

According to Census 2000, 281.4 million people were counted in the United States — 143.4 million of whom were female and 138.1 million male.¹ The former made up 50.9 percent of the population, compared with 51.3 percent in 1990.

Information on gender was derived from a question which was asked of all people (see Figure 1). A question on the sex of individuals was included in all censuses since the first one in 1790.

This report, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected by Census 2000, presents the number who are male and female in regions, states, counties, and places of 100,000 or more and highlights comparisons with data from the 1990 census.²

The male population continued to grow slightly faster than the female population.

Between 1990 and 2000, the male population grew slightly faster (13.9 percent) than the female population (12.5 percent). The excess of the female to male population dropped to 5.3 million in 2000, compared with 6.2 million in 1990. This resulted in the male-female ratio (the number who were male times 100 divided

¹ The text of this report discusses data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, but not for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island Areas.

² 1990 populations shown in this report were originally published in 1990 census reports and do not include subsequent revisions resulting from boundary or other changes.

Figure 1.

Reproduction of the Question on Sex From Census 2000

3. What is this person's sex? Mark ONE box.
 Male Female

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

by the number who were female) increasing from 95.1 in 1990 to 96.3 in 2000. The decline in the male-female ratio until 1980 resulted mainly from the relatively greater reduction in female mortality rates. The male-female ratio reversed its downward trend between 1980 and 1990 as male death rates declined faster than female rates and as immigration brought in more men.

Figure 2 shows how male-female ratios fluctuated for every decade since 1900. From 1900 to 1940, the male-female ratio was above 100, but beginning in 1950, it fell below. Between 1980 and 2000, the male-female ratio gradually increased.

The male-female ratio declined with age after age 24.

Up to age 24, the male-female ratios were about 105, reflecting the fact that more boys than girls are born every year and that boys continue to outnumber girls through early childhood and young adulthood. The male-female ratio dropped gradually in the working age groups, from 105.1 in the age group 15 to 24 years to 92.2 for the age group 55 to 64

(see Figure 3).³ Among older adults, the male-female ratio fell rapidly, as women increasingly outnumbered men at older ages and by the age group 85 and over, the male-female ratio was 40.7.

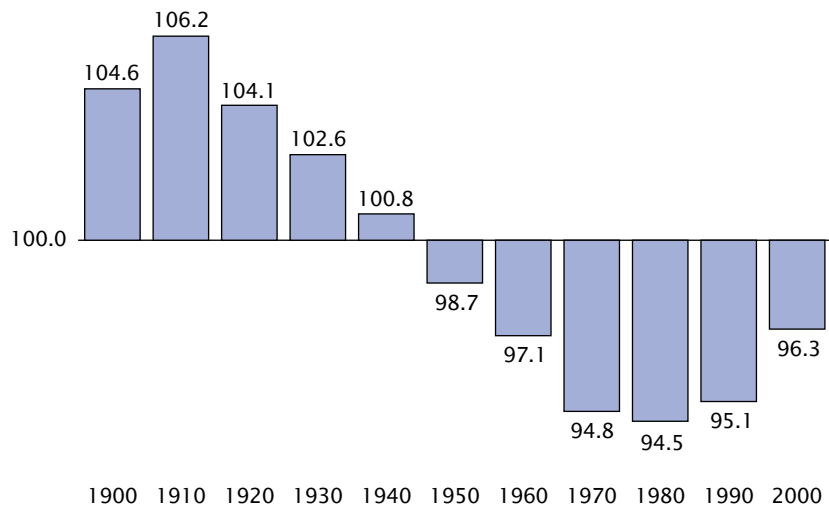
Male-female ratios increased from 1990 to 2000.

Figure 3 also illustrates changes in the sex composition by age between 1990 and 2000. In 1990, the number who were male about equaled the number who were female (a ratio of 99.9) in the age group 25 to 34. In 2000, the male-female ratio in the age group 25 to 34 increased to 101.8. The age at which the number was almost equal shifted closer to the age group 35 to 44 in 2000. The largest increases in the male-female ratios from 1990 to 2000 occurred in the age group 55 and over. In 2000, the ratio was 92.2 in the age group 55 to 64 compared with 89.4 in 1990. In the age group 65 to 74, the ratio was 82.3 in 2000 compared with 78.1 in 1990. The greatest increase in the male-female ratio was in the age group 75 to 84, where the ratio increased from 59.9 in 1990 to 65.2 in 2000.

