
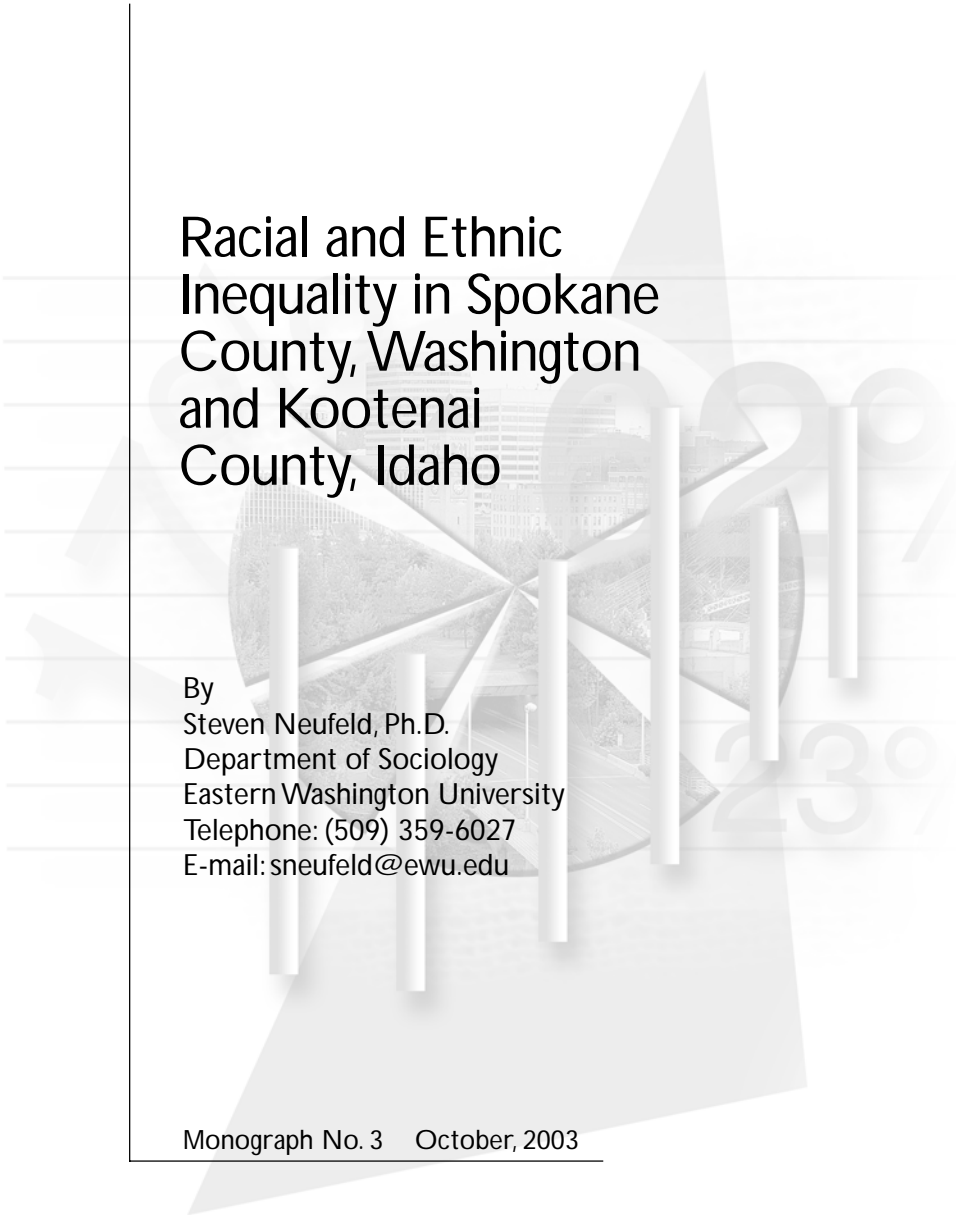


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Racial and Ethnic Inequality in Spokane County, Washington and Kootenai County, Idaho

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It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to the monograph series of the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis from Eastern Washington University. I hope this research from Eastern faculty sheds new light on a particular aspect of life in the Inland Northwest.

The goal of the Institute is for our highly-qualified faculty to provide analysis and data that are relevant to your lives. The vision of a regional university that our Board of Trustees has adopted speaks directly to the notion of relevance to the Inland Northwest. Without relevance to the communities that make up this dynamic and beautiful corner of our country, our university is not fully living up to its mission.

Of course, our main mission at Eastern Washington University is to educate students to the highest levels possible, for the sake of their own careers, the future of the communities in which they will reside, and ultimately their growth as individuals. An increasingly important mission of Eastern is also to encourage faculty research. Not only does this help keep our faculty professionally current, but makes them better teachers, through the sharing of research opportunities with their students.

However, not all faculty research at Eastern need be written for professional audiences. In this day of increasingly specialization and complexity, I see an imperative for an informed citizenry. What better source can our region find to translate this knowledge into jargon-free, accessible information than a university like Eastern?

Since coming here five years ago, I am convinced there is a level of excellence at Eastern Washington University that is worthy of recognition and support. The university is a catalyst in the progress of the region – its economy, culture and way of life. The Board of Trustees and I regard the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis as a striking example of our commitment to this region. My office and that of the Institute director welcome all comments on how we might better serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. M. Jordan'.

Stephen M. Jordan, Ph.D.



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I. Executive Summary

This study presents census data on racial and ethnic inequality in Spokane and Kootenai Counties for the major racial and ethnic groups defined in the U.S. Census. It examines racial and ethnic inequality in education, labor force participation, full-time employment and earnings, income, and poverty. It compares the two counties to each other, and it compares them to their corresponding states and to the U.S. as a whole. It also examines residential segregation among the various minority groups, as well as the extent to which racial and ethnic groups are concentrated in low-income neighborhoods. In sum, it presents a complex, multi-levelled analysis of racial and ethnic inequality in the region.

In both Spokane and Kootenai counties, considerable racial and ethnic inequality exists. In Spokane County, the dominant group socio-economically is Whites, while Blacks and American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AIANs) are generally at the bottom of the various indicators, especially for male employment and earnings. Although they rank relatively high in terms of income, Asians appear to be more varied than other groups in their socio-economic characteristics. They are also the only group that ranks worse on all indicators than their counterparts in both Washington and the U.S.

Hispanics, the largest minority group, is the only group that generally fares better than their counterparts in Washington and the U.S. Hispanics have considerably higher educational attainment rates than their counterparts in Washington and the U.S. They are also the only group in Spokane County that fares better than their counterparts in Washington and the U.S., in terms of median

earnings for year-round full-time workers and for family and individual poverty rates. They are also the only group that ranks higher than their counterparts in Washington on measures of income.

In Kootenai County, Asians outrank Whites on a number of indicators, while AIANs do somewhat better in Kootenai County than Spokane County in terms of income. AIANs are also higher than their counterparts in Idaho and the U.S. in terms of full-time, year-round earnings and all income measures except one, which is the best of any group in Kootenai County. As in Spokane County, Hispanics in Kootenai County have considerably higher educational attainment rates than their counterparts in the Idaho and the U.S. They also have higher incomes than their counterparts in Idaho, and higher household income than their counterparts in the U.S. They are also the only group with lower family and individual poverty rates than their counterparts in both Washington and the U.S.

The relative position of Blacks in Kootenai County is far worse than it is in Spokane County, especially in terms of income and poverty measures. The income and poverty figures for Blacks in Kootenai County are also far worse than they are for Blacks in Idaho and the U.S. as a whole. One interesting finding for Kootenai County is that all minority groups have higher labor force participation rates than Whites, as well as higher rates than the corresponding Idaho figures.

In terms of gender inequality, in Spokane County the gap between males and females in median earnings for full-time, year-round workers in Spokane is greatest for Whites, while considerably less for Blacks, Hispanics, and AIANs. In Kootenai County, the gender gaps in median earnings for full-time, year-round workers are roughly the same for all groups, except for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPIs), where women earn more than men. Excluding NHPIs, which are an

extremely small group, the gender gaps in median earnings are greater in Kootenai County than they are in Spokane County.

The analysis indicates that racial and ethnic segregation exists, but that it varies for the different racial and ethnic groups. In both counties, residential segregation is highest for NHPs, although their small population sizes mean segregation levels can change easily. Apart from NHPs, segregation in Spokane is highest for Blacks, followed by AIANs, Asians, and Hispanics.

In Kootenai County, segregation levels are lower, although this may be influenced in part by the larger census tract populations in Kootenai County. Overall, segregation levels in both counties are relatively low compared to those found in larger urban areas, especially for Kootenai County. Despite their status as the largest racial or ethnic group in both counties, Hispanics are the least segregated, with extremely low segregation levels, especially in Kootenai County.

Significant variation in census tract poverty rates exists, especially in Spokane County, with racial and ethnic groups are differentially distributed across these tracts. Overall, Whites tend to live in less poor neighborhoods, while Blacks, and to a slightly lesser extent AIANs, live in higher poverty areas. NHPs, Asians, and Hispanics live in neighborhoods with less poverty than Blacks or AIANs, with NHPs and Asians showing greater variation in neighborhood poverty than Hispanics. In Kootenai County, less variation in neighborhood poverty exists, and less variation also exists between the racial and ethnic groups in terms of neighborhood poverty. AIANs are more likely to live in higher poverty areas, in part because of their location on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation.

II. Background

Although Spokane and Kootenai have relatively limited racial and ethnic diversity compared to their respective states and the United States, both counties contain a wide variety of racial and ethnic groups and nationalities. Moreover, diversity is increasing in both counties, especially for Hispanics, who continue to be the largest racial or ethnic group in both counties. Despite this, little is known about racial and ethnic inequality. Racial and ethnic inequality in factors such as education, employment, income, and neighborhoods is an important factor shaping racial and ethnic attitudes and relations. Racial and ethnic inequality also limits the life chances of certain individuals and hinders the development of a truly pluralistic and diverse community.

This study analyzes racial and ethnic inequality in Spokane and Kootenai Counties using publicly available data from the 2000 Census.¹

Data are presented on racial and ethnic inequality and racial and ethnic segregation and residential patterns. Overall, the study:

- examines the position of the various racial and ethnic groups on socio-economic indicators such as education, labor force participation, employment, earnings, income, and poverty;
- compares the counties to each other, their respective states, and the United States based on these indicators;
- maps the location of the racial and ethnic groups by census tracts in each county and measures the degree of residential segregation using the dissimilarity index; and
- examines the extent to which racial and ethnic groups are concentrated in low income and high poverty neighborhoods.

III. Socio-Economic Inequality

An important aspect of racial and ethnic diversity is the issue of racial and ethnic inequality. Racial and ethnic inequality can be thought of as the unequal distribution of resources and rewards among different racial and ethnic groups. Resources can be education, knowledge of English, job training, job experience, geographic location, social relationships, cultural practices and knowledge, as well as family and community characteristics. Rewards can be employment, occupation, job mobility, income, housing, prestige, or political power. Racial and ethnic inequality is important not only because it affects the quality of life of individuals, but also because it may foster negative racial attitudes, to the degree that low socio-economic status is correlated with social problems such as crime. This section focuses on inequalities in

educational attainment, employment, wages, household and family income, and poverty. Subsequent sections consider issues of segregation, location, and neighborhood poverty.

Education

One important resource that affects various dimensions of inequality is education. Tables 1a and 1b show data on educational attainment by sex for persons 25 and over, including the percent with a high school degree and a college degree. The tables also include data on the percent with a high school degree and a college degree by sex for the corresponding state and the United States for comparison purposes.

