

### 3.3 Socioeconomics and Community Impacts

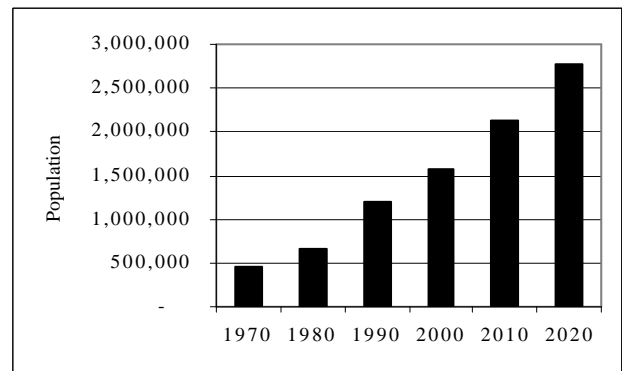
This description of the affected environment is based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, and from state and county sources. Some county and tract level data from the 2000 census are available, primarily population and race; other data are from earlier years, as identified. This section describes demographic characteristics of all of Riverside County, or when detailed data is available, the smaller "study area" illustrated previously in Figure 2.1.

The U.S. Census Bureau 2000 data are being released periodically by topic (total population, age, ethnicity, income, etc.) and by geographic extent (by state, county, census tract, or block group, etc.). As a result of the timing of when portions of the 2000 data have been released, a mix of both 1990 and 2000 census data is used herein. Several sources of data are used, including the State of California Department of Finance. The state information was more complete and more current than the federal data with regard to certain topics, such as historic and future local demographic trends. In all cases, efforts have been made to provide the most accurate and most current information available.

#### 3.3.1 Population and Demographics

##### 3.3.1.1 Population

The California Department of Finance provides both historic demographic information and demographic forecasts, indicating existing and future trends in Riverside County. The California Department of Finance reports that Riverside County's population totaled 461,600 in 1970, as shown in the graph at right. In the 30 years that followed, the population more than tripled, to 1,571,000.

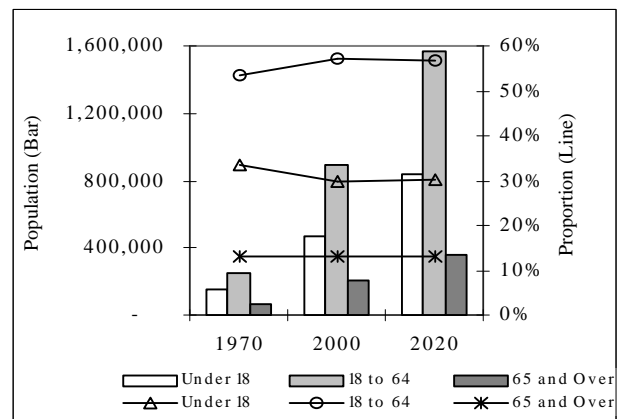


Source: California Department of Finance, [www.dof.ca.gov/newdr/riverside.txt](http://www.dof.ca.gov/newdr/riverside.txt)

The state agency forecasts this growth to continue for the next two decades, and that population in the County will rise 75 percent to 2,773,000 by 2020.

##### 3.3.1.2 Age

The California Department of Finance forecast for age categories reports that the number of residents in Riverside County aged 65 years or older



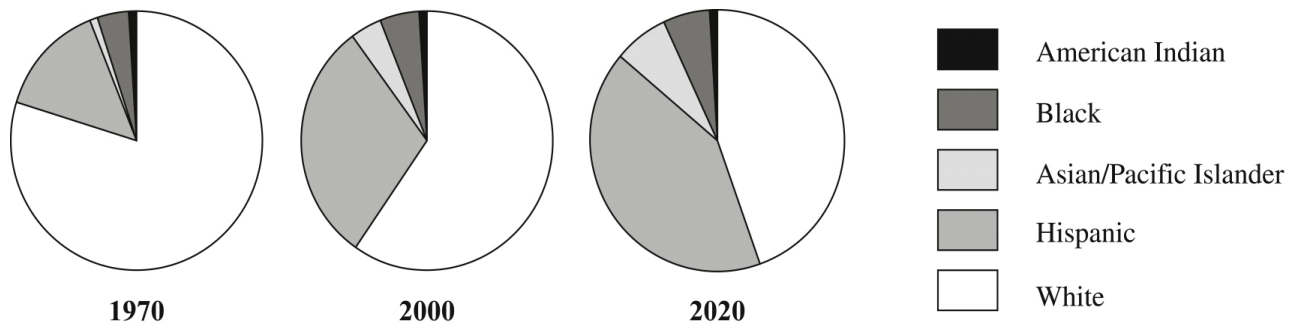
Source: State of California Department of Finance, [www.dof.ca.gov/newdr/riverside.txt](http://www.dof.ca.gov/newdr/riverside.txt)

rose to 208,000 in 2000, an increase of 250 percent since 1970; their numbers are forecast to rise another 75 percent in the next 20 years. The number of residents under age 18 reached 467,600 in 2000, triple the number in 1970. The state forecasts an additional increase of 80 percent in this age bracket by the year 2020.

The agency forecasts little significant change in age-bracket proportions for Riverside County in the selected years shown (by the lines) in the graph at right. Between 1970 and 2000 the proportion of children under age 18 dropped from 33 percent to 30 percent, while seniors 65 or older remained unchanged at 13 percent.

### 3.3.1.3 Ethnicity

The California Department of Finance reports that Riverside County's racial composition will include a growing proportion of non-White ethnic groups, and that by 2020 Whites will comprise less than one-half the county's residents. The evolving ethnic profile of Riverside County from 1970 to 2020 is presented in the three charts below. (*Note:* The State recognizes Hispanics as a separate and distinct racial group, unlike the Census Bureau data presented subsequently.)



Source: State of California Department of Finance, [www.dof.ca.gov/newdr/riverside.txt](http://www.dof.ca.gov/newdr/riverside.txt)

### 3.3.1.4 Other Demographics

Table 3.3.A provides a snapshot of other demographic characteristics of Riverside County reported in the last two census surveys. Population growth in Riverside County (32 percent) in the last decade was more than twice the rate of California statewide (14 percent). Median household income in 1997 was \$36,400, about 8 percent below the statewide average, and the proportion of persons living in poverty (15 percent) was slightly lower than the state average. Fewer residents of Riverside County hold high school (57 percent) and college (11 percent) diplomas, compared to the state average, while the rate of home ownership is higher (69 percent).