

**Advanced Placement Trends  
Florida and the Nation  
Public Schools Only  
1987-2007**

**August 2008**

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

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**Summary – Trends in Advanced Placement Examinations\***  
**Florida and the Nation – 1987-2008**  
**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 third 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 from 2007 to 2008. Florida also had the greatest increase in the number of AP exams taken and the greatest increase in the number of students receiving an exam grade of 3 or higher.
- From 2007 to 2008 the number of Florida AP exam takers and AP exams taken increased by approximately 13%, compared to approximately 9% for the nation. Over the last five years the number of exams taken by Florida students increased by 93%, compared to 62% for the nation. The number of exams awarded scores of 3 or better increased by 63% for Florida and by 50% for the nation. (See page 2.)
- Although AP courses are sometimes taken by 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and even a few 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, one measure of the increase in AP exams is the number of exam takers and exams taken as a percentage of all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Both measures more than doubled over the last ten years. The number of exam takers as a percentage of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students increased from 13% to 33%, and the number of exams taken from 22% to 59%. (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. Thirteen percent of Florida’s AP exam takers are African American and 23% are Hispanic, compared to 8% and 15%, respectively, for the nation. (See page 4.)
- Overall, the number of minority students taking AP exams in Florida increased by 19% compared to 11% for whites. The number of African-American AP exam takers increased by 30%, the number of Hispanics by 14%, the number of Hispanic Asians by 13%. By comparison, the numbers of African-Americans nationwide increased by 18%, Hispanics by 12%, and minorities overall by 12%. (See Page 5).
- Increases in AP participation were higher for minority exam takers than for white non-Hispanics. According to College Board, for the third year in a row, Florida had the greatest increase in the number of African-American AP exam takers when compared to all other states. Florida has the third greatest increase in the number of Hispanic exam takers when compared to all other states.
- The numbers of exam takers as a percentage of all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have increased for all subgroups but the percentages vary significantly across racial-ethnic groups. The

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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.

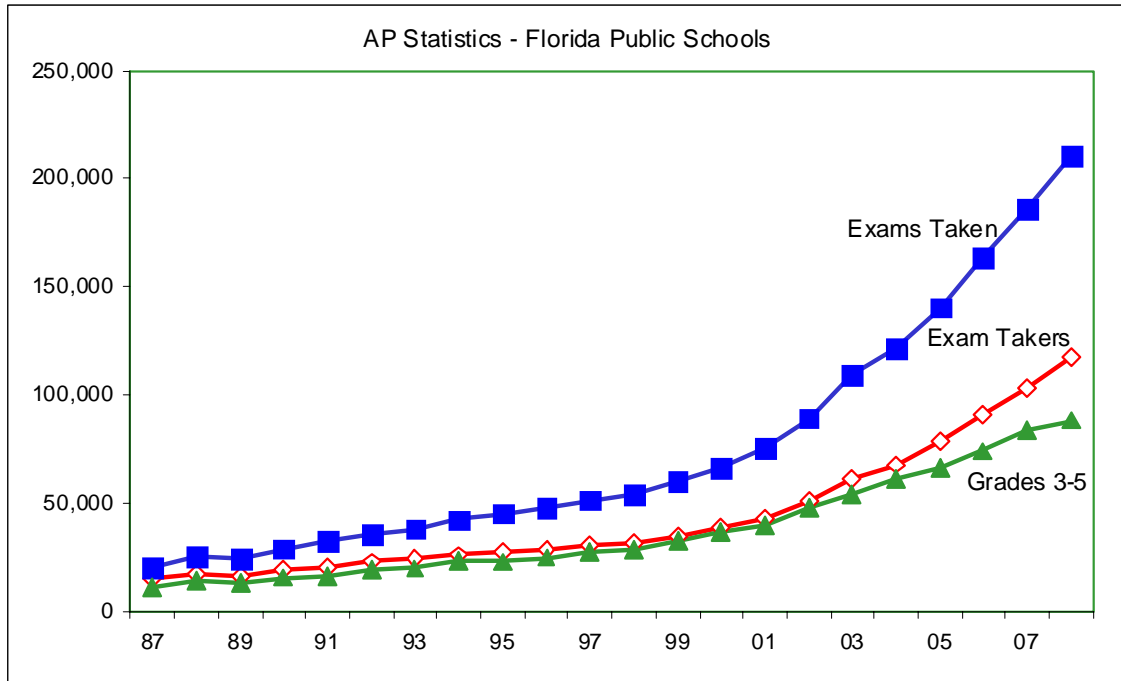
number of Florida Asian AP exam takers represents 80% of all Asian 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students; white non-Hispanics, 35%; Hispanics, 33%; and African Americans, 18%. (See page 7.) As explained above, some of these exam takers were 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grader

