

# The Two or More Races Population: 2010

Issued September 2012

## 2010 Census Briefs

C2010BR-13

### INTRODUCTION

Data from the 2010 Census and Census 2000 present information on the population reporting more than one race and enable comparisons of this population from two major data points for the first time in U.S. decennial census history.<sup>1</sup> Overall, the population reporting more than one race grew from about 6.8 million people to 9.0 million people. One of the most effective ways to compare the 2000 and 2010 data is to examine changes in specific race combination groups, such as people who reported White as well as Black or African American—a population that grew by over one million people, increasing by 134 percent—and people who reported White as well as Asian—a population that grew by about three-quarters of a million people, increasing by 87 percent. These two groups exhibited significant growth in size and proportion since 2000, and they exemplify the important changes that have occurred among people who reported more than one race over the last decade.

This report looks at our nation's changing racial and ethnic diversity. It is part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from the 2010 Census and provides a snapshot of the population reporting multiple races in the United States.<sup>2</sup> Racial and ethnic population group distributions and growth at the national level and at lower levels of geography are presented.

<sup>1</sup> Census 2000 was the first decennial census to provide an option that allowed individuals to self-identify with more than one race.

<sup>2</sup> This report discusses data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, but not Puerto Rico.

Figure 1.

### Reproduction of the Question on Race From the 2010 Census

6. What is this person's race? Mark  one or more boxes.

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, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on. ↴     Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on. ↴

Some other race — Print race. ↴

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

This report also provides an overview of race and ethnicity concepts and definitions used in the 2010 Census. The data for this report are based on the *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, which was the first 2010 Census data product released with data on race and Hispanic origin and was provided to each state for use in drawing boundaries for legislative districts.<sup>3</sup>

### UNDERSTANDING RACE DATA FROM THE 2010 CENSUS

#### The 2010 Census used federal standards to collect and present data on race.

For the 2010 Census, the question on race was asked of individuals living in the United States (see Figure 1). An individual's response

<sup>3</sup> The *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File* provides data on Hispanic origin and race, including information on the population reporting more than one race as well as detailed race combinations.

By  
Nicholas A. Jones  
and  
Jungmiwha Bullock

to the race question was based upon self-identification. The U.S. Census Bureau collects information on race following the guidance of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*.<sup>4</sup> These federal standards mandate that race and Hispanic origin (ethnicity) are separate and distinct concepts and that, when collecting these data via self-identification, two different questions must be used.<sup>5</sup>

The OMB definitions of the race categories used in the 2010 Census, plus the Census Bureau's definition of Some Other Race, are presented in the text box "Definition of Race Categories Used in the 2010 Census." Starting in 1997, OMB required federal agencies to use a minimum of five race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. For respondents unable to identify with any of these five race categories, OMB approved the Census Bureau's inclusion of a sixth category—Some Other Race—on the Census 2000 and 2010 Census questionnaires. The 1997 OMB standards also allowed respondents to identify with more than one race.

<sup>4</sup> The 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*, issued by OMB, is available at <[www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html)>.

<sup>5</sup> The OMB requires federal agencies to use a minimum of two ethnicities: Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanic origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. "Hispanic or Latino" refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

### Definition of Race Categories Used in the 2010 Census

"White" refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes people who indicated their race(s) as "White" or reported entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan, or Caucasian.

"Black or African American" refers to a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. It includes people who indicated their race(s) as "Black, African Am., or Negro" or reported entries such as African American, Kenyan, Nigerian, or Haitian.

"American Indian or Alaska Native" refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment. This category includes people who indicated their race(s) as "American Indian or Alaska Native" or reported their enrolled or principal tribe, such as Navajo, Blackfeet, Inupiat, Yup'ik, or Central American Indian groups or South American Indian groups.

"Asian" refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam. It includes people who indicated their race(s) as "Asian" or reported entries such as "Asian Indian," "Chinese," "Filipino," "Korean," "Japanese," "Vietnamese," and "Other Asian" or provided other detailed Asian responses.

"Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. It includes people who indicated their race(s) as "Pacific Islander" or reported entries such as "Native Hawaiian," "Guamanian or Chamorro," "Samoan," and "Other Pacific Islander" or provided other detailed Pacific Islander responses.

"Some Other Race" includes all other responses not included in the White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander race categories described above. Respondents reporting entries such as multi-racial, mixed, interracial, or a Hispanic or Latino group (for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or Spanish) in response to the race question are included in this category.

### In Census 2000, for the first time, individuals were presented with the option to self-identify with more than one race, and this continued with the 2010 Census.

Data on race have been collected since the first U.S. decennial census in 1790. An individual's response to the race question is based upon

self-identification; the Census Bureau does not tell individuals which boxes to mark or what heritage to write in. Beginning with Census 2000, individuals were presented with the option to self-identify with more than one race. People who identify with more than one race may choose to provide multiple races in response

to the race question. For example, a respondent who identifies as both Asian and White may respond to the question on race by checking the appropriate boxes that describe his or her racial identities and/or writing in these identities on the spaces provided.<sup>6</sup>

The 2010 Census question on race included 15 separate response categories and three areas where respondents could write in detailed information about their race (see Figure 1).<sup>7</sup> The response categories and write-in answers can be combined to create the five minimum OMB race categories plus Some Other Race. In addition to White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Some Other Race, 7 of the 15 response categories are Asian groups, and 4 are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander groups.<sup>8, 9</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> For information about comparability of 2010 Census data on race and Hispanic origin to data collected in previous censuses, see the *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File—Technical Documentation* at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf)>. Additional reports on selected race population groups and the Hispanic population are part of the 2010 Census Briefs series. For a detailed listing of 2010 Census Briefs and other products, visit <<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data>>.

<sup>7</sup> There were two changes to the question on race for the 2010 Census. First, the wording of the race question was changed from “What is this person’s race? Mark  one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be” in 2000 to “What is this person’s race? Mark  one or more boxes” for 2010. Second, in 2010, examples were added to the “Other Asian” response category (Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on) and the “Other Pacific Islander” response category (Fijian, Tongan, and so on). In 2000, no examples were given in the race question.

<sup>8</sup> The terms “Black or African American” and “Black” are used interchangeably in this report.

<sup>9</sup> The race categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and are not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. In addition, it is recognized that the categories of the race question include race and national origin or sociocultural groups.

## RACE CONCEPTS

### The data on race collected in the 2010 Census 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, people who marked only the “White” category on the census questionnaire constitute the *White alone* population. This population can be viewed as the minimum number of people reporting White.

The *Two or More Races* population refers to people who reported more than one of the six race categories, and this term is used in census statistics as well as the tables and figures in this report. The text of this report also refers to the Two or More Races population as the group who reported *more than one race*, or the *multiple-race* population. For example, people who reported they were both White **and** Black or reported they were both Black **and** Asian would be included in the *multiple-race* population. There are 57 possible multiple race combinations involving the five OMB race categories and the category Some Other Race.<sup>10</sup> This report presents data for each of the 57 race combinations. The analysis focuses on the four largest race combinations that had over one million in population size, nine race combination groups with over 100,000 in population size, as well as smaller race

---

<sup>10</sup> The 2010 Census provides information on the population reporting more than one race, as well as detailed race combinations (e.g., White **and** Black; Black **and** Asian). In the text of this report, the multiple-race groups are denoted with the conjunction **and** in bold and italicized print to indicate the separate race groups that represent the particular combination.

combination groups within the Two or More Races population.<sup>11</sup>

## ANALYZING DATA FOR THE MULTIPLE-RACE POPULATION

Data from the 2010 Census and Census 2000 provide information on the population reporting more than one race. The most effective way to compare the multiple-race data between the two censuses is to examine changes in specific OMB race combinations, such as the White **and** Black population or the Black **and** Asian population. These comparisons provide detailed insights to the changes in different race combination groups from 2000 to 2010, and they yield a clearer understanding of the changes that have occurred in the Two or More Races population since 2000.

The observed changes in race data between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census could be attributed to a number of factors. Demographic change since 2000, which includes births and deaths in a geographic area and migration in and out of a geographic area, will have an impact on the resulting 2010 Census counts. Additionally, some changes in the wording and format of the questions on Hispanic origin

---

<sup>11</sup> The maximum number of people reporting a particular race is reflected in the race-alone-or-in-combination concept. This represents the number of times responses were part of one of the six major race categories, either alone or in combination with the other five race categories. There are six race-alone-or-in-combination categories, which are not mutually exclusive: White alone or in combination, Black alone or in combination, American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination, Asian alone or in combination, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination, and Some Other Race alone or in combination. For example, a respondent who indicated Asian and White was counted in the Asian alone-or-in-combination category as well as in the White alone-or-in-combination category. Therefore, the sum of all race-alone-or-in-combination categories equals the number of races reported, which exceeds the total population.

and race since Census 2000 may have influenced reporting patterns in the 2010 Census.

