

Orange County

community
indicators

1999

WELCOME TO THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY INDICATORS REPORT

As Orange County enters the 21st century, it is critical to annually measure regional progress through a full range of social, economic, and environmental indicators.

This comprehensive and, we hope, enlightening report provides a snapshot of the economic, governmental, social and environmental underpinnings of Orange County. As the inaugural document, the Orange County Community Indicators Report does not set goals, make recommendations or offer advice; rather it provides factual data for use by government, business and community leaders as we enter the new millennium.

The selected indicators illustrate countywide interests and trends in a number of key areas. We expect that the number and type of indicators will evolve over the years as we become more practiced in finding those that most accurately reflect "the state of Orange County." The Orange County Community Indicators Report is based upon a successful model utilized in comparable statewide and national projects.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Overall, this report provides an excellent foundation for future annual community indicator projects aimed at assessing the progress Orange County has made in major policy areas. More importantly, establishing initial baseline indicators serves to strengthen and focus opportunities for regional collaboration on the many critical issues facing Orange County.

Unlike reports and policy recommendations developed from a one-time workshop or a policy summit, the Orange County Community Indicators Report is intended to provide an ongoing, and yet dynamic, measurement tool which can support a variety of local and regional initiatives. The principal challenge will be to ensure that future Community Indicators reports provide a meaningful and relevant monitoring of key targeted, individual outcomes without ignoring the fundamental interdependence of many of the leading indices of regional health and well being.

THE OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Three specific opportunities exist to build upon and strengthen this first Annual Community Indicators Report:

First, based upon the community outreach process and review by key stakeholders, topical areas for future annual reports can be adjusted to reflect areas of common concern and growing impact. Already, several potential indicators have been identified which were not included in the initial report or require additional data due to research gaps. These include:

- Substance-Exposed Infants
- Arts Education
- Senior Service Needs
- Electronic Commerce Indicators
- Tourism Indices
- Physical Fitness of Children

Some or all of these important measures may be included in future Community Indicators reports while some existing indicators may be refined or merged.

Equally important is the need to establish an ongoing collaborative platform for the Annual Community Indicators Project, which includes business, governmental, community and educational organizations. Similar efforts throughout California have developed specific yet flexible institutional structures which respond to both the policy and technical aspects of a Community Indicators Project.

Lastly, the full value of a Community Indicators Project is to support an ongoing assessment of the performance of a region against targeted outcomes. Community Indicators should be tracking a region's progress towards targeted goals which have been established through a collaborative local planning process.

In summary, we look forward to developing a collaborative partnership that will build upon the success of this baseline report.

We hope you find our premier report useful, and welcome any suggestions you - our partners in the community - may have to improve its value in the years to come.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REPORT

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Orange County's per capita income level is higher than the U.S., California, and neighboring counties' average per capita income levels. The growth rate of our per capita income trails that of the nation, state and other areas with similar socio-economic conditions.
- Orange County's unemployment rate is low compared with the nation and state, and is similar to comparable regions (Boston, Austin, Seattle, Santa Clara County).
- Orange County ranks below the nation and surrounding counties in housing affordability, but similar to comparable regions. Our rental affordability is below the state average and most other comparable regions. Demand for housing in Orange County is more than twice the national average. Most regions comparable to Orange County have more new housing being constructed relative to new jobs created.
- Orange County has one of the most diverse high-tech economies in the U.S. Jobs created by high-technology companies offer higher average wage levels than other segments of our economy. Telecommunications and computer software are the fastest growing sectors of the technology industry in Orange County.
- Orange County's gross product is growing more slowly than California and the U.S.

TECHNOLOGY

- Orange County patent grants were fairly static between 1992 and 1997, while other similar areas experienced increasing levels of patent grants during the same period. Orange County experienced a surge in patent grants in 1998.
- Orange County trails the state and national averages for the number of K-12 grade students per computer in Orange County schools.
- The percentage of adults who have access to the internet in Orange County is above the national average and all but two U.S. locations – Washington D.C. and San Francisco.
- Ninety percent of Orange County firms have an internet presence, with e-mail and advertising as the top internet uses.

EDUCATION

- Orange County students on average have a higher SAT score than the state and nation. The number of UC-CSU eligible graduates is increasing slowly over time.
- The number of English Learners (formerly Limited English Proficiency) in Orange County schools is increasing slowly. Compared to surrounding and peer counties, Orange County had the second largest enrollment of English Learners in the 97-98 school year.
- On average, Orange County scored above the state on the Stanford 9 fourth grade math and reading scores in 1998 and 1999.
- High School drop out rates in Orange County are lower than the state and neighboring county rates.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Eighty-five percent of women giving birth in Orange County receive prenatal care during the first trimester – earlier than the state average and most of our peers. Sub-populations with the lowest percentage of early prenatal care were Latina mothers and teenage mothers.
- Orange County's welfare caseload has decreased since 1994/95, with a reduction similar to the nationwide decrease and greater than the statewide decrease.
- Between 1989 and 1995, the percent of Orange County children in poverty has increased. However, in 1995 Orange County had a lower rate of children in poverty than most of California's counties.
- The death rates for the leading causes of death for children under five in Orange County, with the exception of auto accidents, have decreased significantly since 1993.
- Compared to other California counties, Orange County ranks as one of the lowest in death rates for death due to unintentional injury, motor vehicle accidents and suicide. Orange County's heart disease, tuberculosis, AIDS and breast cancer rates are higher than most California counties.
- Among children 2 years of age or younger, Orange County has higher immunization rates than the state average.

- The average yearly cost for child care in Orange County (infant up to 24 months) is almost 25% higher than the state average.
- The rate of Orange County's non-senior residents with health insurance coverage is higher than the state average, and lower than the national average.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The number of juvenile felony arrests and the number of property and violent crimes have declined in recent years, despite a concurrent increase in population. However, Orange County has experienced a rise in gang membership in almost all years since 1993.
- The number of children in out-of home foster or relative care has increased steadily since 1994/95, with out-of-home placement cases outpacing the rate of population growth. Orange County's out-of-home care rate compares favorably to most southern California counties.

ENVIRONMENT

- The number of days that portions of Orange County beaches have been closed to the public due to unhealthful conditions has increased steadily since 1996 (when beach closure measurements began to include closures at urban runoff-impacted areas).
- Fifty percent of the total amount of natural habitat in Orange County is currently protected through parks and open space preservation, with an additional 14 percent proposed for preservation.
- Overall, for the last nine years local waste going into Orange County landfills has decreased by 25%. However, during the last three years, per capita tonnage has increased.
- Orange County's air quality has steadily improved since 1989. Orange County has one of the lowest air pollution levels in the South Coast Air Basin.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- More than 60% of Orange County's registered voters have participated in all general elections since 1980.
- Orange County residents' perception of wellbeing has risen steadily since 1995.
- On average, 28% of our population donates \$500 or more to charitable organizations each year.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY INDICATORS

WHAT IS A GOOD INDICATOR?

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

- reflect the fundamental factors which determine long-term regional health
- can be easily understood and accepted by the community
- are statistically measurable on a frequent basis
- measure outcomes, rather than inputs.

WHY ARE COMMUNITY INDICATORS IMPORTANT?

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

SELECTION CRITERIA

The indicators selected for inclusion in the Orange County Community Indicators Report represent broad interests and trends in Orange County and are comparable to indicator efforts in similar communities throughout the nation.

The indicators that were selected also meet the following specific criteria:

- illustrate Countywide interests and impacts as defined by impacting a significant percentage of the population;
- include the categories of economic development, health and human services, public safety, technology, environment and cultural and civic engagement; and
- reflect data that is both reliable and available over the long-term.

LOCATION

Orange County is located in the heart of Southern California, with Los Angeles to the north and San Diego to the south. There are thirty-three cities within the 798-square mile county, which extends north to the cities of La Habra and Brea, east to the city of Rancho Santa Margarita, west to the cities of Los Alamitos and Seal Beach, and south to the city of San Clemente.

POPULATION

The population of Orange County has increased tenfold in the space of 40 years (1950 to 1990), as the area evolved from a bedroom community on the outskirts of Los Angeles to a dynamic player in the Pacific Rim economy. Growth is expected to continue, although at a more moderate pace, with the population projected to rise from 2.8 million to approximately 3.3 million people by 2020. Orange County is the third most populous county in the State of California and its population is greater than 20 states, placing it just behind Iowa in numbers of residents.

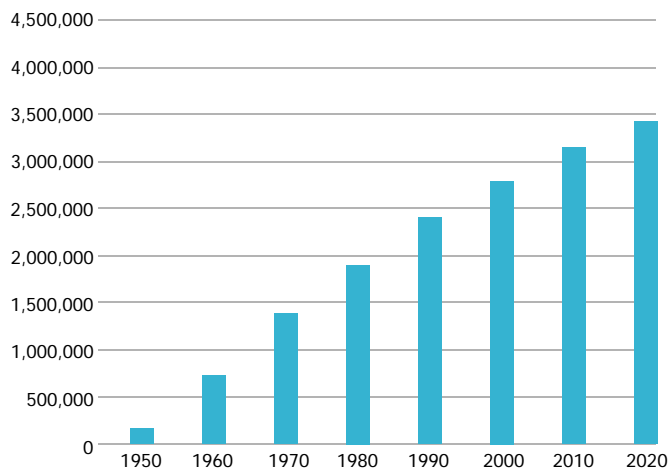
Orange County is also one of the most densely populated areas in the United States. It is 2.5 times denser than Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties and 5 times denser than San Diego county, which has roughly the same population.

Orange County is home to a wide variety of ethnic groups. Currently, approximately 61 percent of the county's population is white, 26 percent is Hispanic, 12 percent is Asian and Pacific Islander, and 2 percent is black.

Today, the bulk of the county's residents fall into the 24 to 54 year age range, but the proportion of elderly residents is expected to increase significantly as Baby Boomers begin retiring. Over the next twenty years, there will be an aging white population coupled with a growing young Hispanic population.



Population



Source: Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, April Decennial Census of Population and California State Department of Finance, December 1998

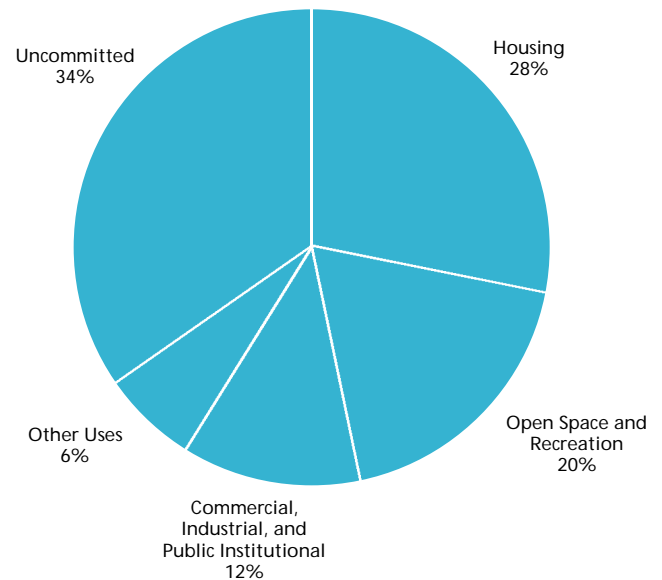
COUNTY PROFILE

LAND USE

Substantial portions of the County are devoted to residential housing of various types (28 percent). There are 955,000 housing units available to county residents, the majority of which are single family detached units. Affordable housing continues to be a pressing issue, with the average price of housing in the county reaching nearly one quarter of a million dollars. The percentage of first-time homebuyers continues to fall while their average age is rising, illustrating the increasing difficulty that first-time buyers are encountering.

Commercial, industrial, and public institutional uses account for less than 12 percent of the county's land area. More than a third of the county is classified as uncommitted, meaning it is either vacant or devoted to agricultural or mineral extraction activities.

Twenty percent of the land is dedicated to open space and recreation, including 42 miles of coastline. Nine beaches, three harbors and over 27,000 acres of regional parks (over 42 square miles) are maintained by the County for the enjoyment of county residents and the protection of natural resources.



Note:
Other Uses: Transportation, Communications, Utilities, Military, Water, Flood Plain
Uncommitted: Vacant or devoted to agricultural or mineral extraction activities

TRADE, TOURISM AND JOBS

Small businesses flourish in Orange County's entrepreneurial climate, with only 20 percent of citizens working in companies employing more than 500 people (compared with the state average of 25 percent). Small businesses have accounted for the bulk of job creation in the past few years. Orange County also has a very diverse economy, with no single sector accounting for more than one third of the economic output. However, the service sector has grown rapidly over the past 20 years, while manufacturing has declined. Tourism is one of the pillars of the economy, with visitor annual expenditures rising to a high of \$5.7 billion, even though the number of visitors (37.76 million) has remained relatively stable.

Total Visitor Expenditures and Total Number of Visitors Annually to Orange County

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Number of visitors (millions)	37.04	38.71	38.37	37.47	37.76
Travel Expenditures (\$ billion)	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7

Source: Anaheim/Orange County Visitor & Convention Bureau; Division of Tourism, California Trade and Commerce Agency



Economic and Business Climate

Per Capita Income

Unemployment Rate

Housing Affordability

Rental Affordability Index

Housing Demand

Distribution of Jobs by Industry Cluster
and Related Salaries

Consumer Confidence Index

Business Sentiment

Gross County Product

Hi-tech Cluster Diversity

Average Commute Times and
Primary Modes of Transportation

PER CAPITA INCOME

Description of Indicator

Real Per Capita Income growth is the measure of income growth per person in dollar amounts. Total personal income includes wages and salaries, proprietor income, property income and transfer payments, such as pensions and unemployment insurance. This measure enables multi-year comparisons of wealth per person in Orange County to determine if the material well being of residents is increasing.

Why is it Important?

