

2016

REPORT ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

COMMISSIONED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
PREPARED BY MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY



Mount 
Saint Mary's
University
LOS ANGELES

March 31, 2016

Early this year, the Los Angeles County Commission for Women (LACCW) commissioned Mount Saint Mary's University (MSMU) to conduct research on the condition and status of LA County's 5.1 million women and girls.

At our annual Women of the Year awards on March 13, the LACCW released the executive summary from the resulting report, the 2016 Report on the Status of Women in LA County. Both documents are now available for download here on our website.

We encourage you to read this fascinating portrait of how LA County women and girls are faring across a broad range of economic and social indicators. It tells us that there are positive trends to acknowledge, including:

- Young women today are staying in school longer, graduating high school, and going on to higher education at significantly higher rates than women of earlier generations.
- 86% of women have health insurance, an increase of 6 percentage points since 2010
- Los Angeles has the second highest concentration of women-owned businesses in the nation, and these businesses generate \$88 billion in revenue annually.

Yet this report also confirms that gender disparities persist and that many LA County women and girls experience significant hardship.

- Women earn 80 cents to every dollar men make.
- One of every five women and girls live below the federal poverty line.
- The poverty rate for African American women and Latinas is significantly higher.
- Among county residents over the age of 75, twice as many women as men live in poverty.

In conducting research for this report, we also discovered that the data is not robust enough in some areas for us to gain an accurate picture. In particular, it proved difficult to gather accurate statistics about violence against women and girls. The LACCW will work with our partners in the field of domestic violence or human trafficking to determine how we can close our knowledge gap so that we can more effectively address these pervasive problems.

The snapshot of the status of women and girls in our county offered by this report will help guide the LACCW in our work. In the coming months, we will engage with the Board of Supervisors, County departments, and community groups to disseminate these findings and identify how together we can improve the quality of life and well-being of women and girls.

In closing we'd like to express our deep gratitude to our partners at MSMU, especially to Eleanor Siebert and Kimberly Kenny, as well as to the members of the LACCW Ad-Hoc Committee the oversaw the report's research and production: Commissioners Maria Calix, Barbara Kappos, Karriann Farrell Hinds, Imelda Padilla, and Vice President Alice Petrossian.

Becky Shevlin
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2016 Report on the Status of Women in Los Angeles County

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Overview

The 2016 Report on the Status of Women in Los Angeles County was commissioned by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women, and prepared by Mount Saint Mary's University. This report provides a demographical overview of women in Los Angeles County and offers a snapshot of how women are faring across a variety of wellbeing indicators, including: educational attainment; economic wellbeing; home and family; health; violence against women; and veterans' support.

The Los Angeles County Commission for Women seeks to represent the interest and concerns of women of all races, ethnic and social backgrounds, religious convictions, sexual orientation and social circumstances. The goal of this report is to provide data and trends that can guide county leaders in addressing the needs of L.A. County women and girls. This report was undertaken as part of the L.A. County Commission for Women's mandate.

For more information about LACCW and its work, visit laccw.lacounty.gov.

Report Highlights

Demographics

- Women and girls make up 51% of the population of Los Angeles County.
- Los Angeles County is home to 5.1 million women and girls (5,134,000); it is the most populous county in California and in the United States. A quarter of all Californians (26%) reside in L.A. County. The women and girls of L.A. County make up 13% of the state's population.
- Close to half (48%) of the women and girls in L.A. County are Latina. About one-quarter of the county's women and girls (26%) identify as white, non-Latina. The county has experienced an increase in women of color over the past decade, with the population increasing from 71% in 2006 to 74% in 2014. Over this same time there has been an increase in both Asian-American women (13% to 15%) and Latinas (46% to 48%).
- The women of L.A. County are younger than women across the United States. Latinas are the youngest of the county's racial and ethnic groups with a median age of 30.9 years.
- More than 1.8 million (1,829,000) of L.A. County's 5.1 million women and girls were born in another country. More than one out of three residents of the county (35%) is an immigrant, and women and girls make up just over half of these foreign-born residents of the county. Nine out of 10 of the county's immigrants were born in Latin America or Asia.

Educational Attainment

- Los Angeles County women under the age of 35 are graduating from high school and attaining postsecondary degrees at significantly higher rates than both their men peers and than women over the age of 35.
- The high school graduation rate for L.A. County women has increased by 5 percentage points in the past decade. In 2014, 88% of 18-24 year-olds had earned at least a high school degree, making young L.A. County women the most educated of any age cohort.
- Still, ethnic disparities persist. For example, 35% of Asian-American women and 29% of white women have college degrees; however, only 15% of African-American women and 8% of Latinas have a college degree.
- L.A. County women earn more post-secondary degrees than do L.A. County men. Women hold a majority of the degrees at the associate's, bachelor's and master's levels. But men hold the majority of professional and doctorate degrees in the county.
- More than four in 10 (42%) of 25 to 34-year-old women have earned an associate's, bachelors or graduate degree.
- L.A. County women aged 45-64 have significantly less education than their younger counterparts. Fully a quarter (25%) of women aged 45-64 did not graduate high school, and another one-fifth (20%) have only a high school degree and no postsecondary degree.

Economic Wellbeing

- The unemployment rate for women overall in Los Angeles County in 2015 was 6.8%, according to preliminary Bureau of Labor Statistics data, indicating that women's employment has returned to near pre-recession levels. The unemployment rate for women remains slightly above the rate for men.
- There are nearly 437,000 women-owned businesses in metropolitan Los Angeles. These businesses employ 396,900 people and generate more than \$88 billion in annual sales revenue.
- Median earnings for women employed in full-time, year-round positions is \$40,219, or approximately \$9,000 lower than the national median earnings for men and \$2,000 lower than the county median earnings for men. Forty-two percent of L.A. County women in the workforce are full-time employees.
- Nearly six out of 10 L.A. County women in the workforce are not in full-time, year-round jobs. Including these women, median earnings for women overall drops to \$27,462, significantly lower than earnings of men in the county, the state and the nation.
- The gender wage gap for all women employed in Los Angeles County is 80%.
- One in five (20%) women and girls in L.A. County lives below the federal poverty level. The county's poverty rate is higher than California's and the nation's. In L.A. County, a greater percentage of women live in poverty than do men (20.0% versus 17.3%).
- In general, women and girls of color are much more likely to live in poverty. However, the higher the level of educational attainment, the less likely one is to live in poverty. Of the more than one-half million (579,888) L.A. County women living in poverty, 41% have less than a high school degree, while just 13% have a bachelor's degree or greater.
- Forty percent of all families headed by a single mother, with children under 18 years at home, live in poverty.
- Ten percent of impoverished women are 65 years or older. The poverty rate among women who are 75 years and older is 17%. Among those 75 years and older, twice as many women as men live in poverty.

Home and Family

- Just more than 1 million Los Angeles County households (33%) are headed by women.
- Over half (54%) of the county's households are renter occupied. One-third of single-mother families own their homes, while two-thirds live in rental units.
- The cost burden of owning or renting a home in L.A. County is greater than that across the nation. More than one-half (51%) of all rental households in the county carry a rent burden of 35% or more of their household income.
- In 2013, women accounted for 26% of people living in homelessness in L.A. County; in 2015, that percentage increased to 33%.
- The number of teen births in L.A. County has declined steadily since 2008, cutting the teen birth rate from 30 to 15 births per 1,000 teens.

