



THE ADVANCING WELLNESS POLL

Conducted on behalf of The California Wellness Foundation
By Field Research Corporation



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ABOUT THE SURVEY

One of the basic tenets of The California Wellness Foundation is that the pursuit of wellness is more than just an individual endeavor. Each person's health and personal well-being is also determined by one's access to social and economic opportunities, the resources and supports available in homes, neighborhoods and communities, the quality of schools, the safety of workplaces, the cleanliness of a community's water, food and air, and the nature of the social relations within their community. These conditions in part explain why some of us are healthier than others and why, more generally, many individuals are not as healthy as they could be.

Yet, inequalities in the health status of California residents are widespread and growing. Recent estimates place California 50th among all states in the health disparities of its residents. While California has many affluent residents, it also has more people living in poverty than any other state. Income inequality and low socioeconomic conditions are now major risk factors contributing to the poor health of many state residents.

The *Advancing Wellness Poll* was developed to explore how the health of Californians is affected by the characteristics of the communities where they live. These characteristics, which include a community's public health characteristics, its safety, education and job opportunities and its social relationships, are broadly referred to as the social determinants of health. It is through this lens that the poll examines the health inequities that exist across the state's diverse populations and attempts to document underlying factors contributing to these inequities. The study is intended to assist the Foundation in its near term strategic planning and to provide a baseline measurement against which future assessments of the health and personal well-being of the state's adult population can be compared.

The poll was developed and conducted by Field Research Corporation, an independent California-based public opinion research organization, that specializes in conducting large-scale quantitative surveys for clients in the public and private sectors.

A total of 2,178 California adults were interviewed as part of the survey. Interviews were administered by both cell and landline telephone between the period July 23 – October 12, 2015. To ensure adequate representation of the state's ethnic populations, the survey was administered in seven languages and dialects – English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Korean.

The study design included a random sample of 1,761 California adults. In addition, to more carefully examine the state's growing and extremely diverse ethnic populations, 417 additional interviews were completed among the samples of the state's African-American, Chinese American, Filipino American, Vietnamese American, Korean American and Asian Indian American adults. After the completion of interviewing, weights were developed to align the samples to their proper population proportions.



FINDINGS IN BRIEF

WIDE INCOME DISPARITIES IN CALIFORNIANS' EVALUATIONS OF THEIR COMMUNITY ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF HEALTH, SAFETY, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL RELATIONS CHARACTERISTICS

Perhaps the survey's overarching finding is the extent to which the evaluations that Californians give to their community across the various health, safety, education, employment and social relations characteristics measured is related to income. Upper income residents are far more likely than low income residents* to offer positive assessments of their community. The widest disparities are found on the following dimensions:

A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE, FREE OF CRIME.

Nearly three in four upper income Californians (73%) describe their community as excellent or very good on this dimension, and just 27% give it a rating of fair, poor, or very poor. By contrast, among low income residents only 40% rate their community as excellent or very good and a 60% majority give it a more negative rating.

A PLACE TO GET A GOOD JOB.

Two in three upper income residents (65%) describe their community as an excellent or very good place to get a good job, while 34% rate it fair, poor or very poor. The percentages are nearly reversed among low income residents, with just 34% rating their community excellent or very good and 63% giving it a fair, poor or very poor rating.

RESIDENTS TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

Similarly, about two in three upper income residents (65%) score their community excellent or very good on this dimension, while 34% offer more negative assessments. Among low income residents, on the other hand, only about four in ten (39%) offer an excellent or very good assessment, while a 57% majority give it a fair, poor or very poor rating.

RESIDENTS CAN WALK AND BICYCLE SAFELY.

Among upper income residents 86% rate their community as excellent or very good on this dimension, while just 14% score it fair, poor or very poor. Among low income residents, opinions are much more divided, with 51% rating their community positively and 46% offering a fair, poor or very poor assessment.

A HEALTHY PLACE TO LIVE.

Greater than three in four upper income Californians (78%) rate their community as excellent or very good, and 20% give it a fair, poor or very poor rating. The ratings of low income residents are more evenly split, with 53% rating their community positively and 46% negatively.

**Upper income Californians are defined here as including residents reporting an annual household income of \$ 100,000 or more, while low income Californians are those whose household income is less than 100% of the federal poverty level.*

A PLACE WITH ACCESS TO PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

Nearly nine in ten upper income residents (88%) give their community an excellent or very good rating on this, while just 12% give a more negative rating. While 60% of low income residents score their community positively on this dimension, nearly four in ten (39%) give it a fair, poor or very poor rating.

The survey also finds large income disparities in relation to the extent to which residents say that unhealthy conditions characterize the place where they live. The largest differences are observed in the following areas:

GANGS AND GUN VIOLENCE ARE A REGULAR PART OF DAILY LIFE.

Only one in four (28%) upper income Californians say this applies to their community a lot or some, while 71% say it doesn't apply at all. By contrast, a 56% majority of low income residents say this condition applies to their community a lot or some, and just 41% say it doesn't apply.

THERE IS DISTRUST AND HOSTILITY BETWEEN COMMUNITY RESIDENTS AND THE POLICE.

Only about one in three upper income residents (35%) say this description applies to their community a lot or some, while 63% believe it doesn't apply. However, the percentages are reversed among low income residents, 62% of whom say this applies a lot or some to their community and just 35% say it doesn't.

RESIDENTS ARE REGULARLY EXPOSED TO GARBAGE, WASTE OR PESTICIDES IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

Fewer than one in three upper income residents (31%) feel this description applies to their community a lot or some, while 68% say it doesn't apply. Among low income residents, a 53% majority feel it applies to their community a lot or some, while 46% believe it doesn't apply.

THERE ARE PROFOUND RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES BETWEEN CALIFORNIA'S LOW INCOME AND UPPER INCOME RESIDENTS

The survey also documents the profound racial and ethnic disparities that exist between California's low income and upper income residents.

Greater than eight in ten of the state's low income residents (81%) are persons of color, the dominant proportion being Latino (60%). Just 19% are white non-Hispanic.

By contrast, greater than two in three of California's upper income residents (68%) are white non-Hispanic, while just 31% are people of color. According to the survey, just 10% of the state's upper income residents are Latino and only 4% are African American.

DISPARITIES IN COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS AND PREVALENCE OF UNHEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

There are significant differences across the state's major racial and ethnic population subgroups on many of the community characteristics assessed by the survey, with Latinos and African Americans generally more likely than white non-Hispanics and Asian Americans to offer negative assessments. The most prominent disparities are observed in community assessments across the following areas:

A PLACE TO GET A GOOD JOB.

Among Latinos, 63% rate their community as fair, poor or very poor on this characteristic, as do 60% of the state's African Americans. By contrast, fewer than half of the state's white non-Hispanics (45%) or Asian Americans (44%) offer a negative assessment.

A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE, FREE OF CRIME.

Majorities of Latinos (53%) and African Americans (55%) give a fair, poor or very poor assessment to their community on this dimension, compared to about four in ten white non-Hispanics (40%) and Asian Americans (42%).

A HEALTHY PLACE TO LIVE.

While slightly more than four in ten of the state's Latinos (41%) and African Americans (42%) rate their community fair, poor or very poor, just 27% of white non-Hispanics and 32% of Asian Americans say this.

Racial and ethnic disparities are also found in relation to the extent to which residents say that unhealthy conditions characterize the place where they live.

Latinos are generally the most likely ethnic population to report such conditions. For example, 93% of Latinos maintain that *nearly all eating establishments are fast food restaurants* applies to their community a lot or some, and 75% say *alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents*.

In addition, about half of the state's Latinos say that each of the following descriptions applies to their community a lot or some – *gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life* (55%), *there is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police* (54%), *industrial plants or worksites that pollute the air or water are located nearby* (50%), and *residents are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment* (49%).

African Americans also report a greater prevalence of unhealthy living conditions than the state's white non-Hispanics and Asian Americans in five of the six unhealthy living conditions measured. The exception relates to the item *alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents*, which is just as commonly reported by white non-Hispanics as African Americans.

DISPARITIES IN EVALUATIONS OF COMMUNITY ACROSS MAJOR REGIONS OF THE STATE

Los Angeles and Central Valley residents are more likely than residents in other regions of the state to offer negative ratings of fair, poor or very poor on many of the community characteristics assessed by the survey. These include the following:

- A healthy place to live;
- A clean environment, free of air, water or chemical pollution;
- A safe place to live/free of crime;
- Residents can walk and bicycle safely;
- A place to get a good job;
- Most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school;
- College admissions advice is available to college-bound residents;
- Job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the labor force after doing time in jail; and
- Residents take an active interest in the community.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS AND SELF-REPORTED HEALTH STATUS

The survey also provides ample evidence that the evaluations that Californians give to their community across the various social determinants of health are directly related to their own health status. Fewer Californians living in communities rated negatively across nearly all of the dimensions evaluated report being in excellent or very good health than is found among residents living in communities rated positively.

The following table lists the community characteristics most directly tied to the self-reported health of the state’s residents.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SELF-REPORTED HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS (PERCENT DESCRIBING THEIR OWN HEALTH AS “EXCELLENT” OR “VERY GOOD”)		
	Community rated negatively	Community rated positively
A healthy place to live	45%	65%
Has stores nearby that sell healthy and affordable foods	47%	67%
Safe place, free of crime	48%	64%
After-school and summer school education available to students needing to catch up	48%	63%
Access to public parks and open spaces	49%	66%
Good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds	50%	66%
Local tap water is clean	51%	68%
Kids can play safely outdoors	52%	67%
Recreational activities/after-school programs available for kids	52%	70%
A place to get a good job	55%	70%

Note: Negatively rated communities are those given a “fair,” “poor” or “very poor” rating.

Positively rated communities are those rated “excellent” or “very good” on each dimension.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS AND SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

The survey finds a similar relationship between the health, safety, education, employment and social relations characteristics of one’s community and residents’ self-reported satisfaction with their life. On nearly all of the social determinants of health measured, smaller proportions of Californians living in negatively rated communities report being “very satisfied” with their lives than residents living in communities receiving a positive assessment.

The following summarize the community characteristics in which the differences between these two populations are the greatest.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIFE SATISFACTION AND COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS (PERCENT “VERY SATISFIED” WITH THEIR LIFE)

	Community rated negatively	Community rated positively
A healthy place to live	34%	55%
Good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds	34%	53%
Safe place, free of crime	35%	55%
A place to get a good job	37%	56%
Access to public parks and open spaces	40%	57%
Residents take an active interest in the community	41%	60%
Local tap water is clean	42%	65%

Note: Negatively rated communities are those given a “fair,” “poor” or “very poor” rating.

Positively rated communities are those rated “excellent” or “very good” on each dimension.

WHERE AN EMPLOYEE LIVES IS RELATED TO THEIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT AND THEIR BEING OFFERED BENEFITS BY THEIR EMPLOYER

The survey also finds that employed Californians living in communities rated negatively *as a place to get a good job* face greater challenges at the workplace than employees who live in communities rated positively.

Among employed adults living in communities rated negatively on this dimension, just 41% describe their own opportunities for advancement with their employer as excellent or very good, while a 55% majority say they are only fair, poor or very poor. The reverse is true for employed adults living in communities rated positively as a *place to get a good job*. Among these employees 57% describe their own chances for advancement with their employer as excellent or very good, while just 41% describe them as fair, poor or very poor.

Similarly, nearly eight in ten (79%) of employees living in communities considered a *place to get a good job* report that their employer offers health insurance and other benefits, such as paid sick leave, to employees like themselves. Among those working in communities not rated highly, fewer (69%) report this.

MOST CALIFORNIANS SEE THE LINKAGE BETWEEN UNFAVORABLE LIVING CONDITIONS AND THE HEALTH OF INDIVIDUALS

The survey also asked Californians their opinions about the importance that various unfavorable living conditions can have on the health of an individual. The results indicate that majorities, and in many cases large majorities, believe most of the unhealthy conditions assessed pose an “extremely important” threat to the health of an individual. For example...

