

In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau counted 281.4 million people in the United States.¹ Of this number;

- 72.3 million, or 26 percent of the U.S. population, were under age 18;
- 174.1 million, or 62 percent, were age 18 to 64; and
- 35.0 million, or 12 percent, were age 65 and over.

The age groups under 18 years, 18 to 64 years, and 65 years and over experienced similar growth rates over the past decade — 13.7 percent, 13.2 percent, and 12.0 percent, respectively. Median age increased from 32.9 in 1990 to 35.3 in 2000, reflecting a change in age distribution toward the older ages within the age range 18 to 64.²

This report, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from Census 2000, provides a portrait of the age structure of people in the United States. It highlights information about various age groups in the country as a whole, the four regions, states, counties, and places with populations of 100,000

¹The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Table 2 and Figure 6.

²Median age splits the population into halves. One-half of the population is older than the median age and the other half is younger.

Figure 1.

Reproduction of the Question on Age From Census 2000

4. What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?
Print numbers in boxes.

Age on April 1, 2000	Month	Day	Year of birth
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

or more. It also includes comparisons with data from the 1990 census.³

A question on age has been asked since the first census of the population in 1790. The Census 2000 age data were derived from a two-part question that was asked of all people. The first part asked for the age of the person, and the second part asked for the date of birth (see Figure 1).

The Census 2000 age question added month and day of birth.

The Census 2000 age question differs slightly from the 1990 question. In the 1990 census, the question asked for a respondent's age and **year** of birth. In contrast, the Census 2000 age question asked respondents to report their age and date of birth, which included **month**, **day**, and year of birth.

³1990 populations shown in this report were originally published in 1990 census reports and do not include subsequent revisions resulting from boundary or other changes.

The figure below is a snapshot of the population in 1990 and 2000. It presents age information in 5-year age groups by sex.

In 2000, the largest 5-year age group was 35-to-39 year olds with 22.7 million people, representing 8.1 percent of the total population. The second largest 5-year age group was 40-to-44 year olds with 22.4 million people, representing 8.0 percent of the population. The relatively large number in these two age groups is represented in Figure 2 by a bulge in the age distribution. People in these two age groups were primarily born during the post-World War II “Baby Boom” (those born from 1946 through 1964). In Census 2000, the baby-

boom cohort was age 36 to 54 and represented 28 percent of the total U.S. population.

The 50-to-54-year age group experienced the largest percentage growth.⁴

Of the 5-year age groups, 50-to-54 year olds experienced the largest percentage growth in population over the past decade, 55 percent (see Figure 3 and Table 1). The second fastest-growing group was the age group 45 to 49, which experienced a 45-percent increase. The baby-boom cohort entered these two

⁴The changes in age structure between 1990 and 2000 may reflect changes in census coverage, as well as births, deaths, and net immigration.

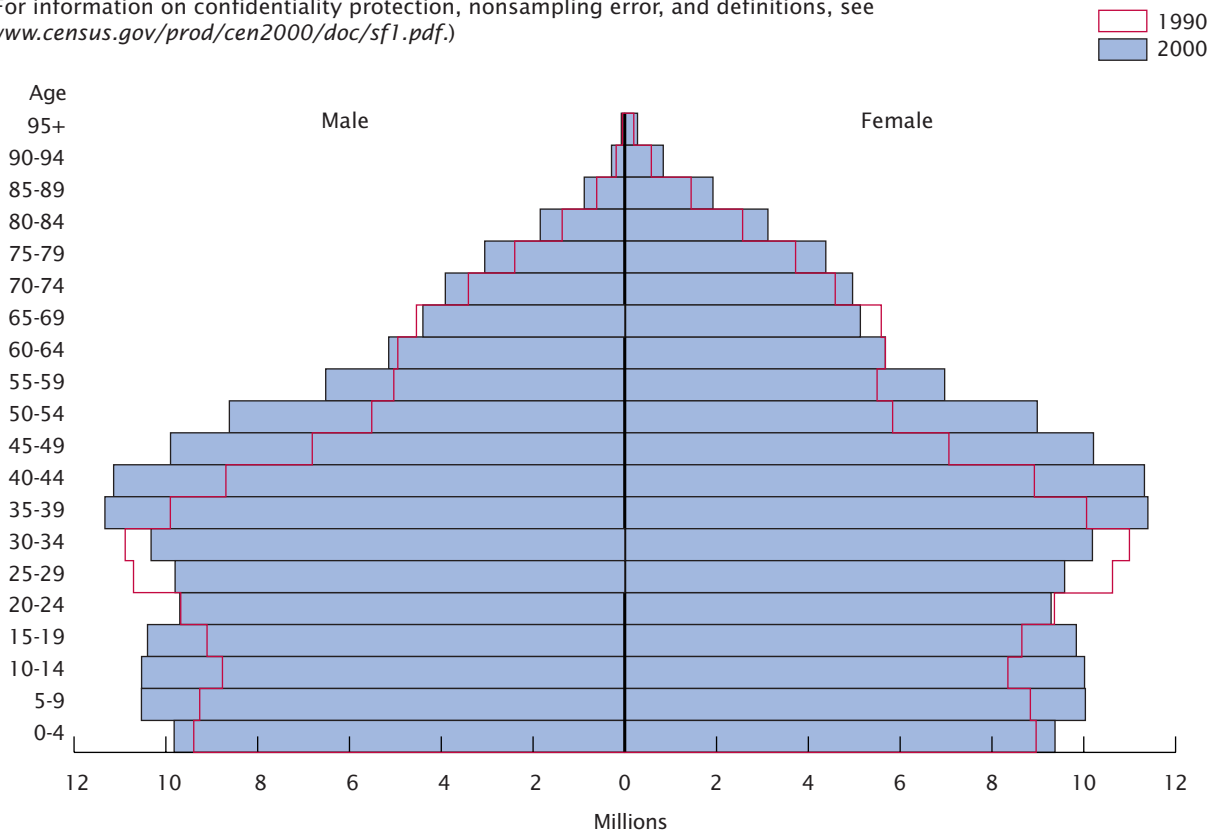
age groups during the past decade. The third fastest-growing group in the past decade was 90-to-94 year olds, which increased by 45 percent.

