

# **The State of the Church in Minnesota 1990-2005**

**Free Sample**

# In 1996,

polls taken immediately after the Presidential election revealed that 58% of people claimed they had voted, when in reality only 49% actually did. This is called the Halo Effect. People tend to over-inflate their participation in activities that create acceptability within their social group.

For many decades, pollsters such as Gallup and Barna have reported that around 45% of Americans attend church every Sunday. But there is a religious Halo Effect.

*Actual attendance counts have shown that the percentage of people attending church on any given weekend is much lower than was previously thought.*

# The Intent

of this presentation is to answer and then expand on two key questions:

*“How Many People Really Attend Church in Minnesota Every Week?”*

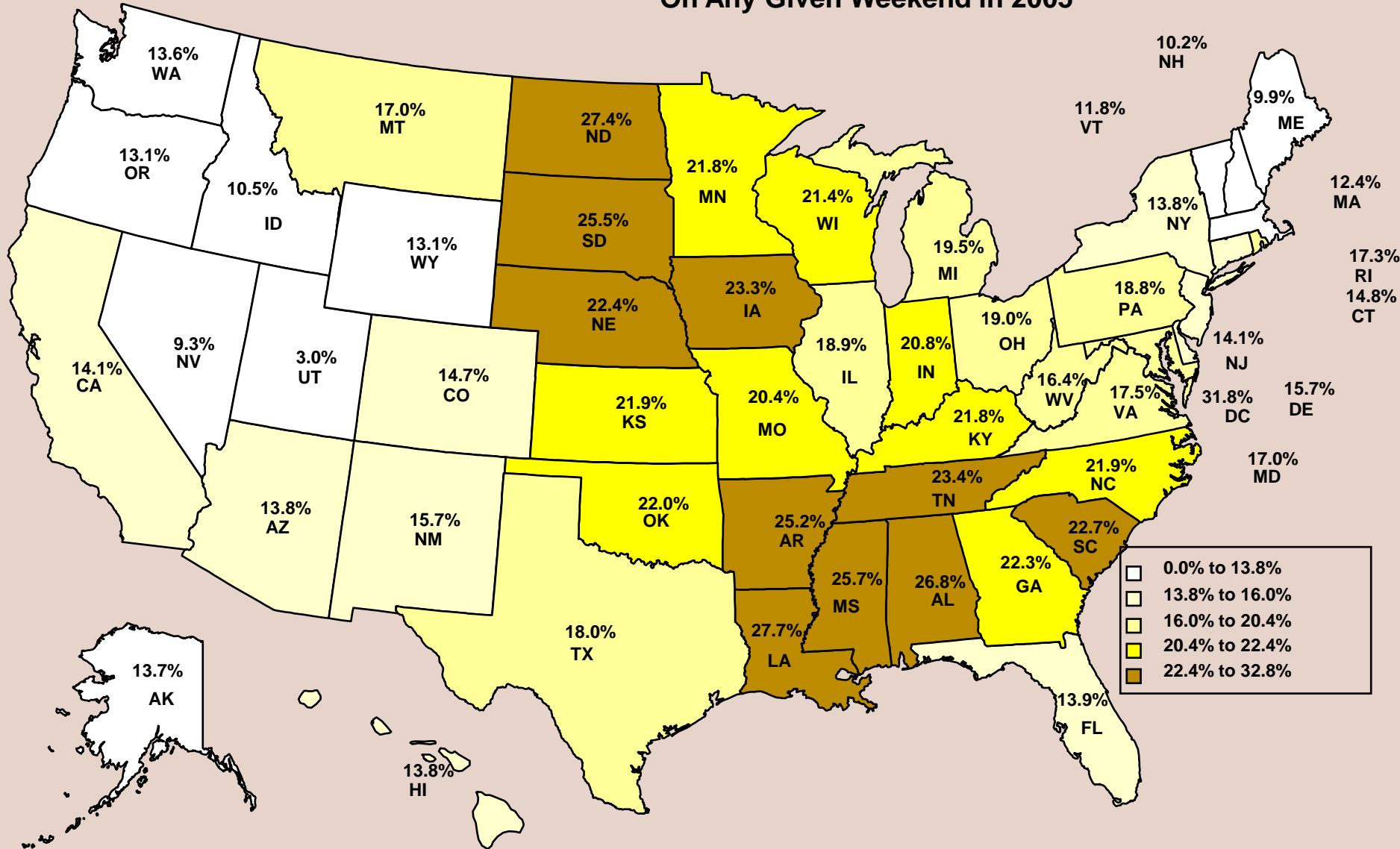
*“Is the Christian Church Going Forwards or Backwards in Influence in Minnesota?”*

