Demographic and Social Characteristics

The Demographics and Social Characteristics analysis examines the differences in health indicators by age, race and ethnicity. Understanding a population’s age composition helps planners, public health practitioners, and others plan for and target appropriate services and programs. Younger residents (under 18 years of age) and older adults (65 years and older) are considered to be more vulnerable to disease and poor health than adults (age 18 to 64 years). Younger residents are considered vulnerable because their bodies are not yet fully developed, which makes them more susceptible to disease. Older adults are considered more vulnerable because, on average, they have more existing chronic health problems than younger residents.5

Race and ethnicity correlate with persistent and often increasing health disparities among U.S. populations.4 White residents generally have better health outcomes than most other racial and ethnic groups, especially American Indians, Latinos, African Americans, and some Asian subpopulations.5 Groups currently experiencing poorer health outcomes are expected to grow as a proportion of the U.S. population.6 Race is sometimes regarded as a proxy for income and race-related stress (including discrimination and perceived discrimination) which also influence health outcomes.7

Differences in neighborhood conditions that contribute to health are often highly correlated with race. Consequently, communities with a high proportion of Non-White residents often have less access to parks and healthy food, are disproportionately exposed to pollution, and live in substandard housing.8

Maps and Indicators

The Demographic Chapter of this Health Atlas examines information on age characteristics, racial and ethnic groups, and linguistic isolation. The following list describes the maps and associated indicators included in this section.

- **Population Density**: The map shows the population density in persons per square mile for 2010. Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census and is displayed at the census block level.
- **Percentage of Population under Age 5**: The map shows the prevalence of population under age 5 for each census block in the City of Los Angeles. Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census.
- **Population under Age 5**: The map highlights census blocks where over 10% of the population is under age 5. Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census.
- **Percentage of Population under Age 18**: The map shows the proportion of the population under age 18 for each census block in the City. Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census.
- **Percentage of Population over Age 65**: The map shows the proportion of the population age 65 and over for each census block in the City. Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census.
- **Population over Age 65**: The map highlights census blocks where over 15% of the population is age 65 or over. Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census.
- **Percentage of Non-White and Hispanic Population**: The map shows the proportion of the population that identifies as Non-White or Hispanic for each census block in the City. Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census.
- **Non-White and Hispanic Population**: The map highlights census blocks where 75% or more of the population identify as Non-White or Hispanic. Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census.
- **Percentage of Linguistically-Isolated Households**: The map shows the proportion of households in which no person age 14 or over speaks English “very well.” Data is from the 2009 U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates and is displayed at the census tract level.

Key Findings

Population Characteristics

Population density is the measure of total population per square mile. In 2010, the population density of the City was 8,092 persons per square mile. As shown on Map 9 and in Figure 1, 16 CPAs had population densities below the City average, with most of these CPAs located in the Santa Monica Mountains and in the San Fernando Valley area. The Bel Air-Beverly Crest and Brentwood-Pacific Palisades CPAs were the most sparsely populated areas. Nineteen CPAs exceeded the City average population density. Population density was highest in the Westlake CPA, followed by Wilshire, South Los Angeles, and Southeast Los Angeles.

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In 2010, children under the age of five accounted for 7% of the City, County, and California populations. Map 10 and Map 11 show the population under age five for each census block. Nine CPAs exceeded the citywide average of population under age five. The Southeast Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, and Arleta-Pacoima CPAs had the highest percentage (greater than 9%) of population under age five. Westwood, Central City, and Central City North had the lowest proportion (less than 4%) of the population under age 5. In most cases, the CPAs with a higher proportion of population under age 5 also had a higher total number of people under age 5. The Southeast Los Angeles CPA, for example, had both the highest prevalence of population under age five (10%) and the most children under age five (over 28,000). The opposite relationship (low proportion, low total numbers) was true for the Central City North, Central City, and Westwood CPAs. The Harbor Gateway and Hollywood CPAs did not follow this relationship. The Harbor Gateway CPA had a high proportion of the population under age five, but a low total number. Hollywood had a low proportion of children under age five but a relatively high total number.

Figure 2: Population under Age Five by Community Plan Area in 2010

Twenty-three percent of the City's population was under age 18 in 2010, similar to the countywide average (24%) and statewide average (25%). Map 12 shows the percentage of population under age 18 for each census block. The Southeast Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, Arleta-Pacoima, and Wilmington-Harbor City CPAs had the highest percentage (greater than 30%) of population under 18 years of age as shown in Figure 3. The areas with large numbers of young people included Southeast Los Angeles (over 97,000), South Los Angeles (over 73,000), and Northeast Los Angeles (over 58,000). Despite having high proportions of people under age 18, Wilmington and Boyle Heights ranked in the middle of CPAs in terms of total population under 18. The Wilshire (19%) and Hollywood (14%) CPAs had average or below average proportions of population under age 18, but relatively high total numbers. Central City and Westwood have the smallest percentage (less than 9%) of school-age children.

