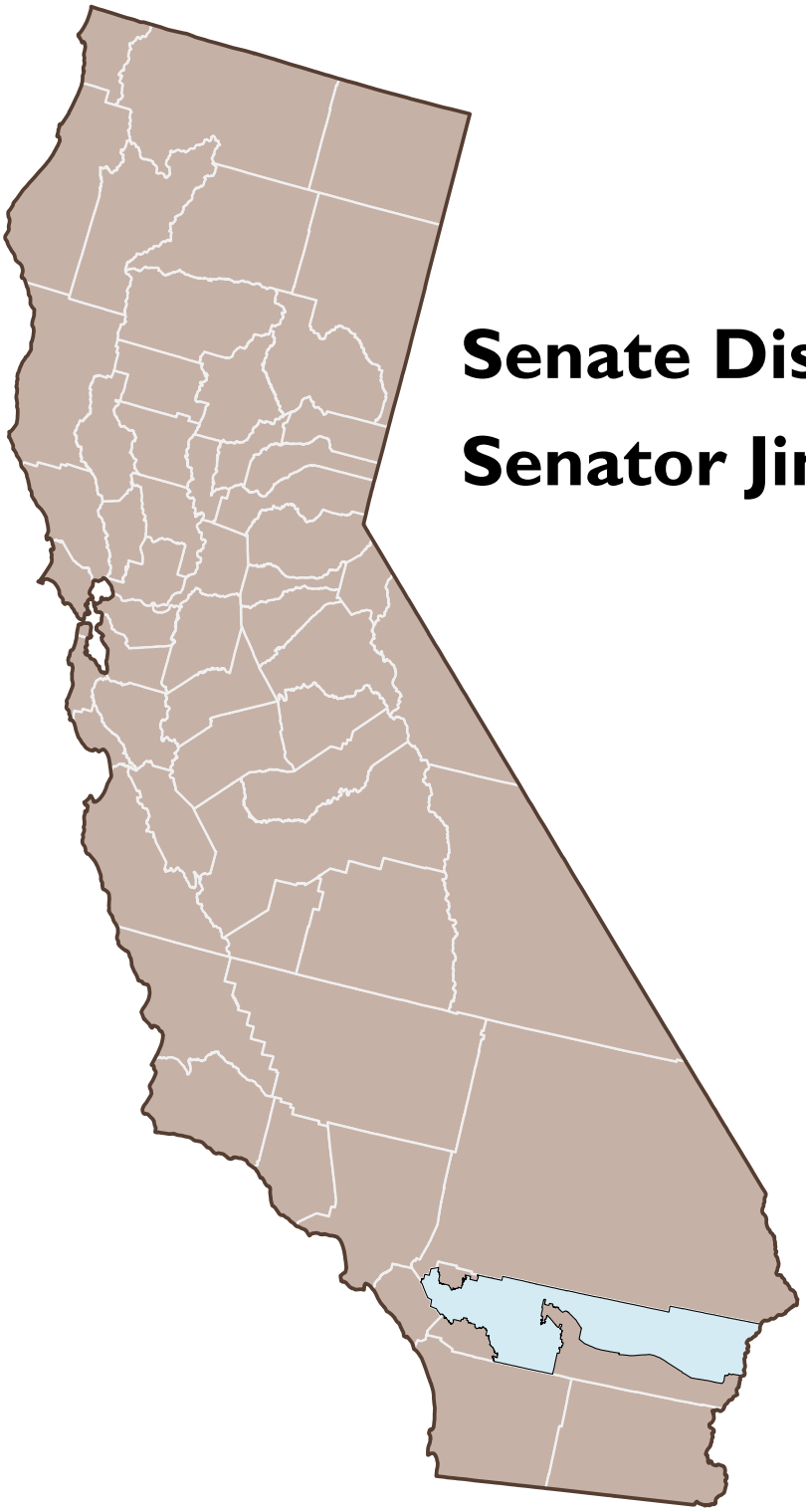
Educational and Demographic Profile



Senate District 37

Senator Jim Battin

California Postsecondary Education Commission

Higher Education Regions

The map below shows the regions used by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC).

The regions represent areas that CPEC considers to have similar interests and needs related to education, employment, and other socioeconomic factors. Looking at these factors on a regional basis highlights the significant variations between different areas of the state and will assist policy makers in addressing the differing needs within California.

Additionally, dealing with issues in a regional context will encourage the type of cooperation, coordination and collaboration across institutional barriers that is necessary if we are to enhance the opportunities for people to achieve educational and workforce success.

Regions near District 37

Counties in each region

North Coast		
Del Norte	Lake	Mendocino
Humboldt		
Superior California		
Lassen	Shasta	Siskiyou
Modoc	Trinity	
Upper Sacramento Valley		
Butte	Glenn	Sierra
Colusa	Plumas	Tehama
Sacramento-Tahoe		
Amador	Placer	Sutter
Alpine	Nevada	Yolo
El Dorado	Sacramento	Yuba
San Francisco Bay Area		
Alameda	Napa	Santa Clara
Contra Costa	San Francisco	Santa Cruz
Marin	San Mateo	Solano
Monterey Bay		
Monterey	Santa Cruz	San Benito
Central Coast		
San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara	Ventura
North San Joaquin Valley		
Calaveras	Mariposa	Stanislaus
Fresno	Merced	Tuolumne
Madera	San Joaquin	
South San Joaquin Valley		
Kern	Kings	Tulare
Inyo-Mono	Inyo	Mono
Los Angeles	Los Angeles	
Orange County	Orange	
Inland Empire	Riverside	San Bernardino
San Diego-Imperial		
San Diego	Imperial	

Introduction

This profile presents a variety of educational, demographic and socioeconomic information for Senate District 37, nearby areas and the state.

The profile graphically displays information concerning the level of educational attainment, ethnic diversity, and income levels. The maps on pages 2 and 12 clearly show the relationship between educational attainment and income. The map on page 8 depicts the racial and ethnic makeup of the same area.

Presenting information in this manner is intended to provide legislators with a comprehensive picture of the condition of the people they represent and show how that compares with what exists in the area around their districts and the state as a whole. This profile is compiled and presented with the intent of enabling policy makers to have a comprehensive picture of the factors that influence an individual's opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

Highlights for District 37

- 33% of recent high school graduates in the district completed college preparatory courses, compared to 37% statewide. *See **Preparation for College**, page 5.*
- 13% of recent high school graduates in the district entered CSU or UC, compared to 18% statewide. *See **University-Going**, page 3.*
- 17% of the district population has a Bachelor's or higher-level degree, compared to 27% statewide. *See **Educational Attainment**, page 7.*
- 3.7% of children in the district are not proficient in English, compared to 5.8% statewide. *See **Demographics**, page 10.*
- Average household income in the district is $55,500, compared to $65,600 for the state as a whole. *See **Socioeconomic**, page 11.*
- There are two degree-granting institutions located within District 37. *See **Local Colleges and Universities**, page 16.*

College-Going

Percent of recent graduates of public high schools entering colleges and universities

Three-year average, 1999–2001

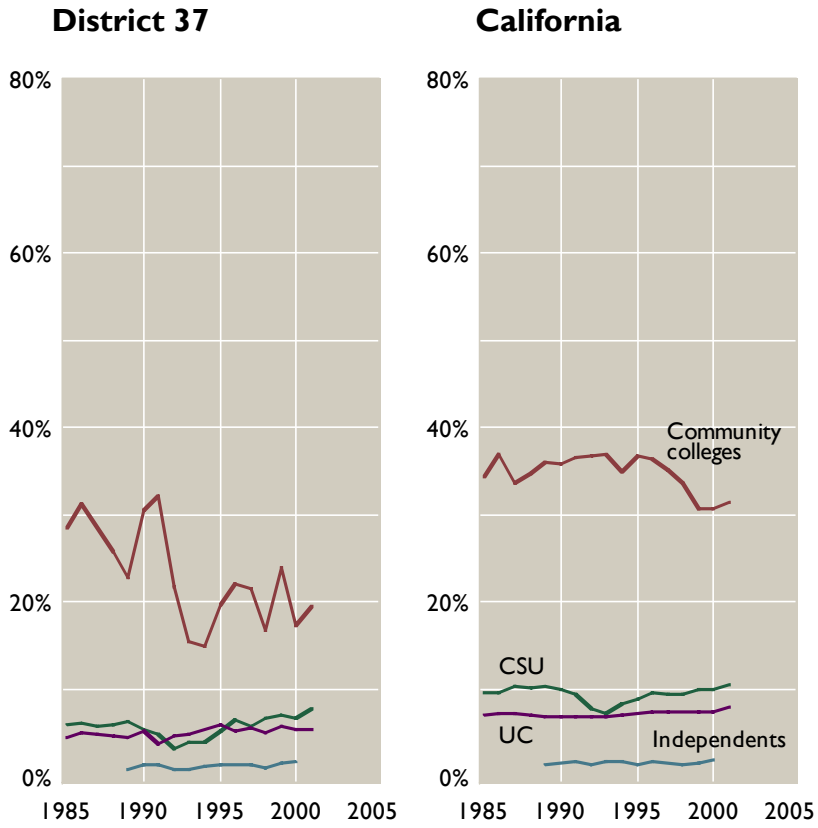
	District 37	California
Community colleges	20%	31%
CSU	7%	10%
UC	6%	8%
Independents	1%	1%
Total	34%	50%

Three-year average for nearby regions

	Inland Empire	Orange County	San Diego-Imperial
CCC	24%	41%	29%
CSU	8%	10%	11%
UC	6%	10%	8%
Independents	1%	1%	1%
Total	40%	62%	48%

