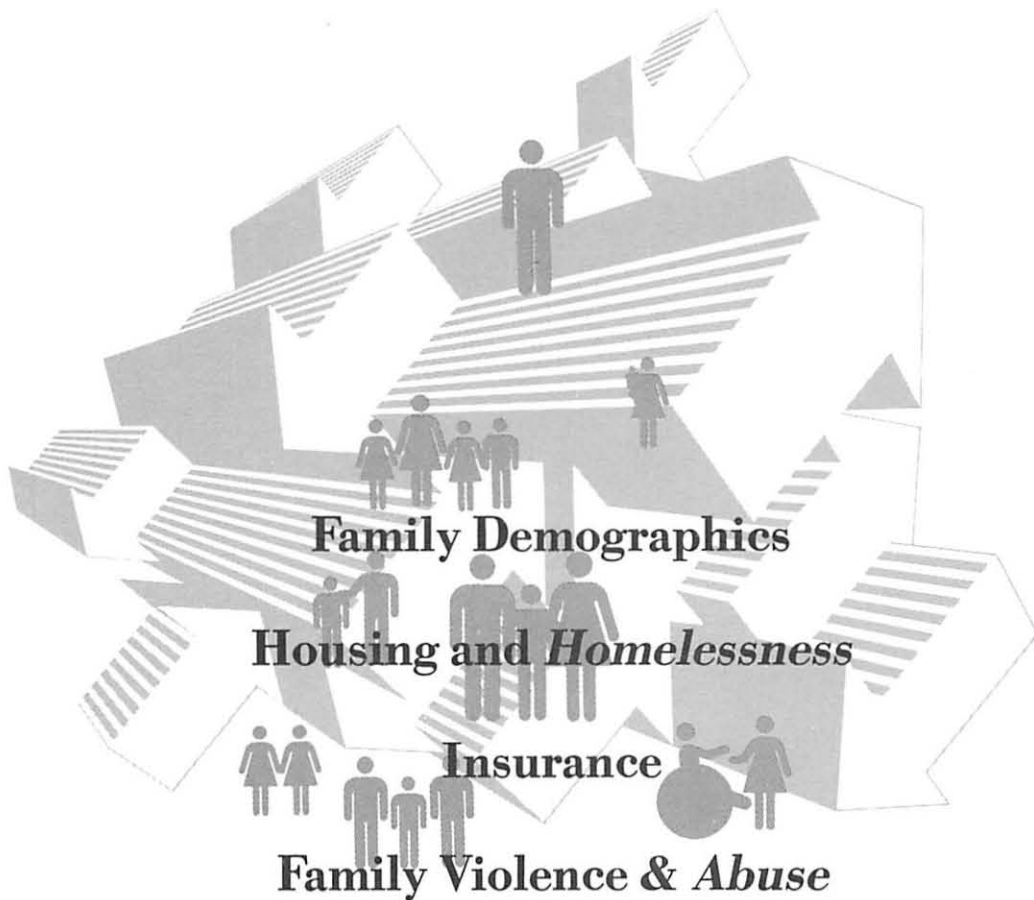


Families in the City of Los Angeles



Education & *City Schools*

Some Families and *Their Needs*

Institutional *Influences*



FAMILIES IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

The mandate of the the Task Force on Family Diversity calls for research into the the nature and extent of family diversity in the City of Los Angeles and for an investigation of problems experienced by local families. The mandate also directs the Task Force to document its findings, to note demographic and legal trends, and to make appropriate recommendations to address the special problems of families living in the city.

With previous sections of the report serving as a factual and legal backdrop, the following chapters respond directly to the mandate by focusing on demographics and concerns of Los Angeles city families. The efforts and contributions of Task Force members, student researchers, and public hearing witnesses produced 1,200 pages of research papers, topical reports, and other background papers, which are published as supplements to this report.

