



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

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A CHANGING CALIFORNIA State is Growing, Aging, and Becoming More Diverse

SACRAMENTO – A new report by the California Budget Project (CBP) examines significant demographic shifts that will impact the state between now and 2020. “Planning for California’s Future: The State’s Population is Growing, Aging, and Becoming More Diverse,” identifies three population trends that loom largest: California is big and getting bigger; it is diverse and becoming more so; and it is getting older.

“All of these trends have enormous implications for policymakers,” said Barbara Baran, associate director of the CBP and author of the report. “These changes will create challenges for our health care systems, schools, and other public services.”

Specifically, the report states:

- Between 2000 and 2020, the state is projected to add 10 million people, roughly equivalent to the state of Michigan.
- The number of Californians age 65 and above is expected to increase by 71.3 percent between 2000 and 2020. By 2020, almost one in seven Californians will be over the age of 65.
- California’s Latino population will increase by 70.3 percent and its white population will decline by 8.0 percent between 2000 and 2020. In 2020, Latinos’ share of the population will exceed that of whites.

These changing demographics may present schools with greater challenges. In 2013-14, 61 percent of California’s school-age population is expected to be Latino and black, and a sizable minority is likely to be English language learners. Many of these children currently have lower levels of educational attainment at all grade levels.

Although older Californians are expected to be healthier than in the past, their increased numbers could strain programs such as Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services, and the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) Program, the report states.

The report is available at www.cbp.org.

The California Budget Project (CBP) was founded in 1994 to provide Californians with a source of timely, objective, and accessible expertise on state fiscal and economic policy issues. The CBP engages in independent fiscal and policy analysis and public education with the goal of improving public policies affecting the economic and social well-being of low- and middle-income Californians. General operating support for the CBP is provided by foundation grants, individual donations, and subscriptions.

Please visit the CBP’s web site at www.cbp.org

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