



# SAT, ACT, and AP Testing

State Board of Education  
September 16, 2003



# Uses of the SAT and ACT in Florida

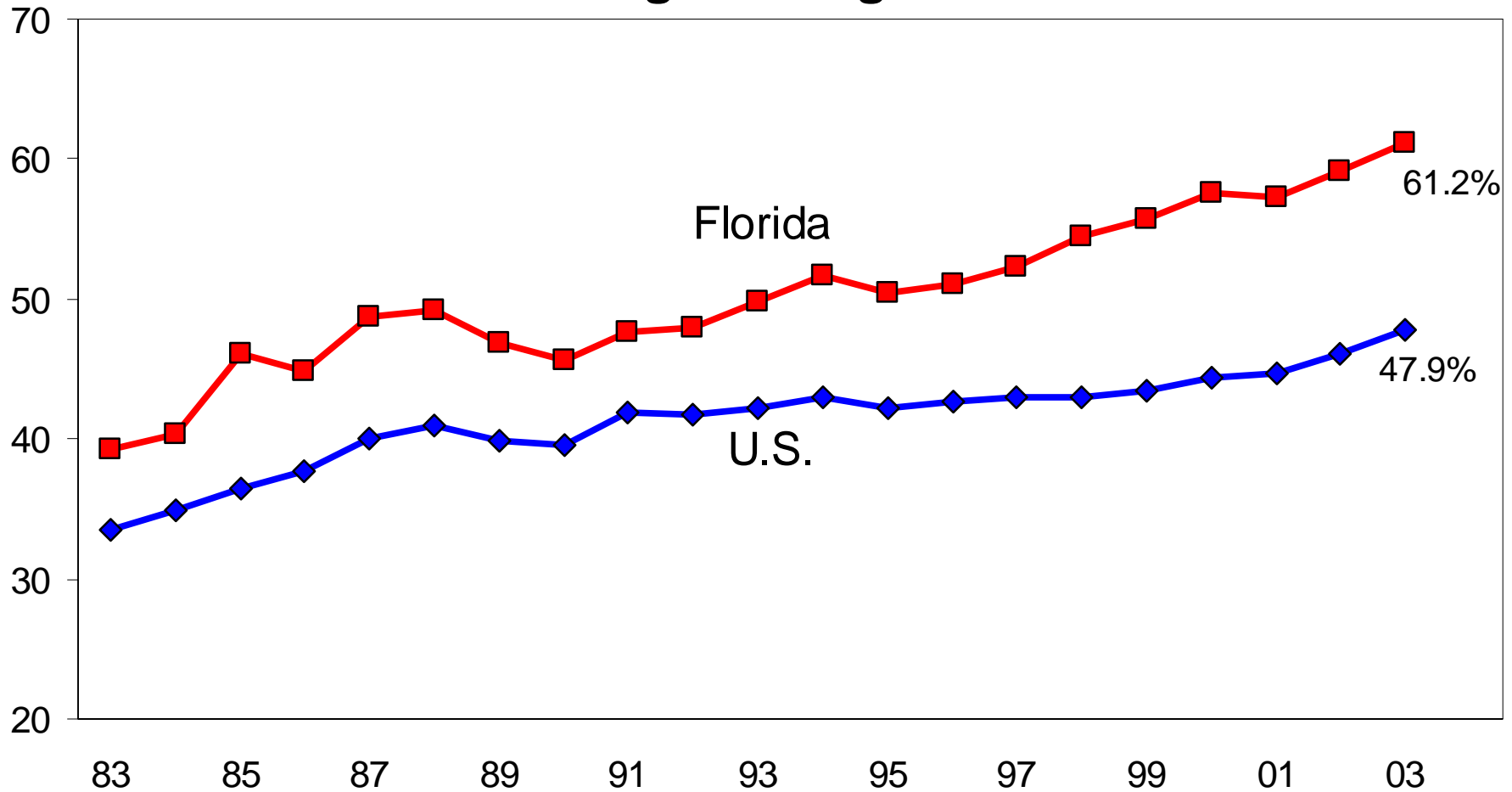
- For admissions to a state university, along with high school grade point average (GPA) and other factors.
- For meeting qualifications for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.
- For placement into regular college courses.
- For admissions to a state university under the Talented 20 Program.



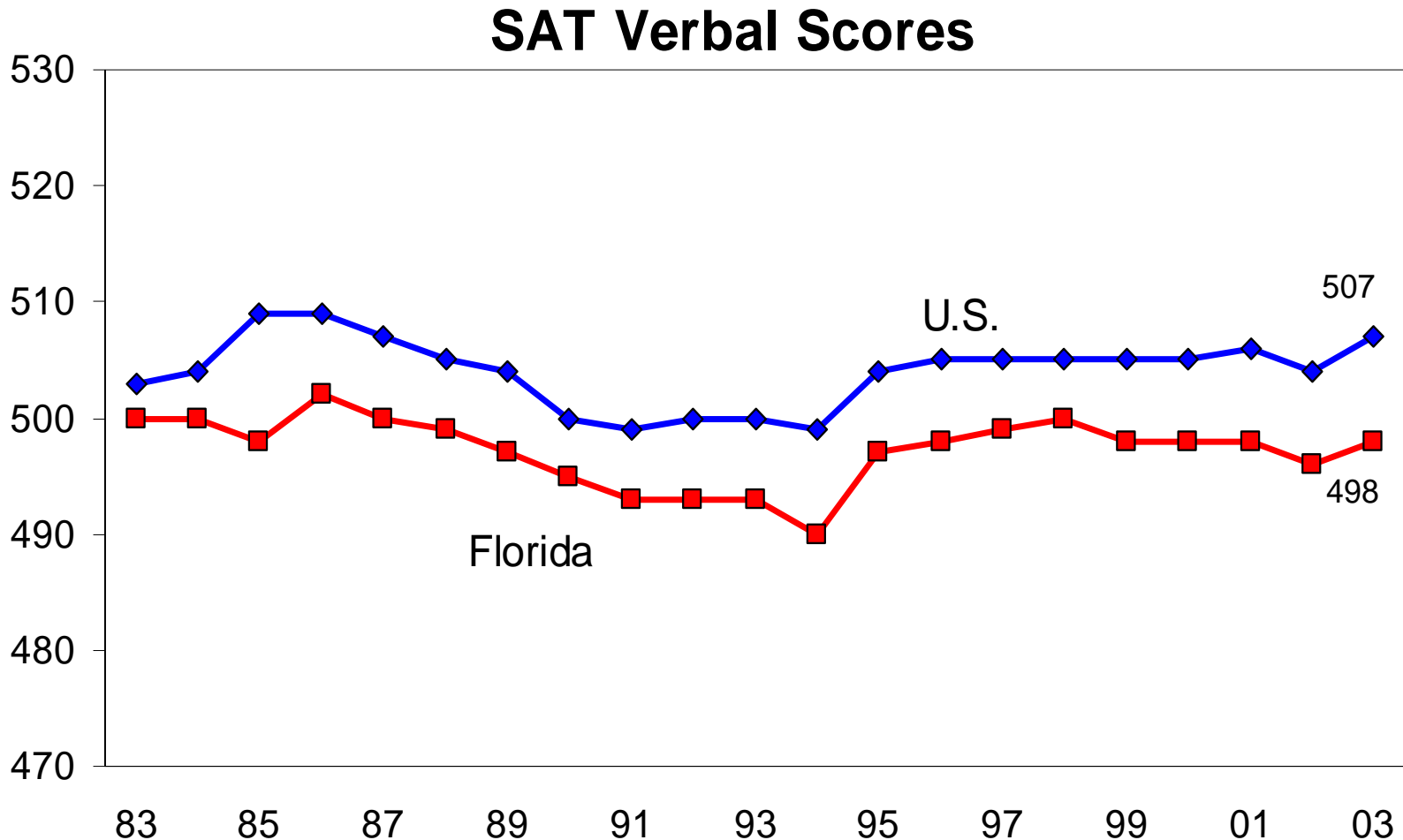
# SAT Trends. . .