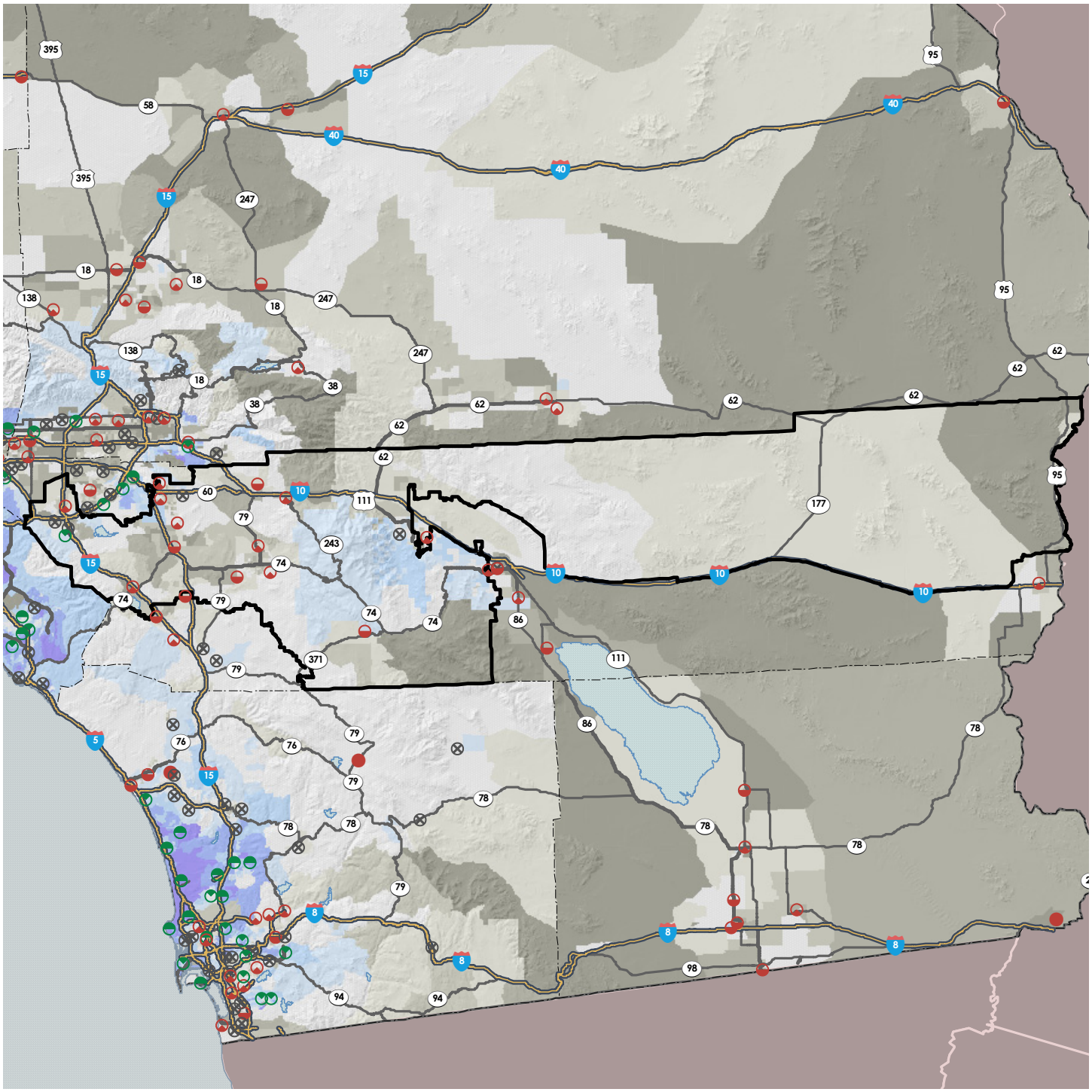
Data for independent colleges and universities is incomplete. Total excludes graduates entering other degree-granting institutions. See page 14 for a description of the postsecondary education systems.

Data from CPEC



Many of the displays in this profile compare statistics for District 37, the state as a whole, and some of the Commission's higher education regions. Senate District 37 is in the Inland Empire Region. See inside front cover for a map of all 14 regions.

University-Going Rates for Public High Schools



University-Going Rates

Symbols are shown for public high schools with 100 or more graduates 1997–2001.

Data from CPEC

Percent of graduates entering CSU and UC, 1997–2000.

- 35% and over
- 25 to 35%
- 20 to 25%
- 15 to 20%
- 10 to 15%
- 5 to 10%
- 0 to 5%

University Education

Percent of population aged 25 or older with a baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree.

Data from 2000 U.S. Census

- 65% and over
- 50 to 65%
- 40 to 50%
- 30 to 40%
- 15 to 30%
- 10 to 15%
- 6 to 10%
- 3 to 6%
- 0 to 3

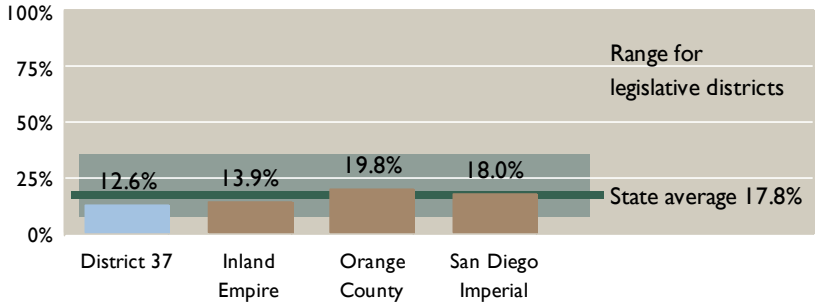
As in all parts of the state, university-going rates are low at high schools in areas where the adult population tends not to be university educated.

University-Going

Percent of recent graduates of public high schools entering CSU and UC

Three-year average, 1999–2001

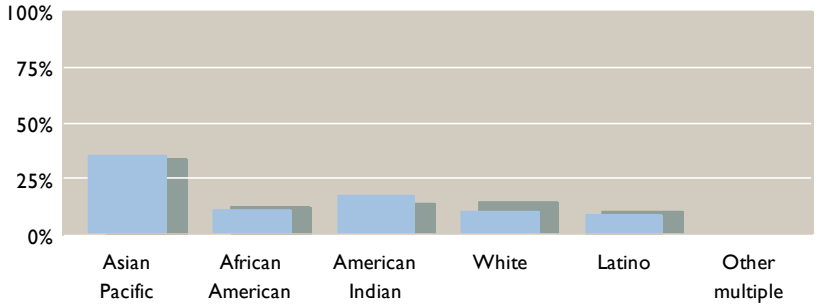
Values for legislative districts range from 8.5% (Assembly District 36) to 35.9% (Assembly District 12).



Entry rates by race and ethnicity

	District 37	California
Asian, Pacific	35%	34%
Black	11%	13%
American Indian	18%	14%
White	10%	14%
Latino	9%	10%

Rates are shown only for ethnic groups having more than 100 graduates in the three-year period



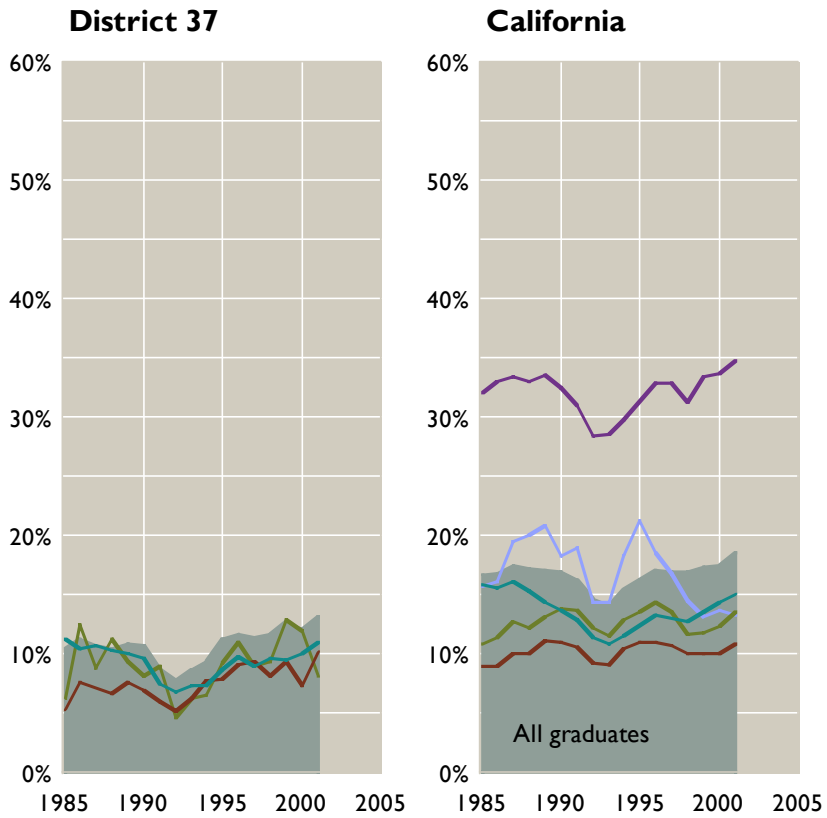
District 37
California

Trends 1985-2002

Rates are shown only for ethnic groups having more than 100 graduates each year.

