



**Kem C. Gardner**  
**POLICY INSTITUTE**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

DAVID ECCLES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

# Utah's Changing Demographics

*February 7, 2024*

INFORMED DECISIONS™

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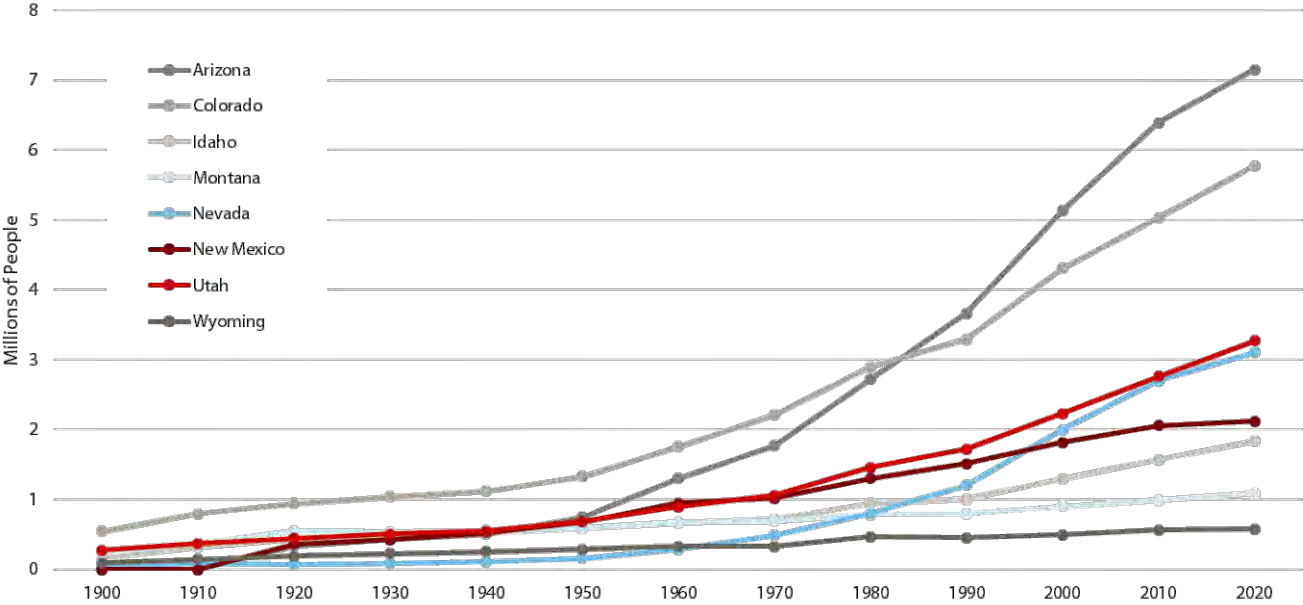
- A growing and changing population is a long-standing constant in Utah  
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- Urban counties are home to most Utahns and core to continued statewide growth
- Changing demographic characteristics are projected to create impacts on how Utah grows  
*Utah County has some unique differences*

# This presentation in a nutshell:

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  - Utah County plays a significant role in that change*
- Urban counties are home to most Utahns and core to continued statewide growth
- Changing demographic characteristics are projected to create impacts on how Utah grows
  - Utah County has some unique differences*
- Utahns are becoming more racially and ethnically diverse and are projected to continue to diversify into the future

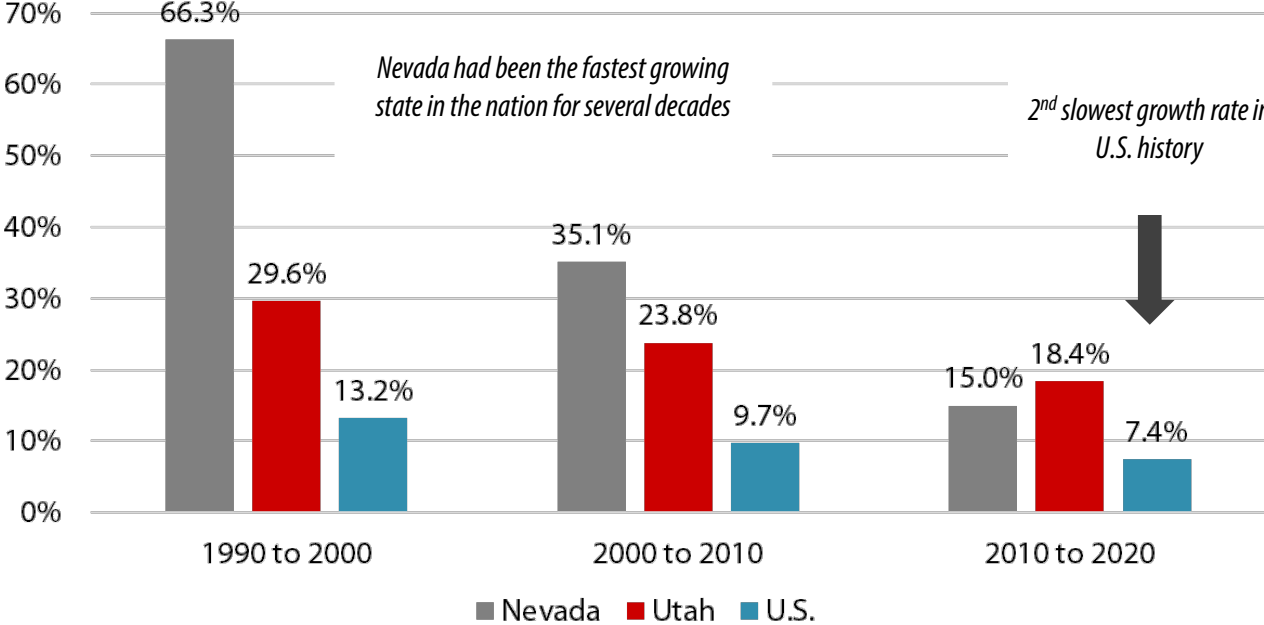
# Looking Back

# Long-term growth in the Intermountain Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census

# Decadal growth rates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census



# Recent trends

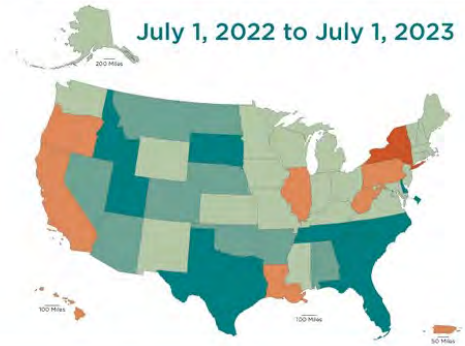
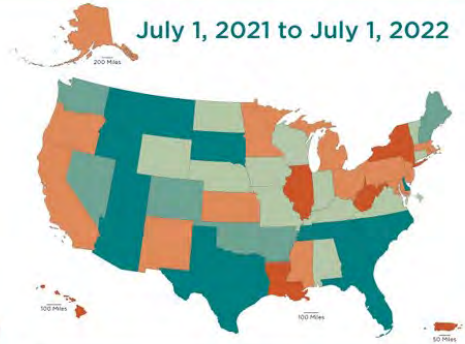
# *Total Population*

