

**Census Highlights  
City of Boulder:  
A Demographic Profile**



**Prepared by the  
Department of Housing & Human Services for the  
Housing & Human Services Master Plan  
City of Boulder  
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# Introduction

- Emphasis of this report on census data
- Best when combined with other information
- Year 2000 data, thus several years old
- General profile; not exhaustive
- Much of data excludes public university students ages 18 - 22

# Notes on Census Data

- Census data are self report
- Most are sample data
- Margin of error
- Official census, not challenge data:  
may undercount vulnerable groups

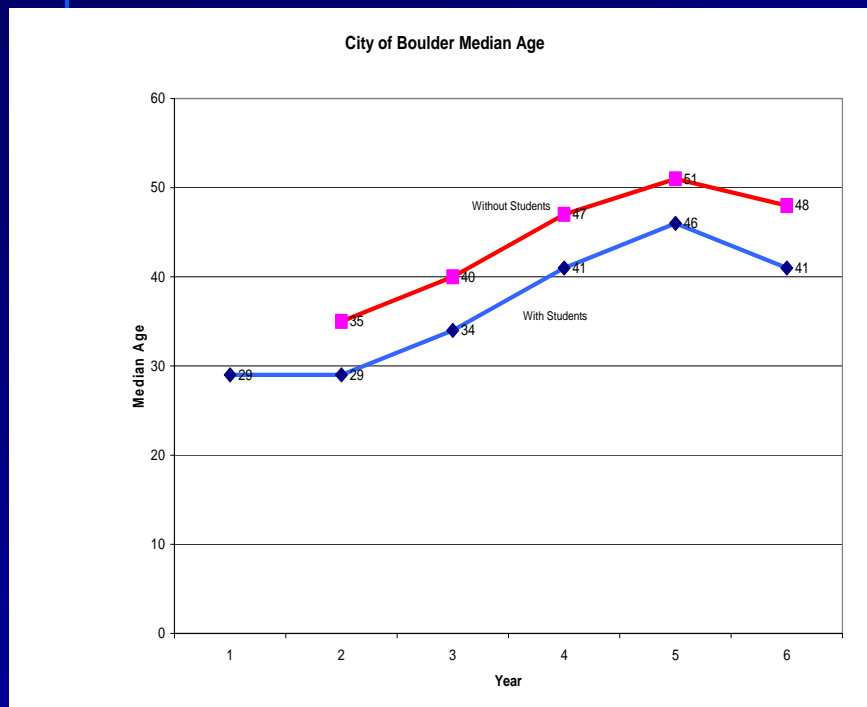
# Areas Examined

- Population growth
- Median age
- Age structure
- Race and Ethnicity
- Income
- Poverty Level
- Education
- Geographic Origin
- Unemployment
- Disabilities
- Household types
- Parental labor force status
- Special focus: Latinos

# Key Findings: Six Themes

- Aging of the Population
- Fewer, but Significant Number of Children
- Fewer Families, Many Single Parent Families, Many Parents in Labor Force
- The Rich and the Poor
- A Highly Educated Community
- Growth of the Latino Population

# Aging Of The Population



- Median age projected to increase substantially over the next few decades
- Anticipated to peak in 2030, with median age of 51

