

## **Community Profile**

### **LA CITY: Newton Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone**



## Introduction

The Mayor's Office of the City of Los Angeles established twelve gang reduction and youth development (GRYD) zones in 2007 to implement targeted strategies that address gang violence in communities with some of the highest levels of crime and gang activity in the city. Understanding the specific and unique characteristics of a community is the first step toward effectively creating long-term improvement for the people who live there. This profile uses a comprehensive approach that includes data, charts and narrative aimed at providing important and useful statistical information on the population, demographic, social and economic conditions of the LA City Newton Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zone.

### Components

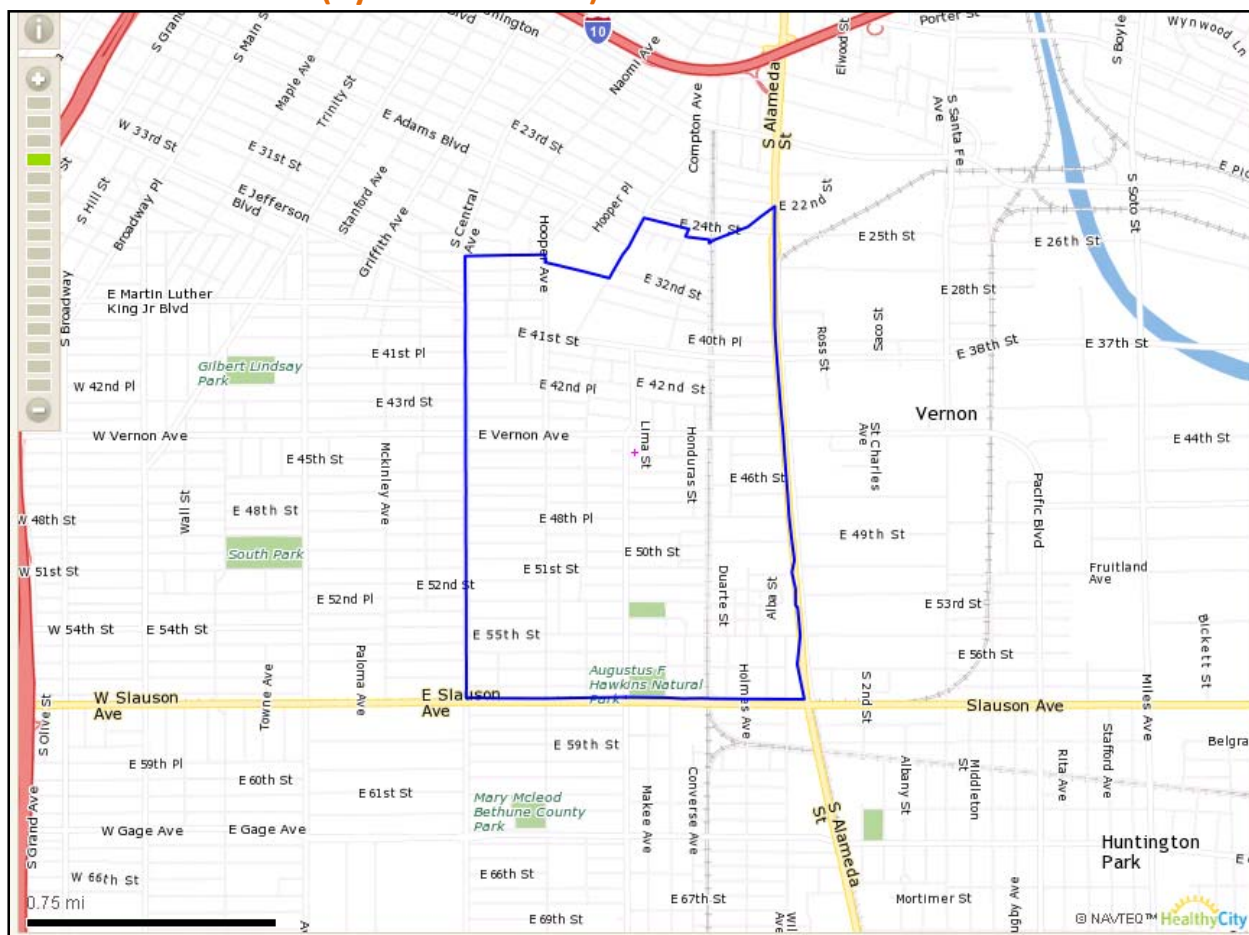
- Overview
- Population Characteristics
- Education
- Economic
- Health
- Public Safety
- Community Resources
- Summary

## OVERVIEW

Healthy City is presenting this community profile to the University of Southern California's Center for Religion and Civic Culture (CRCC) as part of their Gang Violence Intervention Project. This community profile will provide a snapshot of the area as a basis to understanding the general make up of the community and potential needs of its residents. Data presented will include existing community resources and population characteristics, as well as education, economic, housing, health, environment and safety statistics. CRCC will share this profile with its network of faith based organizations that are focused on implementing a gang intervention program in their service areas..

This community profile presents extensive data and analysis, and encourages further exploration of the community's rich history and experience. It is our hope that this profile will provide context and understanding of the issues facing the Newton GRYD zone community, and allow readers to see how they can strategize to implement policy or programmatic changes that address the needs of the community.

## Newton GRYD Zone (by Census Tracts)



The Newton GRYD zone is a 1.7 square mile area located in South Los Angeles and bounded by Central Avenue to the West, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Streets to the North, Alameda Street to the East and Slauson Avenue to the South. The area is within the Los Angeles Police District's Central Bureau in the Newton Division adjacent to the city of Vernon and the unincorporated area of Florence-Firestone.<sup>1</sup> The Newton GRYD zone is part of Los Angeles City Council District 9, County Supervisorial District 2, and LA County Service Planning Area 6. The area is represented by LA City Council member Jan Perry, LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, State Assembly member John A. Perez, State Senator Gil Cedillo and State Congressman Xavier Becerra.

