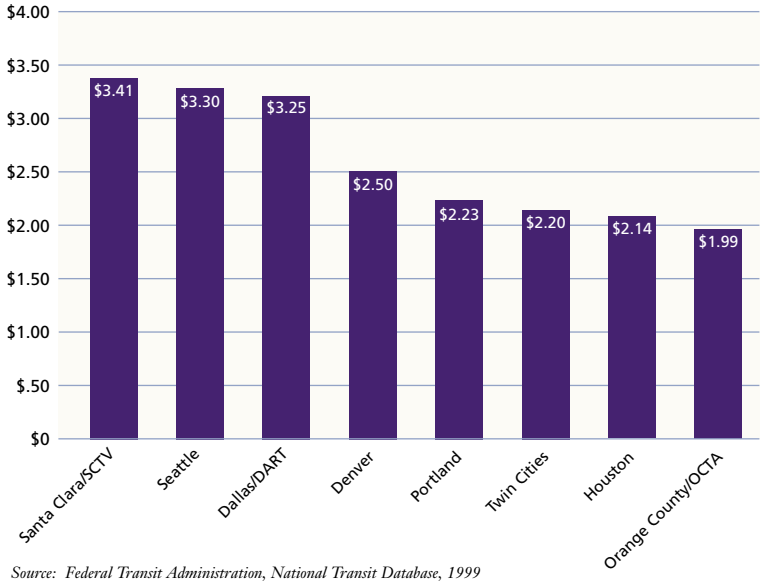
Comparing OCTA transit service with transit in similar metropolitan areas shows that OCTA operates an efficient transit system. Orange County's bus service operating costs, at $1.99 per boarding, are 27% lower than other peer transit markets. However, Orange County spends the least amount per capita in annual capital investments related to bus service among peer areas ($39.63). Because OCTA operates fewer than half the number of service hours on a per capita basis, OCTA bus boardings per capita are less than half of the average peer market.

Bus Boardings and System Expenditures Per Capita – 1999



Source: Federal Transit Administration, National Transit Database, 1999

System Operating Costs Per Boarding – 1999

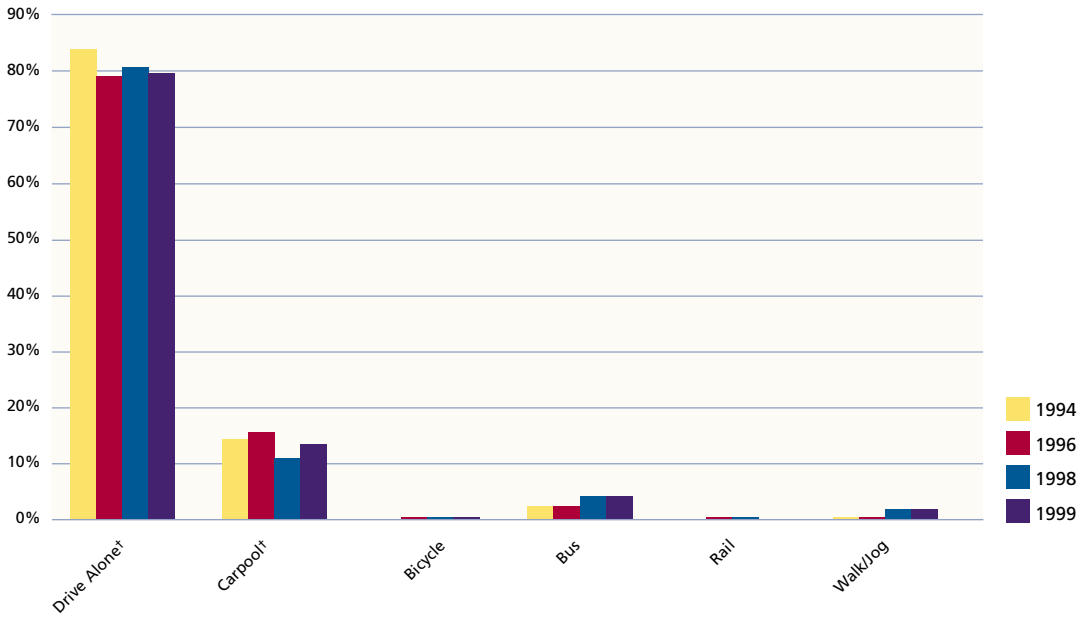


Source: Federal Transit Administration, National Transit Database, 1999

Alternative Modes of Travel

In general, Orange County residents are consistently more likely to drive alone than residents from other southern California counties. Since 1994, the percentage of Orange County residents who primarily "drive alone" has decreased from 84% to 80% in 1999. While still a small share of overall commute trips, bus riders increased from 2% to 3%, walkers increased from 1% to 2%, and bicycle riders increased from 0% to 1%. These changes, especially for bus riders, walkers and bicycle riders, are likely within the error range of the survey that was used to estimate commuting patterns, and so the apparent shift from cars to alternative travel modes may reflect sampling error rather than underlying changes in commuting behavior.

Primary Travel Mode, *Orange County – 1994-1999*

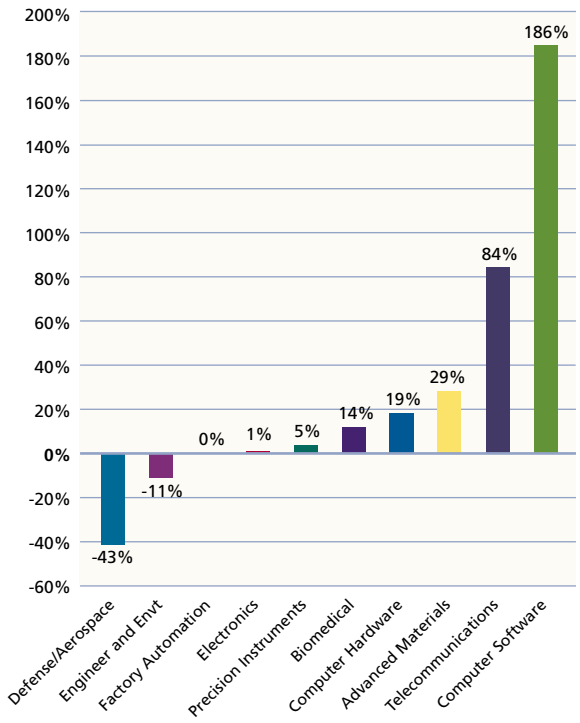


† "Drive Alone" includes motorcycles and "Carpool" includes vanpools

Source: Southern California Association of Governments, State of the Commute Report, 1999

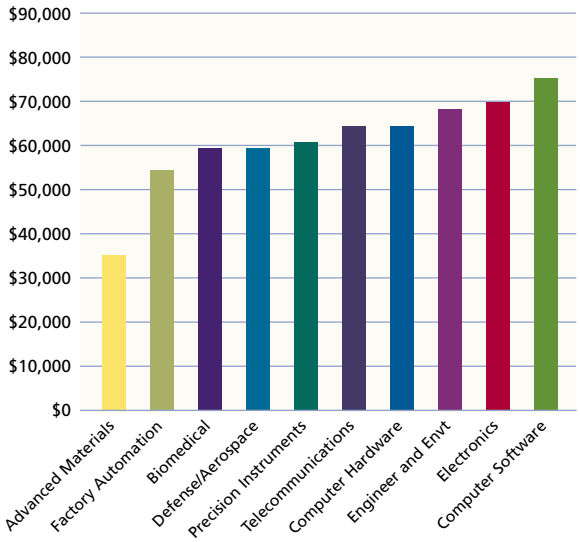
Strong Growth Continues in High-Paying Software and Telecommunications Jobs

Jobs in High-Tech Industry Clusters
Percent Change 1991-2000



Source: California Employment Development Department

Average Wage in High-Tech Industry Clusters - 2000



Source: California Employment Development Department

Description of Indicator

This indicator shows distribution of jobs according to high-tech industry cluster and compares salaries across industries.

Why is it Important?

High-tech clusters are an essential engine in an information-age economy. Clustering helps to demonstrate how competitive Orange County is – or could be – from an international, regional, and metropolitan perspective. Examining employment changes within specific clusters illuminates how the composition of Orange County's technology economy is evolving. Well developed high-tech clusters:

- Attract superb scientific and business talent;
- Enhance university and research opportunities for state-of-the-art technological research and joint ventures by innovation companies;
- Allow the development of informal networks of entrepreneurs and researchers who can trade ideas and spur innovation and business growth;
- Attract financial and venture capital resources; and,
- Create a strong and reliable tax base.

Salary levels in different industries measure the ability of particular segments of our economy to provide a wage high enough for workers to afford the cost of living in Orange County. Growth in high-wage industries can help drive increases in average incomes and total economic product within the county.

How is Orange County Doing?

There has been considerable change in the composition of Orange County's high-tech employment during the 1990's. Large reductions in defense/aerospace employment were more than counterbalanced by strong growth in telecommunications and computer software. Computer software employment, for example, grew by 186% from 1991 to 2000 and employment in telecommunications grew by 84% during the same time period. These changes illustrate that Orange County technology employment has kept pace with changes in the economy. The county is less dependent on aerospace and computer hardware employment now than in the past. Clusters with the largest percentage increases in employment also provide high wage jobs. In 2000, Orange County's computer software jobs paid an average wage of more than $76,000 per year, and telecommunications jobs in the county paid an average wage of $65,000 per year.

County Among the Most Diversified High-Tech Economies in Nation

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures how diversified our high-tech economy is relative to other regions in the country. The indicator uses the concept of a location quotient. A location quotient measures whether a region's employment in high technology is more or less concentrated than national employment in the same industry. The indicator counts the number of technology sectors for which employment is more concentrated at the local level than at the national level. A diversified technology sector will include concentrations in many high-tech employment clusters, so larger numbers for the indicator show a more diversified technology employment base.

Why is it Important?

High technology businesses are high-growth, high-employment, and high-profitability industries that are important to the future economy. Gaining a broad representation of high-tech industries in Orange County will ensure future economic prosperity for the region as these industries attract talent, finances and firms.

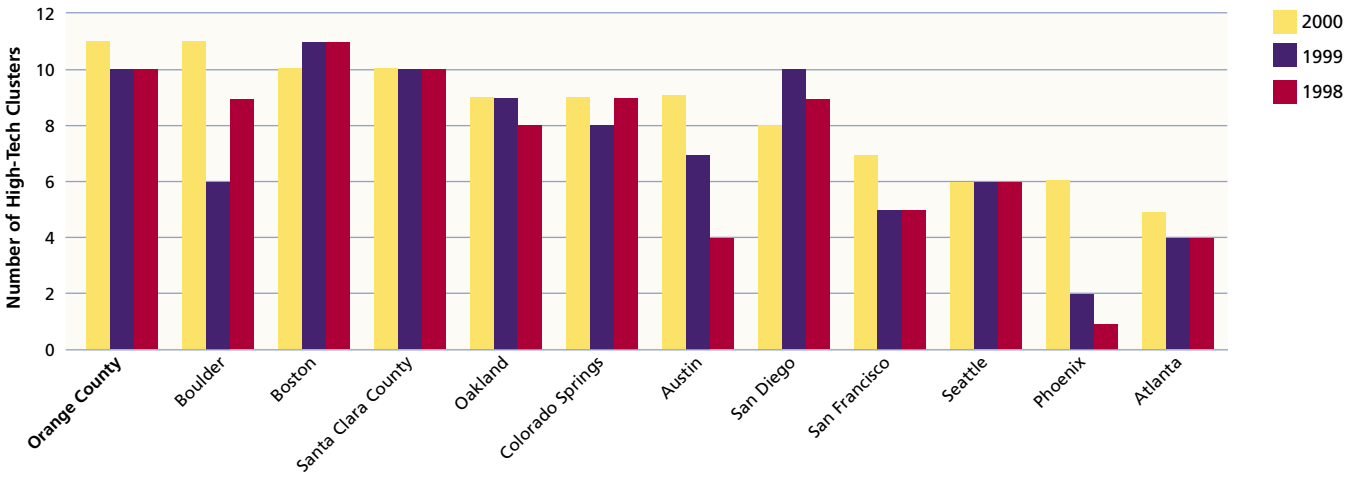
Diversity in the local high-tech cluster base is important because it helps insulate Orange County's economy from unanticipated downturns in any particular cluster or industry segment. Too much reliance on any particular industry segment may exacerbate economic recessions.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County has one of the most diverse high-tech economies in the United States – tied with Boulder, Colorado for the highest number of distinct high-technology employment concentrations (11 in 2000). Since tracking began for this indicator in 1998, Orange County has consistently been among the national leaders in high-technology cluster diversity.

The diversity of Orange County's technology industries is likely partly responsible for the county's relatively strong economic performance during the technology slowdown of the past year. Because Orange County's technology employment is diversified across several sectors, the county was less susceptible to the downturn in Internet-related businesses that began in the middle of 2000.

***High-Tech Cluster Diversification** – 1998-2000*



Source: Milken Institute

Technology and Innovation

The indicators in this section reveal that Orange County both leads and lags in the technology arena.

- The county still has an advantage in technology usage but the rest of the world is quickly catching up. As penetration of technology becomes pervasive around the country and world, the lack of growth of Orange County business web sites points to our next technological challenge – saturation. Rather than relying on our present position as a technology leader, we must continue to push the envelope in understanding and pursuing what is next to maintain a competitive edge.
- Orange County's reputation as a technology powerhouse is tarnished by the fact that the county falls significantly behind economic peers when it comes to coming up with the financial support needed for technology research and development.
- County businesses may be satisfied with their strong presence on the Internet, but it would not do well to be too complacent when Orange County continues to trail the state and nation in number of students per computer, calling into question whether the community truly understands the importance of technology access and training for future economic success.

Most County Businesses Have a Website

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of adults who have access to the Internet either at home or work and Orange County firms' presence on the Internet.

Why is it Important?

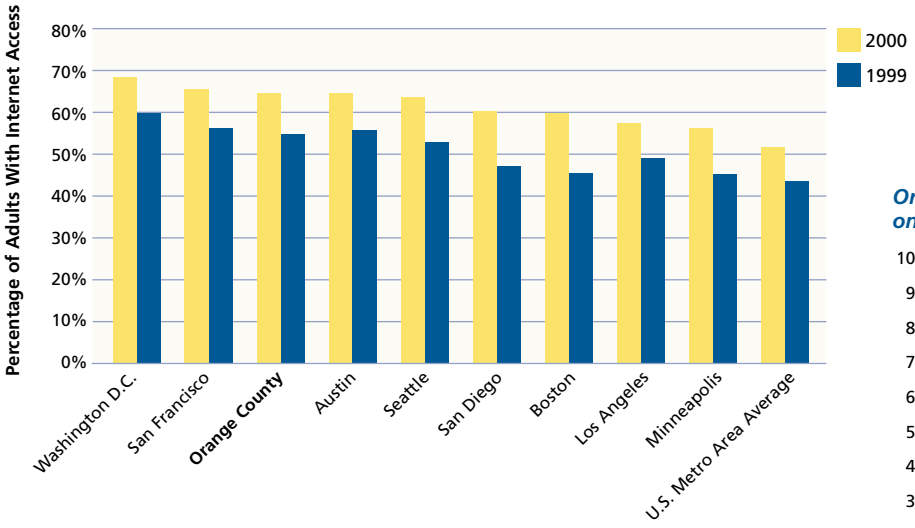
The Internet is rapidly becoming a mainstream medium with far-reaching impacts on every aspect of our lives. On a community level, the Internet encourages the interaction of a variety of demographic, cultural, retail, social, business, and media groups. On an economic level, the explosive growth of the Internet is affecting not only high-tech firms, but changing the way a broad range of firms conduct business. Orange County firms' usage of the Internet indicates whether Orange County businesses are keeping up with technological advances. The level of Internet access among Orange County residents measures how the county's population compares to other urban areas in accessing and using this new technology. Because of the Internet's growing importance in education, commerce, and skill acquisition, higher rates of Internet usage among adults suggest a more technologically savvy and possibly more skilled population.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County is among the national leaders in adult Internet usage rates. Both in 1999 and 2000, Orange County was among the top five metropolitan areas in the United States in percentage of adults with Internet access. In 2000, approximately 65% of all adults in Orange County had access to the Internet, far ahead of the average for 64 U.S. metropolitan areas (51%) and trailing only Washington, D.C. (68%) and San Francisco (66%).

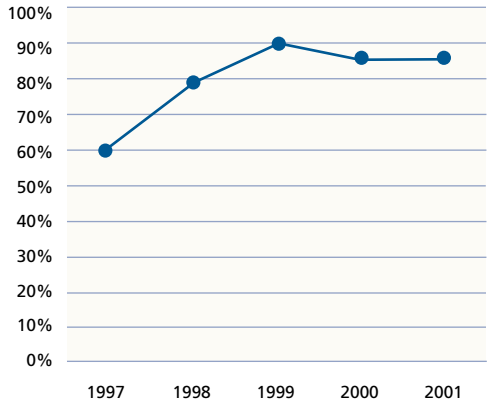
Orange County firms' presence on the Internet has grown tremendously in the last five years. In 1996, approximately a third of all firms surveyed had a website or home page; by 1999 that fraction had grown to 90%. In the most recent survey, 85% of Orange County firms reported using the Internet. The drop from 1999 to 2001 is similar to the error range of the survey (approximately five percentage points), so the statistical data reveal that Orange County firms' business presence on the Internet has essentially stayed constant, at between 85% and 90%, since 1999. Among Orange County firms, the most common uses of the Internet are email (96%), advertising (89%), and job recruitment (68%).

***Internet Usage Among Adults** - 1999 - 2000*



Source: Scarborough Research (Year 2000 data for Orange County estimated by Orange County Business Council based on growth rates of Internet penetration in U.S. metropolitan areas from 1999 to 2000)

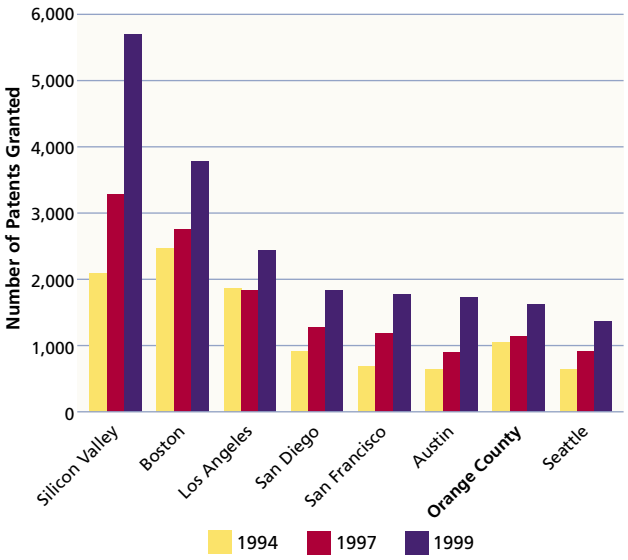
Orange County Business Presence on the Internet – 1997-2001



Source: Orange County Executive Survey 2001 (UC Irvine)

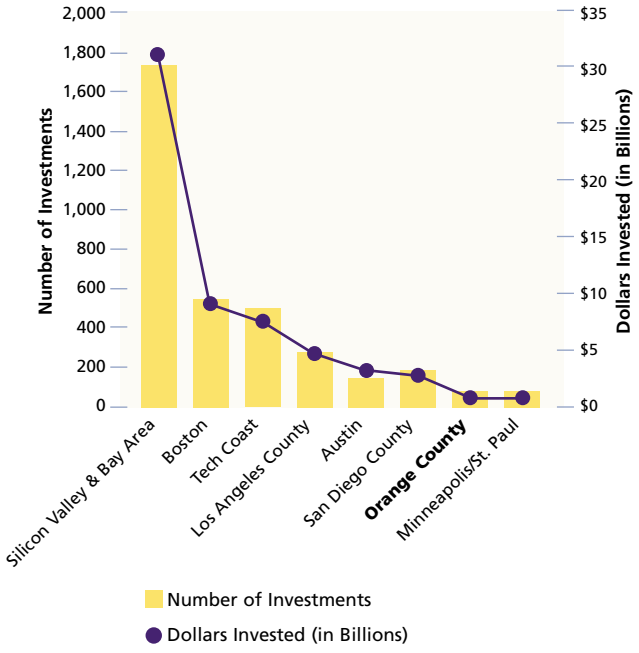
County Lags in Patent Grants and Venture Capital

Patent Grants – 1994-1999



Source: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/mclsstc/mregions.htm)
Note: Silicon Valley is Santa Clara County

Venture Capital Investments – 2000



Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers MoneyTree Survey in partnership with VentureOne
Note: Tech Coast is Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures patent grants awarded and access to venture capital.

