

COUNTY PROFILE

County Profile

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Demographic Data Taken From OCHNA Survey Results

- ❖ 59.3% of Orange County residents own their homes and 40.7% rent.
- ❖ 56% of Orange County residents are married; 26.3% are single and have never been married. 8.9% of Orange County residents are divorced and 1.5% are cohabiting.
- ❖ 42.6% of Orange County residents have children less than 18 years old living in the household.
- ❖ 25.4% of Orange County residents are college graduates; 29.9% have completed some college work and 18.5% have completed 12th grade or the equivalent. 4.5% of Orange County residents' education does not exceed the eighth grade.
- ❖ 57.1% of Orange County residents are employed for wages; 10.1% are self-employed and 12.5% are retired.
- ❖ 34.9% of Orange County residents' religious affiliation is Catholic; 15.2% claim no religious affiliation.
- ❖ 30.9% of respondents claiming religious affiliation state they are very active in their religious organizations.
- ❖ 28.8% of the Orange County residents earn more than of \$75,000 per year; 20.9% earn \$50,000 to \$74,999 per year; and 16.8% earn less than \$20,000 annually.

Orange County Demographic Data From Secondary Sources

- ❖ Children (up to 14 years of age) comprise 22.5% of the total population.
- ❖ The elderly (older than 65) comprise 9.26% of the total population.
- ❖ The percentage of the population in labor force (15-64 years of age) is 68.2%.
- ❖ The median age is 32.6 years.
- ❖ The unemployment rate in Orange County is 2.6%.
- ❖ The percentage of those aged under 18 and living below the Federal Poverty Guideline (according to 1990 census data) is 11.9%.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Any assessment of a community’s health status must begin with a description of its population, and this is usually accomplished by using the common descriptors: age, sex, and race or ethnicity. Orange County’s population in 1995 (midyear analysis of the secondary data) was 2.6 million people; it is now closer to 2.7 million. Orange County comprises 947.9 square miles and more than 8% of California’s population, making it the third largest California county in terms of population. Orange County is home to almost 1% of the United States overall population.

Orange County and California Race/Ethnicity Distribution

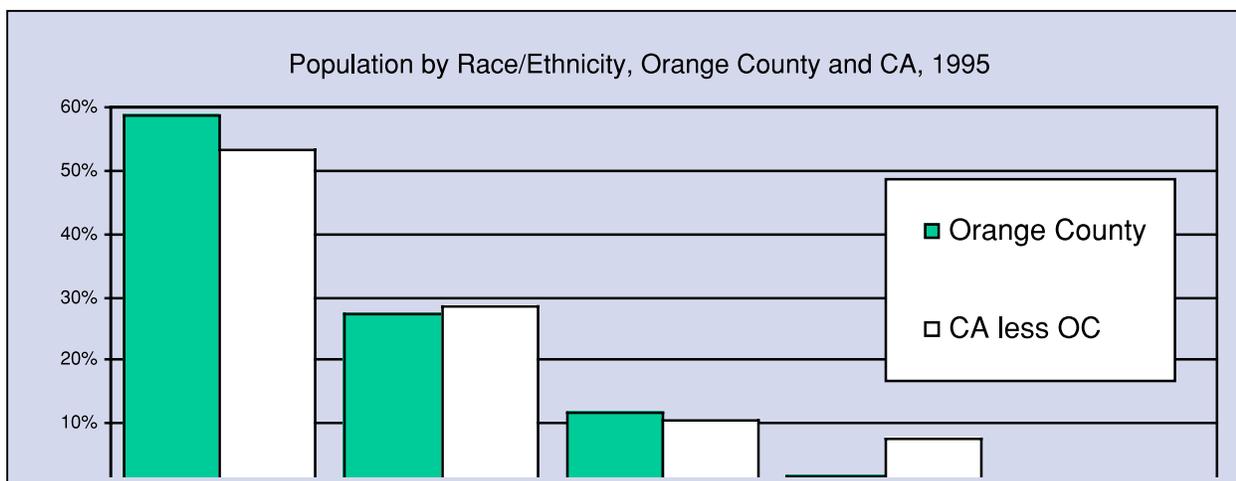
Population Subgroup	Orange County		California (not including Orange County)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
White	1,540,214	59.2	17,180,485	53.6
Latino/Hispanic	699,032	26.9	9,100,994	28.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	299,283	11.5	3,338,262	10.4
Black	47,589	1.8	2,250,502	7.0
American Indians	N/A	N/A	192,669	0.6
Other	15,208	0.6	N/A	N/A
Total	2,601,326	100.0	32,062,912	100.0

Note: California includes "Other" in "white" category while Orange County includes "American Indians" in "other" category.

