

Research Report

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Census 2000: Race and Ethnic Overview

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Introduction

The 2000 Census is now a year old. Even a cursory glance at the initial release of data shows the United States population has grown over the past decade. What may not be so obvious is that the overall population has not only grown, but has also diversified. This diversity is most evident when examining the racial mix or make-up of the population compared to a decade ago.

This report will focus on analyzing the data and trends related to population, race, and ethnic change. It should be of interest to strategists as they plan their work in church planting and evangelism among the varied U.S. population.

Data Collection

The form most households completed for the 2000 Census was the short form. It included detailed questions on several variables such as age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, and relationship of household members to the householder. Some households received the more detailed census long form that included questions on housing, education, marital status, and other social characteristics. The Bureau of the Census under the U.S. Department of Commerce collects this information once every 10 years as set forth by public law.

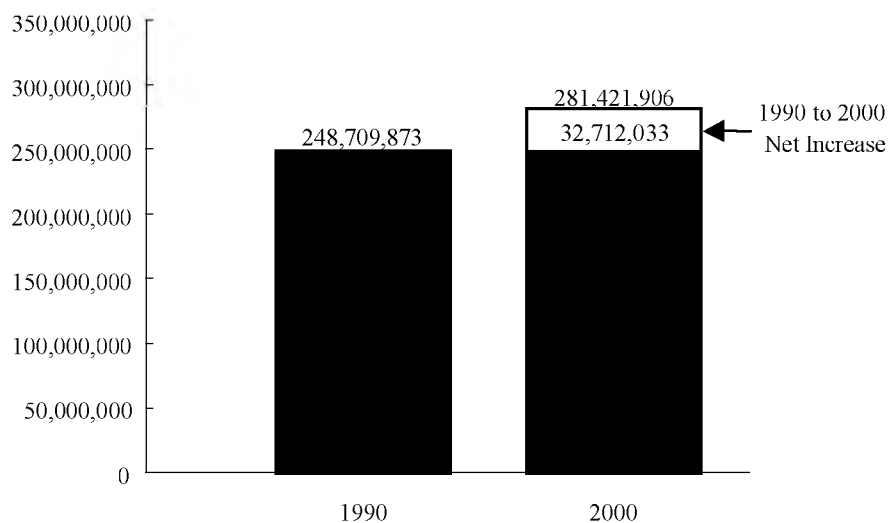
Data Dissemination

The Bureau of the Census releases the data collected from these forms in three waves. The first wave is used to satisfy the requirements of public law and allocate congressional seats to the states. The second wave includes more detailed data taken from the census short form. These data include in depth information on race and ethnicity. Social characteristics of the population are derived from the sample of the population that completed the long form. The data from this long form are being compiled and will not be released until 2002.

Population Overview

In the 10 years from 1990 to 2000, the U.S. population increased by 32.7 million people. This net increase in population is the single largest decennial increase in our nation's history. The population growth rate was nearly 13 percent for the 10-year period, and was the highest since the decade of 1970 to 1980. Figure 1 compares the 1990 and 2000 total population for the United States.

