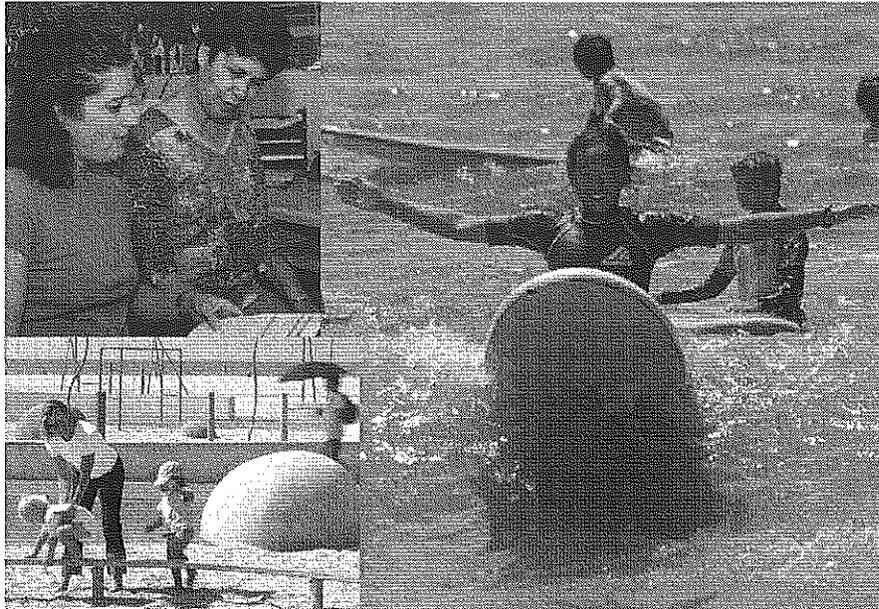


Report On the Status of Women & Girls In Santa Monica 2004



Prepared By:
Santa Monica Commission On the Status of Women
Human Services Division
Community & Cultural Services Department

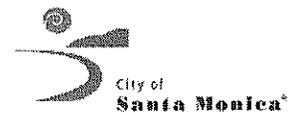


Table of Contents	
OVERVIEW	1
METHODOLOGY	5
SECTION II: EDUCATION IN SANTA MONICA	13
SECTION III: WOMEN, INCOME, AND THE LABOR FORCE	19
SECTION IV: POVERTY IN SANTA MONICA	29
SECTION V: CRIME IN SANTA MONICA	36
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH	40
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	42
Appendix 1: Zip Code Maps of the City of Santa Monica	43
Appendix 2: Community Input	46

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

OVERVIEW

This report is a compilation of statistical data about the status of women and girls as compared to men and boys in the City of Santa Monica. It presents general demographics such as age and race, as well as detailed information about women's education, employment and income, poverty and use of public assistance, disability, and crime (committed by women and against women), among other topics of interest.

In introducing and briefly analyzing this data, the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) hopes to:

1. Begin to answer the question "What is the status of women and girls in Santa Monica today?"
2. Identify areas of inequality between women and men and girls and boys;
3. Provide recommendations to City Council on issues that need to be addressed through further study and/or action.

The data presented in this report comes from a variety of sources and is, for the most part, secondary data (that is, collected by other parties and compiled here in this report). This report presents the most up-to-date data available to the Commission, including information from the 2000 Census.

This report expands upon the draft report presented by the COSW in 2002. The COSW intends to utilize this report as a baseline for future reports.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

KEY FINDINGS

- ❖ A majority of women in Santa Monica identify themselves as being White (78%) and non-Hispanic or Latino (87%). White women are highly concentrated in zip code 90402, where White women make up 90% of the total population of women for that **zip code**; women who identify themselves as Hispanic/Latino (28%) or Other (14%) are concentrated in zip code 90404. The largest number (32%) of households with incomes below the poverty line also lives in 90404, whereas the wealthiest households are found in 90402. These statistics suggest that because they are a minority and in **poverty**, women in zip code 90404 may not be able to voice their needs for additional services in zip code 90404, such as a lack of available low-income housing. Further research should be conducted to explore these hypotheses.
- ❖ A substantial number of Santa Monica residents are between the ages of 25 and 45 years of **age**, with the largest group being 30 to 34 year olds. The age distribution of males and females in Santa Monica is fairly equal until the age of 70, when the percentage of females in Santa Monica outweighs the percentage of males in Santa Monica, with a larger gap after age 85. This indicates that there may be a need to look into funding for services towards elderly women.
- ❖ With the exception of those residents that have received a professional degree or doctorate degree, women have similar levels of **education** compared to men when one accounts for the percent difference in gender in the overall population. However, more women are pursuing professional and post-graduate degrees today, which may lead to a close in the education gap at this level in the coming years.
- ❖ **Girls** represent 44% of the total students enrolled in public high school in Santa Monica, and 57% of the students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses. Of the girls taking Advanced Placement courses, 79% are enrolled in subjects such as English, art and the social sciences. Only 21% are enrolled in subjects such as mathematics and science, including computer science. The reported dropout rate for girls is 0.1%.
- ❖ Thirty-seven percent identified themselves as “not in the **labor force**,” which may indicate that they are either retired, students, or housewives. This could be due to the fact that a large percentage of women in Santa Monica are over age 65 and that many female residents are students. However, further inquiries into this 37% may show otherwise – it is a discrepancy worth investigating further to determine why a percentage of female residents are not in the labor force.
- ❖ Accounting for the gender differences in population, women in Santa Monica make up larger percentages of traditionally “female” **jobs**, such as healthcare support (79%), personal care and service (74%), office and administrative support

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

(68%), education (63%) and community and social services (61%). Women are lacking in traditionally "male" jobs such as computer and mathematic occupations (24%), engineers (27%), and law (40%). A future line of inquiry may establish the demographic make-up of City employees, elected and appointed officials, and management executives.

- ❖ The median **income** of women in Santa Monica is below the median income of men and of all Santa Monica residents. Only 30% of residents that earn over \$55,000 per year are women, with greater discrepancies in earnings as earnings increase. Keeping the occupation information in mind that men are not paid more than women are when a comparative work analysis is conducted. If this is the case, further study may explore why women are in these lower paying occupations. Possible explanations may include level of experience, level of education, or self-selection/preference of employment occupations.
- ❖ On any given day, over half of the mothers in Santa Monica require some form of **childcare**. However, a detailed study conducted by the City of Santa Monica Human Services Division reports that residents' demand for childcare is not met by the existing supply of childcare centers in Santa Monica. The report concludes that "there is a need to increase the availability of infant and school age care," especially during non-traditional hours and for special needs care. The report explains that several barriers currently prevent an increase in the number of childcare centers, the most notable being a perceived lack of demand for childcare.
- ❖ The potential underestimation of **poverty** in Santa Monica by the 2000 Census is especially important to note for women in Santa Monica. Currently, women make up 56% of the population below the traditional poverty threshold. Furthermore, women are more likely to have low paying, part-time jobs and be responsible for children than men (78% of single parent households are female). When the cost-of-living in Santa Monica is taken into account with women's earnings in 1999, and the cost and availability of childcare in the area, the actual number of women who experience poverty in Santa Monica may increase.
- ❖ A large percentage of women are receiving **public assistance**. For example, of the Santa Monica residents receiving in-home support services (government subsidized assistance for those who need living assistance in their homes), 65% of the recipients are female. Keeping in mind the age distribution by gender and the fact that a large portion of the elderly disabled population is female, it is no surprise that the majority of residents utilizing this program are female. Ninety-five percent of the people receiving CalWorks, temporary assistance available to single parent households, are female. This is reasonable considering that the majority of single parents in Santa Monica are female.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

- ❖ Data on **domestic violence and rape** against women was not easily obtained for this report because, according to Commission members, the Santa Monica Rape Center does not collect rape statistics. The Commission has received data from the City of Santa Monica Police Department, reflecting only the domestic violence and rape cases reported to the police. The City relies on services such as Sojourn to provide data on domestic violence and crimes against women. However, the number of actual cases of domestic violence may be larger as these are typically underreported. The Commission encourages further investigation into rates of domestic violence and crimes against women to ensure that this vulnerable population receives the care and services it needs.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

METHODOLOGY

This report presents a collection of secondary data from numerous sources. Time and budgetary constraints prevented the Commission from collecting primary data, although this is the preferred method of data collection to avoid bias and secure accuracy.

The Commission chose to utilize mainly Census data for this report because the Census was so recently performed and can provide accurate numbers for areas researched. Furthermore, use of Census data prevents bias in the data presented. Unless otherwise noted, all graphs and tables were created using data from the 2000 Census.

Some topics of interest, such as homelessness and domestic violence, did not have data readily available through the Census. For these topics, researchers gathered data from groups, organizations, professionals active in the community, and reports published by other groups. Please note that the Commission cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data presented from these sources. The Commission has taken the data to be true on good faith and after having been assured that the community groups, organizations, or professionals used proper data collection and analysis methods.

Upon collection of data, the Commission met frequently to discuss what topics and issues the report would present, taking into account feedback from the original report published in 2002, the advice of an independent consultant, and the suggestions of community groups and organizations interested in the report's results. This report, then, is the collective effort of the Commissioners, an independent consultant, and the community at large.

The Commission is working with the City of Santa Monica in the hope that non-profit groups funded by the City will gather more concise and accurate data for future reports.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

SECTION I: DEMOGRAPHIC PICTURE OF SANTA MONICA

1. Population

The total population of Santa Monica in 2000 as presented by the Census is 84,084¹ people. A majority (52%) of the population is female, and this holds true across racial groups. The Census estimated the population of Santa Monica to be 85,686 by the year 2002.

2. Racial Composition²

As shown in **Figure 1**, a large majority (78%) of women in Santa Monica identify themselves as being White. The largest concentration of White women is found in zip code 90402, where White women make up 90% of the total population of women for that zip code. The smallest concentration of White women in Santa Monica is found in zip code 90404, where White women make up 62% of the total population of women in that zip code. In zip code 90404, a larger percentage than in other zip codes (14% of women) identify their race as being "Other." As will be explored in detail in **Section IV**, the largest number (32%) of households with incomes below the poverty line also lives in 90404. The wealthiest households are found in 90402.

While it is unknown whether non-White women living in areas that are predominantly low-income receive equal attention in services provided for them, due to their small numbers, these minority women may not be considered a powerful voting constituency and as such may be largely ignored in matters of public policy.

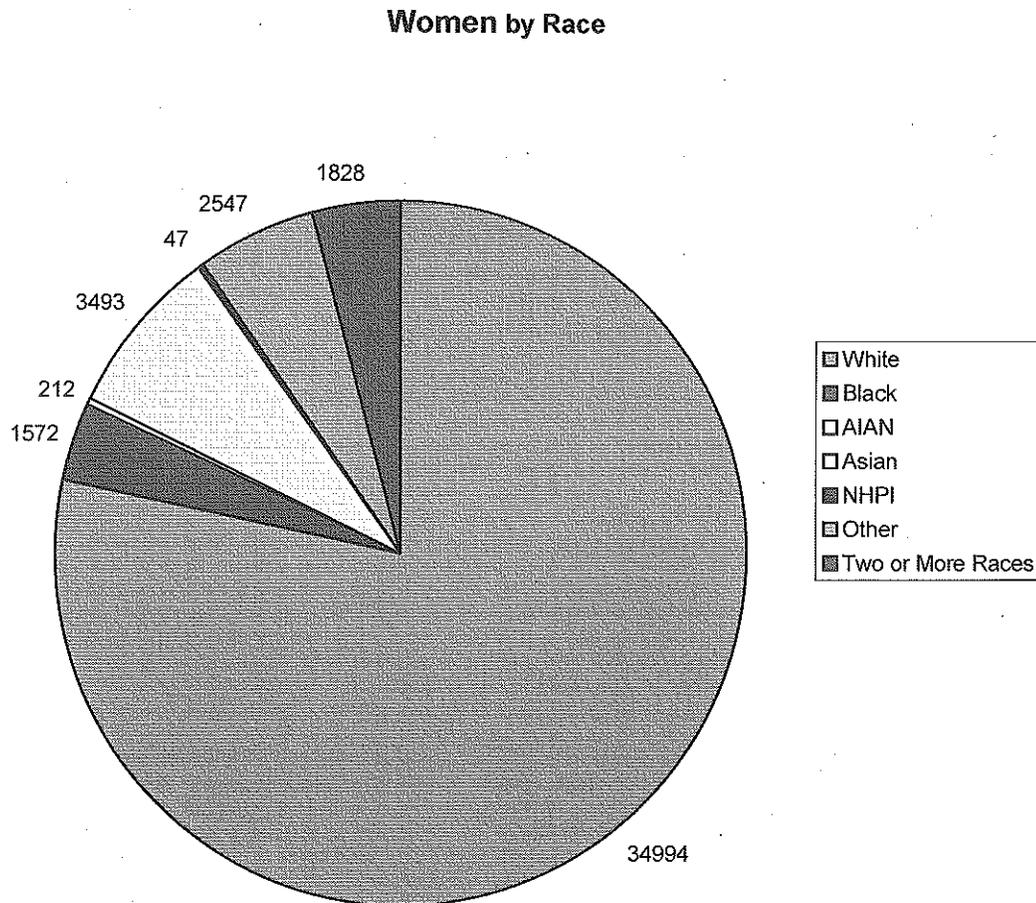
Refer to the 'Appendix' for actual zip code maps of Santa Monica.