Health

- In Los Angeles County, the percentage of insured persons has increased from 77% in 2010 to 84% in 2014, and the percentage of insured women has increased from 80% in 2010 to 86% in 2014.
- The infant mortality rate in Los Angeles County is 4.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, a rate slightly below California's rate of 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. Sharp racial disparities are evident in the county and state. The infant mortality rate of babies born to African-American mothers is 9.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared with 4.5 for Latinas, 3.7 for Asian Americans and 3.5 for whites.
- Women account for 37% of all county admissions to substance abuse programs; women account for nearly half of all seeking treatment for the abuse of methamphetamine and prescription opioids.

Violence Against Women and Girls

- In 2006, law enforcement agencies throughout Los Angeles County reported 45,684 calls for assistance related to domestic violence; in 2014, the total number of calls was 39,145.
- One out of five (21%) individuals in the county's 2015 Homeless Count of 41,174 was identified as being homeless due to domestic violence.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified metropolitan Los Angeles as one of 13 "High Intensity Child Prostitution" areas in the United States. (Two other California metropolitan areas, San Francisco and San Diego, are in this top 13.). The average age of onset for commercial sexual exploitation is 12 to 14 for girls. The life expectancy of a child involved in commercial sexual exploitation is seven years from the first date of his or her exploitation, with the leading causes of death being HIV/AIDS or homicide.⁴

Veterans

- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 6% of the 288,590 veterans living in Los Angeles County are women.
- The median income of L.A. County women veterans is higher than that of women non-veterans (\$30,948 and \$21,225, respectively).
- Women veterans earn 81% of what men veterans earn.

Demographics

TO THE POINT: Los Angeles County is home to 5.1 million women and girls (5,134,000); it is the most populous county in California and in the United States. Twenty-six percent of the state's population resides in Los Angeles County. By themselves, the women and girls of Los Angeles County make up 13% of the state's population. More than one out of three residents of the county (35%) is an immigrant, and women and girls make up just over half of these foreign-born residents of the county.

38,802,500	California population
19,538,043	California women and girls
10,116,705	Los Angeles County population
5,134,000	Los Angeles County women and girls

Population

The population of Los Angeles County is estimated to be 10,116,705; just over half (51%) of the county's residents are women or girls.¹ The women of Los Angeles County make up 13% of the state's population.

Racial/Ethnic Distribution

Los Angeles County is close to half (48%) Latina, with just over one-quarter of its women (26%) identifying as white (non-Latina). One out of seven (15%) are Asian American and one out of 11 (9%) are African American.²

Race and Ethnicity of Women, 2014

	L.A. County (5,134,000 total)	California (19,538,000 total)
Latina	48%	38%
White	26%	38%
Asian American	15%	15%
African American	9%	6%
Other	2%	3%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

Los Angeles County has a greater percentage of its women who identify as Latina and African American; fewer women in the county than in the state identify as white.

The county has experienced an increase in women of color over the past decade, with the population increasing from 71% in 2006 to 74% in 2014. Over this same time there has been an increase in both Asian-American women (13% to 15%) and Latinas (46% to 48%), but the proportion of African-American women has remained constant at 9%.³ There has also been an increase in Los Angeles County and across California, among

¹ U.S. Census 2014 Population Estimates. Table PEPSR6H: *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014*. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

² U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B01001 and Tables B01001B, D, H, I: *Sex by Age*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

³ U.S. Census 2006 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B01001 and Tables B01001B, D, G, H, I: *Sex by Age*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

persons identifying with two or more races. In 2014, 4% of the county and 5% of the state’s population identified with multi-racial (non-Latino) origins.

Age

The median age of Los Angeles County women is 37 years; this is the same as the state average, but younger than the median age of women across the United States.

Percentage of Women and Girls by Age Group⁴

Age Group	L.A. County	California	U.S.
Under 5 years	6%	6%	6%
5-17 years	16%	17%	16%
18-24 years	10%	10%	10%
25-44 years	29%	27%	26%
45-64 years	28%	27%	26%
65 + years	13%	14%	16%
Median age	36.9 years	37.1 years	39.0 years

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

In 2014, more than one out of every five girls across the county and the state are under the age of 18 years. Across both the county and the state, 13% to 14% of women are over the age of 65 years.

As a whole, Los Angeles County women are younger than women across the U.S. but the median age is increasing. L.A. County Latinas are the youngest of all racial/ethnic groups with a median age of 30.9 years. White women are the oldest with a median age of 46.1 years.⁵

⁴ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S0101: Age and Sex.

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁵ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B01002 (B, D, H and I): Median Age by Sex. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Foreign Born

Slightly more than one out of three residents of Los Angeles County (35%) were born in another country. Just over half of these foreign-born residents—1,829,000—are women and girls.⁶ Nine out of 10 of the county’s foreign-born residents were born in Latin America or Asia.

Place of Birth of L.A. County’s Foreign-Born Population⁷

	Women and girls (1,829,000 total)	Men and boys (1,689,000 total)
Latin America • Mexico	56% • 38%	59% • 41%
Asia	36%	33%
Europe	5%	5%
Other areas	3%	3%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

As a group, the county’s foreign-born population has the following characteristics:⁸

- 38% have less than a high school degree
- 60% speak English less than “very well”
- 20% have an income below the federal poverty level
- 27% have no health insurance coverage⁹

⁶ U.S. Census, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Percentages derived from Table S0501: *Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Populations*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁷ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B05008: *Sex by Place of Birth by Year of Entry for the Foreign-Born Population*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁸ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S0501: *Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Populations*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁹ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S0501: *Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Populations*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Educational Attainment

TO THE POINT: The data on education show a clear positive trend for Los Angeles County women. Women under the age of 35 are graduating from high school and attaining postsecondary degrees at significantly higher rates than both their male peers and than women over the age of 35. Women overall hold the majority of associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees. Men, however, earn the majority (57%) of doctorate and professional degrees.

Degrees

Los Angeles County women are increasingly better educated.¹⁰ In 2014, 87% of 18-35 year-old women held a high school or postsecondary degree. Only 13% of this age group did not hold a high school degree. And the percentage of women in the 18-24-year age group who have less than a high school education is the lowest of any age group.

More than four in 10 (42%) of 25-34 year-old women have earned an associate’s, bachelors or graduate degree.

Los Angeles County women aged 45-64 have significantly less education than their younger counterparts. Fully a quarter (25%) of women aged 45-64 did not graduate high school, and another one-fifth (20%) have only a high school degree and no postsecondary degree.

Percentage of Women in Each Age Group
Having Attained the Degree¹¹

Age Group	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-64 years	All 18-64 years
Highest degree level					
No high school degree	12%	13%	20%	25%	17%
High school degree	24%	18%	20%	20%	21%
Associate’s degree	5%	8%	7%	8%	7%
Bachelor’s degree	10%	27%	21%	18%	19%
Graduate/ professional degree	1%	11%	12%	9%	9%

Note: Women who are 65 years and older are not counted in this table.

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

¹⁰ U.S. Census American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates for the years mentioned. Table S1501: Educational Attainment. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

¹¹ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B15001: Sex by Age by Educational Attainment for the Population 18 Years and Over. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

It is also instructive to look at educational attainment by ethnicity.

