

An Aging but More Diverse Population

Population growth is only part of the story. RCG reviewed the State Demographer’s ASRHO (Age, sex, race and Hispanic origin) estimates and projections, and used them as the basis for assigning age, race and ethnicity shares to the population. During the last 14 years, the Study Area’s population has generally become older. Between 2000 and 2019, residents aged 60+ are expected to grow from 76,180 to 155,324, or by 104 percent, under Scenario B. This means that the share of the Study Area’s population age 60+ is projected to grow from 16.1 to 24.3 percent of the population (see Exhibit I-5).

Under Scenario B, on the other side of the population distribution, the number of persons

under 20 years of age is forecasted to increase from 130,656 in 2000 to 160,105 in 2019 (22.5%) but their share of the population is expected to decline from 27.6 to 25.1 percent.

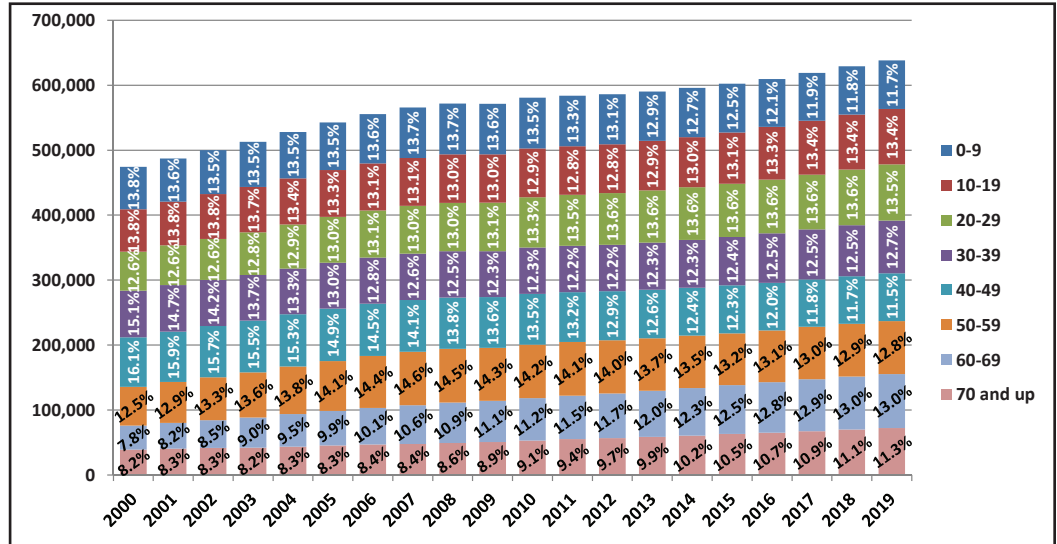
Diversity: Growth & Implications

A key piece of the Study Area’s socioeconomic narrative is the increasing ethnic diversity of its residents. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the proportion of white residents in the Study Area is dropping. At the same time, the region’s Hispanic population has risen. For example, in 2000, Hispanics represented 15 percent of the population. By 2014, they had reached 20.2 percent and by 2019, it will be 23.9 percent. This follows the national trend.

However, in addition to a growing Hispanic community, the region’s Asian population

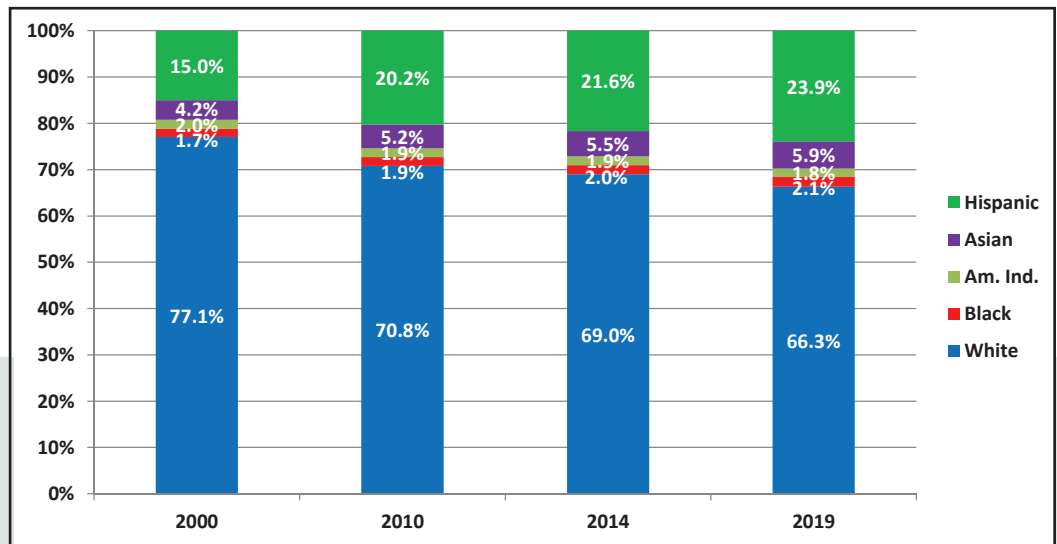
is expected to make substantial gains, growing from 5.5 to 5.9 percent between 2014 and 2019 under all Scenarios: A, B, B2 and C (see Exhibit I-6).

Exhibit I-5: Scenario B Study Area Population Growth & Share, by Age Group, 2000-2019



Source: EPIC Committee

Exhibit I-6: All Scenarios Study Area Population Share, by Race, 2000-2019



Source: EPIC Committee