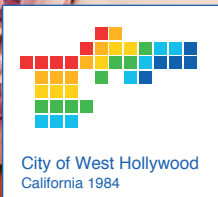


Report on the
Status of Women
in West Hollywood



www.weho.org

2014



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- John D’Amico, Mayor Pro Tempore
- John J. Duran, Councilmember
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- Jeffrey Prang, Councilmember

- Paul Arevalo, City Manager
- Sam Baxter, Assistant City Manager

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD STAFF

- Elizabeth Savage, Human Services & Rent Stabilization Director
- Daphne Dennis, former Social Services Manager
- David Giugni, Social Services Manager
- Corri Planck, Social Services Program Administrator
- Corey Roskin, Social Services Specialist
- Francisco Gomez, Social Services Intern
- Lisa Merin, City Council Intern

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

- Abby Arnold
- Gretchen Goetz Design

City of West Hollywood
 8300 Santa Monica Blvd.
 West Hollywood, CA 90069
 (323) 848-6400

www.weho.org

TTY for the hearing impaired (323) 848-6496

 @wehocity

 /wehocity

**15,984
 women
 and girls**

made West Hollywood
 their home in 2010

Women
represented **44%**
of the City's total
population in
2010



Introduction

In 2013, the City of West Hollywood completed a comprehensive Community Study, which provided an updated analysis of community demographics, public health outcomes and a community needs assessment focused on social services. One of the most notable points distinguishing West Hollywood is that women constitute a smaller proportion of residents than in Los Angeles County. The City Council directed staff to compile data, history and resources relating to the status of women in West Hollywood.

In this report, we compare women who live in West Hollywood to women who live in Los Angeles County as a whole, and to men who live in West Hollywood. We looked for areas of consistency, and for differences that might point to assets or unmet needs among West Hollywood women and girls.

Public policy often assumes that children's issues are women's issues. Children in West Hollywood may have two dads, a single father, or other non-traditional family structures. While some data about children is discussed in this report, we do not equate women with the child-rearing role that is often an integral part of an examination of the status of women. This is one area, among the many, that sets West Hollywood apart from other communities.

Explanation of Data Sources

The West Hollywood Status of Women Report draws its findings from the Community Study sources, including the U.S. Census, California and Los Angeles County public health data, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's data, the City of West Hollywood's statistically-valid community survey, and feedback gathered through the Community Study's public outreach and engagement process.

The City of West Hollywood's Status of Women Report is designed to provide information on the current state of women living in West Hollywood and to inform future City programming and policy decisions.



Public policy often assumes that children's issues are women's issues. Many of West Hollywood's children have two dads, a single father, or other non-traditional family structures.

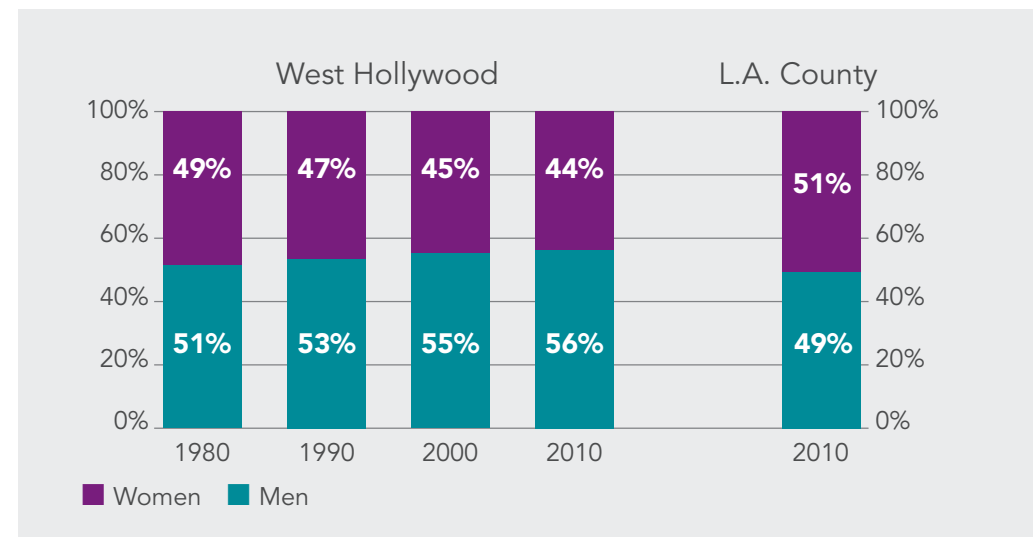
Part One | Population Characteristics

West Hollywood has fewer women than is typical for a city of its size.

Unlike nearly every geographic subdivision in California, women make up less than half the population of the City of West Hollywood. Women are 50.8% of the United States population, and are 50.3% of California's population. Women comprise 50.3% of the population of Los Angeles County, and 50.2% of residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Women represent only 43.8% of West Hollywood's population, a rate that has declined since 1980, when 49% of West Hollywood residents were women. During that same period, the total population, number of households, and the average household size have all decreased in West Hollywood.

Figure 1 | Proportion of Men and Women in West Hollywood, Compared to Los Angeles County | U.S. Census



Unlike nearly every geographic subdivision in California, women make up less than half the population of the City of West Hollywood.

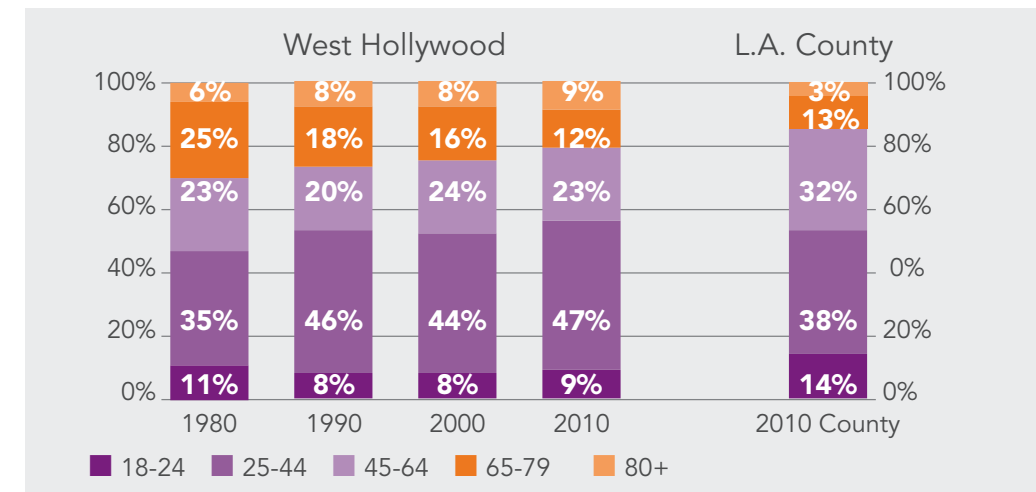
Women who live in West Hollywood are young to middle-aged.

West Hollywood has a high proportion of young women ages 25 to 44.

As the population changes in West Hollywood, more women in the 25 to 44 year age group are moving in. The percentage of women who are seniors is declining.

This age distribution became more pronounced during the ten-year period between 2000 and 2010, when the total population and proportion of women in the 18 to 44 and over 80 age groups increased, and the total population and proportion of women age 45 to 79 decreased.

Figure 2 | Age Distribution of Women in West Hollywood Compared to Los Angeles County | U.S. Census



As the population changes in West Hollywood, more women in the 25 to 44 year age group are moving into the city.

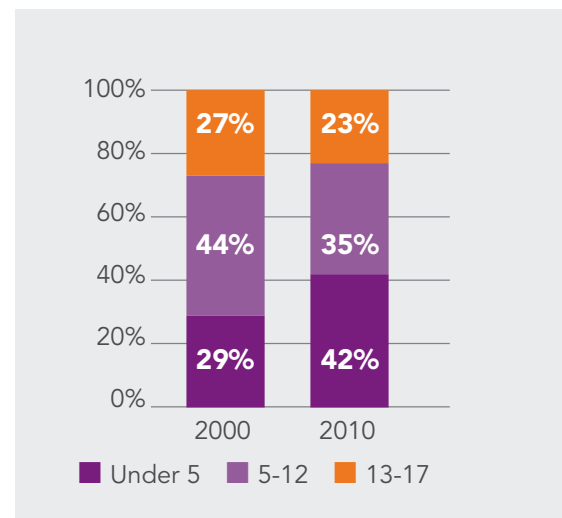


West Hollywood has fewer children as a percentage of the population than Los Angeles County as a whole.

There are proportionally fewer children in West Hollywood than in the general population.

West Hollywood has fewer children as a percentage of the population than Los Angeles County as a whole, with about 5% of West Hollywood residents under age 18, compared with about 25% of Los Angeles County residents. However, it does appear that West Hollywood experienced a bit of a baby boom in the period from 2000 to 2010, when the percentage of children under age five rose from 29% to 42%. West Hollywood has more single fathers, more families with two male parents, and fewer families with opposite-sex parents.

Figure 3 | Age Distribution of Population Under 18 Years Old in West Hollywood | U.S. Census



West Hollywood residents are more likely to be in the 25 to 45 year old age group than residents of Los Angeles County, and less likely to be children.

