

# The Two or More Races Population: 2000

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## Census 2000 Brief

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Census 2000 showed that the United States population on April 1, 2000, was 281.4 million. Of the total, 6.8 million people, or 2.4 percent, reported<sup>1</sup> more than one race. Census 2000 asked separate questions on race and Hispanic or Latino origin. Hispanics who reported more than one race are included in the Two or more races population.

This report, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from Census 2000, provides a portrait of the Two or more races population in the United States and discusses its distribution at both the national and subnational levels. It is based on the Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, which was among the first Census 2000 data products released and used by each state to draw boundaries for legislative districts.<sup>2</sup>

The term "Two or more races" refers to people who chose more than one of the

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 3. The Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File was released on a state-by-state basis in March 2001.

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

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

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

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

Some other race — Print race. ↗

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

six race categories. These individuals are referred to as the *Two or more races* population, or as the population that reported *more than one race*.

Data on race has been collected since the first U.S. decennial census in 1790. Census 2000 was the first decennial census that allowed individuals to self-identify with more than one race.

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

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

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

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

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Some other race

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

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

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

Table 1.  
**Total Population by Number of Races Reported: 2000**

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

Number of races	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of total Two or more races population
<b>Total population</b> .....	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
One race.....	274,595,678	97.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	6,826,228	2.4	100.0
Two races.....	6,368,075	2.3	93.3
Three races.....	410,285	0.1	6.0
Four races.....	38,408	-	0.6
Five races.....	8,637	-	0.1
Six races.....	823	-	-

- Percentage rounds to 0.0.

X Not applicable.

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

**The data collected by Census 2000 on race can be divided into two broad categories: the race alone population and the Two or more races population.**

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

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

**Census 2000 provides a snapshot of the Two or more races population.**

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of respondents to Census

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

2000 by number of races reported. In the total population, 6.8 million people, or 2.4 percent, reported more than one race. Of the total Two or more races population, the overwhelming majority (93 percent) reported exactly two races. An additional 6 percent reported three races, and 1 percent reported four or more races.

**THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE TWO OR MORE RACES POPULATION**

**The majority of the Two or more races population lived in the West.**<sup>6</sup>

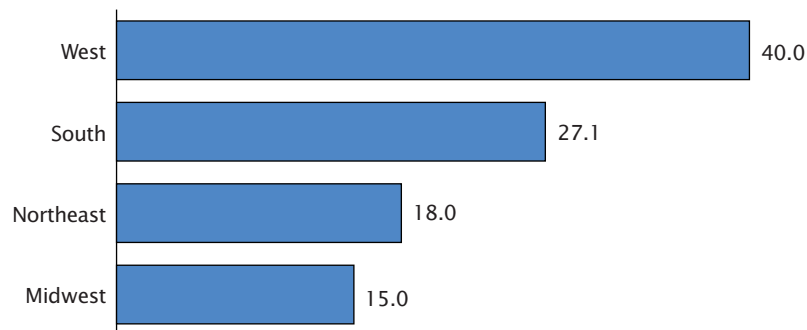
According to Census 2000, of the total Two or more races population, 40 percent lived in the West, 27 percent lived in the South, 18 percent lived in the Northeast,

<sup>6</sup> The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Figure 2.

### Percent Distribution of the Two or More Races Population by Region: 2000

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



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

and 15 percent lived in the Midwest (see Figure 2).

The West had the largest number and the highest proportion of respondents reporting more than one race in its total population: the Two or more races population comprised 4.3 percent of all respondents in the West, compared with 2.3 percent in the Northeast, 1.8 percent in the South, and 1.6 percent in the Midwest.

#### Nearly two-thirds of all people who reported more than one race lived in just ten states.

The ten states with the largest Two or more races populations in 2000 were California, New York, Texas, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey, Washington, Michigan, and Ohio (see Table 2). Combined, these states represented 64 percent of the total Two or more races population. These states contained 49 percent of the total population. Three states had Two or more races populations greater than one-half million: California was the only state with a Two or more races population greater than one million, followed by New York with 590,000, and

Texas with 515,000. These three states accounted for 40 percent of the total Two or more races population.

There were fourteen states where the Two or more races population exceeded the U.S. rate of 2.4 percent, led by the western states of Hawaii (21 percent), followed at a distance by Alaska (5.4 percent), and California (4.7 percent), and the southern state of Oklahoma (4.5 percent). The other ten states included the western states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington; the northeastern states of New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island; and the southern state of Texas. No midwestern state had greater than 2.4 percent of its population reporting more than one race. Four states — California, Hawaii, New York, and Washington — were represented in the top ten states for both number and percent reporting more than one race.

