

FACTSHEET: SUBURBAN LOS ANGELES

This report examines data from the Census Bureau, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and a new survey of social services providers in suburban communities surrounding three major metropolitan areas (Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; and Washington, D.C.) to assess the challenges that rising suburban poverty poses for local safety nets and community-based organizations. Consistent with what metropolitan areas nationwide have experienced as they cope with the long-term impact of the Great Recession, it finds in metropolitan Los Angeles that:

- Suburban jurisdictions outside of Los Angeles vary significantly in their levels of poverty and recent poverty trends. Poverty rates approached 20 percent in many suburban communities, with poverty rates highest in the eastern suburbs of Los Angeles and the population centers of the Inland Empire. Even though several suburban communities outside of Los Angeles and most communities in Riverside County experienced more than 25 percent increases in the number of poor residents from 2000 to 2008, there were other parts of suburban Los Angeles that saw a decline during this time period.
- Many suburban communities in metropolitan Los Angeles and the Inland Empire rely on relatively few social services organizations that must stretch operations across much larger service delivery areas than their urban counterparts. Consistent with findings in other metropolitan areas, one-third of suburban Los Angeles nonprofits surveyed reported operating in more than one suburban county, and two-thirds offered services in more than one suburban municipality. The size and capacity of the nonprofit social service sector varies widely across suburbs, from 813 poor residents per nonprofit provider in Rancho Cucamonga to 1,723

in Pomona. Where one lives in the suburbs and communities outside of L.A., therefore, may greatly affect one's access to certain types of help.

- In the wake of the Great Recession, demand is up significantly for the typical suburban provider, and almost 80 percent of suburban Los Angeles nonprofits interviewed are seeing more clients with no previous connection to safety net programs. Needs have changed as well, with 90 percent of suburban nonprofits surveyed seeing families with food needs more often than one year prior, and nearly 60 percent reporting more frequent requests for help with mortgage or rent payments. Most nonprofits reported referring clients to other providers as a way to cope with rising demand for assistance.
- Two in five suburban Los Angeles nonprofits surveyed reported a loss in a key revenue source last year, with more funding cuts anticipated in the year to come. Due in large part to this bleak fiscal situation, about 30 percent of nonprofits have laid off full-time and part-time staff as a result of lost program grants or to reduce operating costs.

Suburbs were home to a large and fast-growing poor population in the 2000s, yet few of the suburban communities studied have a social services infrastructure in place to address the challenges of increasing poverty. The Great Recession has exacerbated this gap between demand and capacity in the suburbs, as nonprofit social service providers have been increasingly asked to help rising numbers of low-income families but with tighter budgets and fewer resources. As is true for cities and rural places, the nonprofit social service sector in suburbs can help these communities alleviate the worst economic and social impacts of the current downturn and future increases in poverty. Promoting stronger region-wide providers and better engaging charitable foundations in metropolitan safety net planning represent important strategies for strengthening suburban social services infrastructure.

LOCAL CONTACTS

The following local contacts are available to discuss suburban poverty and challenges facing suburban safety nets. Each has received the report in advance.

Barbara Howell
Executive Director
Burbank Temporary Aid Center
1304 W. Burbank Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91506
(818) 848-2822 ext. 110

Sandra Jernegan
Hemet-San Jacinto Community Pantry
Executive Director
135 N. San Jacinto St.
Hemet, CA 92543
(951) 929-1101

Ken F. Sawa, MSW, LCSW
CEO/Executive Vice-President
Catholic Charities San Bernardino/
Riverside
1450 North D Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405
(909) 388-1246

