

Pasadena Pedestrian Plan

For a livable & walkable community

standards, symbolizes the community's commitment to value and celebrates its rich cultural heritage.⁴



Each summer the Colorado Street Bridge is celebrated with live music, dancing, and festive foods for its historical preservation.

Pasadena is home to renowned cultural and higher education institutions including the California Institute of Technology, the Pacific Asia Museum, the Norton Simon Museum, the Art Center College of Design, Fuller Theological Seminary and Pasadena City College. Along with ten libraries and other major places of interest and activity, they contribute collectively to the vitality, economy and prestige of the City. Popular activity centers include Old Pasadena, the Civic Center, the Playhouse District, South Lake Avenue, Hastings Ranch, North Fair Oaks Avenue-Orange Grove Boulevard, and the Brookside Park. Major commercial development is concentrated on Colorado Boulevard and Lake Avenue. These corridors generally exhibit a high level of architectural character and quality that contributes to a consistently strong and identifiable character. Many of the buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historic residential neighborhoods and the City's extensive landscaping enhance the City's image. More than 1,000 buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as part of a district.⁵ Pasadena's Historic Districts include: Old Pasadena, Prospect, Civic Center, Civic Center-Financial, Ross Grove, Washington Square, Orange Heights, Arroyo Terrace, and Garfield Heights Landmark District. In one neighborhood alone, more than 700 homes along tree-lined streets have been renovated and restored.⁶

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Pasadena's residential districts include eight landmark districts. Examples of landmark districts include Bungalow Heaven, Banbury Oaks, and Garfield Heights. Bungalow Heaven Landmark District is a rare and almost intact collection of over 800 Craftsman-style bungalow homes built from the turn of the century through the 1930's.

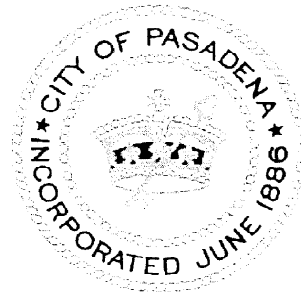
Banbury Oaks is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Pasadena with an intact collection of houses built from 1930 to 1951. A defining feature of this neighborhood is the wood-frame houses with river rock retaining walls and the rare brick bungalows with porches. In addition to California bungalows, which are the predominant style, there are also examples of Queen Anne, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Minimal Traditional and International style houses.

Source: 2004 Central District Specific Plan, Page 134

Residents and visitors are encouraged to experience the quality of these areas through walking tours that celebrate Craftsman homes, walks and landscapes, pre-1900 "Queen Anne" Victorian homes, and bungalow cottages. Pasadena is referred to as **"A City That Feels Like a Village"** and the quality of its residential communities contributes significantly to that image.⁷ About 57,000 trees line City streets and there are about 25,000 park and wildland trees. The public investment in trees is valued at more than \$100 million and private trees are estimated to be over 60% of the total urban forest. A recent survey of City residents reported that the characteristic most appreciated is its neighborliness.⁸

The community's name is derived from an Indian term for "crown of the valley" and a crown is incorporated into the City's seal. Pasadena is also known as the "City of Roses".

Both are apt images for this community of 23 square miles that seeks to celebrate its history, protect its neighborhoods, encourage good urban design and improve its walkable environs.



2.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

2.1.1 Population

Pasadena is a highly urbanized area with a population of 133,936 according to the 2000 Census estimate. The City's population grew at a pace of 1.8 percent from 131,591 in 1990 to 133,936 in 2000. In contrast, the population of Los Angeles County grew at a rate of 7.4 percent during the same time period, as illustrated in Table 2-1.⁹

Table 2-1: Population Trends

| | 1990 | 2000 | Change (1990 to 2000) |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Pasadena | 131,591 | 133,936 | 1.8% |
| Los Angeles County | 8,863,164 | 9,519,338 | 7.4% |

2.1.2 Density

The City covers an area of 23 square miles with an average density of 5,798.7 persons per square mile. Population density for the City is considerably higher than in Los Angeles County or California. Its density is nearly 2.47 times that of Los Angeles County and 26.7 times that of California, as illustrated in Table 2-2.¹⁰

