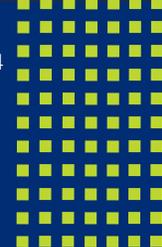




HEALTH MATTERS BRIEF

**Population Projections
in Riverside County, CA
2024-2028**



INTRODUCTION

Population projections offer important insights into public health trends. Projections assist in redirecting resources and services within the community to where they are most needed (Goodkind, 2023). Public health programs are influenced by the changing characteristics of the populations they serve. Anticipating population growth and demographic change allows the County to allocate funding, provide age and sex/gender-specific services, and prepare for the burden of age-related disease. This report examines estimated population growth in Riverside County from the year 2024 to the year 2028.

Riverside County has a current population of 2.45M, which is projected to grow to 2.51M by 2028, an increase of 2.1%, or about 52,000 residents (Figure 1). Hispanic/Latinx and white residents make up the most of Riverside County’s population, at 51.4% and 32.2%, respectively. All racial groups are projected to see an increase in total population numbers, with their relative proportions projected to remain the same into 2028 (Figure 2). Data was retrieved from the State of California, Department of Finance (DOF, 2023), Demographic Research Unit¹. The DOF serves to promote long-term economic sustainability and responsible resource allocation.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY KEY FINDINGS / 2024-2028



Riverside County is projected to grow from 2.45M to **2.51M** over the next 5 years



All race/ethnicity groups are projected to grow by **2%**



Kindergarten enrollment is projected to increase **17.7%**



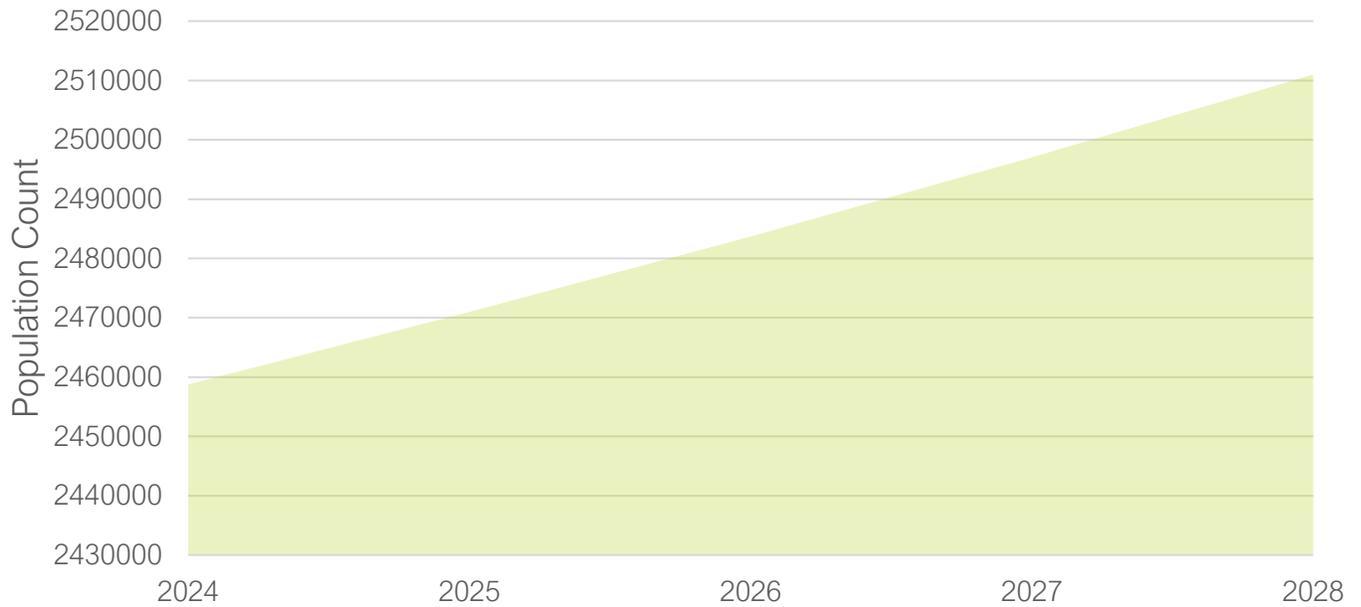
Among adults under 65, the age group projected to grow the most is 35–39 year olds, with a projected increase of **16%**