There were five states where the Two or more races population represented 1.0 percent or less of the total population: Alabama,

Maine, Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Virginia.

#### The Two or more races population was concentrated in counties in the West.

The Two or more races population was generally most prevalent in the western part of the country (see Figure 3). The West contained four counties (all in Hawaii) with between 19 and 29 percent reporting more than one race, while no other county in the United States exceeded 12 percent. The majority of counties in Hawaii, Alaska, and California, as well as counties in eastern Oklahoma, had much higher proportions reporting more than one race than the U.S. level of 2.4 percent. Counties along the Pacific coast in Washington and Oregon, as well as counties in Nevada and southern Colorado had higher percentages of more than one race reporting. This general pattern of higher reporting of more than one race extended into the southwest, especially counties in southern Arizona, all of New Mexico, and across southwestern Texas.

In addition, the Two or more races population was also concentrated in metropolitan counties along the New England and Mid-Atlantic coast. The counties forming the metropolitan corridor from Washington, DC, to Boston, Massachusetts, were particularly noticeable for higher percentages of people reporting more than one race, in comparison with counties in the mostly nonmetropolitan interiors of these states.

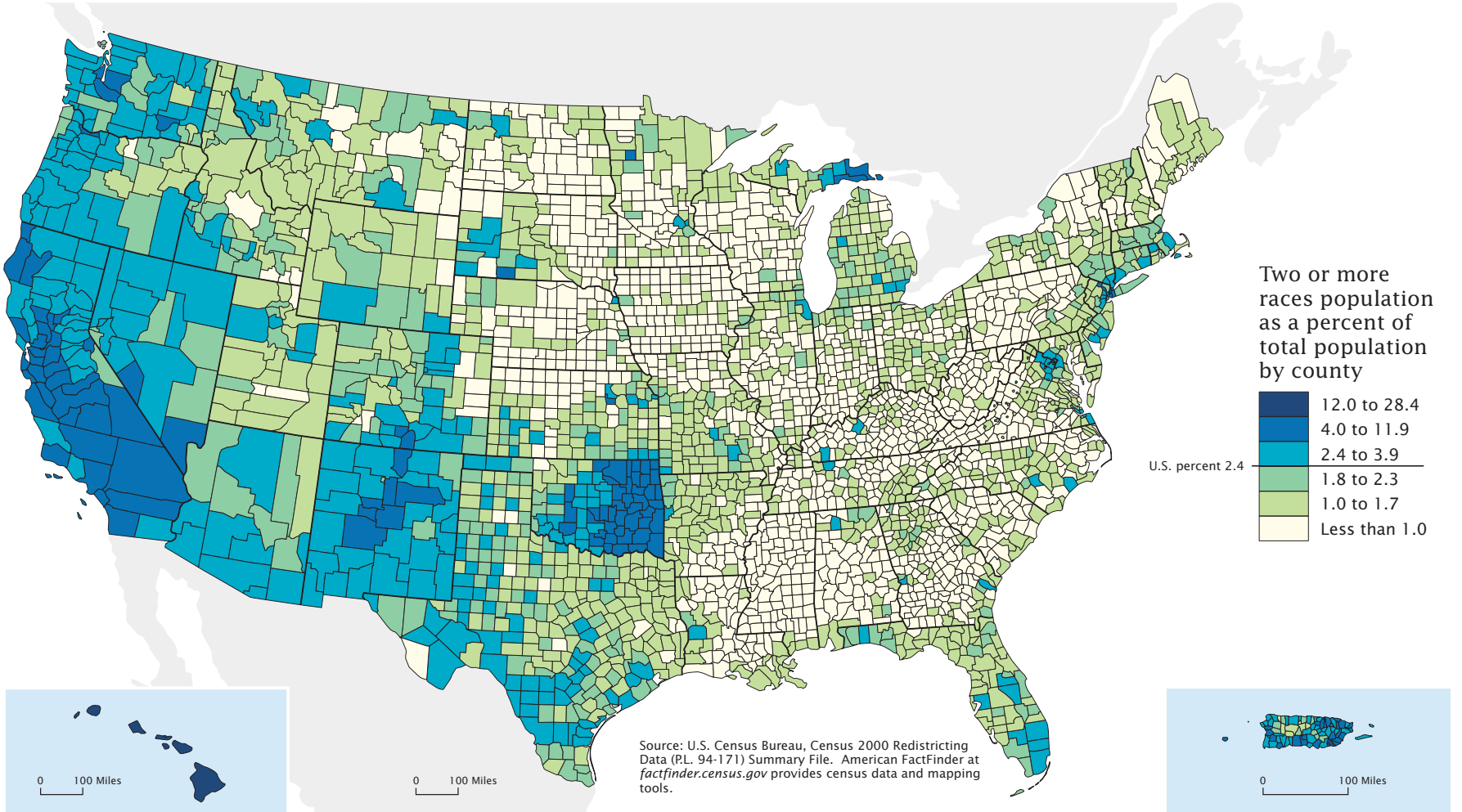
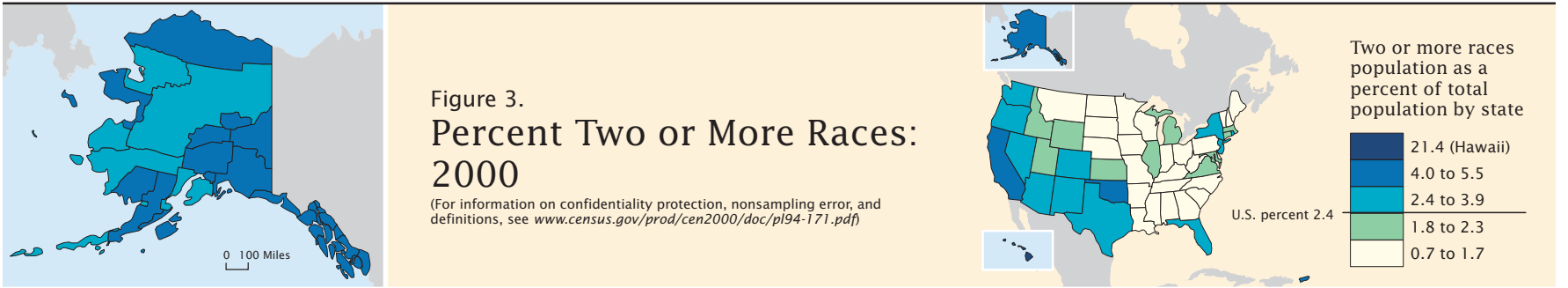
The Two or more races population represented moderate proportions of some southern and midwestern counties. These counties tended to be located in and around several metropolitan area clusters including an area anchored by the Huntsville, Alabama; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan

Table 2.  
**Two or More Races Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000**

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

Area	Total population	Two or more races					
		Total		Hispanic or Latino		Not Hispanic or Latino	
		Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent of Two or more races population	Number	Percent of Two or more races population
<b>United States . . . .</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>6,826,228</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2,224,082</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>4,602,146</b>	<b>67.4</b>
<b>Region</b>							
Northeast . . . . .	53,594,378	1,228,461	2.3	401,363	32.7	827,098	67.3
Midwest . . . . .	64,392,776	1,022,468	1.6	210,668	20.6	811,800	79.4
South . . . . .	100,236,820	1,847,015	1.8	588,313	31.9	1,258,702	68.1
West . . . . .	63,197,932	2,728,284	4.3	1,023,738	37.5	1,704,546	62.5
<b>State</b>							
Alabama . . . . .	4,447,100	44,179	1.0	5,093	11.5	39,086	88.5
Alaska . . . . .	626,932	34,146	5.4	3,692	10.8	30,454	89.2
Arizona . . . . .	5,130,632	146,526	2.9	70,154	47.9	76,372	52.1
Arkansas . . . . .	2,673,400	35,744	1.3	5,380	15.1	30,364	84.9
California . . . . .	33,871,648	1,607,646	4.7	704,531	43.8	903,115	56.2
Colorado . . . . .	4,301,261	122,187	2.8	49,466	40.5	72,721	59.5
Connecticut . . . . .	3,405,565	74,848	2.2	21,952	29.3	52,896	70.7
Delaware . . . . .	783,600	13,033	1.7	2,811	21.6	10,222	78.4
District of Columbia . . . . .	572,059	13,446	2.4	3,862	28.7	9,584	71.3
Florida . . . . .	15,982,378	376,315	2.4	139,361	37.0	236,954	63.0
Georgia . . . . .	8,186,453	114,188	1.4	26,824	23.5	87,364	76.5
Hawaii . . . . .	1,211,537	259,343	21.4	40,643	15.7	218,700	84.3
Idaho . . . . .	1,293,953	25,609	2.0	7,348	28.7	18,261	71.3
Illinois . . . . .	12,419,293	235,016	1.9	81,020	34.5	153,996	65.5
Indiana . . . . .	6,080,485	75,672	1.2	14,557	19.2	61,115	80.8
Iowa . . . . .	2,926,324	31,778	1.1	6,306	19.8	25,472	80.2
Kansas . . . . .	2,688,418	56,496	2.1	13,988	24.8	42,508	75.2
Kentucky . . . . .	4,041,769	42,443	1.1	4,693	11.1	37,750	88.9
Louisiana . . . . .	4,468,976	48,265	1.1	9,005	18.7	39,260	81.3
Maine . . . . .	1,274,923	12,647	1.0	916	7.2	11,731	92.8
Maryland . . . . .	5,296,486	103,587	2.0	20,641	19.9	82,946	80.1
Massachusetts . . . . .	6,349,097	146,005	2.3	35,667	24.4	110,338	75.6
Michigan . . . . .	9,938,444	192,416	1.9	28,929	15.0	163,487	85.0
Minnesota . . . . .	4,919,479	82,742	1.7	12,438	15.0	70,304	85.0
Mississippi . . . . .	2,844,658	20,021	0.7	2,749	13.7	17,272	86.3
Missouri . . . . .	5,595,211	82,061	1.5	10,156	12.4	71,905	87.6
Montana . . . . .	902,195	15,730	1.7	1,962	12.5	13,768	87.5
Nebraska . . . . .	1,711,263	23,953	1.4	6,257	26.1	17,696	73.9
Nevada . . . . .	1,998,257	76,428	3.8	27,197	35.6	49,231	64.4
New Hampshire . . . . .	1,235,786	13,214	1.1	1,608	12.2	11,606	87.8
New Jersey . . . . .	8,414,350	213,755	2.5	80,066	37.5	133,689	62.5
New Mexico . . . . .	1,819,046	66,327	3.6	40,534	61.1	25,793	38.9
New York . . . . .	18,976,457	590,182	3.1	224,066	38.0	366,116	62.0
North Carolina . . . . .	8,049,313	103,260	1.3	23,295	22.6	79,965	77.4
North Dakota . . . . .	642,200	7,398	1.2	732	9.9	6,666	90.1
Ohio . . . . .	11,353,140	157,885	1.4	20,115	12.7	137,770	87.3
Oklahoma . . . . .	3,450,654	155,985	4.5	15,736	10.1	140,249	89.9
Oregon . . . . .	3,421,399	104,745	3.1	22,012	21.0	82,733	79.0
Pennsylvania . . . . .	12,281,054	142,224	1.2	29,127	20.5	113,097	79.5
Rhode Island . . . . .	1,048,319	28,251	2.7	7,435	26.3	20,816	73.7
South Carolina . . . . .	4,012,012	39,950	1.0	6,660	16.7	33,290	83.3
South Dakota . . . . .	754,844	10,156	1.3	1,196	11.8	8,960	88.2
Tennessee . . . . .	5,689,283	63,109	1.1	8,285	13.1	54,824	86.9
Texas . . . . .	20,851,820	514,633	2.5	284,066	55.2	230,567	44.8
Utah . . . . .	2,233,169	47,195	2.1	15,887	33.7	31,308	66.3
Vermont . . . . .	608,827	7,335	1.2	526	7.2	6,809	92.8
Virginia . . . . .	7,078,515	143,069	2.0	29,047	20.3	114,022	79.7
Washington . . . . .	5,894,121	213,519	3.6	37,593	17.6	175,926	82.4
West Virginia . . . . .	1,808,344	15,788	0.9	805	5.1	14,983	94.9
Wisconsin . . . . .	5,363,675	66,895	1.2	14,974	22.4	51,921	77.6
Wyoming . . . . .	493,782	8,883	1.8	2,719	30.6	6,164	69.4
<b>Puerto Rico . . . . .</b>	<b>3,808,610</b>	<b>158,415</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>155,769</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>1.7</b>

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





areas. Other areas included the metropolitan Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida; central North Carolina; and the Atlantic coast of Florida.

