

# The Changing Demographics of Connecticut - 1990 to 2000

## *Part 1: Comparing Connecticut to National Averages*



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## Introduction

This report uses data gathered by the U.S. Census Bureau in the 1990 Decennial Census and the 2000 Decennial Census to investigate demographic and socioeconomic changes in the State of Connecticut between 1990 and 2000. More recent data from estimates and/or projections are not used as they may have an unacceptable level of error or uncertainty.

The report focuses on age, race, income, educational attainment, home ownership, and the prevalence of poverty.

Some paragraphs are preceded with reference numbers such as 1-B. These numbers refer to the figure/s that coincide with the discussion in the corresponding paragraph.

## Did Connecticut's Population Look Like the Rest of the United States? (Figures 1-A, 1-B, 2-A, 2-B)

### 1990 Decennial Census

The population of Connecticut was 3,287,116 on April 1, 1990. Connecticut residents represented 1.3% of the total population of the United States. In other words, 13 out of every 1000 American residents lived in Connecticut.

1-B. Connecticut's adult population (25 years and over) represented 66.7% of the total state population. Children (17 years and under) comprised 22.8% of the population. The remaining category of residents, young adults (18-24 years) accounted for 10.5% of the population.

Nationally the corresponding percentages were adults 63.7%, children 25.6%, and young adults 10.8%.

The median age of Connecticut's population was 34.4 as compared with a national median of 32.9. Connecticut's

population was **older** than the national average.

2-B. Connecticut's racial and ethnic composition consisted of 83.8% White (non-Hispanic), 6.5% Hispanic, 7.9% Black or African-American (non-Hispanic), and 1.8% were Other (non-Hispanic including Asian, Native American, and Pacific Islander).

2-A. Nationally, the corresponding percentages were: 75.6%, 9.0%, 11.8% and 3.6%. In 1990, Connecticut had **lower** percentages of **non-White** residents than the national averages.

9,10. Review "Bridging" in the Methodology section for a complete understanding of how the different 1990 and 2000 census race categories were constructed and correlated to allow for comparison.

### 2000 Decennial Census

The population of Connecticut was 3,405,565 on April 1, 2000. Connecticut residents represented 1.2% of the total population of the United States. In other words, 12 out of every 1000 American residents lived in Connecticut.

1-B. Connecticut's adult population (25 years and over) represented 67.3% of the total state population. Children (17 years and under) comprised 24.7% of the population. The remaining category of residents, young adults (18-24 years) accounted for 8% of the population.

Nationally the corresponding percentages were adults 64.7%, children 25.7%, and young adults 9.7%.

The median age of Connecticut's population was 37.4 as compared with a national median of 35.3. Connecticut's population was **older** than the national average.

2-B. Connecticut's racial composition consisted of 78.3% White (non-Hispanic), 9.4 % Hispanic, 9.4% Black or African American (non-Hispanic), and 3% were Other (non-Hispanic including Asian, Native American, and Pacific Islander).

2-A. Nationally, the corresponding percentages were 70.1%, 12.6%, 12.6% and 4.8%. In 2000, Connecticut had **lower** percentages of **non-White** residents than the national averages.

### Changes from 1990 to 2000

1-A. The population of Connecticut increased by only 118,449, between 1990 and 2000, from 3,287,116 to 3,405,565. This was only a 3.6% increase in population, which was a **small**



The total population of the U.S. grew 13.2% from 1990 to 2000.

The total population of Connecticut grew only 3.6% from 1990 to 2000.

The U.S Census defines racial categories as "socio-political constructs and should not be interpreted as being scientific or anthropological in nature."

Hispanics became the largest minority in Connecticut in 2000.

The median age in Connecticut in 2000 was 37.4 years. Nationally, the median age was 35.3 years.

**increase** when compared with the national increase of 13.2%.

This lower population growth resulted in Connecticut losing one Congressional Representative in the Congressional Redistricting for the 108<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress (see CPR publication OP 2002-01 *The Demographics of Congressional Redistricting in Connecticut, 108<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress - January 2003*).

**1-B.** Both Connecticut and the nation have seen an aging of the population. Nationally the median age rose 2.4 years from 32.9 to 35.3 years. In Connecticut the median age of residents increased by 3.0 years from 34.4 to 37.4 years. Connecticut still remained older than the national average.

Between 1990 and 2000, Connecticut's population aged at a rate greater than the national average. In part, this was due to a decrease in the young adult group (18-24 years). The percentage of Connecticut's adults (25 years and over) and children (17 years and under) both increased slightly. Connecticut's **growth in children** is above the national rate and the **loss of young adults** is also greater than the national rate. A more in depth report on the changing age structure of Connecticut's population is forthcoming.

**2-A,2-B.** Connecticut's racial composition between 1990 and 2000 transitioned to include more non-Whites. However, in 2000 the state still had more non-Hispanic White residents (78.3%), as a percentage of the total population, than the national average (70.1%).

Between 1990 and 2000, the non-Hispanic White population in Connecticut declined by 3.2% percent from 2,754,184 to 2,665,437. Connecticut had 88,747 fewer non-Hispanic Whites in 2000 than in 1990. There was also a corresponding drop of 5.5%, as a percentage of the total population, from 83.8% to 78.3% in the percentage of non-Hispanic Whites statewide.

Nationwide, between 1990 and 2000, the non-Hispanic White population grew by 4.9% from 188,128,296 to 197,317,014. There were 9,188,718 more non-Hispanic Whites nationwide in 2000 than in 1990. However, the percentage of the total nationwide population that was non-Hispanic White dropped 5.5% from 75.6% to 70.1%.

In review, both nationwide and statewide, the percentage of the total population that was non-Hispanic White dropped a similar **5.5%**. In Connecticut, there was a loss of non-Hispanic Whites in absolute numbers. However, nationwide there was an

increase in non-Hispanic Whites in absolute numbers.

Non-Hispanic African American/Black residents of Connecticut increased to approximately 9.4% of the total population. This was an increase of 22.2% among the non-Hispanic African American/Black population. This percentage increase in Connecticut is similar to the national increase of 21.1%.

The Hispanic population of Connecticut increased to approximately 9.4% of the total population. This was an increase of 50.3% among Hispanics. This percentage increase was below the nation average increase of 57.9%.

In Connecticut, Hispanics replaced non-Hispanic African Americans/Blacks as the largest minority in 2000. Although both groups represented approximately 9.4% of the population, Hispanics (320,323) just slightly outnumbered non-Hispanic African Americans/Blacks (318,619) in absolute numbers.

The population attributed to the non-Hispanic **Other** race category increased in Connecticut by 71.6% and became approximately 3.0% of the total population. This percentage increase was well above the national average of 48.9%. This was the **fastest growing** racial category in Connecticut in terms of percentage of the population - not as absolute numbers.

**9,10.** Review "Bridging Race Categories" in the Methodology section for a complete understanding of how the different 1990 and 2000 census race categories were constructed and correlated to allow for comparison.

The changing racial and ethnic composition of Connecticut's towns will be covered in much more detail in a **forthcoming report** by the Connecticut State Data Center.



Per capita income is the average income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular area or group.

The median income is the midpoint for measuring household and family income. One-half of all households and families have incomes that are below the median/midpoint. The other half of households and families have incomes that are above the median/ midpoint.

A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit such as a house, apartment, mobile home, group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters.

# Did Income in Connecticut Keep Pace with the National Averages? (Figures 3-A to 3-F, 4)

## 1990 Decennial Census

**3-A.** The per capita income for the state of Connecticut in 1989 was \$20,189. Nationally, per capita income was \$14,420. Connecticut's per capita income was **1.4** times greater than the national average.

**3-B,3-C.** The median household income in Connecticut was \$41,721 and the median family income was \$49,199. Nationally, median household income was \$30,056 while median family income was \$35,225. Connecticut household income was **1.39** times greater and family income was **1.4** times greater than the corresponding national median.

**4.** In Connecticut, 64.3% of families had two or more workers. Connecticut was the **9<sup>th</sup> highest** ranked state in the country in percent of families with two or more workers. The national average was 58.9%.

## 2000 Decennial Census

**3-A.** The per capita income for the state of Connecticut in 1999 was \$28,766. Nationally, per capita income was \$21,587. Connecticut's per capita income was **1.33** times greater than the national average.

**3-B,3-C.** The median household income in Connecticut was \$53,935 and the median family income was \$65,521. Nationally, median household income was \$41,994 while median family income was \$50,046. Connecticut household income was **1.28** times greater and family income was **1.31** times greater than the corresponding national median.

**4.** In Connecticut, 59.97% of families had two or more workers. This percentage made Connecticut the **18<sup>th</sup> highest** ranked state in the country in percent of families with two or more workers. The national average was 56.9%.

## Changes from 1990 to 2000

In order to meaningfully compare 1989 income dollars with 1999 income dollars we need to adjust 1989-dollar values for inflation. The inflation factor, 1989 to 1999, for the United States is 1.34 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Inflation Calculator). This means that \$1.00 in 1989 would purchase goods worth \$1.34, on average, nationwide in 1999. The corresponding inflation factor for Connecticut is 1.28263 (Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis). This means that \$1.00 in 1989 would purchase about \$1.28 worth of goods in Connecticut in 1999. Apparently, between 1989 and 1999, the rate of inflation in Connecticut was lower than the national average.

