

## **The Changing Face of New Jersey Is More Diverse Than Ever**

by Sen-Yuan Wu

Look at the people around you. The diversity you're seeing is a hallmark of the Garden State according to the 2010 Census. New Jersey continues to be one of the most racially and ethnically diverse states. The latest figures showed that in New Jersey between 2000 and 2010:

- The increase in the Hispanic population was greater than the total population increase.
- The fastest growing racial group was Asian, which increased by 51.1 percent.
- 2.7 percent of New Jerseyans reported being of two or more races.
- The largest increases in the black population occurred in Burlington, Middlesex and Union counties.
- Non-Hispanic whites make up nearly 60 percent of the state's total population.



### **New Jersey is a Multicultural State**

Clearly, New Jersey is a multicultural state comprised of many racial and ethnic groups. The long-lasting influx of international immigrants from Latin America and Asia has shaped the state's racial and ethnic composition since 1970. Despite declining numbers, non-Hispanic whites accounted for nearly 60 percent of the state's total population, as of 2010. However, five counties have become "majority-minority" because more than 50 percent of their residents were people other than single-race non-Hispanic whites by 2010. These

"majority-minority" counties and their percentages of minority population are: Hudson (69.2%), Essex (66.8%), Passaic (54.7%), Union (54.6%) and Middlesex (50.8%). Hudson and Essex were the only two "majority-minority" counties

in 2000. Sussex had the state's lowest percentage of minority population in both 2000 (6.6%) and 2010 (11.2%).

### **Hispanics and Asians Increased Substantially in New Jersey**

According to the 2010 Census, the number of Hispanics (who may be of any race) and Asians increased substantially in New Jersey during the 2000-2010 decade, reflecting the state's popularity as a destination for foreign immigrants and the relatively high fertility rate among immigrants. (About 56% of Hispanics were born in the US, while 72% of Asians were foreign born.) Hispanics outnumbered African Americans to become New Jersey's largest minority group soon after the 2000 Census.

### **Hispanics Account for all of the State's Population Growth**

Persons of Hispanic origin (or Latinos) increased by 39.2 percent in New Jersey

*Persons of Hispanic origin increased by 39.2 percent since 2000; the state's net gain of Hispanics was greater than its total population increase for the decade.*

from 2000 to 2010. The state's net gain of 437,953 Hispanics in the decade was greater than its total population increase of 377,544, as persons not of Hispanic origin declined (-60,409). Hispanics represented 17.7 percent of the state's population in 2010, up from 13.3 percent in 2000.

More than two-thirds of the state's Hispanic population resided in six counties. Hudson and Passaic counties continued to have the largest number and proportion of Hispanics in their population – 42.2 percent and 37.0 percent, respectively, as of 2010. Essex, Middlesex, Union and Bergen counties also had more than 100,000 Hispanic residents. Together, these six counties accounted 67.7 percent of the state's total Hispanic population. The Hispanic population grew in every county in New Jersey between 2000 and 2010. Gloucester and Warren counties more than doubled their Hispanic population in the past decade. Hudson County's 10.6 percent growth rate for Hispanics was the lowest in the state. Bergen County had the largest numeric gain (+53,904) during the 10-year period.

## Some New Jerseyans are Multiracial

Approximately 2.7 percent (or 240,303 persons) of New Jersey's population reported two or more races in the 2010 Census, up from 2.5 percent in 2000. The majority of New Jersey's multi-racial population was: white and some other races (60,186), African-American and white (49,511) Asian and white (40,703), or African-American and some other races (15,777).

There were many more Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders in combination with one or more of the other five races listed (9,956) than persons reported as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone (3,043). American Indian and Alaska Native also has a higher population in combination with other races (41,690) than one race alone (29,026) in New Jersey. The number of whites in combination with other races (181,747) was greater than any other race combination. However, they accounted for just 3 percent of total persons reported as white alone or white in combination. About 7.3 percent of blacks and 8.7 percent of Asians identified themselves as multiracial.

Counties with the largest multiracial population were Hudson (27,827), Essex (24,804), Middlesex (23,917) and Bergen (22,710). Hudson County's 4.4 percent multiracial population was the highest proportion among New Jersey's 21 counties while Hunterdon County's 1.3 percent was the lowest proportion.

