

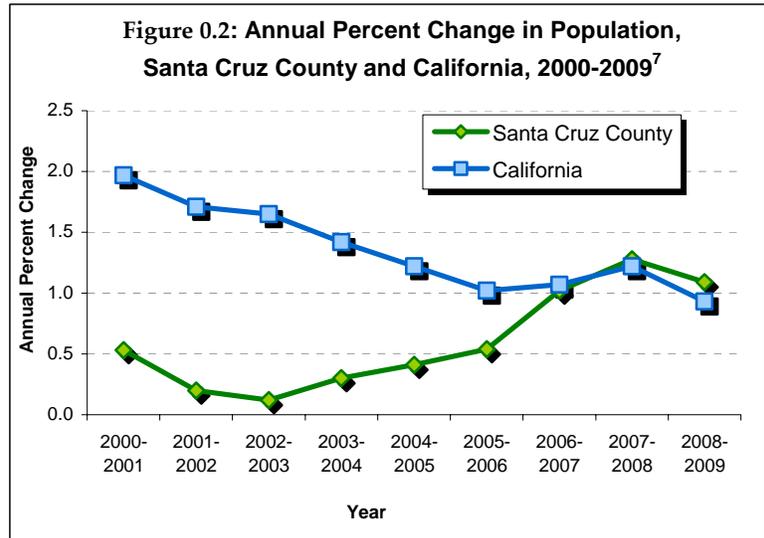
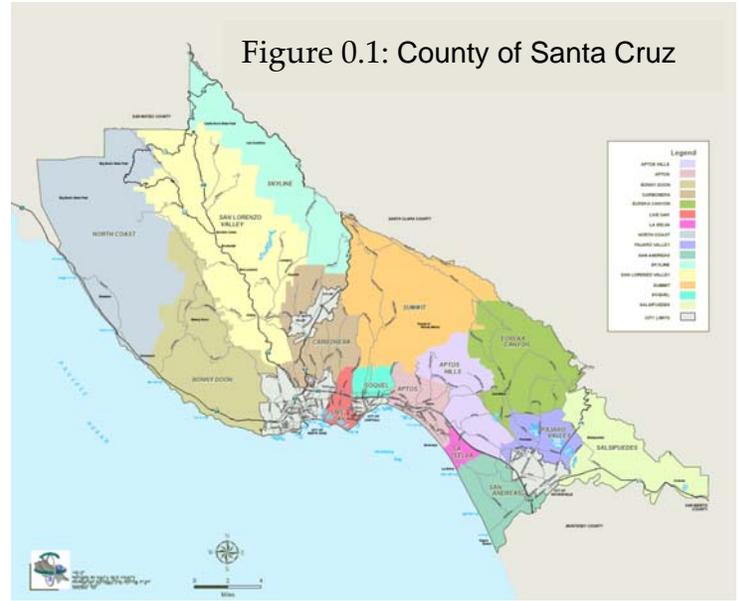
O. DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 0.1 displays a map of the County of Santa Cruz. The County of Santa Cruz was one of the original counties of California, created in 1850 at the time of statehood. In the original act, the county was given the name “Branciforte” after the Spanish pueblo founded there in 1797. Less than two months later, the name was changed to “Santa Cruz,” meaning Holy Cross.¹ According to the US Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 607 square miles: 445 square miles of land and 162 square miles of water. The population density is 563 people per square land mile.²

The California Department of Finance estimated the total population in the County of Santa Cruz to be 270,882 residents in 2009.⁴ By California standards, Santa Cruz is a mid-sized population county, ranking 24th among California’s 58 counties in 2009.² Over the past decade, Santa Cruz County’s population has grown consistently. The county saw an increase of about 1.3% in residents in 2009-2010.⁵ The cities in Santa Cruz County have grown slightly, but most of the population growth has taken place in unincorporated areas of the county.⁶ All other surrounding counties have also experienced a slight population growth from July 1, 2009 to July 1, 2010. Monterey County saw a 1.1% increase in population, San Benito County saw a 0.8 % increase in population, Santa Clara County saw a 1.3% increase in population, and San Mateo County saw a 1.2% increase in population from 2007 to 2009.⁵