**3-D.** Between 1989 and 1999, after adjusting for inflation, per capita income increased nationally by \$2,264 (11.7%) from \$19,323 to \$21,587. In Connecticut, **per capita income** increased by \$2,871 (11.1%) from \$25,895 to \$28,766.

Connecticut residents had a **larger** increase in **absolute dollars** but it was **lower** when measured in terms of **percentage**.

**3-E.** Looking at the increase in median household income between 1989 and 1999, after adjusting for inflation, there was a national increase of \$1,179 (4.3%) from \$40,275 to \$41,994. Connecticut had a corresponding increase of \$422 (0.8%) from \$53,513 to \$53,935. The increase in **median household income** in Connecticut was **lower** than the national average when measured both in **absolute dollars** and as a **percentage**.

**3-F.** The increase in **median family income** between 1989 and 1999, after adjusting for inflation, provides another variable for measuring income gains. National median family income increased by \$2,844 (6.0%) from \$47,202 to \$50,046. In Connecticut the increase was \$2,417 (3.8%), going from \$63,104 to \$65,521. Once again, the increase in Connecticut was **lower** than the national average in both **absolute dollars** and as a **percentage**.

**3-A to 3-F.** Between 1989 and 1999, Connecticut's income decreased relative to national trends. Connecticut residents still had higher incomes, in absolute dollars, than the national figures in 1999. However, the **difference** between national **incomes** and Connecticut incomes **decreased**. In 1989, per capita income in Connecticut was 1.40 times greater than the national average while in 1999 it dropped to 1.33 times greater. Median household income dropped from 1.39 times the national median to 1.28.



When measuring income, a family includes a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

The 1990 Decennial Census reported income and housing costs based on 1989 dollars. The 2000 Decennial Census reported income and housing costs based on 1999 dollars.



Median family income dropped from 1.4 times the national median to 1.31 times the national median.

Also, from 1989 to 1999 income gains in Connecticut were uneven. Per capita income increased near the national rate. However, the increase in median household income and median family income were both below national levels.

4. In Connecticut, between 1990 and 2000 the percentage of families with two or more workers dropped from 64.30% to 59.97%. Still, in 2000, **thirty-two** other states had a lower percentage of **families with two or more workers**.

## Did Home Ownership Cost More in Connecticut? (Figure 5)

### 1990 Decennial Census

5. The median monthly home ownership cost in 1989, for a single-family home in Connecticut, was \$1,096. The nationwide median was \$737. The typical Connecticut home owner spent 22.9% of their income on housing. The typical American home owner spent 21% of their income on housing. Consequently, the typical Connecticut home owner was spending a greater portion of their income on housing than the typical American.

If other costs such as transportation, food, clothing, and taxes are similarly patterned, a higher income in Connecticut did not necessarily result in a more affluent lifestyle, when compared with the national figures. Also, high home ownership costs could result in a smaller percentage of disposable income - depending upon your income level.

In Connecticut, the percentage of households that owned their home was 65.6% as compared with the national average of 64.2%.

Connecticut appeared to have a **higher** percentage of **home ownership** (1990) but with **higher** corresponding **costs** (1989), relative to median income, than the national figures.

### 2000 Decennial Census

The median monthly home ownership cost in 1999, for a

single-family home in Connecticut, was \$1,426. The nationwide median was \$1,088. Connecticut home owners spent 22.4% of their income on housing. The typical American home owner spent 21.7% of their income on housing.

The percentage of households in Connecticut that owned their home was 66.8% as compared with the national average of 66.2%

### Changes from 1990 to 2000

Between 1989 and 1999, the **cost** of home ownership in Connecticut **decreased** from 22.9% to 22.4%, when measured as a percentage of income. This was contrary to the national trend where home ownership costs increased from 21% to 21.7%. The decrease in home ownership costs in Connecticut during this period was partially due to the **drop** in median single-family house values from \$176,700 in 1990 to \$166,900 in 2000. Despite this decrease in housing value, in 2000 home ownership costs in Connecticut were still **above** national levels both in **absolute dollars** and as a **percentage** of income.

The percentage of households that owned their home increased between 1990 and 2000 in Connecticut by 1.2% from 65.6% to 66.8%. However, the corresponding national rate of home ownership increased by 2% from 64.2% to 66.2%. In 2000, the percentage of Connecticut households that owned their home, 66.8%, was still slightly above the national rate of 66.2%. However, the increase in home ownership in Connecticut **lagged** behind the national rate, cutting the difference between the two averages to less than half of what it was in 1990.



The U.S. Census defines housing costs as "... the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property (including payments for the first mortgage, second mortgage, home equity loans, and other junior mortgages); real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer); and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.)."

Disposable income is defined as "the amount of an individual's income available for spending after the essentials (such as food, clothing, and shelter) have been taken care of."

## Was Connecticut Educating Its Residents? (Figures 6-A, 6-B)

### 1990 Decennial Census

**6-A.** In 1990, Connecticut had 493,500 children enrolled in grades 1-12. Of these, 88.1% were in public schools, with the remaining 11.9% in private schools.

Nationally, 90.2% of grade school children were in public schools and 9.8% were in private schools. In 1990, Connecticut had a **lower** percentage of its children in **public schools** than the national average.

**6-B.** Adult educational attainment is measured using the **Adult Education Index** (AEI, see Methodology section). In 1990, the nationwide AEI value was 2.48. Connecticut had an AEI value of 2.67. Connecticut's **adult** population, as a whole, had completed **more education** than the national average.

### 2000 Decennial Census

**6-A.** In 2000, Connecticut had 590,771 children enrolled in grades 1-12. Of these, 89.8% were in public schools, with the remaining 10.2% in private schools.

Nationally, 89.6% of grade school children were in public schools and 10.4% were in private schools. Connecticut had approximately the same percentage of its children in public schools as the national average.

**6-B.** The national AEI value was 2.65. Connecticut had an AEI value of 2.85.

### Changes from 1990 to 2000

**6-A.** In Connecticut, between 1990 and 2000, enrollment in grades 1-12 increased by 97,271 from 493,500 to 590,771. The bulk of the increase, 95,320, was absorbed by the public schools. There was a related increase in the percentage of children in public schools from 88.1% to 89.8%. This data points to Connecticut's public grade schools being asked to educate more children.

Nationally, total grade school enrollment increased by 17.5% as compared to Connecticut's increase of 19.7%. Compared with national trends, **enrollment** was accelerating at a **higher pace** in Connecticut grades 1-12.

Also, the national trend was toward a greater percentage of children enrolling in private schools but Connecticut was moving in the **opposite** direction. In 1990, 9.8% of children, nationwide, were enrolled in private schools. In 2000, the nationwide average was 10.4%. However, the percentage of children enrolled in private schools dropped in Connecticut from 11.9% to 10.2% during this same period.

**6-B.** Educational attainment among adults, using the AEI measurement, has increased both in Connecticut and nationally, with Connecticut still well above the national average. In 2000, Connecticut residents, as a whole, still continued to have completed **more education** than the nation as a whole.

## How Much Poverty Was in Connecticut? (Figures 7-A, 7-B, 8-A, 8-B)

### 1990 Decennial Census

**7-A.** In Connecticut, the percentage of the population living in poverty was 6.6% in 1990. Those living in extreme poverty, people whose income is below 50% of the poverty threshold, were 2.8% of the population.

Nationally, 12.7% of the population was living in poverty. Fewer than half of those people, 5.6% of the population, were living in extreme poverty.

**7-B.** Nationwide, 10% of families lived in poverty while in Connecticut it was 5% of families. Furthermore, of all families nationwide, 5% were female-headed families in poverty. While in Connecticut, 3.4% of all families were female-headed and in poverty.

**8-A.** When looking at only those families living in poverty nationwide, 49.8% were female-headed. However, in Connecticut **67.4%** of those families in poverty were female-headed. This meant that nearly 7 of every 10 poor families in Connecticut were female-headed. There were **29,634** families in Connecticut that



The AEI (Adult Education Index) is a statistic used to compare the total maximum educational attainment of adults from different geographic areas. A higher AEI value indicates that the adult population has completed higher levels of education.

In 2000, Connecticut had an AEI value of 2.85. The national AEI value was 2.65.

Poverty status is determined by the U.S. Census using income thresholds that are "... the same for all parts of the country - they are not adjusted for regional, state or local variations in the cost of living."

Poverty status is determined only for families and the general population - not households.

were female-headed and living in poverty.

In 1990, Connecticut had a lower percentage of the total population and families below the poverty line - when compared to the national averages. However, Connecticut had a greater percentage of poor families that were female-headed than the national average.

### 2000 Decennial Census

**7-A.** In Connecticut, the percentage of the population living in poverty was 7.6%. Those living in extreme poverty, people whose income is below 50% of the poverty line, was 3.7% of the population.

