



**Center for
Justice, Tolerance
& Community**
University
of California
Santa Cruz

RACE, YOUTH, AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: A RESEARCH AND POLICY INITIATIVE

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Outline

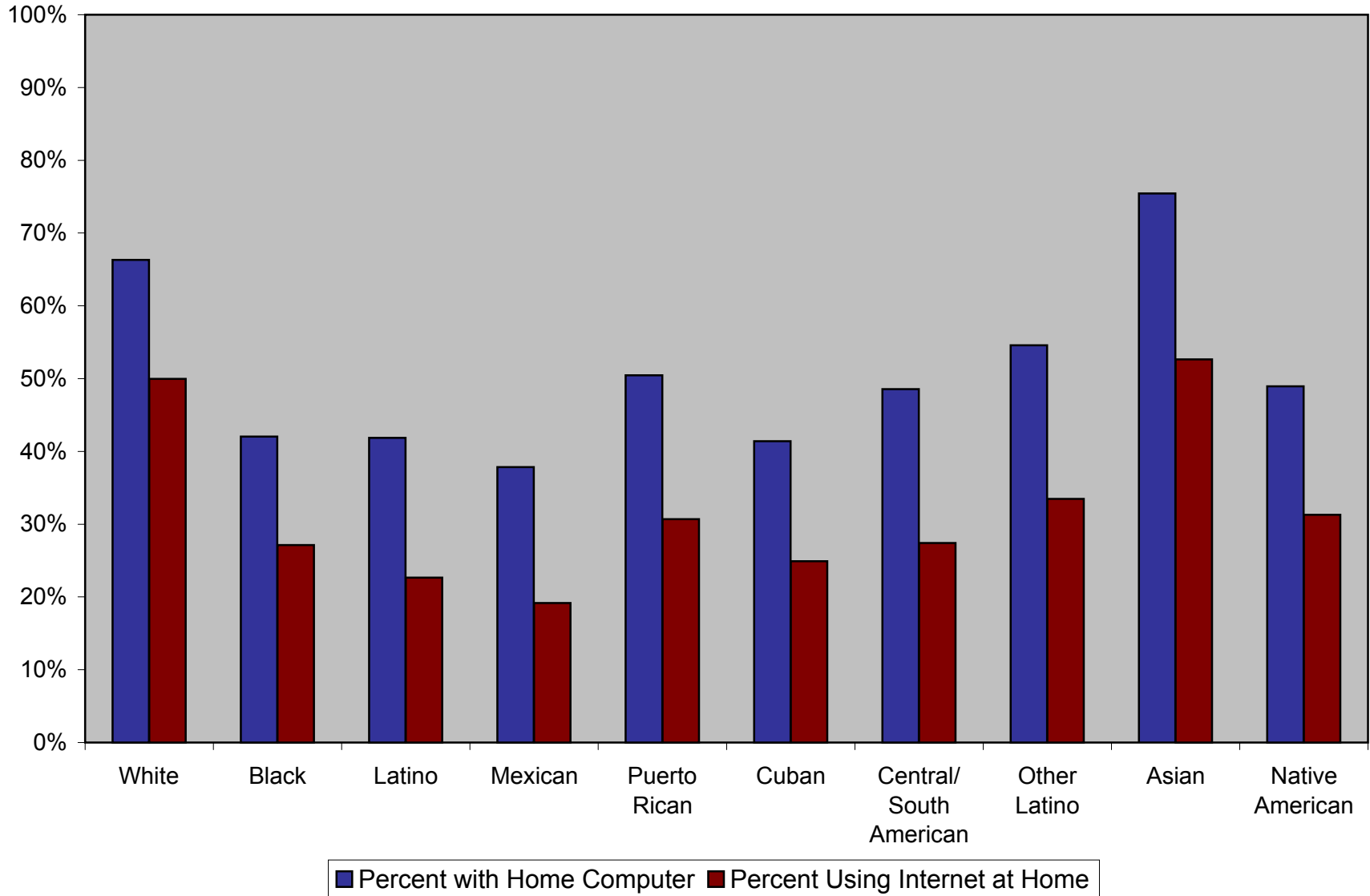
- Documenting the Digital Divide
- The Causes of the Digital Divide
- The Consequences of the Digital Divide
- Patterns of Internet Use in Community Centers

