

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

Overall Population

- Compared to the United States, in 1996, Tennessee had:
 - a lower percentage of Asians/Pacific Islanders
 - a slightly lower percentage of American Indians/Eskimos/Aleuts
 - a higher percentage of blacks
 - a similar percentage of whites
 - a lower percentage of Hispanics.
- Tennesseans were poorer than the average US resident.¹ A higher percentage of Tennesseans (16%) lived below the poverty level than in the US in 1996 (14%), and a higher percentage of Tennessee school-age children (21%) also lived below poverty compared to the US (19%) in 1996.
- Tennesseans were, on average, less well-educated than their US counterparts. In Tennessee, a lower percentage of the population aged 25 and over had a minimum of a high school education (79% versus 82%), and a lower percentage had completed a bachelor's degree or more (19.5% versus 24%, respectively) in 1996.
- The overall increase in Tennessee's population between 1990 and 1996 was 9.1%. The overall increase for the United States between these years was 6.6%.
- Between 1990 and 1996, the percentage increase in each racial/ethnic category (white, black, Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian/Pacific Islander) was higher in Tennessee than the overall percentage increase in each of these groups in the United States.
- The largest population increases, both in Tennessee and the United States, between 1990 and 1996, occurred within the Hispanic and the Asian/Pacific Islander populations. The Asian/Pacific Islander population in Tennessee increased by 49% between 1990 and 1996, compared to a 31% increase for the United States. The Hispanic population in Tennessee increased by 60% between 1990 and 1996, which was more than twice as large an increase as that in the United States Hispanic population in the same period (26%).

Notes: 1990 population data are from the April 1990 census. The 1996 population estimates were still in effect as of June 1998. Population numbers and percentages might not correspond exactly to those currently available on the Census Web site due to periodic changes and continuous updates made by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, **Estimates of the Population of States by Race and Hispanic Origin**, as of December, 1997, and **Tennessee State Health Profile, 1998**, USDHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

¹Poverty is defined, from the U.S. Census, as below 100% of Federal poverty guidelines in 1996.