

# Riverside County Survey

The purpose of this survey of Riverside County residents is to amass social, demographic and public opinion data to document and assess the concerns and needs of the county's residents. The survey is also intended to assess the awareness and interest of residents on issues of economic development, growth, environmental protection and other policy-oriented concerns.

The survey is designed to form a baseline of data that could be added to in future surveys and complement and enrich other data accumulated and analyzed by the Riverside County Center for Demographic Research. This will assist local and regional policy makers and provide a basis for theoretical and applied research by scholars affiliated with the many college and university campuses located in Riverside County.

The Riverside County Center for Demographic Research was founded in 2006 by UCR's Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development (CSSD); the County of Riverside Department of Transportation & Land Management Agency (TLMA); the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG).

CSSD commissioned the UCR Survey Research Center to conduct this survey of Riverside County residents, in coordination with TLMA, WRCOG and CVAG.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A new survey of Riverside County finds its residents are particularly concerned about the state of the Inland Empire economy, as well as population growth and infrastructure needs. Other major concerns include traffic and transportation, crime, and the on-going volatility in the Inland housing market. A majority – 75 percent – said the overall quality of life in the county is excellent or good.

Major findings from the survey include:

- Riverside County residents perceive economic difficulties. Forty-six percent of respondents say they are financially worse off today than they were a year ago.
- County residents do not see the economy improving soon. Forty-four percent said they think the economy will be about the same as it is now in a year and another 16 percent said they think the economy will get worse.
- Problems with the housing market have personally affected many people in the county. Forty-four percent of survey respondents indicate that either they or someone they know lost their home in the current foreclosure crisis.
- Riverside County residents are more supportive of providing relief to borrowers than to lenders. Forty-eight percent indicated they thought “people who are having difficulty making their mortgage payments should receive special treatment that would prevent them from losing their home.” Only 20 percent of respondents supported providing help to financial institutions to “prevent them from losing money on those mortgages.”

The survey team also investigated regional differences within the county:

- Traffic congestion is more of a problem for western Riverside county residents than it is in the eastern portion of the county. Traffic congestion on freeways and major roads was somewhat of a problem or a big problem to 93 percent of western Riverside respondents. Among eastern Riverside county respondents, that number is 76 percent.

- Similarly, population growth is viewed as a bigger problem in the western part of the county than the eastern portion of the county. In the western portion of the county, 74 percent of respondents said population growth and development was somewhat of a problem or a big problem, compared to 63 percent of respondents in the eastern part of the county.

The Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development at the University of California, Riverside commissioned the survey of Riverside County residents, in coordination with the Riverside County Center for Demographic Research, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the Western Riverside Council of Governments, and the Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency.

Researchers at the UCR Survey Research Center conducted the survey by telephone using a random-digit-dial sample of Riverside County households, from April 8-May 14.

More than 750 county residents participated in the survey, which has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.6$  percent, with a 95% confidence interval.

For the purpose of the survey, we define the western part of the county as respondents residing in the (951) or (909) area codes, and the eastern portion of the county to include respondents with a (760) area code telephone number.



# QUALITY OF LIFE

While residents are clearly concerned about the Inland area economy, population growth, traffic and other issues, the majority – 75 percent – feel their overall quality of life is excellent or good. A slightly higher percentage of eastern county residents feel their overall quality of life is excellent, while a slightly higher percentage of western county residents rank overall quality of life as fair to poor.

(Questions from the survey appear in blue)

*Thinking about the quality of life in Riverside County, how do you think things are going—very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?*

| QUALITY OF LIFE       |            |                |                |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                       | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Very Well             | 15.1%      | 19.6%          | 14.0%          |
| Somewhat Well         | 60.0       | 61.5           | 59.6           |
| Somewhat Badly        | 17.0       | 12.8           | 18.1           |
| Very Badly            | 6.2        | 4.7            | 6.6            |
| Don't Know Or Refused | 1.7        | 1.4            | 1.8            |

## MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM

The economy and jobs, population growth and infrastructure needs, transportation and traffic, crime, and the housing market are identified by residents as the top five most important problems in the county. In the Riverside County survey, transportation and traffic are perceived as the most important problem by a higher percentage (17.1%) of western county residents than those in eastern county communities (9.5%). Crime was of slightly higher concern in eastern county communities than in western areas.

*We are interested in your opinions about Riverside County as a whole. First, what do you think is the most important issue facing Riverside County today?*

| Top Five Issues Mentioned         | MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE |                |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                   | All Adults           | Eastern County | Western County |
| Economy and jobs                  | 16.7%                | 20.9%          | 15.6%          |
| Population Growth, Infrastructure | 16.4                 | 17.6           | 16.1           |
| Transportation And Traffic        | 15.6                 | 9.5            | 17.1           |
| Crimes, Drugs, Gangs              | 11.9                 | 14.9           | 11.2           |
| Housing Market, Foreclosures      | 7.3                  | 7.4            | 7.2            |

To put the policy concerns of Riverside County residents in context, we consulted a recent statewide survey conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), which found that jobs and the economy was also cited as the most important issue facing the state (Californians & Their Government, May 2008). In the PPIC statewide survey, 36 percent of respondents named jobs and the economy as the major issue, followed by gasoline prices (15%) education/schools (8%) immigration/illegal immigration (7%) and state budget/deficit/taxes (6%).

