

Italian-American Scholars
in the
Arts, Drama, and Music

Vincenzo Milione, Ph.D., Research Associate
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
The City University of New York

- and -

Richard Gambino, Ph.D., Director
Italian American Studies
Queens College
The City University of New York

This paper will report on the U.S. population distribution of Italian-Americans in the Arts, Drama and Music and compare occupational and educational trends in East Coast cities with West Coast cities.

In New York City, Italian Americans represent 12% of the total population who are in the entertainment and recreational services industry (arts, drama, music and writing).

The proportion of the general New York City population employed in the Entertainment & Recreational Services industry is two times greater than the proportion of Italian Americans employed in this industry. Next to occupations in the Agriculture and Mining industry, the lowest percentage of Italian Americans in New York City enter the Entertainment & Recreational Services industry.

Italian Americans employed in the arts occupations in New York City constitute 10% of the overall New York City writers and artists. This is lower than the 14% distribution of Italian Americans in the general New York City population. However, 23% of the Italian-American population are employed as writers and artists. This proportion is greater than the proportion of the general New York City population employed in the arts occupations, and second only to the proportion of Italian Americans who enter elementary and secondary teaching occupations.

When we focus on New York City's Italian Americans with eight years or more college employed in the arts occupations, we find that 7% are Italian American; however, approximately 11% of this population is employed in these occupations.

These figures indicate that Italian Americans in New York City are underrepresented in the arts occupations, with even less Italian Americans with advance degrees entering these occupations.

This paper will detail these occupational trends and compare the population distribution of Italian Americans in the arts occupations in the Eastern U.S. with their Western U.S. counterparts.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN SCHOLARS IN THE ARTS

This study will present a profile of Italian Americans in the Arts and will compare professionals and scholars in New York to those in California.

Italian Americans have inherited a rich cultural heritage in the arts originating from their ancestors in Italy. New York and California, two areas where numerous Italian Americans reside, represent two major cultural centers in the arts.

The data base used for this study is the 1980 Census of Population statistics from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Of the 17,562,660 New York State residents, nearly 2,796,960 are of Italian-American descent. In California, less than half, 1,140,000, are of Italian-American descent, even though the state population is 6,000,000 more than that of New York State.

Approximately 16% of the New York State population is of Italian extraction compared to approximately 5% in California.

One of three Italian Americans in New York State are of

multiple ancestry (one parent whose ancestry is not Italian American). However, in California only one out of two Italian-Americans are of multiple ancestry. This may be due to later generations of Italian Americans migrating from their ancestors original settlement on the East Coast to the West Coast. In many cases, they migrated to California to settle in warmer climates comparable to Southern Italy.

In New York and California, Italian-American gender distribution closely represents the total state population distribution with the populations being slightly younger in California than in New York.

A larger percentage of the general New York population is in art occupations as compared to the Italian-American population in New York.

In California, a larger percentage of the Italian-American population are employed in art occupations than the general state population.

Art occupations that were studied include: Authors, Technical Writers, Designers, Musicians and Composers, Actors and Directors, Painters and Sculptors, Photographers, and Editors & Reporters.

Scholars are defined as persons with the highest level of educational attainment--completing eight years or more of college--as reported within the Census data. In other studies, it has been shown that this reported educational level includes approximately 75% or more of the population having doctoral degrees.

There is a lower percentage of scholars of Italian-American ancestry in both New York and California as compared to the general population. However, California has a relatively higher percentage of Italian-American scholars than New York State.

ITALIAN AMERICANS IN ART OCCUPATIONS

Figure 1

Figure 1 compares the distribution of Italian Americans in the various art occupations in New York and California. The distribution ratio is the percentage of Italian Americans in the art occupations as compared to the percentage of Italian Americans in the entire state. A ratio of less than one indicates that Italian Americans are underrepresented in that occupation. New York Italian Americans are underrepresented in all art occupations and are less represented than California Italian Americans within all occupations.

Californians are only underrepresented among authors, artists, performers, editors and reporters.

Italian Americans in California are best represented among dancers, photographers, and musicians and composers.

Italian Americans in New York have the best representation among designers, musicians and photographers.

Italian Americans in New York are least represented among authors, actors, directors, and editors & reporters.

MALE VS. FEMALE

Figures 2a & 2b

Italian-American males in California and New York are better represented in the arts than Italian American females in all the occupations except for dancers, artists and performers. Also in California, Italian American female actors and directors do better than their Italian American male counterparts with female and male designers having a comparable distribution.

Italian American males in California have the largest representation among musicians, technical writers and photographers.

Italian American males in New York are best represented among designers, photographers and musicians.

Italian American women in New York are also more highly represented among designers and musicians than they are in California.

Figure 3

Figure 3 compares the distribution of Italian Americans in the Arts in New York with California. Italian Americans in the arts are more distributed among designers (one out of three in New York vs. one out of four in California) and editors and reporters (one out of six in New York vs. one out of ten in California). In all the other art occupations, Italian Americans in California enter at a larger rate. In particular, among actors and directors, Italian-Americans in the Arts in California constitute one out of eight professionals, as compared to one out of 14 professionals in New York.

Figure 4a & 4b

Figure 4a and 4b compares the distribution of New York professionals within the arts. Nearly one out of three Italian Americans in the arts are designers, compared to about one out of four of the general New York population.

Italian Americans enter reporting and authoring occupations less than all other art occupations. One out of five of the general population in the arts are editors and reporters, while only one out of six Italian Americans in the arts are reporters. The situation is more dramatic for authors where only one out of 50 Italian Americans in the Arts are authors, compared to one out of twenty of the general population.

In California, Italian Americans in the Arts reflect the general population much closer. The biggest discrepancy is among reporters, where one out of eight of all the Californians in the state within the Arts are reporters, compared to one out of ten Italian Americans in the Arts who are in the reporting occupations.

MULTIPLE ANCESTRY

Italian Americans of multiple ancestry have larger percentages of representation in the arts in California than in New York.

Figure 5

In New York only Italian Americans among authors, editors & reporters have a higher multiple ancestry than Italian American Californians.

Italian Americans among authors, editors & reporters have a higher multiple ancestry in New York than in California.

Figure 6a & 6b

In New York, Italian American females of multiple ancestry are better represented in all the art occupations (except for dancers and actors & directors).

In California, Italian American males and females of multiple ancestry are more comparably distributed among the art occupations. The bigger differences occur among dancers and authors, where Italian American females of multiple ancestry are much more represented.

AGE

Figure 7

Figure 7 compares Italian Americans who are less than 35 years old in New York and California.

Italian Americans in New York among technical writers, designers and dancers tend to be younger than their counterparts in California.

Italian American artists, performers, photographers, painters and musicians are younger in California than in New York. Also Italian American editors & reporters along with authors are younger in California.

Figure 8a & 8b

Italian American females in the art occupations in California appear to be younger in all art occupations except among musicians and composers.

In New York Italian American males in acting, directing, painting, dancing, and artists & performers are younger than their female counterparts.

Italian American females in California appear younger than Italian American females in the art occupations in New York. Only among authors, musicians, and editors & reporters are Italian American females in New York younger than their counterparts in California.

Whereas Italian American males in New York are younger than the Italian American males within the art occupations in California, only Italian American males in California, among technical writers and designers, are younger than their New York counterparts.

EDUCATION

Figure 9

Figure 9 compares the educational attainment distribution among Italian Americans in the Arts within both New York and California. Italian Americans in the arts in California compared to New York have a higher percentage attending college, but less completing four years of college. However, a slightly higher percentage of Italian Americans in the Arts within California entered post-graduate studies. However, very few Italian American Californians appear to go on to doctoral levels. New York Italian Americans have more doctoral scholars than their California counterparts.

~~Figure 10a & 10B~~

Figure 10a & 10b compares the educational attainment of Italian American females and males within the Arts. There is a larger discrepancy in the higher educational attainment of Italian American females in California than in New York. In particular, it appears that Italian American females in California have less of a tendency than their counterparts in New York to complete 4 years of college and they are even less represented among scholars.

Figure 11a & 11b

Figure 11a combines all the Italian Americans with a high school education or less, and compares their percentage representation to the art occupations. There are more variations among Italian Americans in New York and California among the art occupations. The largest variations are within acting & directing,

painting and sculpting, photography and artists & performers, where less formal training is required.

There is a larger percentage of Italian American Californians with a high school degree or less within the occupations of author, musician, actor, dancer and reporter than in New York.

Whereas in New York a larger percentage of Italian American New Yorkers have a high school degree or less within technical writing, design, painter, photography and performers.

Figure 11b combines all Italian Americans who had college studies of at least one year up to post-graduate studies (but not necessarily doctoral studies).

There are less differences among Italian Americans in New York and California among college studies than there is among the less than high school degree population.

The biggest differences are among actors, directors, painters, photographers, dancers and artists; this is probably due to variations in skill levels as compared to technical training.

Technical writers, designers, painters, photographers, artists, performers and reporters have more college studies in California than their New York counterparts.

Figure 12

Figure 12 compares scholars in the arts of Italian-American ancestry. Major differences are apparent among the art occupations. New York has more Italian-American scholars than California in virtually all the art occupations except technical writing.

Although no Italian-American scholars appear among artists, performers, and dancers the total state population as shown in Figure 12a & 12b, have scholars present.

Figure 12a & 12b

Figure 12 a & b compares Italian Americans scholars in California and New York with their counterparts in the general population.

In New York, Italian-American scholars more closely follow the pattern of the scholars in the general state population among most of the art occupations. In fact, in New York, there is a larger percentage of scholars of Italian American ancestry among authors, actors & directors, and photographers.

In California, ~~only~~ among technical writers is there a larger percentage of Italian American scholars compared to the general population.

SUMMARY

1. Italian Americans in the Arts both in New York and in California have very similar occupational and educational choices.