# National Context

- **2010-2020:** Utah is fastest growing state (18.4%)
- **2020-2023:** Utah growth moderates
  - **2021** -COVID deaths, limited international migration
  - **2022** – Slight increase in births nationally, international migration returns
  - **2023** – Back to pre-pandemic norms

## Percent Change in State Population

Percent change



United States®  
**Census**  
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Source: Vintage 2023 Population Estimates



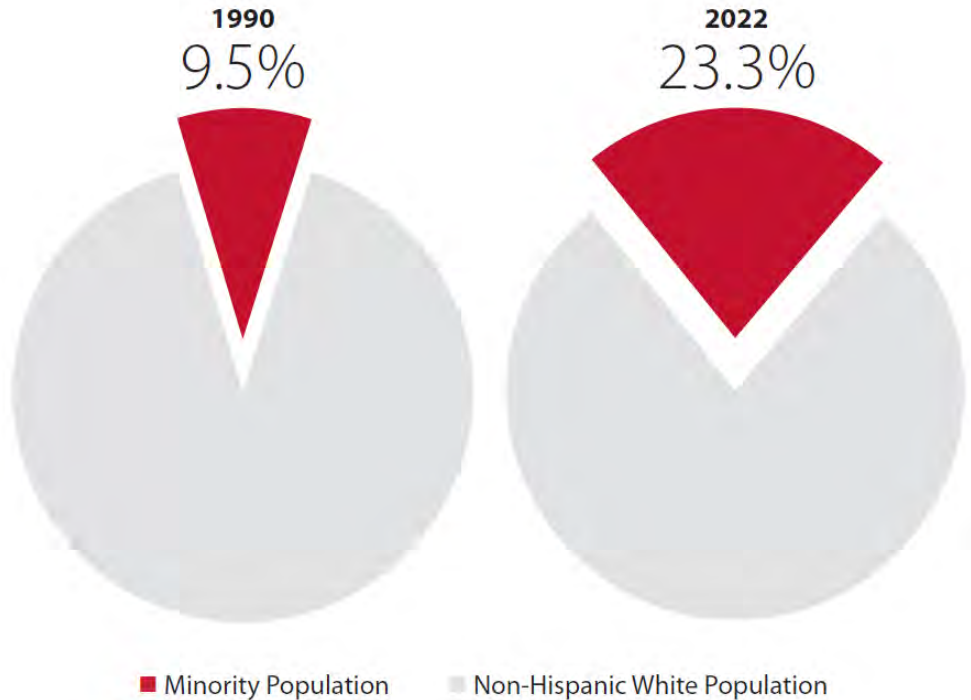


# *Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin*

# Increasing racial and ethnic diversity

Racial and ethnic minority includes:

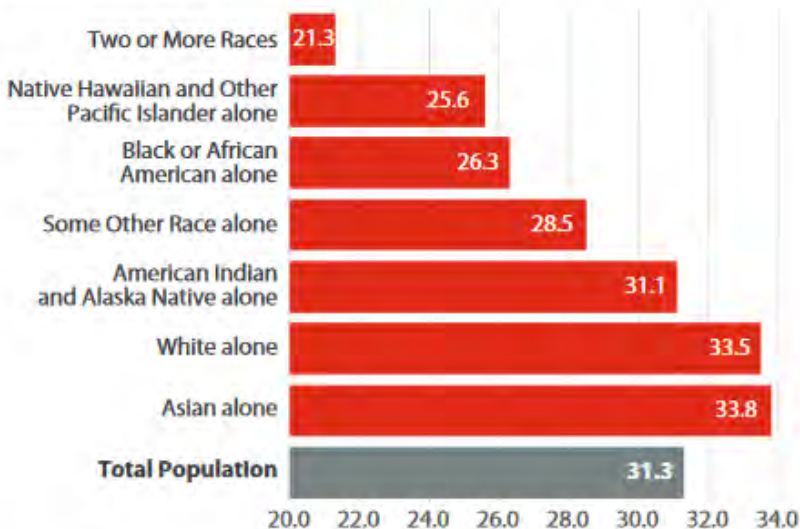
*American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latino, Some Other Race, and Multiracial Populations*



Source: 1990 Census and 2018-2022 ACS

Younger Utahns are more racially and ethnically diverse than older residents

**Figure 9. Median Age for Utahns by Selected Race and Ethnicity, 2020**



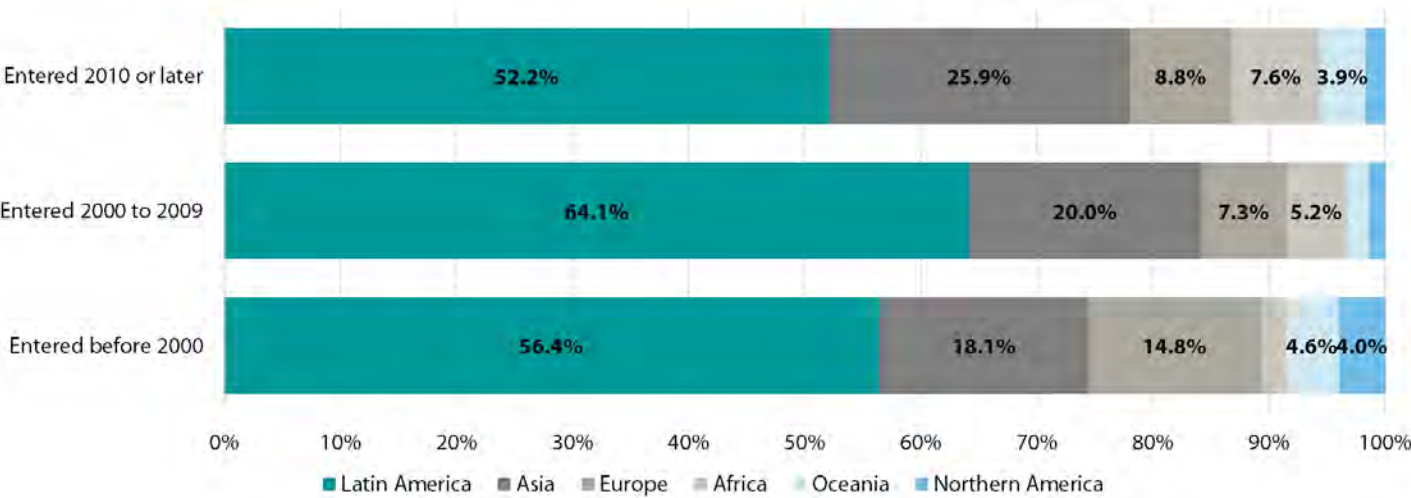
Note: All race groups shown represent the non-Hispanic or Latino segment of that population to avoid a double count with the Hispanic or Latino population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute



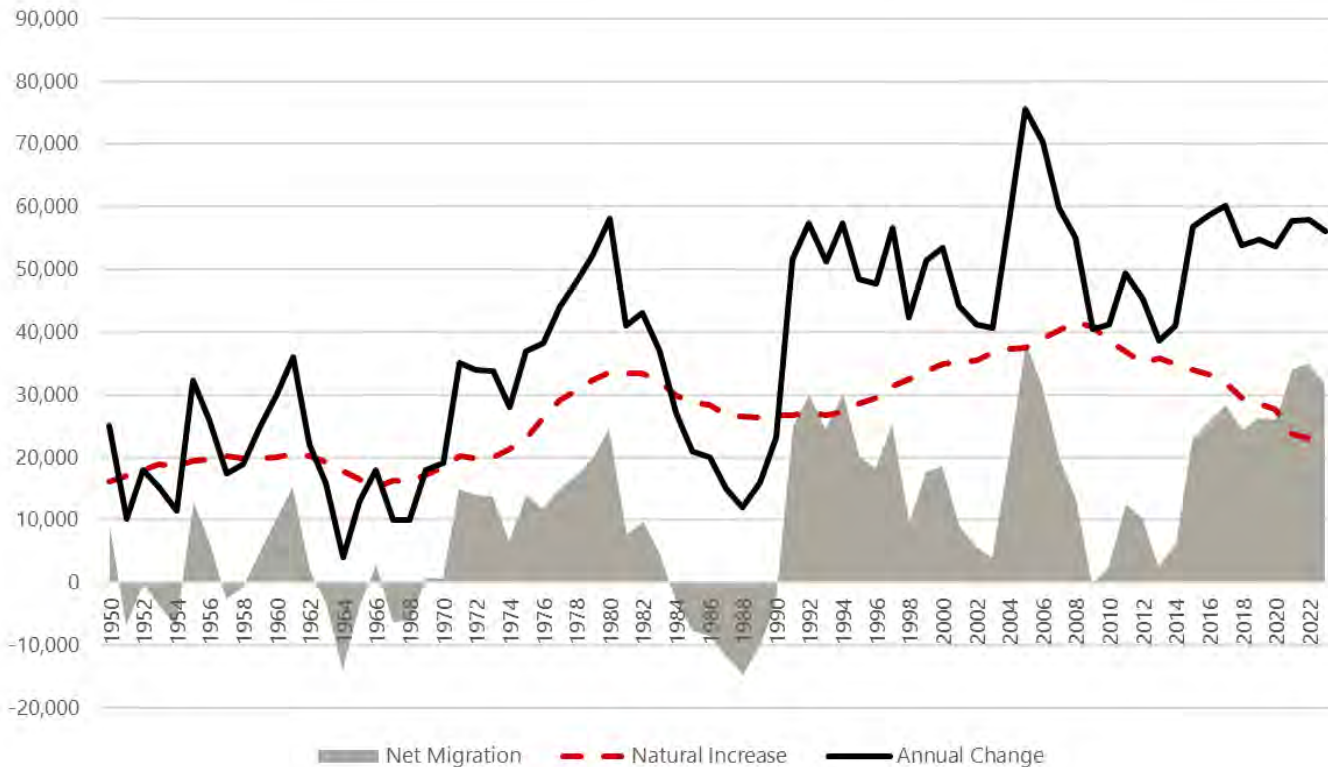
# The composition of Utah's foreign-born population has changed over time



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1-Year American Community Survey Estimates

# Drivers of Utah's growth

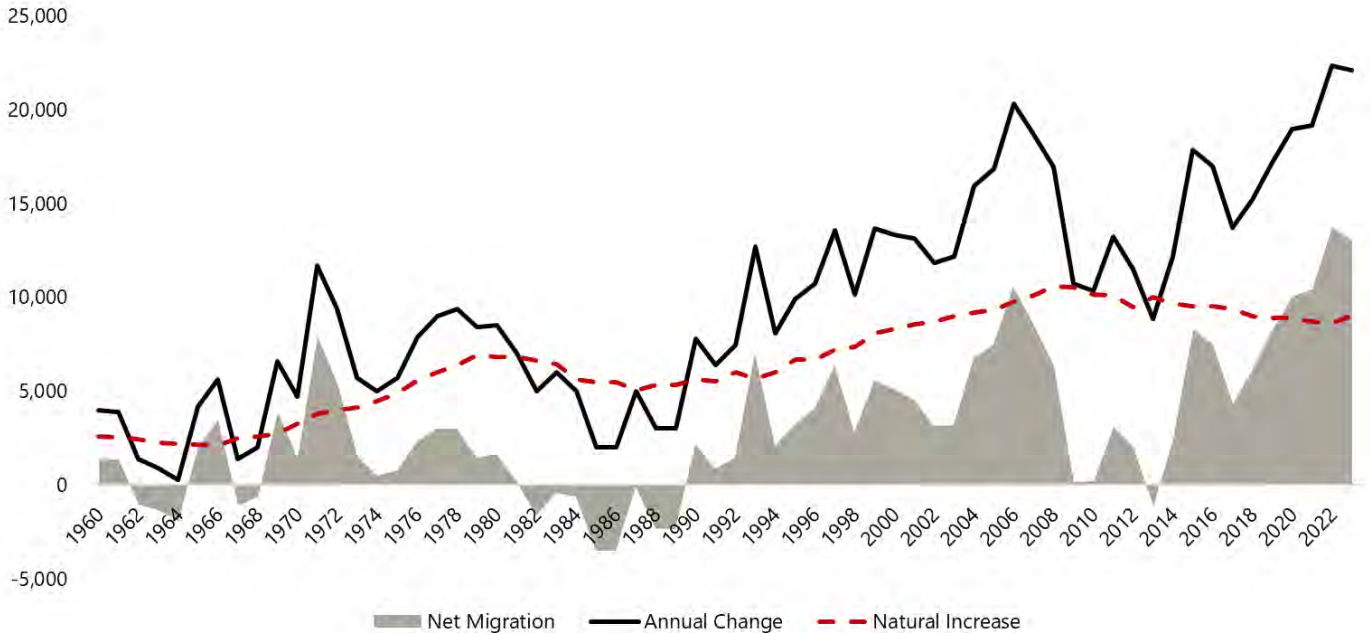
# Migration has become a more consistent component of population growth statewide



