

Introduction

This chapter focuses on the skills and resources people need to lead productive lives. Data from the household needs assessment survey and from other sources are examined. Topics covered include employment, access to education, educational attainment, language skills, transportation, income, poverty, and public assistance. Areas and populations that are suffering from problems, as well as those that are doing well, are identified.

Household Needs Assessment Survey Results

Employment

- 60.4% of survey respondents indicated that they feel unemployment and underemployment are major problems. In each of the survey regions except East Valley survey region, at least 50% of the respondents indicated that they feel that there are employment problems.
- 78% of Black respondents, 67.2% of Hispanic respondents, 61.1% of Asian respondents, and 50.1% of White respondents indicated that they feel that unemployment and underemployment are major problems.
- Overall, 40.2% of the survey respondents indicated feeling that there is lack of employment opportunity. In the Central San Bernardino County survey region and in the two desert communities survey regions, over 50% of the respondents felt that there is lack employment opportunity.
- 56.7% of Black respondents, 41.3% of Hispanic respondents, 37.8% of Asian respondents, and 36.0% of White survey respondents indicated that there is lack of employment opportunity.
- 38.2% of respondents indicated that they were employed full-time, 28% indicated that they were not employed, 16.7% indicated that they were retired, and 12.8% indicated they were employed part-time. The remaining respondents indicated that they were disabled, homemakers, students or self-employed.
- 26.7% of the respondents indicated that someone in their family had difficulty maintaining employment.
- 43.9% of Black respondents indicated that someone in their family has difficulty maintaining employment, while no Asian respondents indicated that a family member had difficulty maintaining employment.
- Not surprisingly, concerns over employment were highest among those with the least income and education, and lowest among those with the most income and education.

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Education

- Well over half of the survey respondents (58.3%) reported that they have access to affordable colleges or vocational schools while almost one-third of the respondents (32.4%) reported that they did not have access to affordable colleges and vocational schools.
- Over half of Black respondents (56.8%) and about four in ten (41.4%) of Hispanic respondents indicated that they do not have access to affordable colleges and vocational schools.
- Only 15% of respondents from the East Valley survey region indicated that they do not have access to affordable college and vocational schools while every other survey region had at least one third of the respondents indicate that they do not have access to affordable schooling.

Language

- 24.5% of respondents indicated that someone in their family had trouble with the English language. This number was 58.1% for Hispanics, 17.6% for Asians, 6.4% for Blacks and 4.6% for Whites.
- Central San Bernardino County survey region respondents (29.7%) and residents of the East L.A. County/Western San Bernardino County survey region (27.1%) had much higher percentages of persons with problems with English than the other survey regions.
- 45% of the survey respondents indicated that illiteracy is a major concern. Almost two-thirds (65.6%) of Central San Bernardino County survey region respondents indicated that illiteracy is a major problem, while only about one quarter (26.5%) of residents from the East Valley survey region indicated that illiteracy is a major concern.

Transportation

- 20.8% of respondents indicated that someone in their family does not have transportation to get to school, work or a doctor.
- The percentage of respondents with someone in their family having transportation problems was highest among Blacks (42.2%) and Hispanics (26.9%).
- Persons in every income range had family members who had difficulty obtaining transportation, but those with household income below \$50,000 were much more likely to have a family member with transportation problems than those with income above \$50,000.
- The Central San Bernardino County survey region had the greatest percentage of respondents (27.1%) report that someone in their family had transportation problems.

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- East Valley respondents reported the fewest transportation problems, with 12.6% of respondents indicating that someone in their family had transportation problems.

Income

- Almost one-third (32.2%) of respondents who provided information on their income indicated that their annual household income was less than \$25,000.
- Residents in the Central San Bernardino County region and the Morongo Basin region have the greatest percentage of households with incomes below \$25,000, at 42.5% and 41.5%, respectively.
- Overall, 39.5% of respondents indicated that their household income was \$50,000 or more.
- The East Valley study region had the greatest proportion of households (47.9%) reporting income of \$50,000 or more per year.
- Overall, 38.8% of survey respondents indicated that they were better off financially than they were at the same time last year; 15.9% indicated that they were worse off, while 45.3% indicated that their financial situation had remained the same.
- Not surprisingly, income and education are strongly connected. Those with more education tend to earn more income and vice versa.