Per capita income is the standard measurement for the overall wealth and standard of living for an area's residents. It is a proxy measurement for the ability of our residents to make necessary and discretionary expenditures on goods and services that improve their quality of life. The overall increase in wealth of Orange County residents is important because higher disposable incomes result in additional purchases of goods and services which provide jobs, tax receipts, and a sense of material satisfaction as residents have what they need to survive and prosper.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's per capita income level is higher than the U.S. average, the California average, and higher than neighboring counties' per capita income. However, Orange County's growth rate for per capita income from 1993 to 1997 trails both the state and national growth rates, as well as similar regions such as Boston, Austin, Research Triangle, Minneapolis, and Santa Clara County.

Per Capita Income Growth vs. State and Nation

Per Capita Income	1993	1997	1993-1997 % Growth
Orange County	\$25,973	\$30,115	3.8
Los Angeles County	22,098	25,719	3.9
San Diego County	21,505	24,965	3.8
San Bernardino County	16,871	18,673	2.6
Riverside County	18,574	20,645	2.7
Santa Clara County	28,413	37,856	7.4
San Francisco County	33,332	40,357	4.9
California	22,430	26,314	4.1
U.S.	21,220	25,288	4.5
Boston	25,760	31,808	5.4
Austin	20,126	25,420	6
Research Triangle	22,736	27,711	5.1
Seattle	26,493	33,373	5.9
Minneapolis	24,828	30,123	5

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Description of Indicator

Unemployment Rate is the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labor force, a measure of people seeking work in comparison to the size of the total workforce. Civilian Unemployment includes those individuals 16 years of age and older who are not working but are able, available and looking for work. Individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days are also considered to be unemployed.

Why is it Important?

As the growth in the Orange County economy has produced some of the lowest unemployment in the nation, Orange County faces a shortage of both skilled and unskilled workers. While unemployment in Orange County stood at 2.3% in December 1999, about half of county firms have predicted increases over the coming years while only 5% plan reductions. The leading reason cited for projected hiring difficulties in every high technology cluster category will be the scarcity of needed candidates with the correct technical skill sets. The lack of qualified candidates could result in rising labor costs, hindered production, or outsourcing of production to other states or even off-shore, all of which would adversely impact the Orange County economy.

While low unemployment may eventually fuel higher wage levels for workers, labor costs will not rise for employers if higher wages are accompanied by concurrent increases in productivity. Orange County workers have exhibited just such gains in productivity in the recent past.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County has a lower unemployment rate than the U.S., California, and surrounding counties. Orange County has a similar rate when compared to regions such as Boston, Austin, Seattle, and Santa Clara County.

Unemployment Rate

	1995	1996	1997	1998	Sept 1999
Orange County	5.1	4.1	3.3	2.9	2.7
Los Angeles	7.9	8.2	6.8	6.5	5.9
San Bernardino	7.9	7.2	6.3	5.6	4.8
Riverside	9.5	8.2	7.5	6.7	6
San Diego	6.4	5.3	4.2	3.5	3.1
Santa Clara County	4.9	3.6	3	3.2	2.8
San Francisco	6.1	4.7	4.1	2.9	2.9
California	7.8	7.2	6.3	5.9	4.8
U.S.	5.6	5.4	4.9	4.5	4.1
Boston	4.7	3.7	3.4	2.8	2.7
Austin	2.9	3	3.1	2.6	2.2
Seattle	5.3	5	3.3	3.1	3.6

Source: California Economic Development Department; Bureau of Labor Statistics

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Description of Indicator

The Housing Affordability Index measures the percentage of Orange County households that can afford the median priced home in the County. The Housing Opportunity Index is a measure of the percentage of homes sold that a family earning the median income can afford to buy. In July 1999, the median priced home price in Orange County was \$287,840 according to the California Association of Realtors.

Why is it Important?

A lack of affordable housing can be a major barrier to a strong, reliable economy.

A shortage of affordable housing (particularly for first-time buyers) may discourage young families from moving to Orange County or staying here after graduating from local colleges and universities. The high cost of housing for employees ranks as the second highest barrier to doing business in Orange County for Orange County Executives (1999 Orange County Executive Survey), and was the most often cited barrier with a "severe impact". Lack of affordable housing in a region encourages longer commutes from outside the region, which increases traffic congestion. High housing prices in combination with a growing economy will therefore cause many Orange County workers to consider living in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, increasing traffic congestion and pollution in the County.

In places of extremely high housing prices, such as in Silicon Valley, low housing affordability rates can severely affect a region's economic growth and quality of life. High relative housing prices may potentially influence location decisions of corporations and their workers, causing some to consider whether to relocate to a region. High land costs/housing markets may therefore be a drag on a local economy, especially if affordable alternatives are not readily available.

How is Orange County Doing?

In 1998, 40% of households in Orange County could afford the median priced existing home, compared to 54% for the entire U.S. (E&Y Kenneth Leventhal Real Estate Group). Orange County's Housing Opportunity Index score of 53.9 ranks it 164th among 181 U.S. metro areas, also below the national average of 69.6 but similar to other comparable places.

Housing Affordability Index

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Orange County	42%	40%	40%	39%	38%	37%
Los Angeles County	37%	36%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Inland Empire	52%	51%	55%	57%	57%	57%
San Diego	40%	38%	38%	38%	37%	36%

Source: Ernst & Young Kenneth Leventhal Real Estate Group

Housing Opportunity Index

	1999	Rank Among 181 U.S. Metro Areas
Orange County	53.9	164
Santa Clara County	41	176
San Francisco	21.3	181
San Diego	45.3	172
Los Angeles	51.3	166
Boston	66.7	133
Minneapolis	82.8	32
Seattle	57.8	155
Austin	66.9	132
U.S.	69.6	

Source: National Association of Home Builders

RENTAL AFFORDABILITY INDEX

Description of Indicator

Rental Affordability Index is the number of renter households unable to afford fair market rent on average priced rental units in Orange County.

Why is it Important?

Lack of affordable rental housing can cause high occupancy levels, leading to crowding and household stress. The shortage of affordable housing for renters is a major issue for Orange County as residents in urban communities such as Santa Ana, Anaheim, Garden Grove, and other larger cities throughout the county are unable to afford decent housing, thus instigating a cycle of poverty with potentially debilitating effects throughout the whole county.

How is Orange County Doing?

Thirty four percent of Orange County renters are unable to afford fair market rent on a one-bedroom apartment, while 41% cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment. Such households would have to work 105 hours a week at minimum wage to afford the average rent on a one-bedroom apartment, as compared with a statewide average of 92 work hours per week. Orange County’s rental affordability situation is worse than the state average and most similar regions.

Rental Affordability Index

Estimated number of renters unable to afford Fair Market Rent, 1999

	1 bedroom	2 bedroom
Orange County	34%	41%
Santa Clara County	37%	44%
San Francisco	39%	47%
San Diego	38%	45%
Los Angeles	37%	45%
Boston	39%	48%
Minneapolis	34%	43%
Seattle	35%	43%
Austin	38%	49%
California	37%	45%

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition; Orange County Home Ownership Alliance

HOUSING DEMAND

Description of Indicator

The Housing Demand Indicator measures how much new housing is being constructed (housing starts, permits) relative to new jobs being provided by the economy in Orange County.

Why is it Important?

A balance must exist between the number of jobs in an economy and the number of housing units. Provisions for housing workers should not fall behind Orange County's ability to create jobs. When an economy is growing, new housing must be created to handle the additional workers employed. The inability to meet housing demand has the potential to make housing unaffordable to workers by:

- driving up housing prices and apartment rents, already at record levels
- making it more difficult for employers to attract and retain workers
- forcing more employees to make longer commutes

How is Orange County Doing?

Demand for housing in Orange County was more than twice the national average, with more than four new jobs created for every housing permit issued. Ranked 5th among metro areas in the U.S., Orange County trails only Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Bergen/Passaic, New Jersey. Most similar regions have much lower Housing Demand Indexes.

New Housing Starts vs. Job Gains

	98-99 Job Growth	98-99 Housing Permits	Demand Index	Rank among 110 largest Metro Areas
Orange County	48,100	10,901	4.41	5
Santa Clara County	3,000	6,986	0.43	101
San Francisco	28,800	5,371	5.36	3
San Diego	33,200	13,176	2.52	24
Los Angeles	77,300	12,224	6.32	1
Boston	30,200	7,725	3.91	9
Minneapolis	56,800	21,716	2.62	21
Seattle	27,100	21,737	1.25	80
Austin	25,500	17,636	1.45	67
Atlanta	66,400	58,809	1.13	85
Phoenix	55,500	49,765	1.12	86
Research Triangle	37,200	19,815	1.88	46
Inland Empire	40,000	18,744	2.13	32
California	398,800	129,360	3.08	3rd among 50 states
U.S.	2,801,400	1,648,141	1.7	

Source: The Meyers Group

DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS BY INDUSTRY CLUSTER AND RELATED SALARIES

Description of Indicator

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

Why is it Important?

High-tech clusters are an essential engine in an information-age economy. Clustering helps to demonstrate how competitive Orange County is – or could be – from an international, regional, and metropolitan perspective. High-tech clusters:

- Attract superb scientific and business talent
- Enhance university and research opportunities for state-of-the-art technological research and joint ventures by innovative companies
- Encourage a dynamic, entrepreneurial environment for risk taking and technological innovation
- Create a strong and reliable tax base.

Salary levels in different industries measure the ability of particular segments of our economy to provide a wage high enough for workers to afford the cost of living in Orange County. It is important to know which segments drive economic growth and per capita income growth.

How is Orange County Doing?

Key technology clusters – including telecommunications and computer software – have projected significant growth. Important clusters include computer software, telecommunications, biomedical, electronics and computers, aerospace/defense and advanced materials. Telecommunications and computer software clusters are growing the fastest. High-tech clusters offer higher average wage levels than other segments of our economy.

Distribution of Jobs by Industry Cluster

	1991	1997	% change 1991 to 1997
Advanced Materials	17,466	18,390	5%
Biomedical	17,723	19,813	12%
Computer Hardware	26,592	29,227	10.00%
Computer Software	11,725	22,331	90%
Defense/Aerospace	37,289	14,826	-60%
Electronics	42,740	44,091	3%
Engineering & Environmental	14,221	10,894	-23%
Factory Automation	14,816	15,727	6%
Precision Instruments	8,346	9,186	10%
Telecommunications	12,445	17,579	41%

Source: California Economic Development Department; Orange County Business Council

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX

Description of Indicator

The Consumer Confidence Index is a five question survey that measures the confidence that Orange County consumers have in their present and future personal economic situations. These questions are also used in the national consumer confidence survey conducted by the University of Michigan.

Why is it Important?

Consumer Confidence is important because it is a measure of how willing consumers in Orange County are to make major purchases such as a new home or new automobile, invest in new business endeavors, or take a risk with their career such as starting a new business or pursuing additional education. Consumer confidence index is a leading indicator of the future spending habits of consumers. In addition, it is a measure of how well consumers in Orange County feel about their wellbeing and lifestyle, as well as Orange County's collective economic future. Optimism and consumer confidence will positively affect retail sales and housing markets.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's five-question Orange County Consumer Confidence Index, at 111, represents the highest score for Orange County since the Orange County Annual Survey began asking these questions in 1986. Nationwide, the Consumer Confidence Index stands at 105, according to the University of Michigan. The Consumer Confidence Index is calculated from a formula provided by the University of Michigan, which computes scores for each question (better-worse+100), then adjusted by the 1966 base period. The national index score was 100 in 1966. A score of 100 or more is considered very good, since 85 is the average score for the 50-year history of the national survey.

Consumer Confidence Index

Year	US	OC
1986	92	109
1987	94	104
1988	95	106
1989	96	105
1990	76	85
1991	82	84
1992	77	75
1993	75	73
1994	92	89
1995	94	90
1996	95	101
1997	107	110
1998	100	105
1999	105	111

Source: Orange County Annual Survey, UC Irvine

BUSINESS SENTIMENT

Description of Indicator

Business Sentiment is a measure of how business executives in Orange County feel about doing business in Orange County, providing an overall picture of the business climate of the region.

Why is it Important?

Business Sentiment is an important measure of the confidence existing businesses have in the Orange County economic situation, in terms of attractiveness, support, opportunities and barriers. Since businesses provide jobs, sales tax dollars, and accessibility to consumer goods and/or amenities, a positive business sentiment is important for maintaining Orange County's economic health and high quality of life.

How is Orange County Doing?

After judging Orange County to not be a very attractive place to do business in the early to mid 1990's, for the last 3 years Orange County executives have rated the county as a more attractive place to do business. However, the following challenges remain:

- High cost of labor
- High cost of housing
- Litigation liability
- Difficulty in hiring skilled employees
- State and local taxes

Percentage of Orange County Executive's Rating Orange County as a More Attractive Environment for Business

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
More attractive	22%	21%	6%	10%	17%	21%	30%	41%	40%	40%

Source: Orange County Executive Survey, UC Irvine

GROSS COUNTY PRODUCT

Description of Indicator

Gross Product measures the total output of goods and services in a county, state, or national economy.

Why is it Important?

Gross product is a good measure for indicating how productive an overall economy is.

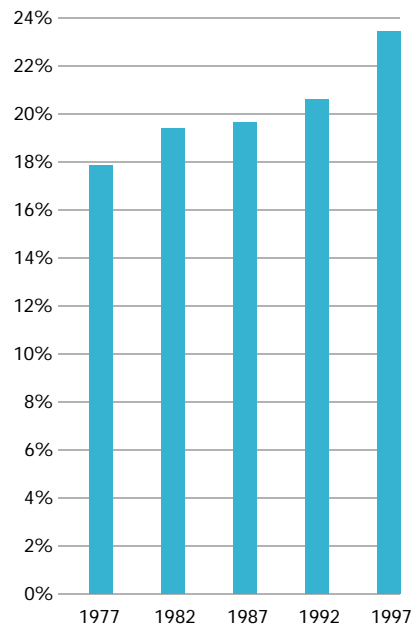
How is Orange County Doing?

