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**Advanced Placement Trends  
Florida and the Nation  
Public Schools Only  
1987-2009**

**August 2009**

**Florida Department of Education  
Accountability, Research & Measurement**

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**Summary – Trends in Advanced Placement Examinations\***  
**Florida and the Nation – 1987-2009**  
**Public Schools Only**

- Increasing numbers of Florida’s high school students are taking and passing Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. This increase in participation is reflected in trends that show more AP exam takers, more subject exams taken, and more exams with a grade of 3 or higher. (See Page 1.)
- According to College Board, for the fourth year in a row Florida had the greatest one-year increase in the number of AP public school exam takers when compared to all other states. In addition, Florida had the greatest increase in the number of AP exams taken and the second greatest increase in the number of students receiving an exam grade of 3 or higher.
- From 2008 to 2009 the number of Florida AP exam takers increased by 12%, the number of exams taken by Florida students by 11%, and the number of exams awarded a score from 3 to 5 increased by 14%. The number of exam takers and exams taken for the nation increased by 8% and the number of 3-5 exams by 9%. (See page 2.)
- Over the last 5 years the number of Florida exam takers and exams taken increased by more than 90%, and the number receiving 3-5 scores by 64%. During this same time the number of exam takers and exams taken by the nation increased by nearly 60% and the number of 3-5 grades by 51%. (See page 2.)
- One measure of the increase in AP exams is the number of exam takers and exams taken as a percentage of all students in grades 10 to 12. In the last 10 years the number of exam takers as a percentage of students in these grades increased from 9% to 23%, and the number of exams taken from 15% to 41%. (See page 3.)
- Compared to the nation, smaller percentages of Florida’s AP exam takers are white non-Hispanic or Asian and a higher percentage are African American or Hispanic. Fourteen percent of Florida’s AP exam takers are African American and 24% are Hispanic, compared to 8% and 16%, respectively, for the nation. (See page 4.)
- Overall, the number of minority students taking AP exams in Florida from 2008 to 2009 increased by 15% compared to 8% for whites. The number of African-American AP exam takers increased by 18%, the number of Hispanics by 17%, and the number of Asians by 9%. The numbers of African-Americans and Hispanics nationwide increased by 14%, and minorities overall by 11%. (See page 5).
- Increases in AP participation were higher for minority exam takers than for white non-Hispanics. According to the College Board, when compared to all other states, Florida had the greatest increase in the number of African-American AP exam takers, the number of AP exams administered African-American students, and the number of AP grades of 3 or higher. At the same time, Florida has the third greatest increase in all three measures of AP participation.

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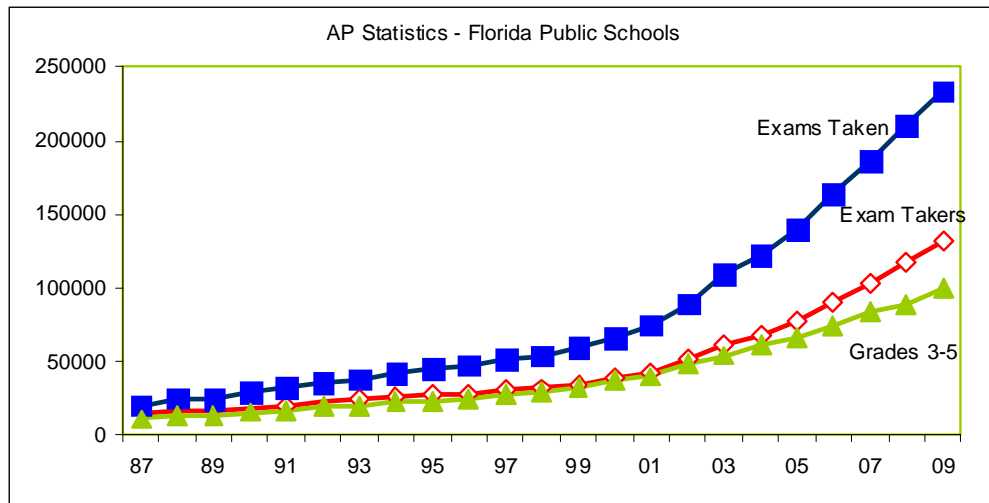
\* The Advanced Placement Program (AP) allows students to pursue college-level studies while they are still in high school. The program includes 35 courses and exams in 20 subject areas. Exams yield grades from 1 to 5. Many colleges and universities grant credit, advanced placement, or both to students for AP exam grades of 3 or higher.

- The numbers of exam takers as a percentage of all students in grades 10 to 12 have increased for all subgroups but the percentages vary significantly across racial-ethnic groups. The number of Florida Asian AP exam takers represents 56% of all Asian students in grades 10 to 12; white non-Hispanics, 24%; Hispanics, 23%; and African Americans, 13%. (See page 8. Some exam takers are 9<sup>th</sup> graders.)
- Students frequently enroll in more than one AP course and take more than one exam. Thus, in addition to the percentage of test takers, participation in AP programs can be measured by the average number of exams taken by each test takers. Overall, the average number of exams taken has increased from 1.52 in 1989 to 1.80 from 2004 through 2007. The average for 2009 was 1.77. (See page 1.) Asians take more exams per test taker than other groups, 2.1, compared to 1.8 for white non-Hispanics, 1.7 for Hispanics, and 1.6 for African Americans. (See page 9.)
- On the average, Florida AP exam takers take more exams per student than do exam takers nationwide. Overall, test takers nationwide take an average 1.72 exams in 2009. A gap of .7 or more—in favor of Florida—exists for all racial-ethnic groups. (See page 9.)
- Exams yield grades from 1 to 5. Many colleges and universities grant credit, advanced, placement, or both, to students with AP exam grades of 3 or higher. The total number of Florida exams receiving a grade of 3-5 increased by 13% in 2009. The largest increase in the number of 3 to 5 grades from 2008 to 2009 was made by African Americans at 21%. (See pages 10 and 11.)
- The percentage with a grade of 3 or higher increased from 42% to 43%. The 2009 percentages of grades 3 to 5 ranged from 49% of the exams taken by Asians to 19% of the exams taken by African Americans. All racial-ethnic and gender groups made an increase in the percentage of grades 3 to 5 in 2009. (See page 11)
- For most racial-ethnic groups the percentage of grades 3 to 5 nationwide are approximately 14 percentage points higher than percentages for Florida. The exceptions are African Americans, with a spread of only 6 percentage points, and Hispanics in Florida, who outscore Hispanics nationwide. (See page 12.)
- More females than males in Florida take AP exams, with a ratio of 56 females to 48 males. The number of female exam takers as a percentage of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders is 27%, compared to 20% for males.
- Female exam takers take a slightly smaller number of exams per person than do males. In 2009 the exam rate for females was 1.75, compared to 1.81 for males. (See page 9.) Females also earn a smaller percentage of grades 3-5 than do males. In 2009 the number of exams receiving grades of 3-5 represented 40% for females and 46% for males. (See page 11.)