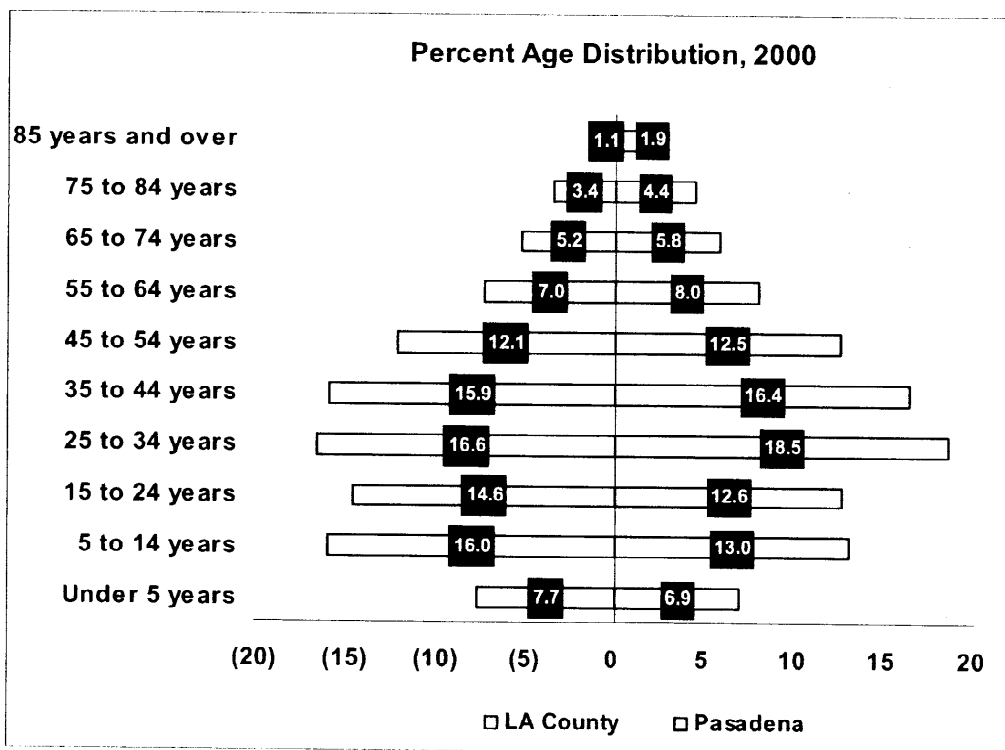
Table 2-2: Density Comparison

| | Pasadena | Los Angeles County | California |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------|
| Land Area, 2000 (Sq. Miles) | 23 | 4,061 | 155,959 |
| Persons Per Sq. Mile, 2000 | 5,798.7 | 2,344.2 | 217.2 |

2.1.3 Age

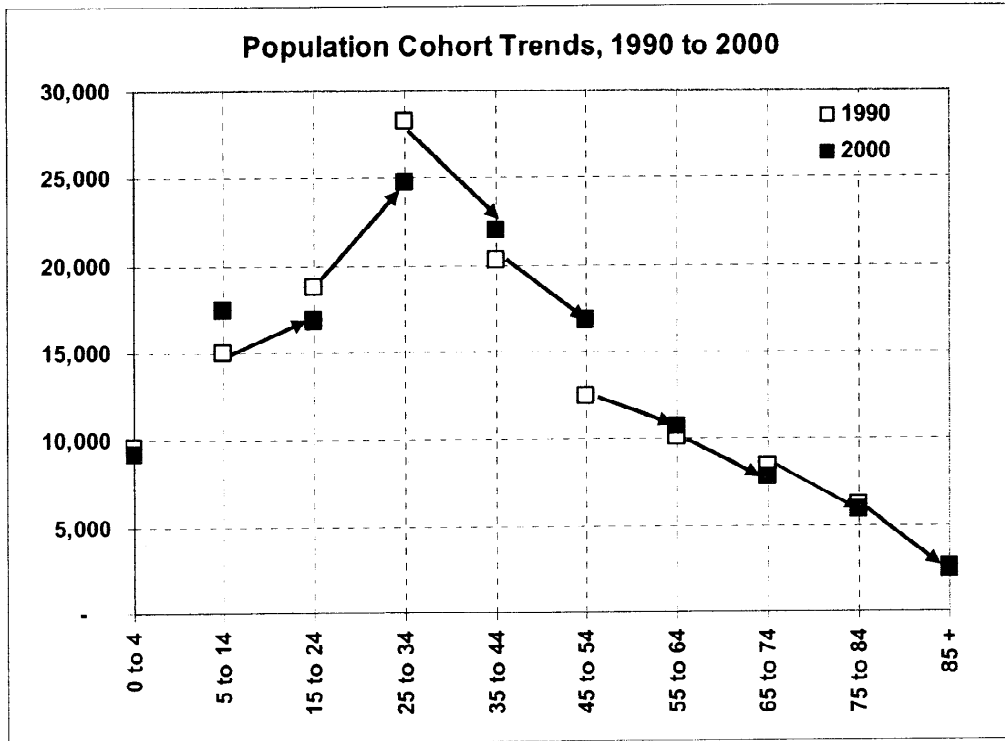
The median age for Pasadena residents is higher than Los Angeles County, 34.5 years compared to 32 years. There are fewer youth and children in the City relative to Los Angeles County. According to the 2000 Census, 23.1 percent of its population was below 18 years compared to 28 percent for Los Angeles County. However, the proportion of seniors (65 years and over) is higher as compared to Los Angeles County. There are 12.1 percent seniors in Pasadena in contrast to 9.7 percent for Los Angeles County. The largest segment of the City population is in the 25- to 34-year age group (18.5 percent) followed by 35- to 44-year age group (16.4 percent), and 45- to 54-year age group (12.5 percent).¹¹

Figure 2-1: Age Distribution



A cohort trajectory analysis of Pasadena's population from 1990 to 2000 provides an insight into the movements of age groups over time. Figure 2-2 traces the growth and decline of population groups residing in Pasadena. It shows a strong growth of population reflected in the sharp upward trajectory for cohorts under age 34 in 2000. The 25 to 34 age group in 2000 sharply increased by 32 percent becoming the largest age group which was previously the 15 to 24 age group in 1990. The remaining cohorts, age 35 and above, exhibit a sharp downward trajectory.

