

Community Information

La Mesa





La Mesa

The City of La Mesa, is known as the "Jewel of the Hills" since its early beginnings. More than 55,000 people now call this desirable city their home. Local merchants and business owners bask in year round sunshine as they showcase their goods and services outside for shoppers to see. This unique downtown business community boasts dozens of antique shops and many streets of indoor and outdoor dining while merchants in other areas of the city including the Grossmont Center regional mall, Fletcher Parkway and Lake Murray Boulevard offer a variety of restaurants, big box and family owned retail stores and many recreational parks for locals and visitors to enjoy.

History

Following Spanish colonization in 1769, what is now La Mesa became part of the lands of Mission San Diego de Alcalá. Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, and in 1834 the new government secularized mission lands. Eleven years later, Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California, granted 60,000 acres of ex-Mission land to Santiago Arguello, commandante of the Presidio of San Diego. In 1868, a wealthy Robert Allison arrived in San Diego and purchased land, including 4,000 acres from Arguello. The land, which is now south La Mesa, was used to graze herds of cattle and sheep.

Water and the Railroad In 1885, the railroad sparked a land boom in San Diego, creating a need for new sources of water. In 1881, John Harbison purchased 4,000 acres from the Arguello estate, and in 1887, the San Diego Flume Company (formed to bring water from the Cuyamaca mountains) purchased Harbison's land and filed a subdivision map naming it La Mesa Colony. A major growth period began in 1894 when A.S. Crowder and Joseph Allison (one of Robert's sons) filed the La Mesa Springs subdivision map. Streets were graded, the La Mesa Store and a blacksmith shop were constructed near what is now La Mesa Boulevard. Five- and 10-acre lemon ranches dotted the landscape.

Residential Development The transformation from an agricultural area to a residential community began in 1906 when Sherman Grable purchased 100 acres in the Date Avenue area from land developer David Collier. Grable and Charles Park formed the Park-Grable Investment Company. Together they developed 200 acres in central La Mesa into 1,000 lots. With a population of 700, the community was incorporated as the City of La Mesa on February 16, 1912.

Grossmont and Mt. Helix In 1902, Ed Fletcher and William Gross purchased the Villa Caro Ranch, which included the smaller peak on the north side of Mt. Helix. Fletcher named this mountain Grossmont, in honor of Gross. In 1910, the two men developed it as a picturesque artist's colony.

The 1920s through the present La Mesa grew rapidly during the post-WWI years, and by 1923, its population reached 1,600. The first theatre was built and the business area continued its expansion east and west along La Mesa Boulevard. By 1950, La Mesa grew to 11,000 and by 1960, it grew to 30,000. Today, the population of La Mesa is nearly 60,000.





Important Phone Numbers

City of La Mesa

General City Info 619-463-6611

City of La Mesa Business License 619-667-1118

City of La Mesa Parks 619-667-1300

Police Dept. 619-667-1400

Fire Dept. 619-667-1355

County

La Mesa County Library 619-469-2151

Fictitious Business Names 619-237-0502

Sheriff 858-692-8501

Utilities

City of La Mesa Sewer 619-667-1126

SDG&E Gas/Electric Res 800-411-7343 / Bus 800-336-7343

Helix Water 619-466-0585

Edco Disposal 619-287-7555



Lake Murray

Murray Reservoir is located within the boundary of Mission Trails Regional Park, which lies between the city of San Diego and the neighboring communities of La Mesa and Santee. The lake is open for picnicking, walking, jogging, etc., seven days a week year round. It is also open for fishing and boating (when water level allows) seven days a week year round; see the "What's New" page for current schedule. Directions: From Interstate 8, exit on Lake Murray Boulevard north, turn left on Kiowa Drive.

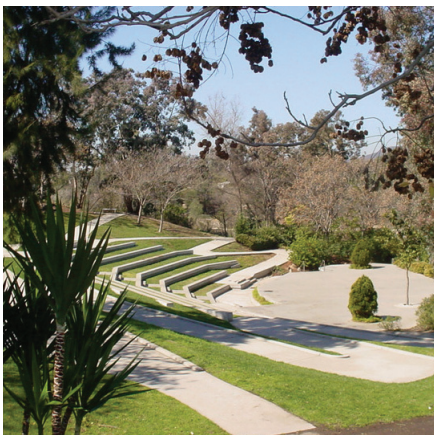
Trails: This lake is very popular for bicycling, jogging, walking, rollerblading, and picnicking. Patrons can walk on paved road only as far as the dam gate (approx. 3.2 miles) and then must return, making it a 6.4 mile round trip.