# Rising Median Age

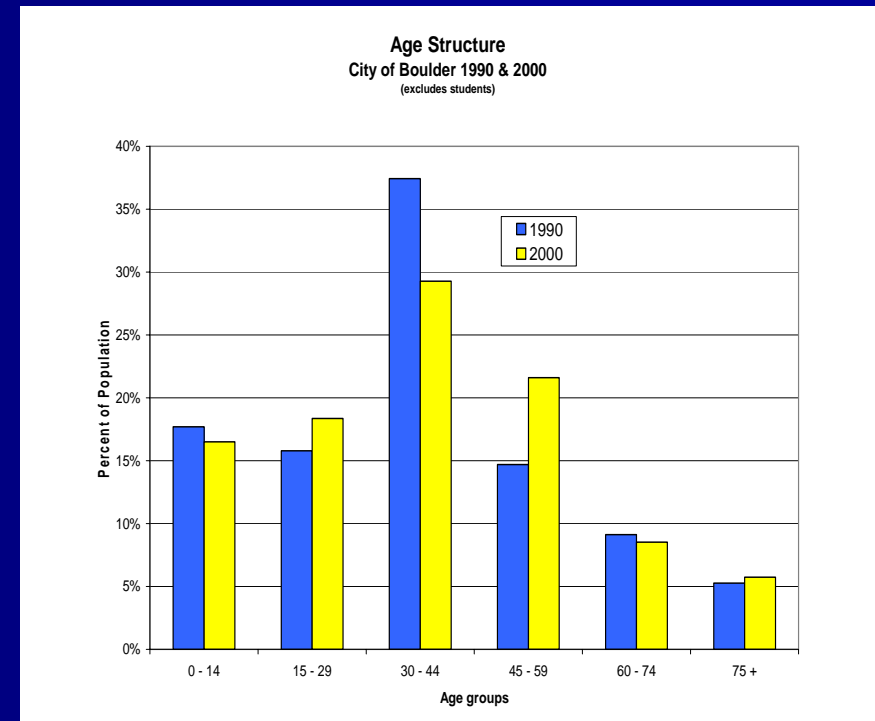
**Median Age**  
City of Boulder Compared to County, State and US  
2000 Census

				2000
United States				35
Colorado				34
Boulder County				36
City of Boulder				
With Students				29
Without Students				35

Excluding university students, Boulder's median age is 35, similar to the rest of the country, state, and county.

# More Seniors In The Future

- Substantial increase in the 45-59 age group over past decade (baby boom)
- As this group ages, the number of elderly will swell
- Seniors have been a relatively stable percent of population (10.8%), but this will increase in the future
- Represents a substantial number of seniors: over 7,500 in 2000



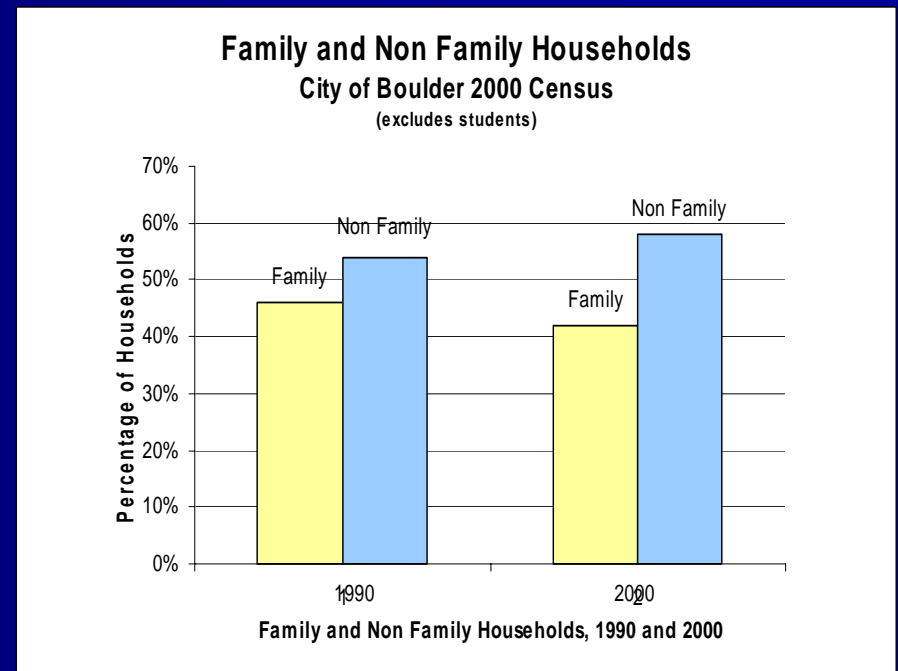
# Substantial Number of Children

- Number of children decreased slightly between 1990 and 2000
- About 20% of population—just under 14,000—are under 18 years old

