



PROJECT OVERVIEW

As the 2010 Census data for metro Denver become available, The Piton Foundation is analyzing the data for use by public officials, program providers, and everyday citizens to learn how our metro Denver communities are changing.

As we've done for the past three decennial census data releases, The Piton Foundation is analyzing the data and posting them on our web site. We also are producing a series of census briefs presenting the key findings. The first three briefs analyze census data about population, race, and age.

With this release, we are providing even more census information. We've created a new web tool to allow users to easily find data at the census tract level in metro Denver. Census tracts are small statistical subdivisions of a county averaging 4,000 people. To learn more about a specific census tract, check out our new census mapping tool at www.piton.org/census2010.

Look for e-mail announcements about additional briefs that we're planning as more 2010 Census data are released. Plus, because the decennial census no longer gives us important data on characteristics such as poverty or educational attainment, The Piton Foundation will be developing briefs using other data, including the American Community Survey, to supplement the information in the decennial census.

THE PITON FOUNDATION



REGIONAL FOCUS

As Hispanic Population Grows, Metro Counties Look More Like Denver

Continued growth of the Hispanic population is fueling the overall population increase in metro Denver, according to The Piton Foundation's analyses of the 2010 Census data. The 2010 Census counted 607,694 Hispanics in the seven-county metro area, making up 22% of the total population. The metro area's Hispanic population, which was 427,692 in 2000, grew 42% over the decade, about the same as the national average. The Hispanic population also accounted for almost half (47%) of the metro area's growth from 2000 to 2010.

“

The number of Hispanics living in metro Denver is now larger than the total population of the City and County of Denver.

”

The metro area's child population, in particular, has become much more racially diverse. Among children younger than 18, one-third (221,213) are Hispanic. The number of Hispanic children grew 47% over the decade. In 2000, Hispanic children made up just one-quarter of the population under age 18.

Denver Metro Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990 to 2010

	2010	2000	1990	20-Year Change
Population	2,784,228	2,400,580	1,848,319	935,909
Race/Ethnicity*				
White	66.7%	72.0%	79.7%	-13.0
Hispanic/Latino	21.8%	17.8%	12.2%	9.6
African American	4.9%	4.8%	5.1%	-0.2
Asian	3.7%	2.9%	2.2%	1.5
Native American	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	-0.1
Other/Two or More Races	2.3%	1.9%	0.1%	2.2
Age				
Under 18	24.6%	25.5%	25.6%	
18 and Older	75.4%	74.5%	74.4%	

* The U.S. Census asks two separate questions regarding race and ethnicity. The first asks if the respondent is of Hispanic or Latino origin. People of Hispanic/Latino origin may be of any race. The second asks the respondent their race. Options are white, black/African American, American Indian, Asian and some others. In The Piton Foundation's analyses, the race breakdowns of white, black, Asian and American Indian refer to non-Hispanic members of those groups.

DOWNLOAD THE DATA:

[Metro Denver Counties: Total Population by Race \(2000, 2010, Change\)](#)

[Metro Denver Counties: 18 and Over by Race \(2000, 2010, Change\)](#)