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS

The total population of the City of Los Angeles, as recorded by the 1980 census, was 2,966,850.¹ Los Angeles is a dynamic metropolitan center that is in the process of undergoing pronounced demographic changes.² Many of these changes, such as the growth of single-parent families and the aging of the "baby boomers," are being experienced by other communities in California and throughout the nation. Other changes, however, such as the influx of immigrants and refugees, job seekers, and others who aspire to a more comfortable lifestyle, are more peculiar to the particular geographic location, climate, cultural mix and economic conditions of the City of Los Angeles.

Undocumented and Homeless Undercounts. The taking of a census in Los Angeles invariably results in an undercount of certain populations. Inadvertance on the part of census takers and evasion by residents account for some of the error, and there is little chance of people being counted twice. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the undercount for the 1980 census to be 0.5%, although it recognizes that more sizeable undercounts can occur in relation to specific groups in the population.³

Two primary and obvious undercounted populations are the undocumented and the homeless. City agencies have estimated the undocumented resident population to be 400,000 persons.⁴ Although some skeptics have questioned this estimate, the most current official city estimate approximates this figure.⁵

The homeless population in the city has been estimated to range between 25,000 to 50,000 persons.⁶

Current Population Estimate and Projection. The Task Force on Family Diversity estimates that as of April 1, 1988, the City of Los Angeles has 3,595,379 residents.⁷ The Census Bureau estimates that 20 years from now the population of the City of Los Angeles will reach 8,870,000, making it the most populated city in the nation, with about 437,000 more residents than New York City proper.⁸

Household Patterns and Living Arrangements. The U.S. Census Bureau defines two basic categories of households: family and nonfamily households. According to the Bureau, a "family" household is one in which a homeowner or renter lives with one or more persons

related by blood, marriage or adoption. A so-called "nonfamily" household is one in which a renter or homeowner either lives alone or with a person or persons not related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

The Task Force on Family Diversity finds this family/nonfamily dichotomy unhelpful and not accurate. As discussed earlier in this report, California law recognizes that families legally may include more than blood, marital and adoptive relationships. The Task Force believes that terminology should be adopted which does not unduly conflict with the more expansive and flexible definitions used in many states.

Blood-marriage-adoption families accounted for 61% of the city's households in 1980, one-person households made up 31.5% of city households, and unmarried couples comprised 7.4%.⁹

The Married Minority. Even though blood-marriage-adoption households were a dominant family form in the city in 1980, there was considerable diversity within this category. The husband- wife-child(ren) household accounted for only 22%. Married couples without children at home constituted another 22%. Nearly 11% were single-parent households,¹⁰ while adult blood relatives living together accounted for another 6%.

In terms of the city's adult population in 1980, 45.2% were currently married, 21% were separated, divorced or widowed, and about 33% had never been married.

Unmarried Couples. A significant proportion of the population of the City of Los Angeles consists of unmarried adults sharing the same household. Some are related by blood; most are not. Not all unmarried adults sharing a household also share an intimate relationship, but many do. Couples, whether opposite or same gender, share housing and common necessities, and in many cases, establish loving and committed relationships for a variety of social, economic, emotional, philosophical and personal reasons.

The Task Force on Family Diversity estimates that about 21.4% of all adults in the City of Los Angeles live with other adults to whom they are not married.¹¹

Estimating the Gay and Lesbian Population. Very little hard data exists on the number of gays and lesbians in the population. Census takers do not account for sexual orientation. Neither do recognized pollsters such as Gallup or Harris. Until recently, due to fear of prejudice and discrimination, this group has been an invisible minority. The fear persists, and is reinforced by governmental and private discrimination in many quarters. Given these conditions, it is difficult to arrive at solid figures regarding the size of the gay and lesbian community in the City of Los Angeles.