If Orange County were a country, it would rank approximately 32nd in the world – ahead of such nations as Chile, Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, and New Zealand, and Singapore. However, Orange County's gross product is growing more slowly compared to California's and the U.S. over recent periods.

Gross County Product (in billions)

	OC	CA	U.S.
1977	37.2	228.5	2104.7
1982	47.7	391.1	3299.1
1987	70.6	619.5	4835.9
1992	89.8	825.2	6383.1
1997	102.7	1019.0	8254.5
1998		1089.8	8681.0
1999 (est)		1163.3	9158.0

Source: California Department of Trade & Commerce;
U.S. Department of Commerce; Cal State Fullerton

*Orange County Manufacturing Gross Product
as a % of Overall Orange County Gross Product*

Source: California Department of Trade and Commerce;
Cal State Fullerton

HIGH-TECH CLUSTER DIVERSITY

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures how diversified our high-tech economy is relative to other regions in the country.

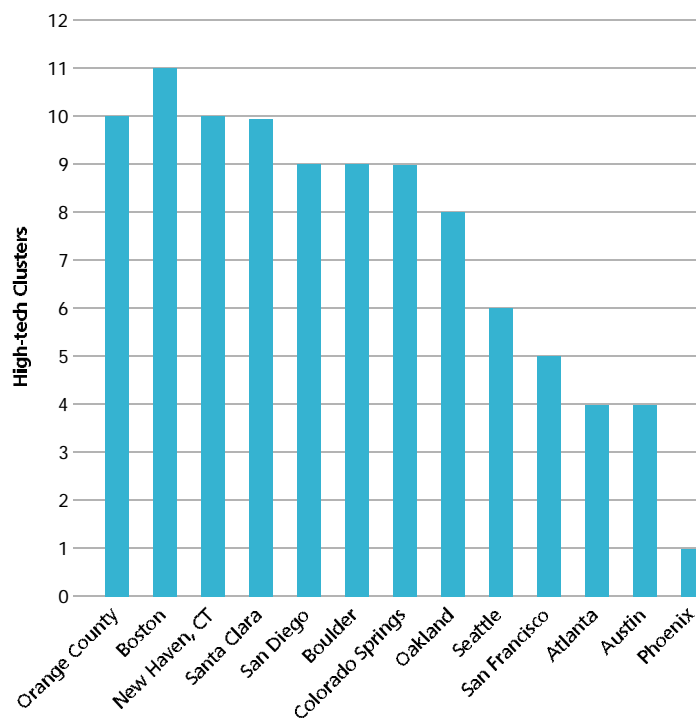
Why is it Important?

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

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

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County has one of the most diverse high-tech economies in the U.S., trailing only Boston in high-tech cluster concentration diversity.

High-tech Cluster Diversification

Source: IPO Monitor

AVERAGE COMMUTE TIMES AND PRIMARY MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the average two-way commute time for Orange County residents, compared to other counties in the southern California region from 1992 to 1998. It also shows the primary mode of travel for Orange County residents from 1994 to 1998.

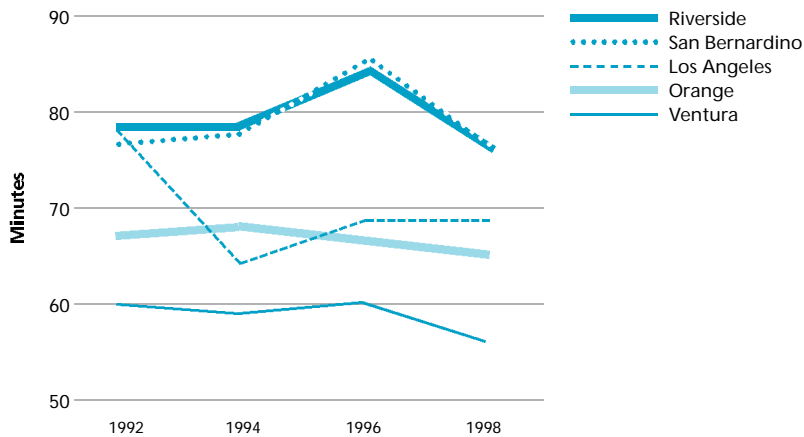
Why is it Important?

Traffic congestion and long commutes have a negative impact on personal perceptions of quality of life and on regional air quality. As employment and population continue to increase, hours of traffic delays and daily vehicle miles traveled per person are projected to increase as well.

How is Orange County Doing?

The average daily two-way commute time in Orange County has remained relatively constant between 1992 and 1998 at an average of 67 minutes each day. Orange County compares favorably to San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, where residents commute an average of 79 minutes a day. In Los Angeles County, the average commute is 70 minutes.

In general, Orange County residents are consistently more likely to drive alone than residents from other Southern California counties. Since 1994 over 80% of Orange County drivers travel alone as their primary mode of transportation. The rate of Orange County residents carpooling (12%) hit a five-year low in 1998, while the percentage of residents using public transit or walking to destinations has increased slightly during the same period.

Average Commuting Time to and From Work by Home County

Source: Southern California Association of Governments, State of the Commute Report, 1998



Technology

Technology Related Degrees

Technological Innovations

Computers in School

Internet Usage

Business Presence on the Internet

TECHNOLOGY-RELATED DEGREES

Description of Indicator

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

Why is it Important?

Effective workforce development and training is vital to Orange County's continued economic wellbeing, particularly with today's tight labor market and increasing demand for graduates with appropriate technological skills to serve the needs of high-tech businesses.

How is Orange County Doing?

There has been a steady rise in the number of biological science bachelor's degrees conferred on Orange County students in the last decade. The number of physical science and other science bachelor's degrees has remained flat, while the number of engineering and computer science undergraduate degrees has declined. More graduate degrees (Masters and Ph.D.'s), biological sciences, engineering, and physical sciences have been awarded, but fewer computer science degrees.

*Number of Graduates from Local Universities with Tech-Related Degrees**Orange County Bachelor Degrees*

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Biological Sciences	696	823	789	808	688
Biology	78	85	106	140	125
Engineering	352	284	272	270	241
Information & Computer Science	133	99	133	131	156
Computer Science	73	80	68	63	66
Physical Sciences	119	149	123	169	172
Other Sciences	71	83	74	71	95

Orange County Graduate Degrees

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Biological Sciences	53	61	56	71	63
Biology	5	5	19	11	16
Engineering	227	198	200	170	177
Information & Computer Science	44	43	28	31	31
Computer Science	46	33	26	34	24
Physical Sciences	71	67	58	77	69
Other Sciences	19	25	29	43	36

Source: Cal State Fullerton; UC Irvine; Chapman University

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures patent grants awarded and access to start-up capital.

Why is it Important?

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

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

How is Orange County Doing?

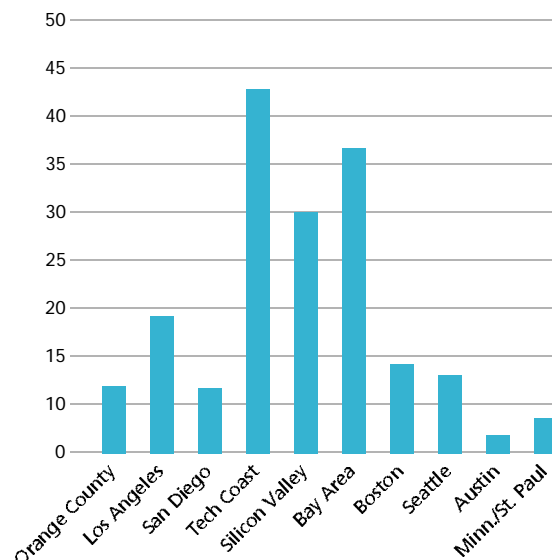
Orange County patent grants were fairly static between 1992 and 1997, while other similar areas have seen increasing levels of patent grants during the same period. Orange County did see a surge in patent grants in 1998, but still trailed the growth rates of Santa Clara County and Austin, Texas.

Given the number of fast-growing firms in Orange County, the amount of venture capital opportunities available to Orange County companies may need to expand to support further research and patent technology development.

Patent Grants by Location, 1990 - 1997

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	% Growth, 1997-1998
Orange County	1,112	1,055	1,084	1,134	1484	30.9
Los Angeles	1,875	1,710	1,777	1,805	2335	29.4
San Diego	936	908	1,114	1,235	1673	35.5
Silicon Valley	2,100	2,415	3,036	3,255	4931	51.5
San Francisco	682	801	921	1,143	1705	49.2
Boston	2,477	2,318	2,588	2,747	3687	34.2
Seattle	605	669	802	963	1275	32.4
Austin	598	683	831	888	1440	62.2

Source: U.S. Patent Office

Number of IPO's and Venture Capital Investments

Source: IPO Monitor, PriceWaterhouse Coopers LLC

TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTERS IN SCHOOL

Description of Indicator

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

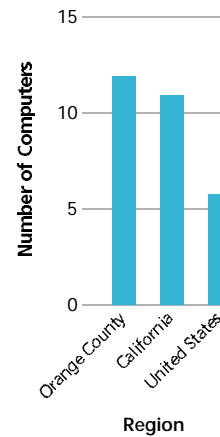
Why is it Important?

Computer skills are some of the most important technical skills that a student can possess in the new economy. The Internet is a major research tool for students.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County trails the state and national averages and has a higher number of students per computer.

Number of K-12 Students per Computer, 1998



INTERNET USAGE

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of adults who have access to the Internet. Internet usage over a one-year period, both at home and at work, was studied.

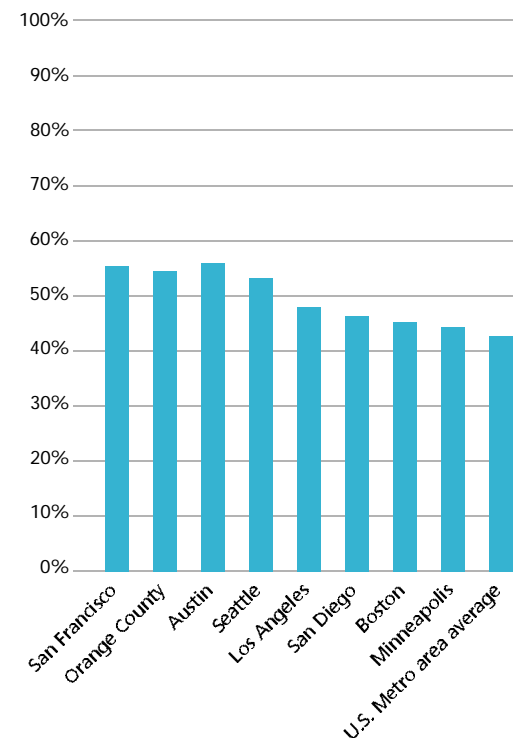
Why is it Important?

The Internet is rapidly becoming a mainstream medium with far-reaching impacts on every aspect of our lives. Reaching the 50 percent usage threshold means greater acceptance of this new communications and business tool. The Internet has a positive impact on technological innovation and encourages the interaction of a variety of demographic, cultural, retail, social, business and media groups.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County has the 3rd highest adult Internet penetration rate in the U.S., trailing only Washington D.C. (59.9%) and San Francisco (56.1%) among the 65 major metropolitan areas. The overall national average for U.S. metro areas is 43.7%.

Internet Usage - 1999



Source: Scarborough Research

BUSINESS PRESENCE ON THE INTERNET

Description of Indicator

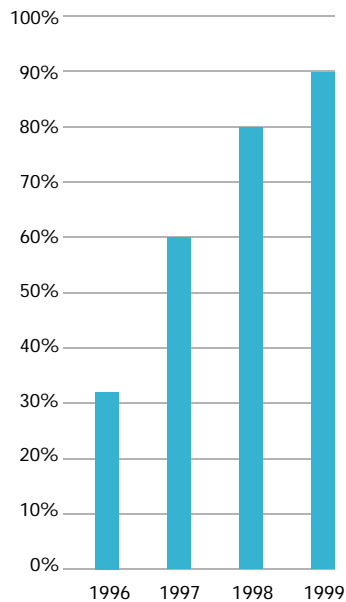
This indicator measures Orange County firms' presence on the Internet.

Why is it Important?

The explosive growth of the Internet is affecting not only high-tech firms, but changing the way firms conduct business and commerce in general. Orange County firms, being located at the center of the region where the Internet was born, have found the Internet to be a major business tool.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County firms' presence on the Internet has grown tremendously in just the last 4 years. Ninety percent of Orange County firms now have an Internet presence. Their most common uses are email (93%) and as a means of advertising (80%).

Orange County Business Presence on the Internet

Source: Orange County Executive Survey, UC Irvine



Education

College Readiness

English Learners

Stanford 9 Fourth Grade Math and Reading Scores

High School Drop-out Rate

COLLEGE READINESS

Description of Indicator

College readiness measures number of high school graduates eligible for admission to University of California and California State University (UC-CSU) campuses. It also measures Orange County high school graduates' performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

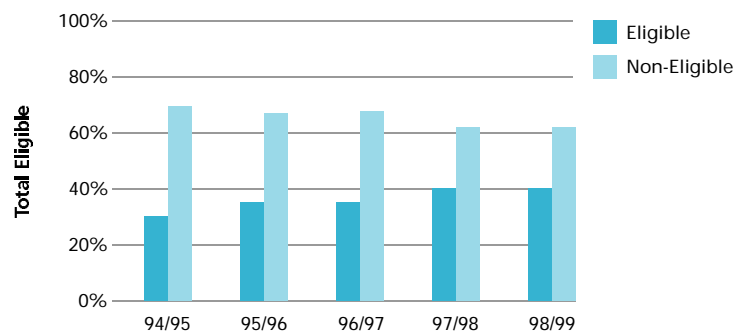
Why is it Important?

The local labor pool needs to be well educated and highly skilled in order to meet the needs of the Orange County economy. A college education or related skilled certification is increasingly important for today's jobs. To gain entry to most four-year universities, high school students must complete the necessary course work and perform well on standardized tests.