Also, in Census 2000 an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people nationally (about 15 percent), which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. The Census Bureau issued a Data Note to advise data users about this processing error.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the *total* Two or More Races population between Census 2000 and

<sup>12</sup> The Data Note is available online in Chapter 9, "User Updates" (page 467) of the *Census 2000 Summary File 1—Technical Documentation* <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)>. The note states: "In Census 2000, during the conversion process of making the race write-in entries on the enumerator-filled questionnaire consistent with those in the mailout/mailback questionnaire, a step was inadvertently omitted. This resulted in an overstatement by about 1 million people reporting more than one race (or about 15 percent of the Two or More Races population). This overstatement almost entirely affects race combinations involving Some Other Race with the five race groups identified by the OMB (White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander). The overstatement does not significantly affect the totals for the OMB race groups reporting a single race ("race alone") or the reporting of the single race and at least one other race ("race alone or in combination")."

the 2010 Census with caution and should instead examine changes in *specific* race combinations involving OMB race groups, such as White **and** Black, White **and** Asian, Black **and** Asian, etc., to gain detailed insights into the Two or More Races population.<sup>13</sup>

### THE TWO OR MORE RACES POPULATION: A SNAPSHOT

Over the last 10 years, considerable research has been conducted on the population reporting multiple races, and the fact that people may identify themselves as being of more than one race has become a more common part of discussions and understanding of race and ethnicity. Results from the 2010 Census provide new information on the diversity and changes in the Two or More Races population in the United States and enable comparisons of this population from two major decennial data points. The analysis in this report focuses on specific multiple-race

<sup>13</sup> The Census Bureau did not go back to reprocess the figures after Census 2000, thus there is not a definitive assessment on impact. However, since the Census 2000 base was overestimated by about 15 percent, the observed percent change from 2000 to 2010 for people reporting more than one race could actually be higher.

combination groups, such as the White **and** Black population and the Black **and** Asian population, which exemplify some of the important changes that have occurred among people who reported more than one race over the last decade.

### About 92 percent of people who reported multiple races reported exactly two races.

Among people who reported more than one race in 2010, the vast majority (92 percent) reported exactly two races (see Table 1). An additional 7.5 percent of people who reported multiple races reported three races, and less than 1.0 percent reported four or more races. These distributions were similar to the reporting patterns in Census 2000, where, of all people who reported multiple races, the vast majority (93 percent) reported exactly two races; an additional 6.0 percent reported three races; and less than 1.0 percent reported four or more races. The biggest change in the distribution of the number of races reported since 2000 was that an increased proportion of people reported three races.

Table 1.  
**Total Population by Number of Races: 2000 and 2010**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Number of races	2000			2010			Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percentage of total population	Percentage of Two or More Races population	Number	Percentage of total population	Percentage of Two or More Races population	Number	Percent
<b>Total population . . . . .</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>308,745,538</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>27,323,632</b>	<b>9.7</b>
One Race . . . . .	274,595,678	97.6	(X)	299,736,465	97.1	(X)	25,140,787	9.2
Two or More Races . . . . .	6,826,228	2.4	100.0	9,009,073	2.9	100.0	2,182,845	32.0
Two races . . . . .	6,368,075	2.3	93.3	8,265,318	2.7	91.7	1,897,243	29.8
Three races . . . . .	410,285	0.1	6.0	676,469	0.2	7.5	266,184	64.9
Four races . . . . .	38,408	—	0.6	57,875	—	0.6	19,467	50.7
Five races . . . . .	8,637	—	0.1	8,619	—	0.1	—18	—0.2
Six races . . . . .	823	—	—	792	—	—	—31	—3.8

(X) Not applicable.  
— Percentage rounds to 0.0.

Note: In Census 2000, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15 percent) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

---

## The Two or More Races population increased by about one-third in size since 2000.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of respondents to Census 2000 and the 2010 Census who reported one or more races. In 2010, 9.0 million people, or 2.9 percent of the total population, reported multiple races. This was up from 6.8 million people, or 2.4 percent, who reported multiple races in 2000. Overall, the multiple-race population grew by about one-third in size over 10 years. However, these comparisons of the total Two or More Races population should be made with caution, considering that the 2000 base was overstated by about 15 percent nationally, and thus the percentage change for people reporting more than one race could actually be higher.

## Four multiple-race groups were, by far, the largest race combinations in 2010.

In 2010, four groups were the largest multiple-race combinations in the United States, each exceeding 1 million people in size (see Table 2). People who reported both White **and** Black numbered 1.8 million. People who reported both White **and** Some Other Race numbered 1.7 million. People who reported both White **and** Asian numbered 1.6 million. In addition, people who reported both White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native numbered 1.4 million.

## Thirteen multiple-race groups had at least 100,000 people in 2010.

In addition to the four multiple-race groups with more than 1 million people, nine additional multiple-race combination groups exceeded 100,000 people in 2010. The largest of these was Black **and** Some Other Race (315,000). Three other

groups exceeded 200,000—Black **and** American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian **and** Some Other Race, as well as White **and** Black **and** American Indian and Alaska Native. The remaining groups were all over 100,000—Black **and** Asian, White **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Asian **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, White **and** Asian **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaska Native **and** Some Other Race.

## The four largest multiple-race groups accounted for nearly three-fourths of the Two or More Races population...

The four largest multiple-race combination groups each accounted for more than 15 percent of the Two or More Races population in 2010. People who reported both White **and** Black accounted for 20 percent of the multiple-race population. White **and** Some Other Race represented another 19 percent, while White **and** Asian made up 18 percent. People who reported both White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native constituted another 16 percent of the Two or More Races population (see Figure 2). Together, these four combination groups represented nearly three-fourths of the Two or More Races population in the 2010 Census.

## ... and nine additional multiple-race groups each represented about 1 percent to 4 percent of the population reporting more than one race.

After the four largest multiple-race combinations, an additional nine combinations represented at least 1.0 percent of the Two or More Races population (see Figure 2). The largest of these combinations represented about 3 to 4 percent each (the Black **and** Some Other Race population and the Black **and** American Indian and Alaska Native

population). The Asian **and** Some Other Race population, the White **and** Black **and** American Indian and Alaska Native population, and the Black **and** Asian population represented about 2 to 3 percent each. Additionally, the White **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population, the Asian **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population, the White **and** Asian **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population, and the American Indian and Alaska Native **and** Some Other Race population each accounted for about 1 to 2 percent of the total Two or More Races population.

## There were considerable increases in the size of a number of multiple-race groups.

Between 2000 and 2010, the White **and** Black population increased the most in size, growing by over 1 million people, with a substantial 134 percent change (see Table 2). The White **and** Asian population also increased significantly, growing by about three-quarters of a million people, with an 87 percent change in its size. The White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native population increased by about 350,000 people, with a 32 percent change in size. On the other hand, the White **and** Some Other Race population decreased by about half a million people and declined 21 percent in size. Again, as discussed earlier, this decrease was likely due to the Census 2000 error in data processing that resulted in an overstatement of the race combinations involving Some Other Race, of which White **and** Some Other Race was the largest group in 2000.

Table 2.

**Two or More Races Population by Specific Combination: 2000 and 2010**(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Race combination	2000		2010		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percentage of Two or More Races population	Number	Percentage of Two or More Races population	Number	Percent
<b>Two or More Races population</b> .....	6,826,228	100.0	9,009,073	100.0	2,182,845	32.0
<b>Population of two races</b> .....	<b>6,368,075</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>8,265,318</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>1,897,243</b>	<b>29.8</b>
White; Black .....	784,764	11.5	1,834,212	20.4	1,049,448	133.7
White; AIAN .....	1,082,683	15.9	1,432,309	15.9	349,626	32.3
White; Asian .....	868,395	12.7	1,623,234	18.0	754,839	86.9
White; NHPI .....	112,964	1.7	169,991	1.9	57,027	50.5
White; SOR .....	2,206,251	32.3	1,740,924	19.3	-465,327	*-21.1
Black; AIAN .....	182,494	2.7	269,421	3.0	86,927	47.6
Black; Asian .....	106,782	1.6	185,595	2.1	78,813	73.8
Black; NHPI .....	29,876	0.4	50,308	0.6	20,432	68.4
Black; SOR .....	417,249	6.1	314,571	3.5	-102,678	*-24.6
AIAN; Asian .....	52,429	0.8	58,829	0.7	6,400	12.2
AIAN; NHPI .....	7,328	0.1	11,039	0.1	3,711	50.6
AIAN; SOR .....	93,842	1.4	115,752	1.3	21,910	*23.3
Asian; NHPI .....	138,802	2.0	165,690	1.8	26,888	19.4
Asian; SOR .....	249,108	3.6	234,462	2.6	-14,646	*-5.9
NHPI; SOR .....	35,108	0.5	58,981	0.7	23,873	*68.0
<b>Population of three races</b> .....	<b>410,285</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>676,469</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>266,184</b>	<b>64.9</b>
White; Black; AIAN .....	112,207	1.6	230,848	2.6	118,641	105.7
White; Black; Asian .....	21,166	0.3	61,511	0.7	40,345	190.6
White; Black; NHPI .....	2,938	-	9,245	0.1	6,307	214.7
White; Black; SOR .....	43,172	0.6	46,641	0.5	3,469	*8.0
White; AIAN; Asian .....	23,766	0.3	45,960	0.5	22,194	93.4
White; AIAN; NHPI .....	4,843	0.1	8,656	0.1	3,813	78.7
White; AIAN; SOR .....	29,095	0.4	30,941	0.3	1,846	*6.3
White; Asian; NHPI .....	89,611	1.3	143,126	1.6	53,515	59.7
White; Asian; SOR .....	34,962	0.5	35,786	0.4	824	*2.4
White; NHPI; SOR .....	8,364	0.1	9,181	0.1	817	*9.8
Black; AIAN; Asian .....	5,798	0.1	9,460	0.1	3,662	63.2
Black; AIAN; NHPI .....	998	-	2,142	-	1,144	114.6
Black; AIAN; SOR .....	7,023	0.1	8,236	0.1	1,213	*17.3
Black; Asian; NHPI .....	5,309	0.1	7,295	0.1	1,986	37.4
Black; Asian; SOR .....	8,069	0.1	8,122	0.1	53	*0.7
Black; NHPI; SOR .....	2,167	-	4,233	-	2,066	*95.3
AIAN; Asian; NHPI .....	3,063	-	3,827	-	764	24.9
AIAN; Asian; SOR .....	2,544	-	3,785	-	1,241	*48.8
AIAN; NHPI; SOR .....	586	-	2,000	-	1,414	*241.3
Asian; NHPI; SOR .....	4,604	0.1	5,474	0.1	870	*18.9
<b>Population of four races</b> .....	<b>38,408</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>57,875</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>19,467</b>	<b>50.7</b>
White; Black; AIAN; Asian .....	10,672	0.2	19,018	0.2	8,346	78.2
White; Black; AIAN; NHPI .....	988	-	2,673	-	1,685	170.5
White; Black; AIAN; SOR .....	4,645	0.1	8,757	0.1	4,112	*88.5
White; Black; Asian; NHPI .....	2,128	-	4,852	0.1	2,724	128.0
White; Black; Asian; SOR .....	1,376	-	2,420	-	1,044	*75.9
White; Black; NHPI; SOR .....	325	-	560	-	235	*72.3
White; AIAN; Asian; NHPI .....	6,450	0.1	11,500	0.1	5,050	78.3
White; AIAN; Asian; SOR .....	1,099	-	1,535	-	436	*39.7
White; AIAN; NHPI; SOR .....	309	-	454	-	145	*46.9
White; Asian; NHPI; SOR .....	7,932	0.1	3,486	-	-4,446	*-56.1
Black; AIAN; Asian; NHPI .....	750	-	1,011	-	261	34.8
Black; AIAN; Asian; SOR .....	334	-	539	-	205	*61.4
Black; AIAN; NHPI; SOR .....	111	-	212	-	101	*91.0
Black; Asian; NHPI; SOR .....	1,082	-	574	-	-508	*-47.0
AIAN; Asian; NHPI; SOR .....	207	-	284	-	77	*37.2
<b>Population of five races</b> .....	<b>8,637</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>8,619</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
White; Black; AIAN; Asian; NHPI .....	6,611	0.1	6,605	0.1	-6	-0.1
White; Black; AIAN; Asian; SOR .....	724	-	1,023	-	299	*41.3
White; Black; AIAN; NHPI; SOR .....	68	-	182	-	114	*167.6
White; Black; Asian; NHPI; SOR .....	379	-	268	-	-111	*-29.3
White; AIAN; Asian; NHPI; SOR .....	639	-	443	-	-196	*-30.7
Black; AIAN; Asian; NHPI; SOR .....	216	-	98	-	-118	*-54.6
<b>Population of six races</b> .....	<b>823</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>*-3.8</b>
White; Black; AIAN; Asian; NHPI; SOR .....	823	-	792	-	-31	*-3.8