Participation in the Advanced Placement Program  
Florida Public Schools  
1987-2009

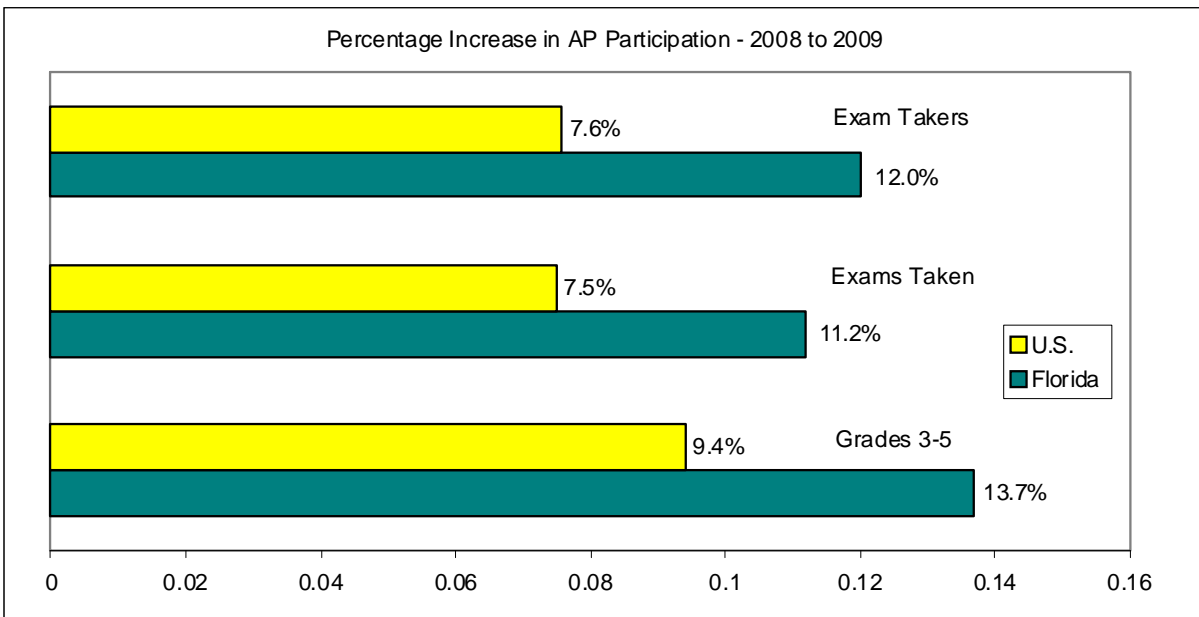
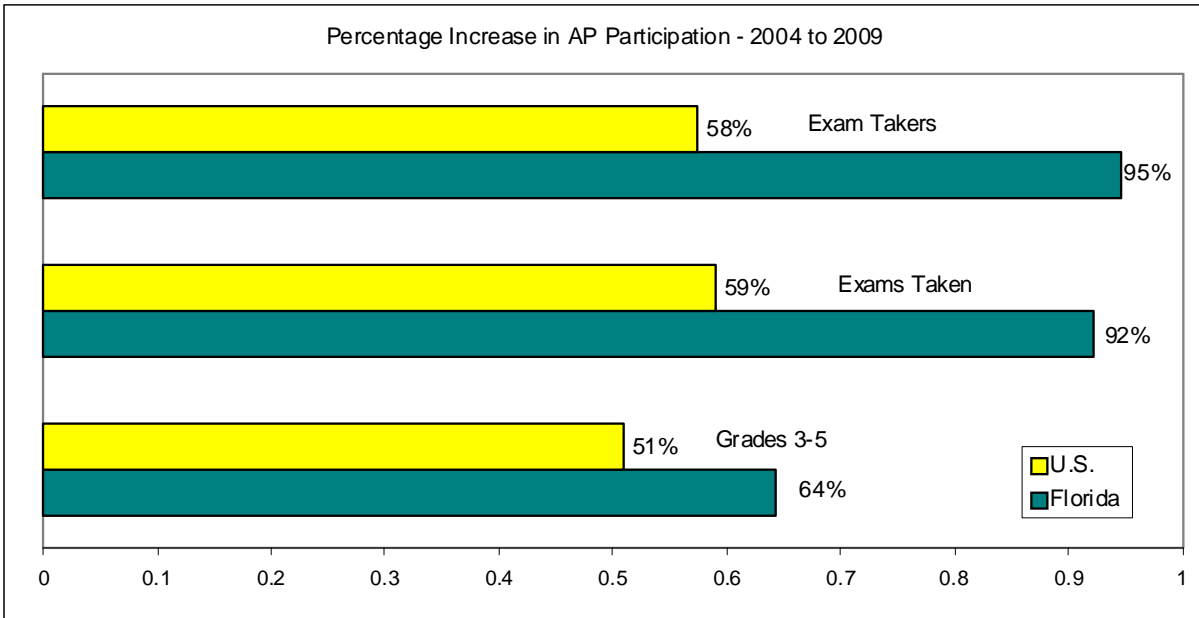
Year	Number Students Taking AP Exams (Candidates)	Total Number Exams Taken	Ratio Between Candidates and Exams	Number Exams with a Score of 3 or Higher	Percentage with Score of 3 or Higher
1987	14,510	20,430	1.41	10,976	53.7
1988	17,043	25,111	1.47	13,538	53.9
1989	15,807	23,963	1.52	12,653	52.8
1990	18,702	28,713	1.54	15,616	54.4
1991	20,521	32,137	1.57	16,402	51.0
1992	22,759	35,769	1.57	19,136	53.5
1993	24,099	38,030	1.58	19,700	51.8
1994	25,870	42,154	1.63	22,897	54.3
1995	27,186	45,306	1.67	22,782	50.3
1996	28,491	47,672	1.67	24,728	51.9
1997	30,356	51,400	1.69	27,199	52.9
1998	31,758	53,976	1.70	28,801	53.4
1999	34,607	59,811	1.73	32,775	54.8
2000	38,185	65,992	1.73	36,691	55.6
2001	42,878	75,096	1.75	39,794	53.0
2002	51,070	89,295	1.75	48,004	53.8
2003	60,978	109,175	1.79	54,193	49.6
2004	67,750	121,682	1.80	60,923	50.1
2005	78,121	140,535	1.80	66,511	47.3
2006	90,677	163,547	1.80	73,957	45.2
2007	103,547	186,152	1.80	83,339	44.8
2008	117,698	210,321	1.79	88,279	42.0
2009	131,818	233,851	1.77	100,356	42.9