Educational Attainment of L.A. County Women and Men
by Percent of Race/Ethnicity

Population 25 Years and Older	Less than High School	High School Diploma	Some College (no degree)	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Post- Graduate Degree
African American Women (N=309,697) Men (N=255,615)	9% 12%	24% 27%	33% 31%	10% 8%	14% 14%	9% 7%
Asian Women (N=596,339) Men (N=491,027)	14% 10%	16% 14%	13% 16%	8% 7%	35% 36%	13% 16%
Hispanic Latina (N=1,456,802) Latino (N=1,404,347)	42% 42%	24% 26%	17% 17%	6% 5%	8% 8%	3% 3%
White Women (N=1,049,254) Men (N=1,052,033)	6% 6%	17% 16%	22% 21%	8% 7%	29% 30%	18% 20%
TOTAL Women (N=3,482,351) Men (N=3,268,873)	23% 22%	20% 21%	20% 19%	7% 6%	20% 20%	10% 11%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 ACS 1-Year Estimate (Table B15002: Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over).

The majority of Latinos 25 years and over (66-68%) have a high school degree or less; 11% have a minimum of a bachelor's degree.

Overall, though, more women today are enrolling in colleges and universities following high school.

Los Angeles County Women Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education¹²

	Total number of women	% of all women enrolled	Number enrolled in public college/graduate school	Number enrolled in private college/graduate school	Total enrolled in college/ university
2006	3,934,118	10.8%	320,413	105,489	425,902
2008	3,953,740	10.9%	325,728	106,180	431,908
2010	4,025,861	11.8%	366,643	108,472	475,115
2012	4,103,495	11.4%	344,323	125,520	469,844
2014	4,202,886	11.3%	357,800	115,352	473,152

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

¹² U.S. Census American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates for years indicated. Percentages derived from Table B14004: Sex by College or Graduate School Enrollment by Type of School by Age for the Population 15 Years and Over. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Three-quarters of women in higher education are enrolled in California’s public higher education system (a California community college, California State University, or University of California).

More Women than Men Hold Postsecondary Degrees
in L.A. County and Throughout California¹³

	Percentage of degrees held by L.A. County women	Percentage of degrees held by L.A. County men	Percentage of degrees held by CA women	Percentage of degrees held by CA men
Associate’s degree	55%	45%	56%	44%
Bachelor’s degree	52%	48%	52%	48%
Master’s degree	53%	47%	52%	48%
Professional school degree	43%	57%	44%	56%
Doctorate degree	43%	57%	39%	61%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

In Los Angeles County, 53% of all undergraduate (associate’s or bachelor’s) college degrees are held by women. At the post-graduate level, 53% of master’s degrees, 43% of professional degrees and 43% of doctorates are held by women. While women hold a majority of the degrees at the associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s levels, they hold fewer than half of the professional and doctorate degrees.

Women have held the majority of undergraduate and master’s degrees since 2006. The percentage of graduate degrees held by women has increased markedly over this time period: in 2006, 41% of professional degrees and 34% of doctorates were held by women, compared with 43% of professional and of doctoral degrees held by women in 2014.¹⁴

¹³ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Derived from Table B15002: Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

¹⁴ U.S. Census American Community Surveys for the years indicated. Derived from Table B15002: Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over (selected for Los Angeles County). <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Economic Wellbeing

TO THE POINT: The unemployment rate for women overall in Los Angeles County in 2015 was 6.8%, according to preliminary Bureau of Labor Statistics data, indicating that women's employment has returned to near pre-recession levels. Full-time, year-round working women in L.A. County also earn 95% of what their men counterparts earn; a gender wage gap that is better than statewide and national gender wage gaps. In general, those women most vulnerable to economic insecurity are women of color; single mothers with children under the age of 19; and women who have less than a high school degree.

Employment

Sixty-four percent (64%) of L.A. County's 3,165,998 women between the ages of 20-64 years are employed. This is consistent with California's numbers, but lower than the 67% of women who are employed across the nation. Almost six in 10 (58%) of county women in the workforce have children under the age of 6 years.¹⁵

Of the over 1.3 million county women who are employed full-time, 69% are employees of private companies and 3% are self-employed in their own incorporated businesses. Another 9% are employed in not-for-profit companies and 14% work for the local, state or federal government. Nearly 6% work in unincorporated businesses or as an unpaid family worker.¹⁶

Women-Owned Businesses

As of 2015, California is home to over 1 million women-owned businesses, more than any other state in the nation.¹⁷ The metropolitan Los Angeles area (which includes Los Angeles, Long Beach and Santa Ana) has an estimated 437,000 women-owned businesses, second only behind the New York, NY/NJ metropolitan area.¹⁸

Women-owned businesses in the Los Angeles area employ 396,000 people and have an annual sales revenue estimated at \$88.3 billion.

The most recent survey of business owners estimates a total of 3,548,449 firms in Los Angeles County.¹⁹

¹⁵ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S2301: *Employment Status*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

¹⁶ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S2409: *Class of Worker by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars) for the full-time, year-round civilian employed population 16 years and over*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

¹⁷ American Express OPEN. (May 2015) The 2015 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report: A Summary of Important Trends, 1997-2015. <http://www.womenable.com/53/research-briefs-and-reports>

¹⁸ American Express OPEN. (May 2015) The 2015 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report Summary Tables. Table 6: *Trend in Growth of Women-owned Business Firms in Top 25 Metropolitan Areas, 2002-2015*. http://www.womenable.com/content/userfiles/2015_State_of_Women-Owned_Businesses_Report-Summary_Tables.pdf

¹⁹ U.S. Census 2012 Survey of Business Owners (December 15, 2015) Table SB1200CSA02: *Statistics for all U.S. Firms by Industry, Veteran Status and Gender for the U.S., States, Metro Areas, Counties and Places: 2012*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Women-Owned Businesses in L.A. County

Total	3,548,449	100%
Privately-owned firms	3,488,448	98%
Women-owned firms • Minority-owned firms ²⁰	1,320,085 • 719,598	38% • 20%
Men-Owned • Minority-owned firms	1,852,580 • 803,522	53% • 43%
• Firms equally owned by women and men	• 315,782	• 9%
Publicly-held firms	60,001	2%

Note: 'Minority-owned firms' data are taken from Table SB1200CSA01.

Source: U.S. Census 2012 Survey of Business Owners.

Based on 2015 estimates, the number of women-owned businesses in the Los Angeles metropolitan area has grown by 7% since 2007; employment in this sector has grown by 2% and sales revenues have grown by 11%.²¹

Unemployment

The unemployment rate is declining across the county, the state and the nation. Preliminary figures for 2015 suggest that the unemployment rate for women in Los Angeles County and statewide are nearly at pre-recession levels of 2006.²²

Unemployment Rates for Women, 2006-2015

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2015 (preliminary)
L.A. County	6.3%	6.2%	11.4%	11.0%	8.5%	6.8%
California	6.3%	6.7%	11.5%	10.6%	8.0%	6.3%

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; preliminary estimates for 2015 are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

There are racial and ethnic disparities in employment, with African-American women and Latinas experiencing higher rates of unemployment. Preliminary 2015 figures estimate the unemployment rates of the county's African-American women at 10.2% and Latinas at 8.4%.²³

²⁰ U.S. Census 2012 Survey of Business Owners (December 15, 2015) Table SB1200CSA01: *Statistics for all U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity and Race for the U.S., States, Metro Areas, Counties and Places: 2012*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

²¹ American Express OPEN. (May 2015) *The 2015 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report Summary Tables*. Table 6: *Trend in Growth of Women-owned Business Firms in Top 25 Metropolitan Areas, 2002-2015*. http://www.womenable.com//content/userfiles/2015_State_of_Women-Owned_Businesses_Report-Summary_Tables.pdf

²² Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. *Employment status of the civilian non-institutional population by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity and detailed age, 2015 annual averages (preliminary)*. www.bls.gov/lau/ptable14full2015.pdf

²³ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. *Employment status of the civilian non-institutional population by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age, 2015 annual averages (preliminary)*. www.bls.gov/lau/ptable14full2015.pdf

Earnings

Median earnings for women employed in full-time, year-round positions is \$40,219, or approximately \$9,000 lower than the national median earnings for men and \$2,000 lower than the county median earnings for men. Forty-two percent of L.A. County women in the workforce are full-time employees.²⁴

Nearly six out of 10 L.A. County women in the workforce are not in full-time, year-round jobs. Including these women, median earnings for women overall drops to \$27,462, significantly lower than earnings of men in the county, the state and the nation.

