Acknowledgements

This report was produced by
San Joaquin Community Data Co-Op

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August 2012
INTRODUCTION

Memorial Hospital Los Banos (MHLB) is a private, nonprofit community hospital incorporated under California law to provide health care services, within finite resources, to citizens of Los Banos and the surrounding geographical areas. In accordance with the legislative requirements of SB697 and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which requires nonprofit hospitals to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years, the Los Banos hospital conducted an assessment of their hospital service area during the 2011 and 2012 calendar years.

The findings from this assessment provided the hospital with the necessary information to determine health priorities, emerging gaps, ongoing needs and to develop community health improvement implementation plans. The goal of this report is to help stimulate collaboration and community action to address key health issues and disparities in the city.
The main steering committee for the needs assessment process was the Westside Needs Assessment Collaborative (WNAC). The WNAC was a work group of community leaders that were asked by the hospital to assist with the CHNA. At the initial planning sessions regarding the CHNA there was representation from the Los Banos City Council, Head Start, Los Banos Unified School District, Merced County Local Child Care Planning Council and the Merced County Department of Public Health. Near the end of the process, the group consisted of: Steve Hammond (a local clergy member), Mark Knapp (the former Chief of Police in Los Banos), Ashlee Williams (Community Resource Council), Rick Liszewski (CEO of Memorial Hospital Los Banos), and Carolyn Nazabal, RN, CIC (Infection Control/Education Coordinator – Memorial Hospital Los Banos).

The health needs to be studied, as part of the assessment, were identified from previously held focus groups and meetings of community leaders. The WNAC took that information and prioritized the top three needs as teen pregnancy, childhood obesity and senior health/mental health needs. It must be noted that the identified three topics, studied in this report, are also objectives of the Healthy People 2020 initiatives.

**STUDY TEAM**

The San Joaquin Community Data Co-Op is a Central Valley based nonprofit social research and evaluation organization that was contracted to carry out the community health needs assessment. This research organization designed the needs assessment, developed an instrument for primary data collection, collected and analyzed the data and prepared the final product. The research team included Campbell Bullock, Executive Director; Olga Goltvyantisa, Senior Research Associate, with expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping; Vang Bao, Community Researcher; Karina Ibarra, Community Researcher and Spanish translator; and Zee Vang, Research Assistant; and additional research assistants helped with the facilitation of the community needs assessment survey.

It is important to note that a major contributing partner was Julie Barker (MCHES, MPH, CLC), Program Manager with San Joaquin Region 5 – California Health Collaborative. Another contributing partner was Carrie J. Florez, a Research Scientist at the Center for Family Health – California Department of Public Health.
METHODOLOGY

HOSPITAL SERVICE AREAS

For the purposes of this assessment, the hospital service area (HSA) is defined as the geographic area that is served by the hospital. Memorial Hospital Los Banos’ HSA was determined on the basis that it is the only full service hospital within 35 miles. The communities that fall within this range are the cities of Los Banos (which includes Santa Nella) as well as Dos Palos and Gustine. It is important to note that at least 75% of hospital discharges originated from these cities. In 2010, the population in these three cities was 35,792, 4,950, and 1,380 respectively. Memorial Hospital Los Banos and these cities are situated in the southwestern part of Merced County, California.

DATA COLLECTION

This needs assessment used a mixed method of data collection approach. The primary data collected to support the CHNA process consisted of a community needs assessment survey and input from the Merced County Department of Public Health experts during the various stages of the CHNA. Secondary data included demographic data, economic data, crime data, childhood obesity, teen pregnancy and senior health/mental health at the city, county and state levels with respect to the identified health needs.

Primary Data Collection

The community needs assessment survey was administered during 2011/2012. While the survey data that was collected does not stem from a representative survey, the information still provides meaningful feedback from Los Banos residents as it relates to access to health care, crime and neighborhood safety, availability of healthy food, physical fitness and overall quality of life indicators. A questionnaire was developed in English and Spanish. Members of the community (which includes medically underserved, low-income, and ethnic minorities) were surveyed at the local Tomato Festival, the local supermarket (Save Mart), Los Banos Unified School District (LBUSD), a flu clinic and a number of surveys were obtained via telephone.

Further input was gathered from individuals who represent the broad interests of the community serviced by the hospital facility, including those with special knowledge of or expertise in public health. More specifically, the Merced County Department of Public Health was represented by Dr. Tim Livermore (Director of Public Health), Jennifer Andrade, RN, and Laura Roberts, RN. Their participation and input centered on needs assessment planning and/or project meetings.
Secondary Data Collection

The first step for conducting the community needs assessment was a comprehensive collection and review of secondary health data and quality of life data (i.e., economy, education, environment, public safety, social environment, transportation, etc). Secondary data used in this assessment was collected from all applicable existing data sources including government agencies (e.g., U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, California Department of Education, State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, State of California, Department of Public Health, California Department of Aging, California Department of Mental Health, California Department of Aging, Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention, etc.) and other public and private institutions. The data was collected in six main categories: demographics, economic data, crime, childhood obesity, teen pregnancy, and senior health/mental health.

The unit-of-analysis for most indicators was city, county and state boundaries. Please note that some demographic data was provided at the block group level. When available, Healthy People 2020 targets were used as benchmarks to determine the severity of the health need.

Primary Data Analysis

The primary data that was collected was compiled and analyzed in order to identify key community needs and important points pertaining to identified health needs. All of the electronic and hard-copy survey data were cleaned, coded, and entered into an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

Secondary Data Analysis

In order to determine the community needs, each of the indicators were analyzed on the following criteria: (1) How does Los Banos perform compared to Merced County or the State? (2) Does Los Banos meet national Healthy People 2020 goals, and (3) Was there an apparent “health disparity”?

A health disparity can be defined as a sub-population (ethnic minorities, females, seniors) performing worse as compared to the Merced County or the State. Thus, if the indicator did not meet the Healthy People 2020 national goal, signaled a health disparity, or was trending poorly; it was identified as a community need.
PRIORITIZATION

After review of the secondary and primary data, a list of needs and issues was identified. The Westside Needs Assessment Collaborative held meetings with community, public health and health care system leaders to review the needs and issues identified in the CHNA process and to prioritize the issues in order to identify potential intervention strategies.

The WNAC used the following criteria to prioritize community needs:

- The degree to which a particular issue was an important priority to address in this planning effort for either the health system or the larger community.
- The degree to which an intervention is already in place and functioning to address the issue/need.
- Any priority and/or intervention that is required by the state and/or is a key component to the public health system.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

The following provides a description of existing community assets and resources available in the community to meet identified health needs:

*Childhood Obesity*

- Merced County SNAP Ed – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: the goal is to empower and enable the target population and those eligible up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to select health food and beverages and increase physical activity through nutrition education, social marketing and environmental supports.
- Cal Fresh – Food and nutrition services program of the USDA that fights hunger and strives to improve nutrition and health. It assists low income households in purchasing necessary food for a nutritionally adequate diet.
- Local Faith Organizations – such as Bethel Community Church, The Salvation Army, and Manna Ministries provided food, clothing and shelter for the homeless and low income families. Memorial Hospital Los Banos makes monetary donations to these organizations.
Teen Pregnancy

- Breastfeeding – Memorial Hospital Los Banos promotes exclusive breastfeeding and currently the rate is 50% exclusive. Mothers sign a consent form if they want supplements in the addition to breastfeeding. A WIC (Women, Infant, Child) worker comes to the Perinatal unit twice a week and qualifies mothers for WIC. Mothers receive additional WIC vouchers if they are breastfeeding.
- Alpha Pregnancy Turning Points – the classes are designed to teach young ladies prenatal care, infant, care and childcare up to the age of 3. For each class the young lady attends she can shop from the baby closet for goods that she will need for her baby.
- Diabetes Education - For the pregnant diabetic we partner with Sweet Success to provide the needed monitoring supplies.

Senior Health/Mental Health

- Salute to Seniors – is an annual event sponsored by the City of Los Banos. The event recognizes senior citizens as special people. There are many vendors and businesses present with services specific to seniors. The hospital participates every year, providing information on health concerns of the seniors such as heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension. Information is also provided regarding the services of the hospital such as the RHC (Rural Health Clinic) and the Diabetic support group.

Other

- Education classes provided by MHLB to the community:
  - CPR for the HealthCare Provider
  - CPR for the lay community
  - First Aid Class
  - Car Seat Safety class (the attendee receives a car seat for $25)
  - Prepared Child Birth – there is no cost for this class
- Diabetes Education – free individual diabetes education is available to anyone in the community. The hospital receives referrals for the local physicians. The hospital also provides a monthly Diabetic Support Group.

The following pages contain the results of the CHNA. The report is organized as follows: demographics of the population being served followed by social determinants of health (education, housing, economics and quality of life such as crime data). After that, the study findings are provided for childhood obesity, teen pregnancy, and senior health/mental health. This is concluded with the community needs assessment survey results.
DEMOGRAPHICS

“A pure democracy is a society consisting of a small number of citizens, who assemble and administer the government in person.”

- James Madison

According to the World Health Organization, Social determinants of health “are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, including the health system. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources at global, national and local levels, which are themselves influenced by policy choices.” These underlying social and economic factors cluster and accumulate over one’s life, and influence health inequities across different populations and places.

This chapter provides a general picture of the Los Banos population in Merced County, including information on:

- Growing diversity and increasing population
- Population by race/ethnicity, gender and race
- Foreign born population
- Linguistic characteristics of the population
- Educational Attainment

KEY FINDINGS FOR LOS BANOS

- The city of Los Banos has experienced steady growth during the past decade, adding an average of 1,010 people per year (growing from 25,869 in 2000 to 35,972 in 2010).
- 36.9% of the population is between the ages of 0 and 19.
- Nearly 1 in 10, or 8.6%, of the population in Los Banos is 65 years old or older.
- 27.3% of Los Banos residents were born outside the United States.
- More than half (55.7%) of the city’s residents speak a language other than English at home.
- Nearly half (49.4%) of the city’s population speaks Spanish.
- One-third (33.6%) of Los Banos residents are high school graduates.
- About 1 out of 4 (24.9%) either went to high school but did not graduate or had less than a high school education.
GROWING DIVERSITY AND INCREASING POPULATION

The city of Los Banos has experienced steady growth during the past decade, adding an average of 1,010 people per year (growing from 25,869 in 2000 to 35,972 in 2010)².