How is Orange County Doing?

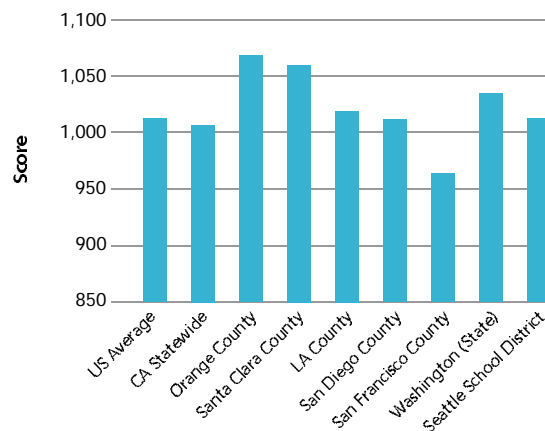
The number of UC-CSU eligible graduates in Orange County is increasing slowly over time. Yet in 1997/98, Santa Clara County (Silicon Valley), Los Angeles and Santa Barbara County all had a higher rate of eligible graduates. Compared to similar counties across the nation, Orange County students on average have a higher SAT score (1073 out of a possible 1600), scoring more than 50 points above the state and national average.

UC/CSU Eligible Graduates



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit – CEBEDS (www.ed-data.k12.ca.us)

1995-96 High School SAT Scores: Metro/State Comparisons



Source: California Dept. of Education; Seattle Public Schools

ENGLISH LEARNERS

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of enrolled students who are English Learners (formerly Limited English Proficiency) in Orange County over the past five years. Comparison of 1998-1999 enrollment of English Learners with other California counties and the state.

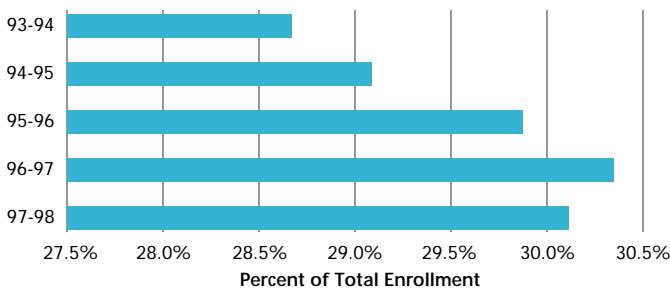
Why is it Important?

Students who have limited English speaking skills face academic and financial challenges, such as difficulties in finding jobs. An educated workforce with strong communications skills is important for a strong economy.

How is Orange County Doing?

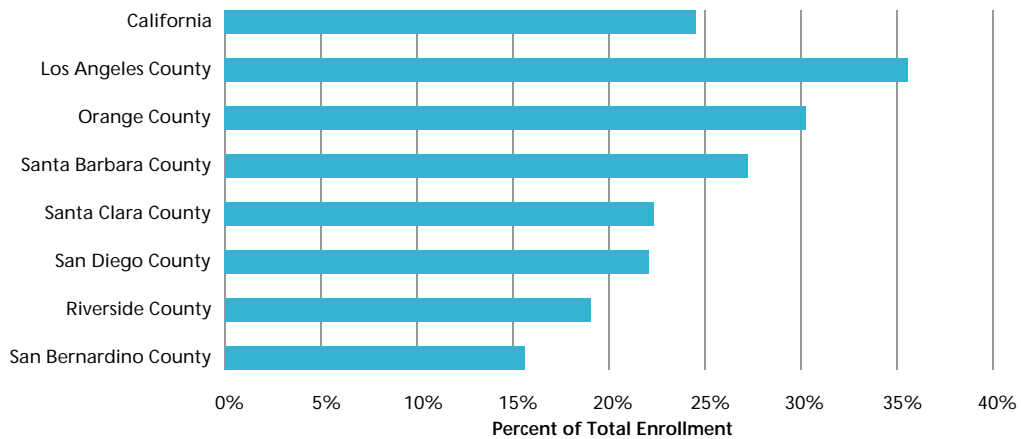
The amount of English Learners has been increasing slowly over the past five years. Compared to surrounding and peer counties, Orange County had the second largest enrollment of English Learners in the 1997-1998 school year (30%). Los Angeles County had the largest percentage (36%). Los Angeles, Orange, and Santa Barbara Counties exceed the state average enrollment of English Learners (25%). From 92/93 to 97/98 the Orange County English Learner enrollment has increased by 1.4%.

English Learners as a Percent of Total Enrollment in Orange County



Source: California Dept. of Education

English Learners as a Percent of Total Enrollment



Source: California Department of Education, Countywide Profile, September 1999 (www.ed-data.k12.ca.us)

STANFORD 9 FOURTH GRADE MATH & READING SCORES

Description of Indicator

Public school students in grades 2-11 take the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition, Form T (Stanford 9) each year. This indicator measures the mean (or average) scaled math and reading scores and the percentage of students in each Orange County school district who score at or above the 50th national percentile ranking.

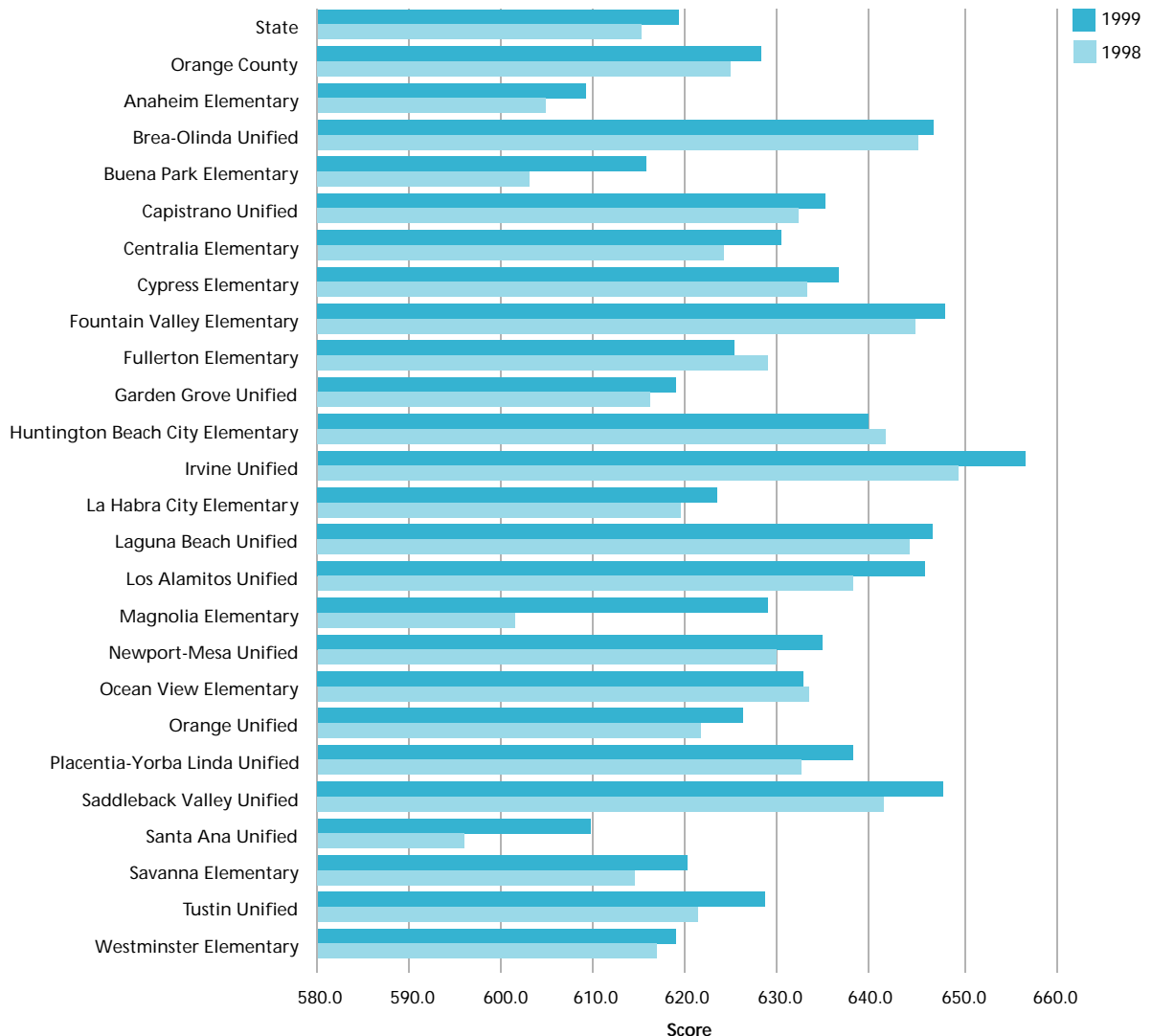
Why is it Important?

Annual achievement testing helps determine the academic progress of individual students and enables school administrators to compare how well schools and districts are doing. Continuing low scores, or a decrease in scores over time, can indicate problems which can then be identified and addressed.

How is Orange County Doing?

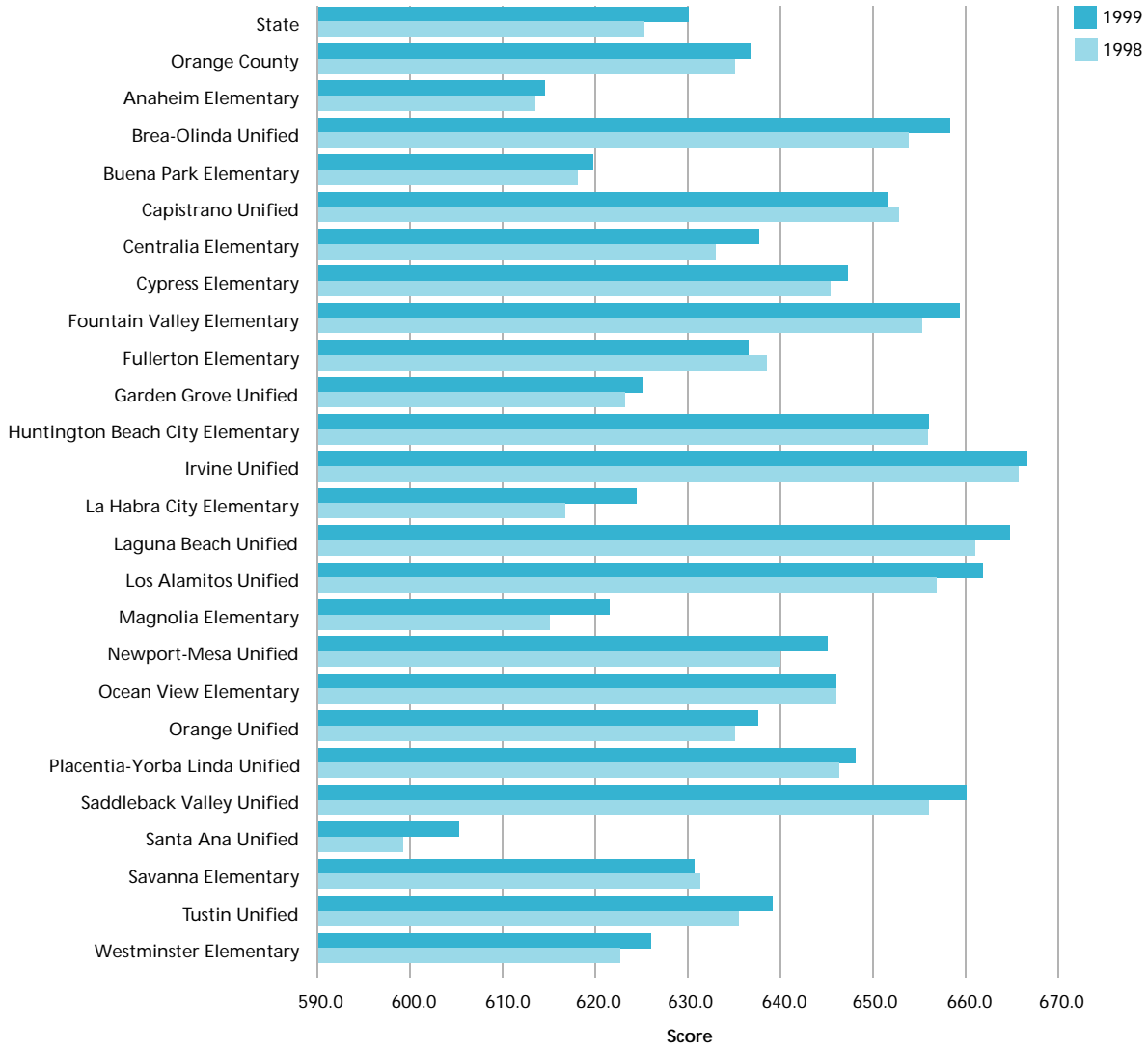
Most Orange County school districts have improved math and reading scores from 1998 to 1999. The average increase in math was 4.5 points and the average increase in reading was 2.7 points. In math, 16 districts scored above the 50th percentile and 19 districts were ranked at or above the State percentile ranking of 44% in 1999. In reading, 14 districts scored at or above the 50th percentile and 17 districts scored above the State percentile ranking of 41% in 1999.

4th Grade Mean Scaled Scores in Math



STANFORD 9 FOURTH GRADE MATH & READING SCORES (CONTINUED)

4th Grade Mean Scaled Scores in Reading



Source: California Department of Education, September 1999. <http://star.cde.ca.gov>

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of Orange County public school 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students who drop out compared to similar counties and compared by ethnic group.

