

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

August 2017

Disparities among Racial/Ethnic Groups in Nevada

This report discusses disparities among major racial/ethnic groups in Nevada on five main subjects: income, poverty, home ownership, health-insurance coverage, and educational attainment. The report focuses on differences between Hispanics of any race and five major non-Hispanic racial groups: Asians, African Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders,¹ and Whites.

Most data come from the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011-2015 5-year estimates published by the U.S. Census Bureau. Although the 1-year ACS estimates are more current, the 5-year estimates are more reliable and precise because they describe the averages of data collected during a 5-year period. The 1-year estimates correspond only to data collected during a calendar year and do not cover geographic areas with fewer than 65,000 residents. Additionally, unlike the 2015 5-year estimates, 1-year estimates are not available for the non-Hispanic groups of American Indians and Alaska Natives and Pacific Islanders.

For the most part, 1-year 2015 and 5-year 2011-2015 ACS estimates do not differ dramatically. Unemployment rates, however, are a notable exception. The 5-year estimates for unemployment rates in Nevada exceed the 1-year

estimates. Given that Nevada's economy has been recovering from the Great Recession, this is not surprising. These differences, nonetheless, extend to all racial/ethnic groups alike and do not underestimate racial/ethnic disparities.

Other important data sources include the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center, Pew Research Center, Nevada Department of Education and Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

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¹The group Pacific Islanders includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders.

American Indians and Alaska Natives

The U.S. Census Bureau defines an American Indian or Alaska Native as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North, Central, and South America, who maintains tribal affiliation or attachment to his/her original community.

American Indians and Alaska Natives represent the smallest racial/ethnic minority in Nevada and the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 24,538 single-race, non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives resided in Nevada in 2011-2015.² They made up 0.9 percent of all Nevadans.³

The proportion of American Indian and Alaska Native children ages 17 and younger to the child population (0.8 percent) was smaller compared with the proportion of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the adult population (0.9 percent). Despite having the highest live birth rate among all major racial/ethnic groups, the number of single-race, non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native children declined by 9.5 percent from 2000 to 2015.⁴ Moreover, the number of multi-racial American Indians and Alaska Natives (all ages) increased by 12.9 percent from 2006-2010 to 2011-2015. In particular, the population of Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives grew 48.0 percent, while the number of people with both Black and American Indian and Alaska Native heritage increased 25.9 percent in the same period.

²Unless otherwise noted, data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year 2011-2015 estimates.

³Native Americans, single-race or in combination, totaled 55,498 and represented 2.0 percent of the total Nevadan population in 2011-2015. This report, however, focuses only on single-race non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives.

⁴The U.S. Census Bureau reported 98 live births per 1,000 American Indian and Alaska Native women ages 15 to 50 in 2011-2015. The respective rates for non-Hispanic Whites, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics/Latinos, Blacks, and Whites were 85, 60, 55, and 47 live births per 1000 women.

The majority of American Indians and Alaska Natives—62.4 percent—resided in Clark County (40.8 percent) and Washoe County (21.5 percent) in 2011-2015.⁵ Their share of their total county population, however, was small, 0.6 and 1.6 percent, respectively. Among the counties, the share of American Indians and Alaska Natives to total county population was the highest in Mineral County, at over 20 percent. Mineral County is home to most of the residents of the Walker River Indian Reservation.

Nearly one-third (9,281) of the single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives lived in 28 recognized Nevadan tribal areas in 2011-2015. The Duck Valley Reservation, on the border of Nevada and Idaho, housed 15.2 percent of the single-race Native American tribal population.

In 2011-2015, the median household income of American Indian and Alaska Natives was \$41,280. Compared to Blacks' household median income, the rate was about 10 percent higher, but it was 30 percent lower than White's.

About one-third of American Indian and Alaska Native children ages 17 and under lived in poverty in 2011-2015, which was lower than the 37.5 percent rate for Blacks but significantly higher than the 13.2 percent rate for Whites.

American Indians and Alaska Natives living in reservation lands are more likely to struggle economically. On average, the median household income for tribal populations was \$32,779 in 2011-2015.⁶ Average unemployment rates among tribal populations exceeded 26.0 percent in 2011-2015, considerably higher than the rate for all American Indians and Alaska Natives in Nevada (18.1 percent). The average poverty

⁵County data include either alone or in combination with Hispanic.

⁶Calculations based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Tribal Affairs Program, My Tribal Area tool, online at <https://www.census.gov/tribal>, as of 7/11/17.

rate for tribal families with children age 17 and under was 34.6 percent. Families with only a mother present represented the most vulnerable subgroup, as nearly half (46.5 percent) fell in poverty. In contrast, only 14.7 percent of married families with children lived in poverty.

