

# **SCC Model of Immigrant Integration: Overview of SCC County Programs**

*Immigrant Relations & Integration Services*

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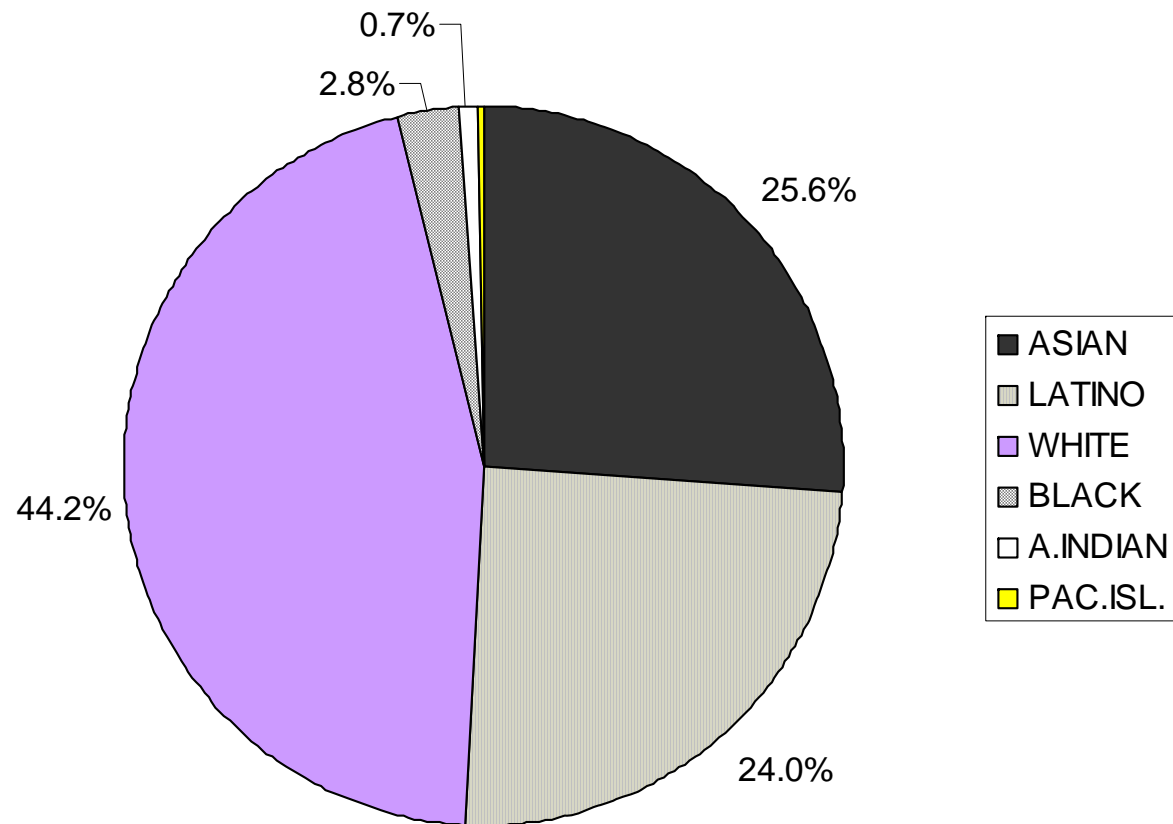


# DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, CALIFORNIA AND THE U.S.

- According to the 2000 Census, California has a population that is 3 times more Asian, and a little less than 3 times more Latino, than the nation.
- At the same time, the percentage of Black or African-Americans living in the U.S. (12.3%) is almost double that of California (6.7%).
- California's population is 26.2% foreign born, in comparison to 11.1% on the national level.



# SCC POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY- 2000



## SCC POULATION BORN OUTSIDE U.S. 2000

- The 5 largest immigrant groups in Santa Clara County are from Mexico, Vietnam, China, India and the Philippines.
- Santa Clara County has more immigrants than any other county in northern California.
- Santa Clara County is a county with more Asian and Latino immigrants than any other Bay Area county.
- Based on Census 2000, Santa Clara County now translates ballot materials into Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Tagalog.



