QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

Crime

———

Traffic

———

Quality of Education

———

Children Living in Poverty

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Quality of Life Indicators

The social environments of the Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys directly affect local business progress and performance. Furthermore, quality of life indicators impact the desirability of real estate assets in these regions. Public safety, traffic, and the enrichment of youth potential are important features of this environment. These quality of life indicators are examined with published information on local crime, traffic, and public education.
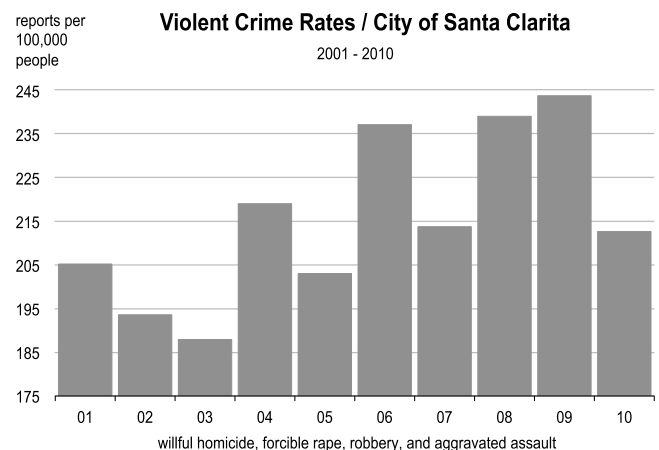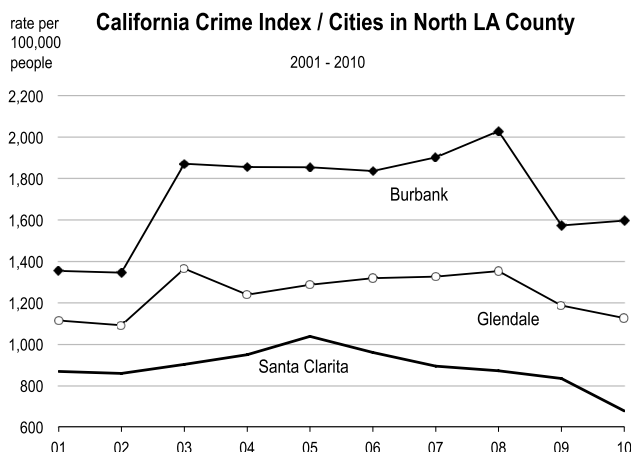
Crime

Areas of California can be compared to one another on the basis of the Total Crime Index (formerly the FBI Index). The Total Crime Index is the sum of crimes in the following categories: willful homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny and arson.
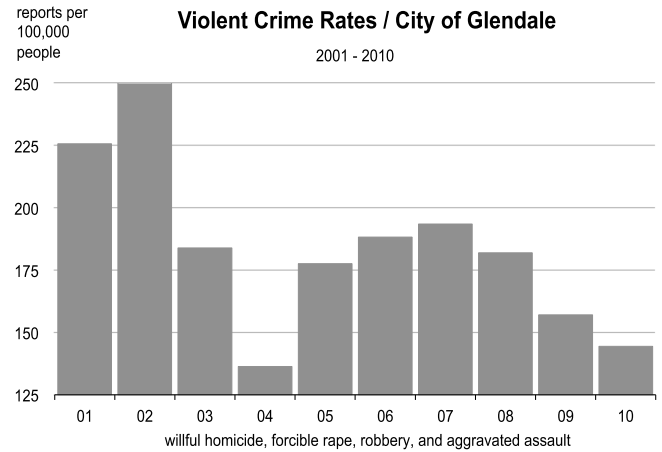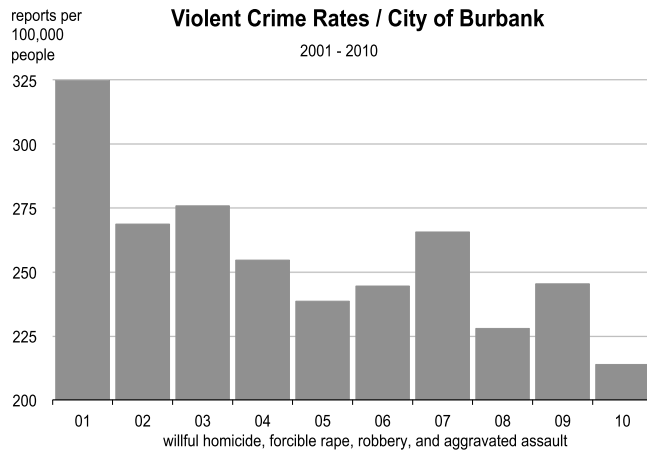
In 2010 (the most recent year for which data is available), the California Crime Index for the City of Santa Clarita declined by 18.9 percent from 2009, falling to 676 crimes per 100,000 residents. This is a large decrease. From 1990 to 2000, the index fell by 58 percent, but after 2000 there was a steady increase in reported crimes through 2005, in line with statewide trends. This trend reversed itself in 2006 and crime has continued to decline through 2010.

In the city of Glendale, crime declined moderately in 2010, falling by 5.1 percent. In Burbank, crime levels rose by 1.5 percent. All three cities – Santa Clarita, Burbank, and Glendale – have lower crime rates than the statewide average. In 2010, the CCI for California was 2,007 – 26 percent higher than Burbank, 78 percent higher than Glendale, and 197 percent higher than Santa Clarita.

After rising during 2008 and 2009, the violent crime rate in Santa Clarita declined sharply in 2010. The 2010 rate was recorded at 213 crimes per 100,000 residents, compared to 244 the previous year. However, it is not clear that the general upward trend has been broken. Beginning in 2003, violent crime

rate per 100,000 people

California Crime Index / Cities in North LA County
2001 - 2010

Burbank

Glendale

Santa Clarita

reports per 100,000 people

Violent Crime Rates / City of Santa Clarita
2001 - 2010

willful homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

reports per
100,000
people

Violent Crime Rates / City of Burbank

2001 - 2010

willful homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

reports per
100,000
people

Violent Crime Rates / City of Glendale

2001 - 2010

willful homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Crime Reports	North Los Angeles County							2003-2010
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	– actual reports, not adjusted for population –							
City of Santa Clarita								
Willful homicide	3	2	3	3	1	2	5	1
Forcible rape	16	30	17	26	22	19	20	21
Robbery	97	111	106	130	112	128	129	123
Aggravated assault	188	215	210	233	237	268	273	230
Burglary	681	728	838	766	764	638	705	574
Motor vehicle theft	473	463	541	425	416	461	327	243
All larceny	2,003	1,952	2,200	2,253	2,602	2,034	2,035	1,853
City of Burbank								
Willful homicide	3	4	3	1	3	2	1	0
Forcible rape	15	14	13	10	14	17	22	13
Robbery	69	82	67	75	98	86	93	98
Aggravated assault	196	162	163	166	159	130	137	110
Burglary	500	510	586	567	487	589	499	478
Motor vehicle theft	466	465	495	471	440	518	335	276
All larceny	1,728	1,870	1,690	1,683	1,840	1,834	1,829	1,933
City of Glendale								
Willful homicide	6	5	19	2	2	3	3	0
Forcible rape	18	11	14	14	12	21	15	17
Robbery	146	133	136	167	166	151	126	119
Aggravated assault	193	121	181	185	195	176	158	141
Burglary	800	737	723	627	611	708	635	642
Motor vehicle theft	793	661	614	579	523	506	397	328
All larceny	2,823	2,419	2,453	2,685	2,553	2,891	2,723	2,747

Source: California Department of Justice

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS SANTA CLARITA VALLEY 2014

rates have been rising steadily, and the fall in 2010 may be an anomaly. Violent crime rates over the past decade, however, have been more than 50 percent lower than in the 1990s.

In Burbank, violent crime rates have been steadily falling since 2001. Violent crime is now 35 percent lower than it was in 2001. At 214 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, Burbank's rate is slightly lower than that of Santa Clarita, and much lower than that of the state.

Much like Burbank, violent crime in Glendale has declined precipitously since the early 2000s. After dropping by 47 percent from 2002 to 2004, the violent crime rate rose slightly. However, by 2010, the rate had fallen to 145 incidents per 100,000 residents, almost three times lower than the state overall.
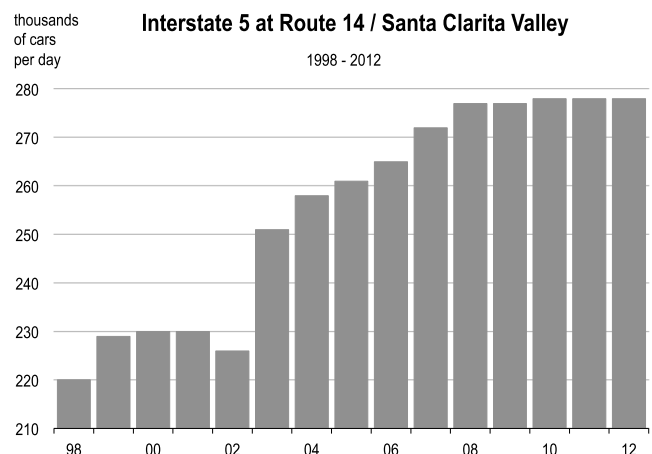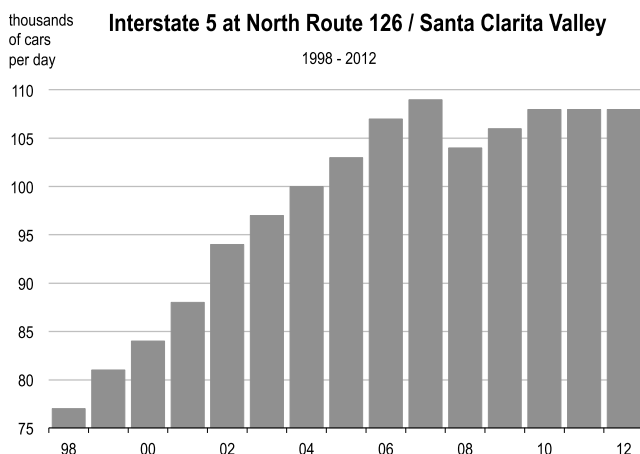
Despite geographic proximity, the Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys vary somewhat in violent crime rates. Both of these regions, however, exhibit rates that are far below California in general. In addition, several
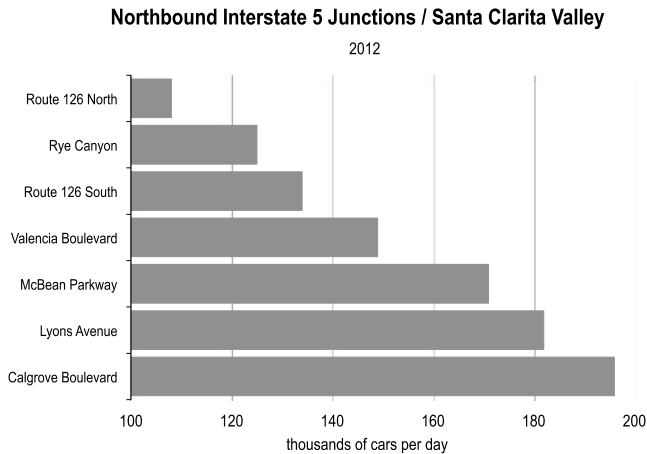
neighboring regions, including the Antelope Valley, experience much higher rates. This is largely a result of the relative affluence of the Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys, which both have median household incomes that are at, or exceed, the rest of the greater Los Angeles region.

Traffic

Traffic counts can reveal information about economic and demographic trends. In general, traffic counts decline during periods of economic weakness and grow during periods of strength. This occurs for several reasons, including the increased transportation of goods, a larger number of individuals that commute to work, and higher disposable incomes that can be spent on automobiles and gasoline.

Since the recession of 2007-2009, traffic counts have declined dramatically across the nation, state, and Los Angeles County. However, traffic counts have remained relatively steady in the Santa Clarita Valley, especially along the I-5 stretch. In general, this is the result of

thousands
of cars
per day

Interstate 5 at North Route 126 / Santa Clarita Valley

1998 - 2012

thousands
of cars
per day

Interstate 5 at Route 14 / Santa Clarita Valley

1998 - 2012

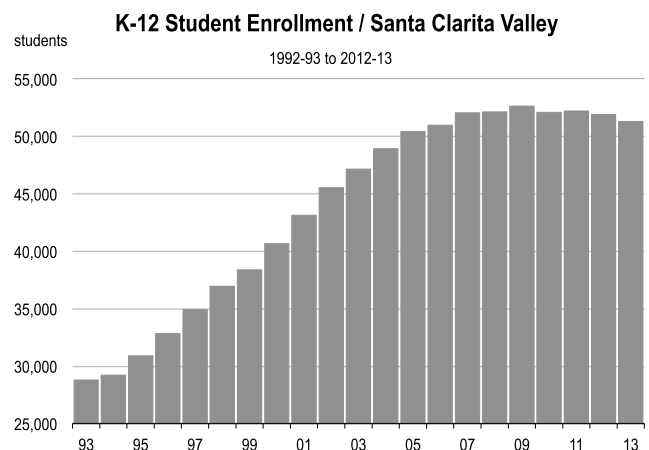**Northbound Interstate 5 Junctions / Santa Clarita Valley**

2012

continued migration into the region, and the importance of the I-5 corridor between the San Fernando Valley and Bakersfield. The California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) estimates traffic counts for state highways, including interstates and routes. Annual average daily traffic is the total traffic volume for the year divided by 365. The traffic count year is from October 1 to September 30.
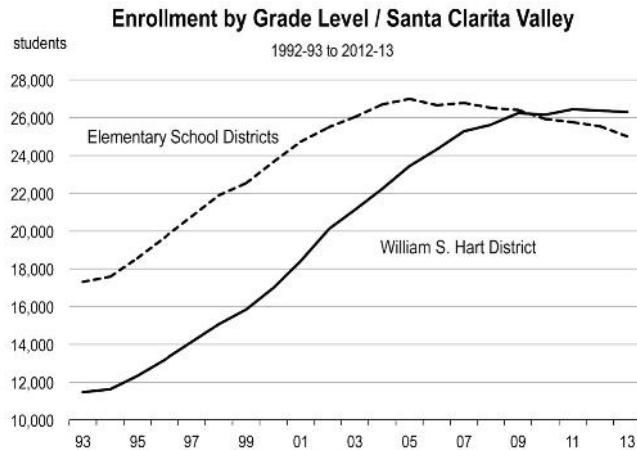
• In the Santa Clarita Valley, the highest traffic count during 2012 was at Interstate 5 at Route 14, where an average of 278,000 cars passed daily.

• Across the I-5 stretch, average daily traffic was unchanged at several locations, but declined slightly at others. Overall, the region saw a decline of 500 to 1,000 cars per day.

Quality of Education

Enrollments

• In the 2012-2013 school year, there were approximately 25,000 students in the K-12 grade levels, a decrease of about 550 from the previous year. Declines were observed at all elementary school districts, ranging from 73 students at Sulphur Springs to 201 at Castaic.

• There were 26,300 students in the William S. Hart district in 2012-2013, which is approximately 75 students less than the previous year.

K-12 Student Enrollment / Santa Clarita Valley

1992-93 to 2012-13

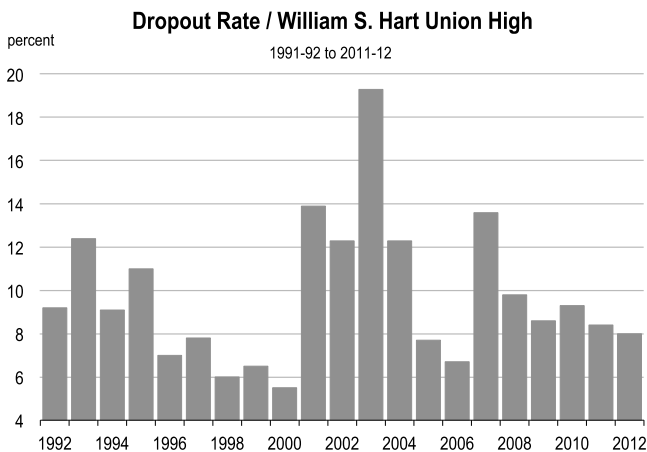**Enrollment by Grade Level / Santa Clarita Valley**
1992-93 to 2012-13

Dropout Rate

The rate at which students choose to dropout of school is an important indicator of how well schools are keeping students interested and preparing them for the workplace.

Teens who drop out of high school are unlikely to have the minimum skills and credentials necessary to function in today's increasingly technological workplace. The completion of high school is required for accessing post-secondary education and is a minimum qualification for most jobs. Additionally, a high school diploma leads to higher income and occupational status.

Public School Enrollment	Santa Clarita Valley						Fall 2006 - Fall 2013	
				– school year –				
	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
Castaic Union	3,433	3,397	3,303	3,211	2,982	2,939	2,864	2,663
Newhall	6,990	7,088	7,035	7,055	6,961	6,941	6,947	6,836
Saugus Union	10,521	10,507	10,404	10,362	10,387	10,295	10,178	10,028
Sulphur Springs Union	5,722	5,789	5,776	5,783	5,601	5,589	5,553	5,480
Total Elementary	**26,666**	**26,781**	**26,518**	**26,411**	**25,931**	**25,764**	**25,542**	**25,007**
William S. Hart Union	24,318	25,282	25,629	26,237	26,160	26,449	26,373	26,297
Santa Clarita Valley Total	**50,984**	**52,063**	**52,147**	**52,648**	**52,091**	**52,213**	**51,915**	**51,304**

Source: California Department of Education and California Economic Forecast

Dropout Rate / William S. Hart Union High

percent

1991-92 to 2011-12

• At William S. Hart Union High, dropout rates fell slightly to 8.0 percent in the 2011-2012 school year. This compares vary favorably to the 15.9 percent rate for California, and the 18.5 percent rate for Los Angeles County.

• Dropouts at William S. Hart are down from their highs in the early 2000's, and are on par with the average for the 1990's. They have increased somewhat since 2006, but this is partially due to better reporting of the dropout rate, and is not necessarily the result of a material rise in dropouts.
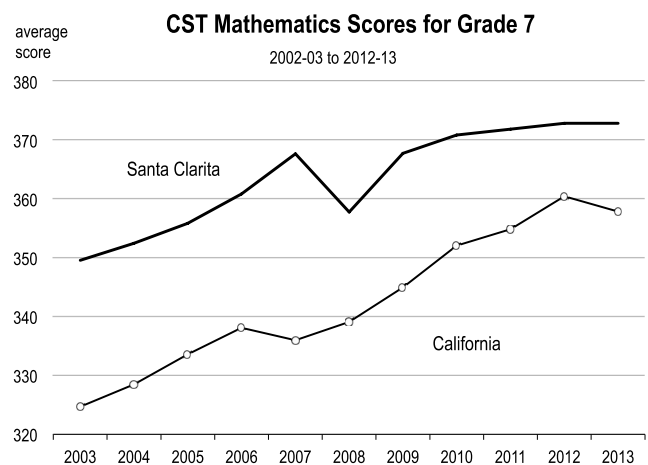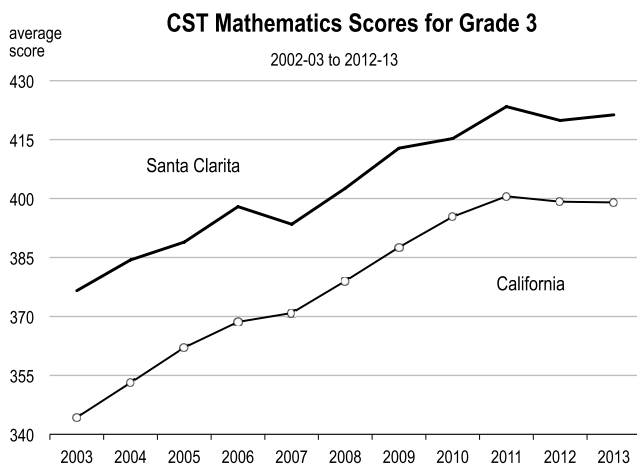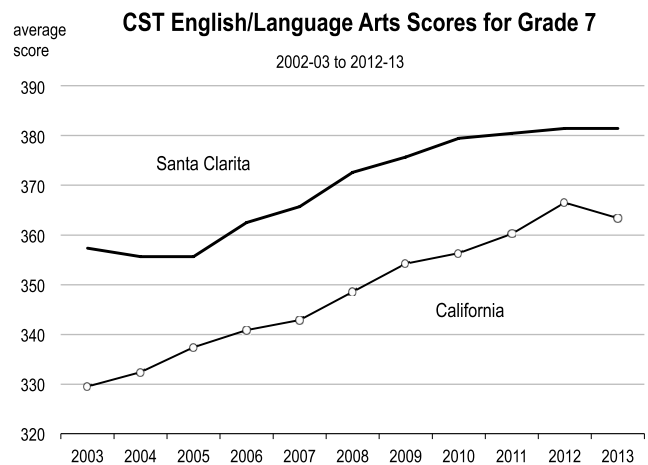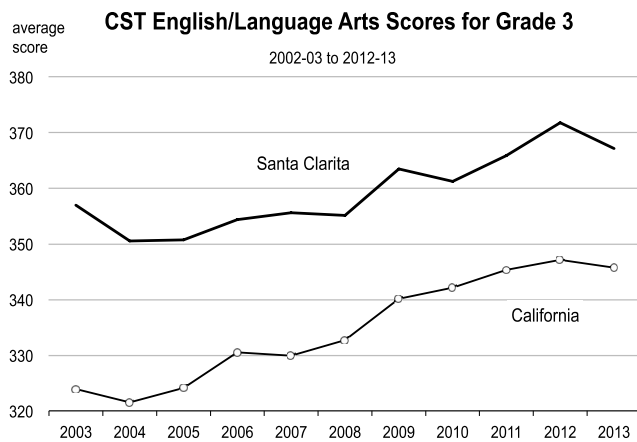
Academic Performance

Standardized testing has become an important measure of a school's academic performance. Standardized testing starts at the elementary school level where all students take the California Standard Test (or CST). It continues through high school where college and university bound students take the SAT. Schools can also be compared by the Academic Performance Index, which measures academic results from a number of different sources.

