



## Research Brief

# How San Francisco Has Changed Since the 2000 Census

Is San Francisco gaining or losing population?

Losing. San Francisco lost a greater percentage of its population than any other county in the state between 2000 and 2005, declining 7% from 776,733 to 719,077 residents.

- California as a whole did not lose population; rather, it gained 6% more residents.
- The net loss in San Francisco residents was not evenly divided between males and females; on the contrary, the population that San Francisco lost was 55% male and 45% female.

What effect has the population decline had on the ethnic diversity of the City?

The City is still diverse in that the overall percentage of people of color relative to those who are White Non-Hispanic remains the same. The primary change is that more individuals of Asian descent now live in San Francisco than in 2000, and fewer African Americans do.

- The American Community Survey 2005 reports that the African American population in San Francisco declined from 60,515 to 46,779, a decline of nearly 23% from 2000 to 2005.
- African Americans now constitute 7% of the City's residents.
- The Latino population declined 10% from 2000 to 2005, also higher than the overall rate of decline.
- Relative to the whole, however, given the declines in many other groups, Latinos remain about the same percentage of the San Francisco population (14%) as in 2000. They constitute nearly the same percentage as they do in the U.S. population as a whole (15%), but less than half of the statewide percentage (36%).
- While the White Non-Hispanic population remains at 44% of all residents, the Asian population did not experience a decline and barely edged up just over one half of one percent. Because of declines in other groups, the percent of Asians relative to the general population rose from 31% to 33%.

How many foreign-born individuals live in San Francisco? Is that changing?

Yes, the decline in foreign-born individuals is almost 10% (from 285,541 in 2000 to 257,569), while the U.S.-born population dropped 6% since 2000.

- But considering foreign-born individuals as a percentage of the whole population, the full extent of the decline is less visible. 36% of San Francisco residents were foreign born in 2005, down only slightly from 37% in 2000.

So the number of limited English speakers has also declined?

Yes, the number of people who say they speak English less than “very well” declined 12% from 186,401 to 163,371 between 2000 and 2005, reflecting an apparent decline in the newer immigrant population.

- 24% of San Francisco residents say they do not speak English “very well.”
- In 2005, close to half of all San Franciscans (46%) spoke a language other than English at home, the same as in 2000.
- 26% of those who spoke another language at home spoke Spanish (the same as in 2000), while 74% spoke other, primarily Asian, languages.

How many live below the poverty level in San Francisco?

12% of San Franciscans—9% of families—live below the poverty level.

	<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>Below Poverty Level</b>
African American	14%	27%
Asian	8%	12%
Latino	7%	19%
White Non-Hispanic	5%	8%

- The poverty figure for individuals is up from 11% in 2000 and that for families is up from 8%.
- Poverty is also rising for those aged 65 and up, of whom 12% live in poverty (up from 11% in 2000).
- 13% of the City’s children live in poverty.
- Where the householder has less than a high school diploma, 19% of families live below the poverty line, as do 21% of families with a female head and no husband in the home.
- 27% of families with 3-4 children live in poverty, but that is true for only 8% of families with 1-2 children.

What percentage of San Franciscans report having a disability?

14% of all San Franciscans and 43% of those over age 65 indicated a disability in 2005.

- The overall percentage is quite a bit lower than in 2000, when 20% of San Franciscans reported a disability,
- However, the percentage of disabled in the over-65 group has remained about the same as before.

What impact are the aging Baby Boomers having on the average age in the City?

The median age, already high compared to the state and the nation, continues to rise.

- At the 2000 Census, the median age in the City was 37, rising to 39 by 2005. For comparison, the median age in the U.S. is 36 and in California 34.

- From 2000 to 2005, the percentage of people aged 45+ rose substantially from 35% to 40% of the City’s population.
- Older San Franciscans remain active. 64% of San Franciscans aged 55-64 are still in the labor force, as are 23% of those aged 65-74.

What is the average income in San Francisco? Is there a gender gap?

The median household income is \$57,496. The median income of workers over age 25 is \$41,816. Yes, there is a gender gap in most industries, with women earning on average 13% less than men.

- The median household income in San Francisco of \$57,496 is only up 4%, but per capita income (including all sources, not just earned income) is up 14% at \$39,554. The difference between the two increases is associated with a decline in the average household size from 2.30 to 2.23.

**Median Per Capita Earnings by Educational Attainment  
San Francisco County**

Total population 25 years and over with earnings	\$41,816*
Less than high school graduate	17,373
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	24,712
Some college or associate's degree	35,467
Bachelor's degree	50,890
Graduate or professional degree	66,307

*Source: American Community Survey 2005*

*\*This is individual; median household income is \$57,496.*

Are “the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer”?

Yes, disparities in income are increasing in the City.

- In 2000, 54% of households made between \$35,000 and \$149,999. In 2005, a minority (43%) of households had incomes in that range. Households lost in the recent population decline were in the middle range, with the number of households earning under \$35,000 holding firm and the absolute number of households with incomes above \$149,999 increasing by 14%.
- Currently, 7% of households in San Francisco make \$200,000 or more annually, while 16% make less than \$15,000.

**Notes on our sources:**

The U.S. Bureau of the Census conducts the regular census every ten years, and, in between, implements the annual American Community Survey (ACS). As estimates compiled through that annual survey are being released in stages, the CCSF Office of Institutional Advancement is passing some of that information on to you, along with comparisons from the last federal census in 2000. This will allow the entire College community to gain additional information about trends of possible importance to City College. Remember that the figures appearing here are only estimates. Additional detail, including definitions and sometimes the upper and lower bounds of estimates, may be found at <http://factfinder.census.gov>

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