Approximately 51 percent (50.7) of American Indians and Alaska Natives rented their homes in 2011-2015. Nearly half (46.1 percent) of rented households reported a high housing-cost burden.⁷ In contrast, only 17.5 percent of householders who owned their homes had housing costs that exceeded 30.0 percent of their incomes in 2011-2015.

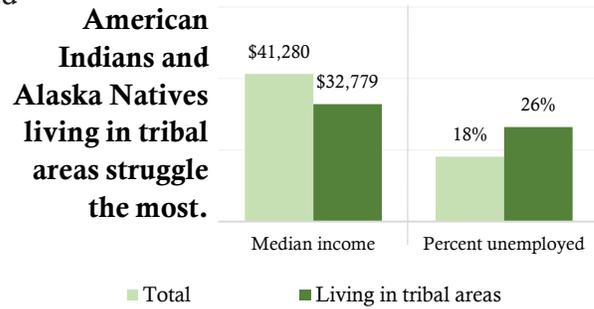
Along with Hispanics of any race, American Indians and Alaska Natives in Nevada were the most likely among other races/ethnicities to lack health insurance. In particular, about 28.0 percent of adults ages 18 and older were uninsured during 2011-2015. Nearly 18.0 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native children were uninsured.

American Indians and Alaska Natives lagged in educational attainment compared to other racial/ethnic groups. That is, 11.0 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native adults ages 25 and older held a bachelor's degree, and less than 15.0 percent completed high school in 2011-2015.

Among racial/ethnic groups, American Indian and Alaska Native children had one of the lowest high school graduation rates in 2015-2016—64.7 percent. Although the percentage was higher compared to previous years, it still lagged behind the non-Hispanic white rate of 79.9 percent.

These low graduation rates reflect the challenges faced by American Indian and Alaska Native youth. Among other factors, pro-American Indian and Alaska Native organizations argue that standardized curriculums generally set aside tribal cultures, linguistic needs, and religious beliefs, failing to, at the very least, motivate

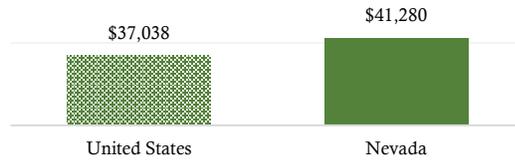
young students.¹ American Indian and Alaska Native communities, as a result, ask to be granted some control over education decisions made at federal, state, and local levels. The National Indian Education Association, alongside other organizations, advocates for a tribal-led system in which tribal governments and communities exert stronger control of educational decisions and the promotion of a culturally specific education.



⁷Housing-cost burden refers to households paying 30 percent or more of their income on housing-related expenses. These percentages reflect owned and rented households together.

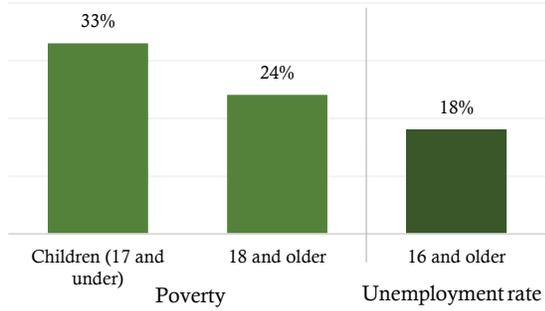
Median household income

U.S. dollars



Poverty and unemployment

Percent of population



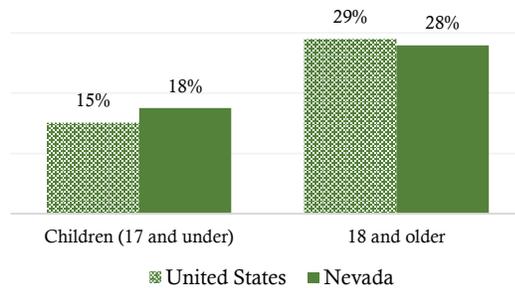
Housing tenure

Percent of households



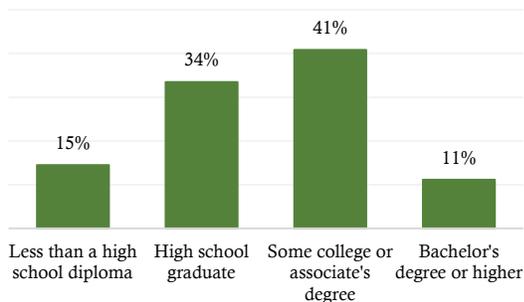
Share of population without health insurance

Percent of children and adults



Educational attainment

Percent of adults 25 years and older



Asians, and Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders

Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders (Asians and Pacific Islanders) accounted for 8.2 percent of Nevada's population in 2015. As a group, they accounted for 6.6 percent of the child population and had the fastest growth rate of the racial/ethnic groups.⁸ From 2000 to 2015, the population of Asian and Pacific Islander children age 17 and younger doubled in size, while the total Nevada child population grew by about 30.0 percent.

