



POPULATION BRIEF

Trends in the Western U.S.

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Arizona

The population in the State of Arizona has been growing extremely rapidly in recent decades. In the three decades from 1980 to 2010, the number of residents in the state more than doubled from 2,718,215 to 6,392,017. In the decade from 2000 to 2010, the population grew by 1.3 million or 24.6 percent. In the entire United States, only the State of Nevada has had a faster growth rate than Arizona during recent decades (see Table 1).

In six of the Arizona's 15 counties, the population more than doubled in the 30 years from 1980 to 2010, and in three counties (Yavapai, Mohave and Pinal) the population more than tripled. The most extensive growth was in Pinal County where the population grew by 313.3 percent from 1980 to 2010, from 90,918 to 375,770. In Pinal County, the population more than doubled in the decade from 2000 to 2010. Pinal County was the only county in the western United States that achieved the distinction of having their population double in the past decade. The greatest numerical population increase was in Maricopa County where the population grew by 2.3 million from 1980 to 2010 and by 744,968 from 2000 to 2010. At the other extreme, Greenlee County experienced a 26 percent population decline.

The Arizona population is centered in the state's largest cities. Almost two-thirds (65.6 percent) of the residents of Arizona lived in the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale Metropolitan area (which is comprised of Maricopa and Pinal Counties) in 2010. Of the remaining residents, 23.8 percent live in the other four metropolitan counties in the state (Coconino County – Flagstaff; Pima County – Tucson; Yavapai County – Prescott; Yuma County – Yuma), while 10.6 percent live in the nine nonmetropolitan counties. Figure 2 shows that population growth has been most extensive in the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale Metropolitan Area relative to other parts of the state. From 1980 to 2010, the population in these two counties grew by 2,592,917, an increase of 162 percent. The population in other parts of the state grew rapidly as well. In the 30 years from 1980 to 2010, the population of the state's other four metropolitan counties in nearly doubled (98.8 percent increase). The nine nonmetropolitan counties also experienced a 91.9 percent population boost

from 1980 to 2010. In the decade from 2000 to 2010, the greater Phoenix area grew by 28.9 percent, the other metropolitan counties by 18.2 percent, and the nonmetropolitan counties by 14.6 percent.

Racial/Ethnic Composition of the Arizona Population

The population of the State of Arizona has become increasingly racially and ethnically diverse in recent years. In 1980, 74.5 percent of the state's residents were White; by 2010 this proportion had declined to 57.8 percent (Figure 3). Four western states had a higher proportion of minority residents than Arizona. In five Arizona counties, the population was less than 50 percent White in 2010 (Table 2). In Santa Cruz County, 16 percent of the residents are White while 82.8 percent are Hispanic. In Apache County, 20.4 percent of the residents are White, while 72.9 percent are Native American. By far the most numerous minority group in Arizona are Hispanics who comprised 29.6 percent of the total 2010 population. The Hispanic population is especially numerous in Santa Cruz, Yuma, and Greenlee Counties. Extensive Native American populations are found in Apache, Navajo and Coconino Counties.

Educational Attainment in Arizona

The data in Table 3 show that 83.9 percent of Arizona adults (age 25 and older) had at least a high school degree in 2009, while 25.7 percent of the state's adults had completed college. Three western states had a lower proportion of high school graduates than Arizona, while four states had a lower proportion of college graduates. In four Arizona counties, more than 85 percent of adults are high school graduates, while the proportion of high school graduates is only 69.6 percent in Apache County, 70.5 percent in Santa Cruz County and 70.7 percent in Yuma County. Further, 30.1 percent of Coconino County adults have completed college compared to only 9.7 percent of Apache County adults.

Educational attainment varies significantly for different segments of the population in Arizona. Differences are especially pronounced by race/ethnicity. As shown in Figure 4, over 90 percent of the state's White and Asian adults are high school graduates, compared to only

67.4 percent of Hispanics and 68.8 percent of Native Americans. Similarly, 52.9 percent of Asians and 33.3 percent of Whites have a college degree compared to 11.6 percent of Hispanics and 6.7 percent of Native Americans. Figure 5 makes it apparent that educational attainment levels are also substantially greater for metro than nonmetro residents. While 28.8 percent of metro adults have a college degree, this proportion is only 17.7 percent in nonmetro counties.

