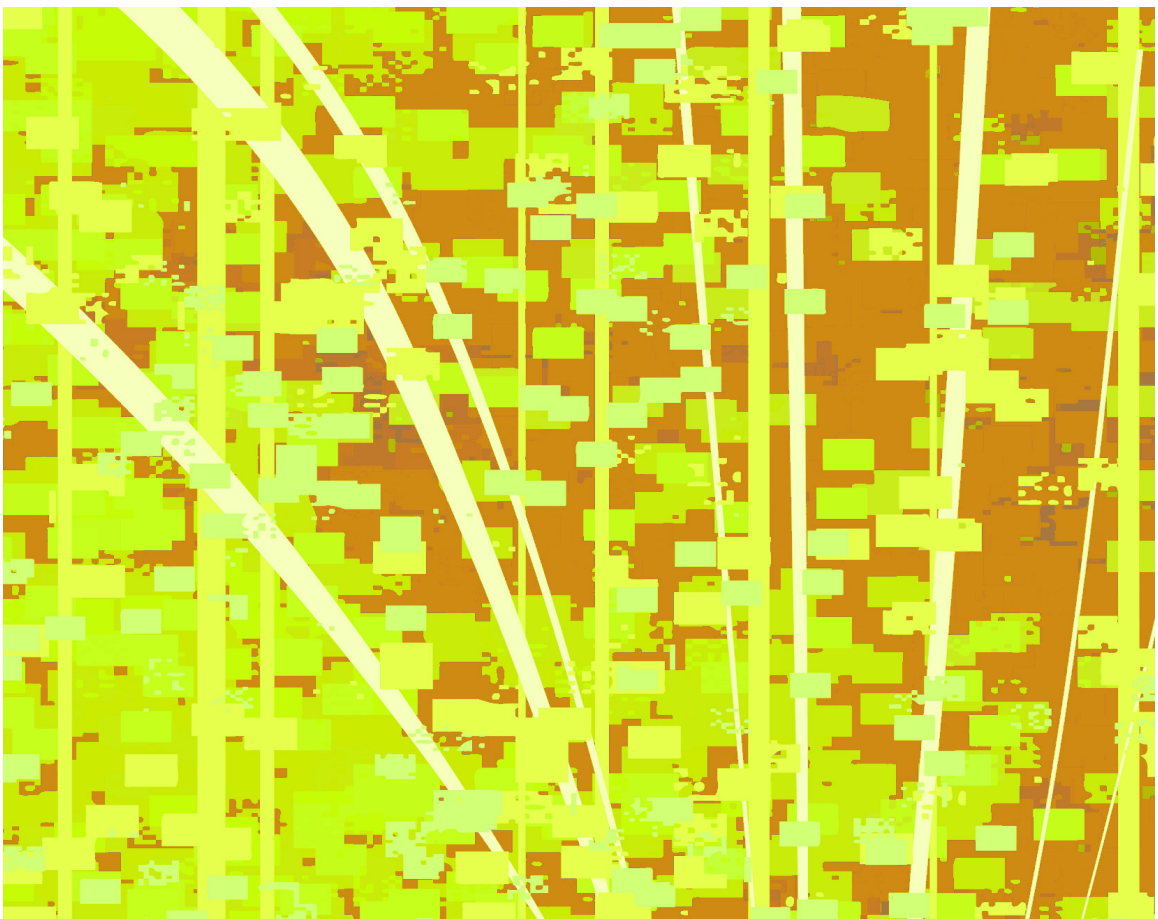


VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

SERVICE AREA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Antelope Valley



## Service Area 1: Antelope Valley

### Communities

Lancaster

Palmdale

North County E.

