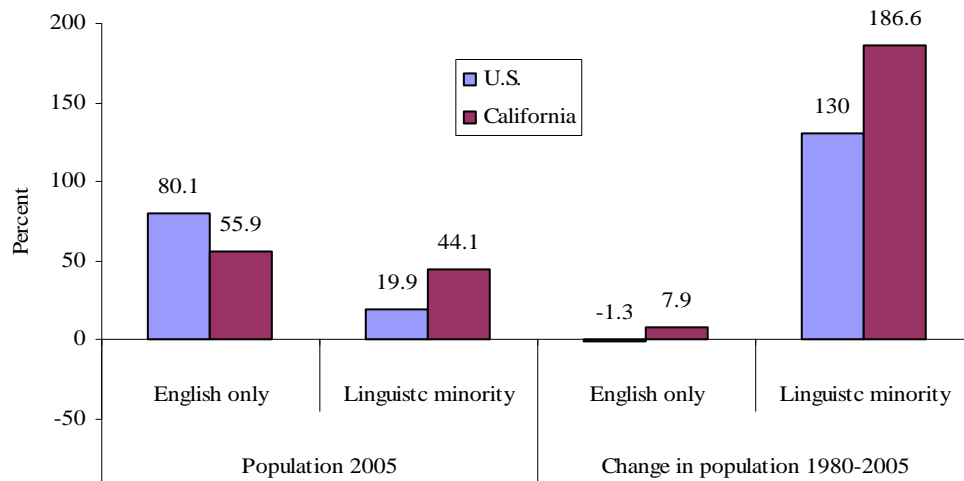


Linguistic minorities represent one of the largest segments of the school-age population in the United States and in California. According to data from the U.S. Census, there were 10.5 million children, age 5-17, living in the United States in 2005 who spoke a language other than English, representing 20 percent of the school-age population (Figure 1). In California, 3.9 million school-age children spoke a language other than English at home, more than 44 percent of the population. Overall, while California is home to 13 percent of all school-age children, it is home to 29 percent of all school-age linguistic minority children in the U.S.

Over the last 25 years, the linguistic minority population has exploded relative to the English-only population, both in California and in the rest of the U.S. In California, the linguistic minority population increased 187 percent, while the English-only population increased by only 8 percent. In the U.S. overall, the linguistic minority population increased by 130 percent, while the English-only population actually declined by 1.3 percent. This means that over the last 25 years virtually all of the 5 million additional school age children in the United States were linguistic minorities!

Figure 1
 Linguistic Minority Population in California and the U.S., 1980-2005



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1980 Census of the Population, Volume 1, Characteristics of the population. Chapters C/D, Detailed social and economic characteristics, Parts 1 and 6* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1983); U.S. Bureau of the Census, *2005 American Community Survey*. Retrieved October 5, 2006 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>

Table 1
Linguistic Minority Population in California and the Rest of the U.S., 1980-2005

	Population				Change in population 1980-2005	
	1980 Number	%	2005 Number	%	Number	%
UNITED STATES						
All speakers, age 5-17	47,493,975	100.0	52,864,512	100.0	5,370,537	11.3%
English only	42,925,646	90.4	42,357,558	80.1	-568,088	-1.3%
Language other than English	4,568,329	9.6	10,506,954	19.9	5,938,625	130.0%
Speak Spanish	2,952,462	6.2	7,529,646	14.2	4,577,184	155.0%
Speak non-Spanish language	1,615,867	3.4	2,977,308	5.6	1,361,441	84.3%
CALIFORNIA						
All speakers, age 5-17	4,685,403	100.0	6,975,831	100.0	2,290,428	48.9%
English only	3,611,458	77.1	3,897,744	55.9	286,286	7.9%
Language other than English	1,073,945	22.9	3,078,087	44.1	2,004,142	186.6%
Speak Spanish	804,142	17.2	2,402,163	34.4	1,598,021	198.7%
Speak non-Spanish language	269,803	5.8	675,924	9.7	406,121	150.5%

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1980 Census of the Population, Volume 1, Characteristics of the population. Chapters C/D, Detailed social and economic characteristics, Parts 1 and 6* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1983); U.S. Bureau of the Census, *2005 American Community Survey*. Retrieved October 5, 2006 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>