Robin Schlosser
Program Director
Samaritan's Helping Hand
(760) 955-1720

Demographic Data for Select Counties and Municipalities in Metropolitan Los Angeles, 2000 and 2006-08																		
County/Municipality	Population Data (2000)				Population Data (2006-08)				Number of Poor			Poverty Rate		Number of Unemployed			Unemployment Rate	
	Population	White	Black	Hispanic	Population	White	Black	Hispanic	2000	2006-08	%Change	2000	2006-08	2000	2006-08	%Change	2000	2006-08
Los Angeles County	9,519,338	48.6%	9.6%	44.6%	9,832,137	49.9%	8.8%	47.3%	1,674,599	1,457,562	-13.0%	17.9%	15.1%	354,347	320,529	-9.5%	5.0%	4.2%
City of Los Angeles	3,694,820	46.9%	11.2%	46.5%	3,749,058	49.5%	9.9%	48.4%	801,050	697,232	-13.0%	22.1%	18.9%	156,578	130,640	-16.6%	5.6%	4.5%
Long Beach	461,522	45.2%	14.9%	35.8%	462,556	44.0%	13.4%	40.2%	103,434	86,739	-16.1%	22.8%	19.1%	19,680	18,322	-6.9%	5.8%	5.2%
Glendale	194,973	63.6%	1.3%	19.7%	195,505	71.6%	1.8%	17.4%	29,927	25,675	-14.2%	15.5%	13.2%	6,559	5,804	-11.5%	4.2%	3.6%
Santa Clarita	151,088	79.5%	2.1%	20.5%	178,062	71.3%	2.5%	28.8%	9,552	12,205	27.8%	6.4%	7.0%	3,788	5,641	48.9%	3.4%	4.2%
Lancaster	118,718	62.8%	16.0%	24.1%	152,184	56.5%	19.2%	36.5%	18,239	29,837	63.6%	16.4%	20.4%	5,445	5,123	-5.9%	6.5%	4.8%
Pomona	149,473	41.8%	9.6%	64.5%	150,759	40.8%	7.3%	71.3%	31,149	24,123	-22.6%	21.6%	16.2%	5,859	6,804	16.1%	5.7%	6.3%
Riverside County	1,545,387	65.5%	6.2%	36.2%	2,055,232	63.6%	6.1%	43.1%	214,084	247,260	15.5%	14.2%	12.2%	49,096	81,319	65.6%	4.4%	5.3%
Riverside	255,166	59.3%	7.4%	38.1%	301,560	59.9%	6.5%	47.8%	39,060	38,333	-1.9%	15.8%	13.0%	9,203	12,775	38.8%	4.9%	5.6%
Moreno Valley	142,381	46.8%	19.9%	38.4%	187,412	35.9%	17.1%	52.5%	20,141	28,900	43.5%	14.2%	15.5%	5,234	6,103	16.6%	5.5%	4.6%
Corona	124,966	62.0%	6.4%	35.7%	156,525	64.0%	5.8%	40.9%	10,244	12,650	23.5%	8.3%	8.1%	3,281	6,481	97.5%	3.8%	5.6%
Murrieta	44,282	81.6%	3.4%	17.5%	97,029	68.5%	4.9%	26.4%	1,915	5,580	191.4%	4.3%	5.8%	913	3,344	266.3%	2.9%	4.7%
Temecula	57,716	78.9%	3.4%	19.0%	93,811	71.9%	4.4%	22.3%	3,864	5,858	51.6%	6.7%	6.3%	1,259	2,746	118.1%	3.2%	4.0%
San Bernardino County	1,709,434	58.7%	8.9%	39.2%	1,999,753	60.4%	8.8%	46.7%	263,412	261,620	-0.7%	15.8%	13.4%	59,913	78,177	30.5%	4.9%	5.3%
San Bernardino	185,401	45.2%	16.4%	47.5%	207,832	48.8%	16.2%	56.6%	49,691	48,989	-1.4%	27.6%	24.1%	7,991	9,305	16.4%	6.3%	6.3%
Fontana	128,929	45.0%	11.8%	57.7%	186,642	59.2%	10.2%	63.1%	18,676	19,766	5.8%	14.7%	10.7%	4,516	5,740	27.1%	5.4%	4.3%
Ontario	158,007	47.8%	7.5%	59.9%	162,630	39.3%	7.6%	64.3%	24,133	16,342	-32.3%	15.5%	10.1%	6,104	7,166	17.4%	5.6%	6.0%
Rancho Cucamonga	127,743	66.5%	7.9%	27.8%	160,349	62.3%	8.9%	32.5%	8,955	7,316	-18.3%	7.1%	4.7%	3,532	5,444	54.1%	3.7%	4.4%
Victorville	64,029	61.1%	11.9%	33.5%	108,586	63.2%	15.3%	45.7%	11,885	20,349	71.2%	18.7%	19.6%	2,468	5,166	109.3%	5.6%	7.0%

Source: 2006-2008 American Community Survey; 2000 Census, SF1 & SF3
 Note: Unemployment statistics are based on the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and over in the labor force