Orange County

2006

COMMUNITY INDICATORS

2006

How do you measure success for a region? Is it how our region stacks up against other comparable regions or is it how we change over time? Is quality of life based upon perception and reputation or can it be objectively measured over time? While these questions will continue to present challenges for the Community Indicators Project, after six years we have developed a consistent, yet dynamic approach for measuring our region's progress against key economic, social and environmental issues.

The ongoing challenge for county residents and businesses is assimilating the information coming at us from every direction and converting it into a useful tool that helps us improve our community. The Community Indicators report has met that challenge by looking at the big picture, tracking key trends and recognizing the links between such things as education and workforce, children's health and the economy, housing costs and family wellbeing. It is a tool to show how the county is changing, and how we compare, in the areas of our economy, education, health and wellbeing, safety, environment and civic life. For the first time, this report examines the topic of arts and culture in Orange County as one of our special features, along with an in-depth look at a more troubling issue - homelessness.

Many indicators show positive trends, but there are also areas that can be improved. We continue to learn and engage as we update the community indicators each year, and we hope it continues to be a helpful resource, offering new perspectives and insights for you as well.

Michael M. Ruane
Project Director

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New Indicator or New Data

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

Introduction

What is a Good Indicator?

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

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

Why are Community Indicators Important?

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

Selection Criteria

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

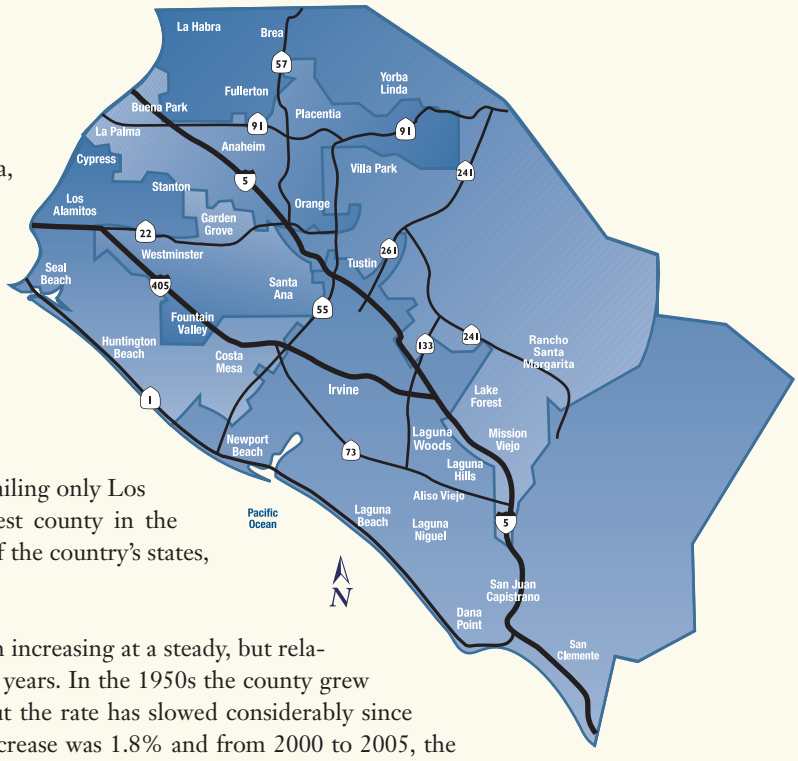
- Illustrate countywide interests and impacts as defined by impacting a significant percentage of the population
- Include the categories of economic development, technology, education, community health and prosperity, public safety, environment, and civic engagement
- Reflect data that is both reliable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

Peer Counties

To gain a better understanding of the state of the county in relation to other metropolitan areas, Orange County is compared to neighboring and/or certain peer counties or regions in many of the indicators presented in this report. Neighboring counties include: Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. Peer regions are metropolitan areas that have similar economic or demographic characteristics as Orange County and thus are considered economic competitors. They include: Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Minneapolis (or Twin Cities), Research Triangle (North Carolina), San Francisco Bay Area (or Santa Clara County or the San Jose Metropolitan Area), and Seattle.

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, several which have recently incorporated, and several unincorporated areas with a population of about 118,000 in 2005.[1]



POPULATION

Growth

Orange County is the second largest county in California, trailing only Los Angeles and just surpassing San Diego, and the fifth largest county in the nation. In fact, Orange County has more residents than 21 of the country's states, including Iowa, Utah, Nevada, and Idaho.[2]

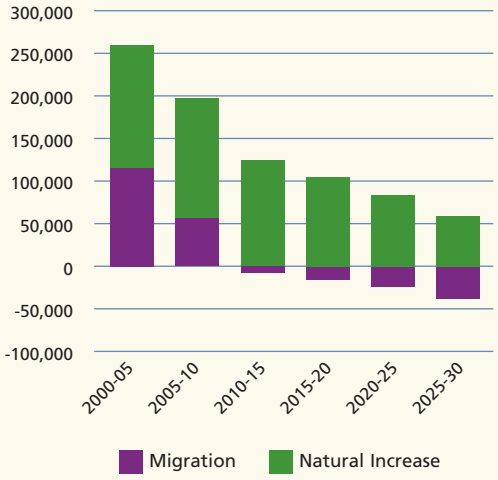
Over the past 30 years, Orange County's population has been increasing at a steady, but relatively slow rate compared with its growth in the previous 30 years. In the 1950s the county grew an average of 22% per year and 10% per year in the 60s but the rate has slowed considerably since then. Between 1990 and 2000, the average annual rate of increase was 1.8% and from 2000 to 2005, the average annual rate of change was 1.5%.[3] Despite the slowing rate of growth, Orange County remains one of the fastest growing regions in the nation in terms of numeric population growth. In January 2005, Orange County's population was 3,056,865.[4] Orange County ranked 13th out of over 3,000 U.S. counties in terms of numeric population growth between 2003 and 2004, adding about 27,000 people. However, Orange County's slow growth rate puts it at 981st in the nation in terms of percent change between 2003 and 2004 largely due to the fact the county's base population is already so large, not because the county is no longer growing.[5] The county's population growth is projected to continue until 2040 when it is expected to stabilize at 3.7 million.[6]

Numeric Population Growth
Top 15 Counties, 2003-2004

County (Major City)	State	Rank
Maricopa (Phoenix)	AZ	1
Riverside	CA	2
Los Angeles	CA	3
Clark (Las Vegas)	NV	4
San Bernardino	CA	5
Harris (Houston)	TX	6
Tarrant (Fort Worth)	TX	7
Palm Beach	FL	8
Collin (Dallas)	TX	9
Will (Joliet)	IL	10
Hillsborough (Tampa)	FL	11
Miami-Dade	FL	12
Orange	**CA**	**13**
Gwinnett (Lawrenceville)	GA	14
Bexar (San Antonio)	TX	15

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Components of Population Growth, 2000-2030



Source: Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Projections 2004

Between January 2004 and 2005, Irvine accounted for the largest numeric and percent population growth in Orange County, adding 8,800 residents and growing 5.1%. Unincorporated areas followed close behind, growing 4% during the same period. Costa Mesa witnessed the slowest percent growth (0.3%), while Villa Park added the fewest number of residents (22).[7]

Migration Versus Natural Increase

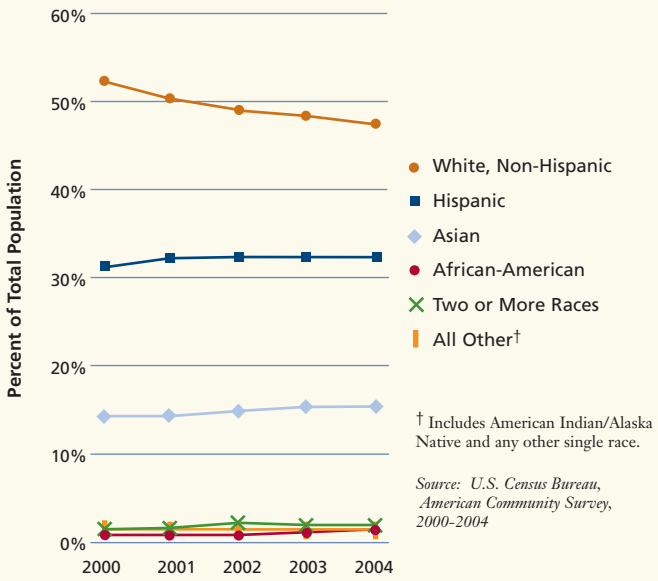
Now (and even more so in the future) Orange County's population growth is generated internally through natural increase (births minus deaths) rather than through migration. This was not always the case. From the 1950s through the early 70s, much of the county's growth came from migration into the county from within the state and from other states. Now Orange County is no longer a major destination for the 49 states and more people are moving out of Orange County to other California counties than moving in. Still, in-migrants have outnumbered out-migrants due to immigration, mostly from Asia and Central America, shifting the county's proportion of foreign born from 6% in 1970 to 30% in 2004. However, as immigration levels taper off, out-migration will exceed in-migration.[8]

Ethnicity and Age

The trend toward greater ethnic diversity continues. Orange County is now a "minority majority" county where no single racial or ethnic group comprises more than 50% of the total population.[9] The county's median age in 2004 was 35. The county's median age is projected to rise, but growth differs by ethnicity. Orange County's Hispanic population will see moderate increases among child and young adult populations over the next 25 years but older adult and senior populations will increase dramatically. For this reason, Orange County's Hispanic population will witness the largest rise in

median age, from 26 in 2005 to 35 in 2030. The Asian population will also see dramatic increases in older adults and seniors but little change in child and young adults, driving a moderate rise in median age, from 39 to 47 during the same period. The White population will see a considerable drop off in the child population and a moderate increase in older adults and seniors resulting in the least significant median age change, from 41 to 46.[10]

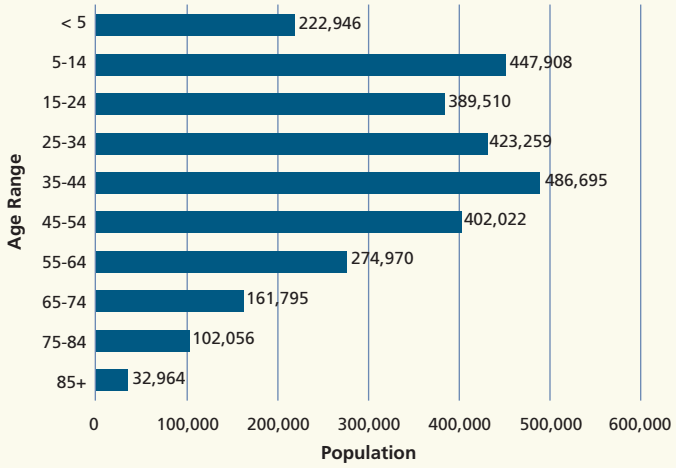
Population by Ethnicity
Orange County, 2000-2004



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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2000-2004

Population by Age
Orange County, 2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2004

Density

Census 2000 data show Orange County is one of the most densely populated areas in the United States, falling 18th among all counties. Orange County's small size contributes to it being second only to San Francisco for the most densely populated county in California.[11] As of January 2004, Orange County's population density was estimated at 3,872 persons per square mile, an average increase of about 1.6% annually since 2000. The county is denser than Los Angeles County, more than 2.5 times denser than Santa Clara and Sacramento Counties and five times denser than San Diego County, which has roughly the same population.[12] Within the county, 2005 densities vary by location, from a low of 407 persons per square mile in unincorporated areas to highs of 12,883 in Santa Ana, 12,520 in Stanton, and 9,611 in Garden Grove.[13] As land becomes increasingly scarce and housing demand persists, the county is beginning to "grow up" as evidenced by the recent approval of some of the first high-rise residential projects in the county.

Population Density Ranking
Selected Counties, 2000

Rank	County, State (County Seat)	Population per Square Mile of Land Area
1	New York County, NY (Manhattan)	66,940
2	Kings County, NY (Brooklyn)	34,917
3	Bronx County, NY	31,709
4	Queens County, NY	20,409
5	San Francisco County, CA	16,634
6	Hudson County, NJ (Jersey City)	13,044
7	Suffolk County, MA (Boston)	11,788
8	Philadelphia County, PA	11,234
9	Richmond County, NY (Staten Island)	7,588
10	Arlington County, VA	7,323
18	**Orange County, CA (Santa Ana)**	**3,606**
31	Los Angeles County, CA	2,344
57	Fulton County, GA (Atlanta)	1,544
115	Travis County, TX (Austin)	821
116	King County, WA (Seattle)	817
123	Wake County, NC (Raleigh)	755
138	San Diego County, CA	670
419	Riverside County, CA	214
897	San Bernardino County, CA	85

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

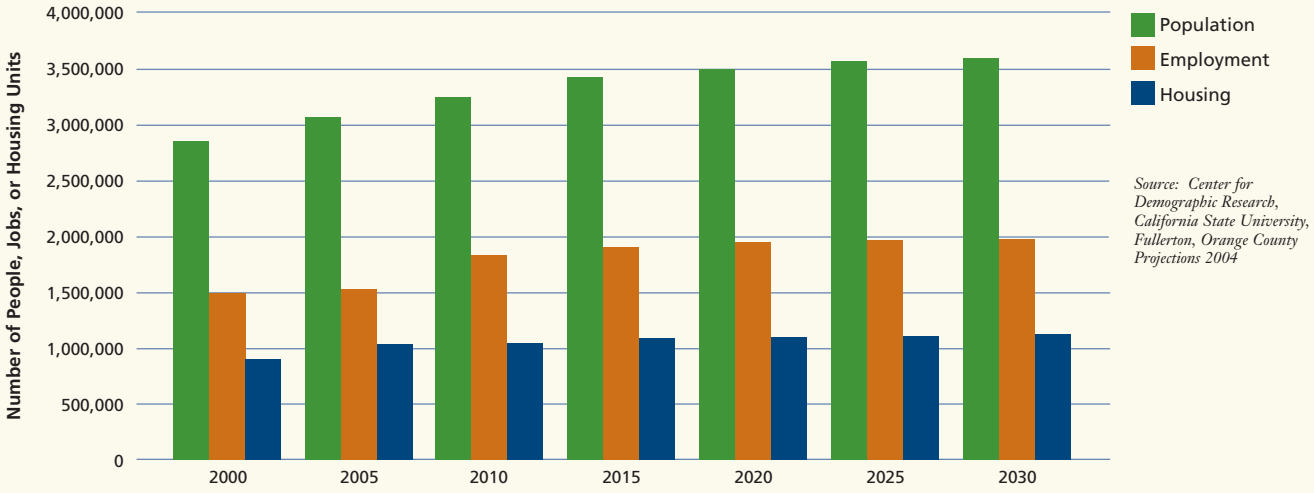
HOUSING

As of 2004 there were 1,009,342 housing units available to county residents. While about half of the existing housing units in Orange County are single-family detached units, building permits issued in 2004 for single-family homes fell 23% since 2003, while permits for multiple-family dwellings increased by 28%. A majority of occupied units are owner-occupied (64%) compared to renter-occupied (36%).[14] In the next five years (2005 to 2010), housing projections for the county anticipate over 35,000 housing units to be added. This equates to 40% of the total housing units expected to be added over the next 25 years.[15]

Average Household Size

As of 2004, the average household size in Orange County was 3.0 persons, placing Orange County 19th highest in the nation, and higher than California (2.9) and the U.S. (2.6).[16] Not only does Santa Ana have the highest household size in the county it has the highest in the nation when compared to other large cities (4.7).[17] Garden Grove (3.7), Stanton (3.5), and Anaheim (3.5) all have higher than average household sizes.[18] Latinos tend to have the highest household size (4.3), followed by Asians (3.3) and Whites (2.5).[19]

Population, Employment and Housing
Orange County, 2000-2030



Source: Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Projections 2004

EMPLOYMENT

Orange County enjoys a diverse economy, with economic output and employment well distributed among sectors. The employed labor force in 2004 was nearly 1.6 million, a gain of 2% from the previous year. The largest labor markets are trade, transportation and utilities (18%), business and professional services (18%), and manufacturing (13%).[20]

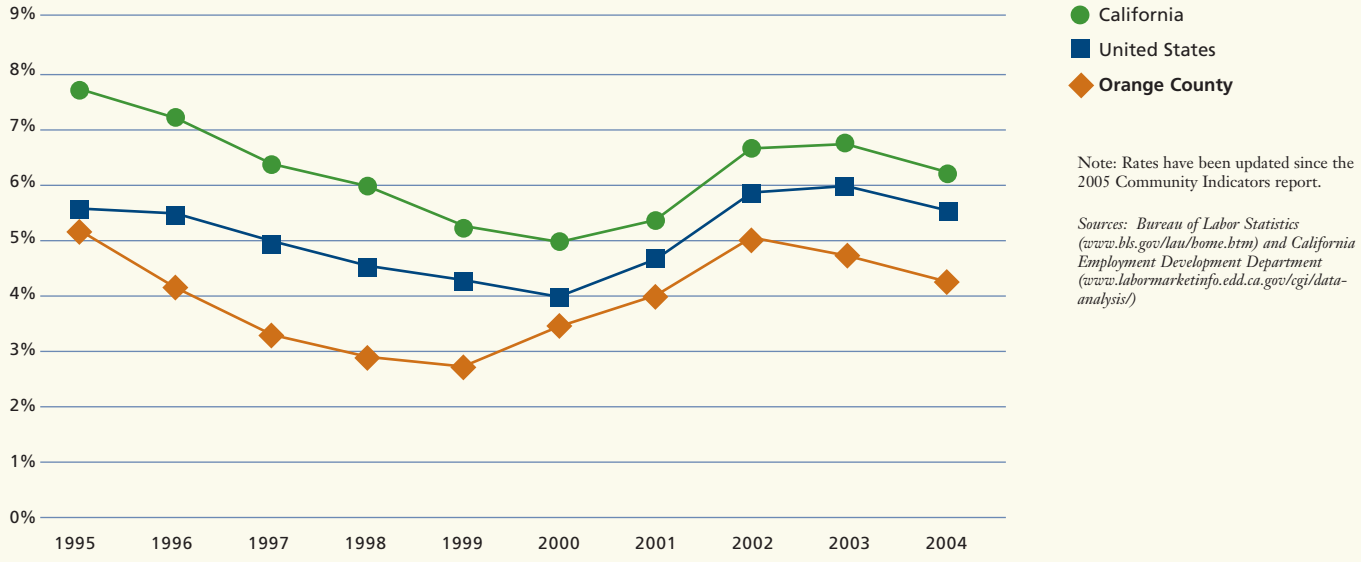
Industry projections for 2002 to 2012 indicate that the fastest growing sectors will be construction (+40%), leisure and hospitality (+34%), educational and health services (+26%) and business and professional services (+25%). The projected fastest growing occupations fall into the categories of educational services (e.g. teachers, aides), specialty trade contractors (e.g. electricians, masons) and wireless telecommunications carriers. The slowest growing sectors are manufacturing (+5%) and transportation, warehousing and utilities (+9%).[21]

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 2004). Firms with fewer than five employees grew the most since 2001 (14%) compared to firms with between 50 to 499 employees which grew only 1%. Employment at companies with over 1,000 employees has declined in Orange County since 2001 but job growth in smaller firms has more than made up for these losses.[22]

Unemployment

In 2004, Orange County's average unemployment rate was 4.3%. Orange County shares this rate with 70 other counties in the nation, the 24th lowest unemployment rate in 2004.

Unemployment
Average Annual Rate, 1995-2004



Note: Rates have been updated since the 2005 Community Indicators report.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm) and California Employment Development Department (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/data-analysis/)

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%). Almost a fifth 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.

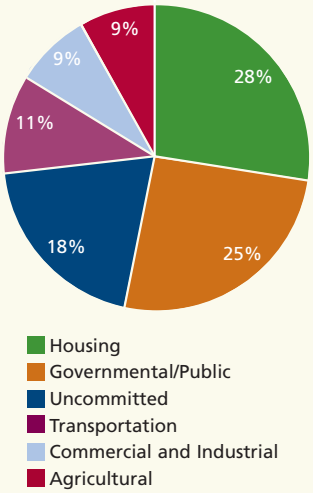
GROSS METRO PRODUCT

If Orange County were a country, its gross metro product (GMP) in 2003 would rank 42nd in the world – ahead of such nations as Ireland, Iran, and Thailand. Orange County has the 11th largest gross product, behind Los Angeles (2nd) and Boston (4th) and ahead of Minneapolis-St. Paul (12th), Phoenix (13th), and San Diego (14th). Among the top 20 metro economies in the United States, Orange County had the fastest growing GMP between 2002 and 2003.[23] This growth may reflect the diversification of the economy, its resiliency in the face of downturns, and growth in some higher value industries.

STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES

Orange County is a "donor county" – the county government receives from the state the least amount of property taxes per capita among large counties in California. The same is true for Orange County cities – Anaheim and Santa Ana are at the bottom among large cities. The smaller allocations suggest that Orange County and its large cities, in comparison to other large counties and cities in California, did not receive a large share of countywide property taxes before the passage of Proposition 13.[24]

Orange County Land Uses, 2005



Note: These figures have been revised and should not be compared to the figures printed in previous Community Indicators reports.

Source: County of Orange, Resources & Development Management Department, January 2006

Per Capita Property Tax Allocation Among Large Counties and Cities, 1999/00

Large Counties	Per Capita Property Taxes	Large Cities	Per Capita Property Taxes
Santa Clara	$153	Oakland	$147
Los Angeles	139	Los Angeles	142
Alameda	121	San Diego	118
Contra Costa	116	Long Beach	101
Statewide County Average	**115**	**Statewide City Average**	**85**
Sacramento	101	San Jose	82
San Diego	94	Fresno	62
Riverside	77	Anaheim	56
San Bernardino	66	Santa Ana	56
Orange	**51**	Riverside	43

Source: California Legislative Analysts Office (www.lao.ca.gov/2002/cal_facts/finances.html)

[1] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Progress Report 2005
[2] California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Table E-1 (www.dof.ca.gov/html/demograp/repndat.asp), U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php)
[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 2005 (www.fullerton.edu/cdr)
[4] California Department of Finance, Table E-1: State/County Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change
[5] U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov/popest/counties/)
[6] California Department of Finance, Table P-3: Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Gender and Age for California and its Counties 2000–2050
[7] California Department of Finance, Table E-1: State/County Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change
[8] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Projections 2004 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Ranking Tables, 2004
[9] U.S. Census Bureau, 2000-2004 American Community Survey (http://factfinder.census.gov/)
[10] U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey and Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Projections 2004
[11] U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Table GCT-PH1-R. Population, Housing Units, Area, and Density
[12] Calculated using 2000 land area from U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/phc-1-6.pdf) and 2005 population data from California Department of Finance, Table E-1: State/County Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change
[13] Calculated from data presented in the Orange County Progress Report 2005 by the Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton
[14] U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey Summary Tables (www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html) and Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Progress Report, 2005
[15] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Projections 2004
[16] U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey
[17] U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey Ranking Tables. Note: only selected cities over 65,000 are included in the ranking.
[18] Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Progress Report, 2005
[19] Household size by ethnicity is 2003 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
[20] Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information, County Snapshots (www.calmis.ca.gov/file/cosnaps/oranSnap.pdf)
[21] California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information, Projections of Employment by Industry and Occupation (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/databrowsing/?PageID=145)
[22] Employment Development Department, Size of Business Data, 2001-Present (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/databrowsing/?PageID=67&SubID=138)
[23] U.S. Conference of Mayors, U.S. Metro Economies, October 2004 (www.usmayors.org/metroeconomies/)
[24] California Legislative Analysts Office (www.lao.ca.gov/main.aspx?type=2&PubTypeID=3)

Special Features

Attendance, Contributions Reveal that Arts are Highly Valued

Description of Indicator

This indicator examines Orange County's arts and cultural sector, measuring its value to the local economy and to residents, and the health of arts in the county as reflected by attendance, plans for expansion, and available funding.

Why is it Important?

The nonprofit arts sector is a significant contributor to the local economy. The availability of creative and cultural assets contributes to a high quality of life and helps form our identity as a vibrant and innovative place to live and work.

How is Orange County Doing?

Local Economic Impact

Orange County's diverse population and healthy economy foster a fertile environment where local arts can thrive. While Disneyland endures as Orange County's most famous attraction, the Orange County Performing Arts Center, local art galleries, and museums have become acclaimed attractions in their own right. The county is home to nearly 500 nonprofit arts organizations and boasts over 37,000 jobs in the arts, entertainment and recreation industry, or over 2.5% of our workforce population. This is the highest concentration of arts industry jobs in Southern California.[1] In 2001, nonprofit arts organizations accounted for a total economic impact of $407.9 million, including direct and indirect spending.[2]

Importance of the Arts to Residents

When asked their opinions on art and the local arts scene in 2005, 92% of respondents indicated that a vibrant cultural sector in Orange County is important and 88% expressed the sentiment "the arts are important to me." Fully 98% of respondents indicated the arts are critical for the education and development of children, and 64% of respondents indicated their family actively created art.[3]

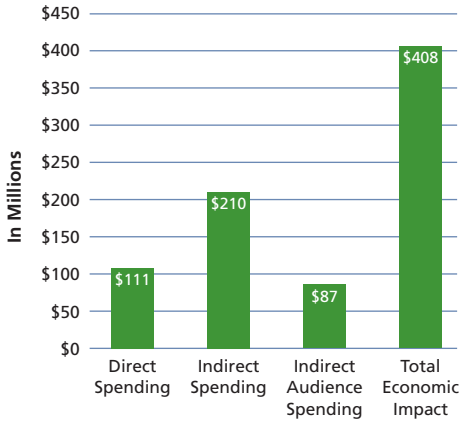
Orange County residents' most popular reason for attending arts events is to spend time with friends and family. The third highest motivating factor, arts "make me feel more connected to my community," was particularly pronounced among new residents. Compared with polls taken of attitudes among residents in Seattle, Denver, New Mexico, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, Orange County residents have similar motivations for attending arts functions.

About 48% of Orange County residents surveyed had not attended an art exhibit in the last 12 months and 37% had not attended a live performance. Of respondents who agreed with the statement, "If I knew more about art, I'd be more likely to attend," many tended to be Latino and a high proportion were new and younger residents.

Availability and Quality of the Arts

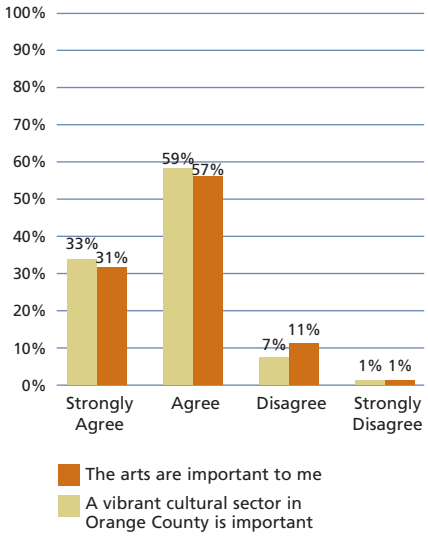
In 2005, Orange County residents also rated the availability and quality of arts in the county on a scale of one to 10. Over 70% of respondents gave the county a score of seven or higher and another 20% qualified the arts as adequate (a score of four through six). This was a slight increase in satisfaction compared to 2001, when 65% rated county arts and culture as "good to excellent."

Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts Organizations
Orange County, 2001



Source: Chapman University/Orange County Business Committee for the Arts

Value of the Arts to Residents
Orange County, 2005



Source: Orange County Business Council/California State University, Fullerton

Reasons for Attending Arts and Cultural Events
Orange County, 2005

To spend time with family or friends	66%
Personal education and growth	43%
Makes me feel more connected to my community	17%
It's thought-provoking	17%
It helps me better understand other cultures	16%
It encourages me to be more creative	15%

Source: Orange County Business Council/California State University, Fullerton

[1] Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2004, 3rd Quarter, California Economic Development Department
[2] Chapman University/Orange County Business Committee for the Arts, Arts Are Business, A Summary of the Economic Impact of Non-Profit Arts Organizations in Orange County, 2001
[3] Orange County Business Council and California State University, Fullerton

When Orange County residents were asked in 2001 to rate Orange County's arts against those in Los Angeles and San Diego fully 44% of respondents felt that the availability and quality of local performing arts and museums were on par with Los Angeles, and another 10% gave Orange County arts and museums higher marks than Los Angeles. By the same token, 37% of respondents felt that the availability and quality of local performing arts and museums were about the same as San Diego, with 18% scoring Orange County's arts offerings as better.[4]

Attendance and Expansion

In 2005, attendance for the arts was reported to be around 2.3 million (excluding media and fair attendance) with over 40% of arts organizations reporting a rise in attendance.[5] Nearly 35% of the organizations intend to increase arts programming and the majority will maintain their current level of programming. Additionally, 46% of arts organizations plan to expand their facilities within the next five years.

Funding

Showing a strong community commitment to fund the arts through corporate and individual contributions, in 2000, contributions accounted for about 48% of Orange County nonprofit arts organizations' revenue. The distribution of revenues heavily favors large nonprofit arts organizations. Large organizations, which account for 16% of the county's arts organizations, collected nearly 91% of the $135 million in reported revenues in 2000. In contrast, of the 500 nonprofit arts organizations, only 153 reported gross revenue of $25,000 or more.

In 2003, 40% of corporations surveyed indicated they contributed to Arts, Culture and Humanities organizations, and in 2005 79% of residents indicated they contribute to nonprofit organizations. This figure is corroborated by the fact that in 2000, private donations accounted for a total of 62% of contributed income for Orange County arts organizations, compared to 15% from corporations and 13% from foundations. Only 10% of income was contributed from municipal, state or federal agencies. Interestingly, in terms of source of contributions for arts organizations, Orange County is more similar to the nation than to Silicon Valley.

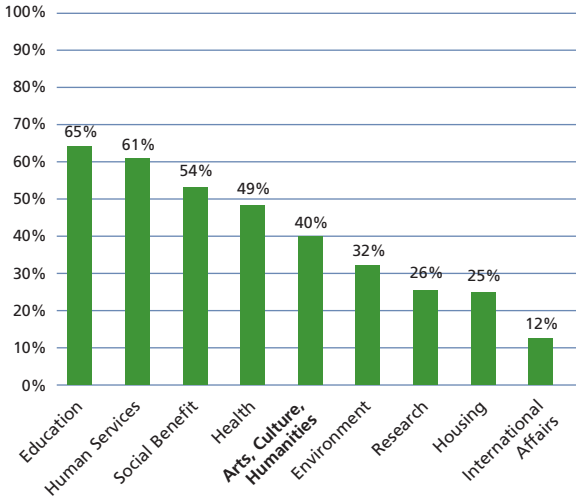
Get to the Source

A number of organizations throughout the country - and many in Orange County - measure local perceptions and patronage of the arts through studies and surveys. Research referenced in this indicator includes:

- OCBC/CSUF, public opinion survey (2005)
- OCBC/CSUF, community involvement survey (2003)
- Arts Orange County, survey of arts organizations (2005)
- Arts Orange County, public opinion survey (2001)
- Chapman University/Orange County Business Committee for the Arts, "Arts Are Business" (2001)
- Cultural Initiatives Silicon Valley, "Creative Community Index" (2005)
- City of Albuquerque, "Albuquerque Progress Report" (2003)

[4] Arts Orange County, 2001
[5] Arts Orange County, 2005

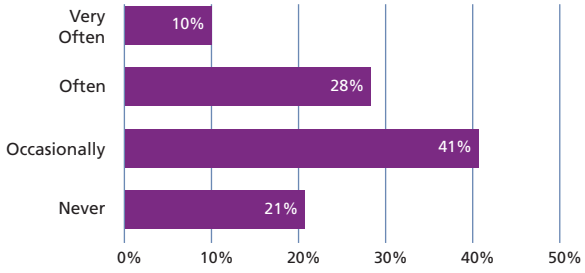
Percent of Corporations that Provided Contributions, Volunteers or Both (by Category)
Orange County, 2003



Source: 2003 Community Involvement Survey of Orange County Corporations and Businesses

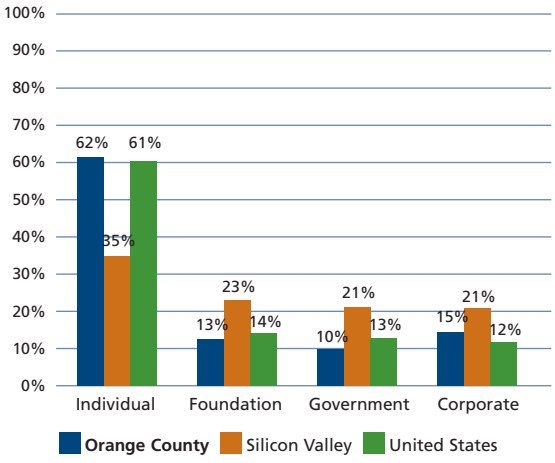
Resident Charitable Giving
Orange County, 2005

How frequently do you contribute to nonprofit, arts, social, cultural and charitable organizations?



