

# MEN AND WOMEN IN 2002

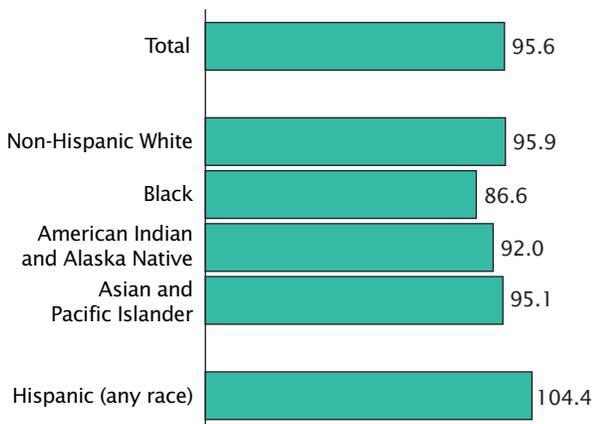
Statistics on women and men are clearly valuable to manufacturers and advertisers selling everything from automobiles to zinc oxide. These facts may be even more essential to health care planners and agencies supplying social services. As each generation comes of age, the roles of women and men change, creating a need to continually reexamine the numbers. Every year, new information on education, occupation, living arrangements, poverty status, and a variety of other topics comes from the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Women and girls made up 51 percent of the civilian non-institutionalized population in 2002 (144 million female residents and 138 million male residents), but the share of women and girls in the population varied by age.<sup>1</sup> Among people under 18 years of age, boys outnumbered girls by nearly 2 million. The proportions of men and women in their twenties were not different. The

<sup>1</sup> The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. For more information on the accuracy of the data, see Appendix A.

Figure 1.  
**Sex Ratios by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2002**

(Male population per 100 female population)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2002.

female population gradually began to outnumber the male population after that. Among the population 65 and older, women outnumbered men by 5.3 million.<sup>2</sup>

Overall, there were about 96.6 men for every 100 women in the United States in 2002. This sex ratio varied by race and Hispanic origin, as shown in Figure 1. The Hispanic population had the highest sex ratio (104.4).<sup>3</sup> The Asian and Pacific Islander population and the non-Hispanic White population had sex ratios of 95.1 and 95.9, respectively—while the American Indian and Alaska Native population had a sex ratio of 92.0.<sup>4</sup> The sex ratio for the Black population was 86.6.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> For more information on sex and age, see the chapter on age and sex distribution and the chapter on the older population.

<sup>3</sup> Because Hispanics may be any race, data for Hispanics overlap slightly with data for the Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Asian and Pacific Islander populations. Based on the total male and female populations surveyed in the 2002 CPS ASEC, 3.7 percent of the Black population, 8.5 percent of the American Indian and Alaska Native population, and 4.3 percent of the Asian and Pacific Islander population were Hispanic or Latino origin.

<sup>4</sup> The sex ratio for the American Indian and Alaska Native population was not statistically different from the sex ratio for the Asian and Pacific Islander and non-Hispanic White populations.

<sup>5</sup> The sex ratio for the Black population was not statistically different from that of the American Indian and Alaska Native population.

## Words That Count

A **sex ratio** is the number of male residents per 100 female residents.

The **civilian labor force** consists of all noninstitutionalized civilians 16 and older who are either working or looking for work. The data in this report are for March 2002 and are not adjusted for seasonal changes. Therefore, they may not agree with data released by the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Spell of unemployment** is defined as an uninterrupted period of months in which an individual was unemployed. In this chapter, an individual was unemployed in a given month only if he or she had no job all month and spent at least one week looking for work.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> This definition is for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and differs slightly from the definition used for the Current Population Survey (CPS). SIPP considers some people who were absent without pay from a job because of layoff to be "with a job;" these people are excluded from the definition of unemployment used here, but not necessarily from the CPS definition.

## Spells of Unemployment: 1996–1999

The labor market of the United States is dynamic and flexible, changing as people enter and exit or change jobs within it. Data on spells of unemployment from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) provide insight on how the market allows people to make transitions in response to shifts in labor demand.

The median duration of unemployment for individuals was 1.8 months during the period from January 1996 through December 1999. The median for women was 1.7 months, compared with 1.9 months for men, possibly reflecting differences in the types of jobs they were seeking, the conditions under which they would accept work, and other factors.

