

# FOREWORD

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services is committed to working with communities to improve the health of every resident. This report, The Health of Angelenos, provides an assessment of the health of the County's population and information on the many factors that influence health. This important tool and the availability of improved health data will:

- Help public and private organizations to define health-related priorities.
- Support planning activities for improving health.
- Evaluate the impact of actions to reduce the burden of specific diseases and types of injuries, and underlying health risk factors.
- Monitor progress in meeting national, state and county health objectives.
- Formulate recommendations for new or revised policies and programs.

To make lasting health improvements we need to strengthen our collective efforts to prevent illness and injuries. These efforts should promote healthier behaviors, such as getting children immunized, avoiding illicit drugs and tobacco products, not abusing alcohol, eating wisely and in moderation, wearing seatbelts and participating in regular physical activity. These prevention efforts go hand-in-hand with assuring access to health related services, including those that either prevent disease before it starts or early in its course, such as age- and gender-appropriate cancer screening and the early detection and effective management of chronic diseases. To achieve success in these efforts we must not ignore the social and environmental factors that can adversely affect health, such as poverty and income disparities, social status and social support, and conditions in the physical environment, air and water quality, housing conditions, and the presence of environmental toxins.

The data in this report describes health status, health risks, medical care access and the broader health determinants. Many of the findings illustrate the significant health disparities between racial and ethnic groups in our county, and mirror racial/ethnic trends seen throughout the nation. Reducing and eliminating these disparities is among the Department of Health Services' highest priorities.

We provide this data, and continue work to deliver additional useful data, for our partners in the private sector, government agencies and communities. Together, we can improve the quality of life for all Angelenos.

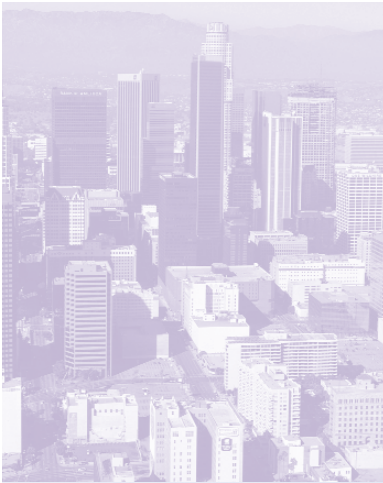
Finally, we are pleased to provide health data to you on our website. Visit us at [lapublichealth.org](http://lapublichealth.org).



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## Acknowledgements

### Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

*Gloria Molina*  
*Yvonne Brathwaite Burke*  
*Zev Yaroslavsky*  
*Don Knabe*  
*Michael D. Antonovich*

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### Health of Angelenos is a publication of the Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology

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### Many thanks to the following individuals within the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services for their contributions to this report:

*Nicole Alexopoulos, MPH; Johanna Asarian-Anderson, RD, MPH; John Bacon; Nabila Beshai, PhD; Joshua Brobowsky, MPH; Joan Chen; Hong Chen, PhD, MPH; David Dassey, MD; Paul T. Davidson, MD; Kathleen Dinsmore, MBA; Cynthia Harding, MPH; Alex Ho, MD, MPH; Jeffrey Johnson, MPH; Ingrid Lamirault, MPH; Loren Lieb, MPH; Anna Long, PhD, MPH; Mark Miller, MS, MPH; Larry Portigal, MS; Sharon Pruhs, MS; Julie Richmond; Marc Strassburg, DrPH; Robert Hurd Settlege, MD, MPH; Cheri Todoroff, MPH; Amado Ulloa; Greg Vaughn, MPH; Billie P. Weiss, MPH; Amy Wohl, MD; Antronette Jancey, MD, MPH.*



### In addition, thank you to the following individuals for their contributions of data and experience which assisted in the development of this publication:

*Michael Cousineau, DrPH, USC; Wendy Cozen, MD, LAC/USC Cancer Surveillance Program; Bonnie Davis, PhD, California Behavioral Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey; Neal Halfon, MD, MPH, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities; John Hedderson (formerly of Los Angeles County Urban Research Division); Jacquelyn McCroskey, PhD, USC and Children's Planning Council; Manuel Moreno, PhD, Urban Research Division; Marge Nichols, United Way of Greater Los Angeles; Robin Jones, California Department of Health Services.*

*Special thanks to Kevin Hummer and Barbara Jefferies of BoldFace Design, and Judie Klapholz, MSPH, Klapholz & Company, for their contributions to the design and production of this publication.*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter One: Demographic and Social Indicators</b>	<b>7</b>
Demographic and Economic Characteristics . . . . .	7–13
<i>Race/ethnicity, language, education, income and poverty, unemployment and violent crime</i>	
<b>Chapter Two: Access to Health Care</b>	<b>15</b>
Health Insurance, Regular Source of Health Care and Other Barriers to Health Care Access . . . . .	15–20
Use of Preventive Services . . . . .	20–21
<b>Chapter Three: Health Risks and Health Behaviors</b>	<b>23</b>
Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use . . . . .	23–27
Sexual Behavior . . . . .	28–29
Nutrition, Overweight and Physical Activity . . . . .	30–33
Injury Risk Behaviors . . . . .	34–36
Environmental Health Indicators . . . . .	37–40
<i>Air quality, lead and food safety</i>	
<b>Chapter Four: Health Outcomes</b>	<b>43</b>
Self-Perceived Health Status . . . . .	43–44
Burden of Disease and Injury (Disability-Adjusted Life Years) . . . . .	44–46
Maternal and Infant Health . . . . .	46–51
<i>Prenatal health and birth outcomes</i>	
Chronic Disease . . . . .	51–56
<i>Heart disease, cancer, hypertension and diabetes</i>	
Communicable Disease . . . . .	57–65
<i>HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases</i>	
Injury and Violence . . . . .	66–72
<i>Unintentional and intentional injuries</i>	
Leading Causes of Mortality . . . . .	73–83
<i>Death by gender, age and race/ethnicity</i>	
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>84</b>
List of Health Data Resources . . . . .	84–85