

Tarzana

People and Place

Location

Tarzana is a community within Los Angeles that encompasses 6.45 square miles. It is in Los Angeles County toward the western end of the San Fernando Valley at the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains, 22 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Neighboring communities include Canoga Park, Winnetka, and Reseda to the north; Encino to the west; Pacific Palisades to the south; and Woodland Hills to the east. U.S. Highway 101 (Ventura Boulevard) runs through the northern portion of Tarzana. The geographic coordinates of Tarzana are lat 34°10'24"N, long 118°33'11"W.

Demographic Profile

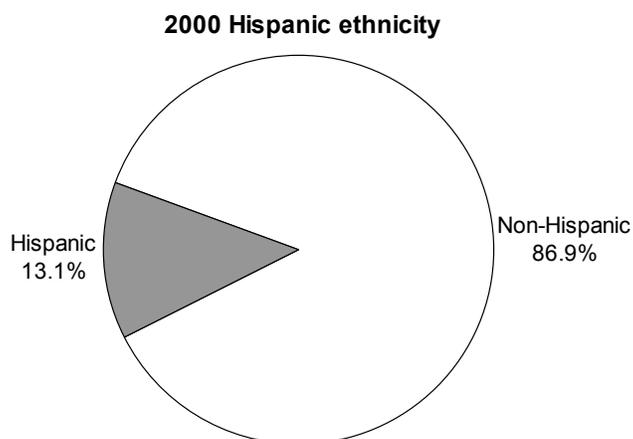
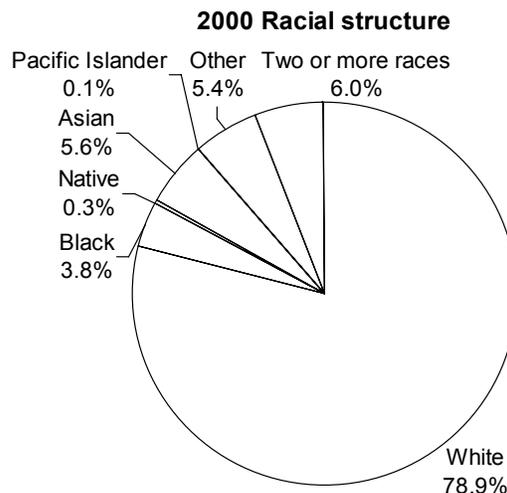
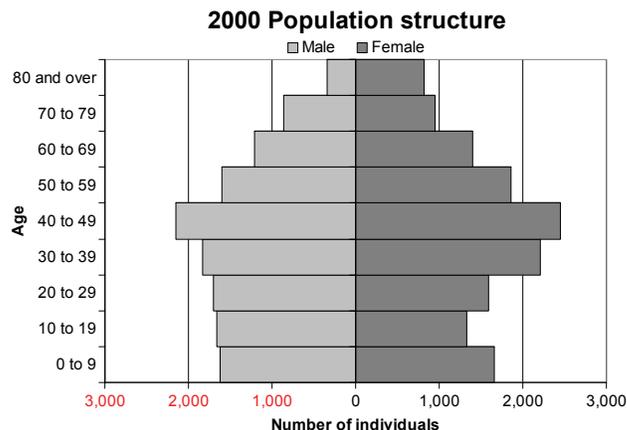
Tarzana was not recognized as a Census Designated Place by the 2000 U.S. Census, however, basic demographic data are available for the community at the Zip code level. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Tarzana's Zip code (91356) had a population of 27,407. The gender composition was 52% female and 48% male. The median age was 39.6, higher than the national median age of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 86.9% had a high school education or higher, 39.6% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 15.3% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of the racial structure was white, (78.9%), followed by individuals who identified with two or more races (6.0%), Asian (5.6%), individuals who identified with some other race (5.4%), black (3.8%), American Indian or Alaska Native (0.3%), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (0.1%). Ethnicity data indicate 13.1% identified as Hispanic. About 35.2% of the population was foreign-born, including 21.9% from Iran and 10.6% from Mexico.

