7th Edition of WICHE’s projections
Projections of high school graduates by state and race/ethnicity
Only publication to include nonpublic school graduates in projections
Actual data from 1991-92 to 2004-05 and projections out to 2021-22
Caveat Emptor

- Assumes existing patterns continue indefinitely
- Policy changes not explicitly modeled
  - NCLB and other accountability measures
  - New state policy objectives
  - Variations in funding levels that affect progression
Two Central Themes

- Changes in total production
- Escalating diversification
First Central Theme: Total Production

- Overall production of high school graduates/demand for postsecondary education
  - National peak in 2007-08 concludes period of rapid expansion
  - Subsequent moderate decline
- The change in production among regions and states varies greatly
Public and Nonpublic High School Graduates by Region, 1996-97 to 2004-05 (Estimated), 2005-06 to 2021-22 (Projected)
Contribution to the Nation’s Change in Total High School Graduates Relative to 2004-05, by Region

- **2009-10** (5-yr Chg.)
- **2014-15** (10-yr Chg.)
- **2019-20** (15-yr Chg.)

-10% or less
-5% to -9.99%
-4.99% to 5%
5.01% to 10%
10.01% to 20%
Greater than 20%
Second Central Theme: Diversification

- Escalating diversification – traditionally underrepresented populations are fastest-growing
  - By 2014-15, non-Whites project to account for 42.1% of public graduates nationally, an increase of 7.5 percentage points
  - Non-Whites’ projected share of high school enrollments in 2014-15 = 47.9%
- Driven by steep declines in White non-Hispanics and by rapid growth in minority populations, especially Hispanics
Composition of Public High School Graduates in the U.S. 
by Race/Ethnicity, 2004-05 (Actual); 2009-10 and 2014-15 (Projected)
Cumulative Percent Change in U.S. Public High School Graduates Relative to 2004-05 by Race/Ethnicity

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- White non-Hispanic
Countdown to Majority-Minority

- **Regions**
  - The West is projected to be majority-minority in 2010
  - The South follows by 2017

- **States**
  - As of the class of 2005: California, D.C., Hawaii, New Mexico, & Texas
  - Additions by the class of 2015: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, & Nevada
Proportion of Minority Public High School Graduates
In 2014-15 (Projected)
Factors Influencing Shifts

- **Births**
  - White births minus non-White births = 1.25M in 1990; 514K in 2004
  - The fertility rate (2004) among Hispanic women = 1.67 times the rate among White, non-Hispanic women

- **Domestic migration**
  - Movement from Midwest and Northeast to West and South

- **Schooling options**
  - Nonpublic and homeschooled have higher proportions of White non-Hispanic students

- **Immigration**
  - 7.6M new residents immigrated between 2000 and 2006
  - Most from Latin America, especially Mexico
Challenges Ahead for States, School Districts, and K-12 Schools

- How will those facing declining enrollments preserve quality despite reduced enrollment-based funding?
- How will those facing continued growth provide capacity and preserve quality in the face of that growth?
- How can they better prepare students for college and the workforce, especially those from the fastest-growing populations (Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders) for whom English may be a second language?
Challenges Ahead for States and Postsecondary Institutions

- How can they enhance access and best ensure the success of all students, especially those who have been historically underserved?
- How can they preserve choice so that able students have a realistic chance to enroll at the college that best meets their needs and interests?
- How might colleges adjust to decreasing demand, but from an ever more diverse pool of recent high school graduates?