Analysis of Data

Both California and Orange County have a similar proportion of Latino/Hispanics and Asian/Pacific islanders. Orange County, however, has a higher proportion of whites (59.2% versus California's 53.6%) and lower proportion of blacks (1.8% versus California's 7.0%) in its total population. The percentage of whites in California's population would be lower if the ethnic populations described as "other" was separated from the category labeled white. Orange County has a smaller minority population than California (40.8% versus 46.4%) as seen in the proportion of all ethnic groups versus whites.

A race/ethnicity comparison between Orange County and the U.S. population is not feasible because Latino/Hispanic is not classified separately in U.S. population statistics. Persons of Latino/Hispanic origin (regardless of race) comprised 10.3% of the U.S. population in 1995.



Sources: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1996; California Department of Finance; Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton, January 1, 1995 population estimates.

Orange County and California Population by Age and Sex, 1995

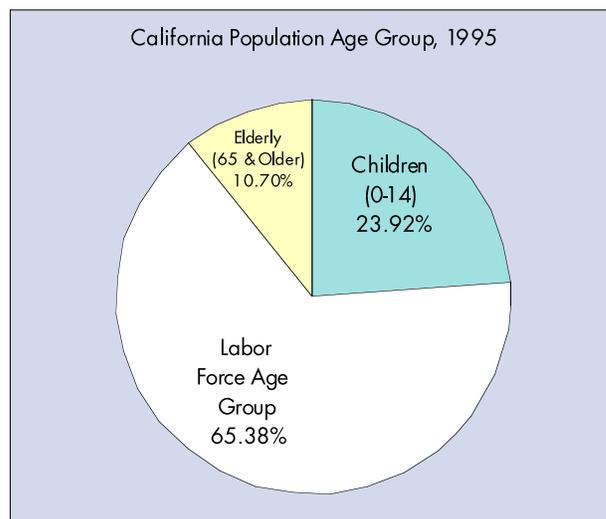
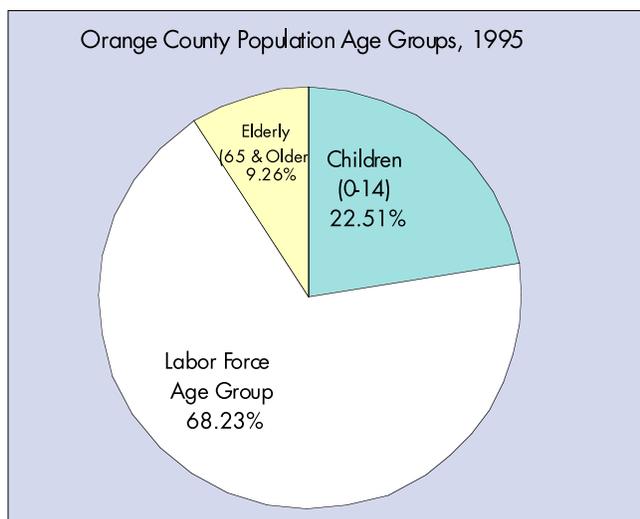
Age Group	Orange County						California Without OC		
	Number			Percentage			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-14	302,011	283,429	585,440	11.61	10.90	22.51	12.24	11.68	23.92
15-64	916,799	858,182	1,774,981	35.24	32.99	68.23	33.40	31.98	65.38
65 +	96,984	143,921	240,905	3.73	5.53	9.26	4.45	6.24	10.70
Total	1,315,794	1,285,532	2,601,326	50.58%	49.42%	100.00	50.10	49.90	100.00

Analysis of data

Summary of Orange County: The proportion of children (aged 0-14) in the total population is 22.51%; elderly (older than 65), 9.26%; and population in the labor force age group (15-64), 68.23%. The median age is 32.6 years.

Summary of California excluding Orange County: The proportion of children (aged 0-14) in the total population is 23.92%; elderly (older than 65), 10.7%; and population in the labor force age group (15-64), 65.38%. The median age is 32.6 years.

Comparison: California (excluding Orange County) had a higher proportion of children and the elderly in the total population than Orange County, and had 3% fewer people in the labor force age group (68.23% versus 65.38%). The median age was the same for California as Orange County in 1995. Orange County's population is more economically active because of its higher proportion of people in the labor force age group.



Sources: California Department of Finance, Center for Demographic Research, CSUF. January 1, 1995 estimates

SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

A socioeconomic profile can provide a picture of the special health service needs of the community. It is also a strong indicator of the overall health status of the community. Some socioeconomic indicators are compiled regularly because of the statutory requirements of federal and state health and human service programs; surveys and census can provide other indicators. The 1990 census is the most comprehensive official source of information on socioeconomic indicators such as poverty level data and educational level attainment.

