



OREGON UPDATE

Oregon Minorities A Summary of Changes in Oregon Benchmarks By Race and Ethnicity 1990-1998



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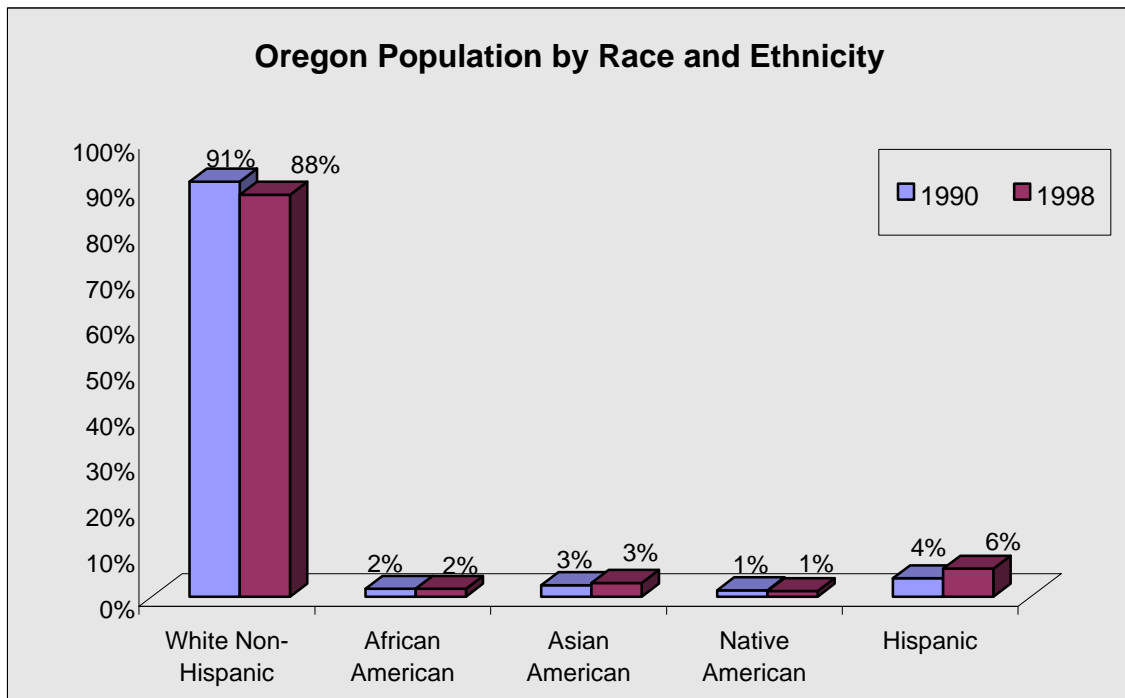
July 2000

Oregon Minorities
A Summary of Changes in Oregon Benchmarks
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The Oregon Progress Board is a ten-member citizen panel created by the Oregon Legislature and chaired by the Governor. Part of its mandate is to track progress toward societal goals represented by a set of indicators called Oregon Benchmarks. These measures provide some indication of Oregon's social, environmental and economic health and vitality. As Oregon's minority population grows, it becomes vital that solid information about how each population group is doing relative to the Benchmarks be available to policy-makers. This report provides a base of information from which comparisons can be made to develop new strategies for moving *all* Oregonians toward achieving the Benchmarks.