In 2000 80.2% of the population lived in family households.

History

Native peoples first inhabited the California coast about 13,000 years ago. The Los Angeles area was home to the Chumash, whose territory spanned the length of California coast from Malibu to Pasa Robles.¹ The Chumash were hunter-gatherers and relied heavily on maritime resources, including clams, mussels, abalone, and many fish species. They developed sophisticated technologies for harvesting marine resources, established



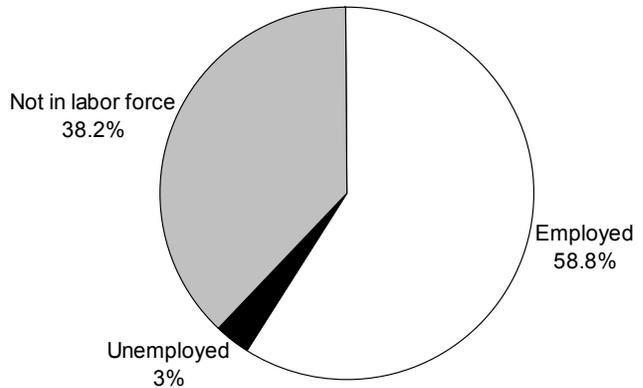
large coastal villages, and traded extensively within their territory. The Chumash became known as Gabrielenos due to their association with the San Gabriel Mission. Between 200 and 500 years ago, Tongva Indians migrated from the Mojave Desert region, establishing 25 villages throughout what is today the Los Angeles County area and becoming similarly dependent on marine resources.² Today the Gabrieleno/Tongva Tribe is headquartered in San Gabriel, where it seeks federal recognition and tribal fishing rights.

Europeans first reached the area in 1542 when Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo entered Santa Monica Bay and was met by Tongva Indians in canoes. At the onset of European settlement, it is estimated there were at least 5,000 Indian residents in the San Fernando Valley.³ The Indian population declined rapidly as European-introduced diseases and conflicts killed an estimated two-thirds the native population in what is now California.⁴ Beginning with the founding of the San Fernando Mission in 1797, Spanish settlers and missionaries established permanent residence. The Tarzana area was originally part of the mission lands, but when the territory was seized first by Mexico and later by the United States, it became part of a succession of large cattle ranches owned by wealthy, powerful individuals active in local politics and business.⁵ In the 1870s the Tarzana area was purchased by investors who developed it into a large-scale wheat farm.

The acreage surrounding Tarzana was sold to the Los Angeles Suburban Homes Company in 1909 in anticipation of the Los Angeles aqueduct and annexation of the area into the City of Los Angeles. One of the investors, General Harrison Gray Otis, founder and publisher of the Los Angeles Times, bought 550 acres in what is now the center of Tarzana. Another investor founded a small town, Runnymede, in the vicinity and subdivided the surrounding land into small plots for poultry ranches and berry farms. In 1915, Edgar Rice Burroughs, author of the Tarzan novels, purchased Otis' acreage, built a large home, and renamed the property Tarzana Ranch. Burroughs subdivided and sold the land for homes in 1923 and, as development proceeded, the neighboring small farms also converted to residential areas. In 1927 local residents renamed the town Tarzana in honor of Burroughs and his famous literary character.

