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## Diversifying Demography of the Mountain West

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## DIVERSIFYING DEMOGRAPHY OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST

Demography Fact Sheet No. 14 | October 2020

Prepared by: Kelliann Beavers, Olivia K. Cheche, Vanessa M. Booth, Saha Salahi, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

### PURPOSE:

Between 2000 and 2019, Mountain West states and metros have mirrored a nationwide trend of white populations gradually making up a smaller percentage of the total population. As a result, various race-ethnic minority groups now make up larger percentages of the total population and have contributed to increased diversification in the region. Using data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau and analyzed by William H. Frey from the Brookings Institution,<sup>1</sup> this Fact Sheet focuses on the diversification and population changes in the Mountain West.

### ABOUT THE DATA:

In advance of the 2020 census, the U.S. Census Bureau released estimates of race-ethnic population figures, highlighting the diversification of the United States that took place during the 2010s. These data are further divided into race-ethnic profiles for all 50 states and the 100 largest metro areas in 2019. The change in white population percentages between 2000 and 2010, and the race-ethnic change for all 50 states and the 100 largest metro areas from 2010 to 2019 are included; data on the race-ethnic changes among youth in all 50 states are also available. This fact sheet displays the demographic data for six Mountain West states and 10 Mountain West metropolitan areas. The six Mountain West states included in this synthesis are: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

### KEY FINDINGS:

1. As of 2019, New Mexico is the most diverse state in the Mountain West, with a 63.3% non-white population; Nevada has the second most diverse profile, with a 51.8% non-white population. Utah is the least diverse state in the Mountain West, with a white population constituting 77.8% of total population. Nevada has the highest Black population share, 9.3%, with all other states having a share of less than 5% Black.
2. Between 2010 and 2019, Mountain West states gained 2.69 million residents. Arizona added the most residents in total, 886,429. Arizona also reflects the greatest increase in Latino residents, 415,419; whereas Colorado's white population increase was greatest among the Mountain West states, 729,417.
3. From 2010 to 2019, in five of the six Mountain West states (AZ, CO, ID, NV and UT), the youth population became increasingly diverse. The white youth population decreased in four of the six Mountain West states (AZ, CO, NV, and NM).

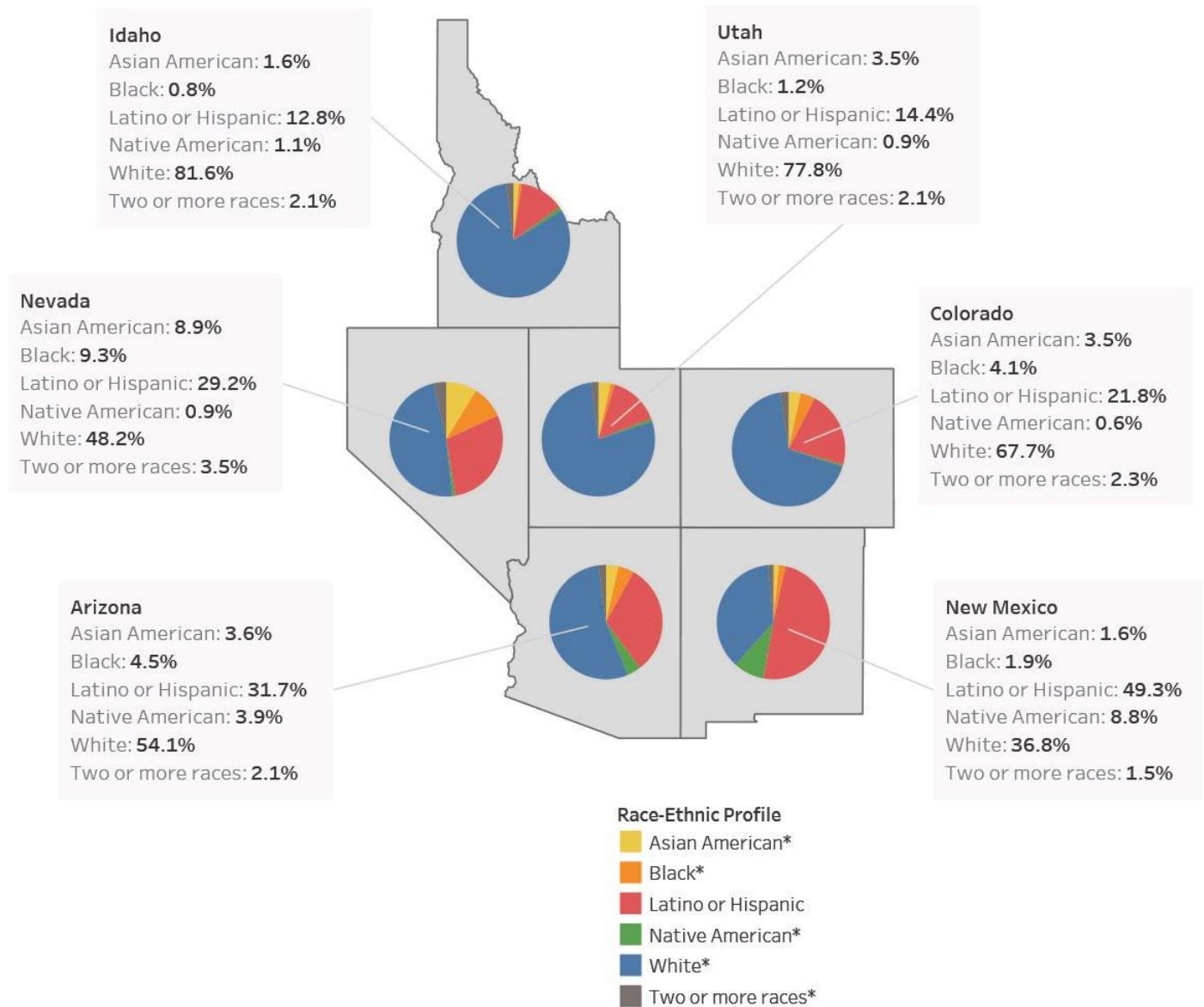
Figure 1 displays the race-ethnic profiles for each Mountain West state. New Mexico is the most diverse with 63.3% non-white population; Nevada has the second most diverse profile, with 51.8% non-white population.

