Age and Sex Composition: 2010

2010 Census Briefs

Issued May 2011

C2010BR-03

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INTRODUCTION

Focusing on a population's age and sex composition is one of the most basic ways to understand population change over time. Since Census 2000, the population has continued to grow older, with many states reaching a median age over 40 years. At the same time, increases in the number of men at older ages are apparent. Understanding a population's age and sex composition yields insights into changing phenomena and highlights future social and economic challenges.

This report describes the age and sex composition of the United States in 2010. It is part of a series that provides an overview of the population and housing data collected from the 2010 Census. It highlights analysis of age and sex at the national level, as well as for regions, states, and counties and for places with populations of 100,000 or more. A comparison with Census 2000 data is also provided, showing the changes in age and sex composition that have taken place over the last 10 years.

This report also provides information about how age and sex data were collected in the 2010 Census. The data for this report are based on the *2010 Census Summary File 1*, which is among the first 2010 Census data products to be released.[1]

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Questions on Sex, Age, and Date of Birth From the 2010 Census

3. What is this person's sex? *Mark* ☒ *ONE box.*

☐ Male ☐ Female

4. What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?
Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.
Print numbers in boxes.

Age on April 1, 2010	Month	Day	Year of birth

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire.

SEX AND AGE QUESTIONS

Data on the sex and age composition of the United States and your community are derived from the 2010 Census questions on sex, age, and date of birth (Figure 1).

The sex question remains unchanged from the previous census. Information on the sex of individuals is one of the few items obtained in the original 1790 Census and in every census since.

As with sex, information on age has been collected since 1790. The 2010 Census age data were derived from a two-part question. The first part asked for the age of the person, and the second part asked for the date of birth. The question is

[1] The *2010 Census Summary File 1* (SF1) contains data on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, group quarters, relationship, tenure, and households at a variety of geographic levels down to the block level. For a detailed schedule of 2010 Census products and release dates, visit <www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/glance/index.html>.

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Table 1.
Population by Sex and Selected Age Groups: 2000 and 2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Sex and selected age groups	2000		2010		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population	**281,421,906**	**100.0**	**308,745,538**	**100.0**	**27,323,632**	**9.7**
SEX						
Male	138,053,563	49.1	151,781,326	49.2	13,727,763	9.9
Female	143,368,343	50.9	156,964,212	50.8	13,595,869	9.5
SELECTED AGE GROUPS						
Under 18 years	72,293,812	25.7	74,181,467	24.0	1,887,655	2.6
Under 5 years	19,175,798	6.8	20,201,362	6.5	1,025,564	5.3
5 to 17 years	53,118,014	18.9	53,980,105	17.5	862,091	1.6
18 to 44 years	112,183,705	39.9	112,806,642	36.5	622,937	0.6
18 to 24 years	27,143,454	9.6	30,672,088	9.9	3,528,634	13.0
25 to 44 years	85,040,251	30.2	82,134,554	26.6	–2,905,697	–3.4
45 to 64 years	61,952,636	22.0	81,489,445	26.4	19,536,809	31.5
65 years and over	34,991,753	12.4	40,267,984	13.0	5,276,231	15.1
16 years and over	217,149,127	77.2	243,275,505	78.8	26,126,378	12.0
18 years and over	209,128,094	74.3	234,564,071	76.0	25,435,977	12.2
21 years and over	196,899,193	70.0	220,958,853	71.6	24,059,660	12.2
62 years and over	41,256,029	14.7	49,972,181	16.2	8,716,152	21.1

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 1* and *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

designed in two parts in order to maximize both the accuracy and the number of people responding to this item. The age question itself is unchanged since Census 2000, however, an instruction was added to guide respondents to report the ages of babies as 0 years old if they were less than 1 year old. In previous censuses, researchers found that respondents often reported their babies' ages in terms of days, weeks, or months, rather than in terms of years. This instruction was added to reduce reporting problems for babies.

AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

According to the 2010 Census, the population of the United States on April 1, 2010, was 308.7 million people, representing a 9.7 percent increase in population since 2000, when the population was 281.4 million (Table 1). Growth was slower than the 13.2 percent increase experienced during the previous decade, but similar to the growth between 1980 and 1990 (9.8 percent). Of the 2010 Census population, 157.0 million were female (50.8 percent) while 151.8 million were male (49.2 percent). Between 2000 and 2010, the male population grew at a slightly faster rate (9.9 percent) than the female population (9.5 percent).

The population grew at a faster rate in the older ages than in the younger ages.

The data presented in Table 1 also include the distribution of the population for selected age categories. In the 2010 Census, the number of people under age 18 was 74.2 million (24.0 percent of the total population). The younger working-age population, ages 18 to 44, represented 112.8 million persons (36.5 percent). The older working-age population, ages 45 to 64, made up 81.5 million persons (26.4 percent). Finally, the 65 and over population was 40.3 million persons (13.0 percent).

Between 2000 and 2010, the population under the age of 18 grew at a rate of 2.6 percent. The growth rate was even slower for those aged 18 to 44 (0.6 percent). This contrasts with the substantially faster growth rates seen at older ages. The population aged 45 to 64 grew at a rate of 31.5 percent. The large growth in this age group is primarily due to the aging of the Baby Boom population.[2] Finally, the population aged 65 and over also grew at a faster rate (15.1 percent) than the population under age 45.

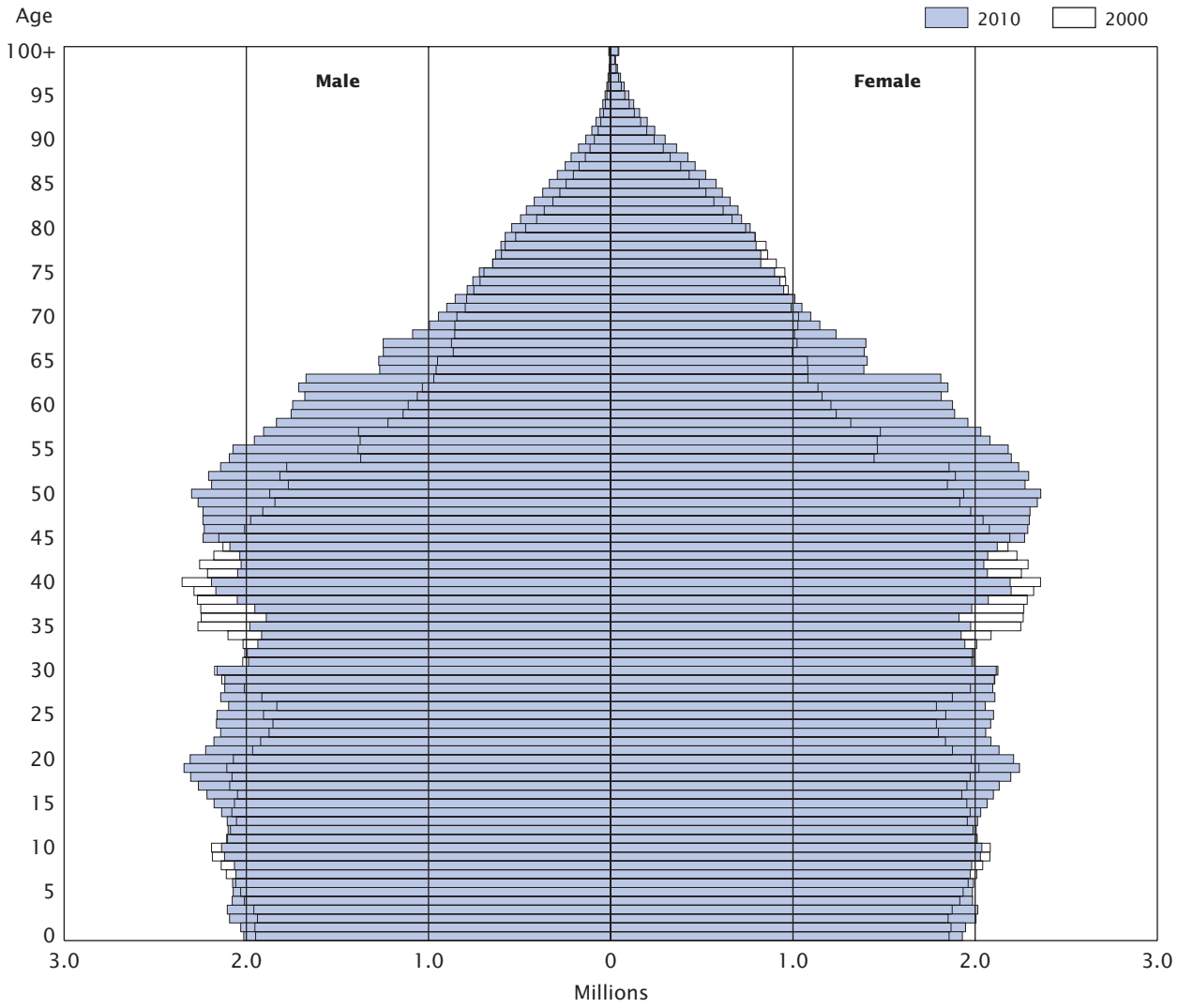
Another important tool for analyzing the age and sex composition of the population is the age-sex pyramid (Figure 2). The age-sex pyramid shows the number of males (on the left) and number of females (on the right) by single years of age. The 2000 and 2010 pyramids are superimposed to make it easy to study the population at each point in time and to assess change. The shape of the pyramid can give important information about the population's