Figure 2-2: Population Cohort Trends



In the last five years, the City has undergone a renaissance with the addition of new mixed-use developments, retail and entertainment venues, affordable housing, the Metro Gold Line, and other amenities. All of these factors have made Pasadena one of the most desirable places in Southern California, attracting diverse population groups. Most of this population growth appears to consist of young urban professionals in the knowledge-based information and services sector. As a result, a sharp upward trajectory for cohorts 35 years and above can be expected in 2010 and beyond.¹²

2.1.4 Race/Ethnicity and Foreign Born

The community is ethnically diverse. In 2000, Non-Hispanic Whites accounted for the largest share of population at 38.8 percent followed by Hispanics at 33.5 percent, Non-Hispanic Blacks at 13.9 percent, Non-Hispanic Asians at 9.9 percent, Non-Hispanic Other Races at 3.6 percent, and Non-Hispanic American Indians at 0.3 percent.¹³

Nearly 32.3 percent or 43,277 of the City's residents are foreign born compared to 36.2 percent for Los Angeles County. As expected, most of the City's foreign born are from Latin America (56.1 percent) followed by

Asia (31.5 percent), Europe (8.1 percent), Africa (2 percent), North America (1.9 percent), and Oceania (0.3 percent).¹⁴

2.1.5 Language Skills

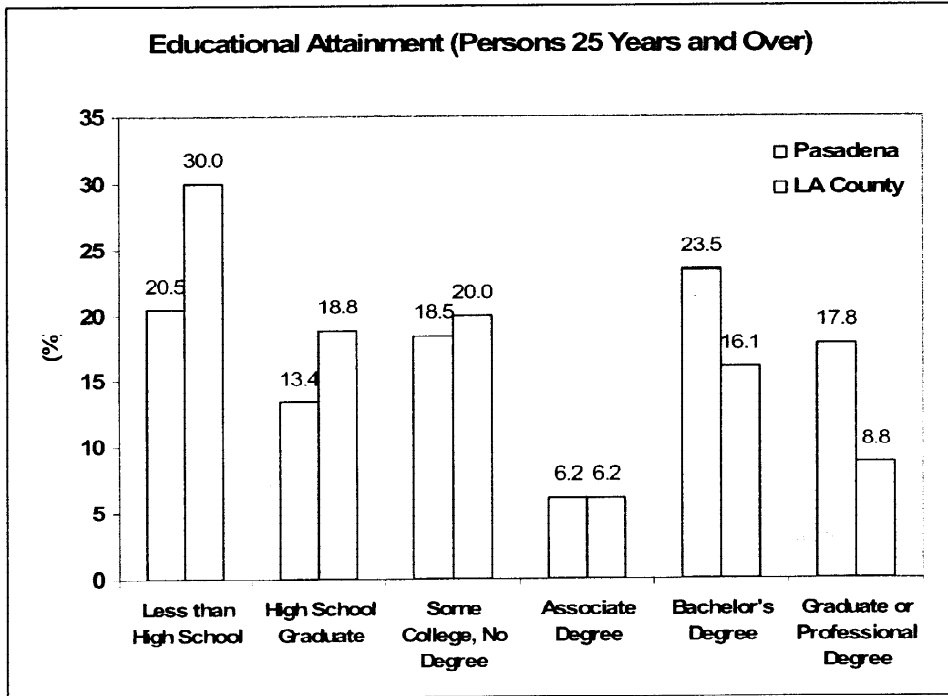
The proportion of individuals (five years and over) speaking English only at home is higher in the City compared to Los Angeles County. Of the 124,685 persons (five years and over) in the City, 55 percent speak English only. In comparison, 45.9 percent speak English only in Los Angeles County. Correspondingly, 45 percent of the population (five years and over) speak a language other than English at home in Pasadena while 54.1 percent speak a language other than English in Los Angeles County.

Nearly one-fifth (22.2 percent) of the individuals (five years and over) speak English less than “very well” in Pasadena. Nearly 15.8 percent or 19,677 individuals with Spanish spoken at home do speak English less than “very well” followed by 4,299 (3.4 percent) individuals with Asian and Pacific Island languages spoken at home and 3,275 persons (2.6 percent) with Indo-European languages spoken at home.¹⁵

2.1.6 Educational Attainment

According to the 2000 Census, nearly twenty percent of the City’s population (25 years and above) has less than a high school diploma compared to 30 percent for Los Angeles County. In Pasadena, nearly 79.5 percent of the individuals are high school graduates or have higher education, compared to 69.9 percent for in Los Angeles County. Similarly, the proportion of individuals in the City with a Bachelor’s degree or higher is significantly higher than in Los Angeles County. Approximately 41.3 percent of the individuals had a Bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 24.9 percent for Los Angeles County, as illustrated in Figure 2.3. School enrollment statistics also support this trend. In Pasadena, approximately 35.1 percent of all students (Pre-K to post-graduate) are enrolled in college or graduate school.¹⁶ Pasadena public libraries holdings numbered 700,000 items; more than 1,500,000 items circulated in 2000.¹⁷