Asians represented 92.5 percent of the Asian and Pacific Islander group in 2011-2015. It was the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group between 2000 and 2015, with an average growth rate of 5.0 percent. Filipinos represented the largest share of the Asian population, accounting for 51.1 percent.

Although Asians and Pacific Islanders are commonly referred to as a single racial group, the two groups differ in several ways. As of 2011-2015, more than three-quarters of all Asian adults 18 years and older in Nevada were foreign-born. Of these, nearly 66.0 percent became naturalized U.S. citizens. Their children, however, were generally native to the United States: 83.7 percent of Asian children were U.S. citizens by birth. In contrast, most of Nevada's population of Pacific Islanders were U.S.-born citizens: 89.4 and 98.8 percent of adults and children, respectively.

Pacific Islanders tend to be younger than Asians, with median ages of 32 and 41 years, respectively. They are more likely than Asians

to have less earnings, to have a lower median household income, to be unemployed, to live in poverty, to rent their homes, to lack health insurance, and to have lower educational attainment.

In 2011-2015, the median Asian household incomes for the United States and Nevada were \$74,417 and \$60,669, respectively. The income gap with Pacific Islanders is significant. The median household incomes for Pacific Islanders in the United States and Nevada were \$53,692 and \$45,150, respectively.

Only 6.3 percent and 8.0 percent of Asians in the United States and Nevada, respectively, were unemployed during 2011-2015. For Pacific Islanders, unemployment rates reached 11.8 percent and 13.0 percent in the United States and Nevada, respectively.

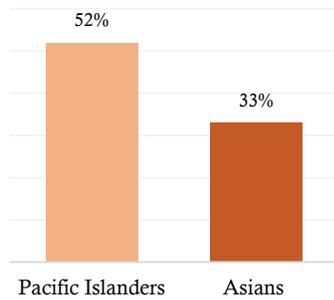
Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders were almost three times more likely than Asians to live in poverty, 26.6 and 9.9 percent, respectively. The disparity increased for children: Pacific Islanders ages 17 and younger were almost four times as likely to be poor compared to Asian children: 34.0 and 9.3 percent, respectively. The child poverty rate for Asians was lower than that for Whites: 9.3 and 13.2 percent, respectively.

Only about one-third of all Pacific Islanders were homeowners, compared with about 60.0 percent of Asians. Low ownership rates and incomes can create economic stress for Pacific Islanders. In fact, 52.0 percent of all Pacific Islander households reported a high housing-cost burden in 2011-2015, compared with 31.5 percent of Asian households.⁹

⁸The U.S. Census Bureau denotes Asians as people with origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent (Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam). Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders (Pacific Islanders altogether) refers to people with origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other non-specified Pacific Islands.

⁹Housing-cost burden refers to households paying 30 percent or more of their income on housing related expenses. These percentages reflect owned and rented households together.

Half of Nevada's Pacific Islanders face housing-cost burden.

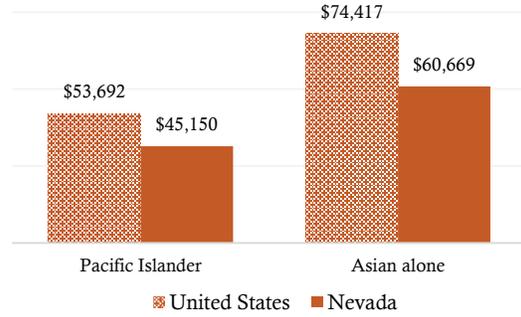


Some of the income disparity may be attributed to differences in educational attainment between the two groups. More than onethird of adult Nevada Asians had a bachelor's degree in 2011-2015, and another 9.4 percent completed postgraduate degrees. By contrast, Pacific Islanders tend to have less education, as only 12.1 percent obtained a college degree and less than 3.0 percent held advanced degrees. Educational attainment also differed between the two groups of children. Pacific Islanders were twice as likely to drop out of high school compared to Asians.ⁱⁱⁱ

Asians and Pacific Islanders differ in regard to the field of first college degree. Asians concentrated heavily in science and engineering and related fields, which tend to have the highest earnings. In particular, 51.9 percent of Asian college graduates completed four-year programs in science and engineering and related fields compared to only 33.1 percent of Pacific Islanders.^{iv} The latter group of graduates concentrated in lower-paying fields such as education, arts, and humanities; 36.5 percent graduated in these fields compared to only 20.6 percent of Asians.