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<sup>1</sup> See Table A, Table B, Table C, Table D, and Table E from William H. Frey's "The nation is diversifying even faster than predicted, according to new census data," 2020 (<https://www.brookings.edu/research/new-census-data-shows-the-nation-is-diversifying-even-faster-than-predicted/>)

Utah is the least diverse state with a white population constituting 77.8% of its total population. Nevada has the highest Black population share, 9.3%; all other states have a share of less than 5% Black.

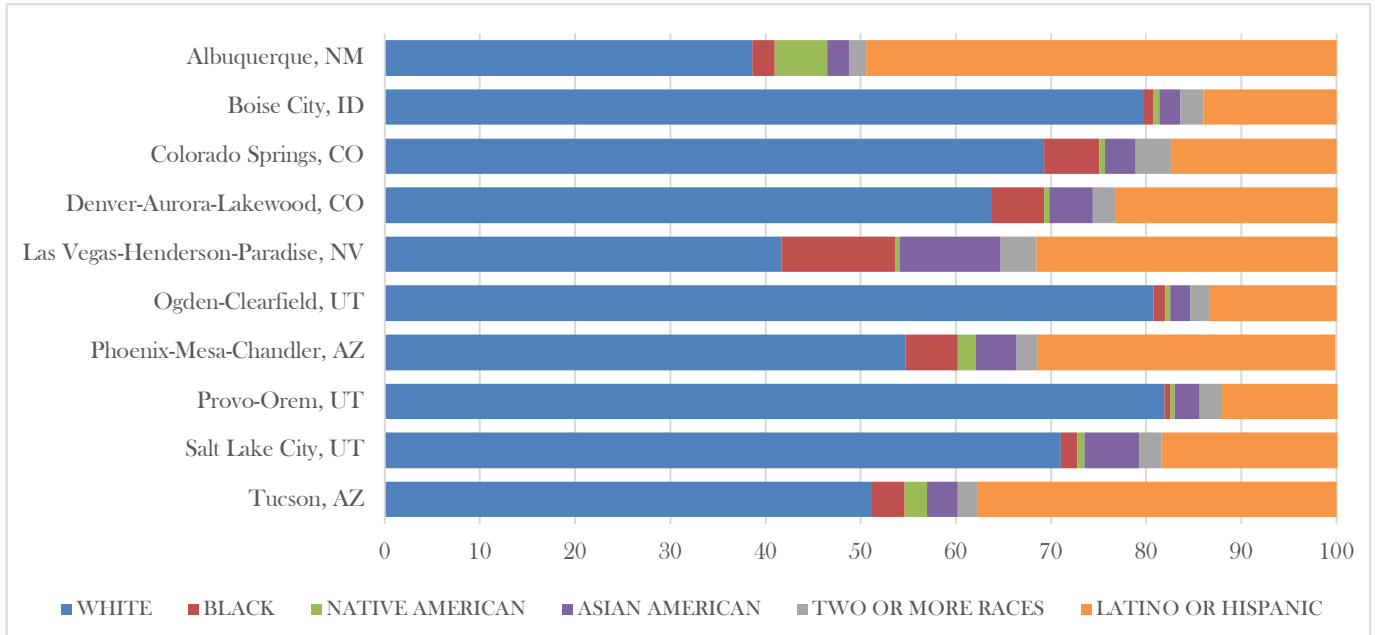
**Figure 1: Race-Ethnic Profiles by Mountain West State, 2019**



