



# Demographics

## Geography

Contra Costa County is located in the San Francisco Bay Area of Northern California, northeast of San Francisco and southwest of Sacramento. The county covers roughly 806 square miles and includes 19 incorporated cities (see map above) and numerous unincorporated areas that are dispersed throughout its East, West and Central regions.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Population

In 2008, Contra Costa County had an estimated population of 1,029,703, making it the ninth most populous county in California.<sup>1</sup> Richmond, Concord and Antioch were each home to more than 100,000 residents, making them the three largest cities in the county. Between 2000 and 2008, the county gained 76,399 residents. Four cities in East County became home to nearly two-thirds (61.1%) of these residents: Brentwood, Antioch, Pittsburg and Oakley. Each of these four cities added more than 6,000 residents to their respective populations. Brentwood gained almost 25,000 residents during this time period.

Between 2000 and 2008, the overall county population grew by 8.0%. This rate was similar to California's growth rate of 8.1%. During this time period, all selected cities listed above experienced population change at different rates than the county overall. Brentwood (100.0%), Hercules (25.6%), Oakley (23.9%), Pittsburg (12.4%), Antioch (9.5%) and San Ramon (9.4%) had higher rates of growth than the county overall. The remaining communities listed in Table 1 had lower rates of growth than the county overall.

Between 2004 and 2008, the county population growth rate (3.5%) was higher than California's rate (3.2%). Brentwood (26.5%), Oakley (21.0%), Hercules (6.7%) and Pittsburg (4.5%) had higher growth rates than the county overall (3.5%). All remaining communities listed in Table 1, except for Orinda, Clayton, Moraga and Lafayette had lower growth rates than the county overall.

**Table 1. Population change in selected cities**

Contra Costa County and California, 2000–2008

	2000	2004	2008	2000–08 Pop. change # / %	2004-08 Pop. change # / %
Brentwood	24,741	39,117	49,480	24,739 / 100.0%*	10,363 / 26.5%*
Antioch	91,564	99,211	100,219	8,655 / 9.5%*	1,008 / 1.0%**
Pittsburg	57,081	61,395	64,148	7,067 / 12.4%*	2,753 / 4.5%*
Oakley	25,849	26,483	32,035	6,186 / 23.9%*	5,552 / 21.0%*
Hercules	19,493	22,946	24,484	4,991 / 25.6%*	1,538 / 6.7%*
San Ramon	44,922	48,532	49,161	4,239 / 9.4%*	629 / 1.3%**
Richmond	99,812	100,641	102,285	2,473 / 2.5%**	1,644 / 1.6%**
Lafayette	23,985	24,232	25,011	1,026 / 4.3%**	779 / 3.2%
Orinda	17,645	17,845	18,445	800 / 4.5%**	600 / 3.4%
Moraga	16,342	16,532	17,050	708 / 4.3%**	518 / 3.1%
Clayton	10,795	10,923	11,278	483 / 4.5%**	355 / 3.3%
San Pablo	30,250	30,394	30,729	479 / 1.6%**	335 / 1.1%**
Pleasant Hill	33,060	33,094	32,862	-198 / -0.6%**	-232 / -0.7%**
Pinole	19,193	19,035	18,808	-385 / -2.0%**	-227 / -1.2%**
Danville	41,773	41,429	41,182	-591 / -1.4%**	-247 / -0.6%**
Martinez	35,943	35,648	35,145	-798 / -2.2%**	-503 / -1.4%**
El Cerrito	23,205	22,726	22,222	-983 / -4.2%**	-504 / -2.2%**
Concord	122,255	122,184	121,160	-1,095 / -0.9%**	-1,024 / -0.8%**
Walnut Creek	64,687	63,741	63,486	-1,201 / -1.9%**	-255 / -0.4%**
<b>Contra Costa</b>	<b>953,304</b>	<b>994,844</b>	<b>1,029,703</b>	<b>76,399 / 8.0%</b>	<b>34,859 / 3.5%</b>
<b>California</b>	<b>33,998,767</b>	<b>35,629,666</b>	<b>36,756,666</b>	<b>2,757,899 / 8.1%</b>	<b>1,127,000 / 3.2%**</b>

Contra Costa and California totals include cities not listed above.

\* Significantly higher growth rate than the county overall.

