

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

## CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Across California, civic leaders are recognizing the importance of prioritizing the health of residents. This has been driven, in part, by the recognition that public health is impacted by exposure to environmental pollution—in air, water, and soil. However, in other cases, residents may experience poorer health outcomes due to a lack of parks, limited healthy food options, less education, or other conditions that indirectly affect health. These realities have led planners to explore planning tools to improve health and environmental justice in their cities. And as the blueprint for the physical development of a city, planners have turned to updating the general plan.



*Overlooking Downtown San Bernardino*

In 2016, the California Legislature enacted the “Planning for Healthy Communities Act” (known as Senate Bill [SB] 1000), a bill that requires cities to address health and wellness in their general plans. Cities with disadvantaged communities are required to incorporate environmental justice (EJ) policies into their general plans. In addition, the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation has updated its guidelines for preparing general plans. With this combination, general plans must now address improving public facilities, reducing pollution burden, expanding access to food and active living, and promoting safe and sanitary housing among other topics.

In 2018, the Legislature enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 686, “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.” Though the name suggests that the bill’s focus is on housing, the law centers on promoting community development and opportunity—the affordability, availability, and condition of housing; increased opportunity for employment and education; access to public facilities and services; and the many other community assets that affect quality of life. Like SB 1000, the law focuses on “disadvantaged areas” known to have a need for greater opportunity. General plans must include goals, objectives, and programs to expand opportunities for all residents.

This scan highlights existing health conditions, issues, and challenges in San Bernardino. It shows that planning the City’s future will require the City to think about how programs impact public health and social equity, pursue programs that improve health and social equity, and include partner agencies and community stakeholders outside City Hall to implement the programs. Finally, planning San Bernardino’s future will require a long-term commitment in vision, actions, and report sources. The analysis in this chapter is intended to provide a foundation for that effort.

### 3.1.1 Purpose and Organization

This chapter provides a foundation for complying with the statutory requirements of SB 1000. This section provides the outline and organization of this environmental scan, summarizes the regulatory framework for health and environmental justice planning, describes the methodology and data sources used, and provides a high-level overview of community outreach efforts that informed this environmental scan.

This scan has five sections.

- **Section 3.1, Introduction**, reviews the history of health and environmental justice, regulatory framework, and the definition of a healthy city.
- **Section 3.2, Health Profile**, describes the health of residents and the resources available for residents to access healthcare.
- **Section 3.3, Environmental Justice**, identifies the city's disadvantaged areas with respect to environmental and demographic data.
- **Section 3.4, Healthy City Features**, details the features of the city's physical environment and programs that affect health and well-being.
- **Section 3.5, General Plan Opportunities**, takes the findings from prior sections and highlights implications for the vision, goals, policies, and implementation programs for the comprehensive 2050 General Plan update.



*Residents enjoying fresh food at a local park.*

It is important to note that this assessment is not intended to be a compendium of all public health, environmental justice, and social equity issues in San Bernardino. Many additional local, county, and state studies provide additional relevant information. Nor is this assessment intended as a substitute for the preparation of health risk studies for specific land uses or as an action plan for all environmental cleanups required by state law or by regulatory agencies.

Rather, this assessment is intended to inform public health and environmental justice goals, policies, and programs for the San Bernardino 2050 General Plan update. It is a point-in-time study based on the information that is readily available at this particular time. As conditions change over time, this chapter can be updated as needed to track progress in the implementation of the general plan and to update health conditions observed in the city.

### 3.1.2 Regulatory Framework

This section outlines some of the key legislation, California law, and background needed to help frame health, environmental justice, and social equity concerns. Several key federal and State planning efforts provide a framework for addressing healthier communities in urban planning.

#### **California General Plan Guidelines**

California was one of the first states to address environmental justice. AB 1553, which became effective in 2003, required LCI to develop guidelines for including environmental justice into general plans. With the release of the 2017 general plan guidelines, LCI expanded its mandate by recommending consideration of broader environmental justice and social equity issues as part of the updates to general plans. In 2018, LCI released subsequent guidance for general plans in consultation with the Department of Justice and other stakeholders. Regulations have been released, circulated for public comments, and finalized prior to adoption of final guidelines. These guidelines present mandatory and optional topics for health and environmental justice.

#### **California Housing Element Law (AB 686)**

AB 686, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, was one of the most fundamental changes to housing element law in decades. Enacted in 2019, this legislation created new requirements for all state and local agencies to ensure that their laws, programs, and activities affirmatively further fair housing, and that they take no action inconsistent with this obligation. AB 686 also created new requirements for housing elements. Beginning January 1, 2019, all housing elements must include a program that promotes and affirmatively furthers fair housing opportunities throughout the community. The foundation of this effort is an assessment of fair housing, whose requirements include an assessment of fair housing practices, an analysis of the relationship between available sites and areas of high or low resources, and concrete actions to affirmatively further fair housing.

#### **Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community**

SB 244 requires cities to identify disadvantaged, unincorporated communities and provide an analysis of water, wastewater, stormwater, drainage, and structural fire protection needs or deficiencies. SB 244 defines a disadvantaged community as a fringe, island, or legacy community. This legislation was passed to address the barriers that contribute to regional inequity and infrastructure deficits in disadvantaged, unincorporated communities. This legislation is relevant for the City of San Bernardino due to the number of island communities. Many of these areas overlap those analyzed for environmental justice concerns. The SB 244 analysis identifies infrastructure and service deficiencies among unincorporated areas. This topic is covered in greater detail as part of the Housing Element update.

## Senate Bill 1000

The Planning for Healthy Communities Act mandates that cities with disadvantaged areas integrate environmental justice policies, objectives, and goals into their comprehensive general plan. The environmental justice element, or related environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, shall do all of the following: (a) identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities; (b) identify objectives and policies to promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process; and (c) identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address disadvantaged communities.

The EJ element or integrated goals, policies, and implementation programs are intended to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in EJ communities by addressing at least these topics:

- » **Pollution Exposure.** Policies to mitigate and prevent exposure to hazardous materials and air pollutant emissions, remove and restrict toxic pollutants, and protect sensitive populations within and around EJ communities.
- » **Public Facilities.** Policies to promote facilities such as infrastructure, parks, community facilities, active transportation, roads and trails, and health-care facilities and ensure that EJ communities have equal access to such facilities.
- » **Food Access.** Policies to promote healthy food access in EJ communities through programs and projects, such as grocery supermarkets, local agriculture, and mobile vending, which fit the local context and needs of communities.
- » **Safe and Sanitary Homes.** Policies to ensure healthy and safe housing, such as addressing presence of lead-based materials and asbestos; issues of housing rehabilitation; significant code enforcement or neighborhood quality issues, etc.
- » **Physical Activity.** Policies to promote spaces for physical activity and ensure access, connectivity, and equitable distribution of physical activity opportunities, such as pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly streetscape environments.
- » **Community Engagement.** Policies to promote inclusive community engagement that increases participation, inclusion, and accessibility for non-English speaking communities and incorporates community input into planning and policy outcomes.

The analysis of San Bernardino in this scan is intended to document existing conditions with respect to these health, environmental justice, and social equity considerations and in conjunction with the 2023 guidance issued by LCI and the California Attorney General.

### 3.1.3 Important Terms

Throughout this scan, certain terms are used to describe a healthy community or environmental justice. These terms are related but not interchangeable. Key terms have been defined in this section to provide clarity on their meanings in the context of this scan.

#### **Environmental Justice**

State law defines “environmental justice” as the “fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” (Gov. Code, §65040.12(e)(1)(2).) It includes: (a) the availability of a healthy environment for all people; (b) strategies of deterrence, reduction, and elimination of burdens for those experiencing adverse and inequitable effects of pollution; and (c) the meaningful consideration of recommendations from those most impacted by pollution.

#### **Healthy Community**

The California Planning Roundtable penned the following definition, “A healthy community is one that strives to meet the basic needs of all residents; it is guided by health equity principles in the decision-making process; it empowers organizations and individuals through collaboration, civic and cultural engagement for the creation of safe and sustainable environments. Vibrant, livable, and inclusive communities provide ample choices and opportunities to thrive economically, environmentally, and culturally, but must begin with health” (2014).

#### **Disadvantaged Community**

Disadvantaged communities refer to the areas throughout California that suffer the most from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, high unemployment, air and water pollution, the presence of hazardous waste, and high incidence of asthma and heart disease. For Senate Bill 1000, CalEPA defines a disadvantaged community as a census tract that scores in the worst 25th percentile of tracts statewide with respect to various population, socioeconomic, and environmental factors.

#### **Determinants of Health**

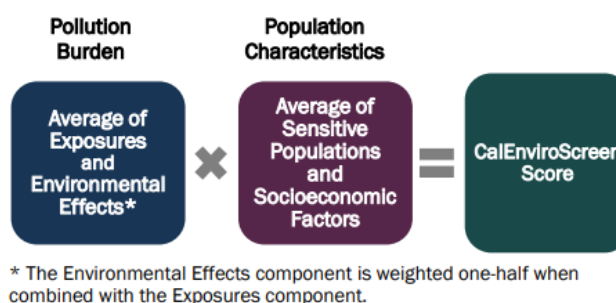
Determinants of health include social and environmental. According to the federal Healthy People 2030 framework, physical determinants are the conditions in the environment where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Social determinants include economic stability, educational access and quality, health access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context. Environmental determinants include the healthfulness of air, water, land, etc.



### 3.1.4 Methodology

Various data sources and methodologies were used to identify health conditions within a community, environmental concerns, and areas that are disadvantaged. The primary sources and methodologies unique to this environmental scan are briefly summarized below.

SB 1000 is prescriptive in that cities must use certain models to identify disadvantaged areas. CalEnviroScreen Version 4.0 (CES4) was developed by CalEPA for identifying vulnerable communities disproportionately burdened by pollution. CES ranks disproportionate impacts for all census tracts across California. The ranking consists of 18 indicators organized across four categories—pollution exposure, environmental effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors. These categories are summed into two metrics—pollution burden and population characteristics—then multiplied together to arrive at the CES score. The CES score is then compared to all tracts statewide.



*CalEnviroScreen Formula*

Though CES4 is the primary source used to identify disadvantaged communities, this technical scan uses additional data to identify health and environmental justice concerns. These data sources include:

- California Climate Investments Priority Population (V. 2023), developed by the California Air Resources Board, identifies disadvantaged communities in San Bernardino.
- Housing Opportunity Index (HOI, Version 2023), developed by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, identifies low resource areas of San Bernardino.
- Healthy Places Index (HPI, Version 3.0), developed by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, diagnoses the health of neighborhoods.
- Federal Environmental Justice Screening (EJScreen, Version 3.2), developed by the EPA, documents environmental risks based on federal data resources.
- Federal Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST, Version 2.0) corroborates the findings of the above sources of information.
- PLACES, 2020, developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), details the health status, health conditions, and health risk factors in San Bernardino.



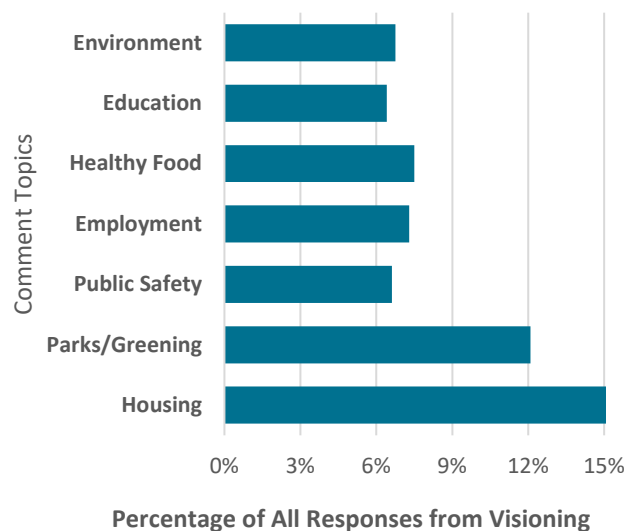
### 3.1.5 Community Outreach

This scan is informed by public outreach and engagement efforts conducted for the general plan update, supplemented by additional focused outreach. Different venues and tools were used to solicit input from residents, agencies, and stakeholders. Events included visioning efforts in each city ward, an extensive public survey of comments, General Plan Advisory Committee workshops, an online website, stakeholder interviews, and other opportunities. The specific outcomes and menu of outreach tools are on the City's website at <https://futuresb2050.com/>.

#### Visioning Surveys

Envisioning San Bernardino's future was the first phase of outreach for the 2050 General Plan. In 2021, the City engaged residents, local leaders, and stakeholders to share their perceptions of issues and their visions for the city's future through focused workshops in each ward. Workshops were advertised via social media, e-blasts, emails, and flyer distribution. The City encouraged re-sharing flyers to neighborhood associations, elected officials, and stakeholders, including UPLIFTSB, local schools, family engagement centers, and the City Police Department. The City sent bilingual e-blasts promoting the workshops to over 200 contacts and emailed bilingual flyers to 30 community organizations.

Questions revolved around eight topics: land use, neighborhoods and housing, circulation, fair and equitable city, economic vitality, public services, and infrastructure, environment and climate, and public health and safety. Spanish-speaking translation was available. Over 200 individuals participated in the workshops and provided nearly **1,500 written comments**. Additional input was received from 186 surveys, and nine focus group interviews or roundtables. These comments informed the development of the City's 2050 vision for the community.



Overall, more than 50 percent of comments received addressed aspects of San Bernardino that would improve health outcomes for residents. The most frequently mentioned topic was housing, which garnered 15 percent of responses. Parks, trails, and urban greening were mentioned by 12 percent of respondents. All other topics—education, health food, jobs, environment, and public safety—were mentioned by 6 to 8 percent of respondents. These responses underscored residents' desire that San Bernardino become a healthier place to live.

## Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews were held for the purpose of gathering more detailed perspective on the health and environmental justice issues affecting San Bernardino residents. Meetings were scheduled with environmental advocates, healthcare professionals, educational staff, and community-based organizations, among others, to provide greater context and offer recommendations on how the General Plan could improve conditions in the city.

Five stakeholder interviews were held below. **Table 3.1** provides a summary of high-level strategies proposed during the consultations.

- Community-Based Services: October 15, 2021, and August 19, 2024
- Environmental Advocacy Groups: November 21, 2024
- Healthcare Professionals: October 8, 2021, and December 2, 2024
- Education and Employment: December 19, 2024

**Table 3.1 Stakeholder Interview Issues Raised**

Strategies Proposed to Address Environmental and Health Issues	Organizations/Groups			
	Comm. Org.	Environ. Advocacy	Public Health	School/Employ
Reduce pollution & improve air quality		☐	☐	
Include marginalized groups	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add trees, green spaces, and parks	☐	☐		
Incentivize urban agriculture	☐	☐	☐	
Add sidewalks, bicycle routes, etc.		☐	☐	
Improve transit connectivity/services	☐		☐	☐
Improve health education and services	☐	☐	☐	
Address crime and cycle of violence	☐		☐	
Improve the economy and living wage jobs	☐	☐		☐
Education and workforce development	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve youth adolescent health			☐	
Seek meaningful resident engagement	☐	☐	☐	
Address poverty and other social issues	☐		☐	☐

Source: Stakeholder Interviews, 2021 and 2024; Dignity Health CHNA, 2022.

## 3.2 HEALTH PROFILE

San Bernardino spans more than 60 square miles and, with a population of 222,000, is the 17th-largest city in California. It is also the oldest city in the Inland Empire and the official County seat, home to the County's headquarters for health, human, and social services agencies in the central valley region. Due to a variety of long-standing issues, San Bernardino is also known for the significant unmet health needs among its residents. To provide a basis for the general plan policies and programs that will address these issues, this section focuses first on identifying the key health conditions in San Bernardino. This assessment will provide the basis for analyzing the City's built environment later in this scan.



*Community Hospital, San Bernardino*

To this end, this section includes a description and analysis of the city's existing health needs and the facilities and services available to them. These include:

- **Health Status.** Information and mapping on the physical, mental, and overall general health status of residents and variations that exist within the community. Information is shown for adult residents in San Bernardino.
- **Health Conditions.** Information on the most prominent health conditions experienced by residents. Because of limitations in information on childhood health, the primary health conditions tracked are for adults.
- **Health Behaviors.** Information on health behaviors of residents that either detract from optimal health, often called "risk factors," or healthy "protective" behaviors that improve health. Limited information is available for youth and children.
- **Health Facilities.** An inventory of San Bernardino's many healthcare facilities—hospitals, local clinics, service agencies—as well as an assessment of the adequacy (supply) of healthcare professionals to serve residents.

Understanding the underlying health conditions of residents as well as the city's inventory of health facilities and professionals available to serve residents will set the stage for discussing issues of environmental justice and other features of the community that influence health.

### 3.2.1 Adult Health Status

Understanding the underlying health conditions of residents and the health services available set the stage for discussing environmental justice and features of the city that influence health. Information on health status and conditions is provided by the CDC Places database.

Health status is a measure of how people perceive their health—excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor. Reported health status, though subjective, has been shown to be a reliable predictor of the health of residents. The CDC tracks the general, physical, or mental health of residents in cities.<sup>1</sup> Poor health status is measured by the percentage of adults (aged 18+ years) who report 14 or more days of poor health during the past month.

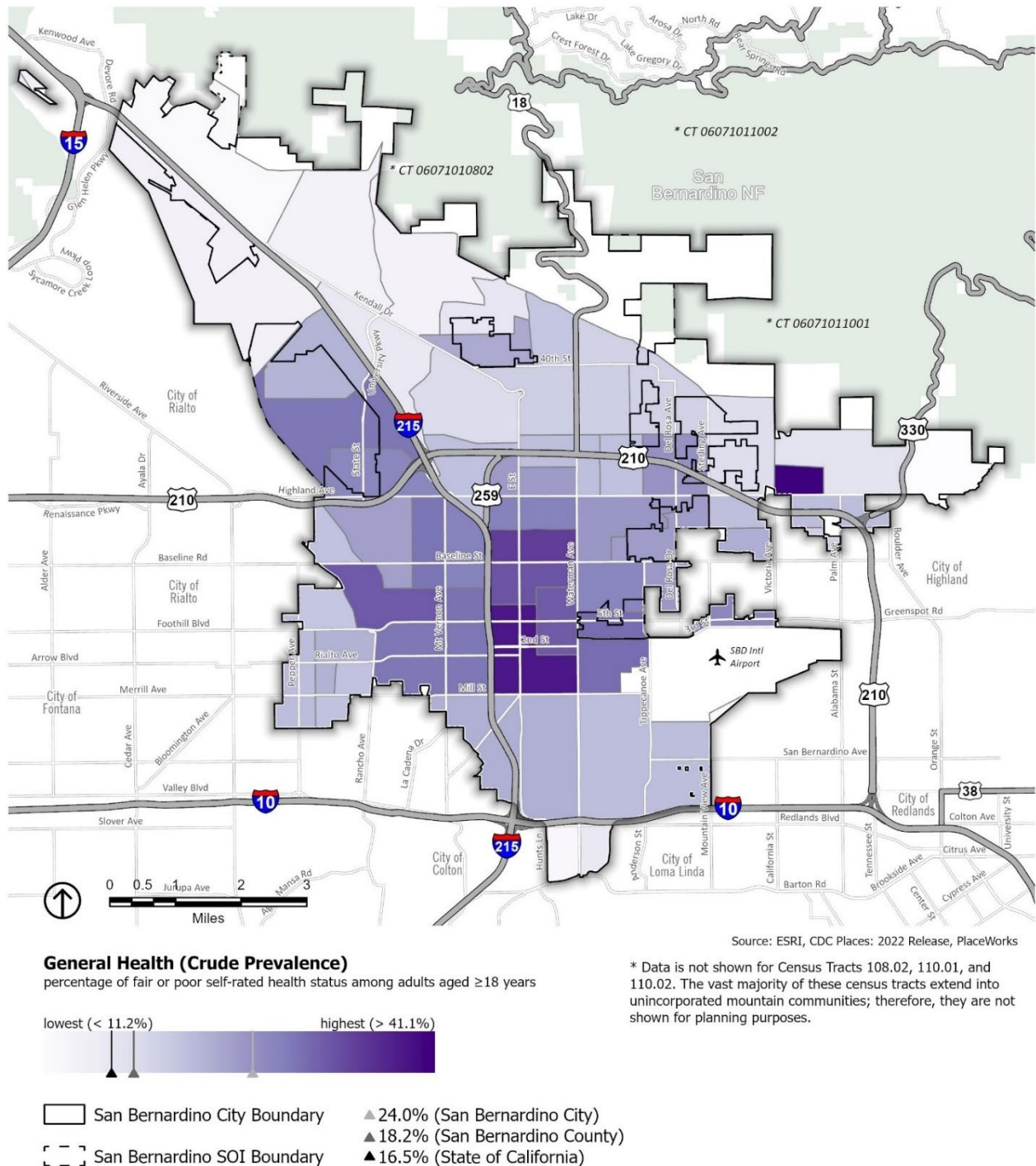
While the majority (75 percent) of adult residents enjoy good health, 25 percent of San Bernardino residents are in poor health. Shown in **Table 3-2**, the prevalence of poor health in the city exceeds the county average; San Bernardino ranks 22nd of 24 cities countywide and has some of the most distressed census tracts. Communities with the best health outcomes are Chino Hills, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, and Loma Linda. Cities with the poorest health are Barstow, Adelanto, and San Bernardino. Indeed, eight of every ten census tracts in San Bernardino are within the poorest quartile in California.

**Figures 3.1–3.3** show that residents' health status varies among San Bernardino neighborhoods. Central San Bernardino has the poorest markers for all three categories of health. North and South San Bernardino fare better. The Westside has poorer general, physical, and mental health, but to a lesser degree than in the central city. For mental health, the same patterns are evident, but four additional neighborhoods (University, Arrowhead Farms, Pacific, and DRNAG) show a greater prevalence of poorer mental health. Muscoy ranks poorly for general, physical, and mental health.

**Table 3.2 Health Status of Residents, San Bernardino City and County**

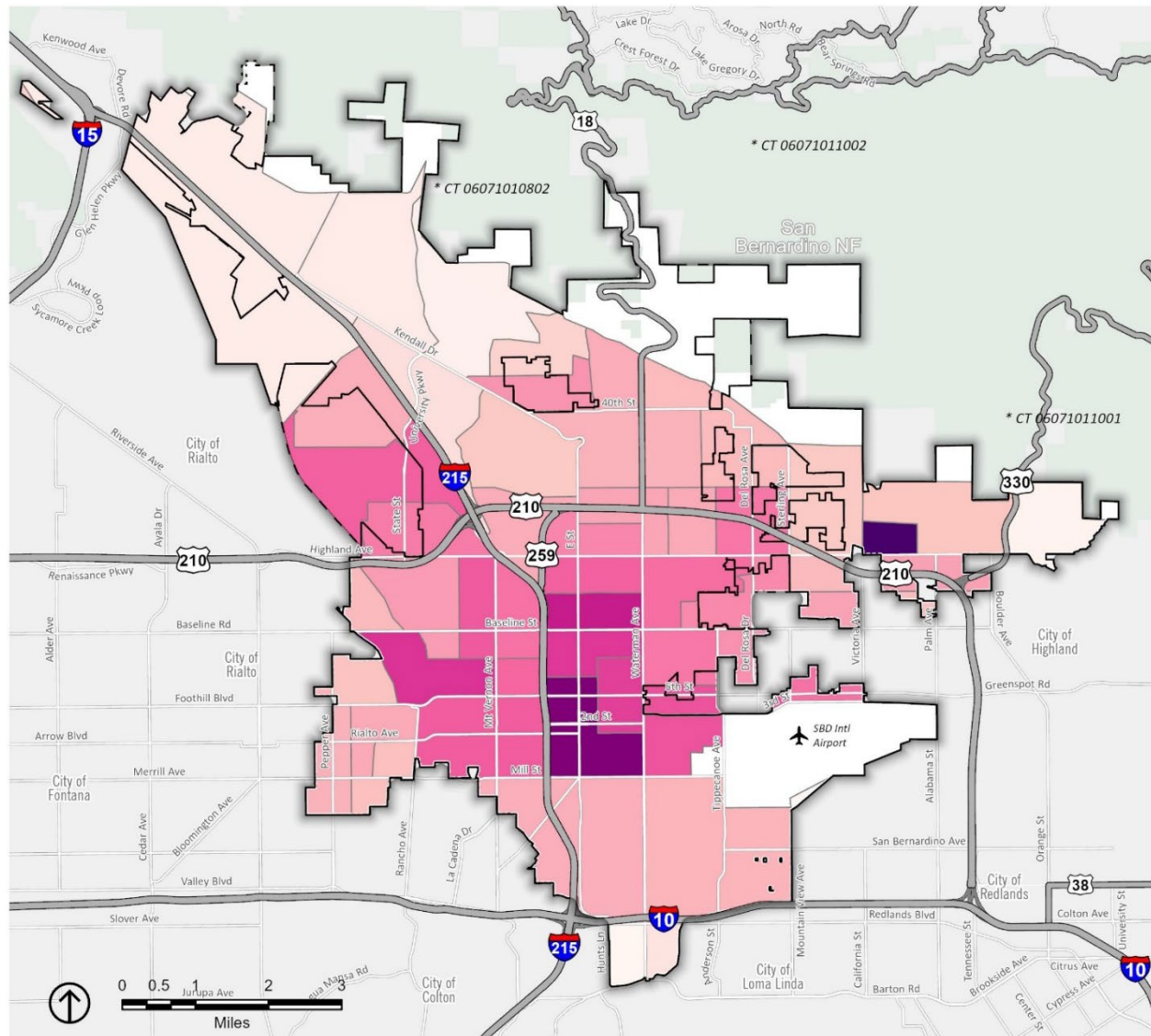
Percent of Adults	Prevalence (%)	
	City	County
% with Poor General Health	24.2%	18.2%
Range of Prevalence	11–41%	9–41%
% with Poor Mental Health	17.9%	15.1%
Range of Prevalence	14–22%	11–22%
% with Poor Physical Health	13.9%	11.3%
Range of Prevalence	8–24%	6–24%
San Bernardino Ranking compared to other cities	22nd of 24 cities	
Source: CDC Places, 2020.		
Note: Health status data is not age adjusted. San Bernardino County cities are ranked from best (1) to worst (24).		

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES, accessed July 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/places>.



