

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

Introduction



Crime



Traffic



Quality of Education



Children Living in Poverty



Introduction

The social environment of the Santa Clarita Valley directly affects local business performance and influences home prices. Public safety, traffic congestion, school quality, and child welfare are important features of this environment. All of these topics are examined with information on local crime rates, traffic counts, standardized tests, and youth poverty.

Crime

For areas of California, crime levels can be compared to one another on the basis of the Total Crime Index. The Total Crime Index is the sum of the following crime categories: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny, and arson. The most recent information describes crime levels in 2025 through May.

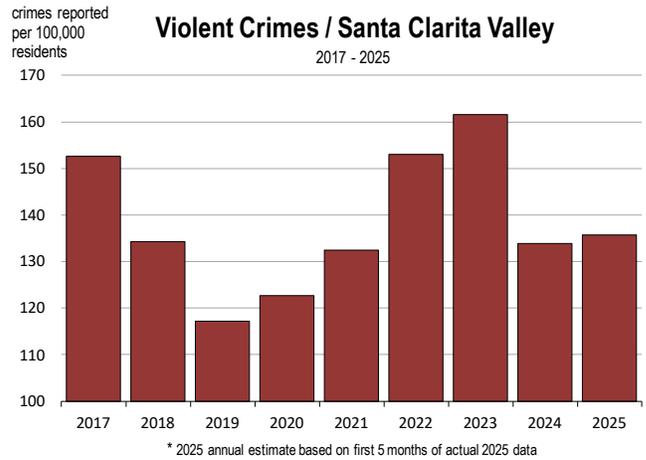
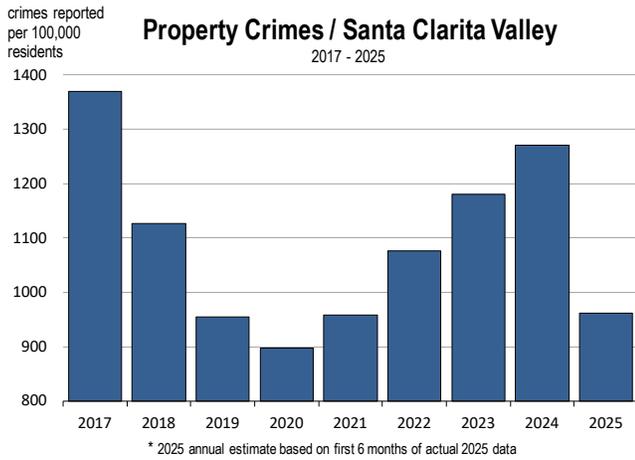
- Crime levels in the Santa Clarita Valley rose between 2021 and 2024, but the rate is now dropping in 2025. If the pace of crime incidence between January and May remains consistent for the remainder of the year, crime levels will decrease modestly from 2024.
- The Total Crime Index per 100,000 residents reported in greater Santa Clarita Valley was 1,404 in 2024. However, in 2025 it is running at 1080. This implied decrease of 23 percent is driven in large part by a drop in reported crimes in the unincorporated area of the Santa Clarita Valley.
- Violent crime rates per 100,000 residents have risen slightly to date this year, while property crimes per 100,000 residents are running

Crime Reports	Santa Clarita Valley							
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Willful homicide	4	4	4	6	1	6	3	2
Forcible rape	67	65	55	59	47	44	35	62
Robbery	118	108	90	90	109	139	95	122
Aggravated assault	202	165	209	231	290	286	261	214
Violent Crime Total	391	342	358	386	447	475	394	401
Burglary	735	513	465	399	459	548	860	499
Larceny-Theft	2,146	1,958	1,782	1,935	2,208	2,320	2,311	1,802
Motor vehicle theft	364	289	365	433	462	565	537	514
Arson	34	24	10	23	19	37	30	26
Property Crime Total	3,279	2,784	2,622	2,790	3,148	3,470	3,738	2,842
Total Crime Reports	3,670	3,126	2,980	3,176	3,595	3,945	4,132	3,242

