

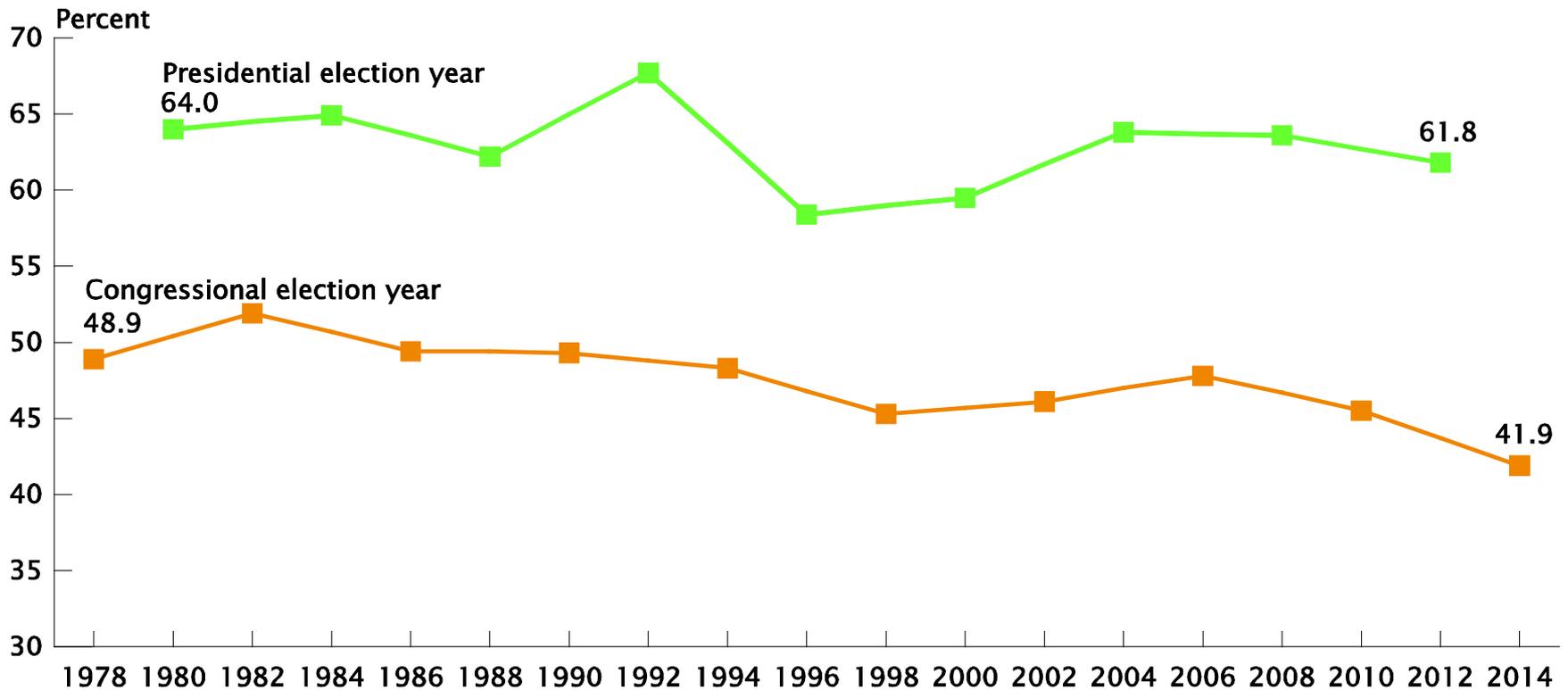
# Who Votes? Congressional Elections and the American Electorate: 1978-2014

