

The State of Colorado's Racial and Ethnic Minorities

March 2002

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
<i>Robert R. Preuhs, Editor</i>	
2. Population Characteristics	4
<i>Keith Williams</i>	
3. Education	9
<i>Chelsea Smith</i>	
4. Labor and Economic Status	17
<i>Patrick Carey, Joe Farar and Nathan Whitney</i>	
5. Health	25
<i>Johanna Topper</i>	
6. Crime and Criminal Justice	30
<i>Samvel Tatevosyan</i>	
7. Housing	35
<i>Surea Jafarzadeh</i>	
8. Political Participation	46
<i>Jordan Gold and Gerritt Koser</i>	
9. Data Appendix	48

List of Figures

Figure		Page
Figure 2.1	Colorado's Population by Race and Ethnic Background, 2000	5
Figure 2.2	Change in Racial and Ethnic Group Populations in Colorado, 1990-2000	6
Figure 2.3	Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Denver Metropolitan Area, by County, 1990	7
Figure 2.4	Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Denver Metropolitan Area, by County, 2000	8
Figure 3.1	Colorado Fall Student Membership (K-12), by Race and Ethnicity, 1996-2000	11
Figure 3.2	CSAP 4 th Grade Reading Results by Race and Ethnicity, 1997 and 2001.	12
Figure 3.3	CSAP 4 th Grade Writing Results by Race and Ethnicity, 1997 and 2001	13
Figure 3.4	ACT Scores by Race and Ethnicity, 1995 and 2001	14
Figure 3.5	Colorado High School Graduation Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 1996-2001	15
Figure 3.6	Public Higher Education Student Membership in Colorado, by Race and Ethnicity, Fall 1999	16
Figure 4.1	Unemployment Rates by Race and Ethnicity, in Colorado and the United States, 1990 and 2000	18
Figure 4.2	Employment Rates by Race and Ethnicity, or Colorado and the United States, 2000	19
Figure 4.3	Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity, for Colorado and the United States, 1990	20
Figure 4.4	Poverty Rates by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex, Colorado, 1990	21

Figure 4.5	Minority Owned Businesses as a Percent of All Businesses in Colorado, 1997	22
Figure 4.6	Sales and Receipts of Minority Owned Businesses as Percent of All Business, Colorado, 1997	23
Figure 4.7	Male Management and Officer Positions, by Race and Ethnicity for Three Occupational Sectors, Colorado, 1993	24
Figure 5.1	Prevalence of Uninsured Adults by Race and Ethnicity, 1999	27
Figure 5.2	Infant Mortality Rates, by Race and Ethnicity, 1996-1998	28
Figure 5.3	Birth Rates for Females Aged 15-19 by Race and Ethnicity, 1996-1999	29
Figure 6.1	Racial and Ethnic Composition of Adults in Correctional Facilities in Colorado and U.S.	32
Figure 6.2	Homicide Victims in Colorado and U.S., by Race and Ethnicity, 1999	33
Figure 6.3	Victims of Hate Crimes in Colorado and the U.S., by Race and Ethnicity	34
Figure 7.1	Number of Housing Units Occupied, by Race and Ethnicity of Occupants, 1990	37
Figure 7.2	Homeownership Rates in the U.S. and Colorado, by Race and Ethnicity, 1990	38
Figure 7.3	Residential Segregation in Major Metropolitan Areas, 1990	39
Figure 7.4	Homeless Population in the Denver Metro Area, by Race and Ethnicity, 2001	40
Figure 7.5	Number of Complaints of Discriminatory Housing Practices in Colorado based on Race or Color and National Origin, 1996-2001	41
Figure 8.1	Voter Registration by Race and Ethnicity, 1994	44

Figure 8.2	Voter Registration by Race and Ethnicity, 1998	45
Figure 8.3	Reported Voting by Race and Ethnicity, 1994 and 1998	46
Figure 8.4	Number of Black and Hispanic Elected Officials in Colorado, 1991 and 2000	47

1. Introduction

Robert R. Preuhs, Editor

This report is intended to present a broad set of indicators of the well-being and status of racial and ethnic minorities in Colorado. By providing this information, the report aims to educate Coloradoans about the basic facts pertinent to issues regarding race and ethnicity. Factual information, in turn, forms the most solid basis for social and political discourse about these issues that are so central to the American experience.

The report begins by documenting the changing racial and ethnic make-up of Colorado over the last ten years. Indeed, Colorado has become more diverse. While still the overwhelming majority, individuals from white non-Hispanic backgrounds made up a smaller proportion of the population in 2000 than in 1990. At the same time, the Hispanic population has increased, with most other racial and ethnic groups maintaining a steady share of the population over the last decade. The increasing diversity in the state accentuates the need to evaluate the status of racial and ethnic minorities.

In all, the report documents over twenty indicators of the relative social, economic and political status of racial and ethnic minorities. The indicators presented in each chapter document seven spheres of life in Colorado, including Population Characteristics (Chapter 2), Education (Chapter 3), Labor and Economic Status (Chapter 4), Health (Chapter 5), Crime and Criminal Justice (Chapter 6), Housing Characteristics (Chapter 7) and Political Participation (Chapter 8). The data presented reflect the report's intention of providing a broad set of indicators of well-being for various racial and ethnic groups. In doing so, many important studies and statistics that examine particular aspects of each sphere are not included, and Latinos and African Americans are often the only groups for which data exist. Nevertheless, the report tells an exceptional story in that it is the first to present an array of indicators that can be used to gauge the overall status of racial and ethnic minorities in Colorado.

The picture of life in Colorado for racial and ethnic minorities that emerges from the report is mixed. Strides toward equality in education and housing opportunities seem to have been made, even over the very recent past. However, this finding should not take away from the reality of current conditions, which show that racial and ethnic minorities still lag behind white non-Hispanics in Colorado. Of the twenty-two indicators examined where an obvious interpretation of a "worse" or "better" outcome relative to white non-Hispanics can be made, blacks and Latinos are still worse off than Anglos in each and every measure, often to a substantial degree. The subset of these indicators where data were available on American Indian and Asian and Pacific Islanders, shows these groups are worse off in almost every category as well. In all, the report

demonstrates a continued disparity along racial and ethnic lines in social, economic and political life in Colorado.

This general finding has important implications for all aspects of public policy. As the state becomes more diverse, Colorado will undoubtedly need to face these inequalities as the proportion of the population with relatively worse outcomes increases. This report provides a factual basis for which to build a foundation for the public discourse that will accompany the issues of racial and ethnic group equality in years to come.

A Note Organization and Authorship.

This report is modeled on the Council of Economic Advisors' 1998 report for the President's Initiative on Race entitled, *Changing America*. In the present report, each chapter offers a distinct set of indicators for each sphere, accompanied by an introduction with major findings. The chapters are authored by individuals who participated in a Seminar on Minority Politics held at the University of Denver in early 2002. Each author(s) should be credited as the analytic author in an edited volume, if specific elements from the report are cited.

Each figure presented is based on data that is documented in the Data Appendix. This appendix provides the sources and, where available, a link to the web site that provided the information. This section is intended not only to document sources, but also to provide future researches, and other interested parties, access to relevant information resources.

A Note on Terminology and Coverage.

Racial and ethnic minority groups discussed in the following report primarily reflect the major groups included in state and federal enumerations. White, black, Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Native Alaskan are racial groups according to these sources. Hispanics, which can be of any race, are included as the only ethnic group examined.

In general, white non-Hispanics are discussed as whites in the various chapters, unless otherwise indicated. African American and black, as well as Hispanic and Latino, are treated as synonymous labels and reflect the general acceptance of both terms. In many cases, data for Asians and American Indians are not available due to estimation processes employed by data collection agencies that preclude valid estimates on such a small population at the state level. In addition, several indicators show how the status of racial and ethnic groups have changed in the last decade. In many cases, however, the latest data is from the 1990 Census, and updates will not be released until 2003.

Comments and correspondents can be sent directly to the editor, Robert Preuhs, Department of Political Science, 2000 Asbury Ave. Sturm Hall Room 466, The University of Denver, Denver, CO 80210. E-mail correspondence can be sent to the editor at: rpreuhs@du.edu.

This report is the first in an anticipated annual endeavor to document the status and well-being of racial and ethnic groups in Colorado. Suggestions for indicators to be included in future reports are welcome, especially if those suggestions are accompanied by the data itself.

Copies of this report can be obtained at: <http://www.du.edu/~rpreuhs> .

2. Population Characteristics

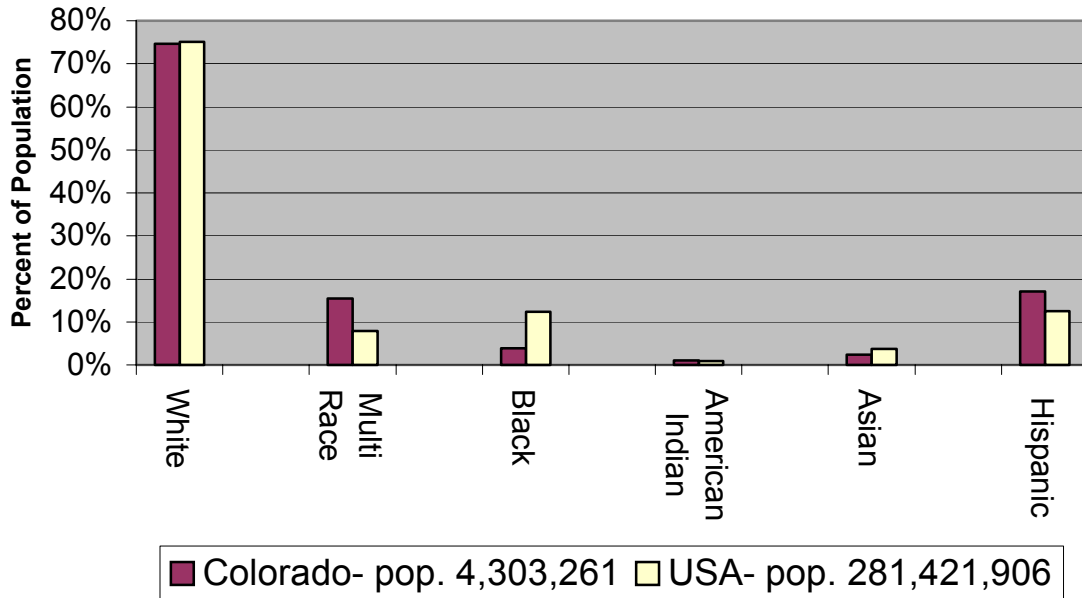
Keith Williams

Racial and Ethnic groups' relative populations are the basis for understanding the status of racial and ethnic minorities in Colorado. From forming a base level to evaluate relative representation in other spheres, to the direct consequences of diversity in social and political life, understanding the nature of the state's population is the first step to evaluating the social, economic and political well being of Colorado's minority population.

Taking a look at Colorado's population and racial and ethnic breakdown you will notice that the majority of people living in the state are white. Whites make up 82.8% of Colorado's population compared to the national percentage of 75.1%. The second highest percentage in Colorado's population is the Hispanic population, at 17.1% while the national average is 12.5%. The Multi racial population comes in at 10% of the Colorado population while nationally they make up 7.9% of the US population. Blacks make up 3.8% of the population of Colorado, while nationally, blacks comprise 12.3% of the population. The Asian population is at 2.2% and nationally 3.6%. And finally the American Indian population is at 1% in Colorado and .9% nationally.

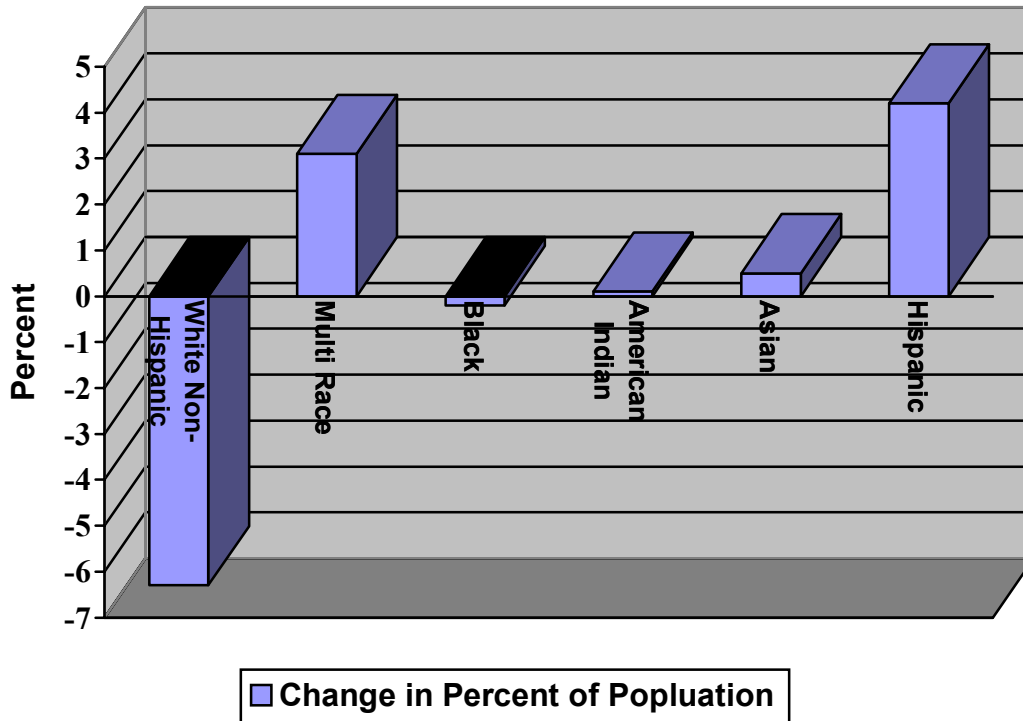
Colorado has become more diverse over the past ten years. The white non-Hispanic population dropped from 80.9% to 74.6% during the ten-year span from 1990 to 2000. The Hispanic population rose 4.2%, from 12.9% to 17.1% during the same period. Other racial and ethnic groups held a steady proportion of the population, with the exception of multi-race respondents to the Census, rising from 12.5% to 15.4% of the population in Colorado.

