Poverty and Inequality in California

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The gap between high and low incomes in California is twice as big as it was in 1980
Incomes are higher in coastal regions

- Bay Area: $17,000 to $212,000
- Orange County: $17,000 to $189,000
- San Diego County: $13,000 to $167,000
- Central Coast Region: $13,000 to $165,000
- Los Angeles County: $11,000 to $158,000
- Sacramento Area: $11,000 to $155,000
- Inland Empire: $13,000 to $145,000
- Northern Region: $9,000 to $133,000
- Central Valley and Sierra: $9,000 to $129,000

High income
Low income
The social safety net reduces inequality

- **Low income**
  - No social safety net: $12,000
  - With social safety net: $21,000

- **Middle income**
  - No social safety net: $63,000
  - With social safety net: $64,000

- **High income**
  - No social safety net: $169,000
  - With social safety net: $169,000

Graph showing income distribution with and without a social safety net for low, middle, and high-income groups.
Safety net programs lower poverty, but do not erase it

- Lowest: Placer County (21%)
- Middle: San Luis Obispo County (19%)
- Highest: Los Angeles County (26%)

Statewide poverty rate with safety net
County variation
Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.