By Thom File  
U.S. Census Bureau

# Who Votes in Elections?

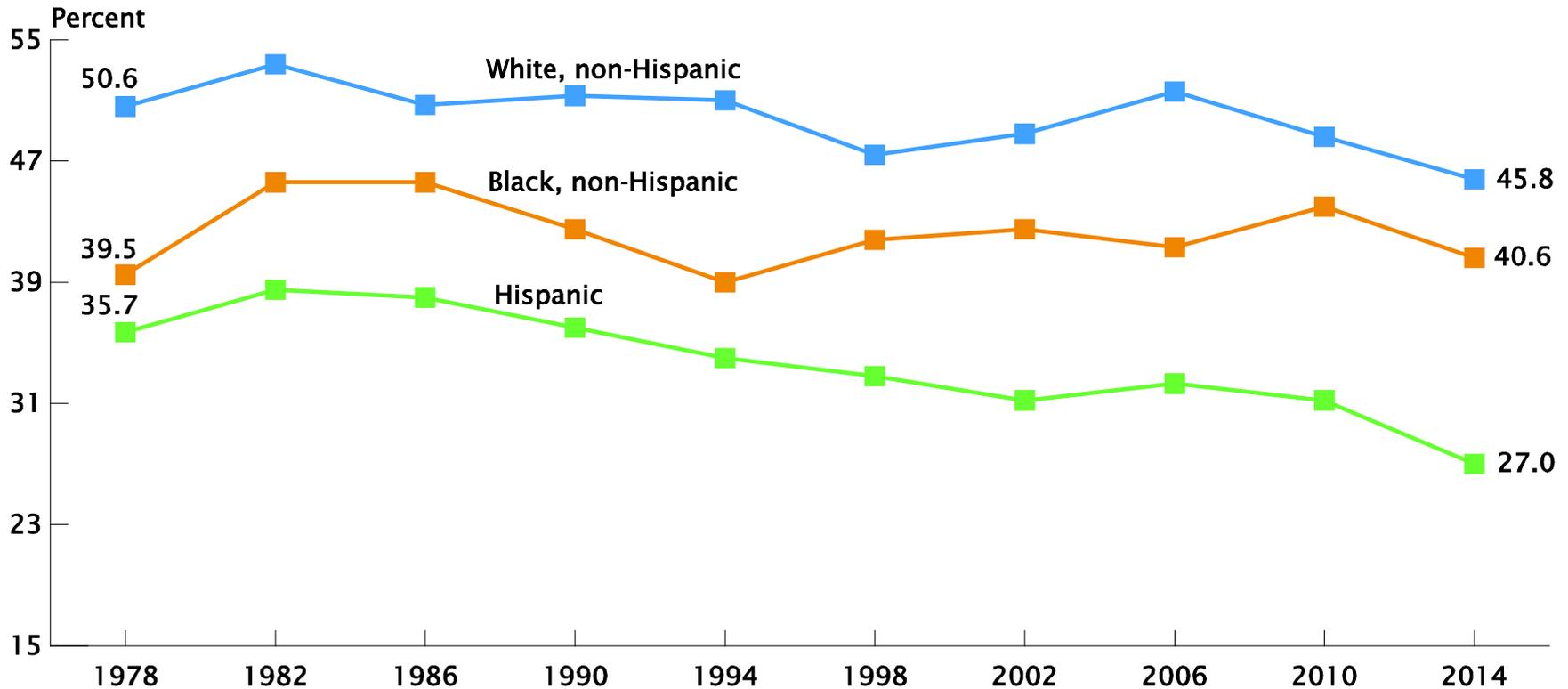
- The 2014 congressional election turnout rate of 41.9% was the lowest since 1978.
- The electorate has grown increasingly diverse.
- Young adults voted at lower levels than older Americans, regardless of race & Hispanic origin.
- Early & absentee voting has increased rapidly since 1996, with nearly one-third voting by alternative methods in 2014.