GENDER & AGE

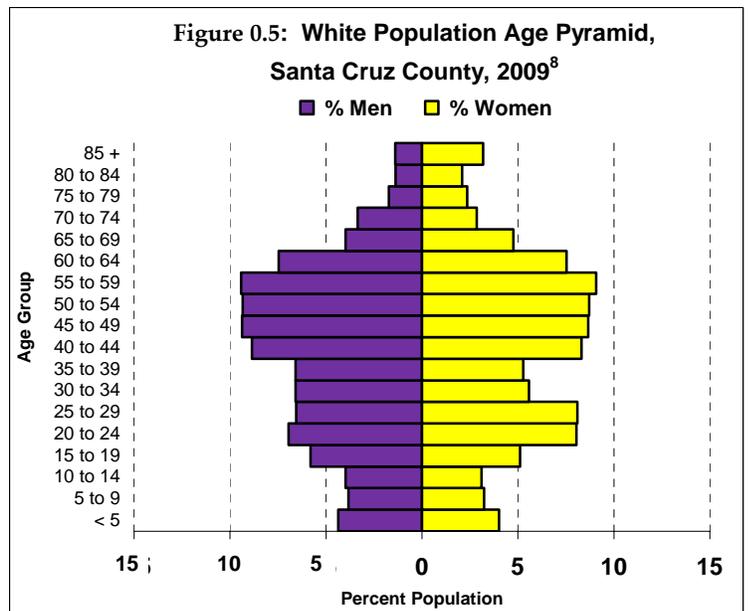
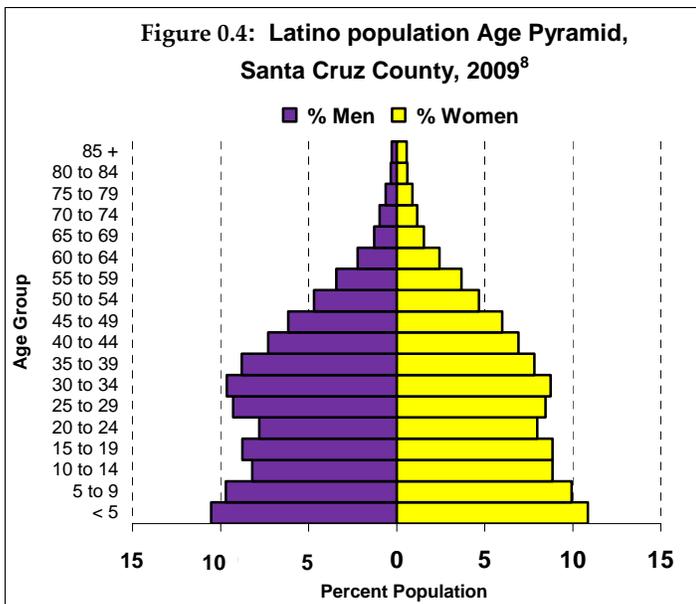
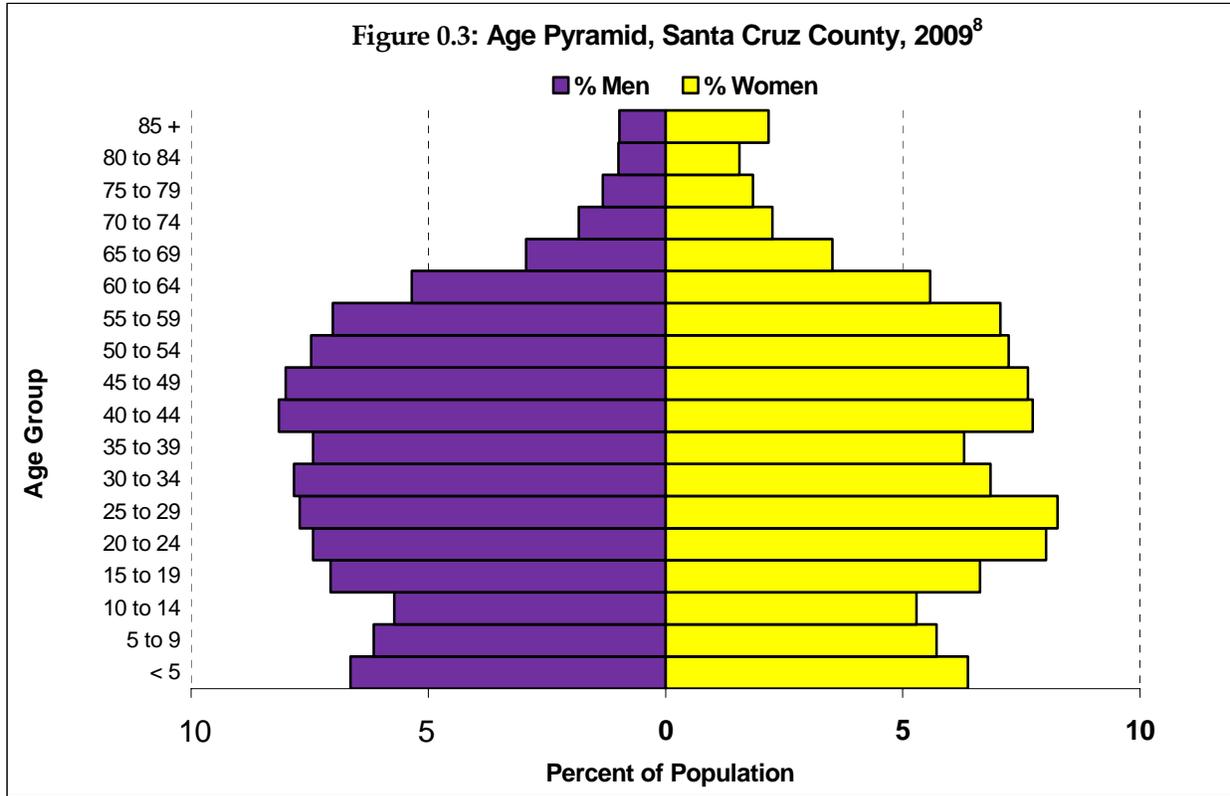
Nearly equal numbers of males and females reside in Santa Cruz County. Twenty-six percent of Santa Cruz County residents are 19 years of age and under.² The median age in Santa Cruz County is 36.9 years of age.¹ Based on 2009 estimates, Santa Cruz County’s “Age Dependency Ratio” is only 38.2%, compared to a statewide average of 47.6%.^{8,9} The Age Dependency Ratio is the number of people who are in age groups that tend to be economically dependent (children age 0-14, and adults age 65 and over), divided by the number of people in the most economically productive age group (15-64).⁹ A low Age Dependency Ratio means more working people to take care of fewer dependent people, providing an economic advantage to a community.⁹