POPULATION GROWTH OVERVIEW

Figure 1. Riverside County Projected Total Population Growth, 2024-2028



PROJECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 2. Riverside County Projected Change in Total Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2024 vs. 2028

Race/ Ethnicity	2024 Population	2028 Population	Population Increase	% Increase	2024 %	2028 %
American Indian/Alaska Native	11,411	11,652	241	2.11%	0.4%	0.4%
Asian	169,599	173,206	3,607	2.13%	7%	7%
Black/African American	154,210	157,483	3,273	2.12%	6%	6%
Hispanic/Latinx	1,263,903	1,290,769	26,866	2.13%	51%	51%
Multirace	603,68	61,655	1,287	2.13%	2%	2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	7,641	77,93	152	1.99%	0.3%	0.3%
White	791,642	909,464	16,822	2.12%	32%	32%

From 2024-2028, a projected increase of 2% is seen across all race/ethnicity groups



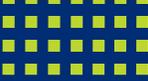
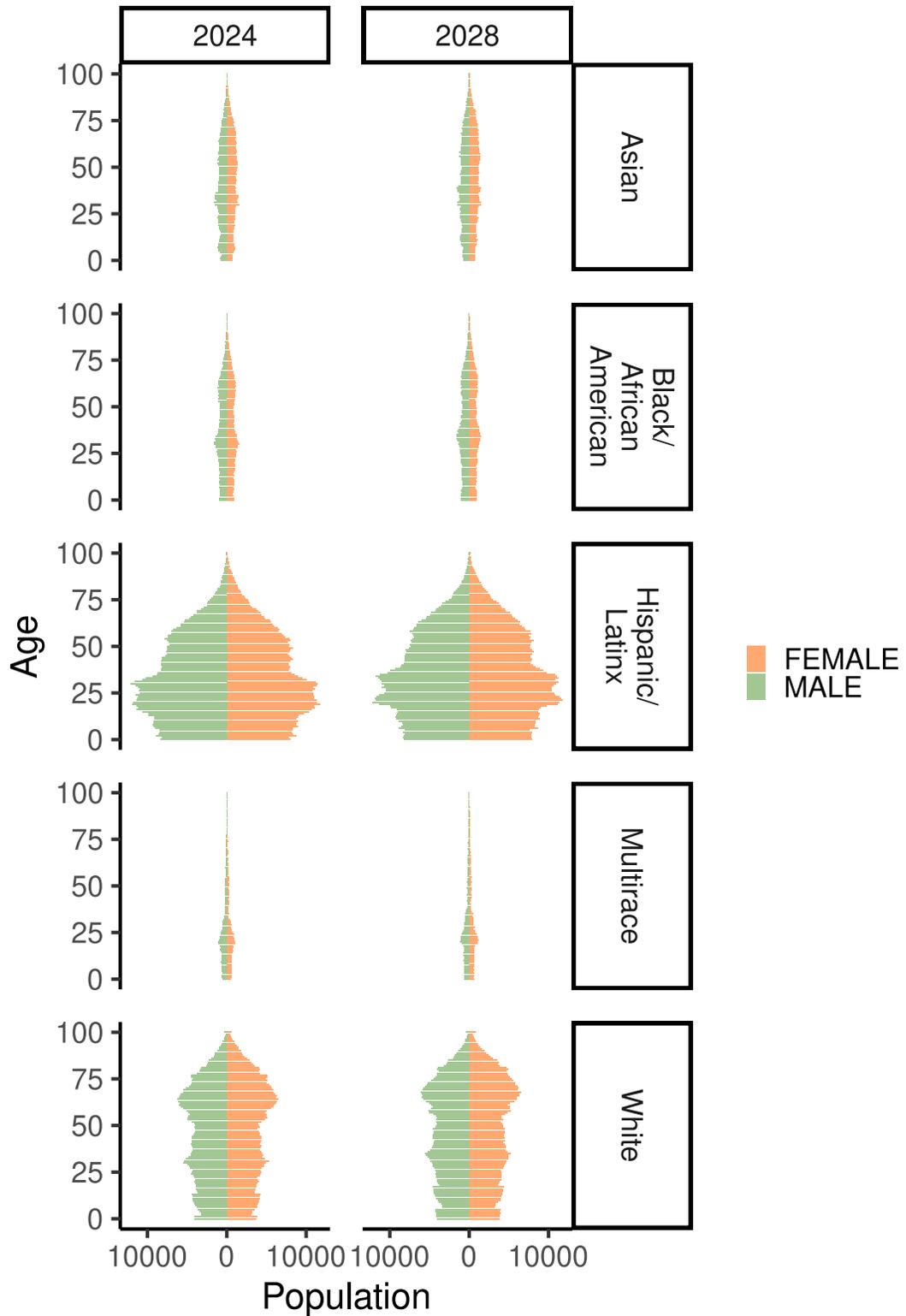