The economy is also a major issue on the national agenda as well, given recent concerns about slower rates of growth in the national economy, and a potential recession. Clearly, Riverside County residents have their own distinctive concerns and needs, driven by the rapid growth of the Inland Empire population, demands on our crowded freeways and other major roads, and the downturn in the housing market accompanied by the mortgage crisis, which has hit Riverside County residents particularly hard.

We explore each of these major issues in sections below, as well as several evergreen concerns of Riverside County residents, including education, immigration, and health care.

# ECONOMY AND JOBS



While the economy and jobs are of most concern to over-all county residents surveyed, about one-third of eastern county residents feel the Riverside County economy is excellent or good (37.2%). Among western county residents, about one-fourth rate the county economy excellent or good (23%). However, the majority of residents in both regions rate the local economy fair or poor (73.4%).

*How would you rate the economy in Riverside County today?*

| RATING THE COUNTY ECONOMY |            |                |                |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                           | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Excellent                 | 1.8%       | 1.4%           | 2.0%           |
| Good                      | 23.9       | 35.8           | 21.0           |
| Fair                      | 47.6       | 41.9           | 48.9           |
| Poor                      | 25.8       | 20.9           | 26.9           |
| Don't Know Or Refused     | .9         | .0             | 1.2            |

This economic outlook for the Riverside County economy suggests local conditions might be generally better than national conditions. Respondents to a national USA Today/Gallup Poll conducted in winter 2008 were more likely to rate the national economy as poor (42%).

The same general outlook held when residents were asked about their personal financial situation, with 46.2 percent feeling they are worse off than a year ago. A majority (59.4%) feel their financial situation won't improve or will be worse a year from now.

*Would you say you (and your family) are financially better off or worse off than you were a year ago?*

| CURRENT PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION |            |                |                |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                      | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Better Off                           | 28.3%      | 31.1%          | 27.6%          |
| Worse Off                            | 46.2       | 43.9           | 46.8           |
| Same                                 | 24.3       | 23.6           | 24.5           |
| Don't Know Or Refused                | 1.2        | 1.4            | 1.2            |

Further, a majority of Riverside County Survey respondents expect these conditions to hold for some time: 44 percent said they think their personal finances will be the same next year, while 16 percent said their finances will actually decline. Just over one-third (36%) said they expect to be better off in one year.

*Do you think that a year from now you (and your family) will be better off, worse off, or just about the same as now?*

| FUTURE PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION |            |                |                |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                     | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Better Off                          | 36.2%      | 37.8%          | 35.8%          |
| Worse Off                           | 15.5       | 14.2           | 15.8           |
| Same                                | 43.9       | 43.9           | 43.8           |
| Don't Know Or Refused               | 4.5        | 4.1            | 4.6            |

About 41 percent of residents believe that opportunities for well-paying jobs in their part of the county are a big problem (41.3%), a view consistently held between eastern and western county residents.

*We are interested in your opinions about the region. I am going to read you a list of problems other people have told us about. How about opportunities for well-paying jobs?*

| JOB OPPORTUNITIES     |            |                |                |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                       | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Big Problem           | 41.3%      | 41.2%          | 41.4%          |
| Somewhat of a Problem | 34.9       | 38.5           | 34.0           |
| Not a Problem         | 14.0       | 10.1           | 14.9           |
| Don't Know Or Refused | 9.8        | 10.2           | 9.7            |



# HOUSING MARKET AND FORECLOSURES

At least part of the pessimism over the economy may be attributable to the current housing crisis. We found that a significant percentage of residents personally know of friends or relatives who have lost their home in the current housing market (44%).

*Have you or someone you know – a family member or friend – lost their home in the current housing market?*

| LOST HOME IN CURRENT HOUSING MARKET |            |                |                |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                     | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Yes                                 | 44.0%      | 35.8%          | 46.0%          |
| No                                  | 54.8       | 63.5           | 52.7           |
| Don't Know Or Refused               | 1.2        | .7             | 1.3            |

One of the most interesting dynamics of the mortgage crisis involves judgments about how governments should respond to it. We asked respondents to tell us whether they would support special treatment for borrowers and lenders to ease the pain of foreclosures. Riverside County residents are more supportive of offering special treatment to those having difficulty making mortgage payments (47.6%) than they are supportive of providing some kind of help to financial institutions who might experience financial losses from defaults on mortgages (24%).