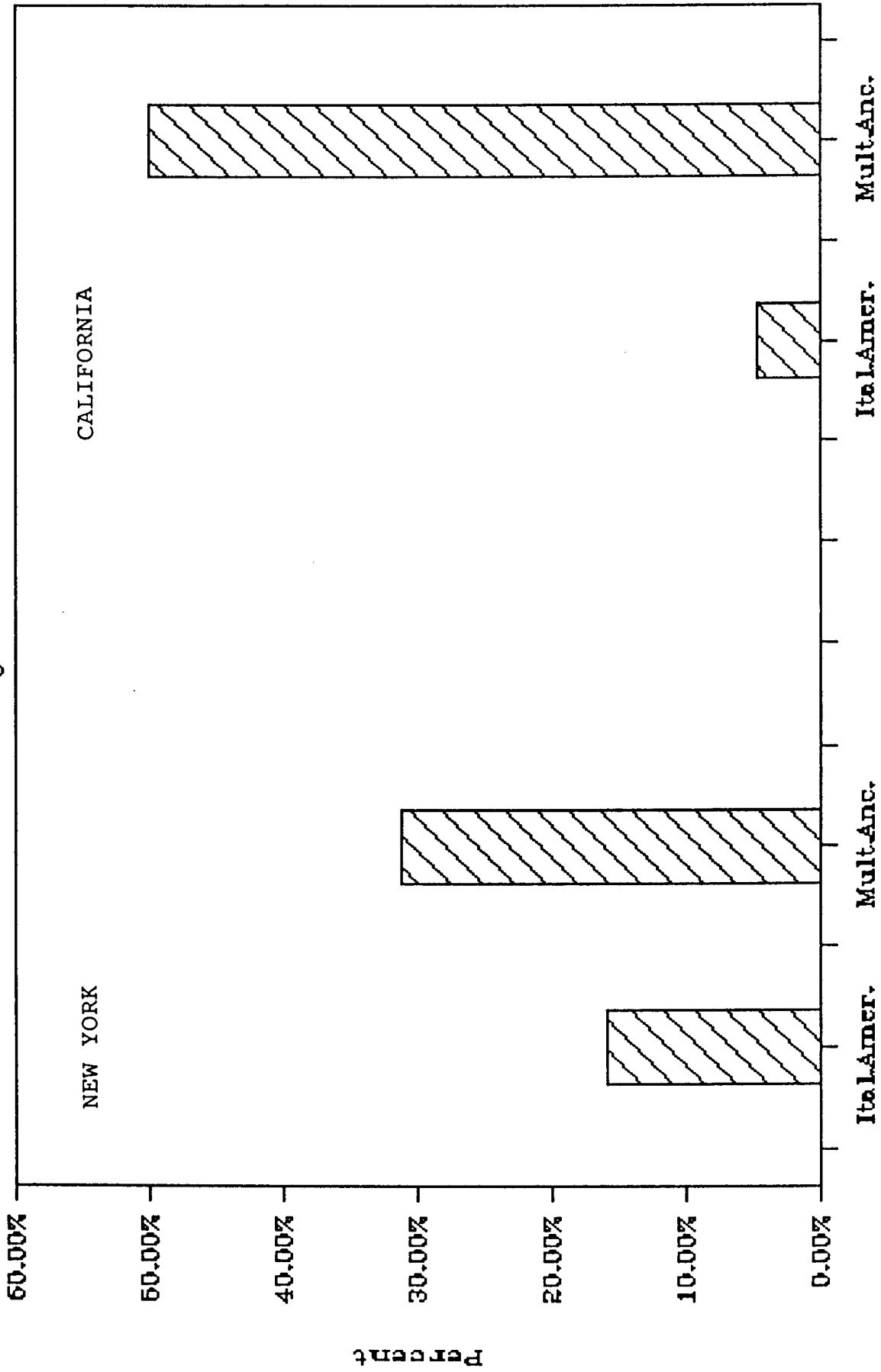
2. Italian Americans are overrepresented in the Arts occupations in California and underrepresented in the Arts occupations in New York.

3. In California, nearly one out of two IA's in the Arts are of multiple ancestry, where in New York one out of five are of multiple ancestry.

4. In New York, multiple-ancestry females do better in all the Art occupations than their male counterparts. In California, however, multiple-ancestry male-and-female Italian-Americans are comparably represented in the art occupations.

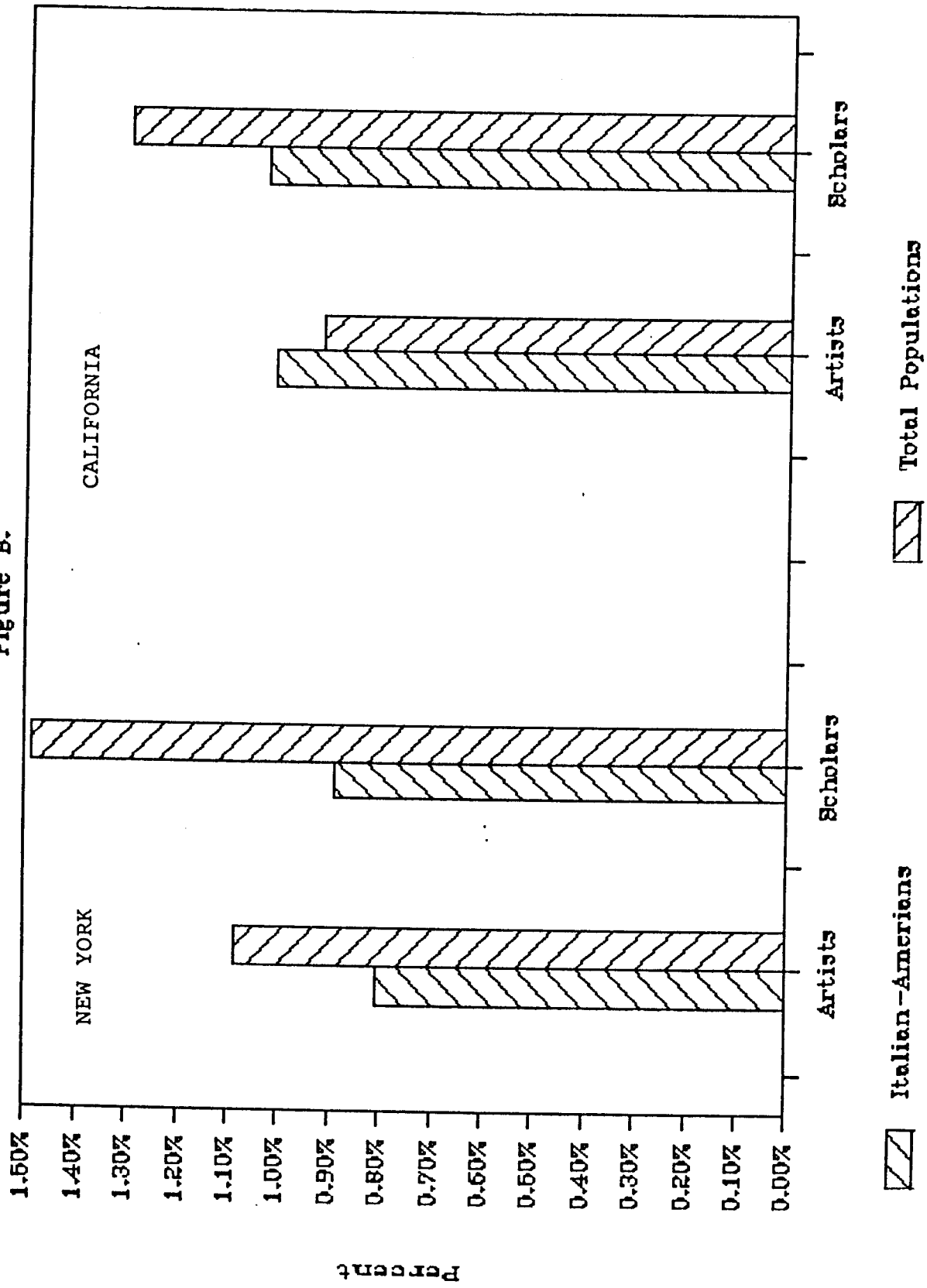
Italian-American Population and Multiple Ancestry

Figure C.



Arts and Scholars Profile

Figure B.



Italian American Representation in Art Occupations

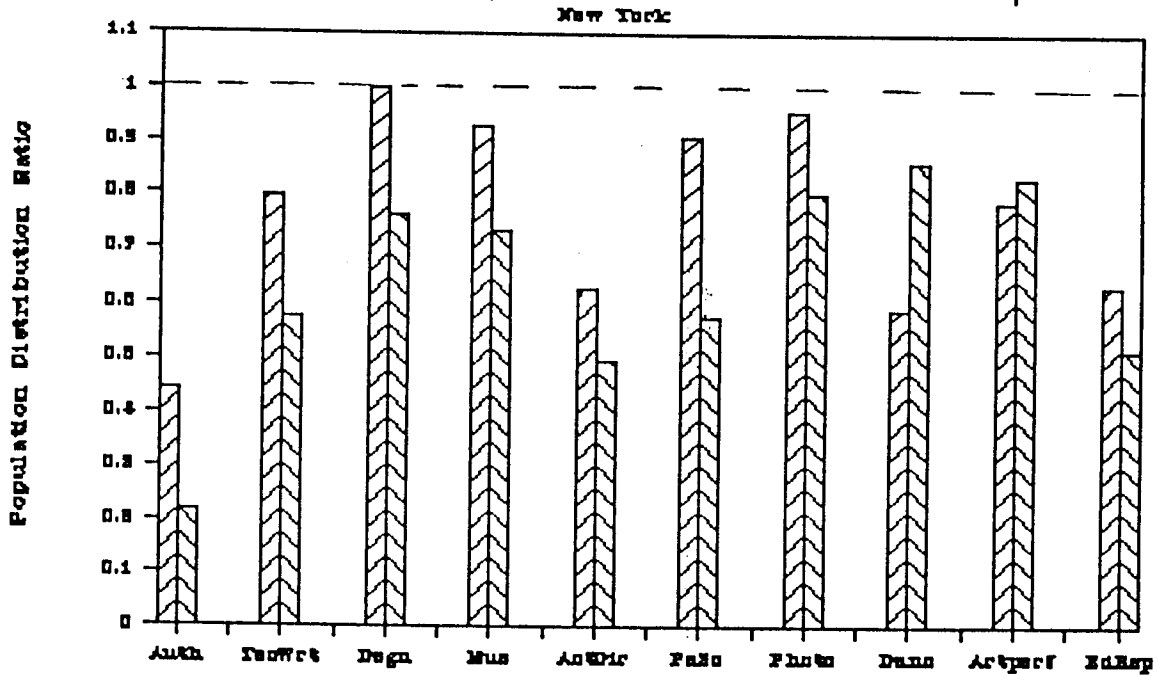


Figure 8a.