Some of the younger age groups also grew. The 10-to-14-year group gained almost 20 percent, while 5-to-9 year olds and 15-to-19 year olds each increased by almost 14 percent.

Four age groups shown in the figure and table declined over the past decade: 25-to-29 year olds (9-percent decrease), 30-to-34 year olds (6-percent decrease), 65-to-69 year olds (6-percent decrease), and 20-to-24 year olds (0.3-percent decrease). The number of people in the younger age groups, especially

Figure 2.
Population by Age and Sex: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf.)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics, United States* (1990 CP-1-1).

those age 25 to 34, fell as the baby-boom cohort aged into older age groups. The decline in 65-to-69 year olds is associated with a relatively low number of births during the early 1930s.

There were more older women than older men.

In general, the ratio of the male population to the female population declined with age. That is, the female population exceeded the male population at older ages, but the reverse was true at younger ages. In 2000, there were

20.6 million women aged 65 and over compared with only 14.4 million men. In contrast, there were 37.1 million males under 18 while there were 35.2 million females. The balance shifted toward more women at age 36.⁵

⁵ For more Census 2000 information about the male and female populations, see Smith, Denise I. and Renee E. Spraggins, 2001, *Gender: 2000*, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-9, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-9.pdf.

The median age for people of Two or more races was nearly 13 years younger than the median age for people of one race.

Figure 4 shows age information by race using two ways to summarize race data. In Census 2000, individuals could report more than one race. For a detailed discussion on race reporting, see the Census 2000 Brief, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin*.⁶ 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. Six categories make up the population reporting *only one* race: White *alone*, Black or African American *alone*, American Indian and Alaska Native *alone*, Asian *alone*, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander *alone*, and Some other race *alone*.⁷

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 Two or more races. For example, respondents who reported they were “White **and** Black or African American” or “White **and** Asian **and** American Indian and Alaska Native”⁸ would be

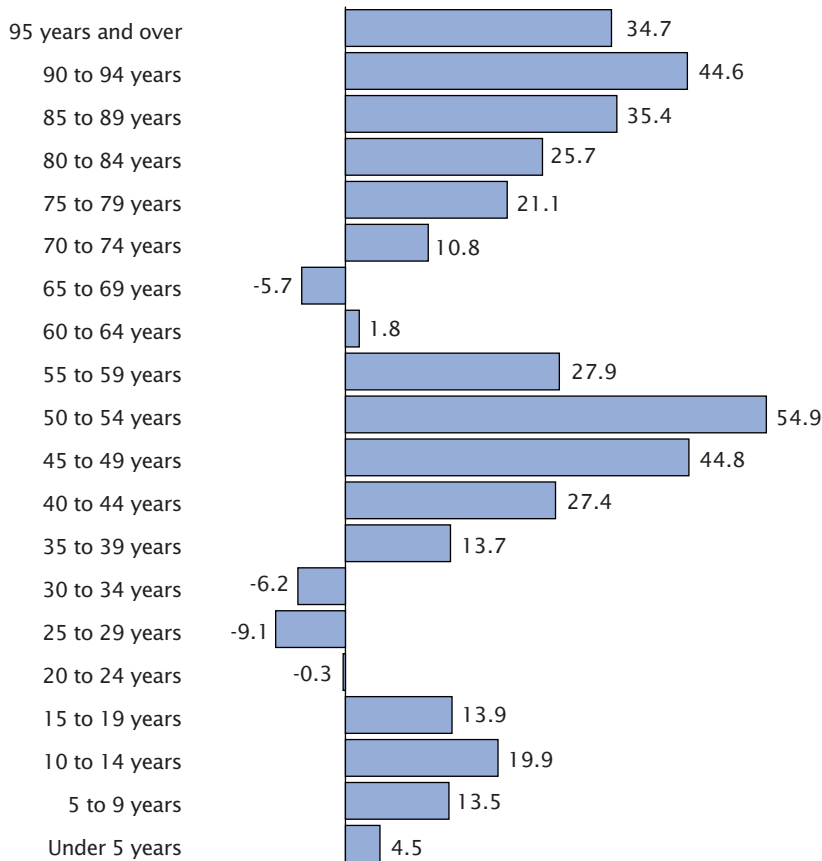
⁶Grieco, Elizabeth M. and Rachel C. Cassidy, 2001, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin*, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-1, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf.

⁷Some other race is not a standard Office of Management and Budget race category.

⁸The race *in combination* categories are denoted by quotations around the combinations with the conjunction **and** in bold and italicized print to indicate the separate race groups that comprise the combination.

Figure 3.
Percent Change by Age: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics, United States* (1990 CP-1-1).