Populationⁱ

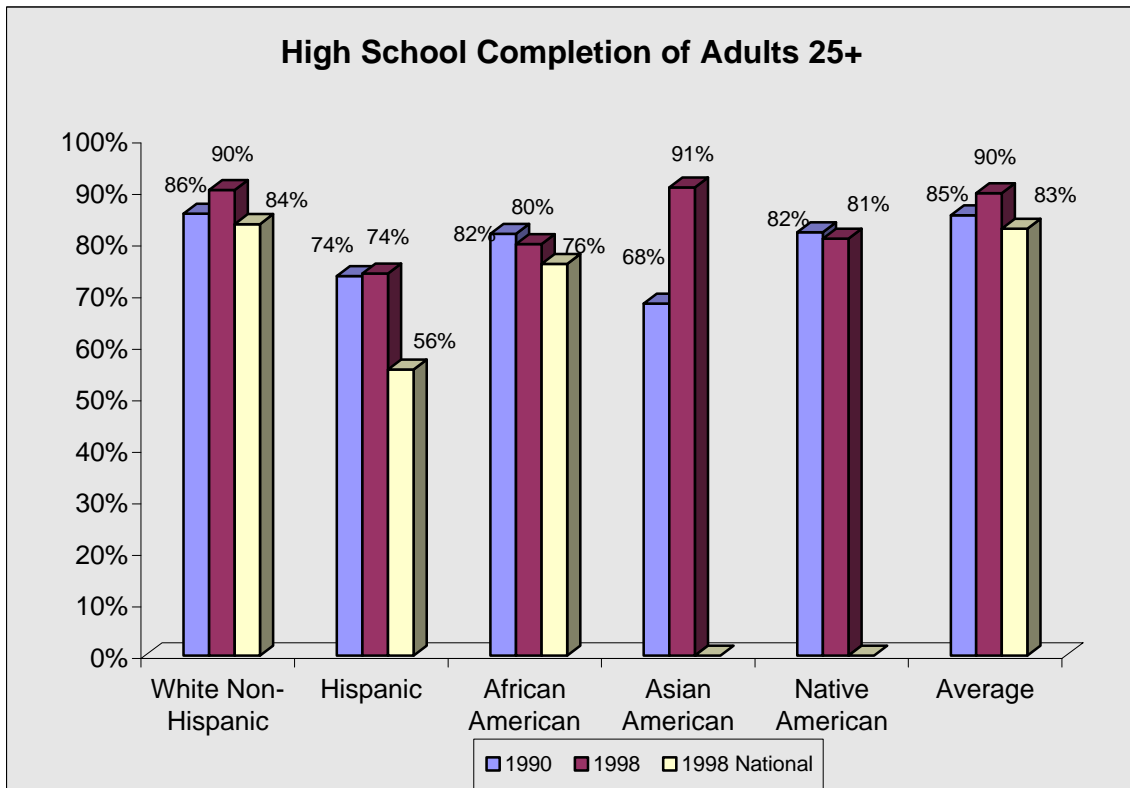
Between 1990 and 1998 Oregon's population has become significantly more multicultural. The fastest growing subset of the state's population is people of Hispanic origin. In 1990 this minority group made up four percent of the state's population, while by 1998 they accounted for more than six percent, approximately 200,000 Hispanics statewide. The proportion of Asian-Americans in the population has also increased slightly over the same period, from two and one-half percent of the state's population to three percent. There has been little or no change in the proportion of the African-American or Native-American population since 1990.



Education

High School Education Levelsⁱⁱ

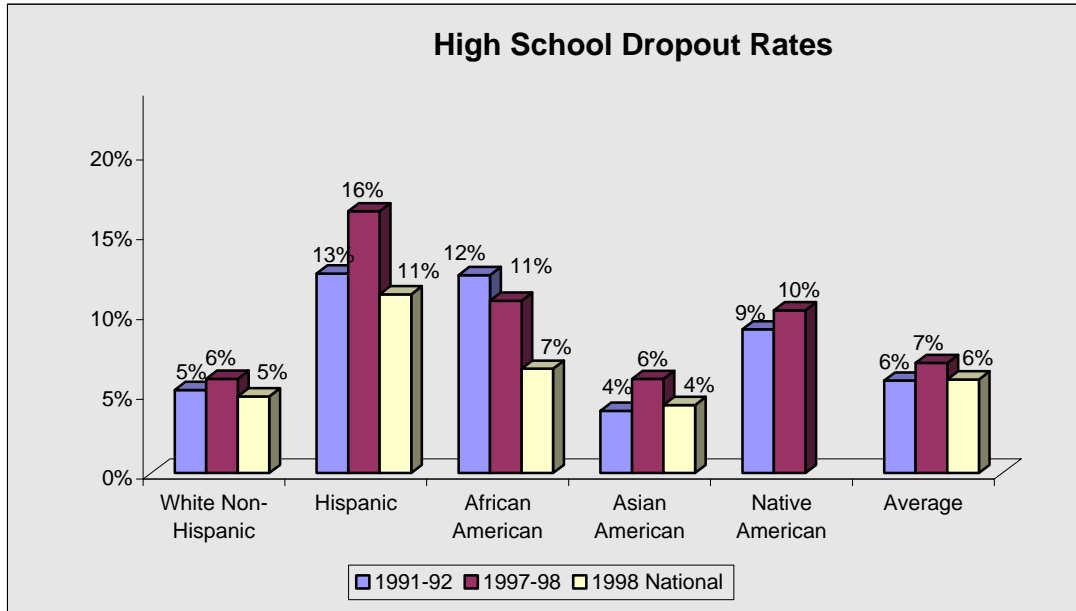
In 1990, 85 percent of all adult Oregonians (aged 25+) held high school diplomas or GEDs. By 1998 that had risen to more than 90 percent. This is substantially higher than the national average of slightly more than 82 percent. While Whites, Asian-Americans and Hispanics have all shown improvement, the proportion of African-Americans and Native-Americans who have completed high school has slipped since 1990. However, all racial and ethnic groups in Oregon compare favorably with similar groups nationwide.