American Indian
Asian, Pacific Islander
Black, African-American
White
Latino

Green shaded area shows rates for all graduates



Figures for American Indians include Alaska Natives

All data on this page from CPEC

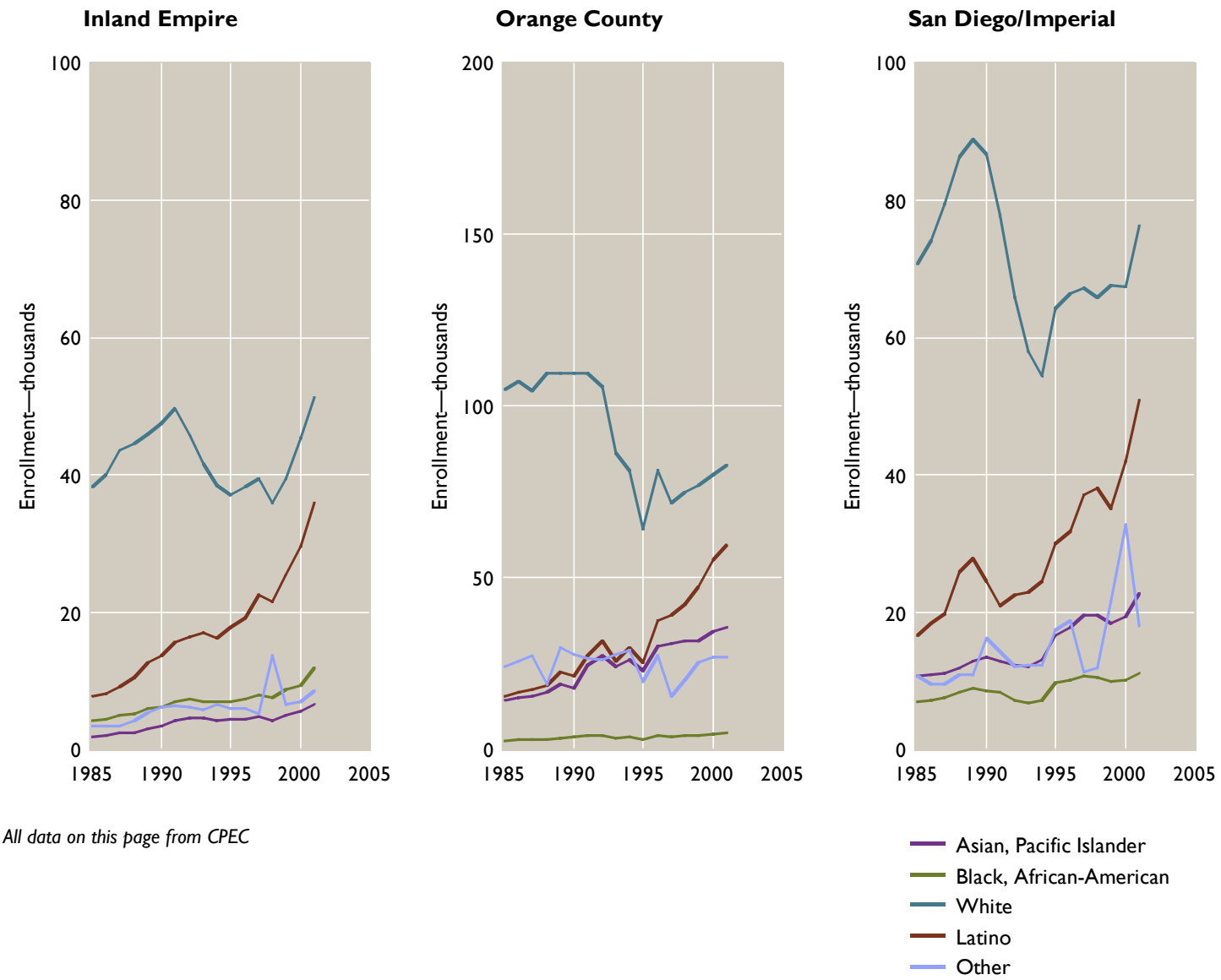
Key statistics, 2001

	Inland Empire	Orange County	San Diego-Imperial	State total
Fall term enrollment				
Total	114,080	209,730	178,920	1,655,000
Asian, Pacific	6,490	35,490	22,730	235,500
African-American	11,910	4,850	11,100	116,400
White	51,270	82,990	76,210	673,300
Latino	35,930	59,550	50,900	445,500
Other	8,480	26,840	17,990	184,300
Transfers				
To CSU	1,930	3,560	2,820	32,400
To UC	470	1,100	670	9,900

Numbers shown for transfers are the number of students transferring from community colleges in the region to a UC or CSU campus, regardless of the location of the university campus.

Data on transfers to independent college and universities and out-of-state universities is incomplete.

Trends in enrollment for nearby regions

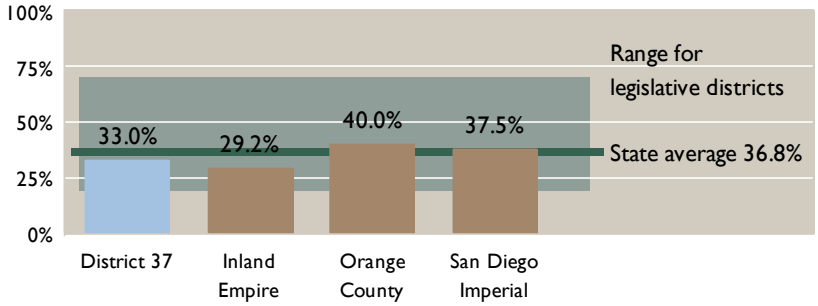


All data on this page from CPEC

Percent of recent public high school graduates completing college preparatory courses

Three-year average 1999–2001

Values are based on course completions reported by schools to the California Department of Education.

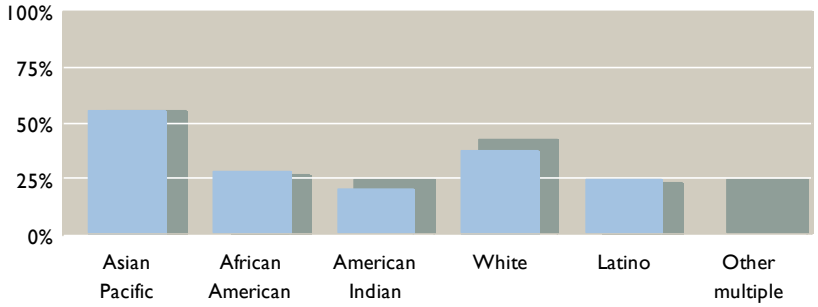


Completion rates by race and ethnicity

	District 37	California
Asian, Pacific	55%	55%
Black	28%	27%
American Indian	20%	25%
White	37%	42%
Latino	25%	23%

Three-year average 1999–2001. Rates are shown only for ethnic groups having more than 100 graduates in the three-year period.

District 37
California

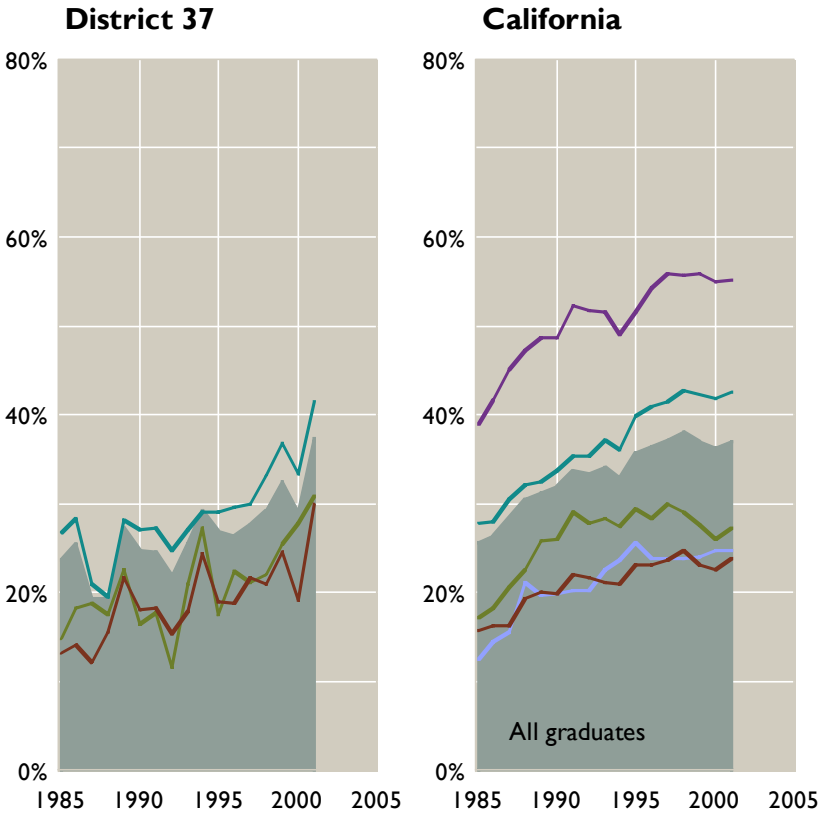


Trends 1985-2002

Rates are shown only for ethnic groups having more than 100 graduates each year.

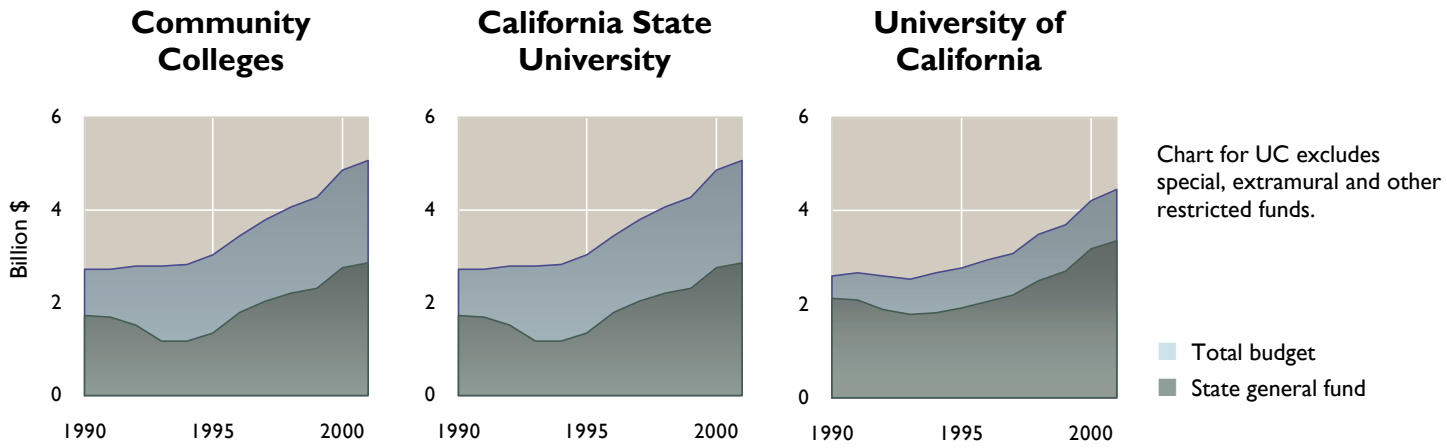
American Indian
Asian, Pacific Islander
Black, African-American
White
Latino

Green shaded area shows rates for all graduates



All data on this page from CPEC

Funding

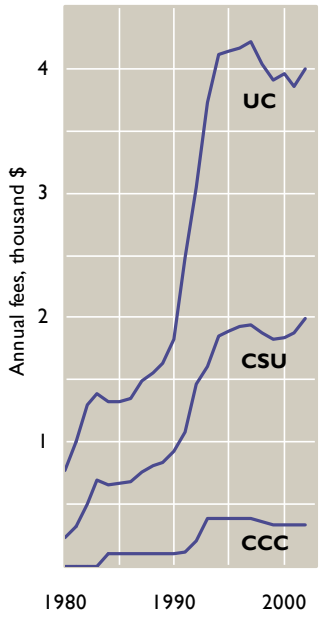


Breakdown of system funding, 2001–02

	Community Colleges		California State University		University of California	
	$billion	Growth*	$billion	Growth*	$billion	Growth*
Total	5.07	47%	4.90	32%	15.68	42%
General fund	2.85	59%	2.61	44%	3.36	63%
Student fees	0.17	3%	0.51	6%	.66	11%
Local tax revenues	1.83	37%	—	—	—	—
Other state and institutional funds	0.23	42%	0.23	42%	0.45	57%
CSU self-funded enterprises, federal funds	—	—	1.44	25%	—	—
UC special and extramural funds	—	—	—	—	11.20	38%

*Percent increase from fiscal year 1996/97 to fiscal year 2001/02

Student Fees and Cal Grant Aid



Annual fees for full-time students

	1980–81	1990–91	2002–03
Community Colleges	—	$100	$330
California State University	$226	920	1,998
University of California	776	1,820	4,017

Fees at CSU and UC are the total of system fees plus the average of campus charges.