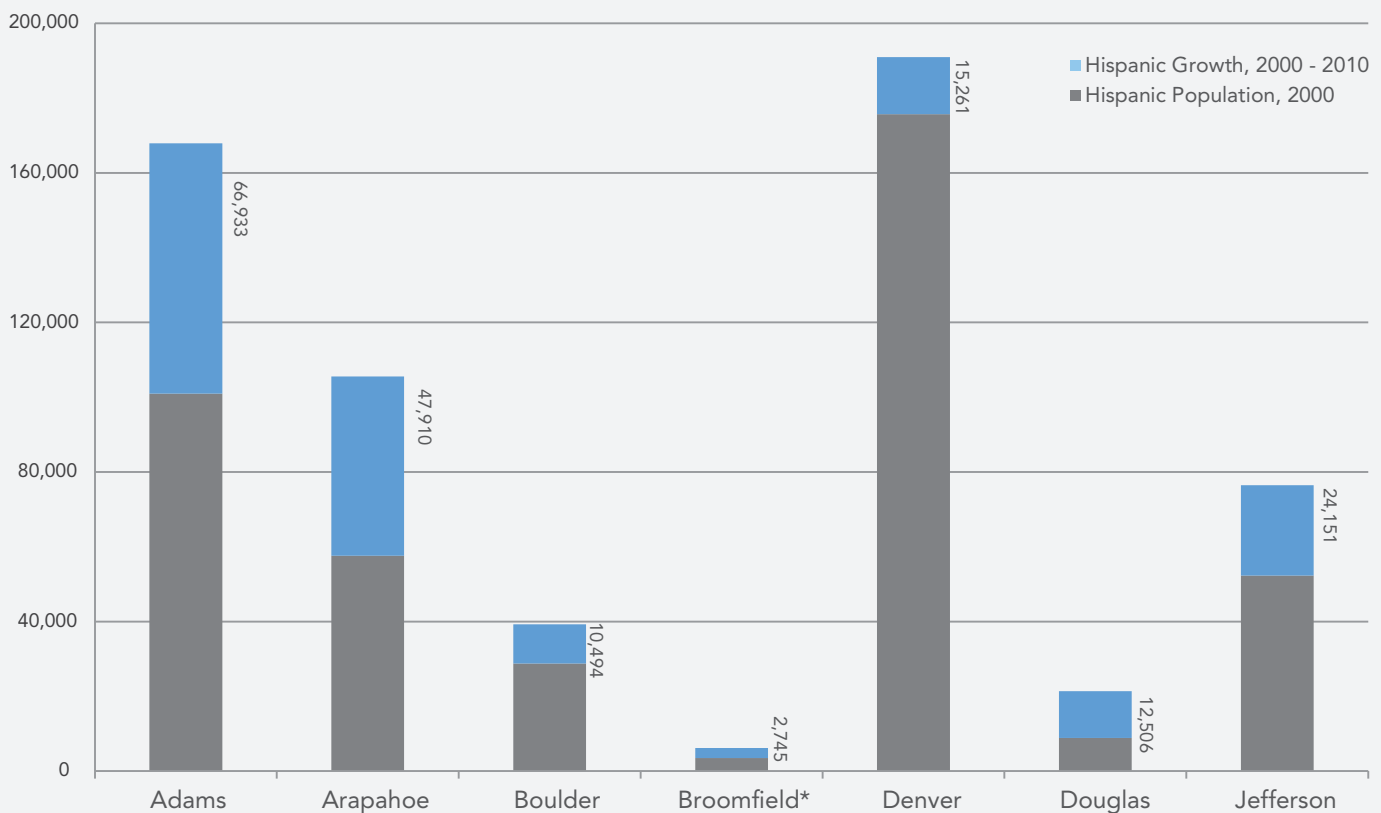
[Metro Denver Counties: Under 18 by Race \(2000, 2010, Change\)](#)

Find more data tables and graphics at piton.org/census2010

Historically, Denver has been the most racially diverse county in the metro region, but that is changing as the suburban counties become more diverse, especially with Hispanics. The share of the metro-area population that is Hispanic grew from 17.8% to 21.8%.

Denver still has the largest number of Hispanics (190,965), but the share living in other metro counties has been growing much faster. Adams County now has the highest proportion of Hispanics, 38% of its population compared to 32% of Denver's population. Whereas Adams County had a large increase over the decade in the percentage of its population that is Hispanic, from 29% to 38%, Denver's percentage didn't change.

Hispanic Growth Changes Profile of Suburban Counties



The gray areas reflect the Hispanic population, by county, in 2000. The blue areas represent the growth of the Hispanic population from 2000 to 2010. As in 2000, Denver still has the largest Hispanic population of all metro counties. But the surrounding counties have been catching up: Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson counties each added more Hispanics in the past decade than Denver.

**Broomfield was not a county in 2000. The 2000 data for Broomfield is composed from parts of Adams, Boulder, Jefferson and Weld counties.*

Other counties where the Hispanic share of the population rose significantly include Arapahoe, where it increased from 11.8% to 18.4%, and Douglas, where the Hispanic population grew from 5.1% to 7.5%.

African Americans make up just 4.9% of the metro area's population. The counties with the largest black populations were Denver and Arapahoe, both with 9.7%. However, Arapahoe saw its proportion of the black population increase from 7.4% to 9.7%, whereas Denver saw a decline from 10.8% to 9.7%, reflecting a trend of black migration from Denver to the inner-ring suburbs.