Figure 3. Riverside County Projected Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity (2) and Sex (3), 2024 vs. 2028



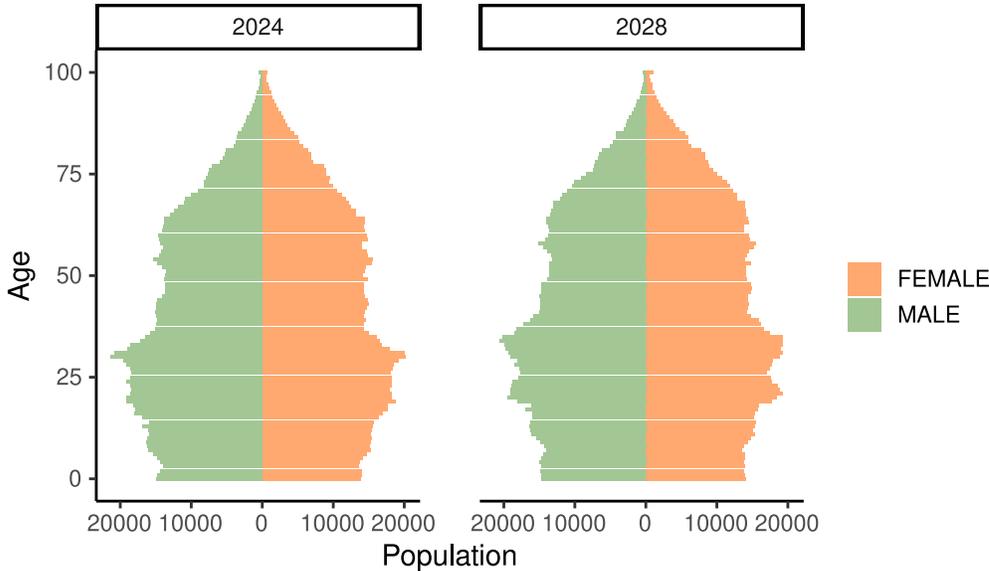
Similar levels of population growth (~2%) are projected for all tracked racial and ethnic groups² from 2024 to 2028 (Figure 2). As of 2024, 19.1% of the Hispanic/Latinx population is estimated to be over 55 years old, compared to 41.9% of the white population. Both groups are projected to age slightly by 2028.





PROJECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES BY SEX AND AGE*

Figure 4. Projected Population Distribution by Age Group and Sex, Riverside County 2024 vs. 2028



The proportions of females and males³ under 55 are projected to remain stable. A slight majority of residents over 55 are female, which is projected to further increase by 2028 (Figure 4).

