

The Riverside–San Bernardino Metro Area on the American Human Development Index

The 2010 Census confirmed that the major metro area of Riverside-San Bernardino has been one of the fastest-growing areas of California over the past decade and is now home to one of every nine Californians. Yet this burgeoning metropolitan area lags behind other parts of the state in terms of well-being and access to opportunity.

Compared to the historical progress California has made on the American Human Development Index, a composite measure using indicators in health, education, and earnings that ranges from 0 to 10 (highest), **Riverside-San Bernardino’s score of 4.58 is on par with California as a whole in the late 1980s** rather than the city of the future that its rapid population growth suggests it will become (see historical progress table below).

TABLE 1 Historical Human Development Trends in California

| YEAR | HD INDEX | LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years) | LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%) | AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%) | GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (%) | SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%) | MEDIAN EARNINGS (2009 dollars) |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| United States 2009 | 5.09 | 78.6 | 14.7 | 27.9 | 10.3 | 87.9 | 28,365 |
| California 2009 | 5.46 | 80.1 | 19.4 | 29.9 | 10.7 | 90.3 | 29,685 |
| California 2005 | 5.62 | 79.7 | 19.9 | 29.5 | 10.6 | 90.2 | 32,981 |
| California 2000 | 5.31 | 78.4 | 23.2 | 26.6 | 9.5 | 91.1 | 32,216 |
| California 1990 | 4.64 | 76.0 | 23.8 | 23.4 | 8.1 | 86.4 | 31,062 |

Source: *A Portrait of California 2011*

Why does Riverside-San Bernardino lag behind the rest of the state in terms of well-being?

Health in Riverside-San Bernardino:

- Life expectancy at birth in this metro area is nearly two years less than California’s average (80.1 years).
- An Asian American baby born today in Riverside-San Bernardino can expect to outlive an African American baby by over 13 years.



- Whites in this metro area have the shortest life spans, on average, of whites in any big California metro area.

Education in Riverside-San Bernardino:

- About one in five residents of the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area lacks a high school diploma or a GED, a higher proportion than in any major California metro area except Los Angeles.
- Educational attainment varies enormously within the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area. While fewer than one in ten adults today in Rancho Cucamonga lacks a high school diploma, nearly one in three adults lack this minimum educational credential in the city of San Bernardino.

Earnings in Riverside-San Bernardino:

- Earnings in the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area (\$27,000) are \$3,000 lower than the state’s median earnings (\$30,000). They are lower than earnings today in any of California’s five largest metro areas (see table below). Median personal earnings are the wages and salaries of all workers 16 and older.

TABLE 2 Earnings by Major Metro Area and Race/Ethnicity

| REGION | ALL RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUPS | AFRICAN AMERICANS | ASIAN AMERICANS | LATINOS | WHITES |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------|--------|
| San Francisco Metro Area | 39,136 | 32,096 | 40,244 | 24,244 | 49,254 |
| San Diego Metro Area | 31,271 | 30,494 | 36,162 | 22,609 | 38,070 |
| Sacramento Metro Area | 30,999 | 28,229 | 29,090 | 21,128 | 35,966 |
| Los Angeles Metro Area | 28,941 | 30,435 | 35,415 | 20,598 | 43,180 |
| Riverside-San Bernardino Metro Area | 27,237 | 29,297 | 34,609 | 21,772 | 34,200 |

Source: *A Portrait of California 2011*

- Asian Americans and whites earn the most, around \$35,000 and \$34,000 respectively, followed by African Americans at \$29,000, and Latinos at \$22,000.
- By community, earnings range from about \$39,000 in the community of Rancho Cucamonga—on par with earnings in top-ranked San Francisco— to \$23,000 in the communities of Bloomington and Colton. Median earnings there are comparable to the earnings of the typical American worker in the early 1970s.