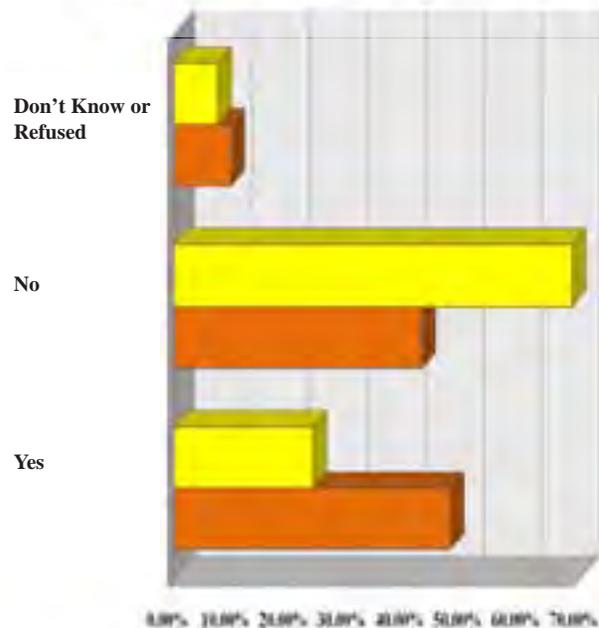
*Do you think people who are having difficulty making their mortgage payments should receive special treatment that would prevent them from losing their home?*

| SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR LOSING HOME |            |                |                |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                   | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Yes                               | 47.6%      | 49.3%          | 47.1%          |
| No                                | 42.7       | 36.5           | 44.2           |
| Don't Know Or Refused             | 9.8        | 14.2           | 8.7            |

*Do you think that the banks and other financial institutions that made those home loans should receive special treatment that would prevent them from losing money on those mortgages?*

| SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR INSTITUTIONS |            |                |                |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                    | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Yes                                | 23.9%      | 25.0%          | 23.6%          |
| No                                 | 68.6       | 65.5           | 69.3           |
| Don't Know Or Refused              | 7.5        | 9.5            | 7.1            |

Opinions On The Mortgage Crisis (All Adults)



|  |        |        |       |
|--|--------|--------|-------|
| <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Institutions Should Receive Special Treatment (All Adults) | 23.90% | 68.60% | 7.50% |
| <span style="color: orange;">■</span> People Should Receive Special Treatment (All Adults)       | 47.60% | 42.70% | 9.80% |

# POPULATION, GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Western county residents are more concerned (73.7%) about population growth and development than those in eastern communities (62.9%). But about one-fourth of western county residents (24.8%) and a third of eastern county residents (34.5%) said population gains and development are not major problems.

*I am going to read you a list of problems other people have told us about. For each one, please tell me if you think this is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of Riverside County. How about population growth and development?*

| POPULATION GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT |            |                |                |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                 | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Big Problem                     | 40.0%      | 31.8%          | 42.0%          |
| Somewhat of a Problem           | 31.6       | 31.1           | 31.7           |
| Not a Problem                   | 26.7       | 34.5           | 24.8           |
| Don't Know Or Refused           | 1.7        | 2.7            | 1.5            |

A majority of county residents (53.9%) would like to spend less time commuting, even if it means a smaller home. The sentiment was strongest among eastern county residents.

*Would you choose to live in a small home with small back yard, if it means you have a short commute to work? Or would you choose to live in a large home with a large backyard, even if it means you would have a longer commute to work? [Options were rotated for respondents]*

| COMMUTE & HOUSING TYPE    |            |                |                |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                           | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Small Home Short commute  | 53.9%      | 60.1%          | 52.4%          |
| Large Home Longer commute | 37.0       | 27.7           | 39.2           |
| Don't Know Or Refused     | 9.1        | 12.2           | 8.4            |

About 29 percent of respondents would prefer to live in a neighborhood with high-rise housing where they can walk to stores, schools and other services. The majority of respondents (65.8%) prefer a residential-only neighborhood, even if it means driving to stores, schools and other services.

*Would you choose to live in a mixed-use neighborhood with high-rise housing, if it means you can walk to stores, schools, and services? Or would you choose to in a residential-only neighborhood, even if it means you have to drive to stores, schools, and services? [Options were rotated for respondents]*

| MIXED -USE OR RESIDENTIAL ONLY                               |            |                |                |
|--|------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Mixed-use neighborhood with high-rise housing walk to stores | 29.1%      | 35.1%          | 27.6%          |
| Residential-only neighborhood drive to stores                | 65.8       | 57.4           | 67.8           |
| Don't Know Or Refused  | 5.2        | 7.4            | 4.6            |



# TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

Nearly twice as many western county residents (69.6%) believe traffic jams on freeways and major roads are a big problem – an observation held by only 38.5 percent of eastern county residents. Similarly, a higher percentage of western county residents (69.6%) rated local freeways, streets and roads as fair or poor compared to their eastern county counterparts (54.7%).