Population Below Federal Poverty Level

The 1990 census shows that 11.5% of persons under 18 years of age in Orange County and 18.2% of Californians under age 18 were below the poverty level. In 1995, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research published *The Uninsured in California: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions*, which reported that 20% of persons under age 18 and 23% of persons between ages 18 and 64 in Orange County were living below the poverty level. The report also stated that 17% of Californians under age 18 and 25% of Californians between ages 18 and 64 were living below the poverty level.

Education

The table below compares the level of educational attainment in Orange County and California as a percentage of the total population, according to the 1990 census.

Education	Orange County (%)	California (%)
Graduate or professional degree	9.1	8.1
Bachelors's degree	18.7	15.3
Associate degree	8.9	7.9
Some college, no degree	24.5	22.6
High school graduate or equivalent	20.1	22.3
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	9.8	12.6
Less than 9 th grade	9.0	11.2

Estimated Number of Homeless

The Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted an estimate of the number of homeless in Orange County based on a compilation of surveys. That estimate is 11,946 persons. The California Department of State, Housing and Community Development estimates that there are between 150,000 and 300,000 homeless in California.

Women, Infant and Children Program Population

The estimated number of people in the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program for California and Orange County as of March 1998 was 1,217,945 and 100,942, respectively. The California WIC population represents approximately 3.8% of the total population, while the Orange County WIC population represents approximately 3.9% of its population. The table below shows a breakdown of WIC participants by Orange County providers.

Providers	Participants
Orange County Health Care Agency	56,997
Public Health Foundation	28,000
California Family Planning Council	13,387
Mission Hospital Camino Health Centers	2,558
Total	100,942

The following page contains a map displaying the WIC population by zip code.

Unemployed Population

Unemployment rates for April 1998, from the Employment Development Department:

Orange County	2.6%
California	5.8%
United States	4.1%

As of December 1997, 1,381,800 people were employed in Orange County. More than 30% of jobs were provided through the service industry and 25.3% through the retail/trade industry.

Food Stamp Recipients

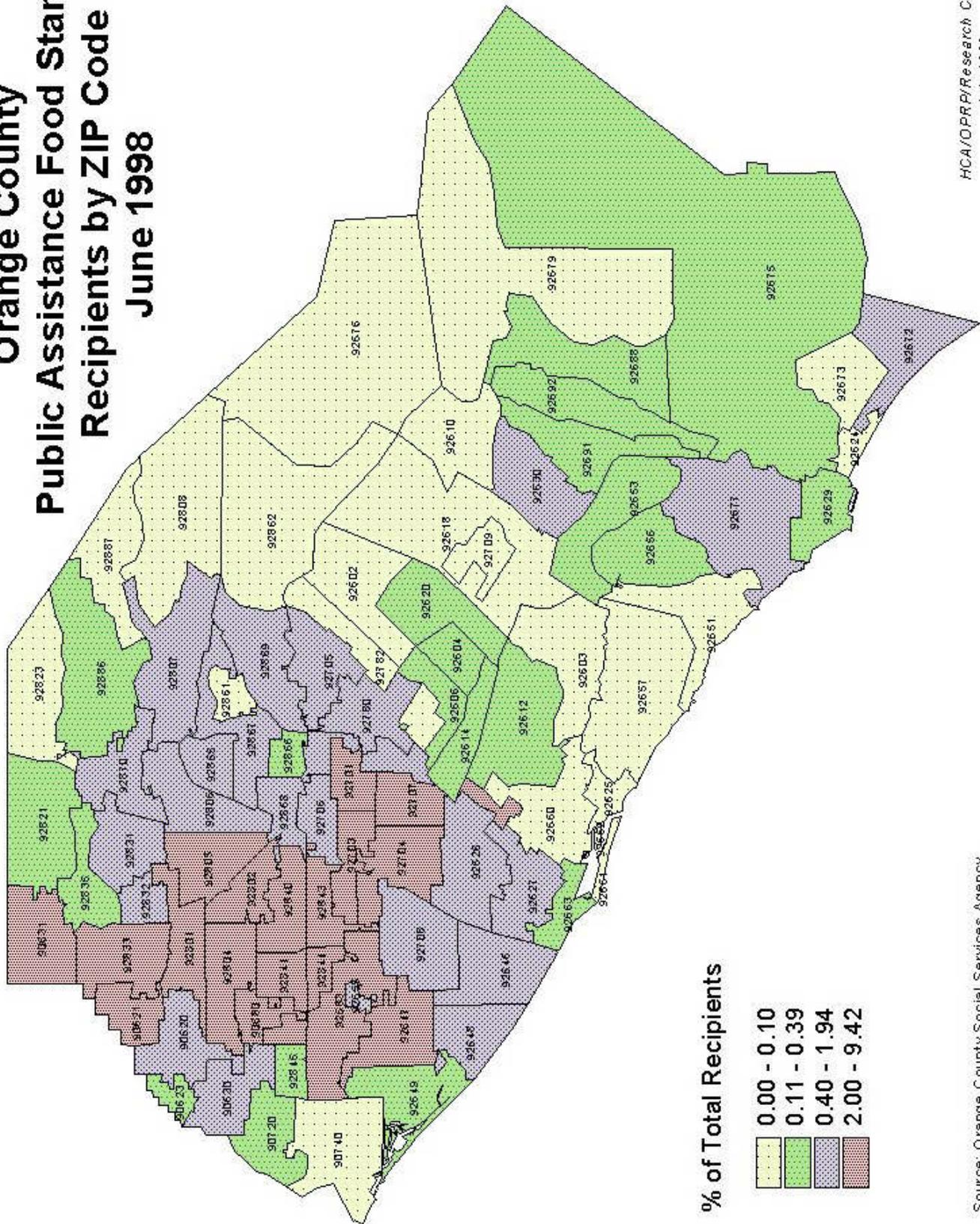
The Food Stamp Program helps improve the diet of low income households by enabling them to obtain more food than they would otherwise be able to purchase. Food stamps are certified based on the concept of a household. A household is defined as an individual living alone or a group of individuals who purchase and prepare food together. Eligibility requirements include residence in the county, United States citizenship, income and resources below the allowable limit, and provision of social security numbers for all members of the household. Homeless persons may be eligible to receive food stamps.