When full, the reservoir has 171.1 surface acres, a maximum water depth of 95 feet, and 3.2 shoreline miles. Water levels are monitored weekly.

There are 10 barbecues and 64 picnic tables located around the lake. Patrons can bring their own barbecues for use in designated areas only. No ground fires or glass containers are allowed. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times and at least 50 feet away from the water. Dogs are not allowed on boats (private or rental). Smoking and alcohol are prohibited at Lake Murray.

Reservoir has Florida-strain largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, black crappie and trout (stocked by the Dept. of Fish and Game). Minimum size limit for bass is 12 inches. Fish limits are five trout, five bass, five catfish and 25 crappie, with no limit on other species. Fish catch info is updated weekly.

In addition to fishing from boats, patrons can float tube or fish from shore. Use of float tubes is restricted to within 150 feet or less from shore. Float tubers must wear chest waders and have a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device readily available at all times, and have 144 square inches of international orange visible at least 12 inches above the water line. They must also





possess a horn or whistle to warn approaching craft. Any float tube that uses oars or has a motor must purchase a private boat use permit.

Murray is no longer renting boats of any kind. There is no camping allowed at Murray. The nearest camping is at Kumeyaay Lake Campground.

Mission Trails Park

Mission Trails Regional Park encompasses nearly 5,800 acres of both natural and developed recreational acres. Its rugged hills, valleys and open areas represent a San Diego prior to the landing of Cabrillo in San Diego Bay in 1542.

Centrally located and only eight miles northeast of downtown San Diego, Mission Trails Regional Park provides a quick, natural escape from the urban hustle and bustle.

Mission Trails Regional Park has been called the third Jewel in the City of San Diego Park System. Along with Balboa Park and Mission Bay, it provides San Diego residents and visitors a way to explore the cultural, historical, and recreational aspects of San Diego.

Started in 1974, Mission Trails Regional Park has become one of the largest urban parks in the United States. Originally used by the Kumeyaay, the park is the site of the Old Mission Dam, built to store water for the Mission San Diego de Alcalá.

With over 40 miles of trails, boating on Lake Murray, camping at Kumeyaay Lake, numerous informative hikes, and a state-of-the-art Visitor & Interpretive Center, Mission Trails Regional Park has something to offer everyone.



Oktoberfest

If March means we all claim a bit of Irish heritage in spirit, then October means we claim a bit of Germany as well. And our love of bratwurst, beer and polka music is reflected in the number of popular Oktoberfest celebrations throughout San Diego County. But there's no question that the granddaddy of Oktoberfests is the celebration in La Mesa's downtown village.

If you've never been to an Oktoberfest, then the La Mesa event is a great place to start: the smell of bratwurst and other German food, the sound of polka music (don't forget to participate in the Chicken Dance!), the refreshing cool beer, and lots of arts, crafts and family activities. Typically, over 200,000 people attend the weekend event, so it must be fun, right?

Patterned after the world-famous Munich Oktoberfest, La Mesa's version is essentially a giant block party in the downtown village area. The streets are closed off to vehicles, and in their place, more than 400 booths are set up, selling an assortment of high-quality arts and crafts, commercial items and food. Admission to the general festival is free.

Nearby, a large parking lot is transformed into a German-style Lowenbrau Beer Garden. Inside you will find spirited oom-pah-pah bands, costumed folk dancers performing traditional waltzes and polkas, and dance floors for adults





and kids so everybody can join the fun. If you get hungry after performing the "chicken dance," there's plenty of grilled bratwurst, pretzels, soda and beer on tap. Beer sales will be halted at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. In the evenings the Oom Pah bands step aside to some contemporary music. The entertainment lineup will be posted here as soon as the artists are confirmed.