Documenting the Digital Divide

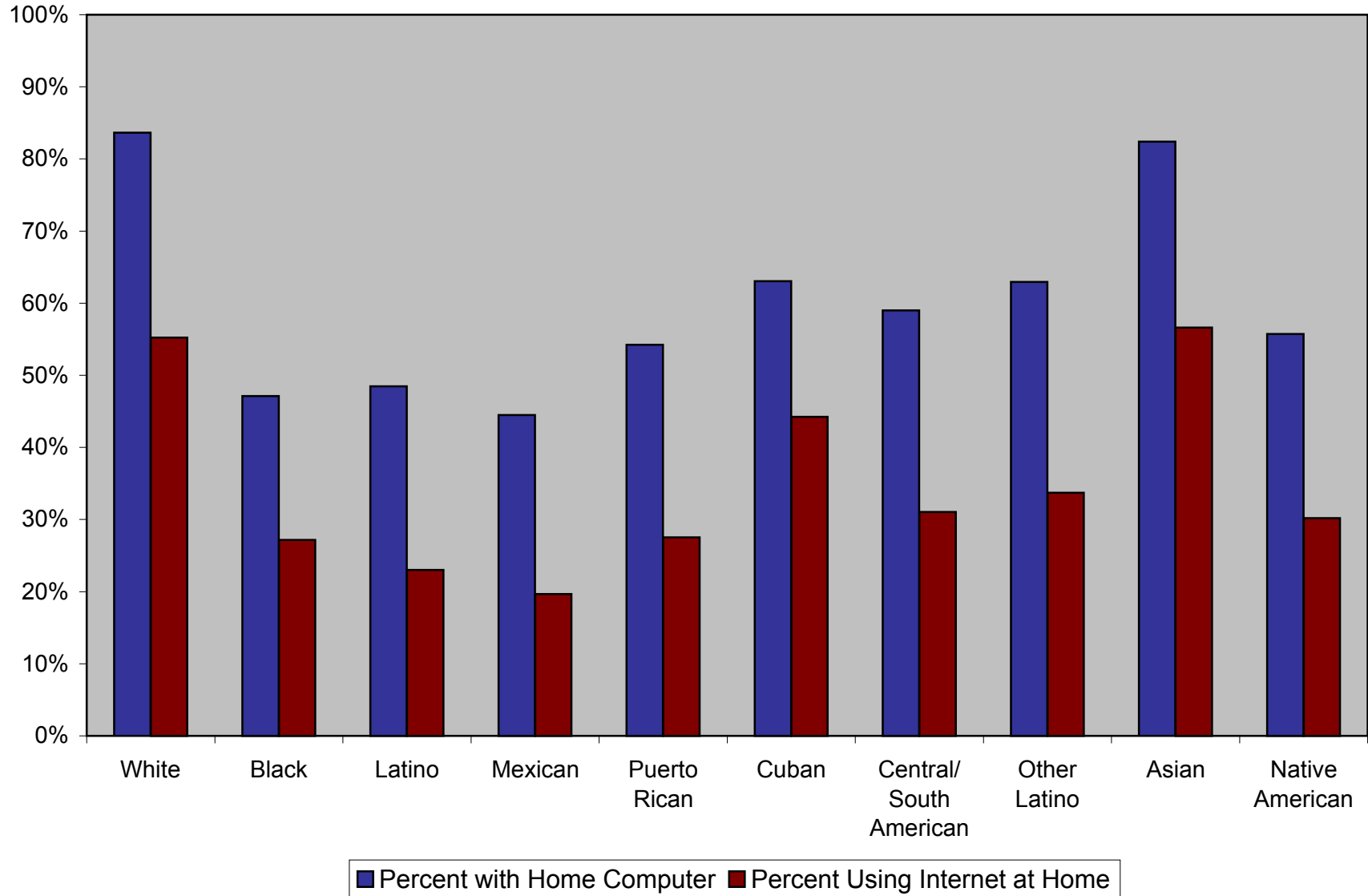
Data

- Computer and Internet Usage Supplement to the September 2001 Current Population Survey
- Conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Representative of the entire U.S. population and interviews approximately 50,000 households
- Contains a wealth of information on computer and Internet use by families and individuals.
- Detailed information on computer and Internet use by individuals not found in other government data sources.
- Used in Department of Commerce Reports:
 - Falling Through the Net Series
 - A Nation Online: How Americans are Expanding Their Use of the Internet

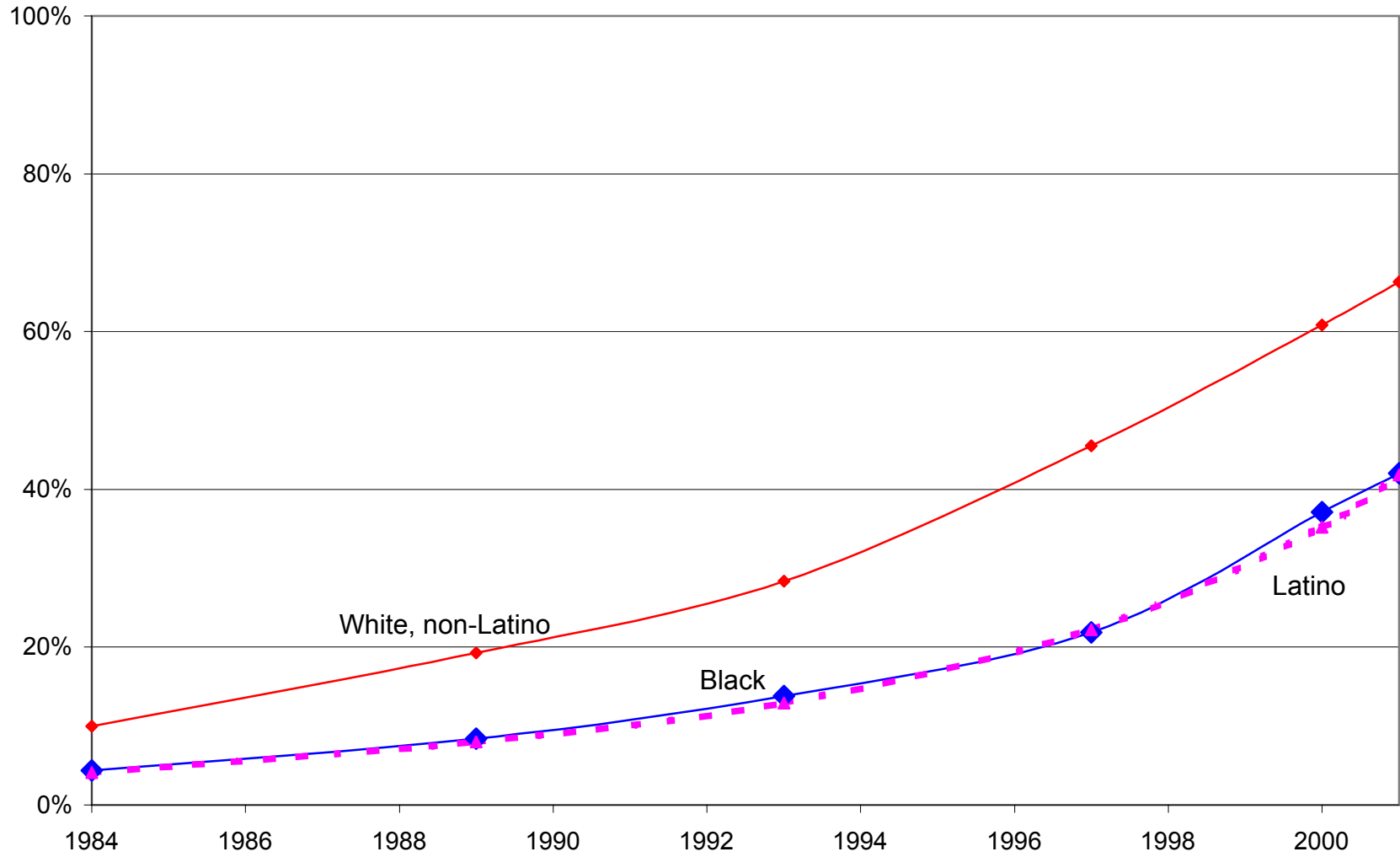
Home Computer and Internet Use by Race/Ethnicity among Adults (Ages 18+), United States
Current Population Survey , 2001