Figure 4 | Percent of West Hollywood Population by Age by Sex, 2010 | U.S. Census

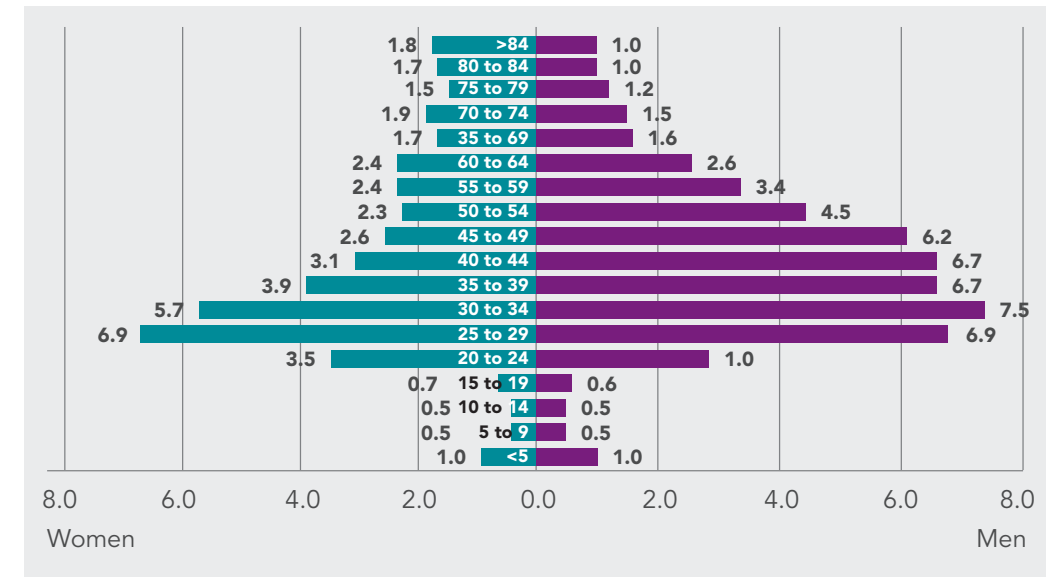
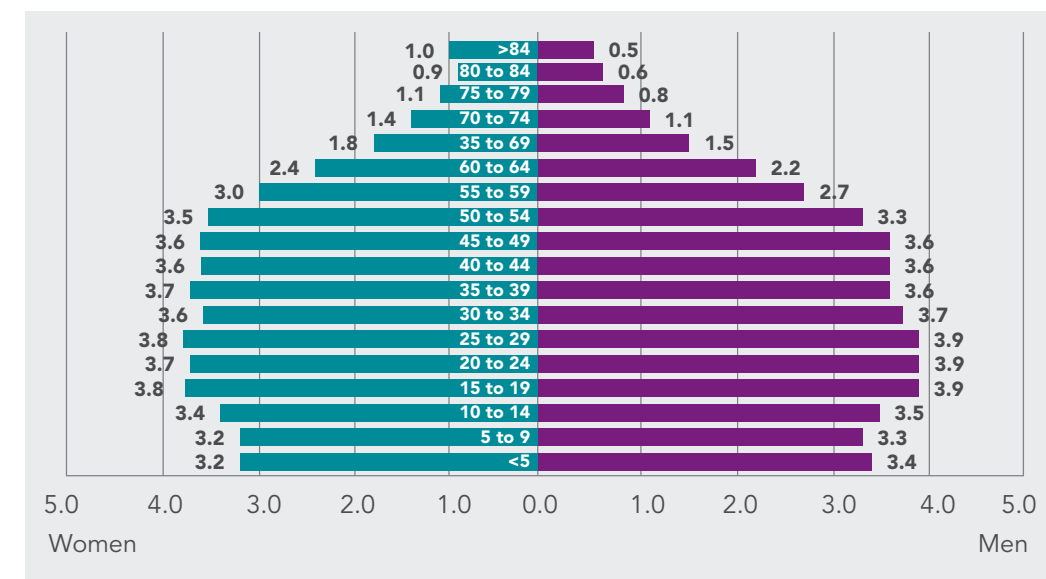


Figure 5 | Percent of County Population by Age by Sex, 2010 | U.S. Census



Women in West Hollywood are predominantly white, with significant representation of other ethnicities

The ethnicity of women mirrors the total population of West Hollywood. During each decade since 1980, the City of West Hollywood, including its female residents, has grown more racially and ethnically diverse. However, West Hollywood continues to have a far greater proportion of residents who identify as white (78%) than those county-wide, where the largest proportion of residents are Latino (47%), and only 27% of women identify themselves as white.

Figure 6 | Ethnicity of Women in West Hollywood, 2010 | U.S. Census

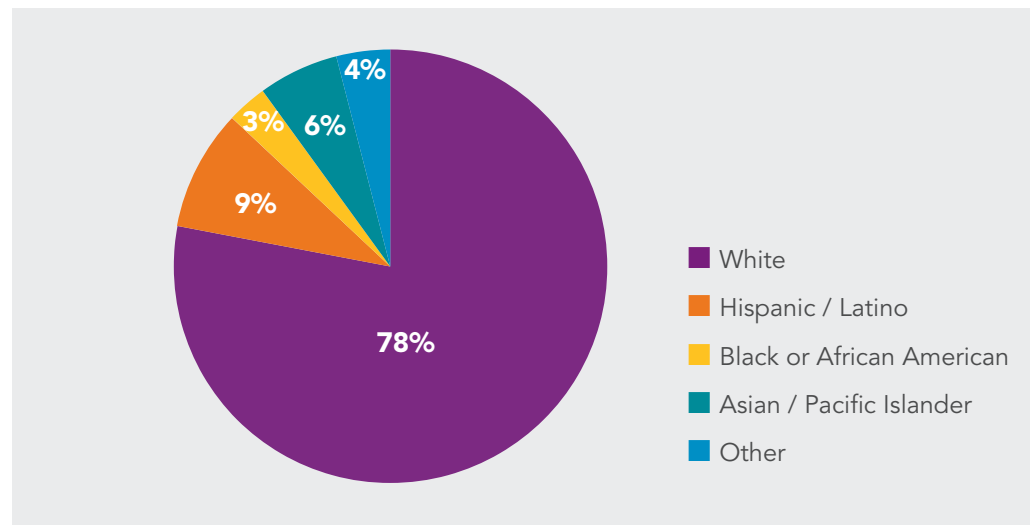
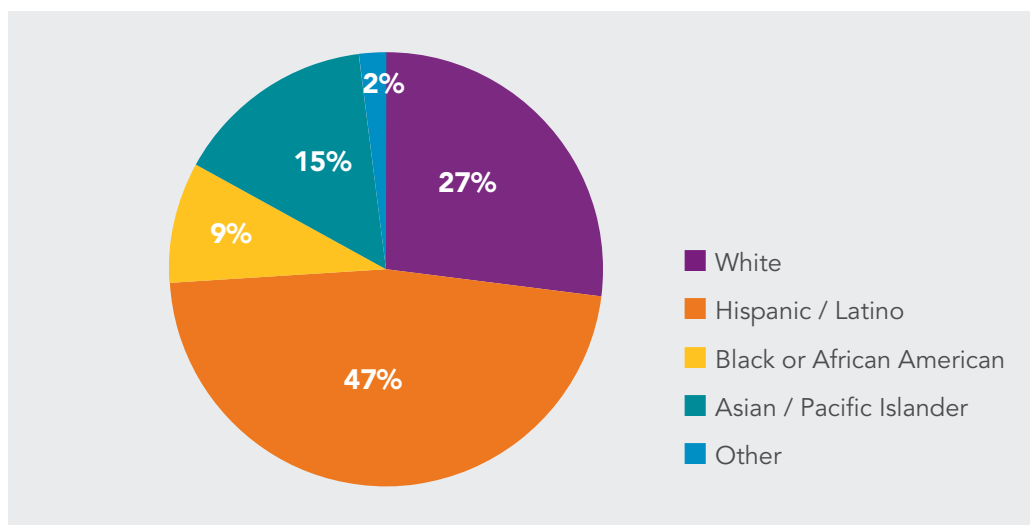


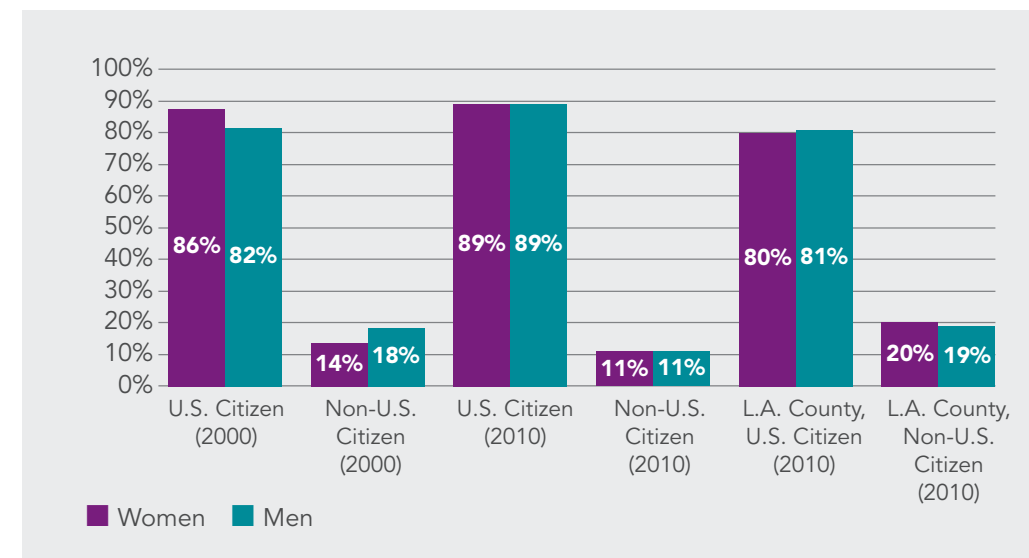
Figure 7 | Ethnicity of Women in Los Angeles County, 2010 | U.S. Census



Women in West Hollywood are increasingly U.S. citizens, and are less likely to be born in California than other women in Los Angeles County.