- Percentage rounds to 0.0.

\* The percent change for race combinations that include Some Other Race (SOR) are denoted with an asterisk and should be assessed with caution because they may be impacted by the error in the Census 2000 Two or More Races data that is described below.

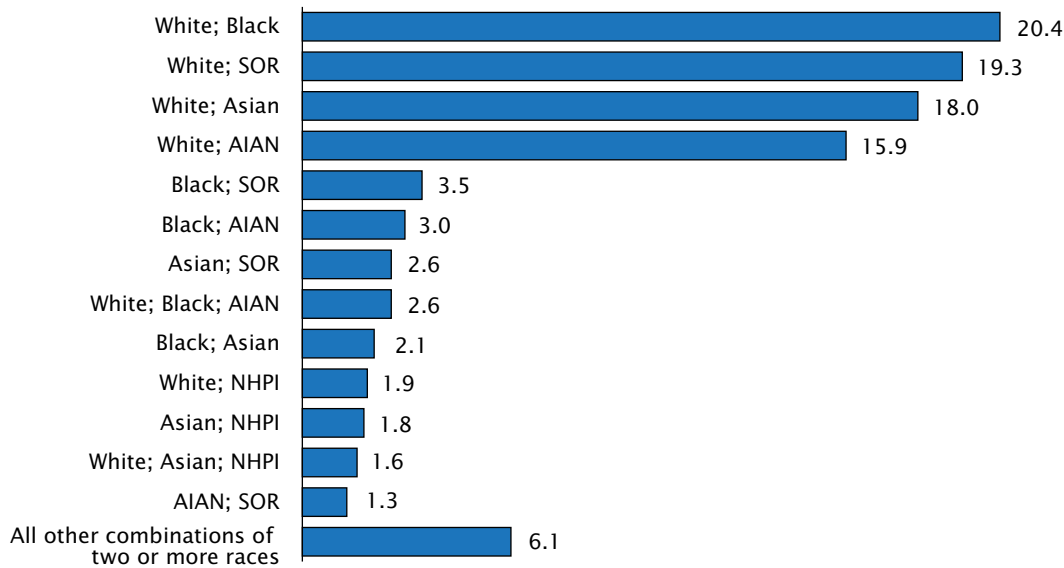
Notes: In Census 2000, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15 percent) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population and race combinations involving Some Other Race between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution. Changes in specific race combinations not involving Some Other Race, such as White **and** Black or Black **and** Asian, generally should be more comparable.

AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native; Black refers to Black or African American; NHPI refers to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and SOR refers to Some Other Race.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

Figure 2.  
**Percentage Distribution of the Two or More Races Population by Largest Combinations: 2010**

(For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 due to rounding. AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native; Black refers to Black or African American; NHPI refers to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and SOR refers to Some Other Race.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

**Several race combinations changed significantly in both size and growth.**

Five other multiple-race combination groups increased by more than 50,000 people since 2000 and exhibited significant percentage changes in their size as well (see Table 2). For example, the White **and** Black **and** American Indian and Alaska Native population grew by nearly 120,000 people, doubling in size with a 106 percent change over 10 years. The Black **and** American Indian and Alaska Native population grew by over 85,000 people, with a 48 percent change.

The Black **and** Asian population also increased significantly, growing by about 80,000 people, with a 74 percent change in size. The White **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population increased by nearly 60,000 people, with about a 50 percent change. In addition, the White **and** Asian **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population increased by over 50,000 people, with a 60 percent change in size since 2000.

Examining the changes in the specific race combination groups shows that many multiple-race combinations increased over

the past decade. While the total U.S. population increased by 9.7 percent since 2000, many multiple-race groups increased by 50 percent or more, and several more than doubled in size over 10 years. In fact, since 2000, as individuals had the opportunity to identify with more than one race group in their census response, the multiple-race populations within each race group grew much faster than their corresponding single-race populations, and thereby may have impacted each of the single-race groups' total population growth.

## PATTERNS AMONG MULTIPLE-MINORITY RACE COMBINATION GROUPS WITHIN THE TWO OR MORE RACES POPULATION

For the purposes of this report, the term “multiple-minority race” refers to race combinations among people who identified only with a combination of races that did not include White, regardless of Hispanic origin.

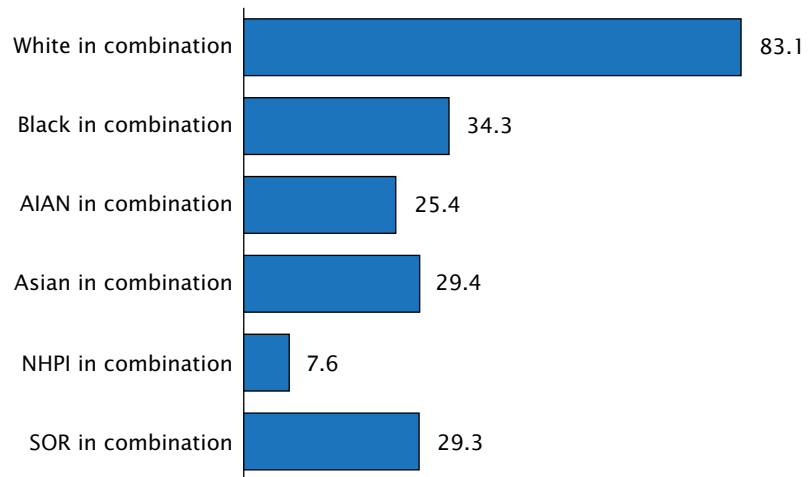
### Important patterns existed for multiple-race groups that did not include White as part of their self-identification.

In 2010, 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 3). Among all of the multiple-race responses that made up the Two or More Races population in 2010, 83 percent included White as one of the race groups. However, multiple-minority race combination groups, who did not report White as part of their multiple-race responses, totaled over 1.5 million people.

Other than White, the three most frequently reported race groups among all race combination groups were Black, Some Other Race, and Asian. Black represented 34 percent of the multiple-race population, followed by Asian (29 percent), Some Other Race (29 percent), and American Indian and Alaska Native (25 percent). Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander was reported

Figure 3.  
**Race in Combination as a Proportion of the Two or More Races Population: 2010**

(For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Note: AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native; Black refers to Black or African American; NHPI refers to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and SOR refers to Some Other Race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

in 7.6 percent of the multiple-race population.<sup>14</sup>

The large proportion of people who reported White in combination with another race group is not surprising given that the White alone population accounts for 72 percent of the total U.S. population.<sup>15</sup> To understand the more nuanced patterns occurring in the country among a growing number

of multiple-minority race combination groups within the overall Two or More Races population, this section takes a closer look at these smaller groups. Many of the multiple-minority race combination groups showed significant proportional changes over the past decade, providing important insights in understanding the growing diversity throughout the nation as a whole.

<sup>14</sup> Since multiple-race responses represent two or more of the six race categories, the sum of each particular race group's percentage of the total population exceeds 100 percent when totaled together.

<sup>15</sup> Humes, K., N. Jones, and R. Ramirez. 2011. *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Briefs, C2010BR-02, available at [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf).



