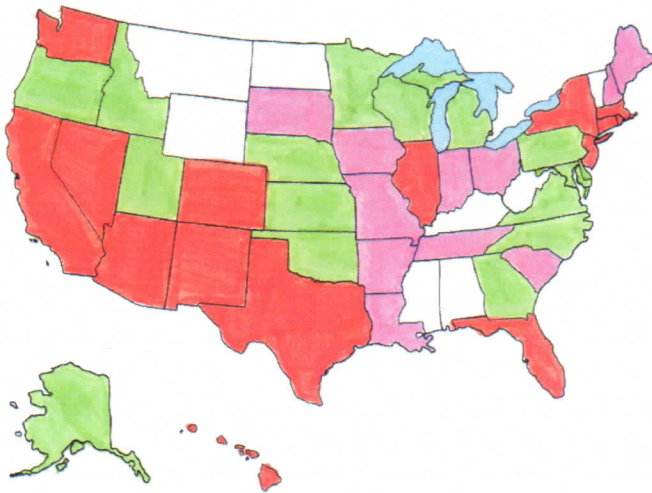




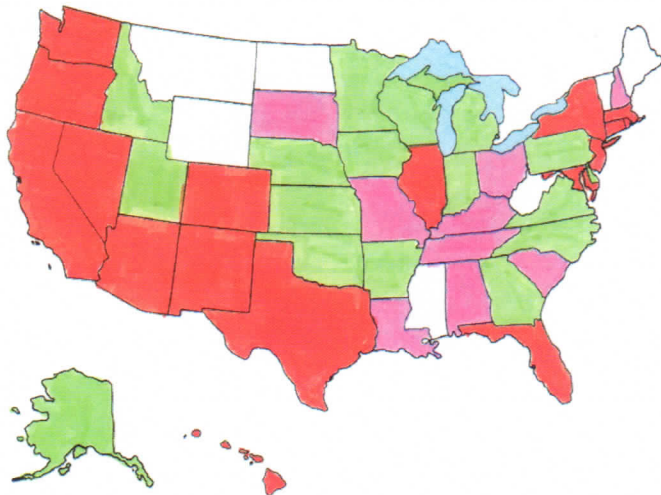
2000 L ST., NW ■ SUITE 702 ■ WASHINGTON, DC 20036
 TELEPHONE: 202-833-0100 ■ FAX: 202-833-0108

Limited English Proficiency Rates in the United States, 2000 and 2010

2000



2010



The Census Bureau classifies individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English as limited English proficient (or LEP). In 1990, 14.0 million people in the United States met that classification. At the start of the new millennium in 2000, that number had jumped 52 percent, with a total of 21 million LEP residents. Ten years later, the 2010 Census reports that more than 25 million Americans can speak English less than very well.

Unfortunately, ten years later, Americans are still struggling to speak English. In 2010, 20.6 percent of United States residents said they spoke a language other than English at home. Nearly 9 percent said they speak English 'less than very well.' Ten years prior, only 17.9 percent of residents spoke a language other than English at home, and 8.1 percent of those spoke English 'less than very well.'

As the maps to the left show, seven states have faced such an increase in the LEP population that they have jumped color classifications. Oregon and Maryland both faced increased LEP levels that pushed them over 6 percent. Alabama, Arkansas and Kentucky jumped from less than two percent to 2 to 2.9 percent, while Indiana and Iowa jumped from the 2 percent range to 3 to 5.9 percent.