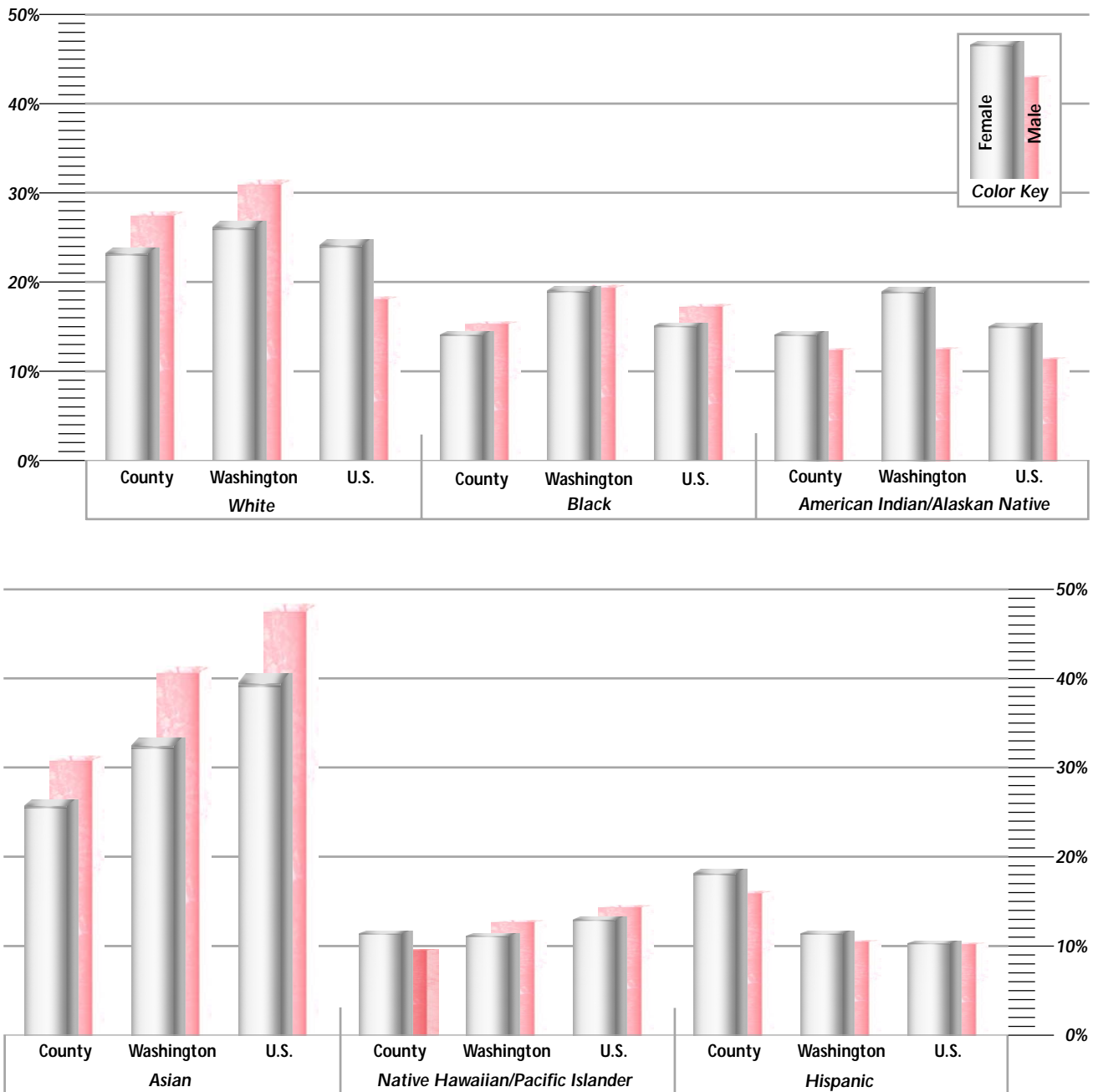
Table **1a**

2000 Spokane County Educational Attainment by Sex for Persons 25+

	White*	Black	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Total:	244,941	3,548	3,283	4,488	381	5,409
Male:	117,181	2,266	1,555	1,833	193	2,960
% Less than 9th grade	2.4	5.5	4.5	9.4	0.0	10.7
% 9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7.6	15.9	11.6	12.4	6.7	13.9
% High school graduate (includes equivalency)	26.3	23.0	31.4	14.7	40.4	24.6
% Some college, no degree	26.1	31.8	28.3	20.0	26.4	23.0
% Associate degree	10.0	8.6	11.8	12.1	16.6	11.8
% Bachelor's degree	17.4	8.7	10.0	17.0	6.2	10.4
% Graduate or professional degree	10.2	6.4	2.4	14.3	3.6	5.6
% With high school degree	90.0	78.6	83.9	78.2	93.3	75.4
% With college degree	27.6	15.1	12.4	31.3	9.8	16.0
Washington Males						
% With high school degree	89.9	84.4	76.8	84.3	84.2	50.7
% With college degree	31.2	19.5	12.5	41.1	12.9	10.6
U.S. Males						
% With high school degree	85.4	70.9	70.0	83.4	78.1	50.8
% With college degree	18.1	13.1	11.4	48.2	14.5	10.2
Female:	127,760	1,282	1,728	2,655	188	2,449
% Less than 9th grade	2.6	5.9	3.4	12.3	0.0	10.6
% 9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7.5	18.6	15.9	10.9	20.2	11.2
% High school graduate (includes equivalency)	25.6	23.4	26.9	23.0	30.3	23.7
% Some college, no degree	28.6	31.4	30.0	17.7	30.9	23.7
% Associate degree	10.1	6.6	9.7	9.7	6.9	12.0
% Bachelor's degree	16.0	11.6	9.8	18.0	11.7	12.7
% Graduate or professional degree	7.7	2.5	4.3	8.4	0.0	6.1
% With high school degree	89.9	75.5	80.7	76.8	79.8	78.2
% With college degree	23.7	14.1	14.1	26.4	11.7	18.8
Washington Females						
% With high school degree	90.0	83.5	78.1	77.6	81.7	55.7
% With college degree	26.7	19.3	12.3	33.4	11.3	11.8
U.S. Females						
% With high school degree	85.5	73.4	71.7	77.8	78.4	54.0
% With college degree	24.8	15.2	11.6	40.4	13.1	10.7

*Does not include Hispanics.

Figure 2: 2000 Spokane County Educational Attainment by Sex for Persons 25+



For Spokane County males, NHPIs have the highest percent with a high school degree (93.3%), but they are lowest in percent with a college degree (9.8%). In contrast, Asians are second lowest in percent with a high school degree (78.2%), but highest in terms of college degrees (31.3%). Whites are second in terms of both high school (90.0%) and college degrees (27.6%), with Blacks, AIANs, and Hispanics lagging behind. Among females, Whites are highest in

percent with a high school degree (89.9%), with the remaining groups lagging somewhat behind. Although Asian females are second lowest in percent with a high school degree, they also lead in terms of college degrees. For females with a college degree, Asians are highest at 26.4%, followed by Whites (23.7%), Hispanics (18.8%), Blacks and AIANs (14.1%), and NHPIs (11.7%).

Compared to Washington State, the percent of males with a high school degree in Spokane County is higher for all racial and ethnic groups except for Blacks and Asians. However, the percent of males with a college degree is lower for all groups, except for Hispanics. For females, the percent with a high school degree is lower for all groups, except for AIANs and Hispanics. The percent with a college degree is lower for Whites, Blacks, and Asians, and higher for AIANs, NHPIs and Hispanics. Both Hispanic males and females do considerably better at earning high school and college degrees than their counterparts in both Washington State and the United States.

Overall, these data point out several important things. First, differences among the racial and ethnic groups' shares with a college degree are greater than the differences in the shares with a high school degree. This is significant because the decline in manufacturing jobs during the current transition to a post-industrial economy means that jobs requiring a high school degree are fewer and pay worse than previously. As a result, differences in college education may lead to greater income inequality between the groups.

Second, while sex differences in educational attainment exist, they are generally quite small. They also vary to a significant extent among the various groups. NHPI women lag significantly behind NHPI men in the percent with a high school degree (79.8% to 93.3%). Asian women lag somewhat behind Asian men in both categories, while White women lag somewhat behind White men in the percent with a college degree (23.7% to 27.6%). However, female Hispanics, NHPIs, AIANs, all have slightly higher percent with college degrees than their male counterparts. As a result, no clear overall sex difference exists.

Third, educational attainment shows greater variation for Asians than for other groups, with higher percentages at each end. Although Asians are second to last in terms of percent with a high school degree, they are highest in percent attaining a college degree. NHPI males vary considerably as well, although in the opposite direction. Finally, Hispanics in Spokane County fare much better in

educational attainment than their counterparts in Washington and the United States.

Table 1b shows educational attainment data for Kootenai County, Idaho, and the United States.

In Kootenai County, the group with the highest percent of males completing high school is Blacks (91.5%), followed by Whites (87.0%), Asians (83.5%), Hispanics (82.6%), and AIANs (77.4%).² The fact that Black males are highest is somewhat surprising, given their generally lower socio-economic status (discussed more shortly). For females, Whites have the highest percent (88.2%), followed by Hispanics (85.3%), AIANs (80.5%), and Asians (77.4%), with Blacks lagging considerably behind (68.2%).

As in Spokane County, Asian males and females are highest in the percentage with a college degree, with Whites second and Hispanics third. Asian women have a sizable lead in college degrees over other women, and they also have a higher percentage of college degrees than Asian men. For men, Blacks are fourth in earning college degrees (14.1%) and AIANs are fifth (8.2%). For women, AIANs are fourth (8.1%), followed by Blacks (0.0%), although the number of cases of Black females is relatively small (22).

Compared to Washington State, the percent of males with a high school degree in Spokane County is higher for all racial and ethnic groups except for Blacks and Asians. However, the percent of males with a college degree is lower for all groups, except for Hispanics.

Table

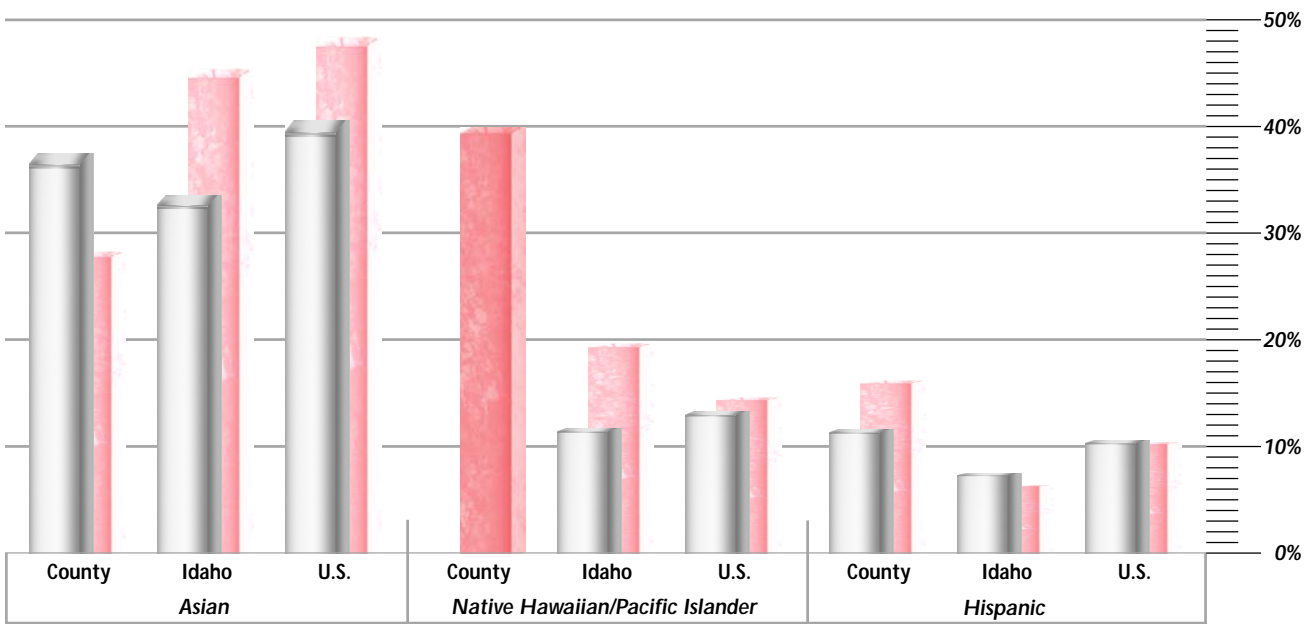
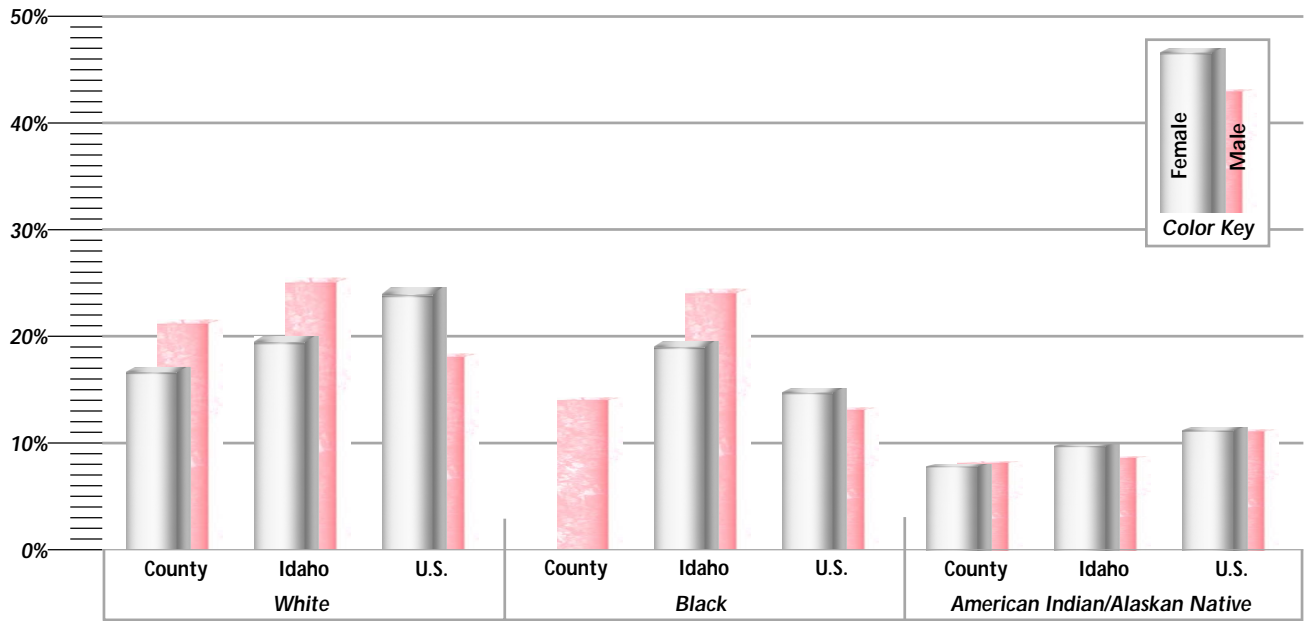
1b

2000 Kootenai County Educational Attainment by Sex for Persons 25+

	White*	Black	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Total:	66,553	93	798	343	21	1,240
Male:	32,235	71	393	103	5	454
% Less than 9 th grade	3.3	0.0	7.6	0.0	0.0	17.4
% 9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	9.7	8.5	15.0	16.5	0.0	8.6
% High school graduate (includes equivalency)	29.9	0.0	23.7	16.5	0.0	20.5
% Some college, no degree	27.6	62.0	34.4	35.0	60.0	26.0
% Associate degree	8.0	15.5	11.2	3.9	0.0	11.5
% Bachelor's degree	14.1	14.1	3.6	20.4	40.0	12.3
% Graduate or professional degree	7.5	0.0	4.6	7.8	0.0	3.7
% With high school degree	87.0	91.5	77.4	83.5	100.0	82.6
% With college degree	21.6	14.1	8.2	28.2	40.0	16.0
Idaho Males						
% With high school degree	87.3	84.7	74.1	86.8	77.6	41.6
% With college degree	25.3	24.2	8.9	45.2	19.7	6.1
U.S. Males						
% With high school degree	85.4	70.9	70.0	83.4	78.1	50.8
% With college degree	18.1	13.1	11.4	48.2	14.5	10.2
Female:	34,318	22	405	240	16	786
% Less than 9 th grade	2.5	31.8	4.4	11.3	0.0	5.2
% 9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	9.4	0.0	15.1	11.3	0.0	9.5
% High school graduate (includes equivalency)	30.9	54.5	28.6	23.8	56.3	34.0
% Some college, no degree	31.5	0.0	31.6	14.6	43.8	33.7
% Associate degree	8.6	13.6	12.9	1.7	0.0	5.9
% Bachelor's degree	12.3	0.0	8.1	28.8	0.0	4.7
% Graduate or professional degree	4.8	0.0	0.0	8.8	0.0	7.0
% With high school degree	88.1	68.2	80.5	77.4	100.0	85.3
% With college degree	17.1	0.0	8.1	37.6	0.0	11.7
Idaho Females						
% With high school degree	87.5	78.8	77.0	78.5	82.8	47.7
% With college degree	20.0	19.4	10.0	33.3	11.8	7.2
U.S. Females						
% With high school degree	85.5	73.4	71.7	77.8	78.4	54.0
% With college degree	24.8	15.2	11.6	40.4	13.1	10.7

*Does not include Hispanics.

Figure 2: 2000 Kootenai County Educational Attainment by Sex for Persons 25+



Compared to their counterparts in Idaho, men in all racial and ethnic groups in Kootenai County do better at earning high school degrees, except for Whites and Asians. However, men in all racial and ethnic groups do worse in earning college degrees except for Hispanics. For women, all groups except Blacks and Asians earn high school degrees at a higher rate. However, all groups except for Asians and Hispanics earn college degrees at a lower rate

than their state counterparts. Black females are the only group doing worse in earning high school and college degrees compared to both Idaho and the U.S., although this again is based on a small number (22). As in Spokane County and Washington State, Hispanic males and females do considerably better at earning both degrees than their counterparts in their state and the U.S.

Employment and Labor Force Participation

A second important dimension of inequality is employment and labor force participation. Table 2 shows data on civilian labor force participation and employment and unemployment rates.³ Labor force participation is an important determinant of earnings and income. Labor force participation for males also has important implications for marriage

rates and family formation, since unemployed men are often considered ineligible as potential mates (Wilson, 1987). The civilian labor force participation rate is the percent of persons 16 and over who are in the labor force, including persons who are working (employed) or looking for work (unemployed).

2000 Civilian Labor Force Participation Rates by Sex for Persons 16 and Over for Spokane and Kootenai Counties

Table **2**

	White*	Black	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Spokane County						
Total:	294,161	4,629	4,231	6,101	565	7,625
Male:	142,135	2,848	2,001	2,501	281	4,113
% in Civilian Labor Force	69.9	61.5	59.4	61.0	82.6	68.7
—Employed	92.0	79.6	80.2	88.6	75.9	84.7
—Unemployed	8.0	20.4	19.8	11.4	24.1	15.5
% 16+ Employed	64.3	49.0	47.6	54.0	62.7	58.1
Washington Males						
% 16+ Employed	67.7	56.5	54.4	65.7	65.2	65.6
Female:	152,026	1,781	2,230	3,600	284	3,512
% in Civilian Labor Force	59.0	56.7	56.7	55.7	72.5	67.0
—Employed	93.4	81.1	91.7	79.0	83.0	86.8
—Unemployed	6.6	18.9	8.3	21.0	17.0	13.2
% 16+ Employed	55.1	46.0	52.0	44.0	60.2	58.2
Washington Females						
% 16+ Employed	56.3	57.5	52.5	54.7	58.4	51.6

Continued on next page

*Does not include Hispanics.

Table 2 continued:

**2000 Civilian Labor Force Participation Rates
by Sex for Persons 16 and Over for Spokane
and Kootenai Counties**

Table

2

	White*	Black	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Kootenai County						
Total:	78,413	130	1,001	402	38	1,610
Male:	38,366	97	492	120	9	671
% in Civilian Labor Force	72.6	71.1	76.0	83.3	77.8	76.3
—Employed	91.5	100.0	91.4	98.0	100.0	89.6
—Unemployed	8.5	0.0	8.6	2.0	0.0	10.4
% 16+ Employed	66.4	71.1	69.5	81.6	77.7	68.4
Idaho Males						
% 16+ Employed	68.2	59.3	54.9	70.7	61.1	68.7
Female:	40,047	33	509	282	29	939
% in Civilian Labor Force	58.9	51.5	52.5	62.4	69.0	61.2
—Employed	93.2	100.0	89.1	95.5	100.0	94.4
—Unemployed	6.8	0.0	10.9	4.5	0.0	5.6
% 16+ Employed	54.9	51.5	46.8	59.6	69.0	57.8
Idaho Females						
% 16+ Employed	56.1	49.4	52.9	53.7	47.1	51.0
U.S. Males						
% 16+ Employed	68.4	52.2	56.1	66.8	61.5	62.8
U.S. Females						
% 16+ Employed	55.3	52.8	50.0	53.3	53.8	47.2

*Does not include Hispanics.

As Table 2 shows, labor force participation and employment rates vary widely by race and ethnicity in Spokane and Kootenai counties. For males in Spokane County, NHPs have the highest labor participation rates (82.6%) by a significant amount, followed by Whites (69.9%), Hispanics (68.7%), Blacks (61.5%), Asians (61.0%), and AIANs (59.4%). However, NHPs also have the highest unemployment rate (24.1%), followed by Blacks (20.4%), AIANs (19.8%), Hispanics (15.5%), Asians (11.4%), and Whites (8.0%). Although Asians have low labor force participation rates, their

unemployment rate is also quite low. In contrast, Hispanics are close to Whites in labor force participation but have a considerably higher unemployment rate (15.5%). Overall, 64.3% of Whites age 16 and over are employed, compared to 62.7% of NHPs, 58.1% of Hispanics, 54.0% of Asians, 49.0% of Blacks, and 47.6% of AIANs.

For Spokane County females, NHPs once again have the highest labor force participation rate (72.5%), followed by Hispanics (67.0%), Whites (59%), Blacks and AIANs (56.7%), and Asians

(55.7%). Asian women have the highest unemployment rate (21.0%), followed by Blacks (18.9%), NHPIs (17.0%), Hispanics (13.2%), AIANs (8.3%), and Whites (6.6%). Thus, Asian women have considerably higher unemployment rates than Asian males, while AIAN women have considerably lower unemployment rates than AIAN males. NHPI women have a somewhat lower unemployment rate than NHPI males, although both rates are relatively high. Overall, 60.2% of NHPI females age 16 and over are employed, compared to 58.2% of Hispanics, 55.1% of White females, 52.0% of AIANs, 46.0% of Blacks, and 44.0% of Asians.

Compared to males in Washington State, the percent of males age 16 and over who are employed is lower for all racial and ethnic groups in Spokane County, with the gap being greatest for Asians. Except for NHPIs, the percent of males age 16 and over who are employed is also lower for all racial and ethnic groups than it is in the United States. Compared to females in Washington State, the percent of females age 16 and over who are employed in Spokane County is lower for Whites, Blacks, AIANs, and Asians, and higher for NHPIs and Hispanics. The same holds true for comparisons to the United States, except that female AIANs age 16 and over have higher employment rates in Spokane County than the United States.

In Kootenai County, labor force participation patterns for males are markedly different than in Spokane. For males, Asians have the highest participation rate (83.3%), followed by NHPIs (77.8%), Hispanics (76.3%), and AIANs (76.1%). Whites are second lowest (72.6%), slightly ahead of Blacks (71.1%). Whites also have the second highest unemployment rate along with AIANs (8.5%), trailed only by Hispanics (10.4%). Blacks, Asians, and NHPIs all have significantly lower unemployment rates than Whites, although the number of NHPI males is extremely small. Overall, 81.6% of Asian males age 16 and over are employed, compared to 77.7% of NHPI males, 71.1% of Black males, 69.5% of AIAN males, 68.4% of Hispanic males, and 66.4% of White males.

In general, Kootenai County male labor force participation rates by racial and ethnic group are higher and male unemployment rates are lower

than Spokane County, resulting in higher employment percentages overall. Indeed, for each minority group in Kootenai County, the employment rate for males age 16 and over is considerably higher than the corresponding figure for Idaho. The higher labor force participation rates of minority males in Kootenai County are extremely surprising, especially given North Idaho's reputation for racism. This may reflect in part the higher median age of Whites in Kootenai County,⁴ especially compared to other groups besides Asians. It may also reflect the possibility that minorities may only come to North Idaho with at least a strong likelihood of a job, as opposed to coming speculatively.

For Kootenai County females, NHPIs again have the highest labor force participation rate (69.0%), followed by Asians (62.4%), Hispanics (61.2%), Whites (58.9%), AIANs (52.5%), and Blacks (51.5%). In terms of unemployment rates, both Black females and NHPI females have no unemployment (0.0%), although the number of cases in both groups respectively are relatively small. Asian females have the next lowest unemployment rate (4.5%), followed by Hispanics (5.6%), Whites (6.7%), and AIANs (10.9%). Overall, 69.0% of NHPI females age 16 and over are employed, compared to 59.6% of Asian females, 57.8% of Hispanic females, 54.9% of White females, 51.5% of Black females, and 46.8% of AIAN females. As with males, unemployment rates among female members of Kootenai County's racial and ethnic groups are generally lower than in Spokane County.

Except for Whites and Hispanics, the percent of males age 16 and over who are employed is higher in Kootenai County than in Idaho. Indeed, for all groups except for Hispanics, the employment rate for males 16 and over is considerably higher in Kootenai County than Idaho. Except for Whites, employment rates for males age 16 and over in Kootenai County are also higher than they are in the United States. For females, employment rates for those age 16 and over are higher in Kootenai County than in Idaho for all groups except Whites and AIANs. They are also higher than in the United States for Asians, NHPIs, and Hispanics.

Full-Time Employment and Earnings

In addition to labor force participation and employment, differences exist in the percent of persons working full-time, year-round jobs, as well as in their earnings. Table 3a presents data on work experience and median earnings by sex for Spokane County in 1999.⁵ The term median refers to the

value that divides the number of cases into equal halves. Median earnings are frequently used instead of mean (or average) earnings because means are more susceptible to being skewed by extremely high values.

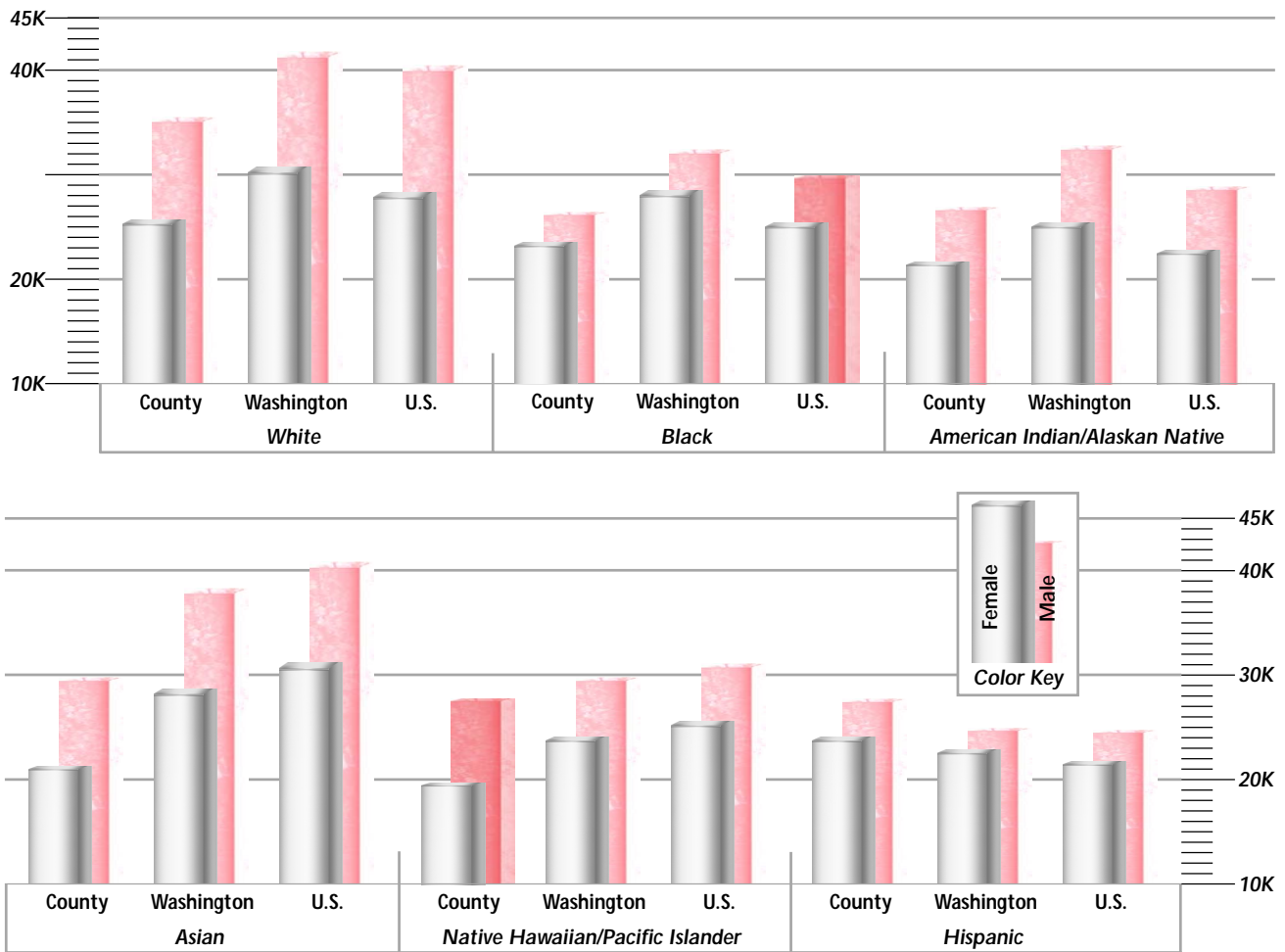
Table **3a**

1999 Spokane County Work Experience and Earnings by Sex for Persons 16 and over

	White*	Black	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Labor Force Participation						
Total:	294,161	4,629	4,231	6,101	565	7,625
Male:	142,135	2,848	2,001	2,501	281	4,113
% Worked full-time, year-round	46.6	35.7	35.8	36.6	41.6	39.7
Female:	152,026	1,781	2,230	3,600	284	3,512
% Worked full-time, year-round	28.5	25.7	28.4	21.0	25.4	27.4
Median earnings						
Full-time, year round workers:						
Male	35,750	26,403	26,985	29,028	27,337	27,584
Female	25,663	23,750	21,653	21,250	19,833	23,901
Other workers:						
Male	11,009	10,350	8,387	10,800	7,813	10,201
Female	9,300	6,232	6,579	7,999	4,464	6,623
Washington						
% Worked full-time, year-round						
Male	50.8	45.3	38.2	45.3	49.3	39.9
Female	30.0	35.6	28.6	30.4	34.3	23.9
Median earnings						
Male	41,934	32,472	32,473	38,007	29,573	24,516
Female	30,618	28,553	25,438	28,425	23,915	22,590
United States						
% Worked full-time, year-round						
Male	53.1	39.0	38.8	47.1	44.2	43.1
Female	32.1	34.0	28.6	31.5	32.4	26.1
Median earnings						
Male	40,160	30,000	28,919	40,650	31,030	25,400
Female	28,265	25,589	22,834	31,049	25,694	21,634

*Does not include Hispanics.

Figure 3: 1999 Spokane County Work Earnings by Sex for Persons 16 and over



For males age 16 and over in Spokane County, Whites show the highest share working full-time, year-round (46.6%), followed by NHPs (41.6%), Hispanics (39.7%), Asians (36.6%), AIANs (35.8%), and Blacks (35.7%). Except for Hispanics, all of these figures are lower than the corresponding Washington State and U.S. figures. White full-time, year-round workers also earn more than other full-time, year-round workers. Median earnings for White full-time, year-round workers are 18.8% higher than median earnings for Asians, 22.8% higher than median earnings for Hispanics, 23.5% higher than median earnings for NHPs, 24.5% higher than median earnings for AIANs, and 26.1% higher than median earnings for Blacks. Whites who do not work full-time, year-round also earn more than the other groups, especially AIANs and NHPs.

Among females age 16 and over in Spokane County, the pattern is similar. White females are more likely to be full-time, year-round workers. However, the relative differences between White females and other females are generally not as great, with the exception of Asian females, who lag in full-time, year-round employment. As with males, the participation figures for all other groups are lower than the corresponding Washington State and U.S. figures, with the exception of Hispanics.

White females who work full-time, year-round also have the highest median earnings, although the differences in general are not as great. The median earnings of White females is 6.9% higher than Hispanics, 7.4% higher than Blacks, 15.6% higher than AIANs, 17.2% higher than Asians, and 22.7% higher than NHPs. In contrast, White females who

do not work full-time, year-round earn considerably more than other groups, especially NHPs.

Table 3a also permits comparisons of the relative earnings of males and females within each racial and ethnic group. Overall, the gap in median earnings between males and females that work full-time, year-round is largest among Whites. Median earnings of white females who work full-time, year-round earn only 71.8% of their male counterparts,

compared to 90.0% for Blacks, 86.6% for Hispanics, 80.2% for AIANs, 73.2% for Asians, and 72.6% of NHPs. As a result, gender inequality in earnings for full-time year-round workers is greatest for Whites and lowest for Blacks and Hispanics. Except for Hispanic females, males and females from all other groups earn less than the corresponding group figures for the state.

Table **3b**

1999 Kootenai County Work Experience and Earnings by Sex for Persons 16 and over

	White*	Black	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Labor Force Participation						
Total:	78,413	130	1,001	402	38	1,610
Male:	38,366	97	492	120	9	671
% Worked full-time, year-round	46.2	41.2	35.2	60.0	55.6	37.4
Female:	40,047	33	509	282	29	939
% Worked full-time, year-round	27.3	0.0	26.7	19.9	24.1	23.3
Median earnings						
Full-time, year round workers:						
Male	33,803	23,750	37,386	36,250	22,083	26,890
Female	22,220	0	24,342	23,500	28,750	17,361
Other workers:						
Male	12,515	22,614	11,250	26,125	8,750	10,750
Female	8,520	4,583	4,313	11,080	N/A	8,404
Idaho						
% Worked full-time, year-round						
Male	49.2	47.3	34.3	45.5	43.4	40.6
Female	28.0	29.8	32.1	29.0	30.6	23.2
Median earnings						
Male	34,236	30,167	27,420	39,738	22,813	21,886
Female	23,374	19,152	21,560	26,000	22,328	18,592
United States						
% Worked full-time, year-round						
Male	53.1	39.0	38.8	47.1	44.2	43.1
Female	32.1	34.0	28.6	31.5	32.4	26.1
Median earnings						
Male	40,160	30,000	28,919	40,650	31,030	25,400
Female	28,265	25,589	22,834	31,049	25,694	21,634

*Does not include Hispanics.

Figure 4: 1999 Kootenai County Work Earnings by Sex for Persons 16 and over

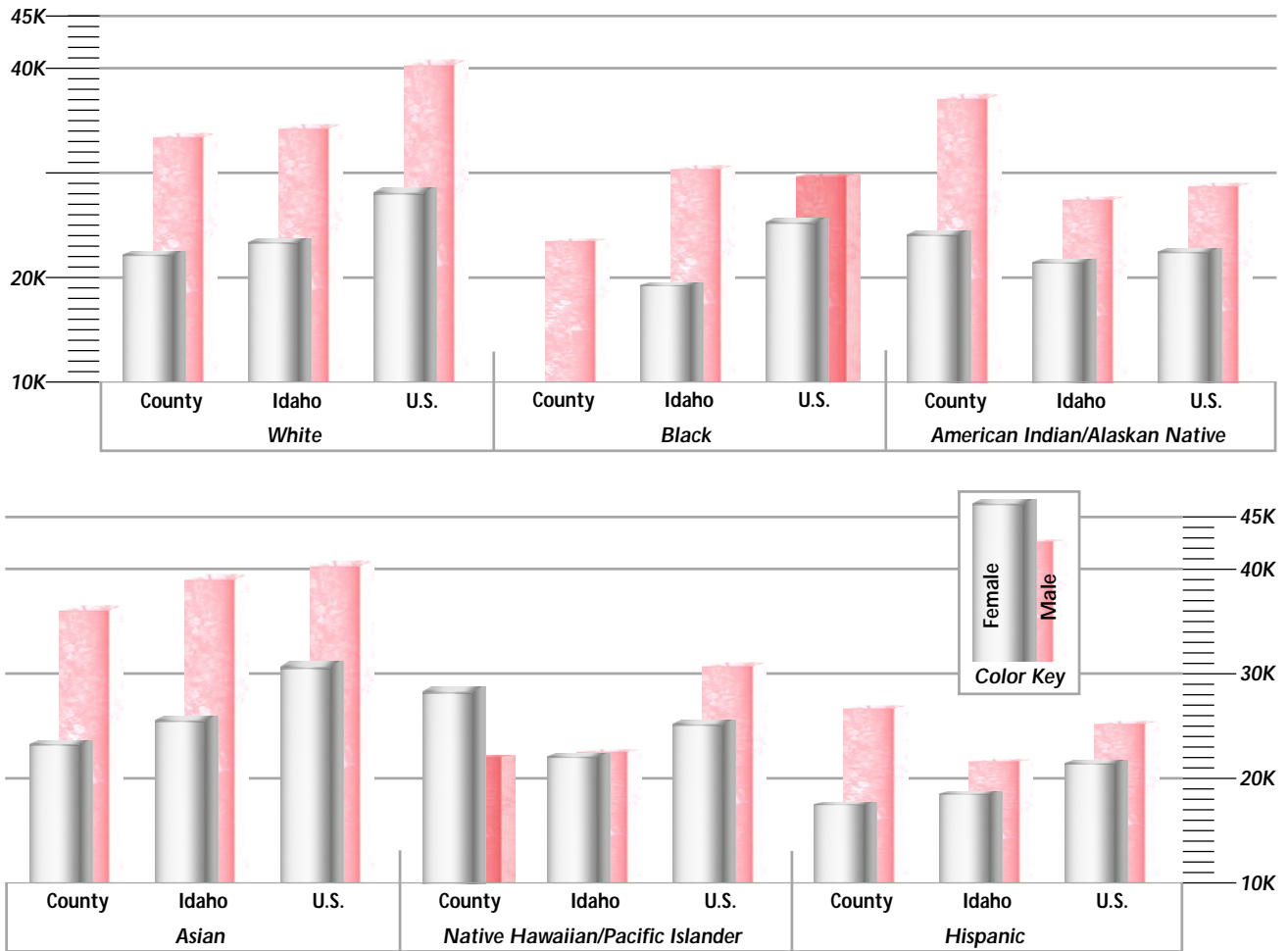


Table 3b shows the comparable data on work experience and earnings for Kootenai County.

In Kootenai County, Asian males age 16 and over are mostly likely to be employed full-time, year-round (60.0%), followed by NHPs (55.6%), Whites (46.2%), Blacks (41.2%), Hispanics (37.4%), and AIANs (35.2%), although the number of NHPs is extremely low (9). Somewhat surprisingly, male AIANs have the highest median earnings for full-time, year-round workers, with median earnings of \$37,386, followed by Asians (\$36,250), Whites (\$33,803), Hispanics (\$26,890), Blacks (\$23,750), and NHPs (\$22,083).

Thus, in Kootenai County, White males are not dominant, either in terms of full-time, year-round employment or median earnings for full-time, year-round workers. Asians are mostly likely to be

employed full-time, year round, and they are second in median earnings behind AIANs. Asians are also highest in median earnings for part-time workers, with Whites a distant third behind Blacks.

For females, Whites age 16 and over have the highest full-time, year-round employment (27.3%), followed by AIANs (26.7%), NHPs (24.1%), Hispanics (23.3%), Asians (19.9%). Although the number of Black females is fairly small (33), Black females have no full-time, year-round workers. In terms of median earnings for full-time, year-round workers, NHPs are highest (\$28,750), followed by AIANs (\$24,342), Asians (\$23,500), Whites (\$22,220), and Hispanics (\$17,361). Whites are also second to Asians in median earning for part-time workers. Compared to women in Spokane County, women in Kootenai County who work full-time,

year-round earn even less relative to men, with the exception of NHPI women who earn 30.2% more than NHPI men.

In Kootenai County, median earnings for male full-time, year-round workers are lower than the

corresponding Idaho and U.S. figures for all groups except AIANs and Hispanics. For females, median earnings for full-time, year-round workers are lower for Whites, Asians, and Hispanics, and higher for AIANs and NHPs than Idaho and U.S. figures, with no Black female full-time, year-round workers.

Income

In addition to differences in individual earnings are differences in income, which includes earnings plus income from additional sources. Table 4 shows 1999 data for median household, median family, and per capita income figures for the different racial and ethnic groups.⁶ These data illustrate the total amount of income available to households, families, and on a per capita basis. Per capita measures are important because they take into account differences in household size. In order to compare differences in income, the table also shows each group's median income as a percent of White median income for each income measure.

Overall, the data indicate significant racial and ethnic inequality, although the patterns differ by county. In Spokane County, Whites have the highest incomes, with the largest differences in terms of per capita income. The median per capita income of Asians, which is second highest, is only 72.4% of the median per capita income of Whites, while the per capita income of Hispanics is only 57.5% of Whites. This reflects the larger household and family sizes among the various non-White groups.

Hispanic median family income and per capita income is higher in Spokane County than in Washington State, Hispanic median family income is also higher in Spokane County than in the U.S. Although they do worse than their counterparts in Washington State, Black households and families in Spokane County have higher incomes than their counterparts in the U.S. Otherwise, all income figures are lower than the corresponding Washington State and U.S. figures. In particular, Asians in Spokane County have lower

incomes than Asians in Washington State or the United States, although significant differences exist for other groups as well, especially Whites.

In Kootenai County, NHPs rank highest in terms of median household income, while Asians are highest in median family income.⁷ Indeed, Asian median family income is 17.6% higher than White median family income. Whites are highest in per capita income, which is due in part to the smaller household and family sizes. Blacks trail considerably in Kootenai County, with a median household income only 47.9% of the top group (NHPs), with a median family income only 36.4% of the top group (Asians), and a per capita income only 46.2% of the top group (Whites).⁸ Black income figures are also considerably lower than the corresponding Idaho and U.S. figures.

In contrast, income figures for AIANs and Hispanics are all higher than the corresponding state figures, and in many measures, higher than the corresponding national figures. Asians income figures are lower than the corresponding Idaho and U.S. figures, especially for median household income. White income figures in Kootenai County are relatively close to Idaho figures, although they are significantly below the national figures.

White full-time, year-round workers also earn more than other full-time, year-round workers.