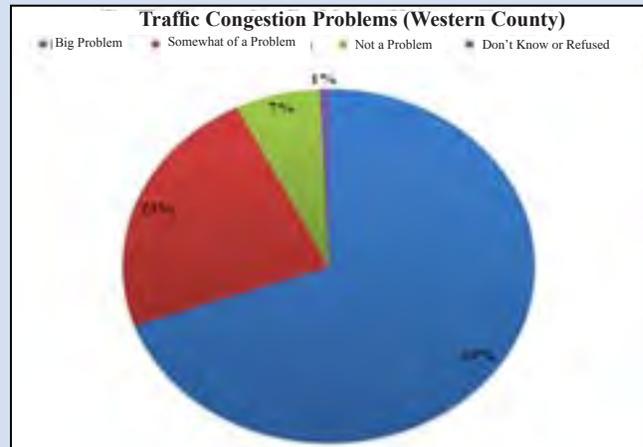
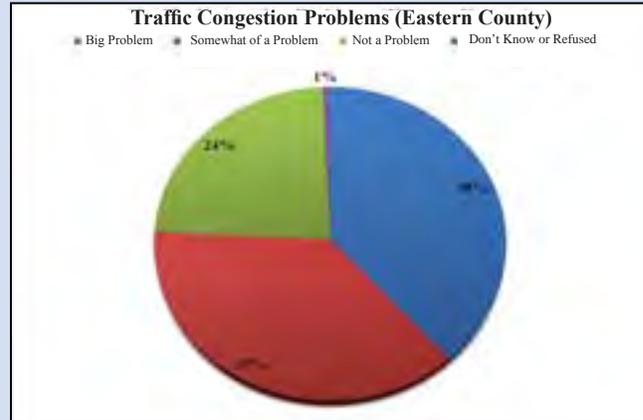
*I am going to read you a list of problems other people have told us about. For each one, please tell me if you think this is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of Riverside County. How about traffic congestion on freeways and major roads?*



# CRIME

While concerns about crime, drugs, gangs, and law enforcement are considered a major problem for many of our survey respondents – it was listed as the primary concern for 12 percent of our respondents – a majority of county residents feel local police protection is excellent or good (65.2%).

*I'd like to ask how you rate some of the public services in your local area. How about local police protection?*



|                       | POLICE PROTECTION |                |                |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                       | All Adults        | Eastern County | Western County |
| Excellent             | 17.6%             | 19.6%          | 17.1%          |
| Good                  | 47.6              | 50.7           | 46.8           |
| Fair                  | 21.7              | 19.6           | 22.2           |
| Poor                  | 8.6               | 6.1            | 9.2            |
| Don't Know Or Refused | 4.6               | 4.1            | 4.8            |

# EDUCATION



Nearly half of respondents rate their local public schools excellent or good, but about a third (36.1%) feel that the quality of California's kindergarten-through-12th grade public schools has slipped in the past two years.

A majority of respondents (59.8%) would like to see the state increase spending for local public schools.

This corresponds closely to results of a question from the Californians & Their Government survey by the Public Policy Institute of California. In that survey, respondents were asked which of four major spending areas they would protect the most from state budget cuts. A majority (61%) said K-12 education, followed by health and human services (17%), higher education (12%) and prisons and corrections (7%).

*I'd like to ask how you rate some of the public services in your local area. How about local public schools?*

| LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  |            |                |                |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                       | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Excellent             | 10.7%      | 10.1%          | 10.8%          |
| Good                  | 35.4       | 35.1           | 35.5           |
| Fair                  | 20.2       | 20.3           | 20.2           |
| Poor                  | 14.9       | 18.2           | 14.1           |
| Don't Know Or Refused | 18.7       | 16.2           | 19.4           |



*In the past two years, do you think the quality of education in California's kindergarten through 12th grade public schools has improved?*

| QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA |            |                |                |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                    | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Improved                           | 20.6%      | 19.6%          | 20.9%          |
| Stayed the Same                    | 30.4       | 29.1           | 30.7           |
| Gotten Worse                       | 36.1       | 38.5           | 35.5           |
| Don't Know Or Refused              | 13.0       | 12.8           | 13.0           |



*Do you think the current level of state funding for your local public schools is more than enough?*

| ADEQUACY OF FUNDING FOR EDUCATION |            |                |                |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                   | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| More than enough                  | 10.3%      | 11.5%          | 10.0%          |
| Just enough                       | 20.2       | 23.0           | 19.5           |
| Not enough                        | 59.8       | 54.1           | 61.2           |
| Don't Know Or Refused             | 9.7        | 11.5           | 9.2            |

# HEALTH CARE



Nearly two-thirds of respondents (63.6%) feel major changes are needed in California's health care system and (61.8%) favor plans that would require all Californians to have health care coverage, with costs shared by individuals, employers and health care providers.

*Would you favor or oppose a plan requiring all Californians to have health insurance, with costs shared by employers, health care providers and individuals?*