Greater than eight in ten state residents (81%) consider *being exposed to domestic violence or abuse at home* as an extremely important threat to an individual’s health.

About three in four (75%) say this with regard to regularly *being exposed to air, water or chemical pollution, living in a high crime area* (73%), and *not having access to quality health care services* (73%).

About two in three Californians say that two other social conditions pose an extremely important threat to the health of an individual: *being unemployed for an extended period of time* (65%) and *living in an area where there are racial tensions between police and local residents* (63%).

Slightly smaller majorities also maintain that *living in an area without many good paying jobs or opportunities for advancement* (55%), *living in poor or substandard housing* (53%), and *working in a high stress job or having to work multiple jobs* (53%) are extremely important threats to an individual’s health.

RACIAL/ETHNIC DIFFERENCES IN THE PERCEIVED LINKAGE BETWEEN UNFAVORABLE LIVING CONDITIONS AND THE HEALTH OF INDIVIDUALS

Latinos and African Americans are more likely than white non-Hispanics and Asian Americans to believe that the unfavorable living conditions measured pose an extremely important threat to the health of an individual.

LIVING IN AN AREA WHERE THERE ARE RACIAL TENSIONS BETWEEN POLICE AND LOCAL RESIDENTS.

Among Latinos 68% consider this to be an extremely important threat to individual health. An even larger proportion of African Americans (75%) say this. By comparison, fewer white non-Hispanics (62%) and Asian Americans (52%) consider this to be an extremely important health threat.

**LIVING IN AN AREA WITHOUT
MANY GOOD PAYING JOBS
OR OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ADVANCEMENT.**

**LIVING IN POOR OR
SUBSTANDARD HOUSING.**

**WORKING IN A HIGH
STRESS JOB OR HAVING TO
WORK MULTIPLE JOBS.**

**LIVING IN AN AREA
WITHOUT MANY GROCERY
STORES OR RESTAURANTS
THAT SELL HEALTHY FOODS.**

**NOT HAVING EASY ACCESS
TO OPEN SPACES
OR OUTDOOR AREAS
FOR RECREATION.**

Among Latinos 61% say this is an extremely important health threat and 71% of African Americans say this. By contrast, 54% of white non-Hispanics and 43% of Asian Americans report this.

60% of Latinos and 68% of African Americans vs. 50% of white non-Hispanics and 43% of Asian Americans.

62% of Latinos and 58% of African Americans vs. 49% of white non-Hispanics and 46% of Asian Americans.

55% of Latinos and 60% of African Americans vs. 48% of white non-Hispanics and 42% of Asian Americans.

58% of Latinos and 51% of African Americans vs. 40% of white non-Hispanics and 39% of Asian Americans.

ACCESS TO CARE A PROBLEM FOR THE STATE'S REMAINING UNINSURED

While California has made strides recently in reducing the number of residents who are uninsured following passage of the Affordable Care Act, residents who remain uninsured are much more likely than insured Californians to report problems in obtaining care.

The survey finds that about half of the state's uninsured adults (48%) said they had difficulty in obtaining medical care when they needed it during the past year. By comparison, just 13% of residents who have been continuously insured over the recent past report encountering such difficulties.

Similar results are observed in relation to access to dental care. Among the uninsured, 53% say they have had difficulty in obtaining dental care when they needed it during the past year. Among those who have been continuously insured, just 22% report this.

When the uninsured who reported difficulty in getting care are asked their reasons for not being able to get care, most commonly

reported is cost (49%). Another 17% cite not knowing where to go to get care, while 14% report transportation is a problem for them when trying to obtain care.

Latinos are more likely than the state's other ethnic populations to report difficulties in getting both medical care and dental care when they need it.

A WIDE ARRAY OF LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE PLAYING A “MAJOR ROLE” IN ADDRESSING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF RESIDENTS

Another area explored in the survey was the extent to which Californians believe various community groups and organizations should be playing a role in helping to address the health and well-being of local residents. The results indicate that majorities believe a wide range of local organizations should be playing a “major role” in this regard. For example...

Greater than seven in ten think the following five organizations should be playing a major role in addressing the health and well-being of local residents: *local K-12 schools* (77%), *health care providers* (75%), *the local health department* (74%), *local elected officials* (71%), and *the local police* (71%).

Smaller, but significant, majorities also think four community groups and entities should also be playing a major role: These include *local community and civic organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce, United Way and PTA* (61%), *local employers* (60%), *churches and faith-based organizations* (53%), and *local TV, radio, newspapers, community web sites and social media* (52%).

LATINOS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE COMMUNITY GROUPS SHOULD BE PLAYING A “MAJOR ROLE”

Majorities of Latinos and African Americans, and in most cases large majorities, believe that each of the community groups should play a “major role” in helping to address the health and well-being of local residents. For example, about eight in ten of the state's Latinos and African Americans say each of the following groups should be playing a major role: *local K-12 schools, health care providers, local health department, local elected officials, and local police*.

Although the same general hierarchy of response characterizes the views of white non-Hispanics and Asian Americans regarding which types of groups should be addressing the health and well-being of local residents, somewhat smaller proportions believe each group should be playing a major role.



SURVEY FINDINGS



How Californians evaluate their community across a wide range of health, safety, educational, job and social relations characteristics

Californians were asked to rate their own community across a wide range of characteristics. Their assessments are summarized below, subdivided into five dimensions relating to a community's health, safety, education, job opportunities and social relations.

A. EVALUATIONS OF THE HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR COMMUNITY

Two in three Californians or more rate their community highly on each of three health-related dimensions. These include *having food stores and supermarkets nearby that sell healthy and affordable foods*, which 71% of residents rate as excellent or very good, *having access to public parks and open spaces* (70%) and *being a healthy place to live* (66%). On the other hand, about three in ten residents across the state give their community a rating of fair, poor or very poor on these characteristics.

Somewhat smaller majorities of Californians rate their community highly as *being a place with a clean environment, free of air, water and chemical pollution* (57%) and whose *local tap water is clean and healthy to drink* (56%). In each case, significant proportions of residents – about four in ten – give their community lower grades of fair, poor or very poor on these environmental health dimensions.

TABLE 1A: CALIFORNIANS’ ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITY ON HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS			
	Excellent/ very good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor
Food stores and supermarkets nearby that sell healthy and affordable foods	71%	21%	8%
Access to public parks and open spaces	70%	21%	8%
A healthy place to live	66%	27%	7%
A clean environment, free of air/water chemical pollution	57%	30%	12%
Local tap water is clean and healthy to drink	56%	26%	14%

Note: In this and succeeding tables, the differences between 100% and sum of each item’s percentages equal the proportion with no opinion.

B. EVALUATIONS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR COMMUNITY

The evaluations of Californians are somewhat more mixed when asked to assess their community across three public safety dimensions. Six in ten Californians (60%) give their community an excellent or very good rating as being a place where *residents can walk and bicycle safely*. However 39% rate their community more negatively on this dimension, by giving it a fair, poor or very poor grade.

While 56% describe their community as an excellent or very good place where *kids can play safely outdoors*, 41% say otherwise, scoring their community fair, poor or very poor.

In addition, when asked to assess their community as being *safe place to live*, free of crime, 54% give their community an excellent or very good rating, but 46% offer a more negative assessment.

TABLE 1B: CALIFORNIANS' ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITY ON PUBLIC SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS			
	Excellent/ very good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor
Residents can walk and bicycle safely	60%	25%	14%
Kids can play safely outdoors	56%	25%	16%
A safe place to live, free of crime	54%	31%	15%

C. EVALUATIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY

Two in three California residents statewide describe their community as being an excellent or very good place where *most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school* (66%), and that makes available *college admissions advice and programs to students who want to go to college* (67%). In each case, about one in four feel otherwise and offer a fair, poor or very poor assessment.

Just over half of the state's residents rate their community highly as a place where *after-school and summer school education programs are available to students who need to catch up* (56%), or as *having quality public schools* (55%), or as *having recreational activities and after-school programs for kids* (52%). In each case about three in ten offer a more negative assessment of fair, poor or very poor.

TWO IN THREE CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS
STATEWIDE DESCRIBE THEIR COMMUNITY AS
BEING AN EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD PLACE
WHERE MOST LOCAL TEENS STAY IN SCHOOL
AND GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

**TABLE 1C:
CALIFORNIANS' ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITY
ON EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS**

	Excellent/ very good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor
College admissions advice available to students who want to go to college	67%	19%	6%
Most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school	66%	18%	8%
After-school and summer school education available to students needing to catch up	56%	21%	8%
Has quality public schools	55%	25%	9%
Recreational activities/after-school programs for kids	52%	24%	10%

D. EVALUATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY

Californians are less positive in their evaluations of the employment opportunities that characterize their community. Fewer than half of Californians rate their community as an excellent or very good place *to get a good job* (44%), while a 52% majority say their community is only fair, poor or very poor on this dimension.

In addition, just 28% of residents score their community highly as a place that offers *job opportunities for at-risk youth and those returning to the labor force after doing time in jail*. Nearly twice as many (52%) give their community a rating of fair, poor or very poor in this area.

**TABLE 1D:
CALIFORNIANS' ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITY
ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

	Excellent/ very good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor
A place to get a good job	44%	32%	20%
Job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the labor force after doing time in jail	28%	28%	24%

E. EVALUATIONS OF THE SOCIAL RELATIONS CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR COMMUNITY

Californians offer generally mixed assessments on two social relations characteristics of their community. Statewide, 57% give their community a positive rating of excellent or very good as having *good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds*, while 39% describe their community fair, poor or very poor on this dimension.

Opinions are even more divided when asked to assess their community as a place whose *residents take an active interest in their community*. Statewide, 49% rate their community excellent or very good, while about as many (48%) give their community a more negative rating.

TABLE 1E: CALIFORNIANS' ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITY ON SOCIAL RELATIONS CHARACTERISTICS			
	Excellent/ very good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor
Good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds	57%	30%	9%
Residents take an active interest in community	49%	34%	14%



Wide income disparities in Californians' evaluations of community

The evaluations that Californians give to their community across each of the various health, safety, educational, job and social relations dimensions measured by the survey are closely related to the income levels of state residents.

A. INCOME-RELATED DISPARITIES IN EVALUATIONS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS

Upper income residents, defined here as those with annual household incomes of \$ 100,000 or more, are far more likely than low income residents, defined as those with household incomes of less than 100% of the federal poverty level, to offer positive assessments of their community in virtually all areas. There are large income-related disparities in Californians’ evaluations of their community health characteristics. For example, while nearly nine in ten upper income residents (86%) give their community an excellent or very good rating *as a healthy place to live*, among low income residents just 53% say this applies to their community.

Significant differences are also seen between the two income classes with regard to the four other community health characteristics rated: *a place with a clean environment, free of air, water and chemical pollution* (63% excellent/very good among upper income residents vs. 50% among low income residents); *a place whose local tap water is clean and healthy to drink* (63% vs. 51%); *a place with access to public parks and open spaces* (88% vs. 60%); and *a place that has food stores and supermarkets nearby that sell healthy and affordable foods* (80% vs. 65%).

TABLE 2A: COMPARING LOW AND UPPER INCOME CALIFORNIANS ON EVALUATIONS OF THE HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR COMMUNITY				
	Low income residents		Upper income residents	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
A healthy place to live	53%	46%	86%	14%
Clean environment, free of air/water chemical pollution	50%	50%	63%	36%
Local tap water is clean and healthy to drink	51%	45%	63%	31%
A place with access to public parks and open spaces	60%	39%	88%	12%
Has stores nearby that sell healthy and affordable foods	65%	34%	80%	19%

B. INCOME-RELATED DISPARITIES IN EVALUATIONS OF COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

There are also large differences between low income and upper income Californians in the evaluations they give their community across various safety characteristics. For example, while nearly three in four upper income residents (73%) rate their community excellent or very good as being a *safe place, free of crime*, among low income Californians just 40% offer this assessment.