Figure 1—United States Population with Net Change, 1990 to 2000



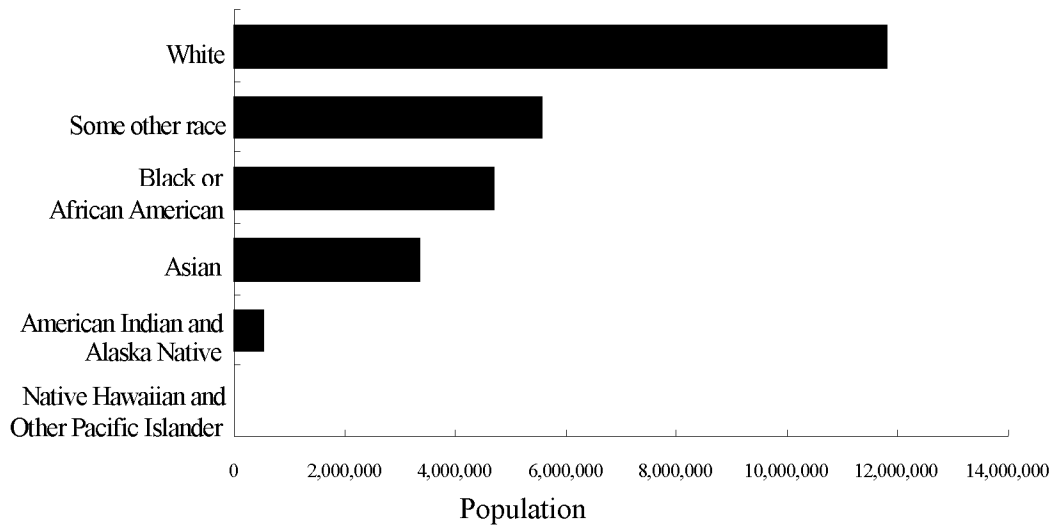
Race Data

The 2000 Census had six racial categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and “some other race.”¹ For comparative purposes, the Census Bureau has converted the 1990 population counts into the same racial categories as the 2000 Census. However, the two or more race category is only available for the current census. Therefore, the data has been divided into single race data (only one race was chosen), and multiple race data (two or more races were chosen).

Racial Growth

Among the six primary single race categories, the White population had the greatest net increase with nearly 12 million while the category “some other race” grew by over 5 million. Two-thirds of the total single race net increase for the decade has been accounted for by the growth in these two racial categories. Figure 2 shows the net increases for these primary single race categories.

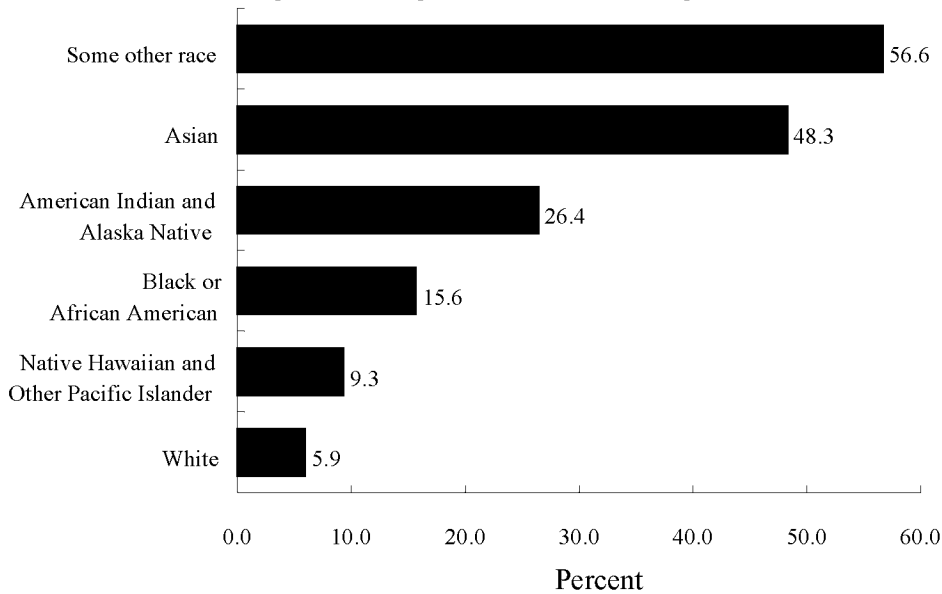
Figure 2—Single Race Net Change, 1990 to 2000



While each of these single races had a positive net growth during the decade, the rate of growth was highest among the racial categories of “some other race” and Asians. “Some other race” grew by nearly 60 percent, and Asians grew by almost 50 percent for the decade. While Whites had the largest net increase, they also were the slowest growing race category—less than 6 percent. Figure 3 shows the growth rates among the largest racial categories.

¹“Some other race” is a catch all category for a respondent to choose when other categories did not fit.

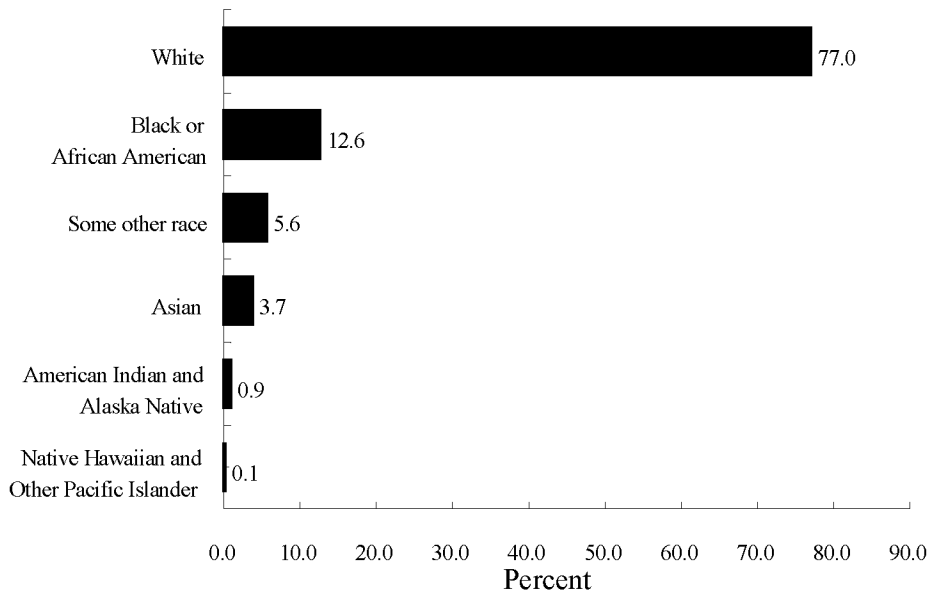
Figure 3—Single Race Percent Change, 1990 to 2000



