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## **Nebraska Natural Change by Race/Ethnicity**

A new analysis and research brief by:

David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research

July 9, 2012

The natural phenomena of people being born and people passing away occur every day. Demographers call the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths “natural change”. Natural change and the net movement of persons to/from an area are factors that lead its population to change. While our office has analyzed these population change components in total, we can now break them into sub-groups such as by race/ethnicity.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services changed the birth and death certificate forms to include both racial and ethnic information in 2005. The way that these certificates categorize information is similar to the approach of the Census Bureau – a person is either Hispanic or they are not, and then each person has one or more racial categories that they fit into.

The table below shows the numbers of births, deaths, and the corresponding natural change annually from 2005 to 2010. Among major groups, total births in Nebraska are about 19,700 per year for White non-Hispanic mothers, about 1,700 for Black non-Hispanics, and about 4,100 per year for Hispanic women. Deaths are about 14,100, 500 and 250 per year respectively for these groups. Thus, by subtraction, the White non-Hispanic population is growing by about 5,600 per year, Black non-Hispanics by about 1,200, and Hispanics by about 3,850.

The trend over these past six years has seen White non-Hispanics having a declining share of the state’s births and overall level of natural change (Figure 1). While White non-Hispanics had more than three-quarters of the state’s births in 2005, the corresponding percentage declined each year before rising in 2010. More than half of the state’s natural change occurred among White non-Hispanics in 2005 and 2006, but that had decreased to about 46 percent by 2010 (Figure 2).

These figures show that each of Nebraska’s major racial/ethnic groups will continue to increase via births exceeding deaths. It also shows that the state’s younger population will continue to become increasingly minority, as White non-Hispanics are tending to comprise a smaller portion of the state’s births. Meanwhile, the vast majority of Nebraska’s deaths are among White-non Hispanics – the figures have remained quite steady in the 93-94 percent range over this period.

Births for each major racial/ethnic group dropped between 2009 and 2010, presumably due to the economic recession and financial concerns. White non-Hispanic births declined by more than 600 or 3.1 percent; there were 40 fewer Black non-Hispanic births, a decline of 2.3 percent; Hispanic births declined by 325 or 7.6 percent, double the statewide average decline of 3.8 percent. These figures bear watching closely as births and natural change tend to drive how a population changes, it’s current and future age structure, and if new population trends, including shifts by race and ethnicity, are developing.

**Nebraska Births, Deaths, and Natural Change by Race/Ethnicity: 2005 - 2010**

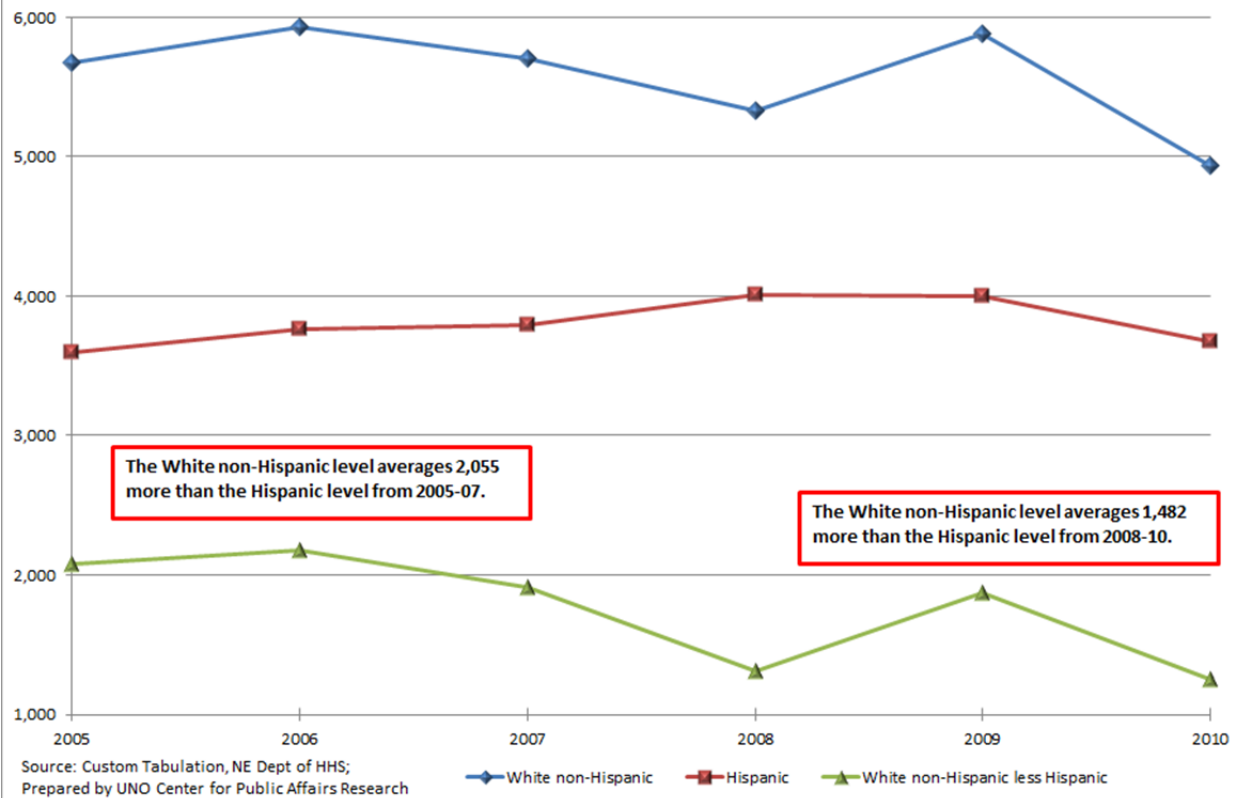
Source: Custom Calculations from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, 7-9-12