\*\* Significantly lower growth rate than the county overall.

All cities experienced population change between 2000 and 2008, but the change was not constant during the entire time period. Some communities experienced more of their population growth or population loss between 2004 and 2008. Oakley, Orinda, Clayton, Moraga, Lafayette, Richmond and San Pablo experienced more than half of their overall population growth between 2004 and 2008. Pleasant Hill, Concord, Pinole, Martinez and El Cerrito experienced more than half of their overall population loss between 2004 and 2008.

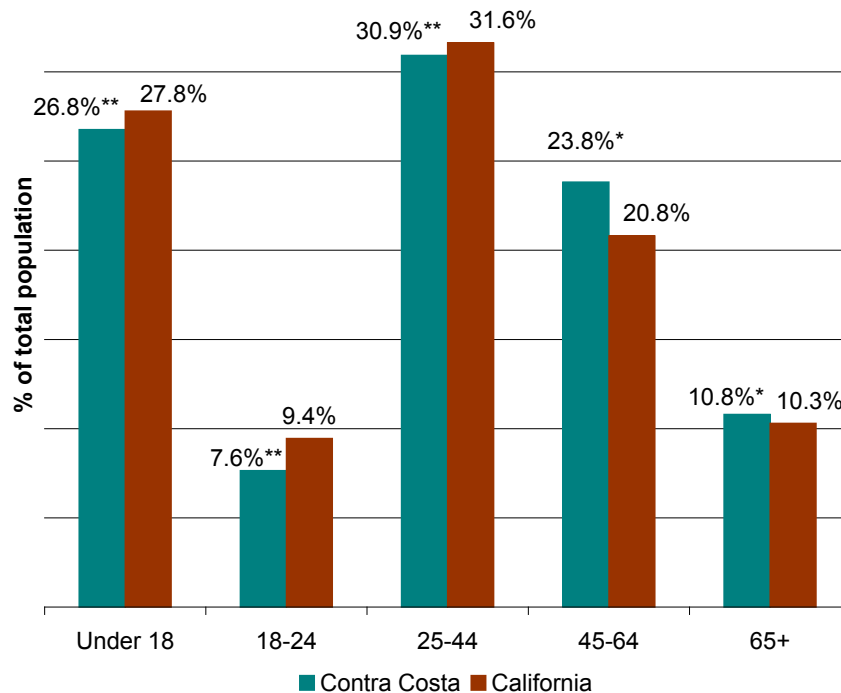
## GENDER & AGE

In 2008, Contra Costa’s population was 51.0% women (523,000) and 49.0% men (506,000).<sup>3</sup> The median age was 38.1 years.<sup>3</sup> Nearly a quarter (24.2%) of the population was younger than 18 years and more than a tenth (12.0%) was 65 years and older.

The percentages of Contra Costa residents from three age groups (18–24, 45–64, and 65 years and older) were greater in 2008 compared to 2000. The percentage of residents 18–24 years grew from 7.6% in 2000 to 9.4% in 2008, residents 45–64 years grew from 23.8% to 27.9% and residents 65 years and older grew from 10.8% to 12.0%. This pattern was consistent with the state findings for the same years. The percentages of residents younger than 18 years and 25–44 years were lower in 2008 than in 2000.

Figure 1. Age distribution of population

Contra Costa County and California, 2000

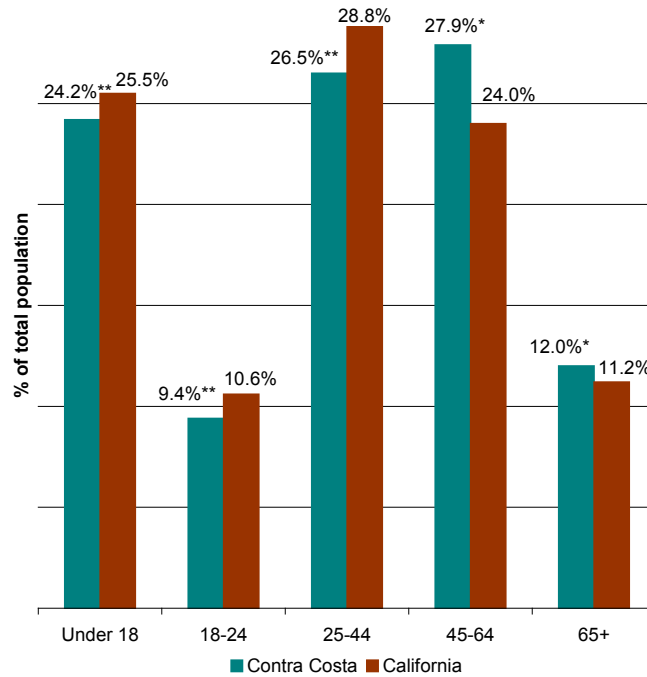


\* Significantly higher than the California estimate for the same age group.

