

Interesting Facts about American Diversity

As Legrain, a popular globalization theorist, states: "Our lives are becoming increasingly intertwined with those of distant people and places around the world - economically, politically, and culturally. These links are not always new, but they are more pervasive than ever before." Our linkages are not just in our communications with those outside our country; we are seeing this diversity every day in our neighborhoods. Consider the following:

- In 2003, Hispanics comprised 13.7 percent of the U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau, "Annual Estimates...").
- In 2050, the Hispanic population in the United States is projected to equal one-quarter of the total U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau, "Projected Population...").
- Even now, in California, Hawaii, New Mexico and Texas, ethnic and racial minorities account for over half of the total state population, and for 40 percent of the population in Arizona, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi and New York (Committee for Economic Development).
- One poll found that 48 percent of Americans interact with someone whose first language is not English at least once a week (Committee for Economic Development).
- Diversity is growing in communities outside our large cities. Consider, for example, the small town of Portland, Maine; though less than 8,000 students attend its public school system, they collectively speak more than 36 languages on a daily basis (Portland Public Schools).
- Religious affiliation in this country is changing. More than one-quarter of American adults (28%) have left the faith in which they were raised in favor of another religion - or no religion at all. The United States is on the verge of becoming a minority Protestant country; the number of Americans who report that they are members of Protestant denominations now stands at only 51% (Pew Research Center).
- While Muslims comprise less than two percent of the American population, they accounted for approximately one quarter of the religious discrimination claims filed with the [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) during 2009 (Wikipedia).
- Technology allows us to communicate with the world. The Internet reaches more than 20 percent of the world population, allowing people to interact from all over the globe. Mobile telephones are used by two billion people, and are one of the biggest markets of growth in developing nations. Over one billion televisions exist in the world, with news and other programs running 24 hours a day (Zhao).