Florida has a larger percentage of graduates taking the SAT than does the nation.

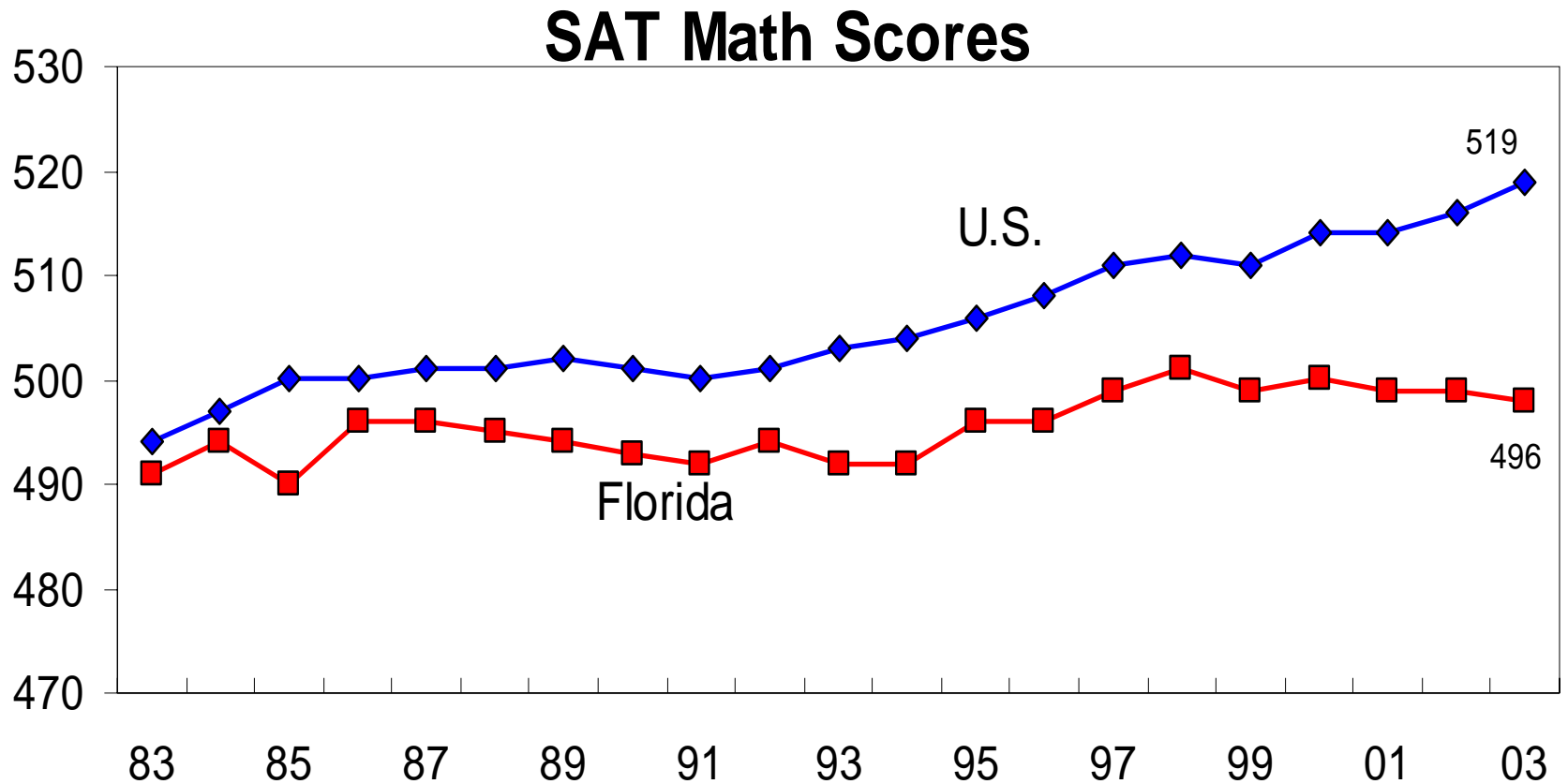
Percentage Taking the SAT



**Despite a 10% increase in the number of test takers in 2003, Florida's average verbal score rose two points.**

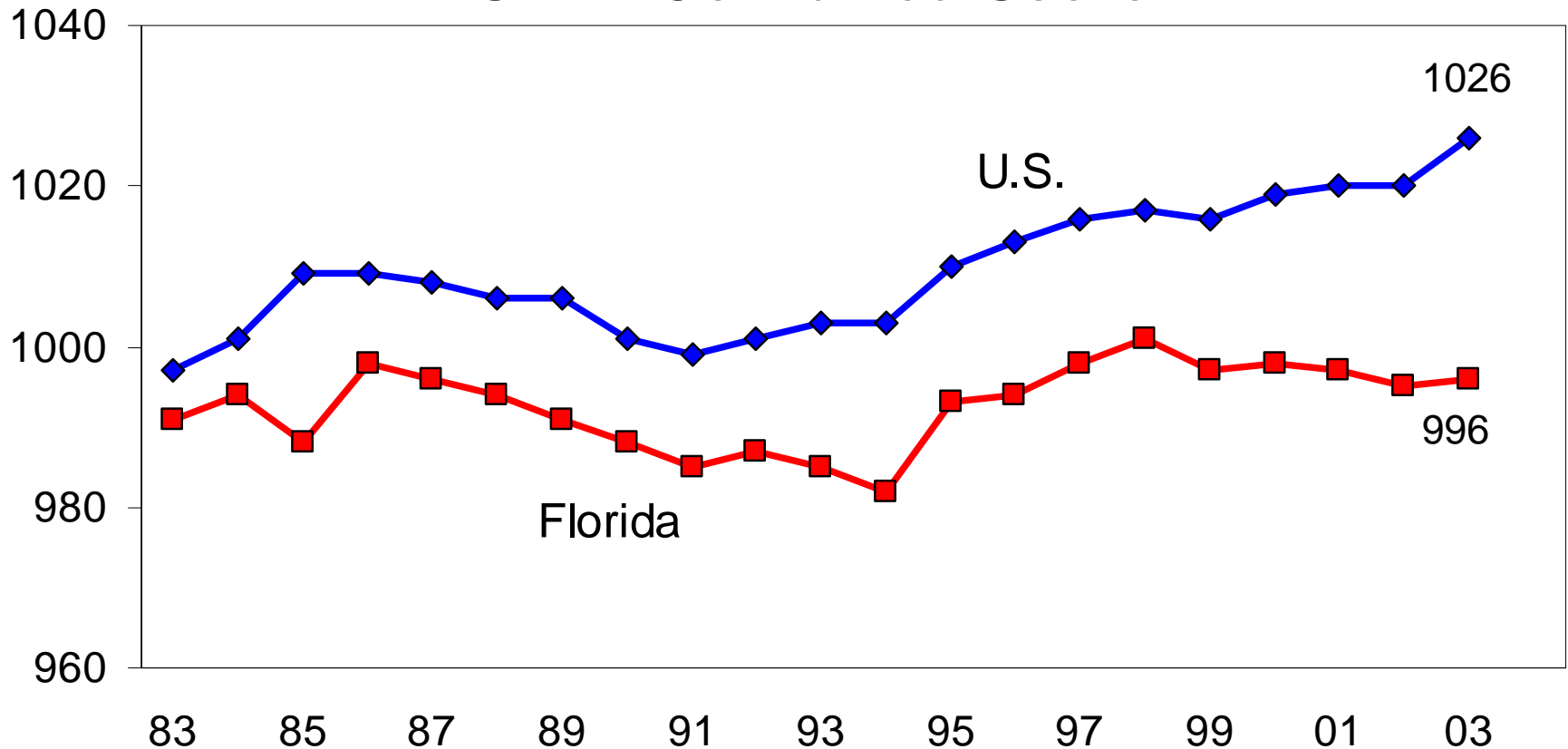


## Florida's math score declined one point.



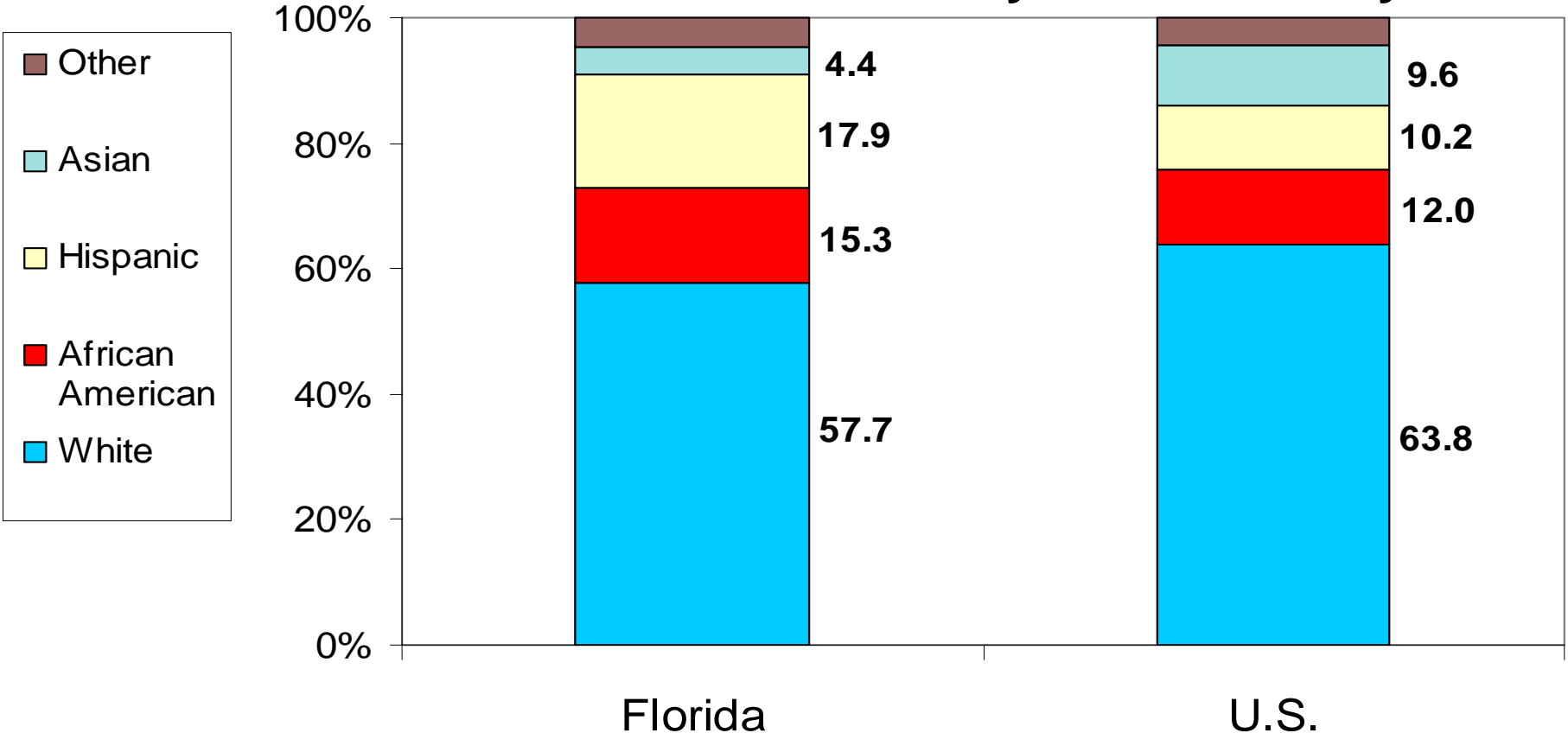
**Florida's combined score was 996, up one point from 2002. The score is 11 points higher than it was ten years ago, when far fewer students took the exam and 5 points higher than it was 20 years ago.