³ Note that comparisons of census counts can be affected by differences in the completeness of census coverage between groups being compared. For example, men are usually covered less completely in the census than women, which would lower the male-female ratio calculated from census data. The male-female difference in net coverage tends to be greatest for adults under age 65, particularly for Blacks or African Americans.

Figure 2.
The Male-Female Ratio: 1900 to 2000

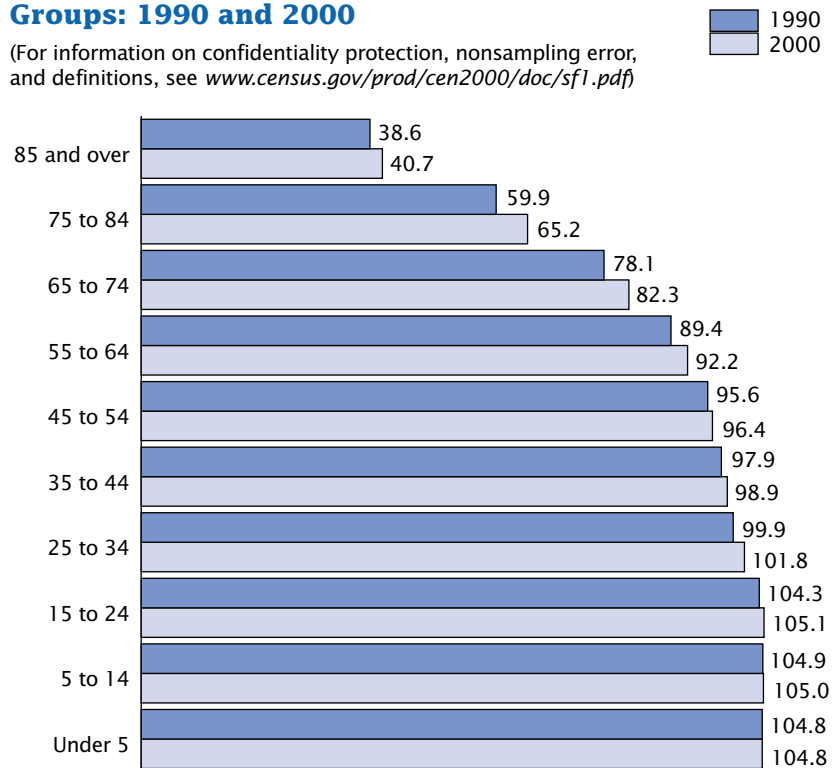
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *We asked ... You told us — Gender* (CQC-3).

Figure 3.
The Male-Female Ratio by Selected Age Groups: 1990 and 2000

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



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

Table 1.
**Population by Sex for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico:
 1990 and 2000**