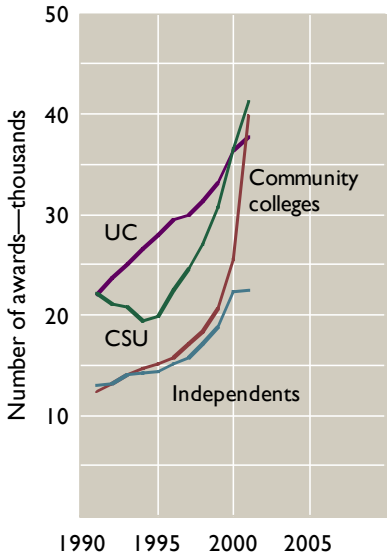
The Community College had no systemwide fees until 1984.

Figures for fiscal year 2002–03 are estimates based on budget information provided by the segments.

Number of Cal Grant A, B, and C awards

	2001–02	Increase from 1996–97
Community Colleges	39,900	152%
California State University	41,200	84%
University of California	37,700	28%
Independents	22,500	48%

Recent trends



Educational Attainment

Education pyramid for persons 25 years and older

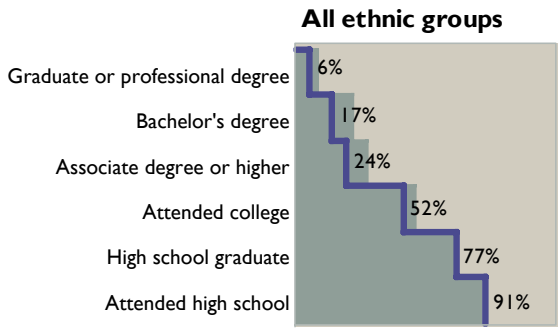
Each step on the pyramid shows the percentage of people 25 years and older who have attained or exceeded the specified level of education.

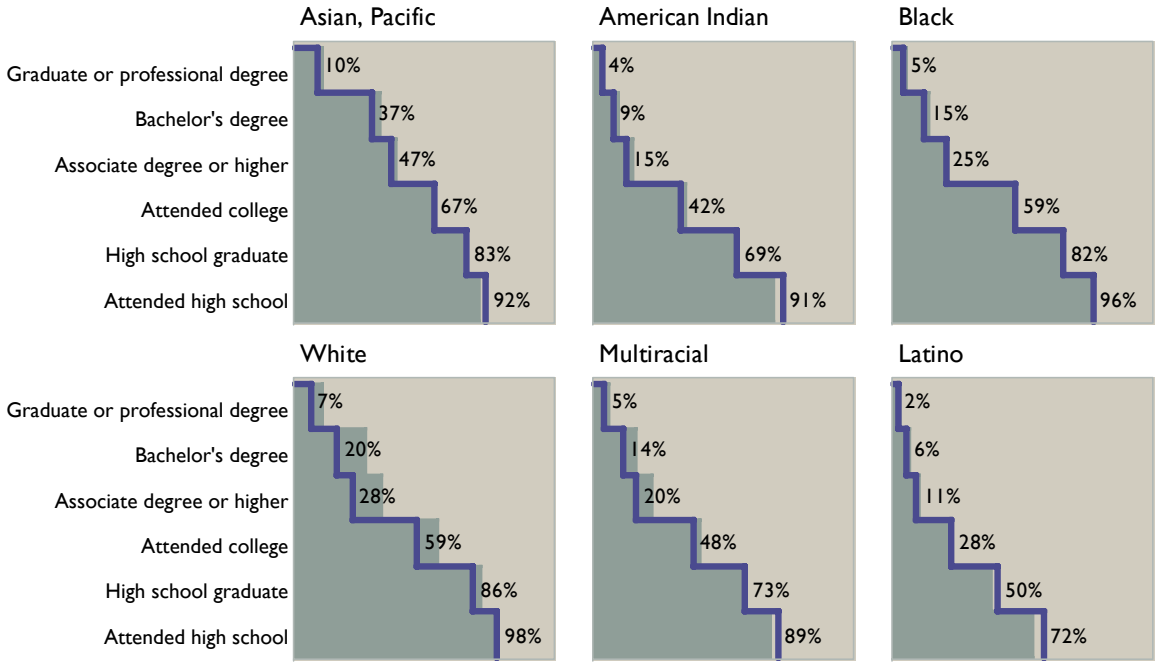
A thinner pyramid indicates a less-well educated population. If the blue line for a given ethnic group is inside the shaded background, the district's population is less well educated than the state as a whole.

If the blue line for a given ethnic group is outside the shaded background, the district's population is better educated than the state as a whole.

The numbers on the pyramids are for District 37

District 37
California

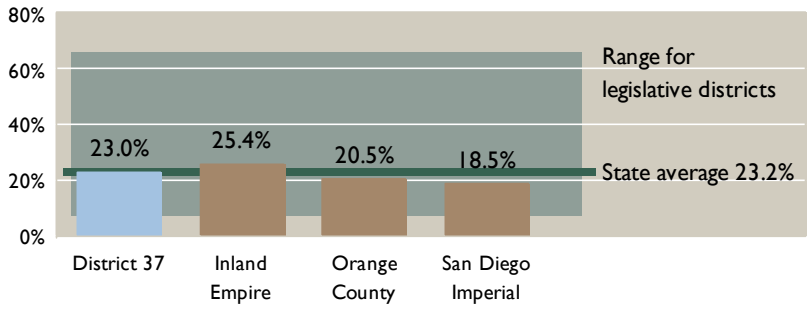




Percent of population with no college

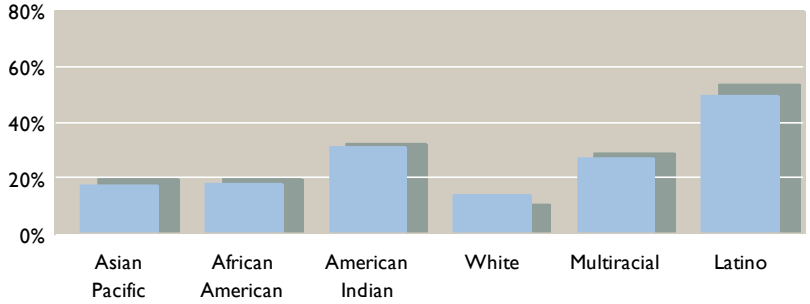
Percentage of people 25 and older with no education above the high school level

Values for legislative districts range from 7.9% (Assembly District 70) to 66% (Assembly District 46).

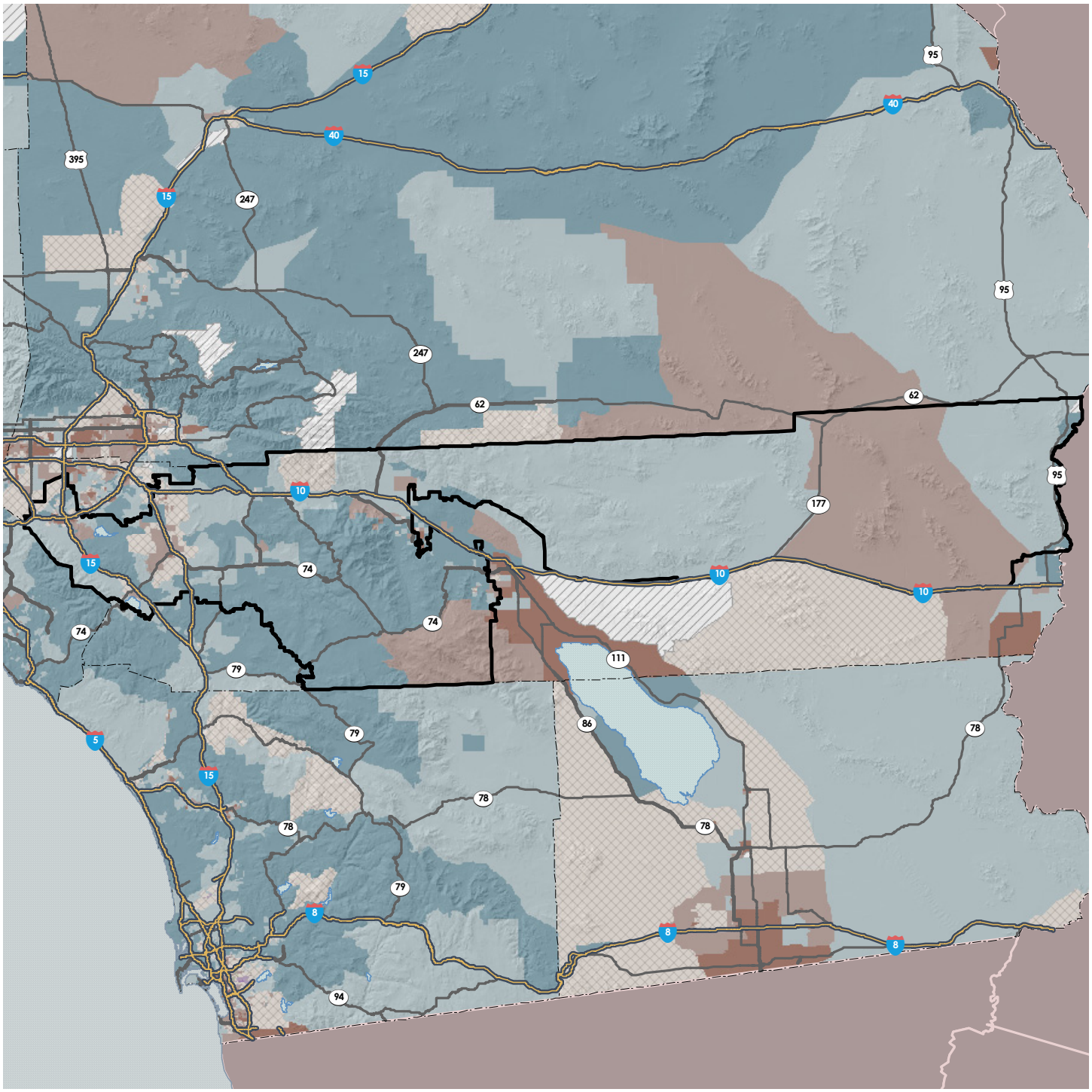


Percent by race and ethnicity

District 37
California



Data from 2000 U.S. Census



Racial and Ethnic Composition

Population of Census Block group

- More than 70% Latino
- More than 50% Latino
- More than 70% African American
- More than 50% African American
- More than 70% White
- More than 50% White
- More than 70% Asian & Pacific
- More than 50% Asian & Pacific
- No race or ethnicity predominates
- Area with no residents

Figures for racial categories are for non-Latinos in each racial group. For example, in a block group shown as being more than 50% white, more than 50% of the non-Latino population identified themselves as white in the 2000 Census.