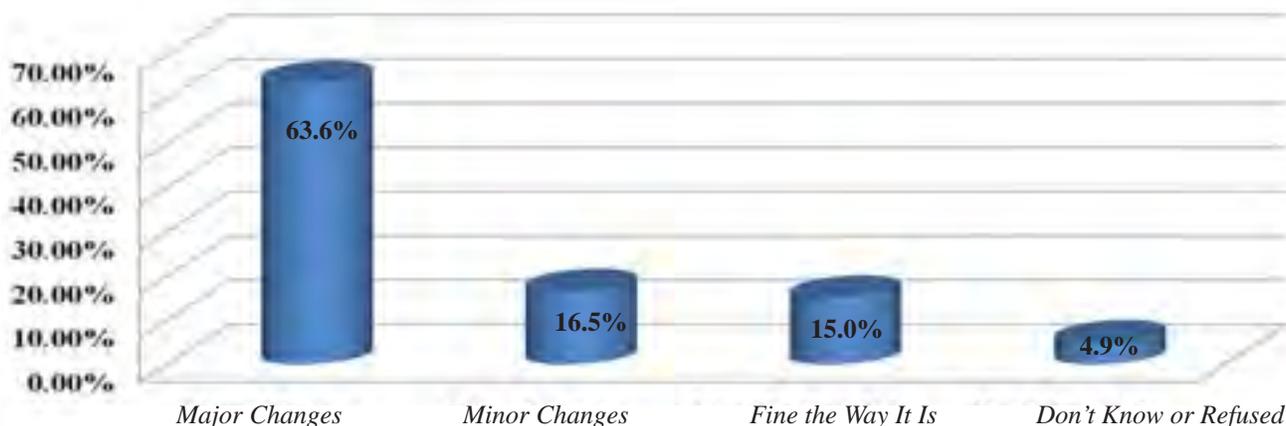
| HEALTH INSURANCE      |            |                |                |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                       | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Favor                 | 61.8%      | 62.2%          | 61.6%          |
| Oppose                | 29.6       | 29.1           | 29.9           |
| Don't Know Or Refused | 8.6        | 8.5            | 8.5            |

*Do you think California's health care system is in need of major changes or minor changes or that it is basically fine the way it is?*

| RATING CALIFORNIA'S HEALTH CARE |            |                |                |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                 | All Adults | Eastern County | Western County |
| Major Changes                   | 63.6%      | 58.1%          | 64.9%          |
| Minor Changes                   | 16.5       | 21.6           | 15.3           |
| Fine the way it is              | 15.0       | 13.5           | 15.4           |
| Don't Know Or Refused           | 4.9        | 6.8            | 4.4            |



Are Health Care System Changes Needed? (All Adults)





# SURVEY FREQUENCIES

*The following is a list of all of the questions asked of survey respondents.*

To begin, I'd like to ask how you rate some of the public services in your local area.

**1. How about local freeways, streets, and roads? Would you say they are excellent, good, fair, or poor?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Excellent             | 4.7  |
| Good                  | 27.5 |
| Fair                  | 36.0 |
| Poor                  | 30.8 |
| Don't know or refused | 0.9  |

**2. How about local parks and other public recreational facilities?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Excellent             | 16.7 |
| Good                  | 49.9 |
| Fair                  | 19.2 |
| Poor                  | 7.5  |
| Don't know or refused | 6.6  |

**3. How about local police protection?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Excellent             | 17.5 |
| Good                  | 47.6 |
| Fair                  | 21.7 |
| Poor                  | 8.6  |
| Don't know or refused | 4.6  |

**4. How about local public schools?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Excellent             | 10.7 |
| Good                  | 35.3 |
| Fair                  | 20.3 |
| Poor                  | 15.0 |
| Don't know or refused | 18.7 |

**5. Overall, how would you rate the performance of Riverside County government in solving problems in your community—excellent, good, fair, or poor?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Excellent             | 3.4  |
| Good                  | 38.5 |
| Fair                  | 38.2 |
| Poor                  | 12.1 |
| Don't know or refused | 7.8  |

Next, we are interested in your opinions about the region or broader

geographic area that you live in. I am going to read you a list of problems other people have told us about. For each one, please tell me if you think this is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of Riverside County.

**6. How about traffic congestion on freeways and major roads?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Big problem           | 63.5 |
| Somewhat of a problem | 25.8 |
| Not a problem         | 10.0 |
| Don't know or refused | 0.7  |

**7. How about population growth and development?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Big problem           | 40.1 |
| Somewhat of a problem | 31.5 |
| Not a problem         | 26.7 |
| Don't know or refused | 1.7  |

**8. How about the availability of housing that you can afford?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Big problem           | 30.8 |
| Somewhat of a problem | 29.6 |
| Not a problem         | 34.8 |
| Don't know or refused | 4.8  |

**9. How about opportunities for well-paying jobs?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Big problem           | 41.4 |
| Somewhat of a problem | 34.9 |
| Not a problem         | 14.0 |
| Don't know or refused | 9.8  |

**10. Next, we are interested in your opinions about Riverside County as a whole. First, what do you think is the most important issue facing Riverside County today?**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Economy and jobs                       | 16.6 |
| Growth, population, infrastructure     | 16.4 |
| Transportation and traffic             | 15.5 |
| Crime, drugs, law enforcement          | 11.8 |
| Housing, market and foreclosures       | 7.2  |
| Education and youth activities         | 6.3  |
| Illegal immigration                    | 4.7  |
| Taxes, government spending & services  | 4.2  |
| Other (incl. environment, health care) | 5.7  |
| Don't know or refused                  | 11.3 |

**11. Thinking about the quality of life in Riverside County, how do you think things are going—very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Very Well             | 15.0 |
| Somewhat Well         | 60.1 |
| Somewhat Badly        | 17.0 |
| Very Badly            | 6.2  |
| Don't know or refused | 1.7  |