**Figure 3.1 Prevalence of Poor Health: San Bernardino Adults**





Source: ESRI, CDC Places: 2022 Release, PlaceWorks

### Physical Health (Crude Prevalence)

percentage of physical health not good  $\geq 14$  days among adults aged  $\geq 18$  years

lowest (< 8.0%) highest (> 23.8%)

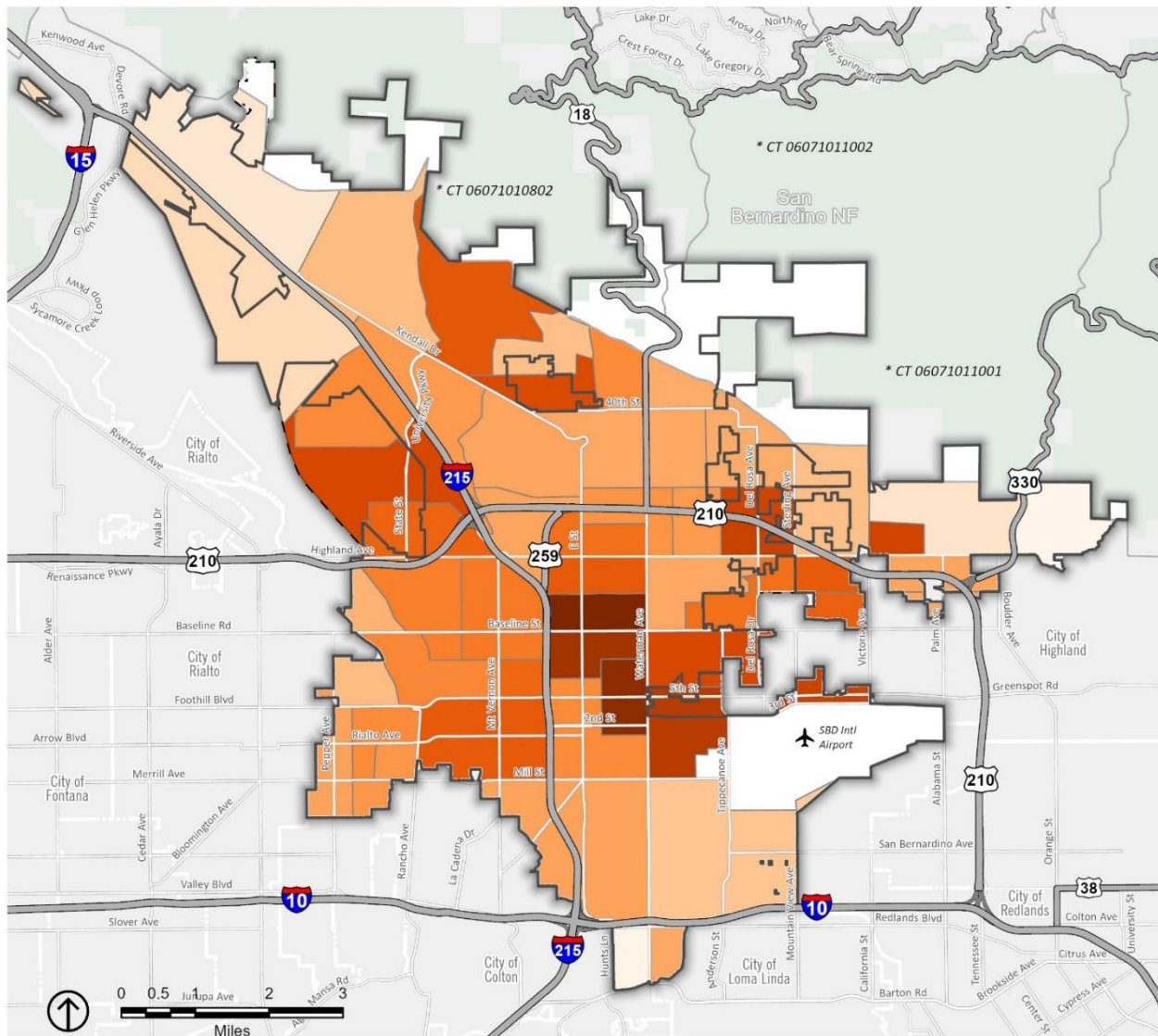


San Bernardino City Boundary  
San Bernardino SOI Boundary

▲ 13.7 (San Bernardino City)  
▲ 11.3 (San Bernardino County)  
▲ 11.4 (State of California)

\* Data is not shown for Census Tracts 108.02, 110.01, and 110.02. The vast majority of these census tracts extend into unincorporated mountain communities; therefore, they are not shown for planning purposes.

**Figure 3.2 Prevalence of Poor Physical Health: San Bernardino Adults**



### Mental Health (Crude Prevalence)

percentage of mental health not good  $\geq 14$  days among adults aged  $\geq 18$  years

lowest (< 13.3%)

highest (> 22.0%)



San Bernardino City Boundary

San Bernardino SOI Boundary

- ▲ 17.8 (San Bernardino City)
- ▲ 15.1 (San Bernardino County)
- ▲ 14.6 (State of California)

Source: ESRI, CDC Places: 2022 Release, PlaceWorks

\* Data is not shown for Census Tracts 108.02, 110.01, and 110.02. The vast majority of these census tracts extend into unincorporated mountain communities; therefore, they are not shown for planning purposes.

**Figure 3.3 Prevalence of Poor Mental Health: San Bernardino Adults**

## 3.2.2 Adult Health Conditions

San Bernardino residents' quality of life reflects, to some degree, their health conditions. CDC provides census tract estimates of the major conditions experienced by residents as well as the behaviors of residents (often called risk factors) that increase the risk of later health conditions.

### Health Conditions

Health conditions refer to chronic diseases that can often be prevented or controlled by keeping risk factors under control, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and elevated blood sugar levels. **Table 3.3** shows the prevalence of 10 health conditions and the percentage of the City's census tracts that fall within the fourth quartile of prevalence rates statewide. For reference purposes, the fourth quartile refers to the relative standing of tracts in San Bernardino that fall within the worst 25 percent statewide.

Obesity is the most prevalent health condition, affecting 43 percent of residents. Healthy People 2030 objectives call for cities to reduce the prevalence of obesity to 36 percent. Not surprisingly, high blood pressure and high cholesterol also affect one-third of adult residents. The second tier of health conditions include arthritis, diabetes, and asthma. Arthritis affects approximately one in four adults. Diabetes affects about 15 percent of adults, and asthma affects 11 percent of residents. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease affects 8 percent of adults. Asthma and lung disease are affected by smoking and air pollution. The third tier includes heart disease, cancers, and stroke. Heart disease affects less than 8 percent of adults in San Bernardino. Cancer and stroke affect about 4 to 5 percent of adults.

**Table 3.3 San Bernardino, Prevalent Health Concerns Among Adults**

Health Conditions	City Prevalence	Disadvant. Tracts
Obesity	43.5%	91%
Hi Bld Pressure	34.2%	63%
Hi-Cholesterol	30.3%	64%
Arthritis	23.4%	28%
Diabetes	14.6%	69%
Asthma	11.4%	89%
Lung Disease	7.9%	69%
Heart Disease	7.0%	54%
Cancer	5.1%	<5%
Stroke	4.0%	<5%

Source: CDC Places, 2020 Age Adjusted data  
Disadvantaged tracts refer to the percentage of tracts that exceed the 75th percentile statewide for a health condition

These health conditions occur more frequently in certain neighborhoods of San Bernardino. For instance, most of the poor health conditions have a higher prevalence in an area bounded by Interstate 10 and State Route 210 running east-west across San Bernardino. They are also prevalent in the unincorporated community of Muscoy. Lung disease, diabetes, and obesity are prevalent among residents living in northern San Bernardino, just above the State Route 210.



## Health Risk Behaviors

Lifestyle choices—such as not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, and being physically active—can help prevent some of the most common chronic diseases and even some types of cancer. Compared to many communities in San Bernardino County, San Bernardino has some of the highest prevalence rates for health risks related to lifestyle choices.

Key risk factors are summarized below and listed in **Table 3.4**. In summary unhealthful lifestyle choices are prevalent in every census tract within San Bernardino. Most census tracts in San Bernardino fall in the worse quartile (75th percentile statewide).

- **Obesity.** This condition increases the risk for heart disease, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, osteoarthritis, and cancer. Obesity is often associated with behaviors and the lack of physical activity. San Bernardino’s obesity rate ranks the 22nd worst in the county.
- **Binge drinking.** This leads to vehicle crashes, violence, suicide, hypertension, heart attacks, and other conditions. San Bernardino’s binge drinking rate ranks as one of the lowest in the county, though the low rates do not appear to be contrary to public opinion.
- **Lack of physical activity.** Physical activity lowers the risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and depression. The lack of leisure can be due to the limited availability of safe and convenient places to exercise. The city ranks as the 23rd worst in the county.
- **Current smoking.** Smoking, vaping, and tobacco use significantly increases the risk for heart disease, stroke, cancer, and chronic lung disease. San Bernardino’s prevalence of smoking ranks as the 21st worst in the county.
- **Insufficient sleep.** Lack of sleep is associated with diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, and depression. Lack of sleep can also be involuntary, perhaps due to individuals holding multiple jobs. San Bernardino’s sleep rate ranks as the 22nd worst in the county.

**Table 3.4 Health Risk Behaviors Among Adults**

Adult Health Risk	Prevalence			Disadvantaged Tracts
	City	County	Ranking	
Obesity	43.5%	39.0%	22nd	91%
Lack of sleep (<7 hours/night)	39.7%	36.8%	22nd	92%
Lack of exercise (past month)	31.0%	25.4%	23rd	79%
Current smoking (past month)	17.8%	13.5%	21st	85%
Binge Drinking (past month)	17.7%	17.8%	7th	9%

Source: 500 Cities Project, CDC, 2020.

### 3.2.3 Health Status of Youth

In contrast to adult surveys, city health surveys of children are rarely available and, when available, have completely different methodologies. The following therefore relies on published surveys where data is available at the local level and either the County or State of California level so that it is possible to compare the health of San Bernardino youth with the County or State of California.

- **Physical Health Status.** Generally, 5.5 percent of San Bernardino youth have poor health—higher than the County or State of California. While the CHIS database does not indicate the reason for the higher rate of poor health of children, the City’s prevalence of childhood overweight/obesity is 50 percent—significantly above county and statewide averages. This is also related to the high percentage of youth scoring poorly on health fitness tests.
- **Mental Health and Substance Use.** The prevalence of mental health and substance abuse has grown in recent years, particularly with the spike in rates seen during the pandemic. In 2023, the rate of emergency room admissions for alcohol, mental health illness, or both for San Bernardino City youth was approximately 40 percent higher than the County. Data on tobacco use, including vaping, was not available for San Bernardino schools.

**Table 3.5** shows the prevalence of health conditions of children and youth in San Bernardino compared to those in San Bernardino County and California.

**Table 3.5 Health Conditions, San Bernardino Youth**

Health Condition	Prevalence Among Residents		
	City	County	State
<b>Physical Health</b>			
Poor Physical Health (ages 0-17)	5.5%	4.5%	4.8%
Diagnosed with Asthma (ages 0-17)	12.3%	12.5%	11.6%
Overweight/Obese (ages 12-17)	50.0%	43.0%	37.4%
9th graders out of Health Fitness Zone	79.5%	70.0%	67.0%
<b>Mental Illness and Substance Abuse</b>			
Mental Illness (ER Admit Rate/100K Youth ages 10-17)	1,688	1,251	N/A
Substance Use (ER Admit Rate/100K Youth ages 10-17)	721	493	N/A
Either Mental Illness or Substance Abuse	2,409	1,744	N/A
Tobacco Use	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source:

Neighborhood CHIS, 2021-2022.

California Department of Education, 2018-2019

CA Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), 2023.

### 3.2.4 Healthcare Facilities

As the seat of San Bernardino County, the City of San Bernardino has long sought to attract and expand healthcare facilities to serve the health and medical needs of its growing population. Access to comprehensive and high-quality healthcare services is a fundamental prerequisite for preventing and managing disease, and reducing unnecessary disability and premature death, and a healthy community. Ensuring adequate access depends on residents having health insurance and access to conveniently located services as well as residents choosing to utilize those services when needed.



*Loma Linda University's San Bernardino Clinic*

#### Local Resources

San Bernardino offers a range of healthcare facilities locally in the community. Available facilities in the City include three hospitals, a dozen health clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, residential substance abuse and mental health treatment centers, and hospices among others (**Table 3.6**). Additional facilities and resources are being planned. Despite these facilities, the City is known for having a shortage with respect to primary care and mental health professionals. This shortage is mapped under the discussion of public services later in this chapter.

**Table 3.6 Health Care Facilities in the City of San Bernardino**

Healthcare Facilities	## within the City
Hospitals	3
Federal Qualified Health Center	10
Skilled Nursing Facilities	10
Intermediate Care	6
Treatment Facilities	17
Hospice Facilities	24

Source: SAMHDA; HRSA, 2024.

San Bernardino has seen several healthcare providers move into the City. In 2017, Loma Linda Medical Center opened a five-story community clinic and educational center near downtown. In 2022, St. Johns opened a community clinic on Waterman Avenue. In 2025, SacHealth will open its new 300,000-square-foot Brier campus (at the former Wells Fargo Building) in San Bernardino. IEHP also broke ground on a new Community Wellness Center to be opened in 2025. Taken together, these projects should reduce the shortage of healthcare professionals in San Bernardino.

## 3.3 DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

This chapter includes a discussion of the methods for identifying a disadvantaged community, the results of different methodologies, and a summary of findings in San Bernardino. This analysis provides the setting for an assessment of features known to address cumulative burdens.

### 3.3.1 Historical Context

Environmental justice has historic and contemporary roots within San Bernardino. The Santa Fe Railroad established the City's role as a gateway to the nation, employing many African Americans and Hispanics who migrated from the Midwest and settled in the City's westside neighborhoods. Federal policies decades later funded new freeways and railways that cemented the City's role as a gateway but also divided it physically and geographically. These same transportation facilities and infrastructure, with their heavy diesel traffic and the sheer volume of vehicles, would also eventually become the primary source of air pollution in San Bernardino today.

San Bernardino's industrial economy also fueled environmental concerns. Norton Air Force base, Kaiser Steel, and other manufacturers offered living wage jobs for many new residents. Mineral extraction provided the materials for development. With the closure of these facilities in the 1950s-1970s, Norton became a cargo airport, and surrounding areas were rezoned for industry, replacing neighborhoods such as the Valley Truck Farms with heavy industry. Heavy industrial uses, including landfills and manufacturing uses, and improper waste disposal practices, also resulted in a legacy of underground plumes that underlie much of the community today.

Segregation also played a historic role in San Bernardino and how different neighborhoods are impacted by environmental pollution. Restrictive covenants common during the post war years kept many of the City's Hispanic and African American residents in older west and central San Bernardino. These communities were also disproportionately impacted by aging infrastructure, multiple recessions, industrial development, and reduced public and private investment. Meanwhile, exclusionary land use policy allowed north San Bernardino to develop primarily with newer residential subdivisions with limited industrial uses.

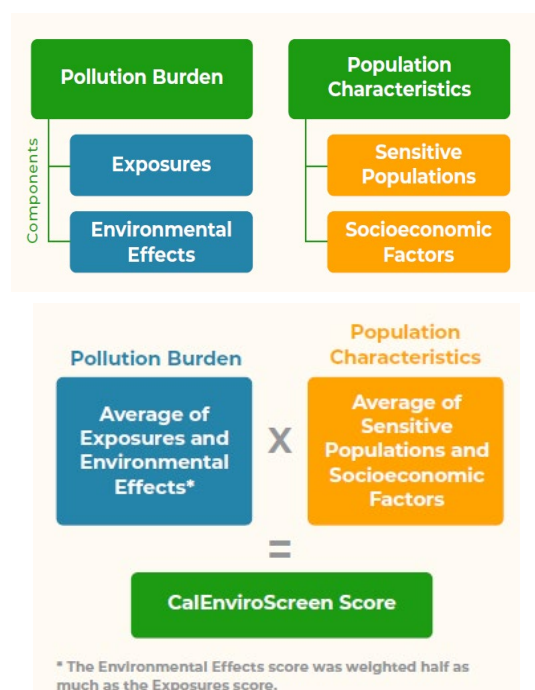
Today, the environmental and planning landscape of San Bernardino has become more complex. Key challenges include addressing and remediating sources of environmental pollution, encouraging beneficial reinvestment in older areas of the community, and continuing to invest in public infrastructure and services that improve the health of residents. In most neighborhoods, social issues of public safety, education, and employment are present and speak to the need for comprehensive strategies to improve opportunity for all residents. The following section addresses the challenges facing different areas of the community.

### 3.3.2 Identifying EJ Communities

SB 1000 requires cities to address the unique burdens facing disadvantaged communities. These are defined as 1) an area that has been identified by CalEPA as being disadvantaged based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria; or 2) a lower income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards. To achieve that objective, CalEPA has issued a database and mapping tool, called CalEnviroScreen, to assist cities in identifying neighborhoods that are considered disadvantaged.

To identify a disadvantaged community, CES4 uses several dozen indicators, grouped into two broad categories, pollution burden and population features. Pollution burden and population scores are collected, weighted, and averaged to provide a composite score for all census tracts in San Bernardino and the State of California. Census tracts that scored among the worst 25 percent statewide (75<sup>th</sup> percentile and above) are considered disadvantaged.

In 2023, the Attorney General refined the methodology for identifying a disadvantaged community by referring to the California Priorities Community list (2023). The California Air Resources Board maps all disadvantaged tracts on its website at: <https://gis.carb.arb.ca.gov/>. This mapping program includes federally recognized tribal areas and other areas that were formerly considered disadvantaged under prior versions of CalEnviroScreen.



While CES4 is the primary resource to identify disadvantaged communities, this model does not measure every pollutant, nor does it quantify threats to public health. The Attorney General therefore recommends considering other tools that are more specific to each community. Several sources include: 1) more creative use of CalEnviroScreen, 2) additional models such as the Healthy Places Index or federal data (e.g., EJScreen); and 3) census tracts where cumulative health risk burdens may be present or where local data may indicate an environmental justice concern.

This scan thus evaluated **alternative criteria**, in addition to mandated criteria, to identify disadvantaged communities in San Bernardino. An important part of this task was using local data to supplement and, in some cases, replace outdated information from the State of California.

## DISADVANTAGED AREA ANALYSIS

Ten methods were used to identify potential disadvantaged areas in San Bernardino. The final model chosen included the first five mandated criteria followed by adjustments revealed by local data. **Table 3.7** identifies the number of tracts designated as disadvantaged using the ten methods. Once these tracts were identified, local data were used to make local adjustments to ensure that the data accurately reflects conditions on the ground. The results of that analysis and final map of disadvantaged communities follow.

**Table 3.7 Results of Methods for Identifying a Disadvantaged Community**

Opt.	Criteria for Disadvantaged Community	Eligible Tracts	
		No. of Tracts	Pct. All Tracts
1	Tract with CES4 composite score in the 75th percentile or higher regardless of tract income	37	69%
2	Tract with CES4 pollution score in the 95th percentile or higher but lacks overall composite score due to data gaps	0	0%
3	Tract with CES3 composite score that is designated as disadvantaged, regardless of its CES4 scores	37	69%
4	Lands under control of federally recognized California Native American Tribes	2	4%
5	Tract with CES4 composite score in the 75th percentile or higher that are also designated as lower income tract	37	69%
6	Tract with CES4 pollution score in the 75th percentile or higher regardless of tract income	19	35%
7	Tract with CES4 population score in 75th percentile or higher regardless of tract income	40	74%
8	Tract designated as low resource according to the California Housing Opportunity Map in 2024	46	85%
9	Tract with a composite score in the lowest (worst) quartile according to the Healthy Places Index	44	81%
10	Local data suggesting the potential for a cumulative health risk burden	1	2%
Sum	Summary of Disadvantaged Tracts Including Methods 1 to 5 and 10	42	78%

Sources:

2023 California Climate Investments Priority Populations

2022 California State Treasurers Office, Housing Opportunity Index

## LOCAL ADJUSTMENTS

State-mandated criteria identified 46 census tracts in the City’s planning area that are designated as disadvantaged. However, as is the case with any statewide model, it is not possible for a model to accurately account for all the nuances in conditions that exist in specific neighborhoods. Therefore, three major adjustments were made to the state-mandated criteria to refine the results.

### Disadvantaged Areas Based on Local Data

State models incorrectly excluded or included certain tracts from being disadvantaged due to local data. Census tract 27.06 in northwest San Bernardino parallels the I-15 and is a major warehousing center. However, the tract extends across Cajon Creek and covers Rialto’s wealthier neighborhoods. Therefore, only the portion of Tract 27.06 that lies in San Bernardino is designated as disadvantaged. The second correction was made to Tract 45.10, which has one of the lowest pollution burdens but an extremely high population burden due to the presence of CSUSB students. Because its minimal pollution burden does not pose a threat, this census tract was changed and no longer reflects a disadvantaged status.

### Disadvantaged Areas Based on Tribal Lands

As of May 2022, CalEPA considers lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes in California as “disadvantaged communities” regardless of their population characteristics or their pollution burden. This designation is due to the historical and documented prevalence of such concerns on tribal lands. The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation is in the city’s northeastern sphere of influence and covers small portions of three census tracts—74.03, 74.04, and 110.02. An estimated 137 people reside on the reservation. Though CES4 does not track the exact pollution and population scores of reservation lands, the reservation is disadvantaged according to CalEPA.

### Disadvantaged Areas Anticipated to Change with CES5

San Bernardino has neighborhoods whose disadvantaged status may change when CES5 is updated. CT# 61.00 will be split into two census tracts—61.01 and 61.02. CES5 will also correct erroneous population scores, which will result in poverty and educational attainment improving by 40 percentile points. Lastly, zip code data will be replaced by more accurate census tract data (e.g., lead exposure, asthma rates, etc.). While updates to tracts in central and southern San Bernardino are not anticipated to result in any changes to their disadvantaged status, tracts north of the SR-210 that are split may change their disadvantaged status.

**Figure 3.4** illustrates the location of disadvantaged tracts. **Table 3.8** lists each census tract and its disadvantaged status.





- Composite Score (CES version 4.0) exceeds the 75th Percentile

Prior Disadvantaged Areas (CES Version 3.0)

Disadvantaged Designation Added Based on Local Data

Disadvantaged Designation Removed Based on Local Data (2023)

Disadvantaged Designation Removed Based on Local Data (2017)

California Native American Tribal Lands

San Bernardino City Boundary

San Bernardino SOI Boundary

### Figure 3.4 Disadvantaged Communities in San Bernardino



**Table 3.8 Disadvantaged Status by Census Tract**

Census Tract	DisAdv. Tract	CalEnviroScreen				Other Factors	
		Comp. Score	Poll. Burden	Populace Burden	Adjust-ments	Health Status	Resource Ranking
2706	Yes	3	4	2	Local <sup>2</sup>	N/A	High
3804	Yes	4	3	4		Mod	Low
4101	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
4103	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
4104	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
4201	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
4202	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
4301	Yes	4	3	4		Mod	Low
4302	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
4401	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
4403	Yes	3	2	3	Legacy <sup>2</sup>	Poor	Low
4404	No	3	2	4		Poor	Low
4503	No	3	3	2		Good	High
4504	No	3	2	3		Good	Low
4505	No	3	2	4		Poor	Moderate
4507	No	3	2	4		Poor	Moderate
4509	No	3	1	4		Good	Moderate
4510	No	3	2	4	Local <sup>1</sup>	Good	Low
4601	Yes	4	3	3		Good	Low
4603	Yes	3	2	4	Legacy <sup>2</sup>	Good	Low
4604	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
4700	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
4800	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
4900	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
5100	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
5200	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
5300	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
5400	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
5500	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
5600	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low

**Table 3.8 Disadvantaged Status by Census Tract**

Census Tract	DisAdv. Tract	CalEnviroScreen			Adjustments	Other Factors	
		Comp. Score	Poll. Burden	Populace Burden		Health Status	Resource Ranking
5701	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
5800	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
6100	No	4	2	4	Local <sup>1</sup>	Poor	Low
6201	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
6203	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
6204	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
6301	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
6302	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
6401	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
6402	Yes	4	2	4		Poor	Low
6500	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
7110	Yes	4	4	3		Good	Moderate
7200	Yes	4	4	3		Poor	Low
7303	Yes	4	4	3		Good	Low
7403	Yes	3	2	3	Tribal <sup>2</sup>	Good	Low
7404	Yes	2	1	3	Tribal <sup>2</sup>	Good	Low
7407	Yes	4	3	4		Poor	Low
7408	No	3	2	4		Poor	Low
7409	No	3	3	3		Poor	Low
7410	No	3	2	3		Poor	Low
7601	Yes	4	2	4		Poor	Low
2300	No	N/A	1	N/A		Poor	N/A
2400	Yes	4	4	4		Poor	Low
0100	Yes	N/A	4	N/A	Legacy <sup>2</sup>	N/A	N/A

Source: California Priority Communities, 2023; TCAC Housing Opportunity Index, 2024.

Notes:

CalEnviroScreen Ranking is from 1 to 4, with each numeral representing a quartile and "4" representing a disadvantaged tract.

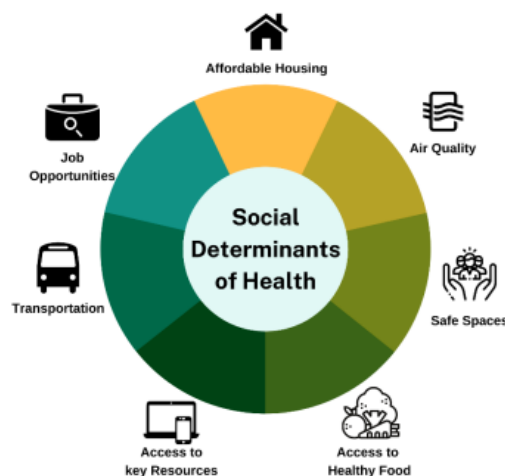
Adjustments 1. Census tracts deleted from disadvantaged status due to local data

Adjustments 2. Census tracts added as disadvantaged due to tribal, legacy, or other data

Health Status: Rankings where the percentage of residents with poor health is above the 75th percentile. Rankings range from Best (where only one measure is in the worst quartile) to Poor (where all 3 measures are in the worse quartile).

### 3.4 HEALTHY CITY FEATURES

Most communities, including San Bernardino, do not have local public health departments charged with the responsibility of advancing health and well-being for their residents. However, the City can create a built environment and provide services that improve the health of residents. Indeed, SB 1000 requires that a city with a disadvantaged area proactively addresses the determinants of health by improving the places where residents live, work, and recreate. These determinants (see **Figure 3.5**) include all the places where we live and work (e.g., homes, buildings, workplaces, streets, open spaces, and infrastructure) along with the services that help residents live healthy and productive lives.



**Figure 3.5 Determinants of Health**

This chapter includes an analysis of the following:

- **Physical Activity Opportunities.** This is related to the infrastructure in place (e.g., parks and recreational facilities, bicycle and walking routes, etc.) that affect physical activity.
- **Food, Alcohol, and Tobacco.** This refers to the ability of residents to afford and consume healthy foods. Also included are the choices to consume tobacco and alcohol.
- **Safe and Sanitary Housing.** This refers to the diversity of housing built in the city and the prevalence of issues that create insecurity (e.g., overcrowding, overpayment, poor conditions).
- **Public Safety.** Neighborhoods, businesses, roadways, and parks that are safe, well-maintained, and usable for residents of all ages to thrive.
- **Education and Employment.** Educational opportunities for all residents will lead to stable and living wage employment opportunities for residents to build wealth.
- **Public Facilities and Services.** This refers to access and availability of public services, including transit, health care, and fire services.
- **Pollution Burden.** This refers to the overall reduction in pollution burden (poor air quality, hazardous waste cleanups, etc.) experienced by residents.

### 3.4.1 Physical Activity

Opportunities to improve physical activity can help to address the health conditions noted earlier. Parks allow residents to experience nature, gather with friends and family, improve fitness and related skills, and relax and recharge, while bicycle routes and pedestrian routes also help. SB 1000 requires the general plan to promote physical activity, including the provision of parks, bicycling routes, walking routes, and other means to improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

## PARK RESOURCES

San Bernardino maintains 460 acres of developed parkland, which includes 39 parks and special facilities. In addition, four schools operate under a joint City-school resolution or agreement, which allows schoolyards to remain open for community use. Special facilities include two senior centers and one center for disabled residents. San Bernardino boasts other recreational facilities, which include two golf courses and the Western Regional Little League Complex and Soccer complex. Community centers also provide places for recreation activities to be programmed for residents.

