Doubled Importance of Children for All Generations in California

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How Many Ways Can the Demographics CHANGE ??

-the things we take for granted-

Children Born & Raised

Aging

Growth

Migration

Racial Change

where’s the policy attention?

where’s the policy attention?
Revisiting the Old Narratives About California

• Growth is Overwhelming Us
• Children are Too Numerous
• Children are a Burden on the Taxpayers
• We Don’t Need Other People’s Kids
• We Really Just Can’t Afford It
Total Population of California
Slowdown in Growth Projections

Source: California Department of Finance, 2007 and 2018
Population Growth Slowdown

What Year Does California Reach 50 Million Population?

• Old Expectation 2032

Source:
California Department of Finance, 2007 and 2018
Steady Growth in Santa Clara County?

What Year Does Santa Clara County Reach 2.5 Million Population?

• Old Expectation 2041

• New Outlook 2044

Source:
California Department of Finance, 2007 and 2018
What about Racial Change?
Steady Decline in White Share of U.S. Population

There is NO acceleration before or after the white share approaches the 50% milestone, the so-called scary “tipping point.”

Change occurs earliest among children (2018) and last among all voters, when whites fall below 50% likely in 2061.

Racial change among voters lags behind the rest of the population because older people turnout twice as reliably and are more likely to be white.

Change is gradual—a year at a time, no surges, no “boiling point.”

But the national news rhetoric sure is heated about an issue California is long past -- since the 1990s.

The pace of racial change after 2030 has been slowed by another 2 years in the most recent Census Bureau projections.

Source: Dowell Myers voting projections based on Census Bureau CPS Election Survey 2012 and Census Bureau Population Projections 2012; Note: white is non-Hispanic alone
We Are All Minorities Now in California
Percentage Shares of Total Population

Source:
California Department of Finance, 2018
Migration... or Home Grown?
Percent Foreign Born in 2000 and the Recent Changes in Larger Counties

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Percent California Born in 2000 and the Recent Increase in Larger Counties

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Birth Place, by Current Age, 2016
California

Home Grown | Other States | Foreign Born
--- | --- | ---
75+ | 20% | 40% | 40%
65-74 | 30% | 50% | 20%
55-64 | 40% | 40% | 20%
45-54 | 50% | 30% | 20%
35-44 | 60% | 20% | 20%
25-34 | 70% | 10% | 20%
18-24 | 80% | 10% | 10%
5-17 | 90% | 10% | 10%
Under 5 | 100% | 0% | 0%
Total | 100% | 0% | 0%

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
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<th>Other States</th>
<th>Foreign Born</th>
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So What’s the Problem with Changing Demographics?

Children Born & Raised

Aging  Growth  Racial Change

Migration
Too Many Children?

Top Heavy
with too few children
Growth of Children Compared to Adults
Percentage Increase in Number, 2000 to 2015

UNITED STATES
- Nevada
- Utah
- Arizona
- Idaho
- Colorado
- Wyoming
- Washington
- Hawaii
- Oregon
- California
- Montana
- New Mexico
- Alaska
- North Dakota
- Nebraska
- Kansas
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Michigan
- Wisconsin
- Illinois
- Ohio
- Texas
- North Carolina
- Florida
- South Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Virginia
- Tennessee
- Delaware
- Arkansas
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Alabama
- Missouri
- Mississippi
- Louisiana
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Connecticut
- New York
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Maine
- Vermont

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Annual Births in California Soar to 1990

Fearing the burden

From 1990 to 2030:
Total California population + 48%
but Annual births fell by – 24%

Source: California Department of Finance 2018; analysis by Dowell Myers

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Annual Births in Santa Clara County

From 1990 to 2030:

Total Santa Clara county population + 49%

but
Annual births fell by – 16%

Source: California Department of Finance 2018; analysis by Dowell Myers
CDC Birth Report May 2019 for the US

Why the baby bump in 2007?

Recession downturn is clear post 2007

Finally in 2014 recession recovery begins

BUT why the baby dive after 2016?
Why is it a *Problem* to have Falling Numbers of Children?

