Collaboratives in the Wilmington community have evolved from focusing on primarily mental health oriented services within the elementary schools to an increased variety and number of existing and active partnerships. The Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 collaborative now includes local cities, school districts, community and faith-based organizations as well as the local oil refineries. Additional partnerships were developed to engage other sectors including local law enforcement and the City of Los Angeles. Focus group participants also mentioned several programs that help to prepare younger generations of leaders, including high school programs and youth coalitions.

Community leadership in Wilmington is described as “committed,” “compassionate” and “understanding of the community.”

**Why Wilmington**

The Wilmington area has a higher percentage of births occurring to mothers who receive late or no prenatal care when compared to mothers in Los Angeles County as a whole. In addition, in 2009, adults aged 25 years or older from this area graduated high school at half the rate of Los Angeles County adults, and experienced higher unemployment rates compared to the County as a whole.

Wilmington has a number of successful nonprofits in the community, as measured by their average expenditures per capita. There are also a large number of organizations within this community who are focusing philanthropic dollars towards the zero-to-five year old population. Additionally, per zero-to-five year olds there is a large amount of park and open space and relatively high numbers of libraries and support groups in comparison to other high-need areas in the County.

**Key Areas of High-Need**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wilmington</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% births to mother receiving late or no prenatal care</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% adults (age 25+) w/o a high school diploma or equivalent</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% unemployment (civilian labor force)</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, Inc., 2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Leadership
“Local leaders don’t see their work as ‘their projects’ but see the need to ‘pass the baton’ in the community.”

Leaders in Wilmington interface with a variety of sectors through both formal and informal networks. Residents connect with leaders through informal networks, well other partners, such as community-based organizations, the local government and the faith-based community are brought together in a more formal manner. There is a history of collaboration in the community that extends back over 15 years. Programs have been created to engage local residents to “take control of their streets”, such as the Neighborhood Action Councils. Residents have also worked to address the environmental impact of the port and the oil companies by soliciting resources and funding to help mitigate the environmental impacts. Residents are described as “very generational” and having “a sense of ownership in the area.”

Infrastructure
“Families in the area typically attach themselves to one agency that they come to trust, and try to get all of their services through them.”

Wilmington is served by several strong organizations involved in the area, such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, South Bay Counseling Center, and United Way. Some of these organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club, have received increased funding, especially for capital investments. Families use the services of organizations such as the YMCA, schools and the community center to access information and to congregate. Although organizations have been referred to as “small and disparate,” they have been able to come together collaboratively to share resources. Malloy Harbor Regional Park and Harbor City College are two examples of community infrastructure located in Harbor City.

Engaging Multiple Sectors
A “successful relationship between LAUSD Early Childhood Education and another agency has made incredible contributions to the district.”

Wilmington works on a variety of issues through engagement of different sectors across the community. Community based organizations, the Los Angeles Police Department and the City have several partnerships. The Los Angeles Unified School District as well as the faith-based community were also mentioned as partners in several collaboratives. The oil refineries were the most active members of the business community and often partner with agencies to provide jobs for residents and to make investments in community programs.

Investments
“The oil companies are always looking for volunteer opportunities where they will come out and help with beautification projects.”

The Wilmington area has received First 5 LA funding as part of the Healthy Births and School Readiness Initiatives as well as Los Angeles Universal Preschool. Sharefest, a local community developer, has been investing in the community (e.g., beautifying local schools). The Port of Los Angeles has also begun a waterfront improvement project that will attract restaurants and other businesses to the area, and should be completed in 2011. The Port has also provided capital funding for the Boys and Girls Club and for the YMCA to begin building an indoor aquatic area. Construction is said to begin soon. The Casey Family Program also has a direct investment in Wilmington and has funded a neighborhood-based program around the area of foster care.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.