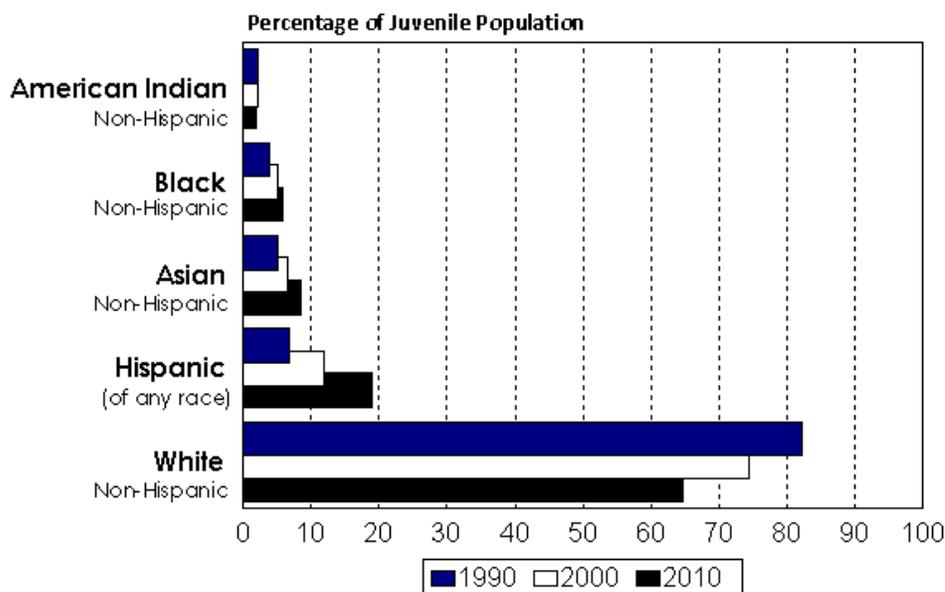


Graph 8
WA State Juvenile Population (Age 0-17)
Trend by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2010



Source: Puzanchera, C., Sladky, A., And Kang, W. (2011), "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2011," Online; available at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezapop/> updated 12/16/2011.

Public School Enrollment

In 2011, according to the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction, there were 1,034,932 students enrolled in Washington's public schools. This is an increase of over 10,000 students from the prior year (2010), when the enrollment was 1,029,087. During the last five years (2007-2011), public school enrollment has gradually increased. Grades with the highest number of students enrolled in October 2011 were ninth (84,457); twelfth (82,884) and tenth (80,599). 2011 was the third year in a row that the number of students in the twelfth grade was among the three grades with the highest enrollment, suggesting an increase in student retention and decrease in the high school dropout rate.

During the school year 2011-12, minority youth represented 39.7 percent of the total Washington public school enrollment. Approximately 19.5 percent were Hispanic, 7.2 percent of the students were Asian, 4.6 percent were Black, 1.6 percent were American Indian, and 60.2 percent were White. Minority enrollment in Washington's

public schools has increased during the past decade, particularly enrollment of Hispanic students. During the past five years (2007-2011) minority enrollment increased from 33.3 percent in 2007 to 39.7 percent in 2011 (an increase of over 19%).

Local school districts and Educational Services Districts (ESDs) in Washington, via the OSPI, provide education services 220 days per year to all youth at juvenile detention centers (under age 18), within JRA facilities (up to age 21), and juveniles (under age 18) who have been transferred to adult court jurisdiction and are detained in adult jails. The OSPI developed a guidebook regarding providing education to juveniles held in adult jails, which is legislatively mandated in WA State.

According to researchers including J. David Hawkins, Richard Catalano, Bonnie Bernard and others, there is a correlation between school attendance and performance, and risky behaviors, including substance abuse, delinquency, sexual activity and association with peers engaging in risky behaviors. It is noteworthy that school districts in Washington State reported 38,144 suspensions and expulsions for student behavior (alcohol,

drugs, harassment by intimidation (bullying), violent criminal offenses, and assault) in school year 2008-09. This number represents 3.7 percent of the total enrollment in our public schools.

The National Center for Educational Statistics estimates that on an average school day, as many as 15 percent of junior and senior high school students are not in school. For many, this is a pattern that leads to the negative behaviors listed above and dropping out of school. Dropping out of school can have profound effects on a young person's life. As reported in the Condition of Education 1999 (National Center for Education Statistics, June 1998, Annual Report to Congress) "students who drop out of school have fewer opportunities to succeed in the workforce or to assume a fully functional place in society at large than those who complete high school."

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Programs that help youth stay in school, and programs that help youth re-enter school and complete graduation, have both social and economic implications. Socially, youth who are attending school are less likely to be involved in substance abuse and delinquency. Economically, youth who complete high school are more likely to be employed than youth who drop out of school.

The Census Bureau reports that earnings of students without a high school diploma average far below the poverty line. The U.S. Department of education reports that high school dropouts experience more unemployment during their work careers than those students who completed high school or college. Additionally, those who complete high school are more likely to be employed as young adults (Condition of Education, 1999). When employment rates for recent high school graduates (who were not enrolled in college) were compared to recent school dropouts, it was found that 67 percent of the high school graduates were employed, compared to 45 percent of the school dropouts (averaged rate) (the Condition of Education, 1999, Annual Report to Congress).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction **Graduation and Dropout Statistics Annual Report 2010-11** (Report to the Legislature) indicates that in school year 2010-11, 14,054 students dropped out of school (grades 9-12). This represents a slight decrease of 4.9 percent from the 2009-10 school year (14,781). The annual dropout rate was 4.4 in school year 2010-11, and 4.6 in school year 2009-2010.

American Indian, Pacific Islander, and Black students had the highest dropout rates in school year 2010-11 (10.75, 7.26, and 6.91 respectively). Asian and White students, and students reporting 2 or more races, had the lowest dropout rates (2.51, 3.87, and 3.87 respectively).