[2] The Baby Boom includes people born from mid-1946 to 1964. The Baby Boom is distinguished by a dramatic increase in birth rates following World War II and comprises one of the largest generations in U.S. history. For more information, see Howard Hogan, Deborah Perez, and William Bell, *Who (Really) Are the First Baby Boomers?* Joint Statistical Meetings Proceedings, Social Statistics Section, Alexandria, VA: American Statistical Association, 2008, pp. 1009–16.

Figure 2.

Population by Age and Sex: 2000 and 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 1* and *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

composition. The 2010 Census age-sex pyramid is typical of developed countries, showing a broad base with a middle section of nearly the same dimension and then gradually tapering off at the oldest ages to a point at the top. Between 2000 and 2010, the population pyramid has become more rectangular in shape.

The Baby Boom population in 2010 is evident in the pyramid as a bulge at ages 46 to 64. Consistent with this trend, the age group 60 to 64 was the five-year age group with the largest percent increase (55.6 percent) followed by the 55 to 59 age group (46.0 percent) (Table 2). The five-year age group with the largest percent decrease was the population aged 35 to 39 (11.1 percent decrease). The lopsided point at the top of the pyramid indicates differences in the number of males and females at older ages. This is a result of differences in mortality for men and women, where women tend to live longer than men. These mortality differences between men

Table 2.
Population by Age and Sex: 2000 and 2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Age	2000			2010			Percent change, 2000 to 2010		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
All ages	**281,421,906**	**138,053,563**	**143,368,343**	**308,745,538**	**151,781,326**	**156,964,212**	**9.7**	**9.9**	**9.5**
Under 5 years	19,175,798	9,810,733	9,365,065	20,201,362	10,319,427	9,881,935	5.3	5.2	5.5
5 to 9 years	20,549,505	10,523,277	10,026,228	20,348,657	10,389,638	9,959,019	–1.0	–1.3	–0.7
10 to 14 years	20,528,072	10,520,197	10,007,875	20,677,194	10,579,862	10,097,332	0.7	0.6	0.9
15 to 19 years	20,219,890	10,391,004	9,828,886	22,040,343	11,303,666	10,736,677	9.0	8.8	9.2
20 to 24 years	18,964,001	9,687,814	9,276,187	21,585,999	11,014,176	10,571,823	13.8	13.7	14.0
25 to 29 years	19,381,336	9,798,760	9,582,576	21,101,849	10,635,591	10,466,258	8.9	8.5	9.2
30 to 34 years	20,510,388	10,321,769	10,188,619	19,962,099	9,996,500	9,965,599	–2.7	–3.2	–2.2
35 to 39 years	22,706,664	11,318,696	11,387,968	20,179,642	10,042,022	10,137,620	–11.1	–11.3	–11.0
40 to 44 years	22,441,863	11,129,102	11,312,761	20,890,964	10,393,977	10,496,987	–6.9	–6.6	–7.2
45 to 49 years	20,092,404	9,889,506	10,202,898	22,708,591	11,209,085	11,499,506	13.0	13.3	12.7
50 to 54 years	17,585,548	8,607,724	8,977,824	22,298,125	10,933,274	11,364,851	26.8	27.0	26.6
55 to 59 years	13,469,237	6,508,729	6,960,508	19,664,805	9,523,648	10,141,157	46.0	46.3	45.7
60 to 64 years	10,805,447	5,136,627	5,668,820	16,817,924	8,077,500	8,740,424	55.6	57.3	54.2
65 to 69 years	9,533,545	4,400,362	5,133,183	12,435,263	5,852,547	6,582,716	30.4	33.0	28.2
70 to 74 years	8,857,441	3,902,912	4,954,529	9,278,166	4,243,972	5,034,194	4.7	8.7	1.6
75 to 79 years	7,415,813	3,044,456	4,371,357	7,317,795	3,182,388	4,135,407	–1.3	4.5	–5.4
80 to 84 years	4,945,367	1,834,897	3,110,470	5,743,327	2,294,374	3,448,953	16.1	25.0	10.9
85 to 89 years	2,789,818	876,501	1,913,317	3,620,459	1,273,867	2,346,592	29.8	45.3	22.6
90 to 94 years	1,112,531	282,325	830,206	1,448,366	424,387	1,023,979	30.2	50.3	23.3
95 to 99 years	286,784	58,115	228,669	371,244	82,263	288,981	29.5	41.6	26.4
100 years and over	50,454	10,057	40,397	53,364	9,162	44,202	5.8	–8.9	9.4
Median age	35.3	34.0	36.5	37.2	35.8	38.5	(X)	(X)	(X)

(X) Not applicable

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 1* and *2010 Census Summary File 1.*

and women also impact another important indicator of population composition, the sex ratio.

Faster growth in the male population led to increased sex ratios.

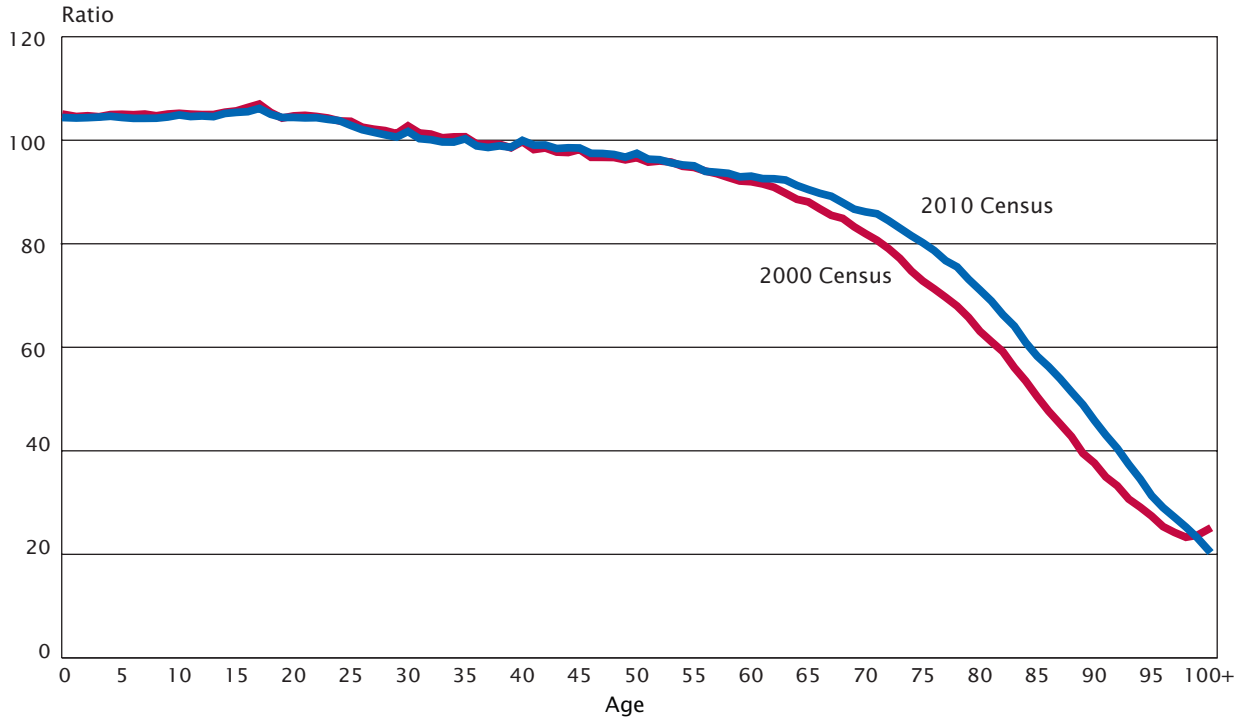
The sex ratio is a common measure used to describe the balance between males and females in the population. It is defined as the number of males per 100 females. A sex ratio of exactly 100 would indicate an equal number of males and females, with a sex ratio under 100 indicating a greater number of females. The sex ratio at birth in the United States has been around 105 males for every 100 females, however, since mortality at every age is generally higher for males, the sex ratio naturally declines with age. This tendency progresses through ages 85 and above where there are considerably more surviving women. These trends result in more males at younger ages and more females at older ages. Sex ratios can vary from these patterns for many reasons such as the impact of international or domestic migration on a population or features of the geographic location (for example, the existence of college student housing or military facilities).

