LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY PROFILE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highlights</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL CONTEXT OF COMMUNITIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Population Characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Density and Household Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Attainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Needs Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-English-Speaking Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-Parent Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Level of People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Level of Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare Recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force Characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment by Major Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Wage by Major Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Officers per 1,000 Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement Budget per Capita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WELFARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Well-Being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Receiving Prenatal Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Birth Weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent Birth Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Immunization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicians per 1,000 Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatricians per 1,000 Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Readiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child-care Costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Child-care Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Juvenile Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Arrests for Serious Crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION AND LITERACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Environment Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Student Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Racial and Ethnic Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited English Proficient Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private School Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Pupil Expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Teacher Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers with Master's Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student-Teacher Ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Revenue Sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Achievement and System Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Standardized Tests - Third-Grade Reading and Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Standardized Tests - Eighth-Grade Reading and Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Standardized Tests - Tenth-Grade Reading and Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dropout Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Library Usage - Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Library Usage - Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper Circulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOMELESSNESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Affordability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Housing Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Income Spent on Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range of Owner-Occupied Housing Unit Values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range of Rental Market Rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of Housing Units by Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Home Construction: Building Permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population per Number of Housing Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied and Vacant Housing Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner-Occupied and Rental Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Crime Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITIZENSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Turnout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTS AND CULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and Percentage of Arts Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of Arts Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Organizations Compared to Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets of Arts Organizations Compared to Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

HIGHLIGHTS

Long Beach is a racially and ethnically diverse community whose population remained relatively stable during the 1990s. Economic and social indicators in Long Beach point to signs of community stress. Low (and declining) median household income, high concentrations of people and children in single-parent households and households with incomes below the poverty level, and a high percentage of people who do not speak English as their home language provide evidence of the stress. These indicators are reinforced by declines in employment and relatively high unemployment rates.

Indicators of children and social welfare show a community with both strengths and challenges. On the positive side are low percentages of children born with low birth weight, relatively low (and declining) infant mortality rates, increases in child immunization, and steadily declining juvenile arrest rates. On the negative side are a low percentage of women receiving first trimester prenatal care and a relatively high adolescent birth rate.

Public education in the Long Beach Unified School District also presents some major challenges. Students in Long Beach score below the state average in the third-, eighth-, and tenth-grades on standardized tests in reading in math and below state and national averages on the SAT. Despite improvements in recent years, dropout rates remain high and graduation rates low compared to those in California.

In the area of community development, the indicators also highlight some challenges for Long Beach. Housing prices in Long Beach are very high and a relatively small percentage of residents own their own homes. Both homeowners and renters also spend a high proportion of their monthly incomes on housing costs. Rates of violent and total crime are also above the state and national averages.

It should be noted that while Long Beach is the “community” described in this profile, some of the information presented (particularly in the area of education and literacy) focuses on Los Angeles County and/or the Long Beach Unified School District. Differences in the community being described are noted beneath each topical area.
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Highlights

Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

- A racially and ethnically diverse population, with more than half minority residents in 1990 (including substantial numbers of Hispanic, black, and Asian/Pacific Islanders);

- Declines in median household income between 1989 and 1995 on both an absolute (-3.3%) and inflation-adjusted (-19.7%) basis;

- Large numbers of non-English-speaking residents in comparison with national and Knight community averages;

- Relatively high concentrations of poverty among people, families, and children, along with a comparatively large percentage of single-parent households and children being raised in single-parent families;

- Declines in the size of the employed population between 1990 and 1997 (for both the City of Long Beach and Los Angeles County), in contrast to increases in state, national, and Knight community averages.

Children and Social Welfare

- Fewer women receiving first trimester prenatal care in Long Beach than in all comparison areas from 1990 to 1997;

- A declining number of babies born with low birth weight throughout the 1990s;

- Juvenile arrest rates in Los Angeles County, which declined steadily to a point that they have been below rates for California, the U.S. and the Knight communities since 1993.

Education and Literacy
(all findings pertain to the Long Beach Unified School District, unless noted)

- Rapid growth in student enrollment, with 20.5% growth between 1991-92 and 1998-99;

- A largely non-white student population, with more than 80% non-white students;
**Highlights**

- High concentrations of students classified as limited English proficient (LEP) and participating in the free and reduced-price school lunch program;
- Performance levels on the SAT and standardized tests at the third-, eighth-, and tenth-grade levels that were lower than state averages;
- Attendance rates that were higher than state averages throughout the 1990s, but graduation rates that were below state averages before improving substantially after 1994-95;
- Comparatively low levels of community literacy, as measured by public library usage and newspaper circulation (for Los Angeles County).

**Community Development and Homelessness**

- Relatively few new housing units, with the largest share built before 1950;
- Comparatively high rates of residential mobility;
- Relatively high levels of vacant housing units and residents who rent, rather than own, their homes;
- Very high housing costs for both owner-occupied and rental housing;
- Rates of violent and total crime that were higher than state, national, and Knight community averages throughout most of the 1990s, but have declined substantially since then.

**Citizenship**

*(findings are for Los Angeles County):*

- Fewer registered voters and lower rates of voter turnout (both as proportions of the voting-age population) than in all comparison areas.
Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities
Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

What the People Think

• Seven in ten Long Beach residents (69%) believe that tension between different racial and ethnic groups is a problem in their community, including 30% who deem this a big problem. Nevertheless, Long Beach residents see their racially and ethnically diverse community as a source of strength. A majority of residents (67%) say that such diversity strengthens the community because people’s different experiences and points of view help when trying to solve problems. Far fewer residents (27%) perceive racial and ethnic diversity as a burden on the community because people’s differences make it harder to get things done.

• Unemployment is of great concern to many Long Beach residents. Three-quarters (72%) perceive this as a problem in their community, including 31% who regard it as a big problem. Six percent of residents consider unemployment as the most important community problem, making it one of the top five concerns cited by Long Beach residents.

• A substantial majority of Long Beach residents say that their local police department is doing an excellent (29%) or a good job (45%) serving the community, but one-quarter of residents (24%) give the department a more critical evaluation.
Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

General Population Characteristics
**Total Population**

**Indicator Description:** Total population and population change.

**Why This Is Important:** This indicator provides a picture of total population as well as the rate of change relative to selected comparison areas. Gains and losses in population may present communities with issues ranging from managing growth to developing strategies for attracting residents.

**Key Findings:**

- The estimated population of Long Beach in 1998 was 430,905. The city’s population grew by less than 2,000 residents (0.4%) between 1990 and 1998. This increase was much smaller than the city’s 18.8% growth rate between 1980 and 1990.

- The population increase in Long Beach between 1990 and 1998 was considerably smaller than the increases in all comparison areas.

**Limitations of the Data:** Annual population figures compiled by the U. S. Census Bureau are not actual counts of the population (which are done every ten years). Estimates compiled by sources other than the Census Bureau may differ; Census figures are used here in order to have a consistent source of information. Population estimates are revised by the Census Bureau each September. As a result, future estimates are likely to differ slightly from the September 1998 figures used here.

**Figure 1: Total Population, 1990 to 1998**

**Figure 2: Percent Change in Population, 1990 to 1998**

Source: All 1980 figures are from the 1983 County and City Data Book (CCDB). 1990-1998 figures are from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates program (http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/popest.html).

Note: 1991-1998 figures are annual estimates as of July 1 of each year; 1980 and 1990 figures are “official” Census counts taken on April 1 of 1980 and 1990.

Knight Community Average: Averages are based on 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Population Density and Household Size

**Indicator Description:** Population per square mile and average number of persons per household.

**Why This Is Important:** Each of these indicators provides a measure of the population density in a community. Population per square mile and the number of persons in the average household may affect community planning for housing, transportation, and social and medical services.

**Key Findings:**

- **In 1998,** population density in Long Beach was 8,618 persons per square mile. This was approximately four times greater than population density in Los Angeles County (2,269), and seven times greater than the average in the Knight communities (1,495).


- **In 1990,** Long Beach homes averaged 2.6 persons per household, an increase from the average of 2.3 in 1980.

- **The number of persons per household in Long Beach in 1990** was equal to the number of persons per household in the U.S. and the Knight communities (2.6), but lower than the number of persons per household in California (2.8).

**Limitations of the Data:** Comparisons of population density and persons per household between communities and across states should be undertaken with caution due to differences in locations. Major cities have a much higher population density than states, which include more sparsely populated rural areas. The number of persons per household, in contrast, may be higher in rural than in urban areas, possibly due to larger family size, relatively fewer housing units, or other factors.

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Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

**Figure 1: Population per Square Mile, 1980, 1992, and 1998**

**Table 1: Population per Square Mile, 1980, 1992, and 1998**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>7,256</td>
<td>8,700</td>
<td>8,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>1,837</td>
<td>2,222</td>
<td>2,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>1,510</td>
<td>1,495</td>
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</table>

**Table 2: Persons per Household, 1980 and 1990**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source Information: Total population: 1980 figures come from 1983 County and City Data Book (CCDB); 1992 and 1998 figures come from U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates program (http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/popest.html). Land Area in Square Miles: 1980 figures are from 1983 CCDB; 1992 figures (with the exception of the three small cities listed below) are from 1994 CCDB. No updated figure for land area is available for 1998, so the 1992 figure is used. Information for the 3 small cities listed below is from the 1990 U.S. Census Bureau CD-ROM (http://census.gov/geo/dmslookup). Milledgeville land area: 12.8 square miles; Myrtle Beach land area: 13.4 square miles; Aberdeen land area: 6.5 square miles. Persons per Household: 1980 data from 1983 CCDB; 1990 data from 1994 CCDB.

Notes: Population per Square Mile: Definition: total population for given year divided by land area in square miles; “land area” here is considered to be “dry land and land temporarily or partially covered by water” (as quoted from Census Bureau definition).

Knight Community Average: Averages are based on 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

Community Diversity
Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Population

Indicator Description: Racial and ethnic composition of the population.

Why This Is Important: The racial and ethnic composition of a community provides some measure of the diversity which is present in its population. It may also have significance for the drawing of political boundaries and the design and administration of social and municipal services.

Key Findings:

- In 1990, just over half of the Long Beach population (50.3%) was made up of racial and ethnic minorities. Hispanics were the largest minority, comprising nearly one-fourth (23.3%) of the population. 

- The minority population was smaller in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County (59.1%), but larger than in California (42.7%), the U.S. (24.3%), and the Knight communities (28.8%).

- The minority population in Long Beach more than doubled between 1980 and 1990, increasing by 25.6 percentage points. This increase was smaller than the increase in Los Angeles County, but larger than the increases in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: Racial and ethnic composition figures used by the 1990 U.S. Census do not show the percentage of citizens who may identify with more than one racial or ethnic group. Beginning with the 2000 Census, U.S. citizens will be able to select more than one racial/ethnic category to which they belong, which will allow for more accurate description of a person’s race and ethnicity. It may be the case, however, that comparison across time (from 2000 to earlier years) will become more difficult, as racial categories will have changed.

What the People Think: Seven in ten Long Beach residents (69%) believe that tension between different racial and ethnic groups is a problem in their community, including 30% who deem this a big problem. Nevertheless, Long Beach residents see their racially and ethnically diverse community as a source of strength. A majority of residents (67%) say that such diversity strengthens the community because people’s different experiences and points of view help when trying to solve problems. Far fewer residents (27%) perceive racial and ethnic diversity as a burden on the community because people’s differences make it harder to get things done.

Table 1: Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Population, 1980 and 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Minorities</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>American Indian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1980</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Average: 1980 and 1990 averages use data for 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.

Sources: 1980 figures are from the 1983 County and City Data Book (CCDB). 1990 figures for the U.S., states, and counties are from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates program (http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/popest.html). Data are based on the following racial and ethnic categories: white non-Hispanic; black; American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut; Asian and Pacific Islander; and Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race. The source for Long Beach uses the same racial and ethnic categories as the Population Estimates program, except that "white" replaces "white non-Hispanic."

Notes: 1990 figures are "official" Census counts taken on April 1, 1990. The population data for blacks, Asians, and American Indians include people who also identify themselves as Hispanic. The sum of the percents of each of the minority groups therefore exceeds the percent of minorities in the total population.

Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

Socioeconomic Status
Educational Attainment

Indicator Description: Highest level of education attained by adults age 25 and older.

Why This Is Important: Educational attainment is a key indicator of a community’s level of workforce preparation. A highly educated community workforce is well-positioned to attract and retain the increasingly technical jobs of today’s world of business.

Key Findings:

- In 1990, just under one-fourth of Long Beach adults (23.2%) had earned at least a bachelor’s degree. Just under one-fourth of Long Beach adults (24.5%) had not received a high school diploma.

- The percent of adults who had earned at least a bachelor’s degree was slightly higher in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County (22.3%), the U.S. (20.3%), and the Knight communities (22.3%), but slightly lower than in California (23.4%).

- The percent of adults who had not received a high school diploma was lower in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County (30.0%) and the U.S. (24.8%), but higher than in California (23.8%) and the Knight communities (23.0%).

Limitations of the Data: None.

Table 1: Percent of Population by Highest Level of Education Attained, 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No High School Diploma</th>
<th>High School Diploma or Equivalent</th>
<th>Some College, No Degree</th>
<th>Associate Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Advanced Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: Figures derived by dividing the number of people age 25 and older in each of six categories of educational attainment by the total number of people age 25 and older. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Knight Community Average: Averages are based on 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Median Household Income

Indicator Description: Median household income.

Why This Is Important: Median household income is a commonly used measure of the level of income and wealth in a community, county, or state. Indicators such as median family income and per capita income are often used for the same purpose, but median household income is used here because an individual person is often not the economic unit of interest and because many households are not considered to be families.

Key Findings:

- In 1995, the estimated median household income in Long Beach was $30,899. Median income was lower in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.

- The median household income in Long Beach decreased by more than 3% between 1989 and 1995 (from $31,938 to $30,899), while median income increased in all comparison areas.

- After adjusting for inflation, median household income in Long Beach decreased nearly 20% (from $38,485 to $30,899) between 1989 and 1995. This decline in median income was larger than the decrease in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: Median household income figures used here are not adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living. However, they are adjusted into constant dollars to take inflation into account, using the consumer price index to remove changes due to inflation or deflation from the current figures. In addition, local area consumer price indices were used in many cases to adjust city and county figures for inflation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that these indices are more volatile and subject to more error than the regional and national indices, and therefore comparisons involving the local area indices should be undertaken with caution.

Table 1: Change in Median Household Income, 1989 to 1995

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>$31,938</td>
<td>$30,899</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
<td>$38,485</td>
<td>$30,899</td>
<td>-19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>$35,798</td>
<td>$36,767</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>$44,101</td>
<td>$36,767</td>
<td>-16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>$30,056</td>
<td>$34,076</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>$36,940</td>
<td>$34,076</td>
<td>-7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>$28,257</td>
<td>$34,109</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>$34,634</td>
<td>$34,109</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: All 1989 data (except for the three small cities listed below) are from the 1994 County and City Data Book (CCDB). 1993 data are from the U.S. Census Bureau website (http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/stcty/sc93ftpdoc.html). 1995 data are also from the U.S. Census Bureau website (http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/stcty/sc95ftpdoc.html). Data for Milledgeville, Myrtle Beach, and Aberdeen are from the U.S. Census Bureau CD-ROM (http://census.census.gov/CD-ROM/lookup). Consumer Price Index (CPI) Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (http://www.bls.gov/cpihome.htm). The median household income figures have been adjusted using the not seasonally adjusted CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for their respective geographical locations: Community Level - Based on local area or regional indices, as available. State Level - Average of West urban regional area. U.S. Level - U.S. City Average.

