

Race and Hispanic Origin, 2000

In addition to the numerous official uses for information on race and Hispanic origin, many people are interested in learning about the demographic characteristics of their own population group.

A school system might use information on race and Hispanic origin to design cultural activities that reflect diversity in the community. A business could use it to select the mix of merchandise it will sell in a new store. All levels of government need information on race and Hispanic origin to implement and evaluate programs,

such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Public Health Act, the Healthcare Improvement Act, the Job Partnership Training Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, and others.

A question on race has been asked in U.S. censuses since 1790, but a question on Hispanic origin has been asked only since 1970. A new racial standard that permits respondents to select one or more racial categories was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1997 and introduced in Census 2000. However, the Current Population Survey (CPS) will not collect data on one or more races until 2003.

Words That Count

- **Racial and Hispanic origin classifications** used in this report adhere to Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Federal Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: "Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Agencies and Administrative Reporting," Federal Register 43:19269-19270, May 4, 1978. New standards were adopted by OMB in October 1997 and will be implemented by all federal agencies no later than January 1, 2003. OMB sets the standards for federal statistics and administrative reporting on race and ethnicity.
- **Race** is based on self-identification by the respondents (the householder or someone who may be reporting race in his or her absence) in the Current Population Survey through a question that asks for an individual race. There are four groups including: White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Asian and Pacific Islander.
- **Hispanic origin** is based on self-identification by respondents (the householder or someone who may be reporting Hispanic origin in his or her absence) in the Current Population Survey

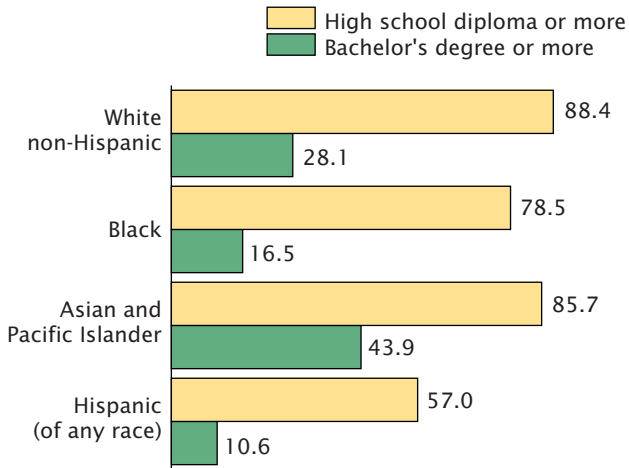
through a question that asks for an individual's origin or descent. People of Hispanic origin are those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

- **Non-Hispanic** refers to all people whose ethnicity is not Hispanic. Race and ethnicity are separate concepts, so the racial categories of White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Asian and Pacific Islander all contain some people of Hispanic origin. In this chapter and throughout most of this report, the term **White non-Hispanic** is used to indicate the White population minus that part of this group that is of Hispanic origin.
- **The civilian labor force** consists of all noninstitutionalized civilians aged 16 and older who are either working or looking for work (unemployed). The data in this report are for March 2000 and are not adjusted for seasonal changes. Therefore, they may not agree with data released by the Department of Labor.

Figure 16-1.

High School and College Graduates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000

(Percent of the population aged 25 and older)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

This section presents data from the CPS and provides valuable information on White non-Hispanics, Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics.¹

While these broad race and ethnic categories provide an overview of each population, they also mask many differences within each group. Every group contains new immigrants, urban and rural populations, and people from different cultures. The Asian and Pacific Islander population is made up of many different groups of people, including Asian Indians, Filipinos, Koreans, Native Hawaiians, and Samoans. Many of the people in some groups, such as the Chinese and Japanese, have been in the United States for generations. Other groups, such as the Hmong, Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians, are comparatively recent arrivals to this country. People of Hispanic origin share an ethnicity, but may be of any race. Hispanics include Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, South and Central Americans, and others with markedly different characteristics.

