

SOME STATISTICS ON LANGUAGE

1. “A survey last year [2006] by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials found that in 12 states, 60 percent of the free English programs had waiting lists, ranging from a few months in Colorado and Nevada to as long as two years in New Mexico and Massachusetts, where the statewide list has about 16,000 names.

The United States Department of Education counted 1.2 million adults enrolled in public English programs in 2005 — about 1 in 10 of the 10.3 million foreign-born residents 16 and older who speak English “less than very well,” or not at all, according to census figures from the same year.” (Santos, Fernanda, “Demand for English Lessons Outstrips Supply,” *New York Times*, 2/27/07)

2. “Census figures show that in the United States there were 32.6 million foreign-born residents 18 years or older in 2005, up about 18 percent from the 27.5 million counted in 2000 (and nearly twice the 17.1 million in 1990). Federal spending on adult education, about \$580 million last year, has increased 23 percent since 2000 and more than tripled since 1990; some 45 percent of the money is devoted to English.” (*ibid.*)
3. “Nearly 1-in-5 people, or 47 million U.S. residents age 5 and older, spoke a language other than English at home in 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau said today. That was an increase of 15 million people since 1990.” (U.S. Census Bureau News press release, October 8, 2003)
4. “Spanish speakers increased from 17.3 million in 1990 to 28.1 million in 2000, a 62 percent rise.” (U.S. Census Bureau News press release, October 8, 2003)
5. In Michigan, there are 569,807 people, five-years-old or older, who speak a language other than English at home. Of these, 12.3% (70,086 people) speak English poorly or not at all. (*Detroit News*, 4/28/93, p. 8A)
6. “At least half of the 470 public schools in Oakland County require someone to teach ESL [English as a Second Language] on an ongoing basis because an ever-growing number of children in Oakland County do not have English as their native language.” (Jacqueline Moase-Burke, Consultant in ESL for Oakland Schools)