*2025 values are estimates based on actual data for the first 5 months of 2025

Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

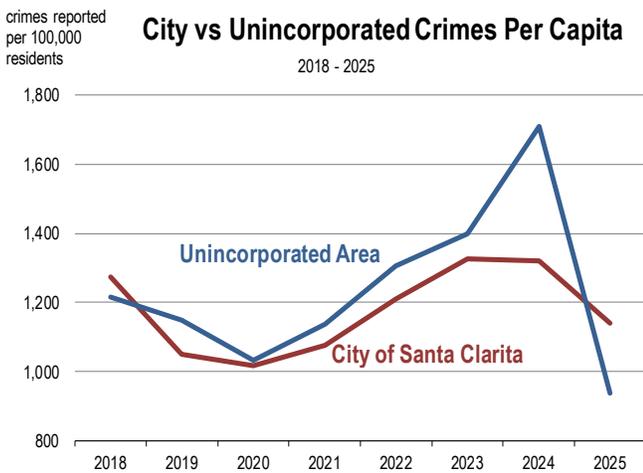
QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS



lower. Comparing the first half of 2024 to the first half of 2025, violent crime rates have dropped by one percent and property crime rates have increased by 14.5 percent.

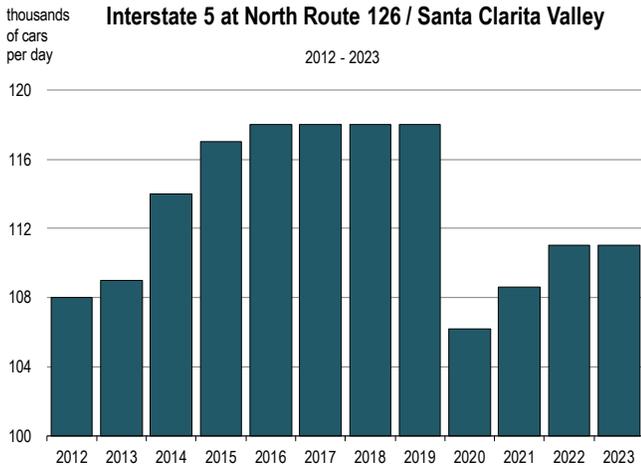
- Relative to California, crime in Santa Clarita Valley has consistently been lower for the last 10 years for both property and violent crimes per capita. The actual data for 2025 in California is not yet available. Reported crimes for the Santa Clarita Valley are available for the January-May period of 2025.

- Data for 42 selected U.S. cities for the first half of 2025 shows that violent crime rates were lower in most cities. The only California city reported in the list was Long Beach. Property crime rates were higher for burglaries of non-residential buildings, and motor vehicle theft. Otherwise, property crime is running lower year-to-date in all other property offenses.

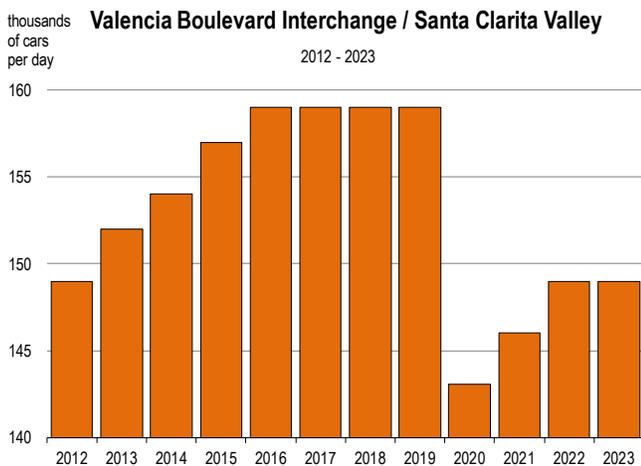


Traffic

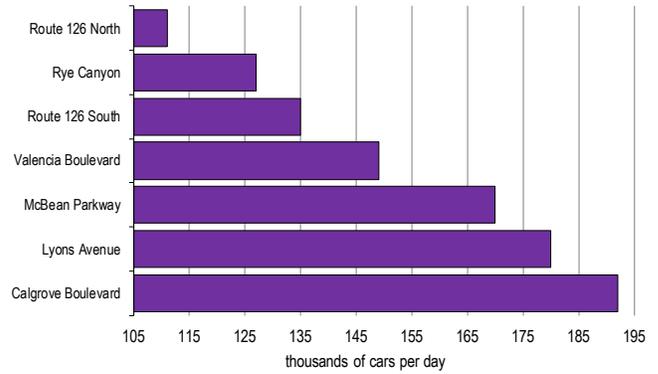
Traffic counts can reveal information about economic and demographic trends. In general, traffic counts decline during periods of economic weakness and rise during periods of strength. This occurs for several reasons, including the increased transportation of goods, a larger number of employed workers commuting to work, more people traveling, and higher disposable incomes that can be spent on vehicles and gasoline.