Over its history, West Hollywood has attracted a large proportion of its population from all over the world, particularly immigrants from the countries of the former Soviet Union. Compared with Los Angeles County, women who live in West Hollywood are more likely to hold U.S. citizenship (89% in West Hollywood, compared to 81% county-wide.) The percentage of women residents of West Hollywood who are U.S. citizens increased by 8% since the 2000 Census.

Figure 8 | Citizenship of Women in West Hollywood, 2000 and 2010 | U.S. Census



The City of West Hollywood has a substantially lower percentage of women who were born in California than Los Angeles County. Only 27% of women living in West Hollywood were born in California, compared to 48% of women county-wide. The percentage of West Hollywood women born in California is up by 7% from 2010.

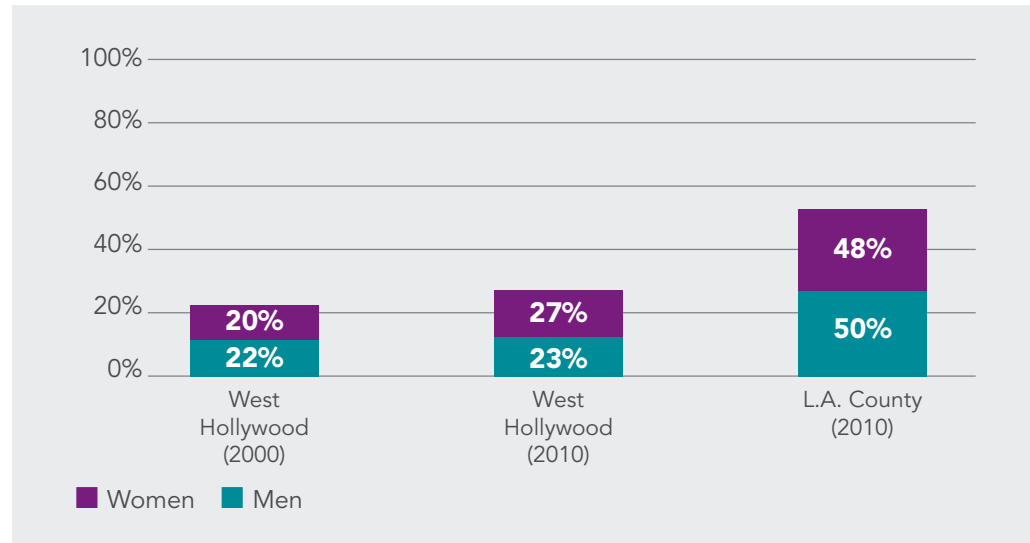


Over its history, West Hollywood has attracted a large proportion of its population from outside the United States.



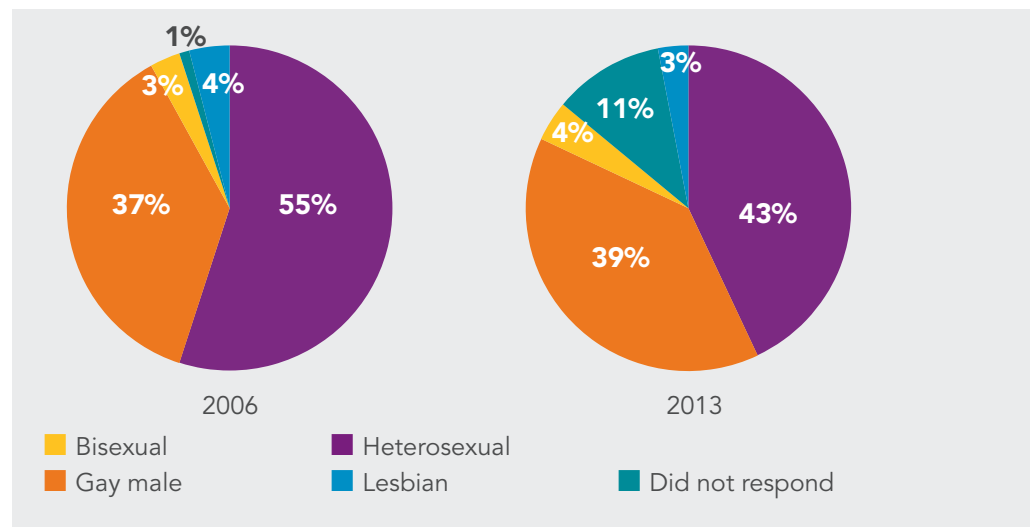
City of West Hollywood's 2013 Community Study found that three percent of respondents identified as lesbian.

Figure 9 | Percent of Women Residents of West Hollywood Born in California | U.S. Census



Three percent of West Hollywood residents identify as lesbian. West Hollywood is at the center of LGBT culture and politics in Southern California, and the City of West Hollywood's 2013 Community Study found that three percent of respondents identified as lesbian. The percentage of people who identify as lesbian has slightly decreased since 2006 (4%), but is the same as 1998 and 2000 data.

Figure 10 | Sexual Orientation of Male and Female West Hollywood Residents | West Hollywood Community Study



In 1998 and 2006, one percent of the respondents identified as transgender to the City's Community Survey. In 2013, no respondents identified as transgender, but 1% of the City's social services users are transgender, providing an indicator of the number of transgender women in the population of West Hollywood.

Figure 11 | Gender of Clients Served by West Hollywood Social Services Programs | City of West Hollywood, 2012-13



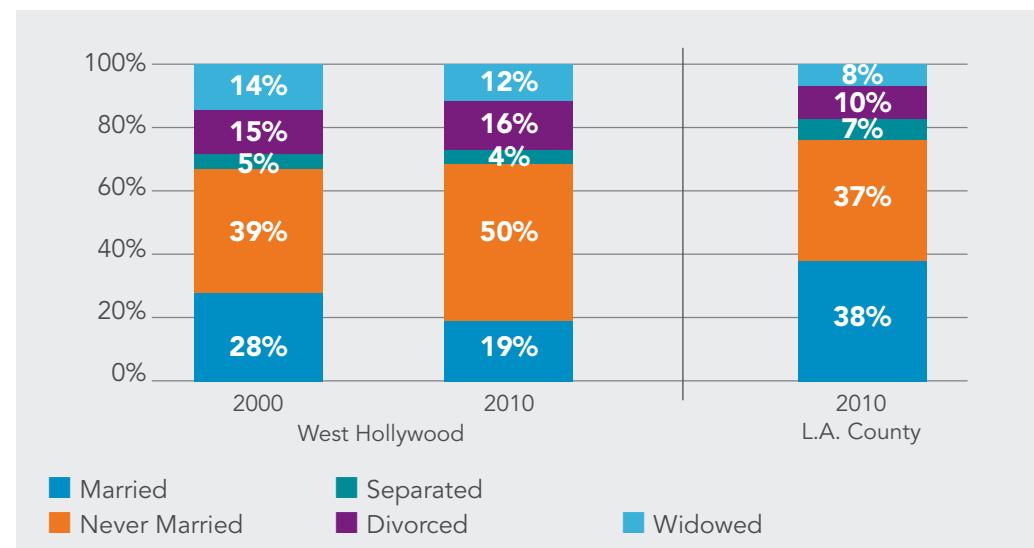


Women living in West Hollywood are less likely to be married, less likely to have children, and more likely to live alone than they were in 2000.

Women who live in West Hollywood are likely to live alone or in small households.

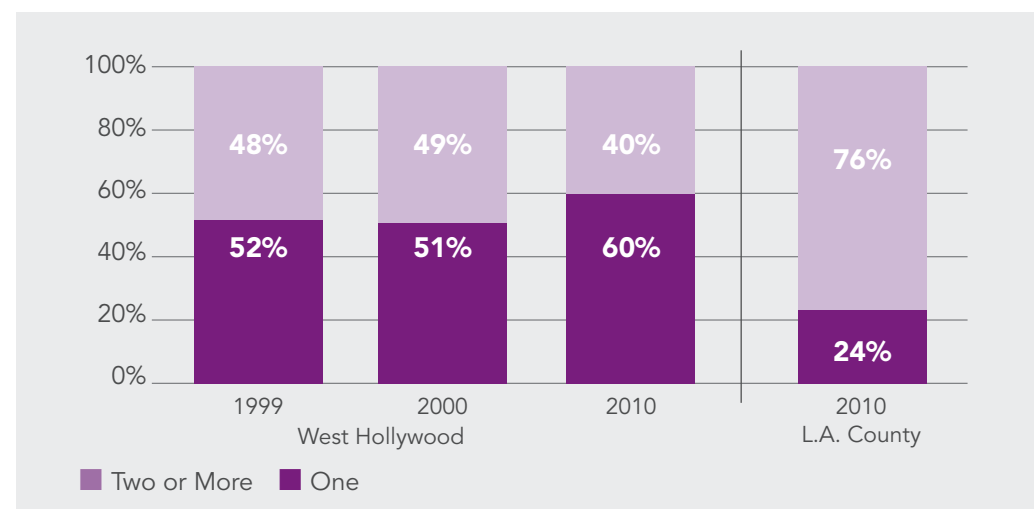
Women living in West Hollywood are less likely to be married, less likely to have children, and more likely to live alone than they were in 2000. The percentage of married females decreased from 28% in 2000 to 19% in 2010. Women who live in West Hollywood are half as likely to be married than the women of Los Angeles County as a whole, where 38% of adult women are married.

