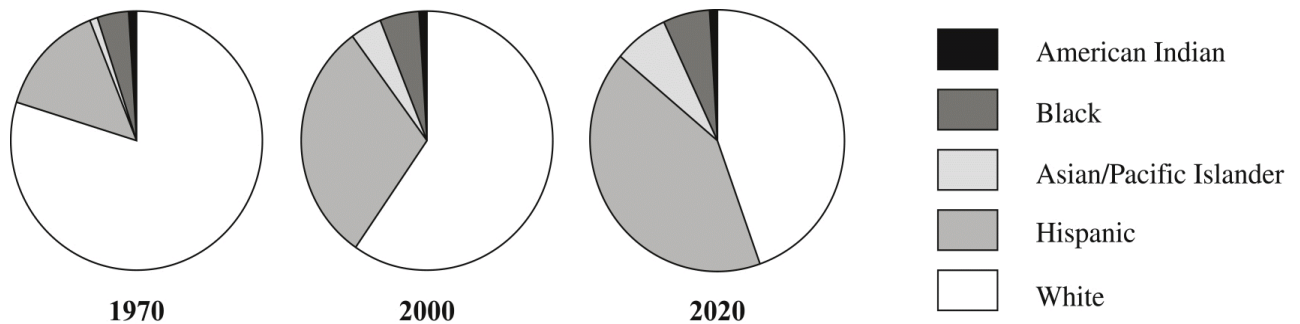


rose to 208,000 in 2000, an increase of 250 percent since 1970; their numbers are forecast to rise another 75 percent in the next 20 years. The number of residents under age 18 reached 467,600 in 2000, triple the number in 1970. The state forecasts an additional increase of 80 percent in this age bracket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

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).