# CITY OF SAN JOSE

- In 1970 over 80% of the city population was white, today less than 30% of the population is white.
- In San Jose, there are more people of Vietnamese origin than in any city outside of Vietnam.
- Also, there are more Asian Indians in San Jose than any other city outside of India.
- The City of San Jose is among the top 5 cities in the U.S. classified as most integrated cities.





## 2006 SCC Census Population Estimate

- According to the 2006 population estimate, SCC has the highest percentage of foreign born residents (36.3%) in the state. LA County is second (36%). SF County is third (35.8%). San Mateo is 5<sup>th</sup> (34.6%). Monterey Co is 7<sup>th</sup> (30.4). Alameda is 8<sup>th</sup> (30.3%).
- In 2006, SCC received more Asians than any other county in the US. SCC Asian pop. has increased 20% so far this decade. SCC will soon overtake SF county as the county in the US with the largest share of Asians.
- There are over 600,000 immigrants in SCC

# 2006 SCC Census Population Estimate

- There are about 40 Asian ethnic media outlets based in the South Bay including multiple newspapers serving South Asians, Vietnamese and Chinese communities.
- It is estimated that there are over 260,000 undocumented immigrants in SCC: 200,000 are Latino, over 50,000 are Asian.
- 55% of SV science and engineering talents were born abroad
- 40% of the regions total workforce is foreign born

# Language in SCC

## According to MediaNet analysis of Census Data

- SCC has the largest population of Hindi speakers in the US
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest population of Vietnamese Speakers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest population of Farsi Speakers
- 5<sup>th</sup> largest population of Chinese speakers

# Language in SCC

- SJUSD teaches English to students who speak about 40 languages at home from Arabic to Tigrinya (Language from Eritrea)
- Spanish remains the most common foreign language in the County
- Over 49% of the population speaks a language other than English at home



# SCC Immigrant Programs

- Creation of SCC Citizenship Initiative
- Funding for Immigration Legal Services
- Summit on Immigrant Needs & Contributions
- Publication of
  - *Bridging Borders*
  - *Knowledge of Immigrant Nationalities (KIN)*
  - Immigrant Resource Guide: *Immigrant Rights Responsibilities & Resources*

# SCC Immigrant Programs

- Santa Clara County Summit on Immigrant Needs and Contributions
- Immigrant Leadership Institute
- Immigrant Hot Line
- Immigrantinfo.org
- Community Education Funding
- Prenatal Care for All
- Invested in Second Harvest Food Bank
- Children's Health Care Initiative



# SCC Immigrant Programs

- Creation of KIN Speakers Bureau
- Creation of Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence
- Immigrant Cultural Proficiency Initiative
- Immigrant Bimonthly Forums
- BOLD Dialogues
- HRC Forum on Immigration in SV

# Citizenship Accomplishments

- 120,000+ have received citizenship assistance
- Citizenship Day is held in 19 Languages
- Immigrantinfo.org has received over 1 million hits
- Literacy for Citizenship in Spanish & Cambodian
- \$100,000 used to pay for the citizenship application

# SCC Board of Supervisors Advocacy

- Supported Drivers licenses for the undocumented
- Opposed HR4437
- Opposed presence of minutemen
- Support state funding for state naturalization program.



# Important Policy Issues

- Need to address ethnic issues in order to address universal human needs
- Immigrant communities must be at the table in order to bring their knowledge and experience to the development & implementation of any plan that is to be effective in SCC.
- The foreign born and their children comprise 60% of the County's population.

# Policy Implications

- Linguistic, cultural and religious diversity must be taken into account when developing an plan for Silicon Valley, in addition, to socioeconomic and educational factors.
- Diversity is our strength so we must plan with a broad understanding of the need for cultural proficiency as part of the planning, training and the distribution of resources.

# Challenges:

- Everyone is facing government restructuring
- There is a debate between the definitions of access and luxury issues
- Institutional change vs. leadership with an understanding
- Generational Understanding

# Lessons Learned:

- Government has an important role as a convener
- Be inclusive from the beginning
- Always acknowledge the expertise, knowledge and contributions
- Promote the development of leadership
- Dialogue with the community about change and conflict
- Change is a constant



# Pending Research Questions:

- Continued documentation of current history
- Redefinition of civic engagement & participation
- Broaden the definitions of democracy
- Acknowledge immigrant contributions
- Highlight best practices according to subject area
- International dialogue on similar patterns in the context of globalization
- Include the immigrant community in the solutions

