

Chapter 1

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL PROFILE

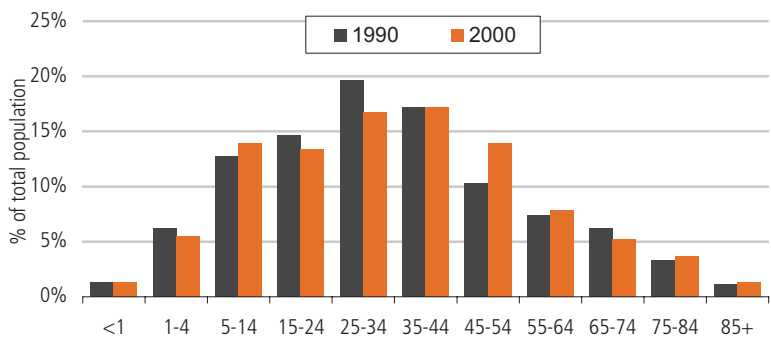
In this chapter, basic characteristics of Alameda County’s population such as its age, race/ethnicity, and gender composition are examined, along with how these characteristics have changed over time. In addition, social and economic conditions of the population are described, especially as they relate to the precursors of poverty: income, educational achievement, employment opportunity, and cost of living. Other important demographic factors examined include primary language and health insurance status. All of these factors, and more, contribute to the social and economic health of the population, which in turn is critical in determining both the individual and collective health status of the population.

Alameda County is the most racially and ethnically diverse county in the San Francisco Bay Area. Compared to six other Bay Area counties, Alameda County has the largest percentage of non-White residents. The majority of Alameda County’s communities rank high on measures of racial/ethnic diversity as well.¹ Nearly 15% of Alameda County residents are of mixed racial or ethnic heritage; the largest groups being Latino/White and Asian/White. Over 20% of the Bay Area youth population under age 18 is of mixed heritage, well above the adult population. In fact, Alameda County’s youth population is more diverse than any other Bay Area county.¹

Age

The age structure of Alameda County’s population shifted between 1990 and 2000. As a percentage of the total population, the age group 25 to 34 years decreased, while the age group 45 to 54 years increased. This is consistent with national patterns and the aging of the baby boom generation.

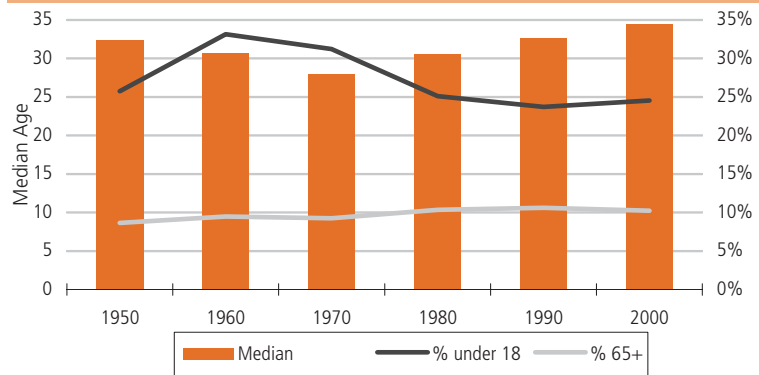
Figure 1.1: Age Distribution, Alameda County, 1990 and 2000



Source: CAPE; Census 1990 and 2000.

Since 1970, the county population has been aging. The median age went from 28.0 years in 1970 to 34.5 years in 2000. The percentage of persons 65 years and older increased slightly from 8.6% in 1950 to 10.2% in 2000. The percentage of persons under 18 years of age dropped from a high of 33.1% in 1960 to a low of 23.7% in 1990 and increased only slightly in 2000.

