Volatile Demographic Trends:  
*How High How Low?*

Dowell Myers  
**USC** Sol Price  
School of Public Policy

Demographic Trends are Highly Political

What to Measure?  
What Benchmarks to Compare?  
What Interpretation to Draw?

But the Demographic Trends also are Bipartisan and Even Connect us Together

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Why are Demographic Trends Being Recognized as so Important?

1. Future consumers, workers, transportation users, housing occupants, and tax payers
2. Differences and disparities (critical view on trends)
3. Social assets, connections and mutual benefits (pro-social view on trends)

How Many Ways Can the Demographics Be Changing ??

- Children Born & Raised
- Aging
- Growth
- Racial Change
- Migration
The Growth Outlook has been Changing

Total Population of California
Slowdown in Growth Projections

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What Year Does California Reach 50 Million Population?

• Old Expectation = 2031

• New Outlook = 2055

a quarter century later

Source:
California Department of Finance, 2007 and 2017

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Some of that Slowdown Could be Due to Fertility Decline

next panel has details
Migration – and Immigration – Have Radically Shifted
but
What Next??

Annual Immigrant Arrivals
Percentage Change in Net Flow Since 1970

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**Foreign Born Share of The Population Leveling Off**

- **Los Angeles**
- **California**
- **United States**


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**Immigrant Arrivals Rebounding Post-2012**

- **Inflow indexed relative to 2010 (1.00 = 2010)**

- **US**, **CA**, **SCAG**, **LA**, **Orange**, **Riverside**

**Source:** American Community Survey, Geographic mobility, Foreign-born noncitizens from abroad

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The Immigration Trend Has Many Consequences

Among Demographics, It’s the Most Politically Contentious, and Also the Most Volatile

Nativity of School-Age Children in 2010
Percent of States’ Children who are of Immigrant Origin

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Changing Characteristics of Immigrant Arrivals in Southern California, Post-2000

**Racial Share of New Arrivals**

- Hispanics
- NH Asian&PI
- NH White
- NH Black
- NH Others

**Education Share of New Arrivals**

- Less than high school
- High school
- Some college
- BA
- More than BA


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**Net Fiscal Impact in 2012, per Capita, by Age and Generation, Including All Levels of Government**

- First = foreign born
- Second = Immig parents
- Third = Native parents


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Net Fiscal Impact in 2012, per Capita, by Education Level, Age and Generation, Including All Levels of Government

A. First generation

B. Second generation


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Meanwhile
Aging Continues
– Unstoppable –
But With Different Results
Each Decade
Growth by Age in California: Then and Now

1990-2010

2010-2030

Senior Ratio Soars After 2010

Seniors (65+) per 100 Working Age (25-64)

Source: Dowell Myers, Census Bureau decennial censuses of 1990 and 2010, and CA DOF 2014 vintage projections

Source: Dowell Myers, Census Bureau decennial censuses of 1990 and 2010, and CA DOF 2013 vintage projections
The Homegrown Revolution

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New Reliance on the Native Californians

Birthplace Origins in Southern California, by Residents’ Age in 2015

Source: Analysis of 2015 1-year ACS data, accessed in the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)

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The Intergenerational Partnership Rediscovered

- Children $$$ educational investments
- Seniors $$$
  - health care
  - home sales
  - pensions
- Mature Adults $$$
  - prime working age
  - strong support for children & seniors
- Young Adults $$$
  - new workers
  - new homebuyers
  - new taxpayers

Source: Dowell Myers, Immigrants and Boomers

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Thank you

- Research Sponsors
  - First 5 LA
  - Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health
- For more Information on
  - Generational futures
  - Visit USC PopDynamics

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