## Population Characteristics

*Population characteristics are important size and composition measures of the people of an area, and when analyzed together, they describe a community and inform community decision-making. Measures such as the total population, the number of children, and family size are used to determine adequate levels of services in an area, including schools, hospitals and child-care facilities. Measures of race and ethnicity, family structure, and civic participation are useful in evaluating the cultural relevance and effectiveness of local services such as counseling, income security, and basic needs to serve the area population. Assessing the concentration of population characteristics in an area and comparing them to*

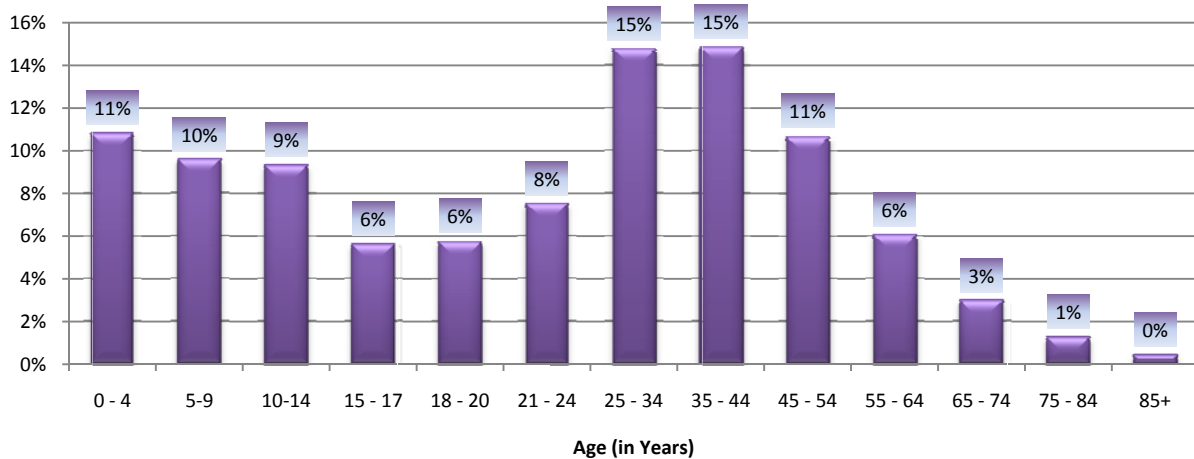
<sup>1</sup> Gang Reduction and Youth Development, Newton GRYD Needs Assessment. 2007. Advancement Project.

*characteristics in other areas are vital to identifying an area's unique and current needs, and planning for future conditions.*

### **General Population**

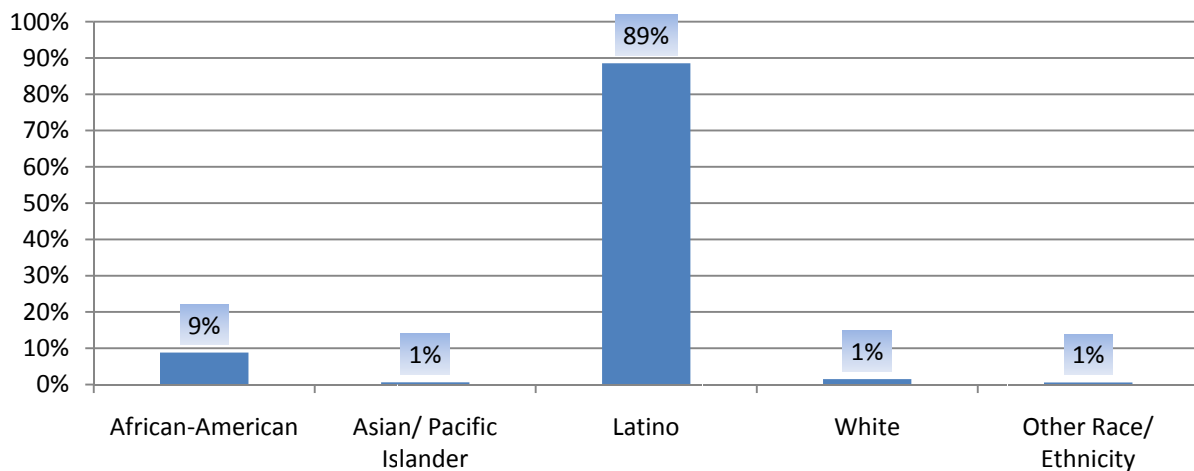
The Newton GRYD zone had an estimated population of 33,967, with 36% of the population under the age of 18. A significant percentage of the population reflected the community's youth, with 50% of the population being 24 years old or younger. Each representing 15% of the area's population, the 25-34 and 35-44 age groups represented the largest age groups in the area.

**Population by Age in the Newton GRYD, 2010**



The area had a predominantly Latino population, with Latinos representing nearly 90% of the population. African-Americans represented the second largest racial/ethnic group, with 10% of the area population. Given the age and race/ethnicity breakdowns of the population, age, language and culture-appropriate programs and services are significant to the accessibility and success of those resources in serving the community.