Note: NH refers to non-Hispanic; Min refers to the Minority population, which is the difference between the total population and the White non-Hispanic (WnH) population.

Births	White, NH	Black, NH	American		Other			Totals	WnH -		
			Indian, NH	Asian, NH	race, NH	Hispanic	Unknown		Hispanic	WnH Percent	WnH - Min
2005	19,692	1,515	397	597	76	3,848	17	26,142	15,844	75.3%	13,242
2006	19,913	1,715	441	585	59	3,999	11	26,723	15,914	74.5%	13,103
2007	19,955	1,790	445	594	75	4,065	11	26,935	15,890	74.1%	12,975
2008	19,874	1,740	411	608	75	4,268	16	26,992	15,606	73.6%	12,756
2009	19,738	1,754	433	676	53	4,264	13	26,931	15,474	73.3%	12,545
2010	19,133	1,714	372	667	80	3,939	11	25,916	15,194	73.8%	12,350
2005-10 avg	19,718	1,705	417	621	70	4,064	13	26,607	15,654	74.1%	12,829
Deaths	White, NH	Black, NH	American		Other			Totals	WnH -		
			Indian, NH	Asian, NH	race, NH	Hispanic	Unknown		Hispanic	WnH Percent	WnH - Min
2005	14,022	484	117	51	7	257	12	14,950	13,765	93.8%	13,094
2006	13,981	469	124	51	11	240	18	14,894	13,741	93.9%	13,068
2007	14,249	547	103	51	18	273	15	15,256	13,976	93.4%	13,242
2008	14,548	507	81	36	16	256	7	15,451	14,292	94.2%	13,645
2009	13,860	522	82	58	11	262	8	14,803	13,598	93.6%	12,917
2010	14,199	532	92	67	13	260	8	15,171	13,939	93.6%	13,227
2005-10 avg	14,143	510	100	52	13	258	11	15,088	13,885	93.7%	13,199
Natural Change	White, NH	Black, NH	American		Other			Totals	WnH -		
			Indian, NH	Asian, NH	race, NH	Hispanic	Unknown		Hispanic	WnH Percent	WnH - Min
2005	5,670	1,031	280	546	69	3,591	5	11,192	2,079	50.7%	148
2006	5,932	1,246	317	534	48	3,759	-7	11,829	2,173	50.1%	35
2007	5,706	1,243	342	543	57	3,792	-4	11,679	1,914	48.9%	-267
2008	5,326	1,233	330	572	59	4,012	9	11,541	1,314	46.1%	-889
2009	5,878	1,232	351	618	42	4,002	5	12,128	1,876	48.5%	-372
2010	4,934	1,182	280	600	67	3,679	3	10,745	1,255	45.9%	-877
2005-10 avg	5,574	1,195	317	569	57	3,806	2	11,519	1,769	48.4%	-370

**Figure 1: Nebraska Natural Change (Births - Deaths) for Hispanics and White non-Hispanics: 2005 - 2010**



**Figure 2: Percentage of Nebraska Natural Change (Births - Deaths) for White non-Hispanics: 2005 - 2010**