¹ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

² 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 1: Women by Race³



³ AIAN refers to "American Indian and Alaska Natives;" NHPI refers to "Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander."

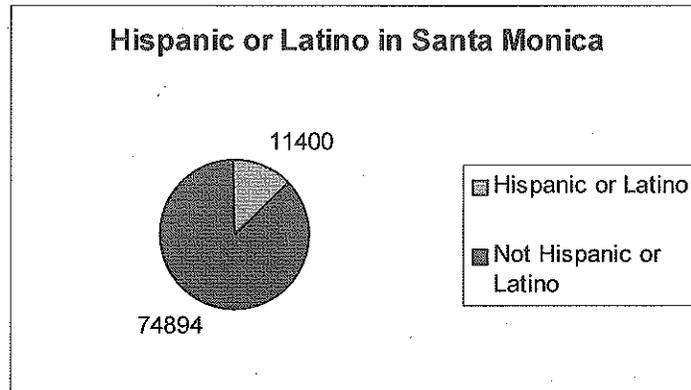
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

3. Hispanic Composition⁴

As shown in **Figure 2**, the majority (87%) of the total population in Santa Monica does not identify itself as Hispanic or Latino. The addition of this ethnic category may explain the racial difference between zip codes 90402 and 90404 identified above. Zip code 90402, where one finds the largest concentration of White women, also has the largest concentration of Non-Hispanic or Latino people. Zip code 90404 shows the largest concentration (28%) of Hispanic and Latino people in Santa Monica.

The concentration of a the largest Latina population in Santa Monica coupled with the fact that these women live in one of the poorest areas of Santa Monica may make zip code 90404 an effective target area for outreach or programs that specifically address the needs of middle to low income Latina women.

Figure 2: Hispanic or Latino in Santa Monica



⁴ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

4. Age Distribution⁵

As depicted by the spike in the population bars in **Figure 3**, a substantial number of Santa Monica residents are between the ages of 25 and 45 years of age, with the largest group being 30 to 34 year olds.

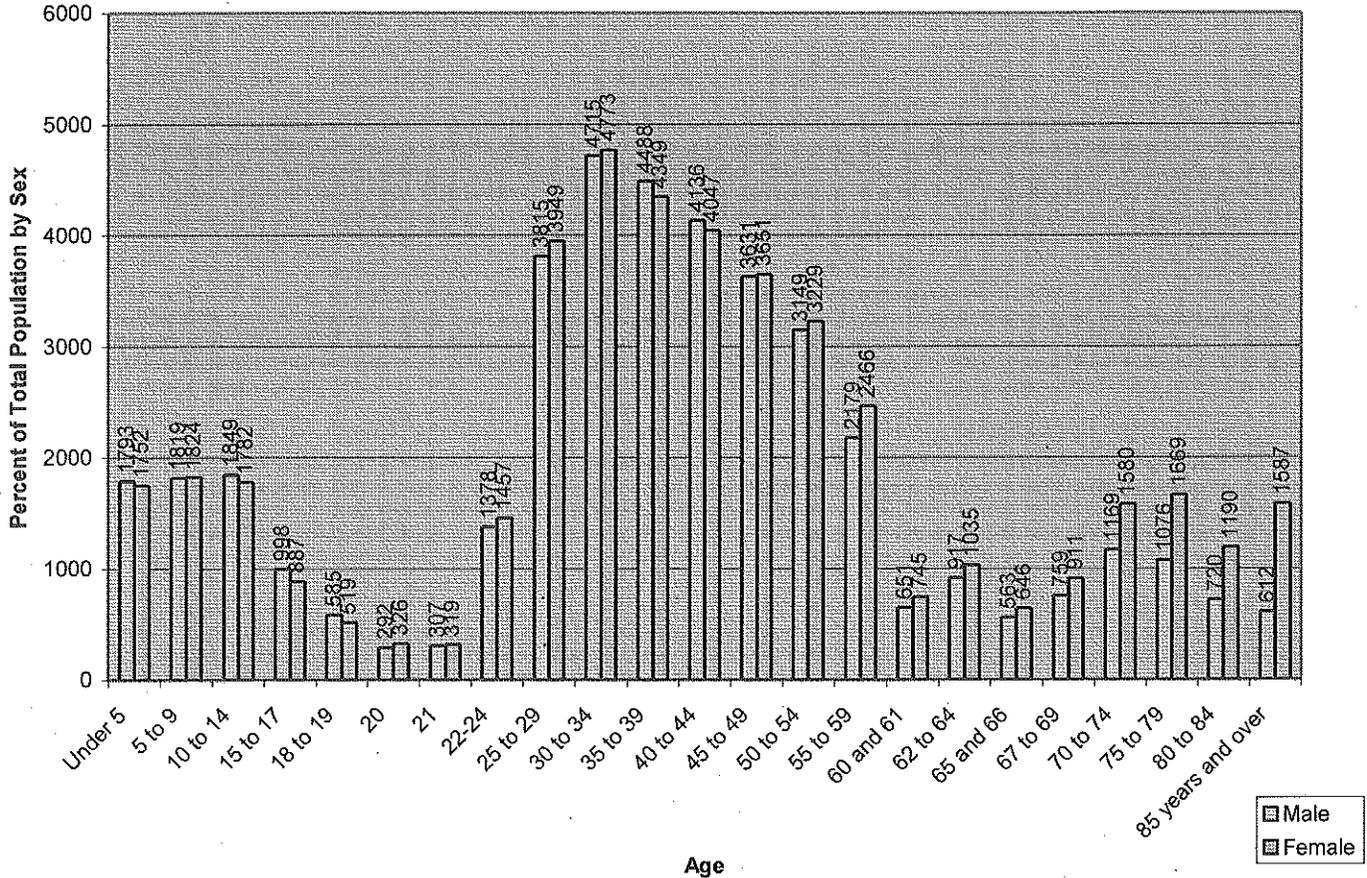
The age distribution of males and females in Santa Monica is fairly equal until the age of 70, with children (0-12) making up 4 percent of the male and female population, teens (under 18) making up 1% of the total male and female populations, and the majority of the population (middle of **Figure 3**) making up 9-10% of the total male and female populations.

However, after the age of 70, the percentage of females in Santa Monica outweighs the percentage of males in Santa Monica, with a larger gap after age 85. Males over age 70 make up 8.5% of the total male population, while females over age 70 make up 13% of total female population. This indicates that it may be important to target funding for services towards elderly women, especially because many of these women live in poverty, as discussed in **Section IV**. Many of these women are widows (see **Figure 5**), which may have an impact on their available income and level of education.

⁵ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.
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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Age Distribution

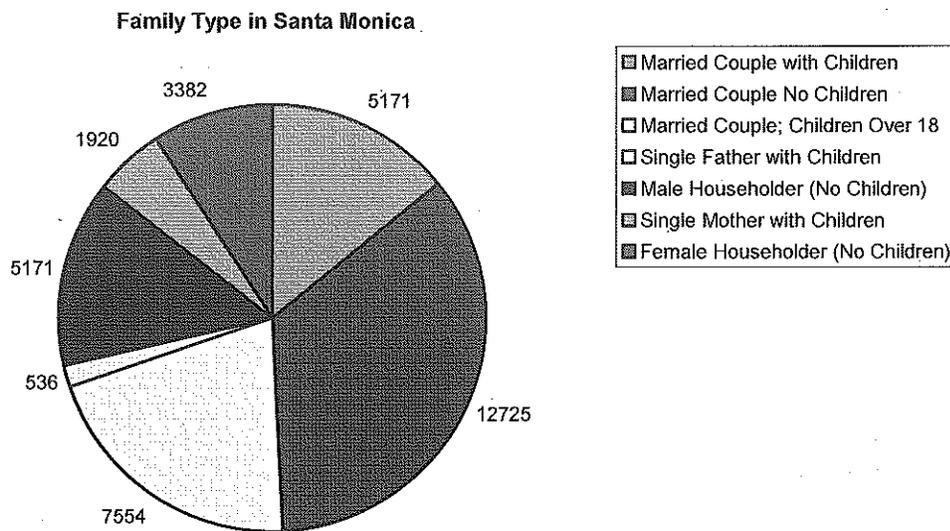


CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

5. Household Composition⁶

Families, both two-parent and single parent make up the largest household demographic group, representing 42% of the total households in Santa Monica. However, as shown in **Figure 4**, married couples without children and singles without children are a close second and third, representing 35% and 23% of the total households in Santa Monica, respectively. When family households are separated by the type of family, married couples without children make up the largest household composition in Santa Monica. This data is consistent with the peak in that one sees in the age distribution graph (**Figure 3**) on the previous page.

Figure 4: Family Type in Santa Monica



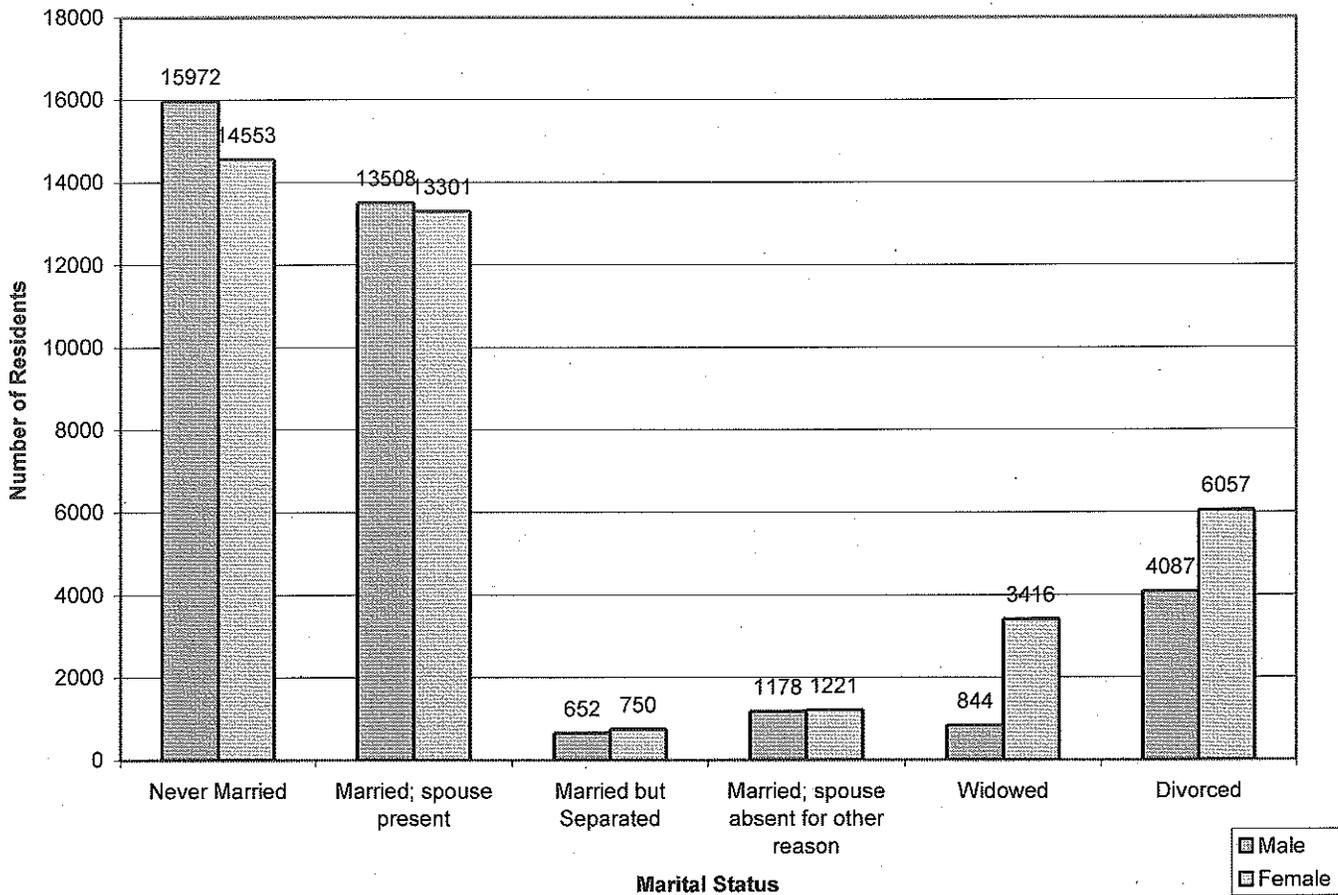
⁶ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

6. Marital Status⁷

Figure 5 depicts the marital status of residents over age 15. In this graph, it is interesting to note the high number of widowed women in Santa Monica. The high percentage of female widows can be associated with the greater number of women than men past age 70 depicted in the age distribution graph on page eight of this report.