Figure 12 | Marital Status of Women in West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | U.S. Census



An increased number of women in West Hollywood live alone. Three of every five women live alone, compared to one in four women in Los Angeles County.

Figure 13 | Household Size for Women in West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | U.S. Census



Few West Hollywood households have children living in them.

Figure 14 | Households With Related Children Under 18: West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | U.S. Census

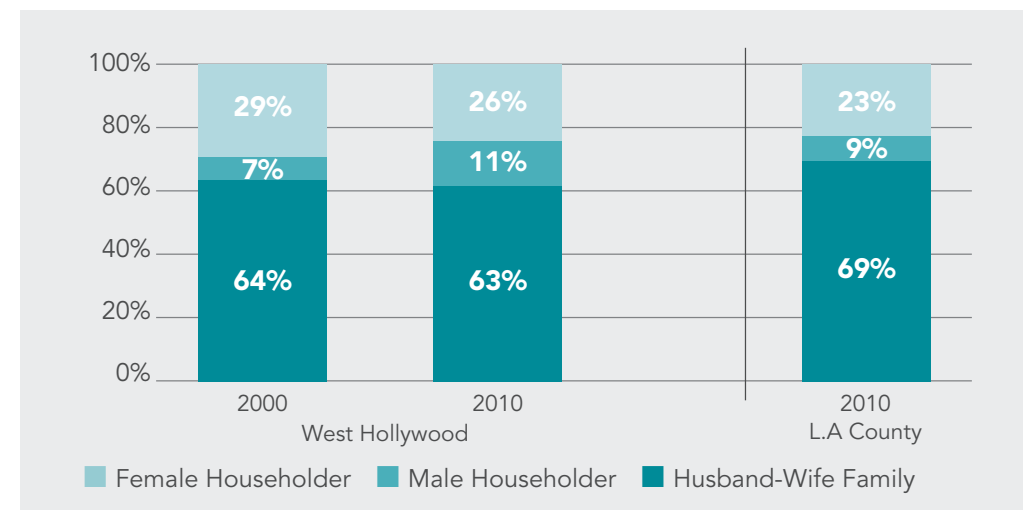
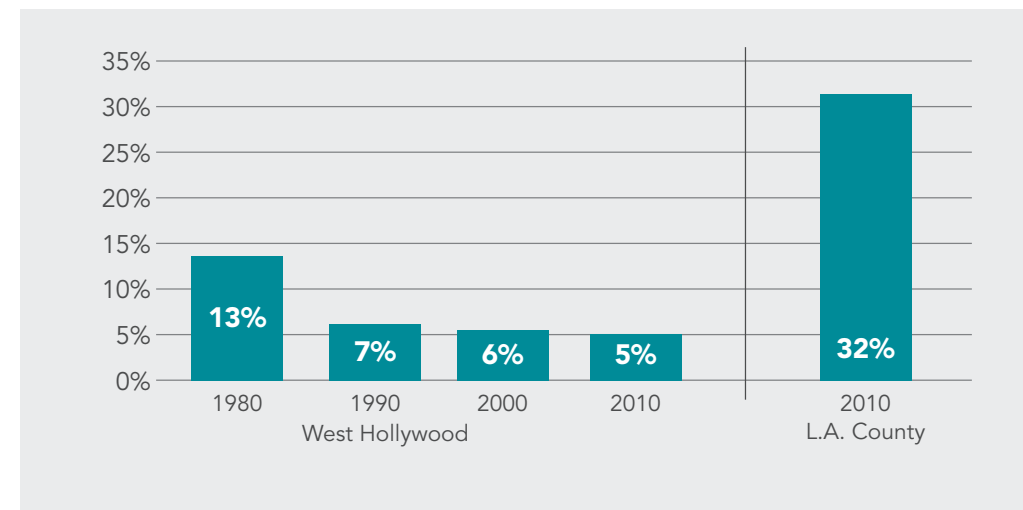


Figure 15 | Total Households with Children under 18: West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | U.S. Census



There is a larger percentage of same-sex couples in West Hollywood than in Los Angeles County.

There are approximately 62 same-sex couples per 1,000 households in West Hollywood, significantly more than the countywide average of eight same-sex couples per 1,000 households. When the City surveyed residents in 2013, 61% of lesbian and bisexual women who were West Hollywood residents said that they live with their same-sex spouse or domestic partner, and 32% live alone. Lesbians and bisexual women in West Hollywood are more likely to live in a couple than heterosexual women. The majority of lesbian and bisexual couples in West Hollywood have children. Of the 62% of lesbians and bisexuals who live in a two- to four-person household, 80% have children under the age of seven and 30% have children ages 13 to 18 years old.

Figure 16 | Same-Sex Couples per 1,000 Households, West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | The Williams Institute

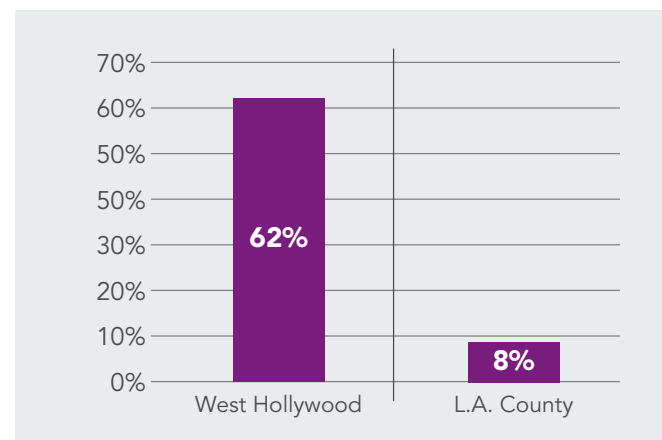
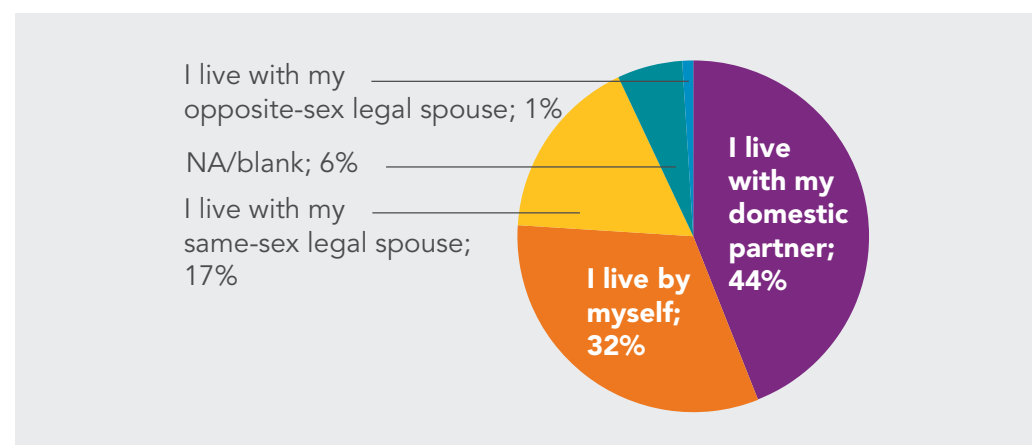


Figure 17 | Living Arrangements of Lesbian and Bisexual Women in West Hollywood, 2013 | West Hollywood Community Study 2013



Nearly half (44%) live with their domestic partner, 32% live alone, and 17% live with their same-sex legal spouse.

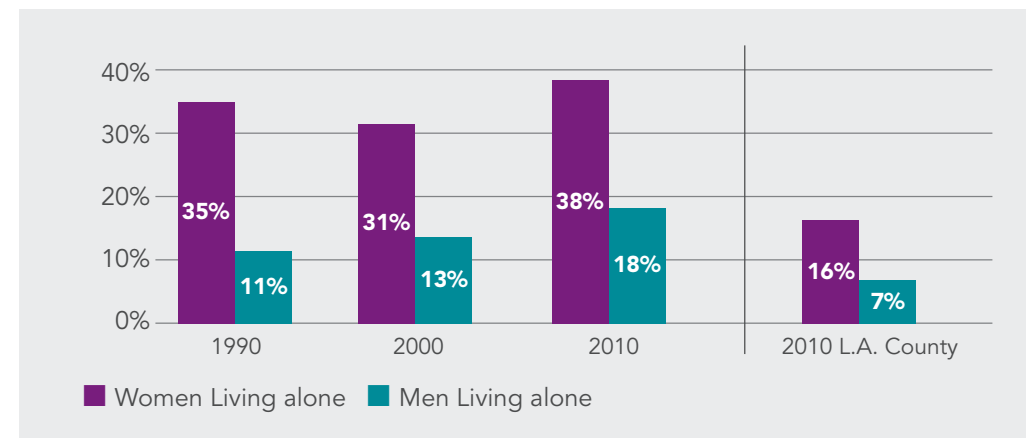


Lesbians and bisexual women in West Hollywood are more likely to live in a couple than heterosexual women.

Women 65 and older in West Hollywood increasingly live alone.

An increasingly high proportion of persons age 65 and older live alone in West Hollywood. Eighteen percent of men and 38% of women age 65 and older live alone (up from 13% and 31% in 2000, respectively), which is more than double the County rates of 7% for men and 16% for women.

Figure 18 | Proportion of Men and Women Age 65 and Older Living Alone, West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | U.S. Census



Almost half of the women who live in West Hollywood are long-term residents.

Forty-seven percent of female survey respondents have lived in the City of West Hollywood for 10 years or more, and 30% have lived in West Hollywood for only one to three years.

Similarly, 36% have lived in their current housing unit for 10 years or more, and 38% have only lived in their current housing for one to three years.