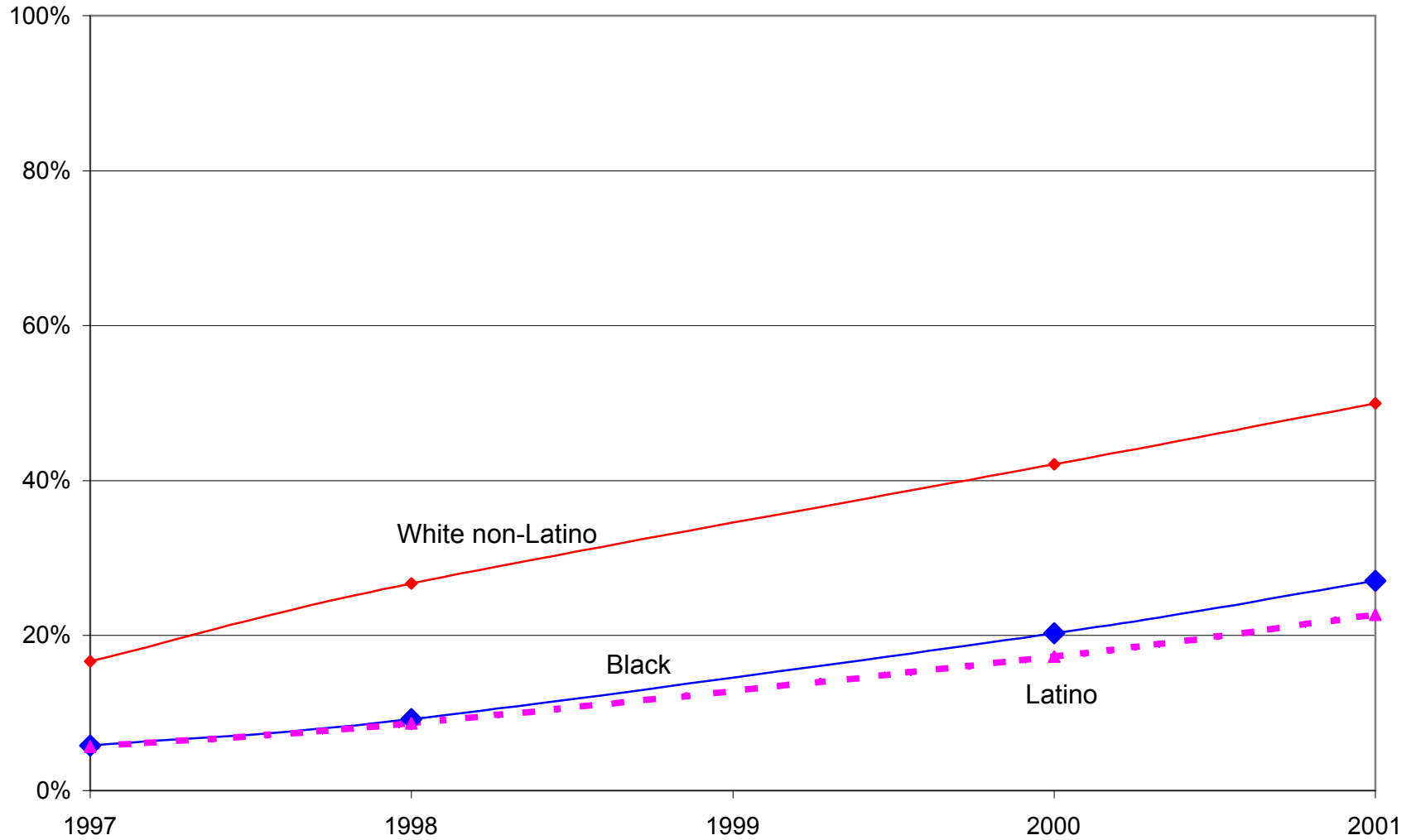
Home Computer and Internet Use by Race/Ethnicity among Children (Ages 5-17), United States
Current Population Survey , 2001



Percent of U.S. Population (Ages 18+) with Access to a Home Computer by Race/Ethnicity
Current Population Survey, 1984-2001

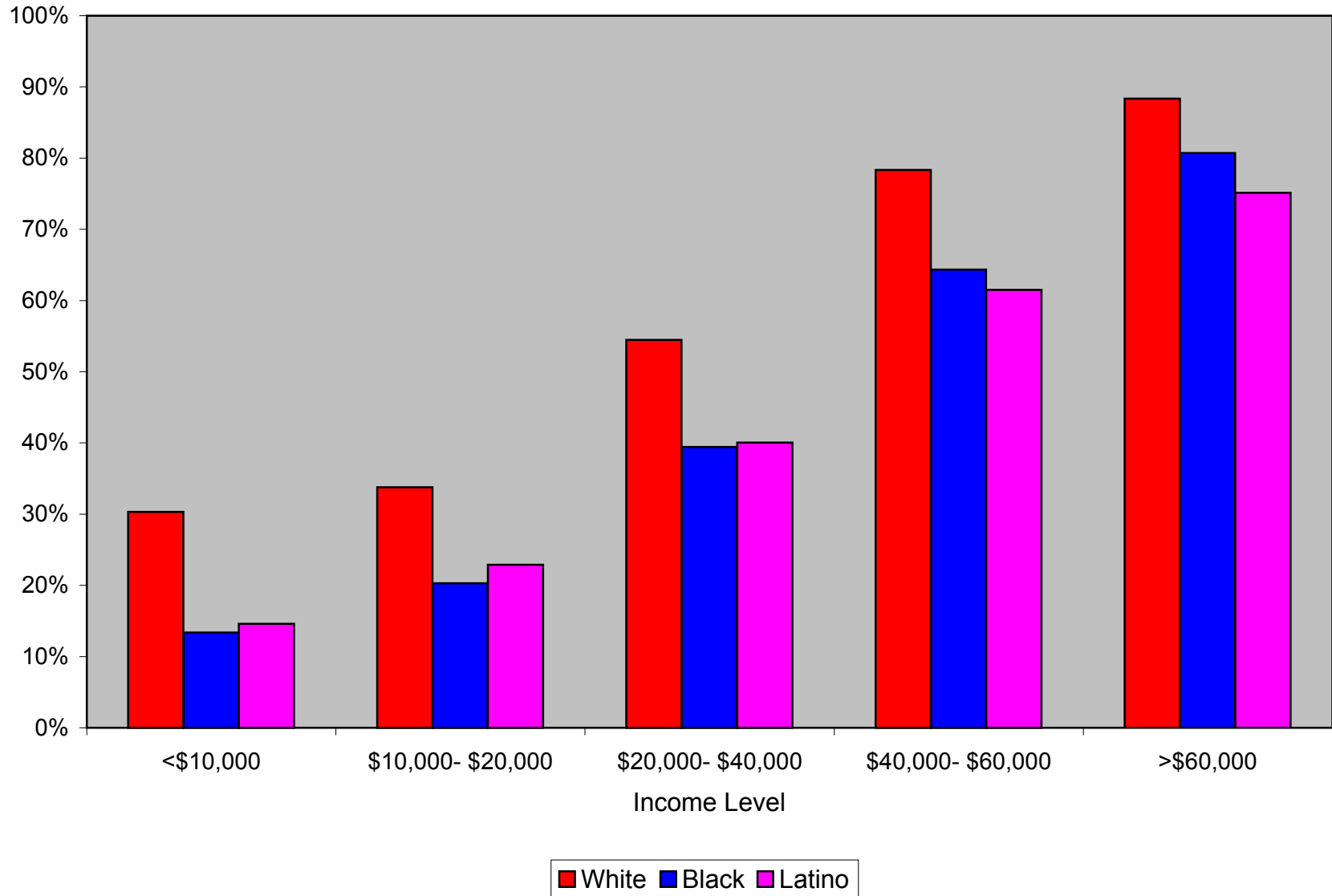


Percent of U.S. Population (Ages 18+) Who Use the Internet at Home by Race/Ethnicity
Current Population Survey, 1997-2001

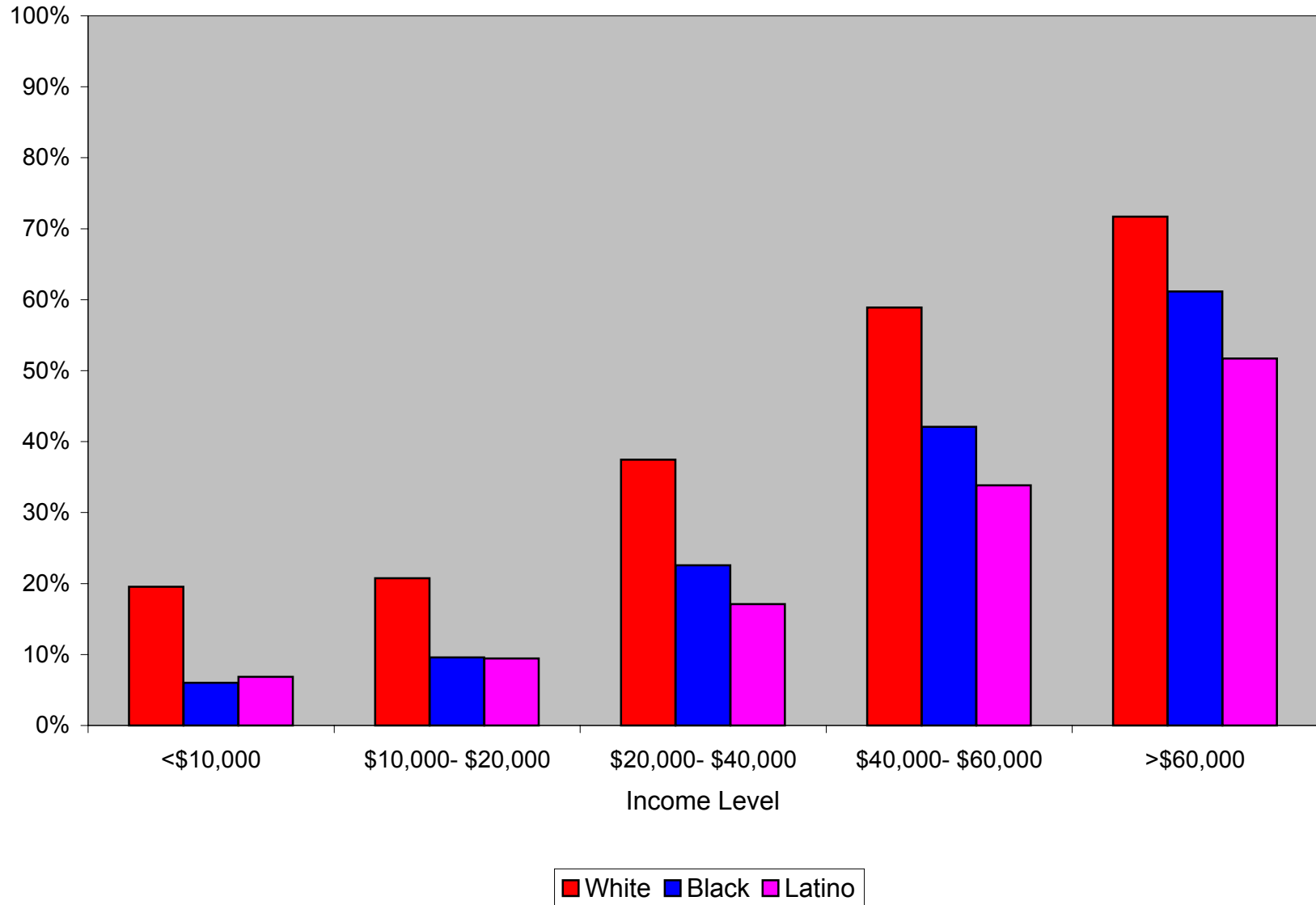


The Causes of the Digital Divide

Percent of Adults (Ages 18+) who Have a Home Computer by Income and Race/Ethnicity
United States, Current Population Survey, 2001



Percent of Adults (Ages 18+) who Use the Internet at Home by Income and Race/Ethnicity
United States, Current Population Survey, 2001



Explanations for Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Home Computer Rates

	Black	Latino	Mexican	Cuban	Puerto Rican	Central/ South Amer.	Native Amer.
White/minority gap in home computer rate	0.244	0.242	0.296	0.224	0.139	0.170	0.199
Contributions from racial differences in:							
Sex and age	-4.6%	-10.5%	-9.6%	2.4%	-14.4%	-16.6%	-10.5%
Marital status and children	9.6%	-0.2%	-1.3%	3.8%	7.7%	0.2%	5.4%
Education	9.4%	22.5%	21.3%	14.7%	32.1%	25.5%	13.3%
Income	27.4%	26.6%	24.3%	20.4%	45.2%	28.4%	36.2%
Region	3.8%	-4.1%	-4.3%	2.2%	-1.3%	-5.0%	-5.6%
Central city status	0.3%	-0.8%	-0.5%	-2.9%	-1.3%	-2.3%	4.2%
Employment / Occupation	2.8%	6.3%	6.3%	2.8%	4.0%	9.7%	4.4%
All included variables	48.6%	39.7%	36.1%	43.3%	72.0%	40.0%	47.4%

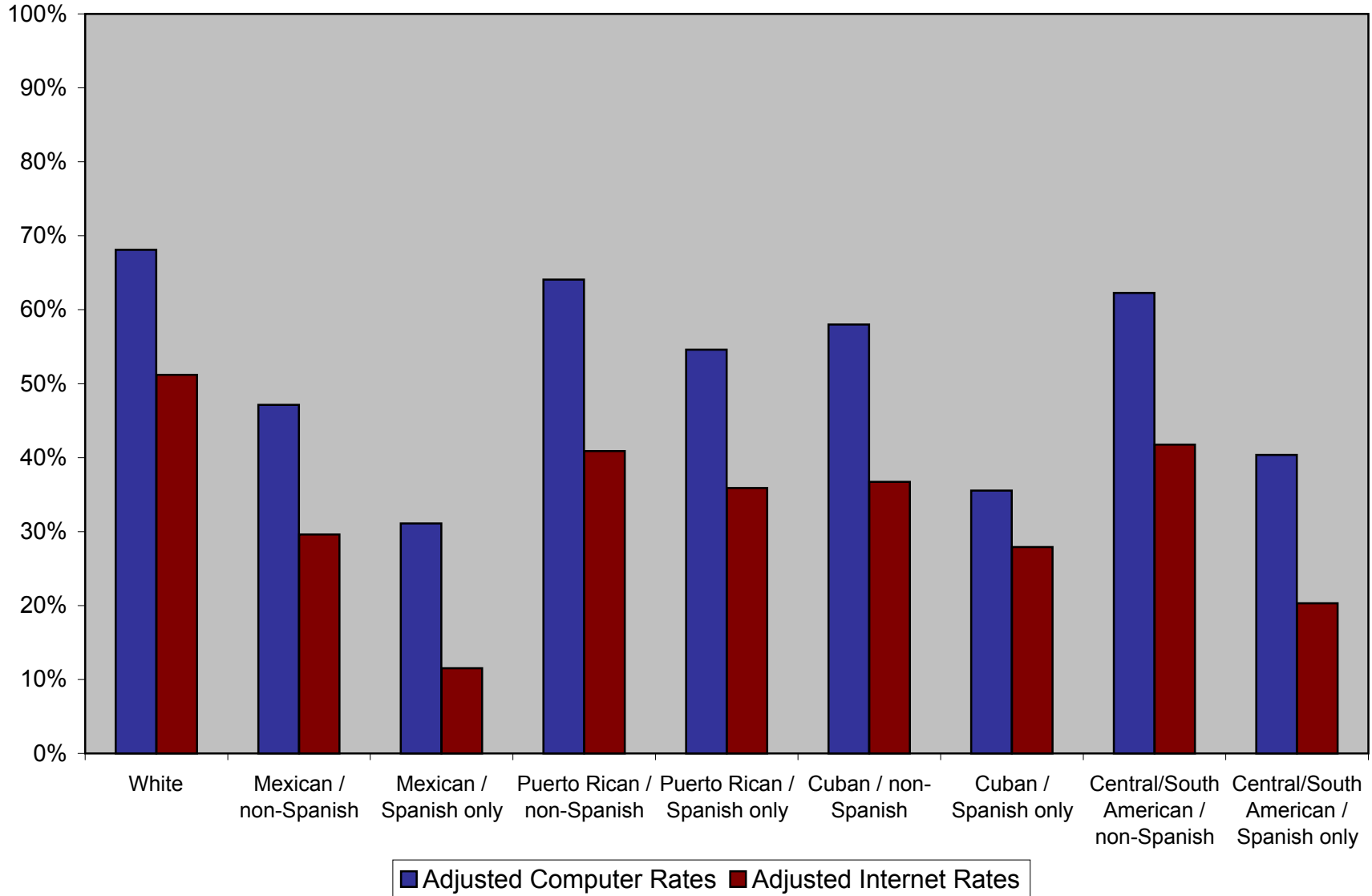
Notes: (1) The sample consists of adults ages 25 and over (2) Contribution estimates are mean values of the decomposition using 1000 subsamples of whites. See text for more details

