

# The White Population: 2000

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## Census 2000 Brief

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By  
Elizabeth M. Grieco

Census 2000 showed that the United States population on April 1, 2000 was 281.4 million. Of the total, 216.9 million, or 77.1 percent, reported White. This number includes 211.5 million people, or 75.1 percent, who reported only White in addition to 5.5 million people, or 1.9 percent, who reported White as well as one or more other races. Census 2000 asked separate questions on race and Hispanic or Latino origin. Hispanics who reported their race as White, either alone or in combination with one or more other races, are included in the numbers for Whites.

This report, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from Census 2000, provides a portrait of the White population in the United States and discusses its distribution at both the national and subnational levels. It is based on the Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, which was among the first Census 2000 data products to be released and is used

<sup>1</sup> In this report, the term "reported" is used to refer to the answers provided by respondents, as well as responses assigned during the editing and imputation processes.

Figure 1.  
**Reproduction of the Question on Race From Census 2000**

**6. What is this person's race? Mark  one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.**

White  
 Black, African Am., or Negro  
 American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* ↘

Asian Indian     Japanese     Native Hawaiian  
 Chinese     Korean     Guamanian or Chamorro  
 Filipino     Vietnamese     Samoan  
 Other Asian — *Print race.* ↘     Other Pacific Islander — *Print race.* ↘

Some other race — *Print race.* ↘

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

by each state to draw boundaries for legislative districts.<sup>2</sup>

The term "White" refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes people who reported "White" or wrote in entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Near Easterner, Arab, or Polish.

Data on race has been collected since the first U.S. decennial census in 1790. Whites have been enumerated in every census.

<sup>2</sup> This report discusses data for 50 states and the District of Columbia, but not Puerto Rico. The Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File was released on a state-by-state basis in March 2001.

## The question on race was changed for Census 2000.

For Census 2000, the question on race was asked of every individual living in the United States and responses reflect self-identification. Respondents were asked to report the race or races they considered themselves and other members of their households to be.

The question on race for Census 2000 was different from the one for the 1990 census in several ways. Most significantly, respondents were given the option of selecting one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities.<sup>3</sup>

Because of these changes, the Census 2000 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 1990 census or earlier censuses. Caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the United States population over time.

The Census 2000 question on race included 15 separate response categories and 3 areas where respondents could write in a more specific race (see Figure 1). The response categories and write-in answers were combined to create the five standard Office of Management and Budget race categories plus the Census Bureau category of "Some other race." The six race categories include:

- White;
- Black or African American;

<sup>3</sup> Other changes included terminology and formatting changes, such as spelling out "American" instead of "Amer." for the American Indian and Alaska Native category and adding "Native" to the Hawaiian response category. In the layout of the Census 2000 questionnaire, the seven Asian response categories were alphabetized and grouped together, as were the four Pacific Islander categories after the Native Hawaiian category. The three separate American Indian and Alaska Native identifiers in the 1990 census (i.e., Indian (Amer.), Eskimo, and Aleut) were combined into a single identifier in Census 2000. Also, American Indians and Alaska Natives could report more than one tribe.

- American Indian and Alaska Native;
- Asian;
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and
- Some other race.

For a complete explanation of the race categories used in Census 2000, see the Census 2000 Brief, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin*.<sup>4</sup>

## The data collected by Census 2000 on race can be divided into two broad categories: the race alone population and the race in combination population.

People who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the race *alone* population, or the group who reported *only one* race. For example, respondents who marked only the White category on the census questionnaire would be included in the White *alone* population.

Individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the race *in combination* population, or as the group who reported *more than one* race. For example, respondents who reported they were "White **and** Black or African American" or "White **and** Asian **and** American Indian and Alaska Native"<sup>5</sup> would be included in the White *in combination* population.

## The maximum number of people reporting White is reflected in the White alone or in combination category.

One way to define the White population is to combine those respondents

<sup>4</sup> *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-1, March 2001, is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at [www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html).

<sup>5</sup> The race in combination categories are denoted by quotations around the combinations with the conjunction **and** in bold and italicized print to indicate the separate races that comprise the combination.

who reported only White with those who reported White as well as one or more other races. This creates the White *alone or in combination* population. Another way to think of the White *alone or in combination* population is the total number of people who identified entirely or partially as White. This group is also described as people who reported White, whether or not they reported any other races.

## The White population: a snapshot.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of respondents to Census 2000 who reported White alone as well as those who reported White and at least one other race.

In the total population, 211.5 million people, or 75.1 percent, reported only White. An additional 5.5 million people reported White and at least one other race. Within this group, the most common combinations were "White **and** Some other race" (40 percent), followed by "White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native" (20 percent), "White **and** Asian" (16 percent), and "White **and** Black or African American" (14 percent). These four combination categories accounted for 90 percent of all Whites who reported two or more races. Thus 216.9 million, or 77.1 percent of the total population, reported White alone or in combination with one or more other races.