**12. On another topic, how would you rate the performance of county government in solving problems in Riverside County—excellent, good, fair, or poor?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Excellent             | 3.7  |
| Good                  | 33.1 |
| Fair                  | 43.1 |
| Poor                  | 12.0 |
| Don't know or refused | 8.2  |

**13. When your county government officials decide what policies to adopt, how much attention do you think they pay to what the people think—a lot, some, very little, or no attention?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| A lot                 | 10.7 |
| Some                  | 48.0 |
| Very little           | 30.8 |
| No attention          | 5.7  |
| Don't know or refused | 4.9  |

**14. In general, do you think the people who run county government waste a lot, some, very little, or none of the money we pay in taxes?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| A lot                 | 36.4 |
| Some                  | 43.1 |
| Very little           | 11.5 |
| No attention          | 1.4  |
| Don't know or refused | 7.6  |

**15. In general, how would you rate the economy in Riverside County today? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, or poor?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Excellent             | 1.8  |
| Good                  | 24.0 |
| Fair                  | 47.6 |
| Poor                  | 25.7 |
| Don't know or refused | 0.9  |

**16. Would you say you (and your family) are financially better off or worse off than you were a year ago?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Better off            | 28.2 |
| Worse off             | 46.2 |
| Same                  | 24.4 |
| Don't know or refused | 1.2  |

**17. Looking ahead, do you think that a year from now you (and your family) will be better off, worse off, or just about the same as now?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Better off            | 36.2 |
| Worse off             | 15.4 |
| Same                  | 43.9 |
| Don't know or refused | 4.5  |

**18. Do you think that buying a home in Riverside County today is an excellent, good, fair, or poor investment?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Excellent             | 16.6 |
| Good                  | 39.7 |
| Fair                  | 19.0 |
| Poor                  | 21.1 |
| Don't know or refused | 3.7  |

**19. Overall, do you think decreasing average home values in Riverside County is a good thing or a bad thing for you and your family?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Good thing            | 33.7 |
| Bad thing             | 49.9 |
| No difference         | 12.3 |
| Don't know or refused | 4.1  |

**20. In the past few years, banks and other financial institutions provided home loans to many Americans who eventually could not afford to pay them and now may lose their homes. Have you or someone you know – a family member or friend – lost their home in the current housing market?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Yes                   | 44.1 |
| No                    | 54.7 |
| Don't know or refused | 1.2  |

**21. Do you think people who are having difficult making their mortgage payments should receive special treatment that would prevent them from losing their home?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Yes                   | 47.6 |
| No                    | 42.6 |
| Don't know or refused | 9.9  |

**22. Do you think that the banks and other financial institutions that made those home loans should receive special treatment that would prevent them from losing money on those mortgages?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Yes                   | 23.8 |
| No                    | 68.6 |
| Don't know or refused | 7.5  |

**23. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view of those people who are now defaulting on home loans?**

|   |      |
|---|------|
| You think they are the victims of bad lending policies by the banks who provided mortgages to them                | 45.8 |
| You feel sorry for them, but they willingly entered into those agreements and have no one to blame but themselves | 41.0 |
| Don't know or refused   | 13.2 |

**24. Turning to business conditions in the country as a whole, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Good times            | 23.1 |
| Bad times             | 69.0 |
| Don't know or refused | 7.9  |

On another topic, many people face trade-offs when choosing place to live—meaning that they have to give up some things in order to have other things. How do you feel about the following trade-offs? Other things being equal ...

**25. (1) Would you choose to live in a small home with small back yard, if it means you have a short commute to work [or] (2) Would you choose to live in a large home with a large backyard, even if it means you would have a longer commute to work?**

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Small home short commute  | 53.9 |
| Large home longer commute | 37.0 |
| Don't know or refused     | 9.1  |

**26. (1) Would you choose to live in a mixed-use neighborhood with high-rise housing, if it means you can walk to stores, schools, and services [or] (2) Would you choose to live in a residential-only neighborhood, even if it means you have to drive to stores, schools, and services?**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Mixed use neighborhood with high-rise housing walk to stores | 29.0 |
| Residential-only neighborhood drive to stores                | 65.9 |
| Don't know or refused  | 5.2  |

Now we have a few questions about education in California and in the Inland Empire...

**27. In the past two years, do you think the quality of education in California's kindergarten through 12th grade public schools has improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Improved              | 20.6 |
| Stayed the same       | 30.3 |
| Gotten worse          | 36.2 |
| Don't know or refused | 13.0 |

**28. Do you think the current level of state funding for your local public schools is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| More than enough      | 10.3 |
| Just enough           | 20.2 |
| Not enough            | 59.9 |
| Don't know or refused | 9.7  |

**29. If your local school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Yes                   | 64.7 |
| No                    | 26.9 |
| Don't know or refused | 8.4  |

**30. What if there was a measure on your local ballot to increase property taxes to provide more funds for the local public schools? Would you vote yes or no?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Yes                   | 39.1 |
| No                    | 53.6 |
| Don't know or refused | 7.3  |

Now I would like to ask you some questions about immigrants – people who come from other countries to live here in the United States.