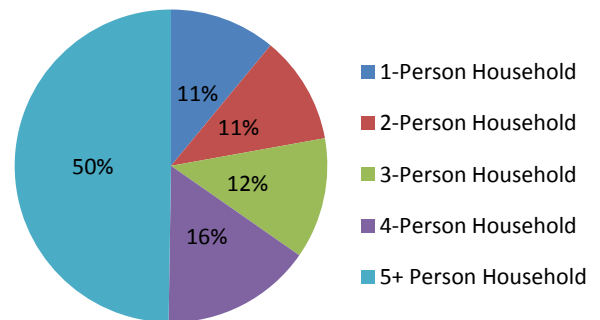
**Race/ Ethnicity in the Newton GRYD, 2010**



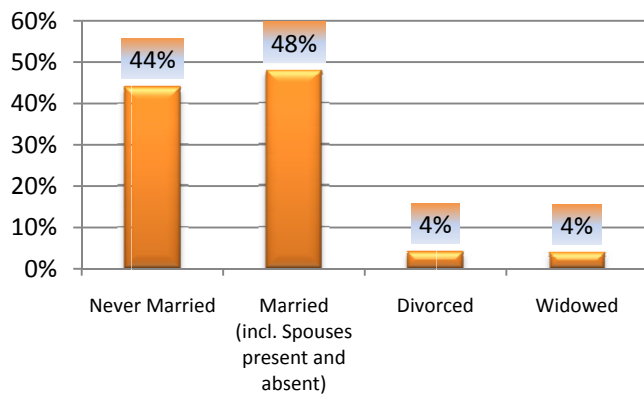
### ***Families and Households***

The Newton GRYD Zone is a densely populated area, with 66% of all households having more than four persons living in a household and 21% of households having seven or more persons. Nearly 50% of households were headed by married couples. Relatedly, married couples with children represented the largest percentage of families with children at 64%, while single-parents with children represented 36% of these households.<sup>2</sup> The size and family structure of households in the area implicate a potential need for support services for single-parent families and increased resources to meet the needs of the population of dense communities.

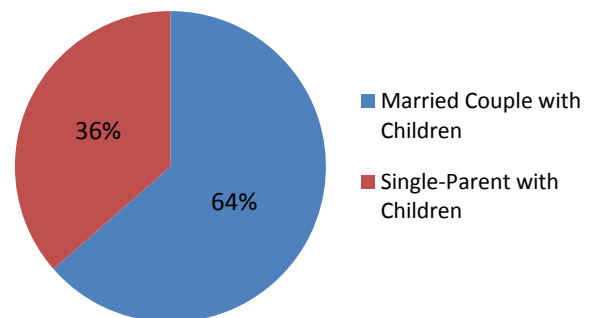
**Household Size in the Newton GRYD, 2010**



**Marital Status in the Newton GRYD, 2010**



**Families with Children in the Newton GRYD, 2010**



Further data gathering directly from the community members is necessary to determine the specific types of resources or capacities needed. For example, a survey with community residents may reveal that additional resources are not needed, but the existing resources may need to have other language capacities to adequately serve the community.

### ***Civic Participation***

Civic participation represents people's involvement in their community, their level of commitment to the issues affecting them and may even reflect neighborhood cohesion and trust among residents. There were 10,827 voters in the 2008 General Election in the Newton GRYD zone. This is 4,663 (76%) more people than those who voted in the 2006 elections.<sup>3</sup> This increase in participation must be analyzed with the issues and significance of each election to make significant conclusions around civic participation. However, at the least, an increase in voter participation reveals the potential to engage more residents and to gather community support and encourage continued involvement in planning and policy issues that directly affect community residents.

<sup>2</sup> Nielsen Claritas, Inc. US Census Estimates, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Statewide Database at the University of California, Berkeley; the redistricting database for the state of California.

## Education

*Education characteristics are often indicators of workforce readiness, career development and the quality of educational institutions in the area. These characteristics suggest what resources might be needed in terms of educational programs and support services, as well as job training and employment services for area residents. These types of resources are particularly important in the Newton GRYD zone to provide support for youth development with positive, alternative opportunities to youth faced with pressures of gang activity and community violence.*

### Local Schools

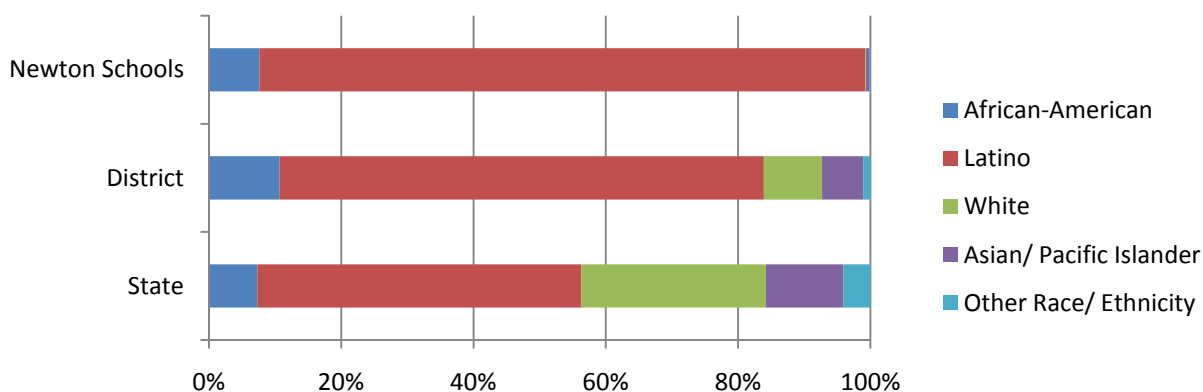
The following is a list of the major schools in the Florence-Graham/ 77<sup>th</sup> Street Division GRYD Zone (which most of the following data reflect):

- Hooper Avenue Primary Center
- Ascot Avenue Elementary School
- Center for Advanced Learning
- Holmes Avenue Elementary School
- Hooper Avenue Elementary School
- Nevin Avenue Elementary School
- Animo Ralph Bunche High School
- Animo Justice Charter High School
- Student Empowerment Academy
- Thomas Jefferson Senior High School
- Jefferson Community Adult School

### School Demographics

The schools in the Newton GRYD Zone predominantly consisted of Latino students, where they represented 92% of the student population. African-American students were the second largest racial/ethnic group in Newton GRYD schools, reflecting 8% of the area's student population.<sup>4</sup> With a significant majority of the Latino student population, the schools in the area were less racially and ethnically diverse compared to other schools within the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) as well as schools throughout the state of California.