Racial Composition

Figure 4 illustrates the percentage of each single race category based on the total single race population. Slightly more than three-quarters (77.0%) of the single race population is White. The next largest single race category is Black or African American with nearly 13 percent. Persons who cited “some other race” comprise about 6 percent of the single race total, while all Asians represent slightly less than 4 percent of this total.

Figure 4—Single Race by Percent of Total Single Race, 2000



Detailed Asian Data

Asians and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander categories are further divided into subcategories. Each of these subcategories contributed differently to the overall Asian population

growth. The Asian race subcategories include Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Other Asian.²

The fastest growing Asian category, with a population of over one million, is Asian Indian. The Asian Indian population has doubled in the past 10 years, growing at a rate of 105.9 percent for the decade. This population now represents the third largest individual Asian category in the U.S.

Currently, the three largest Asian subcategories are Chinese (2.4 million), Filipino (1.9 million), and Asian Indian (1.7 million). These three Asian subcategories represent 3 out of every 5 Asians (58.2%) living in the U.S.

Since 1990, the Japanese population has declined about 6 percent and is less than one million. Japanese, in 1990, were the third largest Asian category. Now both the Korean and Vietnamese populations number over one million and have surpassed the Japanese population.

Two or More Races

While the overwhelming majority of the population categorized themselves as a single race, about 2.4 percent, or 6.8 million, people claimed two or more races. About half (48.2%) of this population is White with American Indian and Alaska Native, or White with “some other race.”

Hispanic Ethnicity

Hispanic ethnicity is not a racial classification by Census Bureau standards. Hispanics are treated as an ethnicity that crosses over racial lines. Therefore, there are Hispanic Whites, Hispanic Blacks, Hispanic Asians, etc.

Hispanics represent 12.5 percent of the U.S. population. To put this figure into perspective, Hispanics are the single largest group outside of White non-Hispanics (Anglos) in the nation. For the first time, the number of Hispanics has eclipsed the number of Blacks in the United States—35 million compared to 34 million, respectively.³

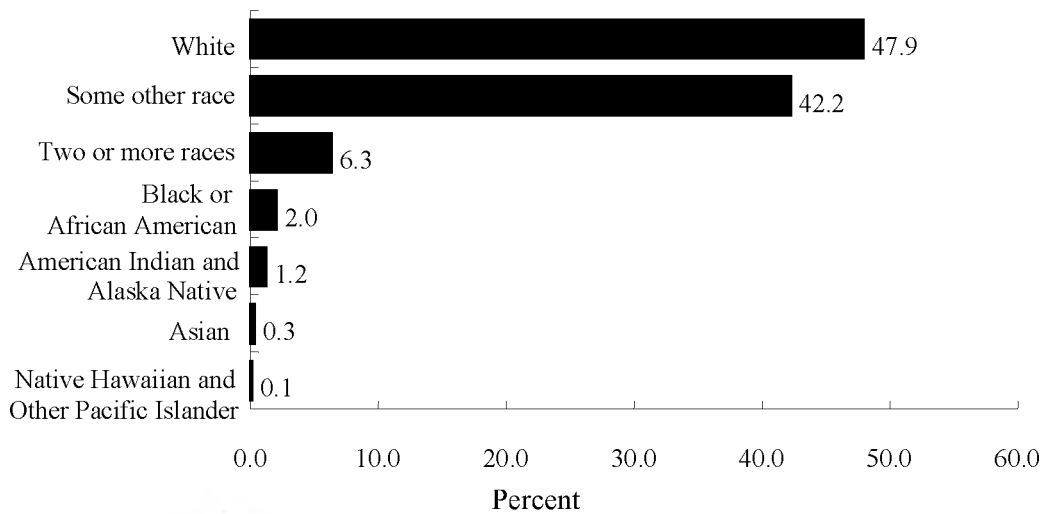
Hispanics by Race

Figure 5 shows how the Hispanic population is distributed racially. Since Hispanic is an ethnicity, they also report racial information. Almost all (93.7%) Hispanics claimed only one race. Of these, nearly half (47.9%) were White Hispanics. Another two-fifths (42.2%) were “some other race” Hispanics. About 4 percent of all Hispanics were Black or African American alone, American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Asian alone, or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone. The remaining 6 percent of all Hispanics claimed two or more races. It is interesting to note that this new multiple race category represents only 2.4 percent of the total U.S. population, but that fully one-third of persons choosing multiple races were Hispanic in ethnicity.

