

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ELEMENT

This element addresses issues associated with population, income and social and health services. The existing conditions are largely derived from the aggregated census data for the tracts and neighborhoods which make up the plan area. There appear to be three distinct social and economic subareas within the community. Generally, higher residential densities, older homes, lower incomes, lower educational attainment, and higher percentages of minority population are found in the area west of State Highway 15. Conversely, lower densities, new homes, higher incomes, higher educational attainment, and lower percentages of minority population are found in the portion of the community lying east of Euclid Avenue. In almost all respects, the area between the eastern and western subareas is also between them in terms of social and economic characteristics.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

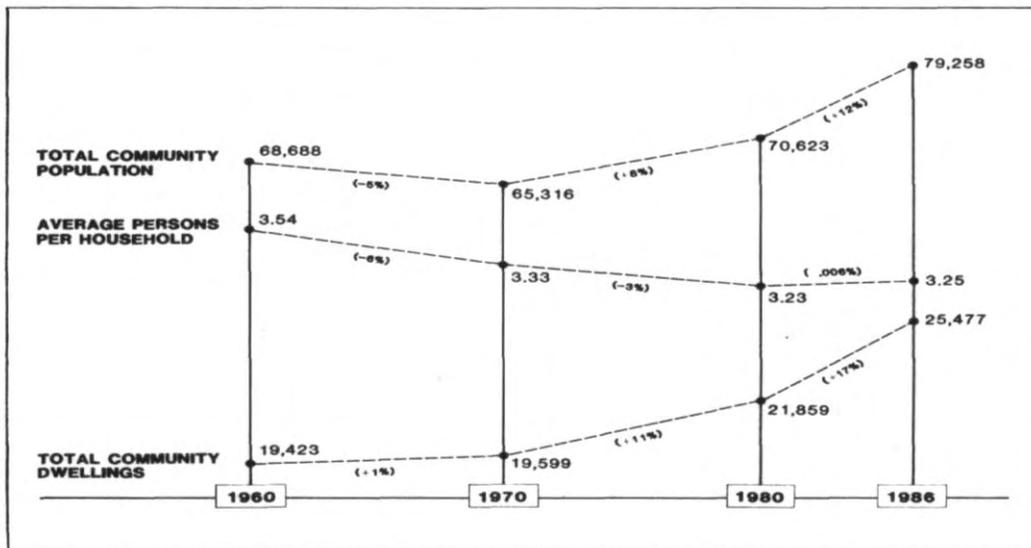
#### POPULATION:

**While the number of dwelling units in the community has increased, Southeastern has experienced only a slight change in population during the last twenty years.** During the twenty year period between the 1960 and 1980 censuses, the population of the City of San Diego has increased by over 52 percent. In that same period, the population of Southeastern increased a little under three percent. From a population of 68,688 in 1960, Southeastern has grown to a community of 70,623 as of the 1980 Census.

**According to census data, the racial mix of the community has become markedly more nonwhite and Hispanic during the last twenty years.** The white population of Southeastern has decreased by 54 percent since 1960, and 25 percent since 1970. Over the same twenty years, the black population has increased by 25 percent to comprise about 49 percent of the community population. However, it is interesting to note that the black population has also declined by about 11 percent over the last ten years. This appears to be largely a result of declining family sizes, as citywide black family sizes have decreased from 3.42 in 1970 to 2.85 in 1980. The largest gain in population was from other ethnic groups, which had less than five percent of the community's population in 1960 and only about seven percent in 1970. The remaining ethnic groups, of which the clear majority is Hispanic, now make up a little more than 28 percent of Southeastern San Diego's population. Most of the Hispanic population has settled in the southwestern portion of the community adjoining Barrio Logan.

**The community is maintaining its character as the home of larger families in spite of regional trends of declining family sizes.** According to the last three censuses, Southeastern San Diego has been characterized by a larger average family size than the regional average. Currently, the average family size in the community is 3.23 persons, which is well above the 2.53-person City average.

Table 1. Historical Population/Household Trends (1960-1980)



## INCOME

**Southeastern San Diego is a lower income community.** Southeastern San Diego is one of eight communities found by the City's General Plan to be "lower income." In 1980, median family income in Southeastern San Diego was approximately 62 percent of the median family income of the City as a whole. This "income gap" has expanded during the last twenty years, in that the 1960 census shows the median family income of the community to be about 80 percent of the citywide median.

**Unemployment within the community is well above citywide rates.** A major factor in lowering the median family income in the community is its higher than average unemployment rates. These rates, as measured for the fifteen neighborhoods which made up the community in the 1980 census, range from a low of 9.2 percent of the civilian labor force to a high of 21.1 percent. This range is between 1.3 and 2.3 times the citywide rate for the same period. The highest unemployment rates are found in the neighborhoods located in the western third of the community.

## SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

**The Southeastern San Diego San Diego Community contains an abundance of social service agencies.** A total of more than 60 such agencies exist in the community, the majority of which serve the entire County. They are funded with money provided by churches, foundations, major fund-raising organizations and government grants. These agencies include the Neighborhood House Association, Youth Services, the Boy's Club, the Girl's Club, the Urban League, Emmanuel House, St. Judes Nutrition Center, the YMCA, Harambee House and the Black Federation, and a large number of residential care facilities.

**A number of regional and neighborhood health centers are located in the community.** These include the San Diego Physicians and Surgeons Hospital and the Comprehensive Health Center

in the western portion of the community and the Southeastern San Diego Medical Center and the Community Medical Center in the eastern portion of the community. The lone acute care facility among these is Physicians and Surgeons Hospital. In 1979, this facility had 189 acute care beds; it was reduced to 111 beds by 1982, then to 78 by 1983. Employment at the hospital is also down from 344 in 1980 to 260 in 1984.

### **Social and Economic Objectives**

1. Achieve an economically and ethnically balanced community.
2. Provide housing for all family sizes, particularly larger families.
3. Increase job opportunities and resources within the community.
4. Provide adequate health care for all residents of the community, while reducing the impacts of social service facilities intended to serve the population at large.

### **Social and Economic Recommendations**

1. Provide a variety of residential density ranges in order to establish a range of housing types to accommodate various living styles and family sizes (see Land Use Element).
2. With the exception of senior citizen housing projects, residential projects should be designed to provide open play areas or tot lots, bicycle access and storage facilities and pedestrian access to schools.
3. Designate sufficient amounts of industrial and commercial land to support job generating functions (see Land Use Element).
4. Encourage lot consolidation in some of the industrially designated areas to promote job producing commercial and industrial land uses.
5. Encourage development and redevelopment of industrial and commercial sites through the active planning and marketing of the Redevelopment Agency.