

## U.S. FEMALE POPULATION

In 2011, the majority of the total female population was non-Hispanic White (63.4 percent), while 16.2 percent were Hispanic, 12.7 percent were Black, and 5.0 percent were non-Hispanic Asian. Less than 1 percent of the female population was non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native or non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, while 1.9 percent were non-Hispanic multiple race. Non-Hispanic White females are expected to no longer be the majority by 2045. By 2060, the proportion of females who are non-Hispanic White is expected to fall to 42.9 percent while the proportion who are Hispanic, non-Hispanic Asian, and non-Hispanic multiple race are expected to double or triple compared to the start of the millennium.

The increasing diversity of the U.S. population is a function of different fertility, mortality, and migration patterns according to race and ethnicity. The younger female population (under 18 years) is significantly more diverse than the older female population. In 2011, 53.0 percent of females under 18 years of age were non-Hispanic White, while 23.6 percent of that group were Hispanic. In contrast, among women aged 65 years and older, 78.9 percent were non-Hispanic White and only 7.3 percent were Hispanic (data not shown).<sup>1</sup>

The increasing diversity of the U.S. popula-

tion underscores the importance of promoting racial and ethnic equity in health and health care. Significant racial and ethnic disparities persist in health status and access to health care which can be attributed to a variety of social,

behavioral, environmental, and biological determinants.<sup>2</sup> The future health of America will greatly depend on using a multifaceted approach to improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged groups.

### U.S. Female Population (All Ages), by Race/Ethnicity, 2000–2060

Source I.2: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

