

System  
Indicators

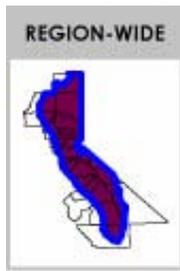
# Demographics and Economy



## Demographics of Residents (2010)

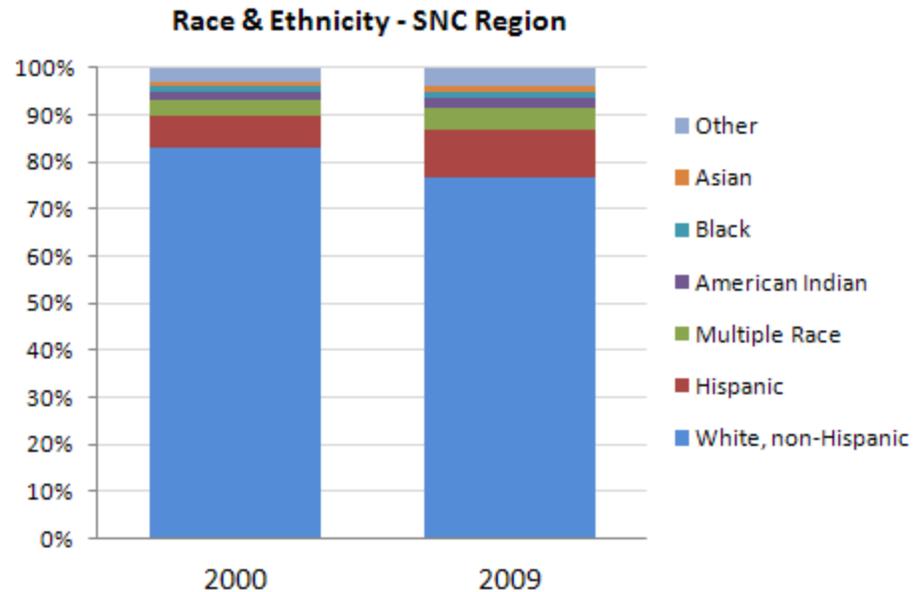
September 2011

## Demographics of Residents



As with Components of Population Change, changes in the demographics of residents may call for changes in services and may have economic impacts, e.g., educational attainment of residents is an indicator of the opportunity for economic vitality.

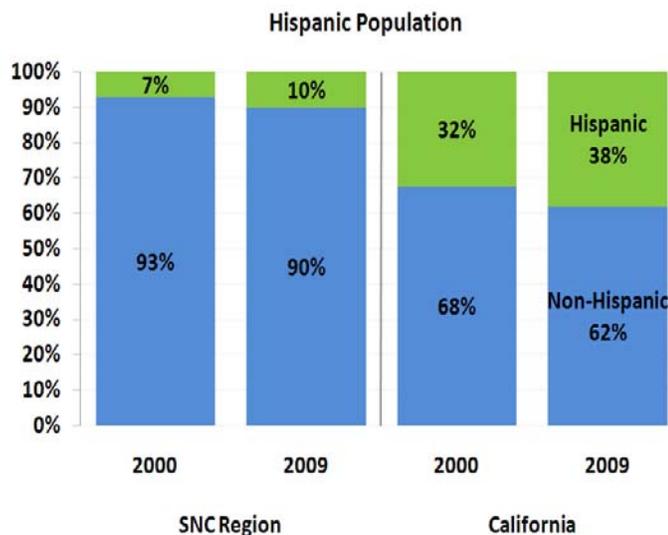
The Sierra population is becoming more diverse, although at a slower rate than California as a whole—the white, non-Hispanic population fell from 83 to 77 percent of the total population between 2000 and 2009.



Geographic Definition: Census Block Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing. ESRI forecasts for 2009

The Hispanic population grew from 7 percent to 10 percent of the population of the SNC Region. However, there is considerable variation between counties. Most of the counties of the Central, North-Central, and North Subregions are about 8 percent Hispanic. Mono County and the Sierra portions of Tulare, and Fresno Counties have higher Hispanic populations: 23 percent, 17 percent, and 14 percent respectively. Amador County and the portions of Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties within the Sierra Nevada Region have the fastest growing Hispanic populations.

American Indians account for 2.1 percent of the Sierra Nevada population. A few counties have much higher native populations: Alpine County is 19 percent American Indian, and Inyo is 10



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percent. The portion of the population made up of other minority groups is small: 1.2 percent African-American and 1.5 percent Asian.

It should be noted that Lassen County is a demographic anomaly in the Region. Census Bureau data indicates that the minority populations are much higher than one might expect for that area: 18 percent Hispanic and 8 percent African-American. The presumption that this is due to the large prison population and workforce in that county is supported by another statistic from the Census Bureau – males made up 64 percent of Lassen’s population in 2009.

Two racial classifications that increased in size substantially between 2000 and 2009 were people who classified themselves as ‘multiple race,’ which grew from 3 percent to 4.5 percent; and ‘other,’ which grew from 2.5 percent to 3.7 percent of the total regional population. There has been a general trend in more recent years of people who previously self-classified as a single race to change their status to ‘multiple’ or ‘other’ in later surveys. This should be kept in mind when considering whether changes in demographic data represent actual changes in the character of residents or if part of the explanation for any apparent demographic shifts reflects changes in how people describe themselves.