²The “Other Asian” category for this report includes Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, and all “other” Asians—mostly groups from Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

³ Since Hispanics can be of any race, there are Black Hispanics. By leaving the Black Hispanics in the Hispanic count and the Black race count this comparison can be made.

Figure 5—Hispanic Ethnicity by Race, 2000



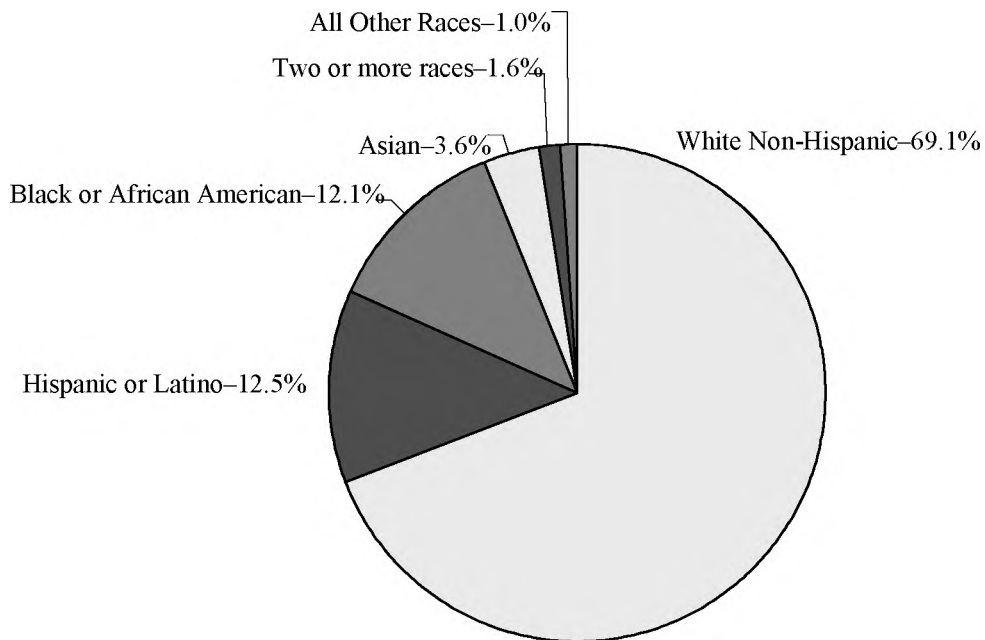
Hispanics by Country of Origin

The Hispanic population is diverse. Mexicans are the largest single Hispanic subcategory in the national population. However, certain Hispanic groups, such as Puerto Rican and Cuban, may have more representation in the Hispanic community when examining specific locales such as New York City or Miami. The 2000 Census shows that the “other” Hispanic subcategory, which includes Hispanics from Central and South America, has nearly doubled since 1990.

Population Distribution by Race and Ethnicity

Figure 6 shows the distribution of the U.S. population combining both race and ethnicity. For this figure, Hispanic population has been removed from each race category. Therefore, each non-Hispanic race category plus the Hispanic ethnicity population equal the U.S. population. White non-Hispanics represent 7 out of every 10 persons. Hispanics, Black or African American, and Asians together are slightly more than one-quarter (27.7%) of the population.

Figure 6—Race and Hispanic Ethnicity by Percent of Total Population, 2000



Summary

The United States population has increased by nearly 33 million people in the past 10 years. Some population segments have grown faster than others. Hispanics, as a whole, were the single largest contributor to the population increase, accounting for more than one-third of the national population net growth. Asians grew more than three times faster than the nation as a whole, yet represent less than 4 percent of the population.

The majority of the United States is still predominantly a White non-Hispanic nation with 7 out of every 10 U.S. residents fitting in that category. All other race and ethnic categories, including Hispanics, comprise less than one-third of the population. Racial and ethnic diversity in the U.S. is not new. This nation was founded from an immigrant population. As global travel continues to grow and borders become more open, this diversity will only increase.