Source: Utah Population Estimates Committee and Utah Population Committee

# And in Utah County

*Utah County Components of Change, 1960-2023*



Source: Utah Population Estimates Committee and Utah Population Committee

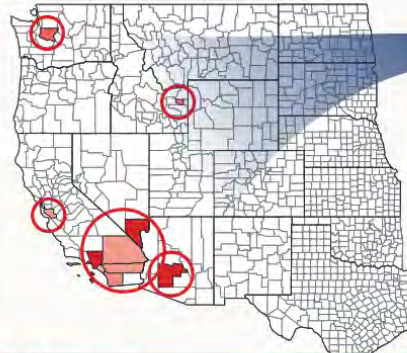
# *Migration*

**Many people moving to Utah are from California, Texas, and Idaho**

*Source: 2015–2019 5-Year American Community Survey*

## MIGRANTS COMING TO UTAH

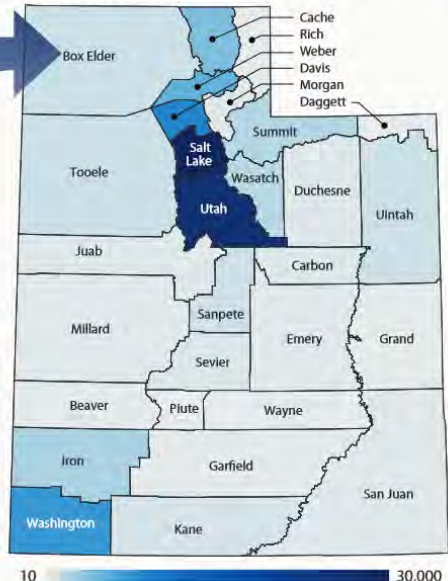
**Table 2. Top 10 Origin Counties Sending Migrants to Utah, 2015-2019**



Rank	Origin County	Annual Migrants to Utah
1	Clark County, NV (Las Vegas)	3,916
2	Maricopa County, AZ (Phoenix)	3,730
3	Los Angeles County, CA	3,714
4	King County, WA (Seattle)	2,273
5	Madison County, ID (Rexburg)	2,098
6	San Diego County, CA	1,811
7	San Bernardino County, CA	1,657
8	Riverside County, CA	1,604
9	Santa Clara County, CA (San Jose)	1,532
10	Orange County, CA (Anaheim)	1,363

Note: All flows prove statistically significant based on the margin of error of movers in the county to county flow.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

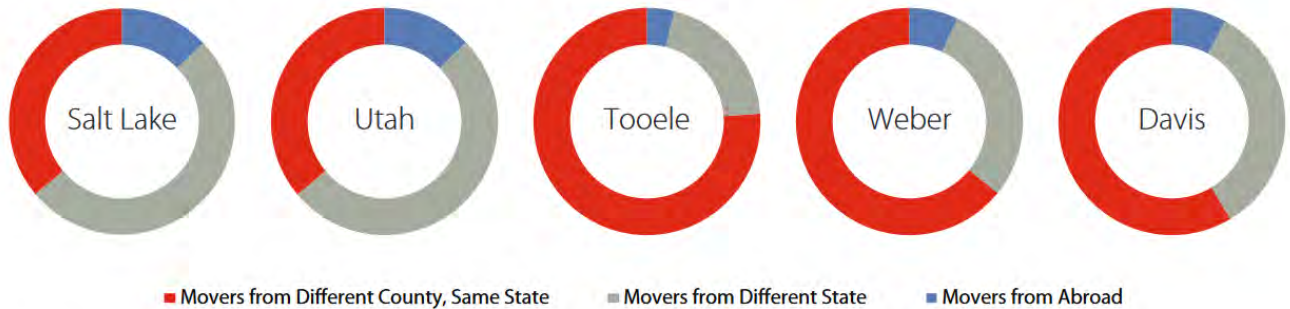
**Figure 2: Destination Counties for Out-of-State Migrants to Utah, 2015-2019**



Note: Includes migrants from U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Small counties can have migration estimates with large margins of error and should be interpreted with caution.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

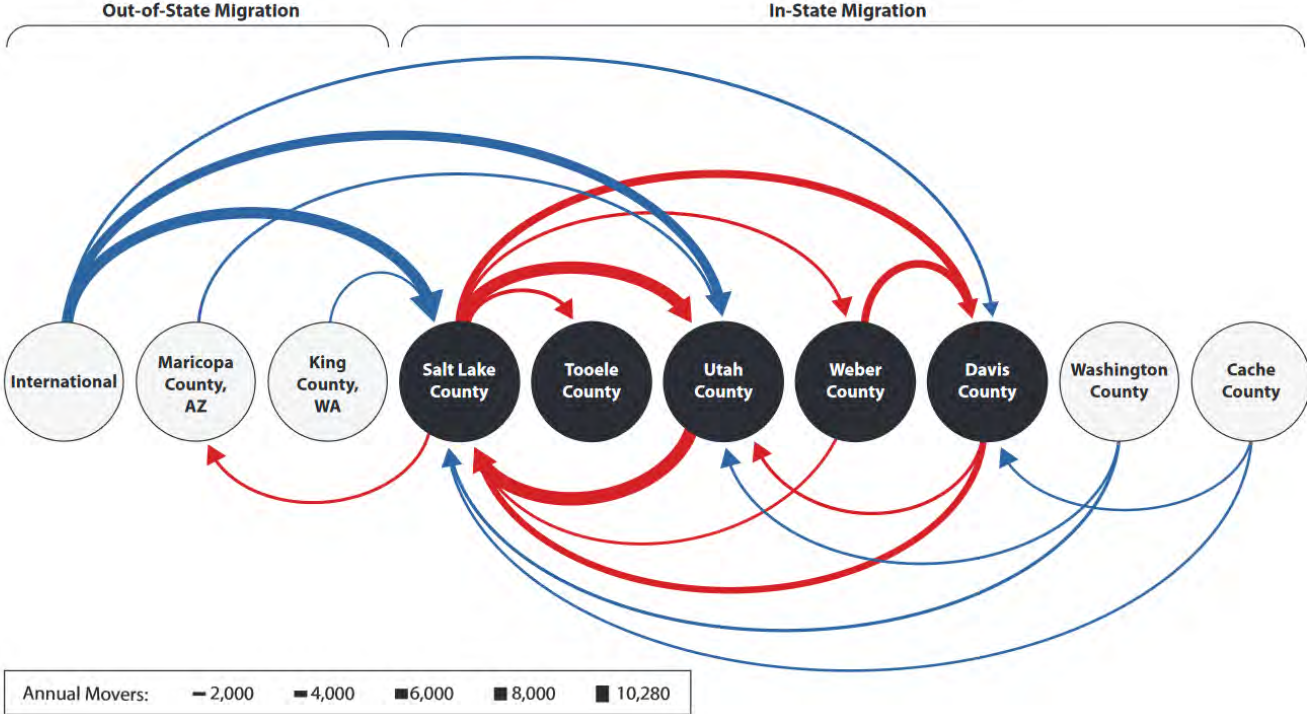
# More than half of movers to Utah County came from outside Utah