#### Race/ Ethnicity in Newton GRYD Schools, 2009

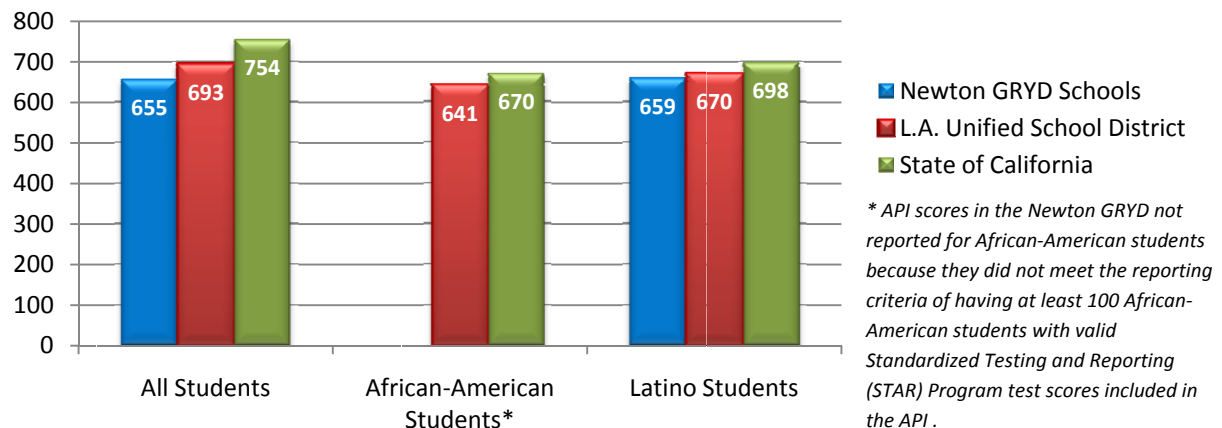


The average Academic Performance Index (API) scores for all schools in the area show that local schools performed at lower levels than the district and state in 2009. Latino students scored very similarly to the scores of all students combined in the Newton area schools and slightly lower than all students combined in the district and statewide. The API scores for African American students were not available for 2009, presumably because African-American students represented such a small percentage of the

<sup>4</sup> California Department of Education, 2009. School demographic data.

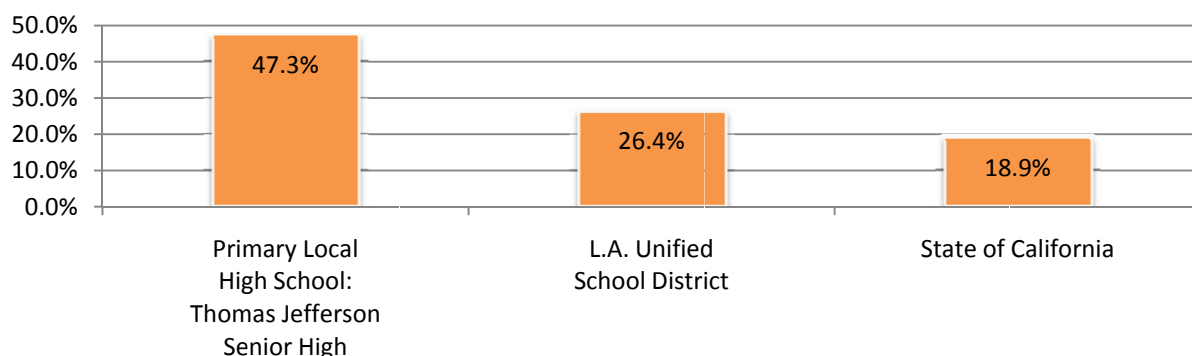
student population at each Newton GRYD school (according to the California Department of Education, API data are “reported for only numerically significant subgroups. Subgroups... must contain at least 100 students with valid... test scores included in the API...”).<sup>5</sup> The lower performance level for all students in the area requires deeper study into the causes for performance differences including students’ learning environments, cultural learning styles, and socio-economic factors such as poverty status, community violence, educational attainment level of parents, and any other aspects that may affect a student’s education.

### Average Academic Performance Index (API) Scores, 2009



The drop-out rate for the local high school, Thomas Jefferson, was 47%, nearly twice the drop-out rate for the school district and two and a half times the rate for the state of California.<sup>6</sup> In a community with such a high drop-out rate, alternative education programs, job training and employment services are critical to providing the necessary support to promote youth development. If education may lead to greater economic opportunity, youth who do not go through traditional modes of education need additional support through programs and resources that promote alternative transitions into the economic environment and allow them to become positive contributors to their community.

### Drop-out Rate (4-year adjusted) for Primary Local High Schools in the Newton GRYD, 2009



<sup>5</sup> California Department of Education, 2010.

<sup>6</sup> California Department of Education, 2009. Four-year adjusted drop-out rate accounts for school transfers and re-enrollments.