Income and Poverty in Arizona

The median household income in Arizona in 2009 was \$48,711. Four of the 13 states in the western region had median incomes lower than in Arizona. Incomes varied widely by county. Median household incomes were highest in Greenlee (\$56,855) and Maricopa (\$53,284) Counties. Meanwhile, seven Arizona counties had median household incomes below \$40,000, with the lowest in Apache County (\$28,956). Table 3 also shows that 16.5 percent of the residents of Arizona were living in poverty in 2009, which was higher than in any state in the western region except New Mexico. Greenlee County had the lowest poverty rate in the state (10.9 percent), while poverty levels were highest in Apache County (35.4 percent). Table 3 also shows that the median value of owner-occupied homes in Arizona was \$218,400 in 2009. These values ranged from \$254,700 in Coconino County to \$64,800 in Greenlee County.

Income and poverty levels also varied widely for people with different characteristics. Figure 6A show that while median household incomes were more than \$50,000 for both Whites and Asians, they were only \$35,880 for Hispanics and \$29,242 for Native Americans. Similarly, Figure 6B shows while poverty rates among White persons are 9.2 percent, more than one in every four (25.9 percent) of Native Americans lives in poverty. Figures 7A and 7B shows that incomes were higher and poverty rates lower for metro as opposed to nonmetro residents. ✘

Table 1. Population Change in Arizona Counties, 1980-2010

County					Change			
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2000 - 2010		1980 - 2010	
					Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Apache	52,108	61,591	69,423	71,518	2,095	3.0	19,410	37.2
Cochise	85,686	97,624	117,755	131,346	13,591	11.5	45,660	53.3
Coconino	75,008	96,591	116,320	134,421	18,101	15.6	59,413	79.2
Gila	37,080	40,216	51,335	53,597	2,262	4.4	16,517	44.5
Graham	22,862	26,554	33,489	37,220	3,731	11.1	14,358	62.8
Greenlee	11,406	8,008	8,547	8,437	-110	-1.3	-2,969	-26.0
La Paz	-	13,844	19,715	20,489	774	3.9	20,489	-
Maricopa	1,509,052	2,122,101	3,072,149	3,817,117	744,968	24.2	2,308,065	152.9
Mohave	55,865	93,497	155,032	200,186	45,154	29.1	144,321	258.3
Navajo	67,629	77,658	97,470	107,449	9,979	10.2	39,820	58.9
Pima	531,443	666,880	843,746	980,263	136,517	16.2	448,820	84.5
Pinal	90,918	116,379	179,727	375,770	196,043	109.1	284,852	313.3
Santa Cruz	20,459	29,676	38,381	47,420	9,039	23.6	26,961	131.8
Yavapai	68,145	107,714	167,517	211,033	43,516	26.0	142,888	209.7
Yuma	90,554	106,895	160,026	195,751	35,725	22.3	105,197	116.2
State Total	2,718,215	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,392,017	#####	24.6	3,673,802	135.2

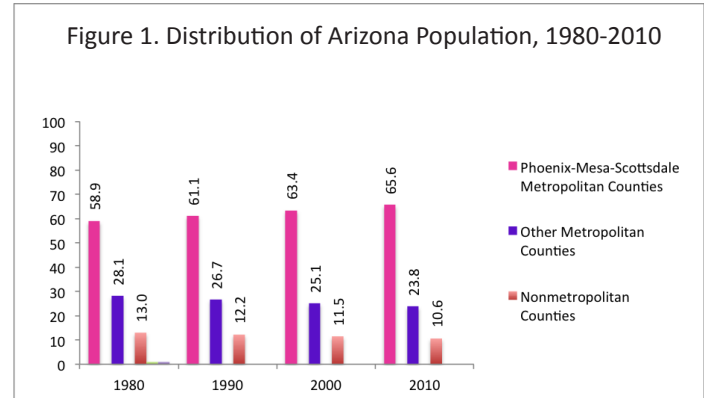


Table 2. Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity for Arizona Counties, 2010

County	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American
Apache	20.4	0.2	5.8	0.3	72.9
Cochise	58.5	4.2	32.4	1.9	1.2
Coconino	55.2	1.2	13.5	1.4	27.3
Gila	65.9	0.4	17.9	0.5	14.8
Graham	52.3	1.8	30.4	0.5	14.4
Greenlee	48.1	1.1	47.9	0.5	2.3
La Paz	62.7	0.6	23.5	0.5	12.8
Maricopa	58.7	5.0	29.6	3.5	2.1
Mohave	79.6	0.9	14.8	1.1	2.2
Navajo	43.9	0.9	10.8	0.5	43.4
Pima	55.3	3.5	34.6	2.6	3.3
Pinal	58.7	4.6	28.5	1.7	5.6
Santa Cruz	16.0	0.4	82.8	0.5	0.7
Yavapai	82.0	0.6	13.6	0.8	1.7
Yuma	35.3	2.0	59.7	1.2	1.6
State Total	57.8	4.1	29.6	2.8	4.6