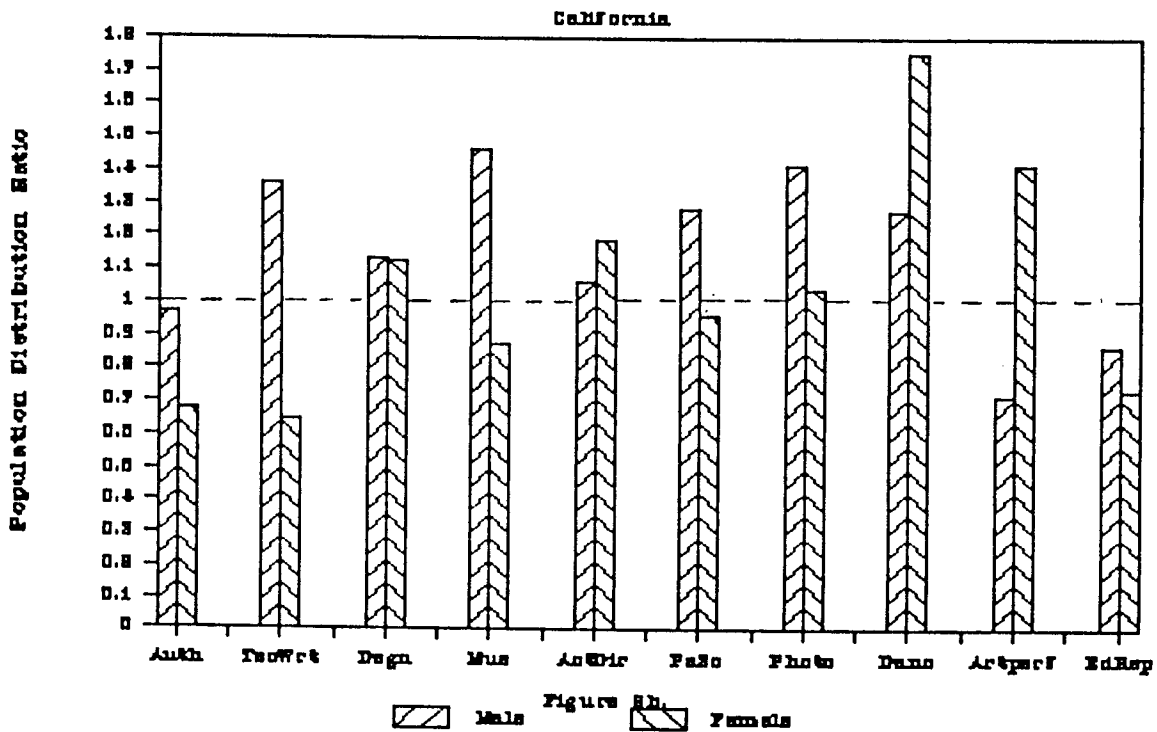


Figure 8b.

Italian American Representation in Art Occupations

New York vs California

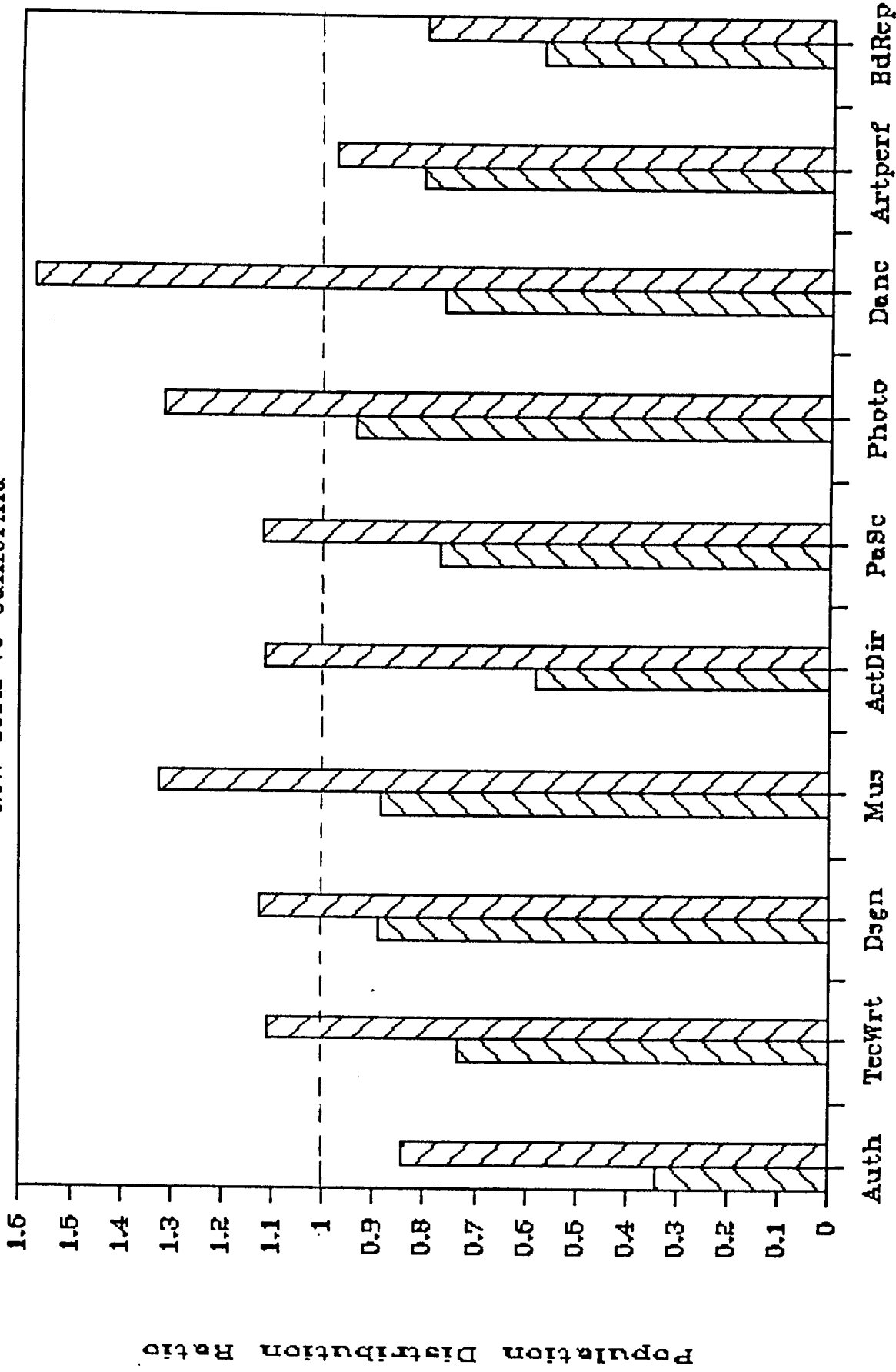


Figure 1.  New York  California

Distribution Within Art Occupations

New York

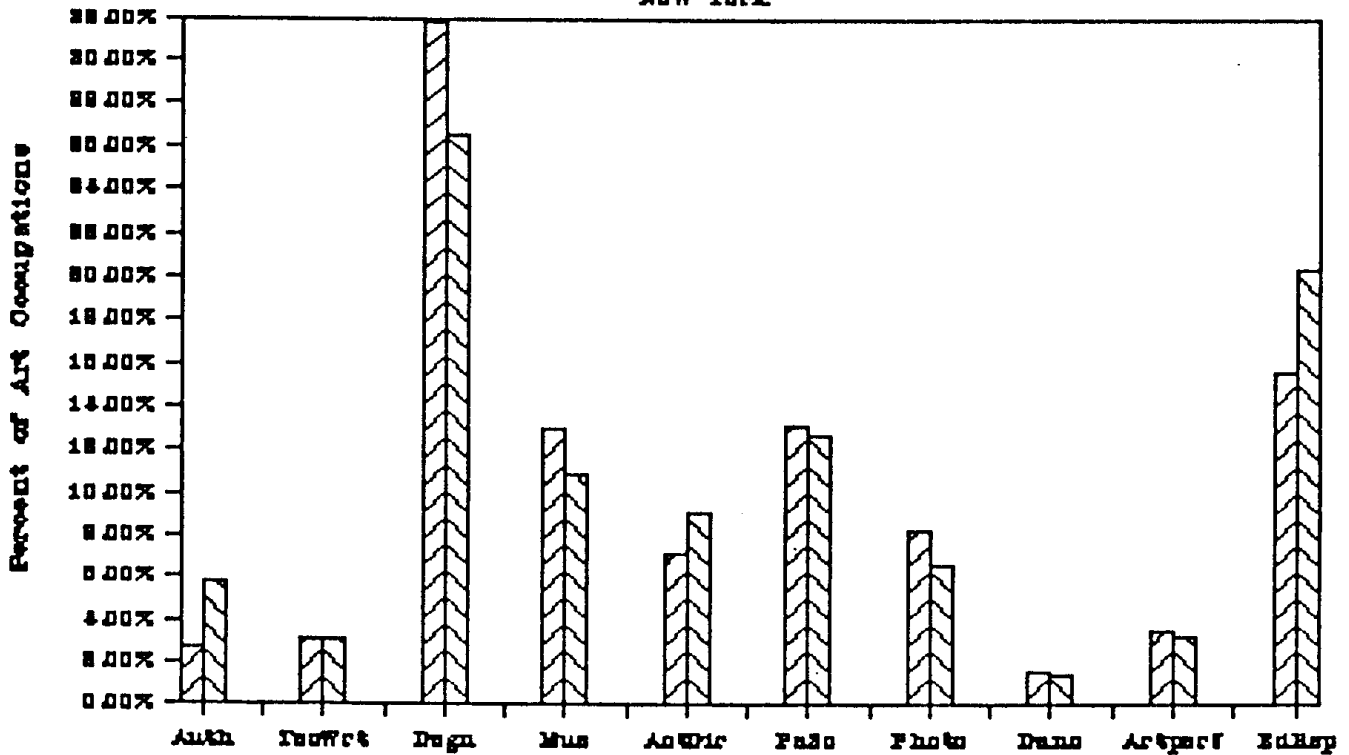


Figure 2a.

