

XI. Economic Well Being

Title:	Data Source:	Publish Date:	Contact:
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Major Findings

Unemployment Rate 2006

<u>San Mateo County</u>	<u>East Palo Alto</u>
3.7%	9.2%

Definition: The annual unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labor force.
Data Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division.
<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?table...> Retrieved on March 5, 2007.

What it is: This indicator -- the annual unemployment rate at the state, county, and city levels -- reports the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the overall labor force (which is the sum of employed and unemployed people). These data come from a statewide survey of households which counts a person as unemployed if he/she does not have a job, is able and available to work, and has looked for a job in the week that includes the 12th of the month. The same survey counts as employed any person who worked one hour or more during the week in question.

Why is this topic important?

Not only can unemployment be a barrier to a family's economic security, it also can place families under stress, affecting children's emotional health and other aspects of their well being, such as access to health insurance. Children from low-income families are more likely to go hungry; reside in overcrowded or unstable housing; live in unsafe neighborhoods; and receive a poorer education. They also tend to have less access to health care, child care, and other community resources, such as quality after-school programs, sports, and extracurricular opportunities.

Public School Students Enrolled in CalWORKs (Public Assistance) 2004

<u>San Mateo County</u>	<u>Ravenswood City Elementary</u>
3.1%	13.0%

Definition: Percentage of public school students enrolled in CalWORKs (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids).

Footnote: Years presented are the final year of a school year, e.g., 1997-1998 is shown as 1998. CalWORKs, California's welfare reform program, gives cash aid and employment services to eligible families with minor children (http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/california_169.htm).

Data Source: Ed-Data: Fiscal, Demographic and Performance Data on California's K-12 Schools. Education Data Partnership. <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/welcome.asp>. Retrieved 03/31/05.

What it is: This indicator reports the percentage of public school children in grades K-12 who receive public assistance, called CalWORKs. The percentage of school children receiving CalWORKs is used as a proxy for measuring poverty among school children because only low-income children are eligible.

Why is this topic important?

CalWORKs cash assistance provides a safety net for food, clothing, and shelter for many low-income families.

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One East Palo Alto Community Survey Report	Prepared for the One East Palo Alto Neighborhood Improvement Initiative, East Palo Alto Community and Stakeholders by Empowerment Research!, a Program of the Community Development Institute.	March 2004	Dr. Faye McNair-Knox: mcnair@1epa.org or Lome: lome@cdi-usa.org

Economic Attainment Major Findings

- The median household income for the OEPA service area is \$40,000 compared to \$68,862 for San Mateo County.
- 45% of those who are self-employed are Latinos.
- Top industries where survey respondents are employed: retail trade, educational services, and accommodation and food service industry.
- Only 28% of Latinos indicated that they had health benefits, which is almost half the percentage reported for all other racial and ethnic groups
- Latinos reported the lowest homeownership rate at 42%, relative to the other racial and ethnic groups.

Why is this Topic Important?

Survey respondents reported a median household income of \$40,000. The disparity in income between survey respondents and county residents is telling, given the county median household income of \$68,862, which is more than 150% of what survey respondents reported. A closer look at the demographic makeup of the residents who earn \$49,999 or less, shows that Latinos and African Americans make up the plurality of respondents who reported making these lower income amounts.

Data provided by the state Employment Development Department show that typically jobs in the educational services industry pay a mean annual wage of \$50,776.39. Jobs in the retail industry pay a mean annual wage of approximately \$44,729.99. Lastly, jobs in the accommodation and food services industry have a mean annual wage of \$38,813.71. It is interesting to note that the annual wages in these sectors all fall below the family income needed for self-sufficiency as defined by San Mateo County (\$66,356 annually).