Source: Orange County Business Council/California State University, Fullerton, Public Opinion Survey, 2005

Sources of Contributed Income for Arts Organizations
Orange County (2000), Silicon Valley (2001), and United States (2001)



Sources: Arts Orange County, Survey of Arts Organizations, 2005 and Cultural Initiatives Silicon Valley, "Creative Community Index," 2005

Over 16,000 Homeless Children; Cost of Housing Main Factor

Description of Indicator

This indicator includes data from a number of sources to show the extent of homelessness in Orange County, who is becoming homeless and why, and solutions in effect or planned to alleviate the problem.

Why is it Important?

Homelessness is both on the rise and often misunderstood. Understanding who is homeless and why is essential for designing approaches to end the cycle of poverty and housing instability. Community awareness that a majority of the homeless in Orange County are ordinary working families with children could help build support for affordable housing projects that once might have been opposed. The high number of homeless children is particularly troubling. These children must face the fear, social stigma, instability and danger that homelessness brings.

How is Orange County Doing?

After increasing an average of 17% each year since 1998, the estimated number of individuals and families who experienced homelessness in the past year in Orange County remained steady for the first time since tracking began (34,898 in 2005). While the number of homeless is still very high, the fact the number did not increase again is a powerful sign that significant federal and local funds invested over the past several years to increase shelter capacity, housing opportunities, and services are starting to make a difference.

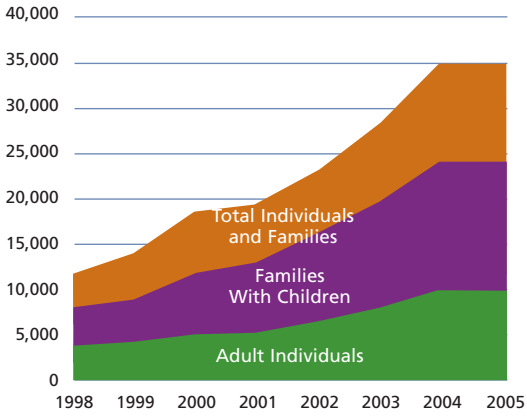
The homeless estimates are based on data collected from hundreds of public and private shelter and service providers. They indicate the number of homeless persons served and turned away by local shelters and service providers (including motel service providers). Also included in the estimate is the number of chronically homeless individuals (street homeless) that typically do not access services or shelter. Approximately 7,572 (or 22%) of Orange County's homeless are considered chronically homeless.

When compared to peer regions, Orange County has the highest estimated number of homeless, 11.7 per 1,000 residents. This is according to a summary report by the Weingart Institute that presents findings from independent studies conducted in selected U.S. cities and counties. While caution is warranted in comparing these reports which may use different definitions and methodologies to count the homeless, it is interesting to note that of the cities and counties included in the regional summary, only Detroit had a higher proportion of homeless (16.5 per 1,000) than Orange County.[1]

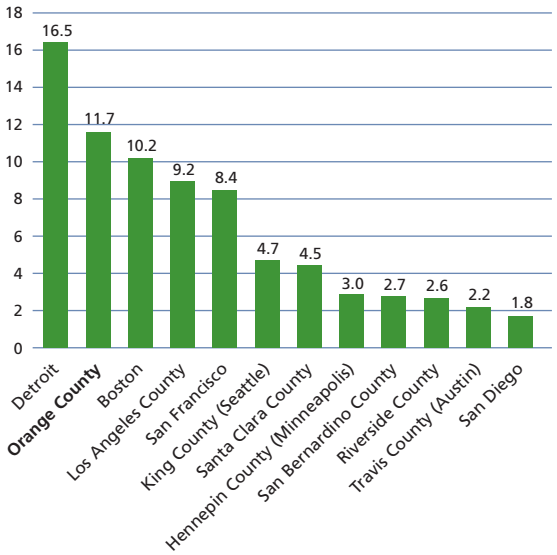
Definition of Homelessness

A person is considered homeless if they have no fixed or regular nighttime residence, live in a motel, have received an eviction notice and have no resources for housing, or are staying in a temporary shelter or place that is not designed for human habitation, such as a car, garage, park, or abandoned building. A chronically homeless person is a homeless individual with a disabling condition (e.g. serious mental illness, substance abuse disorder, developmental or physical disability, or a combination of these) who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Estimated Number of Homeless
Orange County, 1998-2005



Number of Homeless per 1,000 Residents
Regional Comparison, 2005



Note: Data for Santa Clara County, King County, and Boston is from 2004. Data for San Bernardino County is from 2003.

Source: Institute for the Study of Homelessness and Poverty at the Weingart Center, Homeless Counts in Major U.S. Cities and Counties, December 2005 (www.weingart.org/center/pdf/200512-city-county-homeless-counts.pdf)

[1] Some regions may base their counts on "point-in-time" data (the number of homeless counted in a 24-hour period) while Orange County's is based on administrative records as described in the text. Administrative records capture the total number of people that became homeless throughout the year and at every point in the system of care. Conversely, point-in-time data can significantly undercount the homeless which may account for some of the variation among regions.

Families and Children

Challenging the homeless stereotype is the reality that by far, the majority of Orange County's homeless are families with children. An estimated 24,429 people fall into this category, a majority of whom are children (16,285) with an estimated 5,374 age five and under. Among peers, Orange County has the highest proportion of homeless that are families (70%). The second highest is Hennepin County (Minneapolis) at 49%. Very few homeless families can trace their homelessness to serious mental illness problems. And while substance abuse can be a contributing factor among homeless families, homeless families are far less likely to have a substance abuse problem than a homeless individual (4% vs. 57%). Rather, financial loss, very high housing costs, health problems, or domestic violence are more likely reasons a family becomes homeless. An estimated 2,791 of the homeless families with children became so after fleeing domestic violence.

Whether living in a shelter, car or motel, attending school can be difficult for children with unstable housing, particularly if the family moves often. For example, on average, families living in motels in Anaheim move three times a year. Among the families interviewed in Anaheim, 4% said their school age child did not attend school and, of those with children in school, most reported more than two absences a month.[2] The Orange County Department of Education in partnership with the County of Orange Homeless Prevention is working to implement a regional plan for the education of homeless children and youth.

Individuals

Approximately 10,469 (or 30%) of Orange County's homeless are adult individuals. It is estimated that 57% of homeless individuals have substance abuse problems while the presence of mental illness is less pronounced. About 16% have a serious mental illness (compared to 8% of the general population nationwide).[3] One-quarter (24%) are dually-diagnosed (mental illness and substance abuse or developmental disability, such as low IQ), and 5% are multi-diagnosed (mental illness, developmental disability, and substance abuse).[4] It is important to note that 43% do not have a substance abuse problem and most do not have mental illness. In fact, most homeless individuals defy stereotypes and represent a cross-section of the overall population.

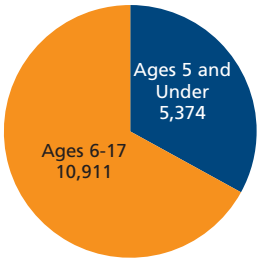
Health Care

Health care is an issue for homeless families and individuals. One-fifth of Anaheim motel children do not have health care coverage. More (32%) adults do not have coverage. One-third (31%) report their family's heath care needs are not being met. And nearly half (44%) report health problems contributed to their homelessness.

Financial Conditions

Among homeless living in motels in Anaheim, over three-quarters have jobs and over half are employed full-time. The mean monthly family income is $1,475, the bulk of which comes from wages. Some depend on MediCal (56%), Food Stamps (52%) and public cash assistance (32%) to make ends meet. As many indicators within this report show, wages have not risen fast enough to keep up with skyrocketing housing prices (see pages 17, 20, 21 and 48).

Homeless Children
Orange County, 2005



Sources: InfoLink Orange County, County of Orange Housing and Community Services Department, and OC Partnership (2005 Continuum of Care Narrative and Gap Analysis)

Low-cost motels that allow payment in small increments serve the purpose of housing for many who cannot afford the high upfront costs involved in renting an apartment (e.g. first and last month's rent plus a security deposit).

Sub-Populations of Homeless Individuals
Orange County, 2005

Senior	14%
Victim of Domestic Violence	9%
Youth	7%
Veteran	7%
Pregnant	4%
AIDS/HIV Diagnosis	2%

Note: Percentages should not be added since individuals may fall into more than one category.

Sources: InfoLink Orange County, County of Orange Housing and Community Services Department, and OC Partnership (2005 Continuum of Care Narrative and Gap Analysis)

HIV/AIDS

A survey of people living with AIDS or HIV (PLWAH) indicated a median income of just $859 per month. Low income combined with poor health and/or health care costs can lead to homelessness, particularly in high-rent regions like Orange County. The same survey also estimated a need for 3,480 units or rental assistance vouchers. Currently there are 530 units or vouchers for PLWAH, leaving gap of 2,950. See Health Status, page 54, for further discussion of AIDS/HIV in Orange County.

[2] OC Partnership/Research Support Services, A Strategic Plan for Assisting Individuals and Families Residing in Motels to Reach and Sustain Stable Housing, January 2005
[3] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Serious Mental Illness and Its Co-Occurrence with Substance Use Disorders, 2002
[4] Percentages should not be added since individuals may fall into more than one category.

Housing the Homeless

Orange County has a very extensive and active nonprofit community serving the homeless. In addition to a bed and meal, shelters provide a host of services. There are 3,289 shelter beds currently in Orange County. While the number of beds has grown, an estimated 13,129 people were turned away in 2005. Services such as drug, alcohol and mental health counseling, job and life skills training, childcare, and legal assistance are similarly overburdened. While these agencies depend primarily on local donations, hard won federal funds have and will continue to help these agencies increase capacity and services. In 2005, $10.4 million was awarded to Orange County nonprofit service providers.

Affordable Housing

The demand for affordable housing in Orange County cannot be overstated. While there are many strategies to increase affordable housing, two common ways include making housing affordable through rental assistance (providing money to go towards fair market rent) or through the creation of units for which rent is kept artificially below market rates. In terms of rental assistance, the number eligible and on waiting lists for the federal Section 8 program far exceeds current funding levels (see Family Wellbeing, page 48). Funding would have to double to meet actual demand. For example, the Orange County Housing Authority provides rental assistance payment for over 9,500 households and received over 20,000 applications during a recent four-week enrollment period in November 2005. In terms of affordable housing projects, there is progress (e.g. 166 new units at the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station by 2008, and the transfer of apartment buildings to the Salvation Army for use as transitional housing) but vastly more is needed. Affordable housing projects are often difficult to locate in established neighborhoods. The Orange County Register reported 70% of proposed homeless shelters are successfully blocked by communities.[5]

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

In 2002, the federal government introduced a new initiative called the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Communities around the nation were asked to support the development of a comprehensive plan that focuses on ending chronic homelessness, not just managing it. Since the initiatives' onset, some regions have chosen to widen the scope from chronic homelessness to all homelessness, including Orange County. Orange County is part of a consortium of California jurisdictions collaborating to develop a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in their jurisdictions. The County's effort is supported by the Orange County Continuum of Care partnership made up of the County, cities, and all nonprofits serving the homeless. Orange County expects to have a complete draft of the plan by the end of 2006 and see the plan fully implemented by the end of 2016. Strategies will include focusing on a "housing first" model for most families, implementing one-stop resource centers for the homeless to receive comprehensive services (both public and nonprofit service providers under one roof), and increasing collaborative partnerships between city and county government and the shelter/housing community.[6]

Reasons for Being Homeless: Survey Responses by Homeless Living in Anaheim Motels, 2005

Top Reasons for Becoming Homeless	
Financial Loss	53%
Family Problems	28%
Eviction	22%
Mental Health Problems	21%
Top Reasons for Remaining Homeless	
Inability to Save for a Deposit	76%
Bad Credit History	43%
Past Evictions	23%
Mental Health Problems	23%
Services Most Needed to Get Out of Homelessness	
Rental Assistance/Section 8	48%
Job Training	47%
Credit or Legal Assistance	36%

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

Orange County residents can now call 2-1-1 to obtain information and referrals to shelters and services for the homeless.

[5] Orange County Register, "O.C. homelessness on the Rise," July 22, 2002
[6] The "housing first" model moves homeless persons directly into permanent housing as opposed to a shelter and then housing.

Economic and Business Climate

Growth of exports, tourism, employment and per capita income bode well for Orange County's economy, but persistently high housing costs continue to put a damper on the county's otherwise strong business climate.

Business Executives More Optimistic About Orange County

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County's business climate through two sets of information: a survey of how local business executives feel about doing business in Orange County (Orange County Executive Survey) and national rankings of the best regions in the nation for business (Forbes).

Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

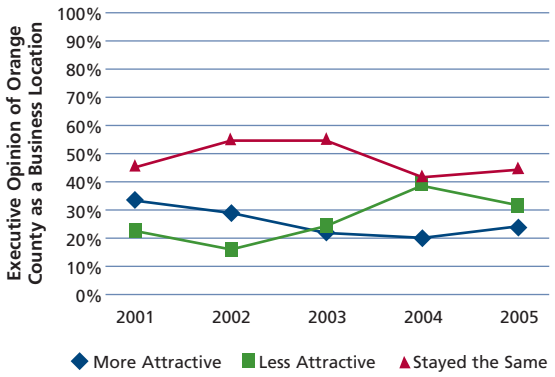
Orange County Executive Survey

For the first time in five years, there was an increase in the percent of Orange County executives surveyed stating that the county was becoming a more attractive place to do business (24%). Despite this improved rating, 31% of executives believe Orange County is becoming a less attractive place to do business. The county's most popular attribute – its desirability as a place to live – fell by 8% from its high of 32% in 2000, and the high cost of housing continues to top the list of factors detracting from Orange County as a business location. Traffic was the second highest area of concern for executives.

Forbes

Among the best places for business according to Forbes, Orange County ranked 27th out of the 150 metro areas compared in 2005. This was better than 2004 when Orange County was 40th, but still far off its 2000 ranking of 7th. With the exception of San Diego, Orange County consistently out-ranks all other major California locations as a place to do business. The Forbes ranking compares business costs, qualifications of the work force, job and income growth, migration patterns, crime rates and culture and leisure options. Orange County is ranked positively in crime rate, number of engineers, and leisure activities but falls among the lowest ranks in cost of doing business and cost of living.

Business Sentiment, 2001-2005



Factors Contributing to or Detracting from Orange County as a Business Location, 2005

Major Positive Factors	
Desirable place to live	24%
Centrally located relative to markets	20%
Business' customers are here	14%
Major Negative Factors	
Cost of housing	28%
Traffic	16%
Cost of doing business	13%

Source: Orange County Executive Survey, 2005

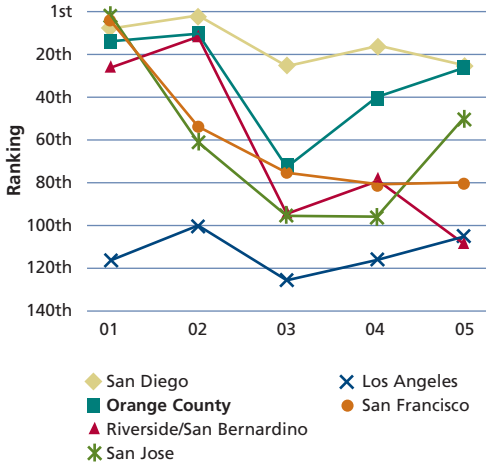
Best Places for Business
Orange County Ranking by Component, 2005

	Rank
Crime Rate [1]	13
Engineers[2]	18
Culture & Leisure[3]	19
Educational Attainment[4]	23
Income Growth	23
Job Growth	35
Net Migration	90
Cost of Doing Business[5]	143
Cost of Living[6]	148
Overall	**27**

Source: Forbes Magazine, May 5, 2005 (www.forbes.com/lists/2005/1/2792.shtml)

[1]Crimes per 100,000 residents.
[2]Engineers as a percent of total employment.
[3]Index based on museums, theatres, golf courses, sports teams and other activities.
[4]Share of population over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher.
[5]Index based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space.
[6]Index based on cost of housing, utilities, transportation and other expenditures.

Best Places for Business
Regional Comparison, 2001-2005



Source: Forbes Magazine, May 5, 2005 (www.forbes.com/2005/05/05/05bestplaces.html)

Visitor Spending Grows Faster Than Peers

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures visitor spending on accommodations, food, recreation, retail sales and travel arrangements; tax revenue generated by visitor spending; and travel industry jobs.

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 9% of the county's employment in 2004. Hotels, shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues rely on the tourism market for a significant percentage of their business. Additionally, Orange County jurisdictions benefit from tax revenue generated by visitor spending.

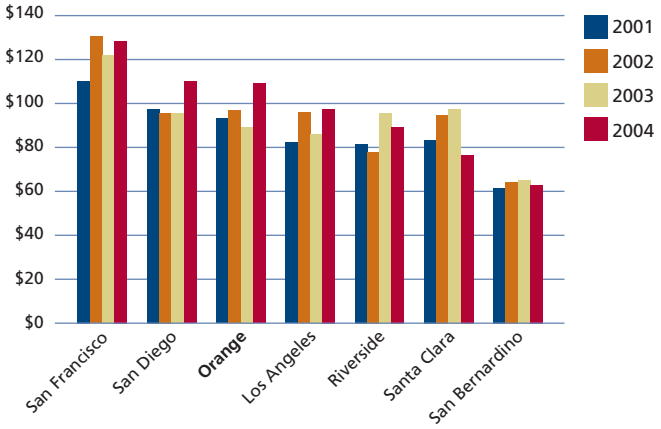
How is Orange County Doing?

Visitor spending in Orange County increased for the fifth consecutive year. Between 1999 and 2003, visitor spending increased at an annual rate of 3.9%, moving Orange County to the top rank among seven peers in 2003, compared with third place in 2002 and sixth place in 2001. Tourism generated $462 million in tax receipts for Orange County in 2003.

After having fallen the previous year, the county's average visitor spending rose to $107.70 per day in 2004, the third highest daily visitor spending among the county's peer markets.

The average number of tourism-related jobs in Orange County rose to 79,540 in 2003, making Orange County the third largest center for tourism-related employment in the state, behind Los Angeles and San Diego Counties. Amusement parks such as Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm, and the county's 42 miles of beaches continue to be among the most popular tourist destinations in California.

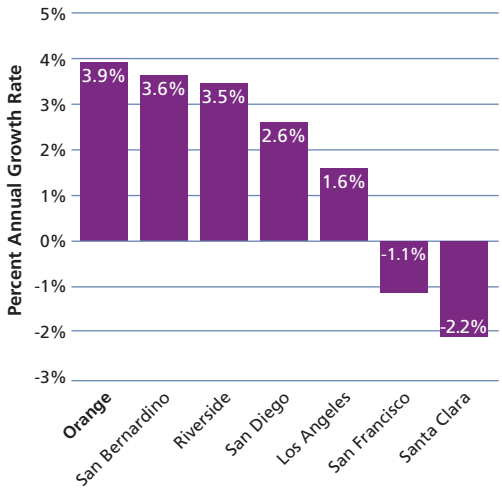
Average Expenditures per Visitor per Day
County Comparison, 2001-2004



Note: Excludes transportation expenditures.

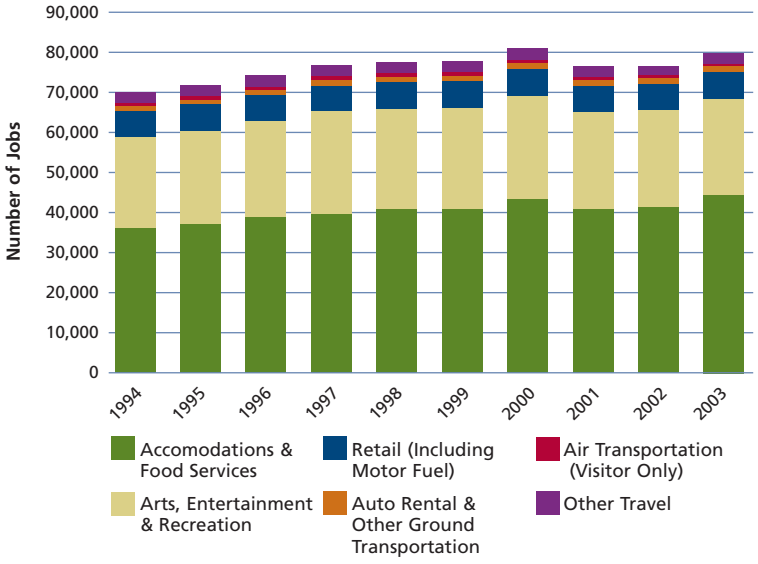
Source: D.K. Shifflet and Associates for the California Division of Tourism, California 2004 Domestic Travel Report (www.visitcalifornia.com/tourism/pdfs/TI_RS_Dom_Travel_Data_Report_2004.pdf)

Visitor Spending by County
Average Annual Growth Rate, 1999-2003



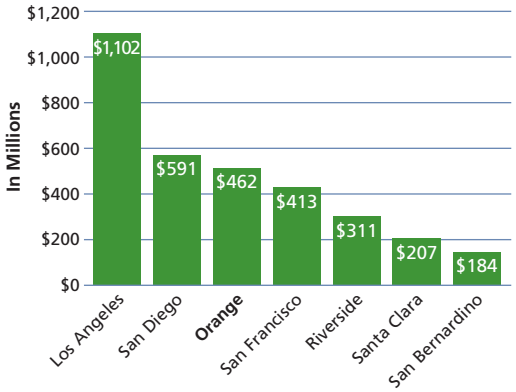
Source: California Division of Tourism, California Travel Impacts by County, Dean Runyan Associates (www.deanrunyan.com/pdf/pdfca/spendbycou03.pdf)

Tourism-Related Employment by Industry
Orange County, 1994-2003



Source: California Division of Tourism, California Travel Impacts by County, Dean Runyan Associates (http://dra.uia.net/index.phtml?state=CA)

Tourism-Related Total Tax Receipts, 2003



Source: California Division of Tourism, California Travel Impacts by County, Dean Runyan Associates (www.deanrunyan.com/pdf/pdfca/implycou03.pdf)

Exports Increase Again in 2004

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the trend in total and manufacturing exports for Orange County companies and identifies the county's top export markets.

Why is it Important?

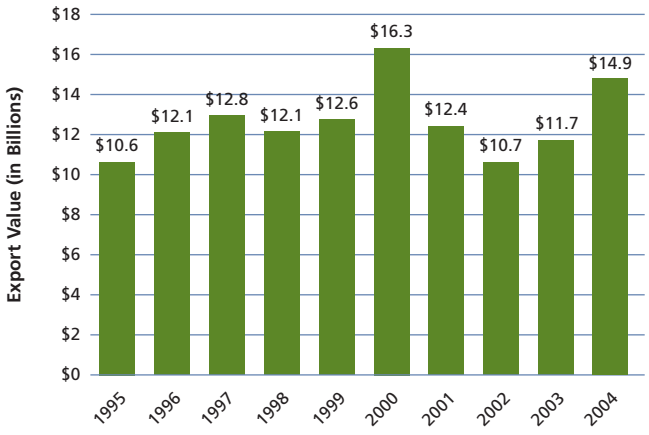
As trade agreements continue to increase free trade opportunities and competition, Orange County companies must be able to access foreign markets. Due to the county's strong Latino community and proximity to Mexico, Orange County is well positioned to take advantage of growing markets in Latin America,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

How is Orange County Doing?

Total exports (comprised of manufacturing and service exports) rose from $11.7 billion in 2003 to $14.9 billion in 2004, the second highest in ten years. Manufacturing, the largest component of total exports, increased from $9 billion to $10.5 billion. The top export goods from Orange County were computers and electronics with over $5 billion worth of trade. Service exports were not far behind at $4.4 billion.

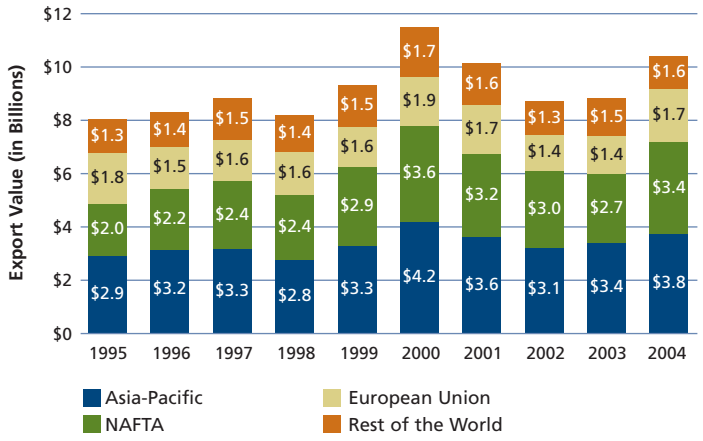
In 2004, Mexico was the top destination for Orange County exports (manufacturing and services), with Japan and Canada the next most important markets. This reflects the impressive growth of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) countries as markets for Orange County firms. NAFTA countries accounted for 25% of Orange County manufacturing exports a decade ago; by 2004, 32% of the county's manufacturing exports were destined for NAFTA countries.

Total Orange County Exports Worldwide, 1995-2004

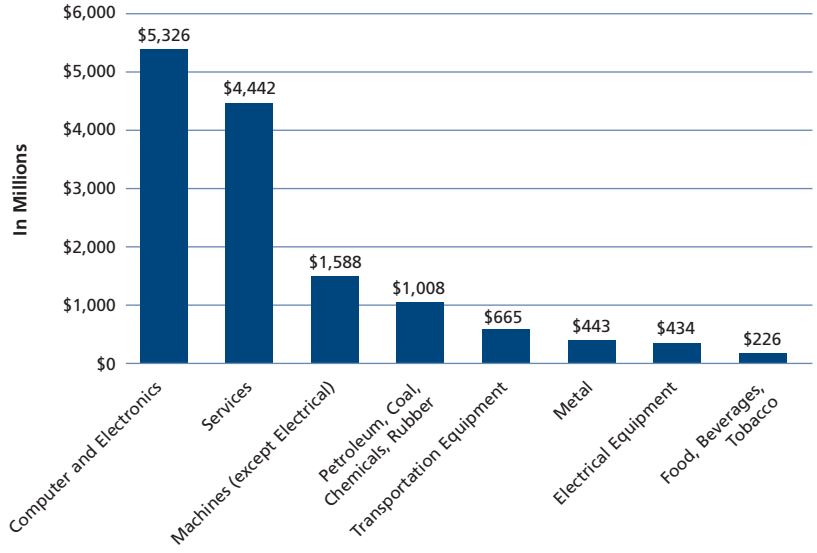


Source: California State University, Fullerton, Center for Economic and Environmental Studies

Manufacturing Export Value by Destination
Orange County, 1995-2004



Exports From Orange County by Sector, 2004



Source: California State University, Fullerton, Center for the Study of Emerging Financial Markets

Cost of Living Significantly Affected by the Cost of Housing

Description of Indicator

This indicator uses a cost of living index to compare prices of consumer goods and services for Orange County and peer metropolitan regions. The index weights the costs of items such as housing (29%), groceries (14%), utilities (10%), transportation (10%), health (4%) and miscellaneous items (33%) across three hundred metro areas throughout the United States at a single point in time. 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?

If the cost of living in Orange County is high compared with peers, businesses may relocate or expand elsewhere, current residents may decide to leave since they cannot afford basic living expenses, and new residents and workers may not come to Orange County.

How is Orange County Doing?

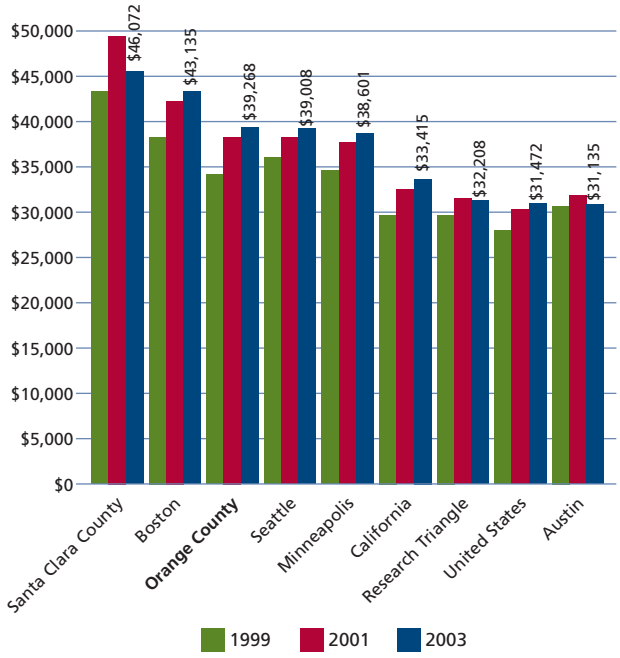
In the third quarter of 2005, Orange County's cost of living index was fourth highest among all 300 metro areas compared, only ranking lower than San Francisco, Silicon Valley and the Los Angeles-Long Beach region. With 100.0 being average, the index measured 157.1 for Orange County. Orange County's cost of living measures for groceries, utilities, transportation and miscellaneous items tended to rank in the middle among peers. However, Orange County's high housing costs significantly affected the index, thus making it among the highest cost areas.

Cost of Living Index
Regional Comparison, Third Quarter 2005

Location	Total Index Value
San Francisco	174.8
Silicon Valley	166.2
Los Angeles	157.4
Orange County	**157.1**
San Diego	150.6
Boston	138.9
Inland Empire	116.1
Seattle	115.8
Austin	97.0
Research Triangle	94.0

Source: ACCRA/Council for Community and Economic Research (www.accra.org)

Per Capita Income, 1999, 2001, and 2003



Income Growth Strong

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.

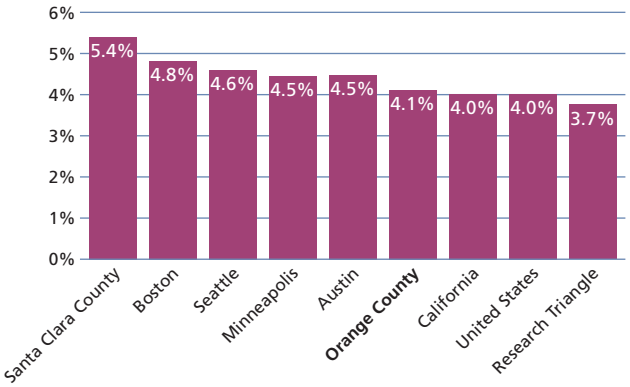
Why is it Important?

Higher disposable incomes result in additional purchases of goods and services which contribute to overall economic strength and a sense of material satisfaction as residents have what they need to survive and prosper. Income growth is crucial in the context of the county's high and rising housing costs.

How is Orange County Doing?

In 2003, Orange County's per capita income of $39,268 was higher than the California and the United States. When compared to economic peers, it was higher than all except for Boston and Santa Clara County. After several years of comparatively low growth, Orange County witnessed the fastest per capita income growth rate among peers (4.27%) between 2001 and 2003. This growth allowed Orange County to rise from the bottom to the middle rank among peers for average annual percent change for the past 10 years.

Per Capita Income
Average Annual Percent Change, 1994-2003



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (www.bea.doc.gov)

Service Clusters and Construction Lead Recent Job Growth

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 are 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 these jobs can provide a wage high enough for workers to afford living in Orange County.

How is Orange County Doing?

The three largest clusters – Business and Professional Services, Tourism, and Health Services – reflect the importance of the service sector in the Orange County economy. These three large clusters posted solid employment growth during the 1990s with an average annual growth rate of 3.2%, 2.0% and 1.3%, respectively. The large reductions in Defense and Aerospace employment seen during the 1990s were buffered by strong annual growth in Computer Software (13.2%) and Communications (7.1%).

The technology downturn which began in 2001 has extended through 2004. Between 2001 and 2004, the county experienced significant job losses in the following sectors:

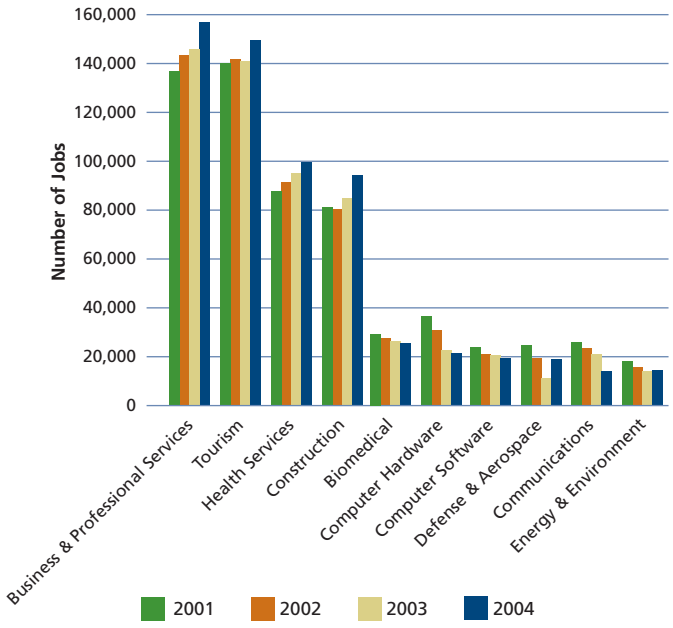
- Communications (-16.2%)
- Computer Hardware (-14.5%)
- Defense and Aerospace (-9.7%)
- Energy and Environment (-9.5%)
- Computer Software (-7.4%)

These losses have been offset somewhat by job growth in some of the county's largest clusters, including:

- Construction (+5.2%)
- Business and Professional Services (+4.6%)
- Health Services (+4.6%)
- Tourism (+1.8%)

Between 2003 and 2004, salary change was split with five of the 10 clusters experiencing income growth and five experiencing income loss. The income loss tended to be in the lower paying clusters.