**31. Should legal immigration into the United States be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?**

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Kept at its present level | 43.0 |
| Increased                 | 21.2 |
| Decreased                 | 27.1 |
| Don't know or refused     | 8.7  |

**32. Thinking about all of the immigrants who have moved into your community in recent years: What effect, if any, do you think these recent immigrants are having on the quality of your local government services? Are they making things better, making things worse or not making much difference either way?**

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Making things better       | 10.0 |
| Making things worse        | 50.5 |
| Not making much difference | 33.7 |
| Don't know or refused      | 5.8  |

**33. Changing topics, do you think California's health care system is in need of major changes or minor changes or that it is basically fine the way it is?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Major changes         | 63.6 |
| Minor changes         | 16.5 |
| Fine the way it is    | 15.0 |
| Don't know or refused | 4.9  |

**34. Would you favor or oppose a plan requiring all Californians to have health insurance, with costs shared by employers, health care providers and individuals?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Favor                 | 61.8 |
| Oppose                | 29.6 |
| Don't know or refused | 8.6  |

**35. Do you favor or oppose providing health care coverage for illegal immigrants in California?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Favor                 | 31.8 |
| Oppose                | 62.3 |
| Don't know or refused | 5.9  |

**36. Do you own or rent your current residence?**

|      |      |
|------|------|
| Own  | 78.7 |
| Rent | 21.3 |

**37a. About what percentage of your monthly family income goes to paying your mortgage?**

Average: 28.5 percent; Range: 1-95 percent

**37b. About what percentage of your monthly family income goes to paying rent?** Average: 41.7 percent; Range: 1-100 percent

**38. Is the place you currently live a single-family detached home, an attached home such as a condo, duplex, or townhome, an apartment, or another type of dwelling?**

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Single-family detached home | 80.6 |
| Attached home               | 5.9  |
| Apartment                   | 7.2  |
| Other                       | 5.7  |
| Don't know or refused       | 0.5  |

**39. Overall, how satisfied are you with the house [or apartment] you live in? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Very satisfied        | 63.6 |
| Somewhat satisfied    | 27.4 |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | 5.0  |
| Very dissatisfied     | 2.9  |
| Don't know or refused | 0.9  |

**40. Overall, how satisfied are you with the neighborhood you live in? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Very satisfied        | 56.4 |
| Somewhat satisfied    | 32.3 |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | 6.5  |
| Very dissatisfied     | 3.8  |
| Don't know or refused | 1.0  |

**41. During most of last week, were you...**

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Working outside of the home   | 39.7 |
| Working...from home           | 8.0  |
| Temporarily absent from a job | 2.2  |
| Looking for work              | 5.1  |
| A homemaker                   | 9.2  |
| Going to school               | 4.7  |
| Retired                       | 24.0 |
| Doing something else          | 5.9  |
| Don't know or refused         | 1.1  |

**[If employed outside the home]**

**42. Do you work full-time or part-time?**

**If asked, a full time job is at least 35 hours per week; if self-employed, probe for number of hours usually worked**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Full-time             | 42.0 |
| Part-time             | 6.7  |
| Multiple jobs         | 0.8  |
| Don't know or refused | 1.4  |
| Not asked             | 49.1 |

**[If employed outside the home]**

**43. How do you usually commute to work— drive alone, carpool, public bus or transit, or some other means?**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Drive alone           | 39.4 |
| Carpool               | 4.1  |
| Public bus or transit | 1.2  |
| Some other means      | 0.9  |
| Work at home          | 4.0  |
| Don't know or refused | 1.5  |
| Not asked             | 49.0 |

**[If employed outside the home]**

**44. When thinking about your travel to and from work, on the average, how much total time, in minutes, do you spend commuting both ways each day? [RECORD MINUTES]**

Average: 71.3; Range: 0-480

45. On another topic, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain you are registered to vote?

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Yes                   | 79.7 |
| No                    | 19.4 |
| Don't know or refused | 0.9  |

46. How often would you say you vote—always, nearly always, part of the time, seldom, or never?

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Always                | 51.6 |
| Nearly always         | 19.5 |
| Part of the time      | 7.8  |
| Seldom                | 3.0  |
| Never                 | 12.1 |
| Don't know or refused | 5.9  |

47. Do you consider yourself to be politically very liberal, somewhat liberal, middle-of-the-road, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Very liberal          | 8.0  |
| Somewhat liberal      | 16.5 |
| Middle of the road    | 25.2 |
| Somewhat conservative | 27.7 |
| Very conservative     | 13.8 |
| Don't know or refused | 8.8  |

48. Do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else?

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Democratic            | 30.2 |
| Republican            | 34.3 |
| Independent           | 19.4 |
| Green                 | 0.4  |
| Libertarian           | 0.5  |
| Other                 | 4.1  |
| Don't know or refused | 11.2 |

[If independent, other party, don't know, refused]

49a. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Republican            | 9.2  |
| Democratic            | 7.0  |
| Neither               | 11.1 |
| Don't know or refused | 8.3  |

[If Republican or Democrat]

49b. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat/Republican or not a very strong Democrat/Republican?