The proportion of White Oregonians with a high school diploma has increased four percent since 1990. The proportion of Asians with a high school diploma appears to have increased the most dramatically since 1990, rising from slightly less than 70 percent to around 90 percent. However, due to the small sample sizes of individuals interviewed in the surveys for these two years, these results should be used cautiously. Between 1990 and 1998 the rate of high school completion declined from 82 percent to 81 percent for Native-Americans, though this result is not statistically significant.

The Oregon Benchmark target for 2000 is 94 percent of all Oregon adults with a high school diploma or GED.

One area of serious concern is the number of youths dropping out of high school before completing their degrees. Many of the Oregon Benchmarks related to economic growth, social health and personal independence are directly related to an individual's educational and employment status. To the extent that students are discontinuing their education, particularly at an early stage, meeting some of the state Benchmarks becomes much more difficult. In this arena Oregon has not fared well in the past eight years.



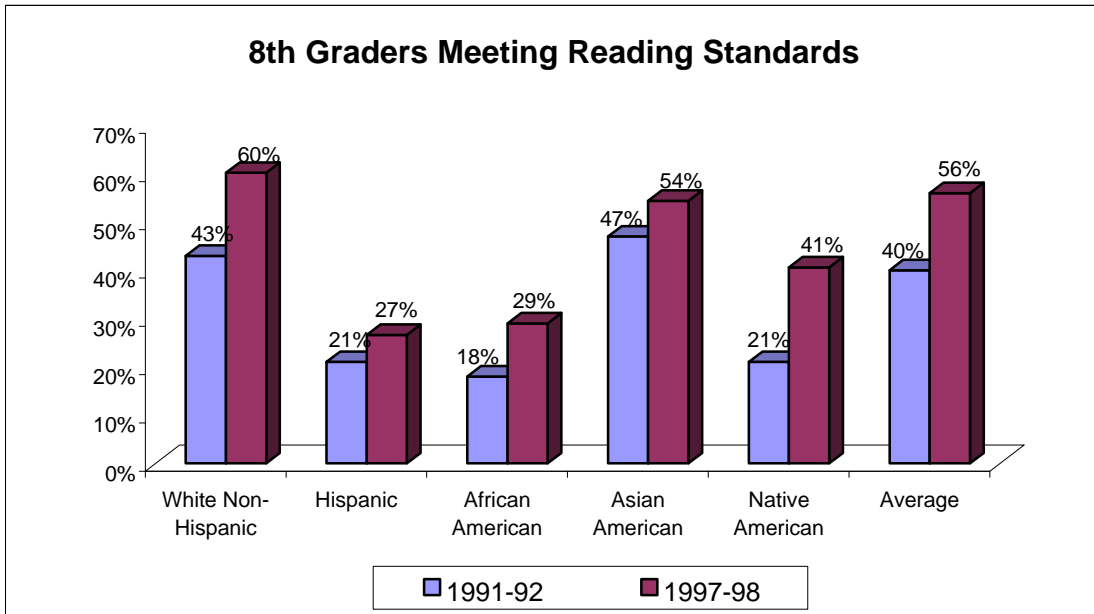
Across all racial and ethnic categories with the exception of African-Americans, high school dropout rates have increased since the 1991-92 school year, though not substantially in most cases. For the 1997-1998 school year Hispanics had a dropout rate which was three percentage points higher than in 1991-92 and Asians had a rate that was two percentage points higher than in 1991-92.