\*\* Significantly lower than the California estimate for the same age group

## Figure 2. Age distribution of population

Contra Costa County and California, 2008



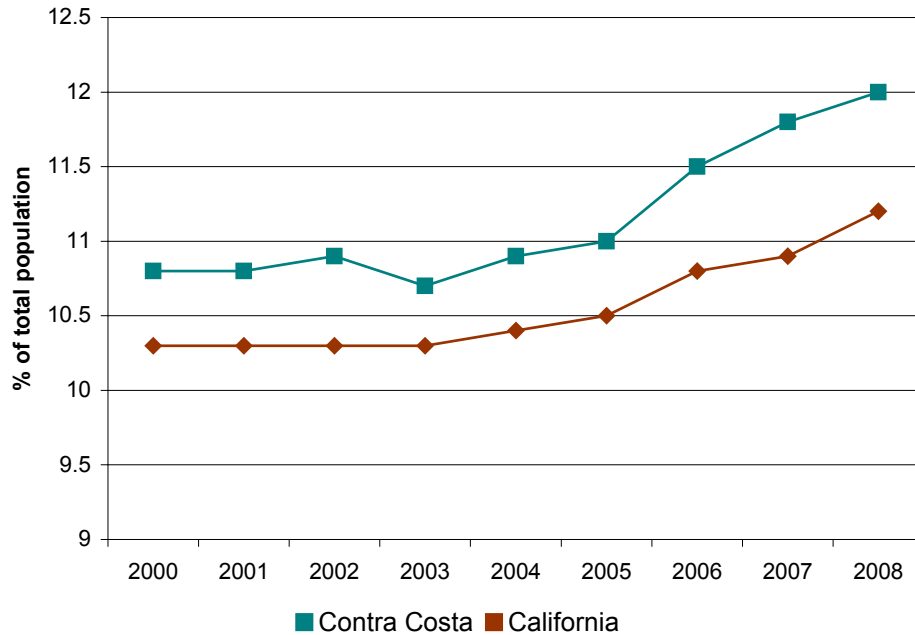
\* Significantly higher than the California estimate for the same age group.

\*\* Significantly lower than the California estimate for the same age group.

The population of Contra Costa has been shifting toward older adults. The 2008 percentage of county residents 45 years and older (39.9%) was higher than the percentage in 2000 (34.7%) and it increased each year between 2001 and 2008. Contra Costa's percentage of adults age 45 and older was higher than California's percentage in both 2000 and 2008.

The California and Contra Costa populations of residents 65 years and older grew between 2000 and 2008, and Contra Costa's percentage was higher than the state's every year. The percentage of county residents 65 years and older increased from 10.8% in 2000 to 12.0% in 2008 and California's percentage of residents 65 years and older increased from 10.3% to 11.2%.

**Figure 3 ■ Percentage of population 65 years and older by year**  
 Contra Costa County and California, 2000–2008



## RACE AND ETHNICITY

In 2008, half of Contra Costa’s residents were white (520,021), followed by Hispanic (235,475), Asian/Pacific Islander (142,235) and African American (92,819).