Nationally, 12.1% of the population was living in poverty. Once again, fewer than half of those people, 5.5% of the population were living in extreme poverty.

**7-B.** Nationwide, 9.2% of families lived in poverty while in Connecticut it was 5.7% of families. Furthermore, of all families nationwide, 4.6% were female-headed families in poverty. While in Connecticut, 3.4% of all families were female-headed and in poverty.

**8-A.** When looking at only those families living in poverty nationwide, 50.1% were female-headed. However, in Connecticut **59.8%** of those families in poverty were female-headed. This meant that nearly 6 of every 10 poor families in Connecticut were female-headed. There were **29,897** families in Connecticut that were female-headed and living in poverty.

In 2000, once again Connecticut had a lower percentage of individuals and families below the poverty line - when compared to the national averages. However, Connecticut again had a greater percentage of poor families that were female-headed than the national average.

### Changes from 1990 to 2000

**7-A,7-B.** Despite Connecticut seeming to house less poverty than the national average, there appeared to be trends that ran counter to what was seen nationally. Individuals living in poverty increased from 6.6% to 7.6% of the statewide population in Connecticut. Poor families living in poverty increased from 5% to 5.7% of families in Connecticut. From 1990 to 2000, both the percentage of **poor individuals** and the percentage of **poor**

**families increased** in Connecticut - while **decreasing** nationally.

It is worthy of note that from 1990 to 2000 Connecticut's total population increased by only 3.6% while the percentage of individuals living in poverty increased by **19.4%**.

**8-B.** Looking at this trend in absolute numbers may provide a better perspective. In 1990 the poverty rate had been approximately 6.6% of the population. If the 1990 poverty rate of 6.6% had remained constant from 1990 to 2000, then in 2000 there would have been approximately 224,767 individuals living in poverty in Connecticut. However, the 2000 Census reported 259,514 individuals living in poverty in Connecticut. This represented an additional **34,747** individuals living in poverty due to the increase in the poverty rate from 6.6% in 1990 to 7.6% in 2000.

**7-A.** The growth in extreme poverty in Connecticut was also substantial. Between 1990 and 2000, the population living in extreme poverty increased from 2.8% to 3.7% of the population. In absolute numbers, those living in extreme poverty rose from 92,304 in 1990 to 127,074 in 2000. This represents an increase of **37.7%** of the population living in extreme poverty.

**8-A.** In Connecticut, the percentage of female-headed families living in poverty remained at a constant 3.4%. Also, the percentage of poor families that were female-headed dropped from 67.4% to 59.8%. However, the percentage of poor families that were female-headed was still high at 59.8%. This meant that in 2000, 6 of every 10 poor families were female-headed.

Even greater poverty may exist in Connecticut than that reported by the U.S Census Bureau. This is despite the fact that Connecticut's residents, whether seen individually or in family units, had higher incomes than the national averages.

Poor individuals and families in Connecticut may have incomes that place them above the national poverty threshold. However, if the cost of living in Connecticut is higher than the nationwide average, then these individuals and families may still be living in poverty. The poor in Connecticut may have a higher income than the national poverty threshold but they may also have a higher cost-of-living. Consequently, the use of a national poverty measurement to determine poverty status may be creating an **undercount** of the number of people and families living in poverty in Connecticut.



Extreme poverty is defined as having income that is less than 50% of the poverty threshold.

Female-headed families are defined as not having a male spouse present.

Male-headed families are defined as not having a female spouse present.

For poverty status, a family is defined as a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Also included are all other people under 18 years old, regardless of marital status, who are related to the householder. This definition of family differs slightly from the family unit used to measure income.



## Summing It Up. Did Connecticut Mirror the Rest of the Nation?

What did this snapshot of Connecticut tell us? At a glance, Connecticut's demographics appeared to be very similar to the national averages. However, despite the initial similarities, Connecticut's demographics differed from the national averages in the following ways:

- \* The overall population was **older**.
- \* The number of **children** enrolled in grades 1-12 was growing faster than the national rate.
- \* The population was more **White** (non-Hispanic) than the national average.
- \* Residents had completed more **education** than the national average.
- \* **Income** increased at a lower rate than the national averages.
- \* **Home ownership** increased at a lower rate than the national average.
- \* There may have been less poverty than the national averages but **increasing poverty** was on the horizon.
- \* **Extreme** poverty increased.

As previously discussed, the higher income and lower poverty rates in Connecticut may be misleading.

Residents of Connecticut have higher incomes but also have a corresponding higher cost-of-living. This greater income does not necessarily mean that Connecticut residents have more disposable income than the average American. In Connecticut, the ratio between housing costs and income is slightly higher than the national average. Also, incomes in Connecticut did not increase at the same pace as the national rate.

Poverty in Connecticut may be **understated**. It was on the increase. The poverty rate in Connecticut was less than the national average, however, the national poverty thresholds did not take regional cost-of-living into account. The Census establishes poverty thresholds based upon nationwide average cost-of-living

measures. Consequently, the poor in Connecticut may have incomes that are above national poverty thresholds, but their cost-of-living may also be more than the national average. In addition, poverty in Connecticut was **increasing** while it was **decreasing nationally**. Of significance was the growth in the rate of extreme poverty.

Between 1990 and 2000, the state still excelled at education, at least as measured by the educational attainment of the adult population, despite increasing enrollments and poverty. In various other areas the state lost some of its lead and began to look more like the national averages.

## What Was the "Average" Connecticut Town in 2000?

Is it possible to get a better picture of life in Connecticut by finding the average town?

Connecticut is divided into 169 towns that vary in population, area, and population density. These towns are home to people with varying incomes, educational attainment, and living conditions. The average Connecticut town would need to be a town, or group of towns, whose socioeconomic and demographic characteristics are similar to statewide averages.

In 2000, the average town would have had a population of approximately 20,151 residents. It would have had a per capita income of approximately \$28,766, a median household income of approximately \$53,935, and a median family income of approximately \$65,521. Educational attainment in the average town would have been measured by an AEI value of approximately 2.85. The percentage of the population living in poverty would have been approximately 7.6%. Finally, the racial composition of the town would have been similar to the statewide percentages of 78.3% White (non-Hispanic), 9.4 % Hispanic, 9.4% Black or African American (non-Hispanic), and 3% Other (non-Hispanic).

Based upon the preceding criteria, it is easy to conclude that there was no average town. No single town reflected the State's average income, poverty, educational attainment, racial composition, and town population.

Is it possible to find the average town if you shrank the



Between 1990 and 2000, the population living in poverty in Connecticut grew by 42,167 while the statewide population grew by 118,449. If the poverty rate had remained unchanged from 1990, the population in poverty would have grown by only 7,420 during the same time period.

Between 1990 and 2000 there was an increase of 37.7% in the population living in extreme poverty.

Between 1990 and 2000, poverty increased in Connecticut while decreasing nationally.

There is no single town in Connecticut that accurately represents all of Connecticut as a whole.

criteria to fewer variables? If so, then only Hamden and Manchester fell within 10% of the statewide averages for per capita income, educational attainment, poverty rate, and percentage of the population that is White (non-Hispanic).

While Hamden and Manchester may have been the “closest” to an average town, they also contrasted greatly with several statewide criteria. Both towns had populations that were greater than twice the average town population. None approached the statewide average percent population of Hispanics. Hamden had a greater percentage of Black or African Americans than the statewide average. Manchester’s Black population was closest to the statewide average but was still slightly lower. Both towns had a greater percentage of people classified as Other than the statewide average. And both towns were on the low side of income.

In the end, the average town does not exist, and such an average would not be a true reflection of life in Connecticut as a whole. If there is no single average town, could there be several different representative towns? **A forthcoming report will focus on finding just how many different Connecticut there are and what life is like in each.**



The Connecticut State Data Center plans five reports in this series on *The Changing Demographics of Connecticut 1990 - 2000*. The tentative titles are as follows:

*Part 1: Comparing Connecticut to National Averages*

*Part 2: The Five Connecticut*

*Part 3: The Changing Race and Ethnicity of Connecticut Towns*

*Part 4: Connecticut Population Migration*

*Part 5: The Changing Population Age Distribution of Connecticut*

Figures 1-A, 1-B: Population Change and Age Distribution

Graphics By: Connecticut State Data Center,  
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