Table 1.
Population Change by Age: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Age	1990		2000		Change, 1990 to 2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	248,709,873	100.0	281,421,906	100.0	32,712,033	13.2
Under 5 years	18,354,443	7.4	19,175,798	6.8	821,355	4.5
5 to 9 years	18,099,179	7.3	20,549,505	7.3	2,450,326	13.5
10 to 14 years	17,114,249	6.9	20,528,072	7.3	3,413,823	19.9
15 to 19 years	17,754,015	7.1	20,219,890	7.2	2,465,875	13.9
20 to 24 years	19,020,312	7.6	18,964,001	6.7	-56,311	-0.3
25 to 29 years	21,313,045	8.6	19,381,336	6.9	-1,931,709	-9.1
30 to 34 years	21,862,887	8.8	20,510,388	7.3	-1,352,499	-6.2
35 to 39 years	19,963,117	8.0	22,706,664	8.1	2,743,547	13.7
40 to 44 years	17,615,786	7.1	22,441,863	8.0	4,826,077	27.4
45 to 49 years	13,872,573	5.6	20,092,404	7.1	6,219,831	44.8
50 to 54 years	11,350,513	4.6	17,585,548	6.2	6,235,035	54.9
55 to 59 years	10,531,756	4.2	13,469,237	4.8	2,937,481	27.9
60 to 64 years	10,616,167	4.3	10,805,447	3.8	189,280	1.8
65 to 69 years	10,111,735	4.1	9,533,545	3.4	-578,190	-5.7
70 to 74 years	7,994,823	3.2	8,857,441	3.1	862,618	10.8
75 to 79 years	6,121,369	2.5	7,415,813	2.6	1,294,444	21.1
80 to 84 years	3,933,739	1.6	4,945,367	1.8	1,011,628	25.7
85 to 89 years	2,060,247	0.8	2,789,818	1.0	729,571	35.4
90 to 94 years	769,481	0.3	1,112,531	0.4	343,050	44.6
95 years and over	250,437	0.1	337,238	0.1	86,801	34.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics, United States (1990 CP-1-1)*.

included in the *in combination* population of each race.⁹

In 2000, median age varied significantly by race. People who reported Two or more races had a significantly younger median age (22.7) than the population reporting one race (35.6). The difference between the races with the youngest and oldest median ages was about 13 years. Of those respondents reporting only one race, individuals who reported Some other race had the youngest median age (24.6), which reflects the fact that 97 percent of people choosing this race were Hispanic¹⁰ and people reporting Hispanic origin, who may be of any race, had a relatively young median age. The

next youngest group was Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander *alone* (27.5), followed by American Indian and Alaska Native *alone* (28.0), Black or African American *alone* (30.2), Asian *alone* (32.7), and White *alone* (37.7).

Across all races, people who reported more than one race tended to be younger than those who reported only one race. Figure 4 shows that 42 percent of people who reported Two or more races were under age 18 compared with 25 percent of people who reported one race.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE IN THREE BROAD AGE CATEGORIES

Median age was highest in the Northeast and lowest in the West.

In 2000, the Northeast had the highest median age (36.8) followed by the Midwest (35.6), and the

South (35.3) as shown in Table 2.¹¹ The West had the youngest median age, 33.8. This ranking reflects the relative proportions of population in the broad age groups for each region. The Northeast had the largest proportion of people age 65 and over, while it had the smallest proportion of people under age 18. The West had the opposite situation. More specifically, the 65-and-over population made up 14 percent of the population in the Northeast, 13 percent in the

¹¹The 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.

⁹See Grieco, Elizabeth M. and Rachel C. Cassidy, 2001, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin*, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-1, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf.

¹⁰Ibid.

Midwest, 12 percent in the South, and 11 percent in the West. In contrast, children made up 27 percent of the population in the West followed by 26 percent in both the Midwest and South. The Northeast had 24 percent. All four regions had roughly the same proportion of

people age 18 to 64 (61 or 62 percent).

The West had the highest growth rates in all three age groups.

