Figure 1 shows a map of Santa Cruz County. The County of Santa Cruz was one of the original counties of California, created in 1850 at the time of statehood. The county was originally named Branciforte, after the Spanish pueblo founded in 1797. Less than two months later, the name was changed to Santa Cruz, meaning "Holy Cross." 1 According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a land area of 445 square miles (second smallest in the state) and a population density of 589 people per square mile (tenth highest in the state). ${ }^{2}$

The April 2010 Census placed the total population of Santa Cruz County at 262,382 residents $-0.7 \%$ of the population of California. ${ }^{3}$ From 2000 to 2010, the county's population grew only $2.7 \%$, compared to statewide growth of $10 \% .^{4}$ By California standards, Santa Cruz is a mid-sized population county, ranking 24 th among California's 58 counties in 2010. ${ }^{4}$ But by national standards, it's a large county, ranking 301st out of 3,194 counties in the U.S. in $2010 .{ }^{5}$

## GENDER \& AGE

Nearly equal numbers of males and females reside in Santa Cruz County, with more females than males in the oldest age groups. ${ }^{3}$ There is a relatively large percentage of persons between the ages of 15 and 24, due to the large number of college students. The smaller population after age 25 might be related to the lack of job opportunities and the high cost of living here.

Based on the 2010 Census, ${ }^{3}$ Santa Cruz County's "Age Dependency Ratio" is only $39.7 \%$, compared to a statewide average of $46.8 \% .^{6}$ The Age Dependency Ratio is the number of people who are in age groups that tend to be economically dependent (children age 0 14 , and adults age 65 and over), divided by the number of people in the most economically productive age group (15-64). A low Age Dependency Ratio means more working people to take care of fewer dependent people, providing an economic advantage to a community.

Figure 1: Map of Santa Cruz County, California


Figure 2: Annual Percentage Change in Population, California and Santa Cruz County, 1999-2011


| Table 1. Santa Cruz County Demographics, 2010 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Number | Percent |
| Gender | Male | 130,913 | 49.9 |
|  | Female | 131,469 | 50.1 |
| Age (Years) | 0-4 | 15,045 | 5.7 |
|  | 5-14 | 30,418 | 11.5 |
|  | 15-24 | 46,225 | 17.6 |
|  | 25-44 | 66,824 | 25.5 |
|  | 45-65 | 74,712 | 28.4 |
|  | 65 and older | 29,158 | 11.1 |
| Race \& Ethnicity | White | 151745 | 57.9 |
|  | Hispanic | 84,092 | 32 |
|  | Asian \& Pacific Isl. | 11,461 | 4.3 |
|  | Black | 2,766 | 1.1 |
|  | Multirace | 12,318 | 4.7 |
| TOTAL |  | 262,382 | 100 |

The Hispanic population of Santa Cruz County is younger than the White population. Figures 3-5 show the proportion of the population in each age group, by gender. Figure 3 shows the entire county population, while Figure 4 shows the Hispanic population and Figure 5 shows the White population. More Hispanics are under age 5 than are in any other 5-year age group, while the largest age category among Whites is ages 55 to $59 .{ }^{3}$


## ETHNICITY \& RACE

Figure 6 shows the race/ethnicity distribution in 2010 of Santa Cruz County compared to California and the United States. Santa Cruz County's population comprises $57.9 \%$ White, $32.0 \%$ Hispanic, 4.3\% Asian or Pacific Islander, 1.1\% Black, and $4.7 \%$ other or multiracial. ${ }^{3}$ Compared to Santa Cruz County, California has a smaller proportion of Whites, larger proportions of Blacks and Asians, and a slightly larger proportion of Hispanics. The United States has higher proportions of Whites and Blacks, a smaller proportion of Hispanics, and approximately the same proportion of Asians as Santa Cruz County.

Figure 3: Age Pyramid, Santa Cruz County, 2010


Figure 5: White Age Pyramid, Santa Cruz County, 2010


I ercent of Population in Age Group


## DEMOGRAPHICS

The relative proportions of various racial/ethnic groups in the county have steadily changed in recent decades. In 1970, the county's population was more than $86 \%$ White and less than $10 \%$ Hispanic. By 2010, the Hispanic population proportion had increased to $32 \%$, while the White proportion had decreased to $58 \%$. The proportions of Asians, Blacks, and Native Americans have all increased since 1970, though not as rapidly as the Hispanic population, and they still remain relatively small proportions of the population.

Although more than $61 \%$ of the county's adults (age 18 years or older) are White and fewer than $30 \%$ are Hispanic, ${ }^{7}$ approximately half the births in the county are to Hispanics. Children make up a far larger proportion of the Hispanic population than of the White population, and this difference continues through every age group under 40. Conversely, every age group over 40 contains
 a larger proportion of the White population than of the Hispanic population (Figure 7). ${ }^{7}$ The same basic pattern is true statewide.

[^0]
[^0]:    (1) California State Association of Counties. http://www.csac.counties.org/county-profile/santa-cruz-county.
    (2) U.S. Census Bureau, State and County QuickFacts. http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html.
    (3) U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Table DP-1, "Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics." http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml.
    (4) California Department of Finance. "Percent Change Rank: County, Total Population 2000 and 2010, Counties in California." http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/state_census_data_center/census_2010/documents/2010Census_Pop_Rankers.xls.
    (5) U.S. Census Bureau. "Population, Population Change, and Estimated Components of Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011," Table CO-EST2011-alldata. http://www.census.gov/popest/data/datasets.html.
    (6) California Department of Finance. Table E-2, California County Population Estimates and Components of Change; and Table E-6, Population Estimates and Components of Change by County, July 1 2010-2012.
    http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-2/2000-10/documents/E-2_Report_July20002010_updated_with_2010_Census.xls; and
    http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-6/documents/E-6_Report_July_2010-2012w.xls.
    (7) California Department of Finance. Race/Ethnic Population Projections with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2050. Sacramento, CA, July 2007. Accessed but no longer available at http://www.dof.ca.gov/html/DEMOGRAP/Data/RaceEthnic/Population-00-50/RaceData_2000-2050.php.