- On the average, Florida AP exam takers take more exams per student than do exam takers nationwide. (See Page 9.) The total number of exams receiving a grade of 3-5 increased by 6% but the percentage of exams with a grade of 3 and above decreased from 45% in 2007 to 42% in 2008. (See pages 1 and 8.) The percentages ranged from 48% of the exams taken by Asians to 19% of the exams taken by African Americans.
- Although the percentage of exams with grades of 3-5 for African Americans was lower than other groups, the 4,401 exams that received a 3, 4, or 5 represents an 8% increase over 2007 and was higher than any prior year. (See page 7.)
- Approximately 39% more females than males in Florida take AP exams. One reason for this is that there are more females in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade than there are males. Furthermore, the number of females exam takers as a percentage of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders is larger (38%) than the percentage of male exam takers (28%). (See page 7.)
- Female exam takers take a slightly smaller number of exams per person than do males. In 2008 the exam rate for females was 1.77, compared to 1.81 for males. (See page 9.) Females also earn a smaller percentage of grades 3-5 than do males. In 2008 the number of exams receiving grades of 3-5 represented 40% for females and 45% for males. (See page 8.)

Participation in the Advanced Placement Program  
Florida Public Schools  
1987-2008

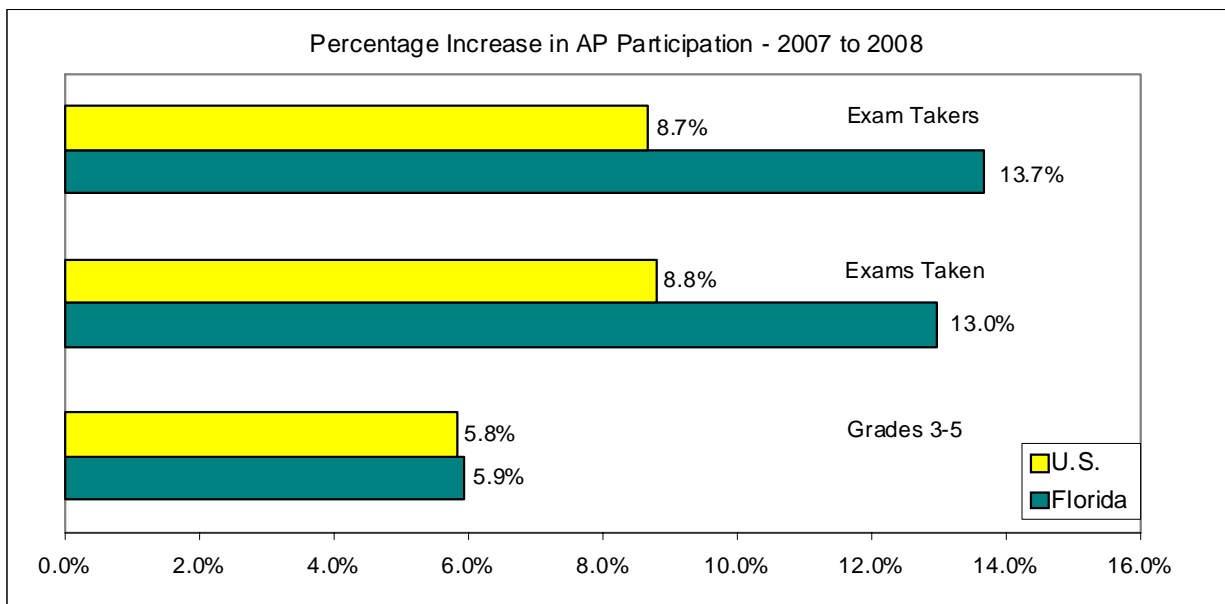
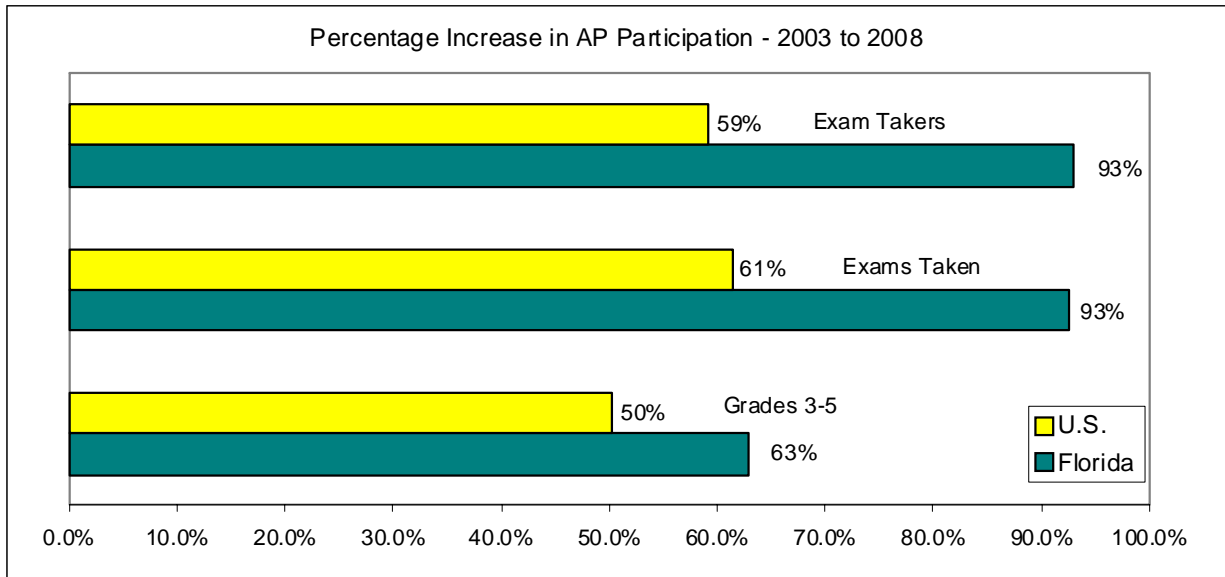
Year	Number Students Taking AP Exams (Candidates)	Total Number Exams Taken	Ratio Between Candidates and Exams	with Exams with Score of 3 or Higher	Percentage with Score of 3 or Higher
1987	14,510	20,430	1.41	10,976	53.7
1988	17,043	25,111	1.47	13,538	53.9
1989	15,807	23,963	1.52	12,653	52.8
1990	18,702	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