## The White population increased slower than the total population between 1990 and 2000.

Because of the changes made to the question on race for Census 2000, there are at least two ways to present the change in the total number of Whites in the United States. The difference in the White population between 1990 and 2000 using the race alone concept for 2000 and the difference in the White

Table 1.  
**White Population: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Race	Number	Percent of total population
<b>Total population</b> .....	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>
White alone or in combination with one or more other races.....	216,930,975	77.1
White alone.....	211,460,626	75.1
White in combination with one or more other races....	5,470,349	1.9
White; Some other race.....	2,206,251	0.8
White; American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1,082,683	0.4
White; Asian.....	868,395	0.3
White; Black or African American.....	784,764	0.3
All other combinations including White.....	528,256	0.2
Not White alone or in combination with one or more other races.....	64,490,931	22.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.

## THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE WHITE POPULATION

The following discussion of the geographic distribution of the White population focuses on the White alone or in combination population. As the upper bound of the White population, this group includes all respondents who reported White, whether or not they reported any other race.<sup>6</sup> Hereafter in the text of this section, the term “White” will be used to refer to those who reported White, whether or not they reported any other race. However, in the tables and graphs, data for both the White alone and the White alone or in combination populations are shown.

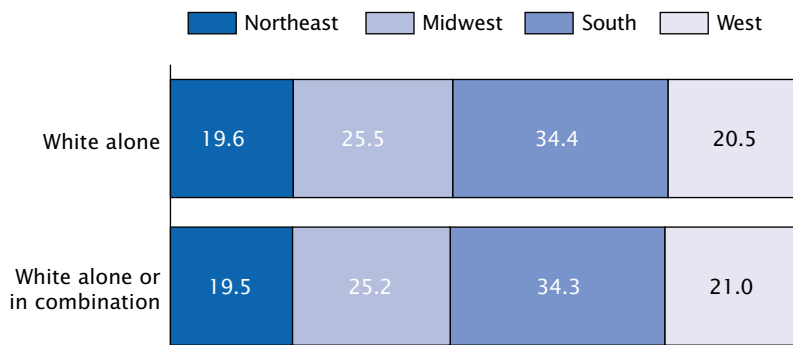
### The majority of the White population lived in the South and the Midwest.

According to Census 2000, of all respondents who reported White, 34 percent lived in the South, 25 percent lived in the Midwest, 21 percent lived in the West, and 20 percent lived in the Northeast (see Figure 2).<sup>7</sup>

Figure 2.

### Percent Distribution of the White Population by Region: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.

population between 1990 and 2000 using the race alone or in combination concept for 2000 provides a “minimum-maximum” range for the change in the White population between 1990 and 2000.

The 1990 census showed there were 199.7 million Whites. Using the White alone population in 2000 shows an increase of 11.8 million, or 5.9 percent, in the total White

population between 1990 and 2000. If the White alone or in combination population is used, an increase of 17.2 million, or 8.6 percent, results. Thus, from 1990 to 2000, the minimum-maximum range for the increase in the White population was 5.9 percent to 8.6 percent. In comparison, the total population grew by 13.2 percent, from 248.7 million in 1990 to 281.4 million in 2000.

<sup>6</sup> As a matter of policy, the Census Bureau does not advocate the use of the *alone or in combination* population over the *alone* population. The use of the *alone or in combination* population in this section does not imply that it is a preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. It is only one of many ways that the data on race from Census 2000 can be presented and discussed.

