

Orange County

2008

COMMUNITY INDICATORS

# 2008

On behalf of the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, the County of Orange, and the Orange County Business Council, I am pleased to present the 2008 Orange County Community Indicators Report. This report shows how the county is changing, and how we compare with peer regions, in terms of our economy, education, health and wellbeing, safety, environment and civic life.

Knowing how our county fares across this range of topics is important to maintain our successes, assess our shortfalls, and enhance our quality of life. This reflection helps us chart our future. As author Lawrence J. Peter put it, "If you don't know where you are going, you will probably end up somewhere else."

Where do the indicators tell us we are headed in 2008? There are some positive signs in community health, with more mothers receiving prenatal care, more children getting immunizations, and fewer adults dying from stroke, heart disease and cancer. Despite uncertainties nationwide, Orange County's economy and per capita income growth remained relatively strong, with a healthy and diverse technology sector. Further, our students continue to rank high in academic achievement and college readiness. And our residents are vested in the community - volunteering and contributing to nonprofit organizations, and registering to vote at a level much higher than our peers.

In terms of areas needing improvement, the rates of asthma and accidental deaths among our children remain high. There is an ongoing need to increase the physical fitness of our youth, and affordable, quality child care continues to be in short supply. Because there are disparities in academic achievement and college readiness among individual school districts, it is important to focus on the specific communities where educational performance may lag, not just on countywide averages. And housing our workforce and residents persists as one of our biggest challenges. Increasing the capacity of our nonprofit sector may be required to move further along in improving public health, educational access, and housing stability.

Reflecting on the importance of housing, this year's first special feature includes trends in housing prices, inventory, and affordability to give a broader context for this major issue. The second feature follows changes occurring in special education enrollment and costs throughout Orange County school districts.

As always, we hope the report continues to be a useful tool, offering insight to our community as we aim for an ever-improving Orange County.



Michael M. Ruane  
Project Director

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◆ Data for at least one element of this indicator is updated every two years.

# Introduction

The Orange County Community Indicators report aims to inform and inspire community members, policymakers and business leaders working to make Orange County the best it can be. Released annually since 2000, the report tracks key countywide trends that allow residents to evaluate the critical factors which contribute to sustaining community vitality as well as a healthy economy, environment and populace.

## Indicator Selection Criteria

Good indicators are objective measurements that reflect how a community is doing. They reveal whether key community attributes are improving, worsening, or remaining constant. The indicators selected for inclusion in this report:

- Reflect broad countywide interests which impact a significant percentage of the population
- Illustrate fundamental factors that underlie long-term regional health
- Can be easily understood and accepted by the community
- Are statistically measurable and contain data that is both reliable and available over the long-term
- Measure outcomes, rather than inputs whenever possible
- Fall within the categories of the economy, technology, education, community health and prosperity, public safety, environment, and civic engagement

## Peer Regions

To place Orange County's performance in context, many indicators compare the county to the state, nation or other regions. We compare ourselves to our neighbors to better understand our position within the Southern California region and to "peer" regions, both within California and nationwide. Peer regions are considered economic competitors or good barometers for comparison due to the many characteristics we have in common. Each section of the report includes slightly different peer regions based on the characteristics considered relevant to that topic.

As one of the largest counties in the country with both urban and suburban qualities, Orange County is similar to other large metropolitan areas. These areas may consist of single counties as Orange County does, but in most cases include a collection of counties or local jurisdictions. For this reason, an effort was made in the 2008 Community Indicators report to broaden the comparison whenever possible from individual counties to the larger metropolitan areas within which those counties fall. For example, previous comparisons to San Francisco which used data for San Francisco County now typically use data that encompasses the larger San Francisco Metro Area.

Since the manner in which data is collected and reported varies among data sources, the boundaries of our peers vary as well. Whenever possible, Metro Areas or Divisions as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget were used. In other instances, the county boundary or some other boundary defined by the data source was used. For additional information regarding the boundaries used for a particular measure, please contact [ocindicators@ocgov.com](mailto:ocindicators@ocgov.com).

# County Profile

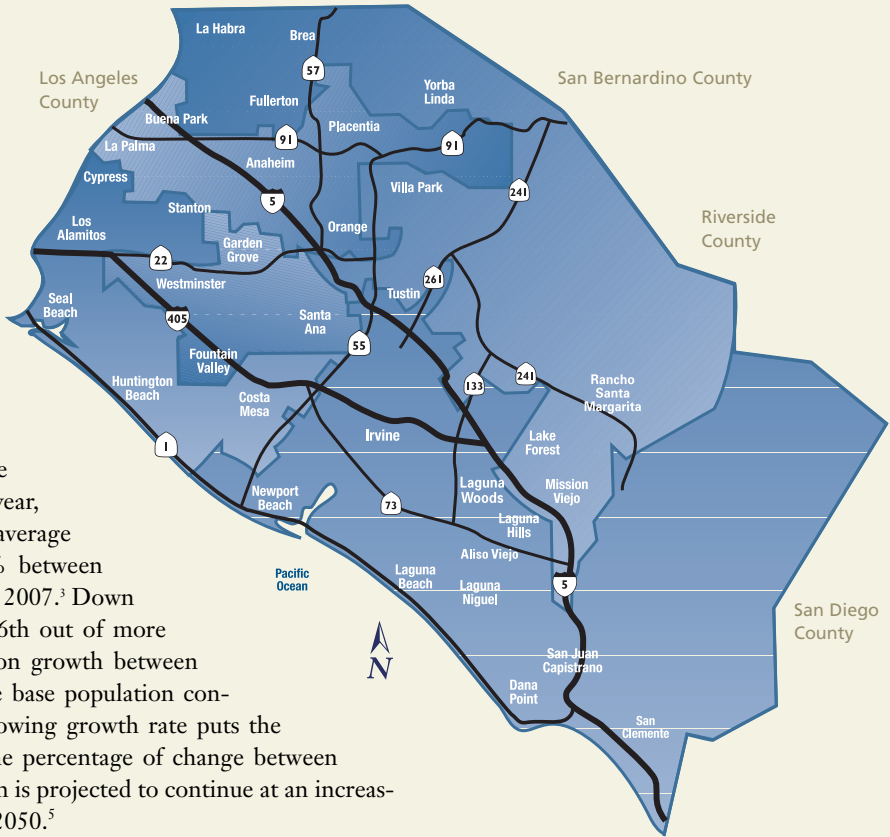
Orange County is located in the heart of Southern California, with Los Angeles County to the north, San Diego County to the south, and Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to the east. There are currently 34 cities within the county and several unincorporated areas.

## POPULATION

### Growth

In January 2007, Orange County's population was 3,098,121. Orange County is the third largest county in California, behind Los Angeles (10,331,939) and slightly smaller than San Diego (3,098,269).<sup>1</sup> The Census Bureau reports that in 2006, Orange County was the fifth largest county in the nation, with more residents than 22 of the country's states, including Iowa, Utah, Nevada, and Idaho.<sup>2</sup>

Orange County's population grows each year. However, population growth has slowed considerably since the 1950s and 1960s when the county grew an average of 22% and 10% per year, respectively. Between 1990 and 2000, the average annual increase was 1.8%, compared to 1.5% between 2000 and 2005, and just 0.9% between 2006 and 2007.<sup>3</sup> Down from 40th last year, Orange County ranked 66th out of more than 3,000 U.S. counties in numeric population growth between 2005 and 2006. Orange County's already large base population contributes to a high numeric ranking, but the slowing growth rate puts the county at 1,687th in the nation in terms of the percentage of change between 2005 and 2006.<sup>4</sup> The county's population growth is projected to continue at an increasingly slower rate, reaching nearly 4 million by 2050.<sup>5</sup>



### Components of Population Change

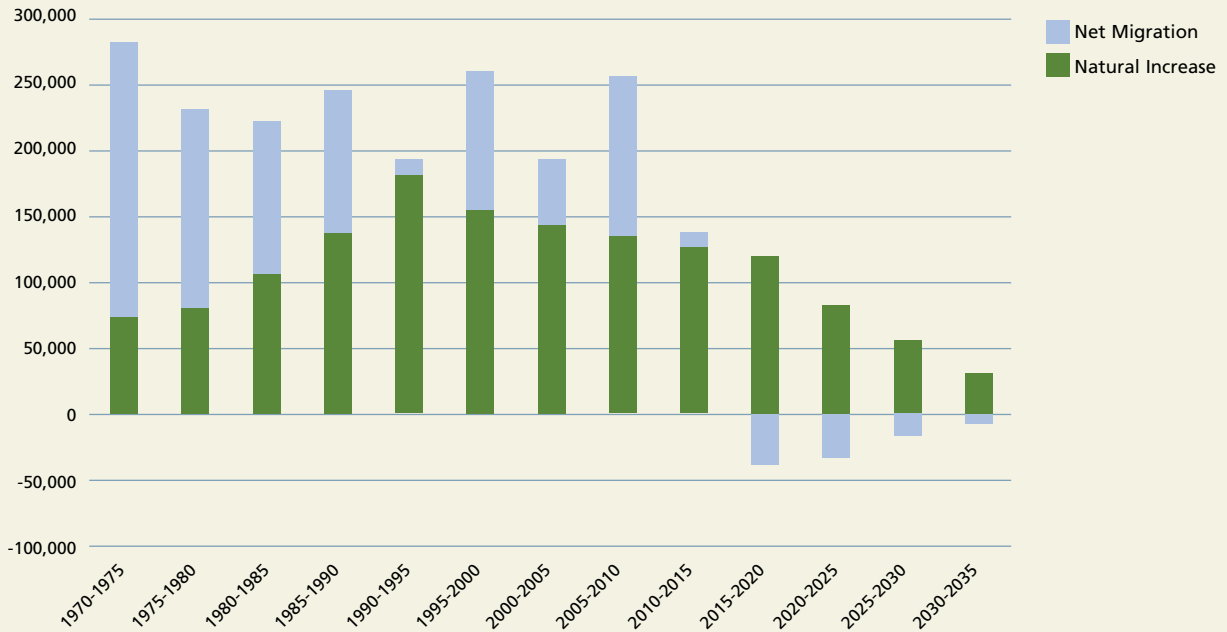
From the 1950s through the 1970s, much of the county's growth stemmed from migration into the county from within the state as well as from other states (domestic migration). International immigration – largely from Asia and Latin America – has also contributed to Orange County's growth in the last 30 years, shifting the county's proportion of foreign born residents from 6% in 1970 to 30% in 2006. However, migration patterns are changing. Since the 1980s, natural increase (births minus deaths) has outpaced migration as the principal source of growth and more residents (particularly young adults) have left Orange County in the past three years than have moved in. Long-range projections suggest this pattern will continue, with natural increase becoming the sole contributor to growth.<sup>6</sup>

### Numeric Population Growth Regional Comparison, 2005-2006

| County (Major City)         | State     | Rank      |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Maricopa (Phoenix)          | AZ        | 1         |
| Riverside                   | CA        | 3         |
| Tarrant County (Fort Worth) | TX        | 5         |
| Dallas                      | TX        | 8         |
| San Bernardino              | CA        | 10        |
| Travis (Austin)             | TX        | 11        |
| King (Seattle)              | WA        | 16        |
| Santa Clara (San Jose)      | CA        | 20        |
| Sacramento                  | CA        | 52        |
| <b>Orange (Santa Ana)</b>   | <b>CA</b> | <b>66</b> |
| Los Angeles                 | CA        | 108       |
| Alameda (Oakland)           | CA        | 124       |
| San Diego                   | CA        | 163       |
| Hennepin (Minneapolis)      | MN        | 233       |
| San Francisco               | CA        | 250       |
| Suffolk (Boston)            | MA        | 3124      |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Components of Population Change**  
Orange County, 1970-2035



Note: Data from 2005 onward are projections.

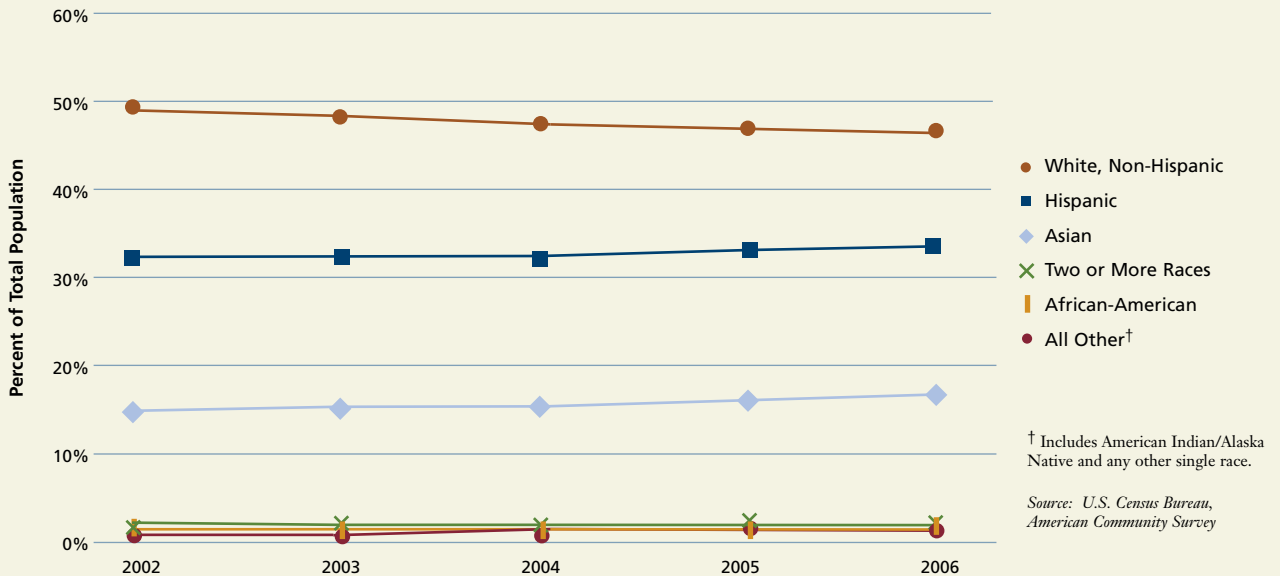
Sources: Demographic Research Unit at California Department of Finance, Tables E-2, and E-6 and Center for Demographic Research at California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Projections 2006

**Ethnicity and Age**

The trend toward greater ethnic diversity continues with 44% of Orange County residents (over age 5) speaking a language other than English at home. As of 2002, no single racial or ethnic group comprises more than 50% of the total population.<sup>7</sup>

In 2006, the county's median age was 35 and this number is projected to rise. Between 2002 and 2006, there was a large increase in the number of residents over age 45, including a near doubling of residents age 85 or above. At the same time, the number of young adults ages 25 to 34 declined significantly while the number of teens and young adults ages 15 to 24 grew modestly. The numbers for children and youth under 15 remained largely unchanged.<sup>8</sup>

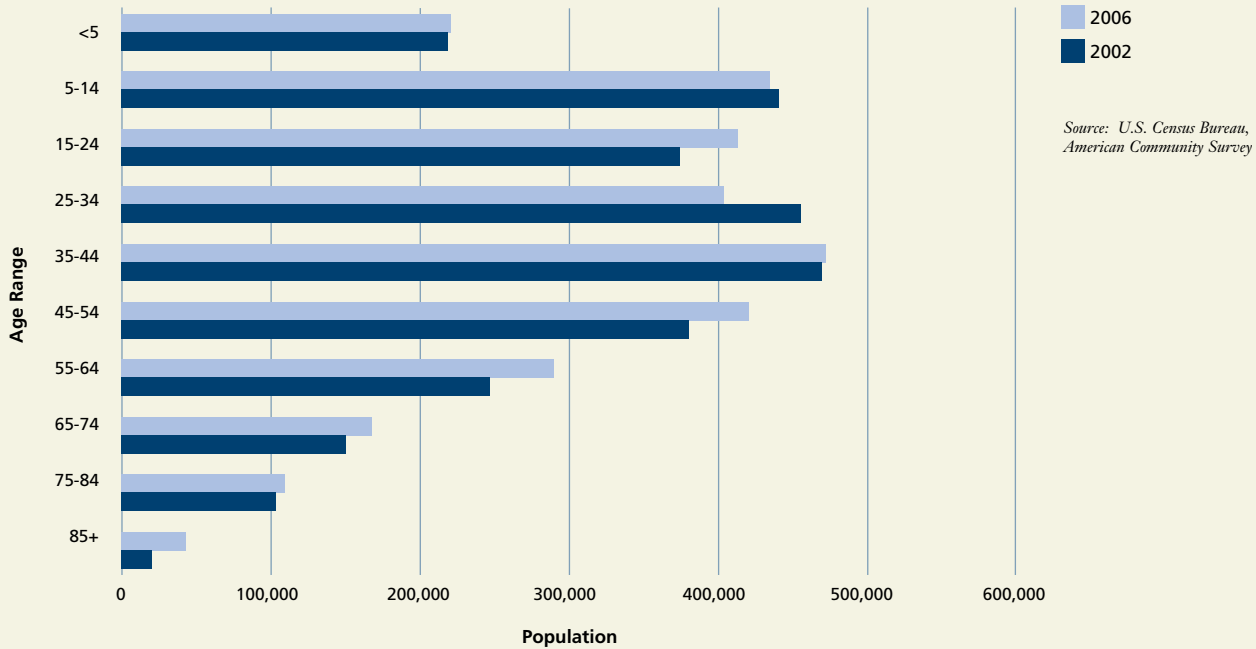
**Population by Ethnicity**  
Orange County, 2002-2006



† Includes American Indian/Alaska Native and any other single race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

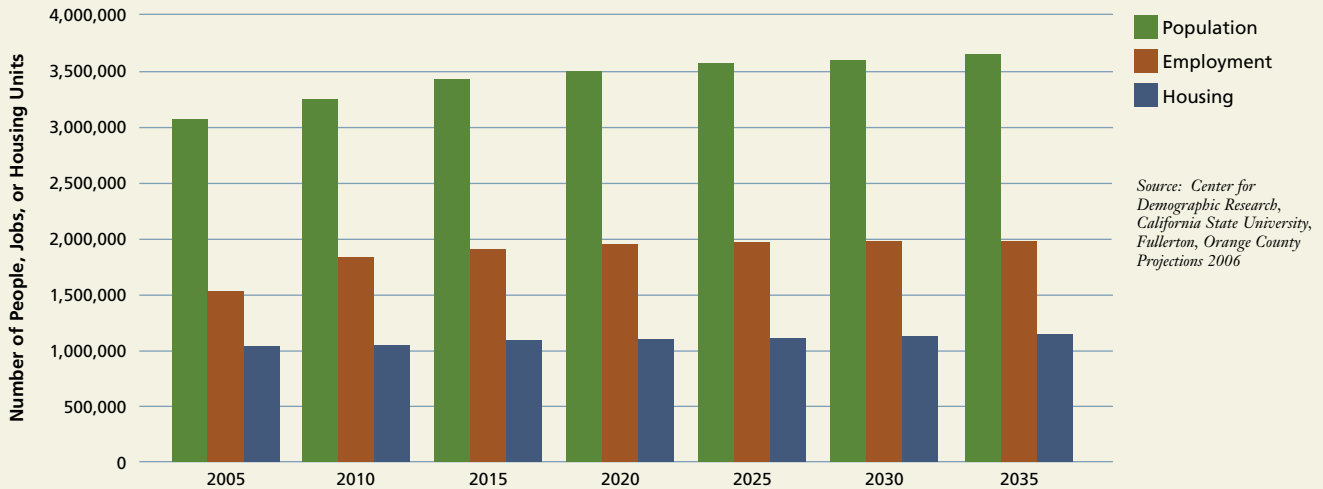
**Population by Age**  
Orange County, 2002 and 2006



**HOUSING**

There were 1,024,692 housing units available to county residents as of January 2007.<sup>9</sup> Approximately half (50.6%) of the existing housing units in Orange County are single-family detached units, yet single-family homebuilding is on a downward trend; only 38% of building permits issued in 2006 were for single-family homes. Building permits issued rose 16% between 2005 and 2006, driven by 65% growth in permits for multiple-family dwellings. Still, the overall number of permits issued in 2006 was below the past 10- and 20-year averages. A majority of occupied units are owner-occupied (62.4%) compared to renter-occupied (37.6%).<sup>10</sup> Between 2010 and 2015, housing projections for the county anticipate approximately 32,500 housing units to be added. This equates to 42% of the total housing units expected to be added by 2035.<sup>11</sup>

**Projected Population, Employment and Housing**  
Orange County, 2005-2035



## Average Household Size

As of 2006, the average household size in Orange County was 3.1 persons. Among large counties (65,000+ residents) Orange County has the 36th highest average household size in the nation, higher than California (2.9) and the U.S. (2.6).<sup>12</sup> Santa Ana has the highest household size in the county and the 3rd highest household size in the nation when compared to other large cities (4.5).<sup>13</sup> Garden Grove (3.7), Stanton (3.5), and Anaheim (3.5) all have higher than average household sizes.<sup>14</sup>

## EMPLOYMENT

Orange County enjoys a diverse economy, with economic output and employment well distributed among sectors. In 2006, the employed labor force was over 1.6 million, a gain of 1.2% from the previous year. The largest labor markets include Trade, Transportation and Utilities (18%), Business and Professional Services (18%), and Manufacturing (12%).<sup>15</sup>

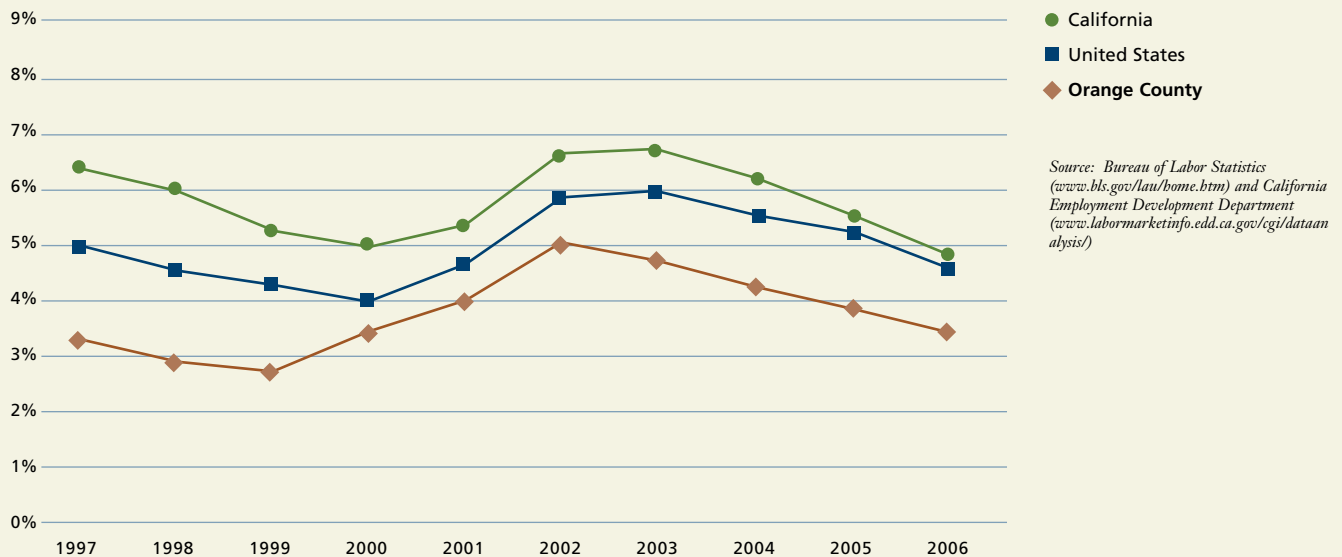
Industry estimates for 2004 to 2014 project Orange County's fastest growing sectors to be Leisure and Hospitality (+25%), Business and Professional Services (+24%), and Utilities (+23%). The Government sector is also projected to rise by 21%, with the largest growth among local governments (+24%). In terms of occupations, the projected fastest growth will fall into the categories of Computer and Mathematical (led by 56% growth in jobs for network systems and data communications analysts), Education, Training and Library (led by 45% growth in jobs for special education teachers for elementary and preschool ages), and Health Care Support (led by 56% growth in jobs for home health aides). The slowest growing projected non-farm occupations include Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (+12%), and Manufacturing (+5%).<sup>16</sup>

Small businesses flourish in Orange County's entrepreneurial climate, with fewer residents working in large firms (500+ employees) than the statewide average (19% vs. 21% in 2006). Large firms with between 500 and 999 employees grew the fastest in the past five years (+32%). Small firms with fewer than 50 employees also grew significantly (+14%), driven by 18% growth in the number of firms with only one to four employees. The number of Orange County firms with over 1,000 employees shrank by 5% between 2002 and 2006.<sup>17</sup>

## Unemployment

In 2006, Orange County posted the state's lowest unemployment rate at 3.8%. This is also the lowest rate among counties with a labor force over one million. Only 16% of all counties in the United States have lower unemployment rates than Orange County.

**Unemployment**  
Annual Average Rate, 1997-2006





## Population Density Ranking Regional Comparison, 2000

| Rank out of all U.S. Urban Areas | Rank out of Selected Peers | City                     | Persons per Square Mile of Land Area |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 16                               | 1                          | San Francisco, CA        | 16,634                               |
| 32                               | 2                          | Boston, MA               | 12,166                               |
| 82                               | 3                          | Los Angeles, CA          | 7,877                                |
| 103                              | 4                          | Minneapolis, MN          | 6,970                                |
| 110                              | 5                          | Seattle, WA              | 6,717                                |
| 168                              | 6                          | San Jose, CA             | 5,118                                |
| 233                              | 7                          | Sacramento, CA           | 4,189                                |
| 279                              | 8                          | San Diego, CA            | 3,772                                |
| <b>299</b>                       | <b>9</b>                   | <b>Orange County, CA</b> | <b>3,606</b>                         |
| 313                              | 10                         | Dallas, TX               | 3,470                                |
| 340                              | 11                         | Riverside, CA            | 3,267                                |
| 363                              | 12                         | San Bernardino, CA       | 3,152                                |
| 435                              | 13                         | Phoenix, AZ              | 2,782                                |
| 465                              | 14                         | Austin, TX               | 2,610                                |

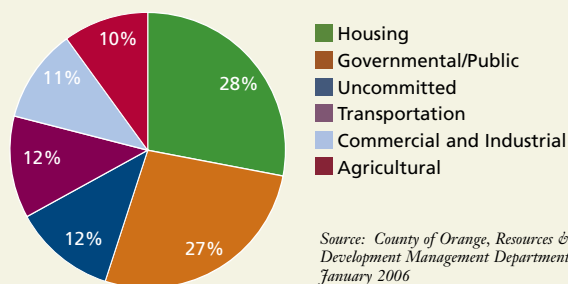
Note: U.S. rank includes cities, boroughs, townships, and other county subdivisions with population over 50,000.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, GCT-PH1-R: Population, Housing Units, Area, and Density, Census 2000

## DENSITY

As of January 2007, Orange County's population density was estimated at 3,925 persons per square mile, an average increase of about 1.1% annually since 2000.<sup>18</sup> Census 2000 data show Orange County is one of the most densely populated areas in the United States, falling 18th among all counties in the nation.<sup>19</sup> However, unlike Orange County, many otherwise urbanized peer counties (such as San Diego and Los Angeles) have large amounts of undeveloped, rural land which reduce their overall density. When comparing Orange County to the cities within our peer regions, Orange County is the 9th densest area. When comparing Orange County to large urban areas (cities, townships, boroughs, and other county subdivisions) across the country, we fall 299th. Within the county, densities vary by location, from a low of 412 persons per square mile in unincorporated areas to highs of 12,946 in Santa Ana, 12,575 in Stanton, and 9,653 in Garden Grove.<sup>20</sup>

## Orange County Land Uses, 2007



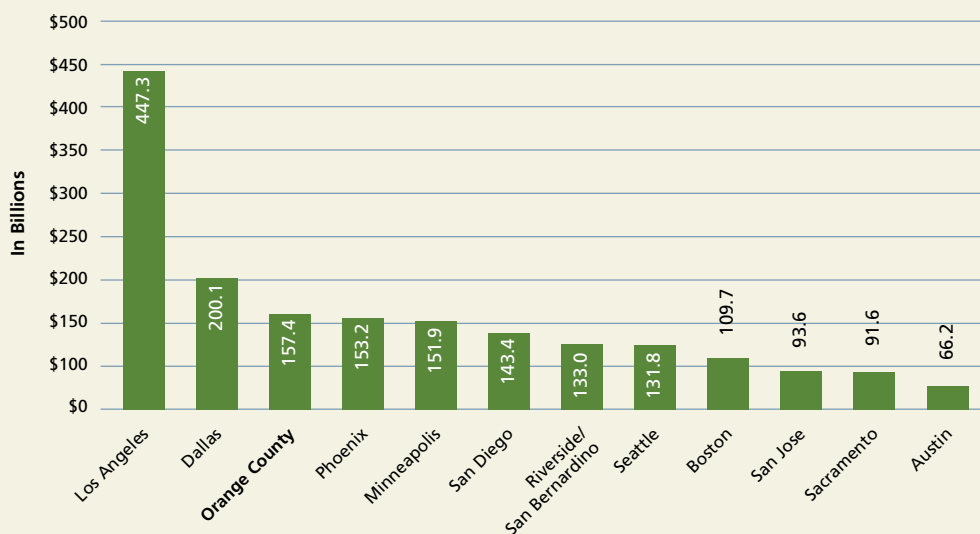
## LAND USE

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 (28%). About a tenth of the county is classified as Uncommitted, meaning it is either vacant or there is no data available for that land. Another quarter of the county's land is classified Governmental or Public, including open space and parks.

## GROSS METRO PRODUCT

If Orange County were a country, its gross metro product (GMP) in 2005 would rank 37th in the world – ahead of such nations as Israel, Singapore, and the Czech Republic. Within the United States, Orange County is the 14th top-producing economy in the nation. Compared to peer regions, Orange County's GMP ranks third, behind Los Angeles and Dallas.

## Gross Metro Product Regional Comparison, 2005

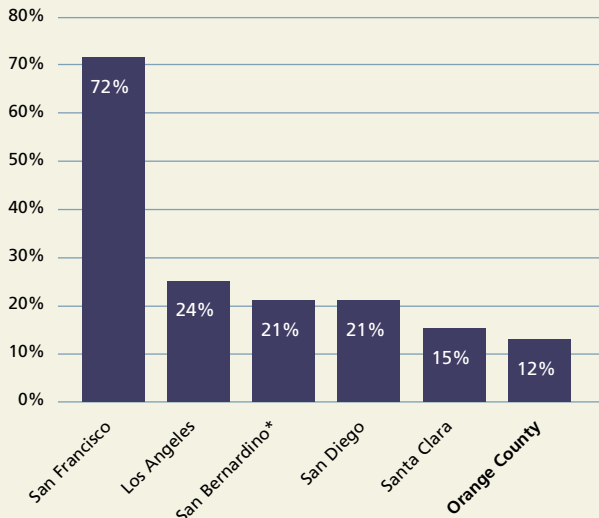


Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors, U.S. Metro Economies, GMP – The Engine of America's Growth, January 2007 ([www.usmayors.org/metroeconomies/](http://www.usmayors.org/metroeconomies/))

## STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES

The County of Orange General Fund receives the lowest share of property taxes compared to all California counties. The County of Orange receives 13% of the typical property tax dollar with 12% going to the County of Orange General Fund and 1% earmarked for the Orange County Public Library. In comparison, Los Angeles County receives 24%, while San Bernardino and San Diego Counties receive 21%. In Orange County, cities receive 21% of the typical property tax dollar. The largest share of all property taxes supports public schools (46%).

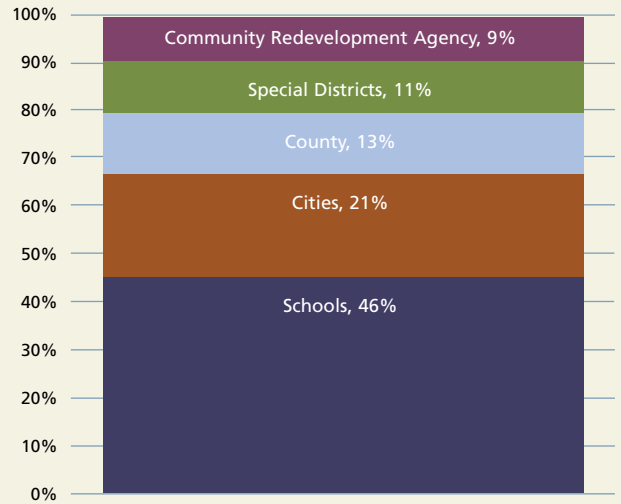
**Percent of Each Dollar of Property Tax Collected that Remains in the County General Fund  
County Comparison, 2006**



\* San Bernardino data is 2005.

Source: County of Orange, County Executive Office, Facts & Figures, 2007

**Where the Typical Property Tax Dollar Goes  
Orange County, 2006-07**



Note: The "County" percentage includes 12% to the County General Fund and 1% to the Orange County Public Library.

Source: County of Orange, County Executive Office, County Facts & Figures, 2007

- 1 California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Table E-1 ([www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/ReportsPapers/ReportsPapers.asp](http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/ReportsPapers/ReportsPapers.asp))
- 2 U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2006 County Population Estimates, CO-EST2006-ALLDATA ([www.census.gov/popest/datasets.html](http://www.census.gov/popest/datasets.html))
- 3 U.S. Census Bureau and California Department of Finance as reported by Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Progress Report 2007 ([www.fullerton.edu/cdr](http://www.fullerton.edu/cdr)), and California Department of Finance, Table E-1
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, CO-EST2006-ALLDATA
- 5 California Department of Finance, Table P-3: Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Gender and Age for California and Its Counties 2000-2050
- 6 Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Projections 2006, U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey (<http://factfinder.census.gov>), and California Department of Finance, Tables E-2 & E-6
- 7 U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey
- 8 U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey and Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Projections 2006
- 9 California Department of Finance, Table E-5
- 10 U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey and Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Progress Report 2007
- 11 Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Projections 2006
- 12 U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey
- 13 U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey Ranking Tables. Note: only selected cities over 65,000 are included in the ranking.
- 14 Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Progress Report 2007
- 15 Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information, County Snapshots ([www.calmis.ca.gov/file/cosnaps/oranSnap.pdf](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/cosnaps/oranSnap.pdf))
- 16 California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information, Projections of Employment by Industry and Occupation ([www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/databrowsing/?PageID=145](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/databrowsing/?PageID=145))
- 17 Employment Development Department, Size of Business Data, 2001-Present ([www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/databrowsing/?PageID=67&SubID=138](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/databrowsing/?PageID=67&SubID=138))
- 18 Calculated using 2000 land area from U.S. Census Bureau ([www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/phc-1-6.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/phc-1-6.pdf)) and 2006 population data from California Department of Finance, Table E-1
- 19 U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Table GCT-PH1-R. Population, Housing Units, Area, and Density
- 20 Calculated from land area data presented in the Orange County Progress Report 2007 by the Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton and California Department of Finance, Table E-1, January 1, 2007 population figures.



# Special Features

# Special Education Enrollment Up; Funding Has Not Kept Pace

## Description of Indicator

This special feature tracks trends in special education enrollment, costs, and funding. It also measures shifts in types of impairments among special education students.

## Why is it Important?

Enrollment in special education programs is increasing, however current funding is not adequate to support the need. Understanding how special education enrollment has changed in recent years helps the community to assess the impacts these changes have on school district budgets, special education services, other educational programs, and ultimately, the educational environment of all students.

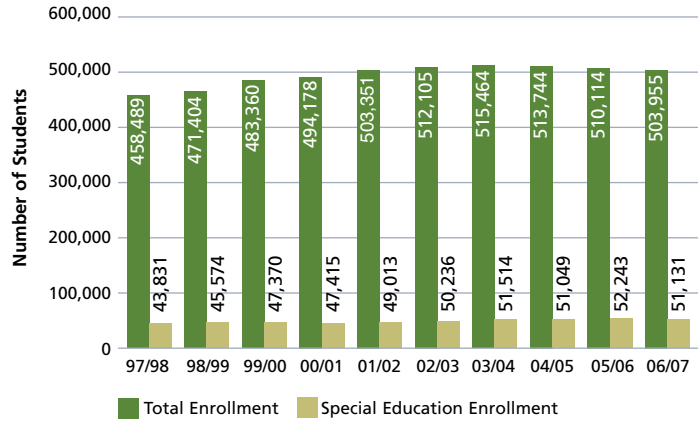
## How is Orange County Doing?