Relative to the rest of the country Oregon is not doing well either. While the state's dropout rate is similar to the national average, every minority group is experiencing higher dropout rates in Oregon than similar groups nationally. Hispanics, in particular, are lagging behind, with dropout rates nearly five percentage points higher than those nationally.

The Oregon Benchmark target for 2000 is a 5.4 percent dropout rate per class per year.

Reading and Math Assessment Scores for 8th Graders^{iv}

Overall the state is improving in the proportion of 8th graders who meet established reading and math standards. In 1991, the first year the standards were in place, only 40 percent of 8th graders met the reading standard. By 1998 that rate had climbed to more than 56 percent, while the improvement in math scores was slightly less dramatic, from 40 percent in 1991 to 52 percent in 1998.

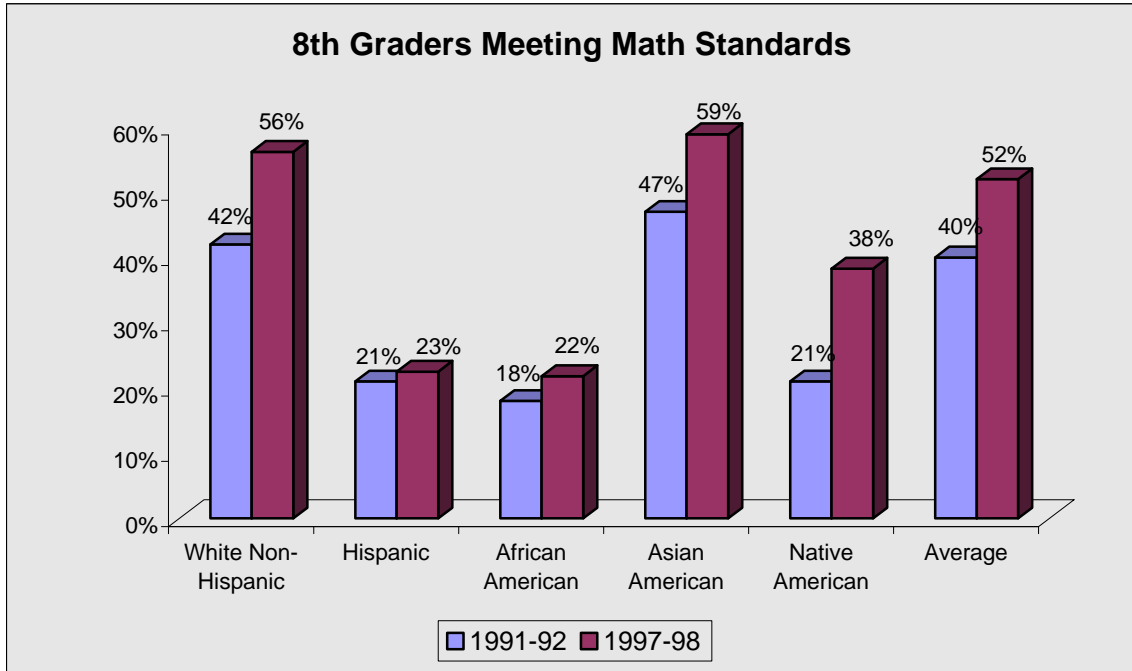


All racial and ethnic groups showed strong improvements in reading standards, with the proportion of Native-Americans meeting the state standard jumping twenty percentage points, from only 21 percent to 41 percent. Hispanics still lag substantially behind the state average, but continue to improve.

The Oregon Benchmark target for 2000 is 63 percent of all eighth graders will meet the reading standard.

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As with reading scores, all racial and ethnic groups improved in the area of math standards from 1991 to 1998, though the increases were less dramatic. Hispanics and African-Americans are still the least likely to meet the math standards, with only 23 and 22 percent respectively meeting the requirements; while Asians and Whites are the most likely to meet the standards.