Employment in Selected Clusters
Orange County, 2001-2004



Average Annual Salaries
Orange County, 2004

	2004	Change 2003-04
Computer Software	$82,541	5.4%
Defense & Aerospace	$71,773	21.1%
Biomedical	$64,232	8.0%
Computer Hardware	$63,507	6.7%
Communications	$53,657	-8.4%
Energy & Environment	$49,850	5.7%
Construction	$45,144	-4.0%
Business & Professional Services	$42,099	-6.6%
Health Services	$41,743	-1.8%
Tourism	$17,575	-0.4%

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

Job Growth Continues to Outpace Housing Construction

Description of Indicator

This indicator shows the ratio of new housing permits divided by new jobs for Orange County, comparison metropolitan areas, California, and the United States.

Why is it Important?

When an economy is growing, new housing must be created for 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, making it more difficult for employers to attract and retain workers, and forcing more employees to make longer commutes. When an economy contracts, the need for new housing is less pronounced but does not vanish, as existing residents desire move up homes. Also, housing permit growth during economic contraction can help a region reduce excess demand that could have been created during periods when housing construction did not keep pace with economic growth.

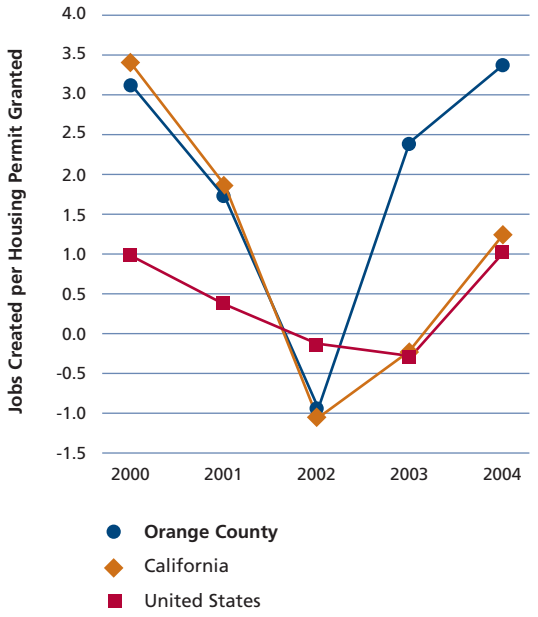
How is Orange County Doing?

In 2004, 31,000 jobs were created and 9,256 new housing permits were granted. The resulting ratio of 3.35 new jobs for every new housing permit is the highest among the county's peer metro areas, and higher than both California and the United States.

The combination of strong job growth and weak housing development exacerbates housing shortages that started in the late 1990s, when the county created as many as 4.4 jobs for every housing permit granted. There was a small respite in 2002, when employment shrank by 10,700 jobs while housing permits grew by 11,370. However, the 2004 numbers show a ratio of housing to employment that is once again approaching the levels of the late 1990s.

The low number of permits granted (the fewest among peers) contributes to the county's rapid increase in house prices (see Housing Affordability). It also creates an imbalance of employment to housing that leads to longer travel times for commuters working here but living elsewhere.

New Jobs Created per Housing Permit Granted, 2000-2004



Housing Demand
Regional Comparison, 2004

	Housing Permits	Employment Change (Jobs)	Ratio Employment Change to Permits
Orange County	**9,256**	**31,000**	**3.35**
California	207,266	252,000	1.22
San Diego	15,587	18,600	1.19
United States	2,128,980	2,194,000	1.03
Inland Empire	51,563	50,500	0.98
San Francisco Bay Area	27,339	25,000	0.91
Phoenix	65,259	55,000	0.84
Seattle	24,486	19,600	0.80
Austin	18,015	13,100	0.73
Research Triangle	14,404	9,300	0.65
Minneapolis	27,714	14,200	0.51
Atlanta	74,007	27,600	0.37
Los Angeles	26,529	9,200	0.35
Boston	15,423	-7,300	-0.47

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

Median Priced Home Still Out of Reach for 89% of Residents

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the value and change in value of the median priced existing single-family detached home, calculates the income needed to afford the median priced existing single-family detached home compared to typical salaries, and examines the Housing Affordability Index which measures the percentage of Orange County households that can afford the existing median priced single-family detached home in the county.

Why is it Important?

A lack of affordable housing can adversely affect the local economy. High relative housing prices – the top concern of Orange County executives this year (see Business Climate, page 14) – make it difficult for businesses to attract and retain workers. 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, resulting in longer commutes, increased traffic congestion and pollution, decreased productivity and diminished quality of life. Finally, home ownership can be a significant means of personal wealth creation.

How is Orange County Doing?

Single-Family Home Sale Price

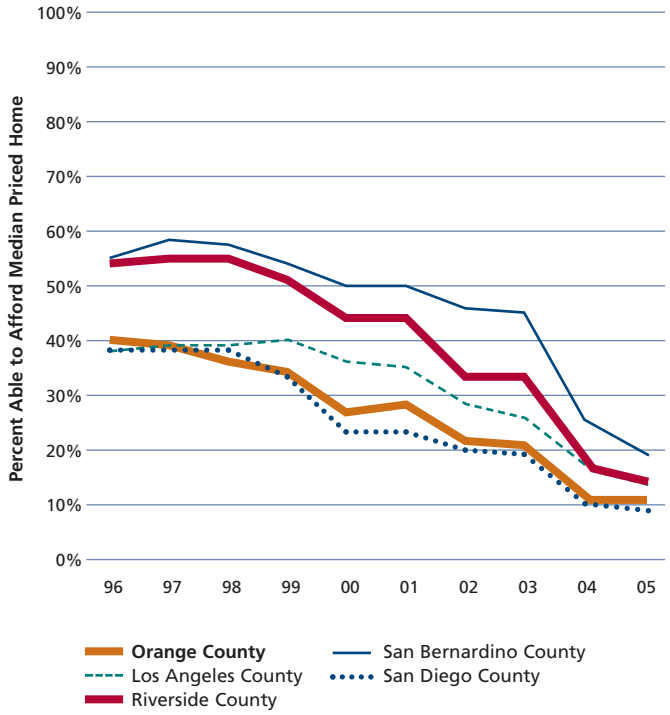
According to the California Association of Realtors, in July 2005, the median sale price of an existing single-family detached home in Orange County was $706,820 (an increase of 9% from July 2004) and $540,900 in California (up 17%). The long-term increases in housing prices have been sustained by historically low interest rates and high housing demand relative to available supply. After multiple years of double digit increases in prices, housing appreciation has tempered, perhaps a sign that the market is cooling.

Housing Affordability

In July 2005, only 11% of households in Orange County could afford the median priced existing single-family detached home, the same rate as 2004. This compares to 21% of Orange County households who could afford the median priced home in 2003 and 39% in 1995. According to the Housing Affordability Index, even with the price leveling, Orange County is less affordable than all our neighbors except San Diego County. In fact, Orange County is the fourth least affordable area in the country (based on the percentage of homes that median income families could buy).[1]

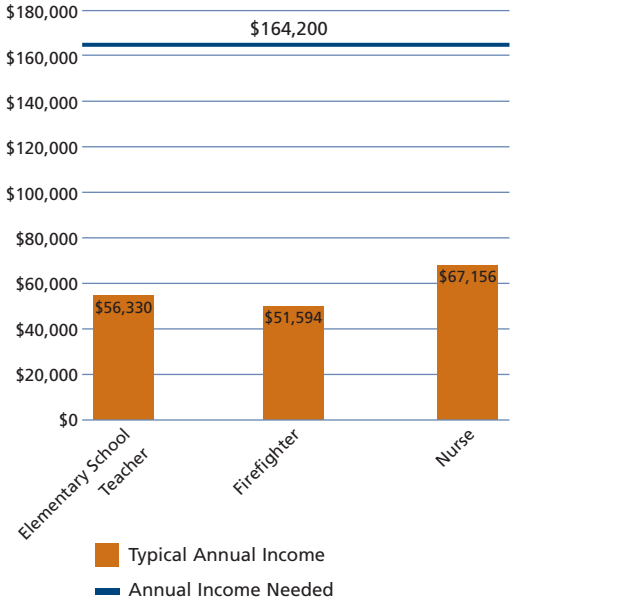
The minimum household income needed to purchase a median priced single-family home at $540,900 in California was $125,670, based on an average mortgage interest rate of 5.73% and assuming a 20% down payment. A median priced Orange County home for approximately $166,000 more would demand an income of approximately $164,200. The mean annual income in Orange County for a nurse is $67,156, a firefighter is $51,594, and an elementary school teacher is $56,330. New mortgage financing tools and more lenient credit standards have stretched the purchasing power of residents, but the divide between middle class incomes and housing prices is enormous and continues to widen.

Housing Affordability Index
County Comparison, 1996-2005



Source: California Association of Realtors

Income Needed to Afford Median Priced Home ($706,820) Compared to Typical Salaries
Orange County, 2005



Sources: Orange County Business Council analysis of California Association of Realtors data, and California Employment Development Department, Occupational Employment Statistics Survey, First Quarter, 2005

[1] National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index

County is One of the Least Affordable Locations for Renters

Description of Indicator

The rental affordability indicator measures the Housing Wage – the hourly wage a resident would need to afford Fair Market Rent. For Orange County, Fair Market Rent is the 50th percentile (or median) rent in the market.

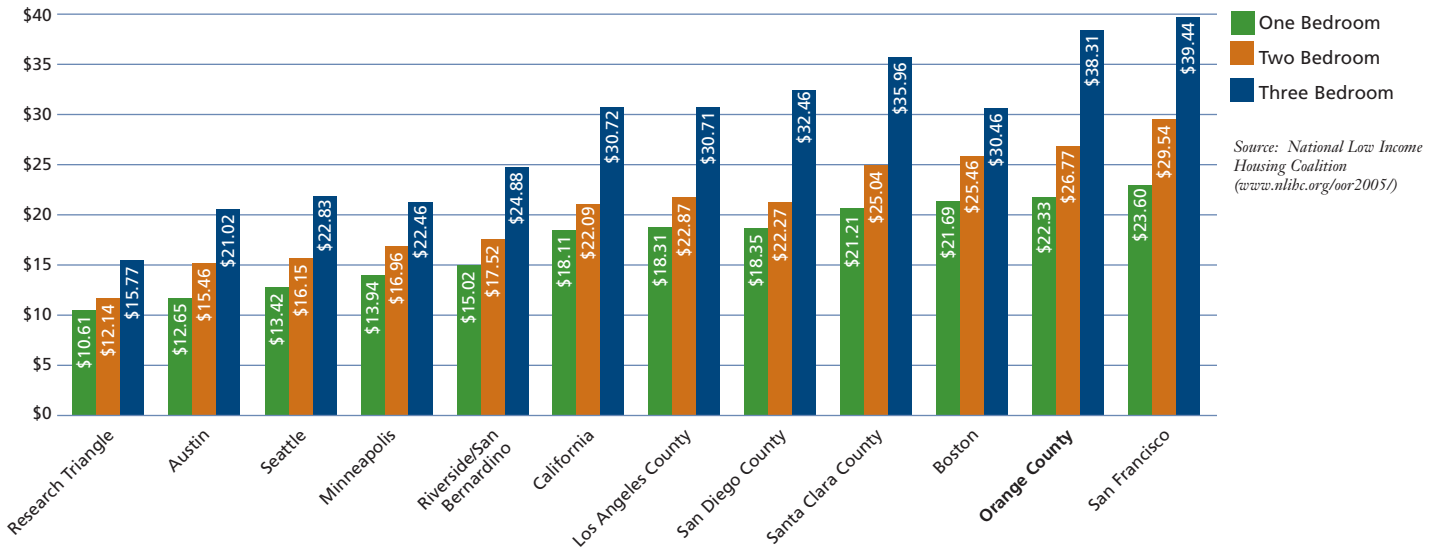
Why is it Important?

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, limiting 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 2005. The hourly wage needed for a one-bedroom apartment ($22.33) is equivalent to an annual income of $46,446. According to employment projections, most of the occupations likely to have the large gains in the county's three high-growth industries (services, manufacturing, and retail trade) have hourly wages far below the Housing Wage. Even among the higher wage growth occupations, wages are not enough to afford a median priced home in the county (see Housing Affordability, page 20). Among state and national peer metropolitan areas, only San Francisco has a higher Housing Wage (less affordable rental housing) than Orange County.

Hourly Wage Needed to Afford Fair Market Rent, 2005



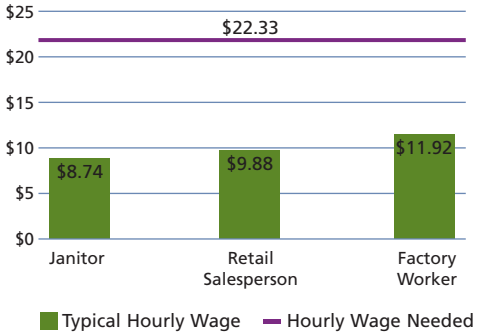
Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition (www.nlihc.org/oor2005/)

Renting in Orange County

Fair Market Rent (Monthly)	2005	2006
One Bedroom	$1,098	$1,161
Two Bedroom	$1,317	$1,392
Three Bedroom	$1,885	$1,992
	2004	**2005**
Estimated Orange County Median Family Income (Annual)	$74,200	$75,700
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)	$557	$568
Number of Hours per Week a Minimum Wage Earner Must Work to Afford a One-Bedroom Apartment	125	132

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition (www.nlihc.org/oor2005/)

Hourly Wage Needed to Afford a One-Bedroom Unit Compared to Typical Hourly Wages
Orange County, 2005



Sources: California Employment Development Department (www.calmis.ca.gov/FILE/OCCUPS/oeswages/Oran$oes.htm) and National Low Income Housing Coalition (www.nlihc.org/oor2005/)

Commuter Rail Continues to Grow; Future Transportation Funding an Issue

Description of Indicator

This indicator includes several transportation-related measures including freeway congestion, average commute times, bus and rail use, transit system expenditures, mode of travel, and local transportation funding.

Why is it Important?

The ability of residents, workers, and goods to move within the county is integral to Orange County's quality of life and economic prosperity. Long commutes affect personal lives and worker productivity due to the time lost in transit. Traffic congestion adversely affects the efficient movement of goods. An effective public transit system offers an important alternative for individuals who do not own or do not wish to drive a car. Measuring the use of existing facilities and investment in transportation infrastructure will help the community determine how to address future mobility needs.

How is Orange County Doing?

Travel Growth

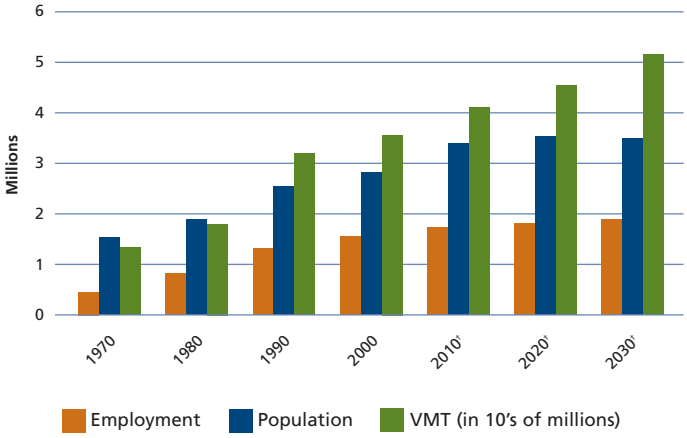
The total number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in Orange County has been steadily increasing along with our population and employment growth. While population and employment growth are projected to slow and begin to flatten, VMT is projected to continue its steady increase - a trend that is likely to lead to increased traffic congestion.

Use of Orange County's Freeways

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) tracks congestion levels on Orange County freeways in the morning and evening peak rush hours (congestion is worse in the evening rush). According to Caltrans' congestion monitoring data, in 2004/05 a majority of Orange County freeways were congested during weekday evening peak hours. Congestion is defined as traffic speeds of 35 miles per hour and lower for 15 minutes or more.

Caltrans also tracks the available miles of state highway and the total number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per year by county. A comparison of VMT per lane mile of state highway indicates the utilization of the highway. A greater number of VMT 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. Compared to peers, in 2002 Orange County had the greatest level of state highway utilization of all areas compared including Los Angeles, Santa Clara and San Diego Counties. This is due in part to the configuration of the Orange County highway system on a diagonal rather than grid system, resulting in a lack of parallel frontage roads or alternate routes.

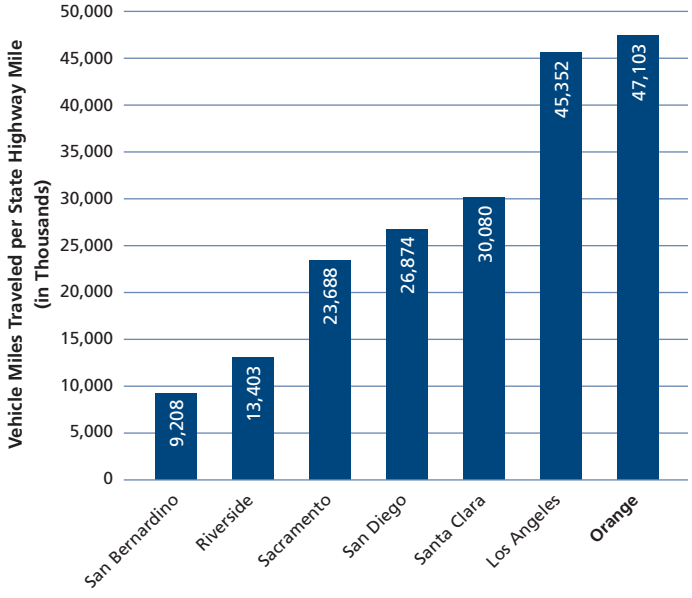
Population, Employment, and Vehicle Miles Traveled
Orange County, 1970-2030



† Projection

Sources: Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, Orange County Progress Report 2004; Assembly Statistical Report, California Public Road Data 2000; and Orange County Transportation Authority

State Highway Utilization
County Comparison, 2002



Source: Caltrans, 2002 Collision Data on California State Highways

Vehicle Miles Traveled and Lane Miles Defined

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) measures the total number of miles traveled by automobiles on Orange County roads. A "lane mile" is one mile of a single lane of roadway (if two lanes are added to a mile stretch of road it would be considered two lane miles).

Congestion on Orange County Freeways
P.M. Peak Hours, 2004/05

Note: This map is representative of congestion on the indicated freeway segment during peak hours on incident free weekdays. This map does not include non-recurrence, weekends, holidays and days in which traffic is influenced by accidents, special events and lane closures. Congestion is defined as 35 mph and lower congested speed for 15 minutes or more.

Source: Caltrans, District 12

Average Commute Times

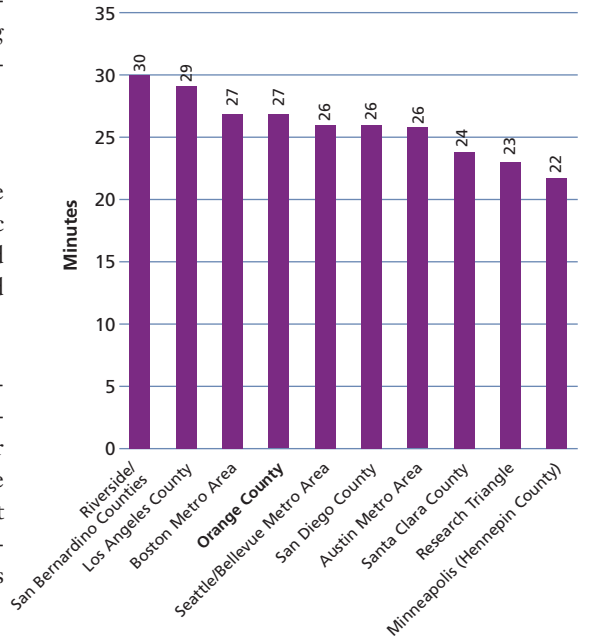
In 2004, the average commute time to work in Orange County was 27 minutes. This places Orange County in the upper third of the comparison regions, with Riverside/San Bernardino County commuters spending the longest time commuting to work (30 minutes) and Minneapolis commuters spending the least (22 minutes).

Transit Performance

For 2005, the Orange County Transportation Authority was named the top transportation system in America by the American Public Transportation Association for its fast-growing bus system, improved Metrolink commuter trains, enhancements to the freeway system, and coordinated taxicab operations.

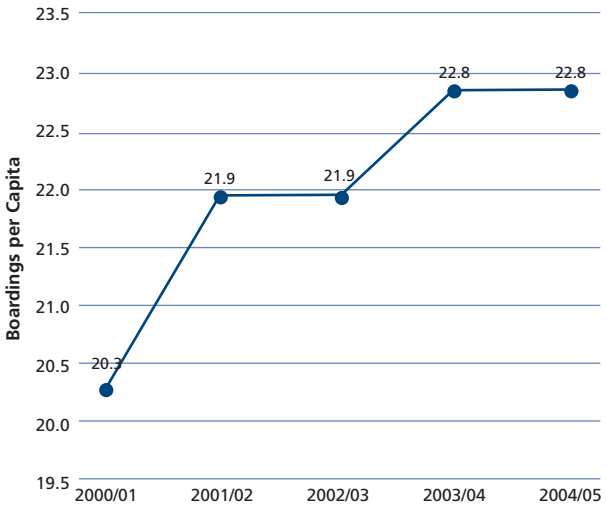
Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) bus passenger boardings in 2004/05 totaled 67,146,140. After a jump in 2003/04, bus boardings per capita have remained steady at 23 boardings per capita for 2004/05. Despite the increase in ridership in recent years, Orange County's bus ridership remains lower per capita than all peer areas except Riverside County and San Bernardino County. Orange County's transportation operating costs - including boarding and system expenditures per capita - are among the lowest compared to peer metropolitan areas.

Average Commute Times to Work in Minutes
Regional Comparison, 2004



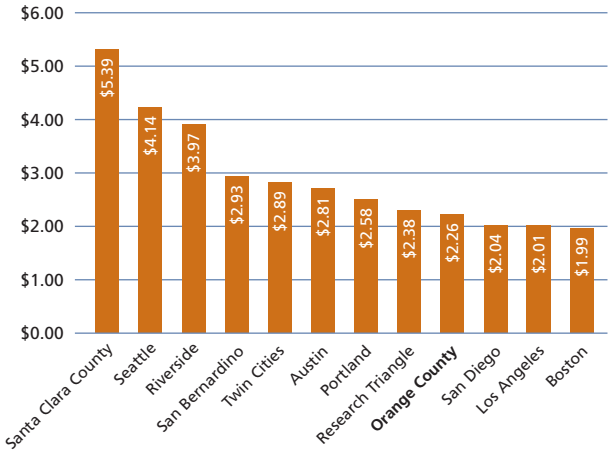
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey (www.census.gov)

OCTA Bus Passenger Boardings
2001-2005



Source: Orange County Transportation Authority

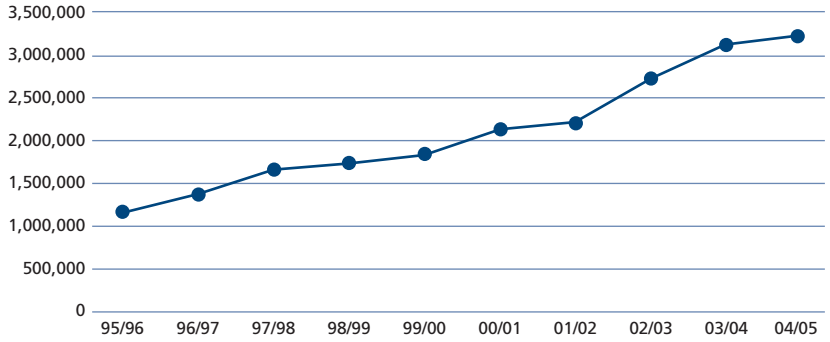
Bus System Operating Costs per Boarding, 2003



Source: Federal Transit Administration, National Transit Database, Table 20, 2003 (www.ntdprogram.com)

Ridership on the three commuter rail lines that serve Orange County continues to increase with over 3.2 million riders on all lines in 2004/05. The Orange County line which runs between Oceanside and downtown Los Angeles grew to approximately 1.84 million riders in 2004/05 and the Inland Empire Line, running between San Bernardino and San Juan Capistrano, grew to 918,057 riders.[1] In May of 2002, Metrolink began service on the 91 Line, which links downtown Riverside, Fullerton, and downtown Los Angeles. This line, which parallels the congested State Route 91 Freeway, increased eleven-fold in its first year of operation from 41,940 (May and June of 2002) to 473,820 in 2004/05.

Number of Commuter Rail Riders
Orange County Line, Inland Empire/Orange County Line and 91 Line, 1996-2005

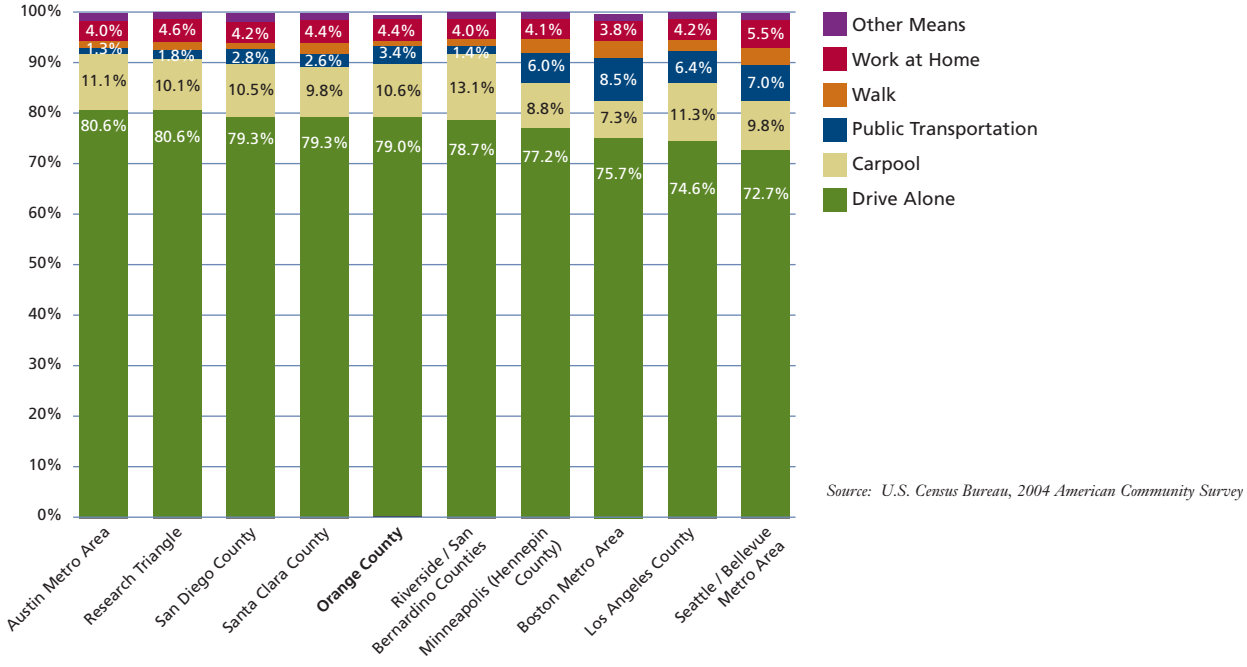


Source: Orange County Transportation Authority

Alternative Modes of Travel

The percentage of Orange County residents driving alone in 2004 was 79%, up from 75% in 2000. The second most common mode of travel, carpools, rose very slightly in 2004 after trending downward previously. Among the comparison regions, in 2004 the percentage of Orange County commuters driving alone was at the high end of the mid-range and the percentage of Orange County commuters using public transportation was in the mid-range. Orange County tied Santa Clara County for the third highest proportion of residents working from home.

Primary Mode of Commuting to Work
Regional Comparison, 2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey

[1] In 2002/03 OCTA began "Rail to Rail," a program that allows Metrolink monthly pass holders to ride Amtrak for free. Amtrak provides similar service to the Orange County line, and the count of 1.84 million riders includes Metrolink riders on Amtrak's trains.

Transportation Funds

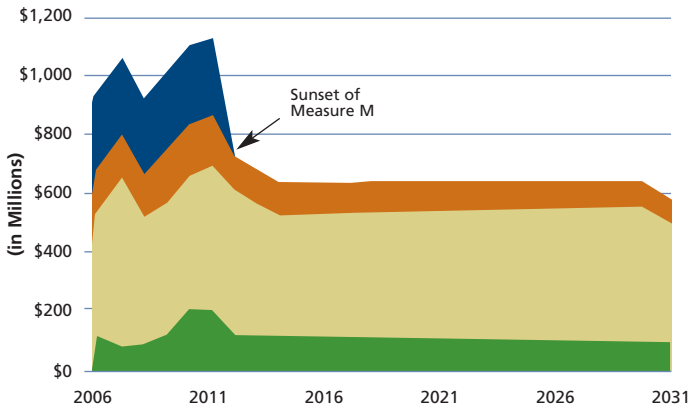
Orange County receives funds for transportation improvements from a variety of federal, state and local sources. For many years, state and federal taxes on gasoline were the main source of funds for regional transportation projects. However, state and federal gas taxes have not kept up with the costs of building new freeway lanes, roadways, and transit projects. Additionally, inflation has eroded this traditional source of transportation funds.

In 1990, Orange County voters approved Measure M, a 20-year program for transportation improvements funded by a one half-cent sales tax. Measure M allocates all sales tax revenues to specific Orange County transportation improvement projects in three major areas: freeways, roadways, and transit. Measure M expires in 2011 unless renewed by voters. By then, Measure M will have made possible nearly $4.2 billion worth of transportation improvements.[2]

Orange County can expect to receive $28 billion (2005 dollars) over the next 36 years from federal, state, and local sources to maintain, enhance, and operate the transportation system without an extension of Measure M. While $28 billion is a significant future investment, most (96%) of these funds are committed to mandated projects and services including maintaining freeways, roadways, and running bus service. Only 4% of these funds could be used to address future mobility problems in Orange County. If Orange County voters approved an extension of Measure M from 2011 to 2041, total transportation revenues would increase to about $40.7 billion (2005 dollars), again from a mixture of federal, state, and local sources. Fully $11.9 billion of these funds would be from a renewed Measure M sales tax.[2]

Given the potential loss of significant transportation funds when Measure M expires, in January 2006 the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors released a draft Transportation Investment Plan for a renewal of the one-half cent sales tax. Public input and revisions to the plan are scheduled to occur the first half of 2006, with possible adoption of a Renewed Measure M Transportation Investment Plan in July 2006. Before a renewed measure could be placed on the ballot, an investment plan must be approved, a tax ordinance must be developed, and the County Board of Supervisors must call for an election. Passage of a new or extended sales tax for transportation purposes would require a two-thirds majority vote.

Total Transportation Revenues Projected for Orange County
2006-2031



Source: Orange County Transportation Authority

Note: Flexible regional funds include state Transportation Improvement Program funds, federal Regional Surface Transportation Program funds and federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds. Dedicated regional funds are comprised of multiple sources such as transit fares, federal bus transit funds and revenues from the State Route 91 toll road. The primary source of local funds is the state gas tax. Measure M is a one-half cent sales tax for transportation improvements, which was approved by Orange County voters in 1990.

[2] Orange County Transportation Authority, 2006 Long Range Transportation Plan

Technology and Innovation

More high school students take upper level math and science, and more college students receive tech-related degrees. The county ranks positively among peers for Internet access, having a diverse high-tech economy, and increasing venture capital and patents.

Orange County has the Most Diversified High-Tech Economy in Southern California

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures how diversified our high-tech economy is relative to other metropolitan areas in the country. The indicator uses the concept of location quotient. A location quotient measures whether a region's employment in an industry is more or less concentrated than national employment in the same industry. The indicator counts the number of technology sectors for which employment is more concentrated at the local level than at a national level. A diversified technology sector will include concentrations in many high-tech employment clusters, so larger numbers for the indicator show a more diversified technology employment base.[1]

Why is it Important?

High-technology industries provide strong economic growth potential, better than average salaries, and opportunities for significant profit. Gaining a broad representation of high-tech industries in Orange County will ensure future economic prosperity for the region as these industries attract talent, finances and firms. Diversity in the local high-tech base is important because it helps insulate Orange County's economy from unanticipated downturns in any particular industry segment. Too much reliance on any particular industry segment may exacerbate economic recessions.

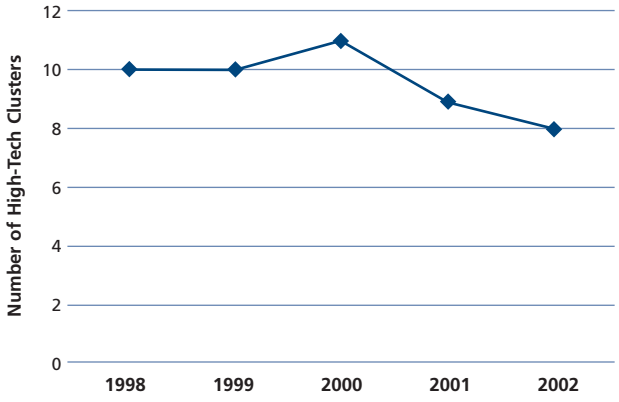
How is Orange County Doing?