**Table 2 ■ Racial/ethnic composition of population**  
 Contra Costa County, 2008

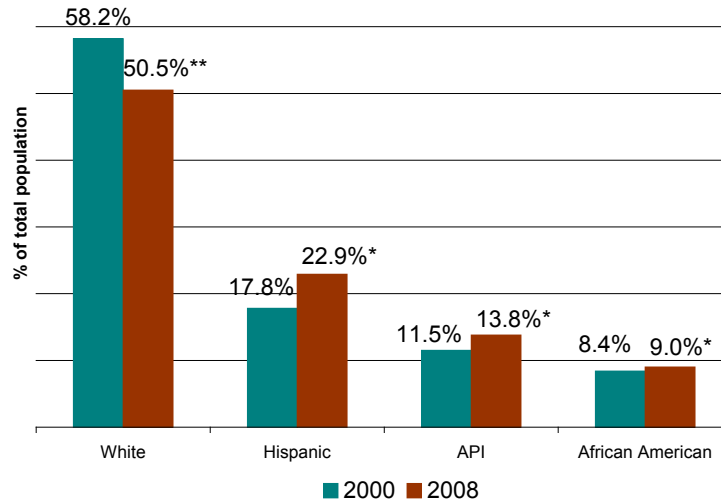
	People	Percent
White	520,102	50.5%
Hispanic	235,475	22.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	142,235	13.8%
African American	92,819	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,029,703</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Total includes some racial/ethnic groups not listed above.

Between 2000 and 2008, the percentage of white residents in Contra Costa declined while the percentage of Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander and African American residents increased. The percentage of white residents fell from 58.2% in 2000 to 50.5% in 2008. The percentage of Hispanics (17.8% to 22.9%) Asians/Pacific Islanders (11.5% to 13.8%) and African Americans (8.4% to 9.0%) grew between 2000 and 2008.

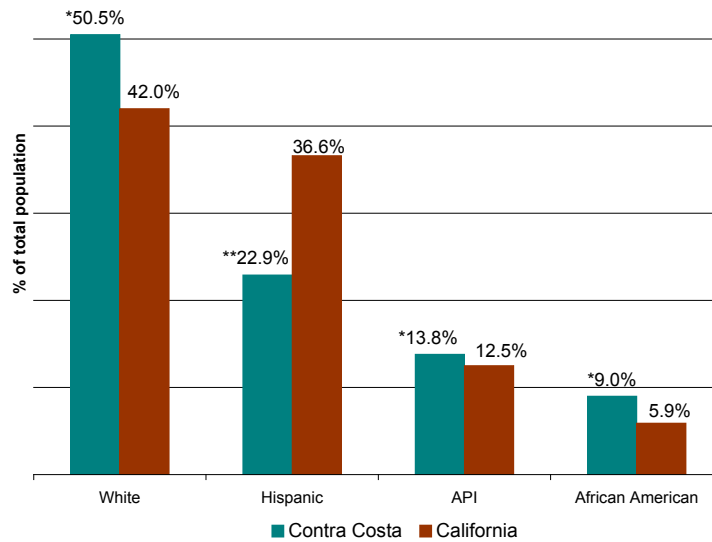
In 2008, Contra Costa had higher percentages than California of whites (50.5% vs. 42.0%), Asians/Pacific Islanders (13.8% vs. 12.5%) and African Americans (9.0% vs. 5.9%). Contra Costa had a lower percentage of Hispanics (22.9%) than California (36.6%).

**Figure 4 ■ Racial/ethnic composition of population**  
Contra Costa County, 2000 and 2008



\* Significantly higher than the 2000 estimate for the same race/ethnic group.  
\*\* Significantly lower than the 2000 estimate for the same race/ethnic group.

**Figure 5 ■ Racial/Ethnic Composition of Population**  
Contra Costa County and California, 2008



\* Significantly higher than the California estimate for the same race/ethnic group.  
\*\* Significantly lower than the California estimate for the same race/ethnic group.

## LANGUAGE

In 2008, 67.4% (649,582) of Contra Costa residents 5 years and older reported speaking only English at home. The remaining 32.6% of residents (313,725) spoke a language other than English at home. Of these residents, 52.6% (164,944) spoke Spanish and 26.1% (81,858) spoke an Asian or Pacific Islander language at home.<sup>4</sup>

## NATIVITY

In 2008, 24.1% (248,583) of Contra Costa residents were born outside of the United States. The largest groups of foreign-born residents came from Latin America (42.7%, 106,110) and Asia (41.6%, 103,463), followed by Europe (9.9%, 24,554) and Africa (3.2%, 7,942).<sup>4</sup>