The amount of food stamps a household receives depends on the income and number of persons in the household. The United States Department of Agriculture determines the benefit levels. When the number of persons in the household, income, or expenses change, the amount of food stamps may also change. Social Security Insurance (SSI) recipients are not eligible to receive food stamps in California.

Food stamps may be used to purchase food for human consumption including seeds and plants to grow food. Alcoholic beverages, paper products, pet food, personal hygiene products, tobacco products, prepared hot foods, and cleaning products are not allowed to be purchased with food stamps.

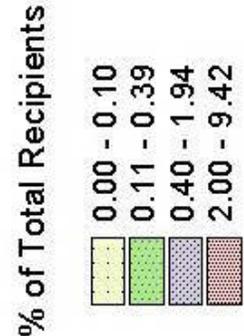
The map on the following page displays Orange County Public Assistance Food Stamp Recipients by zip code for June 1998.

Orange County Public Assistance Food Stamps Recipients by ZIP Code June 1998



HCA/OPRP/Research Center
July 1998

Source: Orange County Social Services Agency



ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE OF ORANGE COUNTY

The Orange County environment is an important factor affecting the health of its residents. Exposure to air and land pollutants and to water and food contamination have short-term and long-term impact on the health of the community.

Air Pollution

The South Coast Air Quality Management District monitors air quality throughout the southern California area and provides annual reports on the extent of air pollution in 37 subregions. Four of these subregions are in Orange County. Four primary pollutants -- carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide -- are measured on a daily basis to determine whether the pollution level exceeds federal or state standards.

For each of the last 4 years (1994-1997), none of the subregions in Orange County had pollution levels which exceeded the standards for carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, or sulfur dioxide. Ozone levels did exceed the standards on some days as shown in the table below; however, the trend is improving significantly in 3 of the 4 Orange County subregions.

Number of Days Ozone Levels Exceeded Standards

Subregion	1994	1995	1996	1997
North Orange County	42	33	20	9
Central Orange County	24	19	9	1
North Coast Orange County	3	3	1	1
Saddleback Valley	6	18	20	8

Water Contaminants

The Orange County Health Care Agency's Environmental Health division has responsibility for regulating the water quality of recreational ocean waters, pools and spas, and selected drinking water systems (Note: Orange County drinking water does not contain fluoridation treatment). Such regulation is accomplished through a system of water quality monitoring inspections and closures. In fiscal year 1996/97, Environmental Health conducted 21,828 routine inspections of pools and spas. A total of 288 pools and spas were closed because of safety or water quality deficiencies. Environmental Health responded to 210 sewage spills that required the closure of portions of Orange County beaches on 20 separate occasions. A total of 295 drinking water supply samples were collected from small water systems that led to corrective mitigation action including the issuance of six "boil water notices".

Food Contaminants

Food contamination is a concern to all residents. In fiscal year 1996/97, 30,317 food establishment inspections were conducted which resulted in 137 closures. Environmental Health also conducted 604 investigations of alleged food illnesses, and embargoed or condemned 361,640 pounds of food.

Land Pollution

Land pollution is caused by the release of hazardous materials into the soil. Environmental Health conducted 5,405 hazardous waste generator inspections, 974 underground storage tank facility inspections, and 187 medical facility inspections in fiscal year 1996/97. During that period, more than 600 leaking underground storage tank sites received regulatory oversight in an effort to clean up contamination.