An increasingly high proportion of persons age 65 and older live alone in West Hollywood.

63% of women in West Hollywood have attended some college or have a college degree.



Part Two | Education, Employment and Income

West Hollywood has a highly-educated population. Eighty-four percent of men and 79% of women in West Hollywood have some college, a bachelors degree, or a graduate degree. Only 17% of men and 21% of women have not attended college.

The percentage of women with a graduate degree increased from 13% in 2000 to 16% in 2010, growing further above the County rate, which is 10%.

Figure 19 | Educational Attainment by Gender, City of West Hollywood
| U.S. Census

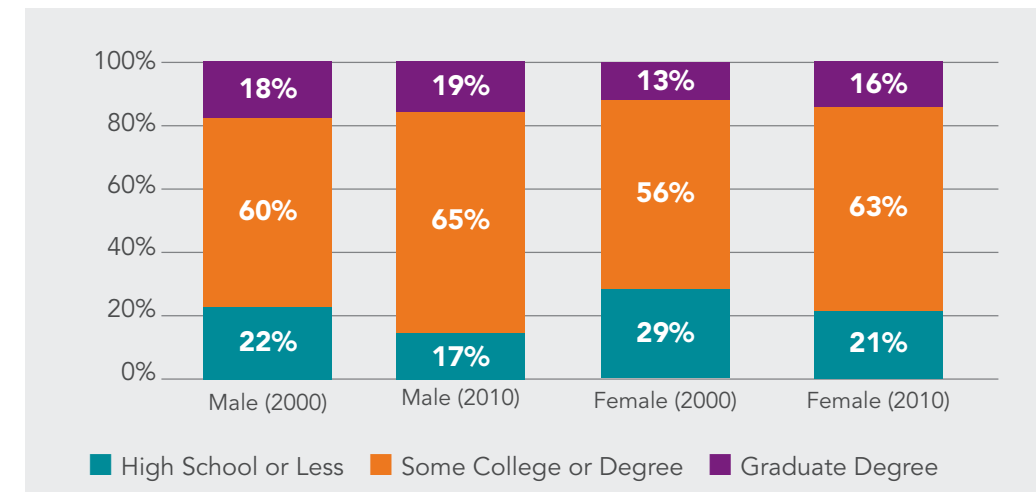
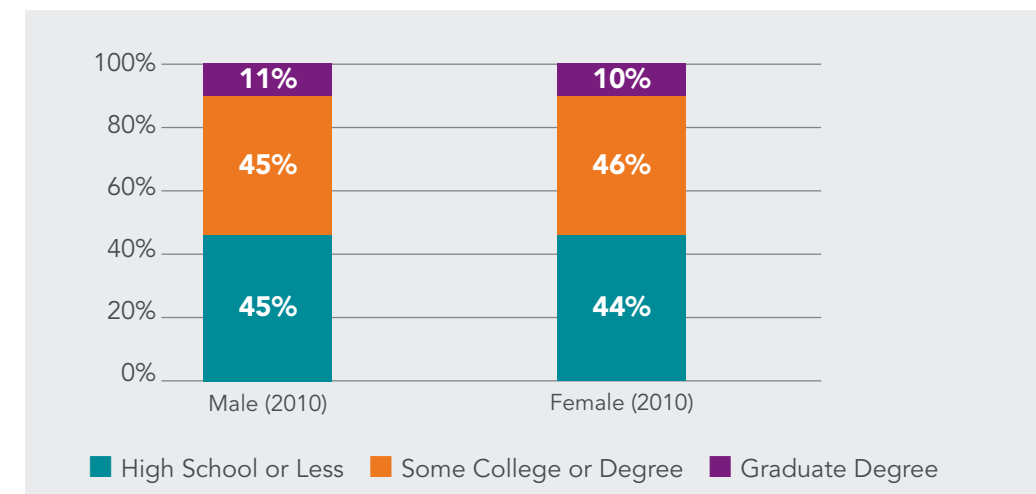


Figure 20 | Educational Attainment by Gender, Los Angeles County
| U.S. Census



The rates of employment, type of employment, and median household incomes have shifted slightly in the past decades. Compared with 2000, there are more West Hollywood residents who are unemployed.

West Hollywood women have a lower unemployment rate (8%), than women in the county (12%). However, the type of employment held by women – their corresponding median incomes – continue to reflect gender disproportionality.

Figure 21 | Employment and Unemployment in West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | U.S. Census

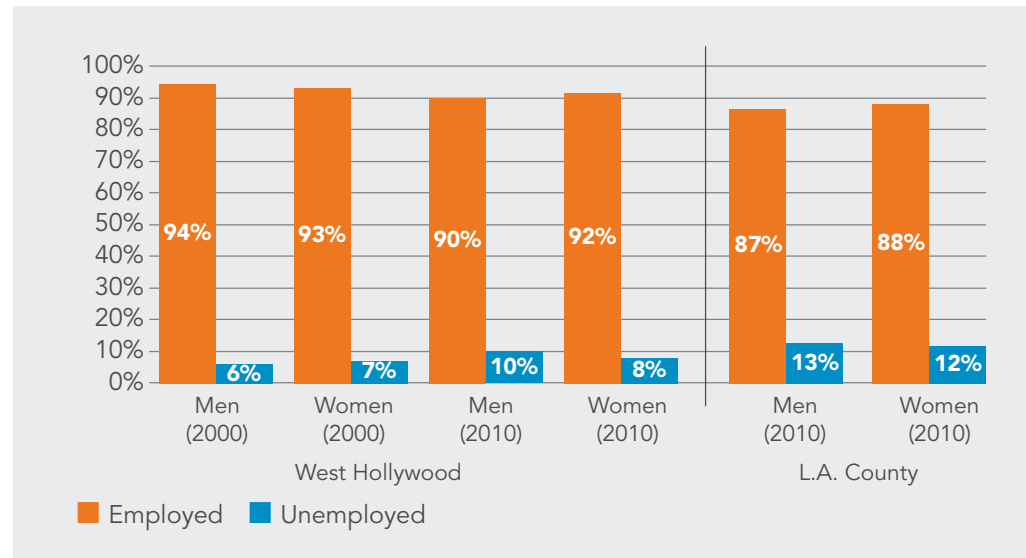
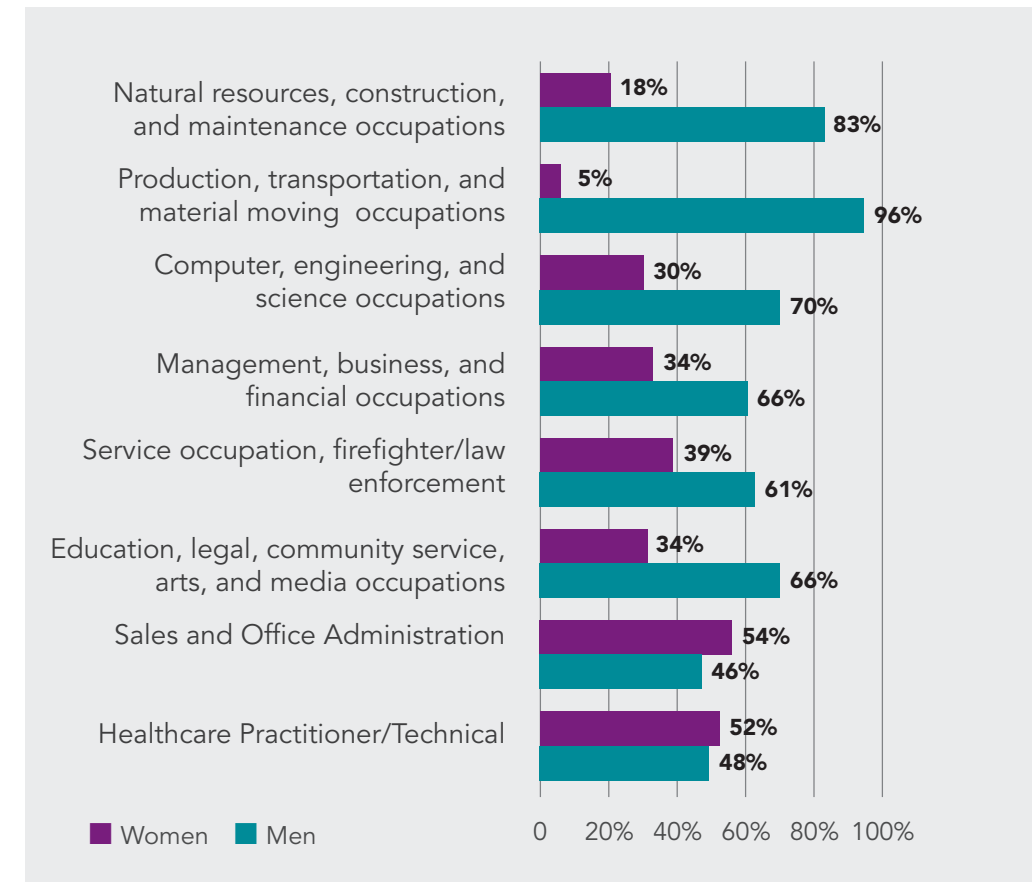


Figure 22 | Occupation by Gender in West Hollywood, 2010 | U.S. Census



The difference in median earning between men and women is evident when comparing across occupation categories.

Women in West Hollywood earn significantly less (\$32,097) than men (\$68,435). The difference in median earning between men and women is evident when comparing across occupation categories in West Hollywood. The most significant difference in earnings between men and women is in the education/legal sector; women attorneys and teachers who live in West Hollywood earn an average of \$28,599 less than their male counterparts.