Hispanic population in particular experienced significant growth, increasing from 50.4% to 64.9% (Figure 1.1). The ‘some other race’ and Asian population slightly increased by 1.2% and 0.9%. Although, these groups increased over time, other ethnicities experienced a slight decrease in their population. More specifically, the White and the African American population have decreased by 0.6% and 0.5%. Other groups (including Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives) and multiracial categories constitute a small percentage of the population and have remained relatively unchanged.

Figure 1.1 Population Growth by Race/Ethnicity, Los Banos, 2000 and 2010

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, 2010

NOTE: The U.S. Census Bureau collects race and Hispanic origin information following the guidance of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. These federal standards mandate that race and Hispanic origin (ethnicity) are separate and distinct concepts. “Hispanic or Latino” refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. In the above graph, the percentages for the various race categories add to 100% and should not be combined with the Hispanic/Latino percent³.
POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY, GENDER AND AGE

In 2010 the population for Los Banos totaled 35,972 (Table 1.2). Of this number 50.2% are female and 49.8% are male. This is only a small portion of Merced County. The county consists of more than a quarter million (255,793) people. Furthermore, in the county 49.7% are female and 50.3% are male.

The majority (94.9%) of Los Banos residents indicated that they are ‘One Race’. This is also true for the county (95.3%). Only 3.2% indicated that they are Asian in the city compared to 7.4% for the county. The American Indian, Black, and Pacific Islander races are either similar or slightly similar for both the city and the county.

Hispanic and Latino Americans form the largest minority group and population group in Los Banos comprising 64.9% of the population (54.9% for the county). The second largest population group in the city is White at 58%. The Caucasian population group in the county is also 58%; however, it is the largest population group in the county followed by Hispanic/Latino American group (54.9% respectively).

28.1% of Los Banos residents reported that they are of another race compared to 24.5% for the county. In addition, 5.1% of the city’s residents indicated that they are two or more races compared to 4.7% for the county.

### Table 1.1 Characteristics of Persons: Sex, Race and Age Distribution, Los Banos, Merced County, and California, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LOS BANOS Count</th>
<th></th>
<th>MERCED COUNTY Count</th>
<th></th>
<th>CALIFORNIA Count</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population</strong></td>
<td>35,972</td>
<td></td>
<td>255,793</td>
<td></td>
<td>37,253,956</td>
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<td><strong>Population by Sex</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18,060</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>127,056</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
<td>18,736,126</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>17,912</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
<td>128,737</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>18,517,830</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population by Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Reporting One Race</td>
<td>34,131</td>
<td>94.9%</td>
<td>243,864</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>35,438,572</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>3,473</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>362,801</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1,162</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>18,836</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>4,861,007</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1,354</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>9,926</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>2,299,072</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>144,386</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>20,846</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>148,381</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>21,453,934</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>10,123</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>62,665</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>6,317,372</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>1,841</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>11,929</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>1,815,384</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hispanic Population</td>
<td>23,346</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
<td>140,485</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>14,013,719</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population by Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>3,244</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>22,226</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>2,531,333</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>3,414</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>22,167</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>2,505,839</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>3,410</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>22,115</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>2,590,930</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>3,205</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>24,451</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>2,823,940</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>2,532</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>20,195</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>2,765,949</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>9,596</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>67,027</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>10,500,587</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>7,494</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>53,652</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>9,288,864</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>3,077</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>23,960</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>4,246,514</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010
Maps 1.1-1.4 highlight areas of the city where concentrations of Asians, African Americans, Hispanics and Whites live. These maps indicate that the Los Banos neighborhoods, for the most part, are racially and ethnically diverse. However, the maps also reveal a higher concentration of African American and Hispanic residents in the center (west) of Los Banos.

Between 2000 and 2010 the northeast, southeast, and southwest parts of the city, experienced a substantial increase in population. But one of the most striking changes occurred in the northeast part of Los Banos where the Hispanic population increased by 72.0%, Black 64.3%, Asian 63.9% and White by 61.8%. It must be noted that the city, overall, experienced an increase in the Hispanic population (concentration and geographic extent; the only population group that did not decrease in any one area of the city).

In the span of 10 years the Asian population increased in Los Banos by 32.0%, Black 36.5%, Hispanic 39.7% and White 33.2%.
Most (26.7%) of Los Banos residents are between the ages of 25 and 44. Two out of ten (20.8%) are ages 45 through 64. Furthermore, 18.5% are children between the ages of 0 and 9, 9.5% are ages 10-14, 8.9% are ages 15-19, and 7.0% are ages 20-24. Senior citizens make up 8.6% of the population. The age distribution of the population for the county is fairly similar.

**FOREIGN BORN POPULATION**

*Table 1.2* shows that the majority (72.7%) of Los Banos residents was born in the U.S. and 27.3% are foreign-born. Of the foreign-born population, only 9.5% are Naturalized U.S. Citizens. Percentages are relatively similar across the county. In the state, percentages are slightly similar for native-born and foreign-born; however, it is critical to note that the percentages for Naturalized U.S. Citizens and non-citizens are much higher (45.0% and 55.0% respectively).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship Status</th>
<th>LOS BANOS</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>MERCED COUNTY</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>CALIFORNIA</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 5 Years and Over</td>
<td>31,356</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>228,318</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,092,225</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Population 5 Years and Over</td>
<td>22,784</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>166,472</td>
<td>72.9%</td>
<td>24,179,426</td>
<td>70.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-born Population 5 Years and Over</td>
<td>8,572</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>61,846</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>9,912,799</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naturalized U.S. Citizen</td>
<td>2,982</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>21,388</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>4,464,246</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a U.S. Citizen</td>
<td>5,590</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>40,458</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>5,448,553</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
**LINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION**

**Table 1.3 Language Spoken at Home, Los Banos, Merced County, and California, 2006-2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LOS BANOS</th>
<th></th>
<th>MERCED COUNTY</th>
<th></th>
<th>CALIFORNIA</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 5 Years and Over</td>
<td>31,356</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>228,318</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,092,225</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak only English</td>
<td>13,894</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>110,700</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>19,429,309</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak a Language other than English</td>
<td>17,462</td>
<td>55.7%</td>
<td>117,618</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>14,662,916</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian and Pacific Islander</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>11,461</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3,210,896</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish or Spanish Creole</td>
<td>15,503</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>94,668</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>9,706,949</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Indo-European</td>
<td>1,261</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>11,005</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>1,454,763</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Languages</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>290,308</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

*Table 1.3* shows that 44.3% of Los Banos residents speak only English and 55.7% speak a language other than English. Nearly half (49.4%) of the city’s population speaks Spanish. Other languages spoken at home include Asian and Pacific Islander (2.0%), Other Indo-European (4.0%), and ‘Other Languages’ (0.3%)

Percentages slightly differ across the county and state. For instance, the percent of English speakers are higher and in California the percentage is greater than other languages. Furthermore, the percentage of Spanish speakers is fewer in the county and much less in the state. In addition, the Asian and Pacific Islander languages increased throughout the county and state.

Persons in non-English speaking households may be “linguistically isolated” which means not having an English speaker over the age of 14 years in the household. A higher proportion of households speaking Other Indo-European languages

**Figure 1.2 Linguistically Isolated Households, Los Banos, Merced County, and California, 2006-2010**

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
experience linguistic isolation (36%), than Spanish-speaking households (26%) or any other non-English speaking households in Los Banos. Persons in these households may not be linguistically isolated from their own communities, but may experience barriers in accessing or utilizing health care and other services.4.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Figure 1.1 shows that one-third (33.6%) of Los Banos residents are high school graduates. About 1 out of 4 (24.9%) either went to high school but did not graduate or had less than a high school education. 23.4% of residents had some college education but did not receive a degree, 6.3% have an Associate Degree, 8.5% have a Bachelor’s Degree and only 2.9% have a Graduate Degree or higher.

In Merced County (Figure 1.2) percentages are slightly different. For instance, high school graduates make up 28.7% of the population. One in 10 people (10.4%) went to high school but did not graduate and one in five (20.3%) had less than a high school education. 19.6% went to college but did not receive a degree, 7.7% have an Associate Degree, 8.9% have a Bachelor’s Degree and 4.1% have a Graduate Degree or higher.
Education attainment in the state is much different in some levels. For example, Figure 1.3 shows that the percentage of residents who completed a four year college or higher is much greater (29.8%). The percentage of residents who did not receive a high school diploma or had less than a high school education is also fewer (19.1% respectively).

**Figure 1.3 Educational Attainment, Adults Aged 25 and Older, California, 2010**

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Figure 1.4 Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity, Adults Aged 25 and Older, Los Banos, 2010**

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Figure 1.5 English Learners in Public Schools, Los Banos Unified School District, Merced County, California 2000-2011


Figure 1.6 English Learners in Public Schools By Non-English Language Spoken at Home, Los Banos Unified School District, Merced County, California 2000-2011

RESOURCES


2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.


ECONOMY

“A successful society is characterized by a rising living standard for its population…”

- Robert Trout

KEY FINDINGS FOR LOS BANOS

- 2010 estimated annual median income in Los Banos was higher than Merced County but lower that the State of California.
- One in four households in Los Banos has an annual income that is less than $24,999.
- One in four children in Lost Banos live below the Federal Poverty Level.
- In February of 2012, Los Banos experienced an unemployment rate of 21.0%.
- More than half of owners and renters in Los Banos spent more than 30% of their household income on housing.
- Forbes.com notes that the Los Banos commute time is the second worst in the United States.
**HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

Income affects our health in many ways. Those with higher incomes are more likely to live longer, healthier lives. More income leads to resources that promote better health, including access to health care, nutritious food, safe housing, and nurturing neighborhoods.

In 2010 the estimated annual median income of a household in Los Banos was higher than that for the county as a whole ($54,375 compared to $43,844) but lower than that for the state ($60,883). Some ethnic/racial groups (Asian) earned considerably more, some slightly more (African American) and other racial/ethnic groups (American Indian, some other race, Hispanic/Latino and White) earned slightly less or much less (Figure 2.2).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services calculates the Federal Poverty Level based primarily on a combination of income and household size. In 2010, the Federal Poverty Level was $10,890 for a single person and $22,350 for a family of four.