		1990	2000
Under 18		12,505	13,830
% Under 18		20.9%	19.9%

# Decline in Family Households

- Decline in the percentage of family households



# Single Parent Families

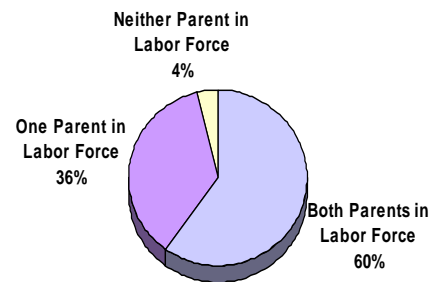
## Families with children Under 18

	City of Boulder	U.S.
Two Parent Families	76%	72%
Single Parent Families	24%	28%

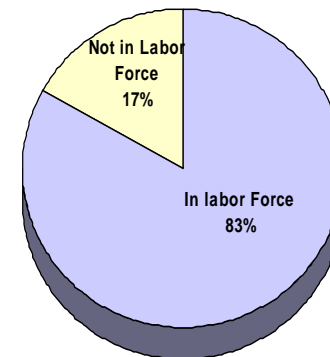
- A substantial percentage--nearly one-quarter--of families are single parent families
- Slightly lower than national estimates of 28%

# Most Parents Work

Two Parent Families Labor Force Status  
City of Boulder 2000 Census

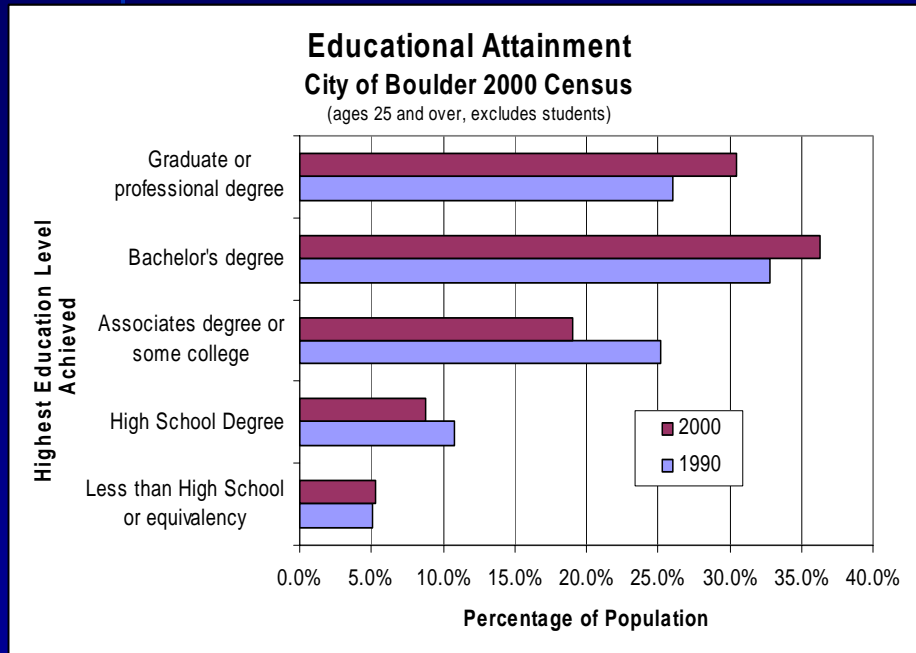


Labor Force Status of Single Parent Families  
City of Boulder  
2000 Census



Most single parents (83%) in labor force. 60% of two parent families have both parents in the labor force

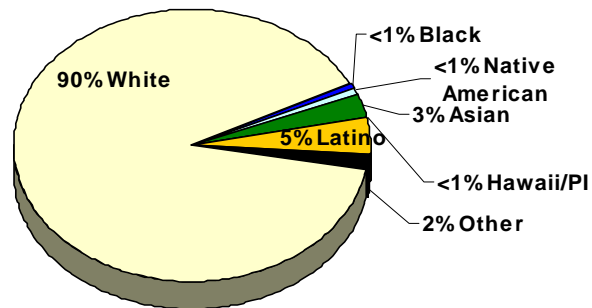
# Boulder Is A Highly Educated Community



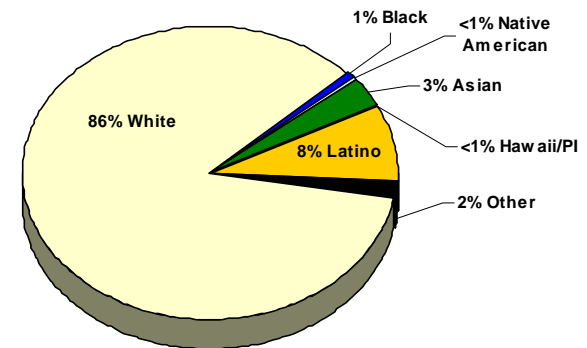
- Boulder's population is highly educated
- Over 2/3 have a college degree or better, compared to national estimates of 26%