Figure 23 | Occupation and Income in West Hollywood by Gender, 2010

| U.S. Census

Occupation Categories in West Hollywood 2010	Median Male Earnings	Median Female Earnings	Difference
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	\$40,833	\$14,469	-\$26,364
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	\$32,237	\$27,283	-\$4,954
Computer, engineering, and science occupations	\$61,418	\$60,921	-\$497
Management, business, and financial occupations	\$69,972	\$51,931	-\$18,041
Service occupation, firefighter/law enforcement	\$27,304	\$19,876	-\$7,428
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations	\$70,398	\$41,799	-\$28,599
Sales and Office Administration	\$33,618	\$28,495	-\$5,123
Healthcare Practitioner/Technical	\$70,870	\$56,313	-\$14,557

Figure 24 | Median Income by Occupation Type in California, 2010

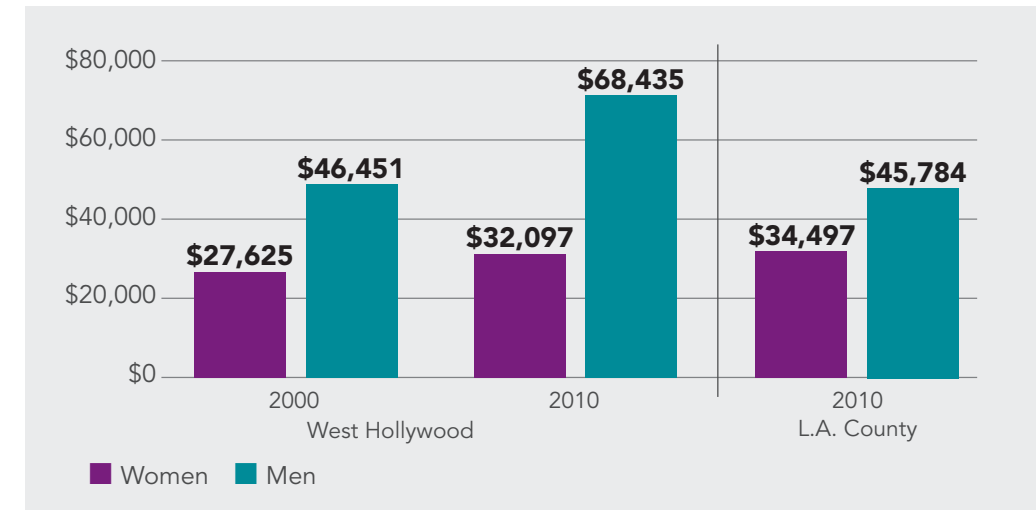
| U.S. Census

Occupation clusters	Median Female Earnings	Median Male Earnings	Difference
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and other technical	\$82,445	\$106,393	-23,948
Management, business and financial	\$61,591	\$81,859	-20,268
Natural Resources, construction and maintenance	\$22,628	\$37,446	-14,818
Architecture and engineering	\$75,133	\$89,821	-14,688
Computer, engineering and science	\$76,021	\$88,377	-12,356
Education, legal, community service, arts and media	\$53,893	\$66,225	-12,332
Production, transportation, and material moving	\$24,199	\$34,306	-10,107
Service	\$23,964	\$30,866	-6,922

Women in West Hollywood earn less than men in West Hollywood and less than both men and women countywide.

Figure 25 | Income by Gender in West Hollywood and Los Angeles County

| U.S. Census



An increased number of women and families with children in West Hollywood live in poverty.

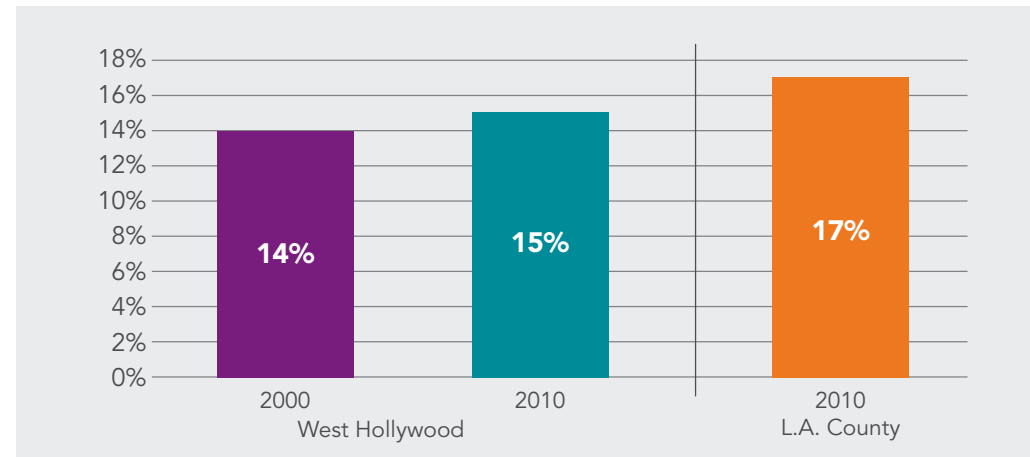
Overall median non-family household income for women (\$32,097) was less than half of income for men (\$68,435), a disparity that has increased over the past decade. After adjusting for inflation, incomes for women decreased by over \$2,800 per year since 2000. Fifteen percent of West Hollywood women had incomes less than the federal poverty level.

Figure 26 | 2010 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

and Human Services

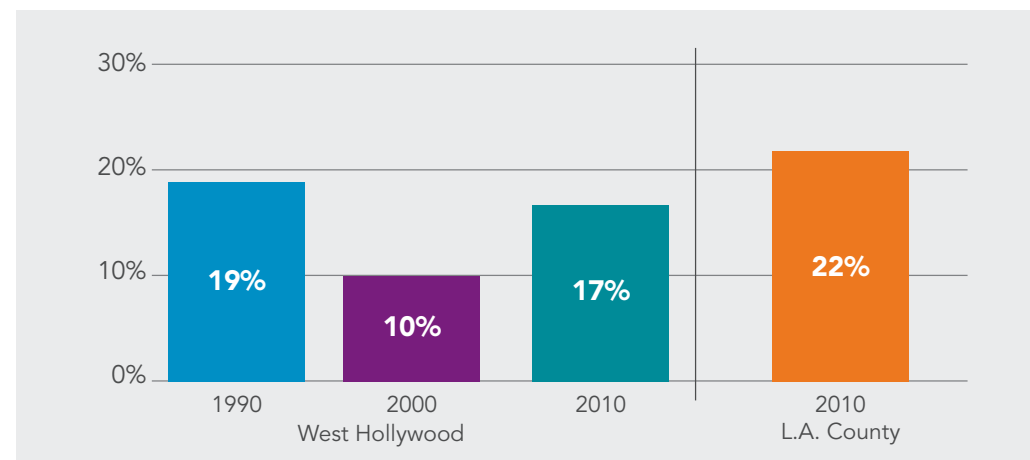
Family Size	100% of Poverty
1	\$10,830
2	\$14,570
3	\$18,310
4	\$22,050
5	\$25,790

Figure 27 | Women Below the Poverty Line in West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | U.S. Census



Children in West Hollywood are increasingly living in families with incomes below the poverty level, from 10% in 2000 to over 17% in 2010. This rate, however, is below L.A. County at 22%.

Figure 28 | Families with Children in Poverty | U.S. Census



Many factors define **quality of life:** the quality of housing, accessibility of important services, good health, being close to friends/family, sharing values, and feeling safe.

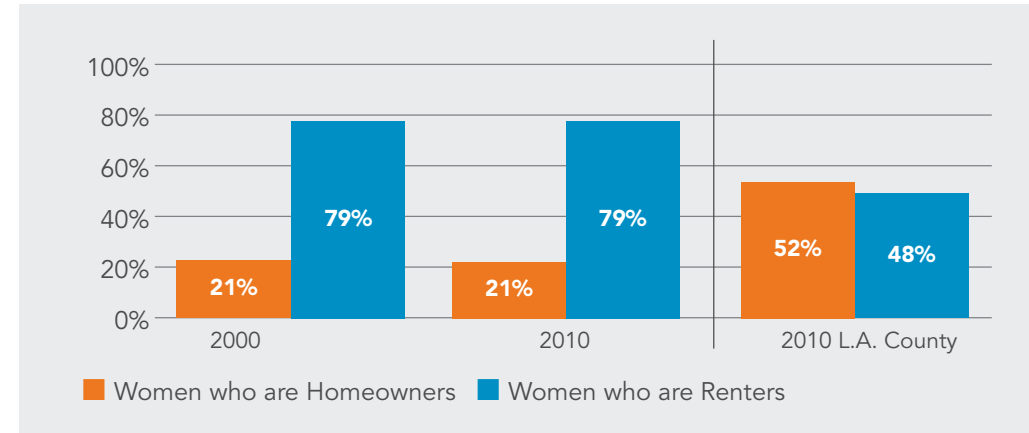
Part Three | Quality of Life

Many factors define quality of life: the quality of housing, accessibility of important services, good health, being close to friends/family, sharing values, and feeling safe. These are elements of daily life that make a community desirable and its residents happy. The West Hollywood Community Study and other data sources provide insight into some of the things that define the experience of living in West Hollywood.

Most West Hollywood residents are renters.

Seventy-nine percent of women rent and 21% own their residence. The proportion of renters has not changed over the ten years from 2000 to 2010, although an additional 375 housing units have been added to West Hollywood's housing inventory, and the total population declined. The percentage of female renters is much higher in the City of West Hollywood than countywide, where only 48% of women are renters.