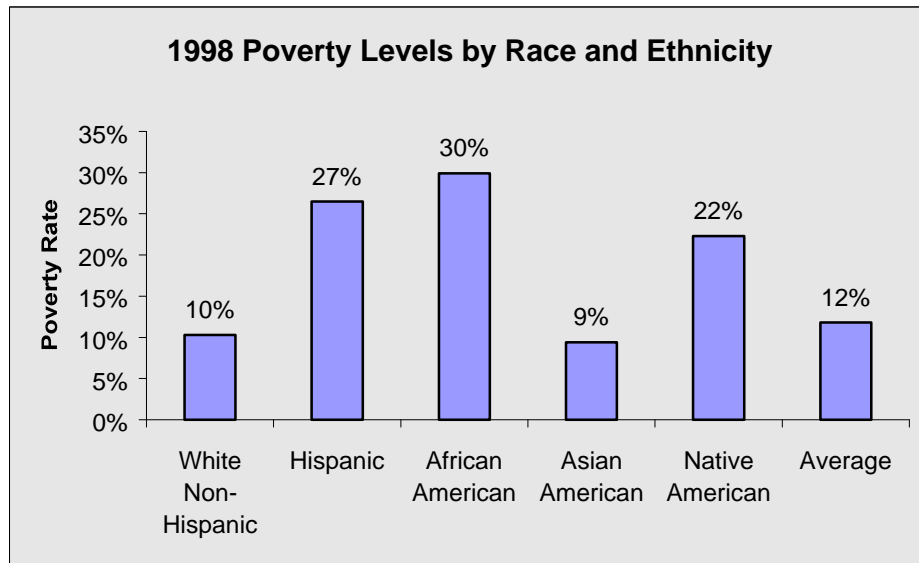


While the results regarding reading and math scores are encouraging, it should be noted that this improvement has not been continual. From 1991 to 1996 the proportion of 8th graders who met the reading and math standards grew by thirteen and nine percent, respectively. In 1997 and 1998 rates remained relatively constant.

The Oregon Benchmark target for 2000 is 59 percent of all eighth graders will meet the reading standard.

Poverty^v

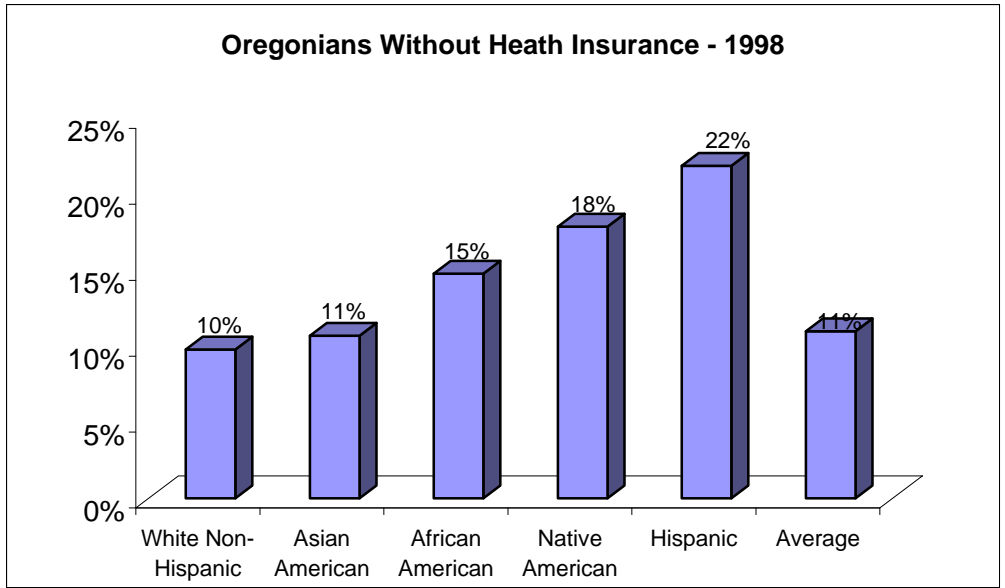
Poverty in Oregon varies dramatically by race and ethnicity. Almost one African-American in three (30 percent) was in poverty in 1998, while 27 percent of Hispanics and 22 percent of Native-Americans were below the federal poverty level. On a more positive note, only nine percent of Asian-Americans and ten percent of Whites were in poverty in 1998.