Figure 2-3: Educational Attainment



2.1.7 Income

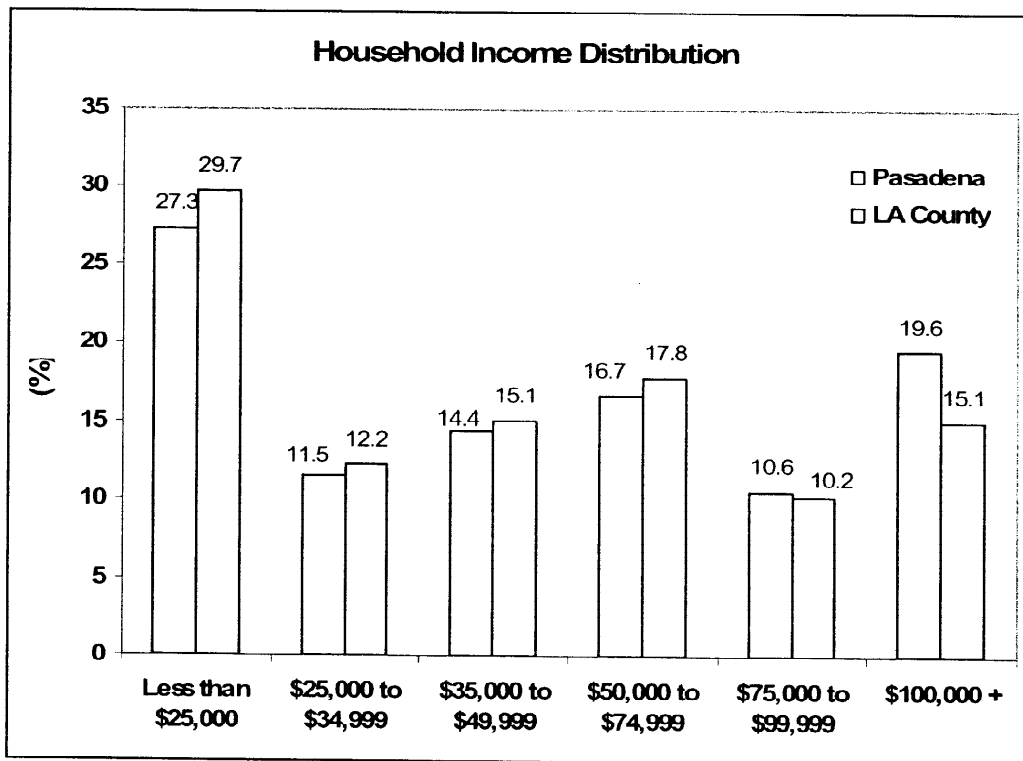
In 2000, Pasadena's median household income, median family income, and per capita income were 9.1 percent, 15.5 percent, and 36.3 percent higher than Los Angeles County respectively.¹⁸

As illustrated in Table 2-3 and Figure 2-4, fewer households in Pasadena had an income level of less than \$25,000 compared to Los Angeles County. The City's distribution of households with income levels between \$25,000 and \$100,000 is quite similar to Los Angeles County. However, in the \$100,000 and above household income range, the City has a significantly higher proportion of households relative to Los Angeles County. In Pasadena, 15.9 percent of the individuals were below the poverty level in 2000.¹⁹

Table 2-3: Comparison of Income Level

| Income Category | Pasadena | Los Angeles County | Percent Difference |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Median Household Income | \$46,012 | \$42,189 | 9.1% |
| Median Family Income | \$53,639 | \$46,452 | 15.5% |
| Per Capita Income | \$28,186 | \$20,683 | 36.3% |

Figure 2-4: Household Income Distribution



2.1.8 Occupation Profile

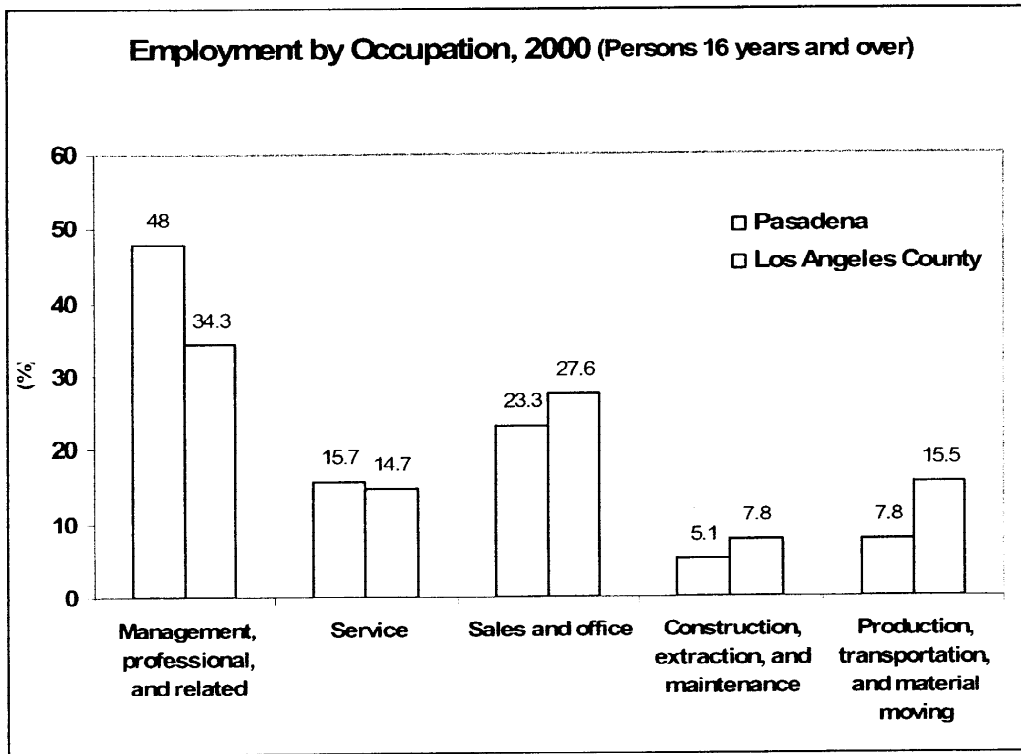
Pasadena is a predominantly white-collar city with more than 100,000 jobs.²⁰ In 2000, 63,104 residents (16 years and over) were employed. Approximately half of these people were involved in management, professional, and related occupations compared to nearly one-third for Los Angeles County, as illustrated in Figure 2.5. The proportion of service occupations is quite similar to Los Angeles County. The second leading

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category of jobs, sales and office occupations, accounted for 23.3 percent of occupations. Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations provided for 5.1 percent of all jobs of City residents relative to 7.8 percent for Los Angeles County.