California

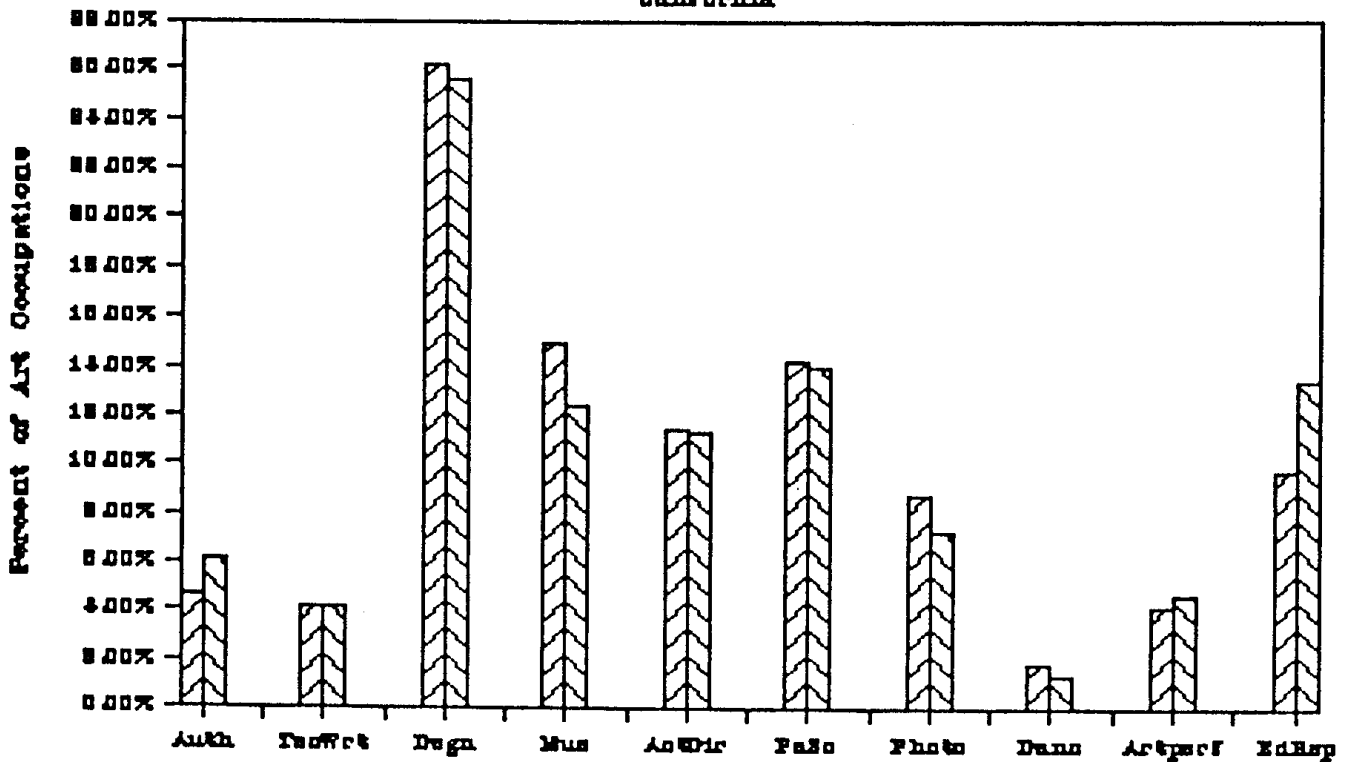


Figure 2b.