\*Advanced Placement (AP) scores range from 1 to 5. Many universities grant college credit or advanced placement for examinations with a score of 3 or higher.



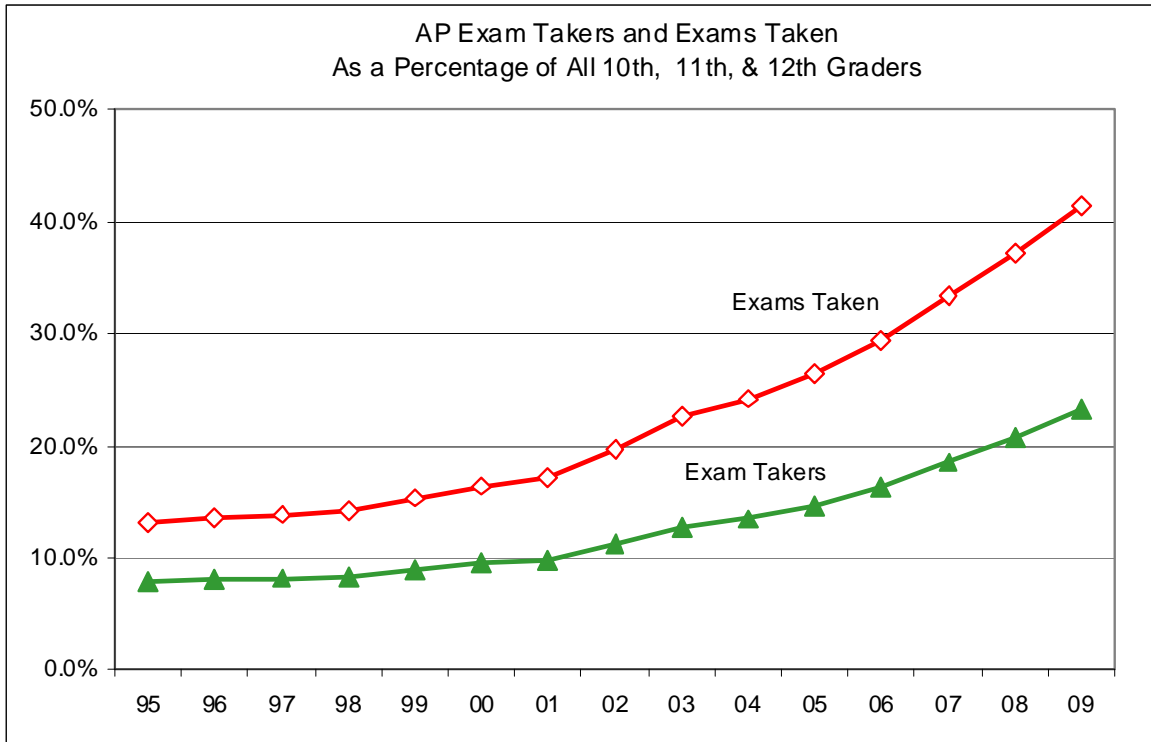
Participation in Advanced Placement Examinations  
Florida and the Nation

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% Change 04-09	% Change 08-09
<b>FLORIDA</b>								
Exam Takers	67,750	78,121	90,677	103,547	117,698	131,818	94.6	12.0
Exams Taken	121,682	140,535	163,547	186,152	210,321	233,851	92.2	11.2
Grades 3-5	61,104	66,511	73,968	83,339	88,279	100,356	64.2	13.7
<b>NATION</b>								
Exam Takers	919,886	1,026,979	1,131,473	1,239,336	1,346,925	1,448,982	57.5	7.6
Exams Taken	1,568,487	1,763,034	1,942,819	2,133,594	2,321,311	2,495,252	59.1	7.5
Grades 3-5	936,757	1,015,215	1,117,643	1,221,255	1,292,436	1,413,976	50.9	9.4



Participation in the Advanced Placement Program  
Florida Public Schools  
1995-2008

