

# Understanding Opportunities to Learn for Latino Students in Washington

**Frances E. Contreras, Ph.D.**

Principal Investigator  
University of Washington

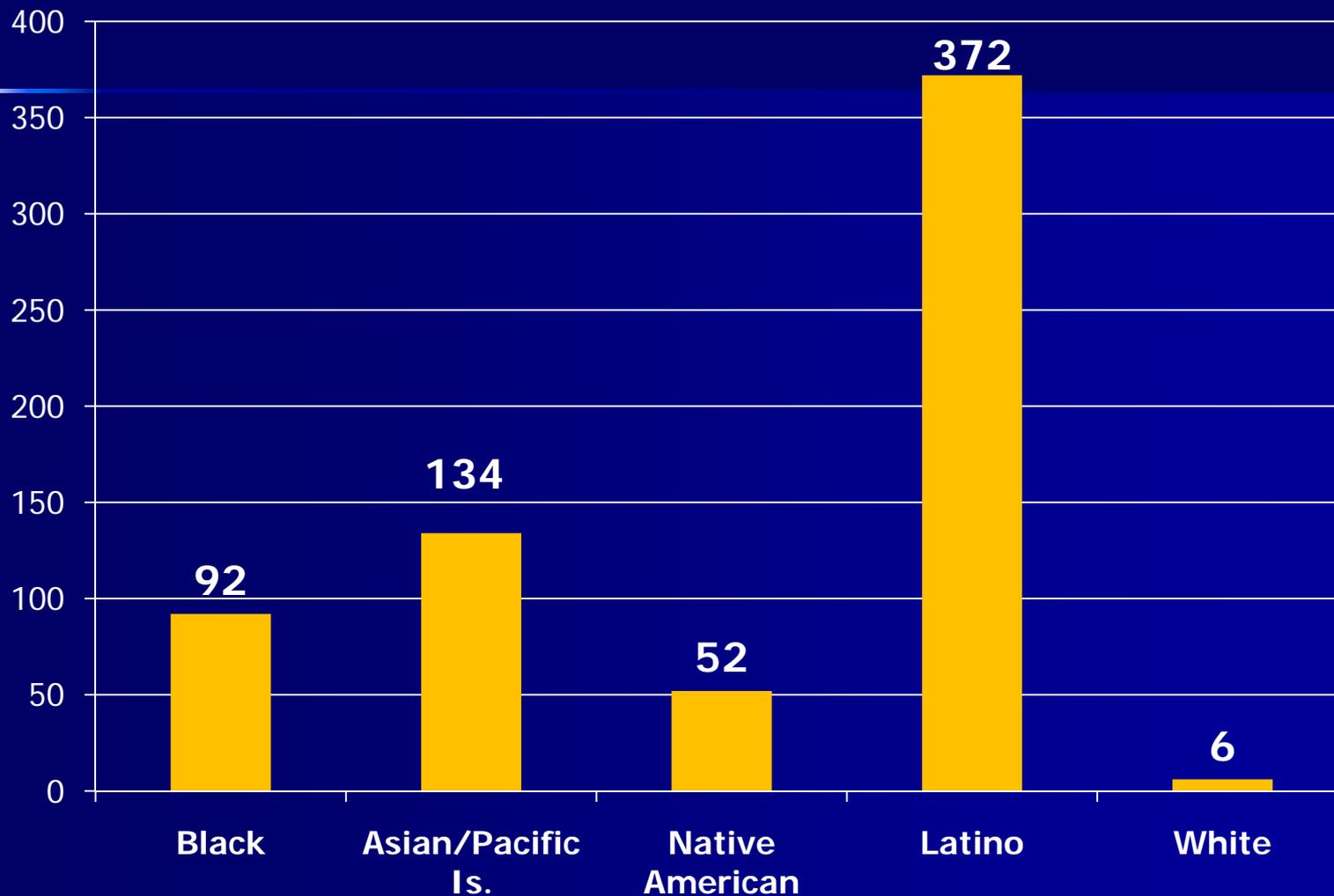
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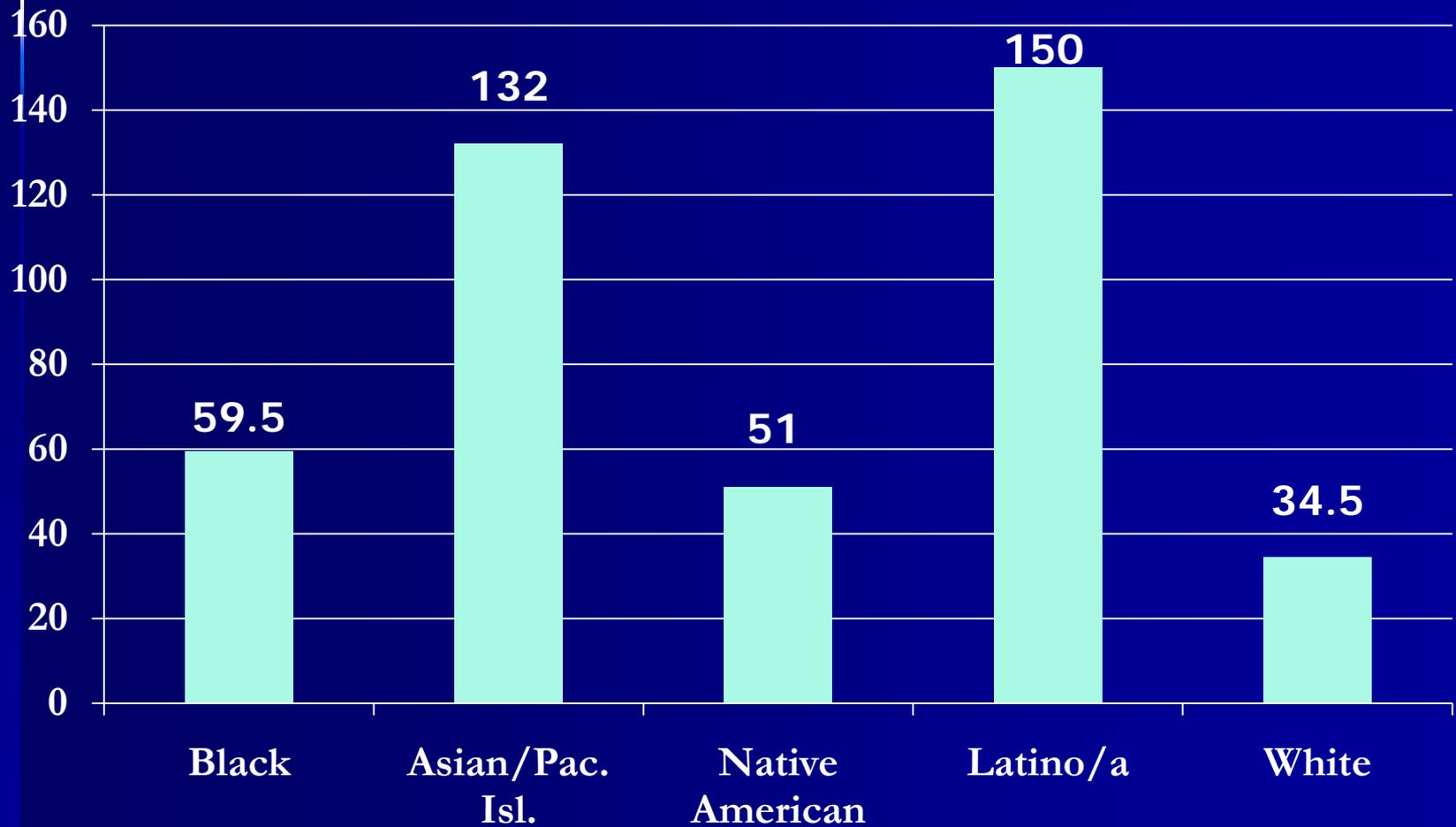
# Background