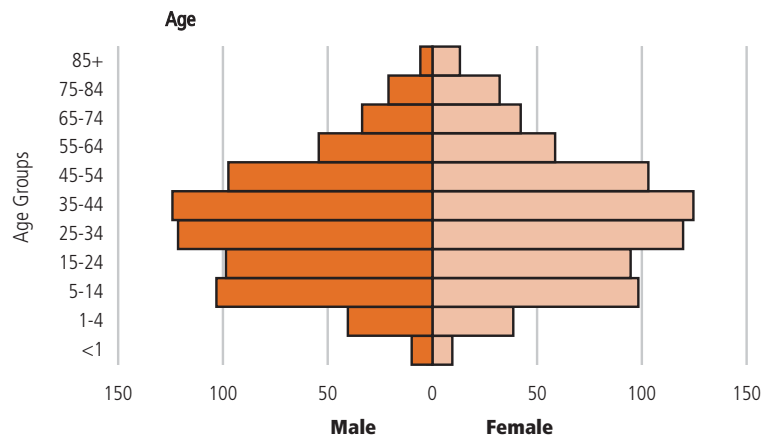
Figure 1.2: Median Age, Percentage Under 18 Years, Percentage 65 Years or More, Alameda County, 1950-2000



Source: CAPE; Census 1950-2000.

There are more males than females in the age groups up to 25 to 34 years. In the older age groups, 45 years and above, the number of females exceeds the number of males.

Figure 1.3: Population (in Thousands) by Age and Gender, Alameda County, 2000



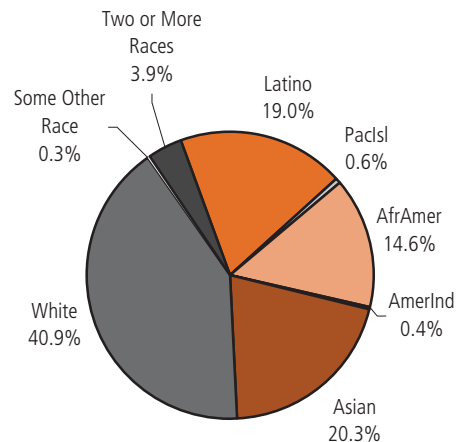
Source: CAPE; Census 2000.

Race and Ethnicity

In Census 2000, respondents were able to check more than one race for the first time. This resulted in 3.9% of the population of Alameda County being two or more races. Whites are the majority with 40.9%. Asians, Latinos, and African Americans are 20.3%, 19.0%, and 14.6%, respectively. Finally, American Indians, Pacific Islanders, and those of some other race are less than one percent each.

Taking into account Latinos of mixed heritage, the percentage of mixed race/ethnicity increases to nearly 15%.

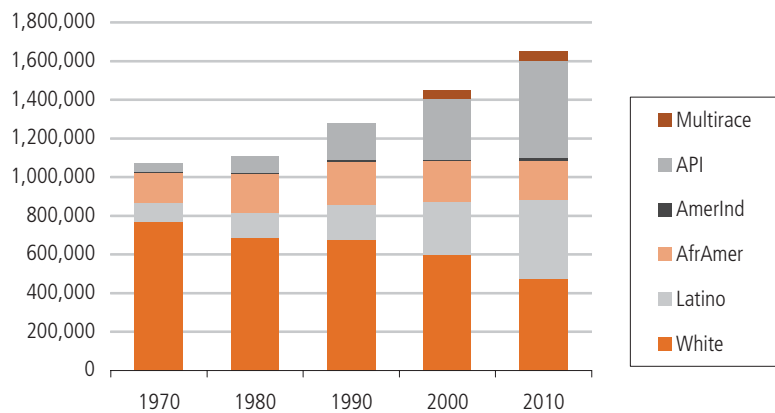
Figure 1.4: Race and Ethnicity, Alameda County, 2000



Source: CAPE; Census 2000.

Between 1970 and 2000, the Asian and Latino populations have increased in number, and the White population has decreased. These trends are predicted to continue at least through 2010. African American population numbers are predicted to remain stable.