# Race and Ethnicity

**Race and Ethnicity**  
City of Boulder 1990 Census  
(excludes students)



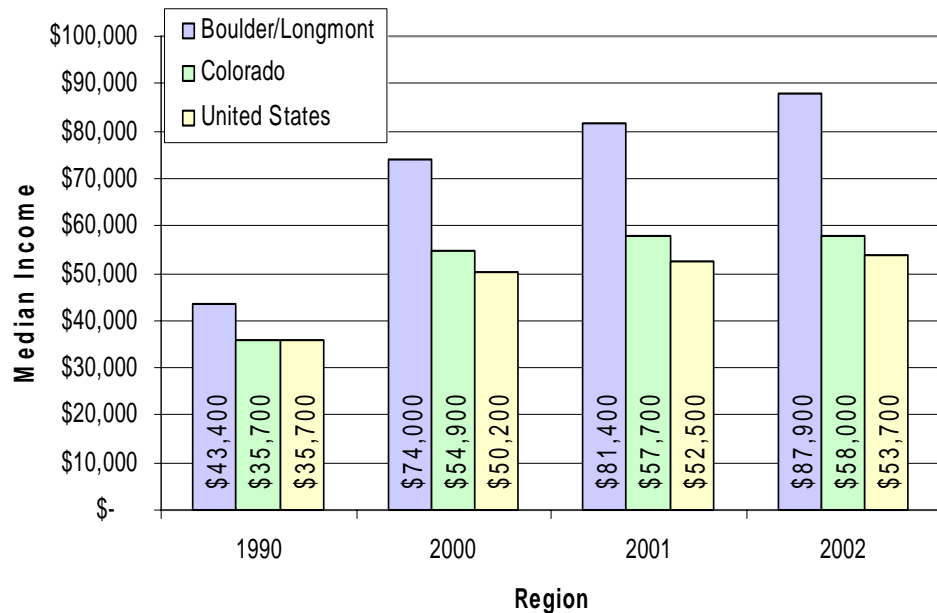
**Race and Ethnicity**  
City of Boulder 2000 Census  
(excludes students)



- Decline in the White population, from 90% in 1990 to 86% in 2000. Latino population nearly doubled in that time period
- Little change in other groups, with Blacks at about 1%, Asians about 3%, and Native Americans and Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders both at less than 1%

# High Median Income

Estimated Median Family Income Comparisons  
Boulder/Longmont-Colorado-United States



- Boulder median incomes substantially exceeds median incomes for state and nation
- The disparity between Boulder and the state and nation increased markedly between 1990 and 2002

# Poverty Level and Age

## ■ Age and Poverty Level

	1990	2000
Under 18 years	14.3%	12.8%
18 - 64 years	81.2%	83.4%
65 years and over	4.5%	3.8%

- Slight decline in the percentage of children and the elderly who are below the poverty level
- Overall, 15%, or just under 10,000 people live under the poverty level—higher than national poverty rate, which was 12%