Today Tarzana is regarded as a Los Angeles bedroom community with many neighborhoods zoned single family residential or residential/agricultural that attract people interested in a suburban lifestyle and larger home lots.⁶ The community has many swimming pools (local lore holds the first residential swimming pool was constructed in Tarzana) and movie stars, as well as

2000 Employment structure



luxury housing developments and country club golf courses.⁷

Tarzana also supports a growing Iranian population, and the community is well known for its Persian restaurants, booksellers, and language training institutes.⁸ A thriving Jewish community attends four synagogues and provides the customer base for the first and only branch of the Hebrew-language bookseller Steimatzky constructed outside of Israel.⁹ In February 2000 Tarzana residents formed the Tarzana Community and Cultural Center, which stages community festivals and events and collects photos and memorabilia related to Tarzana's history to help foster a sense of history and place within the community.¹⁰

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 58.8% of Tarzana's population 16 years of age or older were employed, 3% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 4.8% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force), less than the national jobless rate of 5.7%. In addition, 38.2% were not in the labor force. The primary employment sectors were education, health, and social services (19.5%), retail trade (13.2%), professional, scientific, and technical services (12.1%), and local, state, or federal government (8.4%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining employed only 0.1%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

Because of its location within the Los Angeles metro area and its status as a bedroom community, many Tarzana residents likely commute to jobs in the city and surrounding communities. The area supports a number

of retail businesses, many of which are clustered along Ventura Boulevard, which runs through the northern portion of Tarzana. Other than this strip, the community does not have an easily distinguishable commercial core.¹¹ In addition to these retail stores, Tarzana is home to the Encino-Tarzana Medical Center and a number of smaller medical clinics, law offices, real estate agencies, country clubs, and professional offices.¹²

According to the U.S. Census, Tarzana's per capita income in 1999 was \$36,327, well above the national per capita income of \$21,587. The median household income was \$51,420, also above the national median household income of \$41,994. About 11.1% lived below the poverty level, slightly below the national poverty level of 12.4%. In 2000 Tarzana had 11,422 housing units, of which 96.6% were occupied and 3.4% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 57% were by owner and 43% were by renter. Of the vacant units, 32.2% were for rent and 21.5% were for sale.

Governance

In 1915 the City of Los Angeles annexed the portion of the San Fernando Valley containing Tarzana. Although not an independent city, Tarzana is recognized as a distinct community within Los Angeles. It does not have a separate municipal government, but is one of 80 communities within the city that have formed active neighborhood councils. The Los Angeles city charter was reformed in 1998 to allow the formation of these councils, each of which is allotted a yearly operating budget of \$50,000 and run by community members on a volunteer basis. The Tarzana Neighborhood Council, certified in January 2003, functions as an advisory body meant to make the city government more accountable and more responsive to local residents.¹³

Los Angeles was founded in 1781 and incorporated on 4 April 1850. It is a charter city that operates under a council-city manager government.¹⁴ Los Angeles has a 15-member council and mayor, all elected.¹⁵ Residents pay an 8.25% sales and use tax. Los Angeles County has a 12% lodging tax rate, which earned \$10,202,899 in fiscal year 2001.¹⁶ See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fisherman and processors in California.

The nearest California Department of Fish and Game Marine Region field office is 47 away in Los Alamitos. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Southwest Regional Office is in Long Beach (42 miles). Eight U.S. Coast Guard vessels are stationed at the USCG Marine Safety Office/Group Los Angeles-Long Beach in San Pedro (40 miles). Delmar and San Diego, 126 miles and 145 miles away

respectively, are the nearest cities that hold Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings. A U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Office is in Los Angeles.

Facilities

Tarzana is 22 miles from the heart of Los Angeles. The main thoroughfare is U.S. Highway 101 (Ventura Boulevard). Los Angeles is accessible by land, sea, and air. Interstate highways 5, 10, and 110 contribute to the 527 freeway miles in the city. Seventeen Amtrak trains serve Union Station (27 miles from Tarzana), making it the eighth busiest Amtrak station in the nation. Los Angeles International Airport, 25 miles from Tarzana, ranks third in the world based on passenger volume. Ontario International Airport, Bob Hope Airport, and Long Beach Airport also serve the area.¹⁷

Tarzana is in the Los Angeles Unified School District, and students attend schools in Tarzana and surrounding neighborhoods. Three public elementary schools and one public middle school are located in the community. High school students attend Taft High School in neighboring Woodland Hills. The immediate area also has a number of private and parochial schools. Nearby hospitals include the Kaiser Foundation Hospital and Encino Hospital, both in adjacent communities. The Encino-Tarzana Medical Center and a number of clinics located in the vicinity also provide medical services. The Los Angeles Department of Public Works provides water and wastewater services. Pacific Gas and Electric and other private power companies supply electricity. The Los Angeles Police Department and a number of fire companies administer law enforcement and emergency services.

The Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro Bay (40 miles) is the nearest marine facility. This port complex, outfitted for both commercial and recreational purposes, stretches along 43 miles of waterfront and occupies 7,500 acres, 3,300 of which are water.¹⁸ The port is within the jurisdiction of Los Angeles and is under the direction of a five-member board of harbor commissioners appointed by the mayor.¹⁹ The port has 29 state-of-the-art cargo facilities and five intermodal rail yards.²⁰ The complex includes the Cabrillo Marina, which provides slips for 1,100 pleasure crafts, Cabrillo Beach (popular with swimmers), three museums, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, and the S.S. Lane Victory (a national historic landmark). Charter boats offer a number of harbor cruise and whale watching tours.²¹ The Port of Los Angeles World Cruise Center is the primary cruise passenger complex on the West Coast, handling the world's largest cruise ships.²² In 1997 the 47-acre terminal island

transfer facility was completed, allowing direct transfer of containers from ships to trains.²³

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

No seafood processors operated in Tarzana in 2000 and no vessels delivered landings. Residents owned two commercial vessels; both participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. One vessel participated in both the nearshore and high seas pelagic fisheries. The number of vessels owned by Tarzana residents in 2000 that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/2, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/1/NA, shellfish NA/0/NA, and shrimp NA/0/2.²⁴

In 2000 no federal groundfish fishery permits were held by community members. The number of Tarzana residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/3, highly migratory species NA/1/1, shellfish 0/0/NA, and shrimp 0/0/2.²⁵

Tarzana residents held at least 13 commercial fishing permits in 2000, all state registered. The number of state permits held by Tarzana residents in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/5, highly migratory species NA/1/3, shellfish 0/0/NA, and shrimp 0/0/4.²⁶

Sportfishing

A number of charter vessels operate out of the Los Angeles area targeting albacore tuna, rock cod, salmon, and other species. In 2002 at least two charter businesses served sport fishermen and tourists in Tarzana. There are no license agents selling sportfishing licenses in Tarzana, however, in 2000 vendors in Los Angeles County sold 76,385 resident sportfishing licenses, 59 nonresident sportfishing licenses, 164 sport salmon punch cards, and 174 abalone report cards. The nearest commercial passenger fishing vessels port complex consists of Redondo, Marina Del Rey, and Malibu. In 2000 13 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 63,765 anglers out of this complex, reporting 326,222 landings composed of more than two dozen species. Sea bass (various species), California scorpionfish, and rockfishes (unspecified) accounted for 39.9%, 22.7%, and 15.8% of the landings respectively.

Subsistence

Local tribal and nontribal community members may engage in subsistence fishing in the Tarzana area, however, specific information on subsistence fishing is not discussed in detail in this community profile due to

the lack of available data. The California Department of Fish and Game terms “recreational” fishermen who do not earn revenue from their catch, but fish for pleasure or to provide food for personal consumption. Information on subsistence fishing in California is captured to some degree in the sportfishing data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 Tarzana residents were not involved in North Pacific fisheries.

Sportfishing

In 2000 42 Tarzana community members purchased Alaska sportfishing licenses.

Notes

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7. EPodunk. 2005. Tarzana, CA, profile. Online at <http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=10960> [accessed 4 April 2007].
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14. See note 2.

15. City of Los Angeles. 2004. Los Angeles almanac: Mayors and city councils: Cities of Los Angeles County. Online at <http://www.laalmanac.com/cities/ci93.htm> [accessed 4 April 2007].
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24. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
25. See note 24.
26. See note 24.