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

Area	1990				2000				Percent change, 1990 to 2000		
	Total population	Male	Female	Male- female ratio	Total population	Male	Female	Male- female ratio	Total popula- tion	Male	Female
United States	248,709,873	121,239,418	127,470,455	95.1	281,421,906	138,053,563	143,368,343	96.3	13.2	13.9	12.5
Region											
Northeast	50,809,229	24,435,623	26,373,606	92.7	53,594,378	25,897,327	27,697,051	93.5	5.5	6.0	5.0
Midwest	59,668,632	28,971,653	30,696,979	94.4	64,392,776	31,555,438	32,837,338	96.1	7.9	8.9	7.0
South	85,445,930	41,491,327	43,954,603	94.4	100,236,820	49,057,320	51,179,500	95.9	17.3	18.2	16.4
West	52,786,082	26,340,815	26,445,267	99.6	63,197,932	31,543,478	31,654,454	99.6	19.7	19.8	19.7
State											
Alabama	4,040,587	1,936,162	2,104,425	92.0	4,447,100	2,146,504	2,300,596	93.3	10.1	10.9	9.3
Alaska	550,043	289,867	260,176	111.4	626,932	324,112	302,820	107.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
Arizona	3,665,228	1,810,691	1,854,537	97.6	5,130,632	2,561,057	2,569,575	99.7	40.0	41.4	38.6
Arkansas	2,350,725	1,133,076	1,217,649	93.1	2,673,400	1,304,693	1,368,707	95.3	13.7	15.1	12.4
California	29,760,021	14,897,627	14,862,394	100.2	33,871,648	16,874,892	16,996,756	99.3	13.8	13.3	14.4
Colorado	3,294,394	1,631,295	1,663,099	98.1	4,301,261	2,165,983	2,135,278	101.4	30.6	32.8	28.4
Connecticut	3,287,116	1,592,873	1,694,243	94.0	3,405,565	1,649,319	1,756,246	93.9	3.6	3.5	3.7
Delaware	666,168	322,968	343,200	94.1	783,600	380,541	403,059	94.4	17.6	17.8	17.4
District of Columbia	606,900	282,970	323,930	87.4	572,059	269,366	302,693	89.0	-5.7	-4.8	-6.6
Florida	12,937,926	6,261,719	6,676,207	93.8	15,982,378	7,797,715	8,184,663	95.3	23.5	24.5	22.6
Georgia	6,478,216	3,144,503	3,333,713	94.3	8,186,453	4,027,113	4,159,340	96.8	26.4	28.1	24.8
Hawaii	1,108,229	563,891	544,338	103.6	1,211,537	608,671	602,866	101.0	9.3	7.9	10.8
Idaho	1,006,749	500,956	505,793	99.0	1,293,953	648,660	645,293	100.5	28.5	29.5	27.6
Illinois	11,430,602	5,552,233	5,878,369	94.5	12,419,293	6,080,336	6,338,957	95.9	8.6	9.5	7.8
Indiana	5,544,159	2,688,281	2,855,878	94.1	6,080,485	2,982,474	3,098,011	96.3	9.7	10.9	8.5
Iowa	2,776,755	1,344,802	1,431,953	93.9	2,926,324	1,435,515	1,490,809	96.3	5.4	6.7	4.1
Kansas	2,477,574	1,214,645	1,262,929	96.2	2,688,418	1,328,474	1,359,944	97.7	8.5	9.4	7.7
Kentucky	3,685,296	1,785,235	1,900,061	94.0	4,041,769	1,975,368	2,066,401	95.6	9.7	10.7	8.8
Louisiana	4,219,973	2,031,386	2,188,587	92.8	4,468,976	2,162,903	2,306,073	93.8	5.9	6.5	5.4
Maine	1,227,928	597,850	630,078	94.9	1,274,923	620,309	654,614	94.8	3.8	3.8	3.9
Maryland	4,781,468	2,318,671	2,462,797	94.1	5,296,486	2,557,794	2,738,692	93.4	10.8	10.3	11.2
Massachusetts	6,016,425	2,888,745	3,127,680	92.4	6,349,097	3,058,816	3,290,281	93.0	5.5	5.9	5.2
