



A PORTRAIT OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2011

Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley on the American Human Development Index

The San Joaquin Valley is home to some of the nation’s most productive agricultural lands. Though crops flourish here, however, people struggle in areas critical to their well-being, opportunities, and freedoms.

The San Joaquin Valley Region scores 3.84 on the American Human Development Index, a composite measure made up of health, education, and income indicators and expressed as a single number from 0 to 10. The San Joaquin Valley’s Index score is far below that of California as a whole (5.46). If the San Joaquin Valley Region were a state, its score would be on par with the Index score of West Virginia, the bottom-ranked state on the American Human Development Index. California’s Twentieth Congressional District, which lies in this region and includes parts of Fresno, ranked last among the country’s 435 congressional districts in the most recent national American Human Development Index rankings.

HD Index	
UNITED STATES	5.09
California	5.46
San Joaquin Valley	3.84
West Virginia	3.85
California’s CD-20	2.60

What does *A Portrait of California 2011* tell us about constraints to well-being in the San Joaquin Valley in general, and in Fresno in particular?

Health in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley:

- A baby born today in the San Joaquin Valley region can expect to live an average of 77.5 years. This is two-and-a-half years less than the average Californian.
- Asian Americans live the longest of any racial or ethnic group in the San Joaquin Valley, over 82 years, followed by Latinos (81.2 years), whites (76.4), and African Americans (71.4).
- For all major racial and ethnic groups, life expectancy is **lower in the San Joaquin valley than in any other region in the state**. Asian Americans in the Bay Area outlive their counterparts in the San Joaquin Valley by an average of more than five years (87.4 years vs. 82.2 years). See table above.

TABLE 1 Life Expectancy in California by Region and Race/Ethnicity

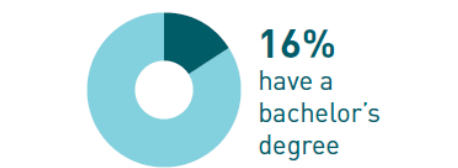
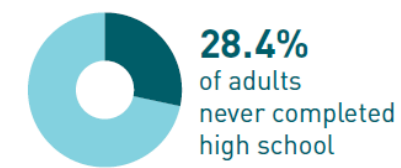
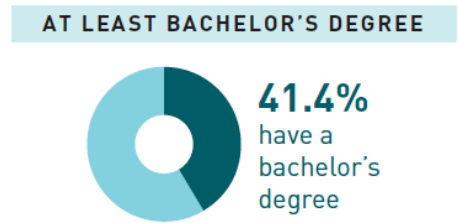
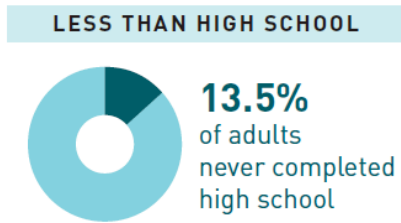
REGION	ALL RACE/ETHNIC GROUPS	AFRICAN AMERICANS	ASIAN AMERICANS	LATINOS	WHITES
United States	78.6	74.3	87.3	83.5	78.7
California	80.1	73.3	86.1	83.1	79.3
Bay Area	81.6	72.9	87.4	85.0	80.9
Central Coast	81.2	...	85.7	83.4	80.6
San Diego and Southern Border	80.7	74.6	87.1	82.7	80.2
Southern California	80.2	73.4	85.8	83.1	79.3
Greater Sacramento	79.3	73.2	84.4	83.5	78.9
Central Sierra	79.1	78.4
San Joaquin Valley	77.5	71.4	82.2	81.2	76.4
Northern California	77.2	84.8	76.8

For more information on *A Portrait of California*, please visit: www.measureofamerica.org
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Education in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley:

- The San Joaquin Valley has the lowest high school completion rate of any region in the state. More than one in four adults never completed high school.



- Only 16 percent of adults in the San Joaquin Valley have a bachelor's degree, half of California's rate of 30 percent and far less than the Bay Area, with 41 percent.
- Within the Fresno area, educational attainment is highest in the neighborhoods near CSU Fresno in the northern part of the city. Over 90 percent of adults completed high school and more than one in three has a bachelor's degree. In the communities to the west of the city of Fresno in Fresno County, only 55.6 percent of adults completed high school, and only nine in one hundred completed a four-year college degree.

Earnings in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley:

- Median personal earnings in the San Joaquin Valley, at only \$23,000, are about \$7,000 lower than the earnings of the typical Californian.
- Whites earn the most by a significant margin, \$34,000 per year, followed by Asian Americans (\$25,000), African Americans (\$24,000), and Latinos (\$18,000). Latino earnings in the San Joaquin Valley are on par with those of the typical American in the early 1960s.

	MEDIAN EARNINGS
UNITED STATES	\$28,000
California	\$30,000
San Joaquin Valley	\$23,000
SJV Whites	\$34,000
SJV Asian Americans	\$25,000
SJV African Americans	\$24,000
SJV Latinos	\$18,000

- Within Fresno, earnings range from about \$33,000 a year in the neighborhoods around CSU Fresno in the northern part of the city to \$20,000 or less in Fresno city center and in the mostly agricultural communities to the south and west of the city. **This is the wages and salaries of the typical American worker in the mid-1960s, in today's dollars.**



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