

The Emergency and Transitional Shelter Population: 2010

2010 Census Special Reports

By Amy Symens Smith, Charles Holmberg, and Marcella Jones-Puthoff

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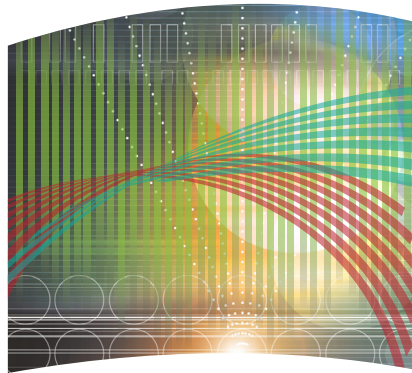
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INTRODUCTION

Studying the population in emergency and transitional shelters for people experiencing homelessness provides information about one segment of the group quarters population in the United States.¹ This special report focuses on the 209,000 people enumerated in the 2010 Census at emergency and transitional shelters and their demographic characteristics and geographic distribution. Although this population accounted for only 2.6 percent of the nearly 8 million people in group quarters, examining this group provides information on the portion of the population experiencing homelessness that is valuable to federal, state, and local agencies for a variety of reasons such as program planning and implementation.

DEFINITION OF EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS

In the 2010 Census, emergency and transitional shelters (i.e., shelters with sleeping facilities) for people experiencing homelessness were defined as places where people experiencing homelessness stay overnight. Examples include missions; hotels and motels used to shelter people experiencing homelessness; shelters for children who are runaways, neglected, or experiencing homelessness; and similar places known to shelter people experiencing homelessness. Descriptions of emergency and transitional shelters include:

- Shelters that operate on a first-come, first-serve basis where people must leave in the morning and have no guarantee of a bed for the next night.

¹ In this report, “emergency and transitional shelters” refers to emergency and transitional shelters (with sleeping facilities) for people experiencing homelessness.

- Shelters where people know that they have a bed for a specified period of time (even if they leave the building every day).
- Shelters that provide temporary shelter during extremely cold weather (such as churches).

This category does not include shelters that operate only in the event of a natural disaster.

The emergency and transitional shelter population is one of many types that make up the total group quarters population. For more details about the group quarters population, see Appendix B in the *2010 Census Summary File 1*, technical documentation available at www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf.

The 2010 Census Service-Based Enumeration Operation

People in emergency and transitional shelters were enumerated as part of the 2010 Census Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) operation. The SBE was conducted at service locations and targeted non-sheltered outdoor locations to provide an opportunity for people experiencing homelessness to be included in the census. These service locations included emergency and transitional shelters, soup kitchens, and regularly scheduled mobile food vans. The Census Bureau designated March 29, 2010, as the one day to enumerate people at emergency and transitional shelters; March 30, 2010, to enumerate soup kitchens and regularly scheduled mobile food vans; and March 31, 2010, to enumerate targeted non-sheltered outdoor locations. Although the Census Bureau attempted to enumerate the specific types of SBE locations on the pre-designated day, service providers were given the flexibility for their facility to be enumerated on any one of the 3 days during the enumeration period.

The SBE Operation Does Not Provide a Count of the Population Experiencing Homelessness

This special report presents data for people enumerated at emergency and transitional shelters only. The emergency and transitional shelter population makes up one segment of the population enumerated at service-based locations and should not be misconstrued as a count of the entire population experiencing homelessness. While we count people experiencing homelessness, we do not produce or publish a total count of “the homeless” population. Further, it is important to recognize that there is no standard or agreed upon definition of what constitutes homelessness. Also, people experiencing homelessness can be counted and included in the census via various operations, but those operations do not separately identify, or even collect information to separately identify, people who might be experiencing homelessness.

Although we made a determined effort to enumerate people at service locations (emergency and transitional shelters, soup kitchens, and regularly scheduled mobile food vans) and targeted non-sheltered outdoor locations, because this is a dynamic and complex group, all people normally at these locations may not have been included in the count.

AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

More males than females were in emergency and transitional shelters.

Table 1 shows that of the 209,000 people enumerated in emergency and transitional shelters, 130,000 were males (62 percent), while 79,000 were females (38 percent). The number of males was more than 1.5 times that of females. A similarly high concentration of males existed in the overall group quarters population. The group quarters population was made up of 4.9 million males (61 percent) compared with 3.1 million females (39 percent). In contrast, the total population was made up of nearly equal percentages of males and females (49 percent and 51 percent, respectively).

When the emergency and transitional shelter population is considered as a share of the group quarters population, males and females accounted for nearly equal shares.

The population in emergency and transitional shelters made up 2.6 percent of the group quarters population. Males in emergency and transitional shelters accounted for 2.7 percent of all males in group quarters. In comparison, females accounted for 2.5 percent.

Most of the emergency and transitional shelter population was aged 18 to 64.

The data presented in Table 1 also include the distribution of the emergency and transitional shelter population by selected age groups. In the 2010 Census, people aged 18 to 64 made up the largest segment of the emergency and transitional shelter population. The 18 to 64 age group represented 77 percent (162,000 people) of the emergency and transitional shelter population. The group quarters population had similar findings where the 18 to 64 age group accounted for 79 percent of the total group quarters population.

The emergency and transitional shelter population had a large proportion under the age of 18, while the group quarters population had a large proportion 65 years and over.

Patterns by age for the youngest and oldest parts of the population diverge when the emergency and transitional shelter population is compared with the group quarters population. For the emergency and transitional shelter population, the second largest age group was the one for people under 18 years of age, having 42,000 people or 20 percent (Table 1). The total U.S. population had a similar percentage under 18 years old, at 24 percent. In contrast, for the group quarters population, people under 18 years of age made up only 3 percent.

Conversely, for the group quarters population, the second largest segment was people 65 years and over, accounting for 1.5 million people or 18 percent. In the emergency and

Table 1.

Total, Group Quarters, and Emergency and Transitional Shelter Populations by Sex and Selected Age Groups: 2010

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

Sex and selected age group	Total population		Group quarters population		Emergency and transitional shelter population		Percent of group quarters population
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Both sexes	308,745,538	100.0	7,987,323	100.0	209,325	100.0	2.6
Male.....	151,781,326	49.2	4,858,210	60.8	129,969	62.1	2.7
Female.....	156,964,212	50.8	3,129,113	39.2	79,356	37.9	2.5
Both sexes, all ages	308,745,538	100.0	7,987,323	100.0	209,325	100.0	2.6
Under 18 years.....	74,181,467	24.0	260,586	3.3	42,290	20.2	16.2
18 to 64 years.....	194,296,087	62.9	6,269,031	78.5	161,578	77.2	2.6
65 years and over.....	40,267,984	13.0	1,457,706	18.3	5,457	2.6	0.4
Median age.....	37.2	(X)	28.8	(X)	39.2	(X)	(X)
Male, all ages	151,781,326	100.0	4,858,210	100.0	129,969	100.0	2.7
Under 18 years.....	37,945,136	25.0	165,477	3.4	21,325	16.4	12.9
18 to 64 years.....	96,473,230	63.6	4,239,142	87.3	104,834	80.7	2.5
65 years and over.....	17,362,960	11.4	453,591	9.3	3,810	2.9	0.8
Median age.....	35.8	(X)	29.5	(X)	43.9	(X)	(X)
Female, all ages	156,964,212	100.0	3,129,113	100.0	79,356	100.0	2.5
Under 18 years.....	36,236,331	23.1	95,109	3.0	20,965	26.4	22.0
18 to 64 years.....	97,822,857	62.3	2,029,889	64.9	56,744	71.5	2.8
65 years and over.....	22,905,024	14.6	1,004,115	32.1	1,647	2.1	0.2
Median age.....	38.5	(X)	25.4	(X)	29.7	(X)	(X)

(X) Not applicable.