### ZIP Codes

93243	93534	93539	93550	93553	93586	93591
93510	93535	93543	93551	93563	93590	93599
93532	93536	93544	93552	93584		

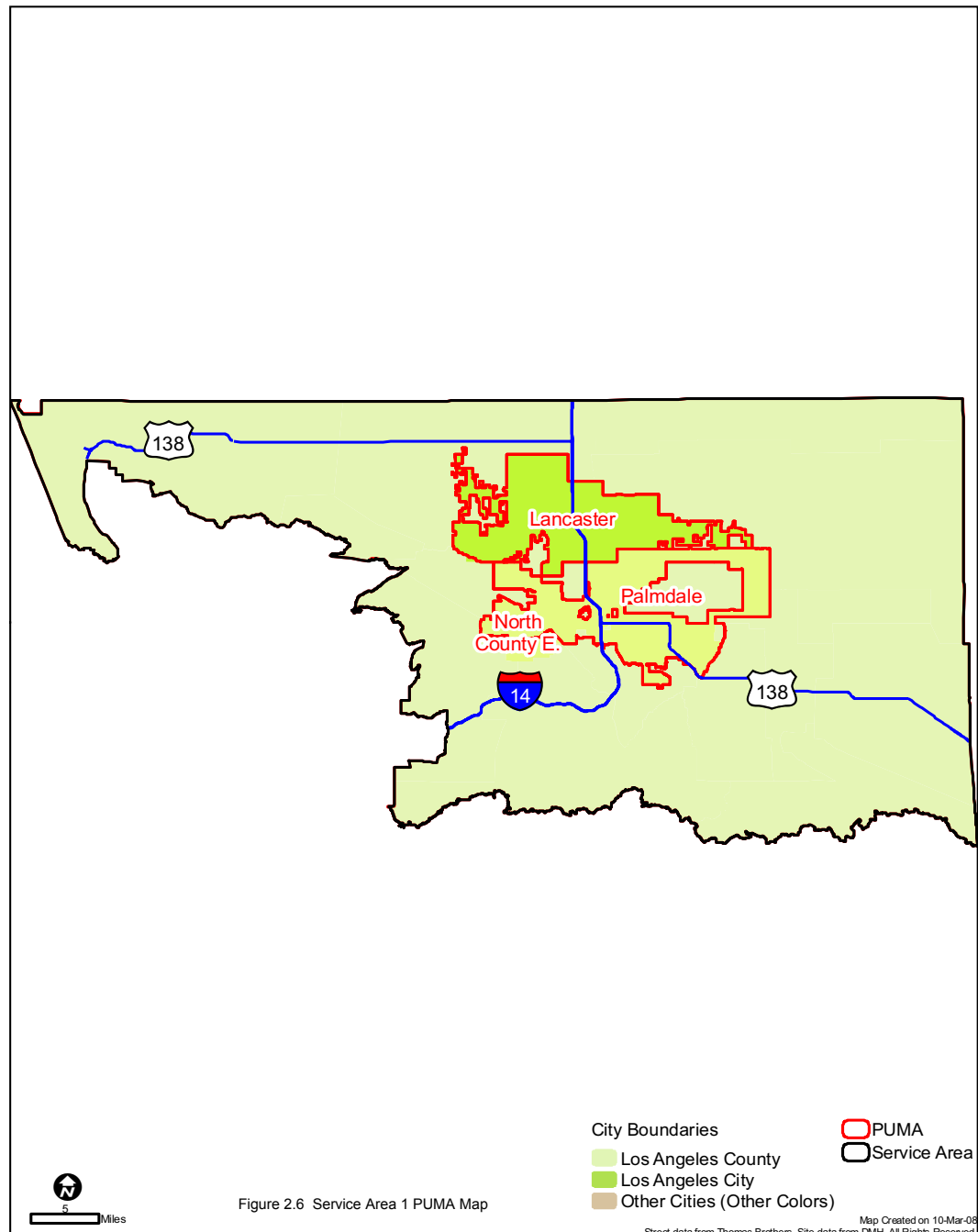


Figure 2.6 Service Area 1 PUMA Map

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## Demographic Profile

### **Ethnic Diversity: English Speakers**

Service Area 1 (SA1) contains three PUMAs, Palmdale, Lancaster, and North County East. While it is the largest service area geographically, it has the smallest population and is home to only two cities: Palmdale and Lancaster. Overall, the service area has an almost equal number of people who identified themselves as Latinos and Whites. Examining the two urban areas reveals a somewhat different ethnic distribution. In the Lancaster area, no ethnic group has a majority. The Western European White population is more numerous than the Latino. Additionally, African-Americans account for 20% of the population in the area. In the Palmdale area, on the other hand, Latinos are the majority ethnic group, followed by Western European Whites and African-Americans who constitute 10% of the local area population. English is the primary language for 57.7% of the population, which is much higher than the County average of 44%. However, by national standards, language diversity in the service area is still high. Spanish is the sec-