## EDUCATION

In 2008, 88.1% of Contra Costa residents 25 years and older had at least graduated from high school. Contra Costa's percentage (88.1%) was higher than the state's (80.2%). The county also had a higher percentage (38.5%) of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher compared to California (29.6%).<sup>5</sup> Twelve percent (12.0%) of Contra residents were dropouts, meaning they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.<sup>3</sup>

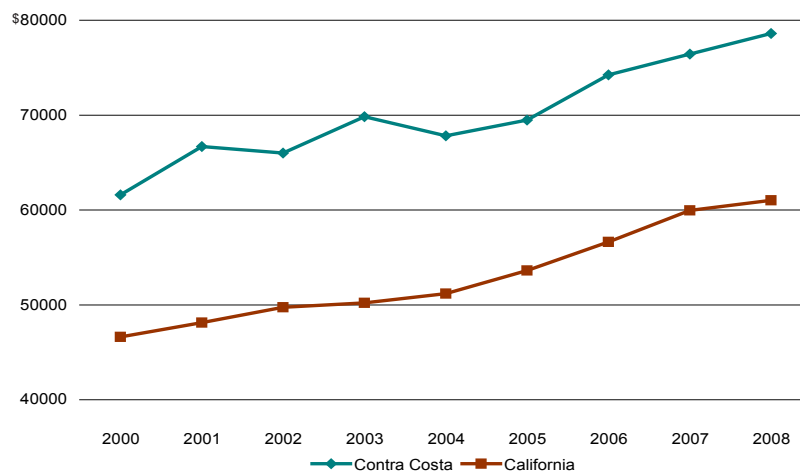
## INCOME

Contra Costa's 2008 median household income was \$78,618. This amount was higher than the 2008 California median household income of \$61,021. The median household income in the county and the state both increased by more than \$15,000 between 2000 and 2008.

The median household income for Contra Costa was higher than California's every year between 2000 and 2008. However, California's median household income climbed almost every year whereas Contra Costa's remained more stagnant. From 2000 to 2008, California showed year-to-year increases in median household income except for year 2002–2003, when it remained stable. Contra Costa's only year-to-year increases were 2000–2001 and 2005–2006, otherwise the median household income did not differ from the previous year.

