

## Chapter 4. Race and Hispanic Origin

Information on race has been collected in every decennial census beginning in 1790, although the categories were limited to White and Black through the 1850 census, with free Blacks and slaves being classified through 1860. The racial categories included on the census questionnaires have changed over time reflecting changes in social attitudes and political considerations; however, in general, these categories have reflected social usage and not an attempt to define race biologically or genetically. The population of Hispanic origin (of any race), which is referred to here also as the Hispanic population, was first identified comprehensively in the 1970 census. Previously, data on other topics, such as country of birth, country of birth of parents, and mother tongue, were used to identify portions of the Hispanic population. Historical estimates of the Hispanic population back to 1850 have been developed by Gratton and Gutmann (see citation below) using sample data in the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) data base. (See Minnesota Population Center, no date, "IPUMS-USA, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)," <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/faq.do>.) Information on race was obtained primarily by enumerator observation through 1950, by a combination of direct interview and self-identification in 1960 and 1970, and by self-identification since 1980. With enumerator observation, a person of mixed White and other race was usually classified with the other race. Historically, the large majority of Hispanics were classified by race as White; however, starting in 1980, a substantial proportion of Hispanics reported as "other" (the questionnaire wording has varied: Other in 1980, Other race in 1990, or Some other race in 2000). The limitations to comparability between 1990 and 2000 data on race are substantial because in 2000, respondents could, for the first time, report more than one race.

The history of census data on race and Hispanic origin is extremely complex with many issues of comparability, and the user of these data is strongly encouraged to consult more detailed sources. In addition to References, Decennial Census Publications, see, Claudette Bennett (2000), "Racial Categories Used in the Decennial Census, 1790 to Present," *Government Information Quarterly*, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 161-180; in *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition* (2006), Charles Hirschman et al, "Race and Ethnicity: Definitions and Measurement," Vol. 1, pp. 1-4 to 1-9, and Brian Gratton and Myron P. Guttman, "Hispanic Population," Vol. 1, pp. 1-177 to 1-179; Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2002), "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions Divisions, and States," U. S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 56; and U.S. Office of Management and Budget (1997), "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," *Federal Register*, Vol. 62, No. 210 (October 30), pp. 58782-58790.

### Figures

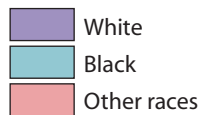
- 4-1. Population by Race for the United States: 1790 to 2010
- 4-2. Black Population by Free and Slave, 1790 to 1860, and Other Races Population by Race, 1860 to 2010, for the United States
- 4-3. Percent Distribution of the Population by Race for the United States: 1790 to 2010
- 4-4. White Non-Hispanic Population and Hispanic Population for the United States: 1850, 1880, 1900 to 1920, and 1940 to 2010
- 4-5. Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States: 1990 to 2010
- 4-6. Races Other Than White as a Percentage of Total Population for the United States by Region: 1790, 1820, 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010

- 4-7. Percent Free of the Black Population, 1790 to 1860, Percent Hispanic, 1850, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010, and Percent White Non-Hispanic, 1970, 2000, and 2010, in the Total Population, for the United States by Region
- 4-8. Percent Distribution of the Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States by Region: 1790, 1820, 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010

Figure 4-1.

# Population by Race for the United States: 1790 to 2010

(Numbers in millions. For 2000 and 2010, data for White and Black are for single-race populations)



Populations not shown on figure:

## White

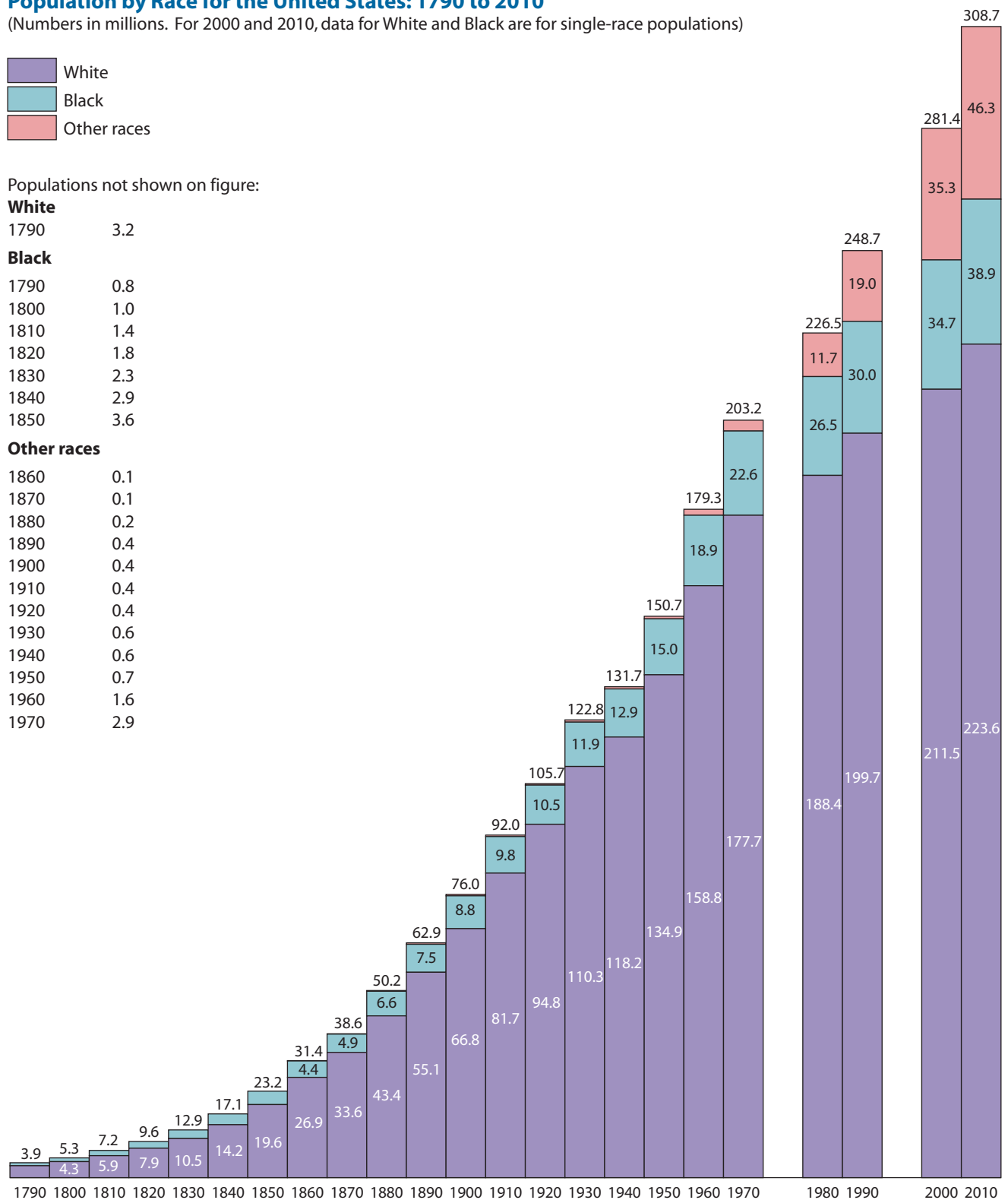
1790 3.2

## Black

1790 0.8  
1800 1.0  
1810 1.4  
1820 1.8  
1830 2.3  
1840 2.9  
1850 3.6

## Other races

1860 0.1  
1870 0.1  
1880 0.2  
1890 0.4  
1900 0.4  
1910 0.4  
1920 0.4  
1930 0.6  
1940 0.6  
1950 0.7  
1960 1.6  
1970 2.9



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2002), "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions, Divisions, and States," U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 56. See [www.demographicchartbook.com](http://www.demographicchartbook.com), References.

Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

September 21, 2012

Figure 4-2.

# **Black Population by Free and Slave, 1790 to 1860, and Other Races Population by Race, 1860 to 2010, for the United States**

(For 2000 and 2010, and except for Two or More Races, data are for single-race populations)

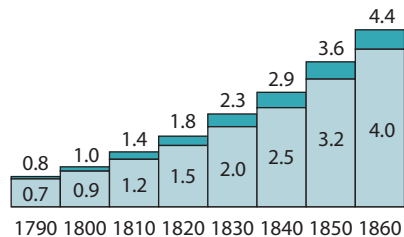
## **Black population**

(Numbers in thousands)

|      | Total | Free | Slave |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1790 | 757   | 60   | 698   |
| 1800 | 1,002 | 108  | 894   |
| 1810 | 1,378 | 186  | 1,191 |
| 1820 | 1,772 | 234  | 1,538 |
| 1830 | 2,329 | 320  | 2,009 |
| 1840 | 2,874 | 386  | 2,487 |
| 1850 | 3,639 | 434  | 3,204 |
| 1860 | 4,442 | 488  | 3,954 |



(Numbers in millions)



## **Other races population (excludes White and Black)**

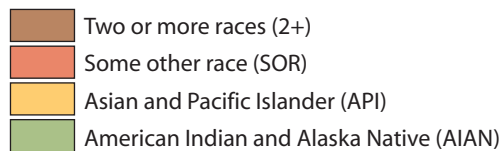
(Numbers in thousands)

|                   | Total  | AIAN  | API    | SOR    | 2+    |
|-------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1860              | 79     | 44    | 35     | (x)    | (x)   |
| 1870              | 89     | 26    | 63     | (x)    | (x)   |
| 1880              | 172    | 66    | 106    | (x)    | (x)   |
| 1890 <sup>1</sup> | 358    | 248   | 110    | (x)    | (x)   |
| 1900              | 351    | 237   | 114    | (x)    | (x)   |
| 1910              | 413    | 266   | 147    | (x)    | (x)   |
| 1920              | 427    | 244   | 182    | (x)    | (x)   |
| 1930              | 597    | 332   | 265    | (x)    | (x)   |
| 1940              | 589    | 334   | 255    | (x)    | (x)   |
| 1950              | 713    | 343   | 321    | 49     | (x)   |
| 1960 <sup>2</sup> | 1,620  | 552   | 980    | 88     | (x)   |
| 1970              | 2,883  | 827   | 1,539  | 517    | (x)   |
| 1980              | 11,679 | 1,420 | 3,500  | 6,758  | (x)   |
| 1990              | 19,038 | 1,959 | 7,274  | 9,805  | (x)   |
| 2000 <sup>3</sup> | 35,303 | 2,476 | 10,642 | 15,359 | 6,826 |
| 2010 <sup>3</sup> | 46,263 | 2,932 | 15,214 | 19,107 | 9,009 |