Indicators

Employment

- Based on 2000 decennial census estimates, 59,913 San Bernardino County residents were unemployed. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- The county-wide unemployment rate of 8.3% was slightly higher than the state average of 7%. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- The unemployment rate for males was 7.6% and 9.1% for females in 2000. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- Eleven of the forty-eight census places in the study area had unemployment rates above 10%; the two places with the highest unemployment rates are the small unincorporated areas of Nebo Center (18.9%) which is located near Barstow, and Muscoy (18.0%) which is located northwest of Rialto and west of the city of San Bernardino. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- Within the study area, the city of San Bernardino has the greatest number of unemployed persons, 7,991. Other cities with large numbers of unemployed persons include Ontario (6,104), Pomona (5,859) and Fontana (4,516). (U.S. Census, 2000)

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Educational Attainment

- In 2000, 252,612 of the 981,820 (25.7%) San Bernardino County residents age 25 years and over were not high school graduates. This ranks San Bernardino County 42nd among California's 58 counties. Statewide, 23.2% of the 25 and over population are not high school graduates, while the figure is 19.6% for the nation. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- In 2000, 24.1% of Eastern Los Angeles County residents (cities of Claremont, Diamond Bar, La Verne, Pomona, San Dimas and Walnut) age 25 years and over were not high school graduates. This is higher than the area's 22.9% of non-high school graduates in 1990. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- San Bernardino County ranks 41st among 58 California counties, with 15.9% of residents age 25 and older attaining at least a Bachelor's degree. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- Throughout the study region, the percent of the population with at least a Bachelor's degree has been increasing. In San Bernardino County, the percent of persons with at least of bachelor's degree increased from 14.9% in 1990 to 15.9% in 2000; similarly, in Eastern Los Angeles County, the percent of persons with bachelor's degrees has improved from 26.9% in 1990 to 28.8% in 2000. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- In 2000 zip codes reporting some of the highest percentage of residents with a Bachelor's degree or higher were those in close proximity to colleges and universities. Over half (52.6%), of 91711 residents, near the Claremont Colleges, had a Bachelor's degree or higher. Similarly, 92373, near the University of Redlands, reported 44.4% and 92354, near Loma Linda University, reported 43.9% in this category. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- Several census places in the study area had rates of non-high school graduates that were much higher than the county average. These include Muscoy (55.8%), Bloomington (46.8%), Pomona (45.1%), Montclair (39.6%), Ontario (37.5%), and San Bernardino (35.1%). (U.S. Census, 2000)
- In 2000 eight census places had 90% or more persons age 25 and older with high school educations. These places include Twenty-nine Palms Base (97%), Wrightwood (94.7%), Nebo Center (94.5%), San Antonio Heights (93.8%), Lake Arrowhead (92.8%), Claremont (92.4%), Morongo Valley (91.2%), and Diamond Bar (90.7%). (U.S. Census, 2000)

Language/Literacy

- Based on 2000 Census data, there were 36,683 linguistically isolated households (defined as having no members of the household over age 14 who speak English "very well"). In 80% of these linguistically isolated households, Spanish is the primary language. (U.S. Census, 2000)

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- 20.4% of Hispanic households in San Bernardino County are linguistically isolated, 22.3% of Asian households are linguistically isolated, and 11.3% of all other non-English speaking households are linguistically isolated. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- Based on 2000 Census data for census places in the study area, Pomona had both the greatest number of households (6,485) that are linguistically isolated as well as the highest rate (17.1%) of linguistic isolation among households. (U.S. Census, 2000)

Transportation

- 42,120 households, representing 8% of all households in San Bernardino County, have no vehicle. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 600,169 workers, representing 91.1% of all workers, residing in San Bernardino County commuted to work in a car, truck, or van. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 115,358 persons in San Bernardino County, representing 19.3% of all workers, carpooled to work. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 12,627 persons in San Bernardino County, representing 1.9% of all workers, used public transportation to get to work. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 15,867 persons in San Bernardino County, representing 2.4% of all workers, walked to work. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 20,676 persons in San Bernardino County, representing 3.1% of all workers, worked at home. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- The average travel time to work for workers in San Bernardino County was 31 minutes, slightly longer than the 27 minute state-wide average. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- Almost half of all workers (47%) commuted between 10 – 29 minutes to work while 15.2% commuted at least an hour. (U.S. Census, 2000)