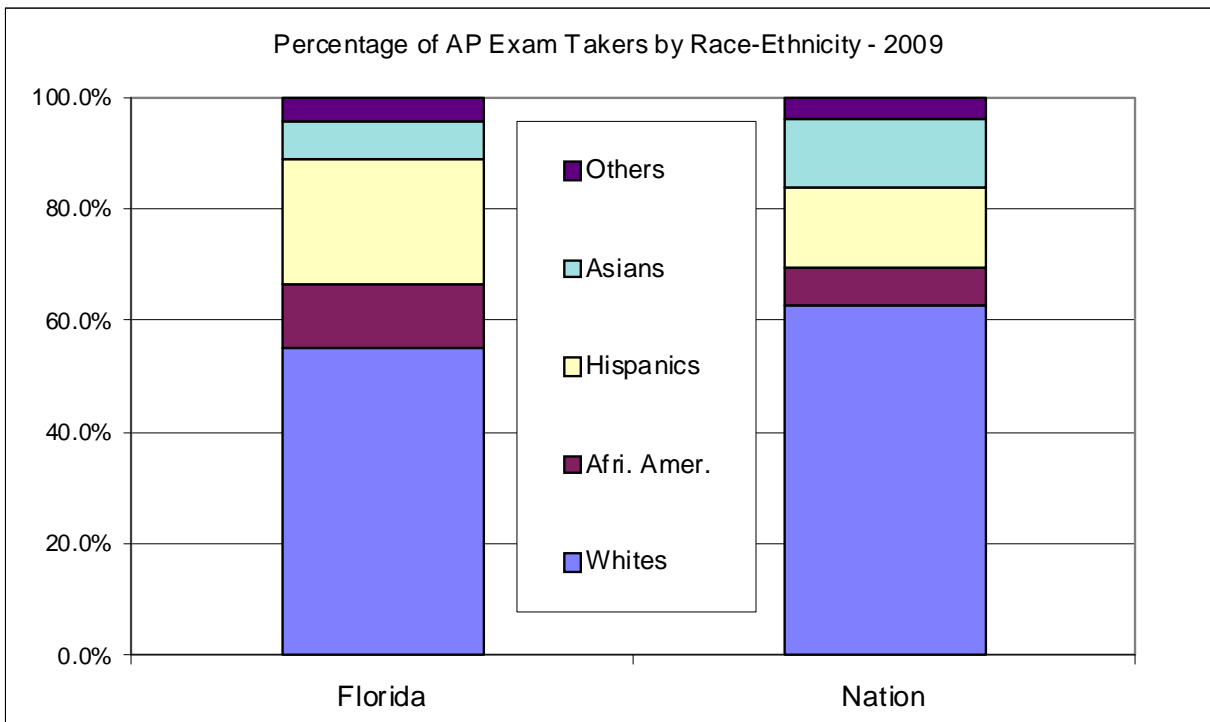
Year	Number as a Percentage of 10th, 11th & 12th Graders	
	Exam Takers	Exams
1995	7.9%	13.2%
1996	8.1%	13.6%
1997	8.2%	13.9%
1998	8.3%	14.2%
1999	8.9%	15.4%
2000	9.5%	16.5%
2001	9.8%	17.2%
2002	11.2%	19.7%
2003	12.7%	22.7%
2004	13.5%	24.2%
2005	14.7%	26.4%
2006	16.3%	29.4%
2007	18.5%	33.3%
2008	20.8%	37.2%
2009	23.4%	41.4%



Number of AP Exam Takers by Race-Ethnicity  
Florida and the Nation - 2009

	Florida		Nation	
	Number	%	Number	%
Whites	66,056	51.7	847,064	60.2
African Americans	17,403	13.6	113,928	8.1
Hispanics	30,316	23.7	219,080	15.6
Asians	8,200	6.4	170,512	12.1
Others	5,867	4.6	57,634	4.1
Total Responded	127,842	100.0	1,408,218	100.0
Minorities	61,786	48.3	561,154	39.8
No Response*	3,976	3.0	40,764	2.8
Total	131,818	100.0	1,448,982	100.0

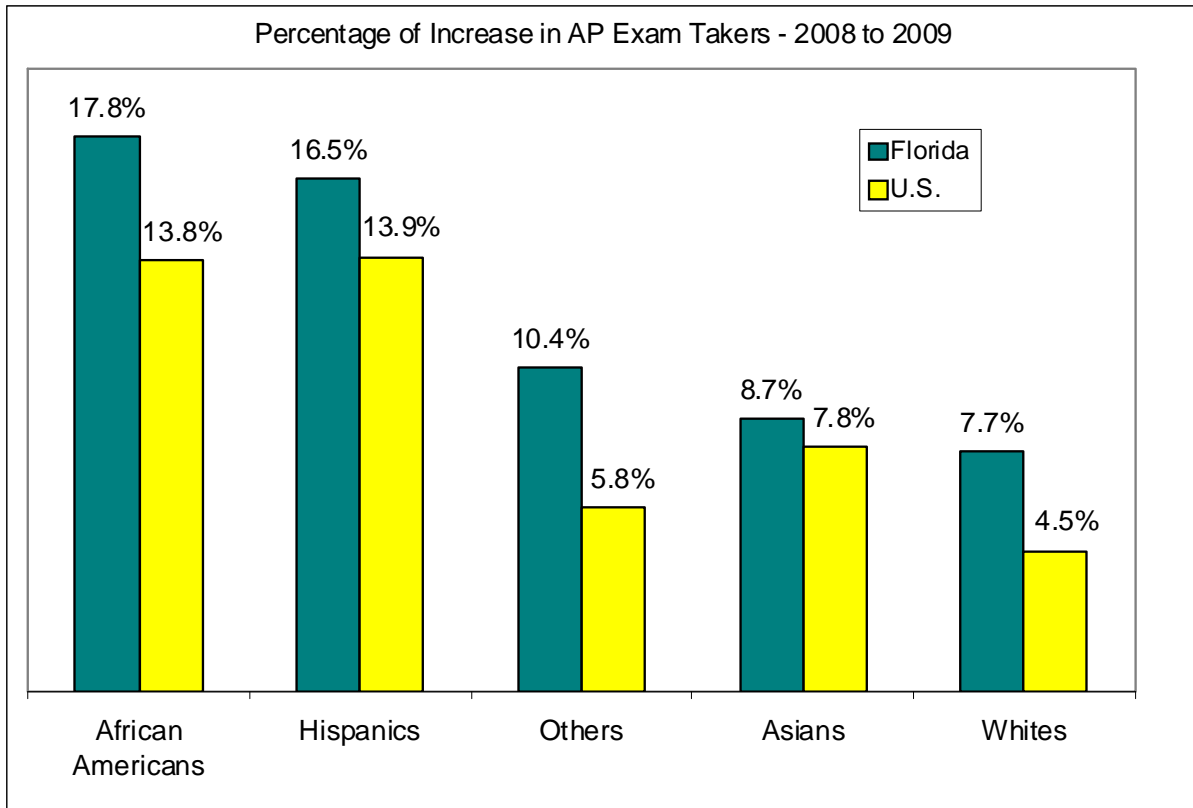
\*Students who did not indicate their race-ethnicity



Increase in the Number of Advanced Placement Exam Takers  
Florida and the Nation

