

# Lit Scan

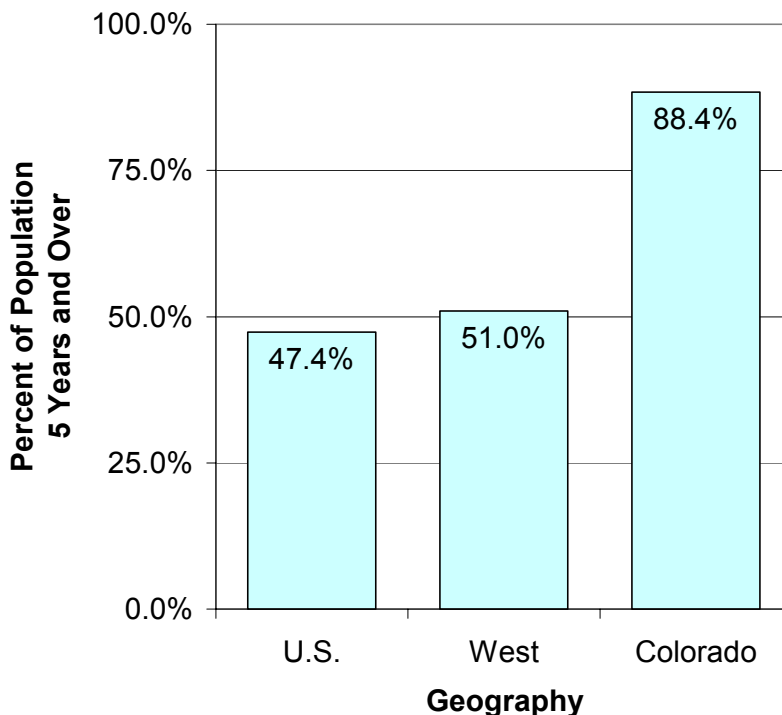
Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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## More than a Quarter Million Coloradans Need ESL Programs

**Chart 1. Percent Change in  
"Spoke a Language Other  
Than English at Home," U.S.,  
West, & Colorado, 1990-  
2000**



Between 1990 and 2000, the number of Coloradans who reported speaking "a language other than English at home" grew from 320,631 to 604,019. (See Table 1 and Chart 1.) Of that figure, 267,504 assessed themselves as speaking English less than "very well." (See Table 1.)

Not surprisingly, for Western states including Colorado, the fastest-growing language minority is speakers of Spanish. Speakers of Spanish in the Western states increased by more than 58 percent. (See Table 2.)

In Fall 2002, 86,129 students in Colorado public schools were identified as English language learners. Many parents and other family members of these students are served by programs funded by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) and by the Colorado Refugee English as a Second Language (CRESL) program.

Of 15,137 students in AEFLA-funded programs, over 60

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**Table 1. Language Use & Speaking Ability for Population 5 Years and Over, United States, West, and Colorado, 1990-2000**

	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>Colorado</b>
<b>1990</b>			
Population 5 years and over	230,445,777	48,604,817	3,042,986
Spoke a language other than English at home	31,844,979	11,430,403	320,631
Percent	13.8	23.5	10.5
<b>2000</b>			
Population 5 years and over	262,375,152	58,664,920	4,006,285
Spoke a language other than English at home	46,951,595	17,263,330	604,019
Percent	17.9	29.4	15.1
<b>1990-2000</b> percent change in home language	47.4	51.0	88.4
<b>2000</b>			
Spoke English less than "Very well"	21,320,407	8,381,993	267,504
Percent	8.1	14.3	6.7

**Table 2. Language Other Than English Spoken at Home for Population 5 Years and Over, Western States, 1990-2000**

<b>Language spoken at home</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Percent change</b>
Spanish	6,995,884	11,076,840	58.3%
Other Indo-European	1,512,028	1,987,036	31.4%
Asian & Pacific Island	2,451,420	3,573,719	45.8%
All other	471,071	625,735	32.8%

percent were ESL students. Of the total Colorado clientele served by AEFLA-funded programs, 66 percent were Hispanic or Latino. Of the 9,306 ESL students served by AELFA-funded programs, 7,652 identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

During fiscal 2003, the Colorado Refugee English as a Second Language (CRESL) program served 454 of the 476 refugees who arrived in the state. Of the 454 CRESL

students, 208 were from eastern Europe, 195 from Africa, 52 from the Middle East, 15 from southeast Asia, and six from other regions of the world. Since 1993, 10,758 refugees have arrived in Colorado.

### SOURCE

- U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Language Use and English-Speaking Ability, 2000: Census Brief*, October 2003. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-29.pdf>.
- Unpublished Colorado tables, FY 2003, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about this study or other projects of the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative, contact: Keith Curry Lance, Colorado Department of Education, 201 E. Colfax Ave., Suite 309, Denver, CO 80203-1799, (303) 866-6737, fax (303) 866-6940, e-mail lance\_k@cde.state.co.us