

How Has Our Nation's Population Changed Data Visualization and Supplemental Tables Technical Documentation

May 25, 2023

Notes

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File (SF1), 2010 Census Summary File 1 (SF1), 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

U.S. total and state rank do not include Puerto Rico. Rankings based on unrounded numbers.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

An “–” means there were insufficient cases to compute the measure.

A "+" means the median falls in the highest interval of an open-ended distribution.

An "M" means number in millions.

A "K" means number in thousands.

Geography

Due to the county boundary changes, Chugach Census Area, Alaska; Copper River Census Area, Alaska; Petersburg Borough, Alaska; Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Alaska; and Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, Alaska do not have data for 2010 and 2000, and Skagway Municipality, Alaska; Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska; Wrangell City and Borough, Alaska; Broomfield County, Colorado; Adams County, Colorado; Boulder County, Colorado; Jefferson County, Colorado; Weld County, Colorado; York County, Virginia; and Newport News city, Virginia do not have data for 2000.

For comparability, data for Bedford County, Virginia, and Bedford city, Virginia, were combined for 2010 and 2000, and data for Alleghany County, Virginia, and Clifton Forge city, Virginia, were combined for 2000. More information is available at [Changes to Counties and County Equivalent Entities: 1970-Present \(census.gov\)](#).

Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas defined by the [Office of Management and Budget as of March 2020](#). Due to the county boundary changes between 2000 and 2010, Ketchikan, AK MSA; Boulder, CO MSA; Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO MSA; and Greeley, CO MSA do not have data for 2000.

Demographic Housing and Characteristics File (DHC) and Disclosure Avoidance

For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, subject definitions, and guidance on using the data, visit [2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File Technical Documentation](#).

To protect respondent confidentiality, data have undergone disclosure avoidance methods which add "statistical noise" - small, random additions or subtractions - to the data so that no one can reliably link the published data to a specific person or household. For more information on the statistical methods used to protect confidentiality, see [Disclosure Avoidance and the 2020 Census](#).

Terms and Definitions

Race alone: People who respond to the question on race by indicating only one race category are referred to as the *race alone* population, or the group who reported *only one* race.

Race in combination: People who respond to the question on race by indicating more than one race category are referred to as the *race in combination* population, the Multiracial population, or the Two or More Races population.

Ethnicity: Ethnicity is defined by the Office of Management and Budget as either “Hispanic or Latino” or “Not Hispanic or Latino.” The Office of Management and Budget defines "Hispanic or Latino" as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. People who identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.

About Race and Ethnicity Data in the 2020 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau collects race and ethnicity data in accordance with the [1997 Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity](#) directed by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The 1997 OMB Standards require two minimum ethnicity categories (“Hispanic or Latino” and “Not Hispanic or Latino”) and five minimum race categories (“White,” “Black or African American,” “American Indian or Alaska Native,” “Asian,” and “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander”). A sixth category, “Some Other Race,” is also used with OMB’s approval. The 1997 OMB Standards allow respondents to report more than one race.

[Several improvements made to the 2020 Census question on race and how the data were processed and coded](#) has led to changes in the distributions of the race data. Because of these methodological changes, we advise that data users use caution when comparing race data from the 2020 Census to previous data sets.

In the 2000 Census, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15 percent) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population and race combinations involving Some Other Race between the 2000 Census and the 2010 Census with caution.

Supplemental Ranking Tables

These excel and csv tables contain population count, median age, number and percent under 18 years, number and percent 65 years and older, and number and percent female for select racial and ethnic groups and the total population for 2020, 2010, and 2000. Tables are available for the nation, states, metropolitan areas, micropolitan areas, and counties.