

ENGLISH ACQUISITION: THE STATE OF THE UNION

**AN EXAMINATION OF
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE TRENDS**

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English Acquisition: The State of the Union
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English Acquisition: The State of the Union

Looking at the United States in 1980, it was easy to see how many believed the issue of limited English proficiency (LEP) would eventually solve itself. Rates of those who struggled with English had been on the decline for three generations. Rates of immigration, though not as low as they had been in the forty years between 1920 and 1960, were still far below those of the late 19th and early 20th century. America had a strong eye on assimilation. Indeed, the melting pot was alive and churning.

Keeping the limited English proficient population to a minimum is a benefit for all Americans. It minimizes barriers to educational and employment opportunities, allows individuals to earn higher incomes, and allows them to be contributors to government coffers instead of dependent upon taxpayer services. It permits them to be full players in society, to contribute to volunteer and community programs, to take part in elections, and to play the all-important role in the education of their children.

In addition to all these benefits, a reduction in the limited English proficient population has a greater good – it inhibits future growth in the number of people who struggle with English. Raising the English proficiency levels of immigrants reduces the formation of linguistically isolated communities, pockets of the country where only the native language is spoken. It greatly reduces the odds that the children of that generation will struggle with English. Finally, a decline in the limited English proficient population decreases the chance that government agencies will begin providing services in other languages, the first step in the permanent linguistic crutch that keeps so many immigrants from achieving the American dream.

In many ways, teaching English can be seen as a vaccination against many of the problems immigrants face in the United States. The more we give immigrants protection against the issues that could sentence them to menial jobs and difficulty in making ends meet, the healthier our society will be. While limited English proficiency is not a disease, it is a treatable condition that can pay large dividends in the long run.

These principles of assimilation and integration were the backbone of America's policy for immigrants for much of the 20th century. As we approached the last two decades of that century, there were few indications that this was about to change. More than half the states had limited English proficiency rates of less than 1-in-40, and in many of these cases, it was senior citizens that made up much of the group who struggled with English. In Nevada, the rate of limited English proficiency was only 1-in-25 in 1980, yet it was the 14th highest in the nation.

Flash forward a quarter century. Nevada's LEP rate is greater than 1-in-8. Only 13 states have limited English proficiency rates below 1-in-40, and a rate of 1-in-25, like Nevada's was in 1980, places below the national median. From 1980 to 2006, LEP rates increased in 40 states and the District of Columbia, more than doubled in 24 states and more than tripled in 10 states. The rate in Georgia went up 569 percent. No longer is the picture rosy. Instead of churning along, English learning rates seem to be vaporizing.

Methodology

The U.S. English Foundation has embarked on this comprehensive project to examine the growth in limited English proficiency, determine what is fueling these meteoric rises, and develop conclusions on where these rates are headed given current conditions. On a state-by-state basis, we have undertaken a thorough analysis of the present and recent past, focusing on five major demographic points.

Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006 – Using U.S. Census Bureau data from 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2006, we report on the changes in the portion of each state’s population that is limited English proficient. According to the Census definition, limited English proficiency is defined as speaking a language other than English at home and speaking English “less than very well.”

Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025 – In 1995, the U.S. Census Bureau made a series of projections for the Hispanic population of each state for the years 2000, 2005, 2015 and 2025. While the Hispanic population is not the sole component of limited English proficiency in the United States, Hispanics make up the largest share of the limited English proficient in almost every state. Examining this growth gives us an excellent proxy for how the picture of limited English proficiency in the state has changed from just a decade ago. We compare the actual values from 2000, 2005 and 2006 to the forecasts and predict how future projections will match up.

Prevalence of Foreign Languages – Using U.S. Census Bureau data from 2000, we analyze the population of each state that speaks a language other than English at home. Our examination of the six largest linguistic groups in the state helps identify the groups most likely to become linguistically isolated, especially in cases where a single language group makes up a majority of the non-English speakers in a state.

Non-English Proficiency by Age – We separate the severely limited English proficient population of each state to determine how the lack of English fluency may affect the state economically in future years. By grouping those who speak English “not well” or “not at all” into *school age* (ages 5-17), *working age* (ages 18-64), and *senior citizen* (age 65 and older) for the years 1990, 2000 and 2006, we can better understand the implications for today and make predictions for tomorrow.

Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken – While anyone can be severely limited English proficient, a linguistic analysis of those who speak English “not well” or “not at all” demonstrates that this phenomenon is often concentrated within speakers of specific languages. Using data from Census 2000, we examine English proficiency among speakers of eight languages spoken by the majority of today’s immigrants – Spanish, Russian, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Arabic and Serbo-Croatian. By separating the groups that are gaining English proficiency from those that are not, we can best tailor recommendations for future efforts to encourage English learning.

Summary

Nearly every state in the nation has undergone a major demographic shift in the last 25 years. This shift, much of it unpredicted, has left nearly every state in dire need of programs to encourage English learning and a framework by which to integrate newcomers to the United States. Even the few states who have yet to experience significant growth in their limited English proficient population need to plan for the day when they become the next “hot spot” for settlement.

The situation we faced in 1980 and the ensuing changes in the population are the best proof that past performance is no future guarantee. Major economic or political changes could quickly change the face of the limited English proficient population in the United States. Regardless of what the future may bring, we need to focus on the present and work toward reducing the large number of limited proficient people in each state. No one knows what the next 25 years will bring, but we cannot run the risk of repeating the mistakes made over the last 25 years.

Glossary and Definitions

Abbreviations

LEP	Limited English Proficient
SLEP	Severely Limited English Proficient

English Proficiency Definitions

Limited English Proficient

Speak a language other than English at home and speak English less than “very well”

Severely Limited English Proficient or Severe Limited English Proficiency

Speak a language other than English at home and speak English “not well” or “not at all”

Age Group Definitions

<i>School age</i>	Population between the ages of 5 and 17
<i>Working age adults</i>	Population between the ages of 18 and 64
<i>Senior citizens</i>	Population age 65 and older

Linguistic Groups (as defined by the Census)

African Languages - Swahili, Hausa, Amharic, Somali, Zulu, and others

Native North American Languages other than Navajo - Arapaho, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cree, Crow, Kiowa, Yupik, and others

Other Pacific Island language - Javanese, Malay, Cebuano, Samoan, Fijian, Maori, and others (Tagalog is counted separately)

Other Slavic languages - Czech, Slovak, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, and others (Russian, Polish and Serbo-Croatian are counted separately)

Other West Germanic languages - Dutch, Pennsylvania Dutch, Afrikaans, and others (German and Yiddish are counted separately)

Scandinavian languages - Icelandic, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish

Language Notes

All language-related population figures in this document refer to the population of the state age 5 and older.

All of the language related data in this report is derived from U.S. Census information as released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Language use and English fluency statistics were collected through the Census “long form” distributed to one-in-six households in 2000, and through the American Community Survey conducted annually.

In both cases, recipients of the Census form were asked to indicate whether each member of the household, age five and older, spoke English at home. If English was not specified as the language spoken at home, respondents were asked to list the language spoken at home by each person, and his/her ability to speak English. English proficiency was self-reported on a four grade scale – “very well,” “well,” “not well” or “not at all.”

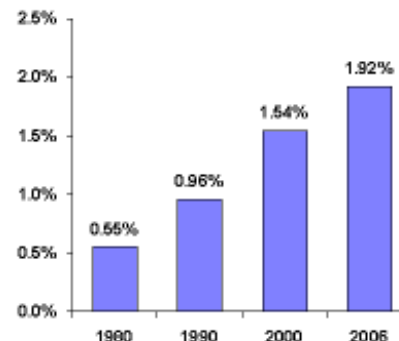
The Census terms all who speak a language other than English at home and speak English less than “very well” as limited English proficient, based on information learned from the English Language Proficiency Survey of 1982.

Alabama

Capital: Montgomery
2006 Population: 4,599,030
Joined Union: Dec. 14, 1819

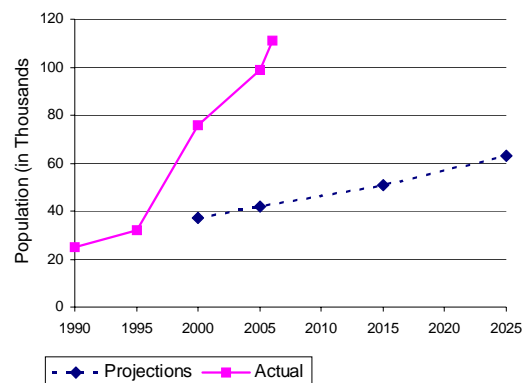
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Between 1980 and 2006, the limited English proficient (LEP) population of Alabama quadrupled, from 19,628 to 82,695. Consequently, the LEP rate in Alabama has soared, increasing from 1-in-181 Alabamans in 1980 to almost 1-in-50 by 2006. Though the Heart of Dixie had the lowest LEP rate in the nation in 1980, it climbed to third lowest in 1990, fourth lowest in 2000 and ninth lowest in 2006.



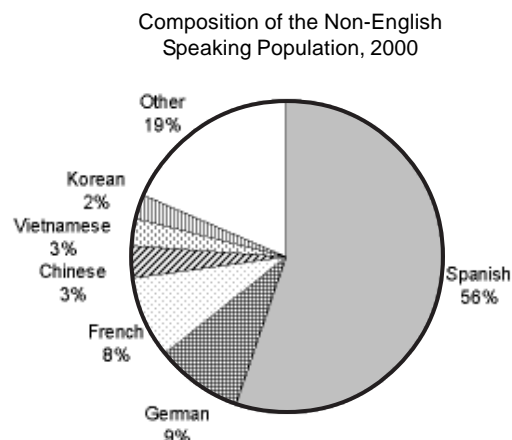
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Alabama has greatly exceeded Census projections. In 2000, the Hispanic population in the Heart of Dixie was more than twice the Census estimate for that year and had already surpassed Census projections for 2005, 2015 and 2025. The 2006 population of 111,000 Hispanics statewide was nearly triple the estimate for 2005 and nearly double the estimate for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

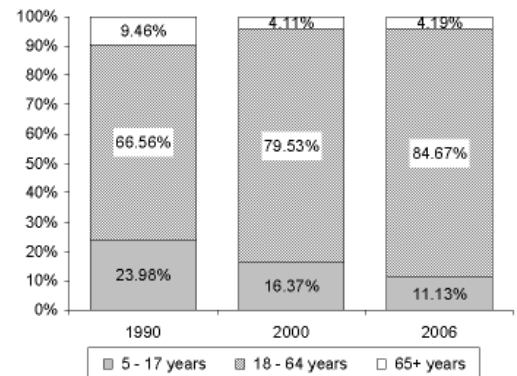
Spanish speakers make up a majority of the 162,000 Alabamans who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 56 percent of the total and more than six times the number of the second most common non-English language, German. French is the third most common language spoken at home, with 13,655 speakers, followed by Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean. Speakers of these six languages account for 3.2 percent of Alabama's overall population and 81.3 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Those of working age made up nearly 85 percent of Alabama's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population in 2006. This was the 10th highest rate of any state in the nation. While Alabama's overall SLEP rates are well below the national average, they have been on the increase among all three segments of the population – school age, working age and senior citizens. Among the school age population, the SLEP rate has increased from more than 1-in-230 in 1990 to 1-in-150 in 2006. Over this same time frame, SLEP rates also showed marked increases among the working age (1-in-270 to 1-in-70) and senior citizen population (1-in-400 to 1-in-300).

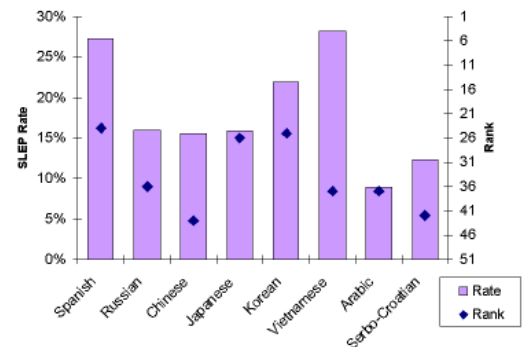
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers in Alabama have the highest SLEP rates among the eight language groups studied. Nearly 3-in-10 Alabamans who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency. However, it must be noted that the SLEP rate of Vietnamese speakers in Alabama is one of the lower values nationwide, placing 37th of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Among Spanish speakers in the state, more than one-in-four speak little or no English, a rate slightly above the national median.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

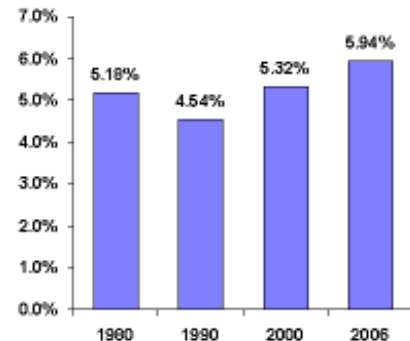
For the first time in generations, Alabama is dealing with rising levels of limited English proficiency. Once home to the lowest LEP rate in the nation, Alabama is facing changes due to higher than expected growth in the Hispanic population and high degrees of severe limited English proficiency within the Spanish speaking community. These two factors have served to heavily concentrate the population that struggles with English among working age Alabamans, setting the stage for serious future issues. Though Alabama has not needed programs to encourage English learning in the past, the state cannot afford to waste time in developing and implementing English learning initiatives, especially within the Spanish speaking community.

Alaska

Capital: Juneau
2006 Population: 670,053
Joined Union: Jan. 3, 1959

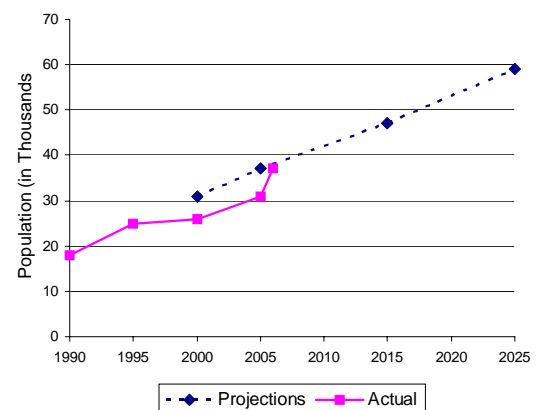
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Alaska's limited English proficient (LEP) population has doubled between 1980 and 2006, but still remains relatively low in number compared to most states in the nation. In 1980, LEP individuals in Alaska totaled 18,812, comprising just over 1-in-20 state residents. By 2006, the state's LEP population had risen to 36,979, making up 1-in-17 Alaskans. The Last Frontier, which ranked among the 12 states with the highest LEP rates in 1980, slipped to 15th in 1990 and ranked 18th in both 2000 and 2006.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

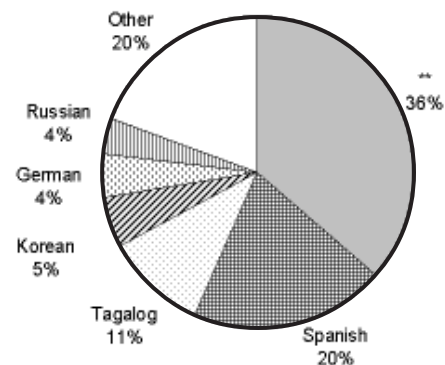
Alaska's Hispanic population has fallen slightly below Census projections. In 2000, Alaska was home to 26,000 Hispanics, nearly 5,000 short of the estimate of 31,000. Recent figures indicate that the Hispanic population of the Last Frontier may closely mirror future predictions, with the 2006 count of 37,000 matching the projections for 2005.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Speakers of Native North American languages comprise the largest portion of Alaska's 83,000 residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. This population accounts for 36.3 percent of the total, almost double the second most common linguistic group, Spanish. Tagalog places third with nearly 9,000 speakers, followed by Korean, German and Russian. Speakers of these six languages account for 11.5 percent of Alaska's overall population and 80.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000

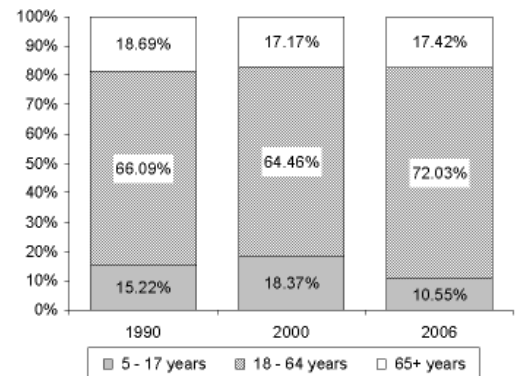


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Alaska's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population is more concentrated among school age children and senior citizens than most other states. In 2006, senior citizens made up more than one-sixth of Alaska's SLEP population, the 10th highest rate of any state. School age children made up more than one-tenth, the 16th highest rate. Alaska's SLEP rates are near the national median among school age children (24th) and the working age population (28th), but are near the top among senior citizens (10th). However, these figures are down from 19th, 18th, and 4th, respectively, in 1990.

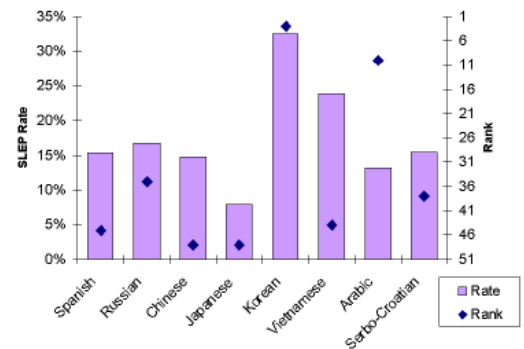
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Korean speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Alaska. Nearly 1-in-3 Alaskans who speak Korean at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, the third highest rate of any state in the nation. Outside of Arabic speakers, whose SLEP rate is the tenth highest here, Alaska has relatively low severe limited English proficiency rates within certain language groups. Fewer than 1-in-6 Spanish speakers are SLEP, the sixth lowest rate, and the rates among Japanese and Chinese speakers are fourth lowest in each case.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

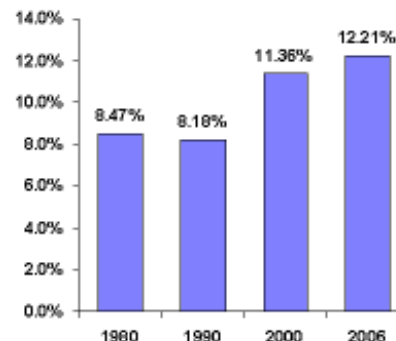
Isolated from much of the immigration waves that the lower 48 states are facing, Alaska has experienced relatively stable limited English proficiency rates over the last quarter century. Given the above average concentration of severely limited English proficient individuals among the senior population, coupled with lower than average SLEP levels among most major linguistic groups, the LEP rate will likely continue to hold steady, or perhaps decline, in the coming years. Though Korean speakers and Arabic speakers tend to have higher SLEP rates on average, the main challenge in Alaska will continue to be developing English proficiency in the state's many native communities.

Arizona

Capital: Phoenix
2006 Population: 6,166,318
Joined Union: Feb. 14, 1912

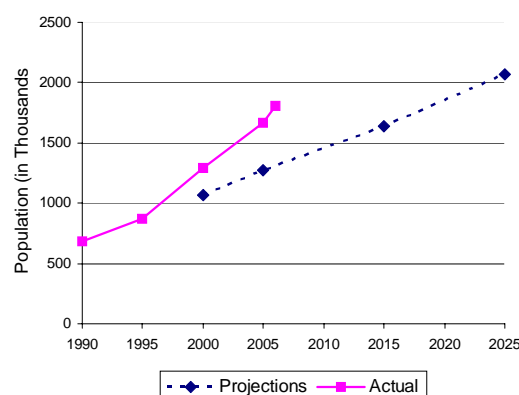
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of Arizona tripled between 1980 and 2006, from 212,315 to 694,632. In 2006, 1-in-8 Arizonans were classified as limited English proficient, up from 1-in-12 residents in 1980. The Grand Canyon State has long ranked among the states with the highest LEP rates, placing seventh in both 1990 and 2000 and jumping to fifth place in 2006.



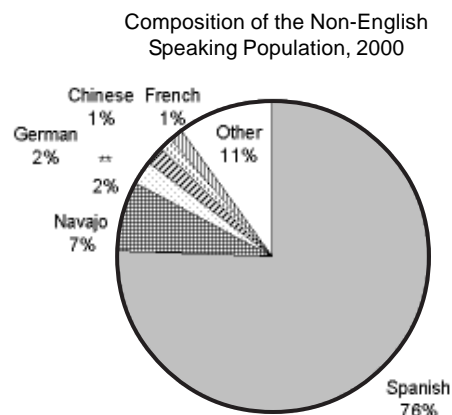
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Arizona has surpassed Census projections made in 1996. In 2000, Arizona was home to 1.30 million Hispanics, well above the 2000 estimate of 1.07 million and already above the 2005 estimate of 1.27 million. By 2005, the Grand Canyon State had already exceeded projections for 2015 and was nearing the projections made for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

More than 75 percent of Arizonans who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish in 2000. At more than 900,000 residents, the Spanish speaking population was more than ten times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, Navajo. Speakers of Native North American languages other than Navajo were the third most populous group, followed by German, Chinese and French. Speakers of these six languages account for 23.3 percent of Arizona's overall population and 89.9 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

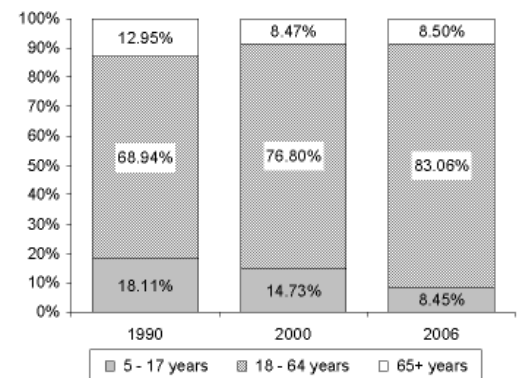


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Among the working age population in Arizona, the percentage of the population that is severely limited English proficient (SLEP) is rising at a considerable rate. In 1990, approximately 1-in-20 Arizonans between the ages of 18 and 64 spoke English “not well” or “not at all,” and the state ranked eighth in the nation in this category. By 2006, the rate had increased to more than 1-in-11 and Arizona placed third. Though the SLEP portion of Arizona’s school age population decreased between 1990 and 2006 from 1-in-24 to 1-in-31, Arizona ranks third in the nation for the SLEP rate of residents age 5-17.

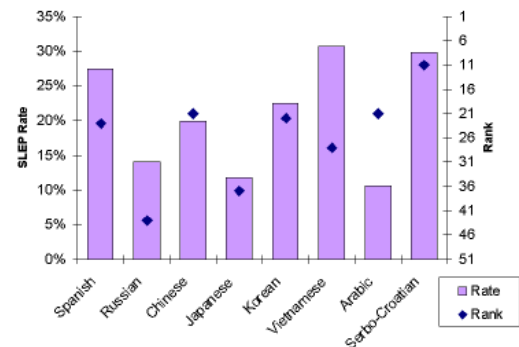
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Arizona. More than 3-in-10 Arizona residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Serbo-Croatian speakers and the percentage of Spanish speakers who struggle with English. The rate of Arizona Serbo-Croatian speakers who are SLEP is the 11th highest in the nation.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

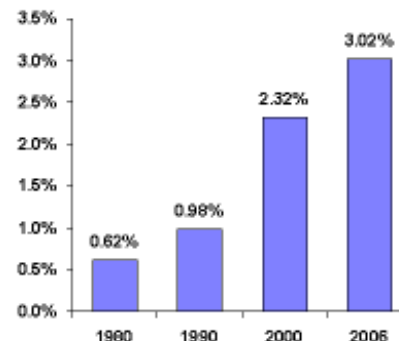
Though high levels of limited English proficiency should not come as a surprise in a border state such as Arizona, high and growing levels are a cause for concern. Over the last 25 years, LEP rates have risen in Arizona by more than 50 percent, have become more concentrated within the working age population, and are evident across multiple linguistic groups, setting the stage for more severe problems down the line. Efforts to promote English need to begin in the Spanish speaking community, which comprises more than three-quarters of the non-English speakers in the state. However, as Arizona continues to serve as a destination for immigrants from many different countries, these initiatives must be extended across the board.

Arkansas

Capital: Little Rock
2006 Population: 2,810,872
Joined Union: June 15, 1836

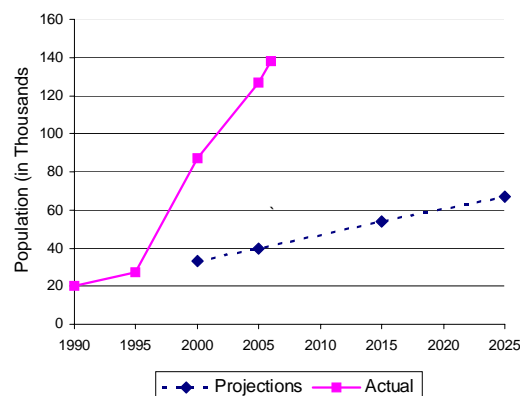
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The number of limited English proficient (LEP) people living in Arkansas has risen more than six times between 1980 and 2006, from 13,069 to 79,126. The state's LEP rate has risen drastically over this span, from fewer than 1-in-161 people in 1980 to nearly 1-in-43 in 2000 to almost 1-in-33 by 2006. The Natural State, which had the fifth lowest LEP rate in the nation in 1980 and fourth lowest in 1990, rose to 38th overall in 2000 and 34th in 2006.



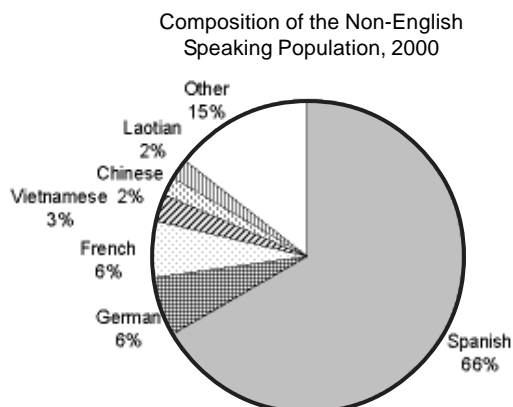
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Arkansas has greatly surpassed Census projections. By 2000, the number of Hispanics living in the Natural State was more than two-and-a-half times the Census estimate for that year and had already passed the benchmarks established for 2005, 2015 and 2025. By 2006, the state's Hispanic population had already doubled the estimate made for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

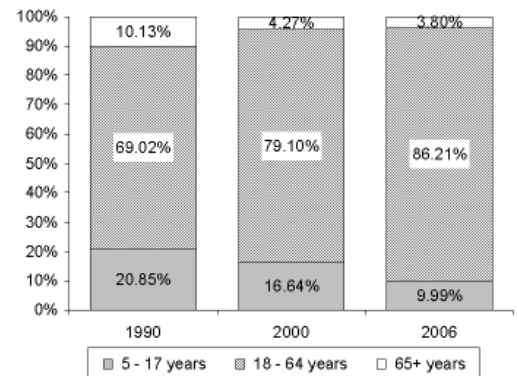
Spanish speakers make up a majority of the 124,000 Arkansas residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprised 66 percent of the total, more than ten times the number of the second most common non-English language, German. French is the third most common language spoken at home, with 7,310 speakers, followed by Vietnamese, Chinese and Laotian. Speakers of these six languages account for 4.2 percent of the population of Arkansas and 85.4 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The working age population comprised more than 86 percent of the severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Arkansas in 2006. This was the fourth highest rate of any state in the nation. However, the significant growth in Arkansans who speak little or no English is not limited to a single group. Among school age children, the SLEP rate jumped from less than 1-in-200 in 1990 to nearly 1-in-100 by 2006. Within the working age population, the SLEP rate skyrocketed from less than 1-in-200 to nearly 1-in-40 over that same span. Even the SLEP among senior citizens has increased, from 1-in-350 to 1-in-225.

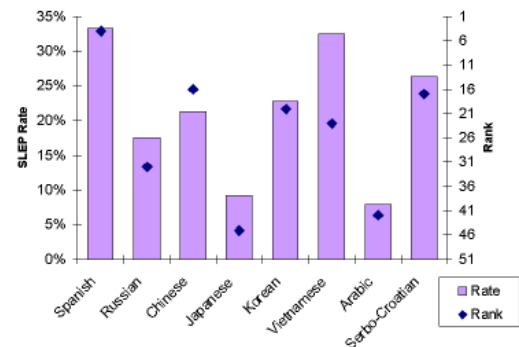
**Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006**



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Spanish speakers have the highest SLEP rates among the eight language groups studied in Arkansas. Nearly 1-in-3 Arkansas residents who speak Spanish at home speak little or no English, the fourth highest rate in the nation. Vietnamese speakers are also more likely to struggle with English, with more than 32 percent classified as severely limited English proficient. On the other hand, the Arabic speaking and Japanese speaking populations of Arkansas have some of the lowest SLEP levels nationwide.

**Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000**



Conclusion

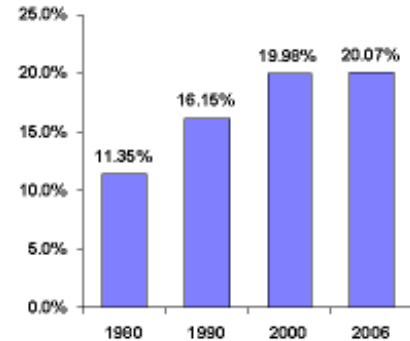
Until the mid-1990s, limited English proficiency was a rare problem in Arkansas. However, the picture has changed dramatically in the last decade. LEP rates have quintupled, a product of dramatically higher than expected growth in the Hispanic population and one of the nation's highest SLEP rates among Spanish speakers. The heavy concentration of the severely limited English proficient among the working age population may have serious consequences for the state's productivity and economy down the line. Arkansas must quickly build programs that encourage assimilation and English learning among Spanish speakers, or risk becoming like many of the southwestern states with large linguistically isolated communities.

California

Capital: Sacramento
2006 Population: 36,457,549
Joined Union: Sept. 9, 1850

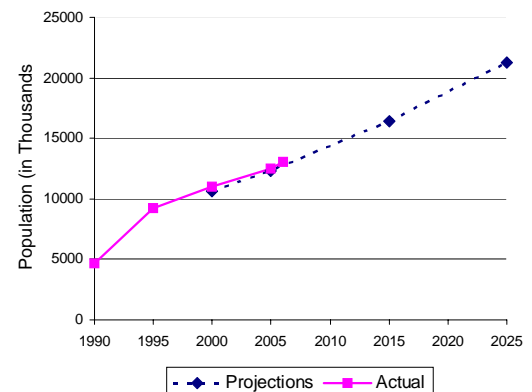
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

California's position as an immigrant gateway state has taken on new meaning over the last quarter century. Home to 2,493,681 limited English proficient (LEP) individuals in 1980, nearly a million more than any other state, California's LEP population more than doubled by 2006 to 6,778,944. Whereas 1-in-9 Californians were limited English proficient in 1980, this rate rose to 1-in-6 by 1990 and 1-in-5 by 2006. The Golden State ranked as the state with the highest LEP rate in 2006, 2000, and 1990, up from third highest in 1980.



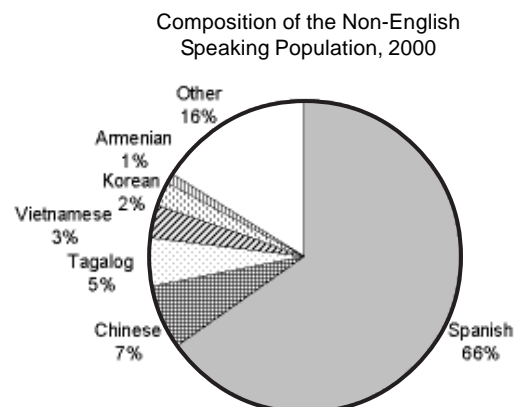
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

California's growing Hispanic population has slightly exceeded projections made by the Census in 1996. As of 2000, the Hispanic population of the Golden State was 10.97 million, three percent above the forecast of 10.65 million for that year. By 2005, the number of Hispanics living in California had increased to 12.52 million, two percent above the predicted total of 12.27 million.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

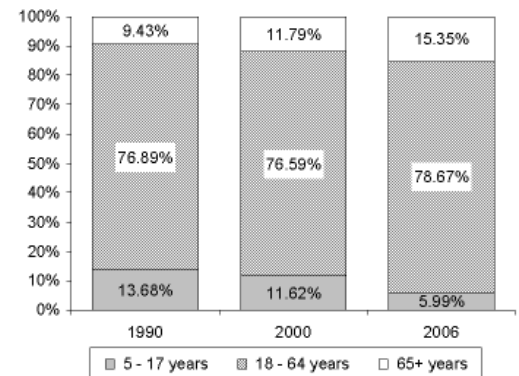
Nearly two-thirds of California residents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish in 2000. With more than 8.1 million residents, the Spanish speaking population was nearly ten times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, Chinese. Speakers of Tagalog comprised the third most populous group, followed by Vietnamese, Korean and Armenian. Speakers of these six languages account for 23.3 percent of California's overall population and 89.9 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

California has the highest rate of severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) among the working age and senior citizen populations and the second highest rate among school age children. In 2006, nearly 1-in-6 senior citizens in California spoke little or no English, by far the highest rate in the nation and well above the 1-in-11 rate noted in 1990. Within the working age population the SLEP rate was nearly 1-in-7 Californians. While this rate also led the nation by a significant amount, it represented a slight decline from the 1990 figure. More than 1-in-30 school age residents of California were severely limited English proficient in 2006, a steep decline from the nearly 1-in-10 figure noted 16 years earlier. Still, only Texas had a higher rate.

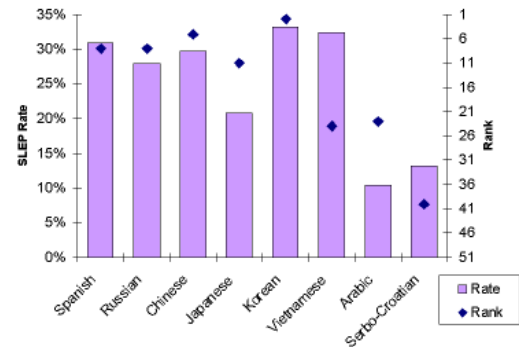
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Korean speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in California. Nearly 1-in-3 California residents who speak Korean at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Vietnamese speakers and Spanish speakers who struggle with English. Both of these rates exceed 3-in-10. The SLEP rate of Korean speakers in California is the second highest in the nation, while the rate among Chinese speakers is fifth highest. On the other hand, Serbo-Croatian speakers in California have some of the lowest SLEP rates, at roughly 1-in-8.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

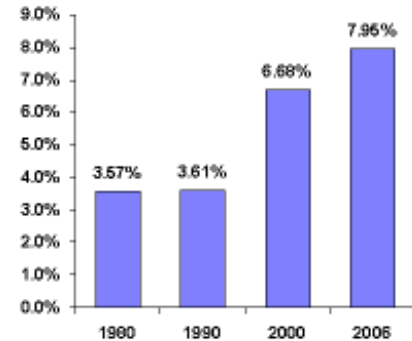
Though the varying opportunities available in California have made the state a beacon for many, the state's lack of emphasis on learning English has created the nation's most severe limited English proficiency problem. The state's LEP rate is not only the highest recorded, but it continues to grow at an alarming rate, topping 1-in-5 residents in 2006. While a large portion of this matter can be traced to high SLEP rates among the state's large Hispanic population, it is hardly the only cause. Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean speakers also have higher SLEP rates here than anywhere else, leading to the development of multiple linguistically isolated communities. It is absolutely imperative for the government to demonstrate that an English-optional existence is detrimental to both individuals and to the state as a whole.

Colorado

Capital: Denver
2006 Population: 4,753,377
Joined Union: Aug. 1, 1876

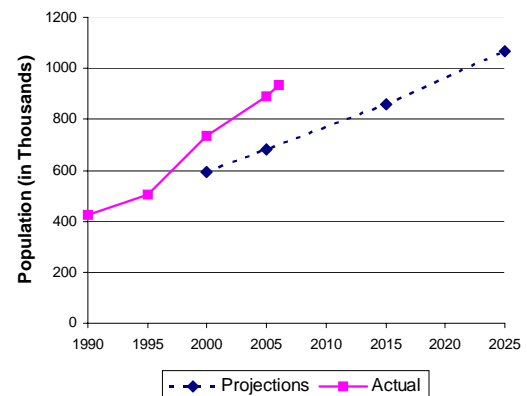
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The number of limited English proficient (LEP) residents of Colorado has more than tripled between 1980 and 2006, leaping from 95,509 to 351,024, with a significant increase after 1990. Whereas 1-in-28 Coloradans were limited English proficient in 1980, and the same was true in 1990, the LEP rate jumped to 1-in-12 residents by 2006. The Centennial State has long ranked among the states with the highest LEP rates. It ranked 16th in 1980, 15th in 2000 and 13th in 2006.



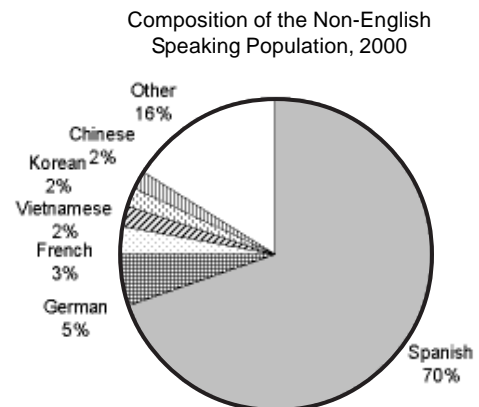
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

In Colorado, the Hispanic population has moderately exceeded Census projections. The Centennial State was home to 736,000 Hispanics in 2000, almost 25 percent above the forecast of 594,000 made for that year and surpassing the prediction for 2005 as well. By 2005, the Hispanic population numbered 892,000 and had already outpaced the forecast for the year 2015. Given the growth in the Hispanic population in Colorado, it is highly likely that the forecast for 2025 will be eclipsed around the turn of this decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

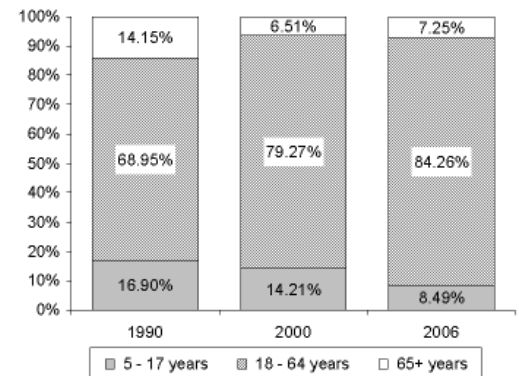
Speakers of Spanish comprise the majority of Colorado's 604,000 residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. This population accounts for nearly 70 percent of the total, more than 13 times the number who spoke the second most common non-English language, German. French places third with slightly more than 18,000 speakers, followed by Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese. Speakers of these six languages account for 12.6 percent of Colorado's overall population and 83.8 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Nearly 1-in-50 Coloradans of school age were severely limited English proficient (SLEP) in 2006, the seventh highest rate of any state in the nation. The SLEP rate among Colorado residents age 5-17 has increased markedly from 1990, when approximately 1-in-75 school age children spoke English not well or not at all and the state ranked 16th. Colorado has also seen significant growth in severe limited English proficiency among the working age population, a rate that rose from 1-in-61 in 1990 to more than 1-in-20 by 2006. Colorado now has the 11th highest SLEP rate among adults age 18 to 64, up from 17th in 1990 and 13th in 2000.

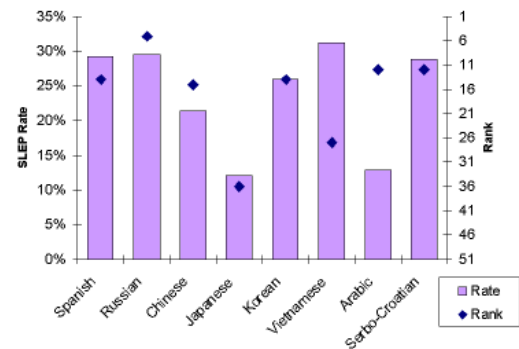
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Colorado. More than 3-in-10 Colorado residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Serbo-Croatian speakers, Spanish speakers, and Russian speakers who struggle with English. On a nationwide basis, Colorado has the fifth highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Russian speakers at 29 percent. On the other hand, Colorado residents who speak Japanese at home are some of the most English proficient.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

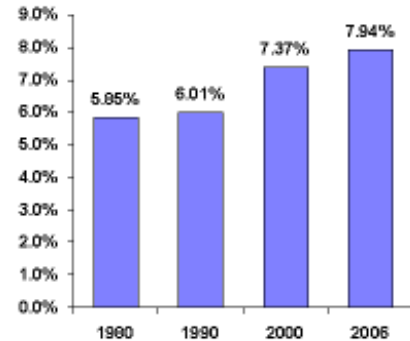
High rates of severe limited English proficiency across the board have propelled Colorado's LEP rate to an alarming level. Of the eight major linguistic groups studied, six had SLEP rates well above the national median, and five exceeded 25 percent. Such lagging figures for acquiring English proficiency, coupled with high SLEP concentrations among Colorado's working age population, spell trouble for the state's future productivity if these levels are allowed to continue unchecked. The state cannot delay in developing a framework for stressing English language learning for all immigrants, especially the Spanish speaking majority.

Connecticut

Capital: Hartford
2006 Population: 3,504,809
Joined Union: Jan. 9, 1788

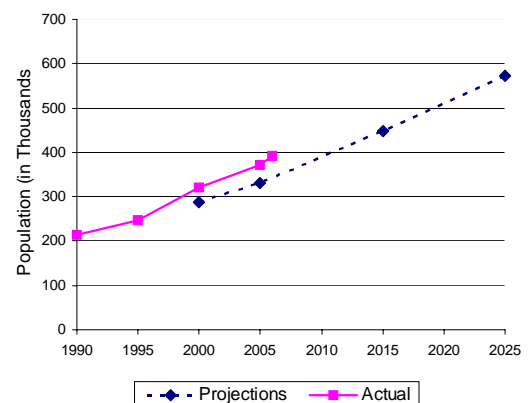
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Connecticut has seen steady growth in its limited English proficient (LEP) population over the last 26 years, increasing from 171,122 persons in 1980 to 262,324 persons in 2006. During this span, the LEP rate in Connecticut increased from 1-in-17 residents to more than 1-in-13. The Constitution State has long ranked among the states with the highest LEP rates, although it has been outpaced in recent years. Connecticut ranked 14th on this list in 2006, down from 12th in 1990 and 10th in 1980.