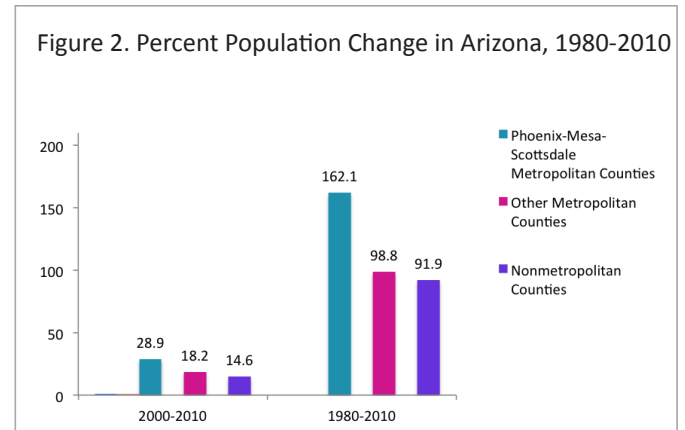
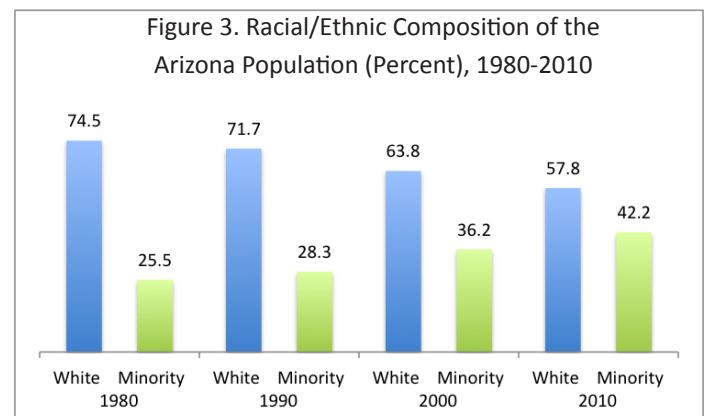
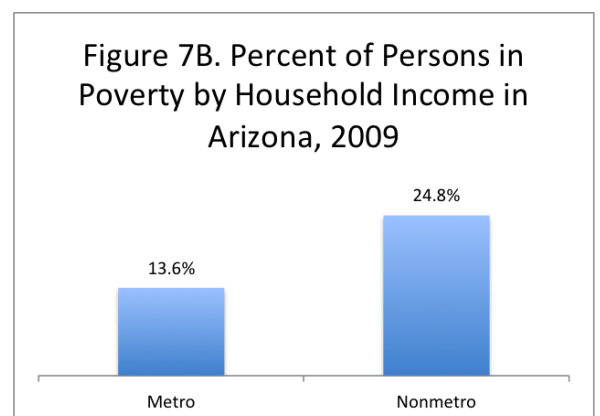
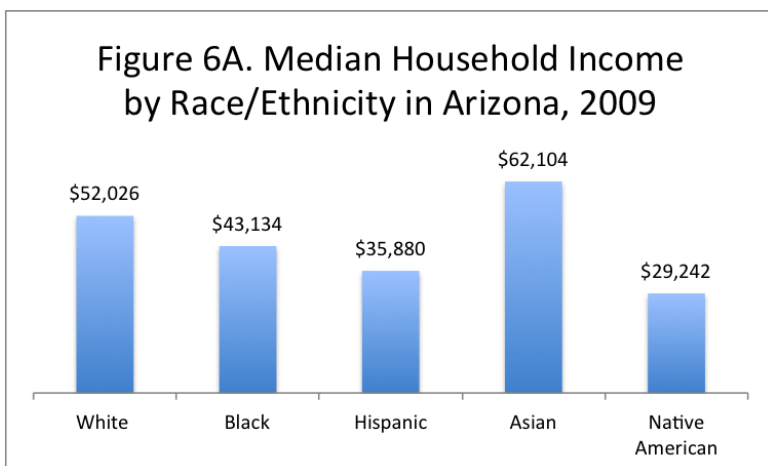
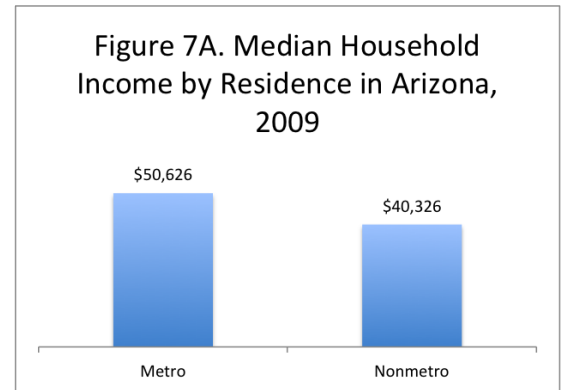
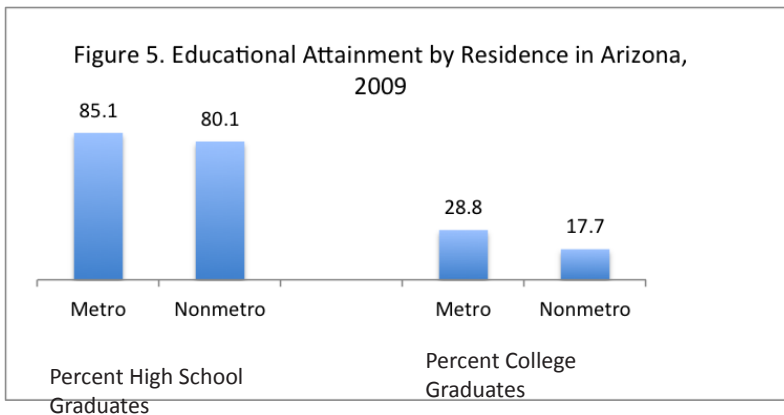
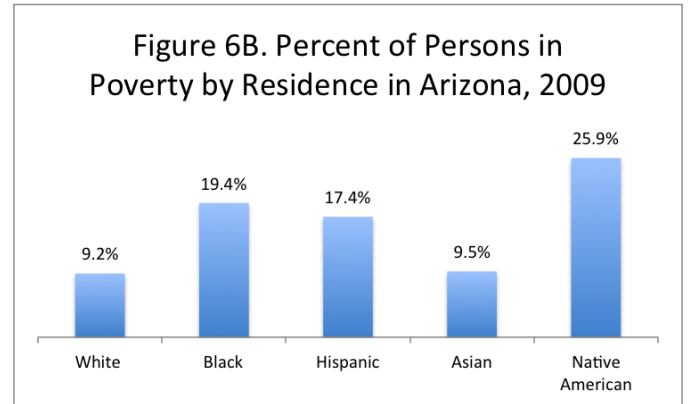
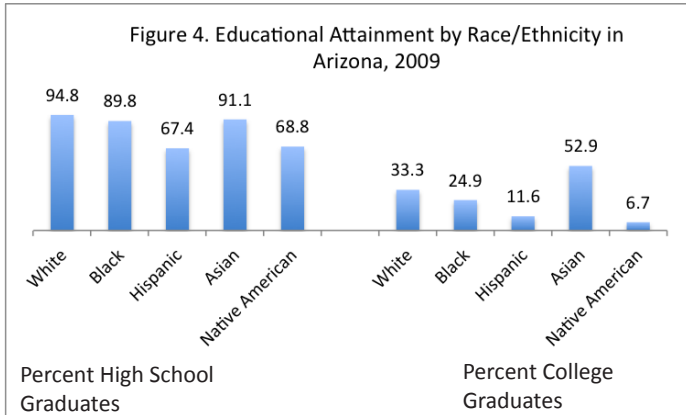