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

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Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

Special Needs Population
Youth Population

Indicator Description: Percent of the population age 4 and younger and age 5-17.

Why This Is Important: The proportion of the population age 0-4 and age 5-17 has many implications for a community. Communities with a large or growing youth population may face demands for preschool programs, new buildings for elementary and secondary education, after-school programs, and recreational activities. Communities with a small or declining youth population may face problems in managing this decline.

Key Findings:

- In 1990, just over one-fourth (25.4%) of Long Beach residents were age 17 or younger. The youth population was smaller in Long Beach than in California (26.3%) and the U.S. (25.7%), but larger than in the Knight communities (24.7%).

- Between 1980 and 1990, Long Beach’s youth population increased by 2.5 percentage points. During the same period, the youth population decreased in all the comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: Annual population figures compiled by the U. S. Census Bureau are not actual counts of the population (which are done every ten years). Estimates compiled by sources other than the Census Bureau may differ; Census figures are used here in order to have a consistent source of information. Population estimates are revised by the Census Bureau each September. As a result, future estimates are likely to differ slightly from September 1999 figures used here.
Indicator Description: Percent of the population age 65 and older.

Why This Is Important: The segment of the population which is age 65 and older has been increasing in most areas of the country. Growth in this population sector may create demands for health and social services, which will compete with other public functions for community resources.

Key Findings:

- In 1990, more than one-tenth (10.8%) of Long Beach residents were age 65 and older. The elderly population was slightly larger in Long Beach than in California (10.5%), but smaller than in the U.S. (12.5%) and the Knight communities (12.5%).

- Between 1980 and 1990, Long Beach’s elderly population decreased by 3.2 percentage points. The decrease in the elderly population was much larger in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County. During the same period, the elderly population increased in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: Annual population figures compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau are not actual counts of the population (which are done every ten years). Estimates compiled by sources other than the Census Bureau may differ; Census figures are used here in order to have a consistent source of information. Population estimates are revised by the Census Bureau each September. As a result, future estimates are likely to differ slightly from September 1999 figures used here.

Table 1: Elderly Population, 1980, 1990 to 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Non-English-Speaking Population

Indicator Description: Percent of residents age 5 and older who speak a language other than English at home.

Why This Is Important: This indicator provides a measure of the residents in a community who are from non-English-speaking households. The ability to communicate effectively in English is clearly a determinant of success in the educational and work worlds, and a community with many residents who do not speak English may face significant challenges with its schools and workforce.

Key Findings:

- Nearly one-third (32.8%) of Long Beach residents age 5 and older spoke a language other than English at home in 1990. The non-English-speaking population in Long Beach was much smaller than in Los Angeles County (45.4%), but larger than in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: The U.S. Census Bureau’s measure of people age 5 and older who do not speak English at home is only one indicator of the English-speaking level of a community. It may well undercount the actual size of this population, as it relies on respondents to the Census for its data.

Figure 1: Percent of Residents Age 5 and Older Not Speaking English at Home, 1990

Source: All data (except for three small cities listed below) are from the 1994 City and County Data Book; Myrtle Beach, Milledgeville, and Aberdeen data obtained from U.S. Census Bureau CD-ROM (http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup).

Note: This indicator is “the percent of persons age 5 and older speaking a language other than English at home.” It may not be completely accurate to refer to this as the “non-English speaking population”; some residents may in fact speak English at home, but it is not their primary language.

Knight Community Average: Averages are based on 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Single-Parent Families

Indicator Description: Percent of single-parent households and percent of all children under 18 in single-parent households.

Why This Is Important: Single-parent families and children in single-parent households may create the need for certain kinds of services in a community (e.g., preschools and after-school programming). As a general rule, but by no means universally, areas with large concentrations of single-parent families (especially those headed by a female) experience higher rates of poverty.

Key Findings:

- Nearly one-third (32.3%) of all family households with children in Long Beach were headed by a single parent in 1990 – 26.0% by a single female and 6.3% by a single male. The city had a higher percent of single-parent households than all comparison areas.

- More than one-fourth (26.1%) of Long Beach children living in a family in 1990 were in a single-parent family. Most (21.4%) lived in a female-headed family, while 4.7% lived in a male-headed family. The city had a higher percent of children living in single-parent families than all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: The distribution of families by family structure should be read with caution, as this indicator by itself provides no information about the relative economic health of these families and children. While single-parent families are generally more likely to live in poverty, this is not always the case.

Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

Figure 1: Percent of Children Living in Single-Parent Families, 1990

Table 1: Distribution of Single-Parent Families and Children, 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of All Family Households with Children Headed by Single Parent</th>
<th>Percent of Children (under 18) in Families Headed by Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male Householder, No Wife Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: A “family household” as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau is a householder and one or more persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Knight Community Average: Averages are based on 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Poverty Level of People

Indicator Description: Percent of all families and all people whose income is below the poverty level.

Why This Is Important: Rates of poverty are perhaps the most commonly used indicator of the level of economic need in a community. They are based on national thresholds, which vary annually by the size of a family or household.

Key Findings:

- The poverty rate of people in Long Beach was 16.8% in 1989, an increase from 14.2% in 1979. The poverty rate in Long Beach in 1989 was higher than in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: Due to regional differences in the cost of living, the notion of having a single, uniform poverty threshold may be somewhat misleading. Although there is a national standard poverty threshold, differences in regional living costs may affect comparisons among communities.

### Table 1: Percent of People in Poverty, 1979, 1989, 1993, and 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All People</th>
<th>All Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: All 1979 data are from the 1983 County and City Data Book (CCDB). All 1989 data (other than for the three small cities described below) are from the 1994 CCDB. 1989 data for Milledgeville, GA; Myrtle Beach, SC; and Aberdeen, SD are from the U.S. Census Bureau CD-ROM (http://census.gov/ndrom/lookup). All 1993 and 1995 data are from the U.S. Census Bureau’s “Small Area Poverty Estimates” (http://www.census.gov/hhes/estimates/index.htm).

**Poverty Level of Children**

**Indicator Description:** Percent of all children under 18 in families whose family income is below the poverty level.

**Why This Is Important:** Rates of poverty are perhaps the most commonly used indicator of the level of economic need in a community. They are based on national thresholds which vary annually by the size of a family or household.

**Key Findings:**

- More than one-fourth (26.9%) of all children in the City of Long Beach lived in poverty in 1989, an increase from 22.5% in 1979. The child poverty rate in Long Beach in 1989 was higher than the rates in all comparison areas.

**Limitations of the Data:** Poverty levels may not be the same in all parts of the country or in all types of places due to differences in the cost of living. Although there is a national standard poverty threshold, differences in regional living costs may affect comparisons among communities.
Welfare Recipients

Indicator Description: Percent of persons receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits.

Why This Is Important: Used in conjunction with other indicators (such as rates of poverty and measures of income), welfare caseloads over time provide some picture of the number and percent of needy persons in a community or state.

Key Findings:
- In 1998, welfare recipients made up 8.0% of Los Angeles County residents. The welfare population was larger in Los Angeles County than in all comparison areas.
- The welfare population in Los Angeles County increased during the early to mid-1990s from 6.6% in 1990 to 9.7% in 1996, before declining to 8.0% in 1998. The overall increase of 1.4 percentage points in Los Angeles County between 1990 and 1998 was larger than the increase in California, but in contrast with the decreases in the welfare population in the U.S. and the Knight communities.

Limitations of the Data: When AFDC benefits became the TANF block grant program in 1996, individual states were given wide discretion in setting policies for how these funds would be distributed and for how long persons and families would be eligible for assistance. Most states enacted policies which shortened the maximum period of eligibility and created requirements for recipients to seek and obtain employment or face the loss of benefits. As a result, significant decreases in welfare caseload levels can be seen in most counties and states beginning in 1996. Changes such as these should be interpreted with caution, as drops in welfare caseload levels do not necessarily indicate decreases in poverty, and do not mean that all who have left the welfare rolls are now self-sufficient.

| Table 1: Percent of Persons Receiving AFDC or TANF Benefits, 1990 to 1998 |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles County | 6.6% | 7.3% | 8.2% | 8.7% | N/A | N/A | 9.7% | 9.2% | 8.0% |
| California        | 6.2% | 6.7% | 7.4% | 7.8% | 8.4% | 8.6% | 8.3% | 7.7% | 6.6% |
| U.S.              | 4.6% | 5.0% | 5.3% | 5.5% | 5.5% | 5.2% | 4.8% | 4.1% | 3.2% |
| Knight Community Average | 4.8% | 5.2% | 5.7% | 6.0% | 5.9% | 5.6% | 5.1% | 4.4% | 3.6% |


Notes: All calculations for “percent of population on AFDC/TANF” are derived by dividing the number of people on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)/TANF by the estimated population for that jurisdiction in a given year (from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates program).

Knight Community Average: 1990-1993 averages use 24 counties (excluding Boulder and Baldwin). 1994-1998 averages use 25 counties (excluding Boulder). Data were not available for the excluded counties. Other missing county data are derived from the county-to-state ratio of the previous year. These counties are: Leon, Los Angeles, Palm Beach, Manatee, and Dade for 1994 and 1995; Sedgwick and Mecklenburg for 1994; Lake for 1997; and Grand Forks for 1998.
Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

Labor Force Characteristics
**Employed Population**

**Indicator Description:** Size of the employed population and change in employment.

**Why This Is Important:** The overall size of the employed population in a community provides a very useful snapshot of its economic health. Used in conjunction with which sectors of the economy (e.g., manufacturing, retail trade, etc.) are growing or shrinking the most, the percent change in the employed population can be even more effective in diagnosing a community’s economic health.

**Key Findings:**

- *The size of the labor force in Long Beach decreased by 0.6% between 1990 and 1997. The decrease in the labor force in Long Beach was smaller than the decrease in the number of employees in Los Angeles County (6.7%) over the same period.*

- *Long Beach contrasted with all other comparison areas, which experienced employment growth between 1990 and 1997.*

**Limitations of the Data:** This indicator tracks the number of employed persons from year to year, based upon an annual federal survey of employers for the pay period which includes March 12 of each year. As such, it may overlook seasonal variations in the workforce. Data also include both full and part-time employees. This means that one person who holds more than one job will be counted more than once, and that the number of employees is not equivalent to the number of people employed full-time.

---

**Figure 1: Change in Employment, 1990 to 1997**

**Figure 2: Percent Change in Employment, 1990 to 1997**

Source: 1990-1992 data are from the Geospatial and Statistical Data Center ([http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/cbp/home.html](http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/cbp/home.html)). 1993-1997 data are from the U.S. Census Bureau's "County Business Patterns" website ([http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html](http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html)).

*Data for Long Beach are annual averages of the labor force in the City of Long Beach. These figures come from the California Department of Labor ([http://www.calima.cahwnet.gov/htmlfile/subject/lftable.htm](http://www.calima.cahwnet.gov/htmlfile/subject/lftable.htm)).

Note: Data for this indicator are "mid-March employment" data. Both sources use data from an annual Census Bureau survey of employers which tracks the number of employees (both full-time and part-time) who are on the payroll during the pay period which includes March 12 of each year.

Knight Community Average: Averages are based on 25 counties and Long Beach.
Employment by Major Industry

Indicator Description: Percent of people employed full-time and part-time in major sectors of the economy.

Why This Is Important: This indicator identifies industries that are most critical to the economic health of a community. Changes in the distribution of the number of employees within these sectors indicate changing demands of employers and the economy and the need for different skills for workers.

Key Findings:

- In 1990, just over one-fifth (20.4%) of Long Beach employees worked in manufacturing. The city had a smaller share of employees in manufacturing than Los Angeles County (22.8%) and the U.S. (20.5%), but a larger share than California (19.2%) and the Knight communities (19.1%).

- The manufacturing sector employed a smaller share of Long Beach workers in 1990 (20.4%) than in 1980 (23.8%). The 3.4 percentage point decrease in Long Beach was larger than the decreases in Los Angeles County, California, and the U.S., and contrasted with the 0.5 percentage point increase in manufacturing employment in the Knight communities.

Limitations of the Data: The sectors of industry presented here are groupings used by the U.S. Census Bureau, and are not an exhaustive list of all categories of jobs in which residents of a community are employed.
Indicator Description: Average annual salaries of workers in major sectors of the economy.

Why This Is Important: Wage comparisons across various sectors of the economy, along with a comparison of how many workers are employed in each sector, allows some measure of a community’s economic health and the buying power of its residents. Comparisons to other areas can identify cost-of-living differences and incentives to locate to the community due to higher wages.

Key Findings:

- In 1997, the average wage for all industries in Los Angeles County was $32,274. The overall wage level was higher in Los Angeles County than in all comparison areas.

- The highest average wage in Los Angeles County in 1997 was in the finance, insurance, and real estate sector ($47,230), which was more than 46% higher than the county’s average wage for all industries.

- The lowest average wage in Los Angeles County in 1997 was in the retail trade sector ($17,011), which was more than 47% lower than the county’s average wage for all industries.

Limitations of the Data: Salary figures are derived by dividing the total annual payroll within a given sector by the number of employees for the week which includes March 12 of each year (from the U.S. Census Bureau’s “County Business Patterns” survey of employers). Data presented here focus on only selected sectors of the economy. These sectors are groupings used by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and are not an exhaustive list of all categories of jobs in which residents of a community are employed. In addition, the general groupings used here may mask significant differences between sub-groupings. Finally, the seasonal nature of the data presented here (from March of each year for all states and counties) may overlook seasonal fluctuations in employment and usages.

Table 1: Average Wage in Selected Industries, 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Knight Community Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$32,274</td>
<td>$32,089</td>
<td>$28,945</td>
<td>$27,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Industries</td>
<td>$35,417</td>
<td>$41,052</td>
<td>$36,958</td>
<td>$36,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>$38,115</td>
<td>$40,587</td>
<td>$37,572</td>
<td>$34,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>$17,011</td>
<td>$16,686</td>
<td>$15,013</td>
<td>$14,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>$47,230</td>
<td>$44,593</td>
<td>$42,524</td>
<td>$34,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate</td>
<td>$32,558</td>
<td>$31,381</td>
<td>$27,126</td>
<td>$25,349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: 1997 figures are from the U.S. Census Bureau’s “County Business Patterns” website [http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html]. These data come from an annual survey which counts both full-time and part-time employees who are on the payroll.

Note: Wage data from all sources comes from an annual survey of employers conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, which tracks the number of full- and part-time workers and their wages for the pay period which includes March 12 of each year.

Knight Community Average: Averages are based on 26 counties. Due to missing data, the 1997 average does not include Brown, Grand Forks, or Baldwin counties.
Unemployment Rate

Indicator Description: Percent of the civilian labor force (people age 16 and older, not in the military) that was unemployed.