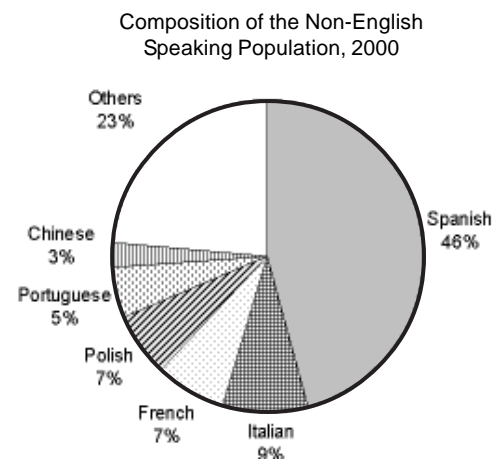
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Connecticut has slightly exceeded Census projections made a decade ago. In 2000, there were 320,000 Hispanics living in the Nutmeg State, 11 percent more than the forecast of 288,000 for that year. By mid-decade, the Hispanic population had increased to 371,000, again running 11 percent ahead of projection. It appears likely that the Hispanic population will exceed the 2015 projection slightly sooner than anticipated.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

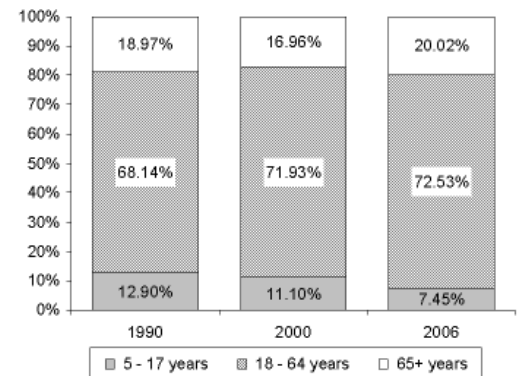
Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken at home in Connecticut, used by 45.9 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The number of Spanish speakers is five times the number of users of the second most numerous non-English language spoken at home, Italian. French is the third most common, followed by Polish, Portuguese and Chinese. Speakers of these six languages account for 14.0 percent of Connecticut's overall population and 76.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

More than one-fifth of the severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Connecticut is comprised of senior citizens. More than 1-in-20 residents of Connecticut age 65 and older spoke little or no English in 2006, a higher rate than in 1990 and 2000 and the 12th highest rate in the nation. The SLEP rate has also been climbing among those of working age, from 1-in-36 in 1990 to almost 1-in-25 in 2006.

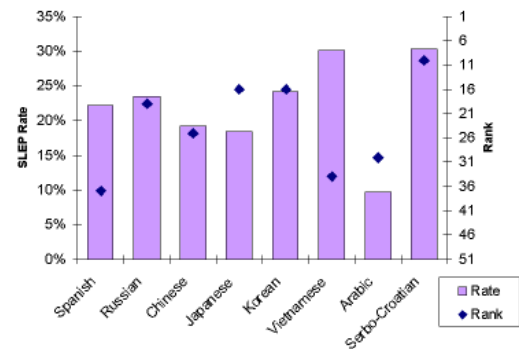
**Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006**



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Serbo-Croatian speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Connecticut. More than 3-in-10 Connecticut residents who speak Serbo-Croatian at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Vietnamese speakers who struggle with English. Compared to other states, Connecticut has the 10th highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Serbo-Croatian speakers. Conversely, Connecticut has one of the lower SLEP rates in the nation among those who speak Spanish at home.

**Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000**



Conclusion

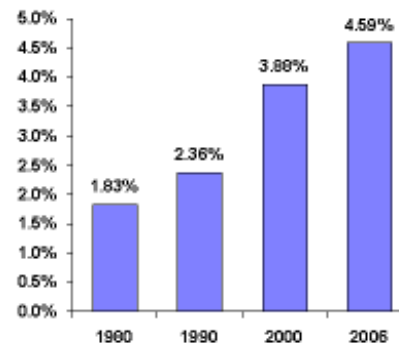
Immigrants have made up a sizeable portion of Connecticut's population since Colonial times. That trend has continued into the 21st century, leaving the state with one of the higher rates of limited English proficiency nationwide, especially among the senior citizen population. In order to arrest the slow growth of LEP rates that have occurred over the last 25 years, the state must address certain segments of its population which are lagging behind in English learning. Serbo-Croatian, Japanese and Korean speakers in Connecticut have higher SLEP rates here than in most other states, figures which must be reduced if the state is to get the highest level of productivity from its citizens.

Delaware

Capital: Dover
2006 Population: 853,476
Joined Union: Dec. 7, 1787

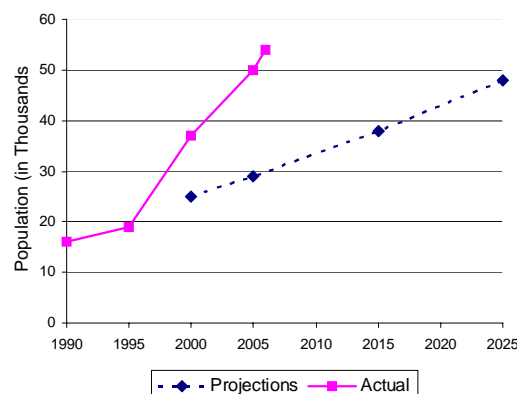
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Delaware's limited English proficient (LEP) population more than tripled between 1980 and 2006, increasing from 10,146 to 36,554, including a doubling between 1990 and 2000. In 2006, more than 1-in-22 Delawareans were classified as limited English proficient, up from 1-in-42 in 1990 and 1-in-55 in 1980. LEP rates in the First State have increased compared to other states, jumping from 32nd in 1980 to 27th in 1990, 26th in 2000 and 24th in 2006.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

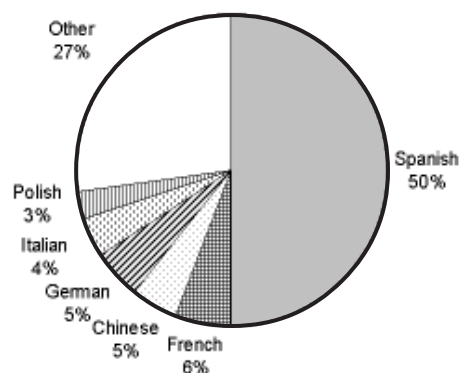
Delaware's Hispanic population has far exceeded Census projections made in 1996. The First State was home to 37,000 Hispanics in 2000, approximately one-and-a-half times the forecast of 25,000 made by the Census and surpassing the 2005 projection as well. By 2005, the Hispanic population in Delaware had increased to 50,000, exceeding the forecasts for 2015 and 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Spanish speakers make up nearly half of the 69,535 Delaware residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 49.9 percent of the total, more than eight times the number of the second most common non-English language, French. Chinese is the third most common language spoken at home, with 3,580 speakers, followed by German, Italian and Polish. Speakers of these six languages account for 6.9 percent of Delaware's overall population and 72.8 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

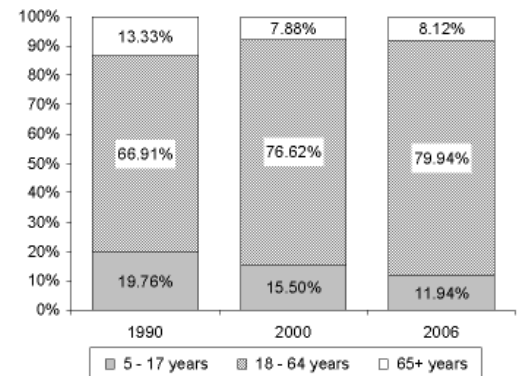
Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The percentage of Delaware school age children who are severely limited English proficient (SLEP) has risen by 70 percent between 1990 and 2006, from 1-in-100 to 1-in-59. Children age 5 to 17 now make up almost 12 percent of the state's SLEP population, the 11th highest percentage in the nation. Delaware has also experienced a significant increase in the percentage of the working age population which speaks little or no English. The rate of adults 18 to 64 who are SLEP soared from less than 1-in-100 in 1990 to nearly 1-in-30 by 2000.

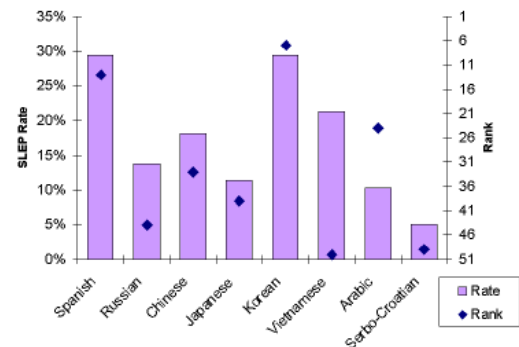
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Spanish speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Delaware. Nearly 3-in-10 Delaware residents who speak Spanish at home speak little or no English, the 13th highest rate in the nation, and slightly more than the percentage of Korean speaking residents who struggle with English. Compared to other states, Delaware has the seventh highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Korean speakers. Conversely, the Vietnamese speaking, Serbo-Croatian speaking and Russian speaking populations of Delaware have some of the lowest SLEP levels nationwide.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

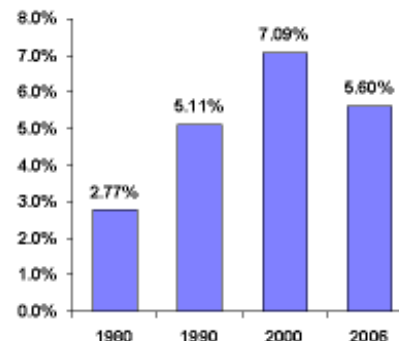
Limited English proficiency is on the rise in Delaware and statistics indicate that there may still be a long way to go until the figure peaks. Higher than expected growth in the Hispanic population, coupled with high SLEP rates among Spanish speakers, has doubled limited English proficiency rates here over the last 16 years. The growth in the Hispanic population, along with the high concentration of severely limited English proficient individuals within working age Delawareans means that it is likely that LEP rates will continue to rise. Given this prognosis, the state must make a concerted effort to stress English learning among Spanish-speaking immigrants, while also keeping in mind that SLEP rates among Korean speakers are quite high as well.

District of Columbia

Capital: n/a
2006 Population: 581,530
Joined Union: n/a

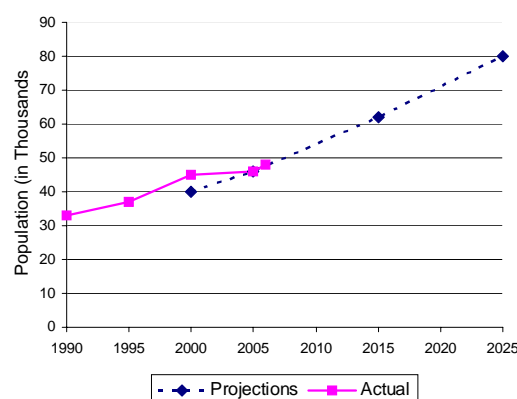
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

After doubling from 1980 to 2000, the limited English proficient (LEP) population of the District of Columbia declined from 2000 to 2006. In 2006, there were 30,616 LEP residents of the District of Columbia, accounting for 1-in-18 residents. This is an increase over the 16,574 persons recorded in 1980, when there was one LEP resident for every 36 residents, but below the 2000 figures of 38,236 and 1-in-14 residents, respectively. The nation's capital has the 22nd highest LEP rate in the nation, down from 14th in both 1990 and 2000.



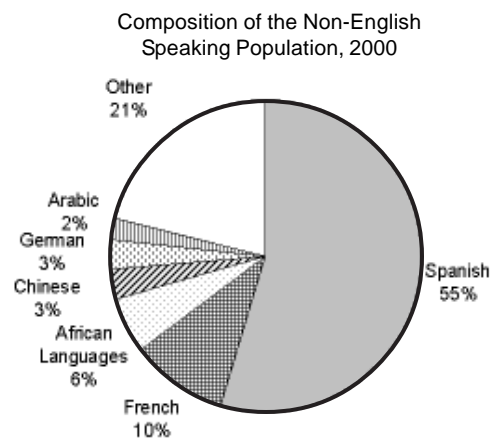
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Recent enumeration of the Hispanic population in the District of Columbia indicates that the nation's capital is meeting Census projections made in 1996. In 2000, the District of Columbia was home to 45,000 Hispanics, slightly above the prediction for 2000, but below that of 2005. After several years of moderate growth, the 2005 Hispanic population of 46,000 was directly on target with that year's forecast. Recent evidence suggests that Washington, D.C.'s Hispanic population will remain at or near Census projections in the coming years.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

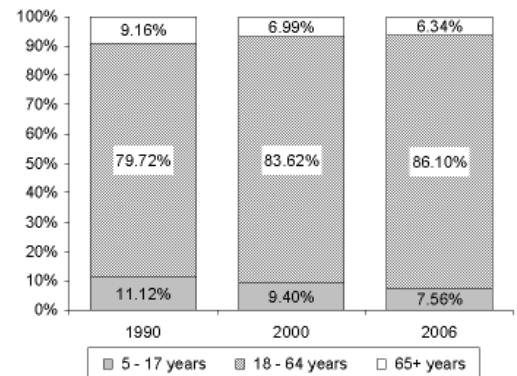
Speakers of Spanish comprise the majority of the District of Columbia's 90,000 residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. This population accounts for nearly 55 percent of the total, more than five times the number who speak the second most common non-English language, French. African languages place third with slightly more than 5,000 speakers, followed by Chinese, German and Arabic. Speakers of these six languages account for 13.2 percent of Washington, D.C.'s overall population and 79.0 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The District of Columbia's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population is concentrated among working age residents. In 2006, those between the age of 18 and 64 comprised more than 86 percent of the population that spoke English not well or not at all. This was the seventh highest rate of any state in the nation. While Washington D.C.'s overall SLEP rates were at or around the national median in 2006, they have declined among all three segments of the population – school age, working age and senior citizens - over the last 16 years.

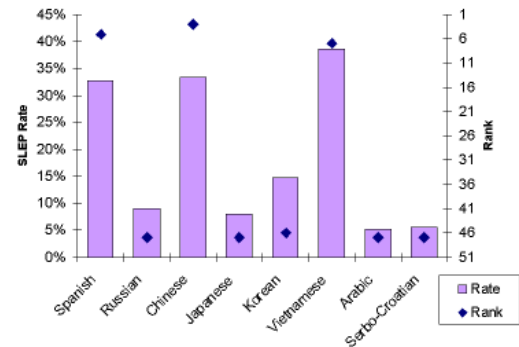
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Washington, D.C. Nearly 4-in-10 residents of the nation's capital who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, the seventh highest rate in the nation. Washington, D.C. also ranks among the states with the highest levels of severe limited English proficiency among Chinese speakers, where it ranks third, and among Spanish speakers, where it ranks fifth. On the other hand, SLEP rates for Russian speakers, Serbo-Croatian speakers, Japanese speakers, Korean speakers and Arabic speakers in Washington, D.C. are among the nation's lowest.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

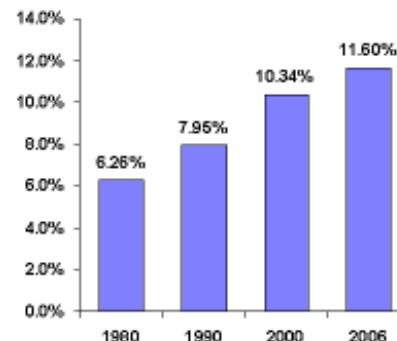
Given the international population of Washington, D.C. and the transitory nature of that population, it is no surprise that limited English proficiency rates are high and tend to fluctuate. However, upon closer investigation, there are causes for concern. While Washington D.C. is not unique in the fact that Spanish speakers make up the majority of the non-English speaking population, the number of Hispanics is actually quite small and has stayed within Census projections. Despite this small population, Spanish speakers have some of the highest SLEP rates recorded anywhere in the country. This phenomenon, which is also noted among the city's Chinese and Vietnamese speakers, must be addressed in any program to encourage English language learning.

Florida

Capital: Tallahassee
2006 Population: 18,089,889
Joined Union: Mar. 3, 1845

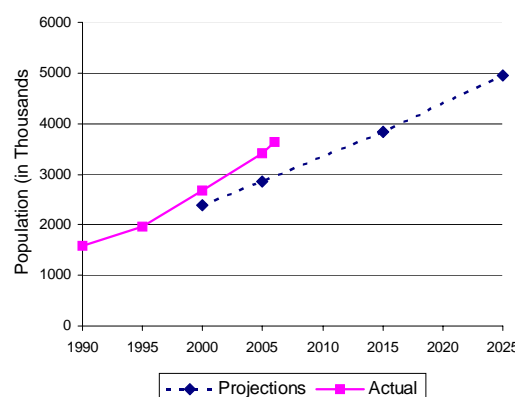
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Though Florida has long been home to a significant immigrant population, the increase in the limited English proficient (LEP) population during the last 25 years has defied conventional expectations. Florida's LEP population rose nearly three-and-a-half times between 1980 and 2006, from 574,701 to 1,968,150. Limited English proficient people accounted for more than 1-in-9 Floridians in 2006, up from 1-in-12 in 1990 and 1-in-16 in 1980. The Sunshine State has long ranked among the states with the highest LEP rates, increasing from ninth in 1980 to seventh in 2006.



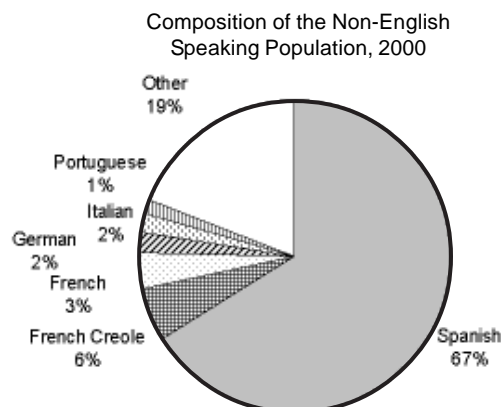
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Florida's Hispanic population is growing slightly faster than Census projections made in 1996. More than 2.68 million Hispanics called the Sunshine State home in 2000, 12 percent above the Census forecast of 2.39 million for that year. By 2005, the Hispanic population in Florida had grown to 3.41 million, outpacing the Census prediction by 20 percent. As of 2006, the Hispanic population of Florida is nearing the 2015 projection and will probably surpass that total before the end of this decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

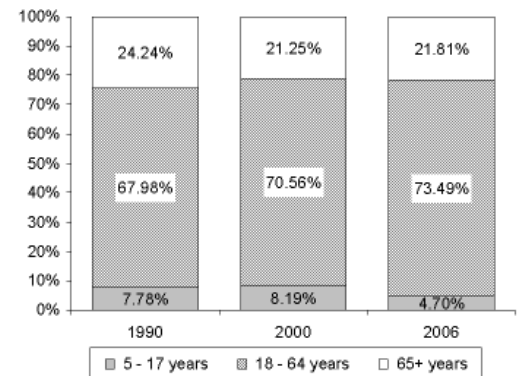
More than two-thirds of Florida residents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish in 2000. With nearly 2.5 million residents, the Spanish speaking population was almost 12 times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, French Creole. Speakers of French comprised the third most populous group, followed by German, Italian and Portuguese. Speakers of these six languages account for 20.1 percent of Florida's overall population and 87.1 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

In 2006, Florida had some of the nation's highest severely limited English proficient (SLEP) rates among all three age groups – school age children, working age adults, and senior citizens. Nearly 1-in-56 children age 5 to 17 spoke little or no English, the 11th highest rate in the nation, while the rates among adults age 18 to 64 (1-in-14) and senior citizens (1-in-13) each ranked sixth. Of greater concern is that the rates in these two categories have risen since 1990, by 34 percent among working age adults and by 31 percent among senior citizens.

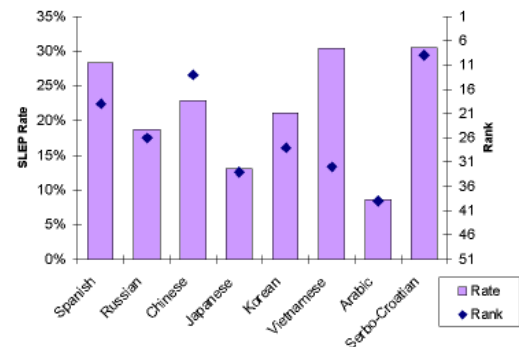
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Serbo-Croatian speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Florida. More than 3-in-10 Florida residents who speak Serbo-Croatian at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Vietnamese speakers who struggle with English. Compared to other states, Florida has the ninth highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Serbo-Croatian speakers. Conversely, Florida has one of the lower SLEP rates in the nation among those who speak Arabic at home.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

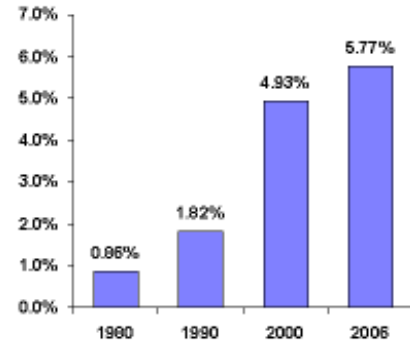
Florida has long been home to a sizeable immigrant population, but the degree to which the limited English proficient population is growing threatens to turn the state's pockets of diversity into pockets of linguistic isolation. In the last 25 years, the LEP rate has doubled, and while senior citizens still make up a sizeable portion of those who struggle with English, there are ominous signs that the rates will continue to increase. For example, while Spanish speakers have considerably high SLEP rates, they are also joined in this territory by other linguistic groups such as Chinese and Serbo-Croatian. Florida can ill afford to fall further behind in encouraging assimilation and language learning and needs to implement programs designed to get all immigrants into the mainstream.

Georgia

Capital: Atlanta
2006 Population: 9,363,941
Joined Union: Jan. 2, 1788

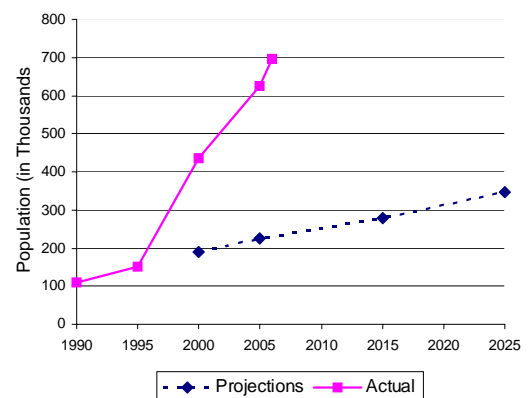
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of Georgia grew exponentially between 1980 and 2006, soaring from 43,560 to 500,180. Consequently, the LEP rate within the state also skyrocketed, jumping from fewer than 1-in-100 residents in 1980 to 1-in-55 residents in 1990 to nearly 1-in-17 residents in 2006. Despite the significant growth in the Peach State's overall population during this time, the state went from having the ninth lowest LEP rate in 1980 to the 35th highest in 1990 to the 19th highest in 2006.



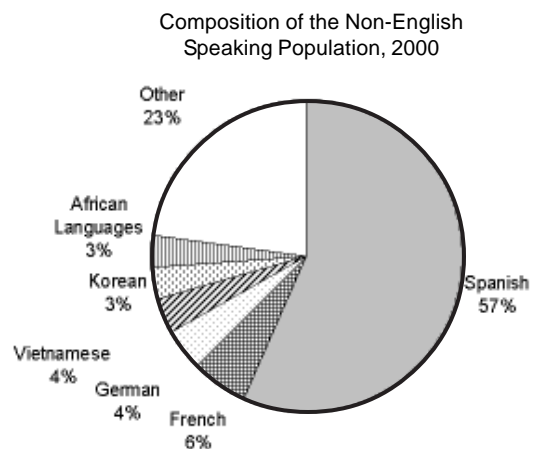
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Georgia has greatly exceeded Census projections made in 1996. In 2000, The Peach State was home to 435,000 Hispanics, more than double the prediction of 189,000 and surpassing the projections for 2005, 2015 and 2025 by significant margins. The 2005 Hispanic population of 625,000 within the state was nearly triple the 2005 forecast and more than double the prediction for 2015.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

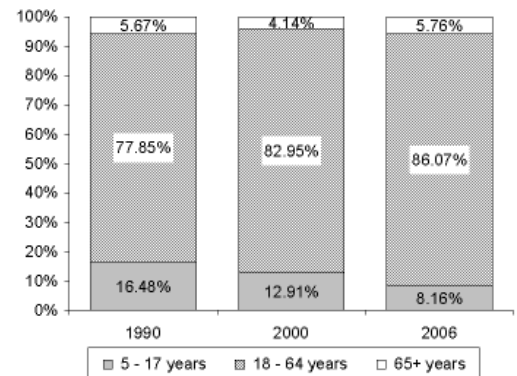
Spanish speakers make up more than half of the 751,440 Georgia residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 56.7 percent of the total, nearly 10 times the number of the second most common non-English language, French. German is the third most common language spoken at home, with 32,775 speakers, followed by Vietnamese, Korean and the group of "African languages." Speakers of these six languages account for 7.6 percent of Georgia's overall population and 77.3 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Georgia's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population is heavily concentrated among working age adults, with more than 86 percent of the state's population that speaks little or no English falling between the age of 18 and 64. This is the seventh highest rate of any state in the nation. From 1990 to 2006, the SLEP rate among working age Georgians jumped from less than 1-in-100 to more than 1-in-25. The rate among senior citizens also increased by four times over the same span.

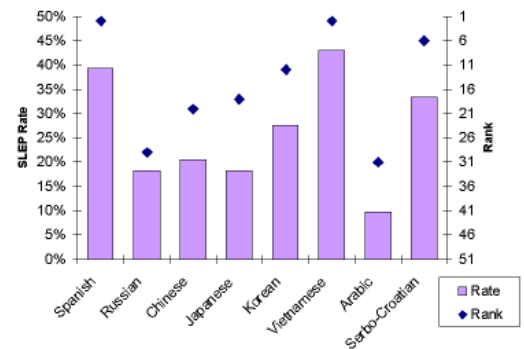
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Georgia. More than 4-in-10 Georgia residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, the second highest rate in the nation. Georgia also ranks among the states with the highest levels of severe limited English proficiency among Spanish speakers, where it ranks second, behind only North Carolina, and among Serbo-Croatian speakers, where it ranks sixth.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

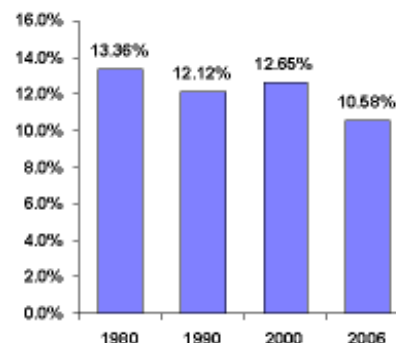
In the last 25 years, Georgia has changed from a state with minimal LEP issues to one that is facing the same challenges as many of the traditional "immigrant gateways." The immigrant population in Georgia has skyrocketed across the board, led by the Hispanic population, which has grown exponentially. The Peach State now finds itself with a host of issues to address, including high SLEP levels among Spanish and Vietnamese speakers and a severely limited English proficient population that is concentrated among working age individuals, putting the state's economy, and its' future, in peril. It is imperative that Georgia begin aggressive methods to get newcomers on the road to English learning before permanent "linguistic enclaves" take root in the state.

Hawaii

Capital: Honolulu
2006 Population: 1,285,498
Joined Union: Aug. 21, 1959

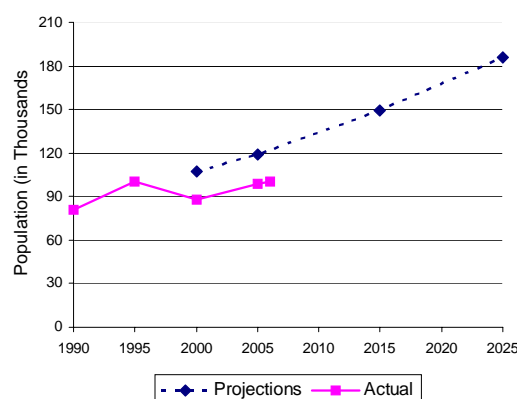
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Hawaii's limited English proficient (LEP) population has grown slightly between 1980 and 2006, increasing to 126,811 from 118,617. Coupled with the moderate growth in Hawaii's overall population, the LEP rate within the state has declined significantly, from approximately 1-in-7 residents in 1980 to less than 1-in-9 Hawaiians in 2006. Though the Aloha State ranked as the state with the second highest LEP rate in 1980, trailing only New Mexico, it dropped to fourth in 2000 and ninth in 2006.



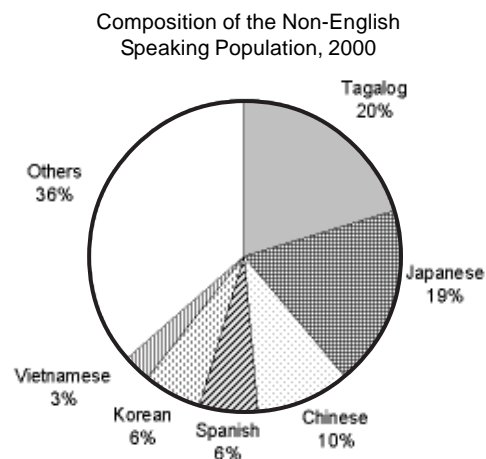
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Enumeration of the Hispanic population in Hawaii indicates that this segment of the population is lagging behind Census projections. There were 88,000 Hispanics living in the Aloha State in 2000, more than 17 percent below the projected figure of 107,000 for that year. By 2005, the Hispanic population had increased to 99,000, but this was still 17 percent below the anticipated number. Barring a significant change in the growth rate of Hawaii's Hispanic population, forecasts for 2015 and 2025 are likely to be reached sometime after those respective years.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

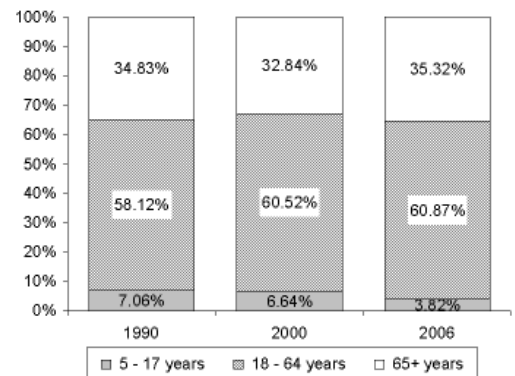
There are more speakers of Tagalog among Hawaii's population which spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 than speakers of any other language. More than one-fifth of Hawaii's 302,125 residents who spoke a non-English language at home spoke Tagalog, slightly more than the number who spoke Japanese. Chinese was the third most widely spoken language, with 29,365 speakers, followed by Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese. Speakers of these six languages account for 16.9 percent of Hawaii's overall population and 63.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The severely limited English proficient population of Hawaii is more concentrated among senior citizens than in any other state, although SLEP rates have been dropping within all age groups. In 2006, more than 1-in-3 severely limited English proficient Hawaiians were over the age of 65, although the SLEP rate among senior citizens had dropped to 1-in-10 from almost 1-in-4 in 1990. Among working age adults, the rate of Hawaiians who spoke little or no English declined to less than 1-in-25 in 2006 from more than 1-in-20 in 1990. The SLEP rate among school age children has declined by more than half over the same span.

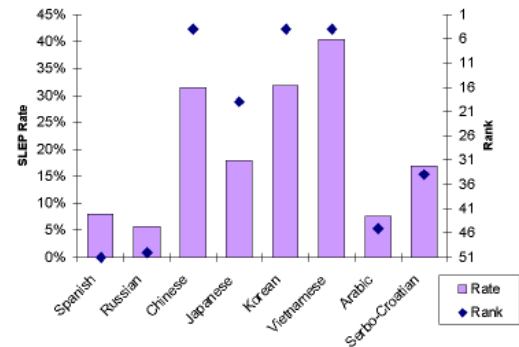
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Hawaii. More than 4-in-10 Hawaiians who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, the fourth highest rate in the nation. Additionally, Hawaii has the fourth highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Korean speakers at 31.8 percent and fourth highest among Chinese speakers at 31.6 percent. Conversely, Hawaii residents who speak Spanish at home have the lowest level of severe limited English proficiency, and Russian speakers have the second lowest.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

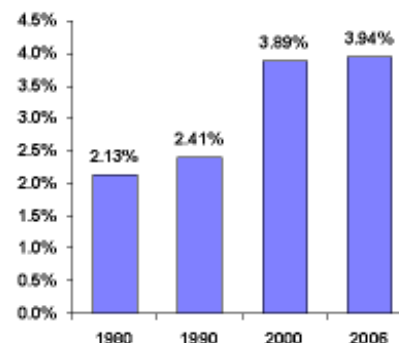
Despite high overall rates, limited English proficiency is on the decline in Hawaii. Barring unforeseen circumstances, this rate should continue to decline given the high rate of severe limited English proficiency among senior citizens and the low rate among school age children. Unlike many states, Hawaii is not experiencing high SLEP rates among Spanish speakers. In fact, it is home to the most English proficient Spanish speakers of any state. The same cannot be said for Chinese, Korean, or Vietnamese speakers, who make up a sizeable portion of those who struggle with English. It is these populations that must be addressed with any initiative to encourage English language learning.

Idaho

Capital: Boise
2006 Population: 1,466,465
Joined Union: July 3, 1890

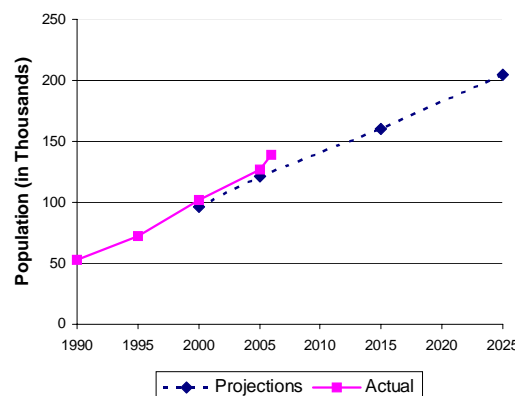
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Idaho's limited English proficient (LEP) population tripled between 1980 and 2006, soaring from 18,116 to 53,382. Following modest growth in the number of LEP residents between 1980 and 1990, Idaho saw this portion of its population double between 1990 and 2000. From 1990 to 2000, the LEP rate in Idaho jumped from approximately 1-in-40 residents to 1-in-25 residents. The Gem State has long ranked at or around the median among states with the highest levels of limited English proficiency, varying from 27th in 1980 to 26th in 1990 to 25th in 2000 to 28th in 2006.



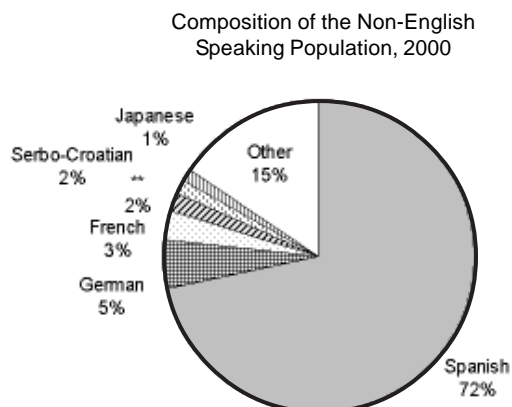
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Idaho's Hispanic population has increased in accordance with Census projections. In 2000, Idaho was home to 102,000 Hispanics, nearly matching a prediction of 96,000 for that year. By 2005, the Hispanic population of the Gem State had increased to 127,000, in line with the estimate of 121,000. However, Idaho's Hispanic population was measured at 139,000 in 2006, making it likely that the state will eclipse the 2015 projection of 160,000 before that time.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

More than two-thirds of Idaho residents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish in 2000. With more than 80,000 residents, the Spanish speaking population was more than 14 times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, German. Speakers of French comprised the third most populous group, followed by speakers of Native North American languages other than Navajo, Serbo-Croatian, and Japanese. Speakers of these six languages account for 7.9 percent of Idaho's overall population and 84.6 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

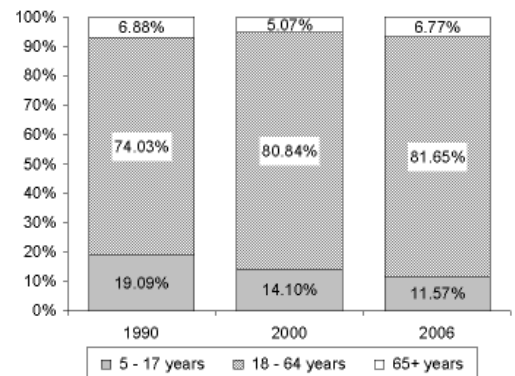


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Idaho has experienced growth in the severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population among all three age groups – school age children, working age adults, and senior citizens. Within the population age 5 to 17, the SLEP rate has increased from approximately 1-in-100 to 1-in-84 between 1990 and 2006. Over the same span, the rate of working age Idahoans who speak little or no English has risen from 1-in-63 to 1-in-38. SLEP growth among senior citizens has been most striking, rising more than 70 percent over the 16 year time frame.

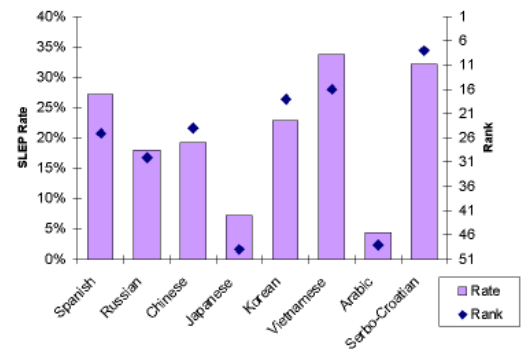
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Idaho. More than 1-in-3 Idaho residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, slightly more than the percentage of Serbo-Croatian speaking residents who struggle with English. Compared to other states, Idaho has the eighth highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Serbo-Croatian speakers. Conversely, the Arabic speaking and Japanese speaking populations of Idaho have some of the lowest SLEP levels nationwide.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

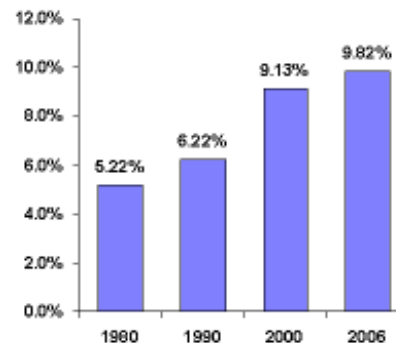
Growth in the LEP population has brought the issue of English learning back into the public arena in Idaho. Though LEP levels appear to have leveled off in recent years, the degree to which certain linguistic groups are struggling with English is cause for concern. For example, high SLEP rates among Idaho's growing Serbo-Croatian population and Vietnamese population cannot be ignored. While SLEP rates among Spanish speakers may be lower than national averages, they are quite high in a state where Spanish speakers make up almost three-fourths of the non-English speaking population. As Idaho develops programs to encourage English language learning, it must concentrate on the Spanish speaking community without losing sight of other pockets of newcomers within the state.

Illinois

Capital: Springfield
2006 Population: 12,831,970
Joined Union: Dec. 3, 1818

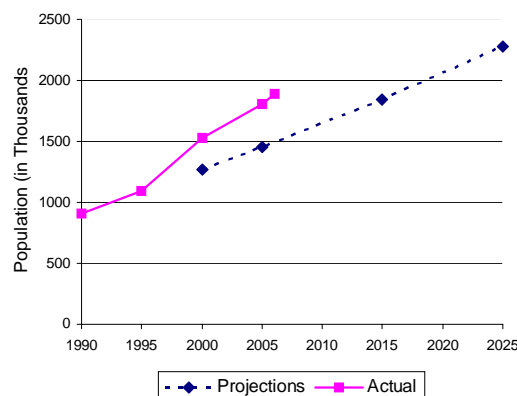
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

While Illinois continues to be an “immigrant gateway” for newcomers to the United States, the rate of limited English proficiency among state residents continues to outpace the expectations. In 1980, 552,000, or slightly more than 1-in-20 Illinois residents were limited English proficient. By 2006, these numbers had increased to 1.17 million and nearly 1-in-10 residents of the state. The Land of Lincoln featured the 10th highest rate of limited English proficiency in both 2000 and 2006, up from 11th in both 1980 and 1990.



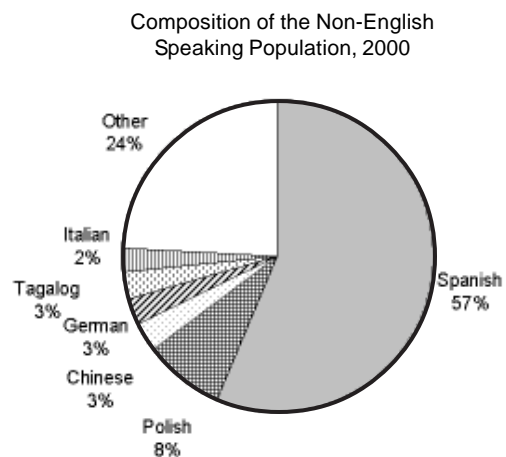
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Illinois has moderately exceeded Census projections. There were 1.53 million Hispanics living in the Land of Lincoln in 2000, 20 percent more than prediction of 1.27 million made by the Census four years earlier. In 2005, the Hispanic population of Illinois had increased to 1.81 million, 25 percent above the forecast for that year. The Hispanic population of Illinois surpassed the 2015 forecast in 2006 and appears likely to exceed the 2025 projection before 2015.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

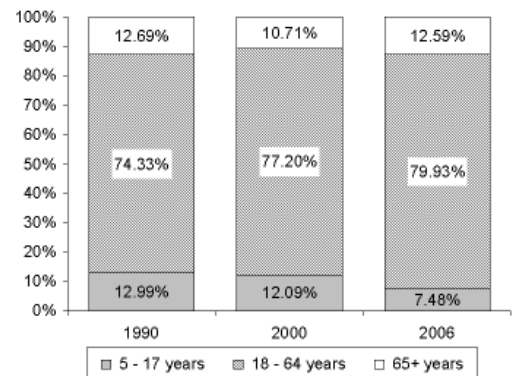
Speakers of Spanish comprise the majority of Illinois' 2.2 million residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. This population accounts for more than 56 percent of the total, nearly seven times the number who speak the second most common non-English language, Polish. Chinese places third with slightly more than 65,250 speakers statewide, followed by German, Tagalog and Italian. Speakers of these six languages account for 14.6 percent of Illinois' overall population and 75.8 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Illinois has some of the highest severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) rates in the country among all three age groups. More than 1-in-17 working age adults in Illinois spoke little or no English in 2006, the ninth highest rate in the country and up 62 percent from 1990. The Land of Lincoln also has the ninth highest SLEP rate among the school age population, at more than 1-in-50 individuals age 5 to 17. In addition, more than 1-in-20 Illinois senior citizens are severely limited English proficient. This is the 11th highest rate nationwide.

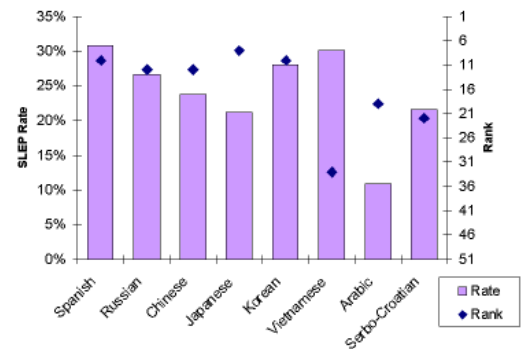
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Spanish speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Illinois. More than 3-in-10 Illinois residents who speak Spanish at home speak little or no English, the tenth highest rate in the nation. Vietnamese speakers are also more likely to struggle with English, with more than 30 percent classified as severely limited English proficient. Additionally, Illinois has the tenth highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Korean speakers at 28 percent and eighth highest among Japanese speakers at 21 percent.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

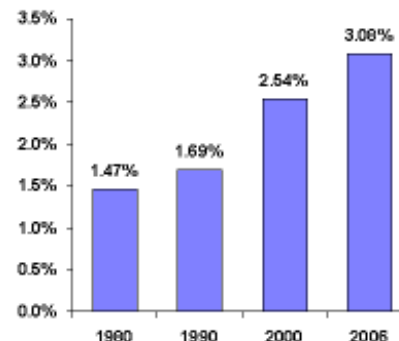
High limited English proficiency rates are nothing new in Illinois with its long history of immigration. What is surprising is that the already high LEP rates have nearly doubled since 1980, and the state may not yet be experiencing the highest point on the curve. While Spanish speakers make up a majority of non-English speakers in Illinois, struggles with English are not limited to one linguistic group. Five of the eight linguistic groups studied had SLEP rates that ranked among the top 15 in the nation, including Spanish, Japanese, Korean and Chinese. Any approach to stress English learning among immigrants in Illinois must encompass all newcomers, not simply those of the majority.