Figure 2.1 Colorado's Population by Race and Ethnic Background, 2000



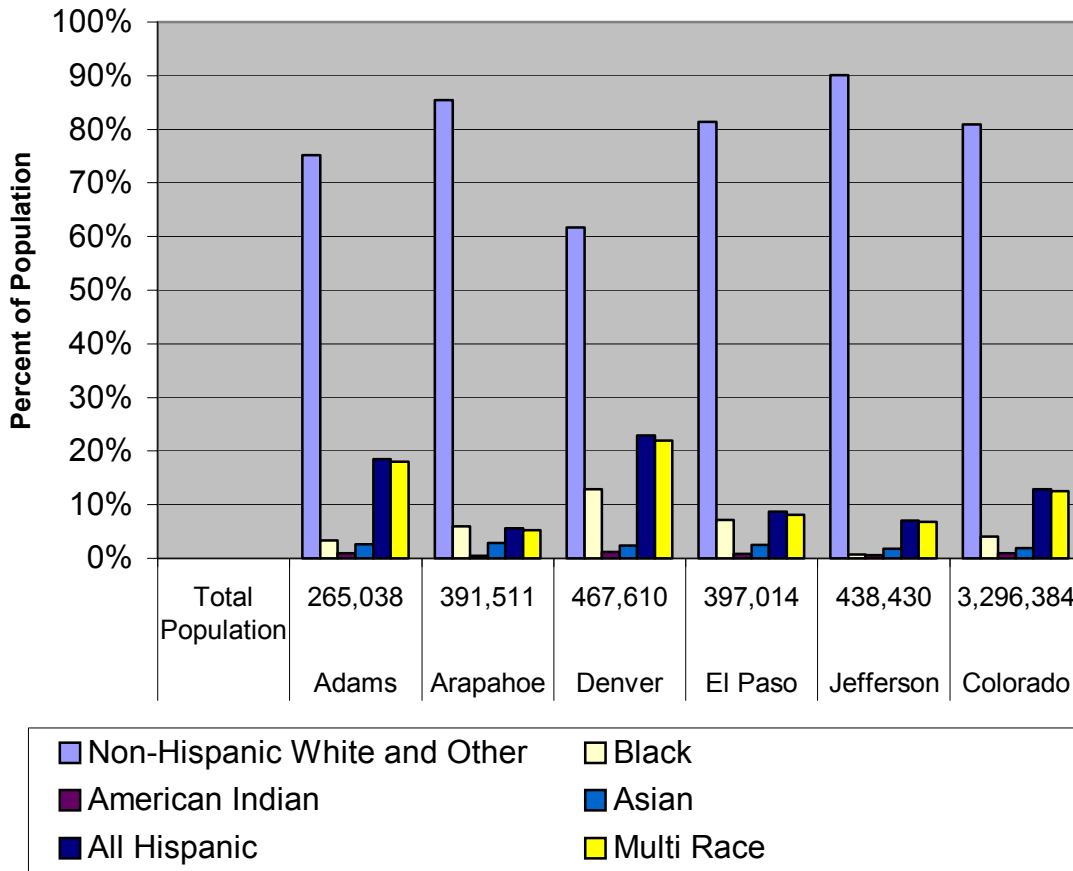
- Colorado's population of white Non-Hispanics approximates the national proportion.
- Hispanic residents make up a higher proportion of residents than in the nation as a whole.
- Coloradoan's who are classified as multiple race, indicating that they identified with more than one racial category in the Census, is almost twice as high as the national level.
- Black residents make 3.9% of Colorado's population, less than one half of the proportion of blacks in the nation.

Figure 2.2 Change in Racial and Ethnic Group Populations in Colorado, 1990-2000



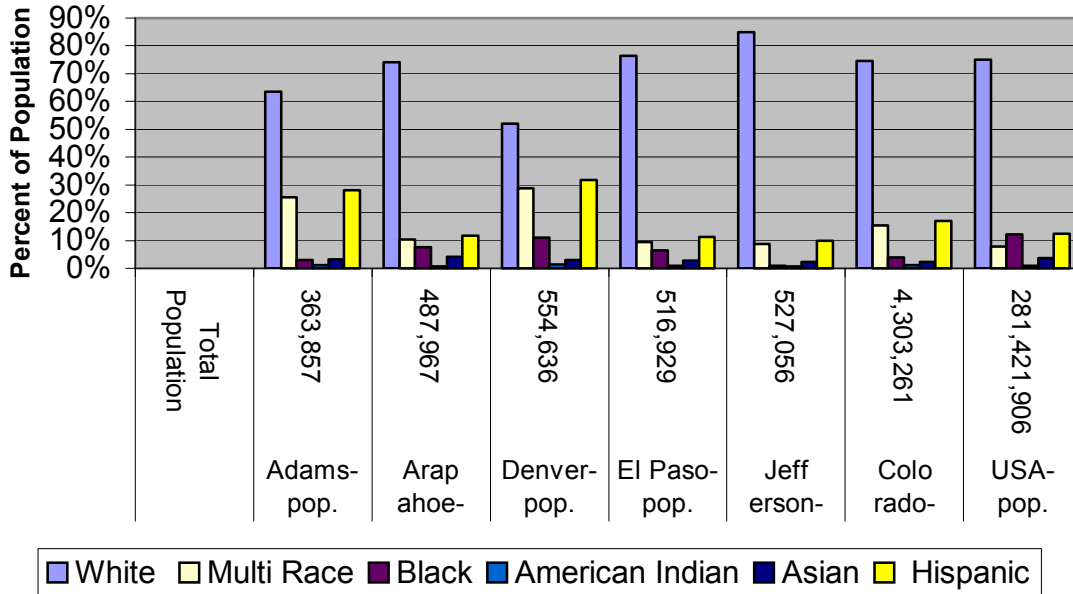
- The graph demonstrates that Colorado is becoming more diverse. White non-Hispanic residents comprised 6.3% less of the population in 2000 compared to 1990, while Hispanics and individuals from multiple racial backgrounds increased by 4.2% and 3.1%, respectively.
- Other major racial groups maintained similar proportions of the population in Colorado over this same ten-year time period.

Figure 2.3 Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Denver Metropolitan Area, by County, 1990



- Whites make up no less than 62% the population of all major metro areas in Colorado.
- Hispanics and Multi Race residents make up no less than 5% of the population of the major metro areas in Colorado.
- Blacks and Native Americans make up no more than 3% the population of any given metro area in Colorado.
- Asians make up no less than 1% of the population of any given metro area within Colorado

Figure 2.4 Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Denver Metropolitan Area, by County, 2000



- Colorado, as with all of the metro areas, are mainly white. No less than 54% of the population of all areas identify as being white.
- Hispanics make up the next highest level of occupancy within Colorado averaging no less than 9% of the major metro areas.
- Blacks and Native Americans make up less than 5% of the metro area population.

3. Education

Chelsea Smith

Education is an essential element of the socioeconomic success of any group in America. It has become common knowledge that higher educational attainment leads to better job opportunities, higher wages, and decreased unemployment. An evaluation of the demographics of Colorado's schools, how children of different ethnicities are doing, and the demographics of higher education institutions, gives us greater insight into the socioeconomic status of racial and ethnic minorities in Colorado.

The demographics of public primary and secondary schools in Colorado overall proportionally reflect the population demographics of the state. According to Figure 2.1 and Figure 3.1 American Indian representation in public schools is 1%, which is equivalent to their percentage of the overall Colorado population. Asian and black pupil membership percentages reflect membership slightly above their population representation. Latino school membership has been steadily increasing over the past five years. In 2000, their school membership percentage was 22%, 6% above the overall Latino population in Colorado. On the other hand, white pupil membership has been dropping each year. In 2000, white membership was nearly 10% below the overall population statistics. Perhaps, more white students have been enrolling in private institutions.

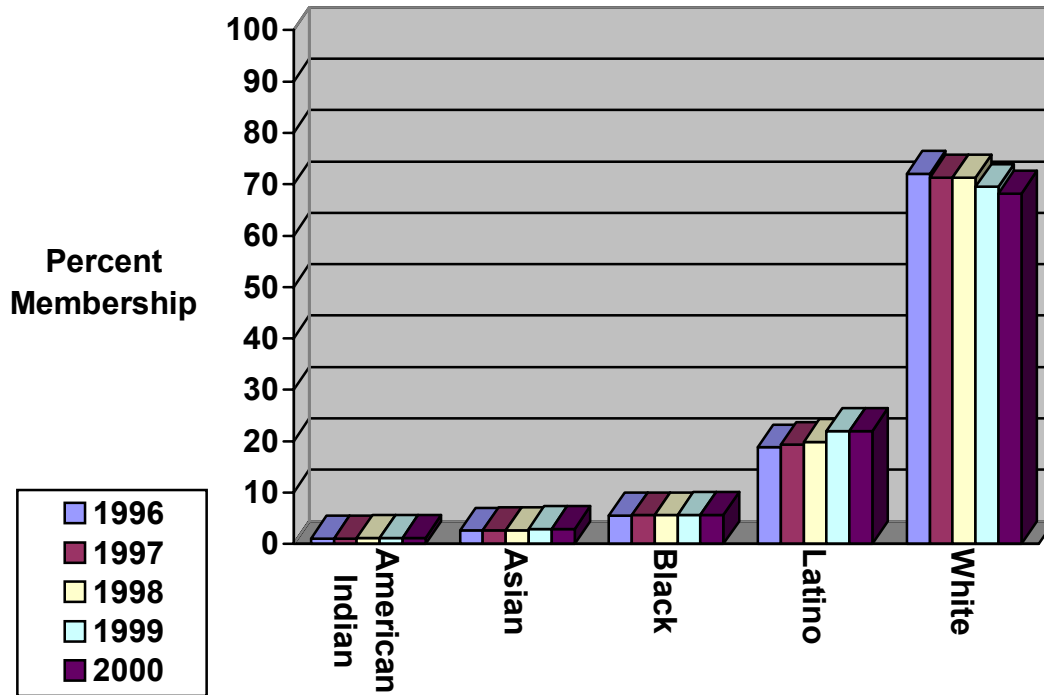
In Colorado, testing has become an important component of every child's education. These tests not only have an impact on the future of each child; they have an impact on the future of the schools. Test results in Colorado show that black and Latino students are consistently faring poorer on their exams than their white peers. Fourth grade Reading CSAP results (Figure 3.2) demonstrate that while the majority of students had either unsatisfactory or partially proficient scores in the 1997 reading exams, the majority of white students were proficient or advanced. In 2001, the only group to have a majority proficient or above besides white students were Asian students. While blacks, Latinos, and American Indians did decrease their unsatisfactory score percentages, the majority of students scores were still deemed unsatisfactory or partially proficient. Moreover, the fourth grade Writing CSAP results (Figure 3.3) reveal that no ethnic group had a majority of students that were proficient or above in 1997 or 2001. However, all groups experienced a significant decrease in their unsatisfactory scores from 1997 to 2001.

Older students are now required to take the ACTs as a statewide measure of school performance. Past ACT results (Figure 3.4) show that blacks and Latinos on average score nearly 5 composite points less than whites. These groups average scores decreased by nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ a point from 1997 to 2001, while whites increased their scores by nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ a point. The discrepancies in test results between minorities and white students reveal that some educational needs are not being met for these minority children in Colorado schools.

Higher educational attainment has become a necessity for successful employment in America today. High school degrees are imperative and employers are demanding more and more college education. In Colorado graduation rates have been remaining steady over the past five years (Figure 3.5). Unfortunately, these rates reveal that blacks and Latinos are at an employment disadvantage. While nearly 85% of whites and just over 80% of Asians graduate each year, only 70% of blacks and only 64% of Latinos receive their high school diplomas.

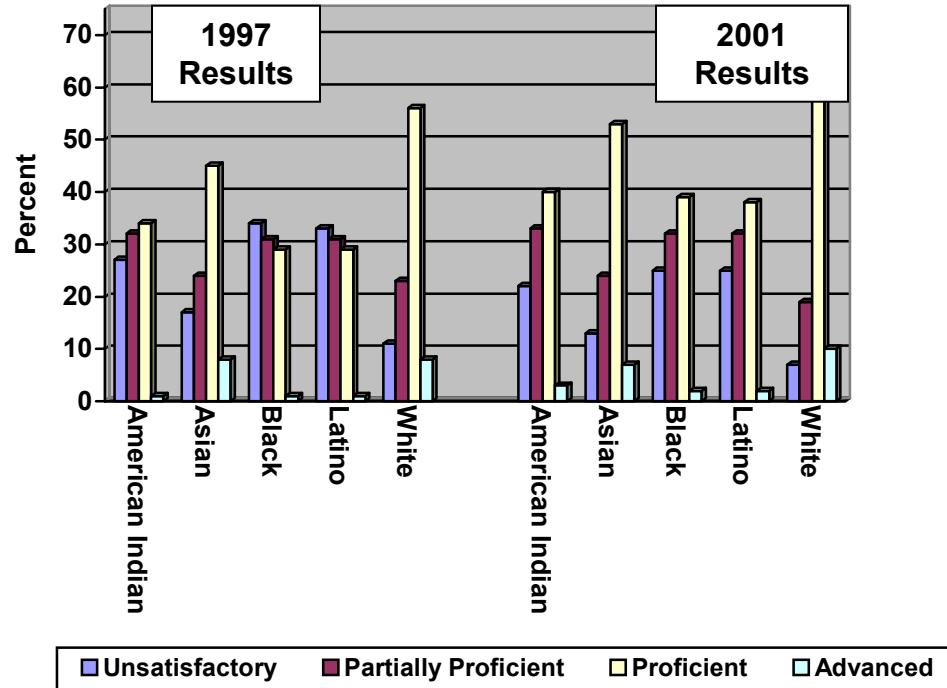
Finally, Higher education demographics (Figure 3.6) reflect the limited educational attainment of blacks and Latinos. In four-year institutions, blacks are under represented, in comparison to their secondary school membership, having an enrollment percentage just under 2.5%. Latinos are significantly underrepresented at 10%. Whites and Asians enrollment is about equivalent to their population percentages in secondary schools. In two-year institutions, blacks were represented at just over 4%, while the other ethnic group enrollment percentages are about the same as four-year institutions. The limited educational attainment of blacks and Latinos in Colorado demonstrates these groups' limited opportunities for socioeconomic upward mobility. As long as these graduation rates and higher education demographics remain the same, blacks and Latinos are clearly at a disadvantage to their peers when trying to attain employment opportunities.