Why This Is Important: Unemployment rates measure the efficiency of the labor force to match skills with employer needs and the economic ability of the community to provide employment. High levels of unemployment place stresses on an area’s social service infrastructure. By contrast, low unemployment may stimulate more spending and greater overall economic health.

Key Findings:

- In 1996, the unemployment rate in Long Beach was 7.7%. Unemployment was lower in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County (8.2%), but higher than in California (7.2%), the U.S. (5.5%), and the Knight communities (4.7%).

- The unemployment rate in Long Beach increased between 1990 and 1993 from 6.9% to 9.2%, and then decreased to 7.7% in 1996. However, in 1996, the unemployment rate in Long Beach was still 0.8 percentage points higher than in 1990.

- The increase in the unemployment rate in Long Beach between 1990 and 1996 was smaller than the increases in Los Angeles County and California. However, the increase in unemployment in Long Beach contrasted with the decreases in unemployment in the U.S. and the Knight communities over this period.

Limitations of the Data: Unemployment rates may undercount the actual number of unemployed because estimates at the local level are derived from state unemployment insurance operations. These operations may exclude people who have not filed for unemployment benefits or are no longer seeking employment.

What the People Think: Unemployment is of great concern to many Long Beach residents. Three-quarters (72%) perceive this as a problem in their community, including 31% who regard it as a big problem. Six percent of residents consider unemployment as the most important community problem, making it one of the top five concerns cited by Long Beach residents.

Table 1: Unemployment Rate, 1990, 1991, 1994, and 1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes: U.S. and state figures are the average annual unemployment rates of the labor force. County-level figures are the unemployment rates among the civilian labor force (which excludes armed forces personnel stationed in the U.S.). City-level data are the unemployment rates among the civilian labor force. None of these figures have been seasonally adjusted.

Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities

Criminal Justice
**Police Officers per 1,000 Population**

**Indicator Description:** Number of sworn police officers per 1,000 population.

**Why This Is Important:** The ratio of police officers to residents is an indicator of the capacity of local police to respond to emergencies as well as to serve the community’s everyday law enforcement needs.

**Key Findings:**

- **In 1997, there were 1.96 police officers per 1,000 population in Long Beach.** The law enforcement staff was smaller in Long Beach than in California (2.04), and the U.S. (2.31), but larger than the Knight communities (1.89).

- **The number of police officers per 1,000 population in Long Beach increased between 1990 and 1997 from 1.50 to 1.96.** The increase was larger in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.

**Limitations of the Data:** There is no definitive level of staffing that is proven to be optimally effective for law enforcement agencies. Different communities have different policing needs. As a stand-alone indicator, it is unclear whether these staffing measures tell us whether an agency is over- or understaffed. It should be considered in combination with other measures of police resources and effectiveness.

**What the People Think:** A substantial majority of Long Beach residents say that their local police department is doing an excellent (29%) or a good job (45%) serving the community, but one-quarter of residents (24%) give the department a more critical evaluation.

---

**Figure 1: Police Officers per 1,000 Population, 1990, 1993, and 1997**

**Table 1: Police Officers per 1,000 Population, 1990, 1993, and 1997**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1997</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Beach</strong></td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>1.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Los Angeles County</strong></td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>2.26</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
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<td>2.04</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>U.S.</strong></td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Knight Community Average**

| Knight Community Average | 1.57 | 1.68 | 1.89 |

**Sources:** Bureau of Justice Statistics’ Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics Report (LEMAS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reports (UCRs).

**Notes:** County and city figures for 1990, 1993 and 1997 are from the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ LEMAS. These reports present data from individual state and local agencies with 100 or more officers. In some instances, when data were not available from the LEMAS, data from the FBI UCRs were substituted. In cases where no county-level data were available, a county total has been created using total city personnel divided by the county population total. Figures for all state-level data are taken from the FBI UCRs. State-level personnel data from the 1990 UCRs include no jurisdictions other than state agencies and state departments. National figures were calculated by the FBI and published in the UCRs as totals per 1,000 persons. Population figures used to calculate per capita totals are from the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Knight Community Average:** The 1997 averages are based on 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach. The 1993 average includes 25 communities; data for Baldwin County were unavailable. The 1990 average includes 25 communities; data for Horry County were not available.
**Law Enforcement Budget per Capita**

**Indicator Description:** Operating expenditures for local law enforcement divided by the community’s estimated total population.

**Why This Is Important:** The level of financial support devoted to law enforcement is both a measure of the resources that local law enforcement agencies have to carry out their mission as well as an indicator of the relative priority of safety and law enforcement in the community.

**Key Findings:**

- In 1997, law enforcement operating expenditures in Long Beach were $232 per capita. Expenditures for law enforcement in Long Beach were 73% higher than the average per capita expenditures in the Knight communities ($134).

- In 1993, operating expenditures per capita for law enforcement were higher in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.

**Limitations of the Data:** Like many contextual indicators, per capita expenditures on law enforcement do not by themselves point to a positive or negative finding. The measure is better used when combined with direct indicators of crime to offer some perspective on the adequacy of available resources and the efficiency with which they are employed.

---

**Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities**

**Figure 1: Per Capita Law Enforcement Budget, 1990, 1993, and 1997**

**Table 1: Per Capita Law Enforcement Budget, 1990, 1993, and 1997**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1997</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>$188</td>
<td>$229</td>
<td>$232</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$202</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>$94</td>
<td>$109</td>
<td>$134</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: All U.S. and state data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Census of Governments (Report of State and Local Government Finance Estimates, by State). All city and county data are from the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) or local agencies. LEMAS data for 1993 and 1997 are available online (http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/sandlle.htm).

Notes: Unless otherwise noted, all city and county figures for 1990, 1993 and 1997 are from the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS). These reports present data from individual state and local agencies with 100 or more officers. When data were not available from the LEMAS but were provided by local agencies, those data were used. Population figures used to calculate per capita totals are from the U.S. Census Bureau.

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Children and Social Welfare
Children and Social Welfare

What the People Think

- A majority of Long Beach residents (57%) note that a lack of affordable, quality child care is a problem in the community where they live, including 31% who believe this to be a big problem.

- Three-quarters of Long Beach residents (73%) say that too many unsupervised children and teenagers are a problem in their community, including 44% who deem this a big problem. Eight percent of residents consider unsupervised youth to be the most important community problem.
Children and Social Welfare

Child Well-Being
Indicator Description: Rate of death for infants (age 0-1) per 1,000 live births.

Why This is Important: The infant mortality rate is one of the most commonly used measures of the health and overall well-being of young children. It is an indicator which captures, indirectly or directly, other aspects of health and well-being (e.g. nutrition, access of prenatal care to mothers, the quality of health care available to mothers and infants, and the social service network of a community in general).

Key Findings:

- In 1996, the infant mortality rate in Long Beach was 4.9. The rate was lower in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.

- The infant mortality rate in Long Beach experienced an overall decrease between 1990 and 1996, fluctuating between a high of 9.3 in 1994 and a low of 4.9 in 1996.

Limitations of the Data: None.

Table 1: Infant Mortality Rates, 1990 to 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: National Center for Health Statistics, California Department of Health and Human Services, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services.
Knight Community Average: The 1991 Knight community average is comprised of 22 counties; it excludes Sedgwick, Harrison, and Brown Counties and Gary. The 1994 average is comprised of 22 counties; it excludes Boulder, Sedgwick, Harrison, and Brown Counties. The 1997 average is comprised of 24 communities; it excludes Long Beach and Sedgwick Counties. For all other years, the average is comprised of 23 counties, excluding Sedgwick, Harrison, and Brown Counties.
Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy

Indicator Description: Percent of all women who reported smoking during their pregnancy.

Why This is Important: Smoking during pregnancy is known to be a factor in the occurrence of preventable birth defects, including respiratory and heart problems, low birth weight, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Key Findings:

- No data are available for Long Beach or Los Angeles County.

Limitations of the Data: The figures reported here rely on birth records, which use self-reported responses by mothers regarding their behavior during pregnancy. Therefore, as a result of the social undesirability of smoking, particularly during pregnancy, it is possible that these data are an underestimation of the number of women who actually smoked during their pregnancy.
Indicator Description: Percent of women who reported receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy.

Why This is Important: Access to adequate and early prenatal care is a significant predictor of a baby’s health at birth. Women who receive inadequate or no prenatal care are at much higher risk for having delivery complications, as well as babies born with birth defects and low birth weight. These problems at birth may subsequently impact the child’s readiness for school.

Key Findings:

- Nearly eight in ten women in Long Beach (78.0%) received first trimester prenatal care in 1997. This figure was smaller than in all comparison areas.

- Between 1990 and 1997, the percent of women receiving first trimester prenatal care in Long Beach increased from 64.0% to 78.0%. The increase of 14.0 percentage points in Long Beach was larger than the increases in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: Composite percentages of women who receive early prenatal care can mask significant variation among different socioeconomic groups of women. The social makeup of the community can have a major impact on this indicator.

![Figure 1: Percent of Women Receiving First Trimester Prenatal Care, 1990 to 1997](image)

| Table 1: Percent of Women Receiving First Trimester Prenatal Care, 1990 to 1997 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Long Beach                      | 64.0%      | 65.0%      | 69.9%      | 72.4%      | 75.6%      | 79.4%      | 79.3%      | 78.0%      |
| California                      | N/A        | 72.2%      | 74.5%      | 76.1%      | 77.1%      | 78.3%      | 79.6%      | 80.8%      |
| U.S.                            | 75.8%      | 76.2%      | 77.7%      | 78.9%      | 80.2%      | 81.2%      | 81.9%      | 82.5%      |
| Knight Community Average        | 74.9%      | 74.2%      | 74.8%      | 76.4%      | 77.8%      | 79.2%      | 79.2%      | 79.5%      |


Knight Community Average: The 1990 Knight community average is comprised of 22 counties, Long Beach, CA and Gary, IN; it excludes Santa Clara County and Sedgwick County. The 1991 and 1992 Knight community averages are comprised of 23 counties, Long Beach, CA and Gary, IN; they exclude Sedgwick County. The 1993 through 1997 averages include 24 counties, Long Beach, CA and Gary, IN.
Low Birth Weight

Indicator Description: Percent of all births in which the baby was classified as being of low birth weight, defined as weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces.

Why This is Important: Low birth weight is known to be a significant determinant of the health, growth and development of an infant. Infants born below 5 pounds, 8 ounces have been found to be at increased risk of delayed development and health problems later in life.

Key Findings:

- Just over six percent of babies born in Los Angeles County in 1996 were classified as being of low birth weight (6.2%). This figure was slightly higher than the California average (6.1%) but lower than the U.S. (7.4%) and Knight community (8.1%) averages.

- Between 1990 and 1996, the percent of babies born of low birth weight increased from 6.0% to 6.2%. This increase of 0.2 percentage points in Los Angeles County was lower than in California (0.3) and the U.S. (0.3), but higher than in the Knight communities (0.1).

Limitations of the Data: None.

Figure 1: Percent of Babies Born of Low Birth Weight, 1990 to 1997

Table 1: Percent of Babies Born of Low Birth Weight, 1990 to 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Knight Community Average: The 1990 Knight community average is comprised of 25 communities (excluding Grand Forks County). The 1993 Knight community average is comprised of 25 communities (excluding Baldwin County). Knight community averages for all other years are comprised of 26 counties.
Adolescent Birth Rate

Indicator Description: Rate of live births per 1,000 adolescent females.

Why This is Important: Births to teenage mothers are of concern, as research has suggested a strong link between teenage motherhood and low birth weight, which is associated with increased risk of delayed development and health problems later in life.

Key Findings:

- In 1994, the birth rate for adolescents in Los Angeles County was 81.8. The adolescent birth rate was higher in Los Angeles County than in California (69.9).

- The adolescent birth rate in Los Angeles County increased between 1990 and 1994, from 77.4 to 81.8. This trend differed from California, where adolescent birth remained fairly constant over the same time period.

Limitations of the Data: Comparisons made with this indicator can be difficult due to the varying ways in which adolescent birth rates are calculated. At least five different rates can be found by searching vital statistics records at the national, state, and local levels: rate of births per 1,000 women under age 20, rate per 1,000 women age 10-19, rate per 1,000 women age 10-17, rate per 1,000 women age 15-19, and rate per 1,000 women age 15-17.
**Indicator Description:** Percent of two-year-olds seen in public health departments who had received the appropriate set of immunizations (against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, and influenza type B).

**Why This Is Important:** Completion of the recommended set of immunizations is among the most important objectives to ensure the health of young children, and has been made a public health priority on both the state and national levels.

**Key Findings:**

- In 1998, 76.5% of infants and toddlers seen in public health clinics in Los Angeles County were immunized. The percent of infants and toddlers immunized was larger in Los Angeles County than in California (63.9%).

- The percent of infants and toddlers immunized in Los Angeles County fluctuated between 1992 and 1998, peaking at 81.0% in 1996.

**Limitations of the Data:** Data used in this indicator are from public health clinics only and therefore do not include children who are seen and immunized at private facilities. As a result, the rates included here should not be considered citywide or statewide figures.

**Figure 1: Child Immunization Rates, 1990 to 1998**

![Graph showing child immunization rates from 1990 to 1998 for Los Angeles County and California.]

**Table 1: Child Immunization Rates, 1990 to 1998**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>73.0%</td>
<td>73.0%</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>73.0%</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch.
Physicians per 1,000 Population

Indicator Description: Number of physicians per 1,000 population in 1992.

Why This Is Important: The number of physicians available to a community is an indicator of the availability of professional health care resources. A lack or shortage of these resources could have detrimental effects on the health of a community’s residents, both in terms of emergency care and general health maintenance.

Key Findings:

- Los Angeles County had 2.4 physicians per 1,000 population in 1992. This figure was higher than in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: The number of physicians reported here may not be a reflection of the actual number of physicians who practice in a particular community, because the American Medical Association (AMA) determines the location of a physician by the address he or she supplies.

Figure 1: Number of Total Patient Care Doctors per 1,000 Population, 1992


Knight Community Average: The Knight community average is based on data for 26 counties.
**Pediatricians per 1,000 Children**

**Indicator Description:** Number of pediatricians per 1,000 children age 0-17 in 1992.

**Why This Is Important:** The number of pediatricians available to a community is an indicator of the availability of professional health care resources. A lack or shortage of these resources could have detrimental effects on the health of a community’s residents, both in terms of emergency care and general health maintenance. Inadequate health care resources can, in turn, have an impact on children’s long-term health and academic achievement.

**Key Findings:**

- **Los Angeles County had 0.7 pediatricians per 1,000 children age 0-17 in 1992. This figure was higher than the U.S. average of 0.6, but equal to the Knight community average.**

**Limitations of the Data:** The number of pediatricians reported here may not be a reflection of the actual number of pediatricians who practice in a particular community, because the American Medical Association (AMA) determines the location of a pediatrician by the address he or she supplies.

**Figure 1: Number of Pediatricians per 1,000 Children Age 0-17, 1992**


Knight Community Average: The Knight community average is based on data for 26 counties.
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Children and Social Welfare

School Readiness
CHILD-CARE COSTS

Indicator Description: Average monthly cost of licensed child care.