## Asians Were the Fastest Growing Racial Group

Asians were by far the state's fastest growing racial group between 2000 and 2010 in the state, increasing by 51.1 percent (or 245,450 persons). At 725,726, they represented 8.3

**New Jersey Population by Race and Ethnicity: 2000 to 2010**

	Population		Change 00 to 10	
	2000	2010	Number	Percent
New Jersey	8,414,350	8,791,894	377,544	4.5
Population by Race				
One Race	8,200,595	8,551,591	350,996	4.3%
White	6,104,705	6,029,248	-75,457	-1.2%
Black	1,141,821	1,204,826	63,005	5.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	19,492	29,026	9,535	48.9%
Asian	480,276	725,726	245,450	51.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3,329	3,043	-286	-8.6%
Some Other Race	450,972	559,722	108,750	24.1%
Two or More Races	213,755	240,303	26,548	12.4%
Population by Ethnicity				
Hispanic (any race)	1,117,191	1,555,144	437,953	39.2%
Non-Hispanic	7,297,159	7,236,750	-60,409	-0.8%
Population by Age				
18 Years and Over	6,326,792	6,726,680	399,888	6.3%
Under 18 Years old	2,087,558	2,065,214	-22,344	-1.1%

Source: US Census Bureau

percent of New Jersey's total population in 2010, up from 5.9 percent in 2000.

More than one in every two (53.7%) Asians lived in just three counties in 2010 — Middlesex (173,293), Bergen (131,329) and Hudson (84,924). Asians more than doubled their numbers in Warren and Gloucester counties. Their growth rate ranged from 21.6 percent in Essex County to 115.2 percent in Warren County. In 2010, Middlesex County had the highest percentage of Asian residents (21.4%), followed by Bergen (14.5%), Somerset (14.1%) and Hudson (13.4%) counties. Asians were the largest racial minority group in Bergen, Middlesex and Somerset counties. In Middlesex County, Asians also outnumbered the Hispanic population.

### African Americans Grew Faster Than the Total Population

The number of blacks or African Americans alone increased in New Jersey from 1,141,821 in 2000 to 1,204,826 in 2010, a gain of 63,005 (or 5.5%). The proportion of blacks in the state in-

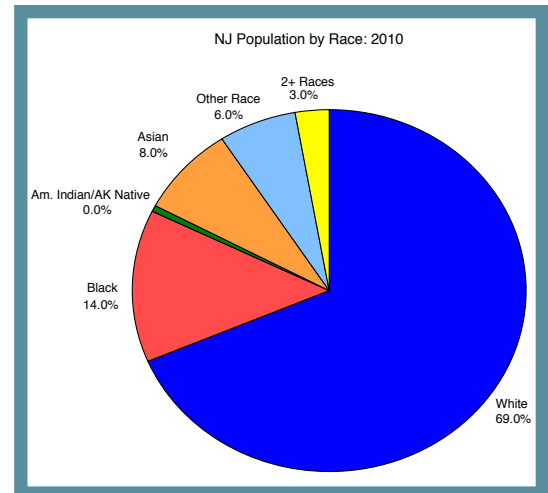


creased somewhat from 13.6 percent to 13.7 percent from 2000 to 2010.

The largest increases in the state's black population since 2000 occurred in Burlington (+10,434), Middlesex (+9,995) and Union (+9,720) counties. Together, these three counties accounted for 48 percent of the state's total black population increase. The

black population decreased in six counties. Despite a loss of 6,845 African Americans, Essex still had the highest number and proportion of black residents (40.7%). Union and Camden counties also had more than 100,000 African American residents, as of

2010. About 45 percent of the state's black population resided in these three counties. Sussex had the lowest percentage of blacks (1.8%) among the state's 21 counties.



### American Indians and Alaska Natives Grew Substantially

The American Indian and Alaska Native population grew substantially (48.9%) in New Jersey in last decade. However, this group accounted for only 0.3 percent of the state's total population in 2010, up from 0.2 percent in 2000. The American Indian and Alaska Native population increased in almost every county except Hunterdon (-2) during the 200-2010 period. Sixty percent of the state's American Indian and Alaska Native population resided in Hudson, Passaic, Essex Middlesex, Union and Bergen counties.

### Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population Shrinks in New Jersey

Very few Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders reside in New Jersey, and their number is declining — from 3,329 in 2000 to 3,043 in 2010. They accounted for 0.03 percent of the state's total population. Hudson had the largest number of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders (344) among the 21

counties. Their population grew in eight counties, led by Burlington (52.1%) and Warren (57.9%).

### White Population Declines Somewhat in the State

The state's white alone population declined somewhat (-75,457 or -1.2%) since 2000. The decline was most substantial in Bergen (-42,533), Middlesex (-25,709) and Camden (-25,367) counties. However, the white population increased in 11 other counties, led by Ocean (+49,186). The white's share of county population ranged from 42.6 percent in Essex County to 93.5 percent in Sussex County.

The decline of the white population was caused by the substantial decline of the non-Hispanic whites (-342,331 between 2000 and 2010). In contrast, the

state had a net gain of 266,874 Hispanic white persons – a 48.7 percent growth since the 2000 Census.

### Data Availability

State, county and municipal population counts by race, Hispanic origin and age (18 and over) from the 2010 Census are available on the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Labor Market Information web page - [2010 Census Data for New Jersey](#). For more information, contact New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, P. O. Box 388, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0388.

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**Proportion of Minority Population by County  
2000 and 2010**