ond most common language and is reportedly spoken in 28% of homes. No other language group exceeds 5% of all households in the service area.

### **Age Distribution: Raising Young Families**

SA1 has a younger population than other service areas as 31.6% of the population are children aged 0-15 years; the county average for this age group is 25%. At the other end of the spectrum, SA1 has fewer older adults than the county average; 10% of the SA1 population is 60 years and older, whereas 14% of the countywide population fall in this age category.

### **Economic Diversity:**

#### **Median Incomes and Affordable Housing**

The median household income for the service area was \$48,513 (Mean = \$57,751) compared with the county median of \$48,282. Average household income in the urban areas of Palmdale and Lancaster were fairly uniform (\$50,320 and \$51,081, respectively). The surrounding North County E. area had an average income of about \$78,693, substan-

tially higher than other parts of the service area and the county. The median is a good statistic as it is not skewed by extremes in numbers. So, in this case, it provides a more realistic description of an household's income than the mean. However, the mean is important because it allows us to make better comparisons with other parts of the service area and county. Comparing mean incomes across the county indicated that service area 1 is below the county average income of \$63,244. Five service areas have higher average household incomes than Service Area 1. In terms of household size, the Palmdale area tended to be larger than other parts of the service area. Service Area 1 has the highest home ownership rate (68.6%) across the county, almost 20 percentage points above the county average of 48.9%. North County

E., and Palmdale in particular, had two of the highest home ownership areas in the county. Lancaster's home ownership rate of 58.9%, while considerably lower than other parts of the service area, is still above the county average.

### **Memory and Educational Attainment: High Memory Problems, Low Educational Attainment**

In terms of memory problems measured by the ACS, 6.8% of individuals in Service Area 1 reported memory problems, much higher than the countywide average of 4.6%. In terms of educational attainment, Service Area 1 had a college graduation rate of 16.2% (in adults 25+), far lower than the countywide average of 27.8%.

## **Key Indicators: Summary and Excerpts**

### **Underserved Cultural Populations**

#### **Ethnicity**

Within Service Area 1, Hispanics (41.1%) and Western European Whites (38.0%) account for nearly 80% of the total population. Hispanics are a majority in the Palmdale area while Western European Whites are more numerous in the Lancaster area and surrounding North County E. area. Additionally, the Lancaster area is home to relatively large communities of African-Americans, Multi-racial individuals, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, and Pacific Islanders. However, in terms of actual numbers, Multi-racial individuals, Pacific Islanders and American

Indians/Alaska Natives, together account for less than 5% of the service area's population. African-Americans comprise 12.5% of the population in the service area and in terms of actual numbers, the Lancaster area has one of the largest African-American populations in the county.

#### **Primary Language**

The majority of the population in Service Area 1 lists English as their Primary Language (57.7%), followed by Spanish, 28.0%. Only one other language, Tagalog (1.1%), is spoken by more than 1% of the population in the service area. Although English is the ma-

majority Primary Language, in actual numbers (and due to the relatively small population in Service Area 1), it has the smallest proportion of English speakers across the entire county (5.4%). Several Asian languages and Russian are similarly represented in low relative proportions. Drilling down and examining the composite service area communities indicates that English speakers are the majority in the Lancaster and North County E. areas but not in the Palmdale area. Small numbers of Korean speakers and Tagalog speakers (over 1%) are found in the surrounding North County E area.