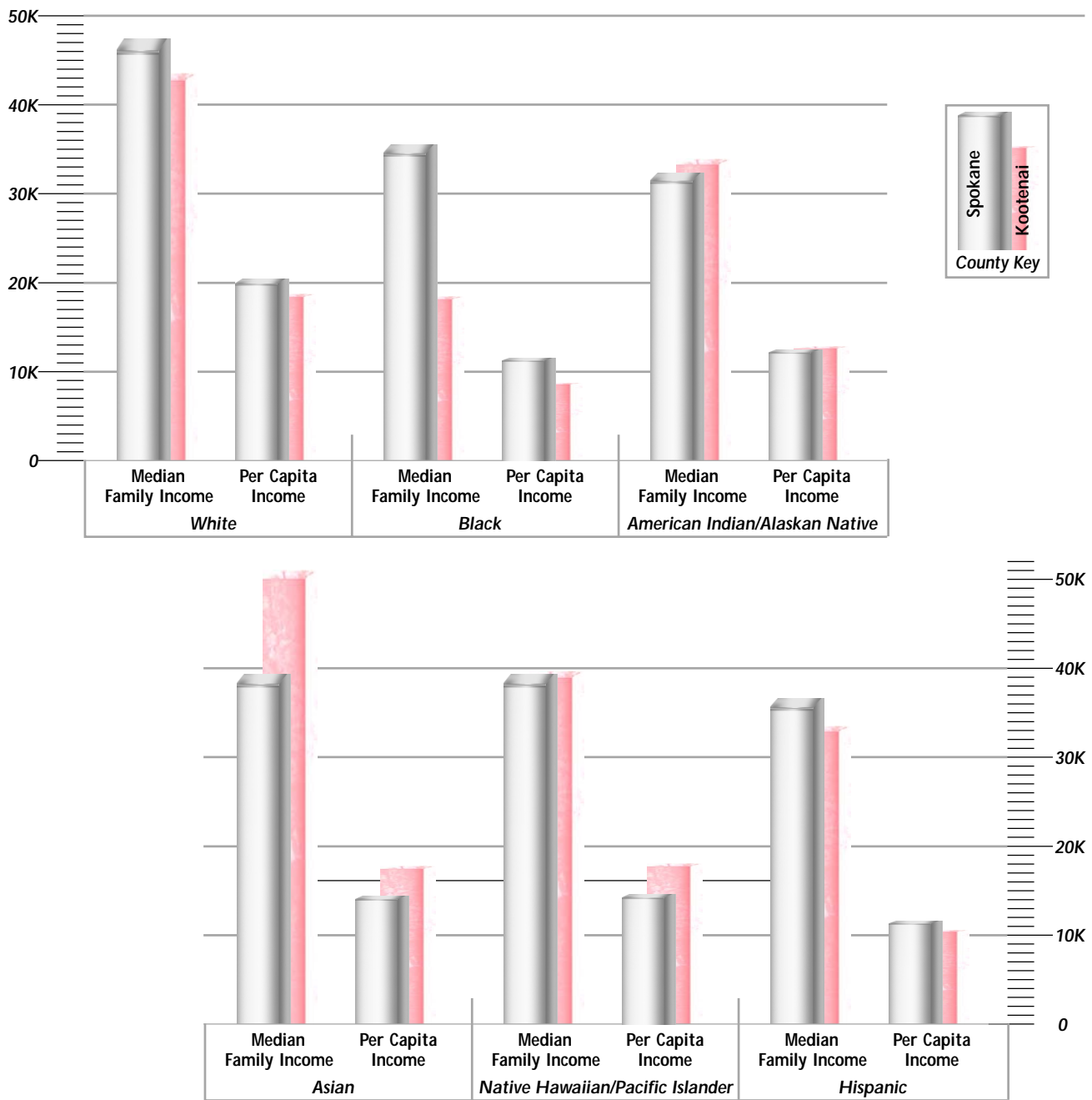
Table **4**

1999 Spokane and Kootenai counties Median Household, Family, and Per Capita Incomes

	White*	Black	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Spokane County						
Median household income	38,049	29,976	28,327	32,427	34,219	30,227
—% of White Income	100.0	78.8	74.4	85.2	89.9	79.4
Median family income	47,393	35,665	32,185	39,583	39,400	36,484
—% of White Income	100.0	75.3	67.9	83.5	83.1	77.0
Per Capita income	20,043	12,710	12,428	14,518	14,243	11,569
—% of White Income	100.0	63.4	62.0	72.4	71.1	57.7
Washington						
Median household income	47,312	35,919	32,670	47,517	41,656	32,757
Median family income	56,337	40,517	34,638	54,611	45,596	32,183
Per Capita income	25,081	17,748	13,622	20,141	15,025	11,293
Kootenai County						
Median household income	37,941	18,958	33,854	33,482	39,583	35,231
—% of White Income	100.0	50.0	89.2	88.2	104.3	92.9
Median family income	43,307	18,542	33,594	50,938	39,583	33,250
—% of White Income	100.0	42.8	77.6	117.6	91.4	76.8
Per Capita income	18,845	8,703	12,664	17,851	8,895	10,268
—% of White Income	100.0	46.2	67.2	94.7	47.2	54.5
Idaho						
Median household income	38,563	31,667	29,351	45,746	36,429	28,990
Median family income	45,035	43,346	31,840	51,473	42,632	29,360
Per Capita income	18,809	14,096	11,315	20,143	12,666	9,102
United States						
Median household income	45,367	29,423	30,599	51,908	42,717	33,676
Median family income	54,698	33,255	33,144	59,324	45,915	34,397
Per Capita income	24,819	14,437	12,893	21,823	15,054	12,111

*Does not include Hispanics.

Figure 5: 1999 Spokane & Kootenai counties Median Household, Family, & Per Capita Incomes



Poverty

A highly topical dimension of regional standard of living measures is poverty. The poverty level designates a minimum threshold that households must meet in order to afford basic necessities of living. The poverty rate indicates the percentage falling below that minimum threshold.⁹ Poverty rates can be assessed at either the *household* or the *individual* level. Table 5 provides data on both family and individual poverty rates. It also shows the

group-specific poverty rates for married couple families, male headed households, and female headed households. For individuals, it shows the percent of the poor that belong to different age groups. This distribution will depend on the number of persons in each age group as well as on the age-specific poverty rates for each group.

As the data show, Whites in Spokane have the lowest individual and family poverty rates by a fairly sizable amount. Blacks and AIANs having the highest

1999 Family and Individual Poverty Status

	White*	Black	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Spokane County						
Family	99,231	1,367	1,324	1,383	168	2,006
% below poverty level	7.5	17.0	19.0	15.8	14.3	14.5
Individuals	364,562	5,632	5,445	6,799	622	10,506
% below poverty level	11.1	27.1	26.0	19.8	22.7	20.8
Washington						
% Family poverty	5.5	14.9	23.6	10.6	14.1	21.9
% Individual poverty	8.3	19.2	23.8	12.8	15.5	24.9
Kootenai County						
Family households	28,584	39	394	86	5	498
% below poverty level	7.1	43.6	22.3	7.0	0.0	19.5
Individuals	100,815	255	1,389	581	43	2,460
% below poverty level	9.9	45.9	23.8	11.7	30.2	18.0
Idaho						
% Family poverty	7.2	10.3	21.3	7.5	9.0	21.3
% Individual poverty	10.4	18.1	25.2	10.6	20.4	23.9
United States						
% Family poverty	5.5	21.6	21.8	9.7	14.6	20.0
% Individual poverty	8.1	24.9	25.7	12.6	17.7	22.6

*Does not include Hispanics.

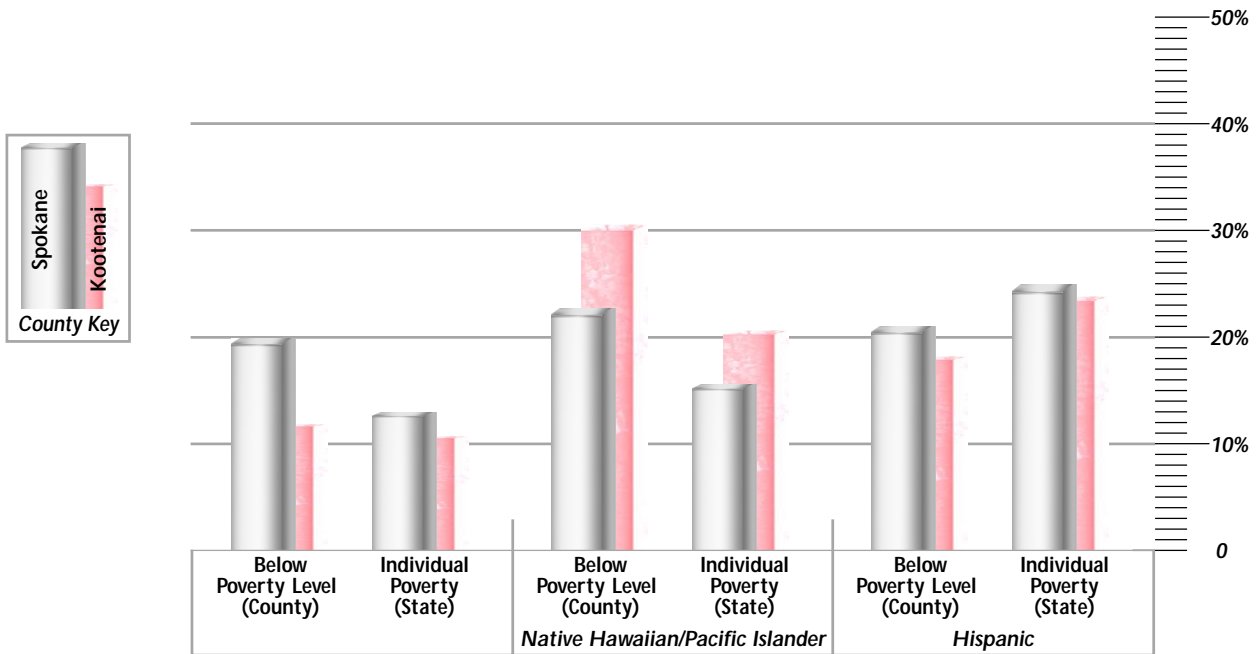
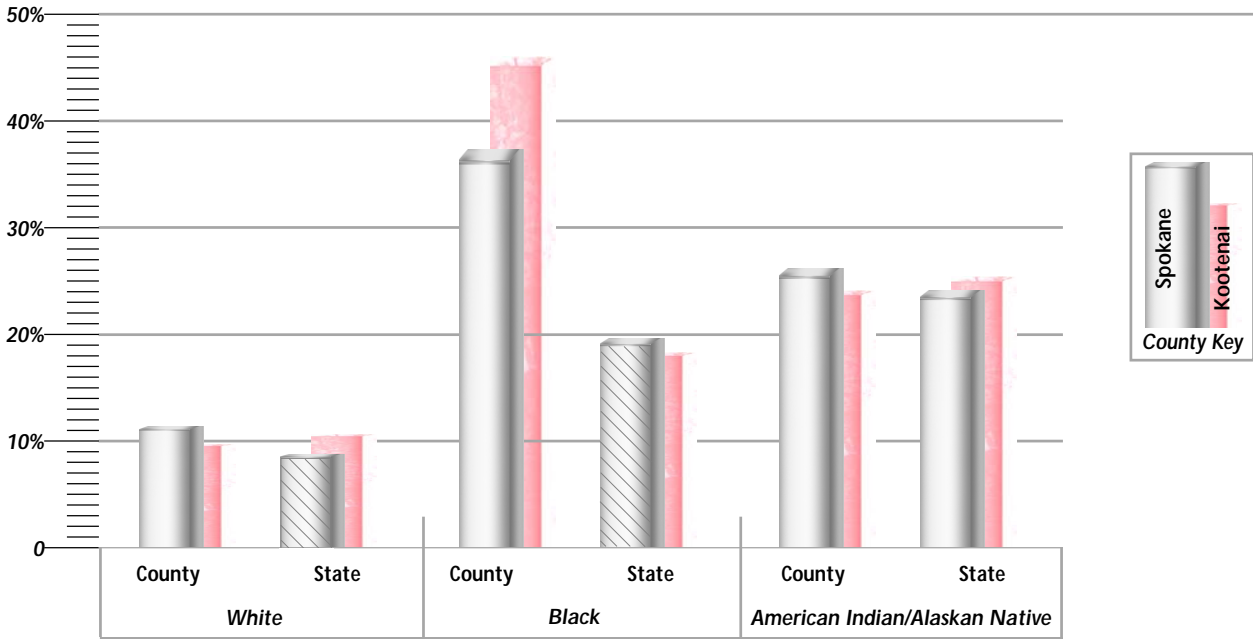
individual and family poverty rates, well over double the corresponding white rates. Somewhat surprisingly, Asians are fourth highest in their family poverty rate. Recall they are second highest in group median family income. This suggests that strong socio-economic variation characterizes Spokane County Asians. Asians do somewhat better on individual poverty rates, suggesting that their households and families are smaller than those of other groups.

Compared to their counterparts in Washington State, only Spokane AIANs and Hispanics have lower *family* poverty rates, and only Hispanics have lower *individual* poverty rates. Compared to the U.S., all groups except Asians and Whites show less *family* poverty in Spokane County. However, only Hispanics show lower *individual* poverty than U.S. levels.

In Kootenai County, Asians actually show a slightly lower *family* poverty rate than Whites (7.0% to 7.1%), although Whites have the lowest *individual* poverty rates (9.9% to 11.7% for Asians).¹⁰ Asians also have the lowest percentage of poor who are children (32.4%). Blacks, in particular, lag dramatically in terms of family poverty (43.6%), individual poverty (45.9%), and the percent of poor who are children (71.8%). 100% of NHPI poor are children, although this is based on a small number of cases (43).¹¹ Unusually, Hispanic individual poverty rates are lower than Hispanic family poverty rates, suggesting that Hispanic families in poverty are smaller than Hispanic families that are not in poverty.

Compared to Idaho, all Kootenai county groups show lower *family* poverty, except Blacks and AIANs. However, in terms of *individual* poverty,

Figure 6: 1999 Individual Poverty Status = Percent Bellow Poverty threshold



W. Segregation and Neighborhood Characteristics

Blacks, Americans of African American descent, and their counterparts in the U.S., Asians and Hispanics in Kootenai County have lower *family* poverty rates, while Asians, AIANs, and Hispanics show lower *individual* poverty.