Figure 3.1 Colorado Fall Student Membership (K-12), by Race and Ethnicity, 1996-2000



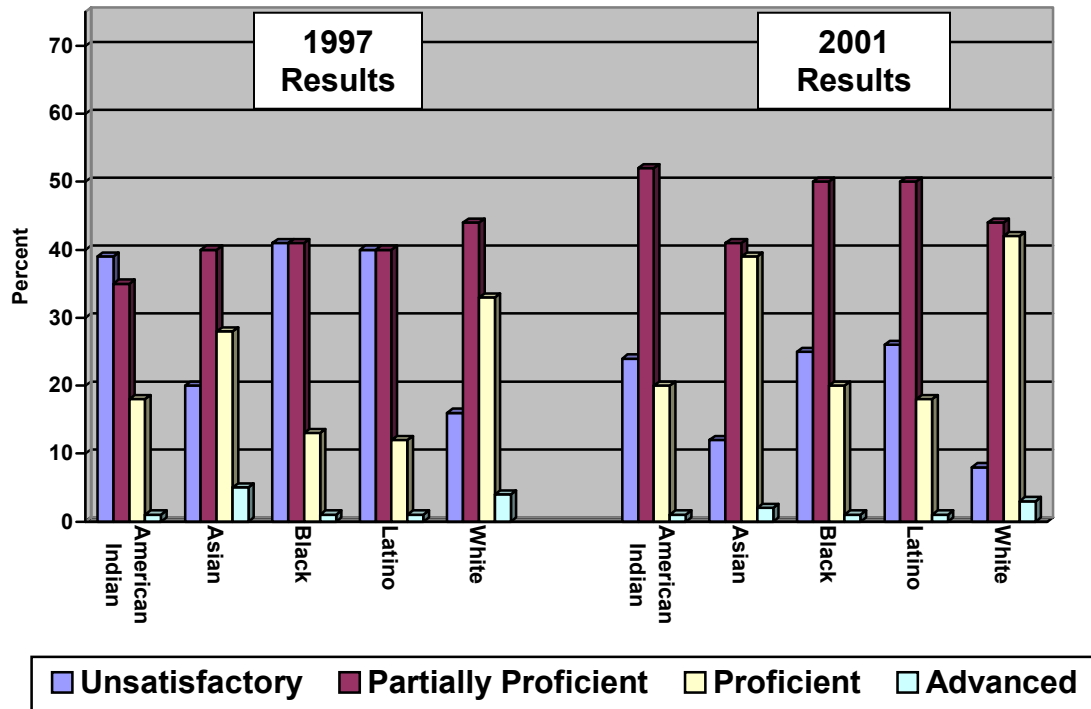
- At 22% in 2000, Latino membership has increased each year.
- Down to 68% percent in 2000, white membership has decreased each year.
- American Indian, Asian, and black membership have remained relatively stable over the past five years at 1%, 2.5%, and 5.5%, respectively.
- Despite the student membership percentages, teacher membership has minimally changed over the past five years. In 2000, approximately 91% of teachers were white, 6% were Latino, 1.6% were black, .8% were Asian, and .6% were American Indian.

Figure 3.2 CSAP 4th Grade Reading Results by Race and Ethnicity, 1997 and 2001



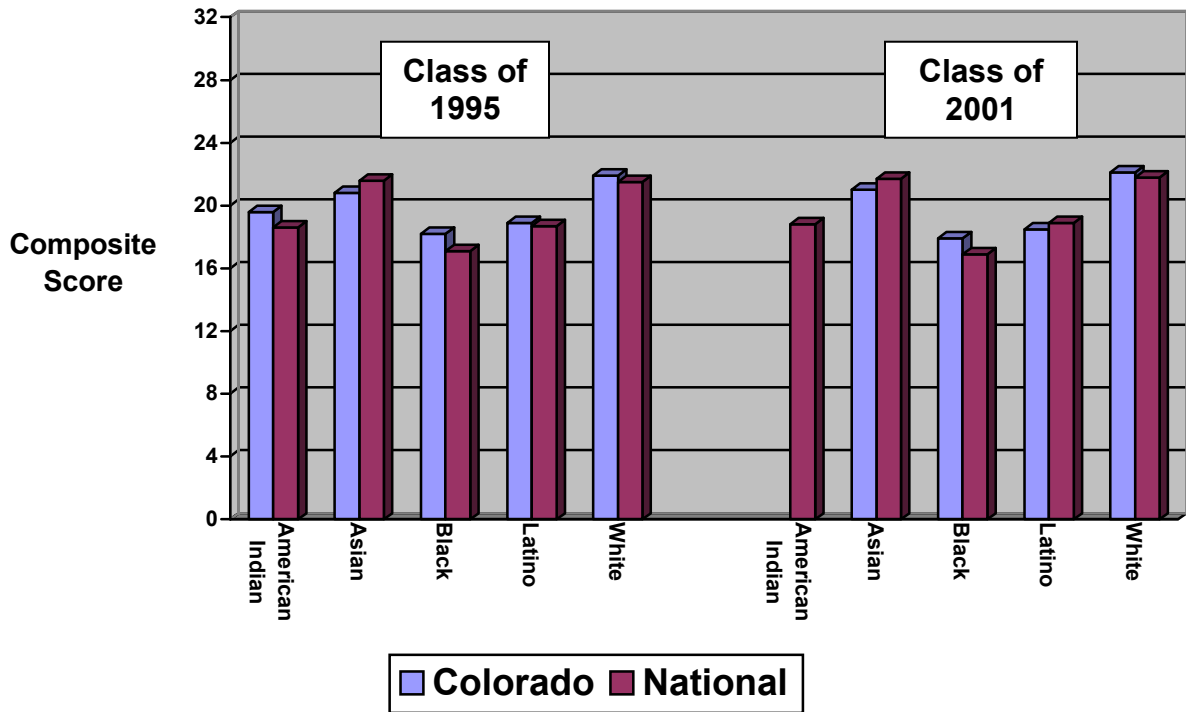
- White student reading Proficient and Advanced percentages are dramatically higher than those of other racial groups in 1997 and 2001.
- The Latino students and American Indian students who took the 2001 test in Spanish reflected different performance than their peers. Latino results: Unsatisfactory 39%, Partially Proficient 29%, Proficient 28%, and Advanced 2%; American Indian results: Unsatisfactory 34%, Partially Proficient 33%, Proficient 27%, Proficient 32%, Advanced 6%
- Overall, the English test reflects a higher percentage of Proficient and Advanced students for the Latino and American Indian populations than the Spanish test.

Figure 3.3 CSAP 4th Grade Writing Results by Race and Ethnicity, 1997 and 2001



- Despite the decrease in Unsatisfactory percentages for every group from 1997 to 2001, Partially Proficient percentages for minority groups dramatically increased disproportionate to the Proficient increases.
- The Latino students and American Indian students who took the 2001 test in Spanish reflected different performance than their peers. Latino results: Unsatisfactory 30%, Partially Proficient 31%, Proficient 31%, and Advanced 4%; American Indian results: Unsatisfactory 29%, Partially Proficient 27%, Proficient 37%, Advanced 6%
- The Spanish test had much higher percentage of Proficient and Advanced students for the Latino and American Indian populations than the English test.

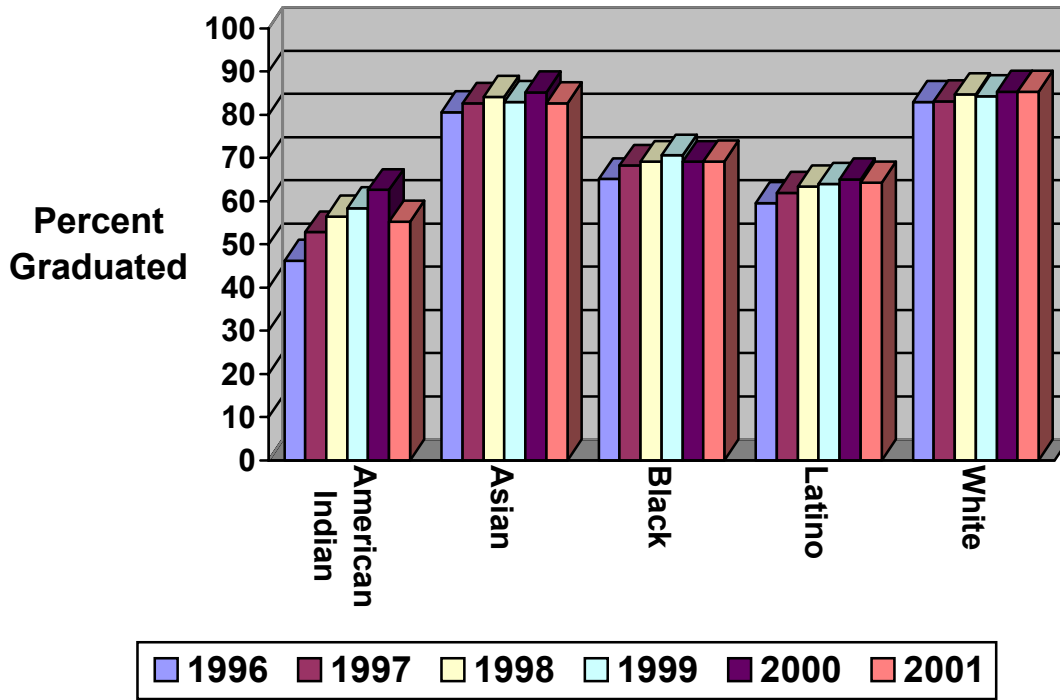
Figure 3.4 ACT Scores by Race and Ethnicity, 1995 and 2001



**American Indian results for 2001 were not reported to the Colorado Board of Education because of the small size of the tested population.

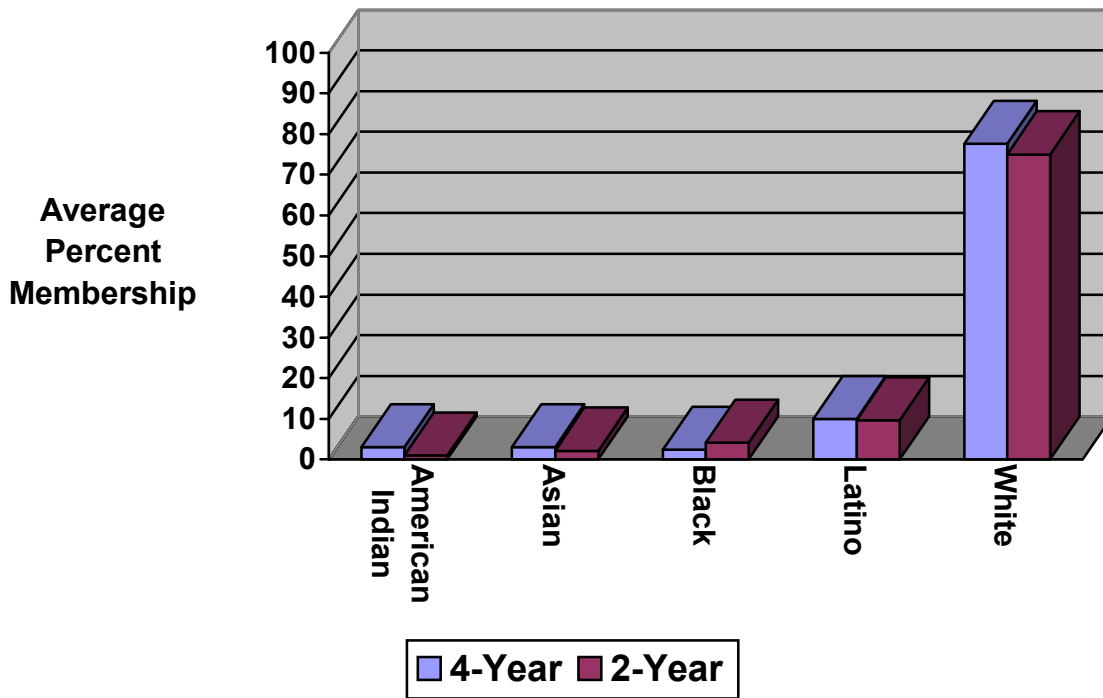
- Latino and black students' average composite scores dropped nearly half a point in 2001.
- With the exception of Asian students and Latino students in 2001, Colorado students have higher composite score averages than the national averages for each racial group.
- It is important to note that Senate Bill 00-186 requires that all Colorado Eleventh graders take the ACT to assess their respective schools. The first class required to take this exam is the class of 2002. These graphs do not reflect those scores.

Figure 3.5 Colorado High School Graduation Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 1996-2001



- With the exception of a drop in 2001, American Indian graduation rates have increased by nearly fifteen percent over the past five years.
- Black and Latino graduation rates remain around 65 and 60 percent, respectively, and have seen negligible increases over the past five years.

Figure 3.6 Public Higher Education Student Membership in Colorado, by Race and Ethnicity, Fall 1999



- Every group, except black Americans, has a higher percentage of students in 4-year institutions than 2-year institutions.
- Native Americans have an average percent membership in 4-year institutions that is twice as high as black Americans.

4. Labor and Economic Status

Patrick Carey, Joe Farar and Nathan Whitney

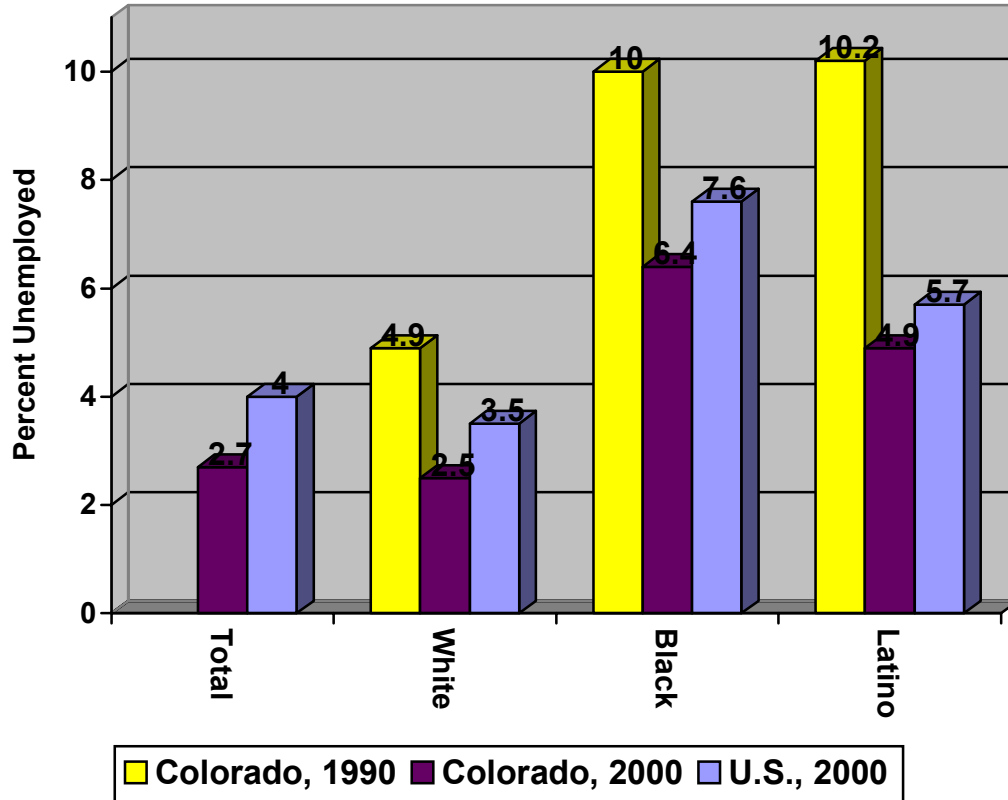
The labor and economic situation for racial and ethnic minorities in Colorado is better than the nation as a whole. The levels of poverty and unemployment are lower compared to the national averages. Although these levels have not reached the levels of the white population this would indicate that Colorado has made progress in providing for economic opportunities among the minority population relative to other states.

