Children’s Doubled Importance in the New Generational Future of Orange County & California

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Demographic Assumptions
Focused on Children

are Core to Public Beliefs about
Services and Taxation
and about
Priorities for California Policy

Are assumptions outdated?
How valid are they?
Old Social Understandings in California

- Children are Too Numerous
- Children are a Burden on the Taxpayers
- We Don’t Need Other People’s Kids
- We Don’t Want to Support Them – especially if they are ethnically different
- We Really Can’t Afford It

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How Does California Compare on Spending to Other States?
K-12 Spending per Pupil, by State (2012)

New York: $9,183
District of Columbia: $10,608

Source: Census Bureau

Dowell Myers, USC Price

SSF008
Median Household Income, by State (2012)

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<th>State</th>
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Source: Census Bureau ACS 2012: B19013

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K-12 Spending and Median State Income

\[ y = 0.23x - 806 \]

\[ R^2 = 0.41 \]

Source: Census Bureau

SSF008, ACS 2012:B19013
K-12 Spending and Median House Value

\[ y = 0.02x + 7267 \]

\[ R^2 = 0.30 \]

Source: Census Bureau SSF008, ACS 2012: B25077
What IF our assumptions are outdated

and our social understanding is Now – All – Wrong?
High Fertility and Growing Numbers of Children
Number of Babies Born in Orange County

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Number of Children Born per Woman, by Race/Ethnicity, California

Replacement Level = 2.1 per Woman

Source: California Department of Finance

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Losses of Children Under Age 10
Among Counties with Losses Greater than the State Average
2000 to 2010

Source: Census Bureau 2000 and 2010, SF1

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Losses of Children Under Age 10
Among Counties of Southern California
2000 to 2010

Source: Census Bureau 2000 and 2010, SF1

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Generation Revolution
Total Population of Orange County
How Much Will Growth Resurge?

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Population Slowdown and Aging

What Year Does Orange County Reach 3.5 Million Population?

• Old Expectation = 2017

• New Outlook = never

Source:
California Department of Finance, 2007 and 2013
Growth in Age Groups in Orange County

1990 - 2010

2010 - 2030

Thousands

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Senior Ratio Soars

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

Source: Dowell Myers, Census Bureau decennial census of 1990 and 2010, and CA DOF 2013 vintage projections

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Likely Responses to Rising Senior Ratio

• Reduced growth in GDP
• Delayed retirement by seniors
• Reduced or delayed senior benefits
• Higher taxes on young and old
• Young adults in supreme demand!
• Greater reliance on immigrant workers
• Rediscovery of neglected minority youth
No Youth Can be Neglected

- Need all hands on deck
- No drop outs are acceptable
- College financial aid for all who need it
- Universal pre-school and early childhood literacy – major lifetime benefits
- This is not just a nice thing to do: Older Californians need this to happen

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Measuring the Growing Importance of Children
Children’s Index of Critical Importance (iCi)

• Assigned at birth, the iCi is based on the increase in the senior ratio expected at the time the child reaches age 25 (number of seniors per 100 working age).

• With growth in seniors, today’s children assume critical importance due to the added economic and social weight carried by our children when grown.

• A child born in 2015 in California is fully twice as important (index of 2.02) as a child who was born in 1985 (index of 1.00).

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Surging Importance of Children

Source: Dowell Myers analysis of US Census and DOF 2013 California projections

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A New Social Contract
for the New Generational
Future of California
The Intergenerational Partnership Rediscovered

Source: Dowell Myers, 
Immigrants and Boomers

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**the cycle of roles**

- **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
Conclusions

Kids are scarce and we must rely on our homegrown more than ever.

Twice as valuable as before, it is newly urgent that we nurture children to achieve their very best.

Major mutual benefits call all Californians to step up their support of children in every way possible.

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Now can we just get everyone on the same page?

We are connected.

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Thank you

Research Sponsors
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Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health
The Haynes Foundation

For more Information on
Generational futures
Visit USC PopDynamics

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Publications Referenced in this Presentation


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

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