\*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.



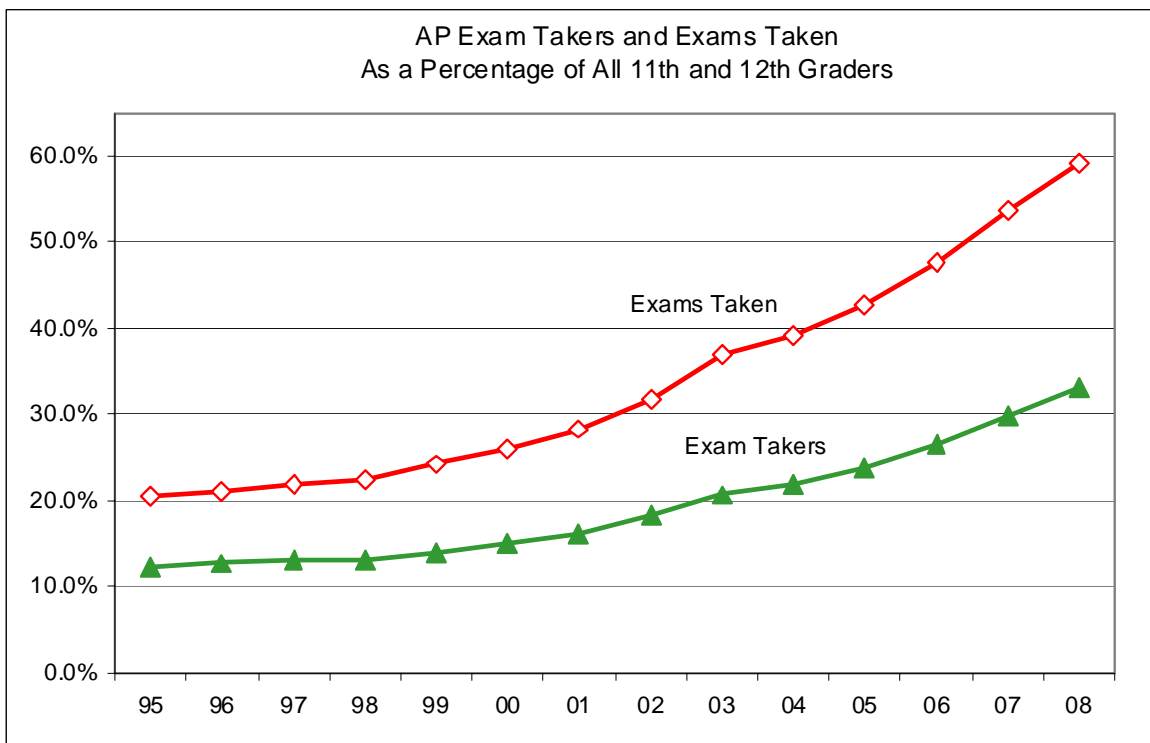
Participation on Advanced Placement Examinations  
Florida and the Nation

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% Change 03-08	% Change 07-08
<b>FLORIDA</b>								
Exam Takers	60,978	67,750	78,121	90,677	103,547	117,698	93.0	13.7
Exams Taken	109,175	121,682	140,535	163,547	186,152	210,321	92.6	13.0
Grades 3-5	54,193	61,104	66,511	73,968	83,339	88,279	62.9	5.9
<b>NATION</b>								
Exam Takers	845,808	919,886	1,026,979	1,131,473	1,239,336	1,346,925	59.2	8.7
Exams Taken	1,438,497	1,568,487	1,763,034	1,942,819	2,133,594	2,321,311	61.4	8.8
Grades 3-5	859,879	936,757	1,015,215	1,117,643	1,221,255	1,292,436	50.3	5.8