	Florida			Nation		
	2008	2009	% Increase	2008	2009	% Increase
Total	117,698	131,818	12.0	1,346,925	1,448,982	7.6
Males	49,187	55,165	12.2	580,749	627,721	8.1
Females	68,511	76,653	11.9	766,176	821,261	7.2
Whites	61,358	66,056	7.7	810,615	847,064	4.5
African Americans	14,777	17,403	17.8	100,091	113,928	13.8
Hispanics	26,032	30,316	16.5	192,310	219,080	13.9
Asians	7,543	8,200	8.7	158,116	170,512	7.8
Others	5,316	5,867	10.4	54,450	57,634	5.8
Total Responded	115,026	127,842	11.1	1,315,582	1,408,218	7.0
Minority Students	53,668	61,786	15.1	504,967	561,154	11.1
No Response*	2,852	3,976	39.4	31,343	40,764	30.1
Total	117,878	131,818	11.8	1,346,925	1,448,982	7.6

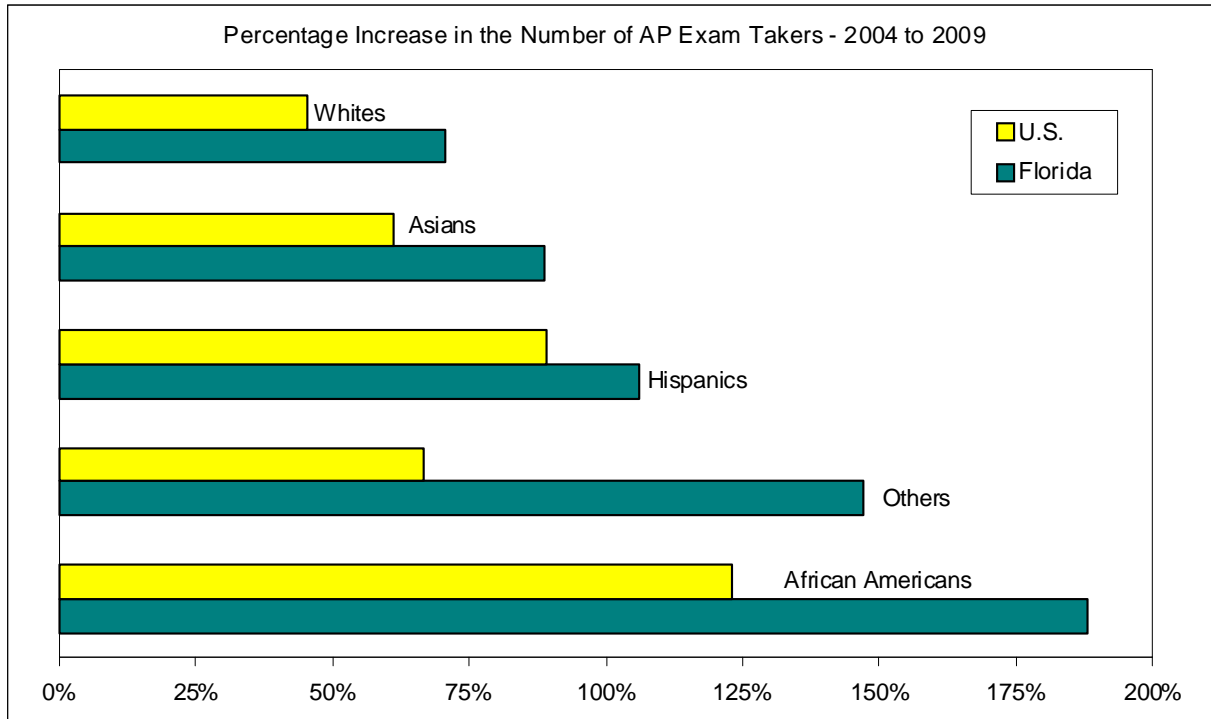
\*Students who did not indicate their race/ethnicity



Increase in the Number of Advanced Placement Exam Takers  
Florida and the Nation - 2004 to 2009

	Florida			Nation		
	2004	2009	% Increase	2004	2009	% Increase
Total	67,559	131,818	95.1	912,733	1,448,982	58.8
Males	27,963	55,165	97.3	393,843	627,721	59.4
Females	39,596	76,653	93.6	518,890	821,261	58.3
Whites	38,703	66,056	70.7	582,579	847,064	45.4
African Americans	6,038	17,403	188.2	51,053	113,928	123.2
Hispanics	14,710	30,316	106.1	115,729	219,080	89.3
Asians	4,342	8,200	88.9	105,935	170,512	61.0
Others	2,373	5,867	147.2	34,592	57,634	66.6
Total Responded	66,166	127,842	93.2	889,888	1,408,218	58.2
No Response*	1,393	3,976	185.4	22,845	40,764	78.4
Total	67,559	131,818	95.1	912,733	1,448,982	58.8

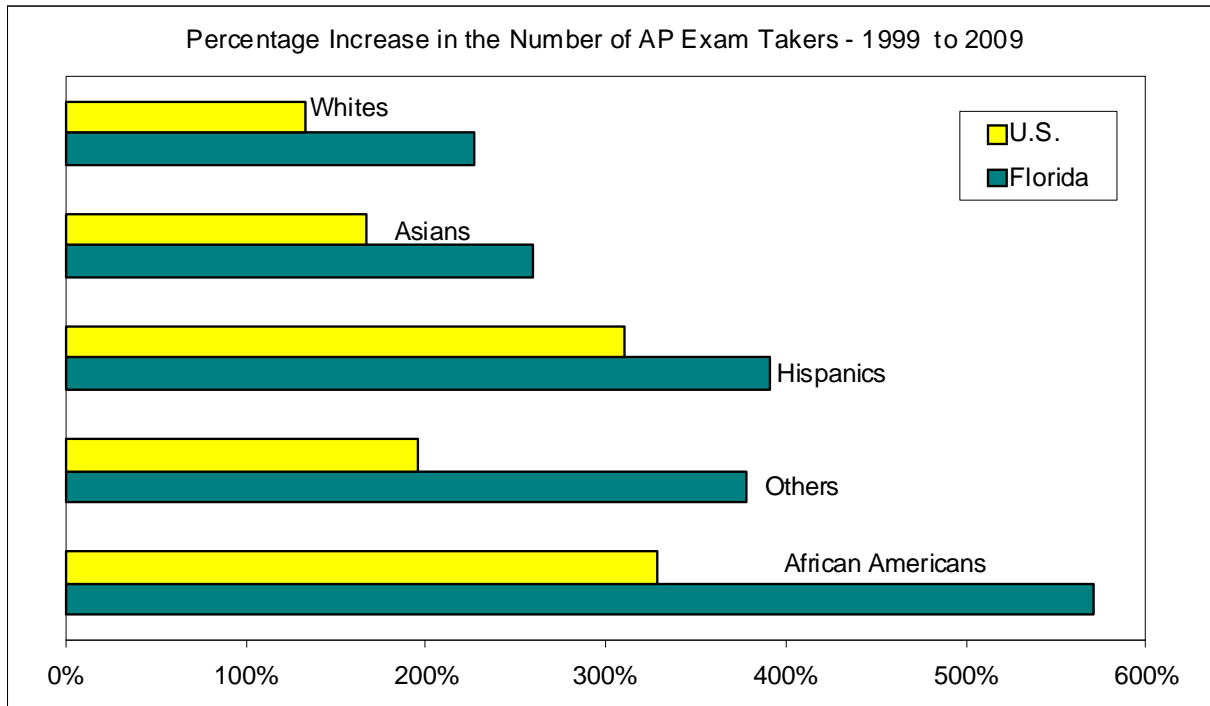
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Increase in the Number of Advanced Placement Exam Takers  
Florida and the Nation