In 2010, there were 96.7 males per 100 females, an increase from 2000 when the sex ratio was 96.3 males per 100 females, resulting from a greater increase of males than females over the decade. Looking at five-year age groups reveals a noteworthy increase in the sex ratios for the population aged 60 and older between 2000 and 2010 (Figure 3). This change results from a greater increase in the male population relative to the female population for these age groups. Males aged 60 to 74 increased by 35.2 percent while their female counterparts increased by 29.2 percent (Table 2). A narrowing of the mortality gap between men and women at older ages in part accounts for this difference.

Population aging led to an increased median age.

Changes in the structure of the population also impact another measure of population composition, median age. The median age is the age at the midpoint of the population. Half of the population is older than the median age and

Figure 3.
Sex Ratio by Age: 2000 and 2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod /cen2010 /doc/sf1.pdf)*



Note: Sex ratio is calculated as the number of males per 100 females.
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Summary File 1* and *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

half of the population is younger. The median age is often used to describe the "age" of a population. In 2010, the median age increased to a new high of 37.2 years, from 35.3 years in 2000, with the proportion of the population at the older ages increasing similarly (Figure 4). This indicates that the U.S. population is aging. Globally, the median age of the United States is higher than countries that are less developed, but younger than most more-developed countries.[3] The 1.9 year increase between 2000 and 2010 was more modest than the 2.4 year increase in median age between 1990 and 2000. The aging of the Baby Boom population into older age groups is contributing to the increase in median age. In the United States, other contributors include stable birth rates and improving mortality.

DIFFERENCES IN AGE AND SEX BY GEOGRAPHY

A major strength of census data is its detail available at low levels of geography that can highlight variation in age and sex across the United States. This section compares basic age and sex distributions and selected measures among the geographies within regions, states, and counties as well as places with 100,000 or more population.

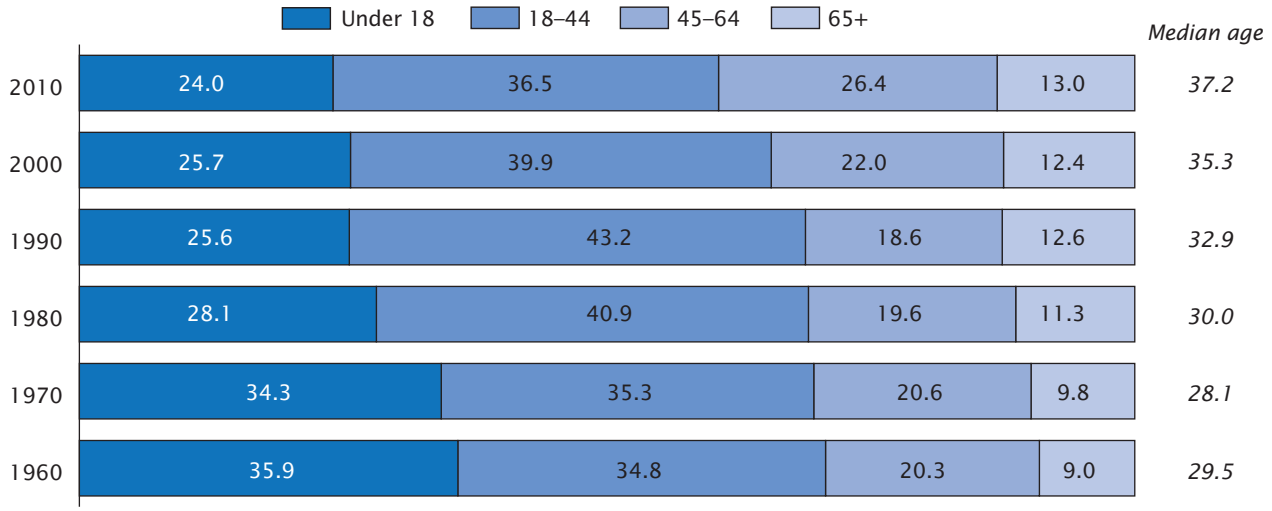
The Northeast had a higher percentage at the older ages, while the West had a higher percentage at the younger ages.

In the four census regions, the region with the oldest median age was the Northeast (39.2), followed by the Midwest (37.7), the South (37.0), and the West (35.6).[4] Table 3 shows the variation in the distribution of population across

[3] More-developed regions include all regions of Europe, plus Northern America, Australia/New Zealand, and Japan. Less-developed regions include all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America, and the Caribbean, plus Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. For more information, see Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*, <http://esa.un.org/unpp>.

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

Figure 4.
Age Distribution and Median Age: 1960 to 2010
(In percent. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)*



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*, *Census 2000 Summary File 1*, *1990 Census Summary File 2C*, *1980 Census Summary File 2C*, *1970 Census of Population*, Vol. 1, *Characteristics of the Population*, Chapter B, Table 50, and *1960 Census of Population*, Vol. 1, *Characteristics of the Population*, Chapter C, Table 156.

four age groups (under 18, 18 to 44, 45 to 64, and 65 and over). Comparing the percentages by age group shows that the West contains the largest percentages in the age groups under 18 and 18 to 44 (24.9 percent and 37.8 percent, respectively), while the Northeast contains the largest percentages in the age groups 45 to 64 and 65 and over (27.7 percent and 14.1 percent, respectively). The differences in distribution of the population across age groups accounts for the differences in median age across the regions.

All four regions had a sex ratio of less than 100, indicating more females than males.

The sex ratio also varies across regions. The Northeast has the lowest sex ratio (94.5 males per 100 females), followed by the South (96.1), the Midwest (96.8), and the West (99.3). All four regions had more females than males in their populations.

Maine and Vermont surpassed West Virginia and Florida as the states with the highest median age.

More variation in these distributions and measures can be seen when looking at state-level comparisons. As expected from the regional data, the states with the highest median ages are located largely in the Northeast, with the exception of West Virginia and Florida (Table 3 and Figure 5). In both 1990 and 2000, West Virginia and Florida had the highest median age of all states. This trend shifted in 2010 due to increases in median age between 2000 and 2010 for the states of Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. These three states had the largest increases in median age between 2000 and 2010, with an increase of 3.8 years in Vermont, 4.0 years in New Hampshire, and 4.1 years in Maine. Maine and Vermont surpassed West Virginia and Florida as the states with the highest median age.

There were seven states with a median age over 40 years.

The five states with the highest median age in 2010 were Maine (42.7), Vermont (41.5), West Virginia (41.3), New Hampshire (41.1), and Florida (40.7). In all, there were seven states, the previous five plus Connecticut and Pennsylvania, with a median age of 40 or higher. This was a shift from earlier decades, when all states had a median age below 40. Despite these shifts in median age, however, Florida and West Virginia remained the states with the highest percentage of the population age 65 and over, 17.3 percent and 16.0 percent, respectively.

Utah remained the state with the lowest median age.

