

**Race and Income in California: Census 2000 Profiles**

Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity\*  
Stanford University

**Executive Summary**

Income levels in California tend to be higher, compared to the nation overall. As part of a legacy of racial inequality in the United States, however, income levels vary race groups. To detail such variations in the state, this report summarizes Census 2000 income data for families and households, as well as per capita.

In terms of median family income, Whites and Asians have the highest medians (\$65,342 and \$61,383, respectively), followed by Pacific Islanders (\$50,641) and Two or More Races families (\$42,566). Blacks, American Indians, Latinos, and Some Other Race families all have lower median incomes (ranging between \$34,079 and \$39,726).

Following a similar pattern, Asians and Whites have the highest median household incomes (\$55,366, and \$53,734, respectively), followed by Pacific Islanders (\$48,650) and households headed by individuals identified with Two or More Races (\$40,371); American Indians, Latinos, Some Other Race households, and Blacks have the lowest income levels (ranging from \$34,956 to \$36,547).

Income rankings at the per capita level are slightly different. Though Whites and Asians in California maintain the highest per capita income levels (\$31,700 and \$22,050, respectively), following these groups are Blacks (\$17,447), Pacific Islanders (\$15,610), American Indians (\$15,226), and Two or More Races (\$14,573) individuals; Latinos and Some Other Race individuals have the lowest per capita income levels (\$11,674 and \$10,579, respectively).

Another way to evaluate per capita income differences across race is to consider the percent change that has occurred over the past decade. While the national per capita income grew 49.7 percent between 1990 and 2000, the state per capita income growth was less, at 38.4 percent. Changes in national median income levels for both families and households were also higher than those for California: for families, 39.7 percent (U.S.) versus 32.7 percent (CA); and for households, 42.1 percent (U.S.) versus 30.7 percent (CA).

In California, American Indians experienced less growth (28.9 percent) in per capita income over the past decade than other groups; this is also the only group with a lower change rate in per capita income than the state overall. Latinos and people identified as Some Other Race had growth rates similar to the state (37.3 and 39.3 percent, respectively); the other groups all experienced more growth in their per capita income than the state as a whole, with Whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders at the top (66.6 and 59.2 percent, respectively), followed by Blacks (50.7 percent).

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\* Report Author: Alejandra Lopez. Series Advisors: Matthew Snipp & Al Camarillo.