As the data is analyzed county by county assessing a number of factors, a comprehensive picture of the State of the Church in Minnesota will begin to take shape.

# This Study

uses weekend church attendance as a more reliable and more immediate snapshot of Christian influence than membership. The following map shows the percentage of the population attending a Christian church on any given weekend in all 50 states in 2005. Minnesota has an attendance percentage (21.8%) that is higher than the average for the nation (17.5%).

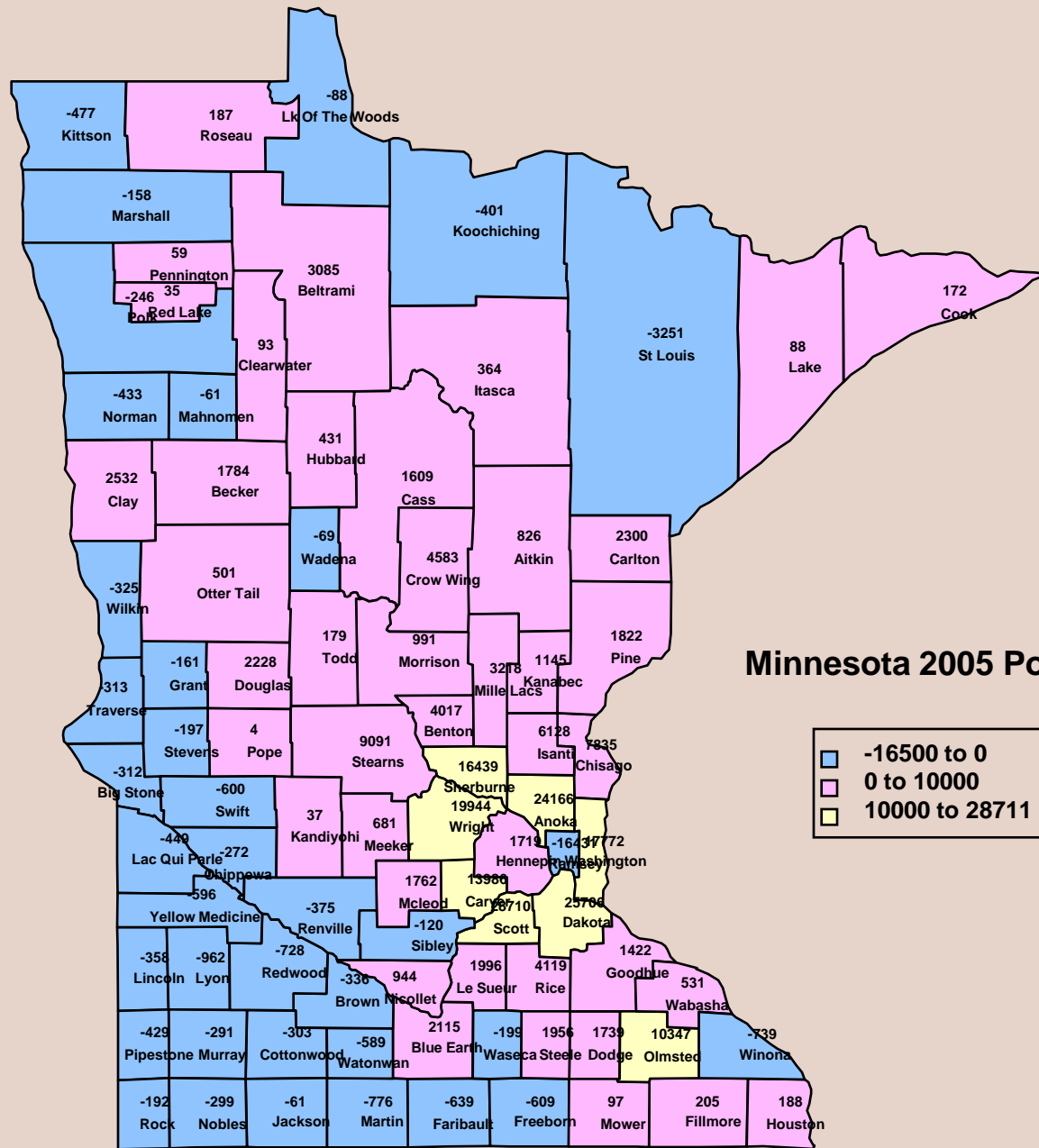
# Percentage of the Population Attending a Christian Church On Any Given Weekend in 2005