There are also large differences between low income and upper income Californians in the evaluations they give their community across various safety characteristics. For example, while nearly three in four upper income residents (73%) rate their community excellent or very good as being a *safe place, free of crime*, among low income Californians just 40% offer this assessment.

TABLE 2B: COMPARING LOW AND UPPER INCOME CALIFORNIANS ON EVALUATIONS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR COMMUNITY				
	Low income residents		Upper income residents	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
A safe place to live, free of crime	40%	60%	73%	27%
Residents can walk and bicycle safely	53%	46%	78%	20%
A place where kids can play safely outdoors	51%	47%	65%	23%

C. INCOME-RELATED DISPARITIES IN EVALUATIONS OF COMMUNITY ON ITS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The survey also finds similar disparities in the community evaluations of low income and upper income residents on being a *place where residents can walk and bicycle safely* (78% vs. 53%) and being a *place where kids can play safely outdoors* (65% vs. 51%).

The evaluations of low income and upper income Californians also differ significantly on characteristics relating to a community’s educational opportunities. On each of the five education-related dimensions rated in the survey, significantly more low income residents than upper income residents offer a negative rating of fair, poor or very poor.

These include: *recreational activities and after-school programs available for kids*, having access to *quality public schools*, the *availability of after-school and summer school education for students needing to catch up*, *most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school*, and *college admissions advice is available to students who want to go to college*.

TABLE 2C: COMPARING LOW AND UPPER INCOME CALIFORNIANS ON EVALUATIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR COMMUNITY				
	Low income residents		Upper income residents	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
Recreational activities/after-school programs for kids	48%	41%	56%	26%
Quality public schools	55%	37%	60%	28%
After-school/summer school education available to students needing to catch up	56%	33%	58%	18%
Most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school	62%	32%	70%	22%
College admissions advice available to students who want to go to college	64%	30%	76%	15%

D. INCOME-RELATED DISPARITIES IN EVALUATIONS OF COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Large income-related disparities are observed in relation to residents’ evaluations of their community as a *place to get a good job*. Among upper income Californians, two in three (65%) describe their community positively on this dimension and just 34% offer a negative assessment. The evaluations are reversed among low income residents. Just 34% of low income residents give their community an excellent or very good rating as a *place to get a good job*, while 63% offer a more negative assessment.

The differences between low income and upper income residents are less pronounced in one other employment-related area. Large pluralities of both low income and upper income residents score their community negatively as a place offering job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the job market after doing time in jail.

**TABLE 2D:
COMPARING LOW AND UPPER INCOME CALIFORNIANS
ON EVALUATIONS OF COMMUNITY
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

	Low income residents		Upper income residents	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
A place to get a good job	34%	63%	65%	34%
Job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the labor force after doing time in jail	35%	53%	19%	50%

E. INCOME-RELATED DISPARITIES IN EVALUATIONS OF COMMUNITY ON SOCIAL RELATIONS CHARACTERISTICS

Big differences are also observed between upper and lower income Californians with regard to their evaluations of two social relations dimensions of their community. While two in three upper income Californians (65%) rate their community highly as a place whose *residents take an active interest in the community*, just 39% of low-income residents say this.

Similarly, more upper income Californians (65%) than low-income residents (50%) give their community an excellent or very good rating as a place that *fosters good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds*.

**TABLE 2E:
COMPARING LOW AND UPPER INCOME CALIFORNIANS
ON THE SOCIAL RELATIONS CHARACTERISTICS OF
THEIR COMMUNITY**

	Low income residents		Upper income residents	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
Residents take an active interest in the community	39%	57%	65%	34%
Fosters good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds	50%	48%	65%	32%



Profound racial/ethnic disparities between low income and upper income Californians

The survey documents the profound racial and ethnic disparities that exist between California's low income and upper income residents.

For example, the survey finds that greater than eight in ten of California's low-income residents include people of color, the dominant proportion being Latino (60%). Just 19% are white non-Hispanic. By contrast, greater than two in three of the state's upper income residents (68%) are white non-Hispanic, while just 31% are people of color. Just 10% of the state's upper income residents are Latino and only 4% are African American.

**TABLE 3:
CALIFORNIANS' ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITY ON
HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS**

	Low income residents	Upper income residents
White non-Hispanic	19%	68%
Latino* (net)	60	10
<i>Mexican American</i>	47	8
<i>Other Hispanic</i>	13	3
Asian/Pacific Islander (net)	13	16
<i>Chinese American</i>	3	5
<i>Filipino American</i>	4	2
<i>Vietnamese American</i>	3	1
<i>Korean American</i>	2	1
<i>Asian Indian</i>	1	4
<i>Other Asian American</i>	1	2
African American	7	4
American Indian	2	1
Not reported	**	1

* *Latinos include adults of any race.*

** *Less than 1/2 of 1%.*

Note: Low income residents defined as those reporting annual household income that is less than 100% of the federal poverty level. Upper income residents defined as those reporting annual household incomes of \$100,000 or more.



Disparities in Californians' evaluations of community by race/ethnicity

There are also broad-based disparities in the way California's white non-Hispanic, Latino, Asian American and African American populations assess their communities across the various health, safety, educational, job and social relations dimensions measured by the survey.

A. RACIAL/ETHNIC DISPARITIES RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS

Racial/ethnic disparities are found on nearly all of the community health characteristics measured, with Latinos and African Americans being more likely than white non-Hispanics or Asian Americans to offer negative assessments.

For example, greater than four in ten of the state's Latinos (41%) and African Americans (42%) give their community a rating of fair, poor or very poor as a *healthy place to live*. By comparison, just 27% of white non-Hispanics and 32% of Asian Americans rate their community negatively on this item.

About half of Latinos (47%) and African Americans (52%) rate their community negatively on having a *clean environment, free of air, water or chemical pollution*. By comparison, fewer than four in ten white non-Hispanics (37%) and Asian Americans (39%) offer negative assessments about this.

**GREATER THAN FOUR IN TEN OF THE STATE'S
LATINOS (41%) AND AFRICAN AMERICANS
(42%) GIVE THEIR COMMUNITY A RATING
OF FAIR, POOR OR VERY POOR AS
A HEALTHY PLACE TO LIVE.**

Latinos and African Americans are also more likely to offer a negative assessment in regards to their community being a *place with access to public parks and open spaces*. Greater than one in three Latinos (37%) and African Americans (37%) say this, as do 31% of Asian Americans. By comparison, just 20% of the state's white non-Hispanics rate their community as fair, poor or very poor on this dimension.

More Latinos (33%) and African Americans (36%) than white non-Hispanics (23%) also offer negative evaluations of their community as a place that *has stores nearby that sell healthy and affordable food*. Among Asian Americans 30% report this.

On the other hand, Asian Americans are the ethnic subgroup most likely to offer a negative assessment to their community with regard to the *quality of the local tap water*.

**TABLE 4A:
COMPARING THE HEALTH-RELATED CHARACTERISTICS
OF ONE'S COMMUNITY, BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

	White non-Hispanic		Latino		Asian- American		African- American	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
A healthy place to live	73%	27%	59%	41%	67%	32%	58%	42%
Clean environment, free of air/water chemical pollution	62%	37%	53%	47%	60%	39%	47%	52%
A place with access to public parks and open spaces	80%	20%	62%	37%	68%	31%	63%	37%
Has stores nearby that sell healthy, affordable foods	77%	23%	63%	33%	68%	30%	63%	36%
Local tap water is clean and healthy to drink	61%	34%	54%	40%	40%	58%	57%	39%

B. RACIAL/ETHNIC DISPARITIES RELATING TO THEIR COMMUNITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Disparities also are observed across the state's major racial/ethnic populations with regard to their community evaluations on three public safety characteristics.

Majorities of Latinos (53%) and African Americans (55%) offer a fair, poor or very poor assessment to their community *as being a safe place to live, free of crime*. By comparison, fewer white non-Hispanics (40%) and Asian Americans (42%) say this.

About half of Latinos (50%) and African Americans (45%) also rate their community negatively as being *a place where kids can play safely outdoors*, while smaller proportions of white non-Hispanics (37%) and Asian Americans (38%) report this.

Similarly, when asked to evaluate their community as *a place where residents can walk and bicycle safely* greater than four in ten Latinos (44%) and African Americans (44%) offer a negative evaluation. While a similar proportion of Asian Americans (40%) say this, fewer white non-Hispanics (34%) describe their community in negative terms on this dimension.

**TABLE 4B:
COMPARING THE PUBLIC SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE'S
COMMUNITY, BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

	White non-Hispanic		Latino		Asian- American		African- American	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
A safe place to live, free of crime	60%	40%	47%	53%	56%	42%	45%	44%
A place where kids can play safely outdoors	61%	37%	49%	50%	55%	38%	54%	45%
Residents can walk and bicycle safely	66%	34%	56%	44%	57%	40%	56%	44%

C. RACIAL/ETHNIC DISPARITIES RELATING TO THEIR COMMUNITY'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The state's African Americans are somewhat more likely than other residents to offer negative assessments of their community on each of five measures related to its educational opportunities. These include having access to *recreational activities and after-school programs for kids, quality public schools, after-school and summer school for students needing to catch up, college admissions advice for college-bound students, and living in an area where most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school.*

The assessments of Latinos are also more negative than those of their white non-Hispanic and Asian American counterparts on three of these measures – the availability of *recreational activities and after school programs for kids, after-school or summer education classes to students who need to catch up, and college admissions advice to students who want to go to college.*

**THE STATE'S AFRICAN AMERICANS ARE
SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY THAN OTHER
RESIDENTS TO OFFER NEGATIVE ASSESSMENTS
OF THEIR COMMUNITY ON EACH OF FIVE
MEASURES RELATED TO ITS EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES.**

**TABLE 4C:
COMPARING THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE'S COMMUNITY,
BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

	White non-Hispanic		Latino		Asian- American		African- American	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
Recreational activities/after-school programs for kids	52%	30%	54%	38%	46%	32%	46%	44%
Quality public schools	55%	31%	61%	34%	51%	34%	47%	46%
After-school and summer school education available to students needing to catch up	55%	25%	61%	33%	54%	26%	51%	37%
Most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school	68%	23%	67%	29%	64%	16%	48%	45%

D. RACIAL/ETHNIC DISPARITIES RELATING TO THEIR COMMUNITY'S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The state's Latinos and African Americans are more likely than its white non-Hispanics and Asian Americans to rate the community where they live negatively as being *a place to get a good job*. Among Latinos 63% offer a fair, poor or very poor assessment on this community dimension, as do 60% of the state's African Americans. By contrast, fewer than half of the state's white non-Hispanics (45%) or Asian Americans (44%) offer negative assessments in this area.

Over half of the state's African Americans (62%), Latinos (55%) and white non-Hispanics (54%) also rate their community negatively in offering *job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the labor force after doing time in jail*. Fewer Asian Americans say this (40%), although a larger proportion of Asians are unable to assess their community on this dimension.

**TABLE 4D:
COMPARING THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE'S COMMUNITY,
BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

	White non-Hispanic		Latino		Asian- American		African- American	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
A place to get a good job	52%	45%	35%	63%	47%	44%	38%	60%
Job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the labor force after doing time in jail	22%	54%	36%	55%	30%	40%	21%	62%

E. RACIAL/ETHNIC DISPARITIES RELATING TO THE SOCIAL RELATIONS CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR COMMUNITY

A majority of the state's Latinos (57%) rate their community negatively when asked whether *residents take an active interest in the community*. By comparison, less than half of the state's African Americans and Asian Americans (46% each) say this, while 40% of white non-Hispanics offer a low assessment.