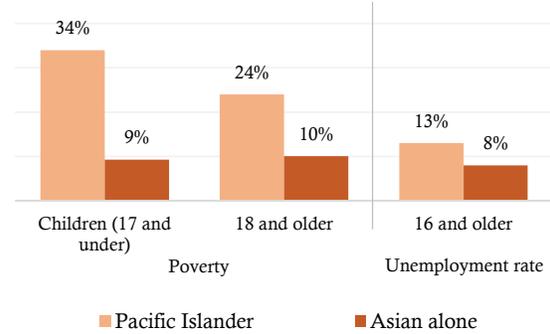
Median household income

U.S. dollars



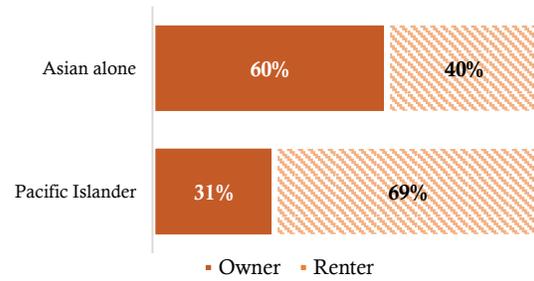
Poverty and unemployment

Percent of population



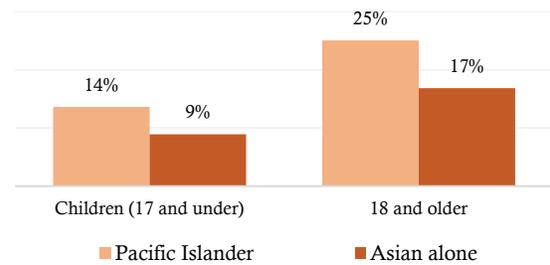
Housing tenure

Percent of households



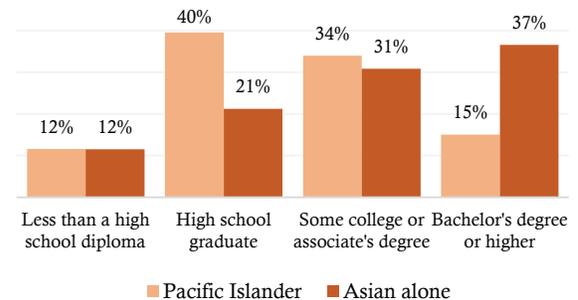
Share of population without health insurance

Percent of children and adults



Educational attainment

Percent of adults 25 years and older



Blacks or African Americans

Blacks or African Americans accounted for 8.4 percent of Nevada's population in 2011-2015, which ranked them as the largest racial minority in the state. Black children represented 8.9 percent of the child population age 17 and younger with an average annual growth rate of 2.5 percent from 2001 to 2015.

Black families resided mostly in urban areas and concentrated in Clark County with a population share of 10.8 percent.

Most Blacks in Nevada were U.S. citizens by birth—91.1 and 98.0 percent of adults and children, respectively. Sixty-three percent of these citizens, however, moved to Nevada from another state.

Blacks' median household income was the lowest among the racial/ethnic groups. In 2011-2015, the median income of a household headed by a Black was \$37,385 per year, about 66.0 percent of a White household's income. Median household income correlates with poverty. Nearly 26.0 percent of all Blacks lived below the poverty level. The percentage increased to 37.5 percent for Black children age 17 and younger.

Nearly 17 percent (16.5) of Blacks age 16 and older were unemployed in 2011-2015, which is significantly higher than the 9.5 percent for non-Hispanic whites.

African American children were the most likely among all racial/ethnic groups to be born to an unmarried mother and continue to live in a single-parent household. Two-thirds of Black children in Nevada were born to an unmarried mother, and more than half of Black families with children were headed by a single-female. About 85 percent of Black families who lived in poverty had only one parent present. Of those, 86.0 percent had no father present. In contrast, 35.0 percent of non-Hispanic white families with

children were composed of only one parent, and among poor families with children, 62.2 percent had only a single parent.

