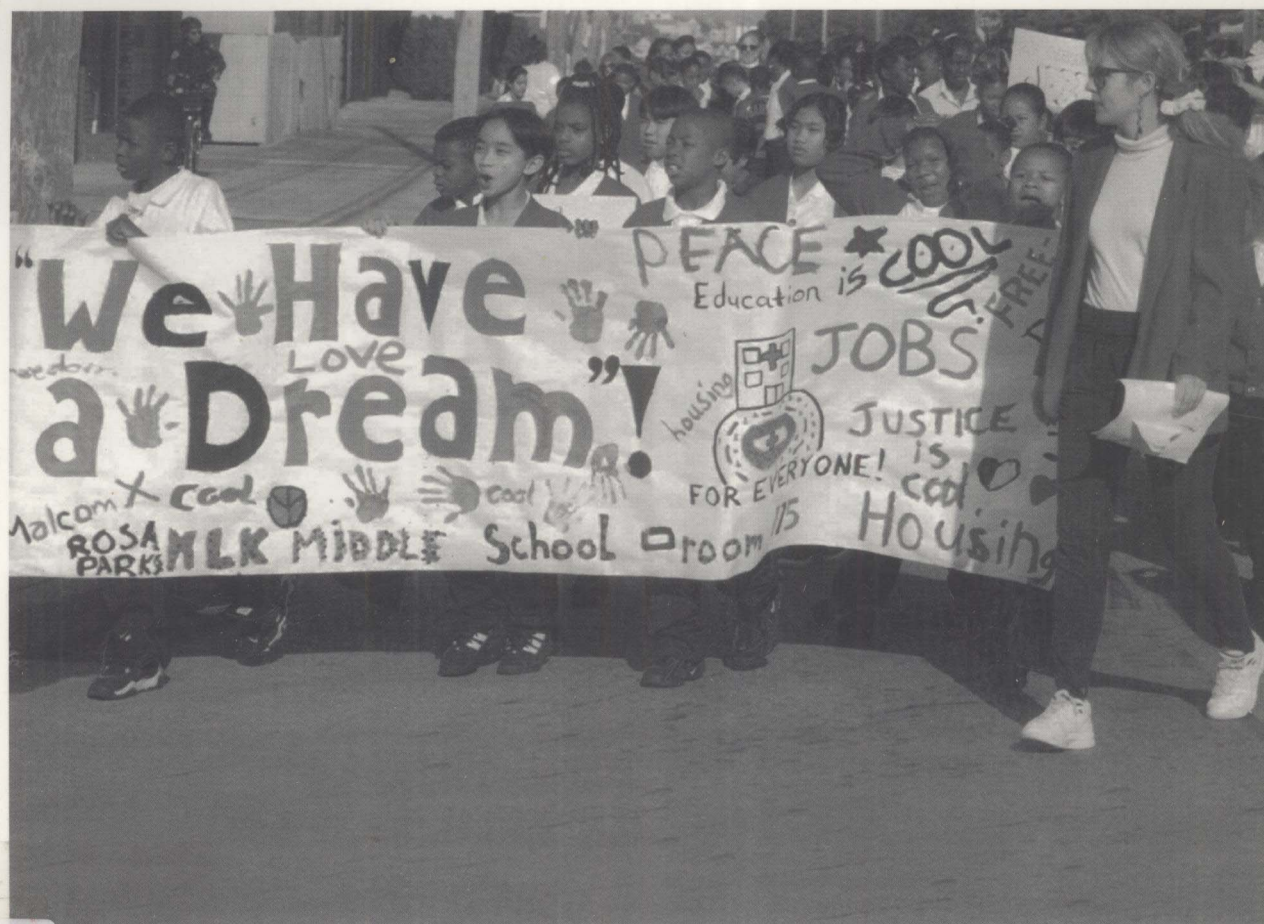


# ***MINORITIES***

## ***AMERICA'S RICH CULTURE***



# ***MINORITIES***

## ***AMERICA'S RICH CULTURE***

Mei Ling Rein

**INFORMATION PLUS® COMPACT™ REFERENCE SERIES**  
Formerly published by Information Plus, Wylie, Texas



**GALE GROUP**  
Detroit  
New York  
San Francisco  
London  
Boston  
Woodbridge, CT

## MINORITIES: AMERICA'S RICH CULTURE

Mei Ling Rein, *Author*

Rita Runchock, *Managing Editor*

Cynthia Rose, *Project Manager and Series Editor*

Kathleen Droste, *Contributing Editor*

Jason M. Everett, *Associate Editor*

Ryan McNeill, *Assistant Editor*

Kenn Zorn, *Product Design Manager*

Michelle DiMercurio, *Senior Art Director*

Michael Logusz, *Graphic Artist*

Barbara J. Yarrow, *Manager, Imaging and Multimedia Content*

Robyn V. Young, *Project Manager, Imaging and Multimedia Content*

Leitha Etheridge-Sims, Mary K. Grimes, David G. Oblender, *Image Catalogers*

Pam A. Reed, *Imaging Coordinator*

Randy Bassett, *Imaging Supervisor*

Robert Duncan and Dan Newell, *Imaging Specialists*

Christine O'Bryan, *Graphic Specialist*

Maria Franklin, *Permissions Manager*

Julie Juengling, *Permissions Specialist*

Luann Brennan, *Technical Training Specialist*

Susan Kelsch, *Indexing Manager*

Lynne Maday, *Indexing Specialist*

Mary Beth Trimper, *Manager, Composition and Electronic Prepress*

Evi Seoud, *Assistant Manager, Composition Purchasing and Electronic Prepress*

Dorothy Maki, *Manufacturing Manager*

NeKita McKee, *Buyer*

While every effort has been made to ensure the reliability of the information presented in this publication, Gale does not guarantee the accuracy of the data contained herein. Gale accepts no payment for listing; and inclusion in the publication of any organization, agency, institution, publication, service, or individual does not imply endorsement of the editors or publisher. Errors brought to the attention of the publisher and verified to the satisfaction of the publisher will be corrected in future editions.

This publication is a creative work fully protected by all applicable copyright laws, as well as by misappropriation, trade secret, unfair competition, and other applicable laws. The authors and editors of this work have added value to the underlying factual material herein through one or more of the following: unique and original selection, coordination, expression, arrangement, and classification of the information.

All rights to this publication will be vigorously defended.

Copyright © 2001 Gale Group, Inc.

27500 Drake Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535

Gale Group and Design is a trademark used herein under license.

All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form.

ISBN 0-7876-5098-6 (set)

ISBN 0-7876-5407-8 (this volume)

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

## READER'S GUIDE

*Minorities: America's Rich Culture* presents the latest facts on minority groups in the United States today. Who are America's minorities? Where do they live? How much do they earn? What are some of the health issues facing minority groups today? How many graduate from high school or from college? What kinds of programs exist to help those in need? These are just some of the questions answered in *Minorities: America's Rich Culture*.

Written especially for middle school, ESL (English as a Second Language), and some high school students, *Minorities: America's Rich Culture* gives readers the most current facts available on the diverse people of America. Current data from government agencies and research institutions have been gathered into one ready reference. In a few cases, the most current information available at the time of writing may have been dated 1998 or earlier, since agencies often take several years to conduct new studies and publish the data. The facts are presented objectively, giving students a balanced view of America's minorities at the beginning of the new millennium.

Special features include:

- **Over 35 tables, pie charts, bar graphs and other graphic displays**—newly designed for this edition, give readers a good “picture” of the data and often provide additional in-

formation. All tables and figures are fully indexed, and sources are clearly identified. Tables and figures are easily located with the convenient numbering system. For example, in Table 3.1, the “3” means it is in Chapter 3, and the “1” means it is the first table in the chapter. Similarly, Figure 3.1 is the first figure (graph or chart) in Chapter 3.

- **Section heads**—divide each chapter into well-organized sub-topics, making information easier to find. Section heads are also listed in the table of contents, allowing readers to quickly scan for the information they need, to give focus to their report or project, or simply to browse.
- **Convenient, quick definitions in the text**—may be included in parentheses immediately after words that may be difficult.
- **Words to Know**—provides definitions of special terms used in discussing minorities, as well as other useful terms, including “mean,” “median,” “average,” and “sample.”
- **Important Names and Addresses**—lists organizations and government agencies for students to contact directly, using current addresses, telephone numbers, URLs, e-mail addresses, and fax numbers.
- **Resources**—details sources of information and provides helpful advice on further study.

- **Comprehensive Index**—improved and expanded, includes references to all tables and charts.

**Let us hear from you!**

We welcome your comments on this book and your suggestions for ways to improve the

next update. If there's a topic you'd like us to include in the future, let us know. Please call 800-877-GALE (4253), fax 248-699-8062, or write to: Editor, Information Plus Compact Series, Gale Group, 27500 Drake Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535. Please visit us at <http://www.galegroup.com>.

# MINORITIES: AMERICA'S RICH CULTURE

READER'S GUIDE .....	vii
----------------------	-----

## CHAPTER 1

### WHO ARE AMERICA'S

MINORITIES? .....	1
-------------------	---

Minority Defined ... A Growing Population ... The Black Population ... The Hispanic Population ... The Asian and Pacific Islander Population ... The American Indian and Alaska Native Population

## CHAPTER 2

EMPLOYMENT .....	9
------------------	---

Labor Force Defined ... Minorities in the Labor Force ... Unemployment ... Minority Occupations ... Minority-Owned Businesses

## CHAPTER 3

### INCOME: HOW MUCH DO

MINORITIES EARN? .....	15
------------------------	----

Family Income ... Poverty Rates

## CHAPTER 4

### FAMILIES AND LIVING

ARRANGEMENTS .....	19
--------------------	----

Who Heads the Family? ... Children's Living Arrangements ... Divorce ... Never-Married Persons ... Teenage Moms ... Grandparents Take Care of Children ... A Great Challenge: Programs to Help Families

## CHAPTER 5

EDUCATION .....	25
-----------------	----

Education in the U.S. Increases for All ... Increased Education among Minorities ... Education and Income ... Dropout Rate ... Aptitude Tests ... Going to College

## CHAPTER 6

CRIME .....	31
-------------	----

Crime Victims ... Minorities Arrested for Crimes ... Prison and Jail Inmates

## CHAPTER 7

HEALTH ISSUES .....	37
---------------------	----

How Do Minorities Feel? ... Mortality Rates ... AIDS ... Substance Abuse

## CHAPTER 8

HOW MINORITIES VOTE .....	43
---------------------------	----

Voter Registration ... Presidential Elections ... Congressional Elections

WORDS TO KNOW .....	47
---------------------	----

## IMPORTANT NAMES AND

ADDRESSES .....	49
-----------------	----

RESOURCES .....	51
-----------------	----

INDEX .....	53
-------------	----



## CHAPTER 1

# WHO ARE AMERICA'S MINORITIES?

### MINORITY DEFINED

The term “majority” means more than 50 percent. Over 70 percent of the people in the United States are white; therefore, they are considered the majority. The term “minority” means less than 50 percent; therefore, racial or ethnic groups who form less than 50 percent of the U.S. population are called minorities.