### Enrollment

While the number of students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade is slowly decreasing, special education enrollment as a percentage of the total population is slowly rising:

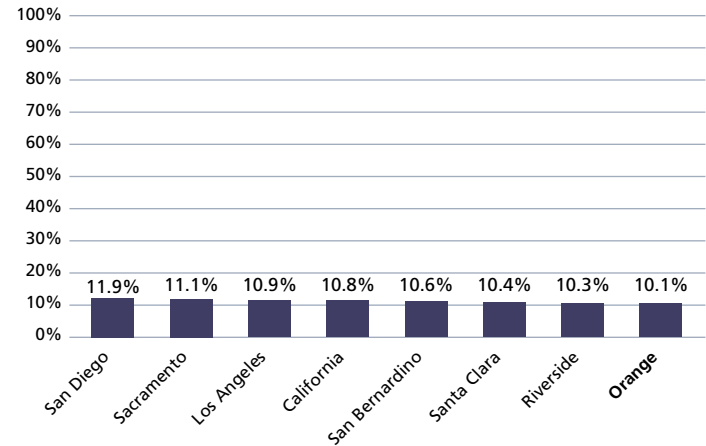
- Since its peak in 2003/04 at 515,464, total K – 12 enrollment has slowly decreased, falling 1.6% in the past five years (2002/03 to 2006/07).
- During the same five-year time period, special education enrollment increased 1.8%.
- In 2006/07, special education students made up 10.1% of total enrollment, compared to 9.6% of total enrollment 10 years ago.
- Orange County's percentage of special education enrollment is lower than the California average (10.8%) and all peers compared.
- During 2006/07, Orange County's special education enrollment peaked in the fourth grade.
- This is likely because characteristics suggesting a special need (difficulty learning or concerning behaviors) are first observed around first or second grade, but may not be confirmed until a couple of years later at which time special education programs are provided.

Trend in Total Enrollment Compared to Special Education Enrollment Orange County, 1998-2007



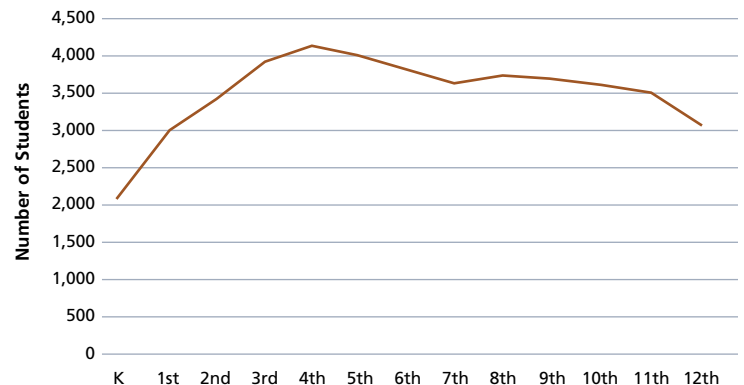
Sources: California Department of Education, Dataquest and 13th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County, 2007

Percent of Total Enrollment that is Special Education County Comparison, 2006/07



Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest

Special Education Enrollment by Grade Orange County, 2006/07



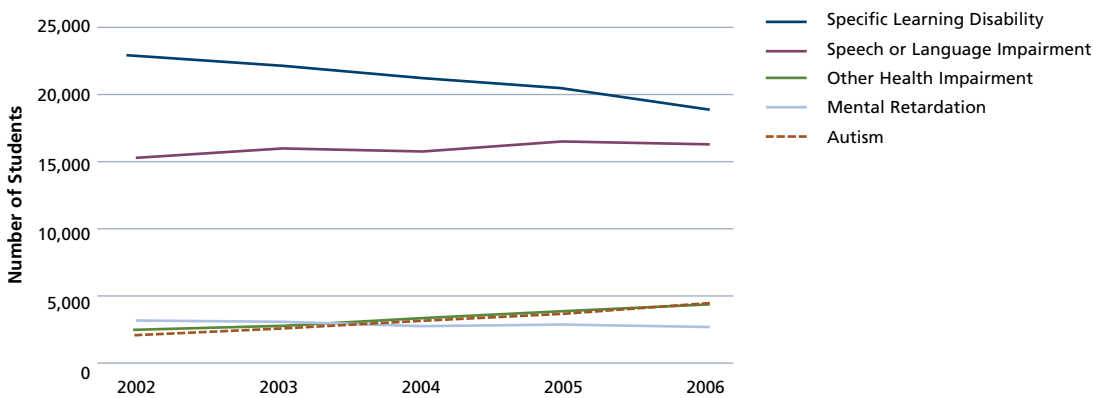
Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest

### Types of Impairments

In Orange County, the most common types of impairments or learning disabilities are shifting:

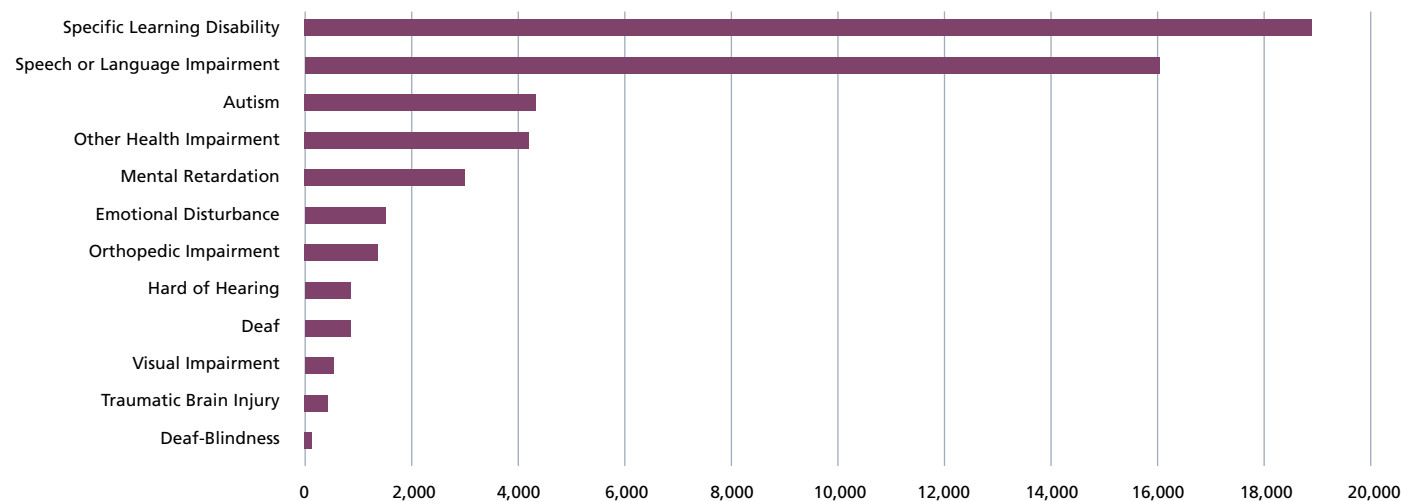
- Students with autism increased 117% in the past five years (2002/03 – 2006/07), while students with “other health impairments” increased 74% in the same time period.<sup>1</sup>
- The dramatic increase in autism among students is reflective of a nationwide trend. As of 2006, one out of every 150 children in the nation has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).<sup>2</sup>
- In California, children ages 0 – 22 with autism as the primary handicapping condition increased 88.5% between 2002 and 2006.<sup>3</sup>
- Instances of speech and language impairment are rising more slowly.
- The number of students with mental retardation is holding steady and specific learning disabilities are decreasing.<sup>4</sup>

### Enrollment Change by Most Common Impairments Orange County, 2002-2006



Source: Department of Education, Dataquest

### Enrollment in Special Education by Impairment Orange County, 2006/07



Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest

<sup>1</sup> “Other health impairments” means having limited strength, vitality or alertness due to chronic or acute health problems such as a heart condition, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, nephritis, asthma, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, epilepsy, lead poisoning, leukemia, or diabetes.

<sup>2</sup> California Department of Education, “A Call for Action: Improved Services for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders,” August 2007

<sup>3</sup> Orange County Department of Education

<sup>4</sup> Specific Learning Disability is a disorder related to understanding or using language, either spoken or written, which manifests itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations. It includes conditions such as perceptual handicaps, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, and dyslexia. The term does not include children who have learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor handicaps, or emotional disturbance.

### Costs

The cost of educating a child with special needs is nearly twice as much as a student in a typical education class not receiving special services:

- In 2006/07, the average school district cost per special education student was \$14,577 compared with \$8,008 per typical student.
- Since 2002/03, the cost of education per special education student increased 40% from \$10,382 to \$14,577 per student.
- During the same time period, the cost to educate the general student population increased 19% from \$6,715 to \$8,008.

As the special education population increases, the cost of providing services is also likely to increase and may be influenced by a variety of factors:

- The types of impairment are shifting toward conditions such as autism that require more intensive intervention, treatment and services.
- There is a shortage of credentialed teachers in Orange County with the required special education training and expertise, leading to higher than typical salaries for the teachers currently available.<sup>5</sup>
- Increased services provided to special needs children are driven in part by litigation arising out of the IDEA legislation (see “Funding” below).
- While an early intervention model for struggling learners may result in more children in the special education system, these costs may be offset by the result of prevention and treatment which would ultimately reduce long-term service and support costs.

#### Special Needs Identification and Intervention

The current model used for working with struggling learners requires multi-year documentation of a failure to learn before a child is considered eligible for related programs and services. Based on wide-ranging research, the education field is shifting to an intervention-based model called “Response to Intervention (RtI).” Rather than waiting for a child to fail in order to receive special education services, this approach focuses on early intervention to prevent failure.

RtI identifies struggling learners early, and provides special instruction and intervention while monitoring the child’s response. By identifying and working with struggling learners, educators are better able to make decisions about which children should be referred for additional support services. It also enables services to be provided as part of a typical education class or separately, and instructional methods and goals can be modified as needed. Research shows that early intervention allows children to receive preventive services and treatment sooner, which in turn provides better learning and interaction with peers. For the long-term, this approach may reduce the quantity and types of services needed by a child, as well as the overall cost of such programs.

*Source: NASDSE and CASE White Paper on RtI, May 2006 ([www.nasdse.org/documents/RtIAnAdministratorsPerspective1-06.pdf](http://www.nasdse.org/documents/RtIAnAdministratorsPerspective1-06.pdf))*

### Funding

In 1997, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted which governs how public agencies including schools must provide special education services. Under IDEA (most recently amended and reenacted in 2004) children are entitled to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

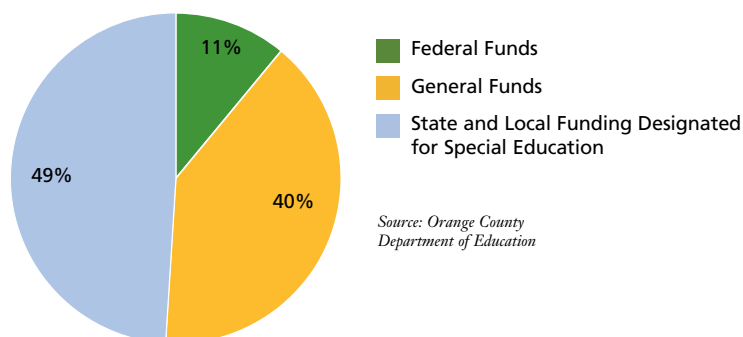
The cost of providing these legislatively-mandated programs is greater than the revenues received by school districts to provide such services. School districts must make up the funding shortfall by using money from the districts’ general funds. Annually, each local district must decide how to manage the funding deficit and may include modifications to both regular and special needs programs.

<sup>5</sup> Reflecting the increased need for specially trained educators, it is projected that special education teachers for preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school will be the third fastest growing occupation in Orange County between 2004 and 2014, from 760 jobs to 1,100 jobs (+44.7%). *California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information, Projections of Employment by Industry and Occupation*

Special education is a significant component of a school district's budget:

- In 2006/07, special education expenditures by all school districts in Orange County represented 18.5% of total general fund expenditures (\$745,358,479 out of a total of \$4,031,998,771).
- Countywide, a total of \$298,802,145, or 8.3% of all school districts' general funds were allocated to special needs programs to cover the shortfall in funding for mandated services in 2006/07.
- Use of general funds for special education has nearly doubled over the past five years for all Orange County school districts, from \$153,292,953 in 2002/03 to \$298,802,145 in 2006/07.

**Special Education Funding Allocations**  
Orange County, 2006/07



When IDEA was enacted, Congress authorized 40% federal funding for special education but only a fraction of that has been actually appropriated:

- In 2006/07, federal funds covered only 11% of total special education costs in Orange County.
- Other state and local funds allocated for special education covered an additional 49%, resulting in a shortfall of 40% that must come from the general fund.
- If California was fully funded at the 40% level, it would more than wipe out the \$1 billion annual deficit in special education funding statewide.<sup>6</sup>

Funding shortfalls are exacerbated due to the way federal funds are allocated:

- Federal dollars provided to each county are based on average daily attendance.
- In Orange County where total school enrollment is declining, federal funding is also declining which means less funding to school districts' general funds.
- While base funding provided to counties from the state include an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA), federal funds are not required to include a COLA from year-to-year.
- This difference is significant because a substantial portion of education costs are due to employee salaries which typically include COLAs.

### Conclusion

As the number of students requiring special education assistance increases, Orange County must find new and creative ways to provide and finance these services. From a funding perspective, strategies may include increasing pressure on the federal government to provide already approved funding for mandated services. From a service perspective, strategies may include improving early intervention and treatment which can result in reduced costs for service over time, modifying how special services are provided and programs are managed, and incorporating intervention strategies into regular classroom settings. Whatever the solutions are, it is clear that the status quo may not be financially sustainable.

<sup>6</sup> Orange County Department of Education

# Despite Housing Slow-Down, Prices Still Unaffordable for Many

## Description of Indicator

This special feature reviews Orange County's long-term housing trends to provide context for the current uncertainty in the housing market. It measures housing prices, affordability, property tax assessments and collection rates, pre-foreclosure notices, and housing inventory.

## Why is it Important?

Over the last decade, Orange County's robust housing market has triggered a sense of prosperity among homeowners and frustration among aspiring homeowners. Historically, our high quality of life has attracted and retained a large number of new or existing residents willing to pay above national market prices to live in Orange County. In the last two years, however, price increases have flattened and there is concern about the future of the county's housing market. If housing values level at a place that is still unattainable for many, it will prompt ongoing questions about Orange County's ability to sustain its workforce and economic growth.

## How is Orange County Doing?

### Median Housing Prices

Housing prices in Orange County have leveled after several years of significant increases:

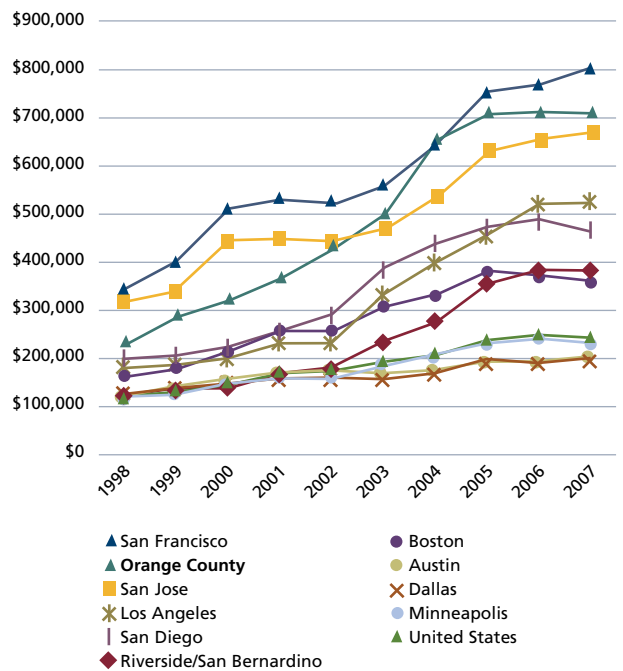
- Since the beginning of this decade, median Orange County housing prices have more than doubled.
- Single-family detached housing prices increased a modest 14% in the 1990s, from \$252,379 in 1990 to \$287,840 in 1999.
- By 2007, single-family detached housing prices had risen a dramatic 147% to \$709,720.
- Overall, housing prices experienced double digit increases in 2002 (12.1%) and each year through 2005 (12.0%).
- Increases moderated to 5.4% in 2006, but actually declined by 7.6% in 2007.
- The largest increases happened earlier in the decade with the market price at \$706,820 in 2005 and peaking at \$710,920 in 2006.
- While there has been a decrease in 2007, the median price remains over \$700,000.
- Compared to other peer markets, Orange County's housing market is still among the most expensive in the country.

### Housing Affordability

The Housing Opportunity Index measures the percentage of homes sold that are affordable to a family earning the median family income. Rising housing values have resulted in a dramatic drop over the past 10 years in the number of Orange County families that can afford a home:

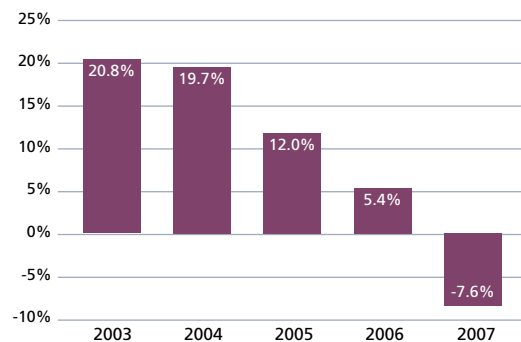
- Only 4.4% of the homes sold in Orange County in the second quarter of 2007 were affordable to buyers earning the median family income, in comparison to 37% in 2002 and over 50% in 1998.
- Orange County has among the lowest Housing Opportunity Index ranking among peers, a rate exceeded only by Los Angeles.

Single-Family Home Median Price  
Regional Comparison, 1998-2007



Source: California Association of Realtors, National Association of Home Builders

Percentage Increase in Median Price for All Homes  
Orange County, 2003-2007



Source: Dataquick



**Property Tax Assessments**

Property values are increasing as evidenced by rising assessments, however as housing prices begin to stabilize, property assessments are starting to level off as well.<sup>1</sup>

- Property assessments increased 8.3% for the 2007/08 fiscal year.
- This is a decrease from 11.2% for the 2006/07 fiscal year.
- The assessment of the total value of Orange County properties increased from \$377 billion for the 2006/07 fiscal year to \$409 billion for the 2007/08 fiscal year.

**Property Tax Delinquency**

Property tax collections provide a good indication of homeowners' ability to afford their mortgage:

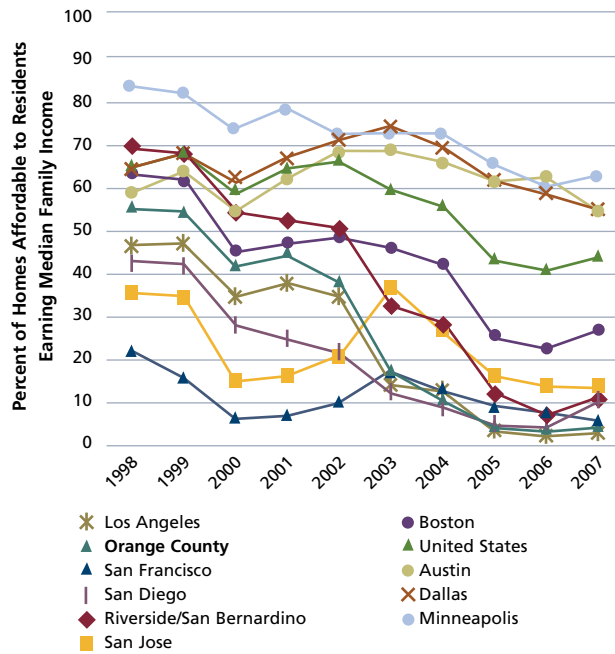
- In fiscal year 2006/07, delinquencies rose to 6.3%.
- This increase follows several years of delinquency rates in the mid- to low-5% range.
- Initial indications from the Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office suggest that property tax delinquency rates may decrease in the 2007/08 fiscal year.
- As of the December 2007 payment deadline, season-to-date tax collections were 8.8% ahead of the previous year's collection, which suggests that property owners are better able to pay their taxes on time, even in a tough real estate market.

**Pre-foreclosure Notices**

Pre-foreclosure notices are the first action taken when a homeowner has missed several payments and the mortgage lender issues a public notice that the mortgage holder must make up back payments or risk default. A high pre-foreclosure notice rate can signal difficulties in the housing market. Across the nation and among peer regions, pre-foreclosure notice rates were higher in 2007 than in 2006:

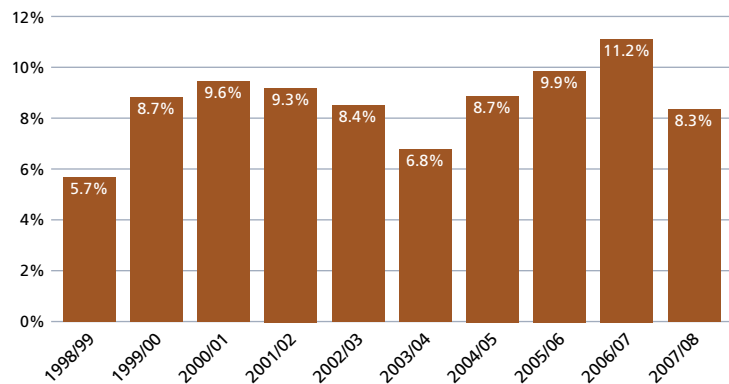
- In Orange County, the percentage of households in pre-foreclosure doubled, rising from 0.7% in 2006 to 1.4% of households in 2007.
- Pre-foreclosure rates have increased among peer regions across the state and nation, with Riverside/San Bernardino experiencing the highest rate at 5.6%.
- San Jose, Boston and Seattle all have lower pre-foreclosure rates than Orange County.

**Housing Opportunity Index**  
Regional Comparison, 1998-2007



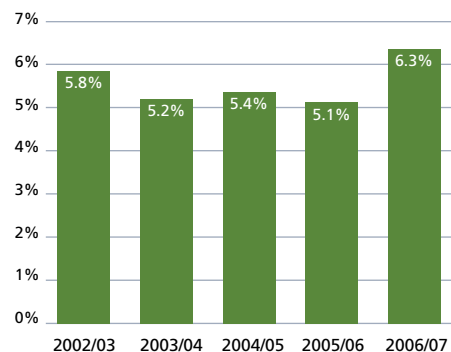
Source: National Association of Home Builders

**Percentage Change in Property Assessments**  
Orange County, 1999-2008



Source: County of Orange Assessor Department

**Percentage of Property Tax Bills Delinquent at the Due Date**  
Orange County, 2002/03-2006/07



Source: County of Orange Treasurer-Tax Collector

<sup>1</sup> While Proposition 13 caps property tax assessments at 2%, overall Orange County property assessments have increased due to a reassessment of properties at the time of a home sale or new construction.

**Residential Real Estate Inventory**

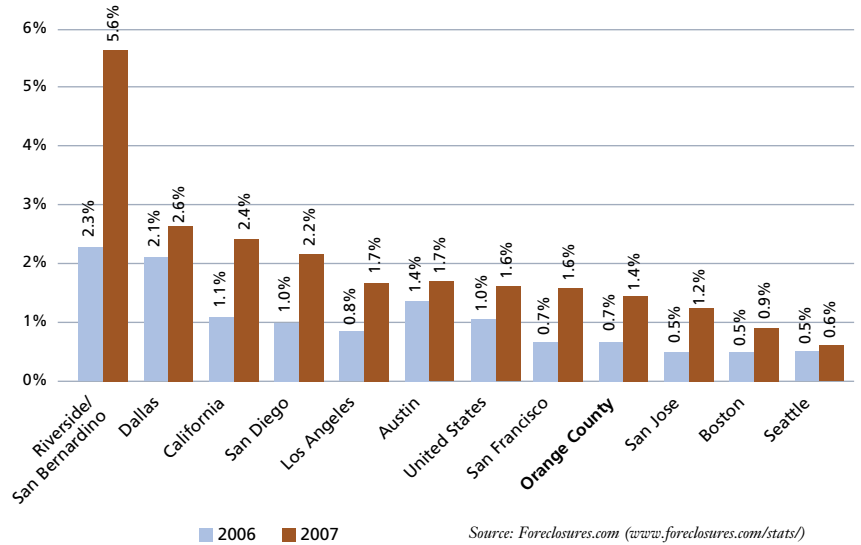
Housing values are greatly influenced by the supply of housing for sale at a given time. Throughout 2007, residential real estate inventories increased, signaling greater supply and less potential for price increases. Yet, even with high inventories, prices have remained high:

- Between December 2005 and December 2007, the inventory of single-family homes and condos for sale in Orange County more than doubled from approximately 8,500 units to nearly 18,000 units.
- While inventory is seasonal, the overall trend for the last two years represents a significant increase in the number of houses for sale.

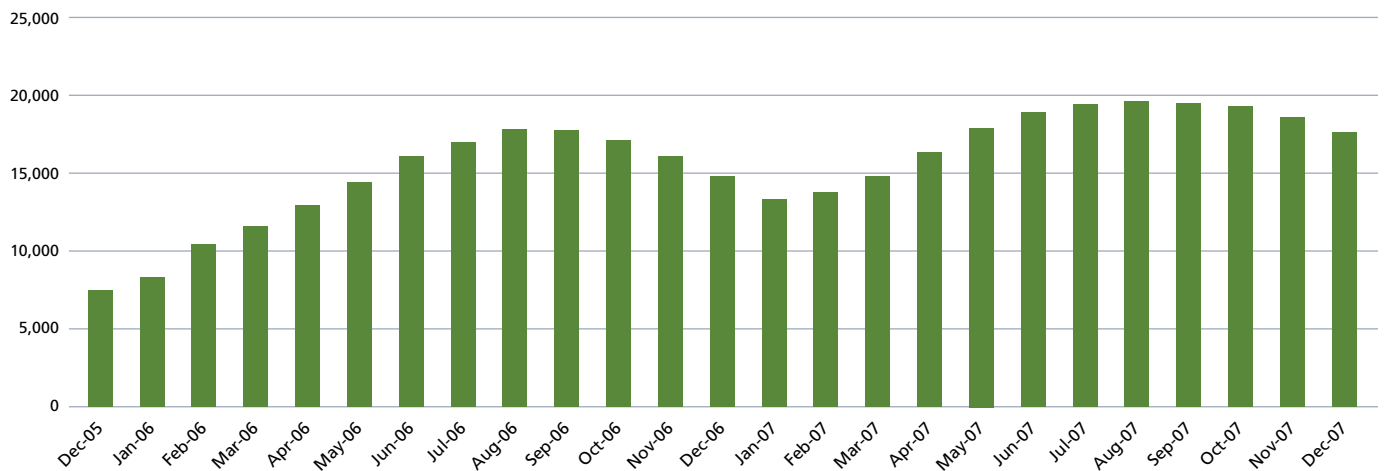
**Conclusion**

Although the local real estate market appears to be leveling off, it is at a place that remains unattainable for many. Traditionally, housing prices decrease as inventory increases. In Orange County, however, housing prices are decreasing but not to a level that is expected to relieve the significant housing affordability gap. The typical mortgage remains attainable only by a limited share of the population, even in an era of historically low mortgage interest rates and flexible lending practices. In short, without a dramatic increase in income levels or homeownership assistance programs, Orange County's housing affordability problem is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

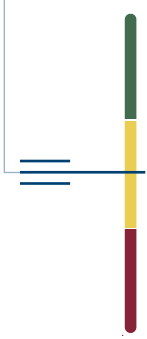
**Pre-foreclosure Notice Rates**  
Regional Comparison, 2006 and 2007



**Inventory of Single-Family Homes and Condos for Sale**  
Orange County, December 2005-December 2007



# Economic and Business Climate



Employment growth in Orange County is strong, and **salaries** are **rising** across all sectors. Still, the county's cost of living is second highest among peers. **Expensive housing** continues to push home prices and rent out of reach for many.

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#### NATIONAL PEERS

Austin, Boston, Dallas, Minneapolis, Seattle

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#### CALIFORNIA PEERS

San Francisco, San Jose

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#### NEIGHBORS

Los Angeles, Riverside/San Bernardino, San Diego

# Orange County is California's "Best Place for Business"

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County's business climate through *Forbes* magazine's "2007 Best Places for Business" regional rankings. The *Forbes* ranking compares metropolitan regions by business costs, colleges, cost of living, crime rate, culture and leisure, educational attainment, income growth, job growth and net migration.

## 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 revenue, economic growth and entrepreneurship opportunities, a strong business climate is important for maintaining Orange County's economic health and quality of life.

## How is Orange County Doing?

*Forbes*' 2007 national rankings placed Orange County 70th out of the 200 metro areas ranked:

- This spot marks a decline of 12 places from the previous year and 43 places from the county's peak ranking of 27th in 2005, yet places us back near our 2003 ranking of 72nd.
- Orange County's swings have been less significant than other metro areas inside and outside of California.
- Within California, *Forbes* ranked Orange County as the best place to do business in 2007, the same as in 2006.
- Among our peers outside of California, Orange County is bested only by Seattle at 62nd and Austin at 66th.

### Best Places for Business Ranking, by Component Orange County, 2007

|                                     | Rank      |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Educational Attainment <sup>1</sup> | 29        |
| Job Growth                          | 63        |
| Cost of Doing Business <sup>2</sup> | 188       |
| <b>Overall</b>                      | <b>70</b> |

Source: *Forbes* magazine, April 5, 2007  
([www.forbes.com/lists/2007/1/07bestplaces\\_Best-Places-For-Business-And-Careers\\_land.html](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2007/1/07bestplaces_Best-Places-For-Business-And-Careers_land.html))

<sup>1</sup> Share of population over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher.

<sup>2</sup> Index based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space.

### Best Places for Business Ranking Regional Comparison, 2003-2007

|                          | 2003      | 2004      | 2005      | 2006      | 2007      |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Seattle                  | 89        | 109       | 73        | 101       | 62        |
| Austin                   | 1         | 3         | 3         | 28        | 66        |
| <b>Orange County</b>     | <b>72</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>58</b> | <b>70</b> |
| San Diego                | 27        | 17        | 25        | 61        | 92        |
| Minneapolis              | 20        | 19        | 18        | 71        | 106       |
| Riverside/San Bernardino | 95        | 79        | 111       | 133       | 110       |
| Dallas                   | 9         | 29        | 19        | 25        | 111       |
| Boston                   | 54        | 42        | 40        | 94        | 142       |
| Los Angeles              | 126       | 116       | 106       | 147       | 159       |
| San Francisco            | 76        | 81        | 81        | 167       | 175       |
| San Jose                 | 96        | 97        | 50        | 166       | 183       |

| Lowest Rank |         |        |       | Highest Rank |
|-------------|---------|--------|-------|--------------|
| 200-161     | 160-121 | 120-81 | 80-41 | 40-1         |
| Bottom 40   |         |        |       | Top 40       |

Source: *Forbes* magazine, April 5, 2007 ([www.forbes.com/lists/2007/1/07bestplaces\\_Best-Places-For-Business-And-Careers\\_land.html](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2007/1/07bestplaces_Best-Places-For-Business-And-Careers_land.html))

# Daily Visitor Spending Down; Tax Receipts Rise

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures visitor spending on travel arrangements, accommodations, food, recreation and retail products as well as tax revenue generated within the county by visitor spending. This indicator also tracks travel industry employment trends.

## Why is it Important?

Visitors traveling to Orange County for recreation and business generate revenue and jobs for the local economy. Tourism is one of the leading industries in Orange County, accounting for 10% of the county's employment (see Employment by Industry Clusters). Hotels, shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues rely on the tourism market for a significant percentage of their business. Moreover, the county benefits from tax revenue generated by visitor spending.

## How is Orange County Doing?

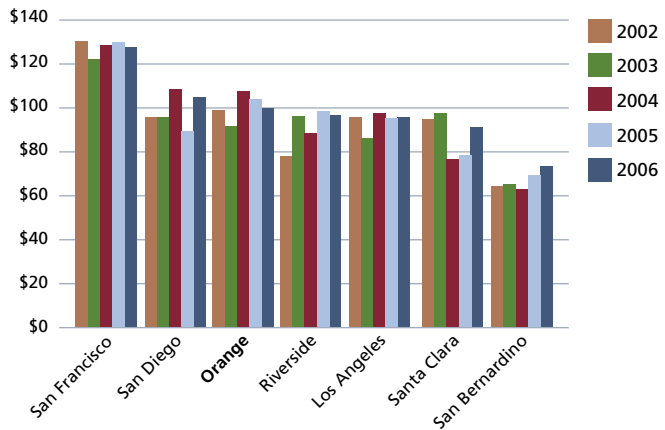
While daily visitor spending continues to fall, total annual spending and tax receipts are growing:

- After a jump in 2004 to \$107.70 per day, Orange County's average visitor spending fell for the second year in a row to \$100.10 in 2006.
- While still among California's top counties for tourism, Orange County dropped from second to third highest daily visitor spending, behind San Francisco and San Diego.
- Despite the decline in daily visitor spending, Orange County continues to lead peers in total visitor spending, with an average annual growth rate of 4.9% between 2001 and 2005.
- In 2005, Orange County tourism generated \$506 million in tax receipts compared with \$462 million in 2004.

Tourism-related jobs increase:

- According to the California Division of Tourism's definition, the average number of tourism-related jobs in Orange County rose to 86,300 in 2005.
- This increase makes Orange County the third largest market for tourism-related employment in the state behind Los Angeles and San Diego Counties.
- Although tourism-related employment is growing, these workers remain among the lowest paid in Orange County with an average annual salary of \$19,000 (see Employment by Industry Clusters).

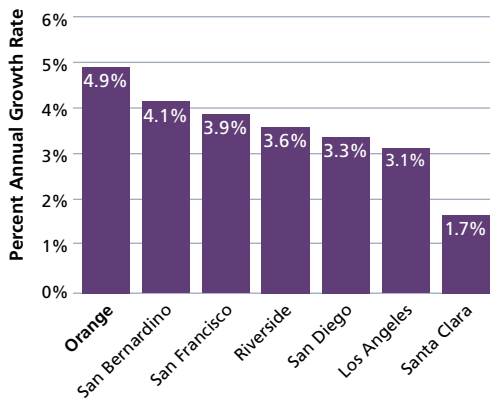
Average Expenditures per Visitor per Day  
County Comparison, 2002-2006



Note: Excludes transportation expenditures.

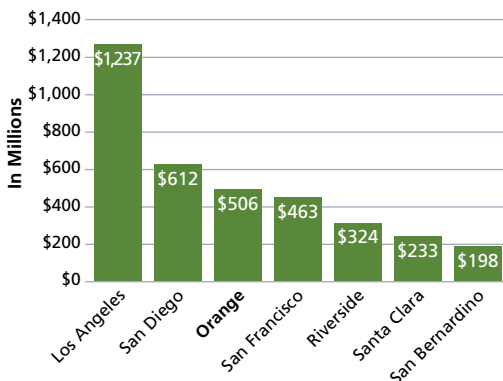
Source: D.K. Shifflet and Associates for the California Division of Tourism, California 2006 Domestic Travel Report ([www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com))

Total Visitor Spending by County  
Average Annual Growth Rate, 2001-2005



Source: California Division of Tourism, California Travel Impacts by County, Dean Runyan Associates ([www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com))

Tourism-Related Total Tax Receipts  
County Comparison, 2005



Source: California Division of Tourism, California Travel Impacts by County, Dean Runyan Associates ([www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com))

# Exports Top \$18 Billion

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the change in dollar value of Orange County exports. Also measured are manufacturing and service exports by destination and type of commodity from the greater Los Angeles Metro Area which includes Orange County.

## Why is it Important?

The ability to access foreign markets is important for a strong and growing local economy. Trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and subsequent bilateral agreements continue to open new markets for Orange County businesses. The county's location on the Pacific Rim, proximity to the Long Beach and San Pedro ports, and our large population of Spanish and Asian language speakers make us well positioned for international trade.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Total exports are increasing:

- In 2006, exports from Orange County alone were an estimated \$18.1 billion, up from \$16.3 billion the prior year.
- This is the fourth year in a row that exports increased.