The gender wage gap for all women employed in Los Angeles County is 80%.

Median Earnings for Civilian Workers (2014)

	L.A. County		California		United States	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Full-time, year-round earnings ²⁵	\$40,219	\$42,163	\$42,704	\$50,748	\$39,054	\$49,149
Gender wage gap for full-time, year-round workers	95%		84%		79%	
Employed population ²⁶	\$27,462	\$34,161	\$30,033	\$39,806	\$28,170	\$40,110
Gender wage gap for all employed (including seasonal and part-time work)	80%		75%		70%	

Note: The Gender wage gap is presented as a percentage of women's earnings against men's earnings.

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

²⁴ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S2402: Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars) for full-time, year-round civilian employed population 16 years and over. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

²⁵ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S2402: Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars) for full-time, year-round civilian employed population 16 years and over. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

²⁶ The employed population includes those who may be seasonal or part-time workers who are at work during the survey reference week. Data are from U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S2401: Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars) for the civilian employed population 16 years and over. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Occupations and Median Salaries

Nearly three-fourths (74%) of Los Angeles County women who are employed full-time, year-round are engaged in the management/business/science/arts and the sales/office occupations.²⁷

Occupations and Salaries of L.A. County Women

Occupational Clusters:	Percentage of woman's workforce in these occupations (total = 1,335,000)	Median Salary
Management/business/science/ arts	42%	\$61,741
Sales/office	32%	\$36,120
Service	17%	\$22,269
Production/transportation/material moving	8%	\$20,911
Natural resources/construction/maintenance	0.7%	\$26,636
Total	100%	\$40,219

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

It is important to note that each of these occupational clusters are broad and the occupations within each cluster vary widely. Breaking the management/business/science/arts cluster into more refined groupings shows the wide variation in jobs and median earnings included in this cluster:²⁸

Earnings within Management/Business/Science/Arts Occupations for Full-Time Working Women

Specific occupational clusters	Median salary of women	% of workforce made up of women
Healthcare practitioner/technical	\$70,006	63%
Education/legal/community service/arts/media	\$55,106	51%
Management/business/financial	\$61,741	44%
Computer/engineering/science	\$75,393	23%

Note: These more refined occupational clusters still include a wide variety of jobs; for example, within the education/legal/community service/arts/media occupations, median earnings for full-time working women range from just under \$50,000 for community and social services occupations to \$85,000 for legal occupations.

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

Note that for the higher paying occupations in computer, engineering and science, fewer than 1 in four workers (23%) is a woman.

²⁷ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S2402 (see above) and Table C24020: Sex by Occupation for the Full-Time Year-Round Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

²⁸ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Data derived from Table S2402: Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars) for full-time, year-round civilian employed population 16 years and over. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Poverty

Nearly one in five (19%) L.A. County residents lives below the federal poverty level. This is a higher poverty rate than in California as a whole, as well as the nation. As elsewhere, the poverty rate of women is higher than that for men.²⁹

Measuring Poverty

In this report, we use the federal poverty level (FPL) as the “official” measure of poverty. When incomes fall below this threshold, the individual or family unit is “living in poverty.” The FPL is determined (1) for an individual is based on whether the individual is 65 years and older and (2) for a family unit based on the size of the family and the number of related children under 18 years of age. Geographic location does not impact the FPL.

In 2014, the FPL for an individual under 65 years of age is \$12,316; for persons 65 years and over, the threshold is \$11,354. For a family of four with two children under the age of 18 years, the FPL is defined as \$24,008.³⁰

Poverty Rates, 2014

	L.A. County	California	United States
Women	20.0%	17.5%	16.8%
Men	17.3%	15.3%	14.2%
Overall	18.7%	16.4%	15.5%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

Poverty by Employment Status

More than a quarter (27%) of women 16 years and over who lived in poverty in the past year were employed. Another 10% were looking for work but are unemployed.³¹

Poverty by Race/Ethnicity

Not all racial/ethnic groups are affected equally by poverty; in general, women and girls of color are much more likely to live in poverty.³²

Percentage of Women and Girls by Ethnicity/Race Who Live in Poverty

	African American	Asian American	Latina	White
L.A. County women/girls below federal poverty level	26%	13%	26%	12%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

²⁹ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

³⁰ U.S. Census. Poverty Thresholds for 2014 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years. www.census.gov/

³¹ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Percentages derived from Table B17005: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Individuals by Sex by Employment Status. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

³² U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S17001B, D, H and I: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

One in four African-American women and Latinas live in poverty — twice the rate of Asian American and white women in the county.

Poverty by Educational Attainment

The higher the level of educational attainment, the less likely one is to live in poverty. Of the women for whom poverty status has been determined:

- 41% have less than a high school degree;
- 25% have attained a high school degree;
- 21% have an associate’s degree or some college; and
- 13% have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree.³³

Poverty and Families

Poverty is particularly difficult on families: 15% of all families in the county live below the federal poverty level. Los Angeles County families headed by single mothers—as well as those throughout the state and nation—are far more likely to live in poverty than married-couple families.³⁴

Percentage of Families Living in Poverty, 2014

	L.A. County	California	United States
All families	15%	12%	11%
Married-couple families • With children under 18 years	9% • 14%	7% • 11%	6% • 8%
Single-mother families • With children under 18 years	28% • 40%	28% • 39%	31% • 41%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

The poverty rate for families with minor children (under the age of 18 years) hits single mothers particularly hard: 40% of all single-mother families with children under 18 years live in poverty. For these families, the median income is \$10,500 below the federal poverty level for their family size.³⁵

³³ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Derived from Table B17003: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Individuals by Sex by Educational Attainment. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

³⁴ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S1702: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

³⁵ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S1702: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Poverty and Age

L.A. County Poverty Rates by Age and Gender

Age Group	Females	Males
<18 years	26%	26%
18-64 years	19%	15%
65 years and older	15%	12%
Total across all ages	20%	17%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table C17001: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age.

The poverty rate among women who are 75 years and older is 17%. This corresponds to about 54,000 women 75 years and older who are living in poverty. Nearly 13% of men who are 75 years and older—27,000 men—are living in poverty.³⁶ Among the elderly population (75 years and older), twice as many women as men live in poverty.

³⁶ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B17001: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Home and Family

TO THE POINT: Nearly 1.1 million L.A. County households (33%) are headed by women. The cost burden of owning or renting a home in Los Angeles County is greater than that across the nation. Two-thirds of single-mother families live in rental units. Today, four out of ten (43%) of women in L.A. County 25 years and older are married, and six out of ten are single. There are 2.3 million children under the age of 18 years in Los Angeles County households.

