

Chapter Highlights

RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

RACE

National Trends

The United States population was much more racially diverse in 2000 than in 1900. At the beginning of the century, 1 out of 8 Americans was of a race other than White; at the end of the century, the ratio was 1 out of 4.

The increased diversity in the United States was largely a phenomenon of the latter part of the century. Both the White population and the Black population represented a slightly smaller share of the U.S. total population in 1970 than they did in 1900.

From 1970 to 2000, the population of races other than White or Black grew considerably and, by 2000, was comparable in size to the Black population.

Among the races, the American Indian and Alaska Native population had the highest percentage under age 15 for most of the 20th century (peaking at 42 percent in 1960). In 2000, the Two or more races population (identified in Census 2000 for the first time) had the highest proportion (36 percent).

Regional Trends

The Black population was concentrated in the South and the Asian and Pacific Islander population in the West from 1900 to 2000. However, these regional concentrations declined during the century.

The American Indian and Alaska Native population also was heavily concentrated in the West, and this concentration remained relatively stable throughout the century.

The South had the highest percentage of races other than White in every census from 1900 to 1980. The West had the highest percentage of races other than White in 1990 and 2000.

In the Northeast, the Midwest, and the South, Blacks constituted the largest share of the population of races other than White in every decade of the 20th century, while in the West, each of the races other than White represented the largest share during the century.

State Trends

Increased racial diversity characterized most states during the 20th century. By 2000, 40 states and the District of Columbia had populations with at least 10 percent races other than White. The 10 states with 90 percent or more White in 2000 were: Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Only five states—Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Virginia—had a lower percentage of races other than White in 2000 than in 1950.

HISPANIC ORIGIN

National, Regional, and State Trends

From 1980 to 2000, the Hispanic population (of any race) more than doubled.

More than 40 percent of the Hispanic population lived in the West from 1980 to 2000.

In every region, the percentage of Hispanics increased during the 1980s and again during the 1990s.

New Mexico had the highest proportion of Hispanics in its population of any state in 1980, 1990, and 2000. By 2000, 42 percent of New Mexico's population was Hispanic.

MINORITY AND WHITE NON-HISPANIC

National, Regional, and State Trends

The aggregated Minority population (people of races other than White or of Hispanic origin) increased by 88 percent between 1980 and 2000, while the White non-Hispanic population grew by only 7.9 percent during the 20-year period.

Younger age groups had a higher percentage of Minority population than did older age groups. By 2000, the percentage of Minority population ranged from 16 percent for people age 65 and over to 39 percent for those under age 25.

In 1980, more than 50 percent of the population in Hawaii and the District of Columbia was Minority. By 2000, California and New Mexico had also become more than 50 percent Minority, and Texas was the only other state with at least 40 percent Minority (48 percent).