Visualizing U.S. Diversity: 2000 to 2010

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Introduction

This extended abstract provides insights to the analyses being developed to examine diversity in the United States in 2010, as well as changes in diversity between 2000 and 2010, at the regional, state, and county levels.[1] The analyses focus on factors that are driving diversity by exploring the distributional change of race and ethnic groups at different geographic levels.

The diversity index used for this research is based on the Simpson index, which has been used to measure the racial and ethnic diversity of a population.[2] The diversity index measures the probability that two randomly selected people will be of a different race or ethnicity. It is determined by taking the proportion of each of the race and ethnic groups in a population and calculating the chance that any two people are from a different race or ethnic group. For example, the diversity index score presents the probability that one person is Hispanic and another person is non-Hispanic or that one person is non-Hispanic White alone and another person is non-Hispanic Black alone. A diversity score of 33.3 percent means that there is a one-in-three chance that two randomly selected people will be of a different race or ethnicity from each other. A diversity score of 75.0 percent means that there is a three-in-four chance that two

[1] This poster discusses data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, but not for Puerto Rico.
[2] Edward H. Simpson, "Measurement of Diversity," *Nature*, Vol. 163, 1949, p. 688.

randomly selected people will be of a different race or ethnicity. The higher the diversity index score, the higher the diversity in a given geographic area.

The following race and ethnic groups are used in the diversity index.[3]

- Non-Hispanic White alone
- Non-Hispanic Black alone
- Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native alone
- Non-Hispanic Asian alone
- Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
- Non-Hispanic Some Other Race alone
- Non-Hispanic Two or More Races
- Hispanic

Geographic Distribution of Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the United States

The United States experienced a considerable increase in diversity over the past decade. In 2000, the national diversity score was 49.0 percent, which increased by nearly 6 percentage points to 54.9 percent in 2010. A diversity score of 54.9 percent means that there is more than a one-in-two chance that two randomly selected individuals in the United States will have a different race and/or ethnicity from each other. Therefore, in the United States in 2010, there were higher odds that two randomly selected people would be of a *different* race and/or ethnicity than they would be of the *same* race or ethnicity.

[3] The terms "Black or African American" and "Black" are used interchangeably in this poster.

Additional analyses at the regional, state, and county levels will be presented and described in the research poster, via the use of state and county level maps, graphics, and tables. Listed below are some of the main highlights from the analysis.

- The South continued to be the most diverse region in the country.
- Every state except New Mexico experienced an increase in diversity over the decade.
- The ten states with the greatest growth in diversity were distributed throughout the country.
- Diversity increased by at least 7 percentage points for the ten states with the largest increases in diversity over the decade.
- Hispanics were the primary drivers of diversity in four of the ten states with the greatest growth in diversity.
- Declines in the proportion of the non-Hispanic White alone population and increases in the proportion of the minority population were the drivers of diversity in the 10 states with the largest increases in diversity.