Better levels of minority participation in the work force indicate a labor environment in Colorado that is less prejudice than the labor environment of the nation. The unemployment rate for both the African American and Latino populations in Colorado is below that of the respective national rates. The national unemployment rate for Latino's was 5.7% while it was 4.9% in Colorado. The unemployment rate for African Americans was 7.6% nationally and 6.4% in Colorado. Both of these are higher than the white population, which had unemployment rates of 3.5% nationally and 2.5% in Colorado. The percentage of the population employed shows a smaller disparity between the races and is above national averages. The percentage of Hispanics employed was 69%, more than 4% higher than the national average. African Americans had an employment percentage of 68%, more than 7% above the national average. Whites had the highest employment rate of almost 71%. This shows a relatively small disparity between these racial and ethnic groups.

Lower poverty rates indicate a better chance for advancement. The poverty rate for African Americans in Colorado was less than 24%, which is 4% lower than the national rate. However, this rate is more than twice the poverty rate of whites, 10%. Except for the Asian population, women had higher poverty rates than men in Colorado by an average of 2.5%. American Indians had the highest poverty rate of any group with 26% and 30% for men and women respectively. This is followed by African Americans with 21% (men) and 27% (women).

There are some large disparities in the business ownership and management. This indicates that although minorities are participating in the work force they are not advancing to high positions. Though whites make up 77% of the population they own 90% of all businesses. Hispanics own more than half of the businesses owned by minorities. These minority owned businesses only make up 2% of all business sales. Whites have a strong dominance of managerial positions. All minorities combined only make up 5% of the managers in a few select sectors examined in this study.

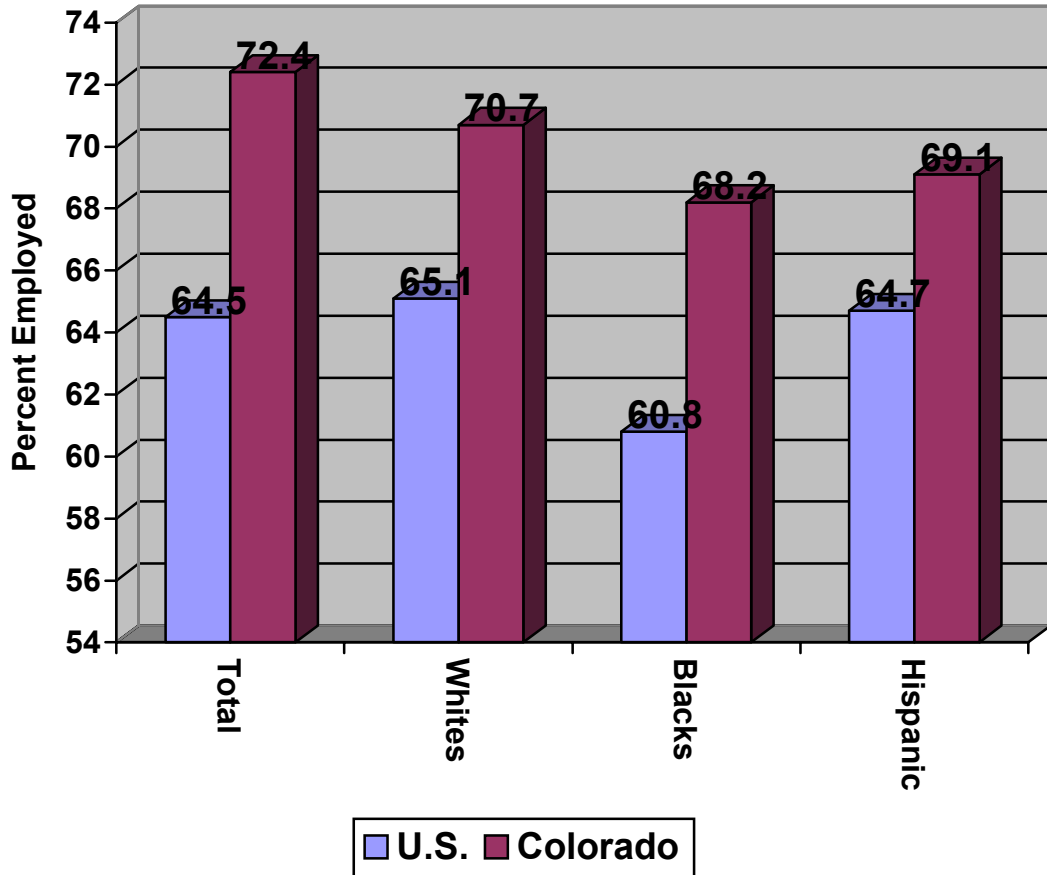
Figure 4.1 Unemployment Rates by Race and Ethnicity, in Colorado and the United States, 1990 and 2000



**Latinos are included in both white and black populations.*

- In 2000, black men are well under the national unemployment rate of 7.6%. People of Hispanic origin are also under the group's national average of 5.7%. Both groups experienced less unemployment in 2000 than in 1990.
- The unemployment rate of blacks is more than double the unemployment rate of whites in the state of Colorado.
- Latinos have an unemployment rate that is 1.9 points higher than whites.
- In Colorado, blacks, whites, Latinos have unemployment rates that are below the national average in 2000. But, there is a great disparity between the unemployment rates of whites and blacks.

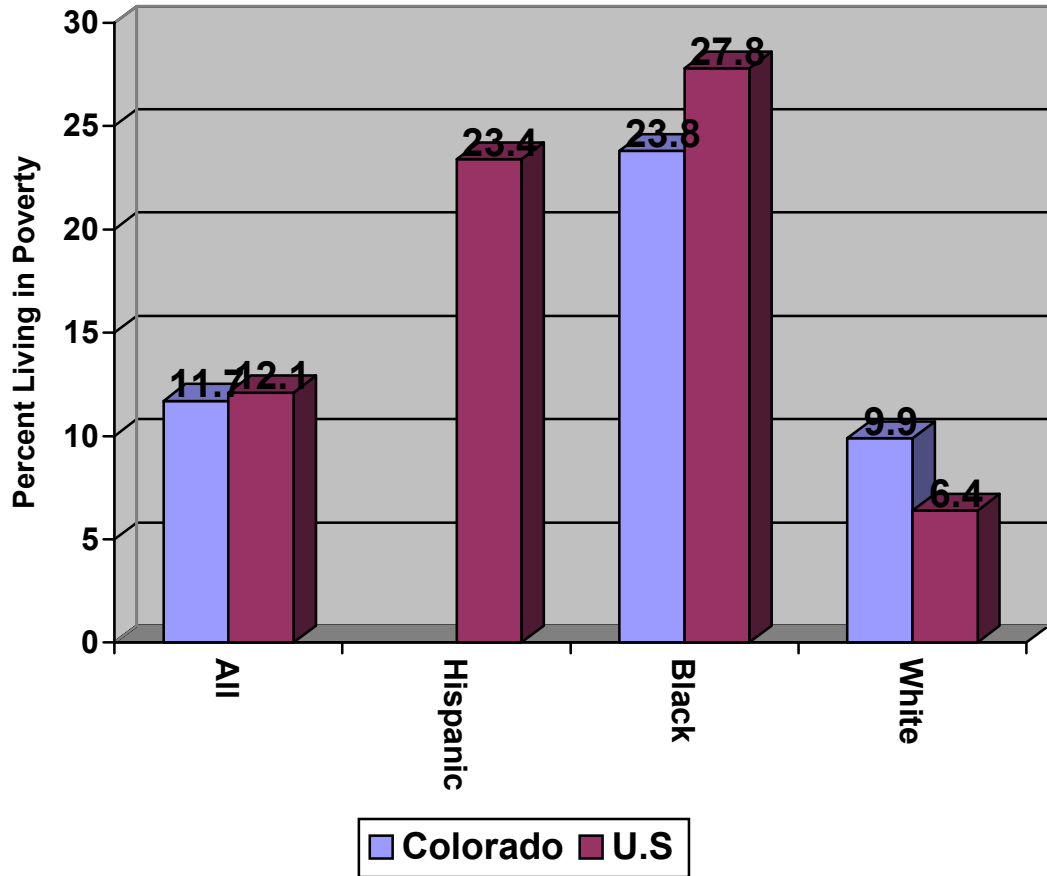
Figure 4.2 Employment Rates by Race and Ethnicity, for Colorado and the United States, 2000



**Hispanics are included in both black and white population groups.*

- Blacks have the lowest percentage employed and also have the smallest labor force at 78,000.
- All groups have a greater percent of their population employed than the national average.
- Whites and Hispanics have the greatest percentage of their population employed.

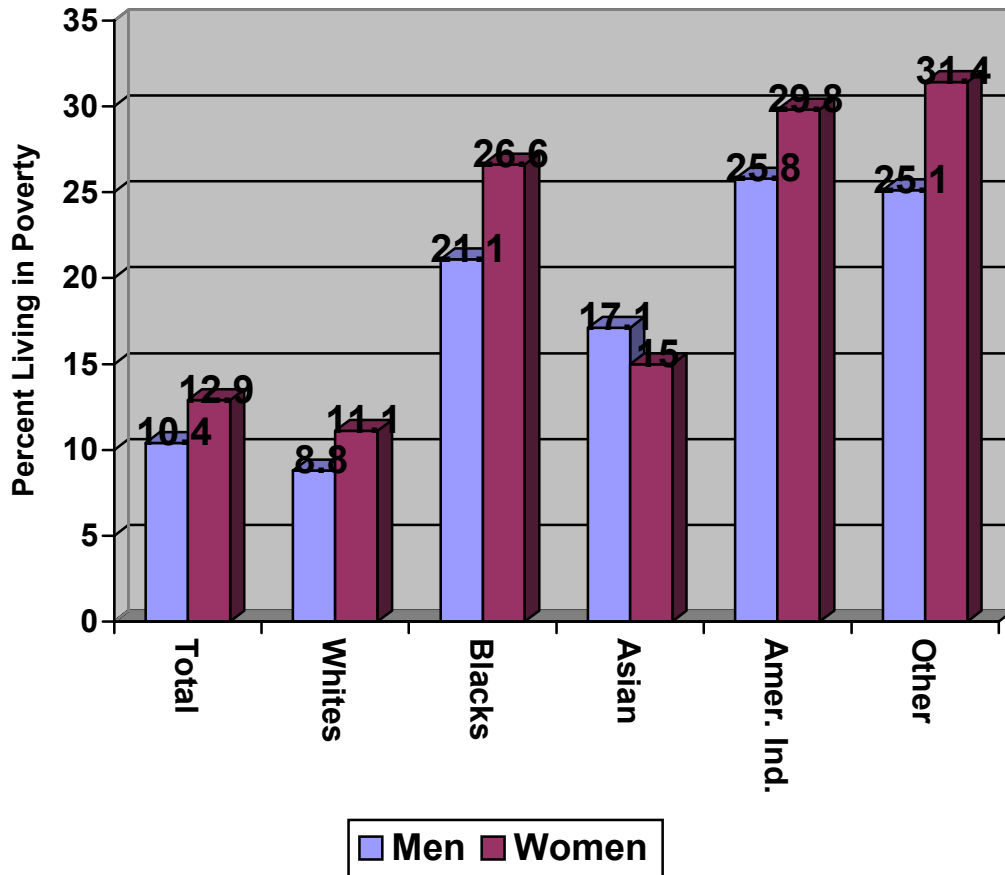
Figure 4.3 Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity, for Colorado and the United States, 1990



- Black poverty rates are almost 2.5 times that of whites in Colorado.
- Black poverty rates in Colorado are 4% lower than the national rate.
- Blacks have the highest poverty rates in Colorado of any racial group.*
- Hispanic poverty rates for Colorado were unavailable, but the national indicator is indicative of the relative poverty rates between Hispanics, blacks and whites in Colorado.

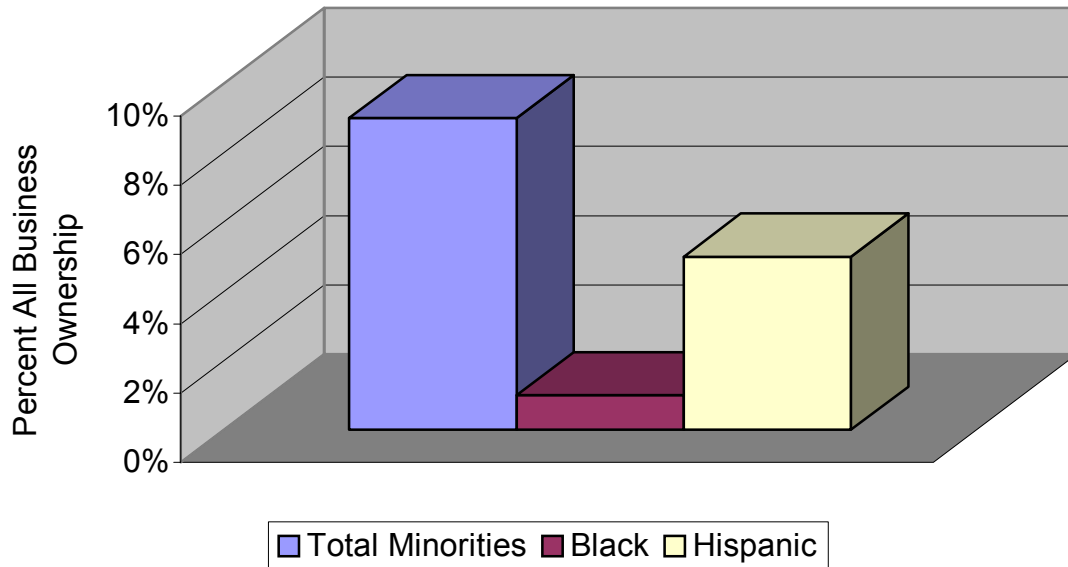
*The latest available state data was from the 1990 Census.

Figure 4.4 Poverty Rates by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex, Colorado, 1990



- In Colorado, both black men and women have poverty rates over 10% higher than whites.
- Indian, Eskimo, and Aleuts have the highest poverty rates of any single group. Men have a 25.8% poverty rate, and women have a 29.8% poverty rate.
- Asians and Pacific Islanders were the only group in which men had a higher poverty rate than women.
- Whites maintained the lowest poverty rates.