Older age groups are projected to increase in 2028⁴, while most younger age groups are projected to decrease. Interestingly, those 35-39 are projected to grow by 16% over the next four years (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Projected Population Distribution by Age Group, Riverside County 2024 vs. 2028

Age Group	2024 Population	2028 Population	Population Change	Percent Change
<1	28895	28748	-147	-0.5
1-4	112639	114994	2355	+2.1
5-9	153146	142174	-10972	-7.2
10-14	158239	156577	-1662	-1.1
15-19	177402	163297	-14105	-8.0
20-24	184788	188146	3358	+1.8
25-29	186596	177767	-8829	-4.7
30-34	188293	194277	5984	+3.2
35-39	151324	175586	24262	+16.0
40-44	147926	148055	129	+0.1
45-49	140932	146322	5390	+3.8
50-54	145655	138742	-6913	-4.8
55-59	144086	144948	862	+0.6
60-64	142319	140358	-1961	-1.4
65-69	121865	133771	11906	+9.8
70-74	93955	111467	17512	+18.6
75-79	74441	82408	7967	+10.7
80-84	50942	61095	10153	+19.9
85+	55331	62290	6959	+12.6



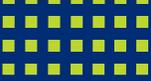


Figure 6. Riverside County Projected School-Age Population Numbers, 2024 vs. 2028

Age	Population 2024	Population 2028	Population Change	Percent Change
5	28949	28698	-251	-0.87
6	29990	28451	-1539	-5.13
7	31365	27618	-3747	-11.95
8	31209	28202	-3007	-9.64
9	31633	29205	-2428	-7.68
10	31602	30194	-1408	-4.46
11	31109	31483	374	+1.2
12	31393	31356	-37	-0.12
13	32511	31758	-753	-2.32
14	31624	31786	162	+0.51
15	33258	31177	-2081	-6.26
16	35058	31482	-3576	-10.2
17	35511	32702	-2809	-7.91
18	35839	32017	-3822	-10.66
Totals	451051	426129	-24922	-5.53

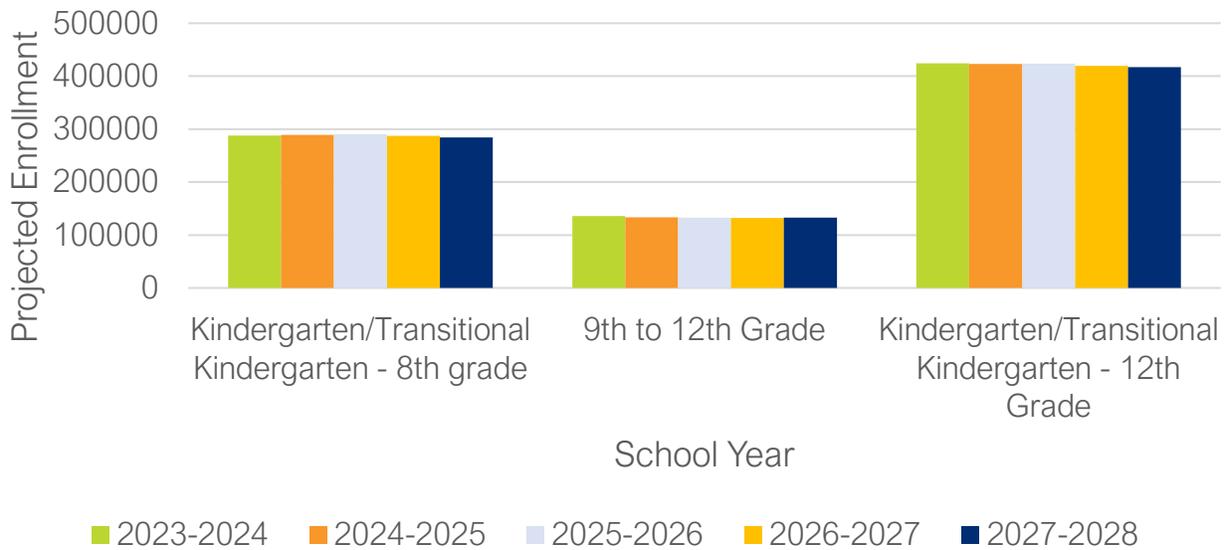
Figure 7. Riverside County Public K-12 Enrollment Projections, 2024 vs. 2028