Why is it Important?

Few things are as important for a national or regional economy's long term viability as the development of its technological potential and human resources. Orange County's knowledge- and information-intensive economy has become increasingly reliant on scientific discovery for growth.

Venture capital and other early-stage capital sources support the creation of new entrepreneurial companies, especially in high-tech industries. This indicator helps gauge the county's ability to innovate and capitalize on new ideas.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County patent grants were fairly static between 1994 and 1997, while other similar areas saw increasing levels of patent grants during the same period. By 1999, the number of patent grants in Orange County jumped 30% but still lagged behind substantial growth rates seen in similar areas. Orange County venture capital investments in 2000 totaled slightly over a billion dollars. However, venture capital investments in Orange County were not as large as investments in similarly-sized places, such as San Diego or Austin, which each had about two billion dollars in venture capital investments in 2000. This suggests a need to increase venture capital and other early-stage financial support for Orange County companies to support research and technology development to help generate the technological innovation growth rates seen in similar areas.

Despite Improvement, County Trails State and Nation in Students per Computer

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of K-12 students per computer in Orange County schools and compares this to state levels and national levels.

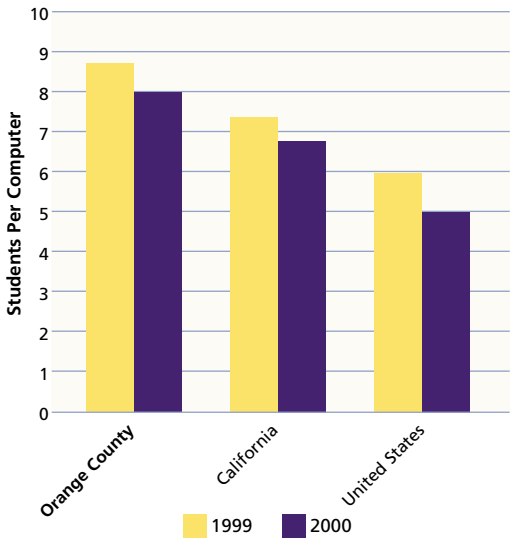
Why is it Important?

Computer skills are some of the most important technical skills that a student can possess in the new economy. The Internet is a major research tool for students and an instructional device for teachers. Many experts agree a ratio of four to five students per computer represents a reasonable level for the effective use of computers in schools.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County trails the state and national averages with 7.8 students per computer in comparison to 6.7 students per computer for the state and five students per computer for the nation. However, the county has improved substantially since 1998 when there were 9.5 students per computer.

K-12 Students per Computer



Sources: National Center for Education Statistics (http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2001/2001071.pdf) and California Department of Education (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)

Tech-Related Graduate Degrees Up

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of technology-related degrees conferred by local universities.

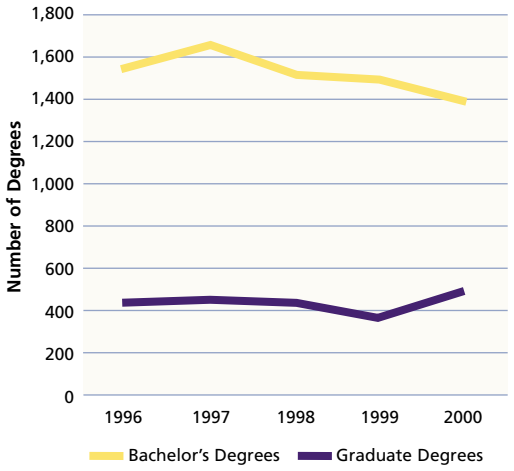
Why is it Important?

A technically skilled labor force is vital for a healthy high technology sector. This is particularly true in recent years, as growth in Orange County's high-tech sector spurs the local demand for graduates with technological skills.

How is Orange County Doing?

Driven by increases in physical and information sciences, graduate degrees in technical fields increased by 21% from 1999 to 2000, after declining from 1997 to 1999. Graduate degrees awarded in engineering showed a modest rebound in 2000. The total number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in technology-related fields at local universities declined in 2000, but certain fields showed large increases. The bulk of the decrease in Bachelor's degrees in technology-related fields was due to a drop in the number of degrees granted in biological sciences which is consistent with the changing composition of Orange County's high technology employment.

Tech-Related Degrees Granted - 1996-2000



Bachelor's and Graduate Degrees Conferred at Orange County Universities

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Bach.	Grad.	Bach.	Grad.	Bach.	Grad.	Bach.	Grad.	Bach.	Grad.
Biological Sciences	789	56	808	71	688	63	593	47	477	43
Engineering	272	200	270	170	241	177	226	141	239	152
Physical Sciences	123	58	169	77	172	69	239	75	244	115
Information and Computer Sciences	133	28	131	31	156	31	189	17	213	49
Biology	106	19	140	11	125	16	122	13	133	17
Other Sciences	74	29	71	43	95	36	52	42	18	37
Computer Sciences	68	26	63	34	66	24	95	25	78	21

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

Education

There is no better indicator of long-term economic prospects of a community than the scholastic success of the students in the region, and ultimately, their career preparation.

- Orange County's ethnic diversity continues to take center stage in the measurement of educational attainment. In some school districts our students are among the most prepared in the country, in others they are struggling to achieve minimal academic success. This disparity should be of even greater interest since the gap is not diminishing, rather it is growing.
- The growth in the number of English Learners and the rate at which these students become fluent English speakers will impact Orange County's academic scores and achievements for the foreseeable future. Compared to neighboring and peer California counties, Orange County has the second largest enrollment of English Learners.
- Rock bottom unemployment rates suggest that workforce supply and demand are in balance, but the question is whether all are employed at their full potential. The oversupply of Master's and Associate's degrees implies many are investing in education the market is not ready to reward. Conversely, the undersupply of professional and doctorate degrees, and college-educated with work experience suggests that education and training will be rewarded in the economy, as long as it is in the right field.

Educational Attainment

College Readiness

Workforce Supply and Demand

Academic Performance

English Learners

Dropout Rate Remains Low While Number of College-Educated Increases Slightly

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the educational attainment of Orange County residents over 25 years of age, compared to neighbor and peer regions. It also measures the percentage of Orange County public high school students who drop out each year.

Why is it Important?

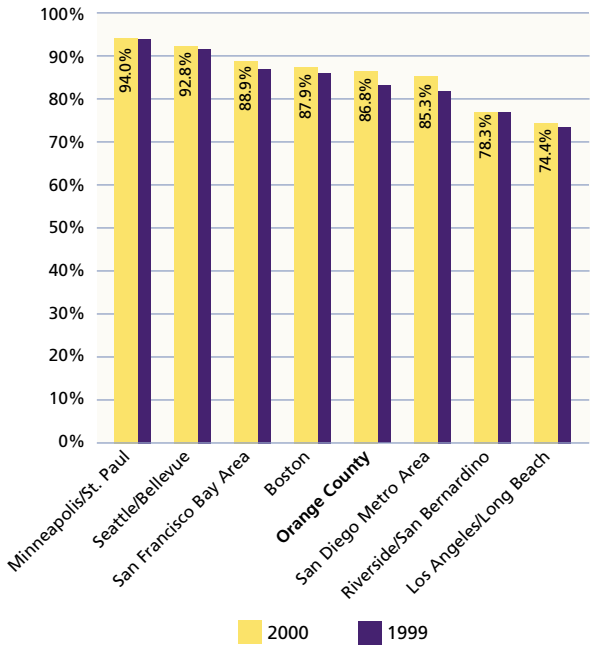
Educational attainment is important not only for personal success, but for sustaining the local economy. A high school diploma or college degree opens many career opportunities that are closed to those without these achievements. Additionally, the education level of residents is evidence of the quality and diversity of our labor pool – an important factor for businesses looking to locate or expand in the region.

How is Orange County Doing?

In any given year, Orange County has one of the lowest high school drop out rates in the state. There was no change in the Orange County rate (2%) and California rate (2.8%) between 1999 and 2000. Of the Orange County population over 25 years of age, fully 86.8% had high school diplomas in 2000, an increase of 2.7% since 1999.

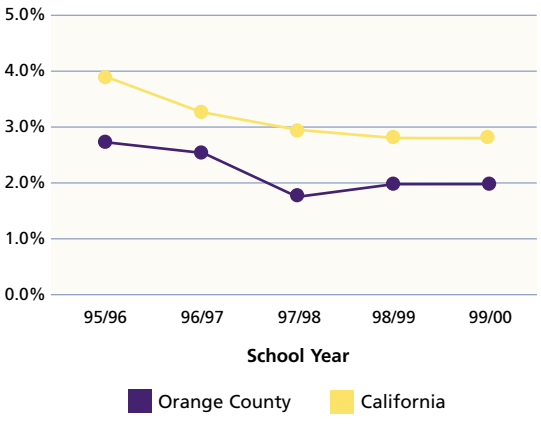
In 2000, the San Diego Metro Area beat out Orange County as the southern California region with the highest percentage of residents over 25 with a Bachelor's degree, however, Orange County's rate increased by 2.3% between 1999 and 2000. When compared to select economic peers, Orange County has the lowest percentage of college educated (31.9% in 2000).

Percent Over 25 Who Completed High School
1999-2000



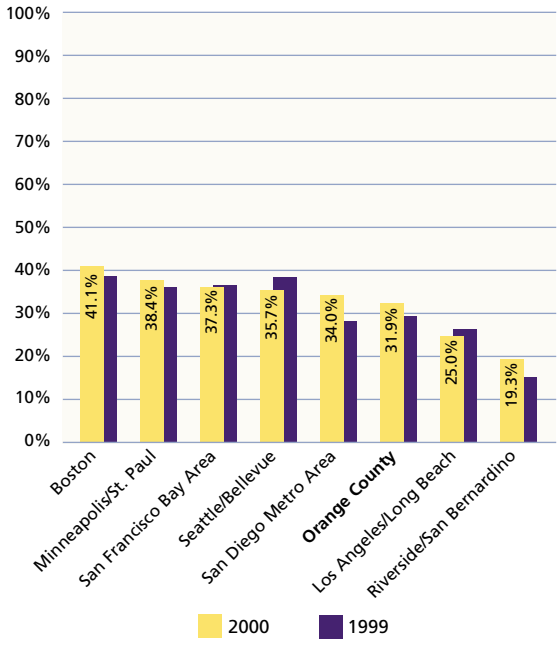
U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 1999 & 2000 (http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html)

Annual Drop Out Rate for Grades 9 Through 12
1995/96 - 1999/00



California Department of Education, Educational Statistics Unit, DataQuest, Grades 9-12 Drop Out Rate (as defined by the National Center for Educational Statistics), 1995/2000 (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)

Percent Over 25 Who Completed a Bachelor's Degree
1999-2000



U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 1999 & 2000 (http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html)

Percent of Students Eligible for UC/CSU Declines; County's Average SAT Score Exceeds Peer Counties

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of public high school graduates eligible for admission to University of California (UC) and/or California State University (CSU) campuses. It also measures Orange County high school graduates' performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) – required for admission to most colleges and universities.

Why is it Important?

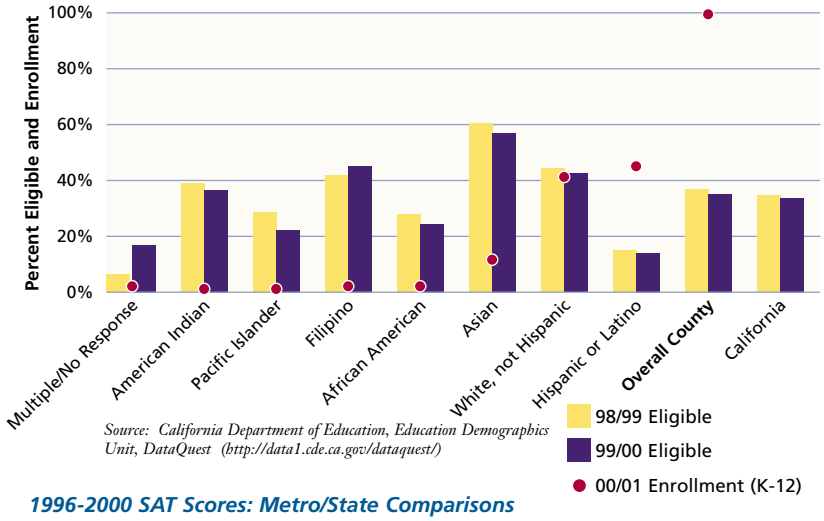
A college education or related skilled certification is increasingly important for many of today's jobs in Orange County. To gain entry to most four-year universities, high school students must complete the necessary course work and perform well on standardized tests.

How is Orange County Doing?

The county as a whole, as well as most ethnic groups, saw a slight decrease in UC/CSU eligibility from 1998/99 to 1999/00. Hispanic students, who now make up the majority of total enrollment in Orange County (42.2%), have the lowest rate of graduates with the appropriate coursework to go to a state college.

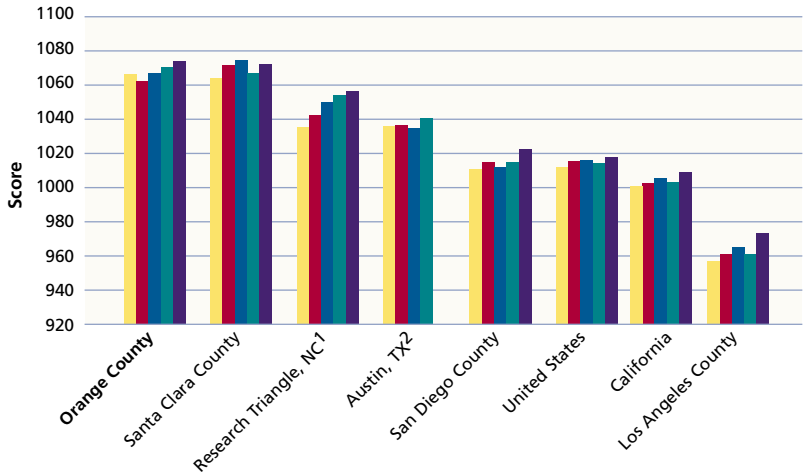
Orange County students on average perform well on the SAT. The highest possible score is 1600 and the national average in 2000 was 1019. Overall, Orange County students score higher than the nation, state, and the peer regions compared. Irvine Unified has the highest percentage of students scoring over 1000 (53%), while Santa Ana Unified has the lowest (6%).

UC/CSU Eligible Graduates and Enrollment



Source: California Department of Education, Education Demographics Unit, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)

1996-2000 SAT Scores: Metro/State Comparisons



[1] *Research Triangle includes Orange, Durham and Wake Counties, North Carolina.*
[2] *Austin region as defined by Texas Education Agency. 2000 data not available.*

Average SAT Scores and Percent Scoring 1000 or Better by School District - 2000

	Percent Scoring 1000 or Better	Average SAT Score
Irvine Unified	53%	1161
Laguna Beach Unified	46%	1116
Brea-Olinda Unified	39%	1100
Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified	36%	1088
Los Alamitos Unified	36%	1091
Saddleback Valley Unified	34%	1113
Orange Unified	33%	1068
Newport-Mesa Unified	32%	1097
Capistrano Unified	31%	1102
Tustin Unified	30%	1063
Fullerton Joint Union High	28%	1108
Orange County Average	**26%**	**1075**
Huntington Beach Union High	25%	1075
State Average	**19%**	**1009**
Garden Grove Unified	17%	1005
Anaheim Union High	16%	997
Santa Ana Unified	6%	886

Source: California Department of Education, Education Demographics Unit, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest)

Sources: California Department of Education, Office of Policy and Evaluation, Educational Planning and Information Center, SAT/ACT 10 Year Summary Report, 1989-1998, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) 1 Test Results, 1999 (www.cde.ca.gov/ope/epic/sat/), and DataQuest, 2000 (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest)

North Carolina State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, Division of Accountability (www.dpi.state.nc.us/accountability/reporting/index.html#sat)

Texas Education Agency, Academic Excellence Indicator System Performance Reports, 1996-2000 (www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/aeis)

Education and Training Providers Meet Market Demand for Entry-Level Labor

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures, for 1999, the projected education and experience requirements for job openings in Orange County compared to the number of graduates at various levels of education (figures are rounded). This comparison does not account for the migration of persons in and out of Orange County, and so is not an exact assessment of the balance between local skills and the needs of business.

Why is it Important?

Results from focus groups conducted by the Orange County Business Council indicate that having an appropriately trained labor force is a prime business concern. As jobs require increasingly specialized skills, businesses are looking to public and private institutions to provide the training that their employees need. Imbalances in workforce supply and demand can lead to pools of unemployed workers or labor shortages that can drive up the cost of doing business in Orange County.

How is Orange County Doing?

Overall, Orange County education and training institutions appear to turn out college graduates roughly in proportion to the training levels needed by local firms. Orange County universities graduated 7,700 persons with Bachelor's degrees in the Fall of 1999, compared to a projected local need of 7,000 persons with Bachelor's degrees in that year. However, the number of students graduating with a Master's degree in 1999 in Orange County was three times the projected local demand for Master's graduates, and Orange County's production of doctoral degrees and professional degrees (e.g. medical and law) in 1999 lagged local demand. Despite these mismatches, of Orange County's estimated 40,000 new jobs in 1999, 26,000 required only on-the-job training or work experience, suggesting that the entry-level labor market can provide opportunities for the local labor pool in Orange County. Many of the entry-level jobs in Orange County are served by a large number of training providers.[1]

1 The data in this indicator were drawn from Closing the Gaps: Employment Demand and Workforce Training in Orange County's New Economy, an Orange County Business Council report funded by the County of Orange for the Orange County Workforce Investment Board, December, 2000.