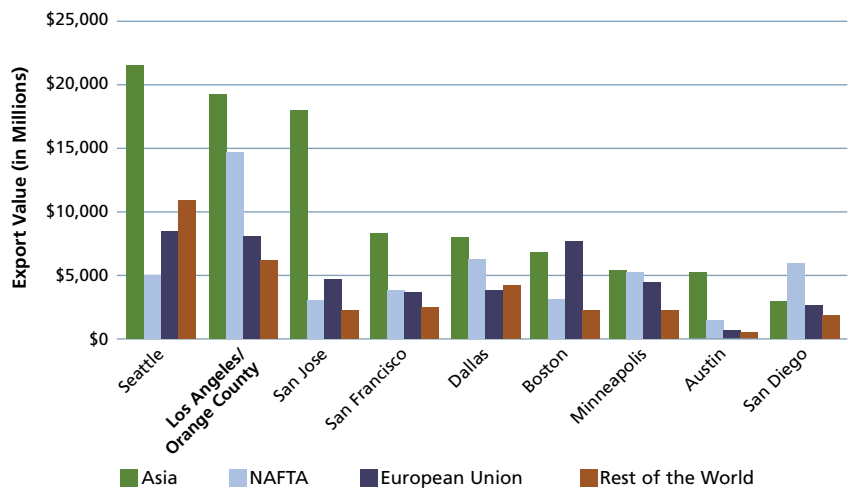
Orange County is part of the second largest export-generating region in the United States, with a total of \$48.7 billion exported from the Los Angeles Metro Area:

- By country, Mexico continues to be the top destination for regional exports, followed by Canada and Japan.
- Whereas NAFTA countries imported one-quarter of all Los Angeles/Orange County manufactured goods a decade ago, these countries now absorb one-third of all Los Angeles/Orange County manufacturing exports.
- When all of Asia is combined, it is the top export market for Los Angeles/Orange County with only the Seattle region selling more to Asia.
- The top exports from Los Angeles/Orange County are computers and electronics, transportation equipment, miscellaneous manufactured commodities, chemicals, and machinery (except electrical).

Total Orange County Exports Worldwide, 1997-2006

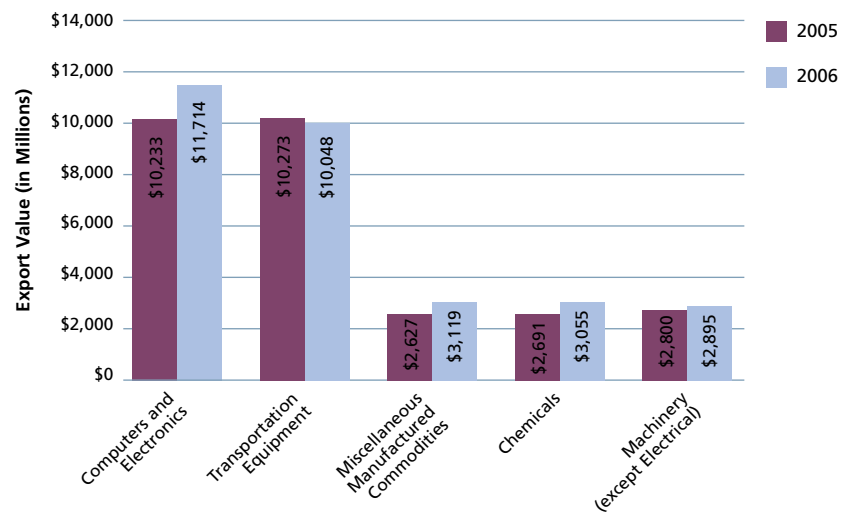


Exports by Destination  
Regional Comparison, 2006



Source: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (<http://ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/metro/>)

Top Five Exports  
Los Angeles/Orange County, 2005 and 2006



Source: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (<http://ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/metro/>)

# County is Second Most Expensive Place to Live Among Peers

## Description of Indicator

This indicator uses a cost of living index to compare prices of housing, consumer goods, and services for Orange County and peer metropolitan regions. The weighted index compares local market prices in the following areas:

- Housing (28%)
- Groceries (13%)
- Utilities (10%)
- Transportation (10%)
- Health care costs (4%)
- Miscellaneous items (35%)

The average for all metro areas equals 100 and each area's individual index is read as a percentage of the average for all places.

## Why is it Important?

A high cost of living relative to peer markets can make Orange County less attractive as a destination for businesses and workers. In addition, businesses already operating in Orange County may opt to relocate or expand elsewhere. Current residents – particularly young workers – may decide to move to more affordable areas.

## How is Orange County Doing?

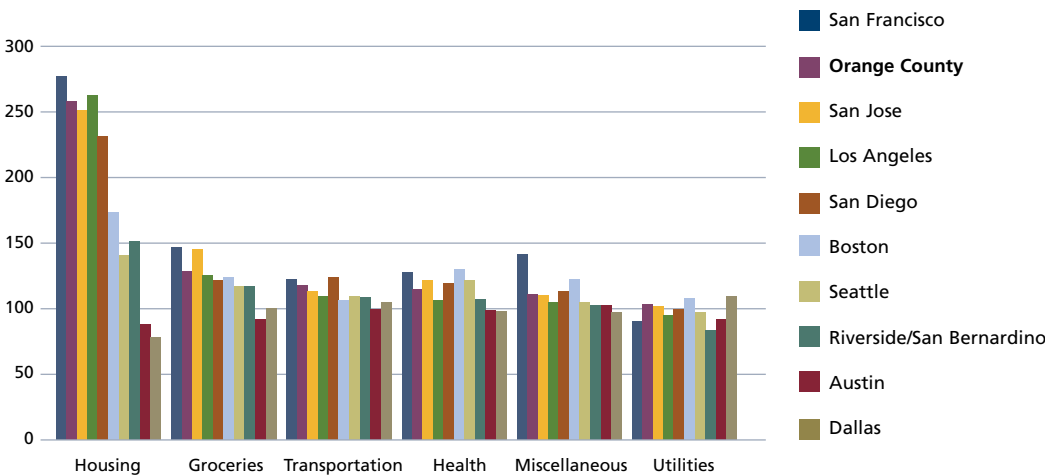
In the second quarter of 2007:

- Orange County's cost of living was the second highest out of the 300 metro areas measured in the index.
- San Francisco was the only peer market that was more expensive.
- With 100 being average, Orange County measured 154.9 on the index.
- Orange County's cost of living measures for groceries, utilities, transportation and miscellaneous items tended to rank in the middle among peers, but its high housing costs significantly affected the index, making it among the highest scores.

**Cost of Living Index**  
Regional Comparison, 2nd Quarter 2007

| Location                 | Total Index Value |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| San Francisco            | 171.0             |
| <b>Orange County</b>     | <b>154.9</b>      |
| San Jose                 | 154.2             |
| Los Angeles              | 151.2             |
| San Diego                | 146.2             |
| Boston                   | 136.3             |
| Seattle                  | 117.4             |
| Riverside/San Bernardino | 116.2             |
| Austin                   | 96.2              |
| Dallas                   | 93.7              |

**Cost of Living Index, by Component**  
Regional Comparison, 2nd Quarter 2007



Source: Council for Community and Economic Research ([www.c2er.org/](http://www.c2er.org/))

# Income and Income Growth Higher than Most Peers

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures per capita income levels and income growth. Total personal income includes wages and salaries, proprietor income, property income and transfer payments, such as pensions and unemployment insurance. Figures are not adjusted for inflation.

## Why is it Important?

A high per capita income for county residents is crucial in the context of the county's high housing costs. In addition, a higher relative per capita income signals greater discretionary income for the purchase of goods and services.

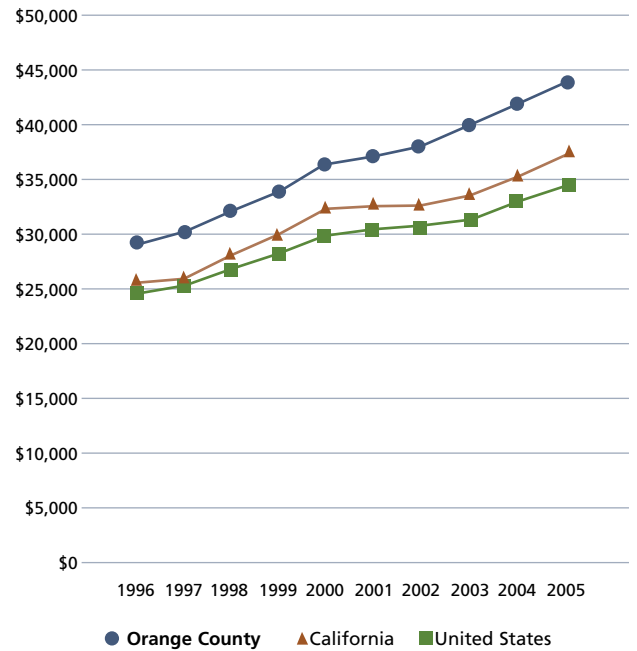
## How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County boasts the fastest income growth in recent years:

- In 2005, Orange County's per capita income of \$44,453 was higher than the state and national averages and up 5.5% from \$42,115 in 2004.
- When compared to peer and neighboring markets, Orange County's income level was higher than all other areas except for San Jose and Boston.
- Between 1996 and 2005, Orange County posted a per capita income growth of 4.7%, which was faster than or the same as all regions compared except for San Diego.

## Per Capita Income

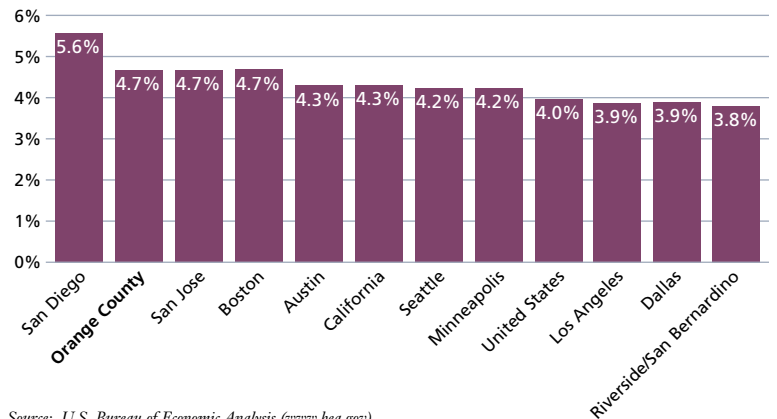
Orange County, California, and United States, 1996-2005



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis ([www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov))

Note: Each year the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis refines and updates their data. Thus, these figures have been updated from previous Community Indicators reports.

## Per Capita Income Average Annual Percent Change Regional Comparison, 1996-2005



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis ([www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov))



# Service Sectors and Salaries Continue to Grow

## Description of Indicator

This indicator shows employment and salaries in 10 major Orange County industry clusters. The clusters were chosen to reflect the diversity of Orange County employment, major economic drivers within the county, and important industry sectors for workforce development. Approximately 40% of all Orange County jobs can be found in the 10 clusters described in this indicator.

## Why is it Important?

Employment change within specific clusters illuminates how Orange County's economy is evolving. Tracking salary levels in these clusters shows whether the jobs can provide a wage high enough for workers to afford to live in Orange County.

## How is Orange County Doing?

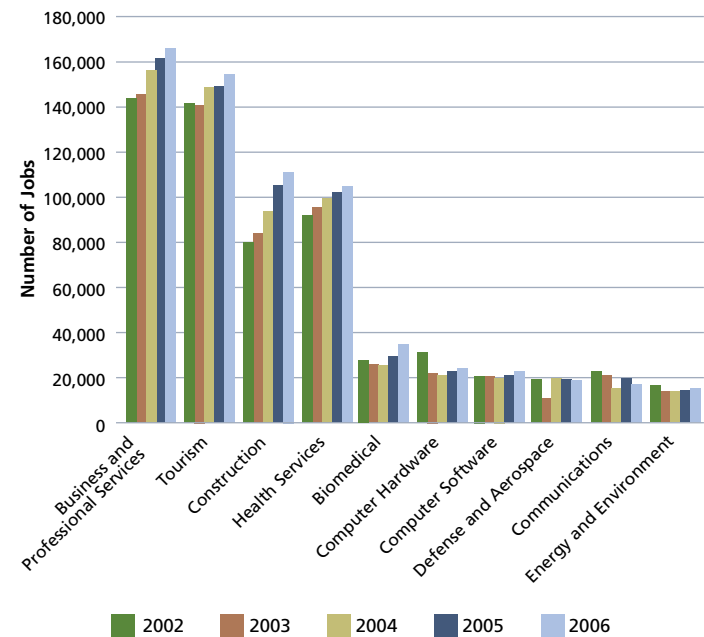
Eight of the 10 major Orange County industry clusters expanded between 2005 and 2006:

- The county's four largest clusters – Business and Professional Services, Tourism, Construction, and Health Services – were part of this growth.
- The largest employment gains occurred in Computer Software (7.2%), Construction, and Biomedical (both 6.2%).

Each of the 10 major Orange County industry clusters experienced salary increases between 2005 and 2006:

- The largest salary increases occurred in the Biomedical (35%) and Business and Professional Services sectors (9.6%).
- Business and Professional Services, Tourism, Construction, and Health Services have experienced sustained growth over long periods of time and through a variety of economic conditions, however, they are also the lowest paying of the clusters.

Employment in Selected Clusters  
Orange County, 2002-2006



Average Annual Salaries in Orange County Clusters  
Orange County, 2006

| Cluster                            | 2006     | Change 2005-06 |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Defense and Aerospace              | \$89,244 | 9.1%           |
| Computer Software                  | \$83,526 | 5.9%           |
| Biomedical                         | \$82,739 | 35.0%          |
| Computer Hardware                  | \$69,277 | 8.5%           |
| Communications                     | \$62,320 | 0.8%           |
| Energy and Environment             | \$54,475 | 7.4%           |
| Construction                       | \$49,927 | 5.3%           |
| Business and Professional Services | \$48,801 | 9.6%           |
| Health Services                    | \$45,736 | 4.6%           |
| Tourism                            | \$19,095 | 3.9%           |

Source: Orange County Business Council analysis of data from the California Employment Development Department

# Job Growth Far Exceeds New Home Starts

## Description of Indicator

This indicator shows the ratio of new housing permits divided by new jobs for Orange County compared with peer metropolitan areas across the state and the country.

## Why is it Important?

When an economy is growing, new housing is needed for the additional workers employed. When the housing demand is unmet, it can make housing unaffordable for workers and other residents by driving up home prices and apartment rents. An expensive housing market affects Orange County's desirability as a business location partly because businesses have greater difficulty attracting and retaining workers – particularly young workers. In addition, residents face longer commute times due to people moving outside of the county or to a small concentration of affordable areas within the county. Orange County's housing deficit is the result of a long-term chasm between housing built relative to jobs created. Even when the economy contracts, the gap is so wide that demand for new housing does not disappear. To begin to close a gap of this size, housing construction must increase and remain high in times of economic growth as well as contraction.

## How is Orange County Doing?

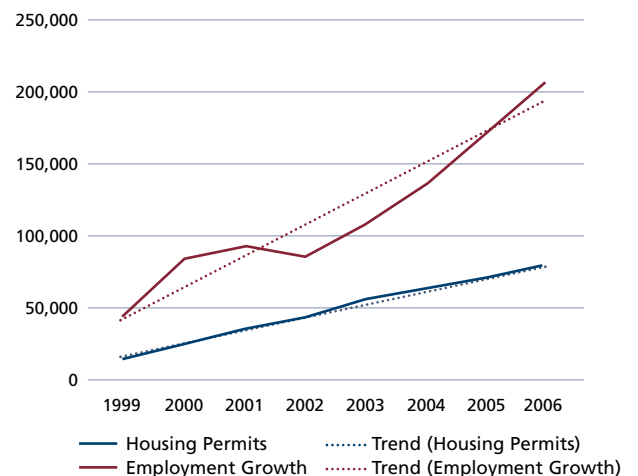
The combination of strong job growth and weak housing development exacerbates the long-term housing shortage that has existed in Orange County since the late 1990s:

- In 2006, there were 29,100 jobs created and 8,303 new housing permits granted.
- The resulting ratio of 3.5 new jobs for every new housing permit leaves Orange County with the highest deficit of new housing permits per jobs compared to peers, the state and the nation.
- Despite a small respite in 2002 at the peak of the economic downturn, since 1999 a total of 202,000 new jobs were created (including losses in 2002) compared to 71,500 housing units permitted.
- In other words, for every two jobs created in the county since 1999, less than one housing unit has been permitted. This gap widened since last year. The standard "healthy" ratio of jobs to permits is 1.5 jobs per housing unit.
- Peer areas with job growth similar to Orange County (Boston, Austin, and Minneapolis) have granted significantly more housing permits.

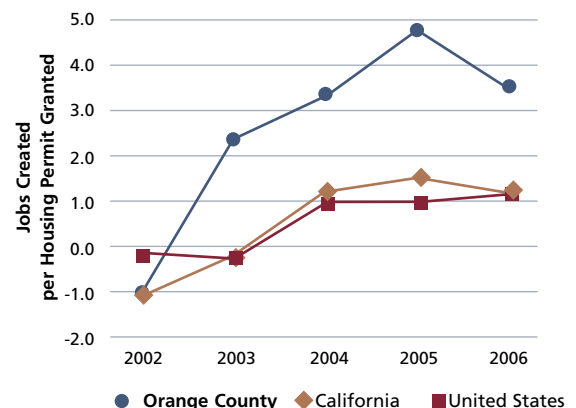
**Housing Demand**  
Regional Comparison, 2006

|                          | Housing Permits | Employment Change (Jobs) | Ratio Employment Change to Permits |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Orange County</b>     | <b>8,303</b>    | <b>29,100</b>            | <b>3.50</b>                        |
| Los Angeles              | 25,202          | 68,300                   | 2.71                               |
| San Diego                | 9,191           | 17,800                   | 1.94                               |
| Boston                   | 13,916          | 26,200                   | 1.88                               |
| Seattle                  | 26,007          | 47,100                   | 1.81                               |
| Dallas                   | 56,514          | 94,300                   | 1.67                               |
| San Francisco            | 24,968          | 41,400                   | 1.66                               |
| Minneapolis              | 15,712          | 23,200                   | 1.48                               |
| Riverside/San Bernardino | 38,089          | 49,200                   | 1.29                               |
| United States            | 2,140,236       | 2,471,000                | 1.15                               |
| Austin                   | 26,096          | 27,800                   | 1.07                               |
| California               | 262,145         | 275,100                  | 1.05                               |

**Cumulative Growth in Employment and Housing Permits (1999 Baseline)**  
Orange County, 1999-2006



**New Jobs Created per Housing Permit Granted**  
Orange County, California and United States, 2002-2006



Sources: Hanley Wood Market Intelligence ([www.hanleywood.com/hwmi](http://www.hanleywood.com/hwmi)) and United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Home Prices Still Out of Reach for Most

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the value and change in value of the median priced existing single-family detached home. It uses the California Association of Realtors Housing Affordability Index to measure the percentage of Orange County households that can afford the existing median priced single-family detached home in the county. It also compares homeownership rates.

## Why is it Important?

High relative housing prices adversely impact businesses' ability to attract and retain workers. A shortage of affordable housing, particularly for first-time buyers, discourages young workers from moving to or remaining in Orange County. In addition, a lack of affordable housing results in longer commutes which lead to increased traffic congestion and pollution, decreased productivity and diminished quality of life. Homeownership increases stability for families and communities and is a significant means of personal wealth creation.

## How is Orange County Doing?

The single-family median home sale price is slightly less than the previous year, but still out of reach for most:

- According to the California Association of Realtors, the median sale price of an existing single-family detached home in Orange County was \$709,720 in July 2007.
- This price is nearly \$120,000 more than the state median price for a comparable home.

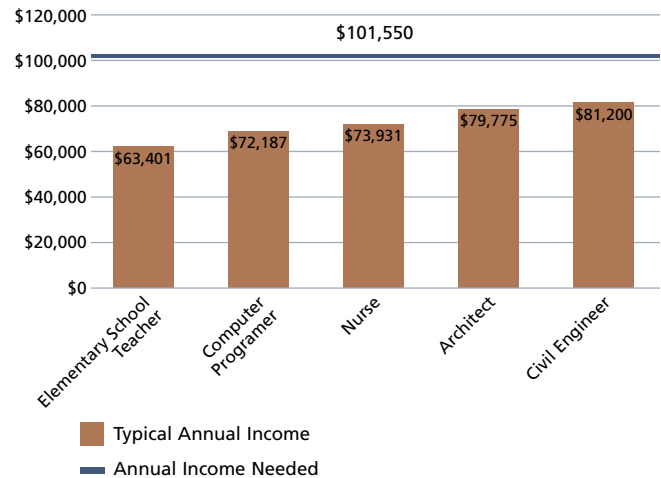
Housing affordability has increased by only 2% since last year:

- As of the second quarter of 2007, 23% of households in Orange County could afford an existing single-family detached home that was priced at 85% of median (or \$603,762).
- Orange County's affordability index of 23% is consistent with San Diego County, however Los Angeles County is slightly less affordable with a 20% affordability index.
- Neighboring Riverside and San Bernardino Counties remain more affordable with housing affordability rates of 35% and 40%, respectively.
- The minimum household income needed to purchase a median priced single-family home in Orange County is approximately \$101,500, assuming a 10% down payment and an adjustable interest rate of 6.29%.

Homeownership rates rose slightly:

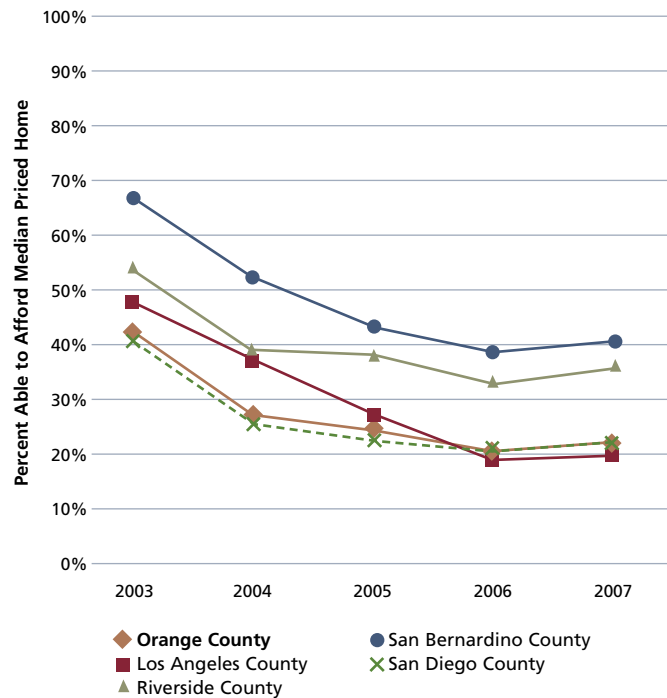
- Homeownership rates for the county rose from 61.0% in 2005 to 62.4% in 2006.
- Orange County has similar levels of homeownership as many of our peer regions but still lags behind the national rate by approximately 5%.

**Income Needed to Afford Median Priced Home (\$709,720) Compared to Typical Salaries**  
Orange County, 2007



Sources: Orange County Business Council analysis of California Association of Realtors data, and California Employment Development Department

**Housing Affordability Index County Comparison, 2003-2007**



Source: California Association of Realtors

The Housing Affordability Index was updated by the California Association of Realtors in 2006 due to the growth in less stringent mortgage products and lending standards. The index was revised using the parameters of a 10% down payment and an assumption that the first-time homebuyer buys a home that is only 85% of the prevailing median home price. The chart above uses data based on the revised index and has been recalculated back to 2003.

# Rental Housing More Expensive than Peers

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the Housing Wage – the hourly wage a resident needs to afford Fair Market Rent. Orange County’s Fair Market Rent is the 50th percentile (or median) rent in the market.

## Why is it Important?

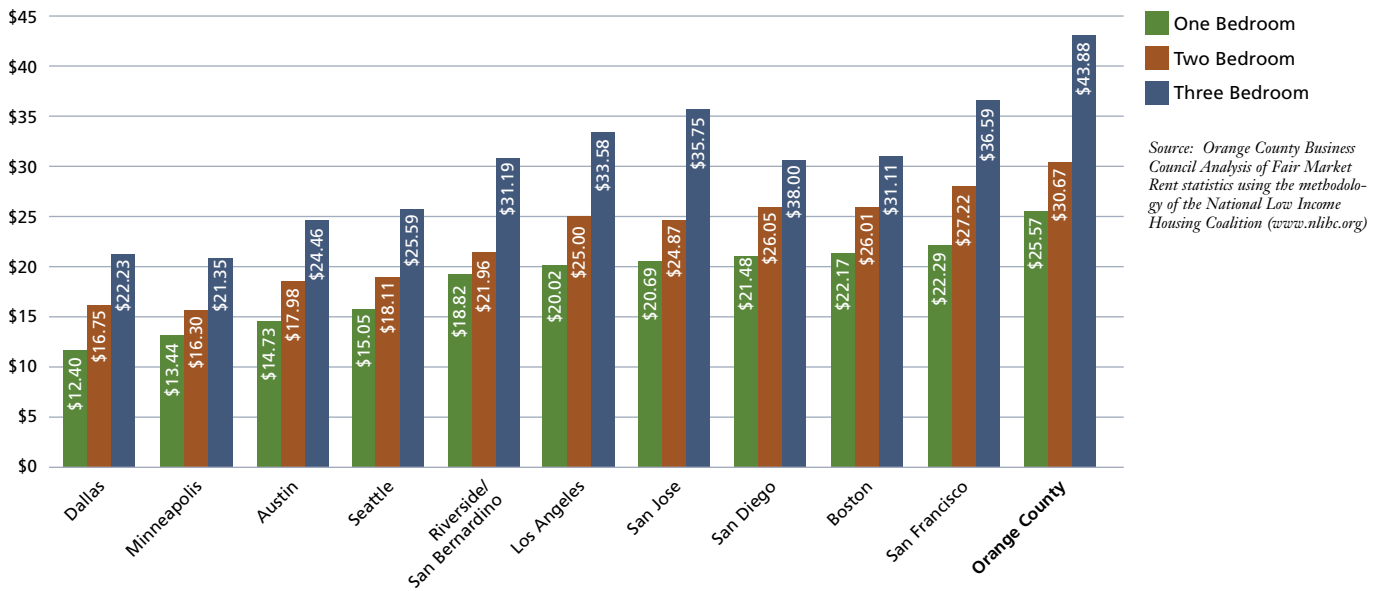
Lack of affordable rental housing can lead to crowding and household stress. Less affordable rental housing also restricts the ability of renters to save for a down payment on a home, which limits their ability to eventually become homeowners and build personal wealth through housing appreciation. Ultimately, a shortage of affordable housing for renters can instigate a cycle of poverty.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County’s Housing Wage rates increased in 2007:

- The hourly wage needed for a one-bedroom apartment rose from \$23.81 in 2006 to \$25.57 in 2007 – equivalent to an annual income of \$53,185.
- Among state and national peer metropolitan areas, Orange County has the highest Housing Wage (less affordable rental housing).
- According to employment projections, most of the occupations likely to have large gains in the county’s high-growth industries (services, manufacturing, and retail trade) have hourly wages far below the Housing Wage.

## Hourly Wage Needed to Afford Fair Market Rent Regional Comparison, 2007

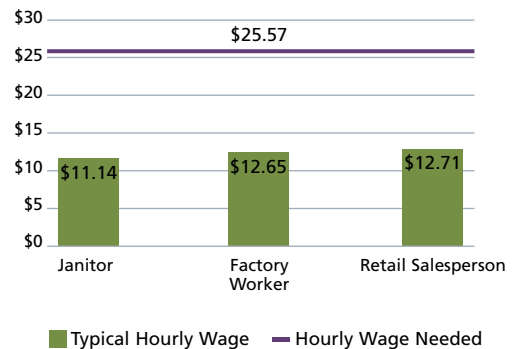


## Renting in Orange County

|  | 2006     | 2007     |
|--|----------|----------|
| Fair Market Rent (Monthly)   |          |          |
| One Bedroom  | \$1,161  | \$1,238  |
| Two Bedroom  | \$1,392  | \$1,485  |
| Three Bedroom  | \$1,992  | \$2,125  |
| Estimated Orange County Median Family Income (Annual)                                      | \$78,300 | \$78,700 |
| Amount a Household Earning Minimum Wage Can Afford to Pay in Rent (Monthly)                | \$351    | \$351    |
| Amount a Household Earning 30% of Median Family Income Can Afford to Pay in Rent (Monthly) | \$587    | \$590    |
| Number of Hours per Week a Minimum Wage Earner Must Work to Afford a One-Bedroom Apartment | 141      | 154      |

Source: Orange County Business Council Analysis of HUD statistics using the methodology of the National Low Income Housing Coalition ([www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org))

## Hourly Wage Needed to Afford a One-Bedroom Unit Compared to Typical Hourly Wages Orange County, 2006



Sources: Orange County Business Council Analysis of Fair Market Rent statistics using the methodology of the National Low Income Housing Coalition ([www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)); and California Employment Development Department ([www.calmis.ca.gov](http://www.calmis.ca.gov))

# Commute Times Remain Constant

## Description of Indicator

This indicator includes average commute times, state highway and freeway use and residents' primary mode of travel to work.

## Why is it Important?

Tracking commuter trends and transportation system demand helps gauge the ease with which residents, workers, and goods can move within the county. Long commutes impact personal lives and worker productivity due to the time lost in transit. Traffic congestion slows the movement of goods, contributes to the expense of operating a car, and increases air pollution.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County commute times remain constant:

- In 2006, the average commute time to work for Orange County residents was 26 minutes, ranking in the middle of the comparison regions.

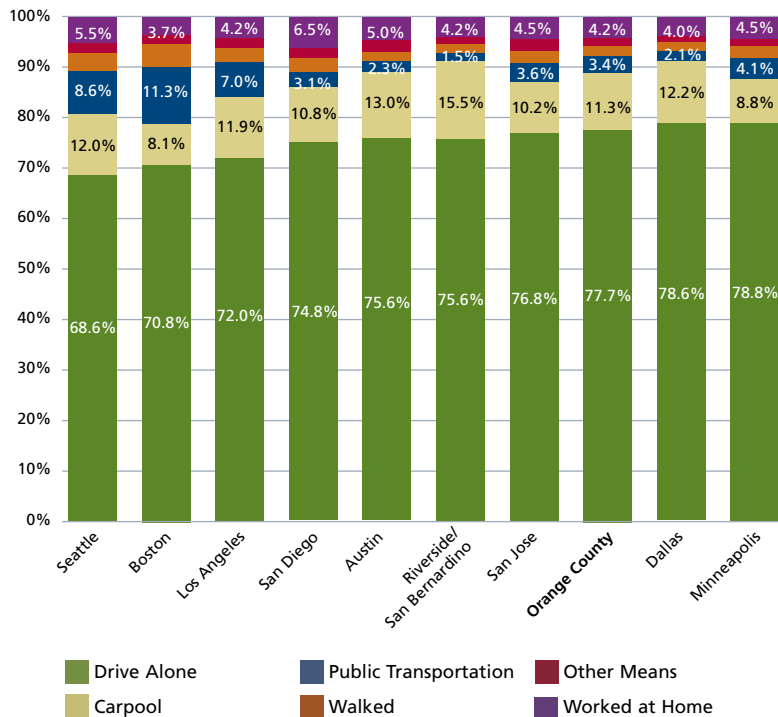
The local freeway system is heavily used:

- As in the past, Orange County maintained the greatest level of state highway utilization of all comparison areas.
- In 2004/05, Caltrans reported that a majority of Orange County freeways were congested during weekday evening peak hours.

Modes of travel remain relatively unchanged:

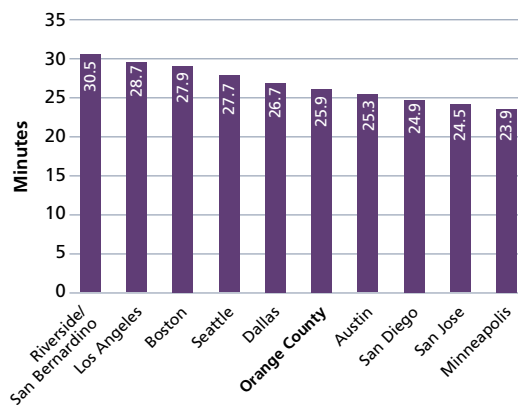
- In 2006, the majority (77.7%) of Orange County commuters drove alone.
- Carpooling, the second most common mode of travel to work, has remained largely unchanged since 2000 (11.3% in 2006).
- More people in Orange County work at home (4.2%) than take public transportation (3.4%).

## Primary Mode of Commuting to Work Regional Comparison, 2006



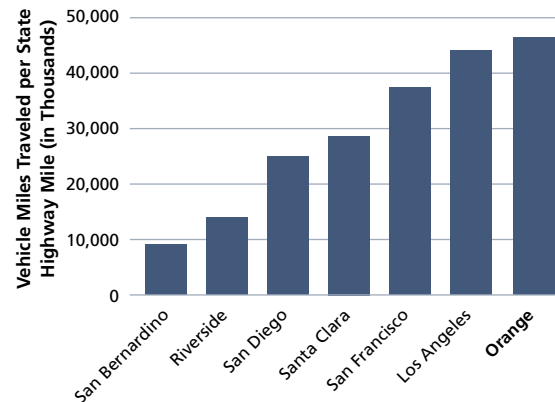
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey

## Average Commute Times to Work in Minutes Regional Comparison, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey (www.census.gov)

## State Highway Utilization County Comparison, 2005



Source: Caltrans, 2005 Collision Data on California State Highways

Note: Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) measures the total number of miles traveled by automobiles on specified roads during a specified period of time. A greater number of Vehicle Miles Traveled per highway mile suggests greater congestion on the system, as well as more wear and tear on the roadways and therefore, higher maintenance and preservation costs.

### Measure M Renewal

In November 2006, by a two-thirds majority, voters approved an extension of Measure M from 2011 to 2041. This renewed sales tax will generate \$11.862 billion of local funds (2005 dollars) allocated to Orange County freeway, street and road, public transit, and environmental cleanup projects. With the extension of Measure M, total transportation revenues from a mixture of federal, state, and local sources will increase to approximately \$40.7 billion (2005 dollars) over the next 36 years.

# Bus and Rail Ridership is Up

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures ridership and operating costs for Orange County's bus system, as well as ridership on the commuter rail system.

## Why is it Important?

The ability of residents and workers to move efficiently within Orange County is important to our quality of life and a prosperous business climate. An effective public transit system is essential for individuals who cannot afford, are unable, or choose not to drive a car.

## How is Orange County Doing?

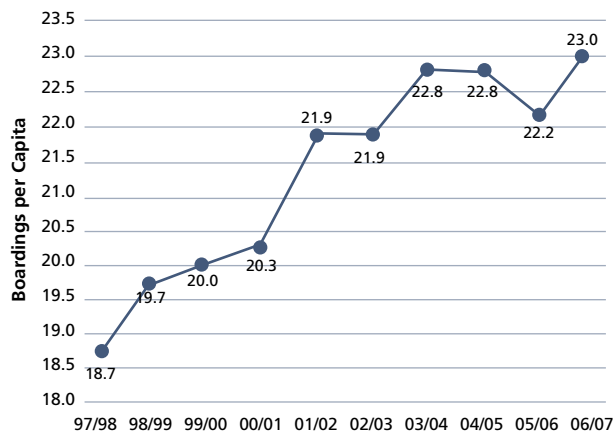
Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) bus passenger boardings are rising:

- Bus passenger boardings totaled 69,007,264 in 2006/07.
- Compared to peers, Orange County's bus ridership per capita is higher than Seattle, San Diego, San Jose, Riverside and San Bernardino, but lower than Minneapolis, Boston, Los Angeles, Austin and Dallas.
- Orange County's bus system operating costs are among the lowest when compared to transportation agencies in peer regions.

Ridership is also rising on Orange County's three commuter rail lines:

- Ridership reached a high of 3.8 million riders on all lines in 2006/07, an increase of 8.3% in one year.
- Over the past 10 years, ridership has grown an average of 10% per year.
- The Orange County Line (between Oceanside and downtown Los Angeles) grew from approximately 1.95 million riders in 2005/06 to 2.05 million riders in 2006/07.
- The Inland Empire Line (between San Bernardino and San Juan Capistrano) grew to 1,218,638 riders during the same period, up 14%.
- The 91 Line (parallels State Route 91, linking Riverside with Fullerton and downtown Los Angeles) added an additional 40,826 riders bringing its total to 572,756 in 2006/07.