Figure 2-5: Employment by Occupation



The proportion Pasadena residents employed in blue-collar jobs in the City was nearly half of Los Angeles County. In Pasadena, 7.8 percent of all employed residents were engaged in production, transportation, and material moving occupations compared to 15.5 percent for Los Angeles County.²¹

Pasadena's plans call for an increase in employment in the Central District Specific Plan area. This area could provide as many as 2,250 additional employment opportunities.²² As reported in other sections of this Plan, much of this growth will be directed to transit-oriented areas around the Gold Line stations.

2.1.9 People with Disabilities

As illustrated in Table 2-4, 20.3 percent or 25,076 civilian non-institutionalized (five years and over) Pasadena residents were on disability status. Higher rates of disability are found in the City's senior population (65 years and over). Nearly 42.6 percent of seniors were on disability status in Pasadena. Approximately one-fifth of the population between 21 and 64 years and 7.7 percent between the age group 5 to 20 years were on disability in the City.²³

Table 2-4: Disability Status of the Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population

| Age Group/ Disability | Pasadena | | Los Angeles County | |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Population 5 to 20 years | 26,196 | 100 | 2,338,627 | 100 |
| With a disability | 2,026 | 7.7 | 181,452 | 7.8 |
| Population 21 to 64 years | 81,923 | 100 | 5,475,226 | 100 |
| With a disability | 16,624 | 20.3 | 1,193,654 | 21.8 |
| Population 65 years and over | 15,090 | 100 | 893,212 | 100 |
| With a disability | 6,426 | 42.6 | 399,903 | 44.8 |

2.2 TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

2.2.1 Travel Behavior (Modal Split)

The commute to work pattern for Pasadena is very similar to that of Los Angeles County. Nearly 84 percent of people who live in Pasadena (16 years and over) commuted via car, truck, or van; 70.5 percent drove alone, while 13.3 percent carpooled. In comparison, 85.5 percent of Los Angeles County's commuters drove to work, as illustrated in Table 2.5.

The proportion of people taking public transportation to work was lower relative to Los Angeles County. In 2000, only 4.7 percent of commuters took public transit in Pasadena as opposed to 6.6 percent in Los Angeles

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County. It should be pointed out that these figures do not capture the increased public transit ridership resulting from the opening of the Metro Gold Line connecting Pasadena to downtown Los Angeles, enhanced ARTS bus services, and new housing in proximity to rail stations. The 13.7-mile-long light-rail service opened in July 2003 with six stations in Pasadena. There were 4.15 million boardings in fiscal year 2004 and 18,245 average weekday boardings.²⁴ Clearly, public transit ridership in the community has increased significantly since the 2000 Census.

Table 2-5: Commuting to Work (Workers 16 years and over)

| Commuting to Work | Pasadena | | Los Angeles County | |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Car, truck, or van - drove alone | 43,652 | 70.5 | 2,714,944 | 70.4 |
| Car, truck, or van - carpooled | 8,209 | 13.3 | 582,020 | 15.1 |
| Public transportation (including taxicab) | 2,897 | 4.7 | 254,091 | 6.6 |
| Walked | 3,280 | 5.3 | 113,004 | 2.9 |
| Other means | 1,481 | 2.4 | 60,048 | 1.6 |
| Worked at home | 2,372 | 3.8 | 134,643 | 3.5 |
| Total | 61,891 | 100.0 | 3,858,750 | 100.0 |

Nearly twice as many people walked to work in Pasadena as compared to Los Angeles County. According to the 2000 Census, 3,280 workers, or 5.3 percent of commuters, walked to work in the City. In contrast, only 2.9 percent commuters walked to work in Los Angeles County. However, Pasadena's trends are similar to other communities throughout the nation. There has been a significant drop in people walking to work - a 25.5 percent decline over the last decade.

The mean travel time to work is 25.9 minutes for Pasadena residents compared to 29.4 minutes in Los Angeles County. About 3.8 percent of commuters worked at home and 2.4 percent used other means of travel at a rate quite similar to Los Angeles County.²⁵

2.2.2 Vehicle Availability

In 2000, of the 51,827 occupied housing units in Pasadena, 6,140 or 11.8 percent of residents had no vehicle, as illustrated in Table 2.6. It is likely that people in these households carpool, take public transit, or walk for work and non-work trips. Los Angeles County has nearly the same proportion of households with no vehicles.

Pasadena had fewer households with two or three or more vehicles compared to Los Angeles County. However, there were more households with one vehicle in the City (41.6 percent) compared to Los Angeles County (37.0 percent).²⁶

Table 2-6: Vehicles Available (Occupied Housing Units)

| Vehicle(s) Available | Pasadena | | Los Angeles County | |
|----------------------|----------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| None | 6,140 | 11.8 | 393,309 | 12.6 |
| One | 21,551 | 41.6 | 1,158,027 | 37.0 |
| Two | 17,743 | 34.2 | 1,079,792 | 34.5 |
| Three or more | 6,393 | 12.3 | 502,646 | 16.0 |
| Total | 51,827 | 100.0 | 3,133,774 | 100.0 |

2.2.3 Residential Areas

Pasadena has many attractive residential neighborhoods. As of 2003, there were 55,521 housing units, an increase of 4% over 1990 with an average of nine residents per acre²⁷ (23 per hectare). The average household size is 2.5 persons.²⁸

Figure 2-6 shows the City's land use patterns. Light-yellow and pink areas illustrate low-density and high-density residential areas, respectively. Some of these areas are home to larger numbers of children and senior citizens as illustrated in Figures 2-7 and 2-8.