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Strong                | 31.4 |
| Not very strong       | 31.1 |
| Don't know or refused | 1.9  |

50. Aside from weddings and funerals how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

|                       |      |                    |      |
|-----------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| More than once a week | 12.8 | Once a week        | 26.9 |
| Once or twice a month | 14.0 | A few times a year | 14.9 |
| Seldom                | 17.7 | Never              | 12.6 |
| Don't know or refused | 1.2  |                    |      |

We have a few final questions...

51. In what year were you born?

Average: 1955; Range: 1900-1990

52. Please tell us which of the following best reflects your educational background:

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Did not graduate high school  | 8.7  |
| High school graduate          | 14.0 |
| Some college                  | 29.5 |
| College education, associates | 12.8 |
| College education, bachelors  | 17.4 |
| Post-college, no degree       | 4.3  |
| Advanced degree               | 12.3 |
| Don't know or refused         | 1.0  |

53. What is your marital status?

|                       |      |                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| Married               | 64.6 | Separated or Divorced | 11.7 |
| Single                | 15.2 | Widowed               | 7.5  |
| Don't know or refused |      |                       | 1.1  |

54. Do you have any children that are under the age of 18?

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Yes                   | 37.0 |
| No                    | 61.8 |
| Don't know or refused | 1.2  |

55. In which one of the following racial or ethnic categories would you place yourself?

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| White or Anglo             | 57.8 |
| Black, African American    | 6.5  |
| Hispanic, Mexican American | 25.8 |
| Asian American             | 3.0  |
| Arab American              | 0.1  |
| Native American            | 1.8  |
| Something Else             | 3.7  |
| Don't know or refused      | 3.5  |

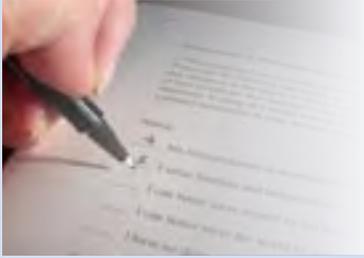
56. Just to compare people with different levels of income, I would like to find out what your family's financial situation is. Remember that your answers are voluntary and will be treated with confidentiality. I'd like to read some annual family income categories. Could you please stop me when I reach the category that corresponds to your family situation?

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| Under \$20,000 a year        | 10.3 |
| \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year  | 9.1  |
| \$30,001 to \$40,000 a year  | 8.7  |
| \$40,001 to \$50,000 a year  | 7.6  |
| \$50,001 to \$60,000 a year  | 6.1  |
| \$60,001 to \$70,000 a year  | 7.0  |
| \$70,001 to \$80,000 a year  | 6.3  |
| \$80,001 to \$90,000 a year  | 4.1  |
| \$90,001 to \$100,000 a year | 3.4  |
| More than 100,000 a year     | 18.4 |
| Don't know or refused        | 18.9 |

D1. Interviewer: Identify whether respondent is male or female

|      |      |        |      |
|------|------|--------|------|
| Male | 41.1 | Female | 58.9 |
|------|------|--------|------|





# METHODOLOGY

The Riverside County Survey was conducted by the UCR Survey Research Center, co-directed by Martin Johnson, Associate Professor of Political Science, and Robert Hanneman, Professor of Sociology, with assistance from graduate fellows Michael Harrod and Byran Martin, and graduate researcher D. Xavier Medina. The survey was funded by the Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development (CSSD) and the University of California, Riverside Office of Research. CSSD Director David Swanson, Professor of Sociology; Associate Director, Juliann Allison, Associate Professor of Political Science; and Assistant Director Rick Burnham advised the project. The survey was designed in coordination with representatives of the Riverside County Center for Demographic Research, the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), and Riverside County's Transportation and Land Management Agency.

This report summarizes findings from a telephone survey of 759 Riverside County adult residents conducted April 8 - May 14, 2008. Interviews were conducted during the evenings of weekdays and during the daytime each weekend. The survey sample was generated using a random-digit dial procedure in which area codes (760, 909, and 951) and telephone exchanges are selected in proportion to their use in the county, with the last four numbers of the telephone number generated at random by a computer. The sample was screened to eliminate business, computer, and fax telephone lines. Each telephone number was called up to 12 times. In addition, we asked to speak with the adult in each household who had the most recent birthday. This also helps to ensure a more even distribution of adults. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English.

We present unweighted results of the survey, due to a preliminary analysis revealing only minor changes in results after statistically weighting cases to match U.S. Census population reports.

A survey of 759 residents has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.6$  percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. We provide several analyses breaking the sample into an eastern and western Riverside County subsamples. We define the eastern part of the county with reference to area code (respondents with a 760 telephone number). We have 148 respondents in the eastern portion of the county, and thus a margin of error of  $\pm 8.1$ , at a 95 percent confidence interval. Western Riverside County is defined as residents in 951 or 909 area codes. There were 609 respondents in the western portion of the county, and this a margin of error of  $\pm 4$  percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval.