Chapter 3

Race and Hispanic Origin
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Increasing racial and ethnic diversity characterized the population of the United States during the latter half of the twentieth century. Large-scale immigration between 1970 and 2000, primarily from Latin America and Asia, has fueled the increase in diversity. In the last two decades of the century, the Asian and Pacific Islander population tripled, and the Hispanic population more than doubled.

Every decennial census of population in the United States has collected data on race, beginning with the first national enumeration in 1790. The number of specific groups identified generally increased over time, and Census 2000 was the first U.S. census to allow individuals to identify themselves as being of more than one race.

This atlas generally uses six groups in showing Census 2000 data by race: White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Two or More Races. (See the glossary for more detailed information on the racial data categories used, including the Some Other Race group.) The data collected by Census 2000 on race can be divided into two broad categories: people who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race, referred to as the single-race or as the race-alone population, and those who reported more than one race, referred to as the race-in-combination population. The maps and figures in this book refer to the single-race populations, unless otherwise indicated. However, this does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data; the U.S. Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

The federal government considers race and ethnicity to be separate concepts. People of a specific race may have any ethnic origin, and people of a specific ethnic origin may be any race. The Hispanic-origin population is defined as an ethnic group for federal statistical purposes, and Hispanics may be any race. Prior to 1970, determinations of Hispanic origin were made indirectly, such as through information on Spanish surname or by tabulating data on people who reported Spanish as their "mother tongue." The 1970 census was the first to include a question about Hispanic origin; it was asked of a 5-percent sample of the population. Beginning with the 1980 census, information on Hispanic origin was collected on a 100-percent basis.

Racial Composition
The White population, which includes White Hispanics, continues to be the largest race group in the United States. As recently as 1970, nearly the entire U.S. population was either White or Black, as the population of other races was 2.9 million, or 1.4 percent of the population. By 2000, the number of people in the United States who were races other than White or Black (including all people of two or more races) had grown to 35 million, comparable in size to the Black population.

Numerically, the White population more than tripled in the twentieth century, from 66.8 million in 1900 to over 100 million by 1930 and 211.5 million in 2000. The proportion single-race White in 2000 was 75.1 percent, while the proportion non-Hispanic White was 69.1 percent. The Black population also increased steadily throughout the century, from 8.8 million in 1900 to about 4 times as large in 2000 (34.7 million people reported the single race Black, and 36.4 million people reported Black only or Black in combination with one or more other races). The single-race Black population in 2000 was 12.3 percent of the population. Compared with the combined population of races other than White or Black, the Black population in 1960 was more than 10 times as large, in 1980 it was slightly more than double, and in 2000 it was of comparable size, reflecting the rapid growth of the population of other races in the United States.

Race groups other than White or Black include American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, and Some Other Race. Hereafter, AIAN is sometimes used to refer to people who reported being American Indian or Alaska Native and the term "Pacific Islander" to refer to people who reported being Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. The number of people reporting two or more races in 2000 was 6.8 million.
The Asian, Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race (who are primarily Hispanic) populations experienced large increases during the period from 1970 to 2000. The Asian and Pacific Islander population was 1.4 million in 1970; in 2000, the Asian population stood at 10.2 million (3.6 percent of the population), and the Pacific Islander population was 399,000 (0.1 percent of the U.S. population). (In Census 2000, the Asian and Pacific Islander group was split into “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.” When showing comparisons with earlier decades in this book, these two groups are combined.) In 1970, the population other than White or Black was 0.5 million, whereas in 2000 the Some Other Race population was 15.4 million (5.5 percent of the U.S. population). International migration contributed to these rapid population increases.

**Increasing Diversity From 1900 to 2000**

In general, Blacks, Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Hispanics represented increasing shares of the national population throughout the twentieth century. In 1900, about 1 out of 8 Americans was of a race other than White. By 2000, that proportion had increased to about 1 out of 4. As recently as 1970, the White population’s share of the U.S. total was just slightly smaller than it had been at the beginning of the century. The Black population also represented a slightly smaller share of the total U.S. population in 1970 than in 1900, and at the century’s close, its share was less than 1 percentage point higher than in 1900. The decline since 1970 in the proportion of the U.S. population that is White resulted mainly from faster growth of the Asian, Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race populations.

**Regional Racial Patterns**

The geographic distributions by race and Hispanic origin also changed between 1900 and 2000 as a result of trends in both international migration and migration among the states. In 1900, for instance, the Asian population (0.3 percent of the U.S. population) was primarily located in the West. All 11 states and territories with percentages exceeding that of the United States were located in that region (map 03-01), and the percentage Asian was higher in the western state of Nevada than in New York. In 2000, 3.6 percent of the U.S. population was Asian, and states with percentages exceeding the U.S. figure were located in the Northeast, South, and West (map 03-02).

The Black population in 1900, 11.6 percent of the U.S. total, had a strong regional presence in the South (map 03-03), which had nearly 90 percent of the Black population. Large Black outmigration from the South to metropolitan areas in the Northeast and Midwest during much of the twentieth century resulted in lower percentages Black for some states in the South and higher percentages Black for a number of states outside the South (map 03-04). In Michigan, for example, Blacks increased from 0.7 percent of the population in 1900 to 13.9 percent in 2000. The number of states with less than 1 percent Black in their population dropped from 18 in 1900 to 9 in 2000.
Population Growth Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin

Considering race without regard to Hispanic origin, the White population grew more slowly from 1980 to 2000 than every other group in percentage terms (Figure 3-2). The rapid growth of the Some Other Race population reflects the large number of people in this group who are Hispanic, a group with a high growth rate. The large percentage change of the AIAN population in part may be attributed to a higher tendency among respondents to report as this race in 2000 than in 1980, as well as changes in census procedures and improvements in census coverage of this population.

Considering both race and Hispanic origin, the non-Hispanic White population grew by 7.9 percent between 1980 and 2000, while the aggregate minority population (people of races other than White plus those of Hispanic origin) increased 11 times as fast (88 percent) during the 20-year period. Among all the population groups shown in Figure 3-2, only the White and the non-Hispanic White populations grew at a slower rate than the total population. The higher percentage increases for each individual race other than White and for the Hispanic population produced a high percentage growth for the minority population, resulting in an increase in the minority share of the U.S. population from 20 percent in 1980 to 31 percent in 2000 and a corresponding decrease in the non-Hispanic White share.

The Hispanic population has grown rapidly in recent decades, more than doubling in size between 1980 and 2000. In every state except Hawaii, the percentage of the population that was Hispanic increased during the 20-year period from 1980 to 2000. In 1980, New Mexico was the only state in which Hispanics represented at least one-fourth of the population. By 2000, Hispanics made up at least 25 percent of the population in three additional states (California, Arizona, and Texas). All four of these states are on the U.S.-Mexico border.

This Chapter’s Maps

In addition to map 03-05, the diversity of the U.S. population by race and Hispanic origin in 2000 is evidenced in other ways in this chapter. The map of the White and AIAN population in 2000 (map 03-15) shows strong regional presence in Alaska and parts of Oklahoma, as does the subset map for children of these two races (map 03-23). (The race-in-combination categories use the conjunction and in italicized and bold-face print to link the race groups that compose the combination.)

For a majority of counties, the prevalent group in 2000 was non-Hispanic White (map 03-28). Predominantly Hispanic counties are found in the southwest, close to the Mexican border, while predominantly Black counties are generally found in the South, especially along the Mississippi River. Predominantly AIAN counties are present across much of Alaska and in counties containing sizable American Indian and Alaska Native reservations.

The map of prevalent minority groups in 2000 (map 03-29) shows distinct regional patterns in identifying the largest group other than non-Hispanic White. In the South and much of the Northeast, the prevalent minority group was Black, while Hispanics were the prevalent minority group across much of the West and Midwest and in smaller numbers of counties in the South and Northeast. The Two or More Races population and the Asian population were the prevalent minority groups for a scattering of counties across the country, with Asians particularly noticeable in the upper Midwest.

With respect to the most common Hispanic group, the prevalent Hispanic group in 2000 for most counties was Mexican (map 03-43). In the Northeast and some counties in Florida, the prevalent Hispanic group was Puerto Rican. This pattern is also reflected in the tract-level metropolitan area maps 03-52 through 03-60, where Puerto Rican was the most common Hispanic group for many tracts in metropolitan areas in the Northeast.

Maps 03-34 through 03-42 reveal the top metropolitan areas of residence for each of the nine largest Asian groups. In general, the metropolitan areas that were home to the largest Asian groups in 2000 were located in California or New York—the two states with the largest Asian populations in 2000—and they usually had large overall populations. For the Hmong, a different pattern emerged. The metropolitan area with the largest Hmong population in 2000 was the Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI metropolitan statistical area (MSA). Smaller Hmong populations existed in two smaller metropolitan areas in Wisconsin—the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah, WI MSA and the Wausau, WI MSA. The fact that relatively large populations of a small Asian group are located in these less populous metropolitan areas demonstrates the geographic dispersal of our country’s race groups.
The diversity index displayed on this map reflects the probability that two randomly selected people in a state would be of different races or that only one of the two would be Hispanic. The index is calculated by summing the squares of the proportion of the total population in each of the selected groups and subtracting the sum from 1.00, so more diversity is represented by a higher index value. The groups included in this calculation are Hispanic, non-Hispanic White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic Two or More Races, and non-Hispanic Some Other Race.

While the diversity index for the United States in 2000 was 0.49, the diversity index of individual counties varied, as seen in the above map. Higher values of the index—the darker-shaded counties in the map—are present in some areas in the West, for instance California, Hawaii, and New Mexico. The South shows numerous counties in the middle range of the diversity index, with a solid band of such counties stretching from Maryland through much of the South across to Texas. Lower values of the diversity index are seen in much of the Northeast and the Midwest. Pockets of higher diversity indexes are visible in counties in the New York and Chicago metropolitan areas.
Chapter 3. Race and Hispanic Origin

Prevalent Race or Ethnicity, 2000

- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- Pacific Islander
- White non-Hispanic

Non-Hispanic Some Other Race and Two or More Race groups were not the most common in any county. Pacific Islander was most common in Kane County, IL.

Prevalent Race or Ethnicity, 2000

Excluding White Non-Hispanic

- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- Pacific Islander
- Two or More Races

Non-Hispanic Some Other Race group was not the most common in any county. Pacific Islander was most common in Kane County, IL.
Chapter 3. Race and Hispanic Origin

Prevalent Asian Group, 2000

Asian Indian
Chinese, excluding Taiwanese
Filipino
Hmong
Japanese
Korean
Laotian
Vietnamese
Other
No Asian population

Asian Groups in the Metropolitan Areas With the Largest Asian Populations, 2000

Five most numerous Asian groups in each of the 20 metropolitan areas with the largest total Asian populations; Chinese excludes Taiwanese
Race and Hispanic Diversity, 2000
Largest Cities

Probability that two randomly selected people in an area would be of different races or that only one of the two would be Hispanic. U.S. map by county, city maps by census tract.

Legend:
- Higher diversity: 0.70 to 0.92
- 0.60 to 0.69
- 0.49 to 0.59
- 0.40 to 0.49
- 0.30 to 0.39
- 0.20 to 0.29
- 0.10 to 0.19
- 0.01 to 0.09
- No population

Los Angeles, CA
San Diego, CA
Phoenix, AZ
San Antonio, TX

All maps are the same scale:
- 0 to 5 mi
- 0 to 10 mi
- 0 to 20 mi
- 0 to 50 mi
- 0 to 100 mi

U.S. Census Bureau