Figure 1.5: Race and Ethnicity, Alameda County, 1970-2010

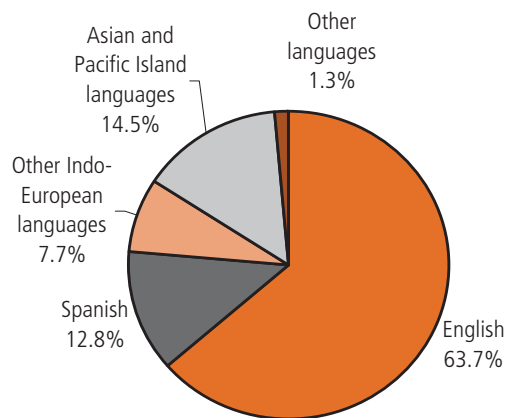


Source: CAPE; CA DOF.

Language

English is the primary language spoken in almost two-thirds of Alameda County households. Asian and Pacific Island languages are the next most frequent, spoken in 14.5% of households. Spanish is spoken in 12.8% of households, and other Indo-European languages are spoken in 7.7% of households. Other languages are spoken in the remainder.

Figure 1.6: Language Spoken at Home, Alameda County, 2000

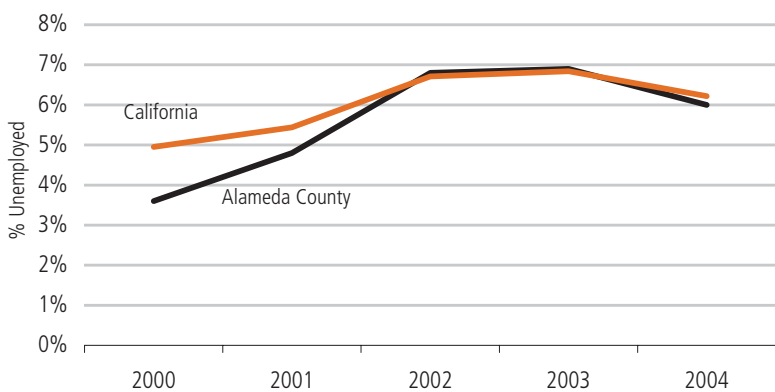


Source: CAPE; Census 2000.

Unemployment

Unemployment has increased substantially from historic lows in 2000. In Alameda County, the percent of workers unemployed increased from 3.6% in 2000 to 6.9% in 2003. The rate decreased again in 2004 to 6.0%. This trend mirrors that of California.

Figure 1.7: Unemployment Rate, Alameda County and California, 2000-2004

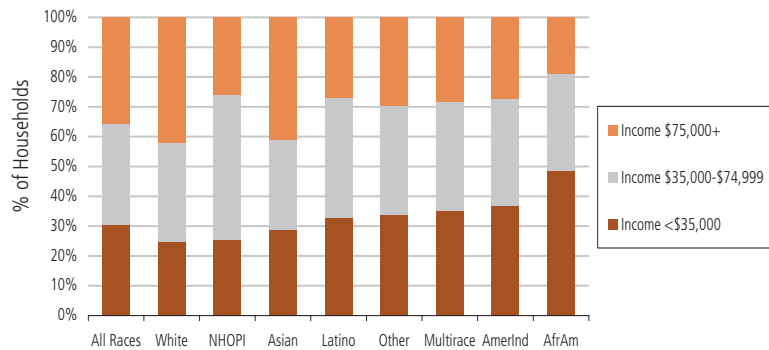


Source: CAPE; CA EDD.

Income and Poverty

Whites and Asians have the greatest percentages in the upper income category of \$75,000 or more, while African Americans have the lowest percentage in that category. African Americans have a substantially higher percentage in the lower income category of less than \$35,000 relative to other race/ethnic groups.