**

## SAT - Combined Score



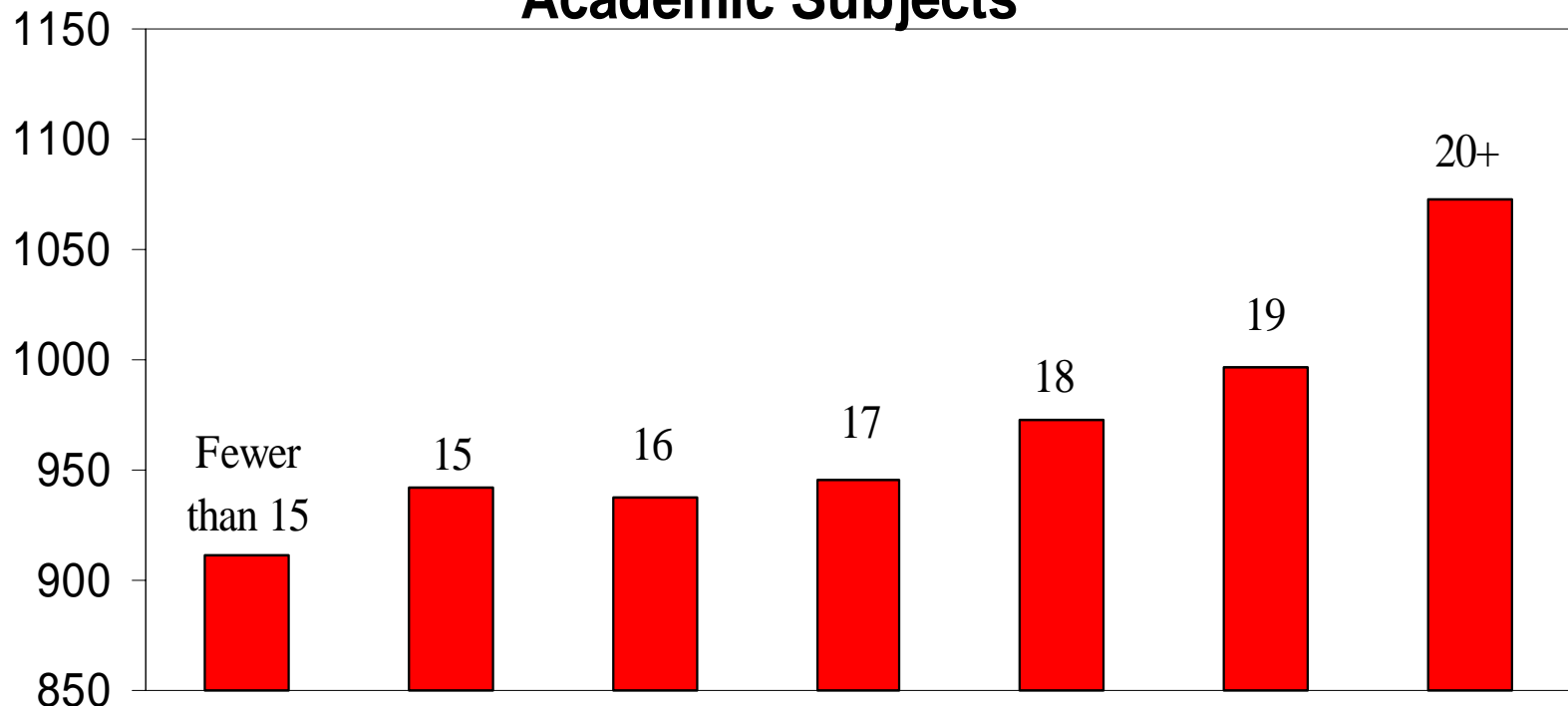
**Florida has a higher percentage of minority test takers than does the U.S. A larger percentage of minority students in the U.S. are Asians, who typically have above-average scores.**

**% of Test Takers by Race-Ethnicity**



**Students who take rigorous courses tend to get higher scores – 1072 for students with 20 or more credits of academic subjects compared to 910 for those with fewer than 15 credits – a 163-point spread.**