Marital Status of Residents Over Age 15



⁷ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

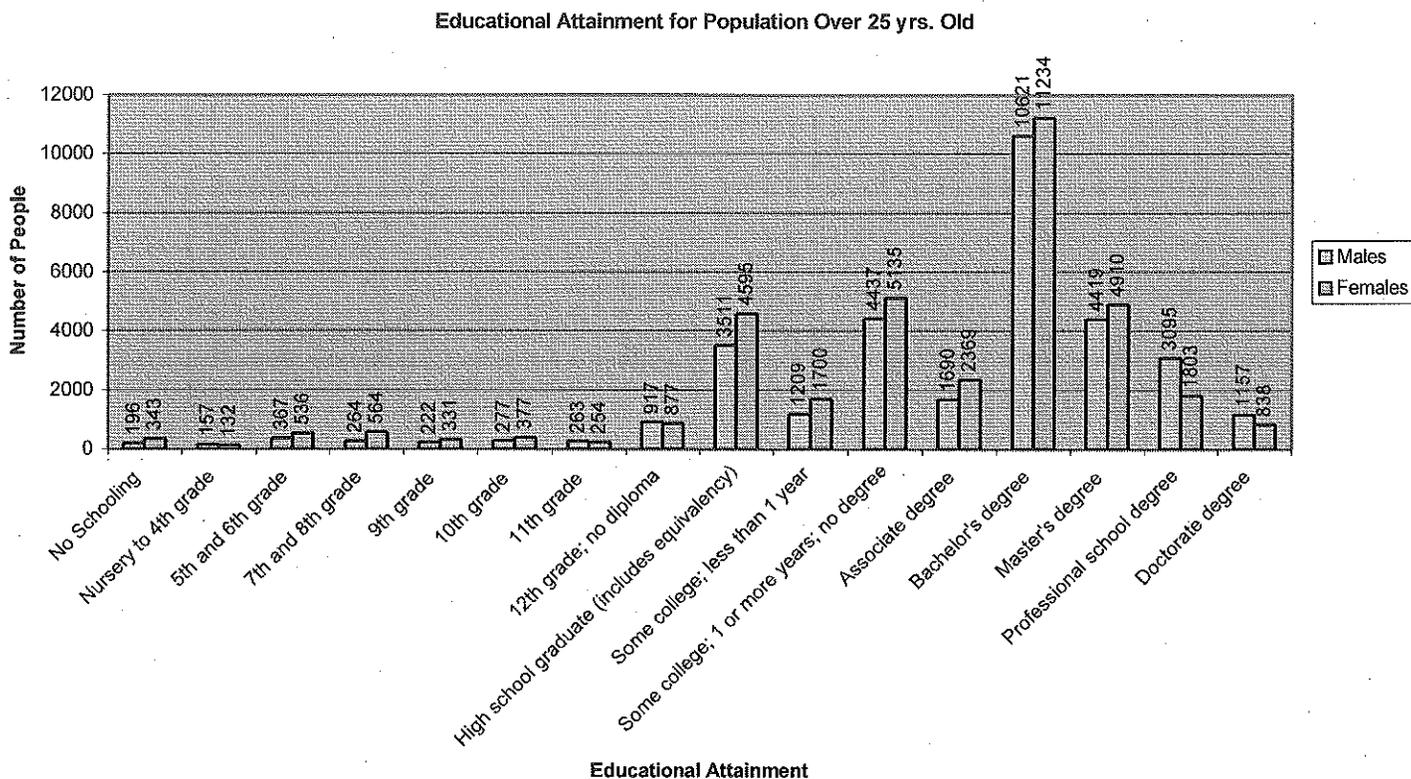
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

SECTION II: EDUCATION IN SANTA MONICA

1. Educational Attainment⁸

The majority (67%) of Santa Monica residents age 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or higher; meaning that the large peak in the population (from ages 25 to 55) discussed in the previous section is relatively well educated. As seen in **Figure 6**, with the exception of those residents that have received a professional degree or doctorate degree, women have similar levels of education compared to men when one accounts for the percent difference in gender in the overall population. In looking at this data, it is important to note that many older women in Santa Monica may not have chosen to pursue professional degrees. It is evident that more women are pursuing professional and post-graduate degrees. **Figures 7 and 8** illustrate this fact. Unequal numbers in this education category may even out over time.

Figure 6: Educational Attainment for Population Over 25 Years Old



⁸ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

2. School Enrollment: Public versus Private⁹

It is most telling to view the data in **Figures 7 and 8** comparatively. Of the Santa Monica children enrolled in nursery schools, a majority (61%) is enrolled in private schools. Whether high enrollment in private nursery schools is by parent choice or due to lack of available space in public nursery schools is discussed in **Section III** of this report. The Commission was unable to find data to explain the higher number of girls than boys enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten. It may be possible that male children are more likely to be home-schooled.

Contrary to nursery schools, an overwhelming majority of residents enrolled in grade school, high school, and college attend a public school. This is especially true of those studying to obtain an undergraduate degree. Eighty-seven percent of these students are enrolled at a public school. This may be due to the close proximity of public institutions such as Santa Monica City College and the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition, it is known that students choose public schools for cost reasons.

Women make up 59% of the Santa Monica residents attending college to obtain an undergraduate degree and 57% of residents studying to obtain a graduate or professional degree. Accounting for the population difference, slightly more women than men attend college. However, as discussed in the previous subsection, of Santa Monica residents age 25 and older, a greater number of men have professional or doctorate degrees. There are two possible explanations for this difference:

- 1) women who reside in Santa Monica while they are studying for professional or doctorate degrees leave Santa Monica upon completion of their degree, or
- 2) women in past generations were not encouraged to pursue a post-secondary degree as often as women in today's society are.

In the case of number 1, it may be of interest to explore why these women chose to leave Santa Monica. Some speculative reasons may be due to the wage gap (see **Section III**), high cost of living, or the lack of job offers in the local area.

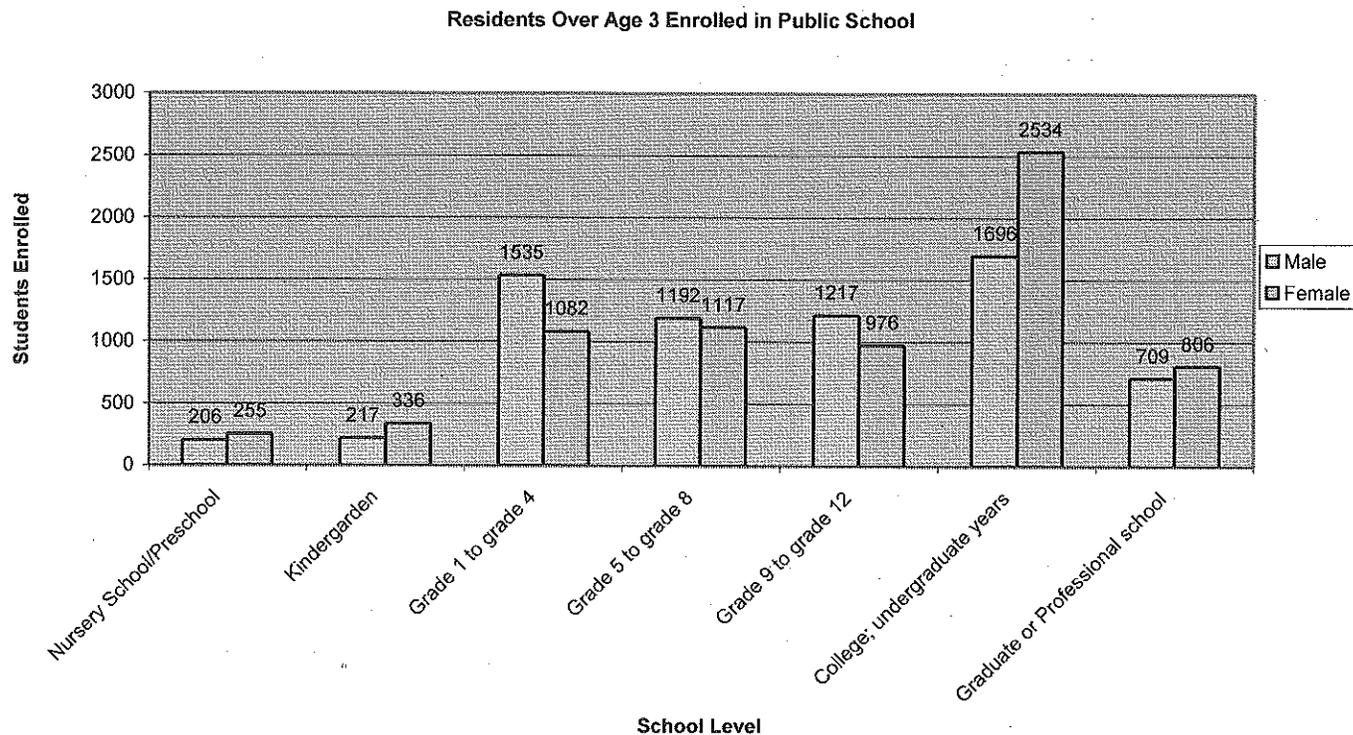
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

⁹ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.

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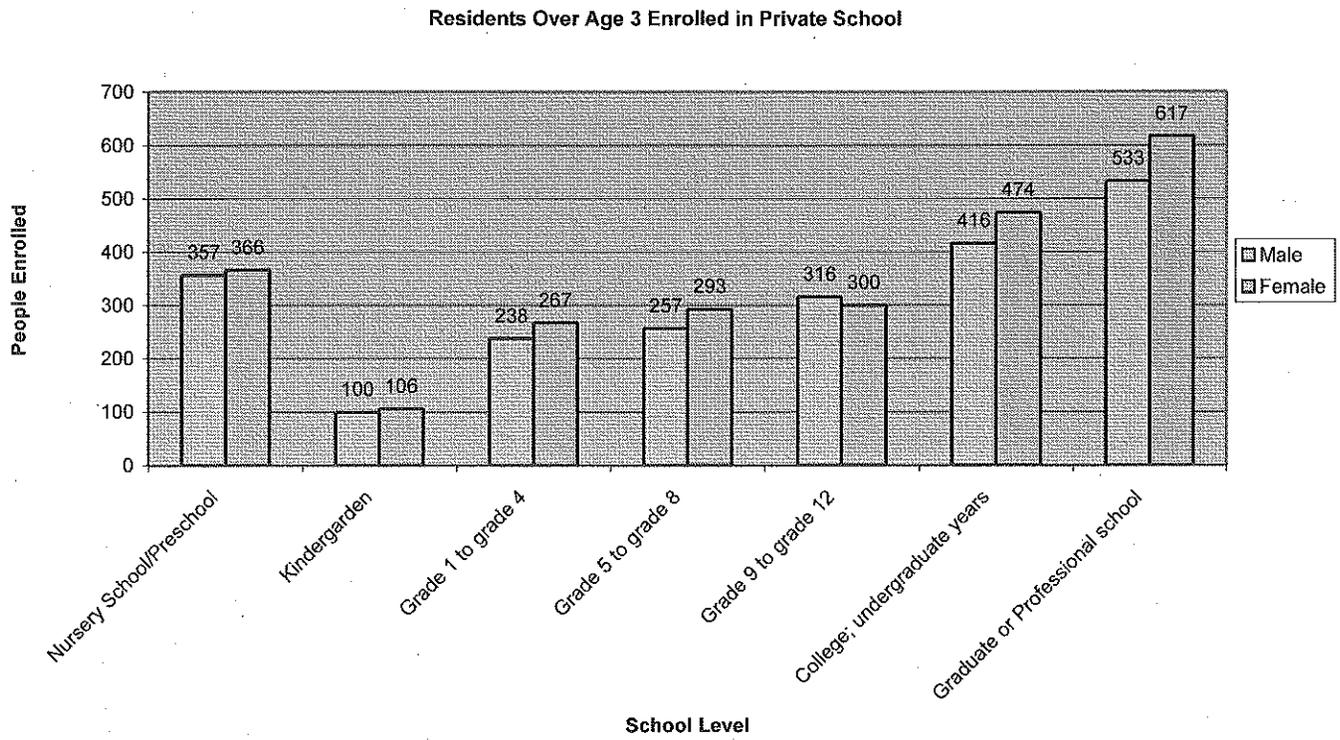
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 7: Residents Over Age Three Enrolled in Public School



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 8: Residents Over Age Three Enrolled in Private School



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

3. High School Students¹⁰

Because 78% of students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 were enrolled in a public school, data for this section was obtained from the Department of Education, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The data presented below is for the 2000-2001 school year to best match Census data presented throughout this report and reflects the data presented to the Commission by the Department of Education and SMMUSD.