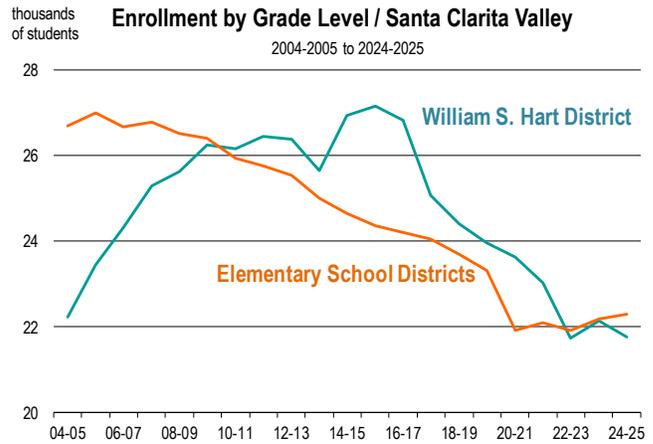
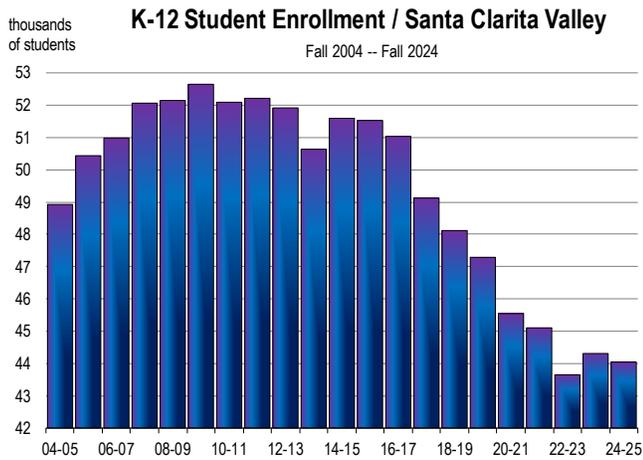
- Traffic volumes sharply declined during the coronavirus pandemic when many retail and office buildings were closed and people worked from home.
- The most recent information released by CalTrans this year is for calendar year 2023.
- Across the Santa Clarita Valley, traffic counts fell by 20 percent in 2020. By mid-2021, traffic was still 15 percent below 2019 levels.



**Traffic Counts / Northbound Interstate 5 Junctions
Santa Clarita Valley**
2023



- Traffic volumes rebounded in 2021 and again in 2022 from the pandemic lows. However, the 2023 traffic reports show total car volumes remaining steady.
- Despite the rebound, traffic remains well below pre-pandemic levels, due in part from the persistent incidence of the work-from-home labor force which has not entirely returned to on-site work.
- Traffic counts on Interstate 5 junctions through Santa Clarita have all increased since 2021. Traffic counts have increased between 3,000-4,000 cars per day at each junction.



Quality of Education

Enrollments

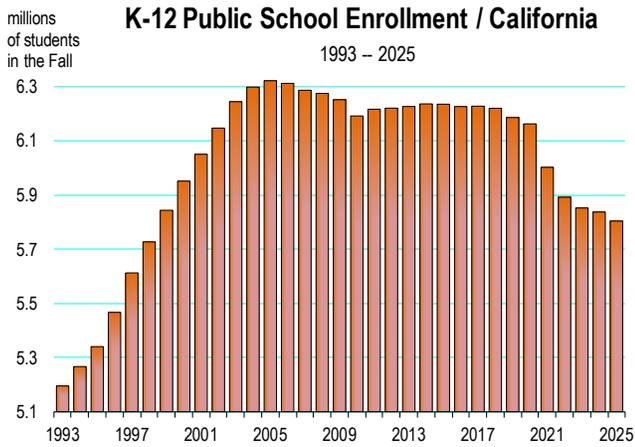
- During the 2023-2024 school year, public school enrollment in the Santa Clarita Valley increased slightly for Elementary Schools and decreased for High Schools.
- Enrollment had been in decline for several years, but the trend was exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. The 2023-2024 school year recorded the first increase in K-12 enrollment in the Santa Clarita Valley in

nearly 10 years, largely rebounding from the pandemic restrictions that were implemented in the Fall of 2020 and continued into 2021.