Projected Education and Experience Requirements for Orange County Job Openings (Demand) and Education Levels of Orange County Graduates and Potential Labor Market Entrants (Supply) - 1999

	Demand	*Supply*
Professional Degree	500	200
Doctoral Degree	500	200
Masters Degree	500	1,600
Bachelors Degree	7,000	7,700
Associates Degree	1,500	13,400
Bachelors Plus Work Experience	3,000	
High School Grad Plus Vocational Education	1,000	
Work Experience	2,500	
Long-term on the Job Training	3,000	
Moderate on the Job Training	4,500	
Short-term on the Job Training	16,000	
High School Dropout		2,700
Orange County High School Graduate		2,800
OC High School Grad w/ UC/CSU Courses		10,200
College Dropout		1,700
Total	**40,000**	**40,500**

Sources: Orange County Business Council, California Employment Development Department, University of California-Irvine, California State University-Fullerton, Chapman University, and Orange County Community College Districts

Focus on Training Providers
Community Colleges, Regional Occupation Programs, and One-Stops

Interest in Orange County's Regional Occupation Program—which provides career preparation classes and internships—continues to increase with over 56,000 teens and adults enrolled in the 1999/00 school year, a 12% increase from the prior year. Of those who complete the program, fully 85% secure employment or continue their studies.

In 1999/00, over 140,000 students were enrolled in one of Orange County's nine community colleges which offer career preparation courses in arts & communication, business & marketing, consumer & human services, health sciences, and science & technology.

Orange County's One-Stop system with six full service centers connects job seekers with businesses by providing, among other services, on-the-job training and recruitment assistance.

In 1999, an estimated 367,924 training or certificate programs were completed in the county.

Sources: Capistrano-Laguna Beach, Coastline, Central County, and North County Regional Occupation Programs; Cypress College; Orange County Career Matrix 2001-2002 (www.joblinkoc.org/careers); Orange County Workforce Investment Board (www.oc.ca.gov/csa/spd); Orange County Business Council

County School Districts Increase Academic Performance Scores

Elementary School Academic Performance Index District Average – 2000

School District	Average API
Irvine Unified	867
Laguna Beach Unified	856
Los Alamitos Unified	849
Saddleback Valley Unified	833
Fountain Valley Elementary	828
Cypress Elementary	824
Brea-Olinda Unified	815
Huntington Beach City	797
Capistrano Unified	787
Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified	759
Tustin Unified	749
Ocean View Elementary	740
County Average	**737**
Newport-Mesa Unified	736
Centralia Elementary	736
Orange Unified	718
Savanna Elementary	710
Fullerton Elementary	695
Westminster Elementary	672
La Habra City Elementary	666
Buena Park Elementary	666
Garden Grove Unified	662
Magnolia Elementary	620
Anaheim Elementary	559
Santa Ana Unified	534

Elementary School Similar School Rank District Average – 2000

School District	Average SSR
Cypress Elementary	9
La Habra City Elementary	9
Savanna Elementary	9
Tustin Unified	9
Laguna Beach Unified	8
Saddleback Valley Unified	8
Anaheim Elementary	7
Brea-Olinda Unified	7
Buena Park Elementary	7
County Average	**7**
Garden Grove Unified	7
Irvine Unified	7
Magnolia Elementary	7
Newport-Mesa Unified	7
Ocean View Elementary	7
Santa Ana Unified	7
Centralia Elementary	6
Los Alamitos Unified	6
Fountain Valley Elementary	5
Westminster Elementary	5
Capistrano Unified	4
Fullerton Elementary	4
Huntington Beach City	4
Orange Unified	4
Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified	4

Source: California Department of Education (www.cde.ca.gov)

Description of Indicator

This indicator summarizes the Academic Performance Index (API) score and Similar School Rank for each public elementary school in Orange County, expressed as the average school score and rank for each district. The API – ranging from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000 – is calculated for each school based on Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition (Stanford 9) test results. The Similar School Rank – ranging from a low of one to a high of 10 – measures how the school faired compared to other schools with similar characteristics.

Why is it Important?

The Similar School Rank and Academic Performance Index enable school administrators and the public to evaluate how well a school or district is performing, with or without consideration of school characteristics.

How is Orange County Doing?

All districts witnessed increases in API scores from 1999 to 2000, however, the change in school ranks was more variable. The average elementary school API score for Orange County was 737, a 38-point increase since 1999. Irvine Unified had the highest average API score in the county, while Santa Ana Unified, one of the largest districts in the county, had the lowest. Buena Park had the greatest point improvement since 1999, while Fullerton had the smallest. In 2000, Cypress and Tustin Unified joined La Habra City and Savanna as the highest similar school ranked districts in the county. Ocean View had the greatest gain in rank between 1999 and 2000 while Fountain Valley and Orange Unified had the greatest loss. Individual school API scores and ranks are available from the California Department of Education.

Characteristics Used to Determine School Similarity Include:

- pupil mobility
- pupil ethnicity
- pupil socioeconomic status
- % of teachers fully credentialed
- % of teachers with emergency credentials
- % of pupils who are English Learners
- average class size per grade level
- whether schools operate multi-track year round educational programs

California Department of Education

English Learner Enrollment Levels Out Over Past Five Years

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of enrolled students who are English language learners in Orange County public schools over the past ten years. Also shown is the percent of Orange County English Learners redesignated to Fluent-English-Proficient (FEP) and Orange County English Learner enrollment compared to neighboring and peer California counties.

Why is it Important?

Students who have limited English speaking skills often face academic, employment and financial challenges. An educated workforce with good communication skills is important for a strong economy.

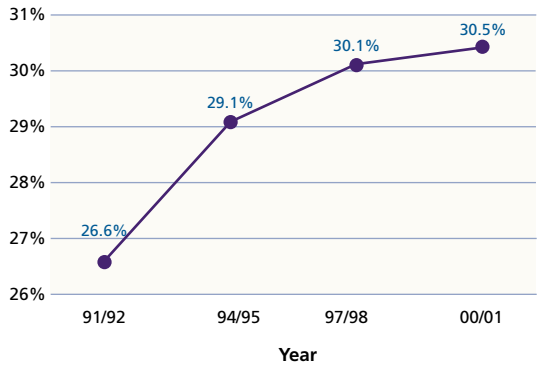
How is Orange County Doing?

After steady increases in the early 1990's, the percent of total public school enrollment made up of English Learners has stayed roughly level over the past five years. The percentage of English Learners has grown 15% in the past decade.

Since 1997, the number of students considered Fluent-English-Proficient (students for whom English is a second language but who are fluent in English) has risen, as has the number of students redesignated from English Learner to Fluent-English-Proficient (FEP).

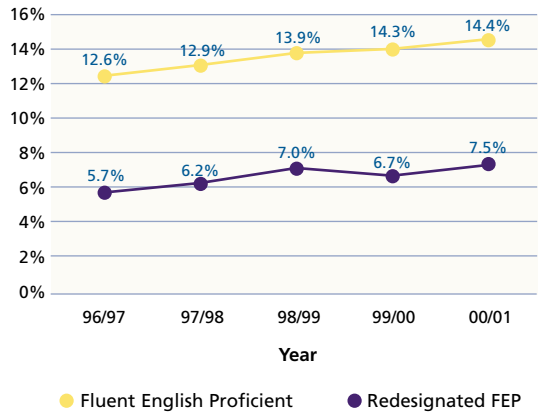
Compared to neighboring and peer California counties, Orange County has the second largest enrollment of English Learners in the 2000/01 school year (30.5%). Of those compared, Los Angeles County has the highest percent of English Learners (34.1%) while San Bernardino has the lowest (18.5%). Since 1999/00, the percentage of English Learners in Los Angeles and San Diego Counties decreased slightly, remained the same in Santa Clara County, and increased slightly in the remaining counties and California overall.

English Learners as Percent of Total Enrollment – 1992-2001



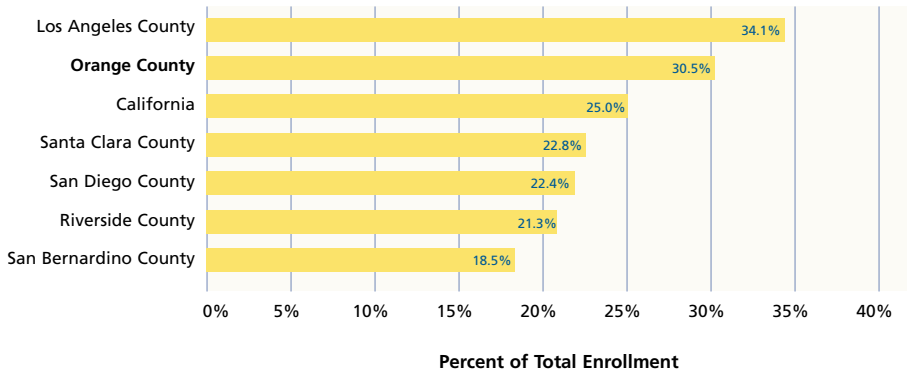
Source: Education Data Partnership (www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/dev/County.asp)

Percent of Fluent English Proficient (FEP) and Students Redesignated FEP, Annually – 1997-2001



Source: California Department of Education, Demographic Research Unit, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)

English Learners as a Percent of Total Enrollment – 2000/01



Source: California Department of Education, Demographic Research Unit, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/)

Health and Human Services

Several of the indicators measured in this section suggest the long-term health and wellbeing of the community is threatened.

- Comparatively speaking, unborn and young children in Orange County are healthy, receiving good health care, and living in safe environments.
- Unfortunately, by the time Orange County's children hit fifth grade, over 70 percent are considered physically unfit.
- This trend doesn't get better as our residents get older. As an adult in Orange County, your chances of dying from heart disease, stroke or cancer are greater than the average Californian.
- In addition to problems of physical health, the estimated number of homeless families and children living in poverty continues to rise, with North County and Latino families more likely to be struggling to get by.

More County Residents Die of Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke Than the Average Californian

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the health status of the Orange County population in 1999 compared to the state and selected counties using mortality rates (age-adjusted deaths per 100,000 people) and morbidity rates (cases per 100,000 people) commonly used for monitoring progress toward Healthy People 2010 National Objectives.[1]

Why is it Important?

Viewing Orange County in relation to the state, other counties, and national health objectives helps us identify public health problems that are comparatively more (or less) pronounced in Orange County and can inspire new public health initiatives to address problems.

How is Orange County Doing?

In 1999, Orange County met the Healthy People 2010 goal for deaths due to motor vehicle accidents and diabetes, but exceeded the death rate for the remaining 12 commonly measured health status indicators. More Orange County residents die of heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and all cancer than the average Californian. Of all California counties, Orange County has the fifth highest rate of deaths due to heart disease, and compared to our peer and neighboring counties, Orange County has the highest rate of death due to stroke.

1999 AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATE DUE TO:

Heart Disease	
County	Rate
2010 Objective	166.0
Santa Clara	175.9
San Diego	189.8
California	204.0
Riverside	228.6
Orange	**232.5**
Los Angeles	235.0
San Bernardino	266.3

Cancer	
County	Rate
2010 Objective	159.9
Santa Clara	162.2
Los Angeles	174.3
Riverside	179.1
California	179.5
Orange	**184.5**
San Diego	186.8
San Bernardino	191.9

Stroke	
County	Rate
2010 Objective	48.0
Riverside	54.3
Los Angeles	59.9
San Diego	60.9
California	63.3
Santa Clara	63.4
San Bernardino	64.2
Orange	**67.7**

Lung Cancer	
County	Rate
Santa Clara	37.6
Los Angeles	42.5
2010 Objective	44.9
California	46.9
Riverside	47.1
Orange	**47.2**
San Diego	48.0
San Bernardino	51.6

Unintentional Injuries	
County	Rate
2010 Objective	17.5
Santa Clara	19.2
Los Angeles	22.1
Orange	**24.6**
San Bernardino	27.1
California	27.5
San Diego	28.0
Riverside	32.4

Breast Cancer	
County	Rate
Riverside	21.9
2010 Objective	22.3
Santa Clara	23.6
Orange	**24.0**
California	24.6
Los Angeles	22.1
San Diego	26.0
San Bernardino	27.3

Diabetes	
County	Rate
Riverside	14.1
San Diego	15.3
Santa Clara	17.6
Orange	**20.1**
California	20.5
Los Angeles	23.8
San Bernardino	30.5
2010 Objective	45.0

Suicide	
County	Rate
2010 Objective	5.0
Santa Clara	7.7
Orange	**8.0**
Los Angeles	8.1
California	9.4
Riverside	10.7
San Diego	10.8
San Bernardino	10.8

Motor Vehicle Accidents	
County	Rate
Santa Clara	7.3
Orange	**7.9**
Los Angeles	8.2
San Diego	8.4
2010 Objective	9.2
California	9.5
Riverside	11.8
San Bernardino	13.8

Drug-Related	
County	Rate
2010 Objective	1.0
Santa Clara	4.3
Orange	**7.8**
Los Angeles	8.3
California	9.1
San Bernardino	9.9
San Diego	10.2
Riverside	10.3

Firearms Injuries	
County	Rate
2010 Objective	4.1
Santa Clara	5.1
Orange	**6.7**
San Diego	7.3
California	9.2
Riverside	9.9
Los Angeles	11.7
San Bernardino	12.7

Homicide	
County	Rate
Santa Clara	2.2
2010 Objective	3.0
Orange	**3.5**
San Diego	3.6
Riverside	5.5
California	6.0
San Bernardino	7.7
Los Angeles	9.4

1999 CASE RATE OF:

Tuberculosis	
County	Rate
2010 Objective	1.0
Riverside	5.0
San Bernardino	7.0
Orange	**10.5**
San Diego	11.4
California	11.5
Los Angeles	14.2
Santa Clara	14.8

AIDS	
County	Rate
2010 Objective	1.0
Santa Clara	13.0
San Bernardino	13.7
Orange	**14.8**
California	24.5
Riverside	27.6
Los Angeles	30.5
San Diego	31.0

What is Healthy People 2010?
Healthy People 2010 is a national health promotion and disease prevention initiative which establishes national health objectives to improve the health of all Americans, eliminate disparities in health, and improve years and quality of healthy life.

Sources: California Department of Health Services, County Health Status Profiles (http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/)
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Healthy People 2010 (http://www.health.gov/healthypeople/)

[1]Counties with varying age compositions (e.g. a county with a large population of elderly vs. a county with a large population of children) can have widely disparate death rates since the risk of dying is mostly a function of age. To enable county comparisons, age-adjusted death rates, which control for this variability, are used rather than crude death rates.

Cost of Care Rises; Despite Advances, Most Centers Remain Unaccredited

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percent of Orange County parents with children under six years of age who use child care; the average yearly cost of licensed, center- and home-based child care for infants (up to 24 months) and preschoolers (age two to five) in Orange County compared to peer California counties and the state; and the number of licensed center-based early care and education programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Accreditation by the NAEYC requires early care and education providers to meet quality standards.

Why is it Important?

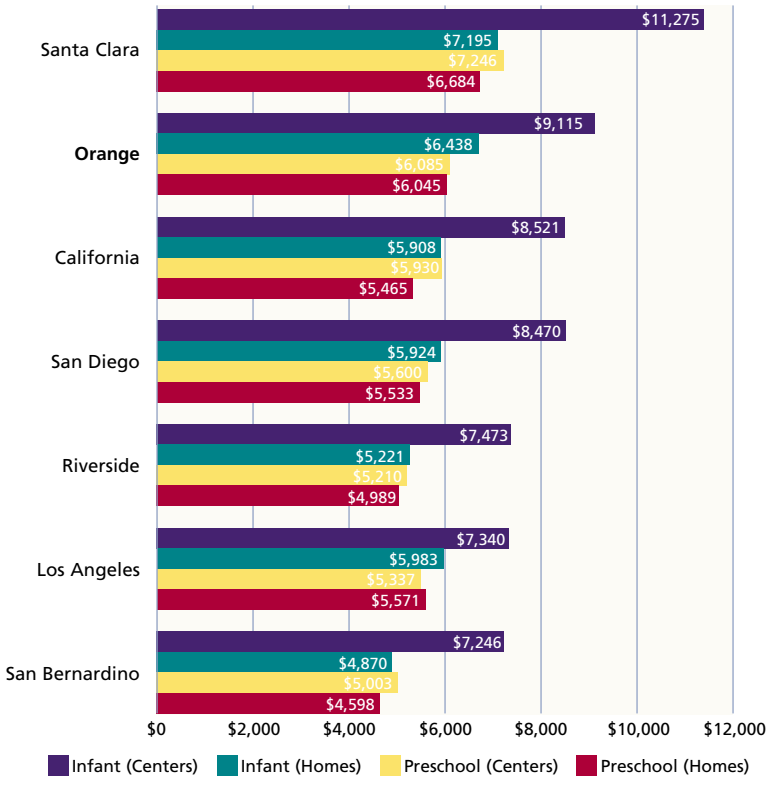
High-quality early child care and education ensures children will have a stimulating and supportive environment in which to learn the skills they need to be successful in school and life. Long-term studies have shown that children, especially high-risk children, enrolled in high-quality early care programs (including high adult-to-child ratios and specially designed play programs to encourage social, emotional, and cognitive development) have higher academic test scores, higher graduation and employment rates, and lower early pregnancy rates.[1]

Cost-effective child care is essential to enable working families to maintain economic self-sufficiency. For many parents, finding and paying for child care is a significant challenge and an enormous financial burden.

How is Orange County Doing?

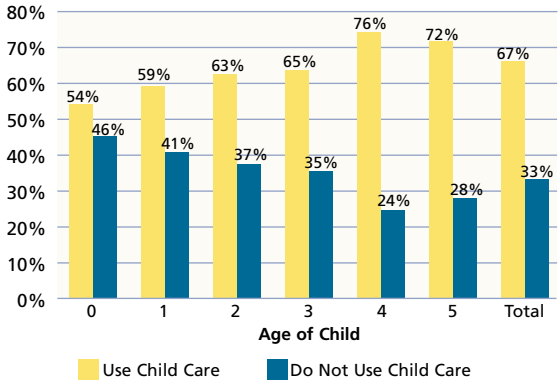
Two-thirds of Orange County parents with children under six use at least some form of child care, either formal center- or home-based care, or informal care. Parents are more likely to use child care as the child grows older. While many factors contribute to this trend, the high cost of infant care may be one factor. The rise in the average yearly cost of licensed center-based infant child care in Orange County far outpaced inflation, rising by $1,156 (or 15%) between 1998 and 2000. Center-based care for preschoolers increased by $394 or 7%. Licensed family child care homes tend to cost less than centers. As of October 2001, 65 (or 10%) of Orange County child care centers are accredited by the NAEYC, compared with 7% as of June 1999.

Average Child Care Cost Per Year, Infant (up to 24 months) and Preschool (2-5), Licensed Child Care Centers and Licensed Family Child Care Homes - 2000



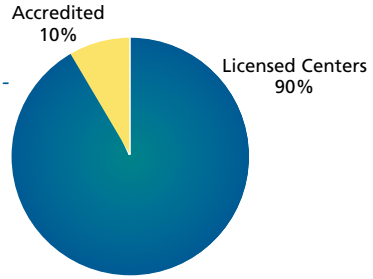
Source: California Child Care Resource and Referral Network

Percent of Orange County Parents with Preschool Age Children Using Child Care - 2001



Source: Children and Families Commission of Orange County and Center for Collaboration for Children at California State University Fullerton, Early Care And Education Needs Assessment for Orange County, October 2001

Orange County Accredited Early Care and Education Centers - October 2001



Source: California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing

[1]Abecedarian Project, 1999

County Nears Healthy People 2010 Goal for Early Prenatal Care

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of live births to Orange County women who began prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy from 1995 to 2000, with racial and ethnic detail. Rates of early prenatal care in Orange County are also compared to peer counties and California overall.