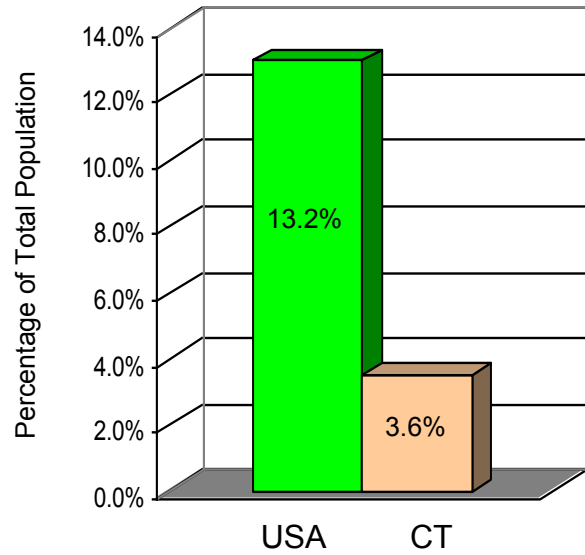



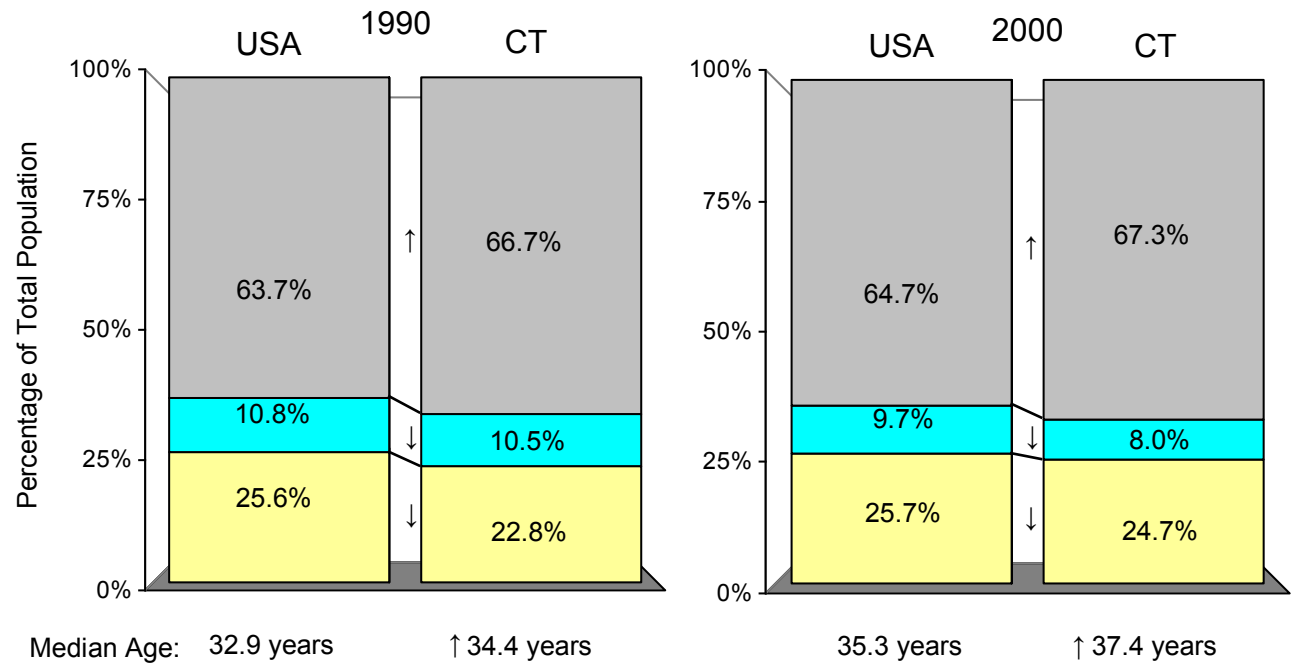


Figure 1-A:  
Population Change 1990 to 2000 as  
Percentage of the Total Population

Figure 1-B:  
Age Distribution 1990 to 2000

Adults (25 years and over)   
Young Adults (18-24 years)   
Children (17 years and under) 



Figures 2-A, 2-B: Race in USA and Connecticut 1990-2000

Figure 2-A: United States Race 1990-2000

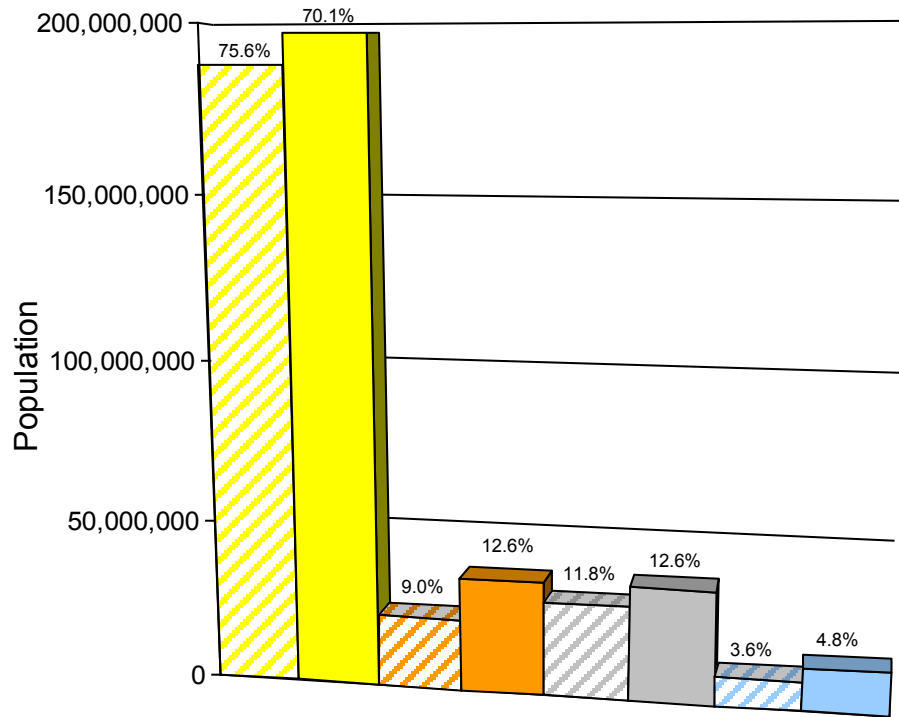
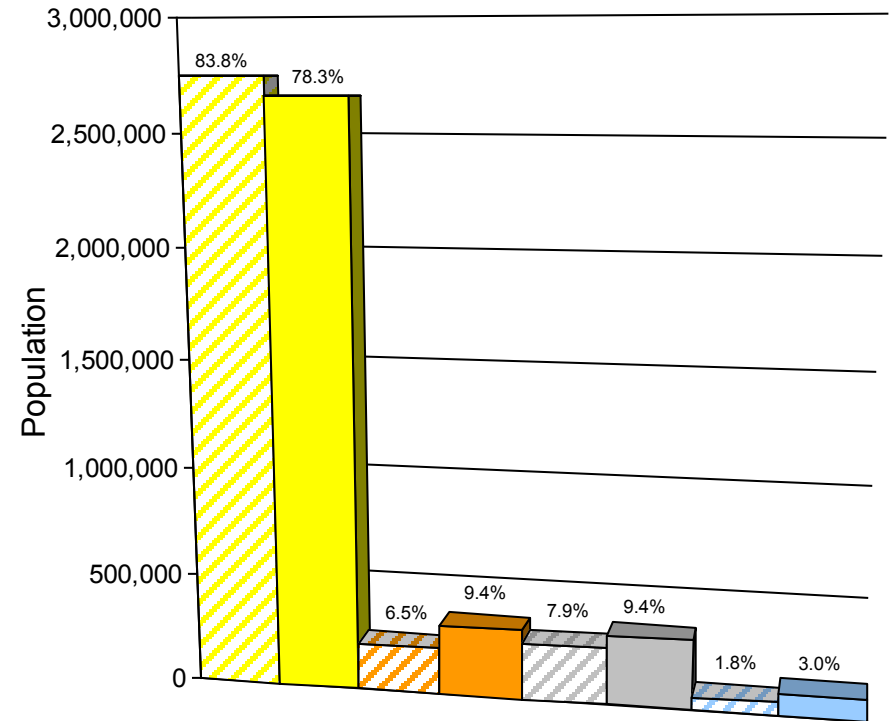


Figure 2-B: Connecticut Race 1990-2000



	White (not Hispanic)		Hispanic		Black (not Hispanic)		Other (not Hispanic)	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
USA	188,128,296	197,317,014	22,354,059	35,305,818	29,216,293	35,383,751	9,011,225	13,415,323
CT	2,754,184	2,665,437	213,116	320,323	260,840	318,619	58,976	101,186