- Despite a decrease from the prior year, 2024-2025 school year enrollment remains above enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year but represents the second lowest total enrollment level since 2002.
- Fall 2024 enrollment at William S. Hart High School District fell to its lowest level since records have been kept.

Public School Enrollment - Santa Clarita Valley									
Number of Students									
	--School Years--								
	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
Castaic Union Elementary	2,234	2,153	2,037	2,020	1,860	1,893	1,859	1,938	1,914
Newhall Elementary	6,706	6,537	6,539	6,267	5,920	5,834	5,918	5,928	6,022
Saugus Union Elementary	9,900	9,960	9,791	9,704	9,071	9,170	9,070	9,097	9,191
Sulphur Springs Union Elementary	5,370	5,395	5,336	5,329	5,069	5,188	5,067	5,211	5,157
Total Elementary	24,210	24,045	23,703	23,320	21,920	22,085	21,914	22,174	22,284
William S. Hart Union High	26,822	25,080	24,414	23,968	23,623	23,019	21,735	22,135	21,760
Santa Clarita Valley Total	51,032	49,125	48,117	47,288	45,543	45,104	43,649	44,309	44,044

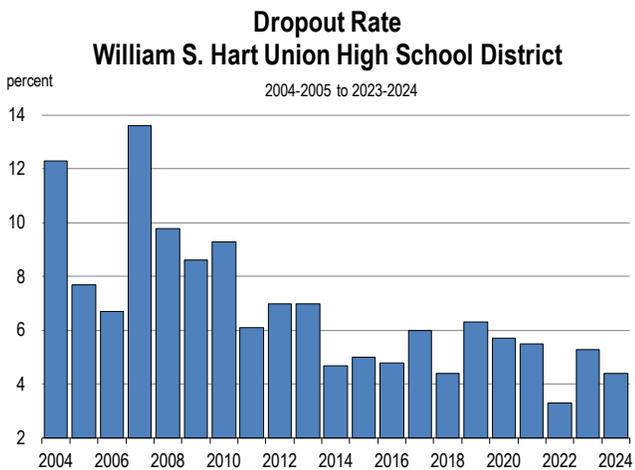
Source: California Department of Education



- The declining trend for student enrollment levels in K-12 public schools is common in most coastal areas of the state, and for the state as a whole.

Graduation Rate

The rate at which students graduate high school is an important indicator of how well schools are keeping students interested and preparing them for the workplace.



Teens who drop out of high school are unlikely to have the minimum skills and credentials necessary to function in today’s increasingly technological workplace. The completion of high school is required for accessing post-secondary education and is a minimum qualification for most jobs.

- At the William S. Hart Union High School District, the graduation rate has been exceptionally high for nearly a decade.
- In the 2023-2024 school year (the most recent data available), 95.6 percent of Santa Clarita Valley students graduated. Statewide, 90.2 percent of students graduated. Across Los Angeles County, 89.5 percent of students graduated.

Elementary and High School Testing

California schools now administer the CAASPP exam – a replacement system for the old California Standard Test (CST).

The State of California has established benchmarks for student scores, and schools can be evaluated by the rate at which their students pass these benchmarks.