Similarly, some clusters of metropolitan counties across the Upper Midwest, around Chicago, Detroit, and Minneapolis; as well as non-metropolitan counties in northern Michigan had moderate percentages of more than one race reporting.

Counties with percentages of more than one race reporting lower than the percentage for the country, were likely to be in nonmetropolitan counties in the Midwest and South. This was especially true in the lowland South counties extending from Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, through the inland portions of South Carolina, and into Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

Additional concentrations of counties with lower percentages of people reporting more than one race were in Midwestern counties in Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and the eastern half of the Dakotas.

**The places with the largest Two or more races populations were New York and Los Angeles.**

Census 2000 showed that, of all places<sup>7</sup> in the United States with populations of 100,000 or more, New York with nearly 400,000, and Los Angeles with nearly 200,000, had the largest Two or more races populations (see Table 3). These places were also the two largest places in the United States. Four other places (Chicago, Houston, San Diego, and Honolulu) had Two or more races populations greater than 50,000.

<sup>7</sup> Census 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](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html).

**Table 3. Ten Largest Places in Total Population and in Two or More Races Population: 2000**

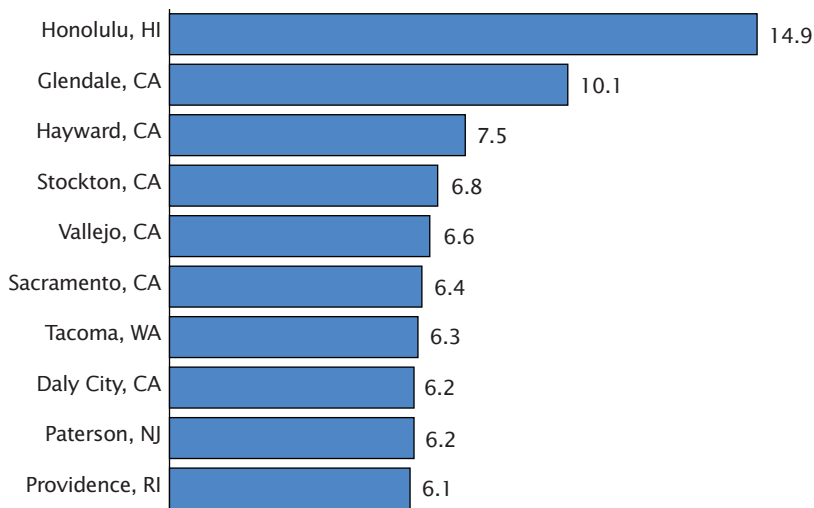
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Place	Total population		Two or more races population		
	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Percent
New York, NY . . . . .	1	8,008,278	1	393,959	4.9
Los Angeles, CA . . . . .	2	3,694,820	2	191,288	5.2
Chicago, IL . . . . .	3	2,896,016	3	84,437	2.9
Houston, TX . . . . .	4	1,953,631	4	61,478	3.1
Philadelphia, PA . . . . .	5	1,517,550	10	33,574	2.2
Phoenix, AZ . . . . .	6	1,321,045	8	43,276	3.3
San Diego, CA . . . . .	7	1,223,400	5	59,081	4.8
Dallas, TX . . . . .	8	1,188,580	12	32,351	2.7
San Antonio, TX . . . . .	9	1,144,646	9	41,871	3.7
Detroit, MI . . . . .	10	951,270	18	22,041	2.3
Honolulu, HI . . . . .	46	371,657	6	55,474	14.9
San Jose, CA . . . . .	11	894,943	7	45,062	5.0

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

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

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



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

Although Dallas and Detroit were among the ten largest places in the United States, they did not place among the ten largest places with Two or more races populations. Honolulu and San Jose had the sixth and seventh largest Two or more races populations.

None of the ten largest places in total population ranked among the ten largest places by percent reporting more than one race. Los Angeles (ranked 30th by percent), New York (ranked 42nd), and San Diego (ranked 45th) came closest,

Table 4.  
**Total Population by Number of Races Reported and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

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

Hispanic or Latino origin	Total		One race			Two or more races		
	Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of one race	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of Two or more races
<b>Total population</b> .....	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>274,595,678</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,826,228</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Hispanic or Latino .....	35,305,818	100.0	33,081,736	93.7	12.0	2,224,082	6.3	32.6
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	246,116,088	100.0	241,513,942	98.1	88.0	4,602,146	1.9	67.4

X Not applicable.