Figure 1.8: Household Income by Race/Ethnicity, Alameda County, 1999



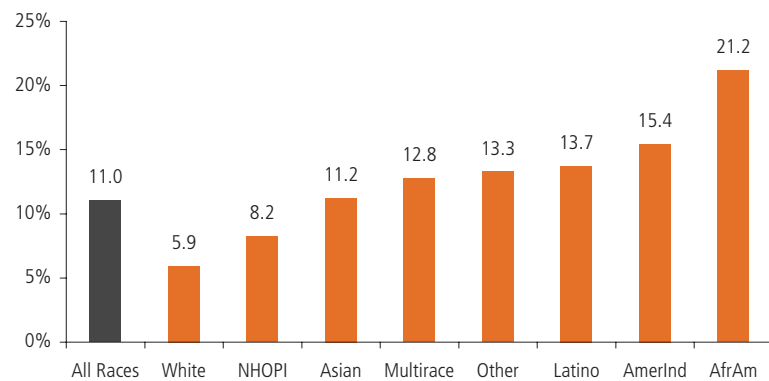
Source: CAPE; Census 2000.

In 1989, 10.6% of Alameda County residents lived under the federal poverty level. This increased slightly to 11.0% in 1999.

Over 20% of African Americans in Alameda County lived in poverty in 1999. This is almost four times the poverty rate of Whites. Poverty rates among American Indians, Latinos and those of other or multiple races also exceeded the White rate by two or more times.

In 1989 the poverty level for a family of four was annual income less than \$12,674; in 1999, adjusting for inflation, it was \$16,895. More women than men live in poverty, as do more children than adults.

Figure 1.9: Percentage Living in Poverty, Alameda County, 1999



Source: CAPE; Census 2000.

Table 1.1 shows that income inequality in Alameda County, as measured by the gini coefficient, has been increasing, as it has in the Bay Area, California, and the United States. The gini is one measure of income distribution, where a value of zero means all income is perfectly distributed and a value of one means all the income belongs to one household.

Table 1.1: Income Inequality, 1980-2000

	1980	1990	2000
Alameda County	0.396	0.427	0.448
Bay Area	NA	0.428	0.456
California	0.409	0.444	0.472
United States	NA	0.449	0.462

Source: CAPE; Census 1980-2000.

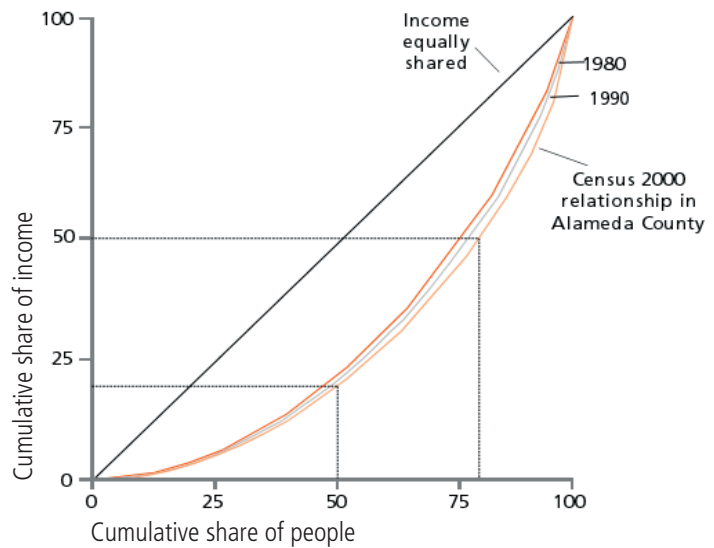
In Alameda County, the Gini increased from 0.396 in 1980 to 0.427 in 1990, and to 0.448 in 2000. Thus income in the county is being consolidated among fewer individuals in the last two decades.

The Lorenz curve illustrates this increasing inequality. The curve is gradually moving away from equal income as shown by the distance of the 1980, 1990 and 2000 curves from the straight line. For example, in 2000 the richest 20% of Alameda County residents received 50% of the total income, and the poorest 50% received 20% of total income.

The top ten job categories with the greatest growth in numbers of jobs available through 2007 are listed in Figure 1.11. The wages associated with these jobs vary widely from \$8 per hour to \$51 per hour.