### Census Bureau Definitions

For the 1990 census, the U.S. Bureau of the Census divided the American population into four major races—white, black, Asian and Pacific Islander, and American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut. American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts refers to the same group of people who are also sometimes called American Indians or Native Americans. These names all refer to the same group of people, whose ancestors are any of the original peoples of North America.

For the 2000 census, the Census Bureau used the name American Indian and Alaska Native instead of American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut. Much of the information in this book is taken from U.S. Census reports, whose data, tables, and figures use the two different names, depending on when they were published. This book uses the same name used by the Census Bureau, so that the text, tables, and figures all match.

In addition to racial groups, the Census Bureau counts members of two ethnic categories—Hispanic Origin and Not of Hispanic Origin. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Most Hispanic peoples in the United States are white, but there are also black Hispanics and Asian Hispanics (for example, persons of Japanese descent who are from Mexico).

The Census Bureau also uses the categories Non-Hispanic White or Non-Hispanic Black to indicate white or black persons who do not have Hispanic ancestry.

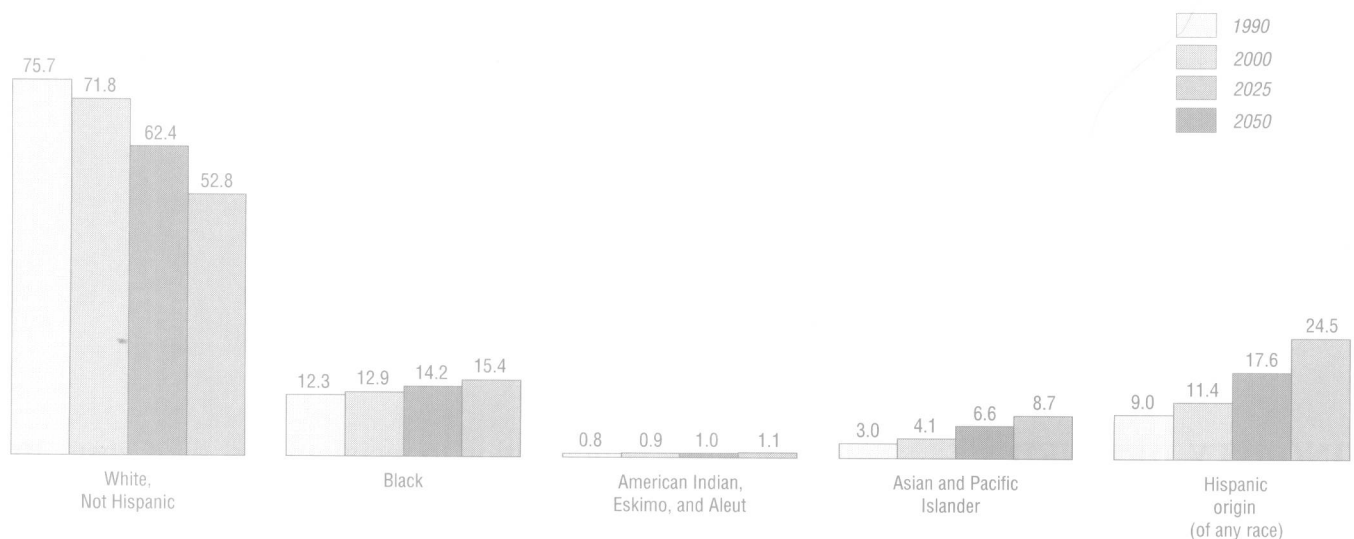
### A GROWING POPULATION

The U.S. Bureau of the Census has estimated that, as of March 1, 2000, there were approximately 274 million people in the United States. Almost 30 percent of all Americans were members of a minority racial or ethnic group. About 13 percent were black, 4 percent were Asians or Pacific Islanders, and almost 1 percent were American Indians, Eskimos, or Aleuts. Hispanics (of various races) made up almost 12 percent of the total U.S. population. (See Table 1.1.)

The percentage of minorities in the United States is expected to grow. Starting from its year 2000 estimate of 30 percent, the Census Bureau estimates that by 2020, 37.4 percent of Americans will be a minority and, by 2050, the

**FIGURE 1.1****Percent of the Population, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1990, 2000, 2025, and 2050**

(Middle-series projections)



SOURCE: Population Profile of the United States: 1997. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 1998. Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/3/98pubs/p23-194.pdf>.

minority population will increase to almost 50 percent. (See Figure 1.1.)

### Changing Fertility Rates

Fertility rate refers to the number of live births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44 years—the ages during which most women can have a baby. Since 1991 the number of births has declined and in 1994, for the first time, the number fell below the four million mark. This resulted from “baby boomer” women (born between 1946 and 1964) growing older and becoming less able to have babies.

In 1998 the fertility rate for all racial and ethnic groups was 65.6 live births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44. Hispanic women had the highest fertility rate of all groups—101.1 births per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years old. The fertility rate for black women was 71, for American Indians 70.7, for white women 64.6, and for Asians and Pacific Islanders 64. (See Figure 1.2.)