- Latinos represent approximately 14% of the K-12 population yet, only 4.2 percent of students enrolled in WA four-year public universities.
- Only 56.5% of Latinos graduated high school in 2006
- Latino students constitute approximately 20% of today's kindergartner population in WA
- If the inequitable opportunities to learn are not addressed, we will likely see lower education levels among Latinos and negative economic consequences on the State of WA

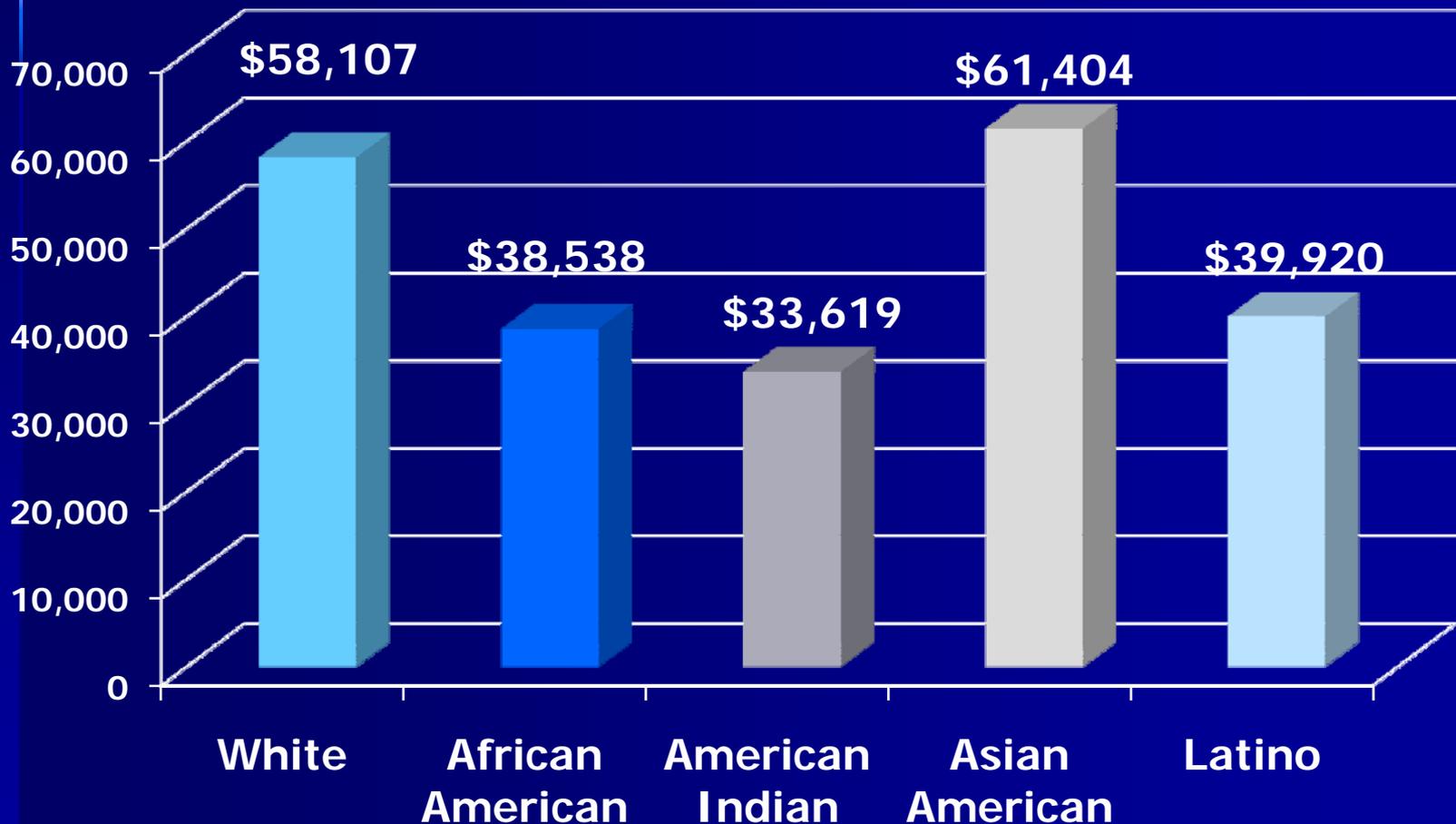
# Latino Population Growth WA State K-12 Public School Enrollment 1986-2007 (Percent)



