



POPULATION BRIEF

Trends in the Western U.S.

The State of California

By Don E. Albrecht

Overview

Rural development is the process by which the lives of individuals and families living in rural areas are improved. Effective rural development necessarily involves several components that include 1) good jobs that provide individuals and families the opportunity to earn and maintain a livable income; 2) a chance to complete an education and have lifelong opportunities to learn and improve one's circumstances; 3) and the opportunity to live a reasonably long and healthy life. Communities that effectively meet these conditions are likely to retain existing residents and attract new residents and thus experience population growth.

Additionally, effective rural development means that opportunities to obtain high-quality employment, complete an education, and live a long and healthy life must be available to all residents of the community, rather than only to certain segments of the population.

The first step in advancing an effective rural development program is to carefully assess baseline conditions. In response, the Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is providing a set of population briefs that provide some of this baseline information. Each population brief will assess one of the components of rural development listed above. This brief examines population changes in California. Each brief will explore overall conditions, and then examine the extent to which opportunities are available to all segments of the population by making comparisons on race/ethnicity, gender, family structure or geography. The geographic component will provide comparisons between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas and will compare

the west with the remainder of the United States. Further, population briefs for each of the 13 states comprising the western region are developed that provide more detailed information on rural development issues. Data for these population briefs are obtained from the United States Census.

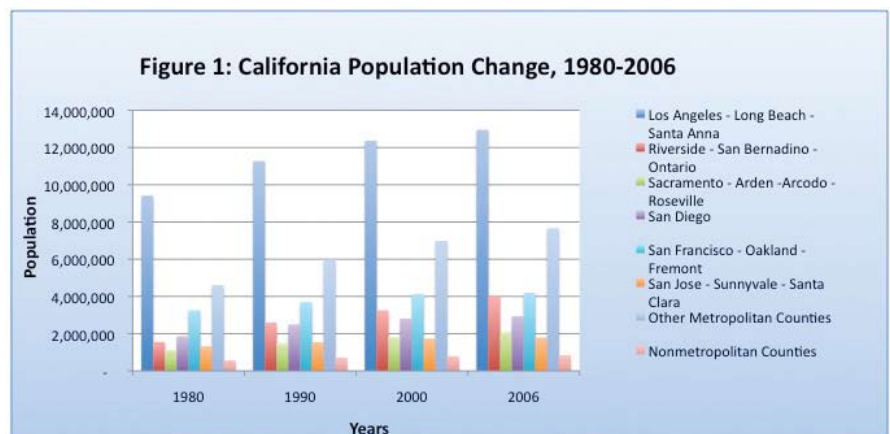
Rapid Growth in California

In 2006, the California population was 36,457,549, which far surpasses the population of any other state in the U.S. The nation's second most populous state, Texas, had a population of 23,507,783. More than one-half of the people residing in the 13 states that comprise the Western Region live in California. Not only is the California population very large, but it is also growing rapidly. Between 1980 and 2006, the California population increased by 12.8 million people, an increase of 54 percent. The increase in the number of inhabitants from 1980 to 2006 was far greater in California than in any other state in the U.S. The percentage increase in California made it the 11th fastest growing state in the nation.

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Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan

There are 26 Census defined metropolitan areas and 36 metropolitan counties in California. There are also 21 nonmetropolitan counties. Figure 1 presents population change data for the six metropolitan areas with a population of one million or more in 2006, the other 20 metropolitan areas combined, and the nonmetropolitan counties combined. The very large population concentration in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana Metropolitan Area is apparent from this figure. In 2006, nearly 13 million people lived in the two counties (Los Angeles and Orange) comprising this metropolitan area, an increase of 3.5 million or 38 percent from 1980. In 2006, there were more than 9.9 million people living in Los Angeles County alone. The other California



metropolitan areas with a population of more than one million, in order of size are: San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (4.2 million); Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (4.0 million); San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos (2.9 million); Sacramento-Arden-Arcade-Roseville (2.1 million) and San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara (1.8 million). Of these large metropolitan areas, population growth was most extensive in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Area where the population increased by 158 percent between 1980 and 2006, from 1.6 million to 4.0 million. There are 12 metropolitan areas in the Western Region with more than one million inhabitants;