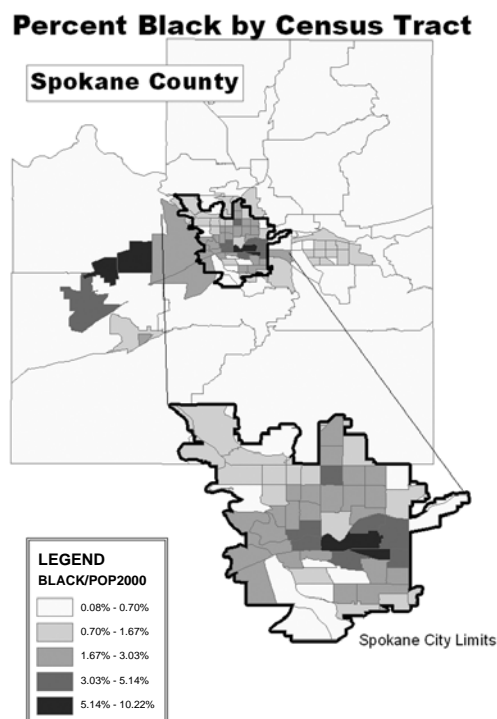
Another key dimension of racial and ethnic relations is the extent to which groups are segregated residentially. Residential segregation is an important aspect of racial and ethnic relations for several reasons. First, residential segregation is, at least in part, a measure of white racial attitudes towards the “desirability” of other groups as neighbors. In fact, two leading authorities on racial segregation have shown that the residential segregation of Blacks is largely unaffected by income levels among minority groups, making it far more a matter of race than class (Massey and Denton, 1993). Moreover, minority groups are likely to interpret residential segregation as indicating their inferiority or undesirability, which may promote negative racial attitudes towards Whites in return.

Second, as discussed more below, residential segregation promotes the concentration of poverty. By forcing minority groups to live amongst themselves, it leads minorities to live in higher poverty neighborhoods than they would without residential segregation. As Massey and Denton (1993) have shown, residential segregation has been a major factor isolating Blacks in high poverty areas. For Blacks, this has promoted social and economic isolation, the use of non-standard English language, and oppositional culture and values.

Minority groups are likely to interpret residential segregation as indicating their inferiority or undesirability, which may promote negative racial attitudes towards Whites in return.

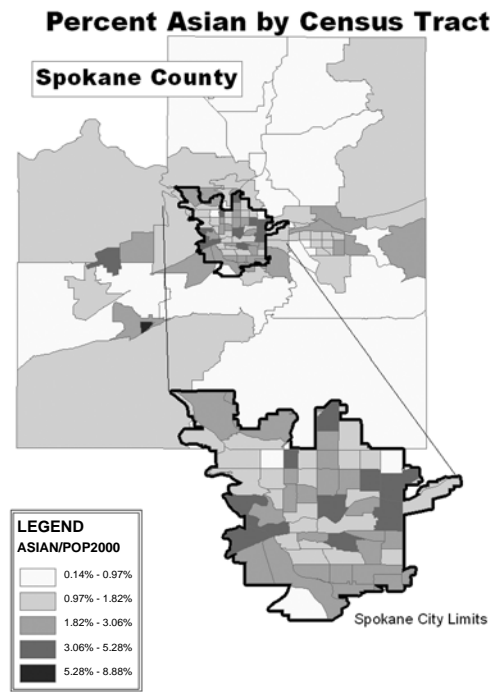
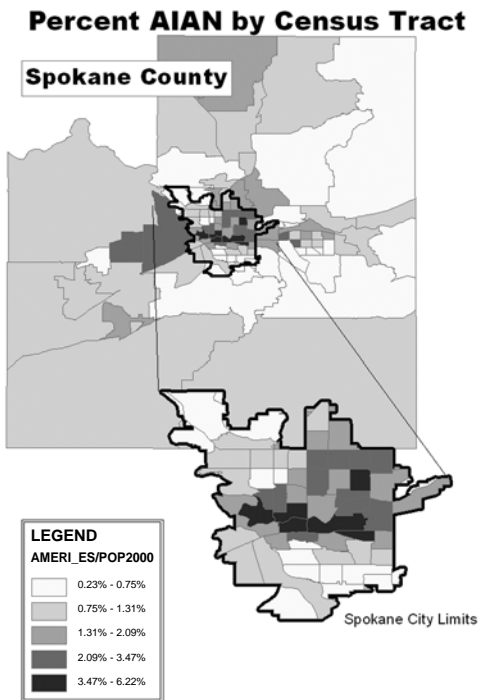
Spatial Distribution and Segregation

The following tables show maps highlighting the spatial distribution of the various racial and ethnic groups in Spokane County by census tract. For each group, census tracts are categorized into five levels, based on the percent of the group in each tract.¹² Maps are not presented for Kootenai County due to the lack of variation across census tracts.



Overall, the percentage of Blacks in Spokane County census tracts ranges from 0.0 to 10.0, with an average or mean of 1.59 and a standard deviation of 1.71.¹³

There are 4 tracts where Blacks are greater than 5.14% of the population. Two are east of the central business district (CBD), while the other two include Fairchild Air Force Base (AFB) and the city of Airway Heights to the west. Most of the other tracts with heaviest concentrations of Blacks are located close to the central business district (CBD), mostly to the east, with only one tract further up on the north side of the city. There is also a fairly high concentration in a tract to the south of Fairchild AFB, which includes the city of Medical

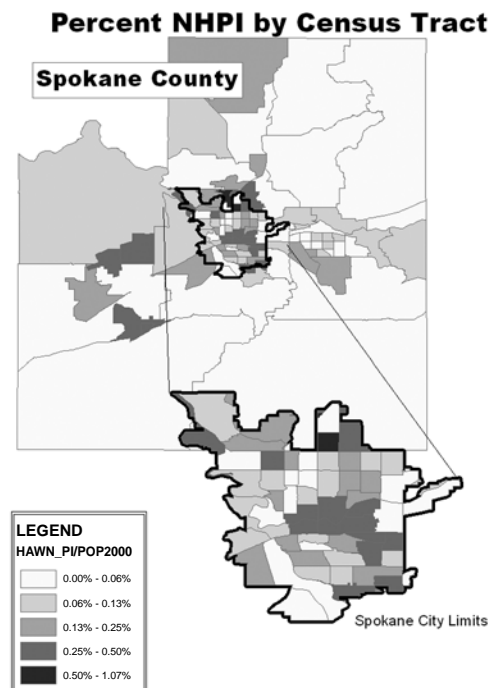


Lake. The higher concentration of Blacks in both the Airway Heights and Medical Lake census tracts is probably due to the air force base.

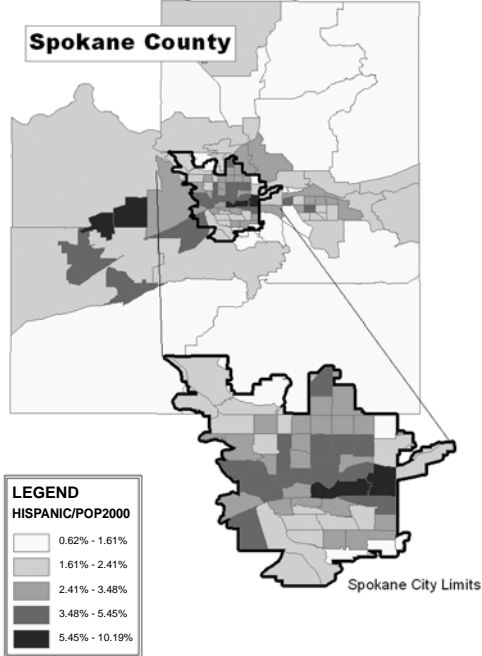
For AIANs, the percentage in Spokane County census tracts ranges from 0.2% to 6.1%, with a mean of 1.38 and a standard deviation of 1.07. There are a total of 6 census tracts where the percent of AIANs is greater than 3.47%. These tracts are to the west and east of the CBD, with one tract to the northwest of the CBD. There are several other tracts with a relatively higher concentration of AIANs, mostly in the east and northeast parts of the city. Two are located just outside the city to the west, and two are in the Spokane Valley.

The percentage of Asians varies from 0.1% to 8.8%, with a mean of 1.8 and a standard deviation of 1.21. The tract with 8.8% includes Eastern Washington University in Cheney, which has a significant population of Asian students. There are 10 other tracts where Asians are between 3.1% and 5.3% of the population. Two are close to the CBD, although one of these is on the lower South Hill. The others are scattered around the periphery of the city to the east, north, and west, and one is the tract including Airway Heights.

For NHPIs, the percent varies only from 0.0% to 1.1% of the population, with a mean of 0.1% and a standard deviation of .17. The three tracts with the heaviest concentrations are located to the far north, two of which are basically outside of the city limits.



Percent Hispanic by Census Tract



Finally, the percentage of Hispanics ranges from 0.6% to 10.2%, with a mean of 2.8% and a standard deviation of 1.6. There are 4 tracts with a percent greater than 5.5%. Two of these are east of the city, with the other two being the Fairchild AFB and Airway Heights tracts. There are many other tracts with relatively heavy concentrations, mostly on the near north side and to the east and west of the CBD. Three tracts are around Cheney and Medical Lake, while two are located in the Spokane Valley.

While these maps are useful visual representations of residential segregation, they provide no way to measure and to compare the unevenness of the distribution of the different minority groups. One widely used measure of residential segregation which does precisely this is the **dissimilarity index**. The dissimilarity index is a measure of how evenly two groups are distributed across a number of units compared to their overall percentages for those units, in this case census tracts.¹⁴ The index varies between 0 and 1. A score of 0 indicates that all census tracts have the same proportion of minority and majority group members as the urban area as a whole. In contrast, a score of 1 means that all minority group members are concentrated in a single tract. Conceptually, the dissimilarity score indicates the percent of minority group members that would have to be redistributed in order to

achieve an even or proportional distribution. In general, scores above .3 are considered moderate, while scores above .6 are considered high (Massey and Eggers, 1990)

Table 6 shows the dissimilarity indices for the different minority groups in Spokane and Kootenai compared to the white population.

Table 6: Dissimilarity Scores for 2000 and 1990

Groups	Spokane County		Kootenai County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Black/White	.41	.37	.34	.16
AIAN/White	.28	.28	.26	.38
Asian/White	.25	.24	.18	.15
NHPI/White	.38	.38	.52	.34
Hispanic/White	.20	.19	.09	.07

Compared to the level of residential segregation found in larger metropolitan areas, these segregation levels are relatively low.¹⁵ This is perhaps to be expected, given the relatively small size of the minority populations. Historically, segregation has increased as minority populations increased and became more significant in urban areas, prompting increased discrimination from whites (Massey and Denton, 1993; Spear, 1967; Osofsky, 1966). Dissimilarity scores for Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics are also generally lower in the West (Massey and Denton, 1987) than other regions of the country.

Nevertheless, differences in the level of segregation as measured by dissimilarity index do exist. In Spokane, Blacks and NHPIs are the most highly segregated, followed by AIANs, Asians, and Hispanics. As noted in the previously footnote, Blacks typically have higher dissimilarity scores than Asians and Hispanics (Massey and Denton, 1989; Massey and Denton, 1987). As a result, the equally high dissimilarity score for NHPIs is somewhat surprising. Dissimilarity scores have decreased

slightly since 1990 for Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics, indicating slight decreases in the overall level of residential segregation.¹⁶

For Kootenai County, AIANs are the most segregated group, followed closely by NHPIs. However, the high dissimilarity score for AIANs is strongly affected by census tract 21, which includes the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation and contains 23.4% of all AIANs in Kootenai County. With this tract excluded from the analysis, the dissimilarity score for AIANs decreases to .13, roughly equal to Blacks and Asians. Hispanics are the least segregated of all, with a very low score of .07. The dramatic decrease in dissimilarity scores for Blacks and NHPIs suggests how volatile scores can be for groups with extremely small populations. The current dissimilarity scores should be interpreted in this context.