Figure 29 | Proportion of Women Living in Renter- or Owner-Occupied Housing Units, West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | U.S. Census



Women in West Hollywood are more likely to have health insurance than their male counterparts.

This is especially notable in the 24 to 34 age group, a target population for enrollment in health insurance under the federal Affordable Care Act. Among West Hollywood residents in the 24 to 34 age group, 35% of men are uninsured compared to 15% of women. When compared to residents of Los Angeles County, women are much more likely to have health insurance if they live in West Hollywood.

Figure 30 | West Hollywood Population Without Health Insurance by Age and Gender, 2010 | U.S. Census

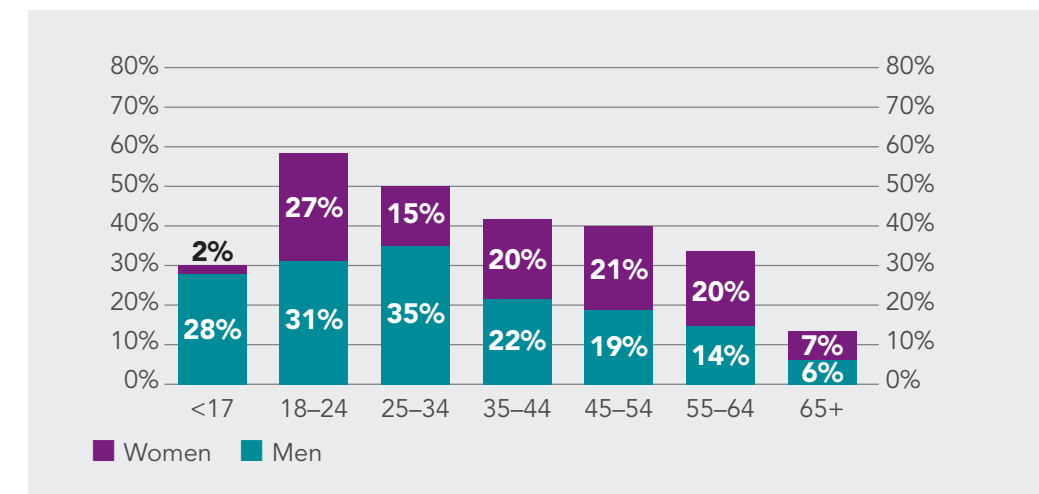
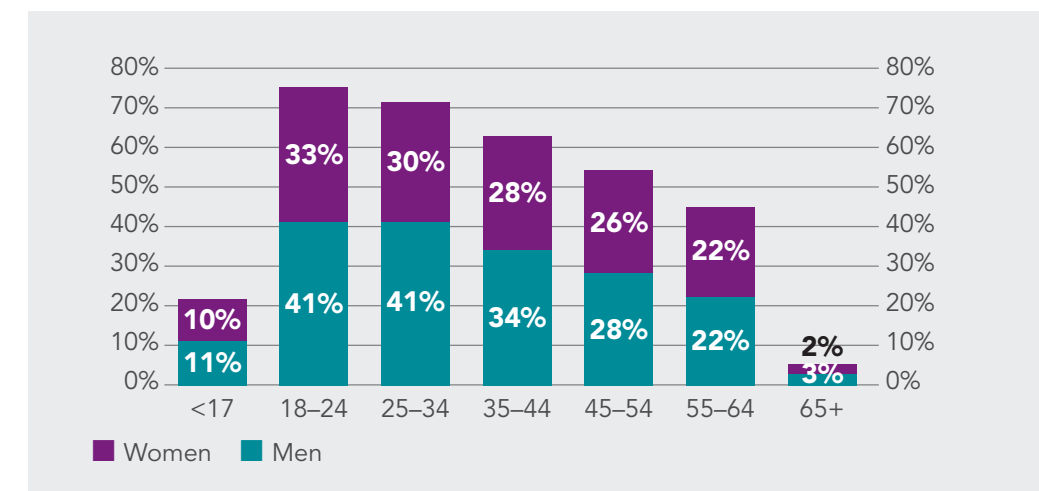


Figure 31 | Los Angeles County Population Without Health Insurance by Age and Gender, 2010 | U.S. Census



When compared to residents of Los Angeles County, women are much more likely to have health insurance if they live in West Hollywood.

Women in West Hollywood are more likely than men to have mental health challenges.

Conditions affecting mental health include a number of disorders that interfere with normal social function, such as a person’s thinking, feeling, mood, or ability to relate to others. In West Hollywood, an estimated 2,627 residents were living with serious emotional disturbance or serious mental illness in 2010, 8% of the total population.

Although it is difficult to identify the specific characteristics of those living with mental illness in the small geographic area that constitutes West Hollywood, County data suggests that women and middle-aged adults are more likely to suffer from emotional disturbance or mental illness.

Women accounted for 1,288 of the estimated people with a serious emotional disturbance or serious mental illness, 9% of all women in West Hollywood. Men accounted for 1,339 of the estimated people with a serious emotional disturbance or serious mental illness, 7% of all men in the City.

In comparison, 6% of the total population in Los Angeles County is living with a serious emotional disturbance or serious mental illness. Six percent of all men and 7% of all women were estimated as living with a serious emotional disturbance or serious mental illness in the County.

Women in West Hollywood are more likely to be living with a disability than their male counterparts.

West Hollywood has a significant number of residents who are living with disabilities. Approximately 14% of West Hollywood residents have at least one disabling condition. Though the total percentage of people living with disabilities decreased from 24% in 2000 to 14% in 2010, the percentage of women with disabilities outnumbers that of men.

Figure 32 | People Living with Disabilities in West Hollywood and Los Angeles County | U.S. Census

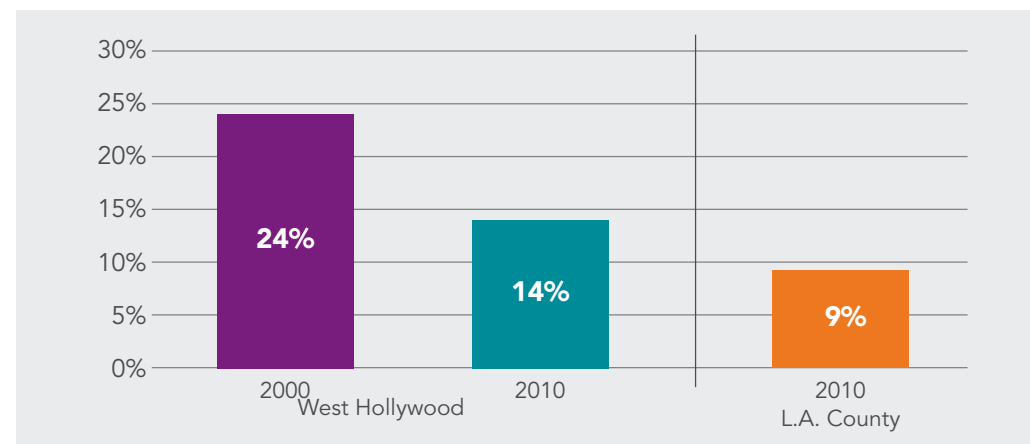


Figure 33 | Disability by Type and by Gender, West Hollywood, 2010
| U.S. Census

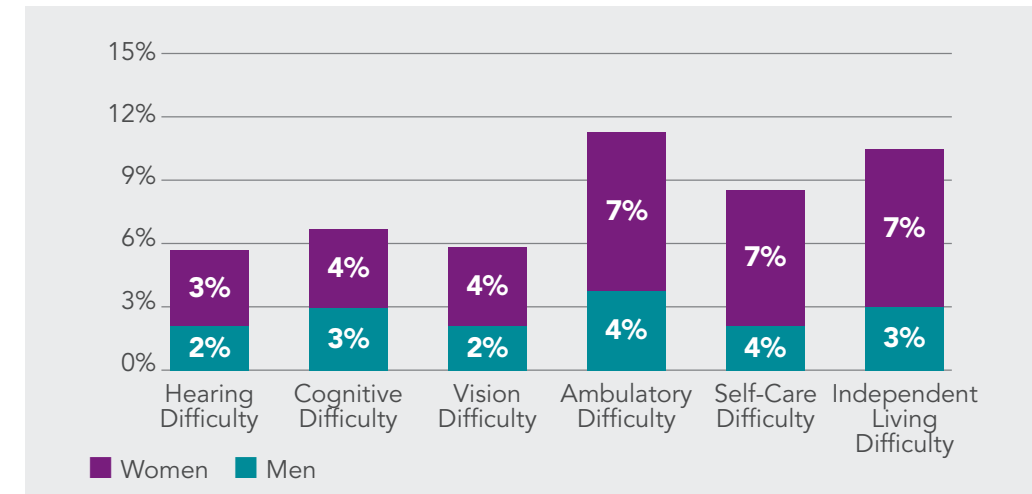
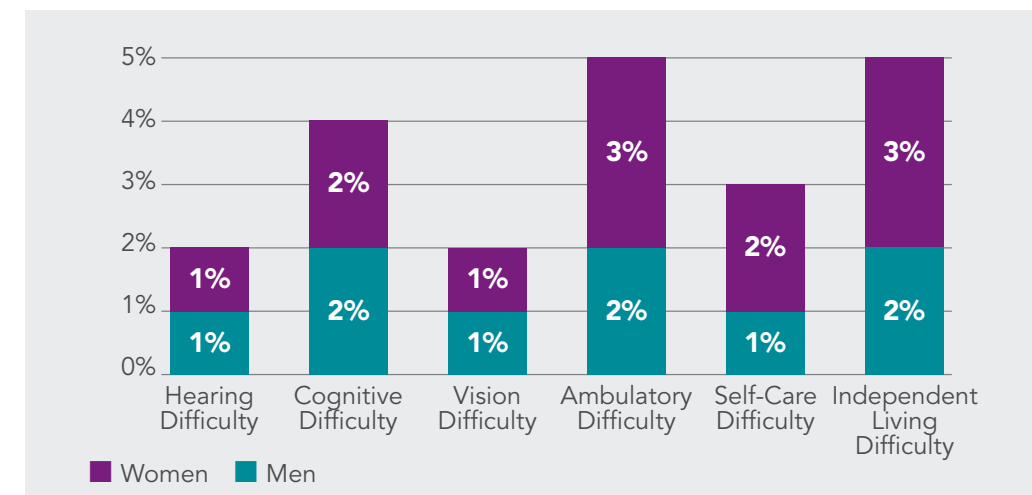


Figure 34 | Disability by Type and by Gender, Los Angeles County, 2010
| U.S. Census



Sixty percent of senior women and 36% of senior men in West Hollywood were living with disabilities in 2010.