Why This Is Important: The affordability of child care is an increasingly important issue, particularly for middle and low-income families, and those parents who were once on public assistance and now have to work. The lack of affordable child care has implications for parents’ employment options, as well as their options in terms of quality care for their children. The availability of affordable, quality care may, in turn, impact the child’s safety, as well as his or her school readiness.

Key Findings:

• Data are not available for Long Beach or Los Angeles County.

Limitations of the Data: Comparisons made with this indicator can be difficult, as some figures include subsidies provided by the government, which is mandated by the individual states. Therefore, the actual cost of child care may be underestimated for these communities.

What the People Think: A majority of Long Beach residents (57%) note that a lack of affordable, quality child care is a problem in the community where they live, including 31% who believe this to be a big problem.
**Indicator Description:** Number of licensed child-care providers per 10,000 children age 0 to 4 years.

**Why This Is Important:** The availability of quality child care has become increasingly important in recent years, with the increase in single-parent and working two-parent families.

**Key Findings:**

- *In 1997, there were 148.6 licensed child care centers per 10,000 children in Los Angeles County. The number of centers in Los Angeles County was lower than in California (195.6).*

- *The number of licensed child care centers increased in Los Angeles County between 1992 and 1997, from 129.6 to 148.6. The increase in Los Angeles County was similar to California, where the number of licensed centers increased over the same time period.*

**Limitations of the Data:** The data presented here represent the number of licensed child-care providers only, which comprises only a portion of the existing providers of child care. Therefore, these figures are not a complete indication of the availability of child care in any community.

---

**Figure 1: Number of Licensed Child-care Providers per 10,000 Children Age 0 to 4 Years, 1992 to 1997**

![Graph showing the number of licensed child-care providers per 10,000 children in Los Angeles County and California from 1992 to 1997.](image-url)

**Table 1: Number of Licensed Child-care Providers per 10,000 Children Age 0 to 4 Years, 1992 to 1997**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>129.6</td>
<td>185.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>128.2</td>
<td>183.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>130.5</td>
<td>182.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>134.2</td>
<td>181.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>140.5</td>
<td>187.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>148.6</td>
<td>195.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: California Department of Health Services.
**Indicator Description:** Percent of children age 3 to 5 years in poverty who were enrolled in Head Start in 1997.

**Why This Is Important:** Head Start has been identified as a key component of school readiness for preschool aged children from low-income families.

**Key Findings:**
- In 1997, 15.1% of 3-to-5-year olds who were in poverty in Los Angeles County were enrolled in Head Start. The percent of children enrolled in Head Start was lower in Los Angeles than in all comparison areas.

**Limitations of the Data:** Not all children who are eligible to participate in Head Start programs are able to do so. Differences between communities in the number of children who participate may be due to issues of supply (e.g., the availability of openings in Head Start programs) rather than demand. In addition, this measure may not be an accurate indicator of the availability of Head Start programs. A better measure would assess the number of available Head Start facilities with respect to the number of eligible children within the community.

**Figure 1: Percent of 3-to-5-Year-Olds in Poverty Enrolled in Head Start, 1997**

**Note:** The number of children (age 3 to 5 years) in poverty was calculated by applying the percent of children (age 0 to 17) who were in poverty in 1995, to the number of children (age 3 to 5) in 1997.


**Knight Community Average:** The Knight community average is based upon data for 26 counties.
Children and Social Welfare

Youth and Juvenile Justice
Indicator Description: Arrests per 10,000 persons age 10-17 years for index crimes.

Why This Is Important: This is a direct measure of the level and trend in reported incidents of serious crime committed by juveniles in a community, a state, or the nation. These figures may also be a reflection of the availability of constructive activities for youth within communities, particularly during after-school hours when most juvenile crimes are committed.

Key Findings:
- In Los Angeles County, juveniles were arrested at a rate of 223.5 per 10,000 persons age 10-17 in 1997. This figure was lower than in all comparison areas.
- Between 1991 and 1997, the juvenile arrest rate in Los Angeles County decreased from 333.0 to 223.5. The decrease of 109.5 arrests per 10,000 juveniles in Los Angeles County was larger than the decreases in all comparison areas during this time.

Limitations of the Data: Juvenile arrest data is not necessarily an accurate indicator of the number of crimes committed by juveniles, because these figures only reflect those juveniles who have been processed through the juvenile justice system. In other words, many juveniles who commit crimes are not arrested and many of those who are arrested are not referred to juvenile courts. Therefore, these juveniles do not appear in official law enforcement or court data.

What the People Think: Three-quarters of Long Beach residents (73%) say that too many unsupervised children and teenagers are a problem in their community, including 44% who deem this a big problem. Eight percent of residents consider unsupervised youth to be the most important community problem.
Education and Literacy
Education and Literacy

What the People Think

• Long Beach residents’ opinions about the local public schools are mixed. One-half rate the overall job performance of their local public schools as either good (39%) or excellent (11%); smaller numbers say that the schools do only a fair (23%) or a poor job (8%). At the same time, however, six in ten indicate that the quality of education provided by the public schools is a problem in their community, with 31% of residents regarding it as a big problem. Ten percent of residents cite the quality of public school education as the most important community problem, after crime, drugs, or violence.

• Increased funding for the local public schools receives strong support from the Long Beach public, even if such an increase means higher local taxes. Two-thirds of Long Beach residents (63%) say that local government spends too little money on the public schools, and 67% are at least somewhat willing to pay higher taxes if the money goes to the school system.

• Community literacy is an issue of concern for Long Beach residents. Two-thirds of residents (66%) say that illiteracy is a problem in their community, with one-third (36%) saying that this is a big problem.

• Six in ten Long Beach residents (62%) read a local daily newspaper at least a few times a week, and about the same number (60%) believe most or all of what their local daily newspaper says. Newspaper journalism is thus more trusted in Long Beach than TV news, of which far more people watch regularly (82%), but a slightly lower percentage actually trust most or all of the time (56%).
Education and Literacy

School Districts Identified

For most of the Knight community indicators, the unit of analysis is the county, with the exception of Long Beach, California, and Gary, Indiana, both of which use the city proper as the unit of analysis. The primary exception to this rule is in the “Education and Literacy” section, where the unit of analysis is the school district. In many of the 26 Knight communities (primarily those in northern and western states), a particular county may have more than one school district. For purposes of analysis, the “major” school district that is the closest match to the principal city within the county was selected. In Knight communities located in southern states, each county generally has only one school district. It should be recognized in advance that focusing on a particular district ignores one or more additional districts within the county, each of which possesses its own unique set of assets and challenges. The list below shows the “major” school district and additional school districts located in this Knight community county.

**Los Angeles County**

- ABC Unified
- Acton-Agua Dulce Unified
- Alhambra City Elementary
- Antelope Valley ROP
- Arcadia Unified
- Azusa Unified
- Baldwin Park Unified
- Bassett Unified
- Bellflower Unified
- Beverly Hills Unified
- Bonita Unified
- Burbank Unified
- Castaic Union Elementary
- Centinela Valley Union High
- Charter Oak Unified
- Claremont Unified
- Compton Unified ROP
- Compton Unified
- Covina-Valley Unified
- Culver City Unified
- Diagnostic School for NH
- Downey Unified
- Duarte Unified
- East San Gabriel Valley ROP
- East Whitter City Elementary
- Eastside Union Elemternary
- El Monte City Elementary
- El Monte Union High
- El Rancho Unified
- El Segunda Unified
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garvey Elementary</th>
<th>Glendale Unified</th>
<th>Glendora Unified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gorman Elementary</td>
<td>Los Angeles Unified ROP</td>
<td>San Marino Unified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hacienda La Puente Unified</td>
<td>Los Nietos Elementary</td>
<td>Santa Monica-Malibu Unified' Saugus Union Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hart ROP</td>
<td>Lowell Joint Elementary</td>
<td>South Pasadena Unified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorne Elementary</td>
<td>Lynwood Unified</td>
<td>South Whitter Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermosa Beach City Elementary</td>
<td>Manhattan Beach Unified</td>
<td>Southeast Los Angeles County ROP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary</td>
<td>Monrovia Unified</td>
<td>Southern California ROP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inglewood Unified</td>
<td>Montebello Unified</td>
<td>Sulphur Springs Union Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keppel Union Elementary</td>
<td>Mountain View Elementary</td>
<td>Temple City Unified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Canada Unified</td>
<td>Newhall Elementary</td>
<td>Torrance Unified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Puente Valley ROP</td>
<td>Norwalk-La Mirada Unified</td>
<td>Tri-Cities ROP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster Elementary</td>
<td>Palmdale Elementary</td>
<td>Valle Linda Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Virgenes Unified</td>
<td>Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified</td>
<td>Walnut Valley Unified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawndale Elementary</td>
<td>Paramount Unified</td>
<td>West Covina Unified</td>
</tr>
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<td>Lennox Elementary</td>
<td>Pasadena Unified</td>
<td>Westside Union Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Lake City Elementary</td>
<td>Pomona Unified</td>
<td>Whitter City Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Beach Unified</strong></td>
<td>Redondo Beach Unified</td>
<td>Whitter Union High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach Unified ROP</td>
<td>Rosemead Elementary</td>
<td>William S. Hart Union High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County Office of Education</td>
<td>Rowland Unified</td>
<td>Wilsona Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County ROP</td>
<td>San Antonion ROP</td>
<td>Wiseburn Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Unified</td>
<td>San Gabriel Unified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education and Literacy

School Environment Context
Total Student Enrollment

Indicator Description: Total public school enrollment and percent change.

Why This Is Important: Enrollment trends determine the needs and priorities of schools in terms of funding and programming. Both rapid growth and enrollment decline confront school districts with particular challenges, which range from managing class size to ensuring sufficient revenues.

Key Findings:

• Enrollment in the Long Beach Unified School District was over 89,000 in 1998-99. Between the 1991-92 and 1998-99 school years, enrollment in Long Beach grew by 20.5%.

• Enrollment grew at a faster rate in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: Enrollment figures may be collected differently across states, making cross-community and cross-state figures difficult to compare.


Indicator Description: Percent of students enrolled by race and ethnic grouping.

Why This Is Important: The degree of diversity among a district’s students influences many aspects of its operations, from the need for different types of educational programs to compliance with desegregation mandates.

Key Findings:

- Minority students comprised 81.1% of the total enrollment in the Long Beach Unified School District in 1998-99. Hispanic students were the largest minority group, at 42.0% of the enrollment.

- The percent of non-white students in Long Beach in 1998-99 (81.1%) was higher than the California (62.0%) and U.S. (34.8%) averages.

Limitations of the Data: The groupings used for tracking the racial/ethnic composition of students vary across states and districts, making comparisons difficult. “Hispanic” is a particularly varied category, as students in this ethnic grouping can be of any race.

---

Figure 1: Student Racial and Ethnic Composition, 1990-91 to 1998-99

Table 1: Student Racial and Ethnic Composition 1998-99

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>American Indian</th>
<th>Total Non-White</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach Unified School District</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>62.0%</td>
<td>99.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. S.</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>98.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Totals for all racial/ethnic categories may add to slightly more or less than 100% due to rounding or the use of an “other” category which was not included in this analysis.

Knight Community Average: No Knight community average calculated for racial/ethnic composition.
**Indicator Description:** The percent of students who participate in the free and reduced price school lunch program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Why This Is Important:** Teaching economically disadvantaged students can present distinct challenges to school districts. In addition, socioeconomic background is viewed as a powerful factor impacting a student’s academic achievement. Free and reduced price lunch participation is one way to measure the relative level of poverty within schools.

**Key Findings:**
- In 1997-98, nearly two-thirds of the students in the Long Beach Unified School District (65.1%) participated in the free and reduced price school lunch program. Participation levels were much higher in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.
- Between 1992-93 and 1997-98, participation in the free and reduced price lunch program increased by 5.3 percentage points in Long Beach (from 59.8% to 65.1%). The increase in Long Beach during those years was smaller than the increase in California, but larger than the increase in the U.S.

**Limitations of the Data:** This indicator is only a proxy for the incidence of poor and low-income students in a school district and the special challenges which they may present. While a clear correlation exists between the socioeconomic status of a student’s family and his/her academic performance, not all students who are poor have difficulty in school.

**Figure 1:** Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Participation, 1992-93 to 1997-98

**Table 1:** Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Participation, 1992-93 to 1997-98

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach Unified SD</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
<td>64.8%</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td>65.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Knight Community Average: Knight community average excludes Harrison County for all years. No Knight community average calculated for years in which data for fewer than 17 Knight districts is available.
**Limited English Proficient Students**

**Indicator Description:** The percent of students classified as limited English proficient or participating in limited English proficiency (LEP) programs.

**Why This Is Important:** Children with limited proficiency in English can present a particular challenge to schools and districts. High concentrations of LEP students may require districts to create programs and hire personnel for special language programs and/or to reduce class size.

**Key Findings:**

- **The percent of LEP students in the Long Beach Unified School District was 36.4% in 1997-98.**

- **Long Beach had a higher concentration of LEP students in 1997-98 (36.4%) than California (24.6%) and the U.S. (7.9%).**

- **Between 1992-93 and 1997-98, the percent of LEP students in Long Beach grew from 32.7% to 36.4%.**

**Limitations of the Data:** Accurate counts of the number of LEP students are complicated by a number of factors. These students often have high rates of mobility, making precise counts of their numbers difficult. The methods of identifying and tracking LEP students differ from state to state, causing difficulty when making cross-state comparisons. Finally, recent legislative changes pertaining to the instruction of LEP students (such as in California) may make districts and states more or less likely to identify LEP students and track their progress.

**Table 1: Percent LEP Students, 1992-93 to 1997-98**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach Unified SD</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education (www.ncbe.gwu.edu).
www.cde.ca.gov/demographics/reports/statewide/lepspct.htm.
www.ed-data.k12.ca.us.

Note: U.S. data from 1997-98 and beyond are projections.

Knight Community Average: No Knight community average has been calculated, as there is no year in which LEP data for the minimum number of districts (17) are available.
Private School Enrollment

**Indicator Description:** Private school enrollment as a percent of total public and private school enrollment at the city level.

**Why This Is Important:** Private school enrollment is an indicator of education choice for elementary and secondary education in the community. Additionally, it can be viewed as an indicator of the community’s perception of the quality of private education compared to public education.

**Key Findings:**

- Students attending private schools comprised 7.9% of the total K-12 enrollment in the Long Beach Unified School District in 1997-98. This figure was lower than in all comparison areas.

- Between the 1991-92 and 1997-98 school years, private school enrollment in the Long Beach Unified School District decreased from 9.1% to 7.9% of total enrollment.

**Limitations of the Data:** Because tuition costs are a factor in making the choice between private and public education, family income may also be a factor in choosing private over public education.

---

**Figure 1:** Private School Enrollment as a Percent of Total Enrollment, 1991-92 to 1997-98

**Table 1:** Public and Private School Percent of Total Enrollment, 1991-92 to 1997-98

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Long Beach Unified School District</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>Knight Community Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>89.3%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>90.4%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: County data employed for private school enrollment (except Long Beach and Gary), school district data used for public school enrollment.