 Italian-American

 Total Population

Distribution Within Art Occupations

Italian-Americans

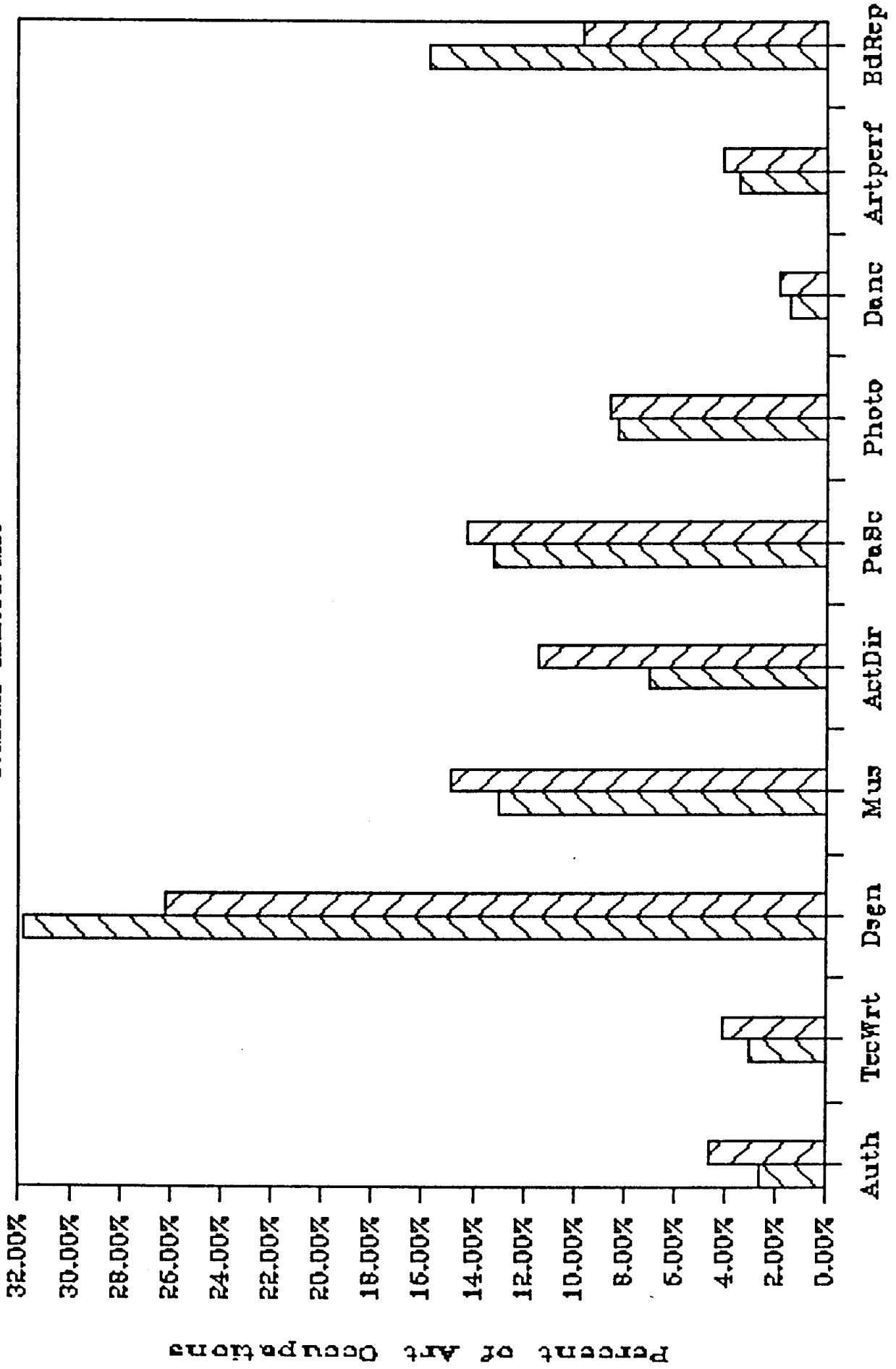


Figure 3.  New York  California

Percent of Art Occupations

Multiple Ancestry by Art Occupations

Italian Americans

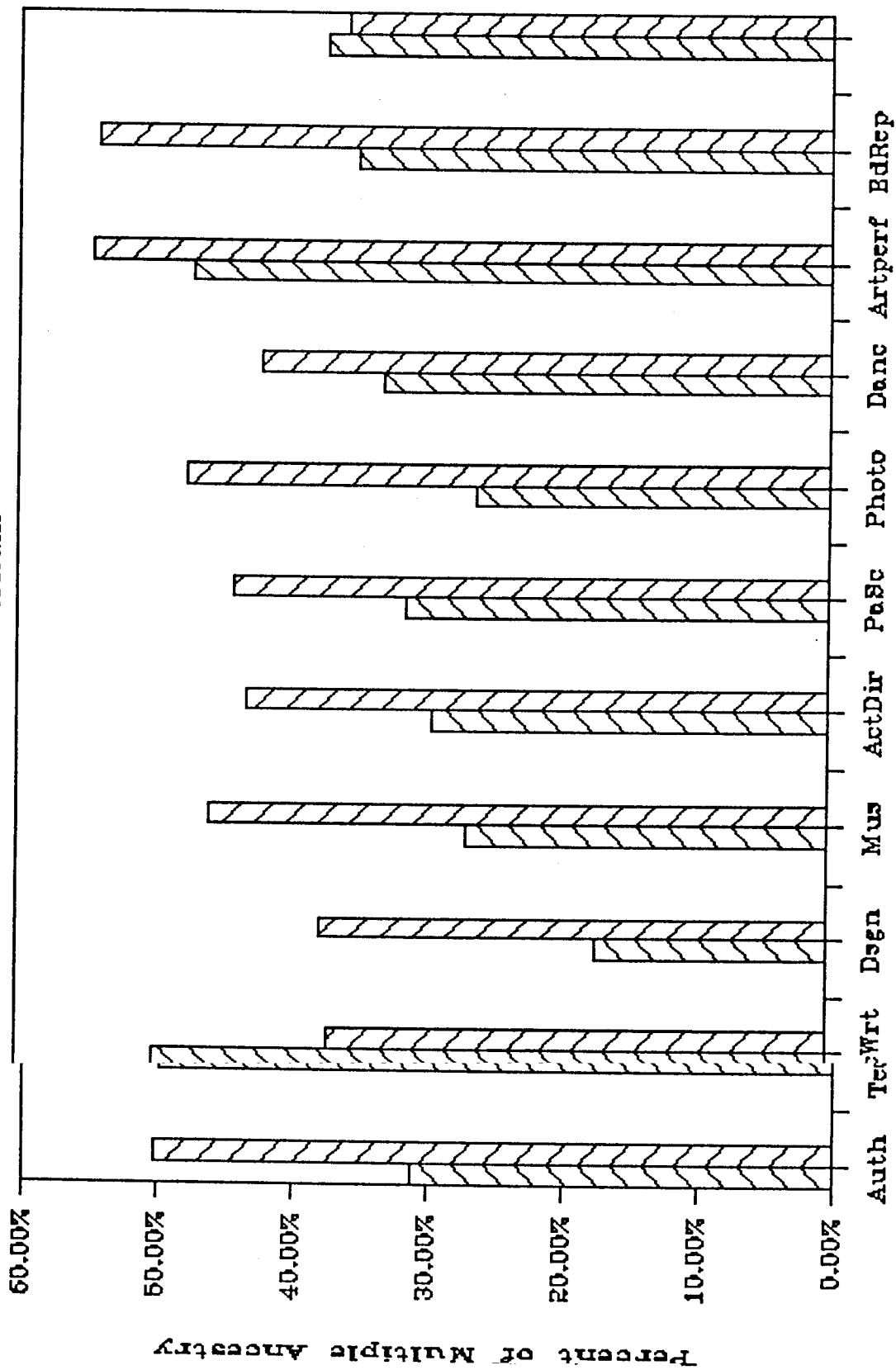


Figure 5. California

New York

Multiple Ancestry by Art Occupations

New York

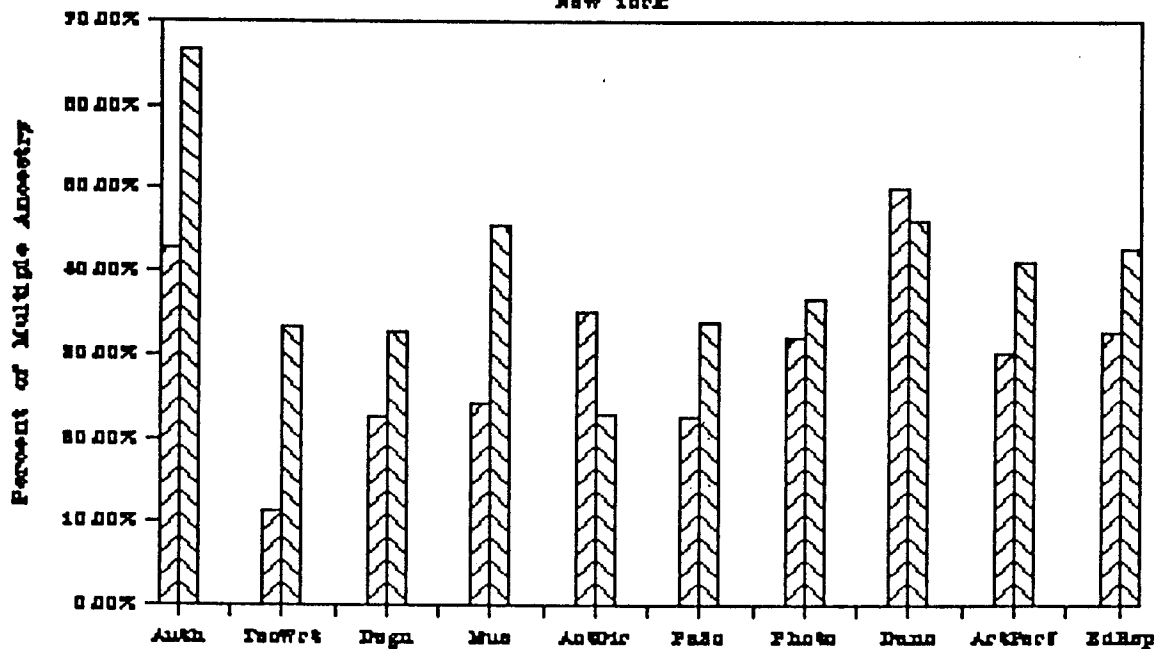


Figure 8a.

California

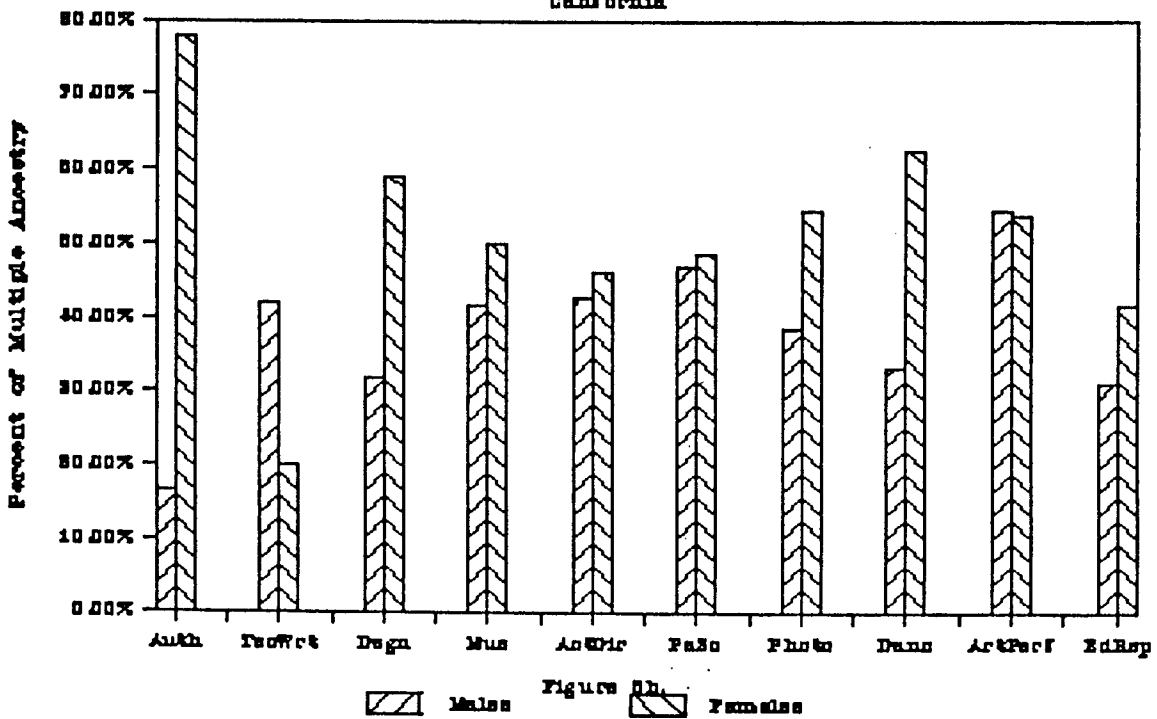


Figure 8b.