Table 3. Economic Conditions and Education for Arizona Counties, 2009

County	Median Household Income	Percent of Persons in Poverty	Median Value of Owner-Occupied Homes	Percent of Persons 25+ with High School Degree	Percent of Persons 25+ with College Degree
Apache	\$28,956	35.4	\$83,400	69.6	9.7
Cochise	\$43,786	16.2	\$148,900	83.6	21.6
Coconino	\$49,777	18.0	\$254,700	86.1	30.1
Gila	\$36,764	20.7	\$151,200	83.5	14.5
Graham	\$40,609	21.5	\$109,300	81.5	13.5
Greenlee	\$56,855	10.9	\$64,800	87.7	13.0
La Paz	\$30,939	25.4	\$97,700	74.7	9.9
Maricopa	\$53,284	15.1	\$243,300	84.3	28.0
Mohave	\$39,863	17.8	\$179,300	82.4	12.1
Navajo	\$34,855	27.4	\$123,700	78.7	13.3
Pima	\$43,243	18.9	\$196,900	86.4	29.0
Pinal	\$49,088	13.7	\$169,700	83.3	18.0
Santa Cruz	\$35,545	25.0	\$146,500	70.5	16.3
Yavapai	\$40,837	14.2	\$232,700	88.7	23.9
Yuma	\$38,251	19.2	\$132,300	70.7	13.0
State Total	\$48,711	16.5	\$218,400	83.9	25.7







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About the WRDC

The Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is one of four regional centers competitively funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture to strengthen the capacity of local citizens to guide the future of their rural communities. Each of the four Centers link the research and extension capacity of regional land-grant universities with local decision-makers to enhance rural prosperity, create thriving communities, and support a sustainable and competitive agricultural system.

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