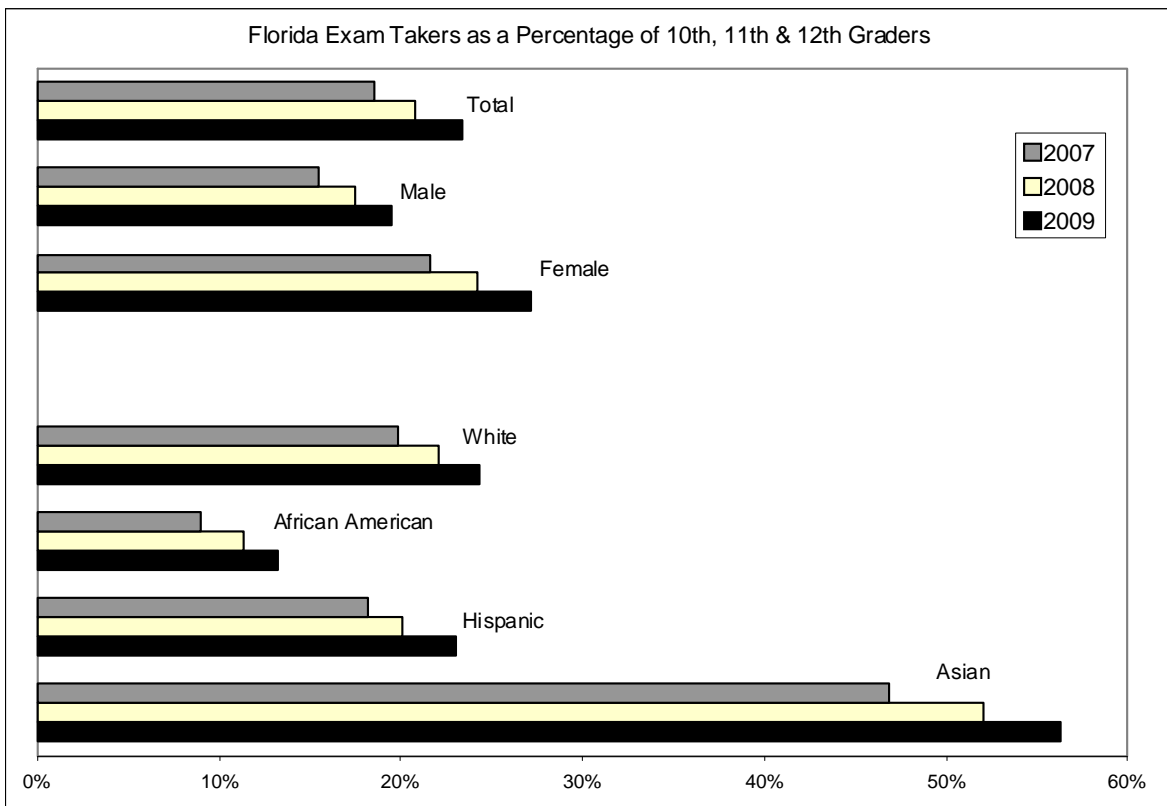
	Florida			Nation		
	1999	2009	% Increase	1999	2009	% Increase
Total	34,607	131,818	280.9	561,152	1,448,982	158.2
Males	14,556	55,165	279.0	246,015	627,721	155.2
Females	20,051	76,653	282.3	315,137	821,261	160.6
Whites	20,218	66,056	226.7	362,842	847,064	133.5
African Americans	2,595	17,403	570.6	26,574	113,928	328.7
Hispanics	6,181	30,316	390.5	53,363	219,080	310.5
Asians	2,280	8,200	259.6	63,834	170,512	167.1
Others	1,228	5,867	377.8	19,510	57,634	195.4
Total Responded	32,502	127,842	293.3	526,123	1,408,218	167.7
No Response*	2,105	3,976	(88.5)	35,029	40,764	16.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,607</b>	<b>131,818</b>	<b>280.9</b>	<b>561,152</b>	<b>1,448,982</b>	<b>158.2</b>