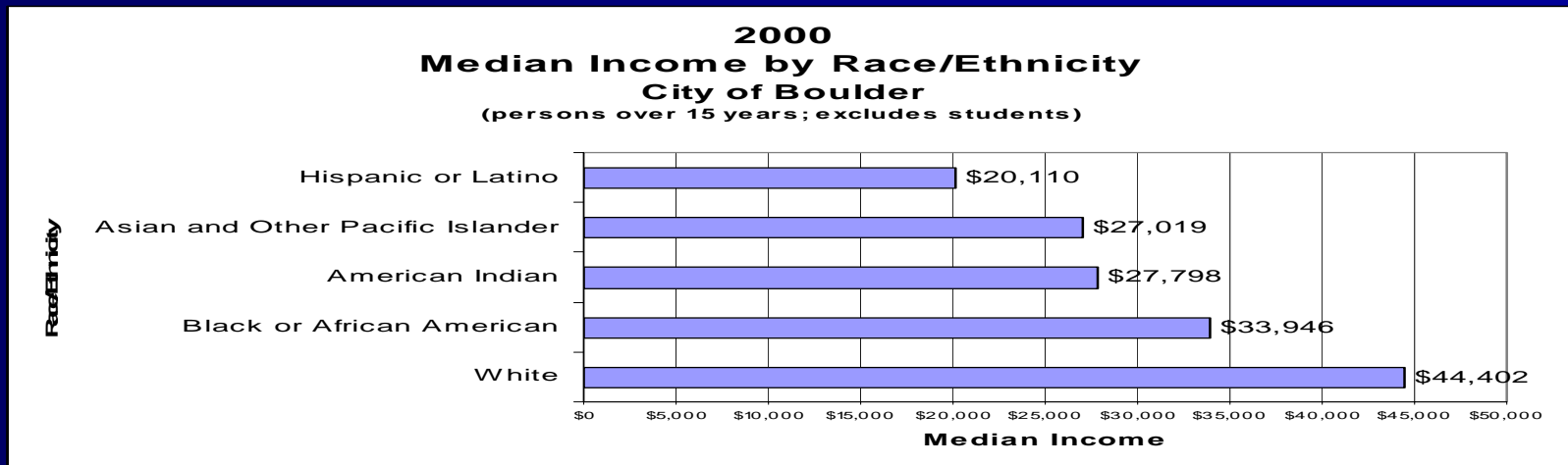
# Poverty Level and Race

Of Those Below The Poverty Level...

	1990	2000
White	78.3%	69.0%
Black/African American	1.5%	1.2%
Native American	0.8%	0.7%
Asian and Other Pacific Islander	6.0%	5.2%
Other	4.5%	10.3%
Latino	8.8%	13.4%

- Slight decline in the percentage of the White population below the poverty level
- From 1990 to 2000, Latinos increased from 8.8% of those below poverty to 13.4%

# Income Differences By Race



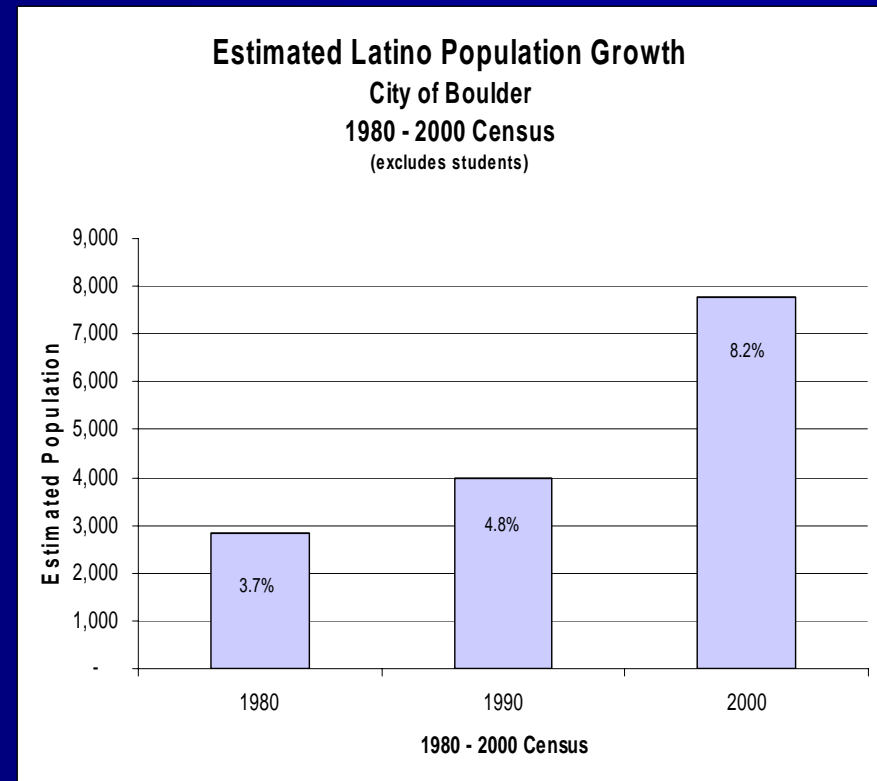
- Significant differences in income by race. Median income is lowest for Latinos, and declined between 1990 and 2000
- Latino median income was about 45% of the median income for Whites