Table 1: Population change for Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties in California, 1980 - 2006						
	1980	1990	2000	2006	Change 1980 - 2006	
					Total	Percent
State						
Total	23,667,902	29,760,021	33,871,648	36,457,549	12,789,647	54.0
Metropolitan Areas						
Total	23,098,490	29,046,187	33,075,450	35,614,234	12,515,744	54.2
Bakersfield						
Kern County	403,089	543,477	661,645	780,117	377,028	93.4
Chico						
Butte County	143,851	182,120	203,171	215,881	72,030	50.1
El Centro						
Imperial County	92,110	109,303	142,361	160,301	68,191	74.0
Fresno						
Fresno County	514,621	667,490	799,407	891,756	377,135	73.3
Hanford - Corcoran						
Kings County	73,738	101,469	129,461	146,153	72,415	98.2
Los Angeles - Long Beach - Santa Ana						
Total	9,410,212	11,273,720	12,365,627	12,950,129	3,539,917	37.6
Los Angeles County	7,477,503	8,863,164	9,519,338	9,948,081	2,470,578	33.0
Orange County	1,932,709	2,410,556	2,846,289	3,002,048	1,069,339	55.3
Madero						
Madero County	63,116	88,090	123,109	146,345	83,229	131.9
Merced						
Merced County	134,560	178,403	210,554	245,658	111,098	82.6
Modesto						
Stanislaus County	265,900	370,522	446,997	512,138	246,238	92.6
Napa						
Napa	99,199	110,765	124,279	133,522	34,323	34.6
Oxnard - Thousand Oaks - Ventura						
Ventura County	529,174	669,016	753,197	799,720	270,546	51.1
Redding						
Shasta County	115,715	147,036	163,256	179,951	64,236	55.5
Riverside - San Bernardino - Ontario						
Total	1,558,182	2,588,793	3,254,821	4,026,135	2,467,953	158.4
Riverside County	663,166	1,170,413	1,545,387	2,026,803	1,363,637	205.6
San Bernardino County	895,016	1,418,380	1,709,434	1,999,332	1,104,316	123.4
Sacramento - Arden - Arcade - Roseville						
Total	1,099,814	1,481,102	1,796,857	2,067,117	967,303	88.0
El Dorado County	85,812	125,995	156,299	178,066	92,254	107.5
Placer County	117,247	172,796	248,399	326,242	208,995	178.3
Sacramento County	783,381	1,041,219	1,223,499	1,374,724	591,343	75.5
Yolo County	113,374	141,092	168,660	188,085	74,711	65.9
Salinas						
Monterey County	290,444	355,660	401,762	410,206	119,762	41.2
San Diego - Carlsbad - San Marcos						
San Diego County	1,861,846	2,498,016	2,813,833	2,941,454	1,079,608	58.0
San Francisco - Oakland - Fremont						
Total	3,250,630	3,686,592	4,123,740	4,180,027	929,397	28.6
Alameda County	1,105,379	1,279,182	1,443,741	1,457,426	352,047	31.8
Contra Costa County	656,380	803,732	948,816	1,024,319	367,939	56.1
Marin County	222,568	230,096	247,289	248,742	26,174	11.4
San Francisco County	687,974	723,959	776,733	744,041	56,067	8.1
San Mateo County	587,329	649,623	707,161	705,499	118,170	20.1
San Jose - Sunnyvale - Santa Clara						
Total	1,320,076	1,534,274	1,735,819	1,787,123	467,047	35.4
San Benito County	25,005	36,697	53,234	55,842	30,837	123.3
Santa Clara County	1,295,071	1,497,577	1,682,585	1,731,281	436,210	33.7
San Luis Obispo - Pasa Robles						
San Luis Obispo County	155,435	217,162	246,681	257,005	101,570	65.3
Santa Barbara - Santa Maria -Goleta						
Santa Barbara County	298,694	369,608	399,347	400,335	101,641	34.0
Santa Cruz - Watsonville						
Santa Cruz County	188,141	229,734	255,602	249,705	61,564	32.7
Santa Rosa - Petaluma						
Sonoma County	299,681	388,222	458,614	466,891	167,210	55.8
Stockton						
San Joaquin County	347,342	480,628	563,598	673,170	325,828	93.8
Vallejo - Fairfield						
Solano County	235,203	340,421	395,542	411,680	176,477	75.0
Visalia - Porterville						
Tulone County	245,738	311,921	368,021	419,909	174,171	70.9
Yuba City						
Total	101,979	122,643	139,149	161,806	59,827	58.7
Sutter County	52,246	64,415	78,930	91,410	39,164	75.0
Yuba County	49,733	58,228	60,219	70,396	20,663	41.5
Nonmetropolitan Counties						
Total	569,412	713,834	796,198	843,315	273,903	48.1
Alpine County	1,097	1,113	1,208	1,180	83	7.6
Amador County	19,314	30,039	35,100	38,941	19,627	101.3
Calaveras County	20,710	31,998	40,554	47,722	27,012	130.4
Colusa County	12,791	16,275	18,804	21,272	8,481	66.3
Del Norte County	18,217	23,460	27,507	28,893	10,676	58.6
Glenn County	21,350	24,798	26,453	28,061	6,711	31.4
Humboldt County	108,514	119,118	126,518	128,330	19,816	18.3
Inyo County	17,895	18,281	17,945	17,980	85	0.0
Lake County	36,366	50,631	58,309	65,933	29,567	81.3
Lassen County	21,661	27,598	33,828	34,715	13,054	60.3
Mariposa County	11,108	14,302	17,130	18,401	7,293	65.7
Mendocino County	66,738	80,345	86,265	88,109	21,371	32.0
Modoc County	8,610	9,678	9,449	9,597	987	11.5
Mono County	8,577	9,956	12,853	12,754	4,177	48.7
Nevada County	51,645	78,510	92,033	98,764	47,110	91.2
Plumas County	17,340	19,739	20,824	21,263	3,923	22.6
Sierra County	3,073	3,318	3,555	3,455	382	12.4
Siskiyou County	39,732	43,531	44,301	45,091	5,359	13.5
Tehama County	38,888	49,625	56,039	61,686	22,798	58.6
Trinity County	11,858	13,063	13,022	14,313	2,455	20.7
Tuolumne County	33,928	48,456	54,501	56,855	22,927	67.6

