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## Census reveals East Bay's ethnic mosaic

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California's Mexican-American population surpassed 10 million in the past decade and Chinese-Americans and Filipino-Americans both passed the 1 million mark, according to 2010 census figures released Thursday that demonstrate the growing ethnic mosaic that makes up the state and, especially, the East Bay.

The three groups, which have been part of California's fabric for most of the state's history, hit the numerical milestones as the number of white Californians dropped and the number of African-Americans remained steady statewide and declined in the East Bay.

Other Asian-American and Latino groups also experienced population increases, with Indian-Americans the fastest-growing group in the region. Only Japanese-Americans joined whites in losing population statewide.

The East Bay, a populous area of 2.5 million, continues to reflect a cultural variety that is likely to make it one of the most diverse regions in the nation.

As the two-county area's white population dropped by 23 percent and its black population dropped by 13 percent since 2000, almost all other groups saw dramatic increases.

The East Bay's Mexican-American population grew by 40 percent to reach 427,000 people, or 17 percent of all residents, while the Chinese-American population reached 187,000 and the Filipino-American population 131,000.

The Indian-American population grew the fastest, by 74 percent, to reach nearly 95,000 people. Indian immigrants

and families of Indian descent flocked to the Tri-Valley and southern Alameda County and surpassed Chinese-Americans for the first time in Fremont.

The ethnic changes have transformed the landscape of business districts and accelerated demand for certain educational and cultural activities and services.

In the burgeoning Dougherty Valley region of San Ramon, parks and recreation officials have noticed a spike in demand at the elementary and middle schools for "educational support programs" designed to supplement instruction students already are receiving in science, math, music and other subjects.

"We're seeing a higher demand for that type of programming at our Dougherty Valley elementary schools, which we know from the census data have large Indian and Asian populations," said Nicole Blazin, marketing analyst for San Ramon Parks and Community Services. "We don't track that data, but there is a correlation."

Also, at the San Ramon Senior Center on Alcosta Boulevard, more programs geared toward the Asian community are being offered. Examples include karaoke, tai chi and mah-jongg, Blazin said.

Some groups are poorly measured by the latest census figures: Various cities in the East Bay saw a sharp rise in the "Other Asian" and "Other Latino" populations, which in some places means Burmese; in other places Tibetans, Laotians, Afghans, Pakistanis, Iranians, Guatemalans, Hondurans and a



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**report.**

In some parts of western Contra Costa County, Latinos of Central or South American origin -- mainly, Salvadorans -- occupy nearly a quarter of the population.

But those who had to fill in the "other" blank won't find out specific details about the size of their group's population until later this year.