

### U.S. FEMALE POPULATION

In 2000, two-thirds of the total female population was non-Hispanic White (69.4 percent), followed by non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic females (12.5 and 12.0 percent, respectively). By 2009, the proportion of the female population that was non-Hispanic White dropped to 65.2 percent and the proportion that was Hispanic increased to 15.0 percent. By 2050, non-Hispanic White females are projected to no longer make up the majority (46.1 percent), while the proportions of Hispanic, non-Hispanic Asian, and non-Hispanic females of multiple races are expected to double.

The increasing racial and ethnic diversity of the U.S. population is a function of different fertility, mortality, and migration patterns. The younger female population (under 18 years) is significantly more diverse than the older female population. In 2009, 55.0 percent of females under 18 years of age were non-Hispanic White, while 22.4 percent of that group were Hispanic. In contrast, among women aged 65 years and older, 79.7 percent were non-Hispanic White and only 6.9 percent were Hispanic (data not shown).<sup>1</sup>

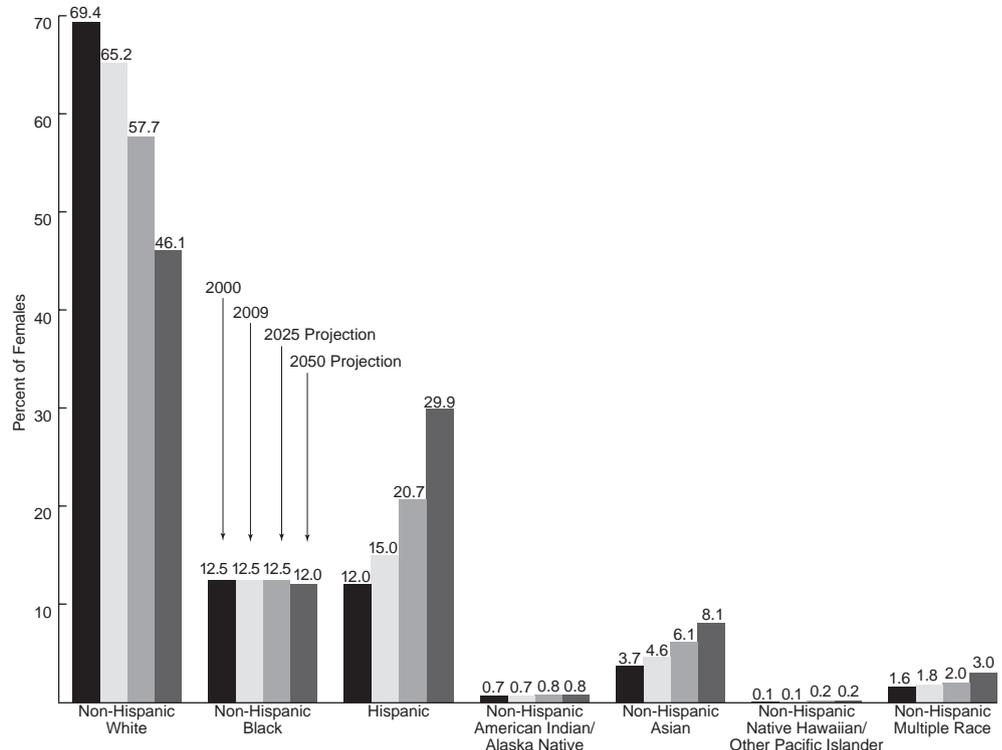
The increasing diversity of the U.S. population underscores the importance of promoting racial and ethnic equity in health and health care. Given that many racial and ethnic minority groups experience poorer health, the future

health of America overall will greatly depend on improving the health of these groups. A national focus is critical to understand and address

the determinants of disparities in health status and to evaluate efforts to reduce disparities and improve health for all.<sup>2</sup>

### U.S. Female Population (All Ages), by Race/Ethnicity,\* 2000–2050

Source I.2, I.3, I.4: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division



\*Totals may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding and the exclusion of non-Hispanic females of other races; this population comprised 0.2% of all females in 2009.