In Los Banos, it is estimated that nearly 1 in 4 (21.4%) households has an annual income that is less than $24,999; the average household size is 3.49. In addition, more than 4 in 10 households have an annual income that is less than $50,000, this rate is higher for the county (more than half of all households) and slightly lower for the state (Figure 2.1).

**Figure 2.1 Household Income (In 2010 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), Los Banos, Merced County, California, 2006-2010**

**Figure 2.2 Household Median Income by Ethnicity, Los Banos, 2006-2010**

---

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

*No Data Available*
TABLE 2.1 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age and Household, Los Banos, Merced County, and California, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LOS BANOS Below Poverty Level</th>
<th>MERCED COUNTY Below Poverty Level</th>
<th>CALIFORNIA Below Poverty Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Count %</td>
<td>Count %</td>
<td>Count %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>6,411 18.7%</td>
<td>53,738 21.8%</td>
<td>4,919,945 13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population by Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>3,047 26.0%</td>
<td>23,577 29.8%</td>
<td>1,748,267 19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-64</td>
<td>2,977 14.8%</td>
<td>27,687 19.0%</td>
<td>2,826,464 12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>387 15.8%</td>
<td>2,474 11.4%</td>
<td>345,214 8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,846 19.1%</td>
<td>10,375 14.1%</td>
<td>1,499,535 12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP</td>
<td>- 67.3%</td>
<td>- 62.5%</td>
<td>- 52.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP</td>
<td>- 14.1%</td>
<td>- 12.9%</td>
<td>- 9.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

In Los Banos, more than 1 in 4 children (26%) and more than 1 in 10 adults and seniors (14.8% and 15.8% respectively) live below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The percentage is higher for the county and lower for the state (Table 2.1).

Differences exist between racial/ethnic groups. There is a disproportionate amount of American Indian/Alaskan Native living in poverty; a staggering 89%. The numbers are somewhat similar for the Hispanic/Latino, African American, White, and Some Other Race groups but much lower for the Asian population (12%) (Figure 2.3).

In 2010, nearly 1 in 5 households lived in poverty (19.1%) of these 62.5% received Cal Fresh (food stamps). Percentages differ across the county and state. For instance, the total number of households living in poverty is lower for both the county and the state (14.1% and 12.1%). The number of households receiving public assistance is also much lower (62.5% and 52.4% respectively).

Figure 2.3 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Ethnicity, Los Banos, Merced County, California, 2006-2010

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

*No data available
In Los Banos, (as in Merced County and California overall), unemployment has increased substantially from historic lows in 2000 and follows a similar trend. However, the unemployment rate of Los Banos, historically, has been slightly higher than that of Merced County and significantly higher than that of California (Figure 2.4).

The official unemployment rate is the percentage of people in the workforce that are out of work. Note that if an unemployed person is not actively looking for work, he/she is not considered in the workforce and so is not counted in the unemployment rate. For this reason official unemployment rate has been considered to be an underestimate of persons out of work.

In February of 2012 Los Banos experienced an unemployment rate of 21.0%, with about 2,900 residents looking for jobs (more than 1 out of 5 residents). The rate is similar in Merced County at 20.0% (making it one of eight counties in California where more than 1 in 5 people are out of work) compared to that of California at 11.4%.

![Figure 2.4 Unemployment, Los Banos, Merced County, California 2010](image)

**Figure 2.4 Unemployment, Los Banos, Merced County, California 2010**

In 2010, there were 11,426 housing units in Los Banos. 85.6% were single-unit structures, 10.9% were multi-unit structures, and 3.5% were mobile homes. 64.5% of homes in Los Banos were owner-occupied versus renter-occupied (a 3.4% decrease from a decade ago). The median monthly payment was $1,915 for owners and $972 for renters. More than half of homeowners with mortgages (58.5%) and renters (56.7%) in Los Banos spent 30% or more of their household incomes on housing, a relatively high housing burden for working families.

Figure 2.5 shows that Asians have a significantly higher home ownership rate (80.4%) than the county as a whole (64.5%). For all other race/ethnic groups, two-thirds (or close to two-thirds) of the population are homeowners with the exception of Black/African American and American Indian/Alaska Native groups (a much lower rate at 41.9% and 34.1% respectively).

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

*No data available*
Between March 2011 and 2012 an average of 38.8 homeowners received a notice of default on their mortgage per month.

According to NeighborWorks America, “Negative impacts of foreclosure on communities are far reaching. Not only are people losing homes, but also communities are suffering economically, physically and socially.” Specifically, they’ve identified the following seven impact areas for foreclosure:

- Communities suffer from increased crime;
- Communities take a financial hit;
- Community members are vulnerable to financial scams;
- Youth experience stress and instability;
- Displaced residents struggle to find shelter;
- Communities are blighted by neglect;
- Minorities are impacted disproportionately.

Figure 2.5 Foreclosure Activity by Month, Los Banos, March 2011 - March 2012

Nearly two-thirds (62.2%) of Los Banos residents commute to work every single day; the percentage is similar for the county and the state. However, what distinguishes Los Banos from the county and the state is that 37.1% of those commuting travel more than 60 minutes to work compared to 11.9% for the county and 10.0% for the state (Figure 2.7).

According to Forbes.com, “The nation’s second worst commute belongs to this town of 35,000. Many Silicon Valley workers have made Los Banos home because of the pricey real estate closer to San Jose, resulting in some crushing commutes. The mean commuting time to work from Los Banos is 42.6 minutes.” This number is almost twice as high as that for the county and the state (Figure 2.6).
RESOURCES

5. http://articles.latimes.com/2010/mar/11/business/la-fi-cal-jobs11-2010mar11 this information is for the unemployment rate of Merced county that makes in one of eight counties that has an unemployment rate above 20%.
6. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Matricies H3, H4, H5, H6, H7 and H16.
Every month the Police Department sends crime data to the California Department of Justice. This data eventually becomes part of the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report (UCR). UCR Part 1 Crimes are also referred to as “The Crime Index”. Part 1 Crimes are those that are most likely to be reported to the police and to occur with sufficient frequency to provide an adequate basis for comparison. The offenses included are the violent crimes of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault and the property crimes of burglary, motor vehicle theft and larceny-theft.

- The Los Banos Police Department 2010 Annual Report

**KEY FINDINGS FOR LOS BANOS**

- In 2010, the City of Los Banos saw a 2.6% decrease in serious crime.
- Larceny and burglary was the most common crime in 2010.
- The total calls for service increased in 2010 by 4,878 from the prior year.
- The majority of citations were for moving violations.
- While the city population increased by 10,000, sworn police personnel only increased 5 officers from 33 to 38.
CRIME DATA

For the year 2010, the city of Los Banos saw a 2.6% decrease in Part 1 crimes (Table 3.1).

Table 3.2 shows Part 1 crimes by month for the year 2010. There are more offenses committed at the beginning of the year, with at least 100 crimes a month from January to April. The most crimes committed throughout the year were Larceny and Burglary (667 and 310).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Difference 2009-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>1,111</td>
<td>1,006</td>
<td>1,232</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offense</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>-36.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>-8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>-35.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


TABLE 3.2 Part 1 Offense Crime Statistics by Type of Crime, Los Banos, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Total</strong></td>
<td>143</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offense</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


BENEFITS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

- Get to know your neighbors
- Reduce the risk of being a crime victim
- Be better prepared to respond to suspicious activity
- Reduce the fear of crime
- Greater access to criminal activity information
- Learn how to recognize possible criminal activity
- Make your neighborhood peaceful and safe
- Have a greater connection to law enforcement

-Los Banos Police Department
The crime rate reported in this section describes the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies per 100,000 total population. Please note that the number of reported homicide, forcible rape, and aggravated assault crimes represents known victims, while robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson, the number represents known incidents (State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General).

Data findings in Figure 3.1 indicate that the rates for violent crime and forcible rape are lower in Los Banos as compared to Merced County and the State. The robbery crime rate in Los Banos is lower than the State but similar to the rate in Merced County. The aggravated assault rate is lower than Merced County but higher than the State.

Figures 3.2 and 3.3 show that larceny-theft rates under $400.00 and burglary rates are similar in Los Banos and Merced County. Larceny-theft over $400.00, arson, and motor vehicle thefts are lower in Los Banos as compared to Merced County and the State.

NOTE: Caution should be used when comparing Los Banos crime rate to that of the county or the state as the rate tends to be inflated when calculating it for populations that are less than 100,000 compared to those with populations of 100,000 or more. The population of Los Banos city is well below 100,000.
All calls into the Dispatch/911 Call Center come in through one of eight phone lines. The total calls in 2010 increased by 4,878 from the prior year (Figure 3.4).

In 2010, there were no fatal traffic accidents in the city limits, although the total traffic accidents increased (Figure 3.5).

The pie chart in Figure 3.6 shows that the Los Banos Police Department had more jail bookings in 2010 than all other agencies. The top 5 bookings are also listed below.

- Los Banos PD: 1,650
- CHP: 406
- Merced County Sheriffs: 201
- Merced County Probation: 109
- Gustine PD: 33


Figure 3.4 Total Annual Calls into the PD/911 Call Center, Los Banos, 2007-2010

Figure 3.5 Total Annual Traffic Accidents, Los Banos, 2007-2010

Figure 3.6 Jail Bookings: Los Banos Police Department (LPBD) vs. All Other Agencies, 2010

**Figure 3.7** shows the total number of jail bookings over the last 13 years.

**Figure 3.8** shows the total citations given from 2007 to 2010. Although citations in 2010 have increased from 2009, there is a considerable decrease from the years 2007 and 2008. **Figure 3.9** shows citations specific to moving violations, parking, and admin. The majority of citations given were moving citations.

**Figure 3.8** Total Annual Citations, Los Banos, 2007-2010

![Graph showing total annual citations from 2007 to 2010.](source)

**Figure 3.9** Total Annual Citations by Type of Citation, Los Banos, 2007-2010

![Graph showing citations of different types from 2007 to 2010.](source)
**Figures 3.10 and 3.11** provide data on the annual misdemeanor and felony rates in Los Banos from 2001 to 2010. Data is compared to Merced County and the State of California.