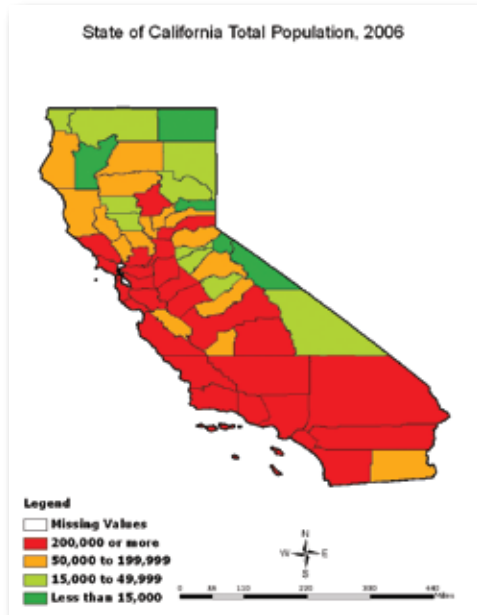


Figure 2



Figure 3

six of these 12 metropolitan areas are located in California. The other six are Phoenix, AZ; Seattle, WA; Denver, CO; Portland, OR; Salt Lake City, UT; and Las Vegas, NV.

Between 1980 and 2006, other metropolitan areas in the state also experienced growth (Table 1) and during this time period the population more than doubled in Madero (Madero County), and nearly doubled in Hansford-Corcoran (Kings County), Modesto (Stanislaus County) and Stockton (San Joaquin County). In the 21 nonmetropolitan counties combined, the population increased from 569,412 in 1980 to 843,315 in 2006, an increase of 48.1 percent. Every nonmetropolitan county experienced population growth, and two (Amador and Calaveras) had population

increases of more than 100 percent. Figure 2 indicates that 26 California counties have populations that exceed 200,000 and these counties tend to be located along the coast and in the Central Valley. Rapid population growth was widespread throughout the state and there were no counties with declining populations (Figure 3).