**Table 3.9 Park and Recreation Assets, City of San Bernardino**

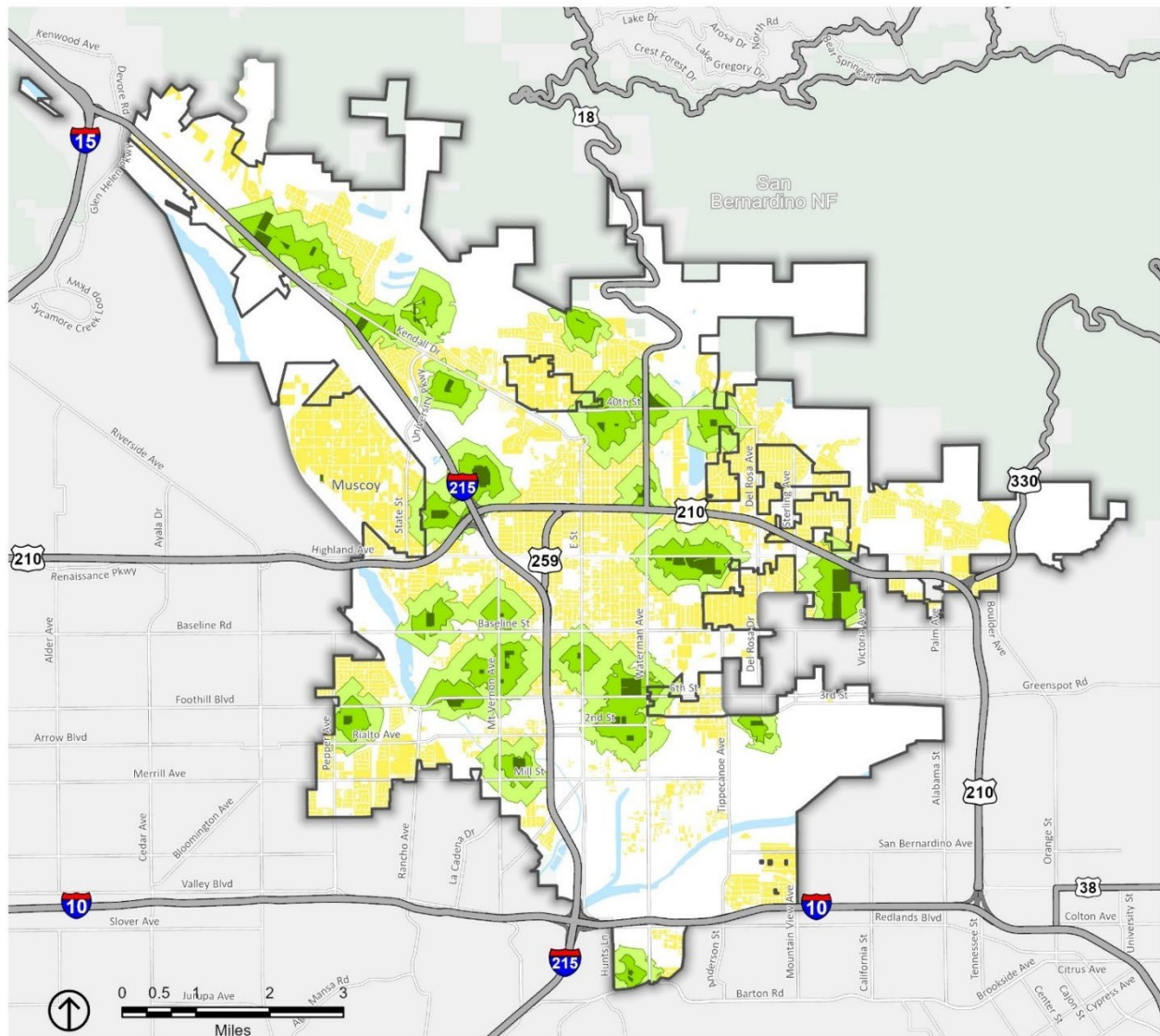
Park Types	Service Area	No. of Parks	Total Acres
Mini Parks	¼–½ m	19	48
Neighborhood	½–1 mi	9	95
Community	1–2 mi	9	215
Regional	Varies	2	103
Special	Citywide	10	Incl.
<b>Total</b>		39	460

Source: City of San Bernardino, 2022

The General Plan goal is to provide five acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents—considerably more than the 2.0 acres of parkland available today. Based on a population of 225,000, the City should have 1,125 acres of parkland, meaning that there is a shortfall of 665 acres of parkland. Optimally, industry standards call for a walking distance of not more than 20 minutes (1/2 mile) from a park. Based on industry standards for access:

- 10 percent of homes are within a 10-minute walk of a park
- 27 percent of homes are within a 20-minute walk of a park
- 63 percent of homes are farther than a 20-minute walk from a park

Although there is a significant shortfall in park acreage citywide, residents of the Muscoy community, northeastern unincorporated islands, and central San Bernardino live the furthest from available parks. **Figure 3.6** illustrates the location of parks, common service areas, and the residential areas that are beyond a convenient walk to City public parks.



Source: ESRI, City of San Bernardino, PlaceWorks

#### Proximity to Parks

Walking Distance to Park

0 - 1/4 mi

1/4 - 1/2 mi

Parks/Recreation

Parks Outside City

Residential Land Use

San Bernardino City Boundary

**Figure 3.6 Access of Residential Areas to Parks, City of San Bernardino**

## BICYCLE ROUTES AND TRAILS

Bicycling is a way for children and adults to be active. Living in a bikeable neighborhood allows children to bicycle to school or adults to exercise. However, to achieve these benefits requires investment. Bicycle routes need to be complete, connected to frequently visited community amenities (parks, schools, stores, etc.), protected from vehicles that may share the same roadway, and safe to travel on. In addition to street routes, the city has several developed or natural trails that parallel major infrastructure or meander into the foothills, providing residents with different opportunities for bicycling and walking.



*Chestnut Trail, Verdemont Heights*

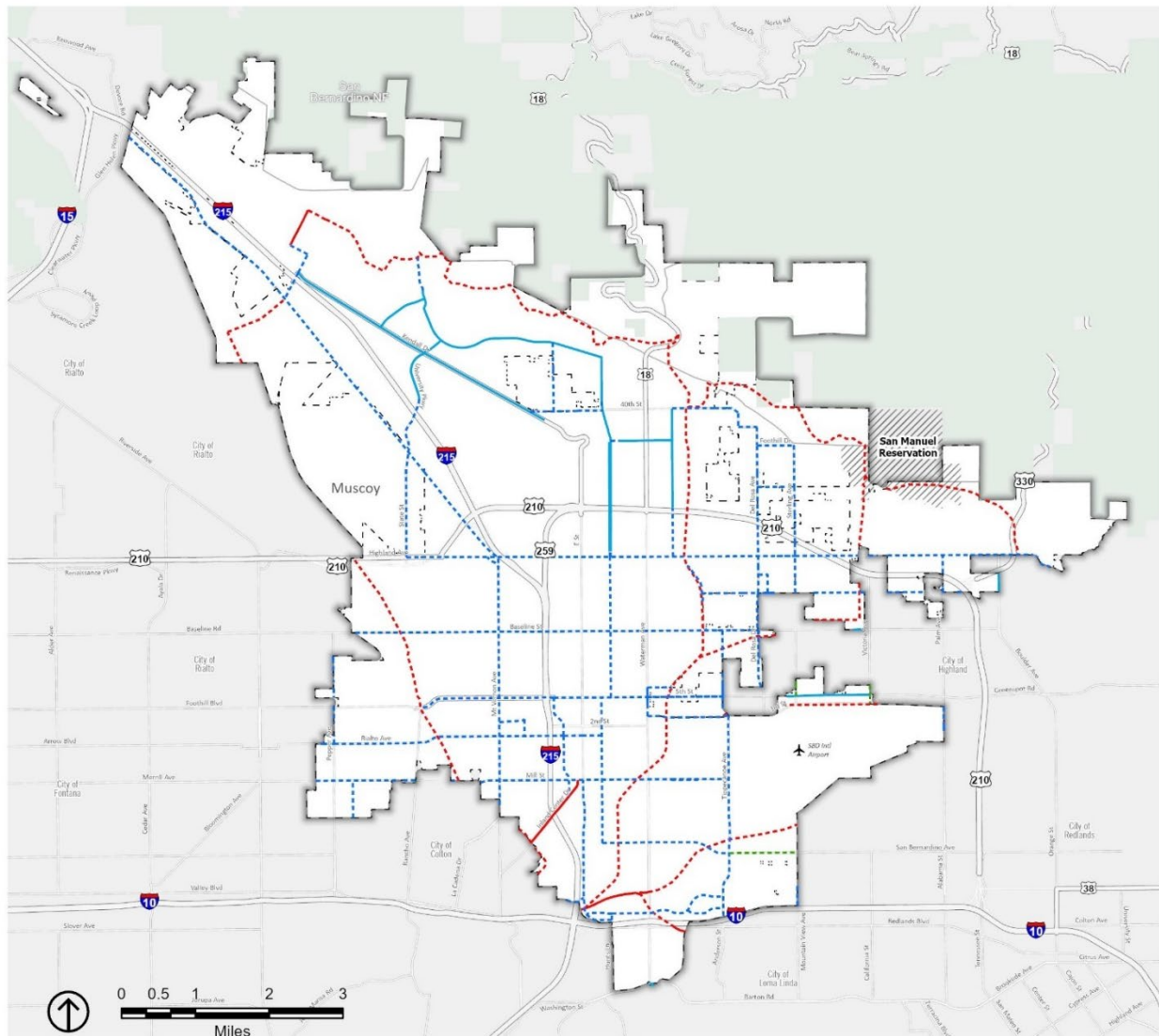
San Bernardino's bicycle system is currently limited, with few bicycle trails under construction. The City's bicycle network includes 2.5 miles of Class I Bike Paths and 16.5 miles of Class II Bike Lanes. According to San Bernardino County Transit Authority's (SBCTA) assessment (2018), San Bernardino has less than one-tenth of a bicycle lane mile for every 1,000 residents, which ranks the 20th lowest lane miles of 24 cities countywide. The City's 2022 Bicycle Master Plan planned new routes totaling 111 lane miles. **Table 3.10** summarizes the bicycle plan, and **Figure 3.7** illustrates locations of bike routes.

**Table 3.10 Summary of Proposed Bicycle Network, San Bernardino**

Bikeway Types	Description of Bikeway Classification	Lane Miles	
		Existing	Future
Class 1 Multiuse Trail	Off-street bikeway that is physically separated from the street. Planned routes include Cayon/Little Creek, Mid City Connector, and City Creek, among others.	2.5	34.5
Class 2 Bike Lane	Road designated by striping, signaling, or markings for exclusive use of bicyclists. Proposed routes along Highland, Baseline, Mt Vernon, Mountainview, etc.	16.5	78
Class 3 Bike Routes	A designated roadway where bicycles and motor vehicles share the same right-of-way. As these routes share the right of way, no specific routes are proposed.	0	1.5
<b>Total</b>		19	114

Source: City of San Bernardino, 2022; SBCTA Active Transportation website, 2022.





Source: ESRI, San Bernardino ATP, PlaceWorks

Note: Neighborhood streets are not shown

### Bikeways - Final Plan

#### Existing Bike Facilities

- Class I - Multi-Use Path
- Class II - Bike Lane
- Class III - Bike Route

#### Proposed Bike Facilities

- - - Class I - Multi-Use Path
- - - Class II - Bike Lane
- - - Class III - Bike Route

- San Bernardino City Boundary
- - - San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.7 Bicycle Master Plan, San Bernardino**

## PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

San Bernardino has an extensive system of sidewalk infrastructure used by residents to walk, jog, and travel to parks, schools, and grocery stores. Walking is by far the most convenient way to exercise for all ages if the network is safe, well designed, and pleasant for walkers. As shown in **Table 3.11**, the City has 757 linear miles of sidewalks, with 500 miles (40 percent) needed to complete the entire network. The most deficient areas in San Bernardino’s planning area are in Muscoy and county islands, which are under the jurisdiction of the County. In the unincorporated areas, 80 percent of the sidewalks are missing versus only 30 percent in the city.

During preparation of the Active Transportation Plan, residents provided comments on the City’s walking environment. These include the extent and condition of the sidewalk infrastructure, need for ramps and accessibility devices, crossings, and landscaping. When asked about the types of improvements that would encourage walking, the top three comments from respondents were safer ways to cross streets (56 percent), better lighting at night (46 percent), and sidewalk connectivity (45 percent). During the General Plan 2050 visioning workshops, residents also echoed the importance of a complete and safe sidewalk network to residential neighborhoods.

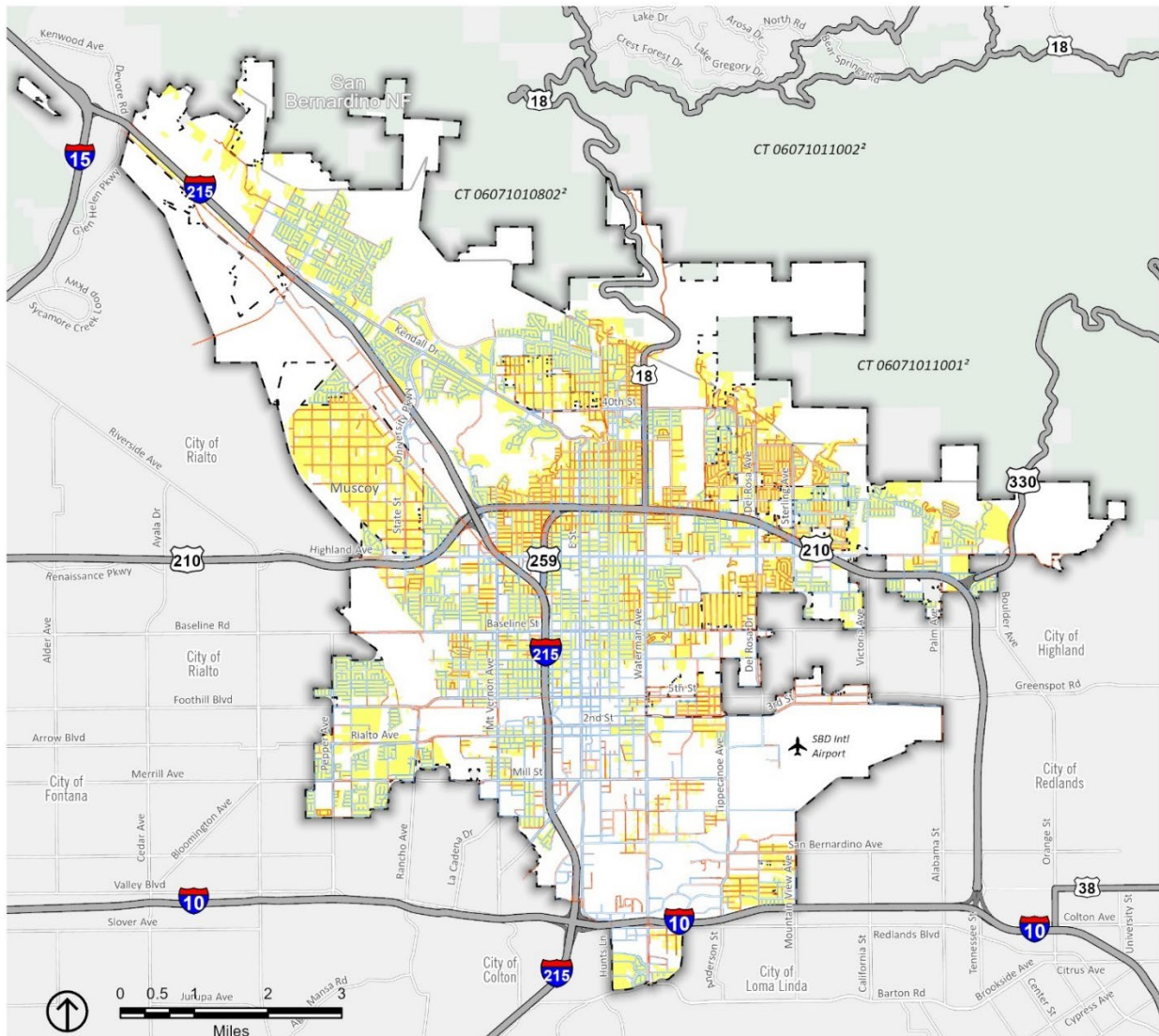
**Figure 3.8** shows where the missing sidewalks are in residential areas. In that regard, Muscoy and unincorporated areas have the highest proportion of missing sidewalks. While many residential areas in the city have sidewalks, they may still be undersized, need ADA improvements, or lack walking amenities (e.g., such as trees). Recent county budgets in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 have allocated funding to improve streets in several of the City’s unincorporated islands. The City is also applying for grants to continue its efforts to rebuild and repair its sidewalk network.



*Example of a well-designed City sidewalk*

**Table 3.11 San Bernardino Sidewalk Completion Rate**

Sidewalk Indicators	Miles
<b>Incorporated Areas</b>	
> Existing Miles of Sidewalks	723 (68%)
> Needed Miles of Sidewalks	336 (32%)
<b>Unincorporated Islands</b>	
> Existing Miles of Sidewalks	34 (21%)
> Needed Miles of Sidewalks	130 (79%)
Source: SBCTA, 2023.	



Source: ESRI, City of San Bernardino, County of San Bernardino, PlaceWorks

#### Sidewalk Coverage in Residential Areas

- Existing Sidewalk
- Sidewalk Needed
- No Sidewalk Needed
- Residential Existing Land Use
- Parks and Open Space
- San Bernardino City Boundary
- San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.8 Pedestrian Routes, City San Bernardino**



## LOCAL EFFORTS IN ACTION

San Bernardino has been active to increase the availability of parks and recreational resources. One of the more pertinent developments has been the Supreme Court decision and settlement of a lawsuit regarding homeless encampments. The City has been working with its partners to relocate individuals experiencing homelessness to temporary housing at motels, shelters, and other accommodations. This has allowed the City to focus on rehabilitating the parks and return them to use by the community.

Over the past five years, the City has worked with KaBOOM, Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, and other partners to replace many of the City's playgrounds. Among these include:

- 2024, Lytle Creek Park. provided \$1 million for the park and community center
- 2021, Hudson Park. and KaBOOM developed an inclusive playground
- 2019, Littlefield Park. KaBOOM funded the rehabilitation of the playground
- 2018, Perris Hills Park. Foresters Financial, City, and KaBOOM funded rehabilitation
- 2017, Seccombe Park. Rehabilitation of playground with grant and KaBOOM

In addition, the City has dedicated \$30 million to rehabilitate parks and recreational facilities within the community. Major improvements are slated for Seccombe Park, Nicholson Park, Guadalupe Fields, Speicher, Encanto Center, Roosevelt Bowl, and many other facilities. San Bernardino also continues to apply for grants to improve its bicycle routes and sidewalks and has entered into agreements with the County to improve sidewalks in unincorporated islands. The City is also developing a Parks Master Plan to provide direction for future park and recreation facilities.



*Nicholson Park: Before Images*



*Nicholson Park: Concept Plan*

### 3.4.2 Healthy Food

Food and beverages have a profound impact on health. Poor dietary habits are known to lead to a host of medical conditions from diabetes to heart disease, while nutritional diets are known to prevent common chronic diseases and improve quality of life. Moreover, due to their prevalence and misuse, alcohol beverages and/or use of tobacco also impact the health and well-being of residents. To improve resident health in disadvantaged communities, SB 1000 requires the general plan to provide ways to promote the availability of healthy food. This section describes and analyzes the food, tobacco, and alcohol environment in San Bernardino to inform goals, policies, and programs in the general plan.

#### Food Profile

San Bernardino is served by two dozen chain grocery stores (Ralph's, Stater Brothers, El Super, Superior, Food for Less, Walmart, Costco, Cardenas, Sam's Club, etc.). Additional smaller grocers and markets cater to the City's Asian, Indian, Filipino, and Hispanic residents. The City also has at least six community gardens (e.g., Veterans Garden, Garden of Health, Akoma Unity Center, Arrowhead Grove project) as well as about a dozen food pantries.

San Bernardino also has an abundance of fast food and convenience stores (**Table 3.12**). Historically, many fast food stores first began in San Bernardino, notably McDonalds (1940), Bakers (1952), and Taco Bell (1954). Today, the ten most frequented fast food and convenience stores total approximately 85 outlets—three times the number of supermarkets. San Bernardino has 370 stores that are licensed to sell either alcohol, tobacco, or both in the city.



*San Bernardino's Veterans Healing Garden.*

**Table 3.12 City Food Profile**

Food Environment	Count
Full-Service Grocery Stores	24
Grocers accepting WIC	75%+
Community Gardens	4
Food Pantries	10
Top 3 Convenience Stores*	40
Top 7 Chain Fast Food**	45
Alcohol Licenses	342
Tobacco Permits	180

Sources: Varied state and local databases.

Notes:

\* \_ Stores include Dollar Stores, 7-11, and AMPM

\*\* \_ Outlets include: MacDonaldis (8), Baker's Burgers (5), Taco Bell (5), Jack-in-the-Box (9), Pizza Hut (7), Dominoes (7); and Burger King (4).

Food security has become an important goal in planning healthy and sustainable communities. Food security refers to the ability to afford nutritionally adequate and safe food. People who are food insecure are disproportionately affected by diet-sensitive chronic diseases. For children, food insecurity can result in delayed development; risk of chronic illnesses like asthma and anemia; and behavioral problems. According to the CDC data, approximately 31 percent of San Bernardino adults are food insecure, which is one of the highest rates in the county and well above the prevalence of food insecurity in the county as a whole (23 percent).

Food security is partially dependent on the location of healthy grocery stores, particularly for individuals who lack a vehicle. As shown in **Table 3.13**, almost two-thirds of residences are within a mile of a grocery store; 30 percent of residences are 1 to 2 miles from a grocery store; and 6 percent are farther than 2 miles. Homes beyond 2 miles from a store were concentrated in the city’s unincorporated islands (e.g., Muscoy) or in newly developed areas in northwest San Bernardino. **Figure 3.9** shows the location and distribution of full-service grocery stores in San Bernardino.

**Table 3.13 Food Access San Bernardino**

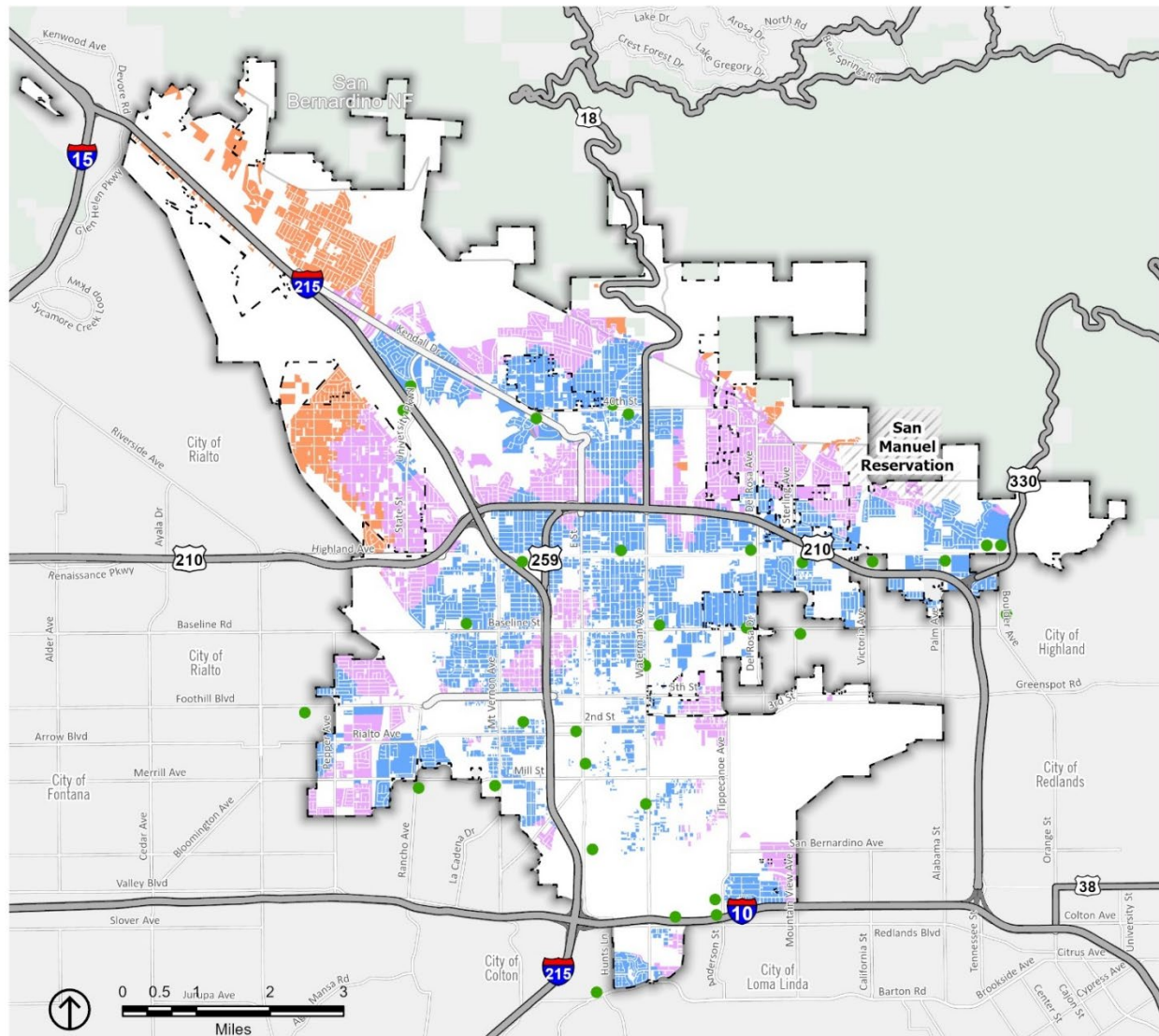
Food Security Indicators	No.
Homes within 1 mile of a store	64%
Homes 1 to 2 miles from a grocer	30%
Homes 2+ miles from a grocer	6%
Food Insecurity	14%
Residents receiving food stamps	21%
Low cost/free food pantries	10
Schools serving free meals	62

Sources: PlaceWorks, 2023; U.S. ACS 2015–2019; CHIS-NE.

Food insecurity also occurs when one’s income is insufficient to afford nutritious food. When this mismatch occurs, residents are more likely to purchase calorie-dense and less nutritious foods that are cheap. San Bernardino residents are predominantly lower income, with many earning below the median income. With inflation over the past years, food prices have risen 25 percent—significantly faster than household income—requiring households to spend an increasing proportion of income on food. Though inflation has declined in recent years, food costs comprise a much larger share of household income, particularly for San Bernardino’s predominantly lower-income families.

To assist lower income residents afford food, the State of California offers the Women, Infants, Children (WIC) and CalFresh (food stamps) subsidies, which at least 75 percent of grocery stores accept as payment. Approximately 20 percent or one in five households receives this type of food assistance. In addition to WIC and CalFresh, the local school district offers free and reduced meals (e.g., lunch and breakfast) to all students regardless of income or other qualifying criteria. In addition, ten pantries offer low-cost food for income-qualified residents, and many other pantries run by faith-based organizations.





Source: ESRI, SNAP, PlaceWorks

### Resident Access to Supermarkets

- Distance of Residence to Supermarket      ● Supermarket
- Within 1.0 Mile Drive to Nearest Supermarket
  - Within 2.0 Mile Drive to Nearest Supermarket
  - More than 2.0 Mile Drive from Nearest Supermarket
  - San Bernardino City Boundary
  - San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.9 Access to Supermarkets, San Bernardino**

## TOBACCO AVAILABILITY

Tobacco use is known to lead to undesirable health outcomes. Smoking, vaping, and tobacco use are linked to heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, asthma, and other chronic diseases. While smoking has declined over the past decades, smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disability in the nation despite a significant decline in people who smoke. In San Bernardino, one in five adults smoke and the prevalence is similar for adolescents, ranking the City as the 20<sup>th</sup> highest smoking rate of 24 cities in the county.

San Bernardino has 180 retailers that sell tobacco and the sixth-highest prevalence of tobacco outlets, with 8 licenses per 10,000 residents (**Table 3.14**). The City's density of retail tobacco outlets is likely higher given that license data is unavailable for sole proprietors in California. Many tobacco sales occur at smaller markets and gift stores owned by sole proprietors. Twenty-seven census tracts (half the City) have a higher per capita concentration of tobacco outlets than the county.<sup>2</sup> Of note, roughly 40 tobacco retailers are in the Westside and 50 tobacco retailers are in central San Bernardino. These areas of the San Bernardino community also have the highest prevalence of smoking among adults and adolescents.

**Figure 3.10** shows where there are undue concentrations of tobacco retailers. Tracts are shown where the number of licenses issued per capita exceed the countywide average. As shown, more than one-third of the City's census tracts have an undue concentration of tobacco retailers. Impacted areas include south, downtown, central, and portions of the city north of SR-210.