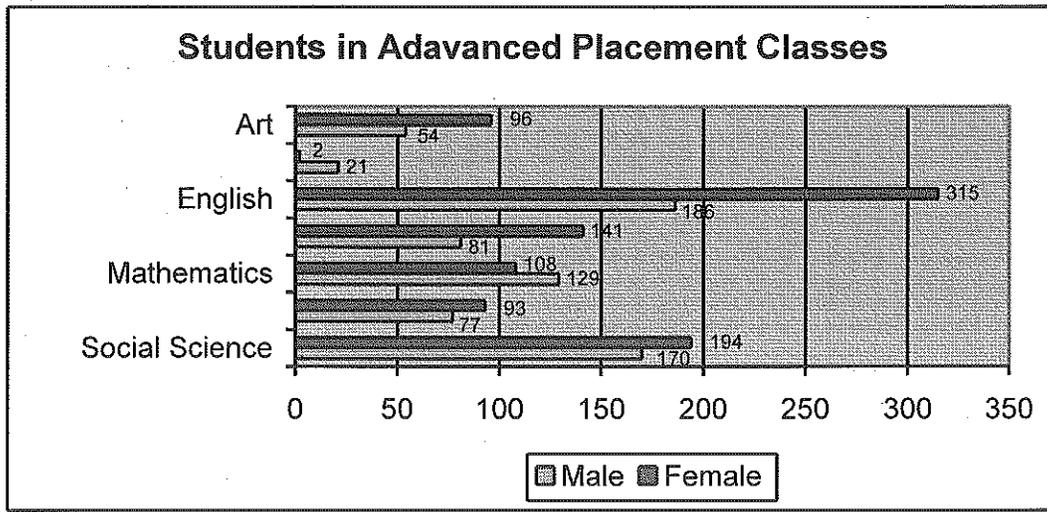
Of the students enrolled in one of two public high schools in Santa Monica, 44% are female. While the dropout rate is less than one percent for high schools in SMMUSD, males have a slightly higher dropout rate than females (0.4% versus 0.1%, respectively).

When courses taken by students are evaluated, it is interesting to note the percentage of females in advanced placement (AP) courses and the types of AP courses they choose to take (**Figure 9**). Fifty-seven percent of the students enrolled in AP courses are female. Of this 57%, 79% are enrolled in subjects such as social science, English, and art. Twenty-one percent are enrolled in subjects such as mathematics, science, and computer science. The largest difference is found in students enrolled in AP English, 63% of the students enrolled in AP English are female. Further inquiries could explore whether girls are steered into English, or if they self-select this AP course.

¹⁰Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District High Places Reports.
<http://131.128.163.235/queries/FindSchs1.asp?SC=410&TOC=28004&PATH=02&NWID=.PDF>

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 9: Students in Advanced Placement Classes



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

SECTION III: WOMEN, INCOME, AND THE LABOR FORCE

1. Overall Labor Force Description¹¹

The Census defines “labor force” as everyone over age 16 who is part of the civilian labor force, those employed or unemployed, as well as everyone on active duty in the armed forces. As shown in **Figure 10**, 47% of the labor force in Santa Monica is female. The remaining 37% identified themselves as “not in the labor force,” which may indicate that they are either retired, students, or housewives. This percent makes sense considering that a large percentage of women in Santa Monica are over age 65 and that many female residents are students. However, further inquiries into this 37% may show otherwise – it is a discrepancy worth investigating further to determine why a percentage of female residents are not in the labor force.

Of those residents who are in the labor force, 7% identify as unemployed. Forty-seven percent of the unemployed are women. After accounting for gender differences in the population, a larger percentage of men are unemployed. However, due to a drastic change in the characteristics of the labor market nationally and the declining conditions of California in general since the Census was collected, the unemployment rate in Santa Monica may have changed.

¹¹ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 10: Residents Over Age 16 in Labor Force

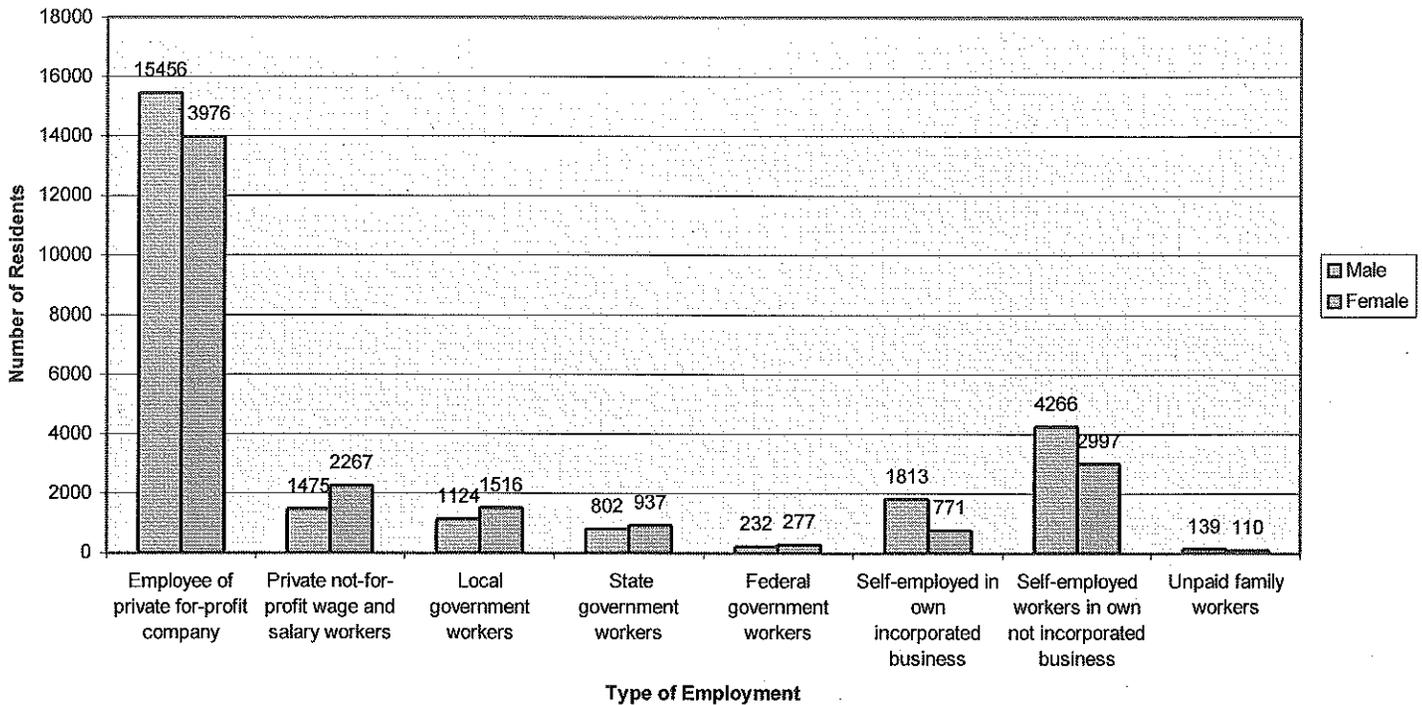


CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 11 presents types of employment Santa Monica residents have. Sixty-one percent of Santa Monica residents identified as being an employee of a private, for-profit company. Of these, 47% are female. A sizeable minority (20%) of residents owns their own business. As addressed later in this section, only 38% of these self-employed residents are women. Seven percent of residents work for a non-profit organization, and a large majority (60%) is female. Women also make up the majority of local, state, and federal employees living in Santa Monica (57%, 54%, and 54%, respectively). Further investigation is required to determine how many of these women actually work in Santa Monica government. The Census also reports that 68% of Santa Monica residents work outside of the city, which may have implications for the time traveled to work.

Figure 11: Type of Employment for Residents Over Age 16

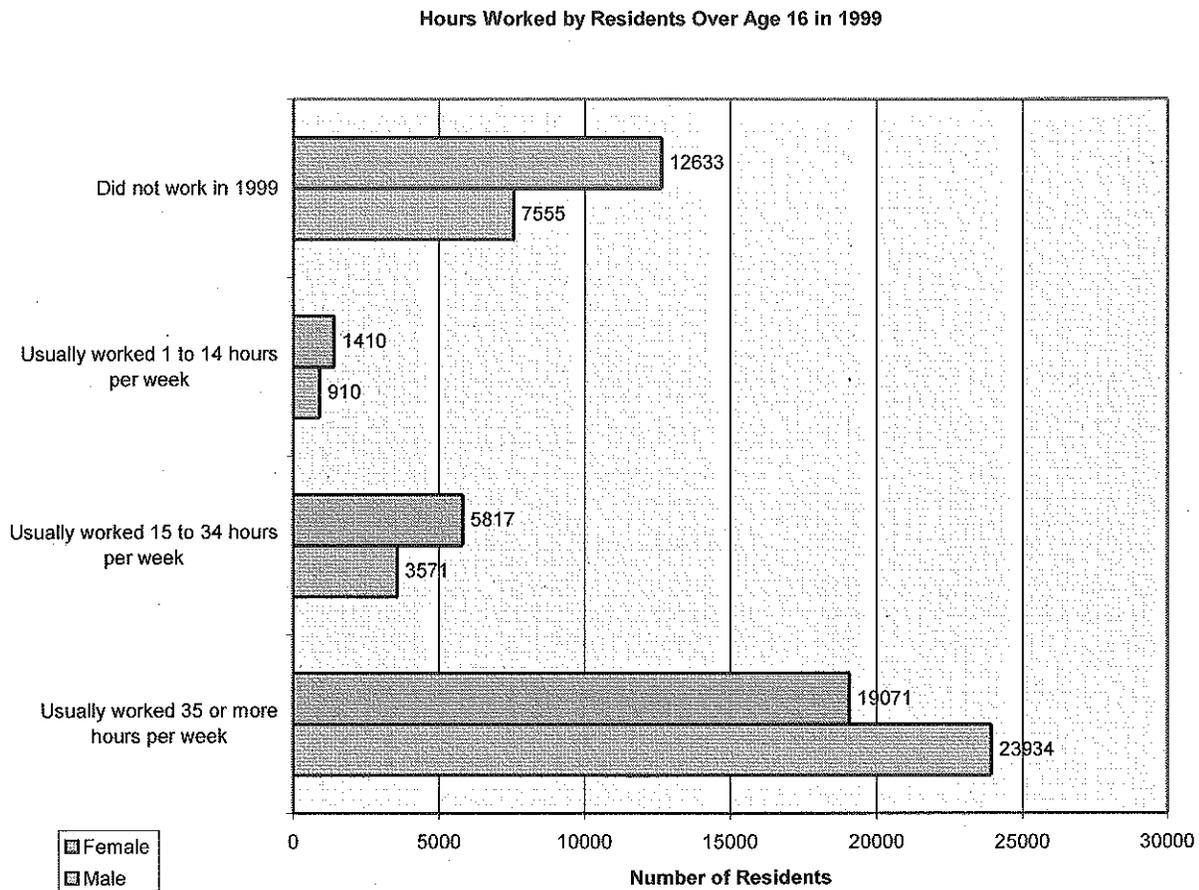
Type of Employment for Residents Over Age 16



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 12 shows that while only 21% of the working population in Santa Monica works part-time (less than 40 hours per week), women are much more likely to work part-time than men (62% of the part-time employees are women). This is an important discrepancy because of the benefits given to part-time versus full-time employees. The large percentage of women who work part-time are most likely not receiving full benefits such as health insurance and retirement packages. However, it is important to note that some part-time female employees may be covered by a partner or spouse's health insurance, or may be able to purchase her own health insurance plan. This has implications on the health care needs of these women. Many may rely on publicly provided health care resources or may be uninsured if they cannot afford to purchase their own insurance coverage. Furthermore, as the population spike (Figure 3) ages, the City may find itself with a large group of uninsured elderly women without a sustainable income or retirement funds. Further investigation on other sources of income (e.g. second job, trust funds, savings or retirement funds) is warranted.

Figure 12: Hours Worked by Residents Over Age 16 in 1999



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

2. Employment by Occupation¹²

The U.S. Census categorizes types of employment into one of fourteen industry categories and then asks respondents to categorize their occupation into one of several categories. Santa Monica women make up 63% of the education, healthcare, and social service related industry jobs. **Table 1** provides a breakdown of employment by occupation and is ranked by percent men in each category. It is important to note that even accounting for the gender differences in population, women in Santa Monica make up larger percentages of traditionally “female” jobs, such as healthcare support (79%), personal care and service (74%), office and administrative support (68%), education (63%) and community and social services (61%). Women are lacking in traditionally “male” jobs such as computer and mathematic occupations (24%), engineers (27%), and law (40%).

Table 1: Types of Employment of Santa Monica Residents Over Age 16 <i>(Ranked by percent men in occupation)</i>		
Occupation	Percent Men	Percent Women
Construction occupations	99%	1%
Computer and mathematical occupations	76%	24%
Architects, surveyors, engineers	73%	27%
Legal occupations	60%	40%
Protective fire fighting and law enforcement, including supervisors	59%	41%
Management occupations	56%	44%
Financial specialists	56%	44%
Entertainment, arts, design, sports, and media occupations	56%	44%
Sales occupations	54%	46%
Food preparation and service	54%	46%
Health technologists	53%	47%
Business operations specialists	47%	53%
Health diagnosing and treatment practitioners	46%	54%
Community and social services	39%	61%
Education and library occupations	38%	62%
Social science, life, physical science occupations	36%	64%
Office and administrative support	32%	68%
Personal care and service occupations	26%	74%
Healthcare support occupations	21%	79%

¹² 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

3. The Income Gap¹³

As shown in **Figure 13**, the median income of women in Santa Monica is below the median income of men and of all Santa Monica residents combined. The median income of women in Santa Monica is 62% of the median income for men¹⁴. Furthermore, as seen in **Figure 14**, only 30% of residents that earn over \$55,000 per year are women, with greater discrepancies in earnings as earnings increase. One explanation for these statistics may be that there are more men in higher management (e.g. CEO) than women. Further data should be collected on this topic.