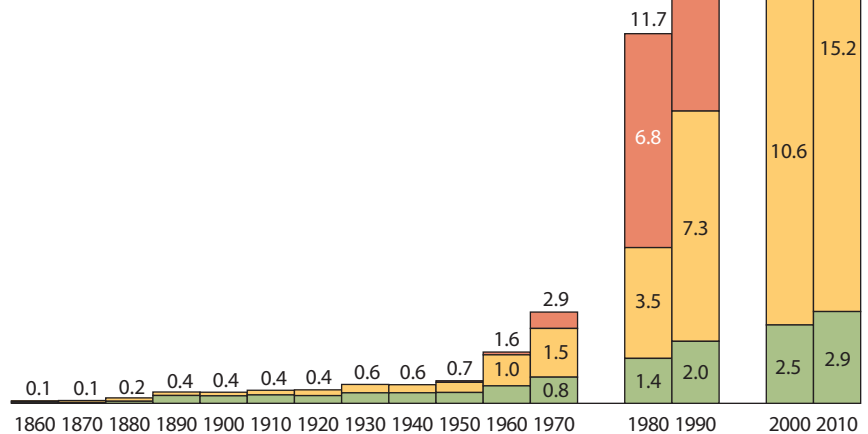
<sup>1</sup> Prior to 1890, enumeration of American Indian population limited to settled (taxed) population.

<sup>2</sup> Prior to 1960, excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

<sup>3</sup> In 2000 and 2010, API includes Asian (12,243 and 14,674, respectively) and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (399 and 540, respectively).



(Numbers in millions)



(X) Not applicable.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2002), "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions, Divisions, and States," U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 56. See [www.demographicchartbook.com/References](http://www.demographicchartbook.com/References).

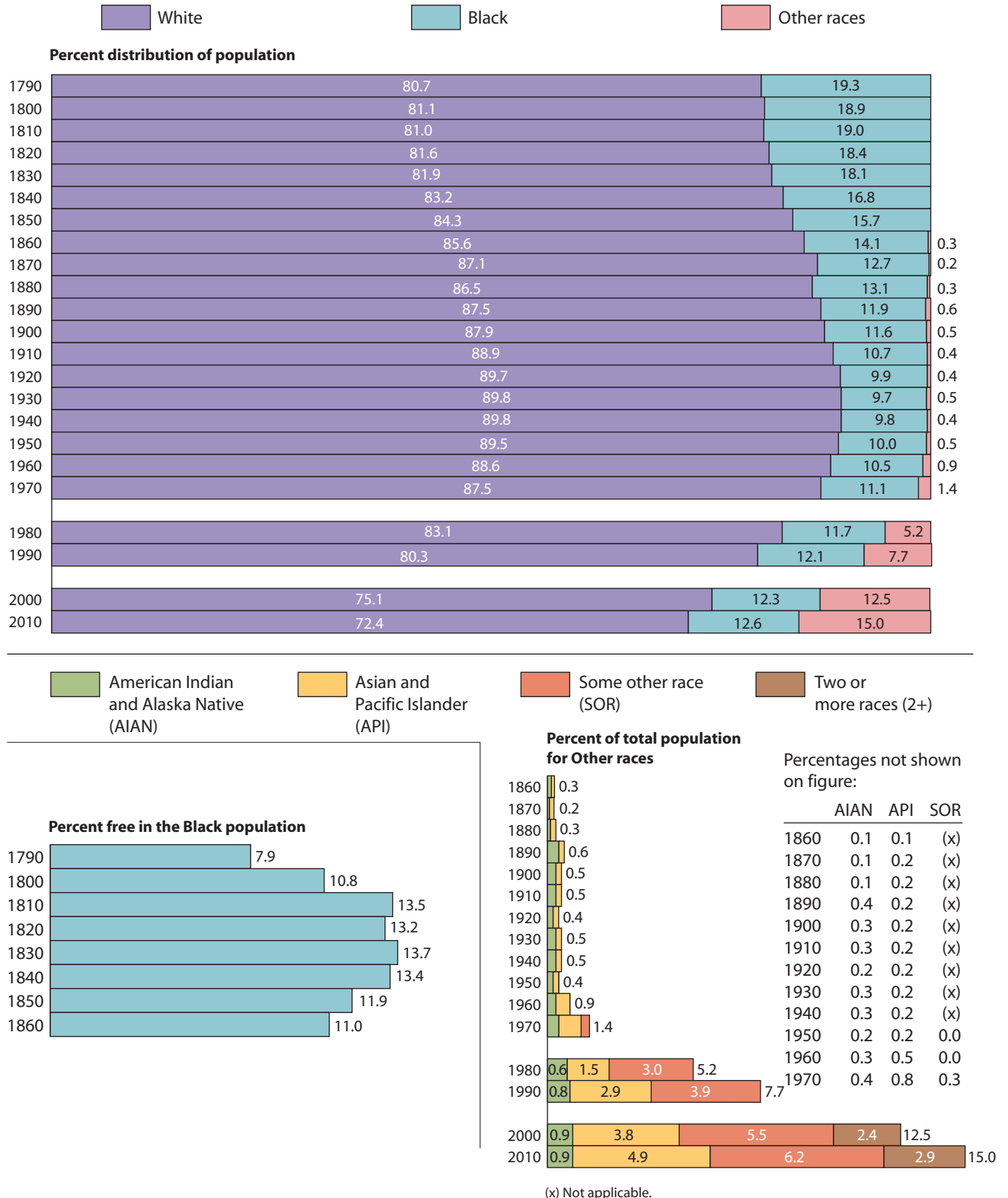
Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

September 21, 2012

Figure 4-3.

# Percent Distribution of the Population by Race for the United States: 1790 to 2010

(For 2000 and 2010, data for White, Black, AIAN, API, and SOR are for single-race populations)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2002), "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions, Divisions, and States," U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 56. See [www.demographicchartbook.com](http://www.demographicchartbook.com), References.

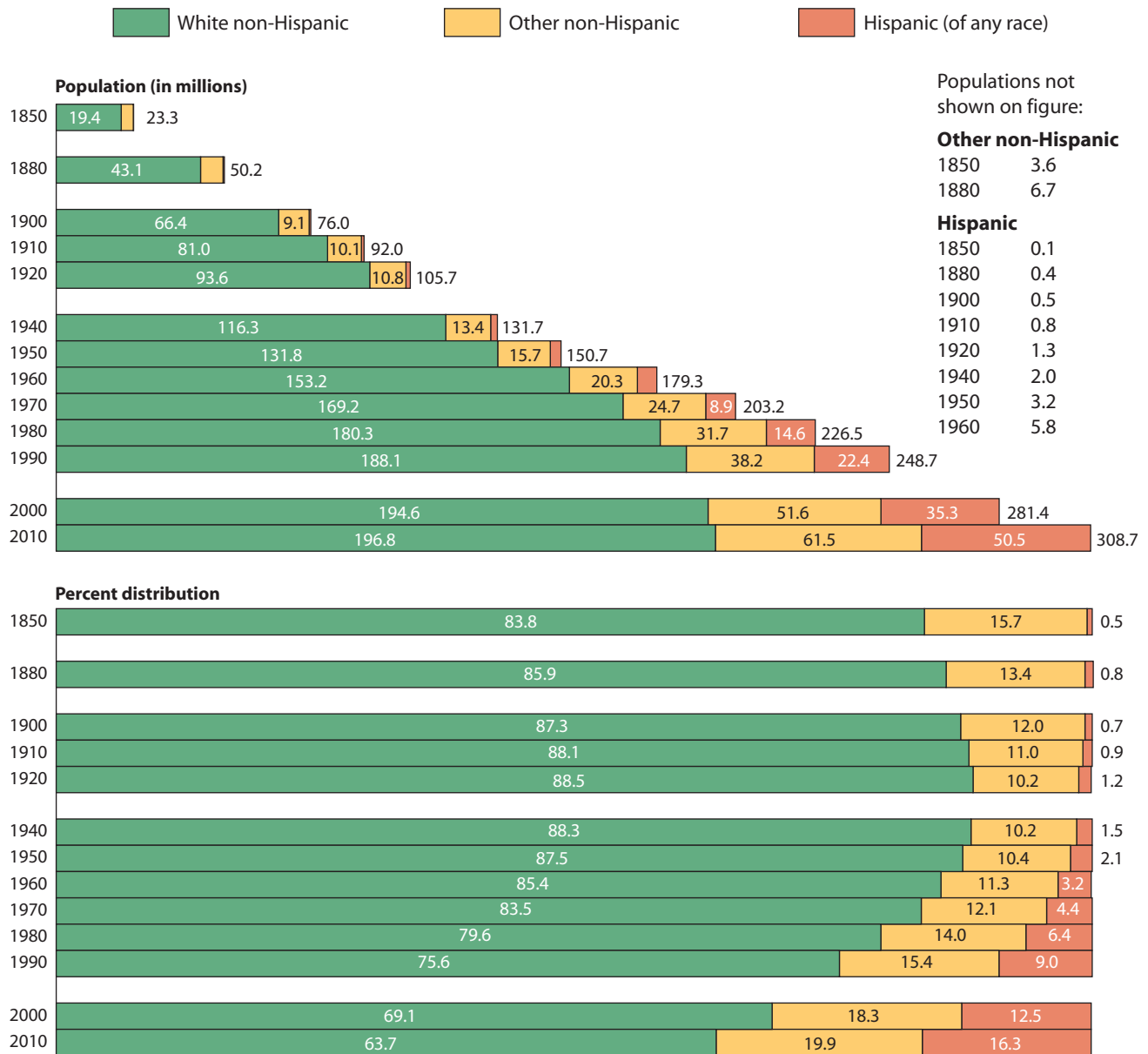
Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

September 21, 2012

Figure 4-4.

# **White Non-Hispanic Population and Hispanic Population for the United States: 1850, 1880, 1900 to 1920, and 1940 to 2010**

(For 2000 and 2010, data for White non-Hispanic are for the single-race population)



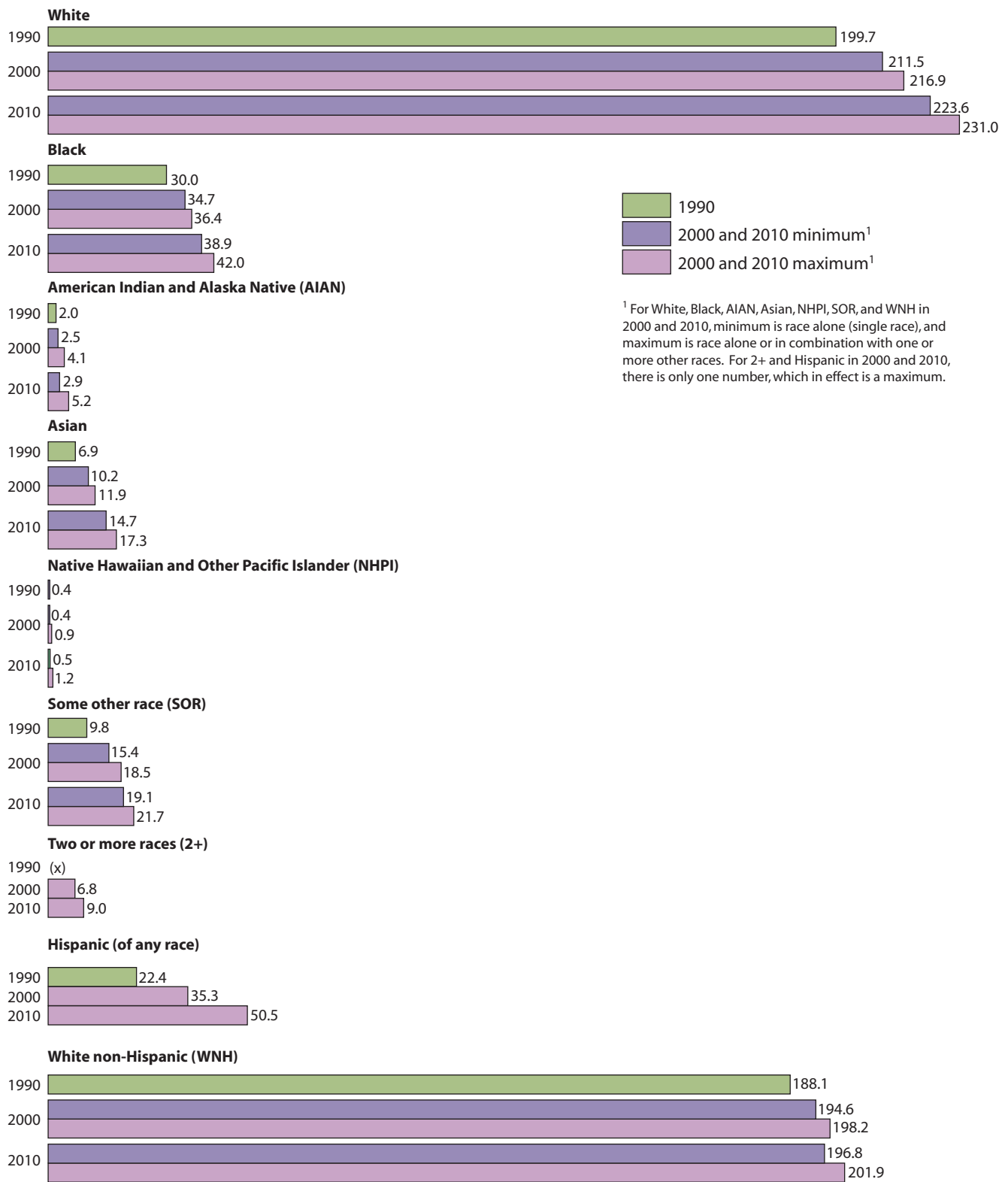
Sources: For 1850-1970 for the Hispanic population: Brian Gratton and Myron P. Guttmann (2006), "Hispanic Population," in *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, Vol. 1, pp. 1-177 to 1-179. Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2002), "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions, Division and States," U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 56. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See [www.demographicchartbook.com/References](http://www.demographicchartbook.com/References).  
 Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

September 21, 2012

Figure 4-5.

## Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States: 1990 to 2010

(Numbers in millions)



(x) Not applicable.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See [www.demographicchartbook.com](http://www.demographicchartbook.com), References.