Indiana

Capital: Indianapolis
2006 Population: 6,313,520
Joined Union: Dec. 11, 1816

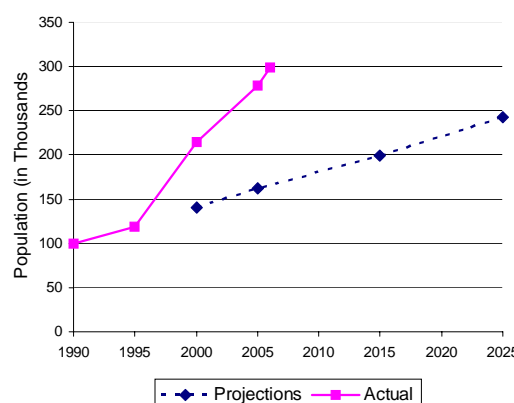
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Indiana's limited English proficient (LEP) population more than doubled between 1980 and 2006, soaring from 74,549 to 180,997, with the majority of the growth noted after 1990. Consequently, LEP rates have soared within the state, jumping from 1-in-68 residents in 1980 to 1-in-40 in 2000 and 1-in-33 in 2006. The Hoosier State, which ranked 40th among the states in terms of LEP rate in 1980, ranked 33rd in 2006.



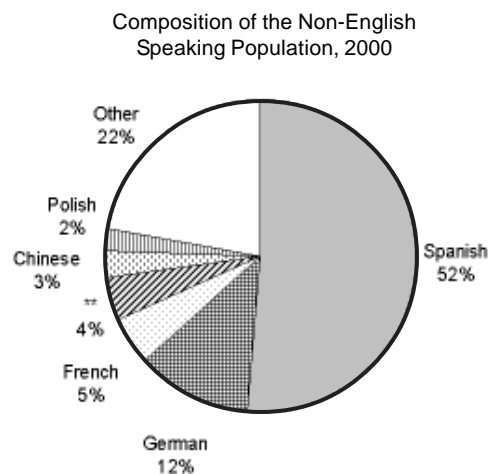
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

In Indiana, the Hispanic population has greatly exceeded Census projections made a decade ago. There were 215,000 Hispanics living in the Hoosier State in 2000, more than one-and-a-half times the 140,000 forecast made for that year, and surpassing predictions made for 2005 and 2015. The Hispanic population in Indiana grew to 278,000 by 2005, outpacing the 2005 forecast by 72 percent and exceeding the projection made for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Spanish speakers comprise slightly more than half of the 362,000 Indianans who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 51.3 percent of the total, more than four times the number of the second most common non-English language, German. French is the third most common language spoken at home, with 18,065 speakers, followed by speakers of other West Germanic languages, such as Pennsylvania Dutch, Chinese and Polish. Speakers of these six languages account for 5.0 percent of Indiana's overall population and 77.7 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

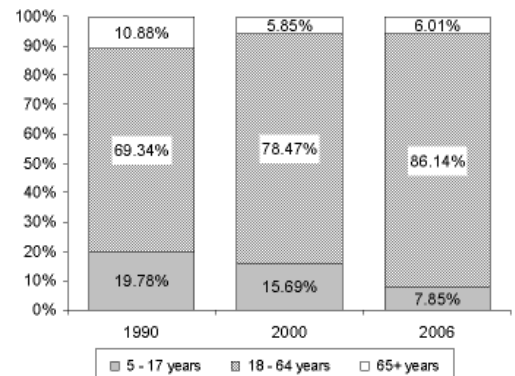


** - "other West Germanic languages" (e.g. Pa. Dutch)

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) rates in Indiana remained below the nationwide median among all three age groups in 2006, although there have been significant increases since 1990. Among the working population, the number of Indianans who spoke little or no English in 2006 increased by more than 200 percent from a rate of 1-in-175 to almost 1-in-50. Within the school age population, the SLEP rate soared by 66 percent, while the increase among senior citizens was 42 percent.

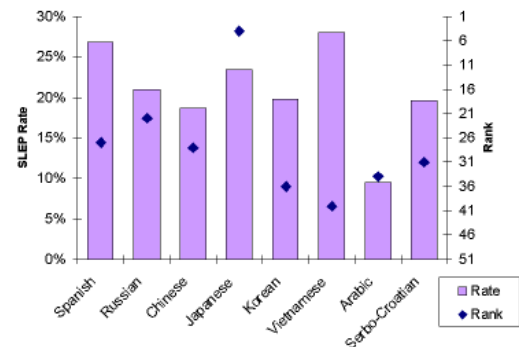
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Indiana. More than 1-in-4 Indiana residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, slightly more than the percentage of Spanish speaking residents who struggle with English. Compared to other states, Indiana has the fourth highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Japanese speakers. Conversely, the Vietnamese speaking population of Indiana has some of the lowest SLEP levels nationwide, even at a 28 percent SLEP rate.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000

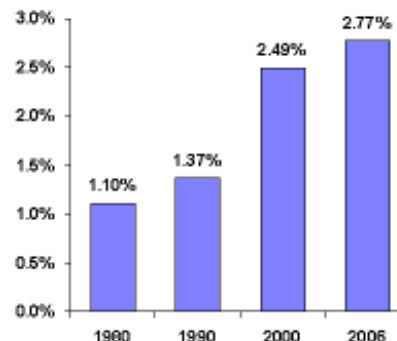


Conclusion

Indiana has experienced a consistent rise in its limited English proficient population during the last quarter century, and signs indicate that this problem will grow if left unchecked. The state's Hispanic population has increased well beyond expectations, and even though SLEP rates among Spanish speakers are at the nationwide average, they are higher than almost every other linguistic group in the state. Furthermore, the percentage of the SLEP population that is of working age has grown considerably in recent years, which spells danger for both economic success as well as improving English proficiency among children. Indiana should consider employer-related methods of improving English instruction for the benefit of the state and its residents.

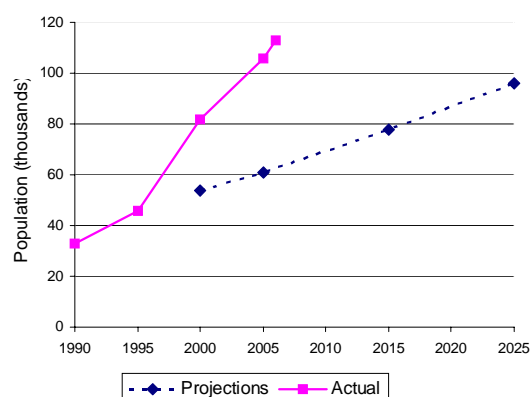
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of Iowa has more than doubled over the past quarter century, increasing from 29,681 in 1980 to 77,310 in 2006. Most of this growth has been recorded since 1990. The LEP rate among Iowans continues to rise, from 1-in-90 state residents in 1980 to 1-in-40 in 2000 to 1-in-36 in 2006. Iowa ranked among the states with the lowest levels of limited English proficiency in 1980 and 1990, but placed 35th in both 2000 and 2006.



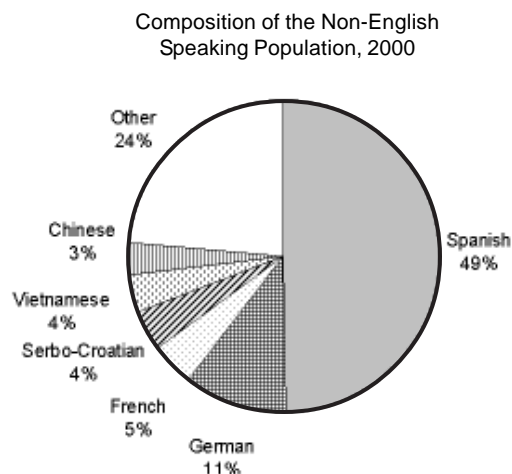
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Iowa's Hispanic population has greatly exceeded Census projections made in 1996. The 2000 Census found 82,000 Hispanics in the Hawkeye State in 2000, more than one-and-a-half times the anticipated level for that year, and exceeding the population projections for 2005 and 2015. By 2005, the Iowa Hispanic population had grown to 106,000, nearly doubling the 2005 population forecast and surpassing the 2025 prediction by 10,000.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

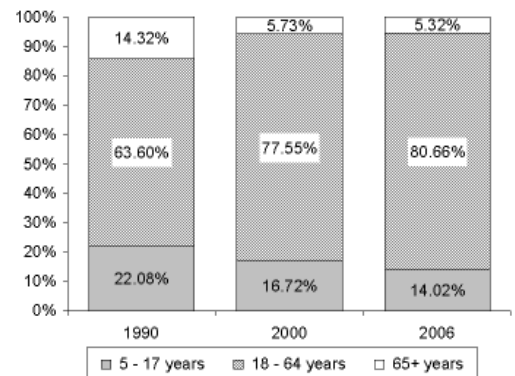
Nearly one-half of Iowa residents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish in 2000. With nearly 80,000 residents, the Spanish speaking population was more than four times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, German. French was the third most common non-English language spoken at home, followed by Serbo-Croatian, Vietnamese and Chinese. Speakers of these six languages account for 7.2 percent of Iowa's overall population and 82.9 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

School age children comprised nearly one-seventh of Iowa's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population in 2006, the fourth highest rate of any state. Only Maine, West Virginia and Wisconsin had higher percentages of their SLEP population fall between the ages of 5 and 17. Though the rate of school age children who speak little or no English remains below the national median, it has increased by almost 75 percent between 1990 and 2006. While the SLEP rate has remained steady within the senior citizen population at less than 1-in-200, it is on the rise among adults of working age, increasing from 1-in-185 to 1-in-59 between 1990 and 2006.

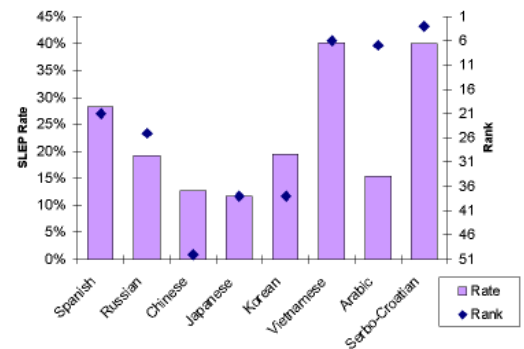
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Iowa. More than 4-in-10 Iowa residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, slightly more than the percentage of Serbo-Croatian speaking residents who struggle with English. Compared to other states, Iowa has the third highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Serbo-Croatian speakers, sixth highest among Vietnamese speakers and seventh highest among Arabic speakers. Conversely, the Chinese speaking population of Iowa has the second lowest SLEP level nationwide at approximately 1-in-8.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

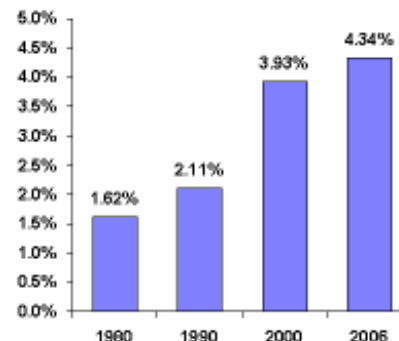
Limited English proficiency rates in Iowa have been rising significantly over the last 25 years and it is easy to look at the higher-than-expected growth in the Hispanic population as the cause for this increase. Yet while SLEP rates among Spanish speakers are around the national median, Iowa has some of the nation's highest SLEP rates among the newest immigrant groups, such as Vietnamese, Arabic, and Serbo-Croatian. Assimilation efforts in Iowa must be extended to these other linguistic groups or the state runs the risk of even higher LEP levels in the future.

Kansas

Capital: Topeka
2006 Population: 2,764,075
Joined Union: Jan. 29, 1861

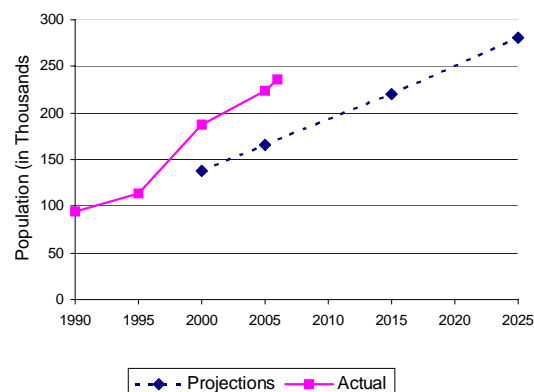
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of Kansas has tripled over the last quarter century, increasing from 35,374 in 1980 to 111,636 in 2006. More than 1-in-25 Kansans were classified as LEP in 2006, up from approximately 1-in-50 in 1990 and 1-in-60 in 1980. After featuring an LEP rate below the nationwide median in 1980 and 1990, the Sunflower State set the median value in 2006, placing 26th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.



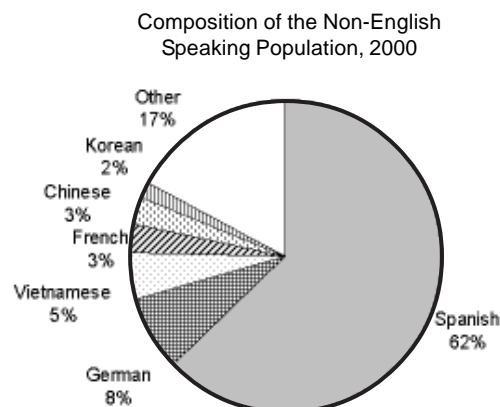
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Recent high rates of growth within the Hispanic population of Kansas have moderately outpaced Census projections. In 2000, the Hispanic population of the Sunflower State was 188,000, 36 percent higher than the forecast of 138,000 for that year. By 2005, the number of Hispanics living in Kansas was not only ahead of the 2005 forecast by 35 percent, but it exceeded the 2015 forecast as well. It is likely that the Hispanic population of Kansas will surpass the anticipated level for the year 2025 before 2015.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

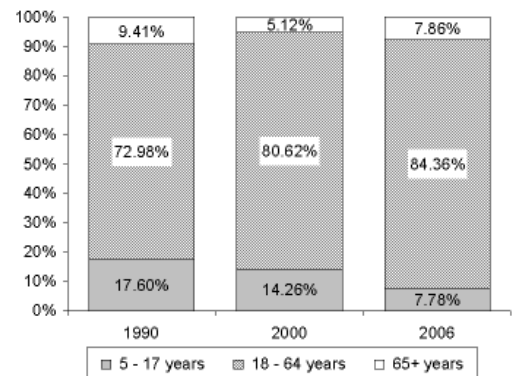
Speakers of Spanish comprise the majority of the 218,000 residents of Kansas who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. This population accounts for more than 60 percent of the total, more than eight times the number who speak the second most common non-English language, German. Vietnamese places third with slightly more than 10,000 speakers statewide, followed by French, Chinese and Korean. Speakers of these six languages account for 7.2 percent of the overall population of Kansas and 82.9 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The working age population comprised more than 84 percent of the severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Kansas in 2006. This was the 12th highest rate of any state in the nation. Though SLEP rates are at or below national medians, significant growth has been recorded within all three age groups, most notably the working age population. Between 1990 and 2006, the SLEP rate among working adults nearly tripled, increasing from 1-in-94 to 1-in-32 over that span. At the same time, the number of Kansas senior citizens who spoke little or no English more than doubled, from 1-in-172 to 1-in-72.

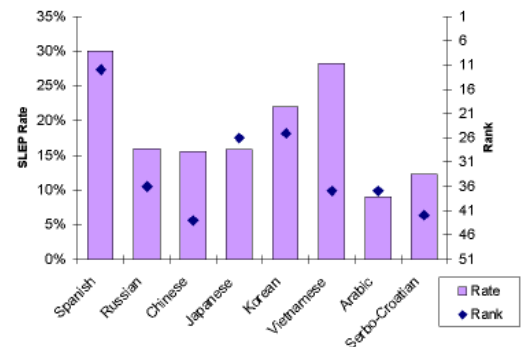
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Spanish speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Kansas. Almost 3-in-10 Kansas residents who speak Spanish at home speak little or no English, the 12th highest rate in the nation. Vietnamese speakers are also more likely to struggle with English, with more than 28 percent classified as limited English proficient. Rates of severe limited English proficiency are much lower among Kansans who speak Serbo-Croatian at home and Kansans who speak Chinese at home. Both of these rates rank among the 10 lowest states in the nation.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

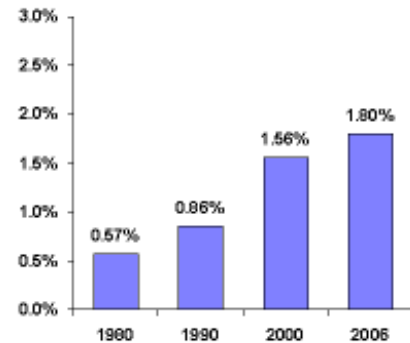
Landlocked in the middle of the country, Kansas is not seen as a state with a pressing limited English proficiency problem. Yet as thousands of newcomers have come to the state for economic opportunities, Kansas has found itself facing LEP levels not seen in generations. This problem may be destined to worsen given the higher-than-expected growth in the Hispanic population and the higher than average SLEP rate among Spanish speakers. Of most concern is that the high levels of severe limited proficiency among the working age population will stunt the state's economic future. Any program to stress English learning in Kansas must consider the needs of the Spanish speaking population at its core, while at the same time encouraging others who have found a home in the state.

Kentucky

Capital: Frankfort
2006 Population: 4,206,074
Joined Union: June 1, 1792

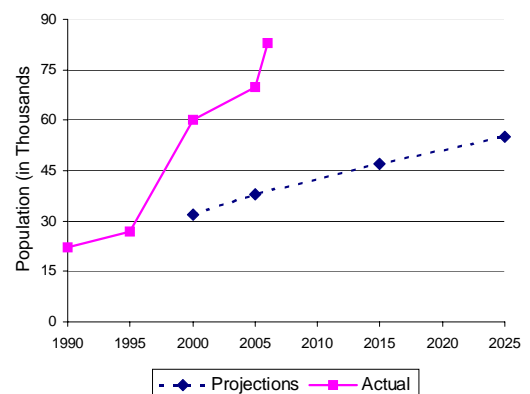
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

From 1980 to 2006, the number of limited English proficient (LEP) residents of Kentucky has more than tripled, from 19,285 to 70,558. At less than 1-in-50 residents, Kentucky's LEP rate has remained low compared to nationwide figures; however, this is up from less than 1-in-100 in 1990 and less than 1-in-175 in 1980. The Bluegrass State has ranked among the states with lowest levels of limited English proficiency – second lowest in 1980 and 1990, fifth lowest in 2000 and seventh lowest in 2006.



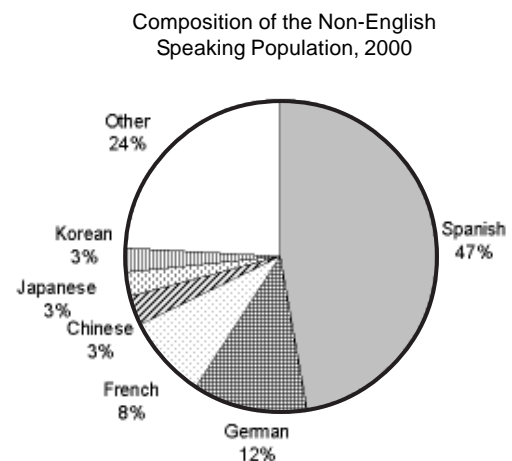
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Kentucky has greatly surpassed Census projections made through 2025. The 60,000 Hispanics living in the Bluegrass State in 2000 nearly doubled the forecast for that year and exceeded projections made for 2005, 2015 and 2025. The Hispanic population in 2006 was measured at 83,000, nearly one-and-a-half times the predicted figure for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

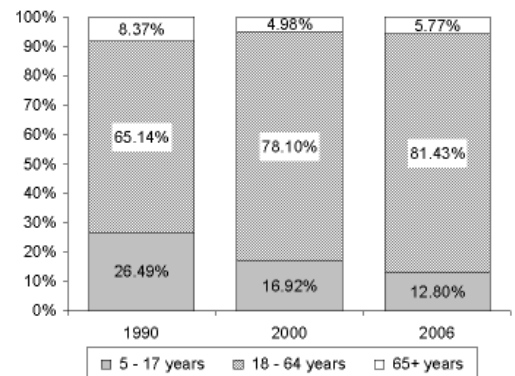
Spanish speakers comprise slightly less than half of the 150,000 Kentucky residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 47.2 percent of the total, roughly four times the number of the second most common non-English language, German. French is the third most common language spoken at home, with 12,500 speakers, followed by speakers of Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Speakers of these six languages account for 3.0 percent of Kentucky's overall population and 75.8 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Though Kentucky features some of the nation's lowest rates of severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) among all three age groups, these figures have increased between 1990 and 2006. The SLEP rate among school age children increased from 1-in-222 to 1-in-150 over this span; this group now makes up more than one-eighth of all SLEP people in Kentucky. Among working age adults, nearly 1-in-86 speak little or no English. This is an increase from 1-in-285 in 1990, when Kentucky had the second lowest rate in the nation. Additionally, the SLEP rate among senior citizens has doubled between 1990 and 2006.

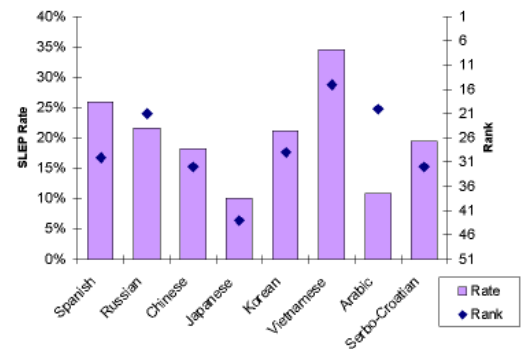
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Kentucky. More than 1-in-3 Kentucky residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, well above the rate of the other languages studied, and the 15th highest rate in the nation. Conversely, only 1-in-10 Kentucky residents who speak Japanese at home struggle with English, the ninth lowest rate among the 50 states and District of Columbia.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

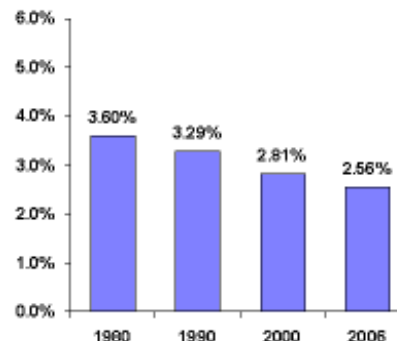
Once a place where limited English proficiency was rare, Kentucky finds itself in the midst of a massive demographic change. LEP rates have skyrocketed along with the Hispanic population over the last 25 years. Perhaps of more concern is that those of working age are most likely to struggle with English, a situation which could have a profoundly negative impact on Kentucky's economy. Though LEP issues here have yet to reach the levels experienced in Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee, current statistics indicate that the state could be a few years away from far more serious concerns. As the immigrant population continues to grow, plans to immediately match newcomers with English learning opportunities must be expanded.

Louisiana

Capital: Baton Rouge
2006 Population: 4,287,768
Joined Union: Apr. 30, 1812

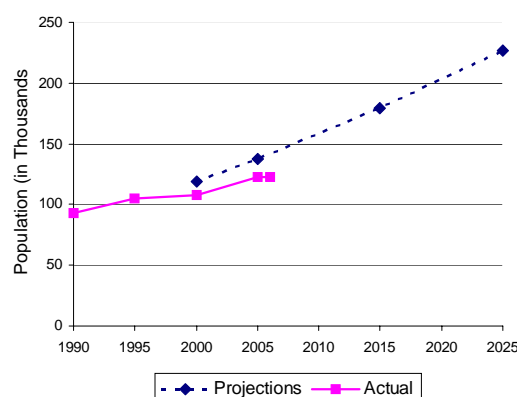
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The number of limited English proficient (LEP) residents of Louisiana has consistently declined over the last quarter century, falling from 138,255 in 1980 to 101,973 in 2006. Whereas 1-in-28 Louisianans were classified as limited English proficient in 1980, this rate declined to 1-in-35 in 2000 and just over 1-in-40 in 2006. The Bayou State, which once ranked among the 20 highest states in LEP rate, dropped to 33rd place in 2000 and 37th in 2006.



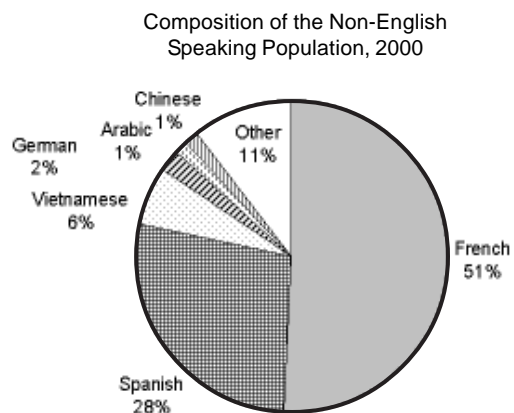
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

In Louisiana, the Hispanic population has grown slower than Census projections. Nearly 110,000 Hispanics were living in the Bayou State in 2000, almost 10 percent lower than the 119,000 figure predicted. By 2005, the Hispanic population had increased to 123,000, but was still 10 percent below the Census forecast for that year. Unlike the other states in the South and Gulf Coast regions, the Hispanic population of Louisiana does not appear likely to surpass the year 2015 projection during this decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

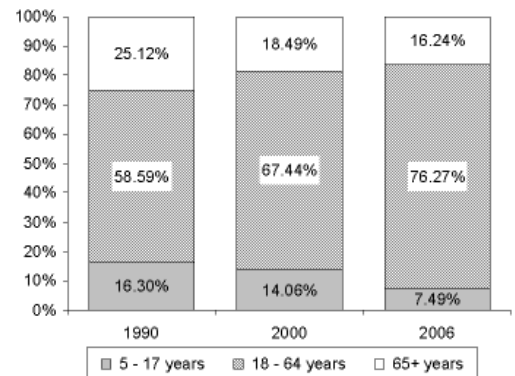
There are more speakers of French among Louisiana's population who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 than speakers of any other language. More than one-half of the state's 382,365 residents who speak a non-English language at home spoke French, almost double the number who spoke Spanish, the second most common language. Vietnamese was the third most widely spoken language, with 23,325 speakers, followed by German, Chinese and Arabic. Speakers of these six languages account for 8.2 percent of Louisiana's overall population and 89.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Rates of severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) are generally on the decline in Louisiana, with decreases noted among school age children and senior citizens versus a slight increase among working age adults. Though Louisiana had one of the highest SLEP rates among senior citizens in 1990, when 1-in-38 spoke little or no English, the rate dropped to 1-in-73 by 2006, placing it below the national median. Though 1-in-80 working age residents were classified as SLEP in 2006, up from 1-in-95 in 1990, the SLEP rate among Louisianans age 18 to 64 was well below the national median.

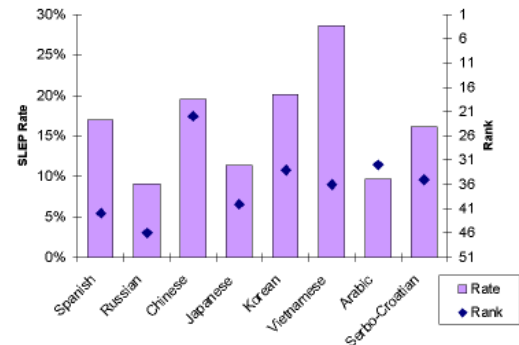
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Louisiana. More than 1-in-4 Louisiana residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English. While this rate far exceeds that of other major language groups in the Bayou State, it is relatively low on a national basis, ranking just 36th of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Louisiana also has comparatively low SLEP rates among Spanish speakers and Russian speakers, at just 17 percent and 9 percent, respectively. These figures are both among the 10 lowest in the nation.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

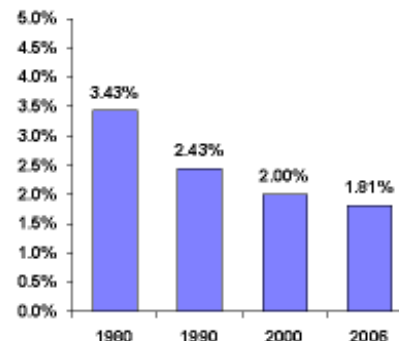
Louisiana has experienced one of the largest declines in limited English proficiency of any state in the nation. Lower than expected immigration levels and a higher than average concentration of LEP persons among senior citizens have been contributors to this decline. Furthermore, SLEP rates are below nationwide medians for nearly every major linguistic group in the state. However, Louisiana cannot rest on the success of the past. Neighboring states such as Arkansas have seen their composition change radically in a short period of time, and Louisiana itself is subject to massive demographic shifts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The state needs to develop programs to encourage English fluency to ensure that the newest residents follow the same successful road to integration as those in the past.

Maine

Capital: Augusta
2006 Population: 1,321,574
Joined Union: Mar. 15, 1820

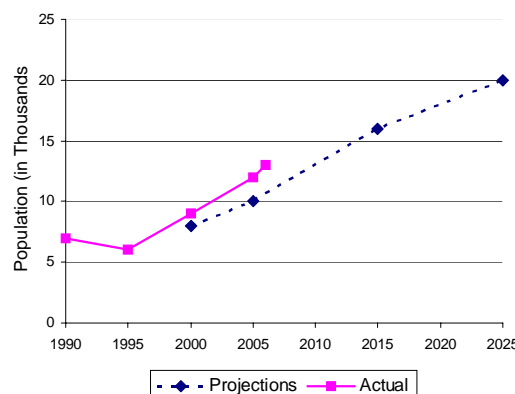
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The number of limited English proficient (LEP) residents of Maine has declined over the last quarter century, dropping by more than 30 percent, from 35,853 in 1980 to 22,611 in 2006. Consequently, the LEP rate has been nearly sliced in half over that span, declining from more than 1-in-30 residents to fewer than 1-in-50. The Pine Tree State, which ranked among the top 20 states with the highest LEP rate in 1980, dropped to 42nd in 2000 and 44th in 2006.



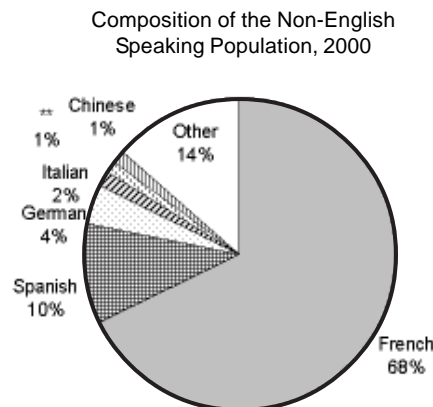
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Maine's Hispanic population has met Census projections made in 1996. In 2000, the Pine Tree State was home to 9,000 Hispanics, closely mirroring the projection of 8,000 made four years earlier. By 2005, Maine's Hispanic population had grown to 12,000, slightly higher than the forecast of 10,000 made for that year. Though the Hispanic population of Maine continues to grow slowly compared to many other states, it is slightly outpacing Census predictions. Maine's 2006 Hispanic population of 13,000 placed it within 3,000 of the 2015 forecast of 16,000.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

In 2000, French was the most common language spoken at home among Maine residents who spoke a language other than English. The French speaking population accounted for more than two-thirds of non-English speakers and numbered more than six times the population of the second most common language other than English, Spanish. German placed third, followed by Italian, Chinese and Native North American Languages other than Navajo. Speakers of these six languages account for 8.3 percent of Maine's overall population and 65.7 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

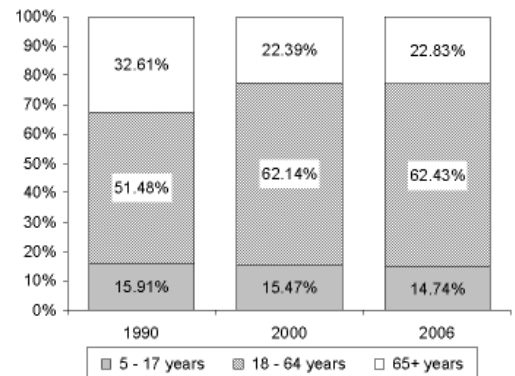


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Nearly one-sixth of the severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Maine is comprised of senior citizens. However, this balance has changed considerably since 1990, when senior citizens accounted for nearly one-third of the SLEP population. In 2006, the SLEP rate for Maine residents over the age of 65 was 1-in-73, down from 1-in-59 in 1990. SLEP rates for school age children and working age adults did not change considerably between 1990 and 2006, and both were among the lowest recorded in any state.

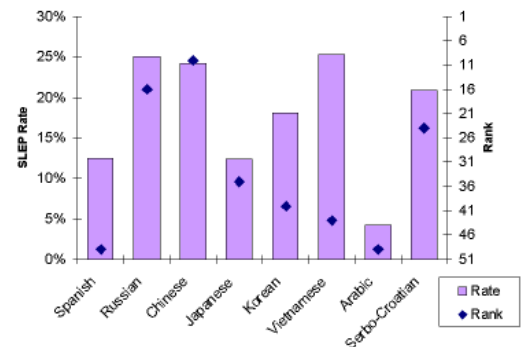
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Maine. More than 1-in-4 Maine residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, slightly more than the percentage of Russian speaking and Chinese speaking residents who struggle with English. Compared to other states, Maine has the tenth highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Chinese speakers, but has the third lowest SLEP rates for Spanish speakers and Arabic speakers.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

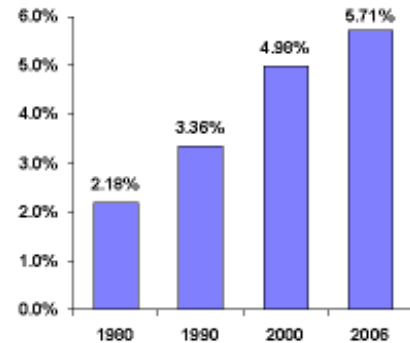
Limited English proficiency has been declining in Maine over the last quarter century, and current figures indicate that the rate will continue to decline in coming years. Given the concentration of Maine's LEP population among senior citizens and the low rates of SLEP among major immigrant groups, it is possible that Maine will have the lowest LEP rate within the next 10 years. As the demographic composition of Maine continues to develop, the state should stay mindful of the levels of English learning and implement future plans accordingly.

Maryland

Capital: Annapolis
2006 Population: 5,615,727
Joined Union: Apr. 28, 1788

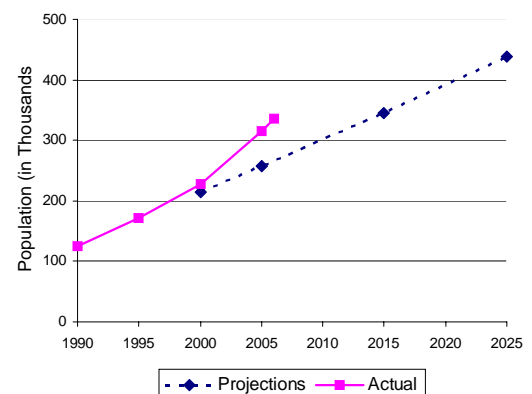
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Between 1980 and 2006, the number of limited English proficient (LEP) residents living in Maryland more than tripled, from 86,097 in 1980 to 299,736 in 2006. With LEP individuals accounting for almost 1-in-6 new residents of the state over this span, the LEP rate within the state has swelled from 1-in-46 residents in 1980 to 1-in-18 residents in 2006. The Old Line State ranked 20th in the nation among states with the highest LEP rates in 2006, up from 26th in 1980.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

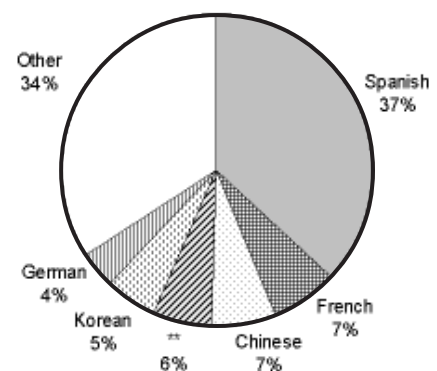
Recent enumeration of the Hispanic population in Maryland has found that Hispanic growth is running slightly higher than Census projections. The 2000 Census found 228,000 Hispanics living in Maryland, seven percent more than the 214,000 forecast made in 1996. By 2005, however, the Hispanic population had grown to 316,000, 18 percent above the prediction made for that year. The 2006 Hispanic population of 336,000 was just below the 2015 projection of 345,000, making it extremely likely that Maryland will exceed the 2015 prediction before 2010.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Approximately one-third of Maryland residents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish in 2000. With 230,830 residents, the Spanish speaking population was more than five times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, French. Chinese placed a close third with 41,885 speakers, ahead of speakers of African Languages, Korean and German. Speakers of these six languages account for 8.3 percent of Maryland's overall population and 65.7 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000

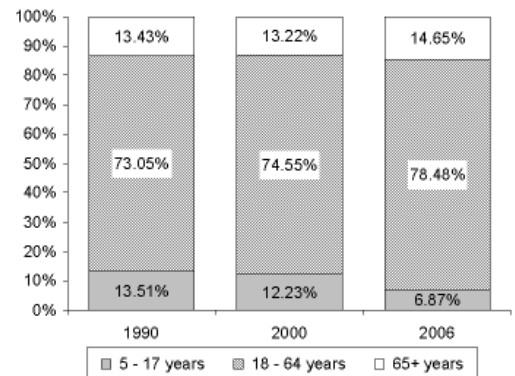


** - "African Languages"

Non-English Proficiency by Age

In Maryland, the rate of severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) is around the national median among school age children and working age adults, but is slightly higher than average among senior citizens. In 2006, nearly 1-in-30 residents over the age of 65 spoke little or no English, an 85 percent increase from 1990 when only 1-in-57 did. Over the same span, the SLEP among working age adults has risen 90 percent, from 1-in-61 to 1-in-32.

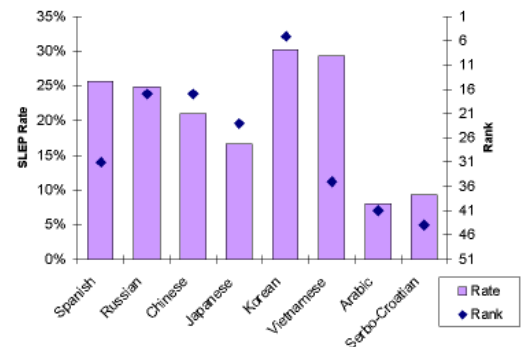
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Korean speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Maryland. More than 3-in-10 Maryland residents who speak Korean at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Vietnamese speakers who struggle with English. The SLEP rate of Korean speakers in Maryland is the fifth highest in the nation. However SLEP rates among Arabic speakers and Serbo-Croatian speakers are among the 10 lowest in the nation, each at less than 1-in-10.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

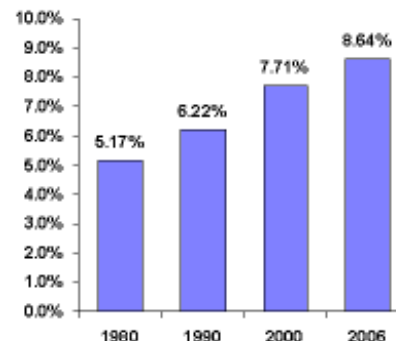
Fueled by growth in immigration from all over the world, Maryland's limited English proficient population has steadily increased over the last 25 years. While Hispanic growth has run only slightly ahead of Census forecasts, increases in population from other groups, coupled with high SLEP rates among speakers of some languages have more than doubled the percentage of Marylanders who are limited English proficient. Though sizeable portion of Maryland's senior citizen population is struggling with English, the percentage is also growing rapidly among the working age population. This could impact the productivity of the state. To reduce this possibility, Maryland needs to develop programs which stress English learning for all immigrants.

Massachusetts

Capital: Boston
2006 Population: 6,437,193
Joined Union: Feb. 6, 1788

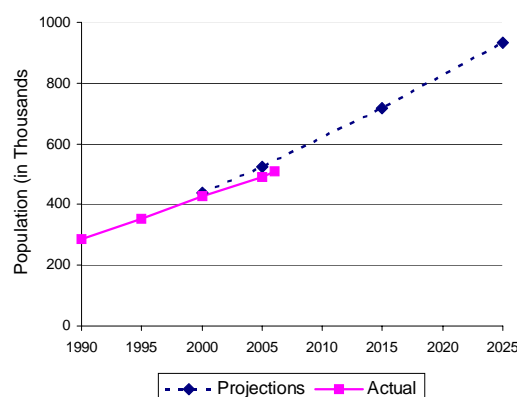
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Though Massachusetts has been a popular destination for immigrants for centuries, the limited English proficient (LEP) population of the state nearly doubled from 1980 to 2006. Over that 26 year span, the number of LEP persons residing in the Bay State jumped from 279,084 to 522,508. In the context of the state's slow overall population growth, the LEP rate has increased drastically, with LEP persons accounting for more than 1-in-12 state residents in 2006, up from fewer than 1-in-19 residents in 1980. Massachusetts features a LEP rate higher than all but 10 states in the U.S.



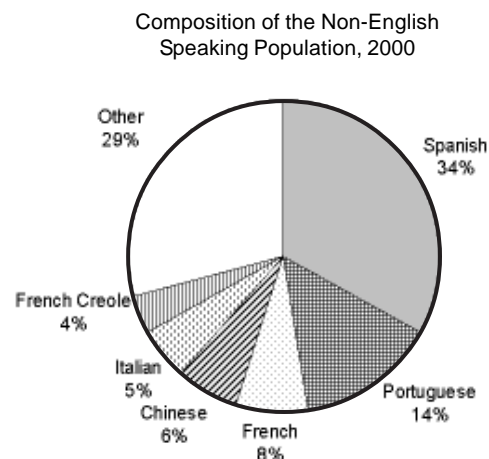
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Massachusetts has fallen slightly behind Census projections made a decade ago. In 2000, the Hispanic population of the Bay State was enumerated at 429,000, two percent below the prediction of 437,000 made for that year. A continued slower than expected rate of growth of the Hispanic population in the first half of the 2000s decade left the 2005 population six percent shy of the forecast, 491,000 vs. 524,000.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

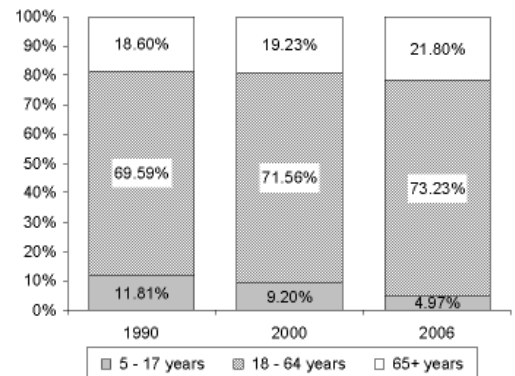
Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken at home in Massachusetts, used by approximately one-third of those who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The number of Spanish speakers is more than double the number of users of the second most numerous non-English language spoken at home, Portuguese. French is the third most common, followed by Chinese, Italian and French Creole. Speakers of these six languages account for 13.3 percent of the overall population of Massachusetts and 70.7 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Massachusetts skews older than in most states. In 2006, more than one-fifth of the state's SLEP population was over the age of 65 – only five states had higher rates. The overall SLEP rate of 1-in-14 senior citizens in 2006 was the ninth highest in the nation and 52 percent higher than the 1990 rate. The Bay State also has a high SLEP rate among its working age population. In 2006, 1-in-21 residents between the ages of 18 and 64 spoke little or no English, the 12th highest rate in the country.

