

Affirmative Action in Education

Why Percent Plans Don't Work Texas, California, and Florida School-Age Demographics

Texas, California, and Florida all have total populations that are steadily becoming less White, and more Hispanic, Black, and Asian. Moreover, in the past decade, the 15-19-year old (potential traditional college-going age) population in these three states has become more racially diverse than even the states' population as a whole. According to the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University, "This trend suggests that maintaining the same proportionate level of access achieved during the race-conscious affirmative action era is not a stable standard." In short, this data dramatically highlights the challenge of keeping up with the transforming populations of these states.

Racial/Ethnic Demographics in Texas, California, and Florida for the 15-19 Year Old Population, 1990 and 2000

[Source: The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University, "Percent Plans in College Admissions: A Comparative Analysis of Three States' Experiences," Table 2 (2003)]

	1990	2000
Texas		
White (%)	51	44
Black (%)	14	13
Hispanic (%)	33	39
Asian (%)	2	3
California		
White (%)	44	34
Black (%)	8	7
Hispanic (%)	35	39
Asian (%)	11	11
Florida		
White (%)	63	55
Black (%)	20	21
Hispanic (%)	15	20
Asian (%)	2	2

March 2003