Greater than four in ten African Americans (47%), Latinos (44%) and Asian Americans (43%) offer a fair, poor or very poor rating to their community as being a place that *fosters good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds*. By comparison, a smaller proportion of white non-Hispanics (33%) rate their community negatively on this dimension.



Disparities in evaluations of community across major regions of the state

Some disparities in evaluations of community are observed across the state's five largest geographic regions, Los Angeles County, the South Coast¹, the Inland Empire², the Central Valley³, and the San Francisco Bay Area⁴.

¹ Defined as Orange and San Diego counties.

² Defined as Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

³ Defined as Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba counties.

⁴ Defined as Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Napa counties.

A. REGIONAL DISPARITIES RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS

Larger proportions of Los Angeles County and Central Valley residents than residents elsewhere offer low ratings to their community in several of the health areas rated.

For example, more than half of Los Angeles and Central Valley residents give their community a fair, poor or very poor rating as having a *clean environment, free of air, water or chemical pollution*. By comparison, only about one in three residents of the South Coast and Inland Empire, and about four in ten Bay Area residents, say this.

Similarly, residents of Los Angeles County and the Central Valley are more likely than residents elsewhere to rate their community in negative terms as *a healthy place to live*. In both regions greater than four in ten offer ratings fair, poor or very poor to their community on this dimension. By comparison, fewer residents of the Inland Empire, San Francisco Bay Area and South Coast say this.

In addition, more Los Angeles County residents than residents elsewhere score their community negatively as being *a place with access to public parks and open spaces*.

**TABLE 5A:
COMPARING THE HEALTH-RELATED CHARACTERISTICS
OF ONE'S COMMUNITY, BY REGION**

	Los Angeles County		South Coast		Inland Empire		Central Valley		San Francisco Bay Area	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
Clean environment, free of air/ water chemical pollution	46%	52%	71%	29%	66%	33%	44%	55%	57%	42%
Local tap water is clean and healthy to drink	51%	44%	59%	34%	57%	37%	49%	45%	65%	32%
A healthy place to live	56%	43%	81%	19%	68%	32%	54%	45%	70%	29%
Has stores nearby that sell healthy, affordable foods	67%	32%	76%	23%	77%	23%	67%	33%	70%	29%
A place with access to public parks and open spaces	61%	38%	77%	21%	75%	24%	69%	31%	73%	27%

B. REGIONAL DISPARITIES RELATING TO THEIR COMMUNITY’S PUBLIC SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Residents of Los Angeles County and the Central Valley are also more likely than residents in the state’s other major regions to give low ratings to their community on each of the three public safety dimensions assessed by the survey.

These include: being *a safe place to live/free of crime*, *a place where kids can play safely outdoors*, and *a place where residents can walk and bicycle safely*. In each case about half of Los Angeles and Central Valley residents offer ratings of fair, poor or very poor to their community. By comparison, only about one in three residents of the South Coast or Inland Empire say this, while in ten Bay Area about four in ten offer negative assessments.

TABLE 5B: COMPARING THE PUBLIC SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE’S COMMUNITY, BY REGION										
	Los Angeles County		South Coast		Inland Empire		Central Valley		San Francisco Bay Area	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
A safe place to live, free of crime	46%	54%	67%	32%	69%	31%	44%	56%	54%	45%
A place where kids can play safely outdoors	46%	52%	65%	33%	61%	35%	50%	47%	55%	41%
Residents can walk and bicycle safely	52%	48%	66%	32%	71%	26%	53%	47%	62%	37%

C. REGIONAL DISPARITIES RELATING TO A COMMUNITY’S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Los Angeles and Central Valley residents are also more likely than residents elsewhere to rate their community negatively as a place where *most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school*.

Los Angeles County and Central Valley residents, along with residents of the Inland Empire, are more likely than Bay Area and South Coast residents to offer ratings of fair, poor or very poor on being a place where *college admissions advice is available to college-bound students*.

Los Angeles County and Central Valley residents, along with Bay Area residents, are more likely than residents of the South Coast and the Inland Empire to give low assessments to their community on having *quality public schools*.

South Coast residents offer a somewhat more positive assessment than residents elsewhere on offering *recreational activities, after school programs for kids*.

**TABLE 5C:
COMPARING THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE'S COMMUNITY, BY REGION**

	Los Angeles County		South Coast		Inland Empire		Central Valley		San Francisco Bay Area	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
Recreational activities/ after-school programs for kids	47%	39%	65%	21%	48%	37%	51%	42%	48%	34%
Quality public schools	49%	42%	60%	23%	75%	21%	53%	37%	51%	37%
After-school and summer school education available to students needing to catch up	56%	29%	57%	21%	63%	26%	50%	38%	57%	26%
Most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school	59%	34%	76%	13%	69%	24%	63%	31%	66%	21%
College admissions advice available to college-bound students	61%	29%	78%	13%	61%	33%	64%	30%	66%	21%

D. REGIONAL DISPARITIES RELATING TO A COMMUNITY'S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Majorities of the residents of Los Angeles County, Central Valley and the Inland Empire give their community a negative rating on each of two employment opportunity characteristics measured by the survey – as *a place to get a good job* and there are *job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the labor force after doing time in jail*.

By comparison, fewer than half of among residents of the San Francisco Bay Area and South Coast say this.

**TABLE 5D:
COMPARING THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE'S COMMUNITY, BY REGION**

	Los Angeles County		South Coast		Inland Empire		Central Valley		San Francisco Bay Area	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
A place to get a good job	41%	55%	52%	42%	43%	57%	35%	61%	53%	43%
Job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the labor force after doing time in jail	26%	55%	31%	42%	27%	57%	24%	62%	31%	47%

E. REGIONAL DISPARITIES RELATING TO A COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL RELATIONS CHARACTERISTICS

Los Angeles and Central Valley residents are also more likely than residents elsewhere to offer negative assessments with regard to *residents taking an active interest in the community*.

**TABLE 5E:
COMPARING THE SOCIAL RELATIONS CHARACTERISTICS
OF ONE'S COMMUNITY, BY REGION**

	Los Angeles County		South Coast		Inland Empire		Central Valley		San Francisco Bay Area	
	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor	Excellent/ Very Good	Fair/ Poor/ Very Poor
Residents take an active interest in the community	38%	59%	62%	34%	48%	49%	40%	55%	53%	45%
Good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds	53%	42%	63%	34%	61%	36%	49%	45%	59%	40%



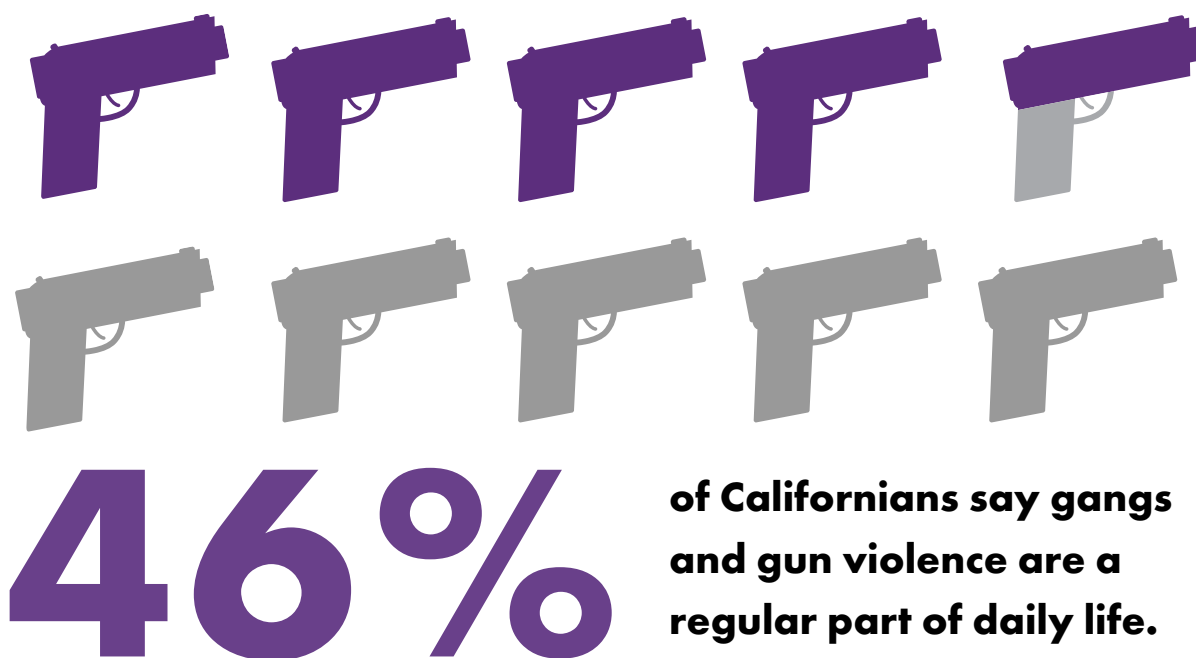
Resident perceptions of the extent to which unhealthy or unfavorable conditions characterize the place where they live

The survey also probed the extent to which residents felt that a number of unhealthy or unfavorable conditions applied to the place where they live.

The most prevalent condition relates to the types of eating establishments available to residents in their community. About three in four Californians (73%) say the description that *nearly all local eating establishments are fast food restaurants* applies to their community a lot or some. Just 16% say this characteristic does not apply to their community.

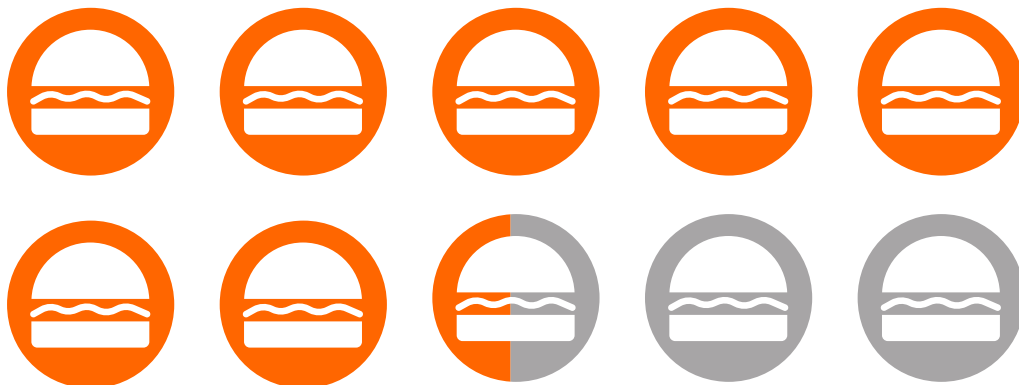
Another common unhealthy community characteristic relates to the description *alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents*. Statewide, 68% of residents feel this applies a lot or some to their community, while just one in four Californians (24%) say it doesn't apply.

Greater than four in ten Californians also say that four other unhealthy or unfavorable characteristics apply either a lot or some to the place where they live. These include the following – *there is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police* (47%), *gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life* (46%), *industrial plants or worksite that pollute the air or water are located nearby* (42%), and *residences are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment* (41%).



**TABLE 6A:
RESIDENT PERCEPTIONS OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH
UNHEALTHY OR UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS
CHARACTERIZE THE PLACE WHERE THEY LIVE**

	Applies to my community..		
	A lot	Some	Not at all
Nearly all local eating establishments are fast food restaurants	35%	48%	16%
Alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents	19%	49%	24%
There is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police	11%	36%	49%
Gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life	10%	36%	51%
Industrial plants or worksite that pollute the air or water are located nearby	9%	33%	56%
Residences are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment	8%	33%	57%



73%

**of Californians say
that most local eating
establishments are
fast food restaurants.**



Income disparities in the prevalence of unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions

The survey finds significant income-related disparities in relation to the prevalence of unhealthy or unfavorable conditions in their community, with each more commonly reported by low income Californians than upper income residents.