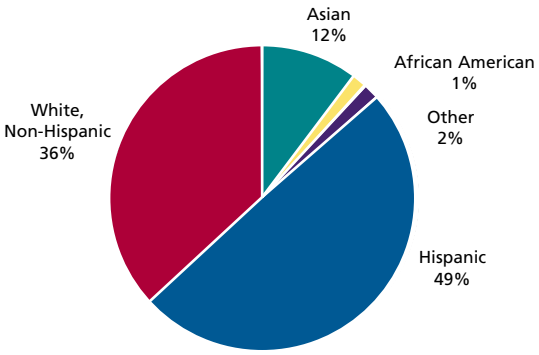
Why is it Important?

Early prenatal care provides an effective and cost-efficient way to prevent, detect and treat maternal and fetal medical problems. It provides an excellent opportunity for health care providers to offer counseling on healthy habits and lifestyles to lead to an optimal birth outcome. Higher levels of low birth weight and infant mortality are associated with late or no prenatal care.

How is Orange County Doing?

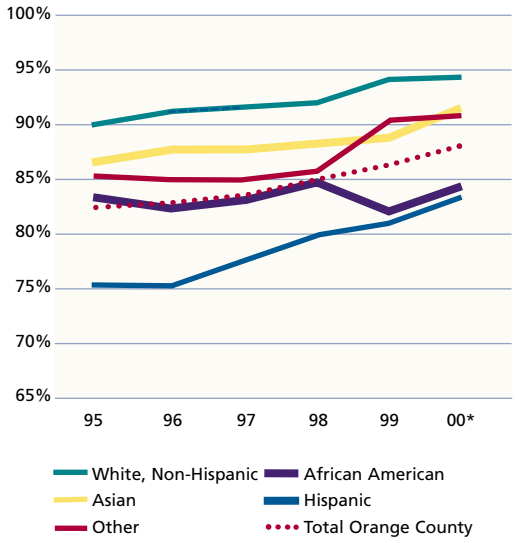
With an overall early prenatal care rate of 88.1% in 2000, Orange County is well on its way to meeting the Healthy People 2010 goal of 90% of mothers receiving early, if not necessarily adequate, prenatal care.[1] Of the racial and ethnic sub-populations, only Hispanic and African American mothers fell short of the goal as of 2000. However, Hispanic mothers have seen one of the largest percent increases in early prenatal care over the past decade – a positive trend since 49% of births in Orange County in 1999 were to Hispanic mothers, more than any other ethnic or racial group.[2] Among our peer counties, each witnessed an increase in early prenatal care rates between 1998 and 1999, but Orange County has the highest rate.

***Percent of Total Births** - 1999*



Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Communicable Disease Control and Epidemiology and the 7th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County 2001

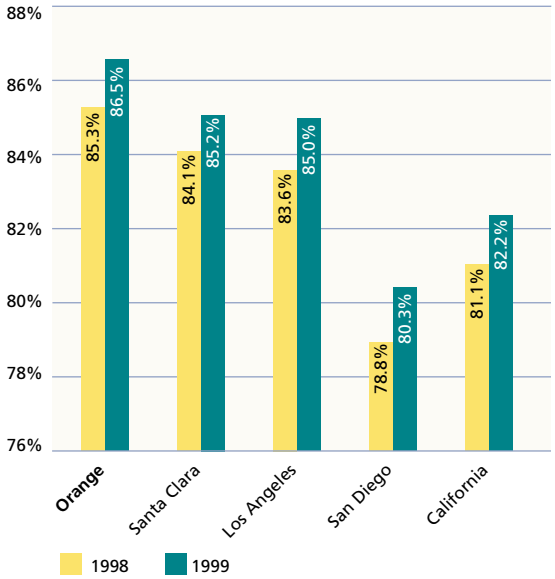
***Percent of Orange County Mothers Receiving Early Prenatal Care by Race and Ethnicity** - 1995-2000*



* Preliminary data for 2000.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Communicable Disease Control and Epidemiology, 2001

***Percent of Mothers Receiving Early Prenatal Care** - County Comparison, 1998 and 1999*



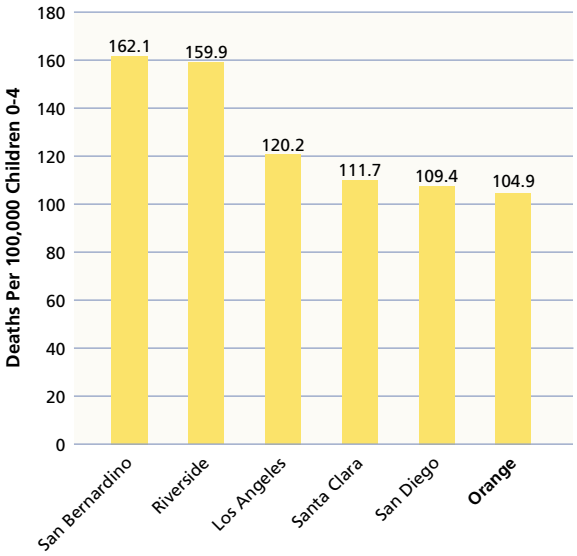
Source: California Department of Health Services, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Statistics Section

[1]The Healthy People 2010 goal is for early *and* adequate prenatal care and on that score Orange County, as well as all California counties, has work to do. Using the Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index, 78.2% of mothers in Orange County received "adequate/adequate plus" prenatal care. Adequate/adequate plus prenatal care is care that began before the fourth month of pregnancy and included 80% or more of the number of prenatal care visits recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

[2]County of Orange Health Care Agency, Communicable Disease Control and Epidemiology, 2001

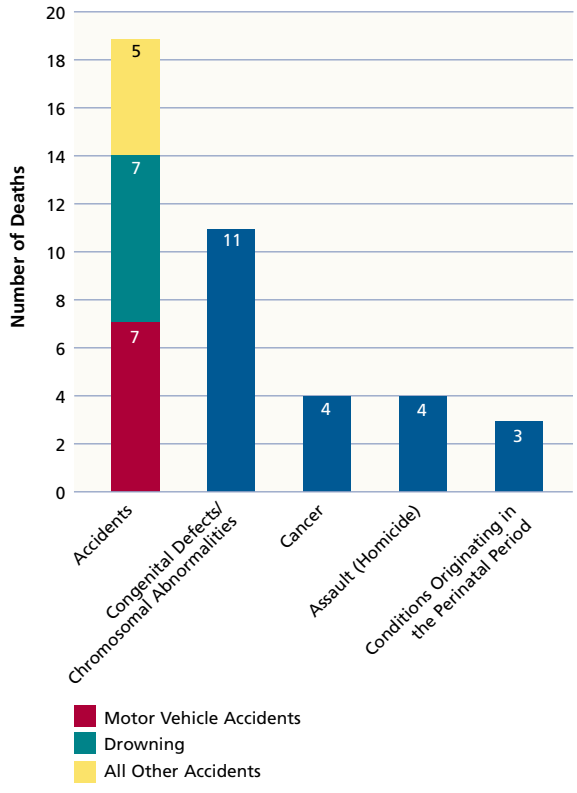
Death Rate for Young Children Less Than Peers

Death Rate Due to All Causes - Birth Through Age Four
County Comparison, 1999



Source: Expert Health Data Programming, Inc. (http://www.ehdp.com/index.htm)

Leading Causes of Death for Children - Ages One Through Four *- Orange County, 1999*



Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Communicable Disease Control and Epidemiology

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the leading causes of death for infants (under one year) and children ages one through four years in Orange County (shown as raw number of deaths) and deaths for children ages birth through four years due to all causes compared to peer California counties (shown as number of deaths per 100,000 children ages birth through four years). All figures are for 1999.

Why is it Important?

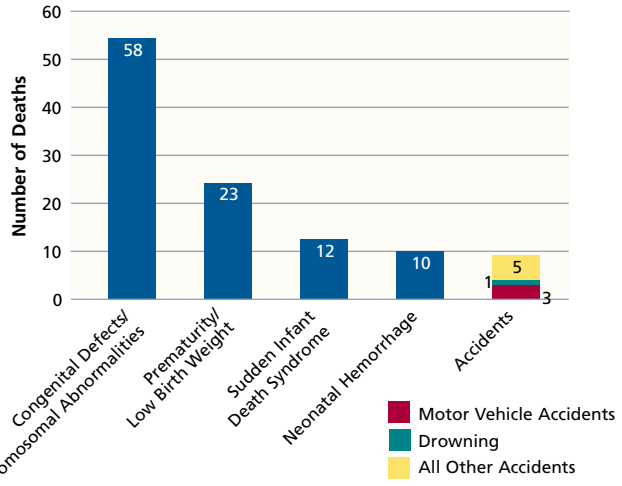
Awareness of the leading causes of death for children can lead to intervention strategies that can help prevent mortality.

How is Orange County Doing?

In 1999 new death classifications were adopted, resetting the baseline year for showing trends over time. The leading cause of death for infants (birth to one year) is congenital defects or chromosomal abnormalities (such as spina bifida or Down's syndrome), followed by disorders related to prematurity or low birth weight, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (defined as an unexplained death in the first year of life), neonatal hemorrhage (fetal or newborn blood loss), and accidents (three involving motor vehicles, one due to drowning, and five due to all other accidents).

Accidents move to the top of the list for the leading causes of death for children ages one through four years (seven involving motor vehicles, seven due to drowning, and five due to all other accidents). Accidents are followed by congenital defects or chromosomal abnormalities, cancer, assault (homicide), and conditions originating in the perinatal period (a broad category including conditions such as low birth weight, and related complications, such as Respiratory Distress Syndrome).[1]

Leading Causes of Death for Infants (Under One)
County Comparison, 1999



Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Communicable Disease Control and Epidemiology

[1] The "perinatal period" is defined as a fetus of at least 20 weeks gestation and an infant under 28 days of life (California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics). Since deaths due to conditions originating in the perinatal period are the largest cause of death for infants, specific causes within this category are listed individually for the infant age group (e.g. prematurity, low birth weight, neonatal hemorrhage, etc.) and grouped together for ages one and up.

County Immunization Rate Below California Average for First Time

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures reported cases among children from birth through age five of vaccine-preventable diseases which children are required to be vaccinated against before entering kindergarten. The required immunization series includes: five doses diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP or DTP), two doses measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), three doses hepatitis B, and four doses polio. Also measured are immunization rates in Orange County and California from 1996 to 2000 for children at two years of age.

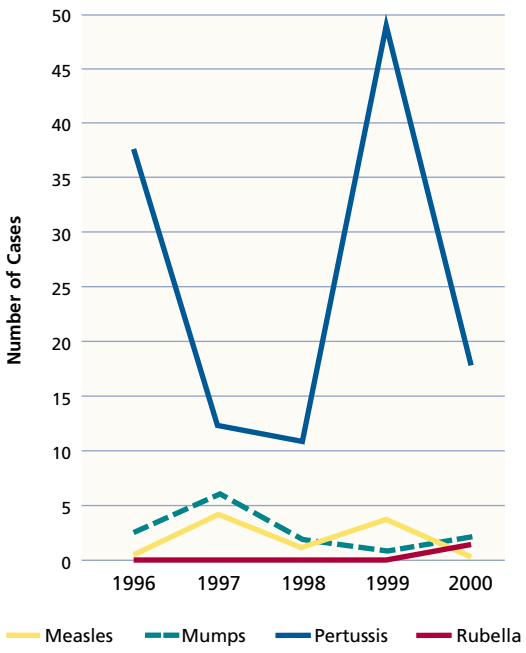
Why is it Important?

Immunization is considered to be one of the most important interventions available for preventing serious diseases among infants and children. The Healthy People 2010 immunization objective is for 90% of young children (age 1½ to 2¾) to be protected by universally recommended vaccines.

How is Orange County Doing?

Incidence of vaccine-preventable disease has fluctuated over the past five years. In 2000, there were 18 cases of pertussis (whooping cough), two cases of mumps, and one case of congenital rubella (German measles). Over the past five years, there has been little change in the percent of children immunized by age two. In 2000, 66% of Orange County children at age two were immunized, slightly below the California rate of 67% and far below the Healthy People 2010 goal of 90%.

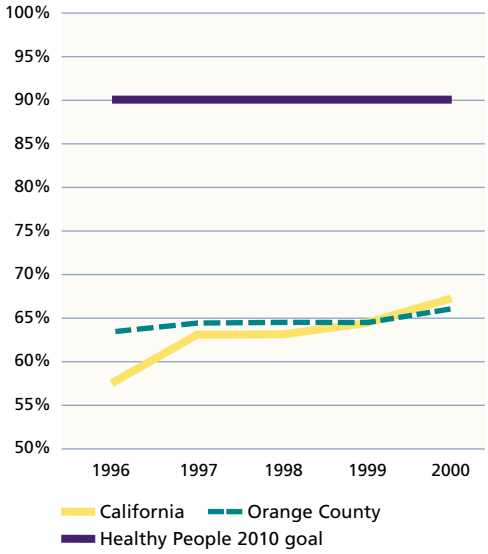
***Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Among Children Under Six Years of Age** - Orange County, 1996-2000**



* There were no reported cases of diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B or polio during this period among children under six years of age.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Communicable Disease Control and Epidemiology

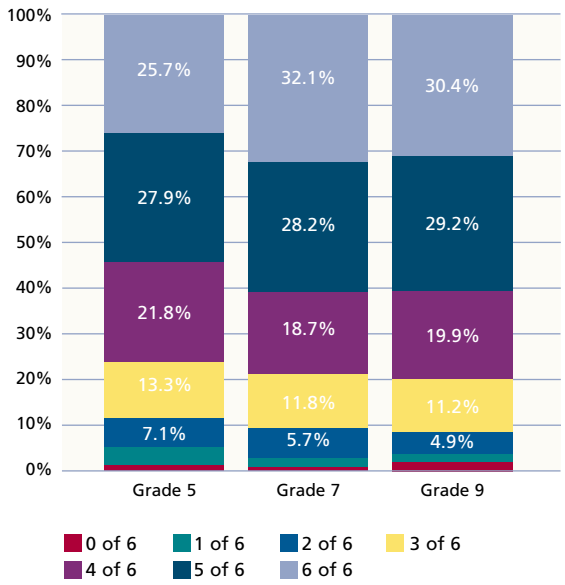
***Percent of Orange County Children Immunized at Two Years of Age** - 1996-2000*



Sources: State Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch and The 7th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County 2001

Fitness Levels Improve in All Grades Tested; One-Third of Children Are Considered Fit

Percent of Orange County Children Achieving Six Fitness Standards - 2001



Percent of Orange County Children Achieving Six Fitness Standards, by Ethnicity - 2001

	Grade 5	Grade 7	Grade 9
African American	12.2%	18.6%	21.2%
American Indian	24.9%	38.2%	37.2%
Asian	32.7%	42.5%	38.9%
Filipino	25.4%	31.3%	32.2%
Hispanic/Latino	20.2%	24.8%	25.8%
Pacific Islander	23.2%	28.8%	27.7%
White/Non-Hispanic	33.0%	38.4%	35.2%

Percent of Orange County Children Achieving Six Fitness Standards, by Gender - 2001

	Grade 5	Grade 7	Grade 9
Female	27.5%	33.5%	29.3%
Male	24.1%	30.8%	31.6%

Source: California Department of Education, 2001 California Physical Fitness Test, Orange County Report (http://164.109.154.248/fitnessrpt2001/)

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the physical fitness of children in 5th, 7th and 9th grades. Six tasks measured include: aerobic capacity, body composition (percent of body fat), abdominal strength, trunk extension strength, upper body strength, and flexibility.

Why is it Important?

A sedentary lifestyle is one of the primary risk factors for many health problems. The physical fitness of children is important both for their health now and for the positive impact building a commitment to fitness can have on their health as an adult.

How is Orange County Doing?

Compared to 1999 results, the percentage of Orange County students considered physically fit increased in 2001. Still, students must meet minimum fitness standards for all six areas of the test to be considered fit, and 74% of 5th graders, 68% of 7th graders, and 71% of 9th graders could not meet that goal. Orange County students remain more fit than the state average, where fitness rates are between five and eight percent lower. Children in Orange County and statewide had the greatest trouble meeting the minimum standards for aerobic capacity and upper body strength. Girls tend to be more fit than boys until 9th grade when boys begin to outperform girls. Disparities also exist among ethnic groups.

North County and Latino Families More Likely to be Struggling to Get By

Description of Indicator

As a means of measuring Orange County families' progress toward self-sufficiency and economic stability, this indicator measures the caseloads of core public assistance programs including CalWORKs (provides cash assistance and employment services), Food Stamps (provides coupons to buy food), and Medi-Cal and Healthy Families (provides health care coverage), and compares this to measures of economic status including household income as approximated by the number of children eligible for free or reduced price school lunches.[1] This indicator also measures the number of homeless families and individuals and the percentage of residents reporting a lack of opportunities for well-paying jobs.

Why is it Important?

Most families in Orange County are able to thrive despite the county's high cost of living. The families struggling to get by are the focus of this indicator. Families living in or on the edge of poverty are more prone to stress, volatile family relations, and poor nutrition, health, and performance at school or work. Achieving self-sufficiency and economic stability can have lasting and measurable benefits for both parents and children.

How is Orange County Doing?

Welfare reform combined with a healthy economy continues to move more people off public assistance, but other economic forces such as a lack of well-paying jobs and a high cost of living continue to place pressure on families, leading in some cases to poverty and in extreme cases to homelessness.

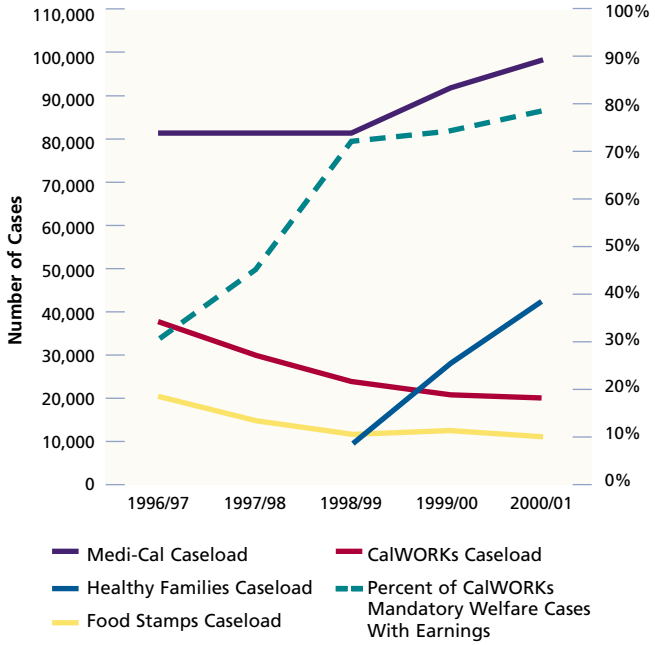
CalWORKs and Food Stamp caseloads have decreased over the past five years (down 45% and 44% respectively), while the number of CalWORKs recipients with jobs has increased (76% had jobs in 2000/01 compared to 26% five years earlier). Children receiving CalWORKs are concentrated in the north-central part of the county. Health insurance programs such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families have seen increases in enrollment, an indication that many still have incomes low enough to be eligible for this kind of assistance.