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Figures 3-A to 3-F: Income

Figure 3-A:  
Per Capita

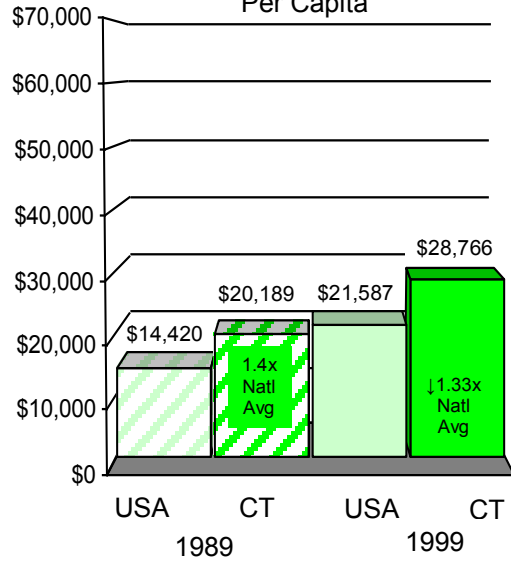


Figure 3-B:  
Median Household

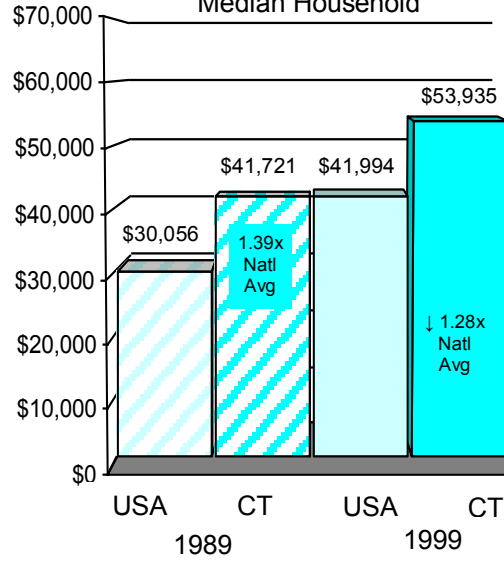


Figure 3-C:  
Median Family

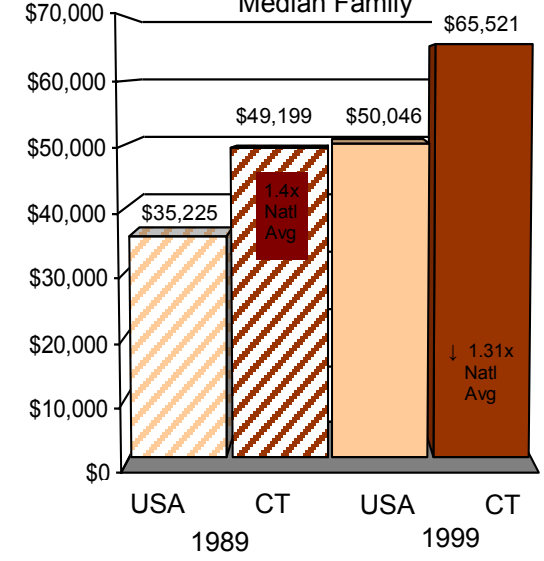


Figure 3-D:  
Per Capita - Inflation Adjusted

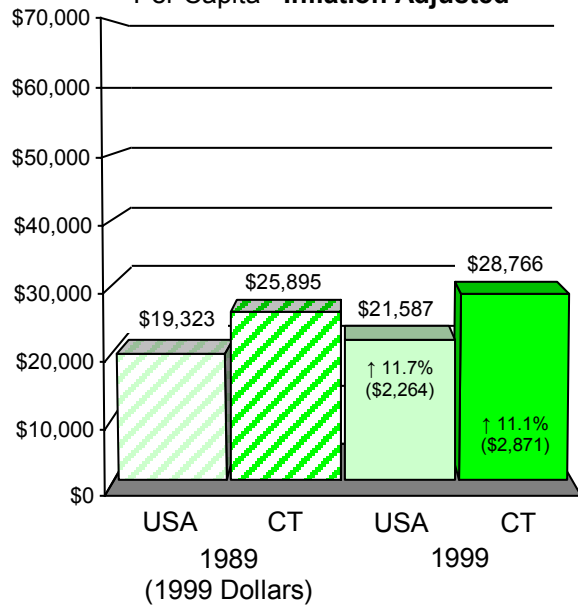


Figure 3-E:  
Median Household - Inflation Adjusted

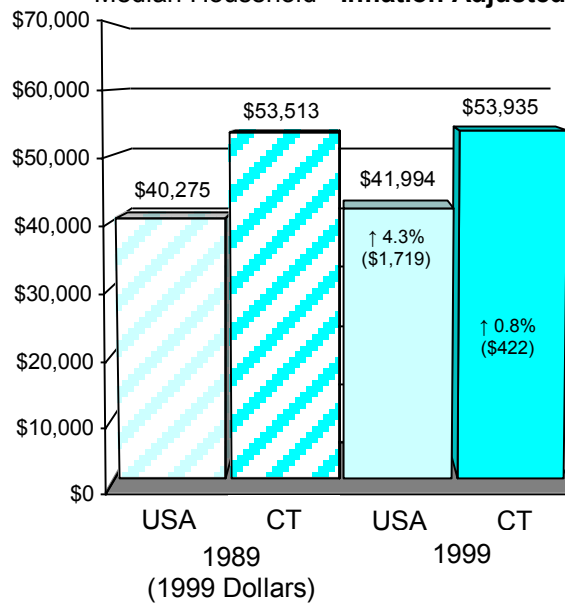


Figure 3-F:  
Median Family - Inflation Adjusted

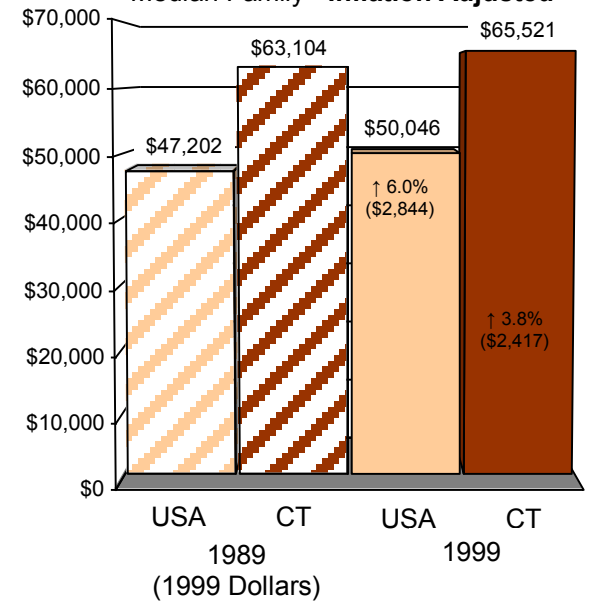


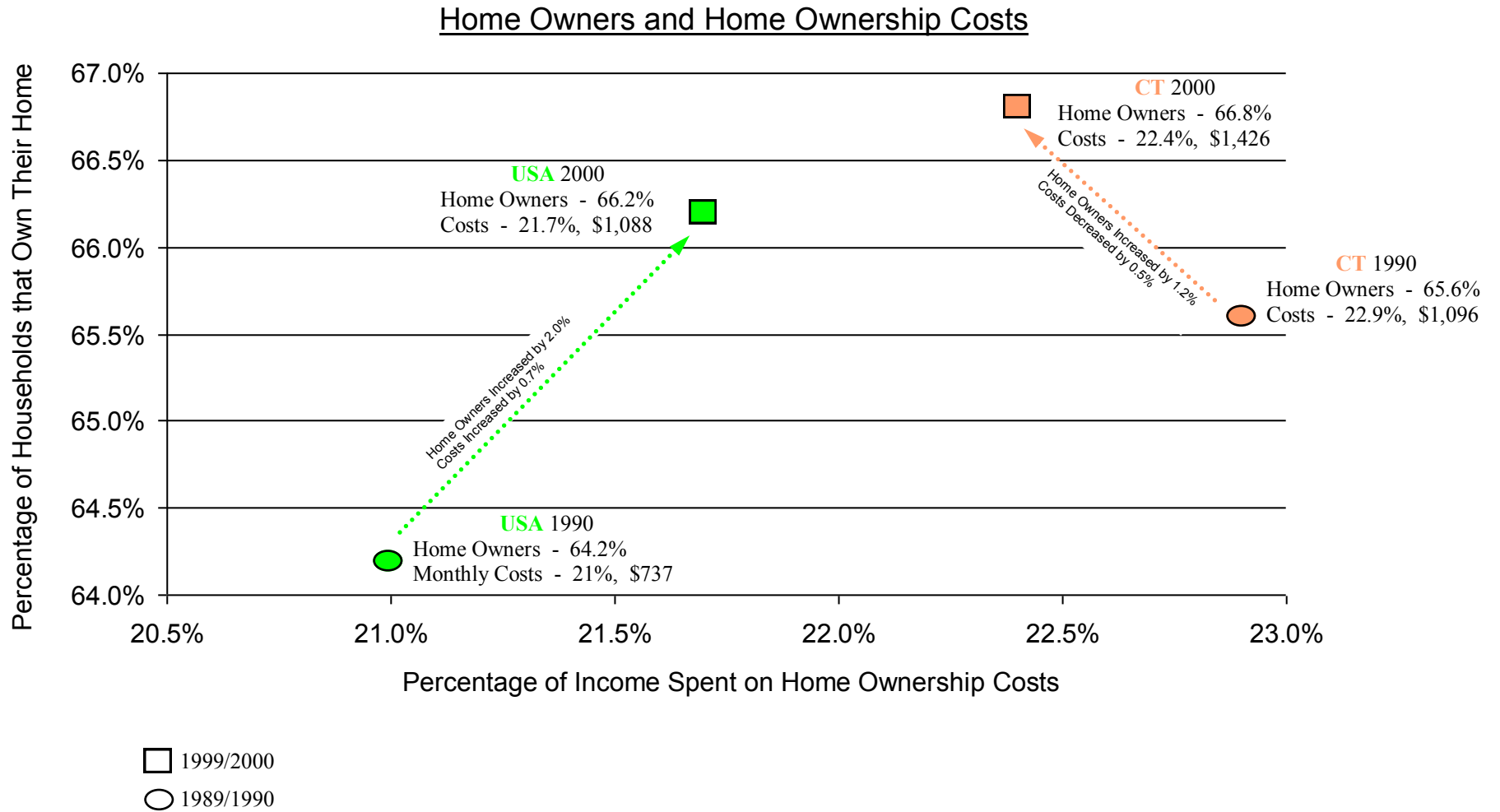


Figure 4: Families with Two or More Workers

Percentage of Families with Two or More Workers - by State

Rank	1990	2000
USA Average	58.9%	56.9%
1	Alaska - 67.80%	Minnesota - 66.21%
2	New Hampshire - 67.69%	Utah - 65.09%
3	Hawaii - 66.65%	Nebraska - 64.68%
4	Minnesota - 65.88%	New Hampshire - 64.26%
5	Nebraska - 64.91%	South Dakota - 63.92%
....		
<b>9</b>	<b>Connecticut - 64.30%</b>	
<b>18</b>		<b>Connecticut - 59.97%</b>
....		
49	Louisiana - 49.79%	District of Columbia - 47.14%
50	West Virginia - 45.67%	West Virginia - 46.30%