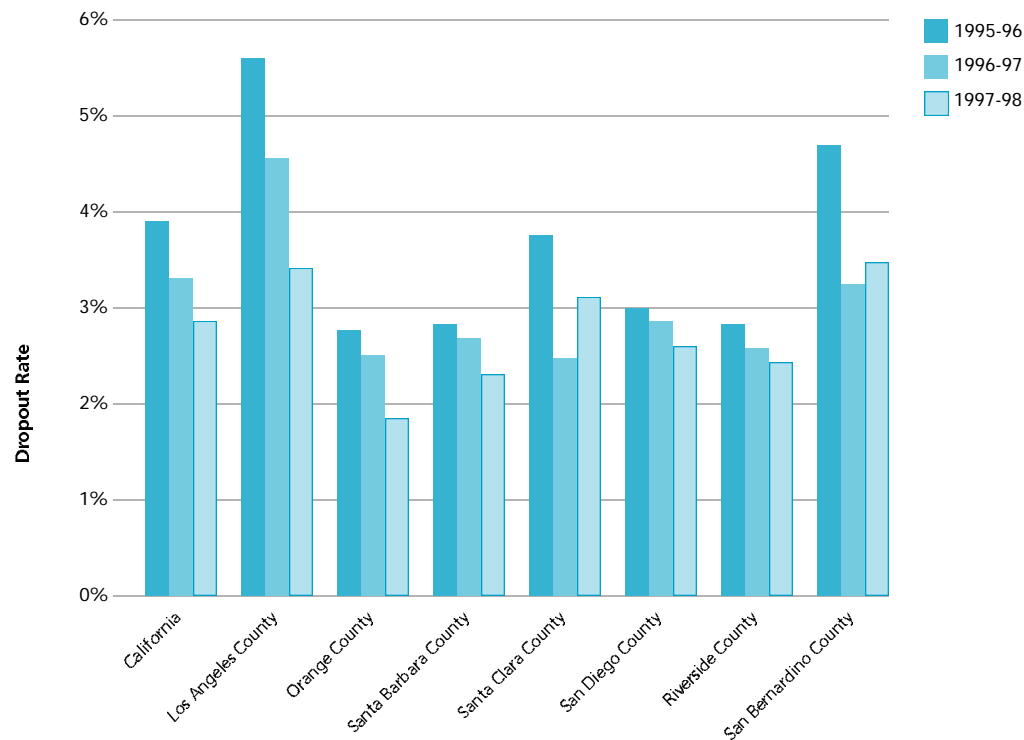
Why is it Important?

Educational attainment is strongly correlated to economic success and leads to an informed and engaged populace. A high school diploma opens many career and educational opportunities that are closed to drop outs. Additionally, jobs that require at least a high school diploma on average pay more than jobs that do not.

How is Orange County Doing?

Dropout rates have been decreasing across California since the 1995-96 school year. Among similar counties, Orange County consistently has the lowest dropout rates. Dropout rates among Pacific Islanders has jumped over the last five years to 6% of all Pacific Islander students in Orange County. Dropout rates among Hispanics have decreased steadily from a high of 6.4% in 1993-94 to a low of 3.0% in 1997-1998. Dropout rates among Asians, Filipinos, and Whites have hovered between 0.7% and 1.7% over the last five years.

Annual Dropout Rates for Grades 9 Through 12 in California Public School Districts
1995-96 Through 1997-98



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit



Health and Human Services

Prenatal Care

Welfare Caseload

Child Poverty

Leading Causes of Death for Children Under 5

Health Status

Child Immunization Rates

Child Care Affordability

Health Insurance Coverage

PRENATAL CARE

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of live births in Orange County to women who began prenatal care during the first trimester. It also measures the percentage of live births to mothers who did not receive prenatal care until the third trimester or who received no prenatal care, compared to peer counties and the California state average.

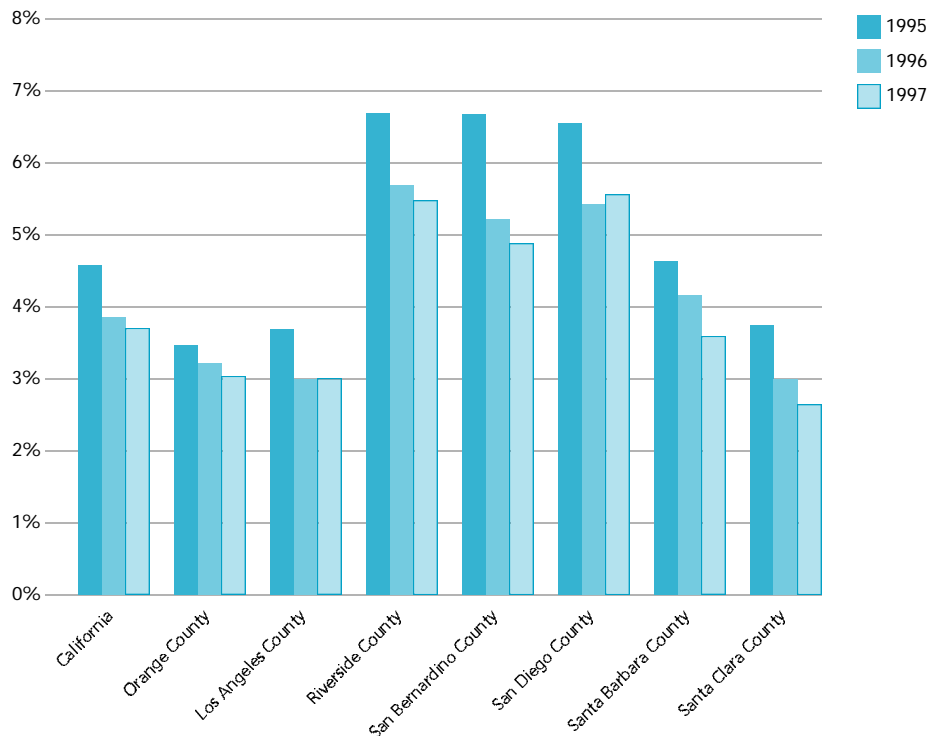
Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

The percentage of women receiving early prenatal care has increased steadily over the past six years. Preliminary data for 1998 indicates that 85 percent of women giving birth in Orange County received prenatal care during the first trimester. Compared to the State average and most of our peer counties, Orange County women receive prenatal care earlier. In 1997, only 3 percent of Orange County women received late (third trimester) or no prenatal care, compared to 5.6 percent in San Diego County and 3.7 percent in the State overall. The sub-populations with the lowest percentage of early prenatal care were Latina mothers with 79.5% (1998) and teenage mothers with 69.7% (1997).

Percentage of Mothers Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care



Sources: California Department of Health Services, Office of Health Information and Research and Vital Statistics Section, 1999; (Late or No Prenatal Care Data) Advance Report, California Vital Records, 1997; County of Orange Health Care Agency, Research Center. November 1999

WELFARE CASELOAD

Description of Indicator

This indicator represents two welfare-related trends: 1) the trend in the total number of families (cases) participating in CalWORKs (CalWORKs provides cash assistance to families and replaces the former federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children, AFDC) and 2) the percentage of cases that have mandatory Welfare-To-Work participants with earnings.

Why is it Important?

Welfare caseload is an important indicator of how overall economic conditions are affecting various income populations in the County and how successfully the County is transitioning persons needing assistance to self-sufficiency.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's CalWORKs caseload is down approximately 43% since fiscal year 1994/95, higher than the statewide reduction of 32% between 1994/95 and 1998/99 and comparable to the nationwide decrease of 46%. The number of CalWORKs families with earnings has risen from 33% to 68% over the same period. Over 35% of the families earn sufficient income to reduce the amount of their grant each month.

CHILD POVERTY

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures percentage of Orange County persons under 18 years of age in poverty. Poverty is defined as persons whose incomes are at or below certain levels, based on family size. For example, the national average poverty threshold for a family of four is \$12,674.

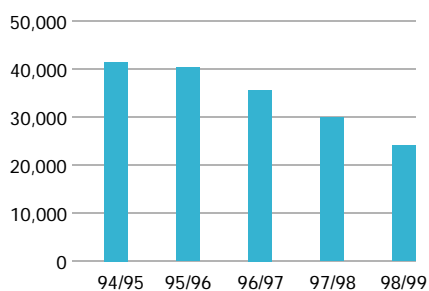
Why is it Important?

Poverty can lead to otherwise preventable health problems, poor performance in school, poor nutrition, and, in critical cases, homelessness.

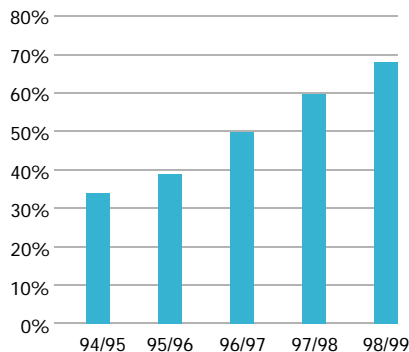
How is Orange County Doing?

Between 1989 and 1995, the percentage of Orange County children in poverty has increased. In 1995, Orange County had a lower rate of children in poverty than most (42) of California's 58 counties.

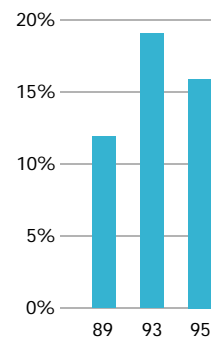
CalWORKs Cases Receiving Assistance - Average Monthly Caseload



Percentage of CalWORKs Cases with Earnings - Fiscal Year Average



Percentage of Orange County Children in Poverty, 1989-1995



LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the increase and/or decrease in number of deaths from the five leading causes of death for children under five years of age in Orange County from 1993 to 1997 (shown in terms of number of deaths per 100,000 children under five).

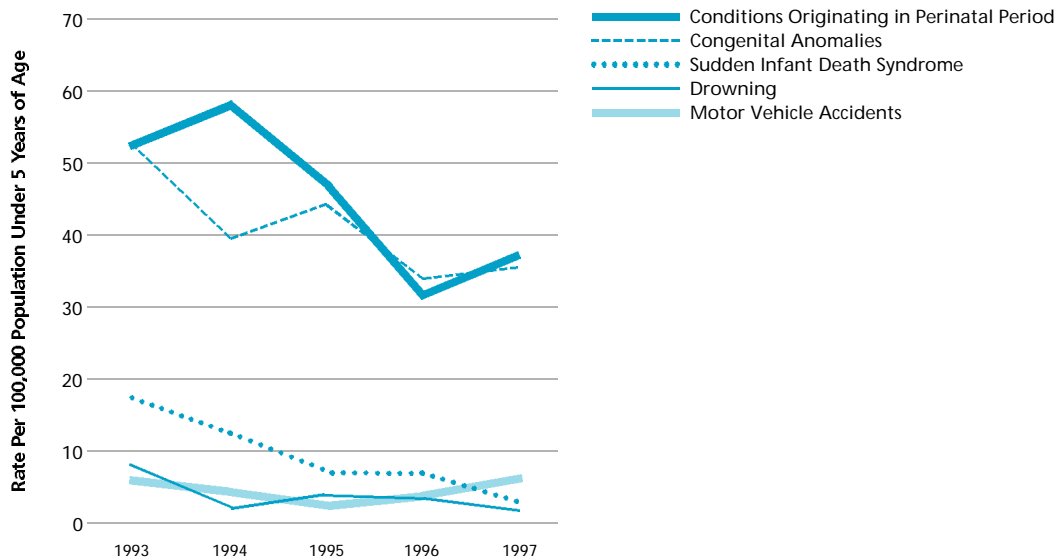
Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

The five leading causes of death for children under five years of age in Orange County from 1993 to 1997 include conditions originating in the perinatal period (including conditions such as low birth weight, and related complications, such as Respiratory Distress Syndrome); congenital anomalies (including severe birth defects and the effects of drugs and alcohol on the fetus); Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (defined as an unexplained death in the first year of life); motor vehicle accidents and drowning. Many of these deaths are preventable and deaths from these causes – with the sole exception of motor vehicle accidents – have declined significantly between 1993 and 1997, largely due to improved prenatal care and educational programs.

Death Rates for Five Leading Causes of Death for Children Under 5 Years of Age in Orange County for 1993-1997



Source: County of Orange, Health Care Agency, 1999

HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS

Description of Indicator

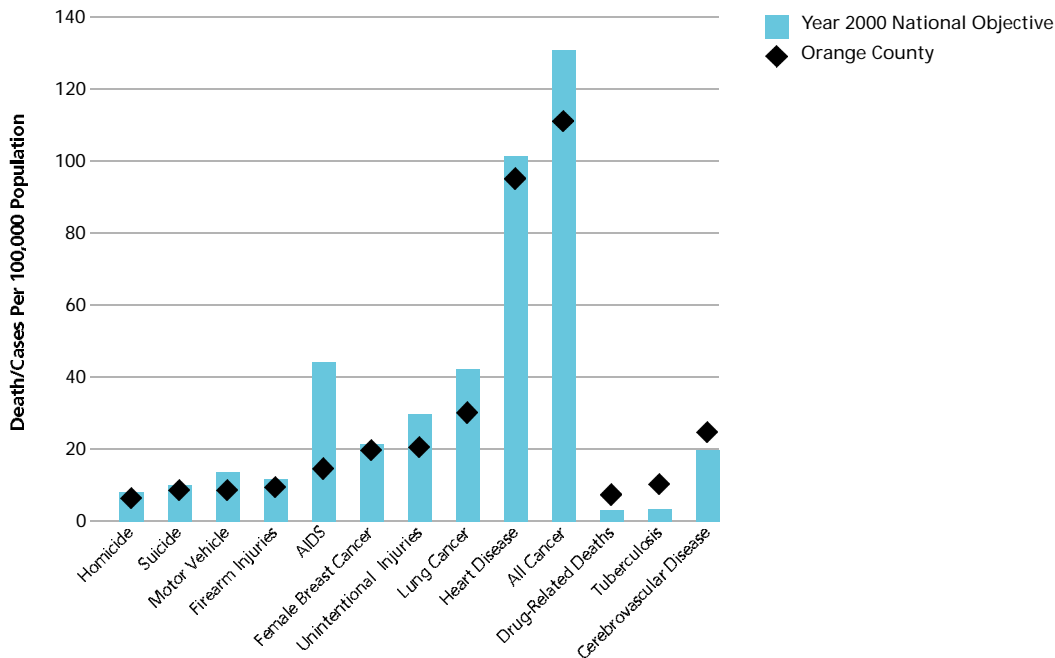
This indicator measures health status for the period of 1995-1997, including mortality rates (deaths per 100,000 people adjusted for age) due to the following: homicide, drug-related deaths, suicide, motor vehicle accidents, firearm injuries, breast cancer, unintentional injuries, stroke, lung cancer, heart disease, and all other cancer; and morbidity rates (cases per 100,000 people) for AIDS and tuberculosis during the same period.