<sup>7</sup> The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Table 2.  
**White Population for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico:  
 1990 and 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Area	1990			2000					
	Total population	White population		Total population	White alone population		White alone or in combination population		White in combination population only as a percent of White alone or in combination population
		Number	Percent of total population		Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent of total population	
<b>United States . . . .</b>	<b>248,709,873</b>	<b>199,686,370</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>211,460,626</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>216,930,975</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Region</b>									
Northeast . . . . .	50,809,229	42,068,904	82.8	53,594,378	41,533,502	77.5	42,395,625	79.1	2.0
Midwest . . . . .	59,668,632	52,017,957	87.2	64,392,776	53,833,651	83.6	54,709,407	85.0	1.6
South . . . . .	85,445,930	65,582,199	76.8	100,236,820	72,819,399	72.6	74,303,744	74.1	2.0
West . . . . .	52,786,082	40,017,010	75.8	63,197,932	43,274,074	68.5	45,522,199	72.0	4.9
<b>State</b>									
Alabama . . . . .	4,040,587	2,975,797	73.6	4,447,100	3,162,808	71.1	3,199,953	72.0	1.2
Alaska . . . . .	550,043	415,492	75.5	626,932	434,534	69.3	463,999	74.0	6.4
Arizona . . . . .	3,665,228	2,963,186	80.8	5,130,632	3,873,611	75.5	3,998,154	77.9	3.1
Arkansas . . . . .	2,350,725	1,944,744	82.7	2,673,400	2,138,598	80.0	2,170,534	81.2	1.5
California . . . . .	29,760,021	20,524,327	69.0	33,871,648	20,170,059	59.5	21,490,973	63.4	6.1
Colorado . . . . .	3,294,394	2,905,474	88.2	4,301,261	3,560,005	82.8	3,665,638	85.2	2.9
Connecticut . . . . .	3,287,116	2,859,353	87.0	3,405,565	2,780,355	81.6	2,835,974	83.3	2.0
Delaware . . . . .	666,168	535,094	80.3	783,600	584,773	74.6	594,425	75.9	1.6
District of Columbia . . . . .	606,900	179,667	29.6	572,059	176,101	30.8	184,309	32.2	4.5
Florida . . . . .	12,937,926	10,749,285	83.1	15,982,378	12,465,029	78.0	12,734,292	79.7	2.1
Georgia . . . . .	6,478,216	4,600,148	71.0	8,186,453	5,327,281	65.1	5,412,371	66.1	1.6
Hawaii . . . . .	1,108,229	369,616	33.4	1,211,537	294,102	24.3	476,162	39.3	38.2
Idaho . . . . .	1,006,749	950,451	94.4	1,293,953	1,177,304	91.0	1,201,113	92.8	2.0
Illinois . . . . .	11,430,602	8,952,978	78.3	12,419,293	9,125,471	73.5	9,322,831	75.1	2.1
Indiana . . . . .	5,544,159	5,020,700	90.6	6,080,485	5,320,022	87.5	5,387,174	88.6	1.2
Iowa . . . . .	2,776,755	2,683,090	96.6	2,926,324	2,748,640	93.9	2,777,183	94.9	1.0
Kansas . . . . .	2,477,574	2,231,986	90.1	2,688,418	2,313,944	86.1	2,363,412	87.9	2.1
Kentucky . . . . .	3,685,296	3,391,832	92.0	4,041,769	3,640,889	90.1	3,678,740	91.0	1.0
Louisiana . . . . .	4,219,973	2,839,138	67.3	4,468,976	2,856,161	63.9	2,894,983	64.8	1.3
Maine . . . . .	1,227,928	1,208,360	98.4	1,274,923	1,236,014	96.9	1,247,776	97.9	0.9
Maryland . . . . .	4,781,468	3,393,964	71.0	5,296,486	3,391,308	64.0	3,465,697	65.4	2.1
Massachusetts . . . . .	6,016,425	5,405,374	89.8	6,349,097	5,367,286	84.5	5,472,809	86.2	1.9
Michigan . . . . .	9,295,297	7,756,086	83.4	9,938,444	7,966,053	80.2	8,133,283	81.8	2.1
Minnesota . . . . .	4,375,099	4,130,395	94.4	4,919,479	4,400,282	89.4	4,466,325	90.8	1.5
Mississippi . . . . .	2,573,216	1,633,461	63.5	2,844,658	1,746,099	61.4	1,761,658	61.9	0.9
Missouri . . . . .	5,117,073	4,486,228	87.7	5,595,211	4,748,083	84.9	4,819,487	86.1	1.5
Montana . . . . .	799,065	741,111	92.7	902,195	817,229	90.6	831,978	92.2	1.8
Nebraska . . . . .	1,578,385	1,480,558	93.8	1,711,263	1,533,261	89.6	1,554,164	90.8	1.3
Nevada . . . . .	1,201,833	1,012,695	84.3	1,998,257	1,501,886	75.2	1,565,866	78.4	4.1
New Hampshire . . . . .	1,109,252	1,087,433	98.0	1,235,786	1,186,851	96.0	1,198,927	97.0	1.0
New Jersey . . . . .	7,730,188	6,130,465	79.3	8,414,350	6,104,705	72.6	6,261,187	74.4	2.5
New Mexico . . . . .	1,515,069	1,146,028	75.6	1,819,046	1,214,253	66.8	1,272,116	69.9	4.5
New York . . . . .	17,990,455	13,385,255	74.4	18,976,457	12,893,689	67.9	13,275,834	70.0	2.9
North Carolina . . . . .	6,628,637	5,008,491	75.6	8,049,313	5,804,656	72.1	5,884,608	73.1	1.4
North Dakota . . . . .	638,800	604,142	94.6	642,200	593,181	92.4	599,918	93.4	1.1
Ohio . . . . .	10,847,115	9,521,756	87.8	11,353,140	9,645,453	85.0	9,779,512	86.1	1.4
Oklahoma . . . . .	3,145,585	2,583,512	82.1	3,450,654	2,628,434	76.2	2,770,035	80.3	5.1
Oregon . . . . .	2,842,321	2,636,787	92.8	3,421,399	2,961,623	86.6	3,055,670	89.3	3.1
Pennsylvania . . . . .	11,881,643	10,520,201	88.5	12,281,054	10,484,203	85.4	10,596,409	86.3	1.1
Rhode Island . . . . .	1,003,464	917,375	91.4	1,048,319	891,191	85.0	910,630	86.9	2.1
South Carolina . . . . .	3,486,703	2,406,974	69.0	4,012,012	2,695,560	67.2	2,727,208	68.0	1.2
South Dakota . . . . .	696,004	637,515	91.6	754,844	669,404	88.7	678,604	89.9	1.4
Tennessee . . . . .	4,877,185	4,048,068	83.0	5,689,283	4,563,310	80.2	4,617,553	81.2	1.2
Texas . . . . .	16,986,510	12,774,762	75.2	20,851,820	14,799,505	71.0	15,240,387	73.1	2.9
Utah . . . . .	1,722,850	1,615,845	93.8	2,233,169	1,992,975	89.2	2,034,448	91.1	2.0
Vermont . . . . .	562,758	555,088	98.6	608,827	589,208	96.8	596,079	97.9	1.2
Virginia . . . . .	6,187,358	4,791,739	77.4	7,078,515	5,120,110	72.3	5,233,601	73.9	2.2
Washington . . . . .	4,866,692	4,308,937	88.5	5,894,121	4,821,823	81.8	5,003,180	84.9	3.6
West Virginia . . . . .	1,793,477	1,725,523	96.2	1,808,344	1,718,777	95.0	1,733,390	95.9	0.8
Wisconsin . . . . .	4,891,769	4,512,523	92.2	5,363,675	4,769,857	88.9	4,827,514	90.0	1.2
Wyoming . . . . .	453,588	427,061	94.2	493,782	454,670	92.1	462,902	93.7	1.8
<b>Puerto Rico . . . . .</b>	<b>3,522,037</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>3,808,610</b>	<b>3,064,862</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>3,199,547</b>	<b>84.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>

X Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics* (1990 CP-1).

Although the South and Midwest had the largest White populations, the Northeast and Midwest had the highest proportion of Whites in their total populations: 79 percent of all respondents in the Northeast and 85 percent in the Midwest reported White, compared with 74 percent in the South and 72 percent in the West.

### **Over half of all people who reported White lived in just ten states.**

The ten states with the largest White populations in 2000 were California, Texas, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, and North Carolina (see Table 2). Combined, these states represented 52 percent of the total White population. These ten states were also the ten states with the largest total populations.

There were fourteen states where Whites represented 90 percent or more of the total population, led by the northeastern states of Vermont (98 percent), Maine (98 percent), and New Hampshire (97 percent). The other eleven states included the midwestern states of Iowa, North Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin; the southern states of West Virginia and Kentucky; and the western states of Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, and Utah.

There were eight states where Whites represented less than 70 percent of the population, including Hawaii, Mississippi, California, Louisiana, Maryland, Georgia, South Carolina, and New Mexico. While California had the largest White population of all states, it ranked 48th among the 50 states in the proportion who reported White, with only 63 percent of respondents doing so. Hawaii (39 percent) was the only state in which the White population was less than one-half of the total population. Approximately one-third

(32 percent) of all respondents in the District of Columbia, a state equivalent, reported White.

### **The White population was concentrated in counties in the Northeast and Midwest.**

Reflecting the fact that the White population represents about three-quarters of the United States population, the majority of all counties throughout the country had a high percentage of White respondents in their populations (see Figure 3). However, several distinct patterns can be seen in the national distribution of Whites.

The White population was generally most prevalent in counties across the northern half of the country with several southward projections: 1) along the boundary between the Appalachian/Upland South and Coastal/Lowland South; 2) throughout West Texas and the Rio Grande Valley; and 3) southern Arizona and New Mexico.

In addition, Whites were also concentrated in counties throughout Florida, representing a southern outlier of the more northerly concentration of Whites. Another distinctive boundary was across central Alaska, with Whites concentrated in the southeastern portion of the state.

Counties with percentages of Whites lower than the percentage for the country were concentrated across the Lowland and Coastal South. This band of counties extended from East Texas through Louisiana and southern Arkansas, across Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, then northward through the Piedmont and Coastal portions of the Carolinas, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. A northerly extension of this pattern included counties in New Jersey as well as in and around New York City.

Additional concentrations of counties with lower percentages of Whites were in New Mexico, northeastern Arizona, and a band of counties extending from southwestern Arizona through southern California, northward along the California coast, and through the Central Valley of California.