Figure 5: Home Owners and Home Ownership Costs



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Figures 6-A, 6-B: Grades 1-12 Enrollment and the Adult Education Index

Figure 6-A: Grades 1-12 Enrollment

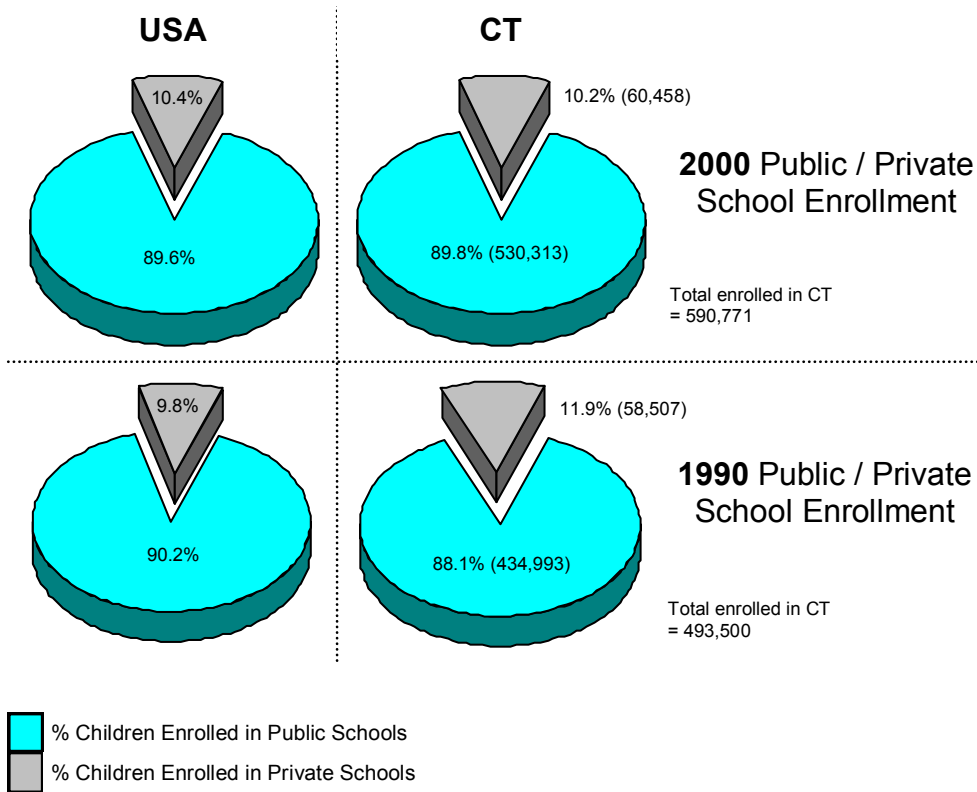
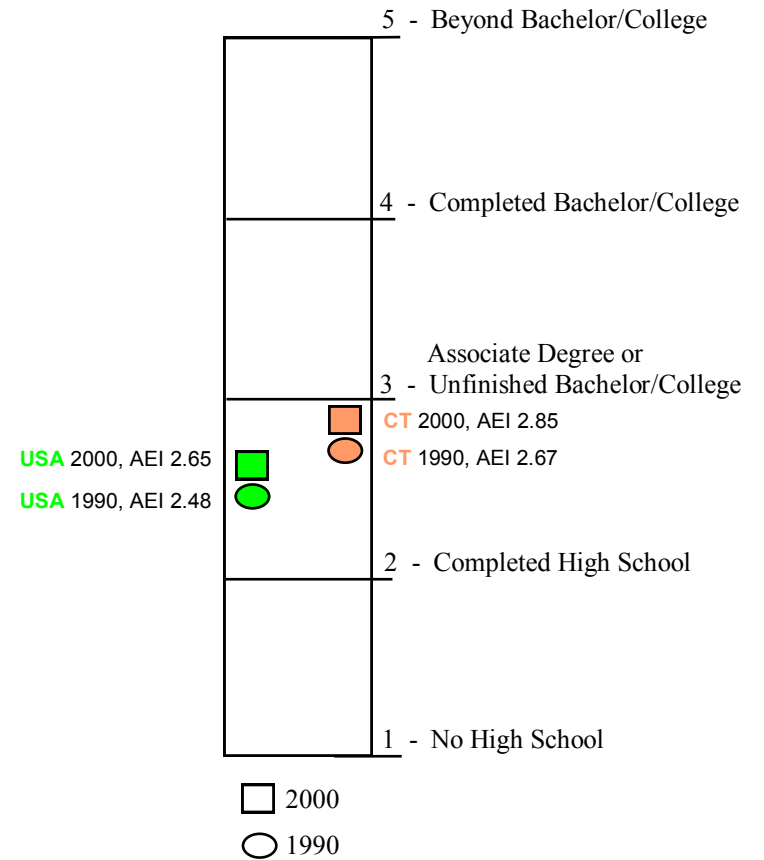


Figure 6-B: Adult Education Index



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Figures 7-A, 7-B: Population and Families Above and Below Poverty Status