Definitional distinctions between homosexuals and heterosexuals are often blurred. Is one considered gay because of a single homosexual act? Does one opposite-gender sexual encounter determine one's heterosexual identity? In 1948, Alfred Kinsey, a distinguished sex researcher, answered many of these questions. Kinsey developed a sliding scale to characterize sexual orientation. Sexually active persons who never had engaged in a homosexual act were at the zero end of the scale and those who had never engaged in a heterosexual act were labeled six. Most people studied fell somewhere along the continuum between the two extremes. Kinsey's original research concluded that 13% of American

men and 7% of American women could be considered homosexual.¹² "Homosexual" was defined as someone having engaged predominantly or exclusively in same-gender sexual activity for at least a three-year period in his or her life. Applying Kinsey's definition and percentages to 1980 census figures for persons over 15 years-old in Los Angeles, one would estimate that, in 1980, the city was home to about 233,792 homosexual adults (sexually mature persons). This figure, after being adjusted to reflect population growth since 1980, suggests that about 264,000 gay and lesbian adults lived in Los Angeles in 1987.

Over the years, the Kinsey Institute, formally known as the Institute for Sex Research, has continued studying the sexual orientation and activity of thousands of individuals. A more recent study by the Institute concluded that 2% of married men, 25% of unmarried men, 1% of married women, and 6% of unmarried women are homosexual.¹³ Applying these more recent estimates to appropriate Los Angeles city population demographics would suggest that 152,220 adults (sexually mature persons) lived in the City of Los Angeles in 1980. Revising this figure to account for population growth since 1980, the latter Kinsey studies suggest that approximately 172,000 adult gays and lesbians lived in Los Angeles in 1987.

Based on Kinsey's original and subsequent sex research and city demographics, the Task Force on Family Diversity estimates that on the average about 200,000 gay and lesbian adults (persons over 15 years-old) live in the City of Los Angeles at this time.

The Task Force on Family Diversity has noted that the gay and lesbian population in Los Angeles is quite diverse. Some gays and lesbians live alone, some live as cohabiting same-sex couples, some live with parents, some live with children, some live with housemates, and a number live in heterosexual marriages. Gays and lesbians are represented in all racial, ethnic, and religious segments of the city's population. They are also old, young, able-bodied and disabled. In sum, gays and lesbians, as a whole, do not fit traditional stereotypes.¹⁴

Ethnic Patterns. Los Angeles has a diverse ethnic mix which has been shifting dramatically in recent years.¹⁵ Therefore, the 1980 census does not provide an accurate or easily usable measure of the current racial and ethnic composition of the city.

Changes that occurred between 1970 and 1980, however, show the following ethnic trends. Latinos led other ethnic groups in the increase in population, both in numbers and in the percentage of increase in proportion to the total population. Asians had a higher rate of increase than any other ethnic group, nearly doubling during the 1970s. The American Indian population also showed a significant rate of growth. The city's Black population showed only small numerical increases (less than 4%) during this period. The Anglo population shrunk by more than 15% between 1970 and 1980.

Estimates for the city's Latino population may be the most inaccurate because of the large number of undocumented Latino residents not addressed by the census. Worsening economic conditions in Mexico, as well as warfare and unrest in Central America, have contributed to a constant flow of undocumented Latinos into Los Angeles.

Although much of the city consists of highly mixed ethnic neighborhoods, there are clear patterns of ethnic concentrations in segments of the city. Cultural pride, family cohesion, common language, housing

affordability, and prejudice are factors which may contribute to ethnic concentrations.

In general terms, the majority of the population in the San Fernando Valley area and the Westside area is Anglo. A majority of the population in East Los Angeles is Latino. A majority of the population in South-Central Los Angeles is Black. Asians are not a majority in any large area, but Chinese, Indochinese and Koreans are heavily concentrated in some of the Central areas.¹⁶

Some trends have been noted in terms of ethnic mobility. Many Latinos are moving into the South-Central area. Blacks have been moving in noticeable numbers toward the northern and western areas. Southeast Asians are moving into the Central city area known as Chinatown, and Chinese Asians have been relocating eastward. The density of several of these areas is affected by this mobility and, especially, by the influx of new Latino and Asian families into the city.¹⁷

Age Group Patterns. Los Angeles populations follow the general age group patterns of the nation.¹⁸ Predictably, women slightly outnumber men¹⁹; demographic patterns reflect a greater longevity of women. Although more males than females are born every year, this fact is more than offset by the larger numbers of deaths among males.