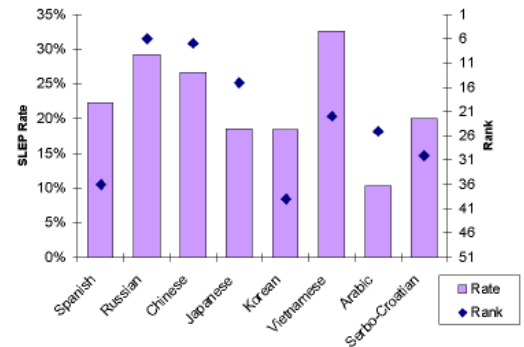
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Massachusetts. Nearly 1-in-3 Massachusetts residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Russian speakers who struggle with English. The SLEP rate among Russian speakers in Massachusetts is the sixth highest in the nation at nearly 3-in-10, while rates for Chinese speakers are seventh highest in the nation at more than 1-in-4.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

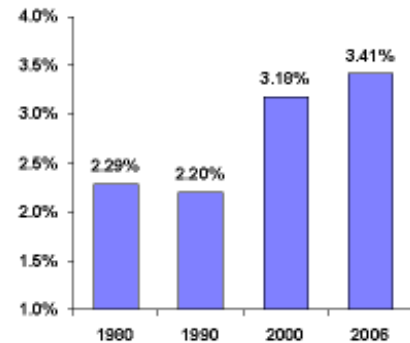
Linguistic diversity has always been present in Massachusetts, and current data indicates that little has changed over the centuries. Today, sizeable communities of many different language groups remain across the state. But while there have always been high degrees of limited English proficiency in the Bay State, those rates have been on the rise over the last 25 years. High SLEP rates among newer immigrant groups such as Russians and Chinese, have combined with higher than average SLEP rates among senior citizens, creating a situation that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

Michigan

Capital: Lansing
2006 Population: 10,095,643
Joined Union: Jan. 26, 1837

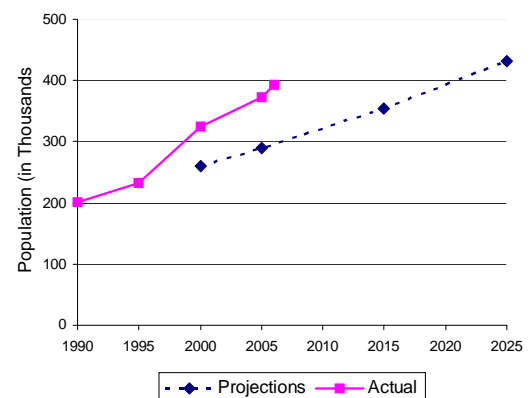
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

From 1980 to 2006, the limited English proficient (LEP) population of Michigan increased from 196,597 to 322,094. Given Michigan's modest overall population growth during this span, the LEP rate within the state jumped from 1-in-43 residents in 1980 to more than 1-in-30 in 2006. The Great Lakes State has long ranked around the median among states with the highest LEP rates, placing 25th in 1980, dropping to 28th in 1990 and ranking 30th in both 2000 and 2006.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

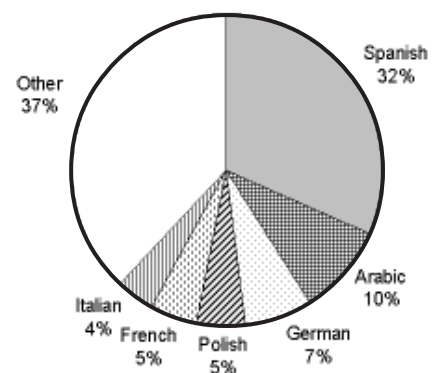
Michigan's Hispanic population has moderately exceeded Census projections. Nearly 325,000 Hispanics called Michigan home in 2000, 24 percent above the Census prediction for that year and exceeding the prediction for 2005. By 2005, there were 372,000 Hispanics living in Michigan, already surpassing the forecast for 2015. With a 2006 population of 393,000 Hispanics, it is quite likely Michigan will exceed the 2025 projection of 431,000 Hispanics before the end of this decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

There are more speakers of Spanish among Michigan's population which spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 than speakers of any other language. More than three-in-ten of the state's 781,380 residents who speak a non-English language at home spoke Spanish, more than three times the number who spoke Arabic, the second most common language. German was the third most widely spoken language, with 52,365 speakers, followed by Polish, French and Italian. Speakers of these six languages account for 5.2 percent of Michigan's overall population and 62.0 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

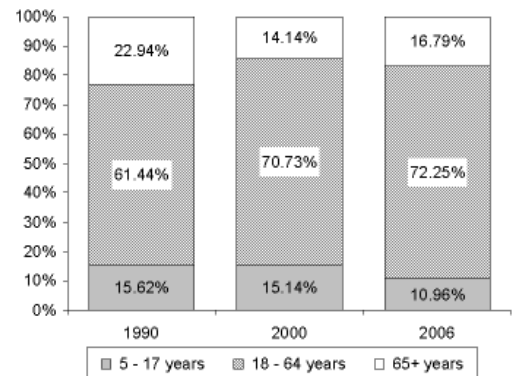
Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Michigan features a severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population that is more concentrated within school age children and senior citizen age brackets than most states. In 2006, more than one-sixth of the SLEP persons in Michigan were over the age of 65, and nearly one-ninth were between the ages of 5 and 17. These are the 11th and 14th highest rates in the country. Overall, more than 1-in-50 Michigan senior citizens and 1-in-110 Michigan school age children spoke little or no English in 2006. These rates were up 24 percent and 36 percent, respectively, from 1990.

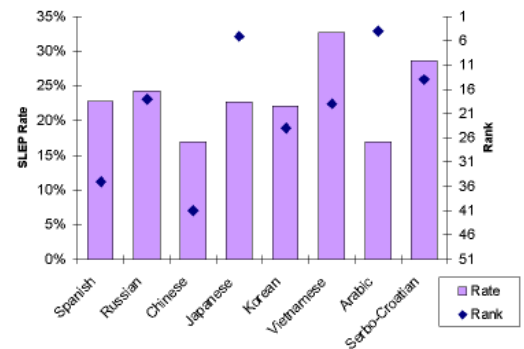
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Michigan. Nearly 1-in-3 Michigan residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, though this ranks only 19th highest in the nation. On a comparative basis, the 28.6 percent of Michigan Serbo-Croatian speakers who struggle with English ranks higher, at 14th in the nation. The SLEP rate among Japanese speakers in Michigan is the fifth highest in the nation at more than 2-in-9, while the SLEP rate among Arabic speakers is the fourth highest at more than 1-in-6. Conversely, the SLEP rate for Chinese speakers is the 11th lowest in the nation.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

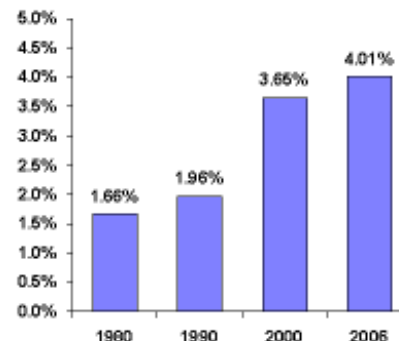
Michigan continues to rank in the middle of the pack in terms of the rate of residents who are limited English proficient, even though this rate has been on the increase in recent years. While the Hispanic population of Michigan has exceeded Census forecasts, Spanish speakers are less likely to be severely limited English proficient than in other states. However, high SLEP rates among other groups that have settled in Michigan, such as Arabic speakers, Japanese speakers and Serbo-Croatian speakers, are among the nation's highest. The importance of assimilating these groups must play a central role in any program that stresses English learning.

Minnesota

Capital: St. Paul
2006 Population: 5,167,101
Joined Union: May 11, 1858

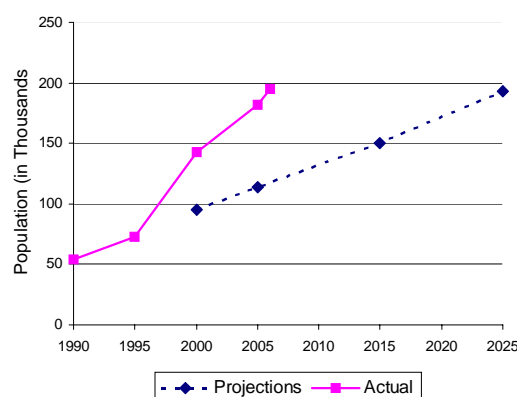
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of Minnesota tripled between 1980 and 2006, soaring from 62,508 to 193,188. The majority of this growth has been noted since 1990. Minnesota's LEP rate has jumped from 1-in-60 residents in 1980 and 1-in-50 residents in 1990 to 1-in-25 residents in 2006. The Land of 10,000 Lakes featured the 27th highest LEP rate in the nation in 2006, up from 32nd in 1990 and 34th in 1980.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

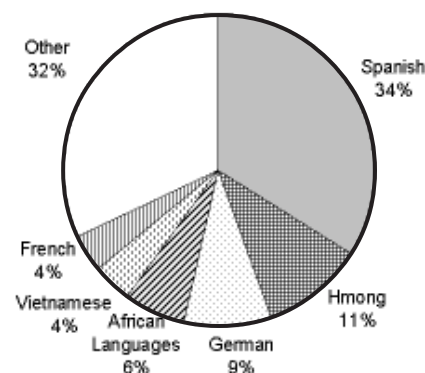
In Minnesota, the Hispanic population has greatly exceeded projections made by the Census in 1996. The 2000 Census found that 143,000 Hispanics were living in the North Star State, more than one-and-a-half times the 2000 forecast and exceeding the projection for 2005. By 2006, Minnesota's Hispanic population had risen to 195,000, besting predictions for both 2015 and 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

In 2000, Spanish was the most common language spoken at home among Minnesota residents who spoke a language other than English at home. The Spanish speaking population accounted for one-third of non-English speakers and numbered more than three times the population of the second most common language other than English, Hmong. German placed third with 35,000 speakers, followed by African Languages, Vietnamese and French. Speakers of these six languages account for 5.8 percent of Minnesota's overall population and 68.2 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

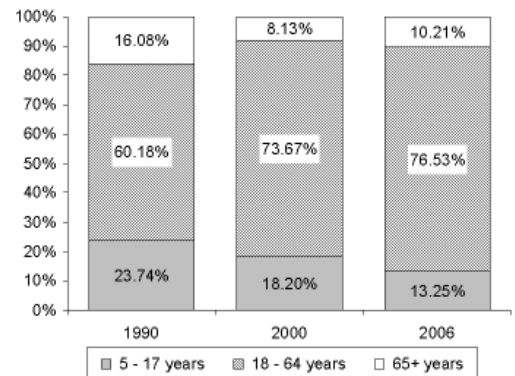
Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Minnesota is more concentrated among school age children than most other states. In 2006, children between the ages of 5 and 17 made up more than one-eighth of Minnesota's SLEP population, the seventh highest rate of any state. Though the SLEP rate among school children was less than 1-in-70 in 2006, this was up from 1-in-100 in 1990. Minnesota has also experienced a tripling in the rate of working age adults who speak little or no English between 1990 and 2006, from less than 1-in-135 to more than 1-in-45.

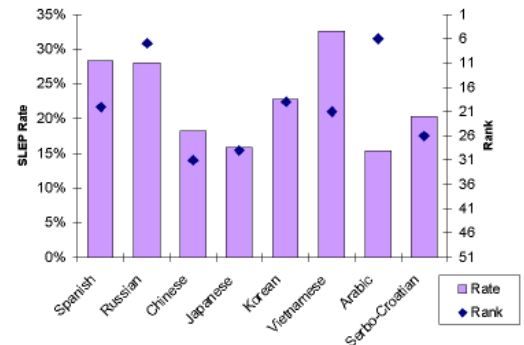
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Minnesota. Nearly 1-in-3 Minnesota residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, slightly more than the 28 percent of Spanish speakers who struggle with English. Compared to the rest of the nation, Minnesota's Russian speaking and Arabic speaking populations are more likely to be severely limited English proficient. Nearly 28 percent of Russian speakers in Minnesota struggle with English, the seventh highest rate in the nation. Among Arabic speakers, the SLEP rate is more than 15 percent, the sixth highest figure nationwide.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

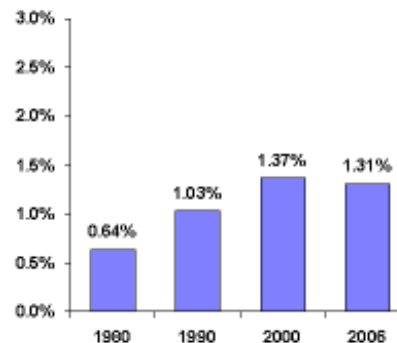
The rate of limited English proficiency has risen significantly in Minnesota. Fueled by growth in many different linguistic groups, the SLEP population of the state has become more concentrated in the working age population, indicating that further LEP growth could lie ahead. Unlike many states where nearly half or more than half of non-English speakers speak Spanish, the non-English speaking population of Minnesota is more spread out among different languages. Unfortunately, this has led to a situation where almost every major language group has SLEP rates at or above the national median. Plans to encourage English learning in Minnesota must carefully balance the needs of the Spanish speaking population with those of the new immigrant groups, such as Hmong, Arabic, Russian and Korean speakers.

Mississippi

Capital: Jackson
2006 Population: 2,910,540
Joined Union: Dec. 10, 1817

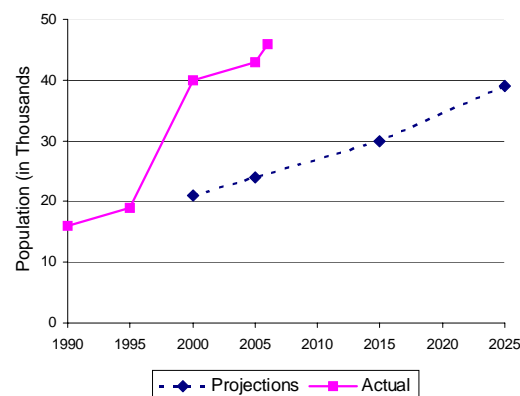
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Mississippi's limited English proficient (LEP) population has increased two-and-a-half times over the last quarter century, from 14,864 in 1980 to 35,349 in 2006. However, a slight decline was noted between 2000 and 2006. The LEP rate in Mississippi remains quite low compared to national averages, with just 1-in-76 residents classified as limited English proficient in 2006, compared to 1-in-156 in 1980. The Magnolia State remains among the states with the lowest levels of limited English proficiency, placing sixth lowest in 1980 and 1990, second lowest in 2000 and third lowest in 2006.



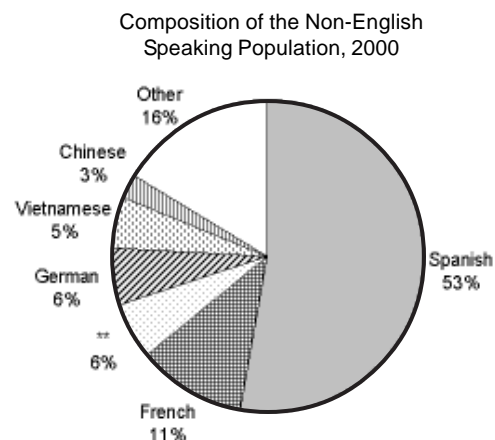
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Due to rapid growth during the last 15 years, the Hispanic population of Mississippi has far exceeded Census projections made a decade ago. The 40,000 Hispanics living in the Magnolia State in 2000 nearly doubled the Census prediction for that year and exceeded forecasts for 2005, 2015 and 2025. However, the rate of growth in the Hispanic population has slowed in the first half of the ensuing decade, totaling 43,000 in 2005 and 46,000 in 2006.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Spanish speakers make up a majority of the 95,000 Mississippians who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 52.9 percent of the total, almost five times the number of the second most common non-English language, French. Native North American languages other than Navajo represent the third most common linguistic group in the state, followed by speakers of German, Vietnamese and Chinese. Speakers of these six languages account for 3.0 percent of Mississippi's overall population and 83.7 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

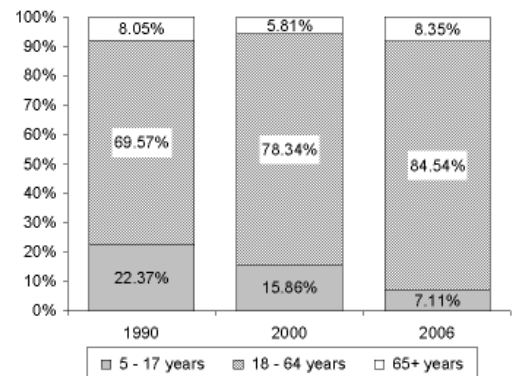


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Mississippi's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population is heavily concentrated among working age adults, with more than 84 percent of the state's population that speaks little or no English falling between the ages of 18 and 64. This is the 11th highest rate of any state in the nation. Though SLEP rates in Mississippi remain well below the nationwide median, they have increased significantly in recent years. From 1990 to 2006, the SLEP rate within the working age population doubled from less than 1-in-200 to nearly 1-in-100. The SLEP rate among senior citizens also doubled, although the rate among school age children fell to 1-in-400 and ranks among the nation's lowest.

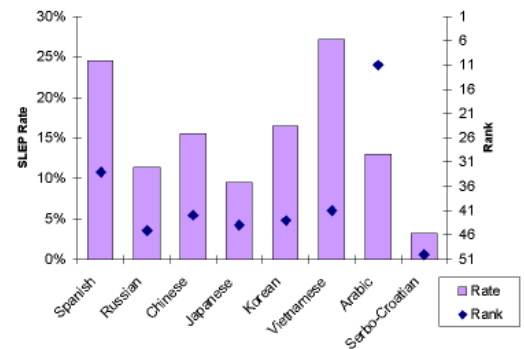
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Mississippi. More than 1-in-4 Mississippi residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English. While this rate exceeds that of other major language groups in the Magnolia State, it is relatively low on a national basis, ranking 41st of the 50 states and District of Columbia. Mississippi also has comparatively low SLEP rates among Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean speakers. All of these figures are among the 10 lowest in the nation.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

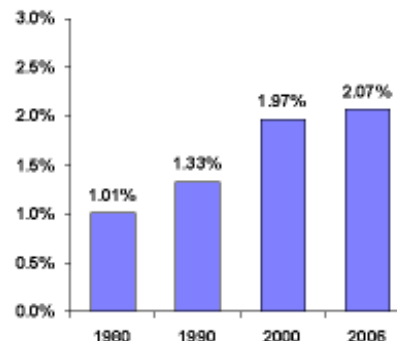
Mississippi currently has one of the lowest rates of limited English proficiency, but there are indications that efforts need to be stepped up to keep the state in such a position. The Hispanic population of the state has outgrown modest projections. While Spanish speakers here are less likely to struggle with English than in other states, the rate is still startlingly high. Since Spanish speakers make up a majority of the non-English speaking population, English proficiency becomes especially important, as the grand majority of Mississippi residents who are severely limited English proficient fall within the working age population. It is these individuals whose English proficiency is paramount, for they will have the largest influence on the state's future economy and productivity.

Missouri

Capital: Jefferson City
2006 Population: 5,842,713
Joined Union: Aug. 10, 1821

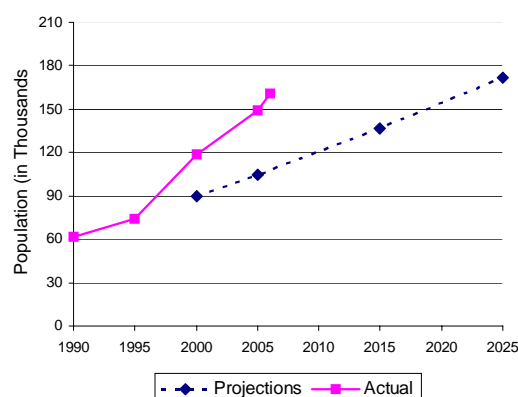
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Missouri's limited English proficient (LEP) population more than doubled between 1980 and 2006, rising from 46,242 to 113,017 over that span. Most of this growth occurred from 1990 to 2000, with evidence that the large increases may be abating in the first decade of the 21st century. Missouri's LEP rate now stands at approximately 1-in-50 residents in 2006, up from 1-in-100 in 1980. By nationwide standards, the LEP rate in the Show Me State remains low. Missouri ranks 41st among the states in terms of the percentage of residents who are limited English proficient, virtually unchanged from its 42nd place standing in 1980.



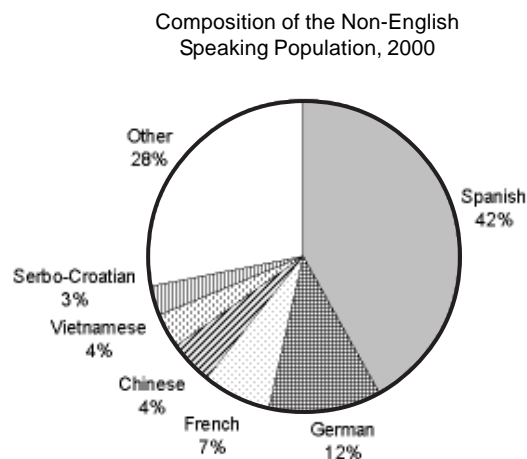
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Missouri has moderately exceeded Census projections. The 119,000 Hispanics recorded in the Show Me State in 2000 was 33 percent higher than the projected figure of 90,000 for 2000 and also exceeded the forecast for 2005. Five years later, the Hispanic population of 149,000 had already topped the 2015 prediction. It is likely that the 2025 forecast will be surpassed before the end of this decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

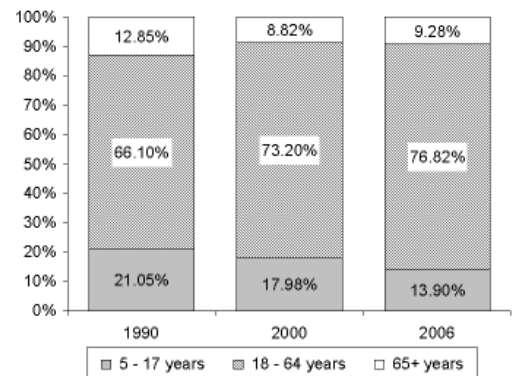
Approximately 40 percent of Missouri residents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish in 2000. With 110,750 speakers, the Spanish speaking population was more than three times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, German. French placed third with 19,545 speakers, ahead of Chinese, Vietnamese and Serbo-Croatian. Speakers of these six languages account for 3.6 percent of Missouri's overall population and 72.0 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Rates of severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) in Missouri continue to rank below the nationwide median within all three age groups – school age children, working age adults, and senior citizens. In 2006, the SLEP rate among working adults was 1-in-86, among the 10 lowest in the nation. However, the number of Missourians age 18 to 64 who speak little or no English has more than doubled since 1990. A moderate increase in growth was also noted within the school age population, where the SLEP rate grew by 37 percent. Children age 5 to 17 make up almost 14 percent of the SLEP population of Missouri, the sixth highest rate nationwide.

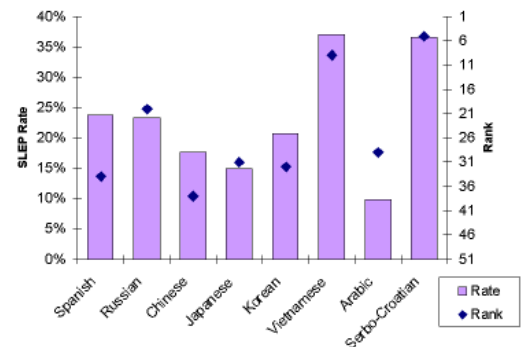
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Missouri. More than 1-in-3 Missouri residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, slightly more than the rate of Serbo-Croatian speakers who struggle with English. SLEP rates for both Serbo-Croatian speakers and Vietnamese speakers greatly exceed the national median, ranking fifth and ninth, respectively, among the states.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

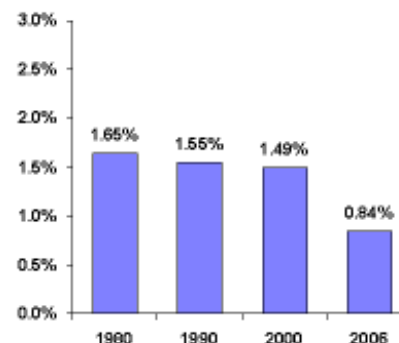
Though the LEP rate in Missouri has risen slightly since 1980, the increases have come nowhere near what has been experienced in any of Missouri's eight neighboring states. Despite a higher than expected increase in the Hispanic population, Missouri's LEP rate showed only a slight increase in recent years, perhaps due to the relatively high degree of English proficiency among the state's Spanish speakers. The state does have some lingering concerns, specifically high rates of severe limited English proficiency among Vietnamese speakers and Serbo-Croatian speakers. Missouri must remain aware of what has occurred in surrounding states as it develops future plans to encourage assimilation and language learning.

Montana

Capital: Helena
2006 Population: 944,632
Joined Union: Nov. 8, 1889

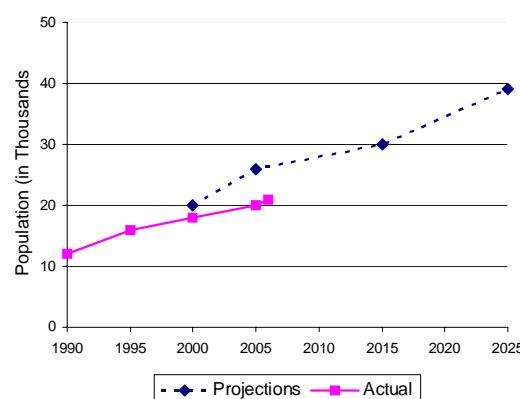
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The number of limited English proficient (LEP) people living in Montana decreased from 11,883 in 1980 to 7,490 in 2006. Consequently, the LEP rate in Montana also declined over the last quarter century, dropping from 1-in-60 residents in 1980 to roughly 1-in-120 residents in 2006. Though the Treasure State has long experienced an LEP rate well below the nationwide median, it has dropped even further in recent years, from 35th in 1980 to 39th in 1990 to 50th in 2006. In 2006, only West Virginia had a lower rate of limited English proficiency.



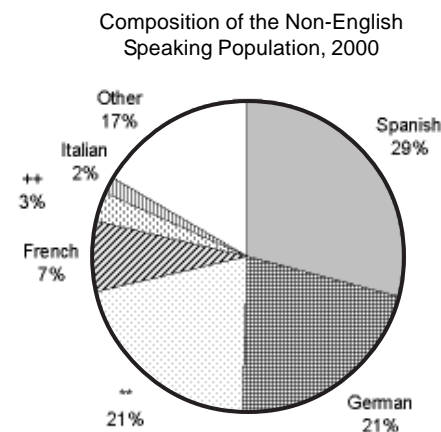
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Montana's Hispanic population has fallen slightly behind projections published by the Census in 1996. The Treasure State was home to 18,000 Hispanics in 2000, only 90 percent of the forecast of 20,000 made for that year. By 2005, the number of Hispanics in Montana had reached the year 2000 projection, but was more than 25 percent shy of the year 2005 prediction of 26,000. Barring a radical change in the migration of Hispanics to Montana, it is likely that the 2015 estimate of 30,000 Hispanics statewide will exceed the actual figure for that year.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

There are more speakers of Spanish among Montana's population which spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 than speakers of any other language. Approximately three-in-ten of the state's 44,330 residents who speak a non-English language at home spoke Spanish, slightly more than the number who spoke German, the second most common language. Speakers of Native North American languages other than Navajo numbered 9,235 making it the third most widely spoken language group, followed by French, Scandinavian Languages and Italian. Speakers of these six languages account for 4.4 percent of Montana's overall population and 83.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

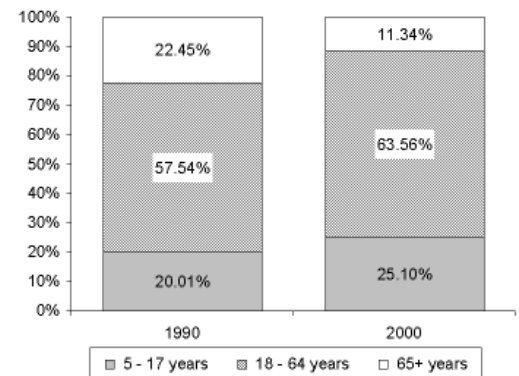


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo
++ - "Scandinavian Languages"

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) is rare among Montanans in every age group. In 2000, the state featured some of the lowest SLEP rates in the nation, especially within the 18 to 64 population, where the rate of 1-in-222 fell below that of every state except West Virginia. Among senior citizens, fewer than 1-in-250 Montana residents speak little or no English, the sixth lowest rate in the nation. The 2000 Census found that fewer than 1-in-175 school age Montanans were severely limited English proficient, also the sixth lowest rate in the nation.

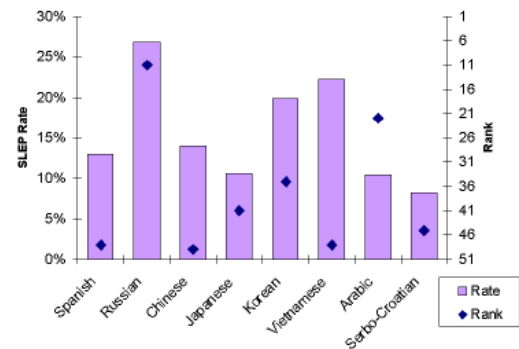
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Russian speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Montana. More than 1-in-4 Montana residents who speak Russian at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, the 11th highest rate in the nation. On the other hand, SLEP rates among Vietnamese speakers and Spanish speakers are the fourth lowest in the nation in each case, while the SLEP rate for Chinese speakers is third lowest nationwide.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

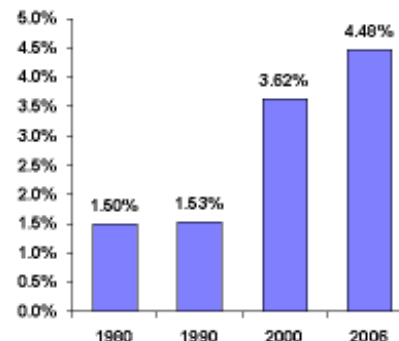
A steady decline has been the hallmark of Montana's rate of limited English proficiency, which is now the second lowest nationwide. With smaller than expected growth in the Hispanic population and a SLEP population that tends to skew older than the nationwide average, it is quite likely that Montana will continue to have minimal issues with limited English proficiency. Yet the state must keep in mind that this is a similar situation to what states such as Georgia, Kansas, Nebraska and North Carolina found themselves in during the early 1990s – just before immigration patterns changed radically. Therefore, the state must maintain an appropriate framework for integrating and assimilating newcomers.

Nebraska

Capital: Lincoln
2006 Population: 1,768,331
Joined Union: Mar. 1, 1867

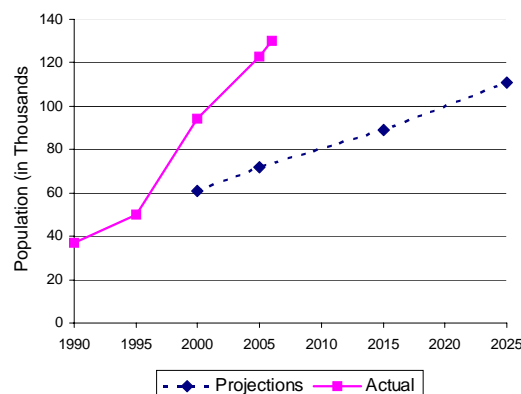
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Between 1980 and 2006, the limited English proficient (LEP) population of Nebraska more than tripled, from 21,707 to 73,509. Nearly all of this growth has occurred in the 16 years between 1990 and 2006. Though Nebraska's LEP rate remained virtually unchanged from 1980 to 1990 at 1-in-65 residents, it jumped to 1-in-27 by 2000 and 1-in-22 in 2006. Once among the states with the lowest levels of limited English proficiency, the Cornhusker State is now above the median at 25th.



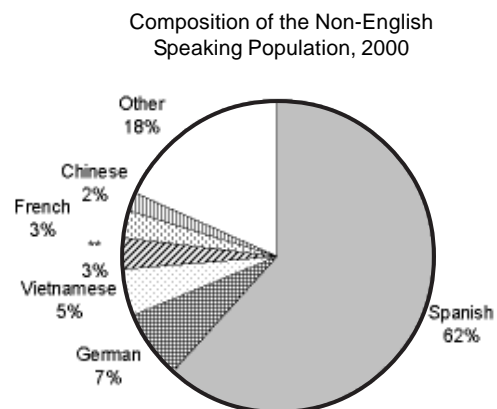
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

In Nebraska, the Hispanic population has far exceeded Census projections made a decade ago. The Hispanic population of the Cornhusker State was 94,000 in 2000, more than one-and-a-half times the prediction for that year and beyond the forecasts made for 2005 and 2015. By 2005, Nebraska's Hispanic population had exceeded the forecast made for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Spanish speakers make up a majority of the 125,000 Nebraskans who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 61.8 percent of the total, almost nine times the number of the second most common non-English language, German. Vietnamese is the third most commonly spoken language in the state, with 5,960 speakers, followed by speakers of Slavic languages other than Serbo-Croatian. French placed fifth and Chinese sixth. Speakers of these six languages account for 6.4 percent of Nebraska's overall population and 81.8 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

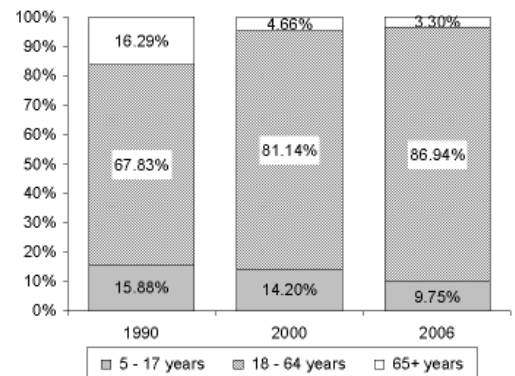


** - "Other Slavic Languages"

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Nebraska's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population is heavily concentrated among working age adults, with nearly 87 percent of the state's population that speaks little or no English falling between the age of 18 and 64. This is the second highest rate of any state in the nation. From 1990 to 2006, the SLEP rate among working age Nebraskans skyrocketed from less than 1-in-150 to more than 1-in-30. Over the same span, the Cornhusker State has also experienced a near tripling in the rate of school age children who speak little or no English, while the SLEP rate for senior citizens fell slightly.

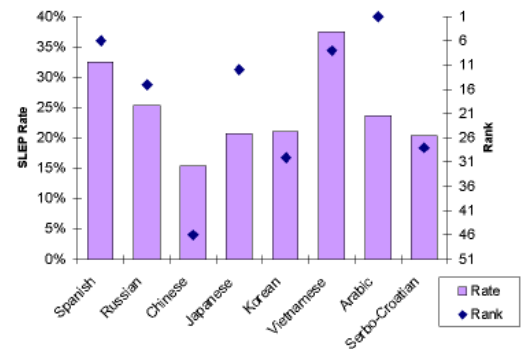
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Nebraska. More than 37 percent of Nebraska residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, the eighth highest rate in the nation. Nebraska also has the highest SLEP rate among Arabic speaking residents at 23.6 percent, and the sixth highest SLEP rate among Spanish speakers at 32.4 percent.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

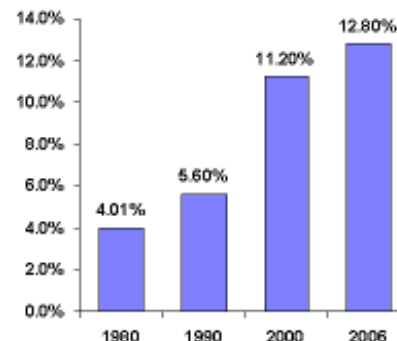
During the 45 years after World War II, the limited English proficient population of Nebraska slowly dwindled to the point where by 1990, it was one of the nation's smallest. Since that time, unexpected growth in the Spanish speaking population and high rates of severe limited English proficiency among new immigrant groups has tripled the LEP rate. The current state of affairs, which includes high SLEP rates among working age Nebraskans and high SLEP rates among Spanish speakers, Vietnamese speakers and Arabic speakers, spells dangerous consequences for Nebraska's economy if left unchecked. Given that the state will likely continue to grow as a destination for newcomers, Nebraska must undertake strong efforts to encourage English learning, especially among Spanish speakers.

Nevada

Capital: Carson City
2006 Population: 2,495,529
Joined Union: Oct. 31, 1864

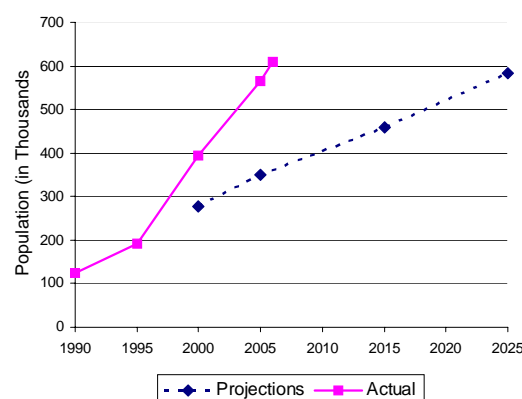
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Nevada has experienced one of the largest increases in the limited English proficient (LEP) population of a state over the last quarter century. The state's LEP population has increased 10 times from 1980 to 2006, soaring from 29,899 to 295,870. Consequently, the state's LEP rate has swelled, soaring from 1-in-25 residents in 1980 to 1-in-9 in 2000 to greater than 1-in-8 in 2006. The Silver State had the fourth highest LEP rate in the nation in 2006, up from seventh in 2000, 13th in 1990 and 14th in 1980.



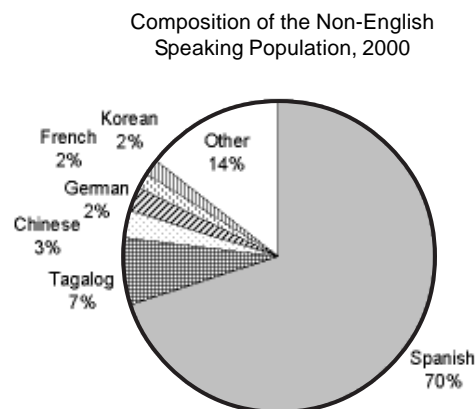
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Recent enumeration of the Hispanic population in Nevada indicates that the growth in this segment has far exceeded Census projections. In 2000, the Hispanic population of the Silver State was 394,000, more than 40 percent above the predicted total of 277,000 for that year and more than 10 percent above the 2005 prediction. Five years later, the number of Hispanics in Nevada was estimated at 564,000, exceeding the forecast for 2015. By 2006, the number of Hispanics statewide was already five percent above the projection for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

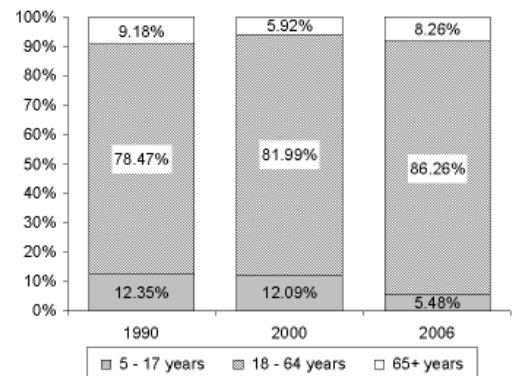
More than two-thirds of Nevada residents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish in 2000. With nearly 300,000 residents, the Spanish speaking population was more than 10 times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, Tagalog. Speakers of Chinese comprised the third most populous group, followed by speakers of German, French and Korean. Speakers of these six languages account for 19.7 percent of Nevada's overall population and 85.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Nevada has seen exponential growth within the working age population. From 1990 to 2006, the rate of Nevadans age 18 to 64 who spoke little or no English soared from 1-in-30 to nearly 1-in-11. The latter figure is the fourth highest nationwide. Working age adults now make up more than 86 percent of the state's SLEP population, the third highest percentage in the country. However, Nevada also has high SLEP rates within other age groups. More than 1-in-50 school age children speak little or no English – the eighth highest rate, and 1-in-20 senior citizens are SLEP – the 13th highest rate.

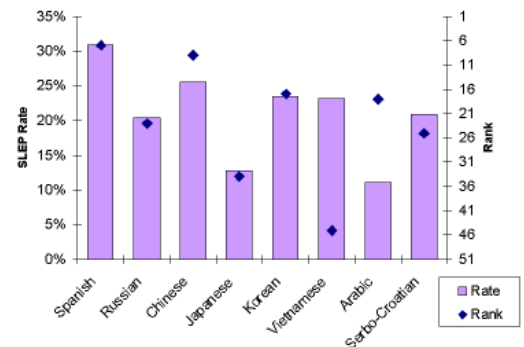
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Spanish speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Nevada. More than 3-in-10 Nevada residents who speak Spanish at home speak little or no English, the seventh highest rate in the nation. Chinese speakers are also more likely to struggle with English, with more than 25 percent classified as limited English proficient, the ninth highest rate nationwide. At 23 percent, rates of severe limited English proficiency among Nevada's Vietnamese speakers are by no means low; however, this is the seventh lowest rate nationwide.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

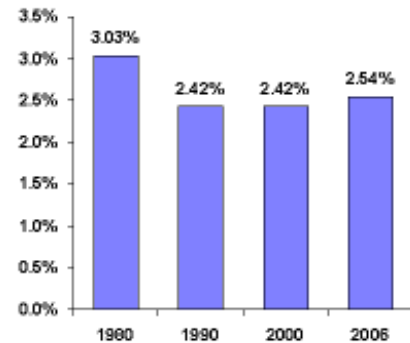
Nevada may not touch an international border, but changes in demography over the last 25 years have touched the state with almost unparalleled population growth among those who struggle with English. Since 1980, the LEP rate has tripled, and with Hispanic population growth that is vastly outpacing Census projections, this rate is likely to continue its upward trend. Most of the growth in the LEP population has come within the working age population, the group most likely to affect state revenues and productivity. Perhaps most concerning is the high rate of severe limited English proficiency among Spanish speakers. While border states with large Spanish speaking populations such as Arizona, New Mexico and Texas have SLEP rates at or below the national median, Nevada's is the seventh highest in the nation. In order to create a more productive citizenry, Nevada needs to embark on an aggressive campaign to emphasize English learning, particularly among native Spanish speakers.

New Hampshire

Capital: Concord
2006 Population: 1,314,895
Joined Union: June 21, 1788

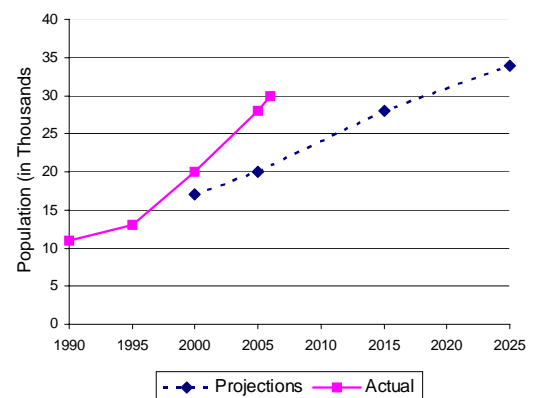
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of New Hampshire increased slightly between 1980 and 2006, rising from 25,978 to 31,579. During that span, the state's LEP rate declined modestly, dropping from 1-in-33 residents in 1980 to slightly more than 1-in-40 in 2006. Once among the 20 states with the highest LEP rates, the Granite State declined from 18th in 1980 to 25th in 1990 and dropped to 38th in 2006.