Florida Public Schools  
1995-2008

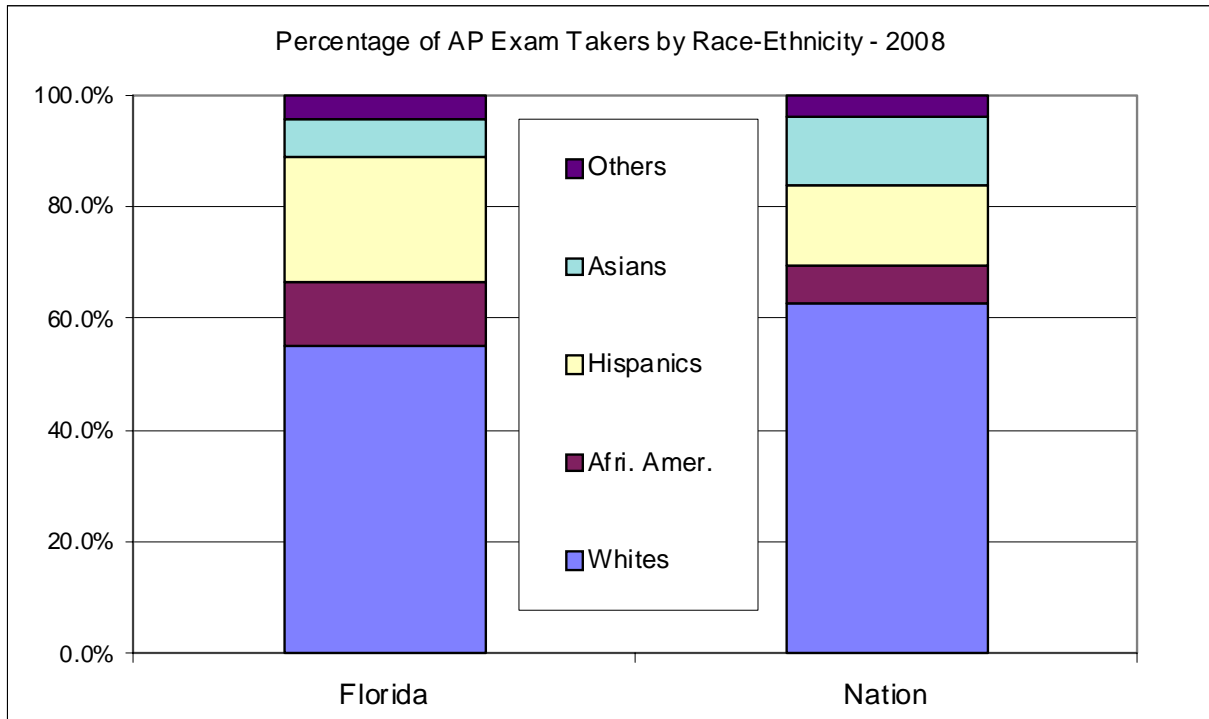
Year	Number as a Percentage of 11th & 12th Graders	
	Exam Takers	Exams
1995	12.3%	20.5%
1996	12.6%	21.1%
1997	13.0%	21.9%
1998	13.1%	22.3%
1999	14.0%	24.2%
2000	15.0%	25.9%
2001	16.1%	28.3%
2002	18.2%	31.7%
2003	20.6%	36.8%
2004	21.8%	39.2%
2005	23.7%	42.7%
2006	26.4%	47.6%
2007	29.8%	53.5%
2008	33.1%	59.1%



Number of AP Exam Takers by Race-Ethnicity  
Florida and the Nation - 2008

	Florida		Nation	
	Number	%	Number	%
Whites	61,358	53.3	810,615	61.6
African Americans	14,777	12.8	100,091	7.6
Hispanics	26,032	22.6	192,310	14.6
Asians	7,543	6.6	158,116	12.0
Others	5,316	4.6	54,450	4.1
Total Responded	115,026	100.0	1,315,582	100.0
Minorities	53,668	46.7	504,967	38.4
No Response*	2,672	2.3	31,343	2.3
Total	117,698	100.0	1,346,925	100.0