Elementary School Testing

For the past 10 years, the California Standard Test (CST) has been used to measure student performance at various grade levels. In this chapter, results are shown (arbitrarily) for grades three and seven as representative of elementary and junior high scores.

• In the Santa Clarita Valley, students routinely outperform their peers across Los Angeles County and the State of California. The Santa Clarita Valley has consistently outperformed the state average since the inception of the test in 2003.

• The highest scoring elementary districts in Santa Clarita were Saugus Union and Newhall Union.

• The highest scoring schools in Santa Clarita were Stevenson Ranch Elementary, Pico Canyon, Oak Hills, and Meadows Elementary.

• Other high scoring schools include Bridgeport, Valencia Valley Elementary, Helmers Elementary, Santa Clarita Elementary, and Tesoro de Valle Elementary.

• At the seventh grade level, the highest scoring schools were Rancho Pico Junior High and Rio Norte Junior High.

CST English/Language Arts Scores for Grade 3
average score
2002-03 to 2012-13

CST English/Language Arts Scores for Grade 7
average score
2002-03 to 2012-13

CST Mathematics Scores for Grade 3
average score
2002-03 to 2012-13

CST Mathematics Scores for Grade 7
average score
2002-03 to 2012-13

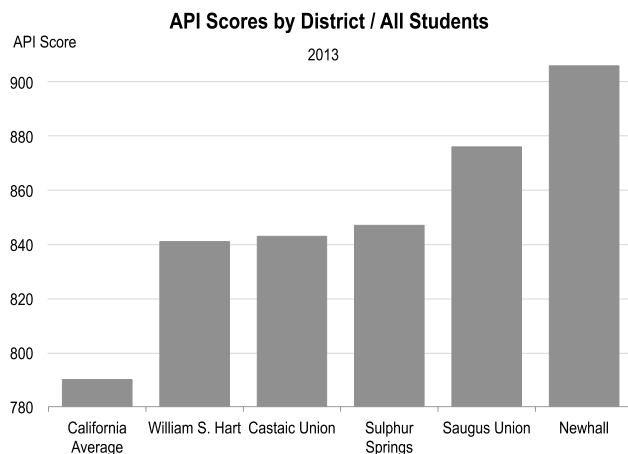| CST Test Scores by District	Santa Clarita Valley				2010-2012		
		Grade 3			Grade 7		
District Totals		**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**
William S Hart Union	Language	-	-	-	379	390	387
	Math	-	-	-	367	377	371
Sulphur Springs Union	Language	345	352	358	-	-	-
	Math	403	399	411	-	-	-
Castaic Union	Language	365	358	353	-	-	-
	Math	401	392	386	-	-	-
Saugus Union	Language	370	378	370	-	-	-
	Math	431	429	428	-	-	-
Newhall Elementary	Language	377	384	377	-	-	-
	Math	438	434	436	-	-	-
Los Angeles County	**Language**	**343**	**346**	**345**	**353**	**360**	**358**
	Math	**402**	**401**	**400**	**348**	**354**	**353**
California	**Language**	**345**	**347**	**346**	**360**	**367**	**364**
	Math	**360**	**367**	**399**	**355**	**361**	**358**
Santa Clarita	**Language**	**366**	**372**	**367**	**379**	**382**	**382**
	Math	**423**	**420**	**421**	**367**	**373**	**373**

note: - denotes not applicable
Source: California Department of Education

Academic Performance Index

The Academic Performance Index (API) is used to compare the academic results of schools and school districts. It is based on standardized tests that are administered throughout the state, and evaluates students at all grade levels. In the API system, scores range from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000.
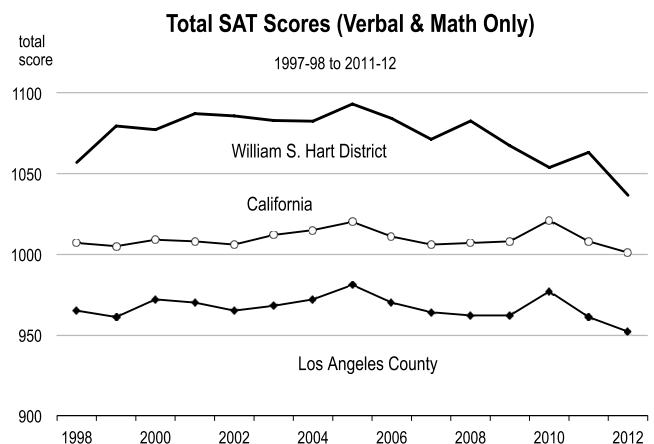
In 2013, all districts in the Santa Clarita Valley outperformed the state, and some by a wide margin. Newhall elementary recorded the highest score, reaching 906. The lowest performing district was William S. Hart, but with a score of 841, it far outpaced the California average of 790.