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

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

transitional shelter population, the 65 years and over age group made up only 5,000 people or 3 percent.

The female emergency and transitional shelter population under the age of 18 was disproportionately large compared with the male population.

Table 1 indicates that 26 percent of all females in emergency and transitional shelters were under 18 years old, compared with 16 percent of males. This is unlike the total population and the group quarters population, where males and females represented nearly equal percentages.

Further disparity exists when examining the emergency and transitional shelter population as a percentage of the group quarters population. The female emergency and transitional shelter population under 18 years old represented 22 percent of the female group quarters population under the age of 18. In contrast, the male emergency and transitional shelter population under 18 years old represented 13 percent of the male group quarters population under the age of 18.

In the emergency and transitional shelter population, males outnumbered females in the 65 years and over age group. The opposite was true in the group quarters and total populations.

More males 65 years and over were in emergency and transitional shelters than females in this age group. This was unlike the pattern in the group quarters population and the total population. There were more than twice as many males as females 65 years and over in emergency and transitional shelters—4,000 males and 2,000 females. By comparison, in both the group quarters and total populations 65 years and over, the reverse was true with more females than males.

AGE-SEX PYRAMID

In addition to analyzing the number and percentage of the emergency and transitional shelter population in selected age groups, the age-sex pyramid (Figure 1) shows the percentage of males (on the left) and percentage of females (on the right) by single year of age. The pyramids for the group quarters population and the emergency and transitional shelter population are superimposed to make it easier to study the percentage differences between these two populations by single year of age. The contrast between the pyramids provides important information about variations between the two populations.

The base of the emergency and transitional shelter population pyramid is considerably wider than the base of the group quarters population pyramid. In general, this illustrates the differences shown in Table 1, where the percentages of males and females under the age of 18 in emergency and transitional shelters were higher than those in group quarters.

Moving up the pyramid by years of age shows a concentration of people aged 18 to 64 in both the group quarters and emergency and transitional shelter populations. However, the shapes of the two pyramids are quite different. For the group quarters population, the concentration is in ages 18 to 24, with very long bars for both males and females. This reflects the population in these ages in group quarters such as college/university student housing, military quarters, and adult correctional facilities like state and local prisons. Above 24 years of age, the length of the bars tapers off up to 64 years of age. This tapering off occurs much more rapidly for females than for males.

The emergency and transitional shelter population in the 18 to 64 age group shows a roughly rectangular shape up to about 36 years of age, where it noticeably projects out up to the age of 50 and then retracts again up to the age of 64. The bulge in the pyramid reflects the higher percentages of people 36 to 64 years old in the emergency and transitional shelter population, especially for males.

At the top of the pyramid (65 years and over), the emergency and transitional shelter population (both males and females) tapers off to a narrow point. The group quarters population does the opposite. It expands with more females than males. The percentages of older men and women (65 years and over) in emergency and transitional shelters were very low compared with the percentages of both males and females in these ages in the group quarters population (who were concentrated in skilled-nursing facilities).

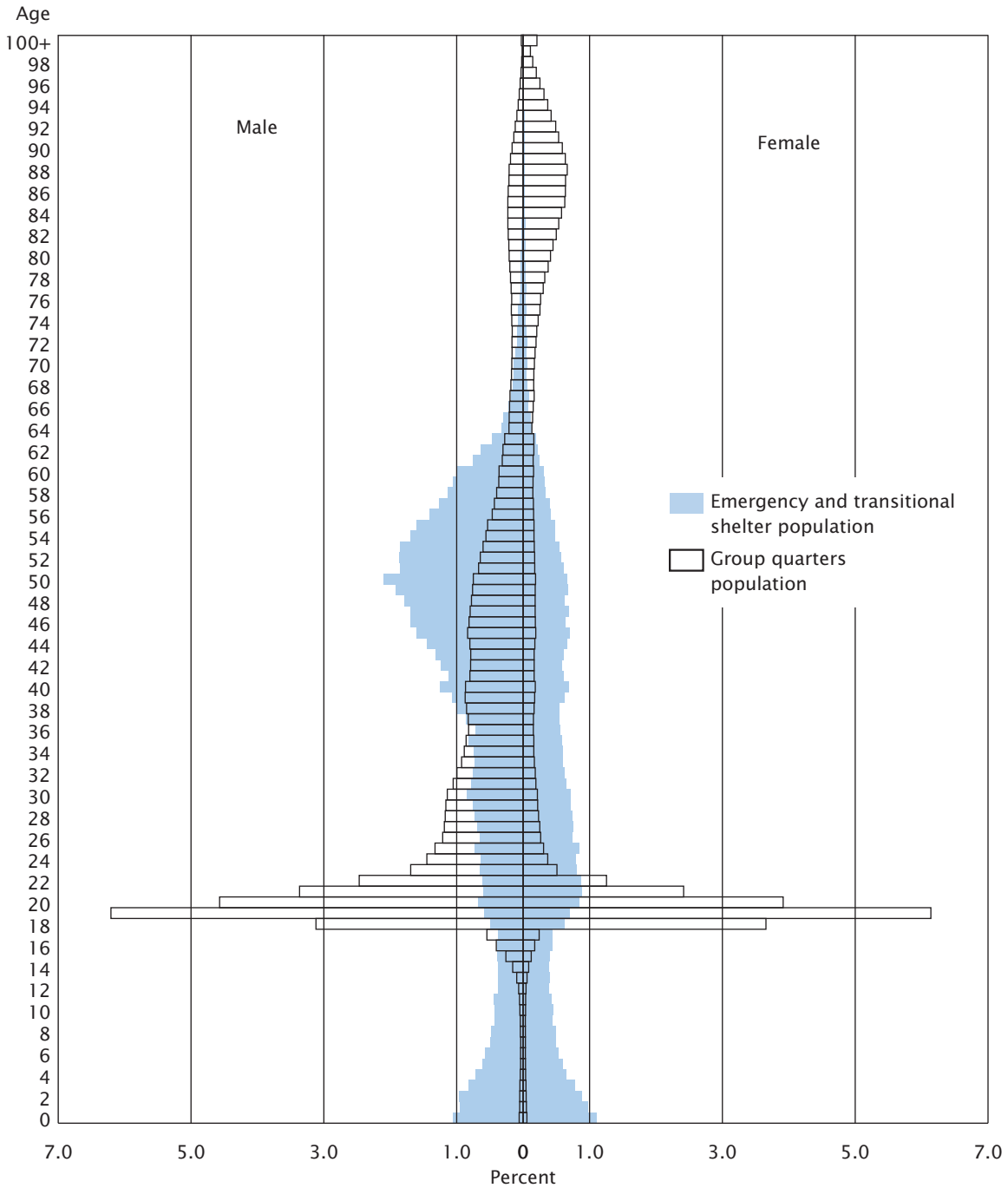
The emergency and transitional shelter population had a higher median age than the group quarters and total populations.