The Oregon Benchmark target for 2000 is that no more than 11 percent of all Oregonians will be in poverty.

Health Insurance^{vi}

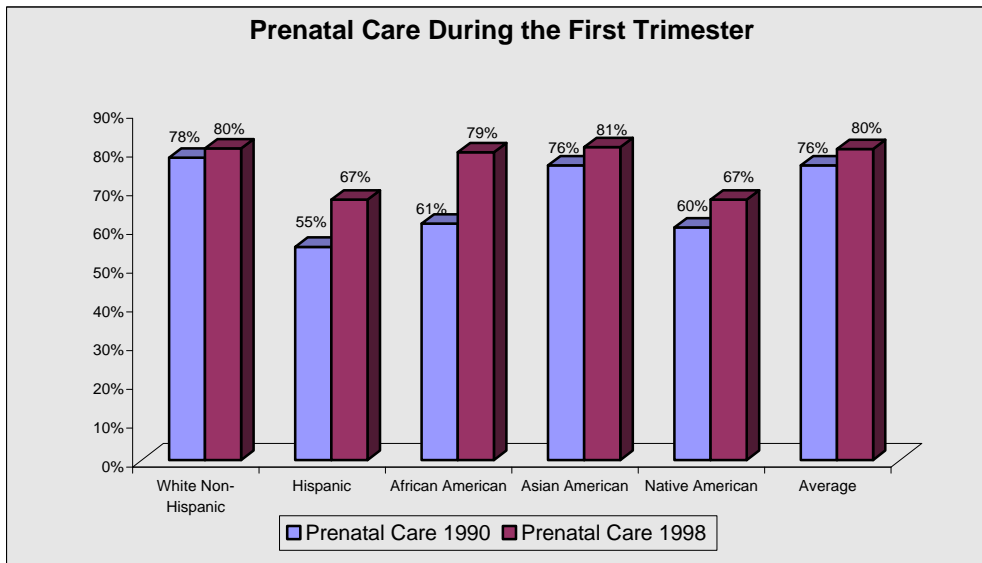
A strong economy and innovative public policies have enabled the state to make continual progress in decreasing the proportion of the state's residents who are without health insurance. In 1990, 15 percent of all Oregonians were uninsured. By 1998, this had been reduced to 11 percent. African-Americans, Native-Americans and Hispanics were uninsured at rates significantly higher than the state average, 15 percent, 18 percent and 22 percent respectively. Whites and Asian-Americans were at or near the state average.



The Oregon Benchmark target for health insurance coverage is that no more than nine percent of Oregonians are uninsured in the year 2000.

Prenatal Care^{vii}

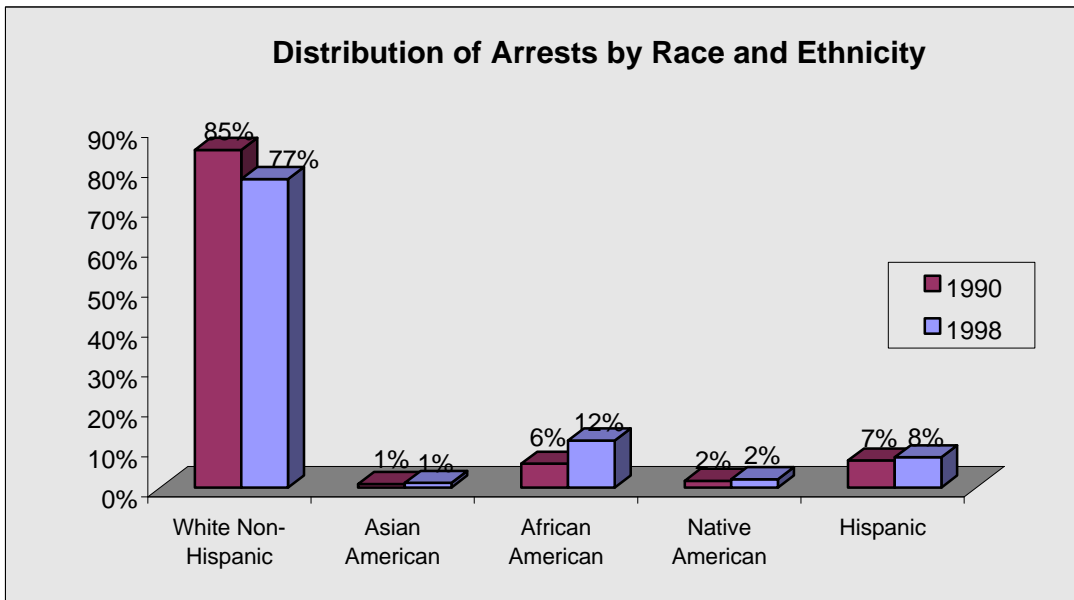
Statewide, the percentage of babies born to mothers who have received early care increased modestly, from 76 percent to 80 percent between 1990 and 1998. The percentage of African-American babies born to mothers who had received first trimester care, leapt from 61 percent to 79 percent. And the proportion of Hispanic children born to mothers who received early care rose considerably from 55 percent to 67 percent. All racial and ethnic groups saw increases in prenatal care.