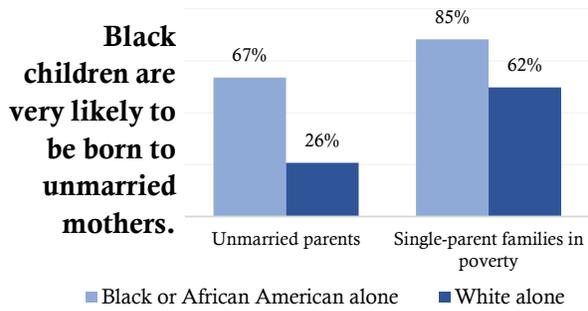
Low incomes and unemployment can lead to financial vulnerability and stress on people's day-to-day expenses. Government aid can help reduce some of that stress. Blacks were the most likely of the racial/ethnic groups to have received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in 2015, although more than one-third of all SNAP participants were non-Hispanic Whites.^v A quarter of all Blacks in Nevada participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) compared to 8.5 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

Blacks had the lowest home ownership rate among the racial/ethnic groups. Less than 31 percent (30.7) of all Blacks in Nevada owned their homes, much lower than the U.S. average rate for Blacks of 42.6 percent and lower than the rate for Nevada Whites of 62.1 percent.

Even though African Americans had the lowest income and the highest poverty rates relative to all major racial/ethnic groups, they were among the least likely to lack health-insurance coverage. Eighteen percent of all Blacks that resided in Nevada in 2011-2015 did not have health insurance. Specifically, adults ages 18 and older experienced a 21.3 percent uninsured rate, a lower percentage compared to Hispanics, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islanders. Further, only 9.6 percent of Black children lacked health insurance in 2011-2015, comparable to Whites' and Asians' coverage rates.

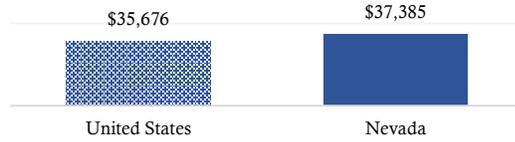
Differences in educational attainment between Blacks and other racial/ethnic groups explain part of the income gap. Only 16.5 percent of Black adults age 25 and older held a bachelor's degree, much lower than the 27.4 percent of

non-Hispanic whites. Blacks were more likely to have only completed a high school degree, an associate's degree, or to have dropped out of a four-year college. Black children under the age of 17 were the most likely compared to other racial/ethnic groups to leave high school before graduation: 5.4 percent of children left high school without a diploma during the 2015-2016 school year.^{vi}



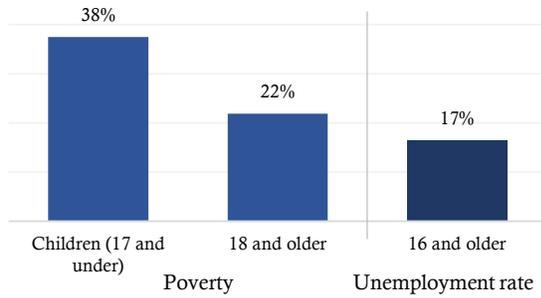
Median household income

U.S. dollars



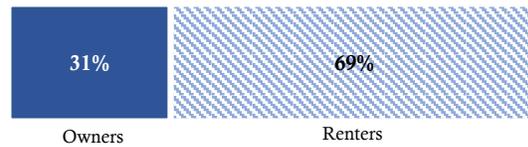
Poverty and unemployment

Percent of population



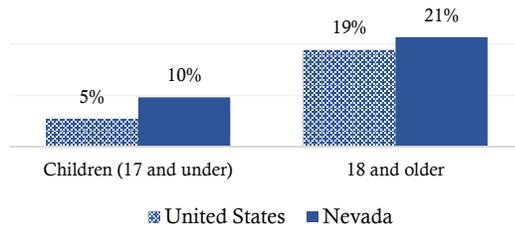
Housing tenure

Percent of households



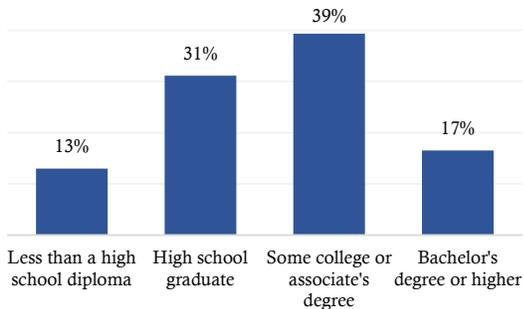
Share of population without health insurance

Percent of children and adults



Educational attainment

Percent of adults 25 years and older



Hispanic and Latinos

Hispanics and Latinos represent, by far, the largest and fastest-growing ethnic group in Nevada.¹⁰ Nearly 28.0 percent of all Nevadans of any race identified as Hispanic or Latino in 2011-2015. The share of Hispanic children in Nevada increased significantly from 28.8 percent in 2000 to 40.7 percent in 2015.