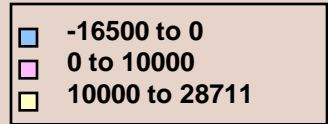
# The Next 2 Maps

show the population numbers for each county in Minnesota. The first map shows the population of each county in 2005. The second map shows the growth or decline in population for each county from 2000 - 2005.





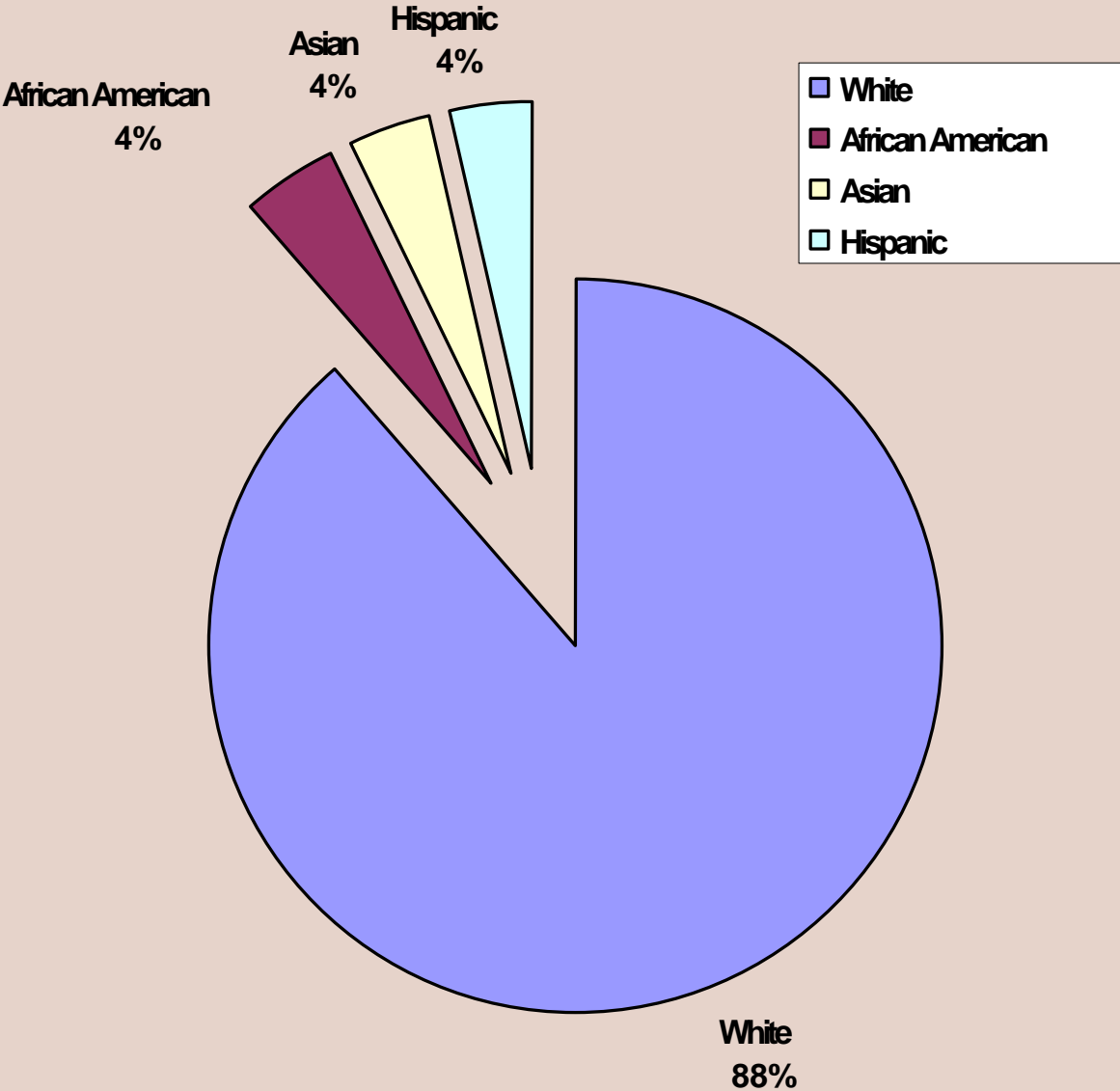
**Minnesota 2005 Population**



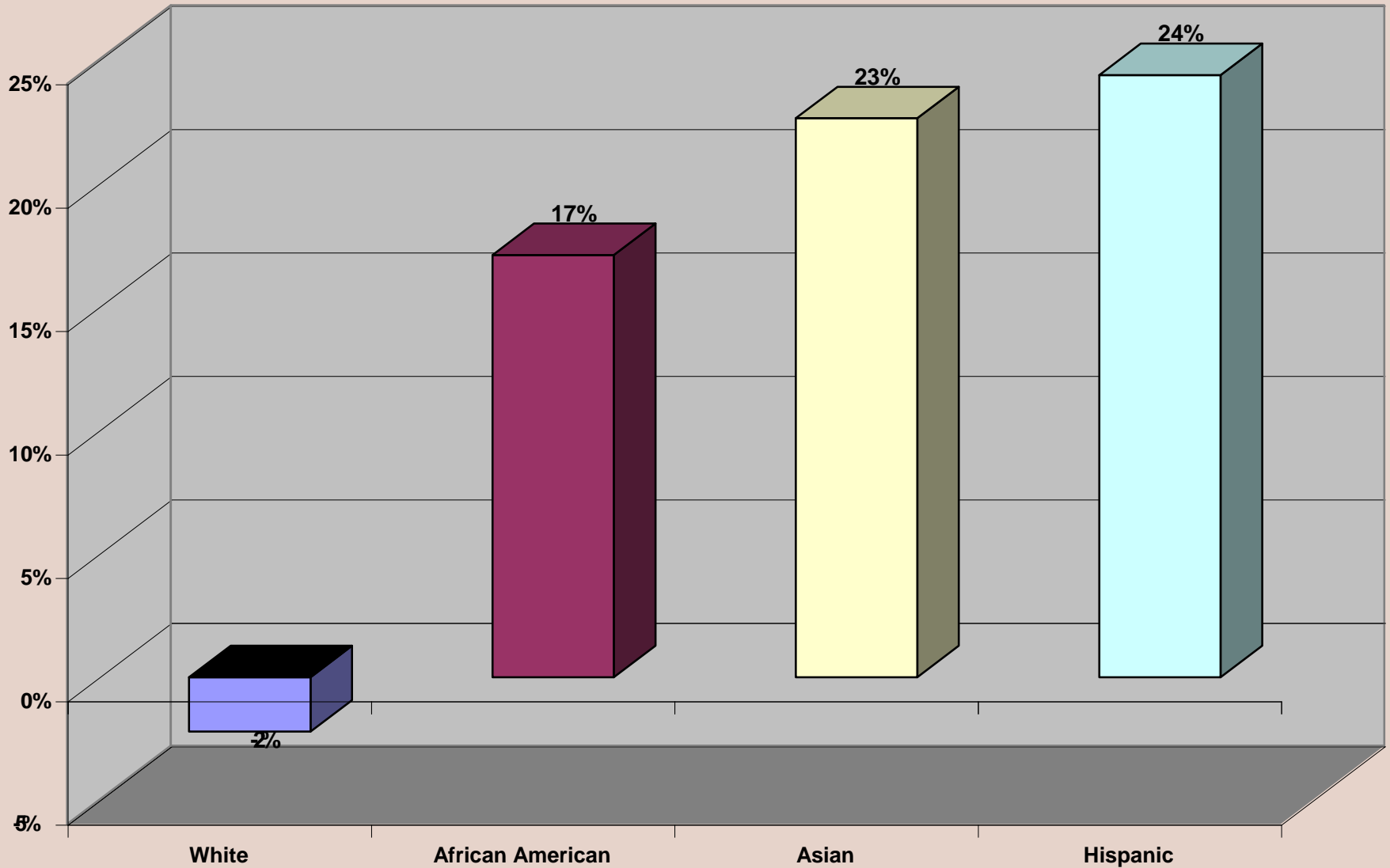
# The Next 2 Slides

show the ethnicity of Minnesota in 2005. The second slide shows the growth or decline in the percentage of the population for each ethnic group from 2000 to 2005.