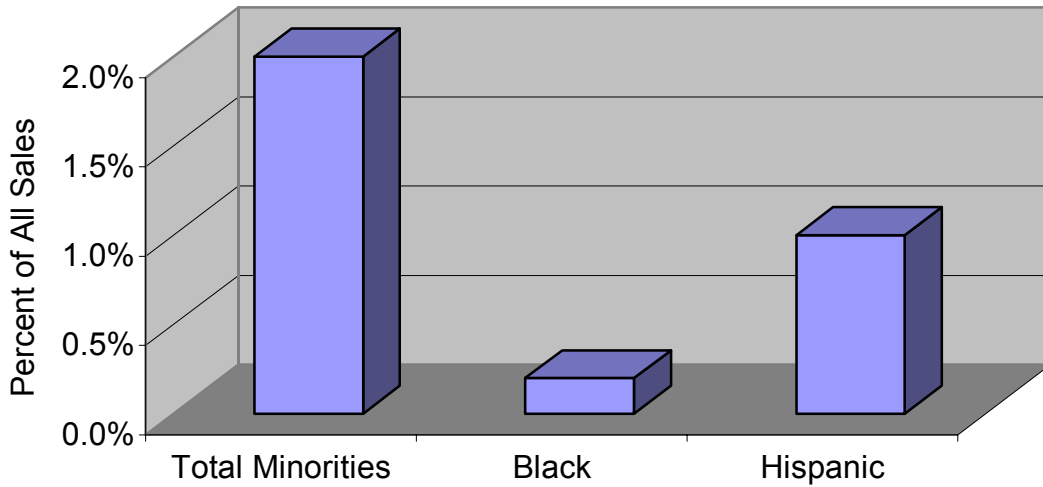
Figure 4.5 Minority Owned Businesses as a Percent of All Businesses in Colorado, 1997



- Minorities own 9% of all businesses in Colorado
- Of that 9%, Hispanics own more than half of those businesses, with 5% of all business owned by Hispanics in Colorado.
- Black-owned businesses account for only 1% of all businesses.

* Most recent data as of printing.

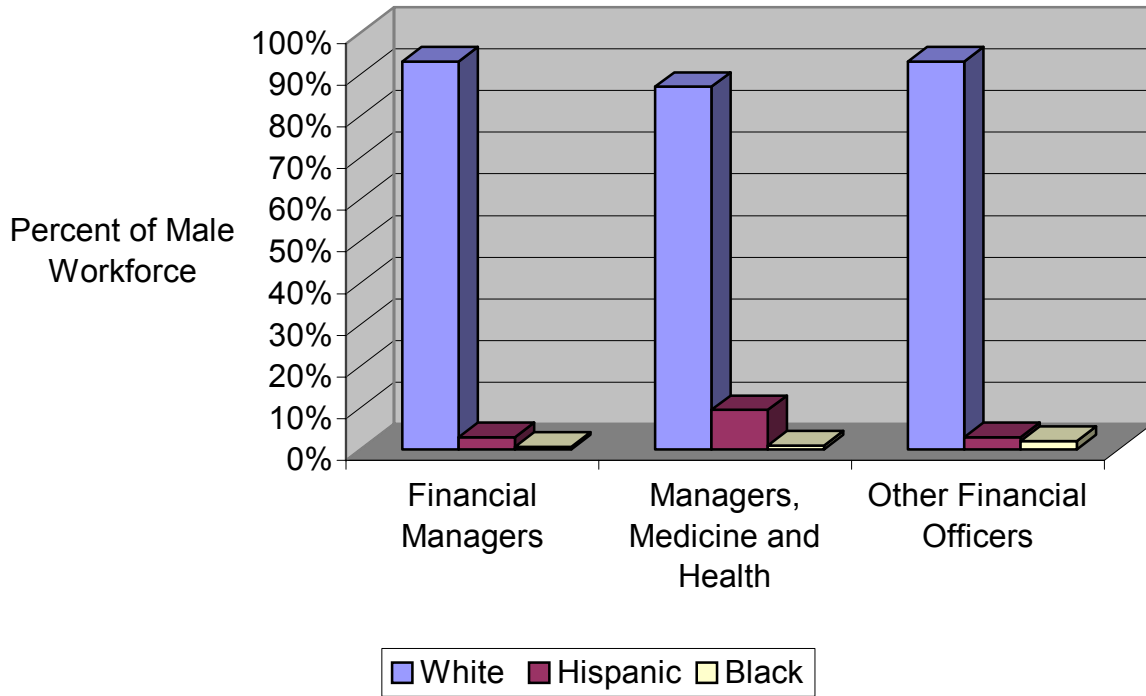
Figure 4.6 Sales and Receipts of Minority Owned Businesses as Percent of All Business, Colorado, 1997



- Minorities yield 2% of all sales and receipts, despite owning 9% of businesses in Colorado (see Figure 4.5).
- Hispanic owned businesses generated about 1% of all business receipts in Colorado.
- Blacks owned businesses yielded only 0.2% of all sales, only 1/5 of the proportion of businesses owned by blacks.

* Most recent data as of printing.

Figure 4.7 Male Management and Officer Positions, by Race and Ethnicity for Three Occupational Sectors, Colorado, 1993



- White males maintain over 85% of management positions in these fields.
- All minorities combined, occupy less than 5% of these positions, despite a population share of over 20%. *

* Most recent data as of printing.

5. Health

Johanna Topper

Health is an area of major concern for people throughout the world. It is an area that all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic background, have to deal with at many times during life. Americans often take for granted the ability to have health insurance or secure vaccinations for their children. Many would be surprised by the figures presented in this report concerning health.

In Colorado, Hispanics have the highest rate of adults without health insurance with 32.3 % uninsured. This is a large number and a surprising one in the modern world. When comparing Colorado to the United States, Colorado has a higher percentage of Hispanic adults without health insurance. Colorado has many metropolitan areas, and to find that 32.3% of any ethnicity's adult population is lacking health insurance is a discomfoting finding.

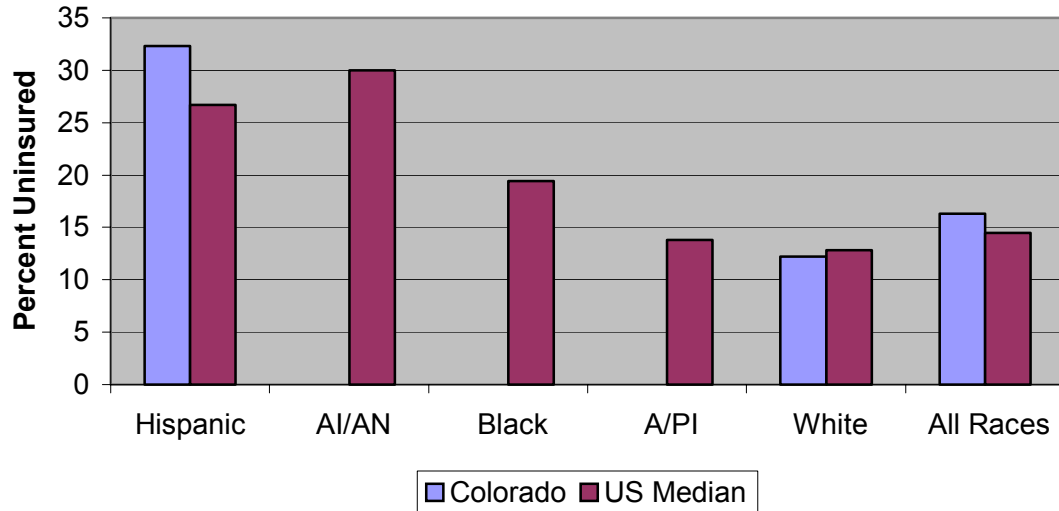
Colorado's percentage of white adults without health insurance, 12.2%, is slightly lower than the national average. Unfortunately, due to the sampling techniques employed to gather health insurance data, Colorado's population of African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, and Pacific Islander adults without health insurance is not available at this time. Overall, Colorado has a higher percentage of uninsured adults than the nation as a whole.

Another startling finding dealt with the number of infant deaths in Colorado. Colorado's Hispanic population had a large incidence of infant deaths, 7.3 per 1,000 live births, when compared to the United States. African Americans had the highest incidence of infant deaths, with 14 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is equal to the statistics for the United States. Hispanics, whites, Asians and Pacific Islanders follow African Americans. The data for American Indians and Alaska Natives is not available at this time. As a whole, Colorado has less infant deaths than the United States.

Teen pregnancy is another major concern facing the United States, as well as Colorado. Again, Hispanics have the highest rate of teen pregnancies in the state of Colorado, with 111 teen pregnancies per 1,000 live births. This translates to roughly 10% of all births to teen mothers. African Americans follow Hispanics with a teen pregnancy rate of 77.5 teen pregnancies per 1,000 live births. American Indians and Alaska Natives follow the African Americans in teen pregnancies, followed by whites and then Asians and Pacific Islanders. Colorado has a higher incidence of teen pregnancies among African Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Asians and Pacific Islanders than the United States. Over all, Colorado has a lower rate of teen pregnancies than the United States.

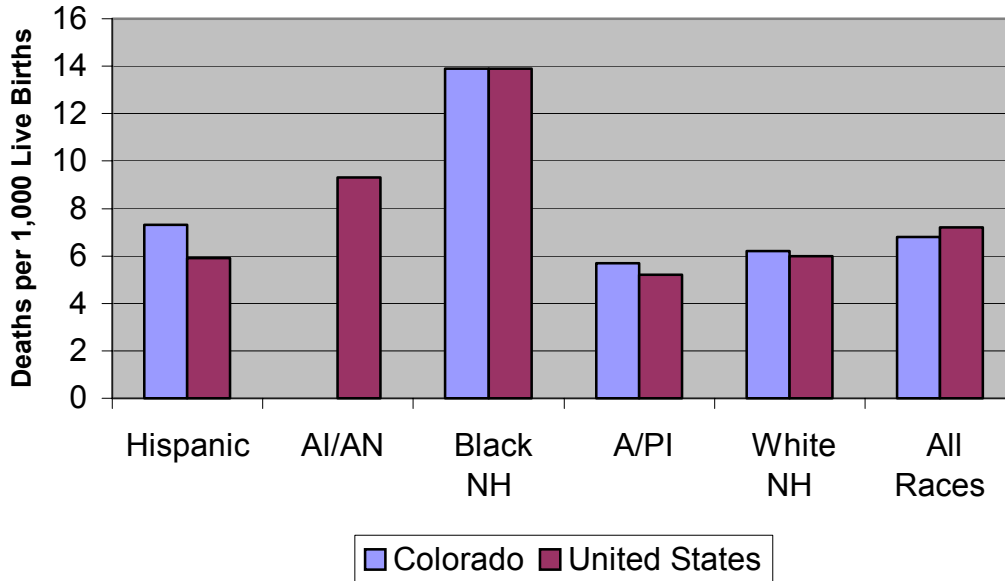
The indicators of health presented here show how much work Colorado's health care system needs. It is important to take notice of these statistics and begin to formulate plans that change these statistics for the groups most at risk. Something as important as this should be a major priority of all state as well as federal governments.

Figure 5.1 Prevalence of Uninsured Adults, by Race and Ethnicity, 1999



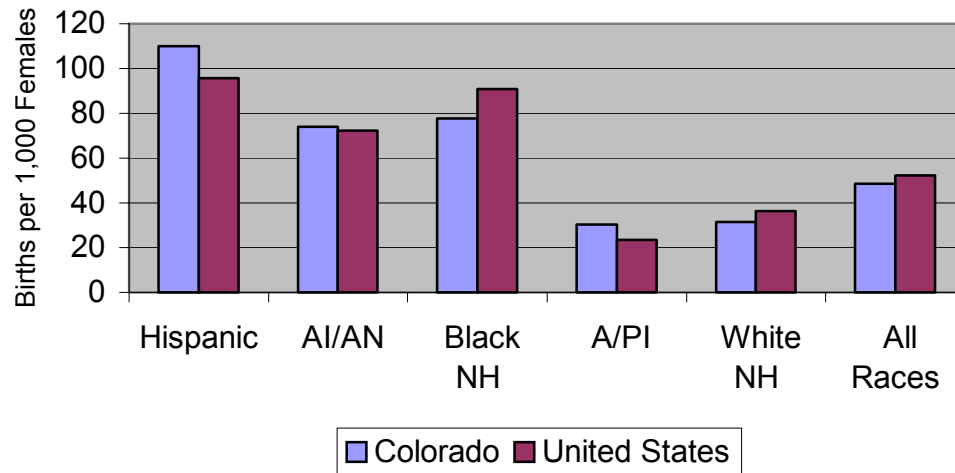
- The information for American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN), blacks, and Asian/Pacific Islanders (A/PI) is not available for Colorado
- Colorado has a higher percentage of Hispanics (32.3%) without health-care coverage than the nation (26.7%) as a whole
- When considering whites without health-care coverage, Colorado and the U.S. median are very close, Colorado with 12.2 % and the US with 12.8%
- In Colorado, the available data indicates that Hispanics have the highest rate of adults without health-care coverage, followed by whites.
- Considering all racial and ethnic groups, Colorado has a higher percentage of adults without health-care coverage compared to the US Median.

Figure 5.2 Infant Mortality Rates, by Race and Ethnicity, 1996-1998



- Infant mortality rates are measured as the number of deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Colorado's Infant Mortality Rate for Hispanics (7.3) is high compared to the national average (5.9).
- Colorado's Infant Mortality Rate for whites (6.2) is higher than the national average (6.0).
- Colorado and the United States have the same Infant Mortality Rate for the black population (13.9).
- In Colorado, blacks have the highest Infant Mortality Rate followed by Hispanics, whites, Asian and Pacific Islanders (A/PI), and American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN).
- Overall, Colorado (6.8) is below the national average (7.2) for Infant Mortality Rates when all groups are considered.

Figure 5.3 Birth Rates for Females Aged 15-19 by Race and Ethnicity, 1996-1999



- In Colorado, Hispanics have a much higher birth rate (111) compared to Hispanics across the United States (95.6).
- Colorado has higher birth rates for American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (A/PI) than the United States.
- Colorado has a relatively low teenage birth rate for blacks (77.5) compared to the African American population in the United States (90.9).
- Colorado's overall teenage birth rate is lower than the birth rate for the United States as a whole.

6. Crime and Criminal Justice

Samvel Tatevosyan

Crime is a crucial element that creates great difficulties for every individual and community in terms of a safe environment, health, and successful involvement in education. Despite the fact that the prison population has grown significantly during last twenty years, the number of crimes, after rising in the 1980s, has been generally declining.