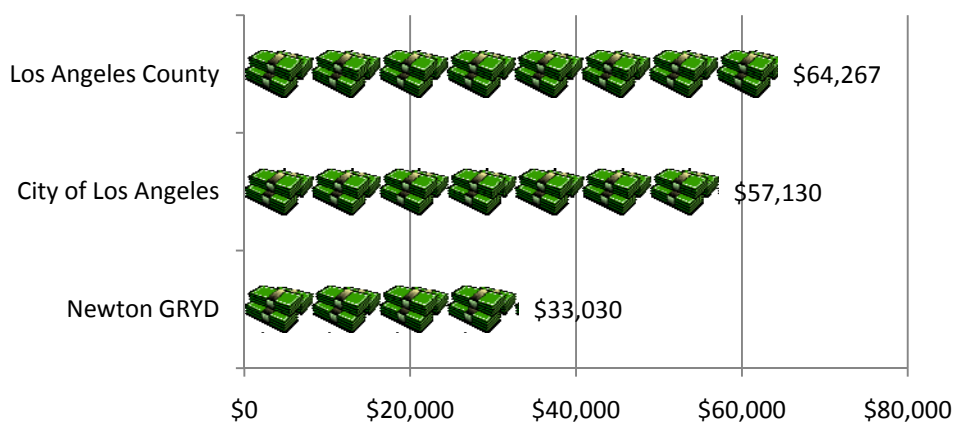
## Economic Environment

*Economic characteristics represent the individual and collective financial resources of a community. These characteristics generally reflect a community's production and distribution of wealth, income, and commodities. Key economic characteristics include poverty status, income, employment status, and characteristics related to local industry and commerce. Analysis of these characteristics assesses the conditions of the local economy, families, households, and individuals and helps to identify the community's strengths and challenges in promoting and sustaining overall economic growth.*

### Income

The average median household income for census block groups located in the Newton GRYD zone was \$33,030. This was 42% less than the average median household income for census block groups in the City of Los Angeles and nearly 50% less than the average median household income for block groups in LA County.<sup>7</sup>

**Average Median Household Income (for Block Groups, in each area), 2010**



The significant difference in average median incomes for the GRYD zone compared to the City and County justifies a need for income support services and perhaps additional research on the local economy. This may include surveys, research and data gathering on the informal economy, which includes street vendors, food trucks, and similar types of businesses that might not get counted with the revenues of more traditional businesses in a fixed location.

### Employment

Employment status represents another key economic characteristic of a community. In the Newton GRYD Zone, eighty-six (86%) percent of the civilian labor force were employed, while 14% were unemployed.<sup>8</sup> When compared to the rates of employment and unemployment city and countywide, the employment rate in the Newton GRYD was slightly lower than the rates for the city and county.<sup>9</sup> The rate of unemployment in the GRYD was slightly higher (by 5-6%) than the unemployment rates of the city and county.

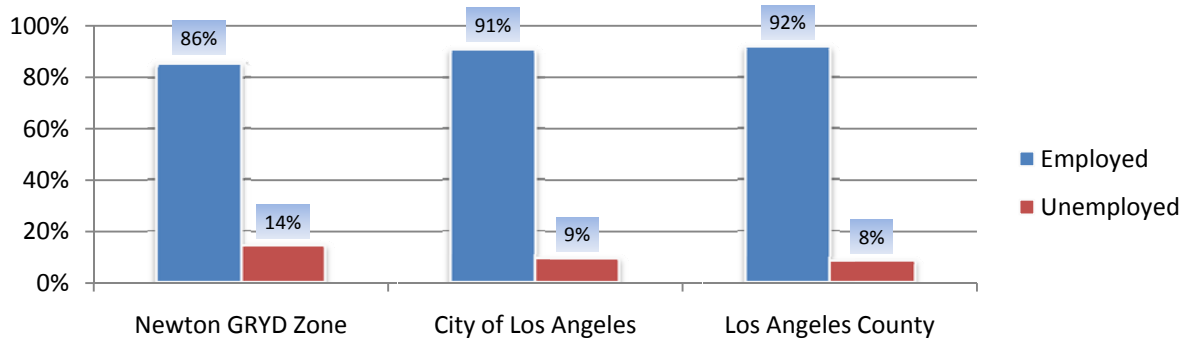
<sup>7</sup> Nielsen Claritas, Inc. US Census Estimates, 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Nielsen Claritas, Inc. US Census Estimates, 2009.

<sup>9</sup> Nielsen Claritas, Inc. US Census Estimates, 2009.

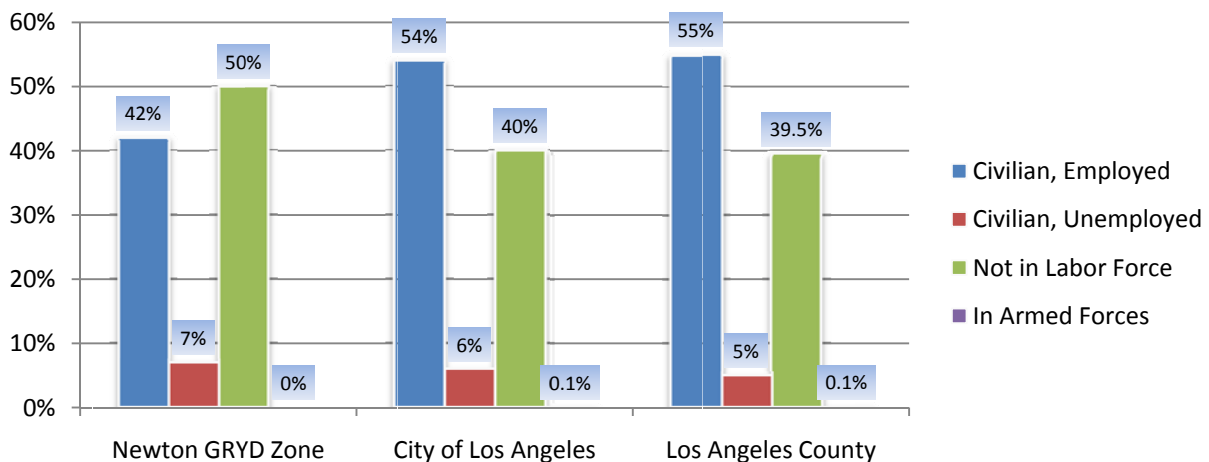


### Employment/ Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force, 2009



In looking at the employment status of the general population of ages 16 or older, all three areas had a relatively significant proportion of the population who were not in the labor force. For the Newton GRYD Zone, fifty percent (50%) of the general population ages 16 or older were not in the labor force, almost comparable to 40% within the City of Los Angeles and 39% within Los Angeles County.<sup>10</sup> According to the United States Census Bureau, “Not in Labor Force” includes “[a]ll people 16 years old and over who are not classified as members of the labor force [and] consists mainly of students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers interviewed in an off season who were not looking for work, institutionalized people, and people doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the reference week).”<sup>11</sup> This statistic may call for further investigation into any underlying reasons that this proportion of the community was not in the labor force.