In contrast, the states with the lowest median age (excluding the District of Columbia) remained the same as they were in 2000: Utah (29.2), Texas (33.6), Alaska (33.8),

Table 3.

Population by Sex and Selected Age Groups for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

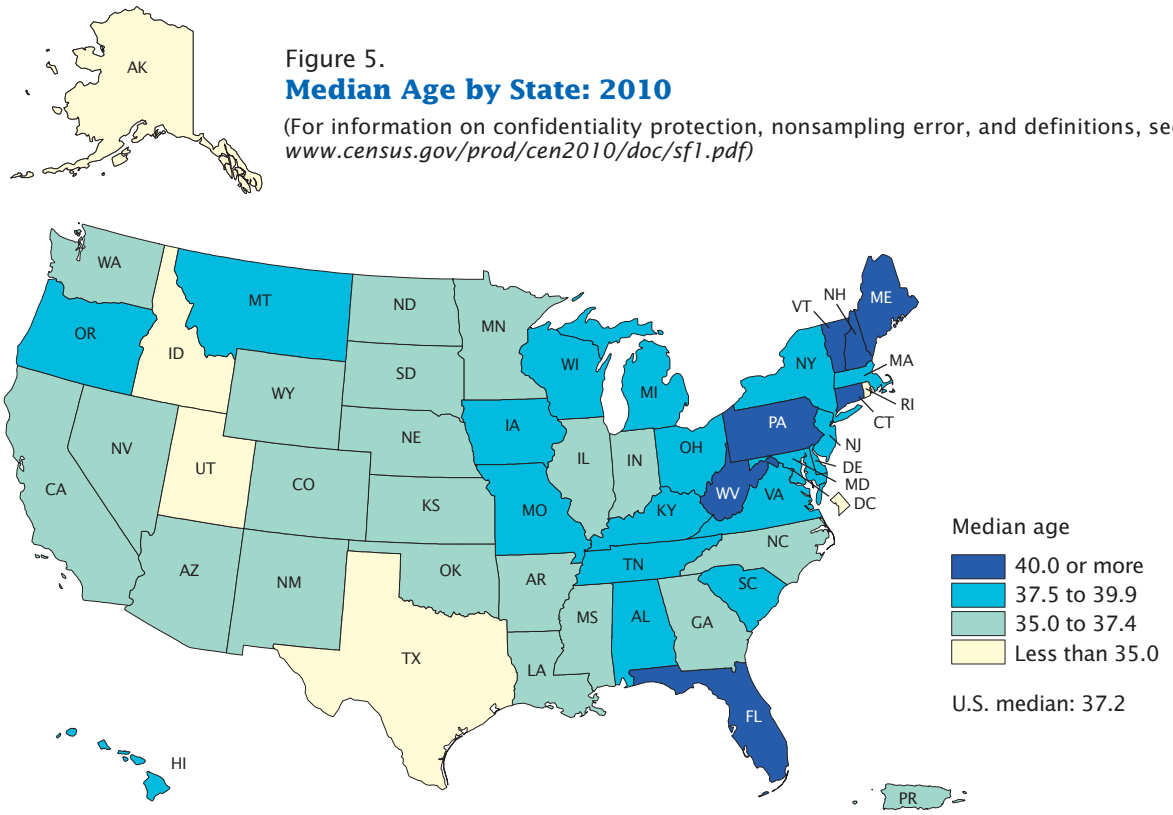
Area	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Under 18 years		18 to 44 years		45 to 64 years		65 years and over		Median age
					Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	
United States	**308,745,538**	**151,781,326**	**156,964,212**	**96.7**	**74,181,467**	**24.0**	**112,806,642**	**36.5**	**81,489,445**	**26.4**	**40,267,984**	**13.0**	**37.2**
REGION													
Northeast	55,317,240	26,869,408	28,447,832	94.5	12,333,192	22.3	19,873,499	35.9	15,305,716	27.7	7,804,833	14.1	39.2
Midwest	66,927,001	32,927,560	33,999,441	96.8	16,128,108	24.1	23,722,312	35.4	18,054,247	27.0	9,022,334	13.5	37.7
South	114,555,744	56,134,681	58,421,063	96.1	27,788,757	24.3	42,002,579	36.7	29,870,423	26.1	14,893,985	13.0	37.0
West	71,945,553	35,849,677	36,095,876	99.3	17,931,410	24.9	27,208,252	37.8	18,259,059	25.4	8,546,832	11.9	35.6
STATE													
Alabama	4,779,736	2,320,188	2,459,548	94.3	1,132,459	23.7	1,707,598	35.7	1,281,887	26.8	657,792	13.8	37.9
Alaska	710,231	369,628	340,603	108.5	187,378	26.4	270,980	38.2	196,935	27.7	54,938	7.7	33.8
Arizona	6,392,017	3,175,823	3,216,194	98.7	1,629,014	25.5	2,312,398	36.2	1,568,774	24.5	881,831	13.8	35.9
Arkansas	2,915,918	1,431,637	1,484,281	96.5	711,475	24.4	1,026,205	35.2	758,257	26.0	419,981	14.4	37.4
California	37,253,956	18,517,830	18,736,126	98.8	9,295,040	25.0	14,423,538	38.7	9,288,864	24.9	4,246,514	11.4	35.2
Colorado	5,029,196	2,520,662	2,508,534	100.5	1,225,609	24.4	1,913,620	38.1	1,340,342	26.7	549,625	10.9	36.1
Connecticut	3,574,097	1,739,614	1,834,483	94.8	817,015	22.9	1,231,474	34.5	1,019,049	28.5	506,559	14.2	40.0
Delaware	897,934	434,939	462,995	93.9	205,765	22.9	318,409	35.5	244,483	27.2	129,277	14.4	38.8
District of Columbia	601,723	284,222	317,501	89.5	100,815	16.8	292,419	48.6	139,680	23.2	68,809	11.4	33.8
Florida	18,801,310	9,189,355	9,611,955	95.6	4,002,091	21.3	6,460,456	34.4	5,079,161	27.0	3,259,602	17.3	40.7
Georgia	9,687,653	4,729,171	4,958,482	95.4	2,491,552	25.7	3,703,257	38.2	2,460,809	25.4	1,032,035	10.7	35.3
Hawaii	1,360,301	681,243	679,058	100.3	303,818	22.3	492,018	36.2	369,327	27.2	195,138	14.3	38.6
Idaho	1,567,582	785,324	782,258	100.4	429,072	27.4	554,992	35.4	388,850	24.8	194,668	12.4	34.6
Illinois	12,830,632	6,292,276	6,538,356	96.2	3,129,179	24.4	4,748,154	37.0	3,344,086	26.1	1,609,213	12.5	36.6
Indiana	6,483,802	3,189,737	3,294,065	96.8	1,608,298	24.8	2,318,485	35.8	1,715,911	26.5	841,108	13.0	37.0
Iowa	3,046,355	1,508,319	1,538,036	98.1	727,993	23.9	1,052,998	34.6	812,476	26.7	452,888	14.9	38.1
Kansas	2,853,118	1,415,408	1,437,710	98.4	726,939	25.5	1,012,552	35.5	737,511	25.8	376,116	13.2	36.0
Kentucky	4,339,367	2,134,952	2,204,415	96.8	1,023,371	23.6	1,555,679	35.9	1,182,090	27.2	578,227	13.3	38.1
Louisiana	4,533,372	2,219,292	2,314,080	95.9	1,118,015	24.7	1,667,563	36.8	1,189,937	26.2	557,857	12.3	35.8
Maine	1,328,361	650,056	678,305	95.8	274,533	20.7	432,072	32.5	410,676	30.9	211,080	15.9	42.7
Maryland	5,773,552	2,791,762	2,981,790	93.6	1,352,964	23.4	2,114,974	36.6	1,597,972	27.7	707,642	12.3	38.0
Massachusetts	6,547,629	3,166,628	3,381,001	93.7	1,418,923	21.7	2,410,178	36.8	1,815,804	27.7	902,724	13.8	39.1
Michigan	9,883,640	4,848,114	5,035,526	96.3	2,344,068	23.7	3,416,012	34.6	2,762,030	27.9	1,361,530	13.8	38.9
Minnesota	5,303,925	2,632,132	2,671,793	98.5	1,284,063	24.2	1,899,479	35.8	1,437,262	27.1	683,121	12.9	37.4
Mississippi	2,967,297	1,441,240	1,526,057	94.4	755,555	25.5	1,067,034	36.0	764,301	25.8	380,407	12.8	36.0
Missouri	5,988,927	2,933,477	3,055,450	96.0	1,425,436	23.8	2,113,347	35.3	1,611,850	26.9	838,294	14.0	37.9
Montana	989,415	496,667	492,748	100.8	223,563	22.6	330,420	33.4	288,690	29.2	146,742	14.8	39.8
Nebraska	1,826,341	906,296	920,045	98.5	459,221	25.1	648,541	35.5	471,902	25.8	246,677	13.5	36.2
Nevada	2,700,551	1,363,616	1,336,935	102.0	665,008	24.6	1,019,158	37.7	692,026	25.6	324,359	12.0	36.3
New Hampshire	1,316,470	649,394	667,076	97.3	287,234	21.8	446,764	33.9	404,204	30.7	178,268	13.5	41.1
New Jersey	8,791,894	4,279,600	4,512,294	94.8	2,065,214	23.5	3,115,326	35.4	2,425,361	27.6	1,185,993	13.5	39.0
New Mexico	2,059,179	1,017,421	1,041,758	97.7	518,672	25.2	719,307	34.9	548,945	26.7	272,255	13.2	36.7
New York	19,378,102	9,377,147	10,000,955	93.8	4,324,929	22.3	7,252,871	37.4	5,182,359	26.7	2,617,943	13.5	38.0
North Carolina	9,535,483	4,645,492	4,889,991	95.0	2,281,635	23.9	3,512,362	36.8	2,507,407	26.3	1,234,079	12.9	37.4
North Dakota	672,591	339,864	332,727	102.1	149,871	22.3	246,767	36.7	178,476	26.5	97,477	14.5	37.0
Ohio	11,536,504	5,632,156	5,904,348	95.4	2,730,751	23.7	3,989,281	34.6	3,194,457	27.7	1,622,015	14.1	38.8
Oklahoma	3,751,351	1,856,977	1,894,374	98.0	929,666	24.8	1,348,878	36.0	966,093	25.8	506,714	13.5	36.2
Oregon	3,831,074	1,896,002	1,935,072	98.0	866,453	22.6	1,382,447	36.1	1,048,641	27.4	533,533	13.9	38.4
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	6,190,363	6,512,016	95.1	2,792,155	22.0	4,388,169	34.5	3,562,748	28.0	1,959,307	15.4	40.1
Rhode Island	1,052,567	508,400	544,167	93.4	223,956	21.3	383,791	36.5	292,939	27.8	151,881	14.4	39.4
South Carolina	4,625,364	2,250,101	2,375,263	94.7	1,080,474	23.4	1,669,793	36.1	1,243,223	26.9	631,874	13.7	37.9
South Dakota	814,180	407,381	406,799	100.1	202,797	24.9	280,080	34.4	214,722	26.4	116,581	14.3	36.9
Tennessee	6,346,105	3,093,504	3,252,601	95.1	1,496,001	23.6	2,284,491	36.0	1,712,151	27.0	853,462	13.4	38.0
Texas	25,145,561	12,472,280	12,673,281	98.4	6,865,824	27.3	9,644,824	38.4	6,033,027	24.0	2,601,886	10.3	33.6
Utah	2,763,885	1,388,317	1,375,568	100.9	871,027	31.5	1,096,191	39.7	547,205	19.8	249,462	9.0	29.2
Vermont	625,741	308,206	317,535	97.1	129,233	20.7	212,854	34.0	192,576	30.8	91,078	14.6	41.5
Virginia	8,001,024	3,925,983	4,075,041	96.3	1,853,677	23.2	3,001,446	37.5	2,168,964	27.1	976,937	12.2	37.5
Washington	6,724,540	3,349,707	3,374,833	99.3	1,581,354	23.5	2,492,139	37.1	1,823,370	27.1	827,677	12.3	37.3
West Virginia	1,852,994	913,586	939,408	97.3	387,418	20.9	627,191	33.8	540,981	29.2	297,404	16.0	41.3
Wisconsin	5,686,986	2,822,400	2,864,586	98.5	1,339,492	23.6	1,996,616	35.1	1,573,564	27.7	777,314	13.7	38.5
Wyoming	563,626	287,437	276,189	104.1	135,402	24.0	201,044	35.7	157,090	27.9	70,090	12.4	36.8
Puerto Rico	**3,725,789**	**1,785,171**	**1,940,618**	**92.0**	**903,295**	**24.2**	**1,351,005**	**36.3**	**929,491**	**24.9**	**541,998**	**14.5**	**36.9**