**Figure 6 ■ Median household income by year**

Contra Costa County and California, 2000–2008



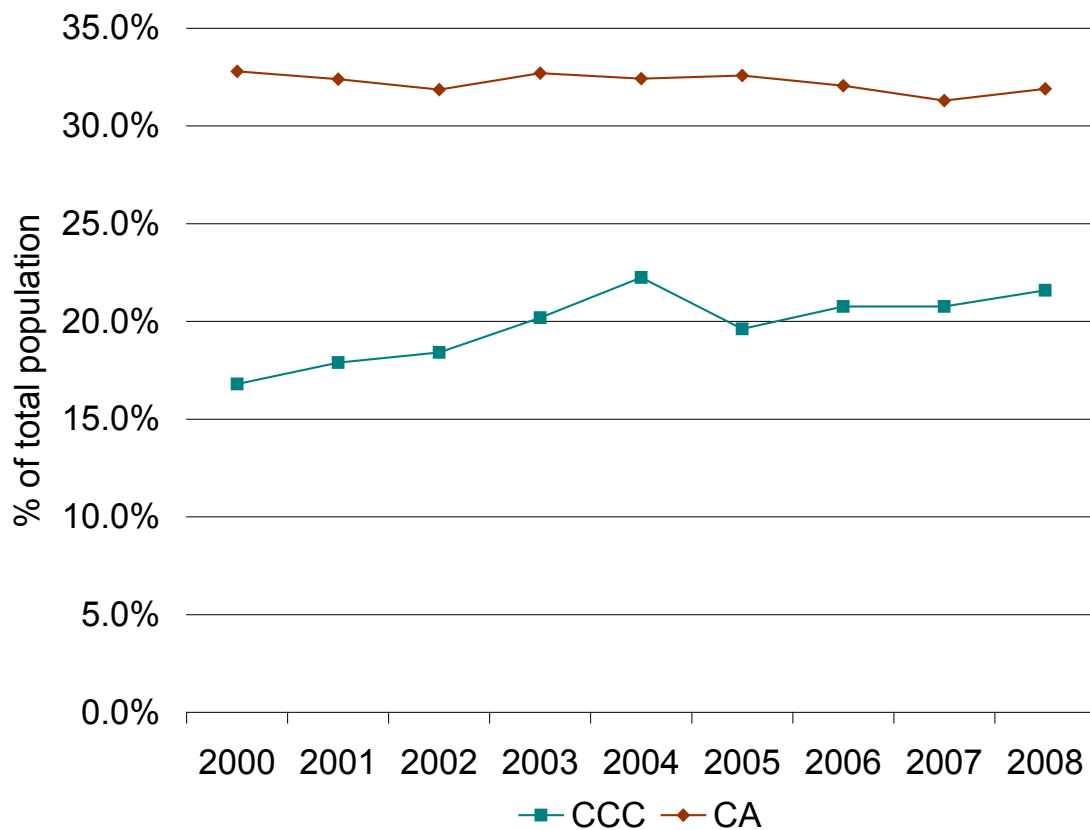
## Poverty

In 2008, 21.6% (220,350) of Contra Costa's population lived below 200% of the federal poverty level (200% FPL). In 2008, the income level for a family of four living at 200% FPL was at \$42,400.

Between 2000 and 2008, the percent of county residents living below 200% FPL increased from 16.8% in 2000 to 21.6% in 2008. Over this time period, the county percentage of the population living below 200% FPL increased every year except for 2004–2005 and 2006–2007. California's, on the other hand, fluctuated throughout. California had a lower percentage of the population living below 200% FPL in 2008 (31.9%) than in 2000 (32.8%). Contra Costa's percentage of the population living below 200% FPL was consistently lower than California's.