Knight Community Average: Grand Forks, ND lacks data for public school enrollment for 1995-96. Therefore, average calculations for that year are based on 25, rather than 26, communities.
Indicator Description: In-state students as a percent of the freshman class in undergraduate institutions within the community.

Why This Is Important: Education beyond high school is becoming more of a necessity toward attaining career goals, and the percent of graduating high school seniors from the community attending college in the area demonstrates affordability and the degree that local institutions are helping students meet their goals. While it is difficult to determine the degree to which graduating high school seniors go on to college, the percent of in-state freshman at institutions of higher education within the community can be used as a proxy, although it does include state residents from outside the community.

Key Findings:

- More than nine in ten members of the freshman class enrolled at postsecondary institutions in Los Angeles County (91.8%) were in-state residents in 1996. This figure was higher than in the U.S. (82.9%) and the Knight communities (82.1%), but lower than in California (93.7%).

- Between 1992 and 1996, the percent of the freshman class at postsecondary institutions in Los Angeles County which was from in-state increased by 2.4 percentage points, from 89.4% to 91.8%. The increase in Los Angeles County was larger than in California (0.6 percentage points) and the Knight communities (0.6), and stood in contrast to a decrease in the U.S. (0.5).

Limitations of the Data: Not all institutions report enrollment figures regularly. This may cause some variation in enrollment percentages over time.

Figure 1: In-State Students as a Percent of the Freshman Class, 1992, 1994, and 1996

Sources: National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System data sets. For more information see http://nces.ed.gov/Ipeds/fallenrollment.html.

Note: In-state freshmen includes only first time degree-seeking freshmen. Out-of-state freshmen include residents of the U.S. territories and non-U.S. citizens. Figures exclude institutions which offer less than 2 year programs. The U.S. total does not include U.S. territories outside of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Knight Community Average: Knight Community Average calculated using Gary, Los Angeles County and 22 counties excluding Harrison County. Additionally, 1992 excludes Centre County. 1994 excludes Horry County and 1996 excludes Ramsey County.
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Education and Literacy

Financial and Human Resources
**Per Pupil Expenditures**

**Indicator Description:** Expenditures per pupil defined and computed based on the methodology used by the individual district and state.

**Why This Is Important:** Per pupil expenditures are one measure of a community’s ability and willingness to invest in education. Most K-12 school funds come from state aid and local taxation, with many states having sought in the recent past to ease the pressure on local property taxes by providing more aid from state sources. The level of per pupil expenditures can also be a proxy for the quality of school programs; school districts that spend at higher levels may have the opportunity to enhance or initiate programs that lower-spending districts cannot.

**Key Findings:**

- In the 1997-98 school year, the Long Beach Unified School District spent $4,808 per student (in average daily attendance) for current expenses. Long Beach spent slightly less than the California average of $4,938.

- Between the 1992-93 and 1997-98 school years, the Long Beach Unified School District increased its spending per student for instruction by $644 (from $4,164 to $4,808), which was less than the $882 increase (from $4,056 to $4,938) in the California average.

**Limitations of the Data:** Expenditure figures used here are not adjusted for differences in the cost of education across different states and school districts, nor for differing levels of student educational needs. Due to the fact that these variables can have a substantial impact on expenditure levels, comparisons that take them into account are desirable. Due to the variation in expenditures and student count reporting across states, communities are not directly comparable. Expenditures in some states include only instructional expenditures, others include administrative, capital, or other non-instructional expenditures.

**What the People Think:** Increased funding for the local public schools receives strong support from the Long Beach public, even if such an increase means higher local taxes. Two-thirds of Long Beach residents (63%) say that local government spends too little money on the public schools, and 67% are at least somewhat willing to pay higher taxes if the money goes to the school system.
Indicator Description: Average teacher salary, calculated based on the methodology used by the individual school district and state.

Why This Is Important: Average teacher salaries provide one measure of a district’s ability to hire and retain an experienced, qualified teaching force. Factors that influence teacher salary figures include the strength of teachers’ unions, a district’s priority for hiring and retaining teachers, and the cost-of-living in the community.

Key Findings:

- The average teacher salary in the Long Beach Unified School District in 1997-98 was $45,064. This amount was higher than salaries in all comparison areas.

- Between the 1991-92 and 1998-99 school years, average teacher salaries in the Long Beach Unified School District increased 11.1%. This increase was lower than the increase in California (11.6%) and the U.S. average (18.9%) over this same period.

Limitations of the Data: Salary figures used here are not adjusted for cost-of-living differences across different geographic areas. This measure also does not take into account the experience level of teachers; if more have been in district for longer periods of time, salaries will be higher, on average, than in districts with less experienced staff. In addition, states and districts in regions where the supply of teachers lags behind demand must often pay comparatively higher salaries to attract and retain them.

What the People Think: Increased funding for the local public schools receives strong support from the Long Beach public, even if such an increase means higher local taxes. Two-thirds of Long Beach residents (63%) say that local government spends too little money on the public schools, and 67% are at least somewhat willing to pay higher taxes if the money goes to the school system.
Teachers with Master’s Degree

Indicator Description: Percent of teachers with a Master’s or higher degree calculated based on the methodology used by the individual school district and state.

Why This Is Important: The level of educational attainment of teachers is one indicator of the potential quality of instruction within a classroom and school district. This indicator is based on the assumption that teachers with more formal education are able to provide a higher quality of instruction than those with less education. Additionally, teacher education levels are significant to districts in a financial sense, as those with higher levels of education generally command higher salaries than their less-educated counterparts.

Key Findings:

• The percent of teachers with master’s degrees or higher in the Long Beach Unified School District in 1998-99 was 29.1%. Long Beach had a smaller share of teachers with master’s degrees or higher than in all comparison areas.

• The 29.1% of teachers in Long Beach with master’s degrees or higher in 1998-99 represents a decrease of 2.3 percentage points from the 1997-98 figure of 31.4%.

Limitations of the Data: Higher levels of teacher education are often used as a measure of the quality of instruction, but this teacher attribute has not been shown to have a consistent relationship with better student achievement. State-level calculations for this indicator vary across states and therefore are not directly comparable.

What the People Think: Increased funding for the local public schools receives strong support from the Long Beach public, even if such an increase means higher local taxes. Two-thirds of Long Beach residents (63%) say that local government spends too little money on the public schools, and 67% are at least somewhat willing to pay higher taxes if the money goes to the school system.
**Indicator Description:** The ratio of total student enrollment to the number of teachers.

**Why This Is Important:** Student-teacher ratios provide one measure of the teaching resources made available to students. They also provide a measure of the workload placed on teaching staff in a district.

**Key Findings:**

- The student-teacher ratio in the Long Beach Unified School District in the 1997-98 academic year was 23.9 students per teacher. This was higher than in all comparison areas.

- Between the 1992-93 and 1997-98 school years, the student-teacher ratio in the Long Beach Unified School District decreased from 25.0 to 23.9.

**Limitations of the Data:** Student-teacher ratios are not equivalent to average class size. Differences in student-teacher ratios are known to exist within schools, depending upon the type of class and the subject area. Special classes for students with disabilities may be small, while classes in other subject areas may be much larger. Additionally, what counts as a “teacher” varies across states and districts (with some counting only full-time teaching staff, and others counting instructional personnel, including aides). Finally, the definition of student-teacher ratios makes no allowances for the number of teachers actually providing instruction at any given time. A school district may have 100 teachers, for example, but only 90 of them may be working directly with students during a given class period.

**What the People Think:** Increased funding for the local public schools receives strong support from the Long Beach public, even if such an increase means higher local taxes. Two-thirds of Long Beach residents (63%) say that local government spends too little money on the public schools, and 67% are at least somewhat willing to pay higher taxes if the money goes to the school system.
Indicator Description: The percent of district revenues that come from federal, state, and local sources.

Why This Is Important: The relative wealth of a school district has historically been associated with higher shares of revenue from local sources. Districts which fund a large percentage of their expenditures through local revenues are typically able to spend more per pupil, and have greater discretion in allocating these revenues than districts which are more reliant upon state and federal funding. An analysis of a district’s sources of revenue also provides a measure of the local effort that the taxpayers in a district have made in support of their schools.

Key Findings:

- In the 1997-98 school year, the Long Beach Unified School District received 23.9% of its revenues from local sources. Long Beach schools received a smaller share of revenues from local sources than the California average of 32.1%.

- Between the 1991-92 and 1997-98 school years, revenues from local sources in the Long Beach Unified School District increased from 14.4% to 23.9%.

Limitations of the Data: None.

What the People Think: Increased funding for the local public schools receives strong support from the Long Beach public, even if such an increase means higher local taxes. Two-thirds of Long Beach residents (63%) say that local government spends too little money on the public schools, and 67% are at least somewhat willing to pay higher taxes if the money goes to the school system.


Note: Percent from "local and intermediate" (including private) sources. "state aid" + "other state revenue" + "lottery".

Knight Community Average: No Knight community average calculated for years in which data from fewer than 17 districts are available. Harrison County excluded from all Knight community averages.
Education and Literacy

Student Achievement and System Outcomes
**Indicator Description:** Scores on state standardized test of third-grade (or the next closest grade) reading and math, calculated based on the methodology used by the individual school district and state.

**Why This Is Important:** Third-grade reading test results are generally among the first assessments of a student’s progress in elementary school. The ability to read at grade level by third grade is considered a prerequisite for the future school success of all students, and schools and districts across the country have made it a priority to identify children who have fallen behind this important benchmark of achievement.

**Key Findings:**

- Third-grade students in the Long Beach Unified School District scored at the 32nd national percentile on the reading component of the Stanford 9 comprehensive test in 1998-99. The district had a lower national percentile score in reading than the California score of 41.

- Long Beach’s district-to-state performance ratio of 0.78 in third-grade reading in 1998-99 ranked it 21st among the 26 Knight community school districts.

- The national percentile score of third-grade students in Long Beach in reading rose between the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years, from 28 to 32.

- Third-graders in the Long Beach Unified School District had a national percentile score of 46 on the math component of the Stanford 9 comprehensive test in 1998-99. The district had a slightly lower national percentile score in math than the California score of 48.

- Long Beach’s district-to-state performance ratio of 0.96 in third-grade math in 1998-99 ranked it 15th among the 26 Knight community school districts.

- The national percentile score of third-grade students in Long Beach in math rose between the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years, from 36 to 46.

**Limitations of the Data:** Because many tests used by each state (and sometimes each district) are specific to that state and/or district, results often cannot be compared.

---

**Table 1: Ratio of District to State Performance on Standardized Tests of Third-Grade Reading and Math, 1998-99**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District to State Ratio</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State Standardized Tests – Eighth-Grade Reading and Math**

**Indicator Description:** Scores on state standardized test of eighth-grade (or next closest grade) reading and math, calculated based on the methodology used by the individual school district and state.

**Why This Is Important:** Tests in eighth-grade reading and math provide an important means of tracking the progress of students in accordance with learning objectives that have been identified as critical to the academic development of each student.

**Key Findings:**

- Eighth-grade students in the Long Beach Unified School District scored at the 37th national percentile on the reading component of the Stanford 9 comprehensive test in 1998-99. The district had a lower national percentile score in reading than the California score of 47.

- Long Beach’s district-to-state performance ratio of 0.79 in eighth-grade reading in 1998-99 ranked it 20th among the 26 Knight community school districts.

- The national percentile score of eighth-grade students in Long Beach in reading fell slightly between the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years, from 38 to 37.

- Eighth-graders in the Long Beach Unified School District had a national percentile score of 35 on the math component of the Stanford 9 comprehensive test in 1998-99. The district had a lower national percentile score in math than the California score of 45.

- Long Beach’s district-to-state performance ratio of 0.78 in eighth-grade math in 1998-99 ranked it 18th among the 26 Knight community school districts.

- The national percentile score of eighth-grade students in Long Beach in math rose slightly between the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years, from 34 to 35.

**Limitations of the Data:** Because many tests used by each state (and sometimes each district) are specific to that state and/or district, results often cannot be compared.

---

**Figure 1: State Standardized Tests – Eighth-Grade Reading and Math, 1997-98 and 1998-99**

Long Beach Unified SD | California
---|---
Reading | Math | Reading | Math
1997-98 | 38.0% | 46.0% | 34.0% | 42.0%
1998-99 | 35.0% | 47.0% | 37.0% | 45.0%

---

**Table 1: Ratio of District to State Performance on Standardized Tests of Eighth-Grade Reading and Math, 1998-99**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District to State</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://star.cde.ca.gov/star99/reports/English.html](http://star.cde.ca.gov/star99/reports/English.html)

*Note: Percent of eighth-grade students scoring at or above 50th national percentile ranking on Stanford 9 reading and math.*
Indicator Description: Scores on state standardized test of tenth-grade (or the next closest grade) reading and math calculated based on the methodology used by the individual school district and state.

Why This Is Important: Tests in tenth-grade reading and math provide an important means of tracking the progress of students in accordance with learning objectives that have been identified as critical to the academic development of each student.

Key Findings:

- Tenth-grade students in the Long Beach Unified School District scored at the 27th national percentile on the reading component of the Stanford 9 comprehensive test in 1998-99. The district had a lower national percentile score in reading than the California score of 33.

- Long Beach's district-to-state performance ratio of 0.82 in tenth-grade reading in 1998-99 ranked it 18th among the 26 Knight community school districts.

- The national percentile score of tenth-grade students in Long Beach in reading remained constant between the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years, at 27.

- Tenth graders in the Long Beach Unified School District had a national percentile score of 38 on the math component of the Stanford 9 comprehensive test in 1998-99. The district had a lower national percentile score in math than the California score of 44.

- Long Beach's district-to-state performance ratio of 0.86 in tenth-grade math in 1998-99 ranked it tied for 15th among the 26 Knight community school districts.

- The national percentile score of tenth-grade students in Long Beach in math rose slightly between the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years, from 37 to 38.

Limitations of the Data: Because many tests used by each state (and sometimes each district) are specific to that state and/or district, results often cannot be compared.
Indicator Description: Attendance rate of public school students calculated based on the methodology used by the individual school district and state.

Why This Is Important: Regular attendance is strongly correlated with academic performance, and students who perform poorly are generally those who miss many days of school. Low rates of attendance may indicate the need for truancy prevention and other attendance-monitoring programs.

Key Findings:

- The attendance rate for the Long Beach Unified School District was 98.2% in 1997-98.
- Between the 1992-93 and 1995-96 school years, the attendance rate in the Long Beach Unified School District was slightly higher than the California average.
- The ratio of the attendance rate in Long Beach to that in California in 1995-96 (1.01) ranked the district tied for 3rd among the 17 Knight districts for which attendance rate data were available.

Limitations of the Data: Attendance rates reported by states and school districts are calculated in a number of different ways, and these differences may limit the comparability of data across communities.

Table 1: Ratio of District to State Attendance Rates, 1995-96

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District to State</th>
<th>1995-96*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>3 (T)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*Note: Average daily attendance (ADA) divided by fall enrollment count; California figures are not comparable to those of other states because California’s attendance figures include excused absences.