### **Florida SAT Scores by Credits in Academic Subjects\***

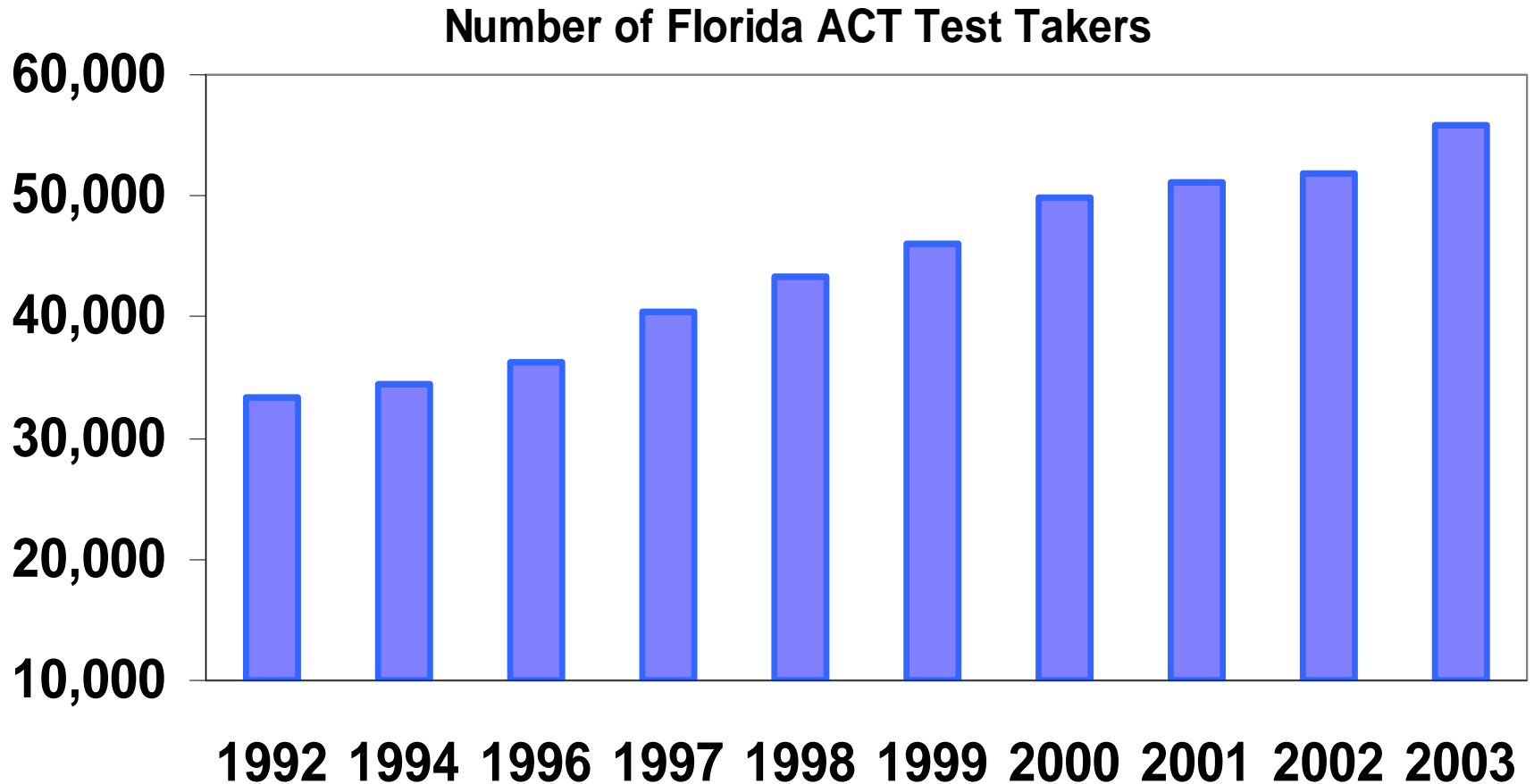


\*English, math, natural sciences, social studies/history, foreign languages, arts/music

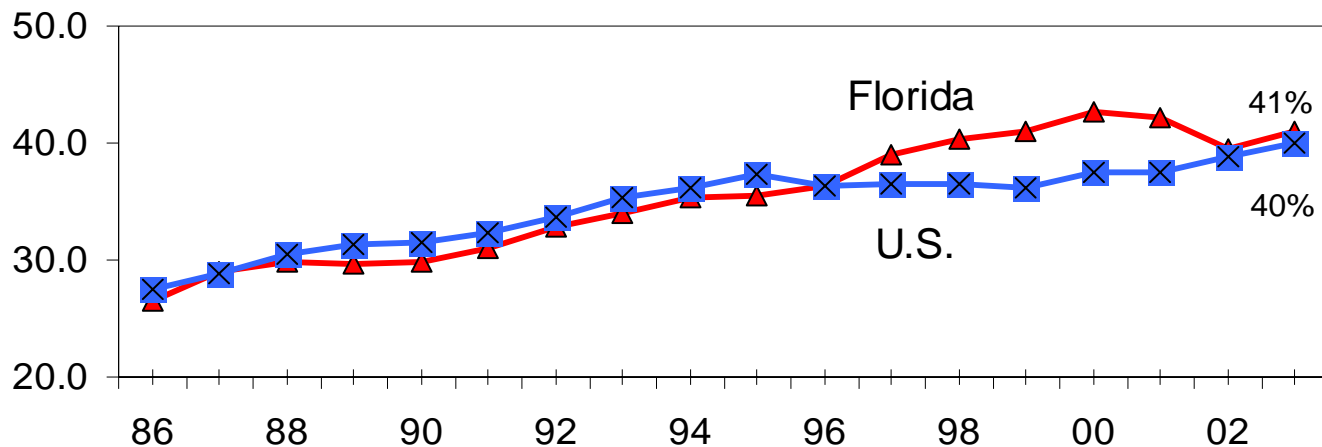


# ACT Trends . . .

**55,784 Florida students took the ACT in 2003, the largest number ever.**

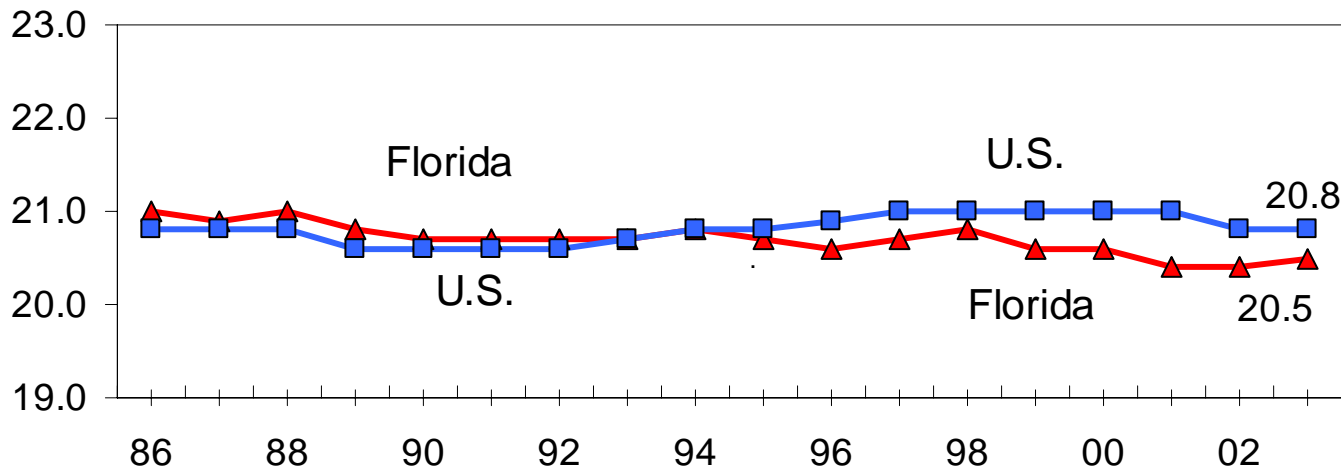


## Percentage Taking the ACT



In the years when Florida had smaller percentages of test takers than did the U.S., Florida typically also had higher scores.