Why is it Important?

Comparing Orange County's mortality and morbidity rates to the Healthy People 2000 National Objectives and other California counties helps officials to assess how well health and safety programs are doing, identify areas for improvement and suggest needed public health initiatives.

How is Orange County Doing?

With the exception of stroke, tuberculosis and drug-related deaths, Orange County met or exceeded the Healthy People 2000 Objectives for 13 commonly measured health status indicators in the period of 1995-1997. Compared to other California counties, Orange County ranked within the top ten in lowest death rate for unintentional injury (4th), motor vehicle accidents (8th), and suicide (8th). Although Orange County exceeded the Healthy People 2000 Goal for heart disease, only 16 of the 58 California counties had worse heart disease rates than Orange County. Orange County also did not rank well in tuberculosis, AIDS and breast cancer.

Orange County Health Status Indicators Deaths/Cases per 100,000

NOTE: AIDS and Tuberculosis are measured by number of cases, not deaths, per 100,000. All others reported are age-adjusted deaths per 100,000 population.

Sources: California Department of Health Services and California Conference of Local Health Offices, County Health Status Profiles 1999. California Department of Health Services: Death Statistical Master Files, 1995-1997.

CHILD IMMUNIZATION RATES

Description of Indicator

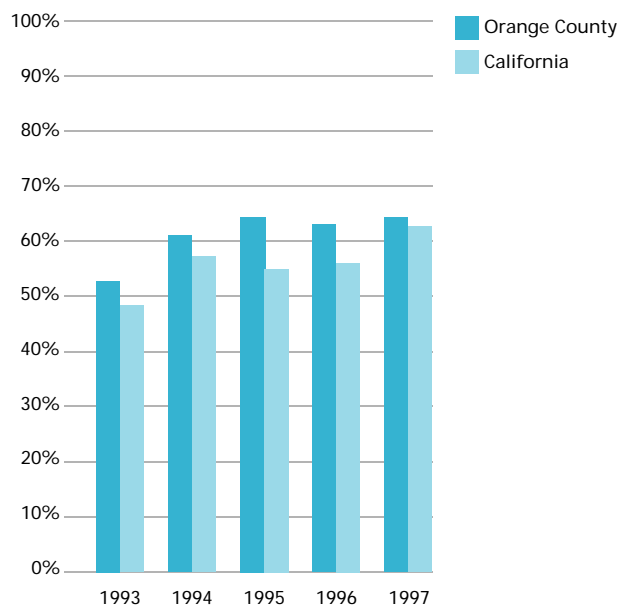
This indicator measures the percentage of children receiving basic immunization requirements by age 2 in Orange County compared to the State between 1993 and 1997. The basic immunization series includes four diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT), three polio, and one mumps, measles and rubella (MMR).

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 national health benchmarking program, Healthy People 2000, immunization objective is to increase the proportion of 2-year old children receiving basic immunizations to 90% by the year 2000.

How is Orange County Doing?

Overall, the rate of immunizations has increased from 1993 to 1997. Among children 2 years of age or younger, Orange County has higher immunization rates than the state average between 1993 and 1997. Despite this fact, Orange County still falls below the Healthy People 2000 goal of 90% of children 2 years of age receiving the basic immunization series.

Percent of Children 2 yrs. of Age Receiving Immunization

Source: Orange County Health Care Agency, 1999

CHILD CARE AFFORDABILITY

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the average yearly cost of child care for children 0-2 in Orange County, compared to similar counties. It also measures the number of children enrolled in California Department of Education subsidized child-care programs and the number of additional children eligible for this subsidized care based on greatest need according to family income and size.

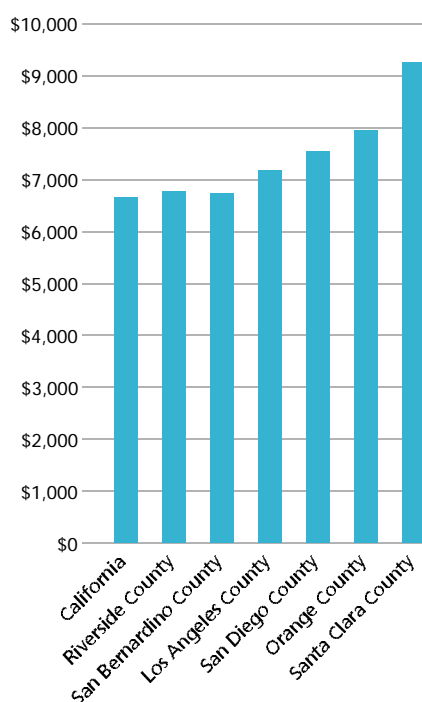
Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

In Orange County, the average yearly cost for the care of an infant up to 24 months in a licensed center is \$7,959, almost \$1,500 more than the state average. This equates to 67 percent of the annual income of \$11,960 for a minimum wage earner. As of February 1999, funding allowed about 10,000 children to be enrolled in California Department of Education subsidized child-care programs in Orange County. However, a centralized eligibility list contains the names of 20,000 more Orange County children whose families were income-eligible for these child care services.

Average Child Care Cost Per Year - Infant (0-2) 1999



Sources: California Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, The 1999 California Child Care Portfolio Children's Home Society of California, February 1999

Department of Education Subsidized Care Enrollment and Eligibility (Feb 1999)

Number of Children Enrolled in Department of Education Subsidized Care	9,823
Number of Children on Centralized Eligibility List	19,994

Source: Children's Home Society of California, February 1999

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of Orange County residents aged 0-64 who have health insurance coverage, compared to Los Angeles, Santa Clara, and San Diego counties, and California and the rest of the United States.

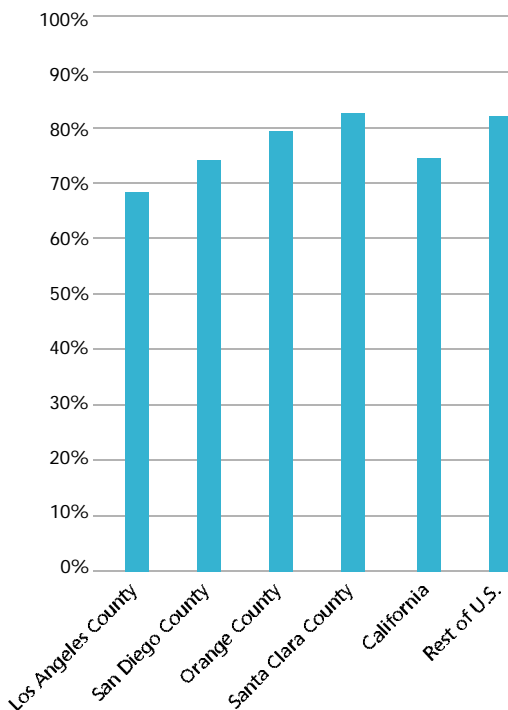
Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

Eighty percent of Orange County's non-senior residents have health insurance coverage, comparing favorably to Los Angeles County (69%) and San Diego County (75%), but trailing Santa Clara County (84%), according to a California-wide study. Orange County fares better than the state average (76%) but falls below the national average (83%). The Orange Countywide Health Needs Assessment (OCHNA) Survey, conducted in 1998, revealed that 83% of all residents 18 and older and 87% of all children 18 and below were covered. The OCHNA is a local survey encompassing all ages and more accurately reflects the estimated rate of health insurance coverage.

*Percentage of Residents Ages 0-64
with Health Insurance Coverage*



Source: The State of Health Insurance in California, 1998, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and UC Berkeley Center for Health and Public Policy Studies (1998); California Health Care Fact Book, 1999. DHS, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development; Orange County Health Needs Assessment Survey, 1998.



Public Safety

Number of Juvenile Felony Arrests

Number of Property and Violent Crimes
Per Thousand People

Gang Membership

Children in Out-of-home Care

NUMBER OF JUVENILE FELONY ARRESTS

Description of Indicator

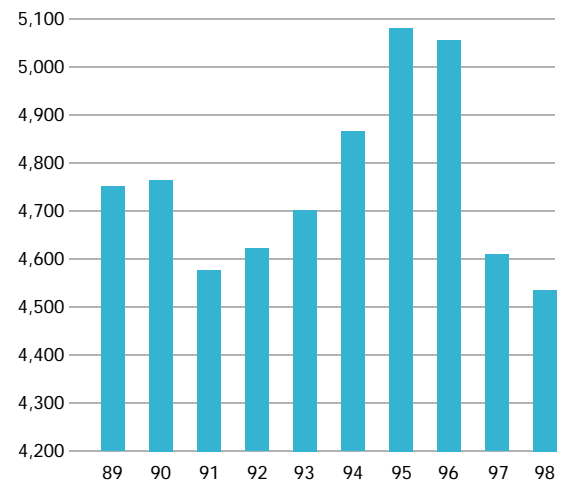
This indicator measures the number of arrests of persons under 18 years of age in Orange County every year. Felonies include homicide, robbery, rape and aggravated battery or assault.

Why is it Important?

Juvenile felony crimes impact the safety of residents and serve as an indicator of safety in the community.

How is Orange County Doing?

Juvenile felony arrests have risen and fallen throughout a 5-year period, increasing 6.63% from 1994-1995. The past three consecutive years have seen a decline in number of arrests, with a low of 4,537 arrests in 1998 despite a concurrent increase in population. The average population rate increase for the 5-year period was 1.45%, with 1997 having the largest increase of 1.72%.

Juvenile Felony Arrests for Orange County 1989-1998

Source: Office of the Attorney General, California Criminal Justice Profile 1998: A Supplement to Crime and Delinquency in California
<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/prof98/cover.pdf>

NUMBER OF PROPERTY AND VIOLENT CRIMES PER THOUSAND PEOPLE

Description of Indicator

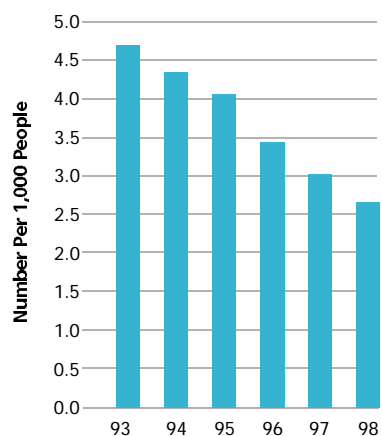
This indicator measures the number of property and violent crimes per thousand people in Orange County. Property crimes include burglary, larceny and auto theft. Violent crimes include murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and assault.

Why is it important?

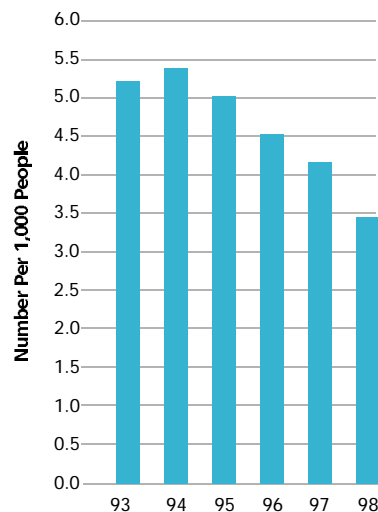
Crime impacts both the real and perceived level of safety in a community. Real and perceived levels of safety can differ greatly from one another.

How is Orange County Doing?

Per capita property crime has shown a steady decline, reaching its lowest level in 1998 at 2.67 crimes per thousand people. Violent crime increased from 1993 to 1994 and decreased each year thereafter, despite the increase in population over the same period. The average population rate increase for the same time period was 1.45 %, with 1997 having the largest increase of 1.72%.

Property Crime Rate for Orange County

Source: Office of the Attorney General, California Criminal Justice Profile 1998: A Supplement to Crime and Delinquency in California
<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/prof98/cover.pdf>

Violent Crime Rate for Orange County

GANG MEMBERSHIP IN ORANGE COUNTY

Description of Indicator

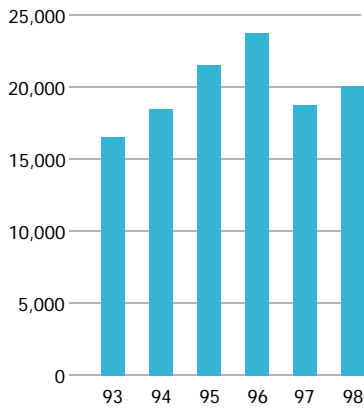
This indicator measures the total number of known gang members in Orange County.

Why is it Important?

Multiple public and private sector agencies currently coordinate their efforts to prevent youths from joining gangs and to reduce the number of juvenile gang members involved in drug use, drug trafficking and violence. The indicator can help the community gauge the effectiveness of programs designed to investigate, track, report, evaluate and combat gang-related violence. It may suggest the need for additional collaborative programs such as after-school programs, employment and education systems.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County has seen a rise in gang membership in almost all years since 1993. A decline occurred between 1996 to 1997 when membership dropped by 22%, representing 5,300 fewer members.

