Average life expectancy at birth is one of the most fundamental measures of the overall health of a community. With advances in medical care and efforts to improve public health, life expectancy has increased by as much as 30 years over the past century in the United States. Nationally, the average life expectancy for someone born in 2010 was 78.7 years, while in Orange County it was 81.9 years.

**LIFE EXPECTANCY IN OC HAS INCREASED**

The average life expectancy at birth in Orange County has systematically improved over the past 20 years. In 1990, the average life expectancy in the county was 76.9 years and it has increased five years to 81.9 years in 2010.

Thus, someone born in OC in 2010 can expect to live about 81.9 years, over three years longer than the national average. By comparison, average life expectancy in California was slightly lower at 81.4 in 2009.

**FEMALES OUTLIVE MALES**

Differences in life expectancy exist between genders with females typically outliving males at the county, state, and national levels on average by about four to five years.

Males in OC have an average life expectancy of 79.8 years, compared to 79.0 for men in California, and 76.2 years nationally.

Females in OC have a life expectancy of 83.9 years, compared to 83.7 for women in California, and 81.0 years in the United States.

Please go to [www.ochealthinfo.com/pubs/](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/pubs/) to download a copy of the full report.
LIFE EXPECTANCY VARIES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

While life expectancy has improved in OC, notable disparities persist for different racial/ethnic groups. Asian/Pacific Islanders have the highest life expectancy of 85.0 years. Hispanics have the second highest average life expectancy at 83.1 years. Non-Hispanic whites have the third highest average life expectancy at 80.9, while African-Americans had the lowest at 78.2 years.

LIFE EXPECTANCY IS RELATED TO SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Socio-economic and geographic conditions can influence OC residents’ life expectancy by as much as six years:

- Higher educational attainment is correlated with longer life expectancy.
- Life expectancy increases with median income.
- Life expectancy is shorter in cities where there is more poverty and fewer people have health insurance.

Increased access to health care and reduced premature mortality due to preventable causes of death could help reduce disparities and increase life expectancy for all residents of Orange County.

WHERE YOU LIVE PREDICTS HOW LONG

Life expectancy varies widely depending on where you live in the county, varying from a low of 79.4 years in Orange in north/central county, to a high of 84.1 years in the south in Aliso Viejo. Notably, cities with the highest life expectancies of 82.5 or more years tend to be clustered in the southern region of OC. Cities with the shortest life expectancies (i.e., ≤80.6 years) tend to be in the northern and central regions of the county.