### **Linguistic Isolation**

All Service Area 1 communities had Linguistic Isolation scores that were all below the county's average of 7.8%. Of these, the North County E. area, which surrounds the two urban areas of Palmdale and Lancaster, reported the lowest percentage of individuals who were Linguistically Isolated (2.5%). This figure is consistent with finding that the majority of residents within the service area designated English as their primary language.

## **Individuals Experiencing Onset of Serious Psychiatric Illness**

### **Serious Mental Illness Penetration Rate**

The overall Penetration Rate for Service Area 1 was 0.32, and along with Service Area 6, this was the highest rate seen across the county. Relatively speaking, this indicates that treatment services may be reaching the SMI population here to a greater degree than found in other parts of the county. Examining penetration rates across ethnicities indi-

cated that Asians (0.08) were the least served by county mental health services. Penetration rates for the other major ethnic groups were as follows: the Latino population (0.21), the White population (0.25), the Native American population (0.30) and the African-American population (0.82).

### **Depressive Disorders**

#### **Age Groups**

Service Area 1 clients accounted for 4.8% of depressed clients in the county. Each of the service area's communities had a different age group that accounted for the largest proportion of depressed clients in their respective area. In the North County E. area, for example, the Child group accounted for 45% of the depressed population. In the Lancaster area, 40.4% of the depressed population came from the TAY group. And in the Palmdale area, the Adult group constituted 50.3% of the depressed population for the community. Across the service area, the Lancaster area had the majority of depressed clients (56.6%), including 74.0% of the depressed TAY group.

#### **Ethnicity**

No one ethnic group constituted a majority of depressed clients served in Service Area 1. Across all ethnicities, African-Americans made up the largest proportion of clients, 32.3%, followed by Latino clients, 29.5%; and White clients, 28.9%. Asian, Native American, and Pacific Islander groups each accounted for less than 1% of the depressed clients served in the service area.

### **Co-occurring Disorders (COD)**

#### **Age Groups**

Service Area 1 clients accounted for 3.4% of

individuals with COD treated in the county's mental health system. Overall, 66.8% of the clients with COD in the service area were adults. In the two urban areas, adults were a majority of COD cases, and in the surrounding North County E. area this figure was 48.0%. Across the service area, the Lancaster area had the majority of clients with CODs (61.5%) even though it had only 36% of the service area population. The Lancaster area also included 74.4% of the TAY COD group, 52.8% of the child group, 57.7% of the adult group, and 69.2% of the older adult group.

#### Ethnicity

White clients accounted for 42.7% of the COD population treated in Service Area 1. This was followed by African-American clients (27.4%), Latino clients (21.8%), Native American clients (1.3%) and Asian clients (1.0%). When compared with population estimates for these groups, it appeared that African-American (12.8%) and Native American (0.3%) clients were overrepresented in the COD client counts, whereas, Latino (41.1%) and Asian (4.3%) clients were underrepresented.

## Children/Youth in Stressed Families

### Poverty

The overall poverty rate in Service Area 1 of 41.2% was higher than the county average of 38.7%. Examining ethnic groups indicated that in all communities, over 50% of African-Americans were living beneath the 200% FPL. This was more pronounced in the two urban areas of Lancaster and Palmdale

where over 60% of African-Americans were below this level. Similarly, the Hispanic population had over 50% of its population in the urban areas living beneath the 200% FPL. The only other group who had a majority of its members living beneath the 200% FPL were American Indians living in the Palmdale area.. Overall, Hispanics account for 56% of the entire poverty population in the service area.

### Unemployment Rate

Service Area 1 had a self-reported unemployment rate of 9.2%, which was higher than the countywide average of 7.4%. Of the three communities in the service area, the Palmdale area had the highest unemployment rate reported, 11%. The Lancaster area reported an unemployment rate of 9.9%, also high by county standards. The area surrounding the two urban areas, North County E., had a much lower unemployment rate (5.5%) than either city area.

### Disrupted Families

Service Area 1 had an overall DF ratio of 2.0, indicating that there were two intact families for every single-parent family in the service area. This figure was slightly lower than the countywide figure of 2.2. The Palmdale area had the lowest DF ratio (1.6) in the service area while the surrounding North County E. area had the greatest DF ratio of 3.0, or three intact families for each single-parent family.