Elsewhere, counties with a low percentage of Whites were scattered but, in general, were found in large metropolitan areas, such as Chicago (Cook County, Illinois), Detroit (Wayne County, Michigan), Kansas City (Jackson County, Missouri and Wyandotte County, Kansas), and Miami (Miami-Dade County, Florida), as well as in nonmetropolitan counties in the Dakotas, Montana, and eastern Oklahoma. All counties in Hawaii had percentages of Whites lower than the national level.

### **The places with the largest White populations were New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston.**

Census 2000 showed that, of all places<sup>8</sup> in the United States with populations of 100,000 or more, New York had the largest White population with over 3.8 million (see Table 3). Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston each had White populations of between 1 and 2 million. These places were also the four largest places in the United States.

Although New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston had the largest White populations, only about half of all respondents in these places reported White, ranging from 44 percent in Chicago to

<sup>8</sup> Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including four city-county consolidations) and seven census designated places that were not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see [www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html).

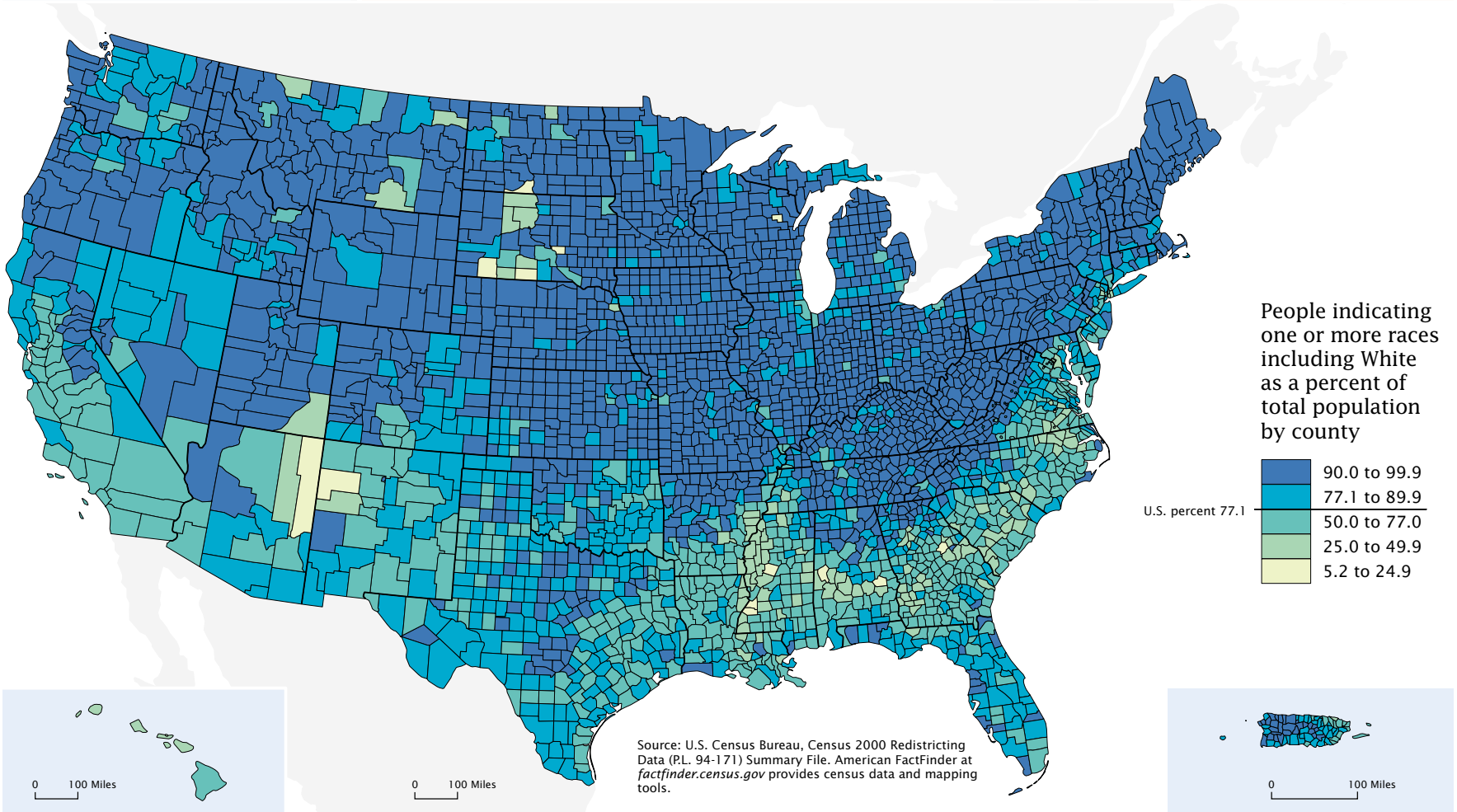
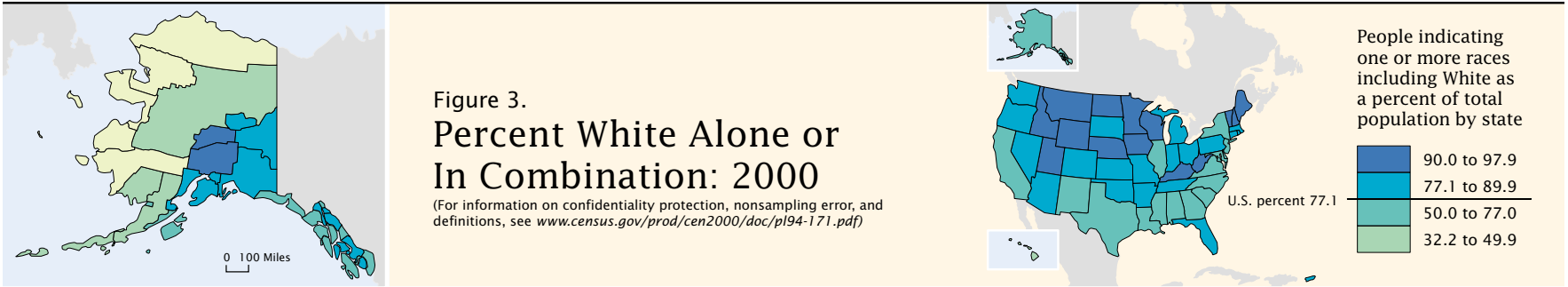