Children under age 5 made up 7.1%, and minors under age 18, 25.1% of the population in 1980. Minors resided in 33% of the city's households.

Elderly people (65 and over) made up 10.5% of the population. Elders lived in 21% of the city's households. One-third of the elderly lived alone. The mean age of the population has been gradually rising, and the proportion of persons over age 65 has also been increasing. This trend is expected to continue.

The Task Force on Family Diversity finds that an estimated 377,515 seniors (65 and over) currently live in the City of Los Angeles.²⁰

Economic/Occupational Profiles. An examination of economic and occupational profiles of city residents reveal significant locational contrasts in terms of income, employment, poverty and affluence.²¹

Considerable differences exist with respect to household income. In 1980, the mean level of income for Westside households was double that of Central area households. The large percentage of professional, managerial, and administrative workers and the extremely low number of welfare recipients living on the Westside may partially account for the difference.

The Valley profile is similar to that of the Westside. Although it has a somewhat lower mean income, the Valley also has a larger number of professional and managerial workers and a low poverty rate.

The lowest levels of income were recorded in the Metro/Central area which, like the South Bay/Harbor area, has a high proportion of clerical-service-labor workers. The highest levels of public assistance were also recorded in the Central area and the poverty rate in that area (23.8%) was exceptionally high.

These geographic differences in demographic characteristics create divergent demands and priorities among the City Council districts.

The Disabled Population. Although precise figures are unavailable, the City of Los Angeles is home to a large population of disabled persons. Los Angeles is an attractive location because of its favorable climate, the relative progressiveness of social welfare policies, and the implementation of accessibility laws.²²

The term "disability" includes visible as well as invisible characteristics. Represented in this population are mobility disabilities, due to such factors as paralysis, weakness, pain, and amputation; sensory disabilities, such as blindness and deafness; emotional or psychological disabilities; and intellectual or cognitive disabilities, such as learning disabilities or mental retardation. Some people with disabilities have no identifiable functional deficit at all but are different from the norm in appearance or manner to the extent that society labels them disabled. This includes people with facial or skin deviations and those of unusual size or stature.²³

Estimates of the number of persons with disabilities range from 10% to 15% of the population.²⁴

Based on the information available to it, the Task Force on Family Diversity estimates that about 500,000 disabled people currently live in the City of Los Angeles.²⁵

The City of Los Angeles in 1990. If trends over the past two decades are accurate indicators, it is likely that the 1990 census will reflect pronounced demographic changes from the 1980 statistics. Such shifts in "societal structure and demographic composition, . . . migration patterns, age stratification, . . . employment status and household structure" are predictable.²⁶ Diversity in the makeup of contemporary Los Angeles families accentuates the multicultural and international nature of the city.

Table 1
City of Los Angeles
Population and Demographic Profile

1980 U.S. Census - Total Population		2,966,850 *
Male	1,451,660	48.9%
Female	1,515,182	51.1%
Adults	2,221,112	74.9% (Age 18 and over)
Minors	745,738	25.1% (Under age 18)
Median Age	30.3	(Male - 29.3; Female 31.4)
Race:	White	47.8%
	Hispanic	27.5
	Black	16.7
	Asian	6.8
	Other	1.2
Estimated Population October 1, 1984 (Average annual growth rate 1980-1983)		3,070,710 ** 0.77%
Estimated Population January, 1985		3,144,795 ***
*SOURCE: 1980 U.S. Census Summary Report (File 1)		
**SOURCE: City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, <i>Population Estimate and Housing Inventory of the City of Los Angeles as of October 1, 1984</i> . May, 1985, p. i.		
***SOURCE: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, <i>County of Los Angeles Data Guide: 1985-86</i> , "Estimated population of the Cities of Los Angeles County." 1986, p. 4.		