# Understanding Boulder's Latino Population

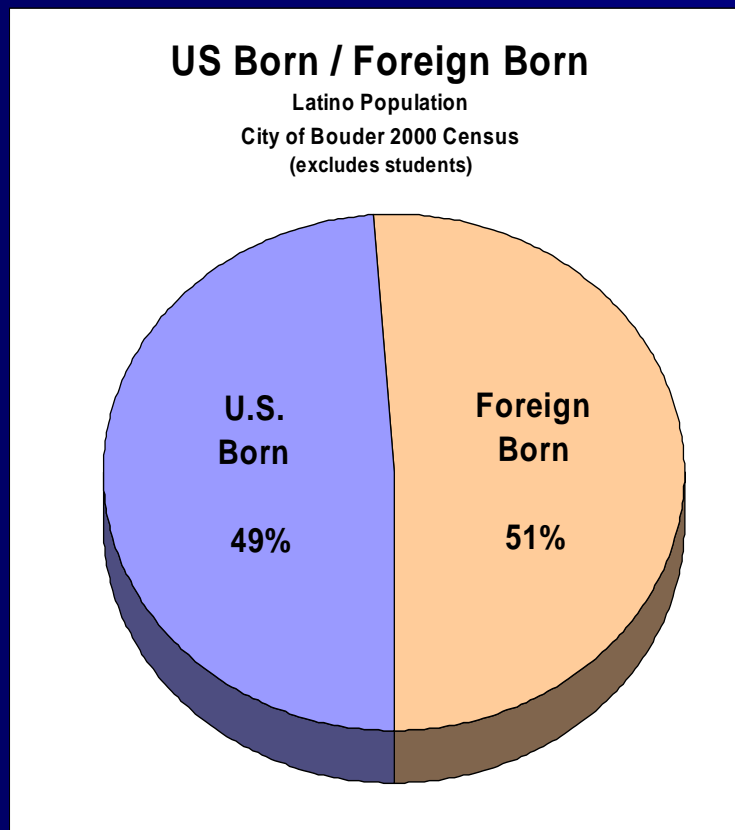
- Latino not a racial category; a general ethnic description based on a framework of common culture and language
- Many difference among Latinos
  - Some have been here for generations, some more newly arrived
  - Some highly educated, others not
  - Some prosperous, others struggle economically

# Growth of the Latino Population

- Nearly doubled between 1990 to 2000—from 4.5% to 8.2%
- Conservative estimates suggest at least 8,000 Latinos