Note: Sex ratio is calculated as the number of males per 100 females.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

Figure 5.
Median Age by State: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

and Idaho (34.6). Among the states, Utah had the highest percentage of its population under age 18 (31.5 percent), which contributed to its low median age. Utah remained the only state with a median age under 30. All states experienced an increase in median age when compared with 2000—a further indication of population aging. The District of Columbia experienced a decrease in median age, going from 34.6 years to 33.8 years. In the District of Columbia, almost half (48.6 percent) of the 2010 Census population was ages 18 to 44.

Sex ratios were higher in Western states and lower in Northeastern states.

Table 3 contains the sex ratio for each state. There were ten states with more males than females in the population, indicated by a sex ratio greater than 100. These states were concentrated in the West and Midwest: Alaska (108.5 males per 100 females), Wyoming (104.1), North Dakota (102.1), Nevada (102.0), Utah (100.9), Montana (100.8), Colorado (100.5), Idaho (100.4), Hawaii (100.3), and South Dakota (100.1). In contrast, the five states with the lowest sex ratios (excluding the District of Columbia from the ranking) were concentrated in the Northeast and South: Rhode Island (93.4 males per 100 females), Maryland (93.6), Massachusetts (93.7), New York (93.8), and Delaware (93.9). The District of Columbia had the lowest sex ratio, at 89.5 males per 100 females.

Counties with lower sex ratios were found in Northeastern states, while counties with higher sex ratios were found in Western states.

Data for age and sex were also evaluated for every county in the

United States.[5] These sex ratios are illustrated in Figure 6, which provides a map of sex ratios by county. From this map, it is evident that counties in Northeastern and Southern states tend to have lower sex ratios, while counties in Western and Midwestern states tend to have higher sex ratios. In 2010, Alaska was the only state where males outnumbered females in every county. In 2000, Alaska, Hawaii, and Nevada had a greater number of males than females in every county. In 2010, three states had a sex ratio below 100 in every county: Delaware, Maine, and Rhode Island. Both Delaware and Rhode Island had sex ratios that were below the national level (96.7) in every county.

Compared to 2000, there were fewer counties in 2010 where the female population outnumbered the male population.

Of the 3,143 total counties in the United States, 1,096 of these (34.9 percent) had a sex ratio that was less than the national sex ratio of 96.7. In all, there were a total of 2,089 counties (66.5 percent) with a sex ratio below 100, indicating that the female population in the county outnumbered the male population. This is a decrease from what was seen in 2000, when 73 percent of counties had a sex ratio less than 100.

The county with the highest sex ratio was Crowley County, Colorado, with a sex ratio of 258.6, indicating that there were more than twice as many men as women in the county. This high sex ratio results from the presence of a state prison in Crowley County. The lowest sex ratio was found in Pulaski County, Georgia, with a sex ratio of 76.1. This low sex ratio is partly due to the presence of a state prison for women in Pulaski County. The total population of each of these counties, however, was less than 12,500 people.

Among counties with at least 100,000 people, there were three counties with a sex ratio greater than 110: Kings County, California (129.6), Onslow County, North Carolina (115.7), and Pinal County, Arizona (110.4). In both Kings County and Pinal County, the high sex ratios are due to the presence of multiple correctional facilities with majority male populations, while Onslow County owes its high sex ratio to the presence of a large Marine Corps base that houses a mostly male population. The lowest sex ratios among counties with at least 100,000 people were found in Hampshire County, Massachusetts (88.0), Bronx County, New York (88.3), and New York County, New York (88.3). In Hampshire County, the low sex ratio is influenced by the presence of several colleges, two of which are women's colleges.