Knight Community Average: No Knight community average has been calculated due to the multiple methods of measuring attendance rates. District-to-state ratios have been calculated for comparison purposes instead.
**SAT Performance**

**Indicator Description:** Composite scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

**Why This Is Important:** SAT and ACT scores are one of the many and varied benchmarks used to assess school and student performance. They are primarily intended as a predictor of the ability of high school students to do college-level work, rather than as a measure of the performance of an entire school or district. These scores do, however, provide one means of comparing the performance of districts across time and location with respect to one of their most important objectives (preparing students for college).

**Key Findings:**
- The average composite SAT score in the Long Beach Unified School District in 1997-98 was 957. Long Beach’s composite score in 1997-98 was below the California (1007), U.S. (1017), and Knight community (980) averages.
- The Long Beach Unified School District’s composite SAT score of 957 in 1997-98 represented a gain of 6 points from its 1990-91 score of 951.

**Limitations of the Data:** The SAT and ACT are intended to serve as one measure of the ability of individual students to do college-level work, and are not specifically intended for use in evaluating school performance or making comparisons between schools and districts. SAT and ACT scores are known to be influenced by a number of characteristics, including the number of students taking the test and the percentage of students who are low-income and limited English proficient (LEP). In addition, care should be exercised when comparing SAT scores over time, as some reported scores were “re-centered” starting in 1995. This means that a large gain or drop in test scores between two years may be due to a new scoring system rather than actual differences in student performance. Districts and states generally report re-centered scores in one of two ways: with all scores for all years re-centered, or with scores after a certain year re-centered.

**What the People Think:** Long Beach residents’ opinions about the local public schools are mixed. One-half rate the overall job performance of their local public schools as either good (39%) or excellent (11%); smaller numbers say that the schools do only a fair (23%) or a poor job (8%). At the same time, however, six in ten indicate that the quality of education provided by the public schools is a problem in their community, with 31% of residents regarding it as a big problem. Ten percent of residents cite the quality of public school education as the most important community problem, after crime, drugs, or violence.

---

**Table 1: Composite SAT Scores, 1990-91 to 1997-98**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unified SD</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>1,001</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>1,007</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>999</td>
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<td>1,003</td>
<td>1,003</td>
<td>1,010</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>1,016</td>
<td>1,017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.cde.ca.gov/ope/epic/sat10 and U.S. scores from the College Board.

Note: Seven Knight districts (Wichita, Fayette County, Duluth, St. Paul, Biloxi, Grand Forks, and Aberdeen) are in states where the ACT, rather than the SAT, is the primary test for college-bound students. In these districts (and states), ACT scores have been converted to SAT using a scale developed by the College Board.

Knight Community Average: No Knight community average is calculated for years in which data for 17 Knight districts or fewer is available.
Indicator Description: Student dropout rate calculated based on the methodology used by the individual school district and state.

Why This Is Important: Completion of at least a high school education is a prerequisite to future success in employment. The rate at which students drop out of school, therefore, is one way to measure a school’s performance in this critical area; a high dropout rate may indicate the need for special programs for dropout prevention.

Key Findings:

- The dropout rate for grades 9-12 in the Long Beach Unified School District was 3.8% in 1997-98.

- Between the 1991-92 and 1997-98 school years, the dropout rate in the Long Beach Unified School District was higher than the California average.

- The ratio of the dropout rate in Long Beach to that in California in 1997-98 (1.31) ranked the district 14th among the 25 Knight districts for which dropout data were available.

Limitations of the Data: Schools and districts collect and report dropout rates based upon a variety of different definitions and collection methods. Therefore, it is difficult to compare dropout rates across states and districts.

What the People Think: Long Beach residents’ opinions about the local public schools are mixed. One-half rate the overall job performance of their local public schools as either good (39%) or excellent (11%); smaller numbers say that the schools do only a fair (23%) or a poor job (8%). At the same time, however, six in ten indicate that the quality of education provided by the public schools is a problem in their community, with 31% of residents regarding it as a big problem. Ten percent of residents cite the quality of public school education as the most important community problem, after crime, drugs, or violence.
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Graduation Rate

Indicator Description: Rate of student graduation from public schools based on the methodology used by the individual district or state.

Why This Is Important: The number of students who graduate from high school in a timely manner (generally in a four-year period) provides an important indicator of school and district performance.

Key Findings:

- The four-year graduation rate in the Long Beach Unified School District was 84.7% in the 1997-98 school year.

- Between the 1991-92 and 1997-98 school years, the graduation rate in the Long Beach Unified School District was below the California average.

- The ratio of the graduation rate in Long Beach to that in California in the 1997-98 school year (0.96) ranked the district 16th among the 24 Knight districts for which graduation data were available.

Limitations of the Data: Graduation rates are calculated by states and districts in a number of different ways, which may cause comparability problems across communities.

What the People Think: Long Beach residents’ opinions about the local public schools are mixed. One-half rate the overall job performance of their local public schools as either good (39%) or excellent (11%); smaller numbers say that the schools do only a fair (23%) or a poor job (8%). At the same time, however, six in ten indicate that the quality of education provided by the public schools is a problem in their community, with 31% of residents regarding it as a big problem. Ten percent of residents cite the quality of public school education as the most important community problem, after crime, drugs, or violence.

Table 1: Ratio of District to State Graduation Rates, 1997-98

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District to State Ratio</th>
<th>1997-98</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.cde.ca.gov/demographics/reports/statewide/ethgrate.htm.
Note: 4-year derived graduation rate: the estimated percentage of students who will drop out in a 4-year period, subtracted from 100.
Knight Community Average: No Knight community average has been calculated due to the many different methods of measuring graduation rates. District-to-state ratios have been calculated for comparison purposes instead.
Education and Literacy

Community Literacy
**Indicator Description:** Estimated percent of adults (ages 16 and over) with low levels of literacy, based on Portland State University estimates using the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS) and 1990 U.S. Census data. Adults at Level One literacy can perform many tasks involving simple texts and documents, but display difficulty using certain reading, writing, and computational skills considered necessary for functioning in everyday life.

**Why This Is Important:** Estimates of adult literacy provide some indication of the ability of a community’s adult population to perform important functions in their own lives and of those around them, such as reading to their children, becoming effective consumers, and participating in an increasingly technical workforce. Communities with high levels of adult literacy will generally have well-educated and highly employable citizens, which has positive effects on the educational performance of children and the ability of a community to attract and retain businesses.

**Key Findings:**

- **The estimated level of adults at the lowest literacy level in Long Beach was 28% in 1990. The level in Long Beach was slightly higher than in all comparison areas.**

**Limitations of the Data:** NALS data do not permit estimates of literacy below the national level; thus, the estimate here is based on demographic characteristics of a community (including levels of adult educational attainment, poverty rates, and residents who do not speak English).

**What the People Think:** Community literacy is an issue of concern for Long Beach residents. Two-thirds of residents (66%) say that illiteracy is a problem in their community, with one-third (36%) saying that this is a big problem.

Source: [www.nifl.gov/reders/faq.htm](http://www.nifl.gov/reders/faq.htm)

Note: These are “synthetic estimates” of adult literacy which combine information from the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS) and the 1990 U.S. Census to estimate adult literacy levels in areas not adequately sampled by NALS. Estimates were derived by Stephen Reder of Portland State University using adult demographic characteristics, level of education, ability to speak English, and other related variables. More detailed information is available at [www.nifl.gov/reders/faq.htm](http://www.nifl.gov/reders/faq.htm).

Knight Community Average: 24 counties plus cities of Long Beach and Gary.
**Indicator Description:** Total annual library visits and total annual circulation transactions per resident.

**Why This Is Important:** In addition to serving as one measure of community literacy, the use of public library facilities and materials provides one indicator of a community’s access to and use of information resources.

**Key Findings:**

- *The number of library visits per person at the Long Beach Public Library in 1996 was 2.9. This figure was below the Knight community average of 4.4 visits per person.*

- *Between 1992 and 1996, the number of library visits per person in the Long Beach library system increased from 1.4 to 2.9. Figures for both years were below the Knight community averages of 4.0 and 4.4, respectively.*

- *The total number of library circulation transactions per person at the Long Beach Public Library in 1996 was 5.8. This was below the Knight community average of 7.6.*

- *Between 1990 and 1996, the number of circulation transactions per person in the Long Beach library system decreased from 6.5 to 5.8. The 1990 figure was equal to the Knight community average, while the 1996 figure was below the Knight community average of 7.6.*

**Limitations of the Data:** These figures are based on actual numbers of library transactions and visits, and can thus provide only an estimated number of visits and transactions per person. Some library patrons use services regularly, but many use them either less frequently or not at all. In addition, these figures may show substantial fluctuation from year to year that may be due to closing or expansion of library facilities, or to other factors that may not necessarily be related to people’s demand for library resources. In these cases, comparisons should be made with caution.
Public Library Usage - Children

Indicator Description: Total annual library attendance per child age 0-17 (at all programs intended primarily for children), and total annual circulation of all public library children’s materials per child.

Why This Is Important: In addition to serving as one measure of community literacy, the use of public library facilities and materials provides one indicator of a community’s access to and use of information resources.

Key Findings:
- The number of library visits per child to the Long Beach Public Library in 1996 was 0.7. This figure was below the Knight community average of 1.3 visits per child.
- Between 1992 and 1996, the number of library visits per child in the Long Beach library system declined from 0.9 to 0.7. The 1992 figure was slightly above the Knight community average of 0.8, while the 1996 figure was below the Knight community average of 1.3.
- The total number of children’s library circulation transactions per child at the Long Beach Public Library in 1996 was 8.8. This was below the Knight community average of 12.9.
- Between 1992 and 1996, the number of children’s transactions per child in the Long Beach library system decreased from 9.2 to 8.8. Figures for both years were below the Knight community averages of 13.4 and 12.9, respectively.

Limitations of the Data: These figures are based on actual numbers of library transactions and visits, and can thus provide only an estimated number of visits and transactions per person. Some library patrons use services regularly, but many use them either less frequently or not at all. In addition, these figures may show substantial fluctuation from year to year that may be due to closing or expansion of library facilities, or to other factors that may not necessarily be related to people’s demands for library resources. In these cases, comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics “Public Libraries Survey”.

Note: To calculate the children’s visits and children’s transactions per capita, estimates and projections of the population age 0-17 in 1996 were used. For libraries which operate at the county level, estimates of the population age 0-17 in 1996 are available from the Census Bureau and are used. For libraries operating at the city level, a projected number of residents age 0-17 was derived using the 1990 ratio of residents age 0-17 in the city to that in the county.

Knight Community Average: No Knight community average is calculated for years in which data for 17 Knight community libraries or fewer are available.
**Indicator Description:** The percent of all households, by county, which are "covered" by newspaper circulation (including home delivery and all paid sales) for all newspapers with a circulation of at least 100. "Combined daily" circulation figures are for morning and evening newspapers together. Household "coverage" figures for each county are calculated by dividing circulation figures for each newspaper by the number of households in the county, and then aggregating the percentage of household coverage for all newspapers in the county.

**Why This Is Important:** Newspaper readership data provide one indicator of the level of literacy in a community, as well as the extent to which its residents are informed about local, regional, state, national, and international events.

**Key Findings:**

- The percent of households “covered” by combined daily newspaper circulation in Los Angeles County was 42.4% in September 1999. Los Angeles County had lower household coverage for daily circulation than all comparison areas.
- Between 1990 and 1999, the percent of households in Los Angeles County covered by combined daily circulation declined 6.4%. This decline was smaller than the decline in daily circulation in all comparison areas.

**Limitations of the Data:** This database counts only newspapers with home delivery or paid sales of 100 or more. As such, it cannot provide information on papers with smaller circulation levels or which are read in a non-paid format (such as over the Internet). In addition, these data do not provide detailed information about possible “double-counting” of circulation figures (e.g. it is possible for a county to have more than 100% coverage, as households can subscribe to more than one newspaper; similarly, a 30% coverage rate for a county may mean that 30% of the households read one newspaper each, 15% of the households read 2 papers each, etc.) Finally, care should be exercised when making comparisons between communities and making inferences about literacy levels; a low level of newspaper coverage in a county may be an issue of access rather than one of demand (e.g. a low coverage rate may indicate that few or no newspapers are available for purchase or delivery, rather than a lack of interest in newspapers or a low level of community literacy).

**What the People Think:** Six in ten Long Beach residents (62%) read a local daily newspaper at least a few times a week, and about the same number (60%) believe most or all of what their local daily newspaper says. Newspaper journalism is thus more trusted in Long Beach than TV news, of which far more people watch regularly (82%), but a slightly lower percentage actually trust most or all of the time (56%).
Community Development and Homelessness
Community Development and Homelessness

What the People Think

- Seven in ten Long Beach residents (69%) say that a lack of affordable housing is a problem in their community, including one-third (36%) who deem it a big problem.

- Residents of Long Beach are divided about the importance of abandoned or run-down buildings in their community. Although 40% do not consider this a problem, 20% see abandoned or run-down buildings as a big problem in their community.

- Most Long Beach residents (89%) feel safe from crime in their homes at night. Fewer say that they feel very safe or somewhat safe walking in their neighborhood after dark (69%) or when downtown at night (55%). While many residents personally feel safe from crime, eight in ten (82%) note that crime, drugs, or violence is a problem in their community, including one-half (47%) who say this is a big problem. Far more people (22%) cited crime, drugs, or violence as the most important community problem than any other.
Community Development and Homelessness

Housing Affordability
**Median Housing Value**

**Indicator Description:** Median value of owner-occupied, year-round housing units in 1980 and 1990.

**Why This Is Important:** This indicator provides some sense of the overall value of the housing stock in a given area. High median value of housing generally indicates an affluent community and a high cost of living, which create substantial barriers to people of lower income levels who seek to become homeowners. Additionally, since property taxes often provide revenue to support the school district and other local government, housing values provide one measure of a community’s ability to support education and the local government.

**Key Findings:**

- **In 1990, the median housing value in Long Beach was $221,000. The median housing value was slightly lower in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County ($223,800), but substantially higher than in all other comparison areas.**

- **The median housing value in Long Beach increased by 169.8% between 1980 and 1990. The increase in Long Beach was considerably larger than the increases in all comparison areas.**

**Limitations of the Data:** Median housing values collected by the U.S. Census Bureau date back to 1990, and significant changes in local market values may have occurred since that time. As a median figure, this indicator also does not provide an indication of the distribution of housing values in a given community.

**What the People Think:** Seven in ten Long Beach residents (69%) say that a lack of affordable housing is a problem in their community, including one-third (36%) who deem it a big problem.

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**Community Development and Homelessness**

**Figure 1: Median Value of Owner-Occupied, Year-Round Housing Units, 1980 and 1990**

**Table 1: Median Housing Value, 1980 and 1990**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>$81,900</td>
<td>$221,000</td>
<td>169.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>$87,400</td>
<td>$223,800</td>
<td>156.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>$84,500</td>
<td>$194,300</td>
<td>129.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>$47,200</td>
<td>$78,500</td>
<td>66.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>$47,200</td>
<td>$80,500</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Knight Community Average: Averages use 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Monthly Income Spent on Housing

**Indicator Description:** There are two measures of income spent on housing. The first is the median selected monthly housing costs, including mortgage, as a percent of household income. The second is the median gross rent as a percent of household income.