Keeping occupational information in mind, it is important to note that this report does not provide a comparative work analysis of income. Occupations women hold are those that traditionally earn less than the occupations held by men (e.g. education versus management occupations). Therefore, it may not be the case that men are paid more than women are when a comparative work analysis is conducted.

What may be of interest is why women are in these lower paying occupations. Further study should seek to explain these occupation differences. Some possible explanations are level of experience, level of education, or self-selection/preference.

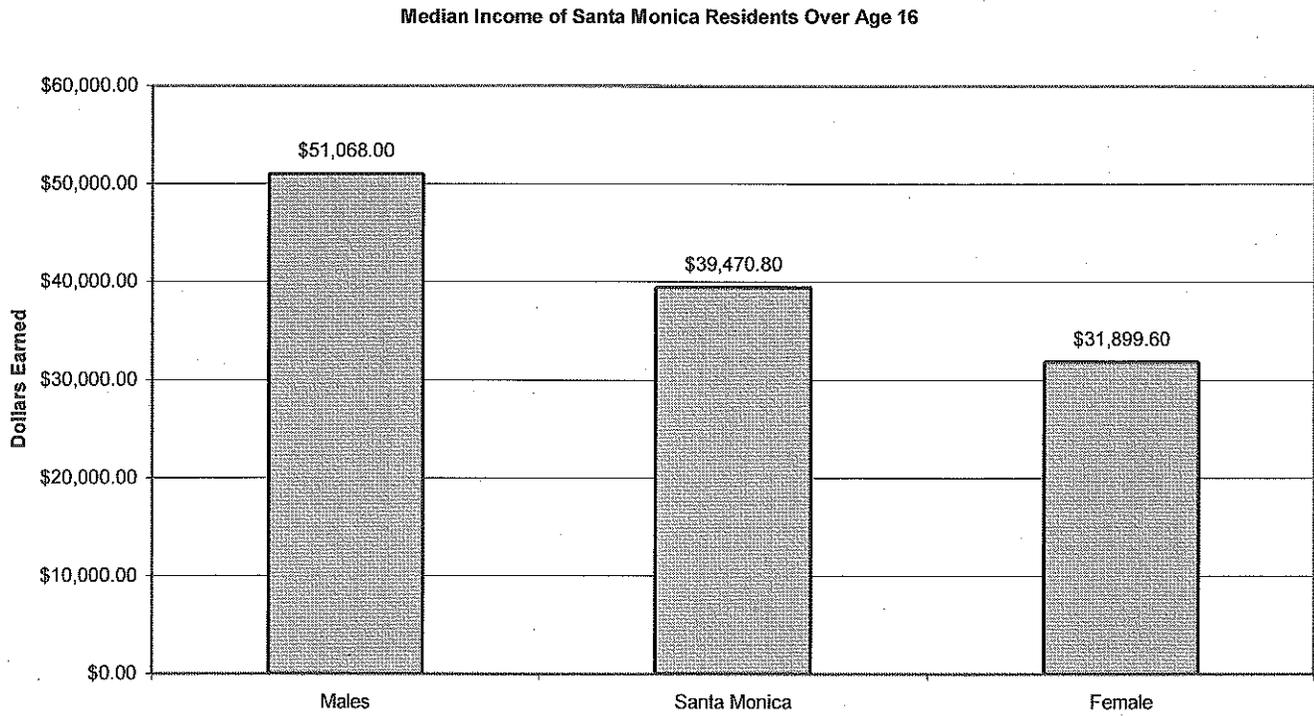
¹³ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

¹⁴ Calculated by dividing \$31,899.60 (median income of women) by \$51,068.00 (median income of men).

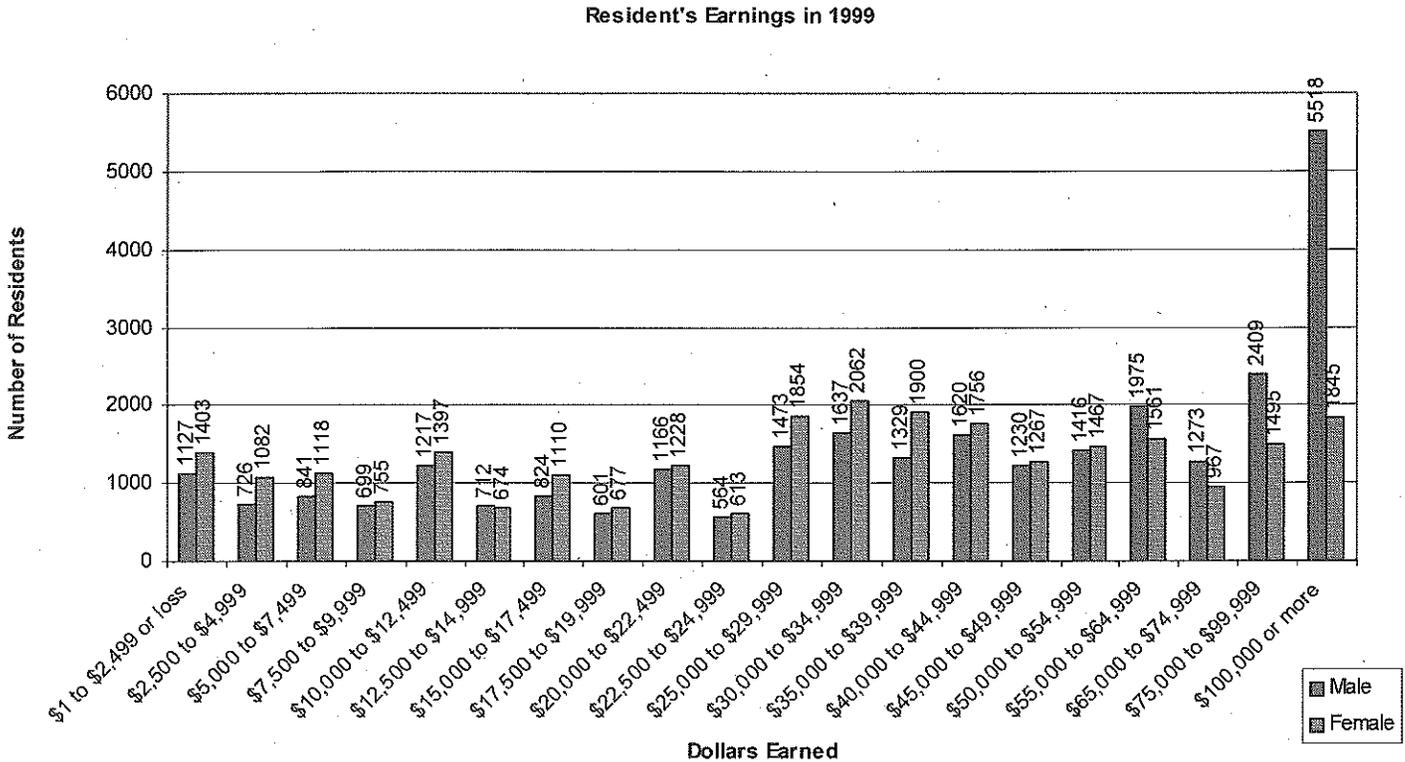
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 13: Median Income of Santa Monica Residents Over Age 16



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 14: Residents' Earnings in 1999



4. Working Mothers and Child Care¹⁵

Fifty-six percent of mothers in Santa Monica work outside the home. Of these working mothers, 62% have children under age six (Figure 15). On any given day, over half of the mothers in Santa Monica require some form of childcare. However, a detailed study conducted by the City of Santa Monica Human Services in 2000¹⁶ reported that residents' demand for childcare is not met by the existing supply of childcare centers in Santa Monica. The report notes, "only 29% of residents' demand for infant care is being met by the existing supply...existing supply of school age care meets 73% of residents' needs." According to the report, the demand for childcare in Santa Monica in 2000 was 6,142 spaces, of which 4,928 was from Santa Monica residents. Only 4,232 slots were available for childcare, and of these, 19% (649 spaces) provided only part-time care. The report notes that there are approximately

¹⁵ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

¹⁶ City of Santa Monica Human Services Division. "Child Care in Santa Monica." September 2000.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

366 vacant spaces across all types of childcare. The report author indicates that either programs do not meet parents' needs are of poor quality, or parents cannot afford the programs. The latter may be of greatest concern to working mothers, who only work part-time, which, as noted in the previous section, comprises a large percentage of working women in Santa Monica. The report cites the California Budget Project's¹⁷ estimate that childcare can consume 23% to 28% of a household's budget. Mothers who work either part or full-time may not be able to afford the cost of childcare. While there are subsidies for childcare available to low-income families covering 90% to 100% of the cost of childcare, the report notes that there are typically waiting lists for childcare centers that accept low-income subsidies.

The report concludes that "there is a need to increase the availability of infant and school age care," especially during non-traditional hours and for special needs care. However, the report explains that several barriers currently prevent an increase in the number of childcare centers, the most notable being a perceived lack of demand for childcare. The most important finding from this report's analysis is that while childcare service providers perceive a lack of demand, demand for childcare centers is in fact high among working mothers in Santa Monica, both those who reside in or commute to the City.

¹⁷ California Budget Project. "Making Ends Meet: How much does it cost to raise a family in California?" 2000.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 15: Working Mothers

Women with Children in Labor Force



5. Women Owned Businesses

The Economic Census conducted in 1997 by the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that there are 6,542 women-owned firms in Santa Monica, 1,002 of which hire a total of 11,237 employees. Data from the 2000 U.S. Census indicates that 3,768 female residents of Santa Monica are self-employed, which indicates that a number of the women-owned businesses in Santa Monica are owned by non-residents.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

SECTION IV: POVERTY IN SANTA MONICA

1. Raising a Family in Santa Monica

It is no surprise that the cost-of-living in Santa Monica is high. According to an analysis conducted by the RAND Corporation published in their "City of Santa Monica Community Profile 2003," the average cost of raising a family with two children (one toddler and one 6 years or older) for a single working parent is \$48,852 per year, for a married couple with one working parent is \$43,428 per year, and for married couple with both parents working is \$59,976 per year¹⁸. The largest percentages of income are consumed by childcare and housing.

2. Population Below Poverty Threshold

The average federal poverty threshold, that is, the level at which a family is considered poor, as defined by the U.S. Census, is \$8,501 per year for a single person without children, and \$17,650 per year for a family of four. Using these thresholds, 8,740 Santa Monica residents (10%)¹⁹ are considered poor.

Taking into account the data presented by RAND, the Census may underestimate the true poverty level in Santa Monica. In order to properly measure the level of poverty in Santa Monica, it may be necessary to redefine the poverty threshold traditionally used to explore economic well-being in an area. Clearly, more than 10 percent of Santa Monica residents can be considered poor when the cost-of-living in Santa Monica and the income earned by residents is taken into account.

The potential underestimation of poverty in Santa Monica is especially important to women in Santa Monica. Women already make up 56% of the population below the traditional poverty threshold. Furthermore, women are more likely to have low paying, part-time jobs and be responsible for children than men are (78% of single parent households are female). When the cost-of-living in Santa Monica is taken into account along with women's earnings in 1999 and the cost and availability of childcare in the area, the actual number of women who experience poverty in Santa Monica may increase.

¹⁸ Adrain Overton, RAND Corporation. "City of Santa Monica Community Profile 2003." January 2003.