For example, twice as many low-income residents (56%) as upper income Californians (28%) say that the statement *gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life* applies a lot or some to the community where they live. Similarly, while greater than six in low income residents (62%) say the statement *there is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police applies* to their community a lot or some, just one in three upper income Californians (35%) say this.

In addition, significantly more low income Californians (53%) than their upper income counterparts (31%) say *residents are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment*.

Three other potential unhealthy or unfavorable social conditions are also more prevalent among low income than upper income Californians, albeit by somewhat smaller margins. These include: *industrial plants or worksites that pollute the air or ware are located nearby* (48% among low income residents vs. 33% among upper income residents); *alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents* (74% vs. 63%); and *nearly all local eating establishments are fast food restaurants* (91% vs. 72%).

TABLE 6B: COMPARING LOW AND UPPER INCOME CALIFORNIANS ON THE PREVALENCE OF UNHEALTHY OR UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY				
	Low income residents		Upper income residence	
	Applies a lot/some	Doesn't apply	Applies a lot/some	Doesn't apply
Nearly all local eating establishments are fast food restaurants	91%	8%	72%	28%
Alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents	74%	19%	63%	31%
There is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police	62%	35%	35%	63%
Gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life	56%	41%	28%	71%
Industrial plants or worksite that pollute the air or water are located nearby	53%	46%	31%	68%
Residences are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment	48%	50%	33%	64%



Racial/ethnic disparities in the prevalence of unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions

Significant racial and ethnic disparities are also found in relation to the extent to which residents report unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions characterizing the community where they live.

The state's Latinos are particularly likely to report this. For example, 93% of Latinos say *nearly all eating establishments are fast food restaurants* applies to their community and 75% say *alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents*. In addition, about half of the state's Latinos say that each of the following three descriptions applies to their community a lot or some – *gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life* (55%), *there is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police* (54%), *industrial plants or worksites that pollute the air or water are located nearby* (50%), and *residents are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment* (49%).

African Americans are also more likely than the state's white non-Hispanics and Asian Americans to report that five of the six unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions apply to the community where they live. The exception relates to the item, *alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents*, which is just as commonly reported by white non-Hispanics as African Americans.

Asian Americans are somewhat less likely than others to report that some of these conditions apply to their community. These include *alcohol and drug use are common among local residents*, *there is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police*, *gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life*, and *residents are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment*.

**TABLE 6C:
PERCEPTIONS OF THE PREVALENCE OF UNHEALTHY
CONDITIONS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES,
BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

	White non-Hispanic		Latino		Asian American		African American	
	Applies a lot/some	Doesn't apply	Applies a lot/some	Doesn't apply	Applies a lot/some	Doesn't apply	Applies a lot/some	Doesn't apply
Nearly all local eating establishments are fast food restaurants	76%	24%	93%	6%	84%	15%	90%	9%
Alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents	69%	22%	75%	20%	53%	38%	68%	25%
There is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police	44%	53%	54%	43%	37%	54%	55%	43%
Gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life	45%	54%	55%	43%	30%	66%	57%	41%
Industrial plants or worksites that pollute the air or water are located nearby	38%	60%	50%	48%	37%	59%	44%	55%
Residents are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment	37%	62%	49%	50%	31%	66%	49%	45%



Regional disparities in the prevalence of unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions

Los Angeles and Central Valley residents are also more inclined than residents in other major regions of the state to say that unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions characterize their community.

This includes each of the following:

- Gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life;
- There is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police; and
- Residents are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment.

Residents of the San Francisco Bay Area offer rating similar to those in Los Angeles County and Central Valley on the latter two items, but are less likely than residents elsewhere to say that *nearly all local eating establishments are fast food restaurants*.

TABLE 6D: PERCEPTIONS OF THE PREVALENCE OF UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES, BY RACE/ETHNICITY										
	Los Angeles County		South Coast		Inland Empire		Central Valley		San Francisco Bay Area	
	Applies a lot/ some	Doesn't apply	Applies a lot/ some	Doesn't apply	Applies a lot/ some	Doesn't apply	Applies a lot/ some	Doesn't apply	Applies a lot/ some	Doesn't apply
Nearly all local eating establishments are fast food restaurants	86%	13%	84%	15%	92%	6%	89%	11%	74%	26%
Alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents	69%	26%	56%	34%	69%	29%	73%	15%	71%	21%
There is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police	53%	41%	37%	59%	38%	55%	49%	49%	49%	48%
Gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life	52%	47%	32%	66%	38%	59%	60%	39%	47%	50%
Industrial plants or worksites that pollute the air or water are located nearby	45%	54%	33%	64%	47%	51%	43%	56%	44%	52%
Residents are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment	45%	54%	29%	68%	29%	70%	52%	46%	44%	54%



The relationship between community characteristics and self-reported health status

The survey provides ample evidence that an individual's self-reported health status is directly associated with the health, safety, educational, employment and social relations characteristics of their community.

Table 7a following compares the proportions of residents who describe their own health as being “excellent” or “very good” in communities rated negatively to those rated positively on each health, safety, educational, jobs, and social relations dimension. In each case, significantly fewer residents who live in communities rated negatively report being in excellent or very good health compared to residents living in positively rated communities.

TABLE 7A: COMPARING THE SELF-REPORTED HEALTH STATUS OF CALIFORNIANS LIVING IN NEGATIVELY RATED COMMUNITIES TO THOSE LIVING IN POSITIVELY RATED COMMUNITIES (% DESCRIBING HEALTH STATUS AS EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD)		
	Community rated negatively	Community rated positively
Health characteristics of community		
A healthy place to live	45%	67%
Local tap water is clean and healthy to drink	51%	66%
Clean environment, free of air/water chemical pollution	52%	66%
Has stores nearby that sell healthy, affordable foods	47%	65%
A place with access to public parks and open spaces	49%	63%
Safety characteristics of community		
A safe place, free of crime	48%	67%
Residents can walk and bicycle safely	51%	64%
Kids can play safely outdoors	52%	68%
Educational characteristics of community		
Quality public schools	53%	63%
After-school and summer school education available to students needing to catch up	48%	64%
Recreational activities/after-school programs for kids	52%	67%
College admissions advice available to students who want to go to college	56%	62%
Most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school	56%	63%
Employment opportunities of community		
A place to get a good job	55%	70%
Job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the labor force after doing time in jail	58%	64%
Social relations characteristics of community		
Residents take an active interest in community	55%	68%
Good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds	50%	66%

Note: Negatively rated communities are those given a rating of fair, poor or very poor on this dimension, while positively rated communities are those given an excellent or very good rating on this dimension.

Differences are also observed between Californians’ own self-reported health status and the extent to which residents report unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions existing in their community. For each characteristic rated, the proportion of residents describing their health as excellent or very good is lower in communities where unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions are prevalent than in communities where they are not.

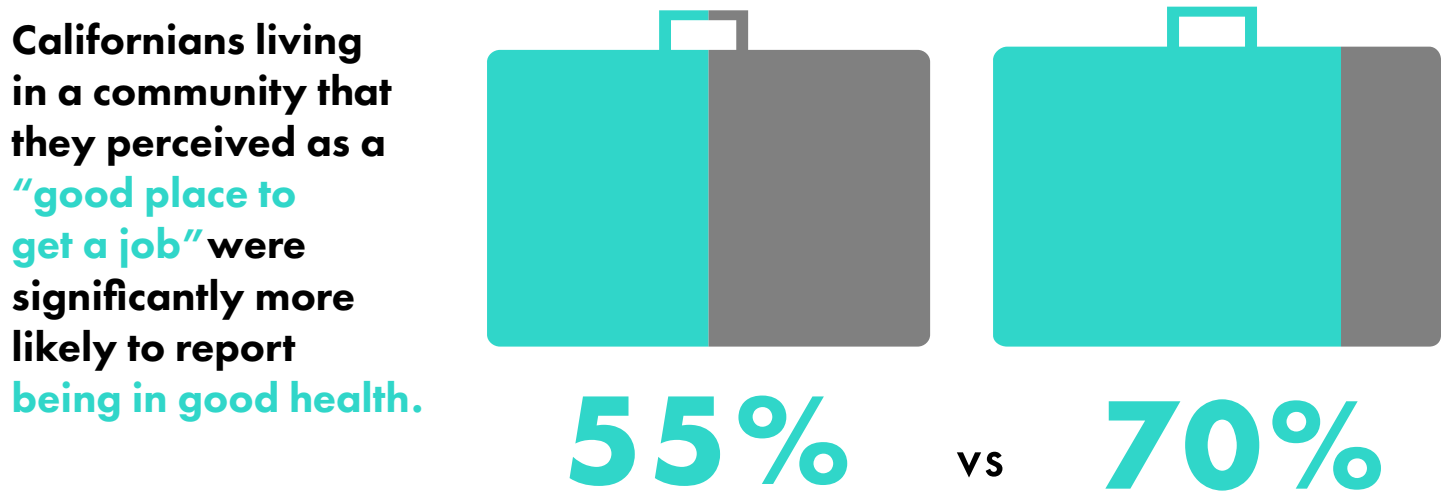


TABLE 7B: SELF-REPORTED HEALTH STATUS OF CALIFORNIANS AND THE PREVALENCE OF UNHEALTHY OR UNFAVORABLE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY (% DESCRIBING HEALTH STATUS AS EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD)		
	Among residents of communities where this applies a lot or some	Among residents of communities where this does not apply
Nearly all local eating establishments are fast food restaurants	57%	68%
Alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents	56%	69%
There is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police	55%	66%
Gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life	57%	64%
Residents are regularly exposed to garbage waste or pesticides in the environment	57%	63%
Industrial plants or worksites that pollute the air or water are located nearby	56%	61%

The survey also finds disparities in the self-reported health status of its white non-Hispanic residents and people of color. For example, greater than two in three white non-Hispanics (68%) describe themselves as being in excellent or very good health, while just 12% categorize their own health is fair or poor.

On the other hand, only about half of residents of color say their health is excellent or very good and greater than one in five term it fair or poor. Among the Latinos surveyed 53% describe their own health as excellent or very good, while 23% say it is fair or poor. Among Asian Americans 50% say their own health is excellent or very good and 21% describe it fair or poor, while among African Americans 51% say it is excellent or very good and 24% term it poor or very poor.

TABLE 7C: SELF-REPORTED HEALTH STATUS OF CALIFORNIANS, BY RACE/ETHNICITY				
	White non-Hispanic	Latino	Asian American	African American
Excellent/very good	68%	53%	50%	51%
Good	20%	24%	29%	24%
Fair/poor	12%	23%	21%	24%
Not reported	*	*	1%	1%

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.



The relationship between community characteristics and residents' satisfaction with life

Californians' reported satisfaction with the way things are going in their own lives is also related to the health, safety, education, employment, and social relations characteristics of the communities where they live.

Smaller proportions of Californians living in negatively rated communities report being “very satisfied” with their lives than residents in positively rated communities.

TABLE 8A: COMPARING LIFE SATISFACTION AMONG RESIDENTS LIVING IN NEGATIVELY RATED COMMUNITIES TO THOSE LIVING IN POSITIVELY RATED COMMUNITIES (% VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR LIFE)		
	Community rated negatively	Community rated positively
Health characteristics of community		
A healthy place to live	34%	55%
Local tap water is clean and healthy to drink	42%	65%
Clean environment, free of air/water chemical pollution	45%	53%
Has stores nearby that sell healthy, affordable foods	35%	50%
A place with access to public parks and open spaces	40%	57%
Safety characteristics of community		
A safe place, free of crime	35%	55%
Residents can walk and bicycle safely	36%	52%
Kids can play safely outdoors	41%	57%
Educational characteristics of community		
Quality public schools	36%	52%
After-school and summer school education available to students needing to catch up	39%	50%
Recreational activities/after-school programs for kids	40%	56%
College admissions advice available to students who want to go to college	37%	53%
Most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school	39%	54%
Employment opportunities of community		
A place to get a good job	37%	56%
Job opportunities for at-risk youth and those re-entering the labor force after doing time in jail	44%	56%
Social relations characteristics of community		
Residents take an active interest in community	41%	60%
Good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds	34%	53%

Note: Negatively rated communities are those given a rating of fair, poor or very poor on this dimension, while positively rated communities are those given an excellent or very good rating on this dimension.