Neighborhood Socio-Economic Status

Segregation measures tell us about the spatial distribution of groups, but not about the characteristics of the neighborhoods they live in. One important characteristic of neighborhoods is their income and poverty status. Wilson (1987), in a major treatise on poverty and the underclass, has brought the importance of neighborhood poverty to the fore. Wilson (1987) argued that income and

In Spokane, Blacks and NHPIs are the most highly segregated, followed by AIANs, Asians, and Hispanics.

poverty levels of neighborhoods are an important factor affecting the life chances of individuals due to what has been called “neighborhood effects”. Specifically, growing up in high poverty areas promotes the economic and social isolation of groups, including their exclusion from job networks. Additionally, individuals in high poverty areas are less likely to be exposed to positive role models and more likely to be exposed to crime and deviant behavior.

One way to see differences in the types of neighborhoods different groups live in is simply to calculate the number of persons living in census tracts of different poverty rates. Table 8 shows data on the percent of persons in census tracts of different poverty levels. In Spokane, there is only one census tract with a poverty level above 40%, which previous research has used as a “cutoff” point in previous research to distinguish urban “ghetto” areas (see for example Wilson, 1987; Bane and Jargowsky, 1988). This indicates a relative lack of “ghetto” areas in Spokane comparable to those found in larger cities, especially in the Northeast and Midwest (Bane and Jargowsky, 1988).

Nevertheless, Spokane has seven census tracts with poverty rates over 30%, and 14 with poverty rates between 20% and 30%, which is considerably higher than the overall mean poverty rate of 12.9%. In Kootenai County, the range is much narrower, with the highest census tract poverty rate being only 21.0%, with a mean poverty rate of 10.8%. Because of the limited range, only two categories for Kootenai County are used.

In Spokane County, Whites tend to have the most favorable distribution in terms of poverty rates. 52.7% of all Whites are found in census tracts with poverty rates below 10%, while only 5.8% are found in census tracts with poverty rates over 30%. In contrast, only 27.5% of Blacks and 29.7% of AIANs are found in census tracts below 10%, while 16.5% and 15.5% are found in tracts with poverty rates over 30%. Indeed, 42.2% of Blacks live in census tracts with poverty rates greater than 20%. This means that Blacks are more likely to grow up in higher poverty neighborhoods and confront the conditions described by Wilson (1987). Hispanics are slightly less likely to live in low poverty

Percent of Racial and Ethnic Group In Census Tracts With Different Poverty Rates

Table **8**

Poverty Rate	White*	Black	AIAN	Asian	NHPI	Hispanic
Spokane County						
Under 10%(n=52)	52.7	27.5	29.7	41.9	44.0	39.9
10% to 20% (n=32)	28.4	30.4	31.9	27.4	27.9	29.3
20% to 30%(n=14)	13.0	25.7	22.9	17.7	16.8	20.3
30% and up(n=8)	5.8	16.5	15.5	13.0	11.3	10.4
Kootenai County						
Under 10%(n=7)	37.8	30.7	21.6	40.4	35.9	39.8
Over 10% (n=14)	62.2	69.3	78.4	59.6	64.1	60.2

*Excludes Hispanics.

neighborhoods than Asians or NHPIs, but they are also less likely to live in high poverty neighborhoods than either of those groups.

In Kootenai County, the differences between groups are generally smaller. AIANs lag considerably

behind Whites, but this includes the Indian reservation, which has a poverty rate over 10%. Blacks lag behind Whites as well, although not as much, while Asians and Hispanics live in lower poverty areas overall than Whites.

In Kootenai County ... AIANs lag considerably behind Whites, but this includes the Indian reservation, which has a poverty rate over 10%. Blacks lag behind Whites as well, although not as much, while Asians and Hispanics live in lower poverty areas overall than Whites.

Conclusion

Both Spokane and Kootenai counties have significant racial and ethnic inequality that is patterned residentially into the urban landscape. Inequality is found in terms of educational attainment; labor force participation; full-time, year-round employment and earnings; household, family, and per capita income; and family and individual poverty rates. It is also found in differing levels of segregation for the various racial and ethnic groups, as well as their concentration in neighborhoods of different income and poverty levels.

In general, Whites are dominant socio-economically in Spokane County, while in Kootenai County, Asians outrank Whites on a number of indicators. However, the socio-economic status of each racial and ethnic group frequently varies within each county depending on the particular indicator of inequality used. The socio-economic status of each racial and ethnic group also frequently varies between the two counties, between each county and its respective state, and between each county and the United States.

Compared to their counterparts in their respective states and in the United States, the socio-economic status of racial and ethnic groups in Spokane and Kootenai Counties is better on some indicators and worse on others. Except for Hispanics, all groups in Spokane County are generally lower in socio-economic status than their counterparts in Washington and the U.S., with Asians in Spokane County faring consistently worse on all of the indicators than their counterparts in Washington and the U.S.

In Kootenai County, minority groups do relatively better compared to their counterparts in Idaho and the U.S., except for Blacks. AIANS and Hispanics tend to have the highest socio-economic status compared to their counterparts in Idaho and the U.S. However, the presence of inequality at each geographic level speaks to the unequal life chances that confront racial and ethnic minorities in the region, in Washington and Idaho, and in the U.S. as a whole.

Overall, additional research is needed to better understand the situation of particular groups. This could include research on the social and economic diversity among Asians in Spokane county, the unique labor market and residential characteristics of NHPIs, the extremely poor status of the small Black population in Kootenai county, the rapid growth of the Hispanic community in both counties, and the effect of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation on the socio-economic status of Native Americans in Kootenai County. Other important issues concern the role of institutions such as Fairchild Air Force Base and Eastern Washington University in affecting racial and ethnic diversity and relations, and research about the processes contributing to racial and ethnic segregation. Finally, additional research is needed on racial and ethnic attitudes, and how they affect the life chances of members of various racial and ethnic groups.

One final comment concerns the limitations of the major racial and ethnic categories used by the Census. One problem with categories such as Asians, NHPIs, and Hispanics, is that they contain a variety of nationalities, which may themselves be associated with significant cultural and socio-economic differences. Hispanics in the area tend to be predominantly Mexican, but the makeup of Asians in Spokane is much more diverse. Cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic differences among Asian nationalities may be a significant reason for the greater socio-economic diversity among Asians in Spokane County, and for their lower socio-economic status vis-à-vis Asians in Washington and the U.S.

Future research on racial and ethnic diversity in the area should pay greater attention to national differences, since these may be more important than a common racial heritage. In fact, nationality may be more important than either race or ethnicity per se. Focusing on nationality would also permit greater inquiry into newer immigrant groups such as Ukrainians and Russians, who are basically ignored in Census data.

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Endnotes

¹ Data were obtained from the American Factfinder website (<http://factfinder.census.gov>), which is part of the official Census web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Data on racial and ethnic inequality come from the 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) data set. Census tract level population data come from 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1), while census tract poverty data come from SF3. The SF1 file contains data from questions administered to all respondents. In contrast, the SF3 file contains data from questions that were only administered to a sample of approximately 1 in every 6 persons. As a result, data from the SF3 file represent estimates of the actual population statistics that may have some degree of error, known as sampling error.

The extent of sampling error can be assessed using what is known as the standard error of the estimate. The Factfinder website provides documentation containing information and directions for estimating standard errors of the estimate, as well as on other issues regarding the validity of the data.

² I am excluding NHPs from the discussion due to their small number (men=5 and women=16).

³ Although more recent data on labor force participation may be available, data from 2000 was used in order to present a consistent picture or snapshot of the various groups at this point in time.

⁴ See the related monograph in this series, S. Neufeld, Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Spokane and Kootenai Counties, EWU Institute for Public Policy & Economic Analysis, Monograph 2, August, 2003.

⁵ The term median refers to the value that divides the number of cases into equal halves. Median age is frequently used instead of mean (or average) age because means are more susceptible to being skewed by extremely high values. The census asks about work experience and earnings for 1999 year in order to get data for a year in its entirety.

⁶ The census defines *total income* as the sum of the amounts reported separately for wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips; self-employment income from own non-farm or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships; interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and any other sources of income received regularly such as Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support, or alimony.

A *household* includes all of the people who occupy a housing unit, which may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated people who share living quarters. A *family* includes a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. The census asks about income for 1999 in order to get data for a year in its entirety.

⁷ NHPs are highest in median household income in part because their households are all families, as indicated by the fact that the median household and median family figures are identical. Despite being first in household income and third in family income, NHPs are extremely low in per capita income. This suggests that NHP families are exceptionally large, although data on family size is unavailable due to the small number of cases. As noted earlier, because the number of NHP households is extremely small, the estimates are somewhat unreliable.

⁸ One unusual feature of Kootenai county is that median *family* income is lower than median *household* income for Blacks, AIANs, and Hispanics. Family income is usually higher than household income because families are more likely to have two earners. The reasons for this discrepancy are unclear.

⁹ The poverty line was created in 1965 by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. It is based on the cost of a nutritionally adequate diet, and it varies with family size and the age of family members. The poverty line is considered by many to be too low, even though many believe the Consumer Price Index used to adjust the poverty line annually overstates inflation. For a more detailed discussion, see Jencks (1992), especially pp.72-76 and pp.145-148.

¹⁰ Excluding NHPs because of the small number of cases (5).

¹¹ It is unclear how all of the poor can be children without any poor adults, as the table indicates.

¹² The cutoff points for each level are calculated by an algorithm that identifies significant dividing in the distribution of cases for each group. As a result, the cutoff points are different for each racial and ethnic group. Because the data used in the mapping included Hispanics, the figures on the maps are slightly higher than the figures discussed in the text, which do not include Hispanics.

¹³ A standard deviation is a measure of the extent of spread or dispersion of points around their mean or average. It is computed by summing the squared distance of each point from the mean, dividing this number by the number of cases to get the average squared deviation (the variance); and then taking the square root of that number. Larger numbers indicate a greater amount of spread or dispersion.

¹⁴ Although census tracts have some limitations (Massey and Denton, 1988), they are nevertheless widely used in analyses of residential segregation, in part because they are drawn to reflect neighborhoods. In Spokane County, there are 106 tracts that range in population from 844 to 7,480 persons, with a mean of 3,942.8. In Kootenai County, census tracts are generally larger. There are 21 census tracts that range in population from 2,015 to 9,102, with a mean of 5,175.5. These larger tracts in Kootenai County might lower estimates of residential segregation compared to Spokane County.

¹⁵ Massey and Denton (1987), for example, found that for 60 large SMSAs, including the 50 largest SMSAs, the average dissimilarity index in 1980 was .69 for Blacks, .43 for Hispanics, and .34 for Asians. Using 1990 data for 318 metropolitan areas, Massey, White, and Phua (1996) found average dissimilarity scores of .55 for Blacks, .35 for Hispanics, and .36 for Asians.

¹⁶ In order to measure segregation levels without Fairchild AFB and Eastern Washington University, both of which produced relatively high minority concentrations in certain census tracts, dissimilarity scores were also computed excluding tracts 104.01 (Fairchild AFB), 138 (Airway Heights), and 140.01 (Eastern Washington University) from the analysis. Without these tracts, the dissimilarity scores were .35 for Blacks, .28 for AIANs, .22 for Asians, .37 for NHPs, and .16 for Hispanics. Thus, scores decreased slightly for Blacks, Asians, NHPs, and Hispanics, but basically showed little change. This decrease in is to be expected if tracts with high minority concentrations are excluded from the analysis.

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From One to Z - artist: Ms. Gloria Borroskin



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