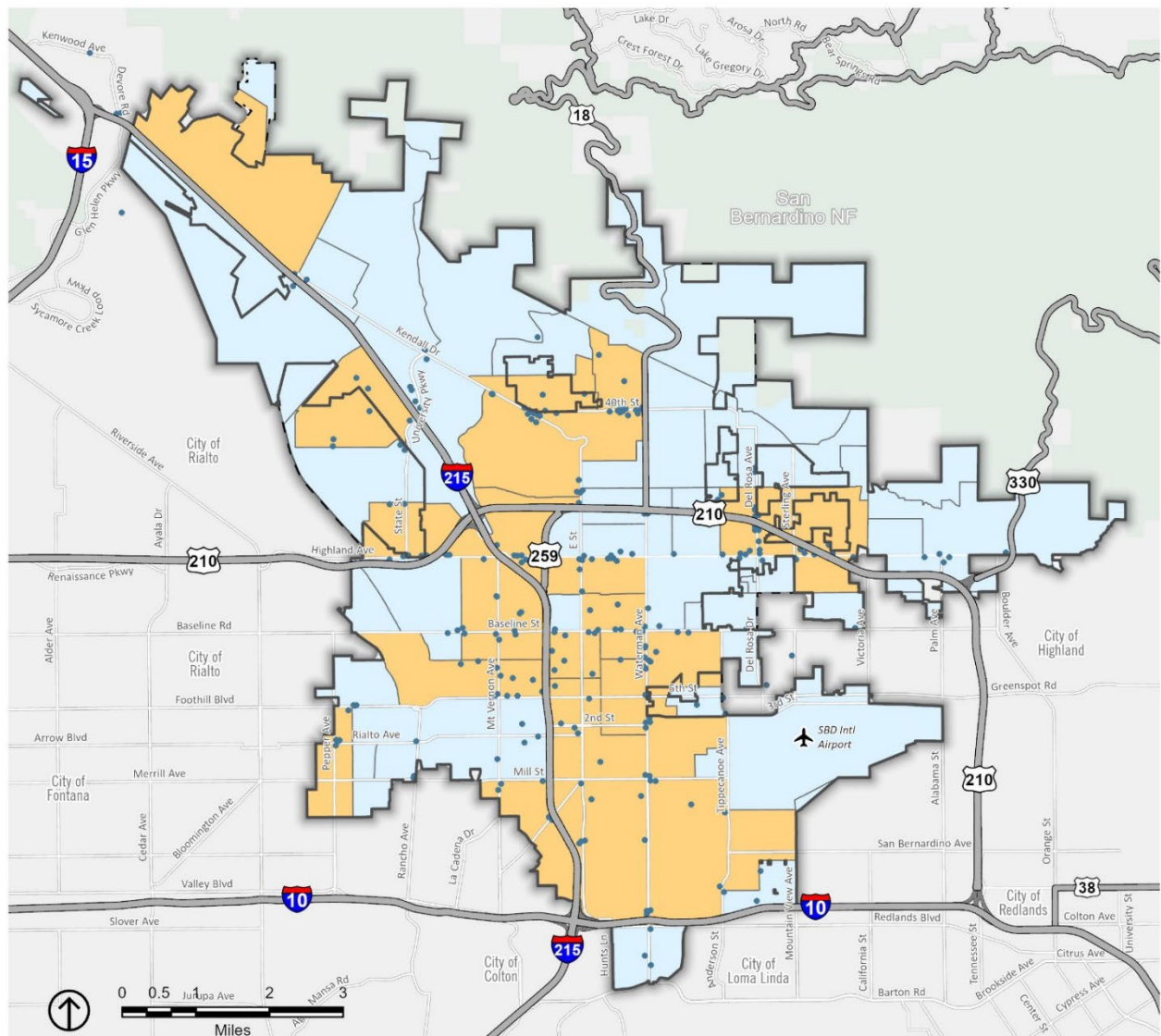
*Smoke Shop in San Bernardino*

**Table 3.14 Tobacco Licenses, San Bernardino City and County**

Tobacco Indicators	Indicators	
	City	County
<b>Tobacco Retail</b>		
Total Licenses Issued	180	N/A
Permits/10,000 people	8.1	6.1
<b>High Concentration</b>		
No. of Census Tracts	27	N/A
Percentage of Tracts	50%+	N/A

Source: Cal. Dept Tax and Fee Administration, 2022

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health, April 2021, *Summary of Scientific Evidence: Tobacco Retail Density, Location, and Licensure*, [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/evidence/pdfs/Tobacco-Retail-Density-Location-and-Licensure-508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/evidence/pdfs/Tobacco-Retail-Density-Location-and-Licensure-508.pdf)



Source: ESRI, California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, PlaceWorks

#### Cigarette and Tobacco Licensees

- Undue Concentration of Tobacco Retailers
- No Undue Concentration
- Cigarette and Tobacco Licensees
- San Bernardino City Boundary

**Figure 3.10 Retail Tobacco Access, San Bernardino**

## ALCOHOL AVAILABILITY

Alcohol availability is known to correlate with greater use, vehicle accidents, and crime. The City has a high prevalence of accidents, with 192 individuals killed and injured when crashes involve alcohol use. In 2020, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) ranked San Bernardino as having the second-highest rate for alcohol-involved accidents and the fourth-highest rate for underaged DUI drivers compared to 60 similar sized communities in California.

San Bernardino has 350 businesses licensed to sell wine, beer, and spirits, or 10 percent of the total number of licenses countywide. The City averages 16 licenses per 10,000 residents, which is average for the county, but more than half of the census tracts in the City exceed the city and countywide average. The Business & Professions Code §23817.5 prohibits the issuance of off-sale licenses if a city has more than 1 Type 20 license for off-sale beer and wine sales per 2,500 residents. Six cities in the County (including San Bernardino) are under a state moratorium for new off-sale beer and wine licenses.

**Table 3.15 Alcohol Licenses Issued, San Bernardino City and County**

Alcohol Licenses	City	County
Total Licenses Issued	358	3,501
Licenses/10,000 people	16	16
Offsale Licenses	98	684
Moratorium Status	Yes	No
Total Tracts	54	367
Overconcentrated Tracts	29	N/A
Percentage of Tracts	50%+	N/A

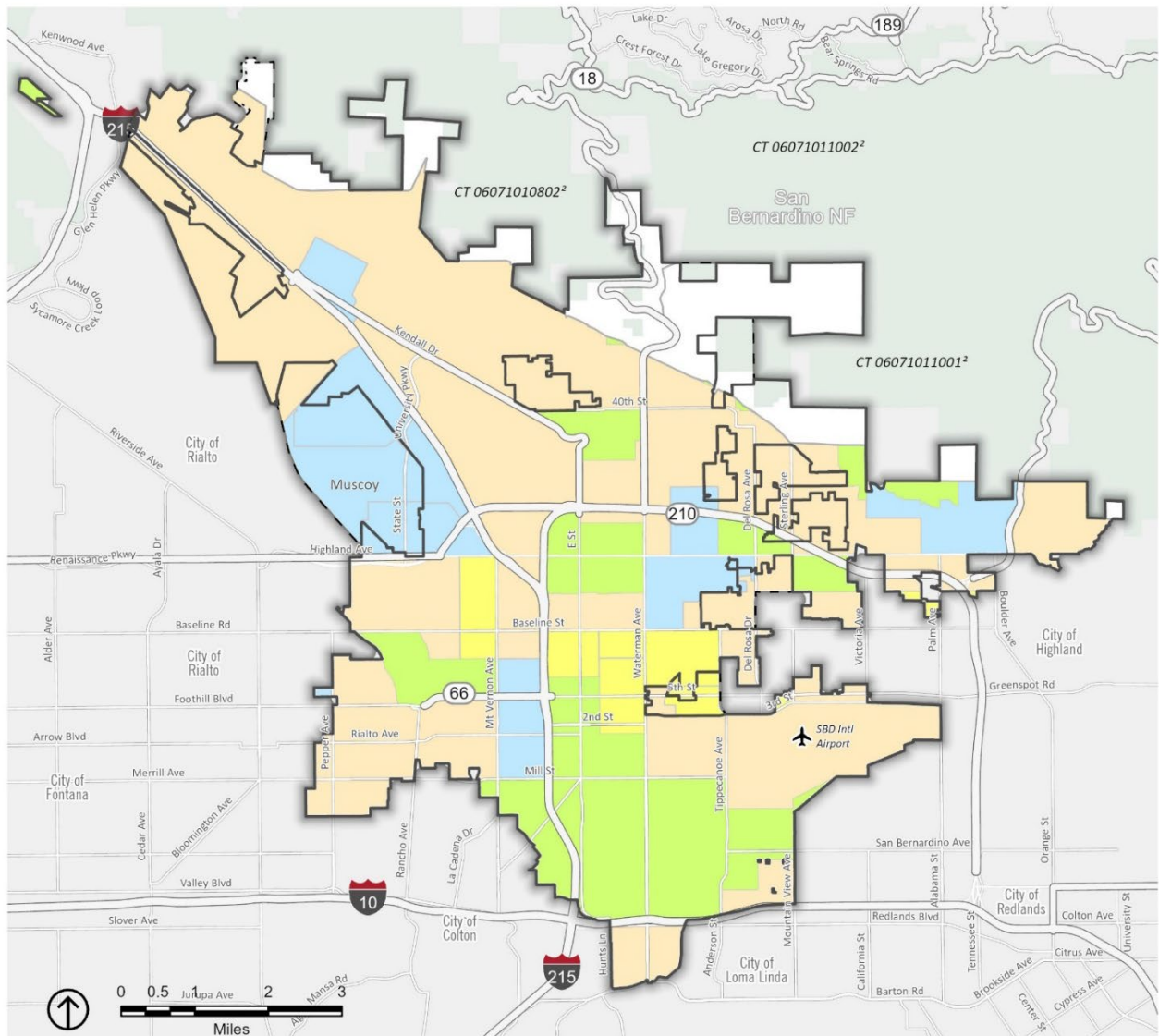
Source: California Alcohol Beverage Control Board, 2022

State law allows cities additional regulatory authority when an overconcentration of alcohol licenses exists.<sup>3</sup> The two conditions are: (1) when the ratio of retail licenses to population in a tract exceeds the county average; or (2) when the prevalence of crime within a reporting district is more than 20 percent above the city's average rate. Concentrations can be off-sale (e.g., small markets that sell beverages) or "on-sale" (e.g., where alcohol beverages are consumed on site (e.g., restaurants). In these cases, a city may deny new permits. Prior to the California ABC issuing a new license for new alcohol sales, the City must first issue a "finding of public necessity."

**Figure 3.11** maps census tracts with undue concentrations of retail alcohol. In the City, 60 percent of census tracts have undue concentrations, particularly in the south, downtown, and central areas (mostly below SR-210 and Muscoy). Retail outlets tend to be clustered along major corridors, in downtown and westside areas, and near the I-10.

<sup>3</sup> California Business and Professions Code §23958.4,





Source: ESRI, California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, PlaceWorks

### Concentration of Alcohol and Beverage Licenses

Census Tracts with an Undue Concentration<sup>1</sup>

- Off-Sale Licenses
- On-Sale Licenses
- On-and Off-Sale Licenses
- No Undue Concentration
- City Boundary

1. An undue concentration of retail alcohol beverage licenses is defined in accordance with California Business and Professions Code Section 23958.4.
2. Data is not shown for Census Tracts 108.02, 110.01, and 110.02. The vast majority of these census tracts extend into unincorporated mountain communities; therefore, they are not shown for planning purposes.

**Figure 3.11 Retail Alcohol Access, San Bernardino**

## LOCAL EFFORTS IN ACTION

San Bernardino has also improved the supply of healthy food to residents while also curbing alcohol and tobacco use. Some of the notable local actions are summarized below.

San Bernardino continues to be successful in starting up farmers markets and community gardens. In 2023, the City opened up a farmers market at Court Street Square. The City continues to implement its nutrition program, offering daily meals at both senior centers, while SBCUSD provides two meals daily to all children regardless of income at all local schools. In 2021, the Akoma Unity Center worked with residents to plant a garden at Anne Shirrells Park. San Bernardino supports other community gardens, including the Veterans Exploration Garden and Jardin de la Salud. El Sol Center is also building an urban orchard and community garden adjacent to their headquarters.



*Akoma Unity Center Community Garden*

The San Bernardino County Tobacco Control Program is the lead agency for tobacco prevention and control efforts in the County. The County Superintendent of Schools also plays a role in curbing tobacco use. The Superintendent's office administers a Tobacco-Use Prevention Education program to reduce tobacco use among students through prevention instruction, intervention, cessation programs, and reinforcement activities. As a local partner, the San Bernardino City Unified School District has earned certification as a "Tobacco-Free School District" for its approach to preventing or reducing student tobacco use, cannabis use, and vaping.

The police department is active in enforcing existing regulations on tobacco use and illegal sales. In the past three years, the City has been awarded grants to address local tobacco regulations:

- 2024/2025: Awarded \$301,000 to fund tobacco retailer inspections, minor decoy and shoulder tap operations, and retailer education on tobacco laws/ordinances.
- 2022/2023: Awarded \$1.1 million to increase tobacco enforcement efforts, train patrol officers related to tobacco enforcement and education, and increase retail site visits.
- 2020/2021: Awarded \$1.2 million to identify tobacco retailers engaging in illegal sales, conduct minor decoy operations, gather data on underage tobacco use, and outreach.



### 3.4.3 Housing Security

San Bernardino residents have long communicated a need to improve housing stability for their families. Research shows that inadequate housing increases the chances for residents to have chronic physical health conditions as well as mental health conditions like depression, anxiety, or substance abuse. For these and other reasons, SB 1000 requires that general plans address safe and sanitary housing (including affordable housing and housing security) as part of addressing the requirements of environmental justice in state law.

San Bernardino has a diverse housing stock consisting of about 66,000 housing units as of the 2020 U.S. Census. Of that total, an estimated 63 percent are single-family units, 31 percent are multiple-family units, and 6 percent are mobile homes. The city has one of the largest stocks of mobile homes in southern California. Homeownership rates are modest in San Bernardino and rank the 4th lowest among 24 cities in San Bernardino County. Housing vacancy rates are 4 percent as of the 2020 Census and have declined since then (see **Table 3.16**).

In 2021, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) assigned San Bernardino a construction goal of 8,123 housing units between 2021 and 2029. The housing units must meet affordability goals: 51 percent for above-moderate income, 18 percent for moderate income, and 39 percent for lower income households. The City's adopted Housing Element, approved by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), provides the City's strategy for meeting its state-mandated housing production goals that were established by SCAG.



*Apartments under construction in San Bernardino*

**Table 3.16 Housing Overview**

Housing Indicators	Prevalence in San Bernardino
<b>Housing Characteristics</b>	
Single-Family Units	63%
Multiple-Family	31%
Mobile Homes	6%
Homeownership	53%
Renters	47%
Vacancy Rate	4%
<b>Housing Production Goal</b>	
Lower Income	39%
Moderate Income	18%
Above Moderate	51%

Source: City of San Bernardino, ACS 2015-2019; SoCal Association of Governments, 2021-2029 RHNA

Providing housing that meets the needs of residents involves more than simply building a home. The location, design, quality, affordability, and stability of homes are all important considerations that influence whether a home is safe and sanitary for its intended occupants. SB 1000's safe and sanitary homes requirement is intended to ensure that a city develops policies that take a holistic view of housing and recognize that housing is intricately tied to community health.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and California HCD use the term "housing problems" to measure the degree to which housing is safe, affordable, and sanitary for occupants. Housing problems refer to overcrowding, overpayment, and substandard conditions. **Table 3.17** and the following text highlight issues of housing insecurity.

- **Overcrowding** refers to households having more than one person per habitable room. While 16 percent of households live in overcrowded housing, the prevalence is double among renters compared to homeowners, particularly in downtown San Bernardino.
- **Overpayment** refers to households paying more than 30 percent of their monthly income to housing costs. Housing overpayment is widespread in San Bernardino—39 percent of owners and 60 percent of renters overpay for housing.
- **Substandard Housing** is defined as unsafe or unhealthy to occupy. Although no recent surveys of housing conditions in San Bernardino are available, City staff estimates that approximately 5 percent of units require rehabilitation, and 1 percent need replacement.

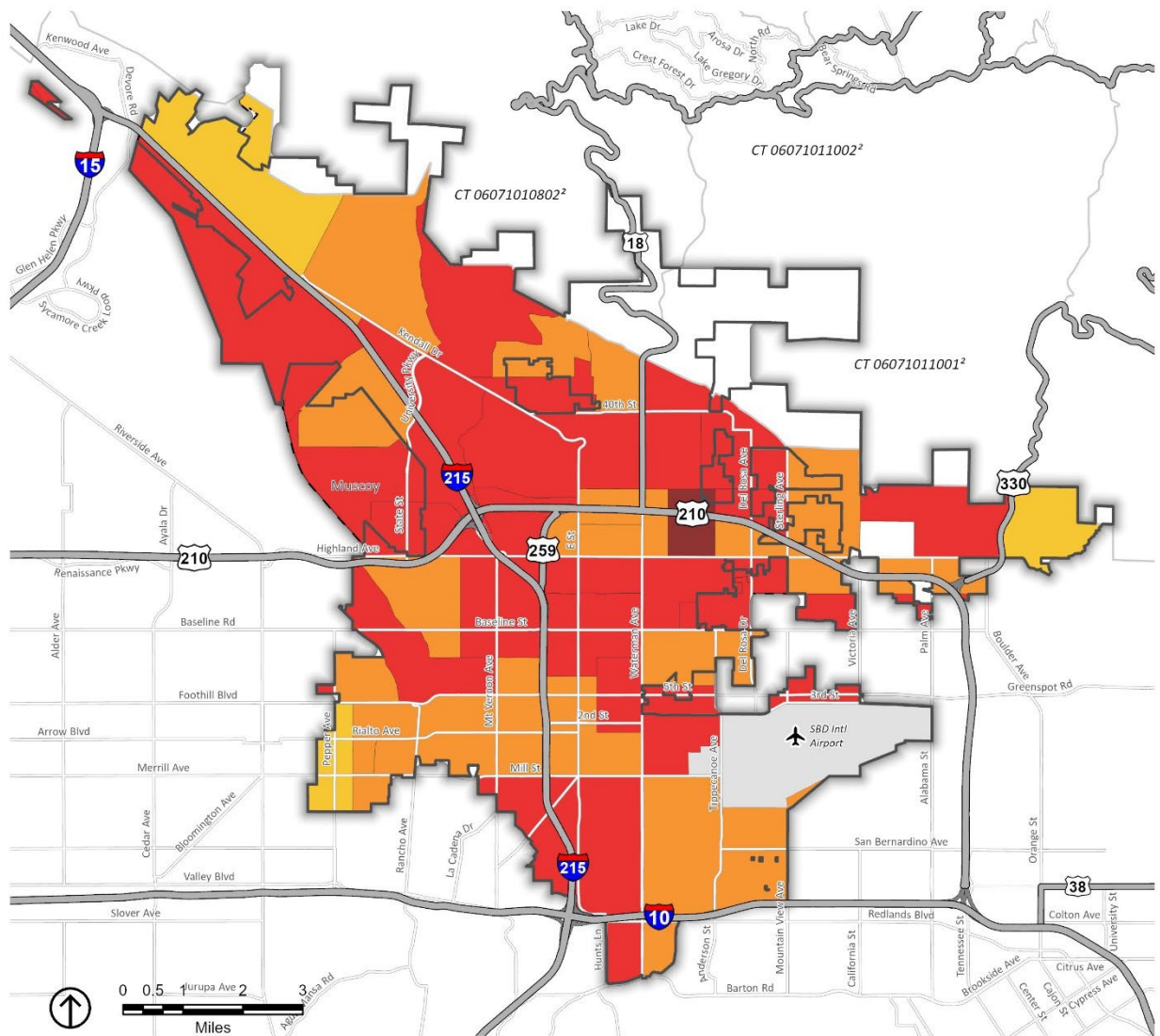
**Table 3.17 Housing Insecurity in San Bernardino**

Housing Problems	Households		
	Owner	Renter	Total
Lower-Income Households	44%	76%	62%
Prevalence of Overcrowding	10%	21%	16%
Prevalence of Overpayment	39%	60%	52%
Substandard Housing	N/A	N/A	2-5%
Housing Rehabilitation Need	N/A	N/A	7-10%

Source: City of San Bernardino, 2021-2029 Housing Element.

Note: Reliable eviction data at a city and county level are not available.

**Figure 3.12** and **Figure 3.13** illustrate the location of renter households who are overpaying for housing and the overall rate of overcrowding for all households. Local efforts to address housing conditions are summarized in the City's 2021-2029 Housing Element.



Source: ESRI, ACS 2019, PlaceWorks

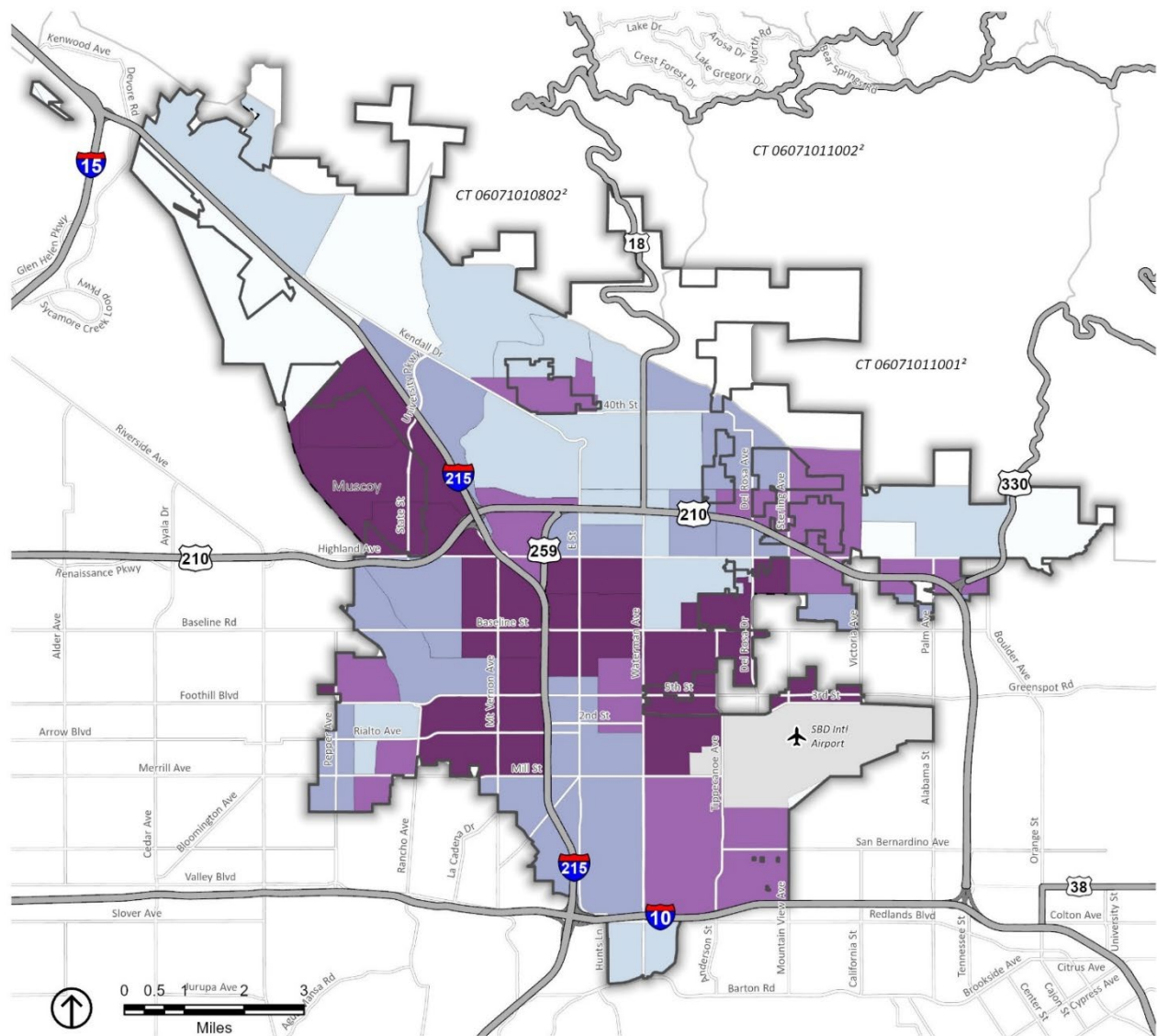
### Overpayment by Renters

Percent of Renter Households for whom Gross Rent (Contract Rent Plus Tenant-Paid Utilities) is 30.0 Percent or More of Household Income

- < 20%
- 20% - 40%
- 40% - 60%
- 60% - 80%
- > 80%

San Bernardino City Boundary  
San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.12 Prevalence of Housing Overpayment Among Renters**



Source: ESRI, ACS 2019, PlaceWorks

### Overcrowded Households

Percent of Households with More Than One Person Per Room

- 0% - 5%
- 5% - 10%
- 10% - 15%
- 15% - 20%
- Greater than 20%

- San Bernardino City Boundary
- San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.13 Prevalence of Housing Overcrowding in San Bernardino**

## Housing Conditions

San Bernardino's housing stock is varied in age, style, location, and condition. No recent housing surveys exist due to lack of City resources, the recession, City bankruptcy, and COVID. Over the past few years, the City has reestablished its Housing and Code Enforcement Divisions. Staff hiring has allowed the City to begin refocusing efforts on educating residents about City codes, enforcing regulations, and focusing on a broader housing strategy.

The following housing conditions are based on field observations from Code Enforcement staff.

- **Substandard.** Serious structural defects include but are not limited to the following: roof rafters exposed and deteriorated, walls with extreme fire and flood damage, lack of windows with interior elements exposed, copper piping removed, old electrical wires, and aged plumbing that no longer functions properly. The City estimates that up to 2 percent of the housing stock (1,333 units) is substandard and requires demolition because it would be more economic to replace than rehabilitate.
- **Major Repair.** These housing units are characterized by a sound underlying structure, but major repairs are needed to bring the house up to current codes and make them livable. Typical improvements needed include reroofing, electrical and plumbing replacement, replacement of exterior siding/stucco, replacement of rehabilitation of interior kitchen/bathroom, and repairs to exterior painting, windows, and doors. The City estimates that 7 to 10 percent of housing units (4,630 to 6,614 units) require major repairs.
- **Moderate Repair.** These housing units are structurally sound and in livable condition, but need exterior repairs such as roof repairs, interior/exterior paint, upgrade of some windows and doors, interior kitchen and bathroom upgrades, and accessibility improvements. The repairs needed are largely related to the age of housing and gradual decline of existing interior and exterior components associated with normal maintenance and repair. City staff estimate that up to 20 percent of homes (13,230 units) require moderate repairs.

Code Enforcement staff indicate that the need for demolition, repair, and rehabilitation exists equally between single- and multiple-family homes, and that needs are dispersed citywide, with no neighborhoods being disproportionately impacted. This is because the majority of residents have low income and have insufficient financial resources to improve their homes. Moreover, many rental properties are owned by absentee landlords who do not repair their units.

Finally, the city has 46 mobile home parks. California HCD is required by law to inspect these mobile home parks for compliance with building codes and structural safety conditions. Visual observation indicates that many of the units also need repair, replacement and, in some cases, replacement. Due to the age of the structures and their structural quality, mobile homes will also continue to present a concern for residents and the community.



### 3.4.4 Public Safety

Public safety concerns abound—along our roads, in our schools and neighborhoods, and families. Unsafe environments impact children, adults, and seniors in different and lasting ways. It has been said that preventing and addressing violence is a key component of any effort to achieve health equity and create healthy communities. Though SB 1000 does not include public safety as a mandated topic, it could be inferred to be a component of the bill’s requirement to promote public facilities and services.