Explanations for Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Home Internet Use Rates

	Black	Latino	Mexican	Cuban	Puerto Rican	Central/ South Amer.	Native Amer.
White/minority gap in home computer rate	0.234	0.274	0.319	0.234	0.176	0.232	0.193
Contributions from racial differences in:							
Sex and age	-8.5%	-16.5%	-16.0%	0.8%	-20.6%	-20.0%	-18.2%
Marital status and children	7.8%	-0.1%	-0.7%	0.5%	5.6%	-0.5%	5.2%
Education	15.6%	36.6%	38.0%	20.9%	42.0%	33.2%	25.6%
Income	24.4%	20.8%	19.5%	16.6%	30.8%	21.6%	33.8%
Region	1.7%	-2.5%	-2.6%	-1.1%	-0.5%	-2.8%	-4.0%
Central city status	0.2%	-0.5%	-0.3%	-2.1%	-0.9%	-1.2%	4.6%
Employment / Occupation	4.2%	7.9%	8.1%	4.0%	4.8%	10.3%	7.3%
All included variables	45.5%	45.8%	45.9%	39.7%	61.2%	40.6%	54.4%

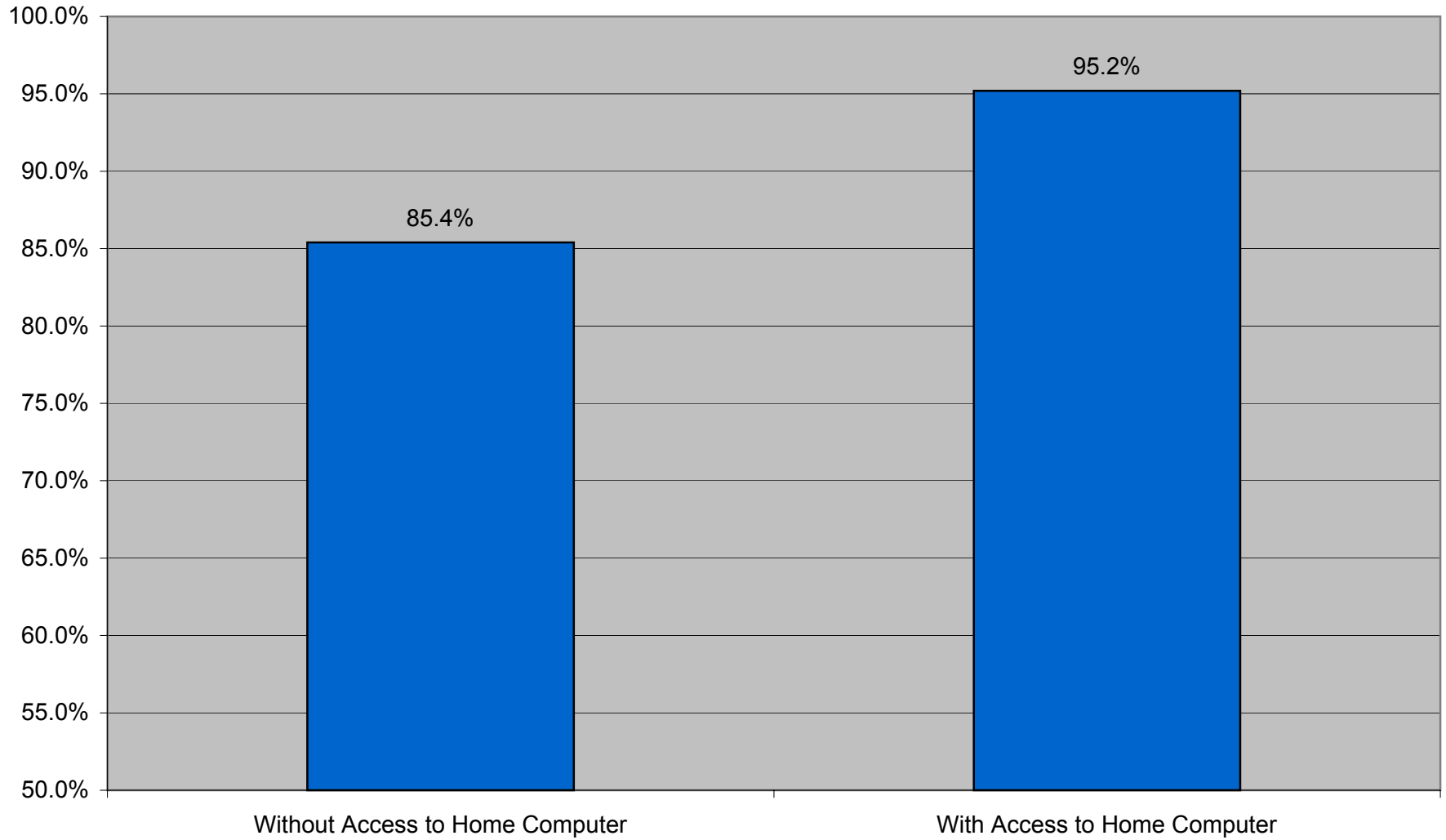
Notes: (1) The sample consists of adults ages 25 and over (2) Contribution estimates are mean values of the decomposition using 1000 subsamples of whites. See text for more details

Adjusted Home Computer and Internet Use by Race/Ethnicity among Adults (Ages 25+)
Current Population Survey, 2001