**Figure 7 ■ Percent of residents living below 200% of federal poverty level by year**

Contra Costa County and California, 2000–2008



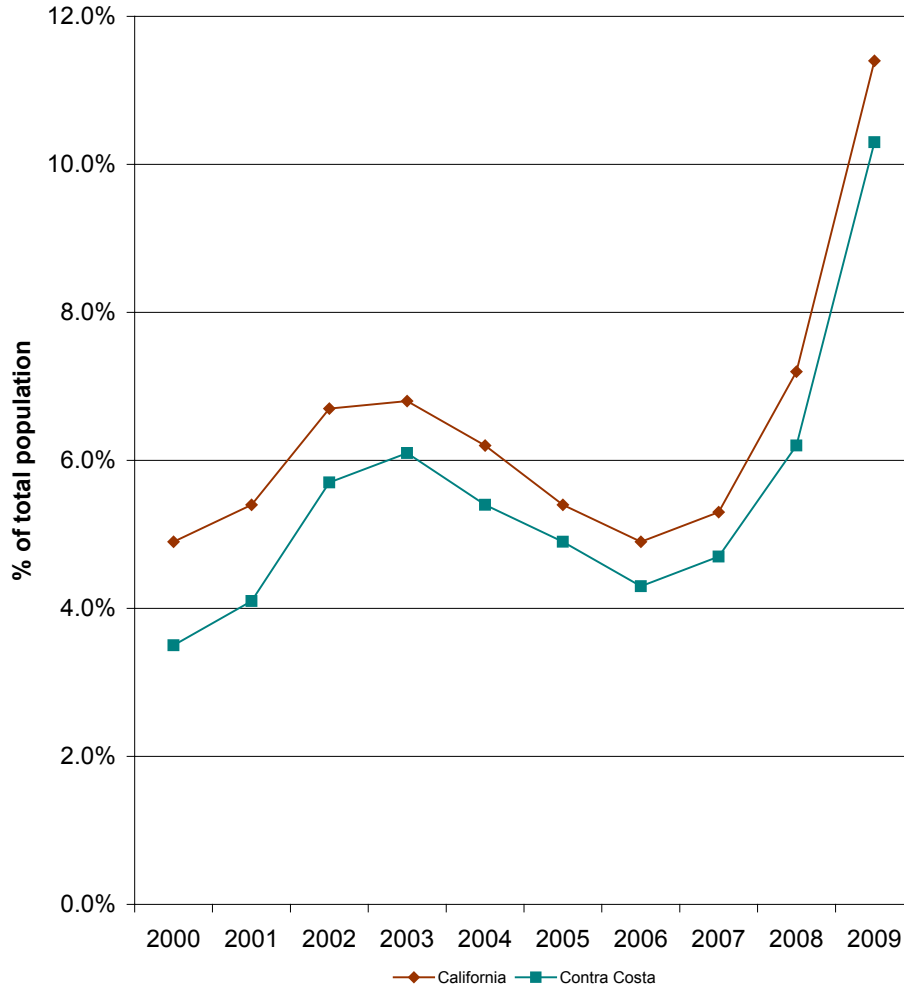


## Employment

In 2009, the annual unemployment rate for Contra Costa adults 16 years and older was 10.3%. This was significantly higher than the Contra Costa rate of 3.5% in 2000. The state unemployment rate increased from 4.9% in 2000 to 11.4% in 2009. The state unemployment rate was higher than Contra Costa's rate every year between 2000 and 2009 and followed a similar pattern to the county.

**Figure 8 ■ Unemployment Rate by Year**

Contra Costa County and California, 2000–2009



## Access to Health Care

One's ability to access health care can be dependent upon many factors, including health care insurance and English language skills. Not having insurance is associated with a much lower likelihood of seeing a doctor within the past year, and a higher likelihood of experiencing delays in obtaining medical and mental health services.<sup>6</sup> Proficiency in the English language facilitates entry into and navigation of the health care system and understanding of important health information.<sup>7</sup> This section presents data on how these two factors play out within the county.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

In 2007, 13.5% (123,000) of Contra Costa residents younger than 65 years were uninsured. The percent of uninsured residents in Contra Costa (13.5%) was similar to the greater Bay Area (13.1%), and lower than California (19.5%). In Contra Costa, adults between the ages of 18 to 64 comprised 87.8% (108,000) of the county's uninsured.

**Table 3 ■ Residents younger than 65 years without health insurance, 2007**

	People without health insurance	Prevalence
California	6,400,000	19.5%*
Greater Bay Area	820,000	13.1%
Contra Costa County	123,000	13.5%

In this section, "uninsured" refers to people uninsured for all or part of the last 12 months.

Estimates are not age-adjusted.

\*Significantly higher prevalence than the county and greater Bay Area overall.

More men (72,000) than women (52,000) were uninsured for all or part of the year in 2007, but the percentages of uninsured men (15.9%) and women (11.2%) were similar.

**Table 4 ■ Residents younger than 65 years without health insurance by gender**

Contra Costa County, 2007

	People without health insurance	Prevalence
Men	72,000	15.9%
Women	52,000	11.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,000</b>	<b>13.5%</b>

Estimates are not age-adjusted.



**Editor's note:** Analyses of Contra Costa's uninsured by race/ethnicity were not possible due to small sample size, but we can look to the Greater Bay Area data for an indication of how lack of health coverage affects our community disproportionately.

In the greater Bay Area, the largest number of uninsured residents was among Latinos (315,000), followed by whites (231,000), Asians/Pacific Islanders (188,000) and African Americans (55,000). A

greater percentage of Latinos (21.4%) in the greater Bay Area were uninsured compared to the region overall (13.1%). A lower percentage of whites (8.2%) were uninsured compared to the region overall.

**Table 5 ■ Residents under 65 years without health insurance by race/ethnicity**

Greater Bay Area, 2007

	People without health insurance	Prevalence
Latino	315,000	21.4%*
White	213,000	8.2%**
Asian/Pacific Islander	188,000	14.0%
African American	55,000	13.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>820,000</b>	<b>13.1%</b>

Estimates are not age-adjusted.

Total includes racial/ethnic groups not listed above.

\* Significantly higher than the greater Bay Area overall.

\*\* Significantly lower than the greater Bay Area overall.

## LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

In 2008, 13.9% (133,847) of Contra Costa’s population 5 years and older reported speaking English less than “very well”, which is categorized as limited English proficiency (LEP).<sup>4</sup> Almost two-thirds (63.7%, 85,238) of Contra Costa County’s LEP population reported speaking Spanish at home, and nearly a quarter (23.0%, 30,833) spoke an Asian/Pacific Islander language at home.<sup>4</sup>

Language barriers in the health care setting can lead to problems including denial or delay of services, issues with medication management and underutilization of preventive services.<sup>7</sup> Difficulty in communication can also limit clinicians’ ability to understand the patient’s condition and effectively provide treatment.<sup>7</sup> The quality of communication between patients and providers is strongly associated with providers’ ability to deliver better and safer care for LEP patients.<sup>7</sup>

Language services, such as translation and interpretation, can facilitate this communication and thus improve health care quality, the patient experience, compliance with recommended care and ultimately health outcomes.<sup>7</sup>

## Data Sources: Demographics

### TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1, 2 and Figures 1-7: The data are limited to the household populations and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters. Any analyses, interpretations or conclusions of the data have been reached by Community Health Assessment, Planning and Evaluation (CHAPE) unit of Contra Costa Health Services.