But parking can be tricky, since area streets are closed off. But your best bet is to ride the Trolley (the new Green Line makes it even easier from the Mission Valley area - take it to Grossmont Center and transfer to the Orange Line) - it'll take you to the middle of the event, at Spring St. and La Mesa Blvd.

Mount Helix Park

Mt. Helix Park is recognized as one of San Diego County's most magnificent landmarks, where people come for spectacular views of San Diego, family picnics, romantic weddings and simply relaxing in the quiet beauty of the area. Have you ever experienced that sense of wonder when, while out enjoying the splendor of the day, you find your eye drawn to a ridge top or mountain peak? Did you think "I wonder what's up there?" or "Are we allowed to go up?" "Welcome, then, to your very own "mountain peak." Come up to the top—you're very welcome.

Many people come every day to enjoy the peace, serenity, and amazing views high atop Mt. Helix. Bring your picnic. Bring your friends and family. Mt. Helix Park can even become an unforgettable venue for some of your special events. We invite you to learn more about Mt. Helix Park. As you journey through this web site, discover how to use the Park, enjoy it, and allow it to play a role in your family's memories for years to come.

There is limited parking at the top of the hill and additional parking in the fields at the corner of Mt. Helix Drive and Vivera. Feel free to use the lots when enjoying the Park. The Park is located at 4905 Mt. Helix Drive in San Diego County between La Mesa and El Cajon.

Walk of Fame

Since the incorporation of La Mesa in 1912, the City has benefited from the influence and achievements of residents and businesses within its borders. The Mayor and City Council felt it important to recognize these individuals' important contributions to the city by adding their names to the La Mesa Walk of Fame. Each recipient is recognized through a bronze plaque on the sidewalk of La Mesa Boulevard in the downtown La Mesa Village between Spring Street and 4th Street. La Mesa is proud to honor its leaders who have made La Mesa one of the best cities in the nation.

Farmer's Market

The La Mesa Village Farmers' Market has become a tradition on Friday afternoons in the Allison Avenue parking lot east of Spring Street. Between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., rain or shine, shoppers can select from a large selection of items.





Secret Stairs

The City of La Mesa has several sets of public stairways in the Mt. Nebo/Windsor Hills area. These stairways were installed many years ago to facilitate foot traffic through the adjacent neighborhoods. La Mesa is one of the few areas in San Diego County that have a system of public stairways. Today, people delight in the discovery of the stairways and take pleasure in facing the challenge of navigating the steep ascents.

From the intersection of Windsor Drive and Canterbury Drive, you climb a total of 245 steps, interrupted by two cross streets, to reach the top of Summit Drive. On reaching the 245th step, at Summit Drive, you're on one of La Mesa's highest knolls, elevation 830 feet. Continue by following Summit Drive about 100 yards to a second stairway descending east. Follow its 184 steps to Beverly Drive. A third, shorter stairway can be found on Fairview Avenue near Alta Lane. Ascend 44 steps, cross Pasadena Avenue, and continue via the remaining 16 steps and a paved pathway to Vista Drive. It's only 60 steps total, but with the steep pathway it's a good workout nonetheless!