OCTA Bus Passenger Boardings, 1998-2007



Source: Orange County Transportation Authority

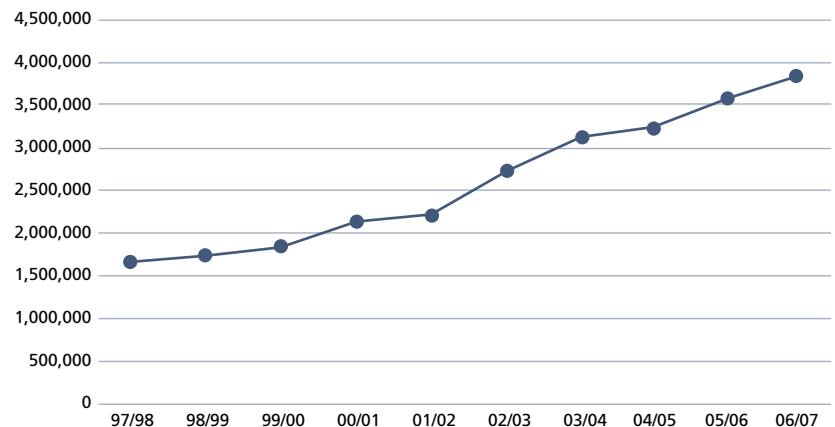
Bus System Operating Costs per Boarding Regional Comparison, 2005

| Regional Transportation System                           | Cost per Boarding |
|--|-------------------|
| Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (Boston)      | \$ 1.99           |
| Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority | \$ 2.05           |
| <b>Orange County Transportation Authority</b>            | <b>\$ 2.65</b>    |
| San Diego Metropolitan Transit System                    | \$ 3.20           |
| Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Austin)   | \$ 3.47           |
| Omnitrans (San Bernardino)                               | \$ 3.75           |
| Dallas Area Rapid Transit                                | \$ 3.79           |
| Riverside Transit Agency                                 | \$ 4.08           |
| Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (San Jose)   | \$ 6.10           |

Source: Federal Transit Administration

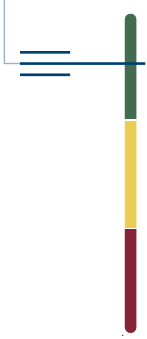
Number of Commuter Rail Riders

Orange County Line, Inland Empire/Orange County Line and 91 Line, 1998-2007



Source: Orange County Transportation Authority

# Technology and Innovation



Orange County remains the **most diversified** high-tech economy in the nation. The county experienced **growth** in several areas including the number of patents, **tech-related** graduate degrees, and students taking math and science courses. More students have **access** to **computers** and the Internet.

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#### NATIONAL PEERS

Austin, Boston, Dallas, Minneapolis, Seattle

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#### CALIFORNIA PEERS

Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose

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#### NEIGHBORS

Los Angeles, Riverside/San Bernardino, San Diego

# Orange County Remains Most Diversified High-Tech Economy in the Nation

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures how diversified our high-tech economy is relative to other metropolitan areas in the country. It tallies all of the technology sectors for which employment is more concentrated at the local level compared to the national average. A diversified technology sector includes concentrations in many high-tech employment clusters, so a larger number indicates a more diversified technology employment base.

## Why is it Important?

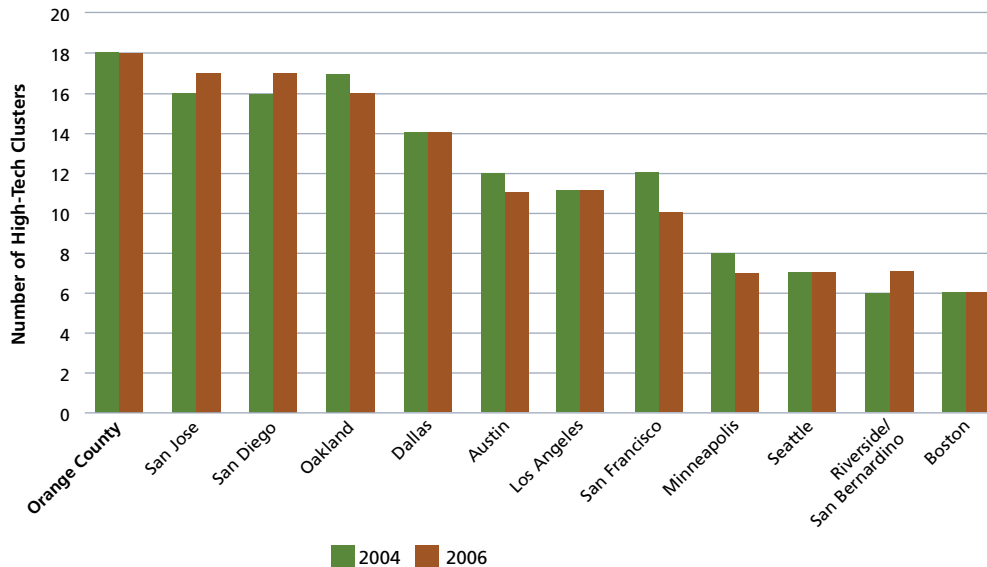
High-technology industries such as computer software programming, pharmaceuticals, or communications equipment development use a high degree of advanced technology, science and research in the creation or implementation of their primary goods and services. They provide strong economic growth potential and higher than average wages. A diverse high-tech economy attracts a broad range of skilled workers and professional services, and may help foster dynamic new ventures. A diverse high-tech sector will also be more resilient during unanticipated downturns than economies that are more reliant upon a particular industry.

## How is Orange County Doing?

High-tech cluster diversity is strong:

- In 2006, Orange County had 18 high-tech industries with employment above the national average, the same as in 2004.
- Orange County has the most diverse high-tech economy in the country.
- This diversity buffered the county from the fallout of the technology sector slowdown that took place between 2001 and 2003.
- In the past, the county trailed regions such as Boston, Austin, Seattle, and San Jose in technology sector diversity, but since 2004, Orange County has been the most diverse of 200 large metros across the United States.

**High-Tech Cluster Diversification**  
Regional Comparison, 2004 and 2006



Source: The Milken Institute ([www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/best\\_prfrmng\\_cities.pdf](http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/best_prfrmng_cities.pdf))



# Internet Access for Adults Surpasses Peer Markets

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of adults who have access to the Internet either at home or work.

## Why is it Important?

The Internet has emerged as a dynamic and effective communications platform for work, education, social interaction, and government-related communication and services. Internet access connects residents to a wealth of information, resources, products, and services. At the same time, a larger online audience creates a larger marketplace for the sale of goods and services by local businesses. For these reasons, and because the Internet has become a central platform for conducting business and commerce, metropolitan areas across the country are investing in efforts to expand access to the Internet. By measuring Internet penetration in Orange County, we can assess the effectiveness of local efforts to encourage access to the Internet compared with other metropolitan areas.

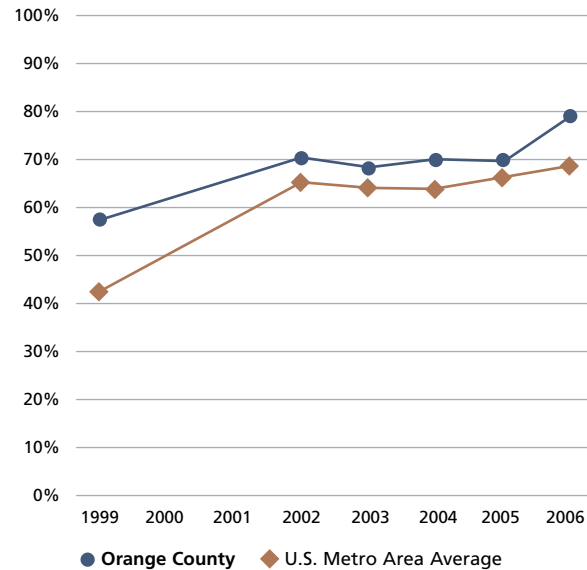
## How is Orange County Doing?

Internet access for Orange County adults grows:

- In 2006, Orange County's Internet access rate for adults rose to 79%, the highest of 75 large metropolitan areas.
- This follows a period between 2002 and 2005 when Internet penetration leveled off at 70% and began to trail peer markets such as Seattle, Austin and San Francisco by five percentage points.

## Internet Access Among Adults

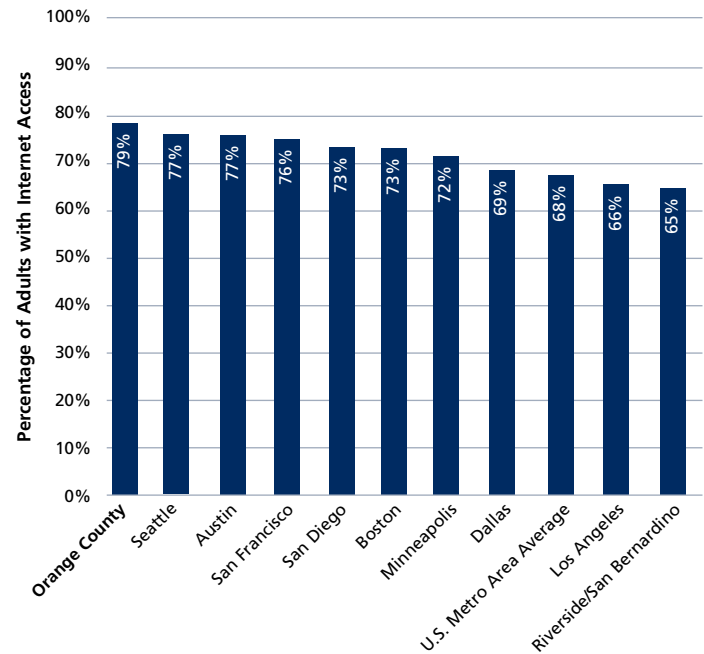
Orange County and United States, 1999-2006



Note: Data for 2000 and 2001 is not available.

## Internet Access Among Adults

Regional Comparison, 2006



Source: Scarborough Research

# Venture Capital Investment Steady in 2006

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County businesses' access to venture capital (financing for early stage companies) by tracking investment among metropolitan areas. It also measures the number of patent grants awarded to inventors.

## Why is it Important?

The development of new technology and innovations is critical for a regional economy's long-term viability. Venture capital facilitates the growth of new business and the exploitation of new technologies. The number of patent grants awarded for county businesses and residents is a good barometer of both the ingenuity of the local workforce and businesses' commitment to research and development.

## How is Orange County Doing?

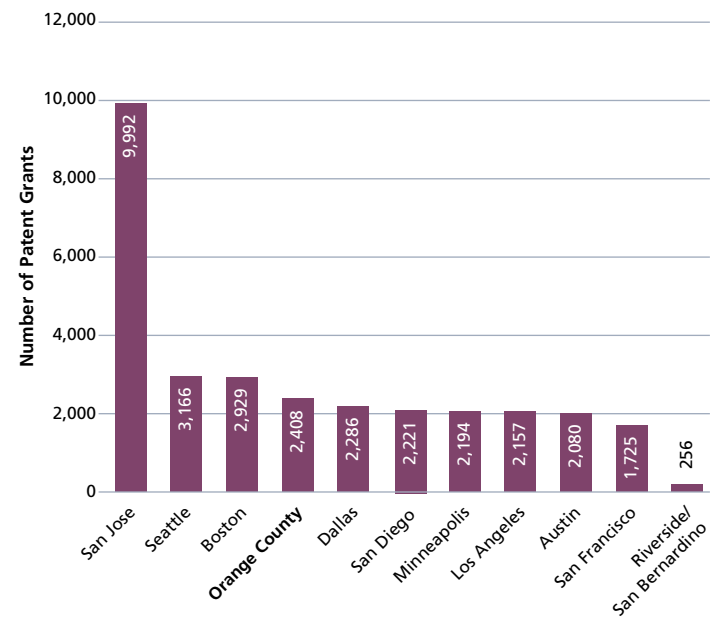
Venture capital funding is relatively steady:

- Venture capital funding in 2006 was \$574.6 million, compared to \$605.6 million in 2005.
- Investments for the first half of 2007 totaled \$327.3 million – above the pace of 2006 but well below the 2000 high of \$1.5 billion.
- Top sectors receiving funding in the first half of 2007 were medical devices (\$91 million), industrial/energy (\$40 million), and media and entertainment (\$19 million).
- Orange County's share of national venture capital is approximately 2%.

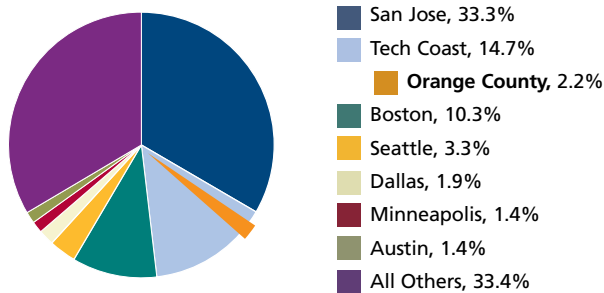
Patent grants increased dramatically:

- In 2006, 2,408 patents were granted for county inventors, significantly above the 2005 level of 1,837 patents.
- Orange County's growth in patents mirrors a growth pattern across the country in 2006.
- Patent grants to Orange County inventors grew by 28.3% between 2002 and 2006 – better than most peer markets.

Number of Patent Grants Awarded  
Regional Comparison, 2006



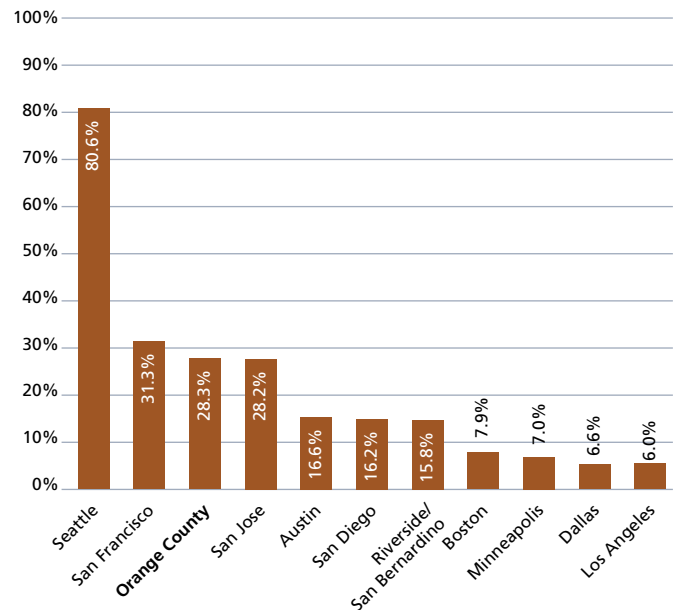
Metropolitan Region Share of National Venture Capital Investments, 2007 (January through June)



Note: Tech Coast is Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties.

Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers/Thomson Venture Economics/NVCA Moneytree Venture Capital Profiles ([www.venturexpert.com/VxComponent/static/stats/](http://www.venturexpert.com/VxComponent/static/stats/))

Percent Change in Patent Grants Awarded  
Regional Comparison, 2002-2006



Source: United States Patent Office ([www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov))

# Computer Access, Math and Science Enrollment Increase

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the technological know-how of the future work force by tracking key technology indicators in public schools. These include the number of K-12 students per computer, the number of classrooms with Internet access, and the percent of high school students enrolled in an upper level math (Intermediate Algebra or Advanced Math) and/or science (1st year Chemistry or Physics) course in Orange County public school districts.

## Why is it Important?

Computer, math and science competency are some of the most important technical skills a student can possess in our knowledge- and computer-driven economy. Many experts agree that a ratio of four to five students per computer represents a reasonable level for the effective use of computers in schools. The Internet is also a major research tool for students and an instructional device for teachers. Upper level math and science courses are required for UC/CSU entry, providing the background needed for many college level courses and technology-related jobs.

## How is Orange County Doing?

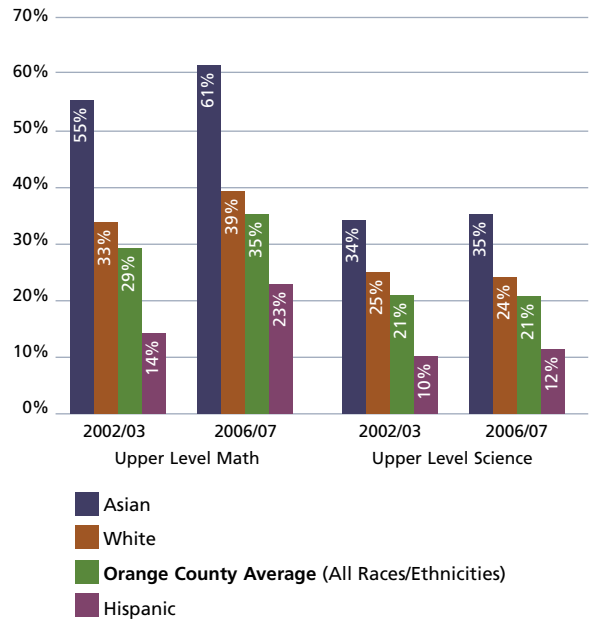
Math and science course enrollment increased slightly:

- 35% of high school students took upper level math in 2006/07, up two percentage points from last year.
- 21% of high school students took upper level science, up one percentage point from last year.
- Latino high school students showed the greatest increase in upper level math and science course enrollment over the past five years.

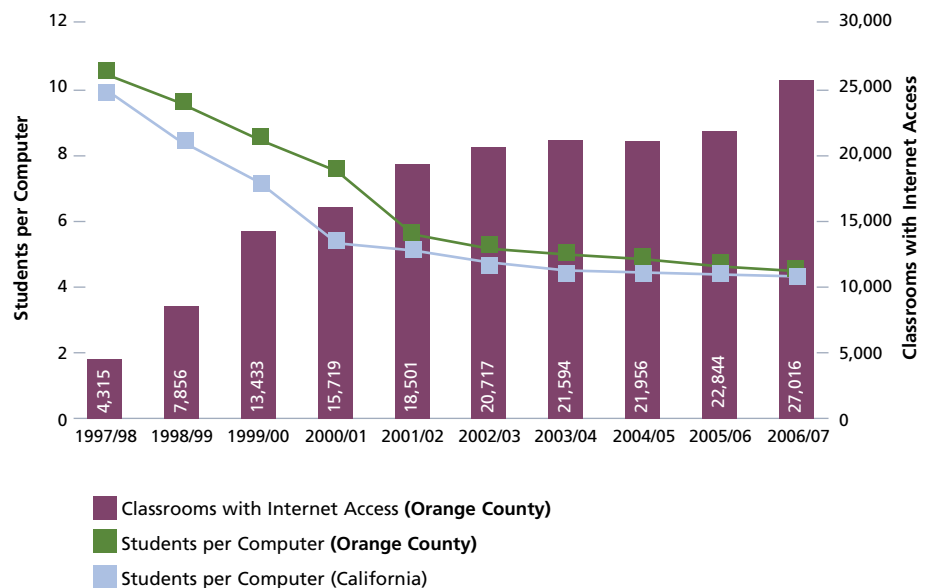
The number of students per computer in Orange County schools improved 20% between 2002/03 and 2006/07:

- At 4.5 students per computer, Orange County is nearly on par with the California average (4.4).
- The number of Orange County classrooms with Internet access increased 18% in the past year.

Upper Level Math and Science Course Enrollment as Percent of 9-12 Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity  
Orange County, 2003 and 2007



Students per Computer and Number of Classrooms with Internet Access  
Orange County and California, 1998-2007



Notes:

1. A decrease in the number of students per computer is an improvement, indicating students have increased access to a computer.
2. The number of classrooms with Internet access includes all classrooms and other instructional settings at the school (such as a computer lab, library or career center) with an Internet connection. If a classroom has more than one Internet connection, that classroom is still only counted once.

Source: California Department of Education (<http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>)

# Fewer Undergraduate Tech-Related Degrees; Graduate Degrees Rise

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of technology-related degrees conferred by local universities<sup>1</sup>.

## Why is it Important?

Effective workforce development and training supports Orange County's high-tech sector, nurtures our innovation economy, and contributes to our overall economic wellbeing. High-tech jobs provide good wages for employees and an increasing number of local graduates with technical skills means employers do not have to recruit workers from outside the county.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Undergraduate degrees are down:

- After steady gains since 2000, the number of tech-related undergraduate degrees dropped 4% in 2006 to 2,125.
- Roughly 19% of total undergraduate degrees granted in 2006 were tech-related.
- Disciplines with the greatest growth over five years were Biological Sciences (58% gain) and Engineering (57% gain).
- Undergraduate degrees in Information and Computer Sciences decreased 66% in one year, possibly due to it being the first class to enter college and graduate after the tech industry collapse in 2001.

Graduate degrees are on the rise:

- Tech-related graduate degrees increased by 15% in 2006 on top of gains in 2005 (13%) and 2004 (22%).
- 771 tech-related graduate degrees were awarded in 2006.
- About 29% of total graduate degrees conferred in 2005 were tech-related.
- Graduate degrees in Biological Science increased by 63% between 2002 and 2006, while Engineering degrees conferred increased by 102%.

### Tech-Related Bachelor's Degrees Conferred at Orange County Universities

|                                   | 2002         | 2003         | 2004         | 2005         | 2006         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Biological Sciences               | 516          | 524          | 610          | 710          | 798          |
| Biology                           | 113          | 122          | 92           | 125          | 108          |
| Engineering                       | 313          | 359          | 437          | 504          | 518          |
| Information and Computer Sciences | 230          | 331          | 388          | 478          | 288          |
| Computer Sciences                 | 138          | 124          | 157          | 114          | 102          |
| Physical Sciences                 | 224          | 181          | 222          | 273          | 307          |
| Other Sciences                    | 37           | 31           | 22           | 4            | 4            |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>1,571</b> | <b>1,672</b> | <b>1,928</b> | <b>2,208</b> | <b>2,125</b> |

Note: "Other Sciences" includes environmental science, kinesiology, movement and exercise science.

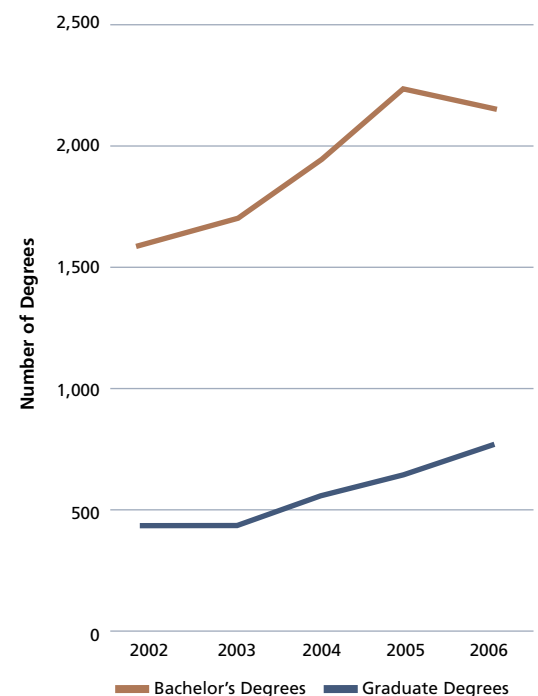
### Tech-Related Graduate Degrees Conferred at Orange County Universities

|                                   | 2002       | 2003       | 2004       | 2005       | 2006       |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Biological Sciences               | 42         | 42         | 19         | 60         | 54         |
| Biology                           | 12         | 18         | 19         | 10         | 8          |
| Engineering                       | 154        | 177        | 256        | 240        | 300        |
| Information and Computer Sciences | 67         | 70         | 71         | 73         | 89         |
| Computer Sciences                 | 41         | 41         | 60         | 85         | 129        |
| Physical Sciences                 | 93         | 62         | 125        | 150        | 155        |
| Other Sciences                    | 36         | 38         | 22         | 36         | 36         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>445</b> | <b>448</b> | <b>572</b> | <b>654</b> | <b>771</b> |

Note: "Other Sciences" includes physical therapy, food science and nutrition.

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

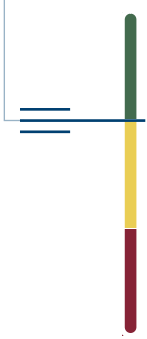
Tech-Related Degrees Granted, 2002-2006



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

<sup>1</sup> Orange County universities that offer technology-related graduate and undergraduate degrees include California State University, Fullerton, Chapman University, and University of California, Irvine.

# Education



College **eligibility** increased and the high school dropout rate is low. **More** students are becoming **bilingual**. Academic achievement remains strong overall, but **disparities** persist.

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#### NATIONAL PEERS

Boston, Dallas, Minneapolis, Phoenix

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#### CALIFORNIA PEERS

Sacramento, San Jose, San Francisco

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#### NEIGHBORS

Los Angeles, Riverside/San Bernardino, San Diego

# Over Half of ROP Graduates Work in Their Field

## Description of Indicator

This indicator uses data from the Orange County Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) and community colleges to assess the status of career training and workforce development.

## Why is it Important?

Career technical education allows residents to acquire skills for specialized jobs instead of, or in preparation for, obtaining a two- or four-year degree. It provides opportunities for those reentering the workforce, changing careers, or needing on-the-job skill upgrades. Ultimately, this indicator enables the community to assess the ability of career education providers to supply the local economy with a diverse and appropriately-trained labor force.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Enrollment stayed constant:

- Since 2002/03, enrollment at Orange County's four ROP's and nine community colleges has been relatively level at about 57,000 for ROP's and 200,000 at the community colleges in any given semester.
- Among ROP's, the level enrollment figures are due in part to attendance caps which allow a moderate amount of funded enrollment growth but won't reimburse ROP's that go over the cap. This policy can also limit recruitment efforts.
- Additionally, ROP enrollment is shifting toward more high school students and fewer adult students due to a new law that will eventually limit adult enrollment to 10% of total enrollment.
- This law may also reduce the range of classes available (since classes that rely on both adult and high school enrollment may close) and limit the ability for ROP's to serve the market in times of high unemployment (when more adults seek ROP services).

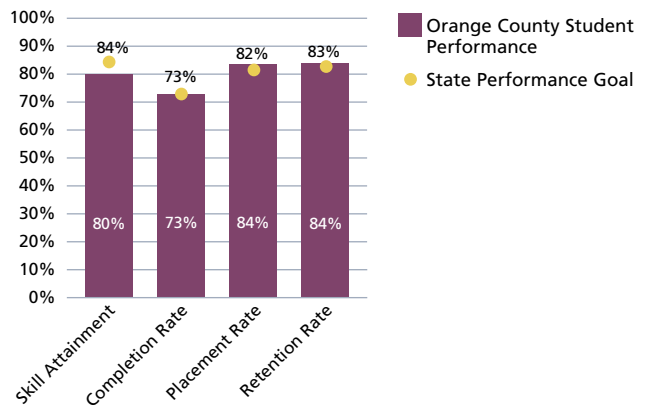
The ROP graduation rate fell while community college degrees granted rose:

- In 2005/06, 86% of 12th graders enrolled in ROP graduated from high school, compared to 89% in 2004/05.
- Orange County community colleges granted a total of 8,648 Associate degrees and 2,651 certificates in 2006/07.
- Over the past five years, Associate degrees granted increased 21% or an average of 4% annually.
- The most popular career-technical majors are Business & Management, Engineering & Industrial Technologies, and Health.

Most students were placed after completing their course of study:

- 78% of ROP students and 84% of community college students got jobs, enrolled in further education or joined the military.
- Six months after completing the program in June of 2005/06, 57% of ROP students were employed in a field related to their course of study.
- Among community college students in career education, those getting degrees or certificates in Health or Public & Protective Services had the highest placement rate (both 90%), followed by Business & Management or Education (both 86%).
- On average, Orange County community college students either met or exceeded the state performance goals for completion, placement, and retention.

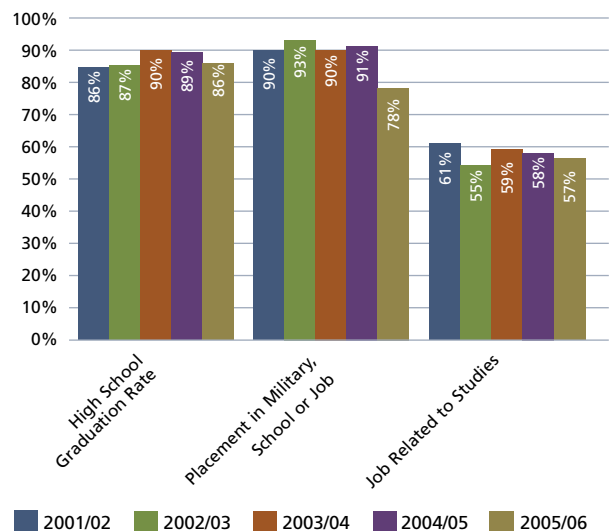
Community College Career Technical Curriculum Performance Orange County, 2004



Note: Skill Attainment (earning "C" grade or better) reflects 2004/05 school year data. Completion (receiving a degree, certificate or transferring), Placement (attending UC/CSU finding a job), and Retention (employed for three or more quarters) reflects 2003/04 school year data. Updated community college performance data was not yet available when this report was printed.

Source: California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office, Vocational Education ([http://misweb.cccco/voc\\_ed/vtea/vtea.htm](http://misweb.cccco/voc_ed/vtea/vtea.htm))

Regional Occupational Programs Performance Orange County, 2002-2006



Note: Placement rate reporting has been revised retroactively since the previous Community Indicators report. For the purposes of this indicator, Placement is calculated as: 1-(# of students not placed/# of survey respondents). Placement and Job Related to Studies include both high school and adult students.

Sources: Capistrano-Laguna, Coastline, Central County, and North County Regional Occupational Programs

# Fewer High School Dropouts than State and Nation

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of Orange County public high school students who drop out annually, both overall and by race/ethnicity. It also measures the educational attainment of residents over 25 years of age compared to peer regions.

## Why is it Important?

A high school diploma or college degree provides many career opportunities that are not available 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?

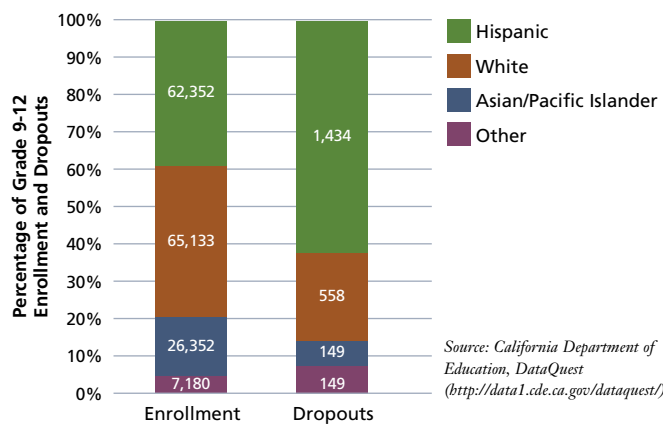
Our dropout rate remains low:

- Since 1999/00, the annual dropout rate has slowly declined until 2005/06 when the rate rose slightly to 1.4%.
- An estimated 5.9% of the Orange County student-body drops out over the course of four years of high school.
- Among all dropouts in 2006, Hispanic and White students were the two largest groups (63% and 24%, respectively).
- Hispanic students comprise 39% of high school student enrollment, yet a disproportionate 63% of the dropout population.

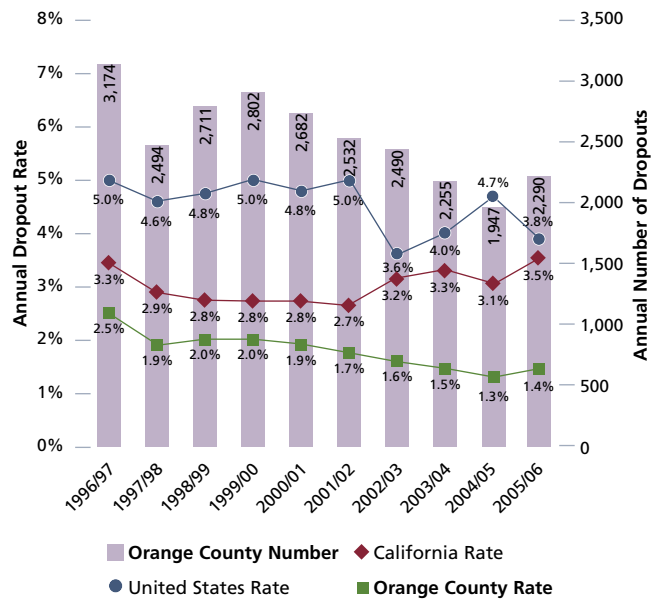
Educational attainment of residents over age 25 changed very little from the previous year:

- Orange County is in the midrange among peers for residents over 25 with a high school diploma (82.7%) – exceeding the California average but under the national average.
- Of those residents with a high school diploma, 34.8% go on to receive a Bachelor's degree – more than all peers compared except San Francisco and San Jose.
- These statistics reflect Orange County's economic and educational disparities. We have more residents without high school diplomas than the national average, yet more people with college degrees than the national average.

## Comparison of Racial/Ethnic Composition of Grade 9-12 Enrollment and Dropout Population Orange County, 2005/06



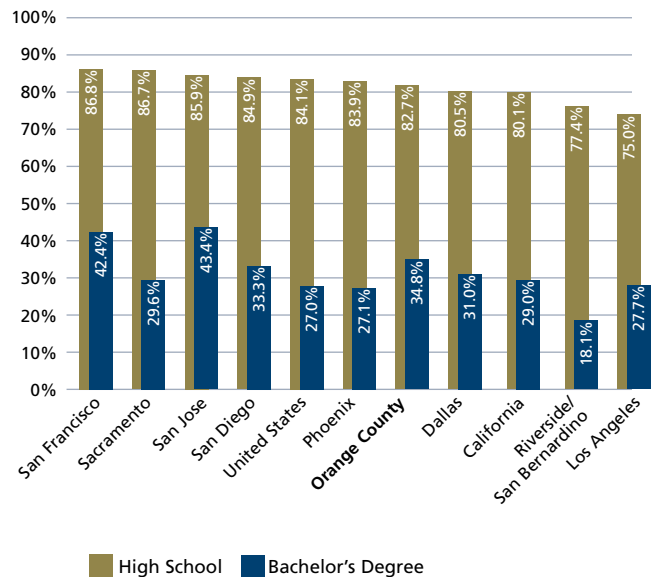
## Annual Grade 9-12 Dropouts Orange County, California and United States, 1997-2006



Note: All data reflect "event" or "annual" dropout rates. The U.S. rate indicates the percentage of youth ages 15 through 24 who dropped out of grades 10-12 between one October and the next (e.g., October 2004 to October 2005). The Orange County and California rates indicate the percentage of 9-12 graders who did not finish the school year and/or did not return to school the next year. Additional detail is available from the data sources.

Sources: California Department of Education, DataQuest (<http://data1.ede.ca.gov/dataquest/>) and National Center for Education Statistics, Condition of Education (<http://nces.ed.gov/>)

## Percent Over Age 25 Who Completed High School or Bachelor's Degree Regional Comparison, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Data Tables ([www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/index.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/index.htm))

# UC/CSU Eligibility Rises; SAT Taking Steady

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of public high school graduates who have fulfilled the minimum course requirements to be eligible for admission to University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses, the percentage of high school graduates taking the SAT, and average SAT scores.

## Why is it Important?

A college education is important for many jobs in Orange County. To gain entry to most four-year universities, high school students must complete the necessary coursework and perform well on standardized tests.

## How is Orange County Doing?

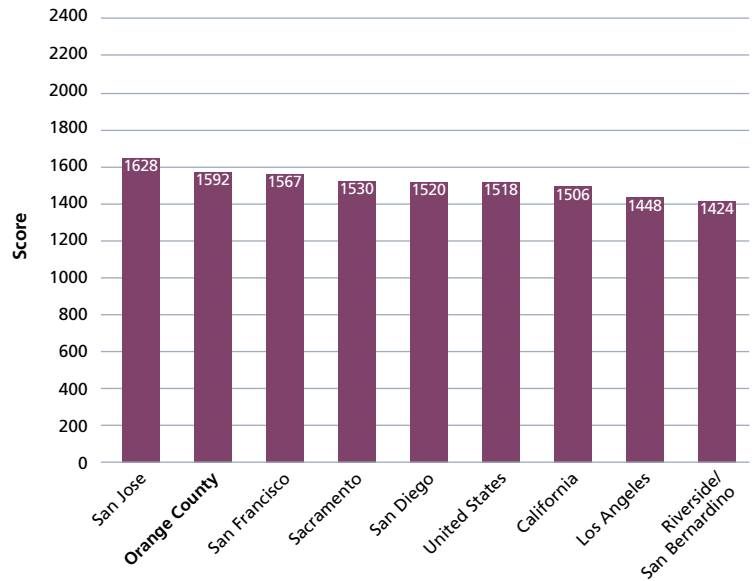
SAT scores and test taking are strong:

- At 1592, Orange County trails only San Jose for the highest average SAT score among the California regions compared.
- The number of Orange County students who took the SAT stayed relatively stable at 42% in 2005/06.