**The Black *and* Some Other Race population made up the largest proportion of race combinations that did not include White as one of the responses.**

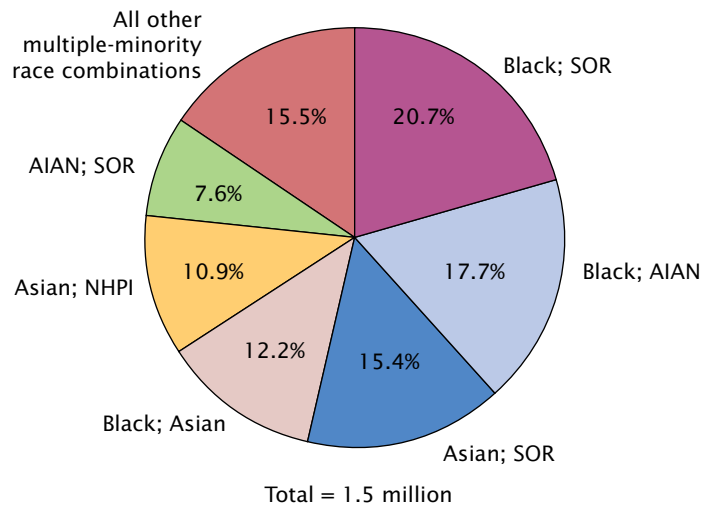
In 2010, among race combinations that did not include White as one of the responses, six specific race combinations constituted the largest proportions of all multiple-minority race combination groups (see Figure 4). The Black *and* Some Other Race population made up the largest proportion (21 percent), followed by Black *and* American Indian and Alaska Native (18 percent), Asian *and* Some Other Race (15 percent), Black *and* Asian (12 percent), Asian *and* Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (11 percent), and American Indian and Alaska Native *and* Some Other Race (7.6 percent).

**Black *and* Asian grew the fastest among multiple-minority race combination groups that numbered 10,000 or more in size.**

Between 2000 and 2010, there were eight multiple-minority race combination groups of 10,000 or more people that grew by at least 12 percent or more, and half grew by more than 50 percent in size (see Figure 5). Together, these groups emerged as the fastest-growing multiple-minority race combinations and were all represented by combinations of two races. Out of the eight combinations, Black *and* Asian was the fastest-growing population, at about 74 percent. The next fastest-growing multiple-minority

Figure 4.  
**Percentage Distribution of the Multiple-Minority Race Population by Combination: 2010<sup>1</sup>**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



<sup>1</sup> In this graphic, the term "multiple-minority race" refers to race combinations among people who identified only with race groups that did not include White, regardless of Hispanic origin. These groups are part of the Two or More Races population.

Note: AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native; Black refers to Black or African American; NHPI refers to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and SOR refers to Some Other Race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

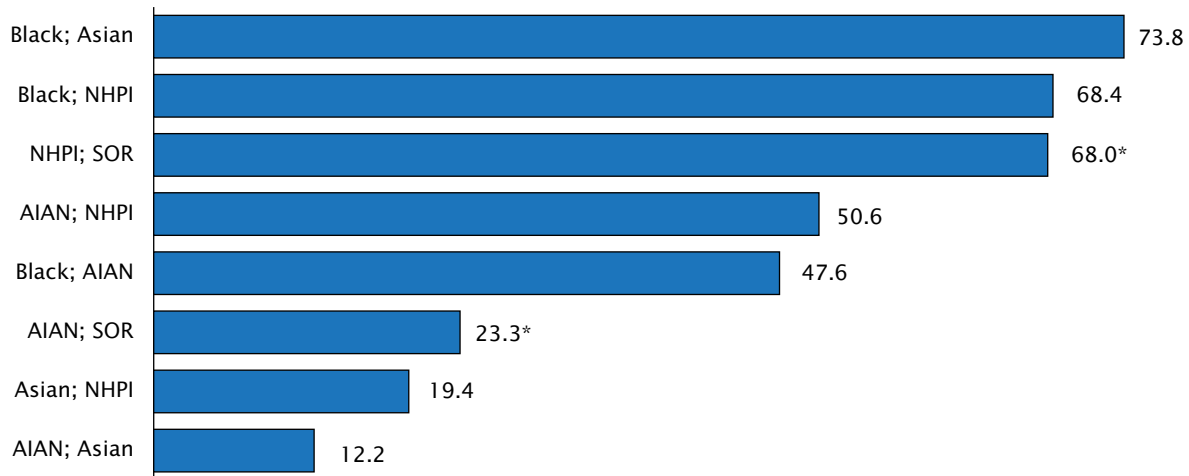
race combination groups each included Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander in combination with another race group—Black *and* Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (68 percent), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander *and* Some Other Race (68 percent), and American Indian and Alaska Native *and* Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (51 percent).

The four remaining multiple-minority race combination groups of 10,000 or more also grew, but at

varying rates over the past decade. Three of these groups included American Indian and Alaska Native as part of the reported combination—Black *and* American Indian and Alaska Native (48 percent), American Indian and Alaska Native *and* Some Other Race (23 percent), and American Indian and Alaska Native *and* Asian (12 percent). The fourth group was Asian *and* Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, which grew by 19 percent.

Figure 5.  
**Percent Change for Fastest-Growing Multiple-Minority Race Combinations of 10,000 or More: 2000–2010<sup>1</sup>**

(For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



\*The percent change for race combinations that include Some Other Race (SOR) are denoted with an asterisk and should be assessed with caution because they may be impacted by the error in the Census 2000 Two or More Races data. In Census 2000, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15 percent) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population and race combinations involving Some Other Race between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution. Changes in specific race combinations not involving Some Other Race, such as White **and** Black or Black **and** Asian, generally should be more comparable.

<sup>1</sup> In this graphic, the term “multiple-minority race” refers to race combinations among people who identified only with race groups that did not include White, regardless of Hispanic origin. These groups are part of the Two or More Races population.

Notes: AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native; Black refers to Black or African American; NHPI refers to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and SOR refers to Some Other Race.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1 and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

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

**The West had the largest number and the highest percentage of people who reported more than one race.**

In 2010, the West region had the largest number (3.4 million) of

respondents who reported more than one race in its total population (see Table 3). An additional 2.8 million people who reported multiple races lived in the South region, while about 1.4 million, each, lived in the Midwest and the Northeast. The West region also had the highest proportion of respondents who reported multiple races in its total

population (4.7 percent). This was compared with 2.6 percent of the population in the Northeast, 2.4 percent in the South, and 2.2 percent in the Midwest.

Table 3.

## Two or More Races Population for the United States, Regions, States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000 and 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Area	2000		2010		Percentage change, 2000 to 2010
	Number	Percentage of area population	Number	Percentage of area population	
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>6,826,228</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>9,009,073</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>32.0</b>
<b>REGION</b>					
Northeast .....	1,228,461	2.3	1,416,529	2.6	15.3
Midwest .....	1,022,468	1.6	1,447,930	2.2	41.6
South .....	1,847,015	1.8	2,753,410	2.4	49.1
West .....	2,728,284	4.3	3,391,204	4.7	24.3
<b>STATE</b>					
Alabama .....	44,179	1.0	71,251	1.5	61.3
Alaska .....	34,146	5.4	51,875	7.3	51.9
Arizona .....	146,526	2.9	218,300	3.4	49.0
Arkansas .....	35,744	1.3	57,010	2.0	59.5
California .....	1,607,646	4.7	1,815,384	4.9	12.9
Colorado .....	122,187	2.8	172,456	3.4	41.1
Connecticut .....	74,848	2.2	92,676	2.6	23.8
Delaware .....	13,033	1.7	23,854	2.7	83.0
District of Columbia .....	13,446	2.4	17,316	2.9	28.8
Florida .....	376,315	2.4	472,577	2.5	25.6
Georgia .....	114,188	1.4	207,489	2.1	81.7
Hawaii .....	259,343	21.4	320,629	23.6	23.6
Idaho .....	25,609	2.0	38,935	2.5	52.0
Illinois .....	235,016	1.9	289,982	2.3	23.4
Indiana .....	75,672	1.2	127,901	2.0	69.0
Iowa .....	31,778	1.1	53,333	1.8	67.8
Kansas .....	56,496	2.1	85,933	3.0	52.1
Kentucky .....	42,443	1.1	75,208	1.7	77.2
Louisiana .....	48,265	1.1	72,883	1.6	51.0
Maine .....	12,647	1.0	20,941	1.6	65.6
Maryland .....	103,587	2.0	164,708	2.9	59.0
Massachusetts .....	146,005	2.3	172,003	2.6	17.8
Michigan .....	192,416	1.9	230,319	2.3	19.7
Minnesota .....	82,742	1.7	125,145	2.4	51.2
Mississippi .....	20,021	0.7	34,107	1.1	70.4
Missouri .....	82,061	1.5	124,589	2.1	51.8
Montana .....	15,730	1.7	24,976	2.5	58.8
Nebraska .....	23,953	1.4	39,510	2.2	64.9
Nevada .....	76,428	3.8	126,075	4.7	65.0
New Hampshire .....	13,214	1.1	21,382	1.6	61.8
New Jersey .....	213,755	2.5	240,303	2.7	12.4
New Mexico .....	66,327	3.6	77,010	3.7	16.1
New York .....	590,182	3.1	585,849	3.0	-0.7
North Carolina .....	103,260	1.3	206,199	2.2	99.7
North Dakota .....	7,398	1.2	11,853	1.8	60.2
Ohio .....	157,885	1.4	237,765	2.1	50.6
Oklahoma .....	155,985	4.5	221,321	5.9	41.9
Oregon .....	104,745	3.1	144,759	3.8	38.2
Pennsylvania .....	142,224	1.2	237,835	1.9	67.2
Rhode Island .....	28,251	2.7	34,787	3.3	23.1
South Carolina .....	39,950	1.0	79,935	1.7	100.1
South Dakota .....	10,156	1.3	17,283	2.1	70.2
Tennessee .....	63,109	1.1	110,009	1.7	74.3
Texas .....	514,633	2.5	679,001	2.7	31.9
Utah .....	47,195	2.1	75,518	2.7	60.0
Vermont .....	7,335	1.2	10,753	1.7	46.6
Virginia .....	143,069	2.0	233,400	2.9	63.1
Washington .....	213,519	3.6	312,926	4.7	46.6
West Virginia .....	15,788	0.9	27,142	1.5	71.9
Wisconsin .....	66,895	1.2	104,317	1.8	55.9
Wyoming .....	8,883	1.8	12,361	2.2	39.2
<b>Puerto Rico</b> .....	<b>158,415</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>122,246</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>-22.8</b>

