

Census 2000: Demographic Profiles of Mesa Community College Campus Service Areas

Research Brief #63*

**This is the first in a series of Research Briefs that will be prepared using data from Census 2000*

Service Area Comparisons

Census 2000 data provide demographic profiles of Mesa Community College Campus service areas. The population characteristics of the census tracts surrounding the Southern and Dobson campus are compared to those in the Red Mountain campus service area (located at McKellips and Power Road).

either Hispanic or non-white compared to 14% in the Red Mountain service area.

Race and Ethnicity

The Southern and Dobson service area is more diverse than the Red Mountain service area as illustrated in the table below. More than 83% of the population in the Red Mountain service area describe themselves as white, non-hispanic compared to 67% in the Southern and Dobson area. Maricopa County is 66% white, non-hispanic overall.

MCC Students Race and Ethnicity

The Southern and Dobson (S&D) campus has a more diverse student population when compared to the Red Mountain (RM) campus.

MCC Students Enrolled as of Fall 2001 Highpoint by Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	S&D	RM
Total	21,082	2,462
White	66%	77%
African American	4%	2%
American Indian	3%	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%	2%
Hispanic	14%	12%
Other	3%	2%
Not Specified	5%	4%

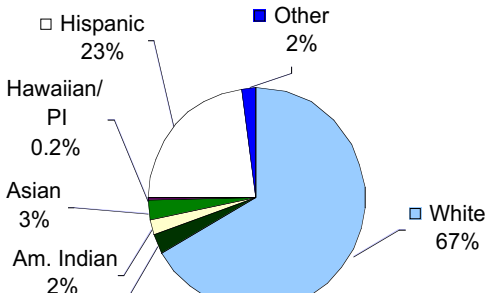
One-third of the people in the Southern and Dobson service area describe themselves as

Census 2000 Race/Ethnicity by Mesa Community College Campus Service Area

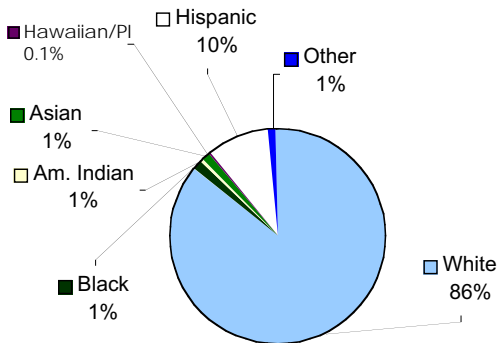
	Southern and Dobson		Red Mountain		Maricopa County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No. of Census Tracts	114		46			
Total Population	537,334	100%	227,429	100%	3,072,149	100%
Not Hispanic or Latino						
White	357,863	67%	195,394	86%	2,034,530	66%
Black or African American	16,777	3%	3,039	1%	108,521	4%
American Indian & Alaska Native	9,733	2%	1,496	1%	45,703	1%
Asian	16,820	3%	2,491	1%	64,562	2%
Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	1,278	.2%	264	.1%	3,725	.1%
Other or more than one race	10,627	2%	2,800	1%	51,767	2%
Hispanic or Latino	124,236	23%	21,945	10%	763,341	25%

The population distribution by ethnicity from the Census 2000 is illustrated below for both service areas and Maricopa County.

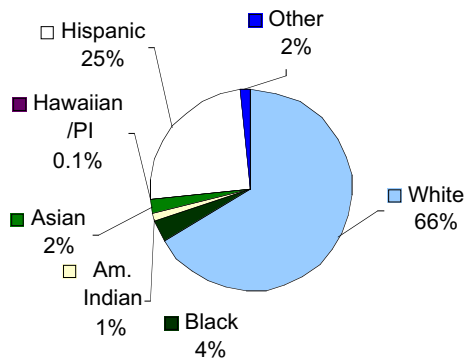
**Census 2000
Southern & Dobson Service Area**



**Census 2000
Red Mountain Service Area**



**Census 2000
Maricopa County**



Age and Gender

According to the Census 2000, the share of the population over the age of 62 differs considerably between the Southern and Dobson service area and the Red Mountain service area.

Approximately 25% of the population in the Red Mountain area is over age 62, compared to 9% in the Southern and Dobson area. Conversely, 41% of the people in the Southern and Dobson service area are between the ages of 18-39, compared to 26% in the Red Mountain service area. A profile of the age distribution for both service areas is presented in the following table.

Census 2000 Age by Mesa Community College Campus Service Area		
Age Category	Southern & Dobson	Red Mountain
<15	22%	21%
15-17	4%	4%
18-20	6%	3%
21-24	9%	4%
25-39	26%	19%
40-61	24%	24%
>62	9%	25%