Figure 3: Migration Status of County In-Migrants, 2015-2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Figure 4: Top 20 County-to-County Migration Flows with Wasatch Front Counties, 2015-2019**

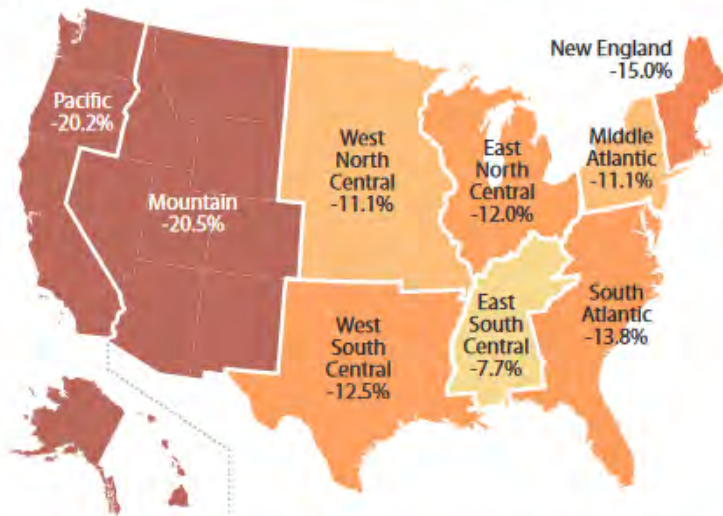




*Natural Increase  
(births minus deaths)*

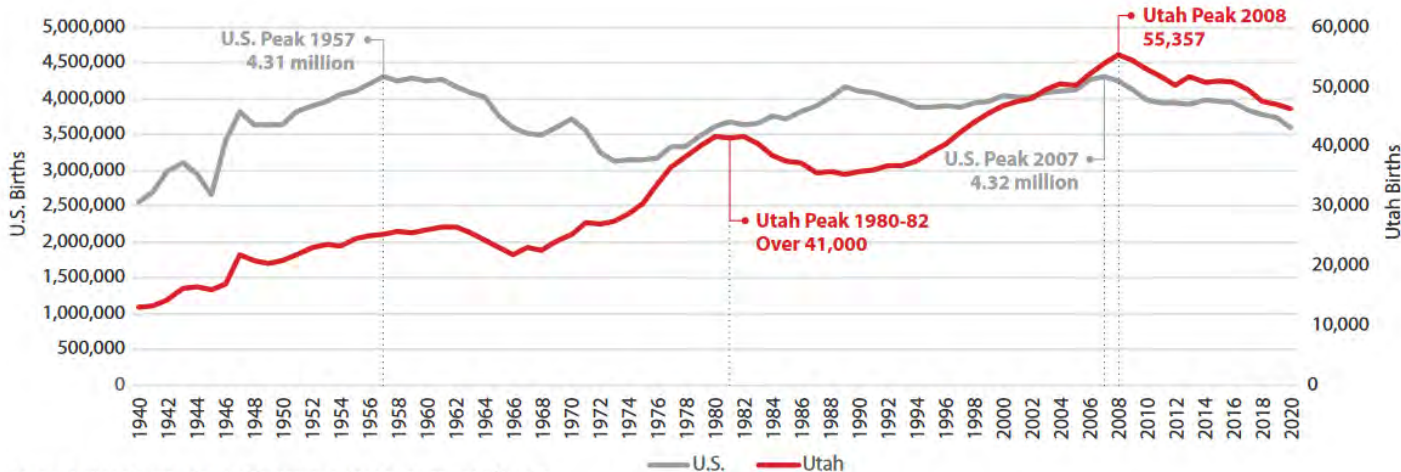
While Utah's fertility decline was steep, every state in the U.S. experienced a decrease last decade

**Figure 2: Division Total Fertility Rate Percentage Declines, 2010-2020**



Note: Division TFRs were calculated by averaging the state-level TFRs within each division.  
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, calculations by Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.

# Resulting in declining births nationally and in Utah since 2008



Source: National Center for Health Statistics; Utah Department of Health

Note: The Replacement Level is the fertility level at which the current population is replaced.  
 Source: National Center for Health Statistics