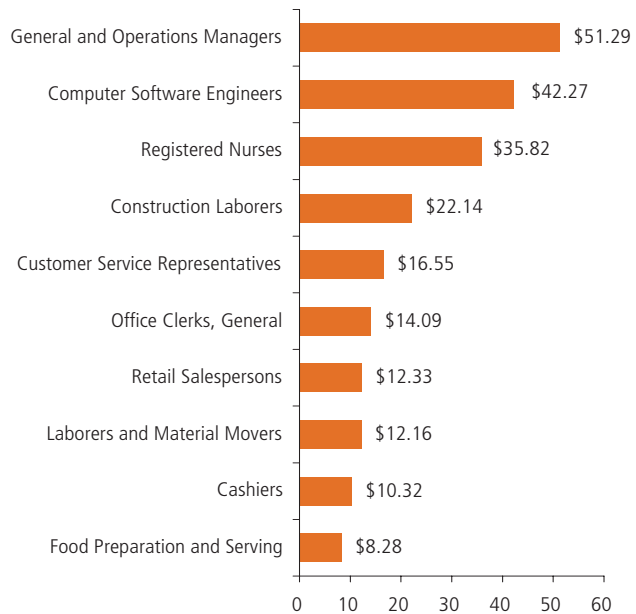
The living wage standard is that wage at which a family can meet basic needs such as housing, food, transportation, and health. In 2003, for example, the living wage for Alameda County for a family of one adult and two school-age children was \$19.83 per hour. For a three-member family, only four of the top ten jobs with the greatest projected growth would meet their economic needs.

Figure 1.10: Income Inequality, Alameda County, 1980-2000



Source: CAPE; Census 1980-2000.

Figure 1.11: Average Hourly Wage for Job Categories with Greatest Projected Growth, Alameda County, 2003



Source: CAPE; CA EDD.

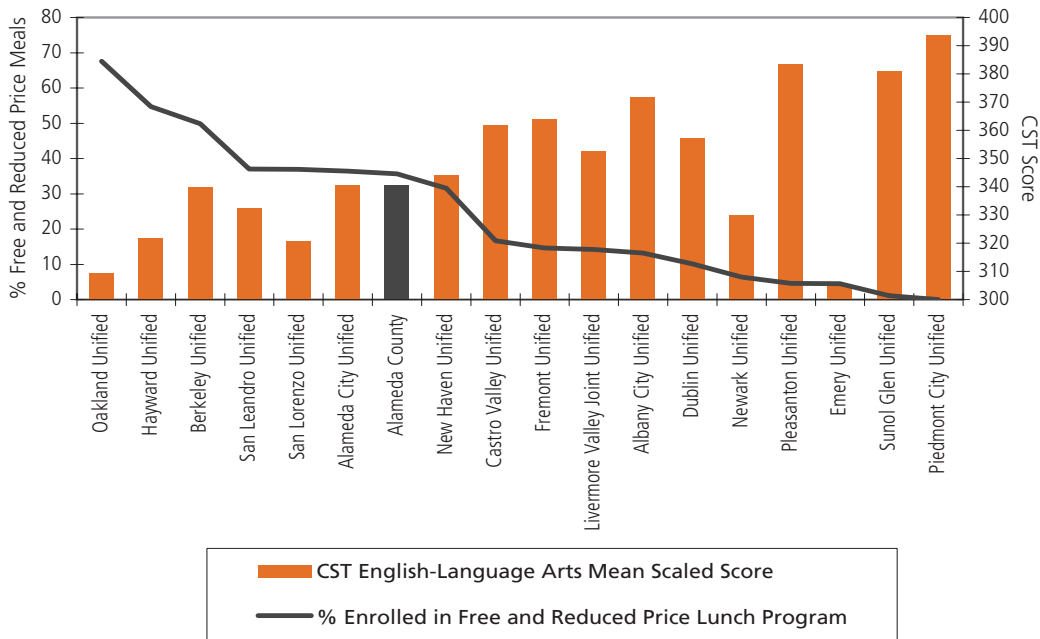
Table 1.2: Living Wage and Living Wage Jobs, Alameda County, 2003

Living wage standard for Alameda County	\$19.83
One adult, two school-age children	
Number of jobs with greatest projected growth that meet living wage standard	4

Source: CAPE; NEDLC Self-Sufficiency Standard for California.

