The 2013 West Hollywood Community Study is a profile of West Hollywood residents today. The study has helped the City identify the community and social services needs and to determine funding priorities for the City’s social services contracts. This brochure summarizes the demographic data, key findings, and recommendations from the Community Study.

“We love West Hollywood, particularly the inclusive and safe nature of our community.”

- West Hollywood resident
Who lives in West Hollywood?

Population:
- 34,399 people
- 22,511 households
- 1.53 average household size
- 14 average years lived in West Hollywood

Population, households, and average household size have all decreased since 2000.

Community groups:
- 56% Men
- 44% Women
- 11% Gay or bisexual men
- 11% Immigrants from the former Soviet Union
- 5% People living with disabilities
- 5% Lesbians or bisexual women
- 1% Transgender community members

Since 2000, the proportion of white population has decreased by 3%, the proportion of Hispanic/Latino has increased by 2%, and the proportion of Asian or Pacific Islander has increased by 1%.

Age groups:
The 25-34 age group is the largest in both the 2000 and 2010 census.

Age of children:
There are 1,578 children under age 18 living in West Hollywood. The total number of children under 18 years old has decreased by 2% since the 2000 census.

Employment status:
City residents are more educated than those in the County as a whole.

Education attainment:

Household income:
The percentage of households making $75,000 or more has increased from 22% in 2000.

Homeownership:
The proportion of renter- and owner-occupied housing units has remained the same since 2000.

Sexual orientation:

Citizenship:
U.S. citizenship has continued to increase over the past 20 years.

Language spoken:
The percentage of residents who speak Russian or other Indo-European languages has decreased.
Social services are part of the legacy of West Hollywood.

The Community Study recommends the following strategies for maintaining social services and expanding resources while fostering innovation:

- **Enhance outreach, marketing, and communication.**
- **Support households living below the poverty line.**
- **Support prevention, testing, and treatment for HIV/AIDS.**
- **Identify innovations for aging in place.**
- **Support public health education and broaden mental health services.**
- **Develop resources for substance abuse prevention and treatment.**
- **Intensify outreach and service delivery to address homelessness.**
- **Provide a variety of opportunities for community engagement.**

Survey respondents identified the following social services as most important:

- HIV prevention and education
- Low-cost transportation services
- Neighborhood crime prevention programs
- Parks and recreation programs
- Low-cost transportation services, including taxi coupons, City Line Shuttle, and Dial-a-Ride

Pop-up workshop and community meeting participants agreed on the following top social services funding priorities:

- Health care services
- Services to maintain independent living
- Services for people who are homeless
- Substance abuse and mental health services
- Children and youth programming

Two-thirds of residents have visited the City website and received mailings.

Residents are evenly split between a preference to receive electronic and print information from the City.

82% of survey respondents are satisfied with the City’s efforts to communicate with residents.

What are the most important social services to the community?
Support households living below the poverty line

- 15% of youth do not have health insurance.
  In 2010, a higher proportion of children under 18 had no access to insurance than the County, (15% for the City of West Hollywood and 11% for Los Angeles County).

- 5% of households in 2010 have children.
  There has been a steady decrease from 13% over the past 30 years.

- 17% of families in 2010 were living in poverty.
  This is an increase since 2000, when 10% of families were living in poverty.

Support prevention, testing, and treatment for HIV/AIDS

- 69% of survey respondents support HIV prevention and education.
  Over the years, community members consistently rate HIV prevention and education as important.

- 12% of survey respondent households are affected by HIV/AIDS.
  This is an increase since 2006, when 10% of respondent households were affected by HIV/AIDS.

- The rate of HIV infection is the second largest in the County after downtown Los Angeles.
  An average of 94 people have tested positive annually in the last 10 years.

Identify innovations for aging in place

- 56% of survey respondents have lived in West Hollywood for 10 years or more.
  On average, survey respondents have lived here for 14 years.

- The percentage of the population between the ages of 55 and 64 and 80+ increased, while the population between the ages of 65 and 80 decreased.
  As a percentage of the population, seniors age 80 and over are twice the proportion as in the County as a whole.

- Fewer households reported moving in the last five years in 2010 than in 2000.
  In 2010, 39% of households moved in the last five years, down from 60% in 2000.

Why does the City support social services?

- To support people in need and assist them to remain independent
- To encourage community stability and preserve a good quality of life
- To educate and enrich the community

West Hollywood 2013
Support public health education and broaden mental health services

8% of West Hollywood residents live with a serious emotional disturbance or serious mental illness. This is a higher percentage than residents Countywide (6%).

Prevalance of cigarette smoking in West Hollywood is 20% of the population. This percentage is higher than the County as a whole, where 14% of the population smokes.

City residents live longer and have lower rates of chronic diseases and adult obesity than residents of the County as a whole.

The following are the most commonly reported household health issues:

- 12% HIV/AIDS
- 9% Hearing or sight impairment
- 8% Medical disability
- 7% Mobility impairment
- 5% Mental or emotional stability
- 2% Learning disability

HIV/AIDS is the most commonly reported household health issue, an increase since 2006 (6%).

Develop resources for substance abuse prevention and treatment

Alcohol-related death rates and alcohol-related motor vehicle collisions well exceed the County average.

The rate of hospital patients categorized as having alcohol or drug dependence was higher than the statewide rate.

Residents value the City’s supportive recovery community and consistently urge that a variety of substance abuse services be supported.

Intensify outreach and service delivery to address homelessness

Most homeless individuals in West Hollywood are struggling to cope with chronic homelessness and other serious medical and mental health-related conditions.

Community Study Recommendations
For More Information

The Community Study final report includes a comprehensive summary of the community engagement process, data, and a description of key findings and recommendations.

To view a WeHo TV program featuring highlights of the study process, visit: www.weho.org

For more information please call: 323.848.6510
323.848.6496 TTY for hearing impaired
Para obtener mas informacion, por favor llamenos a: 323.848.6510

City of West Hollywood
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069
www.weho.org

Acknowledgements

City Council
Abbe Land, Mayor
John D’Amico, Mayor Pro Tempore
John Duran, Councilmember
John Heilman, Councilmember
Jeffrey Prang, Councilmember

Paul Arevalo, City Manager
Sam Baxter, Assistant City Manager
Elizabeth Savage, Human Services & Rent Stabilization Director
Helen Goss, Public Information Director
Tamara White, Public Information Officer

Social Services Division Staff
Daphne Dennis, Manager
David Giugni, Supervisor
Leslie Isenberg, Program Administrator
Corri Planck, Program Administrator
Perri Sloane Goodman, Program Administrator
Corey Roskin, Specialist
Kim Patterson, Staff Assistant
Nina Tolchinski, Staff Assistant
Francisco Gomez, Intern

Human Services Commission
Ruth Cislowski, Chair
Steven Davis, Vice-Chair
Jimmy Palmieri
Bob Shepard
Heidi Shink
Anne-Marie Williams
Mark Zangrandi

The 2013 West Hollywood Community Study was conducted in cooperation with the City of West Hollywood by PMC, Godbe Research, Raimi and Associates, and ISI Translation Services.

Community members enjoy living in West Hollywood.

“Community is the most important thing in our lives and having social services enhances our community.”

- Human Services Commissioner

email: communitystudy@weho.org
www.weho.org/communitystudy
facebook.com/WeHoCares