

SouthEast Michigan and Oakland County Racial and Ethnic Trends

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Whites, followed by Blacks, constitute the largest racial groups in southeast Michigan. However southeast Michigan is also home to a number of other racial and ethnic groups. Hispanic, Arab and Chaldean, Asian, and Native American populations also live in this region. It is the recent growth in the absolute and relative size of these minority populations that is of particular interest.

The Hispanic Population:

In 1990, there were approximately 89,000 Hispanics living in southeast Michigan, approximately **1.9% of the area's population**. Many of these individuals resided in the greater Detroit area, as well as **Auburn Hills, Erie, Port Huron and Ann Arbor**. Since the 1970's the number of Hispanics in the region has increased 20%. It is expected that this group will continue to grow at a stable but limited rate.

The Arab & Chaldean Population:

There were an estimated 77,000 individuals of Arabic or Chaldean origin in southeast Michigan during 1990 -- **1.7% of the region's population**. This was the nation's largest Arab and Chaldean community. There has been a significant increase in the size of this group in recent decades. From 1983 through 1992, of the 69,200 immigrants to southeast Michigan, 25.4% were from Arab countries. Members of the Arab and Chaldean population could be found in a variety of locations throughout the region, with significant concentrations in **Dearborn, Southfield, Oak Park, West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills and Sterling Heights**. It is predicted that with the influx of Arab and Chaldean people will persist in the future, as economic opportunities in the Middle East continue to be restricted.

The Asian Population:

The Asian community in southeast Michigan has grown significantly in recent years. Between 1980 and 1990 the number of Asians in the region increased by 68%. By 1990, Asians constituted **1.5% of southeast Michigan's population**. This growth was largely attributable to immigration. It is estimated that of those immigrating to the region during 1983-1992, 35% were of Asian origins. Of the 69,200 Asians in southeast Michigan, a substantial proportion resided in the more affluent areas such as **Troy, Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield**. Ann Arbor, Canton, Dearborn and Brownstown were also popular choices for Asians living in the region. Due to continued globalization and increasing economic opportunities in southeast Michigan, it is anticipated that the southeast Michigan Asian community will continue to expand.

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Native Americans:

In 1990, there were about 17,600 members of this group in southeast Michigan, up from only 2,500 in 1960. Still, Native Americans comprises only **0.4% of the region's population**. Native Americans are relatively evenly distributed throughout southeast Michigan.

OAKLAND COUNTY

Population estimates released by the United States Census Bureau reveal that Hispanics and Asians are the fastest growing minority groups in the state of Michigan. This trend is mirrored in Oakland County, where the Hispanic population has increased over twenty percent (20.6) in the past seven years (1990 through 1996). Not to be out done, the Asian population has increased over forty-five percent (45.6). Other minority groups such as the Black population increased about fifteen percent (14.7), while the American Indian population decreased close to seven percent (-6.6). The total population in Oakland County has increased from 1,083,592 to 1,162,098, which is just over seven percent (7.2).

	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian	Total
1990 Census	970706	77255	--	4608	24453	1083592
1996 Census Estimate	1008824	88583	24792	4302	35597	1162098
Seven Year % Change	3.9	14.7	20.2	-6.6	45.6	7.2

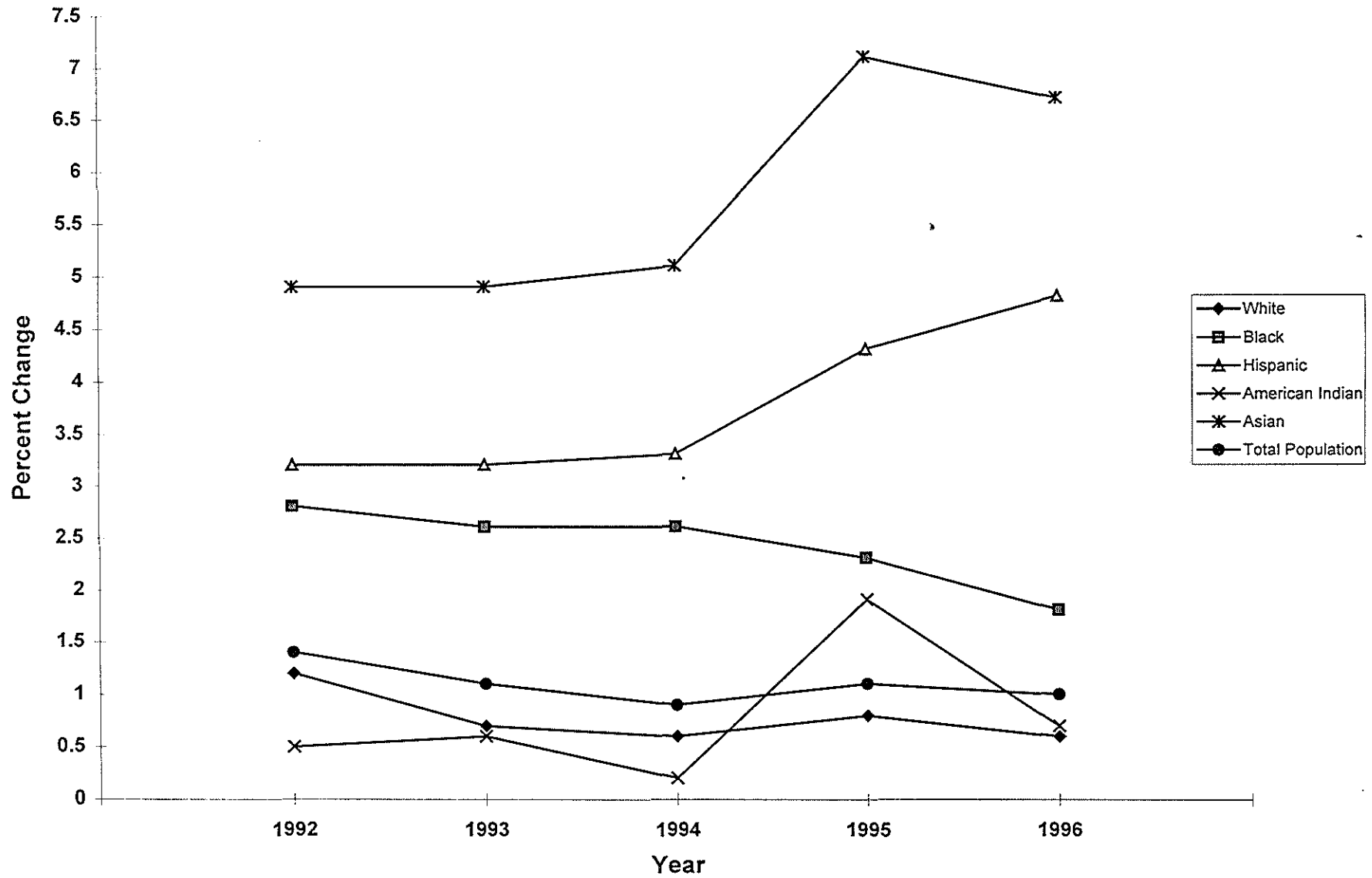
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Sources:

SEMCOG, Patterns of Diversity and Change in Southeast Michigan, (A report to the Community Foundation for SE MI and Members of SEMCOG, and the SE MI Council of Governments, Detroit, MI). August 1994.

United States Census Bureau. "county estimates". 10 Dec. 1997. 19 March 1998.
<<http://www.census.gov/com>>.

Oakland County Five Year Percent Change in Population by Race (1992 through 1996)



Source: United States Census Bureau

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3/19/98