The total number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of Federal or State adult correctional authorities was 1,366,721 at the end of 1999. During the last year the states and the District of Columbia added 31,591 prisoners, and the Federal prison system added 12,205 prisoners. Overall, the nation's prison population grew 3.4%, which was less than the average annual growth of 6.5% since 1990. During 1999 the prison population rose at the lowest rate since 1979 and had the smallest absolute increase since 1988. Figure 6.1 shows that the total number of inmates in Colorado correctional facilities is 17,150. Between January 1 and December 31 of 1999, Colorado experienced the increase in prison population of 9.5%. From 17,150 prisoners, Whites represent 45.3% which is less than 60.1% whites held in federal prisons; blacks represent 23.3%, which is also less than 38% of black inmates under federal supervision; Hispanics represent 28.5% of Colorado's prisons, American Indians 2.1%, Asian Americans 0.7%, others - 0.1% compared to 1.9% of inmates under federal supervision.

With the largest cities leading the way, the Nation's murder rate in 1997 fell to its lowest level in three decades. Much of the decline was in those cities with more than 1 million inhabitants, where the rate fell from 35.5 per 100,000 population in 1991 to 20.3 per 100,000 last year. The sharp increase in homicides in the late 1980s and much of the subsequent decline are attributable to a rise and fall in gun violence by juveniles and young adults, while non-gun crimes remained largely unchanged. From 1992 through 1998, there were 148,625 homicides in the United States among persons age 12 or older, an average of 21,232 homicides per year.

Violent victimization rates differed significantly across race/ethnicity categories. Figure 6.2 shows that the rate of whites being victims of homicides in Colorado is much higher than at the national level. Other racial and ethnic groups are at greater risk of homicide in Colorado. Black murder rates are below the national average. Note, however, that Hispanics are included in primarily in the white population in this data.

Over the past decade, Federal and State legislation has mandated the identification and reporting of hate crimes. Today nearly every state and the Federal Government has laws requiring sentencing enhancements for offenders who commit hate crimes. These incidents, also referred to as bias crimes, are

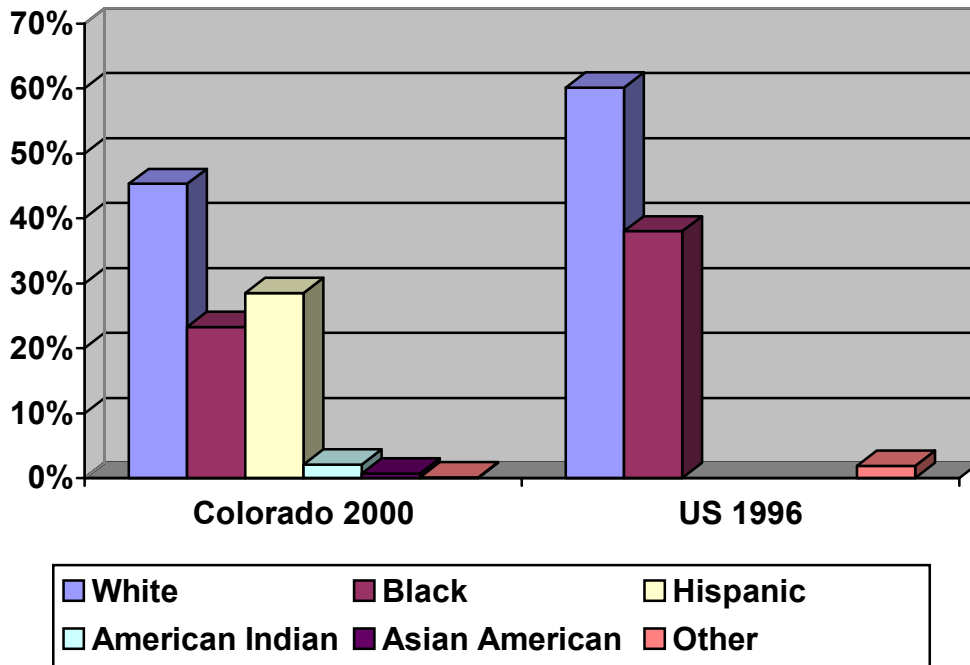
criminal offenses motivated by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity. Among all hate crimes incidents in the United States, 33% of known offenders were age 17 or younger; 29%, age 18 to 24; 17%, age 25 to 34; and 21%, age 35 or older. The majority of persons suspected of committing hate crimes both in Colorado and in the United States were white. Among those suspected of violent hate crimes in Colorado, 60.2% were whites and 12.7% were African Americans. In the United States offenders of violent crimes were 73% white and 25% African Americans.

The targets of hate crimes (Figure 6.3) were most commonly individuals as opposed to targets such as businesses or religious organizations. Overall, victims of bias crimes were relatively evenly distributed by age. The age of hate crime victims varied according to the nature of the offense, as a larger percentage of victims of violent hate crimes were young. Among all hate crimes incidents in the state of Colorado as well as in the United States, racially motivated hate crimes most frequently targeted blacks: 66% in Colorado, 35.6% in the U.S. 5% of hate crime targets in the state of Colorado were white, and 18.9% anti-White hate crimes were reported throughout the United States.

A note on current efforts to gather crime data.

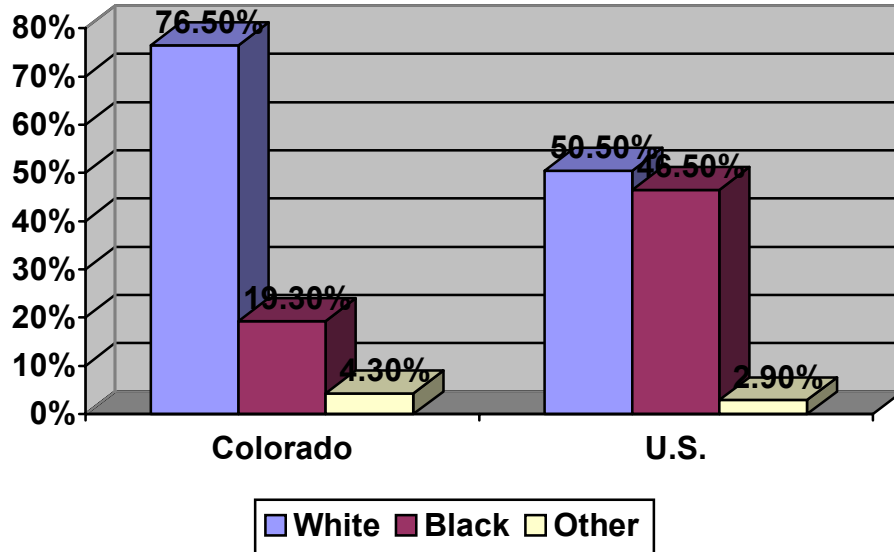
The Colorado Bureau of Investigation directs the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC), which is one of five member agencies of the Colorado Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (CICJIS). CICJIS creates a single, virtual criminal justice information system by utilizing middleware tools to connect the five participating agencies' databases to a central machine that can be accessed by any of the five legacy systems' front-ends. The system has improved public safety by making higher quality information available to criminal justice agencies and to individual decision-makers. It also aids decision-making by increasing the availability of statistical measures for evaluating public policy; makes workers more productive by reducing redundant data collection and input efforts, and provides access to more timely, accurate, and complete information for both criminal justice agencies and the public.

Figure 6.1 Racial and Ethnic Composition of Adults in Correctional Facilities in Colorado and U.S.



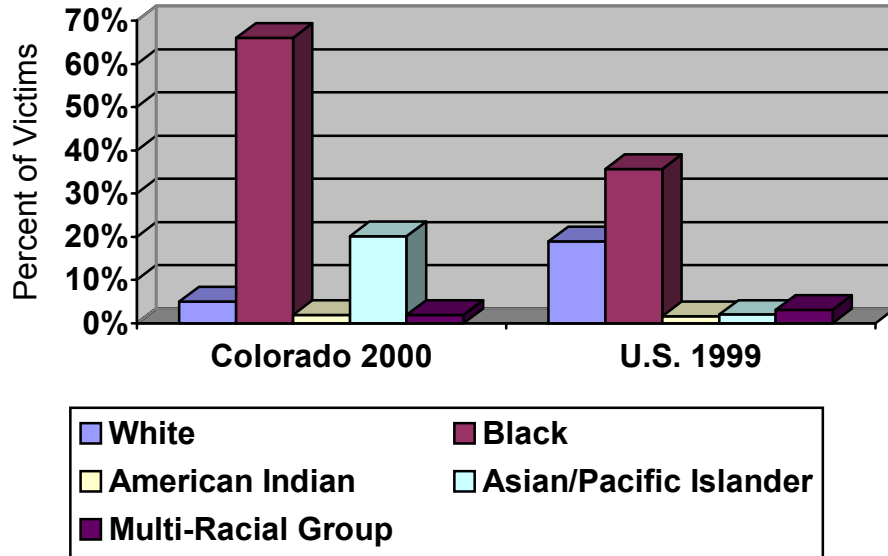
- The number of white Americans held in correctional facilities in Colorado is 7,769 (45.3% of the total prison population), African Americans – 3,996 (23.3%), Hispanics – 4,888 (28.5%), American Indians – 360 (2.1%), Asian Americans – 120 (0.7%), others – 17 (0.1%).
- At the national level, the total increase in prison population from 1995 to 1996 is 3.4% (187,900 people); from this number there are 51.9% white (97,600 people), 40.2% black (75,500 people), and 7.9% (14,800 people) from other racial and ethnic groups.
- Blacks and Hispanics are over-represented in Colorado's prisons and at the national level relative to each group's proportion of the general population.
- State and Federal inmate counts exclude those under state or federal jurisdiction that were housed elsewhere, as in county or local jails.

Figure 6.2 Homicide Victims in Colorado and U.S., by Race and Ethnicity, 1999



- Number of homicides in Colorado has grown from 1998 from 2.3% to 4.3% in 1999.
- The percentage of homicide victims that are white in Colorado is 26% higher than national level.
- While black homicide rates are lower in Colorado than in the nation as a whole, the rate is still five times the black proportion of the population in the state.
- Colorado's percentage of homicide victims of other races is 1.4% higher than national levels.

Figure 6.3 Victims of Hate Crimes in Colorado and the U.S., by Race and Ethnicity



- Hate crimes against whites in Colorado make up 5% of all hate crimes reported; anti-Black hate crimes make up 66% of such crimes; anti-American Indian hate crimes represent 1.9%; anti-Asians/Pacific Islanders hate crimes are 20.1% of such crimes; and anti-multicultural attacks comprise 1.9% of these crimes.
- Blacks are particularly over-represented as victims of hate crimes in Colorado, making up 66 percent of all victims and comprising just over 4% of the population.
- Percentage of anti-White hate crimes reported in the United States is 18.9; anti-black is 35.6 %; anti-Asian is 2.0%; anti-American Indian is 1.6%; anti-Multiracial is 3.1%. Anti-Asian hate crimes are much higher in Colorado than in the nation as a whole.

7. Housing

Surea Jafarzadeh

Where people live affects many different aspects of their lives including health, employment opportunities, educational advancements, and overall outcomes. Neighborhoods have long been segregated by race and Hispanic origin. Since the Fair Housing Act of 1968, residential segregation has decreased, but still remains high. In Colorado, racial and ethnic minorities comprise approximately 24 percent of Colorado's population. The racial and ethnic composition of neighborhoods can play an important role in determining how much interaction individuals have with members of other racial and ethnic. According to the Council of Economic Advisors' *Changing America*, the high percentage of racial segregation can be attributed to many things: (1) low minority population (2) not as many educational opportunities for minorities and (3) not as many job opportunities due to the lack of educational opportunities.

Within the State of Colorado there are 1,808,037 housing units. This equals 1.56% of the total housing units in the United States (115,904,641). Approximately 67% of the housing units in Colorado are owned while 66.2% housing units are owned in the United States as a whole. Homeownership rates of Hispanics and blacks can be compared to the national-level. The Hispanic homeownership rate is 46.7% in Colorado, similar to the 47.3% of Hispanics who own homes nationally. Black homeownership rates are 47.6% of housing units in Colorado, while at the national level the figure is 47.7%. Black homeownership rates are almost the same at the state-level as they are at the national-level. Asian and American Indian samples are too small to determine a state-level estimate of homeownership.

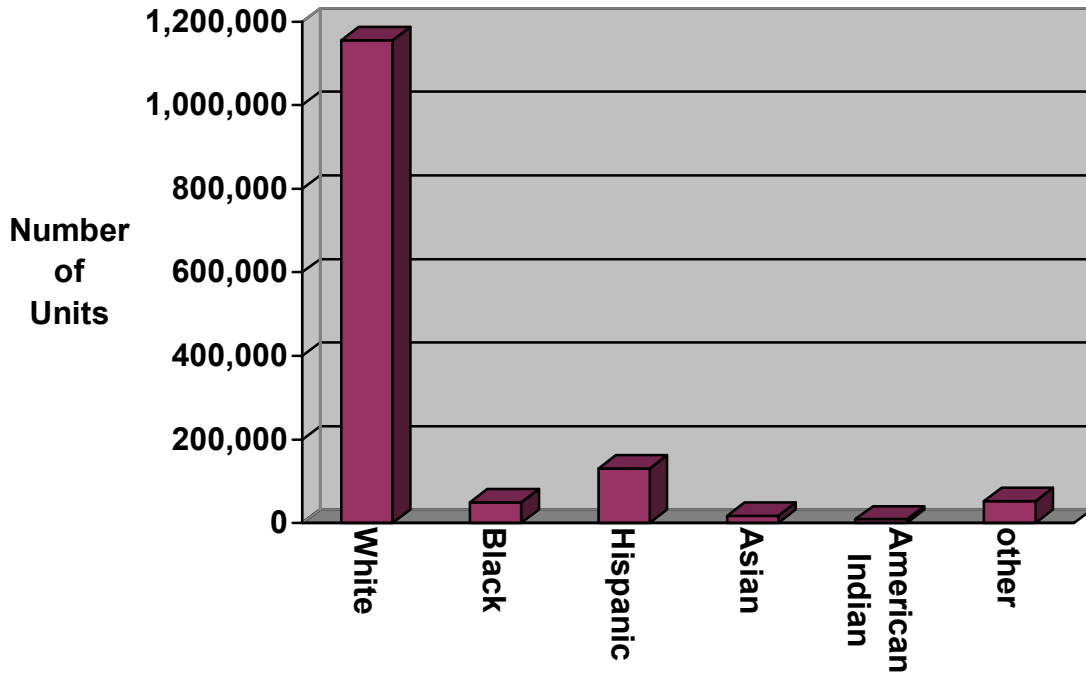
Some of the housing units that people occupy have physical problems. Moderate or severe physical housing problems exist all over the country. Blacks and Hispanics experience the most problems compared to other racial and ethnic groups. White non-Hispanic people live in the best housing conditions.

