



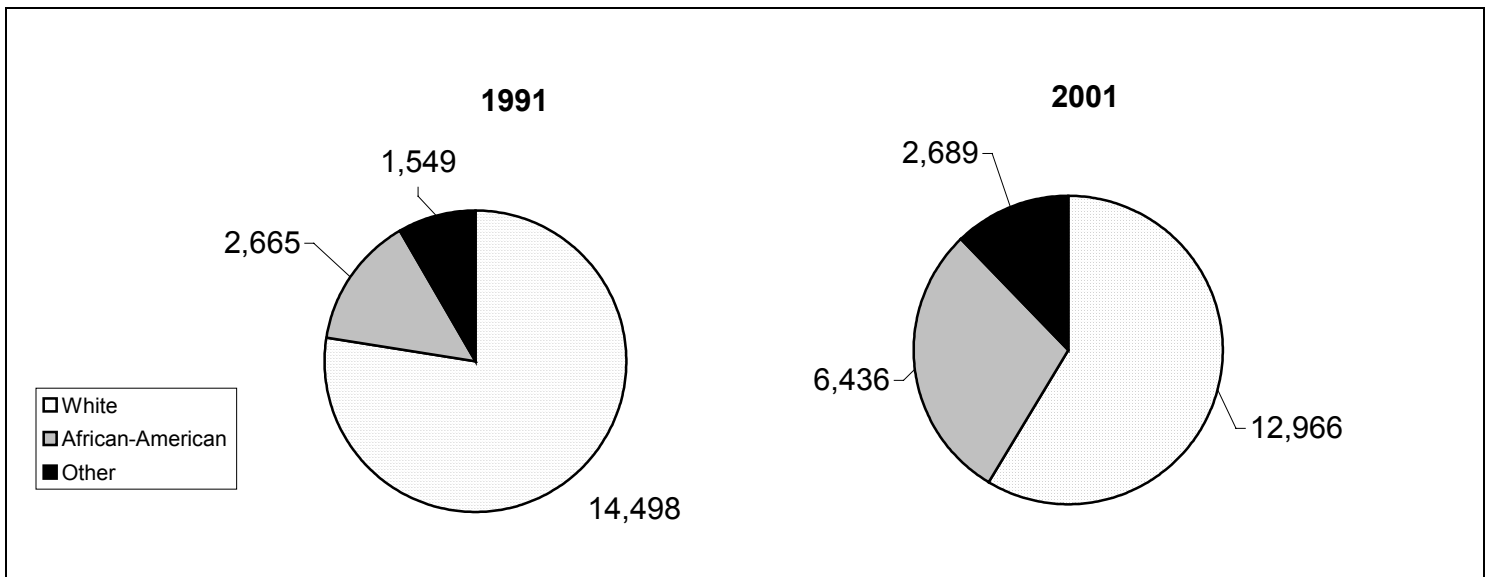
# TCC INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH BRIEF

## South Hampton Roads Minority Population and TCC Enrollment

According to the latest census data, Virginia has become more racially diverse over the last decade. White non-Hispanics account for 70% of Virginia's residents compared to 69% nationally. Conversely, the African-American population of Virginia represents 20% of the population compared to 13% nationally. Locally, white non-Hispanics comprise 62% of the South Hampton Roads population, and African-Americans account for 30% of the population. In addition, about 3.5% of the population is Asian, a group that grew by 25% over the last ten years.

Unlike previous censuses, the 2000 census allowed for multi-race categories. Results of the 2000 census indicate that most of the multi-race Virginians live in either Northern Virginia or Hampton Roads. A closer look at the college's service area shows Virginia Beach has over 11,000 multi-racial residents, and Norfolk has over 5,000 identified in this category. One distinguishing characteristic of those reported in the multi-race category is the fact that they tend to be much younger than the states' population as a whole. For example, while three-fourths of the state's population is 18 or older, only one-fourth of those in the White/African-American group are adults.

TCC's growth has mirrored that of the community which it serves. Over the last ten years, the number of minority students enrolled has more than doubled, from 4,214 in fall 1991 to 9,125 in fall 2001, with the greater growth occurring in the last half of the decade. During this same time period, white student enrollment actually decreased 11%, from 14,498 in fall 1991 to 12,966 in fall 2001. This corresponds with a 4% decline in the white population for South Hampton Roads between 1990 and 2000.



**Figure 1** Fall Enrollment by Race, 1991 and 2001

The two fastest growing groups of minority students at TCC are African-American and Hispanic, 142% and 120%, respectively, over the last decade. In fact, according to the most recent State Council for Higher Education (SCHEV) reports, TCC enrolls the largest number of African-American students of any public or private higher education institution in Virginia.

A demographic overview of African-American students shows that the majority are female (66%), part-time (68%), returning students (68%). In addition, the majority (52%) are enrolled in college transfer programs, predominantly General Studies, Social Science, and Liberal Arts. In the occupational/technical area, the health professions, business technologies, and information technologies are popular program areas.

Every campus has experienced a dramatic growth in African-American and other minority enrollment over the last decade. As a proportion of the student body, each campus has shown an increase in African-American enrollment as follows: Chesapeake 16% to 25%, Portsmouth 24% to 37%, and Virginia Beach 11% to 21%. Approximately half of the student body attending the Norfolk Campus, which opened its doors in spring 1997, is African-American.

Race	Chesapeake		Norfolk		Portsmouth		Virginia Beach									
	Fall 91		Fall 01		Fall 91		Fall 01									
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%								
White	2783	( 80% )	2976	( 68% )	--	( -- )	1497	( 40% )	3154	( 71% )	3037	( 54% )	10708	( 79% )	8305	( 63% )
African-American	543	( 16% )	1076	( 25% )	--	( -- )	1888	( 50% )	1055	( 24% )	2082	( 37% )	1446	( 11% )	2821	( 21% )
Other	150	( 4% )	340	( 7% )	--	( -- )	376	( 10% )	210	( 5% )	463	( 9% )	1414	( 10% )	2053	( 16% )

\*Norfolk Campus opened spring 1997.

**Table 1** Campus Enrollment by Race, 1991 and 2001

In summary, the increasing diversity of the population of South Hampton Roads is mirrored in TCC's student body. The college has experienced dramatic growth in minority student enrollment over the last five years and has renewed its commitment to diversity through its strategic plan. As stated in *Bearings on the Future: The Tidewater Community Strategic Plan*, "the college seeks to provide students with a range of formal and informal learning experiences that foster a commitment to service and citizenship, as well as an appreciation for human diversity and the ability to see beyond differences of race, culture, or language."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Bearings on the Future: The Tidewater Community College Strategic Plan*, November 2000.