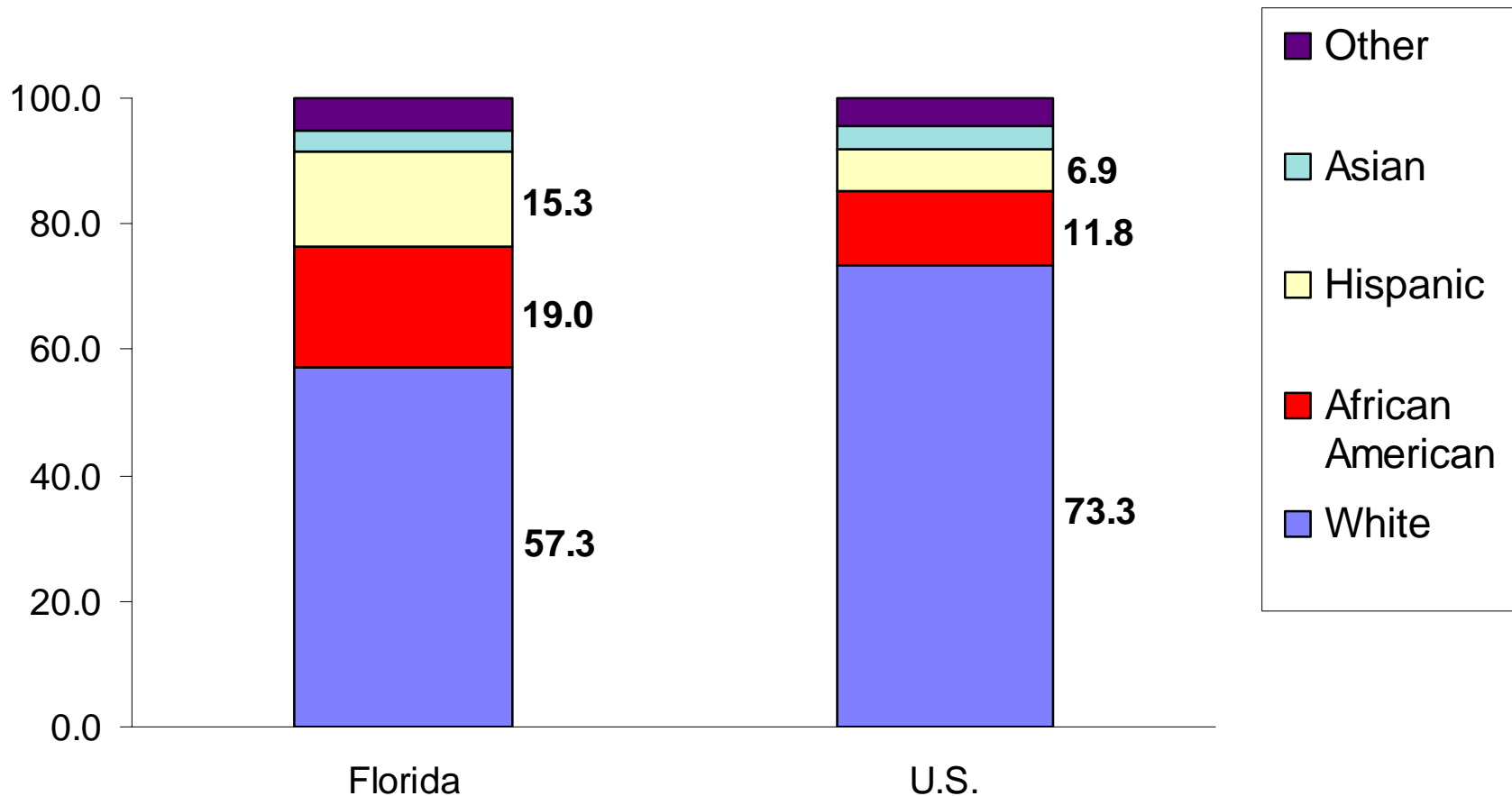
## Composite Score - ACT



Despite the increase in test takers this year, Florida's ACT composite score rose from 20.4 in 2003 to 20.5. This overall increase came chiefly from a rise in the scores on the reading subtest.

**Minority students now comprise 43% of Florida's ACT test takers. Nationwide, minority students represent 27% of the test takers.**

**ACT Test Takers by Race-Ethnicity**



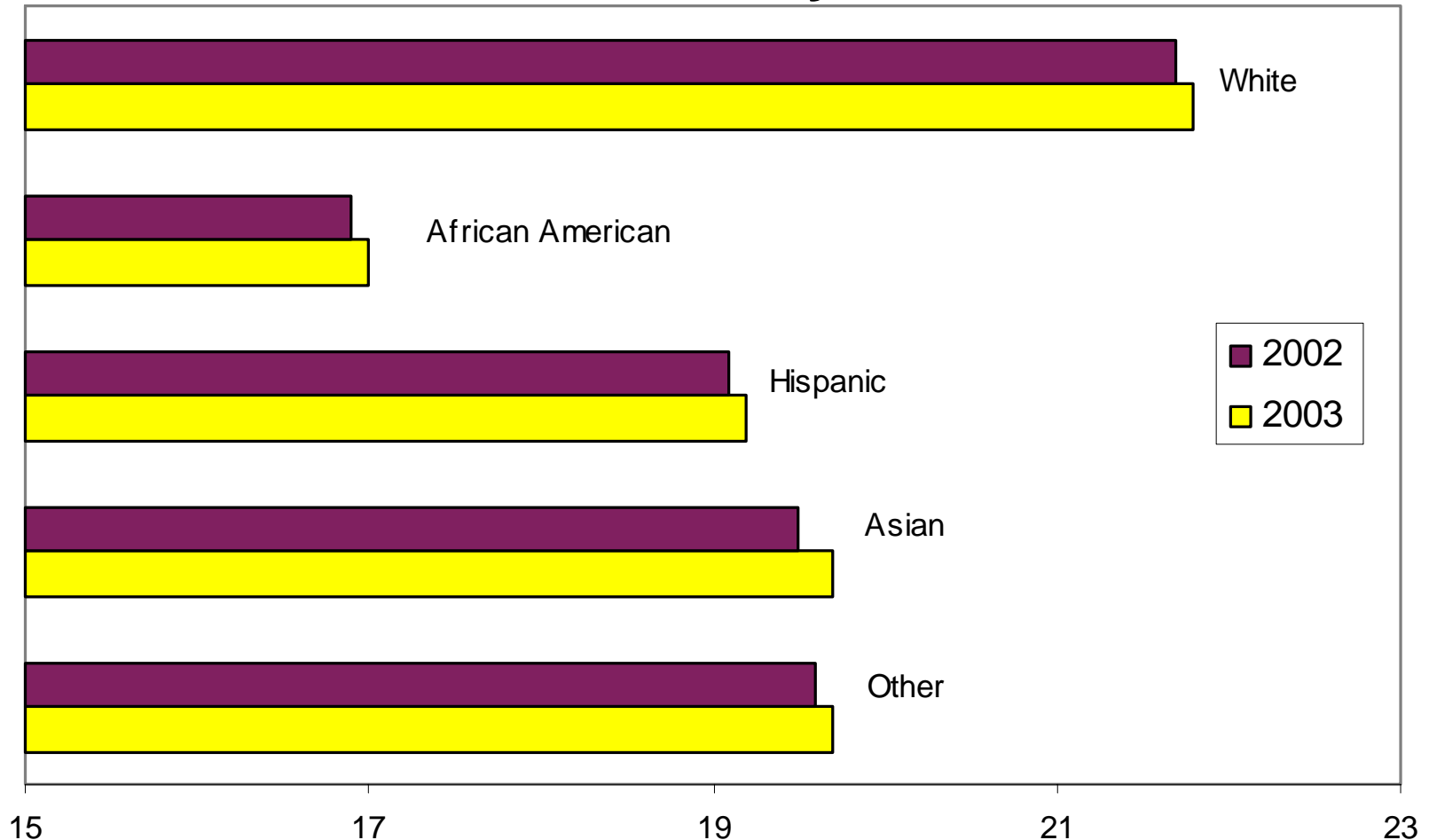
**Florida's reading score increase was chiefly the result of increases among minority students, especially males.**