Table 1: Population data from U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program's Population Estimates 2000 through 2008 by place. Data retrieved January 8, 2010.

Figures 1–3: Population data by age from the U.S. Census Bureau Population Supplementary Survey Summary Tables 2000, 2001 and American Community Survey Demographic and Housing Summary Tables 2002–2008. Data retrieved January 8, 2010.

Table 2 and Figure 4,5: Population data by race/ethnicity from the U.S. Census Bureau Population by Race/Ethnicity Supplementary Survey Tables 2000, 2001, and American Community Survey Estimates 2002–2008. Data retrieved July 30, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau “Black or African American” is used for African American, and “Latino/Hispanic” is used for Hispanic. Data presented for Hispanics include Hispanic residents of any race. Data presented for whites, Asians/Pacific Islanders and African Americans include non-Hispanic residents.

Figure 6: Median household income data from the U.S. Census Bureau Supplementary Survey Summary Tables 2000, 2001 American Community Survey. Contra Costa County and California Selected Economic Characteristics 2002–2008. Retrieved January 5, 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable>. The data are limited to median household income in the past 12 months.

Figure 7: Poverty data from the U.S. Census Bureau Supplementary Survey Tables Contra Costa County And California 2000,2001 and American Community Survey Tables Contra Costa County and California 2002–2008. The data are limited to median household income in the past 12 months.

Figure 8: Unemployment rate data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics 1999–2009. Estimates are annual rates and are not seasonally adjusted. Any analyses, interpretations or conclusions of the data have been reached by Community Health Assessment, Planning and Evaluation (CHAPE) unit of Contra Costa Health Services.

Tables 3–5: Local data about the uninsured from the California Health Interview Survey's AskCHIS data query system, copyright© 2007 the Regents of the University of California, all rights reserved, available online at: <http://www.chis.ucla.edu/>. Not all race/ethnicities are shown but all are included in totals for the county, county by gender, and Greater Bay Area. Data presented for Latinos include Latino residents of any race. Data presented for whites, Asians/Pacific Islanders and African Americans include non-Latino residents. Greater Bay Area data includes the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma. Ask CHIS data are generated from a telephone survey that asks questions to a randomly selected group of residents in Contra Costa and other counties in California. Responses are then weighted to represent the county, region, and state as whole. The variable analyzed was created from multiple health insurance questions and reveals whether persons are currently uninsured, experienced uninsurance at some point during the last 12 months, or were insured all of the last 12 months. Data analysis performed August 2, 2010 by the Community Health Assessment, Planning and Evaluation unit of Contra Costa Health Services.

### TEXT

1. Contra Costa County official county website – “Visiting” and “Cities of Contra Costa” webpages. Retrieved August 3, 2010 from <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us>

2. National Association of Counties website – “Find a County” webpage. Retrieved January 8, 2010 from <http://www.naco.org>
3. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey. Contra Costa County Population and Housing Narrative Profile: 2008. Retrieved January 5, 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/NPTable>
4. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey. Contra Costa County Selected Social Characteristics from 2008 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Retrieved January 5, 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable>
5. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey. Contra Costa County and California Selected Social Characteristics from 2008 ACS 1-Year Estimates. Retrieved January 5, 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable>
6. ER Brown, R Kronick, NA Ponce, J Kencheloe, SA Lavarreda, EC Peckham. The State of Health Insurance in California: Findings from the 2007 California Health Interview Survey, Los Angeles, CA; UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 2009.
7. Au M., Taylor E.F., Gold M. (2009). Improving Access to Language Services in Health Care; A Look at National and State Efforts Policy Brief. Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. Retrieved August 3, 2010 from <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/health/languageservicesbr.pdf>