Michigan	9,295,297	4,512,781	4,782,516	94.4	9,938,444	4,873,095	5,065,349	96.2	6.9	8.0	5.9
Minnesota	4,375,099	2,145,183	2,229,916	96.2	4,919,479	2,435,631	2,483,848	98.1	12.4	13.5	11.4
Mississippi	2,573,216	1,230,617	1,342,599	91.7	2,844,658	1,373,554	1,471,104	93.4	10.5	11.6	9.6
Missouri	5,117,073	2,464,315	2,652,758	92.9	5,595,211	2,720,177	2,875,034	94.6	9.3	10.4	8.4
Montana	799,065	395,769	403,296	98.1	902,195	449,480	452,715	99.3	12.9	13.6	12.3
Nebraska	1,578,385	769,439	808,946	95.1	1,711,263	843,351	867,912	97.2	8.4	9.6	7.3
Nevada	1,201,833	611,880	589,953	103.7	1,998,257	1,018,051	980,206	103.9	66.3	66.4	66.1
New Hampshire	1,109,252	543,544	565,708	96.1	1,235,786	607,687	628,099	96.8	11.4	11.8	11.0
New Jersey	7,730,188	3,735,685	3,994,503	93.5	8,414,350	4,082,813	4,331,537	94.3	8.9	9.3	8.4
New Mexico	1,515,069	745,253	769,816	96.8	1,819,046	894,317	924,729	96.7	20.1	20.0	20.1
New York	17,990,455	8,625,673	9,364,782	92.1	18,976,457	9,146,748	9,829,709	93.1	5.5	6.0	5.0
North Carolina	6,628,637	3,214,290	3,414,347	94.1	8,049,313	3,942,695	4,106,618	96.0	21.4	22.7	20.3
North Dakota	638,800	318,201	320,599	99.3	642,200	320,524	321,676	99.6	0.5	0.7	0.3
Ohio	10,847,115	5,226,340	5,620,775	93.0	11,353,140	5,512,262	5,840,878	94.4	4.7	5.5	3.9
Oklahoma	3,145,585	1,530,819	1,614,766	94.8	3,450,654	1,695,895	1,754,759	96.6	9.7	10.8	8.7
Oregon	2,842,321	1,397,073	1,445,248	96.7	3,421,399	1,696,550	1,724,849	98.4	20.4	21.4	19.3
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	5,694,265	6,187,378	92.0	12,281,054	5,929,663	6,351,391	93.4	3.4	4.1	2.7
Rhode Island	1,003,464	481,496	521,968	92.2	1,048,319	503,635	544,684	92.5	4.5	4.6	4.4
South Carolina	3,486,703	1,688,510	1,798,193	93.9	4,012,012	1,948,929	2,063,083	94.5	15.1	15.4	14.7
South Dakota	696,004	342,498	353,506	96.9	754,844	374,558	380,286	98.5	8.5	9.4	7.6
Tennessee	4,877,185	2,348,928	2,528,257	92.9	5,689,283	2,770,275	2,919,008	94.9	16.7	17.9	15.5
Texas	16,986,510	8,365,963	8,620,547	97.0	20,851,820	10,352,910	10,498,910	98.6	22.8	23.8	21.8
Utah	1,722,850	855,759	867,091	98.7	2,233,169	1,119,031	1,114,138	100.4	29.6	30.8	28.5
Vermont	562,758	275,492	287,266	95.9	608,827	298,337	310,490	96.1	8.2	8.3	8.1
Virginia	6,187,358	3,033,974	3,153,384	96.2	7,078,515	3,471,895	3,606,620	96.3	14.4	14.4	14.4
Washington	4,866,692	2,413,747	2,452,945	98.4	5,894,121	2,934,300	2,959,821	99.1	21.1	21.6	20.7
West Virginia	1,793,477	861,536	931,941	92.4	1,808,344	879,170	929,174	94.6	0.8	2.0	-0.3
Wisconsin	4,891,769	2,392,935	2,498,834	95.8	5,363,675	2,649,041	2,714,634	97.6	9.6	10.7	8.6
Wyoming	453,588	227,007	226,581	100.2	493,782	248,374	245,408	101.2	8.9	9.4	8.3
Puerto Rico	3,522,037	1,705,642	1,816,395	93.9	3,808,610	1,833,577	1,975,033	92.8	8.1	7.5	8.7