UC/CSU eligibility rebounds:

- After falling early in the decade, the percentage of Orange County high school graduates taking the coursework necessary to be eligible for a UC or CSU campus increased for the third year in a row to the 2005/06 level of 43%.
- This rate exceeds the statewide average of 36%.

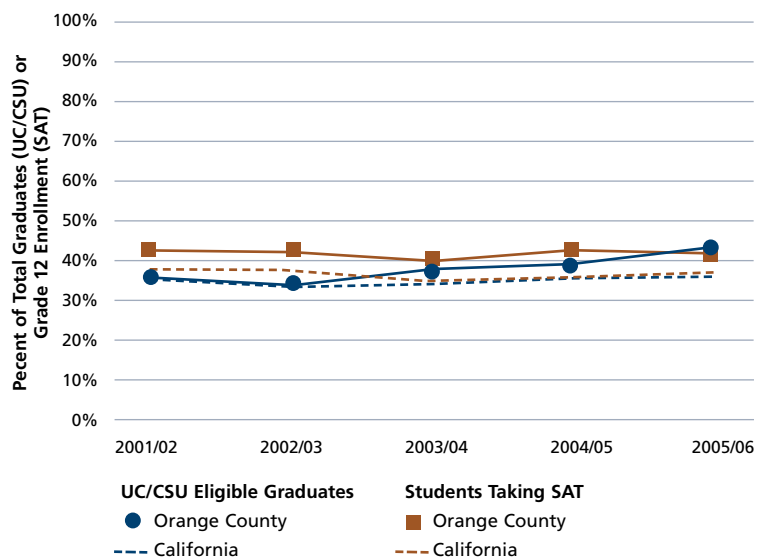
Average Combined Verbal, Math, and Writing SAT Scores  
Regional Comparison, 2006



Note: The highest score possible is 2400.

Sources: California Department of Education, DataQuest (<http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>); College Board (<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/data-reports-research/>)

UC/CSU Eligible Graduates and 12th Grade Students Taking the SAT  
Orange County, 2002-2006



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



# Over 75% of Schools Meet State and National Goals

## Description of Indicator

This indicator summarizes academic performance of public school districts as determined by the California Department of Education and the federal *No Child Left Behind* Act of 2001.

## Why is it Important?

Tracking academic performance enables school administrators and the public to evaluate how well Orange County schools are meeting state and national standards.

## How is Orange County Doing?

California Department of Education target performance remained steady:

- In 2007, 12 out of 27 school districts had Academic Performance Index (API) scores above the statewide target of 800, the same number as the previous year.
- The average API score among Orange County school districts, currently 794, rose 9% between 2003 and 2007.
- More than three-quarters (77%) of Orange County public schools met their state-identified API growth targets (districts do not have growth targets).

*No Child Left Behind* target performance declined:

- Just over half of Orange County school districts achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2007, compared to over three-quarters in 2006.
- Four districts have been identified for Program Improvement.
- Looking at schools, 78% of Orange County public schools met all the criteria to achieve AYP and 17% have been identified for Program Improvement.

## Performance Targets

### Statewide

The California Department of Education uses the Academic Performance Index (API) score to measure performance. The API – ranging from a low of 200 to a high of 1000 – is calculated for each school based on the performance of individual pupils on several standardized tests. Schools that do not meet their state-identified Academic Performance Index (API) growth target and are ranked in the bottom half of the statewide distribution may be required to participate in an intervention program.

### National

A school district is said to have achieved the national Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) threshold if the four *No Child Left Behind* targets have been met. These targets relate to: API Growth score, testing participation rate of 95% or better, the percentage of students performing at the proficient level or above in English-language arts and mathematics, and graduation rate targets for districts with high school students.

## Program Improvement

A Title I school district that fails to make AYP for two consecutive years on the same criteria is identified for Program Improvement (PI) and must develop or revise a plan to improve performance and also reserve funds for professional development of its staff.<sup>1</sup> To exit PI status a school must achieve Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years. If after two years of PI status a school has not achieved AYP, it is subject to corrective action from the state Department of Education.

<sup>1</sup> Schools with a high percentage of students from low income families receive federal “Title I” funding.

**Average Academic Performance Index Scores**  
Orange County, 2007

**Adequate Yearly Progress**  
Orange County, 2007

|                          | 2007 API                         | Achieved AYP | Program Improvement Status |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Above State API Target   | Irvine Unified                   | •            |                            |
|                          | Los Alamitos Unified             | •            |                            |
|                          | Fountain Valley Elementary       | •            |                            |
|                          | Huntington Beach City Elementary | •            |                            |
|                          | Cypress Elementary               | •            |                            |
|                          | Laguna Beach Unified             | •            |                            |
|                          | Saddleback Valley Unified        | •            |                            |
|                          | Brea-Olinda Unified              | •            |                            |
|                          | Ocean View Elementary            | •            |                            |
|                          | Capistrano Unified               | •            |                            |
|                          | Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified    | •            |                            |
|                          | Tustin Unified                   | •            |                            |
| Below State API Target   | Fullerton Elementary             |              |                            |
|                          | <b>Orange County Average</b>     | N/A          | N/A                        |
|                          | Newport-Mesa Unified             | •            |                            |
|                          | Centralia Elementary             |              |                            |
|                          | Orange Unified                   | •            |                            |
|                          | Fullerton Joint Union High       |              | Year 2                     |
|                          | Westminster Elementary           |              |                            |
|                          | Garden Grove Unified             |              |                            |
|                          | Huntington Beach Union High      |              |                            |
|                          | Savanna Elementary               |              |                            |
|                          | Buena Park Elementary            |              |                            |
|                          | Magnolia Elementary              | •            |                            |
| La Habra City Elementary |                                  | Year 2       |                            |
| Anaheim Union High       |                                  |              |                            |
| Anaheim Elementary       |                                  | Year 2       |                            |
| Santa Ana Unified        |                                  | Year 3       |                            |

Note: No entry in the Program Improvement Status column indicates the district has not been identified for Program Improvement.

Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest ([www.data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/](http://www.data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/))

# English Learner Enrollment Down; More Bilingual Students

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number and percent of students who are English Learners and those that are bilingual in Orange County public schools, and compares English Learner enrollment among California peer regions.

## Why is it Important?

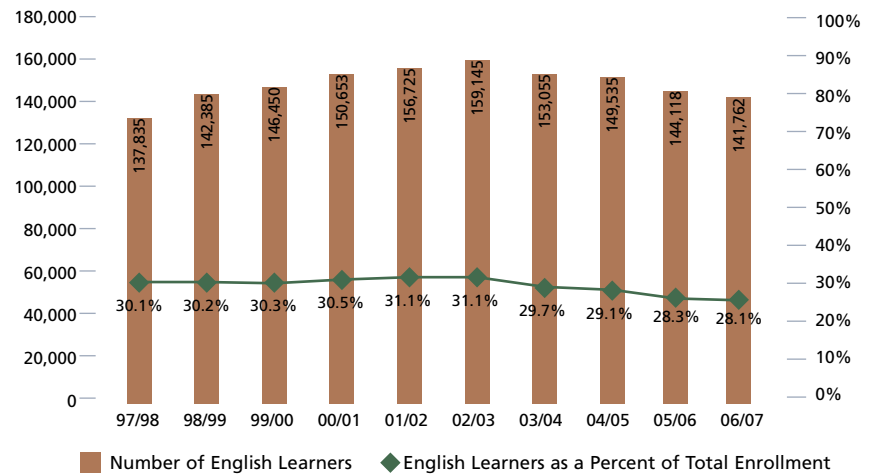
Students who have limited English speaking skills often face academic, employment and financial challenges. An educated workforce with good communication skills is important for a strong economy. English Learners who become fluent in English can provide a rich employment resource for companies seeking to expand internationally (see World Trade).

## How is Orange County Doing?

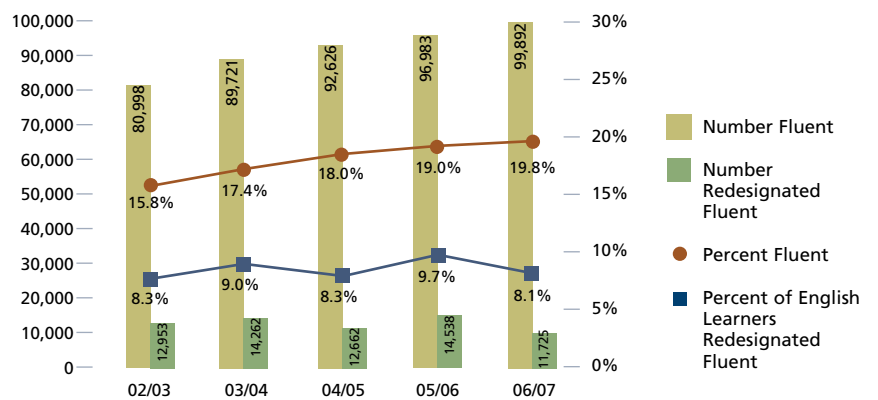
Total public school enrollment made up of English Learners continues its slow decline:

- English Learner enrollment has fallen 11% since the 10-year high in 2002/03.
- Compared to California peers, Orange County has the second highest proportion of English Learners.
- The number and percent of total enrollment initially designated as bilingual (Fluent-English-Proficient) when they entered school continues its upward trend.
- In 2006/07, 8.1% of English Learner students from the 2005/06 school year were redesignated bilingual.

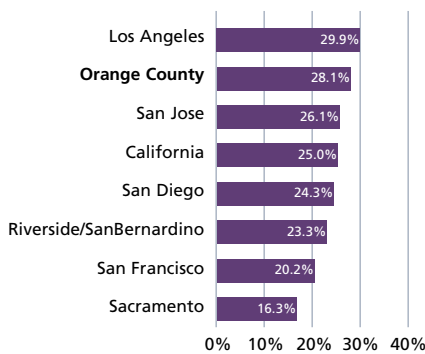
English Learners  
Orange County, 1998-2007



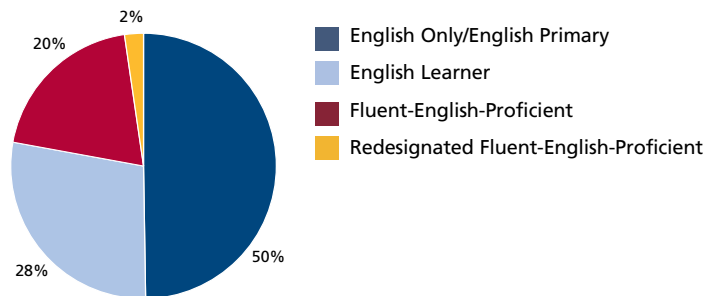
Fluent-English-Proficient Students and English Learners Redesignated  
Fluent-English-Proficient  
Orange County, 2003-2007



English Learners as a Percent of Total Enrollment  
Regional Comparison, 2006/07



Language Category Proportions of Total Enrollment  
Orange County, 2006/07



Source: Department of Education, DataQuest (<http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>)

## Language Assessment Explained

When students enter school their language skills are assessed and they are given a designation. Then each spring, English Learners are assessed to determine whether their designation should be changed. The designations are as follows:

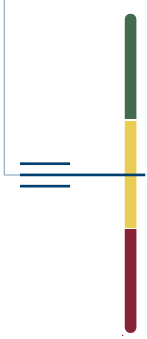
**English Learner:** A student who does not speak English fluently.

**Fluent-English-Proficient (FEP):** A student whose primary language is one other than English but who is also fluent in English (bilingual).

**Redesignated Fluent-English-Proficient:** A student initially designated as an English Learner who has become fluent in English.

**English Only/English Primary:** Native English speakers for whom English is their primary or only language.

# Community Health and Prosperity



Most mothers receive prenatal care and more children are being immunized. After years of poor scores, we made progress toward achieving healthy weight levels for our youth and fewer deaths due to heart disease among adults. In contrast, deaths of young children jumped this year, with accidents topping the list of causes. And families – especially those in need – face many challenges including lack of affordable child care, food and housing.

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#### NATIONAL PEERS

Phoenix, Minneapolis

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#### CALIFORNIA PEERS

Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose

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#### NEIGHBORS

Los Angeles, Riverside/San Bernardino, San Diego

# Early Prenatal Care Rate Stays Above National Target

## 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, including racial and ethnic detail. Rates of early prenatal care in Orange County are also compared to peer counties and the state.<sup>1</sup>

## Why is it Important?

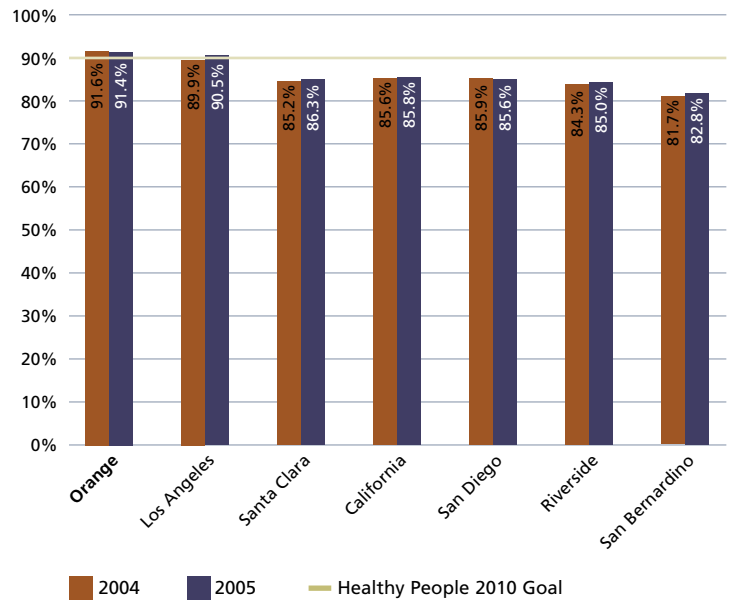
Early prenatal care provides an effective and cost-efficient way to prevent, detect and treat maternal and fetal medical problems. It provides an excellent opportunity for health care providers to offer counseling on healthy living habits that lead to optimal birth outcomes. Conditions such as low birth weight and infant mortality, which are often associated with late or no prenatal care, may also be avoided. Showing birth rates by ethnicity provides a glimpse into the future in terms of the coming school age population and overall demographic shifts in the county.

## How is Orange County Doing?

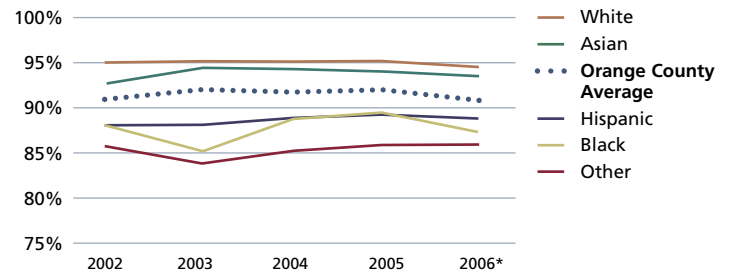
Prenatal care remained above the Healthy People 2010 objective:

- 91.0% of Orange County mothers received early prenatal care in 2006.
- Levels of prenatal care slipped very slightly among all races and ethnicities, resulting in an overall decrease of 0.6% since the high of 91.6% in 2004.
- Orange County exceeded the statewide rate of 85.8% in 2005.
- In 2005, Orange County had the highest rate of prenatal care compared to peer counties.
- Orange County births are increasingly to Hispanic mothers, now comprising 52.1% of all births in 2006.
- The proportion of births to White mothers is decreasing, while the proportion of births to Asian mothers is remaining steady.

Percent of Mothers Receiving Early Prenatal Care County Comparison, 2004 and 2005



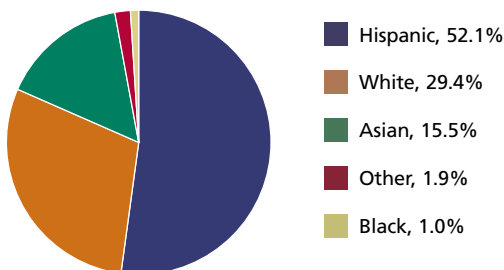
Percent of Mothers Receiving Early Prenatal Care by Race and Ethnicity Orange County, 2002-2006



\* 2006 data is considered preliminary.

Note: "Other" includes the categories of two or more races, Pacific Islander, American Indian/Native Alaskan, and unknown/other/withheld.

Live Births by Race and Ethnicity Orange County, 2006



Sources: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology and Assessment and California Department of Health Services

### What is Healthy People 2010?

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

<sup>1</sup> County comparison data for 2006 was not yet available when this report was printed.

# Marked Increase in Deaths Among Young Children

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the five leading causes of death for infants under one year and children ages one through four in Orange County (shown as raw number of deaths). Also shown are deaths for children ages birth through four years due to all causes as compared to peer California counties (shown as number of deaths per 100,000 children).<sup>1</sup>

## Why is it Important?

Awareness of the leading causes of death for children can lead to intervention strategies that can help prevent mortality. Many of these deaths are preventable through improved prenatal care and accident prevention education.

## How is Orange County Doing?

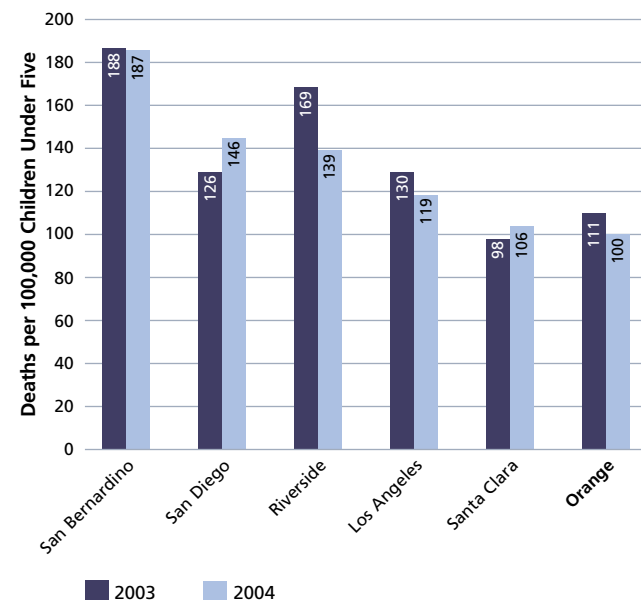
The long-term trend for deaths among children under five remains downward. However, the death rate for infants was higher in 2005 than the preceding four years:

- In 2005, there was approximately one death for every 209 infants born in Orange County, up from one in 246 in 2004.
- Congenital defects (e.g. spina bifida) and chromosomal abnormalities (e.g. Down's syndrome) continue to top the list of leading causes of infant deaths (59).
- The second leading cause of infant death, prematurity and low birth weight, was close to the five-year average at 22 deaths.

Toddler and preschooler deaths were also higher than average:

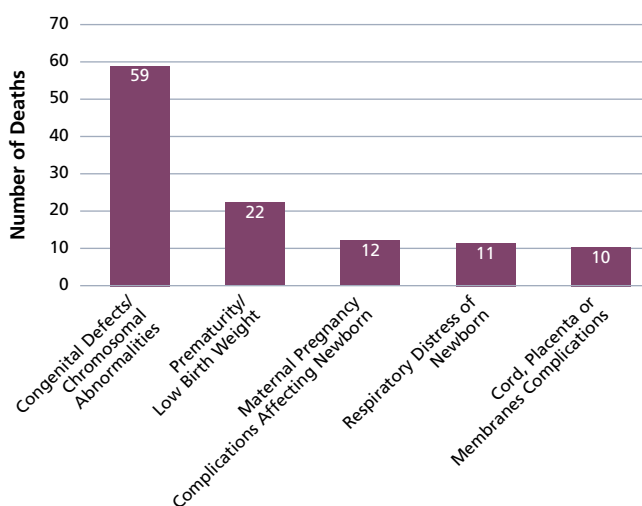
- In 2005, there was one death for every 4,113 children ages one through four, up from one in 4,469 in 2004.
- Accidents remain the leading cause of death for toddlers and preschoolers.
- Led by an unusually high number of drowning deaths (nine), the number of accidental deaths in 2005 (14) is above average.
- Six of the nine accidental drowning deaths were swimming pool-related.

## Death Rate Due to All Causes for Children Under Five County Comparison, 2003 and 2004



Sources: California Department of Health Services, Death Records ([www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/csq/default.asp](http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/csq/default.asp)) and State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2050

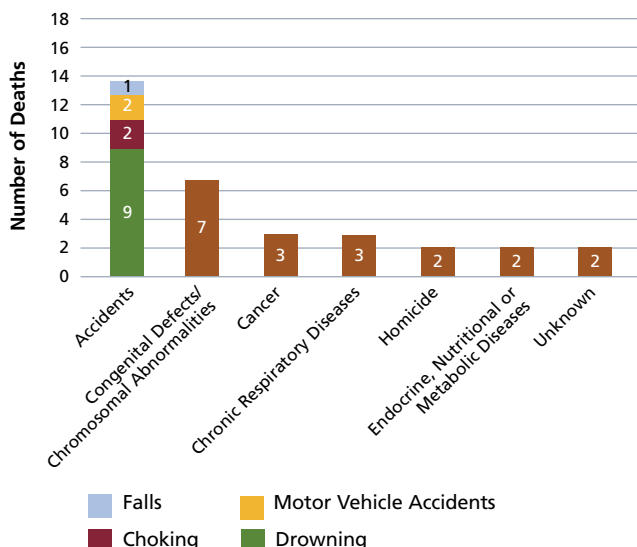
## Leading Causes of Death for Infants (Under Age One) Orange County, 2005\*



\*2005 data is considered preliminary.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology and Assessment

## Leading Causes of Death for Young Children (Ages One Through Four) Orange County, 2005\*



\*2005 data is considered preliminary.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology and Assessment

<sup>1</sup> County comparison data for 2005 was not yet available when this report was printed.

# Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Reach Five-Year Low

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures reported cases of vaccine-preventable diseases among children under six years of age and immunization rates for children at age two.

## 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?

The number of vaccine-preventable disease cases among children under six in 2006 was the lowest since 2001:

- In 2006, there were 31 pertussis (whooping cough) cases.
- The majority of the cases (23) were among children under one year of age, likely because children are not fully protected from the disease until they are given the fourth dose of vaccine between 15 and 18 months.
- The second most common vaccine-preventable disease was pneumococcal disease at 13 cases, followed by hemophilus influenza type B (Hib) at seven cases.
- Pneumococcal disease and Hib are the most common causes of serious bacterial infections such as meningitis and pneumonia.

More children were adequately immunized at age two:

- The immunization rate was 79% in 2006, one percentage point higher than the California average.
- Over the past 10 years, there has been a 23% increase overall, with an average annual increase of 2%.
- The 2006 immunization levels by age two for other recommended vaccines were 91% for hepatitis B and 83% for varicella.
- The hepatitis B rate is slightly higher than the statewide average while the varicella rate is about the same.

### Adequately Immunized

To be considered "adequately immunized" at age two, a child must have the following vaccinations: four doses of diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis (DTaP), three doses of polio, and one dose of measles/mumps/rubella (MMR). Other vaccines recommended by this age include hemophilus influenza type B (Hib), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, pneumococcal disease, varicella (Chicken Pox), and annual flu shots.

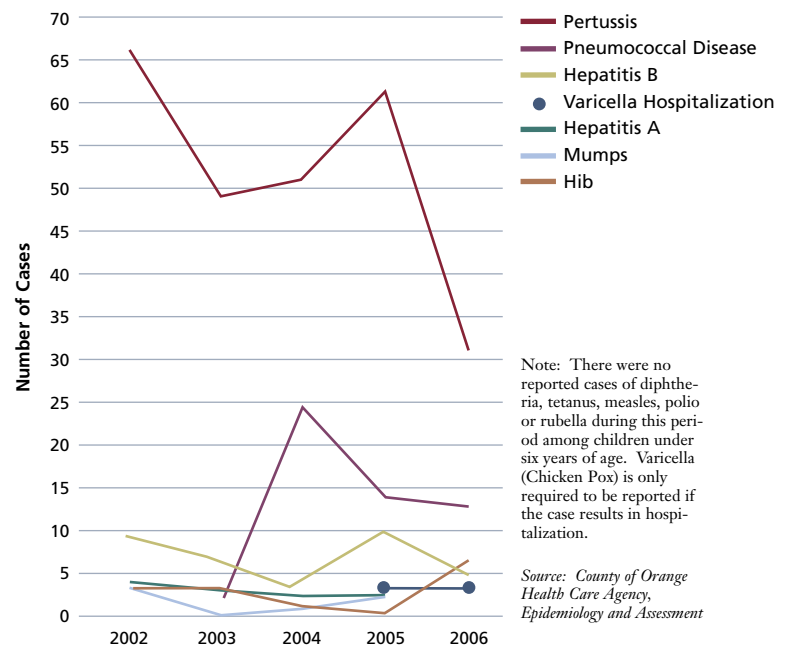
Source: California Department of Health Services

### Immunization Registry

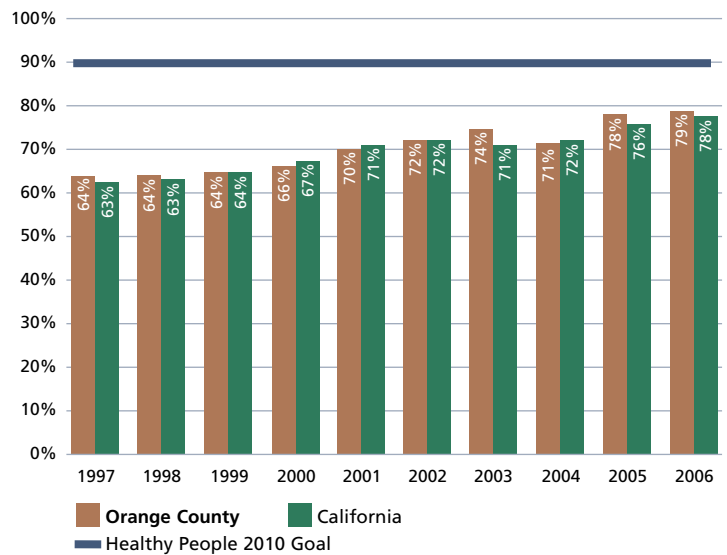
As of June 2007, 104,315 children were enrolled in the countywide computerized immunization registry. This registry was launched in March 2005 to create an electronic record to help prevent under- and over-immunizations and improve immunization rates.

Source: 13th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Among Children Under Six Years of Age  
Orange County, 2002-2006



Percent of Children Adequately Immunized at Two Years of Age  
Orange County and California, 1997-2006



Sources: California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch, Kindergarten Retrospective Survey ([www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov)); 13th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County and County of Orange Health Care Agency

# Asthma Rates Among Youth Remain High

## Description of Indicator

This indicator compares asthma diagnoses among Orange County children ages one through 17 to peer counties, the state, and nation. Asthma is characterized by recurrent episodes of breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness triggered by respiratory infections, exercise, or environmental factors.

## Why is it Important?

Asthma prevalence has grown over the past two decades, especially among children. Nationwide in 2005, 12.7% of children under 18 years old (over 9 million) had been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives compared to 10.7% of adults. A similarly disproportionate number of children had an asthma attack in the previous year (5.2% compared to 3.9% for adults). Children with poorly controlled asthma are more than twice as likely to miss school than those whose symptoms are well-managed.<sup>1</sup>

## How is Orange County Doing?

Asthma diagnoses rose since 2001:

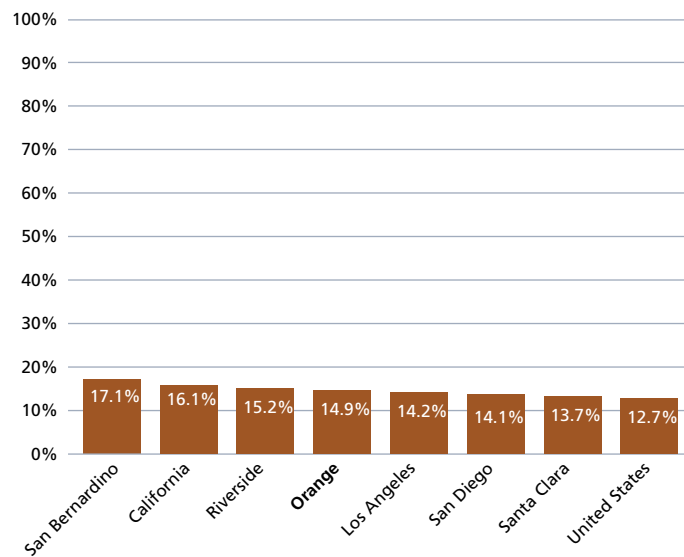
- As of 2005, 14.9% of children in Orange County have been diagnosed with asthma at some point, up from 11.1% in 2001 and more than the adult population (9.4%).
- Orange County's asthma rate is lower than the California average but higher than the national average.
- Similar to national patterns, boys in Orange County are more likely to be diagnosed with asthma than girls.
- Contrary to national patterns, White children in Orange County are more likely to have been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives than Latino children. This may be linked to better access to health care among White residents (see Health Insurance Coverage).
- 46.2% of Orange County children diagnosed with asthma had an asthma attack or episode in the 12 months prior to the 2005 survey.
- 23.8% missed one or more days of school in the previous 12 months due to asthma.

### What Causes Asthma?

Both genetic and environmental factors are known to play a role in asthma development. Ongoing research is uncovering the genes that may make one child more susceptible to developing asthma than another. Environmental factors such as living within 500 meters of a freeway have been shown to be related to increased rates of asthma as well as decreased lung function, and furthermore, that these effects can last a lifetime. Many other studies of environmental factors have confirmed the correlation between the development of asthma and indoor air pollutants caused by pets, pests, mildew and water damage or cigarette smoke.

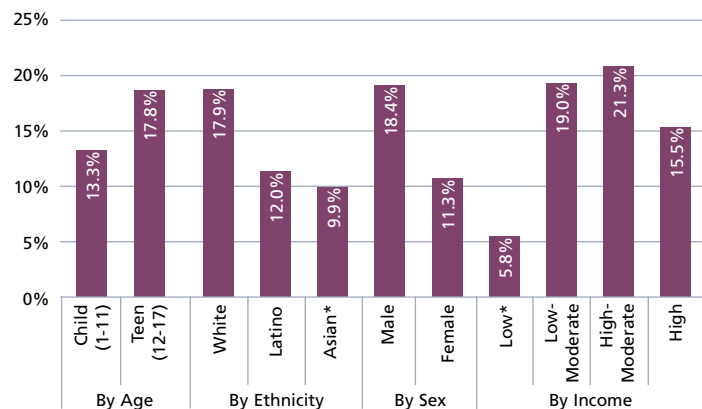
Sources: Gauderman WJ, et. al. (2007) Effect of exposure to traffic on lung development from 10 to 18 years of age: a cohort study. *Lancet*. Vol. 368, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Children Ever Diagnosed with Asthma  
County Comparison, 2005



Sources: University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey ([www.chis.ucla.edu](http://www.chis.ucla.edu)), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey ([www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs))

Children Ever Diagnosed with Asthma (Age, Ethnic, Sex, and Income Detail)  
Orange County, 2005



\* Data is statistically unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

Source: University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey ([www.chis.ucla.edu](http://www.chis.ucla.edu))

<sup>1</sup> School days missed: MedlinePlus, "Uncontrolled Asthma Leads to Missed School, Work," October 23, 2007 ([www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/)) based on research by David Tinkelman, M.D. Other asthma statistics: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Asthma Prevalence, Health Care Use and Mortality: United States, 2003-2005 ([www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/asthma03-05/asthma03-05.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/asthma03-05/asthma03-05.htm)).

# Reduction in Percentage of Overweight Youth

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the physical fitness and weight status of children through two sources. The California Department of Education's Fitnessgram, administered annually to 5th, 7th, and 9th graders, measures performance in six areas including aerobic capacity, body composition (overweight or underweight), abdominal strength, trunk extension strength, upper body strength, and flexibility. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System tracks the percentage of children from low-income families who are considered overweight.

## Why is it Important?

A sedentary lifestyle and being overweight are among the primary risk factors for many health problems. Building a commitment to fitness and maintaining a healthy body weight can have positive impacts on children's health continuing into adulthood.

## How is Orange County Doing?

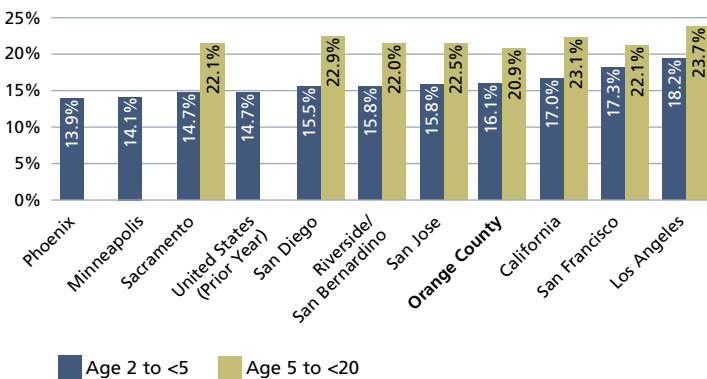
According to the Fitnessgram, Orange County students are showing progress in two of the most important fitness criteria:

- In 2007, 70% of the students in the three grades tested met the aerobic capacity standard, compared to 65% in 2003.
- In 2007, 27% of the students tested were considered to have unhealthy body weight (typically overweight), compared to 31% in 2003.
- However, the overall proportion of unfit Orange County 5th, 7th, and 9th graders has changed little in the past five years; about two-thirds of youth still could not meet all six of the standards necessary to be considered "fit."
- On average, Orange County students performed between 4% and 6% better than their California peers.

The steady increase in overweight low-income youth stopped in 2006:

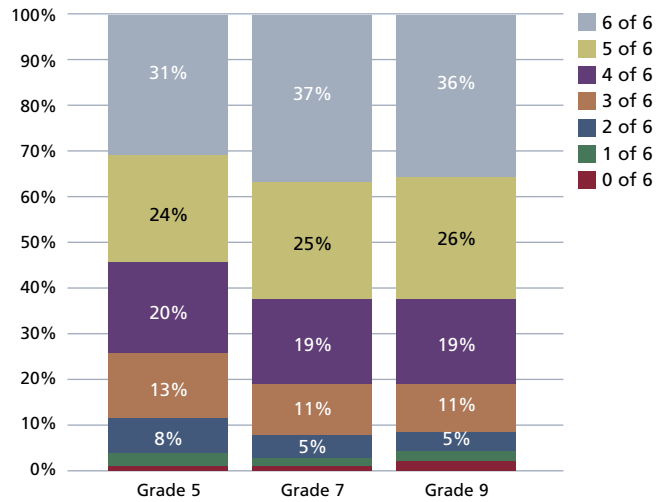
- With 19.3% overweight in 2006, Orange County moved from one of the worst rankings among California's 58 counties in 2005 to 27th (ages 2 to <5) and 17th (ages 5 to <20).
- The Healthy People 2010 goal is to reduce the percent of overweight youth (ages six to 19) to 5%.

Percent Overweight Among Low-Income Youth  
Regional Comparison, 2006



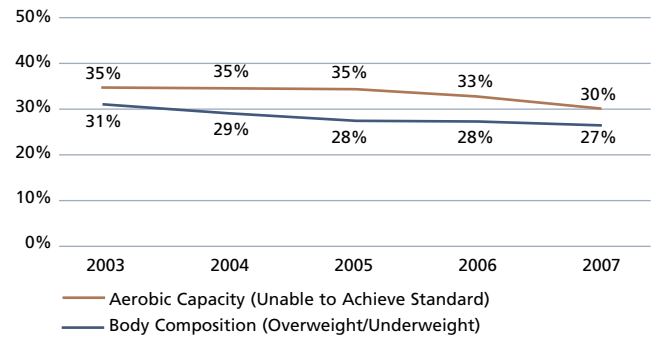
Note: U.S., Phoenix, and Minneapolis data for ages five to 20 is not available.