¹⁹ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

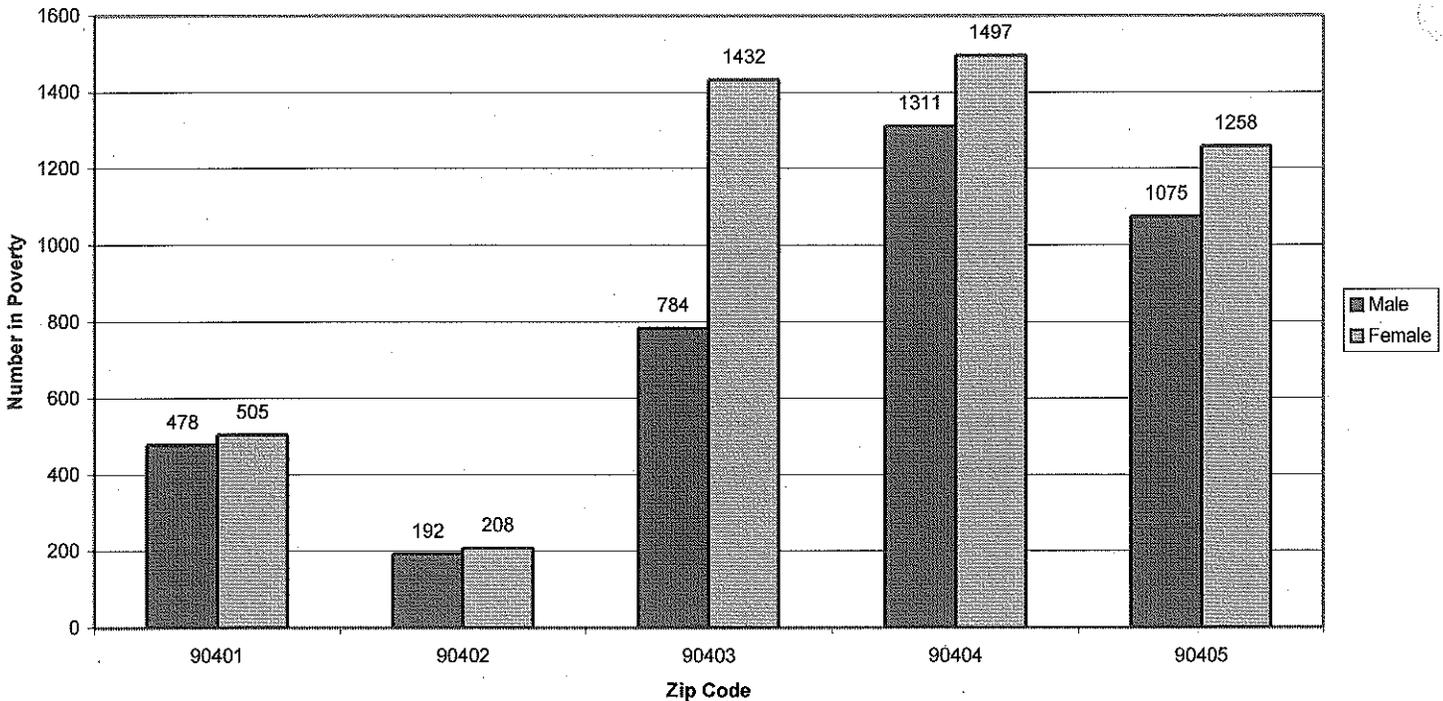
3. Poverty by Zip Code²⁰

Figure 16 depicts the poverty rate according to U.S. Census thresholds in Santa Monica by zip codes. While the largest concentrations of individuals living in poverty are found in 90403 and 90404, when earnings are taken into account, the areas with the highest poverty rate are found in zip codes 90401 and 90404. These poverty rates, 19.5% and 14.6%, respectively, are much higher than the average City poverty rate.

While the poverty rate is about equal between women and men in 90401 and 90404 when taking into account gender differences in the total population, women make up a majority (65%) of poor residents in zip code 90403. Racial characteristics of the zip code indicate that 87% of women in 90403 are White; women in 90403 have the lowest earnings and education level compared to women in 90402 and 90405, the two other predominantly White, non-Hispanic areas of Santa Monica.

**Figure 16: Population Living in Households
 With Incomes Below Poverty Threshold by Zip Code**

Population Whose Income in 1999 Was Below Poverty Line



²⁰ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

4. Poverty by Age²¹

As mentioned in **Section I** of this report and depicted in **Figure 17**, a large percentage of the impoverished women in Santa Monica are age 55 and greater. Ten percent of the female population in Santa Monica is poor. Women are 63% of the poor population 55 and older. This percentage increases rapidly with age.

A surprising spike illustrated in **Figure 17** is the percentage of women age 18 to 24 (57% versus men of the same age) who are living in households with incomes below the poverty threshold. Two possible explanations for this spike are that the women in this age range are currently in college, or that these women are young single mothers living in poverty due to the high cost-of-living in Santa Monica. Further research is needed to discern why these women are living in “poverty”, as this may be an age range that needs special attention.

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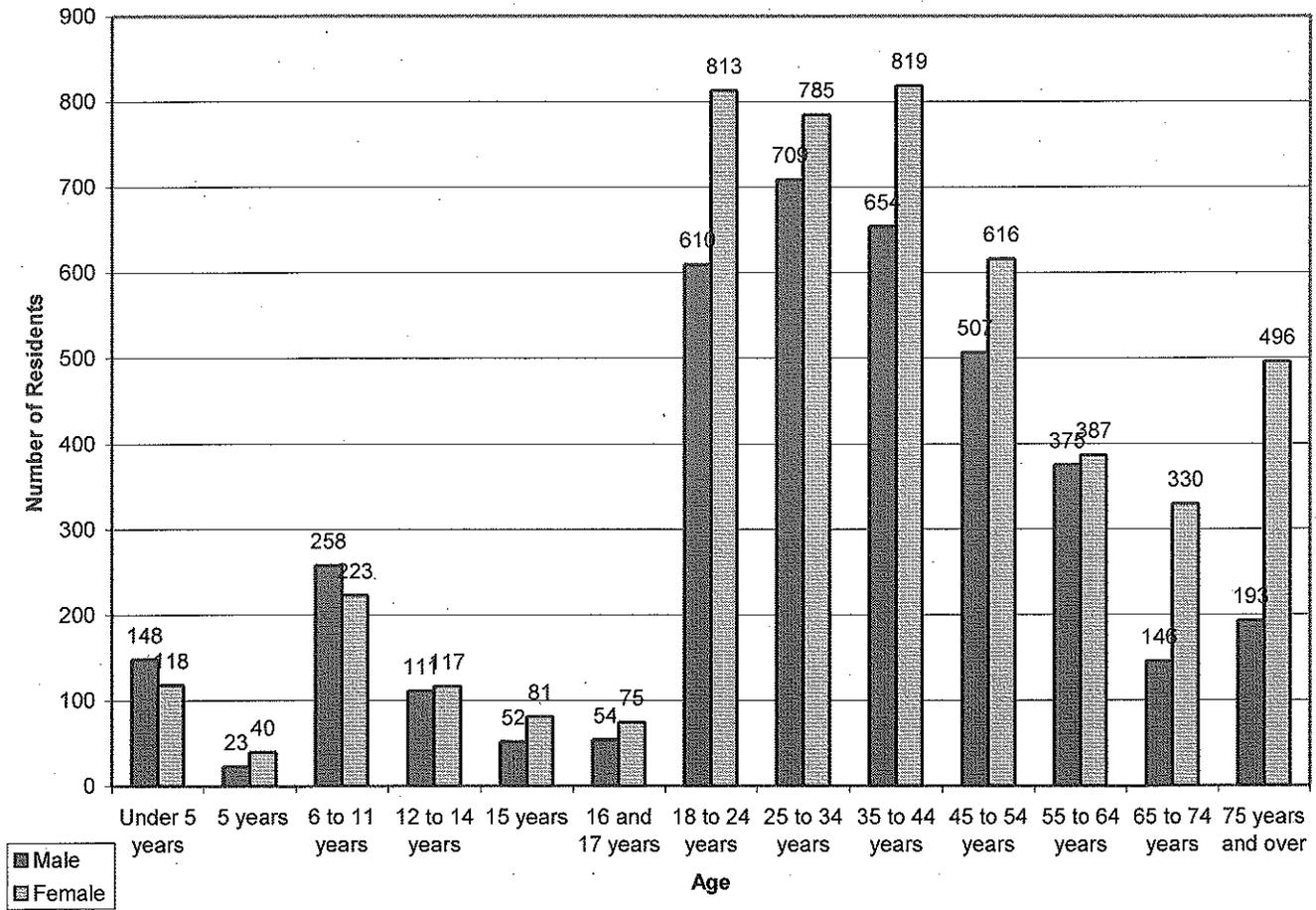
²¹2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 17: Population Living in Households With Incomes Below Poverty Threshold by Age

Residents Below Poverty Line in 1999 by Age



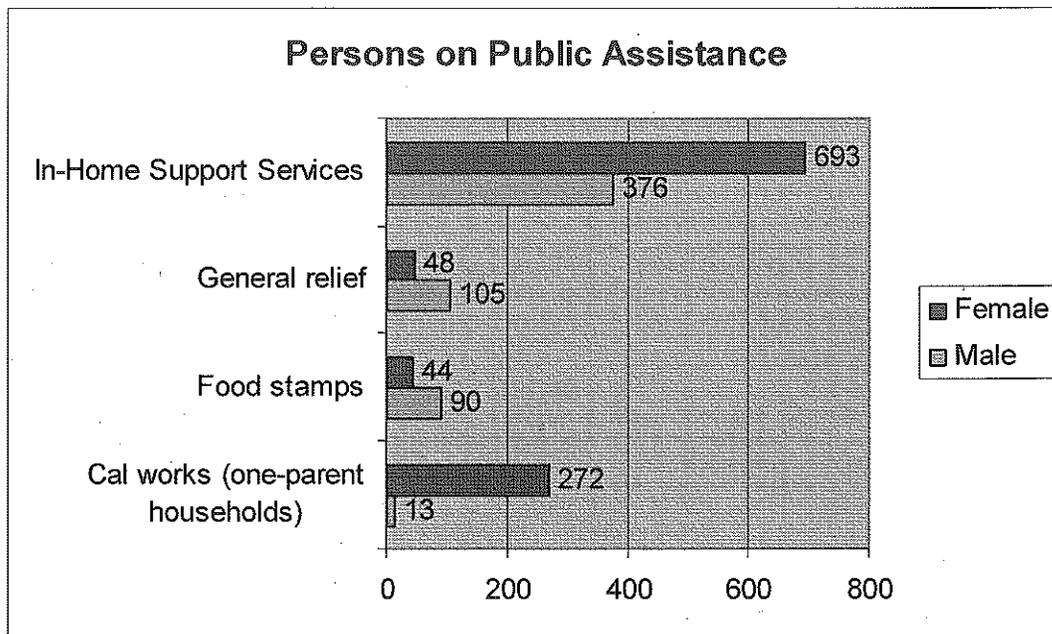
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

4. Use of Public Assistance in Santa Monica²²

Figure 18 shows the use of public assistance, that is, of government sponsored programs for which low-income families and individuals are eligible, by Santa Monica residents. Of the Santa Monica residents receiving “in-home support services” (government subsidized assistance for those who need living assistance in their homes), 65% are females. Keeping in mind that the age distribution by gender in Santa Monica and noting that a large portion of the elderly disabled population is female, it is no surprise that the majority of residents utilizing this program are female. Ninety-five percent of the people receiving “CalWorks,” (the State’s temporary assistance to needy families available to single parent households), are female. This is reasonable considering that the majority of single parents in Santa Monica are female.

Females make up 31% of the Santa Monica residents on General Relief, a cash assistance program for eligible adults without dependent children. Thirty percent of the residents on food stamps (coupons provided to individuals and families by the government to purchase food) are female.

Figure 18: Persons on Public Assistance



²² DPSS

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

5. Homeless Population

Under contract from the City of Santa Monica, the Economic Roundtable conducted a special census of the homeless population in Santa Monica in October 1999²³. The data presented in their report is used here to quantify the number of homeless people in Santa Monica. While studies such as the one conducted by the Economic Roundtable can somewhat quantify the number of homeless people in any given area at one point in time, it is difficult to rely on these numbers due to the transient nature of homeless populations. Numbers of homeless can increase or decrease based on the weather, the season of the year (e.g. Winter holidays versus other Winter times), the amount of services provided, etc. At any given point in time, therefore, one may find larger or smaller numbers of homeless than the numbers presented here.

The special census counted 1,037 homeless in Santa Monica on October 27, 1999. Of these, about one-fourth were female. Fifty percent were European Americans, 25% African-American, and the remainder Hispanic, American Indian, or Asian. When homeless were asked what services they had used in the past year, homeless women reported using services such as food, shelter, clothing, medical or dental, public assistance, counseling, rehabilitation, and job training more often than men. This was verified in the fact that women made up a large share of the homeless sleeping in shelters that night.

However, despite their use of services, the Economic Roundtable report states that “women appeared to be more successful, or motivated, than men in gaining access to every service *except* food, rehabilitation, and job training.” This finding is significant because it indicates that if homeless women are unable to access the services most important for rehabilitation and entering the labor force (job training), they may remain homeless for a longer time period than their male counterparts who do have access to and use these services. Homeless shelters and providers of services may attempt an outreach campaign that better informs homeless women of the rehabilitation and job training services available to them and entices them to join such programs or services.