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

The relative size of the male and female populations varied by geographic region.⁴

Table 1 shows that among regions in 2000, the Northeast had the lowest male-female ratio — 93.5. The Midwest and South had male-female ratios in 2000 of 96.1 and 95.9, respectively. The West had the highest male-female ratio, at 99.6, approaching parity between the sexes. The regional male-female ratios in 2000 follow the same pattern as in 1990.

At the state level in 2000, those who were female were more numerous than those who were male in all but seven states: Alaska led the states with the highest male-female ratio (107.0), followed by Nevada (103.9), Colorado (101.4), Wyoming (101.2), Hawaii (101.0), Idaho (101.0), and Utah (100.4). All of these states were in the West. In contrast, the lowest male-female ratios were recorded in Rhode Island (92.5), Massachusetts (93.0), and the District of Columbia (89.0).⁵

Over the decade, five states in the West grew at a faster rate than the other states, with the male population growing slightly faster than the female population.

Over the decade, the West experienced the fastest population growth at 19.7 percent followed by the South with 17.3 percent. In the

⁴ 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.

⁵ Washington, DC is treated as a state equivalent for statistical purposes.

Table 2.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Male-Female Ratio: 2000

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

Place	Total population	Male	Female	Male-female ratio
Salinas, CA	151,060	80,361	70,699	113.7
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	152,397	79,826	72,571	110.0
Paradise, NV*	186,070	97,081	88,989	109.1
Santa Ana, CA	337,977	175,219	162,758	107.7
Tempe, AZ	158,625	81,942	76,683	106.9
Wichita Falls, TX	104,197	53,657	50,540	106.2
Sunnyvale, CA	131,760	67,783	63,977	106.0
Austin, FL	656,562	337,569	318,993	105.8
Costa Mesa, CA	108,724	55,694	53,030	105.0
Oxnard, CA	170,358	87,090	83,268	104.6

*Paradise, Nevada is a census designated place and is not legally incorporated.

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

West, the male and female populations grew at about the same rate, 19.8 percent and 19.7 percent, respectively. In the South, the male population grew by 18.2 percent and the female population by 16.4 percent (see Table 1).

In the five states with the highest percent increase in total population (Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, and Idaho), the male population grew faster than the female population between 1990 and 2000. In the fastest growing state of Nevada, the male population grew by 66.4 percent and the female population by 66.1 percent. In the second fastest growing state of Arizona, the male and female populations grew by 41.4 percent and 38.6 percent, respectively. Between 1990 and 2000, the male population grew faster than the female population in 42 additional states.

There were only three states (Alaska, California, and Hawaii) where the female population grew at a faster rate than the male population. In Alaska, the female population grew by 16 percent compared with 12 percent for the male population. In California, the rate of growth was 14 percent for the