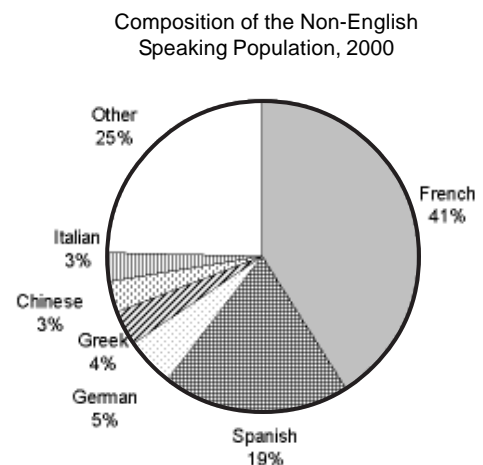
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of New Hampshire has moderately exceeded projections released by the Census in 1996. In 2000, New Hampshire's Hispanic population was enumerated at 20,000, slightly above the population of 17,000 forecast for that year and matching the 2005 prediction. By 2005, the number of Hispanics in the Granite State had risen to 28,000, equaling the projection for 2015. It appears highly likely that New Hampshire will exceed the forecast of 34,000 Hispanics by 2025 before the end of this decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

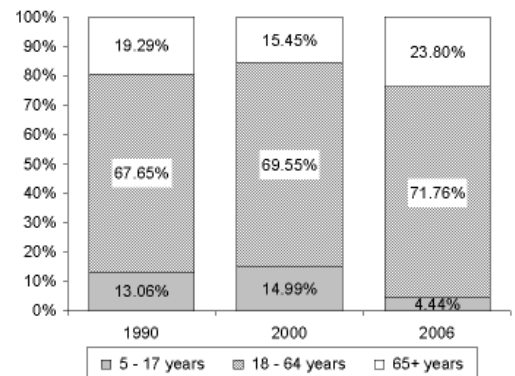
In 2000, French was the most common language spoken at home among New Hampshire residents who spoke a language other than English. The French speaking population accounted for more than 40 percent of non-English speakers and was twice the population of the second most common language other than English, Spanish. German placed third, followed by Greek, Chinese and Italian. Speakers of these six languages account for 6.2 percent of New Hampshire's overall population and 75.3 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

New Hampshire's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population is more concentrated among senior citizens than almost every other state. While the number of Granite State residents who speak little or no English is low compared to other states, senior citizens make up almost one-quarter of the total. Nearly 1-in-50 New Hampshire seniors were SLEP in 2006, up from 1-in-70 in 1990. The SLEP rate has also increased among the working age population – from 1-in-125 in 1990 to more than 1-in-100 in 2006, but remains among the lowest in the nation.

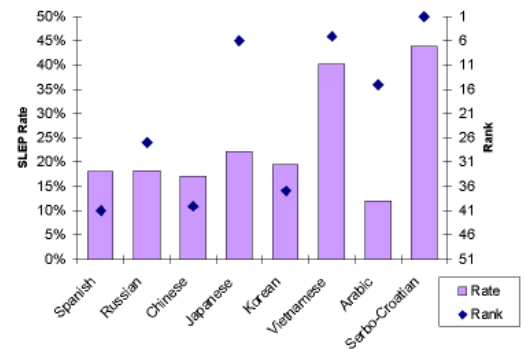
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Serbo-Croatian speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in New Hampshire. More than 4-in-10 New Hampshire residents who speak Serbo-Croatian at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Vietnamese speakers who struggle with English. Compared to other states, New Hampshire has the highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Serbo-Croatian speakers, while the rate among Vietnamese speakers ranks fifth and the rate among Japanese speakers ranks sixth. Conversely, New Hampshire has one of the lower SLEP rates in the nation among those who speak Chinese or Arabic at home.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

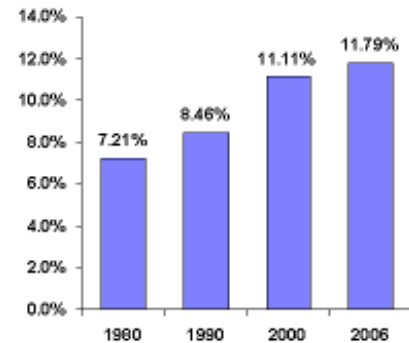
In the last 25 years, New Hampshire has gone from a state with one of the highest levels of limited English proficiency to one of the lowest. Based on a higher than average concentration of severe limited English proficiency among senior citizens, it is likely that LEP status may become rarer in upcoming years. However, the state should keep a close eye on demographic changes. The Hispanic population has grown faster than expected, and while Spanish speakers have lower than average SLEP rates, the same cannot be said for speakers of Japanese, Vietnamese and Serbo-Croatian. As New Hampshire works to encourage newcomers to settle here, it must do so in conjunction with programs that stress English learning.

New Jersey

Capital: Trenton
2006 Population: 8,724,560
Joined Union: Dec. 18, 1787

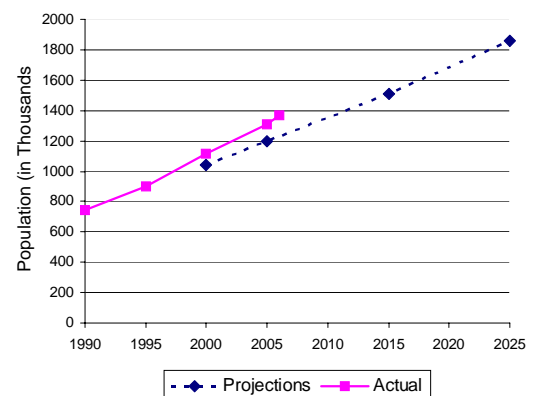
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of New Jersey has nearly doubled over the last 25 years, rising from 497,723 in 1980 to 962,993 in 2006. As of 2006, more than 1-in-9 New Jersey residents were classified as limited English proficient, up from 1-in-12 in 1990 and 1-in-14 in 1980. The Garden State continues to rank among the states with the highest LEP rates, placing seventh in 1980 and sixth in both 1990 and 2006.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

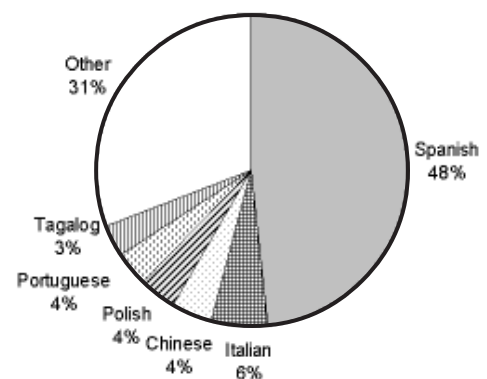
New Jersey's Hispanic population has slightly exceeded 2000 and 2005 projections set by the Census a decade ago. In 2000, the number of Hispanics in the Garden State was enumerated at 1.12 million, six percent higher than the forecast of 1.04 million. Five years later, the Hispanic population had grown to 1.31 million, nine percent above the prediction of 1.19 million. If the current rate of growth continues, the benchmark for 2015 could be reached before the end of this decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Spanish speakers comprise slightly less than half of the 2.0 million New Jersey residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 48.3 percent of the total, more than eight times the number of the second most common non-English language, Italian. Chinese is the third most common language spoken at home, with 84,345 speakers, followed by speakers of Polish, Portuguese and Tagalog. Speakers of these six languages account for 17.6 percent of New Jersey's overall population and 69.1 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

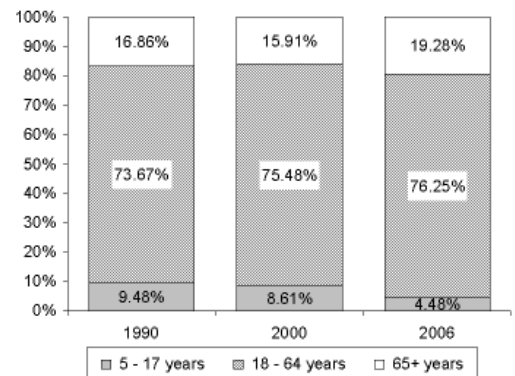
Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000



Non-English Proficiency by Age

New Jersey has some of the highest severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) rates in the country among all three age groups. More than 1-in-12 New Jersey senior citizens speak little or no English, the fifth highest rate in the country, trailing only California, New York, Hawaii and Texas. Between 1990 and 2006, the SLEP rate among New Jersey seniors increased by more than 50 percent. The Garden State also has the seventh highest SLEP rate among the working age population at more than 1-in-15 individuals age 18 to 64. This rate has increased more than 30 percent from the 1990 figure.

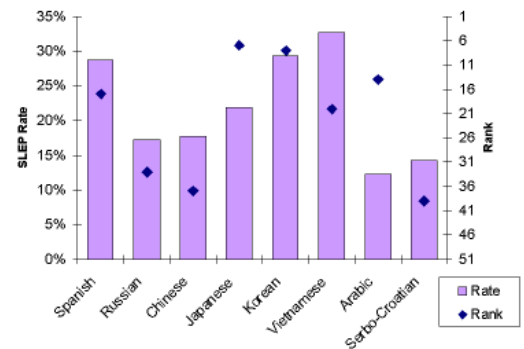
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in New Jersey. More than 3-in-10 New Jersey residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Korean speakers who struggle with English. New Jersey also bears some of the highest SLEP rates among Japanese speakers and Korean speakers, at seventh and eighth, respectively. However, SLEP rates are comparatively lower here among Chinese speakers and Serbo-Croatian speakers than in other states.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

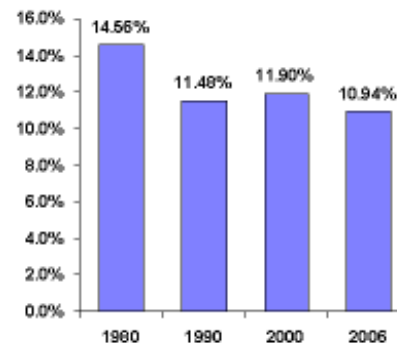
Immigrants have often made up a sizeable portion of the population of New Jersey, and a high LEP rate would not be out of the ordinary in the Garden State. But the degree to which the limited English proficient population has risen over the last 25 years requires a rededication to the principles of assimilation and stressing English learning. Since 1980, New Jersey's LEP population has risen by more than 50 percent, even though a sizeable portion of that group is made up of senior citizens. Furthermore, the rate of severe limited English proficiency among newer immigrant groups, such as Koreans and Japanese, suggest that the state needs to reorder its priorities in order to get the most from its diverse population.

New Mexico

Capital: Santa Fe
2006 Population: 1,954,599
Joined Union: Jan. 6, 1912

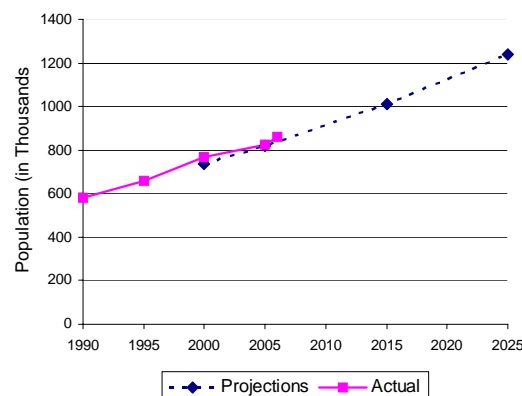
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

At first glance, the percentage of New Mexico residents classified as limited English proficient (LEP) in 2006 is startling, at nearly 11 percent. However, this figure, totaling nearly 200,000 persons, has shown a marked decline over the last 25 years. Though the rate of nearly 1-in-9 persons still ranks near the top, it represents a decrease from the greater than 1-in-7 figure recorded by the 1980 Census, when New Mexico ranked as the state with the highest LEP rate. Since that time, the Land of Enchantment saw its LEP rate fall to third highest in 1990, fifth highest in 2000 and eighth highest in 2006.



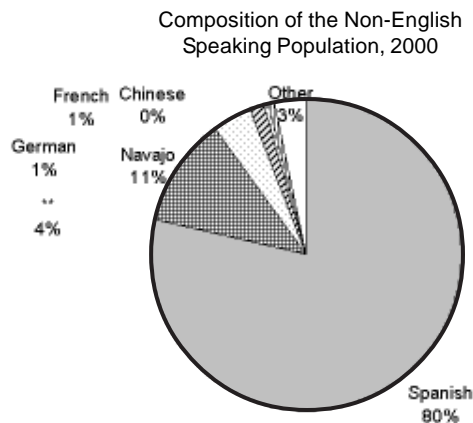
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

In New Mexico, the Hispanic population has met Census projections set in 1996. New Mexico was home to 765,000 Hispanics in 2000, only slightly more than the forecast of 736,000. By 2005, the number of Hispanics living in the Land of Enchantment had increased to 822,000, almost exactly meeting the 821,000 prediction for that year. Given the current rate of growth in the Hispanic population of New Mexico, it is likely that the state will meet or closely meet the projection for 2015.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

More than 75 percent of New Mexico residents who spoke a language other than English in the home spoke Spanish in 2000. At more than 485,000 residents, the Spanish speaking population was more than seven times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, Navajo. Speakers of Native North American languages other than Navajo were the third most populous group, followed by German, French and Chinese. Speakers of these six languages account for 35.3 percent of New Mexico's overall population and 96.7 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

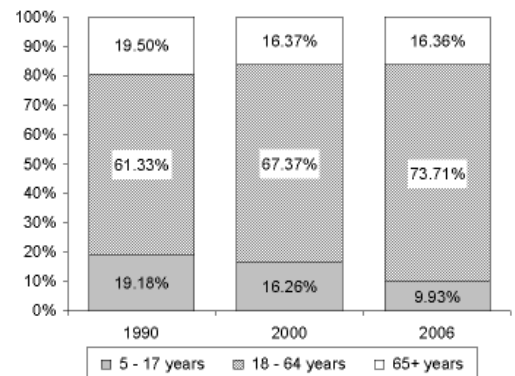


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Though the rates of severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) in New Mexico have been falling in recent years, they still far exceed the national median among school age children, working age adults and senior citizens. Among children age 5 to 17 living in New Mexico, nearly 1-in-36 speak little or no English. While this figure represents a significant decline from the number recorded in 1990, it remains the fourth highest in the nation. Nearly 1-in-16 New Mexico working age adults were SLEP in 2006, the eighth highest rate in the United States, although this figure is virtually unchanged from 1990. The SLEP rate among senior citizens has declined between 1990 and 2006, from 1-in-10 to 1-in-14, but it was still higher than all but six states.

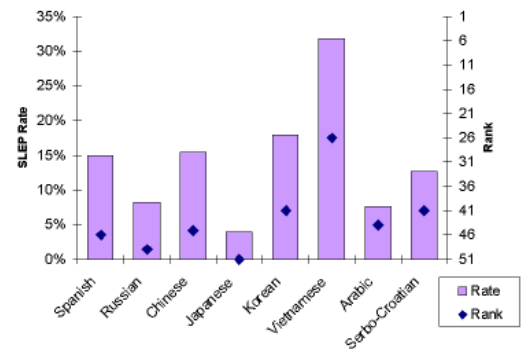
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in New Mexico. More than 3-in-10 New Mexico residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English. While this rate far exceeds that of other major language groups in the Land of Enchantment, it ranks as the national median – 26th of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. New Mexico also has comparatively low SLEP rates among speakers of other major languages, including Spanish, where the SLEP rate of 15 percent is the sixth lowest nationally, and Japanese, where the SLEP rate is the lowest of any state.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

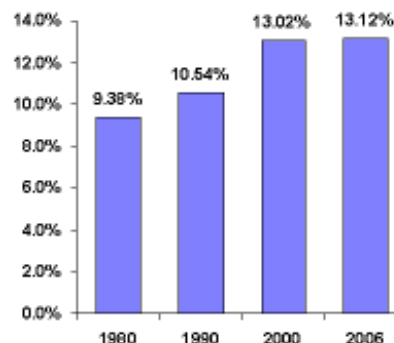
New Mexico's sizeable Spanish speaking population has long given the state one of the highest limited English proficiency rates in the United States. However, this rate has declined over the last quarter century. The decline is driven in part by the higher-than-average concentration of the SLEP population that is comprised of senior citizens, as well as the relatively low rates of severe limited English proficiency among Spanish speakers. In fact, it might be accurate to say that New Mexico is doing a laudable job of stressing English learning in an environment where such a message may have a difficult time being heard. As New Mexico adapts this message for the future, two caveats must be addressed – first, Spanish speakers must be made aware that it is difficult to survive outside of New Mexico speaking only Spanish, and second, SLEP rates among newer immigrant groups, such as Vietnamese speakers, must be checked before they rise out of control.

New York

Capital: Albany
2006 Population: 19,306,183
Joined Union: July 26, 1788

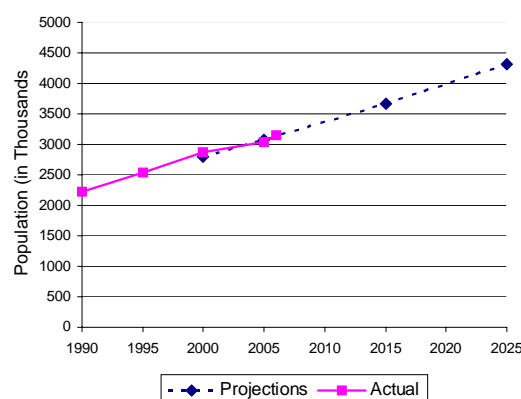
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of New York has increased markedly over the last 25 years, although it has shown signs of slowing since 2000. From 1980 to 2000, the LEP population of the Empire State increased from 1,540,714 to 2,310,256. However, the ensuing six years between 2000 and 2006 saw only modest growth, to 2,372,334. As of 2006, more than 1-in-8 New York residents were LEP, up from less than 1-in-10 in 1980. New York continues to rank among the states with the highest LEP rates, placing third in 2000 and 2006, up from fifth in 1980 and 1990.



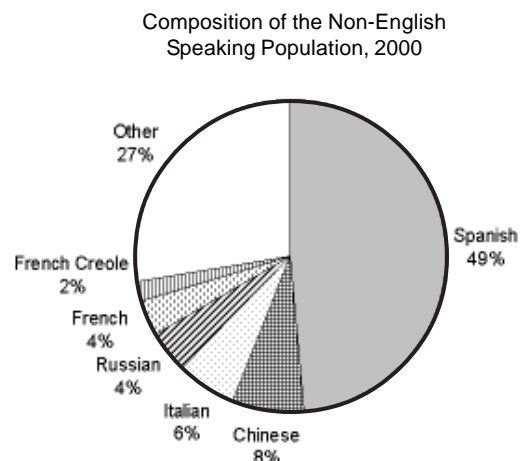
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

After meeting Census projections in 2000, New York's Hispanic population fell slightly behind anticipated growth in 2005. Long home to one of the larger Hispanic populations in the United States, New York had 2.86 million Hispanics in 2000, only slightly above the Census forecast of 2.81 million. Despite an increase to 3.03 million by 2005, the Hispanic population actually fell short of the 3.07 million figure projected by the Census. The Empire State passed this benchmark in 2006.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

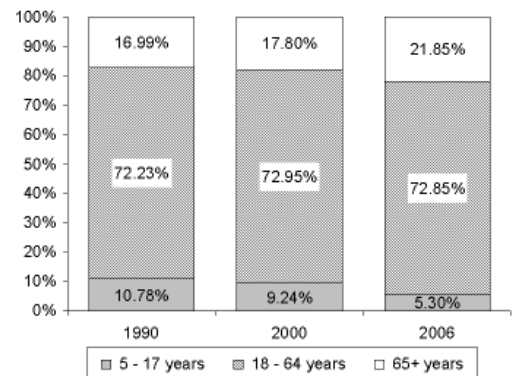
Approximately half of New York residents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish in 2000. With 2.4 million speakers, the Spanish speaking population was more than six times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, Chinese. Italian placed third with 294,000 speakers, ahead of Russian, French and French Creole. Speakers of these six languages account for 20.3 percent of New York's overall population and 72.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

New York has some of the highest severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) rates in the nation among all three age groups – school age children, working age adults and senior citizens. Nearly 1-in-9 New York senior citizens spoke little or no English in 2006, a rise from the 1-in-13 rate recorded in 1990 and the second highest figure in the nation. Within working class adults, the SLEP rate was nearly 1-in-13 in 2006, the fifth highest rate in the nation. While the SLEP rate among school age children dropped between 1990 and 2006, the most recent figure of approximately 1-in-50 ranked sixth highest among the states.

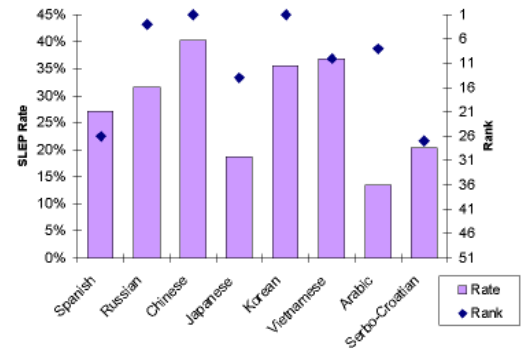
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Chinese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in New York. More than 4-in-10 New York residents who speak Chinese at home speak little or no English, the highest rate in the nation. New York is also notable for having the highest SLEP rate among Korean speakers at 35.5 percent, and the third highest SLEP rate among Russian speakers at 31.7 percent. In all, New York's SLEP rates rank among the top 10 states for five of the eight languages studied. Though New York's Spanish speakers have an SLEP rate of 27.2 percent, this figure ranks 26th and serves as the nationwide median.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

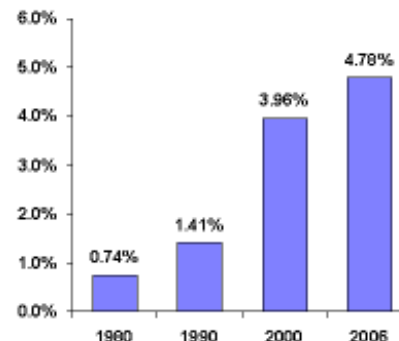
The home of Ellis Island and perhaps the embodiment of the American melting pot, New York City, New York has historically been a place of high immigration rates and high levels of limited English proficiency. While it is not surprising to find that New York has some of the highest LEP rates nationwide, some concern must be noted in the fact that these rates have risen dramatically over the last 25 years. A further examination of these figures indicates that the reason for this increase does not lie with one specific language, such as is the case with Spanish speakers in many states, but rather across a series of languages. New York's high SLEP rates among Russian, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese speakers demonstrate that a "translation-based" approach to government will be both costly and ineffective in dealing with the wider problem.

North Carolina

Capital: Raleigh
2006 Population: 8,856,505
Joined Union: Nov. 21, 1789

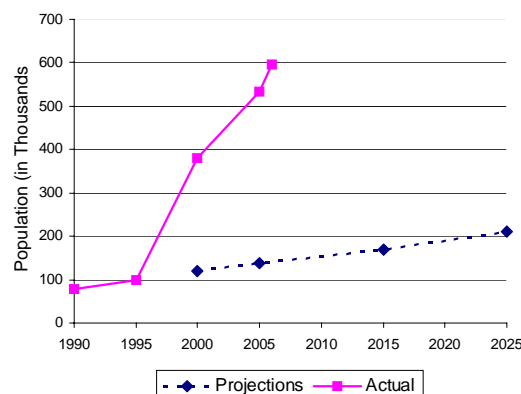
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Between 1980 and 2006, the limited English proficient (LEP) population of North Carolina skyrocketed from 40,486 to 394,151, nearly a 900 percent increase. Almost 1-in-20 North Carolinians were classified as LEP in 2006, up from 1-in-25 in 2000 and a stark rise from the less than 1-in-100 rate noted in 1980. Over the last quarter century, the Tar Heel State has gone from having the seventh lowest LEP rate in the nation in 1980 to the 23rd highest in 2006. Only Georgia jumped more places in that span.



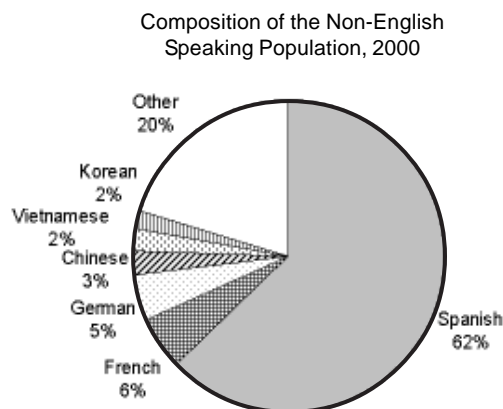
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of North Carolina has far exceeded Census projections. Census 2000 found that the Hispanic population of the state had swelled to 379,000, three times the predicted value for that year and well beyond the projections for 2005, 2015 and 2025. By 2006, the Hispanic population of the Tar Heel State was 597,000, almost three times the value that was forecast for the year 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

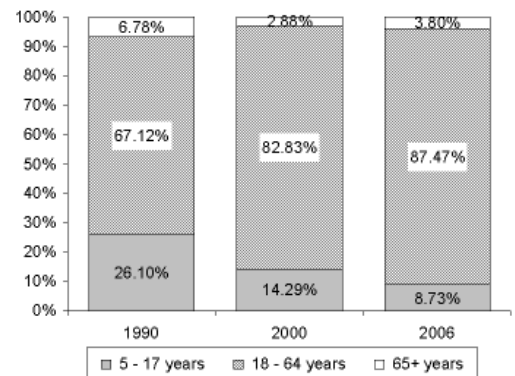
Spanish speakers make up a majority of the 603,000 North Carolina residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 62 percent of the total, more than 11 times the number of the second most common non-English language, French. German is the third most commonly spoken language in the state, with 28,520 speakers, followed by speakers of Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. Speakers of these six languages account for 6.4 percent of North Carolina's overall population and 79.8 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

North Carolina's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population is heavily concentrated among working age adults, with more than 87 percent of the state's population that speaks little or no English falling between the age of 18 and 64. This is the highest rate of any state in the nation. From 1990 to 2006, the SLEP rate among working age North Carolina residents jumped from less than 1-in-160 to nearly 1-in-25. North Carolina has also experienced a near tripling in the rate of senior citizens who speak little or no English over the same span.

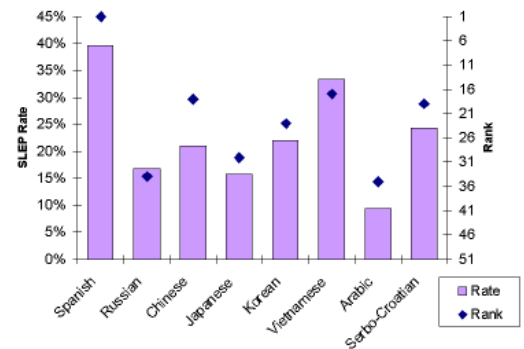
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Spanish speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in North Carolina. Nearly 4-in-10 North Carolina residents who speak Spanish at home speak little or no English, the highest rate in the nation. Vietnamese speakers are also more likely to struggle with English, with more than 33 percent classified as severely limited English proficient, although this rate is only the 17th highest nationwide.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

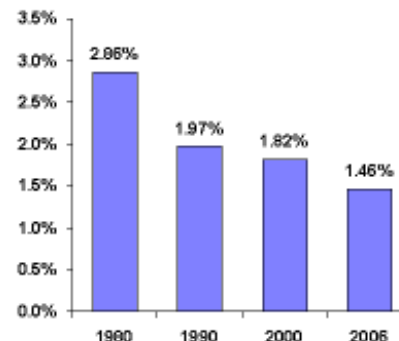
For most of the 20th century, North Carolina had low levels of limited English proficiency and limited levels of immigration. Even as late as 1995, the Census Bureau was predicting only moderate growth in the Hispanic population. By the end of the decade, a different story had emerged. North Carolina's scenic beauty, industry and economy became a drawing card for hundreds of thousands of new immigrants. Consequently, the problems associated with limited English proficiency have become glaring. Not only have LEP rates soared, they have skyrocketed among working age adults – the group where it is most likely to have an effect on earnings. The sheer number of Spanish speakers who have difficulty with English makes a widespread effort to teach English much more worthwhile than repeated case-by-case translations.

North Dakota

Capital: Bismarck
2006 Population: 635,867
Joined Union: Nov. 2, 1889

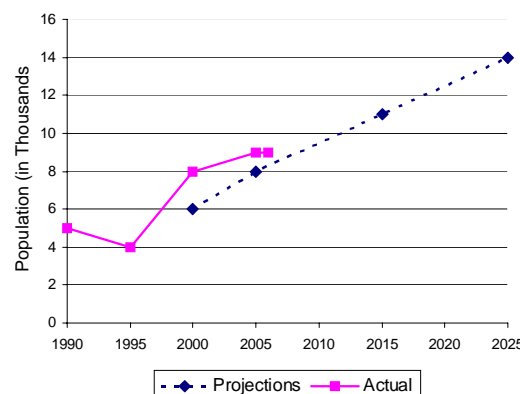
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

North Dakota's limited English proficient (LEP) population has declined drastically over the last quarter century, sliding from 17,087 in 1980 to 8,703 in 2006. Given North Dakota's stable population overall, the rate of LEP residents within the state has dropped from 1-in-35 residents in 1980 to less than 1-in-50 in 1990 to fewer than 1-in-68 in 2006. The Peace Garden State, which ranked among the 20 states with the highest LEP rates in the nation in 1980, ranked among the four states with the lowest LEP rates in 2006.



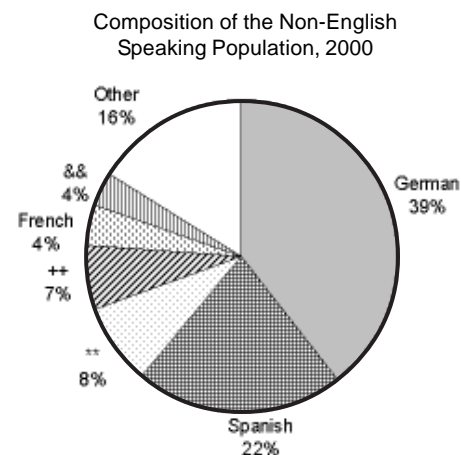
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Recent enumeration of the Hispanic population of North Dakota indicates that the growth in this segment closely matches Census projections made in 1996. In 2000, the state's Hispanic population was 8,000, roughly in line with the prediction of 6,000 for that year. Hispanic population growth in North Dakota has remained slow between 2000 and 2006, consistent with the Census forecast.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

There are more speakers of German among North Dakota's population which spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 than speakers of any other language. Approximately 40 percent of the state's 37,975 residents who speak a non-English language at home spoke German, slightly more than the number who spoke Spanish, the second most common language. Speakers of Scandinavian languages numbered 3,195, making them the third largest language group, followed by speakers of Native North American languages other than Navajo, French, and speakers of Slavic languages other than Serbo-Croatian. Speakers of these six languages account for 5.3 percent of North Dakota's overall population and 83.9 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



** - "Scandinavian Languages"

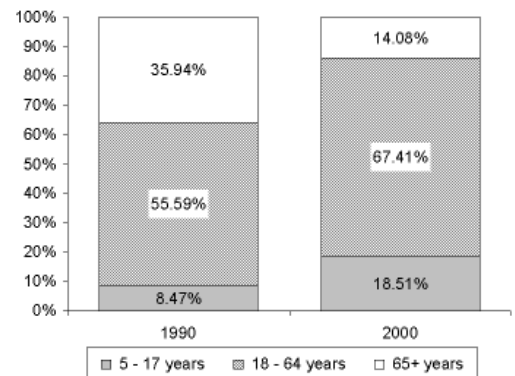
++ - "Native North American Languages other than Navajo"

&& - "Other Slavic Languages"

Non-English Proficiency by Age

North Dakota has one of the smallest populations of severely limited English proficient (SLEP) people in the United States and these low numbers carry through to each of the age groups. In 2000, only 1-in-161 working age adults spoke little or no English. While this was 29 percent higher than the 1990 figure, it was still the 47th lowest rate in the nation. The SLEP rate among the school age population more than doubled from 1990 to 2000, but still ranked 47th in the nation at just over 1-in-200 persons. There was a significant decline in severe limited English proficiency among North Dakota seniors, where the rate dropped from 1-in-66 in 1990 to 1-in-188 in 2000.

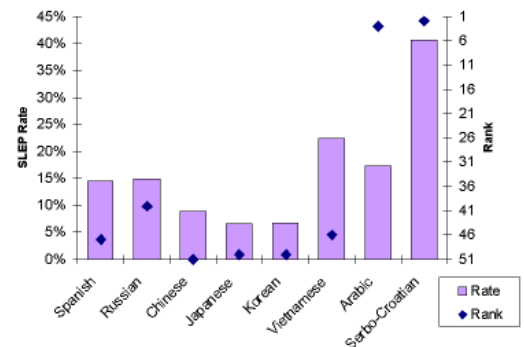
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Serbo-Croatian speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in North Dakota. More than 4-in-10 North Dakota residents who speak Serbo-Croatian at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, the second highest rate in the nation. North Dakota also has the third highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Arabic speakers, at more than 1-in-6. Conversely, North Dakota has the second lowest SLEP rates in the nation among those who speak Korean or Japanese at home, and the lowest SLEP rate among those who speak Chinese.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

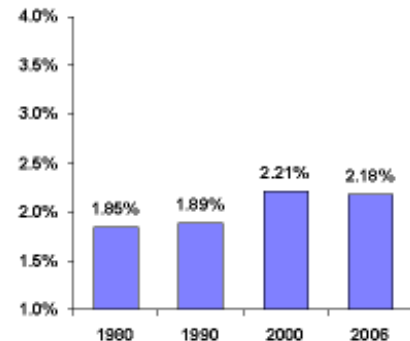
With immigration levels minimal and limited English proficiency relatively rare, North Dakota is meeting the needs of its current population. Furthermore, the higher than average LEP rate among seniors offers indications that overall LEP rates will continue to decline. However, it must be noted that this mirrors the situation experienced by many states in the Midwest and South in the mid-1990s, prior to being “discovered” as new hot spots for settlement. As North Dakota continues to adapt its business environment to appeal to newcomers, it needs to keep a careful eye on upholding its stellar English proficiency rates.

Ohio

Capital: Columbus
2006 Population: 11,478,006
Joined Union: Mar. 1, 1803

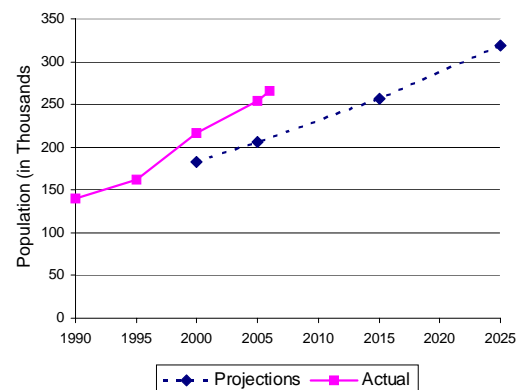
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The number of limited English proficient (LEP) people living in Ohio has increased slightly over the last 25 years, from 185,595 in 1980 to 234,244 in 2006. Consequently, there has been slow growth in the LEP rate from 1-in-55 state residents in 1980 to 1-in-45 residents in 2006. Given the substantial rise in LEP rates across the nation, the Buckeye State continues to fall on the list of states with the highest LEP rates, dropping from 30th in 1980 to 34th in 1990 to 40th in 2006.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

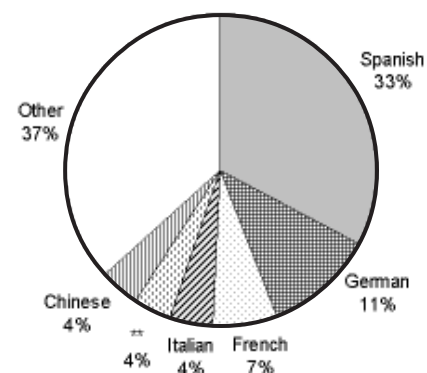
Ohio's Hispanic population has moderately exceeded Census projections made a decade ago. The state was home to 217,000 Hispanics in 2000, almost 20 percent more than were forecast for that year and surpassing the 206,000 that were forecast for 2005. By 2006, the Hispanic population of 266,000 exceeded the Census prediction for 2015, and it appears likely that the 2025 projection for Ohio will be surpassed within the next decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken in Ohio, used by 32.9 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The number of Spanish speakers is nearly triple the number of speakers of the second most numerous non-English language spoken at home, German. French is the third most common, followed by Italian, other West Germanic languages, such as Pennsylvania Dutch, and Chinese. Speakers of these six languages account for 3.9 percent of the overall population of Ohio and 63.2 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000

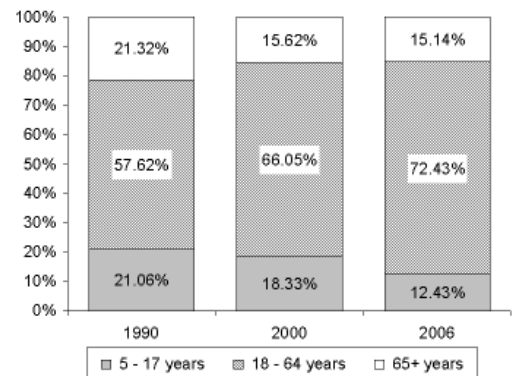


** - "other West Germanic languages" (e.g. Pa. Dutch)

Non-English Proficiency by Age

While the number of severely limited English proficient (SLEP) people living in Ohio is well below the national average, there is a greater concentration among the school age and senior citizen population than in most states. In 2006, more than 12.4 percent of Ohioans who spoke little or no English were between the age of 5 and 17. This was the 10th highest percentage in the nation, although it only accounted for 1-in-161 members of this group. Likewise, the percentage of the SLEP population that was over the age of 65 was the 16th highest in the nation, although just over 1-in-100 seniors in Ohio were SLEP.

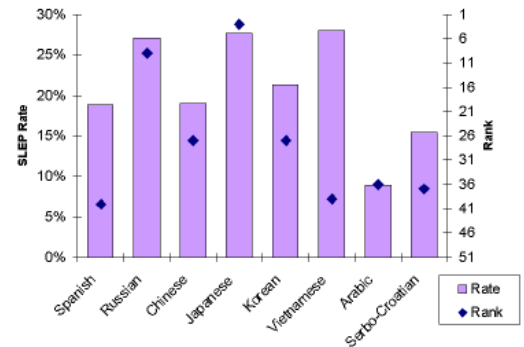
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Ohio. More than 1-in-4 Ohio residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Japanese speakers and Russian speakers who struggle with English. Ohio bears some of the highest SLEP rates in the nation among Japanese speakers and Russian speakers, at third and ninth, respectively. Despite the 28 percent SLEP rate among Vietnamese speakers, this figure ranks in the bottom third of all states. Additionally, while almost 1-in-5 Spanish speakers struggle with English, their SLEP rates are comparatively lower than in other states.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

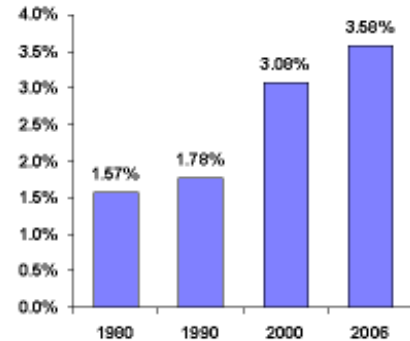
Overall, limited English proficiency rates remain low in Ohio and are well balanced within age segments of the population. Among groups that tend to struggle with English, specifically Spanish speakers and Vietnamese speakers, rates of severe limited English proficiency are lower than in three-quarters of the states. However, this rosy picture belies the fact that SLEP rates for Russian and Japanese speakers are among the nation's highest. Furthermore, high SLEP rates among schoolchildren lend credence to the possibility that overall rates will grow in the future. Furthermore, higher-than-expected growth in the immigrant population means that the state must continue to develop English acquisition programs.

Oklahoma

Capital: Oklahoma City
2006 Population: 3,579,212
Joined Union: Nov. 16, 1907

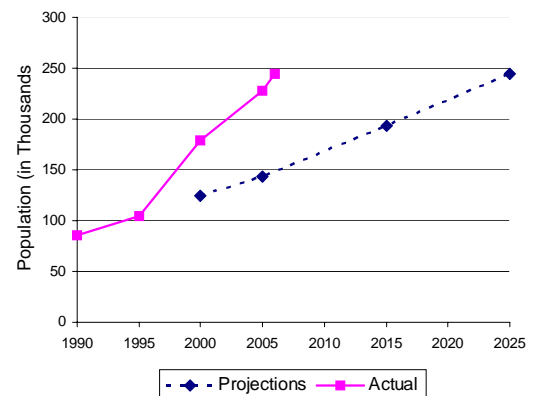
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Over the last quarter century, the limited English proficient (LEP) population of Oklahoma has nearly tripled, from 43,740 in 1980 to 119,142 in 2006. Consequently, Oklahoma's LEP rate has skyrocketed, from fewer than 1-in-63 residents in 1980 to more than 1-in-28 in 2006. The Sooner State has steadily climbed the list of states with the highest LEP rates, increasing from 37th in 1980 to 31st in 2000 to 29th in 2006.



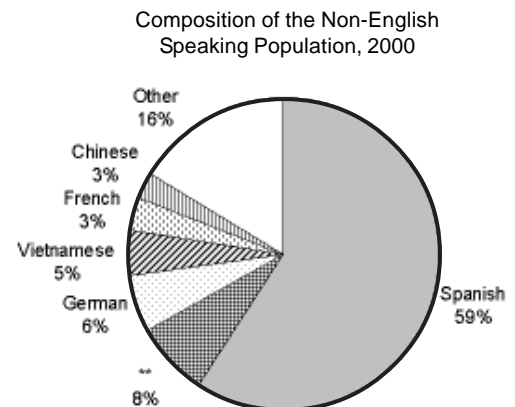
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

In Oklahoma, the growth of the state's Hispanic population has greatly exceeded Census projections. Approximately 179,000 Hispanics called the Sooner State home in 2000, nearly one-and-a-half times the forecast of 124,000 provided by the Census four years earlier. This figure also exceeded the forecast of 143,000 for 2005 as well. Oklahoma surpassed the projection for 2015 in 2005 and the 2006 count of 245,000 Hispanics within the state equaled the prediction made for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Speakers of Spanish comprised the majority of Oklahoma's 238,000 residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. This population accounts for nearly 60 percent of the total, more than seven times the number of the second most common non-English linguistic group, native North American languages other than Navajo. German places third with 13,445 speakers, followed by Vietnamese, French and Chinese. Speakers of these six languages account for 9.3 percent of Oklahoma's overall population and 76.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

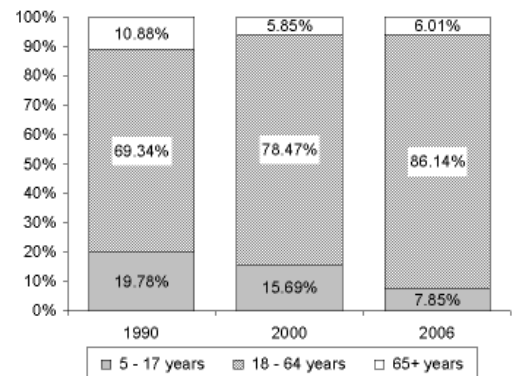


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo

Non-English Proficiency by Age

The severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Oklahoma is heavily concentrated among working age adults, with more than 86 percent of the state's population that speaks little or no English falling between the ages of 18 and 64. This is the sixth highest rate of any state in the nation. Though SLEP rates in Oklahoma remain at or below the nationwide median, they have increased among all three age groups between 1990 and 2006, most notably among working age adults. Over this span, the SLEP rate within the working age population more than tripled, from 1-in-125 to nearly 1-in-38.