Education

Figure 1.12: Eighth Grade CST Score 2004-2005 and Free and Reduced Price Lunch, 2003-2004, by School Districts

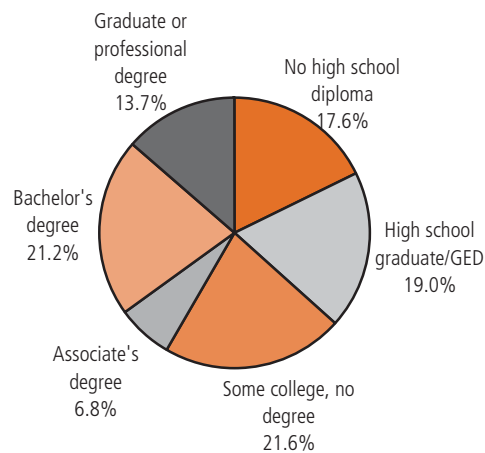


Source: CAPE; Dataquest and Ed-Data.

The percentage of students enrolled in the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program (FRPL) is used here as a measure of poverty. In general, schools with a high percentage of kids on the FRPL Program tend to have lower English language test scores, suggesting an association between poverty and school performance. Exceptions to this pattern are the Newark and Emery Unified School Districts.

In 2000, 82% of Alameda County adults had graduated from high school. This figure is up from 63% in 1970 and 76% in 1980, but it was nearly the same as the 1990 figure (81%).

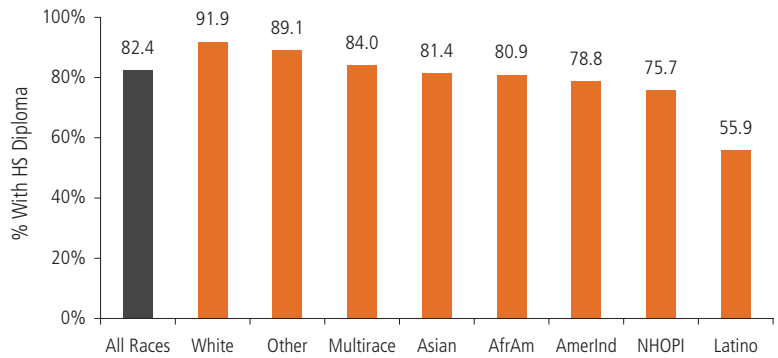
Figure 1.13: Educational Attainment, Adults Aged 25 and Older, Alameda County, 2000



Source: CAPE; Census 2000.

The percentage of adults aged 25 and older with a high school diploma varies widely by race/ethnicity. While 82% of all adults in Alameda County have completed high school, the percentage with a diploma ranges from a high of 92% for Whites to a low of 56% for Latinos.

Figure 1.14: High School Diplomas, Adults Aged 25 and Older, Alameda County, 2000



Source: CAPE; Census 2000.

Housing

The percentage of owner-occupied homes in Alameda County has risen slightly over the past 30 years, increasing from 51.9% in 1970 to 54.7% in 2000.

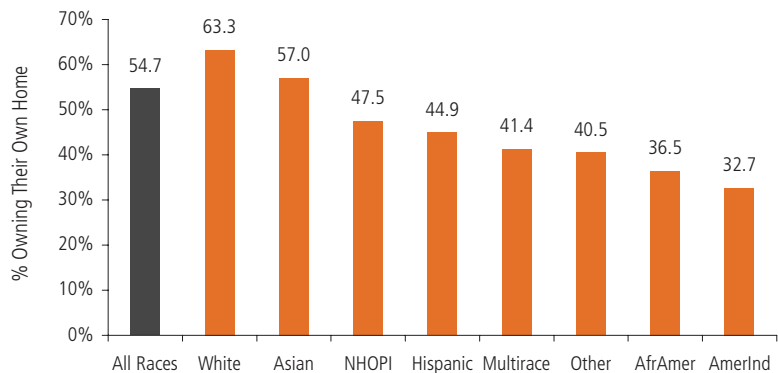
Table 1.3: Home Ownership, Alameda County, 1970-2000

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Households -	51.9%	53.1%	53.3%	54.7%
Owner occupied				

Source: CAPE; Census 1970-2000.