# Voting Rates in Congressional and Presidential Elections: 1978 to 2014



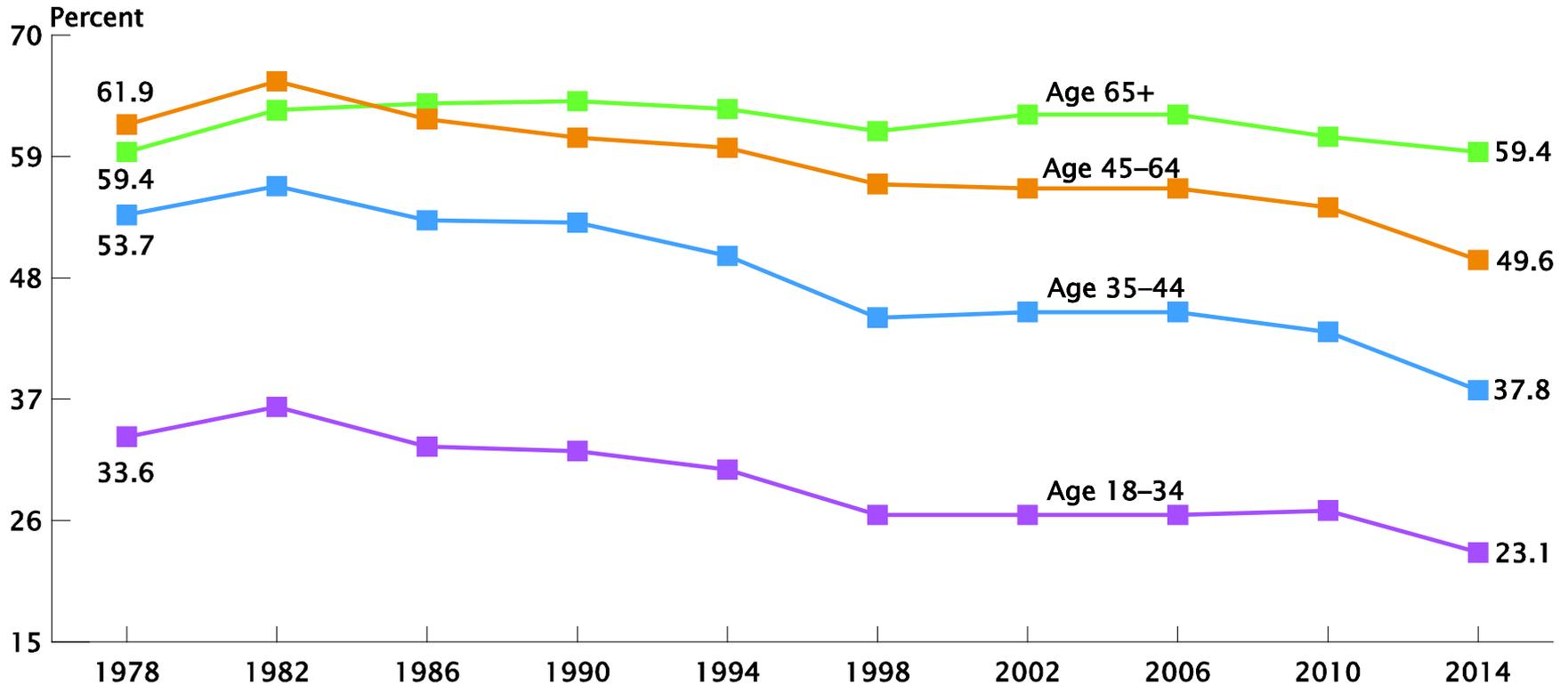
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 1978–2014.

# Voting Rates in Congressional Elections by Race and Ethnicity: 1978 to 2014



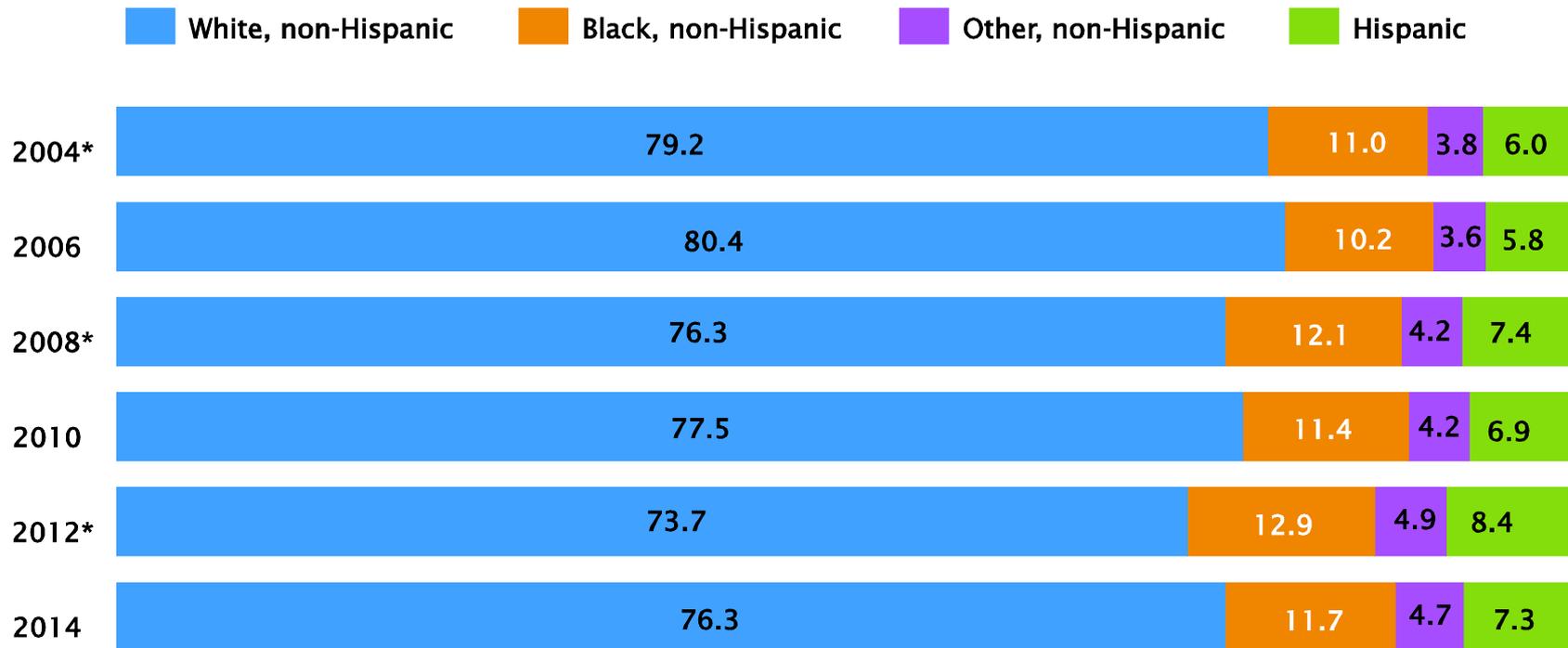
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 1978–2014.