Households³⁷

There are 3,269,112 households in Los Angeles County. Two-thirds of county households are comprised of families, 8% are comprised of unrelated individuals living together and 25% are comprised of individuals living alone.

L.A. County Households: 2014

	Households (Table S1101)	Households headed by women (Table S1101)	Non-family households headed by women (Table B11010)	% of total households headed by women
Total	3,269,112	522,736	559,377	33%
With own children < 18 years	970,963	248,025	—	—
% Households with children <18 years	30%	47%	—	—

Source: U.S. Census 2014 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Table S1101 for "Households" and "Households headed by women." Table B11010 for "Non-family households headed by women."

Of the family households:

- 44% are married-couple families
- 16% are women-headed households, no spouse present
- 7% are men-headed households, no spouse present
- 0.5% are unmarried, same-sex households

Of those who live alone, more than half are women and more than one in five (22%) of these women are 65 years or older.³⁸ This translates to 186,000 elderly women living alone in Los Angeles County.

Women head 522,736 (16%) of family households and 559,377 (52%) nonfamily households; in total, over 1 million of Los Angeles County households (33%) are headed by women.

³⁷ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S1101: *Households and Families* <http://factfinder.census.gov>

³⁸ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B11010: *Nonfamily Households by Sex of Householder by Living Alone by Age of Householder.* <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Housing

There are an estimated 2,186,123 family households in the county. Nearly one in four (24%) family households are headed by women (no spouse present). There are nearly one-quarter million (248,000) households headed by single mothers with children under the age of 18 years.³⁹

Over half (54%) of the county's households are renter occupied. One-third of single-mother families own their homes, while two-thirds live in rental units.

The cost burden of owning or renting a home in Los Angeles County is greater than that across the nation. When the cost of housing exceeds 30% of gross income, the housing costs may become so burdensome as to cause financial difficulties. In Los Angeles County, the percentage of rental households with a 35% or more rental cost burden has slowly increased over the past several years from 50% 2010 to 51% in 2014.⁴⁰ Such high housing costs contribute to the issues faced by homeless persons throughout the county.

Selected Costs Associated with Housing, 2014⁴¹

	L.A. County	California	United States
Ownership costs			
Percentage of houses with a mortgage	73%	72%	64%
Percentage of households with selected costs of ownership 35% or greater of gross income (homes with a mortgage)	36%	32%	23%
Rental costs			
Median rent	\$1,239	\$1,268	\$934
Percentage of households with gross rent 35% or greater of income	51%	47%	43%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

More than one-half (51%) of all rental households in the county carry a rent burden of 35% or more of their household income.

Homelessness

The homeless count in Los Angeles County decreased from 65,000 in 2005 to 39,000 in 2009, but that trend has since reversed.⁴²

Los Angeles Homeless Counts: 2005-2015

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
Total count	65,287	53,956	38,602	39,135	39,463	44,359
% unsheltered	82%	74%	55%	52%	64%	70%

Source: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

³⁹ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S1101: *Households and Families*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁴⁰ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table CP04: *Comparative Housing Characteristics*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁴¹ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table CP04: *Comparative Housing Characteristics*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁴² Homelessness in Los Angeles County. Accessed at <http://www.laalmanac.com/social/so14.htm>

Los Angeles County’s 2015 count showed an increase of 16% from its 2013 count; the unsheltered population increased by 6 percentage points.

The Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) includes all of Los Angeles County, with the exception of the cities of Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach.

L.A. Continuum of Care, Subpopulations⁴³

	2013	2015
Total homeless count	35,524	41,174
% women	26%	33%
% veterans	11%	10%
Number of women vets	227	375
% victims of domestic violence	9%	21%

Source: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

In 2015, one in three of all homeless persons in Los Angeles County were women; this is up from just over one in four persons (26%) in 2013.

Families: Marriage and Children

Marital Statistics⁴⁴

Of Los Angeles County women 25 years and older:

- 43% are married
- 27% have never been married
- 12% are divorced
- 9% are widowed
- 8% are married, but their spouse is absent

Just over 1% of young women 15 to 19 years of age are married. Over half (52%) of women 75 years and older are widowed.

Children⁴⁵

There are 2.3 million under the age of 18 years in Los Angeles County households: about one-third of these children are 5 years or younger, another third are 6-11 years and the final third are from 12-17 years in age. A higher percentage of children are Latino than the county’s population as a whole (62% compared with 48%) and a smaller percentage is white—not of Latino origin (17% compared with 26%). Six percent of children are foreign born.

Los Angeles County’s children live in households with a median income of \$54,194; however, more than one in four (27%) of children live in a household with income below the federal poverty level. Nearly three in 10 of children (29%) live in households receiving public assistance of some kind.

⁴³ 2015 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. Demographics. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Accessed at <http://lahsa.org/homelesscount-demographics>

⁴⁴ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B12002: *Marital Status by Age for Populations 15 Years and Over*; and Table B01001: *Sex by Age*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁴⁵ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S0901: *Children Characteristics*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Birth Statistics⁴⁶

According to 2014 statistics, 5% of Los Angeles County women—as well as women across the state—gave birth in the past 12 months. Of the 122,162 births to Los Angeles County women, 57% were to Latinas.⁴⁷

Birth Counts and Percent Total by Ethnicity or Race of Mother⁴⁸

	Total number of births	Non-Hispanic, white	Non-Hispanic, African American	Asian American or Pacific Islander	Latina
L.A. County	122,162	20%	9%	13%	57%
County birth rate ⁴⁹	46.4	39.9	48.0	41.6	51.6
California	502,401	29%	6%	17%	47%

Note: Birth rate is the number of births per 1000 women 15-50 years of that race or ethnicity. Source: National Center for Health Statistics: preliminary 2014 data.

Los Angeles County has a much higher proportion of births to Latinas than California as a whole: 57% of county births are to Latinas compared with 47% statewide. Nine percent (9%) of births in the county are to African Americans, while statewide African American mothers account for 6% of all births.

Teen Births

In 2014, a total of 5,338 births in L.A. County (4% of all live births) were to teen mothers age 15 to 19 years. Similarly, 4% of all births in California were to teen mothers.⁵⁰ The number of teen births has declined steadily since 2008, cutting the teen birth rate from 30 to 15 births per 1,000 teens.

Births to Teens ages 15-19 are Declining in L.A. County⁵¹

	Number of births	% births to teens	Birth rate (Number of births per 1,000 teens, 15-19 years)
2006	131,326	6.9%	23.9
2008	142,608	7.9%	29.6
2010	130,990	6.5%	23.3
2012	126,687	5.3%	18.9
2014	122,162	4.4%	15.2

⁴⁶ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B13002: *Women 15-50 Years Who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months, by Marital Status and Age*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁴⁷ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B13002 (B, D, H and I): *Women 15-50 Years Who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months, by Marital Status and Age*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁴⁸ Hamilton BE, Martin JA, Osterman MHS, Curtin SC. Births: Preliminary Data for 2014. *National Vital Statistics Reports*; June 17, 2015, 64(6):11. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2015.