**Why This Is Important:** Housing and rental costs are perhaps the largest single expenditure for most people. High housing and rental prices would mean less income for other expenditures in the community. This can have a significant impact on the economy. In the long term, high costs may either stimulate higher salaries or cause lower-income people to move to less expensive areas.

**Key Findings:**

- **In 1990,** homeownership costs averaged 25.1% of household income in Long Beach. Homeownership costs as a percent of income were slightly lower in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County (25.2%), but higher than in all comparison areas.

- **In 1990,** the median gross rent averaged 30.0% of household income in Long Beach. Rent as a percent of income was higher in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.

**Limitations of the Data:** The most current information available for comparison between communities, states, and the U.S. is from 1990.

In all communities, renters spent a greater percent of their income on housing than did homeowners. However, these two figures are not directly comparable because gross rent, unlike selected monthly housing costs, does not include utilities.

**What the People Think:** Seven in ten Long Beach residents (69%) say that a lack of affordable housing is a problem in their community, including one-third (36%) who deem it a big problem.

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Community Development and Homelessness

**Figure 1: Median Gross Rent as a Percent of Household Income, 1990**

- Long Beach: 30.0%
- Los Angeles County: 29.5%
- California: 29.1%
- U.S.: 26.4%
- Knight Community Average: 27.2%

**Figure 2: Median Selected Monthly Housing Costs * as a Percent of Household Income, 1990**

- Long Beach: 25.1%
- Los Angeles County: 25.2%
- California: 24.9%
- U.S.: 21.0%
- Knight Community Average: 20.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990.

* Note: Selected monthly housing costs include: mortgage, utilities (water and sewer, electricity, gas, and other fuels), real estate taxes, insurance, and condominium or mobile home fees where applicable.

Knight Community Average: Averages use 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Indicator Description: Percent of total owner-occupied housing units valued within the identified price ranges in 1990.

Why This Is Important: This indicator shows the overall affordability of housing in a community or area. Since housing costs are a major component of personal expenditures, the relative differences between communities and areas can also show basic cost-of-living differences.

Key Findings:

- In 1990, nearly six of ten homes in Long Beach (59.8%) were valued at $200,000 and over. The proportion of expensive homes was substantially higher in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.

- Just under one-twentieth of the homes in Long Beach (4.9%) were valued at less than $100,000 in 1990. The proportion of relatively inexpensive homes was much lower in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: The most current information available for comparison between communities, states, and the U.S. is from 1990.

What the People Think: Seven in ten Long Beach residents (69%) say that a lack of affordable housing is a problem in their community, including one-third (36%) who deem it a big problem.

Figure 1: Range of Owner-Occupied Housing Unit Values, 1990

Table 1: Range of Owner-Occupied Housing Unit Values, 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>$0-$49,999</th>
<th>$50,000-$99,999</th>
<th>$100,000-$199,999</th>
<th>$200,000 and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990.

Knight Community Average: Averages use 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Range of Rental Market Rates

Indicator Description: Percent of total non-commercial rental properties with monthly rental rates in the identified rental ranges for 1980 and 1990.

Why This Is Important: This indicator shows the overall affordability of living in a community or area. Since housing costs are a major component of personal expenditures, the relative differences between communities and areas can also show basic cost-of-living differences.

Key Findings:

- **In 1990, just under seven in ten rental homes in Long Beach (69.3%) were priced at $500 or more a month.** The percent of rental homes in this price range was smaller in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County (71.6%), but larger than in California (68.1%), the U.S. (39.2%), and the Knight communities (32.2%).

- **Rental rates in Long Beach increased considerably between 1980 and 1990.** The proportion of rentals priced at $500 a month or greater increased by 64.0 percentage points (from 5.3% to 69.3%). The increase in Long Beach over this time period was larger than the increases in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: The most current information available for comparison between communities, states, and the U.S. is from 1990.

What the People Think: Seven in ten Long Beach residents (69%) say that a lack of affordable housing is a problem in their community, including one-third (36%) who deem it a big problem.

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**Figure 1: Range of Monthly Rental Market Rates, 1990**

**Table 1: Range of Monthly Rental Market Rates, 1980 and 1990**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Long Beach</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>69.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Knight Community Average: Averages use 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Community Development and Homelessness

Housing Stock
Indicator Description: Percent of total housing units in an area built in selected years.

Why This Is Important: This indicator shows the relative age of available housing but also shows a historical perspective of community growth. Areas with relatively higher percentages of newer housing stock have experienced more recent growth than areas with primarily older homes.

Key Findings:
- Nearly four in ten housing units in Long Beach (38.7%) were more than 40 years old in 1990. Long Beach had a substantially larger share of older housing units than all comparison areas.
- Less than one-tenth of all housing units in Long Beach (8.8%) were built between 1985 and 1990. Long Beach had a smaller share of newer housing units than all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: The most current information available for comparison between communities, states, and the U.S. is from 1990.

Table 1: Percent of Total Housing Units Built in Selected Years, 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990.

Knight Community Average: Averages use 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
New Home Construction: Building Permits

**Indicator Description:** There are two measures of new home construction. The first is 1992 private housing units authorized by building permit as a percent of 1990 housing stock. The second is the percent change in private housing units authorized by building permit between 1981 and 1992.

**Why This Is Important:** The number of new building permits as a percent of the total housing stock is one measure of the change which is occurring in a community – either in total population, personal income, or both. As such, it serves as one measure of the overall economic health of a community. Since this indicator is based on the relative size of the area, it is comparable across communities. Percent change in building permits over time shows whether the housing sector is growing or declining, and is a relative measure of the strength of the economy.

**Key Findings:**

- **In 1992, new building permits accounted for 1.1% of the 1990 housing stock in Long Beach. The percent of new building permits was lower in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.**

- **The number of new building permits in Long Beach decreased by 83.0% between 1981 and 1992. The decrease in Long Beach was much larger than the decreases in Los Angeles County (-43.3%) and California (-6.2%), and in sharp contrast with the increases in new building permits in the U.S. (11.1%) and the Knight communities (49.8%).**

**Limitations of the Data:** None.

**Figure 1: 1992 Private Housing Units Authorized by Building Permit as a Percent of 1990 Housing Stock**

**Figure 2: Percent Change in Private Housing Units Authorized by Building Permit, 1981 to 1992**

*Source: County and City Data Book, 1983 and 1994.*

*Knight Community Average: Averages use 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.*
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Community Development and Homelessness

Housing Stability
Population per Number of Housing Units

Indicator Description: The ratio of total population divided by total number of housing units for 1980 and 1990.

Why This Is Important: This indicator shows the population of the community relative to the available housing of the community or area, which indicates the ability of the community or area to provide for housing needs. An increase in this measure implies that the population is growing faster than the available housing.

Key Findings:

- In 1990, there were 2.5 people per housing unit in Long Beach. The population per housing unit was slightly larger in Long Beach than in the U.S. (2.4) and the Knight communities (2.4), but smaller than in Los Angeles County (2.8) and California (2.7).

- Between 1980 and 1990, the number of people per housing unit in Long Beach increased from 2.3 to 2.5. Over the same period, the population per housing unit also increased in Los Angeles County and California, but declined in the U.S. and the Knight communities.

Limitations of the Data: Changes in population and the number of housing units can affect this measure independently. For example, an increase in the indicator could be a result of increasing population or decreasing housing units or growth in both, with population growing at a higher rate. This measure should therefore be viewed in conjunction with population change.

Housing figures calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau include all housing units in an area, whether currently occupied at the time of the Census or not. Certain areas, such as those with residents who live in a location for only part of the year while maintaining a permanent residence elsewhere, will thus contain many housing units that are normally empty. What this means is that areas with much seasonal housing may allow smaller figures of population per housing unit than might be expected.
Residential Mobility

Indicator Description: Percent of residents age 5 and older who reported living in a different residence in 1980 and 1990 than they did five years earlier.

Why This Is Important: This indicator provides some sense of the level of stability and turnover in a community or area. A low percent of residents who remain in the same residence for five years generally indicates a highly mobile and transient population, and the presence of such a trend may make the development of cohesion in a community more difficult.

Key Findings:

- In 1990, 56.8% of Long Beach residents reported living in a different residence than they did five years before. The share of the population that no longer lived in the same residence was higher in Long Beach than in all comparison areas.

- Between 1980 and 1990, the share of the Long Beach population that lived in a different residence than five years earlier increased by 0.9 percentage points (from 55.9% to 56.8%). The increase in Long Beach was larger than the increase in Los Angeles County and the U.S., and stood in contrast to the decreases in residential mobility in California and the Knight communities.

Limitations of the Data: As with other measures and indicators, this is an imperfect measure of residential turnover and stability. Rates of stability and turnover may be underreported in these figures, as the most mobile and transient residents are less likely to respond to the Census. This indicator also does not capture the mobility that occurs within other institutions (such as schools) in a shorter time span such as a school year.

Table 1: Percent of Residents (Age 5 and Older) Who Reported Living in a Different Residence than Five Years Earlier, 1980 and 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990.

Knight Community Average: Averages use 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
Occupied and Vacant Housing Units

Indicator Description: Percent of year-round housing units that were occupied and vacant in 1980 and 1990.

Why This Is Important: This indicator provides some picture of the condition of the housing stock in a community. High percentages of vacant housing units often indicate a community that has lost population and jobs, and the presence of vacant units creates eyesores in neighborhoods and are frequent targets for vandalism and arson.

Key Findings:

- In 1990, 6.7% of Long Beach housing units were vacant. The share of housing units reported as vacant was larger in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County, but smaller than in all comparison areas.

- Between 1980 and 1990, the share of Long Beach housing units reported as vacant increased by 1.6 percentage points (from 5.1% to 6.7%). The increase in Long Beach was larger than the increases in Los Angeles County, California, and the Knight communities, but smaller than the increase in the U.S.

Limitations of the Data: Vacancy figures calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau show all housing units that are empty at the time of the Census. Units occupied by persons whose usual residence is elsewhere are also considered vacant. What this means is that certain areas, such as those with residents who live in a location for only part of the year while maintaining a permanent residence elsewhere, will show higher vacancy rates than might be expected. Many of these units, particularly in seasonal housing areas, are thus not necessarily “vacant” in the sense of empty, boarded up, or permanently abandoned.

The most current information available for comparison between communities, states, and the U.S. is from 1990.

What the People Think: Residents of Long Beach are divided about the importance of abandoned or run-down buildings in their community. Although 40% do not consider this a problem, 20% see abandoned or run-down buildings as a big problem in their community.

Table 1: Percent of Total Housing Units Occupied and Vacant, 1980 and 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1980 Occupied</th>
<th>1980 Vacant</th>
<th>1990 Occupied</th>
<th>1990 Vacant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>94.9%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>93.0%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>92.8%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Knight Community Average: Averages use 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach.
**Indicator Description:** Percent of all occupied housing units that were owner-occupied and renter-occupied in 1980 and 1990.

**Why This Is Important:** Rate of home ownership is one of the most useful indicators of the stability of a community. High percentages of residents who own the homes they live in generally indicate a stable population that is likely to be more “invested” in the well-being of the neighborhood, whereas a high percentage of renter-occupied housing often indicates a more transient, poorer, and less “invested” population. Home ownership rates also provide a good picture of how affordable the housing in a community is; high rates of renting may indicate a large number of residents who would like – but are unable to afford – to own a home.

**Key Findings:**

- Just over four in ten Long Beach residents (41.0%) owned their own home in 1990. Home ownership in Long Beach was substantially lower than in all comparison areas.

- The percent of Long Beach residents who owned their own home declined by 1.9 percentage points between 1980 and 1990 (from 42.9% to 41.0%). The decline in Long Beach was larger than the declines in all comparison areas.

**Limitations of the Data:** High rates of renter-occupied housing do not by themselves signify populations that are poor and tend not to be “invested” in their neighborhood. In areas where the cost of housing is high, renting may be the only viable housing option for middle- and lower-income residents.

The most current information available for comparison between communities, states, and the U.S. is from 1990.
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Community Development and Homelessness

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
**Violent Crime Index**

**Indicator Description:** The violent crime index is a subgroup of the composite crime index and includes offenses for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)’s serious, violent crimes of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The number of offenses has been converted to a standard violent crime rate of reported offenses per 10,000 population. (Note that in FBI publications, the rates are stated per 100,000 population.)

**Why This Is Important:** The violent crime index is a direct indicator of the level and trends of the most serious, life-threatening offenses.

**Key Findings:**
- In 1997, the number of serious violent crimes reported per 10,000 population in Long Beach was 98.4. The incidence of violent crimes reported was higher in Long Beach than in all comparison areas, except in Los Angeles County (117.0).
- Violent crime per 10,000 population decreased in Long Beach between 1990 and 1997 by 49.7% (from 195.7 to 98.4). The decrease in Long Beach was considerably larger than the decreases in all comparison areas.

**Limitations of the Data:** The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) is a voluntary program, whereby participating law enforcement agencies report incidents of seven selected serious crimes. Local agencies may classify reported crimes differently, causing comparability problems at the community level. This is especially true for violent crime in smaller communities, where the small number of offenses may have a significant effect on crime rates from year to year.

**What the People Think:** Most Long Beach residents (89%) feel safe from crime in their homes at night. Fewer say that they feel very safe or somewhat safe walking in their neighborhood after dark (69%) or when downtown at night (55%). While many residents personally feel safe from crime, eight in ten (82%) note that crime, drugs, or violence is a problem in their community, including one-half (47%) who say this is a big problem. Far more people (22%) cited crime, drugs, or violence as the most important community problem than any other.

---

**Community Development and Homelessness**

**Figure 1: Serious, Violent Crimes Reported per 10,000 Population, 1990 to 1998**

**Table 1: Serious, Violent Crimes Reported per 10,000 Population, 1990 to 1998**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>195.7</td>
<td>212.1</td>
<td>159.2</td>
<td>164.4</td>
<td>146.0</td>
<td>132.4</td>
<td>119.1</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>85.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>175.8</td>
<td>181.8</td>
<td>181.2</td>
<td>169.8</td>
<td>169.1</td>
<td>144.6</td>
<td>131.0</td>
<td>117.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>104.4</td>
<td>109.0</td>
<td>112.0</td>
<td>108.0</td>
<td>101.9</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>70.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>71.6</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>56.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>87.8</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>89.7</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: All city, state, and U.S. figures are from Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reports (UCRs). County figures and certain city figures are from FBI Crime by County reports (unpublished).

Knight Community Average: The counties and cities included in the calculation of the Knight community average vary between 1990 and 1997 depending on the availability of data from the FBI UCRs. For 1990-92, the average uses 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach. For 1993 and 1994, the average uses 22 counties (excluding Sedgwick County, KS, and Baldwin County, GA), Gary, and Long Beach. For 1995, the average uses 23 counties (excluding Sedgwick County, KS), Gary, and Long Beach. For 1996, the average uses 20 counties (excluding Palm Beach, Duval, and Manatee Counties, FL; and Sedgwick County, KS), Gary, and Long Beach. Finally, for 1997, the Knight community average uses 22 counties (excluding Sedgwick County, KS and Summitt County, OH), Gary, and Long Beach.
**Total Crime Index**

**Indicator Description:** The total crime index is the number of reported incidents for seven offenses the FBI has classified as serious crimes. Included in this group are the violent crimes of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Nonviolent, property crimes included are burglary, larceny, and motor-vehicle theft. The number of offenses has been converted to a standard total crime rate of reported offenses per 10,000 population. (Note that in FBI publications, the rates are stated per 100,000 population.)