Percent of Students Achieving Six Fitness Standards  
Orange County, 2007



Source: California Department of Education (<http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>)

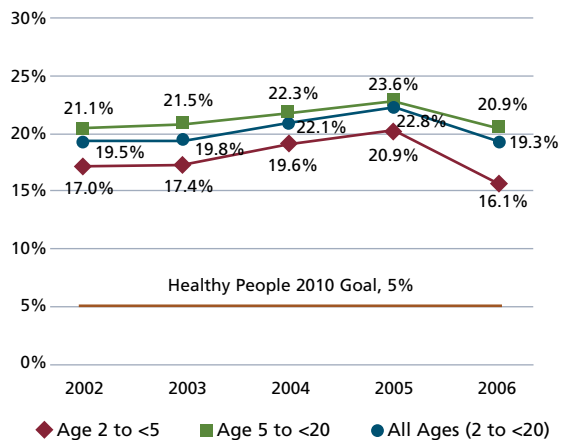
Percent of 5th, 7th, and 9th Grade Students Not in Health Fitness Zone for Aerobic Capacity and Body Composition\*  
Orange County, 2003-2007



\* Results by grade were aggregated and averaged.

Source: California Department of Education (<http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>)

Percent Overweight Among Low-Income Youth  
Orange County, 2002-2006



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System ([www.dhs.ca.gov/pfj/cms/onlinearchive/cbpin.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pfj/cms/onlinearchive/cbpin.htm))



# Child Care Costs Remain a Challenge

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures child care quality and affordability including cost, supply and demand, and accreditation of child care providers.

## Why is it Important?

Research on children's brain development and school readiness demonstrates the importance of high quality early education and care programs for young children. Affordable child care is essential to enable working families to maintain economic self-sufficiency.

## How is Orange County Doing?

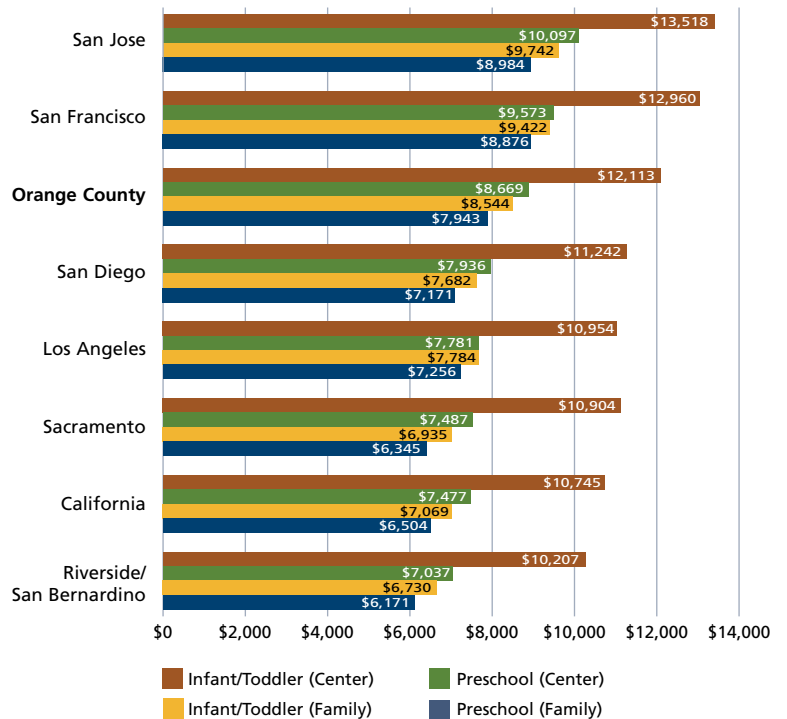
High costs and lack of subsidized child care lead parents to informal sources of care:

- Orange County child care costs are higher than average, ranking 3rd highest among the metro areas compared.
- In 2006, there were 80,623 licensed child care slots and 316,074 children potentially needing child care. A similarly proportionate gap exists statewide.
- As of July 2007, more than 10,000 income-eligible children were on the Centralized Eligibility List (maintained by the Children's Home Society of Orange County) for state or federally subsidized child care.
- Only 10% of Orange County children who qualify for subsidized child care receive those services.
- Either by choice or due to the scarcity of licensed or subsidized spots, many parents turn to informal care such as family members, babysitters, or nannies.

The United Way of Orange County's Star-Quality Rating System recognizes improvements in child care programs through an incremental rating system, ranging from one-star (indicating the program is in good standing with state licensing standards) to five-stars (indicating a program has achieved accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children:

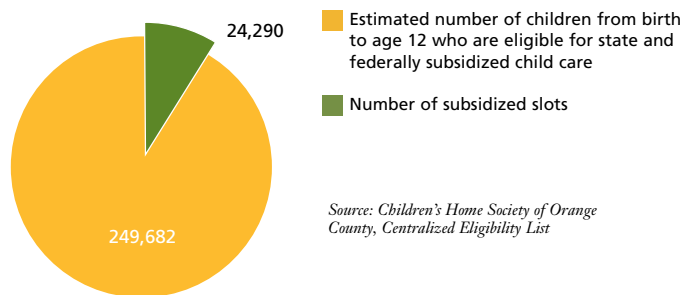
- Among the 87 programs serving a total of 8,400 children that have applied to be rated as of November 2007, 60 have a five-star rating, nine have between a two- and four-star rating, and 18 have a one-star rating.
- Another 16 programs await validation visits to obtain ratings.

Average Annual Full Time Child Care Costs  
Regional Comparison, 2004/05



Source: 2004-05 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers by Macro International for California Department of Education

Subsidized Child Care Eligibility Compared to Subsidized Slots  
Orange County, 2007



Source: Children's Home Society of Orange County, Centralized Eligibility List

United Way Star-Quality Rating of Child Care Programs  
Orange County, November 2007

| Rating          | Number of Programs with that Rating |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| ★★★★★           | 60                                  |
| ★★★★            | 3                                   |
| ★★★             | 5                                   |
| ★★              | 1                                   |
| ★               | 18                                  |
| Awaiting Rating | 16                                  |

Sources: County of Orange Social Services Agency and United Way of Orange County

# Fewer Receive Cash Assistance; More Obtain Food Stamps

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County families' progress toward self-sufficiency and economic stability by tracking enrollment in core public assistance programs and children living in poverty.

## Why is it Important?

While most families in Orange County do well, the families struggling to get by are the focus of this indicator. The challenges associated with poverty – stress, strained family relationships, substandard housing, lower educational attainment, limited employment skills, unaffordable child care, and transportation difficulties – make it hard for the working poor to obtain and maintain employment. Economic stability can have lasting and measurable benefits for both parents and children.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Many families continue to struggle to meet basic needs:

- The number of people receiving CalWORKs cash assistance continues to decline in part due to time limits.
- Welfare-to-Work participation in employment activities rose from 51% to 64% of all participants.
- Since 2000, the number of people receiving Food Stamps grew an average of 4% per year and in 2006/07 stands at 82,132 people, or 2.7% of the total county population.<sup>1</sup>
- 7% of the county's children receive Food Stamps.
- Medi-Cal enrollment leveled off in the last year while Healthy Families enrollment rose 7%.
- The high or increasing enrollments for programs without time limits reflects expanded eligibility and increased efforts to enroll income-eligible people.

The percent of children living in poverty holds steady:

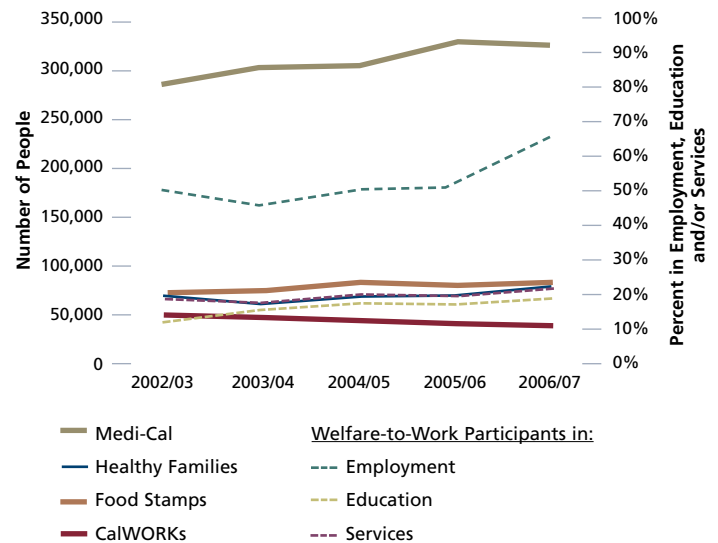
- 38% of students are eligible for free or reduced price school meals.
- A child is eligible if his or her family's income is below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (e.g. \$38,302 for a family of four in 2007).
- Wide disparities within the county are evident.

## Percent of Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price School Meals Highest and Lowest Five Orange County School Districts, 2006/07

|         | School District                  | Percent    |
|---------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Highest | Anaheim City Elementary          | 81%        |
|         | Santa Ana Unified                | 75%        |
|         | La Habra City Elementary         | 67%        |
|         | Buena Park Elementary            | 63%        |
|         | Magnolia Elementary              | 62%        |
|         | California Average               | 51%        |
|         | <b>Orange County Average</b>     | <b>38%</b> |
| Lowest  | Saddleback Valley Unified        | 14%        |
|         | Huntington Beach City Elementary | 12%        |
|         | Los Alamitos Unified             | 10%        |
|         | Irvine Unified                   | 6%         |
|         | Laguna Beach Unified             | 6%         |

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

Major Public Assistance Program Enrollment and Welfare-to-Work Participants Involved in Employment, Education and/or Services Orange County, 2003-2007



Notes: Food Stamps and Medi-Cal counts include all persons who receive Medi-Cal and Food Stamps - both those who receive CalWORKs and those who do not. Minor changes to counting Welfare-to-Work (WTW) enrollment since December 2006 contributed slightly (one percentage point or less) to the 2006/07 increase in WTW participation. WTW participants may be enrolled in more than one employment, education or service activity per month. "Employment" indicates the participant either has a job or is involved in unpaid employment activities such as training, job search, work-study, or internships. "Education" means the participant is enrolled in school. "Services" refers to participants enrolled in services such as mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, or domestic abuse programs.

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

### Program Descriptions

The **CalWORKs** program provides cash benefits for the care of needy children when one or both parents are absent, disabled, deceased or unemployed.

The **Healthy Families** program is low cost insurance that provides health, dental and vision coverage to children who do not have insurance and do not qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal.

The **Food Stamp** program is a federal nutrition program to help eligible low-income households obtain more food.

**Medi-Cal** is a health care program that pays for a variety of medical services for children, families, people over 65, and people with disabilities.

Most adult **CalWORKs** recipients are required to participate in **Welfare-to-Work**, which is designed to give participants the resources and skills necessary to become self-sufficient.

### Primary Eligibility Factors

Most programs require income and asset limitations, as well as citizenship or permanent legal resident status. Other eligibility factors may apply such as county or state residency, age, or time in the program (time-limits).

<sup>1</sup> State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State with Annual Percent Change — January 1, 2005 and 2006.

# More Families are Living in Overcrowded Conditions

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County families' progress toward housing stability by tracking availability of rental assistance, residential overcrowding, and homelessness. For additional county-wide housing trends see Housing Demand, Housing Affordability, and Rental Affordability.

## Why is it Important?

High housing costs in Orange County force many families into overcrowded living conditions, which places stress on personal relationships, housing stock, public services and infrastructure. When sharing housing is not an option, or other factors such as foreclosure, financial loss, or domestic violence arise, the result can be homelessness.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Residents might have to wait as long as seven years for rental assistance vouchers unless conditions or funding levels change:

- In 2005, when the Orange County Housing Authority's Section 8 waiting list was opened for the first time since 2001, 18,600 families applied for vouchers to help defray high housing costs.
- Santa Ana and Anaheim each have their own housing authority and their vouchers are similarly in high demand.
- The voucher supply is limited because housing authorities have not been given the opportunity to apply to the federal government for additional housing vouchers since 2003.

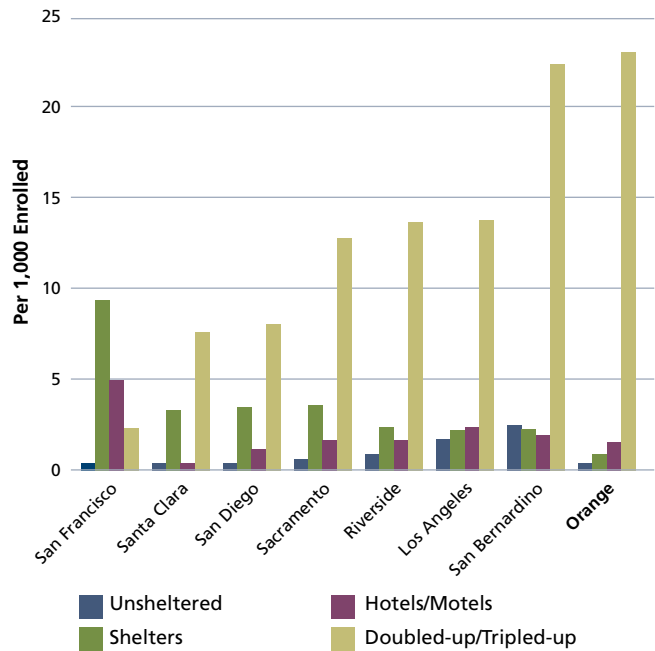
In response to *No Child Left Behind*, public school districts now report the number of students identified as homeless, which the law defines as children living in shelters or unsheltered in cars, parks or campgrounds, as well as students living in motels or overcrowded conditions:

- In 2006/07, 13,130 Orange County students primarily in grades K-12 were identified as homeless or unstably housed.<sup>1</sup>
- This is a 13% increase over the past year.
- Families living doubled- or tripled-up in someone else's home due to economic hardship are the largest cohort with 11,639 students living in this kind of overcrowded condition.
- Orange County school districts report an additional 813 students live in motels, 473 live in shelters, and 144 students live unsheltered in cars, parks or campgrounds.

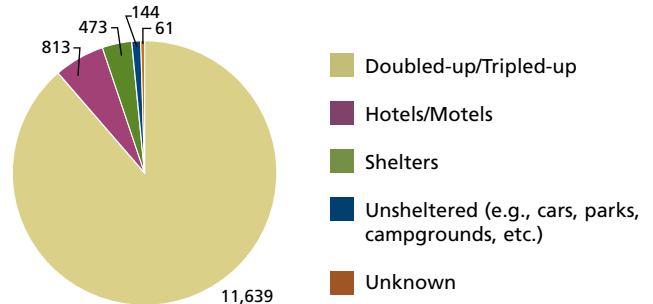
For most families, homelessness is not a result of substance abuse or mental illness:

- Families typically become homeless due to financial loss, family problems, eviction, or simply not having a job that pays enough to afford the upfront and/or monthly costs of renting or buying.
- A 2005 survey of Orange County families and individuals living in Anaheim motels asked residents about the primary barriers to getting back into stable housing.<sup>2</sup> The most frequently cited barriers were the inability to save for a security deposit (76%), and bad credit (43%).

Homeless and Unstably Housed Children (K-12) per 1,000 Students Enrolled, by Primary Nighttime Residence County Comparison, 2006/07



Primary Nighttime Residence of Students Identified as Homeless or Unstably Housed Orange County, 2006/07



Source: Information provided by school districts on their Local Education Agency Reporting Form Title 1, Part A and Homeless Education Consolidated Application submitted to California Department of Education

<sup>1</sup> This figure includes 95 pre-kindergarten children identified as homeless; however, since this data source primarily collects data on school age children, this is not a complete assessment of homeless pre-kindergarten children.

<sup>2</sup> OC Partnership/Research Support Services, A Strategic Plan for Assisting Individuals and Families Residing in Motels to Reach and Sustain Stable Housing, January 2005

# More Residents are Uninsured than State Average

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures health insurance coverage including regional comparisons and shows detail by age, race and ethnicity, and income. The types of coverage are also provided.

## 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 and more cost-effective health care.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's rate of uninsured is high:

- Approximately 455,000 of all Orange County residents indicated they lacked health insurance when the California Health Interview Survey was fielded in 2005.
- At 15.1% uninsured, Orange County's rate is higher than the state and national averages and all peers compared except Los Angeles County.

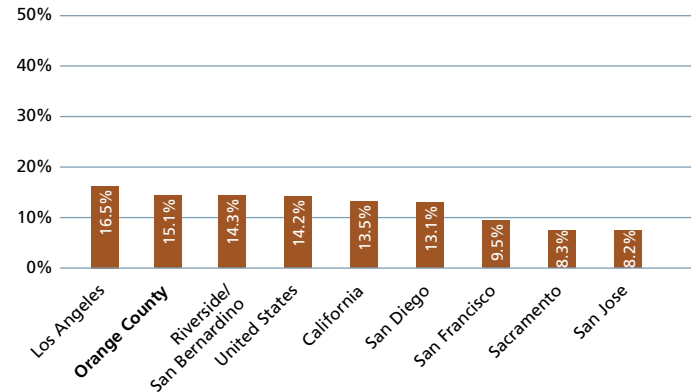
Health insurance coverage is intermittent for some:

- 79% of Orange County residents ages zero through 64 had coverage the entire past year.
- The remaining either had no insurance in the past year (13%) or they were insured for only part of the year (9%).
- 90% of White residents had consistent coverage compared to 76% of Asians and 60% of Latinos.
- Low income residents were less likely to have consistent coverage than high income residents.
- Children and youth were more likely to have consistent coverage (89%) than young adults (57%) and adults between 25 and 64 years of age (78%).

Coverage is both privately- and publicly-funded:

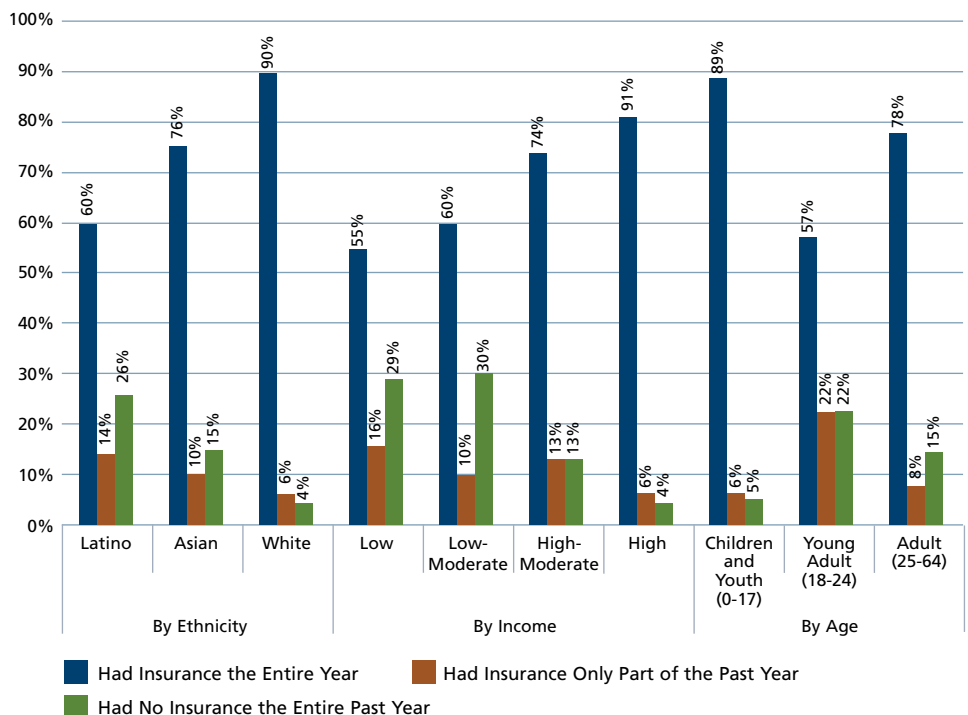
- 55% of Orange County residents with health insurance are covered through their employer.
- The next largest group is the uninsured (15%), followed by residents who obtain insurance through Medicaid (10%) and privately purchased plans (7%).
- A variety of public programs make up the remaining 13% insured.

**Uninsured (All Ages)**  
Regional Comparison, 2005



Sources: California Health Interview Survey, University of California, Los Angeles ([www.chis.ucla.edu](http://www.chis.ucla.edu)) and National Health Interview Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs)).

**Consistency of Coverage in the Past Year by Ethnicity, Income, and Age (Ages 0-64)**  
Orange County, 2005



Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Sources: California Health Interview Survey, University of California, Los Angeles ([www.chis.ucla.edu](http://www.chis.ucla.edu)) and National Health Interview Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs)).

# Demographic Shifts Beginning to Drive up Service Demands

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the economic, safety and health status of Orange County older adults (65 years of age and over).<sup>1</sup>

## Why is it Important?

Orange County's older population is growing nearly twice as fast as the California rate. This trend is expected to accelerate, placing greater demand on health, transportation and support services that serve the increasingly culturally diverse older population.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Older residents have unique economic conditions:

- The income of Orange County's older adults is approximately \$28,000 less than the 2006 county median household income of \$70,232.
- Approximately 6.9% of older adults had incomes below the poverty thresholds in 2006, an increase of 11% since 2002.
- While these estimates do not include non-liquid assets such as owning a home, many older residents live on fixed incomes which have reduced in purchasing power over the span of their retirement.

Most older adults are healthy, but home-based programs can help older disabled adults with daily living:

- In 2005, 71% of older adults rated their health as excellent, very good or good, while 17% rated their health fair, and 12% poor.
- About one-third of older adults have a disability, compared to 7% of the non-senior adult population.
- Over 1.15 million in-home meals were served to older adults in 2006/07 by the County of Orange Office on Aging.
- Demand for the County of Orange Social Services Agency's (SSA) In-Home Supportive Services program increased 10% in the past year, while the overall caseload increased 102% since 2001.
- The services in this program include domestic assistance, personal and paramedical care, and protective supervision to prevent self-harm.

Crime and abuse indicators are mixed:

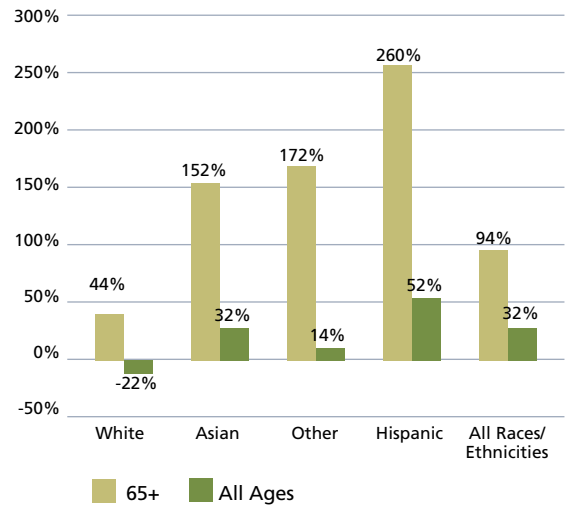
- Orange County has a comparatively low rate of violent crime against older adults but the rate has grown an average of 3% annually.
- Elder abuse reported to SSA rose 16% last year, and 21% since 2002.
- Elder abuse includes self-neglect and abuse by others including neglect or financial, physical, or emotional abuse.

## Service, Crime and Health Statistics for Residents Ages 65 and Over Orange County, 2002-2006

|                  |   | 2002      | 2003      | 2004      | 2005      | 2006      | Five Year Change |
|------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| Support Services | In Home Supportive Services (Caseload)              | 6,589     | 6,974     | 7,708     | 8,228     | 9,066     | 38% ↑            |
|                  | In Home Meals Served (Meals)                        | 1,269,816 | 1,281,565 | 1,196,477 | 1,188,398 | 1,156,093 | -6% ↓            |
| Crime and Abuse  | Violent Crime Rate (Crimes per 100,000 age 65+)     | 76        | 79        | 85        | 78        | 86        | 3% ↑             |
|                  | Adult Protective Services Reports (Monthly average) | 301       | 290       | 316       | 312       | 363       | 21% ↑            |
| Health           | Disabled (Percent)                                  | 35%       | 33%       | 31%       | 34%       | 35%       | 0% ↔             |
|                  | Disabled (Number)                                   | 97,808    | 93,942    | 93,225    | 101,630   | 109,213   | 12% ↑            |
|                  | Rate Health as Excellent/Very Good/Good             |           | 70%       |           | 71%       |           | 0% ↔             |
|                  | Rate Health as Poor                                 |           | 9%        |           | 12%       |           | 33% ↑            |

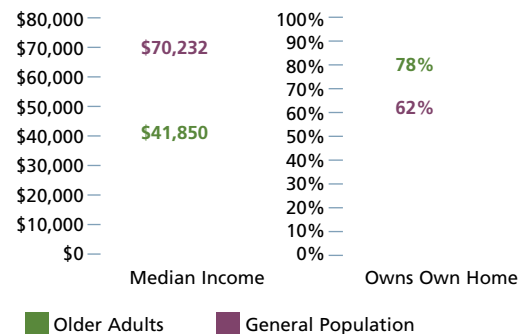
Sources: County of Orange Social Services Agency (IHSS, APS); County of Orange Housing and Community Services/Office on Aging (IHMS); California Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center (violent crime); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (disabled); California Health Interview Survey (self-assessment of health)

Projected Change in Older Adult Population Compared to All Ages, by Race/Ethnicity Orange County, 2010-2030



Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Population Projections for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, by Age, Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Sacramento, California, July 2007

Older Adult Median Household Income and Homeownership Rate Compared to General Population Orange County, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006

<sup>1</sup> Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey unless otherwise noted.

# Less than Half Needing Care Obtain It

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the need for and access to mental health care services. It also measures the number of clients served by publicly-funded Orange County mental health programs compared to the estimated number of residents with serious psychological distress.

## Why is it Important?

Mental health disorders often go unreported and untreated. If left untreated, mental health disorders can worsen, leading to difficulties in the home and workplace, and in severe cases, suicide.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Data from the 2005 California Health Interview Survey reveals a gap between teens' risk for depression and receiving counseling:

- It is estimated that 18.9% of Orange County teens are at risk for depression.
- This is less than the California estimate of 20.0%.
- 12.9% of Orange County teens received mental health or emotional counseling in the 12 months prior to answering the survey.

More adults need mental health care than receive it:

- 16.2% of Orange County adults indicated they needed mental or emotional health care, yet only 7.2% obtained the care.
- This gap is roughly proportionate to the statewide gap although more need and receive care throughout the state.
- Among Orange County adults who have health insurance and reported a need for emotional or mental health care, 18.3% reported their health insurance does not cover mental health services.

New baseline data on clients served by publicly-funded mental health programs show these programs serve only a small portion of seriously psychologically distressed individuals who, as an alternative, may obtain private care or no care at all:

- 14.2 out of 1,000 Orange County residents are served by an outpatient County of Orange mental health program, less than the proportion of residents served by public outpatient programs statewide.
- A much smaller proportion are served by inpatient programs (0.4 out of 1,000 residents).
- 29 out of 1,000 Orange County residents, or 2.9% of the population, are likely to have serious psychological distress.

### The Mental Health/Substance Abuse Connection

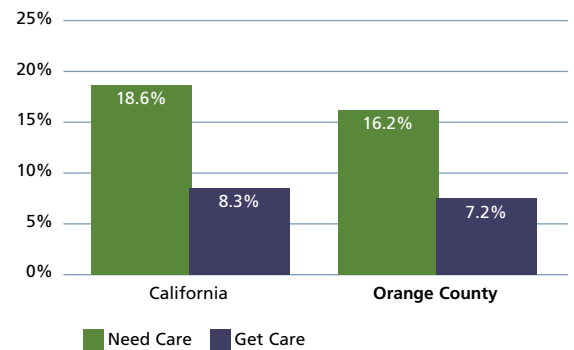
Adults with serious psychological distress (SPD) are more likely than the general population to use illicit drugs, be heavy drinkers, or participate in binge drinking. Nationwide, 22.3% of adults with SPD were dependent on or abused illicit drugs or alcohol. The rate among adults without SPD was 7.7%. Adults suffering from depression are also more likely than the general population to abuse drugs or alcohol.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health ([www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov))

### Proposition 63

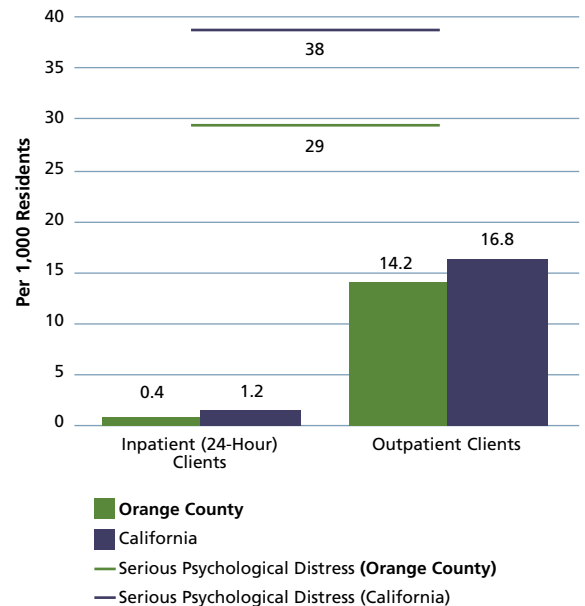
In November 2004, California voters passed Proposition 63 which became the Mental Health Services Act (MHSa) in January 2005. It places a 1% tax on the adjusted gross income of Californians earning an excess of \$1 million. The MHSa will expand mental health care for children, youth, adults, and seniors through direct funding to new or expanded programs that are based on proven and effective service models.

Adults' Need for and Access to Mental Health Care Orange County and California, 2005



Source: University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Health Policy Research, 2005 California Health Interview Survey ([www.chis.ucla.edu/](http://www.chis.ucla.edu/))

Clients Served by County of Orange Mental Health Programs Compared to Adults Identified as Seriously Psychologically Distressed Orange County and California, 2005



Sources: Orange County Health Care Agency, Behavioral Health Services, CSI Annual Report 2005-06 (2004/05 data) and University of California, Los Angeles, California Health Interview Survey, 2005 ([www.chis.ucla.edu/](http://www.chis.ucla.edu/))

# Substance Abuse Trends Mostly Positive

## Description of Indicator

A variety of commonly used proxy indicators are shown to help gauge the extent of alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse. These indicators include youth use and perceptions of AOD, drug-induced deaths, AOD-related arrests, admissions to treatment facilities, and alcohol-involved accidents.

## Why is it Important?

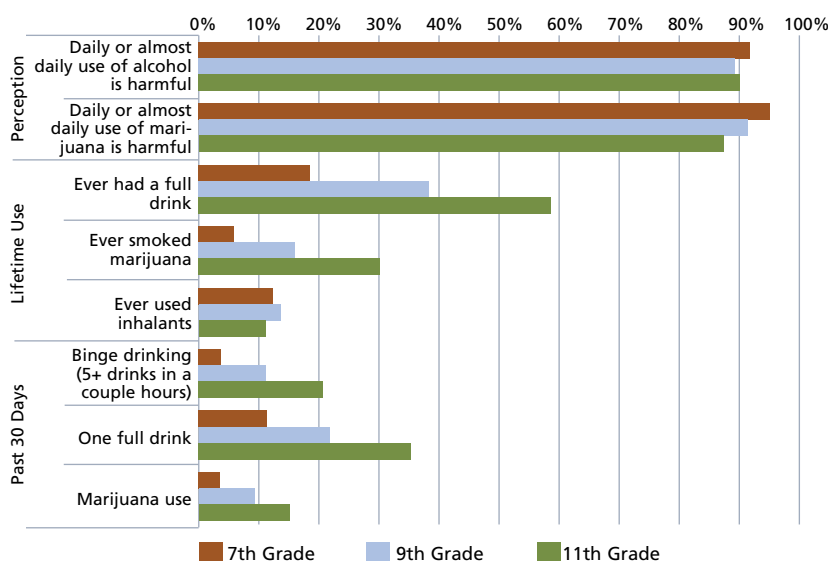
A broad spectrum of public health and safety problems are directly linked with substance abuse including addiction, traffic accidents, domestic violence, crime, unintended pregnancy, and serious diseases such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, and birth defects.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Alcohol and drug use by Orange County youth is similar to peers, while death, arrest and accident rates for all ages are lower:

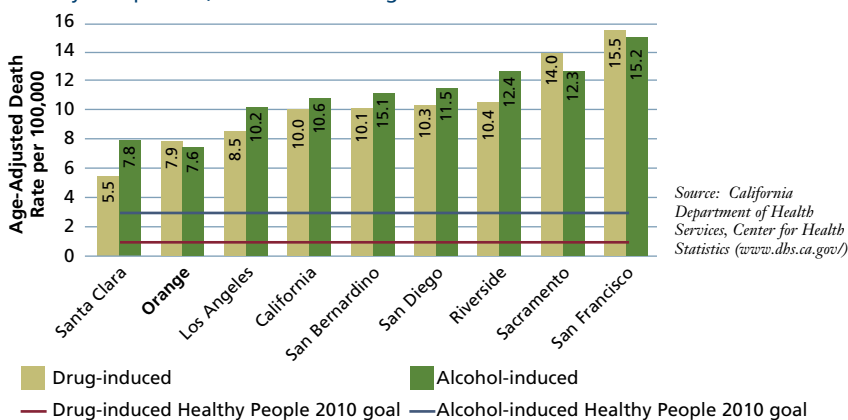
- Compared to the California average, Orange County youth engage in about the same frequency of binge drinking, have similar lifetime and recent alcohol usage levels, and have slightly lower inhalant use.<sup>1</sup>
- The Healthy People 2010 goals for “past 30 days” use of marijuana (0.7%) and binge drinking (2%) were exceeded – often substantially – by all grades.
- Among all ages, Orange County has the lowest alcohol-induced death rate and second lowest drug-induced death rate among peer California counties.
- There was no change in alcohol-induced deaths between 2000-2002 and 2002-2004 (data is calculated in three-year averages), but drug-induced deaths rose 4% over the same period.
- Similar to the state, there were fewer drug-related arrests in Orange County and more alcohol-related arrests since 2005.
- Drug- and alcohol-related arrests in Orange County were slightly above the countywide average of the previous five years, but both rates are lower than statewide averages.<sup>2</sup>
- While the overall number of alcohol-involved accidents is rising in Orange County, on a per capita basis (population at-risk, ages 10-69), the 8-year trend is toward fewer alcohol-involved accidents.<sup>3</sup>

Drug and Alcohol Measures for Youth  
Orange County, 2005/06



Sources: WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey (www.wested.org) and County of Orange Health Care Agency, Behavioral Health Services

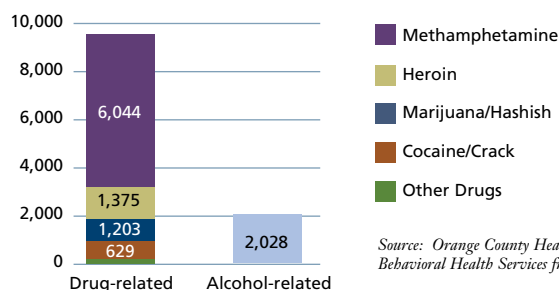
Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths  
County Comparison, 2002-2004 Average



Source: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics (www.dhs.ca.gov/)

Note: See Prenatal Care for a description of Healthy People 2010 goals. The Healthy People 2010 goal for alcohol-related deaths is the goal for deaths due to cirrhosis of the liver. Counties with varying age compositions 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.

Alcohol- and Drug-Related Admissions to Publicly Funded or State Licensed Recovery and Treatment Services  
Orange County, 2006/07



Source: Orange County Health Care Agency, Behavioral Health Services from the CalOMS database

<sup>1</sup> Inhalants are the second most commonly used class of drugs behind marijuana and include glue, paint, gasoline, poppers, or gases (California Student Survey, 2005/06, www.safestate.org/css).

<sup>2</sup> Orange County Community Indicators analysis of data from the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center

<sup>3</sup> California Highway Patrol (www.chp.ca.gov/switrs/)

# Heart Disease Achieves Healthy People 2010 Goal

## Description of Indicator

This indicator reports mortality rates (age-adjusted deaths per 100,000 people), morbidity rates (cases per 100,000 people) and progress toward the national objectives for commonly measured health-status indicators.<sup>1</sup> AIDS and HIV data is also presented.