Educational attainment varies among the racial and ethnic groups.²

Among the population 25 years old and older, 86 percent of Asian and Pacific Islanders had at least completed high school, compared with 88 percent of White

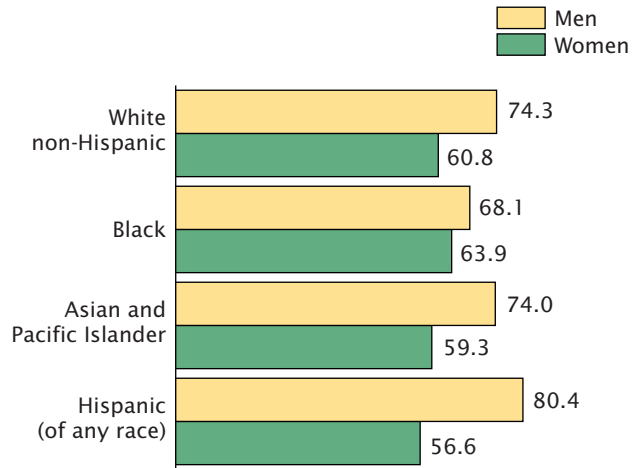
¹ Although the Census Bureau produces intercensal estimates on the American Indian and Alaska Native population, the sample size of the Current Population Survey is too small to produce reliable estimates of characteristics for this group.

² See the chapter on Educational Attainment for more information.

Figure 16-2.

Civilian Labor Force Participation Rates by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 2000

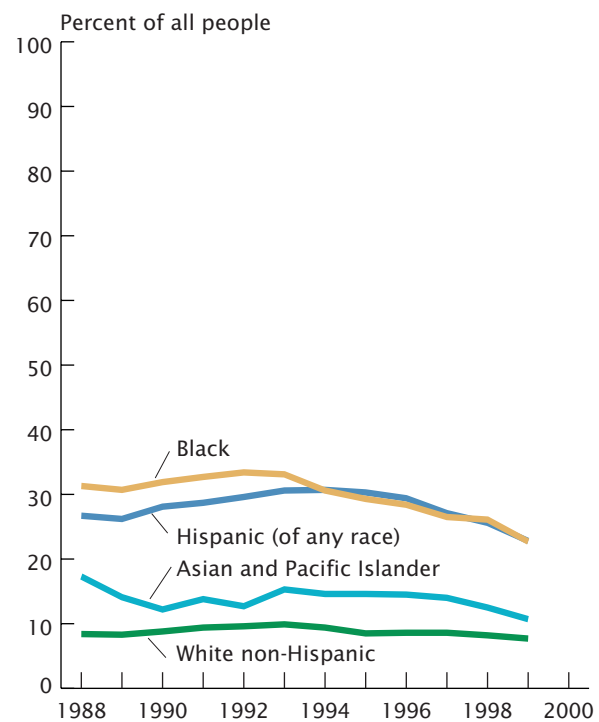
(Percent of population aged 16 and older)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Figure 16-3.

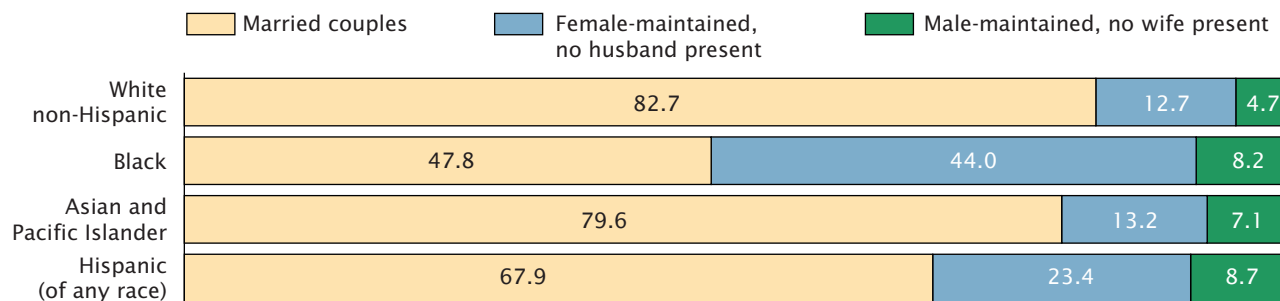
Poverty Rates for Individuals by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1988-99



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, March 1989 to 2000.

Figure 16-4.
Family Type by Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder: 2000

(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

non-Hispanics, according to the Current Population Survey.³ However, 44 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders in this age group held at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 28 percent of White non-Hispanics.

The proportion of the Black population aged 25 and older with a high school diploma, 79 percent, was 10 percentage points lower than the proportion among White non-Hispanics — a significant improvement over 1989 when the difference was 16 percentage points. In 2000, 17 percent of Blacks held a bachelor's degree or more.