### Employment Status of Population Ages 16+, 2009



<sup>10</sup> Nielsen Claritas, Inc. US Census Estimates, 2009.

<sup>11</sup> American Community Survey, Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2008 Subject Definitions. U.S. Census Bureau.  
<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2008/usedata/2008%20ACS%20Subject%20Definitions.pdf>

### ***Local Economy***

The top 3 industries by employment in the Newton GRYD were Manufacturing (36.5%), Retail Trade (10%), and Construction (8%).<sup>12</sup> The percent of employed civilians ages 16 and over in the Newton GRYD who worked in the Manufacturing industry was 23% higher than the percent of workers in throughout the City of Los Angeles and 21% higher than the percent of workers throughout the County. Relatedly, two out of three top occupation types in the Newton GRYD appeared to further support manufacturing as the area's predominant industry of employment. The three top occupations were Production Occupations (34%), Office and Administrative Support Occupations (11%), and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (10%).<sup>13</sup> The percent of those employed in Production Occupations was more than three times the percent of those employed in these occupations throughout Los Angeles City (10%) and Los Angeles County (10%).<sup>14</sup> The percent of Newton GRYD residents who worked in the Office and Administrative Support Occupations was less than the City and County percents, while the percent of residents who worked in Transportation and Material Moving Occupations was slightly higher than the City and County percents.

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<sup>12</sup> Nielsen Claritas, Inc. US Census Estimates, 2009.

<sup>13</sup> Nielsen Claritas, Inc. US Census Estimates, 2009.

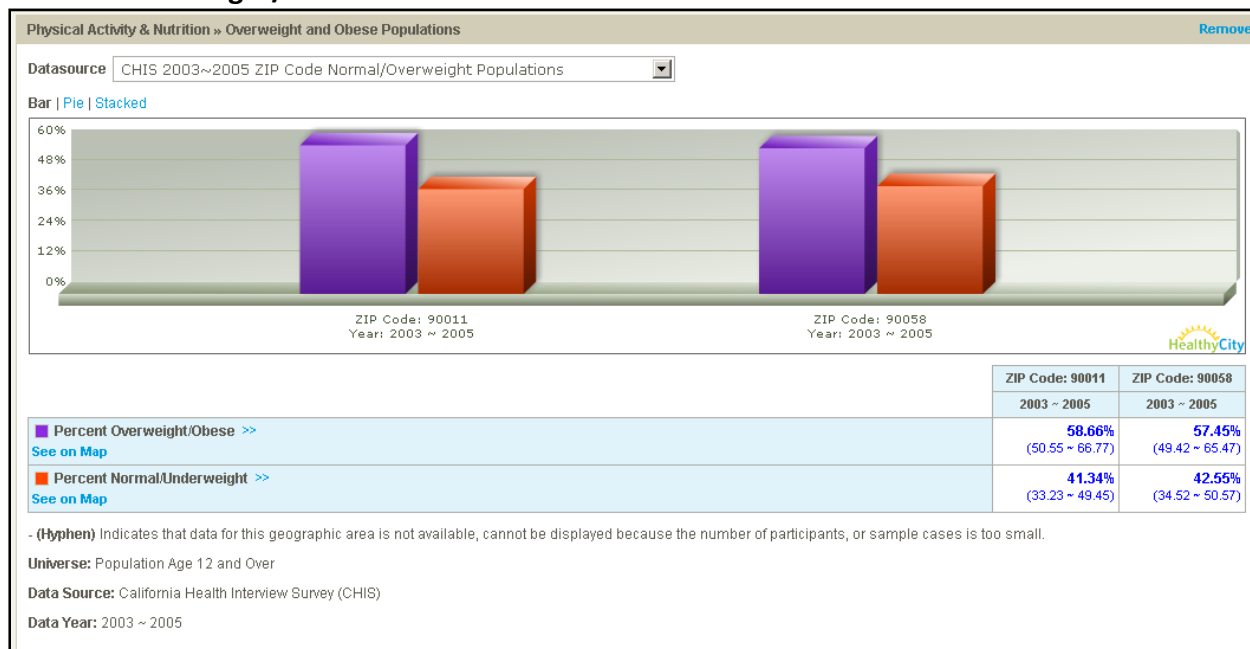
<sup>14</sup> Nielsen Claritas, Inc. US Census Estimates, 2009.

## Health Conditions

*The condition of physical and social environments; the places where people live, work and play, have a direct and profound impact on health, determining everything from access to affordable health care, to the presence of healthy food opportunities and the quality of the air people breathe. As we explore the distribution of social and environmental factors elsewhere in this profile, we may begin to see how closely they follow the patterns of health and disease in our communities. Approaching health and its connection to the physical and social environment can provide powerful insight into the priority health needs in a community, and the type of policy and other changes needed to reverse health outcomes and inequities, and build a healthier communities.*

Exploring health conditions in the Newton GRYD zone may help determine their relationship to socio-economic factors and the physical environment. An average 58% of people were overweight or obese in the two ZIP codes (90011 & 90058) that encompass the GRYD zone.<sup>15</sup> With nearly 60% of the population being overweight or obese in the GRYD zone and surrounding area, there is a clear need for particular programs to address the health concerns of the population. Further research into the causes of these health issues will reveal whether the needs are related to healthcare, physical activity, social support programs, accessibility of nutritional foods, the socio-economic environment, the physical environment, a combination of any of these factors, or some other cause.