College Entrance Exam Performance

The (SAT) is a standardized test taken by juniors and seniors in high school. It is typically a requirement for admission to 4-year colleges and universities. Over the past few years, the scoring system has changed, and the highest attainable score is now 2400. The new test has three sections – critical reading, math, and writing – that are each worth 800 points. The previous SAT – which did not incorporate a writing section – was graded on a scale of 1600 points.

• For the 2011-2012 school year, every high school in the Santa Clarita Valley had a higher average SAT score than Los Angeles County and California.

API Scores by District / All Students
2013

Total SAT Scores (Verbal & Math Only)
1997-98 to 2011-12

• The district overall saw a small decrease in average scores, in tandem with Los Angeles County and the state of California.

• When accounting for all sections of the new test – verbal, math, and writing – Academy of the Canyons had the highest average score, whereas Golden Valley High had the lowest score.

College of the Canyons

• In the Spring of 2012, Enrollment at College of the Canyons decreased sharply.

• Because of budgetary issues, enrollment has fallen at many institutions across the state. At the College of the Canyons, enrollment fell to 17,926, a decrease of 19 percent over 2011.

• Between 2011 and 2012, declines were observed in most age groups. The largest drop occurred among those age 40-49. This group declined by almost 1,900 students.
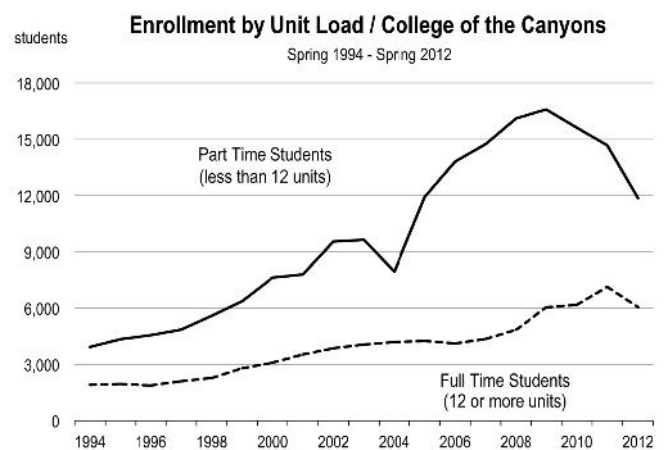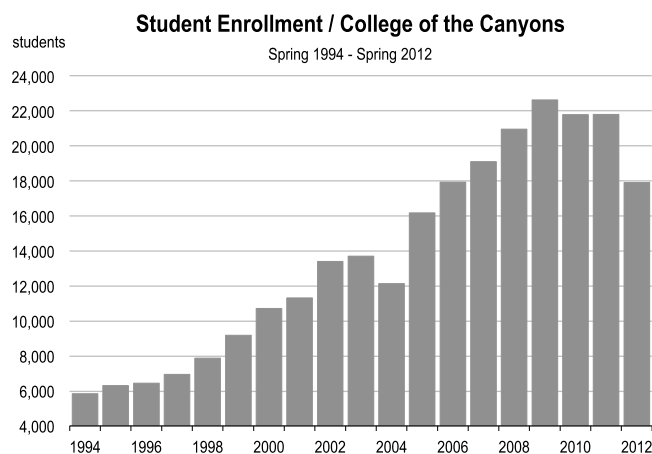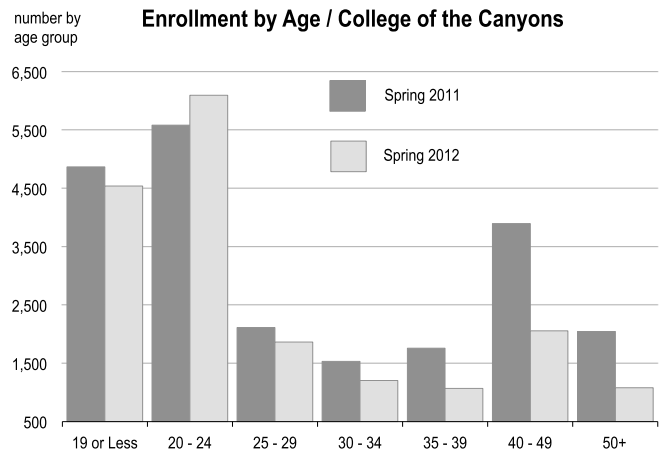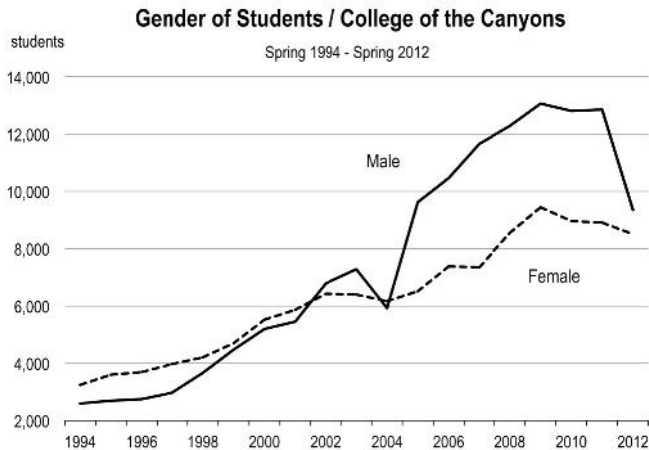
SAT Results					2011-2012
			--Average Scores--		
District / Aggregate	Verbal	Math	Writing	Total	Total (w/o writing)
Canyon High	504	519	501	1524	1023
Hart (William S.) Senior High	533	547	535	1615	1080
Saugus High	523	533	519	1575	1056
Valencia High	532	551	536	1619	1083
Academy of the Canyons	565	564	546	1675	1129
West Ranch High	528	552	533	1613	1080
Golden Valley High	494	512	493	1499	1006
William S. Hart Union HS District	526	510	525	1561	1036
Los Angeles County	466	486	471	1423	952
State of California	**491**	**510**	**491**	**1492**	**1001**