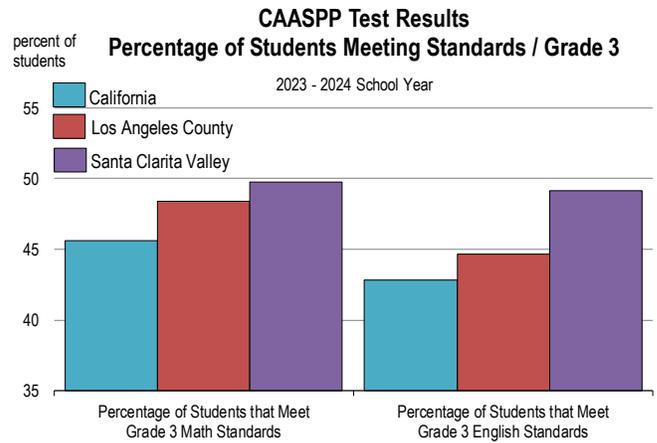
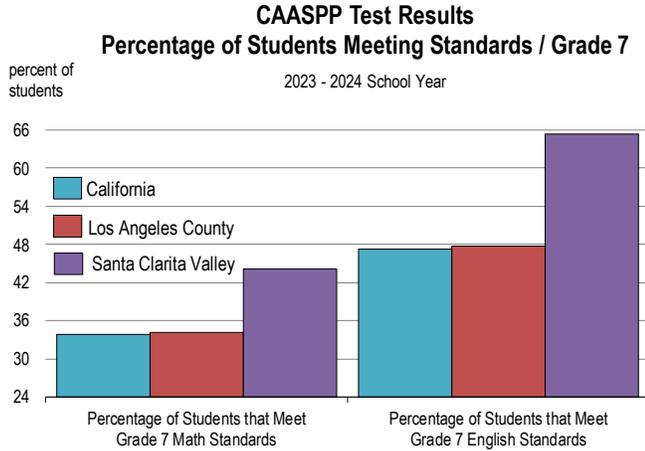
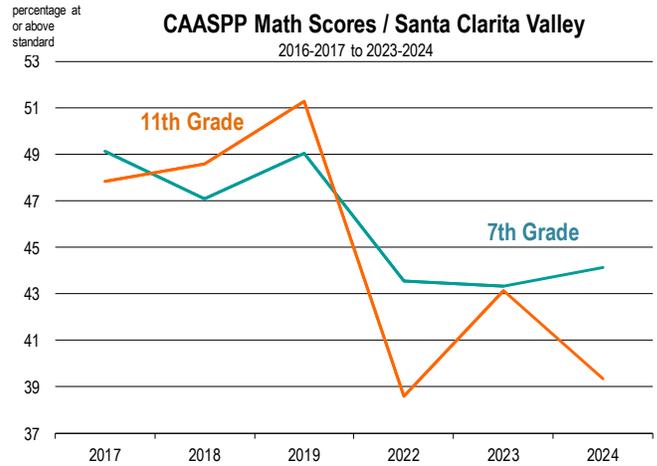
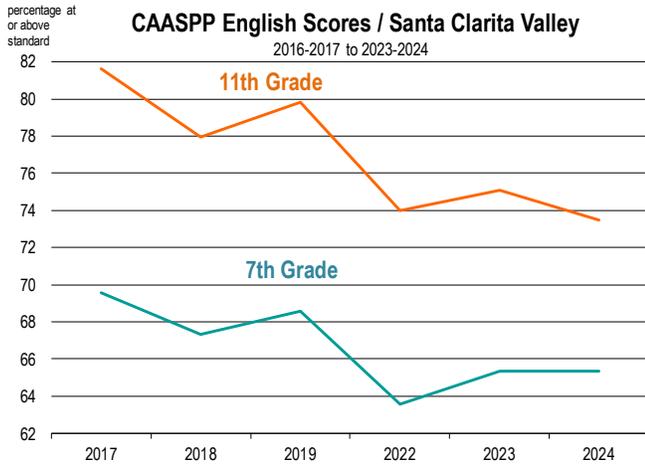
This analysis (arbitrarily) presents scores for third grade and seventh grade as representative of elementary and junior high students. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, there was no testing during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 years.

The following interpretation of recent public school test scores is based on testing during the 2023-2024 school year. Results for the school year just ended three months ago are not yet available.