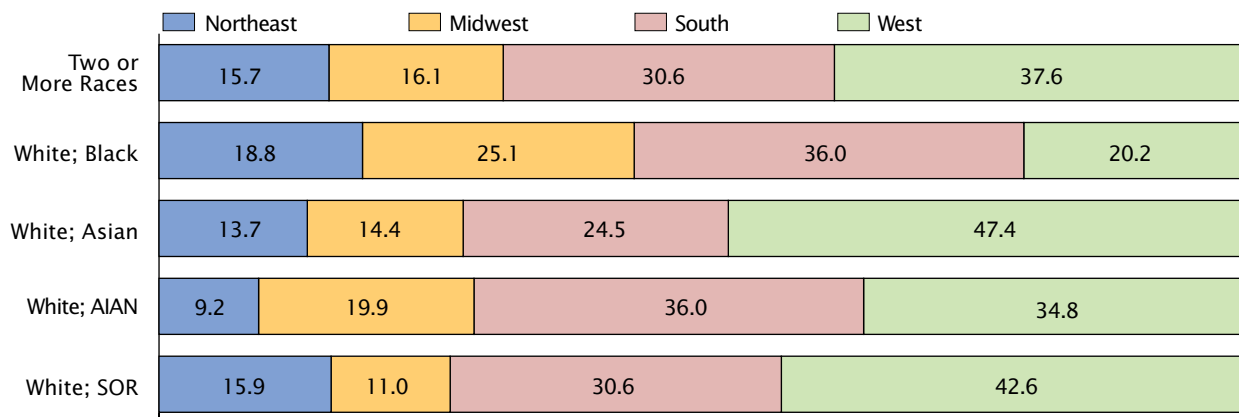
Note: In Census 2000, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15 percent) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population and race combinations involving Some Other Race between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution. Changes in specific race combinations not involving Some Other Race, such as White **and** Black or Black **and** Asian, generally should be more comparable.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

Figure 6.

### Regional Distribution of Race Combinations With a Population Size of 1 Million or More: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding. AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native; Black refers to Black or African American; and SOR refers to Some Other Race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

#### The greatest proportions of the Two or More Races population lived in the West and the South.

According to the 2010 Census, 38 percent of people who reported multiple races lived in the West region, and an additional 31 percent lived in the South. Another 16 percent lived in the Midwest, as well as 16 percent in the Northeast (see Figure 6).<sup>16</sup> These distributions were somewhat different from Census 2000, when 40 percent of all respondents who reported multiple races lived in the West, 27 percent in the South, 18 percent in the Northeast, and 15 percent

<sup>16</sup> The Northeast census region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest census region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South census region 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 census region includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

in the Midwest.<sup>17</sup> These changes in the regional distributions between 2000 and 2010 are likely influenced by the data error for combinations involving Some Other Race, as a large proportion of the Some Other Race combinations in 2000 were in the West region.

#### The number and proportion of people who reported more than one race increased in all four regions.

The greatest changes in the Two or More Races population by region were seen in the South and the Midwest. In the South region, the population reporting more than one race increased by nearly half its size since 2000 (increasing by 49 percent) and grew from 1.8 million to 2.8 million. In the Midwest, the multiple-race population grew from 1.0 million to 1.4 million, increasing by 42 percent. The population

<sup>17</sup> For more information on the analysis of the Two or More Races population in Census 2000, see Jones, N. and A. Symens Smith. 2001. *The Two or More Races Population: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Briefs, C2KBR/01-6, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-6.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-6.pdf)>.

reporting more than one race in the West and the Northeast grew at slower rates, increasing by 24 percent and 15 percent, respectively (see Table 3).

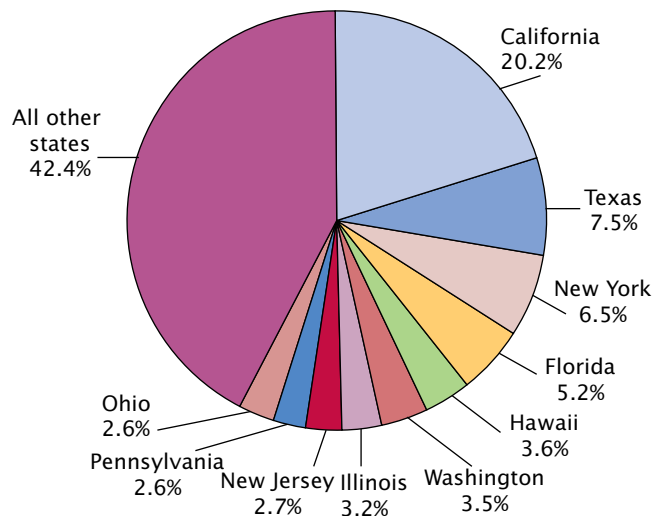
#### The largest race combinations were more likely to be found in the West or the South.

Of the four largest multiple-race combination groups, two were most likely to live in the South—the White **and** Black population (36 percent) and the White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native population (36 percent) (see Figure 6). Another 25 percent of people who reported both White **and** Black lived in the Midwest, and another 35 percent of people who reported both White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native lived in the West.

The other two largest multiple-race groups were more likely to live in the West region—people who reported both White **and** Asian (47 percent) and people who reported both White **and** Some Other Race (43 percent). Another 24 percent of people who reported

Figure 7.  
**Percentage Distribution of the Two or More Races Population by State: 2010**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

both White **and** Asian lived in the South, as well as another 31 percent of people who reported both White **and** Some Other Race.

**Three states (California, Texas, and New York) had a multiple-race population of half a million people or more.**

California, by far, had the largest Two or More Races population in the country (1.8 million), and it was the only state with over one million people who reported more than one race (see Table 3). Two additional states had a multiple-race population over one-half of a million in 2010—Texas with 679,000 and New York with 586,000. These were also the only states that had multiple-race populations greater than one-half of a million people in 2000.

**Sixteen states had a multiple-race population of 200,000 or more people.**

In addition to California, Texas, and New York, a number of other states had multiple-race populations of 200,000 or more people in 2010 (see Table 3). This included the northeastern states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania; the midwestern states of Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan; the southern states of Florida, Virginia, Oklahoma, Georgia, and North Carolina; and the western states of Hawaii, Washington, and Arizona.

**About 60 percent of multiple-race individuals lived in one of ten states.**

The ten states with the largest Two or More Races populations in 2010 were California, Texas, New York, Florida, Hawaii, Washington,

Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio (see Figure 7). Combined, these states represented nearly 60 percent of the multiple-race population. California contributed the greatest proportion of multiple race reporting, at 20 percent, followed by Texas (7.5 percent) and New York (6.5 percent). In 2000, Michigan was in the top ten states but was replaced by Pennsylvania in 2010.<sup>18</sup> All of the other states in the top ten in 2000 remained in the top ten in 2010.

**Thirteen states had greater proportions of people who reported multiple races than the national average.**

The Two or More Races population exceeded the U.S. level of 2.9 percent in 13 states (see Table 3). These states were led by the western states of Hawaii (24 percent), Alaska (7.3 percent), California (4.9 percent), Washington (4.7 percent), and Nevada (4.7 percent), and the southern state of Oklahoma (5.9 percent). The other top states included the western states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Oregon; the north-eastern states of New York and Rhode Island; as well as Kansas in the Midwest. No other southern states exceeded the national average, although Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent, nearly reached the U.S. percentage. Three states—California, Hawaii, and Washington—were represented in the top ten states for both number and percent reporting multiple races.

<sup>18</sup> Jones, N. and A. Symens Smith. 2001. *The Two or More Races Population: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Briefs, C2KBR/01-6, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-6.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-6.pdf)>.

---

### **No state had less than 1.0 percent multiple-race reporting in 2010.**

In 2000, 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). However, in 2010, there were no states where less than 1.0 percent of the population reported multiple races. In fact, by 2010, nearly every state in the country (with only Mississippi at 1.1 percent) had a multiple-race population of 1.5 percent or more.

### **Nine states had a 70 percent or greater increase in their multiple-race populations since 2000.**

The percentage change in the Two or More Races population was 70 percent or greater in nine states—South Carolina, North Carolina, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Mississippi, and South Dakota (see Table 3). Each state—with the exception of South Dakota—was a southern state. Many other states also saw large percentage changes in their multiple-race populations. In fact, the multiple-race population grew by 50 percent or more in 22 additional states.

### **In 2010, every county in the United States had respondents who reported multiple races.**

Multiple-race respondents were counted in every county throughout the country in 2010. In fact, about one-third of all counties in the United States had 1,000 or more respondents reporting more than one race. In addition, in about one of every six counties, the Two or More Races population's

proportion was higher than the U.S. level of 2.9 percent. Figure 8 shows the proportion of each county's total population that reported multiple races in 2010.

### **The Two or More Races population was concentrated in counties throughout the West.**

The highest concentrations of multiple-race reporting were noticeable in counties in the western part of the country. Similar to patterns observed in 2000, the West contained four counties (all in Hawaii) with between 22 percent and 29 percent reporting more than one race. Other counties with prominent Two or More Races proportions were located in parts of the South and the Northeast regions.