In 2003, Orange County had 15 industries with a greater concentration of employment than the national average, compared with Boulder, Colorado which is the national leader at 18 concentrated industries.

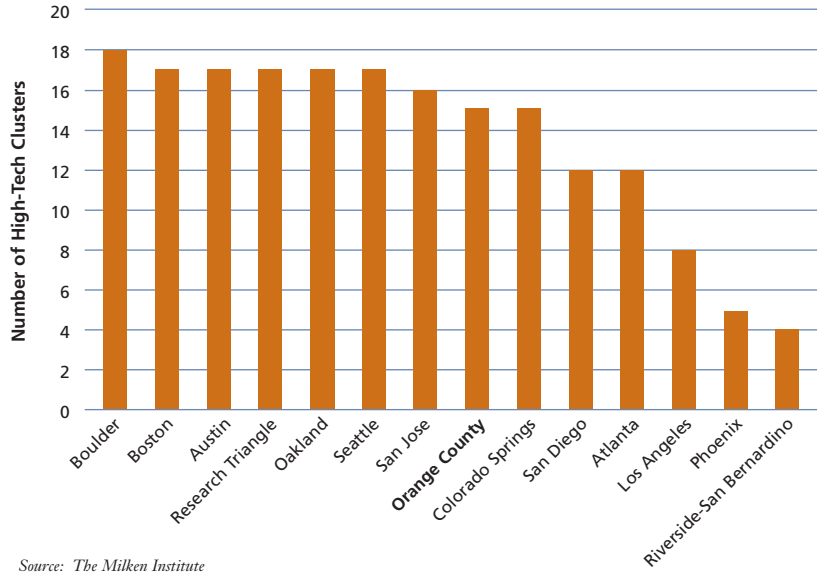
Since 1998 (when tracking for this indicator began), Orange County has consistently been one of the most diverse high-tech economies in the United States. In 2003, Orange County was the most diversified economy in Southern California even though it trailed outside regions such as Boulder, Boston, Austin, Research Triangle, Oakland, Seattle, and San Jose. In Southern California, San Diego has twelve concentrated high-tech industries, Los Angeles has eight and Riverside-San Bernardino has four.

The diversity of the county's high-tech economy has shielded the county from the more serious impacts of the slowdown in technology. The county's diverse technology base also provides a strong foundation on which to build future high-tech business growth.

High-Tech Cluster Diversification
Orange County, 1998-2002



High-Tech Cluster Diversification
Metro Area Comparison, 2003



Source: The Milken Institute

[1] In 2003, the number of high-tech industries measured was changed from 14 to 25. This was due to a change in the method of defining industries from the SIC (Standard Industrial Code) to the NAICS (North American Industrial Code System). As a result, 2003 data is shown separately from 1998-2002 data.

Internet Access for Adults Surpasses the National Average

Description of Indicator

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

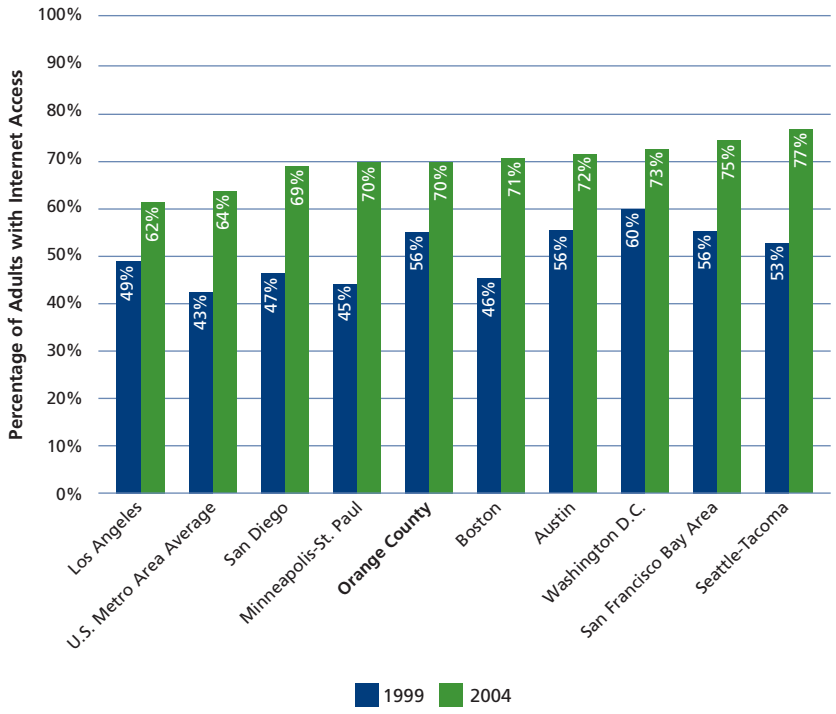
Why is it Important?

The Internet has become mainstream media with far-reaching impacts on our lives. On a community level, the Internet encourages the interaction of a variety of demographic, cultural, retail, social, business, and media groups and helps citizens interface with their government. On an economic level, the explosive growth of the Internet is affecting not only high-tech firms, but changing the way a broad range of firms conduct business and commerce in general. The level of Internet access among Orange County residents measures how the county's population compares to other urban areas in accessing and using this technology.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County's Internet access rate for adults is approximately 6% higher than the national average of 64% (across 75 large metropolitan areas) and is in the middle range among economic peers. Internet usage among adults in the county rose substantially from 1999 to 2004, from 56% to 70%.

Internet Access Among Adults, 1999 and 2004



Source: Scarborough Research

Venture Capital Funding Increases

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures access to venture capital - financing for early stage companies - by looking at metropolitan area investments. 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.

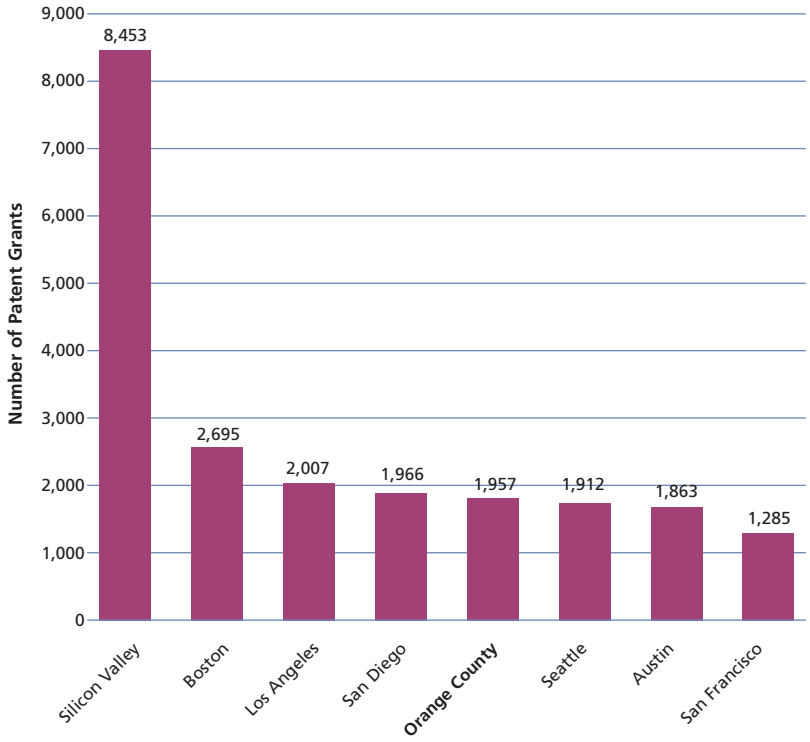
How is Orange County Doing?

Reversing a multi-year decline, venture capital funding for Orange County jumped 87%, from $138.6 million for the first half of 2004 to $259.5 million for the first half of 2005. Despite the growth, these figures are far below the 2000 high of $1.5 billion. In 2004 Orange County trailed neighboring San Diego County ($529.3 million) and Los Angeles County ($470.4 million). The top sectors receiving funding in 2004 were computer software ($86.5 million), medical devices ($45.8 million) and semiconductors ($33.4 million).

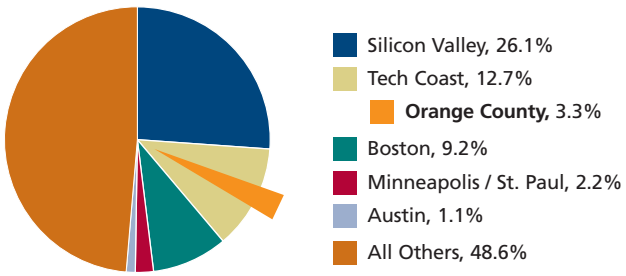
While the county's share of national venture capital is only about 3.3%, the larger Tech Coast region - comprised of Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego Counties - received 12.7% of all national venture capital dollars in the first half of 2005. The Tech Coast region is the second leading source of venture capital funding behind Silicon Valley.

Patent grants to Orange County inventors grew by 16.6% between 2000 and 2004. This increase is greater than what was experienced in peer markets, like San Francisco, Los Angeles and Austin. In 2004, 1,957 patents were granted for county inventors. This figure is slightly below the 2003 level of 1,994 patents and well behind the 8,453 patents that Silicon Valley garnered.

Comparison of Patent Grants by Region, 2004



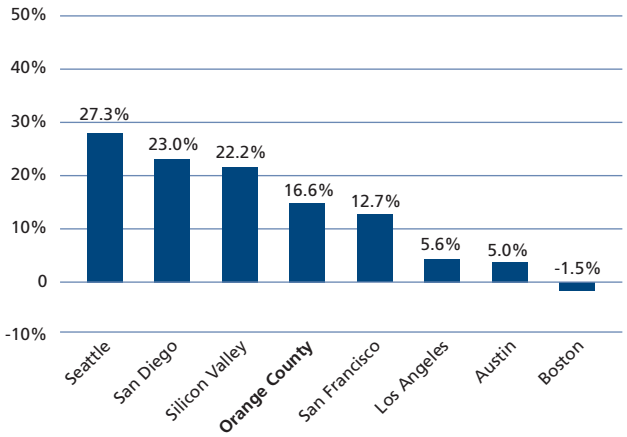
Metropolitan Region Share of National Venture Capital Investments, 2005 (January through June)



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

Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers/Thomson Venture Economics/NVCA Moneytree Venture Capital Profiles (www.ventureeconomics.com/vec/stats/2005q2/0MAINMENU.html)

Patent Grants Awarded
Percent Change, 2000-2004



Source: United States Patent Office (www.uspto.gov)

Enrollment in Upper Level Math and Science Courses Continues to Rise

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the technological know-how of the future workforce by tracking: the number of K-12 students per computer and the number of students per classroom with Internet access in Orange County schools compared to California, and the percent of 9th through 12th graders taking upper level math and science courses in Orange County public school districts.

Why is it Important?

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

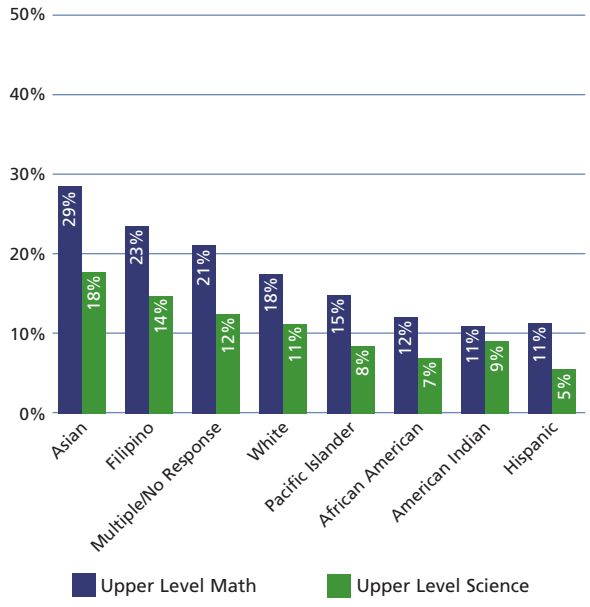
How is Orange County Doing?

Computer access in Orange County schools has improved substantially in the past five years. The average number of K-12 students per computer in the county dropped from 8.6 in 1999/00 to 5.1 in 2004/05. Despite the improvement, Orange County still lags behind the California average of 4.8 students per computer.

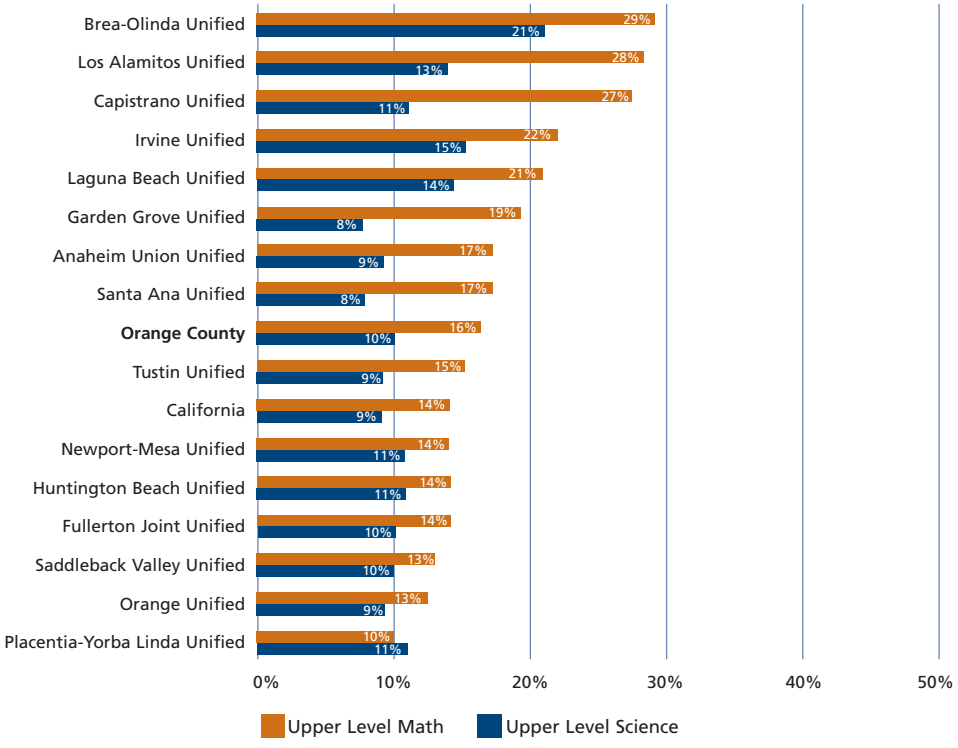
Internet access in Orange County has also improved; however, Orange County again lags behind the California average. In 2004, Orange County had an average of 23.4 students per classroom with Internet access, compared to the California average of 20.4.

Over the past five years upper level math-taking by Orange County 9th through 12th graders has been on the rise. There has been a 22% increase in students taking upper level math courses and a 19% increase in those taking upper level sciences courses since 1999/00. With 16% of Orange County high school students taking upper level math courses and 10% taking upper level science courses, the county as a whole surpasses both the state average for upper level math (14%) and upper level science (9%). However, enrollment varies by ethnicity and school district.

Enrollment in Upper Level Math and Science Courses by Ethnicity
Orange County, 2004/05



Enrollment in Upper Level Math and Science Courses as a Percent of Grade 9-12 Enrollment
Orange County, 2004/05



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

Universities Confer Substantially More Tech-Related Degrees

Description of Indicator

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

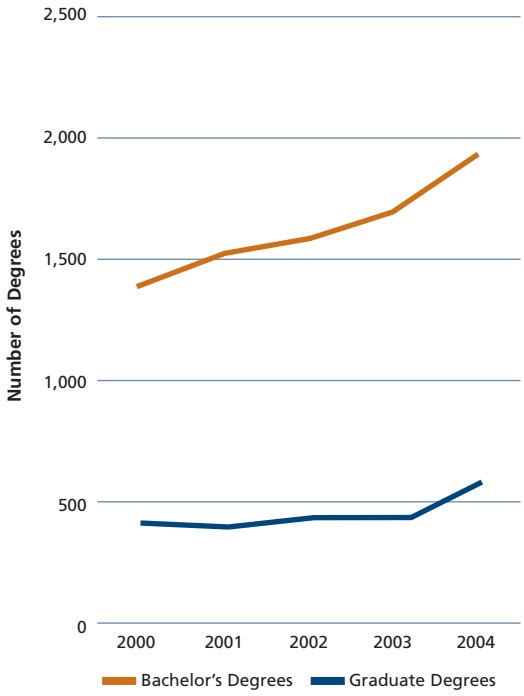
Why is it Important?

Effective workforce development and training is vital to Orange County's economic wellbeing. In particular, increasing the number of graduates with technical skills is critical to sustain the growth of the county's high-tech sector and its innovation economy. High-tech jobs also provide good wages for employees.

How is Orange County Doing?

The number of undergraduate degrees earned in the county has increased steadily since 2000 and rose by 15% in the last year. Big increases across nearly all technology-related degrees are welcome news to local high tech businesses that would otherwise have to recruit graduates from markets outside of the county. On average, the county awarded 400 technology-related graduate degrees between 1994 and 2003. In 2004 this number jumped to 572, with major increases in engineering and physical sciences. One area to watch is the number of degrees granted in biology and the biological sciences which, with the exception of undergraduate biological science degrees, stagnated or dropped in the last year.

Tech-Related Degrees Granted, 2000-2004



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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Biological Sciences	477	505	516	524	610
Biology	133	121	113	122	92
Engineering	239	330	313	359	437
Information and Computer Sciences	213	198	230	331	388
Computer Sciences	78	119	138	124	157
Physical Sciences	244	222	224	181	222
Other Sciences	18	13	37	31	22
Total	**1,402**	**1,508**	**1,571**	**1,672**	**1,928**

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

Number of Tech-Related Graduate Degrees Conferred at Orange County Universities

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Biological Sciences	43	33	42	42	19
Biology	17	13	12	18	19
Engineering	152	148	154	177	256
Information and Computer Sciences	49	55	67	70	71
Computer Sciences	21	28	41	41	60
Physical Sciences	115	111	93	62	125
Other Sciences	37	42	36	38	22
Total	**434**	**430**	**445**	**448**	**572**

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

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

Education

With high SAT scores, low dropout rates and thriving career education, Orange County is a good place to get an education. But troubling ethnic and geographic disparities exist in college readiness and academic performance.

Indicators Point to Effective Career Education Programs

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 in Orange County.

Why is it Important?

Career technical education is a critical component of the county's education and workforce development system. It provides supplemental skills for college-bound high school students and graduates, offers opportunities for adults re-entering the workforce or changing careers, provides on-the-job skill upgrades for existing employees, and supplies the local economy with a diverse and well-trained labor force.

How is Orange County Doing?

Enrollment

Each year, approximately 31,000 high school students and 26,000 adults are enrolled in Orange County ROP courses at their high school, worksite, or local training center. About 200,000 students are enrolled in any given fall or spring semester at Orange County's nine community colleges.

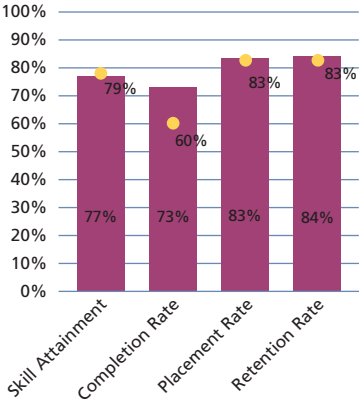
Graduation Rates and Degrees Granted

ROPs encourage high school students enrolled in their programs to get their high school diplomas and 90% of 12th graders did so in 2003/04, up from previous years. Orange County community colleges granted a total of 7,849 Associate degrees and 2,397 certificates in 2004/05. Over the past five years, Associate degrees granted increased 26%. The most popular career technical majors are Health, Public & Protective Services, and Business & Management.

Placement

Tracking students after they complete their course of study provides an indication of the value of career education for the student personally and for the local economy. The most recent data available reveals 90% of ROP students and 83% of community college students were placed. Showing a respectable match between the skills taught and the demands of the local economy, 59% of ROP students employed six months after completing the program in June of 2003/04 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 and Architecture & Environmental Design had the highest placement rate (both 91%) followed by Law and Business & Management (both 87%). On average, Orange County community college students met or exceeded the state performance goals for completion, placement, and retention.

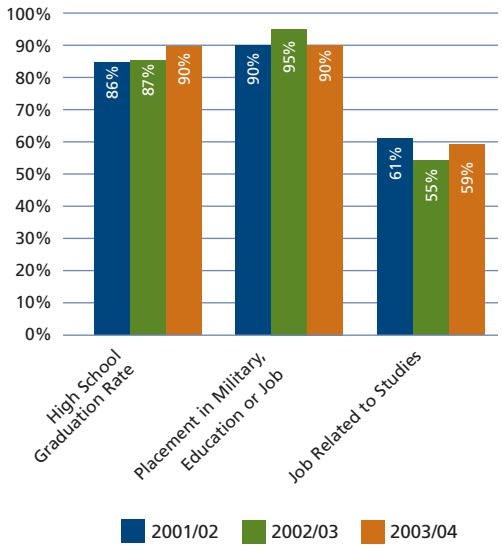
Community College Career Technical Curriculum Performance
Orange County, 2002



Note: Skill Attainment (earning C-grade or better) reflects 2002/03 data, Completion (receiving a degree, certificate or transferring), Placement (attending UC/CSU or finding a job), and Retention (employed for three or more quarters) reflects 2001/02 school year data.

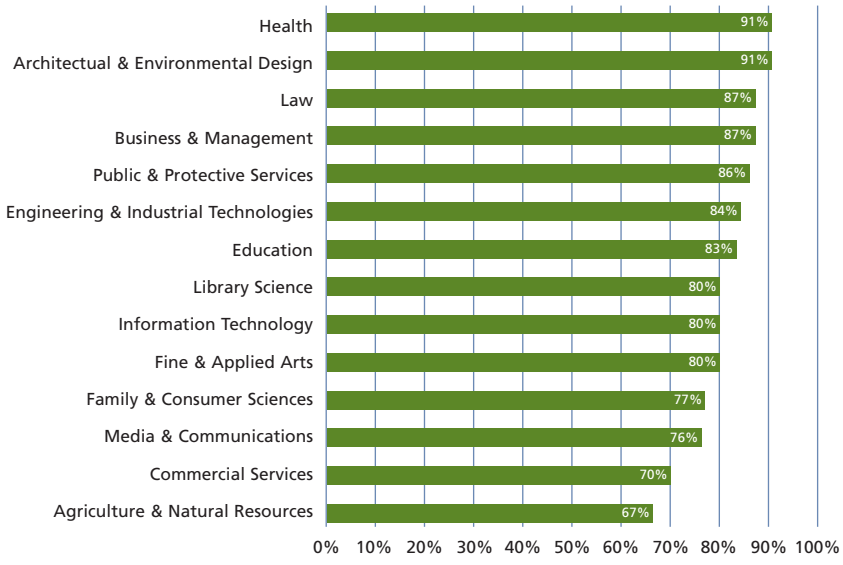
Source: California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office, Vocational Education (http://misweb.cccco.edu/voc_ed/vtea/vtea.htm)

Regional Occupational Programs Performance
Orange County, 2002-2004



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

Community College Placement Rates by Major
Orange County, 2002



Source: California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office, Data Mart (www.cccco.edu/divisions/tris/mis/reports.htm)

Dropout Rate Improves or Remains Steady for Students of All Ethnic Groups

Description of Indicator

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

Why is it Important?

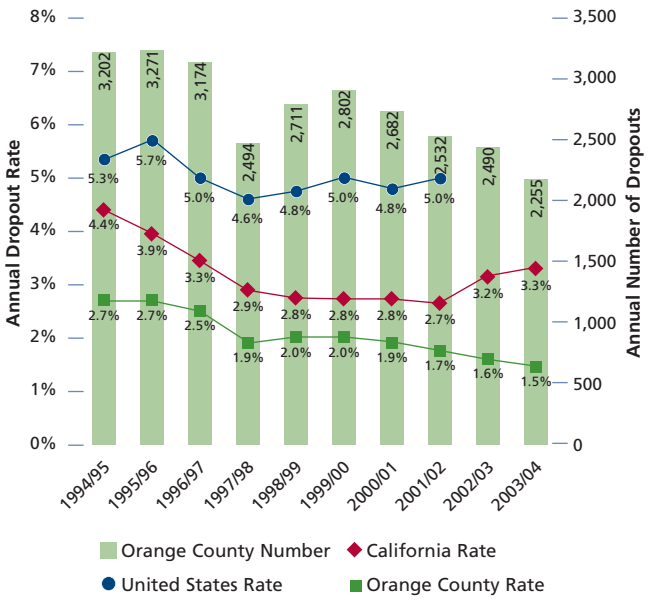
Educational attainment is important not only for personal success, but for sustaining the local economy with a skilled workforce. A high school diploma or college degree opens many career opportunities that are closed to those without these achievements. Additionally, the education level of residents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

How is Orange County Doing?

The Orange County annual dropout rate declined for the fourth year in a row to 1.5%. While each year only a small percentage of the Orange County student-body drops out, over the course of the four years of high school it is estimated that at least 6% of the student-body drops out before graduating. In 2004, Hispanic and White students were the two largest proportions of dropouts (60% and 29%, respectively). With Hispanic students comprising 38% of total high school student enrollment, the 60% dropout rate is disproportionately high. Still, the annual dropout rate improved or remained steady for all ethnic groups. Orange County's annual dropout rate is consistently better than the state and nation.

In 2004, the percentage of residents over 25 with a high school diploma increased for Orange County, Boston, Austin, and Riverside/San Bernardino Counties. Orange County remained the Southern California county with the highest percentage of bachelor's degree earners over 25 (33.3%) even though the percentage of bachelor's degree earners declined slightly. When compared to Northern California and out of state peers, Orange County had fewer residents over 25 with a bachelor's degree.

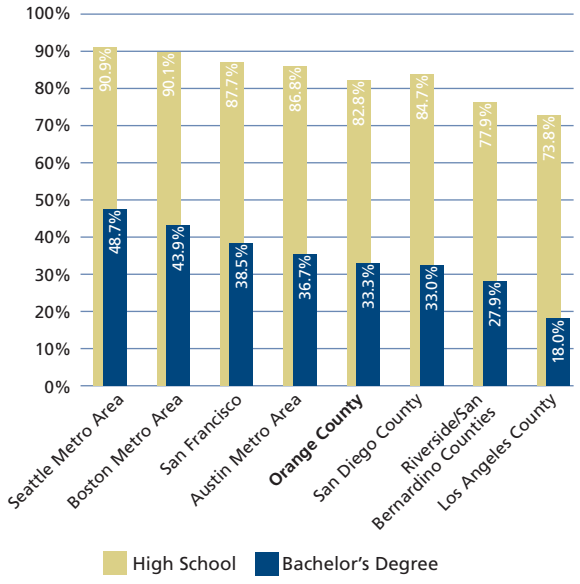
Annual Grade 9-12 Dropouts
Orange County, California and United States, 1995-2004



Note: National data for 2002/03 and 2003/04 was not available at time of publication.

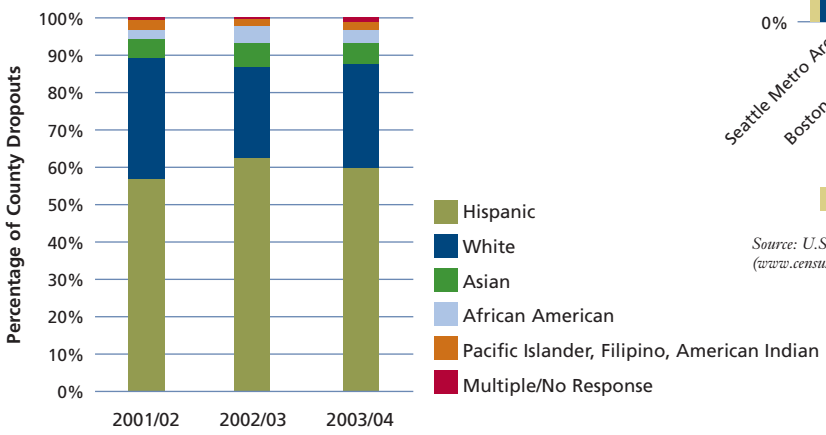
Sources: California Department of Education, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/) and National Center for Education Statistics, Condition of Education (http://nces.ed.gov/)

Percent Over 25 Who Completed High School or Bachelor's Degree
Regional Comparison, 2004



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

Dropouts by Race/Ethnicity
Orange County, 2002-2004



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

College Readiness Varies Significantly by Ethnicity

Description of Indicator

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

Why is it Important?

A college education or related skilled certification is increasingly 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.

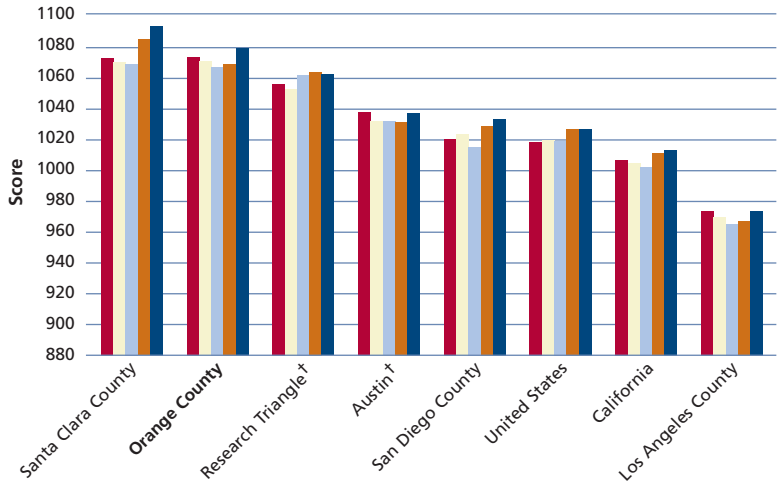
How is Orange County Doing?

In 2003/04, the percentage of Orange County students taking the coursework necessary to be eligible for a UC or CSU campus increased to 38%, ranking Orange County second only to Santa Clara County for the highest proportion of eligible students, and higher than the statewide average. This increase reverses a four-year downward trend and returns Orange County eligibility levels to those of 1999/00. Still, this rate remains lower than eligibility rates of the late 1990s. A study by the California Post Secondary Education Commission showed that eligibility is closely tied to a high schools' Academic Performance Index (API); the higher the API, the more students are likely to be eligible for UC/CSU. Orange County's high UC/CSU eligibility rate compared to peers signals the quality and performance of our schools on average (see Academic Performance, page 37).

The county's average SAT score increased 10 points to 1080 keeping Orange County close to the top compared to the nation, state, and peer regions. However, the percentage of Orange County students tested (40%) declined by 2%, continuing a downward trend.

Within Orange County, college readiness varies significantly by ethnicity. For example, more than half of all Asian students take the required UC/CSU courses and sit for the SAT, compared to less than one-fifth of all Latino students. Latino students make up 34% of grade 12 enrollment and that proportion is increasing each year. If more Latino students (and to a lesser extent, White students who currently make up 45% of grade 12 enrollment) do not start taking steps to be college ready, the county can expect overall college readiness to decline over time.

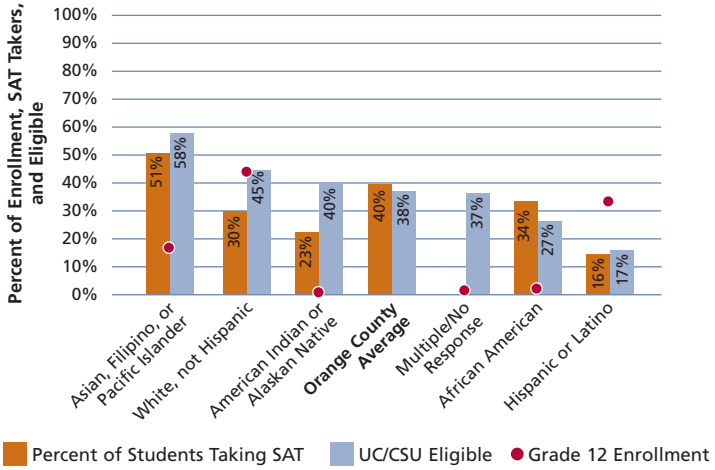
SAT Scores
Regional Comparison, 2000-2004



† Research Triangle includes Orange, Durham and Wake Counties, North Carolina. Austin region as defined by the Texas Education Agency.

Sources: California Department of Education, DataQuest (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/); North Carolina State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, Division of Accountability (www.dpi.state.nc.us/accountability/reporting/sat); Texas Education Agency, Academic Excellence Indicator System Performance Reports (www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/aeis)

Graduates Who Completed UC/CSU Coursework and Students Taking the SAT Compared to 12th Grade Enrollment
Orange County, 2003/04



Note: Data for Multiple/No Response unavailable for students taking the SAT.