Variations in the structure of the group quarters and emergency and transitional shelter populations are further illustrated by looking at median age differences. The median age is the age at the midpoint of the population. Half of the population is older than the median age and half is younger.

The median age for the emergency and transitional shelter population was 39.2 years, more than 10 years higher than the median age for the group quarters population (28.8 years) and 2 years higher than the median age for the total population (37.2 years) (Table 1).

Figure 1.
The Emergency and Transitional Shelter and Group Quarters Populations by Age and Sex: 2010

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census unpublished tabulations.

For males, the differences in median age between the emergency and transitional shelter population and the group quarters population were even larger. The median age for males in emergency and transitional shelters was 14 years higher than for the group quarters population (43.9 years and 29.5 years, respectively). The differences for females were smaller at only 4 years (29.7 years and 25.4 years, respectively).

The age-sex pyramid helps to further explain these median age variations in the group quarters and emergency and transitional shelter populations. To illustrate, the group quarters population median age was lower because of the very large concentration of males and females aged 18 to 24, represented by the long bars in these ages towards the bottom of the age-sex pyramid. In contrast, the median age of the emergency and transitional shelter population was higher because of the concentration of persons aged 36 to 64, particularly the concentration of men in these ages.

RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

Most of the emergency and transitional shelter population reported one race, either White alone or Black alone.

Table 2 shows that in the 2010 Census, 96 percent (200,000 people) of the emergency and transitional shelter population reported one race, a smaller percentage than in both the group quarters and total populations (98 percent and 97 percent, respectively).

The largest group reported White alone (94,000 people), accounting for 45 percent of the emergency and transitional shelter population, followed by Black or African American alone (85,000 people or 41 percent). This pattern of the White alone and Black alone populations making up nearly equal percentages did not exist in the group quarters population or the total population. Both the group quarters population and the total population were primarily White alone (67 percent and 72 percent, respectively).

The American Indian and Alaska Native alone emergency and transitional shelter population

accounted for 5,000 people or 2 percent, while the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone population represented 2,000 people or 1 percent. Both race groups had larger percentages in the emergency and transitional shelter population than in the group quarters and total populations.

The opposite was true for the Asian alone population, where the emergency and transitional shelter population accounted for a smaller percentage than found in either the group quarters population or the total population.

In contrast, the emergency and transitional shelter population who reported more than one race (9,000 people or 4 percent) made up relatively larger proportions than they did in the group quarters population or the total population.

Illustrated in Table 2, people who reported they were of Hispanic or Latino origin (who may be any race) represented 18 percent (37,000 people) of the emergency and transitional shelter population. Both the group quarters population and the total population had lower

Table 2.

Total, Group Quarters, and Emergency and Transitional Shelter Populations by Hispanic or Latino Origin and by Race: 2010

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

Hispanic or Latino origin and race	Total population		Group quarters population		Emergency and transitional shelter population		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent of group quarters population
Hispanic or Latino Origin and Race							
Total	308,745,538	100.0	7,987,323	100.0	209,325	100.0	2.6
Hispanic or Latino	50,477,594	16.3	897,219	11.2	37,483	17.9	4.2
Not Hispanic or Latino	258,267,944	83.7	7,090,104	88.8	171,842	82.1	2.4
White alone	196,817,552	63.7	4,807,867	60.2	75,348	36.0	1.6
Race							
Total	308,745,538	100.0	7,987,323	100.0	209,325	100.0	2.6
One race	299,736,465	97.1	7,831,385	98.0	200,465	95.8	2.6
White	223,553,265	72.4	5,357,464	67.1	93,744	44.8	1.7
Black or African American	38,929,319	12.6	1,807,804	22.6	85,487	40.8	4.7
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,932,248	0.9	85,882	1.1	4,700	2.2	5.5
Asian	14,674,252	4.8	293,506	3.7	3,926	1.9	1.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	540,013	0.2	19,064	0.2	1,878	0.9	9.9
Some Other Race	19,107,368	6.2	267,665	3.4	10,730	5.1	4.0
Two or More Races	9,009,073	2.9	155,938	2.0	8,860	4.2	5.7

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

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

Table 3.