The majority of counties in Hawaii, Alaska, California, and Oklahoma had higher levels of multiple-race reporting, and many had more than double or triple the 2.9 percent U.S. level, as shown in Figure 8. Counties along the Pacific coast in Washington and Oregon, as well as counties in Nevada and southern and central Colorado, had higher percentages of multiple-race reporting.

### **Moderately high concentrations of the Two or More Races population were in metropolitan counties along the New England and Middle-Atlantic coasts.**

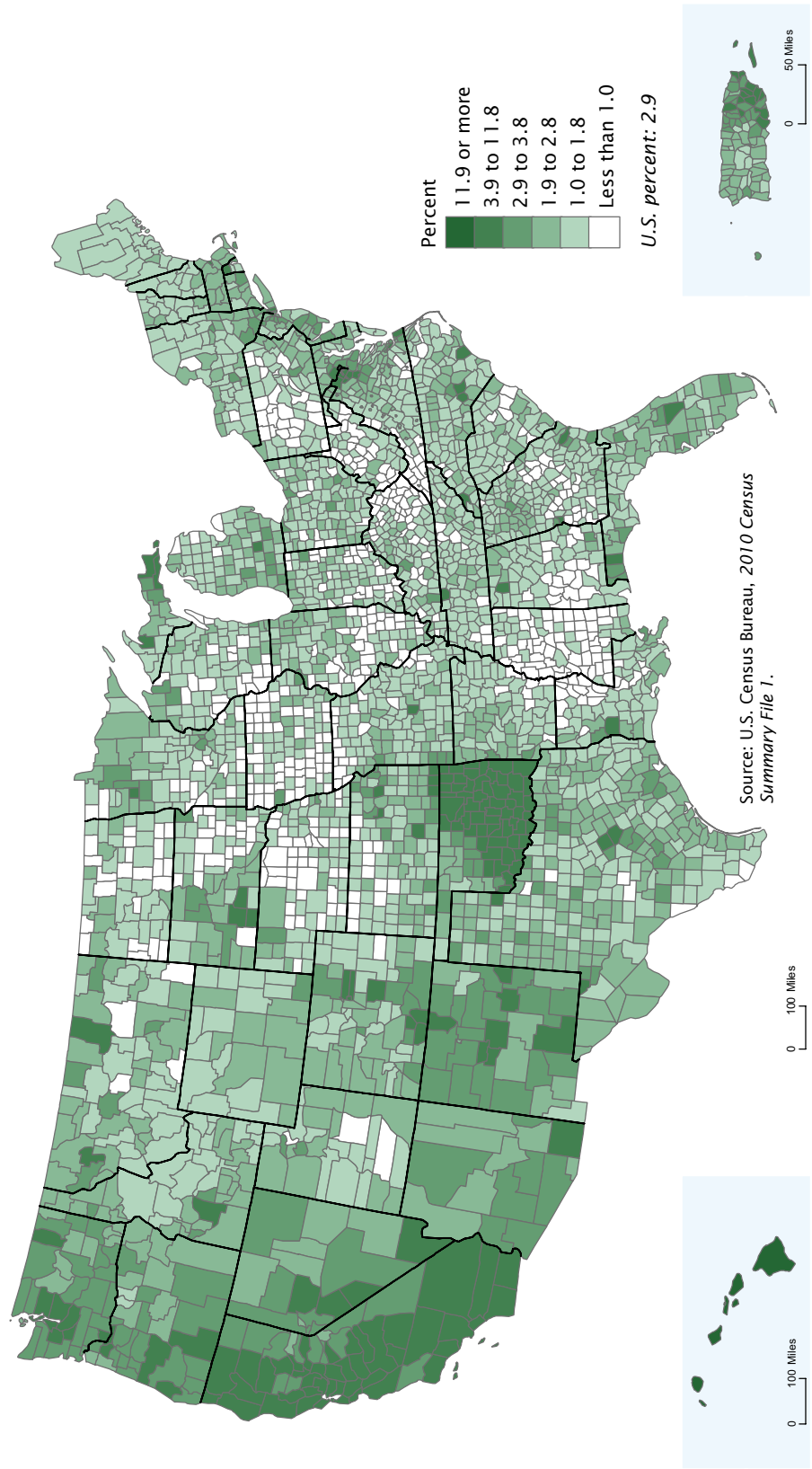
The Two or More Races population was also concentrated in metropolitan counties along the New England and Middle-Atlantic coasts. The counties forming the metropolitan corridor from Washington, DC, to Boston, MA, had noticeably higher percentages of people reporting multiple races, in comparison to counties located mostly outside the metropolitan areas of these

states. Similarly, some clusters of metropolitan counties across the Upper Midwest, around Chicago, IL, Detroit, MI, and Minneapolis, MN, as well as outside of metropolitan counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, had moderately high percentages (between 2.9 percent to 11.8 percent) of multiple-race reporting. Some southern and midwestern counties also had moderately high proportions reporting multiple races in 2010, especially in and around metropolitan area clusters in parts of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee and the metropolitan Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida.

### **The Two or More Races population was least concentrated outside of metropolitan counties in the Midwest and the South.**

Counties with percentages of multiple race reporting lower than the percentage for the nation were likely to be outside of metropolitan counties in the Midwest and the South. This was especially true in the lowland South counties extending from Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, through some portions of South Carolina, and into north-central Tennessee, central-eastern Kentucky, and West Virginia. Pennsylvania, in the Northeast, also had relatively lower levels of multiple-race reporting than the national average in the central portions of the state. Additional concentrations of counties with lower percentages of multiple races were in midwestern counties throughout Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, North Dakota, and the eastern half of South Dakota.

Figure 8.  
**Two or More Races Population as a Percent of County Population: 2010**  
 (For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf))



**More than half of counties across the country experienced a 50 percent increase or more in their multiple-race populations between 2000 and 2010.**

The map in Figure 9 illustrates the percentage change in the Two or More Races population between 2000 and 2010 for counties with a Two or More Races population of at least 100 in 2010. Among these counties, over half exhibited growth of 50 percent or more from 2000 to 2010, as shown in dark green on the map.

The multiple-race population grew by more than 50 percent in most counties in the eastern half of the country. Other counties with more than 50 percent growth in the Two or More Races population can be seen throughout the central part of the country from Minnesota and Wisconsin down through eastern Texas and the Gulf Coast states. Additionally, multiple groupings of counties in southern Nevada, parts of Arizona, Utah, and Colorado, as well as clusters of counties in the Pacific Northwest, experienced substantial growth in their Two or More Races population between 2000 and 2010.

A number of counties in California, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and other parts of the country showed decreases in their multiple-race population since 2000. These decreases are likely a result of the Census 2000 processing error that overstated combinations including Some Other Race in 2000.<sup>19</sup>

It is important to note that other counties with more moderate growth, especially in the Western half of the country, already showed high levels of multiple-race

<sup>19</sup> There were 286 counties that showed a decrease in their Two or More Races population, which was likely a result of the Census 2000 processing error that overstated combinations including Some Other Race.

Table 4.  
**Ten Places With the Largest Two or More Races Population: 2010**

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

Place	Total population	Two or More Races	
		Rank	Number
New York, NY . . . . .	8,175,133	1	325,901
Los Angeles, CA . . . . .	3,792,621	2	175,635
Chicago, IL . . . . .	2,695,598	3	73,148
Houston, TX . . . . .	2,099,451	4	68,530
San Diego, CA . . . . .	1,307,402	5	66,688
Urban Honolulu CDP, HI <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	337,256	6	55,080
Phoenix, AZ . . . . .	1,445,632	7	52,334
San Jose, CA . . . . .	945,942	8	47,062
San Antonio, TX . . . . .	1,327,407	9	45,531
Philadelphia, PA . . . . .	1,526,006	10	43,070

<sup>1</sup> Urban Honolulu CDP, HI, is a census designated place (CDP). CDPs are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places and are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

reporting in 2000 and, therefore, are maintaining similar proportions a decade later to show little to moderate change.

**The places with the largest number of people who reported Two or More Races were New York, NY, and Los Angeles, CA.**

Among the top ten places with the largest multiple-race populations, New York, NY, had the largest with about 326,000 people, followed by Los Angeles, CA, with about 176,000 people (see Table 4). Five other places had populations of over 50,000 people reporting multiple races—Chicago, IL; Houston, TX; San Diego, CA; Urban Honolulu CDP, HI; and Phoenix, AZ.

Five of the top ten places with the largest number of people who reported multiple races were in the West region (Los Angeles, CA; San Diego, CA; Urban Honolulu CDP, HI; Phoenix, AZ; and San Jose, CA). The remaining five places were located in the other three regions, with two places each in both the Northeast (New York, NY, and Philadelphia, PA) and the South (Houston, TX, and San Antonio, TX), and one place in the Midwest (Chicago, IL).

**The place with the largest proportion of its population reporting Two or More Races was Urban Honolulu CDP, HI.**

Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, Urban Honolulu CDP, HI, had the largest proportion reporting Two or More Races in the country at 16 percent (see Table 5).<sup>20</sup> In 2010, nearly one out of every six people in Urban Honolulu CDP, HI, identified with more than one race. This proportion was nearly twice as big as proportions in the next five places—Fairfield, CA; Anchorage, AK; Tacoma, WA; Elk Grove, CA; and Antioch, CA.