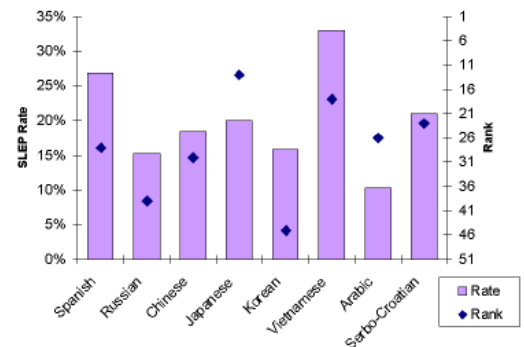
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Oklahoma. Nearly 1-in-3 Oklahoma residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English. While this rate far exceeds that of other major language groups in the Sooner State, it ranks only 18th among all the states and the District of Columbia. Oklahoma also has comparatively low SLEP rates among speakers of other major languages, including Korean, where the SLEP rate of 16 percent is the seventh lowest nationally, and Russian, where the SLEP rate ranks 39th overall.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

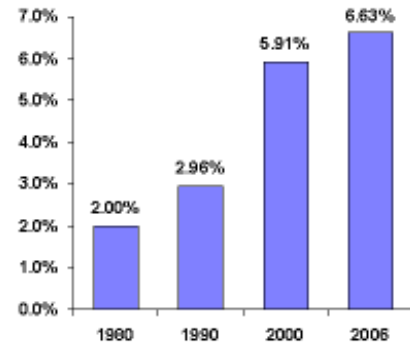
In a land known for the richness and diversity of its native American languages, limited English proficiency is a growing problem among many of the newest residents of Oklahoma. Driven by a surge in immigrants coming for the abundant opportunities in the Sooner State, LEP rates have gone from among the nation's lowest to the middle of the pack. Perhaps of greatest concern is that severe limited English proficiency rates are growing by leaps and bounds among the working age population, the subset that must earn incomes and provide direction for future generations of Oklahomans. As the state continues to become a home to people from all walks of life, it is imperative that it develop a multi-pronged approach to ensure that new residents are on the road to learning English. Otherwise, Oklahoma risks becoming like several of its Southwestern neighbors, with high levels of non-English speakers.

Oregon

Capital: Salem
2006 Population: 3,700,758
Joined Union: Feb. 14, 1859

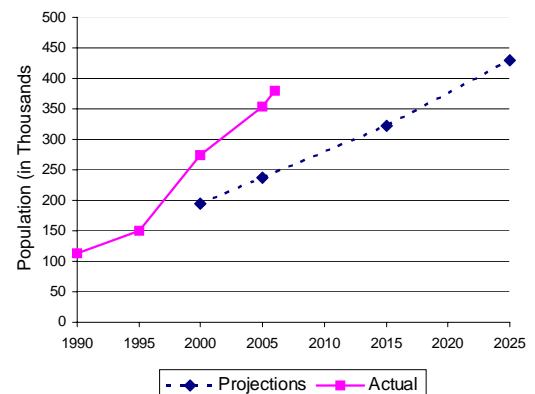
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population has surged in Oregon between 1980 and 2006, increasing from 48,732 to 229,997 over that span. The LEP rate has also risen significantly, from 1-in-50 persons in 1980 to more than 1-in-20 in 2000 to 1-in-16 in 2006. The Beaver State is now in the top 16 states with the highest LEP rates, up from 28th in 1980.



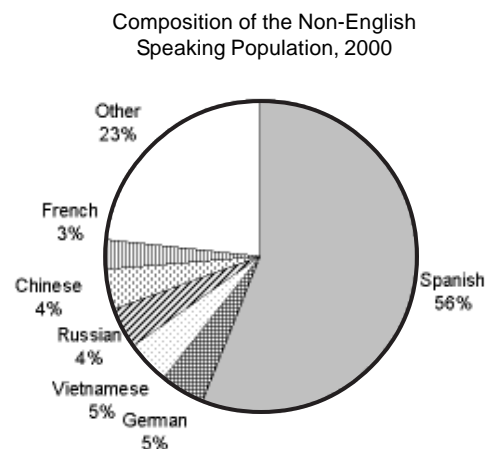
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Oregon has moderately exceeded Census projections made in 1996. There were 275,000 Hispanics living in Oregon in 2000, nearly one-and-a-half times the forecast of 195,000 for that year and above the 237,000 figure predicted for 2005. By 2006, The Beaver State was home to 379,000 Hispanics, besting the prediction for 2015 and putting the state in line to eclipse the 2025 forecast before the end of this decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

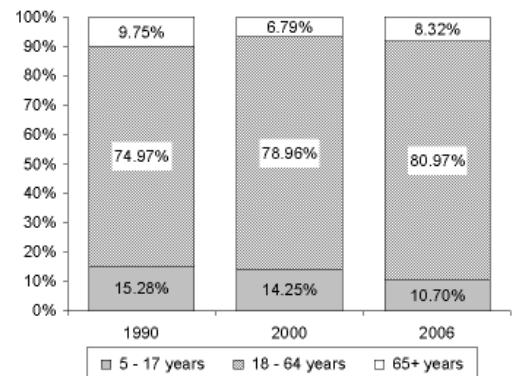
More than 55 percent of Oregon residents who spoke a language other than English in the home spoke Spanish in 2000. At more than 217,000 residents, the Spanish speaking population was nearly 12 times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, German. Speakers of Vietnamese represented the third most populous group, followed by Russian, Chinese and French. Speakers of these six languages account for 9.3 percent of Oregon's overall population and 76.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

In 2006, Oregon had one of the nation's highest severely limited English proficient (SLEP) rates among school age children. More than 1-in-42 Oregon residents between the age of 5 and 17 spoke little or no English, the fifth highest rate in the country. The 2006 figure marks a stark increase from 1990, when fewer than 1-in-84 school age children were SLEP and the state ranked 17th. SLEP rates have also increased among the working age and senior citizen populations over the 1990 to 2006 period – rising from 1-in-56 to 1-in-21 among adults 18 to 64 and more than doubling among senior citizens.

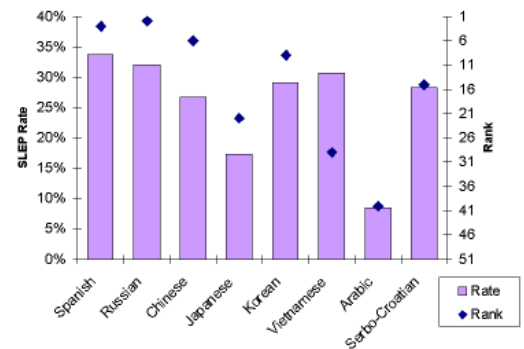
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Spanish speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Oregon. More than 1-in-3 Oregon residents who speak Spanish at home speak little or no English, the third highest rate in the nation. Russian speakers in Oregon are also more likely to struggle with English, with more than 32 percent classified as severely limited English proficient, the second highest rate nationwide. SLEP rates in Oregon are also high among Chinese speakers and Korean speakers, ranking sixth and ninth, respectively. Conversely, Arabic speakers in Oregon are less likely to struggle with English. Less than 1-in-12 Arabic speakers in Oregon are SLEP, the 12th lowest rate among the states.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

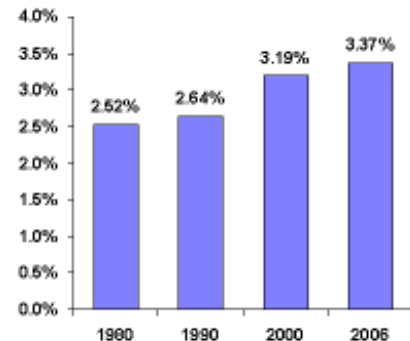
Sitting just north of the state with the highest limited English proficiency levels, Oregon appears dangerously close to following in the footsteps of its neighbor. Not only have LEP rates skyrocketed, but the percentage of school age children who struggle with English is among the nation's highest. Should Oregon fail to take immediate steps to stem the tide, today's SLEP children will become tomorrow's SLEP adults, repeating the vicious cycle. Furthermore, as the state develops programs to increase English learning, it must keep in mind that the problem of limited English proficiency is not rooted in a single linguistic group. Oregonians who speak Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Korean have some of the highest SLEP rates recorded anywhere in the nation.

Pennsylvania

Capital: Harrisburg
2006 Population: 12,440,621
Joined Union: Dec. 12, 1787

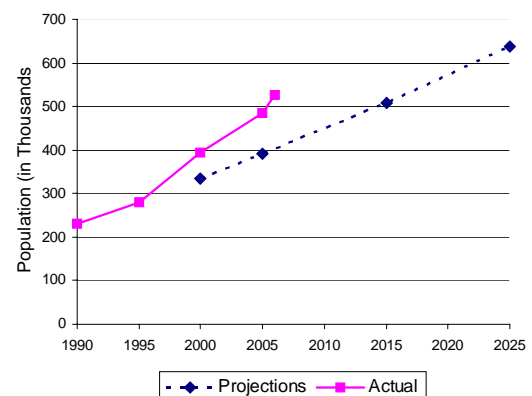
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The number of limited English proficient (LEP) residents of Pennsylvania has grown between 1980 and 2006, rising from 280,381 to 395,321. Given the slow growth in Pennsylvania's overall population, the LEP rate within the state has grown from roughly 1-in-40 residents in 1980 to more than 1-in-30 in 2006. The Keystone State featured an LEP rate around the nationwide median in both 1980 and 1990, but slipped to 29th in 2000 and 31st in 2006.



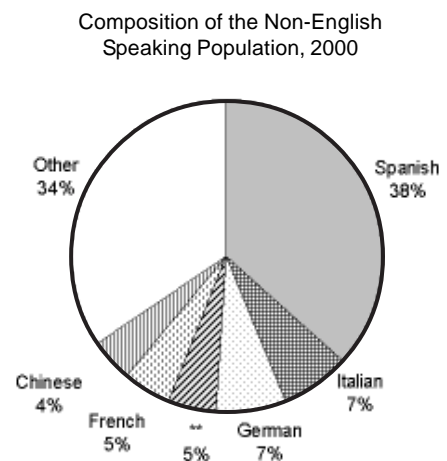
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Pennsylvania's Hispanic population has moderately exceeded Census projections made a decade ago. In 2000, the Hispanic population of the Keystone State was 394,000, 18 percent above the forecast for 2000 and slightly higher than the forecast for 2005. As of 2006, Pennsylvania was home to 527,000 Hispanics, exceeding the projection for the year 2015. Given recent growth trends, it is likely that Pennsylvania's Hispanic population will exceed the year 2025 prediction before 2015.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

There are more speakers of Spanish within Pennsylvania's population which spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 than speakers of any other language. More than one-third of the state's 972,000 residents who speak a non-English language at home spoke Spanish, five times as many as spoke Italian, the second most common language. Speakers of German numbered 68,670, making it the third most widely spoken language, followed by speakers of other West Germanic languages, such as Pennsylvania Dutch. French placed fifth, with Chinese sixth. Speakers of these six languages account for 5.5 percent of Pennsylvania's overall population and 65.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

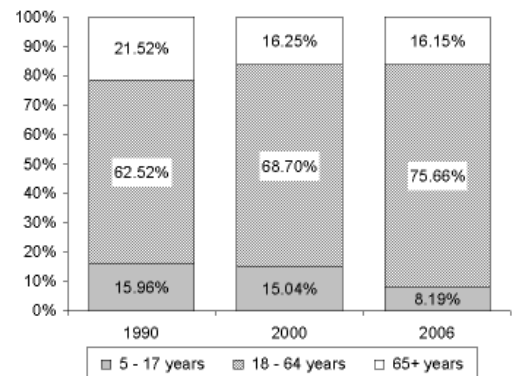


** - "other West Germanic languages" e.g. Pa. Dutch)

Non-English Proficiency by Age

The severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Pennsylvania is more concentrated among senior citizens than most other states. Almost one-sixth of Pennsylvanians who speak little or no English are over the age of 65, the 14th highest rate of any state. Though the overall rate of severe limited English proficiency within the senior population has slightly increased from 1-in-70 in 1990 to 1-in-62 in 2006, this rate ranked 24th in 2006, exactly as it did in 1990 and 2000. Between 1990 and 2006, Pennsylvania experienced a decrease in the rate of school age children who spoke little or no English, but the SLEP rate among the working age population increased by 83 percent.

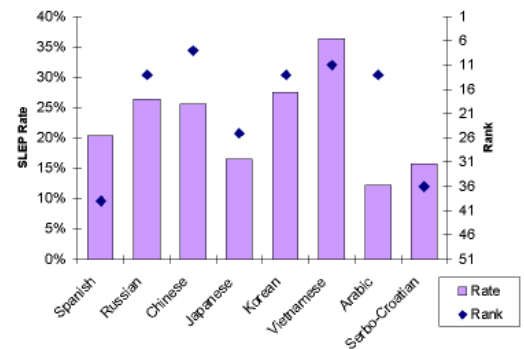
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Pennsylvania. More than 1-in-3 Pennsylvania residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, the 11th highest rate in the nation. Pennsylvania has comparatively high SLEP rates among speakers of other major languages, including Chinese, where the SLEP rate of 25.6 percent is the eighth highest nationally, and Korean, Arabic and Russian, each of which has SLEP rates that rank 13th overall. Conversely, Pennsylvania's SLEP rate among Spanish speakers places 39th at just over 1-in-5.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

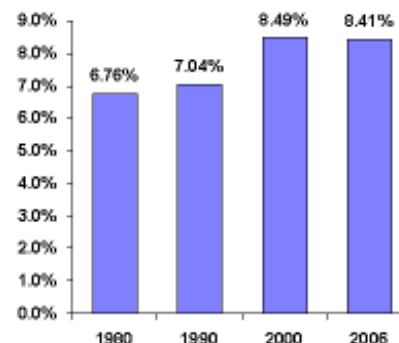
America's sixth most populous state has a fraction of the limited English proficient population of the five states that precede it. However, like almost every state in the nation, Pennsylvania's LEP rate has been climbing upward and stands to climb further if attention is not paid to making sure immigrants are on the road to learning English. While SLEP rates among Spanish speakers in Pennsylvania remain comparatively low, the same cannot be said for the speakers of many other languages, including Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Arabic. Of greater concern is the growth in the SLEP rate among working age adults, the generations that will provide stability and growth for Pennsylvania's economy.

Rhode Island

Capital: Providence
2006 Population: 1,067,610
Joined Union: May 29, 1790

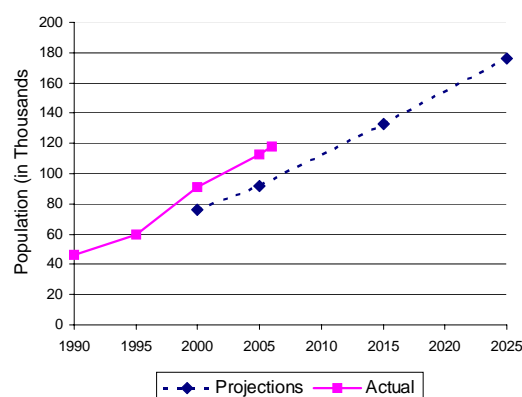
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Given its rich immigration history, Rhode Island has long been home to a higher than average level of limited English proficient (LEP) residents. The LEP population of Rhode Island in 2006 was measured at 84,639 in 2006, or 1-in-12 residents, up from 60,226 in 1980, when the rate was 1-in-15. In recent years, the growth in the LEP population appears to have slowed, with only a modest 1,015 increase between 2000 and 2006. The Ocean State, which had the eighth highest LEP rate in the nation in 1980, dropped to 11th in 2000 and placed 12th in 2006.



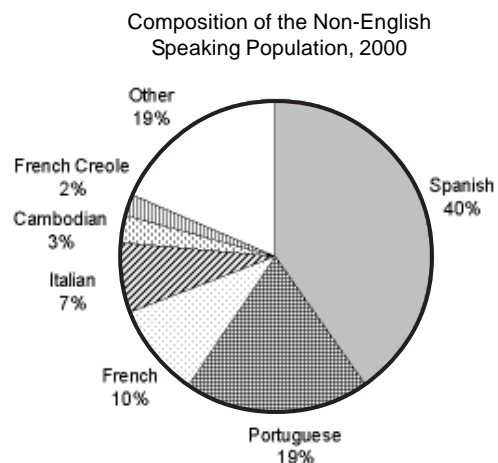
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Recent enumeration of the Hispanic population of Rhode Island indicates that the growth of this segment slightly exceeds Census projections made in 1996. The Ocean State was home to 91,000 Hispanics in 2000, above the prediction of 76,000 made for that year, but below the 92,000 forecast for 2005. The Hispanic population had increased to 113,000 in 2005, exceeding the forecast for the year, but remaining below that for 2015. Given recent growth rates, it is likely that Rhode Island will meet its Hispanic projection for 2015 around 2010.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

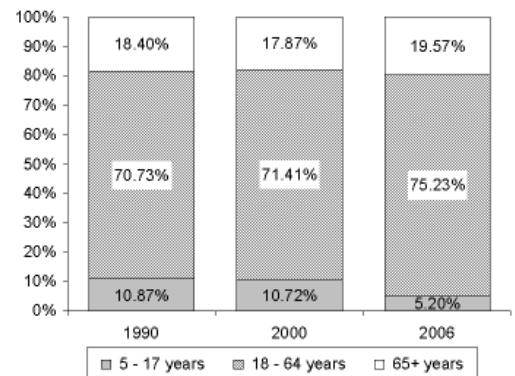
Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken at home in Rhode Island, used by 40.4 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The number of Spanish speakers is approximately double the number of users of the second most numerous non-English language spoken at home, Portuguese. French is the third most common, followed by Italian, Cambodian and French Creole. Speakers of these six languages account for 16.2 percent of the overall population of Rhode Island and 81.3 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Rhode Island features some of the nation's highest severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) rates among all three age groups, especially senior citizens. More than 1-in-15 Rhode Island seniors spoke little or no English in 2006, a 35 percent increase from 1990 and the eighth highest rate in the nation. Among the working age population, the SLEP rate was 1-in-17, the 10th highest rate in the nation, and up from 1-in-24 in 1990. Though the SLEP rate among school age children declined from 1-in-65 in 1990 to 1-in-39 by 2006, Rhode Island still had the 13th highest rate in the country.

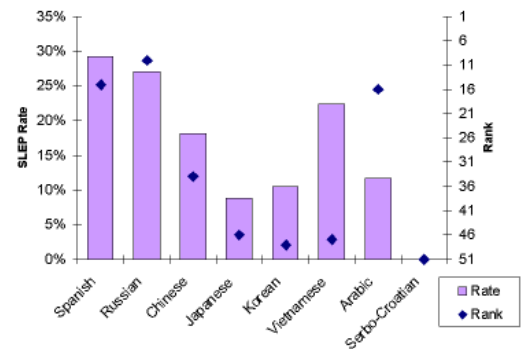
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Spanish speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Rhode Island. Nearly 3-in-10 Rhode Island residents who speak Spanish at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Russian speakers who struggle with English. The SLEP rate among Russian speakers is the 10th highest in the nation. On the other hand, SLEP rates are comparatively lower among Vietnamese, Japanese and Korean speakers here than in other states, ranking among the six lowest states in the nation in each case.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

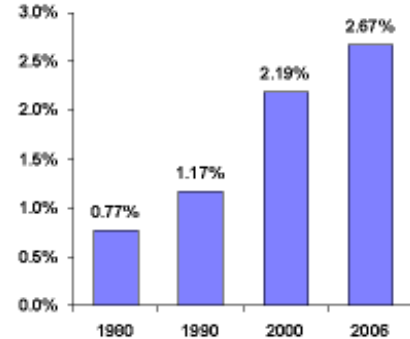
Rhode Island's small size should not be confused with its substantial limited English proficient population, which has shown signs of leveling off after years of growth. While time will tell if this trend continues, the fact that severe limited English proficiency rates have dropped substantially among school age children is a very encouraging sign. Nonetheless, as a home to a wide array of linguistic groups, Rhode Island cannot afford to be complacent in its pursuit of English proficiency. Though SLEP rates among speakers of many Asian languages remain extremely low, the same cannot be said for speakers of Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

South Carolina

Capital: Columbia
2006 Population: 4,321,249
Joined Union: May 23, 1788

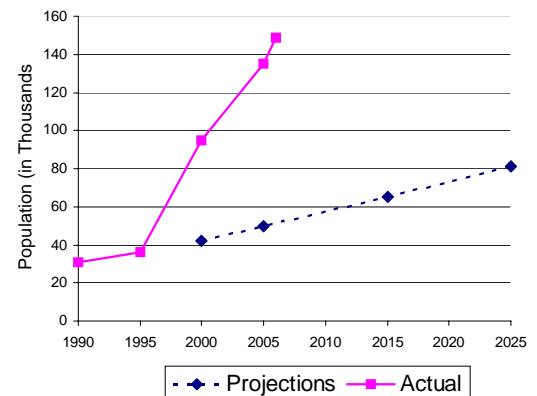
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of South Carolina has almost quintupled in the last quarter century, from 22,089 in 1980 to 107,837 in 2006. Whereas less than 1-in-100 South Carolinians were limited English proficient in 1980, the LEP rate rose to 1-in-46 residents in 2000, and further increased to 1-in-37 residents in 2006. The Palmetto State ranked among the 10 states with the lowest levels of limited English proficiency in both 1980 and 1990, but jumped to 40th in 2000 and 36th in 2006.



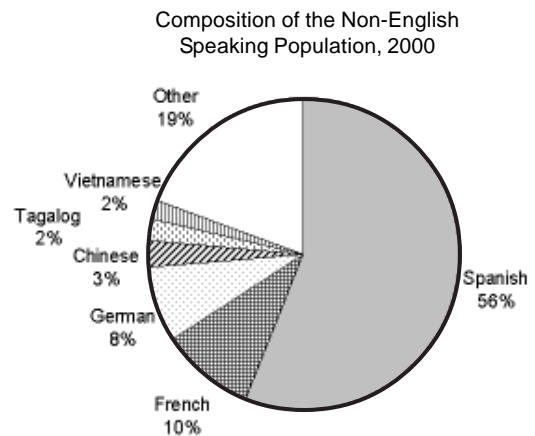
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of South Carolina has greatly exceeded Census projections made just 10 years ago. The 2000 Census found 95,000 Hispanics living in South Carolina, more than double the forecast for that year and already above the projections for 2005, 2015 and 2025. By 2005, the Hispanic population of the Palmetto State had risen to 135,000, more than double the 2015 prediction.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

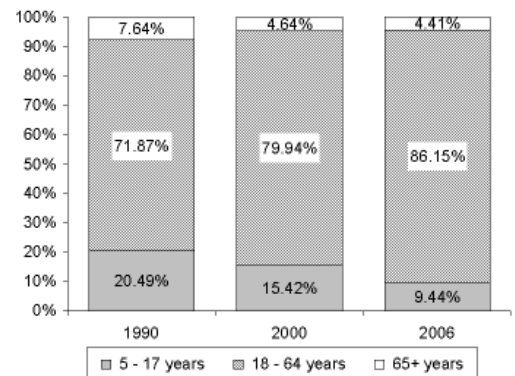
Spanish speakers make up a majority of the 196,000 South Carolina residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprises 56.0 percent of the total, nearly six times the number of the second most common non-English language, French. German is the third most commonly spoken language in the state, with 15,195 speakers, followed by speakers of Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Speakers of these six languages account for 4.2 percent of South Carolina's overall population and 80.6 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

South Carolina's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population is heavily concentrated among working age adults, with more than 86 percent of the state's population that speaks little or no English falling between the age of 18 and 64. This is the fifth highest rate of any state in the nation. Though SLEP rates in South Carolina remain below the nationwide median, they have increased starkly in recent years. From 1990 to 2006, the SLEP rate within the working age population increased nearly four times, from less than 1-in-200 to nearly 1-in-50. At the same time, the SLEP rates among school age children and senior citizens increased by 71 and 75 percent, respectively.

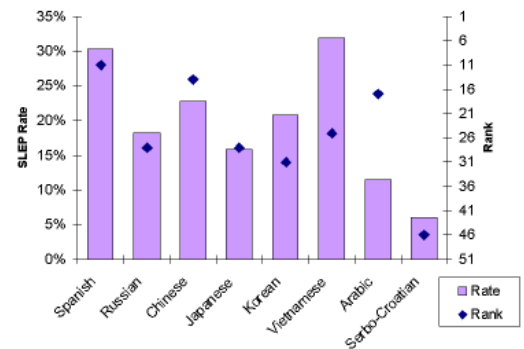
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in South Carolina. More than 3-in-10 South Carolina residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Spanish speakers who struggle with English. The SLEP rate among Spanish speakers is the 11th highest nationwide, while the rate among Chinese speakers places 14th. Conversely, South Carolina has one of the nation's lowest SLEP rates among Serbo-Croatian speakers, at just six percent.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

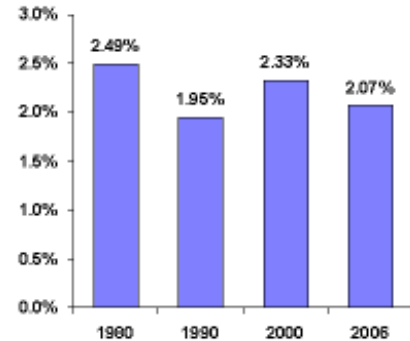
Though South Carolina was once home to some of the nation's lowest LEP rates, the numbers have changed significantly as the state experienced a wave of immigration. A healthy economy and a myriad of opportunities have rendered Hispanic population projections moot, and the lack of substantial efforts to encourage English learning are reflected in extremely high levels of severe limited English proficiency among Spanish speakers. Of greater concern, the high SLEP rates for working age South Carolinians must provide pause for those concerned about the state's future growth. As officials investigate ways to rectify these issues, attention must be paid to all language groups, as Chinese and Arabic speakers also have unusually high rates of struggling with English.

South Dakota

Capital: Pierre
2006 Population: 781,919
Joined Union: Nov. 2, 1889

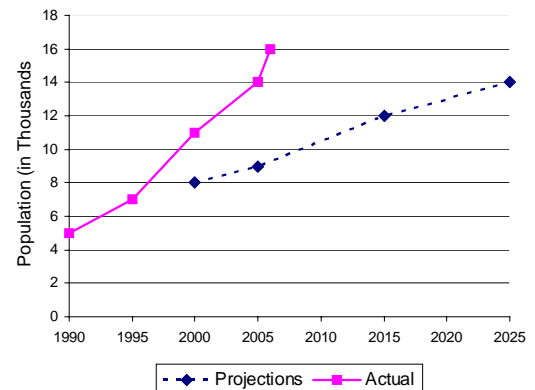
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of South Dakota declined slightly between 1980 and 2006, falling from 15,720 to 15,080 over that span. Contrasted with South Dakota's modest overall population growth, the rate of LEP residents within the state has slipped from 1-in-40 in 1980 to just over 1-in-50 in 2006. Though the Mount Rushmore State placed among the top half of states with the highest LEP rates in 1980, it dropped to 33rd in 1990, 37th in 2000 and ranked 42nd in 2006.



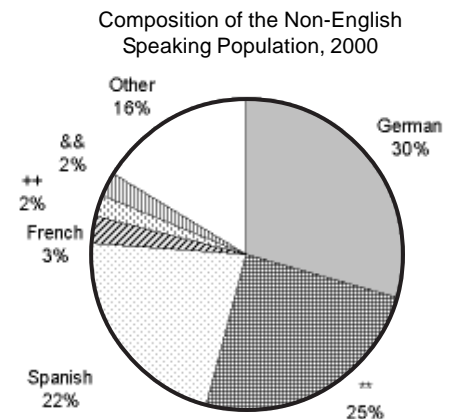
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

South Dakota's Hispanic population has moderately exceeded Census projections. In 2000, the Mount Rushmore State was home to 11,000 Hispanics, slightly higher than the projection of 8,000 made for that year and the forecast of 9,000 made for 2005. The growth rate for the Hispanic population in South Dakota has outpaced the slow growth that was projected. By 2005, South Dakota was home to 14,000 Hispanics, equaling the Census forecast for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

There are more speakers of German among South Dakota's population which spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 than speakers of any other language. Approximately 30 percent of the state's 45,575 residents who speak a non-English language at home spoke German, slightly more than the number who spoke native North American languages other than Navajo, the second most common language group. Speakers of Spanish numbered 10,050, making it the third most widely spoken language, followed by speakers of French, Slavic languages other than Serbo-Croatian, and African languages. Speakers of these six languages account for 5.4 percent of South Dakota's overall population and 83.5 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

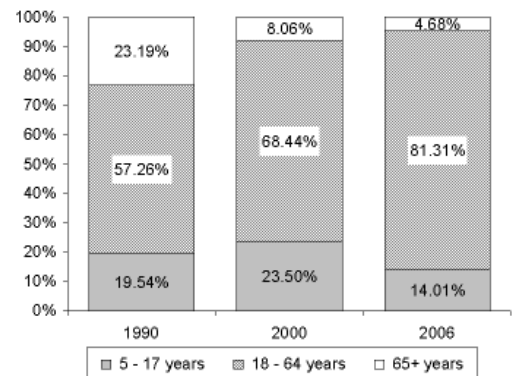


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo
++ - "Other Slavic Languages"
&& - "African Languages"

Non-English Proficiency by Age

South Dakota maintains some of the lowest severely limited English proficient (SLEP) rates in the nation among all three age groups studied; however, the SLEP rate is more skewed toward school age children than other states. Fewer than 1-in-300 South Dakota senior citizens spoke little or no English in 2006, the second lowest rate in the 47 states studied by the Census and less than one-third the rate recorded in 1990. The SLEP rate among the school age population increased 29 percent over the same span, although the 2006 rate of 1-in-140 still placed among the 10 lowest states.

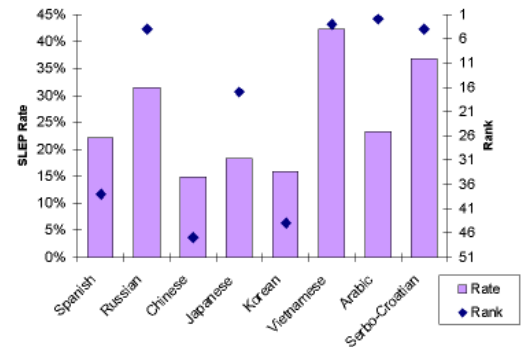
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in South Dakota. More than 4-in-10 South Dakota residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, the third highest rate in the nation. South Dakota also has high SLEP levels among Serbo-Croatian speakers, at 36.8 percent, Russian speakers at 31.5 percent, and Arabic speakers at 23.4 percent. These figures are all among the top four states nationwide. On the other hand, the SLEP rate among Chinese speakers is less than 15 percent and the fifth lowest among the states.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

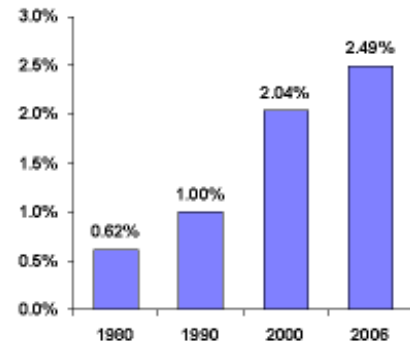
As one of the few states where LEP levels have declined over the last quarter century, South Dakota has experienced low limited English proficiency rates even though the Hispanic population exceeded Census projections. The cause of most of this trend can be found in the rapid decline of severe limited English proficiency among the senior citizen population, as well as the low SLEP rates among South Dakota's Spanish speakers. However, there is cause for future concern. Among newer immigrants, such as Russian, Vietnamese, Arabic and Serbo-Croatian speakers, the percentages of these individuals who struggle with English are near nationwide highs.

Tennessee

Capital: Nashville
2006 Population: 6,038,803
Joined Union: June 1, 1796

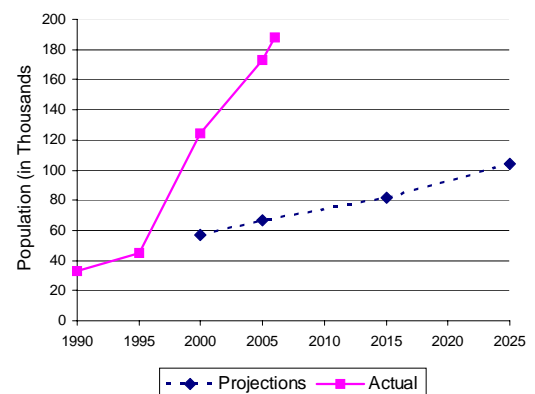
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of Tennessee has surged from 26,396 in 1980 to 140,373 in 2006. This five-fold increase over a quarter century has changed the rate of LEP persons from less than 1-in-100 in 1980 to 1-in-50 in 2000 to 1-in-40 in 2006. In 1980, the Volunteer State had the fourth lowest LEP rate of any state in the nation. It dropped to fifth lowest in 1990, 11th lowest in 2000 and slipped another two spots to 13th lowest in 2006.



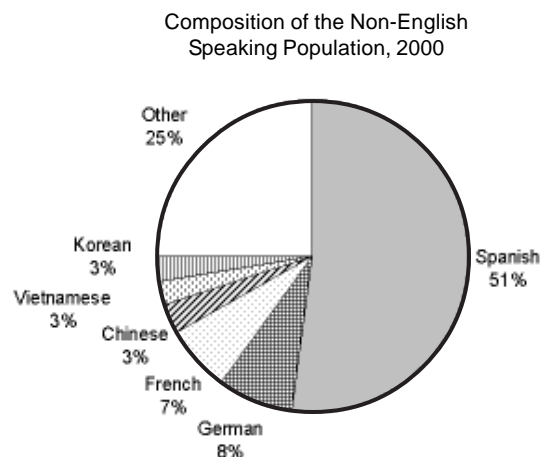
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

In Tennessee, the Hispanic population has greatly exceeded projections made in 1996. There were 124,000 Hispanics living in the Volunteer State in 2000, more than double the projection for that year and well above forecasts made for 2005, 2015 and 2025. The 188,000 Hispanics enumerated in 2006 was nearly double the prediction for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

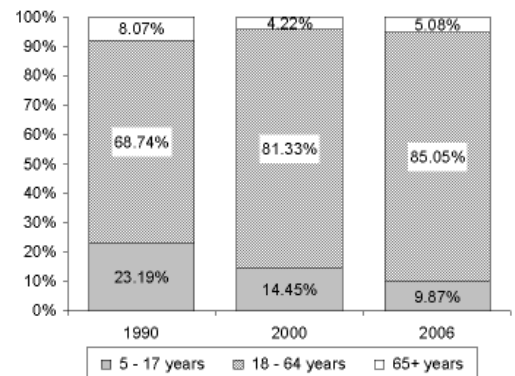
More than half of Tennessee residents who spoke a language other than English in the home spoke Spanish in 2000. At more than 134,000 residents, the Spanish speaking population was more than six times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, German. Speakers of French represented the third most populous group, followed by Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. Speakers of these six languages account for 3.6 percent of Tennessee's overall population and 75.0 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The working age population comprised more than 85 percent of the severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Tennessee in 2006. This was the ninth highest rate of any state in the nation. Though age-based SLEP rates in Tennessee fall below national medians, significant growth has been recorded within all three age groups. Among school age children, the SLEP rate jumped from 1-in-200 in 1990 to nearly 1-in-131 by 2006. The SLEP rate among working age adults nearly tripled, increasing from 1-in-232 to 1-in-56 over that same span.

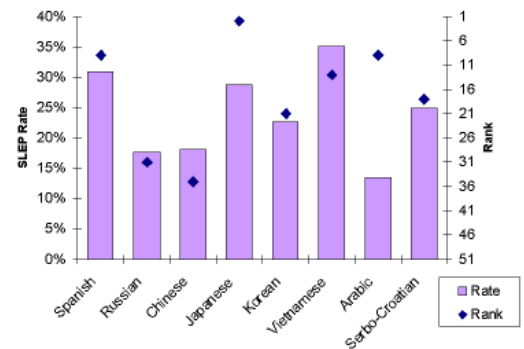
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Tennessee. More than 1-in-3 Tennessee residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency. Spanish speakers also have a high SLEP rate, at more than 30.8 percent, the ninth highest rate in the country. Japanese speakers and Arabic speakers in Tennessee are also more likely to struggle with English than in other states. At 28.7 percent, the SLEP rate among Japanese speakers is higher in Tennessee than in every state except Wyoming, while the SLEP rate of 13.5 percent among Arabic speakers ranks ninth highest.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

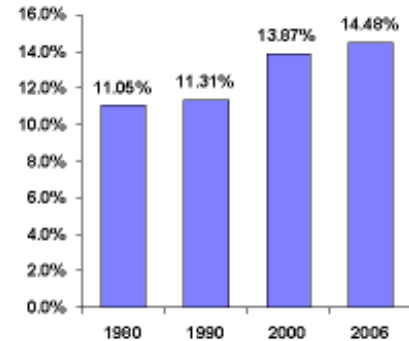
Like much of the American south, Tennessee had a smaller than average immigrant population and minimal levels of limited English proficiency for most of the 20th century. After 1995, however, the state began dealing with issues that were both unexpected and unprecedented in state history. As more and more immigrants have found Tennessee a great place to live, work and play, LEP rates have skyrocketed, especially among working age adults. Most notably, the growth in limited English proficiency is not rooted in a single language or linguistic group, but has surged among languages as diverse as Spanish, Japanese and Arabic. This situation requires that efforts to promote English learning be done across the board, instead of being tailored to a specific linguistic group.

Texas

Capital: Austin
2006 Population: 23,507,783
Joined Union: Dec. 29, 1845

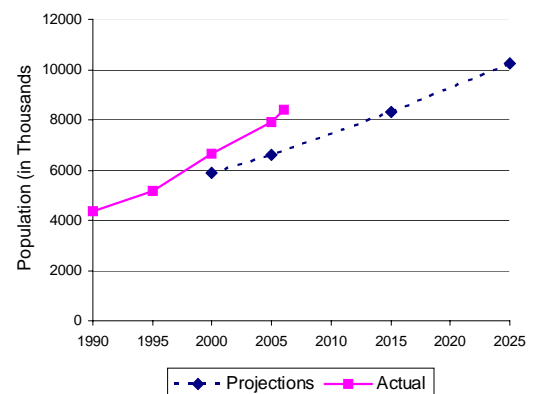
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Texas has long been an immigrant gateway state, but the limited English proficient (LEP) population of the state has increased beyond traditional levels. In 1980, Texas was home to 1,443,233 LEP people, or 1-in-9 residents of the state. By 2006, these figures were 3,124,744 LEP people and greater than 1-in-7 residents. The Lone Star State had the second highest LEP rate in the nation in 2006, trailing only California.



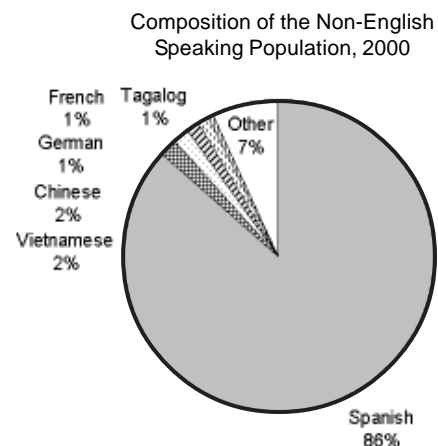
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Though Texas has long been home to a large Hispanic population, figures for the last decade have far outstripped projections made 10 years ago. In 2000, Texas was home to 6.67 million Hispanics, 13 percent higher than the prediction made for that year and slightly higher than the forecast made for 2005. By 2006, the total of 8.39 million Hispanics living in the Lone Star State had outpaced the projection for 2015 by nearly 100,000. Given the likelihood that Texas will remain a popular location for Hispanics to settle, it is likely that it will eclipse the 2025 projection before 2015.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

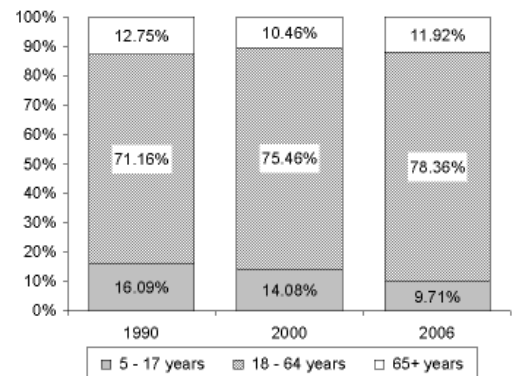
Speakers of Spanish comprise the overwhelming majority of Texas's 6.0 million residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. This population accounts for more than 86 percent of the total and accounts for 42 times the number who speak the second most common non-English language, Vietnamese. Chinese places third with more than 91,000 speakers, followed by German, French and Tagalog. Speakers of these six languages account for 29.1 percent of the overall population of Texas and 93.1 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Texas features some of the highest severely limited English proficient (SLEP) rates in the nation in every age group – school age children, working age adults and senior citizens. Nearly 1-in-25 residents age 5 to 17 spoke little or no English in 2006. While this rate is down from 1-in-19 in 1990, it is the highest rate in the nation by a wide margin over second-place California. Among working age adults, nearly 1-in-10 were SLEP, up 13 percent from 1990 and the second highest rate in the nation, trailing only California. Nearly 1-in-10 Texas senior citizens were SLEP in 2006, a 31 percent increase from 16 years earlier and the fourth highest rate in the nation.

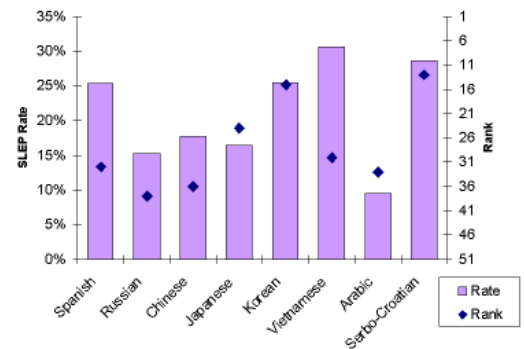
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Texas. More than 3-in-10 Texas residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Serbo-Croatian speakers who struggle with English. On a nationwide basis, Texas has the 13th highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Serbo-Croatian speakers at 28.7 percent. On the other hand, Texas residents who speak Russian at home are some of the most English proficient compared to other states.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

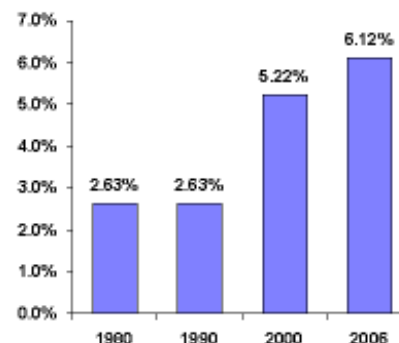
Due to the state's long border with Mexico, the assimilation of new immigrants and high rates of limited English proficiency are as much a part of the history of Texas as the Alamo. But while high LEP rates can be expected, the fact that LEP rates continue to grow in the Lone Star State is alarming. While the majority of the non-English speaking population of Texas speaks Spanish, speakers of other languages are also making a home here. Sadly, many of them are failing to acquire English, as demonstrated by high SLEP rates among Korean and Serbo-Croatian speakers. Texas would be ill-advised to ignore the growing language barriers within its population and should quickly develop programs to get all immigrants on the road to English learning.

Utah

Capital: Salt Lake City
2006 Population: 2,550,063
Joined Union: Jan. 4, 1896

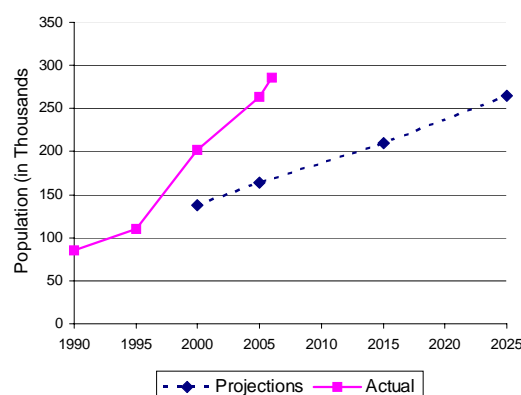
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

From 1980 to 2006, the limited English proficient (LEP) population of Utah more than quadrupled, soaring from 33,404 to 140,919 over that span. The majority of this growth has come since 1990, sending Utah's LEP rate from 1-in-38 people in that year's census to 1-in-20 in 2000 to greater than 1-in-17 in 2006. The Beehive State, which ranked 23rd among the states with the highest levels of limited English proficiency in 1990, jumped to 19th in 2000 and 17th in 2006.