Data findings show that misdemeanor crime rates for Los Banos are lower than Merced County yet similar to the State (with the exception of lower rates in 2003).

Data findings show that felony crime rates for Los Banos are once again lower than Merced County yet higher, in most years, than the State.

**Figure 3.10 Annual Misdemeanor Rates, Los Banos, Merced County, California, 2001-2010**

![Figure 3.10 Annual Misdemeanor Rates, Los Banos, Merced County, California, 2001-2010](http://oag.ca.gov/crime)

**Figure 3.11 Annual Felony Rates, Los Banos, Merced County, California, 2001-2010**

![Figure 3.11 Annual Felony Rates, Los Banos, Merced County, California, 2001-2010](http://oag.ca.gov/crime)

**SOURCE:** State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. Available at: [http://oag.ca.gov/crime](http://oag.ca.gov/crime)

**NOTE:** Caution should be used when comparing Los Banos crime rate to that of the county or the state as the rate tends to be inflated when calculating it for populations that are less than 100,000 compared to those with populations of 100,000 or more. The population of Los Banos city is less than 100,000.
In Table 3.3, data shows that the city population has increased by over 10,000 people from the year 2000 to 2010. With the population being larger, the calls for service have also increased dramatically.

Table 3.4 shows the specific offenses made in 2000 and 2010. Crimes nearly doubled in this two year comparison. Although rape slightly decreased, all other offenses increased considerably. The majority of offenses committed in both years are burglary and larceny.

| TABLE 3.3 Population, Sworn Personnel and Calls for Service (2000 vs. 2010) |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| City Population                                  | 25,869  | 35,972  |
| Sworn Personnel                                  | 33      | 38      |
| Calls for Service                                | 18,211  | 26,131  |

| TABLE 3.4 Annual Crime Totals (2000 vs. 2010) |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Annual Total                                  | 626    | 1,200  |
| Offense                                       |        |        |
| Homicide                                      | -      | 2      |
| Rape                                          | 6      | 4      |
| Robbery                                       | 12     | 41     |
| Auto Theft                                    | 57     | 82     |
| Assault                                       | 64     | 94     |
| Burglary                                      | 115    | 310    |
| Larceny                                       | 372    | 667    |

In October of 2011, the State of California witnessed one of the most sweeping changes in corrections. With the passage of AB109, thousands of low level State prison inmates were released to county jurisdictions. In addition, most new low level offenses and sentences need to be served in county jails. Thus, the issue of jail impact and local crime in Los Banos should be studied further.
CHILDHOOD OBESITY

“Child hunger and child obesity are really just two sides of the same coin. Both rob our children of the energy, the strength and the stamina they need to succeed in school and in life. And that, in turn, robs our country of so much of their promise.”

- Michelle Obama

The State Board of Education (SBE) designated the FITNESSGRAM as the Physical Fitness Test (PFT) for students in California public schools. The FITNESSGRAM is a comprehensive, health-related physical fitness battery developed by the Cooper Institute which provides criterion-referenced standards to evaluate fitness. The FITNESSGRAM is designated to assess six key fitness areas that represent three broad components of fitness: (1) aerobic capacity, (2) body composition, and (3) muscle strength, endurance, and flexibility. The third component is further divided into four areas: abdominal strength and endurance, trunk extensor strength and flexibility, upper body strength and endurance, and flexibility.

The FITNESSGRAM uses health-related standards to evaluate performance. The desired performance standard for each fitness-area test is the Healthy Fitness Zone (HFZ). This standard represents the level of fitness associated with good health. Students should strive to achieve a score within the HFZ for each fitness-area test.

Each student’s performance is classified into the HFZ or other zones, depending on the fitness area, as follows:

**Aerobic Capacity**
- Healthy Fitness Zone
- Needs Improvement
- Needs Improvement – High Risk

**Body Composition**
- Very Lean
- Healthy Fitness Zone
- Needs Improvement
- Needs Improvement – High Risk

**Muscle Strength, Endurance, and Flexibility**
- Healthy Fitness Zone
- Needs Improvement

The Needs Improvement, or NI, designation signifies a fitness area where the student’s score is not in the HFZ and where the student would benefit from physical activities designated to improve performance in the
designated fitness area to achieve the HFZ\(^2\). NI – High Risk specifically indicates increased health risks due to the student’s level of fitness\(^2\). Please note that at this time the California Department of Education is not reporting on student’s scores that exceed the HFZ for Body Composition, this is designated as in the Very Lean Zone\(^2\).

For this report the prevalence of childhood overweight/obesity was determined using body composition scores of 5\(^{th}\), 7\(^{th}\), and 9\(^{th}\) grade public school children from the annual California Physical Fitness Test Program. Children were considered overweight/obese if their body composition scores placed them in the High Risk zone. The FITNESSGRAM High Risk zone represents children whose BMI exceeded the 85\(^{th}\) percentile of their age and gender group’s BMI (based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, growth charts).

Body Composition fitness area targets the various factors that contribute to an individual’s total weight (i.e., percent of muscle, bone, organ, and fat content)\(^2\). Body Composition assessments estimate the level of body fat or the appropriateness of student’s weight relative to his or her height\(^3\). This component of fitness is considered important because excessive fat content is associated with health problems such as coronary heart disease, stroke, and diabetes\(^2\). FITNESSGRAM provides three test options to estimate body composition: Skinfold Measurements, Bioelectric Impedance Analyzer, and Body Mass Index\(^2\).

The HFZ for the body composition test options all begin with age five\(^2\). These standards reflect the natural developmental trends for females and males, with boys gaining muscle with age and girls tending to gain body fat through the adolescent years\(^2\).

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**KEY FINDINGS FOR LOS BANOS**

- Overweight/obesity prevalence is higher among boys (43.0%) than girls (38.5%).
- Overweight/obesity prevalence is higher at lower grade levels, with 46.0% of children in the 5\(^{th}\) grade falling into the overweight/obese category compared to 39.6% of children in 7\(^{th}\) grade and 36.4% in 9\(^{th}\) grade.
- Overweight/obesity prevalence varies markedly by racial/ethnic groups and is highest among Hispanic/Latinos (43.9%) and Whites (32.7%).
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

In the Los Banos Unified School District, the 2010-2011 Physical Fitness Test was administered to 2,152 students representing 96.9% of students enrolled in fifth, seventh, and ninth grades (Table 1). Of those tested, 47.8% were females and 52.2% were males.

Approximately, three quarters of the students (72.8%) were of a Hispanic/Latino origin, about 1 in 5 (20.0%) were white, 2.9% were Black/African American, 1.3% were Asian, 1.3% were Filipino, 0.6% were American Indian/Alaska Native and 0.5% were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

| TABLE 4.1 Demographics of 5th, 7th, and 9th Graders Attending Los Banos Unified School District, Los Banos, 2010-2011 |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | LOS BANOS | MERCED COUNTY | CALIFORNIA |
| Total # of Students Tested | 2,152 | 96.9% | 12,097 | 95.3% | 1,347,493 | 92.8% |
| Total Tested |  |  |  |  |
| Grade 5 | 764 | 35.5% | 4,246 | 35.1% | 456,409 | 33.9% |
| Grade 7 | 712 | 33.1% | 3,981 | 32.9% | 444,072 | 33.0% |
| Grade 9 | 676 | 31.4% | 3,870 | 32.0% | 447,012 | 33.2% |
| Gender | 0.0% |  |  |  |
| Female | 1029 | 47.8% | 5,890 | 48.7% | 658,598 | 48.9% |
| Male | 1123 | 52.2% | 6,207 | 51.3% | 688,895 | 51.1% |
| Race/Ethnicity | 0.0% |  |  |  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 12 | 0.6% | 46 | 0.4% | 8,950 | 0.7% |
| Asian | 28 | 1.3% | 814 | 6.7% | 111,874 | 8.3% |
| Black or African American | 62 | 2.9% | 437 | 3.6% | 83,170 | 6.2% |
| Filipino | 27 | 1.3% | 89 | 0.7% | 36,019 | 2.7% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 1566 | 72.8% | 7,878 | 65.1% | 682,177 | 50.6% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 11 | 0.5% | 28 | 0.2% | 7,573 | 0.6% |
| White | 431 | 20.0% | 2,449 | 20.2% | 334,290 | 24.8% |
| Two or More Races | 15 | 0.7% | 12,097 | 100.0% | 1,347,493 | 100.0% |

SOURCE: California Department of Education, California Physical Fitness Test.
OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY – GRADE COMPARISON

Data for Los Banos reveals that significant disparities in childhood obesity persist across student gender, grade level, and racial/ethnic groups. This trend is the same for the county and the state although the percentages and the gap between gender, grade level and racial/ethnic groups tends to decrease at the county and state level.

In Los Banos, the overweight/obesity prevalence is higher at lower grade levels, with 46.0% of children in the 5th grade falling into the overweight/obese category compared to 39.6% of children in 7th grade and 36.4% in 9th grade.

OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY – GENDER COMPARISON

Gender comparison revealed that the prevalence of overweight/obesity is higher among boys than girls in Los Banos, with 43.0% of boys and 38.5% of girls falling into the overweight/obese category.
Overweight/obesity prevalence varies markedly by racial/ethnic group and is highest among Hispanic/Latino children (43.9%) followed by White children (32.7%), Black/African American children (24.2%) and Asian children (17.9%).

**Figure 4.3 Race/Ethnicity Comparison of HFZ - High Risk 9th Graders, Los Banos, Merced County, California, 2010-2011**

- **Hispanic or Latino**: 43.9% Los Banos, 36.0% Merced County, 36.9% California
- **White**: 32.7% Los Banos, 30.6% Merced County, 31.2% California
- **Black or African American**: 24.2% Los Banos, 29.5% Merced County, 31.2% California
- **Asian**: 17.9% Los Banos, 17.3% Merced County, 26.5% California
- **American Indian or Alaska Native**: 14.3% Los Banos, 37.0% Merced County, 32.9% California
- **Filipino**: 19.1% Los Banos, 25.5% Merced County
- **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander**: 14.3% Los Banos, 42.7% Merced County
- **Two or More Races**: 29.5% Los Banos, 25.6% Merced County

**SOURCE:** California Department of Education, California Physical Fitness Test.

* To protect confidentiality scores are not shown when the number of students tested is 10 or less.
OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY – COMPARISON BY ECONOMIC STATUS

Table 4.4 displays physical fitness test results by the economic status of the student. The data is grouped into the following three categories: economically disadvantaged, not economically disadvantaged and no economic information.