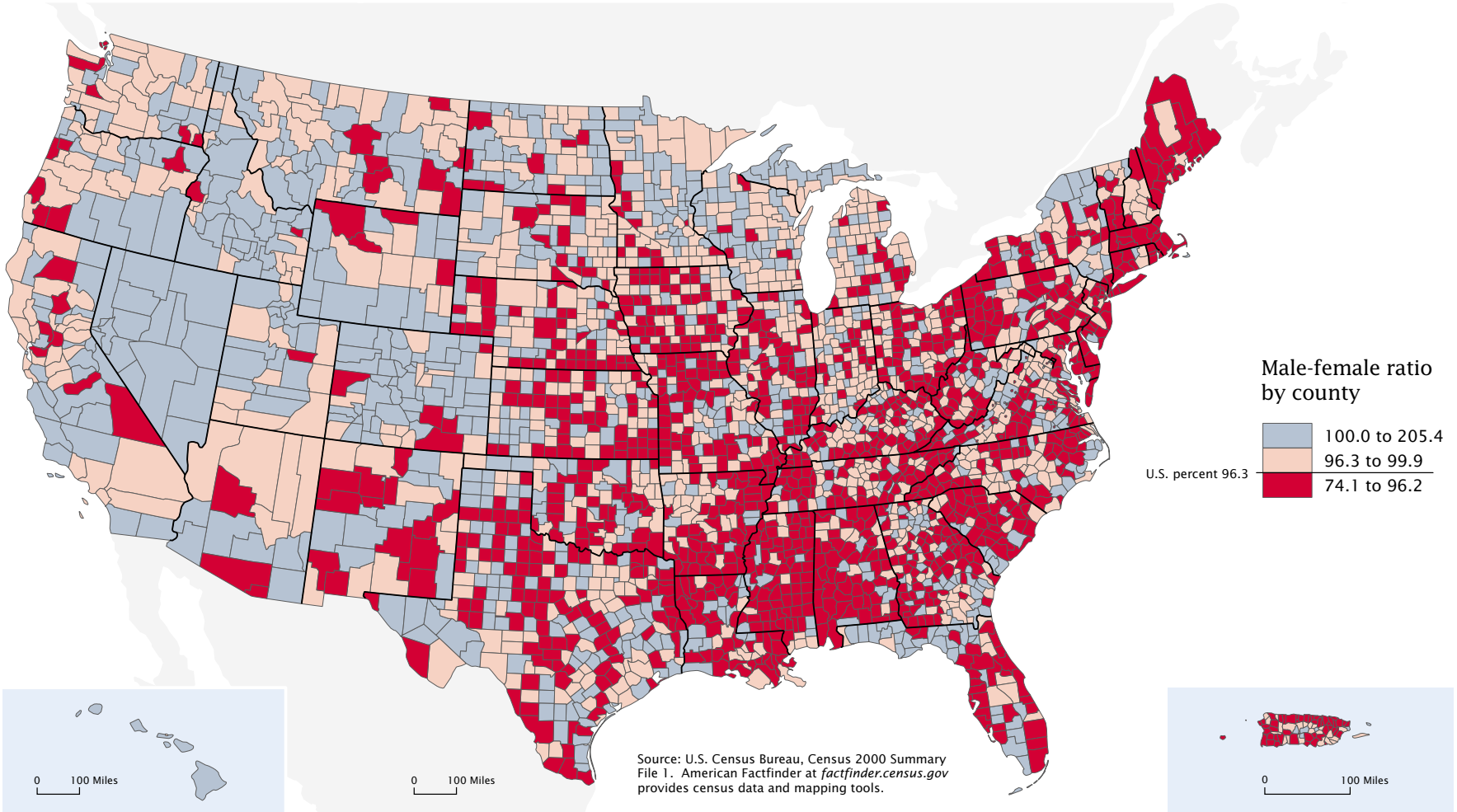
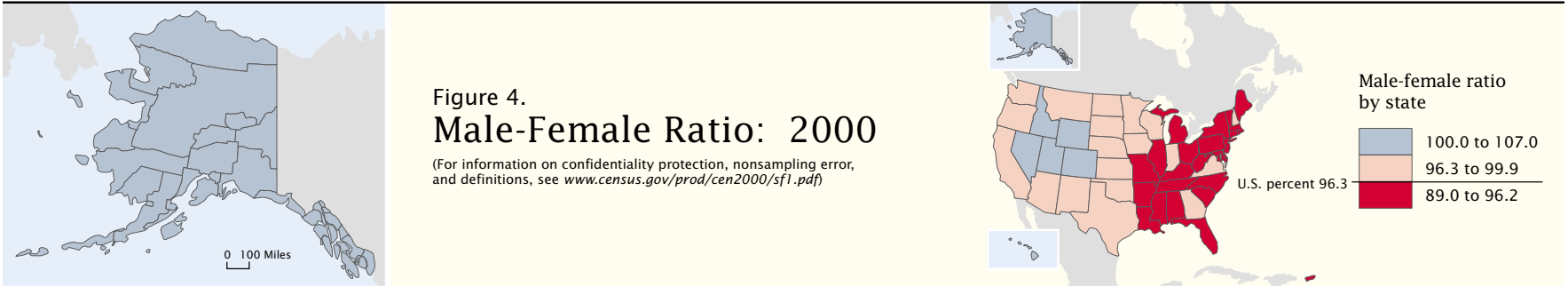
female population and 13 percent for the male population. In Hawaii, the rate of growth for the female and male populations were 11 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

The only decline in total population over the decade was in the District of Columbia. The population in the District of Columbia declined by 6 percent with the male population declining by 5 percent and the female population by 7 percent.

The female population outnumbered the male population in most counties in 2000.

At the county level, the female population outnumbered the male population in most counties. Of the 3,141 counties and equivalent areas, the number of counties with a greater female population was 2,305 representing 73 percent of all counties and equivalent areas. About 42 percent or 1,315 counties and equivalent areas had male-female ratios below the U.S. male-female ratio of 96.3.

The counties with low male-female ratios were concentrated in the Northeast and South. Most states in these regions predominantly had counties with low male-female



ratios, except for a few counties in upstate New York and the Florida panhandle. The female population exceeded the male population in all counties in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Delaware. The female population also exceeded the male population in most counties in Vermont, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

In contrast, counties with high male-female ratios were primarily in the West. All counties in Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii had male-female ratios above 100. Other states with the majority of their counties with high male-female ratios were Idaho, Oregon, and Colorado.

Among the ten places of 100,000 or more with the highest male-female ratios, half were in California.