Data from 2000 U.S. Census

Demographics

Race and Ethnicity

Ethnicity and Race	District 37		California	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
Non Latino				
Total	**577,480**	**68.7**	**22,902,000**	**67.6**
Asian	28,200	3.4	3,643,000	10.8
Pacific Islander	1,310	0.2	104,000	0.3
African American	59,080	7.0	2,148,000	6.3
American Indian	6,600	0.8	181,000	0.5
White	461,210	54.8	15,771,000	46.6
Other race	1,140	0.1	68,000	0.2
Multiracial	19,940	2.4	988,010	2.9
Latino				
Total	**263,400**	**31.3**	**10,969,000**	**32.4**
Asian	630	0.1	40,000	0.1
Pacific Islander	260	0.0	10,000	0.0
African American	2,100	0.2	71,000	0.2
American Indian	3,790	0.5	131,000	0.5
White	110,880	13.2	4,352,000	12.8
Other race	127,610	15.2	5,658,000	16.7
Multiracial	18,140	2.2	707,000	2.1
Total population	**840,870**	100%	**33,872,000**	100%

All census data for legislative districts are estimates based on the census block groups most closely corresponding to the district boundaries. For an exact count of the district population, refer to census block data.

Data from 2000 Census

Presentation of Racial and Ethnic Data

The table, left, is unusual in that it shows a full two-way breakdown of the population by ethnicity and by race. The figures are based on responses to two separate questions in the 2000 Census: one asking if the person is of Latino ethnicity, and one asking the person's race.

Note that there are only two ethnic categories—Latino and Non-Latino. The other categories are racial categories. Statewide, about half of Latinos are in the 'Other race' category. This category includes people providing a write-in response to the race question, such as Mexican, Chicano, or Cuban.

This full breakdown by ethnicity and by race is not generally used by federal or state agencies. Instead, the ethnic and racial categories are combined in some way.

State education and population statistics. California state agencies generally publish statistics showing figures for Latinos and racial groups as exclusive categories. Figures for Latinos are for all Latinos, regardless of race. Figures for racial groups are for non-Latinos. The education data on pages 1–5 and 15, and the regional population growth table below use this grouping.

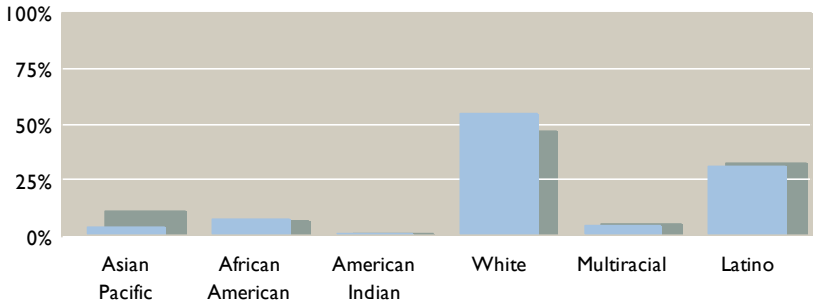
Census socioeconomic statistics. The Bureau of the Census publishes socioeconomic statistics using overlapping groups that do not match those used by other agencies. Statistics are published for racial groups, regardless of ethnicity, for Latinos, and for non-Latino whites.

The census Demographic, Socioeconomic, and Employment statistics on pages 7 and 10–13, and the Racial and Ethnic Composition chart, below, use this grouping. The bars for Asian-Pacifics, African-Americans, American Indians, and multiracials include Latinos in those racial groups. The bars for Whites are for non-Latino Whites. The bars for Latinos are for all Latinos, regardless of race.

Because of these differing systems for grouping data, Census statistics may differ from socioeconomic statistics published by other agencies.

Racial and Ethnic Composition

Percent of District 37 population in each racial and ethnic group.



Data from 2000 U.S. Census

Regional Population Growth

	Inland Empire		Orange County		San Diego-Imperial		State total	
	Population 2000	Pct growth 1995–2000	Population 2000	Pct growth 1995–2000	Population 2000	Pct growth 1995–2000	Population 2000	Pct growth 1995–2000
Total	3,298,300	12	2,833,200	8	3,097,600	10	34,653,400	8
Asian, Pacific Islander	159,200	30	374,000	23	269,400	23	3,999,400	20
African American	237,600	16	44,100	-1	183,600	8	2,337,900	4
American Indian	23,400	12	8,700	8	17,700	4	205,800	7
White	1,842,200	5	1,560,500	-0	1,779,200	5	17,421,500	1
Latino	1,035,900	22	845,900	21	847,600	21	10,688,800	17

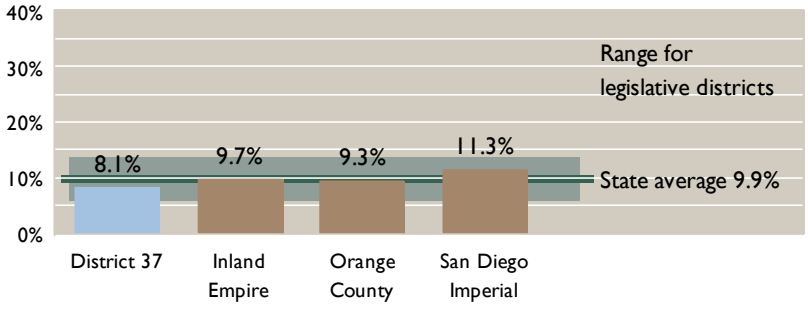
Estimates from California Department of Finance, December 1998. These estimates have not been adjusted to match the 2000 Census results.

Demographics

Traditional college age population

Percent of total population aged 18–24

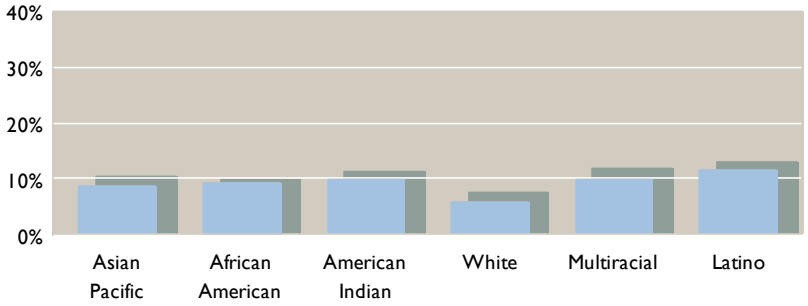
Values for legislative districts range from 6.2% (Assembly District 15) to 13.6% (Assembly District 46).



Percent of the population in each racial and ethnic group who are aged 18–24.

District 37
California

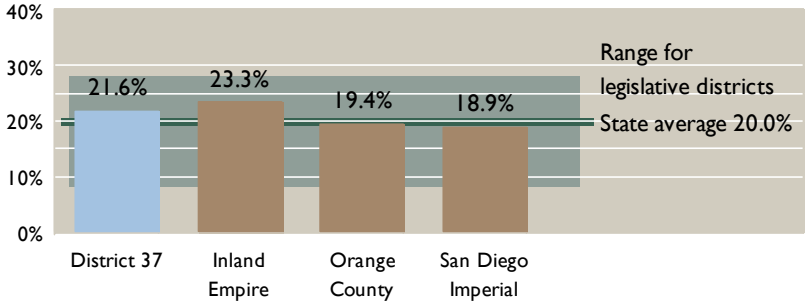
Data from 2000 U.S. Census



School age population

Percent of the total population aged 5–17

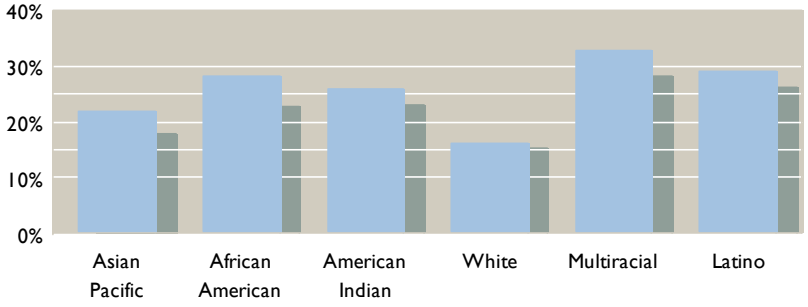
Values for legislative districts range from 8.5% (Assembly District 13) to 28% (Assembly District 52)



Percent of the population in each racial and ethnic group who are aged 5–17

District 37
California

Data from 2000 U.S. Census



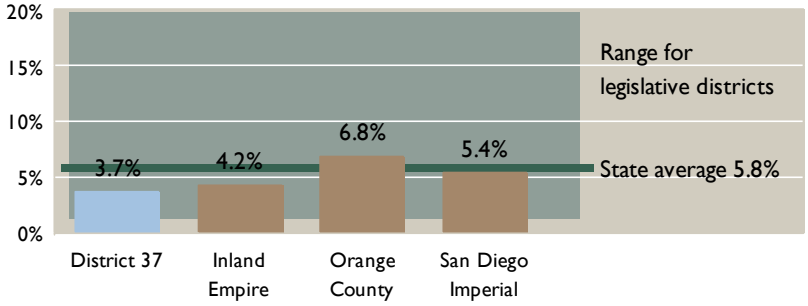
Lack of English Proficiency

Percent of children aged 5–17 who speak another language at home and speak English "not well" or "not at all".