Data in Table 4.4 reveals that a greater percentage of students who are ‘Economically Disadvantaged’ are in the High Risk category (43.4%) compared to those students who are ‘NOT Economically Disadvantaged’ (35.8%). This trend is the same for the county and the state, although the gap is much more pronounced for the state than for the county or the city of Los Banos.

Figure 4.4 Comparison of HFZ - High Risk Students in Grades 5, 7 and 9 by Economic Status, Los Banos, Merced County, California, 2010-2011

![Bar chart showing the percentage of high risk students by economic status in Los Banos, Merced County, and California.](chart)

**SOURCE:** California Department of Education, *California Physical Fitness Test*.

OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY – YEARLY COMPARISON

Data reveals that in Los Banos childhood overweight/obesity rates have fluctuated between 39.2% and 43.9% with a characteristic low of 34.6% during the 2009-10 school year.

Figure 4.5 Yearly Comparison of HFZ - High Risk Students in Grades 5, 7 and 9, Los Banos, Merced County, California, 2010-2011

![Line chart showing the yearly comparison of high risk students in Los Banos, Merced County, and California.](chart)

**SOURCE:** California Department of Education, *California Physical Fitness Test*.

*To protect confidentiality scores are not shown when the number of students tested is 10 or less.*
RESOURCES

TEEN PREGNANCY

“Reducing teen pregnancy and birth is one of the most effective ways of reducing child poverty in the country.”

- Jordan Brown

Teen birth is an important public health issue because of the short and long term effects that it has on both the mother and the child and the society at large.

Teen mothers typically have more difficulty completing their education, have fewer employment opportunities, and are more likely to require public assistance and live in poverty than their peers (approximately 80%). It is estimated that 87% of teens who give birth are not married and 75% are first time mothers. In addition, they are at high risk for poor birth outcomes and for having another pregnancy while still in their teens.

Children born to teen mothers have a higher risk for experiencing child abuse, neglect, behavioral and education problems. For example, the sons of teenage mothers are 2.7 times more likely to end up in prison than sons born to moms who did not bear children until they were at least 20.

Teen pregnancy also places a burden on society. In the United States in 2008, the annual cost of teen pregnancies from lost tax revenues, public assistance, child health care, foster care and involvement with the criminal justice system is estimated to be about $10.9 billion.

Many factors increase the risk for teen pregnancy. Research indicates that teens that live in neighborhoods with high levels of poverty, low levels of education and high residential turnover are at higher risk for teen pregnancy. In addition, teens that come from poor, less educated, single-parent families, and females whose families provide less support and supervision are more likely to get pregnant. Other risk factors include poor access to birth control and other types of health services, poor performance at school, lack of after school activities, substance abuse, low self-esteem, lack of positive role models and unsatisfactory adult relationships.

KEY FINDINGS FOR LOS BANOS

- In 2010, the average number of births to teens (ages 15-19) was 84 accounting for 14.7% of all live births in Los Banos.
- The Healthy People 2020 target of reducing pregnancies among adolescent females age 15-17 to 36.2 pregnancies or fewer per 1,000 females has been achieved for Los Banos.
- In 2010, 1.2% of infants born to teens in Los Banos were very low birth weight (VLBW) and 3.5% were low birth weight (LBW), meeting the Healthy People 2020 target of 1.4% and 7.8% respectively.
- In 2010, 45.3% of infants born to Los Banos teens were to teens who received prenatal care in the first trimester, well below the Healthy People 2020 objective of 77.9%.
CHARACTERISTICS OF TEEN BIRTH RATES

The annual number of live births to teenage girls (ages 15-19) in Los Banos in 2010 accounted for 14.7% of all live births in Merced County in 2010 and 8.5% in California in 2010.

Table 5.1 shows the profile of teen births in Los Banos, Merced County and California. In Los Banos the average number of births to teens (ages 15-19) in 2010 was 84 which is 16.5% of all teen births in Merced County. The teen birth rate for Los Banos was higher than that for the county and state as a whole (54.8, 43.1 and 29.0 per 1,000 persons, respectively).

In this report teen birth rate is defined as the number of live births to adolescent females aged 15-19 per 1,000 adolescent females aged 15-19 in the population. Please note that the number of teen births is not the same as the number of teen pregnancies. It is estimated that approximately one third of pregnant teens have abortions, 14% have miscarriages and about 52% give birth. Thus, the teen pregnancy rate may be twice the teen birth rate.

In 2010, the birth rate in Los Banos for teens ages 15-17 was 33.1 per 1,000 girls in that age group; higher than the county and state average of 24.6 and 15.2 per 1,000. The Healthy People 2020 target of reducing pregnancies among adolescent females age 15-17 to 36.2 pregnancies or fewer per 1,000 females has been achieved for Los Banos.

However, the Healthy People 2020 target of reducing pregnancies among adolescent females ages 18-19 to 105.9 pregnancies or fewer per 1,000 females has not been reached. In 2010, in Los Banos the annual number of live births to teenage girls (ages 15-19) in Los Banos in 2010 accounted for 14.7% of all live births in Merced County in 2010 and 8.5% in California in 2010.

TABLE 5.1 Teen Birth (15-19) Annual Counts, Population, Race/Ethnicity and Age-Specific Rates per 1,000 Female Population, Percent, Los Banos, Merced County, and California, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LOS BANOS</th>
<th></th>
<th>1,533</th>
<th>54.8</th>
<th>~</th>
<th>MERCED COUNTY</th>
<th></th>
<th>11,801</th>
<th>43.1</th>
<th>~</th>
<th>CALIFORNIA</th>
<th></th>
<th>1,488,238</th>
<th>29.0</th>
<th>~</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Births to</td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,533</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>509</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,801</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>43,127</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,488,238</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>~</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>215</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,655</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>861</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>959</td>
<td></td>
<td>143,337</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>229</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>3,333</td>
<td></td>
<td>97,948</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>82.1%</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>370</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,450</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>31,564</td>
<td></td>
<td>700,998</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>73.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td>132</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,646</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,032</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>5,909</td>
<td></td>
<td>490,718</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>187</td>
<td>53.5</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td></td>
<td>39,936</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of Mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>171</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,942</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>13,308</td>
<td></td>
<td>874,581</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19 years</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>215.0</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>338</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,859</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>66.4%</td>
<td>29,819</td>
<td></td>
<td>613,657</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 12 years</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td></td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td></td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliveries Paid by</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td></td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>~</td>
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<td>~</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Los Banos the birth rate for teens ages 18-19 was 215 per 1,000 females in that age group, substantially higher than the county and the state rate of 69.6 and 48.6 (Table 5.1).

In Los Banos, the Hispanic teen population aged 15-19 has the highest birth rate (61.7 per 1,000 population) of any race/ethnic group, followed by White (16.2 per 1,000 population). The birth rate of the Hispanic population in Los Banos is higher than the county or state rate for this race/ethnic group. On the other hand, the birth rate of the White population in Los Banos is lower than that for the county but higher than the state rate (Table 1). Please note that some data does not add up because small numbers were excluded from the data for confidentiality reasons.

About 82.1% of live births to teens in Los Banos are to Hispanic teens, and 15.5% to White teens.

Figure 5.1 shows that the teen birth rate among 15-19 year olds in Merced County decreased by 16.2 in the last decade from 59.4 in 2001 to 43.1 births per 1,000 teen girls in 2010. A similar trend is observed for county and the state of California. Please note that this data was not available for the city of Los Banos. However, this data suggests that the same might be true for the teens in Los Banos. And although, the overall trend towards decrease is encouraging, the U.S. teen birth rate remains notably higher than the rates in other industrialized countries.7

**FIGURE 5.1 Annual Teen Birth Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Merced County, California, 2001-2010**

**SOURCE:** State of California, Department of Public Health, Birth Records 2010.
Healthy People 2020 Objective: 36.2


Please note that data for some racial/ethnic groups was not included due to small numbers (a confidentiality concern); data connects with information received from the State of California, Department of Public Health. In 2010, Hispanics had the highest teen birth rate (40.4 per 1,000 for those ages 15-17 and 96.5 per 1,000 for those ages 18-19) in Los Banos of any racial/ethnic group (Table 5.2 and Table 5.3).

The Healthy People 2020 target of reducing pregnancies among adolescent Los Banos females age 15-17 (to 36.2 pregnancies or fewer per 1,000 females) has not been achieved for the Hispanic teen population. This target has also not been achieved for the Black and ‘Two or More Races’ teen population in the county.

The Healthy People 2020 target of reducing pregnancies among adolescent females age 18-19 (to 105.9 pregnancies or fewer per 1,000 females) has been achieved for the Hispanic teen population in Los Banos. At the county level, the target has not been achieved for the Black teen population.
**LOW BIRTH WEIGHT**

**TABLE 5.2 Very Low Birth Weight, Low Birth Weight, Los Banos, Merced County and California 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LOS BANOS</th>
<th>MERCED COUNTY</th>
<th>CALIFORNIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Live Births</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>43,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Weight</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Low Birth Weight (&lt;1500g) (VLBW)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Birth Weight (&lt;2,500 g) (LBW)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3,215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** State of California, Department of Public Health, Birth Records 2010.

Infants weighing less than 2,499 grams (up to five pounds, five ounces) are considered low birth weight. Those weighing less than 1,500 grams (three pounds, four ounces) are considered very low birth weight.

A study conducted by the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (ISR) found that birth weight has significant and lasting effects. Specifically, weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth increases the probability of dropping out of high school by one-third; reduces yearly earnings by about 15 percent and burdens people in their 30s and 40s with the health of someone who is 12 years older.

The Healthy People 2020 target for very low birth weight is 1.4% of live births; for low birth weight, the target is 7.8% of live births. In 2010, 1.2% of infants born to teens in Los Banos were very low birth weight and 3.5% were low birth weight, meeting both of these targets. These percentages are lower in comparison to the county and the state (Table 5.2).