### **Largest Florida ACT Score Increases in 2003**

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>Diff</b>
<b>Reading--African Amer. Males</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Reading--Hispanic Males</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Reading--Hispanic Females</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>English--Hispanic Males</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Math--Hispanic Males</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>

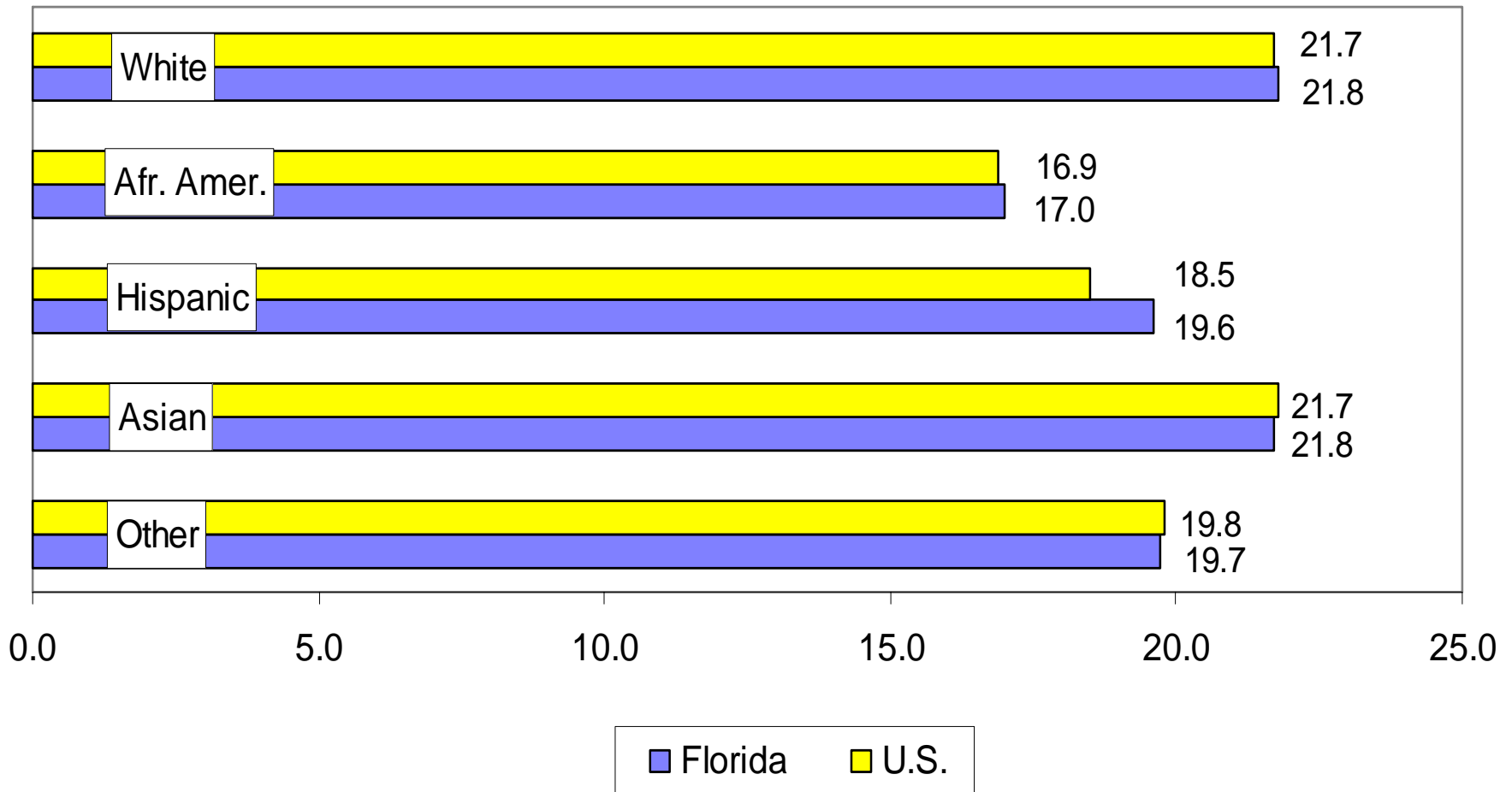
# Composite scores for all racial-ethnic groups in Florida increased.