Table 3.  
**Ten Largest Places in Total Population and in White Population: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Place	Total population		White alone		White alone or in combination		Percent of total population	
	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	White alone	White alone or in combination
New York, NY . . . . .	1	8,008,278	1	3,576,385	1	3,806,508	44.7	47.5
Los Angeles, CA . . .	2	3,694,820	2	1,734,036	2	1,891,358	46.9	51.2
Chicago, IL . . . . .	3	2,896,016	3	1,215,315	3	1,282,320	42.0	44.3
Houston, TX . . . . .	4	1,953,631	4	962,610	4	1,012,413	49.3	51.8
Philadelphia, PA . . .	5	1,517,550	8	683,267	8	703,584	45.0	46.4
Phoenix, AZ . . . . .	6	1,321,045	5	938,853	5	975,418	71.1	73.8
San Diego, CA . . . . .	7	1,223,400	7	736,207	7	781,652	60.2	63.9
Dallas, TX . . . . .	8	1,188,580	9	604,209	9	630,419	50.8	53.0
San Antonio, TX . . .	9	1,144,646	6	774,708	6	810,913	67.7	70.8
Detroit, MI . . . . .	10	951,270	108	116,599	98	131,691	12.3	13.8
Indianapolis, IN . . .	12	791,926	10	549,100	10	559,773	69.3	70.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.

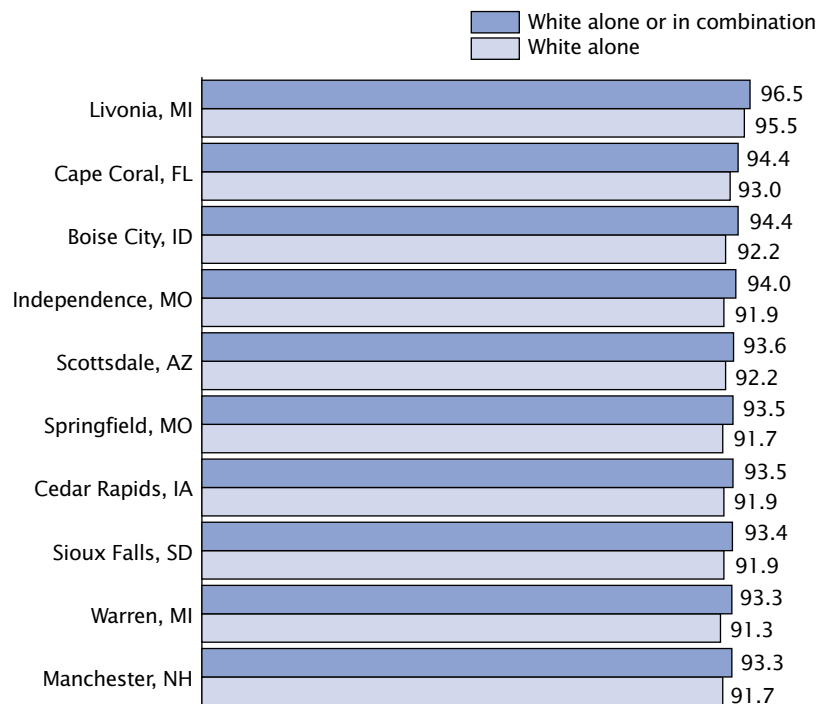
52 percent in Houston. Of the ten largest places in the United States, Phoenix had the largest proportion of Whites with 74 percent, followed by 71 percent in San Antonio.