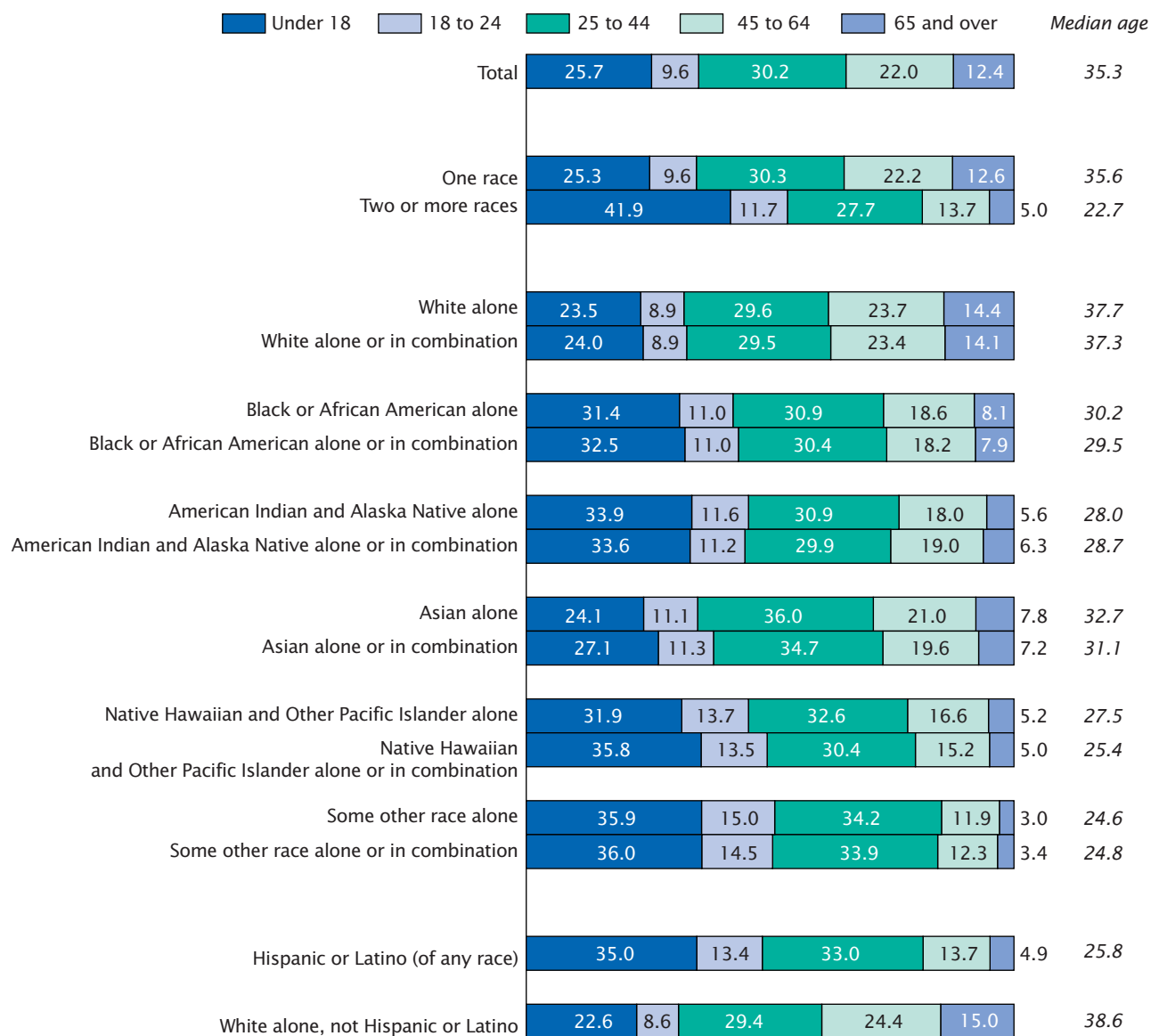
Growth rates for each age group varied significantly by region (see

Figure 5). For children, the growth rate in the West (21 percent) was more than three times that in the Midwest and more than twice that in the Northeast.

For the population age 18 to 64, the growth rates in the South and West (18 percent and 19 percent,

Figure 4.
Percent of Population by Selected Age Groups, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Table 2.
Population by Selected Age Groups 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/sf1.pdf)

