

*Submitted to  
MEND  
Fundraising  
Proposal  
Committee on  
June 26, 2012  
by Dr. Josh  
Sides, Director,  
Center for  
Southern  
California  
Studies,  
California State  
University,  
Northridge.  
jsides@csun.edu*

## **MEND Service Area Abbreviated Study 2000-2010**

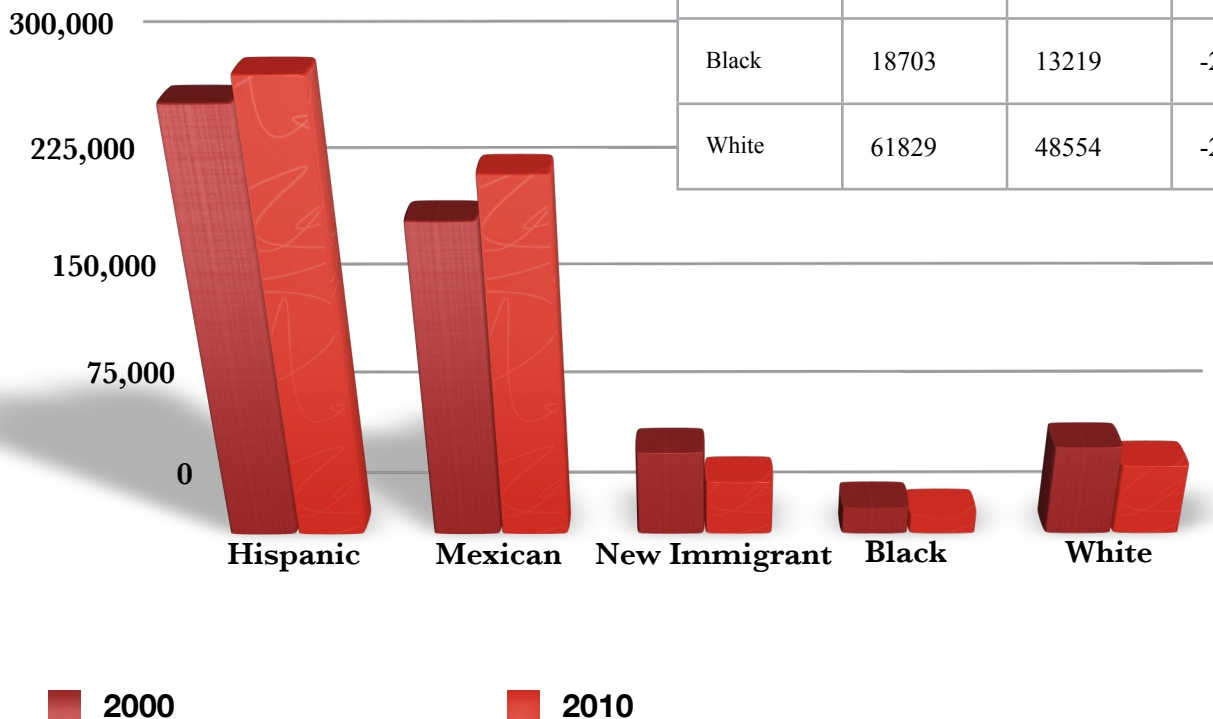
The data and analysis presented in this abbreviated study are drawn from the 2000 and 2010 Census of the United States, the 2010 American Community Survey (5-year summary), and the Longitudinal Tract Data Base from Brown University's Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences. A MEND Service Area dataset can be found at [www.csun.edu/cscs/datasets/MEND](http://www.csun.edu/cscs/datasets/MEND)

# I. The Diminishing Impact of Immigrants

Between 2000 and 2010, the most general demographic characteristic of the service area – its Latino majority, remained essentially unchanged. Seventy-three percent of residents are Latinos (the vast majority of whom are Mexican), up only 2% from the previous census. And, as had been the case in the 1990s, the number of whites and blacks in the service area continued to decline. Yet, beyond this general and somewhat static characteristic were some surprising dynamics. Most significantly – and following a countywide trend – the number of new immigrants in the service area declined significantly. In 2000, recent immigrants (those who had arrived within the previous decade) constituted almost 15% of the service area population, but by 2010, they constituted only 9% even as the overall

population grew. This is largely a function of a slowdown in Mexican immigration to the United States that is well documented and not the subject of this report. But the impact on the service area is statistically striking: service area residents today have been in America much longer than residents of the previous decade. Therefore, traditional explanations for immigrant poverty – lack of citizenship, the volatility of the low-wage job market, lack of kinship networks – probably play a declining role in the service area.

	2000	2010	Change
Hispanic	277697	293476	5.68%
Mexican	209424	237345	13.33%
New Imm.	58370	37570	-34.63%
Black	18703	13219	-29.32%
White	61829	48554	-21.47%



## II. Fewer Unemployed but More Working Poor

Between 2000 and 2010, the unemployment rate in the service area dropped by more than 36% and by 2010, it was only 5.96%. As a point of comparison, the national unemployment rate in 2010 was 9.63%. Meanwhile, however, the proportion of service area residents living in poverty decreased by only 11%. In short, employment gains for service area residents have not translated into proportionate reductions in poverty. Additionally, the median income of residents in the service area relative to the countywide average slipped slightly between 2000 and 2010. Finally, the median income in some tracts of Pacoima, Mission Hills, Sun Valley, and San Fernando decreased in absolute terms between 2000-2010.



Note the disparity between declining unemployment and declining poverty.



	2000 Unemploy.	2010 Unemploy.	Unemploy. Change 2000-2010	2000 Poverty	2010 Poverty	Poverty Change 2000-2010
Arleta	8.57%	4.34%	<b>-49.40%</b>	12.54%	14.82%	<b>18.16%</b>
Lakeview Terrace	9.91%	6.20%	<b>-37.40%</b>	14.30%	9.39%	<b>-34.35%</b>
Mission Hills	6.83%	4.38%	<b>-35.90%</b>	9.64%	6.75%	<b>-29.91%</b>
North Hills	9.25%	4.83%	<b>-47.80%</b>	24.78%	21.50%	<b>-13.25%</b>
Pacoima	10.29%	7.21%	<b>-29.90%</b>	22.47%	23.37%	<b>4.03%</b>
Panorama City	9.89%	6.58%	<b>-33.50%</b>	25.78%	21.35%	<b>-17.15%</b>
San Fernando	7.71%	8.22%	<b>6.70%</b>	19.37%	17.61%	<b>-9.10%</b>
Sun Valley	10.76%	5.54%	<b>-48.50%</b>	18.44%	14.93%	<b>-19.03%</b>
Sylmar	8.11%	5.67%	<b>-30.10%</b>	13.37%	11.24%	<b>-15.91%</b>
MEND Service Area	9.03%	5.88%	<b>-34.90%</b>	17.85%	15.66%	<b>-12.27%</b>

### III. More Single Mothers

The proportion of female-headed families with children rose from 14.21% to 16.90% of all families in the service area between 2000 and 2010. But this modest increase across the service area masks some alarming trends at the community level. In San Fernando and Arleta, rates increased by 54% and 72% respectively, and Panorama City had the highest proportion of female-headed families with children in 2010, at 20%. Given the very high correlation between poverty and female-headed families with children, these rates are alarming.

	2000	2010	Change
Arleta	10%	18%	80%
Lakeview Terrace	13%	7%	-46%
Mission Hills	10%	10%	0%
North Hills	15%	18%	20%
Pacoima	16%	19%	19%
Panorama City	17%	20%	18%
San Fernando	13%	20%	54%
Sun Valley	12%	14%	17%
Sylmar	13%	18%	38%

