



Hispanics by Mid-Century

by Jose-Pablo Fernandez

josepablo@400voices.org

2015

By mid-century the Hispanic population in the United States will be larger than the non-Hispanic White population. The question is not if, but when.

Back in 2004 Samuel Huntington wrote: “Non-Hispanic whites dropped from 75.6 percent of the population in 1990 to 69.1 percent in 2000. In California—as in Hawaii, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia—non-Hispanic whites are now a minority. Demographers predict that, by 2040, Non-Hispanic whites could be a minority of all Americans.”^[1]

Is it true? To find out we must go to the best source for population data: the U.S. Census that provides the official counts of the population every ten years. Being the largest data collection effort about the U.S. population, its credibility is much higher than any poll or sample, even if it undercounts low-income people, children and minorities.

People with lower education levels, lower literacy abilities, and difficulty with the English language may have difficulty understanding the census and they are usually under counted. On the contrary, affluent Whites are usually over counted as they may have two or more homes”.^[2] Regardless, the official U.S. Census is the most reliable source.

The Census’ [Racial and Ethnic Demographics](#) available in Wikipedia becomes very handy. Some people may object about the credibility of this source, but suffice it to read the article published in CNET that Wikipedia is about as good a source of accurate information as Britannica, the venerable standard-bearer of facts about the world around us. ^[3]

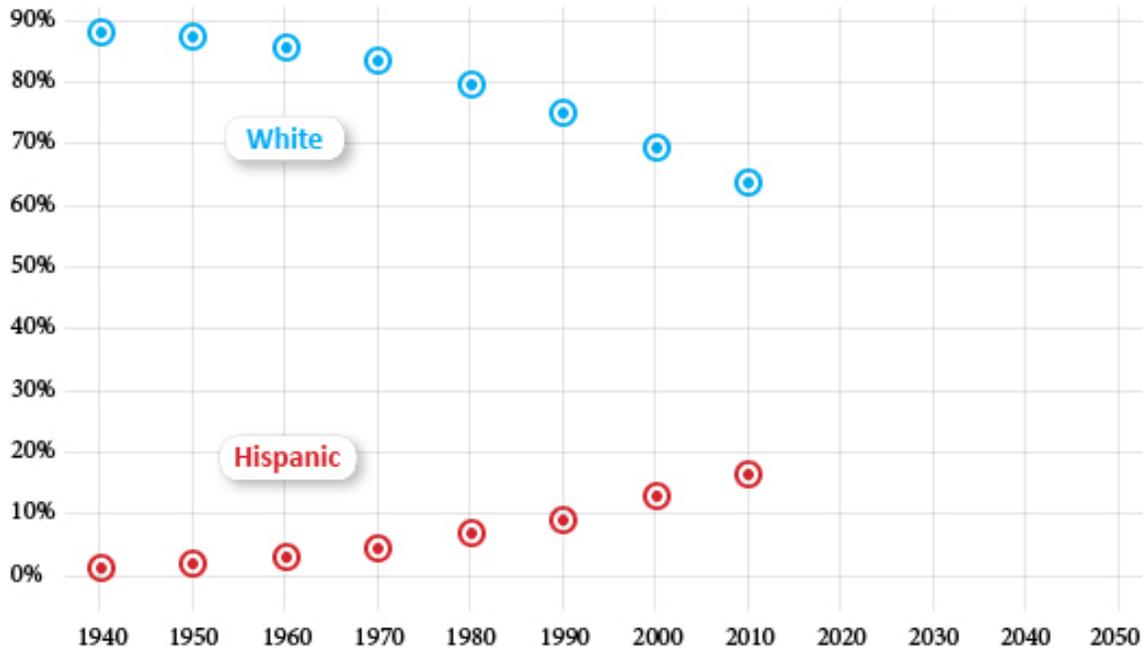
POTP Racial and Ethnic Demographics of the United States (Percentages) ^[4]

Census	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
White	88.3	87.5	85.4	83.5	79.6	75.6	69.1	63.7
Hispanic	1.5	2.1	3.2	4.4	6.4	9.0	12.5	16.3

The table shows the racial and ethnic demographics of the United States as **Percentages Of Total Population (POTP)** from 1940 to 2010. There is no information about Hispanics prior to 1940. The White population refers to what the Census defines as Non-Hispanic Whites. These values are represented as dots in the following chart by matching each year to its corresponding POTP. The Black population is not shown because it would show almost as a straight line between the 10% and 12% lines. The following chart shows how these two populations are changing with time.

We can plot the POTP information to show how these two populations behave.