Education

La Mesa-Spring Valley School District

4750 Date Avenue / La Mesa, CA 91942
619 668-5700 / www.lmsvsd.k12.ca.us

Elementary Schools

La Mesa Dale

4370 Parks Ave. / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 668-5740

Lemon Avenue

8787 Lemon Ave. / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 668-5835

Maryland Avenue

5400 Maryland Ave. / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 668-5744

Murdock

4354 Conrad Dr. / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 668-5775

Murray Manor

8305 El Paso St. / La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 668-5865

Northmont

9405 Gregory St. / La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 668-5830

Rolando

6925 Tower St. / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 668-5800





Middle Schools

La Mesa

4200 Parks Ave. / La Mesa, CA 91941

(619) 668-5730

Parkway

9009 Park Plaza Dr. / La Mesa, CA 91942

(619) 668-5810

Grossmont Union High School District

1100 Murray Drive / El Cajon, CA 92020

(619) 644-8000 / www.guhsd.net

Grossmont High

1100 Murray Dr. / La Mesa, CA 91944

(619) 668-6000

Helix Charter High

7323 University Ave. / La Mesa, CA 91941

(619) 466-4194



Preschools & Private Schools

ABC Barn Children's Place: Preschool

10842 Fury Ln / La Mesa, CA 91941

(619) 670-3898

Applied Scholastics Academy San Diego; Private • PK-6

5911 Severin Drive / La Mesa, CA 91942

(610) 464-4222

Calvary Chapel La Mesa Christian: Private • K-8

7525 El Cajon Blvd / La Mesa, CA 91941

(619) 697-0165

Center for Young Imaginations: Preschool

4885 Harbinson Ave / La Mesa, CA 91941

(619) 461-5408

Charley Brown Children's Center: Preschool

5921 Jackson Dr / La Mesa, CA 91942

(619) 463-5126





Childtime Children's Center #252: Preschool
5565 Lake Park Way / La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 460-0310

Christ Lutheran School: Private · PK-8
7929 La Mesa Blvd / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 462-5211

College Center Montessori School: Private · PK-4, 6
7484 University Ave Ste 100 / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 589-4196

Egc-Dunamis Learning Center: Private · 6-12
7484 University Ave. / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 624-0345

Foothills Methodist Pre-School: Preschool
4031 Avocado Blvd / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 670-4024

Grey Rabbit Pre-School: Preschool
4542 Palm Ave / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 697-1551

La Mesa Christian School: Private · PK-12
9407 Jericho Rd / La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 463-5591

La Mesa Head Start: Preschool
7520 El Cajon Rd / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 463-1093

La Mesa United Methodist Child Center: Preschool
4690 Palm Ave / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 466-8407

Metro Christian Day Care Center: Preschool
8691 Echo Dr / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 667-3838

Mount Helix Academy: Private · K-8
5955 Severin Drive / La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 466-1434

Nha Erly Link-Vista La Mesa Head Start: Preschool
3900 Violet St / La Mesa, CA 91941

Parent Care Family Rec Center-Infant: Preschool
4990 Williams Ave / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 698-1663

Rancho San Diego KinderCare: Preschool
3655 Via Mercado / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 670-9388





Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran; Private · K-7
191 Fletcher Pkwy / La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 469-9443

St. Andrew's Episcopal Day School: Preschool
4816 Glen St / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 469-5330

St. Martin Early Childhood DC: Preschool
7714 El Cajon Blvd / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 698-8462

St. Martin of Tours Academy: Private · K-8
7708 El Cajon Blvd / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 466-3241

Taproot Montessori-La Mesa: Preschool
5173 Guava Ave / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 698-2903

Timmons Promovet Versus Academia: Private · 1-12
4414 Alta Mira Drive / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 713-2744

Warren-Walker School L / La Mesa; Private · K-3
5150 Wilson Street / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 460-3663

Warren-Walker School-La Mesa: Private · PK-3
5150 Wilson St / La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 460-3663



Population and Housing Estimates

City of La Mesa



Jan 1, 2021

Total Population	59,578
Household Population	58,921
Group Quarters Population	657
Persons Per Household	2.33

Housing and Occupancy

	Total Units	Households	Vacancy Rate
Structure Type	25,806	25,322	1.9%
Single Family - Detached	12,272	12,031	2.0%
Single Family - Attached	1,714	1,688	1.5%
Multi-Family	11,578	11,373	1.8%
Mobile Home and Other	242	230	5.0%