#### ROADWAY SAFETY

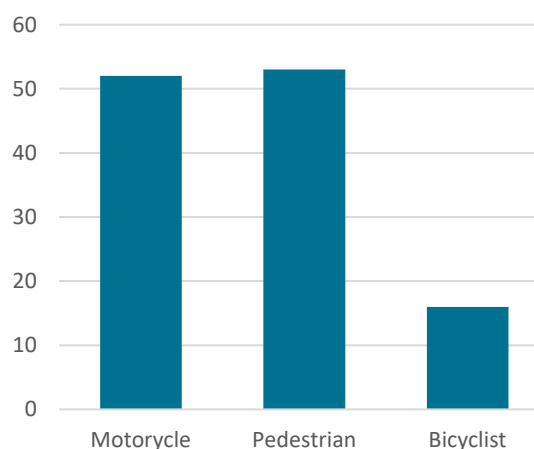
Roadway safety is typically measured by the number of accidents, injuries, and fatalities. Each year, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) ranks traffic safety statistics between communities with similar-sized populations. The OTS provides casualty statistics based on rates of victims per “1,000 daily-vehicle-miles-of-travel” per “1,000 people.” San Bernardino is in a 61-city group (Group B) that is classified by populations between 100,001 and 250,000.

Between 2017 and 2021, the City’s roadway safety rating declined compared to 60 comparable cities. As illustrated in **Figure 3.14**, the City rankings are:

- » Motorcycle Collisions: Ranked 52nd
- » Pedestrian Collision: Ranked 53rd
- » Bicyclist Collisions: Ranked 16th
- » Alcohol-Involved: Ranked 59

San Bernardino averages 140 pedestrian and bicycle collisions annually, resulting in 74 fatalities, almost all pedestrians, while 478 pedestrians and 150 bicyclists were injured.

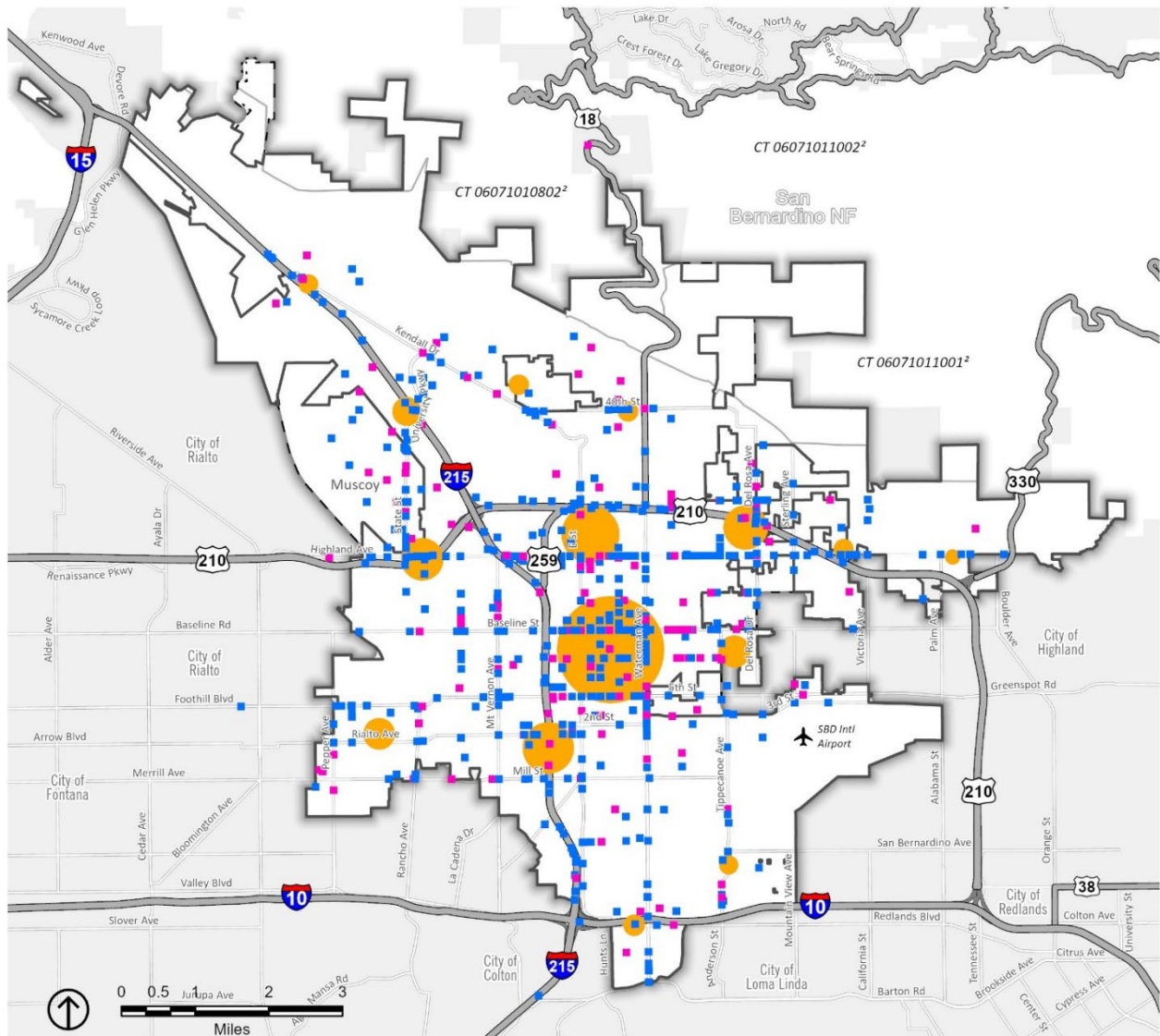
**Figure 3.15** maps the location of these collisions.



**Figure 3.14 Roadway Safety Ranking: San Bernardino, 2020**

In 2024, the City received \$5.3 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s “Safe Streets and Roads for All” Program to improve roadway safety. The grant will be used to prepare “The Plan to Action: Revitalizing Roadway Safety in San Bernardino.” This \$6.9 million plan targets safety measures at locations with a high prevalence of collisions, fatalities, and injuries. Targeted streets include Highland Avenue and Kendall Drive as well as other locations.

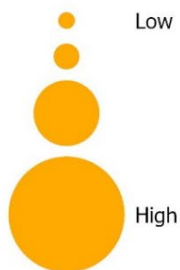




Source: ESRI, TIMS, PlaceWorks

## Bicyclist and Pedestrian Collisions

Density of Collisions



Collisions

- Bicyclist Collision
- Pedestrian Collision

□ San Bernardino City Boundary

□ SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.15 Bicycle and Pedestrian Collisions: San Bernardino, 2018-2022**

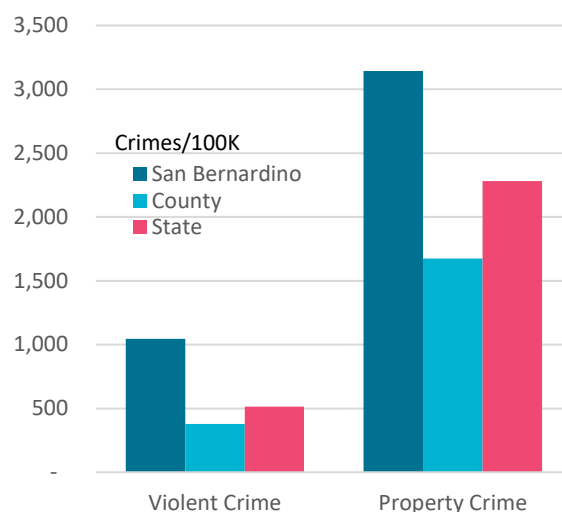
## CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Community violence has long been an obstacle to the goal of becoming a healthier community. Living in a community experiencing violence is also associated with increased risk of chronic diseases. Concerns about violence may prevent some people from engaging in healthy behaviors, such as walking, bicycling, using parks and recreational spaces, and accessing healthy food outlets. The implications of crime and violence underscore the key role of law enforcement, community policing strategies, and other violence prevention strategies.

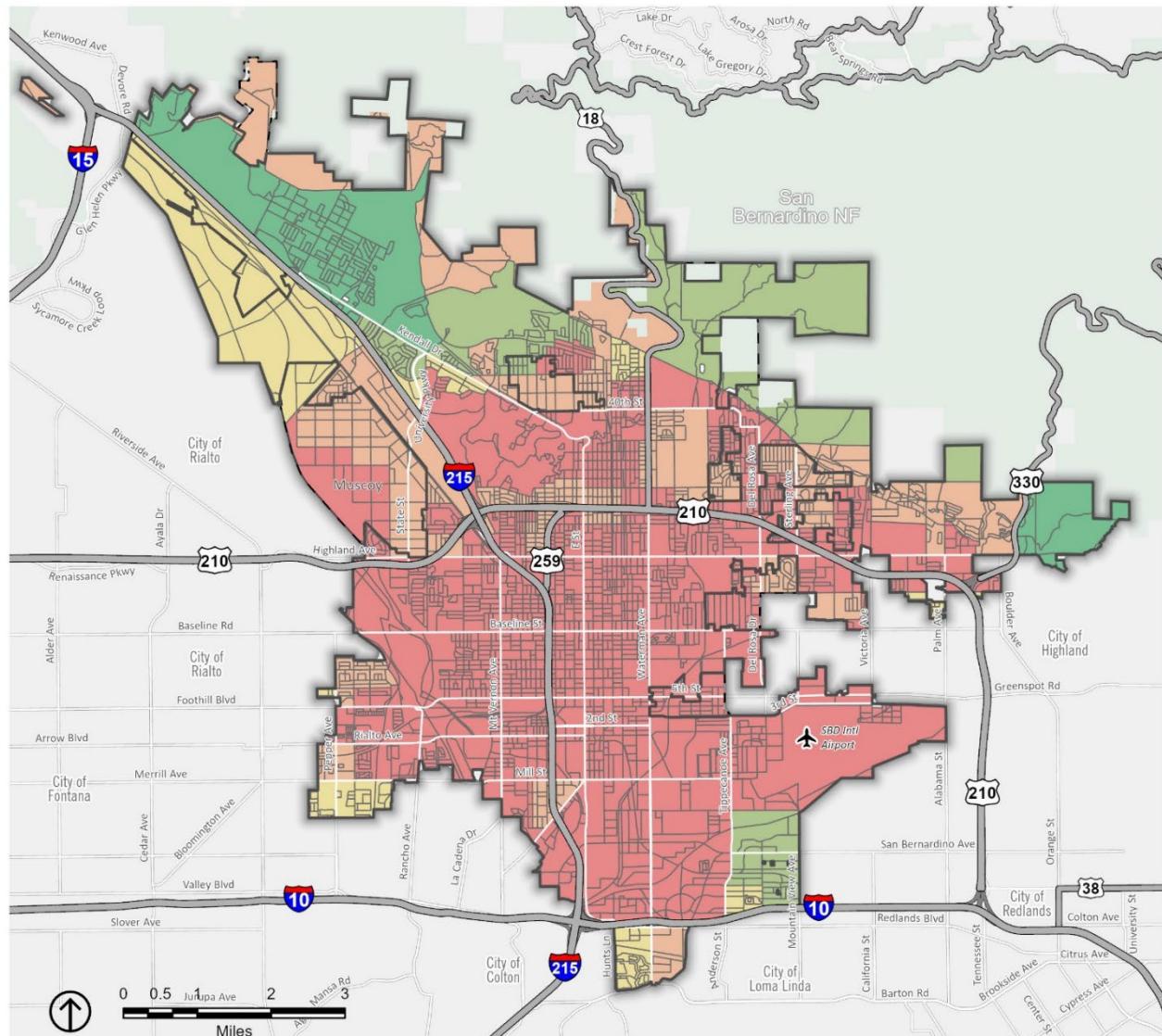
The California Attorney General provides annual statistics on the number of crimes for all cities. In 2023, San Bernardino reported 3,144 property crimes and 1,045 violent crimes per 100,000 residents (see **Figure 3.16**). Although violent crime has declined 25 percent since 2020, San Bernardino has the highest rate of violent crime of all cities in the county and the third highest rate of property crime, behind Montclair and Colton. City crime rates also remain significantly higher than the state of California as a whole. This underscores that crime and violence remain a key issue for San Bernardino residents, and one that has a significant impact on resident health.

As shown on **Figure 3.17**, San Bernardino has significant geographic variations in crime depending on the neighborhood. Crimegrade ranks the crime rate of every census tract in a community based on five letter grades, from the best (Grade A) to worst (Grade F).

- The Westside (west of I-215 south of SR-210) is known to have some of the highest crime rates due to the presence of street gangs and other criminal influences.
- The Eastside (east of I-215 south of SR-210) is also similarly impacted, has very high crime rates, and is known to have street gangs and other criminal influences.
- Northern San Bernardino is the safest area, scoring Grades A, B, or C. Gang activity is much less prevalent in these areas, although still a communitywide issue.
- Areas parallel to SR-210 alternate between Grade D and Grade F across the city.



**Figure 3.16 Crime Ranking (2023), San Bernardino, the County, and California**



Source: ESRI, CrimeGrade.org, PlaceWorks

#### Crime Grade

##### Crime Grades



San Bernardino City Boundary

San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.17 Total Crime Ranking by Neighborhood: San Bernardino, 2022**

## LOCAL EFFORTS IN ACTION

San Bernardino implements a multi-faceted approach to address the many locations where safety concerns may arise (roads, schools, and home) and to address the underlying issues of violence. In the past several years, efforts have focused on roadway safety, crime, and school safety.

- **Roadway Safety.** In 2024, the City secured a \$5.2 million grant to improve safety on roads which have a high prevalence of collisions, fatalities, or injuries. The areas include the intersection of Highland Avenue & Eucalyptus Drive, 9th Street from Waterman to Del Rosa, 30th Street from San Gabriel to Cedar Street, Meridian Avenue from Etiwanda Street to Rialto Avenue, and Kendall Drive from University Parkway to H Street. The project funds the installation of road diets, high-visibility crosswalks, curb extensions, sidewalks, pedestrian refuge islands, traffic signals, buffered bike lanes, pedestrian hybrid beacons, modifications of curb ramps to be ADA compliant, and speed limit reductions.
- **Crime Reduction.** In 2023 to 2024, the City received grants to increase staffing, education, and youth development/diversion for crime reduction efforts. These include:
  - In 2024, a \$625,000 grant award to hire five new law enforcement officers and support community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.
  - In 2023, a \$3.8 million violence prevention grant from the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to address local violence prevention.
  - In 2023, a \$1.0 million Youth Reinvestment Grant from BSCC to implement a youth reinvestment and development program.
  - In 2023, a \$3.8 million grant to hire more than a dozen police officers to continue strengthening its community-oriented policing.
- **School Safety.** SBCUSD has focused on improving the safety on campuses over the past several years. Grants and programs are as follows:
  - In 2022, SBCUSD secured a \$336,000 grant for its School Violence Prevention Program from DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.
  - In 2020, SBCUSD received \$737,500 for school violence-prevention and mental-health support programs and \$87,350 for body-worn cameras for police officers.
  - In 2023, SBCUSD secured a grant to prepare safe routes to school plans for nine schools in San Bernardino and Highland.
  - In addition, comprehensive school safety plans have also been prepared for all schools in the City of San Bernardino.



### 3.4.5 Economic Security

Economic opportunity and financial security have long been priorities for residents and civic leaders. Achieving this goal has been challenging for years. Closures of industries, periodic housing cycles, aging infrastructure, and school reforms have all presented challenges over the decades. Regardless, it has become clear that financial security depends on educational attainment, workforce training, and business development. While SB 1000 does not require general plans to address “economic security,” furthering the goal of becoming a community of opportunity for all continues to be a priority for residents and businesses in the City.

*“For many decades, San Bernardino has faced a set of related challenges that have restricted economic opportunity and pathways for its residents. San Bernardino faces extremely high levels of poverty, unemployment and related problems including health and housing insecurity.”*

*The People’s Plan  
for Economic Inclusion*

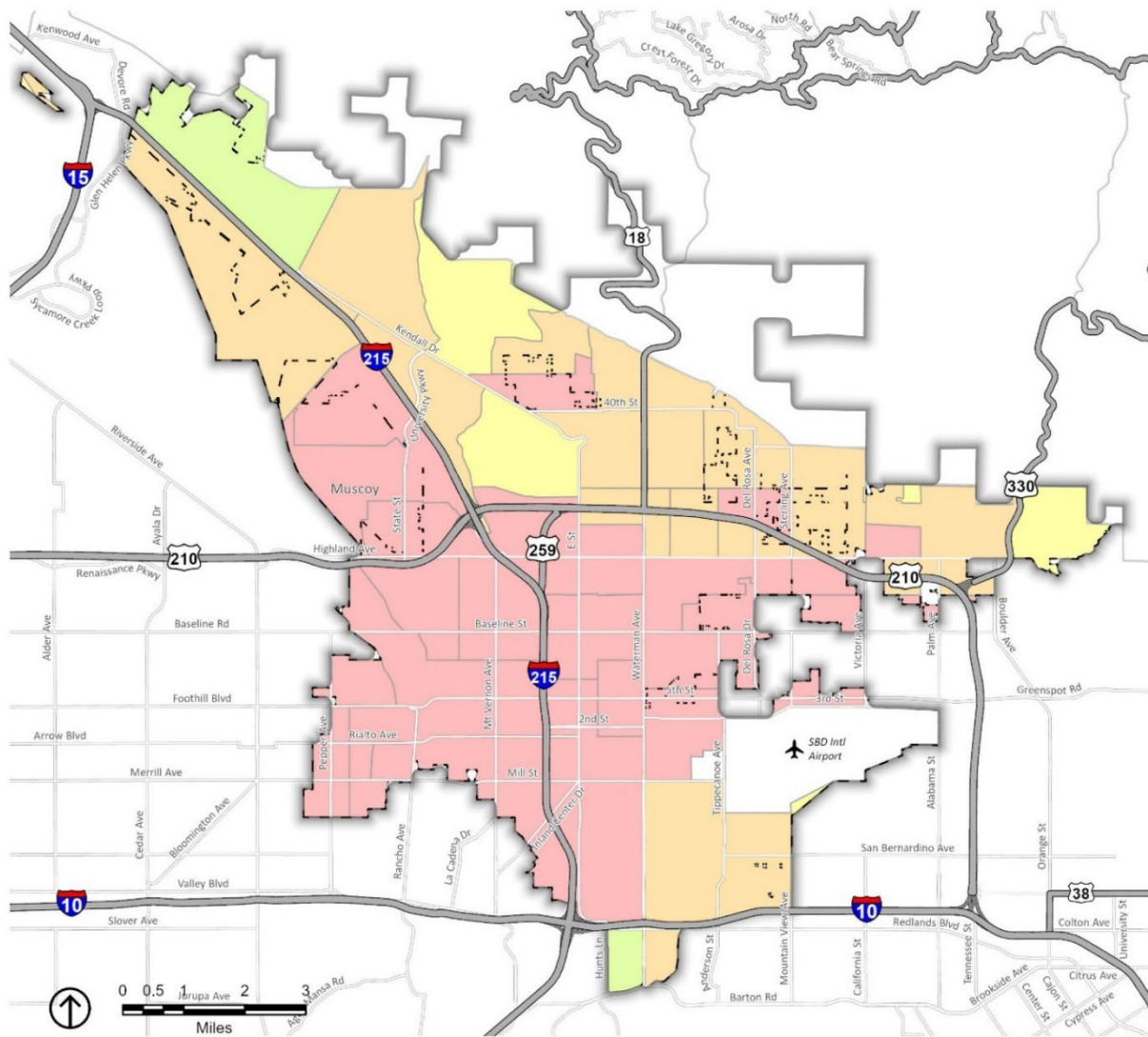
#### *Education and Economic Security*

It is well known that economic security is linked with the level of educational attainment. A college degree opens job opportunities at higher wages than would be otherwise closed to many people. In San Bernardino, the issue is most pronounced among adults ages 25 years and above, with the City having some of the lowest college graduation rates in California (**Figure 3.18**). As shown in **Table 3.18**, San Bernardino residents with a college degree earn significantly more income and have a much lower poverty rate than those without a high school diploma. Statewide, earnings also improve with education; the median income is \$75,000 for those with a bachelor’s degree and \$105,000 for a graduate degree—demonstrating the potential value of education.

**Table 3.18 Education and Earnings: San Bernardino**

Education Attained for Adults 25 Years and Older	Employment		
	Total Percent	Median Earnings	Poverty Rate
Less than High School Diploma	29%	\$32,000	24%
High School Diploma or Equivalent	35%	\$34,600	18%
Some College or Associates’ Degree	28%	\$38,800	13%
Bachelors’ Degree	9%	\$54,600	9%
Graduate/Professional Degree	4%	\$64,300	5%

Source: American Community Survey, 2018-2022.



Source: ESRI, OEHA CalEnviroScreen 4.0, PlaceWorks

**CalEnviroScreen Educational Attainment Percentile**

Percentile Ranking Statewide

- <25th Percentile
- 25th to 50th Percentile
- 50th to 75th Percentile
- 75th to 100th Percentile

San Bernardino City Boundary

San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.18 Ranking of Adults with a Bachelors Degree in San Bernardino**



### *Labor Market Engagement*

Labor market engagement (LME) is related to education as well. The LME refers to the level of participation and activity within a labor market, indicating how actively people are seeking or holding jobs within a particular region or industry. It is often measured by the unemployment rate, labor force participation, and job search intensity. A score is assigned to each tract based on the level of (un)employment, labor force participation, and educational attainment (percent with a bachelor's degree or higher) in a census tract.

The LME index ranges from 0–100, with progressively higher scores indicating more engagement. The following describe the levels of market engagement in San Bernardino and their importance.

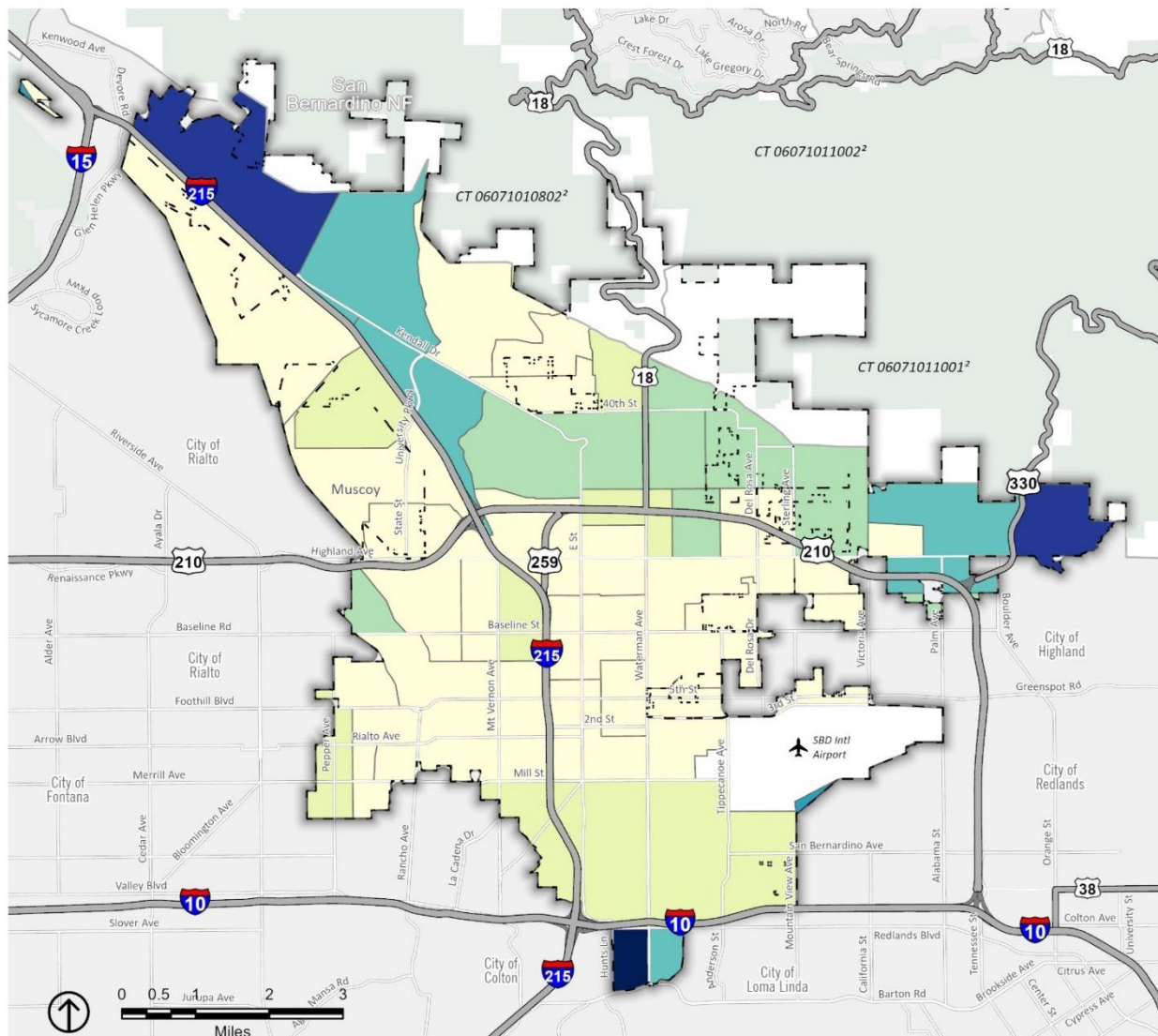
- **High engagement.** This indicates a healthy labor market where many people are actively seeking jobs, are generally college educated, and participating in the workforce. This designation applies to only limited areas, in the far northeast and northwest where income levels and education are highest of all neighborhoods in San Bernardino.
- **Moderate engagement.** Areas north of SR-210, adjacent to the high engagement areas, have a moderate level of labor market engagement. Areas in the central portion of north San Bernardino north of the SR-210 have low-medium levels of engagement but are generally designated higher than the central portion of the community.
- **Lower engagement.** This suggests a stagnant labor market with fewer people looking for work, high unemployment, low educational attainment, and greater economic insecurity. Compared to the other levels of market engagement, much of the City's interior core has an extremely low level of labor market engagement.

During the outreach process for the general plan, residents expressed an ardent desire to improve their economic situation. Residents sought to be able to have a job with sustainable wages and benefits, one that offers job security and skills utilization, and that has opportunities for growth and advancement. These jobs can be difficult to secure without access to affordable childcare and eldercare, lack of transportation, high housing costs, educational barriers, or lack of training.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 3.19** illustrates the designation level of census tracts within the City. Many of the census tracts with low labor market engagement are the same tracts with low educational attainment.

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<sup>4</sup> Thrive Inland SoCal: Labor Market Analysis, June 2024. UC Riverside Inland Empire Labor and Community Center (IELCC), Center for Social Innovation. Document can be found online at: <https://ielcc.ucr.edu/thrive-inland-socal-labor-market-analysis>



Source: ESRI, HUD, PlaceWorks

#### Labor Market Engagement Index

- Up to 10th Percentile
- 10th to 20th Percentile
- 20th to 30th Percentile
- 30th to 40th Percentile
- 40th to 50th Percentile
- 50th to 60th Percentile
- 60th to 70th Percentile
- 70th to 80th Percentile

- San Bernardino City Boundary
- San Bernardino SOI Boundary
- Parks and Open Space

Notes: The labor market engagement index provides a summary description of the relative intensity of labor market engagement and human capital in a neighborhood based upon the level of employment, labor force participation, and educational attainment in a census tract. Values are percentile ranked nationally and range from 0 to 100. The higher the score, the higher the labor force participation and human capital in a neighborhood.

**Figure 3.19 Labor Market Engagement in San Bernardino**

## LOCAL EFFORTS IN ACTION

Different labor market policies can improve labor market engagement. "Labor market policies" are measures aimed at influencing and managing this participation, often including initiatives to help unemployed people find work, acquire new skills, or transition to different jobs through programs like job training, employment subsidies, and job search assistance. These measures can be implemented by local government, educational institutions, or workforce agencies.