Seven of the places of 100,000 or more with the highest male-female ratios were in the West and three were in the South (see Table 2). Five of these places were in California: Salinas, Santa Ana, Sunnyvale, Costa Mesa, and Oxnard. Salinas, California had the highest male-female ratio (113.7), followed by Fort Lauderdale, Florida (110.0) and Paradise, Nevada (109.1).⁶ Of the 245 places with a population of 100,000 or more, the male population exceeded the female population in 44 places.⁷

⁶ Paradise, Nevada is a census designated place and is not legally incorporated.
⁷ Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 census designated places that were not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html.

Table 3.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Lowest Male-Female Ratio: 2000

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

Place	Total population	Male	Female	Male-female ratio
Gary, IN.....	102,746	47,088	55,658	84.6
Birmingham, AL.....	242,820	112,046	130,774	85.7
Philadelphia, PA.....	1,517,550	705,107	812,443	86.8
Jackson, MS.....	184,256	85,656	98,600	86.9
Richmond, VA.....	197,790	92,068	105,722	87.1
Pembroke Pines, FL.....	137,427	64,044	73,383	87.3
Shreveport, LA.....	200,145	93,333	106,812	87.4
Baltimore, MD.....	651,154	303,687	347,467	87.4
Mobile, AL.....	198,915	93,015	105,900	87.8
New Orleans, LA.....	484,674	227,094	257,580	88.2

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

Table 4.
Male-Female Ratios of the Ten Largest Cities: 2000

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

City	Total population	Male	Female	Male-female ratio
New York, NY.....	8,008,278	3,794,204	4,214,074	90.0
Los Angeles, CA.....	3,694,820	1,841,805	1,853,015	99.4
Chicago, IL.....	2,896,016	1,405,107	1,490,909	94.2
Houston, TX.....	1,953,631	975,551	978,080	99.7
Philadelphia, PA.....	1,517,550	705,107	812,443	86.8
Phoenix, AZ.....	1,321,045	671,760	649,285	103.5
San Diego, CA.....	1,223,400	616,884	606,516	101.7
Dallas, TX.....	1,188,580	598,991	589,589	101.6
San Antonio, TX.....	1,144,646	553,245	591,401	93.5
Detroit, MI.....	951,270	448,319	502,951	89.1

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

Eight of the places of 100,000 or more with the lowest male-female ratios were in the South.

Eight of the places of 100,000 or more with the lowest male-female ratios were in the South. They were New Orleans, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; Baltimore, Maryland; Shreveport, Louisiana; Pembroke Pines, Florida; Richmond, Virginia; Jackson, Mississippi; and Birmingham, Alabama. One place was in the Midwest (Gary, Indiana) and one place was in the Northeast (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), as shown in Table 3. Gary, Indiana had the lowest male-female ratio with 84.6, followed by Birmingham,

Alabama (85.7); Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (86.8); and Jackson, Mississippi (86.9).

The male-female ratios of the ten most populous cities varied.

Table 4 illustrates the male-female ratio for the ten largest cities in 2000. Of the ten largest cities in 2000, the male population exceeded the female population in three cities: Phoenix, San Diego, and Dallas. The male and female populations were about equal in Los Angeles and Houston. Philadelphia and Detroit had the lowest male-female ratios, at 86.8 and 89.1, respectively.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON GENDER

At what age were there almost twice as many women as men?

At age 85, there were about twice as many women as men in 2000 (485,320 compared with 244,874, respectively). This break-point is 2 years older than in 1990, when there were twice as many women than men at age 83.

What are the counties with the highest and lowest male- female ratios?

In 2000, Crowley County, Colorado led the counties with the highest ratio at 205.4, followed by West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana (191.1), and Aleutians-East Borough, Alaska (184.8). In contrast, the county equivalents with the lowest ratio were independent cities in Virginia. They included: Clifton Forge city (78.9), Franklin city (79.2), and Williamsburg city (81.4). All of these counties or county equivalents had populations less than 16,000.

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

People who answered the census help their communities obtain federal funds and valuable information for planning schools, hospitals, employment services, housing assistance, roads, and much more. All levels of government need information on sex to implement and evaluate programs, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Women's Educational Equity Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Older Americans Act, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and the Job Training Partnership Act.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on sex in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/women02.html.

Data on sex from the Census 2000 Summary File 1 were released on a state-by-state basis during the summer of 2001. Census 2000

data are available on the Internet via factfinder.census.gov and for purchase on CD-ROM and later on DVD.

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

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

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

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