## Why is it Important?

Viewing the county in relation to statewide averages and national health objectives identifies public health issues that are comparatively more or less pronounced in Orange County. This information can help prioritize public health initiatives.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's health status shows improvement:

- Death rates due to heart disease, stroke and all cancers improved the most in the past year.
- Heart disease – the county's leading killer – achieved the Healthy People 2010 goal and rose above the state average for the first time, yet the county still ranks a low 40th.
- The county has achieved the national objectives for lung, breast and prostate cancers, as well as heart disease and homicide.
- County death rates are better than the California average for all causes compared except Alzheimer's disease.

AIDS/HIV cases in Orange County are rising:

- As of December 2006, there were approximately 3,500 people living with AIDS, an increase of 4%, with 259 of the cases newly diagnosed within the year.
- Latinos are disproportionately impacted by AIDS, representing 52% of the county's AIDS cases but only 33% of the population.
- Since the implementation of HIV reporting in July of 2002, 2,113 HIV cases have been reported.
- Of all HIV-infected residents, it is estimated that an additional 25%-30% are infected but don't know it.

## Orange County Age-Adjusted Death Rate Ranking and Comparison to California Average, 2005

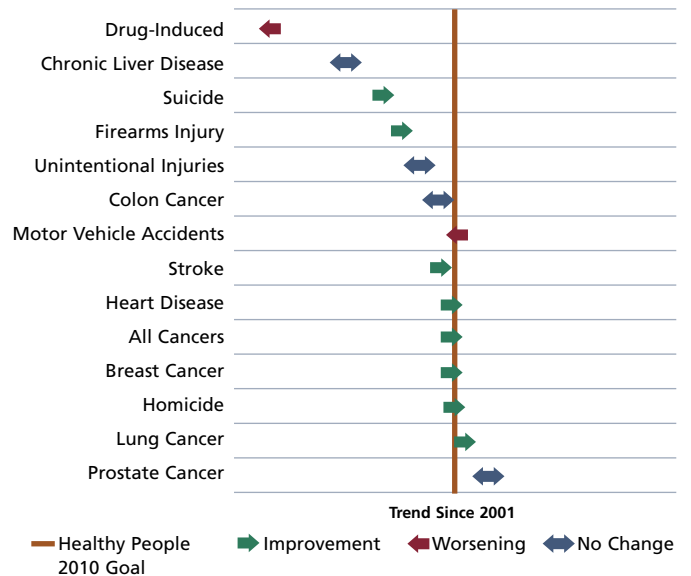
| Rank | Cause of Death                      | Comparison                     |
|------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4    | Unintentional Injuries              | Better than California Average |
| 5    | Motor Vehicle Accidents             | Better than California Average |
| 6    | Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis | Better than California Average |
| 7    | Firearms Injury                     | Better than California Average |
| 8    | Lung Cancer                         | Better than California Average |
| 9    | All Cancers                         | Better than California Average |
| 9    | Suicide                             | Better than California Average |
| 11   | Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease   | Better than California Average |
| 12   | Drug-Induced                        | Better than California Average |
| 14   | Colon Cancer                        | Better than California Average |
| 15   | Breast Cancer                       | Better than California Average |
| 16   | Homicide                            | Better than California Average |
| 17   | Diabetes                            | Better than California Average |
| 25   | Prostate Cancer                     | Better than California Average |
| 28   | Stroke                              | Better than California Average |
| 34   | Influenza or Pneumonia              | Better than California Average |
| 36   | Alzheimer's Disease                 | Worse than California Average  |
| 40   | Heart Disease                       | Worse than California Average  |

Note: Ordered by Orange County's rank among California counties (one is best, 58 is worst).

Source: California Department of Health Services, County Health Status Profiles

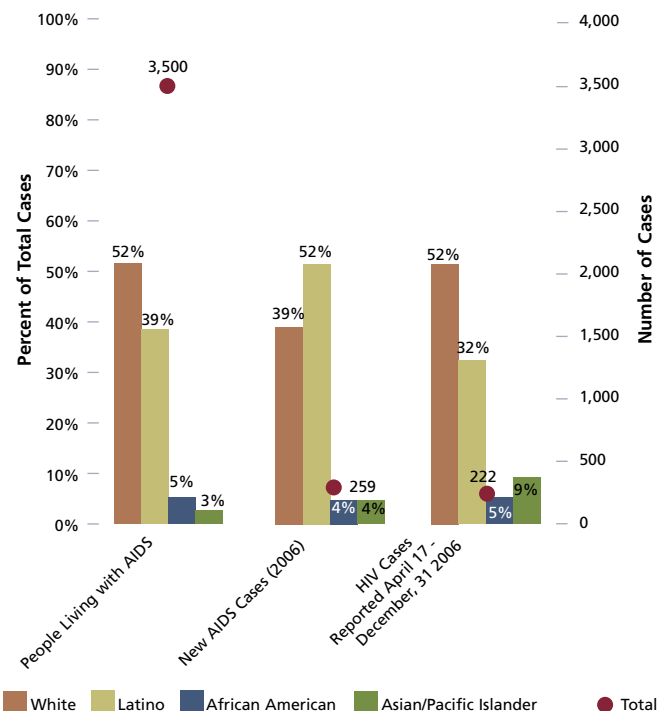
<sup>1</sup> See Substance Abuse for an explanation of age-adjusted death rates. See Prenatal Care for an explanation of Healthy People 2010.

Age-Adjusted Death Rates: Progress Towards 2010 Goals Orange County, 2005



Source: California Department of Health Services, County Health Status Profiles

People Living with AIDS or HIV by Ethnicity Orange County, through 2006



Note: Some percentages do not add up to 100% due to the omission of the "other/multiple race" category.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, HIV/AIDS Surveillance & Monitoring Program ([www.ochealthinfo.com/docs/public/biv/fact-sheet-english.pdf](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/docs/public/biv/fact-sheet-english.pdf))



# Public Safety

Overall, Orange County's **low crime rate** continues. Most crime indicators are on a downward trend including juvenile and hate crimes, as well as domestic violence. **Gang-related crime** remains a **challenge** as gangs are responsible for a large percentage of violent felonies in the county.

## NATIONAL PEERS

Minneapolis, Phoenix, Seattle

## CALIFORNIA PEERS

Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose

## NEIGHBORS

Los Angeles, Riverside/San Bernardino, San Diego

# More Child Abuse and Neglect; Fewer Domestic Calls

## Description of Indicator

This indicator tracks child abuse by measuring confirmed child abuse reports (substantiated referrals), the number of children entering foster care, and the percent of children reentering care within 12 months of a prior out-of-home care episode. Domestic violence is tracked by measuring domestic violence-related calls for assistance and spousal abuse arrests.

## Why is it Important?

Foster care placement is often the final act to protect children from dangerous circumstances after repeated attempts to stabilize their families. Tracking reentries into foster care shows whether children are being prematurely returned to abusive family situations. Domestic violence threatens the physical and emotional wellbeing of children and women in particular and can have lasting negative impacts. It can also lead to homelessness if the abused flees the dangerous environment.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Child abuse and neglect numbers rose last year:

- In 2006, Orange County had slightly more substantiated child abuse and neglect referrals per 1,000 children than the statewide average.
- The number of children entering foster care rose about 9% from 2005 to 2006.
- Orange County has the lowest rate of children entering foster care among California peers (2.5 per 1,000 children).
- In 2006, 9.5% of Orange County children reentered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.
- This reentry rate is less than the statewide average of 11.9% and the national standard of 9.9% set by the federal Administration for Children and Families, but more than the 6.7% reentering in 2005.
- The increase in referrals is due in part to a new policy that includes counting siblings in referral investigations.

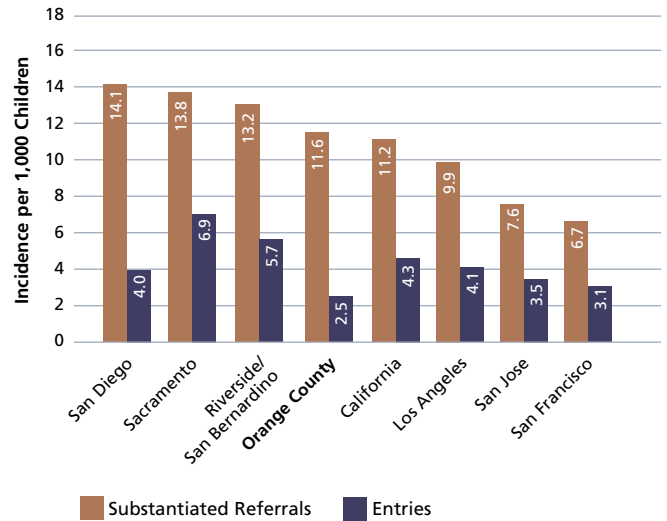
Domestic violence statistics are down:

- Calls for assistance are down 11% since 2005 at 11,215 calls.
- Spousal abuse arrests decreased 9% since 2005 at 2,287.
- Orange County has significantly lower levels of calls for assistance and spousal abuse arrests than the statewide averages.

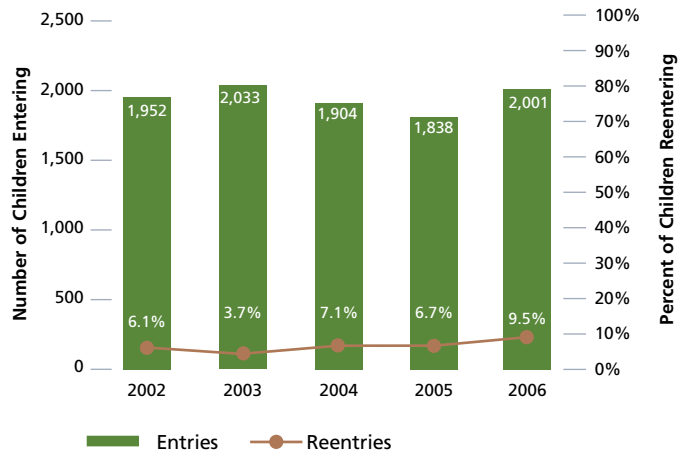
Sources: University of California Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Research Center (<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb.childwelfare/default.aspx>); County of Orange Social Services Agency; and California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Special Request Unit

Notes: The methodology for child abuse and neglect data has been revised and updated since publication of the previous Community Indicators report. Re-entries are not a subset of first entries; they are the percent of children who re-entered care in less than 12 months after reunifying with their family following a prior out-of-home care episode. Domestic violence-related calls for assistance per 100,000 are calculated using the total population. Spousal abuse arrests per 100,000 are calculated using the total population at risk, 10-69 years of age.

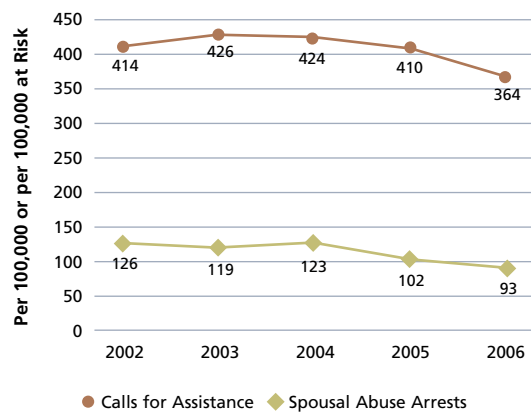
Substantiated Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals and Entries to Foster Care  
Regional Comparison, 2006



Foster Care Entries and Reentries within 12 Months  
Orange County, 2002-2006



Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance and Spousal Abuse Arrests  
Orange County, 2002-2006



# Juvenile Crime Low Compared to Peers

## Description of Indicator

This indicator uses arrests as a means of measuring juveniles' (persons under 18 years of age) participation in felony and misdemeanor crimes, compared to adults and peer regions. Felonies include crimes such as murder, assault, rape, robbery, burglary, and serious drug offenses. Misdemeanors include crimes such as assault and battery, prostitution, petty theft, vandalism, driving while intoxicated, and less serious drug offenses.

## Why is it Important?

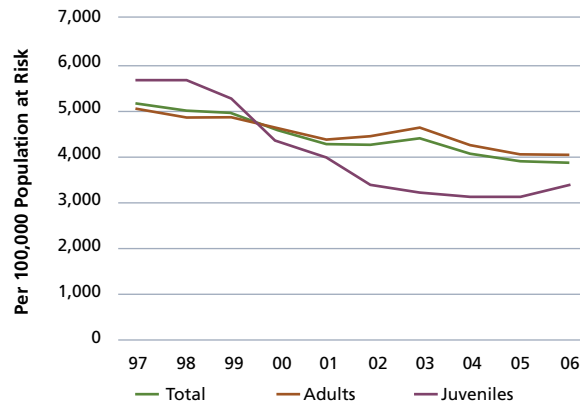
Tracking juvenile arrests helps the community understand the level of major and minor crime in Orange County and the extent to which youth contribute to that crime. While youths make up a small portion of overall arrests, criminal justice experts argue that intervening early with at-risk youth can help reduce criminal activity in their adult lives.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Juvenile crime rose in 2006, but the county still has one of the lowest juvenile crime rates among peers:

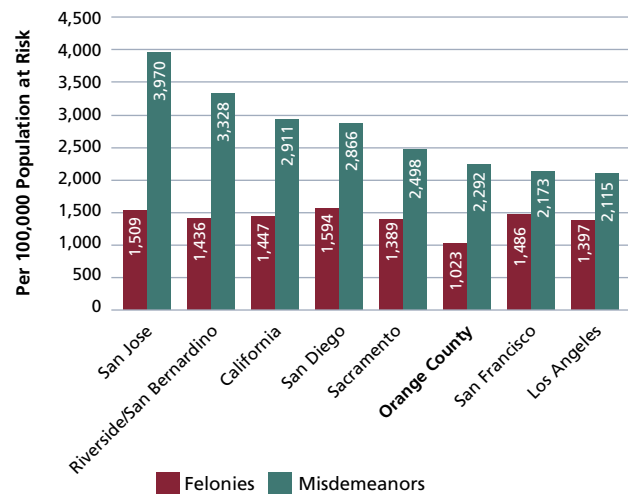
- The juvenile felony arrest rate rose 7% in the past year and misdemeanor arrests rose 5%.
- Juveniles made up 13% of all arrests in 2006.
- Out of the 12,351 juvenile arrests, most (69%) were for misdemeanors.
- The county has the lowest juvenile felony arrest rate among peers, and the third lowest juvenile misdemeanor arrest rate.

Adult and Juvenile Felony and Misdemeanor Arrests  
Orange County, 1997-2006



Note: The juvenile population at risk is 10-17 years of age, the adult population at risk is 18-69 years of age, and the total population at risk is 10-69 years of age.

Juvenile Felony and Misdemeanor Arrests  
Regional Comparison, 2006



Note: The juvenile population at risk is 10-17 years of age.

### School Crime

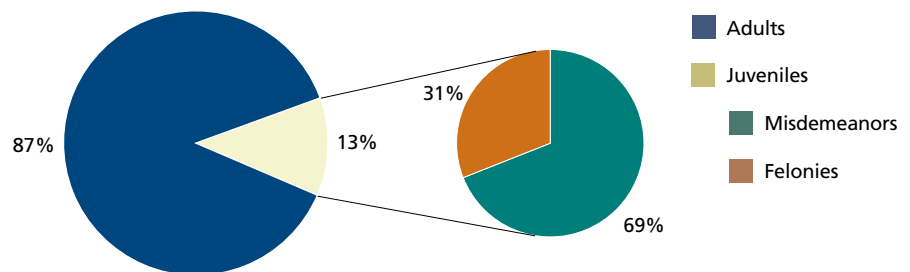
Students are expelled from school for violent or dangerous behavior, or for committing drug or firearm offenses on school grounds. Compared to the state, Orange County has a lower rate of expulsions.

### Expulsions per 1,000 Students Enrolled Orange County & California, 2005-2007

|               | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Orange County | 1.7     | 2.4     | 2.0     |
| California    | 3.3     | 3.4     | 5.2     |

Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest (<http://data1.cde.ca.gov/Dataquest/>)

Total Adult and Juvenile Arrests and Proportion of Juvenile Arrests that are Felonies or Misdemeanors  
Orange County, 2006



Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center (<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/>)

# Crime Rate Falls Again

## Description of Indicator

This indicator uses FBI Uniform Crime Reports data to compare crime rates among counties and to track crime rate trends. Crimes included in this analysis are violent felonies (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and property felonies (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft).

## Why is it Important?

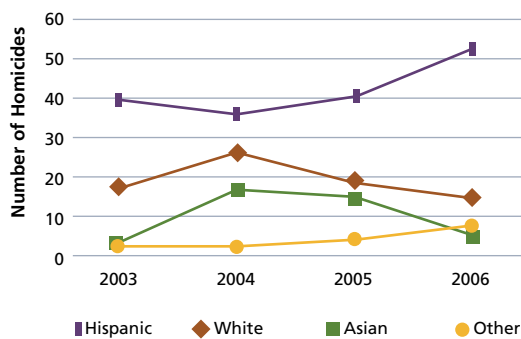
Crime impacts both real and perceived safety in a community. It can also negatively affect investment in a community if a neighborhood is considered unsafe.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's crime rate continues to fall:

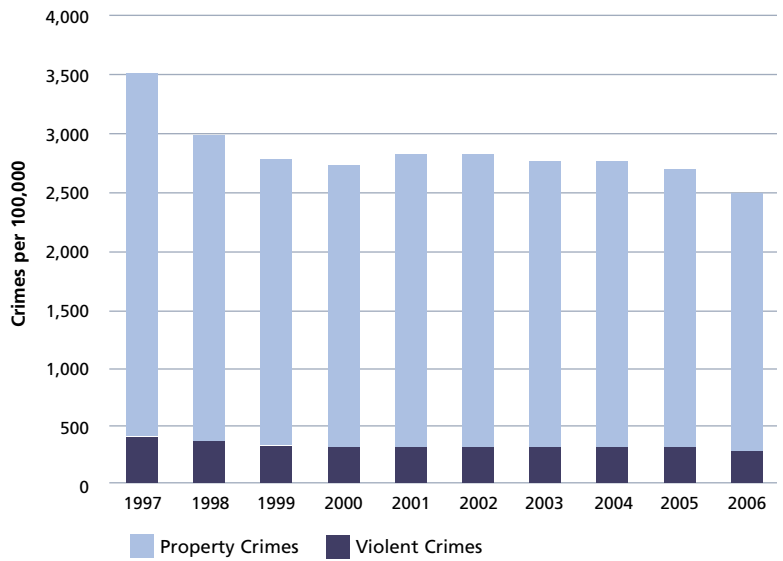
- Between 2005 and 2006, Orange County's crime rate fell 6%.
- Over the past 10 years, crime in Orange County dropped 29%, or an average of 3% each year.
- Compared to peers, Orange County has the lowest overall crime rate.
- Of the 79 homicides in Orange County in 2006, 69% of the victims were Latino, compared to 18% White and 6% Asian.

## Victims of Homicides by Race/Ethnicity Orange County, 2003-2006

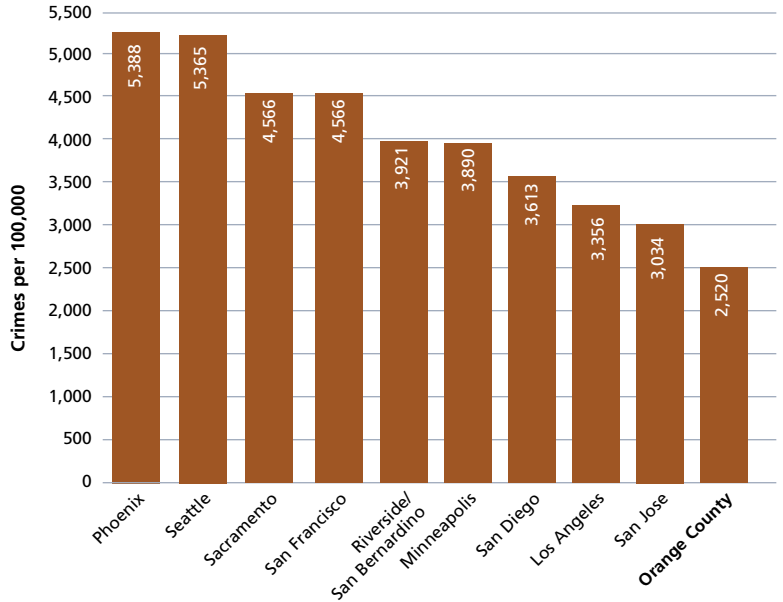


Source: California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Special Request Unit (<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/>)

Crime Rate  
Orange County, 1997-2006



Crime Rate  
Regional Comparison, 2006



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program ([www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm))

# Gangs Responsible for Large Percentage of Violent Felonies

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures gang-related crime filings, homicides, and the percentage of countywide filings that are gang-related. Also measured are the numbers of identified gangs and gang members in Orange County.

## Why is it Important?

Tracking gang-related crime can help the community gauge the extent and nature of such crime. It can aid policymakers in decisions regarding the effectiveness of programs to combat gang-related crime and the level of funding needed to support these programs now and in the future.

## How is Orange County Doing?

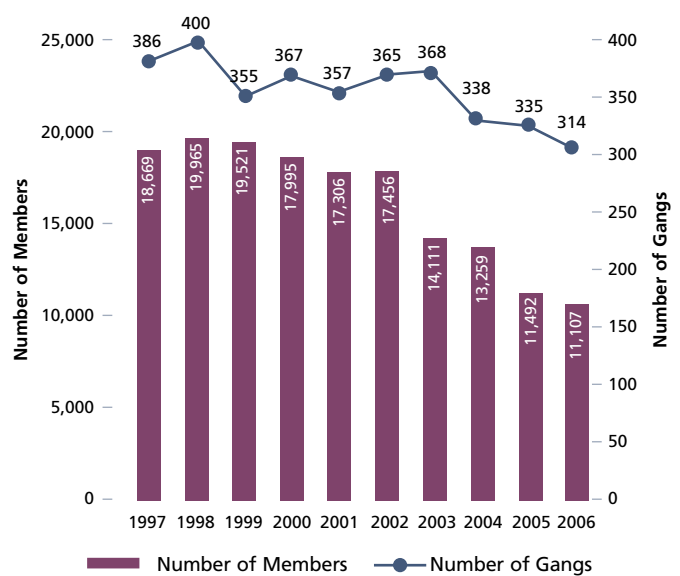
Gang-related trends are mixed:

- The number of gangs and gang members continues to fall.
- Gang-related homicides rose from 22 in 2005 to 35 in 2006, above the 10-year average of 27.
- Gang-related filings have risen steadily since 2003 (991 filings) to 1,734 in 2006.<sup>1</sup>
- Gang members were responsible for 46% of countywide felony homicides/manslaughter filings, 32% of all felony weapons charges, and 23% of all felony robbery charges in 2006.

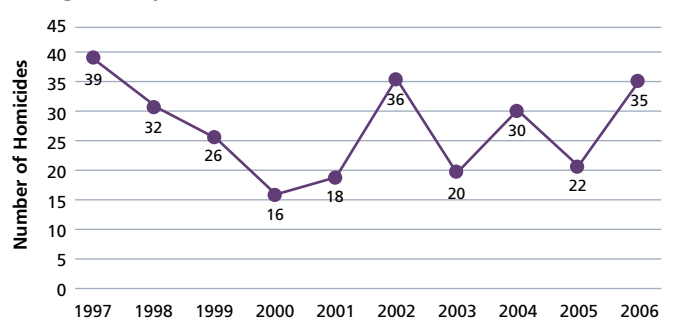
### Gang Membership

Law enforcement agencies, using a detailed set of criteria, submit information on gang members to a statewide law enforcement database. Gang members are removed from the state database if they have not had contact with law enforcement in the last five years. The fact that new gang members have not replaced them in the database may suggest there are fewer gang members, but it may also reflect the problem of overburdened police agencies unable to record new members. The rise in homicides and that gang members are responsible for a large proportion of all felony violent crime shows the continued impact of gangs on serious crime in Orange County.

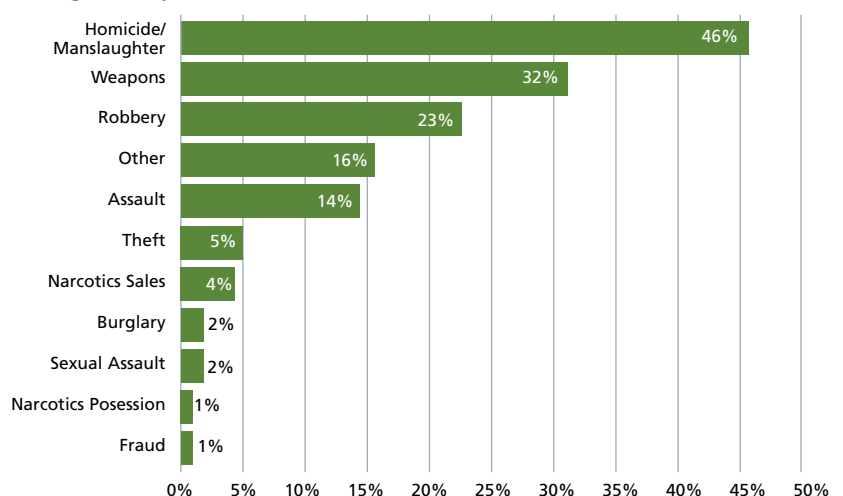
Gangs and Gang Membership  
Orange County, 1997-2006



Victims of Gang-Related Homicides  
Orange County, 1997-2006



Anti-Gang Unit and Gang-Related Felony Filings as a Percentage of all District Attorney Filings, by Offense  
Orange County, 2006



<sup>1</sup> A filing is a charging document filed with the superior court clerk by a prosecuting attorney alleging that a person committed or attempted to commit a crime (California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General).

Source: County of Orange Office of the District Attorney

# Hate Crime Levels Off

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of reported hate crime incidents and the number of hate crime-related cases filed in Orange County court. 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?

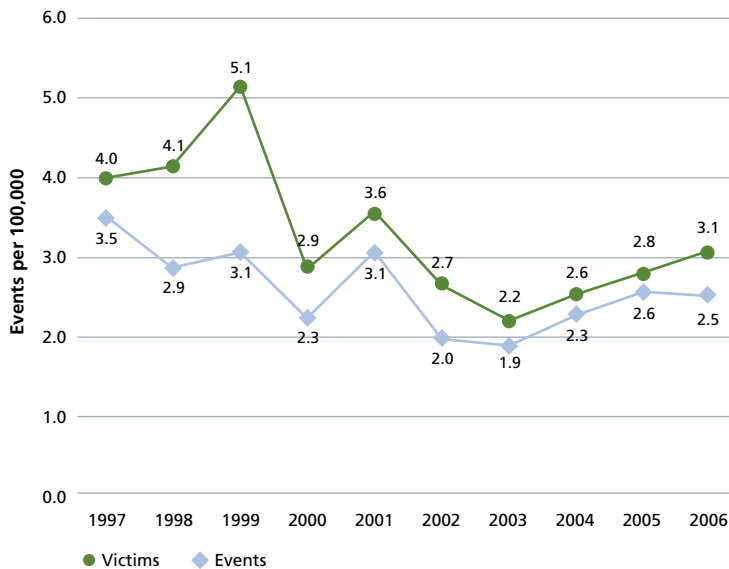
Hate crimes are particularly threatening because the perpetrator views his or her victim as lacking full human worth due to their skin color, ethnic background, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. In addition, a hate crime impacts the entire group to which the victim belongs, spreading concern throughout the community.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Overall, hate crime has trended downward over the past decade:

- The number of hate crime events (78) and victims (95) in 2006 roughly matched the 10-year averages (76 and 96, respectively).
- In 2006, 14 hate crime-related cases were filed in criminal court.<sup>1</sup>
- Orange County's hate crime event rate of 2.5 per 100,000 is lower than the statewide average and all regions compared except San Jose.
- Statewide, the most frequent bias motivation in 2006 was race (46%), followed by ethnicity and sexual orientation (both 19%), and religion (16%).<sup>2</sup>

Reported Hate Crime Events  
Orange County, 1997-2006

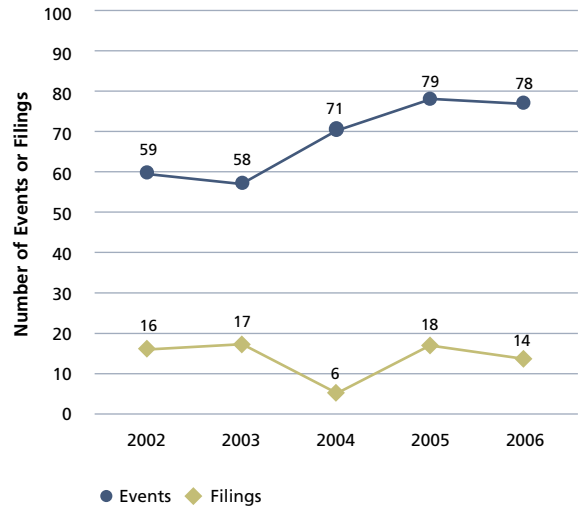


Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Hate Crime in California Reports (<http://caug.state.ca.us/cjsc/>) and Special Requests Unit

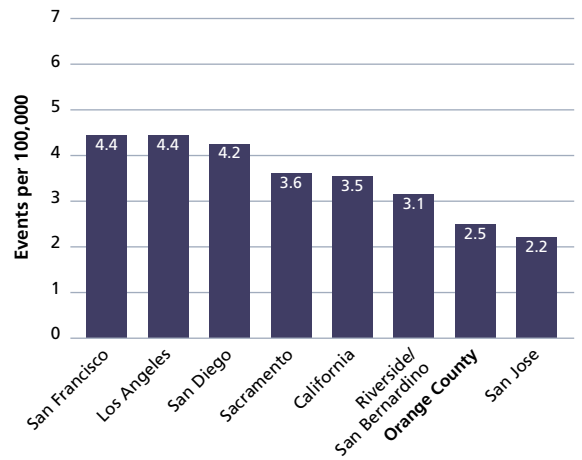
<sup>1</sup> For a description of a filing, please see Gang-Related Crime footnote.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2006 Hate Crime Statistics ([www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2006/index.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2006/index.html))

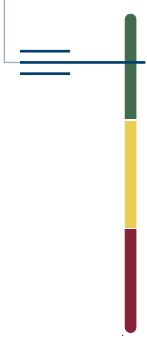
Reported Hate Crime Events and Hate Crime-Related Filings  
Orange County, 2002-2006



Reported Hate Crime Events  
Regional Comparison, 2006



# Environment



With **fewer closures** and a decline in sewage spills, Orange County's beaches fared much better than in years past. The county's **waste** disposal rates have leveled off and now join **water** usage with growth levels that are **in step** with the population.

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#### NATIONAL PEERS

Boston, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Seattle

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#### CALIFORNIA PEERS

Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose

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#### NEIGHBORS

Los Angeles, Riverside/San Bernardino, San Diego

# Ocean Water Closures Decrease

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures coastal water quality by tracking when ocean and bay waters are closed to the public (closures) or warning signs have been posted (postings) due to a sewage spill or other contamination. Closures and postings are shown by Beach Mile Day which is calculated by multiplying the number of days of closure or posting by the number of miles of beach closed or posted. This measurement takes into account both the amount of beach affected and the length of the closure or posting. For additional information, visit [www.ocbeachinfo.com](http://www.ocbeachinfo.com).

## Why is it Important?

When ocean or bay waters are closed to the public or warnings are posted on beaches that indicate the water quality is poor, tourists and local residents are discouraged from visiting Orange County's beaches. This results in less consumer traffic in the beach communities and diminishes our overall sense of quality of life. Furthermore, pollutants that enter the ocean or bays through urban runoff and sewage spills have the potential to compromise public health and endanger marine life.

## How is Orange County Doing?

There were fewer ocean or bay water closures and postings in 2006:

- There were 15 Beach Mile Days of closures, one of the lowest levels since tracking by Beach Mile Days began in 1999.
- Pipeline blockages (16 occurrences) and pipeline breaks (five occurrences) were the most frequent causes of closures.
- The number of Beach Mile Days of postings fell from 601 in 2005 to 587 in 2006.

Sewage spills are down from the previous year:

- After peaking in 2002, the total number of sewage spills reported to the Health Care Agency dropped for the fourth year in a row.
- However, over the past 10 years the number of reported sewage spills increased 116%.
- This increase may be the result of an aging infrastructure, need for increased maintenance, or more diligent reporting by sanitation district or city staff.

### Closures

By state law, recreational ocean or bay waters must be closed when they have been directly contaminated by sewage or when the streams, creeks and rivers that discharge into them have been contaminated by sewage.

### Postings

The Orange County Health Care Agency is required to post warning signs when water quality exceeds state bacteriological standards. This poor water quality is largely attributed to urban runoff.

### Sewage Spills

Sewage spills occur when wastewater in underground pipes overflows through a man-hole, cleanout or broken pipe.

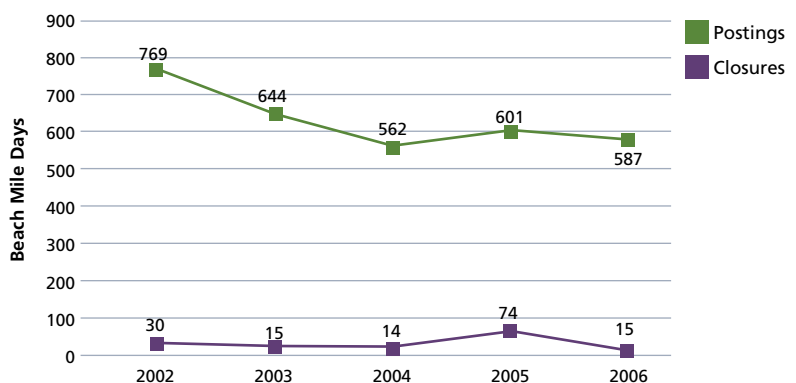
### Pipeline Blockages and Breaks

Grease build up is the most common cause of pipeline blockages. Pipeline blockages or breaks in sewer pipes are also caused by tree roots in the lines, undersized sewers, and broken or cracked pipes.

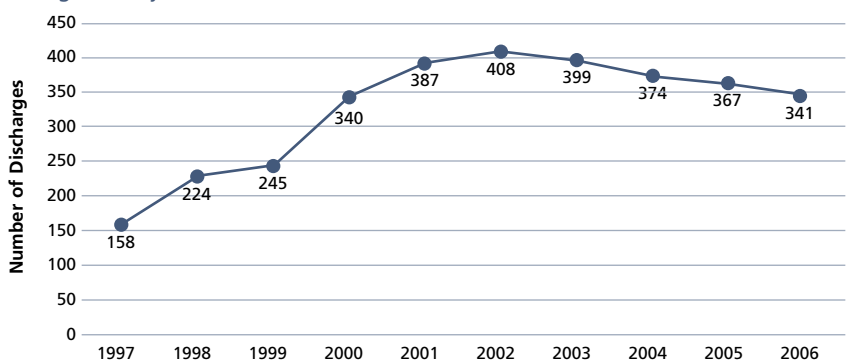
### Infrastructure Capability

Intense rain can overwhelm certain portions of a sewer system and lead to sewage spills. An aging sewer system in need of maintenance is also at increased risk of blockages and breaks.

**Beach Mile Days of Ocean Water Postings and Closures**  
Orange County, 2002-2006



**Unauthorized Sewage Discharges**  
Orange County, 1997-2006



Note: Unauthorized waste discharges exclude tertiary recycled water discharges.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Public Health Services, Environmental Health



# Cities Offer Residents More than 7,000 Park Acres

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures acres of regional parks and regional hiking, biking, and riding trails managed by the County of Orange, as well as city park acreage.

## 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. They also contribute to public health by providing outdoor areas where children and adults can play, ride or hike. Measuring acreage and mileage change enables residents to track progress in preserving open space and providing regional trail linkages. As Orange County becomes increasingly dense and built-out, these resources may become even more valuable to residents.

## How is Orange County Doing?

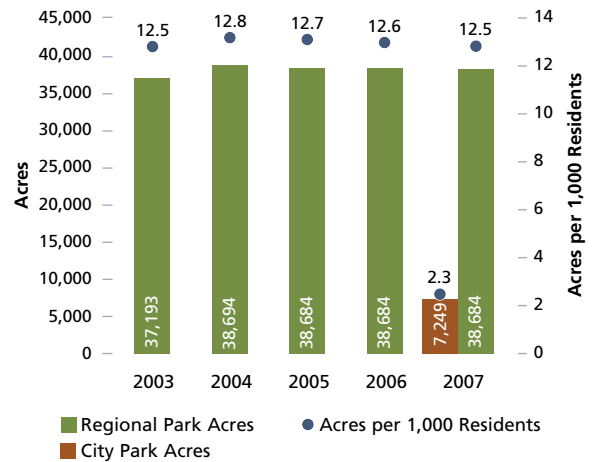
County and city parklands, as well as state and federal lands, provide a variety of recreational options for residents:

- As of October 2007, there was no change in the number of acres of County of Orange regional parkland (38,684 acres).
- New data reveals that city parks comprise 7,249 additional acres based on mid-2006 land use data.
- Due to population increases, the unchanged number of acres of regional parks led to a small decrease in acres of parks per 1,000 residents (12.6 in 2006 to 12.5 in 2007).
- City parks offer another 2.3 acres of parks per 1,000 residents.
- In addition to local and regional parklands, the Orange County portion of the Cleveland National Forest provides nearly 55,000 acres of open space.
- Residents can also enjoy 42 miles of state, county and city beaches.

