

The Five Californias

These “Five Californias” represent the wildly divergent realities faced by California residents in terms of well-being.

Silicon Valley Shangri-La

1% of CA population
2 Neighborhood and County Groups



Extremely well-educated, high-tech high-flyers living in Silicon Valley—entrepreneurs and professionals fueling, and accruing the benefits of, innovation, especially in information technology. Highly developed capabilities give these Californians unmatched freedom to pursue the goals that matter to them.

Metro-Coastal Enclave California

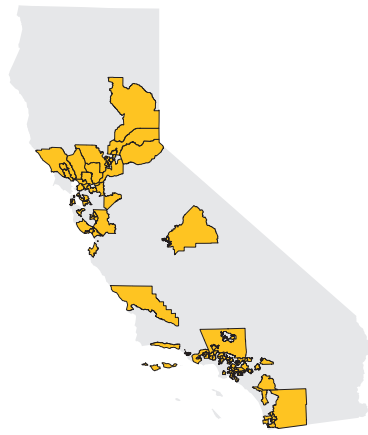
18% of CA population
46 Neighborhood and County Groups



Affluent, credentialed, and resilient, the knowledge workers living in Metro-Coastal Enclave California enjoy comparative financial comfort and security in upscale urban and suburban neighborhoods. They have extremely high levels of well-being and access to opportunity.

Main Street California

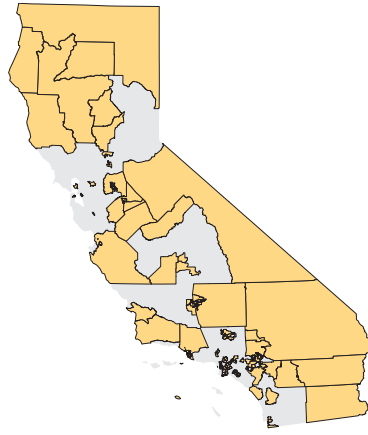
38% of CA population
91 Neighborhood and County Groups



High levels of human development overall characterize this majority-minority group of Californians, who enjoy longer lives, higher levels of educational attainment, and higher earnings than the typical American. Yet these suburban and ex-urban Californians have an increasingly tenuous grip on middle-class life.

Struggling California

38% of CA population
83 Neighborhood and County Groups



Struggling California can be found across the state, from the suburbs, exurbs, and rural areas of the Central Valley to parts of major metro areas and the Inland Empire to swaths of Northern California. Struggling Californians work hard but find it nearly impossible to gain a foothold on security.

The Forsaken Five Percent

5% of CA population
11 Neighborhood and County Groups



Bypassed by the digital economy, left behind in impoverished LA neighborhoods as well as in rural and urban areas in the San Joaquin Valley, these Californians face an extremely constrained range of opportunities and choices.

HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (%)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2009 dollars)
9.35	85.3	4.1	95.9	70.1	38.0	100.0	\$63,106
7.92	83.2	7.5	92.5	52.3	20.9	100.0	\$46,077
5.91	80.5	15.4	84.6	31.5	10.7	92.9	\$32,686
4.17	78.3	28.2	71.8	16.8	5.2	84.3	\$24,796
2.59	76.1	45.6	54.4	8.3	2.2	80.6	\$18,343