Figure 3: Population under Age 18 by Community Plan Area in 2010

In 2010, 10% of the City’s population was age 65 and over. Map 14 shows the percentage of population over age 65 by census block, and Map 13 shows the census blocks in which 15% or more of the population is over age 65. A high proportion of seniors lived on the Westside of the City, the Santa Monica Mountains, and the western San Fernando Valley.

Figure 4 shows the total population age 65 and over and the percentage of the population age 65 and over for each CPA. Out of 35 CPAs, 22 had proportions of seniors greater than the City average. Populations over 65 years of age were very high (greater than 19%) in the Bel Air-Beverly Crest, Brentwood -Pacific Palisades, and Encino-Tarzana CPAs, but the largest numbers of seniors were in the Wilshire and Northeast Los Angeles CPAs (greater than 25,000). Southeast Los Angeles had the lowest proportion of seniors (5%).

Half of the City and County residents identified as Non-White or Hispanic in 2010. Map 15 shows the proportion of the population in each census block that identified as Non-White or Hispanic, and Map 16 shows the census blocks where more than 75% of the population identified as Non-White or Hispanic. A majority of the census blocks in the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert, South Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, and Central City North CPAs had large proportions of the population that identified as Non-White or Hispanic.

By CPA, the Non-White and Hispanic population ranged from 13% up to 79% as shown in Figure 5. The highest percentages (greater than 70%) of Non-White and Hispanic populations were in the West Adams -Baldwin Hills-Leimert, South Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, and Central City North CPAs. The lowest proportions (less than 15%) of Non-White and Hispanic people were in the Bel Air-Beverly Crest and Brentwood- Pacific Palisades CPAs.

Figure 5: Non-White and Hispanic by Community Plan Area in 2010

Citywide, 43% of the Non-White and Hispanic population (nearly 825,000 residents) lived in 5 CPAs: South Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, Wilshire, West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert, and Northeast Los Angeles. The Hollywood, Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks, Canoga Park-Winnetka-Woodland Hills-West Hills, and North Hollywood-Valley Village CPAs all had over 50,000 Non-White and Hispanic residents, but lower proportions than the City as a whole. Conversely, the Central City, Central City North, and Wilmington-Harbor City CPAs had proportions significantly above the City average but relatively low populations of Non-White and Hispanic residents.

LINGUISTIC ISOLATION

English-language skills are also an important factor in health outcomes. While there are exceptions for some industries, linguistic isolation may serve as a barrier to jobs, especially those that pay higher wage jobs. Language barriers can also present obstacles to obtaining quality medical and social services.9 Linguistic isolation describes individuals who have difficulty speaking English, and their lack of English or limited English may isolate them from other segments of the population.

In 2010, 19% of the households in the City of Los Angeles were linguistically isolated. Map 17 shows the proportion of the households in each census tracts that were linguistically isolated. The percentage of linguistically-isolated households is greatest (above 50%) in the Westlake and Central City North CPAs. The Wilshire CPA has the most linguistically-isolated households (over 35,000), followed by Hollywood (21,000) and Southeast Los Angeles (20,000). Linguistic isolation is also a significant issue (greater than 30% of households) in the Boyle Heights, Wilshire, and Central City CPAs.

Figure 6: Percentage of Linguistically-Isolated Households for Community Plan Areas in 2009


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Map 9


Legend

Population Density (People per Square Mile [SM])
- Population Less Than 500 per SM
- Less than 500
- 500 to 5,000
- 5,000 to 10,000
- 10,000 to 20,000
- 20,000 to 30,000
- 30,000 to 50,000
- Greater than 50,000

Jurisdictional Boundaries

Community Plan Areas

Transportation Systems
- Metro Rail Stations
- Metro LIner Stations
- Metrolink Stations
- Proposed Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Rail Lines
- Metro LIner Lines
- Proposed Metro Rail Projects
- Metrolink Rail Lines
- Interstates and Highways
- State Highways

2010 population data compiled from U.S. Census American FactFinder website. Blocks include areas with a population density greater than 500 persons per square mile (SM).


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2010 population data compiled from U.S. Census American FactFinder website. For the City and County, 7% of the population was under age 5 in 2010. Blocks include areas with a population density greater than 500 persons per square mile (SM).


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2010 population data compiled from U.S. Census American FactFinder website. Census blocks with over 10% of the population under age 5 are highlighted. City and Countywide, 7% of the population were under age 5. Blocks include areas with a population density greater than 500 persons per square mile (SM).