Although Detroit was ranked as the tenth largest place in the United States, it ranked 98th in the size of its White population, with only 14 percent of all respondents reporting White. Indianapolis, with 71 percent of its population reporting White, had the tenth largest White population of all places.

Among places of 100,000 or more population, the highest proportion of Whites was in Livonia, Michigan, with 97 percent (see Figure 4). Each of the ten places with the highest proportion of Whites had populations over 93 percent White. Six of these places were in the Midwest, two in the West, and one each in the South and Northeast.

Figure 4.  
**Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Percentage of Whites: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.

## ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE WHITE POPULATION

### What proportion of respondents reporting White also reported a Hispanic origin?

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.” In data collection and presentation, federal agencies use two ethnicities: “Hispanic or Latino” and “Not Hispanic or Latino.” Race and ethnicity are considered two separate and distinct concepts by the federal system. Hispanics may be of any race, and Whites can be Hispanic or not Hispanic.

According to Census 2000, the overwhelming majority of the White population was non-Hispanic: 92 percent of those who reported only White and 91 percent of those

Table 4.  
**White Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Race and Hispanic or Latino origin	Alone			In combination with one or more other races			Alone or in combination with one or more other races		
	Number	Percent of total	Percent of White population	Number	Percent of total	Percent of White population	Number	Percent of total	Percent of White population
<b>Total population . . . . .</b>	<b>274,595,678</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>6,826,228</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
White . . . . .	211,460,626	77.0	100.0	5,470,349	80.1	100.0	216,930,975	77.1	100.0
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	16,907,852	6.2	8.0	1,845,223	27.0	33.7	18,753,075	6.7	8.6
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	194,552,774	70.9	92.0	3,625,126	53.1	66.3	198,177,900	70.4	91.4

X Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables PL1 and PL2.

Table 5.  
**Most Frequent Combinations of White With One or More Other Races by Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

White in combination	Total		Hispanic or Latino		Not Hispanic or Latino	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total number reporting White and one or more other races . . . . .</b>	<b>5,470,349</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,845,223</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,625,126</b>	<b>100.0</b>
White; Black or African American . . . . .	784,764	14.3	87,687	4.8	697,077	19.2
White; American Indian and Alaska Native . . . . .	1,082,683	19.8	113,445	6.1	969,238	26.7
White; Asian . . . . .	868,395	15.9	57,155	3.1	811,240	22.4
White; Some other race . . . . .	2,206,251	40.3	1,474,532	79.9	731,719	20.2
All other combinations including White . . . . .	528,256	9.7	112,404	6.1	415,852	11.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables PL1 and PL2.

who reported White and at least one other race (see Table 4). However, only 66 percent of all respondents who reported White in combination with one or more other races were non-Hispanic.

The White non-Hispanic population represented 71 percent of people who reported exactly one race and 70 percent of the total population. Of the 6.8 million people who reported two or more races, 53 percent were non-Hispanics who included White as one of the races reported.

**Which other races were White non-Hispanics most likely to report?**

Among White non-Hispanics who reported more than one race, most indicated they were “White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native” (27 percent), followed by “White **and** Asian” (22 percent), “White **and** Some other race” (20 percent), and “White **and** Black or African American” (19 percent) as shown in Table 5. These four combination categories accounted for 88 percent of all White non-Hispanics who reported two or more races.

**Which other races were White Hispanics most likely to report?**

Among White Hispanics who reported more than one race, the majority indicated they were “White **and** Some other race” (80 percent), followed by “White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native” (6 percent), “White **and** Black or African American” (5 percent), and “White **and** Asian” (3 percent) as shown in Table 5.



Table 6.  
**People Who Reported White by Age and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