Homelessness is also a problem that varies by race and ethnicity. According to "The Changing Face of Homelessness" the federal definition of a homeless person is: Persons, who lacked a permanent place to live, were using services for the indigent, were living in welfare hotels and motels, and were doubled up temporarily with family and friends and identified themselves as being homeless and were therefore requesting emergency shelter and services. In the Denver metro area, whites make up the largest proportion of the homeless population, but the figure is still well below the white population in the state. Hispanics (whites and other races) comprise about 30% of the homeless population. With

Hispanics maintaining 17.1% of Colorado's population, the homeless rate is about twice what would be expected if the figure reflect the population in a proportionate manner.

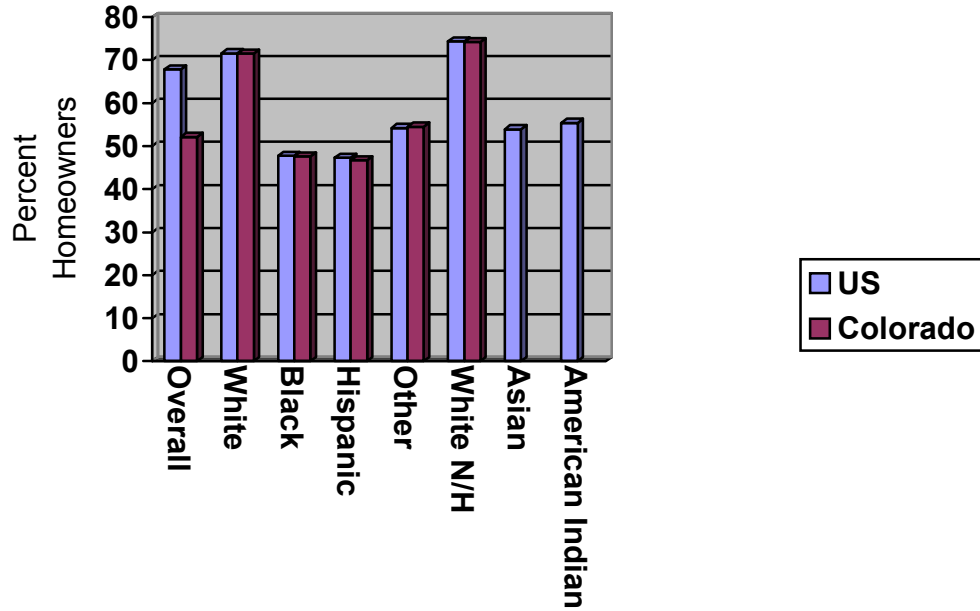
Minority groups in 2002 still face unfair treatment with regards to housing and the neighborhoods they would like to live in. Since the Fair Housing Act there have been minor changes but nothing monumental. Colorado is no exception.

Figure 7.1 Number of Housing Units Occupied, by Race and Ethnicity of Occupants, 1990



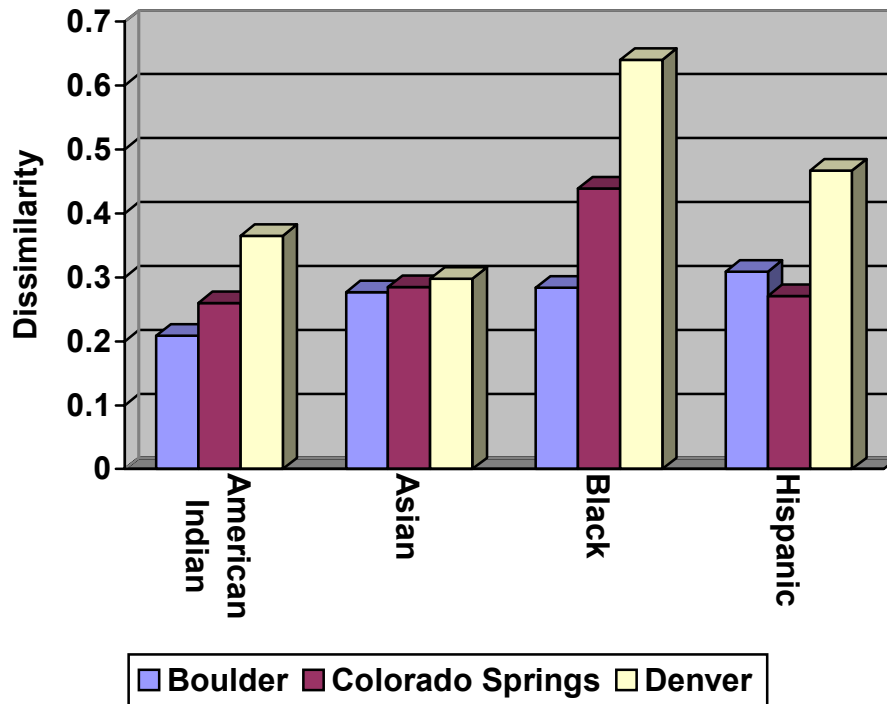
- Whites are higher than any other group on both the Colorado scale and the national scale (not shown).
- Hispanics occupy more housing units than blacks in Colorado, a pattern that differs from the national level.

Figure 7.2 Homeownership Rates in the U.S. and Colorado, by Race and Ethnicity, 1990



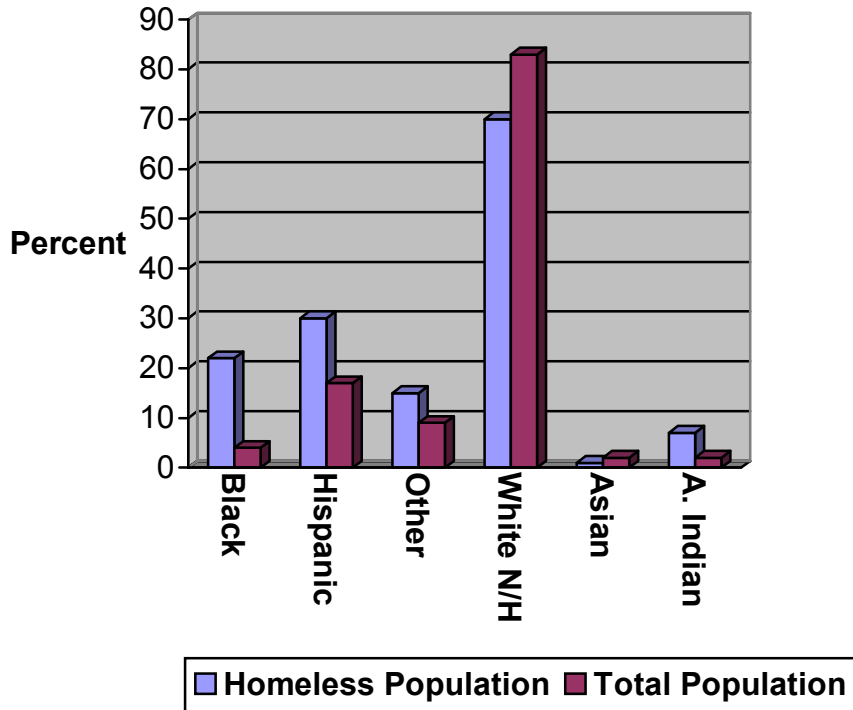
- Hispanic and black percentages are approximately the same on both a national level and a state level when it comes to homeownership rates.
- White non-Hispanic (White N/H) rates and all whites have higher homeownership rates than all other groups examined.

Figure 7.3 Residential Segregation in Major Metropolitan Areas, 1990



- The measure of residential segregation is the dissimilarity index, which is the proportion of each group that would be required to move if all neighborhoods were to have racial and ethnic groups represented proportionately to the overall population in the area. The scale of the index is from 0, no segregation, to 1, all groups are completely segregated.
- Overall, segregation levels are not as high as many major metropolitan areas in the United States.
- Blacks have the highest dissimilarity level in the Denver area (.640) and the Colorado Springs area (.439).
- Hispanics have the highest dissimilarity level in the Boulder area at .309.
- American Indians have the lowest dissimilarity level in Boulder with .209.
- Asian Americans have approximately the same dissimilarity level in all three areas ranging from .277 to .298.

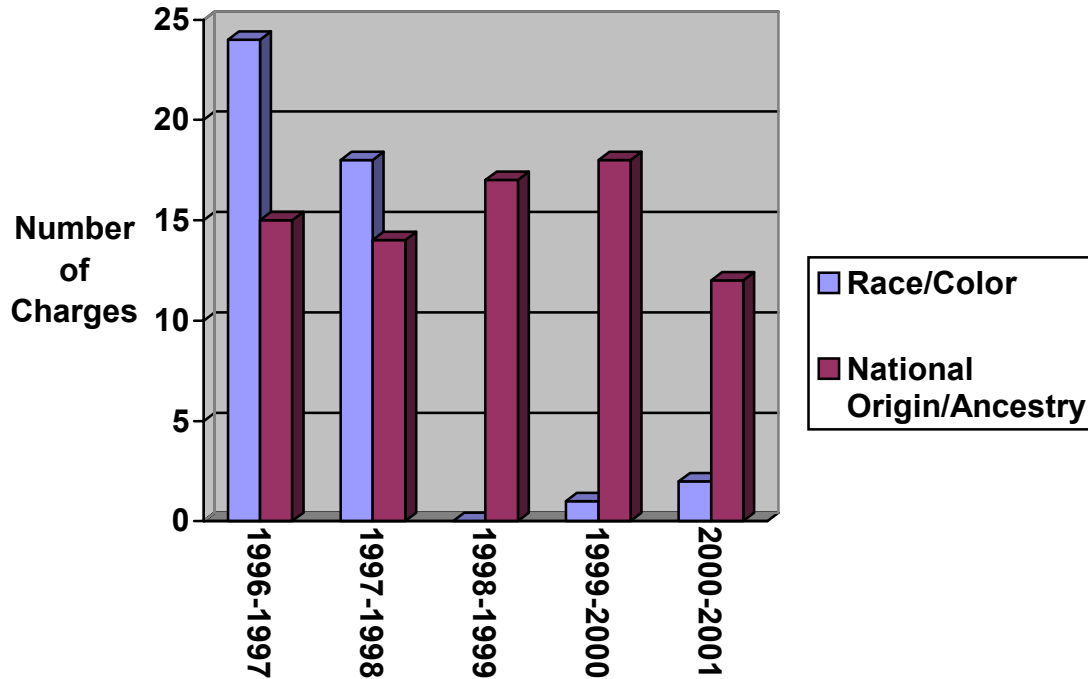
Figure 7.4 Homeless Population in the Denver Metro Area, by Race and Ethnicity, 2001



Source: Homeless in the Denver Metropolitan Area; The Changing Face of Homeless

- White non-Hispanics have an alarming percentage of homeless, but both groups represent a smaller proportion of the homeless population than the general population.
- Hispanics and blacks actually have a very high homeless percentage relative to each groups proportion of the general population, with Hispanic and black proportions of the homeless population two and five times more than their proportion of the population, respectively.
- A Total of 9,670 persons in the metropolitan area were counted as homeless on October 23, 2001. Of the total homeless persons counted 3,024 were single adults, 2,728 were adults or youth headed families, over one-third -- 3,522 -- were children in families, and 396 were single youth on their own between the ages of 10 and 21. (Homeless in the Denver Metropolitan Area).

Figure 7.5 Number of Complaints of Discriminatory Housing Practices in Colorado based on Race or Color and National Origin, 1996-2001



- The number of charges based on race or color that were filed with the Colorado Civil Rights Division has drastically decreased over the years.
- In 1996-1997, 24 charges were filed based on race or color; while in 2000-2001, only two charges were filed.
- While there has been a decrease in terms of charges that were based on race or color, there has been an increase and decrease in the number of the charges that were based on national origin or ancestry.
- In 1996-1997 there were 15 charges based on national origin in Colorado. In 1998-1999, the such charges went up to 17. The following year, the total number of charges was 18, dropping to 12 in 2000-2001.

8. Political Participation

Jordan Gold and Gerritt Koser

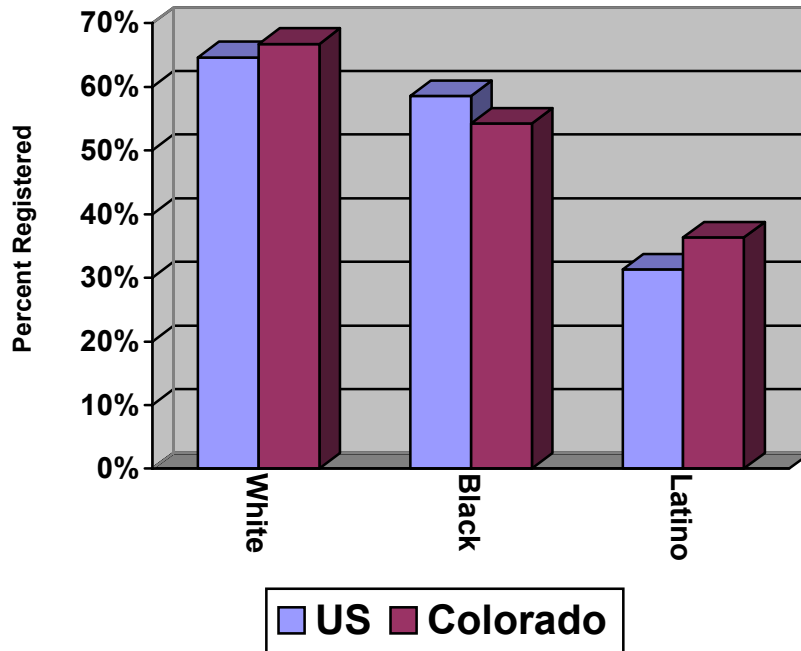
In recent years, the State of Colorado has seen an increase in the number of racial and ethnic minority residents. The increase in the minority population can be seen primarily through the rising number of Hispanics moving into Colorado. Although Hispanics are the ethnic group that has most notably affected the politics of Colorado, the population of black and Asian citizens is rising as well.

Within the State of Colorado there are several minority elected officials that hold prominent and high profile positions. At the local level, Mayor Wellington E. Webb, an African American, is currently serving his third term as the mayor of the State's capital, Denver. At the state level, Joe Rogers is the youngest Lieutenant Governor in the United States, and one of the highest ranking black elected officials in the country. Currently, Stan Matusnaka, who is Asian American, holds the position of the State of Colorado's Senate Majority Leader. Attorney General Ken Salazar, a Hispanic, is a fifth generation Coloradoan and was elected the 36th Attorney General for Colorado. On the National level, Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell represents Colorado, and is the only American Indian currently serving in the United States Senate.