County-level median ages followed patterns seen at the state level.

There was also variation at the county level in the median age. Figure 7 provides a map of median age by county for all counties in the United States. While median age varied significantly among counties, patterns emerge that are consistent with findings reported earlier. For example, counties in Florida, New England, and the Appalachian Mountain area tend to have higher median ages, along with a band of counties in the Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. Counties with lower median ages are found clustered along the United States–Mexico border and within the states of Utah and Alaska.

The number of counties with a median age over 40 grew, while those with a median age less than 30 declined between 2000 and 2010.

Of the country's 3,143 counties, there were 1,683 counties with a median age over 40. This is an increase of more than double from Census 2000, where 734 counties were found to have a median age over 40. In contrast, there were only 93 counties with a median age below 30, compared with 131 counties in 2000. The county with the highest median age was Sumter County, Florida (62.7), a county with a population of just under 93,500, which is home to a large, age-restricted retirement community. The lowest median age was found in the Wade Hampton Census Area, Alaska (21.9), a county with a population of less than 7,500.

Among counties with a population of at least 100,000, the counties with the highest median ages were found in Florida.

Examining counties with a population of at least 100,000 shows that three counties, all in Florida, had a median age over 50: Charlotte (55.9), Citrus (54.0), and Sarasota (52.5). These were also the counties with the highest median ages in 2000. Counties with a low median age were consistent between 2000 and 2010 as well. The lowest median ages were

[5] The primary legal divisions of most states are termed "counties." In Louisiana, these divisions are known as parishes. In Alaska, which has no counties, the statistically equivalent entities are census areas, city and boroughs (as in Juneau City and Borough), a municipality (Anchorage), and organized boroughs. Census areas are delineated cooperatively for data presentation purposes by the state of Alaska and the U.S. Census Bureau. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia), there are one or more incorporated places that are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their states; these incorporated places are known as "independent cities" and are treated as equivalent to counties for data presentation purposes. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions, and the entire area is considered equivalent to a county and a state for data presentation purposes.

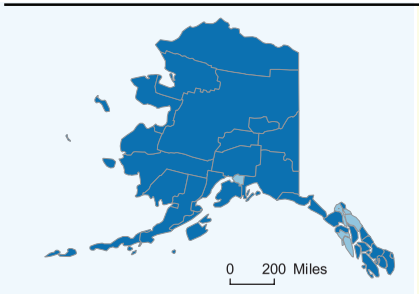
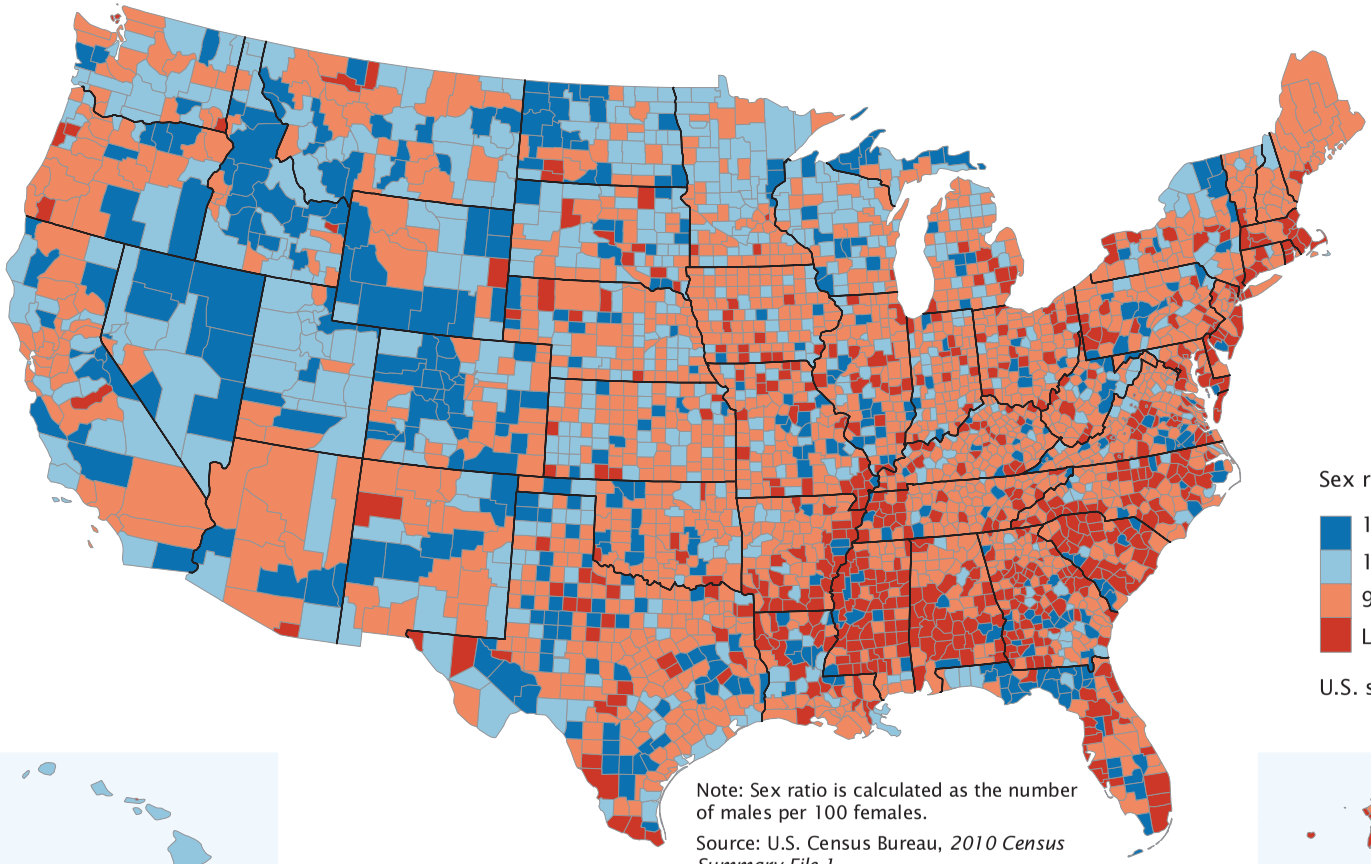


Figure 6.
Sex Ratio by County: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)*