Hispanics are a particularly young group of Nevadans, with a median age of 27 years, lower than the state's median age of 37 years and lower than non-Hispanic Whites' age of 45 years.

Thirty-nine percent of the Hispanic population was foreign in 2011-2015, the highest rate among all racial/ethnic groups. In particular, 56.5 percent of Hispanic adults 18 years and older were born outside of the United States. Of these, less than one-third were naturalized U.S. citizens. The vast majority of Hispanic children, however, were U.S.-born citizens (94.0 percent). Nevertheless, only one-tenth of the remaining 6.0 percent had become U.S. citizens as of 2011-2015.

Compared to non-Hispanic Whites in Nevada, Hispanics are more likely to live in poverty, have a lower median household income, and lower educational attainment.

In 2011-2015, the median household income for Hispanics was \$43,108, about 15.0 percent more than non-Hispanic Blacks' income, but still 25.0 percent less than non-Hispanic Whites' income.

Hispanics, nevertheless, were twice as likely to live in poverty compared to non-Hispanic Whites. About 22 percent of all Hispanics were poor compared to only 10.9 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. Hispanic children 17 years and younger were even more financially vulnerable. About 29 percent (29.4) of Hispanic children

were poor in contrast to only 13.2 percent of White children.

Nearly 18.0 percent of Hispanic children 17 years and younger were not covered by health insurance in 2011-2015, higher than the nationwide average for Latinos of 10.7 percent and higher than all other racial/ethnic groups in Nevada. Although the poverty rates among Blacks exceeded that for Latinos, both Black children and adults reported higher rates of health-insurance coverage, 90.4 and 78.7 percent, respectively, than did Latinos.

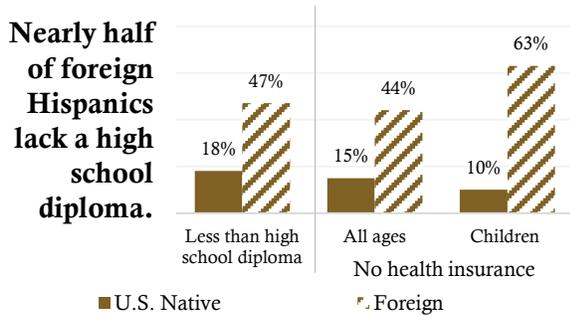
Hispanic adults age 25 years and older reported the lowest educational attainment rates among the racial/ethnic groups in 2011-2015, despite some improvement in 2-year and 4-year college completion rates in the past decade.^{vii} Only 8.6 percent of Hispanics held a bachelor's degree, considerably lower compared to non-Hispanic Whites (27.4 percent). In addition, 38.1 percent of adult Hispanics did not complete high school, and more than one-third of Hispanic children lived in families where the household head lacked a high school diploma.^{viii}

Moreover, nearly one-fifth of Hispanics 5 years of age and over in Nevada reported speaking English not well or not at all. Particularly low educational achievement along with linguistic barriers can seriously limit upward socio-economic mobility and increase the risk of living in poverty. Nativity and legal immigration status play a significant role in educational attainment and health-insurance coverage among Hispanics.

Native-born citizens of Hispanic origin were more likely to hold a high school diploma, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree, compared to foreign-born Hispanics. In particular, a striking 47.3 percent of foreign-born Latinos 25 years and older had not earned a high school degree in 2011-2015, higher than the 17.5

¹⁰This report uses Latino and Hispanic interchangeably.

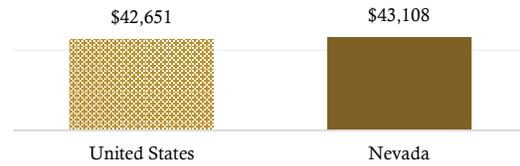
percent for U.S. native Hispanics. Moreover, some 13.0 percent of native Hispanics completed a four-year college degree compared to only 6.9 percent of foreign-born Hispanics.^{ix} These low rates partly reflect a relatively young Hispanic population. They also mirror challenges young Latinos face. For instance, many Latinos do not further their education after high school given the need to provide support for their families. Instead, they enter the job market or the military immediately after completing high school.^x



Nativity and immigration status can also affect health-insurance coverage rates among Hispanics, considering many adults are unauthorized immigrants, and federal and state regulations generally require specific status to qualify for public benefits.^{xi} More than four in ten Hispanic immigrants residing in Nevada lacked any type of health insurance.^{xii} This is a much higher rate compared to other foreign-born residents of any race/ethnicity. Coverage was higher for Hispanic children 17 years and younger—63.3 percent. In contrast, only 15.1 percent and 10.2 percent of native Hispanic adults and children, respectively, were uninsured.