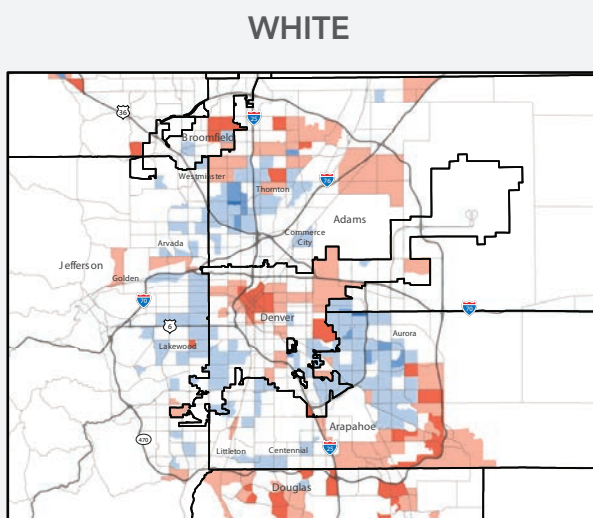
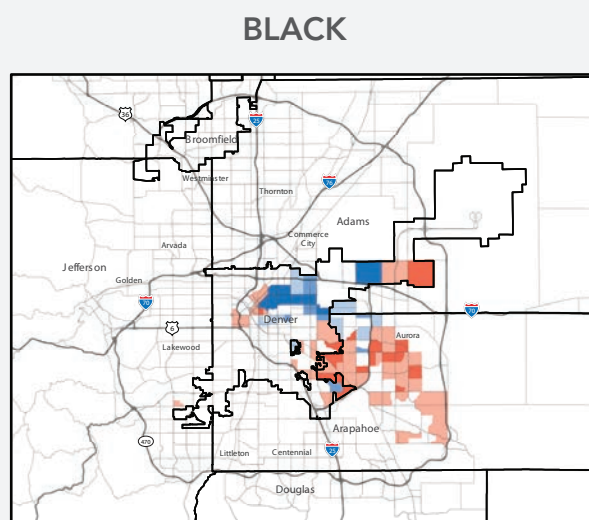
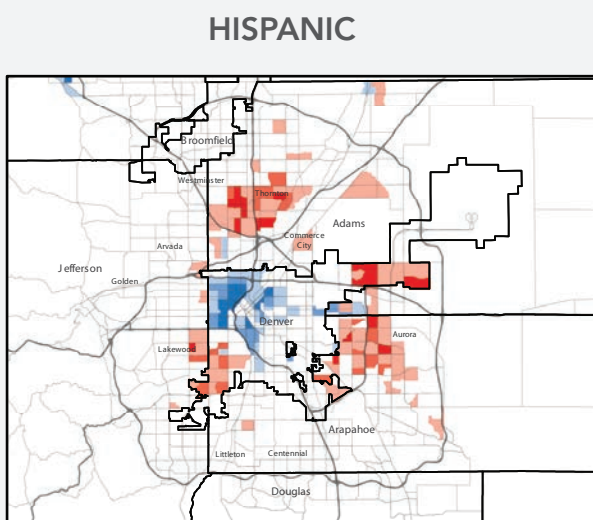
While whites still are the majority in all metro counties, the share of whites decreased metro-wide from 72.0% to 66.7%. All counties except Denver, which experienced a slight increase (51.9% to 52.2%), experienced a decline in the proportion of their population that is white.

Arapahoe and Adams counties saw the biggest declines because their white populations, while continuing to increase, grew much slower than their Hispanic populations. In Jefferson County, however, the white population actually decreased in size over the past decade by 18,941 people.

Growing Racial Diversity Concentrated in Denver's Inner-Ring Suburbs

In Denver, as in other major metropolitan areas, the growth and dispersal of minority populations, especially Hispanics, are concentrated in the inner-ring suburbs. These are the older communities closest to Denver, places like Aurora, Thornton, and Lakewood. Hispanic growth was greatest in the inner suburbs all

around Denver, while black migration was largely to Aurora and other parts of Arapahoe County. In contrast, the white population grew primarily in central Denver and the outer suburbs, like Douglas and Broomfield counties.



INCREASE



DECREASE

These maps show the relative change in population for each of the three largest racial/ethnic groups—white, Hispanic and black—from 2000 to 2010 by census tract. The maps are shaded by standard deviation and normalized by area: White regions represent average change (people per square mile), red regions represent greater-than-average growth and blue regions represent greater-than-average decline.