Source: California Department of Education

• In the Spring of 2012, the only increases were observed for those aged 20 to 24.

• In Spring 2012, 34 percent of students were enrolled in 12 or more units, one of the highest ratios of full time students on record. This was the result of a large decrease in part-time students, which fell below 12,000.

• Over the past several years, the gender structure of the College of the Canyons has been skewed towards males. However, since 2011, the vast majority of enrollment declines occurred among males. As a result, males outnumbered females by only a small margin in the Spring of 2012.
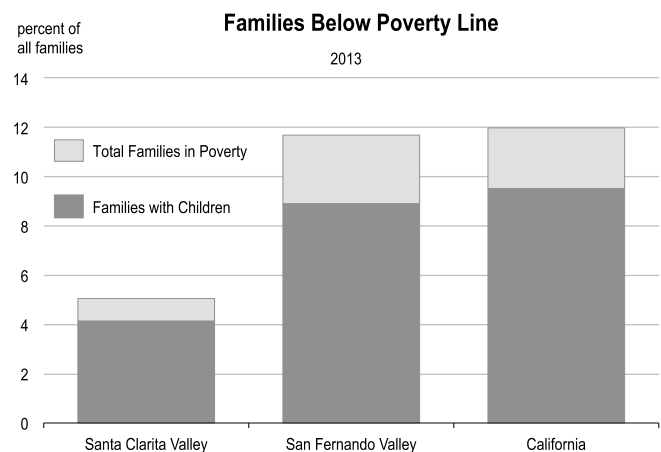
number by age group

Enrollment by Age / College of the Canyons

Student Enrollment / College of the Canyons
students
Spring 1994 - Spring 2012

Enrollment by Unit Load / College of the Canyons
students
Spring 1994 - Spring 2012

Gender of Students / College of the Canyons

Spring 1994 - Spring 2012

students

• In 2013, 5.0 percent of families in the Santa Clarita Valley were under the poverty level. A total of 4.1 percent had children. This is significantly lower than the levels for the San Fernando Valley and California.

• Across California, 12.0 percent of families were below the poverty level, and 9.5 percent had children. In the San Fernando Valley, 11.7 percent of families were living in poverty, while 8.9 percent had children.

Children Living in Poverty

Children under 18 are much more likely than adults to be poor. For a family of four with two children, the 2013 the federal poverty level was $23,550. Being raised in poverty places children at higher risk for a wide range of problems. Research indicates that poor children are disproportionately exposed to risk factors that may impair the development process and contribute to poor academic achievement.

Families Below Poverty Line

2013

percent of all families

Data for this chapter is from the California Department of Justice; the California Department of Transportation; the California Department of Education for charts on K-12 enrollment and performance; the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office for charts on the College of the Canyons; and Claritas for charts on children in poverty.