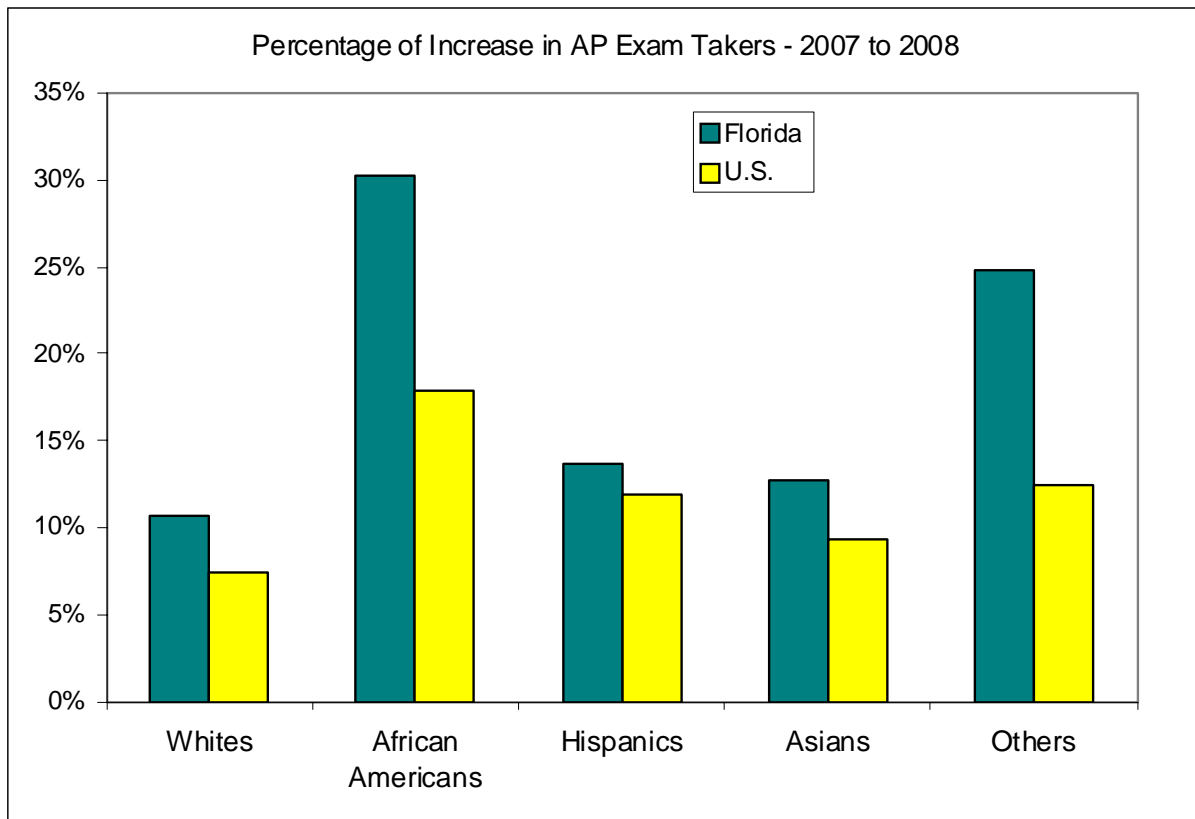
\*Students who did not indicate their race-ethnicity



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

	Florida			Nation		
	2007	2008	% Increase	2007	2008	% Increase
Total	103,547	117,698	13.7	1,239,336	1,346,925	8.7
Males	43,025	49,187	14.3	533,168	580,749	8.9
Females	60,522	68,511	13.2	706,168	766,176	8.5
Whites	55,475	61,358	10.6	754,678	810,615	7.4
African Americans	11,345	14,777	30.3	84,883	100,091	17.9
Hispanics	22,925	26,032	13.6	171,848	192,310	11.9
Asians	6,692	7,543	12.7	144,688	158,116	9.3
Others	4,258	5,316	24.8	48,392	54,450	12.5
Total Responded	100,695	115,026	14.2	1,204,489	1,315,582	9.2
Minority Students	45,220	53,668	18.7	449,811	504,967	12.3
No Response*	2,852	2,852	-	34,847	31,343	(10.1)
Total	103,547	117,878	13.8	1,239,336	1,346,925	8.7