### Getting Older

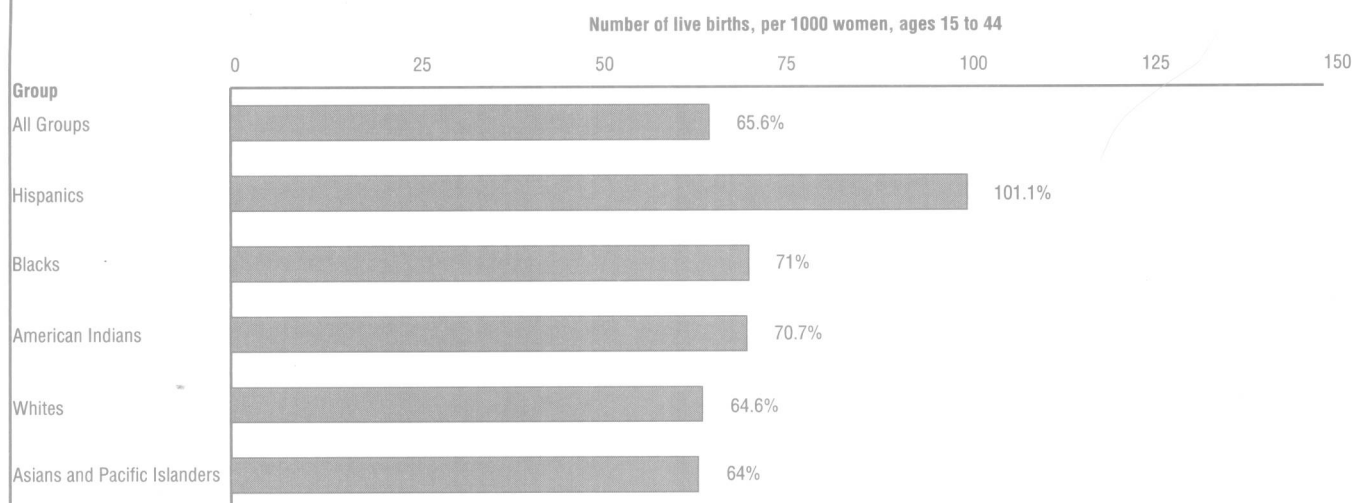
People living longer adds to the increase in population. Between 1900 and 1996 the number

of persons 65 years and older jumped 11-fold (from 3 million to 34.4 million) while the total population only tripled in size. In 1996 persons aged 65 years and older made up 12.8 percent of the U.S. population. The Census Bureau estimates that, by 2050, the number of persons 65 years and older could grow to 79 million.

The Census Bureau estimates that, by the year 2050, the proportions of the elderly minority in the nation’s population would be different from those in the 1990s. The percentage of black elderly would increase from 8.2 percent in 1996 to 14.2 percent by 2050; American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut elderly would increase from 6.4 to 13.6 percent, and Asians and Pacific Islanders from 6.8 to 15.2 percent. (See Figure 1.3.)

While elderly populations of these minorities are estimated to double from 1996 to 2050, the Hispanic elderly population is expected to grow two and one-half times—from 5.7 to 14.3 percent. In comparison the percentage of white elderly is expected to increase just one and one-half times—from 13.8 to 21.9 percent. (See Figure 1.3.)



**FIGURE 1.2****Fertility Rate for Racial and Ethnic Groups, 1998**

Based on data from Table 3: *Crude birth rates, fertility rates, and birth rates by age of mother, according to detailed race and Hispanic origin: United States, selected years, 1950–98*. National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2000. Available at [www.edc.gov/nchs/products/pubs](http://www.edc.gov/nchs/products/pubs).

**THE BLACK POPULATION**

On March 1, 2000, the Census Bureau estimated that the black population numbered a little over 35 million, making up 12.8 percent of the total U.S. population. (See Table 1.1.) This was the largest percentage since 1880 when blacks, recently freed from slavery, made up 13.1 percent of the population.

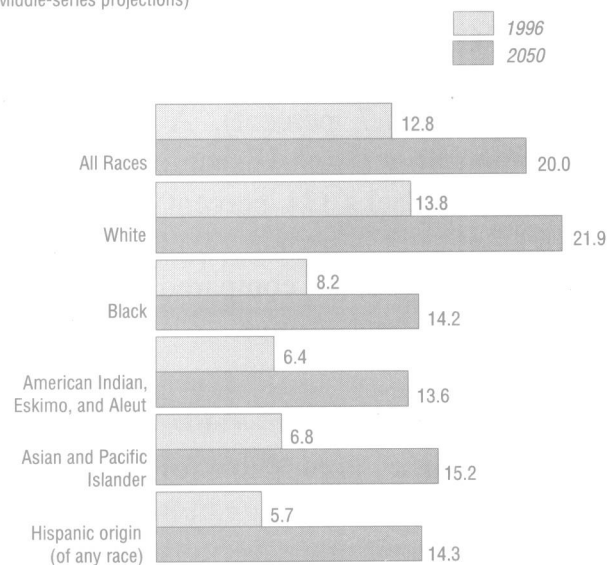
In 1980 the black population represented 11.7 percent of the U.S. population. By 1990, 12.3 percent of the U.S. population was black (almost 31 million people). The Census Bureau estimates that the black population could grow to 45 million by 2020 (14 percent of the nation's total population) and to nearly 61 million by 2050 (15.4 percent of the total population). (See Figure 1.1.)