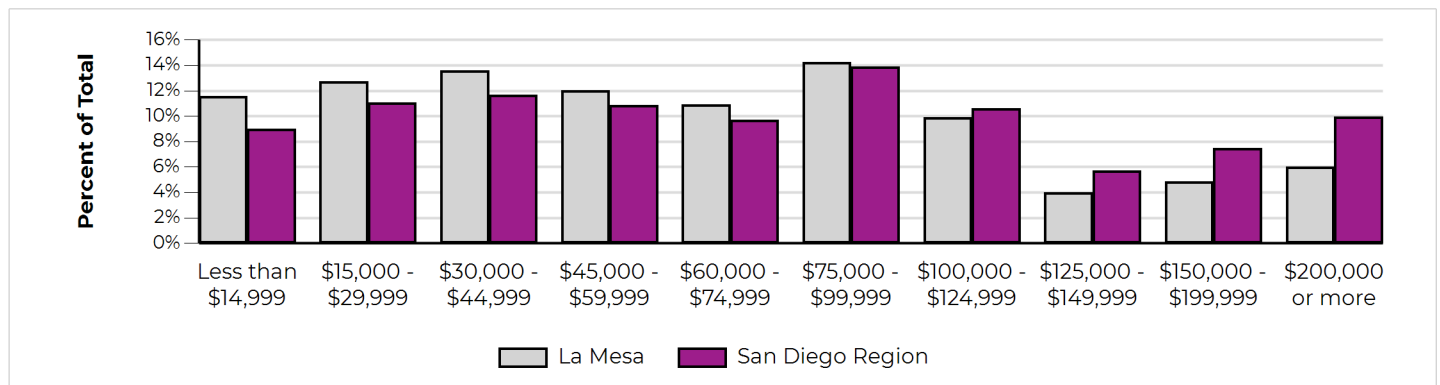
Household Income

Households by Income Category (2010 \$, adjusted for inflation)

	Less than \$15,000	\$15,000- \$29,999	\$30,000- \$44,999	\$45,000- \$59,999	\$60,000- \$74,999	\$75,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$124,999	\$125,000- \$149,999	\$150,000- \$199,999	\$200,000 or more
% of Total	12%	13%	14%	12%	11%	14%	10%	4%	5%	6%

Median Household Income

	2021
Adjusted for Inflation (2010 \$)	\$60,000
Not adjusted for inflation (current 2020 \$)	\$74,292



DATA SOURCES AND IMPORTANT ADVISORY:

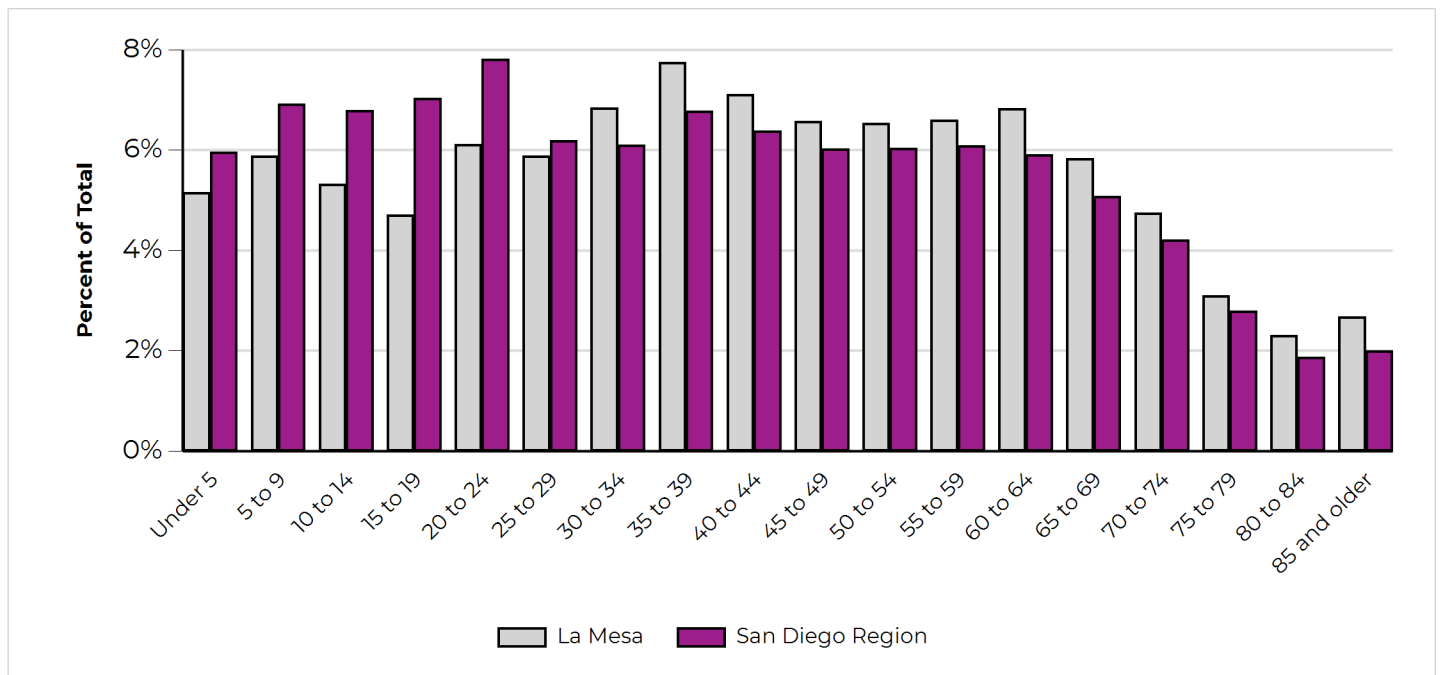
SANDAG Population and Housing Estimates are derived from a composite of data sources, including the California Department of Finance (DOF) E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020-2022; the 2021 SANDAG Land Use and Housing Units inventory; the Census American Community Survey (ACS) Detailed tables; and the vintage 2020 DOF P-3 Race/Ethnicity and Sex by Age for California and Counties.