\*Students who did not indicate their race-ethnicity



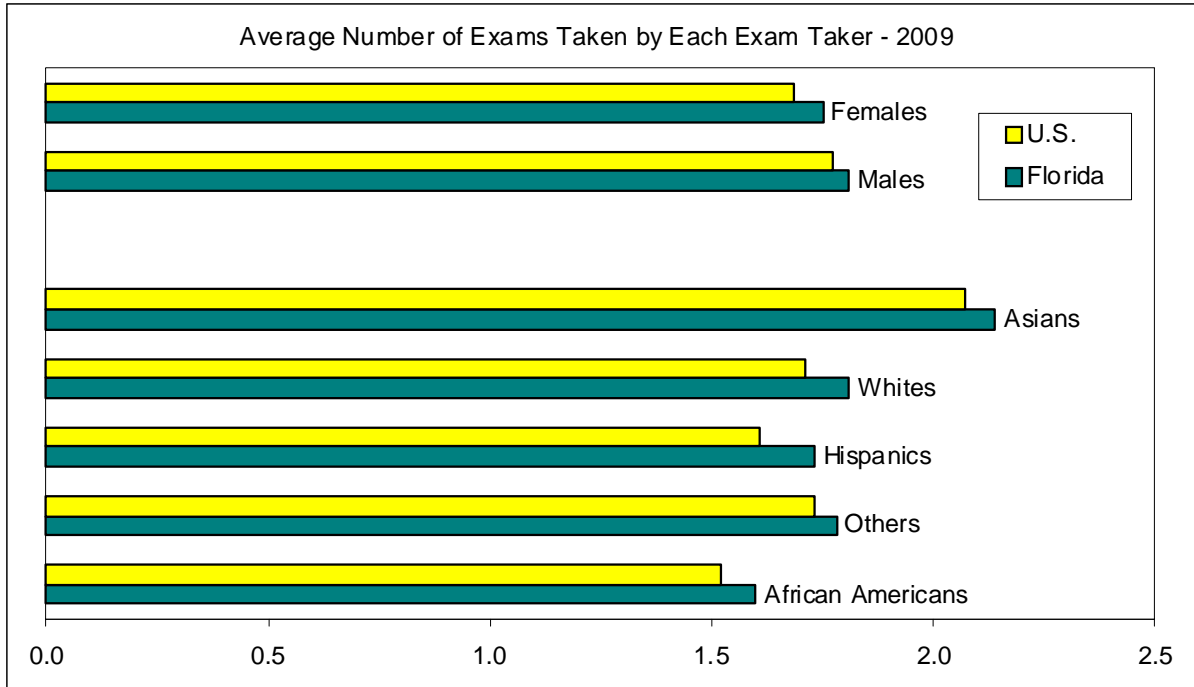
Number of Florida AP Exam Takers as a Percentage of 10th, 11th & 12th Graders

	2007			2008			2009		
	Exam Takers	Enrollment 10th-12th	%	Exam Takers	Enrollment 10th-12th	%	Exam Takers	Enrollment 10th-12th	%
Total	103,547	558,265	18.5	117,698	565,962	20.8	131,818	564,258	23.4
Male	43,025	277,717	15.5	49,187	282,204	17.4	55,165	282,350	19.5
Female	60,522	280,548	21.6	68,511	283,758	24.1	76,653	281,908	27.2
White	55,475	279,837	19.8	61,358	277,589	22.1	66,056	271,122	24.4
African American	11,345	126,866	8.9	14,777	130,241	11.3	17,403	130,912	13.3
Hispanic	22,925	125,672	18.2	26,032	129,793	20.1	30,316	131,873	23.0
Asian	6,692	14,280	46.9	7,543	14,499	52.0	8,200	14,564	56.3



Average Number of Exams Taken by Each Exam Taker  
Florida and the Nation - 2009

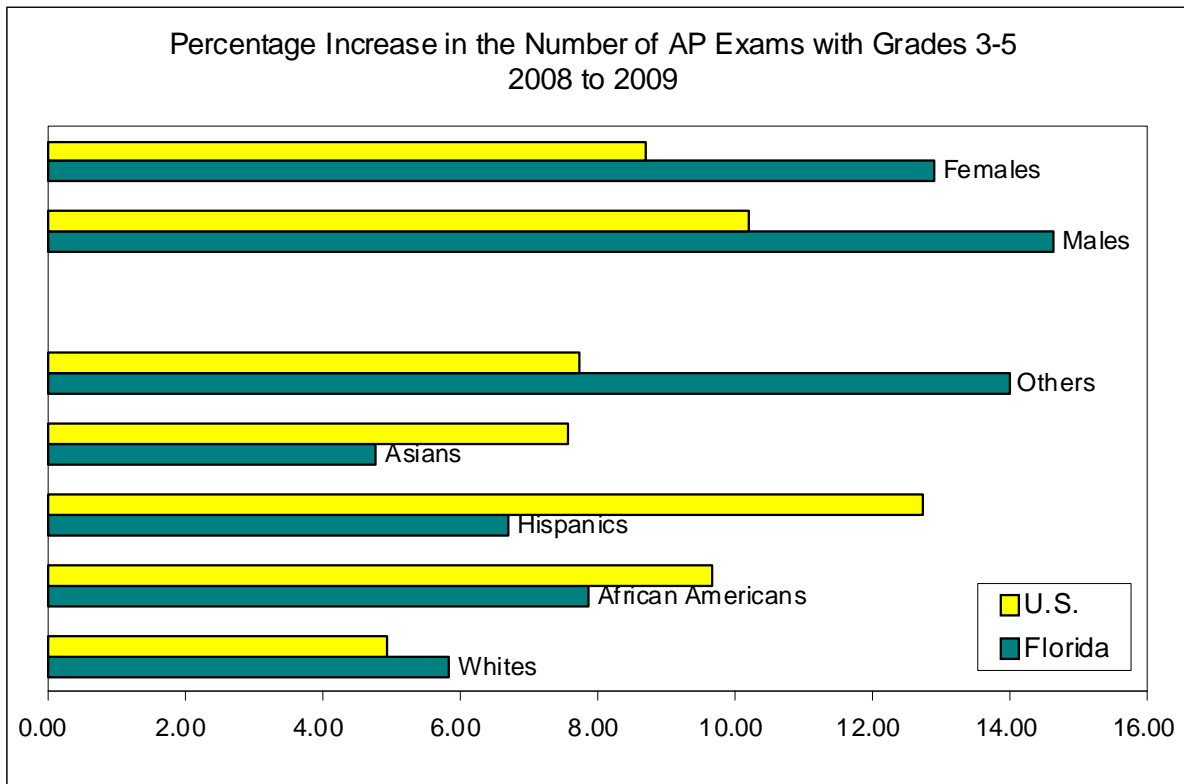
	Florida			Nation		
	Exam Takers	Exams	Average Number Exams Taken	Exam Takers	Exams	Average Number Exams Taken
Total	131,818	233,851	1.77	1,448,982	2,495,252	1.72
Males	55,165	99,598	1.81	627,721	1,111,985	1.77
Females	76,653	134,253	1.75	821,261	1,383,267	1.68
Whites	66,056	119,233	1.81	847,064	1,448,603	1.71
African Americans	17,403	27,834	1.60	113,928	172,773	1.52
Hispanics	30,316	52,434	1.73	219,080	353,544	1.61
Asians	8,200	17,551	2.14	170,512	353,602	2.07
Others	5,867	10,124	1.73	57,634	99,843	1.73
Total Responded	127,842	227,176	1.78	1,408,218	2,428,365	1.72
No Response*	3,976	6,675	1.68	40,764	66,887	1.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,818</b>	<b>233,851</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1,448,982</b>	<b>2,495,252</b>	<b>1.72</b>