In 1980 the median age (half were younger and half were older than this age) for blacks was 24.8 years. Twenty years later, in 2000, the median age reached 30.3 years. The black population remained younger compared to the non-Hispanic whites (median age of 38.3 years). (See Table 1.1.) As of March 1999 one-third (32.8 percent) of blacks were under age 18 com-

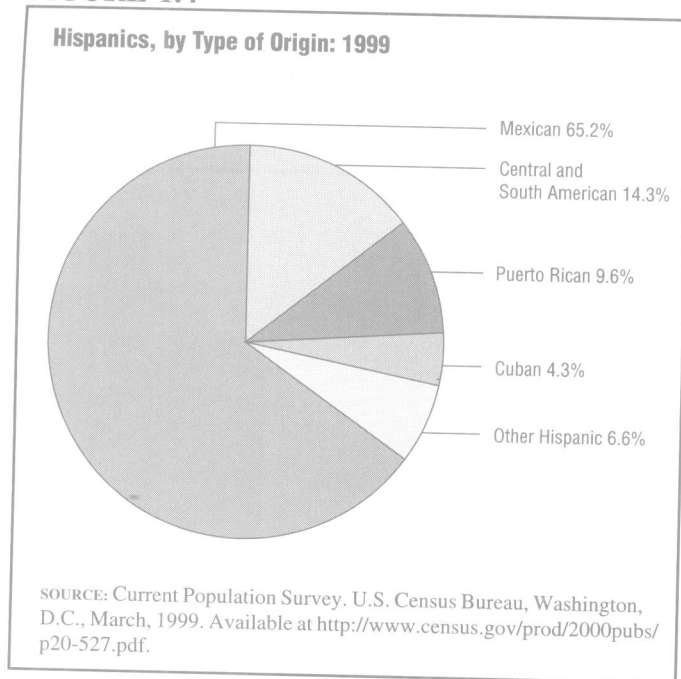
pared to nearly one-quarter (23.7 percent) of non-Hispanic whites.

**Where Do Black People Live?**

In 1999, 54.6 percent of the black population lived in the South, nearly 19 percent lived

**FIGURE 1.3****Percent Elderly, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1996 and 2050**  
(Middle-series projections)

SOURCE: *Population Profile of the United States: 1997*. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 1998. Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/3/98pubs/p23-194.pdf>.

**FIGURE 1.4**

in the Northeast, 18.4 percent in the Midwest, and 8.3 percent in the West—about the same proportions as in 1992 and in 1970. In comparison, one-third (32.6 percent) of non-Hispanic whites lived in the South, 27.4 percent in the Midwest, 20.2 percent in the Northeast, and 19.8 percent in the West.

In 1999 blacks (86.1 percent) were more likely than non-Hispanic whites (77.5 percent) to live in metropolitan areas. Most lived in the central cities of metropolitan areas (55.1 percent), two and one-half times that of non-Hispanic whites (21.7 percent). A substantially higher proportion of non-Hispanic whites (55.8 percent) than blacks (31 percent) lived in the suburbs. Only 13.9 percent of blacks lived in non-metropolitan areas compared to 22.5 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

## THE HISPANIC POPULATION

The Hispanic population of the United States, an ethnic group that can include people of any race, grew tremendously between 1970 and 1980 (61 percent). Between 1980 and 1990 alone, it increased by 53 percent—seven times as fast as the rest of the nation.

In 1990 there were about 22.5 million people of Hispanic origin, representing 9 percent of the total U.S. population. One in every 11 persons was of Hispanic origin. By March 2000, people of Hispanic origin accounted for 32 million people (11.7 percent) in the U.S. population. (See Table 1.1.) The Census Bureau estimates that this segment of the population could increase to 52.7 million by 2020 (16.3 percent of the nation's total population) and to 96.5 million by 2050 (24.5 percent). (See Figure 1.1.) Immigration (coming from another country to live) and high fertility rates are the major reasons for this growth.

Hispanic Americans come from different countries or areas. The groupings by country or area of origin (where they come from) are called subgroups. Hispanic-origin residents are made up of five subgroups—Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, and Caribbean and other Hispanics. In 1999, of the total Hispanic population in the United States, 65.2 percent were of Mexican origin, 14.3 percent Central and South American, and 9.6 percent Puerto Rican. Four percent came from Cuba, and 7 percent came from the Caribbean and other countries. (See Figure 1.4.)

## A Large Proportion of Children Under 18

In March 2000 Hispanics had a median age of 26.6 years, about 12 years younger than the non-Hispanic white population that had a median age of 38.3 years. Hispanics had the lowest median age among all racial and ethnic groups. (See Table 1.1.) The Census Bureau 1998 population survey (latest available) found that 35.5 percent of all Hispanics were less than 18 years old compared to 23.8 percent of the non-Hispanic white population.

## Where Do Hispanics Live?

Most Hispanic Americans live in the Southwest. As of July 1998, 10.1 million of California's residents were Hispanic. Another 5.9 million Hispanics lived in Texas. Together, these two states were home to more than half of the

Hispanics in the United States. The other five states with at least 1 million Hispanics were New York (2.6 million), Florida (2.2 million), Illinois (1.2 million), New Jersey (1 million), and Arizona (1 million).

## THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION

Asians and Pacific Islanders are a diverse group, with each group differing in language and culture. On March 1, 2000, the Asian and Pacific Islander population in the United States was estimated at 11 million. (See Table 1.1.) This was up from 7.3 million in 1990 and 4.2 million in 1980.

The proportion of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. population doubled from 1.5 percent in 1980 to 3 percent in 1990. Between 1990 and 1999 this group had a higher rate of population growth (45 percent) than any other racial or ethnic group. In March 2000 Asians and Pacific Islanders made up 4 percent of the total U.S. population. (See Table 1.1.) According to Census Bureau estimates, this group could increase to 6.1 percent (19.7 million) of the nation's population by 2020 and, by 2050, could represent 8.7 percent of the population (or 34.4 million). (See Figure 1.1.)