# 2005 Minnesota Ethnicity



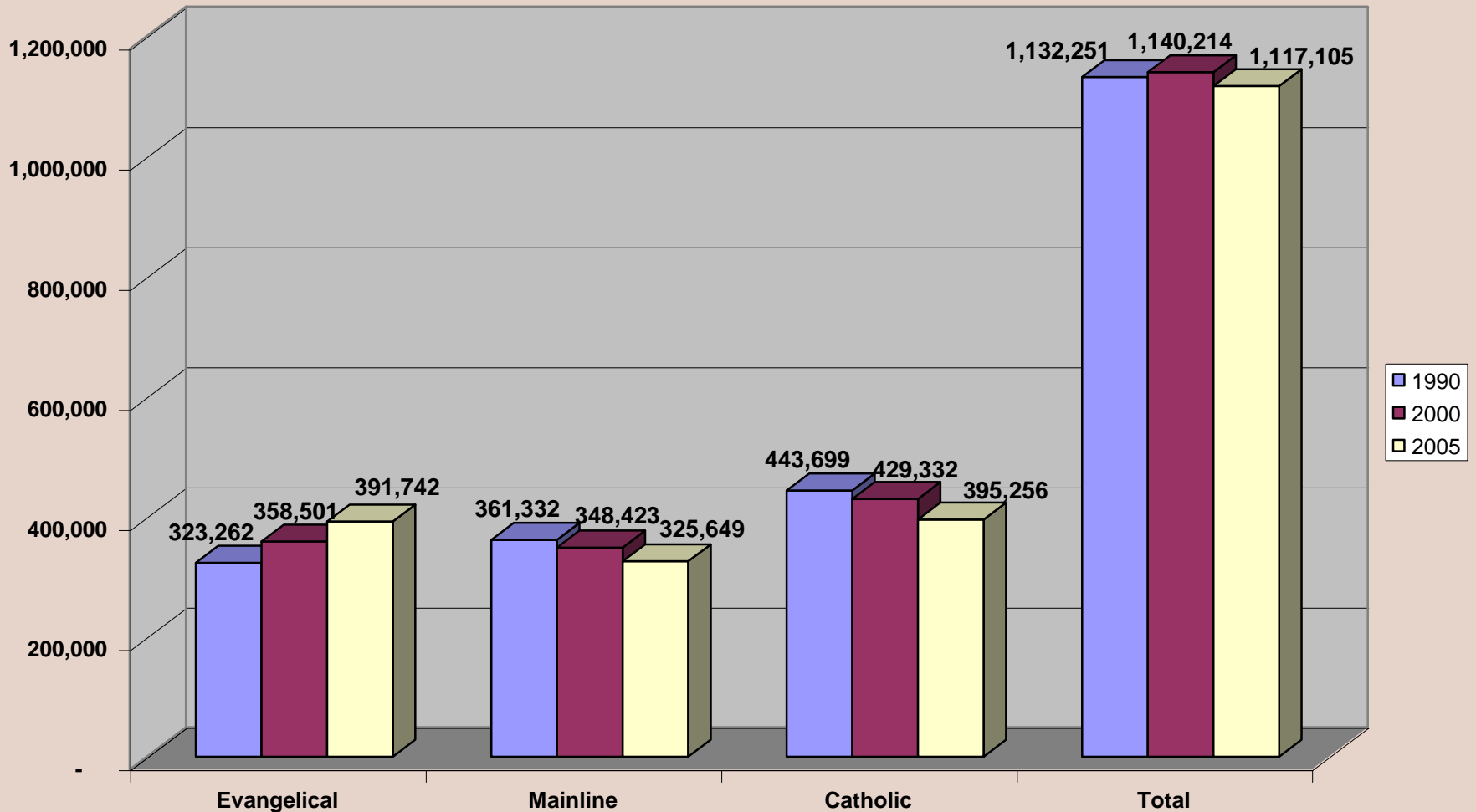
2000-2005 Growth or Decline in Percentage of Minnesota Ethnicity



# The Next Graph

shows the attendance numbers for the churches in Minnesota in 1990, 2000 and 2005. Most noteworthy is the growth of Evangelical churches and the decline of Mainline and Catholic churches. Unfortunately, as overall worship attendance has remained quite stable, the population has grown. A more reliable standard for evaluating increasing or declining influence is the percentage of the population attending church on any given weekend, shown in the second graph.