Values for legislative districts range from 1.4% (Assembly District 4) to 19.7% (Assembly District 46).

District 37 has a total of 182,000 children aged 5–17. Of these, 6,700 are not proficient in English. The language spoken at home by these children is as follows:

	District 37	California
Spanish	95%	84%
Asian & Pacific languages	2%	12%
Other languages	3%	4%



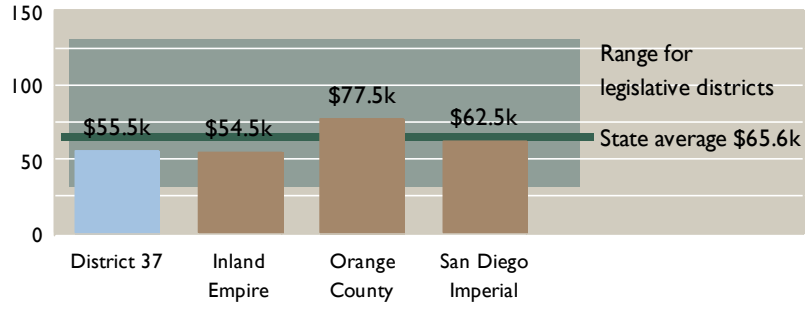
Data from 2000 U.S. Census

Socioeconomic

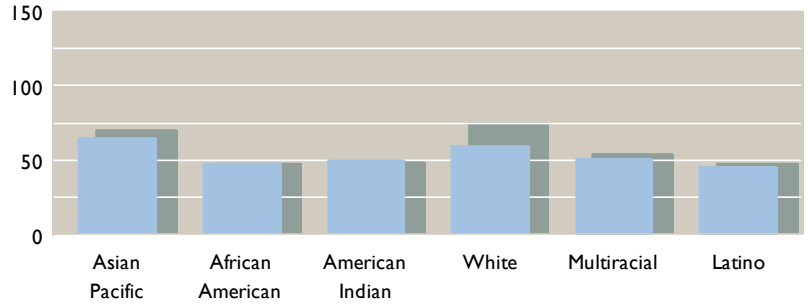
Average Household Income

The state average is $65,600. Averages for legislative districts range from $33,200 (Assembly District 46) to $131,100 (Assembly District 21).

The average income, rather than the median income is presented here because the median for a legislative district cannot be calculated from publicly-available census data.



Average household income in thousand dollars by race and ethnicity



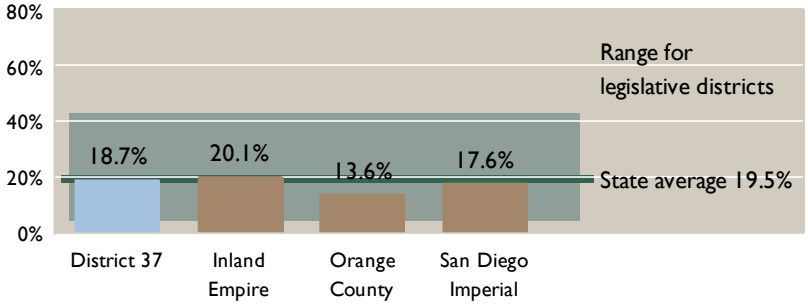
Data from 2000 U.S. Census

Percent of children living in poverty

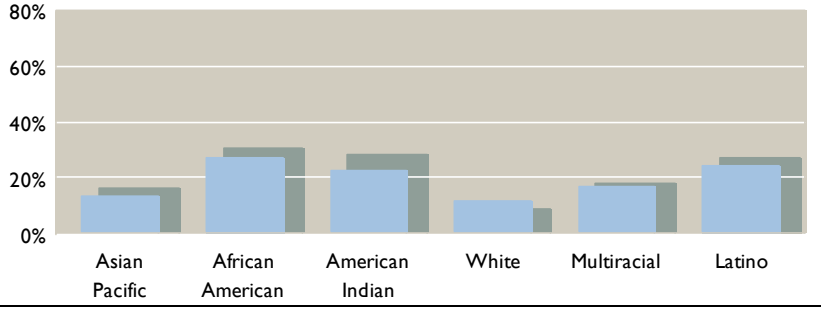
Percent of children living in families whose income is below the federal poverty threshold.

The poverty threshold depends on the total number of people in the family and the number of children under 18. For example, the poverty threshold for a five-person family with three children under18 is $19,992.

Values for legislative districts range from 4.8% (Assembly District 19) to 43% (Assembly District 46).



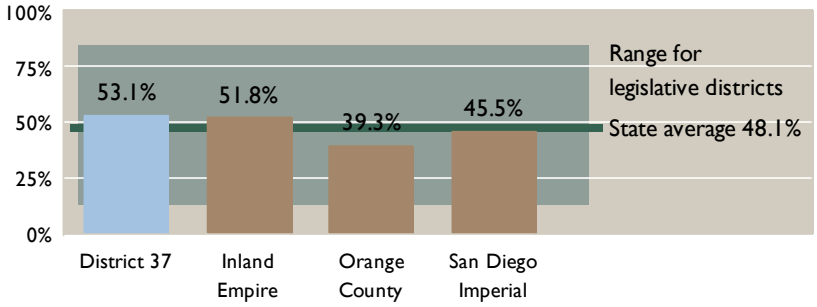
Percent by race and ethnicity



Data from 2000 U.S. Census

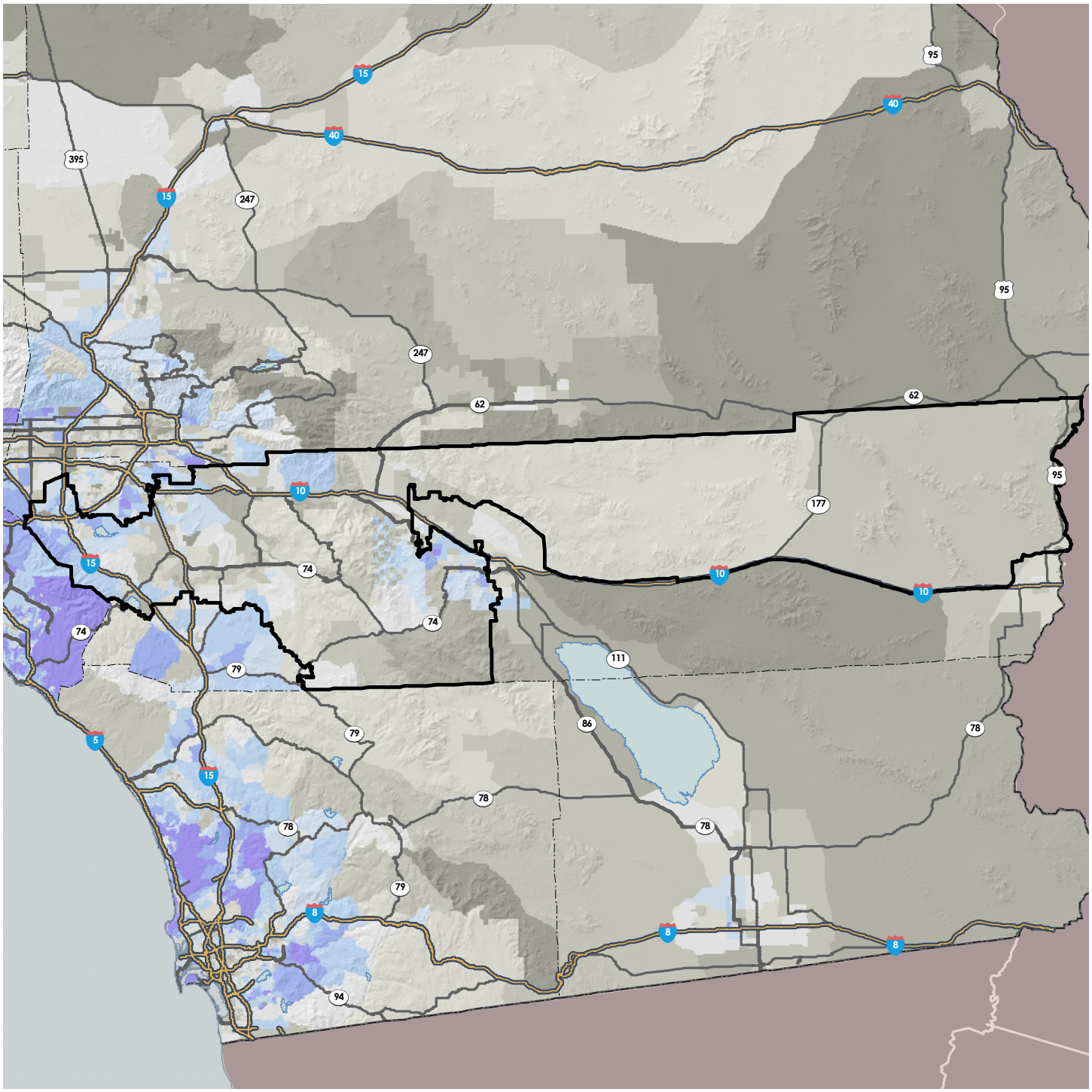
Percent of children eligible for school lunch program

Values for legislative districts range from 13.3% (Assembly District 15) to 84.6% (Assembly District 46).



Data from CPEC

Median Household Income



Median Household Income

Data from 2000 U.S. Census

- $100,000 and over
- 80,000 to 100,000
- 65,000 to 80,000
- 55,000 to 65,000
- 45,000 to 55,000
- 35,000 to 45,000
- 25,000 to 35,000
- 15,000 to 25,000
- less than $15,000

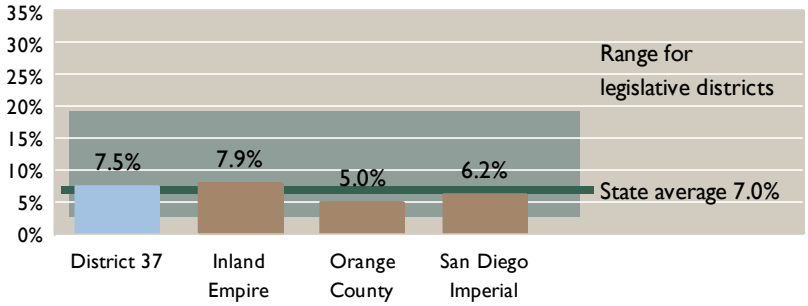
Compare with the map on page 2. The pattern of income distribution is strongly related to the pattern of educational attainment.