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

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

Area	Both sexes		Male		Female		Under 18 years		18 years and over	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
United States	209,325	100.0	129,969	100.0	79,356	100.0	42,290	100.0	167,035	100.0
Region										
Northeast	61,846	29.5	35,130	27.0	26,716	33.7	15,973	37.8	45,873	27.5
Midwest	35,753	17.1	22,713	17.5	13,040	16.4	7,205	17.0	28,548	17.1
South	59,822	28.6	38,901	29.9	20,921	26.4	10,224	24.2	49,598	29.7
West	51,904	24.8	33,225	25.6	18,679	23.5	8,888	21.0	43,016	25.8
State										
Alabama	1,714	0.8	1,161	0.9	553	0.7	252	0.6	1,462	0.9
Alaska	1,246	0.6	815	0.6	431	0.5	262	0.6	984	0.6
Arizona	3,296	1.6	2,317	1.8	979	1.2	462	1.1	2,834	1.7
Arkansas	1,222	0.6	845	0.7	377	0.5	300	0.7	922	0.6
California	27,655	13.2	17,423	13.4	10,232	12.9	4,580	10.8	23,075	13.8
Colorado	2,459	1.2	1,662	1.3	797	1.0	396	0.9	2,063	1.2
Connecticut	2,244	1.1	1,553	1.2	691	0.9	394	0.9	1,850	1.1
Delaware	471	0.2	291	0.2	180	0.2	77	0.2	394	0.2
District of Columbia	2,211	1.1	1,383	1.1	828	1.0	468	1.1	1,743	1.0
Florida	12,714	6.1	8,365	6.4	4,349	5.5	2,047	4.8	10,667	6.4
Georgia	4,977	2.4	3,419	2.6	1,558	2.0	718	1.7	4,259	2.5
Hawaii	2,909	1.4	1,551	1.2	1,358	1.7	1,078	2.5	1,831	1.1
Idaho	1,004	0.5	731	0.6	273	0.3	156	0.4	848	0.5
Illinois	7,623	3.6	4,833	3.7	2,790	3.5	1,615	3.8	6,008	3.6
Indiana	3,529	1.7	2,156	1.7	1,373	1.7	717	1.7	2,812	1.7
Iowa	1,646	0.8	1,097	0.8	549	0.7	299	0.7	1,347	0.8
Kansas	957	0.5	578	0.4	379	0.5	211	0.5	746	0.4
Kentucky	2,298	1.1	1,380	1.1	918	1.2	238	0.6	2,060	1.2
Louisiana	2,409	1.2	1,627	1.3	782	1.0	307	0.7	2,102	1.3
Maine	772	0.4	490	0.4	282	0.4	130	0.3	642	0.4
Maryland	4,227	2.0	2,523	1.9	1,704	2.1	966	2.3	3,261	2.0
Massachusetts	6,368	3.0	3,928	3.0	2,440	3.1	1,340	3.2	5,028	3.0
Michigan	4,932	2.4	3,080	2.4	1,852	2.3	895	2.1	4,037	2.4
Minnesota	3,745	1.8	2,333	1.8	1,412	1.8	1,143	2.7	2,602	1.6
Mississippi	440	0.2	300	0.2	140	0.2	96	0.2	344	0.2
Missouri	2,609	1.2	1,609	1.2	1,000	1.3	553	1.3	2,056	1.2
Montana	652	0.3	400	0.3	252	0.3	122	0.3	530	0.3
Nebraska	1,543	0.7	1,087	0.8	456	0.6	244	0.6	1,299	0.8
Nevada	1,338	0.6	986	0.8	352	0.4	152	0.4	1,186	0.7
New Hampshire	676	0.3	416	0.3	260	0.3	153	0.4	523	0.3
New Jersey	6,078	2.9	3,937	3.0	2,141	2.7	1,121	2.7	4,957	3.0
New Mexico	1,178	0.6	784	0.6	394	0.5	121	0.3	1,057	0.6
New York	36,254	17.3	19,027	14.6	17,227	21.7	10,784	25.5	25,470	15.2
North Carolina	4,844	2.3	3,219	2.5	1,625	2.0	798	1.9	4,046	2.4
North Dakota	422	0.2	278	0.2	144	0.2	47	0.1	375	0.2
Ohio	5,970	2.9	3,976	3.1	1,994	2.5	936	2.2	5,034	3.0
Oklahoma	1,757	0.8	1,195	0.9	562	0.7	263	0.6	1,494	0.9
Oregon	3,024	1.4	1,975	1.5	1,049	1.3	461	1.1	2,563	1.5
Pennsylvania	8,287	4.0	5,037	3.9	3,250	4.1	1,869	4.4	6,418	3.8
Rhode Island	661	0.3	394	0.3	267	0.3	106	0.3	555	0.3
South Carolina	1,622	0.8	1,079	0.8	543	0.7	264	0.6	1,358	0.8
South Dakota	329	0.2	213	0.2	116	0.1	72	0.2	257	0.2
Tennessee	3,509	1.7	2,420	1.9	1,089	1.4	425	1.0	3,084	1.8
Texas	10,841	5.2	6,925	5.3	3,916	4.9	1,942	4.6	8,899	5.3
Utah	374	0.2	236	0.2	138	0.2	57	0.1	317	0.2
Vermont	506	0.2	348	0.3	158	0.2	76	0.2	430	0.3
Virginia	3,747	1.8	2,249	1.7	1,498	1.9	951	2.2	2,796	1.7
Washington	6,425	3.1	4,113	3.2	2,312	2.9	980	2.3	5,445	3.3
West Virginia	819	0.4	520	0.4	299	0.4	112	0.3	707	0.4
Wisconsin	2,448	1.2	1,473	1.1	975	1.2	473	1.1	1,975	1.2
Wyoming	344	0.2	232	0.2	112	0.1	61	0.1	283	0.2
Puerto Rico	711	(X)	540	(X)	171	(X)	128	(X)	583	(X)

(X) Not applicable.

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

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

concentrations of Hispanics (11 percent and 16 percent, respectively).

Eighty-two percent (172,000 people) of the emergency and transitional shelter population reported “Not Hispanic or Latino” origin, and 36 percent (75,000 people) reported they were non-Hispanic White alone. The proportion of the non-Hispanic White alone population in emergency and transitional shelters was much lower than the proportion in group quarters (60 percent) and in the total population (64 percent).

THE EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL SHELTER POPULATION BY GEOGRAPHY

Region

The Northeast accounted for nearly one-third of the nation’s emergency and transitional shelter population.

Table 3 shows that among the four census regions, the largest emergency and transitional shelter population was in the Northeast (62,000 people or 30 percent), and the smallest was in the Midwest (36,000 people or 17 percent).²

The South accounted for the largest number of males in the U.S. emergency and transitional shelter population.

When comparing the emergency and transitional shelter population in the four regions by sex, the South had the largest population of males

² The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

(39,000 people or 30 percent), while the Midwest had the smallest (23,000 people or 18 percent). The West had 33,000 males (26 percent) in emergency and transitional shelters and the Northeast had 35,000 (27 percent). Additionally, in all four regions, the number of males in emergency and transitional shelters outnumbered females.

The Northeast had the largest share of the nation’s younger emergency and transitional shelter population and the South had the largest share of the older population.

Table 3 also provides information for the emergency and transitional shelter population in the four census regions by selected age categories. The Northeast had the largest population (16,000 people or 38 percent) under the age of 18, while the Midwest had the smallest (7,000 or 17 percent).

The largest population 18 years and over in emergency and transitional shelters was found in the South (50,000 people or 30 percent), and the smallest was, once again, in the Midwest (29,000 people or 17 percent). As shown, the Midwest had the smallest share of people for both age groups.

State

New York had the largest emergency and transitional shelter population.

Among the states, New York had the largest emergency and transitional shelter population (36,000), followed by California (28,000) (Table 3). The state with the third largest emergency and transitional shelter population was Florida, with a considerably smaller population of 13,000 people. Texas followed closely with a population of 11,000. Of the remaining states, 6 states had emergency

and transitional shelter populations between 5,001 and 10,000, 28 states (including the District of Columbia) had populations between 1,000 and 5,000, and 13 states had populations less than 1,000.

Over half of the emergency and transitional shelter population was concentrated in just seven states.

Figure 2 shows that over half of the U.S. emergency and transitional shelter population was concentrated in just seven states: New York (17 percent), California (13 percent), Florida (6 percent), Texas (5 percent), Pennsylvania (4 percent), Illinois (4 percent), and Washington (3 percent). Interestingly, New York and California alone accounted for nearly one-third of the nation’s emergency and transitional shelter population.

A further look at Table 3 shows state level variations in the emergency and transitional shelter population by age and sex. First looking at the male emergency and transitional shelter population, New York had the largest population (19,000 males) and accounted for 15 percent of the national male emergency and transitional shelter population. In contrast, South Dakota had the smallest male population in emergency and transitional shelters (200 males)—0.2 percent of the U.S. male emergency and transitional shelter population.