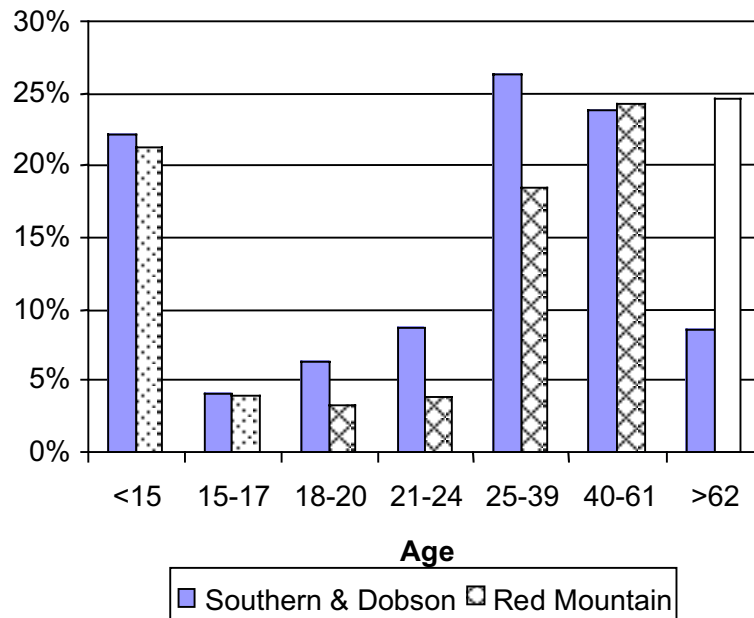
MCC Student Age Distribution

As of Fall 2001 the majority of students are between the ages of 18 and 39. A relatively larger share of students over the age of 40 attend at Red Mountain.

MCC Students Enrolled as of Fall 2001 by Age		
Age Category	Southern & Dobson	Red Mountain
18-20	34%	35%
21-24	28%	20%
25-39	25%	25%
40-61	10%	15%
Other	3%	2%

The population distribution by age group is illustrated in the following graph. Age categories from 18-39 comprise a greater share of the total population in the area surrounding the Southern and Dobson Campus. The share of persons over the age of 62 is much higher in the Red Mountain Campus service area.

Census 2000 Age Group by Service Area



Census 2000 population distribution by gender is detailed for each service area in the table below. Overall, women comprise a larger share of the population in the Red Mountain service area (52%) when compared to the Southern and Dobson service area (49%).

Census 2000						
Gender by Mesa Community College Service Area						
	Female		Male		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Southern and Dobson	264,937	49%	272,397	51%	537,334	100%
Red Mountain	118,044	52%	109,385	48%	227,429	100%

The student population by gender differs between the two campuses. Sixty-one percent of the students attending at Red Mountain are female compared to 53% of the students at the Southern and Dobson campus.

Summary

Mesa Community College serves 24,762 students (as of Fall 2001) at two campuses, four additional sites and through the Internet. Data from the 2000 census provides insight into the demographic characteristics of the areas

surrounding the two campuses of Mesa Community College. Data is also presented for the 21,082 students who attend the Southern and Dobson campus and the 2,462 who attend the Red Mountain campus.

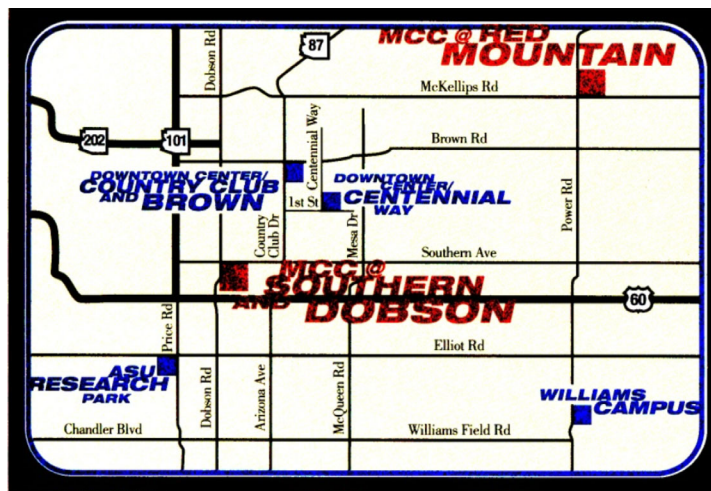
The service area surrounding the largest campus, located at Southern and Dobson, contains neighborhoods in the cities of Mesa, Tempe and Chandler. According to the 2000 census this area has a diverse racial and ethnic composition that is similar to Maricopa County as a whole. Twenty-three percent of the population is Hispanic and approximately 10% of the non-hispanic population describe themselves as a race other than white. The Red Mountain Campus is surrounded by more homogeneous neighborhoods located in the eastern portion of the City of Mesa. There is relatively less racial and ethnic diversity represented in the area surrounding the campus. A comparison of the student population of both campuses shows a similar pattern, however, the differences are less pronounced.


The population in the Red Mountain service area is relatively older than the Southern and Dobson service area. Twenty-five percent of the population in the Red Mountain service area is over the age of 62 when compared to 9% of the Southern and Dobson location. The distribution of students by age shows 15% are 40 or older at Red Mountain compared to 10% at Southern and Dobson. The relative share of females is higher in the Red Mountain service area as well. A relatively higher percentage of students are females at the Red Mountain campus.

As of the Census 2000, the population density is higher for the Southern and Dobson service area. The Red Mountain campus is surrounded by newly developed areas and still has the capacity for growth from development.

The relationship between the College and the community it serves is important to the mission and goals of the institution. The demographic characteristics of the regions surrounding the campuses can be used to help inform decisions about how to best serve students. Both strategic and programmatic directions rely upon an accurate profile of the community.

Map of the Area





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A Maricopa Community College