### Percent Overweight/Obese in the Newton GRYD Zone



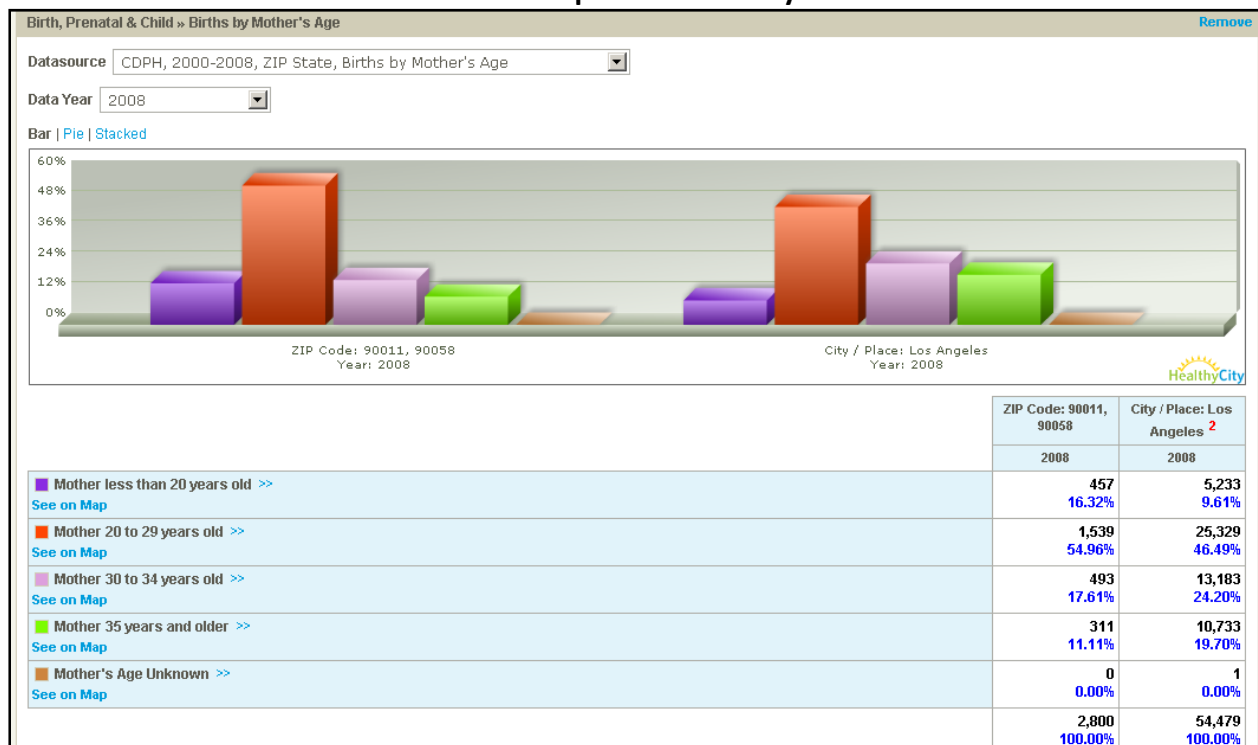
Other health conditions affecting the population include heart disease and cancer, which were two of the leading cause of death in the area of and around the GRYD zone. While slightly lower than City of Los Angeles percentages, cancer and diseases of the heart accounted for 47% of deaths in the GRYD zone in 2008.<sup>16</sup> With a prevalence of these types of health conditions there is the need to ensure adequate healthcare and services are available to the community.

<sup>15</sup> California Health Interview Survey, 3-Year Estimate; 2003~2005. Population Age 12 and Over. Data by ZIP code.

<sup>16</sup> California Department of Public Health, Deaths, 2008. Data by ZIP code.

Teen births accounted for 16.32% of births in the GRYD zone in 2008, compared to approximately 10% of births in the City of Los Angeles.<sup>17</sup> High rates of teen pregnancies may reflect a need for additional resources, including teen parenting programs, teen parent education programs, and prenatal services. A failure to provide appropriate programs and services to address the health issues of the community can affect not only the physical well-being of community members, but also the mental health and ability of the community to resist other socio-economic pressures including violence, poverty, and unemployment in the face of various health issues.