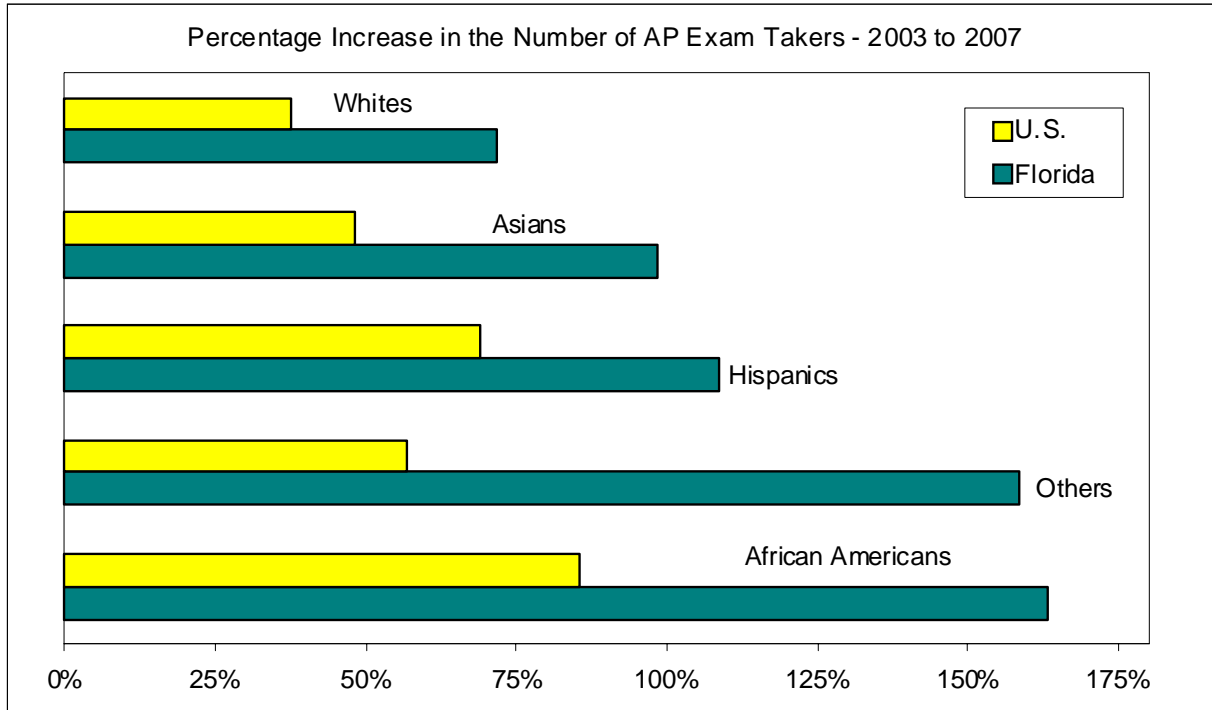
\*Students who did not indicate their race/ethnicity



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

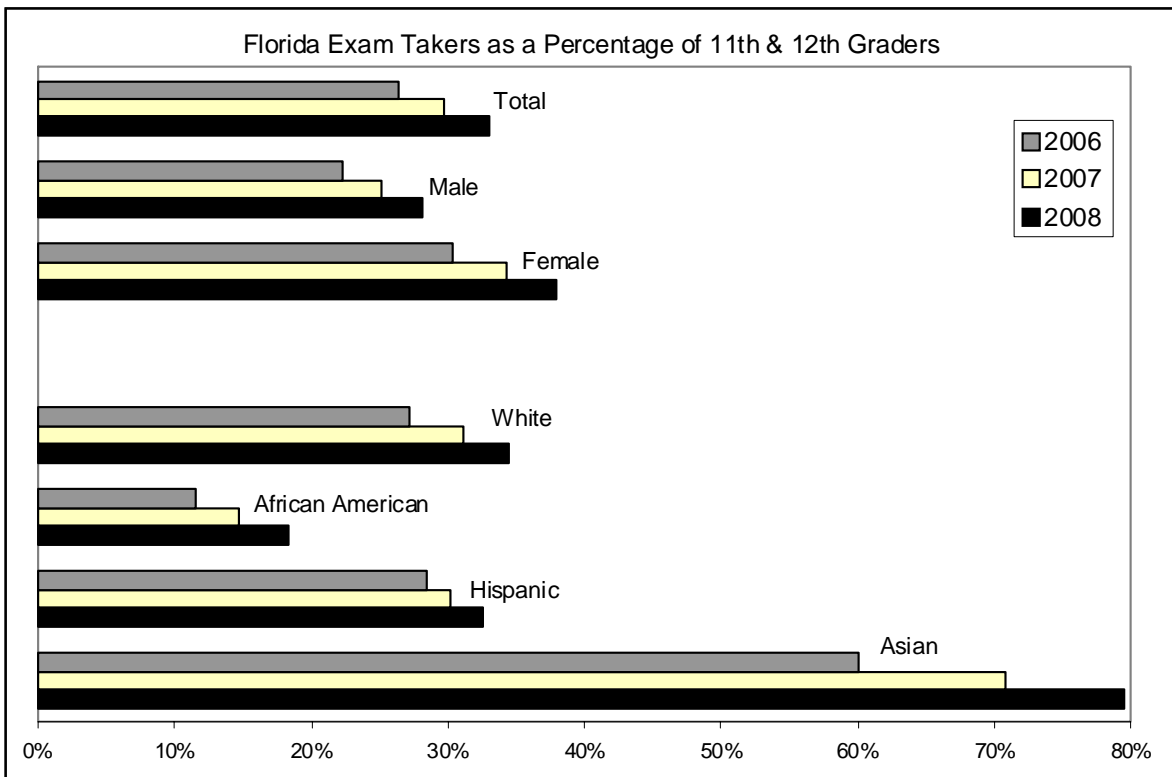
	Florida			Nation		
	2003	2008	% Increase	2003	2008	% Increase
Total	60,978	117,698	93.0	841,848	1,239,336	47.2
Males	25,044	49,187	96.4	364,446	533,168	46.3
Females	35,934	68,511	90.7	477,402	706,168	47.9
Whites	35,694	61,358	71.9	547,593	754,678	37.8
African Americans	5,613	14,777	163.3	45,740	84,883	85.6
Hispanics	12,466	26,032	108.8	101,596	171,848	69.1
Asians	3,803	7,543	98.3	97,546	144,688	48.3
Others	2,057	5,316	158.4	30,855	48,392	56.8
Total Responded	59,633	115,026	92.9	823,330	1,204,489	46.3
No Response*	1,345	2,672	(95.6)	18,518	34,847	88.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,978</b>	<b>117,698</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>841,848</b>	<b>1,239,336</b>	<b>47.2</b>