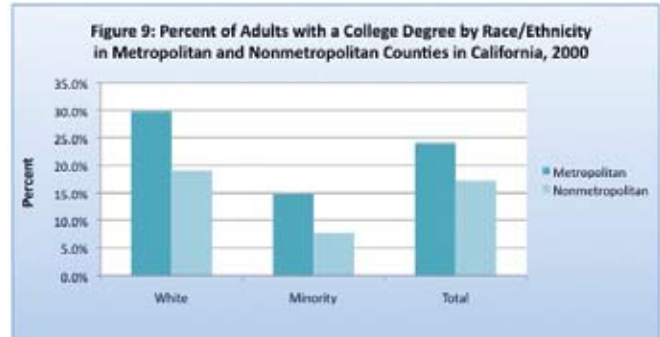
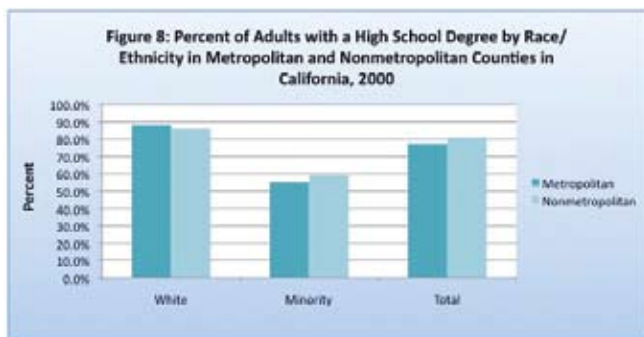
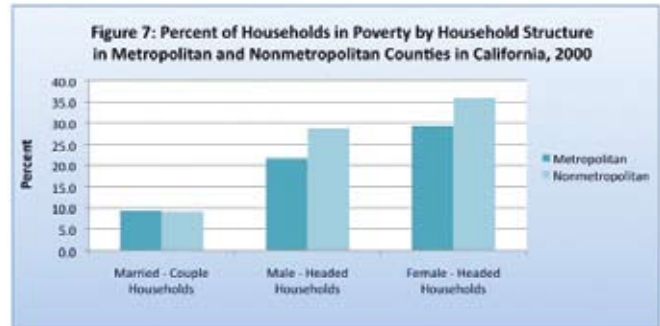
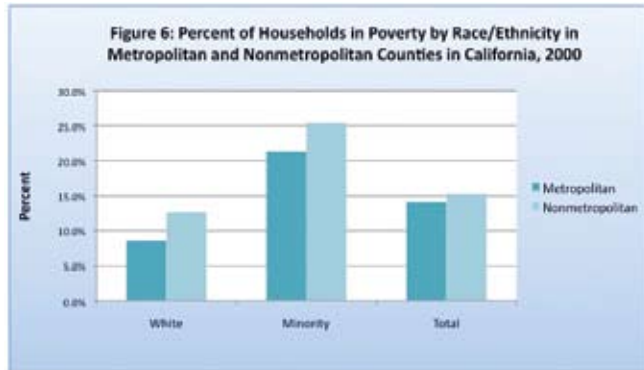
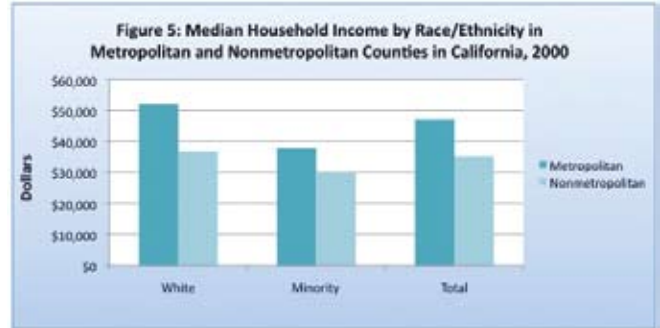
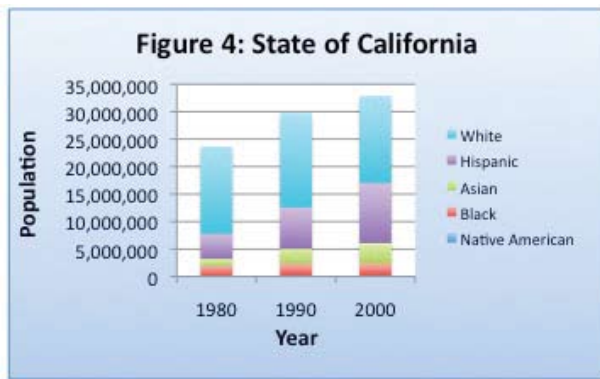
Minority Population Growth