## Safe Place to Play (Countywide Summary Only)

### Age Groups

Across the three age groups reported, there appeared to be a trend in parent-report. Par-

ents were more likely to report that a safe place to play was less available for older children than for younger ones.

#### Ethnicity

There did not appear to be any significant difference between parent reports across ethnicities.

## Trauma-exposed Individuals

### Child Abuse

#### Child Abuse and Neglect Base Rates

Service Area 1 had the highest CAN Rate (1.98) found across the county. This indicated that approximately 2 out of 100 children in the service area suffered from some form of abuse or neglect during the 2006 calendar year. Within the service area, both urban centers had relatively high CAN rates with the Palmdale area having some of the highest numbers of substantiated abuse cases seen in the county (28.6%).

#### Triage Response Acuity

Service Area 1 had the highest Acuity score (0.25) in the county and all of its communities had Acuity scores above the countywide score of 0.15. The Lancaster area (0.31) had the second highest Acuity score seen across the county signifying an area with particularly high needs for immediate response by DCFS staff. The Palmdale area also had a relatively high Acuity scores (0.24) which was greater than 84% of the county's communities, (i.e., PUMAs).

#### Ethnicity

Across Service Area 1, 93% of SCAN Reports involved three ethnic groups: African-

American, White, and Hispanic. This pattern was essentially the same in all of the service area communities. Overall, African-American children accounted for 35.7% of SCAN Reports, White children, 27.8% and Hispanic children, 29.5%. Within the Lancaster area, African-American children (43.4%) were more frequently victimized than other ethnicities. In the Palmdale area, Hispanic children (36.0%) were more frequently victimized than other ethnicities. And in the surrounding North County E. area, White children (41.9%) were more frequently victimized than other ethnicities.

### Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse

Service Area 1 had an APS Rate<sup>1</sup> of 3.2, which was the second highest rate seen in the county across all service areas. Within the service area, the Lancaster community had the highest rate of APS cases using two different base rates calculations. This would suggest that the Lancaster area was particularly at risk for Elder and Dependent Adult abuse.

### Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

#### Age Groups

Service Area 1 clients accounted for 7.9% of individuals with PTSD treated in the county's mental health system. The majority of clients with PTSD in the service area were children (51.5%). Examining the composite communities revealed that about half of all cases fell within the Child age group. The TAY group accounted for about a quarter of all cases in the Lancaster area and more than a third of all cases in the surrounding North County E. area. In the Palmdale area, Adults

accounted for more than a third of PTSD cases. Across the service area, the Palmdale area accounted for a majority of all PTSD cases.

#### Ethnicity

African-American clients accounted for 34.0% of the PTSD population treated in Service Area 1. This was followed by Latino clients (32.7%) and White clients (26.9%). Native American, Asian, and Pacific Islander clients each accounted for less than 1% of the PTSD cases in the area. When compared with population estimates for these groups, it appeared that African-American (12.8%) and Native American (0.3%) clients were over-represented in the PTSD client counts, while Latino (41.1%), White (39%), and Asian (4.3%) clients were underrepresented.

#### Homelessness

##### Age Groups

In Service Area 1, annual homeless estimates for 2007 indicated that the 25-55 Age Group constituted a majority (68.5%) of the homeless population. This was followed by the Under 18 Age Group at 13.6%, the 18-24 Age Group at 10.1%, and the 56+ Age Group at 7.8%.

##### Ethnicity

Within Service Area 1, Black/African-Americans accounted for 40.8% of the homeless population. Hispanic or Latinos accounted for 14.3%, Whites, 40.1%, and Multi-Racial and Others accounted for 4.8% of the homeless population.

##### Sub-populations

In Service Area 1, 50.4% of the homeless population reported that they had a mental illness. This was the highest proportion of mentally ill homeless individuals seen within

the county. 26.7% of homeless individuals reported they were substance abusers; and, 7.7% reported they were victims of domestic violence.

