



Population Growth in Orange County and RSCCD Enrollment Trends

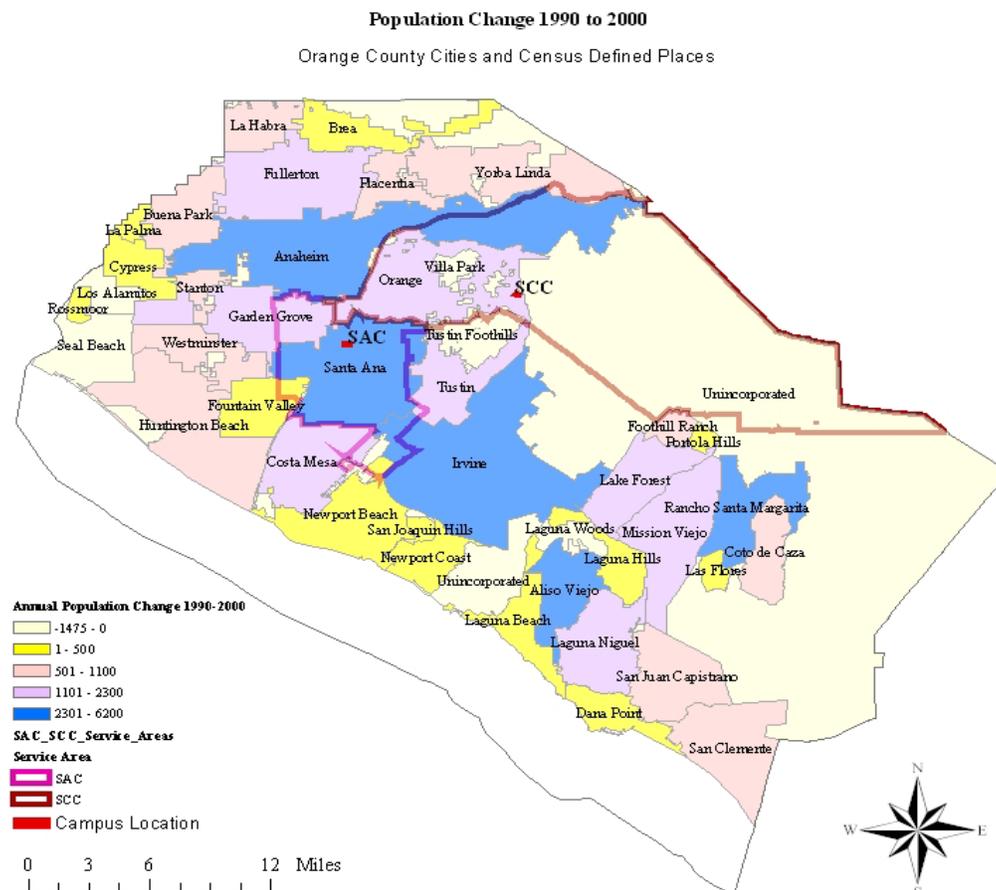
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Population Growth in Orange County 1990 to 2000

Between 1990 and 2000 the Orange County population increased by 435,733 people (+18%). To many, this growth is synonymous with urban sprawl and the development of new subdivisions in the southern and foothill areas of the county. However, the cities with the largest numerical increase in population during the 1990s were Anaheim (+61,608 or +23%) and Santa Ana (+44,235 or +15%).

Over half of Orange County's growth during the decade occurred in the established core area of the county. The ten cities and "census defined places" that are entirely or partly within the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) had a total population increase of 208,749 and accounted for 48% of Orange County's total population growth during the 1990s.

The average annual population growth rate in Orange County by city/place during the 1990s is shown in the following map.



Estimated Population Growth 2000 to 2003

Estimated Orange County population increased by 132,511 people between April 2000 and January 2003. Official estimates (California Department of Finance, January 2003) show slower recent growth in Santa Ana than during the 1990s, but Santa Ana's population continues to grow, increasing by an estimated 9,223(±) people since 2000.

RSCCD College Participation Rates

The RSCCD participation rates (total enrollment divided by total population (ages 18-64) living within RSCCD boundaries) was 8.4% in 1990, 9.9% in 2000, and 8.1% in 2003.

Between Fall 2000 and Fall 2003, RSCCD participation rate declined by 18% (-22% for SAC and -18% for SCC).

RSCCD Service Area Population and Enrollment Trends					
	1990*	2000*	2003**	% Change 1990-2000	% Change 2000-2003
Population	482,224	586,003	600,523	21.5%	2.5%
RSCCD Enrollment	40,491	57,896	48,512	43.0%	-16.2%
Credit	24,900	31,273	29,525	25.6%	-5.6%
Continuing Educ.	15,591	26,623	18,987	70.6%	-28.7%
Enrol./Pop. Ratio	8.4%	9.9%	8.1%	17.9%	-18.2%

SAC/SCC Service Area Population and Enrollment Trends						
	SAC			SCC		
	2000*	2003**	% Change	2000*	2003**	% Change
Population	392,815	403,563	2.7%	193,188	196,960	2.0%
Enrollment	43,459	34,929	-19.6%	16,216	13,680	-15.6%
Credit	24,212	21,900	-9.5%	8,965	9,530	6.3%
Continuing Educ.	19,247	13,029	-32.3%	7,251	4,150	-42.8%
Enrol./Pop. Ratio	11.1%	8.7%	-21.6%	8.4%	6.9%	-17.6%

* U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, decennial Census

** California Department of Finance

Conclusions

Prior RSCCD Research Department Fact Sheets have highlighted the educational attainment and household income levels of the population. The areas with the greatest educational needs, as measured by educational attainment, are frequently the same central Orange County areas experiencing large population increases. Many of Orange County's adults with low levels of educational attainment live within RSCCD boundaries, and this population continues to grow. Budget considerations permitting, RSCCD should see continued enrollment growth in excess of the Fall 2000 peak, especially within the Santa Ana College service area.