In 2000, 57 percent of Hispanics had a high school diploma or better and 11 percent held at least a bachelor's degree. The share of Hispanics holding a high school diploma increased 6 percentage points since 1989, while the share holding a bachelor's degree or better was not significantly different from 11 years earlier.

In 2000, civilian labor force participation rates differed among the racial and ethnic groups and between men and women.

In March 2000, the share of men (74 percent) aged 16 and older who were working or looking for work was about the same for both White non-Hispanics and Asian and Pacific Islanders. And the difference in labor force participation rates between White non-Hispanic

women and Asian and Pacific Islander women was also not statistically different, 61 percent compared with 59 percent. Sixty-eight percent of Black men and 64 percent of Black women were labor force participants, as were 80 percent of Hispanic men and 57 percent of Hispanic women.

The unemployment rates for White non-Hispanic and Asian and Pacific Islander men and women were not statistically different. Among White non-Hispanics it was 4 percent for men and 3 percent for women. Among Asians and Pacific Islanders it was 4 percent for both men and women. However, the unemployment rates were significantly higher in Hispanic and Black communities. Among Hispanic labor force participants, 6 percent of men and 8 percent of women were looking for work. And the unemployment rate was 8 percent for Black men and 7 percent for Black women.⁴

Poverty is a fact of life for every racial and ethnic group.⁵

While 8 percent of White non-Hispanics were poor in 1999, 11 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders, 23 percent of Hispanics, and 24 percent of Blacks were poor.⁶ Child poverty rates were generally higher: 9 percent for White non-Hispanic, 30 percent for Hispanic, and 33 percent for Black children.⁷ However, the poverty rate for Asian and Pacific Islander children

³ Estimates in this chapter are calculated using sample data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), weighted by population controls based on the 1990 decennial census. The population universe for the March CPS is the civilian noninstitutional population plus armed forces living off base or with their families on post. As a result, these estimates will differ from population estimates computed from either the intercensal estimates program or the 2000 decennial census.

⁴ Black male and female unemployment rates are not statistically different and there is no statistical difference between the unemployment rates for Black and Hispanic women.

⁵ The 2000 Current Population Survey collects poverty statistics for 1999. See the chapter on poverty for more information.

⁶ There is no statistical difference between the poverty rates for Blacks and Hispanics.

⁷ There is no statistical difference between the child poverty rates for Blacks and Hispanics.

(12 percent)⁸ was not statistically different than the total poverty rate for that group.

In 1999, Asian and Pacific Islander families were much more likely than White non-Hispanic families to live in poverty (10 percent and 6 percent, respectively). But the poverty rate was about 20 percent for Hispanic families and 22 percent for Black families.

Married couples have lower poverty rates than other types of families.⁹ About 83 percent of White non-Hispanic families and 80 percent of Asian families were maintained by married couples. Married couples represented 68 percent of Hispanic families and fewer than half of all Black families.

Among both White non-Hispanic and Asian and Pacific Islander families, 13 percent were maintained by women with no husband present. Also, 44 percent of Black families and 23 percent of Hispanic families were this type. Families maintained by women with no husband present are among the poorest.

The racial and ethnic composition of the United States is changing.

To find out more about how many people are in each group and how they are distributed throughout the United States, see the chapter on population distribution. Many chapters in this report contain information by race and ethnicity. The most detailed information can be found in the specific reports listed below.

⁸ There is no statistical difference between the child poverty rates for White Non-Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

⁹ See the chapter on income and poverty for more information.

The Census Bureau Can Tell You More

- For more detailed information, consult the following U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Reports: *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2000* by Melissa Therrien and Roberto R. Ramirez; *The Black Population in the United States: March 1999* by Jesse D. McKinnon; and *The Asian and Pacific Islander Population in the United States: March 1999* by Karen Humes and Jesse D. McKinnon. Also see the detailed tables for *The Black Population in the United States: March 2000 (Update)* and *The Asian and Pacific Islander Population in the United States: March 2000 (Update)*.
- Look for complete reports and detailed tables on the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (www.census.gov). Click on "H" for "Hispanic" and "R" for "Race."
- Contact the Ethnic and Hispanic Statistics Branch of the U.S. Census Bureau at 301-457-2403 or the Racial Statistics Branch at 301-457-2402 or e-mail pop@census.gov.
- For information on publications and other resources, see Appendix A.