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

Table 5.  
**Percent Reporting Two or More Races by Specified Race: 2000**

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

Specified race	Alone or in combination <sup>1</sup>	Alone <sup>2</sup>	In combination <sup>3</sup>	Percent in combination <sup>4</sup>
White .....	216,930,975	211,460,626	5,470,349	2.5
Black or African American .....	36,419,434	34,658,190	1,761,244	4.8
American Indian and Alaska Native .....	4,119,301	2,475,956	1,643,345	39.9
Asian .....	11,898,828	10,242,998	1,655,830	13.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander .....	874,414	398,835	475,579	54.4
Some other race .....	18,521,486	15,359,073	3,162,413	17.1

<sup>1</sup>People who reported only one race, together with those who reported that same race plus one or more other races, are combined to create the race *alone or in combination* categories.

<sup>2</sup>People who reported only one race create the race *alone* categories.

<sup>3</sup>People who reported more than one of the six race categories create the race *in combination* categories.

<sup>4</sup>The “percent in combination” is the proportion that the “in combination” population represented of the “alone or in combination” population. This is the equivalent of the percent of people reporting a specified race who reported Two or more races.

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

with about 5 percent of all respondents reporting more than one race.

Among places of 100,000 or more population, the highest proportion of more than one race reporting was in Honolulu, with 15 percent (see Figure 4). But places with populations between 100,000 and 200,000 tended to have higher proportions of Two or more races populations than places with greater than 200,000 population. All ten places with the highest proportion of Two or more races had over 6 percent of their population reporting more than one race. Eight of the places were in the West, and two were in the Northeast.

## ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE TWO OR MORE RACES POPULATION

### What proportion of respondents reporting more than one race also reported a Hispanic origin?

The Office of Management and Budget defines Hispanic or Latino as “a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.” In data collection and presentation, federal agencies use two ethnicities: “Hispanic or Latino” and “Not Hispanic or Latino.” Race and ethnicity are considered two separate and distinct concepts by the federal system. Hispanics may be of any race, and people in

the Two or more races population can be Hispanic or not Hispanic.

According to Census 2000, about one in three people in the Two or more races population also reported as Hispanic (see Table 4). About 6 percent of Hispanics reported more than one race, in contrast to 2 percent of non-Hispanics.

### Which race was most likely to be in combination with one or more other races?

The total Two or more races population in Census 2000 was 6.8 million, or about 2.4 percent of the total population. But the percent reporting more than one race varied by race (see Table 5).

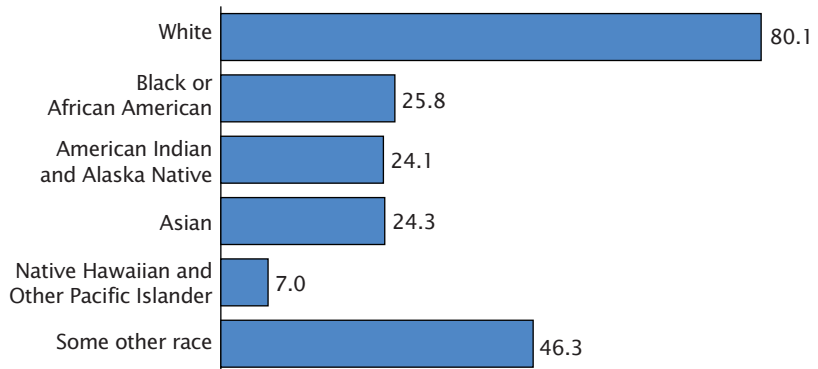
The White population, and the Black or African American population had the lowest percentages reporting more than one race. Of the 216.9 million respondents who reported White alone or in combination, 2.5 percent, or 5.5 million, reported White as well as at least one other race. Similarly, of the 36.4 million individuals who reported Black or African American alone or in combination, 4.8 percent, or 1.8 million, reported Black or African American as well as at least one other race.

The Asian population, and the Some other race population had somewhat higher percentages reporting more than one race. Of the 11.9 million individuals who reported Asian alone or in combination, 13.9 percent, or 1.6 million, reported Asian as well as at least one other race. Similarly, of the 18.5 million individuals who reported Some other race alone or in combination, 17.1 percent, or 3.2 million, reported Some other race as well as at least one other race.