		n(%)
Gender	Male	133,476 (50.0)
	Female	133,300 (50.0)
Age	0 - 2 years	10,633 (4.0)
	3 - 5 years	10,040 (3.8)
	6 - 14 years	27,181 (10.2)
	15 - 24 years	38,877 (14.6)
	25 - 44 years	80,367 (30.1)
	45 - 65 years	75,930 (28.5)
	66 and older	23,748 (8.9)
Race/Ethnicity	White	150,942 (57.0)
	Latino	92,945 (35.0)
	Black	2,661 (1.0)
	Asian & Pacific Islander	13,522 (5.0)
	Multirace	5,194 (2.0)

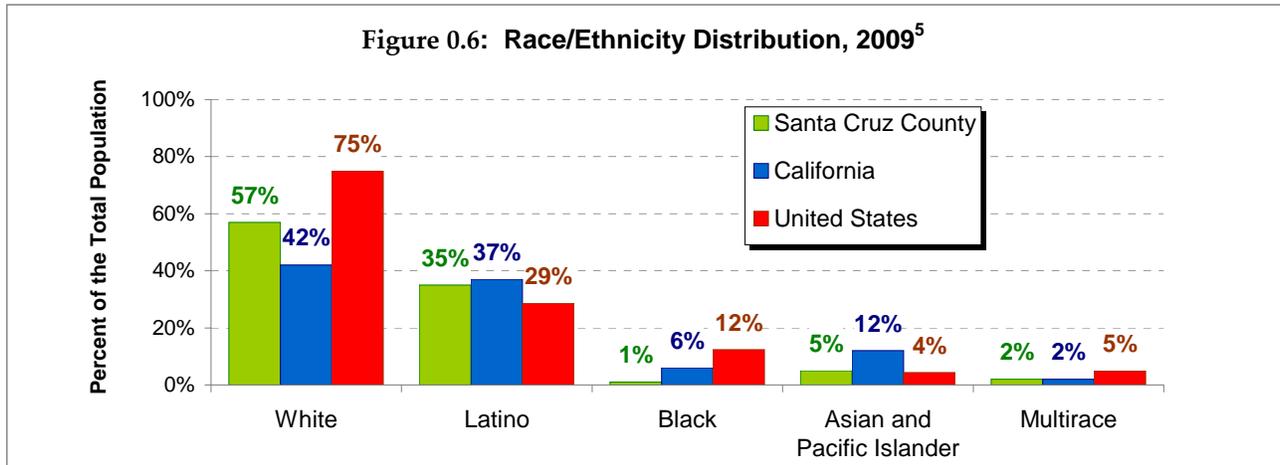
GENDER & AGE (CONT.)