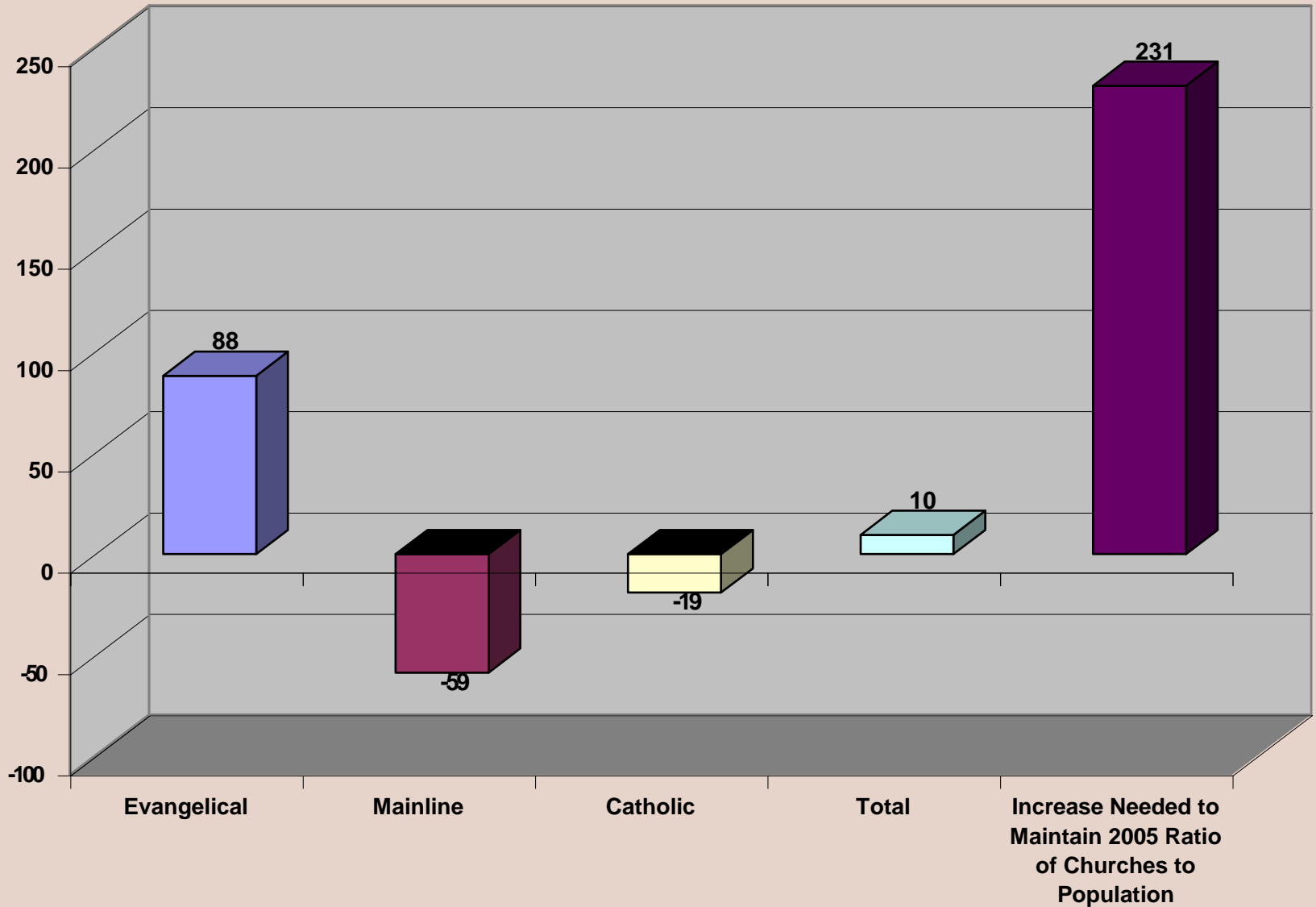
# Minnesota 1990, 2000 & 2005 Attendance at Christian Churches on Any Given Weekend



# The Final Chart

shows the net gain in the number of churches in Minnesota in the past 5 years. There was a net gain of 10 churches. However, 231 churches were needed to keep up with population growth from 2000 - 2005.

## 2000 - 2005 Growth or Decline in Number of Churches in Minnesota



# The Complete PowerPoint . . .

- **is available at [www.theamericanchurch.org](http://www.theamericanchurch.org) . Click on Combo Packs to order the Minnesota Combo Pack – the Minnesota State Presentation, the Twin Cities Metropolitan area and the national PowerPoint, 12 Surprising Facts.**

# This Presentation

is based on a nationwide study of American church attendance, as reported by churches and denominations. The database currently has average worship attendances for each of the last 15 years for over 200,000 individual churches.

It also uses supplementary information (actual membership numbers correlated with accurate membership to attendance ratios) to project the attendances of all other denominational and independent churches. All told, accurate information is provided for all 305,000 orthodox Christian churches.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *This presentation looks only at people attending orthodox Christian churches. Approximately 3 million people attend non-orthodox Christian churches, and perhaps 3 million attend a religious service of another religion. Those 'houses of worship' would add another 35,000 churches in the United States and increase the 2005 percentage to 19.5%.*