Area	1990						2000					
	Total	Under 18		65 and over		Median age	Total	Under 18		65 and over		Median age
		Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent			Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	
United States	248,709,873	63,604,432	25.6	31,241,831	12.6	32.9	281,421,906	72,293,812	25.7	34,991,753	12.4	35.3
Region												
Northeast	50,809,229	11,913,007	23.4	6,995,156	13.8	34.2	53,594,378	13,047,783	24.3	7,372,282	13.8	36.8
Midwest	59,668,632	15,614,783	26.2	7,749,130	13.0	32.9	64,392,776	16,647,666	25.9	8,259,075	12.8	35.6
South	85,445,930	22,008,378	25.8	10,724,182	12.6	32.7	100,236,820	25,566,903	25.5	12,438,267	12.4	35.3
West	52,786,082	14,068,264	26.7	5,773,363	10.9	31.8	63,197,932	17,031,460	26.9	6,922,129	11.0	33.8
State												
Alabama	4,040,587	1,058,788	26.2	522,989	12.9	33.0	4,447,100	1,123,422	25.3	579,798	13.0	35.8
Alaska	550,043	172,344	31.3	22,369	4.1	29.4	626,932	190,717	30.4	35,699	5.7	32.4
Arizona	3,665,228	981,119	26.8	478,774	13.1	32.2	5,130,632	1,366,947	26.6	667,839	13.0	34.2
Arkansas	2,350,725	621,131	26.4	350,058	14.9	33.8	2,673,400	680,369	25.4	374,019	14.0	36.0
California	29,760,021	7,750,725	26.0	3,135,552	10.5	31.4	33,871,648	9,249,829	27.3	3,595,658	10.6	33.3
Colorado	3,294,394	861,266	26.1	329,443	10.0	32.5	4,301,261	1,100,795	25.6	416,073	9.7	34.3
Connecticut	3,287,116	749,581	22.8	445,907	13.6	34.4	3,405,565	841,688	24.7	470,183	13.8	37.4
Delaware	666,168	163,341	24.5	80,735	12.1	32.8	783,600	194,587	24.8	101,726	13.0	36.0
District of Columbia	606,900	117,092	19.3	77,847	12.8	33.4	572,059	114,992	20.1	69,898	12.2	34.6
Florida	12,937,926	2,866,237	22.2	2,369,431	18.3	36.3	15,982,378	3,646,340	22.8	2,807,597	17.6	38.7
Georgia	6,478,216	1,727,303	26.7	654,270	10.1	31.5	8,186,453	2,169,234	26.5	785,275	9.6	33.4
Hawaii	1,108,229	280,126	25.3	125,005	11.3	32.6	1,211,537	295,767	24.4	160,601	13.3	36.2
Idaho	1,006,749	308,405	30.6	121,265	12.0	31.5	1,293,953	369,030	28.5	145,916	11.3	33.2
Illinois	11,430,602	2,946,366	25.8	1,436,545	12.6	32.8	12,419,293	3,245,451	26.1	1,500,025	12.1	34.7
Indiana	5,544,159	1,455,964	26.3	696,196	12.6	32.8	6,080,485	1,574,396	25.9	752,831	12.4	35.2
Iowa	2,776,755	718,880	25.9	426,106	15.3	34.0	2,926,324	733,638	25.1	436,213	14.9	36.6
Kansas	2,477,574	661,614	26.7	342,571	13.8	32.9	2,688,418	712,993	26.5	356,229	13.3	35.2
Kentucky	3,685,296	954,094	25.9	466,845	12.7	33.0	4,041,769	994,818	24.6	504,793	12.5	35.9
Louisiana	4,219,973	1,227,269	29.1	468,991	11.1	31.0	4,468,976	1,219,799	27.3	516,929	11.6	34.0
Maine	1,227,928	309,002	25.2	163,373	13.3	33.9	1,274,923	301,238	23.6	183,402	14.4	38.6
Maryland	4,781,468	1,162,241	24.3	517,482	10.8	33.0	5,296,486	1,356,172	25.6	599,307	11.3	36.0
Massachusetts	6,016,425	1,353,075	22.5	819,284	13.6	33.5	6,349,097	1,500,064	23.6	860,162	13.5	36.5
Michigan	9,295,297	2,458,765	26.5	1,108,461	11.9	32.6	9,938,444	2,595,767	26.1	1,219,018	12.3	35.5
Minnesota	4,375,099	1,166,783	26.7	546,934	12.5	32.4	4,919,479	1,286,894	26.2	594,266	12.1	35.4
Mississippi	2,573,216	746,761	29.0	321,284	12.5	31.1	2,844,658	775,187	27.3	343,523	12.1	33.8
Missouri	5,117,073	1,314,826	25.7	717,681	14.0	33.5	5,595,211	1,427,692	25.5	755,379	13.5	36.1
Montana	799,065	222,104	27.8	106,497	13.3	33.8	902,195	230,062	25.5	120,949	13.4	37.5
Nebraska	1,578,385	429,012	27.2	223,068	14.1	33.0	1,711,263	450,242	26.3	232,195	13.6	35.3
Nevada	1,201,833	296,948	24.7	127,631	10.6	33.3	1,998,257	511,799	25.6	218,929	11.0	35.0
New Hampshire	1,109,252	278,755	25.1	125,029	11.3	32.8	1,235,786	309,562	25.0	147,970	12.0	37.1
New Jersey	7,730,188	1,799,462	23.3	1,032,025	13.4	34.4	8,414,350	2,087,558	24.8	1,113,136	13.2	36.7
New Mexico	1,515,069	446,741	29.5	163,062	10.8	31.2	1,819,046	508,574	28.0	212,225	11.7	34.6
New York	17,990,455	4,259,549	23.7	2,363,722	13.1	33.8	18,976,457	4,690,107	24.7	2,448,352	12.9	35.9
North Carolina	6,628,637	1,606,149	24.2	804,341	12.1	33.1	8,049,313	1,964,047	24.4	969,048	12.0	35.3
North Dakota	638,800	175,385	27.5	91,055	14.3	32.4	642,200	160,849	25.0	94,478	14.7	36.2
Ohio	10,847,115	2,799,744	25.8	1,406,961	13.0	33.3	11,353,140	2,888,339	25.4	1,507,757	13.3	36.2
Oklahoma	3,145,585	837,007	26.6	424,213	13.5	33.1	3,450,654	892,360	25.9	455,950	13.2	35.5
Oregon	2,842,321	724,130	25.5	391,324	13.8	34.6	3,421,399	846,526	24.7	438,177	12.8	36.3
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	2,794,810	23.5	1,829,106	15.4	35.0	12,281,054	2,922,221	23.8	1,919,165	15.6	38.0
Rhode Island	1,003,464	225,690	22.5	150,547	15.0	33.9	1,048,319	247,822	23.6	152,402	14.5	36.7
South Carolina	3,486,703	920,207	26.4	396,935	11.4	32.0	4,012,012	1,009,641	25.2	485,333	12.1	35.4
South Dakota	696,004	198,462	28.5	102,331	14.7	32.5	754,844	202,649	26.8	108,131	14.3	35.6
Tennessee	4,877,185	1,216,604	24.9	618,818	12.7	33.5	5,689,283	1,398,521	24.6	703,311	12.4	35.9
Texas	16,986,510	4,835,839	28.5	1,716,576	10.1	30.7	20,851,820	5,886,759	28.2	2,072,532	9.9	32.3
Utah	1,722,850	627,444	36.4	149,958	8.7	26.3	2,233,169	718,698	32.2	190,222	8.5	27.1
Vermont	562,758	143,083	25.4	66,163	11.8	33.0	608,827	147,523	24.2	77,510	12.7	37.7
Virginia	6,187,358	1,504,738	24.3	664,470	10.7	32.6	7,078,515	1,738,262	24.6	792,333	11.2	35.7
Washington	4,866,692	1,261,387	25.9	575,288	11.8	33.1	5,894,121	1,513,843	25.7	662,148	11.2	35.3
West Virginia	1,793,477	443,577	24.7	268,897	15.0	35.4	1,808,344	402,393	22.3	276,895	15.3	38.9
Wisconsin	4,891,769	1,288,982	26.4	651,221	13.3	32.9	5,363,675	1,368,756	25.5	702,553	13.1	36.0
Wyoming	453,588	135,525	29.9	47,195	10.4	32.1	493,782	128,873	26.1	57,693	11.7	36.2
Puerto Rico	3,522,037	1,154,527	32.8	340,884	9.7	28.4	3,808,610	1,092,101	28.7	425,137	11.2	32.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics, United States (1990 CP-1-1)* and Puerto Rico (1990 CP-1-53).

respectively) were more than four times that in the Northeast for the same age group and more than twice that in the Midwest in this age group.