⁴⁹ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Rate calculated from Tables B13002 (B, D, H and I): *Women 15-50 Years Who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months, by Marital Status and Age*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁵⁰ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B13002: *Women 15-50 Years Who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months, by Marital Status and Age*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁵¹ U.S. Census American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates for the years indicated. Derived from Table B13002: *Women 15-50 Years Who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months, by Marital Status and Age*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Health

TO THE POINT: Women in Los Angeles County are living longer than men and longer than their counterparts across the country. However, racial and ethnic disparities persist in indicators of women’s health, including life expectancy, infant and maternal health, and access to health services. Overall, more women are now able to better ensure their health moving forward; as of 2014, 86% of women are insured in the county, compared with an 80% rate in 2010.

Life Expectancy

The life expectancy of Los Angeles County women has increased since early in the 21st century. In 2003, a Los Angeles County woman could expect to live 81.9 years; in 2011 that life expectancy had reached 84.2 years — five years longer than the county’s men can expect to live.⁵²

Despite this good news, there is considerable variability between racial and ethnic women in the county: Asian-American women experience the longest life expectancy of 88.3 years and African-American women the shortest at 79.0 years.⁵³

Life Expectancy of Women

Race/Ethnicity	L.A. County women (years)
Asian American	88.3
Latina	85.8
White	83.3
African American	79.0
All women	84.2
All men	79.3

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health; California Department of Public Health.

Access to Health Services

Access to health care impacts quality of life and life expectancy. The Affordable Care Act is expanding health coverage across the nation. While the percentage of uninsured Californians has decreased in recent years, the decrease in the percentage of respondents in the 2014 California Health Inventory Survey indicated that statewide, the decrease in uninsured minority women has been the most substantial.

⁵² Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. *LAHealthDataNow!* Accessed at <https://dqs.publichealth.lacounty.gov/query.aspx?d=3>

⁵³ *Ibid.*

Percentage of Uninsured Californians, 2003-2014

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2014
Men	15%	15%	15%	17%	16%	16%	15%
Women	13%	12%	12%	13%	13%	12%	9%
Women by race/ethnicity							
• Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	13%	2%	19%	12%	5%	22%	32%
• Latina	23%	20%	19%	21%	18%	18%	14%
• Asian American	11%	12%	12%	10%	13%	10%	9%
• African American	8%	9%	9%	11%	8%	10%	6%
• Alaska Native/Native American	13%	15%	7%	10%	15%	3%	5%
• White (non-Latina)	6%	6%	6%	7%	8%	8%	5%
• Two or More Races (non-Latino)	9%	7%	9%	9%	10%	10%	4%

Source: 2014 California Health Interview Survey

These numbers tell a positive story. In Los Angeles County, the percentage of insured persons has increased from 77% in 2010 to 84% in 2014:

- Insured women have increased from 80% in 2010 to 86% in 2014; and
- Insured men have increased from 74% in 2010 to 83% in 2014.

Nevertheless, in 2014, 16% of Los Angeles County's population did not carry health insurance. Six percent (6%) of those uninsured were under the age of 18 years and 2% were 65 years or older. These statistics are consistent with California as a whole: 12% of the state's population carry no health insurance, with 5% of them under the age of 18 years.⁵⁴

Percentage of L.A. County's Population that is Uninsured by Race/Ethnicity

	Population sample size	% uninsured
Latino (of any race)	1,076,244	22%
Asian American	173,739	12%
African American	89,913	11%
White (non-Latino)	204,426	8%
All L.A. County	1,566,185	16%

Source: U.S. Census, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

More than one in five (22%) L.A. County Latinos are uninsured.

A higher proportion of L.A. County women and girls than men and boys is insured (86% and 83%, respectively). Looking at the percentage of the county's population that is uninsured, the greatest proportion is between the ages of 25-34 years: 22% of women and 30% of men in this age group are uninsured.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S2701: *Health Insurance Coverage Status*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁵⁵ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table S27001: *Health Insurance Coverage Status by Sex by Age*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Percentage of L.A. County Population that is Uninsured by Age

	Women and girls	Men and boys
Under the age of 6 years	4%	4%
6-17 years	7%	7%
18-24 years	20%	26%
25-34 years	22%	30%
35-44 years	20%	26%
45-54 years	19%	21%
55-64 years	14%	15%
65 years and older	2%	2%
Total	14%	17%

Source: U.S. Census, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

Infant and Maternal Health

Infant Mortality⁵⁶

The infant mortality rate in Los Angeles County is 4.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, a rate just below California's rate of 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.⁵⁷ The rate has remained between 4.6 and 5.5, with an average rate of 5.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births since 2001.

While the overall infant mortality rate is 4.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, sharp racial disparities are evident in the county and state. The infant mortality rate of babies born to African-American mothers is 9.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared with 4.5 for Latinas, 3.7 for Asian Americans, and 3.5 for whites.⁵⁸

Infant Death Rate by race/ethnic group of child, California Counties, 2010-2012

	L.A. County	California
Infant mortality (all races)	4.7	4.8
African American	9.5	9.8
Latino	4.5	4.7
Asian American/Pacific Islanders	3.7	3.6
White	3.5	3.9

Note: Rates are based on the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births in the population.

Source: California Department of Public Health.

The infant mortality rate of babies born to African-American mothers is much higher than that of other races/ethnicities listed here: African-American babies die nearly three times the rate of white babies and at over twice the rate of Latino infants.

⁵⁶ Infant deaths include deaths up to 1 year of age; note that data in this section are three to five years old and are not impacted by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

⁵⁷ County Health Status Profiles 2015, California Department of Public Health. This mortality rate is based on 2010-2012 3-year average numbers. Accessed from <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/>

⁵⁸ Los Angeles County Infant Mortality, Preterm Births and Birthweight 2011 Factsheet. Data from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (January 2014). Accessed from www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/LACALC/ALC%20files/2011%20Factsheet.pdf

Breastfeeding

The U.S. Surgeon General has issued a “call to action” to support breastfeeding. The call outlines the health benefits of breastfeeding for infants and mothers.⁵⁹

Breastfeeding Practices⁶⁰

N = sample size for L.A. County	L.A. County		California	
	Any breastfeeding	Exclusive breastfeeding	Any breastfeeding	Exclusive breastfeeding
Total of all races/ethnicities (N=114,695)	94%	58%	94%	67%
White (N=19,144)	96%	77%	95%	80%
Asian American (N=18,650)	95%	48%	95%	60%
Multiple races (N=3,081)	95%	72%	94%	75%
Latina (N=62,888)	94%	56%	93%	62%
African American (N=7,569)	84%	50%	85%	56%

Source: California Department of public Health, 2014.

A smaller percentage of African-American mothers breastfeed their babies—any or exclusively—than do women throughout Los Angeles County. Breastfeeding statistics in the county generally reflect those of the state.

⁵⁹ *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding*. (January 2011). Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calls/breastfeeding/factsheet.html>

⁶⁰ California Department of Public Health. In-hospital Breastfeeding Initiation Data, as indicated on the newborn screening test form statewide and maternal county of residence by race/ethnicity: 2014.

Accessed at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics>

Substance Abuse

While there are several indicators used to track the extent of substance abuse, this report looks at data related to admissions to treatment programs.⁶¹ Since 2008, the number of total admissions to drug treatment programs in the county has decreased each year: from 55,530 admissions in 2006 to 32,826 in 2014.⁶²

Drugs Cited in L.A. County Admissions to Treatment Programs⁶³

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Heroin	20%	21%	20%	22%	30%
Methamphetamine	16%	16%	17%	20%	25%
Marijuana	24%	25%	27%	25%	18%
Alcohol	23%	23%	23%	21%	16%
Cocaine/crack	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%
Total admissions	48,762	45,736	45,612	39,790	32,826

Source: Los Angeles NDEWS SCE and the California Department of Health Care Services, California Outcomes Monitoring System (CalOMS).