\*Adapted from "Table A: States: race-ethnic profiles, 2019" by William H. Frey

Figure 2 displays the race-ethnic population profiles across the Mountain West metros in 2019. The percentages showcase the growth and decline of certain race-ethnic groups across the 10 largest metropolitan cities in the Mountain West region.

**Figure 2: Race-Ethnic Profiles by Mountain West Metropolitan Statistical Area, 2019**

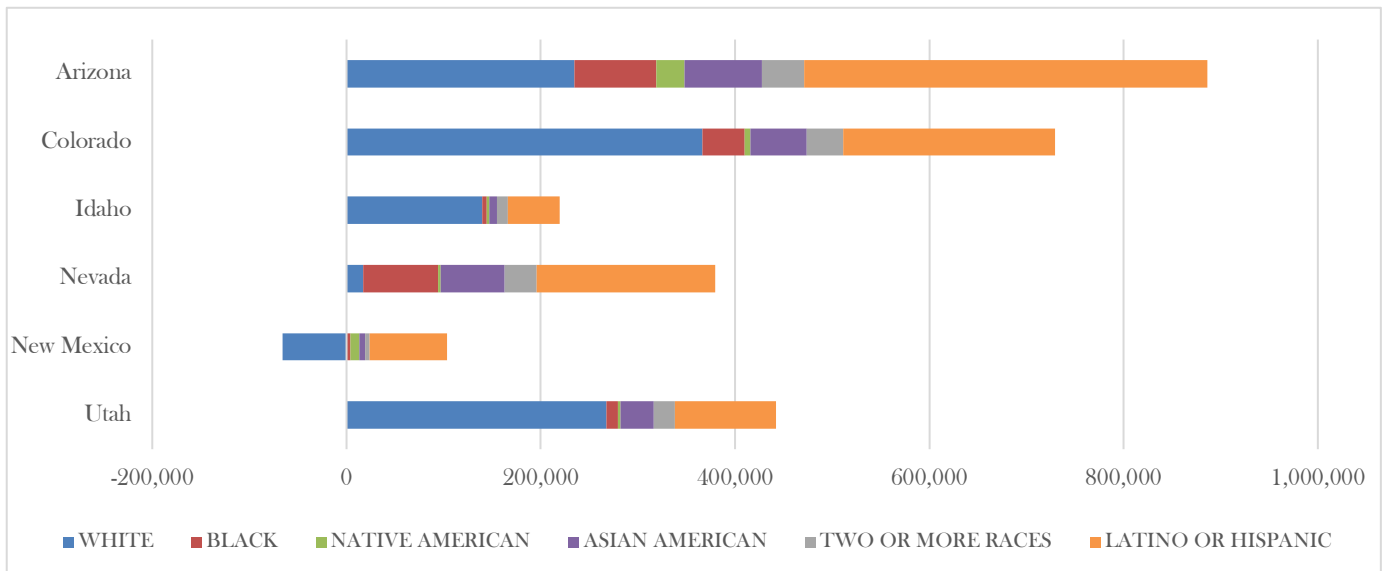


\*Adapted from "Table B: 100 largest metro areas, race-ethnic profiles, 2019" by William H. Frey

Figure 3 displays the specific changes in race and ethnicity for each Mountain West state between 2010 and 2019. Arizona gained the most residents in total, 886,429. Arizona (415,419), Colorado (218,178), and Nevada (184,048) reflect the greatest increases in Latino residents.

Colorado's white population increase is greatest among the Mountain West states, 729,417. New Mexico was the only state experiencing negative race-ethnic change in the white population (-65,547); Nevada's white population experienced the smallest increase (17,232).