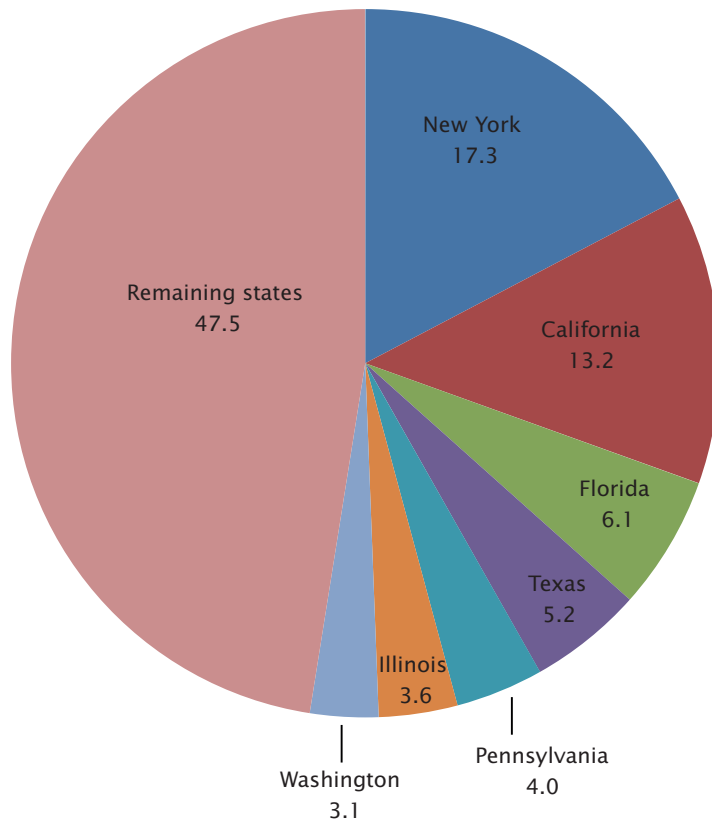
New York had the largest population under the age of 18 as well as the largest population 18 years and over in emergency and transitional shelters.

Turning to age, Table 3 shows that New York had the largest number of people under 18 years old at 11,000, representing 26 percent of the nation’s younger emergency and transitional shelter population. New

Figure 2.

Percentage Distribution of the Emergency and Transitional Shelter Population by State: 2010

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



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

York also had the largest number of people over 18 years old at 25,000, accounting for 15 percent of the nation's older emergency and transitional shelter population.

Thus far, the state analysis has focused on the state share of the U.S. emergency and transitional shelter population by characteristics. Looking at the emergency and transitional shelter population within individual states is also important. The next section looks at state-level age and sex distributions for the emergency and transitional shelter population.

Within states, the proportions of males and females in emergency and transitional shelters varied.

Figure 3 shows a sex distribution for each state, with states ranked according to their percentage of male population. The two states with the most uneven distributions of males and females were Nevada (74 percent and 26 percent, respectively) and Idaho (73 percent and 27 percent, respectively). In contrast, New York (53 percent male, 48 percent female) and Hawaii (53 percent male, 47 percent female) had

the largest percentages of females, although the percentage of females was still lower than the percentage of males.³ For 15 states, the proportion of males in emergency and transitional shelters was smaller than the national level (62 percent).

Hawaii had the largest percentage under the age of 18, while New Mexico had the largest percentage 18 years and over in emergency and transitional shelters.

Figure 4 shows an age distribution of the emergency and transitional shelter population for each state, with states ranked by their percent under 18 years. Hawaii had the highest percentage (37 percent) in the group under the age of 18, followed by Minnesota (31 percent). For 34 states, the proportion of the emergency and transitional shelter population under the age of 18 was smaller than the national level (20 percent).

New Mexico and Kentucky had the highest percentages in the 18 and over age group (both 90 percent). These percentages were well above the national level of 80 percent for the 18 and older age group.

Nationally, nearly twice as many males as females in the group 18 years and above were in emergency and transitional shelters.

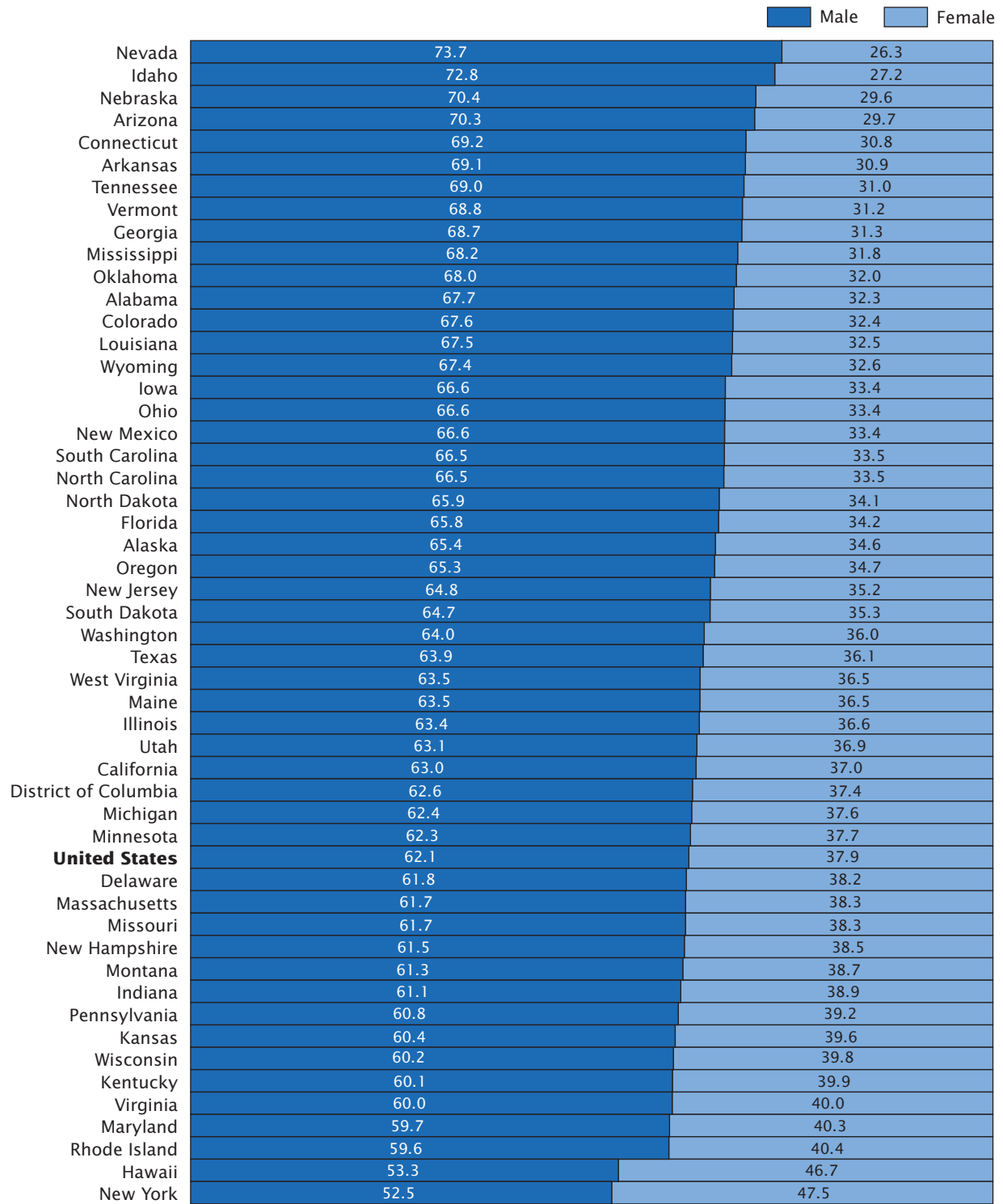
At the national level, the emergency and transitional shelter population had nearly equal proportions of males and females under 18 years of age (both 10 percent) (Table 4). In contrast, for the 18 years of age and older group, there were nearly twice as many males as females (52 percent and 28 percent, respectively).