Whites and Asians have higher home ownership rates than the county as a whole; 63.3% of White households and 57% of Asian households are owner occupied. For all other race/ethnic groups, between one-third and one-half are homeowners.

Figure 1.15: Home Ownership by Race/Ethnicity, Alameda County, 2000



Source: CAPE; Census 2000.

The percentage of persons who were in the same house five years previous to the Census increased from 44.9% in 1970 to 50.8% in 2000, showing that housing mobility has decreased. Similarly, the percentage of households where the residents had stayed for more than ten years increased from 24.7% in 1970 to 32.5% in 2000.

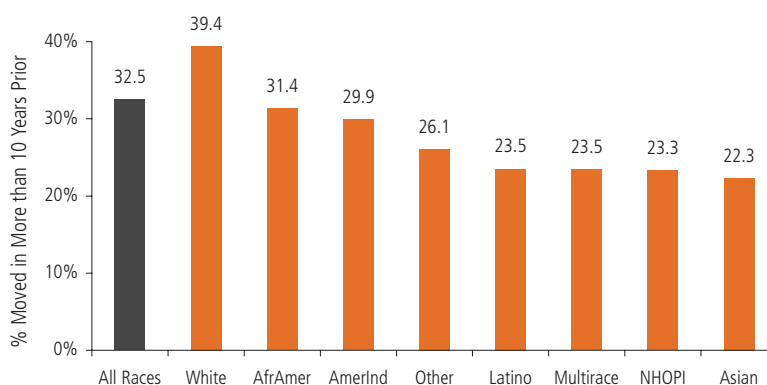
Table 1.4: Housing Mobility, Alameda County, 1970-2000

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Persons – Same house as five years earlier	44.9%	47.7%	47.2%	50.8%
Households – Moved in more than ten years prior	24.7%	27.6%	32.7%	32.5%

Source: CAPE; Census 1970-2000.

Mobility is highest for Asians, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, multiracial individuals, and Latinos. About 22% to 24% of these groups lived in the same home in 1990 as in 2000. This is compared to 39.4% of Whites.

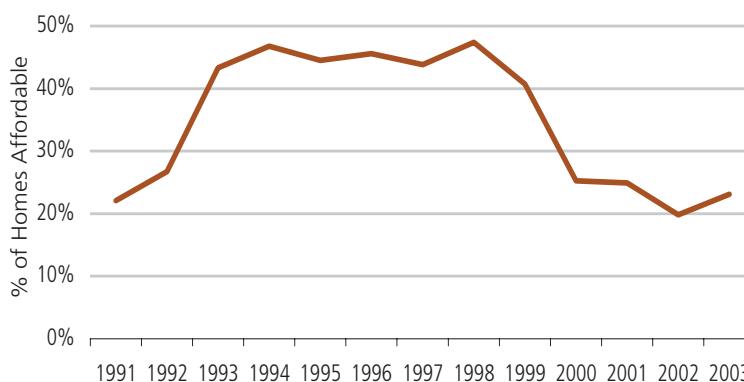
Figure 1.16: Housing Mobility by Race/Ethnicity – Moved In More than Ten Years Prior, Alameda County, 2000



Source: CAPE; Census 2000.

The housing opportunity index measures the percentage of the homes sold that are affordable to people with the median income. The index increased in the early 1990s and remained stable until 1999 when it declined to a low of 20% in 2002.

Figure 1.17: Housing Opportunity Index, Alameda County



Source: CAPE; National Association of Homebuilders, 2005.

The national standard for housing affordability is that owner costs need to be lower than 30% of household income. According to Census 2000, 22% of households in the nation and 31.5% of households in California pay more than 30% of their income for housing. In Alameda County the figure is 30.9%. Among those who rent, 20.6% of Alameda County residents spent more than 50% of their income on rent in 1999.