Poverty

- 51,186 families, representing 12.6% of all families in San Bernardino County, had incomes below the poverty level. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 263,412 individuals, or 15.8% of the San Bernardino County population, live in poverty. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 21.7% of families in San Bernardino County with children under 5 years old had incomes below the poverty level. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 50.4% of female headed households in San Bernardino County with children under five had income below the poverty level. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- Among census places in the study area, the city of San Bernardino had the greatest number of persons in poverty (49,691) followed by Pomona (31,149), Ontario (24,133) and Fontana (18,676). (U.S. Census, 2000)

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- Muscoy had the highest percentage of persons in poverty (36.5%) followed by San Bernardino (27.6%), Needles (26.1%) and Bloomington (25.3%). (U.S. Census, 2000)

Income

- According to 2000 census estimates, per capita income in San Bernardino County was \$16,856 - about \$5,000 less than the state-wide average of \$22,711. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- Median income for full-time male workers (\$37,025) was approximately \$10,000 more than the median income for full-time female workers (\$27,993). Both were below California averages. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- The median income of families in San Bernardino County was \$46,574, several thousand dollars below the California average of \$53,025. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 34% of families in San Bernardino had income less than \$25,000. Statewide, the percentage is 20.7%. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- Proportionally, San Bernardino County had fewer families earning \$100,000 or more (12.6%) than the state as a whole, which had 15.9% of families earning \$100,000 or more. (U.S. Census, 2000)

Assistance Programs

- According to the U.S. Census 2000, 34,211 households (6.5%) in San Bernardino County received some type of public assistance. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- 30,554 households in San Bernardino County received supplemental security income (SSI). (U.S. Census, 2000)
- During January 2001, 6.3% of the San Bernardino County population received cash benefits. By January 2002, this figure had decreased to 5.6%. (San Bernardino County HSS, 2002)
- According to San Bernardino County Human Services System, the county's plan to implement federally mandated welfare reform was the first in the State of California to be approved, and was implemented in January 1998. In the two years following approval, the County of San Bernardino experienced a dramatic decrease in California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) caseloads. Although the cash assistance caseload had decreased, Medi-Cal and food stamp participation (supportive services of CalWORKS) have increased. (San Bernardino County HSS, 2002)
- As of January 1, 2002, 15.1% of the San Bernardino County population (269,185 persons) received some type of welfare assistance. The average monthly cost per recipient was \$169.25 in cash benefits, \$276.94 for Medi-Cal, and \$64.68 for food stamps. (San Bernardino County HSS, 2002)
- The annual financial value of welfare assistance (including CalWORKS, food stamps, and Medi-Cal) in San Bernardino County at January 1, 2002 was

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\$1,114,517,112 (approximately \$1.1 billion). The city of San Bernardino had the highest annual financial value of welfare of assistance, with \$276,028,392, followed by Fontana with \$123,689,628. (San Bernardino County HSS, 2002)

- In San Bernardino County during 2001, the value of child care funds paid to providers in order to assist those moving from welfare to work was \$70,399,384. (San Bernardino County HSS, 2002)
- Among census places in 2000, Muscoy (20.9%), Adelanto (13%), the City of San Bernardino (11.9%), and Bloomington (10.5%) had the highest percent of households receiving some type of public assistance. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- According to 2000 census estimates, the City of San Bernardino had the largest number of households, 6,731, receiving some type of public assistance within San Bernardino County. (U.S. Census, 2000)
- During January 2001, 16.8% of the people in the city of San Bernardino received cash benefits, the highest in the county. The lowest percentage of people receiving cash aid was 0.6% in the city of Chino Hills. During January 2002, these two cities had maintained their rankings as the highest and lowest, but the percentages had fallen to 15.5% in San Bernardino and 0.5% in Chino Hills. (San Bernardino County HSS, 2002)

Conclusions

- The responses to employment related questions indicate a great deal of uncertainty over employment prospects.
- There is a widening education gap wherein more people are earning a bachelor's degree, while more people are not even completing high school.
- English language problems are very high in some areas. This diminishes education and employment opportunities.
- Many families, especially those with children under 5 and single female-headed households, live in poverty.
- Declining welfare rolls do not necessarily mean that former recipients are gainfully employed or doing better financially. As a result of loss of benefits, low wages, and unstable employment, many families leaving welfare struggle to get medical care, food, child care, and housing.
- Comparisons of survey data to secondary data indicate that residents may not be as bad off as they believe.
- Although an incredible amount of money is spent on social services, all needs are not being met.

References

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