

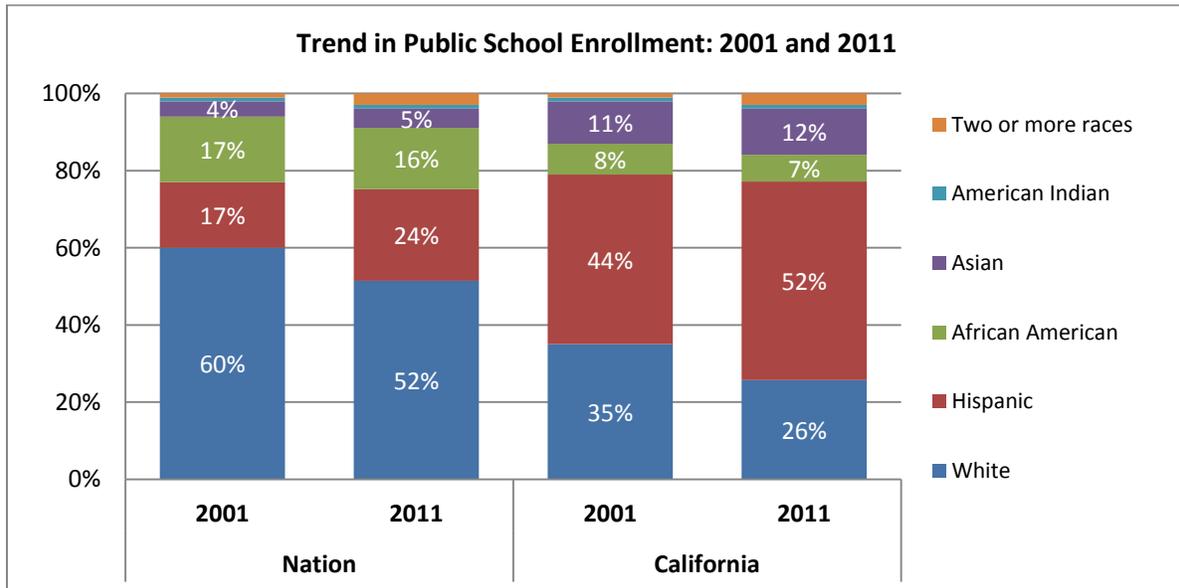


Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Students: California vs. Nation

During the school year 2011-12, 49.5 million students were enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools, according to recently published “*Condition of Education, May 2014*” by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). In the same school year, California enrolled more than 6.2 million students in its K-12 public schools. This accounted for about 13 percent of the total public enrollment in the nation.

In 2011, the racial/ethnic distribution of student enrollment at the national level indicated that more than half (52 percent) identified themselves as White; one-fourth (24 percent) as Hispanic, and 16 percent as African American. Asians accounted for 5 percent, American Indian less than 1 percent and the remaining 3 percent belonged to Two or more races.

By contrast, California’s state racial/ethnic distribution indicated that more than half (52 percent) identified themselves as Hispanic, and less than one-third (26 percent) as White. African American students accounted for 7 percent, Asian 12 percent, American Indian less than 1 percent, and the remaining 2 percent belonged to Two or more races.



Data Sources: Percentage distribution of U.S. Public School Students enrolled in pre K through 12th grade, by Race/Ethnicity: Selected years Fall 2001, 2011, 2013; Condition of Education, NCES; May 2014. California Department of Education’s Data Quest – Student Enrollment by Ethnicity, 2001 and 2011

When student enrollment at the national level was compared between 2001 and 2011, the share of White and African American student enrollment was down (8 percent and 1 percent, respectively). The share went up for Hispanic (7 percent), Asian (1 percent), and Two or more races (2 percent). Similarly, in California during that same time period, student share was down for White (9 percent) and African American (1 percent) and the share was up for Hispanic (8 percent), Asian (1 percent), and Two or more races (2 percent).

Regardless of the widely different racial/ethnic composition of student enrollment at the state and national levels, both student populations followed a similar pattern in the past ten years – the share of White and African American was down while the share of Hispanic, Asian and Two or more races went up. Overall, the student enrollment became ethnically diverse both at national and state levels in the past ten years. However, the ethnic composition of California is more diverse than the nation as a whole.