## ACT Scores by Race



# Hispanics, African Americans, and white non-Hispanics outscored the same groups in the U.S.

## ACT Scores By Racial-Ethnic Groups

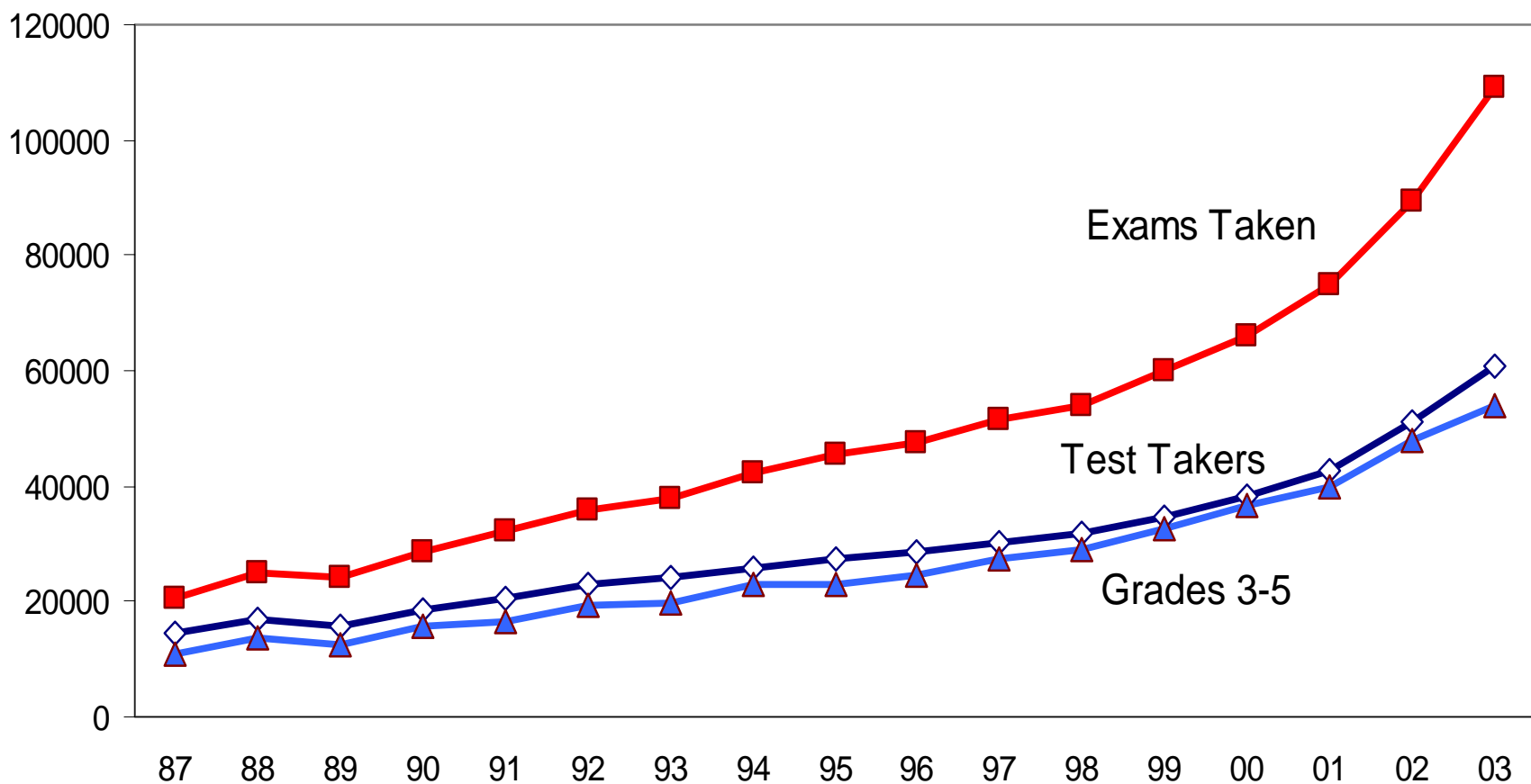




# AP Trends . . .

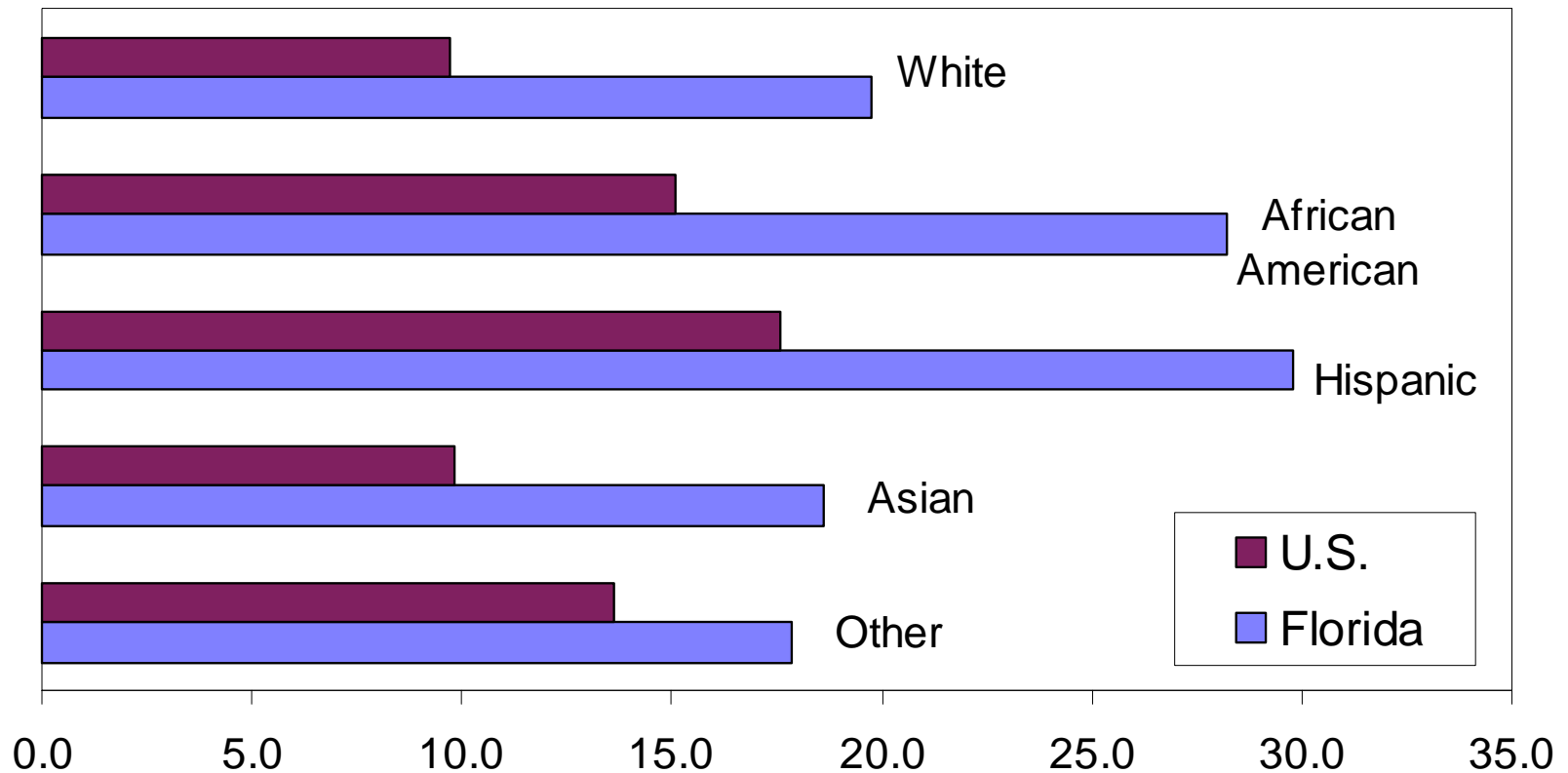
# Florida's AP story: ever-increasing numbers of AP test takers, subject exams taken, and exams with a grade of 3 or higher.

## AP Statistics - Florida Public Schools



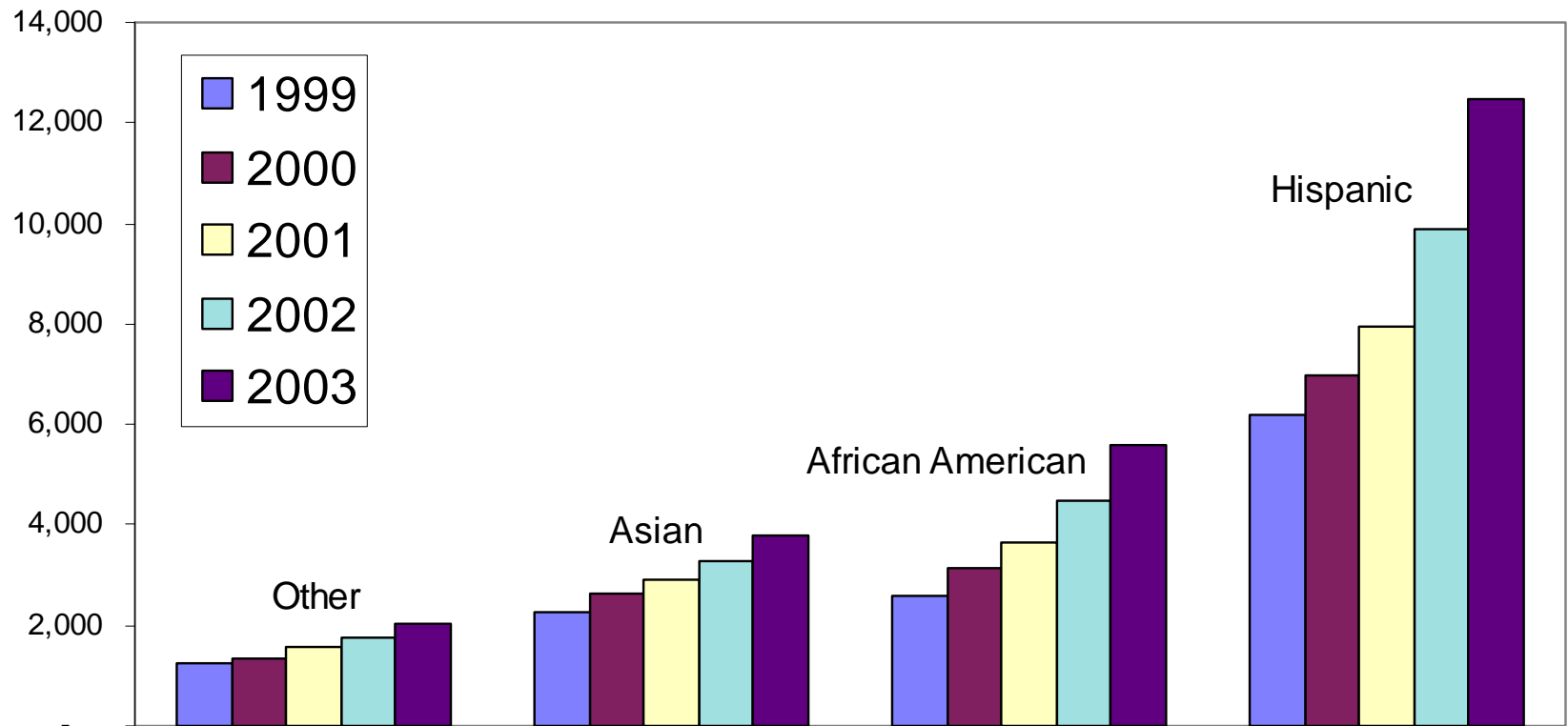
The increases in the number of AP test takers for all sub-groups in Florida in 2003 were nearly double the increases for the U.S.