In 2001, Orange County had an estimated 19,740 homeless people, up 6% from the prior year.[2] Families with children represent approximately 70% of the total homeless population. Fully 65% of the homeless in Orange County have jobs, indicating that having a job does not guarantee the ability to afford housing. The so-called "working poor" face increasingly high costs of living including rent (see page 18) and child care (see page 37) while not seeing a commensurate increase in per capita income (see page 15).

While overall most Orange County residents feel finding a well-paying job is not a problem, 39% of Latinos report that finding a well-paying job is a big problem in Orange County, compared to 13% of Whites and 11% of Asians. Many factors may contribute to this disparity, but the finding is supported by the significant number of children living in families with incomes low enough to be eligible for free or reduced price school lunches (a proxy for child poverty).[3] The overall number of eligible children has stayed roughly the same since the prior year, but disparities are evident when looking at different school districts. The most impoverished districts tend to be located in North County and have a higher percentage of Latino students.

1 Since CalWORKs recipients generally also receive Food Stamps and Medi-Cal, the Food Stamps and Medi-Cal caseloads represent the "non-assisted" caseload (those who do not receive CalWORKs).
2 A person is considered homeless if they have no fixed or regular nighttime residence (including motels), were evicted, or are staying in a temporary shelter or place that is not designed for housing, such as a car or garage.
3 A child is eligible for subsidized school meals if the household income is below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Household income that is less than 185% of the FPL ranges from $21,479 for a family of two to $32,653 for a family of four, up to $55,001 for a family of eight. Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/poverty/01poverty.htm)

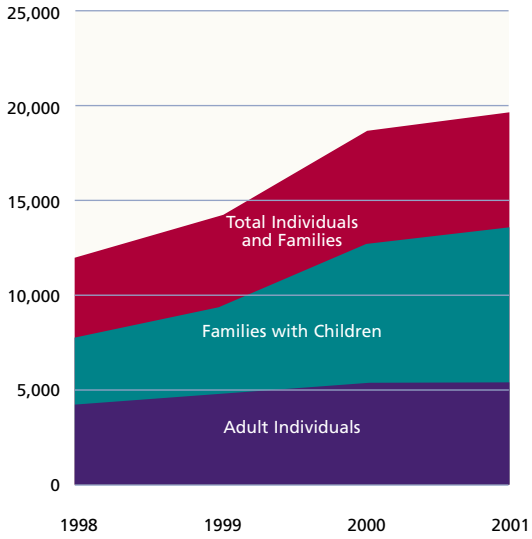
Major Public Assistance Program Caseloads – Orange County - 1997-2001



Note: The Healthy Families child health insurance program began in 1998.

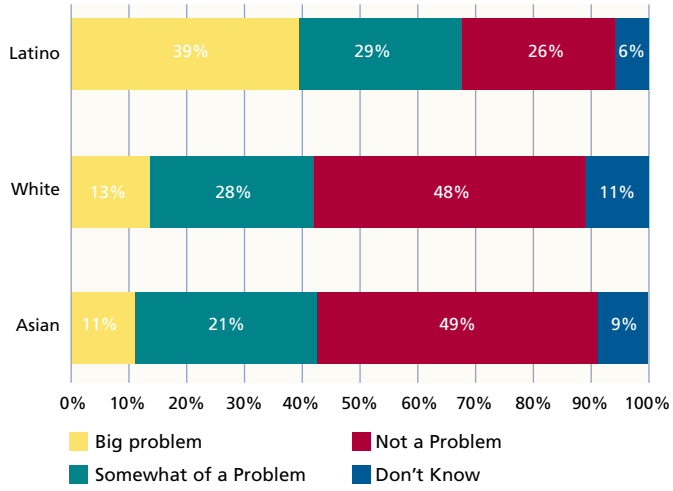
Sources: County of Orange Social Services Agency and State of California, Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, Healthy Families

Estimated Number of Homeless in Orange County 1998-2001



Source: County of Orange, County Executive Office, Strategic & Intergovernmental Affairs

Percent Indicating the Lack of Opportunities for Well-Paying Jobs is a Problem in Orange County – by Ethnicity - 2001



Source: Public Policy Institute of California Statewide Survey: Special Survey of Orange County, September 2001 (http://www.ppic.org/publications/CalSurvey22/survey22.pdf)

*Percent and Number of Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price School Meals – 2000/01**

School District	Percent	Number	Change From Prior Year (%)
Countywide	37%	183,524	↓
Statewide	47%	2,829,005	↓
Highest Five (by Percent)			
Anaheim Elementary	85%	18,993	↑
La Habra City Elementary	73%	4,593	↑
Magnolia Elementary	71%	4,921	↑
Santa Ana Unified	70%	44,540	↓
Westminster Elementary	61%	5,960	↓
Lowest Five (by Percent)			
Fountain Valley Elementary	12%	778	↓
Saddleback Valley Unified	10%	3,627	↔
Laguna Beach Unified	10%	266	↓
Los Alamitos Unified	9%	742	↓
Irvine Unified	6%	1,476	↓

* Elementary and unified school districts only.

Source: California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division (http://www.cde.ca.gov/cyfsbranch/cnfddiv/)

Measures of Senior Wellbeing Provide Mixed Results

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the status of Orange County seniors (those 65 years of age or over, unless otherwise noted) through economic, crime, and health measures.

Why is it Important?

According to the 2000 Census, seniors make up only 10% of the county's population but that rate is expected to increase significantly due to the Baby Boom generation reaching retirement age. Additionally, people are living longer resulting in more seniors over age 85 (an age cohort often having either mobility or self-care limitations). Demographic trends and increasing longevity together will place significant demands on senior services in the coming years.

How is Orange County Doing?

Economic Status

Slightly more than half (53.1%) of Orange County residents over 55 have incomes under $35,000. The Census Bureau estimates that 6% of Orange County seniors are below the poverty level. The senior poverty rate is nearly twice that in San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties. The 2000 poverty threshold is $8,259 for a single senior and $10,419 for a senior household of two.

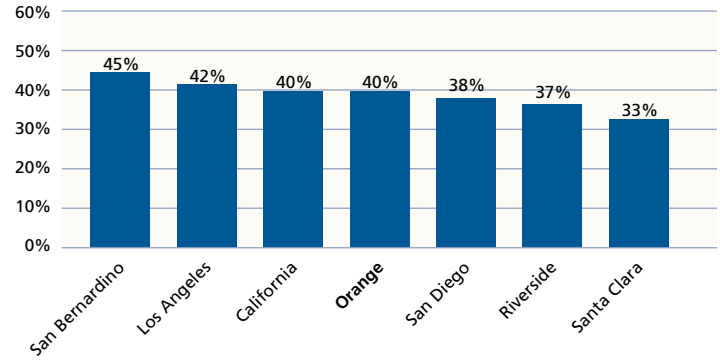
Crime and Abuse

The average monthly adult abuse reports to the Orange County Social Services Agency, Adult Protective Services increased 65% since 1996/97. The increase is primarily attributed to an aging population, increased community awareness, and the expansion of the types of abuse which must be reported and who must report them. A 1998 report by the California Attorney General cites a 43% decline in violent crime against seniors in Orange County between 1988 and 1998.

Health

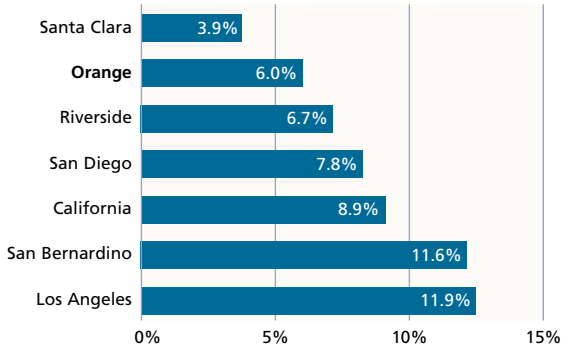
The Orange County Health Needs Assessment finds that a strong majority (77.4%) of residents over 55 consider themselves in good health. However, according to the Census Bureau, 40% of Orange County seniors have a disability. A growing number of older Americans with disabilities rely on in-home care, most of which is likely provided informally by family members, but an increasing amount is provided through public programs. As of June 2001, 4,157 seniors receive in-home supportive services through the Orange County Social Services Agency.

Percent of Seniors with a Disability *- County/State Comparison - 2000*



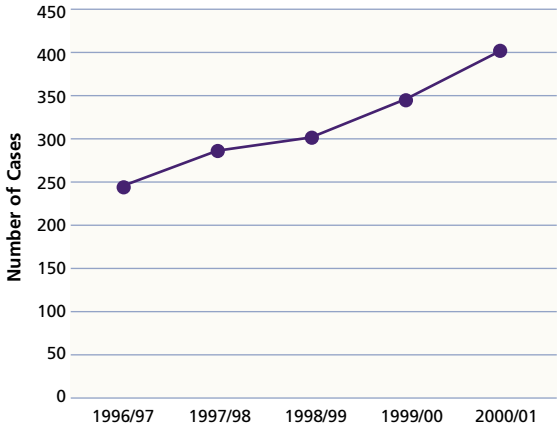
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (http://factfinder.census.gov)

Percent of Seniors Below Poverty
County Comparison - 2000



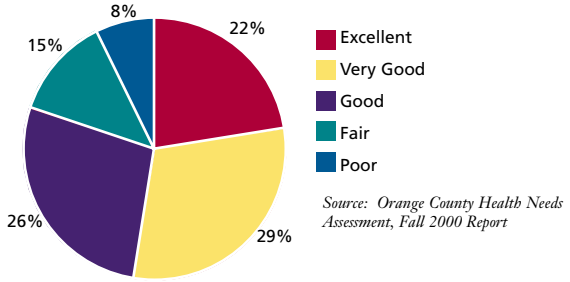
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (http://factfinder.census.gov)

Adult Abuse Reports
Monthly Average 1996/97 - 2000/01



Source: County of Orange Social Services Agency, Adult Protective Services

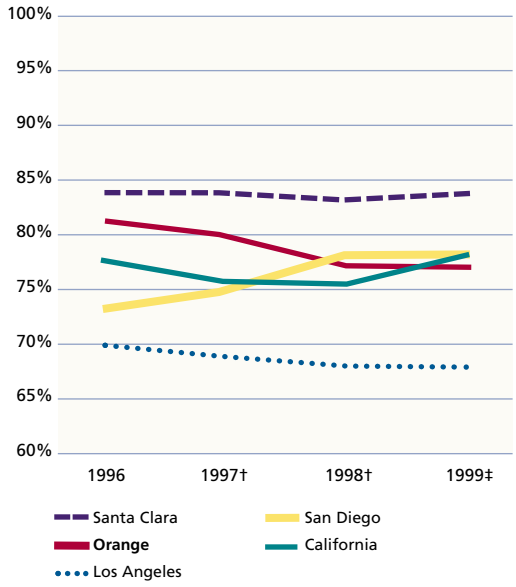
Self-Assessment of General Health Status for Orange County Residents Aged 55 and Over *- 2000*



Source: Orange County Health Needs Assessment, Fall 2000 Report

One in Five Uninsured

Rate of Health Insurance Coverage Among Non-elderly Population – 1996-1999



Sources: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and UC Berkeley Center for Health and Public Policy Studies, The State of Health Insurance in California, 1997, 1998, 1999, and UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, The State of Health Insurance in California: Recent Trends, Future Prospects, 2001 (www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/TheStateofHealthInsinCalifFullReport2001.pdf)

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of non-elderly (ages zero - 64) Orange County residents from 1996 to 1999 who have health insurance coverage, compared to Los Angeles, Santa Clara, and San Diego Counties, and California. Also measured is the rate of coverage in 1999 among the non-elderly population in Senate districts entirely within Orange County.[1]

Why is it Important?

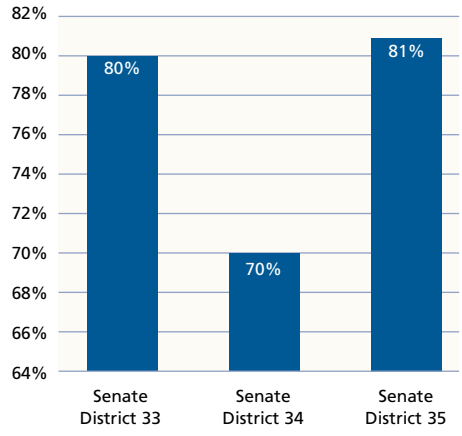
Access to quality health care is heavily influenced by health insurance coverage. Because health care is expensive, individuals who have health insurance are more likely to seek routine medical care and to take advantage of preventive health screening services than those without such coverage – resulting in a healthier population.

How is Orange County Doing?

The percentage of Orange County's non-senior residents who have health insurance has remained steady between 1998 and 1999 (77%) while California overall saw a slight increase in coverage between 1998 and 1999 (75.6% and 77.6%, respectively). Disparities exist within Orange County, especially within Senate District 34 in central Orange County which has the seventh highest rate of uninsured in California. The Healthy People 2010 target for health insurance coverage is 100%.

[1] The methodology employed to arrive at the rates shown in this indicator provides an indirect estimate of insurance coverage, based primarily on survey data regarding household income. More direct estimates of insurance coverage are currently unavailable.

Rate of Health Insurance Coverage Among Non-elderly Population
Senate Districts Entirely Within Orange County - 1999‡



Senate District 33: Orange, Tustin, eastern Anaheim, Fullerton, Yorba Linda and La Habra

Senate District 34: Parts of Garden Grove, Santa Ana, nearly all of Buena Park, and the western and central parts of Anaheim

Senate District 35: Los Alamitos, Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach and Irvine

Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Uninsured Californians in Assembly and Senate Districts, 2000 (www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/index.html)

† Two-year average, 96-97 and 97-98 respectively
‡ Three-year average, 97-99

Drug Use Among County Youth Similar to State Average; County at Low Risk for Drug Abuse

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures whether youth in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades in Orange County and California have used marijuana in the past 30 days. Also measured is Orange County residents' relative risk for alcohol and drug abuse.

Why is it Important?

A broad spectrum of public health and safety problems are intimately linked with substance abuse including addiction, traffic accidents, domestic violence and other crime, unintended pregnancy, and serious diseases such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, and birth defects.

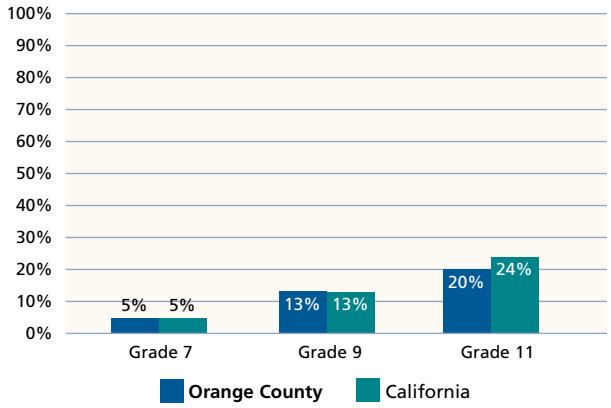
How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County youth use drugs at a level similar to the state average. Students reporting that they used marijuana within the past 30 days rises with age, from 5% among 7th graders to 20% among 11th graders.[1] Orange County as a whole is at low risk (the 3rd lowest out of 58 California counties) for alcohol and drug abuse according to a composite indicator measuring 26 community, family, school, and individual risk factors known to be associated with alcohol and drug abuse, such as the availability of substances, favorable attitudes towards drug use, and academic failure. Peer and neighboring counties ranked as follows (lowest risk): Riverside (4th), Santa Clara (5th), San Diego (19th), Los Angeles County (23rd), and San Bernardino (26th).[2]

[1] Note: Since survey administration is voluntary for school districts and not all districts choose to administer the survey, data are indicative of student drug use, but are not scientifically representative of all Orange County students. Orange County data are the combined results of two years of the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). The California data are from the biennial California Student Survey which includes questions contained in the CHKS.

[2] State of California, Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk (www.adp.cahwnet.gov/cadpaac.asp#profiles).

***Marijuana Use, Past 30 Days** - 1999/2000*



Source: California Department of Education and WestEd, California Student Survey, 1999 (www.wested.org/hks/); California Healthy Kids Survey, Orange County Technical Report, October 2000; and County of Orange Health Care Agency

The Mental Health/Drug Abuse Connection

Nationwide, approximately 48% of the U.S. population aged 15-54 has had an alcohol, drug abuse, and/or mental disorder in their lifetime. Depressed individuals are more inclined to drink, smoke or use drugs, and more than half of individuals reporting a substance abuse problem in their lifetimes have also had mental disorders.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, 1998 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Statistics Source Book (http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/p0000008.htm)

Over a Quarter of County Youth Report Feeling Depressed

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the frequency of sad and hopeless feelings among youth in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades within the past 12 months.

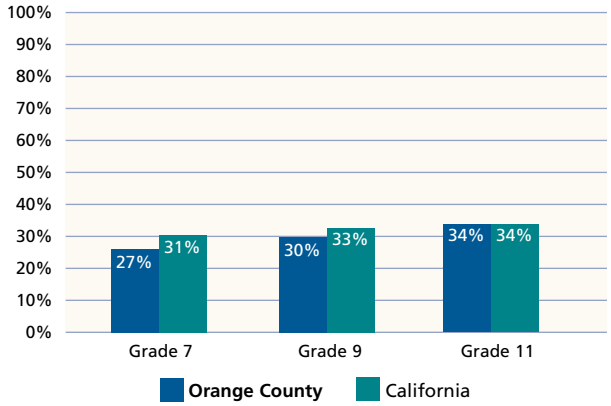
Why is it Important?

Depression is just one form of many debilitating mental health disorders that often go unreported and untreated. Untreated, mental health disorders can worsen, leading to difficulties in the home and workplace, and in severe cases, suicide.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County youth tend to be slightly less prone to sad or hopeless feelings than California youth overall. As youth get older they are more likely to report feeling depressed.

Youth Responding "Yes" to: "During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities?" - 1999/2000



Sources: California Department of Education and WestEd, California Student Survey, 1999 (www.wested.org/hks/); California Healthy Kids Survey, Orange County Technical Report, October 2000; and County of Orange Health Care Agency

Public Safety

Good news abounds when looking at the public safety indicators measured in this section. Each indicator reports a decrease in crime from the prior year and nearly all show Orange County with the lowest level of crime compared to our neighboring and peer counties. County residents on the whole are finally assured that crime is on a downward trend – poll data reveals that for the first time in several years crime is no longer the issue of greatest concern for residents. However, crime affects different groups in varying degrees:

- Crime is still a significant concern in the Latino community where residents report a higher incidence of discrimination and lower opinion of their local police protection than any other ethnic group in the county.
- North County residents are slightly more likely than South County residents to report crime as an issue of great concern.