The Oregon Benchmark target for 2000 is that 90 percent of all pregnant women will receive early prenatal care.

Arrests^{viii}

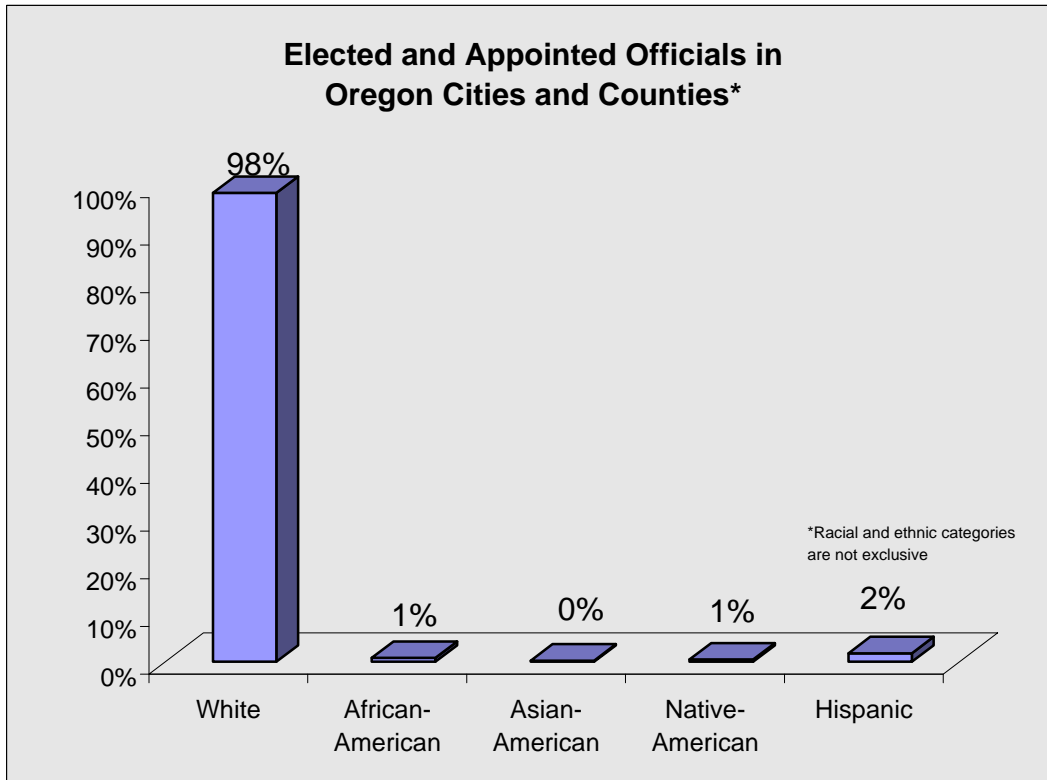
The distribution of arrests by racial and ethnic categories has changed somewhat since 1990. As a portion of all arrests, Whites decreased significantly, from 85 percent of all arrests to only 77 percent, while African-Americans increased substantially from six to twelve percent of arrests. The distribution of arrests across all other racial and ethnic groups remained relatively constant.