SBCUSD has pioneered a "Linked Learning" approach that brings together academics, technical education, and real-world experiences to help students gain an advantage in high school, post-secondary education, and careers. Students can select a pathway in high school that will expose them to a range of skills that are needed in any profession. SBCUSD offers 54 pathways in 12 industry sectors, enrolling 7,400 students from all high schools. Students gain real-world experience in their field of interest through internships and apprenticeships.

In 2025, San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) completed the construction of a new 115,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility for technical education. This \$100 million effort represents one of the most significant investments in technical education in California. The District also received \$3 million in financial investment from the USEDA to build an employment training center at 114 S. Del Rosa Drive, near the former Norton Air Force Base. And more than \$20 million in grants has been earmarked to expand its programs since FY 2023-2024. SBVC anticipates significant improvements in the breadth and capacity of its workforce program.



*New Technical Education Facility, SBVC*

Meanwhile, the City has been working with the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship at CSUSB to support entrepreneurs and small business owners. The City Council earmarked \$2 million in funds for the new resource center in Downtown. In December 2024, the City inaugurated the launch of the Entrepreneurial Resource Center (ERC). The grand opening of the ERC at Studio D, a new co-working and business hub, signified a collaborative endeavor to provide business owners and entrepreneurs in San Bernardino with essential support and resources.

Despite these improvements, residents remain concerned about whether newly educated and trained residents will find suitable living wage jobs. The largest sector in San Bernardino continues to be transportation, warehousing, and logistics, which comprises 37 percent of the local job base.

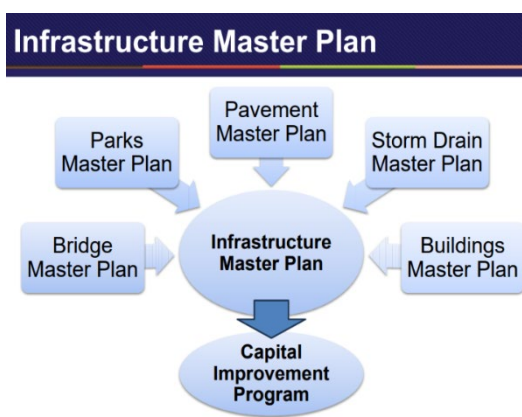
## 3.4.6 Public Facilities

Public facilities are defined broadly under state law and include public improvements, public services, and community amenities (Gov't Code, § 65302(h)(4)(B)). Examples of public facilities could include community centers, libraries, public transit, parks, safe drinking water and wastewater services, active transportation infrastructure, flood control, and healthcare services, among others. These facilities provide essential services that improve health outcomes and opportunities for residents. As a result, SB 1000 requires local governments to develop policies that promote adequate access to facilities and equivalent level of services as well.

The City manages a multi-billion-dollar system of infrastructure that residents and the business community rely on. On June 30, 2023, the City Council held a study session to discuss the need for an infrastructure master plan to protect these assets. San Bernardino is dedicating \$5 million in funding to commence the development of an ADA Plan, Bridge Management Plan, Storm Drain Master Plan, and the City's Facility Management Plan. The City is separately proceeding with the development of both Water Facility and Sewer System Master Plans.



Norton Community Center



The City adopts a capital improvement program that schedules the construction, renovation, and maintenance of its buildings, parks, storm drains, streets, and roadways. Approximately \$468 million is programmed for the five-year period of 2025 through 2029. Major expenditures include:

- » Park Facilities: \$60 million
- » Storm Drains: \$17 million
- » Streets: \$76 million
- » Traffic Related: \$24 million
- » Buildings: \$39 million
- » Water: \$154 million
- » Sewer: \$96 million
- » Total: \$468 million



## FIRE PROTECTION

The San Bernardino County Fire District (SBCFD) is a community-based, all hazard emergency services provider to 65 incorporated cities, including San Bernardino, and unincorporated communities in the county. SBCFD is divided into six divisions that serve the west valley, east valley, mountains, south desert, north desert, and high desert. SBCFD has been serving San Bernardino since July 1, 2016. The City of San Bernardino is part of Division 2, with its headquarters at Station 221. This section focuses more on the levels of service in different areas of the city.

Presently, San Bernardino is served by 10 fire stations spread throughout the city (see **Table 3.19**) and one in the unincorporated sphere of influence. Three fire stations serve areas north of SR-210, with one in Verdemont, Waterman, and Northeast. Three fire stations serve the central/downtown east of I-15. Two fire stations, 222 and 229, serve the westside. And fire station 231 serves the southern industrial district. Station 75 serves Muscoy. Over a five-year period, SBCFD responded to nearly 190,000 calls in the city, with the majority being medical calls.

Fire and emergency response times vary only 38 seconds between the high and low response times. In 2020, the SBCFD reported an average response time for San Bernardino of 6:10 minutes. However, the number of calls for services has doubled since 2016. The majority of calls received by SBCFD are medical related, accounting for about half of all calls with an average response time of 5:50 minutes. It is unclear whether the response times are compliant with National Fire Protection Association Standards.

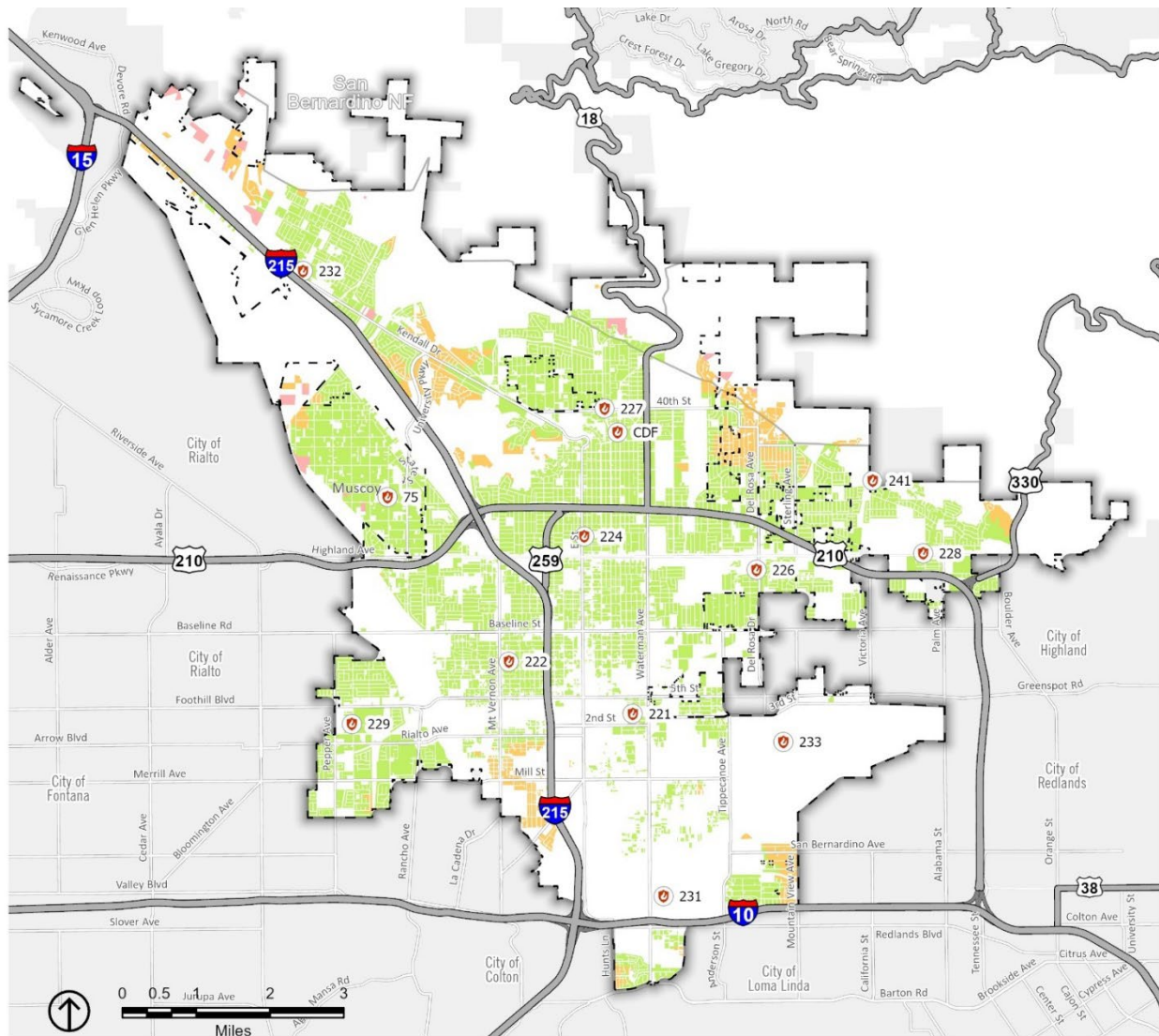
**Figure 3.20** illustrates the location of each fire station in San Bernardino and the approximate drive time to residential areas. The majority of homes can be reached within a five-minute drive, indicating an excellent rate of coverage. Only areas such as Shandin Hills and outlying areas of the city would require a longer drive time of 5 to 10 minutes. This represents a prominent level of fire service coverage for all neighborhoods in the City.

**Table 3.19 Fire Services and Response Times, City of San Bernardino**

Fire Station Location	Calls and Response	
	Calls	Avg Response
221: City Central	31,773	5:56 min
222: Westside	26,208	5:24 min
224: City Central	40,322	5:45 min
225: City Central	4,951	6:01 min
226: Eastern	30,364	5:46 min
227: Waterman	16,241	5:47 min
228: Northeast	10,229	5:46 min
229: Westside	10,830	5:47 min
231: Southern	12,097	6:03 min
232: Verdemont	6,835	6:23 min
75: Muscoy	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	189,850	5:47 min

Source: City of San Bernardino, 2016-2020.





**Driving Distance of Residences to Fire Stations**

Source: ESRI, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, City of San Bernardino, PlaceWorks

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Within 5 Minute Drive to Nearest Station     | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border: 1px solid black;"></span> San Bernardino City Boundary                    |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFA500; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Within 10 Minute Drive to Nearest Station    | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border: 1px dashed black;"></span> San Bernardino SOI Boundary                    |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FF6347; border: 1px solid black;"></span> More than 10 Minute Drive to Nearest Station | ArterialType   |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%;"></span> Fire Stations                                       | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px solid black;"></span> Freeway                                  |
|  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px solid gray;"></span> Highway                                   |
|  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px solid gray; border-left: 2px solid black;"></span> Interchange |
|  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px solid gray;"></span> Ramp                                      |

**Figure 3.20 Access from Fire Stations to Residences, San Bernardino, 2024**

## HEALTH SERVICES

San Bernardino residents experience an elevated level of general, physical, and mental health needs. When healthcare needs are not met or are delayed, residents will experience a greater number and severity of poor health conditions. The availability of healthcare facilities and services that are affordable and convenient to access can encourage residents to seek healthcare when needed.

The federal government provides a common metric, health professional shortage area (HPSA), for assessing the availability of healthcare in a city. A HPSA designation is applied to a geographic area, population group, or facility that has shortages of primary medical care, dental, or mental health providers. A HPSA may be a geographic area such as service area; represent a specific demographic group; or include a designated institution such as a federally qualified health center. Specific provider incentives are often available for healthcare workers serving in these areas.

As described in **Table 3.20** and illustrated on **Figure 3.21**, San Bernardino faces a shortage of healthcare professionals trained in a variety of skills.

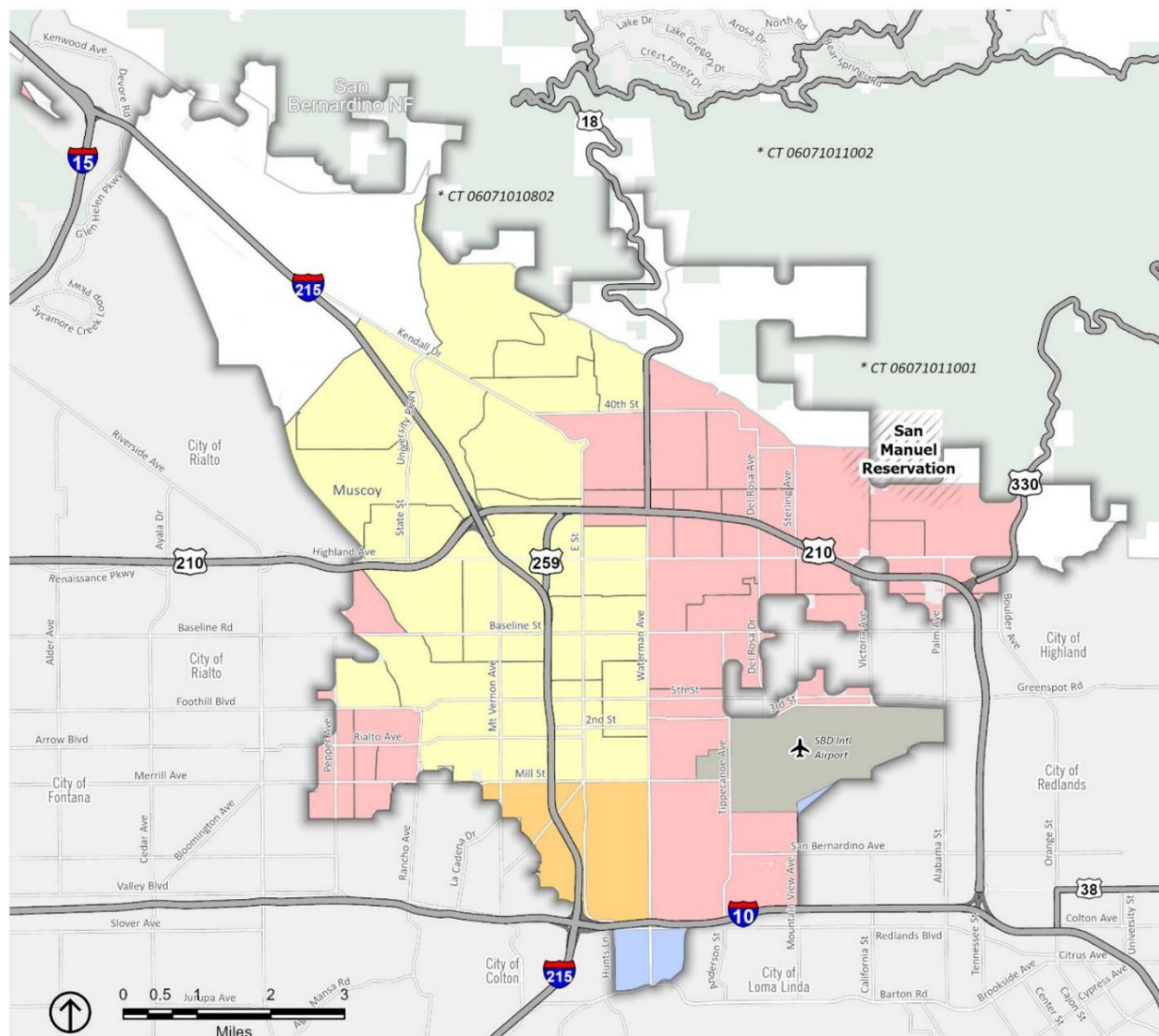
- Primary Care Shortage.** Much of the eastern/central half of the city—east of Waterman, north of the Airport, and south of SR-210—has a shortage of primary care.
- Mental Care Shortage.** Most of the community and residents, except for the Verdemon area, is designated as an HPSA for a shortage of mental healthcare professionals.
- Dental Care Shortage.** Dental care shortages are confined to the southernmost and far northeastern portions of San Bernardino.
- Medically Underserved Area/Population.** The majority of the interior of San Bernardino is considered a medically underserved area. These designations help establish health maintenance organizations or community health centers.

**Table 3.20 Healthcare Shortage Designations in San Bernardino**

Shortage Designation	Shortage Areas	
	Square Miles	Residents
Primary Care	35	46%
Mental Health	57	91%
Dental Care	1	1%
Primary/ Mental	31	45%

Source: HRSA, 2023.

San Bernardino has seen medical service providers relocating into the city. In 2017, Loma Linda Medical Center opened a five-story clinic and educational center in Downtown. In 2022, St. John's opened a community clinic on Waterman Avenue. Sac Health will open a new 300,000-square-foot Brier campus in 2025. IEHP also broke ground on a new community wellness center. These projects should demonstrably reduce the shortage of healthcare professionals in San Bernardino.



### Health Professional Shortage Areas

#### Shortage Areas by Type of Provider

- Primary Care
- Mental Healthcare
- Mental Healthcare and Primary Care
- Dental Healthcare
- San Bernardino City Boundary

Source: ESRI, Health Resources and Services Administration, PlaceWorks

\* Data is not shown for Census Tracts 108.02, 110.01, and 110.02. The vast majority of these census tracts extend into unincorporated mountain communities; therefore, they are not shown for planning purposes.

**Figure 3.21 Health Professional Shortage Areas: San Bernardino**

## PARKS, LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

San Bernardino provides a range of local services at three dozen parks, four libraries, five public community centers, two senior centers, and other nonprofit and private organizations. A primary goal of the City in providing these community services is ensure that all neighborhoods have the same level of opportunities available regardless of their location or population served. For reference, **Figure 3-22** on the following page illustrates the present location of facilities.

Ensuring an equitable level of community services should consider qualities such as: 1) facility location; 2) facility design, 3) staffing levels, 4) programs offered; and 5) program cost. While a full evaluation of service level equity is beyond the purview of this chapter, it is possible to show where community facilities are located near residences, neighborhoods, and major sectors. San Bernardino's freeways and roadways divide the city into four areas-northwest, northeast, east central, and west center (divided by the SR-215). More than 50 neighborhoods dot the city.

As shown in Table 3-21, community facilities are close to neighborhoods in the westside and central San Bernardino, with only 15 percent of homes further than a 2 mile-drive. Community facilities appear to be lacking above SR-210, with the majority of homes located further than a 2-mile distance from community facilities. However, other considerations influence decisions in locating facilities. City facilities are located near residential neighborhoods that are more centrally located, have the highest concentration of population, and are lower resource neighborhoods.

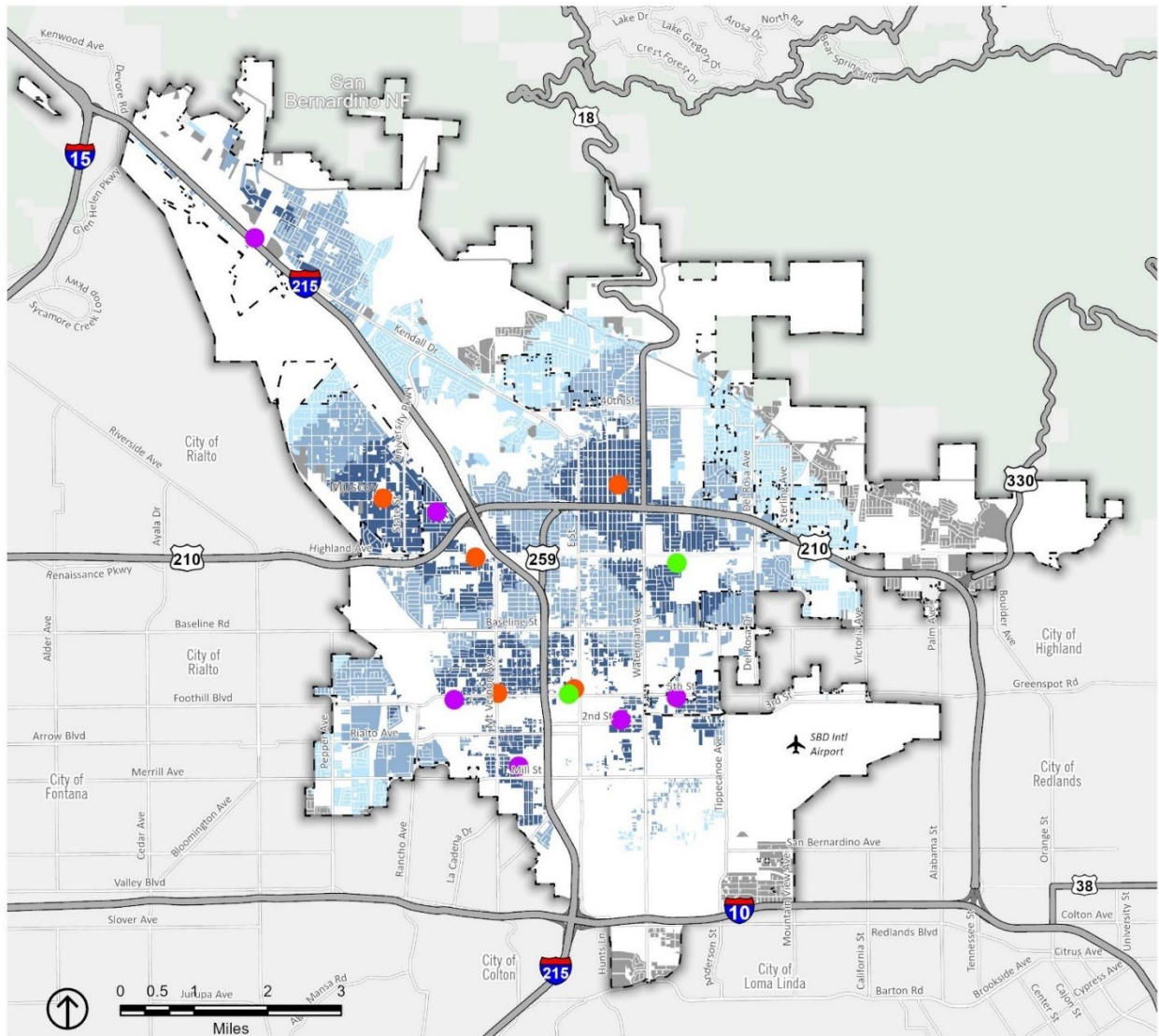
**Table 3.21 Distribution of Community Centers**

Planning Area	Homes and Est. Population	Nearby Facilities	Percent of Homes Relative to Facilities		
			< 1 mile	1-2 miles	Beyond 2 mi.
Northwest	18,540	Comm. Center	18%	32%	50%
	74,200	City Parks			
Northeast	11,340	Comm. Center	2%	21%	77%
	45,400	City Parks			
Central	26,400	Comm Centers	40%	44%	16%
	105,600	City Parks			
Westside (incl. Muscoy)	18,270	3 Comm. Centers	45%	42%	14%
	73,000	City Parks			

Source: City of San Bernardino, 2024

Note: Park distances will differ from the earlier analysis due to a different methodology.





Source: ESRI, PlaceWorks

### Driving Distance to Community Facilities

#### Residential Existing Land Use

- Within 1 Mile Driving Distance of Community Facility
- Within 2 Mile Driving Distance of Community Facility
- Within 3 Mile Driving Distance of Community Facility
- More than 3 Mile Driving Distance to Community Facility

#### Community Facilities

- Community Center
- Library
- Senior Center
- San Bernardino City Boundary
- San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.22 Drive Time Distance to Community Facilities by Area**



## TRANSIT SERVICE

San Bernardino has an extensive infrastructure of freeways, transit lines, and major arterials. Transit is essential for residents to access jobs, governmental offices, medical centers, parks and recreation, and educational opportunities. Though not a mandated topic under environmental justice legislation, transit service advances equal opportunity because it allows residents of all incomes and “transit dependent riders” to access services that might otherwise be inaccessible.

San Bernardino is home to two Metrolink stations, with trains departing weekdays from 3:30 am to 10 pm and accommodating approximately 3,500 weekday riders. In addition to Metrolink, Omnitrans operates 14 bus routes that connect to the Downtown Transit Center. Omnitrans routes in San Bernardino typically operate about every 20 to 30 minutes during peak hours. The sbX Green Line also provides a 16-mile route along the E Street Corridor from CSUSB to Loma Linda University. Omnitrans average more than 56,000 boardings each year.

AllTransit ranks transit service in communities throughout California. According to AllTransit, San Bernardino’s transit system offers some of the highest-ranking coverage in the county (see **Table 3.22**). The City’s Transit Performance Index averages a score of 6.7 out of 10, with the highest rating of 8 to 9 in the city’s interior and lowest ranking in Verdemont. In San Bernardino, 90 percent of homes and jobs can be reached within 1/2 mile of a transit route. Omnitrans offers K-12 and college students free rides to school on any fixed-route service and provides curb-to-curb service for disabled people when fixed-route service operates. And 80 percent of low-income households live within a half-mile of a transit route.

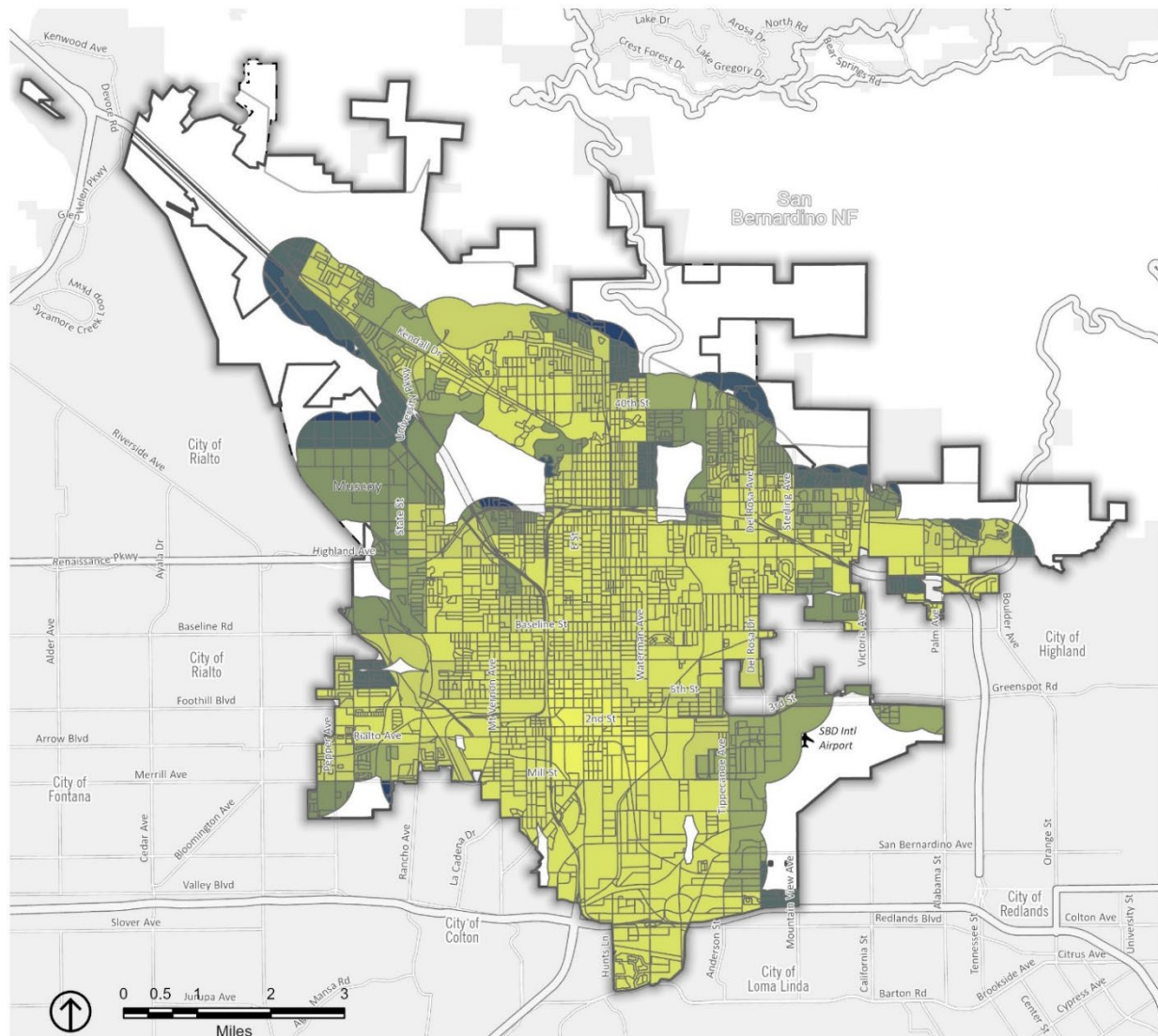
**Table 3.22 Transit Performance**

Transit Indicators	No.	County Rank
Total transit routes	14	1st
Routes within ½ mile of the average block group	6	1st
Transit trips available per week for avg. block group	2,483	2nd
Jobs w/in ½ mile of transit	91%	N/A
Hhlds w/in ½ mile of transit	89%	
Transit Connectivity and All Transit Performance Score	6.0 6.7	2 <sup>nd</sup> 1st
% of low income hhlds. living w/in ½ mile of transit	80%	N/A

Sources: AllTransit, 2023.