**FACTORS THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO VERY LOW BIRTH WEIGHT**

- **Race** – African American babies are twice as likely to have very low birth weight than Caucasian babies.
- **Age** – Teen mothers (especially those younger than 15 years old) have a much higher risk of having a baby with very low birth weight.
- **Multiple Birth** – twins, triplets, etc.
- **Mother’s Health** – women who are exposed to drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes during pregnancy and mothers of lower socioeconomic status are also more likely to have poor pregnancy nutrition, inadequate prenatal care, and pregnancy complications – all factors that can contribute to very low birth weight.
Prenatal Care is a program of care for a pregnant woman before she gives birth to her baby. Most women begin their prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. Visits to the doctor occur about once a month during the first six months. The frequency of visits increases to every two or three weeks for the remainder of the pregnancy.

_Estronaut, A Forum for Women’s Health_

In 2010, 45.3% of infants born to Los Banos teens were to teens who received prenatal care in the first trimester, substantially below the Healthy People 2020 objective of 77.9% (Table 5.3). The percentage of teen mothers receiving prenatal care in their first trimester was lower in comparison to the county and the state (52.7% and 67.3% respectively).

Table 5.3 shows that a very small proportion (1.2%) of Los Banos teen mothers aged 15-19 had no prenatal care during their pregnancies; approximately, 38.4% of teens initiated prenatal care during their second trimester; and, 15.1% of teens initiated prenatal care late in their pregnancy (i.e., third trimester).

Map 5.1 Households with Income Below Poverty Level by Block Groups, ACS 2005-2009

Map 5.2 Teen Births in Los Banos by Census Tract, Annual Count, 2010

Map 5.1 and Map 5.2 shows the geographic distribution of teen births versus poverty areas in Los Banos. In 2010, 28 births occurred in census tract 23.02, 24 in census tract 22.02, 19 in census tract 22.01 and 8 births occurred in census tract 23.01. The map illustrates that teen births tend to be concentrated in poorer areas. They are concentrated not just in areas of extreme poverty, but also in areas of more moderate poverty. This finding is consistent with literature suggesting that “one of the most accurate predictors of teen birth rates are poverty rates – the higher the poverty rate one year, the higher the teen birth rate tends to be in the following years.”
REFERENCES

7. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, National Birth Rates for Teens, aged 15-19
SENIOR HEALTH / MENTAL HEALTH

“Our society must make it right and possible for old people not to fear the young or be deserted by them, for the test of civilization is the way that it cares for its helpless members.”

- Pearl S. Buck

KEY FINDINGS FOR LOS BANOS

- The older population (65+) numbered 3,077 in 2010, an increase of 682 or 28.5% since 2000.
- Nearly 1 in 10, or 8.6%, of the population in Los Banos is age 65+.
- In Los Banos in 2010, 25.5% of persons 65+ were minorities.
- The percentage of older women living alone, in Los Banos, is much higher than the percentage of men living alone (70.5% compared to 29.5%).
- In Los Banos more than 1 in 10 seniors (15.8%) live below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- Gender comparisons revealed that women were much more likely to have income below poverty level than men (74.8% compared to 25.2%).
- In 2010, 414 (20.1%) Los Banos senior residents age 65 and older were in the labor force (working or actively seeking work).
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2008-2010 American Community Survey), in 2010 100% of seniors in Los Banos had health insurance coverage.
- Approximately 64.4% of seniors in Merced County have a BMI index that places them in the overweight/obese categories.
- In 2009, 21.4% of seniors in Merced County had, at some point, been diagnosed with heart disease.
- In 2009, approximately 1 in 4 seniors (24.7%) reported that they were ever diagnosed with diabetes and over half (59.0%) reported that they have been told by a doctor that they have high blood pressure.
- In 2010, the U.S. Census estimated that nearly 48.4% of seniors in Los Banos had at least one disability and 31.3% had two or more types of disabilities.
- The leading cause of death for people in Merced County aged 65+ in 2009 was falls.
According to the 2010 Census, 3,077 seniors aged 65 and older reside in Los Banos (more than 1 in 10 residents was a senior (11.7%) representing 8.6% of the Los Banos population\(^1\). Of all the seniors in Los Banos, 55.5% are female and 44.5% are male\(^1\). More than half (55.3%) are between the ages 65 and 74, 31.4% are between the ages 75 and 84, and 13.3% are 85 years old or older\(^1\).

The Los Banos population aged 65 and over has grown rapidly during the first decade of this century. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of older adults in Los Banos increased from 2,395 to 3,077, an increase of 28.5% (compared to 19.8% for Merced County and 18.1% for the state\(^1,2\)) (Figure 6.1). The older population will continue to grow significantly over the next two decades when the “baby boom” generation (currently, aged 45-64 and comprising 20.8% of the whole population in 2010\(^3\)) reaches age 65.

According to the California Department of Aging, in Merced County, the elderly population (60+) will have an overall increase of 100-149% during the period from 1990 to 2020\(^3\). Currently, the Los Banos elderly population (65+) comprises 12.8% of Merced County’s elderly population\(^1\). As the elderly population continues to grow, this will create challenges for the society as they cope with Social Security, health care, housing, employment, and other issues that are important to an aging population as well as an increased demand for age-specific community resources.

**Racial and Ethnic Composition**

The elderly population is almost as racially and ethnically diverse as the total population of Los Banos. In 2010, 25.5% of persons 65+ were minorities: 4.5% were African Americans, 1.1% Alaska Native/American Indian, 4.8% were Asian, 0.3% were NHOPi and 12.8% identified themselves as ‘some other race.’ In addition, 2.2% identified themselves as ‘two or more races’. 34.8% were persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) (Figure 6.2). Approximately, three fourths of the senior population is white.
MARITAL STATUS

In 2010, being married (55.9%) was much more common among the elderly population than widowed (28.8%) or divorced (10.2%). Of those that are married, 92.2% had their spouse present and 7.8% of those that were married had a spouse that was absent. 5.0% of the elderly population has never married (Table 6.1).

| TABLE 6.1 Characteristics of Older Adults (65+): Marital Status, Los Banos, 2006-2010 |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
|                                | TOTAL | FEMALE | MALE |
|                                | Count | %    | Count | %    | Count | %    |
| Total Population               | 2,601 | -    | 1,533 | -    | 1,068 | -    |
| Never Married                  | 130   | 5.0% | 38    | 2.5% | 92    | 8.6% |
| Now Married                    | 1,455 | 55.9%| 657   | 42.9%| 798   | 74.7%|
| Spouse Present                 | 1,342 | 92.2%| 642   | 97.7%| 700   | 87.7%|
| Spouse Absent                  | 113   | 7.8% | 15    | 2.3% | 98    | 12.3%|
| Widowed                        | 750   | 28.8%| 679   | 44.3%| 71    | 6.6% |
| Divorced                       | 266   | 10.2%| 159   | 10.4%| 107   | 10.0%|

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

In Figure 6.3 gender comparisons show that there are, significantly, more older females that are widowed than older males (44.3% compared to 6.6%). However, older men were much more likely to be married than older women (74.7% compared to 42.9%). Of those that are married, women were more likely to have a spouse present than men (97.7% compared to 87.7%). A greater number of men (8.6%) have never been married compared to women (2.5%). The divorce rate is approximately the same for both sexes.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Map 6.1 highlights areas of Merced County and Los Banos where concentrations of residents 65+ live. From the map, it is evident that the elderly population is concentrated in eight main areas of Merced County – Gustine (and the area around it); Los Banos; Dos Palos and north of Dos Palos; City of Merced; the region east of City of Merced; Atwater; Livingston; and the northeast belt from Hilmar to Delhi. At the city level for Los Banos, the elderly are concentrated in just a few areas. The largest concentration is in the northeast part of the city, the southwest part of the city,
the southeast part of the city, and a pocket in the northwest part of the city.

*Table 6.2* shows cities of Merced County ranked by population and percent of Merced County population age 65 years and older. More than half (53.9%) of the county’s elderly population reside in the city of Merced, Los Banos and Atwater.
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In Los Banos, 94.4% of the older population lived in non-institutionalized residence. Of all non-institutionalized older persons 75.9% reside in family households, 24.1% reside in non-family households, 23.3% live with their spouse, 20.6% live with their parents and 21.0% live alone. The percentage of older women living alone is much higher than the percentage of men living alone (70.5 compared to 29.5%) (Table 6.3).

U.S. Census defines group quarters as, “...a place where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents.” In Los Banos, a relatively small number (145) and percentage (5.6%) of the population 65+ lived in institutional settings (group quarters) such as nursing homes. These patterns are similar for the county.

| TABLE 6.3 Living Arrangements of Older Adults (65+), Los Banos, Merced County, and California, 2006-2010 |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| LO S B ANOS                                   | MER CED COUNTY | CALIFORNIA       |
| Count  | %     | Count  | %     | Count  | %     |
| Total: | 2,456 | 94.4%  | 21,370| 94.4%  | 3,917,333| 96.5% |
| In households:                               |               |               |       |       |       |
| In family households:                        | 1,863 | 75.9%  | 16,037| 75.0%  | 2,760,362| 70.5% |
| In nonfamily households:                     | 593   | 24.1%  | 5,333 | 25.0%  | 1,156,971| 29.5% |
| Male Living Alone                             | 152   | 6.2%   | 1,504 | 7.0%   | 293,336  | 7.5%  |
| Female Living Alone                           | 364   | 14.8%  | 3,187 | 14.9%  | 715,007  | 18.3% |
| In group quarters                             | 145   | 5.6%   | 1,266 | 5.6%   | 143,263  | 3.5%  |

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

There are various forms of senior housing in Los Banos. There are two skilled nursing facilities (SNF), three assisted living/residential care facilities (AL/RCF), one nursing home/assisted living (NH/AL) facility and one senior apartment complex (SA). Facility locations and information are shown in Table 6.4.
**INCOME**

In 2010, the median income for all households in Los Banos was $54,375 as compared to households with an older occupants who had a much lower median income\(^1\). Households with families headed by persons 65-74 had a median income in 2010 of $40,056 compared to those 75+ with a median income of $36,148 (*Figure 6.4*).

Approximately two thirds of all seniors have an annual income that is less than $50,000 (*Figure 6.5*).