Women in particular indicated that law enforcement is a priority for West Hollywood. The City of West Hollywood hosted one of the first “One Billion Rising” events in 2013, an event designed to raise awareness and action to address violence against women.

Part Four | Public Safety

According to the 2013 West Hollywood Community Study, the most important need identified by residents is law enforcement and crime prevention. Women in particular indicated that law enforcement is a priority for community services in West Hollywood.

Law enforcement in West Hollywood is provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, which operates a substation focused on crime prevention and law enforcement specifically for West Hollywood. The Sheriff’s Department reports crime incidents since 2010 as follows:

Figure 35 | West Hollywood Crime Incidents, 2010-2013 | Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department

West Hollywood Crime Incidents	2010	2011	2012	2013 (thru 6/30/13)
Armed Robbery	14	21	10	3
Assault, Aggravated (Excludes Domestic Violence Incidents)	31	31	34	10
Assault, Non-Aggravated (Excludes Domestic Violence Incidents)	101	94	83	35
Domestic Violence (Criminal and Non-Criminal)	51	66	79	33
Homicide	2	0	0	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Rape	12	16	11	6
Sexual Assault	19	16	21	1
Totals	230	244	238	88

West Hollywood emphasizes interpersonal safety and crime prevention.

Violence prevention and public safety have been a priority for the City of West Hollywood since its inception in 1984, with an emphasis on the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. In 2010, the City formed a Domestic Violence Community Response Team that includes representatives from social services agencies, advocacy organizations, local government and law enforcement. This team has worked collaboratively to provide cross-training opportunities and public education, increase access to resources for survivors and support law enforcement in identifying and utilizing best practices for dealing with domestic violence situations. The team's focus is inclusive of intimate partner abuse, whether between same- or opposite-sex partners. West Hollywood promotes Denim Day, an annual international day of awareness about rape, sexual assault and stalking.

To prevent property crime in neighborhoods, the City of West Hollywood encourages the formation and activities of neighborhood watch groups to promote awareness and community cohesion in order to prevent crime.



One recurring theme from women who participated in the 2013 West Hollywood Community Study was a desire to see **more women in leadership.**

Part Five | Leadership

A recurring theme from women who participated in the 2013 West Hollywood Community Study was a desire to see more women in leadership, and encouragement for women to run for office. Additionally, participants shared an interest in having more lesbian and bisexual women in leadership roles.

There are twice as many men serving on West Hollywood city commissions. The City of West Hollywood commissions and advisory boards address a diverse set of issues affecting the residents of West Hollywood. The commissions have the least amount of female members. There are twice as many men collectively serving on the City's commissions.

Figure 36 | West Hollywood Commission Appointments by Gender, 2013

| City Clerk's Office

Commission Appointments by Gender	Women	Men
Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission	4	3
Business License Commission	1	6
Historic Preservation Commission	1	6
Human Services Commission	3	4
Planning Commission	2	5
Public Facilities Commission	2	5
Public Safety Commission	4	3
Rent Stabilization Commission	1	4
Transportation Commission	3	4
Total	21	40

In comparison, the advisory boards have more women serving. However, two of the advisory boards are gender-specific, the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and the Women's Advisory Board.

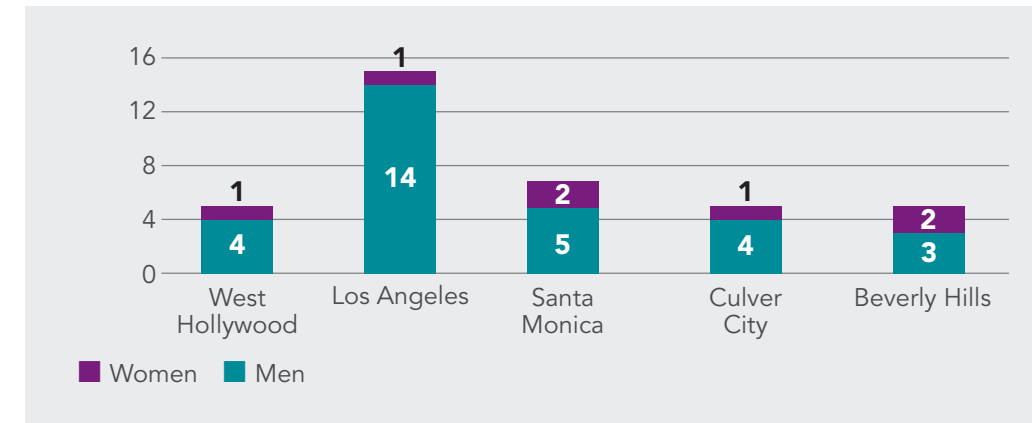
Figure 37 | West Hollywood Advisory Board Appointments by Gender, 2013

| City Clerk's Office

Advisory Board Appointments by Gender	Women	Men
Disabilities Advisory Board	3	6
Eastside Task Force	3	5
Russian Advisory Board	6	3
Senior Advisory Board	7	2
Transgender Advisory Board	8	1
Women's Advisory Board	8	
Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board	5	5
Total	40	22

There is one woman currently serving on the West Hollywood City Council. Women continue to be under represented in local, state, and federal government.

Figure 38 | Gender of City Council Members, 2014



According to The Report on the Status of Women in California (2013), local representation of women in city government consisted of only 9% female mayors. At the state level, women make up about 25% of both the state assemblymembers and senators.

The Suggested Priorities

for women in West Hollywood are focused on housing, social services, transportation and public safety, as well as creating community and other quality of life issues.



Part Six | Suggested Priorities

The responses of women on the Community Survey were cross-tabulated to identify key themes in the areas of housing, social services, transportation, public safety, creating community and quality of life.

In the area of **housing**, women want the City of West Hollywood to:

- Explore opportunities, housing models and other best practices to support women aging in place, including renovating, designing and building of housing that supports women as they age
- Provide increased affordable housing options for women

In the area of **social services**, women want the City of West Hollywood to:

- Enhance resources for job training and economic development
- Provide more support services for women aging in place, including, but not limited to, case management, meal delivery and other services to support independent living
- Expand existing program for children, youth and teens
- Work with the Los Angeles Unified School District to enhance facilities, after-school programs and other enrichment opportunities
- Address the needs of people living with disabilities, with a Citywide focus that crosses the work plans of multiple divisions
- Support at-risk youth
- Increase health services for women
- Consider programs that promote health and wellness
- Continue to support HIV education and prevention services and programs
- Explore opportunities to provide accessible counseling and mental health services
- Expand access to affordable child care

In the area of **transportation**, women want the City of West Hollywood to:

- Maintain existing levels and modes of transportation services, while continuing to explore increased mobility and an ability to meet future needs through technology and innovation
- Explore opportunities to provide transit for children to City programs and facilities





In the area of *public safety*, women want the City of West Hollywood to:

- Improve safety in parks and other public areas, including increased law enforcement patrols in public spaces
- Improve lighting throughout the city
- Continue to support neighborhood crime prevention programs

In the area of *creating community*, women want the City of West Hollywood to:

- Ensure that arts and cultural affairs programming meets the needs of the women's community; showcasing the diversity of women living in the City and providing opportunities for women artists
- Utilize existing resources to share information targeting all women, and in some cases specific information relevant to seniors, lesbians and bisexual women, parents, etc.
- Explore opportunities to improve the City's website and send announcements via e-mail
- Educate the community about the offerings of the City's Recreation Division
- Continue to share information via traditional mailings as well as the Internet
- Focus on community-building, including, but not limited to, supporting the organizations of women's groups and identifying safe gathering spaces for lesbians and bisexual women

In the area of *quality of life*, women want the City of West Hollywood to:

- Encourage the involvement of women in leadership roles within City government, including Advisory Boards, Commissions and City Council
- Increase leadership opportunities for lesbian and bisexual women in the City and community
- Consider additional parks and recreation programming for children, youth and teens



The City of West Hollywood makes many resources available to residents to promote health, safety, and quality of life. In partnership with community organizations, health care providers, non-profit groups and the business community, West Hollywood hosts and sponsors activities throughout the year. City funding and promotion ensures that women in West Hollywood have access to services, education, and support to improve their lives and allow them to flourish as residents of the City of West Hollywood.

For more information, contact:

The City of West Hollywood's Social Services Division

8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069

(323) 848-6510

www.weho.org

City of West Hollywood

8300 Santa Monica Blvd.

West Hollywood, CA 90069

(323) 848-6400

TTY for the hearing impaired (323) 848-6496

www.weho.org



Twitter@wehocity



City of West Hollywood