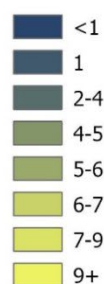
Ensuring that residents have access to the community that complies with state law, Omnitrans is required to certify that their transit map complies with applicable Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In 2023, Omnitrans adopted its Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) and certified that the SRTP complies with federal Title VI and that transit services and fare changes are not discriminatory but are distributed equitably.

**Figure 3.23** illustrates the rating for Omnitrans service for areas in San Bernardino, with the highest level of services in the central city.



Source: ESRI, Center for Neighborhood Technology, PlaceWorks

**Transit Score**



- San Bernardino City Boundary
- San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.23 Transit Performance and Access, San Bernardino**

## TREE CANOPY

Urban forestry programs have become increasingly important as communities desire to reduce the heat island effect from their impermeable (concrete) environment and improve air quality. Trees can provide shade, reduce carbon dioxide (a key contributor to climate change), and filter other air pollutants. Green space also beautifies properties and improves residents' pride in their neighborhood. For these reasons, residents during the General Plan updates rated urban forest as a desired long-term strategy.

The USDA Forest Service provides mapping and estimates of a community tree canopy. The USDA has four canopy coverage classes, described below:

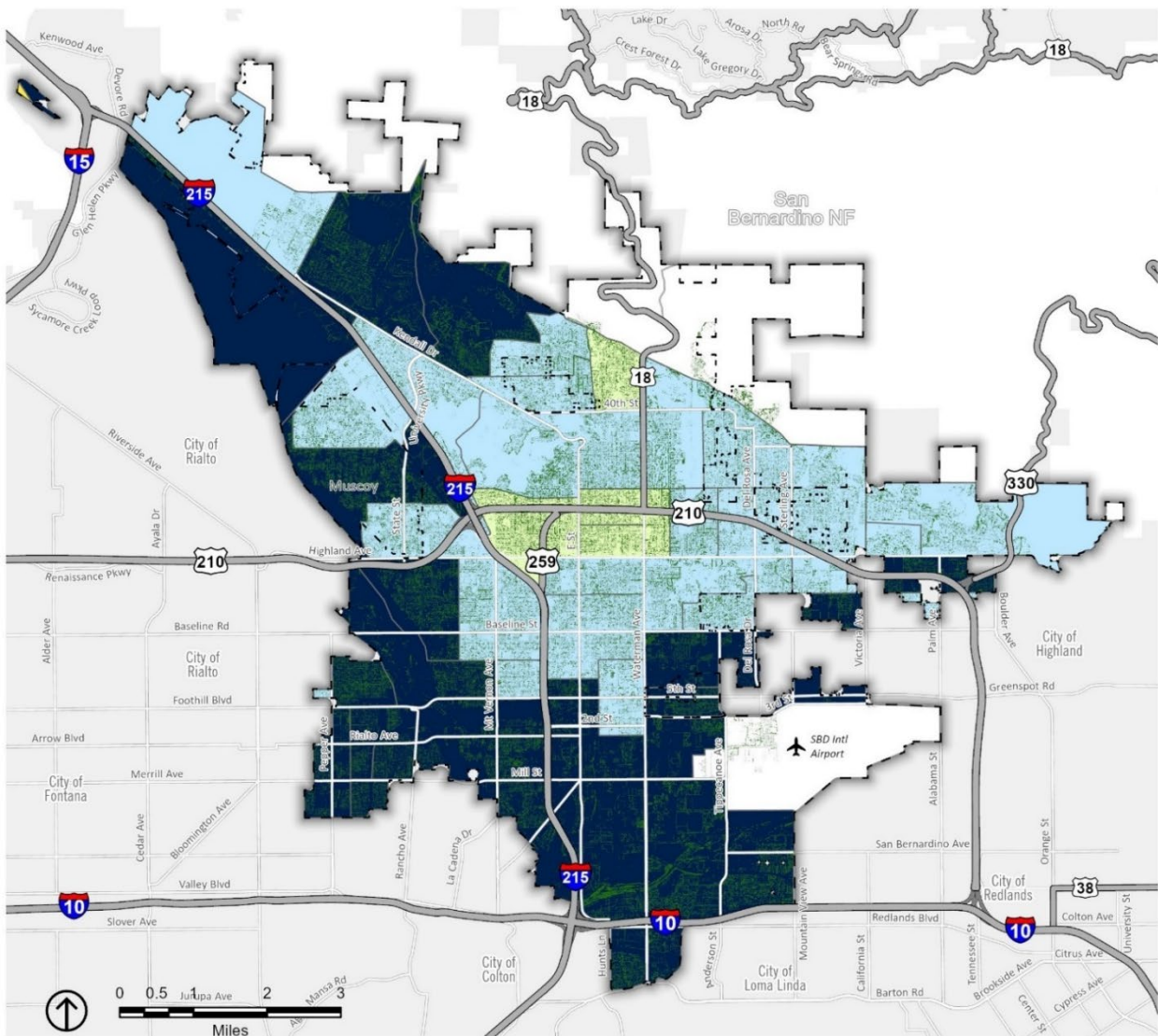
- » Higher (42%+ coverage): San Bernardino does not have areas with a high canopy coverage. This type of coverage is typically reserved for forest communities.
- » Moderate (25-41% coverage). A few census tracts around SR-210 and I-15 covering 5 percent of the City's planning area have a moderate level of canopy coverage.
- » Medium (15-24% coverage). Most of the central and northern areas of the City's planning area (45 percent) have a medium level of canopy coverage.
- » Lower (0-14% coverage). Approximately half the City's planning area and population have a low level of tree canopy coverage, particularly the westside and south side.

**Table 3.23**, San Bernardino Urban Forest, lists four categories of canopy coverage and the acres and population it encompasses. **Figure 3-24**, Percentage of Tree Canopy Coverage, on the following page illustrates the urban forestry coverage classification for each census tract in San Bernardino. It is clear from the data and map that the City has tree deserts across the community.

**Table 3.23 San Bernardino Urban Forest**

Coverage	Definition	Tree Canopy Characteristics		
		Number of Acres	Percent of Area	Percent of Population
Lower	Trees cover 0-14% of land area	19,096	50%	51%
Medium	Trees cover 15-24% of land area	17,059	45%	41%
Moderate	Trees cover 25-41% of land area	1,937	5%	8%
High	Trees cover 42-86% of land area	-0-	0%	-0-
<b>Total</b>		38,092	100%	100%

Source: USDA Urban Tree Canopy, 2018

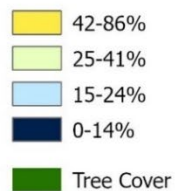


Source: ESRI, USFS, USDA, PlaceWorks

#### Tree Canopy

San Bernardino City Boundary

Percent Canopy Cover



**Figure 3.24 Tree Canopy Coverage, San Bernardino**



## LOCAL EFFORTS IN ACTION

The City works to provide an equivalent level of municipal services for all neighborhoods. Many of the most underserved areas tend to be in unincorporated islands, where the responsibility for providing services may include a combination of regional, county, or local agencies. Projects to serve the unincorporated islands in San Bernardino include, but are not limited to:

- **Sanitation Service.** San Bernardino residents are predominantly served by sanitation services, a few areas remain that are on septic systems, such as the communities of Muscoy, Arrowhead Farms, and a few smaller unincorporated areas. SBMWD is initiating the Arrowhead Farms Septic-to-Sewer project to connect properties to municipal sewer services at no cost to property owners. This project also assists with avoiding environmental hazards from septic tanks. The City received a \$1 million grant in 2024 and has a pending \$24 million grant for the project.
- **Water Line Lead Connectors.** Reducing exposure to lead is a public health concern because there is no safe level for lead exposure. SBMWD identified a number of lateral service line connectors (which carry water to residences) that were installed in the Muscoy area when materials still contained lead. Lead connectors were also suspected in San Anselmo, though later surveys found that no connectors contained lead. The City received a \$5.0 million grant to replace lead connectors in 2025.
- **Fire Service Station Expansion.** San Bernardino County is building a new fire station 226 at 1920 North Del Rosa Avenue to replace the existing station that was built in the 1950s. The new 10,000-square-foot station will be more than twice the size of the current one. The total cost of the fire station is approximately \$10.5 million, with \$3.5 million being funded by the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation. This station will provide enhanced services to residential areas in northeastern San Bernardino.



*Illustration of Fire Station 226*

Significant improvements have also been made to local transit, most recently with the expansion of the Arrow Route connecting Redlands with San Bernardino. Metrolink now operates 25 weekday trains between Redlands University and downtown San Bernardino. North America's first federally compliant, self-powered, zero-emissions passenger train was also tested in 2025.



### 3.4.7 Pollution Burden

San Bernardino experiences an elevated level of pollution exposure that impacts the health of residents. As noted earlier in the analysis of disadvantaged communities, one-third of all census tracts (i.e., 19 tracts) in San Bernardino have pollution levels that exceed the 75th percentile statewide. Exposure to pollution is rooted in the city's industrial sector, major freeways, older housing stock, and transportation uses that are often adjacent to housing and other sensitive uses.

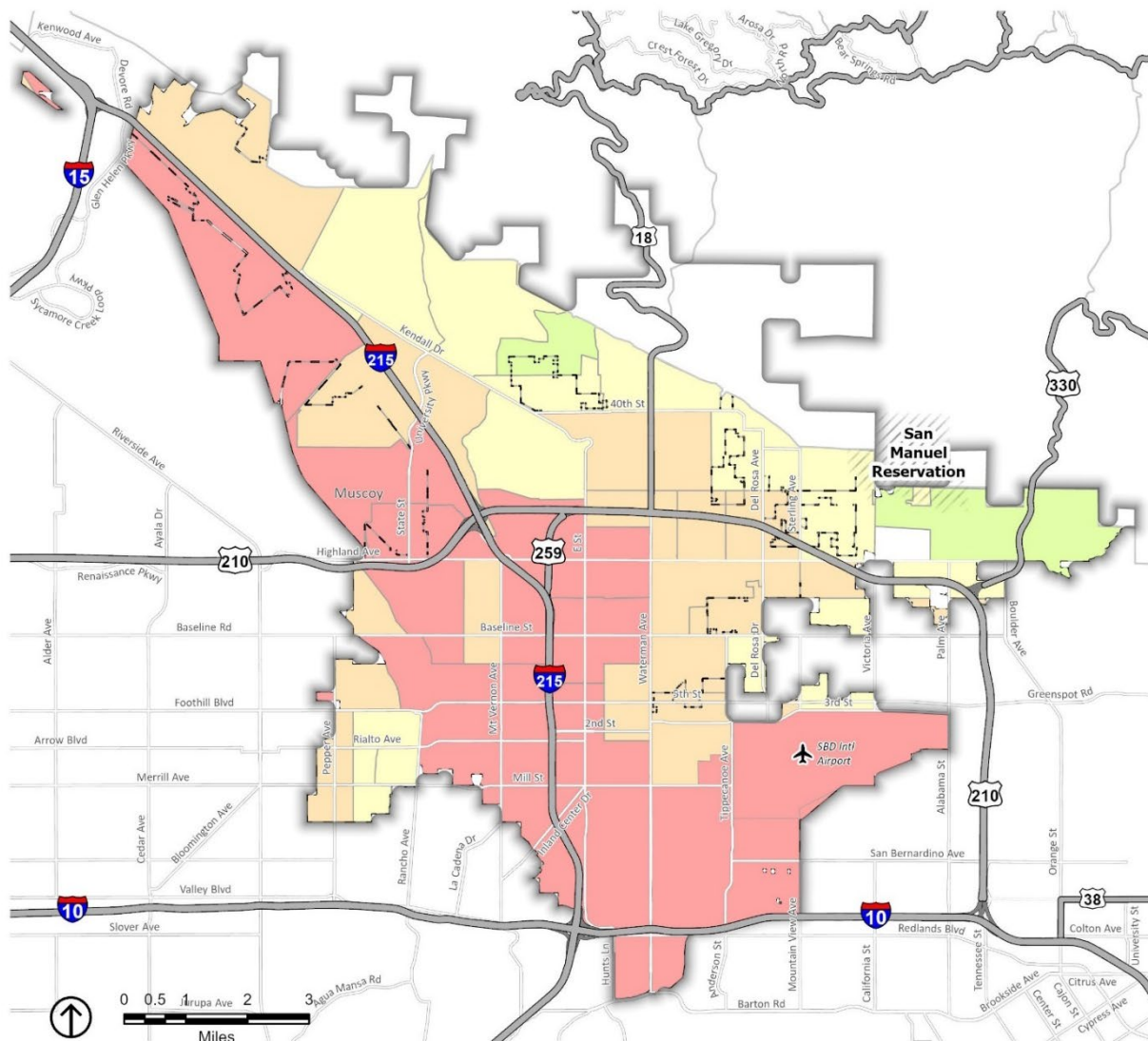
**Figure 3-25** illustrates each census tract and its relative CalEnviroScreen pollution ranking.

While most local governments examine CalEnviroScreen composite scores for an entire tract, it is useful to understand the most prevalent issues in San Bernardino. **Table 3.24** shows the percentage of census tracts within each of the four quartiles, as calculated by CalEnviroScreen. As shown below, the most predominant environmental concern is **air pollution**, with all census tracts scoring among the 4<sup>th</sup> quartile for ozone and among the 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile for PM2.5. **Lead exposure** also ranks exceedingly high, with more than 60 percent of tracts ranked in the fourth quartile. Finally, **toxic releases** from industry rank high, with 81 percent of tracts falling in the third quartile.

**Table 3.24 Ranking of Pollution by CalEnviroScreen Percentiles**

Pollutants	Percentage of Tracts within each Quartile			
	First 0-25th	Second 26-50th	Third 51-75th	Fourth 76 <sup>th</sup> Plus
Ozone	0%	0%	0%	<b>100%</b>
Diesel PM	20%	24%	28%	28%
PM2.5	0%	0%	<b>100%</b>	0%
Drinking Water	0%	37%	24%	37%
Lead	6%	13%	20%	<b>61%</b>
Cleanup Sites	17%	4%	41%	39%
Toxic Release	0%	19%	<b>81%</b>	0%
Hazardous Waste	28%	28%	33%	11%
Traffic	26%	26%	33%	15%
Solid Waste	<b>61%</b>	13%	19%	7%
Groundwater Threats	<b>83%</b>	6%	7%	4%

Source: CalEnviroScreen , 2024



Source: ESRI, OEHHA CalEnviroScreen 4.0, PlaceWorks

#### CalEnviroScreen Pollution Burden Percentile

##### Pollution Characteristics Percentile

- < 25th Percentile
- 25th to 50th Percentile
- 50th to 75th Percentile
- 75th to 100th Percentile
- San Bernardino City Boundary

**Figure 3.25 Pollution Burden,  
CalEnviroScreen: San Bernardino**

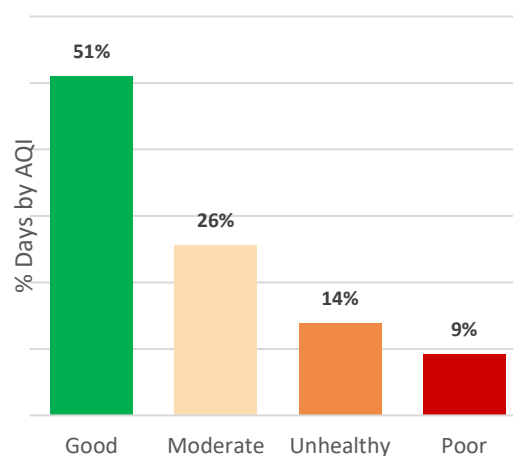
## AIR POLLUTION

Since the 1970s, air quality has gradually improved throughout California due to advances in new technology (e.g., vehicles, industrial processes, etc.) and enforcement of new regulations. Indeed, the Southern California region meets most state and federal standards. Yet while air quality has significantly improved over the decades, it is still generally viewed as poor, particularly in certain locations. In 2023, the American Lung Association designated San Bernardino County (including the city) as one of the poorest regions in the nation for high exposure to air pollutants.

The USEPA uses the Air Quality Index (AQI) for reporting patterns in air quality. The AQI is a cumulative score of the six major air pollutants that are regulated by the Clean Air Act. These are: carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), particulate matter (PM) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). The AQI score for an area can range between 0 and 500, with higher scores denoting poorer air quality. An AQI value of 100 (moderate air quality) corresponds to the national air quality standard that has been adopted to protect the public's health and welfare.

For San Bernardino, the City's average AQI was calculated from measurements taken at the air monitoring station on 4th Street in San Bernardino. The EPA considers this monitor representative of a neighborhood covering 0.30 to 2.5 miles from the monitor, depending on the pollutant. Based on this monitor, the following air quality results are described below and shown in **Figure 3.26**.

- » **Good (0–50).** About half of the days had good air quality, where air pollution poses little or no risk to the general public.
- » **Moderate (50–100).** One in four days reported acceptable air quality, but with a moderate concern for sensitive people.
- » **Unhealthy (101–150).** 14 percent of days had unhealthy air quality, placing people with lung disease, seniors, and youth at risk.
- » **Poor Air Quality (150+).** One in ten days recorded poor air quality, where all residents experience adverse health effects.



**Figure 3.26 Air Quality Index for the County of San Bernardino (2023)**

Ozone and particulate matter account for the moderate, unhealthy, and poor rankings. No exceedances were reported for CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub>. However, these rates are based on only one location and do not reflect the air quality near specific industries or roadways.

## Localized Air Quality

Although AQI data show that only 25 percent of days have unhealthful or poor air quality, San Bernardino residents have long contended that pollution levels are higher in certain neighborhoods. For instance, San Bernardino's western/central/southern sector is occupied by the majority of warehousing and logistics uses, BNSF Railyard, concrete batch plants, power plants, heavy industry, and diesel truck traffic (**Table 3.25**).

**Table 3.25 Primary Air Pollution Sources, San Bernardino**

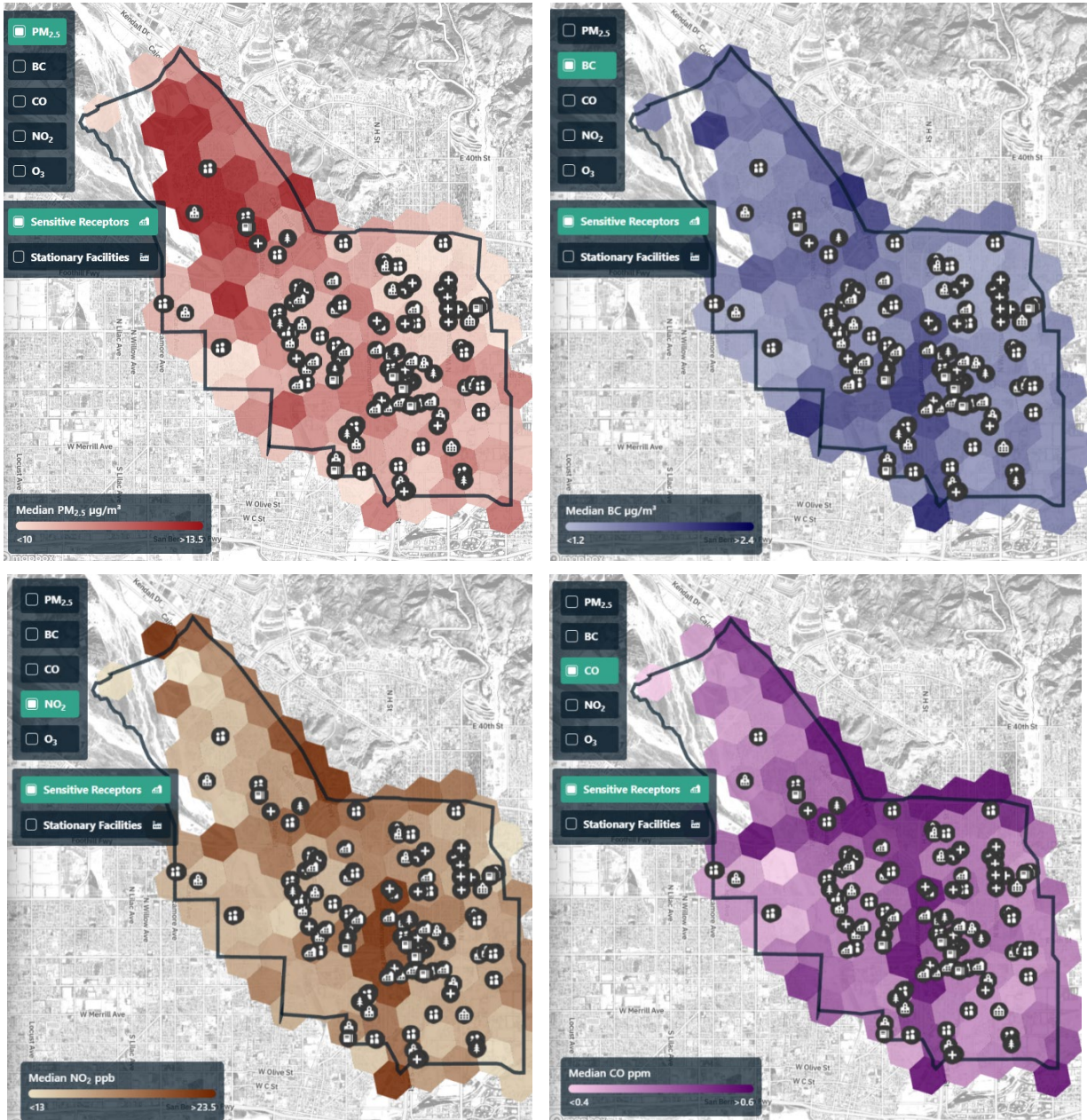
Land Uses	Description of Concern
Warehousing	San Bernardino has more than 30 million square feet of existing and planned warehousing and distribution. These land uses are located along the I-215 and in areas surrounding the airport (former Norton Air Force base).
Railyards	The BNSF yard is one of the largest emitters of diesel particulate matter in California. Idling trains, onsite heavy equipment, and other associated uses are known to produce significant levels of DPM, a carcinogen.
Concrete Batch Plants	San Bernardino is bordered by the Cajon Creek Quarries and two cement producers—Robertson Ready Mix and Vulcan. These facilities produce toxic pollutants (respirable crystalline silica and DPM) and criteria pollutants.
Power Plants	Adjacent to the AIRPORT in Redlands is the Mountainview Generating Station. This site is one of the highest producers of carbon dioxide in the county. CO <sub>2</sub> is a key greenhouse gas.
Neighborhood Truck Traffic	The considerable number and concentration of industrial and distribution uses are served by the logistic, transportation, and trucking industry. This has led to heavy particulate matter emissions along truck routes.
Roadways and Freeways	The San Bernardino-Muscoy (SBM) area (see maps on following page) is at the confluence of SR-210, I-10, I-215, which are some of the most heavily used freeways in California. Trucks also cross many areas of the community.

CalEnviroScreen shows that 100 percent of the SBM area ranks in the 100 percentile for ozone (the worse ranking in California), the highest quartile for DPM, and the third quartile for coarse particulate matter. CalEnviroScreen does not measure other air pollutants such as black carbon, silica, methane, and others known to harm health. Moreover, air quality measurements are only inferred from single-point monitoring and are not representative of specific neighborhoods.

In response to these concerns, the California Air Resources Board designated the SBM area for focused review, air pollution monitoring, and enhanced regulation under state law. This area coincides with the census tracts denoted by CalEnviroScreen as heavily impacted by air pollution. The following summarizes the results of air quality monitoring undertaken in the SBM area.



The AQMD initiated studies of pollution sources in the SBM project area using mobile mapping technology where vehicles drove through this area and recorded air contaminant measurements. Four panels, labeled clockwise, show where concentrations of pollutants (particulate matter, black carbon, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide) are the highest compared to sensitive uses. These panels demonstrate the elevated levels of pollution cited by community residents.



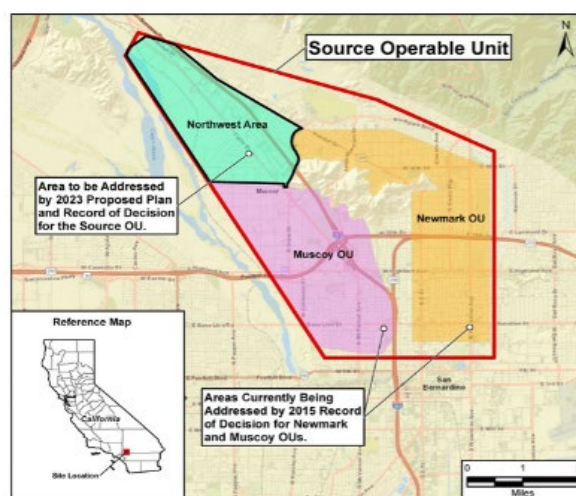


## LOCAL EFFORTS IN ACTION

The City of San Bernardino continues to work with local, regional, state, and federal partners to improve air quality from industrial, transportation, and other sources in San Bernardino so as to provide a more healthful environment for residents.

### Trucking and Air Quality

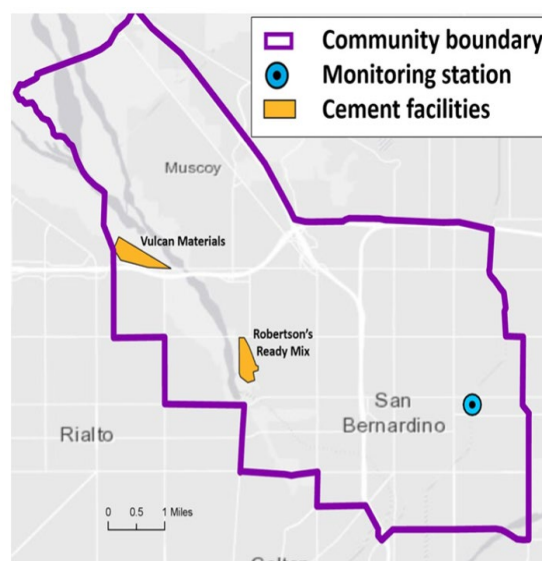
In 2022, the City prepared a preliminary truck route study which identified potential routes. The intent was to reduce, to the extent possible, the prevalence of heavy trucks frequenting neighborhoods or passing near sensitive uses. The City will adopt a formal truck route in 2025. In addition, the South Coast AQMD has conducted hundreds of truck idling sweeps to ensure that idling restrictions are followed. Finally, the City is updating the General Plan and Development Code to comply with AB 98, which prohibits local approvals of new or expanded logistic uses unless they meet 21<sup>st</sup> century design standards that protect public health.



EPA Muscoy-Newmark Superfund Site

### Mining Operations

The San Bernardino, Muscoy (SBM) steering committee identified fugitive dust, particulate matter (PM), and odors from concrete batch, asphalt batch, and rock aggregate batch plants as an air quality concern, and emphasized addressing fugitive dust, PM emissions, and hexavalent chromium emissions near schools. Two plants are within the SBM area: Robertson's Ready Mix, a concrete batch plant that borders Arroyo Valley High School and is one half mile from Ramona-Alessandro Elementary School; and Vulcan Materials, an aggregate batch plant. Monitoring continues to ensure that pollution levels do not exceed ambient air quality levels.



## WATER POLLUTION

recent years, communities across California have become more concerned with water quality due to new technology for more precisely measuring water contaminants, discovery of new chemical contaminants, and natural disasters that have threatened a community's water supply. This has led cities to focus on their water supply, source protection, and drinking water quality.