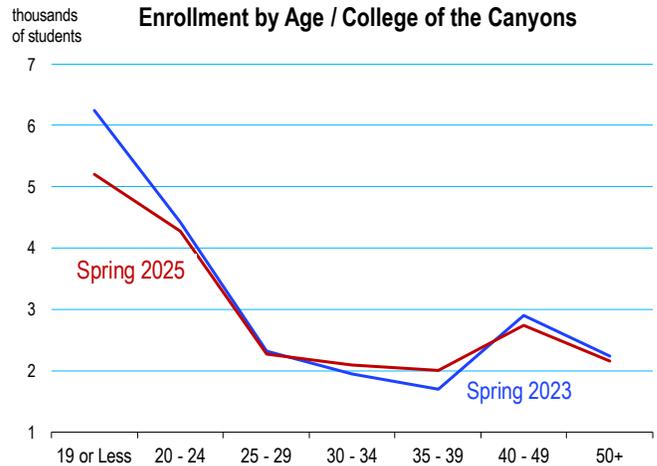
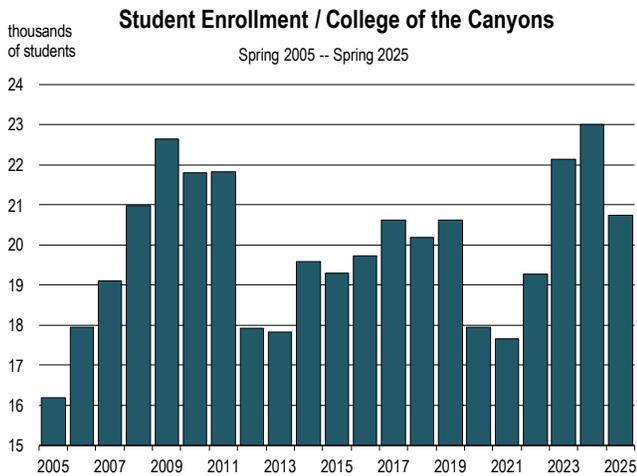
- Third grade students at Santa Clarita Elementary School outperformed their peers across Los Angeles County and the State of California. This outperformance occurred in both Math and English.
- Among third grade students, around 50 percent of students passed the Math tests. Passing rates for the English tests were only slightly lower.
- In Los Angeles County, around 48 percent of third graders passed the Math tests, and around 45 percent passed the English tests. Statewide, around 46 percent of third graders passed the Math while only 43 percent passed the English tests.
- About 65 percent of Santa Clarita Valley seventh grade students passed the English portion of the test, which is 18.2 percentage points higher than students across California for the 2023-2024 school year.

Student Enrollment and Academic Performance Santa Clarita Valley High Schools 2023-2024 Academic Year				
School	Student Enrollment	CAASPP score		
		English Language Arts / Literacy	Math	
1. Academy of the Canyons	385	81.5	61.9	
2. Canyon High School	1952	66.6	32.5	
3. Castaic High School	1,159	70.5	29.6	
4. Golden Valley High School	1,980	57.2	22.5	
5. Hart High School	1,941	71.5	38.8	
6. Saugus High School	2,317	83.0	47.4	
7. Valencia High School	2,286	87.4	50.7	
8. West Ranch High School	1,777	86.1	57.8	

CAASPP scores: percentage of students who met or exceeded grade level standards
 Source: Education Data Partnership, www.ed-data.org