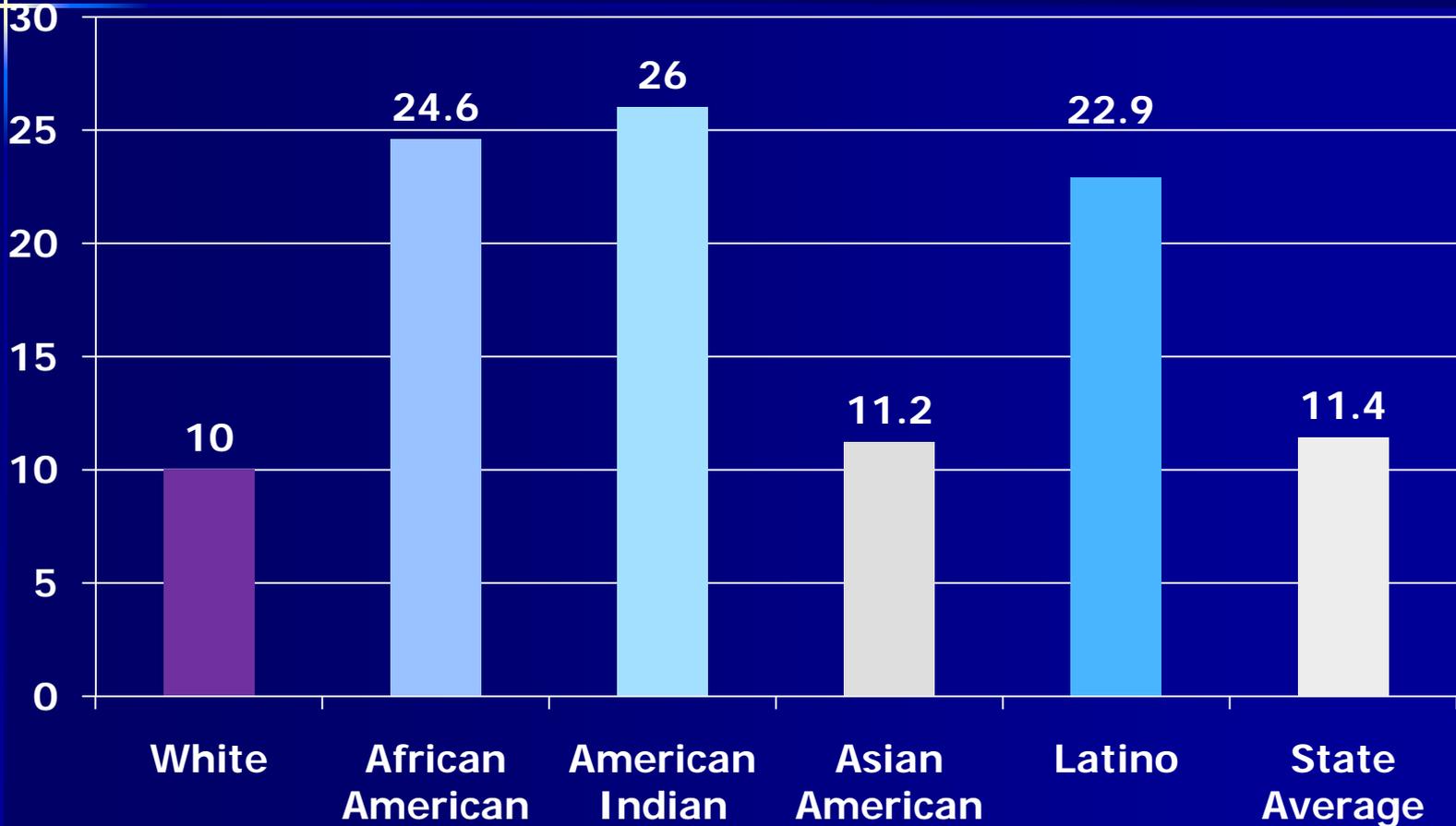
# Projected State Population Growth 2000-2030