# Utah and U.S. Life Expectancy are Converging

### Male Life Expectancy at Birth, Utah and United States, 1959-2019

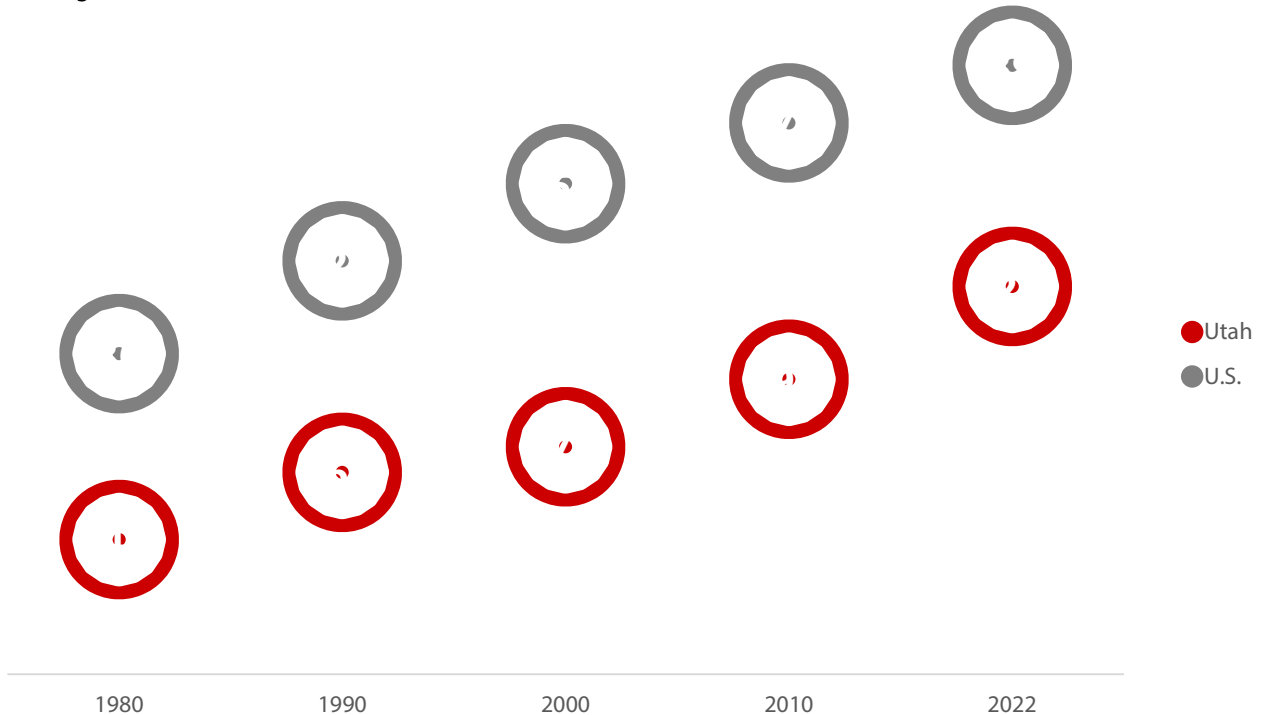


### Female Life Expectancy at Birth, Utah and United States, 1959-2019



# Like the nation, Utah's population is aging

*Median Age in Utah and U.S.*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates



# The New Utah

OLD

## Small State

Population rank **34<sup>th</sup>** (1990, 2000, 2010)

## Internal growth (births)

**34%** of growth from migration (2000-2020)

## Less Multicultural

**10%** minority (1990)

## Young

**11.5%** are 65+ (2020)

## Strong Economy

Utah job growth strong, but ebbs and flows

## Affordable Housing

Utah housing costs to wages highly competitive



NEW

## Mid-Sized State

Population rank **30<sup>th</sup>** (2020)

## External growth (migration)

**61%** of growth from migration (2021 and 2022)

## More Multicultural

**23%** minority (2021) (*30+% in 2040*)

## Older

**20.0%** are 65+ (2050)

## Elite Economy

Utah job growth consistently best in nation and COVID outcomes

## Unaffordable Housing

Utah housing costs represent major economic risk

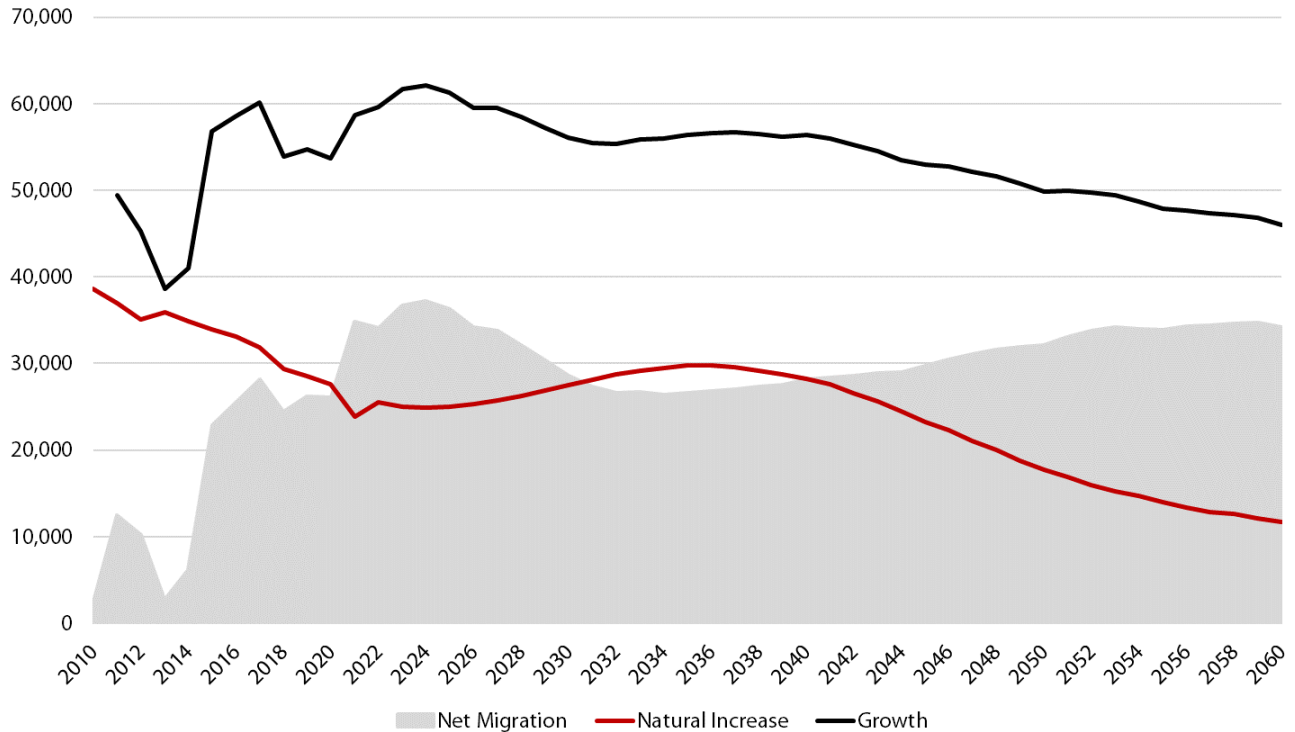
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