**Figure 3: Race-Ethnic Population Changes by Mountain West State, 2010 - 2019**



\*Adapted from "Table C: States: Race-ethnic change, 2010 to 2019" by William H. Frey

Table 1 details the race-ethnic change that occurred throughout 10 Mountain West metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) from 2010 to 2019, as recorded in William H. Frey’s report on census population estimates. Highlighted in Table 1 are the only two instances of population decrease in Mountain West MSAs. Both Albuquerque, NM and Tucson, AZ experienced a decrease in the share of white residents, -21,867 and -7,069 respectively.

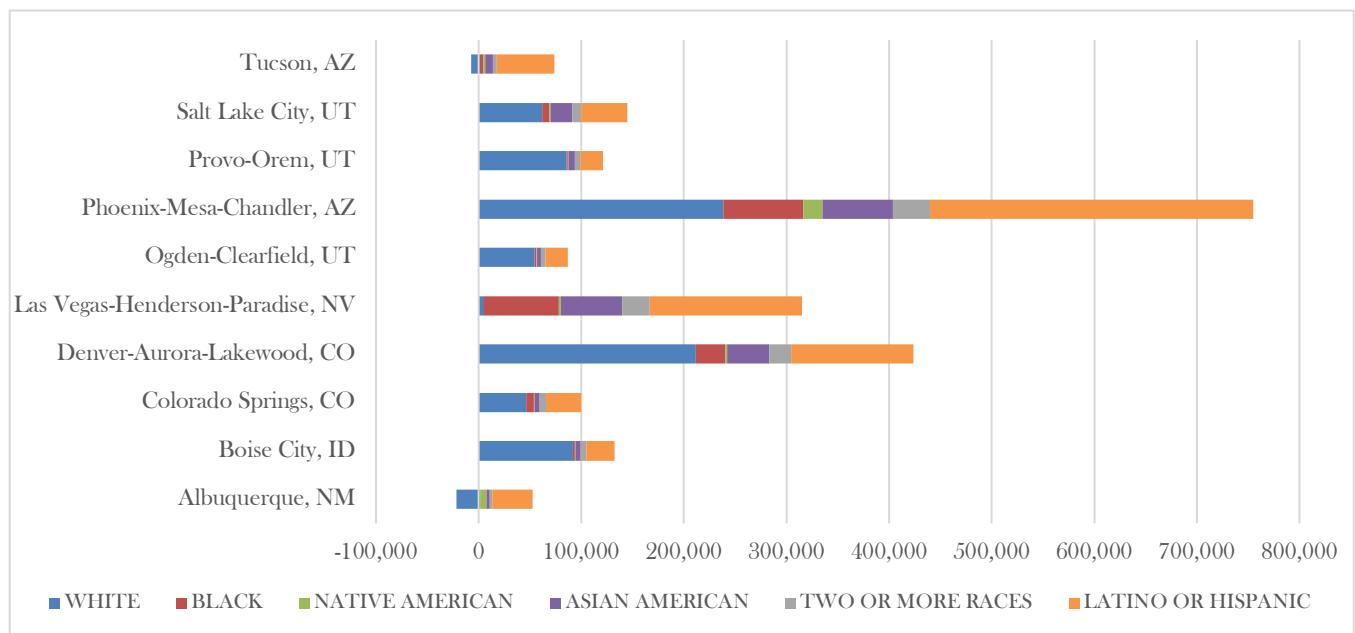
**Table 1: Race-Ethnic Changes by Mountain West Metropolitan Statistical Area, 2010 - 2019**

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	White	Black	Native American	Asian American	Two or More Races	Latino or Hispanic
Albuquerque, NM	-21,867	1,682	5,742	3,270	2,459	39,669
Boise City, ID	91,623	2,439	615	4,565	5,928	27,466
Colorado Springs, CO	46,382	7,230	791	4,920	6,272	34,584
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	211,436	28,744	1,908	41,587	21,011	118,945
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	5,300	73,065	1,589	60,024	26,835	148,634
Ogden-Clearfield, UT	54,766	1,722	645	3,593	4,122	21,854
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ	238,607	77,603	18,862	68,749	35,847	315,406
Provo-Orem, UT	85,547	1,462	561	6,088	5,731	21,978
Salt Lake City, UT	62,122	6,555	1,127	21,278	8,884	44,922
Tucson, AZ	-7,069	4,421	1,936	7,269	3,816	56,643

\*Adapted from “Table D: 100 largest metro areas, race-ethnic change, 2010-2019” by William H. Frey

Figure 4 offers an additional illustration of race-ethnic population change in 10 Mountain West metros between 2010 and 2019. Notably, the Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ MSA added 755,074 residents, with 68% of this change reflecting non-white population increase.