Immigration is responsible in large part for the growth of this population. In 1998 one-third (33.3 percent) of all immigrants admitted to the United States came from Asia. The Immigration and Naturalization Service reports that, in 1998, China (5.6 percent), India (5.6 percent), and the Philippines (5.2 percent) were the top three countries of origin for Asian immigrants. Nearly 3 percent of Asian immigrants came from Vietnam, and 2.2 percent arrived from Korea.

### Asian and Pacific Islander Children

In 1999 about one-third of all Asian and Pacific Islanders living in the United States were children under 18 years of age. In comparison, non-Hispanic white children made up 23.7 percent of the population under 18 years old.

**TABLE 1.1**

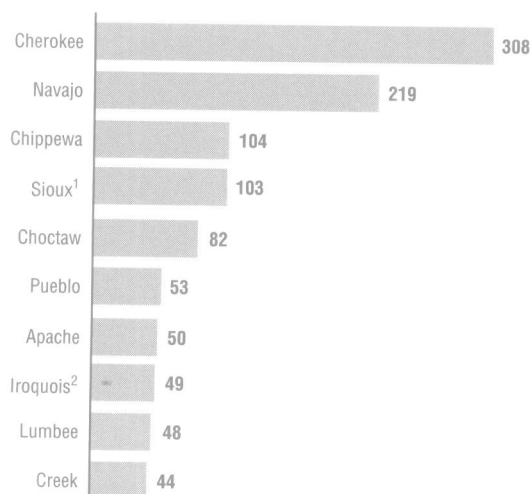
**Resident Population Estimates of the United States by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, March 1, 2000**

	Mar. 1, 2000
<b>ALL RACES</b>	
Population	274,337,000
(Percent of total)	100.0
Median age (years)	35.7
Mean age (years)	36.5
Male population	134,111,000
Female population	140,226,000
<b>WHITE</b>	
Population	225,704,000
(Percent of total)	82.3
Median age (years)	36.8
Mean age (years)	37.4
Male population	110,906,000
Female population	114,799,000
<b>BLACK</b>	
Population	35,164,000
(Percent of total)	12.8
Median age (years)	30.3
Mean age (years)	32.2
Male population	16,706,000
Female population	18,458,000
<b>AMERICAN INDIAN, ESKIMO, AND ALEUT</b>	
Population	2,422,000
(Percent of total)	0.9
Median age (years)	27.7
Mean age (years)	30.5
Male population	1,199,000
Female population	1,223,000
<b>ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER</b>	
Population	11,047,000
(Percent of total)	4.0
Median age (years)	31.9
Mean age (years)	32.8
Male population	5,301,000
Female population	5,746,000
<b>HISPANIC ORIGIN (of any race)</b>	
Population	32,077,000
(Percent of total)	11.7
Median age (years)	26.6
Mean age (years)	29.0
Male population	16,121,000
Female population	15,955,000
<b>WHITE, NOT HISPANIC</b>	
Population	196,465,000
(Percent of total)	71.6
Median age (years)	38.3
Mean age (years)	38.6
Male population	96,202,000
Female population	100,263,000

Based on data from *Resident Population Estimates of the United States by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 1990 to July 1, 1999, with Short-Term Projection to March 1, 2000*. U.S. Bureau of the Census: Washington, D.C., April 11, 2000.

## Where Do Asians and Pacific Islanders Live?

In 1999 half (53 percent) of the Asian and Pacific Islander population lived in the western region of the United States compared to only 19.8 percent of non-Hispanic whites and 26 percent of other racial and ethnic groups. Ninety-

**FIGURE 1.5****Ten Largest American Indian Tribes, 1990**  
(Thousands)

<sup>1</sup> Any entry with the spelling "Siouan" was miscoded to Sioux in North Carolina.

<sup>2</sup> Reporting and/or processing problems have affected the data for this tribe.

SOURCE: *We the . . . First Americans*. U.S. Bureau of the Census: Washington, D.C., 1993.

six percent lived in metropolitan areas, which included central cities and suburban areas. The percentage living in the central cities (44.6 percent) was twice that of non-Hispanic whites (21.7 percent). On the other hand only 3.7 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders were living in rural areas compared to 22.5 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

## THE AMERICAN INDIAN, ESKIMO, AND ALEUT POPULATION

The United States government defines American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts as people who come from any of the original peoples of North America. The name American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts was used by the U.S. Census Bureau for the 1990 Census. Later in the 1990s, and for the 2000 Census, the Bureau called this group American Indians and Alaska Natives. Both ways of naming this group of people appears in this book, depending on the date and source of the information. In addition, some sources name this group simply Native Ameri-

cans or American Indians. These names are also used in this book if they were used in the source of the information.

American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts still keep their cultural identity and practices through tribal association or community recognition. Of all the minorities counted in the official census every 10 years, the American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts have the smallest population. As a result less information is available about this group than any other ethnic minority.

In 1990 the American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut population made up less than 1 percent of the total U.S. population. The 1990 census counted just less than 2 million people in this group—1.8 million American Indians, 57,152 Eskimos, and 23,797 Aleuts. The only tribes with more than 100,000 persons were the Cherokee (308,000), Navajo (219,000), Chippewa (104,000), and Sioux (103,000). Figure 1.5 shows the ten largest American Indian tribes and their populations.