The proportions of residents very satisfied with the way things are going in their lives is also lower in communities where unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions are more prevalent than in communities where they are not.

TABLE 8B:
SELF-REPORTED SATISFACTION WITH LIFE AND PREVALENCE
OF UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY
 (% VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR LIFE)

	In communities where this applies	In communities where this does not apply
Industrial plants or worksites that pollute the air or water are located nearby	40%	49%
Alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents	43%	56%
There is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police	45%	55%
Gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life	45%	55%
Residents are regularly exposed to garbage waste or pesticides in the environment	45%	53%
Nearly all local eating establishments are fast food restaurants	45%	50%

There are also racial and ethnic disparities in Californians' self-described satisfaction with their lives. A majority of the state's white non-Hispanics (54%) report be very satisfied with the way things are going in their lives. This declines to 47% among the state's Latinos and to 38% among Asian Americans and African Americans.

TABLE 8C:
SELF-REPORTED SATISFACTION WITH LIFE,
BY RACE/ETHNICITY

	White non-Hispanic	Latino	Asian American	African American
Very satisfied	54%	47%	38%	38%
Somewhat satisfied	36%	44%	50%	49%
Not satisfied	10%	9%	12%	12%
Not reported	*	*	*	1%

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.



The relationship between where employed Californians live and their opportunities for advancement and for being offered benefits with their employer

The survey also finds that employed Californians living in communities rated negatively as a place to get a good job face greater challenges at the workplace than wage earners living in communities rated positively on this dimension.

For example, just 41% of wage earners living in communities not considered to be a place to get a good job describe their own opportunities for advancement at their own place of employment as excellent or very good, while a majority (55%) say their chances of getting ahead are fair, poor or very poor. The reverse is true for employees living in communities rated positively as a place to get a good job. Among these employed adults, a 57% majority describes their own chances for advancement at work as excellent or very good, while just 41% say they are fair, poor or very poor.

In addition, nearly eight in ten (79%) employees living in communities rated favorably as a place to get a good job say their employer offers health insurance and other benefits, such as paid sick leave, to employees like themselves. This declines to just 69% among those working in communities not considered to be a place to get a good job.

TABLE 9: COMPARING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS OFFERED AMONG WAGE EARNERS IN COMMUNITIES RATED NEGATIVELY AND POSITIVELY AS “A PLACE TO GET A GOOD JOB”		
	Community rated negatively	Community rated positively
Self-described opportunities for advancement with own employer (among wage earners)		
Excellent	15%	25
Very good	26	32
Fair	33	32
Poor/very poor	22	9
No opinion	4	2
Employer offers employees like you health insurance and other benefits, like paid sick leave (among wage earners)		
Yes	69%	79%
No	27	17
Don't know	4	14

Note: Negatively rated communities are those given a rating of fair, poor or very poor on this dimension, while positively rated communities are those given an excellent or very good rating.



Perceived importance that
unhealthy or unfavorable living
conditions pose as a threat to
individual health

*The survey also asked Californians to
offer their opinions about the importance
that various unhealthy or unfavorable
living conditions within a community can
have on the health of an individual.*

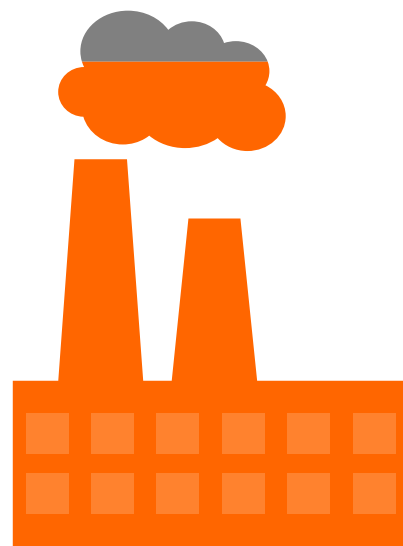
The results indicate that majorities believe that most of these conditions pose an “extremely important” threat to an individual’s health. For example, greater than seven in ten of the state’s residents say that each of four living conditions pose an extremely important threat to an individual’s health – *being exposed to domestic violence or abuse at home* (81%), *regularly being exposed to air, water or chemical pollution* (75%), *living in a high crime area* (73%) and *not having access to quality health care services* (73%).

Majorities of Californians also consider five other unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions as being extremely important health threats – *being unemployed for an extended period of time* (65%), *living in an area where there are racial tensions between the police and local residents* (63%), *living in an area without many good paying jobs or opportunities for advancement* (55%), *living in poor or substandard housing* (53%), and *working in a high stress job or having to work multiple jobs* (53%).

About half of the state’s residents view two other conditions as extremely important threats to the health of an individual – *living in an area without many grocery stores or restaurants that sell health foods* (50%) and *not having easy access to open spaces or outdoor activities* (47%).

93%

**of Californians
recognize that
pollution threatens
their health.**



**TABLE 10A:
PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE THAT UNHEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS
POSE AS A THREAT TO INDIVIDUAL HEALTH**

	Extremely important	Somewhat important	Not important
Being exposed to domestic violence or abuse at home	81%	11%	6%
Regularly being exposed to air, water or chemical pollution	75%	18%	6%
Living in a high crime area	73%	19%	5%
Not having access to quality health care services	73%	21%	4%
Being unemployed for an extended period of time	65%	26%	6%
Living in an area where there are racial tensions between police and local residents	63%	24%	9%
Living in an area without many good paying jobs or opportunities for advancement	55%	33%	9%
Living in poor or substandard housing	53%	35%	
Working in a high stress job or having to work multiple jobs	53%	36%	8%
Living in an area without many grocery stores or restaurants that sell healthy foods	50%	36%	12%
Not having easy access to open spaces or outdoor areas for recreation	47%	41%	10%

Note: Differences between 100% and the sum of each item’s percentages equal proportions with no opinion.



Racial/ethnic differences
in the perceived importance
of unhealthy or unfavorable
conditions as a threat to
individual health

Differences are also observed across the state's four major racial/ethnic groups regarding the perceived importance that unhealthy or unfavorable living conditions have on an individual's health.

For example, Latinos and African Americans are more likely than white non-Hispanics and Asian Americans to believe that six conditions pose an extremely important threat to the health of an individual. These include:

LIVING IN AN AREA WHERE THERE ARE RACIAL TENSIONS BETWEEN POLICE AND LOCAL RESIDENTS.

Among Latinos 68% consider this to be an extremely important health threat, while 75% of African Americans say this. By comparison, 62% of the state's white non-Hispanics and 52% of its Asian Americans consider this to be an extremely important.

LIVING IN AN AREA WITHOUT MANY GOOD PAYING JOBS OR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT.

61% among Latinos and 71% among African Americans vs. 54% among white non-Hispanics and 43% among Asian Americans.

LIVING IN POOR OR SUBSTANDARD HOUSING.

60% among Latinos and 68% among African Americans vs. 50% among white non-Hispanics and 43% among Asian Americans.

WORKING IN A HIGH STRESS JOB OR HAVING TO WORK MULTIPLE JOBS.

62% among Latinos and 58% among African Americans vs. 49% among white non-Hispanics and 46% among Asian Americans.

LIVING IN AN AREA WITHOUT MANY GROCERY STORES OR RESTAURANTS THAT SELL HEALTHY FOODS.

55% among Latinos and 60% among African Americans vs. 48% among white non-Hispanics and 42% among Asian Americans.

NOT HAVING EASY ACCESS TO OPEN SPACES OR OUTDOOR AREAS FOR RECREATION.

58% among Latinos and 51% among African Americans vs. 40% among white non-Hispanics and 39% among Asian Americans.

While large majorities of Californians across all major racial/ethnic subgroups believe *being exposed to domestic violence or abuse at home* is an extremely important threat to an individual's health, white non-Hispanics (88%) are the most likely to say this, while Asian Americans are somewhat less likely (68%). Latinos and African Americans fall about mid-way between their counterparts, with 78% and 79% believing this is an extremely important health threat.

In addition, a somewhat larger proportion of African Americans (84%) than others believe *regularly being exposed to air, water or chemical pollution* poses an extremely important threat to an individual's health.

**TABLE 10B:
PROPORTIONS WHO BELIEVE VARIOUS UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS
POSE AN “EXTREMELY IMPORTANT” THREAT TO INDIVIDUAL HEALTH,
BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

	White non-Hispanic	Latino	Asian American	African American
Being exposed to domestic violence or abuse at home	88%	78%	68%	79%
Regularly being exposed to air, water or chemical pollution	75%	77%	69%	84%
Living in a high crime area	74%	74%	67%	77%
Not having access to quality health care services	71%	79%	63%	80%
Being unemployed for an extended period of time	65%	69%	56%	69%
Living in an area where there are racial tensions between police and local residents	62%	68%	52%	75%
Living in an area without many good paying jobs or opportunities for advancement	54%	61%	43%	71%
Living in poor or substandard housing	50%	60%	43%	68%
Working in a high stress job or having to work multiple jobs	49%	62%	46%	58%
Living in an area without many grocery stores or restaurants that sell healthy foods	48%	55%	42%	60%
Not having easy access to open spaces or outdoor areas for recreation	40%	58%	39%	51%



Access to care and the uninsured

While California has made strides recently in reducing the number of residents who are uninsured following the passage of the Affordable Care Act, those who remain uninsured are much more likely than the insured to report problems in obtaining access to care.

The survey finds that about half of the state’s uninsured adults (48%) say they have difficulty in obtaining medical care when they need it. Only 13% of those who have been continuously insured over the past two years say this. Among adults who are currently insured but say they have gone without insurance for one month or longer during the past two years 28% report difficulty getting medical care when they need it.

Similar results are observed in relation to access to dental care. Among the uninsured 53% say they have difficulty in obtaining dental care when they need it, while just 22% among those who have been insured continuously over the past two years. Among those currently insured but have experienced periods going without coverage recently, 41% report problems with access to dental care.

TABLE 11A: COMPARING ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE AMONG UNINSURED AND INSURED CALIFORNIANS			
	Currently uninsured	Insured but went without coverage in past 2 years	Continuously insured for past 2 years
Access to medical care when you need it			
Very/somewhat difficult	15%	25%	13%
Very/somewhat easy	26%	32%	76%
Not reported	33%	32%	1%
Access to dental care when you need it			
Very/somewhat difficult	69%	79%	22%
Very/somewhat easy	27%	17%	75%
Not reported	4%	14%	3%

Latinos are more likely than the state’s other ethnic populations to report difficulties in getting both medical care and dental care when they need it. About one in three of the Latinos surveyed (31%) say it is very or somewhat difficult for them to get medical care when they need it, and nearly half (46%) say this with regard to getting dental care.