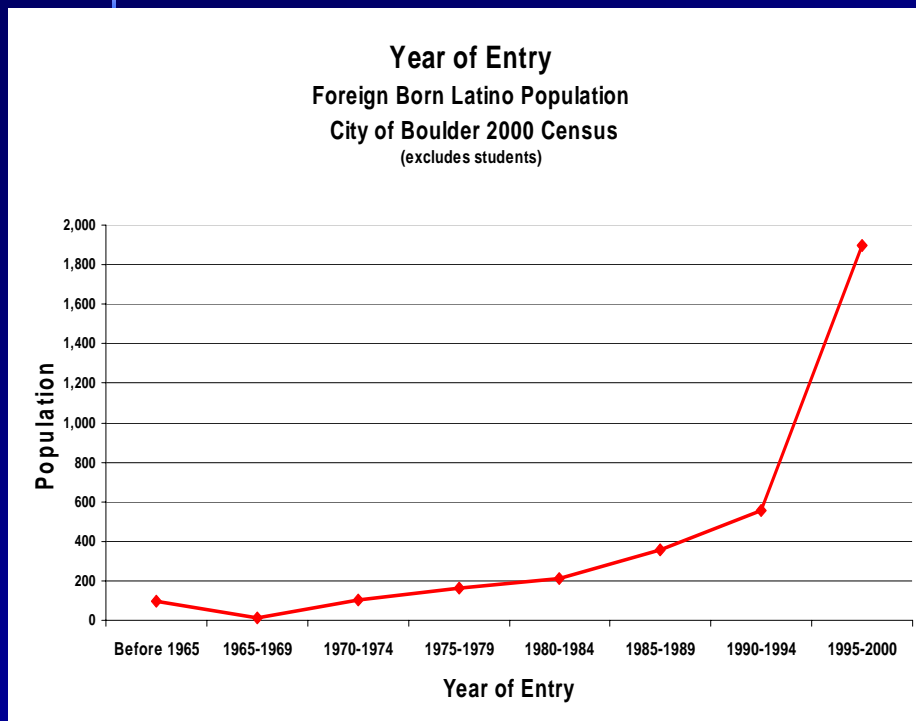


# U.S. Born Compared to Foreign Born



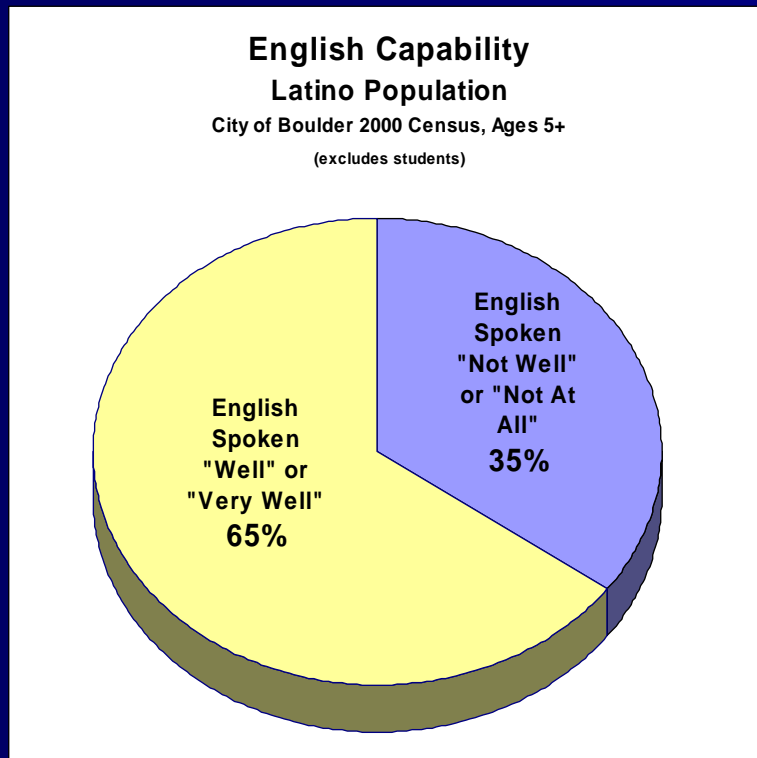
- About 1/2 of Boulder's Latinos are foreign born, 1/2 U.S. born
- Of those born in the U.S., 58% from Colorado (higher than rest of city residents)

# Many Latinos Recent Arrivals



- Over two-thirds arrived since 1990
- Substantial majority (56%) arrived since 1995
- 16% arrived 1990 – 1994
- 85% from Mexico

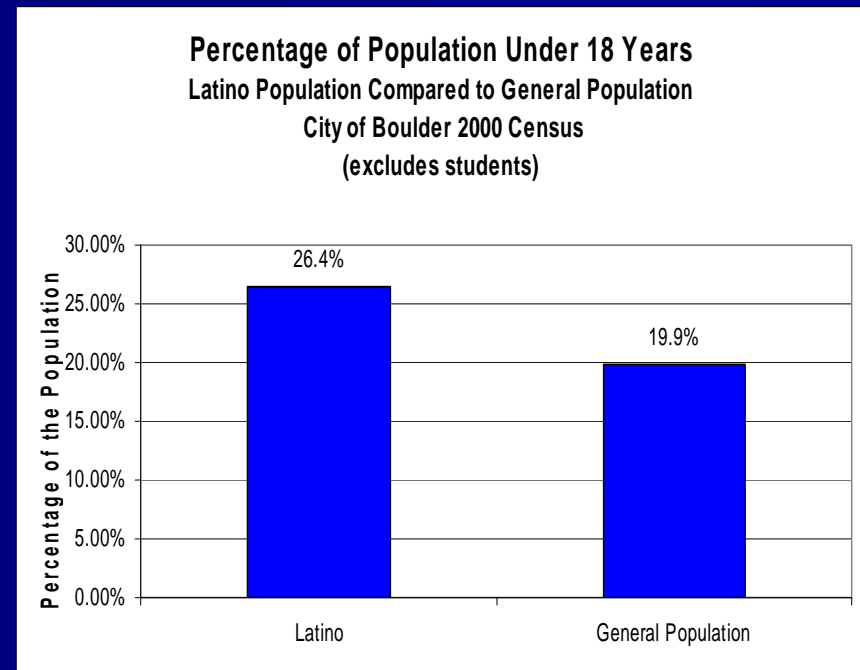
# Language Capabilities



- 35% reported speaking English either "not well" or "not at all"