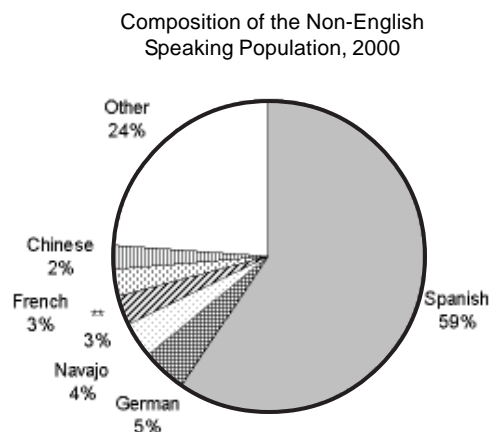
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

Utah's Hispanic population has greatly surpassed Census projections made in 1996. In 2000, the Hispanic population of the Beehive State stood at 202,000, more than one-and-a-half times the prediction made for that year, above the prediction for 2005 and nearly meeting the projection for 2015. By 2005, the population had surged above the forecast for 2015 and nearly met the benchmark noted for 2025. As of 2006, Utah's Hispanic population of 286,000 had exceeded the 2015 forecast by 33 percent and the 2025 forecast by eight percent.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken at home in Utah, used by 59.3 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The number of Spanish speakers is more than 12 times the number of users of the second most numerous non-English language spoken at home, German. Navajo is the third most common, followed by French, Chinese and Portuguese. Speakers of these six languages account for 9.5 percent of the overall population of Utah and 76.0 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

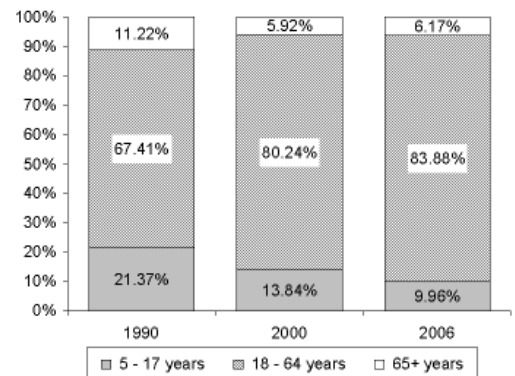


** - "Other Pacific Island Languages"

Non-English Proficiency by Age

Once heavily concentrated among the school age population, rates of severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) have become more balanced recently. In 1990, 21 percent of Utah's residents who spoke little or no English were between the ages of 5 and 17, the third highest rate in the nation. By 2006, the school age population made up just 10 percent of SLEP residents. However, SLEP rates have increased sharply among all three segments of the population between 1990 and 2006. The most marked increase occurred among working age adults, where the SLEP rate more than tripled from 1-in-80 to 1-in-24. The SLEP rate among senior citizens increased by 68 percent over this same span.

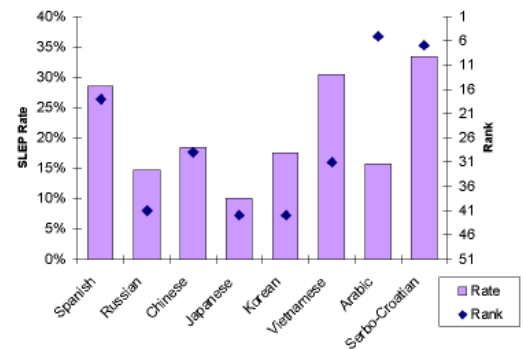
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Serbo-Croatian speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Utah. More than 1-in-3 Utah residents who speak Serbo-Croatian at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Vietnamese speakers who struggle with English. Compared to other states, Utah has the seventh highest rate of severe limited English proficiency among Serbo-Croatian speakers, while the rate among Arabic speakers ranks fifth. Conversely, Utah has one of the lower SLEP rates in the nation among those who speak Russian, Japanese or Korean at home.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

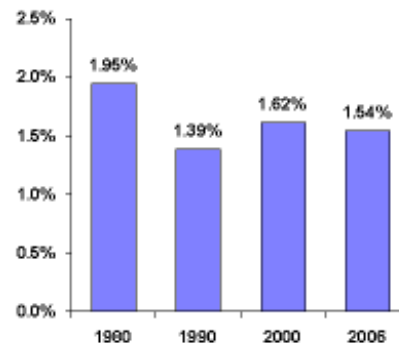
High rates of immigration and astounding growth in the limited English proficient population over the last 15 years has left Utah with a situation similar to many of its neighbors in the American Southwest. This population surge has left the state in the undesirable position of having the SLEP population heavily concentrated among working age adults, the very individuals the state counts upon for economic productivity. Utah has low SLEP levels among speakers of certain languages with long histories of settling in the state, but more recent immigrant groups bear some of the highest SLEP levels nationwide. Utah cannot afford to overlook this gap and must turn government attention to methods that will encourage all immigrants to get on the road to learning English.

Vermont

Capital: Montpelier
2006 Population: 623,908
Joined Union: Mar. 4, 1791

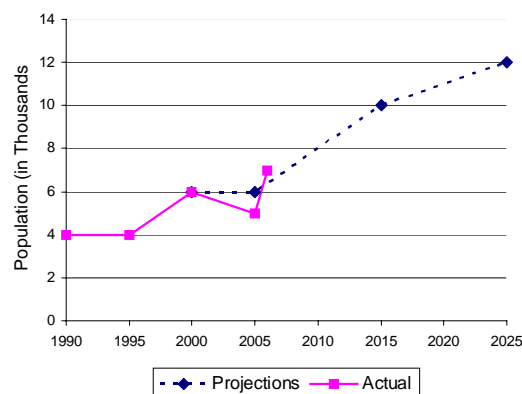
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Vermont experienced a slight decline in the limited English proficient population of the state over the past quarter century, dropping from 9,273 in 1980 to 9,127 in 2006. During this time, the LEP rate also declined, falling from roughly 1-in-50 residents in 1980 to approximately 1-in-65 in 2006. The Green Mountain State, which ranked 29th among the states in terms of LEP rate in 1980, fell to 42nd in 1990 and 46th in 2000. In 2006, Vermont's LEP rate was the fifth lowest recorded in the nation.



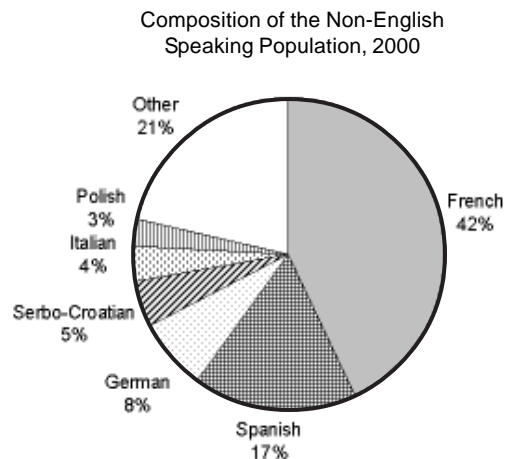
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

The Hispanic population of Vermont has remained quite low and remains in line with Census projections made 10 years ago. The 2000 Census found 6,000 Hispanics living in Vermont, meeting the expectation for that year. Recent figures from 2005 and 2006 show a Hispanic population in the Green Mountain State varying between 5,000 and 7,000, matching the prediction for 2005. At this time, Vermont appears likely to stay in line with predicted figures for 2015 and 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

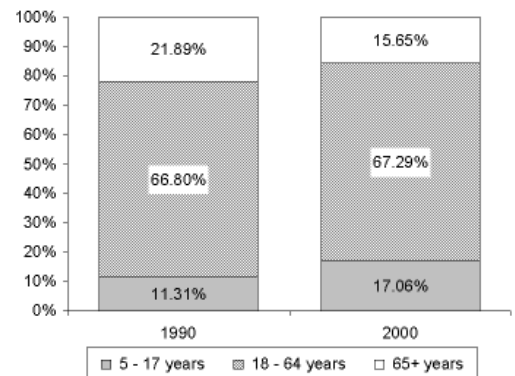
There are more speakers of French among Vermont's population which spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 than speakers of any other language. More than two-fifths of the state's 34,075 residents who speak a non-English language at home spoke French, more than double the number who spoke Spanish. German was the third most widely spoken language, with 2,610 speakers, followed by Serbo-Croatian, Italian and Polish. Speakers of these six languages account for 4.7 percent of Vermont's overall population and 78.7 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.



Non-English Proficiency by Age

The severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population of Vermont has long skewed older than in most states. In 2000, more than 15 percent of the state's SLEP population was over the age of 65 – only 12 states had higher rates. In 1990, senior citizens accounted for more than 21 percent of state residents who spoke little or no English. Overall, Vermont's SLEP rates are far below the national average. In 2000, fewer than 1-in-200 school age children were SLEP, the second lowest rate in the nation, while the 1-in-179 rate among the working age population was the third lowest in the United States.

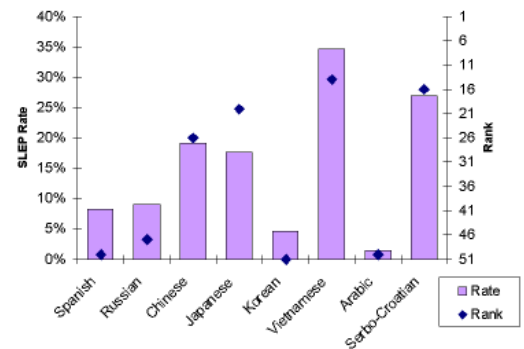
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Vermont. More than 1-in-3 Vermont residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, the 14th highest rate in the nation. However, for most of the languages studied, Vermont has comparatively low SLEP rates. At less than 1-in-20, the SLEP rate among Korean speakers is the nation's lowest, while Vermont also has the second lowest SLEP rate among Spanish speakers and the second lowest SLEP rate among Arabic speakers.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

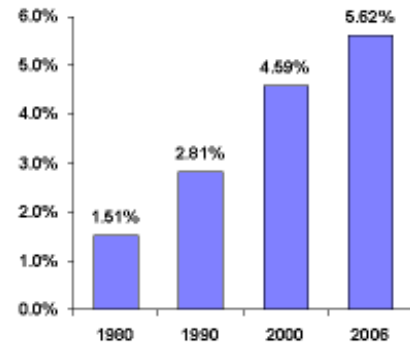
The limited English proficient population of Vermont continues to be smaller and skew older than most other states. Like its neighbors in northern New England, Vermont has experienced low immigration levels and a sizeable majority of its limited English proficient population is no longer active in the workforce. Though statistics indicate that limited English proficiency will decline in the coming years, the high LEP levels of Vietnamese and Serbo-Croatian speakers provide a cautionary note. If the current composition of Vermont's population lulls the state into not stressing English learning among Vermont's newest arrivals, these declines could reverse in a hurry.

Virginia

Capital: Richmond
2006 Population: 7,642,884
Joined Union: June 25, 1788

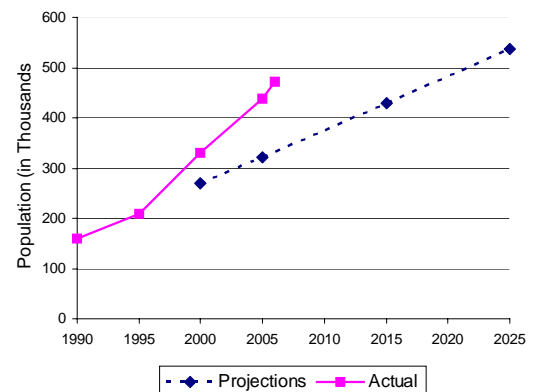
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Virginia's limited English proficient (LEP) population has more than quadrupled over the last quarter century, soaring from 75,182 in 1980 to 401,101 in 2006. During this span, the state's LEP rate has climbed from 1-in-66 residents to 1-in-18 residents. The Old Dominion, which ranked 38th among the states in terms of LEP rates in 1980, jumped above the median in 1990 and ranked 21st in 2006.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

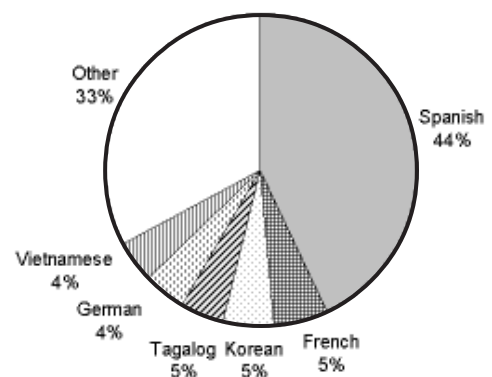
In Virginia, the Hispanic population has moderately exceeded Census projections made in 1996. In 2000, the state's Hispanic population was 330,000, nearly 25 percent higher than the projection and already besting the projection for 2005. By 2005, the Hispanic population had already eclipsed the prediction made for 2015, and the 2006 figure indicates that it will surpass the 2025 projection before the end of the decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken at home in Virginia, used by more than 40 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The number of Spanish speakers is almost eight times the number of users of the second most numerous non-English language spoken at home, French. Korean is the third most common, followed by Tagalog, German and Vietnamese. Speakers of these six languages account for 7.5 percent of the overall population of Virginia and 67.2 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

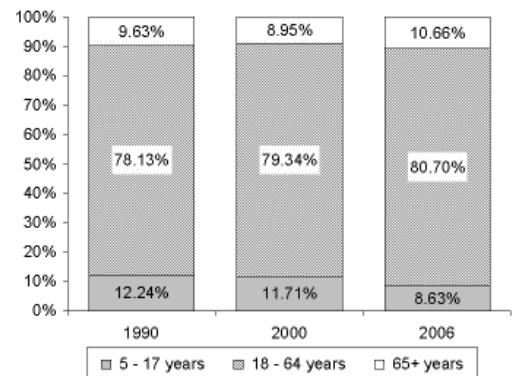
Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Virginia's severe limited English proficient (SLEP) rates have increased steadily among all three age groups between 1990 and 2006. Among school age children, the SLEP rate has increased by more than 50 percent, from 1-in-116 to 1-in-75. The increase has been even more marked within the working age population, where the SLEP rate has more than doubled from 1-in-68 to 1-in-31. The rate of senior citizens who speak little or no English has also doubled, from 1-in-95 to 1-in-46. Virginia's SLEP rate among seniors ranked 19th in the nation in 2006, up from 28th in 1990.

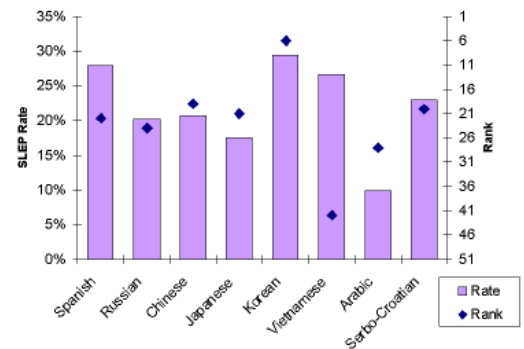
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Korean speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Virginia. Nearly 3-in-10 Virginia residents who speak Korean at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Spanish speakers who struggle with English. The SLEP rate of Korean speakers in Virginia is the sixth highest in the nation. Among the Vietnamese speaking population, the SLEP rate is high compared to other languages at 26.7 percent. However, this is the 10th lowest figure compared to other states.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

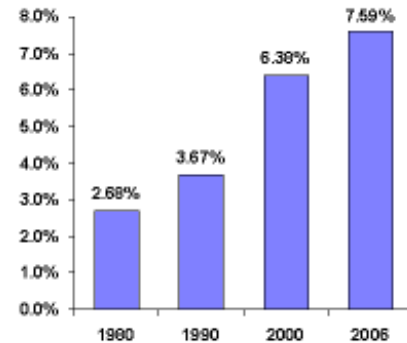
Recent years have transformed Virginia from a state with minimal English proficiency issues to one that is struggling with its new status as a “new immigrant gateway.” Though Census projections had suggested that the Hispanic population of Virginia was poised for a takeoff, they underestimated the significant number who would set down roots and build lives in the Old Dominion. Further complicating matters is the fact that sizeable numbers of other immigrant groups, such as Koreans, Vietnamese and Filipinos, also saw the state as a hospitable place to settle. Consequently, the state must now grapple with SLEP levels that are above the median for nearly every language, with the exception of Vietnamese. To ensure healthy assimilation for such a wide range of new immigrants, the state must not delay in implementing broad methods of stressing English learning.

Washington

Capital: Olympia
2006 Population: 6,395,798
Joined Union: Nov. 11, 1889

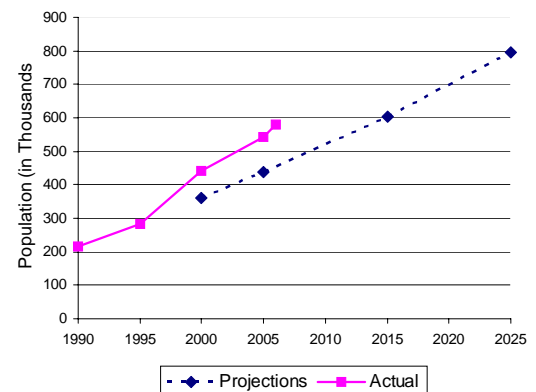
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

Washington has seen a drastic increase in the state's limited English proficient (LEP) population over the last quarter century, soaring from 102,456 in 1980 to 454,527 in 2006. The quadrupling in the number of residents who have difficulty with English has taken the state's LEP rate from 1-in-37 residents in 1980 to more than 1-in-13 in 2006. The Evergreen State ranked 15th among states with the highest LEP rates in 2006, up from 16th in 1990 and 21st in 1980.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

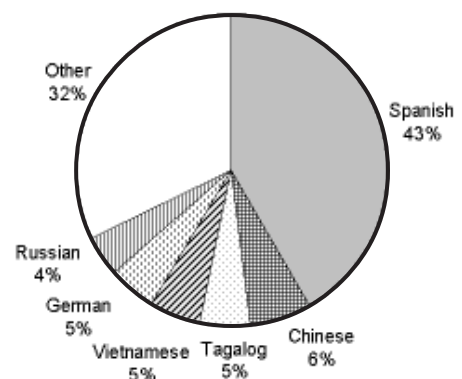
Washington's Hispanic population has moderately exceeded Census projections. In 2000, the Hispanic population of the Evergreen State reached 442,000, topping the prediction for 2000 and slightly exceeding the projection made for 2005. Data from 2006 shows that the Hispanic population of Washington stood at 580,000, just shy of the 2015 forecast of 605,000. It is likely that the 2015 projection will be surpassed before the end of the decade.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

More than 40 percent of Washington residents who spoke a language other than English in the home spoke Spanish in 2000. At more than 321,000 residents, the Spanish speaking population was more than six times larger than the population of the second most common linguistic group that spoke a language other than English at home, Chinese. Speakers of Tagalog represented the third most populous group, followed by Vietnamese, German and Russian. Speakers of these six languages account for 9.5 percent of Washington's overall population and 67.8 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

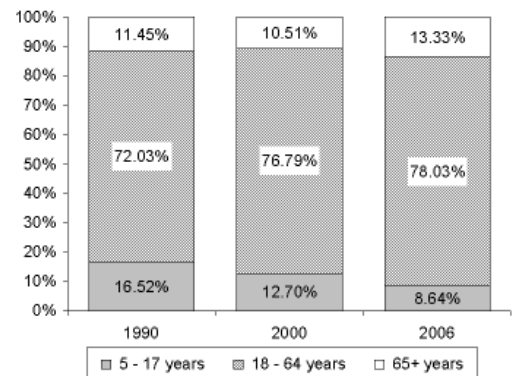
Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000



Non-English Proficiency by Age

Severe limited English proficiency rates have increased across all age groups in Washington and more than doubled among the 18 and over population between 1990 and 2006. Within the working age population, the rate of residents who speak little or no English jumped from approximately 1-in-50 in 1990 to 1-in-22 in 2006. The 2006 rate is the 14th highest in the nation. Among senior citizens, the SLEP rate skyrocketed from 1-in-60 to 1-in-23 over the same span and now ranks 15th among the states. While the SLEP rate among the school age population was lower – just 1-in-54 in 2006 – it ranked as the 10th highest rate of any state.

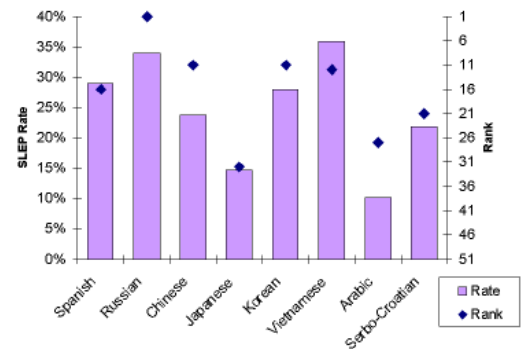
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Washington. Nearly 36 percent of Washington residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, slightly more than the 34 percent of Spanish speakers who struggle with English. The SLEP rate among Washington's Russian speakers are the highest in the nation, while those of Chinese speakers and Korean speakers each rank 11th.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

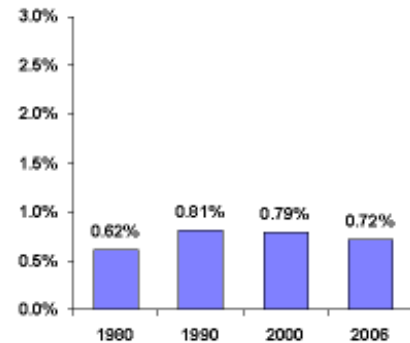
Though never a stranger to a significant immigrant population, Washington has recently shown signs of stress in dealing with the latest wave of newcomers to the Pacific Northwest. LEP rates have tripled in the state over the last 25 years, fueled by slightly higher than expected levels of Hispanic immigration and extremely high SLEP levels among certain groups. Of the eight major language groups studied, six had SLEP levels above the national median, including four which placed in the top 12. Further complicating matters, Washington has some of the highest SLEP rates within each age group, indicating that there is no time to waste in developing programs to encourage English learning.

West Virginia

Capital: Charleston
2006 Population: 1,818,470
Joined Union: June 20, 1863

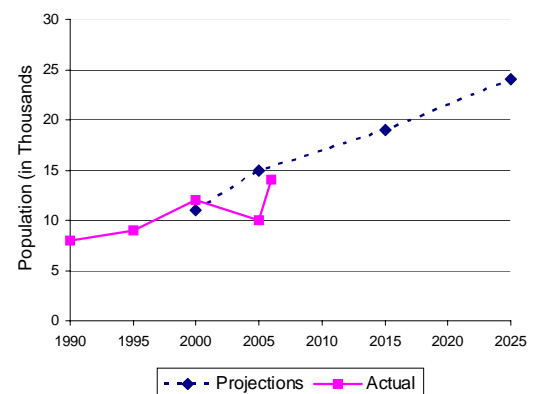
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

West Virginia recorded only slight gains in the state's limited English proficient (LEP) population between 1980 and 2006. The LEP population of 12,332 in 2006 was only slightly higher than the 11,115 figure recorded in 1980, and the LEP rate remained well below 1-in-100 residents of the state. The Mountaineer State displayed the lowest LEP rate of any state in the nation in 2006, as it did in both 2000 and 1990.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

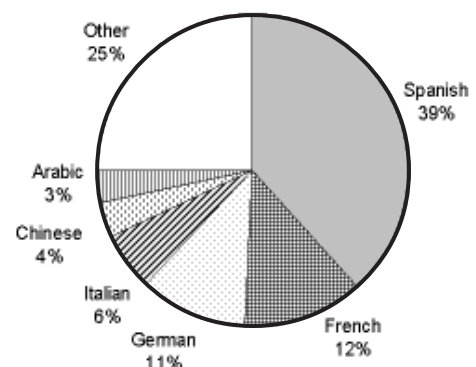
Recent enumeration of the Hispanic population in West Virginia indicates that Census projections made for the Mountaineer State in 1996 remain very much on target. West Virginia's Hispanic population of 12,000 in 2000 very closely matched the Census forecast for that year. However, Census data for 2005 and 2006 indicate that the Hispanic population may be falling shy of future projections. The 2006 count of 14,000 Hispanics was slightly short of the 15,000 forecast for 2005.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

There are more speakers of Spanish among West Virginia's population which spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 than of any other language. More than one-third of the state's 45,895 residents who speak a non-English language at home spoke Spanish, more than double the number who spoke French, the second most common language. German was the third most widely spoken language, with 5,040 speakers, followed by Italian, Chinese and Arabic. Speakers of these six languages account for 2.0 percent of West Virginia's overall population and 75.0 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

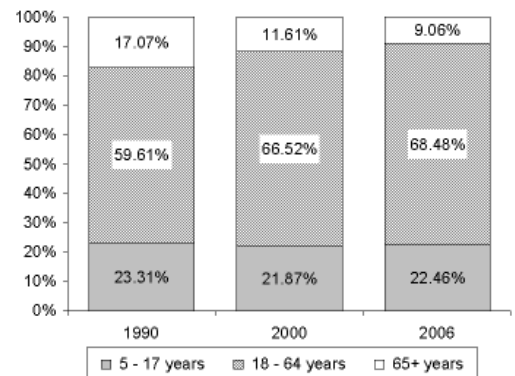
Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000



Non-English Proficiency by Age

West Virginia's rates of severe limited English proficiency remain among the nation's lowest at every age level – the school age population, the working age population and senior citizens. Among working age persons and senior citizens, the rates recorded in 2006 were the lowest of the 47 states surveyed and demonstrated decreases from both the 1990 and 2000 figures. Though the SLEP rate for children age 5 to 17 was third lowest in the nation in 2006, it was slightly higher than the 1990 figure. Moreover, school age children represented more than one-fifth of West Virginians who spoke little or no English, the highest rate of any state in the nation.

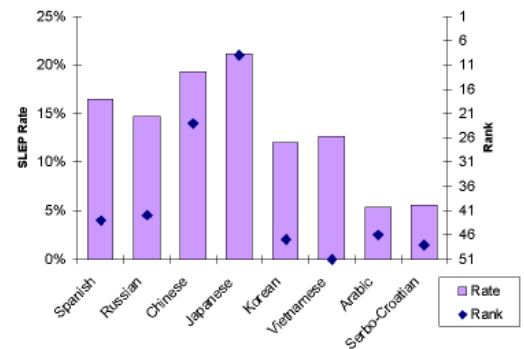
**Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006**



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Japanese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in West Virginia. More than 1-in-5 West Virginia residents who speak Japanese at home speak little or no English. This rate exceeds that of other major language groups in the Mountaineer State, and ranks ninth among all the states and the District of Columbia. West Virginia has comparatively low SLEP rates among speakers of other major languages, including Vietnamese, where the SLEP rate of 12.6 percent is the lowest nationally, and Korean, Serbo-Croatian, and Arabic, all of which rank in the bottom six overall.

**Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000**



Conclusion

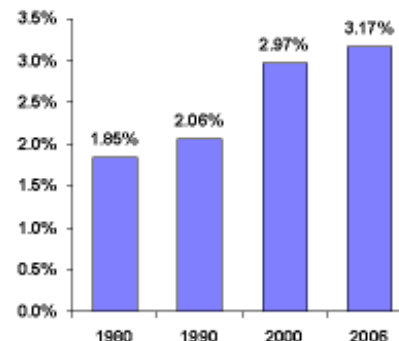
Home to the nation's lowest levels of limited English proficiency and some of the lowest levels of new immigration, West Virginia lacks most of the pressing issues many other states face. Severe limited English proficiency rates are low across the board, both by age group and linguistic group, with the notable exception of Japanese speakers. Though the state is not experiencing high rates of limited English proficiency at the current time, it must have a framework for promoting English learning ready. It needs only to look to neighbors such as Kentucky and Maryland to see how quickly the picture can change.

Wisconsin

Capital: Madison
2006 Population: 5,556,506
Joined Union: May 29, 1848

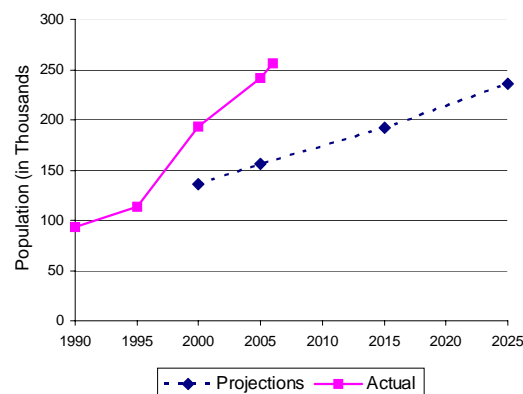
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of Wisconsin doubled between 1980 and 2006, rising from 80,697 to 165,022. While fewer than 1-in-50 Wisconsinites were classified as LEP in 1980, this rate neared 3-in-100 in 2000 and exceeded that mark in 2006. However, the increase in Wisconsin's rate of LEP residents has been consistent with other states around the nation. The LEP rate within the Badger State ranked between 30th and 32nd in the nation all four years studied – 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2006.



Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

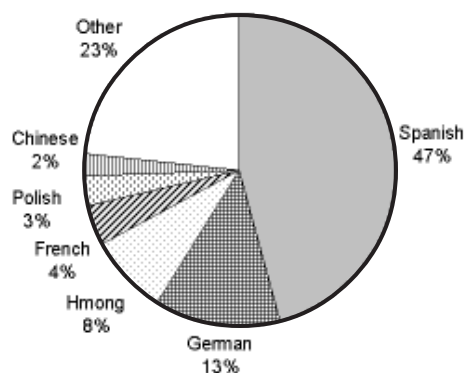
The Hispanic population of Wisconsin has greatly exceeded Census projections. In 2000, Wisconsin was home to 193,000 Hispanics, 42 percent higher than the 136,000 forecast four years earlier. At this time, Wisconsin had already surpassed predictions made for 2005 and 2015. Furthermore, Wisconsin's Hispanic count of 242,000 in 2005 was already above the 236,000 prediction made for 2025.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Speakers of Spanish comprise nearly half of Wisconsin's 368,000 residents who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. This population accounts for 47 percent of the total and accounts for three-and-a-half times the number who speak the second most common non-English language, German. Hmong places third with more than 30,000 speakers, followed by French, Polish and Chinese. Speakers of these six languages account for 5.6 percent of the overall population of Wisconsin and 76.7 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

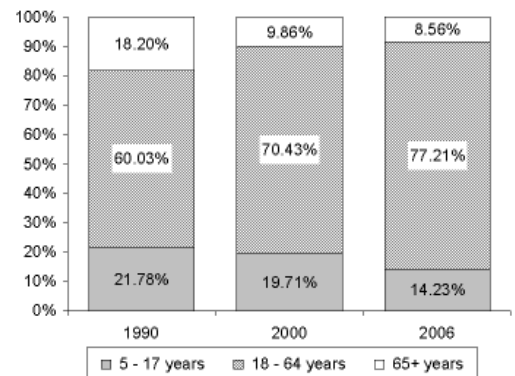
Composition of the Non-English Speaking Population, 2000



Non-English Proficiency by Age

School age children comprised more than one-seventh of Wisconsin's severely limited English proficient (SLEP) population in 2006, the third highest rate of any state. Only Maine and West Virginia had higher percentages of their SLEP population fall between the ages of 5 and 17. Though the rate of school age children who speak little or no English stands near the national median, it has increased by almost one-third between 1990 and 2006. While the SLEP rate continues to drop among the senior citizen population – from 1-in-89 in 1990 to fewer than 1-in-100 in 2006 – it is on the rise among those of working age, increasing from 1-in-130 to 1-in-56 between 1990 and 2006.

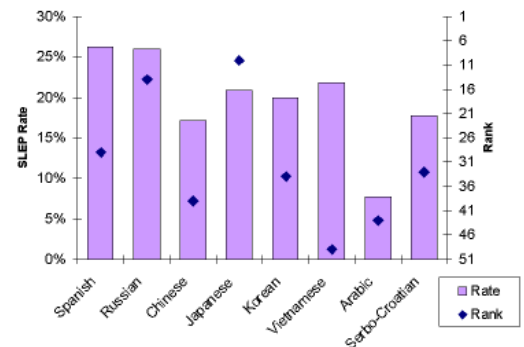
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Spanish speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Wisconsin. More than 1-in-4 Wisconsin residents who speak Spanish at home speak English at the lowest levels of proficiency, slightly more than the percentage of Russian speakers who struggle with English. At more than 1-in-5, the SLEP rate among Japanese speakers is the 10th highest in the nation, while the rate among Russian speakers ranks 14th. On the other hand, the SLEP rate is comparatively lower here among Vietnamese speakers here than in other states, ranking third lowest in the nation at 21.8 percent.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

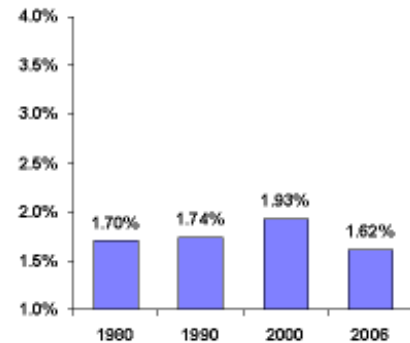
The limited English proficient population of Wisconsin has grown moderately in recent years, but there are signs of greater increases down the road. SLEP rates are growing among the school age and working age population, suggesting that current and future generations will not be able to contribute as fully to the state's economic success. Further, the Hispanic population has greatly exceeded Census projections, creating a situation much like Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska experienced 20 years ago. Though Wisconsin's Spanish speakers exhibit lower rates of severe limited English proficiency than most other states, the state must make concerted efforts to keep this level to a minimum or there could be severe long-term consequences.

Wyoming

Capital: Cheyenne
2006 Population: 515,004
Joined Union: July 10, 1890

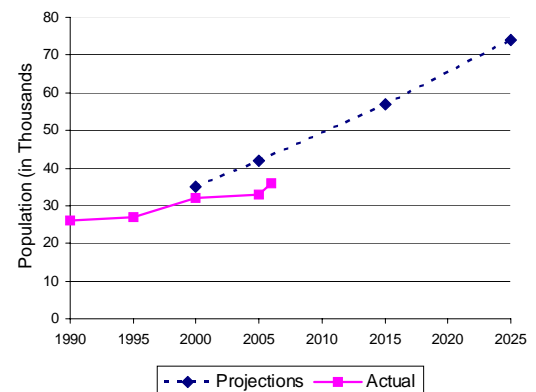
Limited English Proficiency, 1980-2006

The limited English proficient (LEP) population of Wyoming has remained virtually unchanged over the last quarter century, ticking slightly upward from 7,230 in 1980 to 7,806 in 2006. Statewide, fewer than 1-in-62 Wyoming residents were classified as limited English proficient in 2006, lower than the 1-in-59 figure recorded 26 years earlier. The Equality State had the sixth lowest LEP rate in the nation in 2006, falling from eighth lowest in 2000 and representing a significant decline from its placement in both 1980 and 1990.



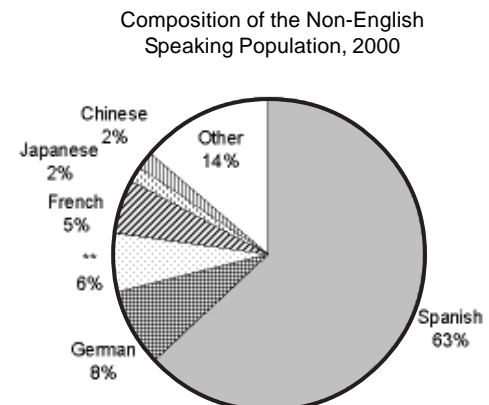
Hispanic Population Growth vs. Projections, 1990-2025

In Wyoming, the Hispanic population has fallen well short of projections made for 2000 and 2005. The 2000 Census found 32,000 Hispanics in Wyoming, shy of the 35,000 prediction made for that year. Even in 2005, the Equality State was home to just 33,000 Hispanics, still below the 2000 forecast and more than 20 percent below the prediction for 2005. Though it appears that Wyoming exceeded the 2000 projection in 2006, it appears unlikely that the state will meet forecasts for 2015 and 2025 barring significant changes in migration.



Prevalence of Foreign Languages

Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken at home in Wyoming, used by 63.1 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. The number of Spanish speakers is almost eight times the number of users of the second most numerous non-English language spoken at home, German. Native North American languages other than Navajo represent the third most common linguistic group, followed by French, Japanese and Chinese. Speakers of these six languages account for 5.5 percent of the overall population of Wyoming and 86.2 percent of those who spoke a language other than English at home.

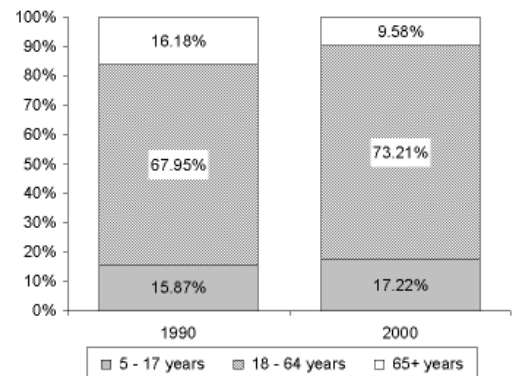


** - Native North American Languages other than Navajo

Non-English Proficiency by Age

While Wyoming has lower rates of severe limited English proficiency (SLEP) than much of the United States, the figures are more skewed toward the school age children than in most of the nation. In 2000, more than 1-in-6 SLEP people in Wyoming were between the ages of 5 and 17, the 10th highest rate in the nation. Though fewer than 1-in-100 Wyoming residents of school age spoke little or no English in 2000, this figure was up from less than 1-in-200 in 1990. SLEP rates also increased among the working age population – from 1-in-143 in 1990 to 1-in-105 in 2000.

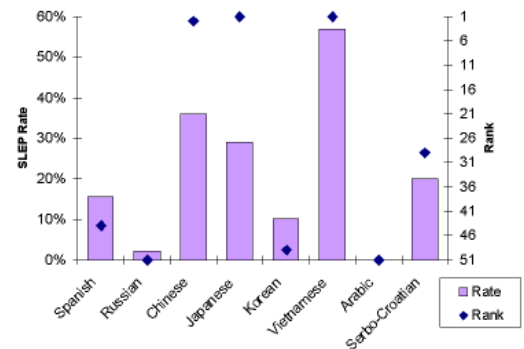
Age Analysis of the SLEP Population
1990, 2000 and 2006



Non-English Proficiency by Language Spoken

Vietnamese speakers have the highest SLEP rate among the eight language groups studied in Wyoming. More than 1-in-2 Wyoming residents who speak Vietnamese at home speak little or no English, the highest rate in the nation. SLEP rates are also high among Wyoming residents who speak Chinese or Japanese at home. At 35.9 percent and 29.1 percent, respectively, these rank first and second among the states. Conversely, Wyoming's Russian speakers demonstrate the lowest level of severe limited English proficiency at less than 1-in-50, while Wyoming's Spanish speakers are the eighth least likely to speak little or no English.

Foreign Language Speakers
SLEP Rates and Ranks, 2000



Conclusion

Low levels of immigration and limited contact with government multilingualism has kept the limited English proficient population of Wyoming well below nationwide figures. Given this small population which struggles with English, it is difficult to read too deeply into high SLEP rates among Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese speakers or low SLEP rates among Russian, Korean and Arabic speakers. There is simply not enough data to ascertain a definitive answer. Regardless, the state should continue encouraging English proficiency among its residents and maintaining contingency plans should immigration levels increase in the near future.