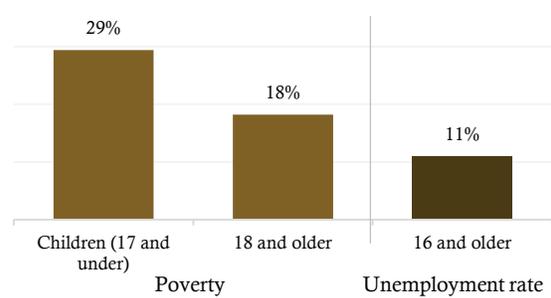
Median household income

U.S. dollars



Poverty and unemployment

Percent of population



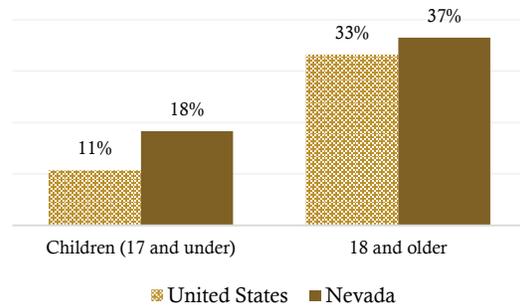
Housing tenure

Percent of households



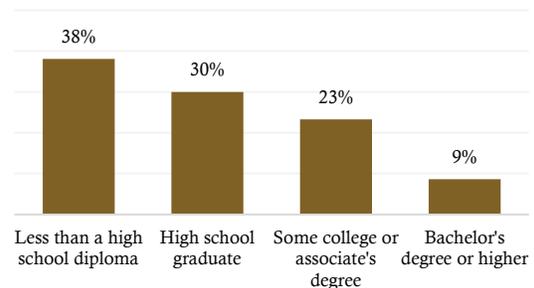
Share of population without health insurance

Percent of children and adults



Educational attainment

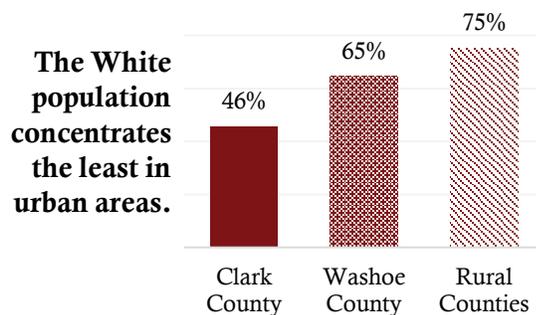
Percent of adults 25 years and older



Non-Hispanic Whites

Nevada ranked fourth among U.S. continental states with the least concentration of non-Hispanic Whites in 2011-2015.¹¹ Fifty-two percent of Nevada's population identified themselves as single-race, non-Hispanic Whites in that year. In perspective, this share reached 62.3 percent in the United States. Considering Whites with a Hispanic or Latino origin also, Whites and Hispanic Whites, together, represent 69.0 percent of the state's population.

The median age of whites was 47 years. Whites concentrated the least in urban areas. For instance, only 45.8 percent of Clark County's population identified as non-Hispanic Whites. In contrast, three of every four persons in rural areas fell within this racial group.



Ninety-five percent of Whites in Nevada were U.S. citizens by birth. Most of these, however, migrated from different states. Seven of every ten Whites were born in another state. Low housing costs, favorable tax policies, and an expanding economy attracted many Whites to Nevada.

The Great Recession, however, led to a steady decline—0.8 percent from 2006-2010 to 2011-2015—in Nevada's White population, while the state's total population increased 6.3 percent.

Moreover, the White population share decreased from 55.7 percent in 2006-2010 to 52.0 in 2011-2015.

Nevada's rapid racial/ethnic diversification and low female birth rates for Whites resulted in a decline in the proportion of White children.¹² In 2015, only 36.8 percent of all children were White, down from 54.2 percent in 2000. Hispanics of any race represented the largest group with a share of 40.7 percent in 2011-2015.

Along with Asians, Whites were the least likely to be unemployed—9.5 percent reported not having a job in 2011-2015. Lower unemployment rates and higher educational achievement led to the two groups' relatively higher median annual earnings than for most of the racial/ethnic groups. In 2011-2015, the median White household income was \$57,074, slightly lower than the national median for Whites (\$59,542), but higher compared to that of Blacks (\$37,385), Pacific Islanders (\$45,150), American Indians and Alaska Natives (\$41,280), and Hispanics or Latinos (\$43,108) in Nevada.