Table 2

Household Patterns - Living Arrangements in the City of Los Angeles

	Housing Units	Population
FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS:		
Married Couples	503,014	1,006,028 *
Single Parent w/Child(ren)	119,059	119,059 *
Adult w/Adult Relative(s)	71,621	71,621 *
+ Over 18 - Related		362,235
+ Under 18 - Related		724,565
+ Non-related Adult Residents		63,862
TOTAL "FAMILY" (61%)	693,694	2,347,370
NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS:		
Adult Male Living Alone	165,747	165,747
Adult Female Living Alone	191,843	191,843
Adult Male w/Others	53,412	
Adult Female w/Others	30,534	
Non-related Adults (2 or more)		178,617
Non-related Child(ren) w/Adult(s)		15,214
TOTAL "NON-FAMILY" (39%)	442,536	551,421
INMATES OF INSTITUTIONS		32,634
OTHER GROUP LIVING SETTING		35,425
TOTAL UNITS & POPULATION	1,135,230	2,966,850
MEAN POPULATION 2.55 per unit / AVE. POPULATION 2.61 per unit		
* Householders of Family Households counted first. Relatives and non-relatives counted separately.		
SOURCE: U.S. Census Summary Report (File 1), pp. 1-3.		

Table 3

Ethnic Composition of Los Angeles 1970-1980

	As % of Total Population		1980 Population	Population Change	
	1970	1980		Count	% Change
American Indian	0.3	0.6	16,594	+ 7,244	+ 77.5
Asian	3.7	6.6	195,997	+ 91,060	+ 86.8
Black	17.3	17.0	504,670	+ 18,000	+ 3.7
Latino	18.5	27.5	815,970	+ 296,128	+ 57.0
White	60.1	48.3	1,432,459	- 258,837	- 15.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	2,965,690		
SOURCE: City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, <i>City of Los Angeles Ethnic Concentrations and Distribution by Planning Area</i> , September, 1982, p. 2.					

Table 4
Age Group Patterns in Los Angeles - 1980

Age Range	Percentage of Population	
	Males	Females
Under age 5	3.6%	3.7%
5 to 14	6.8%	6.5%
15 to 24	9.6%	9.3%
25 to 34	9.5%	9.3%
35 to 44	5.9%	5.9%
45 to 54	4.9%	5.9%
55 to 64	4.4%	5.0%
65 and over	4.2%	6.4%
	<u>48.9%</u>	<u>51.1%</u>
Population		
Under age 5	210,218	7.1% of population
Under age 18	745,738	25.1% of population
65 and over	314,216	10.5% of population
Households:		
Minors present	375,308	33% of households
Person over 65 present	233,628	21% of households

SOURCE: U.S. Census Summary Report (File 1), pp. 1-2

Table 5
City of Los Angeles
Income/Occupations/Poverty Rates
By Major Geographic Areas - 1980

	Westside	S.V. Valley	South Bay	Metro/Central
Mean HH Income	\$31,647	\$26,392	\$20,235	\$15,761
Occupations (% workers)				
Professional	23.1%	14.9%	8.5%	10.4%
Mgmt/Administrative	16.6%	14.8%	8.1%	8.5%
Technical	3.9%	3.4%	2.5%	2.6%
Sales/Service/Clerical				
Mfg/Labor/Other	56.4%	67.0%	81.0%	78.5%
Persons in Poverty	9.6%	8.7%	13.9%	23.8%

SOURCE: City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Maps and Reports on "Social, Economic and Demographic Statistics," Supplementary pages on "Citywide Housing/Population Factors, Undated (distributed after May, 1985), unnumbered pages.

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS: RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The Task Force recommends that the Department of City Planning examine the origin of the estimate of undocumented/uncounted residents and reexamine the assumptions behind it, for the purpose of arriving at a more reliable estimate.

14. The Task Force recommends that the City Council retain the services of an authoritative research organization to assist the city in arriving at a reliable estimate of the number of lesbian and gay adults residing in Los Angeles. Confidential research methodologies should respect the privacy, and guarantee the anonymity of any residents who participate in the study.