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Appendix A

Limited English Proficiency Rates and Ranks, 1980 and 1990

	1980				1990			
	Population, Age 5+	Limited English Proficient	LEP Pct.	Rank	Population, Age 5+	Limited English Proficient	LEP Pct.	Rank
Alabama	3,598,388	19,628	0.55%	51	3,759,802	36,018	0.96%	49
Alaska	362,922	18,812	5.18%	12	495,425	22,480	4.54%	15
Arizona	2,505,455	212,315	8.47%	6	3,374,806	275,907	8.18%	7
Arkansas	2,111,224	13,069	0.62%	47	2,186,665	21,385	0.98%	48
California	21,969,725	2,493,681	11.35%	3	27,383,547	4,422,783	16.15%	1
Colorado	2,673,872	95,509	3.57%	16	3,042,986	109,889	3.61%	17
Connecticut	2,922,810	171,122	5.85%	10	3,060,000	184,018	6.01%	12
Delaware	553,319	10,146	1.83%	32	617,720	14,569	2.36%	27
D.C.	604,286	16,754	2.77%	20	570,284	29,128	5.11%	14
Florida	9,180,221	574,701	6.26%	9	12,095,284	961,303	7.95%	8
Georgia	5,049,559	43,560	0.86%	43	5,984,188	109,050	1.82%	35
Hawaii	887,707	118,617	13.36%	2	1,026,209	124,418	12.12%	2
Idaho	850,427	18,116	2.13%	27	926,703	22,296	2.41%	26
Illinois	10,586,356	552,602	5.22%	11	10,585,838	657,983	6.22%	11
Indiana	5,071,880	74,579	1.47%	40	5,146,160	86,982	1.69%	38
Iowa	2,692,363	29,681	1.10%	41	2,583,526	35,407	1.37%	43
Kansas	2,183,102	35,374	1.62%	36	2,289,615	48,342	2.11%	29
Kentucky	3,378,317	19,285	0.57%	50	3,434,955	29,423	0.86%	50
Louisiana	3,845,505	138,255	3.60%	15	3,886,353	128,035	3.29%	19
Maine	1,046,188	35,853	3.43%	17	1,142,122	27,759	2.43%	24
Maryland	3,945,488	86,097	2.18%	26	4,425,285	148,493	3.36%	18
Massachusetts	5,400,422	279,084	5.17%	13	5,605,751	348,786	6.22%	10
Michigan	8,577,844	196,597	2.29%	25	8,594,737	188,662	2.20%	28
Minnesota	3,768,826	62,508	1.66%	34	4,038,861	79,341	1.96%	32
Mississippi	2,305,854	14,864	0.64%	46	2,378,805	24,512	1.03%	46
Missouri	4,563,086	46,242	1.01%	42	4,748,704	62,938	1.33%	44
Montana	722,313	11,883	1.65%	35	740,218	11,457	1.55%	39
Nebraska	1,447,251	21,707	1.50%	39	1,458,904	22,252	1.53%	40
Nevada	744,698	29,899	4.01%	14	1,110,450	62,168	5.60%	13
New Hampshire	858,108	25,978	3.03%	18	1,024,621	24,810	2.42%	25
New Jersey	6,903,354	497,723	7.21%	7	7,200,696	608,996	8.46%	6
New Mexico	1,188,276	173,038	14.56%	1	1,390,048	159,620	11.48%	3
New York	16,429,011	1,540,714	9.38%	5	16,743,048	1,765,526	10.54%	5
North Carolina	5,478,813	40,486	0.74%	45	6,172,301	86,814	1.41%	41
North Dakota	598,049	17,087	2.86%	19	590,839	11,663	1.97%	31
Ohio	10,011,580	185,595	1.85%	30	10,063,212	189,865	1.89%	34
Oklahoma	2,792,986	43,740	1.57%	37	2,921,755	51,885	1.78%	36
Oregon	2,435,197	48,732	2.00%	28	2,640,482	78,162	2.96%	20
Pennsylvania	11,117,871	280,381	2.52%	23	11,085,170	293,009	2.64%	22
Rhode Island	890,643	60,226	6.76%	8	936,423	65,927	7.04%	9
South Carolina	2,884,059	22,089	0.77%	44	3,231,539	37,757	1.17%	45
South Dakota	632,385	15,720	2.49%	24	641,226	12,503	1.95%	33
Tennessee	4,265,638	26,396	0.62%	48	4,544,743	45,524	1.00%	47
Texas	13,064,596	1,443,233	11.05%	4	15,605,822	1,765,723	11.31%	4
Utah	1,271,285	33,404	2.63%	22	1,553,351	40,825	2.63%	23
Vermont	475,452	9,273	1.95%	29	521,521	7,247	1.39%	42
Virginia	4,986,648	75,182	1.51%	38	5,746,419	161,229	2.81%	21
Washington	3,826,416	102,456	2.68%	21	4,501,879	165,207	3.67%	16
West Virginia	1,804,171	11,115	0.62%	49	1,686,932	13,594	0.81%	51
Wisconsin	4,358,993	80,697	1.85%	31	4,531,134	93,296	2.06%	30
Wyoming	424,510	7,230	1.70%	33	418,713	7,266	1.74%	37
Totals	210,247,449	10,181,035	4.84%		230,445,777	13,982,232	6.07%	

Limited English Proficiency Rates and Ranks, 2000 and 2006

	2000				2006			
	Population, Age 5+	Limited English Proficient	LEP Pct.	Rank	Population, Age 5+	Limited English Proficient	LEP Pct.	Rank
Alabama	4,152,278	63,917	1.54%	48	4,305,303	82,695	1.92%	43
Alaska	579,740	30,842	5.32%	18	622,572	36,979	5.94%	18
Arizona	4,752,724	539,937	11.36%	6	5,687,173	694,632	12.21%	5
Arkansas	2,492,205	57,709	2.32%	38	2,616,131	79,126	3.02%	34
California	31,416,629	6,277,779	19.98%	1	33,784,883	6,778,944	20.07%	1
Colorado	4,006,285	267,504	6.68%	15	4,414,382	351,024	7.95%	13
Connecticut	3,184,514	234,799	7.37%	13	3,302,738	262,324	7.94%	14
Delaware	732,378	28,380	3.88%	26	796,385	36,554	4.59%	24
D.C.	539,658	38,236	7.09%	14	546,550	30,616	5.60%	22
Florida	15,043,603	1,554,865	10.34%	9	16,972,259	1,968,150	11.60%	7
Georgia	7,594,476	374,251	4.93%	21	8,665,006	500,180	5.77%	19
Hawaii	1,134,351	143,505	12.65%	4	1,198,319	126,811	10.58%	9
Idaho	1,196,793	46,539	3.89%	25	1,354,099	53,382	3.94%	28
Illinois	11,547,505	1,054,722	9.13%	10	11,942,632	1,173,090	9.82%	10
Indiana	5,657,818	143,427	2.54%	34	5,879,940	180,997	3.08%	33
Iowa	2,738,499	68,108	2.49%	35	2,790,958	77,310	2.77%	35
Kansas	2,500,360	98,207	3.93%	24	2,569,373	111,636	4.34%	26
Kentucky	3,776,230	58,871	1.56%	47	3,929,110	70,558	1.80%	45
Louisiana	4,153,367	116,907	2.81%	33	3,986,570	101,973	2.56%	37
Maine	1,204,164	24,063	2.00%	42	1,251,347	22,611	1.81%	44
Maryland	4,945,043	246,287	4.98%	20	5,247,226	299,736	5.71%	20
Massachusetts	5,954,249	459,073	7.71%	12	6,049,574	522,508	8.64%	11
Michigan	9,268,782	294,606	3.18%	30	9,456,404	322,094	3.41%	30
Minnesota	4,591,491	167,511	3.65%	27	4,819,697	193,188	4.01%	27
Mississippi	2,641,453	36,059	1.37%	50	2,704,451	35,349	1.31%	49
Missouri	5,226,022	103,019	1.97%	43	5,451,998	113,017	2.07%	41
Montana	847,362	12,663	1.49%	49	887,055	7,490	0.84%	50
Nebraska	1,594,700	57,772	3.62%	28	1,640,024	73,509	4.48%	25
Nevada	1,853,720	207,687	11.20%	7	2,312,092	295,870	12.80%	4
New Hampshire	1,160,340	28,073	2.42%	36	1,241,415	31,579	2.54%	38
New Jersey	7,856,268	873,088	11.11%	8	8,164,688	962,993	11.79%	6
New Mexico	1,689,911	201,055	11.90%	5	1,812,867	198,397	10.94%	8
New York	17,749,110	2,310,256	13.02%	3	18,085,173	2,372,334	13.12%	3
North Carolina	7,513,165	297,858	3.96%	23	8,253,772	394,151	4.78%	23
North Dakota	603,106	11,003	1.82%	45	596,773	8,703	1.46%	48
Ohio	10,599,968	234,459	2.21%	39	10,741,831	234,244	2.18%	40
Oklahoma	3,215,719	98,990	3.08%	31	3,327,159	119,142	3.58%	29
Oregon	3,199,323	188,958	5.91%	17	3,470,802	229,997	6.63%	16
Pennsylvania	11,555,538	368,257	3.19%	29	11,716,171	395,321	3.37%	31
Rhode Island	985,184	83,624	8.49%	11	1,005,812	84,639	8.41%	12
South Carolina	3,748,669	82,279	2.19%	40	4,036,541	107,837	2.67%	36
South Dakota	703,820	16,376	2.33%	37	728,218	15,080	2.07%	42
Tennessee	5,315,920	108,265	2.04%	41	5,639,797	140,373	2.49%	39
Texas	19,241,518	2,669,603	13.87%	2	21,585,556	3,124,744	14.48%	2
Utah	2,023,875	105,691	5.22%	19	2,302,896	140,919	6.12%	17
Vermont	574,842	9,305	1.62%	46	590,894	9,127	1.54%	47
Virginia	6,619,266	303,729	4.59%	22	7,139,393	401,101	5.62%	21
Washington	5,501,398	350,914	6.38%	16	5,988,982	454,527	7.59%	15
West Virginia	1,706,931	13,550	0.79%	51	1,714,041	12,322	0.72%	51
Wisconsin	5,022,073	148,910	2.97%	32	5,204,804	165,022	3.17%	32
Wyoming	462,809	8,919	1.93%	44	480,876	7,806	1.62%	46
Totals	262,375,152	21,320,407	8.13%		279,012,712	24,212,711	8.68%	

Appendix B

Most Common Languages Spoken in Each State, 2000

	Most Common		2nd Most Common		3rd Most Common	
Alabama	Spanish	89,730	German	14,905	French	13,655
Alaska	(1)	30,120	Spanish	16,670	Tagalog	8,935
Arizona	Spanish	927,395	Navajo	89,950	(1)	30,110
Arkansas	Spanish	82,465	German	7,445	French	7,310
California	Spanish	8,105,505	Chinese	815,385	Tagalog	626,400
Colorado	Spanish	421,670	German	30,825	French	18,045
Connecticut	Spanish	268,045	Italian	50,890	French	42,945
Delaware	Spanish	34,690	French	4,040	Chinese	3,580
D.C.	Spanish	49,460	French	9,085	(3)	5,180
Florida	Spanish	2,476,530	French Creole	208,485	French	129,120
Georgia	Spanish	426,115	French	43,430	German	32,775
Hawaii	Tagalog	60,965	Japanese	56,225	Chinese	29,365
Idaho	Spanish	80,240	German	5,665	French	3,345
Illinois	Spanish	1,253,675	Polish	185,750	Chinese	65,250
Indiana	Spanish	185,575	German	44,140	French	18,065
Iowa	Spanish	79,490	German	17,260	French	7,475
Kansas	Spanish	137,245	German	16,820	Vietnamese	10,395
Kentucky	Spanish	70,060	German	17,900	French	12,500
Louisiana	French	194,315	Spanish	105,190	Vietnamese	23,325
Maine	French	63,640	Spanish	9,610	German	4,005
Maryland	Spanish	230,830	French	42,840	Chinese	41,885
Massachusetts	Spanish	370,010	Portuguese	159,810	French	84,485
Michigan	Spanish	246,690	Arabic	75,410	German	52,365
Minnesota	Spanish	132,065	Hmong	41,675	German	35,070
Mississippi	Spanish	50,515	French	10,825	(1)	5,655
Missouri	Spanish	110,750	German	30,680	French	19,545
Montana	Spanish	12,955	German	9,415	(1)	9,235
Nebraska	Spanish	77,655	German	8,865	Vietnamese	5,960
Nevada	Spanish	299,945	Tagalog	29,475	Chinese	11,785
New Hampshire	French	39,550	Spanish	18,645	German	4,790
New Jersey	Spanish	967,740	Italian	116,365	Chinese	84,345
New Mexico	Spanish	485,680	Navajo	68,790	(1)	26,880
New York	Spanish	2,416,125	Chinese	374,625	Italian	294,270
North Carolina	Spanish	378,940	French	33,200	German	28,520
North Dakota	German	14,930	Spanish	8,265	(4)	3,195
Ohio	Spanish	213,145	German	72,645	French	44,595
Oklahoma	Spanish	141,060	(1)	18,870	German	13,445
Oregon	Spanish	217,615	German	18,400	Vietnamese	17,805
Pennsylvania	Spanish	356,755	Italian	70,435	German	68,670
Rhode Island	Spanish	79,445	Portuguese	37,435	French	19,385
South Carolina	Spanish	110,030	French	19,110	German	15,195
South Dakota	German	13,420	(1)	11,245	Spanish	10,050
Tennessee	Spanish	133,930	German	20,265	French	17,555
Texas	Spanish	5,195,180	Vietnamese	122,515	Chinese	91,500
Utah	Spanish	150,245	German	12,095	Navajo	9,375
Vermont	French	14,625	Spanish	5,790	German	2,610
Virginia	Spanish	316,275	French	40,115	Korean	39,635
Washington	Spanish	321,490	Chinese	48,460	Tagalog	41,675
West Virginia	Spanish	17,650	French	5,695	German	5,040
Wisconsin	Spanish	168,780	German	48,410	Hmong	30,570
Wyoming	Spanish	18,605	German	2,380	(1)	1,795

Key:

- (1) - Native North American languages other than Navajo
- (2) - other West Germanic languages
- (3) - African languages
- (4) - Scandinavian languages
- (5) - other Slavic languages
- (6) - other Pacific Island languages

Most Common Languages Spoken in Each State, 2000

	4th Most Common		5th Most Common		6th Most Common		Other
Alabama	Chinese	5,270	Vietnamese	4,560	Korean	4,030	30,335
Alaska	Korean	4,370	German	3,575	Russian	2,950	16,140
Arizona	German	25,105	Chinese	17,110	French	15,665	123,905
Arkansas	Vietnamese	3,465	Chinese	2,530	Laotian	2,500	18,040
California	Vietnamese	407,120	Korean	298,075	Armenian	155,235	1,994,035
Colorado	Vietnamese	12,500	Korean	12,045	Chinese	11,335	97,600
Connecticut	Polish	38,490	Portuguese	30,665	Chinese	15,780	137,100
Delaware	German	3,420	Italian	2,860	Polish	2,035	18,910
D.C.	Chinese	2,910	German	2,695	Arabic	2,095	18,990
Florida	German	89,655	Italian	67,255	Portuguese	55,015	717,805
Georgia	Vietnamese	27,670	Korean	25,815	(3)	24,750	170,885
Hawaii	Spanish	18,820	Korean	18,335	Vietnamese	8,270	110,145
Idaho	(1)	2,020	Serbo-Croati	1,695	Japanese	1,650	17,265
Illinois	German	63,365	Tagalog	62,365	Italian	51,975	538,340
Indiana	(2)	15,705	Chinese	9,910	Polish	7,830	80,855
Iowa	Serbo-Croati	6,450	Vietnamese	6,180	Chinese	5,190	37,975
Kansas	French	6,590	Chinese	6,475	Korean	3,665	37,465
Kentucky	Chinese	4,605	Japanese	3,780	Korean	3,730	35,900
Louisiana	German	8,045	Chinese	5,735	Arabic	5,490	40,265
Maine	Italian	1,475	Chinese	1,260	(1)	1,180	12,795
Maryland	(3)	36,965	Korean	32,935	German	23,795	213,460
Massachusetts	Chinese	71,410	Italian	59,810	French Creole	43,520	326,525
Michigan	Polish	40,370	French	39,815	Italian	30,050	296,680
Minnesota	(3)	24,745	Vietnamese	16,505	French	15,745	124,185
Mississippi	German	5,500	Vietnamese	4,915	Chinese	2,505	15,605
Missouri	Chinese	11,630	Vietnamese	9,420	Serbo-Croati	8,350	73,905
Montana	French	3,300	(4)	1,335	Italian	760	7,330
Nebraska	(5)	4,235	French	3,630	Chinese	2,410	22,900
Nevada	German	10,320	French	7,910	Korean	6,635	61,900
New Hampshire	Greek	3,410	Chinese	3,270	Italian	2,650	23,775
New Jersey	Polish	74,665	Portuguese	72,870	Tagalog	66,850	618,855
New Mexico	German	7,870	French	4,330	Chinese	2,985	20,430
New York	Russian	218,765	French	180,810	French Creole	114,745	1,363,580
North Carolina	Chinese	15,700	Vietnamese	13,595	Korean	11,385	122,175
North Dakota	(1)	2,535	French	1,595	(5)	1,350	6,105
Ohio	Italian	27,695	(2)	26,370	Chinese	25,705	238,340
Oklahoma	Vietnamese	11,330	French	8,260	Chinese	6,415	39,150
Oregon	Russian	16,345	Chinese	15,505	French	11,835	91,165
Pennsylvania	(2)	51,075	French	47,735	Chinese	42,790	335,025
Rhode Island	Italian	13,760	Cambodian	5,585	French Creole	4,335	36,680
South Carolina	Chinese	5,650	Tagalog	4,495	Vietnamese	3,770	38,180
South Dakota	French	1,255	(5)	1,055	(3)	1,040	7,510
Tennessee	Chinese	7,490	Vietnamese	6,625	Korean	6,550	64,100
Texas	German	82,115	French	62,275	Tagalog	39,990	417,180
Utah	(6)	7,905	French	7,095	Chinese	5,715	60,820
Vermont	Serbo-Croati	1,600	Italian	1,200	Polish	975	7,275
Virginia	Tagalog	33,600	German	32,735	Vietnamese	31,920	240,910
Washington	Vietnamese	39,830	German	39,700	Russian	31,340	248,390
West Virginia	Italian	2,815	Chinese	1,635	Arabic	1,565	11,495
Wisconsin	French	14,970	Polish	12,095	Chinese	7,950	85,935
Wyoming	French	1,615	Japanese	520	Chinese	510	4,060

Appendix C

Composition of the Severely Limited English Proficient Population, 1990, 2000 and 2006

	1990			Rank			2000			Rank			2006			Rank		
	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	Age 65+	5-17	18-64	65+	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	Age 65+	5-17	18-64	65+	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	Age 65+	5-17	18-64	65+
Alabama	23.98%	66.56%	9.46%	3	33	40	16.37%	79.53%	4.11%	15	11	50	11.13%	84.67%	4.19%	13	10	44
Alaska	15.22%	66.09%	18.69%	35	35	15	18.37%	64.46%	17.17%	6	48	8	10.55%	72.03%	17.42%	16	43	10
Arizona	18.11%	68.94%	12.95%	22	22	30	14.73%	76.80%	8.47%	26	22	29	8.45%	83.06%	8.50%	28	15	26
Arkansas	20.85%	69.02%	10.13%	14	20	37	16.64%	79.10%	4.27%	14	14	47	9.99%	86.21%	3.80%	17	4	46
California	13.68%	76.89%	9.43%	36	5	41	11.62%	76.59%	11.79%	43	25	19	5.99%	78.67%	15.35%	39	25	15
Colorado	16.90%	68.95%	14.15%	24	21	27	14.21%	79.27%	6.51%	31	13	36	8.49%	84.26%	7.25%	27	13	33
Connecticut	12.90%	68.14%	18.97%	40	24	14	11.10%	71.93%	16.96%	44	33	9	7.45%	72.53%	20.02%	36	40	7
Delaware	19.76%	66.91%	13.33%	18	31	29	15.50%	76.62%	7.88%	20	24	32	11.94%	79.94%	8.12%	11	22	30
D.C.	11.12%	79.72%	9.16%	45	1	44	9.40%	83.62%	6.99%	46	1	33	7.56%	86.10%	6.34%	33	7	35
Florida	7.78%	67.98%	24.24%	50	25	5	8.19%	70.56%	21.25%	50	37	3	4.70%	73.49%	21.81%	44	37	5
Georgia	16.48%	77.85%	5.67%	26	4	51	12.91%	82.95%	4.14%	37	2	49	8.16%	86.07%	5.76%	30	8	39
Hawaii	7.06%	58.12%	34.83%	51	46	2	6.64%	60.52%	32.84%	51	51	1	3.82%	60.87%	35.32%	47	47	1
Idaho	19.09%	74.03%	6.88%	21	8	49	14.10%	80.84%	5.07%	33	7	43	11.57%	81.65%	6.77%	12	16	34
Illinois	12.99%	74.33%	12.69%	39	7	33	12.09%	77.20%	10.71%	41	21	22	7.48%	79.93%	12.59%	35	23	19
Indiana	22.41%	62.98%	14.60%	7	38	25	16.04%	77.27%	6.69%	17	20	35	12.90%	79.71%	7.39%	8	24	32
Iowa	22.08%	63.60%	14.32%	9	37	26	16.72%	77.55%	5.73%	13	19	41	14.02%	80.66%	5.32%	4	21	40
Kansas	17.60%	72.98%	9.41%	23	11	42	14.26%	80.62%	5.12%	29	8	42	7.78%	84.36%	7.86%	32	12	31
Kentucky	26.49%	65.14%	8.37%	1	36	45	16.92%	78.10%	4.98%	12	18	44	12.80%	81.43%	5.77%	9	17	38
Louisiana	16.30%	58.59%	25.12%	27	45	4	14.06%	67.44%	18.49%	35	42	5	7.49%	76.27%	16.24%	34	32	13
Maine	15.91%	51.48%	32.61%	30	51	3	15.47%	62.14%	22.39%	21	50	2	14.74%	62.43%	22.83%	2	46	3
Maryland	13.51%	73.05%	13.43%	37	10	28	12.23%	74.55%	13.22%	39	28	18	6.87%	78.48%	14.65%	38	26	17
Massachusetts	11.81%	69.59%	18.60%	43	17	16	9.20%	71.56%	19.23%	48	34	4	4.97%	73.23%	21.80%	43	38	6
Michigan	15.62%	61.44%	22.94%	33	40	7	15.14%	70.73%	14.14%	23	36	16	10.96%	72.25%	16.79%	14	42	11
Minnesota	23.74%	60.18%	16.08%	4	42	24	18.20%	73.67%	8.13%	8	29	30	13.25%	76.53%	10.21%	7	31	22
Mississippi	22.37%	69.57%	8.05%	8	18	47	15.86%	78.34%	5.81%	18	17	40	7.11%	84.54%	8.35%	37	11	27
Missouri	21.05%	66.10%	12.85%	13	34	31	17.98%	73.20%	8.82%	9	31	28	13.90%	76.82%	9.28%	6	30	23
Montana	20.01%	57.54%	22.45%	16	48	8	25.10%	63.56%	11.34%	1	49	21						
Nebraska	15.88%	67.83%	16.29%	31	27	22	14.20%	81.14%	4.66%	32	6	45	9.75%	86.94%	3.30%	21	2	47
Nevada	12.35%	78.47%	9.18%	41	2	43	12.09%	81.99%	5.92%	40	4	38	5.48%	86.26%	8.26%	40	3	29
New Hampshire	13.06%	67.65%	19.29%	38	28	13	14.99%	69.55%	15.45%	25	39	15	4.44%	71.76%	23.80%	46	44	2
New Jersey	9.48%	73.67%	16.86%	48	9	21	8.61%	75.48%	15.91%	49	26	12	4.48%	76.25%	19.28%	45	33	9
New Mexico	19.18%	61.33%	19.50%	20	41	12	16.26%	67.37%	16.37%	16	44	10	9.93%	73.71%	16.36%	19	36	12
New York	10.78%	72.23%	16.99%	47	12	20	9.24%	72.95%	17.80%	47	32	7	5.30%	72.85%	21.85%	41	39	4
North Carolina	26.10%	67.12%	6.78%	2	30	50	14.29%	82.83%	2.88%	28	3	51	8.73%	87.47%	3.80%	24	1	45
North Dakota	8.47%	55.59%	35.94%	49	50	1	18.51%	67.41%	14.08%	5	43	17						
Ohio	21.06%	57.62%	21.32%	12	47	11	18.33%	66.05%	15.62%	7	47	14	12.43%	72.43%	15.14%	10	41	16
Oklahoma	19.78%	69.34%	10.88%	17	19	36	15.69%	78.47%	5.85%	19	16	39	7.85%	86.14%	6.01%	31	6	37
Oregon	15.28%	74.97%	9.75%	34	6	38	14.25%	78.96%	6.79%	30	15	34	10.70%	80.97%	8.32%	15	19	28
Pennsylvania	15.96%	62.52%	21.52%	29	39	10	15.04%	68.70%	16.25%	24	40	11	8.19%	75.66%	16.15%	29	34	14
Rhode Island	10.87%	70.73%	18.40%	46	16	17	10.72%	71.41%	17.87%	45	35	6	5.20%	75.23%	19.57%	42	35	8
South Carolina	20.49%	71.87%	7.64%	15	14	48	15.42%	79.94%	4.64%	22	10	46	9.44%	86.15%	4.41%	23	5	43
South Dakota	19.54%	57.26%	23.19%	19	49	6	23.50%	68.44%	8.06%	2	41	31	14.01%	81.31%	4.68%	5	18	42
Tennessee	23.19%	68.74%	8.07%	6	23	46	14.45%	81.33%	4.22%	27	5	48	9.87%	85.05%	5.08%	20	9	41
Texas	16.09%	71.16%	12.75%	28	15	32	14.08%	75.46%	10.46%	34	27	24	9.71%	78.36%	11.92%	22	27	20
Utah	21.37%	67.41%	11.22%	11	29	35	13.84%	80.24%	5.92%	36	9	37	9.96%	83.88%	6.17%	18	14	36
Vermont	11.31%	66.80%	21.89%	44	32	9	17.06%	67.29%	15.65%	11	45	13						
Virginia	12.24%	78.13%	9.63%	42	3	39	11.71%	79.34%	8.95%	42	12	27	8.63%	80.70%	10.66%	26	20	21
Washington	16.52%	72.03%	11.45%	25	13	34	12.70%	76.79%	10.51%	38	23	23	8.64%	78.03%	13.33%	25	28	18
West Virginia	23.31%	59.61%	17.07%	5	44	19	21.87%	66.52%	11.61%	3	46	20	22.46%	68.48%	9.06%	1	45	24
Wisconsin	21.78%	60.03%	18.20%	10	43	18	19.71%	70.43%	9.86%	4	38	25	14.23%	77.21%	8.56%	3	29	25
Wyoming	15.87%	67.95%	16.18%	32	26	23	17.22%	73.21%	9.58%	10	30	26						

Note: Montana, North Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming did not have a large enough limited English proficient population for inclusion in the 2006 American Community Survey

Severe Limited English Proficiency Rates
Within Specified Age Groups, 1990, 2000 and 2006

	1990			Rank			2000			Rank			2006			Rank		
	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	Age 65+	5-17	18-64	65+	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	Age 65+	5-17	18-64	65+	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	Age 65+	5-17	18-64	65+
Alabama	0.42%	0.37%	0.25%	46	49	48	0.65%	0.95%	0.23%	45	40	51	0.66%	1.43%	0.33%	41	38	45
Alaska	1.10%	1.62%	8.12%	19	18	4	1.39%	1.75%	5.31%	24	29	8	1.24%	2.52%	6.17%	24	28	10
Arizona	4.17%	4.88%	3.84%	4	8	11	4.32%	7.15%	3.66%	3	3	13	3.14%	9.44%	4.58%	3	3	14
Arkansas	0.45%	0.49%	0.28%	44	43	46	1.10%	1.61%	0.38%	31	30	45	0.93%	2.30%	0.45%	32	29	43
California	9.47%	14.47%	9.24%	1	1	3	5.76%	12.21%	11.03%	1	1	2	3.42%	13.39%	15.29%	2	1	1
Colorado	1.35%	1.63%	2.17%	16	17	16	2.63%	4.22%	2.32%	8	13	17	2.05%	5.43%	3.04%	7	11	17
Connecticut	2.10%	2.75%	3.82%	12	14	12	1.88%	3.58%	3.78%	15	17	12	1.43%	3.87%	5.04%	15	18	12
Delaware	1.00%	0.92%	0.97%	21	27	32	1.53%	2.22%	1.09%	21	26	27	1.70%	3.12%	1.48%	12	22	26
D.C.	2.29%	3.25%	1.86%	10	13	17	2.36%	4.44%	2.05%	13	12	18	1.33%	3.06%	1.25%	20	25	29
Florida	2.37%	5.45%	6.07%	8	5	7	2.56%	6.23%	6.38%	9	6	6	1.79%	7.34%	7.93%	11	6	6
Georgia	0.68%	0.97%	0.43%	32	26	43	1.82%	3.51%	1.16%	17	18	25	1.38%	4.25%	1.88%	19	15	23
Hawaii	1.99%	5.16%	24.92%	13	7	1	1.73%	4.52%	11.50%	19	10	1	0.94%	3.91%	10.26%	31	17	3
Idaho	1.02%	1.58%	0.68%	20	20	36	1.34%	2.66%	0.89%	28	21	32	1.19%	2.63%	1.16%	26	26	30
Illinois	2.22%	3.79%	3.13%	11	10	13	2.77%	5.45%	3.87%	7	8	11	2.00%	6.14%	5.10%	9	9	11
Indiana	0.65%	0.57%	0.64%	34	38	38	0.96%	1.41%	0.61%	35	35	38	1.08%	1.93%	0.91%	27	32	34
Iowa	0.59%	0.54%	0.47%	35	39	41	1.09%	1.56%	0.46%	33	31	42	1.03%	1.69%	0.47%	28	37	41
Kansas	0.79%	1.06%	0.58%	27	23	39	1.43%	2.62%	0.76%	23	22	33	0.97%	3.08%	1.38%	30	24	27
Kentucky	0.45%	0.35%	0.21%	42	50	51	0.67%	0.89%	0.29%	42	45	49	0.67%	1.16%	0.41%	40	41	44
Louisiana	0.78%	1.05%	2.62%	28	24	14	0.66%	1.04%	1.51%	44	38	23	0.42%	1.25%	1.36%	44	39	28
Maine	0.53%	0.54%	1.70%	38	40	19	0.52%	0.60%	0.94%	48	48	31	0.58%	0.61%	0.98%	43	46	32
Maryland	1.14%	1.62%	1.74%	18	19	18	1.36%	2.48%	2.46%	27	25	16	0.98%	3.09%	3.22%	29	23	16
Massachusetts	2.35%	3.36%	4.45%	9	11	10	1.78%	3.82%	4.78%	18	15	9	1.25%	4.72%	6.78%	23	12	9
Michigan	0.66%	0.80%	1.62%	33	28	21	1.02%	1.50%	1.51%	34	33	22	0.90%	1.72%	2.01%	33	36	21
Minnesota	0.93%	0.73%	1.01%	22	32	29	1.54%	1.96%	1.11%	20	27	26	1.39%	2.23%	1.55%	17	30	25
Mississippi	0.38%	0.43%	0.23%	49	46	50	0.48%	0.79%	0.29%	49	46	48	0.25%	0.94%	0.46%	47	45	42
Missouri	0.54%	0.52%	0.43%	37	41	42	0.82%	1.04%	0.57%	39	39	39	0.74%	1.16%	0.65%	37	42	37
Montana	0.39%	0.40%	0.70%	47	48	35	0.56%	0.45%	0.37%	46	50	46						
Nebraska	0.45%	0.66%	0.67%	41	34	37	1.39%	2.56%	0.65%	25	23	35	1.33%	3.44%	0.61%	21	20	38
Nevada	1.98%	3.35%	2.33%	14	12	15	3.54%	6.91%	2.90%	5	5	14	2.02%	9.06%	5.00%	8	4	13
New Hampshire	0.53%	0.79%	1.42%	39	30	23	0.67%	0.93%	1.09%	43	42	28	0.26%	1.08%	1.90%	46	43	22
New Jersey	2.58%	5.21%	5.62%	7	6	8	2.41%	6.17%	6.10%	10	7	7	1.45%	6.86%	8.49%	14	7	5
New Mexico	4.75%	6.16%	9.96%	3	4	2	3.66%	5.21%	6.55%	4	9	5	2.73%	6.21%	6.87%	4	8	7
New York	3.87%	6.87%	7.75%	5	3	5	3.10%	7.11%	8.40%	6	4	3	2.05%	7.58%	11.07%	6	5	2
North Carolina	0.89%	0.62%	0.32%	25	35	45	1.82%	2.93%	0.54%	16	20	40	1.39%	3.84%	0.88%	18	19	35
North Dakota	0.21%	0.48%	1.52%	51	45	22	0.54%	0.62%	0.53%	47	47	41						
Ohio	0.72%	0.60%	1.07%	30	37	27	0.81%	0.90%	0.98%	40	44	30	0.62%	1.03%	1.01%	42	44	31
Oklahoma	0.69%	0.80%	0.54%	31	29	40	1.19%	1.86%	0.64%	30	28	37	0.82%	2.61%	0.85%	34	27	36
Oregon	1.19%	1.79%	1.00%	17	16	30	2.40%	3.86%	1.62%	11	14	21	2.35%	4.72%	2.41%	5	13	18
Pennsylvania	0.93%	1.00%	1.42%	23	25	24	1.09%	1.46%	1.34%	32	34	24	0.74%	1.83%	1.61%	38	33	24
Rhode Island	2.58%	4.22%	5.05%	6	9	9	2.37%	4.49%	4.77%	12	11	10	1.53%	5.68%	6.85%	13	10	8
South Carolina	0.45%	0.49%	0.28%	43	44	47	0.91%	1.40%	0.42%	36	36	44	0.77%	1.94%	0.49%	35	31	40
South Dakota	0.55%	0.60%	0.99%	36	36	31	0.91%	0.91%	0.44%	37	43	43	0.71%	1.21%	0.30%	39	40	46
Tennessee	0.50%	0.43%	0.24%	40	47	49	0.83%	1.34%	0.35%	38	37	47	0.76%	1.78%	0.53%	36	35	39
Texas	5.27%	7.47%	7.28%	2	2	6	4.72%	8.35%	7.22%	2	2	4	3.95%	9.96%	9.54%	1	2	4
Utah	0.78%	1.24%	1.27%	29	22	25	1.50%	3.32%	1.71%	22	19	19	1.42%	4.24%	2.14%	16	16	20
Vermont	0.28%	0.49%	0.91%	50	42	34	0.48%	0.56%	0.65%	50	49	36						
Virginia	0.86%	1.46%	1.05%	26	21	28	1.32%	2.51%	1.63%	29	24	20	1.32%	3.23%	2.39%	22	21	19
Washington	1.57%	2.03%	1.66%	15	15	20	2.02%	3.66%	2.81%	14	16	15	1.85%	4.54%	4.35%	10	14	15
West Virginia	0.38%	0.30%	0.35%	48	51	44	0.42%	0.34%	0.24%	51	51	50	0.39%	0.30%	0.16%	45	47	47
Wisconsin	0.90%	0.77%	1.12%	24	31	26	1.37%	1.52%	1.00%	26	32	29	1.21%	1.80%	0.98%	25	34	33
Wyoming	0.43%	0.70%	0.97%	45	33	33	0.71%	0.95%	0.66%	41	41	34						

Note: Montana, North Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming did not have a large enough limited English proficient population for inclusion in the 2006 American Community Survey

Appendix D

Severe Limited English Proficiency Rates Among Specified Language Speakers, 2000

	Spanish		Russian		Chinese		Japanese	
	SLEP	Rank	SLEP	Rk	SLEP	Rank	SLEP	Rank
Alabama	27.31%	24	15.98%	36	15.56%	43	15.87%	26
Alaska	15.30%	45	16.78%	35	14.73%	48	7.91%	48
Arizona	27.41%	23	14.11%	43	19.93%	21	11.83%	37
Arkansas	33.23%	4	17.54%	32	21.34%	16	9.21%	45
California	30.99%	8	27.93%	8	29.76%	5	20.79%	11
Colorado	29.20%	14	29.48%	5	21.45%	15	12.04%	36
Connecticut	22.24%	37	23.57%	19	19.20%	25	18.41%	16
Delaware	29.45%	13	13.73%	44	18.16%	33	11.34%	39
D.C.	32.79%	5	9.01%	47	33.33%	3	8.06%	47
Florida	28.38%	19	18.70%	26	22.84%	13	13.00%	33
Georgia	39.40%	2	18.25%	29	20.43%	20	18.23%	18
Hawaii	8.05%	51	5.81%	50	31.57%	4	18.04%	19
Idaho	27.16%	25	18.02%	30	19.24%	24	7.27%	49
Illinois	30.82%	10	26.69%	12	23.70%	12	21.25%	8
Indiana	26.78%	27	20.99%	22	18.62%	28	23.41%	4
Iowa	28.29%	21	19.28%	25	12.61%	50	11.74%	38
Kansas	29.98%	12	15.98%	36	15.56%	43	15.87%	26
Kentucky	25.83%	30	21.61%	21	18.30%	32	10.01%	43
Louisiana	16.97%	42	9.09%	46	19.53%	22	11.33%	40
Maine	12.49%	49	25.00%	16	24.21%	10	12.40%	35
Maryland	25.70%	31	24.88%	17	20.95%	17	16.64%	23
Massachusetts	22.34%	36	29.24%	6	26.68%	7	18.49%	15
Michigan	22.77%	35	24.31%	18	16.97%	41	22.65%	5
Minnesota	28.33%	20	27.99%	7	18.32%	31	15.83%	29
Mississippi	24.53%	33	11.35%	45	15.57%	42	9.46%	44
Missouri	23.71%	34	23.33%	20	17.63%	38	14.87%	31
Montana	12.97%	48	26.83%	11	13.99%	49	10.56%	41
Nebraska	32.45%	6	25.32%	15	15.35%	46	20.78%	12
Nevada	30.99%	7	20.42%	23	25.54%	9	12.85%	34
New Hampshire	18.16%	41	18.32%	27	17.00%	40	22.15%	6
New Jersey	28.82%	17	17.24%	33	17.70%	37	21.91%	7
New Mexico	14.95%	46	8.21%	49	15.41%	45	3.95%	51
New York	27.15%	26	31.69%	3	40.25%	1	18.64%	14
North Carolina	39.61%	1	16.79%	34	20.89%	18	15.76%	30
North Dakota	14.52%	47	14.89%	40	8.88%	51	6.67%	50
Ohio	18.83%	40	27.14%	9	19.04%	27	27.69%	3
Oklahoma	26.76%	28	15.20%	39	18.41%	30	20.04%	13
Oregon	33.70%	3	32.03%	2	26.77%	6	17.28%	22
Pennsylvania	20.40%	39	26.36%	13	25.65%	8	16.45%	25
Rhode Island	29.15%	15	27.01%	10	18.15%	34	8.72%	46
South Carolina	30.26%	11	18.27%	28	22.76%	14	15.83%	28
South Dakota	22.19%	38	31.54%	4	14.91%	47	18.33%	17
Tennessee	30.87%	9	17.58%	31	18.15%	35	28.73%	2
Texas	25.34%	32	15.25%	38	17.71%	36	16.46%	24
Utah	28.46%	18	14.70%	41	18.55%	29	10.04%	42
Vermont	8.29%	50	9.01%	47	19.11%	26	17.66%	20
Virginia	27.90%	22	20.28%	24	20.71%	19	17.52%	21
Washington	28.94%	16	34.05%	1	23.77%	11	14.80%	32
West Virginia	16.45%	43	14.67%	42	19.27%	23	21.15%	9
Wisconsin	26.26%	29	25.93%	14	17.11%	39	20.88%	10
Wyoming	15.64%	44	2.30%	51	35.92%	2	29.13%	1
Totals	28.23%		27.23%		28.24%		18.76%	

Severe Limited English Proficiency Rates
Among Specified Language Speakers, 2000

	Korean		Vietnamese		Arabic		Serbo-Croatian	
	SLEP	Rank	SLEP	Rank	SLEP	Rank	SLEP	Rank
Alabama	21.96%	25	28.18%	37	8.93%	37	12.28%	42
Alaska	32.49%	3	23.84%	44	13.16%	10	15.38%	38
Arizona	22.50%	22	30.75%	28	10.63%	21	29.86%	11
Arkansas	22.71%	20	32.47%	23	7.85%	42	26.32%	17
California	33.19%	2	32.39%	24	10.37%	23	13.09%	40
Colorado	25.94%	14	31.13%	27	12.91%	12	28.85%	12
Connecticut	24.20%	16	30.08%	34	9.76%	30	30.31%	10
Delaware	29.38%	7	21.30%	50	10.32%	24	5.06%	49
D.C.	14.79%	46	38.51%	7	5.25%	47	5.65%	47
Florida	21.13%	28	30.41%	32	8.68%	39	30.52%	9
Georgia	27.60%	12	43.02%	2	9.75%	31	33.39%	6
Hawaii	31.80%	4	40.33%	4	7.59%	45	16.85%	34
Idaho	22.86%	18	33.74%	16	4.35%	48	32.15%	8
Illinois	28.05%	10	30.08%	33	10.91%	19	21.58%	22
Indiana	19.76%	36	28.03%	40	9.46%	34	19.61%	31
Iowa	19.44%	38	40.05%	6	15.33%	7	39.92%	3
Kansas	21.96%	25	28.18%	37	8.93%	37	12.28%	42
Kentucky	21.12%	29	34.55%	15	10.90%	20	19.50%	32
Louisiana	20.17%	33	28.55%	36	9.66%	32	16.15%	35
Maine	18.09%	40	25.27%	43	4.19%	49	20.95%	24
Maryland	30.20%	5	29.31%	35	7.98%	41	9.25%	44
Massachusetts	18.41%	39	32.58%	22	10.30%	25	19.97%	30
Michigan	22.08%	24	32.74%	19	16.94%	4	28.63%	14
Minnesota	22.80%	19	32.63%	21	15.34%	6	20.39%	26
Mississippi	16.50%	43	27.16%	41	12.96%	11	3.23%	50
Missouri	20.72%	32	37.00%	9	9.83%	29	36.65%	5
Montana	19.83%	35	22.22%	48	10.42%	22	8.22%	45
Nebraska	20.94%	30	37.45%	8	23.62%	1	20.33%	28
Nevada	23.51%	17	23.23%	45	11.05%	18	20.90%	25
New Hampshire	19.51%	37	40.14%	5	11.99%	15	43.88%	1
New Jersey	29.29%	8	32.72%	20	12.24%	14	14.20%	39
New Mexico	17.99%	41	31.88%	26	7.65%	44	12.70%	41
New York	35.55%	1	36.85%	10	13.54%	8	20.36%	27
North Carolina	22.12%	23	33.33%	17	9.41%	35	24.35%	19
North Dakota	6.82%	50	22.41%	46	17.31%	3	40.61%	2
Ohio	21.26%	27	28.04%	39	8.94%	36	15.47%	37
Oklahoma	15.86%	45	33.04%	18	10.26%	26	21.05%	23
Oregon	29.07%	9	30.67%	29	8.47%	40	28.23%	15
Pennsylvania	27.48%	13	36.42%	11	12.25%	13	15.79%	36
Rhode Island	10.45%	48	22.39%	47	11.75%	16	0.00%	51
South Carolina	20.82%	31	31.92%	25	11.48%	17	6.06%	46
South Dakota	15.87%	44	42.34%	3	23.38%	2	36.84%	4
Tennessee	22.65%	21	35.09%	13	13.49%	9	24.93%	18
Texas	25.47%	15	30.61%	30	9.48%	33	28.66%	13
Utah	17.55%	42	30.55%	31	15.76%	5	33.39%	7
Vermont	4.62%	51	34.57%	14	1.54%	50	26.96%	16
Virginia	29.46%	6	26.68%	42	9.87%	28	22.92%	20
Washington	27.99%	11	35.92%	12	10.17%	27	21.88%	21
West Virginia	12.07%	47	12.63%	51	5.39%	46	5.56%	48
Wisconsin	20.00%	34	21.81%	49	7.70%	43	17.75%	33
Wyoming	10.14%	49	56.82%	1	0.00%	51	20.00%	29
Totals	29.58%		32.39%		11.57%		22.81%	

Appendix E

Hispanic Population, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2006
and Projections, 2000, 2005, 2015, and 2025

	Actual Population (in thousands)					1996 Census Projections (in thousands)			
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2000	2005	2015	2025
Alabama	25	32	76	99	111	37	42	51	63
Alaska	18	25	26	31	37	31	37	47	59
Arizona	688	868	1296	1669	1803	1071	1269	1641	2065
Arkansas	20	27	87	127	138	33	40	54	67
California	7688	9206	10967	12523	13074	10647	12268	16411	21232
Colorado	424	507	736	892	934	594	682	859	1067
Connecticut	213	248	320	371	392	288	332	447	574
Delaware	16	19	37	50	54	25	29	38	48
D.C.	33	37	45	46	48	40	46	62	80
Florida	1574	1955	2683	3414	3643	2390	2845	3828	4944
Georgia	109	150	435	625	696	189	226	279	346
Hawaii	81	100	88	99	100	107	119	149	186
Idaho	53	72	102	127	139	96	121	160	205
Illinois	904	1090	1530	1805	1888	1267	1450	1840	2275
Indiana	99	119	215	278	299	140	162	199	243
Iowa	33	46	82	106	113	54	61	78	96
Kansas	94	114	188	224	236	138	166	220	281
Kentucky	22	27	60	70	83	32	38	47	55
Louisiana	93	105	108	123	123	119	138	179	227
Maine	7	6	9	12	13	8	10	16	20
Maryland	125	172	228	316	336	214	258	345	438
Massachusetts	288	355	429	491	510	437	524	719	934
Michigan	202	233	324	372	393	261	289	355	431
Minnesota	54	73	143	182	195	95	114	150	193
Mississippi	16	19	40	43	46	21	24	30	39
Missouri	62	74	119	149	161	90	105	137	172
Montana	12	16	18	20	21	20	26	30	39
Nebraska	37	50	94	123	130	61	72	89	111
Nevada	124	192	394	564	610	277	350	460	583
New Hampshire	11	13	20	28	30	17	20	28	34
New Jersey	740	896	1117	1307	1365	1044	1196	1513	1861
New Mexico	579	657	765	822	861	736	821	1011	1241
New York	2214	2541	2868	3029	3140	2805	3071	3664	4309
North Carolina	77	100	379	533	597	121	139	169	210
North Dakota	5	4	8	9	9	6	8	11	14
Ohio	140	162	217	254	266	183	206	257	319
Oklahoma	86	104	179	228	245	124	143	193	245
Oregon	113	150	275	353	379	195	237	323	429
Pennsylvania	232	279	394	485	527	334	391	507	639
Rhode Island	46	60	91	113	118	76	92	133	176
South Carolina	31	36	95	135	149	42	50	65	81
South Dakota	5	7	11	14	16	8	9	12	14
Tennessee	33	45	124	173	188	57	67	82	104
Texas	4340	5173	6670	7903	8385	5875	6624	8294	10230
Utah	85	110	202	264	286	138	164	210	265
Vermont	4	4	6	5	7	6	6	10	12
Virginia	160	209	330	439	471	269	322	429	538
Washington	215	284	442	542	580	360	437	605	797
West Virginia	8	9	12	10	14	11	15	19	24
Wisconsin	93	114	193	242	256	136	156	192	236
Wyoming	26	27	32	33	36	35	42	57	74

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1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20006
202-833-0100
<http://www.usefoundation.org>