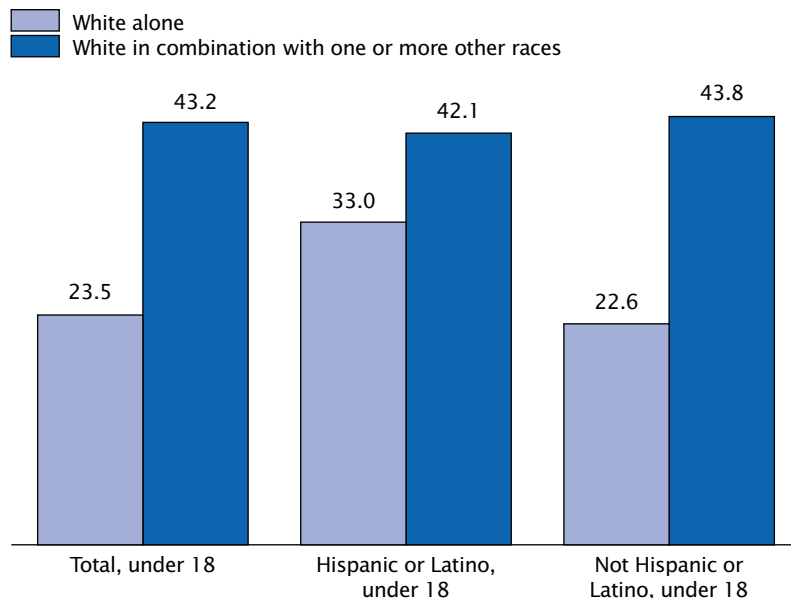
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Age and Hispanic or Latino origin	White alone or in combination with one or more races		White alone		White in combination with one or more other races	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total .....	216,930,975	100.0	211,460,626	97.5	5,470,349	2.5
Hispanic or Latino .....	18,753,075	100.0	16,907,852	90.2	1,845,223	9.8
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	198,177,900	100.0	194,552,774	98.2	3,625,126	1.8
Under 18 .....	51,963,909	100.0	49,598,289	95.4	2,365,620	4.6
Hispanic or Latino .....	6,347,306	100.0	5,571,202	87.8	776,104	12.2
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	45,616,603	100.0	44,027,087	96.5	1,589,516	3.5
18 and over .....	164,967,066	100.0	161,862,337	98.1	3,104,729	1.9
Hispanic or Latino .....	12,405,769	100.0	11,336,650	91.4	1,069,119	8.6
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	152,561,297	100.0	150,525,687	98.7	2,035,610	1.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables PL1, PL2, PL3, and PL4.

Figure 5.  
**Percent Under Age 18 of People Who Reported White by Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables PL3 and PL4.

**Which group was more likely to report more than one race, White non-Hispanics or White Hispanics?**

White Hispanics were more likely than White non-Hispanics to report

two or more races. According to Census 2000, 18.8 million people reported White and Hispanic. Of those, 9.8 percent reported White with one or more other races (see Table 6). In contrast, of the

198.2 million Whites who reported as not Hispanic, only 1.8 percent reported at least one other race.

**Were there differences in the age distribution between people who reported only White and people who reported White and one or more other races?**

People who reported White as well as one or more other races were more likely to be under 18 than those reporting only White (see Figure 5). Of the 5.5 million people who reported White with at least one other race, 43 percent were under 18. This proportion is higher than the White alone population. Of the 211.5 million people who reported only White, 24 percent were under 18.

When the White population is cross-tabulated by Hispanic origin, this pattern persists. For both White non-Hispanics and White Hispanics, a higher proportion of those reporting more than one race was under 18 when compared with those reporting White alone. Among the 3.6 million White non-Hispanics who reported more than one race, 44 percent were under 18. Of the 194.6 million people who reported

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White alone and not Hispanic, 23 percent were under 18. Similarly, among the 1.8 million White Hispanics who reported two or more races, 42 percent were under 18. Of the 16.9 million White Hispanics who reported one race, 33 percent were under 18.

## **ABOUT CENSUS 2000**

### **Why did Census 2000 ask the question on race?**

The Census Bureau is required by federal directive to collect data on race. For additional information on the legal basis for the question on race included in Census 2000, see *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*, Federal Register Notice, October 30, 1997, Volume 62, Number 210. This document is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at [www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/Ombdir15.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/Ombdir15.html).

### **How do data from the question on race benefit me, my family, and my community?**

All levels of government need information on race to implement and evaluate programs, or enforce laws. Examples include: the Native American Programs Act, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Public Health Act, the Healthcare Improvement Act, the

Job Partnership Training Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Census Redistricting Data Program.

Both public and private organizations use race information to find areas where groups may need special services and to plan and implement education, housing, health, and other programs that address these needs. For example, a school system might use this information to design cultural activities that reflect the diversity in their community. Or a business could use it to select the mix of merchandise it will sell in a new store. Census information also helps identify areas where residents might need services of particular importance to certain racial or ethnic groups, such as screening for hypertension or diabetes.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on race in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at [www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race.html).

Race data from the Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File were released on a state-by-state basis during March 2001. The Census 2000 Redistricting data are available on the Internet via [factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov) and for purchase on CD-ROM and later on DVD.

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, also see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf) or contact our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

For more information on specific races in the United States, go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) and click on "Minority Links." This Web page includes information about Census 2000 and provides links to reports based on past censuses and surveys focusing on the social and economic characteristics of the Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander populations.

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at [www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html). This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636), or e-mail [webmaster@census.gov](mailto:webmaster@census.gov).



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