# Historical Voting Rates in Congressional Elections by Age: 1978 to 2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 1978–2014.

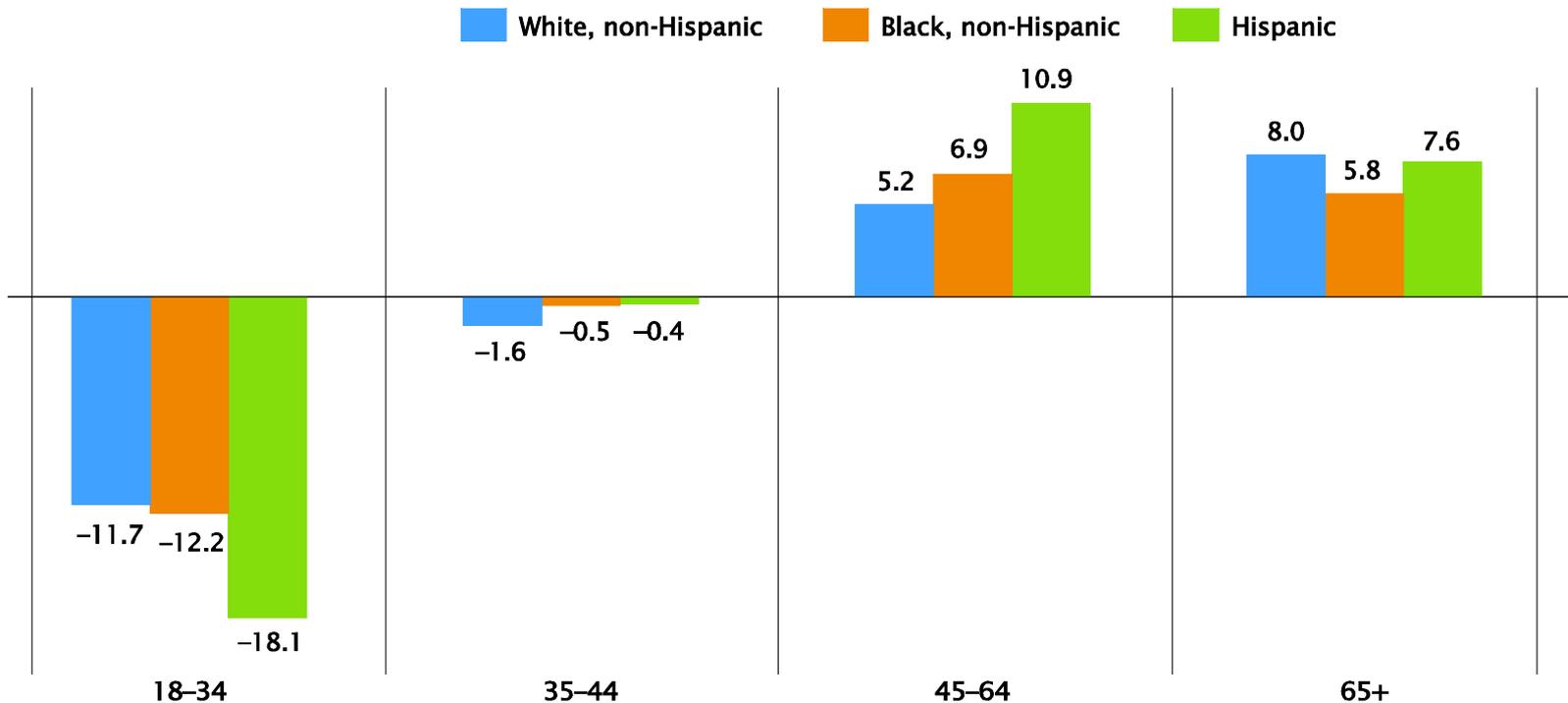
# Race and Hispanic Origin Distribution of the Voting Population: 2004 to 2014



\*Presidential election year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 2004–2014.

