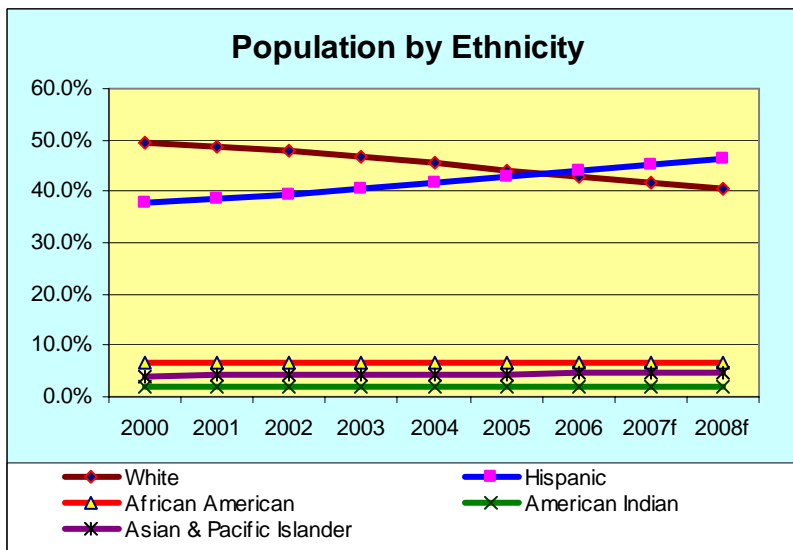


## Shift in Ethnic Composition of Kern County

Kern County's population has grown from 671,300 in 2000 to 801,600 in 2007. These additional 130,300 persons translated into an average annual growth rate of 2.6 percent. At this growth rate, the county will add 20,600 new residents to reach a total population of 822,200 in 2008. If this trend continues, the county's population will exceed one million by 2016.

Demographic data point to a major shift in the ethnic composition of Kern County's population: *the share of the Hispanic population exceeds that of the White population*. The White population share declined gradually from 49.6 percent in 2000 to 41.7 percent in 2007. In the meantime, the Hispanic population share climbed steadily from 37.8 to 45.3 percent. Given the dynamics of the local population, we expect the 2008 trend to evolve to 46.4 percent Hispanic, 40.6 White, 6.6 percent African American, 4.5 percent Asian and Pacific Islander, and 1.9 percent American Indian.



Data Source: Rand California, <http://ca.rand.org/>