For the population 65 years and over, the growth rate in the South (16 percent) was nearly three times the growth rate in the Northeast. And the growth rate in the West (20 percent) was more than three times that of both the Northeast and the Midwest for this age group.

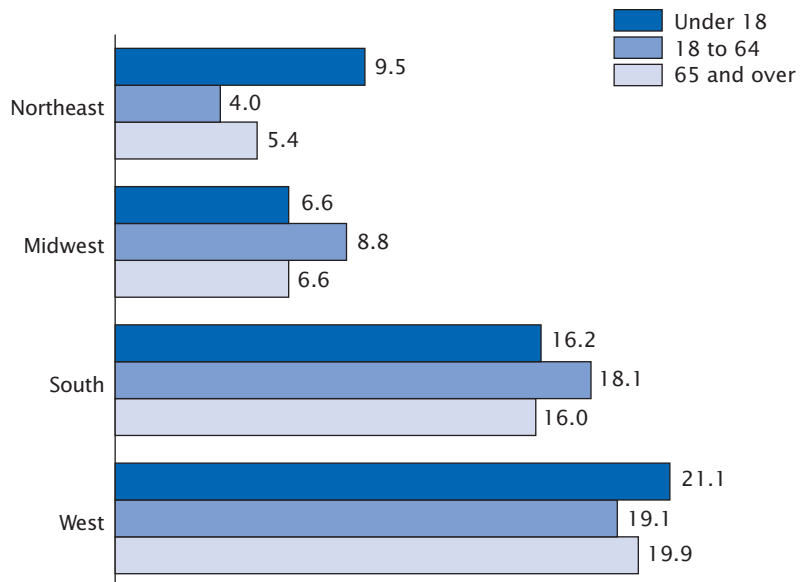
In the Northeast and West, the population under age 18 grew the fastest; in the Midwest and South, the 18-to-64-year age group grew the fastest.

A comparison of growth rates for each age group within each region showed differences. In the Northeast and West, the population under 18 grew the fastest of the three age groups. More specifically, the population under 18 years in the Northeast grew at a rate of 10 percent, compared with the lower growth rates of 5 percent for those 65 years and over and 4 percent for those 18 to 64. In the West, the population under 18 years old also grew the fastest of the three age groups between 1990 and 2000, although the other two groups grew quickly as well.

The fastest growing age group in both the Midwest and South was 18-to-64 year olds. In the Midwest, this age group grew 9 percent, a slightly higher growth rate than for the other two broad age groups, each with 7 percent. In the South, the age group 18 to 64 also grew the fastest of the three age groups, 18 percent during the decade. Both the population under age 18 and the population age 65 and over

Figure 5.
Percent Change in Population by Selected Age Groups and Regions: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics, United States* (1990 CP-1-1).

increased at a slightly lower rate of 16 percent.

West Virginia had the highest median age.

The Northeast was the only region where all states had median ages above the national level. In contrast, the West was the only region where states with median ages below the U.S. median outnumbered states with older median ages (see Figure 6).

