

## Brentwood, California

United Way map showing concentrated poverty neighborhoods in East Contra Costa County  
<http://www.uwba.org/helplink/datacentral.php>

Brentwood, located in far eastern Contra Costa County, began as a farming community in the late 1800s, and is known throughout the Bay Area for its agriculture—primarily its cherries, corn and peaches. Brentwood incorporated in 1949 and has become increasingly residential. Since 1990 it has been among the fastest growing cities in the Bay Area and California, growing from a population of 7,563 in 1990 to an estimated 50,614 in 2008. Brentwood underwent a boom and bust cycle from 2000 through 2008—new housing construction continued at a rapid pace through 2006 but came to a standstill with the onset of the subprime mortgage crisis in 2007. In May, 2008, 1/16 of all households had defaulted on their home loans and median home resale prices had decreased 33%, far more than the rest of the Bay Area. The change caused a sharp downturn in retail sales, and has curtailed services by city government, which depends on new construction permit fees as an income source. (James Temple, San Francisco Chronicle, May 11, 2008.)

Brentwood was named among the "100 Best Communities for Young People" in 2007 by America's Promise — Alliance for Youth, in recognition of its innovative youth programs. The Brentwood Union Elementary District has seven elementary schools and three middle schools. The Liberty Union High School District operates three high schools, an alternative school and a continuation school.

Key Facts about Brentwood\*Population-2008 est. (Percent population change since 2000)50,614 (+117%)Percentage living in poverty / percentage of children living in poverty (Census 2000)5.8% / 6.9%Median Household Income (2005 estimate)\$75,500Percent persons 25+ yrs. old with no high school diploma or GED (2000)17.1%Percent pers. 25+ yrs. old with a bachelors or graduate/professional degree (2000)20.9%Births per 1,000 teens age 15 -19 (2002-04) Brentwood / Contra Costa County24.8 / 23.8Unemployment Rate, April 2007 / April 20083.9% / 4.7%Owner-occupied housing units / Renter-occupied housing units (2000)80.7% / 19.3%Percent of low-income households paying > 30% / >50% of income for housing (2000)51.1% / 24.8%Estimated gap in child care slots, birth to 12 years old (2006) 113Public school enrollment (2006-07): Brentwood Union Elementary/Liberty Union High School Dist. 7,710 / 6,463 Percent of students eligible for free/reduced price meals (2006-07): Brentwood Union Elementary23.3%English Learners (EL), percent of enrollment (2006-07): Brentwood Union Elementary15.8%Percent of 3rd graders at or above 50th National Percentile Rank in reading (2006-07)49%High School Graduation Rate (2005-06) Liberty Union District overall / Independence High 91% / 62%

\*Because Brentwood's population has more the doubled since 2000, data from the US Census 2000 may not accurately reflect current realities in Brentwood. However, in instances noted above, these are the most recent data available.

City of Brentwood website