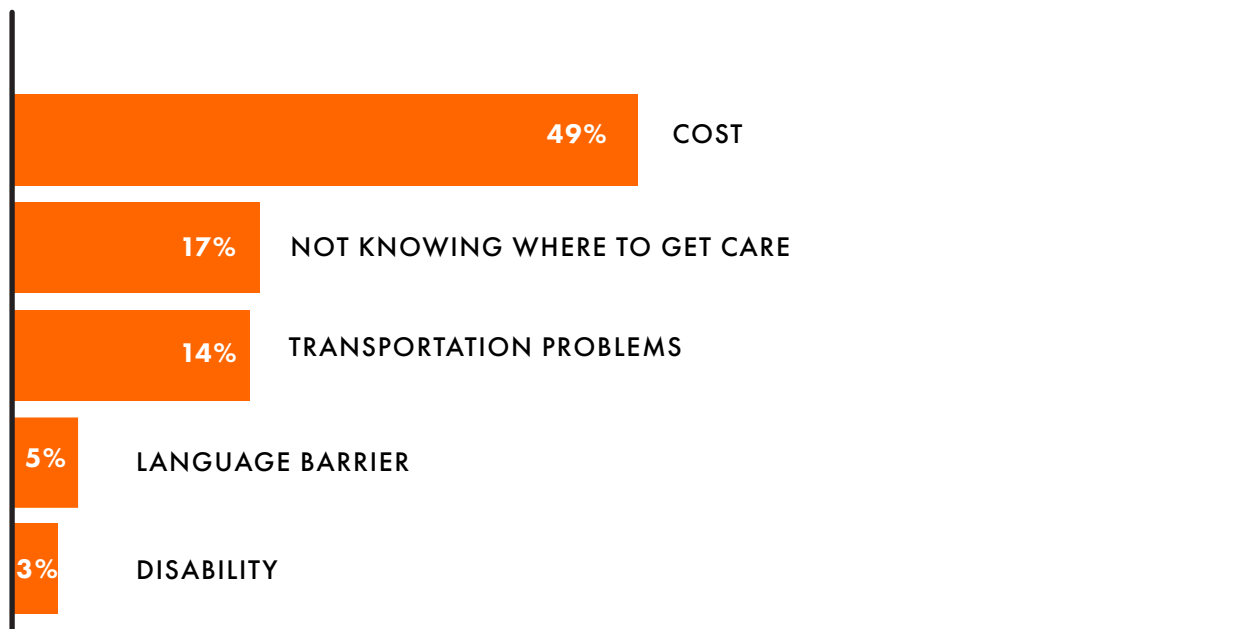
Compared to Latinos, fewer Asian Americans report difficulties getting medical care when they need (21%). Yet, they are more likely to report such problems than are the state’s white non-Hispanics (13%).

Similarly, fewer Asian Americans (29%) report difficulties getting dental care when they need it compared to the Latino population. However, both Asian Americans and their African American counterparts are more likely than white non-Hispanics to say it is difficult for them to get dental care when they need it.

**TABLE 11B:
COMPARING ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE,
BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

	White non-Hispanic	Latino	Asian American	African American
Access to medical care when you need it				
Very/somewhat difficult	13%	31%	21%	17%
Very/somewhat easy	85%	67%	76%	80%
Not reported	2%	2%	3%	3%
Access to dental care when you need it				
Very/somewhat difficult	17%	46%	29%	30%
Very/somewhat easy	80%	51%	64%	69%
Not reported	3%	3%	7%	1%

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING CARE



When the uninsured who said they had difficulty getting medical care when they needed it in the past year are asked their reasons not being able to easily get care, the biggest factor relates to cost, with about half (49%) saying this was a reason they had difficulty getting care. Another 17% said they don't know where to go to get care, 14% cite transportation problems to and from their medical provider, 5% had trouble communicating because their provider didn't speak their language, while 3% said a disability made it difficult for them to get care.

TABLE 11C: REASONS CITED BY UNINSURED FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO GET CARE WHEN NEED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	
	Uninsured
Couldn't afford it	49%
Didn't know where to go to get care	17%
Transportation problems	14%
Trouble communicating because provider didn't speak your language	5%
Because of a disability	3%

Note: Differences between 100% and the sum of the percentages equal proportion not reporting any of these five categories as a reason for not being able to get care when needed in the past 12 months.



The role that community groups and organizations should play in helping to address the health and well-being of local residents

Another question series asked Californians what role they felt various community groups and organizations should be playing in helping to address the health and well-being of local residents.

Greater than seven in ten Californians think each of five different community groups or organizations should be taking the lead and playing a “major role” in dealing with the health and well-being of local residents. They include: *local K- 12 schools* (77%), *health care providers* (75%), *the local health department* (74%), *local elected officials* (71%), and *the local police* (71%).

In addition, smaller, but still significant majorities think each of four other groups should also be playing a major role. These include: *local community and civic organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce, United Way and PTA* (61%), *local employers* (60%), *churches and faith-based organizations* (53%), and *local TV, radio, newspapers, community web sites and social media* (52%).

TABLE 12A: THE ROLES THAT COMMUNITY GROUPS SHOULD BE PLAYING IN HELPING TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF LOCAL RESIDENTS			
	Major role	Minor role	No role
Local K- 12 schools	77%	15%	4%
Health care providers	75%	18%	3%
Local health department	74%	19%	3%
Local elected officials	71%	19%	7%
Local police	71%	21%	5%
Local community and civic organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce, United Way and the PTA	61%	32%	5%
Local employers	60%	32%	5%
Churches and faith-based organizations	53%	35%	8%
Local TV, radio, newspapers, community web sites and social media	52%	36%	8%

Note: Differences between 100% and the sum of each item’s percentages equal the proportion with no opinion.

The state’s Latinos and African Americans are more likely than its white non-Hispanics and Asian Americans to believe that a wide range of community groups and organizations should be playing a major role in addressing the health and well-being of local residents.

Majorities of Latinos and African Americans, and in many cases large majorities, believe that all nine of the community groups and organizations rated should be playing a “major role” in helping to address local residents’ health and well-being. Although the relative hierarchy of the responses of white non-Hispanics and Asian Americans is similar, somewhat smaller proportions believe each group should be playing a major role.

TABLE 12B:
THE ROLES THAT COMMUNITY GROUPS SHOULD BE PLAYING
IN HELPING TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF
LOCAL RESIDENTS, BY RACE/ETHNICITY
 (% EXTREMELY IMPORTANT)

	White non-Hispanic	Latino	Asian American	African American
Local K-12 schools	77%	84%	60%	83%
Health care providers	68%	86%	65%	84%
Local health department	70%	83%	66%	80%
Local elected officials	70%	82%	47%	80%
Local police	62%	84%	66%	78%
Local community and civic organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce, United Way and the PTA	52%	76%	47%	71%
Local employers	51%	76%	48%	67%
Churches and faith-based organizations	47%	66%	37%	52%
Local TV, radio, newspapers, community web sites and social media	44%	66%	43%	55%

**APPENDIX:
SURVEY
QUESTIONNAIRE AND
TOPLINE FINDINGS**

1. How would you rate your community as a (ITEM) -- excellent, very good, fair, poor or very poor? (READ ITEM A FIRST, THEN READ ALL OTHERS IN RANDOM ORDER)

	EXCEL- VERY LENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	POOR REF	VERY DK/
(READ FIRST) a. healthy place to live	25%	40	27	5	2	1
() b. safe place to live, free of crime	18%	36	31	10	5	*
() c. place with a clean environment, free of air, water and chemical pollution	18%	40	30	8	3	1
() d. place that fosters good relations among persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds	17%	39	30	7	2	5
() e. place where kids can play safely outdoors	21%	35	25	11	5	3
() f. place with quality public schools.....	21%	34	25	7	2	11
() g. place that has recreational activities and after school programs for kids	21%	31	24	7	3	14
() h. place with access to public parks and open spaces	33%	37	21	6	2	1
() i. place where residents can walk and bicycle safely	26%	34	25	9	5	1
() j. place whose local tap water is clean and healthy to drink	21%	36	26	9	4	5
() k. place that has food stores and supermarkets nearby that sell healthy and affordable foods	30%	40	21	5	3	1
() l. place whose residents take an active interest in their community	13%	36	34	9	5	3

2. Next, please tell me the extent to which you feel any of the following conditions characterize the community where you live. (READ ITEMS IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) Does this apply to your community-- a lot, some or not at all?

	A LOT	SOME	NOT AT ALL	DK/ REF
() a. Industrial plants or worksites that pollute the air or water are located nearby	9%	33	56	3
() b. Residents are regularly exposed to garbage, waste or pesticides in the environment.....	8%	33	57	2
() c. Nearly all the local eating establishments are fast food restaurants, like McDonalds, Taco Bell, KFC or other similar places	35%	48	16	1
() d. There is distrust and hostility between community residents and the police	11%	36	49	4
() e. Alcohol and illegal drug use are common among local residents	19%	49	24	8
() f. Gangs and gun violence are a regular part of daily life	10%	36	51	2

3. I am going to read some community conditions that can pose a threat to the personal health of residents. For each please tell me how important you feel each is as a threat to the health of an individual. (READ ITEMS IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) How important do you feel (ITEM) is as a threat to the health of an individual-- extremely important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?

	EXTRE- MELY	SOME WHAT	NOT VERY	NOT AT ALL	DK/ REF
() a. regularly being exposed to air, water or chemical pollution	75%	18	3	3	2
() b. living in an area without many good paying jobs or opportunities for advancement	55%	33	6	3	3
() c. living in a high crime area	73%	19	2	3	2
() d. living in an area without many grocery stores or restaurants that sell healthy foods	50%	36	8	4	2
() e. not having easy access to open spaces or outdoor areas for recreation	47%	41	7	3	2
() f. working in a high stress job or working multiple jobs	53%	36	5	3	3
() g. living in poor or substandard housing	53%	35	5	3	3
() h. not having access to quality health care services.....	73%	21	2	2	2
() i. living in an area where there are racial tensions between the police and local residents	63%	24	5	4	4
() j. being exposed to domestic violence or abuse at home	81%	11	2	4	2
() k. being unemployed for an extended period of time	65%	26	4	2	3

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Note: Percentages may add to slightly more or slightly less than 100% due to rounding.

4. How would you rate your community as a (ITEM) -- excellent, good, only fair, poor or very poor? (READ ITEM A FIRST, THEN READ ALL OTHERS IN RANDOM ORDER)

	EXCEL- LENT	GOOD	ONLY FAIR	POOR	VERY POOR	DK/ REF
() a. place to get a good job	14%	30	32	13	7	4
() b. place where most local teens stay in school and graduate from high school	30%	36	18	5	2	8
() c. place where after-school and summer school education programs are available to students who need to catch up	28%	28	21	6	3	15
() d. place where college admissions advice and programs are available to students who want to go to college	36%	31	19	4	2	8
() e. place that offers job opportunities for at risk youth and those returning to the labor force after doing time in jail	9%	19	28	16	8	19

5. I am going to read some different types of community groups and organizations. For each please tell me whether they should be playing a major role, a minor role, or no role in helping to address the health and well-being of local residents. (READ ITEMS IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) Should (ITEM) be playing a major role, a minor role, or no role?

	MAJOR ROLE	MINOR ROLE	NO ROLE	DK/ REF
() a. the local health department	74%	19	3	4
() b. churches and faith-based organizations	53%	35	8	4
() c. local employers	60%	32	5	4
() d. the local K-12 schools	77%	15	4	4
() e. local community and civic organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce, United Way and the PTA	61%	29	5	5
() f. health care providers	75%	18	3	3
() g. local elected officials	71%	19	7	4
() h. the local police	71%	21	5	3
() i. local TV, radio, newspapers, community web sites and social media	52%	36	8	4

Next, some questions about yourself ...

6. Generally, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in your life – very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied or not at all satisfied?

VERY SATISFIED 48%
SOMEWHAT SATISFIED 42
NOT TOO SATISFIED 8
NOT AT ALL SATISFIED 2
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *

7. How hopeful are you that your life will improve in the future – very hopeful, somewhat hopeful, not too hopeful or not at all hopeful?

VERY HOPEFUL 63%
SOMEWHAT HOPEFUL 28
NOT TOO HOPEFUL 6
NOT AT ALL HOPEFUL 2
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2

8. Compared to your parents' generation, do you think that in general your opportunities to succeed in life (IF AGE <50: are) (IF AGE 50+: have been) better than theirs, worse than theirs, or about the same as theirs?