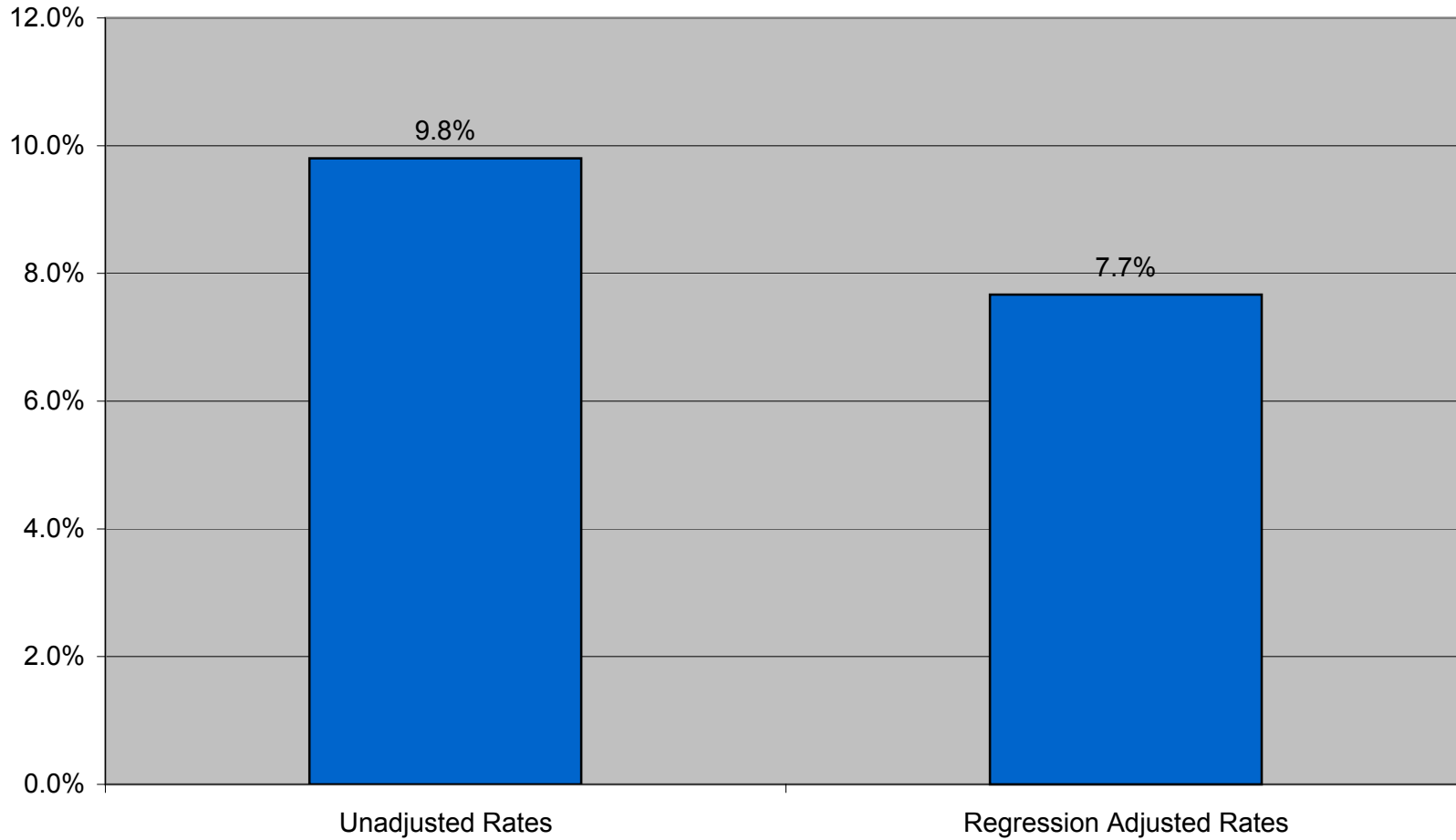


The Consequences of the Digital Divide

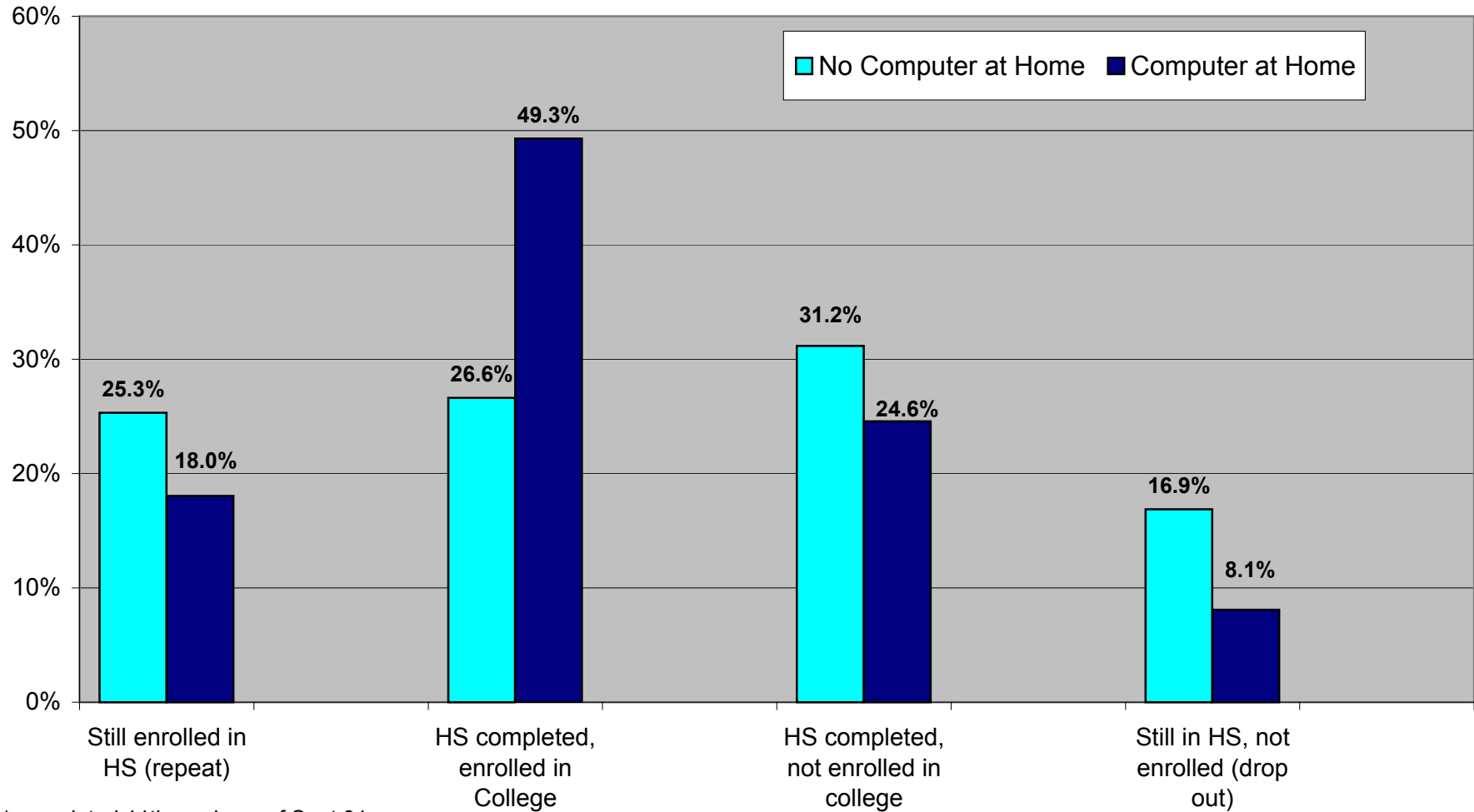
**School Enrollment among Children Ages 16-18
Current Population Survey, 2001**



