

**Comparison of CPS Voting Estimates to Official Reports:** The data in this report and previous Census Bureau publications are based on responses to the November CPS Voting and Registration Supplements, which survey the civilian non-institutionalized population in the United States. Voting estimates from the CPS and other sample surveys have historically differed from those based on administrative data, such as the official results reported by each state, and disseminated collectively by the Clerk of U.S. House of Representatives and the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

In general, estimates of voting from sample surveys such as the CPS are higher than official results. For example, in 2014, the number of voters reported in the CPS was 92.3 million, whereas the national number of voters derived from combining state results, as reported by the respective state election administrators, was 78.8 million.

Differences at the state level are sometimes large as well. Bauman and Julian (2010) showed that the Census Bureau estimates of voting exceed estimates from state election administrators by varying margins, with larger margins appearing in many Southern states.<sup>1</sup>

The Census Bureau has historically reported state level voting outcomes, not only for the total voting eligible population, but also by age, race, and Hispanic origin groups. In 2014, Table 4a presents total state level estimates, Table 4b presents estimates by race and Hispanic origin, and Table 4c presents results by age group. The estimates presented in these tables may be affected by sampling and non-sampling error. The estimates are also frequently accompanied by large

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<sup>1</sup> Bauman, Kurt, and Tiffany Julian. 2010. "A Summary of Data Collection Procedures and Reports of Voter Turnout from the Current Population Survey." U.S. Census Bureau, Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Working Paper.

margins of error, due to the small sample sizes involved. Data users are encouraged to interpret these results with caution. Despite these issues, the Census Bureau's November supplement to the CPS remains the most comprehensive data source available for examining trends in the social and demographic composition of the electorate in federal elections.