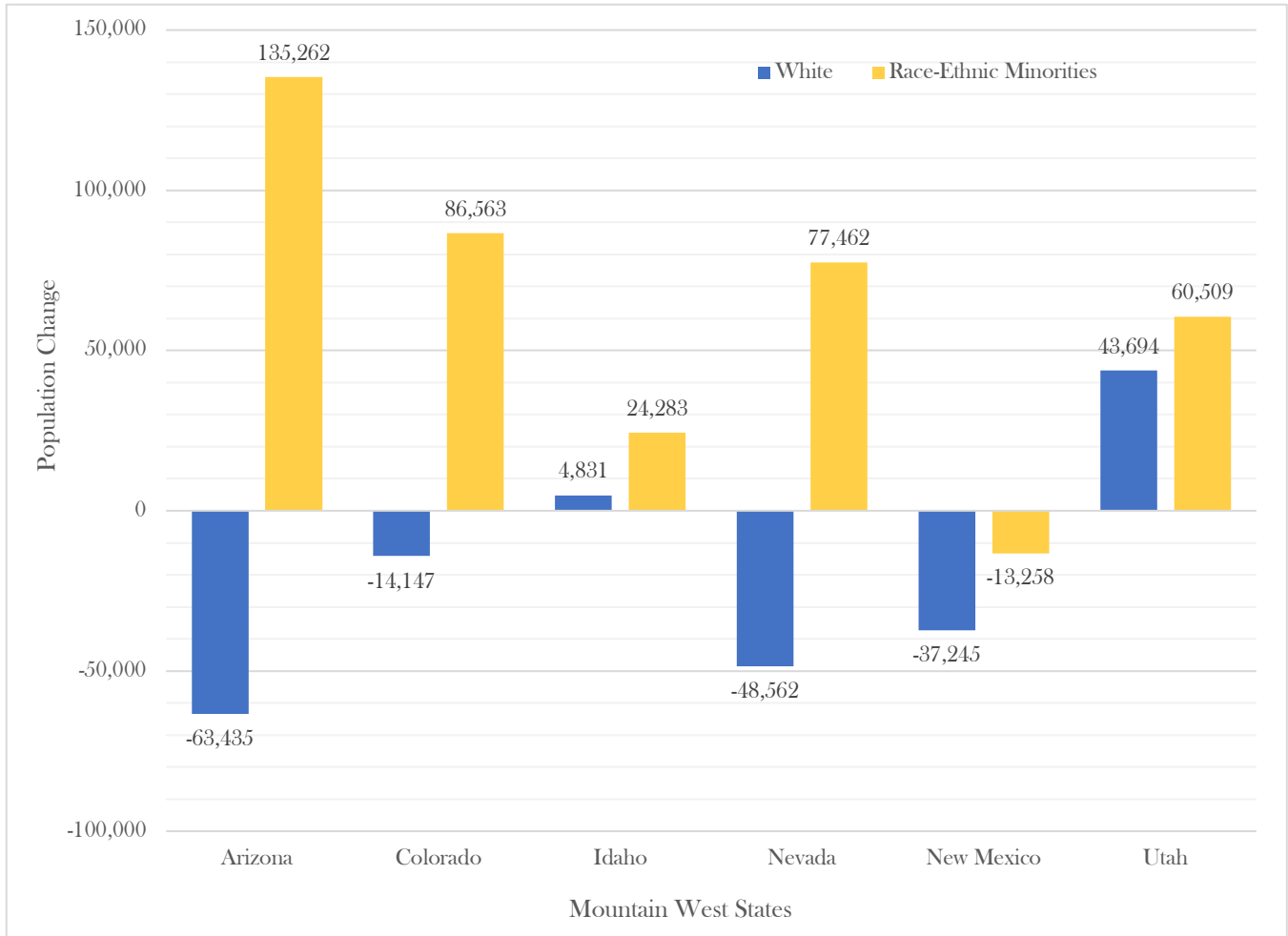
**Figure 4: Race-Ethnic Population Change by Mountain West Metropolitan Statistical Area, 2010 - 2019**



\*Adapted from “Table D: 100 largest metro areas, race-ethnic change, 2010-2019” by William H. Frey

Figure 5 displays the youth population changes between 2010 and 2019 for both white and race-ethnic minority populations. This figure highlights race-ethnic minority youth populations rising in five of the six Mountain West states, while white youth populations decreased in four of the six Mountain West states.

**Figure 5: Youth Population Change by Mountain West State, 2010 - 2019**



\*Adapted from "Table E: States: 2010 to 2019 change in youth (under age 25) population" by William H. Frey