

The Changing Face of Indiana

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What does Indiana's population look like and how did it change in the 1990s? To get a definitive answer to that question, we'll have to wait for the results of Census 2000, beginning with the release of redistricting data in the first quarter of 2001. In the interim, a new set of county estimates presents a valuable update on the state's population composition by age, sex, race, and Hispanic Origin, as well as the geographic distribution of these characteristics. The complete set includes July 1st estimates for each county in the nation for each year from 1990 to 1999 by age, sex, race, and Hispanic Origin and was released by the U.S. Census Bureau on August 30th of this year.

Race and Hispanic Origin

Indiana's racial composition changed marginally over the decade, as the nonwhite population share grew from 8.8 percent in 1990 to 9.6 percent in 1999. The black population increased twice as fast as the state's total population, 14.4 percent compared to 7.0 percent over nine years. **Figure 1** shows that Indiana's black population is heavily concentrated in the most urbanized counties. Only seven counties had a higher concentration of black residents than the state as a whole (8.4%). The black population share was less than one percent in the vast majority of Hoosier counties (62 of 92).

Indiana's white population increased by six percent over the nine-year period, while each of the nonwhite race groups grew at least twice as fast. The growth rates of the two remaining groups, American Indian and Asian, have surpassed even the black growth rate. According to the estimates, American Indians increased their numbers by 15 percent and Asians by the prolific rate of 52 percent. Still, the two combined groups accounted for only 1.3 percent of Indiana's total population. In spite of the rapid growth among nonwhite race groups, Indiana's total population gain of almost 388,000 persons between 1990 and 1999 was predominantly white. For every 100 nonwhite residents added since 1990, the state gained over 350 white residents.

Figure 1
1999 Black Population Share