 Male
  Female

Age by Art Occupations

Italian Americans

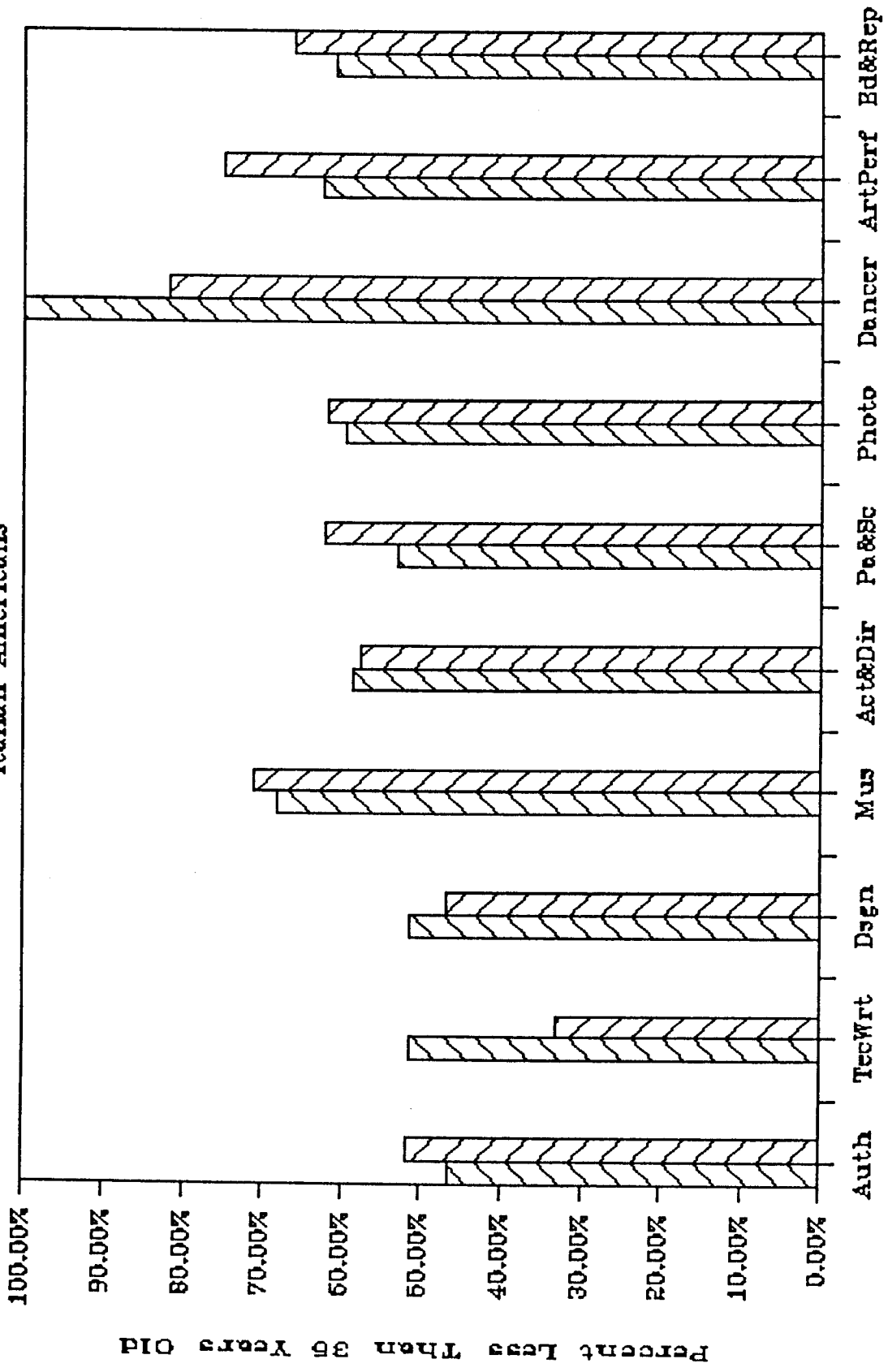




Figure 7.  New York  California

Age by Art Occupations

Hispanic American Females

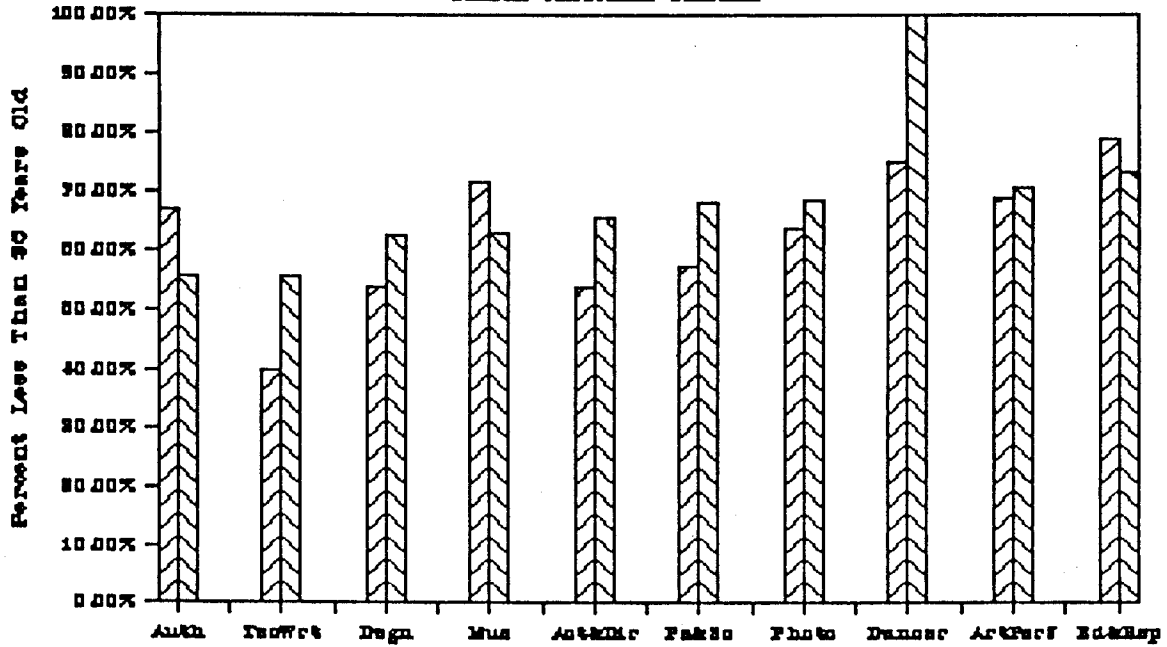


Figure 8a.

Age by Art Occupations

Hispanic American Males

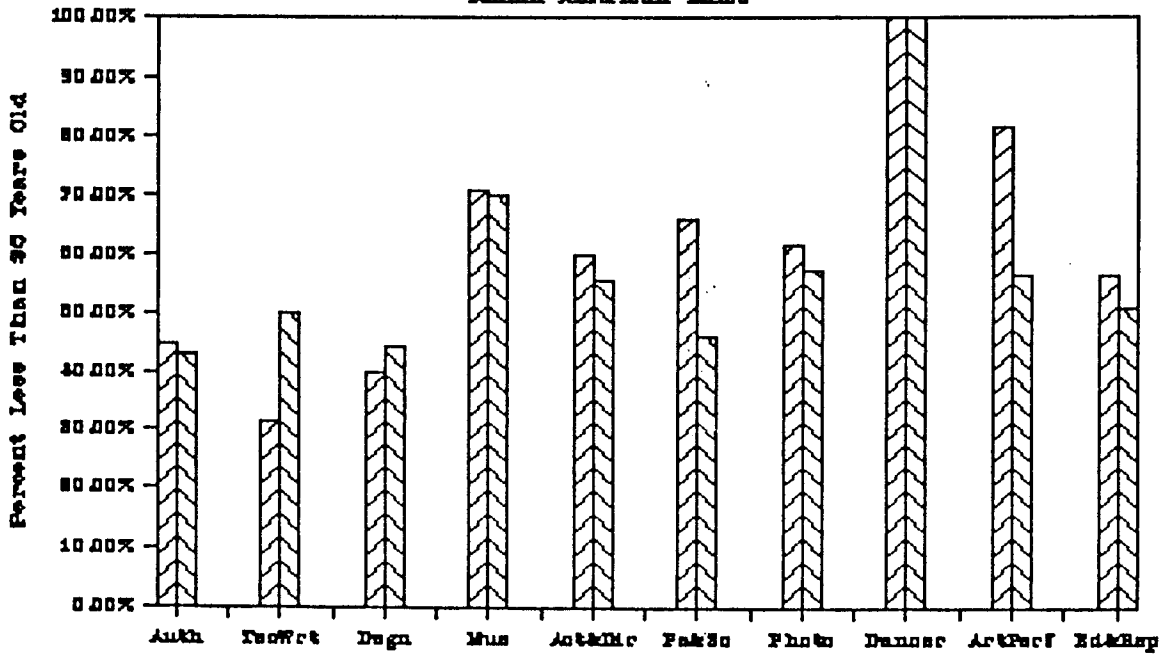


Figure 8b.