The American Indian and Alaska Native population, and the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population had the highest percentages reporting more than one race. Of the 4.1 million individuals who reported American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination, 39.9 percent, or 1.6 million, reported American Indian and Alaska Native as well as at least one other race. Similarly, of the 874,000 individuals who reported Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination, 54.4 percent, or 476,000, reported Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander as well as at least one other race.

Figure 5.  
**Race Reported as a Proportion of the Two or More Races Population: 2000**

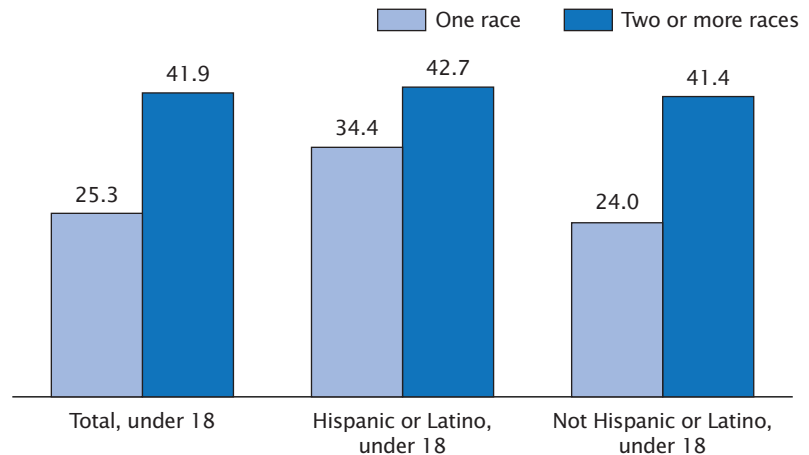
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



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

Figure 6.  
**Percent Under Age 18 by Number of Races Reported and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

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



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

### How was the Two or more races population distributed across each race group?

In Census 2000, respondents were able to report more than one race, meaning that a combination of two, three, four, five, or six races could be reported. The races reported by individuals who identified with

more than one race varied (see Figure 5). About four-fifths of these responses included “White” as one of the reported races. About half included “Some other race.” “Black or African American,” “American Indian and Alaska Native,” and “Asian” were reported in about one-fourth of all responses. “Native



Table 6.

**Total Population by Number of Races Reported, Age, and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Age and Hispanic or Latino origin	Total population	One race		Two or more races		
		Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of Two or more races population
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>274,595,678</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>6,826,228</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Hispanic or Latino .....	35,305,818	33,081,736	93.7	2,224,082	6.3	32.6
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	246,116,088	241,513,942	98.1	4,602,146	1.9	67.4
<b>Under 18</b> .....	<b>72,293,812</b>	<b>69,436,926</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>2,856,886</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>41.9</b>
Hispanic or Latino .....	12,342,259	11,391,565	92.3	950,694	7.7	13.9
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	59,951,553	58,045,361	96.8	1,906,192	3.2	27.9
<b>18 and over</b> .....	<b>209,128,094</b>	<b>205,158,752</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>3,969,342</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>58.1</b>
Hispanic or Latino .....	22,963,559	21,690,171	94.5	1,273,388	5.5	18.7
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	186,164,535	183,468,581	98.6	2,695,954	1.4	39.5

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

Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander” was reported in less than one-tenth of all responses.

### Were there differences in the age distribution between people who reported only one race and people who reported more than one race?

People who reported more than one race were more likely to be under age 18 than those reporting only one race (see Figure 6). Of the 6.8 million people in the Two or more races population, 42 percent were under 18. This is higher than the one race population. Of the 274.6 million people who reported only one race, 25 percent were under 18.

When race is crosstabulated by Hispanic origin, this pattern persists (see Table 6). For both Hispanics and non-Hispanics, a higher proportion of those reporting more than one race was under 18 when compared with those reporting one race. Among the 2.2 million Hispanics who reported more than one race, 43 percent were under 18. Of the 33.1 million Hispanics who reported one race, 34 percent were under 18.

For non-Hispanics, the difference was even more striking. Among the 4.6 million non-Hispanics who reported more than one race, 41 percent were under 18. Of the 241.5 million non-Hispanics who reported only one race, 24 percent were under 18.

### ABOUT CENSUS 2000

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

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

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

All levels of government need information on race to implement and

evaluate programs, or enforce laws. Examples include: the Native American Programs Act, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Public Health Act, the Healthcare Improvement Act, the Job Partnership Training Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Census Redistricting Data Program.

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

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and

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

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

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

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



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