Gang Membership

Source: Orange County Probation Department,
Orange County District Attorney

CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Description of Indicator

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

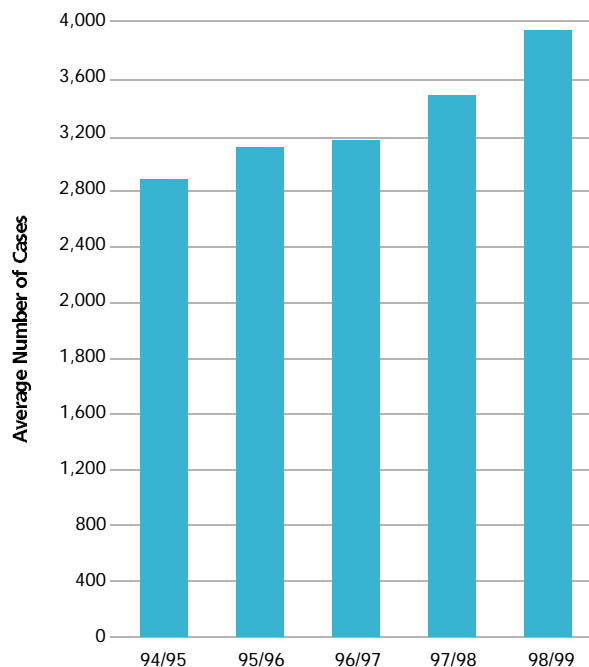
Why is it Important?

Child abuse and neglect can have detrimental effects on a child's development and maturation process. Out-of-home placement is often the final action to protect children from dangerous circumstances after repeated attempts to stabilize their families.

How is Orange County Doing?

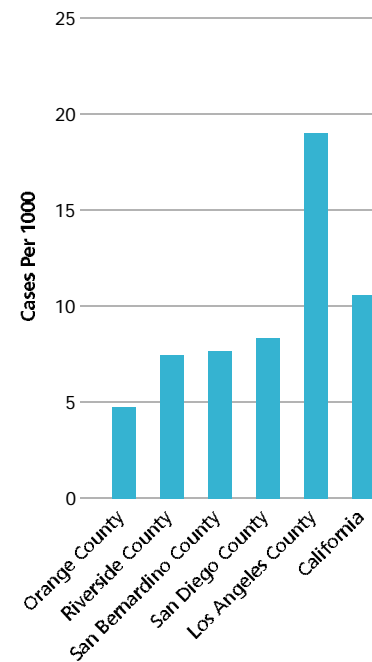
The County has seen a steady increase in the average monthly out-of-home cases since 1994-1995. While some of the increase reflects population growth, the increase in out-of-home placement cases outpaces the rate of population growth. The years 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 experienced the highest percentage increase of 9.71% and 11.93% respectively. Orange County's out-of-home care rate for children 0-17 years of age in 1997 was 4.4 children per thousand children living in the county, comparing favorably to most southern California counties.

*Children In Out-of-Home Foster/Relative Care
Orange County 1994-1999*



Orange County Social Services Agency/Children and Family Services, 1999

*Children 0-18 in Out-of-Home Care
Per 1000 Children - 1997*



Source: University of California, Berkeley, Center for Social Service Research
Performance Indicators for Child Welfare Services, 1997.



Environment

Beach Closures / Coastal Water Quality

Parks and Trails

Natural Habitat Resources

Solid Waste

Water Use and Supply

Air Quality

BEACH CLOSURES/COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the effectiveness of effort to protect one of Orange County's prime environmental resources. The total number of closures per year may be greater than 365 days because there may be multiple beach closures on a given day.

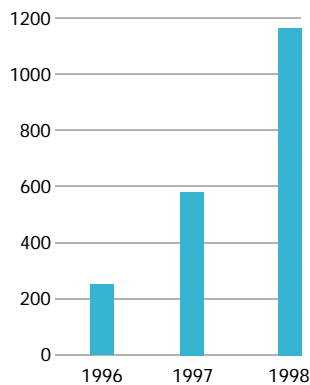
Why is it Important?

While beach closures protect residents from unhealthful coastal conditions, beach businesses can suffer negative economic impacts from the decreased consumer traffic. Polluted coastal waters may indicate the need for improvements to the storm drainage system. In addition, polluted coastal waters degrade our perception of quality of life in Orange County and discourage tourists from visiting.

How is Orange County Doing?

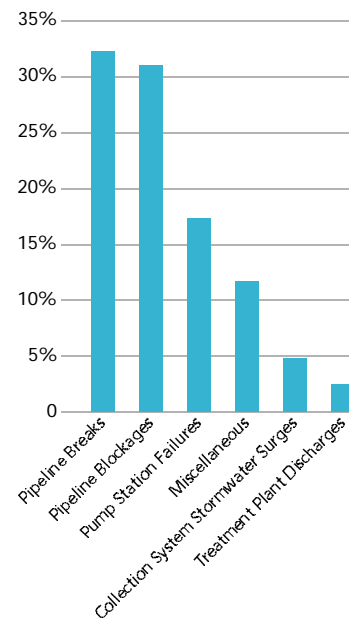
Between 1988 and 1998, there was a significant increase in the number of days that portions of some Orange County beaches have been closed each year. The increase is largely due to urban runoff, which is now known to cause high levels of pollutants in coastal waters. In 1998, portions of Orange County beaches were closed for a total of 1195 days, compared to 616 days in 1997 and 299 days in 1996.

Total Number of Beach Closures



Source: Orange County Health Care Agency/Department of Environmental Health.

Beach Closure Causes from 1988-1998



Source: Orange County Health Care Agency/Department of Environmental Health.

PARKS AND TRAILS

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures acres of regional and local parks per 1000 people and square feet of regional and local parks per capita, as well as miles of regional bicycle, riding and hiking trails traversing county, state and federal land (not including local trails).

Why is it Important?

Parks and trails contribute to a high quality of life in Orange County. They provide a variety of recreational opportunities and offer relief from the urban environment. It is a means of measuring the preservation of open space.

How is Orange County Doing?

As of June 1999, there were approximately 10 acres of regional parks per 1000 residents. Local parks in both cities and unincorporated areas provide an additional three acres per 1000 residents. There are approximately 145 miles of off-road, paved bikeways, with an additional 158 miles proposed. Approximately 204 miles of unpaved regional riding and hiking trails wind through canyons and along ridgelines. The County of Orange Master Plan proposes 148 additional miles of hiking and riding trails for a total of 352 miles.

Parks	As of:	Acres	Acres/1000 Residents	Square Feet/ Capita
Regional Parks	1999	27,082 acres	10	431
Local Parks	1997	8,376 acres	3	136
Trails	As of:	Miles Currently	Additional Proposed	Total (current & proposed)
Bikeways	1999	145 miles	158 miles	303 miles
Riding/Hiking Trails	1999	204 miles	148 miles	352 miles

NATURAL HABITAT RESOURCES

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures acres of natural habitat resources in Orange County, including all undeveloped or undisturbed habitat. The figure includes acres of proposed and currently protected habitat in Orange County, incorporating existing regional and state parks, Cleveland National Forest lands, and land protected under the Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP).

Why is it Important?

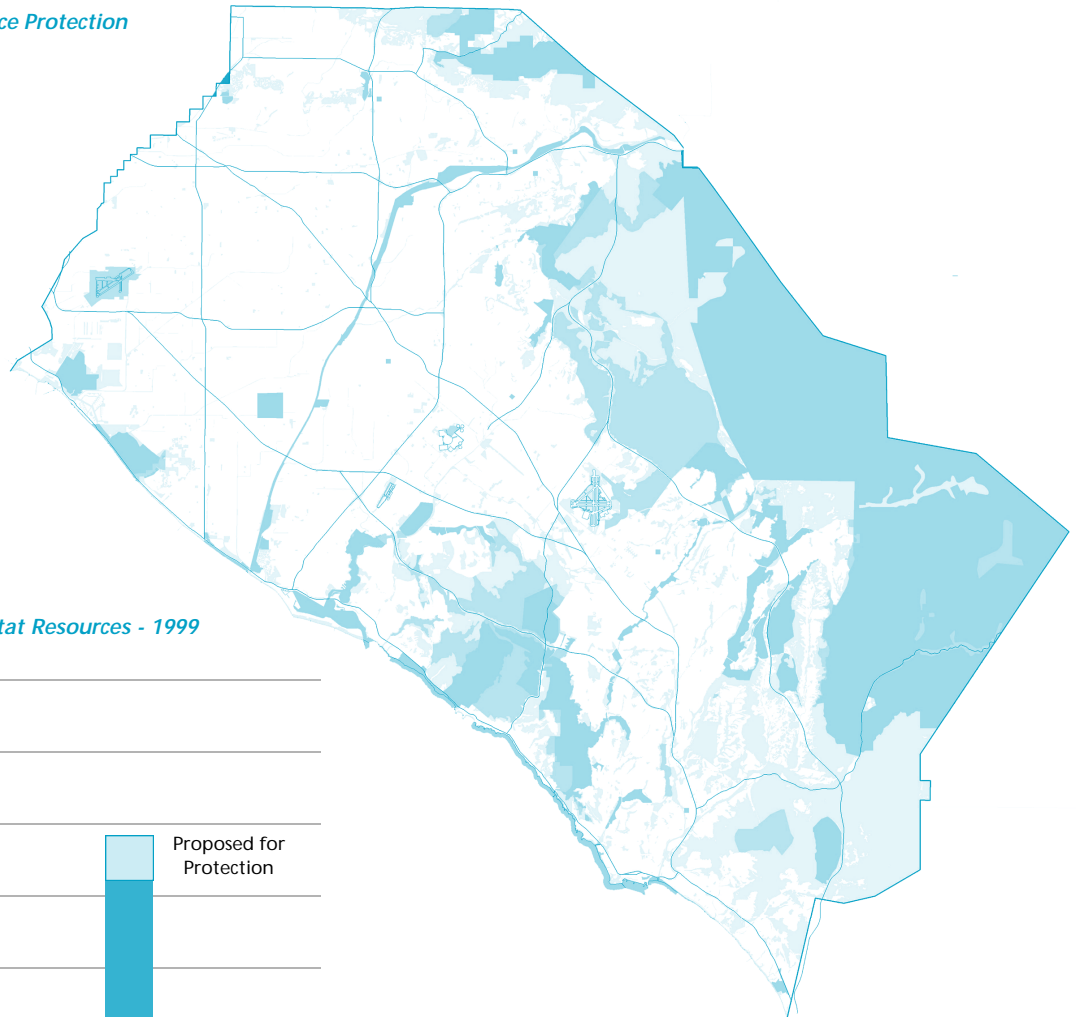
Protecting habitat and open space helps to prevent the extinction of animal species and provides residents with access to the natural environment.

How is Orange County Doing?

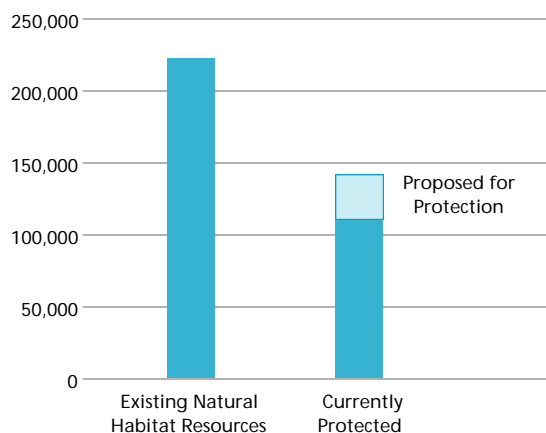
Orange County has preserved 224,147 acres of natural habitat (including all habitat types that are not considered “developed”, “disturbed” or “agriculture”). Fifty percent of the total amount of habitat in Orange County is currently protected through parks and open space preservation. An additional 14% of the total amount of habitat is proposed for inclusion in regional parks and open space lands through the development of the NCCP. Upon completion of the program, the total amount of protected habitat is expected to rise to 64%.

Natural Habitat Resource Protection

- Existing Protection
- Proposed Protection
- Not Protected



Acres of Natural Habitat Resources - 1999



Source: County of Orange, Planning and Development Services Division

SOLID WASTE

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the per capita annual tonnage of solid waste (both commercial and household) deposited in Orange County landfills between fiscal years ending 1991 and 1999. The measure does not include waste generated outside of Orange County.

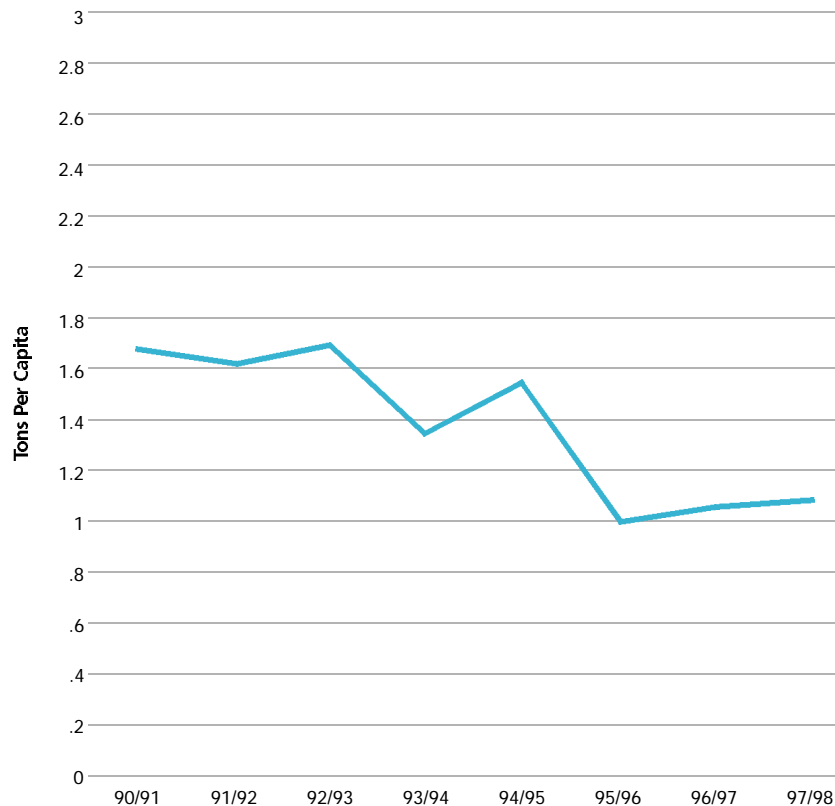
Why is it Important?