**School Enrollment Differences from Access to Home Computers
Current Population Survey, 2001**



Home Computer Ownership and Educational Outcomes for Youths (Ages 16-19)
Who are at Risk of Going to College*
Current Population Surveys, 2001-2002



* completed 11th grade as of Sept.01 or completed HS but no diploma

Patterns of Internet Use in Community Centers

Internet Use by Location (Ages 8-25)
Current Population Survey (1998-2001)

	1998	2000	2001
Percent of youth who use the Internet at home	25.6%	40.3%	51.3%
Population (in thousands)	17,613	28,465	36,746
Percent of enrolled youth who use the Internet at school	14.4%		52.7%
Population (in thousands)	9,887		37,754
Percent of youth who use the Internet at a public library	2.7%	3.6%	10.1%
Population (in thousands)	1,872	2,554	7,261
Percent of youth who use the Internet at a community center	0.12%	0.15%	0.87%
Population (in thousands)	84	103	623
Sample size	30,608	30,469	35,874

Notes: (1) The sample consists of youth ages 8-25. (2) All estimates are calculated using sample weights provided by the CPS.

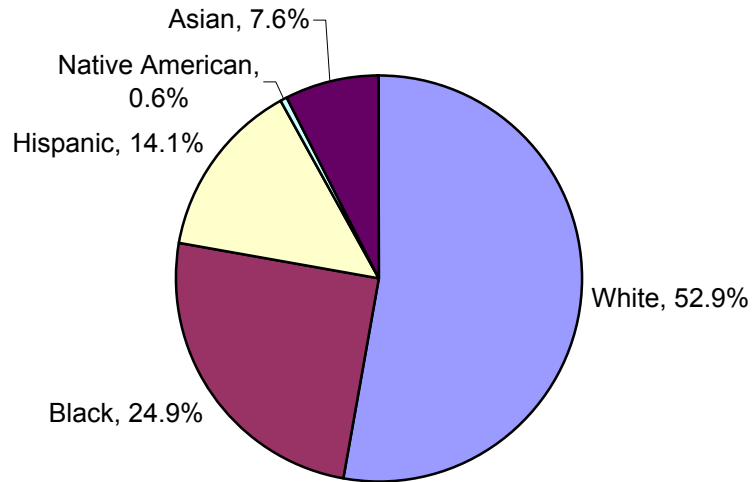
Internet Use by Location and Race/Ethnicity (Ages 8-25)
Current Population Survey (2001)

	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Percent of youth who use the Internet at home	30.4%	27.1%	61.3%
Population (in thousands)	3,370	2,882	28,042
Percent of enrolled youth who use the Internet at school	40.5%	36.4%	59.1%
Population (in thousands)	4,498	3,866	27,061
Percent of youth who use the Internet at a public library	13.2%	7.9%	9.7%
Population (in thousands)	1,466	844	4,453
Percent of youth who use the Internet at a community center	1.4%	0.8%	0.7%
Population (in thousands)	155	88	330
Sample size	4,318	4,408	24,850

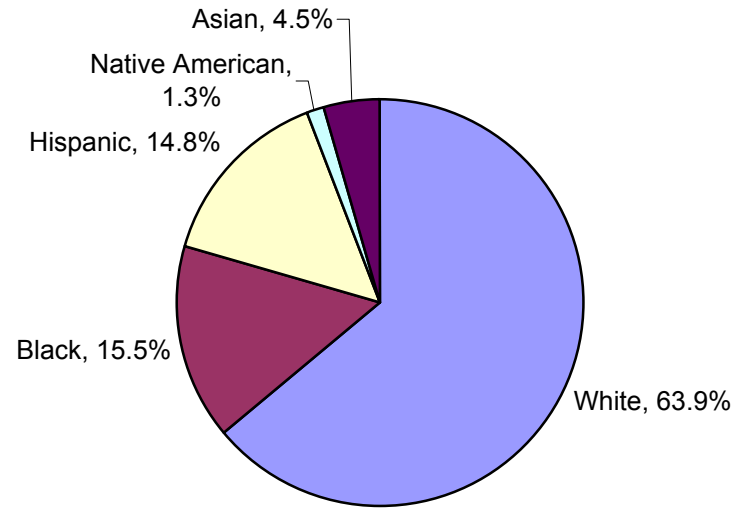
Notes: (1) The sample consists of youth ages 8-25. (2) All estimates are calculated using sample weights provided by the CPS.