Figure 7-A:  
Population Above and Below Poverty Status

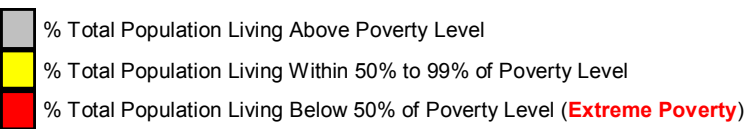
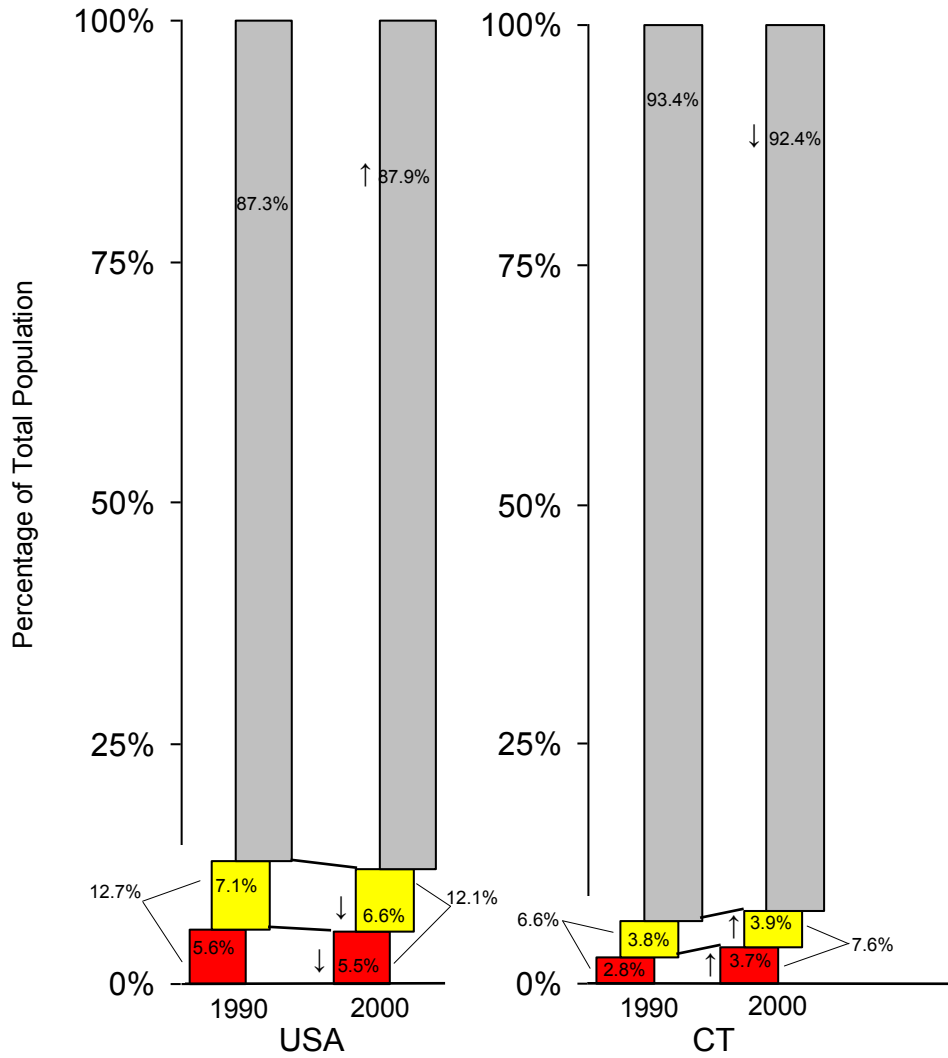
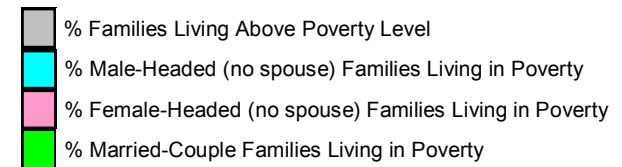
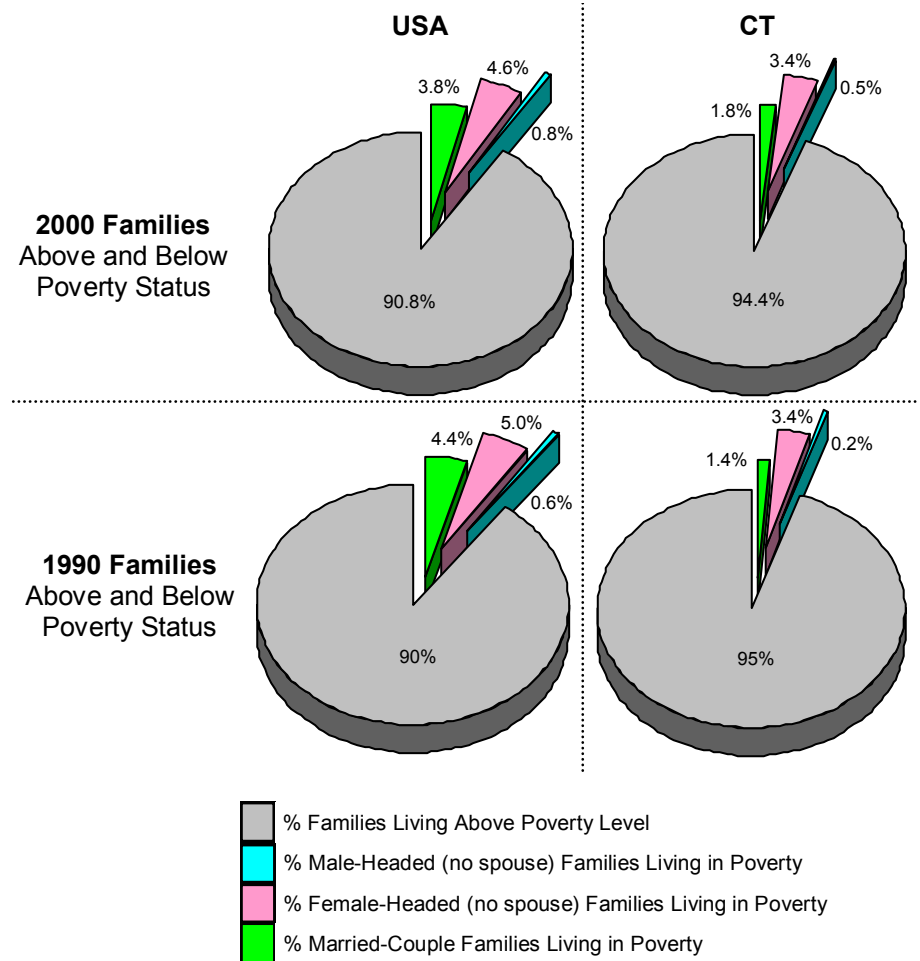


Figure 7-B:  
Families Above and Below Poverty Status



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University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Figures 8-A, 8-B: Families Living in Poverty and Growth in Poverty

Figure 8-A: Families Living in Poverty

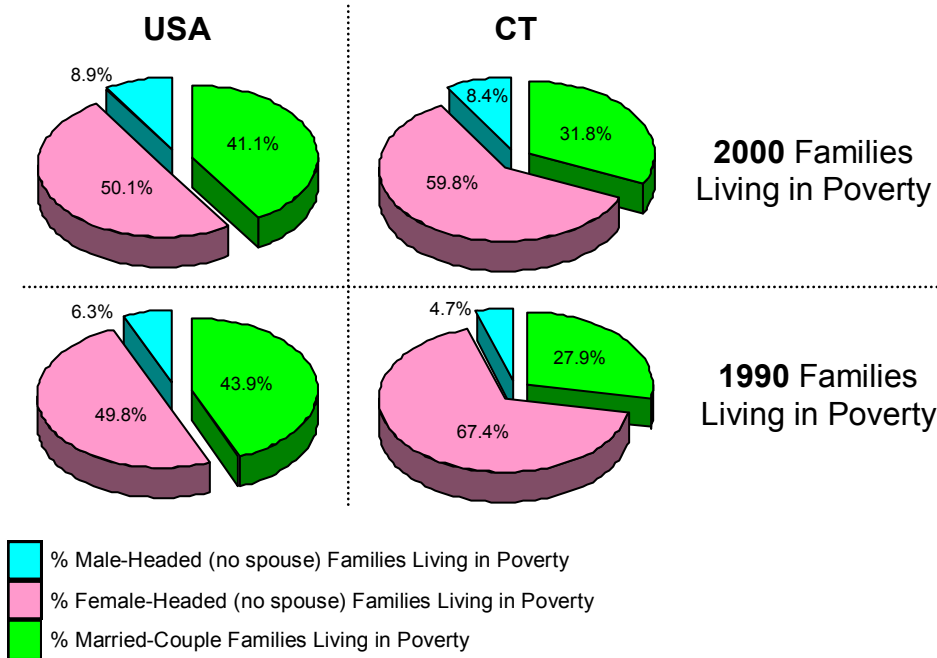
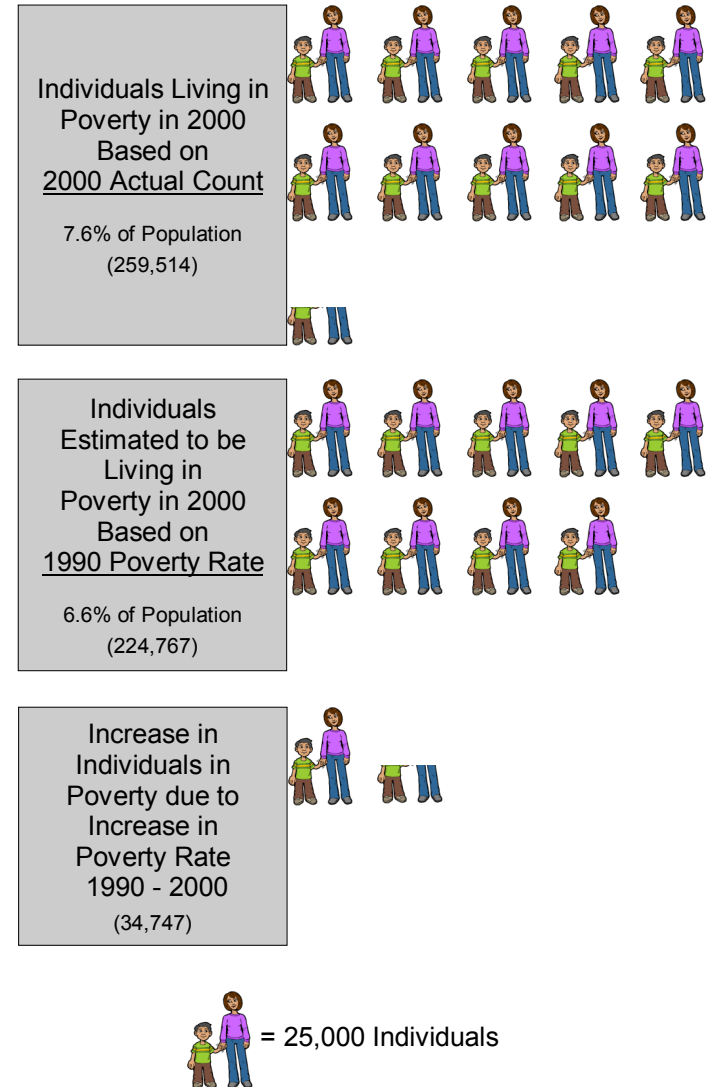


Figure 8-B: Growth in Poverty



Graphics By: Connecticut State Data Center,  
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT



# Methodology

## Credits

The following individuals made contributions to this report:

Orlando Rodriguez, Data Manager  
Don Levy, Research Assistant  
Wayne Villemez, Ph.D.