New York
 California

Educational Attainment in the Arts

Italian-Americans

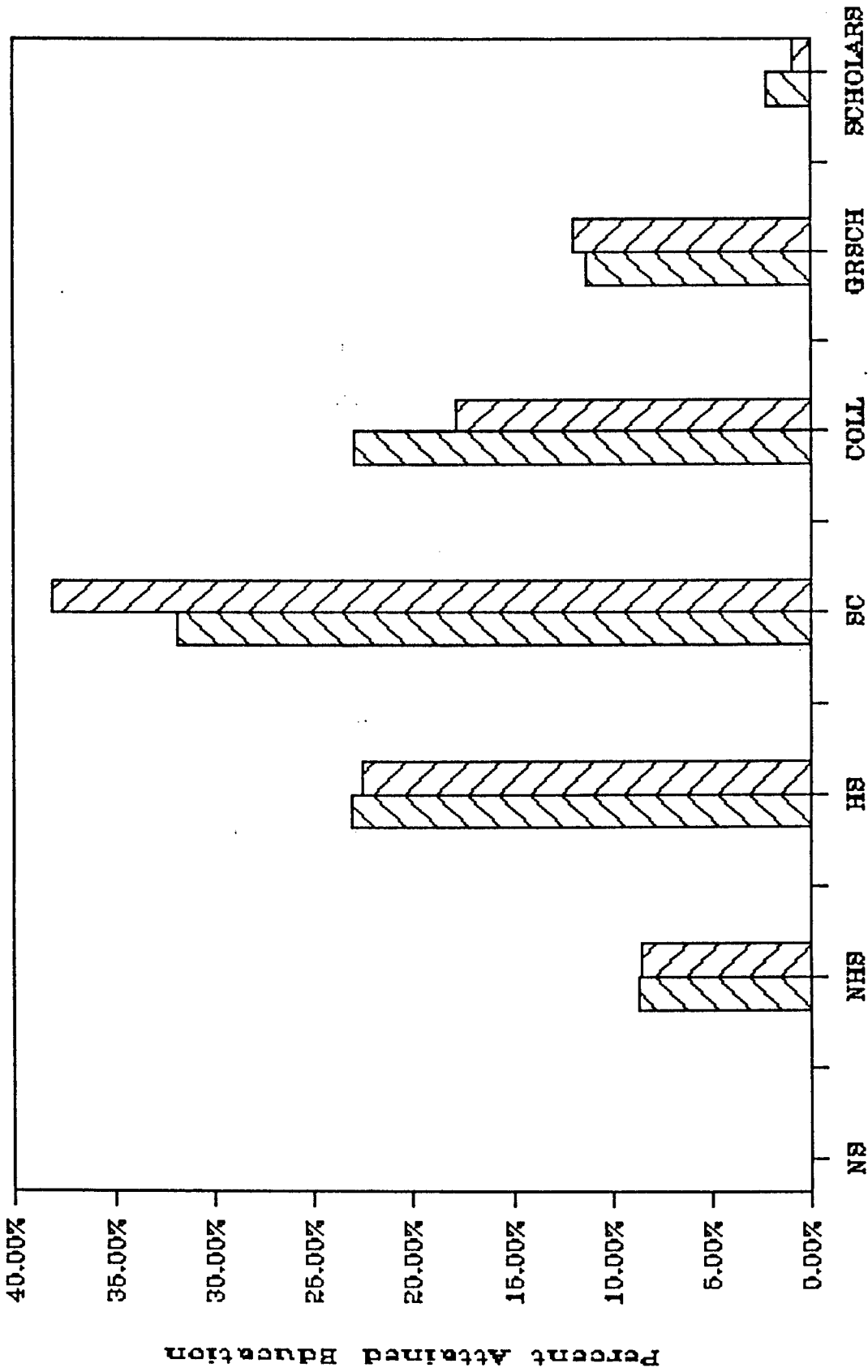


Figure 9. California

New York

Educational Attainment in the Arts

Italian-American Females

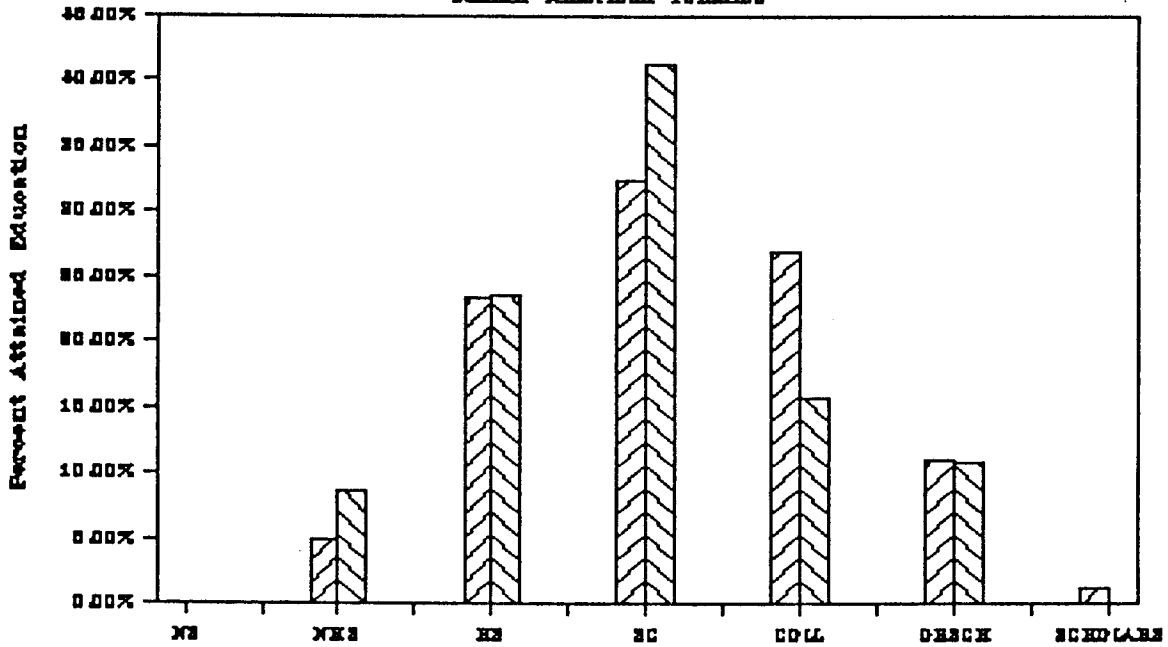


Figure 10a.

Italian-American Males

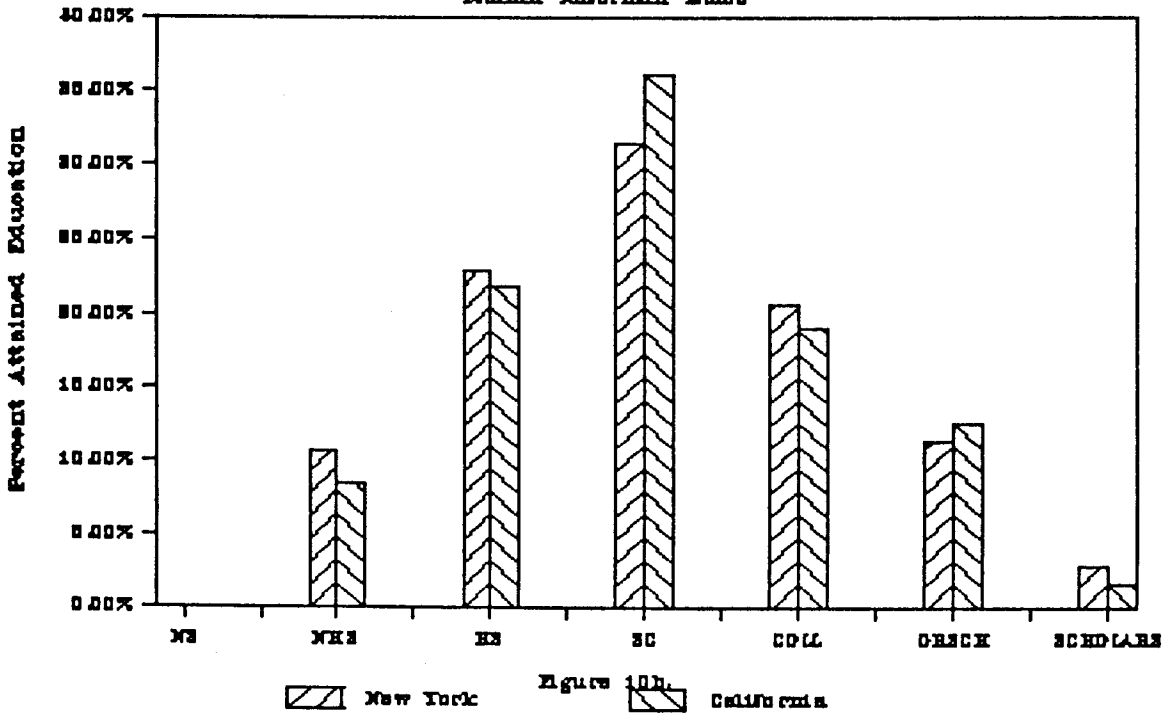


Figure 10b.

New York
 California

Italian-Americans within Art Occupations

High School or Less

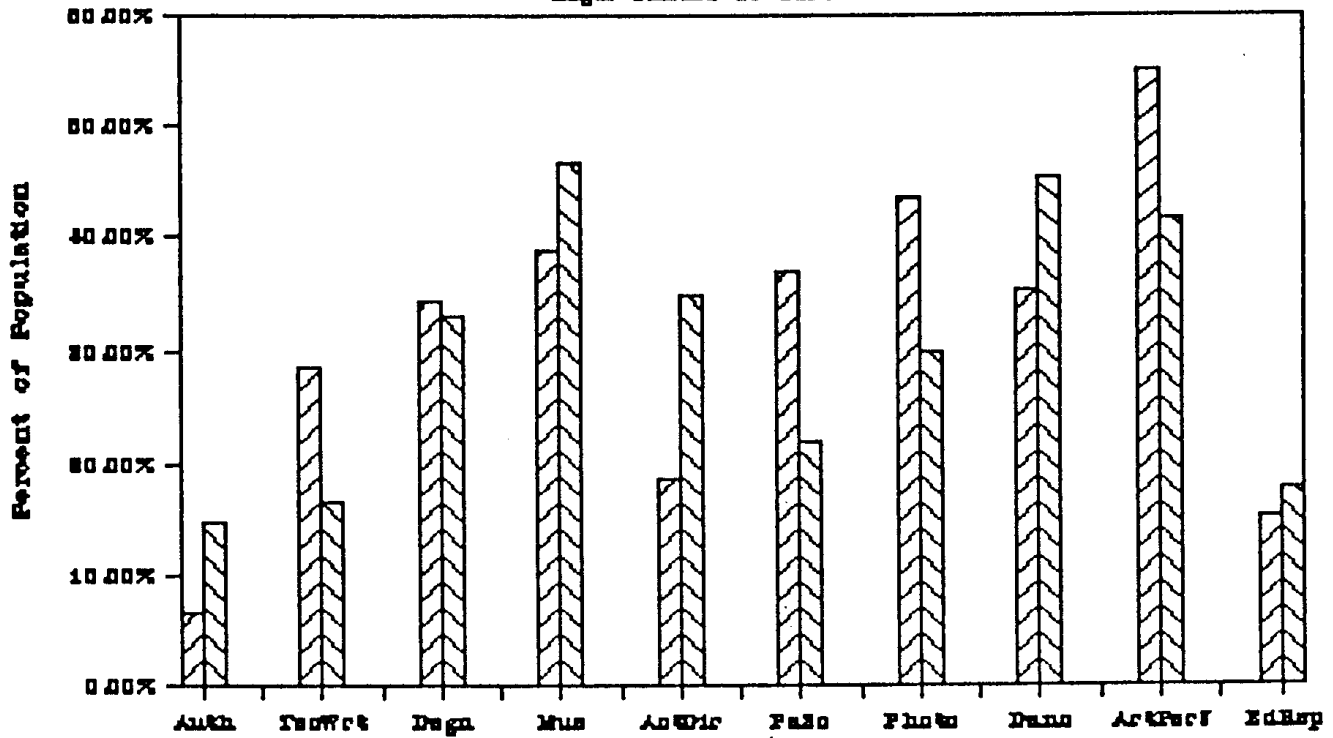


Figure 11a.