In recent years, the most common illegal drugs for which treatment is sought include heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine. Treatment for the abuse of alcohol and prescription opioids (oxycodone/OxyContin and other opiates/synthetics) are also commonly cited in seeking treatment.

Women account for about 37% of all county admissions to substance abuse programs and nearly; they account for nearly half of all seeking treatment for the abuse of methamphetamine and prescription opioids. In 2014, women accounted for:⁶⁴

- 48% of treatment for prescription opioids
- 47% of methamphetamine admissions
- 39% of alcohol admissions
- 37% of all cocaine/crack admissions
- 32% of marijuana admissions
- 29% of all heroin admissions

Women are treated most often for methamphetamine, with heroin coming in second. In 2014, 3,700 women in L.A. County sought treatment for methamphetamine and 2,800 women for heroin.

⁶¹ DrugFacts: Nationwide Trends (updated June 2015). National Institute on Drug Abuse, The National Institutes of Health. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/nationwide-trends>

⁶² Brecht, Mary-Lynn. Patterns and Trends in Drug Abuse in Los Angeles County, California: 2013. *Proceedings of the Community Epidemiology Work Group*, June 2014.

www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/losangeles2014.pdf

⁶³ National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) Sentinel Community Site Profile 2015: Los Angeles County (August 2015). Accessed at <http://www.ndews.org>

⁶⁴ National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) Sentinel Community Site Profile 2015: Los Angeles County (August 2015). Accessed at <http://www.ndews.org>

Violence Against Women

TO THE POINT: Crimes that disproportionately affect women include sexual violence—rape and aggravated assault. These violent acts are often inflicted by an intimate partner or family member in a domestic context.⁶⁵ In 2014, L.A. County law enforcement agencies reported receiving 39,145 calls for assistance related to domestic violence. As a result of such targeted violence, women may become isolated, unable to work and to care for themselves and their children.

Human trafficking also disproportionately impacts women and girls. California is one of three states (the other two being Florida and Texas) most affected by human trafficking. The FBI has identified Los Angeles as one of 13 “High Intensity Child Prostitution” areas in the United States.

Crime in Los Angeles County

In Los Angeles County, the Sheriff’s Department (LASD) is responsible for law enforcement in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and 42 contracted cities within the county; the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) enforces law in the City of Los Angeles. Although there are several additional city police departments throughout the county, the LASD and LAPD together report most of the crime in the county. The LASD reported 69,000 crimes in 2015 and the LAPD reported 116,500 crimes. For each agency, roughly 20% of the crimes were classified as violent (e.g., homicide, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault), with 80% classified as crimes against property.

The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports show that crime in the county, as reported by the LASD and LAPD, has decreased from 2010 to 2014: violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) have decreased by 12% and property crimes by 8%. Among violent crimes that disproportionately affect women, in Los Angeles County, rapes comprise about 5% and aggravated assaults comprise about 55% of violent crimes.⁶⁶

The LAPD reports that crime in the city of Los Angeles has increased by nearly 13% in 2015 relative to 2014: violent crimes have increased by 20% and property crimes by 11%. Rapes increased by 9%, but over 70% of the increase in violent crimes is due to an increased in aggravated or serious assaults. This increase in aggravated assaults is due, in part, by a significant increase in domestic violence crimes.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Violence against women: Intimate partner and sexual violence against women (2014). Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization. <http://who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>

⁶⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports. Crime in the United States (2010 and 2014). Table 8: *Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by City* and Table 10: *Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by County*. Retrieved from <http://www.fbi.gov>

⁶⁷ Los Angeles Police Department. 2015-1016 Crime and Initiatives. Retrieved from http://www.lapdonline.org/year_in_review

Los Angeles County Crimes, 2015

	L.A. Sheriff's Department ⁶⁸	L.A. Police Department ⁶⁹
Violent crime	12,000	24,400
• Homicide	• 186	• 283
• Rape	• 780	• 1,649
• Robbery	• 3,800	• 8,900
• Aggravated Assault	• 7,244	• 13,569
Property crime	57,300	92,100
Total crimes	69,300	116,500
Crime Rate/10,000 population	235	298

Note: Crimes are rounded to the nearest 100 incidents.

Sources: Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles Police Department

In 2015 aggravated assaults account for the majority of violent crimes; robbery accounts for 32-36% of violent crime, rape accounts for 7% and homicides for 1-2%.

These 2015 crime figures represent an increase from 2014: the LAPD reports an increase of 20% in violent crime and the LASD an increase of 8% from 2014 to 2015. The LAPD reports that aggravated assaults alone increased by 28%. While some of the increase is attributed to changes in the way LAPD is classifying assaults, much of the increase is due to increased reporting of domestic violence.⁷⁰ The recently expanded Domestic Abuse Response Teams (DART) and increased community awareness of domestic violence are recent efforts to encourage victims to report these crimes.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is defined by the penal code as abuse against an adult by a present or former spouse, a present or former cohabitant, someone with whom the victim has had a child, or by someone in a current or former dating relationship.⁷¹ This term is often used interchangeably with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Where the use of a weapon is threatened, the type of weapon (regardless of whether injury resulted) is generally reported.

Women are disproportionately affected by domestic violence or IPV. According to the 2011 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 85% of domestic violence victims across the country are women. More than one in four women (22%) across the United States have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner, compared with just over one in 10 men (14%).⁷²

⁶⁸ Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Crime and Arrest Statistics. Part I Crime Summary – Preliminary Data YTD 12/31/15. (Jan. 5, 2016).

<http://www.shq.lasdnews.net/CrimeStats/LASDCrimeInfo/html>

⁶⁹ Los Angeles Police Department. 2015-16 Crime and Initiatives (YTD through 12/31/2015). Retrieved from <http://www.lapdonline.org>

⁷⁰ Los Angeles Police Department. 2015-16 Crime and Initiatives (year-to-date through Dec. 31, 2015). Retrieved from <http://www.lapdonline.org>

⁷¹ Penal Code section 13730.

⁷² Breidling, M., Smith, S., Basile, K. et al. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization –National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011." Surveillance Summaries: MMWR 2014:63 (Vol. 63, No. 8: Sept. 5, 2014) www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pds/ss/ss6308.pdf

In 2006, law enforcement agencies throughout Los Angeles County reported 45,684 calls for assistance related to domestic violence; in 2014, the total number of calls was 39,145.⁷³

Domestic-Violence-Related Calls for Assistance in L.A. County

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
Total domestic violence-related calls	43,508	43,458	42,052	39,253	39,145
No weapon involved	14,063	16,306	15,855	13,988	13,488
Weapon involved • % involving a personal weapon	29,445 81%	27,152 83%	26,197 84%	25,265 84%	25,657 84%

Source: Office of the Attorney General, State of California.

However, these two numbers do not signal a continuous decrease in domestic violence: over this time period, the number of domestic violence-related calls peaked at 43,458 in 2008 and the 2013 figure (37,038) represents the lowest number over this time period.