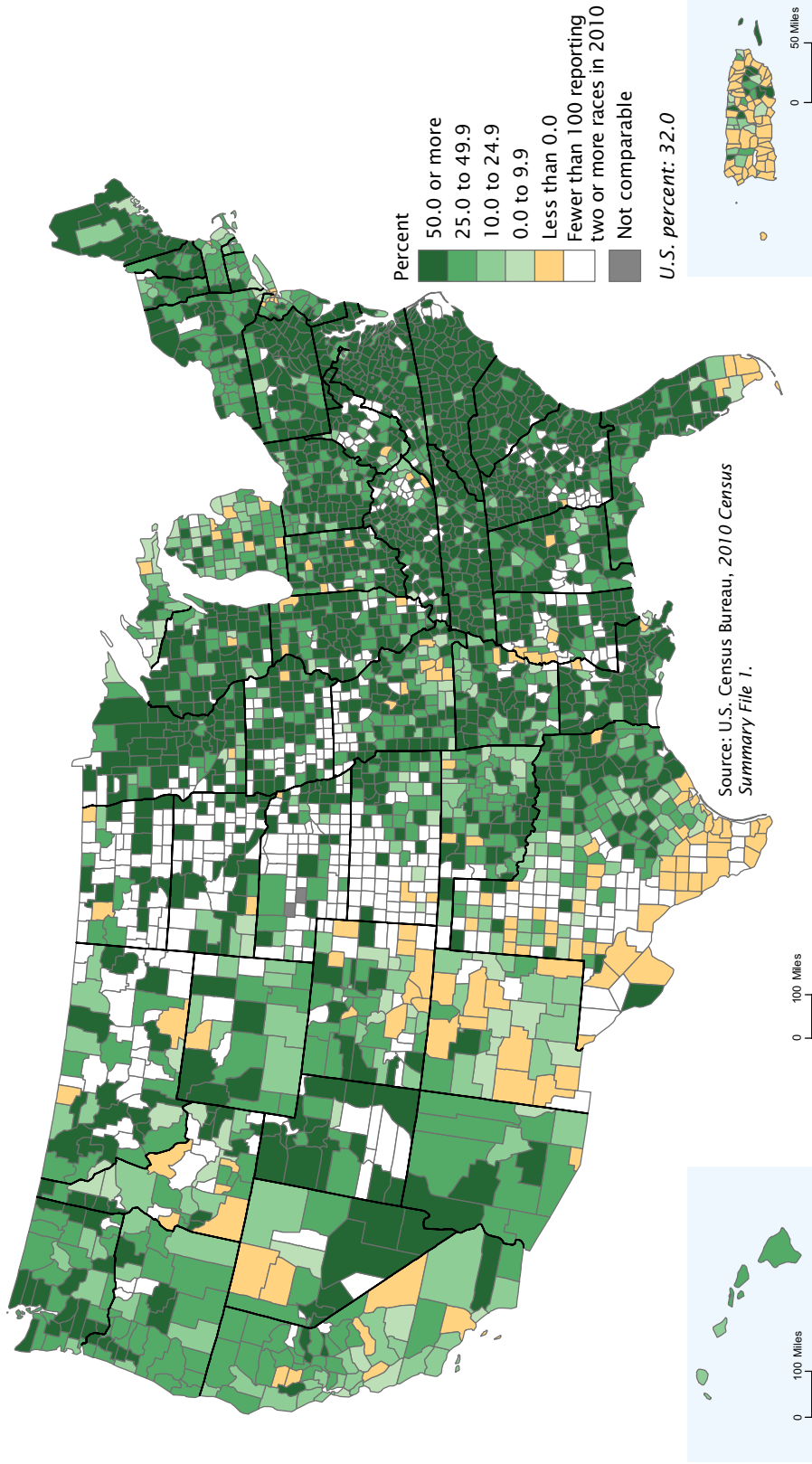
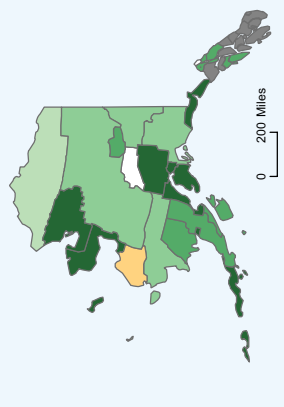
<sup>20</sup> Census designated places (CDPs) are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places and are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located.



Figure 9.

### Percent Change in Two or More Races Population: 2000 to 2010

(Counties with a Two or More Races population of at least 100 in 2010 are included. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf))



**Seven of the top ten places with the highest proportion reporting multiple races were in California.**

Of the top ten places with the highest proportion reporting Two or More Races, all were located in the West region, with seven in the state of California alone. Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, the places with the highest proportions of people who identified as multiple-race White, multiple-race Black, multiple-race American Indian and Alaska Native, multiple-race Asian, multiple-race Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, or multiple-race Some Other Race are shown in Table 6. These places were located primarily in the West (with 20 places), followed by the Northeast (5 places), the South (4 places), and the Midwest (1 place).

Among the six race groups shown in Table 6, California had the largest number of places in the top five reporting multiple races. There were 12 places in the state of California alone. Urban Honolulu CDP, HI, ranked first for three of the race groups. In addition, three places consistently appeared in the top five for half of the race groups (Fairfield, CA; Urban Honolulu CDP, HI; and Tacoma, WA).

Table 5.

**Ten Places With the Highest Percentage of Two or More Races Population: 2010**

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

Place <sup>1</sup>	Total population	Two or More Races population	Rank	Percentage of total population
Urban Honolulu CDP, HI <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	337,256	55,080	1	16.3
Fairfield, CA . . . . .	105,321	9,309	2	8.8
Anchorage, AK . . . . .	291,826	23,645	3	8.1
Tacoma, WA . . . . .	198,397	15,976	4	8.1
Elk Grove, CA . . . . .	153,015	12,101	5	7.9
Antioch, CA . . . . .	102,372	7,899	6	7.7
Vallejo, CA . . . . .	115,942	8,656	7	7.5
Sacramento, CA . . . . .	466,488	33,125	8	7.1
Hayward, CA . . . . .	144,186	10,177	9	7.1
Stockton, CA . . . . .	291,707	20,159	10	6.9

<sup>1</sup> 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 city-county consolidations) and 9 census designated places that were not legally incorporated.

<sup>2</sup> Urban Honolulu CDP, HI, is a census designated place (CDP). CDPs are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places and are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

**The place with the highest proportion of multiple-race Whites was Urban Honolulu CDP, HI.**

Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, Urban Honolulu CDP, HI, was the place with the highest proportion of people who identified as White in combination with one or more other races (12 percent), followed by Fairfield, CA; Anchorage, AK; Tacoma, WA; and Antioch, CA (see Table 6). Along with multiple-race Asians and multiple-race Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, all of the top five places for the multiple-race White population were located in the West.

**The place with the highest proportion of people who identified as multiple-race Black was Lansing, MI.**

Of all respondents who reported races in combination with Black, the highest proportion among populations of 100,000 or more were located in Lansing, MI; Tacoma, WA; Killeen, TX; Syracuse NY; and Providence, RI (see Table 6). Of these five places, two were located in the Northeast, and one was located in each of the other three regions. Lansing, MI, was the only place in the Midwest to appear in any of the top five places with the highest proportion for any race-in-combination population group.

Table 6.

## Five Places With the Highest Proportion of People Who Identified as Two or More Races by Specified Race: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Specified race	Rank <sup>1</sup>				
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
<b>White</b>					
Area . . . . .	Urban Honolulu CDP, HI <sup>2</sup>	Fairfield, CA	Anchorage, AK	Tacoma, WA	Antioch, CA
Percent . . . . .	11.5	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.1
<b>Black</b>					
Area . . . . .	Lansing, MI	Tacoma, WA	Killeen, TX	Syracuse, NY	Providence, RI
Percent . . . . .	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.3
<b>AIAN</b>					
Area . . . . .	Anchorage, AK	Tulsa, OK	Norman, OK	Oklahoma City, OK	Tacoma, WA
Percent . . . . .	4.4	3.9	3.4	2.8	2.1
<b>Asian</b>					
Area . . . . .	Urban Honolulu CDP, HI <sup>2</sup>	Elk Grove, CA	Fairfield, CA	Irvine, CA	Fremont, CA
Percent . . . . .	13.4	4.3	4.1	4.1	3.9
<b>NHPI</b>					
Area . . . . .	Urban Honolulu CDP, HI <sup>2</sup>	Hayward, CA	Fairfield, CA	Vallejo, CA	Elk Grove, CA
Percent . . . . .	10.0	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.0
<b>SOR</b>					
Area . . . . .	Elizabeth, NJ	Providence, RI	Paterson, NJ	Ontario, CA	Salinas, CA
Percent . . . . .	3.3	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.9

<sup>1</sup> 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 city-county consolidations) and 9 census designated places that were not legally incorporated.

<sup>2</sup> Urban Honolulu CDP, HI, is a census designated place (CDP). CDPs are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places and are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located.

Note: AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native; Black refers to Black or African American; NHPI refers to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and SOR refers to Some Other Race.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

### The place with the greatest proportion of multiple-race American Indians and Alaska Natives was Anchorage, AK.

Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, the places with the highest proportion of people who identified as American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races were Anchorage, AK, three places in Oklahoma (Tulsa, Norman, and Oklahoma City), and Tacoma, WA (see Table 6). In comparison with the other specified race groups reporting multiple races, the top five places with the greatest percentage of multiple-race American Indians and Alaska Natives were found in the South and the West (Oklahoma, Washington, and Alaska).

### The place with the highest proportion of people who identified as multiple-race Asian was Urban Honolulu CDP, HI.

Of all respondents who reported races in combination with Asian, the highest proportion among populations of 100,000 or more were located in Urban Honolulu CDP, HI (13 percent), followed by four places in California (Elk Grove, Fairfield, Irvine, and Fremont). Similar to the multiple-race White population, all of the places with the highest Asian-in-combination populations were located in the West. Urban Honolulu CDP, HI, also had the highest proportion among the populations of multiple-race Whites (12 percent) and multiple-race Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders (10 percent).

### The place with the largest proportion of multiple-race Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders was Urban Honolulu CDP, HI.

Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, the place with the highest proportion of people who identified as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander in combination with one or more races was Urban Honolulu CDP, HI (10 percent). Much like the multiple-race Asian population and the multiple-race White population, the places with the highest proportion of multiple-race Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders were in the West region. Additionally, like the multiple-race Asian population, four of the top five places for multiple-race Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders were in the state of California (Hayward, Fairfield, Vallejo, and Elk Grove).

**The places with the highest proportion of people who identified as Some Other Race in combination were in the Northeast and West.**

Of all respondents who reported races in combination with Some Other Race, the highest proportion among populations of 100,000 or more were located in the Northeast (Elizabeth, NJ; Providence, RI; and Paterson, NJ) and the West (Ontario, CA, and Salinas, CA). The White **and** Some Other Race responses predominantly reflect individuals who reported White along with a Hispanic origin response (e.g., Latino, Puerto Rican, or Salvadoran) in response to the question on race.

**ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE TWO OR MORE RACES POPULATION**

**What proportion of the multiple-race population was Hispanic?**

The OMB 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 of Two or More Races can be of Hispanic origin or not of Hispanic origin.

According to the 2010 Census, about one in three people (34 percent) who reported multiple races also reported they were of Hispanic origin (see Table 7). In 2010, 6.0 percent of Hispanics reported multiple races. Among non-Hispanics, 2.3 percent reported more than one race.

Table 7.

**Total Population by Number of Races and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2010**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Hispanic or Latino origin	Total	One Race	Two or More Races
<b>NUMBER</b>			
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	308,745,538	299,736,465	9,009,073
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	50,477,594	47,435,002	3,042,592
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	258,267,944	252,301,463	5,966,481
<b>PERCENTAGE OF RACE CATEGORY</b>			
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	16.3	15.8	33.8
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	83.7	84.2	66.2
<b>PERCENTAGE OF HISPANIC-ORIGIN GROUP</b>			
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	100.0	97.1	2.9
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	100.0	94.0	6.0
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	100.0	97.7	2.3

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables P1 and P2.

**The two smallest race groups were most likely to report multiple races.**

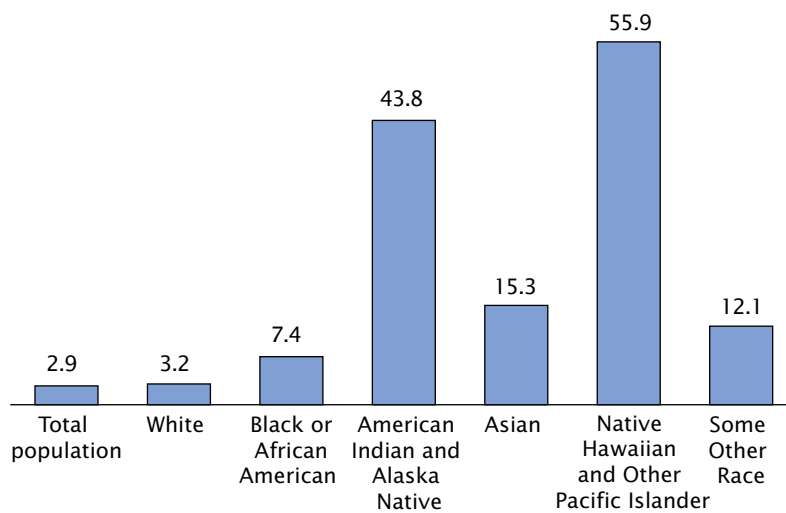
The multiple-race population in the 2010 Census numbered 9.0 million, or 2.9 percent of the total population. But the proportion reporting multiple races varied by race group (see Figure 10). The two numerically smallest race groups—the American Indian and Alaska Native population and the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population—were unique in that large proportions of these populations reported more than one race. In fact, they had the highest percentages reporting multiple races of all race groups. Of the 5.2 million individuals who reported American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination, 44 percent, or 2.3 million, reported American Indian and Alaska Native as well as at least one other race. Of the 1.2 million individuals who reported Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination, 56 percent, or 685,000, reported Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander as well as at least one other race (see Table 8).

The Some Other Race population and the Asian population had lower proportions of people reporting multiple races. Of the 21.8 million individuals who reported Some Other Race alone or in combination, 12 percent, or 2.6 million, reported Some Other Race as well as at least one other race. Of the 17.3 million individuals who reported Asian alone or in combination, 15 percent, or 2.6 million, reported Asian as well as at least one other race.

The White population and the Black population had the lowest proportions reporting multiple races. Of the 231 million respondents who reported White alone or in combination, 3.2 percent, or 7.5 million, reported White as well as at least one other race. Similarly, of the 42 million individuals who reported Black alone or in combination, 7.4 percent, or 3.1 million, reported Black as well as at least one other race.

Figure 10.  
**Percentage Reporting Multiple Races by Specified Race: 2010**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Note: Specified race group refers to the alone-or-in-combination population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

## SUMMARY

This report presented data from the 2010 Census and Census 2000 illustrating the nation's changing racial and ethnic diversity. In the past decade, the United States experienced substantial growth among people who reported more than one race. Census 2000 was the first opportunity in U.S. history for people to mark more than one race on a decennial census form. This examination of data on the

population reporting more than one race enables comparisons of the self-identified multiple-race population for two major data points. The most effective way to compare the multiple-race data is to examine changes in specific OMB race combination groups, such as **White and Black**, **White and Asian**, or **Black and Asian**. These comparisons provide detailed insights to the changes in different race combination groups from 2000 to 2010, and yield a clearer understanding

of the changes that have occurred in the Two or More Races population over the last decade.

Examination of multiple-race group distributions nationally shows that four multiple-race groups were, by far, the largest race combinations in 2010—**White and Black**, **White and Some Other Race**, **White and Asian**, and **White and American Indian and Alaska Native**. In addition to the four largest race combinations, nine additional multiple-race groups accounted for at least 100,000 people in 2010. Since 2000, two combination groups exhibited the most significant changes—the **White and Black** population, which grew by over one million people and increased by 134 percent; and the **White and Asian** population, which grew by about three-quarters of a million people and increased by 87 percent.

Several other race combinations involving OMB race groups exhibited large changes. For example, the **White and Black and American Indian and Alaska Native** population grew by nearly 120,000 people and doubled in size. The **Black and American Indian and Alaska Native** population grew by over 85,000 people, with a 48 percent change. The **Black and Asian** population grew by about 80,000 people, with a 74 percent change in size. The

Table 8.

## Two or More Races by Specified Race: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Specified race	Alone or in combination <sup>1</sup>	In combination <sup>3</sup>		Percentage of specified race in combination <sup>4</sup>
		Alone <sup>2</sup>		
White . . . . .	231,040,398	223,553,265	7,487,133	3.2
Black or African American . . . . .	42,020,743	38,929,319	3,091,424	7.4
American Indian and Alaska Native . . . . .	5,220,579	2,932,248	2,288,331	43.8
Asian . . . . .	17,320,856	14,674,252	2,646,604	15.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander . . . . .	1,225,195	540,013	685,182	55.9
Some Other Race . . . . .	21,748,084	19,107,368	2,640,716	12.1

<sup>1</sup> People who reported only the specified race and people who reported that same race plus one or more other races.

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

<sup>3</sup> People who reported a specified race plus one or more other races.

<sup>4</sup> The "percentage in combination" is the proportion that the "in combination" population represented of the "alone or in combination" population. This is equivalent to the percentage of people reporting a specified race who reported that same race plus one or more other races.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

---

White **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population increased by nearly 60,000 people, with a 50 percent change. In addition, the White **and** Asian **and** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population increased by over 50,000 people, with a 60 percent change in size since 2000. By examining the changes in the specific race combination groups, we see that many multiple-race combinations increased in both number and proportion over the past decade.

Additional notable trends were presented in this report. Overall, people who reported more than one race were most likely to live in the West (38 percent) and the South (31 percent). Sixteen states had a multiple-race population of 200,000 or more people. Among

all states, nine had a 70 percent or greater increase in their multiple-race population since 2000, and the multiple-race population grew by 50 percent or more in twenty-two additional states. Thirteen states had larger proportions of people who reported multiple races than the national average of 2.9 percent, and unlike 2000, no states had less than 1.0 percent multiple-race reporting in 2010. More than half of counties across the country experienced a 50 percent increase or more among multiple-race respondents between 2000 and 2010.

Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, the top five places in proportion of people who identified as multiple-race White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian

and Other Pacific Islander were primarily in the West (20 places), followed by the Northeast (5 places), the South (4 places), and the Midwest (1 place).

Data from the 2010 Census and Census 2000 present information that enables the first comparisons on multiple-race combinations in the United States, yielding insights into how this population has grown and diversified over the past decade. Throughout the decade, the Census Bureau will release additional information on the Two or More Races population and its diverse multiple-race combination groups, which will provide more insights to the nation's racial and ethnic diversity.

---

## 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.

### Why did the 2010 Census ask the question on race?

The Census Bureau collects data on race to fulfill a variety of legislative and program requirements. Data on race are used in the legislative redistricting process carried out by the states and in monitoring local jurisdictions' compliance with the Voting Rights Act. More broadly, data on race are critical for research that underlies many policy decisions at all levels of government.

### 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, such as the Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act, Fair Housing Act, Equal Employment Opportunity Act, and the 2010 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.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on race in the United States, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <[www.census.gov/population/race](http://www.census.gov/population/race)>. Information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf)>.

Data on race from the *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File* were released on a state-by-state basis. The 2010 Census redistricting data are available on the Internet at <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>.

For more information on specific race groups in the United States, go to <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)> and search for "Minority Links." This Web page includes information about the 2010 Census 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 2010 Census Briefs series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010)>. This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, and housing tenure.

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](http://ask.census.gov)> to submit your questions online.

