

## **IX. Methodology**

### **Explanation of City Relative to County**

In the table on page 1 of this report, the reference of City "Relative to County" for absolute numbers indicates the difference between the city number and the county number. For example, the Median Age of City A being 30 and the Median Age of County B being 35 would show a relative difference of 5. For data that is a percentage, the relative difference is based on the city as a percentage of the county total.

### **Population**

The population for each jurisdiction was based on California Department of Finance data. These are the official state population and housing estimates. The 2000 figure was based on U.S. Census figures for April 1, 2000 while subsequent years represent the city's population as of January 1 of each year.

Graphs for population based on age and race were tabulated using Census 2000 data and Claritas, Inc.

### **Households**

The number of households for each jurisdiction was based on California Department of Finance data. The 2000 figure was based on U.S. Census figures for April 1, 2000 while subsequent years represent the city's households as of January 1 of each year.

Households by size were calculated based on Claritas, Inc. data.

### **Housing**

Residential permits issued were obtained using Construction Industry Research Board data, which are collected by Counties from self-reporting of individual cities. The number of permits issued is reflective of all types of residential permit activity, including, but not limited to new units, replacement units due to demolition, and additions.

The median home price was calculated based on total home sales in the city, including single family units and condominiums. The median price does not reflect the entire universe of housing in the jurisdictions, only those that sold within the calendar year.

The data was compiled from Data Quick Information Systems.

### **Employment**

Employment data is based on the California Employment Development Department (EDD) county totals and is adjusted by SCAG. SCAG adjusts the data by adding self-employed to the EDD wage and salary county totals. Due to EDD methodology, employment data is based on the location of a company's payroll and not necessarily the location of physical offices.

## **Retail Sales**

Retail sales data is obtained from the California Board of Equalization, which does not publish individual point-of-sale data. All data is adjusted for inflation.

## **Education**

Student enrollment data is based on public schools that are physically located within city boundaries. Data is obtained from the National Center for Education Statistics.

## **Choice of Data Sources**

The following factors were considered in choosing the data sources used for this report:

- Available for all jurisdictions in the SCAG region
- The most recognized source on the subject
- Data sources are in the public domain
- Data available on an annual basis

The same data sources are used for all jurisdictional profiles (except where noted) to maintain overall reporting consistency. The jurisdiction is not constrained from using other data sources for their planning activities.

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