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

UC/CSU Eligibility Rates Among High School Graduates
County Comparison, 2003/04

Region	Rate
Santa Clara	45%
Orange	**38%**
San Diego	37%
Los Angeles	35%
California	34%
Riverside	28%
San Bernardino	23%

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

Most Schools Meet "No Child Left Behind" Targets; Academic Performance Improves

Description of Indicator

This indicator summarizes academic performance as determined by the California Department of Education (CDE) and the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Also shown is a map depicting the 10 highest and 10 lowest performing elementary, middle, and high schools in Orange County.

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. If a school does not meet its state-identified Academic Performance Index growth targets and is ranked in the bottom half of the statewide distribution, it may be required to participate in an intervention program. The national Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets provide another tool for school administrators, parents, and the public to track progress and develop improvement plans when necessary. A Title I school district that fails the same element of AYP for two consecutive years must develop or revise a plan to improve performance, and also reserve funds for professional development of its staff.[1]

How is Orange County Doing?

California Department of Education Target Performance

In 2005, Orange County school districts saw universal improvement in their Academic Performance Index (API) scores. Orange County's average API score improved 16 points from last year but is still below the statewide goal of 800. Eleven districts had scores exceeding the statewide goal.

Performance varies significantly from school to school. The map on page 39 shows the 10 highest and 10 lowest scoring schools from each category: elementary, middle, and high school.[2] Many of the highest scoring schools are in Irvine, bordered by some of the lowest scoring schools in Santa Ana. Within the Santa Ana Unified School District, the high performing Orange County High School for the Arts – a public charter school drawing students from all over Southern California – is surrounded by many lower performing schools.

No Child Left Behind Target Performance

A school district is said to have achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) if the four No Child Left Behind targets have been met. Fully 74% of school districts met all of four 2005 AYP targets, and all Orange County school districts met their 2005 AYP Academic Performance Index target (one of the four targets). Less than 20% of districts have been identified for Program Improvement.

Average Academic Performance Index Scores
Orange County, 2004 and 2005

Adequate Yearly Progress
Orange County, 2005

	School District	2004 API	2005 API	Achieved AYP	Program Improvement Status
Above State API Target	Irvine Unified	872	882	•	
	Los Alamitos Unified	848	858	•	
	Fountain Valley Elementary	844	856	•	
	Cypress Elementary	838	848	•	
	Huntington Beach City Elementary	826	836	•	
	Laguna Beach Unified	820	836	•	
	Brea-Olinda Unified	823	830	•	
	Saddleback Valley Unified	822	826	•	
	Ocean View Elementary	794	815	•	
	Capistrano Unified	798	813	•	
	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified	783	801	•	
Below State API Target	Tustin Unified	771	790	•	
	Orange County Average	**761**	**777**	**N/A**	**N/A**
	Centralia Elementary	759	774	•	
	Fullerton Elementary	746	766		
	Orange Unified	746	765		
	Newport-Mesa Unified	734	760	•	
	Savanna Elementary	747	760	•	
	Fullerton Joint Union High	730	758	•	Year 1
	Huntington Beach Union High	741	757	•	
	Westminster Elementary	737	753		
	Garden Grove Unified	726	740	•	
	Buena Park Elementary	719	734	•	
	La Habra City Elementary	701	713		Year 1
	Magnolia Elementary	698	705		
	Anaheim Union High	658	681	•	Year 1
	Anaheim Elementary	642	672		Year 1
	Santa Ana Unified	624	656		Year 1

Note: Fullerton Elementary, Orange Unified, Westminster Elementary, and Magnolia Elementary have not been identified for Program Improvement since they have not failed AYP for two consecutive years.

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

[1] Schools with high percentages of children from poor families receive federal "Title I" funding.
[2] The following types of schools were not considered when compiling the data for the top and bottom 10 school API scores: small schools (defined as having between 11 and 99 valid test scores), special education schools, continuing education schools, alternative schools, Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) schools, and community day schools.

Performance Targets

California Department of Education

The CDE 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:

- California English-Language Arts and Mathematics Standards Test, grades two through 11
- California Achievement Tests, 6th Edition Survey, grades three and seven
- California Science Standards Test, grades five and nine through 11
- California History-Social Science Standards Test, grades eight, 10, and 11
- California Alternate Performance Assessment in English-language arts and mathematics for students with cognitive disabilities, grades two through 11
- California High School Exit Examination, grade 10

No Child Left Behind

No Child Left Behind uses four statistics to measure performance. "Adequate Yearly Progress" is determined by:

- API Growth score
- Testing participation rate of 95%
- Percentage of students at the proficient level or above in English-language arts and math compared to the No Child Left Behind performance targets
- Graduation rates for districts with high school students

Program Improvement

A Title I school district that fails to make AYP for two consecutive years is identified for Program Improvement (PI) and must develop or revise a plan to improve performance. To exit Program Improvement 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.

Highest and Lowest API Scores for Elementary, Middle and High Schools
Orange County, 2005

Highest Ten Elementary School API Scores

	School	City	Score
1	Ladera Elementary	Tustin	984
2	Turtle Rock Elementary	Irvine	963
3	Bonita Canyon Elementary	Irvine	957
4	Alderwood Basics Plus Elementary	Irvine	952
5	Canyon View Elementary	Irvine	947
6	Weaver (Jack L.) Elementary	Los Alamitos	947
7	Santiago Hills Elementary	Irvine	945
8	Laguna Road Elementary	Fullerton	941
9	Allen (Ethan B.) Elementary	Fountain Valley	934
10	Meadow Park Elementary	Irvine	934

Lowest Ten Elementary School API Scores

School	City	Score
Kennedy (John F.) Elementary	Santa Ana	558
Davis Elementary	Santa Ana	567
Wilson Elementary	Santa Ana	590
Grant (Margaret S.) Elementary	Santa Ana	602
Garfield Elementary	Santa Ana	603
Key Elementary	Anaheim	606
Franklin Elementary	Santa Ana	612
Lowell Elementary	Santa Ana	618
San Juan Elementary	San Juan Capistrano	621
King (Martin Luther) Elementary	Santa Ana	621

Highest Ten Middle School API Scores

1	Rancho San Joaquin Middle	Irvine	911
2	Sierra Vista Middle	Irvine	904
3	Fulton (Harry C.) Middle	Fountain Valley	890
4	South Lake Middle	Irvine	889
5	Pioneer Middle	Tustin	883
6	Lakeside Middle	Irvine	880
7	McAuliffe (Sharon Christa) Middle	Los Alamitos	877
8	Venado Middle	Irvine	868
9	Parks (D. Russell) Junior High	Fullerton	865
10	Hewes Middle	North Tustin	862

Lowest Ten Middle School API Scores

Lathrop Intermediate	Santa Ana	589
Spurgeon Intermediate	Santa Ana	600
Sierra Intermediate	Santa Ana	613
Sycamore Junior High	Anaheim	614
Willard Intermediate	Santa Ana	621
South Junior High	Anaheim	635
Portola Middle	Orange	640
Nicolas Junior High	Fullerton	650
McFadden Intermediate	Santa Ana	654
Yorba Middle	Orange	670

Highest Ten High School API Scores

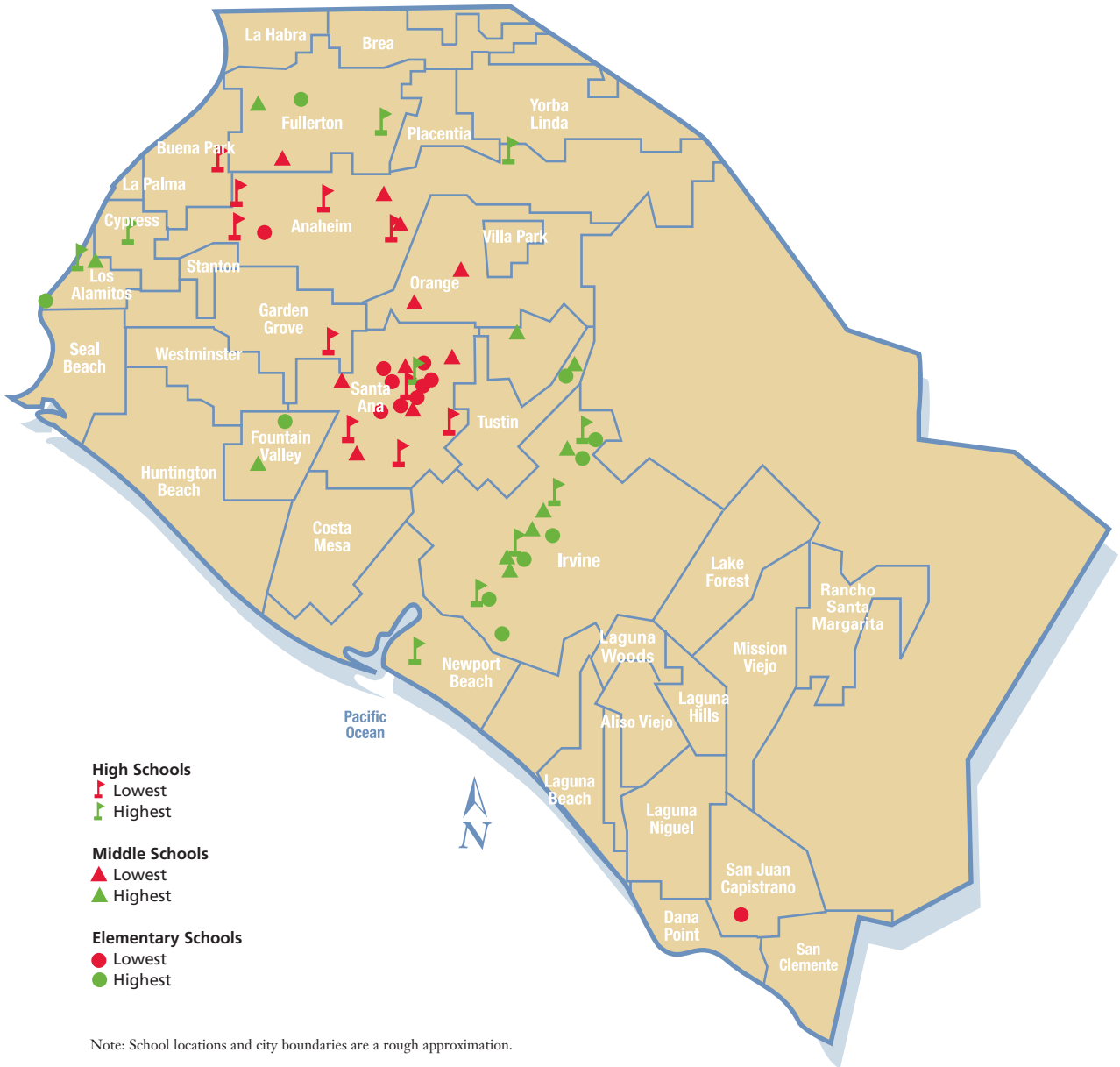
1	Oxford High	Cypress	964
2	Troy High	Fullerton	910
3	University High	Irvine	890
4	Northwood High	Irvine	879
5	Orange County High School of the Arts	Santa Ana	863
6	Corona Del Mar High	Newport Beach	842
7	Woodbridge High	Irvine	835
8	Esperanza High	Anaheim	834
9	Irvine High	Irvine	829
10	Los Alamitos High	Los Alamitos	817

Lowest Ten High School API Scores

Century High	Santa Ana	586
Anaheim High	Anaheim	613
Valley High	Santa Ana	625
Santa Ana High	Santa Ana	642
Magnolia High	Anaheim	643
Katella High	Anaheim	651
Saddleback High	Santa Ana	659
Buena Park High	Buena Park	662
Savanna High	Anaheim	665
Santiago High	Garden Grove	671

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

Highest and Lowest Performing Schools by Academic Performance Index
Orange County, 2005



Note: School locations and city boundaries are a rough approximation.

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

English Fluency Maintains Upward Trend

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number and percent of students who are English language learners in Orange County public schools. Also shown are English Learners who are redesignated fluent in English after the annual language assessment conducted each spring and the total number of students who are fluent in English but for whom English is a second language. Finally, Orange County English Learner enrollment is compared to peer California counties.

Why is it Important?

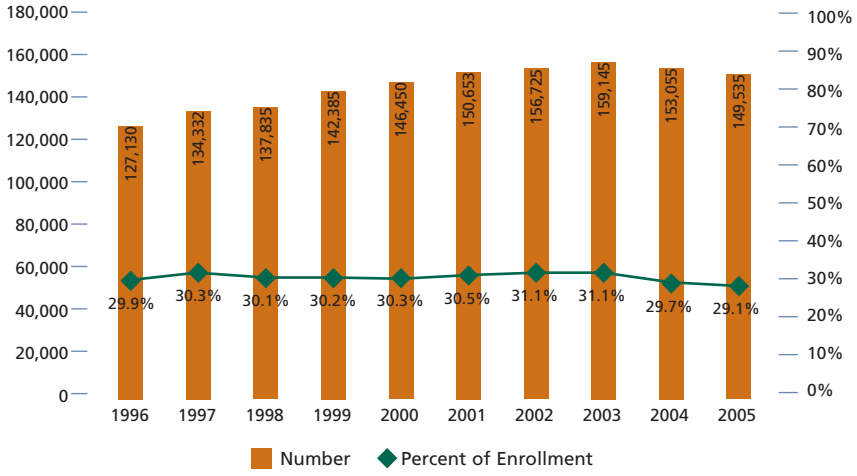
Students who have limited English speaking skills often face academic, employment and financial challenges. An educated workforce with good communication skills is important for a strong economy.

How is Orange County Doing?

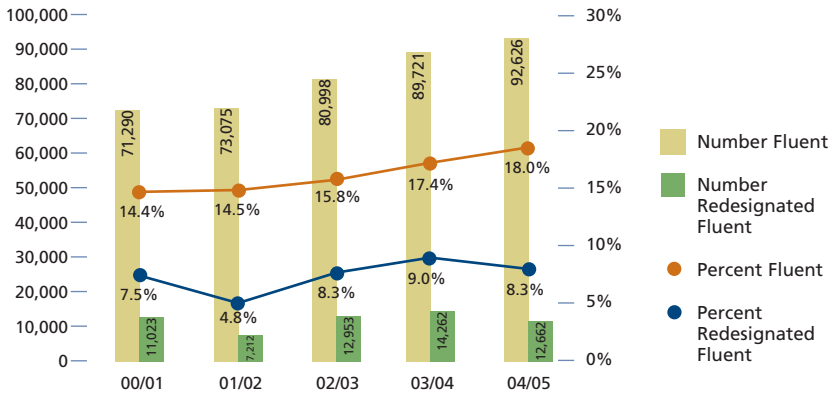
In 2004/05 the percent of total public school enrollment in Orange County made up of English Learners declined for the second year in a row dropping from 29.7% to 29.1%. This brings the overall number of English Learners to 149,535. The number of students for whom English is a second language but who are fluent in English continues its upward trend from 17.4% to 18% of the student body, or 92,626 students. The percent of students redesignated from English Learner to fluent in English dropped 0.7% in 2004/05.

Despite the drop in English Learners, Orange County continues to have the second largest proportion of English Learners compared to neighboring and peer counties. With the exception of Orange and Los Angeles Counties, all the counties compared witnessed increases in English Learners in 2004/05.

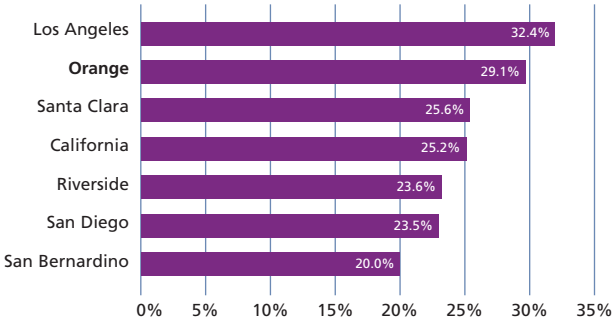
English Language Learners
Orange County, 1996-2005



Students for Whom English is a Second Language and are English Fluent and English Learners Redesignated English Fluent
Orange County, 2001-2005



English Learners as a Percent of Total Enrollment
County Comparison, 2004/05



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

Community Health and Prosperity

Young and old, Orange County's overall population is comparatively healthy with access to health care and adequate social support. But a surprising number of families are touched by health- or prosperity-related issues, ranging from children's asthma and overweight, to homelessness and unaffordable child care, to substance abuse and heart disease.

Early Prenatal Care Rate Continues Steadily Upward

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, with racial and ethnic detail. Rates of early prenatal care in Orange County are also compared to peer counties and California overall.

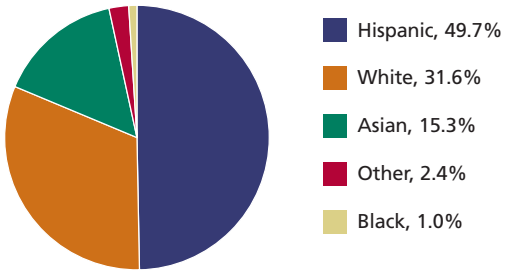
Why is it Important?

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

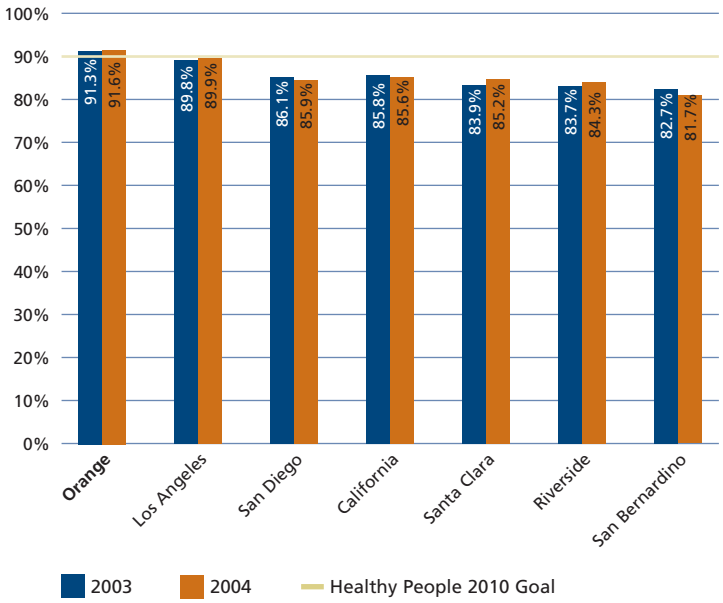
How is Orange County Doing?

The overall rate of prenatal care continues to creep upward in Orange County with 91.6% of mothers receiving early prenatal care in 2004. This rate maintains achievement of the Healthy People 2010 early prenatal care goal of 90% and is higher than California and all counties compared. Black mothers showed the largest increase in the past year, up 3.8%, but due to the small number of Black residents in Orange County, variations in prenatal care rates from year to year are more pronounced. Mothers in the category of "other" had the second biggest gain (2.4%) followed by Hispanic mothers (0.6%). Statewide, the average prenatal care rate decreased slightly in the last year. Orange County's rate of improvement over the past five years outpaced the state but was not as strong as Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Most births in Orange County are to Hispanic mothers, followed by White and Asian mothers.

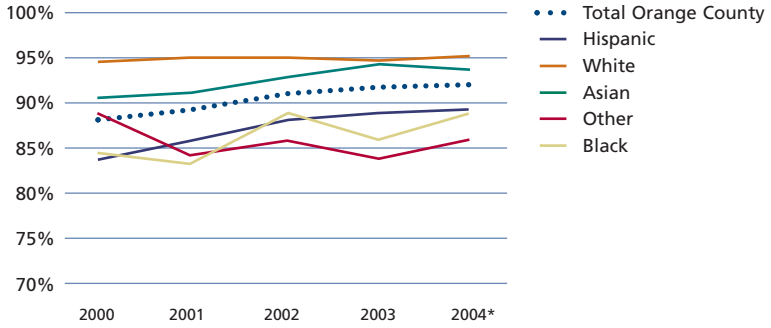
Live Births in Orange County
by Race and Ethnicity, 2004



Percent of Mothers Receiving Early Prenatal Care
County Comparison, 2003 and 2004



Percent of Mothers Receiving Early Prenatal Care
by Race and Ethnicity, 2000-2004



** 2004 data is considered preliminary.*

Note: The ethnic category Hispanic includes any race; the racial categories White, Asian, and Black are all non-Hispanic. "Other" includes the categories of two or more races, Pacific Islander, American Indian/Native Alaskan, and unknown/other/withheld.

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

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

Drowning is the Leading Cause of Death for Toddlers and Preschoolers

Description of Indicator

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

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 education.

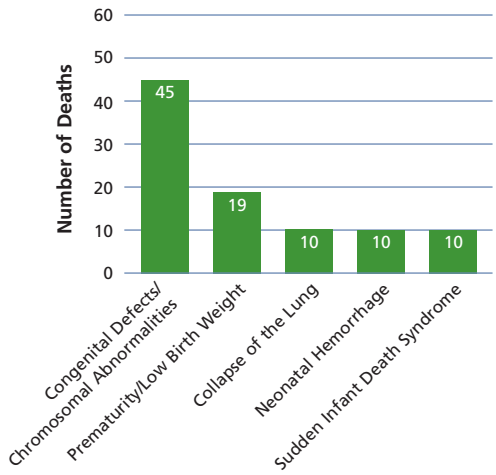
How is Orange County Doing?

In 2003, an increase in deaths among toddlers and preschoolers led to a rise in Orange County's total rate of death for children under five years of age not seen since 2000 (111 per 100,000 children). A marked increase in deaths in San Diego County in 2003 and consistently low rates in Santa Clara County puts Orange County in the second lowest spot when compared to peers.

In 2003, there was one death for every 221 infants. Congenital defects or chromosomal abnormalities (such as spina bifida or Down's syndrome) continue to top the list of leading causes of death for infants. The second leading cause of infant death, prematurity or low birth weight, fell below the five-year average of 22 deaths annually after a sharp rise the previous year. Accidents accounted for only five infant deaths in 2003 compared to 10 the previous year.

In contrast, accidents remain the leading cause of death for toddlers and preschoolers with drowning making up more than half of those deaths. There were 13 accidental deaths in 2003, about the average number for the past five years. In 2003, there was one death for every 4,220 children ages one through four.

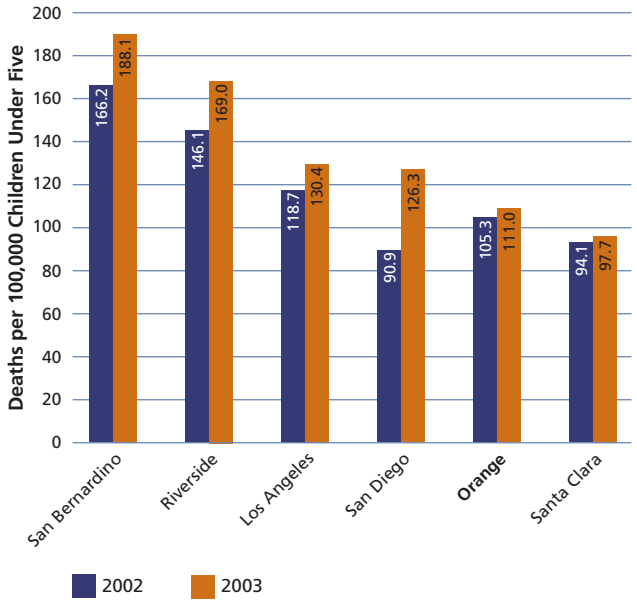
Leading Causes of Death for Infants (Under One)
Orange County, 2003*



*2003 data is considered preliminary.

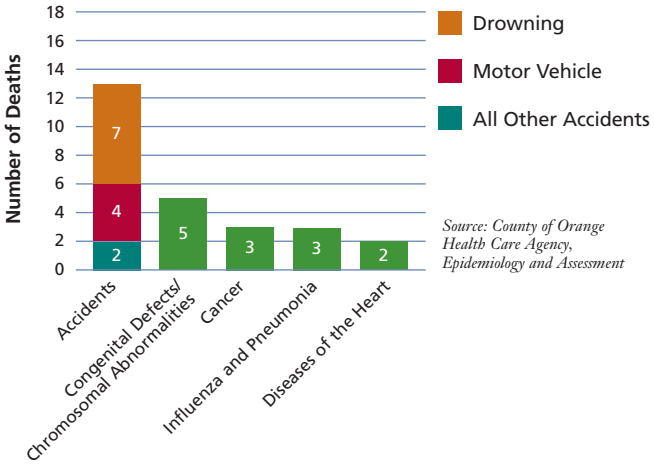
Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology and Assessment

Death Rate Due to All Causes for Children Under Five
County Comparison, 2002 and 2003



Sources: California Department of Health Services, Death Records and State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2050

Leading Causes of Death for Children Ages One Through Four
Orange County, 2003*



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

*2003 data is considered preliminary.

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

Immunization Rate Declines Slightly

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures immunization rates in Orange County and California for children at two years of age and reported cases of vaccine-preventable diseases among children under six years of age (0-5).

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?

Pertussis (whooping cough) cases remained high in 2004 with 51 cases. The pertussis immunization series is not complete until the fourth dose is given between 15 to 18 months of age; the majority of pertussis cases (40) occurred in children under 12 months suggesting new transmission to children not yet fully immunized for age or un-/under-immunized. The next most common vaccine-preventable disease for children under six was pneumococcal disease, rising sharply from two cases in 2003 to 24 cases in 2004. Pneumococcal disease and Hemophilus influenza type B (Hib) are the most common causes of serious bacterial infections such as meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and pneumonia (infection of the lungs). Orange County reported one Hib case in 2004.

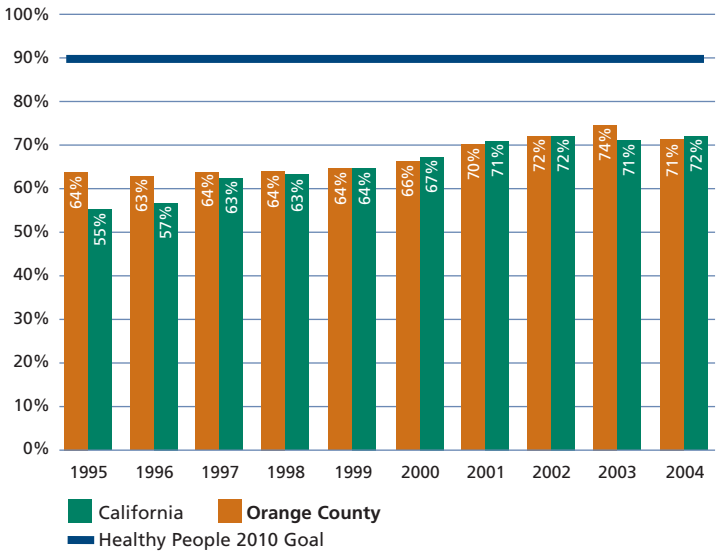
After four solid years of improvement, the percentage of Orange County children adequately immunized at age two for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella declined in 2004 to 71%, less than the statewide average. Still, over the past 10 years there has been a 12% increase overall. The immunization levels by age two for other recommended vaccines vary: hepatitis B (90% in 2004), Hib (83% in 2003), and varicella (78% in 2004). These levels match or exceed the statewide averages.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Among Children Under Six Years of Age
Orange County, 2000-2004

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

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

Percent of Children Immunized at Two Years of Age
Orange County and California, 1995-2004



Sources: State Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch, Kindergarten Retrospective Survey, Childhood Immunization Checklist, and School Law Guide for Parents (www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/index.htm); 11th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County 2005; and County of Orange Health Care Agency

One in Seven Orange County Youth Have Asthma

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, house dust mites, cockroaches, animal dander, mold, pollen, cold air, exercise, stress, tobacco smoke and indoor and outdoor air pollutants.

Why is it Important?

Asthma prevalence is on the rise, especially among children. Nationwide, in 2003, 12.5% of children 0-17 years (8.9 million) had a lifetime asthma diagnosis compared to 9.7% of adults. A similarly disproportionate number of children had an asthma attack in the previous year (5.5% compared to 3.3% for adults). Boys, certain ethnic minorities, children from poor families, and children in single-parent households are all more likely to have asthma. There is no consensus on why the prevalence is rising or why certain children develop asthma, but the personal and societal costs are high.[1]

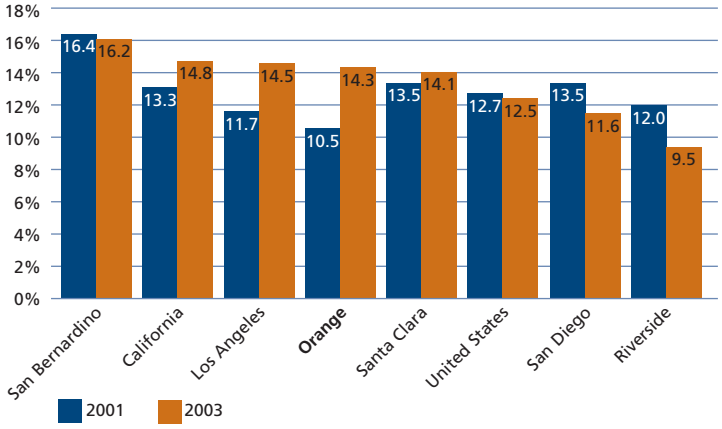
How is Orange County Doing?

As of 2003, approximately one out of seven children in Orange County has been diagnosed with asthma at some point, up from one in 10 in 2001. Among counties compared, Orange County witnessed the greatest increase in pediatric asthma diagnoses, from 10.5% of the child population in 2001 to 14.3% in 2003. Orange County's rate of children diagnosed with asthma is less than the state but greater than the national average.

Among children ever diagnosed with asthma, 25% reported they had an asthma attack in the previous 12 months. A little more than half of children diagnosed at one point with asthma now no longer have asthma (55% no longer have asthma, 45% still do have asthma). Among all Orange County residents ever diagnosed with asthma, 52% were diagnosed when they were under 10 years old.

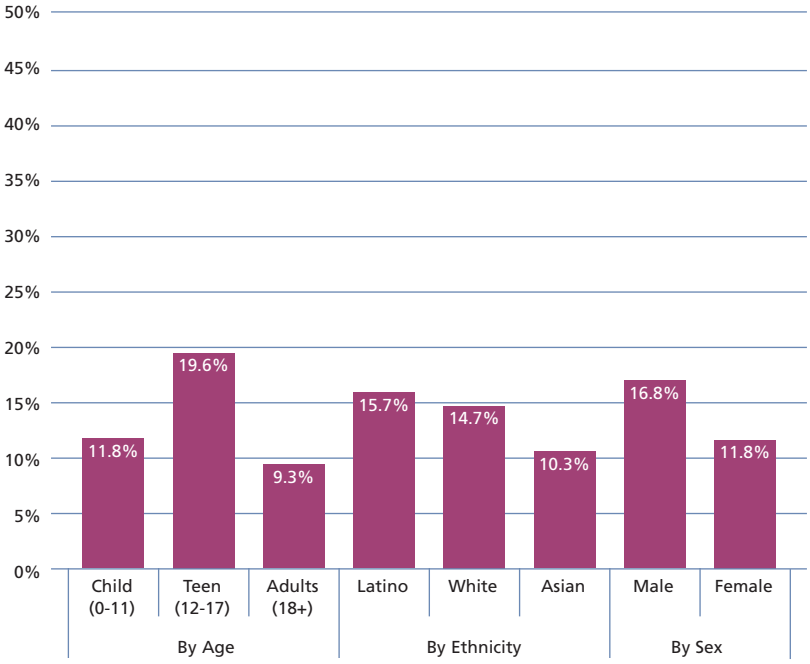
Among Orange County children diagnosed with asthma and reporting they still have asthma, fully 94% had symptoms within the past 12 months, slightly higher than the statewide average (92%). As many as 39% of these children take medication daily to control asthma symptoms.

Children Ever Diagnosed with Asthma
County Comparison, 2001 and 2003



Sources: University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (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, 2001 (www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_216.pdf) and 2003 (www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_223.pdf)

Children Ever Diagnosed with Asthma (Age, Sex and Ethnicity Detail)
Orange County, 2003



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

In 2004, 8% of Orange County parents took their child to the emergency room for asthma or difficulty breathing.

Source: Orange County Health Needs Assesment, 2004

[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2003 (www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_225.pdf) and Dey AN, Bloom B. Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey, 2003. Vital Health Stat 2005;10(223) (www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_223.pdf).

Fitness Improves Slightly but Two-Thirds are Still not Fit

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures physical fitness of children by performance in six areas: aerobic capacity, body composition (percent of body fat), abdominal strength, trunk extension strength, upper body strength, and flexibility. Also measured is the percentage of children from low-income families who are considered overweight (body mass index equal or greater than the 95th percentile).

Why is it Important?