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Figure 2-6: Pasadena Land Use Map

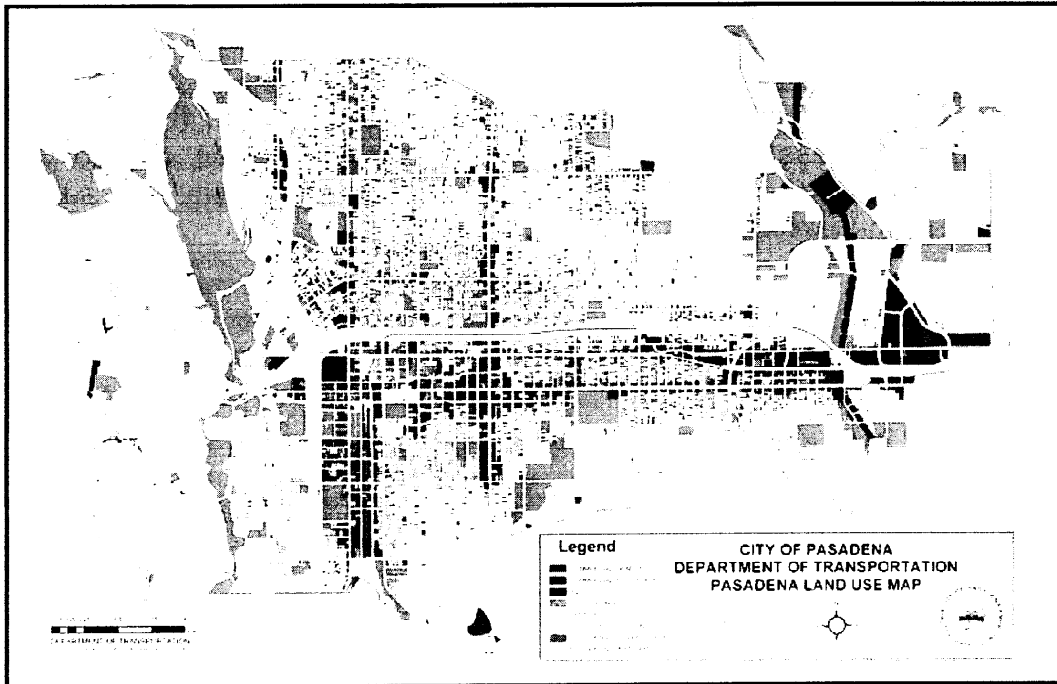


Figure 2-7: Concentration of Residents under Age of 12

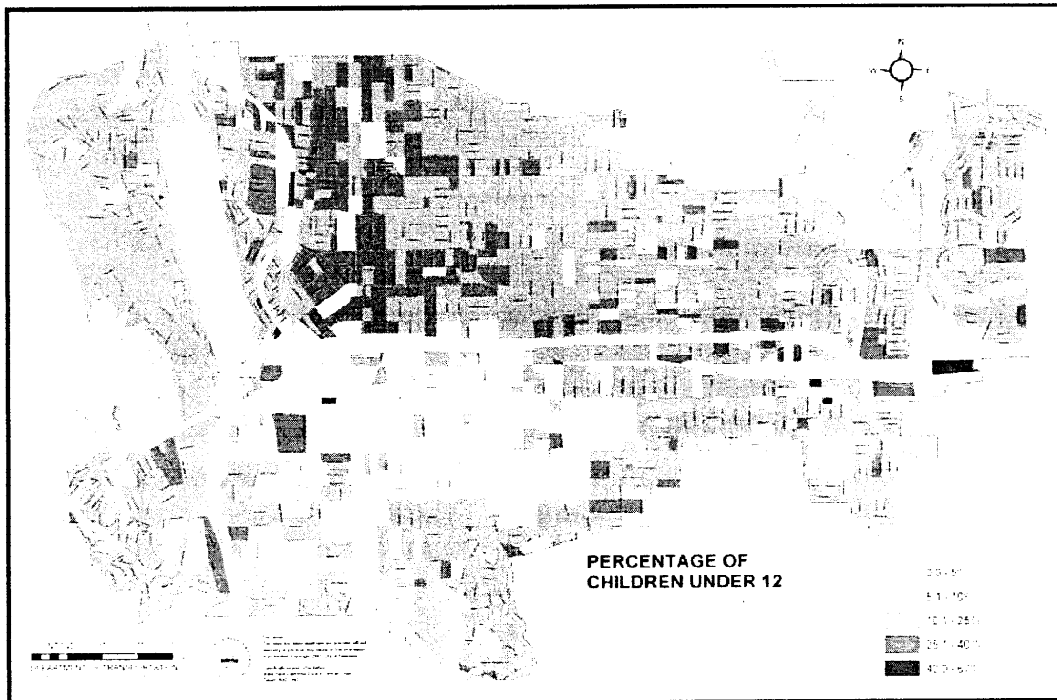
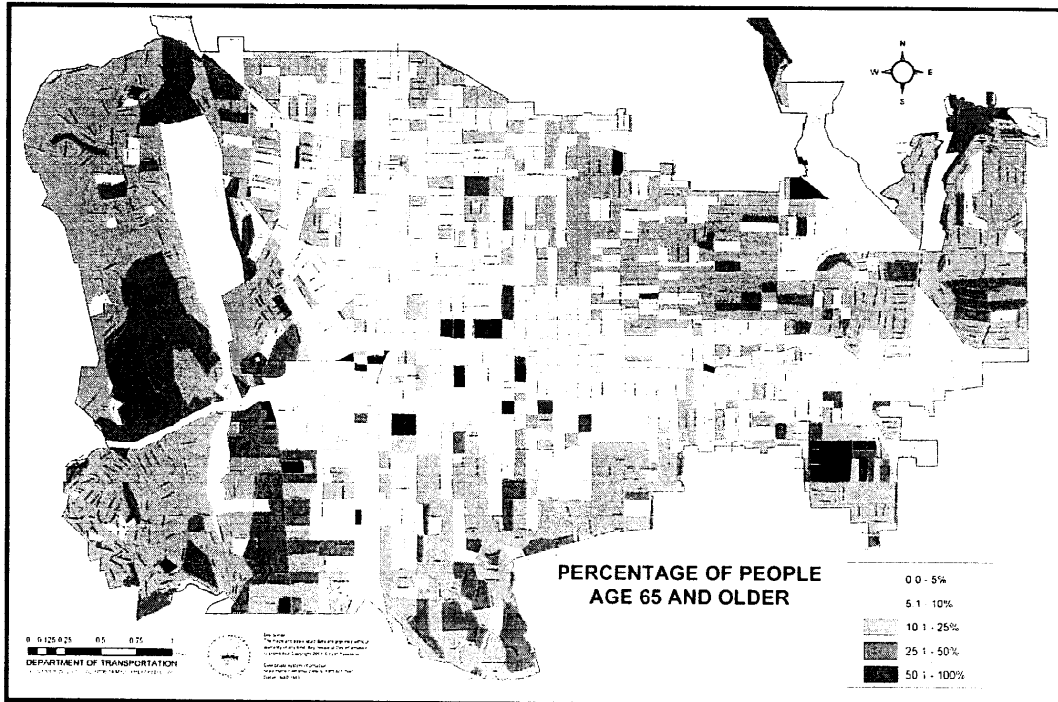


