

THE MEASURE OF AMERICA SERIES

A PORTRAIT OF MARIN 2012

Marin County on the American Human Development Index

A Portrait of Marin 2012 is an in-depth look at how the residents of Marin County are faring in three fundamental areas of life: **health**, **access to knowledge**, and **living standards**. The Marin report, part of the *Measure of America* series, examines the surprisingly large disparities within the county among different neighborhoods as well as along the lines of race, ethnicity, and gender. The analysis is based on the American Human Development Index, a composite measure of well-being and opportunity. The **Marin Community Foundation** commissioned this work to provide a holistic framework for understanding and addressing complex issues facing residents of Marin County.

Marin's Index score of 7.75 on the scale from 0 to 10 is far above that of California (5.54) and the United States as a whole (5.10). Marin County has levels of well-being and access to opportunity that California will not experience, if trends continue, until 2054. However, significant disparities in well-being and opportunity do exist among the county's residents. These disparities include lagging educational attainment among Latinos—the fastest-growing population group in Marin and in the U.S.—which has important implications for the future workforce in Marin and across the country.

KEY FINDINGS BY NEIGHBORHOOD

TABLE 1 Marin County Human Development Index by Census Tract

	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (%)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2010 dollars)
California	5.54	80.1	19.5	80.5	29.7	10.7	90.0	31,551
Marin County	7.75	83.7	7.8	92.2	53.9	22.4	96.2	44,246
1 Ross	9.70	88.0	1.8	98.2	80.2	36.7	99.4	64,378
2 Tiburon: Bel Aire	9.21	84.3	3.3	96.7	75.7	39.9	100.0	68,660
3 Tiburon: Downtown	9.08	83.4	1.0	99.0	76.5	36.3	100.0	80,595
4 Mill Valley: Old Mill, Cascade	9.00	82.8	1.1	98.9	72.6	38.7	100.0	75,808
5 Greenbrae	8.90	84.8	1.5	98.5	65.4	26.5	96.1	58,919
44 Novato: Olive-Deer Island	6.05	78.4	4.2	95.8	27.3	5.5	100.0	35,249
45 Novato: Downtown, Pioneer Park, San Marin	5.91	81.3	11.8	88.2	29.7	8.1	94.8	30,782
46 Nicasio, Point Reyes Station, Dillon Beach, Tomales	5.68	79.4	5.8	94.2	47.8	17.6	79.4	32,280
47 San Rafael: Santa Venetia	5.02	80.6	20.0	80.0	35.8	18.3	70.0	30,852
48 San Rafael: Canal Area	3.18	80.5	52.4	47.6	15.0	6.7	67.1	21,272

Sources: American Human Development Project analysis of data from Marin County Department of Health and Human Services, 2005–2010 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005–2009. See Methodological Notes for more details.

Note: Two of the fifty-one census tracts are not included in the Index because their very small populations yield unstable data estimates. A third, the tract that encompasses San Quentin Prison, is not included because health and earnings data are not available.

- Marin County has 51 census tracts averaging 4,000 residents in each, with widely varying levels of well-being. At the top of the American Human Development Index rankings by neighborhood is **Ross** at 9.70, where residents can expect to live, on average, 88 years - an astonishing decade longer than the



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MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

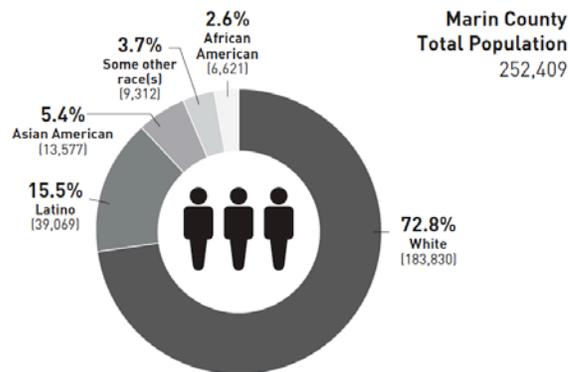
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national average. Four out of 5 adults in Ross have a bachelor's degree or higher and their median personal earnings (\$64,378) are more than double those of the typical American worker today.

- At the bottom is the **Canal area** of San Rafael, with an Index score of 3.18, a figure below that of West Virginia, the lowest-ranked state on the American Human Development Index. Residents of the Canal area can expect to live 80.5 years, 7.5 years fewer than residents of Ross. Educational outcomes are alarmingly low, with over half the adult population lacking the minimum of a high school diploma. The typical worker in the Canal neighborhood earns just over \$21,000, about the same as an American worker in the late 1960s.

FIGURE 4 Marin County Racial and Ethnic Breakdown



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 1.

KEY FINDINGS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

- In Marin, Asian Americans have the highest human development among the four major racial and ethnic groups, with a score of 8.88 out of 10. Whites have the second-highest score, 8.44. African Americans score 5.72 on the Index, comparable to the score for California as a whole. Latinos have the lowest score, 5.17; however, Latinos in Marin rank much better in terms of well-being than they do statewide (3.99).

FIGURE 3 Health, Education, and Income Index Scores of Marin's Major Racial and Ethnic Groups



Sources: American Human Development Project analysis of data from Marin County Department of Health and Human Services, 2005–2010 and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005–2009. See Methodological Notes for more details.

- While the median age of whites in Marin County is 48 years old, the median age of Latinos is 30. Across the U.S., as in Marin, Latinos are the fastest-growing population group and are relatively younger.



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