SCC Model of Immigrant Integration: Overview of SCC County Programs

Immigrant Relations & Integration Services
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According to the 2000 Census, California has a population that is 3 times more Asian, and a little less than 3 times more Latino, than the nation.

At the same time, the percentage of Black or African-Americans living in the U.S. (12.3%) is almost double that of California (6.7%).

California’s population is 26.2% foreign born, in comparison to 11.1% on the national level.
The 5 largest immigrant groups in Santa Clara County are from Mexico, Vietnam, China, India and the Philippines.

Santa Clara County has more immigrants than any other county in northern California.

Santa Clara County is a county with more Asian and Latino immigrants than any other Bay Area county.

Based on Census 2000, Santa Clara County now translates ballot materials into Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Tagalog.
CITY OF SAN JOSE

• In 1970 over 80% of the city population was white, today less than 30% of the population is white.

• In San Jose, there are more people of Vietnamese origin than in any city outside of Vietnam.

• Also, there are more Asian Indians in San Jose than any other city outside of India.

• The City of San Jose is among the top 5 cities in the U.S. classified as most integrated cities.
2006 SCC Census Population Estimate

- According to the 2006 population estimate, SCC has the highest percentage of foreign born residents (36.3%) in the state. LA County is second (36%). SF County is third (35.8%). San Mateo is 5th (34.6%). Monterey Co is 7th (30.4). Alameda is 8th (30.3%).

- In 2006, SCC received more Asians than any other county in the US. SCC Asian pop. has increased 20% so far this decade. SCC will soon overtake SF county as the county in the US with the largest share of Asians.

- There are over 600,000 immigrants in SCC
2006 SCC Census Population Estimate

- There are about 40 Asian ethnic media outlets based in the South Bay including multiple newspapers serving South Asians, Vietnamese and Chinese communities.
- It is estimated that there are over 260,000 undocumented immigrants in SCC: 200,000 are Latino, over 50,000 are Asian.
- 55% of SV science and engineering talents were born abroad
- 40% of the regions total workforce is foreign born
Language in SCC

According to MediaNet analysis of Census Data

• SCC has the largest population of Hindi speakers in the US
• 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest population of Vietnamese Speakers
• 3\textsuperscript{rd} largest population of Farsi Speakers
• 5\textsuperscript{th} largest population of Chinese speakers
Language in SCC

• SJUSD teaches English to students who speak about 40 languages at home from Arabic to Tigrinya (Language from Eritrea)
• Spanish remains the most common foreign language in the County
• Over 49% of the population speaks a language other than English at home
SCC Immigrant Programs

• Creation of SCC Citizenship Initiative
• Funding for Immigration Legal Services
• Summit on Immigrant Needs & Contributions

• Publication of
  – *Bridging Borders*
  – *Knowledge of Immigrant Nationalities (KIN)*
  – Immigrant Resource Guide: *Immigrant Rights Responsibilities & Resources*
SCC Immigrant Programs

• Santa Clara County Summit on Immigrant Needs and Contributions
• Immigrant Leadership Institute
• Immigrant Hot Line
• Immigrantinfo.org
• Community Education Funding
• Prenatal Care for All
• Invested in Second Harvest Food Bank
• Children’s Heath Care Initiative
SCC Immigrant Programs

- Creation of KIN Speakers Bureau
- Creation of Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence
- Immigrant Cultural Proficiency Initiative
- Immigrant Bimonthly Forums
- BOLD Dialogues
- HRC Forum on Immigration in SV
Citizenship Accomplishments

• 120,000+ have received citizenship assistance
• Citizenship Day is held in 19 Languages
• Immigrantinfo.org has received over 1 million hits
• Literacy for Citizenship in Spanish & Cambodian
• $100,000 used to pay for the citizenship application
SCC Board of Supervisors Advocacy

• Supported Drivers licenses for the undocumented
• Opposed HR4437
• Opposed presence of minutemen
• Support state funding for state naturalization program.
Important Policy Issues

– Need to address ethnic issues in order to address universal human needs
– Immigrant communities must be at the table in order to bring their knowledge and experience to the development & implementation of any plan that is to be effective in SCC.
– The foreign born and their children comprise 60% of the County’s population.
Policy Implications

• Linguistic, cultural and religious diversity must be taken into account when developing an plan for Silicon Valley, in addition, to socioeconomic and educational factors.

• Diversity is our strength so we must plan with a broad understanding of the need for cultural proficiency as part of the planning, training and the distribution of resources.
Challenges:

- Everyone is facing government restructuring
- There is a debate between the definitions of access and luxury issues
- Institutional change vs. leadership with an understanding
- Generational Understanding
Lessons Learned:

- Government has an important role as a convener
- Be inclusive from the beginning
- Always acknowledge the expertise, knowledge and contributions
- Promote the development of leadership
- Dialogue with the community about change and conflict
- Change is a constant
Pending Research Questions:

• Continued documentation of current history
• Redefinition of civic engagement & participation
• Broaden the definitions of democracy
• Acknowledge immigrant contributions
• Highlight best practices according to subject area
• International dialogue on similar patterns in the context of globalization
• Include the immigrant community in the solutions