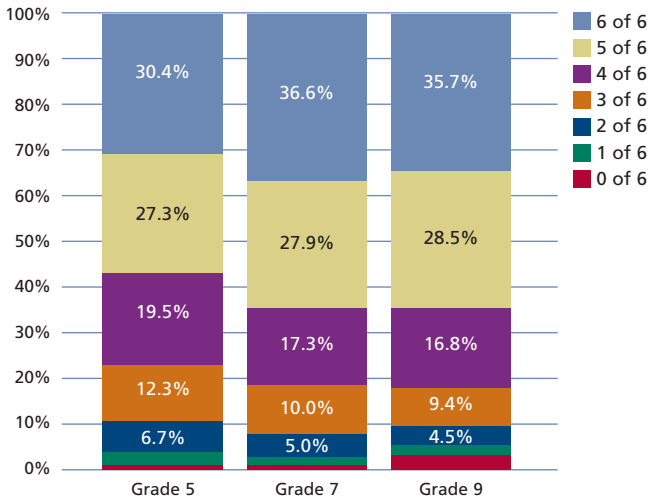
A sedentary lifestyle and being overweight are among the primary risk factors for many health problems. Building a commitment to fitness and having a healthy body weight can have a positive impact on children's health now and in adulthood.

How is Orange County Doing?

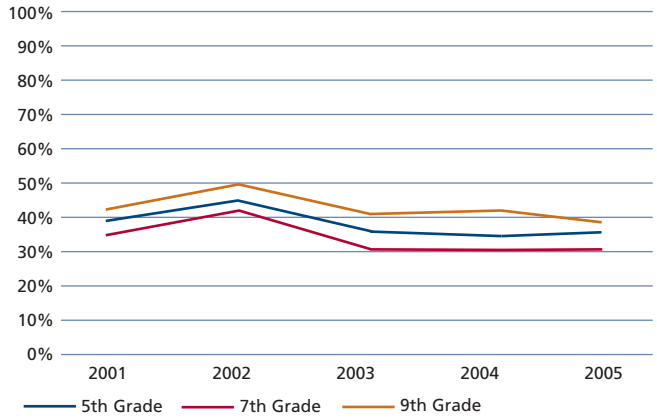
In 2005, improvement in the number of Orange County students considered fit leveled off for all grades except 9th grade where fitness levels continued improvement. On average, Orange County students performed between 6% and 9% better than their California peers. Still, the percentage of unfit students remains high. About two-thirds of 5th, 7th, and 9th graders could not meet the six minimum fitness standards to be considered fit. In terms of aerobic capacity, the overall five-year trends shows improvement for all grades. Youth in 9th grade consistently have poorer aerobic capacity than 5th and 7th grade youth but the percentage of 9th graders able to meet the aerobic capacity standard improved 3.2 percentage points in the past year. Among all grades, 39% of Latino students have poor aerobic capacity compared to 31% of Asian students and 30% of White students.

In 2004, compared to peers, Orange County became the county with the highest proportion of overweight youth from low-income families. The proportion of overweight continues to grow, from 19.8% in 2003 to 22.1% in 2004. The proportion of overweight varies somewhat by age, race and ethnicity.

Percent of Orange County Children Achieving Six Fitness Standards, 2005

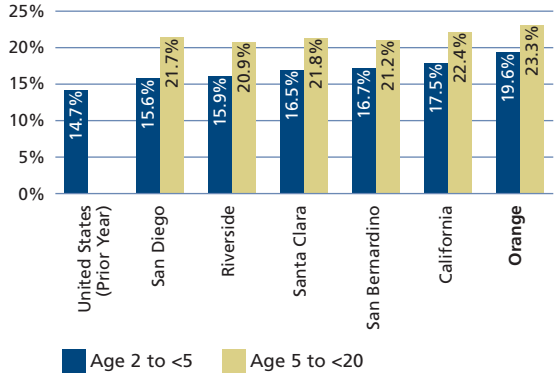


Percent of Orange County Youth Unable to Achieve Aerobic Capacity Standards
Orange County, 2001-2005



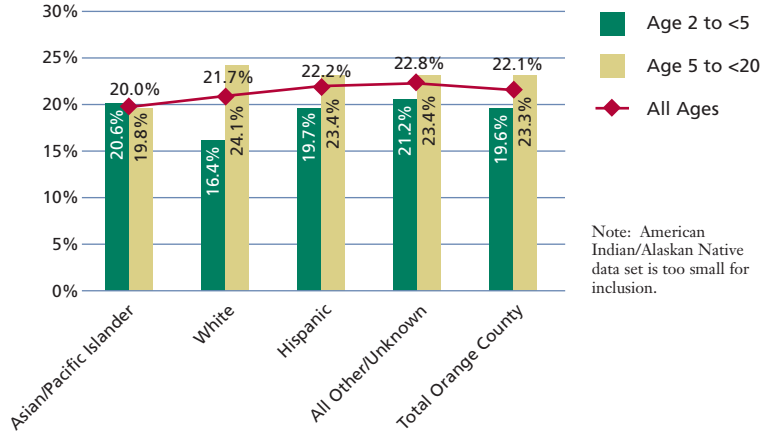
Source: California Department of Education (http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest)

Percent of Low-Income Youth Who Are Overweight
County Comparison, 2004



Note: U.S. data for ages five to 20 is not available. Data for Los Angeles County is divided into five areas and thus not included.

Percent of Low-Income Youth Who Are Overweight by Race/Ethnicity
Orange County, 2004



Note: American Indian/Alaskan Native data set is too small for inclusion.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004 Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/onlinearchive/pdf/chdp/informationnotices/2005/chdpin05d/contents.htm)

Annual Child Care Costs Soar; More Providers are Accredited

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?

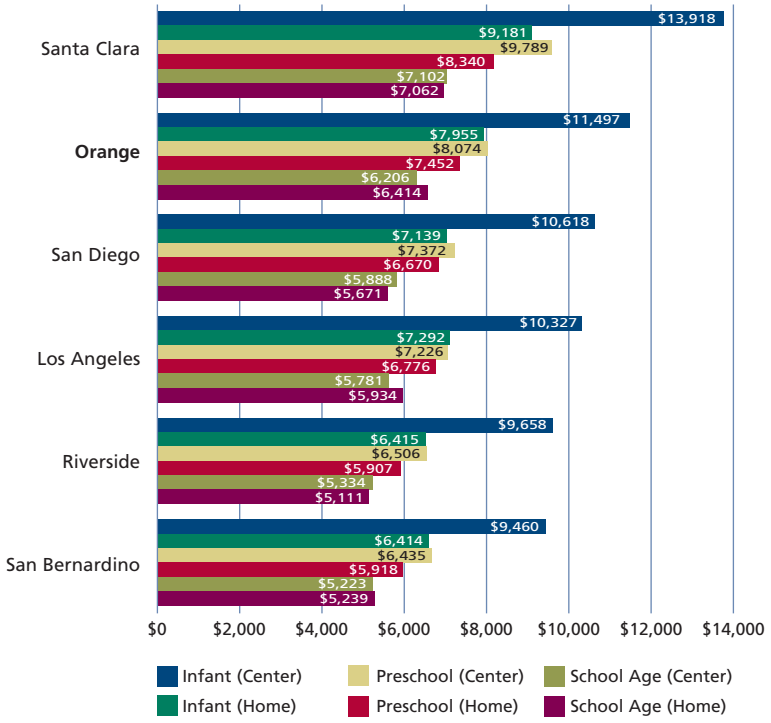
Recent research on children's brain development and school readiness demonstrates the importance of high quality early education and care programs for young children. Affordable child care is essential to enable working families to maintain economic self-sufficiency. High child care costs and the gap between supply and demand of licensed slots places a significant burden on working parents.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County child care costs are above average, ranking second highest among the counties compared. Center-based care tends to cost more than home-based care, regardless of the child's age. Between 2002 and 2004, center-based child care costs rose about 10 times as fast as the median family income and over twice as fast as average annual child care worker pay. One factor affecting cost of care is the rapidly rising cost of Workers' Compensation insurance for center-based programs. However, the rise in cost is largely a function of the gap in child care demand and supply. In 2005, there were an estimated 304,108 children potentially needing child care and 81,951 licensed child care slots. This leaves an estimated shortfall of approximately 222,157 child care spaces, a proportion that ranks Orange County among the lowest of California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots per estimated need. Either by choice or due to the scarcity of licensed spots, many parents turn to informal care such as family members, babysitters, nannies, or other "license-exempt" care providers.

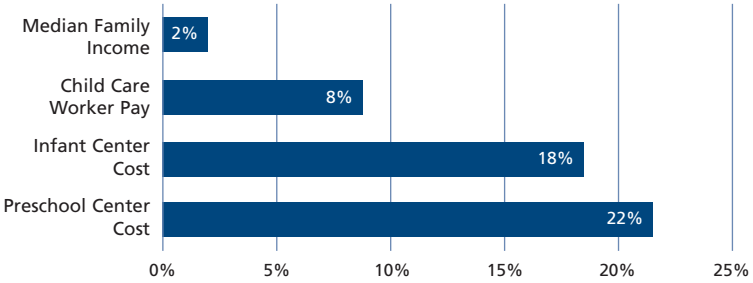
As of October 2005, a total of 97 licensed child care providers were accredited by one of four accrediting bodies (National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Association for Family Child Care, Association of Christian Schools International, or National School Age Consortium). Accreditation is voluntary and requires providers to meet quality standards over and above licensing standards.

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



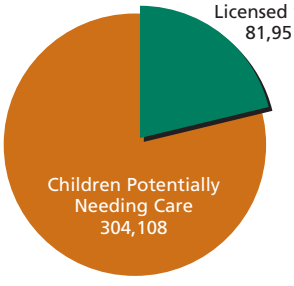
Source: 2004-2005 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers by ORC Macro for California Department of Education

2002-2004 Percent Change in:



Sources: California Child Care Resource and Referral Network; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, State and County Employment and Wages from Covered Employment and Wages (www.bls.gov/data/home.htm); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; and ORC Macro for California Department of Education

Child Care Slot Supply and Demand
Orange County, 2005



Sources: Need assessment conducted by the County of Orange, Child Care Coordinator. Licensing data provided by the Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division

100,000 Children in Poverty as Families Struggle to Get By

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures Orange County families' progress toward self-sufficiency and economic stability by tracking the caseloads of core public assistance programs including CalWORKs (provides cash assistance and employment services), Food Stamps (provides resources to buy food), and Medi-Cal and Healthy Families (provide health care coverage).[1] This is compared to measures of economic status including children living in poverty and household income as approximated by the number of children eligible for free or reduced price school lunches. This indicator also measures homelessness, rental assistance, and residential overcrowding.

Why is it Important?

Most families in Orange County do well, despite the county's high cost of living. The families struggling to get by are the focus of this indicator. They are susceptible to stress, unstable family relationships, overcrowded housing, and homelessness. Having access to basic needs and achieving self-sufficiency and economic stability can have lasting and measurable benefits for both parents and children.

How is Orange County Doing?

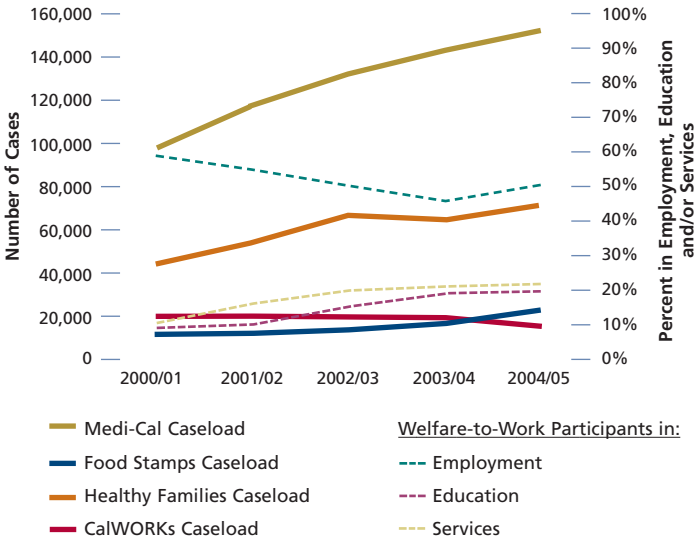
Public Assistance

For cash-assisted individuals as well as those no longer receiving grants, a number of trends signal persistent challenges finding a job that pays enough to survive without public assistance and obtaining or affording health care privately. For example, the CalWORKs caseload continues to decline in part due to time limits established in 1996 by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. Meanwhile, the caseloads for other public assistance programs which do not have time limits are rising, signaling that those no longer receiving grants are struggling to meet basic needs.[2] Furthermore, the law requires most CalWORKs recipients to participate in Welfare-to-Work (WTW) but the percent of WTW participants with jobs has been on the decline until recent years when it has hovered around 50%. Over the same period, WTW participants in education and/or services increased.[3] These trends are partly because many "employment-ready" recipients found jobs and left the program, while a large part of the remaining population has a greater need for education, training, and other services.

Overcrowding

In high cost of living regions like Orange County, families often share housing arrangements that result in overcrowded conditions which place strain on personal relationships, housing stock, and city and county infrastructure and services. Having a job or receiving a CalWORKs grant does not necessarily relieve this condition. For example, as of November 2005 the monthly CalWORKs grant for a family of three without other income is $723 and the median monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment is $1,392, resulting in a shortfall of $669 per month just for rent.[4] If one of the three had a minimum wage job, the family would still spend as much as 99% of income on rent considering wages of $1,080 a month and a CalWORKs grant of $295 (reduced due to earned income). If the family had two minimum wage workers earning a monthly income of $2,160 they would be ineligible for CalWORKs and 64% of income would be spent on rent. Very likely this family would still depend on child care subsidies (if available), Food Stamps, and state sponsored health care.

Major Public Assistance Program Caseloads and Welfare-to-Work Participants Involved in Employment, Education and/or Services
Orange County, 2001-2005



Note: Please see footnotes for an explanation of the categories "employment, education, and services."

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

[1] Since CalWORKs recipients generally also receive Food Stamps and Medi-Cal, the separate counts of Food Stamps and Medi-Cal presented in this report represent the additional "non-assisted" caseloads (families in which some or all members do not receive CalWORKs).
[2] The rise in Medi-Cal and Food Stamp caseloads are also the result of program changes mandated by federal, state, and court decisions that expand eligibility and outreach efforts by program operators to inform income-eligible individuals of programs available to them.
[3] Welfare-to-Work participants may be enrolled in more than one employment, education or service activity per month. "Employment" indicates the participant has a job. "Education" means the participant is enrolled in school or job training courses. "Services" refers to participants enrolled in services such as mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, or domestic abuse services.
[4] Median rent is 2006 Fair Market Rent as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Homelessness

The estimated number of homeless individuals and families in Orange County remained steady for the first time since tracking began. Contrary to popular belief, of the approximately 34,898 homeless, 70% are families with children. As many as 16,286 children are homeless in Orange County, with an estimated 5,374 under age five.[5] Having a job is not necessarily protection against homelessness when rental costs continue to rise and the high upfront costs of renting are prohibitive (see Rental Affordability, page 21). The County and the many non-profit agencies that serve the homeless are in the process of developing a federally mandated Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. For more detail, please see the Special Feature on Homelessness in Orange County on page 10.

Rental Assistance Shortfall

Many families look to rental assistance (vouchers) from the Section 8 program to help defray high housing costs. However, available funding cannot meet the high demand. In just one month in 2005, the Orange County Housing Authority received 20,000 applications for vouchers, the first time the waiting list has been open for new applications since 2001. Unless conditions or funding levels change, an applicant on the new waiting list might have to wait as long as seven years for a voucher.

Poverty

According to the Census, the percentage of Orange County children in poverty fell in 2004 to 12.8%. Approximately 100,000 children in Orange County live in poverty. California and the United States have higher rates of child poverty, at 18.9% and 18.4% respectively.

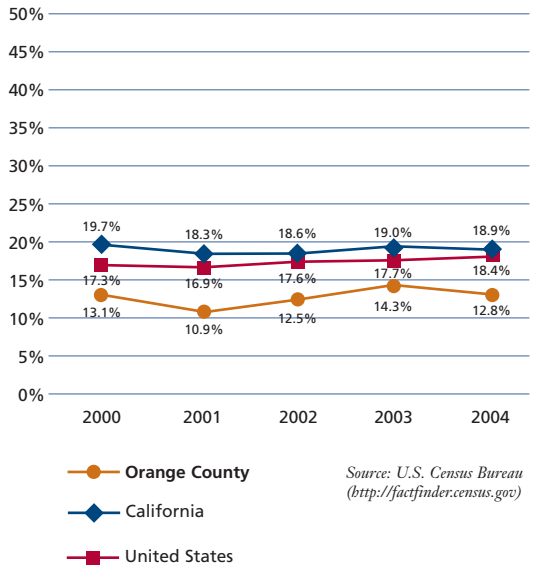
An alternative measure of family poverty is the number of children living in families with incomes low enough to be eligible for free or reduced price school lunches. A child is eligible for subsidized school meals if his or her parents' income is below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The percentage of Orange County children eligible to participate in this program has hovered between 37% and 40% over the past six years with this year hitting the high of 40%. Wide disparities within the county are evident, ranging from 82% eligible in Anaheim Elementary School District to 6% in Laguna Beach Unified School District. The variation in poverty levels among school districts correlates closely with variation in test scores among school districts (see Academic Performance, page 37).

Federal Poverty Guidlines (FPG) and 185% of FPG, 2005

Family Size	FPG	185%
1	$9,570	$17,705
2	$12,830	$23,736
3	$16,090	$29,767
4	$19,350	$35,798
5	$22,610	$41,829
6	$25,870	$47,860
7	$29,130	$53,891
8	$32,390	$59,922

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Percent of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty
Orange County, 2000-2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (http://factfinder.census.gov)

Percent of Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price School Meals
Highest and Lowest Five Orange County School Districts, 2004/05

	School District	Percent
Highest	Anaheim Elementary	82%
	Santa Ana Unified	75%
	Magnolia Elementary	75%
	Buena Park Elementary	73%
	La Habra City Elementary	68%
	California Average	50%
	Orange County Average	**40%**
Lowest	Fountain Valley Elementary	14%
	Huntington Beach City Elementary	13%
	Los Alamitos Unified	9%
	Irvine Unified	7%
	Laguna Beach Unified	6%

Note: Elementary and unified school districts only.

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

[5] A person is considered homeless if they have no fixed or regular nighttime residence, live in a motel, have received an eviction notice and have no resources for housing, or are staying in a temporary shelter or place that is not designed for housing, such as a car or garage.

Residency Status and Expense Main Barriers to Children Getting Coverage

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures health insurance coverage in the past year for Orange County adults (18+) and children (0-17). Orange County detail is provided by age, city, racial and ethnic breakdown and the most frequently cited reasons for being uninsured.

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.

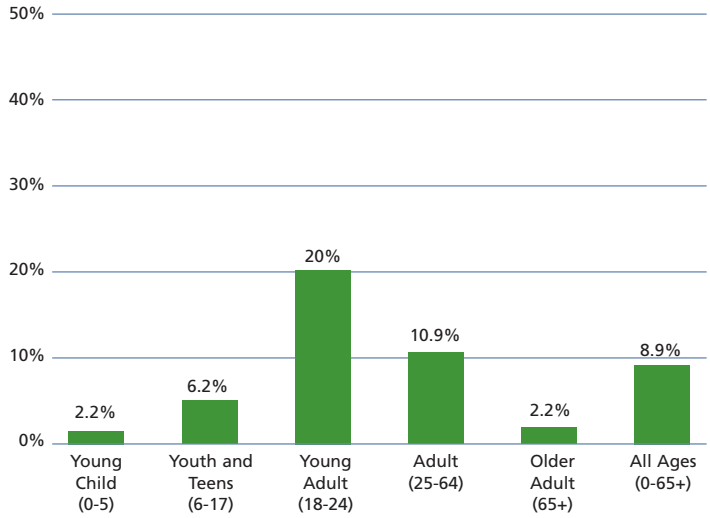
How is Orange County Doing?

In 2004, approximately 10.4% of adults and 4.8% of children lacked health care coverage. Young adults ages 18-24 were most likely to be without coverage. Very young children and residents over 65 were most likely to have health insurance (both only 2.2% uninsured). Among most age groups, there has been an improvement in coverage compared to estimates from 1998 and 2001.

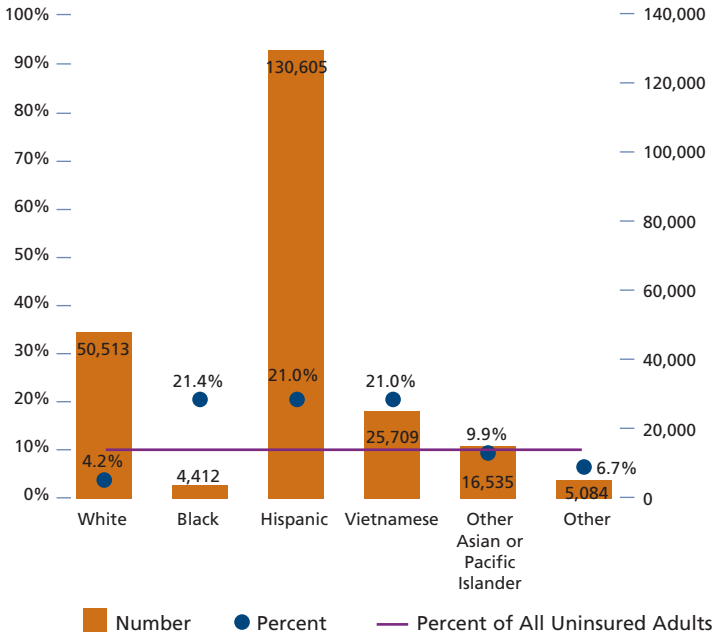
Coverage varies by ethnicity and city. Black, Hispanic, and Vietnamese residents have uninsured rates double the county average. Most of the uninsured are Hispanic residents. While White residents have a low rate of uninsured (4.2%), they are the second largest group of uninsured owing to the large number of White residents in the county. The cities with the highest proportion of uninsured live in Santa Ana, followed by Anaheim, Costa Mesa, and Westminster.

The top reasons cited by adults for why they lack coverage were "couldn't afford to pay the premiums" (31%) and "lost job or changed employers" (21%). Another 11% didn't feel they needed coverage. The top reasons parents cited for why their children were not covered was "lack of documentation necessary to prove legal residency" (27%) and "couldn't afford to pay the premiums" (22%).

Uninsured by Age
Orange County, 2004



Uninsured Adults (18+) by Race/Ethnicity
Orange County, 2004



Dental Health Coverage

In 2004, it is estimated that 29% of adults (18+) and 19% of children (under 18) did not have dental health coverage. Among seniors (65+), 38% did not have dental insurance. Adults who have never visited the dentist are more likely to lack dental coverage, while those who reported they visited the dentist in the last than six months were more likely to have dental coverage. Similarly for children, those without dental coverage were more than twice as likely to not have visited a dentist in the past year.

Source: Orange County Health Needs Assessment, 2004

County Expects "Age Wave;" Service Demands to Increase

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the status of older adults (60 or 65 years of age and over) through economic, crime, and health measures.[1]

Why is it Important?

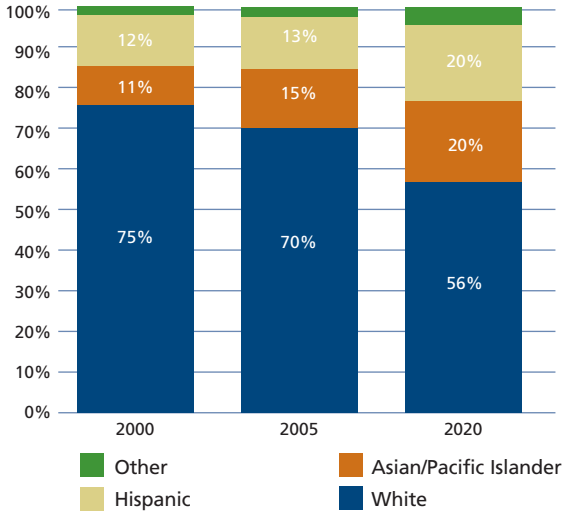
Orange County's older population is growing faster than population overall, especially in the over-85 bracket, and nearly twice as fast as the California rate. This will only accelerate as the Baby Boomers start turning 60 in 2006, placing growing demands on health, transportation, and support services.

How is Orange County Doing?

Demographics

Among the 60+ population, the percentage of White older adults fell five percentage points between 2000 and 2005, while the percentage of Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander older adults increased by one and four points, respectively. This transition is expected to accelerate between 2005 and 2020, with triple-digit growth among Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islanders. Agencies serving older adults agree that the Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander senior populations are under-reported and constitute hidden groups of older adults with unmet needs.

Projected Change in 60+ Population by Race/Ethnicity
Orange County, 2000-2020



Source: California Department of Finance, U.S. Census Projections

Economic

In 2004, median household income for older adults was $36,645, less than the county median household income of $64,416. Approximately 6.6% of Orange County older adults had incomes below the poverty thresholds in 2004 (up from 5.4% in 2003), although assets like real estate are not figured in this estimate. Although 79% of older adults in Orange County own their own homes (compared to 60% of the general population), many older residents have had their homes for several years and live on fixed incomes that have reduced in purchasing power over the span of their retirement. Older adults also face increasing age-related disability and medical issues, with health care and drug costs placing great demand on their fixed incomes.

Violent Crime Against Older Adults
County Comparison, 2004 and 2000-2004

Five-Year Average Annual Percent Change (2000-2004)		Rate per 100,000 Persons Over 65 (2004)	
Riverside	11%	Los Angeles	407
Orange	**5%**	California	212
Los Angeles	5%	San Bernardino	196
California	4%	San Diego	148
San Bernardino	2%	Riverside	142
Santa Clara	2%	**Orange**	**85**
San Diego	-1%	Santa Clara	78

Sources: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center and U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey

Crime and Abuse

Violent crime against Orange County older adults is the second lowest among peers. However, the county is tied with Los Angeles County for the second highest five-year average growth in crime (5%) compared to peers. Aggravated assault and robbery were the most common crimes. Elder abuse reported to the County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) rose in the past year from 290 to 316 incidents. Adult abuse includes self-neglect (most common form of abuse) and abuse by others (most likely a family member or friend) such as neglect or financial, physical, or emotional abuse.

Health

Most Orange County older adults rate their health as very good or good (62%), while 9% rate their health as poor.[2] Among those 65-74 years old, 20% percent reported a disability – a limitation caused by a chronic condition. Among those 75 and over, almost half (45%) reported a disability. Those in poor health or with disabilities often need assistance with daily living. With almost a quarter of Orange County older adults living alone, many depend on family members or social services for this help.[2] The number of older adults receiving In-Home Supportive Services through SSA increased 11% from June 2004 to June 2005 (from 6,974 to 7,708).

Transportation

The automobile is the single most important mode of transportation for older adults, accounting for about 90% of trips made by those 65 and older. Even so, of all those over age 60, approximately two in 10 Orange County older adults are likely to have specialized transportation needs, including non-emergency medical trips. The Orange County Transportation Authority's specialized transit service for the disabled, ACCESS, provided over 1.1 million rides in 2004, the majority for older adult riders.

[1] Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey unless otherwise noted.
[2] Orange County Health Needs Assessment, 2004

Asian Residents Report Least Amount of Social Support

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the availability of social support in Orange County compared to peers and by ethnicity. Also measured are whether Orange County adults have ever been diagnosed with a mental condition and whether they have seen a mental health professional.

Why is it Important?

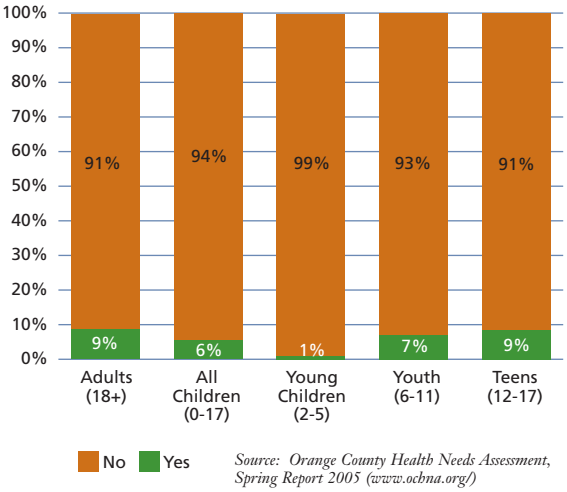
Since mental health disorders often go unreported and untreated, measuring social support is another way to gauge informal mental health resources available to prevent or relieve disorders like depression. Professional diagnosis and treatment is also important. Untreated, mental health disorders can worsen, leading to difficulties in the home and workplace, and in severe cases, suicide.

How is Orange County Doing?

According to the 2003 California Health Interview Survey, slightly more than half of Orange County adults have social support in terms of always having someone available that loves them or makes them feel wanted (58%). Fewer indicate they have someone who understands problems (43%). While a small percentage of residents report no one is available to provide social support (between 3% and 6%), these percentages equate to between 68,000 and 120,000 individuals. Orange County has about the same levels of social support as the state and most peers. Social support varies by ethnicity, with Asians reporting the least social support and Whites reporting the most.

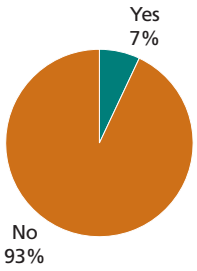
According to the Orange County Health Needs Assessment, the percentage of residents diagnosed with depression or bipolar disorder rose from 5.1% in 1998 to 7.3% in 2004. Among adults, 9% have visited a mental health professional in the past 12 months. Teens show a similar level of visiting a mental health professional. Most residents have mental health insurance coverage (70%) but 4% of residents indicated they needed mental health services but could not get it.

Visited a Mental Health Professional in the Past 12 Months by Age
Orange County, 2004



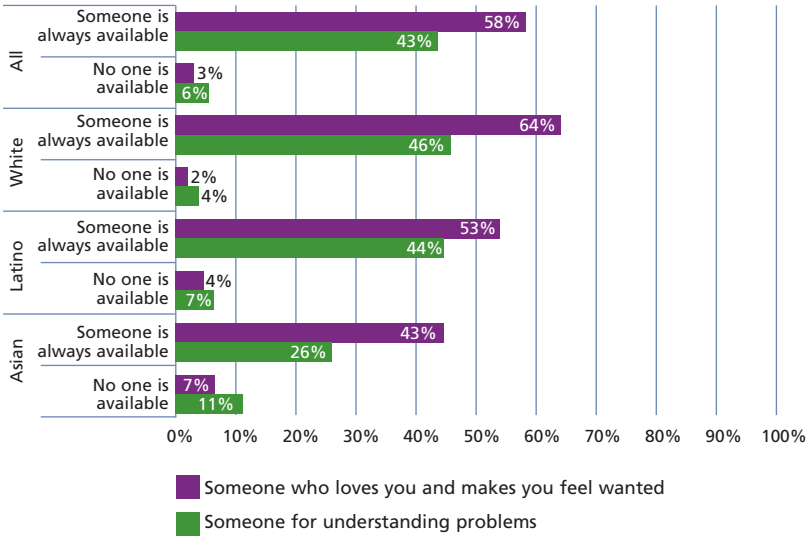
Source: Orange County Health Needs Assessment, Spring Report 2005 (www.ochna.org/)

Ever Diagnosed with Depression or Bipolar Disorder
Orange County, 2004



Source: Orange County Health Needs Assessment, Spring Report 2005 (www.ochna.org/)

Availability of Social Support
Orange County, 2003



Source: University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Health Policy Research, 2003 California Health Interview Survey (www.chis.ucla.edu/index.html)

The Mental Health/Drug Abuse Connection

Among adults with serious mental illness, 20% nationwide were dependent on or abused alcohol or illicit drugs; the rate among adults without serious mental illness was 6%. Depressed individuals are more inclined to drink, smoke or use drugs, and more than half of individuals reporting a substance abuse problem in their lifetimes have also had mental disorders.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (www.samhsa.gov)

Alcohol Abuse Indicators Positive; Drug Abuse Indicators Troubling

Description of Indicator

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

Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

Indicators of alcohol abuse show encouraging movement with alcohol-induced death rates low compared to peers, treatment admissions and arrests trending downward, and a low proportion of alcohol-involved car accidents. Drug abuse indicators show troubling signs with drug-induced death rates rising slightly and drug-related arrests and treatment admissions trending upward.

Health Indicators

Orange County has fewer overall AOD-induced deaths than the state and all counties compared except Santa Clara. When taken alone, the county's drug-induced death rate rose slightly in the last year.

Criminal Justice Indicators

In 2004, overall AOD-related arrests fell in Orange County to below California averages. In general, alcohol-related arrests are trending downward and drug-related arrests are trending upward.

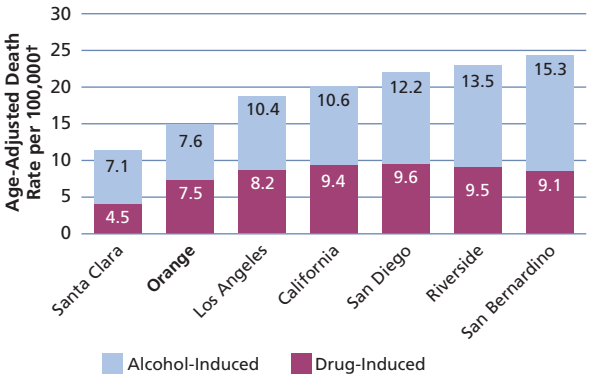
Treatment Indicators

Over the past four years, Orange County admissions for AOD recovery or treatment services at publicly funded or state licensed programs have increased significantly for drug-abuse and decreased somewhat for alcohol-abuse. Methamphetamine addiction was the most frequently cited reason for admission.