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Legend

Population Under Age 5
- Less than 10% Under 5
- Over 10% Under 5
- Population less than 500 SM

Transportation Systems
- Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Liner Stations
- Metrolink Stations
- Proposed Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Rail Lines
- Metro Liner Lines
- Proposed Metro Rail Projects
- Metrolink Rail Lines
- Interstates and Highways
- State Highways

Jurisdictional Boundaries
- Community Plan Areas

Map 11
2010 population data compiled from U.S. Census American FactFinder website. For the City and County, the population under age 18 was 26% and 24%, respectively. Blocks include areas with a population density greater than 500 persons per square mile (SM).


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Map 13

Percentage of Population Over Age 65 (2010)

Legend

Population Over Age 65
- Less than 5%
- 5% to 10%
- 10% to 15%
- 15% to 25%
- Greater than 25%
- Population less than 500 SM

Transportation Systems
- Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Liner Stations
- Metrolink Stations
- Proposed Metro Rail Stations
  ~ Metro Rail Lines
  ~ Metro Liner Lines
  ~ Metrolink Rail Lines
  ~ Proposed Metro Rail Projects
  ~ Interstates and Highways
  ~ State Highways

Jurisdictional Boundaries
- Community Plan Areas

2010 population data compiled from U.S. Census American FactFinder website. For the City, 10% of the population was over age 65. Blocks include areas with a population density greater than 500 persons per square mile (SM).


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Map 14

Population Over Age 65 (2010)

Legend

Population Over 65
- Less than 15% Over 65
- More than 15% Over 65
- Population less than 500 SM

Transportation Systems
- Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Liner Stations
- Metrolink Stations
- Proposed Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Rail Lines
- Metro Liner Lines
- Proposed Metro Rail Projects
- Metrolink Rail Lines
- Interstates and Highways
- State Highways

Jurisdictional Boundaries

Community Plan Areas

2010 population data compiled from U.S. Census American FactFinder website. Census blocks where 15% or more of the population over age 65 are highlighted. 10% and 11% of the population were over age 65 for the City and County, respectively. Blocks include areas with a population density greater than 500 persons per square mile (SM).


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Map 15

Percentage of Non-White and Hispanic Population (2010)

Legend
Non-White and Hispanic Population
- Less than 25%
- 25% to 50%
- 50% to 75%
- 75% to 90%
- Greater than 90%
- Population less than 500 SM

Transportation Systems
- Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Liner Stations
- Metrolink Stations
- Proposed Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Rail Lines
- Metro Liner Lines
- Metrolink Rail Lines
- Proposed Metro Rail Projects
- Interstates and Highways
- State Highways

Jurisdictional Boundaries
- Community Plan Areas

2010 population data compiled from U.S. Census American FactFinder website. City and Countywide, 50% of the population identified as non-White and/ or Hispanic. Blocks include areas with a population density greater than 500 persons per square mile (SM).


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Map 16
Non-White and Hispanic Population (2010)

Legend
Non-White and Hispanic Population
- Less than 75% of the Population
- Greater than 75% of the Population
- Population less than 500 SM

Transportation Systems
- Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Liner Stations
- Metrolink Stations
- Proposed Metro Rail Stations
  - Metro Rail Lines
  - Metro Liner Lines
  - Metrolink Rail Lines
- Proposed Metro Rail Projects
- Interstates and Highways
- State Highways

Jurisdictional Boundaries
- Community Plan Areas

2010 population data compiled from U.S. Census American FactFinder website. City and Countywide, 50% of the population identified as non-White and/or Hispanic. Blocks include areas with a population density greater than 500 persons per square mile (SM).


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Percentage of Linguistically-Isolated Households (2009)

Legend

Linguistically-Isolated Households
- Less than 10%
- 10% to 19%
- 19% to 30%
- 30% to 50%
- Greater than 50%
- Population less than 500 SM

Transportation Systems
- Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Liner Stations
- Metrolink Stations
- Proposed Metro Rail Stations
- Metro Rail Lines
- Metro Liner Lines
- Metrolink Rail Lines
- Proposed Metro Rail Projects
- Interstates and Highways
- State Highways

Jurisdictional Boundaries
- Community Plan Areas

2009 household data compiled from the U.S. Census American FactFinder website. For the City and County, the percentage of linguistically-isolated households was 19% and 16%, respectively, in 2009. The map shows Census tracts with a population density greater than 500 persons per square mile.

Data Sources: Household Data, 2009 U.S. Census; Community Plan Areas, 2012 City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning; Metro Rail and Liner Routes and Stations, 2012 Metro; Metrolink Lines, 2006 Los Angeles County Urban Research; Metrolink Stations, 2012 Raimi Associates; Interstates and Highways, 2008 Tel Atlas North America, Inc.; World Terrain Base, 2009 ESRI.

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