College Studies

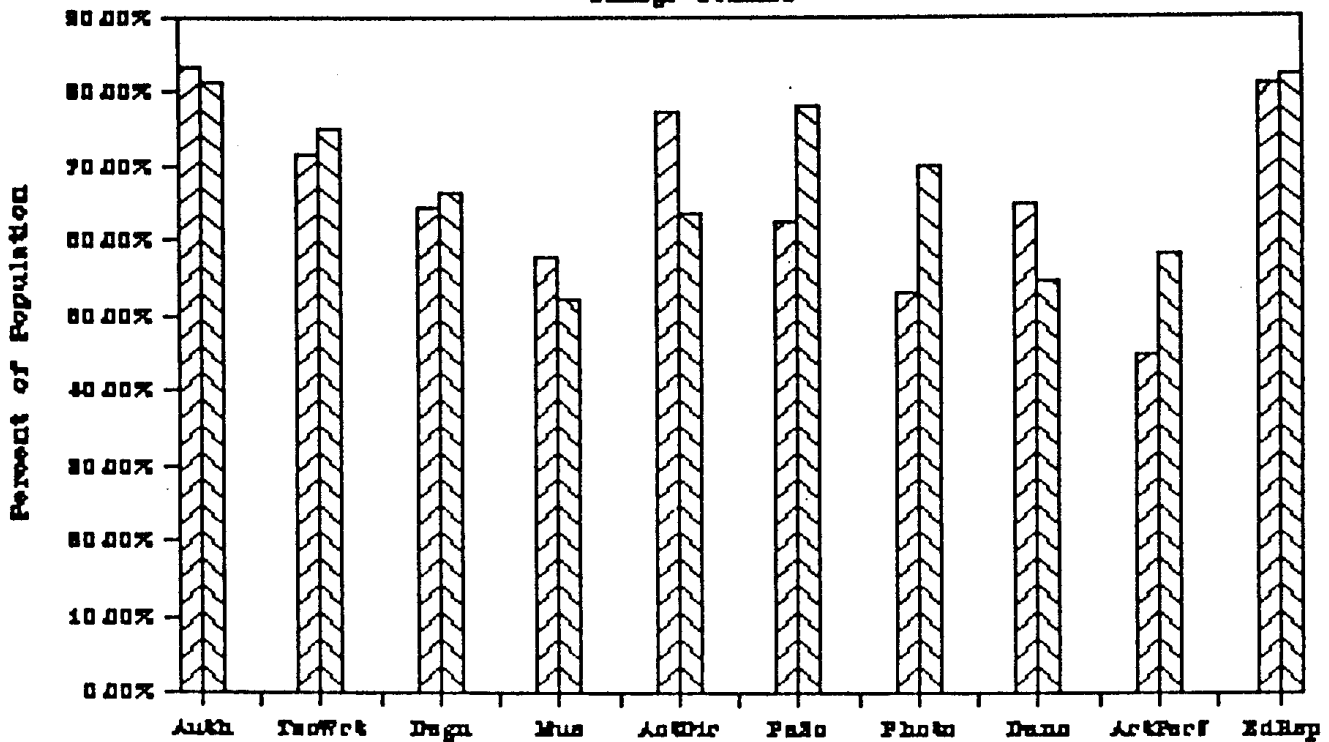


Figure 11b.



New York



California

Scholars within Art Occupations

New York

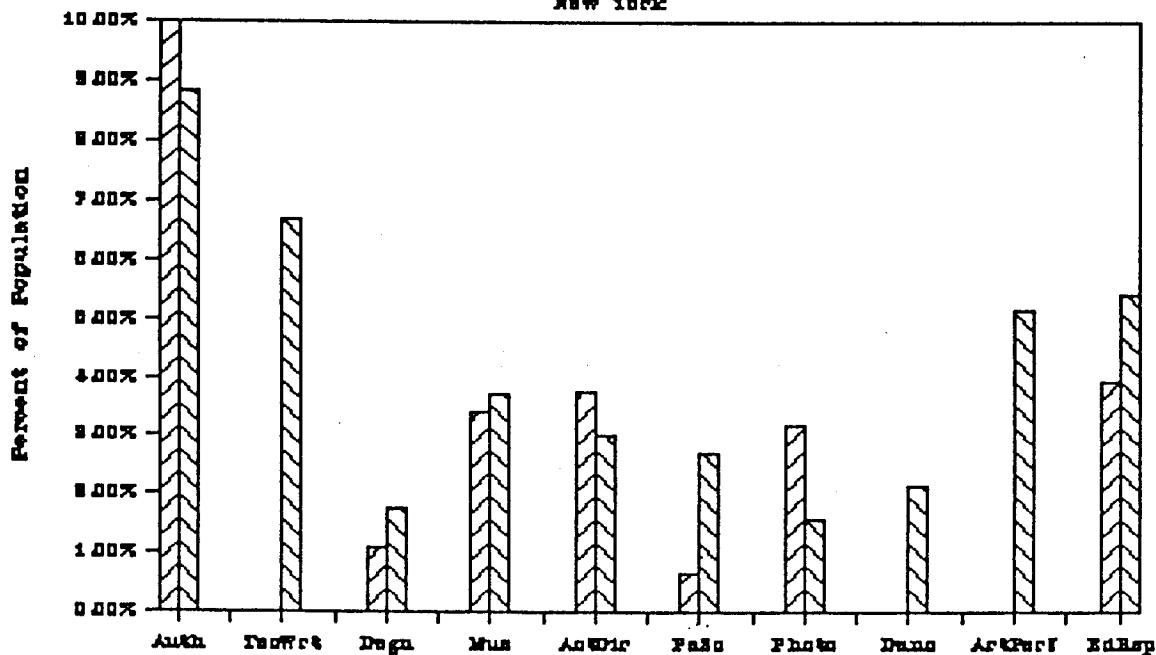


Figure 13a.

California

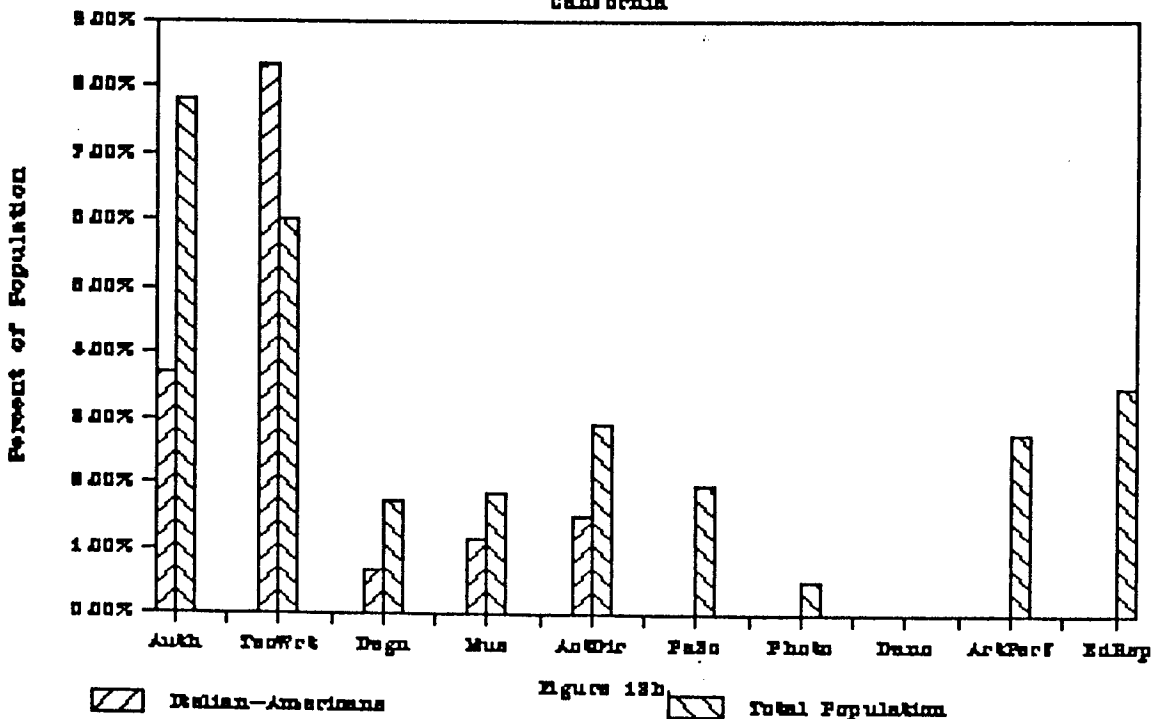


Figure 13b.

Indian-Americans

Total Population

TABLE 24
 SELF RATING OF ACADEMIC ABILITY

<u>Self-rating</u>	<u>Senior Colleges</u>			<u>Community Colleges</u>		
	<u>Minorities</u>	<u>Other Whites</u>	<u>Italian-Americans</u>	<u>Minorities</u>	<u>Other Whites</u>	<u>Italian-Americans</u>
above average	46%	61%	60%	35%	39%	34%
average	53	38	40	62	60	64
below average	2	1	0	4	2	2

TABLE 25
 PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO ESTIMATE A STRONG CHANCE OR SOME CHANCE THAT THEY WILL:

	<u>Senior Colleges</u>			<u>Community Colleges</u>		
	<u>Minorities</u>	<u>Other Whites</u>	<u>Italian-Americans</u>	<u>Minorities</u>	<u>Other Whites</u>	<u>Italian-Americans</u>
drop out temporarily	8%	10%	7%	8%	11%	10%
drop out permanently	5	8	7	5	8	7
transfer to another college	42	54	38	38	42	37