Accident Indicators

The California Highway Patrol reported 66 fatal and 1,366 injury alcohol-involved accidents in 2003, rising above the five-year average and halting a downward trend. Despite the rise, Orange County is home to 8.1% of California's "at risk" (ages 10-69) residents, but only 6.5% of all alcohol-involved accidents in California occurred in Orange County.

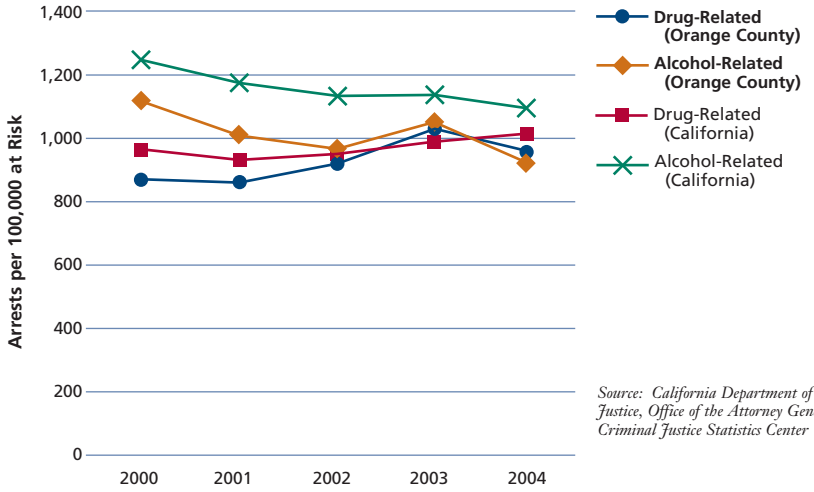
Alcohol- and Drug-Induced Deaths
County Comparison, 2000-2002 Average (Alcohol) and 2001-2003 Average (Drug)



† 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.

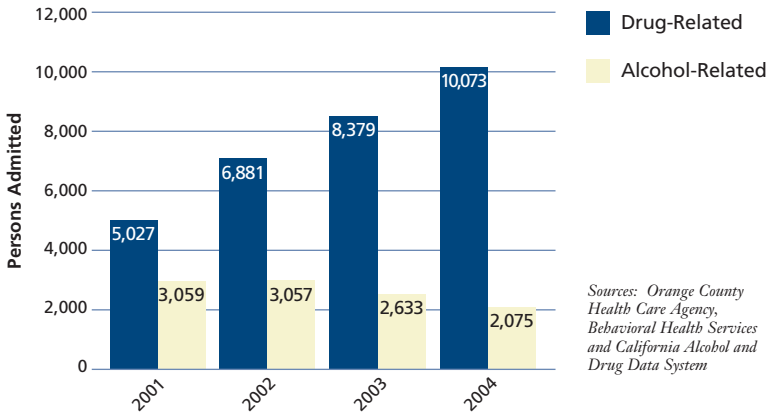
Source: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics (www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/vsdata/Tables.htm)

Alcohol- and Drug-Related Arrests
California and Orange County, 2000-2004



Source: California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center

Alcohol- and Drug-Related Admissions to Publicly Funded or State Licensed Recovery and Treatment Services
Orange County, 2001-2004



Sources: Orange County Health Care Agency, Behavioral Health Services and California Alcohol and Drug Data System

Stroke and Heart Disease Improve

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 achieving Healthy People 2010 National Objectives for commonly measured health status indicators.[1] 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 problems that are comparatively more (or less) pronounced in Orange County, informing public health initiatives designed to address problems.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County continues to achieve the Healthy People 2010 goal for deaths due to homicide, motor vehicle accidents and lung cancer. Deaths due to all cancers are the closest to reaching the Healthy People 2010 goal while drug-induced deaths are the furthest from the goal. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Orange County and more residents die of heart disease than the California average. However, the rate improves substantially each year. The county now ranks 42nd among all 58 California counties, an improvement over 52nd last year. Deaths due to stroke, now only slightly worse than the state average, improved considerably, jumping in rank from 45th to 27th.

As of December 2004, there were approximately 3,174 people living with AIDS in Orange County, with 211 of the cases newly diagnosed in 2004. Orange County's 2004 AIDS case rate is seven per 100,000 people age 13 and over; the Healthy People 2010 goal is one per 100,000. Latinos and African Americans are increasingly and disproportionately impacted by AIDS. Cases among Asian/Pacific Islanders are also on the rise, up 150% between cases prior to 2000 and new cases in 2004. Since the implementation of HIV reporting in July of 2002, there have been 1,699 HIV cases reported with an additional 471 people estimated to have HIV infection but are unaware.

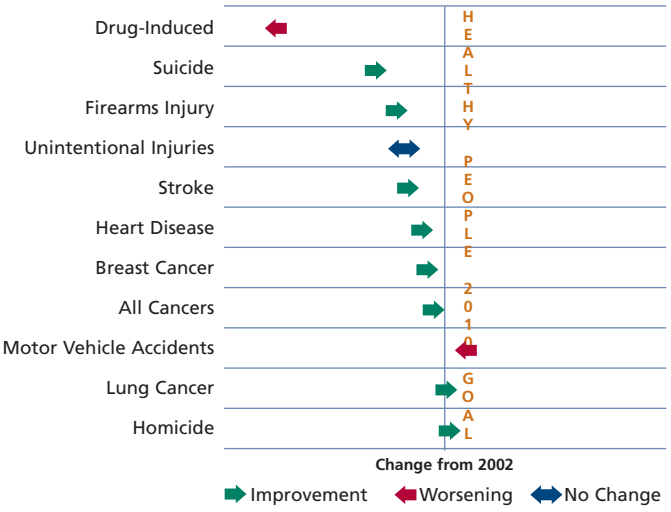
Orange County Age-Adjusted Death Rates Compared to the California Average, 2003†

Rank	Cause of Death	County's Rate is Better than California Average
6	Unintentional Injuries	✓
7	Motor Vehicle Accidents	✓
9	Firearms Injury	✓
9	Suicide	✓
11	Lung Cancer	✓
13	Drug-Induced	✓
17	All Cancers	✓
20	Homicide	✓
27	Stroke	
28	Diabetes	✓
29	Breast Cancer	✓
42	Heart Disease	

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

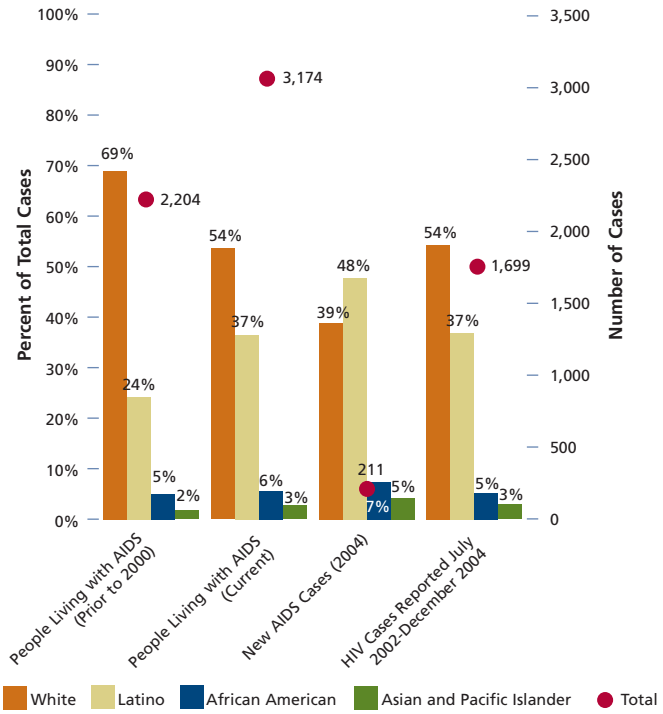
Source: California Department of Health Services, County Health Status Profiles (www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/)

Age-Adjusted Death Rates: Progess Towards Healthy People 2010 Goals
Orange County, 2003



Source: California Department of Health Services, County Health Status Profiles (www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/)

People Living with AIDS or HIV by Ethnicity
Orange County, Through 2004



Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, HIV/AIDS Surveillance & Monitoring Program

[1] See Substance Abuse, page 53, for an explanation of age-adjusted dath rates.

Public Safety

Indicators of community safety continue to improve over time, ensuring Orange County remains a safe place to live. Crime affects certain ethnic groups more than others.

Foster Care Measures Mixed; Domestic Violence Calls Level Off

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures family violence by tracking child abuse and neglect and domestic violence.

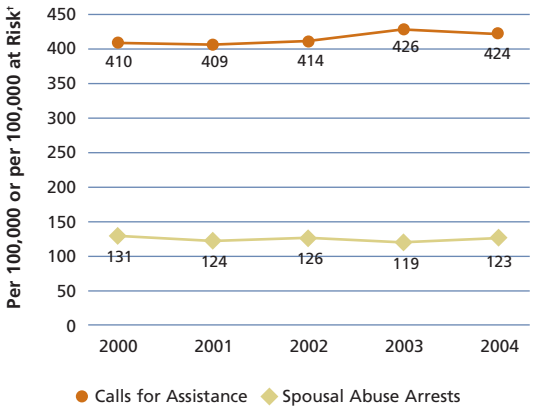
Why is it Important?

Foster care placement is often the final act to protect children from dangerous circumstances after repeated attempts to stabilize their families. Tracking re-entries 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.

How is Orange County Doing?

The number of Orange County children entering foster care fell to 1.7 per 1,000 children. Among peers, Orange County falls in the mid-range in terms of substantiated referrals, but the lowest for children removed from their homes. This may be attributable to the fact that, whenever possible, the County provides services to families that allow children to remain safely at home with their families. About 8% of Orange County children re-enter foster care within a year of returning home, up from 6% last year. Still, this is the second lowest level among peers, suggesting that in addition to ending out-of-home placement for children as quickly as possible through family reunification with support services, guardianship, or adoption, Orange County is successful at preventing re-abuse among these families. Domestic violence calls for assistance leveled in 2004 while spousal abuse arrests rose by 4%. Among peers, Orange County falls in the mid-range for calls for assistance and has the lowest level of spousal abuse arrests. The gap between domestic violence-related calls for assistance and actual spousal abuse arrests shows the challenge law enforcement faces prosecuting these crimes, as victims recant or evidence is lacking.

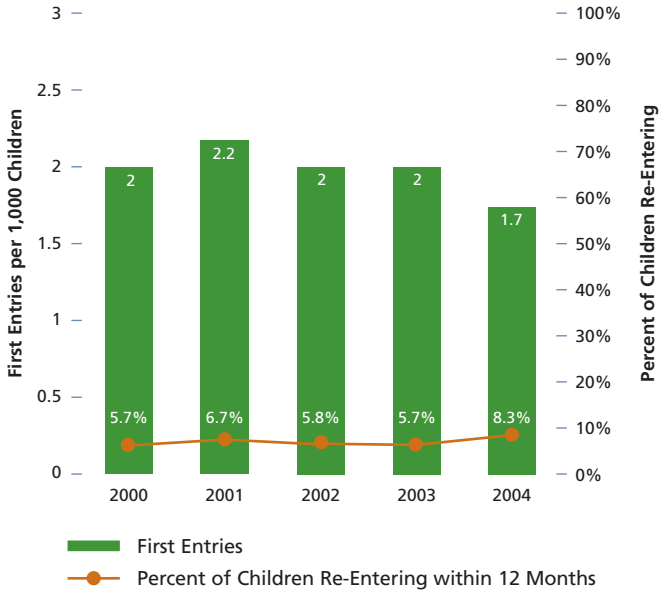
Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance and Spousal Abuse Arrests
Orange County, 2000-2004



† 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.

Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center (http://caag.state.ca.us/pubs.htm)

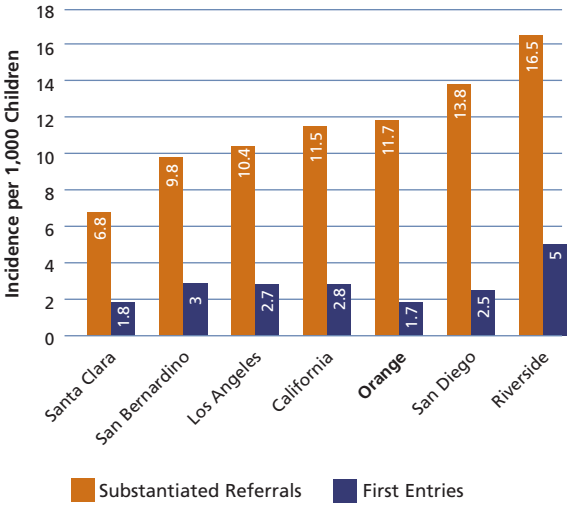
Foster Care Entries and Percent of Children Re-Entering within 12 Months
Orange County, 2000-2004



Note: First entry data reflect calendar years; re-entry data reflect October through September. Re-entries are not a subset of first entries; they are the percent of children who re-entered after a prior out-of-home care episode.

Sources: University of California Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research, Child Welfare Research Center, (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/) and County of Orange Social Services Agency

Substantiated Child Abuse Referrals and First Entries to Foster Care
County Comparison, 2004



Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center (http://caag.state.ca.us/pubs.htm)

Juvenile Involvement in Serious Crime Continues Downward Trend

Description of Indicator

This indicator uses arrests as a means of measuring juveniles' participation in felony and misdemeanor crimes, compared to adults and peer counties. Juveniles are persons under 18 years of age. 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.

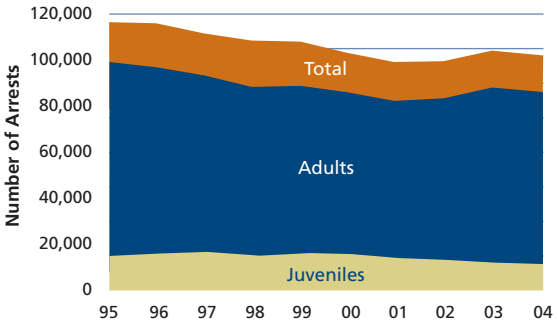
Why is it Important?

Tracking juvenile arrests helps the community understand the level of major and minor crime in Orange County and the extent that 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.

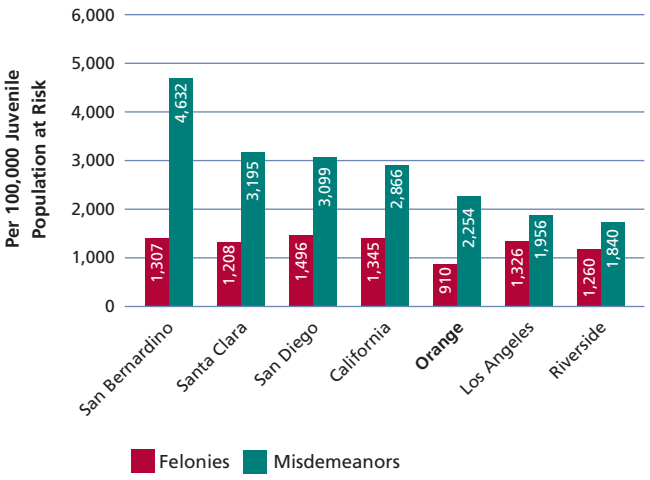
How is Orange County Doing?

In 2004, juveniles made up 13% of all arrests. Out of those 11,450 juvenile arrests, most (71%) were misdemeanors. Despite a small rise in juvenile misdemeanor arrests, the overall rate of juvenile arrests (both felonies and misdemeanors) per 100,000 youth has decreased an average of 6% each year for the past 10 years. Among peer counties, juvenile felony arrests decreased in all counties except Los Angeles and San Diego Counties. Juvenile misdemeanor arrests decreased in all counties except Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego Counties. Orange County has the lowest rate of juvenile felony crime among the counties compared and only Los Angeles and Riverside Counties have lower rates of misdemeanor crime than Orange County.

Felony and Misdemeanor Arrests, Adults and Juveniles
Orange County, 1995-2004



Juvenile Felony and Misdemeanor Arrests
County Comparison, 2004



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

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

School Crime

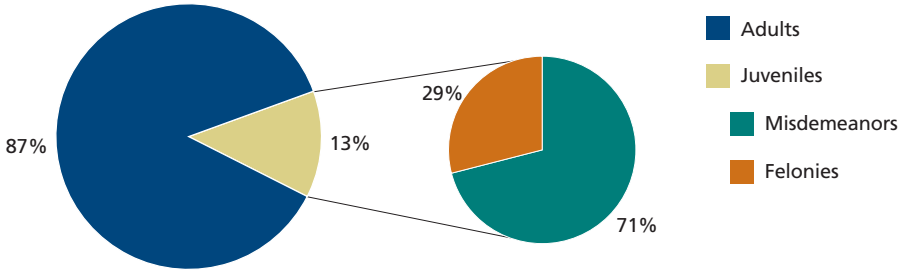
Students are mandatorily expelled from school for bringing a firearm, brandishing a knife, selling a controlled substance, committing sexual assault, or possessing an explosive on campus or at a school activity. Compared to peers and the state, Orange County typically has a lower rate of mandatory expulsions.

Mandatory Explusions
Orange County, 2001-2004

2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
80	95	75	109

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, 2004



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

County's Crime Rate is Low; Perception of Crime Varies

Description of Indicator

This indicator uses the California Crime Index (CCI) and the FBI Crime Index to compare crime rates among counties and to track crime rate trends.[1] The indices measure reported violent and property felonies per 100,000 people. Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crime includes burglary and auto theft. The FBI Index includes all these plus larceny-theft and arson.

Why is it Important?

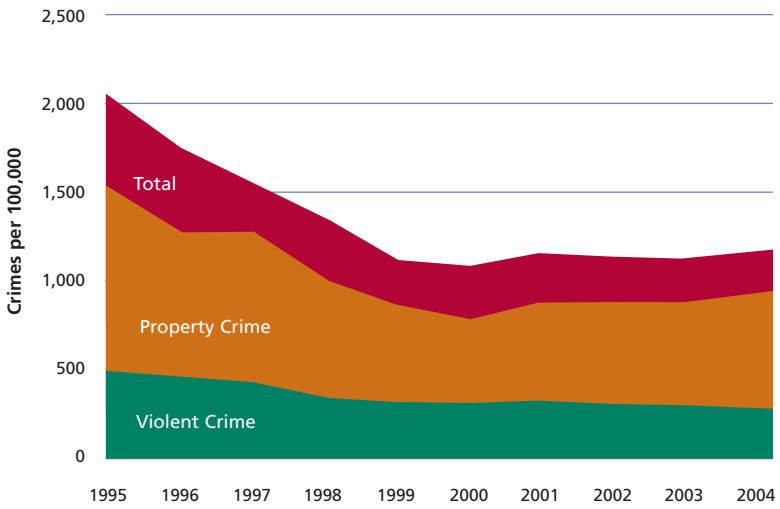
Crime impacts both real and perceived safety in a community. It can also negatively affect investment in a community if a neighborhood is considered unsafe.

How is Orange County Doing?

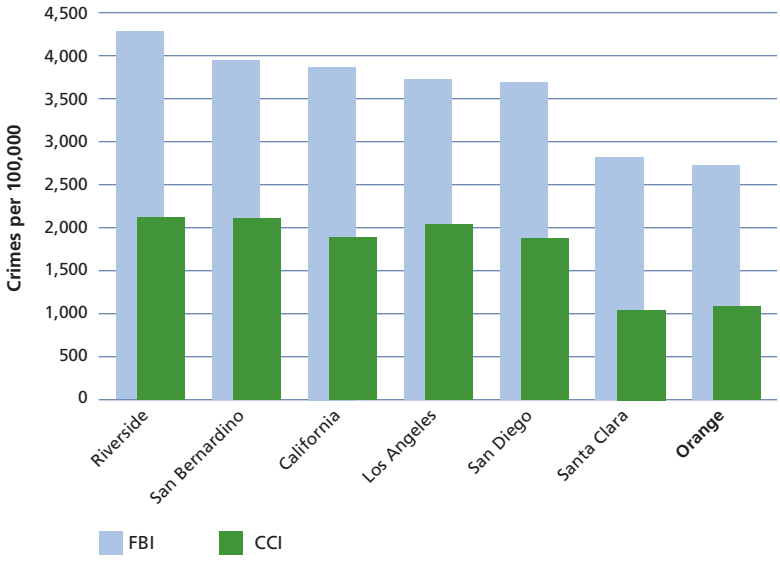
Over the past 10 years, the CCI fell 45%. Most of that drop occurred in the mid- to late-1990s. In 2004, the CCI rose 3% to 1,118 crimes per 100,000 people. The FBI Crime Index which includes larceny-theft and arson fell slightly to 2,730 crimes per 100,000. Orange County continues to have the lowest FBI Crime Index value of all the counties compared and the second lowest CCI. One out of 37 Orange County residents was a victim of a crime in 2004.

The perception and reality of crime varies among racial and ethnic groups. When asked if their neighbors were afraid to go out at night, 29% of Latino Orange County residents in 2003 said "yes" compared to 20% of Asians and 10% of Whites.[2] Of the 81 homicides in Orange County in 2004, 44% of the victims were Latino, compared to 31% White and 21% Asian. In 2003 the variation was even more pronounced with Latinos making up 63% of homicide victims compared to 27% of Whites and 6% of Asians.

California Crime Index
Orange County, 1995-2004



California Crime Index (CCI) and FBI Index
County Comparison, 2004



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

[1] The Orange County Sheriff's Department and its contract cities experienced unintended under-reporting of Part 1 crimes (violent and property crimes plus larceny-theft and arson) for 2000, 2001 and 2002. Therefore, data collected in these time periods should not be used to make comparisons.
[2] University of California Los Angeles, California Health Interview Survey, 2003

Gang Membership Decreases; Homicides Increase

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures gang-related crime filings and homicides. Also measured are the numbers of identified gang members and gangs in Orange County. For additional information, the 2004 Gang Report from the County of Orange Office of the District Attorney is available at www.orangecountyda.com/.

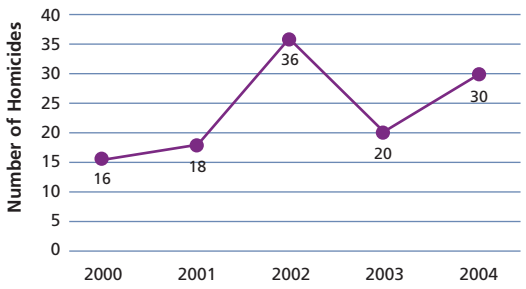
Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

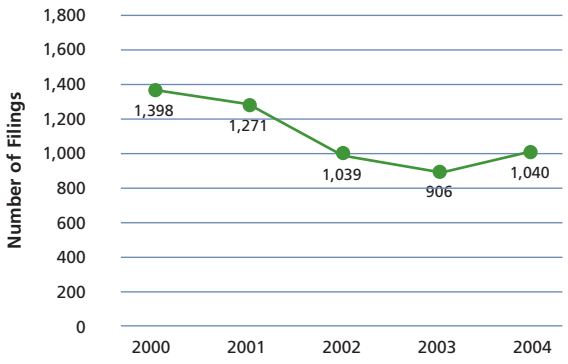
Gang-related homicides rose from 20 in 2003 to 30 in 2004, slightly below the 10-year average of 33. The number of gangs and number of gang members dropped significantly, falling 8% and 6% respectively, in one year. This is most likely due to the fact that gang members are removed from the state database if they have not had contact with law enforcement for more than five years. The fact that new gang members have not replaced them in the database is a positive development. Filings against gang-affiliated defendants rose in 2004.

Victims of Gang-Related Homicides
Orange County, 2000-2004



Source: County of Orange Office of the District Attorney

Filings Against Gang Defendants
Orange County, 2000-2004



Note: The numbers of filings have been modified slightly from previous Community Indicators reports.

Source: County of Orange Office of the District Attorney

Gangs and Gang Membership
Orange County, 2000-2004

Sources: County of Orange Office of the District Attorney and CalGangs

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

Source: California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

Gang Membership
Law enforcement agencies, using a detailed set of criteria, submit information on gang members to the CalGangs database.

Source: County of Orange Office of the District Attorney

Hate Crime Increases but Still Below Average

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of reported hate crime incidents and the number of hate crime-related cases filed in court in Orange County. When bias against another person's race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity drives a criminal act, the offense is classified as a hate crime.

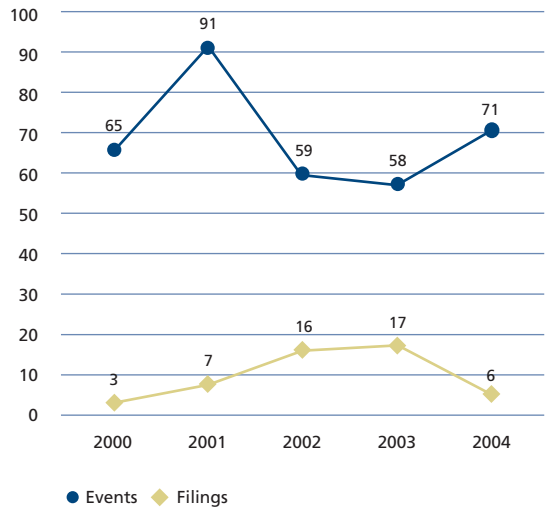
Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

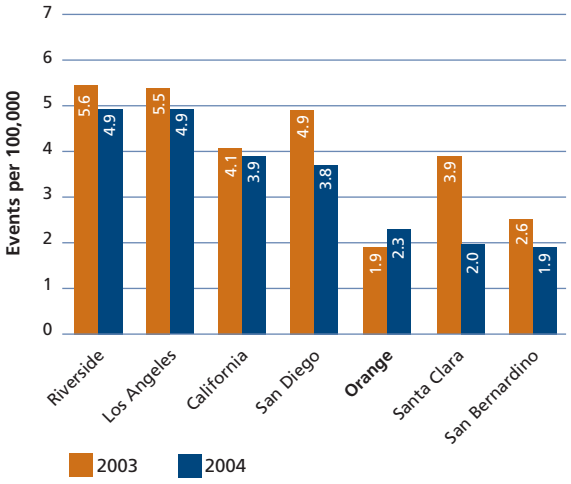
Hate crime events in Orange County rose from 58 in 2003 to 71 in 2004. The number of victims also rose, from 67 in 2003 to 80 in 2004. Despite the rise, these numbers are less than the 10-year average of 80 events and 109 victims. Six hate crime-related cases were filed in criminal court. The state and all other comparison counties witnessed decreases in the number of hate crime events per 100,000. Orange County's rise in hate crimes moved it from the lowest rank among peers in 2003 to third lowest in 2004.

Reported Hate Crime Events and Hate Crime-Related Filings
Orange County, 2000-2004



Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Hate Crime in California Report, 2000-2004 (http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/)

Reported Hate Crime
County Comparison, 2003 and 2004



Sources: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Hate Crime in California Report, 2003-2004 (http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/) and California Department of Finance, Table E-2 (www.dof.ca.gov/)

Environment

Beach closures are low, water use and waste production are increasing slower than population growth, and air quality is the best in the region. To watch: bikeway and trail construction is unlikely to meet 2010 targets, and much more residential and commercial waste could be recycled.

Beach Closures Low; Sewage Spills Fall but Still High

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the number of beach mile days of postings and ocean water closures, as well as the causes for closures, and the number of unauthorized waste discharges (sewage spills). For additional information, visit www.ocbeachinfo.com.

Why is it Important?

Unhealthful coastal conditions negatively impact beachgoers, beach businesses and the marine environment. When ocean waters are closed, tourists and local beachgoers are discouraged from visiting Orange County's beaches, resulting in less consumer traffic in the beach communities and diminishing our overall sense of quality of life. Pollutants enter the ocean through urban runoff, spills and dumping, exposing marine life to toxic substances and degrading habitats.

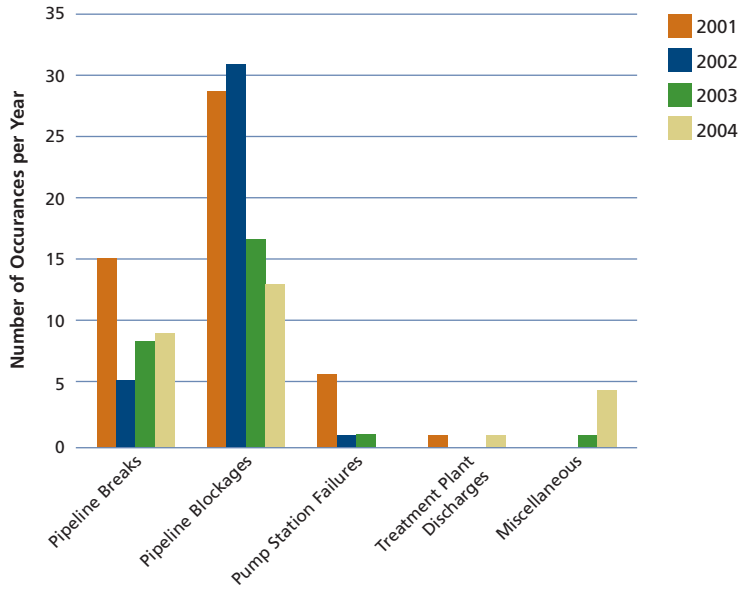
How is Orange County Doing?

Beach mile days lost due to ocean water closures remain low. Pipeline blockages, which result in unauthorized waste discharges, remain the primary cause of beach closures. By state law, ocean waters must be closed when sewage has been spilled into streams, creeks, and rivers that discharge into recreational ocean waters. While the number of reported sewage spills dropped for the second year in a row, over the past 10 years the number of spills increased 225%. Possible causes for the increase include: an aging sewer infrastructure, a need for increased pipeline maintenance, increased reporting by sanitation district or city staff of spills in their jurisdiction (including small private property owner spills), or a combination of the above. Despite the numerous spills, they have not been severe enough to warrant large-scale and long-term closures as in previous years.

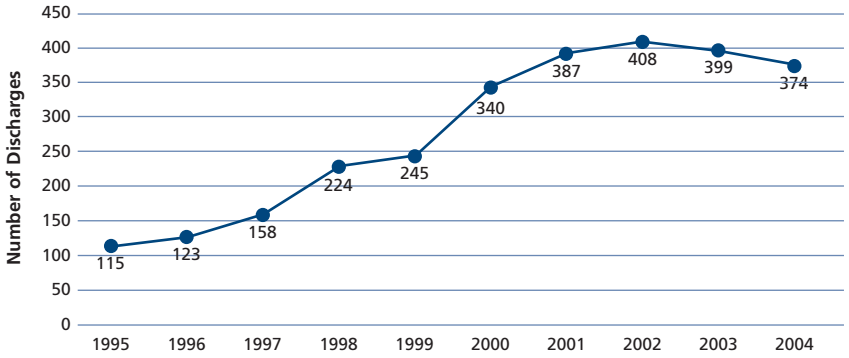
The County of Orange Health Care Agency is also required by state law to post warning signs (referred to as a "posting") when the water quality exceeds state standards. The number of beach mile days of postings fell again to the lowest number since the first full year of postings in 2000. Poor water quality leading to postings is largely attributed to urban runoff.

A strong majority of Orange County residents believe investment in sewers and urban runoff control is very important (see Community Wellbeing, page 70).

Ocean Water Closure Causes
Orange County, 2001-2004

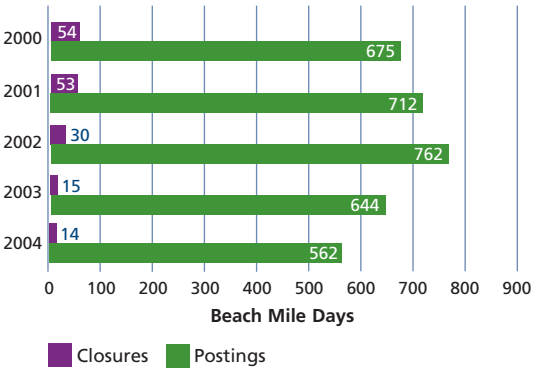


Unauthorized Waste Discharges
Orange County, 1995-2004



Note: Unauthorized waste discharges exclude tertiary recycled water discharges.

Ocean Water Closures and Postings
Orange County, 2000-2004



Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency

What are Beach Mile Days?
Beach mile days are calculated by multiplying the number of days of closure or posting by the number of miles of beach closed or posted. This takes into account the amount of beach affected by the closure or posting.

Trail Construction Continues; Park Acquisition Slows

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the change in acres of regional parks and regional hiking, biking, and riding trails managed by the County of Orange.

Why is it Important?

Orange County's parks, trails and beaches contribute to a high quality of life. They provide a variety of recreational opportunities and offer relief from the urban environment. Measuring acreage and mileage change enables residents to track the County's progress in preserving open space and providing regional trail linkages. As Orange County becomes increasingly dense and built out these resources will become even more valuable to residents.