Caution should be taken when using Population and Housing Estimates, especially for small areas of geography. Sampling error inherent with the data may materially impact the reliability of the estimates, resulting in a substantial margin of error. Additionally, conclusions should not necessarily be drawn about small differences between two or more estimates because they may not reflect statistically significant differences.

Population by Age and Sex

	Total	Male	Female	Percent Female
Total Population	59,578	29,144	30,434	51%
Under 5	3,075	1,534	1,541	50%
5 to 9	3,504	1,801	1,703	49%
10 to 14	3,171	1,580	1,591	50%
15 to 17	1,719	885	834	49%
18 and 19	1,084	520	564	52%
20 to 24	3,640	1,840	1,800	49%
25 to 29	3,508	1,816	1,692	48%
30 to 34	4,081	2,096	1,985	49%
35 to 39	4,621	2,370	2,251	49%
40 to 44	4,240	2,163	2,077	49%
45 to 49	3,918	1,993	1,925	49%
50 to 54	3,893	1,926	1,967	51%
55 to 59	3,930	1,949	1,981	50%
60 and 61	1,706	822	884	52%
62 to 64	2,366	1,117	1,249	53%
65 to 69	3,473	1,609	1,864	54%
70 to 74	2,830	1,258	1,572	56%
75 to 79	1,850	814	1,036	56%
80 to 84	1,371	536	835	61%
85 and older	1,598	515	1,083	68%
Under 18	11,469	5,800	5,669	49%
65 and older	11,122	4,732	6,390	57%
Median Age	41.6	40.3	43.0	N/A

Population by Age



Population by Race, Ethnicity and Age

	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic				
		White	Black	American Indian	Asian & Pacific Isl.	All Other
Total Population	16,092	32,498	4,170	210	4,203	2,405
Under 5	1,122	1,393	200	14	198	148
5 to 9	1,353	1,538	235	5	197	176
10 to 14	1,240	1,349	215	10	151	206
15 to 17	673	723	102	6	85	130
18 and 19	394	482	89	6	48	65
20 to 24	1,434	1,394	244	15	220	333
25 to 29	1,309	1,482	291	9	208	209
30 to 34	1,201	2,048	308	21	339	164
35 to 39	1,246	2,449	351	14	362	199
40 to 44	1,186	2,194	296	23	383	158
45 to 49	1,045	2,061	306	17	367	122
50 to 54	939	2,207	321	15	313	98
55 to 59	812	2,396	325	15	257	125
60 and 61	298	1,124	131	2	115	36
62 to 64	413	1,552	172	9	161	59
65 to 69	509	2,396	228	12	249	79
70 to 74	376	2,048	150	7	198	51
75 to 79	212	1,392	89	0	130	27
80 to 84	165	1,004	69	4	115	14
85 and older	165	1,266	48	6	107	6
Under 18	4,388	5,003	752	35	631	660
65 and older	1,427	8,106	584	29	799	177
Median Age	32.2	47.9	40.8	41.1	43.8	28.5