\*Students who did not indicate their race-ethnicity



Number of Florida AP Exam Takers as a Percentage of 11th and 12th Graders

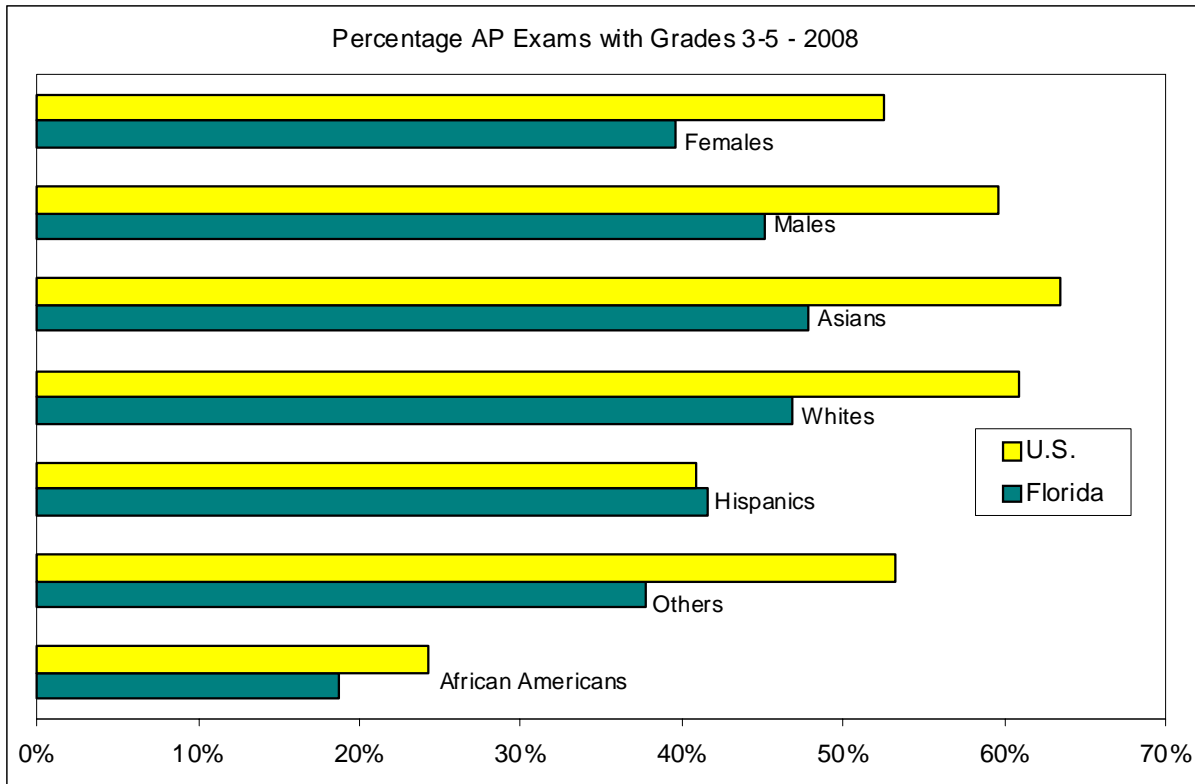
	2006			2007			2008		
	Exam Takers	Enrollment 11th & 12th	%	Exam Takers	Enrollment 11th & 12th	%	Exam Takers	Enrollment 11th & 12th	%
Total	90,677	343,475	26.4	103,547	347,732	29.8	117,698	356,095	33.1
Male	37,738	168,867	22.3	43,025	170,953	25.2	49,187	175,208	28.1
Female	52,942	174,608	30.3	60,522	176,779	34.2	68,511	180,887	37.9
White	48,775	179,666	27.1	55,475	177,966	31.2	61,358	178,092	34.5
African American	8,788	76,623	11.5	11,345	77,514	14.6	14,777	80,392	18.4
Hispanic	20,432	71,809	28.5	22,925	76,145	30.1	26,032	80,077	32.5
Asian	5,635	9,383	60.1	6,692	9,448	70.8	7,543	9,489	79.5