³ Due to rounding, the percentages by sex for individual states may not sum to 100 percent.

Figure 3.

The Emergency and Transitional Shelter Population by Sex for States: 2010

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

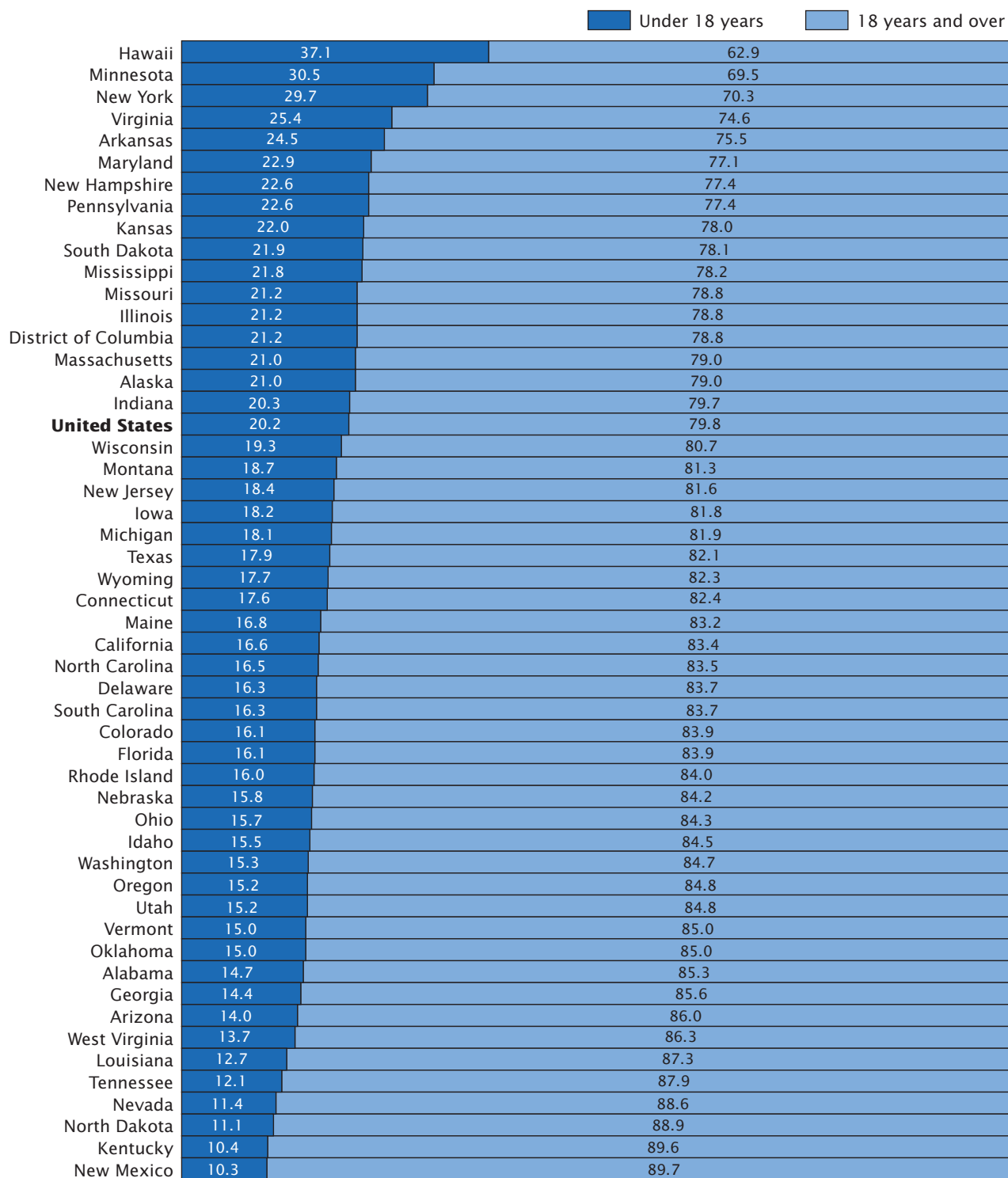


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary File 1.

Figure 4.

The Emergency and Transitional Shelter Population by Selected Age Groups for States: 2010

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



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

Table 4.

Age and Sex Distribution of the Emergency and Transitional Shelter Population for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 2010

(In percent.¹ For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)