Almost 7 percent of all Nevada White families lived in poverty in 2011-2015. They were three times less likely compared to Hispanic and Black families to be poor. About one-tenth (11.4 percent) of White families with children 17 and younger were poor.

Whites have the highest homeownership rates among all racial/ethnic groups. Sixty-two percent of White Nevada households owned their homes, although lower than the national average of 71.5 percent. Higher household incomes and homeownership rates provide better opportunities for people to accumulate wealth and succeed financially. Rental costs

¹¹This section uses non-Hispanic Whites and Whites interchangeably. California ranked first (38.7 percent), followed by New Mexico (39.2), Texas (43.8 percent), and Nevada (52.0 percent). Maine showed the largest share of non-Hispanic Whites at 93.6 percent.

¹²White females registered the lowest birth rate among all races and ethnicities at 49 per 1,000 females ages 15 to 50 in 2011-2015, lower than the state average of 63.3 per 1,000 women.

generally exceed those related to homeownership costs, allowing owners to save more as housing expenses take up a smaller portion of income.

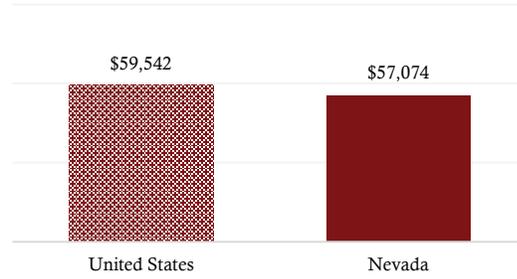
Whites were the least likely to lack health insurance in 2011-2015, both in Nevada and the United States. Only 12.6 percent of all Whites who resided in Nevada were uninsured. Although higher than the U.S. rate of 9.0 percent, the share of uninsured Whites in Nevada was considerably lower compared to the uninsured share among Hispanics (30.2 percent), for instance. White children were also mostly covered by some type of health insurance in 2011-2015—only 9.5 percent of children ages 17 and younger were not insured.

White adults have relatively high educational attainment rates. Only 7.2 percent of Whites 25 years and older lacked a high school diploma in 2011-2015. Close to 28.2 percent held a high diploma or equivalent, 37.2 percent completed an associate's degree or some college, and 27.4 percent obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. Whites were the most likely among the racial/ethnic groups to pursue postgraduate education—10.0 percent held a graduate or professional degree.

Among the racial/ethnic groups, Asian and White children were the most likely to graduate from high school. The adjusted cohort graduation rate for Asians was 87.9 percent and for whites 79.9 percent in 2015-2016. The graduation rate for Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and Blacks was 75.9, 69.7, and 56.5 percent, respectively.^{xiii}

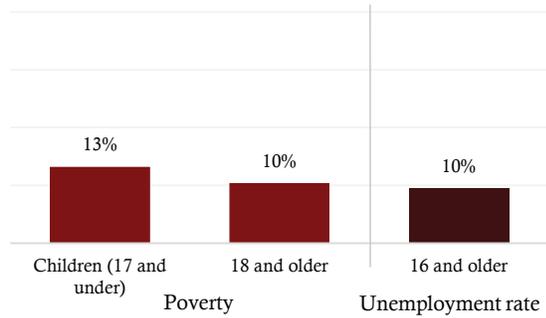
Median household income

U.S. dollars



Poverty and unemployment

Percent of population



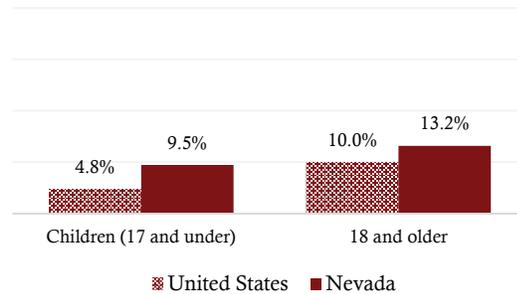
Housing tenure

Percent of households



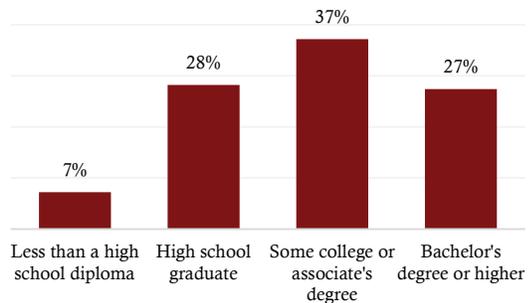
Share of population without health insurance

Percent of children and adults



Educational attainment

Percent of adults 25 years and older



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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas or the Nevada System of Higher Education.

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