Below are three figures that reflect the proportion of the population in each age group for that gender. Figure 0.3 shows the entire county population, while Figure 0.4 shows the Latino population and Figure 0.5 shows the White population. It is interesting to note that Latinos under age 5 account for the largest proportion of the Latino population. Among the White population, persons aged 55 to 59 are the largest age category.⁸



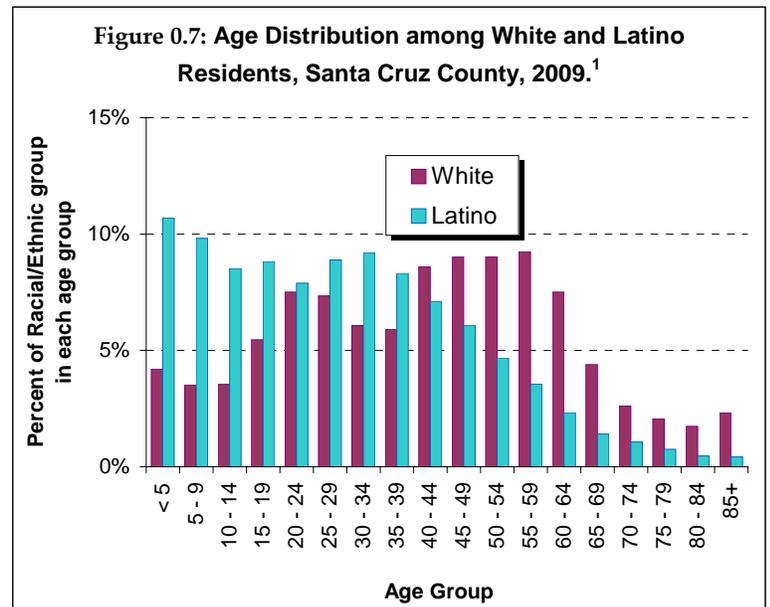
ETHNICITY & RACE

Figure 0.6 describes the race/ethnicity distribution in 2008 of the County of Santa Cruz compared to California and the United States. Santa Cruz County's population comprises 56.6% White, 34.8% Latino, 5.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, 1.0% Black, and 2.5% other.² California, by comparison, has a smaller proportion of Whites, slightly larger proportions of Blacks and Asians, and a slightly larger proportion of Latinos.⁵ The United States has higher proportions of Whites and Blacks, a slightly smaller proportion of Latinos, and approximately equal proportion of Asians as Santa Cruz County.⁵



The relative proportions of various racial/ethnic groups in the county have steadily changed in recent decades. In 1970, Santa Cruz County was more than 86% White and less than 10% Latino. The proportions of Asians, Blacks, and Native Americans have all increased since 1970, though not as rapidly as the Latino population, and they still remain relatively small proportions of the population.

Children make up a far larger proportion of the Latino population than of the White population; this difference continues through every age group under 40, whereas every older age group makes up a much larger proportion of the White population than of the Latino population (Figure 0.7).



Sources

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4. State of California, Department of Finance, Population Estimates and Components of Change by County, July 1, 2000-2009. Sacramento, California, December 2009.
5. State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State with Annual Percent Change — January 1, 2009 and 2010. Sacramento, California, May 2010.
6. Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project year 15 2009. www.santacruzcountycap.org.
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8. State of California, Department of Finance, *Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2050*. Sacramento, CA, July 2007.
9. Age dependency ratio: <http://www.economicshelp.org/dictionary/d/dependency-ratio.html>.
10. United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of employment and Unemployment.