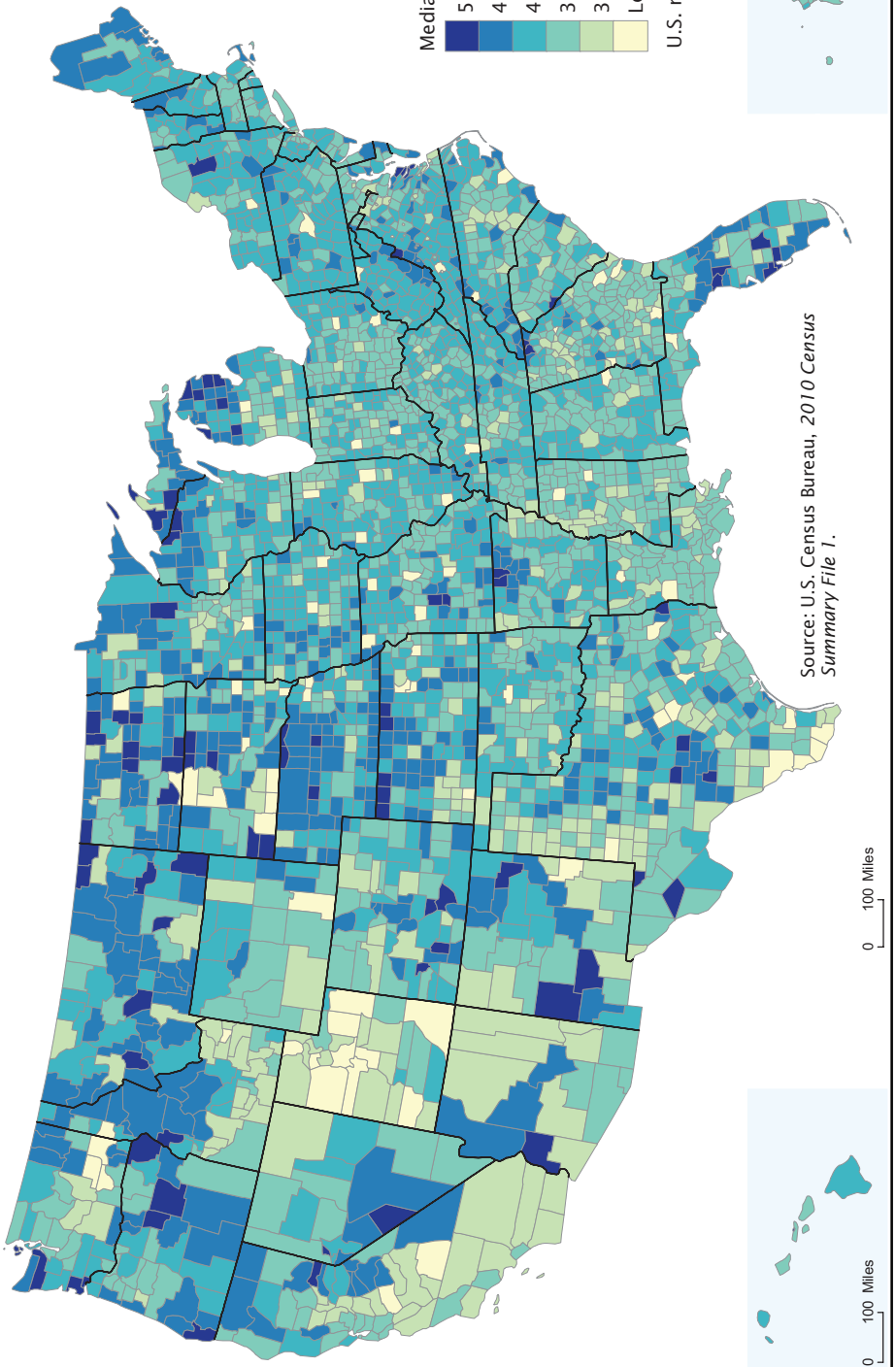


Note: Sex ratio is calculated as the number of males per 100 females.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

Figure 7.
Median Age by County: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1.*

found in Brazos County, Texas (24.5), Utah County, Utah (24.6), Cache County, Utah (25.5), Onslow County, North Carolina (25.7), and Clarke County, Georgia (25.9). Three of these counties contain large universities, which drive the low median age in each county. Brazos County, Texas, is home to Texas A&M University; Utah County, Utah, contains Brigham Young University; and the University of Georgia is located in Clarke County, Georgia. As mentioned previously, Onslow County, North Carolina, is home to a large Marine Corps base with a primarily young, male population. The presence of this base contributes to the low median age and high sex ratio in the county. With the exception of Cache County, Utah, which was below 100,000 in population in 2000, all of these counties were also in the lowest five for median age in 2000 as well.

Table 4.
Ten Places With the Highest and Lowest Sex Ratio: 2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Place[1]	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio
HIGHEST SEX RATIO				
Fort Lauderdale, FL	165,521	87,387	78,134	111.8
Tempe, AZ	161,719	84,200	77,519	108.6
Wichita Falls, TX	104,553	54,172	50,381	107.5
Norfolk, VA	242,803	125,797	117,006	107.5
Paradise CDP, NV	223,167	115,508	107,659	107.3
Columbia, SC	129,272	66,532	62,740	106.0
Salt Lake City, UT	186,440	95,627	90,813	105.3
Santa Ana, CA	324,528	165,752	158,776	104.4
Costa Mesa, CA	109,960	55,968	53,992	103.7
Everett, WA	103,019	52,392	50,627	103.5
LOWEST SEX RATIO				
Pembroke Pines, FL	154,750	71,515	83,235	85.9
Jackson, MS	173,514	80,615	92,899	86.8
Miami Gardens, FL	107,167	50,121	57,046	87.9
Birmingham, AL	212,237	99,337	112,900	88.0
Shreveport, LA	199,311	93,354	105,957	88.1
High Point, NC	104,371	49,002	55,369	88.5
Winston-Salem, NC	229,617	107,878	121,739	88.6
Montgomery, AL	205,764	96,687	109,077	88.6
Greensboro, NC	269,666	126,793	142,873	88.7
Mobile, AL	195,111	91,783	103,328	88.8

[1] Places of 100,000 or more total population. The 2010 Census showed 282 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 273 incorporated places (including 5 consolidated cities) and 9 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1.*

Among places of 100,000 or more population, the places with the highest and the lowest sex ratio were both in Florida.

Table 4 provides a list of the ten places (among places with a population of 100,000 or more) with the highest and lowest sex ratio in 2010.[6] The highest sex ratio was found in Fort Lauderdale, Florida (111.8), followed by Tempe, Arizona (108.6), and Wichita Falls, Texas (107.5). Of the top ten places with the highest sex ratio, six are in the West, with the remaining four in Southern states. As mentioned previously, both Utah and Washington were among the states with the highest sex ratios, and both states contained a place with a sex ratio among the top ten places: Salt Lake City, Utah, with a sex ratio of 105.3 and Everett, Washington, with a sex ratio of 103.5.

Interestingly, the place with the highest sex ratio and the place with the lowest sex ratio were found in Florida. The highest sex ratio was found in Fort Lauderdale, Florida (111.8), while the lowest sex ratio was found in Pembroke Pines, Florida (85.9). All ten of the places with the lowest sex ratios were found in Southern states. The list of the lowest sex ratios included several places from the same states, with three places each from Alabama and North Carolina, and two from Florida.

Among places with a population of 100,000 or more, five of the ten places with the highest median ages were located in Florida.

The ten places with a population of 100,000 or more with the highest median ages were located in the South and West regions (Table 5). Scottsdale, Arizona, had the highest median age at 45.4 years—a value 8 years higher than the national median age. Of the remaining places with the highest median age, five were found in Florida and two were in California.

Florida also had two places that were included on the list of places with the lowest median age: Gainesville, Florida (24.9), and Tallahassee, Florida (26.1). The place with the lowest median age was found in Provo, Utah (23.3), which is located in the state with the lowest median age overall. All three of these places were home to prominent universities, which directly contributed to their low median age. Provo, Utah, located in Utah County, as mentioned earlier, is the home of Brigham Young University. Gainesville, Florida, is the home of the University of Florida, while Tallahassee, Florida, is home

[6] The 2010 Census showed 282 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 273 incorporated places (including 5 consolidated cities) and 9 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated.

Table 5.
Ten Places With the Highest and Lowest Median Age: 2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Place[1]	Median age (years)
HIGHEST MEDIAN AGE	
Scottsdale, AZ	45.4
Clearwater, FL	43.8
Cape Coral, FL	42.4
Fort Lauderdale, FL	42.2
Hialeah, FL	42.2
St. Petersburg, FL	41.6
Thousand Oaks, CA	41.5
Urban Honolulu CDP, HI	41.3
Torrance, CA	41.3
Centennial City, CO	41.1
LOWEST MEDIAN AGE	
Provo, UT	23.3
Gainesville, FL	24.9
Athens-Clarke County unified government, GA	25.9
Tallahassee, FL	26.1
Columbia, MO	26.8
Killeen, TX	27.1
Denton, TX	27.1
Ann Arbor, MI	27.8
Laredo, TX	27.9
Tempe, AZ	28.1

[1] Places of 100,000 or more total population. The 2010 Census showed 282 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 273 incorporated places (including 5 consolidated cities) and 9 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

to both Florida State University and Florida A&M University. In all, nine of the ten places on the list of the places with the lowest median age contain large universities, with the remaining place, Killeen, Texas, home to a large military base. Three places in Texas are on the list of the ten lowest median ages.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON AGE AND SEX

At what age were there almost twice as many women as men?

In the 2010 Census, there were approximately twice as many women as men at age 89 (361,309 compared with 176,689, respectively). This point occurs about 4 years older than it did in 2000, and 6 years older than it did in 1990. This increase is further evidence of the narrowing gap in mortality between men and women occurring at the older ages.

What are age heaping and digit preference?