Fewer young people to assume the duties of society

- Future workers
- Future taxpayers
- Future consumers
- Future parents

Also reflects on the hurdles faced by young women

- Overburdened by time commitments ages 20 to 34
- Lacking social support
- Expenses not shared by the public *(see benefits)*
- A “barometer of despair” in the younger generation

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Our Top Heavy Society

Does it Mean Everything Else is Holding Steady?
Growth by Age in California: Then and Now

Source: Dowell Myers, Census Bureau decennial census of 1990 and 2010, and CA DOF 2017 vintage projections
Growth by Age in Santa Clara County

1990-2010

-60 -40 -20 0 20 40 60

thousands

2010-2030

-60 -40 -20 0 20 40 60

thousands

Source: Dowell Myers, Census Bureau decennial census of 1990 and 2010, and CA DOF 2017 vintage projections
There’s getting to be A LOT of older people. Anybody have a problem with that?

We just can’t have too many older people because ….. if they retire, who will be the workers? ….. are there enough taxpayers to support their pensions and health care?

We need enough young people as supporters. Key is the RATIO between number of seniors 65+ and Working age people, ages 25 to 64

“So how many is too many and what are you gonna do about it?”
Senior Ratio Soars—after flat since 1970

These projections are from the early 2010s and yield conservative estimates of the rising senior ratio.

They do not embed current assumptions of declining numbers of children and young workers.

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Senior Ratio Soars Even More in California

These projections are from 2017 but may be revised to an even older population as the unexpectedly low fertility and low migration take root.

The doubled ratios place extreme reliance on our homegrown children who will have to carry even more weight.

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Implication of this Aging

A child born in 2015 or later will enter the working world in 2040, and face responsibilities of bearing twice the senior ratio. Accordingly, as a worker, taxpayer, and consumer, they will assume literally TWICE the societal importance of children born before 1985.
To carry twice the weight of before, young people will need to be TWICE as prepared,

All evidence shows that begins with a STRONG foundation of care in early childhood through HS, paying back investments 6-to-1 or more in health, child care, and education
So how are we doing? How high is California education spending?

(Spoiler alert: bad news, but getting better, still much more to go)
K-12 Spending per Pupil, by State (2012)

source: Census Bureau
Annual Survey of School System Finances

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Median Household Income, by State (2012)

$58,328
+13%
above US

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California spending per pupil rose 32.2% vs. US increase of 15.0% from 2012 to 2017.

Source: Census Bureau Annual Survey of School System Finances

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Median Household Income, by State (2017)

$71,805
+19%
above US
in 2012
was +13%
above US

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K-12 Spending per Pupil, by State Income

2012

Median Household Income of States

\[ y = 0.216x - 207 \]

2017

Median Household Income of States

\[ y = 0.201x + 313 \]

Source: Census Bureau Annual Survey of School System Finances

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Given the Doubled Importance of Children

No Youth Can be Neglected

- Need all hands on deck
- No drop outs are acceptable
- College financial aid for all who need it
- Early childhood interventions → major lifetime benefits
- This is not just a nice thing to do: its an economic boost for both younger and older Californians alike

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The Intergenerational Partnership Rediscovered

**Children $\$**
- educational investments
- health & nutrition

**Seniors $\$**
- health care
- home sales
- pensions

**Mature Adults $\$**
- prime working age
- strong support for children & seniors

**Young Adults $\$**
- new workers
- new homebuyers
- new taxpayers

*the cycle of roles*

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In Conclusion

Here’s the simple takeaway:

We totally need other people’s kids

And we need them to grow into their fullest capabilities possible
Acknowledging Research Supporters

First 5 California, First 5 LA and First 5 Placer
Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health
Children’s Hospital Association of America

Publications Referenced in this Presentation


And see my animated interview on children’s importance (9 mins) on the First 5 Placer YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/rAgogNGvHTo

NOTE: most publications are available at http://www.usc.edu/schools/price/research/popdynamics/

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