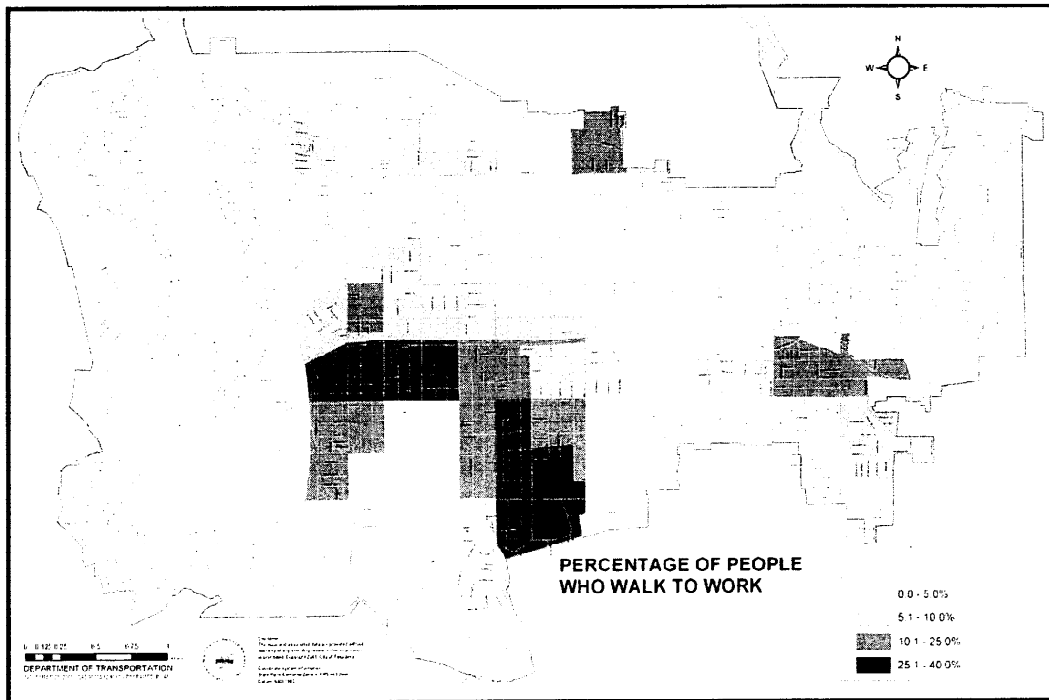
Figure 2-8: Distribution of Residents over Age of 65



2.2.4 Residents Who Walk to Work

Most travel studies are based on Census data and the most recent survey shows that 5.3% of Pasadena workers walk to work. While this information is useful in determining overall travel characteristics, it has significant limitations. These studies provide a very incomplete snapshot since they count only people over age 16 who walk to work. Yet we know that walking is a part of practically all trips. And this estimate excludes people younger than 16 and people not working. Figure 2-9 illustrates the distribution of Pasadena residents who walk to work.²⁹

Figure 2-9: Distribution of Residents Who Walk to Work



2.2.5 Walking and Public Health

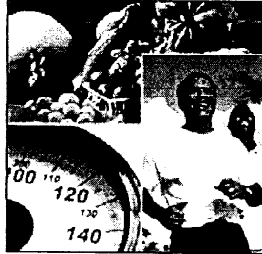
The headline statistics on pedestrian activity are from other data sources, particularly those of the public health community. Most people know that they need more exercise; the public is reminded of this annually by the U.S. Surgeon General. Nevertheless, due to lack of physical exercise and poor eating habits, obesity is becoming a public health epidemic.