The tendency for respondents to report certain ages at the expense of other ages is called age heaping. This is also referred to as digit preference, which is the preference for certain ages, such as those ending in "0" or "5." Age preference can also include preference for a particular age, like 29, 65, 85 or 100. This phenomenon varies across cultures and is impacted by data collection methods. The Census Bureau strives to reduce age heaping by collecting both age and date of birth information. Overall, age heaping did not appear to be a concern at the national level in Census 2000.[7] Early evaluations of the 2010 Census data show similar results.

[7] For more information, see Kirsten West, "Did Proxy Respondents Cause Age Heaping in Census 2000." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association, August 7–11, 2005.

What drove the overall decline in the age dependency ratio?

The age dependency ratio provides a very rough approximation of economic dependency in a population by dividing the dependent-age population (children and older adults) by the working-age population. It is often derived as the number of people in the "dependent" age categories (under age 18 and 65 and over) per 100 working-age people (18 to 64). This ratio can be separated into two parts, the old-age dependency ratio (65 and over divided by the working-age population) and the child dependency ratio (under-18 population divided by the working-age population).

At the national level, the total age dependency ratio declined from 61.6 in 2000 to 58.9 in 2010, indicating that there were 2.7 fewer "dependent-age" people for every 100 working-age people. However, this overall decline masks the differing trends occurring in the younger and older population. When evaluating the two dependency ratios separately, the child dependency ratio declined by 3.3 (from 41.5 in 2000 to 38.2 in 2010) while the old-age dependency ratio increased slightly by 0.6 (20.1 in 2000 to 20.7 in 2010).

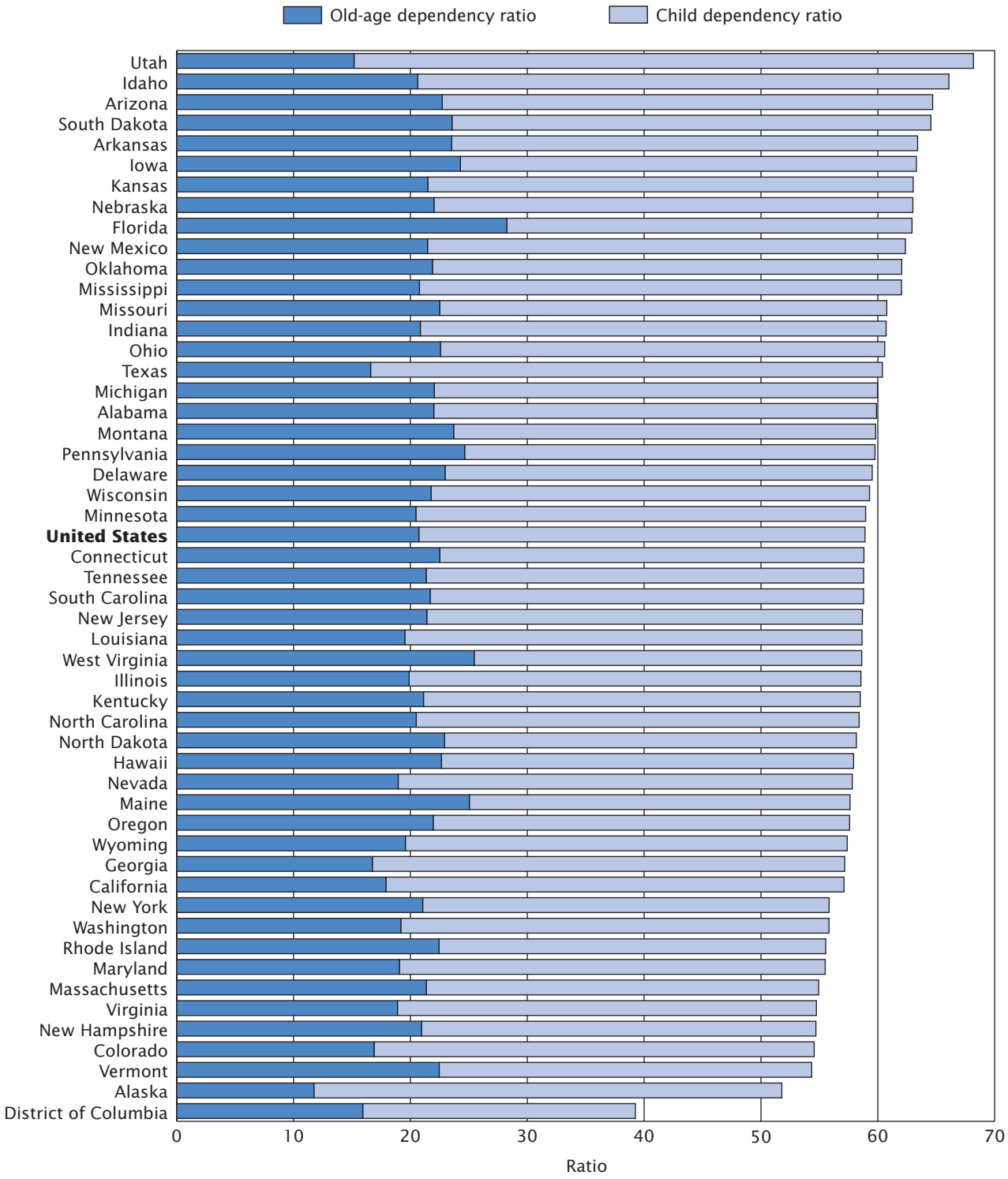
How does the dependency ratio differ by state?

Dependency ratios also varied from state to state, mirroring trends in median age by state that were discussed earlier. Figure 8 presents dependency ratios for every state, decomposing the total dependency ratio into its two parts (the old-age dependency ratio and the child dependency ratio). States are ranked according to their total dependency ratios. As is evident in Figure 8, Utah was the state with the highest total dependency ratio, and it also had the highest child dependency ratio. This is not surprising, given

Figure 8.

Age Dependency Ratios by State: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Note: Total bar length represents the total dependency ratio, which is the number of children (ages 0–17) and older adults (ages 65 and over) per 100 people of working age (ages 18–64) in the state.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*.

that Utah was the state with the lowest median age, as mentioned previously. The lowest child dependency ratio was found in Vermont, a state that also had a high median age. Excluding the District of Columbia, the state with the lowest total dependency ratio was Alaska. Alaska was also the state with the lowest old-age dependency ratio, while the state with the highest old-age dependency ratio was Florida, again matching trends in median age mentioned previously for these states. The District of Columbia had the lowest dependency ratio overall.

ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS

Why was the 2010 Census conducted?

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census be taken in the United States every 10 years. This is required in order to determine the number of seats each state is to receive in the U.S. House of Representatives. Age data are used to determine the voting age population (age 18 and older) for use in the legislative redistricting process.

Why did the 2010 Census ask the questions on age and sex?

The Census Bureau collects data on age and sex to support a variety of legislative and program requirements. These data are also used to aid in allocating funds from federal programs, in particular to programs targeting specific age groups. For example, age data are used to calculate the proportion of school-aged children in each district in order to properly allocate funds for education.

How are age and sex data beneficial?

All levels of government need information on age and sex to implement and evaluate programs, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Women's Educational Equity Act, the Older Americans Act, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and the Job Training Partnership Act. Age and sex data are used by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, among others, to aid in planning and development of services.

Other equally important uses for census age and sex data are in planning adequate schools for the school age population and to determine funding distributions for schools and planning for numerous social services such as highways, hospitals, health services, and services for the older population. Census age data are also an important source of information on population aging, such as measurement of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits. In addition to these public uses of census data, census data can also be used by private organizations. For example, census data can help researchers studying trends related to mortality and population aging or help small business owners in planning where to best locate their businesses to fit the needs of the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on age and sex in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet sites at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/age/> and <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/women.html>.

Data on age and sex from the *2010 Census Summary File 1* provide information at the state level and below and are available on the Internet at <factfinder2.census.gov/main.html> and on DVD. Information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions is available on the Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf>.

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the 2010 Census Briefs series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/>. This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and people who reside in group quarters.

For more information about the 2010 Census, including data products, call the Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282. You can also visit the Census Bureau's Question and Answer Center at <ask.census.gov> to submit your questions online.