Children Removed From Home Decreases Second Year in a Row

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of children placed in out-of-home care (with a relative, foster family, or group home) after substantiation of child abuse or neglect and a determination by the Juvenile Court that the child cannot be adequately protected while remaining at home.

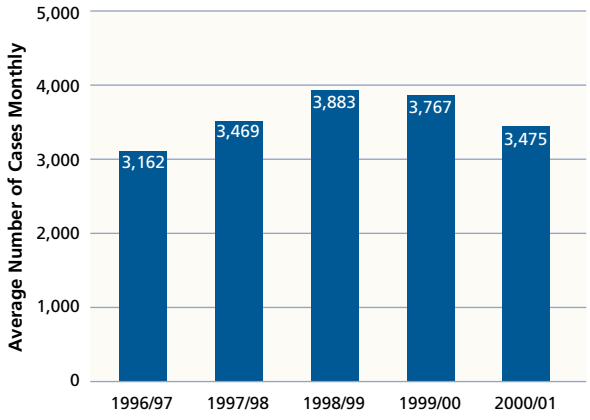
Why is it Important?

Out-of-home placement is often the final act to protect children from dangerous circumstances after repeated attempts to stabilize their families.

How is Orange County Doing?

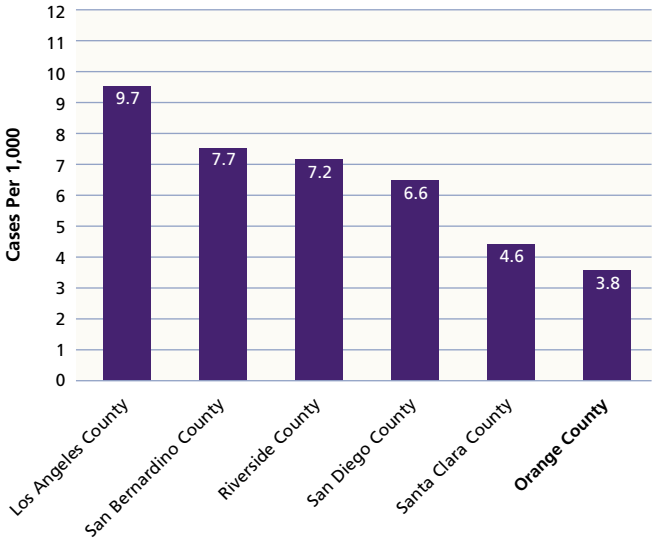
The number of children placed in out-of-home care decreased for the second year in a row, down 7.8% from 1999/00. In July 2001, Orange County's out-of-home care placement rate for children ages zero to 18 was 3.8 children per thousand children living in the county, less than peer California counties.

Children in Out-of-Home Foster/Relative Care
1997-2001



Source: Orange County Social Services Agency, Children and Family Services

Children 0-18 in Out-of-Home Care Per 1,000 Children
July 2001

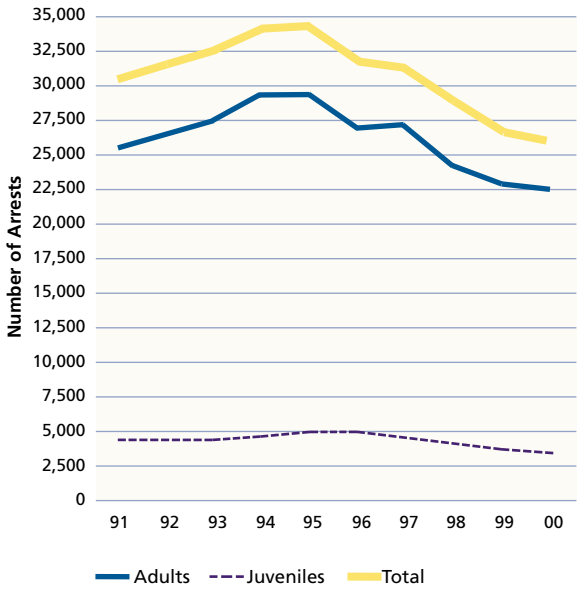


* Due to differing methodology, these county prevalence rates are not comparable to rates published in previous Community Indicators reports.

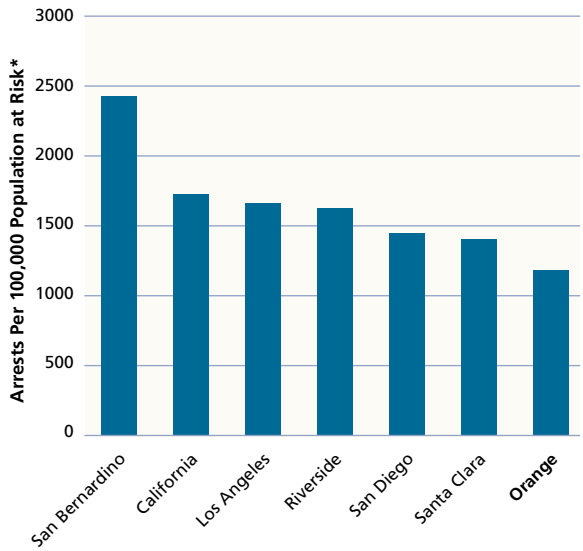
Sources: University of California Berkeley, Center for Social Service Research, Performance Indicators for Child Welfare Services in California, Supervision and Placements By County, July 2001 (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/PIReports/Caseloads/fostercare/data/super_place_grid.pdf)
State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population With Age and Sex Detail, 1970-2040, Sacramento, California, December 1998 (http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/data.htm)

Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate Drops 37% Over Past 10 Years

***Felony Arrests, Adult and Juvenile** - 1991-2000*



***Felony Arrest Rate** - County Comparison 2000*



Sources: California Department of Justice, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, 2000 Criminal Justice Profile (http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof00/index.htm) and Office of the Orange County District Attorney

** The total "population at risk" comprises those 10-69 years of age.*

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures annual felony arrests for persons under 18 years of age (juveniles) and persons 18 years of age and over (adults) from 1991 to 2000. Felonies are the most serious offenses and include murder, assault, robbery, and other offenses (see Crime Rate, page 50).

Why is it Important?

Tracking juvenile and adult felony arrests helps the community understand the level of serious crime in Orange County and the extent that youth and adults contribute to that crime. The 15-19 year old age cohort (which includes both juveniles and adults) has the highest rate of criminal behavior in Orange County. While youths make up a small portion of overall felony arrests, criminal justice experts argue that intervening early with at-risk youth can help reduce criminal activity in their adult lives.

How is Orange County Doing?

Over the past ten years, total felony arrests peaked in 1995 and have been decreasing steadily since then to a current low of 26,125 arrests in 2000. Following the overall trend, juvenile felony arrests hit a 10-year low of 3,658 in 2000. Between 1991 and 2000, the juvenile felony arrest rate decreased by 36.7% while the adult felony arrest rate decreased 19.0%. The total 10-year rate of decline is 21.7%. Compared to the state and peer counties, Orange County has the lowest rate of felony arrests.

Crime Rate Continues Downward Trend

Description of Indicator

This indicator uses the California Crime Index and the FBI Crime Index to compare crime rates among counties and to track crime rate trends. The indices measure reported violent and property felonies per 100,000 people. Violent crime includes: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crime includes: burglary and auto theft. The FBI Index includes all these plus larceny-theft and arson.

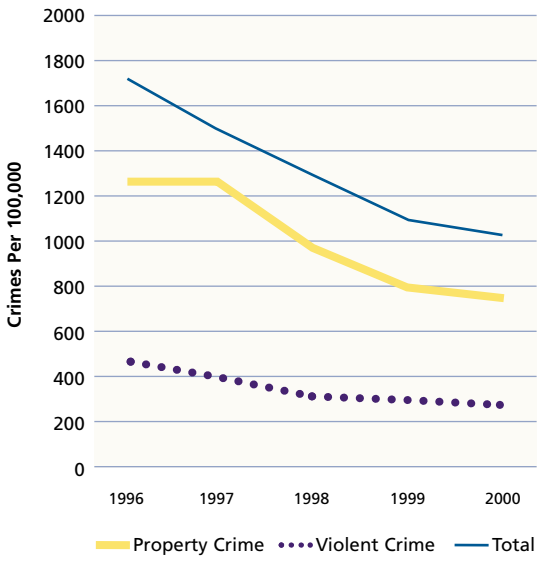
Why is it Important?

Crime impacts both real and perceived safety in a community. Overall, crime has decreased over the past ten years, yet among Latino residents crime remains one of the issues of greatest concern in the county. Whites and Asians are significantly less concerned about crime, suggesting a wide disparity in which groups are most affected by crime (see Hate Crimes, page 52). North County residents were slightly more likely than South County residents to consider crime an issue of great concern.[1]

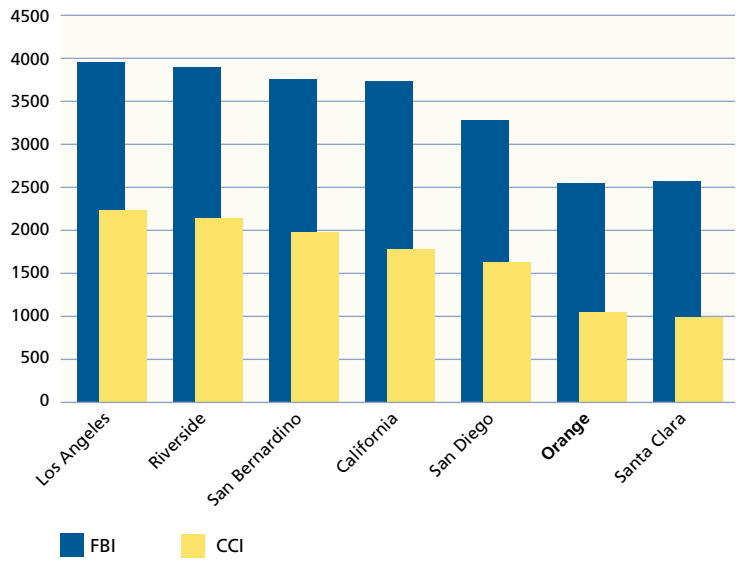
How is Orange County Doing?

Both the violent and property crime rates continue to decline in Orange County while the state overall saw a small increase in the crime rate for the first time in 10 years. Orange County has the lowest overall FBI Crime Index rate and second lowest California Crime Index rate among the counties compared. Most of the counties compared saw a continued decline in crime rates in 2000, with the exception of Los Angeles County.

***California Crime Index** - Orange County Reports 1996-2000*



***California Crime Index (CCI) and FBI Index County Comparison** – 2000*

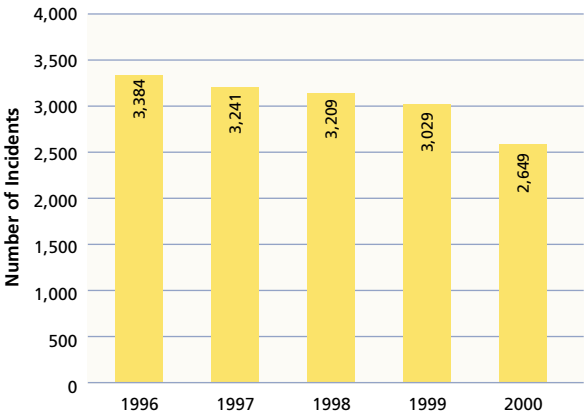


Source: Office of the California Attorney General, Criminal Justice Profile 2000 (http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof00/index.htm)

[1] Public Policy Institute of California Statewide Survey: Special Survey of Orange County, September 2001. North and South County are defined by an imaginary line bisecting the county with Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Tustin, and Anaheim above the line and Newport Beach, Irvine and the Cleveland National Forest below.

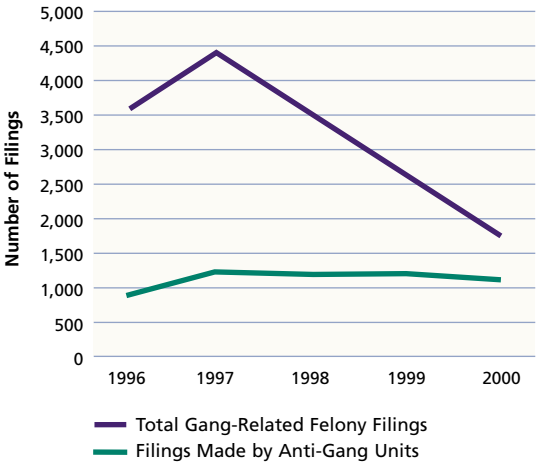
Gang-Related Crimes Continue Decline

Gang-Related Crime Incidence - 1996-2000

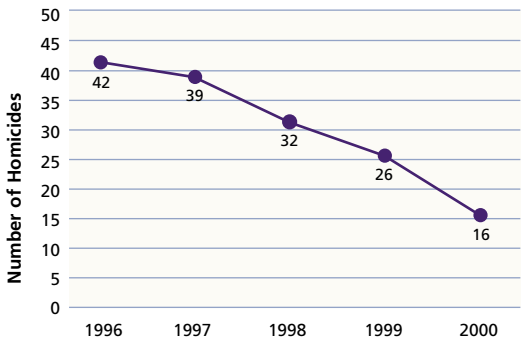


Source: University of California, Irvine, Department of Criminology, Law & Society

Gang-Related Felony Filings - 1996-2000



Gang-Related Homicides - 1996-2000



Sources: Orange County District Attorney, 2000 Annual Gang Cases Report and University of California Irvine, School of Social Ecology

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures gang-related crime incidence, filings, and homicides from 1996 to 2000.

Why is it Important?

Over the past few years, due to public demand, increased resources have gone toward existing anti-gang units and the development of new units to reduce gang-related crime in Orange County. This indicator can help the community gauge the effectiveness of these programs and help determine future needs.

How is Orange County Doing?

Gang-related crime has decreased over the past five years, as has the total number of gang-related felony filings and homicides. The proportion of filings made by various anti-gang units in Orange County has increased, evidence of the increased resources given to these units to combat gang-related crime. Possibly the most significant trend is the decrease in gang-related homicides, falling 62% since 1996.

What is a Filing?
A filing is a document filed with the municipal court clerk or county clerk by a prosecuting attorney alleging that a person committed or attempted to commit a crime.

Source: California Attorney General

2000 Boasts Six-Year Low in Number of Reported Hate Crimes

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of reported hate crime incidents in Orange County from 1996 to 2000. When bias against another person's race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity drives a criminal act, the offense is classified as a hate crime.

Why is it Important?

Hate crimes are among the most dehumanizing crimes because the perpetrator views their victim as lacking full human worth due to their skin color, language, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. In addition, a hate crime impacts the entire group to which the victim belongs, spreading concern throughout the community.

How is Orange County Doing?

Following a high of 108 hate crime events in 1996, Orange County witnessed a five-year low in 2000 of 65 events. Over this five-year period, 751 individuals, businesses, religious organizations, or government agencies have been victimized by hate crimes in Orange County. According to a local survey, Orange County Latinos were more likely than other racial or ethnic groups to report they or someone in their ethnic group had been a victim of discrimination.[1] Asians and Latinos were also less likely than Whites to rate their local police protection as excellent or good.[2]

While the overall rate of hate crime incidence in Orange County decreased from 3.0 events per 100,000 to 2.2 per 100,000 between 1999 and 2000, the rate increased among our neighboring counties. Los Angeles and San Diego Counties have the highest rates of hate crimes in our region.

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[1] Ludie & David C. Henley Social Sciences Research Laboratory at Chapman University, May 2001

[2] Public Policy Institute of California, Special Survey of Orange County, September 2001

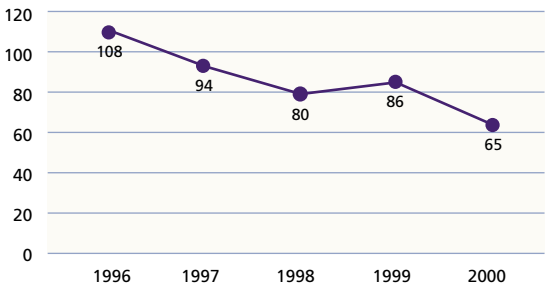
Most Hate Crimes Not Reported But Overall, Ethnic Relations Improve

Reported hate crime incidence is on a downward trend, but a recent survey suggests that most hate crimes go unreported. When asked if they had been a victim of a crime or verbal attack due to race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability, 12% of Orange County residents responded "yes" but fully 67% did not report the incident.

Nevertheless, the survey suggests Orange County as a whole is becoming more tolerant. In 1994, only 33% felt ethnic groups were getting along, but in 2001 this increased to 56%. Furthermore, Orange County residents are more optimistic now than in 1994 that ethnic relations will improve over the next five to ten years (in 1994, 28% said relations would improve versus 48% in 2001).

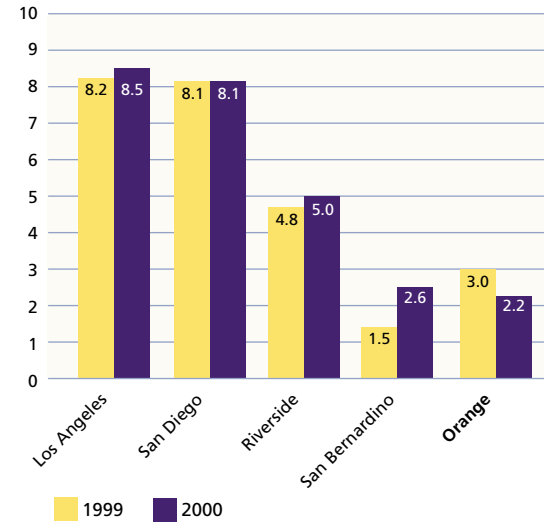
Source: Chapman University, 2001

***Hate Crime Events in Orange County** - 1996-2000*



Source: California Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Hate Crime in California, 1996 report – 2000 report (http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/)

Hate Crime Events Per 100,000
County Comparison - 1999-2000



Sources: California Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Hate Crime in California, 1999 report – 2000 report (http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/)

California Department of Finance, California Counties Ranked by January 1, 2000 - Population Size, Percentage Change and Numeric Change (http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/Rankcnty.htm)

California Department of Finance, City/County Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change (http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/E-1table.xls)

Environment

As population grows the impact on the environment will grow, yet the demand for a cleaner and more accessible environment is likely to grow as well. An impossible predicament? Yes and no. Meeting residents' increasingly high expectations for a healthy environment is less a matter of biology as it is one of economics and politics. The question is whether we can find the money (and not just public money) and political will to make the improvements residents want.

- Water usage continues to outpace population growth. Serious thought needs to be put into the long-term implications of this trend. Total water supply is not an issue (i.e. the ocean) but the cost of providing potable water per person will continue to rise therefore making conservation and smart use of water a priority.
- With the exorbitant potential fines facing cities if they do not reduce their waste stream, they should be paying very close attention to waste diversion and yet the hammer seems to be distant enough that diversion rates are down for most cities.
- The decrease in the number of days and miles of beach closures hides the troubling trend of an ever increasing number of sewage spills. Again, this is a problem that finds its solution through committing the money and energy necessary to improve the infrastructure.
- Air quality improvement over the past 30 years is a potent example of what the winning combination of money and political will can do for the environment.

