## Chapter Four: Population

## Population

Foster City was virtually undeveloped in 1961, experienced significant population growth in the 1970's and 1980s, then grew at a much slower pace during the 1990's and to the
present. Between 2000-2010, the City has grown about 6.7\% in population, consistent with the $6.7 \%$ growth in San Mateo County, but at a slower rate than the $14.1 \%$ growth in California. As of January 1, 2010, the population of Foster City was 30,719 .


Source: U.S. Census, 1970-2000; U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2008

Figure 21: U.S. Census-Foster City Population Growth (1970-2008)

## Community Profile

## Ethnicity

Foster City has a relatively split demographic with a decreasing percentage of white population and a growing percentage of minorities. The white population declined from approximately $73.5 \%$ in 1990 to $50.5 \%$ in 2008 . This compares to 2008 figures of $61.3 \%$ white in San Mateo County and $56.4 \%$ white in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area


Source: U.S. Census, 1990

As indicated in Figures 22 and 23, the largest increase since 1990 was of people identifying themselves as Asian. The total Asian population has grown from $22.0 \%$ in 1990 to $42.3 \%$ in 2008. Specifically, between 1990 and 2008, the Chinese population has grown from $11.4 \%$ to $16.8 \%$, Asian Indian from $1.0 \%$ to $8.6 \%$, Filipino from $3.4 \%$ to $6.9 \%$, and Korean from $0.9 \%$ to $2.6 \%$.


Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2008

## Figure 22: Persons by Race (1990)

Figure 23: Persons by Race (2008)

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## Table 7: Percentages of Persons by Race (1990-2008)

|  | 1990 | 2000 | 2008 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| White | $73.5 \%$ | $59.3 \%$ | $50.5 \%$ |
| Black | $3.2 \%$ | $2.1 \%$ | $1.8 \%$ |
| Chinese | $11.4 \%$ | $16.3 \%$ | $16.8 \%$ |
| Asian Indian | $1.0 \%$ | $5.7 \%$ | $8.6 \%$ |
| Filipino | $3.4 \%$ | $3.3 \%$ | $6.9 \%$ |
| Japanese | $4.0 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ | $3.9 \%$ |
| Korean | $0.9 \%$ | $1.2 \%$ | $2.6 \%$ |
| Other Asian | $0.8 \%$ | $1.4 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | $0.6 \%$ | $0.6 \%$ | $1.0 \%$ |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | $0.2 \%$ | $0.1 \%$ | $0.4 \%$ |
| Some other race (category added in 2000) |  | $1.2 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ |
| Two or more races (category added in 2000) |  | $4.1 \%$ | $4.2 \%$ |
| No Response/Other | $1.1 \%$ |  |  |
| Total | $100.0 \%$ | $100.0 \%$ | $100.1 \%$ |

Source: U.S. Census 1990-2000; U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2008

## Community Profile

## Household Size

The household size in Foster City declined up to 2000 and then showed an increase between 2000 and 2008. This echoes trends in the County and Bay Area toward larger household sizes. Foster City's household size declined from
2.50 in 1990 to 2.47 in 2000, then increased to 2.57 in 2008. The household size for San Mateo County increased from 2.63 to 2.74 for 2000 and 2008. The household size for the Bay Area increased from 2.61 in 1990 to 2.69 in 2000 to 2.72 in 2008.


Source: U.S. Census 1990-2000; U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2008

Figure 24: Persons per Household (1990-2008)

## Chapter Four: Population

## Household Types

The U.S. Census Bureau has two major categories of households: family and non-family. A family household consists of the householder and other people related through marriage, birth, or adoption. A non-family household consists of a householder who either lives alone or exclusively with persons unrelated to the householder.

The percentage of families with children stayed fairly constant between 1990 and 2000 at approximately $30 \%$ and then increased to $35.3 \%$ in 2008. The percentage of families without children did increased from $35.5 \%$ in 1990 to $37.7 \%$ in 2000 and then declined to $33.4 \%$ in 2008. The percentage of non-families declined from $34.2 \%$ in 1990 to approximately $31 \%$ in 2000 and 2008.