**% Increase in AP Test Takers, 2002 to 2003**



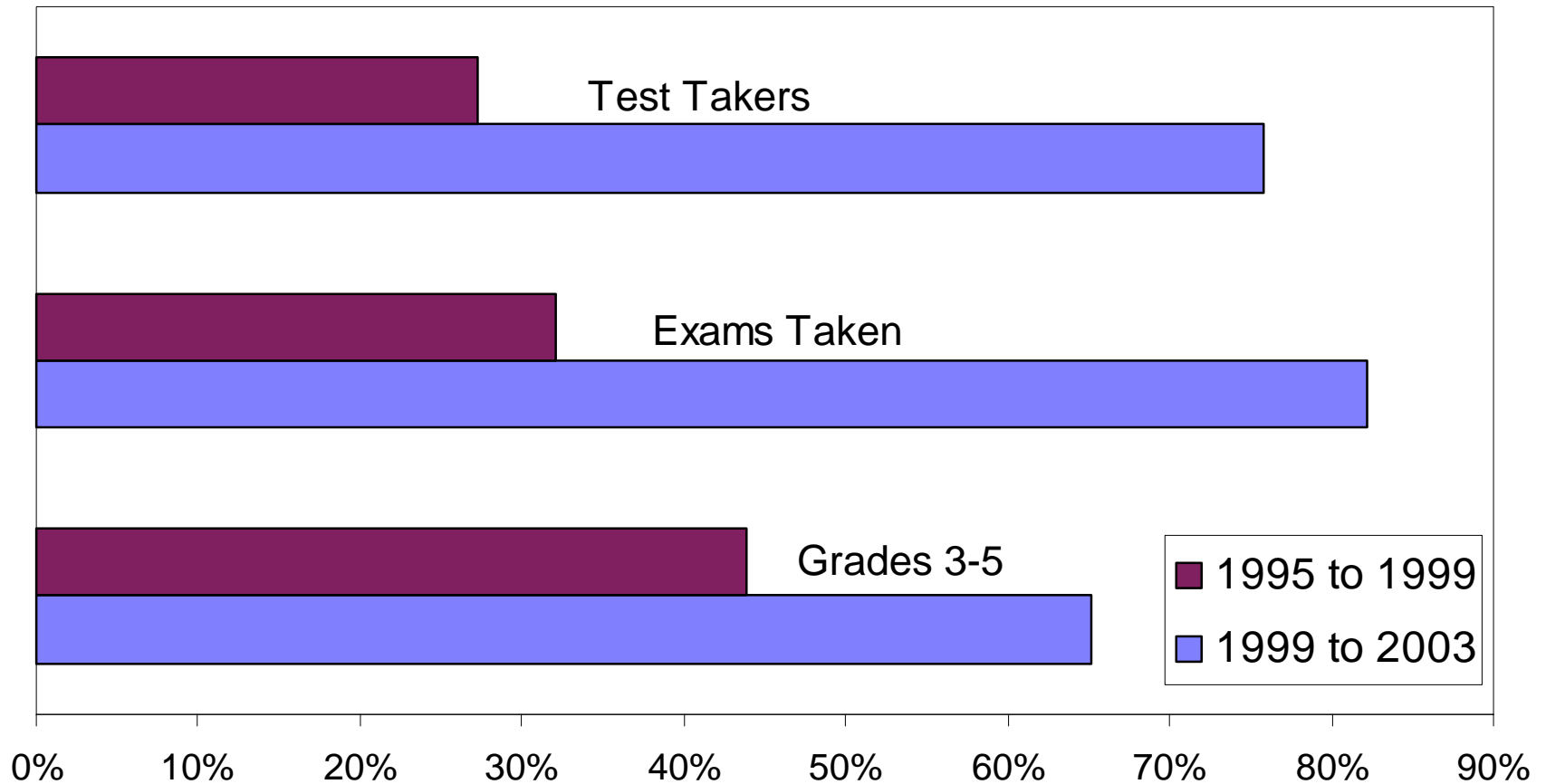
# The numbers of Hispanic and African-American test takers jumped by more than 25%.

## Number of AP Exam Takers-Minority Students Florida Public Schools



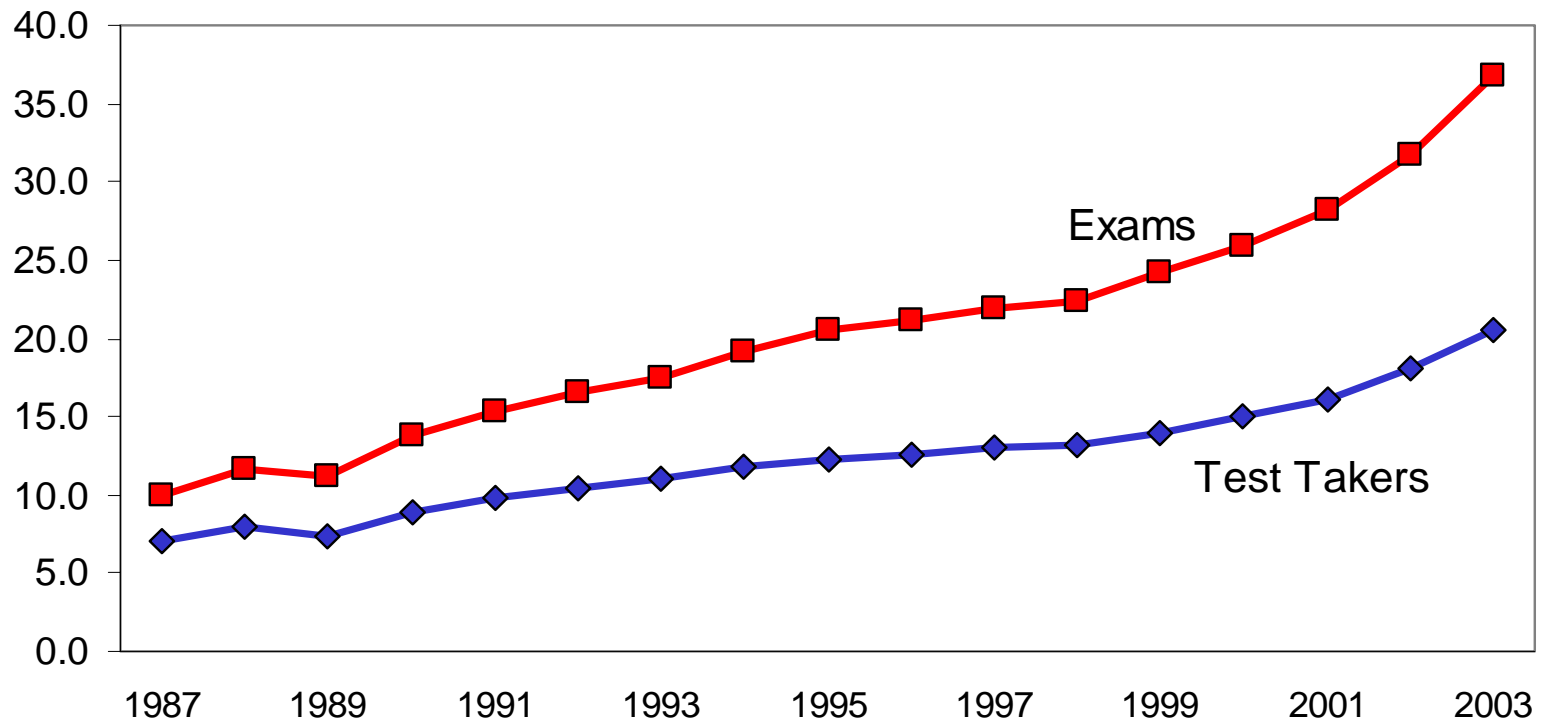
**Much of the growth has taken place in the last four years.**

**% Growth, 1999 to 2003 Compared to 1995 to 1999**



The increase in AP exams can also be measured in the number of test takers and exams as a percentage of all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Both measures roughly doubled over the last ten years.

**Test Takers and Exams As a Percentage of All 11th and 12th Graders**



**Individual students are taking exams in more subject areas. The ratios for all gender and racial-ethnic groups in Florida are higher than for the same groups nationwide.**

**Number of AP Exams Per Test Taker**