# High Percentage of Children and Larger Households

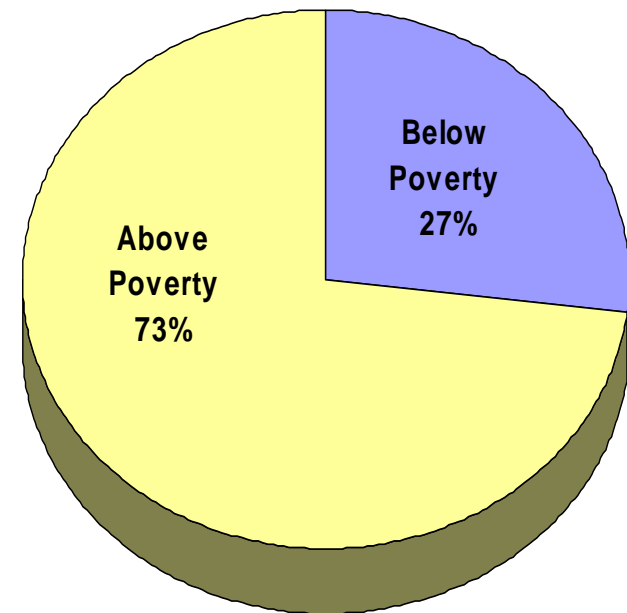
- The percentage of the Latino population under 18 years is higher than the general population
- Latino household size is 3.6, compared to 2.5 for general city population



# Poverty Level of Latinos

- Latinos below the poverty level increased significantly between 1990 and 2000
- 27% below the poverty level in 2000

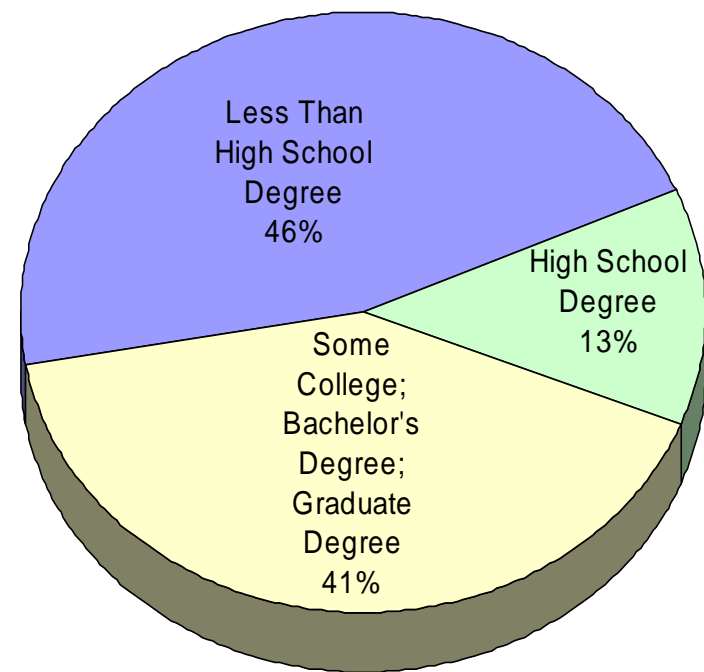
**Poverty Status  
Latino Population**  
City of Boulder 2000 Census  
(for those whom poverty status determined; excludes students)



# Educational Attainment of Latinos

- Wide range of education levels among Latinos
- Over 41% ages 25+ have some college, college+ degrees
- At the same time, over 45% have less than a high school degree

**Education Attainment**  
Latino Population  
City of Boulder 2000 Census  
(population > 25 yrs, excludes students)



# Conclusion

- Review of census data provides an objective, empirical profile of Boulder
- Again, not the only source of information, best combined with other information
- Confirms some of what we already know
- Reveals some new and at times surprising information
- Deepens our understanding of Boulder