



Vulnerable Population: Underrepresented Youth (Diverse, Racial & Ethnic)

The purpose of this document is to provide background information on Children and Youth with Disabilities.

Defining Underrepresented

An **underrepresented minority** includes all U.S. citizens, both naturalized and permanent residents that have African, Hispanic or Native American heritage. A broader definition of minority group includes Americans and permanent residents of Asian descent, including Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders.¹

The **racial** categories used in the public sphere, such as the census questionnaire, generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in the U.S. and are not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. People may choose to report more than one race to indicate their racial mixture, such as “American Indian” and “White.” People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.²

References

¹ [The Goal of Diversity at MIT](#)

² [Census: Race](#)

Ethnicity denotes groups, such as Irish, Fijian, or Sioux, etc. that share a common identity-based ancestry, language, or culture. It is often based on religion, beliefs, and customs as well as memories of migration or colonization.³

Fast Facts on Underrepresented Youth

The 2016 employment-population ratios were the following: White youth (56.5 percent), Black youth (42.7 percent), Asian youth (38.8 percent), and Hispanic youth (49.8 percent).⁴

In 2011, the U.S. Justice and Education Departments released data on teen bullying rates. Asian Americans reported getting bullied at a rate of 54 percent, African Americans reported getting bullied at a rate of 38.4 percent, and Hispanic teens reported getting bullied at a rate of 34.3 percent, while white teens only reported being bullied at a rate of 31.3 percent.⁵

Federal Laws Regarding Underrepresented Youth [Higher Education Opportunity Act - 2008](#)

³ [Race and Ethnicity](#)

⁴ [Employment and Unemployment Among Youth](#)

⁵ [Bullying by Race](#)