# Median Income in Washington, 2007



# Percent in Poverty in Washington, 2007



# Research Questions

- 1) Do Latino students possess the same opportunities to learn as their peers in both urban, suburban and rural contexts?
- 2) What are the perceptions of parents and students with respect to their experience in school and with school staff?
- 3) What are viable policy recommendations for raising Latino academic achievement in the state of Washington?

# Methods and Data Sources

- Mixed-Method Study
  - Quantitative—Survey
  - Qualitative –Interviews and Focus Groups
- Secondary data analysis of OSPI data on WASL achievement, SAT & ACT, & UW data
- Student Survey of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students from October –November 20, 2008 (n=468)
- Latino Parent Survey (n=247)
- Teacher Survey & interviews (n=253)
- Latino Teacher Survey (n=167)

# Key Priority Areas for Strategic Investment based on Research Findings

- 1) A comprehensive data system and evaluation framework
- 2) Teachers and instruction
- 3) Student academic support
- 4) Parent engagement and involvement
- 5) A seamless P-20 continuum

# Findings & Recommendations

## Comprehensive Data & Evaluation System

### **Policy Recommendations:**

- Conduct an audit of school districts with Latino school populations of 25 percent or higher, or with more than 1,000 Latino students to explore the capacity for serving Latino and ELL students
- Develop a statewide comprehensive evaluation framework.

# Findings & Recommendations

## Teachers & Instruction

### Policy Recommendations:

- Increase teacher diversity by calling for teacher training programs and colleges of education in the state to develop an infrastructure for a "grow your own" program.
- Require all future teachers in Washington State to develop competencies related to meeting the needs of ELL students.
- Require current teachers to participate in cultural competence training.
- Require initial licensure to include training on meeting the needs of ELL students.
- Paraprofessionals should not be allowed to substitute for teachers in Washington classrooms.
- Invest in paraprofessionals to earn their degrees and become certified teachers.

# Findings & Recommendations

## Student Academic Support

### Policy Recommendations:

- Increase access to curricular resources, access to materials, and personnel, to support academic achievement.
- Remove the use of the WASL as an exit exam for high school graduation.
- Establish tangible goals to significantly reduce the Latino dropout rate significantly by 2014.
- The courses taken and credits earned at the time of drop out & if students were at grade level needs to be reported and factored into the calculation of dropouts.

# Findings & Recommendations

## Parent Engagement & Involvement

### Policy Recommendations:

- Correspondence be sent home translated in English and Spanish;
- Translators should be offered for parents who do not speak English;
- Greater efforts to verbally communicate with parents over the phone and in person; and
- Require school districts to utilize a common, state-developed instrument for principals and parents to determine their effectiveness in communicating with parents

# Findings & Recommendations

## Seamless P-20 Continuum

### **Policy Recommendations:**

- Promote early knowledge about college for Latino students and their parents by hosting parent workshops.
- Education about HB 1079 should start prior to high school.
- Audit the implementation of HB 1079 in higher education systems.
- Allow students who qualify as 1079 students to compete for state-funded need grant financial aid.



# Questions??

For more information:

[http://education.washington.edu/research/  
centers/proyecto\\_acceso/](http://education.washington.edu/research/centers/proyecto_acceso/)