In 2014, just over one-third of the calls (34%) for assistance involved a weapon; where a weapon was involved, “personal weapons” as in fists, feet, etc. were most commonly used in the assault.⁷⁴ In cases where a firearm is used, the victim may be killed. Throughout California, only 18% of homicide victims are women or girls. However, in 84% of the cases where the victim was a woman, the perpetrator is no stranger and is most often a current or former spouse, cohabitant, parent or child.⁷⁵

In the United States, approximately one in four victims of domestic violence by an intimate partner become fearful and one in five victims exhibit symptoms of post traumatic syndrome disease (PTSD).⁷⁶ Another specific consequence of domestic violence can be the displacement of a person or persons from their home. In the county’s 2015 Homeless Count of 41,174 homeless individuals, 21% were identified as being homeless due to domestic violence.⁷⁷

⁷³ Office of the Attorney General, State of California. CJSC Statistics: Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance. Glendale: 2005-2014 <https://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/domestic-violence>

⁷⁴ Office of the Attorney General, State of California. CJSC Statistics: Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance, Glendale 2005-2014. <https://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/domestic-violence>

⁷⁵ Office of the Attorney General, State of California. Homicide in California 2014. Table 12: *Homicide Crimes, 2014 by Gender and Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender*. <https://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/domestic-violence>

⁷⁶ Breiding, M. et al., *Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization—National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011*. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Surveillance Summaries, Vol. 63 (SS08; 1-18). Sept. 5, 2014. Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/indss_2014.html

⁷⁷ 2013 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Data Summaries. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Accessed at <http://lahsa.org>

Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Human trafficking is the business of coercing or transporting a person for exploitation; there are two broad categories of exploitation: labor and/or sex slavery.⁷⁸ Worldwide, women make up 55% of those exploited for labor and 98% of those trafficked for sex.⁷⁹

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified Los Angeles as one of 13 “High Intensity Child Prostitution” areas in the United States. (Two other California metropolitan areas, San Francisco and San Diego, are in this top 13.). The average age of onset for commercial sexual exploitation is 12 to 14 for girls and 11 to 13 for boys. The life expectancy of a child involved in commercial sexual exploitation is seven years from the first date of his/her exploitation, with the leading causes of death being HIV/AIDs or homicide.⁸⁰

Between January 2015 and January 2016, DCFS received referrals to the Child Protection Hotline (CPHL) involving CSEC on 882 children. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has taken a leadership role to raise public awareness and promote changes to treat CSEC as victims in need of protective services rather than criminals. In November 2012, the BOS issued a motion establishing a joint task force between the DCFS and Probation, with other key agencies, such as Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Social Services, and Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, added later. Under the leadership of Probation, the First Responder Protocol (FRP) was then developed. The FRP, of which MART is an active member, created a coordinated and expedited county response to serve CSEC from identification through the first 72 hours of contact using a victim-centered, strength-based approach that began in two pilot areas, but will soon be carried out countywide.

California is one of three states (the other two being Florida and Texas) most affected by human trafficking. Since 2007, a total of 13,125 requests for trafficking assistance in California have been recorded; the total number of cases reported is 3,827.⁸¹

California Human Trafficking Statistics

	2012	2013	2014	2015 (three-quarters of year)
Calls (includes emails and web requests)	1,662	2,597	3,495	2,741
Human trafficking cases reported	489	773	912	711

Note: The 2015 figures are current as of Sept 30, 2015.

Source: National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

Throughout the state, the number of calls for trafficking assistance and the number of cases reported has been increasing dramatically over the past several years. Of the 711

⁷⁸ Office of the Attorney General, State of California. <https://oag.ca.gov/transnational-organized-crime/>

⁷⁹ Luis C deBaca, U.S. State Department. Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2012. www.state.gov/documents/

⁸⁰ Walker, Kate, California Child Welfare Council. “Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California” (2013). <http://youthlaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Ending-CSEC-A-Call-for-Multi-System-Collaboration-in-CA.pdf>

⁸¹ Polaris Project for a World without Slavery. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center. www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/state/california

cases reported for California in the first three quarters of 2015, 643 (90%) involve women; 226 (32%) of the cases involve children under the age of 18 years. The vast majority of the cases in California involve sex trafficking; classifying cases by type of trafficking.⁸²

- 80% involve sex trafficking
- 11% involve labor trafficking
- 4% involve both sex and labor trafficking
- In 5% of the cases, the type of trafficking was not specified.

The Los Angeles area is a major California destination for human traffickers. In fact, according to Weave, Inc., L.A. is one of the three most frequent points of entry into this country for victims of slavery and trafficking. In testimony before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary Hearing, the Los Angeles County Sheriff indicated that street gangs are heavily involved in human trafficking. He said: "Most of the girls and boys working our streets are neither entrepreneurs nor criminals; they are victims of a modern-day slavery."⁸³

⁸² Polaris Project for a World without Slavery. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center. www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/state/california

⁸³ Human Trafficking – Statement of Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell during Senate Committee on the Judiciary Hearing (Feb. 24, 2015). <http://shq.lasdnews.net/pages/PageDetail.aspx?id=2687>

Veterans

TO THE POINT: The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 6% of the 288,590 veterans living in Los Angeles County are women.⁸⁴ In relation to their general populations, whites and African-American women are overrepresented in the ranks of military veterans. In general, women veterans earn more than women non-veterans; but both groups still come up short compared with what men earn.

Veterans vs. Non-Veterans

L.A. County Women Veterans are Diverse⁸⁵

	Total number of women	White	Latina	African American	Asian American	Other
Veterans	18,141	40%	29%	16%	8%	8%
Non-veterans	3,988,204	29%	44%	9%	16%	2%

Source: U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

As is true throughout California and the nation, the percentage of African-American women veterans is greater than among the population of non-veterans (16% and 9%, respectively); white women (non-Latina) also have a greater representation in the veteran than the non-veteran population (40% and 29%, respectively). Latinas and Asian-American women comprise a smaller proportion of veterans than the non-veteran population.

Women veterans tend to be older than their non-veteran counterparts: 24% of veterans are over the age of 65 years compared with 17% of non-veteran women. On the other end of the age spectrum, 20% of L.A. County's women veterans are between the ages of 18-34 years while 32% of non-veteran women are in this age group.⁸⁶

The median income of Los Angeles County women veterans is higher than that of women non-veterans (\$30,948 and \$21,225, respectively). However, women veterans earn less than their men counterparts: women veterans as a whole earn 81% of what men veterans earn.

⁸⁴ U.S. Census 2014 1-Year Estimates. Table S2101 *Veteran Status*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁸⁵ U.S. Census 2014 1-Year Estimates. Derived from Table B21001 (B, D, H, I): *Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁸⁶ U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Table B21001 *Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Acknowledgments

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About the Los Angeles County Commission for Women

The Los Angeles County Commission for Women (LACCW) was formed by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors in 1983 to represent the interests and concerns of women of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, social circumstances and sexual orientation. The Los Angeles County Commission for Women advocates for the lives and wellbeing of women through building strong collaboration, sharing available resources, and educating and empowering through participation in the legislative process.

About Mount Saint Mary's University

Mount Saint Mary's is the only women's university in Los Angeles and one of the most diverse in the nation. The University is known nationally for its research on gender equity, its innovative health and science programs, and its commitment to community service. As a leading liberal arts institution, Mount Saint Mary's provides year-round, flexible and online programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. Weekend, evening and graduate programs are offered to both women and men. Mount alums are engaged, active, global citizens who use their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their communities and the world. msmu.edu