# Looking forward



# Net migration becomes a more dominant driver of statewide population change

Projected Utah Components of Change, 2010-2060

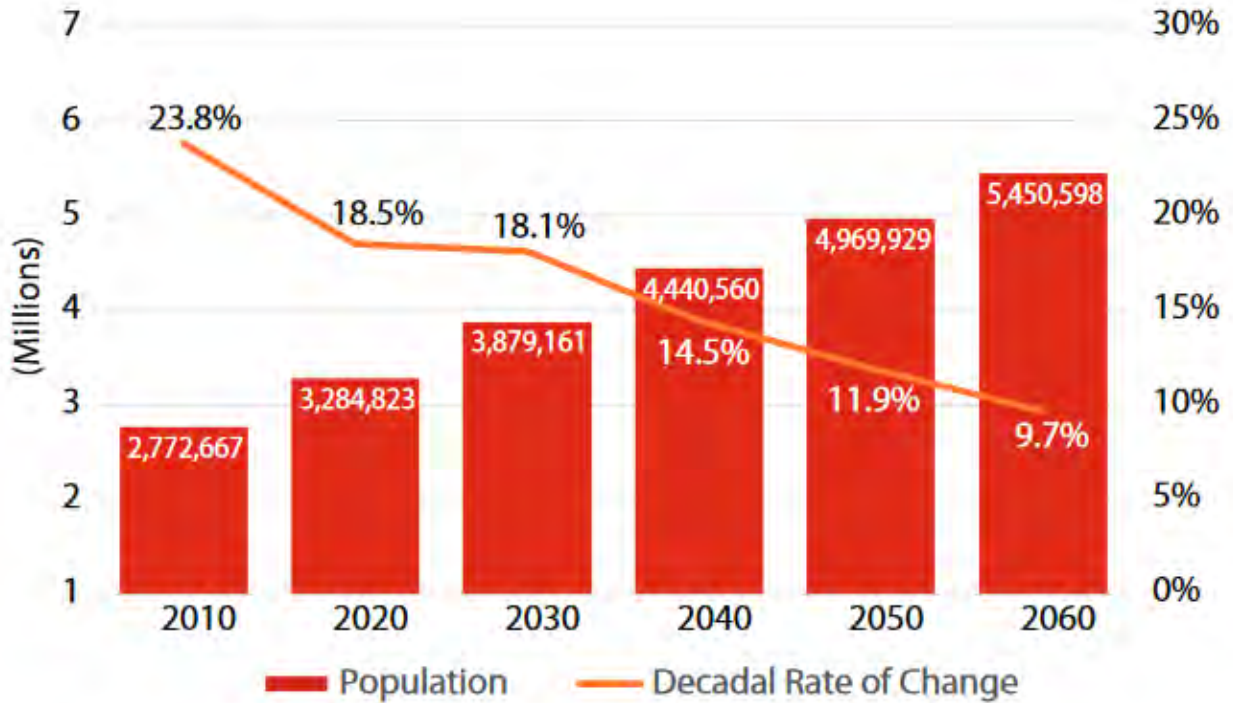


Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020-2060 Projections

# *Results of Population Change*

## Growth in Utah is projected to continue, but moderate over time

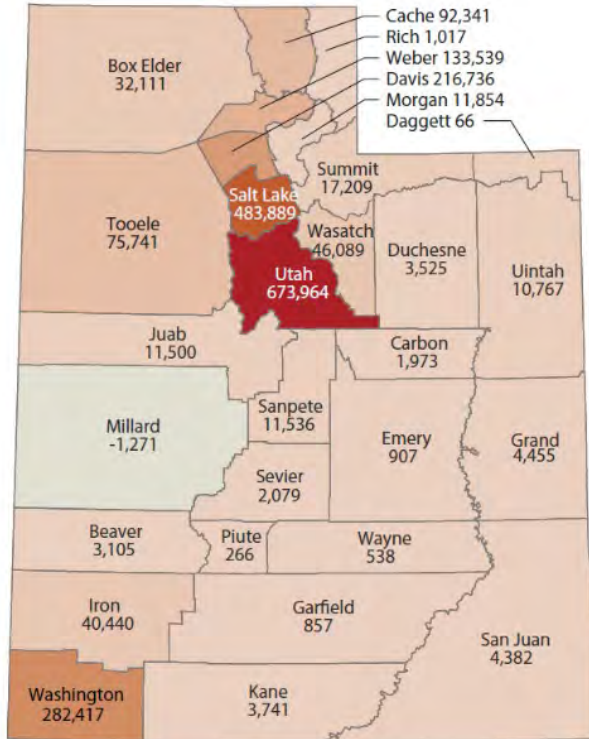
*A projected increase of 2.1 million Utahns in 40 years*



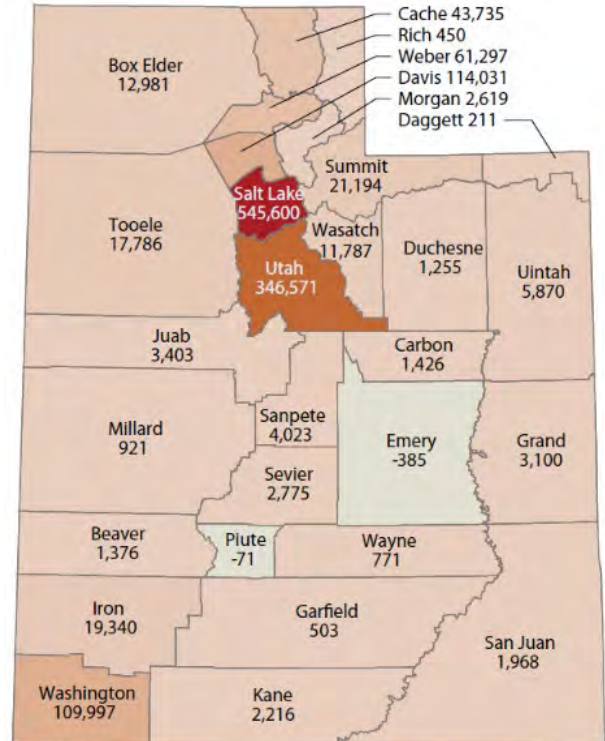
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020-2060 Projections

# Population and employment growth remains in urbanized areas

Projected Population Change by County, 2020 to 2060

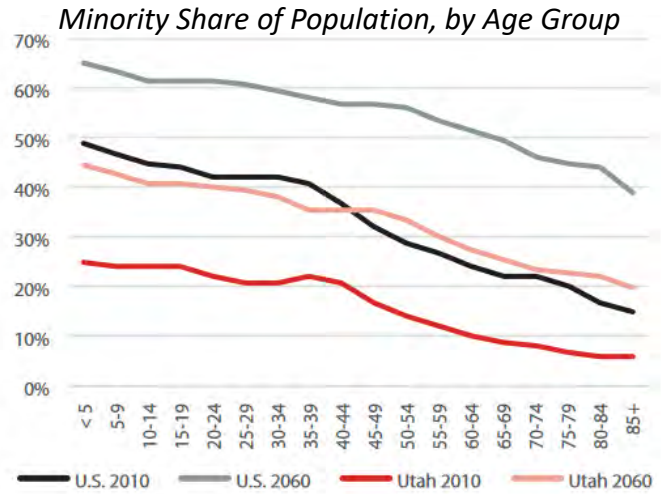
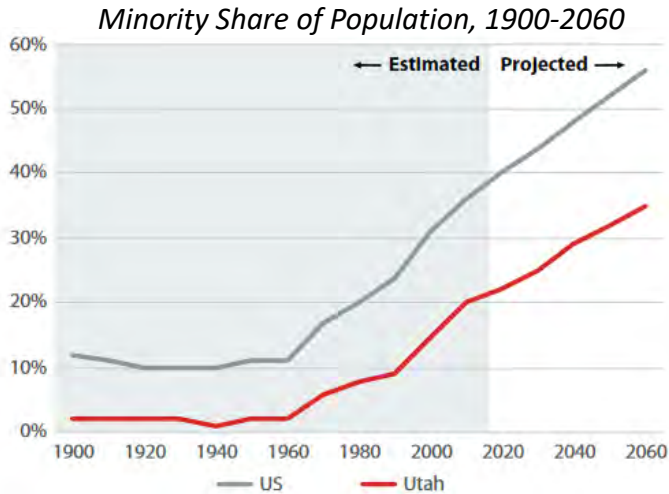