Research conducted by the U.S. Center for Disease Control indicates that lack of physical activity is a major health problem in all age groups. In fact, physical inactivity and obesity rank second to smoking in their contribution to total mortality in the United States. Nearly 80% of inactive obese adults have diabetes, high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, or other ailments.

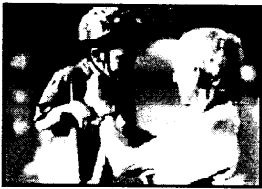
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Lack of Physical Activity is a Major Health Problem in All Age Group!



CHILDREN: The number of overweight children doubled between 1976 and 1999. About 60% of overweight children between five and ten years of age already demonstrate risk factors such as elevated blood pressure and increased insulin levels associated with heart disease. These factors lead to chronic diseases later in life. In Pasadena, 32% of children in grades 5, 7, and 9 are considered overweight and in need of increased physical activity.



ADOLESCENTS & YOUNG ADULTS: Nearly half of American youth are not vigorously active on a regular basis and participation in all types of physical activity declines strikingly as age or grade in school increases.

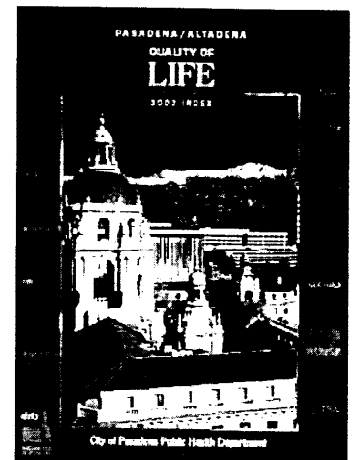


ADULTS: In just a few decades, the incidence of obese or overweight adults in the U.S. has increased from 47% in 1976, to 56% in 1994, and 61% in 1999.

OLDER ADULTS: More than 60% of U.S. adults do not engage in the recommended amount of activity resulting in a loss of strength and stamina. About 25% are not active at all and by age 75 one in three engage in no physical activity. Studies report that older Americans do not walk very often in comparison to their peers in other industrialized countries. In the U.S., people 65 and older make just 8 percent of their trips on foot or bicycle. In Germany, 50-55 percent of all trips for adults aged 65 and older are on foot or bicycle. The Netherlands show a similar pattern: 44-48 percent of all trips for those aged 65 and older are on foot or bicycle.

Pasadena has long recognized the importance of a healthy community and established its own independent local health agency over 110 years ago. Pasadena is one of only three cities statewide to maintain a Public Health Department. One of the divisions, Health Promotion and Policy, develops policies for healthy behaviors, mobilizes communities for action, and monitors the health status of City residents. Since 1992, Pasadena has issued periodically a **Quality of Life Index** based on interviews of 1,000 people who work and live in Pasadena and Altadena. It is used for priority-setting and decision making in achieving a healthy community.

Promoting pedestrian activity is on the forefront of City initiatives. In addition to preparing a Pedestrian Plan, the City is undertaking a public awareness **Up and Moving Pasadena** campaign to promote awareness of public health and the need for physical activity. The planning for this walking campaign involves City, the Pasadena Unified School District, community agencies, and Pasadena residents.



The 2002 and 1998 editions of the *Quality of Life Index* can be obtained from the Pasadena Public Health Department.

2.3 ACTIVE PEDESTRIAN PLACES

Pasadena has many places of pedestrian activity, each with their own distinctive identities and needs. Following are some major places where there is active pedestrian activity and/or sensitive land uses requiring special attention.

2.3.1 Popular Pedestrian Destinations

Old Pasadena – Old Pasadena is the historical core of the City that has developed into a vibrant regional retail and entertainment destination.

Civil Center/Mid-town Area – The Civic Center is the governmental center of Pasadena, distinguished by the landmark City Hall, Central Library, and Civic Auditorium buildings.



Playhouse District – The Pasadena Playhouse District is developing as an arts-oriented area, anchored by the Pasadena Playhouse.

South Lake Avenue and Hastings Ranch Areas – These are popular shopping and dining areas. The Metro Gold Line and several Pasadena ARTS routes provide a convenient mode of transportation.

2.3.2 Schools and Parks

There are 32 public schools and approximately 20 private schools in Pasadena. Twenty-five (25) of the public schools are located within the City limits while the other seven are located in Altadena and Sierra Madre.

Pasadena has twenty-three parks totaling more than one thousand acres of parkland. While operationally distinct, maintenance efforts in the Arroyo Seco as well as those in all other city parks similarly strive to keep parks safe, functional, and attractive for residents and visitors. Over the past few

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years, the City's parks have benefited from improvements in park maintenance service levels and the commencement and continuation of an Athletic Field Renovation Program.

Major park spaces have trails and paths to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Recreation trails are commonly designed to provide experiences for different levels of accessibility.

Figure 2-10 illustrates the proximity between schools and parks throughout the City. Schools and parks are places where special care must be given to the safety of children. They are routinely reviewed for safe traffic conditions.

Figure 2-10: Location of Schools & Parks