POTP - Percentage of Total Population



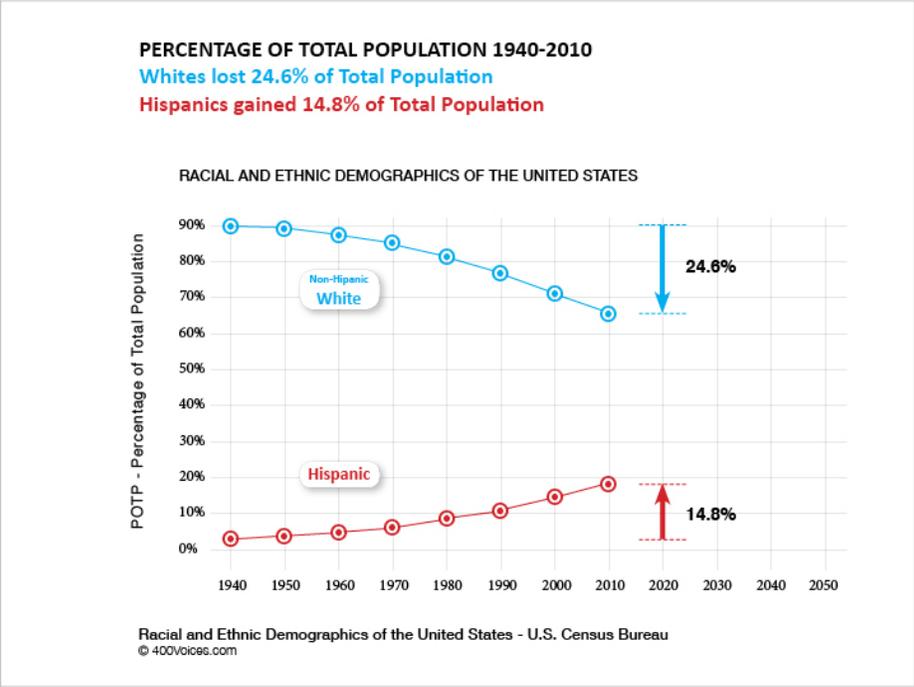
Racial and Ethnic Demographics of the United States - U.S. Census Bureau
© 400Voices.com

It is evident that, as the White population *decreases*, the Hispanic population *increases*. Based on the same Census data, we can calculate the percentage population change from 1940 to 2010 for each group:

Group	1940	2010	Change
White	88.3%	63.7%	-24.6%
Hispanic	1.5%	16.3%	+14.8%

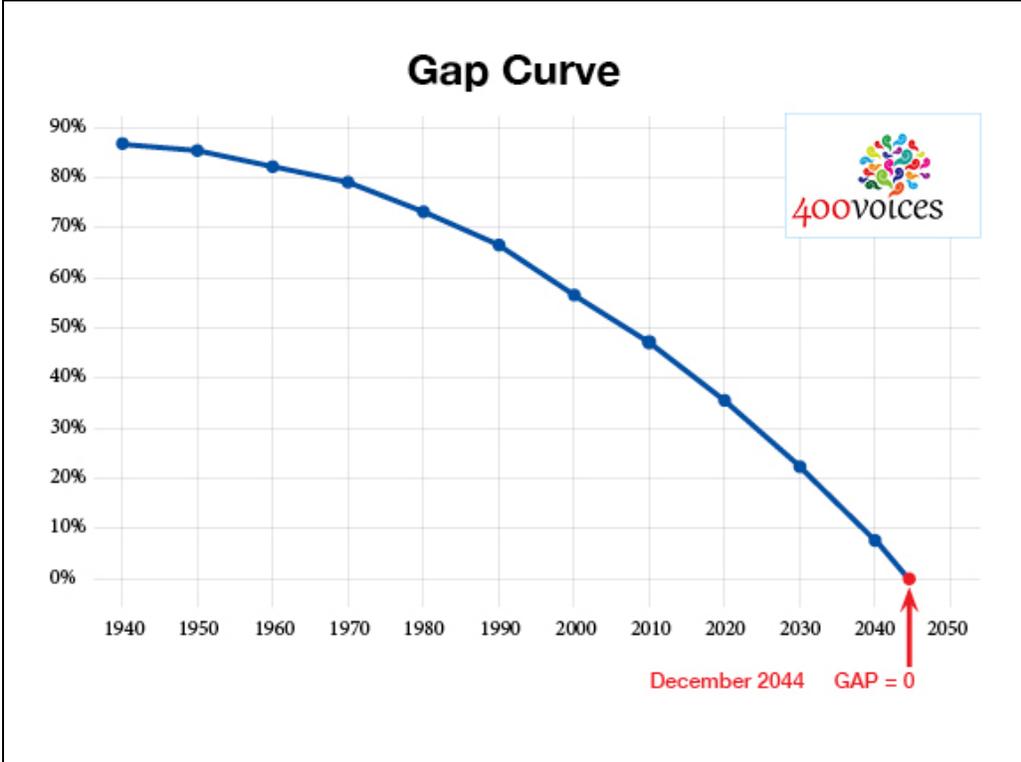
The White population has negative percentage growth. The most plausible reason is that it is not having enough babies. But look at the growth of the Hispanic population; it grew by 43%. Let's connect the dots.

We see two curves running in opposite directions. The blue descending line shows that the White population lost 24.6% of its contribution to the total population, while the red ascending line representing the Hispanic population gained 14.8%.



CONCLUSION

We don't have to be demographers to see that those blue and red lines will intersect by mid-century between 2040 and 2050, when the White population will become a minority in this country.



[1] "The Hispanic Challenge." Samuel P. Huntington. Foreign Policy March/April 2004.

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2009/10/28/the-hispanic-challenge/>

[2] "Are Census numbers accurate?" Allison Plyer. Community Data Center. Nov. 26, 2001.

<http://www.datacenterresearch.org/pre-katrina/articles/censustrust.html>

[3] "Study: Wikipedia as accurate as Britannica". Daniel Terdiman. CNET, December 2005.

<http://www.cnet.com/news/study-wikipedia-as-accurate-as-britannica/>

[4] Historical racial and ethnic demographics of the United States.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_racial_and_ethnic_demographics_of_the_United_States