### Teen Births in the Newton GRYD Zone compared to the City of LA



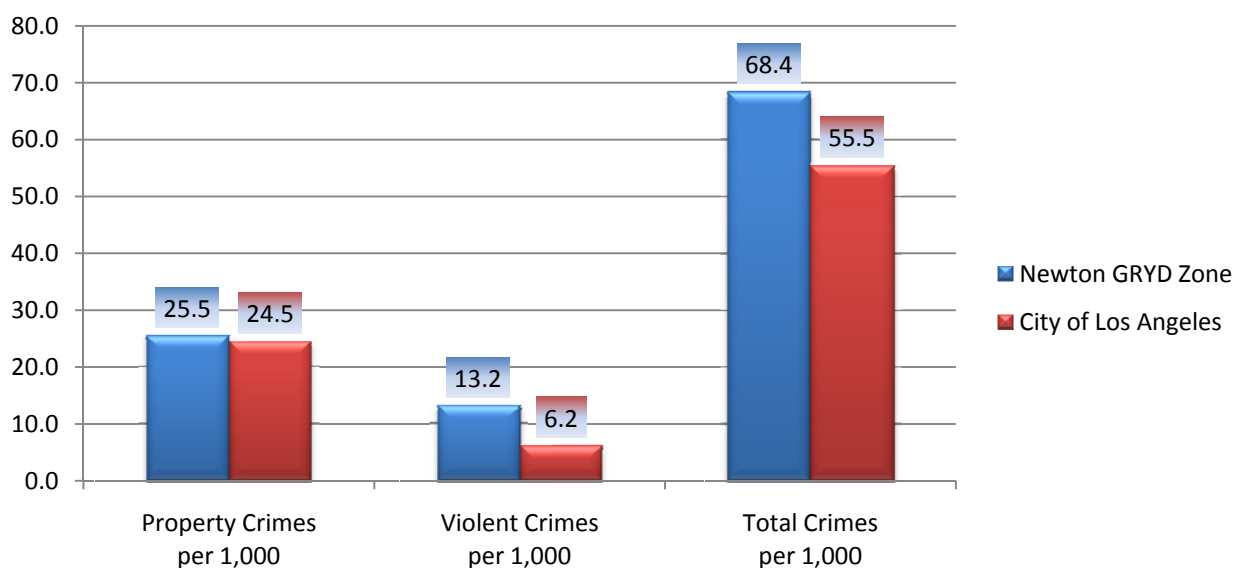
<sup>17</sup> California Department of Public Health, Births, 2008. Data by ZIP code.

## Public Safety

*Public safety characteristics describe the general security of a community. These characteristics can be connected to many other community aspects, such as psychological and physical well-being, desirability of the community, house value, and availability of resources. Public safety data include statistics of arrests, crime reported to the police, and the perception of safety among the residents of the neighborhood. In analyzing public safety data, both absolute values and rates provide a comprehensive measure of a community's safety needs. It is also useful to see how those statistics compare to the larger area surrounding the community, the city and county as a whole.*

In 2008, there were an estimated 867 property crimes and 449 violent crimes that occurred in the Newton GRYD Zone.<sup>18</sup> In comparing the crime rate (per 1,000 people) in the area to the citywide crime rate, the total crime rate in the GRYD zone was 23% higher than the rate for the City of Los Angeles. An estimated 68 crimes occurred per 1,000 people in the Newton GRYD Zone, while 56 crimes occurred per 1,000 in the city of Los Angeles as a whole.<sup>19</sup> The rate of violent crime also revealed significant differences between the rates for the GRYD Zone and the city. Violent crime per 1,000 people in the GRYD zone (13.2) was more than two times the rate for the city (6.2).<sup>20</sup>

**Crime per 1,000 People in the Newton GRYD Zone, 2008**



Analyzing the types of crimes that occur along with the culture and characteristics of a community, as presented through the additional data in this profile, helps to shape policing strategies and public safety policies that will address the unique needs of the community. A sense of the community members and their needs also supports gathering input directly from the community on how policing should be implemented and allows residents to take charge of the safety of their community.

<sup>18</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, 2008.

<sup>19</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, 2008.

<sup>20</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, 2008.

## Community Resources

*Community resources describe the strength of local institutions to support vulnerable populations. The resource environment of a community presents the infrastructure of opportunities available to residents for basic human services such as housing, health care, education, employment, and recreation. While the presence of resources does not equal accessibility, a scan of the area informs the potential to leverage resources and may also reveal a need for better outreach and connection to residents.*

There were a total of 19 nonprofit organizations within the GRYD zone with combined total nonprofit revenue of \$109,876,270.<sup>21</sup> Of those organizations, 73.69% were established before 1999. The average age and revenues of nonprofits are useful to understand an organization's presence within a community, including the relationship it has with community members, as well as its reputation as an established and trustworthy organization for funders to invest in.

In addition to nonprofits registered with the IRS, there is a significant number of churches in the area, and a minimal number of basic needs services, individual and family life services, and education services.

The attached resource map includes human and social services from 2-1-1 LA County's database as well as a database of churches and other faith-based organizations. The types of resources provided may include: Basic Needs (housing, food, financial support, etc.), Health Care, Education, Employment, Social Support, Recreation, Transportation, Faith-based community organizations, Re-entry Services, Nonprofits in the area, Gang Intervention workers, and Youth Centers.

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<sup>21</sup> Internal Revenue Service, IRS Form 990, 2006.

## Summary

The data and statistics presented paint a story of the Newton GRYD zone in terms of physical health, safety, economic stability, educational attainment, the built environment and overall community well being. In addition, the overall characteristics of a community are often shaped by the presence and lack of resources. Further participatory research in the community will allow residents to contextualize the information and their needs based on community knowledge.

The data reveal noticeable disparities in terms of household income and academic performance among school students in comparison to the City and County of Los Angeles. With the average household income at nearly half as much as that of LA County, and high school drop-out rates 80% higher than the district and two and a half times higher than the state, the Newton GRYD zone is in need of economic and education resources. The community is highly dense with four or more person households representing two thirds of all family households in the area. Teen births are over 6% higher in the GRYD zone than in the City of LA and heart diseases and cancer are the leading causes of death. Finally, the presence of a majority Latino population may support the need for more language and culture-specific services within the community. All of the characteristics reveal a need for specific types of resources that support the community members and promote positive socio-economic and physical environments. Once the community environment is suitable to support all of its needs, the implementation of programs, resources, and policy changes will allow for the improvement of the overall community to address and counter issues of violence and promote youth development.

The data present an important picture and urge the need to start exploring the existing conditions and beginning to identify potential needs of the community. Additionally, more in-depth data gathering, that involves the engagement of community residents and expresses their specific needs, will further inform an action plan to implement policy and programmatic changes.



# Assets/ Resources and Services near the Baldwin Village, Florence/ Graham, and Newton GRYD Zones, 2010