Progress toward trail mileage goals is slow:

- Between October 2006 and 2007, 3.5 miles of unpaved regional trails were added to the County of Orange's system of trails.
- No additional miles of off-road paved bikeway were added.
- The stated goal of the County of Orange General Plan, which guides planning decisions for the County, is to build 80% of the planned bikeway and trail miles by 2010.
- To reach this goal, the County of Orange must develop 49 more miles of trails and 79 more miles of bikeways by 2010.

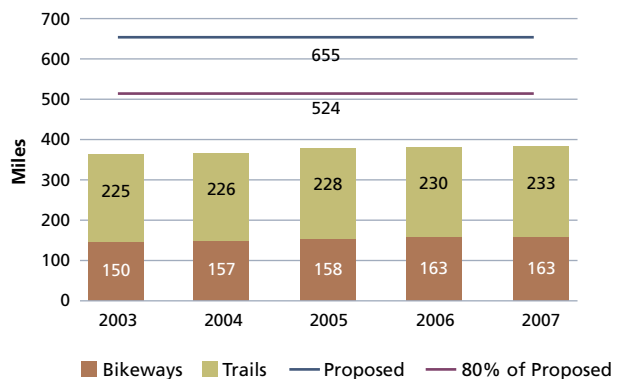
Regional and City Parks  
Orange County, 2003-2007



Note: Regional park acreage includes wilderness and nature preserves and properties that have been irrevocably offered (but not currently owned by the County of Orange). Baseline city park acreage data is newly provided for 2007 and will continue to be updated annually.

Sources: County of Orange Resources & Development Management Department, Harbors, Beaches and Parks Division and Geomatics/Land Information Systems Division, and California Department of Finance

County of Orange Regional Bikeways and Trails,  
2003-2007



Source: County of Orange Resources & Development Management Department, Harbors, Beaches and Parks Division

# Solid Waste Diversion and Hazardous Waste Collection Up

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the amounts of commercial and residential solid waste deposited in Orange County landfills, as well as diversion rates. It also measures the pounds of household hazardous waste collected (such as oil, paint, and batteries) and the number of annual participants.

## Why is it Important?

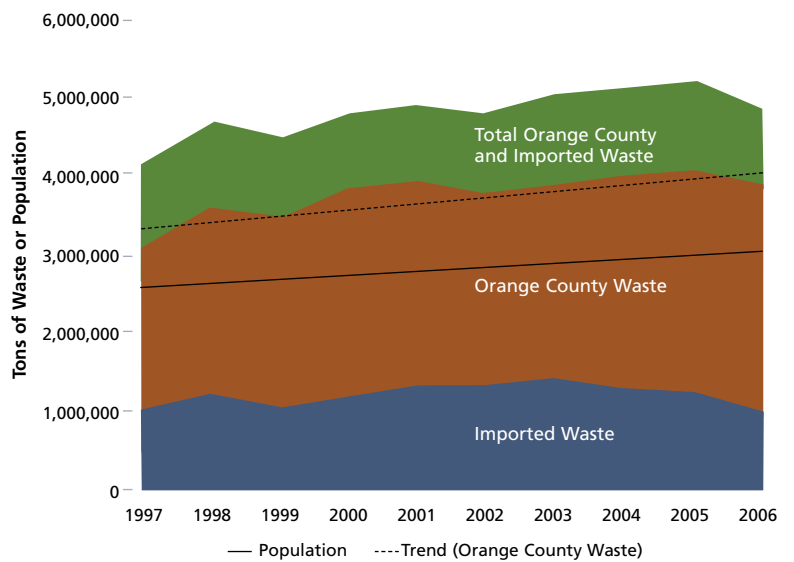
Reducing waste production and diverting recyclables and green wastes from landfills extends the life of landfills, decreases the need for costly alternatives, and reduces environmental impact. As of 2000, all jurisdictions are required by law to divert 50% of waste from landfills. Collection of household hazardous waste helps protect the environment and public health by reducing illegal and improper hazardous waste disposal. "E-waste" – electronic devices such as cell phones, computers and monitors that now must be recycled – contributes increasingly to the amount of hazardous waste collected and to the cost of collection.

## How is Orange County Doing?

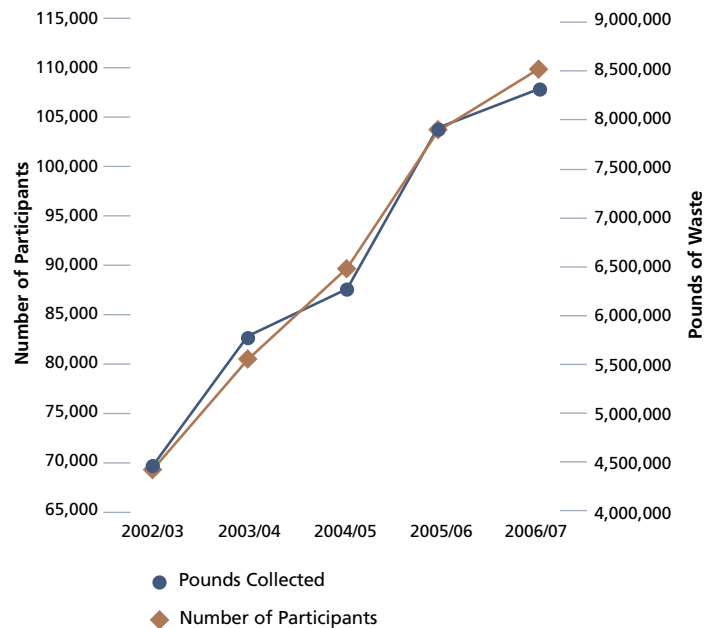
Solid waste disposal is down and household hazardous waste collection is up:

- Solid waste disposal fell 6.2% in 2006.
- After many years of waste disposal growing faster than population growth, the 10-year trend in disposal is becoming closer to population growth.
- Jurisdictions in Orange County have increased their efforts in diverting waste from Orange County landfills.
- The number of annual participants bringing household hazardous waste to regional collection centers and the number of pounds collected both grew 8% in 2006/07.

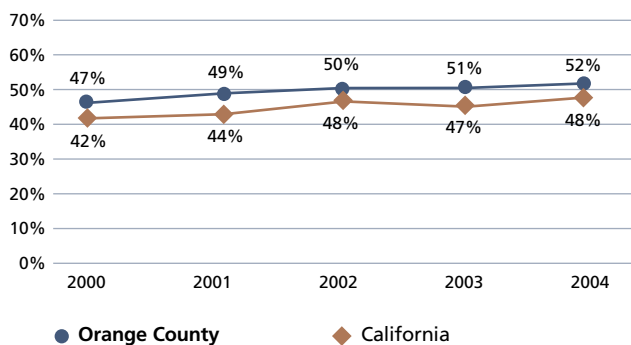
**Solid Waste Disposal in Orange County Landfills Compared to Population Growth, 1997-2006**



**Household Hazardous Waste Orange County, 2003-2007**



**Average Solid Waste Diversion Rates Orange County and California, 2000-2004**



Note: Only California Integrated Waste Management Board approved rates are included in the Orange County averages. Averages for 2003 and 2004 are preliminary.

Sources: County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Department, California Integrated Waste Management Board ([www.ciwm.ca.gov/](http://www.ciwm.ca.gov/)) and California Department of Finance, Tables E-4 ([www.dof.ca.gov/](http://www.dof.ca.gov/))

# Ozone Remains Primary Pollutant

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures air quality, including specific pollutants, in Orange County and peer regions using the Air Quality Index (AQI).

## Why is it Important?

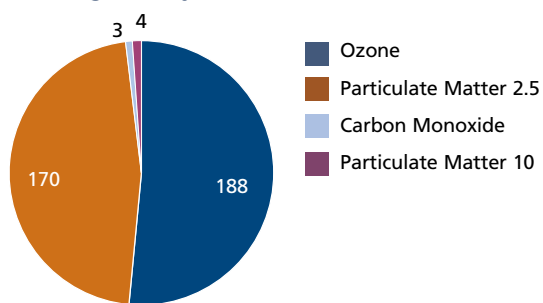
Poor air quality can aggravate the symptoms of heart or lung ailments, including asthma. It can also cause irritation and illness in an otherwise healthy population. Research suggests that children with severe asthma start suffering symptoms when air quality is in the “moderate” range. Long-term exposure increases risks for many health conditions including lung cancer and cardiovascular disease. High levels of airborne particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers (PM 2.5) can have adverse effects on children’s lung development.<sup>1</sup>

## How is Orange County Doing?

The county experienced average air quality in 2006:

- During 2006, most days were in the “good” range (230).
- There were 12 days considered “unhealthy for sensitive groups” such as asthmatics (see Pediatric Asthma) and 121 days in the “moderate” range, which can also affect asthmatics.
- There were two days in the “unhealthy” range.
- Ozone was the main pollutant followed by PM 2.5.
- Orange County exceeded the 1-hour and 8-hour ozone standards in 2006.
- Compared to peers, Orange County’s air quality values place it in the middle, with San Francisco experiencing the best air quality and Phoenix experiencing the worst.

Number of Days in 2006 when the Main Pollutant in Orange County was...



Note: A daily index value is calculated for each air pollutant measured. The highest of those index values is the AQI value for that day, and the pollutant responsible for the highest index value is called the “main pollutant.” There were no days in 2006 when the main pollutant was sulfur dioxide or nitrogen dioxide.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, AirData ([www.epa.gov/air/data/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/data/index.html))

## Air Quality Index

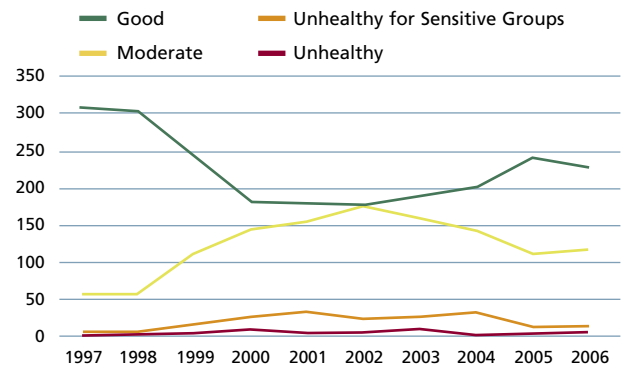
The Air Quality Index is calculated for ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. The number 100 corresponds to the national air quality standard for the pollutant.

| AQI Values | Health Categories              |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 0 - 50     | Good                           |
| 51 - 100   | Moderate                       |
| 101 - 150  | Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups |
| 151 - 200  | Unhealthy                      |
| 201 - 300  | Very Unhealthy                 |
| 301 - 500  | Hazardous                      |

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (<http://airnow.gov/>)

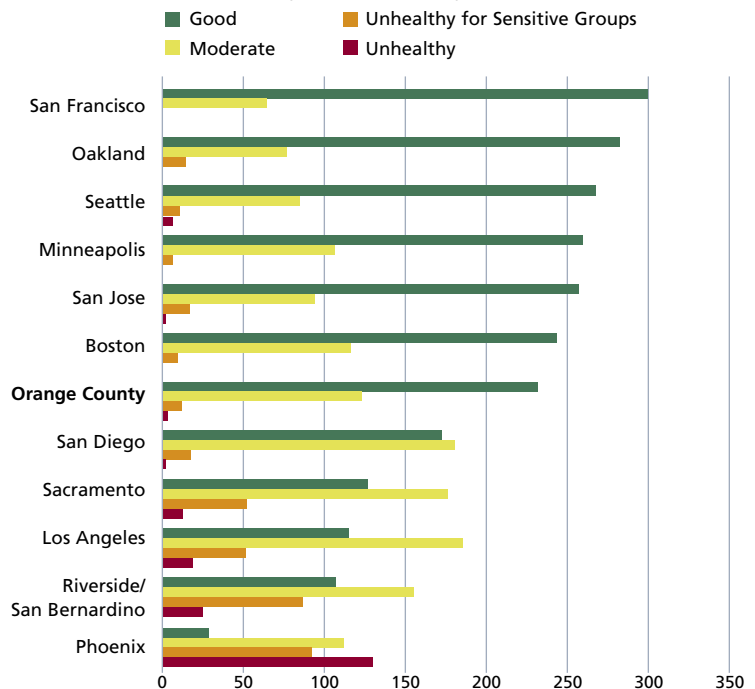
## Air Quality Index Orange County, 1997-2006

Number of Days When Air Quality in Orange County Was...



## Air Quality Index Regional Comparison, 2006

Number of Days When Air Quality Was...



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, AIRData ([www.epa.gov/air/data/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/data/index.html))

<sup>1</sup> Journal of the American Medical Association, October 8, 2003; New England Journal of Medicine, September 9, 2004.

# Driest Year on Record Drives Increase in Water Use

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County’s annual urban (residential and commercial) water usage in gallons per capita per day. It also shows projected water use and supplies through 2020.

## Why is it Important?

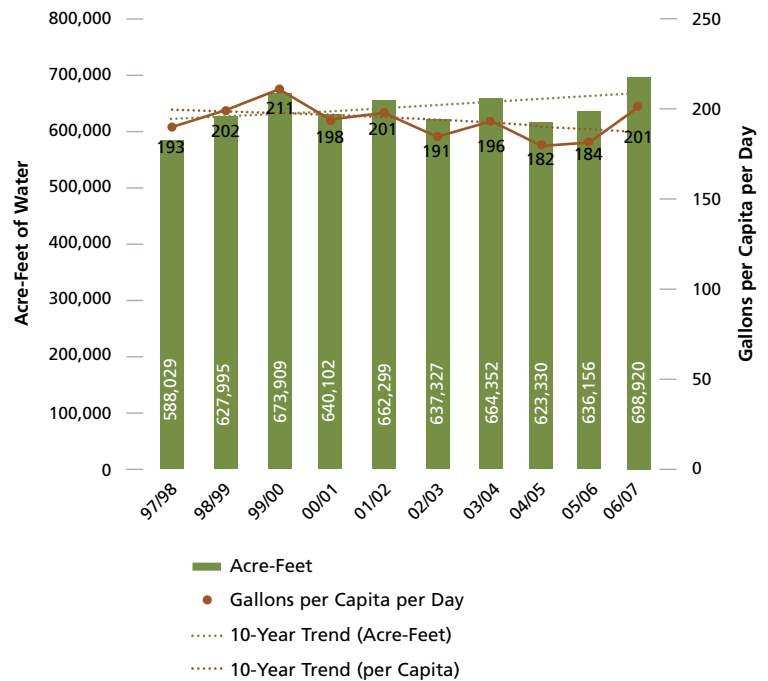
Given our arid climate, effective water management is essential to ensure that the county has an ample water supply now and in the future. As population and business growth drive water demand, reliance on imported water will continue. The county’s long-term sustainability will also rely on increased conservation and investments in additional water supplies, such as groundwater basin replenishment and desalination.

## How is Orange County Doing?

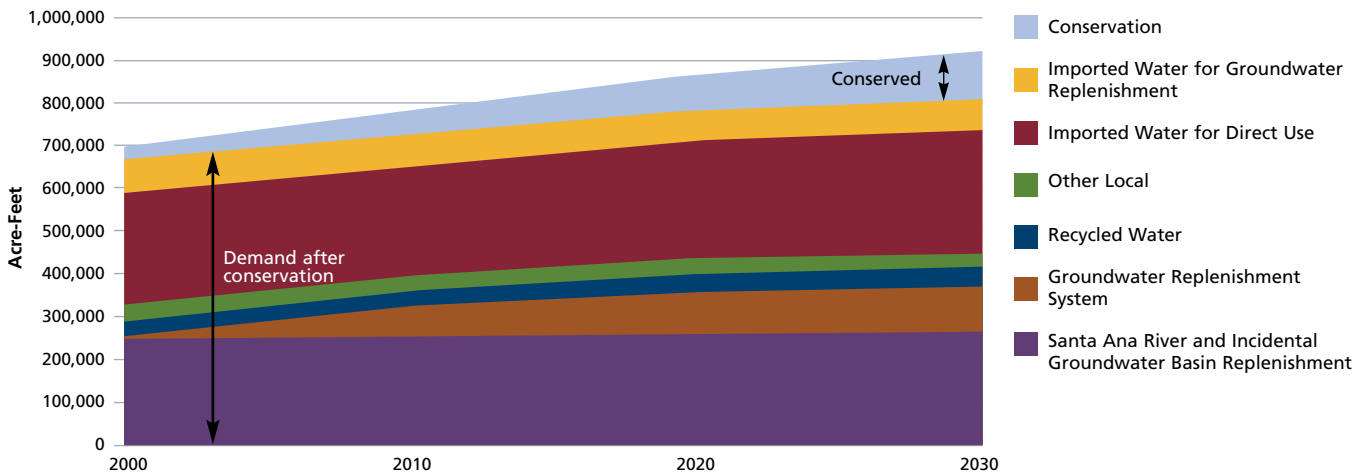
Overall, water use is rising:

- While per capita use rose 17 gallons in 2006/07 to 201 gallons per person per day, the 10-year trend remains marginally downward.
- Total water use rose 10% in the past year alone due to 2006/07 being the driest year on record.
- Water use is projected to continue to rise in step with population growth.

Urban Water Usage  
Orange County, 1998-2007



Water Use and Supply Projection by Source  
Orange County, 2000-2030



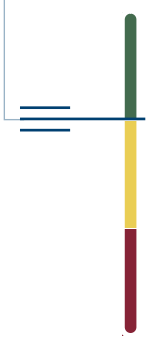
Notes: Projection estimates have been revised since last reported. Ocean Water Desalination is expected to replace some direct use imported water. Reclaimed water generated by the Groundwater Replenishment System goes to replenish the groundwater basin. Recycled Water includes reclaimed water for direct use, as opposed to reclaimed water processed to replenish the groundwater basin. Other Local includes groundwater from outside the Santa Ana River Basin and local surface stream flow.

Sources: Municipal Water District of Orange County, Orange County Water District, and California Department of Finance (Tables E-4)

### Meeting Increasing Demand

To meet projected increasing demand, Orange County will still need imported water and groundwater but will continue to expand conservation programs. The county will also look to alternatives such as desalination and the Orange County Water District’s Groundwater Replenishment System – the largest water purification project of its kind – which takes highly-treated sewer water that is currently released into the ocean and purifies it using the same technologies that purify bottled water. Groundwater and imported water are the least costly water sources, yet their supplies are limited. Residents can expect water bills to rise as our water supply is increasingly supplemented by more costly recycled and desalinated water. Conservation can be a cost-effective way to reduce demand.

# Civic Engagement



More than **80%** of Orange County's eligible residents were **registered** to vote in 2007. The number of nonprofit organizations is steadily increasing and a **majority** of residents **contribute** financially to these groups. Yet, the county's nonprofit **revenues** per capita are significantly **less** than most of our peers.

## NATIONAL PEERS

Austin, Boston, Dallas, Minneapolis, Seattle

## CALIFORNIA PEERS

Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose

## NEIGHBORS

Los Angeles, Riverside/San Bernardino, San Diego

# Percentage of Registered Voters Highest Among Peers

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of registered voters in Orange County and peer counties within California. Participation rates among registered voters is also shown.

## Why is it Important?

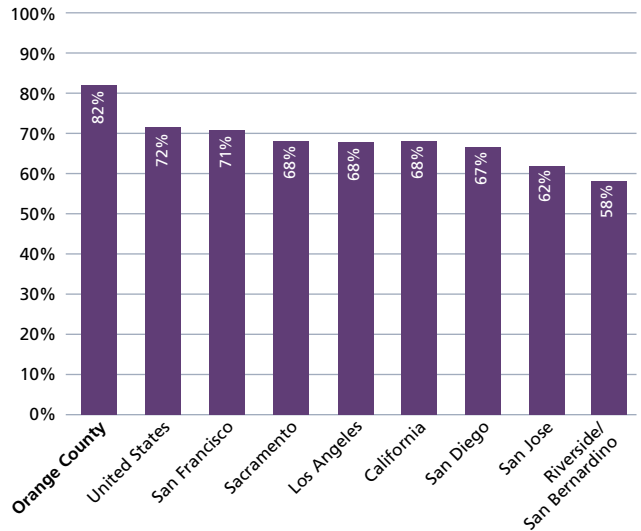
Voter registration measures civic interest and the public's optimism regarding their impact on decision-making. A high level of citizen involvement improves the accountability of government and increases personal investment in community issues.

## How is Orange County Doing?

Voter registration in Orange County is the highest among peer counties within California:

- As of September 2007, 82% of Orange County residents who are eligible to vote, were registered.
- This rate is more than 10% greater than all peers compared.
- Among registered voters in the 2006 midterm election, 51% of those registered chose to vote.
- This is the same rate as the 2002 midterm election.

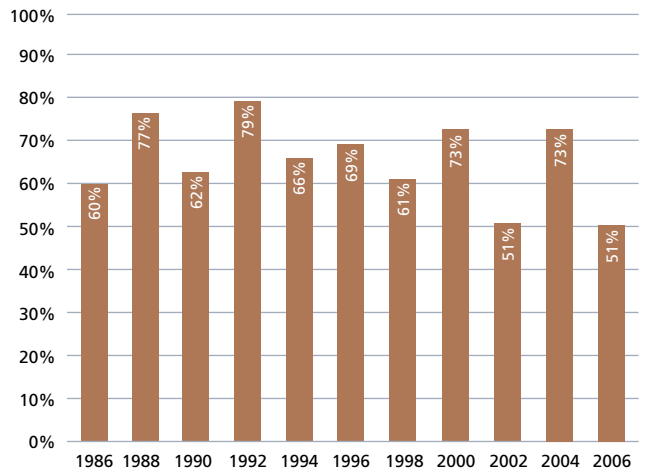
Percentage of Eligible Residents Registered to Vote  
Regional Comparison, 2007



Source: California Secretary of State ([www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror/154day\\_presprim/county.xls](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror/154day_presprim/county.xls)), U.S. Census Bureau ([www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html))

Note: Data for United States is registration as of November 2004.

General Election Turnout Among Registered Voters  
Orange County, 1986-2006



Source: California Secretary of State (<http://vote.ss.ca.gov>Returns/status.htm>)

# Number of Nonprofits Increase; Per Capita Revenues Lag Peers

## Description of Indicator

This indicator assesses Orange County's nonprofit sector including the number of organizations, and per capita revenues and assets. It also measures Orange County residents' contribution to nonprofits and civic involvement.

## Why is it Important?

A well-funded and supported nonprofit sector is an integral part of a healthy and stable community. Nonprofit, charitable organizations help bridge the gap between government programs and local needs. Additionally, the nonprofit sector is a valuable contributor to the local economy. Volunteerism and financial contributions are measures of residents' investment in the wellbeing of their community.

## How is Orange County Doing?

The number of nonprofit organizations in Orange County is increasing:

- In 2007, there were 11,179 registered nonprofit organizations in Orange County, up from 9,384 registered nonprofits in 2003.
- This increase is similar to metro areas across the United States.

Orange County's per capita rates are lower than comparison regions:

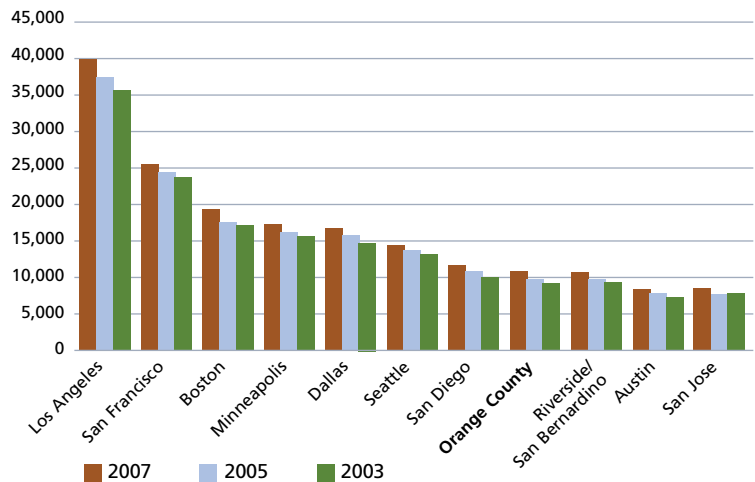
- Orange County has 3.7 nonprofit organizations per 1,000 residents, which is lower than all of the peer regions compared with the exception of Riverside/San Bernardino.
- Boston leads per capita total revenue by more than seven times the amount reported by Orange County nonprofit organizations (\$3,063) in 2007.
- Boston also leads per capita assets among peers with nearly 10 times more than the \$5,805 reported by Orange County nonprofit organizations in 2007.

Volunteerism and civic involvement is strong:

- In 2005, 79% of Orange County residents reported that they contributed financially to nonprofit organizations.
- In 2006, 70% of residents indicated they were involved in one or more civic activities.

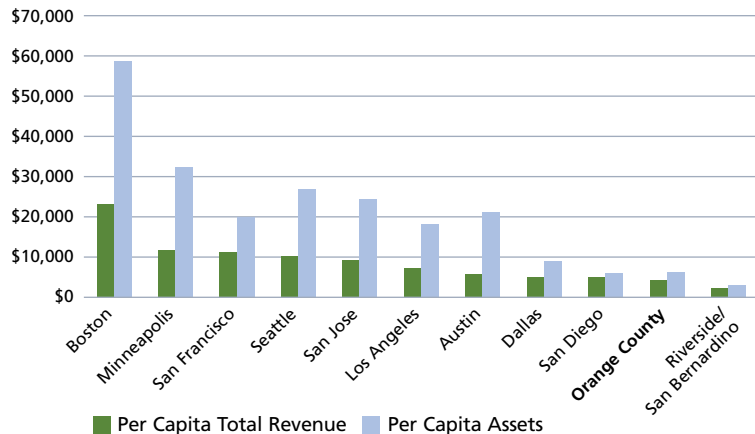
Note: With respect to per capita revenue and assets, the dollar amounts are for active nonprofit organizations that have filed form 990 for their IRS tax returns. These are generally only 501c3 organizations and do not include private foundations, trusts, or endowments. For the lower chart, two data sources were combined. "Civic Involvement" asked residents how many civic activities (e.g. membership in or volunteering for a community organization) they are involved in using the following choices: never, one to two activities (represented in this chart as "Occasionally"), three to four activities ("Often"), or five or more activities ("Very Often").

Number of Registered Nonprofit Organizations  
Regional Comparison, 2003-2007



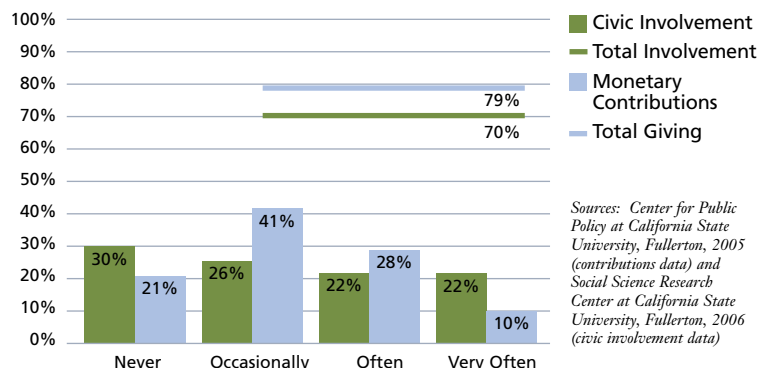
Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics (<http://nccs.urban.org/statistics/index.fjm>)

Per Capita Total Revenue and Assets Reported on Form 990  
Regional Comparison, 2007



Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics (<http://nccs.urban.org/statistics/index.fjm>)

Frequency of Contributing to a Nonprofit (2005) and Civic Involvement (2006)  
Orange County



Sources: Center for Public Policy at California State University, Fullerton, 2005 (contributions data) and Social Science Research Center at California State University, Fullerton, 2006 (civic involvement data)

# Residents Support Transportation and Flood Control Bonds

## Description of Indicator

This indicator uses voting patterns to measure residents' level of support for public investment in infrastructure improvements and maintenance.

## Why is it Important?

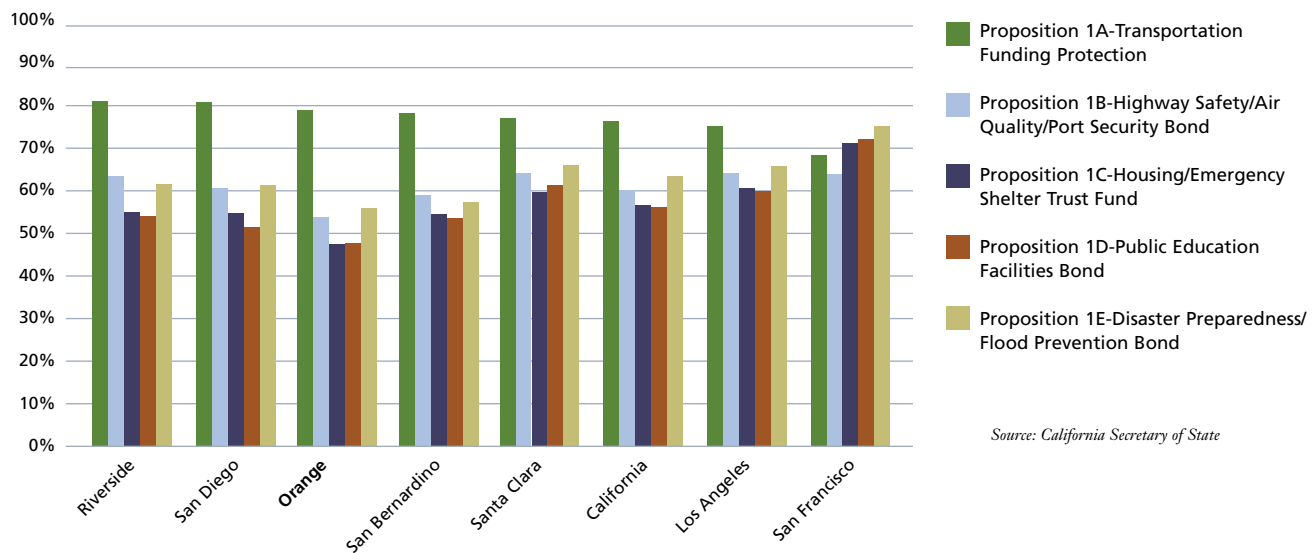
The wellbeing of Orange County depends in large part on the willingness of residents to take a vested interest in their community's quality of life. Tracking how Orange County residents voted on recent bond measures and local initiatives reveals public opinion on the importance of the proposed improvements, and the level of confidence residents have in the public organizations tasked with building and maintaining critical infrastructure.

## How is Orange County Doing?

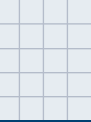
Orange County residents demonstrated varying degrees of support for quality of life investments through several initiatives presented to voters in 2006:

- Voters supported the renewal of Measure M, extending Orange County's local sales tax to provide funding for transportation improvements, with 69.7% voting in favor of the measure, exceeding the two-thirds positive vote requirement.
- In another measure of residents' commitment to transportation infrastructure, the statewide Proposition 1A (Transportation Funding Protection) was supported by 79.5% of residents.
- A narrow majority of residents supported Proposition 1B (Highway Safety/Air Quality/Port Security Bond) and Proposition 1E (Disaster Preparedness/Flood Prevention Bond) at 54.5% and 56.7%, respectively.
- Orange County voters did not achieve a majority on either Proposition 1C (Housing/Emergency Shelter Trust Fund) or Proposition 1D (Public Education Facilities Bond) with 48.5% and 48.7% voting in support, respectively.
- Statewide, each measure passed, aided by majority votes in favor by all our peer counties.

**Votes in Favor of Statewide Infrastructure Propositions**  
County Comparison, 2006







## The Community Indicators report would not be possible without the data provided by the following agencies and the expertise of their representatives:

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 13th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County  | County of Orange Health Care Agency/Epidemiology and Assessment                           | Orange County Department of Education/Special Education Services Division           |
| California Association of Realtors   | County of Orange Health Care Agency/HIV/AIDS Surveillance & Monitoring Program            | Orange County Transportation Authority  |
| California Child Care Resource and Referral Network  | County of Orange Health Care Agency/Nutrition Services                                    | Orange County Water District  |
| California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office   | County of Orange Housing and Community Services/Homeless Prevention                       | PricewaterhouseCoopers/Thomson Venture Economics/NVCA Moneytree                     |
| California Department of Education   | County of Orange Housing and Community Services/Office on Aging                           | Scarborough Research  |
| California Department of Finance   | County of Orange Housing and Community Services/Orange County Housing Authority           | Social Science Research Center at California State University, Fullerton            |
| California Department of Health Services   | County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Department                                   | United States Bureau of Economic Analysis   |
| California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center   | County of Orange Office of the District Attorney  | United States Bureau of Labor Statistics  |
| California Department of Transportation  | County of Orange Resources & Development Management Department/Geomatics-LIS Division     | United States Census Bureau   |
| California Department of Transportation, District 12   | County of Orange Resources & Development Management Department/Harbors, Beaches and Parks | United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention                            |
| California Division of Tourism   | County of Orange Social Services Agency/Adult Protective Services                         | United States Conference of Mayors  |
| California Employment Development Department   | County of Orange Social Services Agency/Children and Family Services                      | United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration            |
| California Health Interview Survey, Center for Health Policy Research at University of California, Los Angeles | County of Orange Social Services Agency/Family Self-Sufficiency                           | United States Department of Health and Human Services                               |
| California Highway Patrol  | County of Orange Treasurer-Tax Collector D.K. Shifflet                                    | United States Department of Housing and Urban Development                           |
| California Integrated Waste Management Department  | Dataquick   | United States Environmental Protection Agency                                       |
| California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board  | Dean Runyan Associates  | United States Patent Office   |
| California Secretary of State  | Federal Bureau of Investigation   | United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration             |
| California State University, Fullerton   | Federal Transit Administration  | United Way of Orange County   |
| Capistrano-Laguna Beach Regional Occupational Program  | <i>Forbes</i> magazine  | University of California, Irvine  |
| Center for Demographic Research at California State University, Fullerton                                      | Foreclosures.com  | WestEd  |
| Center for Economic and Environmental Studies at California State University, Fullerton                        | Hanley Wood Market Intelligence   |   |
| Center for Public Policy at California State University, Fullerton   | Housingtracker.net  | <b>Special Thanks</b>   |
| Center for Social Services Research at University of California, Berkeley                                      | La Jolla Institute  | Ray Schmidler of Raymond Ari Design for design and layout of the report             |
| Central County Regional Occupational Program   | Milken Institute  |   |
| Chapman University   | Municipal Water District of Orange County   | <b>Orange County Community Indicators 2008 Project Team</b>                         |
| Children and Families Commission of Orange County  | National Association of Home Builders   | Michael Ruane (Project Director), Children and Families Commission of Orange County |
| Children's Home Society of Orange County   | National Center for Charitable Statistics   | Carolyn McInerney (Project Manager), County of Orange County Executive Office       |
| Coastline Regional Occupational Program  | National Center for Education Statistics  | Anna Brendle, Children and Families Commission of Orange County                     |
| College Board  | National Low Income Housing Coalition   | Lisa Burke, Burke Consulting  |
| Council for Community and Economic Research  | North Orange County Regional Occupational Program   | Tillie Martinez, Children and Families Commission of Orange County                  |
| County of Orange Assessor Department   | OC Partnership/Research Support Services  | Tracy McNiven, McNiven Consulting   |
| County of Orange County Executive Office   | Orange County Business Council  | Roger Morton, Tech Coast Consulting Group   |
| County of Orange Health Care Agency/Behavioral Health Services   | Orange County Department of Education/Division of School and Community Services           | Kari Parsons, Parsons Consulting  |
| County of Orange Health Care Agency/Environmental Health   |   | Wallace Walrod, Tech Coast Consulting Group   |

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