Source: U.S. Census 1990-2000, U.S. Census American Community Survey 2008

Figure 25: Percentage of Households by Type (1990-2008)

## Community Profile

## Family Types

The Census Bureau classifies families into three categories: Husband-wife married couple, female householder with no husband present, and male householder with no wife present. Compared to the total number of families, the proportion of husband-wife (or married couple) families increased from 83.9\% in

1990 to $84.5 \%$ in 2000 and $85.9 \%$ in 2008. The proportion of female-headed families decreased from $11.5 \%$ in 1990 to $11.2 \%$ in 2000 and $10.2 \%$ in 2008. The proportion of families headed by a male with no wife present decreased from $4.6 \%$ in 1990 to $4.3 \%$ in 2000 to $3.9 \%$ in 2008.


Source: U.S. Census 1990-2000, U.S. Census American Community Survey 2008
Figure 26: Percentage of Families by Type (1980-2008)

## Chapter Four: Population

## Population by Age

In 2008, the largest age group is people ages 35 to 44 years old, followed by 45 to 54 years old and then the 0 to 9 year old group.

The most dramatic shifts since 1990 are a significant increase in the $0-9$ year old group from $22.8 \%$ to $26.3 \%$ of the population and a decline in the 20-34 year old group from $26.6 \%$ to $16.4 \%$. The $35-$ 54 year old group remained nearly constant at about $34 \%$. The 5564 year old group increased from $8.9 \%$ in 1990 to $11.4 \%$ in 2000 and $11.7 \%$ in 2008. The 65+ group increased from $7.0 \%$ in 1990 to $10.1 \%$ in 2000 and $11.2 \%$ in 2008.


Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2008

Figure 27: Population by Age (2008)

## Community Profile



Source: U.S. Census 1990-2000, U.S. Census American Community Survey 2008

Figure 28: Population by Age (1990-2008)

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## Chapter Four: Population



Source: U.S. Census 1990-2000, U.S. Census American Community Survey 2008

Figure 29: Population Percentage by Age (1970-2008)

## Community Profile

## Educational Attainment

The highest educational level attained has grown steadily. In 1990, $47 \%$ of all Foster City residents over the age of 25 had a bachelor's
degree or higher. In 2000, this increased to $60 \%$ and to $61 \%$ in 2008. This percentage is much higher than San Mateo County where $43 \%$ of the population has obtained a Bachelors degree or higher in 2008.

-Less than 9th Grade
$\square 9$ th to 12th Grade, no diploma

- High School Graduate (includes equivalency)
$\square$ Some College
$\square$ Associate Degree
$\square$ Bachelor's Degree
$\square$ Graduate or Professional Degree

Source: U.S. Census 1990-2000, U.S. Census American Community Survey 2008

Figure 30: Educational Attainment, 25 years or older (1990-2008)

## Chapter Four: Population

## Language Spoken at Home

The primary language spoken at home has shifted since 1990. Of the people 5 years and older, $74.6 \%$ spoke English at home in

1990 compared to $57.6 \%$ in 2008, with the largest increase in Asian languages from $14.7 \%$ in 1990 to $25.8 \%$ in 2008 . The percent who speak English "less than very well" has increased from $9.1 \%$ in 1990 to $14.0 \%$ in 2000 and then dropped to $13.3 \%$ in 2008.


Source: U.S. Census 1990-2008, U.S. Census American Community Survey 2008

Figure 31: Language Spoken at Home for Persons 5 Years and Over (1990-2008)

## Community Profile

The figure below shows the number of people 5 years and older who speak various languages at home for 1990, 2000 and 2008.


Source: U.S. Census, 1990, 2000; U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2008

Figure 32: Language Spoken at Home for Persons 5 Years and Over (1990-2008)

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The figure below shows, for 2008, the percentage of the population ( 5 years and older) by their language spoken at home for people who speak English less than "very well" in both Foster City and San Mateo County. In Foster City, the largest group who speak English less than very well includes $9.2 \%$ who speak an Asian language at home. In San Mateo County, the largest group who speak English less than very well includes $8.9 \%$ who speak Spanish at home. Overall, $13.3 \%$ of the population over 5 years old in Foster City speak English less than very well, compared to $18.0 \%$ in San Mateo County.


Figure 33: Language Spoken at Home by Persons 5 Years and Over Who Speak English Less than "Very Well" (2008)

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