Increase in the Number of AP Exams with Grade 3-5  
Florida and the Nation

	Florida			Nation		
	2008	2009	% Increase	2008	2009	% Increase
Total	88,279	100,356	13.7	1,292,436	1,413,976	9.4
Males	40,335	46,234	14.6	613,623	676,136	10.2
Females	47,944	54,122	12.9	678,813	737,840	8.7
Whites	52,191	57,653	10.5	844,254	904,703	7.2
African Americans	4,401	5,327	21.0	36,562	43,741	19.6
Hispanics	18,882	22,135	17.2	126,556	145,835	15.2
Asians	7,755	8,650	11.5	207,229	230,456	11.2
Others	3,433	3,923	14.3	50,249	53,856	7.2
Responded	86,662	97,688	12.7	1,264,850	1,378,591	9.0
No Response*	1,617	2,668	65.0	27,586	35,384	28.3
Total	88,279	100,356	13.7	1,292,436	1,413,975	9.4

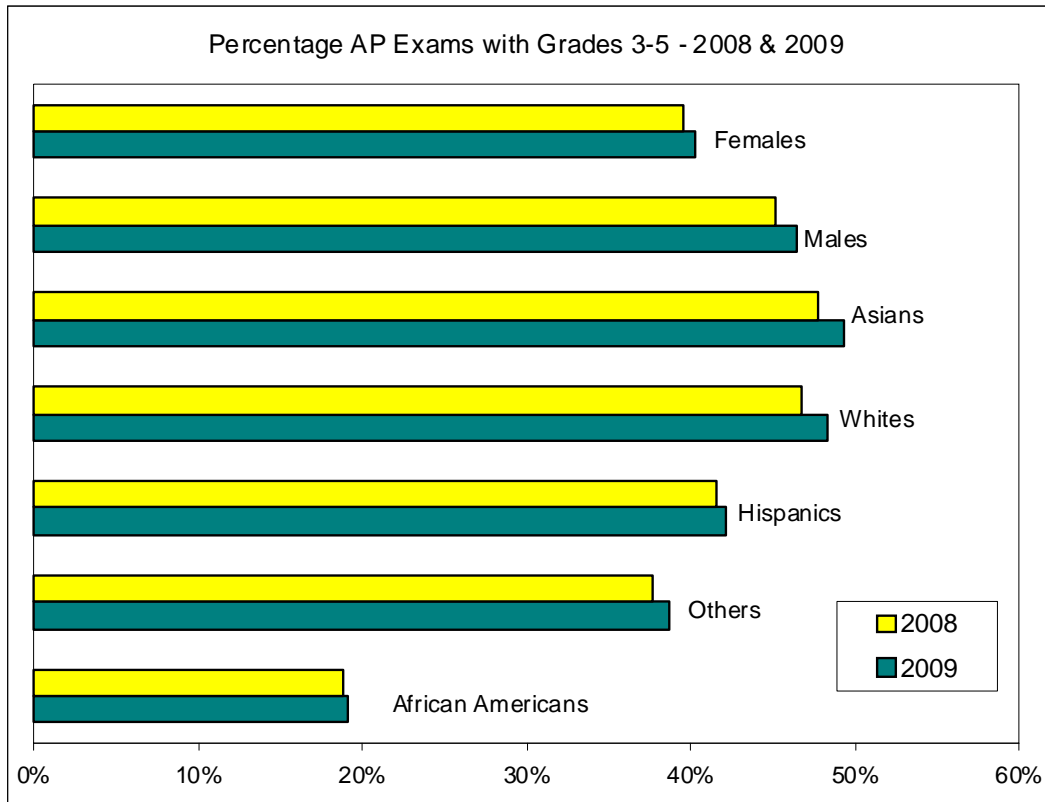
\*Students who did not indicate their race-ethnicity



Percentage of AP Exams with a Grade of 3-5  
Florida - 2008 and 2009

	2008			2009		
	Exams Taken	Exams 3-5	% 3-5	Exams Taken	Exams 3-5	% 3-5
Total	210,321	88,279	42.0%	233,851	100,356	42.9%
Males	89,274	40,335	45.2%	99,598	46,234	46.4%
Females	121,047	47,944	39.6%	134,253	54,122	40.3%
Whites	111,577	52,191	46.8%	119,233	57,653	48.4%
African American:	23,423	4,401	18.8%	27,834	5,327	19.1%
Hispanics	45,474	18,882	41.5%	52,434	22,135	42.2%
Asians	16,209	7,755	47.8%	17,551	8,650	49.3%
Others	9,113	3,433	37.7%	10,124	3,923	38.7%
	205,796	86,662	42.1%	227,176	97,688	43.0%
No Response*	4,525	1,617	35.7%	6,675	2,668	40.0%
Total	210,321	88,279	42.0%	233,851	100,356	42.9%

\*Students who did not indicate their race-ethnicity



Percentage of AP Exams with a Grade of 3-5  
Florida and the Nation - 2009

	Florida			Nation		
	Exams Taken	Exams 3-5	% 3-5	Exams Taken	Exams 3-5	% 3-5
Total	233,851	100,356	42.9%	2,495,252	1,413,976	56.7%
Males	99,598	46,234	46.4%	1,111,985	676,136	60.8%
Females	134,253	54,122	40.3%	1,383,267	737,840	53.3%
Whites	119,233	57,653	48.4%	1,448,603	904,703	62.5%
African American:	27,834	5,327	19.1%	172,773	43,741	25.3%
Hispanics	52,434	22,135	42.2%	353,544	145,835	41.2%
Asians	17,551	8,650	49.3%	353,602	230,456	65.2%
Others	10,124	3,923	38.7%	99,843	53,856	53.9%
	227,176	97,688	43.0%	2,428,365	1,378,591	56.8%
No Response*	6,675	2,668	40.0%	66,887	35,384	52.9%
Total	233,851	100,356	42.9%	2,495,252	1,413,975	56.7%

\*Students who did not indicate their race-ethnicity