Area	Male		Female	
	Under 18 years	18 years and over	Under 18 years	18 years and over
United States	10.2	51.9	10.0	27.9
Region				
Northeast	13.0	43.8	12.8	30.4
Midwest	10.2	53.3	10.0	26.5
South	8.7	56.3	8.4	26.6
West	8.5	55.5	8.6	27.4
State				
Alabama	8.6	59.2	6.1	26.1
Alaska	11.2	54.3	9.9	24.7
Arizona	6.5	63.8	7.6	22.1
Arkansas	16.0	53.1	8.5	22.3
California	8.1	54.9	8.5	28.5
Colorado	8.9	58.6	7.2	25.3
Connecticut	8.6	60.7	9.0	21.8
Delaware	8.3	53.5	8.1	30.1
District of Columbia	10.9	51.7	10.3	27.1
Florida	7.6	58.2	8.5	25.7
Georgia	7.8	60.9	6.6	24.7
Hawaii	18.8	34.5	18.3	28.4
Idaho	9.1	63.7	6.5	20.7
Illinois	11.2	52.2	10.0	26.6
Indiana	10.1	51.0	10.2	28.7
Iowa	9.7	56.9	8.4	24.9
Kansas	10.9	49.5	11.2	28.4
Kentucky	5.2	54.8	5.1	34.8
Louisiana	6.0	61.5	6.7	25.7
Maine	9.6	53.9	7.3	29.3
Maryland	11.1	48.5	11.7	28.6
Massachusetts	11.0	50.7	10.0	28.3
Michigan	8.8	53.6	9.3	28.2
Minnesota	15.5	46.8	15.1	22.6
Mississippi	8.9	59.3	13.0	18.9
Missouri	10.6	51.1	10.6	27.7
Montana	9.0	52.3	9.7	29.0
Nebraska	7.7	62.7	8.1	21.5
Nevada	5.4	68.3	6.0	20.3
New Hampshire	11.7	49.9	10.9	27.5
New Jersey	9.6	55.2	8.9	26.3
New Mexico	6.0	60.5	4.2	29.2
New York	15.0	37.5	14.8	32.8
North Carolina	8.9	57.6	7.6	26.0
North Dakota	6.2	59.7	5.0	29.1
Ohio	8.0	58.6	7.6	25.8
Oklahoma	7.1	61.0	7.9	24.1
Oregon	7.6	57.7	7.6	27.1
Pennsylvania	11.0	49.8	11.6	27.7
Rhode Island	8.0	51.6	8.0	32.4
South Carolina	8.5	58.0	7.8	25.7
South Dakota	7.9	56.8	14.0	21.3
Tennessee	6.0	63.0	6.1	24.9
Texas	9.1	54.7	8.8	27.3
Utah	8.3	54.8	7.0	29.9
Vermont	8.3	60.5	6.7	24.5
Virginia	12.9	47.2	12.5	27.5
Washington	7.6	56.4	7.7	28.3
West Virginia	7.9	55.6	5.7	30.8
Wisconsin	9.6	50.6	9.8	30.1
Wyoming	9.0	58.4	8.7	23.8
Puerto Rico	11.0	65.0	7.0	17.0

¹ Percentages may not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

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

Table 4 continues the within-state analyses by providing the sex-by-age distribution for each state. Diversity in states' emergency and transitional shelter populations by age and sex is apparent. For example, Arkansas had a disproportionately higher proportion of males under 18 years old (16 percent) than females (9 percent). In contrast, South Dakota (8 percent male, 14 percent female) and Mississippi (9 percent male, 13 percent female) had the opposite pattern—higher proportions of younger age females than males. In the remaining states, the proportions of males and females under the age of 18 were more even.

These disproportionate age and sex relationships within individual states are noteworthy because they highlight important demographic contrasts. However, these patterns are apparent in states where the total emergency and transitional shelter populations were already small, therefore, these results should be used cautiously.

For the older age group (18 years and over), Nevada (68 percent male, 20 percent female) had the most disproportionate share of males, with over three times as many males as females. Interestingly, no states had more females aged 18 and over than males. The closest states were New York (38 percent male, 33 percent female) and Hawaii (35 percent male, 28 percent female).

County

When the emergency and transitional shelter population data are examined at the county level, patterns generally follow the state and regional trends noted

earlier.⁴ Figure 5 shows the size of the emergency and transitional shelter population by county. It is evident that counties with the largest populations in emergency and transitional shelters were concentrated along the nation's Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Specifically, large populations were found in a swath along the Atlantic coast from New England down to the Mid-Atlantic Corridor and in Florida. In the West, bands of coastal counties from the Pacific Northwest to the Desert Southwest had large populations, along with some counties in Hawaii.

Throughout the interior of the United States, counties with large emergency and transitional shelter populations were generally located in and around metropolitan areas. Moderate and small sized populations were concentrated in the interior of New England and continued into the Ohio River Valley and parts of the upper Midwest, along with concentrations in North Carolina and South Carolina. Aside from many of the Great Plains states, pockets of counties with moderate and small sized emergency and transitional shelter populations

⁴ The primary legal divisions of most states are termed "counties." In Louisiana, these divisions are known as parishes. In Alaska, which has no counties, the statistically equivalent entities are census areas, cities and boroughs (as in Juneau City and Borough), a municipality (Anchorage), and organized boroughs. Census areas are delineated cooperatively for data presentation purposes by the state of Alaska and the U.S. Census Bureau. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia), there are one or more incorporated places that are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their states; these incorporated places are known as "independent cities" and are treated as equivalent to counties for data presentation purposes. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions, and the entire area is considered equivalent to a county and a state for data presentation purposes.

existed in states representing the Heartland, the Appalachian Mountains, the Mississippi Delta, East Texas and Oklahoma, and the Intermountain West.

Four counties had emergency and transitional shelter populations above 8,000, three were located in New York.

The counties with the largest emergency and transitional shelter populations were: Bronx County, New York (8,990 people); New York County, New York (8,496 people); Los Angeles County, California (8,492 people); and Kings County, New York (8,409 people). The next largest county was considerably smaller: Cook County, Illinois, had 4,608 people in emergency and transitional shelters.

In contrast to large concentrations in a few counties, nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of the 3,143 counties in the United States had no emergency and transitional shelter population.

Places

Among places of 100,000 or more, New York, New York, had the largest number and share of the nation's emergency and transitional shelter population.

Table 5 lists the ten places (among places with a population of 100,000 or more) with the largest emergency and transitional shelter populations.⁵ New York, New York, had the largest emergency and transitional shelter population (30,000 people) and accounted