Employment

Unemployment rate

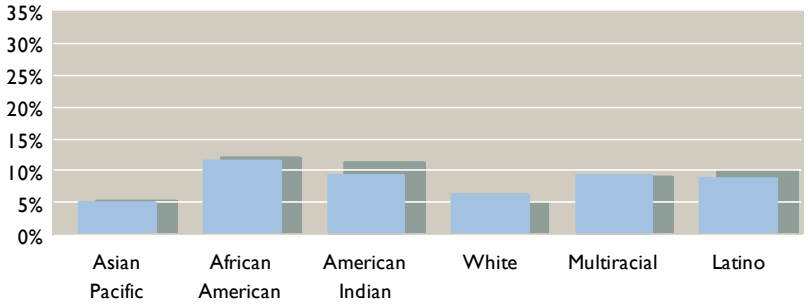
Number of unemployed workers as a percentage of the labor force at the time of the 2000 U. S. Census

Values for legislative districts range from 3.0% (Assembly District 19) to 19.2% (Assembly District 30).



Unemployment rates by race and ethnicity

District 37
California



Data from 2000 U.S. Census

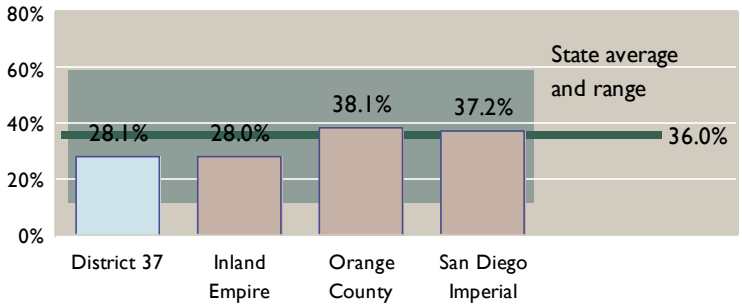
Professional and managerial workers

Percent of employed labor force in professional and managerial occupations

Values for legislative districts range from 12% (Assembly District 46) to 59% (Assembly District 22).

Data is not available by race and ethnicity

Data from 2000 U.S. Census



Prison-Going

Prison population

	Inland Empire	Orange County	San Diego-Imperial	State total
African-American	4,780	780	3,880	47,350
White	6,810	2,800	4,090	45,730
Latino	7,830	3,830	4,180	55,860
Other	590	620	900	8,660
Total	20,010	8,030	13,050	157,600

Prison populations based on the county from which the prisoner was committed.

Population as a percentage of the total population

	Inland Empire	Orange County	San Diego-Imperial	State total
African-American	1.9%	1.7%	2.0%	2.0%
White	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Latino	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%
Other	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%
Total	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%

Prisoner population from California Department of Corrections. Rates calculated by CPEC using population estimates from the Department of Finance.

Postsecondary Education in California

The Master Plan for Higher Education, created in 1960 and renewed in 1989, provides a framework for public higher education in California and outlines specific missions for each of the public systems. Independent and private colleges and universities also play a vital role in the state's ability to provide postsecondary education opportunities.

A directory of degree, certificate, and credential programs offered at California higher education institutions is available in *California Colleges and Universities* at www.cacollegeguide.com.

The California Community Colleges (CCC)

The community college system consists of 72 locally governed districts operating 109 campuses, as well as numerous off-campus centers. A 16-member Board of Governors appointed by the Governor is designed to serve as a coordinating and regulatory agency for the local districts. Admission is open to any high school graduate or person over age 18 who can benefit from instruction. Community colleges offer academic and technical programs at the freshman and sophomore level, many leading to transfer, as well as instruction in basic skills, English as a second language, and citizenship classes. The community colleges award the associate degree and technical certificates in a variety of areas.

The California State University (CSU)

The CSU system consists of 23 campuses and seven off-campus centers. The system is governed by a 24-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. Admission of first-time freshmen is generally limited to the top one-third of California's high school graduates. The CSU provides instruction in the liberal arts and sciences and applied fields, grants degrees at the bachelor's and master's degree level and may award doctorates jointly with the UC or an independent university. Currently CSU offers degree programs in more than 200 subject areas.

The University of California (UC)

The UC consists of 9 general campuses, one health science campus, and numerous special research facilities. The UC has constitutional status as a public trust and is governed by a 26-member Board of Regents. Eligibility for admission as a freshman student is extended to the top one-eighth of California's high school graduates. UC offers programs leading to the baccalaureate degree at each general campus. The UC also offers masters and professional degrees and has sole authority among public institutions to award doctoral degrees.

The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AICCU) consists of 75 independent colleges and universities, accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). These institutions range from large, world-renowned universities to smaller liberal arts institutions and professional schools. AICCU institutions enrolled over 217,000 students in 2001.

Other WASC-Accredited Private Institutions

Forty-eight additional California institutions are accredited by WASC, but are not members of AICCU. These institutions enroll some 30,000 students, and also range from universities to smaller institutions and professional schools.

Other Degree-Granting Institutions

California has about 300 other institutions that are authorized under state law to award degrees. These include religious seminaries, schools of alternative medicine, law schools, and universities accredited by organizations other than WASC.

In addition, California has an estimated 3,000 schools that offer programs not leading to a degree. This category includes schools providing training for careers in computer technology, health care, and in a wide variety of business and technical occupations.

All of these schools and colleges are regulated by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE).

Enrollment and Degrees Awarded

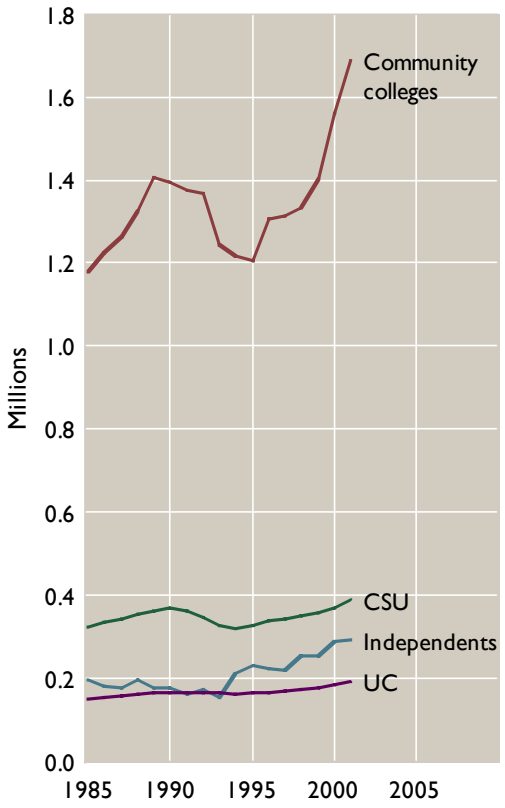
Key Statistics

	Community Colleges		California State University		University of California		Independents	
	2001	Growth*	2001	Growth*	2001	Growth*	2001	Growth*
Headcount enrollment, fall term								
Undergraduate	1,686,900	29%	306,900	13%	147,600	17%	175,300	39%
Graduate	—	—	80,400	25%	44,300	9%	117,700	21%
Degrees awarded								
Undergraduate	64,800	24%	55,600	4%	32,700	10%	37,700	36%
Graduate	—	—	13,600	12%	11,600	2%	30,700	10%
Certificates awarded								
Undergraduate	26,200	24%	—	—	—	—	11,500	411%
Graduate	—	—	—	—	234	18%	4,400	88%