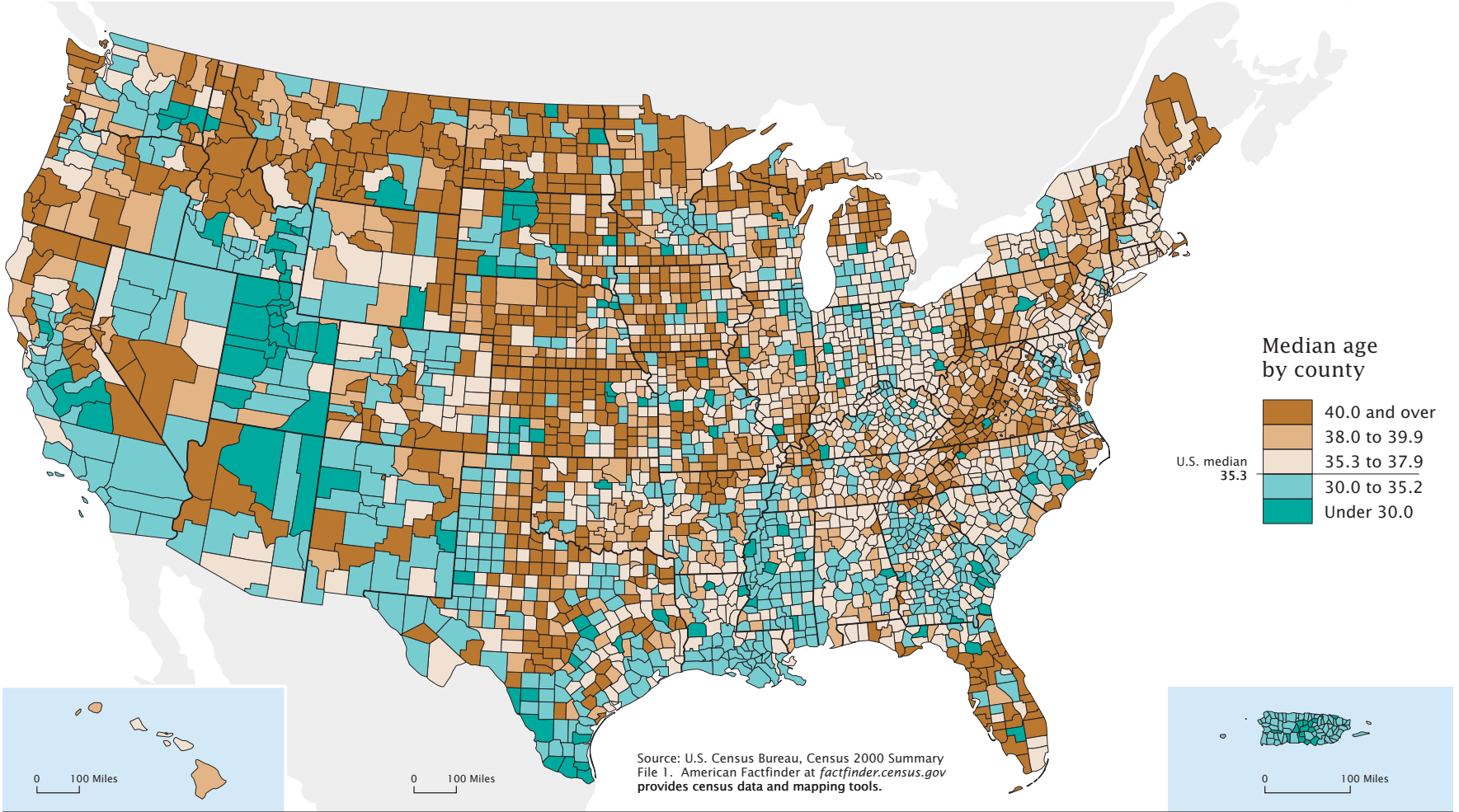
The states with the highest median ages were West Virginia (38.9), Florida (38.7), Maine (38.6), and Pennsylvania (38.0). Utah had the youngest population and was the only state with a median age below 30 years (27.1). Other

states with low median ages were Texas (32.3) and Alaska (32.4) as shown in Table 2.

Florida had the highest proportion 65 years and over.

The proportion 65 years and over ranged from a low of 6 percent in Alaska to 18 percent in Florida.¹² In addition to Alaska, states that had a relatively low percentage of older adults were Utah (9 percent) and Georgia, Colorado, and Texas (each 10 percent). States along with

¹²For more Census 2000 information about the population 65 years and over, see Hetzel, Lisa and Annetta Smith, 2001, *The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000*, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-10, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-10.pdf.



Florida that had a relatively high percentage of older adults were Pennsylvania (16 percent) and West Virginia, Iowa, North Dakota, and Rhode Island (each 15 percent).

In 14 states, the older population¹³ grew by more than 20 percent relative to the U.S. rate of 12 percent. Nevada had the highest growth rate for this age group (72 percent).¹⁴ Alaska also experienced a large percentage increase (60 percent). Only the District of Columbia experienced a decline in the number of older adults (10-percent decrease).

The District of Columbia still had the largest proportion of people age 18 to 64 (67.7 percent), although this proportion was even higher in 1990 (67.9 percent). The proportion of people in this age group ranged from 59 percent to 65 percent across states. The states with the highest proportions (64 or 65 percent) were Colorado, Virginia, Georgia, Alaska, and North Carolina. The states with the lowest proportions (59 or 60 percent) were South Dakota, Utah, Florida, Iowa, and Nebraska.

The number of children grew by more than 25 percent in five states; five states experienced a percentage decline.

In five states, the population under 18 years grew by more than 25 percent, much higher than the U.S. increase of 14 percent. Those five states were Nevada (72 percent), Arizona (39 percent), Colorado (28 percent), Florida (27 percent), and Georgia (26 percent).

¹³For this report, the older population is defined as people 65 years and over.

¹⁴Nevada had the highest growth rate for all three age groups.

Five states and the District of Columbia experienced a decline in the population under age 18 between 1990 and 2000 — West Virginia (9-percent decrease), North Dakota (8-percent decrease), Wyoming (5-percent decrease), Maine (3-percent decrease), and Louisiana (1-percent decrease). The District of Columbia experienced a decrease of 2 percent.

Counties with low median ages were mostly in the southern and western portions of the country.

Median age varied among counties in the United States. Figure 6 shows median age for the country's 3,141 counties and equivalent areas. There were 734 counties with median age 40.0 and over and 131 counties with median age under 30.0. The areas with median age generally at the U.S. median or younger were in the southwest border region. In contrast, two bands of counties had older median ages — in the interior Northeast and Appalachia, and across the Great Plains states from the Mexican border to the Canadian border.

The Midwest had the highest percentage of counties with older median ages.

In terms of proportion, the Midwest had the largest percentage of its counties with median ages 40.0 and over (31 percent), followed by the West (29 percent), Northeast (19 percent), and South (17 percent). In contrast, the West had the largest proportion of counties with median ages less than 30.0 (10 percent), followed by the Midwest (4 percent), the South (3 percent), and the Northeast (1 percent).