²³ Daniel Flaming et.al., Economic Roundtable. “Special Census: City of Santa Monica Homeless Residents.” October 1999. Report available at <http://www.santa-monica.org/ccs/hsd/progs2.htm#Homelessness>

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

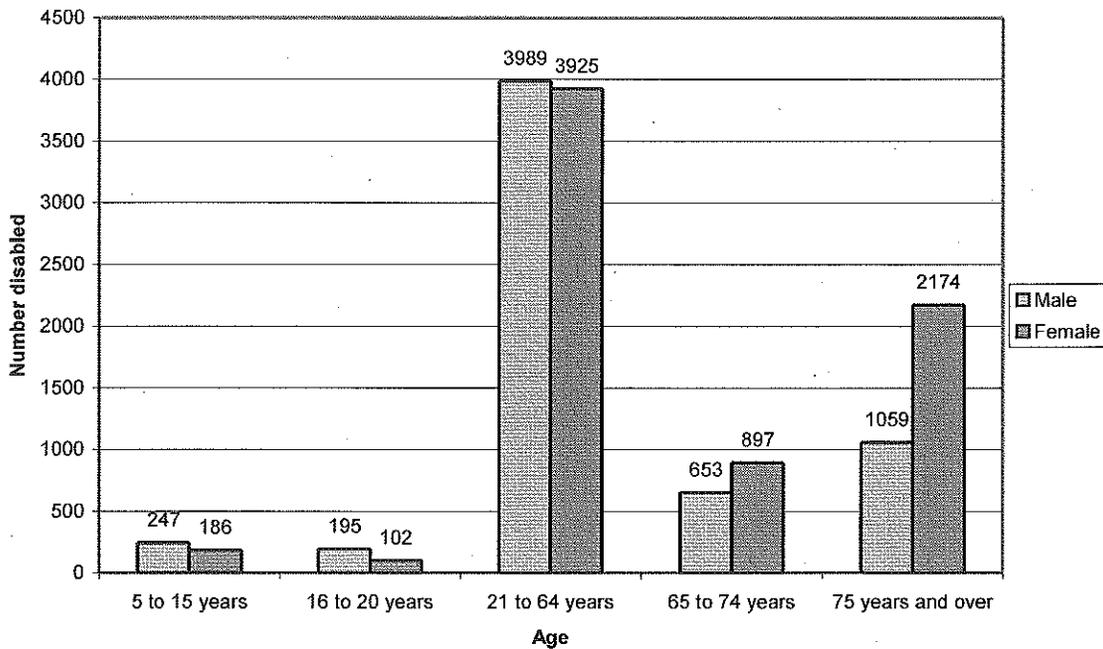
6. Disabled Population²⁴

The 2000 U.S. Census defines disability as:

“A long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.”

According to this definition, roughly 16% of Santa Monica residents experience some form of disability. Even when differences in gender of the population as a whole are taken into account, in the total disabled population, slightly more females (54%) experience disabilities than males. However, as presented in **Figure 19**, males make up more of the disabled population until the population ages over 65 years old, when females make up 64% of the disabled population.

Figure 19: Disabled Population of Santa Monica by Age



²⁴ 2000 United States Census, Summary File 3, Custom Table.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/CustomTableServlet?_ts=93352042600

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

SECTION V: CRIME IN SANTA MONICA

1. Crime Rates

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) 2001 Annual Report reported a 20% decline in the crime rate in Santa Monica from 1996 to 2001²⁵. However, in 2001, Santa Monica had the highest crime rate of any of the 25 largest cities in Los Angeles County, reporting 10,755 total offenses. Despite this high number, crimes are mainly non-violent in nature. The most-often reported crime in Santa Monica in 2001 was larceny, with 3,020 incidences reported (the next most-often reported offense was drunkenness with 1,335 incidences).

The SMPD provided the 2003 violent crime statistics by gender to the commission (in Figure 20). Overall the victims of violent crimes are 63% men and 37% women, while aggravated assault victims are 58% male and 42% female.

2. Rape Statistics

In the 2001 Annual Report, the SMPD did not break down crime by gender, nor did it have information regarding the gender of victims or perpetrators. However, the report did provide information on the number of rape and aggravated assaults, crimes to which females typically fall victim. In 2001, SMPD recorded 25 incidences of rape and 316 incidences of aggravated assault. Furthermore, the SMPD report recorded 49 incidences of prostitution, a crime most often committed by females.

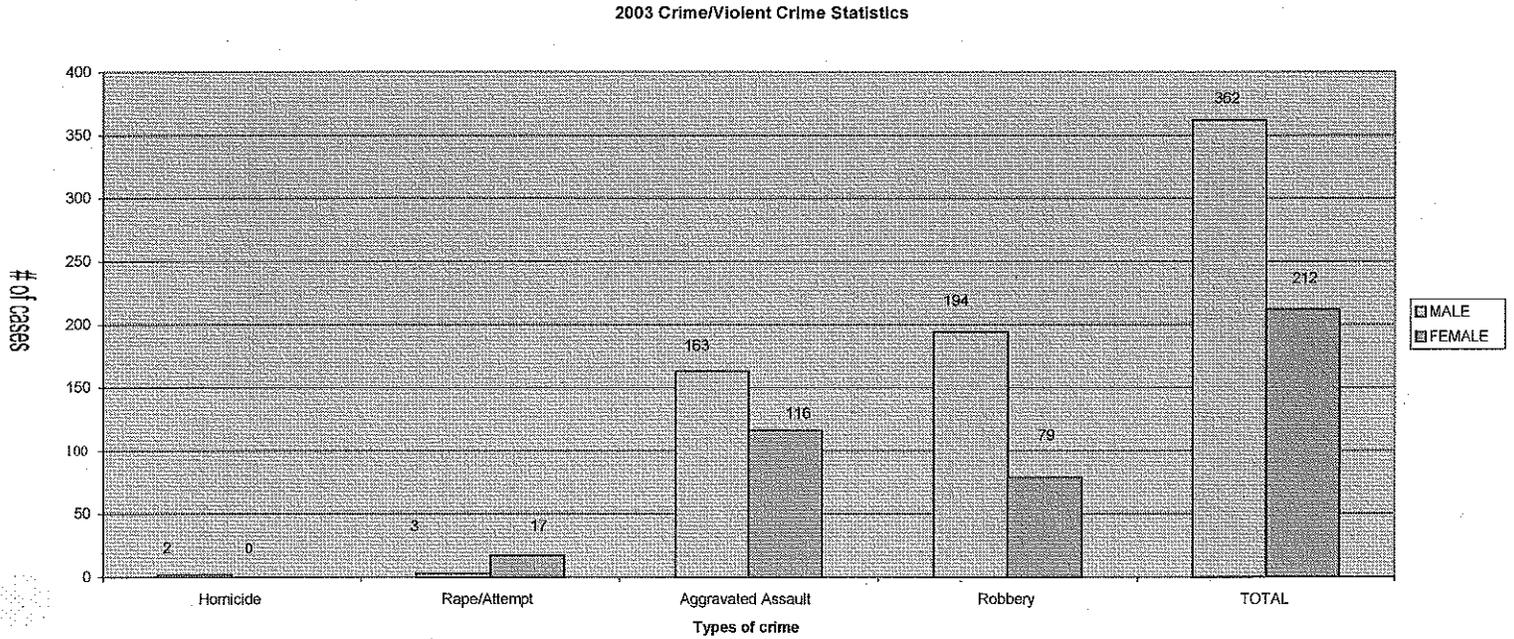
The SMPD stats for 2003 indicate that women were victims of 85% of the rape/attempted rapes compared to 15% men. **Figure 20.**

The commission values this information from the SMPD and will encourage the SMPD to collect gender data of the perpetrator as well.

²⁵ Santa Monica Police Department Crime Analysis Unit, "2001 Annual Report."

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 20: Number of Violence Crimes reported by Police Department



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

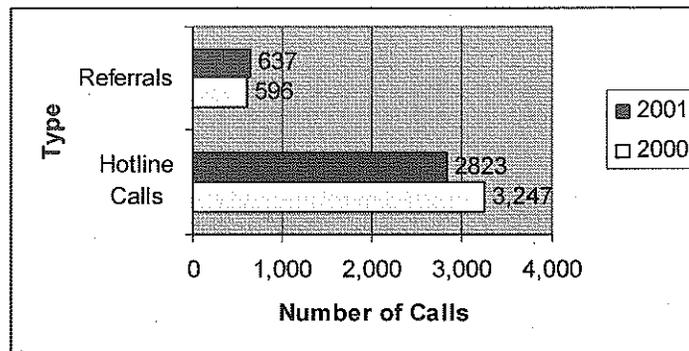
3. Domestic Violence

The SMPD report recorded 52 incidences of crime against one's family in 2001 in addition to the number of rapes (rape occurs, in some cases, as a result of domestic violence)²⁶. For more specific information regarding domestic violence, the statistics of a domestic violence shelter, Sojourn, were utilized.

For the year 2000, Sojourn recorded 3,247 hotline calls regarding domestic violence and received 596 referrals from law enforcement personnel. In 2001, the number of hotline calls regarding domestic violence fell to 2,823, but the number of referrals rose to 637²⁷. (Figure 21). For each of these statistics, it is important to note that the number of actual cases of domestic violence may be larger as there is typically an underreporting of these crimes.

In 2003, the Santa Monica Police Department's statistics (Figure 22) show that 79% of domestic violence victims are women while 21% are men.

Figure 21: Number of Domestic Violence Calls and Referrals - Sojourn Figure

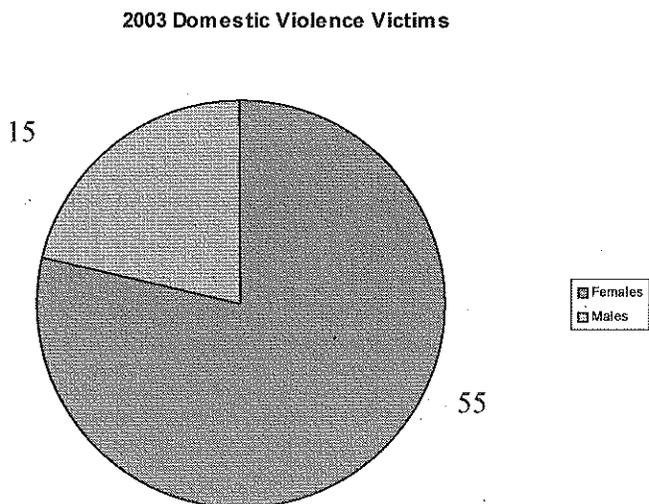


²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Interview by Pat Butler with Carmen Joseph, Sojourn House, 2002.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Figure 22: Number of Domestic Violence Reported to Police Department



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The Commission invites the City Council, City agencies, service providers, educators, community activists and all other stakeholders in the cause of enhancing the lives of women and girls in Santa Monica to review this data in light of their own expertise and share any insights drawn. Based on its experience in compiling this data and reviewing the secondary sources, the Commission makes the following observations and recommendations:

1. Due to the higher percentage of low income and ethnic minority residents in **zip codes 90404**, the concerns of women living there, such as lack of affordable housing or appropriate City services, may not be adequately addressed. Further research in partnership with neighborhood leaders, block organizations and service providers should be conducted to explore whether these women and girls are underserved.
2. **Elderly women** in Santa Monica are a particularly vulnerable population in the City. They constitute a significant percentage of low income and disabled residents, utilize the largest percentage of subsidized in-home aid, and likely collect less in Social Security benefits, pensions and investments as the result of working less and earning less throughout their lifetimes. They are quite susceptible to the possibility of healthcare cost-cutting measures in times of government financial hardship. Further research in liaison with the Commission for the Senior Community should be conducted in order to better understand and prepare for the special needs of this growing population.
3. All of the data in this report relating to **high school students** was obtained from the Department of Education, Santa Monica –Malibu Unified School District. Further inquiry should be undertaken to clarify how the very low high school drop out rate for girls was achieved given obstacles which typically result in dropping out such as pregnancy, poverty, family violence, and help needed in the family. Further inquiry should also be undertaken to determine whether the mix of advanced placement studies for girls has remained the same and the steps, if any, which are being taken to encourage girls to enroll in more mathematics and science courses.
4. Thirty-seven percent of women in Santa Monica identified themselves as “not in the **labor force**.” Further investigation should be undertaken to assure that there is a benign reason for this high percentage, such as retirement, student status, or a decision to work in the home, and not a discriminatory obstacle to employment.
5. Self-employed women comprise a sizeable percentage of working women in Santa Monica. Further investigation with the aid of partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Women Business Owners and other professional and networking groups should be undertaken to better understand the particular needs of this group of **working women**, such as the ability to purchase health insurance and to provide for retirement. The implication for the lack of health care insurance is further reliance on publicly provided healthcare resources.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

6. A similar investigation should be undertaken with respect to women **working part-time** and their access to healthcare and retirement benefits.
7. The **income gap** between women and men in Santa Monica is vast, though it is important to keep in mind that the Report does not have data to provide a gender-based comparison of wages by occupation. Further study should be undertaken to identify and remedy the continuing causes of the difference despite increasing educational advances by women.
8. What is the City of Santa Monica's commitment to remedying gender bias in employment? A current demographic survey should be shared with the Commission to demonstrate by department the gender make-up of **City employees, elected and appointed officials, and managers.**
9. The information concerning **childcare** was largely gleaned from a study conducted by the City of Santa Monica Human Services Division in 2000. The report concluded that there is a need to increase the availability of infant and school age care, especially during non-traditional hours and for special needs care. The Division should update this report to indicate what progress if any has been made in the past three years.
10. Some topics of interest to the Commission and to the public did not have data readily available through the Census. For these topics, such as specifics regarding homelessness and domestic violence, researchers gathered data from groups, organizations, or professionals that are active in the community on these issues or from reports published by other groups. The Commission would like to work with the City of Santa Monica in the hope of having non-profits funded by the City **gather more concise and accurate data** for future reports.
11. The Commission encourages further communication into rates of **domestic violence and crimes** against women including on-going collection of data by gender to ensure that this vulnerable population receives the care and services it needs.
12. Compilation of **voting statistics** by gender and **political affiliation** within zip codes should be collected and made available to the Commission in order to help it assess whether the women of Santa Monica are fully cognizant of and represented in the policy-making process in the City. This recommendation suggests a partnership with an organization such as the League of Women Voters in order to specifically address possible disenfranchisement.
13. Further research should be undertaken to **compare** the status of women in Santa Monica with women in Los Angeles County and the State of California. Such a comparison would enhance to ability of the Commission to compare successful programs that enhanced the status of women in other jurisdictions for application to the City of Santa Monica.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Commission on the Status of Women would like to thank the following organizations for their support, encouragement, and assistance with this report:

- ❖ The City of Santa Monica
- ❖ United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- ❖ The Los Angeles Women's Foundation
- ❖ Department of Public and Social Services
- ❖ The State Data Center
- ❖ The United States Census Bureau
- ❖ Sojourn
- ❖ UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research
- ❖ RAND Corporation
- ❖ Santa Monica Police Department
- ❖ Report Committee:
 - Teresa Magula – Independent Report Writer/UCLA MPP Student
 - Tia Skulski – Chair/Commissioner/Report Project Manager
 - Kelly Hayes-Raitt – Vice Chair/Commissioner
 - Andrea Lipton – Commissioner
 - Sarah Mueller Stegmoeller – Commissioner
 - Diana Sahagun - Former Commissioner
 - Mar Preston – Former Commissioner
 - Michael Feinstein – Former City Councilmember
 - City Staff:
 - Tracy Scruggs
 - Libby Carlson
 - Betty Macias
 - Janet Hand

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Appendix 1: Zip Code Maps of the City of Santa Monica

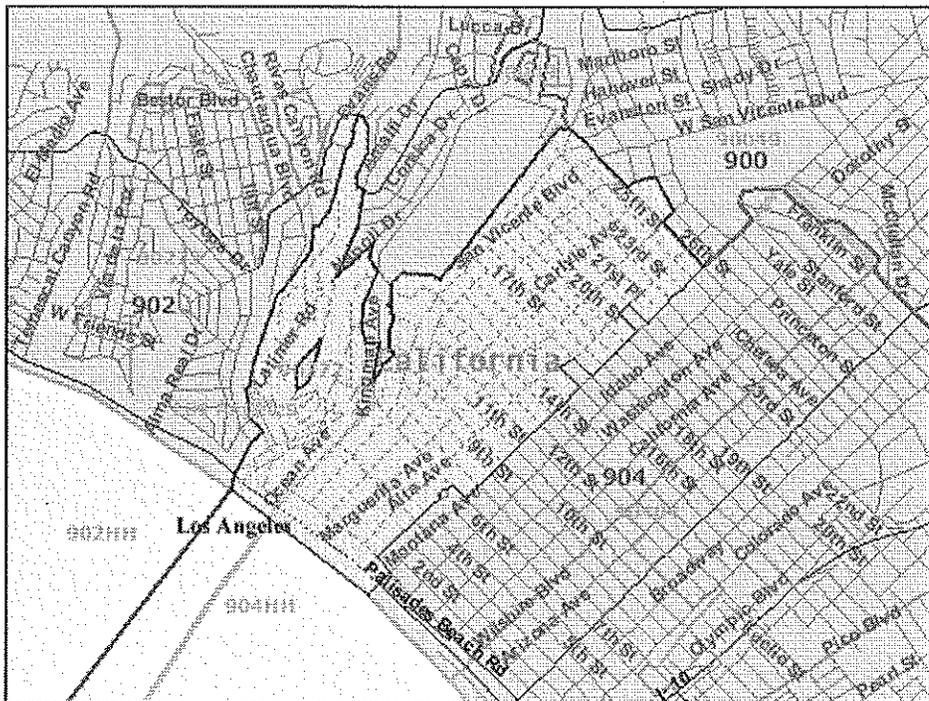
Zip Code Map of 90401

- Boundaries**
- State
 - '00 County
 - '00 Co Sub
 - '00 Place
 - '00 Place
 - '00 Urban Area
 - '00 Urban Area
 - '00 ZCTA-3
 - '00 ZCTA-5
- Features**
- Major Road
 - Street
 - Stream/Waterbody
 - Stream/Waterbody



Zip Code Map of 90402

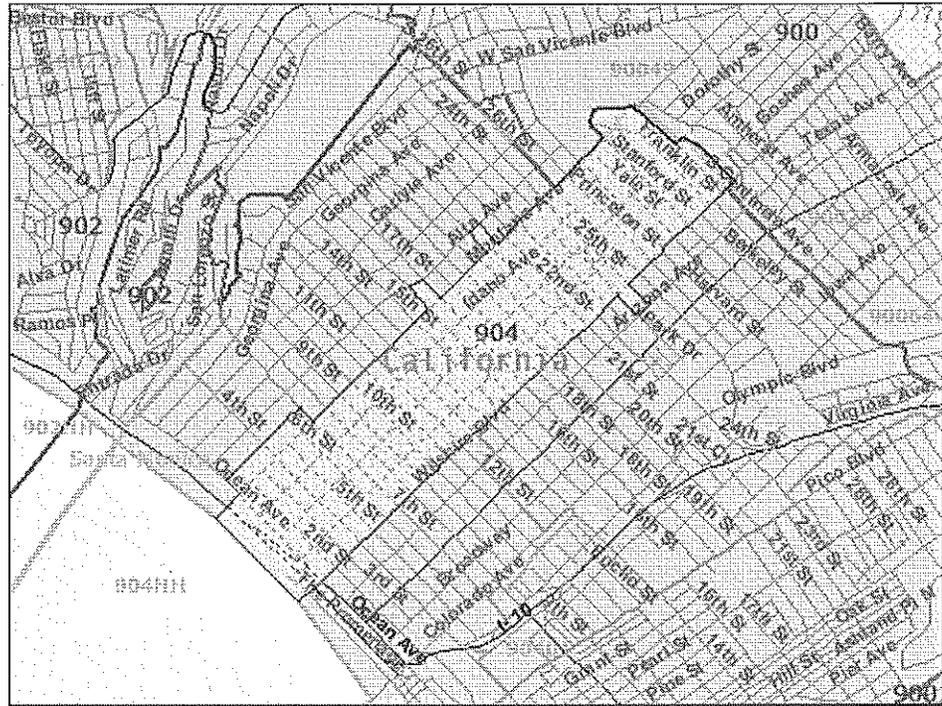
- Boundaries**
- State
 - '00 County
 - '00 Co Sub
 - '00 Place
 - '00 Place
 - '00 Urban Area
 - '00 Urban Area
 - '00 ZCTA-3
 - '00 ZCTA-5
- Features**
- Major Road
 - Street
 - Stream/Waterbody
 - Stream/Waterbody



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

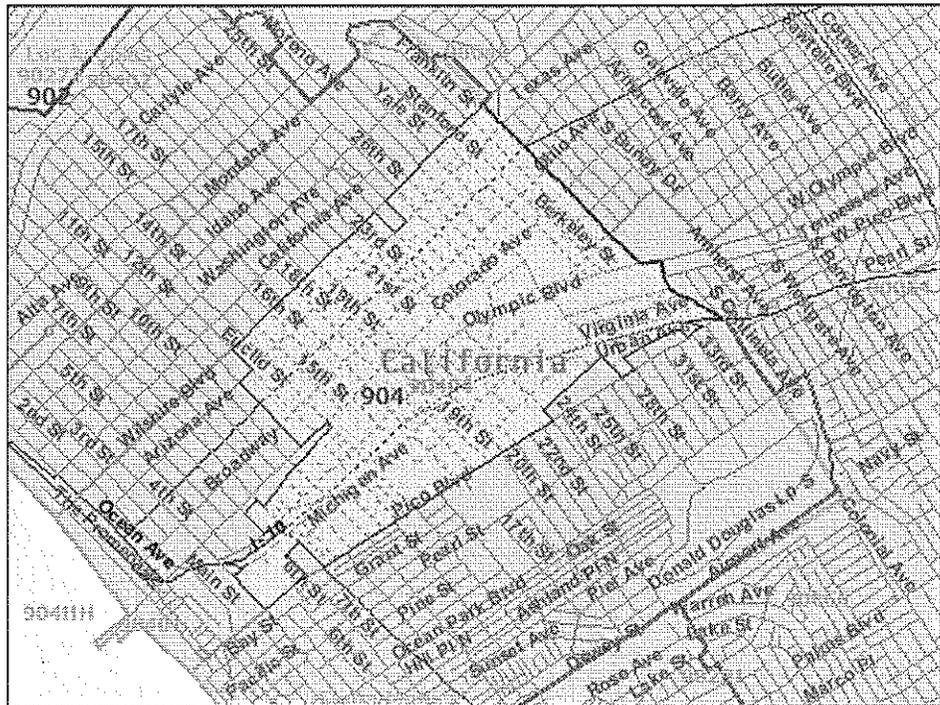
Zip Code Map of 90403

- Boundaries**
- State
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 - '00 Urban Area
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- Features**
- Major Road
 - Street
 - Stream/Waterbody
 - Stream/Waterbody



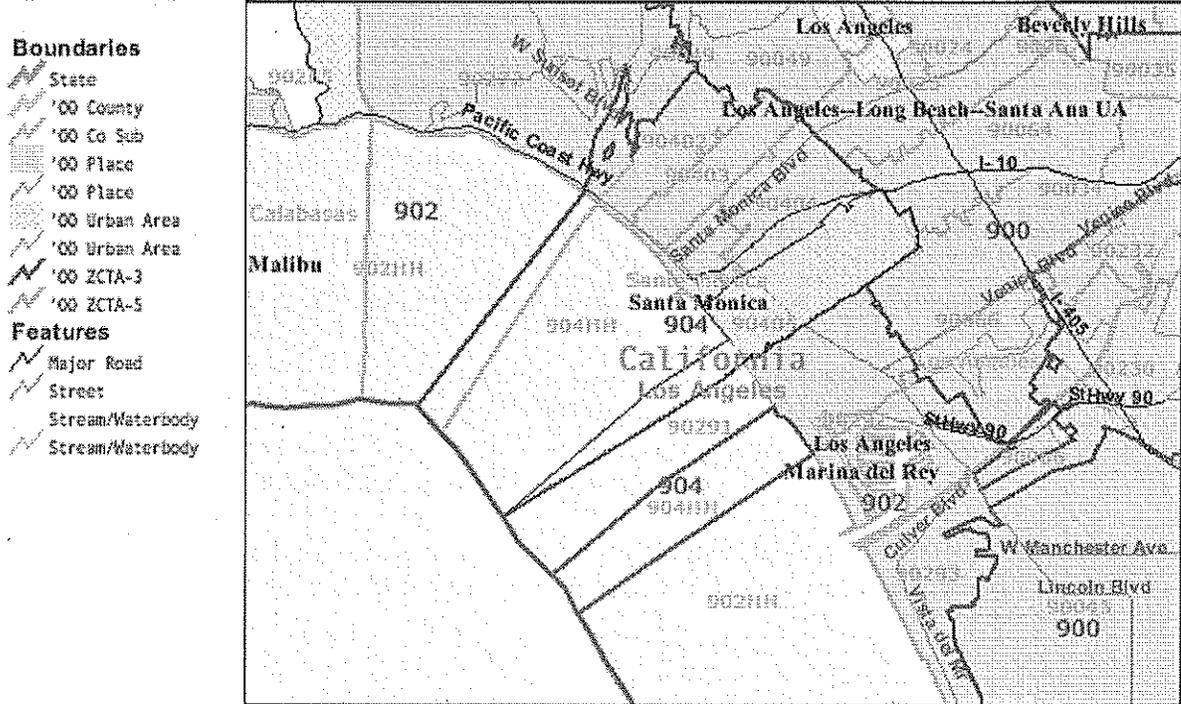
Zip Code Map of 90404

- Boundaries**
- State
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- Features**
- Major Road
 - Street
 - Stream/Waterbody
 - Stream/Waterbody



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Zip Code Map of 90405



¹ 2000 United States Census, Fact Finder, 5-Digit Zip Code Tabulation.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/AdvGeoSearchByListServlet?_command=getPlacenames&_programYear=50&_geoAreaType=860&_treeId=420&_dispOrder=1035&_currentGeoAreaType=850&_geoidsHierarchy=87633370&_lang=en

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Commission on the Status of Women
Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Appendix 2: Community Input

On Wednesday, April 28, 2004, the Commission on the Status of Women publicly presented the *Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Santa Monica 2004* to an audience of approximately 30 city residents (including community leaders such as City Council members, City staff, other group's Commission members, League of Women Voters, YWCA, Santa Monica Ranked Voting, and members of the press). After listening to the highlights of the *Report*, as detailed above, the audience voiced its concern and requested further inquiry on topics such as:

- Income by age and gender (not just gender as in *Report*)
- Elderly women services
- Lack of women on City Council
- Choice Voting (IRV) to better reflect and represents women's choices
- Term limits for City Council
- Impacts of self-employment on women's ability to participate in city government.

At the conclusion, the public urged the Commission to present the *Report* findings to City Council at a future Council meeting at the most effective method of sharing the information.