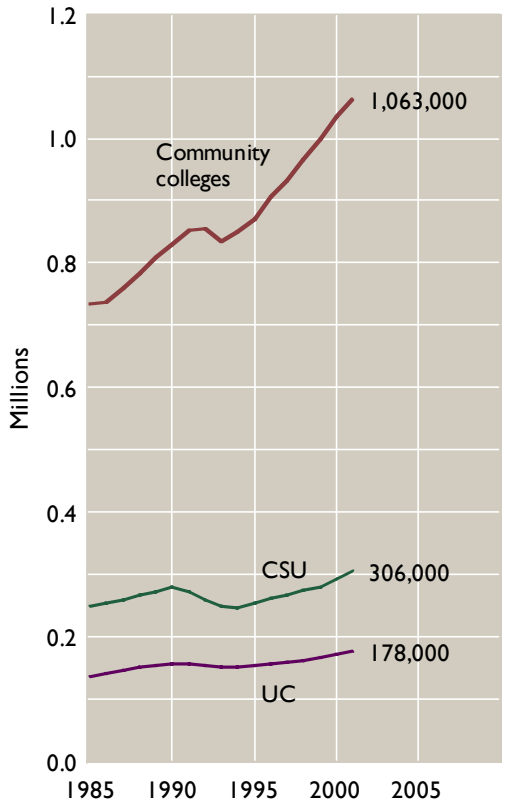
*Percent change 1996 to 2001

Enrollment trends, 1985–2001

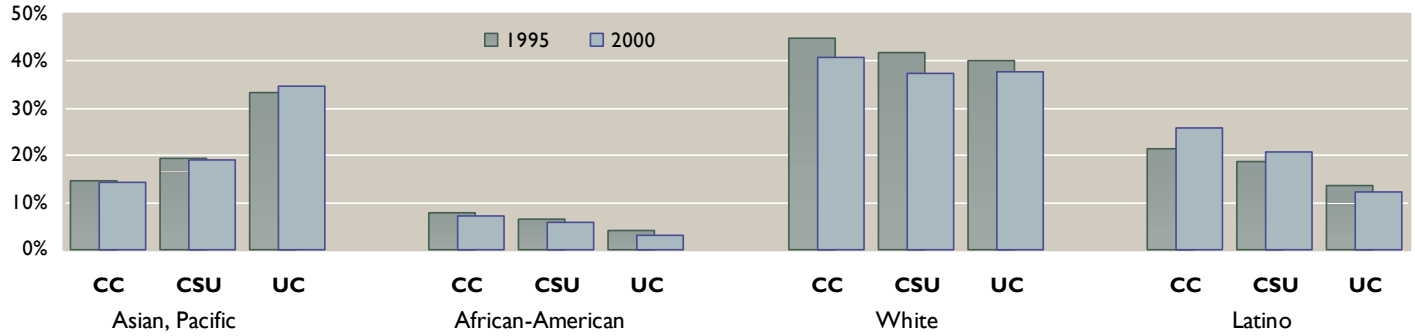
Headcount enrollment



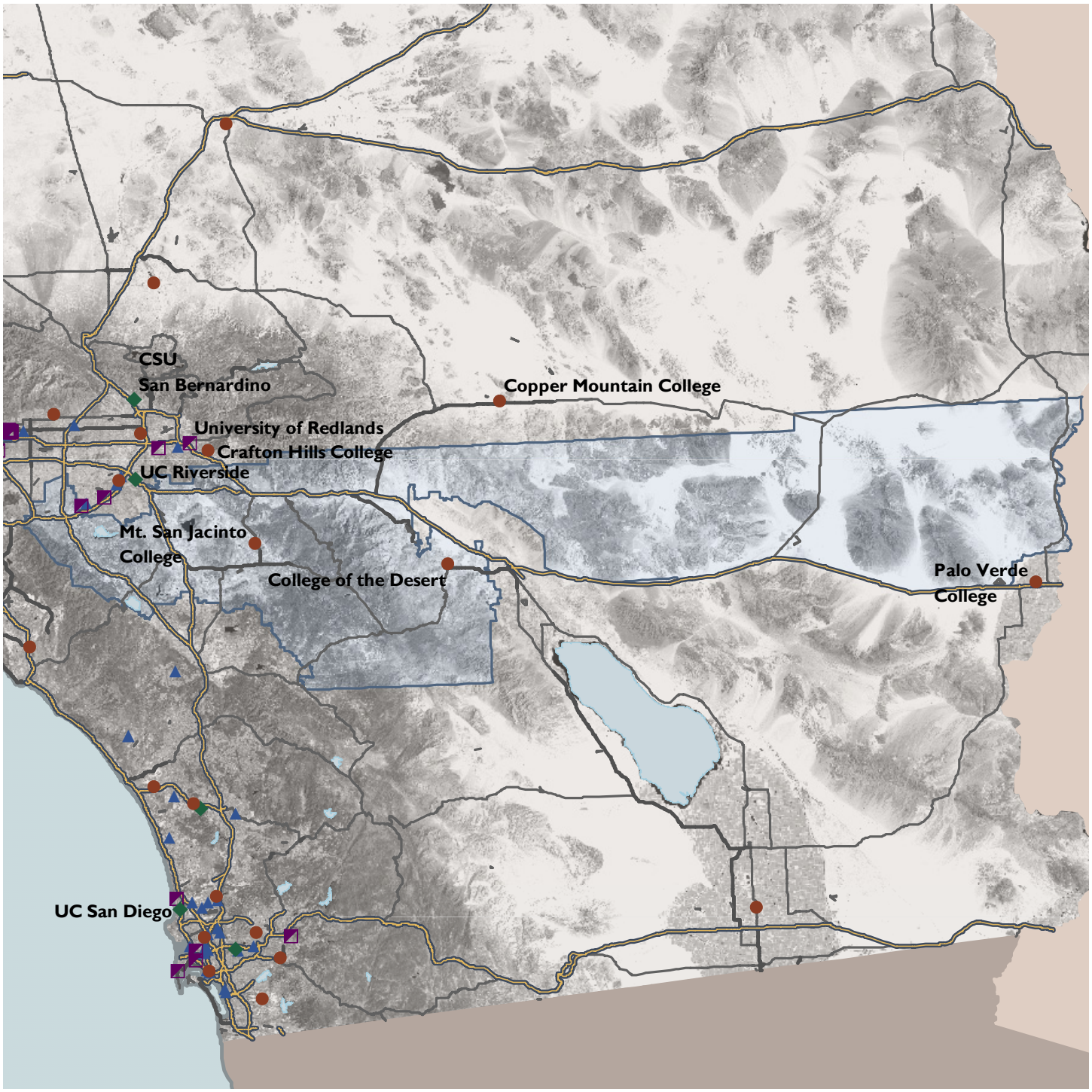
Full-time equivalent students



Percent of undergraduate enrollment by ethnicity



Local Colleges and Universities



- Community College campus
- California State University campus or University of California campus
- Independent college or university, or other institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Other degree-granting institution

Senate District 37 has two community college campuses located within the boundaries of the district.

Local Degree-Granting Colleges and Universities

Listed below are degree granting colleges and universities in Senate District 37. For more information on California colleges and universities, see our *California Colleges and Universities*, at www.cacollegeguide.com. A printed version is available by calling the California Postsecondary Education Commission at (916) 322-9268.

Institution	Web site	Students enrolled	Part time
Mt. San Jacinto College, San Jacinto	www.msjc.cc.ca.us	10,930	65%
College of the Desert, Palm Desert	www.desert.cc.ca.us	8,800	57%

n—Enrollment data not available

Recent CPEC Publications

03-04 Commission Recommendations Concerning Alternate Delivery Options for the State's Cal Grant Program—*Commission Report*. February 2003.

03-1 A Review of California's Cross-Enrollment Program—*Commission Report*. February 2003.

03-2 Admission Policies and Attrition Rates in California Community College Nursing Programs—*Commission Report*. February 2003.

03-3 Reviewing the Community Learning Center: An Educational Center of the MiraCosta Community College District—*Commission Report*. February 2003.

FS/03-1 Resident Undergraduate Charges at California's Public Universities—*Factsheet*. January 2003.

02-12 Recommendations for a Long-term Resident Student Fee Policy Framework for Students Enrolled at California's Public Universities—*Commission Report*. December 2002.

02-13 Recommendations to Increase the Postsecondary Education Opportunities for Residents of Superior California—*Commission Report*. December 2002.

02-10 Priorities for California Educational Technology Funding—*Commission Report*. July 2002.

02-11 Executive Compensation in Public Higher Education, 2001-02—*Commission Report*. July 2002.

02-9 The Otay Mesa Higher Education Center: An Off-Campus Facility of the Southwestern Community College District—*Commission Report*. June 2002.

02-8 The Condition of Higher Education in California, 2002—*Commission Report*. May 2002.

FS/02-2 Total Cost of Attendance at California's Public Universities—*Factsheet*. May 2002.

02-4 California Colleges and Universities, 2002: A Guide to California's Degree-Granting Institutions and to Their Degrees, Certificate, and Credential Programs—*Commission Report*. April 2002.

02-5 The California Postsecondary Education Commission's Public Agenda: Priorities for Action—*Commission Report*. April 2002.

02-6 Guidelines for Review of Proposed University Campuses, Community Colleges, and Educational and Joint-Use Centers—*Commission Report*. April 2002.

02-7 Performance Indicators of California Higher Education, 2001—*Commission Report*. April 2002.

UP/02-2 Faculty Salaries at California's Public Universities, 2002-03—*Higher Education Update*. April 2002.

02-2 Needs Analysis for the West Hills College at Lemoore, West Hills Community College District—*Commission Report*. February 2002.

02-3 Student Transfer in California Postsecondary Education—*Commission Report*. February 2002.

UP/02-1 Legislative and Budget Priorities for Educational Opportunity, 2002—*Higher Education Update*. February 2002.

About the Commission

The California Postsecondary Education Commission is a citizen board established in 1974 by the Legislature and the Governor to coordinate the efforts of California's colleges and universities and to provide independent, non-partisan policy analysis and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

Members of the Commission

The Commission consists of 16 members. Nine represent the general public: three are appointed by the Governor, three by the Senate Rules Committee, and three by the Speaker of the Assembly.

Five members represent the educational segments. Two student members are appointed by the Governor.

Commissioners representing the general public are:

Alan S. Arkatov, Los Angeles—*Chair*
Howard Welinsky, Culver City—*Vice Chair*
Carol Chandler, Selma
Guillermo Rodriguez Jr., San Francisco
Evonne Seron Schulze, San Diego
Olivia K. Singh, San Francisco
Faye Washington, Los Angeles

Commissioners representing the educational segments are:

George T. Caplan, Los Angeles—*California Community Colleges*

Irwin S. Field, Beverly Hills—*Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities*

Odessa P. Johnson, Modesto—*University of California*

Anthony M. Vitti, Newport Beach—*California State University*

The student commissioners are:

Rachel E. Shetka, Napa

Four commissioner positions are vacant.

Contact the Commission

Information about the Commission and its publications is available at www.cpec.ca.gov or call (916) 445-7933.

In addition, the Commission publishes *California Colleges and Universities*, available at www.cacollegeguide.com.

Profiles for other Legislative Districts

Profiles for all state legislative districts are available at www.cpec.ca.gov/profiles/profiles.asp.

Commission Priorities

Changing demographic and economic conditions create new challenges for education and our economy in the years ahead. California's 2000 census data indicates that our population grew by more than 4.5 million people during the 1990s. While the size of the growth is notable, the major challenges will arise from the diverse nature of the growth-particularly with respect to geographic location, race and ethnicity, economic status, educational attainment, and academic preparation.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission adopted a *Public Agenda* that sets forth four critical themes central to the future of California and its citizens.

- ***Growth and Access.*** California's challenge is to ensure equal opportunity in the face of unprecedented enrollment demand, significant variances in the types of students seeking higher education, and limitations on the resources available to serve the myriad demands and needs.
- ***Preparation for Postsecondary Education.*** California's challenge is to ensure that all residents complete their high school education and obtain the core competencies necessary to succeed in the workforce or higher education.
- ***Achievement.*** California's challenge is to ensure that as many students as possible are able to complete the course of study they have embarked upon—particularly baccalaureate degrees.
- ***Workforce Preparation and Economic Development.*** California's challenge is to ensure better linkages between education and the needs of the new economy through shared, coherent systems of workforce preparation programs that blend theory and applied learning throughout the curricula.

Ensuring that the fundamental goals of access, accountability, diversity and quality remain priorities in higher education regardless of budget considerations is a challenge facing the Commission, the educational institutions and all policymakers.

Robert L. Moore, *Executive Director*
March 2003