Racial/Ethnic Composition of Youths (Ages 8-25)
Current Population Survey, 2001

Youths Using the Internet at Community Centers

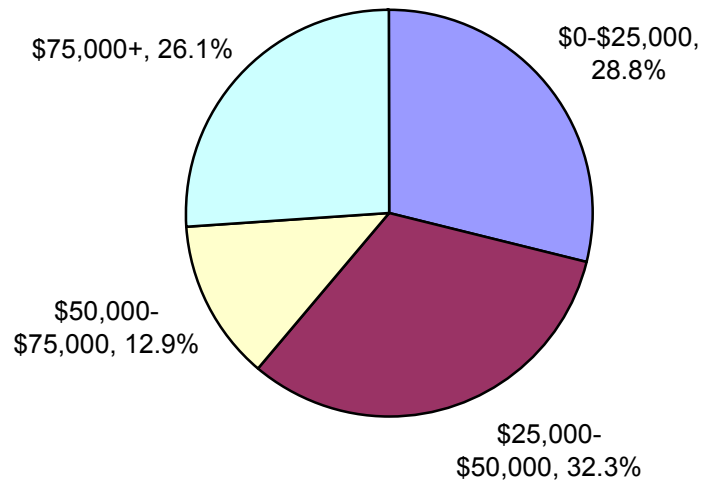


All Youths

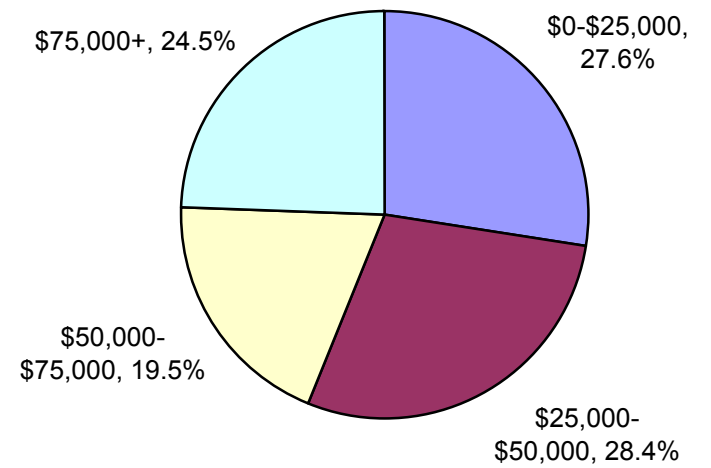


Family Income Composition of Youths (Ages 8-25)
Current Population Survey, 2001

Youths Using the Internet at Community Centers

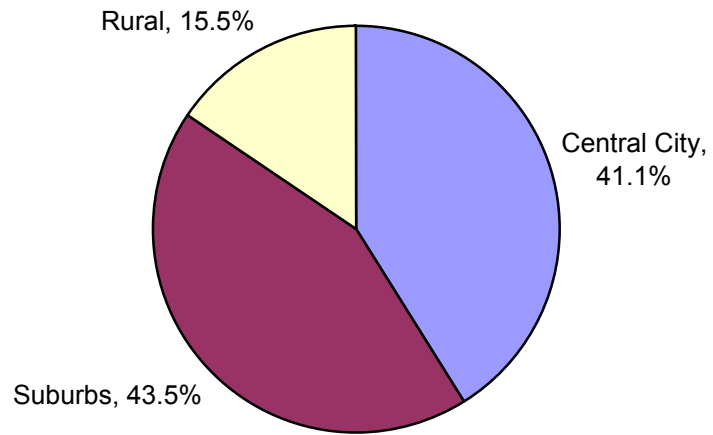


All Youths

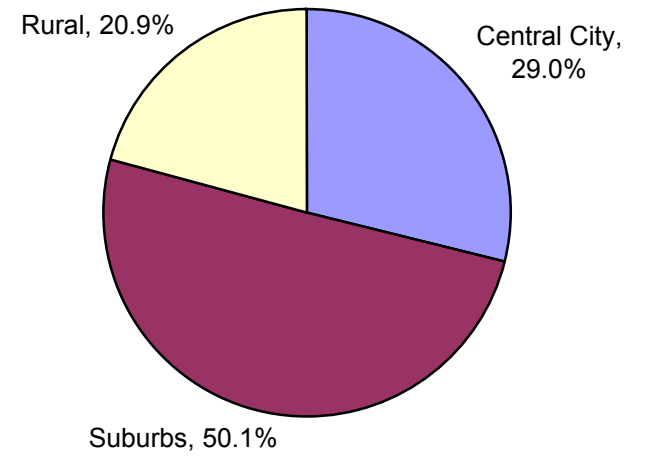


Rural/Urban Composition of Youths (Ages 8-25)
Current Population Survey, 2001

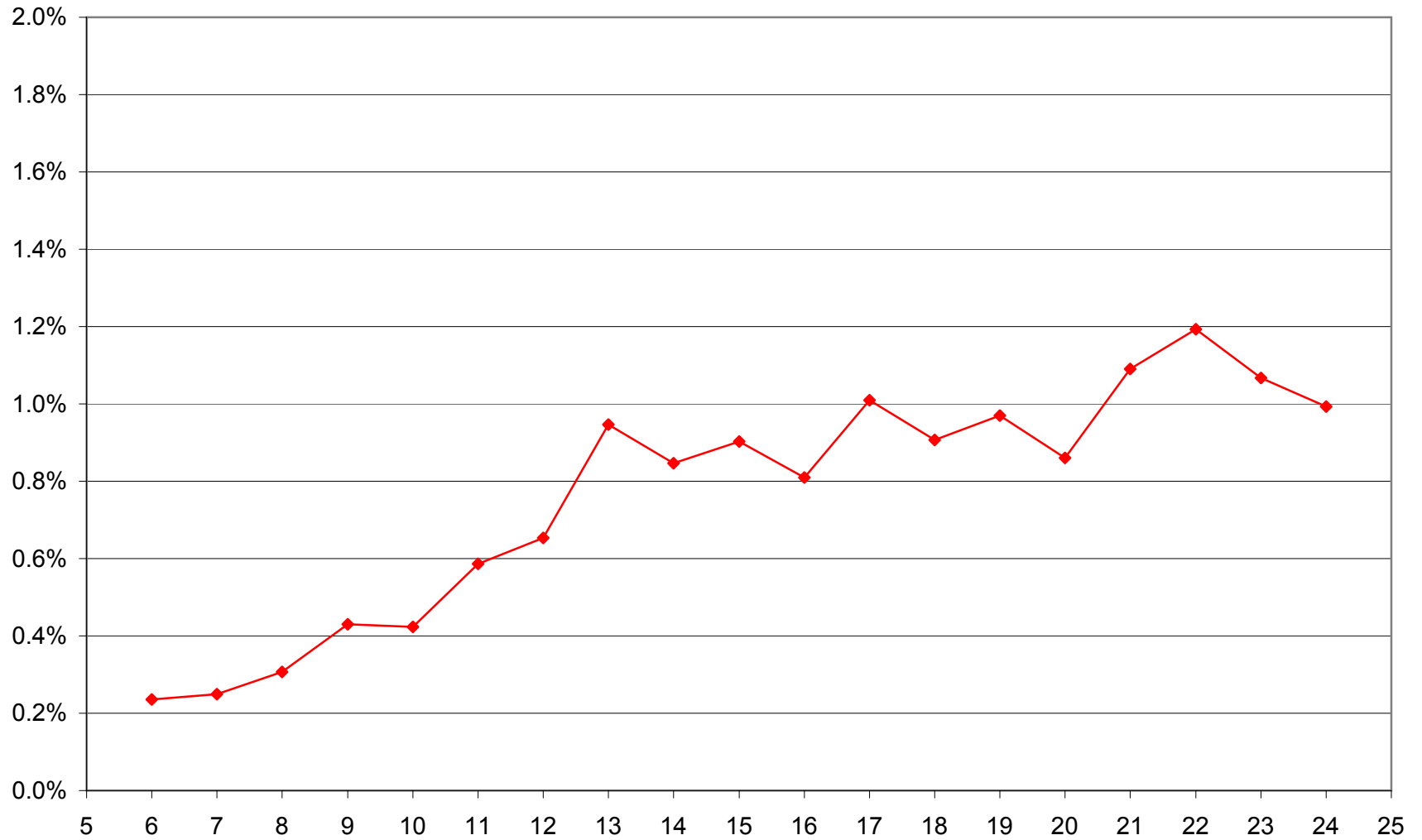
Youths Using the Internet at Community Centers



All Youths



Percent of Youths Using the Internet at Community Centers by Age (3-Year Moving Average)
Current Population Survey, 2001



Summary of Findings

- The Digital Divide is large and does not appear to be disappearing soon.
- Income, education, and language barriers are important causes of the Digital Divide.
- For many groups, however, roughly half of the disparities in technology use remain unexplained.
- The Digital Divide appears to have negative educational consequences for youth.
- Internet use in community centers is low relative to Internet use in homes, schools and libraries, but is growing rapidly.
- Internet use in community centers is relatively high among African-Americans, central city residents, and older youths.

Where to Get More Information:

<http://cjtc.ucsc.edu/digitaldivide.html>