The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 requires cities and counties to divert 50% of all solid waste by 2000, through source reduction, recycling and composting activities. Reducing the amount of waste also extends the life of the Orange County landfill system, decreases the need for costly alternatives and has a positive environmental impact.

How is Orange County Doing?

Over the past nine years, the tons of Orange County waste going into Orange County landfills per capita has decreased by 25% from a high of 1.69 tons per capita in 1990-91. The level reached a nine-year low in fiscal year 1995-96 of one ton per capita. In the ensuing three years, during a period of economic expansion, Orange County solid waste disposed in county landfills rose to 1.26 tons per capita.

Solid Waste Disposed in Orange County Landfills



*Does not include imported waste.

Source: County of Orange, Integrated Waste Management Department, 1999
California State Department of Finance, January Population Estimates, 1990-1998

WATER USE AND SUPPLY

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures daily urban per capita water usage in gallons in Orange County from 1986 to 1999 (except for agricultural water usage).

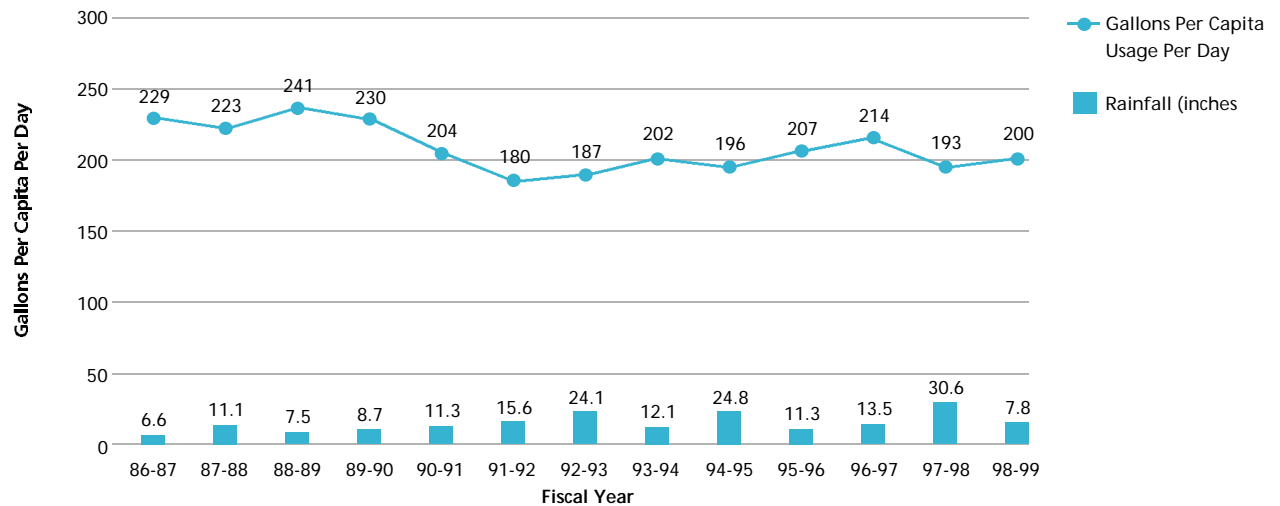
Why is it Important?

Orange County survives largely on imported water and limited local groundwater reserves. As population increases, demand on this resource also increases, which may lead to higher water prices and supply challenges.

How is Orange County Doing?

During the drought years of 1986-97 to 1992-93, conservation efforts contributed to a nearly 60 gallon-per-person drop in water usage. Since the low of 180 gallons per capita in fiscal year 1991-92, usage has increased to 200 gallons per person per day. Continuing water-use efficiency, coupled with additional groundwater and recycled water development by the County's 35 public and private water providers, will enable the county's water demands to be met now and in the future.

Urban Per Capita Water Usage in Orange County



Source: Municipal Water District of Orange County

AIR QUALITY

Description of the Indicator

This indicator measures the number of days per year that Orange County exceeded federal one-hour ozone air quality standards from 1989 to 1998, compared to other counties in the South Coast Air Basin (which includes Los Angeles, Orange, and parts of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties).

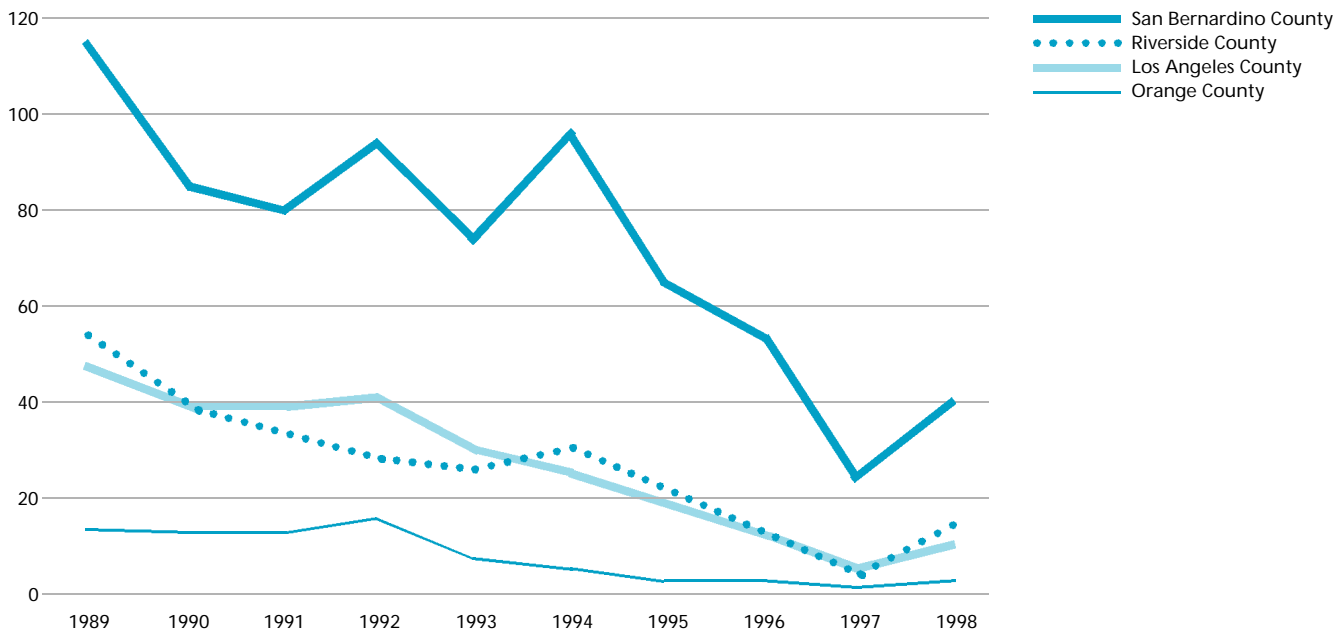
Why is it Important?

Poor air quality affects health, causing illness and in extreme cases, death. Orange County is located in the South Coast Air Basin, an area that until 1999 (according to preliminary figures) had the worst air pollution in the United States.

How is Orange County Doing?

In 1998, Orange County had only two days over the federal ozone standard compared to 13 days in 1989. Orange County consistently has one of the lowest air pollution levels in the Basin. The improved air quality is largely attributable to favorable weather conditions, cleaner vehicles and better pollution control equipment and strategies.

Days Per Year That Federal Ozone Standard was Exceeded



Source: South Coast Air Quality Management District, 1999



Civic Engagement

Registered Voter Participation

Community Well-Being

Charitable Giving

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

REGISTERED VOTER PARTICIPATION

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the percentage of registered voters that participated in general elections from 1980 through 1998.

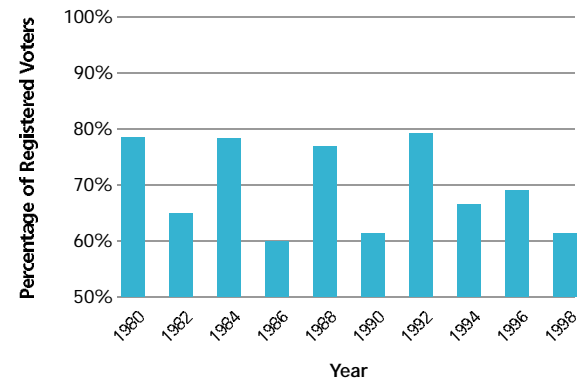
Why is it important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

Although presidential elections tend to increase voter participation, the majority of registered voters in Orange County, more than 60%, have participated in all general elections since 1980.

Orange County Voter Registration/Election Statistics



Source: Orange County Registrar of Voters.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County residents' perception of wellbeing in Orange County from 1989 to 1999.

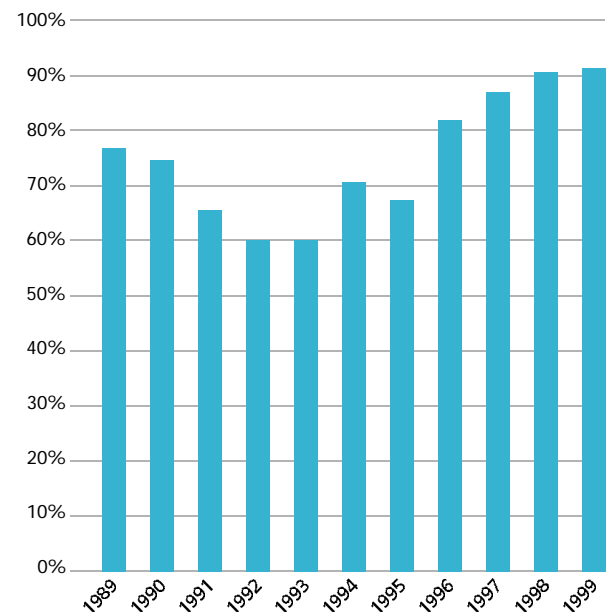
Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

In 1999, a strong majority (92%) said that things were going "very" or "somewhat well." This is a 32-point increase from 1992 and 1993, when only 60% felt things were going well. Non-Hispanic whites were more likely to say things are going "very well" (42%) than are Latinos (26%). Those earning \$80,000 or more (48%) are more positive than are those earning less than \$36,000 (29%).

Percent of Orange County Residents Indicating "Things are Going Well" 1989-1999



Source: University of California, Irvine, 1999 Orange County Annual Survey

CHARITABLE GIVING

Description of Indicator

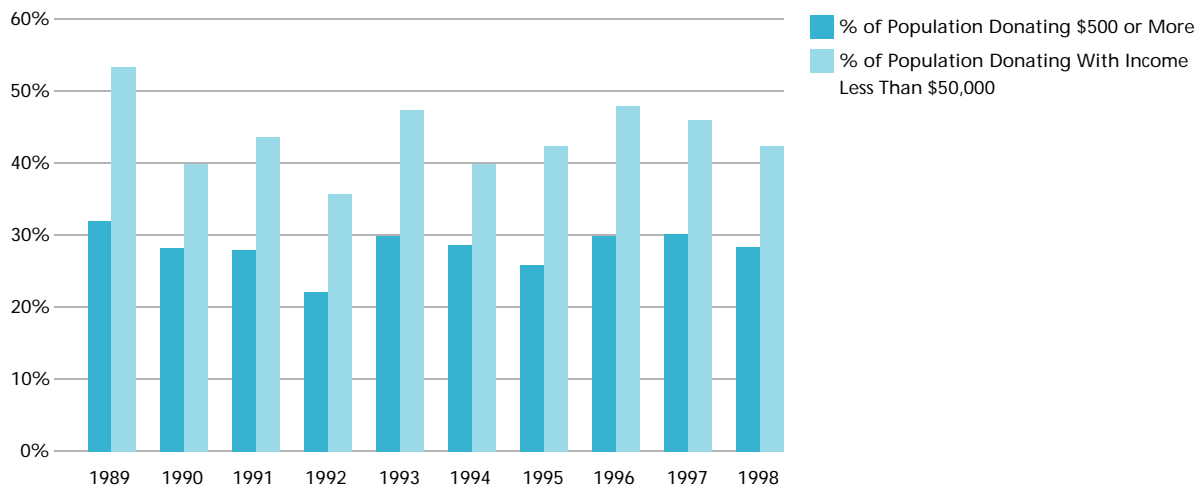
This indicator measures the percentage of residents who have contributed to charitable organizations from 1989 to 1998. It shows the percentage of the total population donating \$500 or more, and the percentage of those who earn more than \$50,000.

Why is it Important?

Residents of a community and their charitable contributions play an important part in filling the gap between government expenditures and local existing needs. Residents' willingness to be charitable is critical for a healthy community.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's percentage of charitable giving has been fairly consistent since 1989. On average, 28% of the population donates \$500 or more each year, and 44% of the donors earn more than \$50,000 annually. Only 22 % of the population made significant donations in 1992 compared with a high of 32% in 1989.

Percentage of Charitable Giving

Source: University of California, Irvine, 1999 Orange County Annual Survey

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THIS REPORT WAS PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FOLLOWING:

Data Sources:

Anaheim/Orange County Visitor & Convention Bureau
California Child Care Resource and Referral Agency
California Department of Education
California Department of Health Services
California Department of Trade and Commerce
California Economic Development Department
California State Department of Finance
California State University, Fullerton
California Vital Records
Chapman University
Children's Home Society of California
County of Orange Health Care Agency
County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Department
County of Orange Planning & Development Services Division
County of Orange Registrar of Voters
County of Orange Social Services Agency
Ernst & Young Kenneth Leventhal Real Estate Group

IPO Monitor

Municipal Water District of Orange County
National Association of Home Builders
National Low Income Housing Coalition
Office of the Attorney General
Orange County Business Committee for the Arts, Inc.
Orange County Business Council
Orange County District Attorney
Orange County Home Ownership Alliance
Orange County Probation Department
Scarborough Research
Seattle Public Schools
South Coast Air Quality Management District
Southern California Association of Governments
The Meyers Group
United Way
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Patent Office
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Berkeley

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