*Figure 6.4 Median Household Income for the Population 65+ by Age Groups, Los Banos, 2010.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>65-74 Years</th>
<th>75+ Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$34,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$36,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$37,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$38,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$39,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$40,056</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$41,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$36,148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Approximately two thirds (63.4%) of all seniors have annual income that is less than $50,000.

*Figure 6.5 Household Income for the Population 65+, Los Banos, 2010*

POVERTY

In Los Banos more than 1 in 10 seniors (15.8%) live below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The percentage is lower for the county and the state (11.4% and 8.7% respectively)\(^4\).

**Figure 6.6** shows that in 2010, 7.1% of all seniors in Los Banos had income that was below poverty level\(^5\). Gender comparisons revealed that women were much more likely to have income below poverty level than men (74.8% compared to 25.2%)\(^5\).

**EMPLOYMENT**

In 2010, 414 (20.1%) Los Banos senior residents aged 65 and older were in the labor force (working or actively seeking work) (**Figure 6.7**). They constituted 2.6% of the total Los Banos labor force and about 9.9% of them were unemployed\(^6\). Of the total number of seniors in the labor force, 50.2% were women and 49.8% were men\(^4\).
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2008-2010 American Community Survey), in 2010 100% of seniors in Los Banos had health insurance coverage.

Most seniors aged 65 and older are eligible for Medicare coverage offered by the federal government. In Los Banos, 97.4% of seniors were covered by Medicare (Figure 6.8). About 51.9% had some type of private health insurance, 39.0% had purchased their own insurance, 20.6% had employer-based health insurance, 5.5% had VA Health Care and 4.2% had military-based health insurance.

![Figure 6.8 Health Insurance Coverage for the Population 65+ by Type, Los Banos, 2010](image)

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

NUTRITION, PHYSICAL FITNESS AND ACTIVITY

Research consistently shows that regular exercise and healthy eating can help prevent obesity. The World Health Organization defines overweight and obesity as, “abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that may impair health.” Body mass index (BMI) is a simple index of weight-for-height that is commonly used to classify overweight and obesity in adults. It is defined as a person’s weight in kilograms divided by the square of his height in meters (kg/m2).

Data from the 2009 CHIS survey indicated that approximately 64.4% of seniors in Merced County

![Figure 6.9 BMI Index Categories for the Population 65+, Merced County, 2009](image)

SOURCE: 2009 California Health Interview Survey
have a BMI index that places them in the overweight/obese categories (Figure 6.9). Please note that this data was not available at the city level.

Figure 6.10 shows 2009 CHIS survey results of the Merced County seniors’ responses to the following questions: In the past 7 days, how many times did you/he/she eat fast food? Include fast food meals eaten at work (school), at home, or at fast food restaurants, carryout or drive through. Of those 65+ surveyed, 43% indicated that they eat fast food at least once a week.

According to the National Institute for Health, “regular physical activity and exercise are important to the physical and mental health of almost everyone, including older adults. Staying physically active and exercising regularly can produce long-term benefits.” In 2009 in Merced County, nearly two thirds (63%) of seniors (of those that are able to walk) reported that they walked for transportation, fun, or exercise in the past seven days (Figure 6.11)

Figure 6.10 Fast Food Eaten How Many Times in the Past Week for the Population 65+, Merced County, 2009

SOURCE: 2009 California Health Interview Survey

Figure 6.11 Walked for Transportation, Fun, or Exercise for the Population 65+, Merced County, 2009

SOURCE: 2009 California Health Interview Survey

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Regular physical activity is one of the most important things you can do for your health. It can help:

- Control your weight
- Reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease
- Reduce your risk for type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome
- Reduce your risk of some cancers
- Strengthen your bones and muscles
- Improve your mental health and mood
- Improve your ability to do daily activities and prevent falls, if you’re an older adult
- Increase your chances of living longer
CHRONIC DISEASE

This section provides a brief overview of chronic health conditions within the 65+ population of Merced County, including heart disease, diabetes and hypertension (high blood pressure). Findings are also presented for cancer screening among seniors and the prevalence of asthma among the senior population. Please note that this data was not available at the city level.

CANCER AND CANCER SCREENING

According to Centers for Disease and Control Prevention, cancer is the second most common cause of death in the United States\(^9\) and the California Department of Public Health California Cancer Registry lists colon and rectum cancer as the third most common type of cancer amongst males and females in the United States\(^9\).

Cancer screening helps to detect cancer early, improving survival rates and treatment options. Estimates of the premature deaths that could have been avoided by screening vary from 3% to 35% depending on the type of cancer. Beyond the potential for avoiding death, screening may reduce cancer morbidity because treatment for earlier-stage cancers is often less aggressive than for more advanced-stage cancers.

In 2009 the California Health Interview Survey reported that a doctor recommended colon tests in the past 5 years to 43.3% of seniors in Merced County\(^10\). Of these, 71.9% stated that they were ‘compliant at the time of recommendation’ (Figure 6.13).
HEART DISEASE

According to Centers for Disease and Control Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States\textsuperscript{8}. In 2009, 21.4\% of seniors in Merced County had ever been diagnosed with heart disease\textsuperscript{10}. Of those that have been diagnosed with a heart disease 62.5\% are ‘very confident’ that they can control their heart disease and 27.6\% were ‘somewhat confident’ (Figure 6.14).

DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION

Common risk factors for heart disease are diabetes, high blood pressure (also known as hypertension), and high cholesterol.

In 2009, approximately 1 in 4 seniors (24.7\%) reported that they were ever diagnosed with diabetes and over half (59.0\%) reported that they have been told by a doctor that they have high blood pressure (Figure 6.15 and 6.16).
**ASTHMA**

The Asthma Center states that, “Over the past 10 years, clinical research has indicated that asthma in the elderly is generally under-diagnosed and under-treated, leading to a diminished quality of life and higher morbidity and mortality than those without asthma\(^1\).”

In Merced County, 13.7\% of seniors reported that they have ever been diagnosed with asthma\(^1\)\(^0\) and over half (53.9\%) reported that they have had asthma symptoms in the past 12 months (Figure 6.17).

**DISABILITY**

As people age and their health declines they are more likely to suffer from a disability or need assistance with daily activities such as personal care (i.e., bathing); domestic tasks (i.e., meal preparation); and other types of assistance, such as transportation to the local supermarket or medical appointments.

In 2010, the U.S. Census estimated that nearly 48.4\% of seniors in Los Banos had at least one disability and 31.3\% had two or more types of disabilities\(^5\).

Figure 6.18 shows that the primary disability for the residents of Los Banos is physical in nature affecting 35.5\% of all seniors. Approximately 1 in 4 seniors (25.9\%), struggle with independent living. More than 1 in 10 (13.1\%) have a hearing difficulty; and nearly 1 in 10, struggle with vision, self-care, and/or have a cognitive difficulty (8.2\%, 8.1\%, and 8.0\% respectively).

**Figure 6.17 Had Asthma Symptoms within the Past 12 Months (diagnosed asthma) for the Population 65+, Merced County, 2009**

**Figure 6.18 Disabilities for the Population 65+ by Type, Los Banos, 2008-2010 Estimates**

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates
MENTAL HEALTH

Details in this section center on mental health data for Merced County. This data was obtained from the California Department of Mental Health and is specific to 2007-2008.

This data represent estimates of the prevalence of serious mental illness/serious emotional disturbance in Merced County. These figures are based on CPES Estimates of Need developed by Charles Holzer from the University of Texas. These estimates represent “Targets” and are compared across gender, race/ethnicity, and age to service data obtained through DMH’s Client Services Information System (CSI)12.

**Figure 6.19** provides data on mental health service estimates by ethnicity for Merced County residents. The key data highlight here is that while 6,890 Hispanics in the county were estimated to have a need for mental health services, only 1,713 were served. While the reason for this gap is unknown, potential causes may center on overall access and awareness. In addition, cultural differences specific to the prevalence of service use may exist.

**Figure 6.20** provides data on the number of days or the intensity of mental health service use by ethnicity. Here data shows that when Merced County residents access services the intensity of service by ethnicity is, in general terms, similar.
**Figure 6.21** provides data on mental health service estimates by gender for Merced County residents. While the ratio of mental health service target and the actual number of people served is relatively the same for males, a considerable gap exists for females. That is, the mental health service use target is 5,873 for female Merced County residents and actual use of services is 4,534. As was the case with ethnicity, when accessing services the amount or intensity of service by number of days is similar; this suggests that the key issue centers on access (**Figure 6.22**).

![Figure 6.21 Comparison of Total Clients Served to (Holzer Targets) by Gender, Merced County, 2007-2008]

![Figure 6.22 Total Clients Served by Days of Service by Gender, Merced County, 2007-2008]

Source: California Department of Mental Health
When analyzing mental health service usage by age, it is clear that there is a service gap for the younger population. The largest target versus actual served gap exists for the Merced County residents aged 25 to 44, but important gaps are seen for the 0 to 5, 6 to 11 and 12 to 17 age group populations (see Figure 6.23). Gaps also exist for older groups, most notably the population 65 and older. Once individuals receive services the amount of service days or intensity is similar (Figure 6.24).


**INJURIES**

*Figure 6.25* provides data findings on non-fatal emergency department visits in Merced County (for both the 65 to 84 year old population and for those 85 and older). Data illustrates the considerable number of unintentional injuries that afflicted these senior age groups, especially those aged 65 to 84.

The corresponding table (*Table 6.5*) indicates that the main injury reason for unintentional injuries for both age groups was falls followed by other reasons, motor vehicle incidents, being struck by an object, being cut or pierced by an object, a natural or environmental incident, and overexertion.