Not only did the population of California grow rapidly from 1980 to 2000, it also became much more diverse. Between 1980 and 2000 the number of White residents of California actually declined by 0.5 percent from 15,850,775 million to 15,771,163 million. Meanwhile, the number of Hispanic residents increased by over 6.4 million, from 4.5 million to nearly 11 million,

an increase of 141.5 percent. There was a dramatic increase in the Asian population as well. Between 1980 and 2000, the Asian population increased from 1.3 million to 3.7 million, an increase of 185.3 percent. In 1980, the California population was two-thirds White; by 2000, the California population was less than one-half White. By 2000, the California population was 48.1 percent White, 33.4 percent Hispanic and 11.4 percent Asian (Figure 4).

Income, Poverty and Education

In many respects, California is a land of 'haves' and 'have not's'. The median household income in the average California County was \$42,896 in 2000. This was second only to Alaska among western states. The poverty rate of 14.5 percent,



however, is relatively high and is lower than only Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, and New Mexico. With respect to education, a high proportion of California adults (21.6 percent) have a college education. This proportion is second only to Colorado among western states. However, only 78.7 percent of adults have a high school education, which places California behind Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming among western states. Median household incomes are much higher in metropolitan counties than in nonmetropolitan counties, and household incomes are much higher for Whites than minorities (Figure 5). Similarly, poverty rates are relatively low among White households living in metropolitan counties, but are much higher in nonmetropolitan counties and for minority households (Figure 6). As shown in Figure 7, less than ten percent of married-couple households are living poverty, while 29.4 percent of female-headed households in metropolitan counties and 35.9 percent of female-headed households in nonmetropolitan counties are in poverty.

Educational attainment levels for White persons in metropolitan counties are much higher than for minority persons and those living in nonmetropolitan counties (Figures 8 and 9). Thus, while over 85 percent of White persons have a high school degree, less than 60 percent of minority persons are high school graduates (Figure 8). Similarly, about 30 percent of White residents of metropolitan counties are college graduates, compared to 19 percent of White residents of nonmetropolitan counties, 15 percent of minority residents of metropolitan counties and 8 percent of minority residents of nonmetropolitan counties.

Health

California has a relatively high birth rate and only three states (Utah, Idaho and New Hampshire) have lower proportions of babies born to unmarried women. At 79.7 years, life expectancy in California is higher than the national average and the infant mortality rate (5.25) is one of the lowest in the country. About 15 percent of California adults use tobacco; only Utah has a lower percentage of people who smoke.

Conclusion

Providing services to a large and growing population is a tremendous challenge to California policy makers and extension and development specialists. These challenges are made even more complex by rapidly growing minority populations who are often relatively disadvantaged. ●

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About the Briefs

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The Population Briefs provide information on the population trends in the western U.S. They are intended to provide both basic information and, when combined with the data tables on the WRDC website, more detailed information for further analysis and application.

The series of Population Briefs will include population trends in the western U.S. related to minorities, natural amenities, education, employment/labor, health, fuel usage, and more. Each topic will include a regional overview and then one brief focused on each of the 13 states in the WRDC's region. The briefs will also include data, where available, related to the population trends in the four western U.S. Territories.

The Population Briefs are available in PDF format on the WRDC website (<http://wrdc.usu.edu>) under 'Publications' and in paper format through the WRDC offices via email to wrdc@usu.edu.

Data

Data for this series is obtained from the U.S. Census of Population for 1980, 1990, 2000, and, where available, 2006. Data is reported for all persons for whom race/ethnicity was reported.



The Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is one of four regional centers funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Services (CSREES) 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 address a wide range of rural development issues.

The WRDC also receives substantial support from several Utah State University units including Cooperative Extension, the Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Natural Resources.

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To access the state briefs visit 'Rural Resources' on the WRDC website at <http://wrdc.usu.edu>.

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