BETTER 59%
WORSE 15
ABOUT THE SAME 24
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2

9. In general, how would you describe your health – excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?

EXCELLENT 25%
VERY GOOD 35
GOOD 23
FAIR 14
POOR 4
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *

10. Are you limited in any way in any activities because of a long-term physical or mental impairment or medical condition? (IF NECESSARY, SAY:) A long-term condition is one which has already lasted three months, or if it began less than three months ago, can be expected to last that long. (DO NOT COUNT RETIREMENT AS A LONG-TERM HEALTH PROBLEM)

YES 20%
NO 80
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *

11. Have you been told by a doctor that you have a chronic health condition, like diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol or heart disease?

YES 27%
NO 72
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 1

12a. Do you currently have any kind of health care coverage? (IF NECESSARY, SAY:) This would include health insurance that you receive through your or another family member's employer or union, through a government program, like Medicare, Medi-Cal or the military, or through a health plan that you purchased separately.

YES 85%
NO 15
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 1

IF CURRENTLY INSURED, ASK:

85%

12b. Are you insured through your or another family member's employer or union, through Medicare, Medi-Cal or Tri-Care, through insurance that you purchased through the Covered California health exchange, or through some other source? (ANSWER CAN BE A MULTIPLE)

YES 85%
NO 15
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 1

13. Has there ever been a time in the past two years when you went without health insurance, even for a month?

YES 19%
NO 65
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 1

14. Where do you usually go when you need routine medical care, like a physical or a check-up – a doctor's office, a community clinic, hospital, some other type of place or do you not have a usual place for medical care?

DOCTOR'S OFFICE 56%
COMMUNITY CLINIC 21
HOSPITAL 11
OTHER 2
NO USUAL PLACE 9
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 1

15. Overall, how easy or difficult it is for you to get medical care when you need it -- very difficult, somewhat difficult, somewhat easy, or very easy?

VERY DIFFICULT 6%
SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT 15
SOMEWHAT EASY 30
VERY EASY 47
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2

16. Overall, how easy or difficult is it for you to get dental care when you need it -- very difficult, somewhat difficult, somewhat easy, or very easy?

VERY DIFFICULT 14%
SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT 17
SOMEWHAT EASY 22
VERY EASY 44
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 3

17. In the past 12 months was there ever a time when you needed medical or dental care and didn't get it because (READ ITEMS IN RANDOM ORDER)?

	YES	NO	DK/ REF
() a. you couldn't afford it	25%	74	1
() b. transportation was a problem	7%	92	*
() c. (IF DISABLED) of your disability	15%	84	1
() d. (IF NOT ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERVIEW) you had trouble communicating because the provider didn't speak your language	10%	89	1
() e. (IF UNINSURED) you didn't have insurance	43%	57	*
() f. you didn't know where to go to get care	12%	87	1

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

18. What is your current employment status? Are you currently employed for wages, self-employed, not employed but looking for work, retired, a homemaker or keeping house, disabled or a student in school? (ANSWER CAN BE A MULTIPLE)

EMPLOYED FOR WAGES	49%
SELF-EMPLOYED	14
NOT EMPLOYED/LOOKING FOR WORK	9
RETIRED.....	15
HOMEMAKER/KEEPING HOUSE.....	8
DISABLED	6
STUDENT.....	9
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	1

EMPLOYED FOR WAGES OR SELF-EMPLOYED (NET)

61%

19. Do you currently have only one paying job or more than one job (including part-time, evening or weekend work)?	ONLY ONE JOB 52%
	MULTIPLE JOBS 9
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *
20. Do you usually work 35 hours or more in a typical week at (this job) (these jobs)?	YES 49%
	NO 12
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *
21. In the past three years, did you ever lose a job or leave a job because you expected to be laid off?	YES 6%
	NO 55
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *

IF EMPLOYED FOR WAGES, ASK:

22. Would you describe the opportunities for advancement or getting ahead at your (main) place of employment as being excellent, very good, fair, poor or very poor?	EXCELLENT 21%
	VERY GOOD 29
	FAIR 32
	POOR 8
	VERY POOR 7
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 3
23. Does your (main) employer offer employees like yourself health insurance and other benefits, such as paid sick leave?	YES 73%
	NO 24
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 3
24. Would you describe your (main) place of employment as being a generally safe and healthy place to work or not?	YES 91%
	NO 8
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 1
25. In your opinion, does your (main) employer discriminate against you or pay you differently because of your race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability status?	YES 5%
	NO 93
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2

NOT EMPLOYED FOR WAGES/ SELF-EMPLOYED AND NOT RETIRED (NET)

24%

26. Have you done anything in the past four weeks to find work, like checking with an employment agency, contacting an employer, answering a want ad, or checking with friends or relatives about a job?	YES 10%
	NO 14
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *
27. How many years has it been since you last worked at a regular job or business, either part-time or fulltime? (READ CATEGORIES IF NECESSARY)	1 year ago or less 9%
	More than 1 year to 2 years 2
	More than 2 years to 3 years 2
	More than 3 years to 5 years 2
	5 years or more 6
	Never worked 3
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *

DO NOT READ -->

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Finally some questions about yourself for classification purposes...

101. What is the highest year of school that you have finished and gotten credit for? (READ CATEGORIES IF NECESSARY)

8th grade or less 9%
 some high school 7
 high school graduate 24
 trade / vocational school 2
 1-2 years of college 19
 3-4 years of college/(did not graduate).8
 college graduate 17
 5-6 years of college 3
 master's degree 6
 graduate work past master's 4
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2

DO NOT READ -->

102a. Including yourself, how many people currently live in your household?

1 13%
 2 27
 3 18
 4 17
 5+ 24
 NOT REPORTED 1

IF <1 ASK:

102b. How many of these people are children under age 18?

0 57%
 1 17
 2+ 25
 NOT REPORTED 1

103. Can you or can others in your household connect to the Internet from home? This includes connecting to the Internet from a smart phone or from a desktop, laptop or tablet computer.

YES 86%
 NO 13
 NO ANSWER/REFUSED 1

104a. Are you a Latino or of Hispanic origin, such as Mexican- American, Latin American, South American, or Spanish- American?

YES, HISPANIC 36%
 NO, NON-HISPANIC 63
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 1

IF YES, ASK:

104b. Are you of Mexican ancestry or some other Hispanic ancestry?
 (ANSWER CAN BE A MULTIPLE)

MEXICAN 28%
 OTHER HISPANIC 8
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *

105a. For survey purposes, we'd like to know what your racial background is. Are you White or Caucasian (KAW-KAY-SHUN), Black or African-American, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian or an Alaskan native, or a member of another race? (ANSWER CAN BE A MULTIPLE)

RACE/ETHNICITY (Q104a/1054 COMBINED)
 WHITE / CAUCASIAN 52%
 BLACK / AFRICAN-AMERICAN 6
 ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER 15
 AMERICAN INDIAN 2
 ALASKAN NATIVE *
 HISPANIC / LATINO 36
 OTHER (SPECIFY) -
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2

IF ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER, ASK:

105b. Which of the following best describes your Asian ancestry or ethnic origin? (READ CATEGORIES) (ANSWER CAN BE A MULTIPLE)

CHINESE 4%
 FILIPINO 4
 KOREAN 2
 VIETNAMESE 2
 ASIAN INDIAN 2
 JAPANESE 1
 OTHER 1

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

106. Were you born in California, in some other state in the U.S. or outside the United States?

CALIFORNIA 43%
 OTHER US STATE..... 19
 OUTSIDE US 36
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 1

NOT BORN IN US (NET)

37%

107. Are you currently a U.S. citizen or not?

YES 16%
 NO 21
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED -

IF NOT A US CITIZEN, ASK:

21%

108. Have you ever avoided doing certain things, like reporting a crime or talking to the police, going to a doctor's office or clinic, attending a school, traveling by airplane, applying for a driver's license, or driving a car, because you didn't want to be bothered or asked about your citizenship status

YES 3
 NO 16
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2

BORN IN U.S. OR A U.S. CITIZEN (NET)

79%

109. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. How about you?
 Are you registered to vote where you now live, are you registered to vote somewhere else, or are you not registered to vote?

REGISTERED WHERE LIVES 59%
 REGISTERED SOMEWHERE ELSE
 NOT REGISTERED } 20
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED }

110a. How well do you speak and understand English – very well, well, not well or not at all?

VERY WELL/ INTERVIEWED IN ENGLISH ..76%
 WELL..... 5
 NOT WELL/NOT AT ALL 18
 NO ANSWER/REFUSED..... 1

IF NOT WELL OR NOT AT ALL, ASK:

18%

110b. Is there anyone in your household who speaks and understands English well?

YES 14%
 NO, LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED 4
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *

111. Thinking of the racial and ethnic backgrounds of the residents of your community, would you describe the community where you live as being very diverse, meaning that residents are of many different races and ethnic backgrounds, somewhat diverse, not very diverse or not at all diverse?

VERY DIVERSE 40%
 SOMEWHAT DIVERSE 37
 NOT VERY DIVERSE 12
 NOT AT ALL DIVERSE 7
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 4

112. Which of the following best describes your present marital status – married, not married but live together, separated or divorced, widowed, or never married?

MARRIED 45%
 NOT MARRIED BUT LIVE TOGETHER..... 10
 SEPARATED OR DIVORCED 13
 WIDOWED 6
 NEVER MARRIED..... 25
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2

113. What, if any, is your religious preference – Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim or some other faith? (IF OTHER, ASK:) Is that a Christian denomination? (IF YES, RECORD AS “CHRISTIAN” (3), IF NOT CHRISTIAN, RECORD THE APPROPRIATE CATEGORY)

PROTESTANT 11%
CATHOLIC..... 29
OTHER CHRISTIAN 20
JEWISH 2
BUDDHIST 3
MUSLIM 1
OTHER13
NO PREFERENCE (VOLUNTEERED)18
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 4

114. Do you own or rent your home?

OWN 41%
RENT..... 51
OTHER 5
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 3

115. Which of the following best describes the type of housing where you live – single family detached house, apartment, condominium or townhouse, in-law unit, trailer or mobile home, or assisted living facility?

SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED HOUSE 59%
APARTMENT 22
CONDOMINIUM/TOWNHOUSE 9
IN-LAW OR SHARED LIVING SPACE 1
TRAILER OR MOBILE HOME 4
ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY 1
SOMETHING ELSE (VOLUNTEERED) 1
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 3

116. Thinking back over the past 5 years, was there ever a time when you were homeless or did not have your own place to live or sleep?

YES 9%
NO 88
NO ANSWER/REFUSED 3

117. Do you live in a city, the suburbs of an urban area, a small town outside of an urban area, or a rural area outside of a small town?

CITY 48%
SUBURB IN URBAN AREA 27
SMALL TOWN OUTSIDE URBAN AREA 13
RURAL AREA OUTSIDE SMALL TOWN 7
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 6

118. What is your zip code there? (NOTE: ZIP CODE MUST BEGIN WITH “9”)

INDIVIDUAL ZIP CODES RECORDED

119. We don’t want to know your exact income, but just roughly, could you tell me if your annual household income before taxes is less than \$ 10,000, between \$ 10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$100,000, between \$100,000 and \$150,000, or more than \$150,000?

LESS THAN \$10,000 10%
\$10,000–\$19,999 15
\$20,000–\$29,999 10
\$30,000–\$39,999 8
\$40,000–\$49,999 6
\$50,000–\$74,999 10
\$75,000–\$99,999 8
\$100,000–\$149,999 9
\$150,000 OR MORE..... 7
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 7

120. Is your annual household income before taxes less than or more than ____?
(100%/200%/300% OF FPL) (HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE PROGRAMMING PROVIDES THRESHOLDS)

<100% OF FPL 26%
100%- 199% OF FPL..... 15
<200% OF FPL (UNSPECIFIED) 1
200%-299% OF FPL..... 7
100%-299% OF FPL (UNSPECIFIED) 1
<300% OF FPL (UNSPECIFIED) 1
300% OR MORE OF FPL 33
NOT CLASSIFIABLE 14