The Oregon Benchmarks do not contain a target for distribution of arrests.

Local Elected and Appointed Officials^{ix}

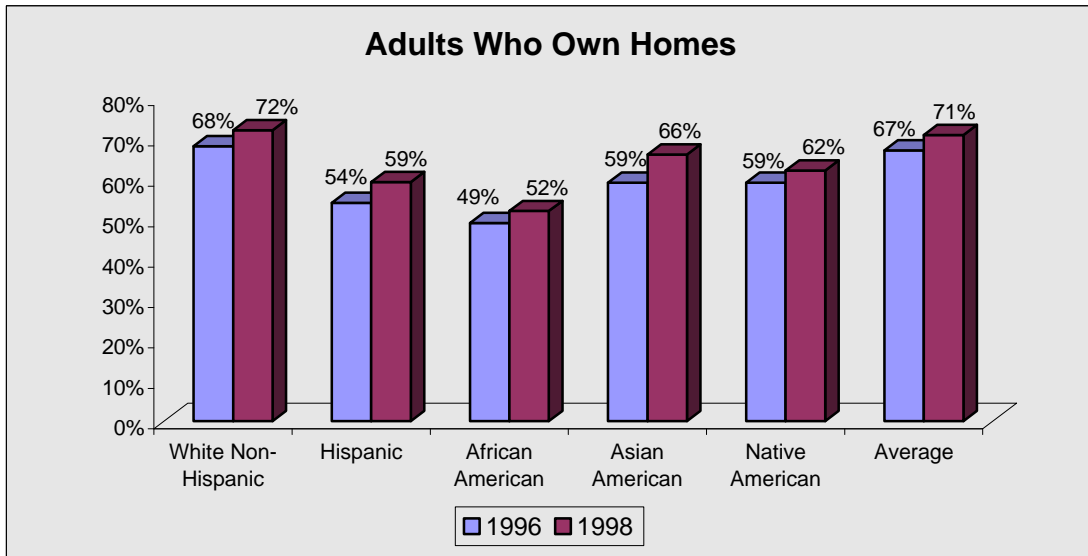
While not an official Oregon Benchmark, the Board considers this measure an important indicator of civic engagement by all sectors of society. At the city and county level, Whites make up a far larger proportion of elected and appointed officials than they represent in the state overall, accounting for 98 percent of all local-level officials.



The Oregon Benchmarks do not contain a target for distribution of local elected officials by racial and ethnic origin.

Home Ownership^x

Home ownership by adults in the state continues to increase. Compared with 1996, the most comparable data available, home ownership was up four percentage points in 1998. Whites were slightly more likely than the state average, 72 percent versus 71 percent, to own their own homes, while all other groups experienced increases in home ownership. In 1996, only 54 percent of Hispanic adults owned their homes, whereas in 1998, 59 percent were homeowners. The rate for African-Americans increased from 49 percent to 52 percent over the same time period.



The Oregon Benchmark target for 2000 is that 68% of all Oregonians will own their own homes.

Acknowledgements

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US Census Bureau
US Department of Education
All agencies contributing to the biennial Oregon Population Survey

Endnotes

ⁱ 1990 population data come from the 1990 Decennial Census conducted by the US Census Bureau. 1998 population estimates by race come from the US Census Bureau release September 15, 1999. Note: People of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

ⁱⁱ 1990 data compiled from the 1990 Oregon Population Survey. 1998 Oregon data come from the 1998 Oregon Population Survey. 1998 US Data come from the March 1998 Supplement to the US Current Population Survey conducted by the US Bureau of the Census.

ⁱⁱⁱ US Data Compiled by the US Bureau of the Census. Oregon data provided by the Oregon Department of Education. URL: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/stats>. Figures shown represent 4-year synthetic dropout rates.

^{iv} Oregon Department of Education, Assessment Initiative.

^v 1998 Oregon Population Survey.

^{vi} 1990 and 1998 Oregon Population Surveys.

^{vii} Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Division, Center for Health Statistics.

^{viii} Oregon State Police, Law Enforcement Data System.

^{ix} Oregon Progress Board, 1999 Survey of Elected Officials.

^x 1996 and 1998 Oregon Population Surveys.