### Groundwater Risk

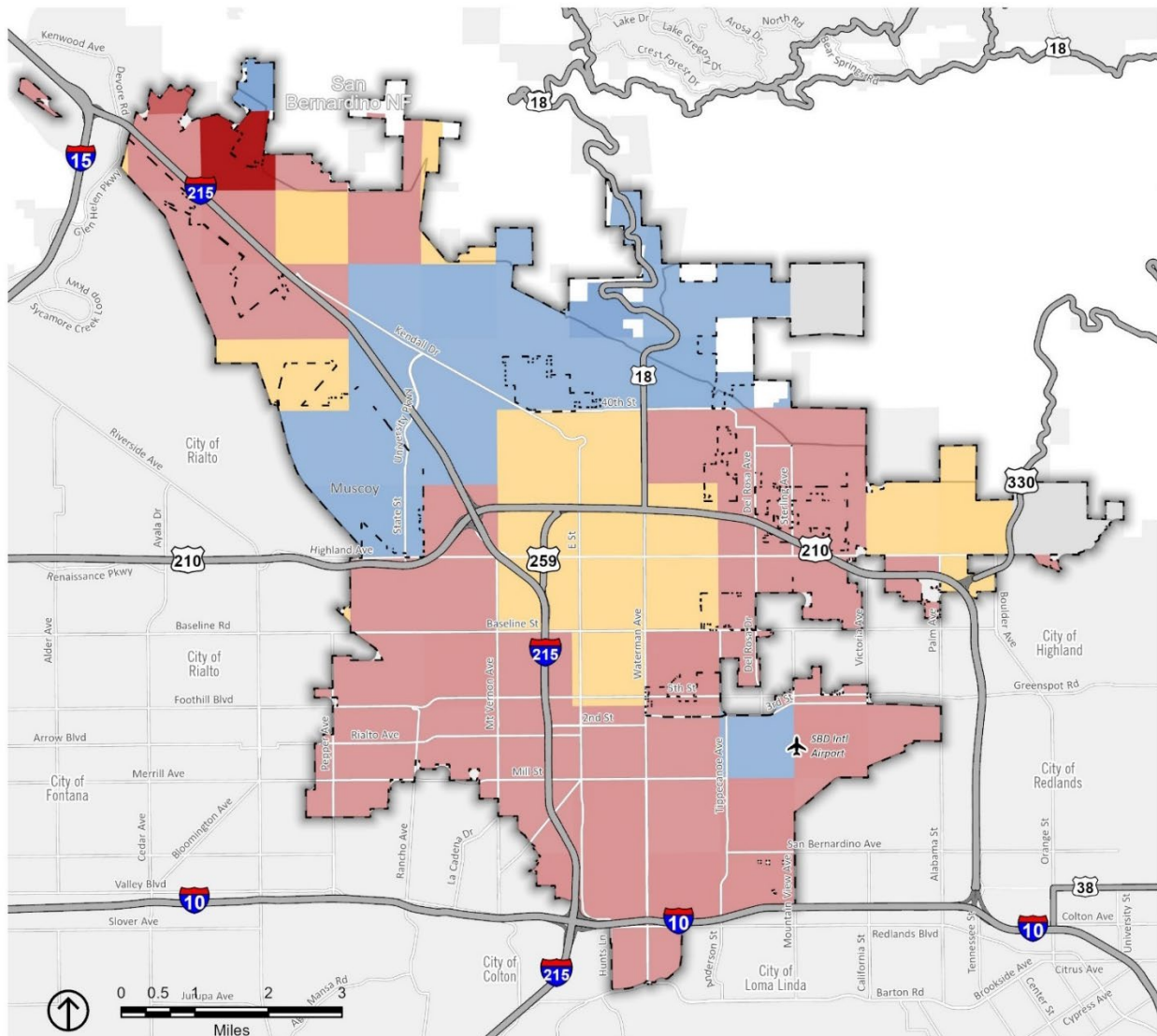
The City is served by two retail water districts. The San Bernardino Municipal Water Department (SBMWD) supplies 80 percent of the city's water supply, primarily from an underground aquifer, the Bunker Hill Basin, concentrated in northwest San Bernardino. Water supplies may also be supplemented by the State Water Project during dry seasons. The East Valley Water District (EVWD) services the other 20 percent of the city, mainly on its eastern end, and draws water from similar sources. San Bernardino also has one mutual water company—Muscoy Mutual Water Company—that provide water to a more limited number of customers in the community.

**Figure 3.27** illustrates groundwater threats to the City's aquifer. This map displays potential risk per square mile based on raw groundwater quality data. Potential water quality risk is categorized as high, medium, or low depending on the concentrations that exceed the maximum contaminant limit established by state law. This map is not intended to estimate the water quality at any given location but is intended to prioritize areas for funding under the State's Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program.

According to these data, 50 percent of San Bernardino shows a substantial risk for its aquifer. According to the SAFER mapping program, the primary threats to groundwater include:

- Arsenic, predominantly along the I-15 and eastern San Bernardino
- Nitrate citywide, except for the downtown core and northwest San Bernardino
- 1-2-3 Trichloropropane, limited to industrial areas around the airport
- Uranium, mostly confined to areas around the airport

San Bernardino protects its aquifers in a variety of ways, such as managing stormwater runoff through green infrastructure, regulating the type of land uses near recharge areas, monitoring groundwater quality, promoting water conservation, and utilizing techniques like artificial recharge wells to replenish the aquifer when necessary. As discussed later under cleanup sites, the City continues to aggressively clean up the Newmark Groundwater Contamination site.



Source: ESRI, CA State Water Resources Control Board, PlaceWorks

#### Water Quality Risk 2024 ARM by Section

- high (> comparison concentration)
- medium (80% - 100% of comparison concentration)
- low
- unknown
- San Bernardino City Boundary
- San Bernardino SOI Boundary

**Figure 3.27 Water Aquifer Risks, City of San Bernardino**

## Drinking Water Quality

The California Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 requires that the State Water Resources Control Board regularly test drinking water supplies and set standards for water contaminants. The State sets maximum contaminant levels (MCL) and public health goals (PHG), which is the level of a contaminant in drinking water that does not pose a significant risk to health (e.g., cancer-causing). Though PHGs are much stricter and costly to achieve than MCLs, State law requires that drinking water standards for contaminants be set as close as feasible to PHGs.

State law requires every water agency to prepare a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and publish the results each year. The CCR contains detailed information about the quality of drinking water that a public water system provides. It includes the source of the water, detected contaminants, and possible health effects. Both SBMWD and EVWD publish CCRs annually on their respective websites.<sup>5</sup> Should a water agency record a violation of the MCL standards, they are required to notify the public immediately and institute measures to mitigate the contamination.

CalEnviroScreen provides information on the quality of drinking water based on the average amount of contaminants found and the historic occurrence of MCL violations. CES does not indicate whether drinking water is safe nor does CES monitor emerging chemicals of concern, such as per/polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFA). State law requires public water providers to provide drinking water that meets all California health and safety standards. Despite these limitations, CES provides a general measure of potential contaminants in drinking water.

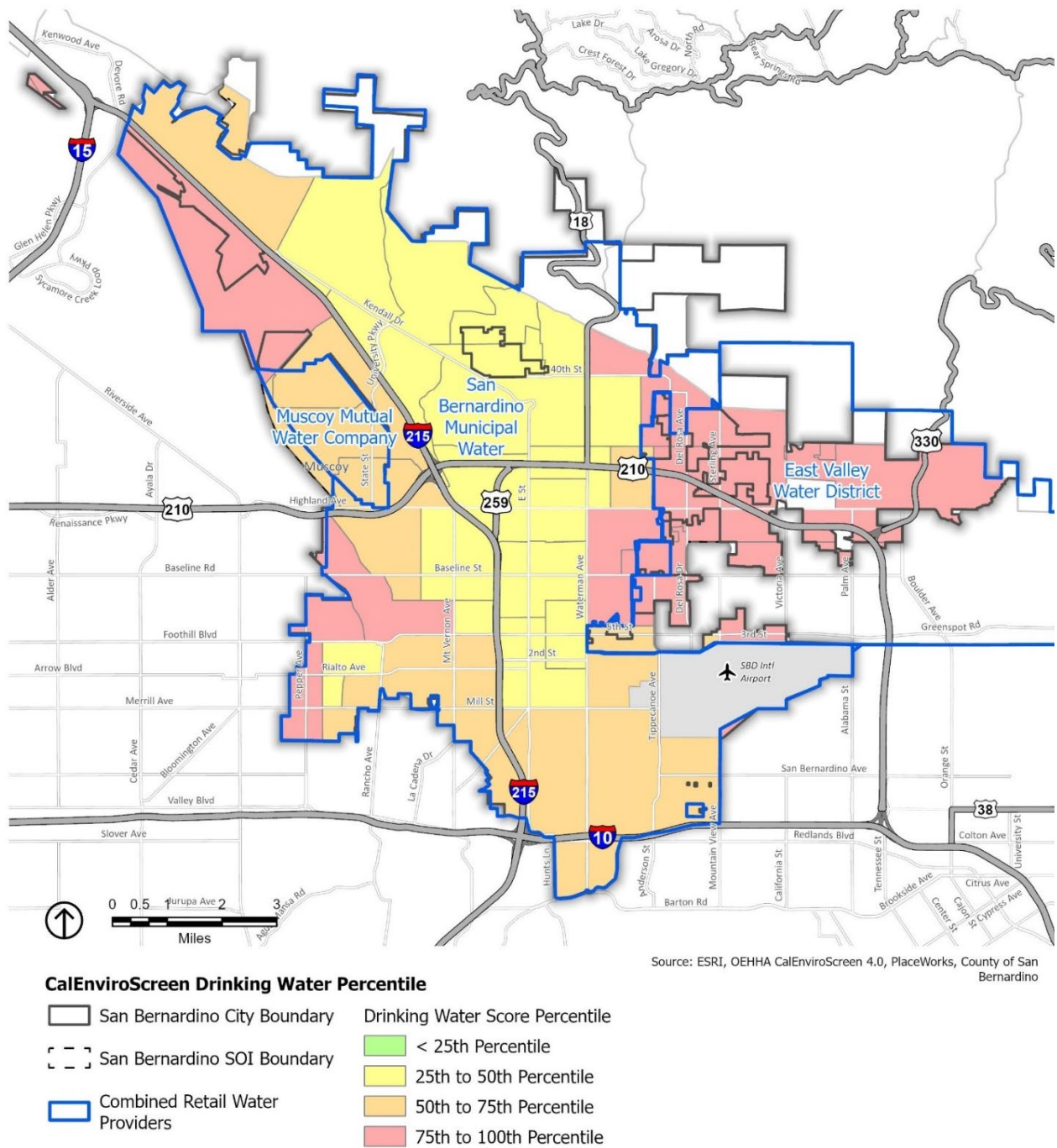
In San Bernardino, approximately one-third of all census tracts score above the 75th percentile threshold. These census tracts score high for a range of specific contaminants, which may include arsenic, perchlorate, lead, copper, nitrate, and other various contaminants. Four areas noted with higher levels of contaminants are: 1) two census tracts adjacent to the BNSF yard (tracts 4301 and 4302) score as disadvantaged; 2) census tract 2706 along the I-215 scores in the 96th percentile for drinking water contaminants; and 3) several tracts served by the East Valley Water District score as disadvantaged due to MCL violations for Total Trihalothames.

**Figure 3.28** shows census tracts in San Bernardino by quartile ranking, including those that exceed the 75th percentile statewide for drinking water quality. It should be noted, however, that the City's water confidence reports should be consulted as the authority for the safety of the drinking water delivered to residents as they represent the quality of the water consumed.

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<sup>5</sup> SBMWD's consumer confidence reports for drinking water quality can be accessed online at: <https://sbmwd.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=38>. EVWD's consumer confidence reports for drinking water quality can be accessed at: <https://www.eastvalley.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=36>.





**Figure 3.28 Drinking Water Threats, San Bernardino**



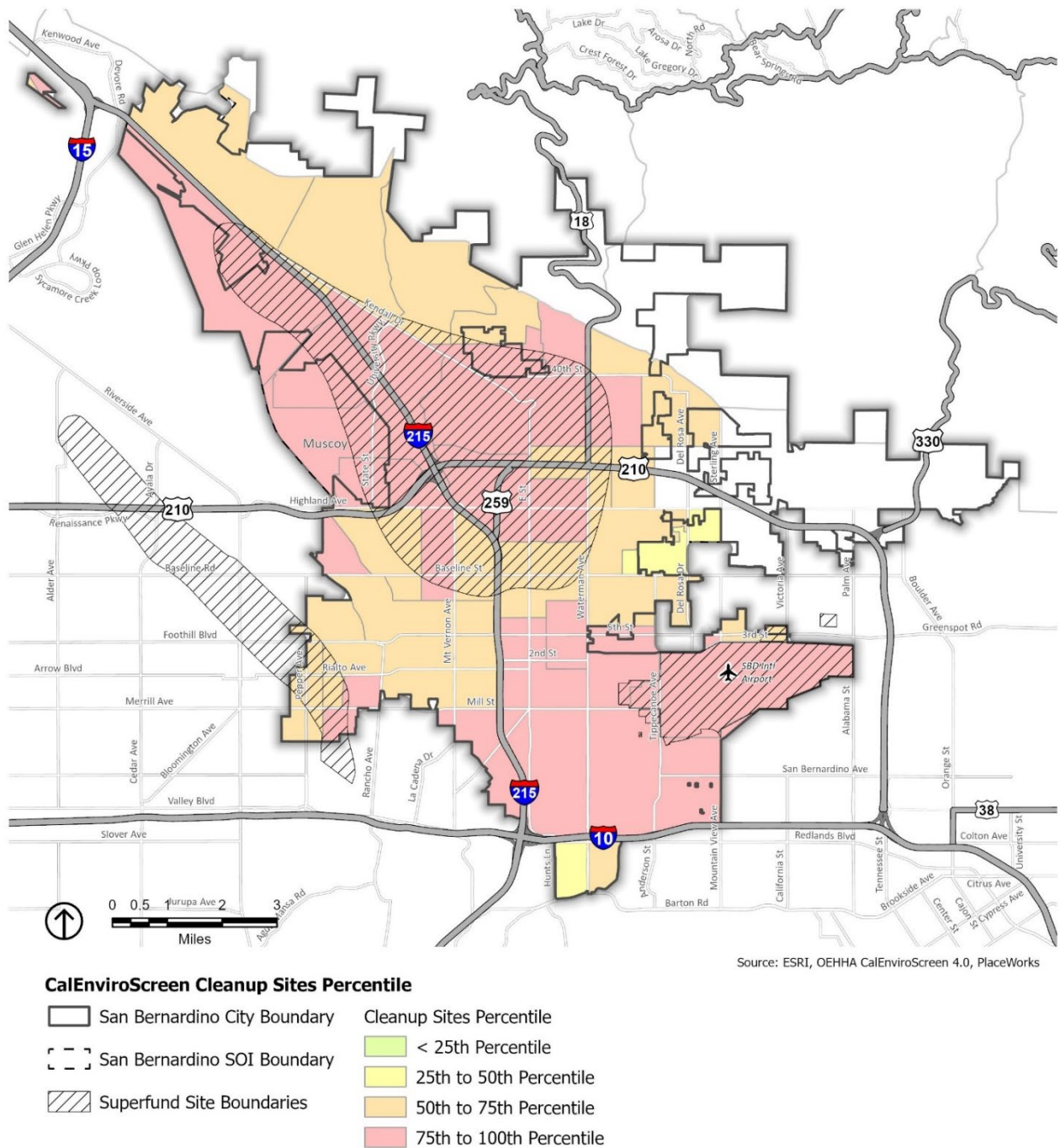
## Land Pollution

Due to urban and industrial development, land contamination is common in California, particularly for communities which have legacy or current heavy industrial uses. The City of San Bernardino has many contaminated sites, particularly in its industrial core, but the most extensive contaminated sites are Superfund sites, legacy or closed landfills, and other brownfields.

### Superfund Sites

Superfund sites refer to abandoned hazardous waste sites. It is also the name of the fund established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended. This law allows the EPA to clean up such sites and to compel responsible parties to perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanups. San Bernardino has three primary superfund sites described below and mapped on **Figure 3.29**.

- **Newmark-Muscoy Site.** This 23-acre site in the Shandin Hills and Muscoy was contaminated by the County's Cajon Landfill and Camp Ono, a former military site. Contaminants included chlorinated solvents, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and TCE. The EPA and the City/County of San Bernardino entered an \$50 million settlement for cleanup. As part of the ongoing consent decree, SBMWD will continue to replace and/or rehabilitate seven production wells in the Newmark and Muscoy Operating Unit because of mechanical or electrical failure at an estimated cost of \$1 million.
- **Norton Air Force Base Site.** During World War II, Norton Air Base's practices included burial of drums; disposal of waste oils, solvents, and paint residues into landfills, unlined pits, ponds, and drying beds; leaking underground tanks; and spills of gas, oils, solvents, polychlorinated biphenyls, and acids. Soil was contaminated with TCE, dioxin, PCBs, and metals such as chromium, arsenic, and copper. While the \$150 million site cleanup was completed in 2011, site cleanup was reopened after PFAs were discovered in surface soil in 2023. Efforts are underway to assess the risk and develop mitigations.
- **Rockets, Fireworks, and Flares Site.** This 160-acre site historically housed a military storage and rail facility. After WWII, defense contractors and fireworks manufacturers used the site to develop solid-fuel rocket propellant. The soil and water were contaminated with volatile organic compounds, perchlorate, and other toxic substances. The plume extends southeast from Rialto into San Bernardino. In 2012, the US Department of Justice issued a consent decree requiring cleanup costing more than \$50 million. The site is being remediated and is anticipated to require up to 30 years to complete.



**Figure 3.29 Hazardous Cleanup Sites in San Bernardino**

## Localized Land Pollution

In addition to the three plumes, the City continues to address cleanups on commercial and industrial sites. Key sources of land pollution are as follows.

- **Closed Landfills.** San Bernardino has landfills that have become Superfund sites. The former Cajon Landfill in northwest San Bernardino and landfills at the former Norton Air Force Base are Superfund sites. The closed Waterman Landfill is an unlined landfill near the northeastern corner of the I-10 and Waterman. The landfill has received citations from the State of California for exceeding the methane emissions allowed for closed landfills. The closed Devore Landfill is in the Glen Helen Campground boundaries.
- **Dry-Cleaning Operations.** Eight former dry-cleaning operations are undergoing evaluation and cleanup for hazardous waste. Older dry-cleaning businesses that operated before modern controls often used chemical contaminants known to be harmful to public health. These include volatile organic compounds, perchlorate, dichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, tetrachloroethylene, and other chemicals that pose health hazards. Though small, these businesses nonetheless can deposit a significant level of contaminants.
- **Plating/Metal/Smelting Industry.** In central San Bernardino, several sites were once home to foundries, metal, and plating businesses. Heavy metal industries that are contaminated include ones such as Quality Plating, Trojan Plating, Hanford Foundry, Southwest Metal, and many others. While many of these polluted sites were cleaned up, they often have land use restrictions, meaning the land is limited to certain nonresidential uses. Several businesses are brownfields and still require cleanup.
- **Illegal Dumping.** Illegal dumping on right-of-way or vacant land, dumping on private land, and homeless encampments pose environmental concerns. According to City public works and code enforcement staff, City staff log approximately 9,200 illegal dumps annually. Several hundred tons of material from illegal dumps are removed each year in San Bernardino. Some locations where repeat violations occur are:
  - Pedley Road, between 6th and 9th Street
  - East 5th Street, between Sterling and Lankershim
  - Cajon Boulevard, between West 3rd and Institution
  - Medical Center Drive, between 27th and Cajon
  - West Baseline Street, between California and Pepper

## LOCAL EFFORTS IN ACTION

San Bernadino continues to work with local, regional, state, and federal partners to ensure that toxic sites are cleaned up, that industries meet their pollution control requirements, and that other actions are implemented to reduce exposure to source of pollution.

### Superfund Cleanup

The City of San Bernardino has long worked with the USEPA to facilitate the cleanup of the Muscoy-Newmark Superfund site. Two of the three sites are undergoing remediation. The Northwest Area, the last operable unit, includes former uses such as portions of the former Camp Ono World War II U.S. Army installation, the Cajon Landfill, a railroad, and more recently, newly constructed commercial structures and light and heavy industry. In 2024, the EPA chose the final remedy for the final operable unit. The cleanup will require 10–50 years depending on the rate of removal of PCE in the aquifer.



*EPA Muscoy-Newmark Superfund Site*

### Waterman Landfill

The Waterman Landfill occupies a 9-acre site at E. Vanderbilt Way and S. Carnegie Ave. The Landfill operated from the 1950s through 1970s, and received construction debris and municipal waste. The City has documented high methane levels in gas monitoring probes around the perimeter which exceed regulatory standards. Recent inspections also identified waste material visible on the northeastern slope near Santa Ana River. The neighborhood is disadvantaged. The City has submitted a brownfield assessment grant application to conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment to investigate and remove any remaining hazards from the site.



*Waterman Landfill (Closed)*



## LEAD POTENTIAL

The most significant source of lead exposure for children is lead-based paint. Lead is a toxic heavy metal and occurs naturally in the environment. However, most of the elevated levels of lead in the environment result from human activities. Historically, lead was used as an additive in gasoline and as a primary ingredient in house paint. Lead levels in the United States have declined over the past five decades due to State and federal regulations. However, lead persists in older buildings containing lead paint, as well as old plumbing and contaminated soil.

Data on elevated blood lead levels (EBLL) in children is limited because universal testing of children is not required in California. However, factors that are strongly associated with EBLLs have been used to screen for places where children are at elevated risk for lead exposure. Data exists for two significant risk factors: age of housing and children living in low-income households. Combining these data serves to identify communities that have a high potential for children's exposure to lead paint in older housing stock, though it is not a measure of true exposure to lead in a city.

In 2021, the State of California reported the percentage of children 6 years and under with elevated blood lead levels for approximately 100 of the more than 2,500 California zip codes. The range of EBLL is 0.74 to 15 percent, with the majority of zip codes showing less than 2 percent of children affected. In Southern California, the range of EBLL for children under age 6 is approximately 1 to 5 percent. San Bernardino has several zip code areas listed:

- Zip Code Area 92410: 2.8 percent
- Zip Code Area 92404: 2.5 percent
- Zip Code Area 92346: 2.0 percent

However, zip code records do not necessarily reflect all areas that are potentially exposed to lead. For instance, the SBMWD has surveyed water pipes and identified two areas in Muscoy, the Cimmaron and San Anselmo neighborhoods, which may contain lead service lines. Both neighborhoods are in zip code area 92407. To address this concern, SBMWD recently received a \$5 million grant to replace lead service lines/connectors in those neighborhoods.



## 3.5 GENERAL PLAN OPPORTUNITIES

State law requires that general plans address health and environmental justice through: (1) objectives and policies that: 1) reduce the unique and compound health risks; (2) promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process; and (3) prioritize improvements and services to address the needs of disadvantaged communities. This section identifies opportunities for incorporating health and environmental justice into the General Plan.

### 3.5.1 General Plan Vision

San Bernardino's 2050 General Plan vision is comprehensive, containing the key components to become a community of choice and recognized as an excellent city to live, work, and play. The 2050 General Plan vision contains topics associated with being a healthy city—education, employment, safe and quality neighborhoods, transit, public safety, a healthy physical environment, a strong economy, etc. Although these provisions will indirectly lead to a healthier populace, the vision could be expanded to incorporate health in a more explicit manner.

Examples are as follows:

- Clarification of what “housing for everyone” includes. The vision includes the statement of offering housing for everyone, which is broad in reach. More definition could be applied to what “housing for everyone” includes, such as safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for residents of all incomes. Alternatively, that definition could be provided through policies.
- Clarification of what a “healthy physical environment” includes. While general in nature, the City has superfund sites, older landfills, and other health hazards that contribute to poor health. A more nuanced alternative would be to indicate what a healthy physical environment includes, such as free from hazards, clean water and air, and similar features.
- Clarification of what a “safe neighborhood” includes. Safety is mentioned once in the vision, but it is more fundamental to the health and welfare of residents. Personal safety has multiple dimensions—such as safety at school, at work, at home, and along roadways. Safety also refers to being protected from natural disasters and other similar threats.

Alternatively, a broader and shorter statement could be placed in front of the vision. For example, Santa Ana's vision statement follows: “A city that promotes the health and wellness of all residents, with a civic culture that actively embraces the power of diversity. Our city invests in resources that create economic opportunities for the next generation, and it is a community that celebrates our past while working together to create a sustainable future.” This type of statement more directly ties the City's actions to health.

### 3.5.2 General Plan Content

State law allows cities to choose how environmental justice will be addressed in the general plan: (1) as a stand-alone element or (2) integrated throughout different elements. The first option is often adopted in cities with fewer environmental hazards; a more homogenous population with respect to income, race/ethnicity, and other characteristics; or communities that simply focus on standard features of a healthy community (parks, services, etc.). A stand-alone element is more applicable for more complex cities, such as San Bernardino, which faces multiple urban challenges, multicultural influences, a history of inequity, and is complex both geographically and politically.

With respect to content for the EJ Element, State law requires that a general plan provides goals, policies, and objectives related to six specific topics, noted below with an asterisk. However, local governments can choose additional topics of concern that address priorities for environmental justice. Because of the concerns highlighted in this scan, four additional topics are recommended for consideration. These topics are denoted in the list with a double asterisk.

1. Access to healthy food and nutrition choices\*
2. Increased physical activity through parks, recreation, and trails\*
3. Affordable, safe, integrated, and well-designed housing\*
4. Access to adequate public facilities and services\*
5. An environment reduces exposure to pollution\*
6. Meaningful civic engagement\*
7. A transportation system that supports safe, healthy, and active lifestyles\*\*
8. Educational attainment and living-wage job opportunities\*\*
9. Community that is safe from crime and violence\*\*
10. Other topics appropriate for San Bernardino\*\*

Typically, most EJ Elements contain “high-level” policies, often with minimal commitments. The Attorney General requires that element policies should be as concrete as possible and target the specific needs, health risks, and pollution exposures to address this requirement. Policies should be clear, defined, and binding. Policies should include a timeline, the entity responsible for implementing the policy, and when applicable identify a funding source. Policies must be complete, addressing every required component of SB 1000. This includes policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

### 3.5.3 Implementation

Like any general plan element, effective implementation is required for success. As required by State law, the EJ Element should include a robust implementation plan, with objectives, programs, and actions. However, many of the programs envisioned will originate from outside City Hall and are beyond the purview and formal responsibility of City staff. Funding streams, such as grants, will be needed from sources typically outside City Hall. This fact speaks to the importance of a less traditional method for implementing this EJ Element.

While there are many models for implementation, the City of San Bernardino originally convened a healthy city coalition during the early 2010s. The coalition was led by outside facilitators and a designated City coordinator funded through the Mayor's Office. The Healthy San Bernardino City Coalition (HSBC) included dozens of partners (public, private, faith-based, schools, etc.) that were dedicated to improving the health and well-being of residents. The facilitating organization was tasked with developing, maintaining, and leveraging partnerships with these organizations to coordinate and implement programs that improved the health of the community.

The Healthy San Bernardino City initiative operated for 10 years, with the majority of progress experienced from 2010 to 2015. During that brief period of time, HSBC was very successful. Among many other accomplishments, the HSBC developed an environmental scan, secured funding for community gardens, developed health hubs, improved walkability, held annual health fairs, and secured grants for many other activities that benefited the community. HSBC's success was documented by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. However, with the bankruptcy of the City and closure of the Countywide Healthy Community program, HSBC closed operations.

In 2025, the County Public Health Department County officials recommended restarting the countywide effort as a vehicle to achieve changes to policy, systems, and the environment. This offers an opportunity to reinvigorate a program that had demonstrable successes. It also allows the City the opportunity to reinstitute its own healthy communities program as well.

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