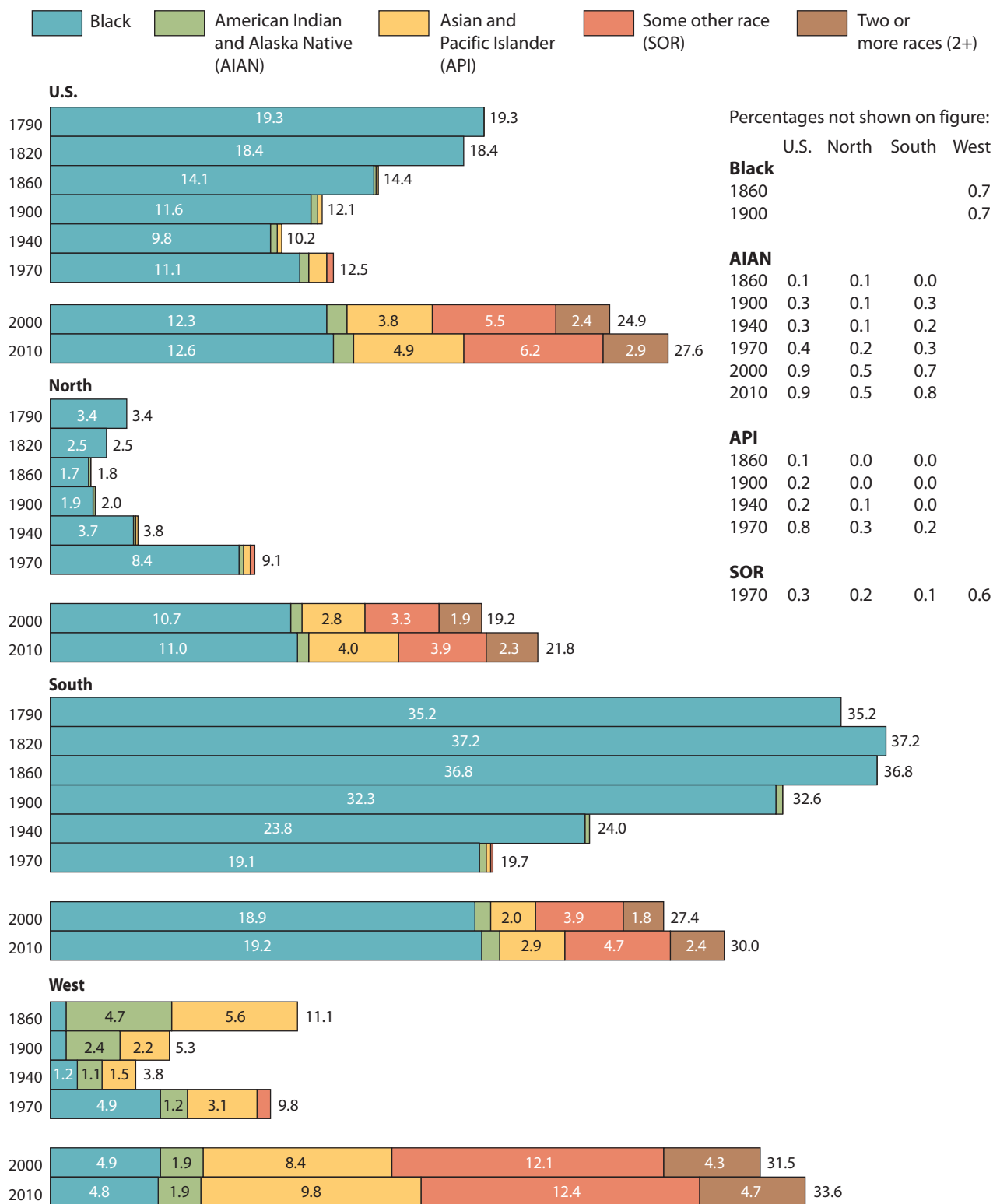
Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

October 20, 2012

Figure 4-6.

## Races Other Than White as a Percentage of Total Population for the United States by Region: 1790, 1820, 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010

(For 2000 and 2010, data for Black, AIAN, API, and SOR are for single-race populations)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2002), "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions, Divisions, and States," U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 56. See [www.demographicchartbook.com](http://www.demographicchartbook.com), References.

Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

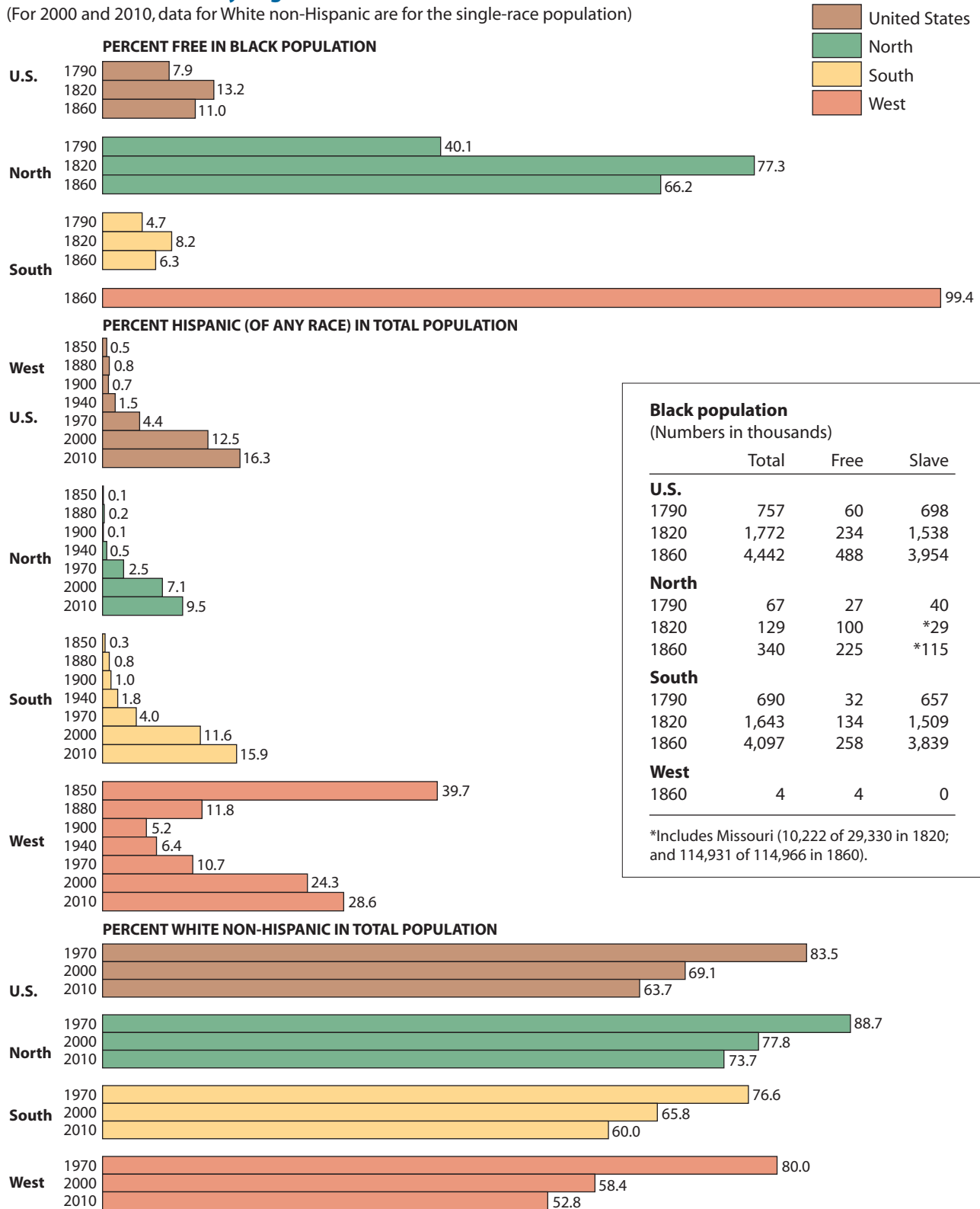
October 20, 2012



Figure 4-7.

**Percent Free in the Black Population, 1790 to 1860, Percent Hispanic, 1850, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000 and 2010, and Percent White Non-Hispanic, 1970, 2000, and 2010 in the Total Population, for the United States by Region**

(For 2000 and 2010, data for White non-Hispanic are for the single-race population)



Sources: For 1850-1970 for the Hispanic population: Brian Gratton and Myron P. Guttmann (2006), "Hispanic Population," in *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, Vol. 1, pp. 1-177 to 1-179. Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2002), "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions, Division and States," U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 56. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See [www.demographicchartbook.com/References](http://www.demographicchartbook.com/References).

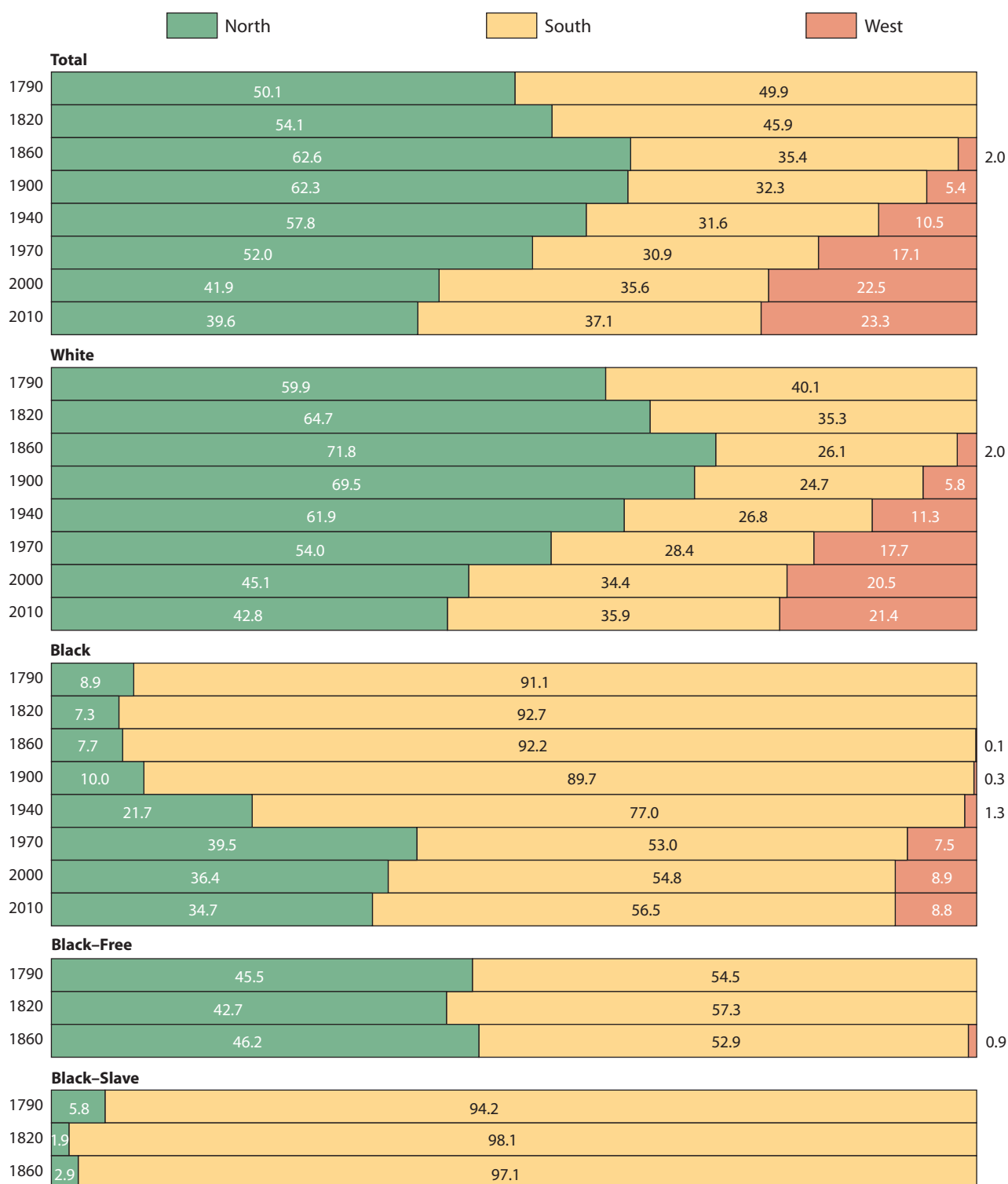
Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

September 22, 2012

Figure 4-8.