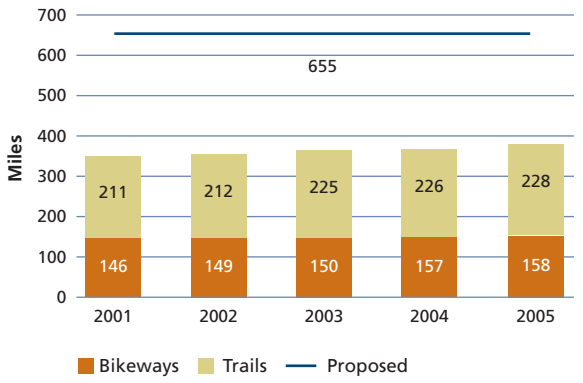
How is Orange County Doing?

Between October 2004 and 2005, 1.25 miles of off-road paved bikeway and 2.75 miles of unpaved regional trail were added to the County's system of trails for a total of 386.4 miles combined. The County of Orange General Plan states that 80% of the 655 proposed miles (303 miles of bikeway and 352 miles of trail) should be completed by 2010. This equates to a total goal of 524 miles (or 242 miles of bikeway and 282 miles of trail) by 2010. To reach this goal, an average of 17 miles of bikeways and 11 miles of trails need to be added each year.

As of October 2005, there were 38,684 acres of County regional parkland, a decrease of 10 acres over the previous year. While the County added 308 acres, mostly within Modjeska Nature Preserve, another 318 acres in Newport Coast were transferred to the City of Newport Beach in the past year, resulting in a net loss of County-managed acres. However, since the City of Newport Beach will preserve the land as open space, it is still available for public recreation and enjoyment.

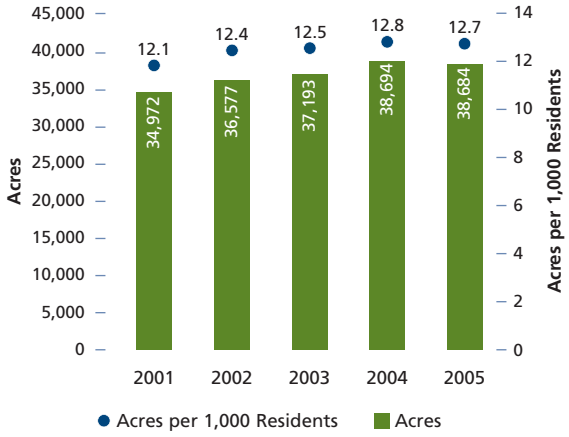
In addition to County parklands, federal, state, local and city parks further add to recreational options for residents. The Orange County portion of the Cleveland National Forest alone provides nearly 55,000 acres of open space. Orange County also boasts 42 miles of state, county and city beach. Next year, new data will allow this indicator to include an estimate of city-controlled open space resources.

Miles of County Regional Bikeways and Trails, 2001-2005



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

County Regional Parks, 2001-2005



Note: Includes wilderness and nature preserves and properties that have been irrevocably offered (but not currently owned by the County).

Sources: County of Orange Resources & Development Management Department/Harbors, Beaches and Parks and California Department of Finance

Average Resident Disposes of 2.3 Pounds of Garbage Daily

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures: the annual tonnage of solid waste (commercial and household) deposited in Orange County landfills, the percent of waste diverted from landfills, the pounds of household hazardous waste collected (such as oil, paint, and batteries) and the number of annual participants, and commercial and household daily disposal rates.

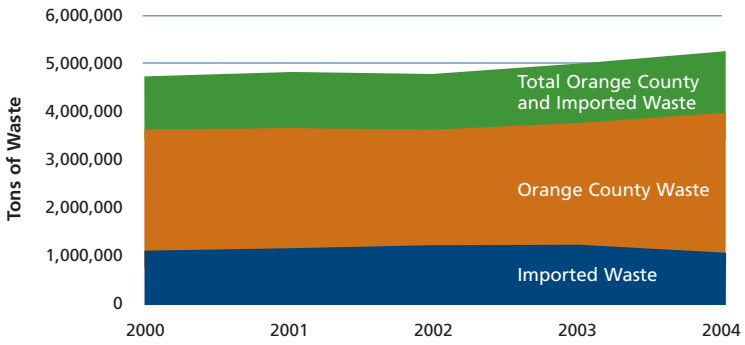
Why is it Important?

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. It is also law. As of 2000, all jurisdictions are required to divert 50% of waste or face significant fines. Collection of household hazardous waste helps protect the environment by reducing illegal and improper hazardous waste disposal. "E-waste," the common term for electronic devices such as cell phones, computers and monitors needing special disposal, contributes increasingly to the amount of household hazardous waste collected.

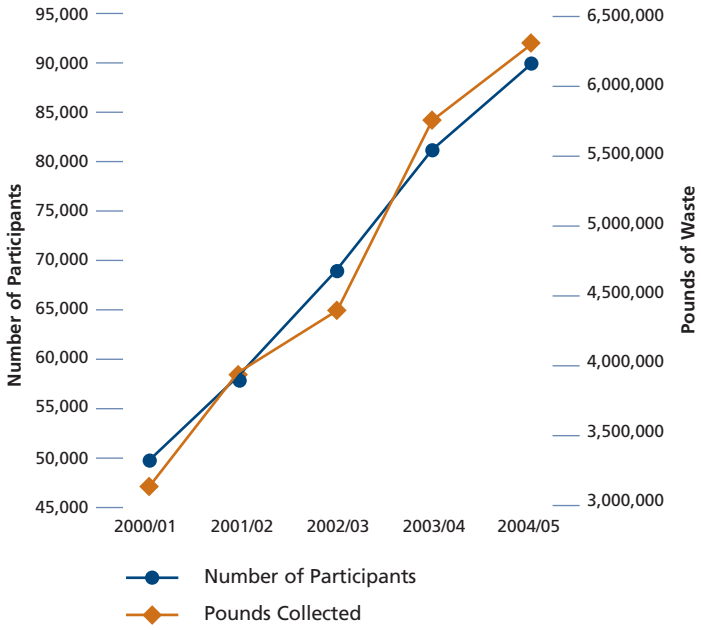
How is Orange County Doing?

Despite a decrease in imported waste, an increase in Orange County-generated waste drove an overall increase of 85,780 tons in waste disposed in Orange County landfills in 2004. Over the past 10 years waste originating in Orange County has increased on average 0.9% annually, slower than average annual population growth over the same period (1.7%).[1] Diversion rate monitoring since 1995 shows a fairly steady increase in the amount of waste that has been diverted from landfills through recycling, composting, and reduced waste production.[2] Orange County's average diversion rate has mirrored the statewide average for the past several years. In 2004/05, the number of pounds of household hazardous waste collected (6.3 million) and the number of annual participants bringing the waste to regional collection centers (90,251) increased by 9% and 11%, respectively, in one year. Among peer counties, Orange County has the second highest daily resident disposal rate behind San Bernardino County. Organic materials such as food, leaves and grass comprise 45% of the residential waste stream. In terms of daily commercial disposal rates, Orange County is third lowest behind Santa Clara County and San Bernardino County. Paper and organic materials top the list for commercial waste. Low commercial disposal rates may reflect a concerted effort among businesses to recycle and reduce waste. For both residents and businesses, most of the waste generated can be recycled or composted.

Solid Waste Disposal in Orange County Landfills, 2000-2004



Household Hazardous Waste
Orange County, 2001-2005



Source: County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Department

Disposal Rates
County Comparison, 2003

	Resident Daily Disposal	Employee Daily Disposal	Percent of Total Wastestream That is: Household	Commercial
Santa Clara	1.2	6.9	27%	73%
Riverside	1.8	10.4	28%	72%
Los Angeles	2.0	10.3	30%	70%
San Diego	2.2	10.8	30%	70%
Orange	**2.3**	**9.6**	**32%**	**68%**
San Bernardino	3.0	7.3	48%	52%

Note: Calculated as pounds per resident per day (household waste) or pounds per employee per day (commercial waste).

Source: Orange County Community Indicators Project analysis of California Integrated Waste Management Board data (www.ciwmb.ca.gov)

[1] Orange County Progress Report, 2005
[2] Diversion rates by jurisdiction are available at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LGTools/mars/jurdrsta.asp.

Most Days Air is Good; County Exceeds Standards on Ozone and Particulate Matter

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures air quality 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, and can cause irritation and illness in the healthy population, especially older adults and active children and adults. Recent research suggests that children with severe asthma start suffering from symptoms when air quality is in the "moderate" range. Long-term exposure increases risks for many health conditions including lung cancer and cardiovascular disease. Children are particularly at risk. High levels of airborne particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers (referred to as PM 2.5) have adverse effects on lung development in children ages 10 to 18.[1]

How is Orange County Doing?

There were no days of air in the "unhealthy" range in Orange County in 2004. There were 28 days considered "unhealthy for sensitive groups," such as asthmatics (see page 45, Pediatric Asthma), and 141 days of "moderate" air quality. The remaining 197 were in the "good" range. Orange County's 2004 median Air Quality Index value was 49, on the high side of the "good" range. Compared to peers, these values place Orange County in the middle with the Austin Metro Area having the best air quality and Riverside County having the worst. In Orange County, ozone was the most common pollutant followed by PM 2.5. Orange County has exceeded the federal standard for ozone since 2002. Orange County regularly exceeds the federal standard for PM 2.5, and has since tracking began in 1999.

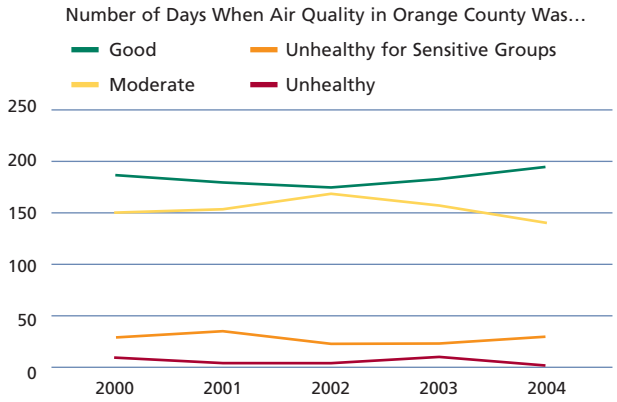
Air Quality Index

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

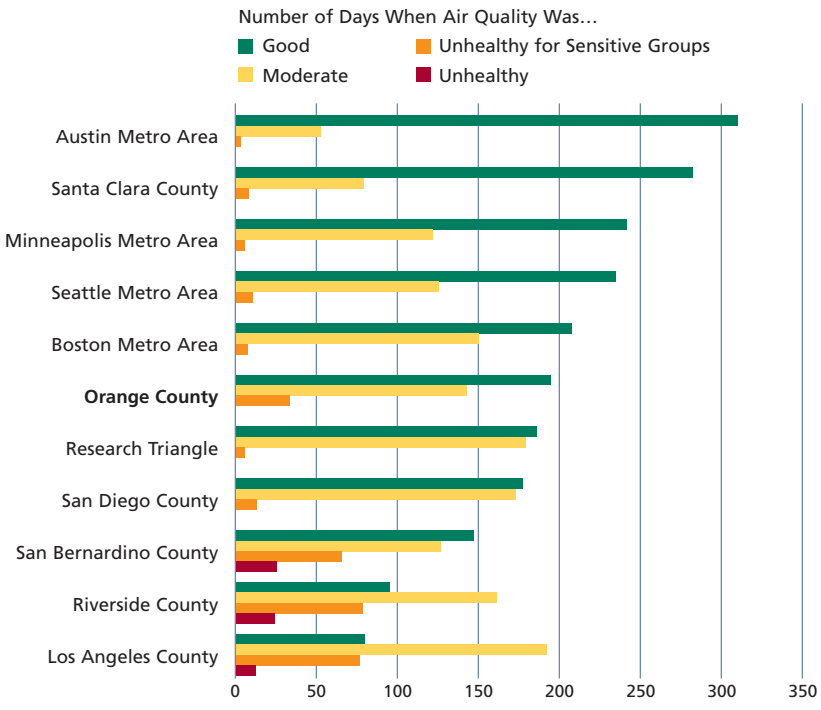
The Air Quality Index is calculated for ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. The number 100 corresponds to the national air quality standard for the pollutant.

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

Air Quality Index
Orange County, 2000-2004



Air Quality Index
Regional Comparison, 2004



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

[1] Journal of the American Medical Association, October 8, 2003; New England Journal of Medicine, September 9, 2004.

Per Capita Water Use on Downward Trend

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 and the cost of various water supplies.

Why is it Important?

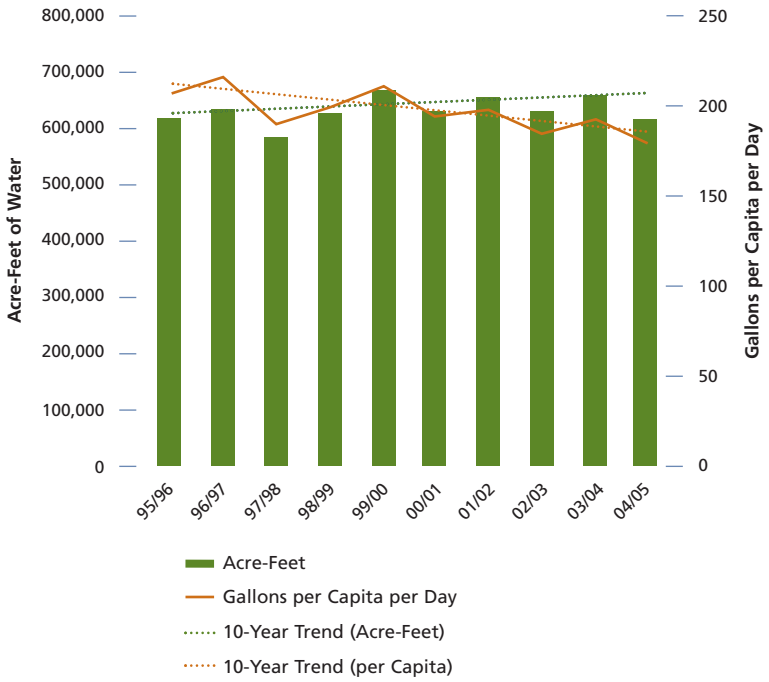
Given our arid climate, ensuring that the county has an ample water supply is paramount. Water continues to flow despite dry conditions five out of the last six years thanks to effective water management, conservation and past investments that ensure supply during wet and dry periods alike. As population growth drives water demand and reliance on imported water continues, conservation and investments in additional supplies, such as groundwater basin replenishment will be necessary.

How is Orange County Doing?

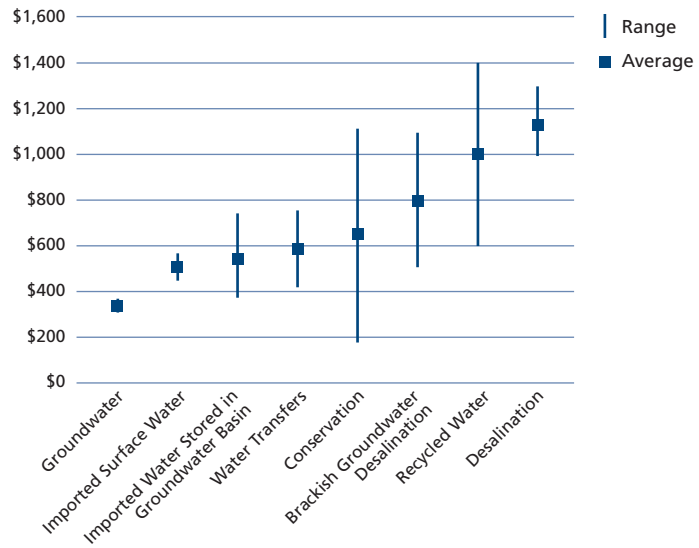
Despite record rainfall in much of California during the winter of 2005, the effects of the West's most severe drought in 500 years persist. In addition to residents and businesses doing more to conserve water, our wet winter and mild summer helped reduce countywide per capita and overall water consumption in 2004/05. These decreases impacted the 10-year trends, with per capita water use now on a downward trend (average decline of 1% per year). Overall water use is still rising but only an average of 0.4% per year, slower than population growth at 1.7% per year. Per capita usage in 2004/05 was 182 gallons per day (residential and commercial), which equates to a total of 623,330 acre-feet for all Orange County.

To meet projected increasing demand in 2020, Orange County will continue to need imported water and groundwater but will expand conservation programs, which can be one of the most cost-effective alternatives for increasing supply. The county will also depend on innovative alternatives such as 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. The Groundwater Replenishment System was honored in 2005 with the Governor's Environmental and Economic Award for Ecosystem and Watershed Management.

Urban Water Usage
Orange County, 1996-2005



Cost of Water per Acre-Foot to Wholesaler by Source, 2005



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

Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement trends are mixed. While voting participation continues to drop, a majority of residents contribute both time and money to Orange County nonprofits.

Special Election Participation Lower than State Average

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures election participation among Orange County registered voters. It also contains voter participation rates among the voting age population (18+) for presidential elections for Orange County, California, and the nation. The most recent measure is the participation rate of registered voters in the 2005 Special Election.

Why is it Important?

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

How is Orange County Doing?

Participation Among Registered Voters

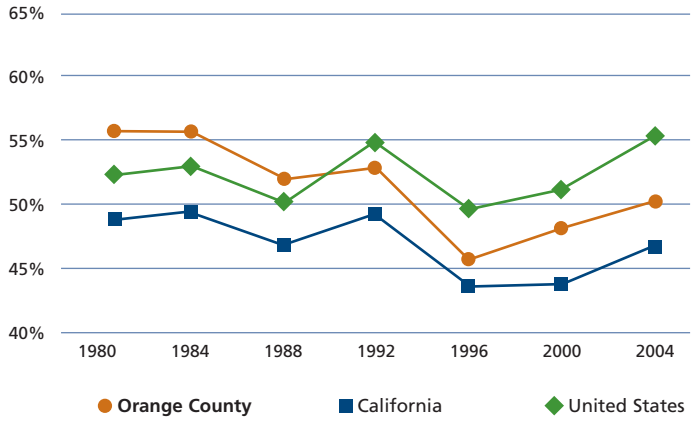
Voter participation among Orange County registered voters in the 2005 Special Election was 43% which is a decrease from the 59% rate in the 2003 Special Recall Election and significantly below the 73% participation rate in the 2004 Presidential Election. Orange County voter participation in the 2005 Special Election was below the state participation rate of 45% and less than Santa Clara, San Francisco and San Diego Counties.

Both presidential and mid-term election registered voter participation in Orange County were stable in the late 1980s and early 1990s but began a downward trend in the mid-1990s.

Participation Among Residents of Voting Age

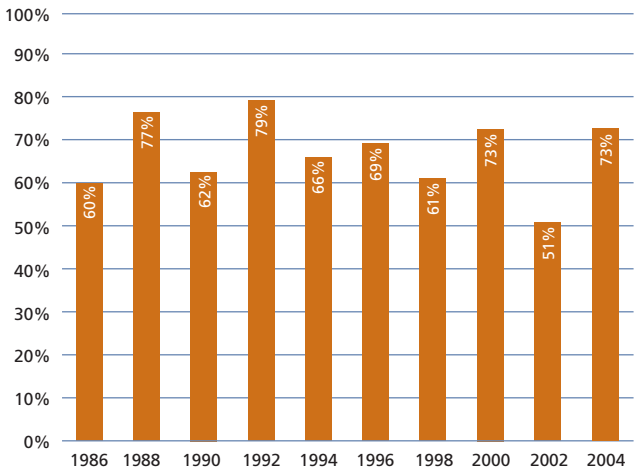
In 2004, nearly 1.5 million Orange County residents were registered to vote but about 657,000 residents over the age of 18 failed to register to vote. When the entire voting age population is considered, not just registered voters, only 51% of Orange County residents who were old enough to vote did so in the 2004 Presidential Election. Orange County's voting age turnout was better than California's (47%) but worse than the nation as a whole (55%). Orange County's rate has been trending downward since 1980.

Presidential Election Turnout Among the Voting Age Population
Orange County, 1980-2004



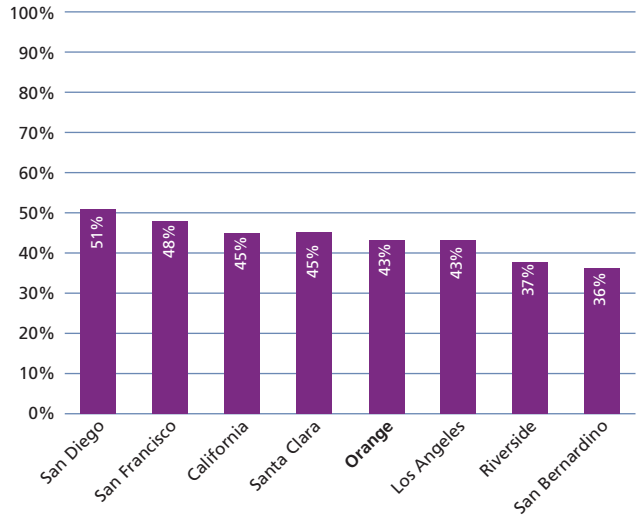
Sources: Federal Election Commission (www.fec.gov/elections.html) and George Mason University United States Election Project (http://elections.gmu.edu/voter_turnout.htm)

General Election Turnout Among Registered Voters
Orange County, 1986-2004



Sources: California Secretary of State (http://vote2004.ss.ca.gov/Returns/status.htm) and Orange County Registrar of Voters

Special Election Turnout Among Registered Voters
County Comparison, 2005



Source: California Secretary of State (http://vote2004.ss.ca.gov/Returns/status.htm)

79% of County Residents Give to Nonprofits

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the frequency that Orange County residents contribute financially to nonprofit organizations, the reasons why they contribute, and how often they volunteer.

Why is it Important?

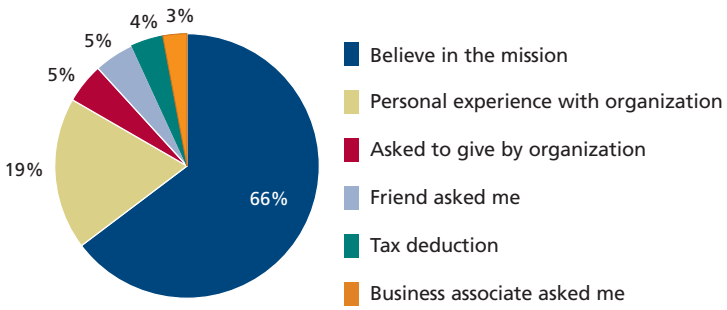
Nonprofit, charitable organizations play an important role in filling the gap between government programs and local needs. A strong, well-funded nonprofit sector is critical for maintaining a healthy and stable community. The nonprofit sector is also a large and valuable part of the local economy. Rates of volunteerism show residents' support of the nonprofit sector and also provide one measure of residents' investment in the wellbeing of their community.

How is Orange County Doing?

According to a 2005 survey of Orange County residents, 79% of respondents report they contribute money to nonprofit organizations, with 10% contributing very often, 28% contributing often and 41% contributing occasionally. The top reasons for contributing to a nonprofit are because donors believe in the mission (66%), followed by personal experience with the organization (19%). The survey also reported that 63% of Orange County residents volunteered at least once in the past year, with 31% volunteering more than 10 times.

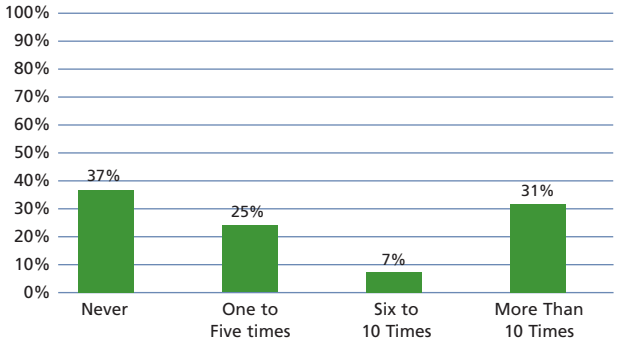
The number of Orange County nonprofits per capita is fewer than the United States, California and San Diego, but approximately equal to that of Los Angeles, and Southern California as a whole. Orange County has a higher percentage of Education (e.g. universities, PTAs) and Religious (e.g. religious media, missionary) organizations compared to the rest of Southern California, but a lower percentage of Arts (e.g. symphonies, theater), Health (e.g. hospitals, health clinics) and Human Services (e.g. homeless shelters, food banks). However, Human Services is the largest category within Orange County. Orange County nonprofits had $4.2 billion in revenues in 2000.

Reasons for Contributing to Nonprofit Organizations, 2005



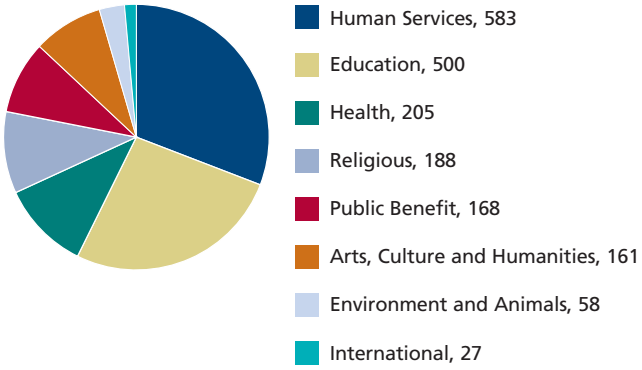
Source: Center for Public Policy, California State University, Fullerton

How Often in the Past Year Residents did Volunteer Work
Orange County, 2005



Source: Center for Public Policy, California State University, Fullerton

Nonprofits in Orange County by Category, 2000



Source: Gianneschi Center for Nonprofit Research, California State University, Fullerton

Hurricane Katrina Evacuee Effort

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit, local nonprofits and County agencies worked together to assess local capacity for providing immediate relief for hurricane evacuees. A one-stop center called Operation OC was developed at MCAS Tustin where evacuees could access information and services in a caring, safe environment. Services included:

- health assessments and triage
- eligibility evaluations for Food Stamps, General Relief, CalWORKs, and other benefits
- distribution of OCTA bus passes
- employment assistance and counseling
- housing assessments for permanent housing through Section 8
- technical assistance on FEMA's Transitional Housing Assistance Program
- shelter, housing, food, clothing, counseling and other services and assistance provided through Operation OC partners.

As of October 2005, 487 evacuees from 213 families were served.

Source: County of Orange, Housing and Community Services

Residents are Satisfied with the County; Less with the State

Description of Indicator

This indicator measures the value to Orange County residents of quality of life investents, and whether county residents believe the county and state are going in the right direction.

Why is it Important?

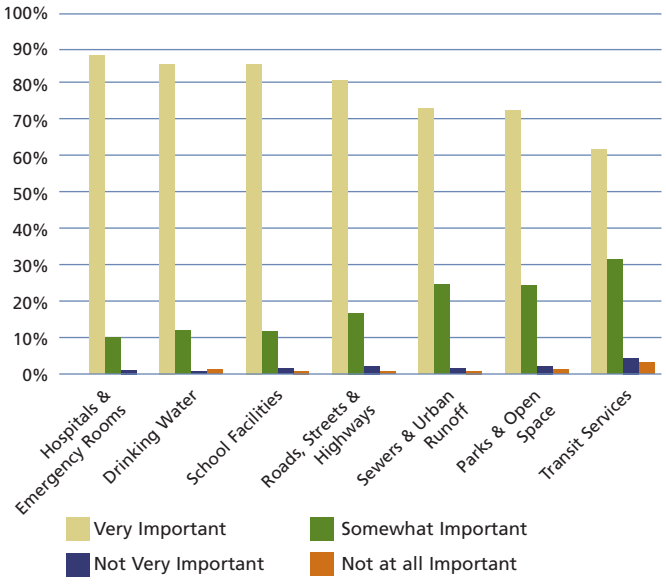
Knowing what issues residents consider important and how they feel about life in Orange County compared with the state informs decision makers about which issues to address.

How is Orange County Doing?

Orange County residents appear to remain satisfied with how their lives are going. According to the 2005 Orange County Business Council/California State University, Fullerton survey, 77.4% of residents believe that Orange County is "going in the right direction." But they are not as positive about the state. In November 2004, 61.3% of Orange County residents responded that the state is "going in the right direction." By September 2005, only 47.5% believed the state is "going in the right direction." However, this gap is significantly less than the fifty percentage point gap in September 2003 where only 22% of Orange County residents believed the state was going in the right direction.

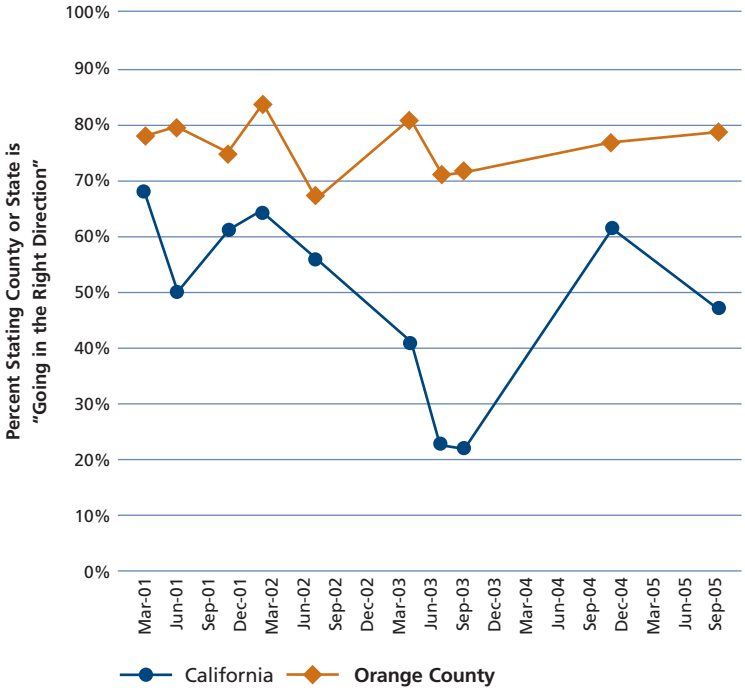
The top quality of life investments that Orange County residents rank as "very important" in 2005 are hospitals and emergency rooms (89%), drinking water (86%), and school facilities (86%).

Resident Opinion of the Importance of Quality of Life Investments
Orange County, 2005



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

Orange County Resident Opinion of the Direction of Orange County and California
March 2001- September 2005



Note: The data points reflect the actual month the when the survey was taken, which was not always in regular quarterly intervals.

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

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

Arts Orange County

California Child Care Resource and Referral Network

California Department of Education

California Department of Justice

California Department of Social Services/Community Care Licensing

California Department of Transportation, District 12

California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office

California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board

California State University, Fullerton

Capistrano-Laguna Beach Regional Occupational Program

Center for Demographic Research at California State University, Fullerton

Center for Economic and Environmental Studies at California State University, Fullerton

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

Center for Public Policy at California State University, Fullerton

Center for Social Service Research at University of California, Berkeley

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

Central County Regional Occupational Program

Chapman University

Children and Families Commission of Orange County

City of Santa Ana, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Program

Coastline Regional Occupational Program

County of Orange County Executive Office

County of Orange Health Care Agency/Behavioral Health Services

County of Orange Health Care Agency/Environmental Health

County of Orange Health Care Agency/Epidemiology and Assessment

County of Orange Health Care Agency/HIV/AIDS Surveillance & Monitoring Program

County of Orange Health Care Agency/Nutrition Services

County of Orange Housing and Community Services Department/Homeless Prevention

County of Orange Housing and Community Services Department/Orange County Housing Authority

County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Department

County of Orange Office of the District Attorney

County of Orange Probation Department

County of Orange Registrar of Voters

County of Orange Resources & Development Management Department/Harbors, Beaches and Parks

County of Orange, Resources & Development Management Department/Geomatics

County of Orange Social Services Agency/Adult Protective Services

County of Orange Social Services Agency/Children and Family Services

County of Orange Social Services Agency/Family Self-Sufficiency

Cultural Initiatives Silicon Valley

Dean Runyan Associates

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InfoLink Orange County

La Jolla Institute

Hanley Wood Market Intelligence

Municipal Water District of Orange County

North Orange County Regional Occupational Program

OC Partnership

Orange County Business Committee for the Arts

Orange County Business Council

Orange County Health Needs Assessment

Orange County Register

Orange County Transportation Authority

Orange County Water District

University of California, Irvine

Weingart Center, Institute for the Study of Homelessness and Poverty

Additional Data Sources

ACCRA/Council for Community and Economic Research

California Alcohol and Drug Data System

California Association of Realtors

California Department of Finance

California Department of Health Services

California Division of Tourism

California Employment Development Department

California Highway Patrol

California Legislative Analysts Office

California Secretary of State

D.K. Shifflet and Associates

Federal Transit Administration

Forbes Magazine

George Mason University United States Election Project

Milken Institute

National Association for the Education of Young Children

National Association of Family Child Care

National Association of Home Builders

National Center for Education Statistics

National Low Income Housing Coalition

North Carolina State Board of Education

PricewaterhouseCoopers/Thomson Venture Economics/NVCA Moneytree

Research Support Services

Scarborough Research

Texas Education Agency

United States Bureau of Economic Analysis

United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

United States Census Bureau

United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

United States Conference of Mayors

United States Department of Health and Human Services

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

United States Environmental Protection Agency

United States Federal Election Committee

United States Patent Office

United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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