## Data Sources

Data for 1990 came from the 1990 Decennial Census STF1 and STF3. Data for 2000 came from the 2000 Decennial Census SF1 and SF3. Data from STF1 and SF1 are 100 percent data. Data from STF3 and SF3 are sample data.

The percentages in figures 7-A and 8-B are calculated using a combination of STF1/SF1 data with STF3/SF3 data. The percentage of the population in poverty was calculated using the STF3/SF3 sample data as the numerator (i.e. the number of people in poverty) and the STF1/SF1 number as the denominator (i.e. the total population).

For further information on combining SF1 and SF3 data review the Census document *Comparing SF 3 Estimates with Corresponding Values in SF 1 and SF 2*.

## Bridging Race Categories (Figures 9 & 10)

The 1990 Decennial Census reported five race groups (White, Black or African American, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, and Other). The 2000 Decennial Census reported seven race groups (White, Black or African American, Asian, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, American Indian, Other Single Race, and Two or More Races). Hispanic was considered an ethnicity in both the 1990 and 2000 census.

It was necessary to create a single set of race categories in order to compare 1990 racial data with 2000. A common set of four racial groups would be reported for both 1990 and 2000. Also, Hispanic would be treated as a separate race group. The four race groups are:

- \* White (non-Hispanic)
- \* Hispanic
- \* Black or African American (non-Hispanic)
- \* Other (non-Hispanic)

9,10. The regrouping was done in a multi-step process.

Step 1. All respondents claiming Hispanic ethnicity were placed in a separate new Hispanic race group. These respondents were removed from the original race groups.

### 1990 Data Only

Step 2. The remaining Asian or Pacific Islander and American Indian were moved into a single Other (non-Hispanic) race group.

### 2000 Data Only

Step 2. The remaining multiracial African Americans (Two or More Races) are moved into the Black or African American (non-Hispanic) race group.

Step 3. The remaining multiracial Whites were moved into the White (non-Hispanic) race group.

Step 4. The remaining Asian, Two or More Races, American Indian, and Hawaiian race groups were moved into a single Other (non-Hispanic) group.

A separate bridging methodology had been developed by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS, see publication *Release of Bridged-Race 2000 and 2001 Population Estimates for Calculating Vital Rates*). However, the county level was lowest administrative unit for which the NCHS bridging methodology was appropriate.

For our purposes, it was necessary to bridge at the town level. Consequently, the 2000 bridged populations, based on the 4-step CPR process above, were compared to the

NCHS bridged populations. The comparisons were made for statewide totals only.

The results from the four-step CPR methodology compared with the NCHS results as follows:

- \* CPR calculated 0.3% fewer Whites (non-Hispanic) than NCHS
- \* CPR calculated the same number of Hispanics as NCHS
- \* CPR calculated 1.3% more Blacks (non-Hispanic) than NCHS
- \* CPR calculated 3.3% more Other (non-Hispanic) than NCHS

These numbers show that the CPR bridging methodology yielded similar but slightly more conservative results when compared to the NCHS methodology.

## Adult Education Index (AEI)

The **Adult Education Index (AEI)** is a computed statistic that facilitates the comparison of the educational attainment of adults from different towns, states or regions. In addition, we are able to assess change over time. The AEI is computed in the following manner.

The Census reports the **highest** level of education attained for all adults. Adults are defined as residents 25 years of age or older. Educational attainment is reported in one of five hierarchical categories by the Census.

Step 1. A value is assigned to each of the educational attainment categories:

- 1 = No High School
- 2 = Completed High School

- 3 = Completed Associate Degree or Unfinished Bachelor/College
- 4 = Completed Bachelor/College
- 5 = Beyond Bachelor/College

These values are not meant to be interpreted as ratio values. In other words, being a college graduate is not twice the education of a high school graduate. Each successive category merely indicates more completed education.

Step 2. Calculate the percentage of the population for each educational attainment category. For example, in the entire state of Connecticut in 2000:

- a. No High School = 16.0%
- b. Completed High School = 28.5%
- c. Completed Associate Degree or Unfinished Bachelor/College = 24.1%
- d. Completed Bachelor/College = 18.2%
- e. Beyond Bachelor/College = 13.3%

Step 3. Then multiply the results from Step 2 by the value from corresponding educational attainment category in Step 1:

- f. No High School:  
 $0.160 \times 1 = 0.16$
- g. Completed High School:  
 $0.285 \times 2 = 0.57$
- h. Completed Associate Degree or Unfinished Bachelor/College:  
 $0.241 \times 3 = 0.723$

- i. Completed Bachelor/College:  
 $0.182 \times 4 = 0.728$
- j. Beyond Bachelor/College:  
 $0.133 \times 5 = 0.665$

Step 4. Total the scores from Step 3. In this example, the state of Connecticut, in 2000, has an AEI value of 2.85.

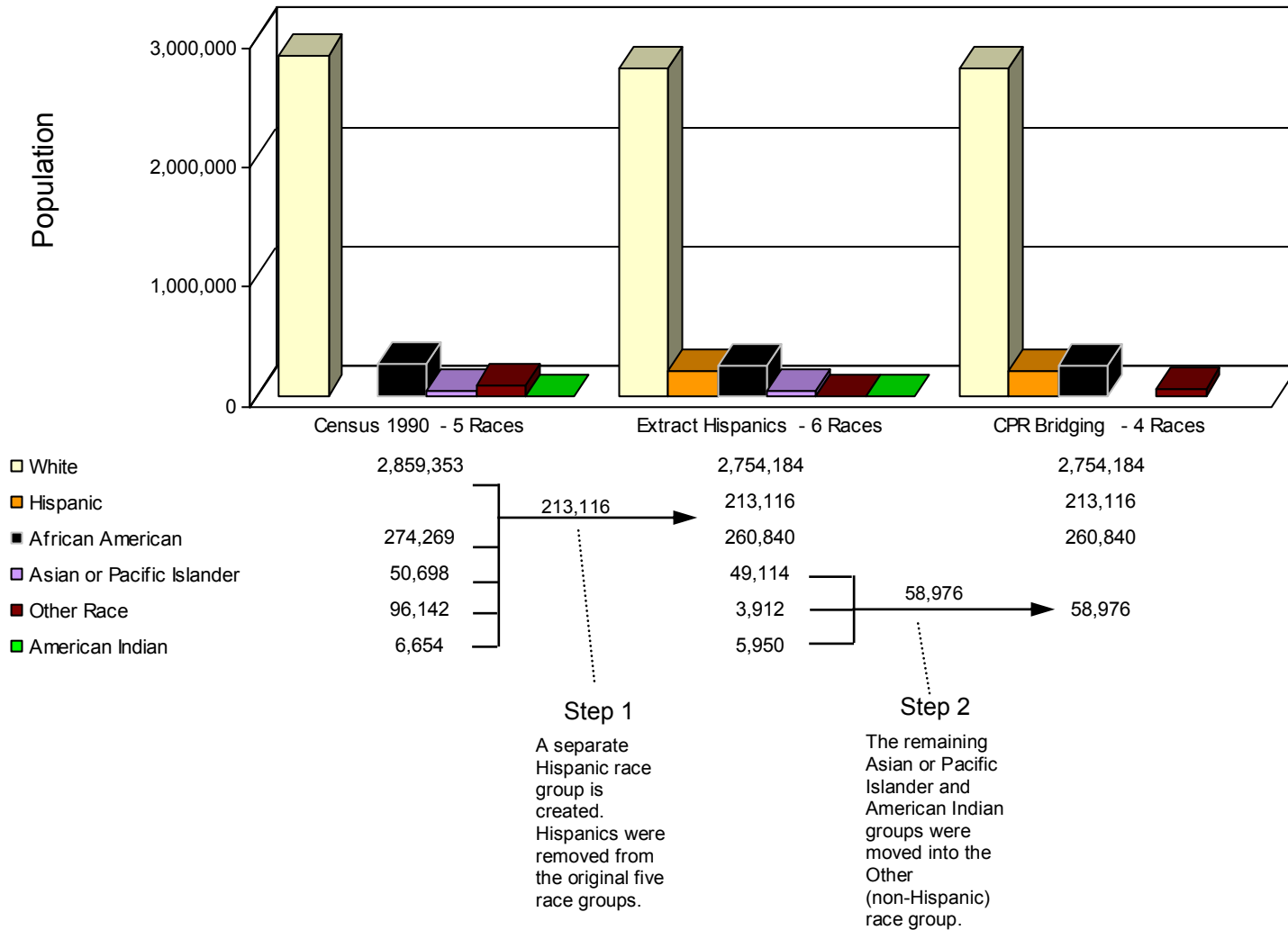
## Software

All data was downloaded from the U.S. Census website. The data was then imported into a Microsoft® Access database for analysis and reporting. SPSS was used for statistical analysis. Charts were created using Microsoft® Excel.

All components were then compiled into a single report using Microsoft® Publisher.

Figure 9: Bridging 1990 Race Categories

Bridging 1990 Race Categories



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Figure 10: Bridging 2000 Race Categories

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Bridging 2000 Race Categories