Although the number of American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts grew 16 percent between 1990 and 1999 (compared to 9.7 percent growth for the nation's population), their percentage of the total population remained at 0.9 percent (2.4 million) as of March 1, 2000. (See Table 1.1.) As shown in Figure 1.1, their population is expected to grow to 4.4 million by 2050, which is estimated to be 1.1 percent of the total U.S. population. In March 2000 the median age for American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts was 27.2 years, much less than the non-Hispanic white population's median age of 38.3 years. (See Table 1.1.)

## Where Do American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts Live?

In 1990 nearly half (48 percent) of American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts in the United States lived in the West, about 29 percent in the South, 17 percent in the Midwest, and 6 percent in the Northeast. Most lived in the West because

government policies during the 1800s pushed them westward as white newcomers settled on their land. Many American Indians were killed, others were forced to keep moving west, and urban relocation programs in the twentieth century scattered their population even more.

In 1990 about one-third of American Indians lived on or near reservations, many with very small populations. The Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands covers more than 16 million acres, in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. This is the largest Indian reservation in the country. (See Table 1.2.) lists the locations and population of the 10 largest American Indian reservations.

In 1998 about half the nation's American Indians lived in western states. The five states with the largest American Indian populations were California (309,000), Oklahoma (263,000), Arizona (256,000), New Mexico (163,000), and Washington (103,000). Between 1990 and 1998

**TABLE 1.2**

**Ten Largest American Indian Reservations, 1990**

[American Indian population in thousands]

Reservation and State	Population
Navajo, AZ-NM-UT*	143,400
Pine Ridge, NE-SD*	11,200
Fort Apache, AZ	9,800
Gila River, AZ	9,100
Papago, AZ	8,500
Rosebud, SD*	8,000
San Carlos, AZ	7,100
Zuni Pueblo, AZ-NM	7,100
Hopi, AZ*	7,100
Blackfeet, MT	7,000

\*Includes trust lands.

SOURCE: 1990 Census Profile: Race and Hispanic Origin. U.S. Bureau of the Census: Washington, D.C., 1993.

Arizona added more American Indians to its population than any other state. In 1998 Alaska (16 percent) had the largest proportion of American Indians, followed by New Mexico (9 percent), and South Dakota and Oklahoma (8 percent each).





## CHAPTER 2 EMPLOYMENT

A person in the labor force is one who is working or actively looking for work. Those who consider themselves unemployed but looking for work are also in the labor force. However, those who are not looking for work because they are going to school or unable to work are not part of the labor force.

### LABOR FORCE DEFINED

### MINORITIES IN THE LABOR FORCE

#### Black Americans

More black workers have participated in the labor force than white workers, mainly because black women are more likely to be working than white women. However, since approximately 1960, more and more white women have worked.

In 1960, 36.5 percent of white women were in the labor force compared to 48.2 percent of black and other minority women. By April 2000, 60.8 percent of all white women 20 years and older were in the labor force—a little less than the 65.8 percent of black women 20 years and older who were in the labor force. (See Table 2.1.)

On the other hand, the percentage of black men 20 years and older who were in the labor force has decreased since the early 1950s. In 1948, 87 percent of all black males 20 years and

older were working or actively looking for work. By 1970 that percentage had dropped to 76.5 percent and, by April 2000, to 73 percent. In comparison 77 percent of all white males 20 years and older were in the labor force as of April 2000. (See Table 2.1.)

**TABLE 2.1**

**Employment Status of the Civilian Population by Race, Sex, Age, and Hispanic Origin**

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Apr. 2000
<b>White</b>	
Participation rate	67.8
Unemployment rate	3.5
Men, 20 years and over	
Participation rate	77.0
Unemployment rate	2.8
Women, 20 years and over	
Participation rate	60.8
Unemployment rate	3.1
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years	
Participation rate	56.7
Unemployment rate	11.6
<b>Black</b>	
Participation rate	66.2
Unemployment rate	7.2
Men, 20 years and over	
Participation rate	73.0
Unemployment rate	6.6
Women, 20 years and over	
Participation rate	65.8
Unemployment rate	5.8
<b>Hispanic Origin</b>	
Participation rate	69.1
Unemployment rate	5.4

NOTE: Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Beginning in January 2000, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

SOURCE: BLS News, USDL 00-144, May 5, 2000

## Hispanic Americans

As of April 2000, 69.1 percent of the Hispanic population was in the labor force, the highest percent of any racial or ethnic group. (See Table 2.1.) In 1999 (the latest year for which such statistics are available), among males 20 years and older, 83.5 percent of the male Hispanic population had jobs. At the same time 57.7 percent of Hispanic females in the same age group worked.

In 1999 labor force participation varied among Hispanic subgroups. Mexican Americans had the highest participation (68.2 percent), followed by Cuban Americans (62.6 percent), and Puerto Ricans (61.6 percent).

## Asians and Pacific Islanders

The U.S. Bureau of the Census reported that, in 1998 (the latest year for which such statistics were available), 68.5 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders 16 years and older were in the labor force. (See Table 2.2.) Of all the racial and ethnic groups, young adult Asians and Pacific Islanders (ages 16 to 24) were the least likely to be in the labor force full time, but were the most likely to be attending school. In 1998, 7 out of 10 Asians and Pacific Islanders ages 18 to 24 years attended college, compared to 5 out of 10 non-Hispanic whites.