Projected Job Growth by County, 2020 to 2060



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020-2060 Projections

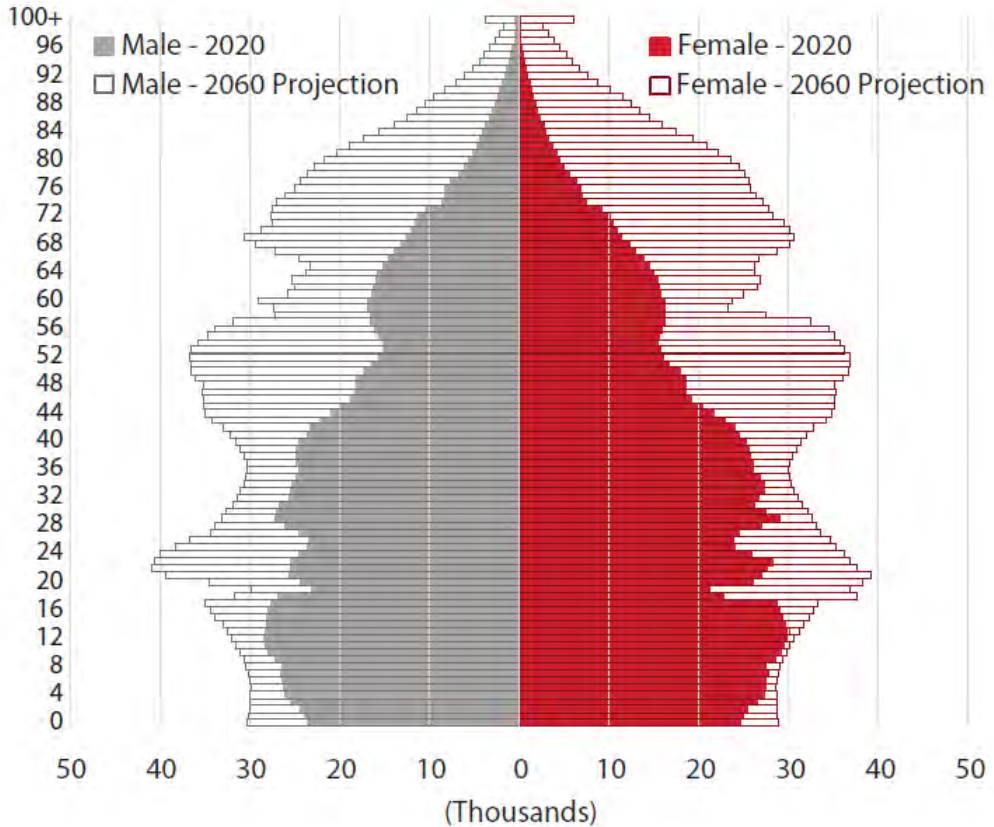
# Racial and ethnic diversification is expected to continue, driven by younger population



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

# Changes to age structure are projected to continue

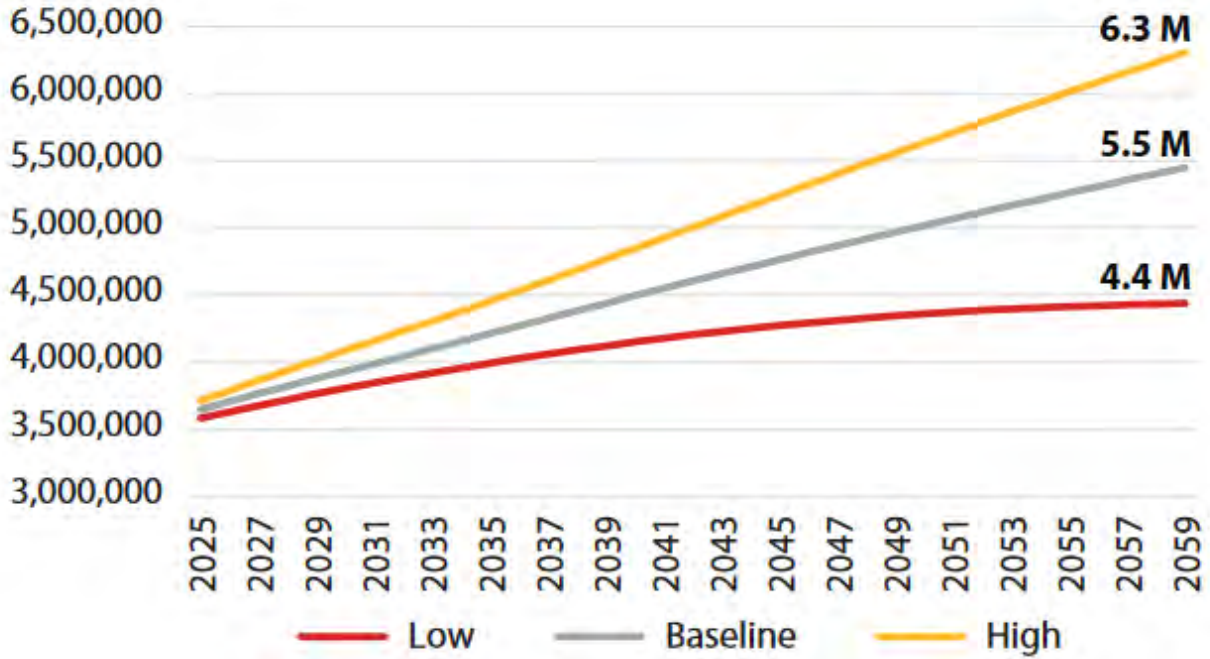
*Utah Population Pyramid, 2020 and 2060*



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020-2060 Projections

# Decisions today impact Utah's future population

*Utah Projected Population by Scenario, 2025-2060*



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2025-2060 Projection Scenarios

## **Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute**

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