Grades	Enrollment 2023-24	Enrollment 2027-28	Enrollment Change	Percent Change
K & TK - 8	288029	284033	-3996	-1.39
K & TK	38424	45235	+6811	+17.73
1	29106	26406	-2700	-9.28
2	30326	27168	-3158	-10.41
3	30307	28516	-1791	-5.91
4	31351	29342	-2009	-6.41
5	31797	31081	-716	-2.25
6	31649	31889	+240	+0.76
7	32723	31746	-977	-2.99
8	32346	32650	+304	+0.94
9 - 12	135921	132756	-3165	-2.33
9	32606	33366	+760	+2.33
10	33943	32906	-1037	-3.06
11	33818	33313	-505	-1.49
12	35554	33171	-2383	-6.7
Total	423950	416789	-7161	-1.69





Figure 8. Riverside County Projected Public School Enrollment Numbers, 2023-2027



School enrollment is projected to decrease for most grades from 2024 to 2028 (Figure 8). However, an increase of 17.7% is projected for kindergarten/transitional kindergarten over this same period. Additionally, the population of ages 5-18 is projected to decrease by 5.53%, or about 25,000 children. A majority of California counties (41 out of 58 counties) have been projected to lose enrollment in Public K-12 schools over the next 10 years, including Riverside County.

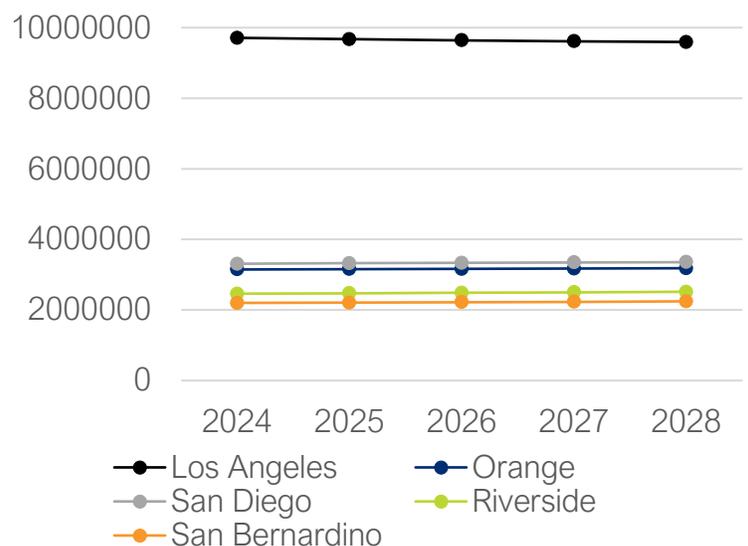
CALIFORNIA AND LOCAL COUNTY COMPARISON

Riverside County is the fourth most populous county in California, behind Los Angeles (9.7 M), San Diego (3.3M), and Orange (3.1M). San Bernardino County ranks 5th, with 2.1M. In the next four years, Riverside County is projected to remain the 4th most populous county, with the highest rate of growth in the local metro area at 2.12% (2.45M to 2.51M in 2028), compared to 0.08% for the local four-county area, and 0.57% for California overall.

Figure 9. Projected Population and Percent Change by Region, California 2024-2028

Region	Projected Population Change	Projected % Change
Riverside County	52,248	+2.12%
San Bernardino County	43,144	+1.96%
Orange County	32,837	+1.04%
L.A. County	-114,627	-1.18%
Four County Total	13,602	+0.08%
California	222,083	+0.57%

Figure 10. Population Projection Growth by County, California 2024-2028



NOTES

1. The State of California Department of Finance Population Table P-3 Race/Ethnicity and Sex by Age for California and Counties, and Series W California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, and Report P-2A: Total Population Projections, 2020-2060 California and Counties were used as primary data sources for this report (DOF, 2023).
2. American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander age distributions are not displayed in Figure 3 due to small population numbers.
3. RUHS – Public Health recognizes that gender is an important factor in understanding Riverside County’s population growth trends. However, there is insufficient transgender or gender non-conforming population data available for inclusion in Figures 3 and 4.
4. Riverside County’s population aged 65+ is projected to increase from 16% in 2024 to 18% by 2028.

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SUGGESTED CITATION

Goldmann, A., Bojorquez, H. Population Projections in Riverside County, CA: 2024-2028. Riverside University Health System- Public Health, Epidemiology and Program Evaluation. Riverside: California. February 2024.

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