Family Demographics: Notes

¹ Table 1 shows some basic demographic characteristics of the city as of 1980. It also includes more recent estimates of the overall population.

² This section of the report is based, in large measure, on a report produced by the Task Force research team on Family Demographics. See: Blackstone and Ricchiazzi, "Family Demographics," *Report of the Task Force on Family Diversity: Supplement - Part One*, p. S-24. In addition to the data provided in this section of the report, other demographic information on specific topics is found throughout the report.

³ City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, *Population Estimate and Housing Inventory for the City of Los Angeles as of October 1, 1984*, May, 1985, pp. i-ii.

⁴ City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, *City of Los Angeles Ethnic Concentrations and Distribution by Planning Area*, September, 1982, pp. 2-3.

⁵ City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, *Present and Future Demographic Features of the City*, January, 1985, p. 8.

⁶ County of Los Angeles, Community and Senior Citizens Services Department, "Homeless in Los Angeles County," *Report of the County Task Force on the Homeless* (August 16, 1985), p. 38. A national study by the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimated that there were 50,000 homeless persons in the Los Angeles area. A more detailed study by United Way set the homeless population at about 25,000.

⁷ This figure is based on the 1980 Census Bureau figure of 2,966,850, plus 0.5% 1980 undercount (14,834), a 0.77% annual growth rate, 400,000 uncounted undocumented residents, and 25,000 uncounted homeless.

⁸ Inta, Edity, "County Number One in U.S. after a 6-Year Boom," *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, August 31, 1987.

⁹ Table 2 shows household patterns and living arrangements for the city.

¹⁰ Looking at the single-parent household from another perspective, nearly 35% of all children in the city live in a one-parent household.

¹¹ As of 1980, there were about 2,000,000 adults living in the city. The 21.4% estimate for unmarried adults living together (both same-sex and opposite-sex relationships) was derived by subtracting adults living alone (357,000), married adults living with their spouses (1,000,000), adults living in group quarters (67,000), and single parents living with their own children (148,000), from the total adult population. This estimate includes blood relatives, roommates, and domestic partners.

¹² Kinsey, Alfred, *Homosexual Behavior in the Human Male* (1948); Kinsey, Alfred, *Homosexual Behavior in the Human Female* (1953).

¹³ Schreiner, Joseph, "Measuring the Gay and Lesbian Population,"

National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (1986), citing Institute studies done in 1977 and 1978.

¹⁴ The diversity of the gay and lesbian population in Los Angeles is discussed in further detail in a subsequent chapter of this report on domestic partnership families. Also, see team report entitled "Gay and Lesbian Couples," *Report of the Task Force on Family Diversity: Supplement - Part One*, p. S-192.

¹⁵ Table 3 shows changes in the racial and ethnic composition of the City of Los Angeles between 1970 and 1980.

¹⁶ *City of Los Angeles Ethnic Concentrations*, *supra*, pp. 8-12.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ Table 4 shows age group patterns in the city of Los Angeles in 1980.

¹⁹ "United States Population: 1980 Census Records," *The World Almanac and Book of Facts*(1981), p. 195.

²⁰ This is based on 10.5% of the current estimated population of 3,595,379.

²¹ Table 5 shows income, occupational, and poverty statistics for four major geographic areas of the city.

²² "Disability Team Report," *Report of the Task Force on Family Diversity: Supplement - Part One*, p. S-382.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*; Abraham, Willard, Ph.D., "Every Third Family Has Handicapped Child," *Mount Washington Star-Review*, May 17, 1986; Testimony of Ann Finger, "Problems Impeding the Disabled in Family Living," *Public Hearing Transcript*, p. 71.

²⁵ This figure is derived by averaging the high national average of 15% with the low national average of 10% and adjusting it upwards by 1.5% to account for migration to Los Angeles due to favorable factors. According to this estimate, 14% of the city's current population is disabled.

²⁶ *Present and Future Demographic Features*, *supra*, pp. 1-3.