## American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts

Information about the labor force participation rates of American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts are hard to find. The Bureau of Labor Statistics and Census Bureau often counted these ethnic groups as "other." Based on the 1990 census, 69.4 percent of American Indian men age 16 years and older were in the labor force, compared to 74.4 percent of all the men in the U.S. The percentage of American Indian women in the labor force was 55.1 percent, slightly less than the rate for all women (56.8 percent). (See Figure 2.1.)

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics gets information on employment from the Census Bureau

**TABLE 2.2**

### Social and Economic Characteristics of the Asian and Pacific Islander Population, 1990 and 1998

Excludes members of Armed Forces except those living off post or with their families on post. Data for 1990 are based on 1980 census population controls; 1998 data are based on 1990 census population controls. Based on Current Population Survey.

Characteristic	Percent distribution	
	1990	1998
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Under 5 years old	9.0	8.4
5 to 14 years old	16.6	16.4
15 to 44 years old	50.1	49.8
45 to 64 years old	17.3	18.5
65 years old and over	7.0	6.7
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Persons 25 years old and over	100.0	100.0
Elementary: 0 to 8 years	13.7	8.9
High school: 1 to 3 years	5.9	16.2
4 years	26.2	23.0
College: 1 to 3 years	14.3	19.8
4 years or more	39.9	42.1
<b>Labor Force Status<sup>5</sup></b>		
Civilians 16 years old and over	100.0	100.0
Civilian labor force	66.3	68.5
Employed	63.5	65.3
Unemployed	2.8	3.1
Unemployment rate <sup>6</sup>	(X)	(X)
Not in labor force	33.7	31.5
<b>Family Type</b>		
Total families	100.0	100.0
Married couple	82.1	81.7
Female householder, no spouse present	12.3	11.7
Male householder, no spouse present	5.6	6.6
<b>Family Income In Previous Year In Constant (1997) Dollars</b>		
Total families	100.0	100.0
Less than \$5,000	(NA)	2.9
\$5,000 to \$9,999	(NA)	2.7
\$10,000 to \$14,999	(NA)	5.3
\$15,000 to \$24,999	(NA)	9.2
\$25,000 to \$34,999	(NA)	9.8
\$35,000 to \$49,999	(NA)	17.8
\$50,000 or more	(NA)	52.2
Median income <sup>7</sup>	(X)	(X)
<b>Poverty</b>		
Families below poverty level <sup>8</sup>	11.9	10.2
Persons below poverty level <sup>8</sup>	14.1	14.0
<b>Housing Tenure</b>		
Total occupied units	100.0	100.0
Owner-occupied	49.1	52.8
Renter-occupied	49.4	46.0
No cash rent	1.5	1.2

NA Not available. X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Represents those who completed 9th to 12th grade but have no high school diploma.

<sup>2</sup> High school graduate.

<sup>3</sup> Some college or associate degree.

<sup>4</sup> Bachelor's or advanced degree.

<sup>5</sup> Data beginning 1994 not directly comparable with earlier years.

<sup>6</sup> Total unemployment as percent of civilian labor force.

SOURCE: *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. U.S. Bureau of the Census: Washington, D.C., 1999

*Current Population Survey*, which questions about 60,000 households each month. To be considered unemployed, a person must:

- Have not worked in the week chosen for the survey.

**FIGURE 2.1**

- Have actively looked for work some time during the four weeks before the survey.
- Be presently available to take a suitable job.

In April 2000 approximately 6 million persons were out of work in the United States. More than 4 million were white, 1 million were black, and 831,000 were Hispanic.

### Black Americans

Since the mid-1900s the unemployment rates for blacks have been twice as high as for whites. Blacks are more likely to be unemployed for longer periods of time, making up almost 30 percent of the long-term unemployed—those without work for at least 27 weeks.

In April 2000 the unemployment rate for black men 20 years of age and older (6.6 percent) was more than double that for white men (2.8 percent) in the same age group. Black females age 20 and older (5.8 percent) had nearly twice the unemployment rate as white females (3.1 percent) the same ages. (See Table 2.1.)

One major difference in labor force participation rates between blacks and whites was among younger people. In April 2000 the unemployment rate for black teens, ages 16 to 19, was 22.2 percent, almost double the unemploy-

ment rate for white teens of the same ages (11.6 percent).

### Hispanic Americans

The unemployment rate for Hispanics in April 2000 was 5.4 percent. (See Table 2.1.) In 1999 the Puerto Rican-origin population had the highest rate of unemployment at 8.2 percent, and Cubans had the lowest rate of unemployment, 4.6 percent. Mexicans had an unemployment rate of 6.6 percent.

### Asians and Pacific Islanders

In 1998 (the latest information available), 3.1 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders 16 years of age and older were unemployed. (See Table 2.2.) This proportion was lower than the unemployment rate of 4.5 percent for the total population.

### American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts

It is as hard to determine the unemployment rates among American Indians as it is to find out the percentage of those employed. Based on information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in 1990, the proportion of those unemployed and looking for work ranged from 12 percent in Texas to 74 percent in South Dakota.

It should be noted, however, that the numbers of American Indians in these two states are very different. The BIA keeps track of 58,000 American Indians in South Dakota and only 1,320 in Texas. Because these American Indians usually lived either on or next to reservations, especially in South Dakota, they had very little chance to earn enough money to support their families.

## MINORITY OCCUPATIONS

### Black Americans

Blacks are more likely to work in non-professional and non-managerial positions than whites. In 1999, 31.3 percent of whites worked in managerial and professional jobs compared to only 21.5 percent of blacks. Whites and blacks were equally likely to work in technical, sales, and administrative support jobs.