It is critical to note that the issue of unintentional falls is even more pronounced for those 85 and older; this would connect with the issue of age and fragility.
Data findings on non-fatal hospitalizations are similar in some respects to non-fatal injuries on the previous page with the exception of the issue of poisoning (Figure 6.26). In 2010, 5.9% of the non-fatal hospitalizations for people aged 65 to 84 were due to poisoning (Table 6.6).
Figure 6.27 indicates that the leading cause of death for people in Merced County aged 65+ in 2009 was falls. This connects with the preceding data on emergency room visits and hospitalizations. This series of findings suggest the importance of studying the issue of falls in Los Banos, the issue of elderly awareness of this issue, as well as strategies for prevention.
REFERENCES

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2. Community Analyst, ESRI 1990-2000 Comparison Profile
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5. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
7. NIH Senior Health, Exercise: Benefits of Exercise Be As Active as Possible. Available at: http://nihseniorhealth.gov/exerciseforolderadults/healthbenefits/01.html
10. 2009 California Health Interview Survey
12. California Department of Mental Health, Statistics and Data Analysis: Retention and Penetration Rate Data. Available at: http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Statistics_and_Data_Analysis/docs/Retention-PenetrationsRateDataFY0708_PenetrationAndRetension/Merced_Penetration.pdf
SURVEY RESULTS

KEY FINDINGS FOR LOS BANOS

While the survey data that was collected does not stem from a representative survey, the information still provides meaningful feedback from Los Banos residents:

- 62.5% noted that housing was a concern in Los Banos.
- 86.2% noted that there was a need for more resources.
- 85.8% indicated that crime was a concern in Los Banos.
- 59.8% of respondents noted that they needed a neighborhood watch program where they live.
- 53.2% travelled out of Los Banos for health care.
- 51.5% did not have dental insurance.
- 87.5% of respondents noted that they felt safe in their neighborhood all of the time or most of the time.
- 60.2% indicated that they were very satisfied with their neighborhood as a place to live.
- 44.0% of respondents noted that they were not financially or economically better off this year as compared to last year.
- 42.6% could not find fruit and vegetables of good quality within walking distance of where they live.
SURVEY DATA

A sample of 176 surveys was collected and analyzed. 71.1% of the respondents were female and 28.9% were male. The average number of years that participants had been living in Los Banos was 21 years and the median was 16 years.

Table 7.1 show that most of surveys are from the Tomato Festival and the Flu Clinic (37.5% and 35.8% respectively). About half (51.8%) of participants who filled out the survey were White, followed by Hispanic (37.3%). (Table 7.2)

Figure 7.1 shows that one third (33.9%) of participants had some college/in college level of education completed. Almost a quarter (23.6%) of respondents were high school graduates or had a GED and 15.8% were college graduates. 1 out 10 (10.9%) participants had less than a high school education, while 7.9% had an associate degree. Furthermore, 6.1% had a graduate degree and 1.8% had done some graduate work.

| --- |

### Table 7.1 Location Survey was Administered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURVEY</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomato Festival</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flu Clinic</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBUSD</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save Mart</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 7.2 Survey Participants by Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETHNICITY</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Asian American</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino/Latina</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White or Caucasian</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>51.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Ethnic</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| --- |

FIGURE 7.1 What is the highest level of education you have completed?

**FIGURE 7.2** Do you feel safe in your neighborhood all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, or none of the time?

![Bar chart showing percentages of responses to the safety question.](chart1)

**SOURCE:** Los Banos Community Health Needs Assessment Survey, 2011.

**Figures 7.2 through 7.4** ask specifically about participant’s neighborhood, with respect to safety, cleanliness, and satisfaction. In **Figure 7.2**, more than half (58.0%) of those who answered indicated that they felt safe in their neighborhood most of the time. Nearly 30.0% checked that they felt safe all of the time and 11.4% noted some of the time. In addition, only 1.1% detailed that the felt safe none of the time.

In **Figure 7.3**, the majority of respondents noted that their neighborhood was cleaner than most part of Los Banos. 36.0% indicated that it was about the same as most part of Los Banos and 1.1% detailed that it was worse than most part of Los Banos. When respondents were asked to rate the level of satisfaction with their neighborhood as a place to live, 60.2% indicated very satisfied, 36.4% noted somewhat satisfied, 2.8% detailed somewhat dissatisfied, and 0.6% checked very dissatisfied (**Figure 7.4**).

**FIGURE 7.3** How clean is your neighborhood?

![Bar chart showing percentages of responses to the cleanliness question.](chart2)

**SOURCE:** Los Banos Community Health Needs Assessment Survey, 2011.

**FIGURE 7.4** Overall, how satisfied are you with your neighborhood as a place to live?

![Bar chart showing percentages of responses to the satisfaction question.](chart3)

**SOURCE:** Los Banos Community Health Needs Assessment Survey, 2011.
In Figure 7.5, respondents were asked if they felt they were financially or economically better off this year as compared to last year; 44.0% indicated no and 31.4% noted that it was the same. 22.9% of participants indicated that they are financially or economically better off this year as compared to last year and 1.7% detailed that they didn’t know. Additionally, respondents were asked how many times during the past 7 days they have eaten fast food and the average was 1.3 times.

When asked how many times their child or children have eaten fast food during the past 7 days, the average was 1.2 times.

In Table 7.3, 84.7% of respondents indicated that they felt comfortable walking or biking in Los Banos. 30.8% checked that they currently do not have health insurance and 44.2% noted that they have children living with them under the age of 18.
In addition, 14.3% indicated that their child or children currently does not have health coverage and one fourth (25.0%) of respondents detailed that their child or children currently does not have dental insurance.

Furthermore, 66.9% noted that have needed health care in the last 12 months and 17.3% of those said they were not able to receive the health care they needed.

Figure 7.6 shows that more than half (53.2%) of the respondents who answered travel out of Los Banos for health care. In addition, 51.5% noted that they do not have dental insurance (Figure 7.7).

In Figure 7.8, participants were asked if they can find fruit and vegetables of good quality within walking distance of where they live and 56.2% indicated yes, while 42.6% noted no, and 1.2% noting that they didn’t know.
**Table 7.4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When you need health care, where do you go?</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A private doctor</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical clinic/medical center/community health centers</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgent care clinics or walk-in clinics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency room or hospital</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative caregivers (homeopathic, acupuncture, etc.)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haven’t needed care</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 7.4 shows that 45.5% of respondents go to a private doctor when they need health care. Over one fourth (27.5%) of participants noted that they go to a medical clinic and 13.2% indicated that they go to multiple places when they need health care.

When survey participants were asked how long it’s been since they last visited a dentist, oral hygienist, or orthodontist, more than half (51.8%) indicated 1 to 6 months ago.

Nearly 2 out of 10 (18.8%) noted that it has been more than 2 years ago since they last visited a dentist. Additionally, 16.5% of respondents detailed more than one year (and up to 2 years ago), 11.2% checked 7 to 12 months ago, and 1.8% indicated that they have never visited a dentist, oral hygienist, or orthodontist (*Figure 7.9*).
Figure 7.10 shows that two-thirds (66.5%) of respondents did some moderate physical activities during the last 7 days, for at least 10 minutes. When asked how many days they did this, the average was 3.9 days.

Participants were asked if they currently smoke cigarettes or cigars or use smokeless tobacco and 9 out of 10 (89.9%) survey respondents indicated not at all. 6.5% of respondents noted that they smoke everyday and 3.6% detailed some days [Figure 7.11]. Furthermore, when participants were asked how many times during the past 30 days have they had more than 5 alcoholic beverages on one occasion, the average was 0.5 days.

In Table 7.5, 5 or 8.1% of the respondents who answered indicated that there was a time in the past 12 months when they did not have enough money to pay their rent, mortgage, or real estate taxes. In addition, 8 or 12.9% noted that they did not have enough money to pay their utility bills. Moreover, the majority (53.2%) of participants who answered detailed multiple answer choices.

**TABLE 7.5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Was there any time in the past 12 months, when you did not have enough money to:</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay your rent, mortgage, or real estate taxes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay your utility bills</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fill a prescription for medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up on tests or treatment recommended by a doctor</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtain dental care</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay for transportation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay for food</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7.6 asks participants a range of questions with respect to their level of agreement. When asked if the streets in Los Banos are in good condition, 16.6% of the respondents indicated that they disagree or strongly disagree. 66.1% of participants either strongly agree or agree that they have strong relationships with their neighbors and 25.8% disagreed or strongly disagreed that there are adequate places for children to play in their neighborhood.

Additionally, 33.1% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that pedestrian safety is a problem in their neighborhood. Furthermore, when asked if they are satisfied with the school system in Los Banos, 58.8% indicated strongly agree or agree.

When participants were asked if housing was a concern in Los Banos, 62.5% indicated strongly agree or agree [Figure 7.12]. 86.2% of respondents either strongly agree or agree that Los Banos needed more community resources [Figure 7.13].

Table 7.6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The streets in Los Banos are in good condition.</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have strong relationships with my neighbors.</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are adequate places for children to play in my neighborhood.</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian safety is a problem in my neighborhood.</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with the school system in Los Banos.</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure 7.12 Housing is a concern in Los Banos

Figure 7.13 Los Banos need more community resources

Figure 7.14 asks whether respondents would move out of Los Banos if they had the chance and 45.1% noted disagree or strongly disagree, while 35.2% indicated strongly agree or agree.

Participants were asked if they thought crime was a concern in Los Banos and 85.8% indicated strongly agree or agree (Figure 7.15). In addition, about 6 out of 10 (59.8%) respondents strongly agree or agree that they need a neighborhood watch program where they live (Figure 7.16).

In Figure 7.17, respondents were asked if they have enough medical providers in Los Banos and more than half (55.4%) indicated disagree or strongly disagree while 32.1% noted strongly agree or agree.
QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

TOP CONCERNS IN LOS BANOS

CRIME
- Gang violence
- Gang wars
- Gangs, violence, shooting
- Safety from gangs
- Safety
- Drugs
- Graffiti
- Break-ins
- Robberies

ACTIVITIES
- Activities for children
- There are no adult activities
- Bowling alley
- For seniors
- Miniature golf
- Have things for teens to do
- There are no places for children to play
- There is nothing for youth
- Need for more leisure activities

HEALTH CARE
- Not that many hospitals, etc.
- The need for better emergency care
- The medical center is too small
- Larger hospital
- More medical facilities
- Health care availability
- Lack of good medical care, pediatricians
- Health services for unemployed
- No specialists (e.g., bone doctors, allergy doctors)
- Health accessibility resources

Table 7. Top Concerns in Los Banos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gangs and crime - total comments</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gangs - specifically (out of 98)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs/unemployment</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of activities</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of health care services</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses closing</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure concerns</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7. What Respondents Liked Best About Los Banos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friendly people/neighbors/community</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Town</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet place/atmosphere</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police and Fire Departments</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and friends</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks/walking paths</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>