A trend is forming inside the political circle in Colorado. For the past decade the numbers of both blacks and Hispanics in Colorado has increased steadily. While these groups' populations tend to be growing larger, political participation has not followed quite as steadfastly. For Hispanics, the past ten years has seen an increase in overall voter participation from voter registration to voter turnout. In 1994, Hispanic voter registration in Colorado was 5% higher than the National average at 36.3%. Nearly half of those Hispanics registered did not vote with a reported voting rate of 17.2%. These figures have changed substantially in more recent elections. In 1998, Hispanic registration rates were 17.4% higher than the national average at a rate of 47.2%. 28.4% of those registered voted, an 11.2% increase from 1994. Recent years have not been quite as favorable for black citizens within Colorado. In particular, voter registration has decreased substantially since 1994. Voter turnout rates for blacks have also taken a steep decline. The registration rates in Colorado in 1994 were 4.3% lower than the national average at 54.2%. Also below the national average was the voting participation rate at 35.9%, a number 1.2% lower than the national levels. The number of African Americans registered has taken a sharp decline to 42.80%, 17.4% lower than the national average. The voting rates were also substantially lower at 28% of those registered voting. This number was 11.6% below the national average. These rates reflect non-Presidential elections which tend to draw fewer voters across all groups.

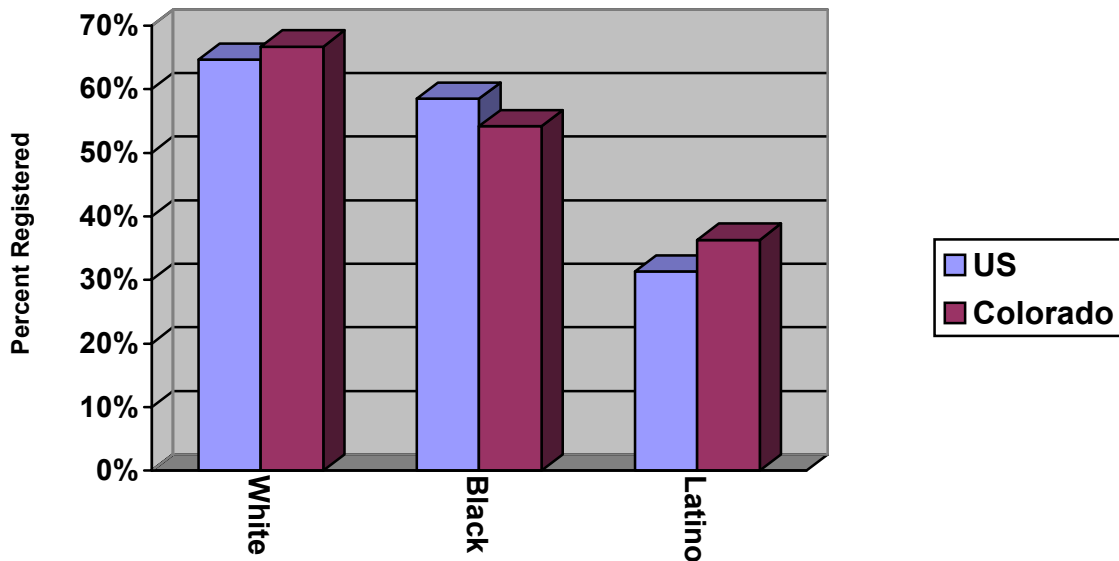
While the majority of indicators of political participation for Hispanics have increased, the number of Hispanic Elected Officials over the past ten years has decreased significantly. Over a span of eleven years the number of Hispanic elected officials has decreased from 213 in 1991 to 149 in 2000. This loss of 64 Hispanic elected officials that has occurred in an eleven-year span may be misleading. This loss has occurred primarily at the local level, while the number Hispanic elected officials at the state and national level has increased slightly. For blacks the number of elected officials has remained relatively steady, increasing from 17 in 1991 to 21 in 2000.

Figure 8.1 Voter Registration by Race and Ethnicity, 1994



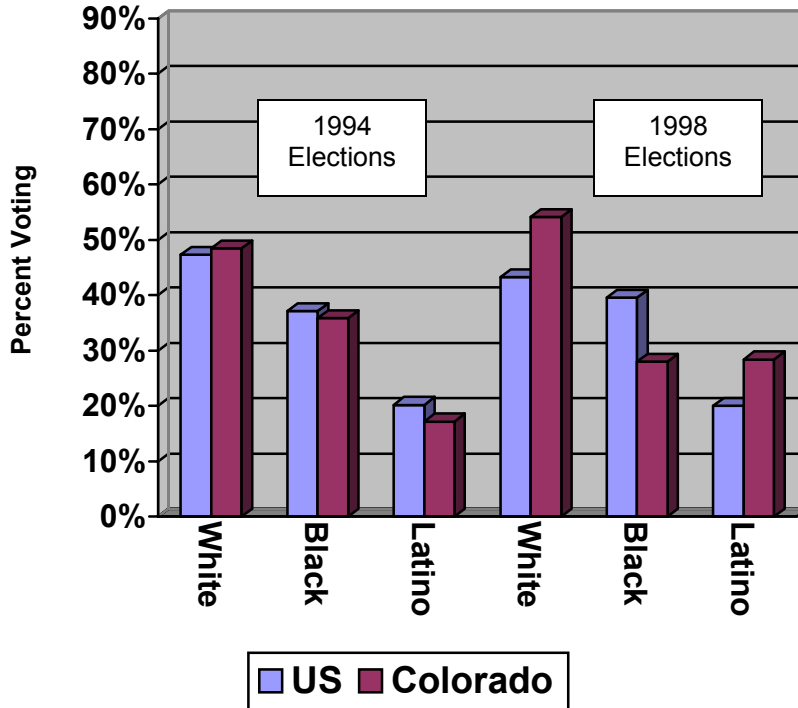
- In 1994, the white population of Colorado had a 66.7% registration rate, a number that was 2.1% higher than the National measure of 64.6%. These numbers were the highest for any segment of the population. Black citizens held the second highest voter registration rate, at both the national level and within Colorado. The 54.2% rate of registration within Colorado was 4.3% lower than the national average of 58.5%.
- The Latino population of Colorado had a 5% higher rate of registration than the national average of 31.3%.
- The statistics within Colorado show that the white and Latino populations were registered at a higher rate than the National level and the black population was registered at a lower level.

Figure 8.2 Voter Registration by Race and Ethnicity, 1998



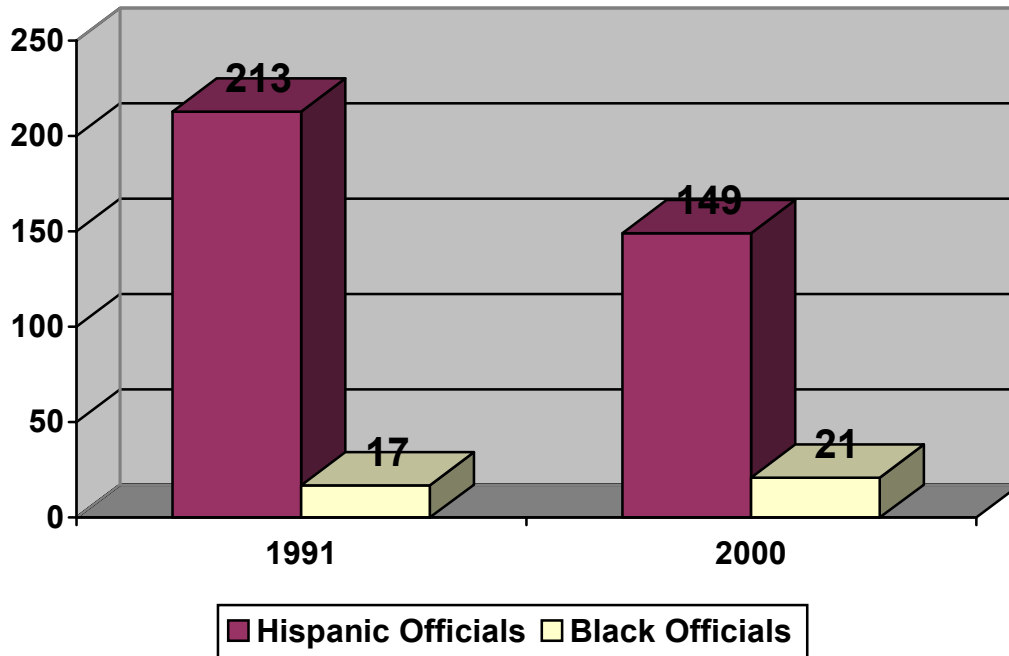
- In 1998, the white population within Colorado maintained the lead within Colorado with a 70.6% registration rate, a number 6.7% higher than the 63.90% national registration rate.
- The black population within Colorado had a substantial decline in registration from 54.2% in 1994 rate to a 42.8% rate in 1998. The black registration rate in Colorado of 42.8% was substantially lower than the National average of 60.2%, a 17.45% difference. The Latino registration rate increased from 36.3% in 1994, to 47.2% in 1998, a 10.9% positive change. Additionally, the Latino rate was 13.5% higher than the national average.
- Latinos in Colorado overtook blacks in terms of the percentage of registered voters. This, combined with a larger population, makes the Latino population a potential force in Colorado politics. Whites and Latinos in Colorado held higher registration rates than the national average. The black populations' registration percentages showed a decrease at both the state and national level.

Figure 8.3 Reported Voting by Race and Ethnicity, 1994 and 1998



- The voting rate for whites in Colorado was 54.1% a 5.6% increase from 1994. The 54.1% rate was 10.8% higher than the national rate of 43.3%. The voting rate for blacks in Colorado decreased by 7.9% from the 1994 rate of 35.9% to 28% in 1998. The black voting rate in Colorado of 28% was also 11.6% below national figures. Latino voting rates in Colorado increased by 11.2% from 1994 to 1998 to a 28.4% rate. The 28.4% rate was 8.4% above the national number that had declined .20% to 20% nationally.
- The rate of voting by Latinos became higher than that of blacks in Colorado, showing an increase in Hispanic electoral activity in Colorado.
- Whites in Colorado had the highest voting rate, numbers higher than the national level. Blacks and Hispanics were below national levels and significantly lower than white levels.
- An exit poll taken by Voter News Service for the 2000 presidential election had Hispanics voting 70% for the Democratic candidate, and 25% for the Republican candidate in Colorado. Unfortunately, data are not available to determine black voting patterns in the 2000 election. National surveys report about 90% of African Americans supported Democrat Al Gore.

Figure 8.4 Number of Black and Hispanic Elected Officials in Colorado, 1991 and 2000.



- The substantial decrease of 64 Hispanic elected officials can be accounted for at the local level, which experienced a loss of 63 Hispanic elected officials.
- The increase of 4 black elected officials can be seen as a 23.5% change over an eight-year span.

9. Data Appendix

The Data Appendix lists the sources of the data presented in each figure. The sources are listed along with a link to electronic sources. The web links are current as of March 2002.

Sources for figures from Chapter 2

All figures in this Chapter are based on data from the following source:

U.S. Census Bureau. Data provided by The State of Colorado's Department of Local Affairs:
<http://www.dlg.oem2.state.co.us/demog/CensusData/2kRace.htm>.

Sources for figures from Chapter 3

- 3.1 Colorado Department of Education, "Statewide General", Colorado Education Statistics, 2/01/02, http://www.cde.state.co.us/stats_index.htm

Colorado Department of Education, "Assessment Results: CSAP State Summaries", Student Assessment, 2/01/02,
http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_assess.htm

- 3.2 Colorado Department of Education, "Assessment Results: CSAP State Summaries", Student Assessment, 2/01/02,
http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_assess.htm

- 3.3 Colorado Department of Education, "Assessment Results: ACT & SAT State Summaries", Student Assessment, 2/01/02,
http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_assess.htm

- 3.4 Colorado Department of Education, "Graduation Statistics: Specific Areas", Colorado Education Statistics, 2/01/02,
http://www.cde.state.co.us/stats_index.htm

- 3.5 Colorado Commission on Higher Education, "Four-Year Colleges and Universities: Student Demographics Four-Year Colleges", and "Two Year Colleges: Student Demographics Two-Year Colleges", Consumer Guide to Colorado's Higher Education Institutions 2001, 2/16/02,
<http://www.state.co.us/cche/conguide/2001/index.html>

Sources for figures from Chapter 4

- 4.1 Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Statistical Information for Affirmative Action Programs, April 1990, <http://www.coworkforce.com/lmi/aa/coaa.htm> .
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, <http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab2.htm> .
Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/lau/table/12full00.pdf>.
- 4.2 Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/lau/table/12full00.pdf>.
- 4.3 U.S. Census, State Poverty Rates by Sex and Race, 1989, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/census/cphl187.html>.
U.S. Census, Poverty Status of Families by Type of Family, Presence of Related Children, Race and Hispanic Origin: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/histpov/hstpov4.html> .
- 4.4 U.S. Census, State Poverty Rates by Sex and Race, 1989, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/census/cphl187.html>.
- 4.5 U.S. Census, 1997. <http://www.census.gov/epcd/mwb97/co/CO.html>.
- 4.6 State of Colorado, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1993, <http://govinfo.libraryorst.edu/cgi-bin/eo-list?lilenan=01state.cos> .

Sources for figures from Chapter 5

- 5.1 National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics.
- 5.2 National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC, available at: http://jointcenter.org/DB/table/census_2000/Alcoa/health/infant_mortalityratesnumber.XLS
- 5.3 National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC, available at: http://jointcenter.org/DB/table/census_2000/Alcoa/health/BirthRate15_19_98.XLS

Sources for figures from Chapter 6

- 6.1 Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sourcebook for Criminal Justice Statistics, 2000, <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
-

- 6.2 Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Homicide Trends 1976-1999, http://www.jointcenter.org/DB/detail/state_level.html - CRIME
- 6.3 2000 Colorado Hate Crime Report, http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2000/supplemental_reports/hate_crime.htm

Sources for figures from Chapter 7

- 7.1 U.S. Bureau of the Census; 1990 census of population and housing summary
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsTable?_lang=en&_vt_name=DEC_1990_STF1 ;
- 7.2 U.S. Bureau of the Census; Moving to America-moving to homeownership:
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/homeown/tab5.html>
- 7.3 U.S. Bureau of the Census; Residential Segregation Table:1990; Boulder, Colorado Springs and Denver, Colorado
<http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/hhes/resseg/segtable.pl>
- Also see: United States Bureau of the Census, Residential Segregation, 1990; <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/resseg.html>
- 7.4 Homelessness in the Denver Metropolitan Area, October 2001,
http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/ohr/shhp/PDF_FILES/01_Final_Report.pdf .
- 7.5 Colorado Civil Rights Division and Commission, 2001 Annual Report,
<http://www.dora.state.co.us/civil-rights/annualreports/2001annualreport.pdf>

Sources for Figures from Chapter 8

- 8.1 U.S. Census Bureau, Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1994,
<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/voting/work/tab04.txt>
- 8.2 U.S. Census Bureau, Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, for States: November 1998
<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/voting/cps1998/tab04.txt>
- 8.3 Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, for States: November 1998
<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/voting/cps1998/tab04.txt>
-

Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1994
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