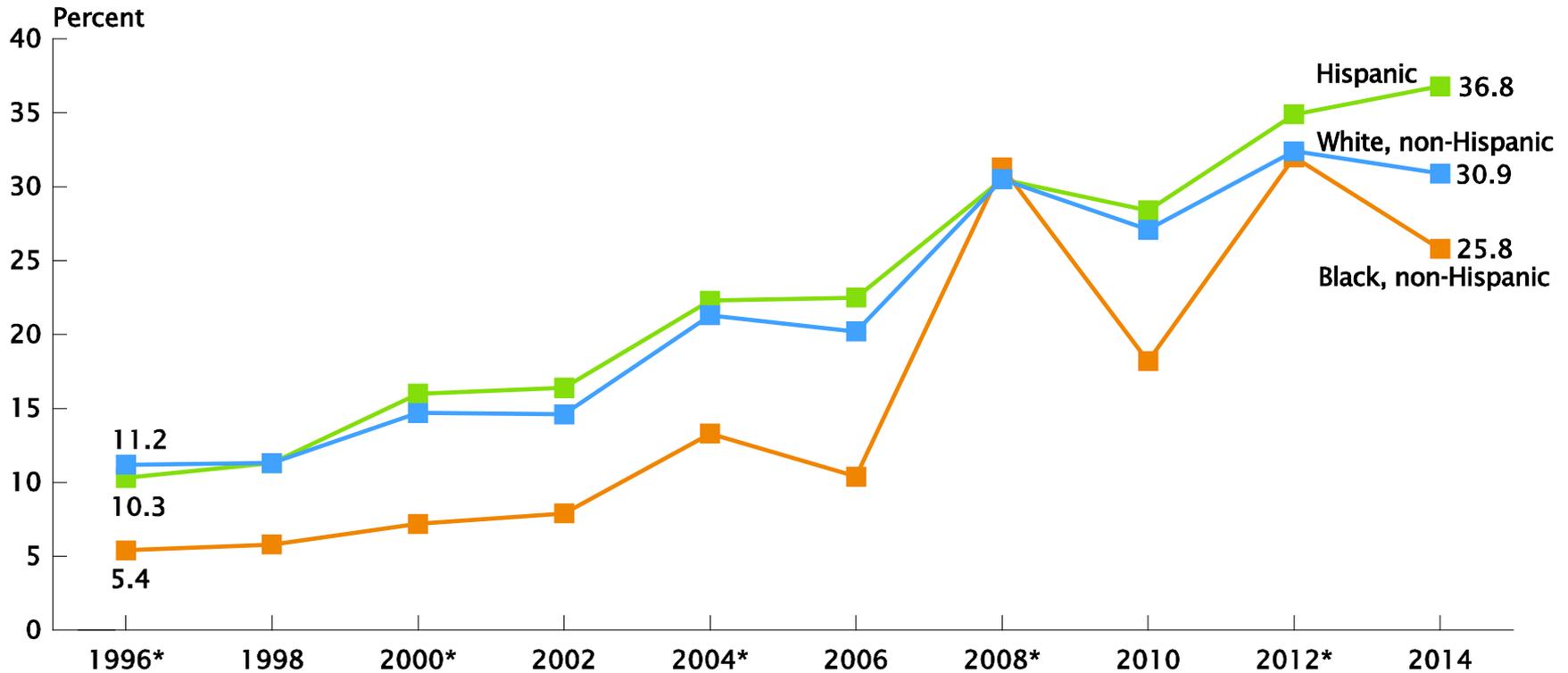
# Differences Between Shares of the Eligible Population and Voting Population by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Age: 2014



Note: -0.5 and -0.4 are not significantly different from zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 2004–2014.

# Alternative Method of Voting Reported by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1996 to 2014



\*Presidential election year.

Note: Alternative method includes those who voted early and/or by absentee ballot.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 1996–2014.