

CANOGA PARK - CASE STATEMENT

Canoga Park is a highly-diverse neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles. It is known by many as a middle-class community, and for years had significant employment in the aerospace industry – most of which is now gone. It was a rancho when California was under Mexican rule, later converted into wheat farms and then subdivided, with part of it named Owensmouth, founded in 1912. It joined the City of Los Angeles in 1917 and was renamed Canoga Park in 1931. Zip Codes for Canoga Park are 91303, 91304, and 91307 (also includes part of West Hills).

Today Canoga Park still has middle-income households, but also is a high needs community with considerable poverty. On the Dignity Health Community Needs Index, which assesses social and economic barriers that affect health, it is rated 4.6 (among the highest in the Valley; Pacoima is also at 4.6). More than 160 nonprofits are based in Canoga Park. A number of them serve low income people, and recently have come together under the leadership of California State University Northridge's Neighborhood Partners in Action, CSUN's Institute for Community Health and Well-Being, and CSUN's Valley Nonprofit Resources program, along with Child Development Institute, a local nonprofit. These Canoga Park-based nonprofits are working together to increase the capacity of the sector to serve residents of Canoga Park.

Population

Total residents: 75,447

Ethnicity

Hispanic	35,527	47.1%
White	24,825	32.9%
Asian	9,613	12.7%
Black	3,348	4.4%
Other	2,134	2.8%

Age

The median age of Canoga Park residents is about 30 years. Canoga Park has 10,336 residents ages 10 or younger; 5,747 ages 11-18; 15,716 ages 19-34; 12,292 ages 35-49; 5,060 ages 50-64; and 4,076 ages 65 or older.

Foreign Born Residents

Most residents are of Mexican (32%) or German (4%) ancestry. About 42.8% of residents are foreign born, mostly from the countries of Mexico (45.8%) and El Salvador (11.6%).

Education

18% of residents have college degrees. 10.9% have a high school diploma and 35.1% have less than a high school education. There are currently 12 public, eight private, and one charter K-12 schools in Canoga Park.

Household Income

Median income for this community is \$51,601, and 23% of residents have an annual income of less than \$20,000. 29% of households have incomes between \$20-40,000 and 20% \$40-60,000. In Canoga Park, 62% of families are below 200% of poverty (poverty levels for a family of three is \$24,740 and 200% of poverty for a family of three is \$49,480).

Homelessness

The total number of people who are unsheltered and homeless in Canoga Park in 2013 was 153 or 4.3% of the total population in LA County's SPA 2 (The 4th highest area in SPA2, which covers the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys).

Crime

Canoga Park is ranked high in the number of violent (57/209) and property (35/209) crimes reported in the previous six months. The number of crimes overall (159.5/10,000) is higher than nearby Chatsworth, Woodland Hills, and Winnetka.

Children

The approximate number of children in Canoga Park under the age of 18 is 16,083 (21%). Within this group the numbers break out as follows:

Approximate number of children 11-18: 5747

Approximate number of children 6-10: 6177

Approximate total number of children 0-5: 4,159

Unmet Subsidized Child Care Need for Children 0-5 from Working Families in Canoga Park

Of eligible children aged 0-5, 77.5% do not have subsidized child care. The three zip codes in the Valley identified as having the highest un-met need for child care are Canoga Park (91304), Panorama City (91402) and Van Nuys (91405).

Businesses and Nonprofit Organizations

There are about 2,835 businesses in Canoga Park, including independent contractors (many of them home-based). There are 160 nonprofit organizations.

Other Community Assets

There are seven Neighborhood Watch areas in Canoga Park, each with its own officer. There are approximately 13 parks in the area.

Health Care

19.5% of residents are uninsured. There are approximately 15 health care agencies, six of which are health-related nonprofit organizations.

Religious Institutions

There are 38 religious institutions in Canoga Park.

Sources:

2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Population under 18 years by age. Universe: Population under 18 years. Data retrieved using Census Tracts.

2012 Estimates. Valley Care Community Consortium (October 2013). Assessing the Community's Health Needs: A Triennial Report on San Fernando & Santa Clarita Valleys. Retrieved from:

<http://www.valleyccc.org/docs/Community-Health-Needs-Assessment-Report-2013.pdf>

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks <http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/parks.htm>

<http://www.laneighborhoodwatch.com/>

Los Angeles Times Mapping LA Website.

Valley Care Community Consortium (October 2013). *Assessing the Community's Health Needs: A Triennial Report on San Fernando & Santa Clarita Valleys*.

This **Case Statement** was prepared by Valley Nonprofit Resources and the Institute for Community Health and Well-Being at CSUN, with Child Development Institute, the co-sponsors of the Canoga Park Nonprofit Coalition. Special thanks are due to Michael Olenick and staff at Child Care Resource Center.

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