**Why This Is Important:** This is a direct measure of the level and trend in reported incidents of serious crime in a community and across the state or the U.S. Because the great majority of total offenses are nonviolent, property crimes, the composite index tends to mirror trends in nonviolent offenses.

**Key Findings:**

- In 1997, the total number of crimes reported per 10,000 population in Long Beach was 510.2. The incidence of total crimes reported was higher in Long Beach than in Los Angeles County (488.9), California (487.8) and the U.S. (492.1), but lower than in the Knight communities (652.7).

- The total number of crimes per 10,000 population decreased in Long Beach between 1990 and 1997 by 46.7% (from 957.5 to 510.2). The decrease in Long Beach was considerably larger than the decreases in all comparison areas, but smaller than the decrease in Los Angeles County (-52.7%).

**Limitations of the Data:** The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) is a voluntary program, whereby participating law enforcement agencies report incidents of seven selected serious crimes. Local agencies may classify reported crimes differently, causing comparability problems at the community level.

**What the People Think:** Most Long Beach residents (89%) feel safe from crime in their homes at night. Fewer say that they feel very safe or somewhat safe walking in their neighborhood after dark (69%) or when downtown at night (55%). While many residents personally feel safe from crime, eight in ten (82%) note that crime, drugs, or violence is a problem in their community, including one-half (47%) who say this is a big problem. Far more people (22%) cited crime, drugs, or violence as the most important community problem than any other.

**Community Development and Homelessness**

**Figure 1: Serious Crimes Reported per 10,000 Population, 1990 to 1998**

**Table 1: Serious Crimes Reported per 10,000 Population, 1990 to 1998**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>957.5</td>
<td>922.3</td>
<td>812.3</td>
<td>823.2</td>
<td>776.1</td>
<td>718.3</td>
<td>617.9</td>
<td>510.2</td>
<td>442.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>746.7</td>
<td>771.4</td>
<td>754.8</td>
<td>711.3</td>
<td>654.1</td>
<td>622.9</td>
<td>557.7</td>
<td>488.9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>659.8</td>
<td>677.0</td>
<td>688.2</td>
<td>647.5</td>
<td>620.1</td>
<td>585.3</td>
<td>522.7</td>
<td>487.8</td>
<td>434.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>581.9</td>
<td>589.9</td>
<td>566.2</td>
<td>548.6</td>
<td>537.5</td>
<td>527.7</td>
<td>508.1</td>
<td>492.1</td>
<td>461.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight Community Average</td>
<td>718.0</td>
<td>733.2</td>
<td>700.4</td>
<td>694.4</td>
<td>692.8</td>
<td>681.8</td>
<td>628.9</td>
<td>652.7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: All city, state, and U.S. figures are from FBI UCRs. County figures and certain city figures are from FBI Crime by County reports (unpublished).

Knight Community Average: The counties and cities included in the calculation of the Knight community average vary between 1990 and 1997 depending on the availability of data from the sources. For 1990-92, the average uses 24 counties, Gary, and Long Beach. For 1993 and 1994, the average uses 22 counties (excluding Sedgwick County, KS, and Baldwin County, GA), Gary, and Long Beach. For 1995, the average uses 23 counties (excluding Sedgwick County, KS), Gary, and Long Beach. For 1996, the average uses 20 counties (excluding Palm Beach, Dade, and Manatee Counties, FL, and Sedgwick County, KS), Gary, and Long Beach. Finally, for 1997, the Knight community average uses 22 counties (excluding Sedgwick County, KS and Summit County, OH), Gary, and Long Beach.
Citizenship
Citizenship

What the People Think

- Most Long Beach residents believe they can have a positive effect on their community. One-third (32%) say they can have a big impact in making their community a better place to live, and 42% think they can have a moderate impact. Residents who believe they can have an impact on their community say the most effective ways to do so are to get other people involved (41%) and to volunteer time (36%). A majority of Long Beach residents (60%) volunteered for at least one type of community program or group in the year preceding the interview, and most residents (88%) contributed money or personal belongings to a charitable or other non-profit organization in 1998. Even with these substantial levels of civic engagement, however, three-quarters of residents (76%) say that a lack of involvement in efforts to improve the community is at least a small problem in Long Beach.
Indicator Description: Percent of the voting-age population that is registered to vote.

Why This Is Important: Since voter registration is a necessary step in the voting process, it can be considered a minimal measure of civic-mindedness, even though it does not imply that voting actually occurs. When voter registration is low, this is an effective measure of lack of civic participation. High voter registration may only mean that effective programs are in place to register all eligible voters.

Key Findings:

- In Los Angeles County, the percent of the voting-age population that is registered to vote was 58.0% in 1998. Voter registration in Los Angeles County was higher in 1998 than in 1992 and 1994, but slightly lower than in 1996.

- In 1998, the percent of registered voters was lower in Los Angeles County than in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: In 1994, Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act, which enabled people to register to vote while getting a driver's license or visiting a welfare office. This may have an impact on increases in voter registration after 1995.

Why This Is Important: Voter turnout measures the civic-mindedness of a given population through its willingness to exercise its voting rights. Voters are more likely to be informed, interested or participating at some level in issues related to their voting choices. Turnout in non-presidential election years may better represent local civic participation, since local issues may have greater prominence.

Key Findings:

- In Los Angeles County, the percent of the voting-age population that voted in the 1998 general election was 31.0%. Voter turnout in Los Angeles County was lower in 1998 than in all previous years reported.

- In 1998, voter turnout was lower in Los Angeles County than in all comparison areas.

Limitations of the Data: The National Voter Registration Act of 1994 made it much easier for people to register to vote. As a result, the substantial declines in voter turnout as a percent of registered voters observed in many jurisdictions after 1995 may be attributable to this greater ease of registration.
Arts and Culture
Arts and Culture

What the People Think

- Arts and cultural events are popular in the Long Beach area. Altogether, 79 percent of residents attended at least one type of non-profit arts or cultural event asked about in the survey in the year preceding the interview. More than half say that they visited an art museum or other place that displays art work (58%) or attended a play, dance or other theater performance (55%). Somewhat fewer residents (43%) report that they visited a science or history museum and about three in ten (27%) say they went to hear a symphony orchestra.

- A smaller segment of the Long Beach public supports arts or cultural activities by volunteering or contributing money or personal belongings. One in six residents say that they volunteered for an arts or cultural organization in the 12 months preceding the interview and one in five residents (22%) report that they contributed to such an organization in 1998.

- Just over half (51%) of those surveyed say that not enough arts or cultural activities is a problem in the community.
Number and Percentage of Arts Organizations

**Indicator Description:** The number and percentage of arts organizations in the city by type. The percentage of types of arts organizations compared to the distribution of the state and U.S. overall.

**Why This Is Important:** The number and percentage of arts organizations by type gives an indication of the size and diversity of the arts and culture community in the city. The city profile can be compared to the distribution of organizations in the state and the country.

**Key Findings:**

- **Long Beach has a higher percentage of dance (10%) and other arts and culture (23%) organizations than California (8% and 11%) and the U.S. overall (7% and 6%).**

- **Long Beach has a lower percentage of music (17%), arts education (1%) and historic preservation (3%) organizations than the state (21%, 1.6%, and 5%) and the nation (21%, 2% and 9%).**

- **Long Beach (23%) and California (11%) have a higher percentage of other arts and culture organizations than the U.S. (6%).**

**Limitations of the Data:** The findings here apply to the city boundaries as defined by U.S. Postal Service zip codes. The data contain primarily organizations which registered with the IRS (organizations with $5,000 or more in gross receipts) and organizations which are in contact with their state arts agency. Small and unincorporated organizations are underrepresented by these sources.

Source: The National Center for Charitable Statistics, Unified Database of Arts Organizations, Version 1, 2000. The majority of records are from 1998. The database is a joint project of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the National Center for Charitable Statistics at The Urban Institute. Information from a local source was used to supplement the data for this city.

Note: The Multi-Disciplinary and Arts Service category includes: advocacy, alliance, and arts service organizations; professional societies; guilds; multi-disciplinary performing arts organizations and centers. The Other category includes: technical assistance, fundraising, cultural, crafts, folk arts, media, and humanities organizations; commemorative events; and arts research institutes.

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**Table 1: Number and Percentage of Types of Arts Organizations in the City, circa 1998**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Organization</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Museums and Galleries</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Museums</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary &amp; Arts Service</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Preservation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Arts and Culture</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>193</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1: Percentage of Arts Organizations by Type, circa 1998**
**Size of Arts Organizations**

**Indicator Description:** Percentage of arts organizations grouped by expense level.

**Why This Is Important:** The percentage of arts organizations by expense level indicates the distribution by size in the city relative to the state and the nation. Expenses are selected as the measure of size because they are the best proxy of the size of the current year’s operating budget. The scale of arts organizations is one indicator of a community’s interest, investment, and commitment to arts and culture. The scale also provides some indication of the resources available for the arts.

**Key Findings:**
- **Long Beach closely mirrors both the state and the nation in the percentage of arts organizations that report $100,000 - $499,999 and less than $100,000 in annual expenses.**
- **Long Beach has a higher percentage of organizations with $1 million to $4.99 million dollars in annual expenses (10%) than California (6%) and the U.S. overall (6%).**

**Limitations of the Data:** The findings here apply to the city boundaries as defined by U.S. Postal Service zip codes. Financial data are only available for a subset of arts organizations included in the database (16% of city, 26% of state, and 23% of U.S. arts organizations). Small organizations (less than $25,000 in gross receipts) are not included in the analysis as they are not required to file IRS Forms 990.

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**Figure 2: Percentage of Arts Organizations by Expense Level, circa 1998**

Source: The National Center for Charitable Statistics, Unified Database of Arts Organizations, Version 1, 2000. The majority of records are from 1998. The database is a joint project of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the National Center for Charitable Statistics at The Urban Institute.
**Number of Organizations Compared to Population**

**Indicator Description:** The number of arts organizations per 10,000 residents.

**Why This Is Important:** The number of arts organizations per 10,000 residents provides a measure of the concentration or density of arts organizations in a geographic area. The indicator can be used to identify populations that have less access to arts organizations compared to the state and nation.

**Key Findings:**

- *Long Beach has a higher number of arts organizations per 10,000 residents than the state and the nation for the following categories: other museums (0.1), dance (0.5), music (0.8), multidisciplinary and arts service (1.2) and other arts and culture (1.0).*

- *The density of Long Beach arts organizations is lower than California and the U.S. for only two categories: theater and historic preservation.*

**Limitations of the Data:** The findings here apply to the city boundaries as defined by U.S. Postal Service zip codes. The data contain primarily organizations which registered with the IRS (organizations with $5,000 or more in gross receipts) and organizations which are in contact with their state arts agency. Small and unincorporated organizations are underrepresented in these sources.

**Figure 3: Number of Arts Organizations per 10,000 Residents, circa 1998**

- Art Museums and Galleries
- Other Museums
- Theater
- Dance
- Music
- Arts Education
- Multidisciplinary & Arts Service
- Historic Preservation
- Other Arts and Culture

Source: The National Center for Charitable Statistics, Unified Database of Arts Organizations, Version 1, 2000. The majority of records are from 1998. The database is a joint project of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the National Center for Charitable Statistics at The Urban Institute. For the city, information from a local source was used to supplement the data.

Population figures, U.S. Census Bureau, July 1999 estimates.

Note: The Multi-Disciplinary and Arts Service category includes: advocacy, alliance, and arts service organizations; professional societies; guilds; multi-disciplinary performing arts organizations and centers. The Other category includes: technical assistance, fundraising, cultural, crafts, folk arts, media, and humanities organizations; commemorative events; and arts research institutes.
Assets of Arts Organizations Compared to Population

**Indicator Description:** Assets of arts organizations per capita.

**Why This Is Important:** Assets are the financial holdings of organizations. These holdings include cash, investments, land, buildings, and equipment. Assets per capita provide a standardized measure of the financial base of organizations. The indicator can be compared the state and the nation. A community with high assets per capita tends to have a more stable arts sector.

**Key Findings:**

- The assets per capita of arts organizations in Long Beach ($38) are much lower than in the state ($115) and the nation ($148).

**Limitations of the Data:** The findings here apply to the city boundaries as defined by the U.S. Postal Service zip codes. Financial data are only available for a subset of organizations (16% of city, 26% of state, and 23% of U.S. arts organizations). University affiliated programs/departments are not included because program-level finances are not available. Most museums do not include the value of their collections in their assets figure. The asset figure includes pledges receivable (payments promised by donors but not yet received) which may or may not be adjusted for pledges not honored. Small organizations (less than $25,000 in gross receipts) are not included as they are not required to file IRS Forms 990.
Indicator Description: Percentage of organizations reporting positive net income (surplus) and negative net income (loss) for the year. Median surplus and median deficit. Arts organizations reporting deficits, percentage of small organizations (< $500K in annual expenses).

Why This Is Important: Net income (revenue less expenses) indicates the degree to which organizations were able to cover their expenses with incoming revenue during the past year. The median figures give a sense of the magnitude of surpluses and deficits. Deficits or declines in surplus over a period of years may signal financial trouble. The appropriate size of a surplus is related to a particular organization’s plans for future income, expenditures, capital investment, and growth (Standards for Accounting and Financial Reporting, 1988).

Key Findings

- Two-thirds of the arts organizations in Long Beach report a surplus.

- The median deficit is smaller in Long Beach (-$8,326) than in California (-$9,692) and the U.S. overall (-$9,264).

- Eighty percent of arts organizations reporting a deficit in Long Beach are small organizations (< $500K in annual expenses). This percentage is slightly lower than the percentage of small organizations in the city (83%).

Limitations of the Data: The findings here apply to the city boundaries as defined by the U.S. Postal Service zip codes. Conclusions should not be drawn from one year of data as net income should be viewed over time. The full value of a multi-year grant is reported as revenue in the current fiscal year while related expenses are spread out over the next several years. Financial data are only available for a subset of organizations (16% of city, 26% of state, and 23% of U.S. arts organizations). Small organizations (less than $25,000 in gross receipts) are not included in the analysis as they are not required to file IRS Forms 990.

Table 2: Median Deficit and Surplus, circa 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. Reporting</th>
<th>Median Deficit</th>
<th>No. Reporting</th>
<th>Median Surplus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-$8,326</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$15,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>-$9,692</td>
<td>1,653</td>
<td>$15,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>6,231</td>
<td>-$9,264</td>
<td>12,523</td>
<td>$17,389</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Arts Organizations Reporting Deficits, Percentage of Small Organizations (< $500K in Annual Expenses), circa 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Arts Orgs. Reporting Deficits, Small</th>
<th>Small Orgs. in Database</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The National Center for Charitable Statistics, Unified Database of Arts Organizations, Version 1. 2000. The majority of records are from 1998. The database is a joint project of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the National Center for Charitable Statistics at The Urban Institute.