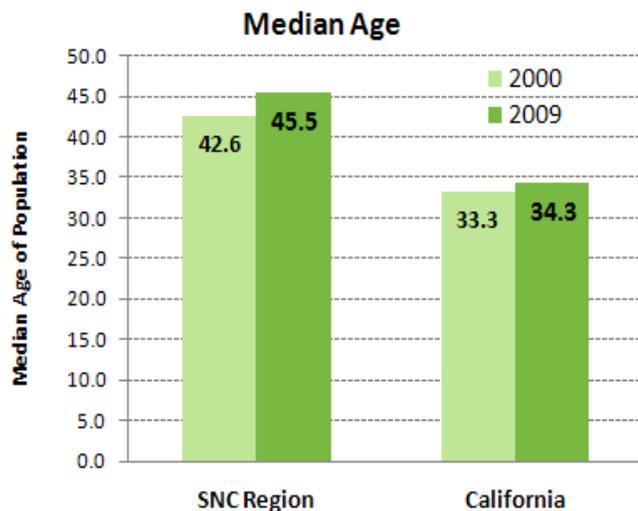
The most significant demographic distinction between the SNC Region and California as a whole is in the Hispanic make up. While the Hispanic population of the Sierra Nevada expanded three percentage points to comprise 10 percent of the population, California’s Hispanic population grew from 32 to 38 percent of the State’s population.

The SNC Region is older and aging more rapidly than the population of California overall. The median age in the SNC Region increased from 42.6 to 45.5 between 2000 and 2009. In the same time period, California’s median age increased by only one percentage point to 34.3 in 2009, more than 11 years younger than the median age for the SNC Region.

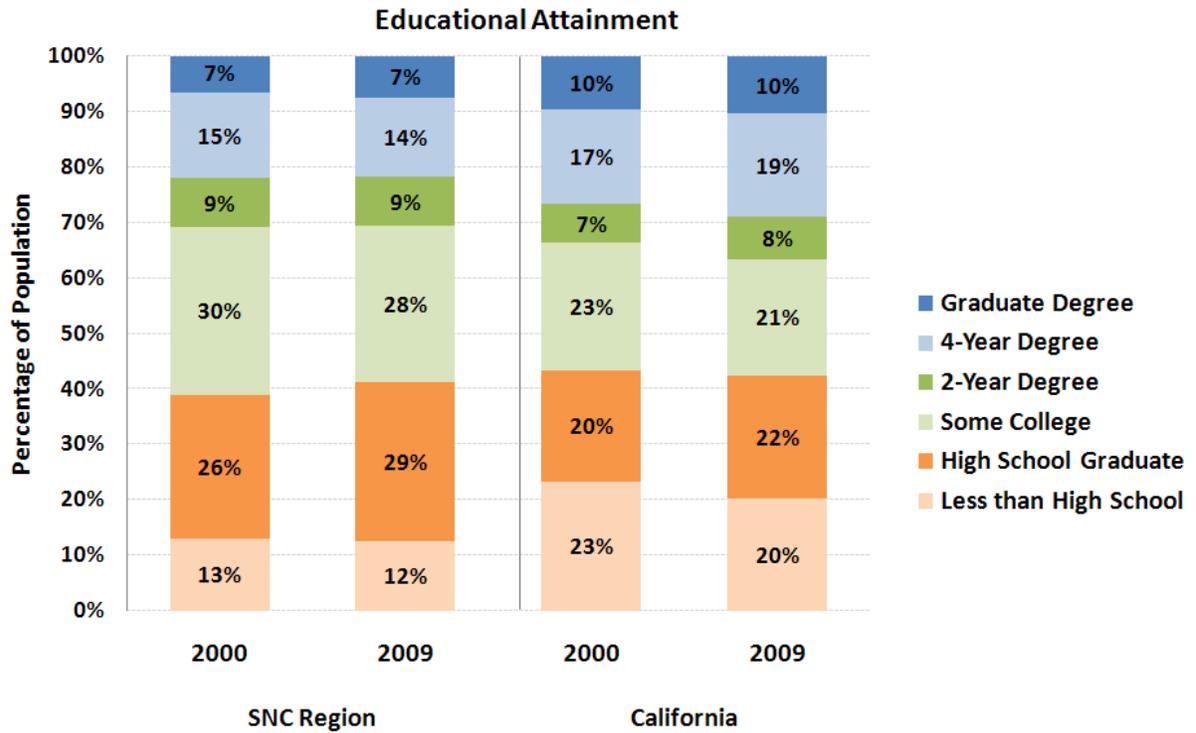
The Sierra Nevada is more successful at getting kids to graduate from high school than is the State as a whole. However, the population of the Region has a lower proportion of

college graduates than the state average. For SNC Region:

- In 2009, only 12% of the population had not graduated from high school; overall, 20% of Californians lacked a high school diploma. Both the state and the Region showed improvement in graduation rates.
- A particularly high proportion of Sierra Nevada residents (28%) had attended some college without completing any kind of degree, compared to 21% of all Californians.



- In 2009, 30% of Sierra Nevada residents possessed a 2-year degree or higher; while 37% of all Californians had some sort of college degree. The gap was even more evident at the higher levels, where only 21% of Sierra Nevada residents had obtained a 4-year or graduate degree compared to 29% for the state.



Geographic Definition: Census Block  
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing. ESRI forecasts for 2009.