# Percent Distribution of the Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States by Region: 1790, 1820, 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010

(For 2000 and 2010, data by race are for single-race populations)



Sources: For 1850-1970 for the Hispanic population: Brian Gratton and Myron P. Guttmann (2006), "Hispanic Population," in *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, Vol. 1, pp. 1-177 to 1-179. Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2002), "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions, Division and States," U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 56. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See [www.demographicchartbook.com](http://www.demographicchartbook.com), References.

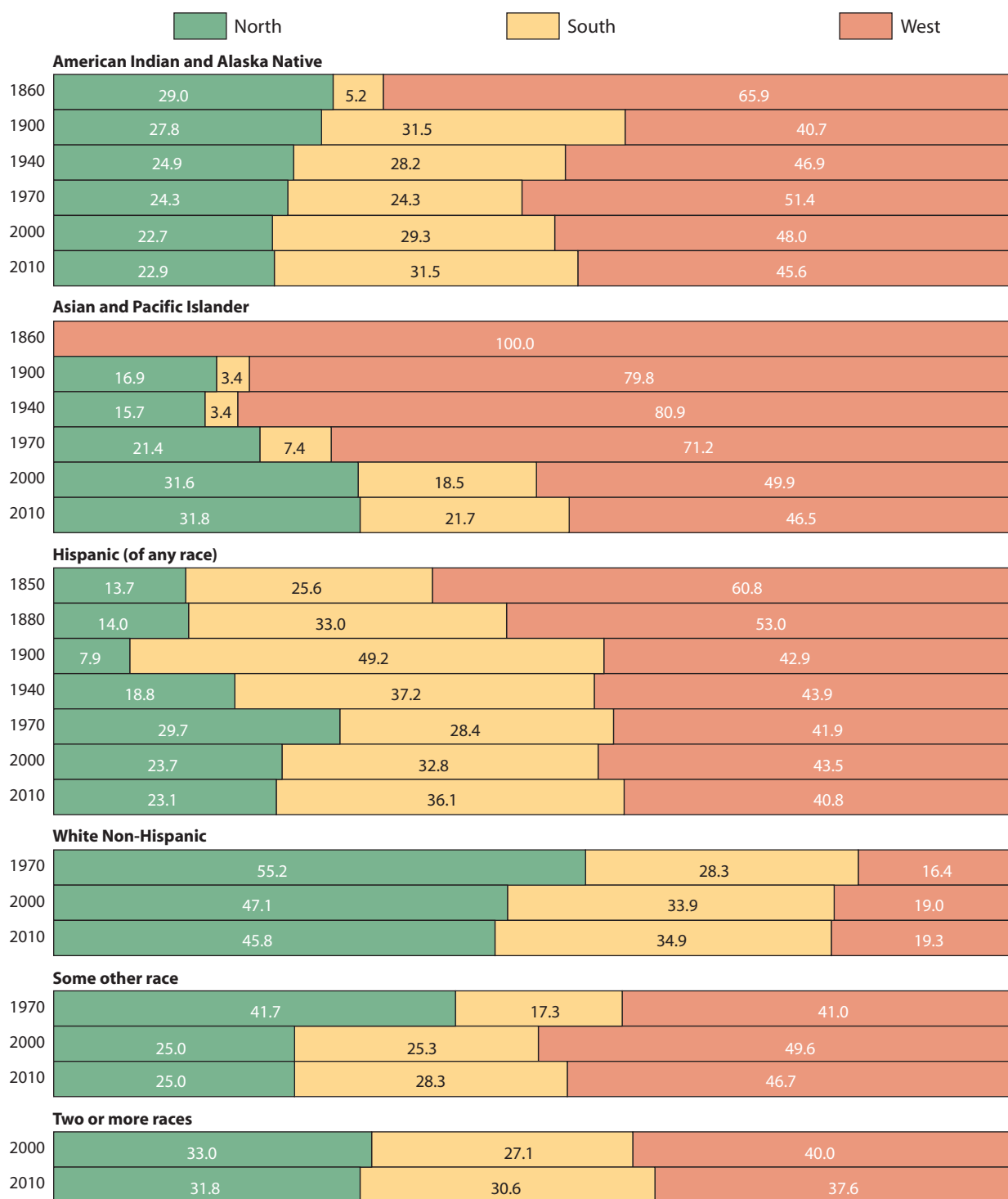
Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

October 20, 2012

Figure 4-8.

# Percent Distribution of the Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States by Region: 1790, 1820, 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010—Con.

(For 2000 and 2010, data by race are for single-race populations)



Sources: For 1850-1970 for the Hispanic population: Brian Gratton and Myron P. Guttmann (2006), "Hispanic Population," in *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, Vol. 1, pp. 1-177 to 1-179. Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2002), "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions, Division and States," U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 56. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See [www.demographicchartbook.com/References](http://www.demographicchartbook.com/References).

Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

October 20, 2012