Coastal Water Quality

Regional Recreational Resources

Natural Habitat Resources

Solid Waste

Air Quality

Water Use and Supply

2000 Has Far Fewer Ocean Water Closures, Despite Increase in Unauthorized Waste Discharges

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of beach mile days lost due to ocean water closures in 1999 and 2000, as well as the causes for closures from 1996 to 2000, and the number of unauthorized waste discharges (sewage spills) from 1991 to 2000. Also measured are the number of beach mile days of postings in 2000.

Why is it Important?

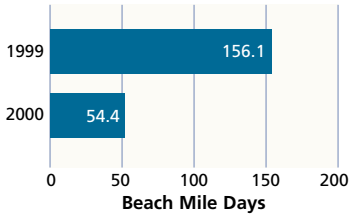
It is vital to protect beachgoers from unhealthful coastal conditions. These unhealthful conditions negatively impact both beachgoers and beach businesses. When ocean waters are closed, tourists and local Orange County beachgoers alike are discouraged from visiting Orange County's beaches. This reduces the amount of consumer traffic in the beach communities, jeopardizes beachgoers' enjoyment, and challenges our overall perception of quality of life.

How is Orange County Doing?

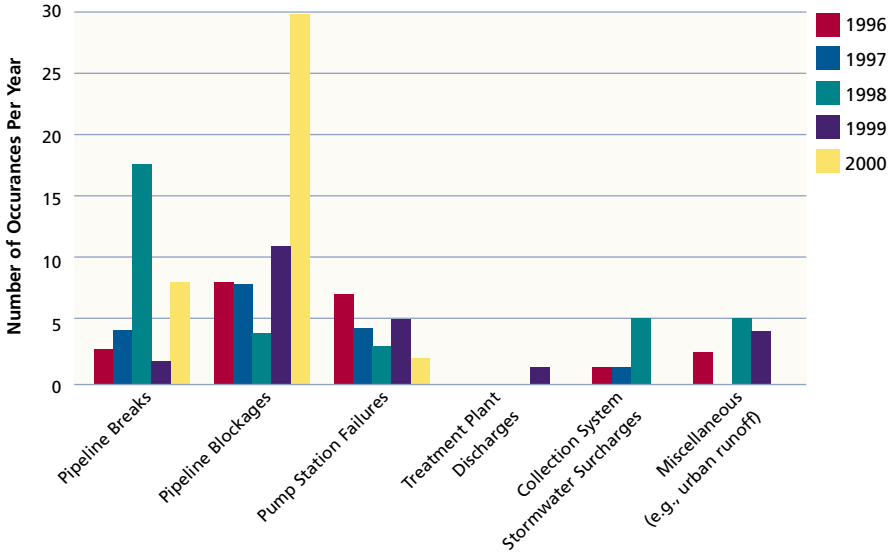
The year 2000 had far fewer beach mile days lost due to ocean water closures than 1999 (54 and 156, respectively). This improvement occurred even as the number of unauthorized waste discharges in 2000 reached 377, the highest number in over a decade. The primary cause for closures in 2000 was sewage pipeline blockages. The reason for the increase in waste discharges over the past 10 years is debated. Possible causes include: an aging sewer infrastructure, a need for increased pipeline maintenance, uncharacteristically wet weather, or a combination of the above. Fortunately, the record number of unauthorized discharges were not severe enough to warrant large-scale and long-term closures as in previous years.

There were 596 beach mile days of postings in 2000, the baseline year for postings. Poor water quality leading to postings is largely attributed to urban runoff.

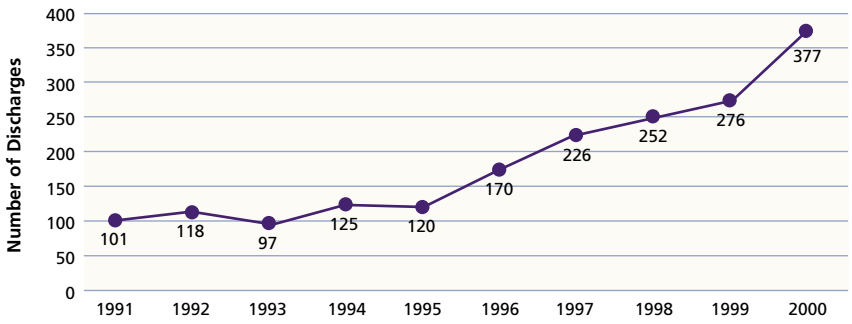
***Ocean Water Closures** – 1999-2000*



***Ocean Water Closure Causes** – 1996-2000*



***Unauthorized Waste Discharges in Orange County** – 1991-2000*



New Rules

Assembly Bill 411 (AB 411) changed the way coastal water quality is measured, resulting in regulations more protective of public health. In addition to closing coastal waters when sewage has been spilled into streams, creeks, and rivers that discharge into recreational ocean waters, the County Health Care Agency is required to post warning signs (referred to as a "posting") when the water quality exceeds state standards.

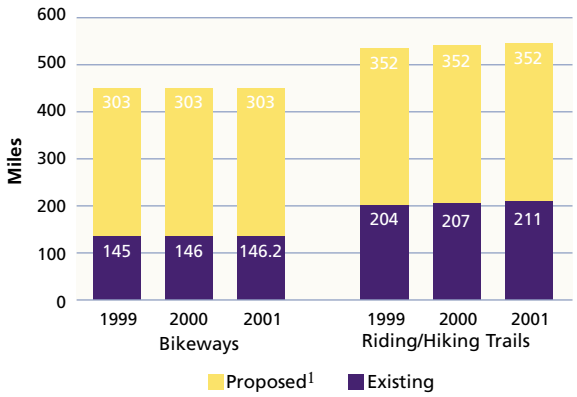
What are Beach Mile Days?

Due to AB 411, 1999 marked the baseline year for counting closures in "beach mile days." Beach mile days are calculated by multiplying the number of days of closure by the number of miles of beach closed. This method of counting closures is an improvement over the previous method which did not take into account the amount of beach affected by the closure.

Source: Orange County Health Care Agency

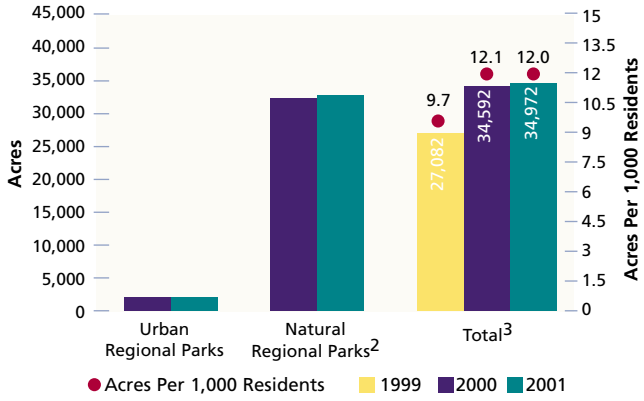
County Regional Parks Grow by 380 Acres

County Bikeways and Trails - 1999-2001



[1] As proposed in the County of Orange Master Plan

County Regional Parks - 1999-2001

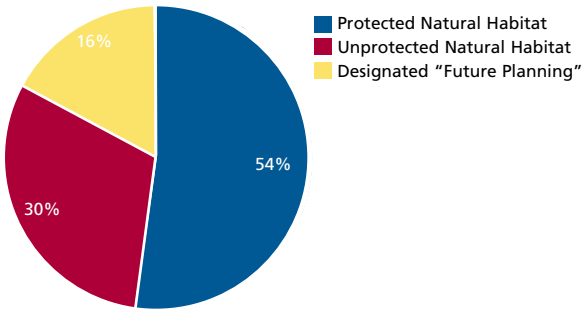


[2] Includes wilderness and nature preserves.
[3] Includes properties that have been irrevocably offered (but not currently owned by the County).
Note: 2000 marks the baseline year for calculating acreage based on urban regional parks.

Non-County Regional Park Lands - 2001

	Acres
Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve	1,160
Crystal Cove State Beach	2,863
Rancho Mission Viejo Conservancy Area	1,306
Coal Canyon Ecological Reserve	965
Chino Hills State Park	5,149
Cleveland National Forest	54,381

Natural Habitat Resources - 2000



Sources: Public Facilities and Resources Department/Harbors, Beaches and Parks; Planning and Development Services Department; and California Department of Finance

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the change in acres of regional parks, regional hiking and riding trails, and off-road paved bikeways.

Why is it Important?

Orange County's parks, trails and beaches contribute to a high quality of life. They provide a variety of recreational opportunities and offer relief from the urban environment. Measuring acreage and mileage change enables residents to track the county's progress in preserving open space and providing regional trail linkages.

How is Orange County Doing?

Between October 2000 and 2001, a quarter-mile of off-road paved bikeway was added along Peters Canyon Wash, and four miles of unpaved regional trails were added throughout the county. The County of Orange Master Plan states that 80% of proposed regional trails (282 miles) should be completed by 2010. To finish the remaining 70 miles, eight miles must be added per year over the next nine years.

As of October 2001, there were 34,972 acres of County regional parkland – 380 acres more than 2000, due to an acquisition of 80 acres at Santiago Oaks Regional Park and 300 acres at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (Muddy Canyon). Federal, state, local and city parks further add to residents' recreational options. Since October 2000, an additional 681 acres were added to the Orange County part of Chino Hills State Park. These resources, plus the county's 42 miles of beach, make up the regional recreational resources available to all residents and visitors.

Baseline Measurements of Habitat Acreage Established

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures acres of natural habitat resources in Orange County. The land is categorized as protected, unprotected (developable), or future planning (planning for the area has not yet commenced or is not yet complete), and includes public and private lands, regional and state parks, Cleveland National Forest lands, marine refuges, and land protected under the Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP). All other lands not included in these categories are considered developed, disturbed or agriculture.

Why is it Important?

Protecting habitat helps preserve biodiversity by providing plants and animals with the environment they need to survive.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County has preserved 121,731 acres of natural habitat as of October 2000. Approximately 67,770 acres of natural habitat are currently unprotected and 36,852 acres are designated "future planning." The year 2000 is the baseline year for calculating habitat acreage in these categories.

While More Cities Meet Diversion Rate Target, Solid Waste Increases in 2000

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the annual tonnage of solid waste (both commercial and household) deposited in Orange County landfills between 1995 and 2000. It also measures the percent of waste diverted from landfills (e.g. recycled) in 2000 by each jurisdiction in Orange County.

Why is it Important?

The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 requires cities and counties to divert 50% of all solid waste by the end of 2000 through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities. Non-compliant jurisdictions could face fines up to $10,000 per day, but as of this writing the California Integrated Waste Management Board is still receiving and reviewing the 2000 figures from over 500 jurisdictions. Many jurisdictions may not have met the diversion goals for 2000, but it is likely that jurisdictions will continue to be held accountable to the law due to the benefits the diversion program has on the environment, the cost of disposal, and local landfill longevity.

How is Orange County Doing?

The amount of waste generated in the county and disposed in County landfills in 2000 rose to over 3.6 million tons – the highest amount since 1995. Disposal rates tend to increase in robust economic times.

Thirteen Orange County cities met the 2000 target and 10 more were within 10 percentage points of reaching the target. However, most Orange County jurisdictions witnessed a decline in their diversion rates since 1999. The estimated statewide diversion rate for 2000 was 42%, up from 37% in 1999.

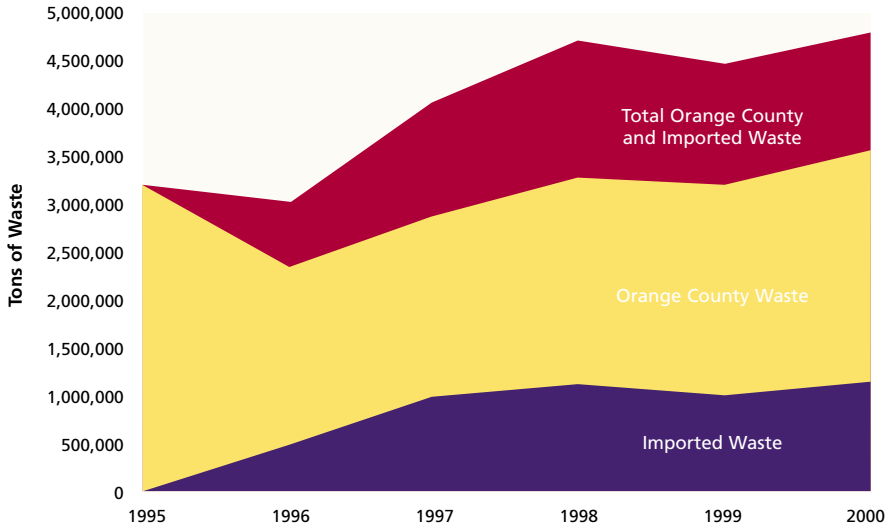
Jurisdiction	2000 Diversion Rate	Change From 1999
Lake Forest	69%	↑
Huntington Beach	68%	↑
Villa Park	65%	↓
La Palma	60%	↓
Yorba Linda	60%	↓
Westminster	58%	↓
Fullerton	57%	↓
Cypress	56%	↓
Placentia	56%	↓
Santa Ana	56%	↓
Garden Grove	52%	↓
Costa Mesa	51%	↓
Seal Beach	50%	↑
Fountain Valley	48%	↑
Newport Beach	47%	↔
Laguna Beach	45%	↑
Anaheim	44%	↓
Irvine	44%	↑
Buena Park	43%	↓
Los Alamitos	43%	↑
Mission Viejo	42%	↑
Laguna Niguel	40%	↑
Unincorporated	40%	↑
San Juan Capistrano	39%	↓
La Habra	37%	↓
Dana Point	36%	↓
San Clemente	34%	↓
Orange	32%	↓
Brea	30%	↓
Tustin	30%	↓
Laguna Hills	23%	↓
Stanton	17%	↓
Laguna Woods	Not Available	
Rancho Santa Margarita	Not Available	

Source: Integrated Waste Management Board (http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/)

More Household Hazardous Waste Diverted

More and more Orange County residents have taken steps to protect the environment and reduce the amount of household hazardous waste (such as oil, paint, and batteries) inappropriately disposed of in landfills by taking the waste to one of four regional collection centers. Since 1995 there has been a 19% increase in the number of participants, and an 11% increase in the number of pounds collected.

Solid Waste Disposed in Orange County Landfills – 1995-2000



Source: Integrated Waste Management Department, Tonnage Reports, 1995-2000

Only Three Unhealthful Days in 2000

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percent of days per year the air quality in the South Coast Air Basin (which includes Orange, Los Angeles and parts of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties) was unhealthful according to the Air Quality Index (formerly the Pollutant Standards Index) from 1996 to 2000.

Why is it Important?

Poor air quality can aggravate the symptoms of heart or lung ailments and can cause irritation and illness in the healthy population, especially active children and adults. While air quality has steadily improved since the 1970's, Orange County is located in the South Coast Air Basin, one of the most polluted air basins in the United States.

How is Orange County Doing?

Unlike the previous year in which no days were rated as unhealthy, Orange County experienced approximately 3 days (1%) of unhealthful air in 2000. Similar to 1999, 37% of the days were rated "moderate" and 62% were rated "good." The maximum Air Quality Index (see below) value for 2000 was 121, compared to a low of 97 in 1999 and a high of 178 in 1998 over the past five-year period. All counties in the Basin, with the exception of San Bernardino County, saw an increase in unhealthful air in 2000.

Orange County's coastal location contributes to the county consistently having one of the lowest air pollution levels in the Basin. The improved air quality throughout the Basin over the past thirty years is largely attributable to favorable weather conditions, cleaner vehicles, and better pollution control equipment and strategies. Despite the gains, the Basin is still a "non-attainment area" which means it persistently does not meet federal air quality standards.

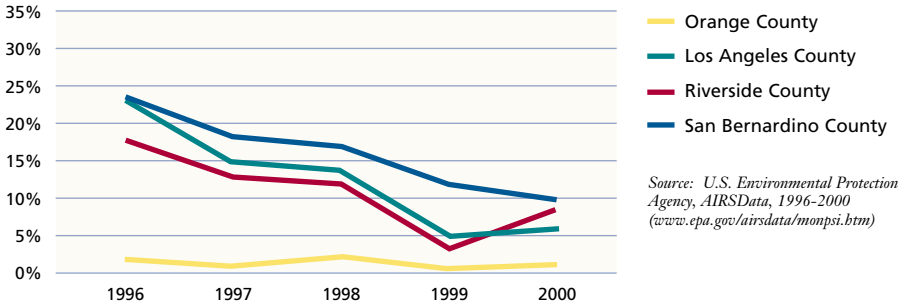
Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) converts pollutants found in a community's air to a number on a scale from 0 to 500. The number 100 corresponds to the National Ozone Standard established by the Clean Air Act. Levels over 100 are considered unhealthful.

AQI Index Values	Health Categories	Health Cautions for Ozone
0 – 50	Good	None
51 – 100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion.
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Active adults and children with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
151 – 200	Unhealthy	All people, especially children, and those with respiratory disease, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
201 – 300	Very Unhealthy	All people should avoid strenuous outdoor activities (200-274) or remain indoors (275+).
Over 300	Hazardous	All people should avoid all outdoor exertion.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality Index: A Guide to Air Quality and Your Health, June 2000 (www.epa.gov/airnow/)

Percent of Days Unhealthful (Air Quality Index Values Over 100) in the South Coast Air Basin – 1996-2000



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, AIRSData, 1996-2000 (www.epa.gov/airsdata/monpsi.htm)

Water Use Outpaces Population Gains

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County annual urban (residential & commercial) water usage in acre-feet compared to the county's annual population from 1991/92 to 2000/01. It also measures what proportion various sources contributed to the county's overall water supply in 2000/01.

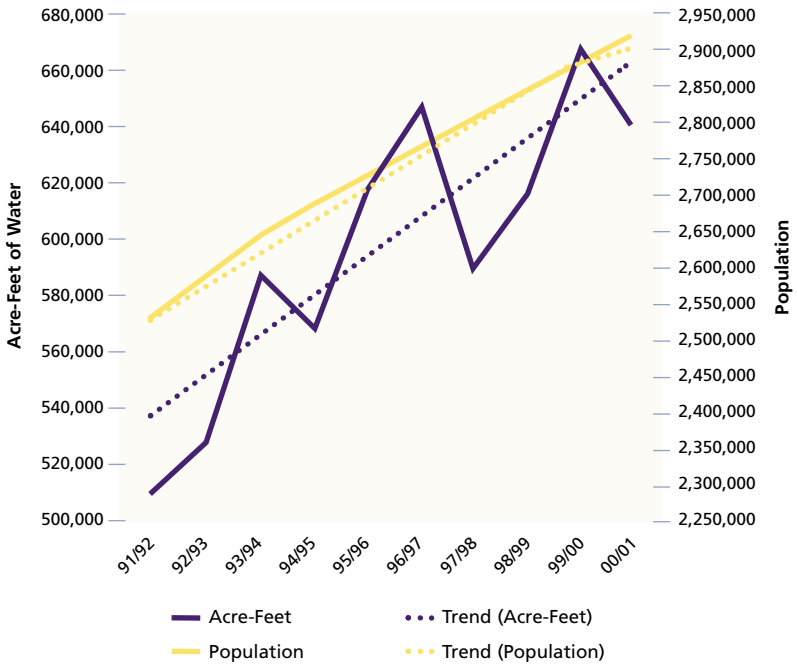
Why is it Important?