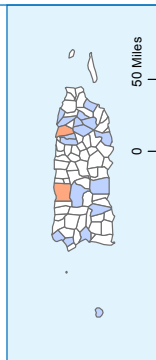
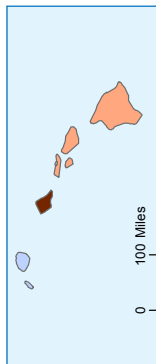
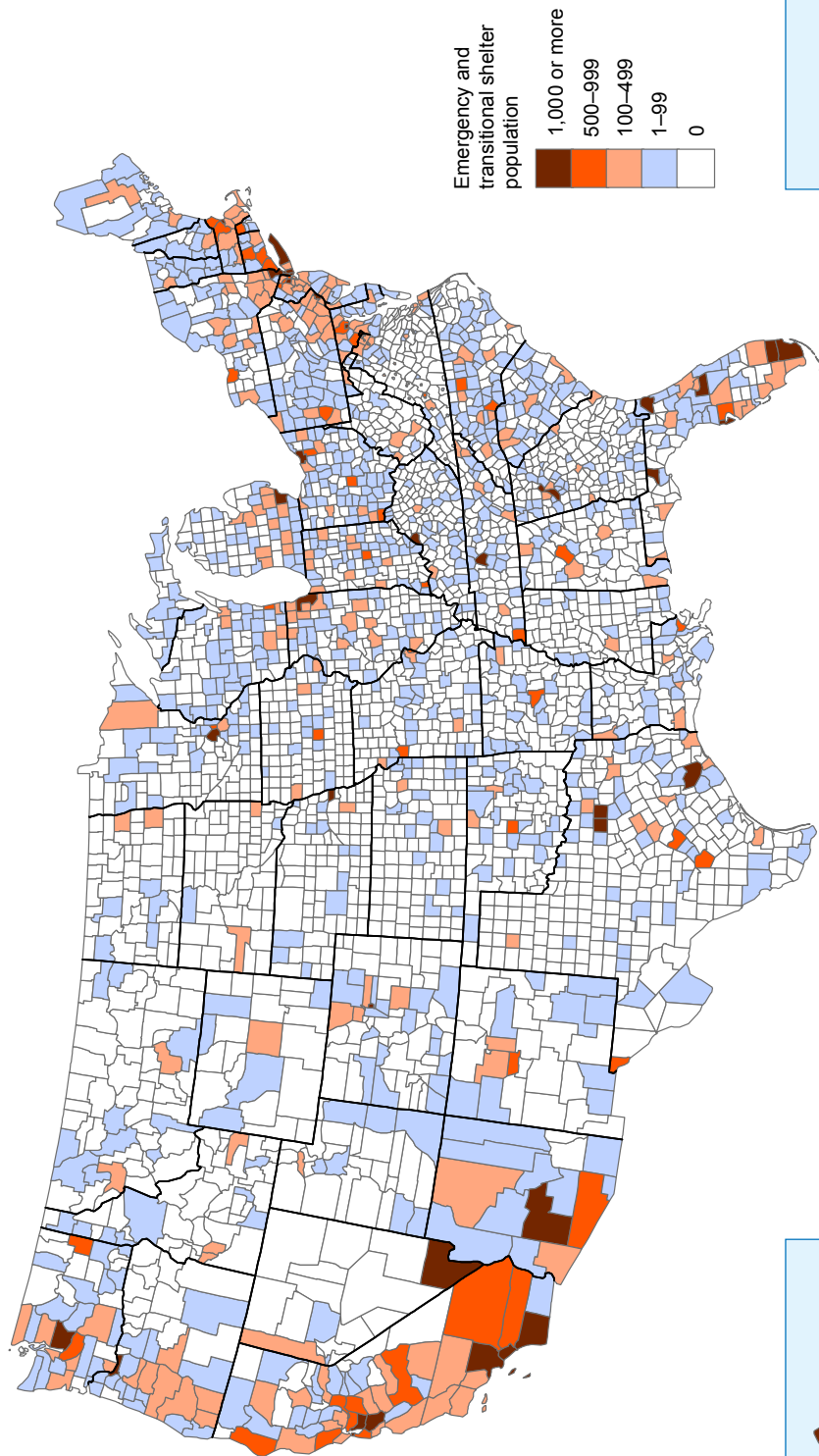
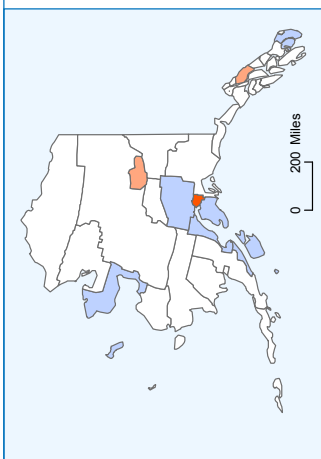
⁵ The 2010 Census showed 282 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 273 incorporated places (including five city/county consolidations) and nine Census Bureau designated places that were not legally incorporated.

for 14 percent of the total U.S. emergency and transitional shelter population. A distant second, Los Angeles, California, had the second largest population size (6,000 people) and accounted for 3 percent of the national emergency and transitional shelter population. The remaining places each had emergency and transitional shelter populations of fewer than 4,000 people and taken together accounted for just under 11 percent of the national emergency and transitional shelter population.

Orlando, Florida, had the largest percentage of the group quarters population in emergency and transitional shelters.

Of the top ten places with the largest percentage of the group quarters population in emergency and transitional shelters, four were located in Florida and three in California (Table 6). Orlando, Florida, had the largest percentage, with 36 percent of the group quarters population in emergency and transitional shelters. The three other places in Florida with large percentages were all located in the southern part of the state: Fort Lauderdale (16 percent), Miami (14 percent), and Hollywood (14 percent). Oceanside, California, located in southern California, had the second largest percentage in emergency and transitional shelters (31 percent). Two other places in central California—Richmond (21 percent) and Sunnyvale (15 percent)—made the list of ten places with the largest percentages of the group quarters population in emergency and transitional shelters.

Figure 5.
The Emergency and Transitional Shelter Population by County: 2010
 (For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)



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

Table 5.

Ten Places With the Largest Population in Emergency and Transitional Shelters: 2010

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

Place ¹	Number	Percent of U.S. emergency and transitional shelter population
United States	209,325	100.0
New York, NY.....	29,562	14.1
Los Angeles, CA.....	6,069	2.9
Chicago, IL.....	3,915	1.9
Philadelphia, PA.....	3,750	1.8
Boston, MA.....	2,952	1.4
Atlanta, GA.....	2,577	1.2
Seattle, WA.....	2,550	1.2
San Francisco, CA.....	2,303	1.1
Houston, TX.....	2,213	1.1
Washington, DC.....	2,211	1.1

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

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

Table 6.

Ten Places With the Largest Percentage of the Group Quarters Population in Emergency and Transitional Shelters: 2010

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

Place ¹	Group quarters population	Emergency and transitional shelter population	
		Number ²	Percent of group quarters population
Orlando, FL.....	3,294	1,188	36.1
Oceanside, CA.....	936	292	31.2
Richmond, CA.....	1,583	329	20.8
Lansing, MI.....	1,181	232	19.6
Paterson, NJ.....	2,628	471	17.9
Fort Lauderdale, FL.....	3,418	559	16.4
New York, NY.....	185,530	29,562	15.9
Sunnyvale, CA.....	849	126	14.8
Miami, FL.....	8,161	1,152	14.1
Hollywood, FL.....	1,203	168	14.0

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

² Emergency and Transitional Shelters of 100 or more people.

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

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. The group quarters population, and specifically

the population in emergency and transitional shelters, is an important element of the U.S. population.

How are these data beneficial?

The purpose of the census is to produce an accurate and complete count of the population of the United States. These data provide information on the population in emergency and transitional shelters for people experiencing

homelessness and give us valuable insights into the size and demographic characteristics of this population, as well as its geographic distribution. It is important to note, however, that for a variety of reasons, the population discussed here should not be interpreted as representing the homeless population. The purpose of this special report is to provide a snapshot of the population enumerated in emergency and transitional shelters at the time of the 2010 Census.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For data on the group quarters population and people in emergency and transitional shelters, see the *2010 Census Summary File 1* available on the Internet at factfinder2.census.gov/main.html and on DVD.

Information on group quarters definitions, in addition to information on confidentiality protection and nonsampling error, is available on the Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf.

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the 2010 Census Briefs series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/. This series presents information about age, sex, Hispanic origin, race, 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 to submit your questions online.