There were three counties with 100,000 or more population where

median ages were very high (50.0 and over). All of them — Charlotte County (54.3), Citrus County (52.6), and Sarasota County (50.5) — were in Florida.

In contrast, four counties with 100,000 or more population had median ages below 26.0: Utah County, Utah (23.3); Brazos County, Texas (23.6); Onslow County, North Carolina (25.0); and Clarke County, Georgia (25.4).

In four states, all the counties in the state had median ages at or above the national median of 35.3. Those states were: Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, and Hawaii. There were no states where all the counties had median ages less than the national median. Utah came closest with 86 percent of its counties having median ages below the national median.

The places with the oldest populations (in terms of median age) were in the regions with the youngest median ages.

Five of the ten places (population of 100,000 or more) with the lowest median ages in 2000 were in California, and all were either in the South or West. Provo, Utah, had the lowest median age (22.9) as shown in Table 3. Although the South and West were the regions with the lowest median ages, all but one of the top ten places with the highest median ages were also in these two regions (see Table 4). The one exception was Livonia, Michigan (40.2). Five of the ten places with the highest median ages were in Florida, where Clearwater, Florida, had the highest (41.8). All of the ten largest cities had median ages below the national median (see Table 5).

Table 3.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Lowest Median Age: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Place ¹	Total population	Median age	Percent under 18	Percent 65 and over
Provo, UT	105,166	22.9	22.3	5.7
Athens-Clarke County, GA*	101,489	25.4	17.8	8.1
Fontana, CA	128,929	26.2	37.8	4.7
Tallahassee, FL	150,624	26.3	17.4	8.2
East Los Angeles, CA*	124,283	26.5	34.6	7.9
Pomona, CA	149,473	26.5	34.6	6.4
Santa Ana, CA	337,977	26.5	34.2	5.5
West Valley City, UT	108,896	26.8	33.7	5.4
Laredo, TX	176,576	26.9	35.5	7.8
El Monte, CA	115,965	27.1	34.1	6.9

*Athens-Clarke County, GA, is a city-county consolidation. East Los Angeles, CA, is a census designated place and is not legally incorporated.

¹Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Table 4.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Median Age: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Place ¹	Total population	Median age	Percent under 18	Percent 65 and over
Clearwater, FL	108,787	41.8	19.1	21.5
Cape Coral, FL	102,286	41.6	22.6	19.6
Scottsdale, AZ	202,705	41.0	19.3	16.7
Livonia, MI	100,545	40.2	23.8	16.9
Honolulu, HI*	371,657	39.7	19.2	17.8
Metairie, LA*	146,136	39.5	20.6	16.4
St. Petersburg, FL	248,232	39.3	21.5	17.4
Fort Lauderdale, FL	152,397	39.3	19.4	15.3
Hollywood, FL	139,357	39.2	21.3	17.3
Torrance, CA	137,946	38.7	23.0	14.1

*Honolulu, HI, and Metairie, LA, are census designated places and are not legally incorporated.

¹Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON AGE

Which states had the highest concentration of baby boomers?

Earlier in this report, the baby-boom cohort (people ages 36 to 54 in 2000) was shown to make up a large share of the total U.S. population. In 2000, the proportion of

baby boomers in the states ranged from 23 percent to 32 percent. The states where baby boomers made up 30 percent or more of their populations were Alaska (32 percent), New Hampshire (31 percent), Vermont (31 percent), and Maine (30 percent). In contrast, Utah (23 percent) was the only state where baby boomers constituted less than 25 percent.

How many school-age children were there in 2000?

In 2000, there were 53.1 million elementary- and high school-age children (5-to-17 year olds), 73 percent of the population under age 18. There were 7.8 million pre-school-age children (3-to-4 year olds). Infants and toddlers (0-to-2 year olds) represented 16 percent of the population under age 18.

Table 5.
Ten Largest Cities by Age: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

City	Total population	Median age	Percent under 18	Percent 65 and over
New York, NY	8,008,278	34.2	24.2	11.7
Los Angeles, CA	3,694,820	31.6	26.6	9.7
Chicago, IL	2,896,016	31.5	26.2	10.3
Houston, TX	1,953,631	30.9	27.5	8.4
Philadelphia, PA	1,517,550	34.2	25.3	14.1
Phoenix, AZ	1,321,045	30.7	28.9	8.1
San Diego, CA	1,223,400	32.5	24.0	10.5
Dallas, TX	1,188,580	30.5	26.6	8.6
San Antonio, TX	1,144,646	31.7	28.5	10.4
Detroit, MI	951,270	30.9	31.1	10.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Why did Census 2000 ask the question on age?

The Census Bureau collects age data to support two basic activities:

- Legislative redistricting and
- Allocating funds from federal programs to targeted age groups.

For example, age data are used in calculating the proportion of school-age children in poverty for each school district for allocating federal funds to assist educationally disadvantaged children. The Department of Veterans Affairs uses age data to develop state projections on the need for hospitals, nursing homes, cemeteries, and other services for veterans.

Communities can use census age data to aid them in making informed decisions about how to meet the needs of their older and their younger citizens. Researchers can use these data in their research on school-age children and many other age-related topics. Business owners can use these data in planning a new business around the needs of a certain age group in the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information on age data is available by visiting the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov (click "A" for Age Data in the Subjects A to Z list).

Data on age from the Census 2000 Summary File 1 were released on a state-by-state basis during the summer of 2001 and are available via factfinder.census.gov and for purchase on DVD.

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf, or contact our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

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. 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.

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