Orange County has a varied water supply: about half comes from local groundwater, and the other half comes from surface water imported from outside the region. As population increases, demand on this resource also increases, which may lead to higher water prices and supply challenges.

How is Orange County Doing?

In fiscal year 2000/01, Orange County residents and businesses used 641,000 acre-feet (209 billion gallons) of water, a decrease of 27,000 acre-feet from the previous year. However, from 1992 to 2001, the average annual rate change in water consumption (2.9%) outpaced the average annual rate change in population (1.6%).

***Urban Water Usage and Population Trends** - 1992-2001*



***Water Supply By Source,** FY 2000/01*

Source	Acre-Feet	Percent of Total
Orange County Water District Groundwater Basin	339,100	46%
Metropolitan Water District Imported Surface Water	338,000	46%
Recycled Water	27,900	4%
Local Surface Water (Irvine Lake, Santiago Creek, other)	16,200	2%
Other Groundwater	15,200	2%
Non-Metropolitan Water District Import	700	0%
Total Supply	737,100	100%
Less Water Placed Into Storage	-76,000	
Less Agricultural Water	-20,000	
Total Urban Consumption	641,000	

Sources: Municipal Water District of Orange County; Orange County Water District; and California Department of Finance (http://www.dof.ca.gov/html/Demograp/Hist_e-4.xls and http://www.dof.ca.gov/html/Demograp/E-1table.xls)

Civic Engagement

Traditional indicators of civic engagement such as voter turnout, community involvement and religious involvement are on the decline. Is this trend cause for alarm? A community needs the social connections that build trust among neighbors and civic leaders alike to build the foundation for a democracy. The question is not whether civic engagement matters, but what form it will take in the new millennium. How will community organizations adapt to meet the needs and realities of 21st century life?

- Face-to-face interaction will never be replaced completely by electronic communication, but voting may take place online and service organizations may move from meeting in lodges to meeting in cyberspace.
- As new constituency groups in the county gain critical mass it will be important to reach out in new ways to include them. The relevance of community and political issues will have to be communicated to desired participants in terms they can understand and via a familiar medium.
- With increased access to worldwide information, the scope of relevant issues for any individual is broader than ever before. Given the limits of residents' time and energy, they may choose to focus on local community issues, or instead may be involved in regional, national or international issues with greater ease than ever before.

Civic Participation

Charitable Organizations

Voter Participation

Community Wellbeing

Residents Remain Uninvolved in Formal Civic Activities But Are Socially Connected

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County residents' participation in their community's civic life. Specifically, this indicator looks at the number of times in the past year (2001) that Orange County residents: worked on a community project, went to a club meeting, did volunteer work, attended a sports event for children, or attended religious services. This indicator also reports the extent of Orange County residents' membership in formal clubs in 2001 and their perceptions about others in 2000 and 2001.

Why is it Important?

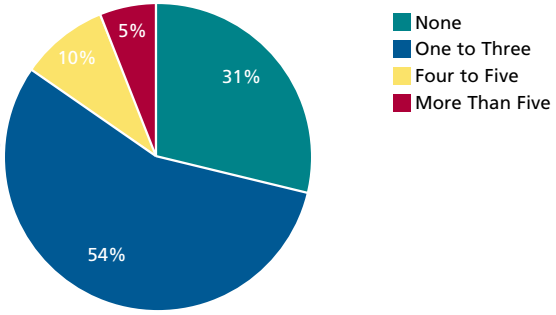
Nationwide there has been a decline in Americans' direct participation in politics and civic affairs over the last generation.[1] This erosion of civic and political engagement could have detrimental effects on the functioning of our communities, the strength of our national identity, and our social connections.

How is Orange County Doing?

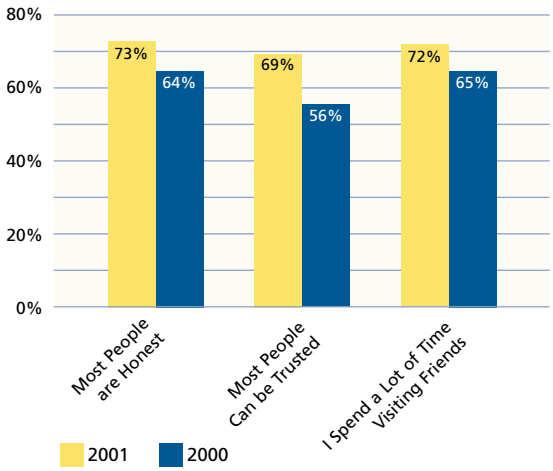
Orange County residents reflect the national trend toward reduced levels of formal civic involvement. Many residents polled in 2001 stated that, in the past year, they did not participate in a community project (72%), go to a club meeting (63%), do volunteer work (40%), attend a sports event for children (42%), or attend a religious service (26%). While 69% of Orange County residents polled reported being a member of a formal club, 63% of residents polled stated they had not attended a club meeting in the past year. Among residents surveyed, 23% reported serving on a local committee, 23% reported being an officer for a club or organization, and 33% reported attending a public meeting in the past year. In three questions about how Orange County residents feel about their neighbors, residents felt more positively in 2001 than in 2000, although because of sampling error in the survey only the difference in the percentage agreeing that "most people can be trusted" should be regarded as statistically significant.

[1] Putnam, Robert. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community, New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

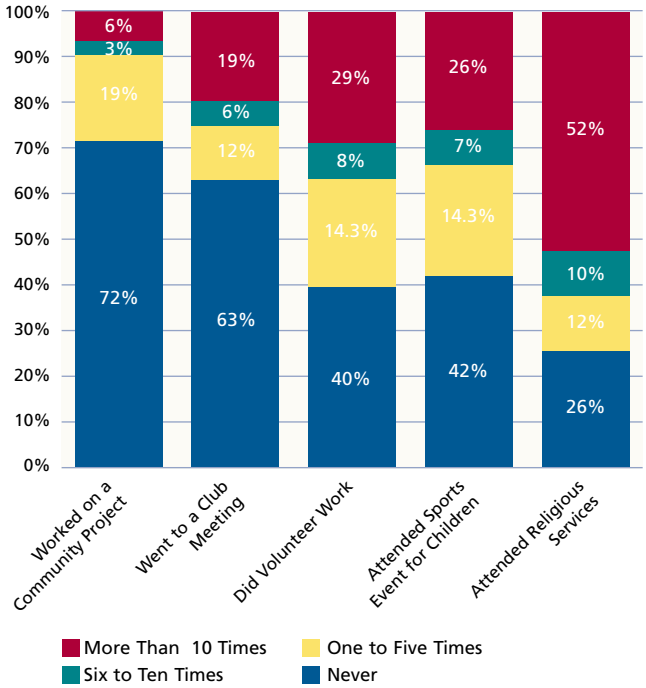
Orange County Residents' Membership in Formal Clubs, 2001



Percent of Orange County Residents Agreeing That:



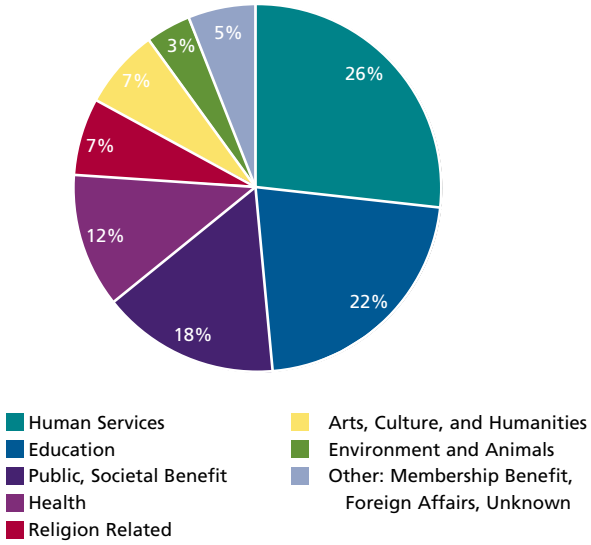
In the Past Year (2001), Percent of Orange County Residents Who:



Source: California State University, Fullerton Center for Public Policy and Orange County Business Council

Residents Show Considerable Generosity in Wake of September 11th

Orange County Religious, Educational, Charitable Organizations Reporting Over $25,000 in Income in 1997 by Category



Source: Center for Nonprofit Sector Research , California State University, Fullerton, The Nonprofit Sector in Orange County, California – 1997 Economic Scope and Characteristics (www.fullerton.edu/cnsr/)

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of religious, educational, and charitable organizations in Orange County, including the percent reporting over $25,000 in income, by service category. Also measured is the number of organizations per 1,000 population. All data reflect 1997 tax returns.

Why is it Important?

Nonprofit, charitable organizations play an important role in filling the gap between government programs and local needs. A strong nonprofit sector is critical for a healthy and stable community.

How is Orange County Doing?

As of 1997, Orange County had 5,595 religious, educational, and charitable organizations, 29% of which reported over $25,000 in gross receipts. Of those, over one-quarter provide "human services" such as legal, employment, housing, or youth development services. Countywide, there were 0.61 nonprofit organizations per 1,000 population. Orange County reached its peak in nonprofit development in the 1980's and then declined in the 1990's. Fully 34.9% of Orange County's nonprofits were established in the 80's compared to 22.1% in the 90's.

The Orange County Community Responds to the Tragedies of September 11th

Following the September 11th disasters, the Orange County community responded with an outpouring of monetary contributions to local charitable organizations which set up special funds for disaster relief. As of mid-November 2001, the Orange County Red Cross had collected over $5 million from the Orange County community and Orange County's United Way had collected over $570,000 from 695 Orange County residents. Still other residents contributed by donating blood or sending money to national funds. With contributions ranging from $1 to $10,000, the Orange County community has shown incredible generosity in the wake of such a staggering loss.

Sources: Orange County's United Way and the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross

Turnout Up in 2000 Presidential Election, But Still Below 20-Year Average

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures voter participation among the voting age population and among registered voters for presidential elections from 1980 to 2000. Orange County is compared to California and the nation.

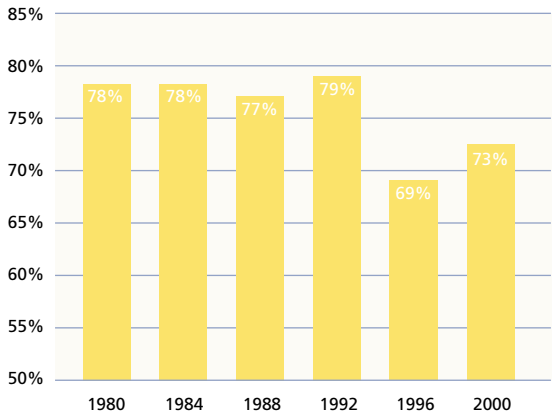
Why is it Important?

Voter participation measures civic interest and the public's optimism regarding their impact on decision-making. A high level of citizen involvement improves the accountability of government and the level of support for community programs.

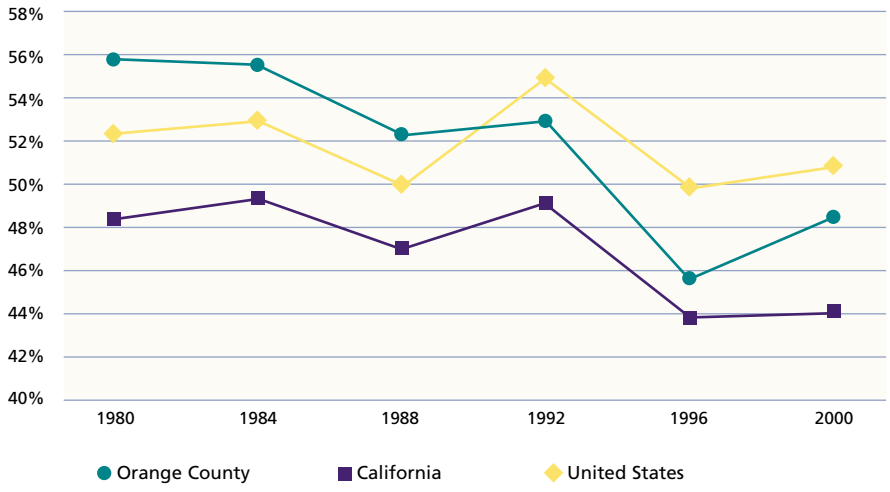
How is Orange County Doing?

Voter turnout among registered voters was up four percentage points from 1996, but down from the 1980 to 1992 average of 78%. Voter turnout among the entire voting age population was on a downward trend in Orange County until 2000 when overall turnout rose to 48.3%. Compared to California and the nation, Orange County's turnout rate roughly mirrors the nation, and consistently remains above the state rate.

***Orange County Presidential Election Turnout Among Registered Voters** - 1980-2000*



***Presidential Election Turnout Among the Voting Age Population** 1980-2000*



Sources: Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, November 2000, from Reuters, Voter Turnout Up Modestly From 1996, November 8, 2000 (http://cache.voter.com/home/news/article/0,1175,2-15508-,00.html)
California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Race/Ethnic Population with Age/Sex Detail 1970-2040, (www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/Race.htm)
U.S. Federal Election Commission (www.fec.gov)
Orange County Registrar of Voters, November 2000 (www.oc.ca.gov/election/Live/e20/frame20.htm)
League of Women Voters, November 2000 (www.smartvoter.org/2000/11/07/ca/state/ballot.html)

Residents Remain Pleased With Quality of Life

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures residents' perception of wellbeing and quality of life in Orange County from 1991 to 2001. Data for this indicator represents Orange County residents' response to one of 61 telephone survey questions relating to social, economic, and political trends and perceptions.

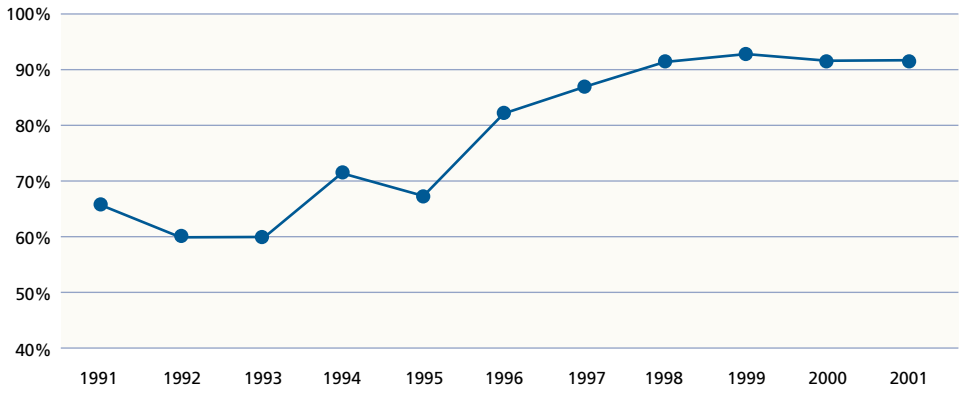
Why is it Important?

Perception of wellbeing reflects individuals' level of satisfaction with home, work, leisure and finances, and, when taken in aggregate, reflects residents' overall satisfaction with life in Orange County.

How is Orange County Doing?

To the question: "Thinking about the quality of life in Orange County, how do you think things are going – very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?," 90% of Orange County residents replied things are going well. For the past four years, the percentage of Orange County residents who replied that things are going well has ranged from 88% (in 1997) to 92% (in 1999). The 2001 survey was administered from August 20 to August 31, indicating that so far Orange County residents' sense of wellbeing has not been changed by the national economic slowdown that began in 2000. Of the persons surveyed, 36% responded that things are going very well, and 54% stated that things are going somewhat well. Persons with higher income had, on average, a more positive response to the question about quality of life, but Orange County residents' sense of wellbeing showed no variations across racial or ethnic groups in 2001.

Percent of Orange County Residents Indicating "Things Are Going Well" *- 1991-2001*



Sources: Orange County Annual Survey (http://www.communications.uci.edu/ocas00/overallmood.html) and Public Policy Institute of California Statewide Survey, Special Survey of Orange County, in collaboration with University of California, Irvine (http://www.ppic.org/publications/CalSurvey22/survey22.pdf)

The Community Indicators Project Team Would Like to Extend Our Gratitude to the Representatives of the Following Agencies for the Data and Expertise They Provided to the Project:

American Red Cross, Orange County Chapter

Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County

California Child Care Resource and Referral Network

California Department of Education

California Department of Social Services/Community Care Licensing

California State University, Fullerton

Capistrano-Laguna Beach Regional Occupational Program

Center for Demographic Research at California State University, Fullerton

Center for Public Policy at California State University, Fullerton

Center for the Collaboration for Children at California State University, Fullerton

Center for the Study of Emerging Markets at California State University, Fullerton

Central Regional Occupational Program

Chapman University

Children and Families Commission of Orange County

Coastline Regional Occupational Program

County of Orange County Executive Office/Strategic & Intergovernmental Affairs

County of Orange Health Care Agency/Communicable Disease Control and Epidemiology

County of Orange Health Care Agency/Environmental Health

County of Orange Health Care Agency/Public Health

County of Orange Housing Authority

County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Department

County of Orange Planning and Development Services Department

County of Orange Public Facilities and Resources Department/Harbors, Beaches and Parks

County of Orange Registrar of Voters

County of Orange Sheriff-Coroner Department

County of Orange Social Services Agency/Adult Protective Services

County of Orange Social Services Agency/Children and Family Services

County of Orange Social Services Agency/Family Self-Sufficiency

Henley Social Sciences Research Laboratory at Chapman University

Municipal Water District of Orange County

North Orange County Regional Occupational Program

Office of the Orange County District Attorney

Orange County Business Council

Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council

Orange County Community College Districts

Orange County Department of Education

Orange County Executive Survey

Orange County Health Needs Assessment

Orange County Transportation Authority

Orange County Water District

South Coast Air Quality Management District

United Way of Orange County

University of California, Irvine

WestEd

Additional Data Sources

Abecedarian Project

Anaheim Housing Authority

California Association of Realtors

California Attorney General

California Department of Finance

California Department of Health Services

California Department of Justice

California Division of Tourism

California Employment Development Department

California Independent System Operator

California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board

Caltrans

Center for Health and Public Policy Studies at University of California, Berkeley

Center for Health Policy Research at University of California, Los Angeles

Center for Nonprofit Sector Research at California State University, Fullerton

Center for Social Service Research at University of California, Berkeley

Committee for the Study of the American Electorate

Dun & Bradstreet

Education Data Partnership

Entrepreneur Magazine

Expert Health Data Programming, Inc.

Federal Transit Administration

Garden Grove Housing Authority

League of Women Voters

Meyers Group

Milken Institute

National Association of Counties

National Association of Home Builders

National Center for Education Statistics

National Low Income Housing Coalition

North Carolina State Board of Education

Orange County Area Agency on Aging

Orange County Workforce Investment Board

Pricewaterhouse Coopers, LLC

Public Policy Institute of California

Santa Ana Housing Authority

Scarborough Research

Southern California Association of Governments

Texas Education Agency

United States Bureau of Economic Analysis

United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

United States Census Bureau

United States Department of Commerce, Office of Trade and Economic Analysis

United States Department of Health and Human Services

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

United States Energy Information Administration

United States Environmental Protection Agency

United States Federal Election Committee

United States Patent and Trademark Office

United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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