The median length of periods of unemployment generally increased with age, as shown in Figure 2,

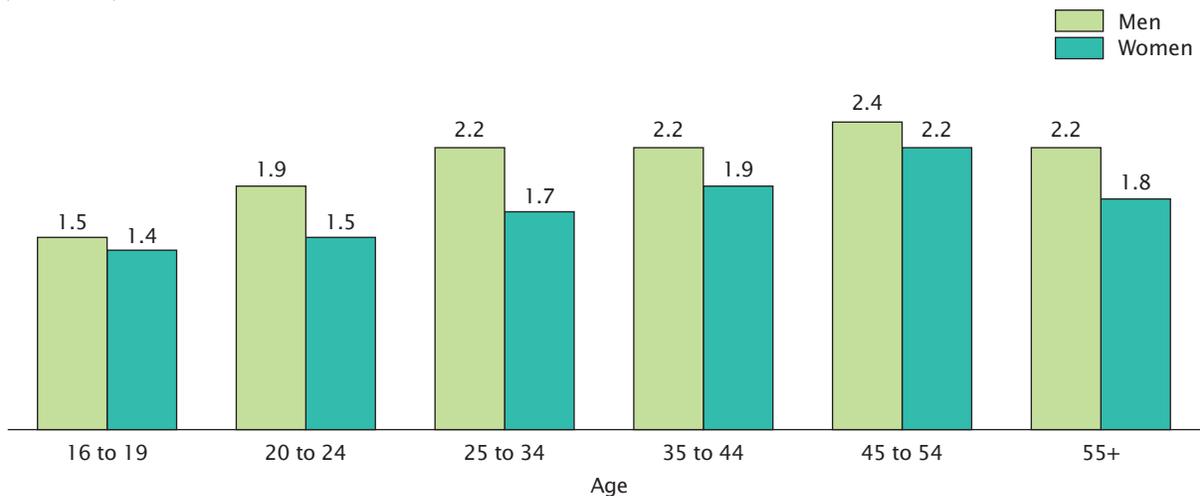
peaking among men and women aged 45 to 54. For men, the shortest median length of unemployment (1.5 months) was for people 16 to 19. For women, the shortest spells were among those under age 25.<sup>7</sup>

The shorter unemployment spells for younger workers may indicate that their job skills more closely meet the demands of the modern service-oriented labor market. Younger workers may also be less constrained by family responsibilities and better able to move more quickly between jobs. Younger workers also tend to be less well-paid than older workers and more jobs are available in the lower wage ranges.

<sup>7</sup> There was no statistical difference between the median length of unemployment for women aged 16 to 19 (1.4 months) and those aged 20 to 24 (1.5 months).

Figure 2.  
**Median Duration of Spells of Unemployment by Age and Sex: 1996–1999**

(In months)



Note: Includes all unemployment spells for people in the labor force.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 1996 Panel.

## Educational Attainment

In 2002, 84 percent of both men and women 25 and older had completed high school or more education. Completion rates for higher educational levels also varied by sex. Among the population 25 and older, 29 percent of men and 25 percent of women had bachelor's degrees or more education. Women in this age group were more likely than men to have completed at least some college or hold an associate's degree (26 percent compared with 24 percent).<sup>8</sup>

## Occupations

In 2002, 60 percent of women and 74 percent of men 16 and older participated in the civilian labor force, meaning they were either working or looking for work. The proportions of men and women in certain occupations differed.<sup>9</sup>

Among employed women, 73 percent worked in four occupational groups: administrative support, including clerical (23 percent); professional specialty, such as architects, physicians, and writers (19 percent); service

<sup>8</sup> For more information on sex and education, see the chapters on school enrollment and educational attainment.

<sup>9</sup> The occupational data shown in this report are based on a set of 12 occupational categories. For information on earnings by sex, see the chapter on money income.

workers, except private household (17 percent); and executive, administrators, and managerial (15 percent).

The top four occupational groups for men accounted for 59 percent of employed men. These occupations included precision production, craft, and repair (18 percent); executive, administrators, and managerial (16 percent); professional specialty (14 percent); and sales (11 percent).

## The Census Bureau Can Tell You More

For more detailed information consult, the following U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Reports: *Women and Men in the United States: March 2002* (P20-544) by Reneé E. Spraggins and *Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Spells of Unemployment, 1996-1999* (P70-93) by Alfred O. Gottschalck.

Look for detailed tables on the Census Bureau's Web site <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>. Click on "W" and select "Women."

Contact the Census Bureau's Customer Service Center at 301-763-INFO (4636) or e-mail <[hhes-info@census.gov](mailto:hhes-info@census.gov)>.

For information on women, contact the Special Populations Staff of the Census Bureau at 301-763-2378 or e-mail <[pop@census.gov](mailto:pop@census.gov)>.