## Children/Youth at Risk for School Failure

### 4-year Dropout Rate

#### (Countywide Summary Only)

State figures indicated that over a quarter of all students in Los Angeles County drop out of high school over a four-year period. Examining ethnic categories indicated that African-American students were most at risk for not finishing high school, followed by Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic or Latino Students. 15.5% of White students drop out of high school. Two ethnic groups had dropout rates below this: Asian, 7.4% and Filipino, 12.8%.

### High School Graduation Rates

Across the county, the Antelope Valley had the highest graduation rate of all service areas, 89.1%. No population saw graduation rates below 50%. The American Indian/Alaskan Native population in the Palmdale area had the lowest graduation rate in the area, 66.7%.

### English Fluency

Across the county, Service Area 1 had the highest fluency rate, 81.3%, within its school population. Examining the composite communities indicated that all communities had a fluency rate that exceeded the county average of 68.7%. Only the Palmdale area (76.5) had a fluency rate below 80%.

### 3rd Grade Reading Level

Overall, Service Area 1 saw 32.7% of its third



graders score at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in a standardized reading test. This figure was above the countywide figure of 22.4%. For the three ethnic groups for whom we do have data in this area (we do not have complete data for this indicator for Asian populations), African-American students had the lowest reading scores (17.9%), followed by Latino students (25.9%) and White students (53.5%). The overall high school graduation rates in the Antelope Valley mirror these reading scores with African-Americans having the lowest rate, followed by Hispanic students, and then White students.

## **Children/Youth at Risk of or Experiencing Juvenile Justice Involvement**

### **School Discipline**

Service Area 1 had the highest suspension rate seen across the county with 8.9% of its students excluded from school at some point in time during the year. The Lancaster area had the highest suspension rate in the county at 11.1%, or one out of ten students. Service Area 1 also had the highest expulsion rate throughout the county with 0.6% of its students permanently denied access to their school. In particular, the Lancaster area had the highest expulsion rate in the county with 0.9%, or about one out of one hundred students receiving this action.

### **Juvenile Felony Arrests (Countywide Summary Only)**

Of the 23,787 youths arrested on felony charges during the reporting period, 84.2% were males, 15.8%, females. Ethnically, Hispanic youths were involved in the majority

of felony arrests (57.2%), followed by Black/African-American youths (30.3%) and Whites (9.1%). All other ethnicities combined accounted for less than 4% of the juvenile felony arrests.

### **Youths on Probation**

#### **Camp Population**

Both the Lancaster and Palmdale areas have relatively large numbers of youths sent to camp. Service Area 1 had twice as many African-American youth in camp as Hispanic youth. African-American youths accounted for 58.2% of the camp population, Hispanics (29.1%), and Whites (12.1%).

#### **Supervised Youths**

Similar to the Camp census, African-American youths under supervision (618) were greater in number than Hispanic youths (469) in the service area. Both of the urban areas within the service area had over 500 youths under supervision.

## **Key Indicators of Stigma and Discrimination**

### **Language Capacity of Mental Health Providers**

Across the service area, staffing ratios for English speakers (29) was over three times the ratio for Spanish speakers (8) and over four times that for Vietnamese speakers (7). For populations numbering over 1000 individuals, only Korean speakers (38) saw a staffing ratio that exceeded that for English speakers.

## **Key Indicators of Suicide Risk**

### **Deaths by Suicide**

Service Area 1 data indicated that males had higher suicide rates than females in all communities. Across ethnicities, Whites had the highest suicide rates in all communities. In the Lancaster area, for example, the suicide rate for Whites was five times that for Latinos. Across age groups, Older Adults were at higher risk than all other groups. The Lancaster area (40.2) had one of the highest suicide rates in the county for Older Adults. Additionally, there was a relatively high rate seen for the TAY population (29.4) in the surrounding North County E. area.

### **Mental Health Emergency Statistics**

Overall, Service Area 1 had the highest MHE-Rate (9.4) for all service areas. The Lancaster area not only had one of the highest call counts in the county, but also the second-highest MHE-Rate, 12.4.