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

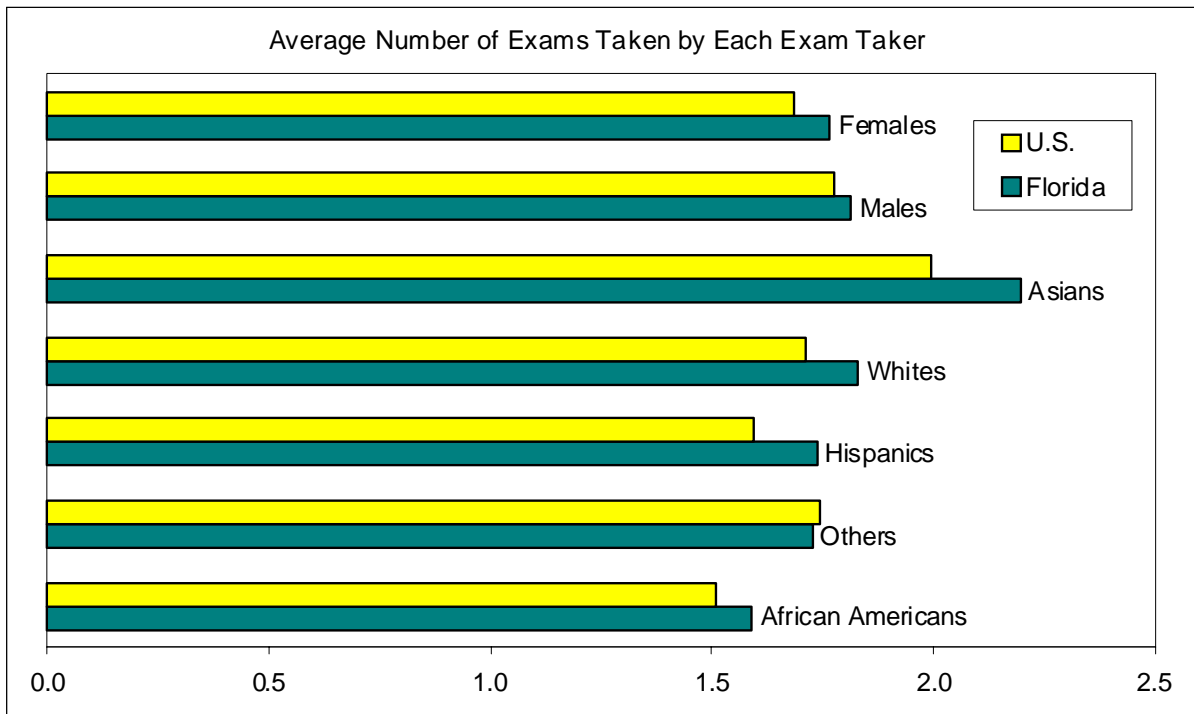
	Florida			Nation		
	Exams Taken	Exams 3-5	% 3-5	Exams Taken	Exams 3-5	% 3-5
Total	210,321	88,279	42.0%	2,321,311	1,292,436	55.7%
Males	89,274	40,335	45.2%	1,029,701	613,623	59.6%
Females	121,047	47,944	39.6%	1,291,610	678,813	52.6%
Whites	111,577	52,191	46.8%	1,385,334	844,254	60.9%
African Americans	23,423	4,401	18.8%	150,979	36,562	24.2%
Hispanics	45,474	18,882	41.5%	310,039	126,556	40.8%
Asians	16,209	7,755	47.8%	326,652	207,229	63.4%
Others	9,113	3,433	37.7%	94,544	50,249	53.1%
No Response*	205,796	86,662	42.1%	2,267,548	1,264,850	55.8%
Total	4,525	1,617	35.7%	53,563	27,586	51.5%
Total	210,321	88,279	42.0%	2,321,111	1,292,436	55.7%

\*Students who did not indicate their race-ethnicity



Average Number of Exams Taken by Each Exam Taker  
Florida and the Nation - 2008

	Florida			Nation		
	Exam Takers	Exams	Average Number Exams Taken	Exam Takers	Exams	Average Number Exams Taken
Total	117,698	210,321	1.79	1,346,925	2,321,311	1.72
Males	49,187	89,274	1.81	580,749	1,029,701	1.77
Females	68,511	121,047	1.77	766,176	1,291,610	1.69
Whites	61,358	111,577	1.82	810,615	1,385,334	1.71
African Americans	14,777	23,423	1.59	100,091	150,979	1.51
Hispanics	26,032	45,474	1.75	192,310	310,039	1.61
Asians	7,543	16,209	2.15	158,116	326,652	2.07
Others	5,316	9,113	1.71	54,450	94,544	1.74
Total Responded	115,026	205,796	1.79	1,315,582	2,267,548	1.72
No Response*	2,852	4,525	1.59	31,343	53,563	1.71
Total	117,878	210,321	1.78	1,346,925	2,321,111	1.72



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