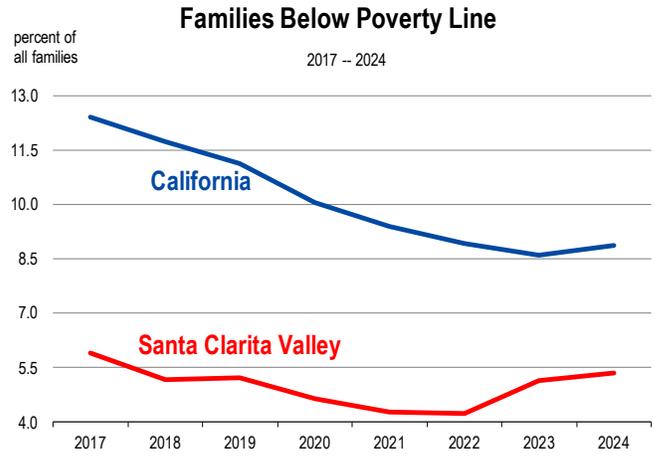
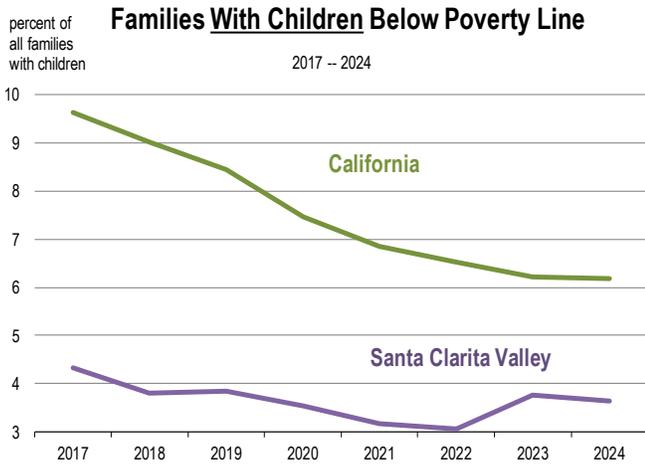
- Seventh grade students struggled with the math section of the CAASPP test in the 2023-2024 school year, just like the year prior. California and LA county recorded passing rates of 33.8 percent and 34.1 percent for math. Santa Clarita Valley reported passing rates of 44.1 percent.
- For Santa Clarita students in grades 7 and 11, test scores for both English and Math remain between three and eight percentage points below pre pandemic scores. Compared to the previous year, scores either remained the same or decreased slightly.
- Average CAASPP scores for the eight high schools in the region were 75.4 percent for



english language arts, and 41.3 percent for mathematics in the 2023-2024 school year.

College of the Canyons

- 2024-2025 enrollment at the College of the Canyons declined from the 2023-2024 level, but still remained above enrollment levels from 2012 to 2022.
- Most age groups had lower enrollment in Spring of 2025 than in Spring of 2023. Spring 2025 enrollment for those 19 years or younger was well below that of Spring 2023. Older age groups 40-49 and 50+ saw a slight increase in enrollment in 2025 compared to 2023.



Children Living in Poverty

Being raised in poverty places children at higher risk for a wide range of problems. Research indicates that poor children are disproportionately exposed to risk factors that may impair the development process and contribute to poor academic achievement.

- Children under 18 are much more likely than adults to be poor. For a family of four with two children, the 2025 federal poverty level is \$32,150
- In 2025, 5.2 percent of families in the Santa Clarita Valley were under the poverty level. Approximately 3.4 percent of families with

children did not eclipse the federal poverty level.

- For Los Angeles County, 10.2 percent of families were below the poverty level, and 6.8 percent of families with children were living in poverty.
- From 2024 to 2025, the number of families below the poverty line decreased slightly in Santa Clarita Valley. The number of families with children that were below the poverty line also declined to what appears to be an all-time record low. For greater Los Angeles County, the number of families below the poverty line with and without children also declined in 2025 from the year before.

Acknowledgements

This publication was distributed at the 2025 Santa Clarita Valley Economic Outlook Conference, held on September 26, 2025.

Speakers at the 2025 conference

Robert Shen	Remo - President
Marcie Washburn	Nycote Labs - CEO/Owner
David Rendall	RE/MAX - Broker/Owner
John Prahbu	LA North Studios - Partner
Nate Patena	DrinkPAK - CEO

Panel of Business Leaders
Santa Clarita Valley



Mark Schniepp
Principal Economist
California Economic Forecast

California Economic Forecast

Mark Schniepp, Ph.D.
Principal Author & Editor
Erik Jennings B.A. candidate
Quality of Life
New Development
Layout & Design

Santa Clarita Valley EDC

Scott Heffernan
Editor
Sue Arellano
Largest Employers Survey

Guest Authors

Craig Peters, CBRE
Industrial Market, Commercial
Richard Ramirez, CBRE
Office Market, Commercial

Data Contributors

Bureau of Labor Statistics
Bureau of Economic Analysis
California Association of REALTORS®
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration
California Employment Development Department
Labor Market Information Division
Census Bureau, American Communities Survey
Construction Industry Research Board
City of Santa Clarita
Los Angeles County Planning Division
J.C. Casillas, NAI Capital
Redfin
UCLA Anderson Forecast
Visit California