Health Insurance

The uninsured are those who do not have health insurance coverage through private or public health insurance plans. In Alameda County, the percentage of adults aged 18-64 without health insurance increased from 11.4% in 2001 to 15.6% in 2003. Among children, the increase was from 5.0% in 2001 to 6.1% in 2003.

Table 1.5: Percentage Without Health Insurance, Alameda County, 2001 and 2003

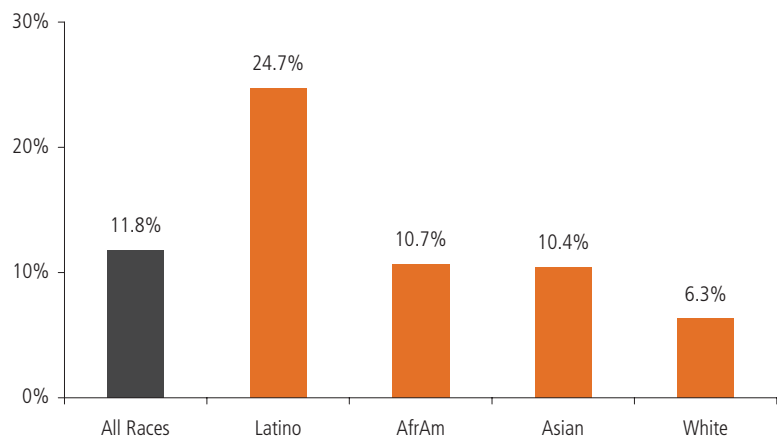
	2001	2003
All Persons	8.8%	11.8%
18-64 Years	11.4%	15.6%
<18 Years	5.0%	6.1%

Source: CAPE; CHIS 2001 and 2003.

Latinos are, by far, the largest group of uninsured people in Alameda County, with almost one in four being uninsured. They are two to four times less likely to be insured than any other race/ethnic group in the county.

Health insurance promotes access to a regular source of care, which is particularly important for those with chronic health problems. Uninsured people may delay health care or not seek it at all, leading to later diagnoses and poor management of health problems.

Figure 1.18: Percentage Without Health Insurance by Race/Ethnicity, Alameda County, 2003

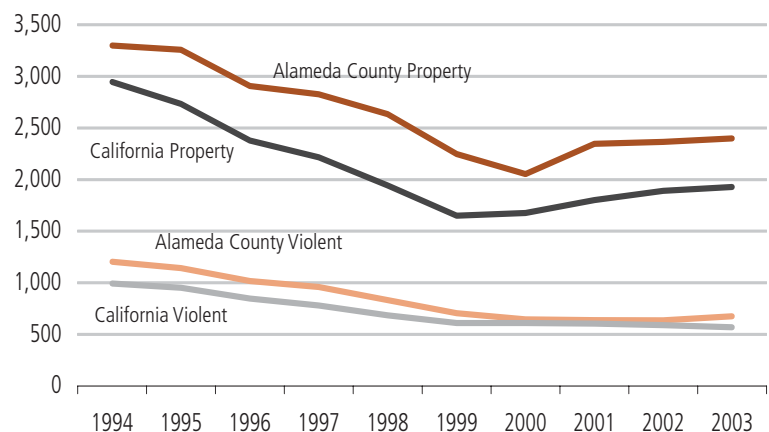


Source: CAPE; CHIS 2003.

Crime

Crime rates in Alameda County, as well as California, declined between 1994 and 1999. Violent crime rates leveled out after 2000, while property crime rates increased. During 1994 to 2003, Alameda County property crime rates have been consistently 20% to 30% higher than those of California. Alameda County's violent crime rate has also been higher than the state rate. In 2003, the county rate was 19% higher than the state rate.

Figure 1.19: Crime Rates per 100,000 Persons



Source: CAPE; CA DOJ.

References

1. Lopez A. *Racial/Ethnic Diversity and Residential Segregation in the San Francisco Bay Area*. Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University. No 1, September 2001.