

Age and Sex Composition: 2020

2020 Census Briefs

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INTRODUCTION

A population's age and sex data reflect both its current composition and changes over time in the characteristics of its people.

The 2020 Census shows the United States continued to grow over the past decade, albeit at a slower pace than in previous decades. At the same time, the U.S. population grew older due to both a decrease in the number of children being born and an increase in the older population. And while females still tended to live longer than males, men saw a larger percent increase at older ages than women.

This report presents key findings from the 2020 Census on the age and sex composition of the U.S. population as well as changes between 2010 and 2020. Information is provided on sex, age, and date of birth questions in the 2020 Census by mode of collection; as well as data quality and privacy protections. Measures and trends are presented for the nation and various subnational geographies, including states, counties, and places.

SEX, AGE, AND DATE OF BIRTH CENSUS QUESTIONS

Data on the sex and age composition of the United States were derived from the 2020 Census questions on sex, age, and date of birth (Figure 1).

Information on the sex of individuals is one of the few items gathered in the first census in 1790 and in every census since. The sex question in 2020—asking if an individual was male or female—remained unchanged from the previous census; data on gender were not collected.

Figure 1.
Sex, Age, and Date of Birth Questions From the 2020 Census

Paper questionnaire

4. What is this person's sex? Mark ONE box.

Male Female

5. What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth? For babies less than 1 year old, do not write the age in months. Write 0 as the age.

Print numbers in boxes.

Age on April 1, 2020 Month Day Year of birth

years

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census paper questionnaire.

Electronic questionnaire

What is Jane Doe's sex? (Help)

Male
 Female

What is Jane Doe's date of birth?
[If you don't know the date of birth, click here.](#)

Month Day Year

Verify or enter correct age as of April 1, 2020. For babies less than 1 year old, do not enter the age in months. Enter 0 as the age.

years

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census electronic questionnaire.

Table 1.

Population by Sex and Selected Age Groups: 2010 and 2020

Sex and selected age groups	2010		2020		Change: 2010 to 2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population	308,745,538	100.0	331,449,281	100.0	22,703,743	7.4
SEX						
Male	151,781,326	49.2	162,685,811	49.1	10,904,485	7.2
Female	156,964,212	50.8	168,763,470	50.9	11,799,258	7.5
SELECTED AGE GROUPS						
Under 18 years	74,181,467	24.0	73,106,000	22.1	-1,075,467	-1.4
Under 5 years	20,201,362	6.5	18,400,235	5.6	-1,801,127	-8.9
5 to 17 years	53,980,105	17.5	54,705,765	16.5	725,660	1.3
18 to 44 years	112,806,642	36.5	118,273,566	35.7	5,466,924	4.8
18 to 24 years	30,672,088	9.9	31,254,763	9.4	582,675	1.9
25 to 44 years	82,134,554	26.6	87,018,803	26.3	4,884,249	5.9
45 to 64 years	81,489,445	26.4	84,277,214	25.4	2,787,769	3.4
45 to 54 years	45,006,716	14.6	40,868,806	12.3	-4,137,910	-9.2
55 to 64 years	36,482,729	11.8	43,408,408	13.1	6,925,679	19.0
65 years and over	40,267,984	13.0	55,792,501	16.8	15,524,517	38.6
65 to 74 years	21,713,429	7.0	33,111,965	10.0	11,398,536	52.5
75 to 84 years	13,061,122	4.2	16,344,101	4.9	3,282,979	25.1
85 years and over	5,493,433	1.8	6,336,435	1.9	843,002	15.3
16 years and over	243,275,505	78.8	266,968,266	80.5	23,692,761	9.7
18 years and over	234,564,071	76.0	258,343,281	77.9	23,779,210	10.1
21 years and over	220,958,853	71.6	244,532,918	73.8	23,574,065	10.7
62 years and over	49,972,181	16.2	68,274,125	20.6	18,301,944	36.6

Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary File 1 and 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

While the age and date of birth questions remained essentially unchanged from the two previous censuses, the age instruction changed significantly from 2010, with a note explaining “For babies less than 1 year old, do not enter the age in months. Enter 0 as the age.”

Also, 2020 was the first U.S. census where the primary mode of response was electronic; 52 percent of U.S. households submitted responses online via the Internet Self-Response (ISR) questionnaire.¹ Unlike the paper questionnaire, the ISR included a question on age auto-calculated from date of birth (which could be verified or corrected by the respondent).

AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

The 2020 Census measured the United States population on April 1, 2020. This report presents these data along with measures of change in the age and sex of the population from 2010 to 2020.

In 2020, the U.S. population was 331.4 million people, representing an additional 22.7 million people (a 7.4

percent increase) since 2010 when the population was 308.7 million (Table 1). This rate of growth between 2010 and 2020 continued a slowing trend seen during the two decades since 1990—when the population grew by 13.2 percent from 1990 to 2000, and by 9.7 percent from 2000 to 2010, respectively.

While population growth slowed between 2010 and 2020, the female population grew at a higher rate (7.5 percent) than the male population (7.2 percent); this was a switch from the previous decade when population growth among males (9.9 percent) outpaced females (9.5 percent). As a result, females continued to comprise a slightly larger share of the U.S. population overall: there were almost 168.8 million females (50.9 percent) compared with almost 162.7 million males (49.1 percent).

Growth at older ages continued to outpace growth at younger ages.

Table 1 also presents data for selected age groups. In 2020, there were over 73.1 million children under the age of 18 (22.1 percent of the total population), a 1.4 percent decrease from the 74.2 million (24.0 percent) in this age group in 2010. This decline

¹ Refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/operational-quality-metrics/census-operational-quality-metrics-release_1.xlsx>.

was most noticeable among the youngest ages: the share of the population under the age of 5 dropped by 8.9 percent, representing over 1.8 million fewer children.

The 2020 population aged 18 to 44 included 118.3 million people (35.7 percent of the population), a 4.8 percent increase from 2010, primarily due to the size of the Millennial cohort aged 20 to 38.²

The population aged 45 to 64 was made up of 84.3 million people (25.4 percent), a 3.4 percent increase from 2010. While the number of people aged 45 to 54 declined by 9.2 percent, those aged 55 to 64 (the youngest of the Baby Boom cohort) increased by 19.0 percent.

In 2020, the population aged 65 and over included 55.8 million people (16.8 percent of the U.S. population), a 38.6 percent increase from the 40.3 million in 2010. Within this oldest age group, the largest increase (11.4 million, 52.5 percent) was among those aged 65 to 74 (the oldest Baby Boomers). The number of people aged 75 to 84 increased by 25.1 percent while those aged 85 and over increased by 15.3 percent.

This growth among the older age groups primarily reflects the aging Baby Boom cohort. While there were over 49.9 million adults aged 62 and over in 2010 (16.2 percent of the total U.S. population), by 2020 their numbers had increased by 36.6 percent to almost 68.3 million, making up over one-fifth (20.6 percent) of the population.

With Baby Boom mortality, the younger Millennials became a larger share of the population.

Age-sex pyramids, which show the number of males (on the left) and females (on the right) by single years of age, are an important tool for analyzing the composition of a population. The area of each pyramid

² The Millennial cohort has been defined as people born between 1982 and 2000. The Baby Boom cohort includes people born from mid-1946 to 1964. For more information, refer to “Demographic Analysis Estimates for the Total Population: April 1, 2020,” at <www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/demographic-analysis-estimates-for-the-total-population.html>.

DATA VISUALIZATION

Explore patterns for select age groups in your state, county, and census tract at <www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/exploring-age-groups-in-the-2020-census.html>.

reflects the overall size of the population, while its shape illustrates the population’s age distribution. Youngest ages are reflected at the bottom of the figure, middle ages fill the center of the pyramid, and the oldest ages taper off to a point at the top. The lop-sided shape of the pyramid reflects different numbers of males and females (for example, women tend to live to older ages than men).

Figure 2 displays age-sex pyramids for the United States in 2010 and 2020. Over time, both the Baby Boomers and Millennials (the two largest U.S. cohorts in 2020) can be seen aging. While the Baby Boomers began moving into the older age groups (from 46 to 64 years in 2010 to 56 to 74 years in 2020), most Millennials were in their teens and 20s in 2010 but became young adults in their 20s and 30s by 2020.³

But while both cohorts naturally grew older over time, the number of Baby Boomers fell over the decade. Table 2 provides counts in both 2010 and 2020 (as well as percent change across the decade) for five-year age groups by sex. While the size of the Baby Boom cohort declined from 77.0 million in 2010 to 72.0 million in 2020, the number of Millennials increased from 81.2 million in 2010 to 84.6 million in 2020.

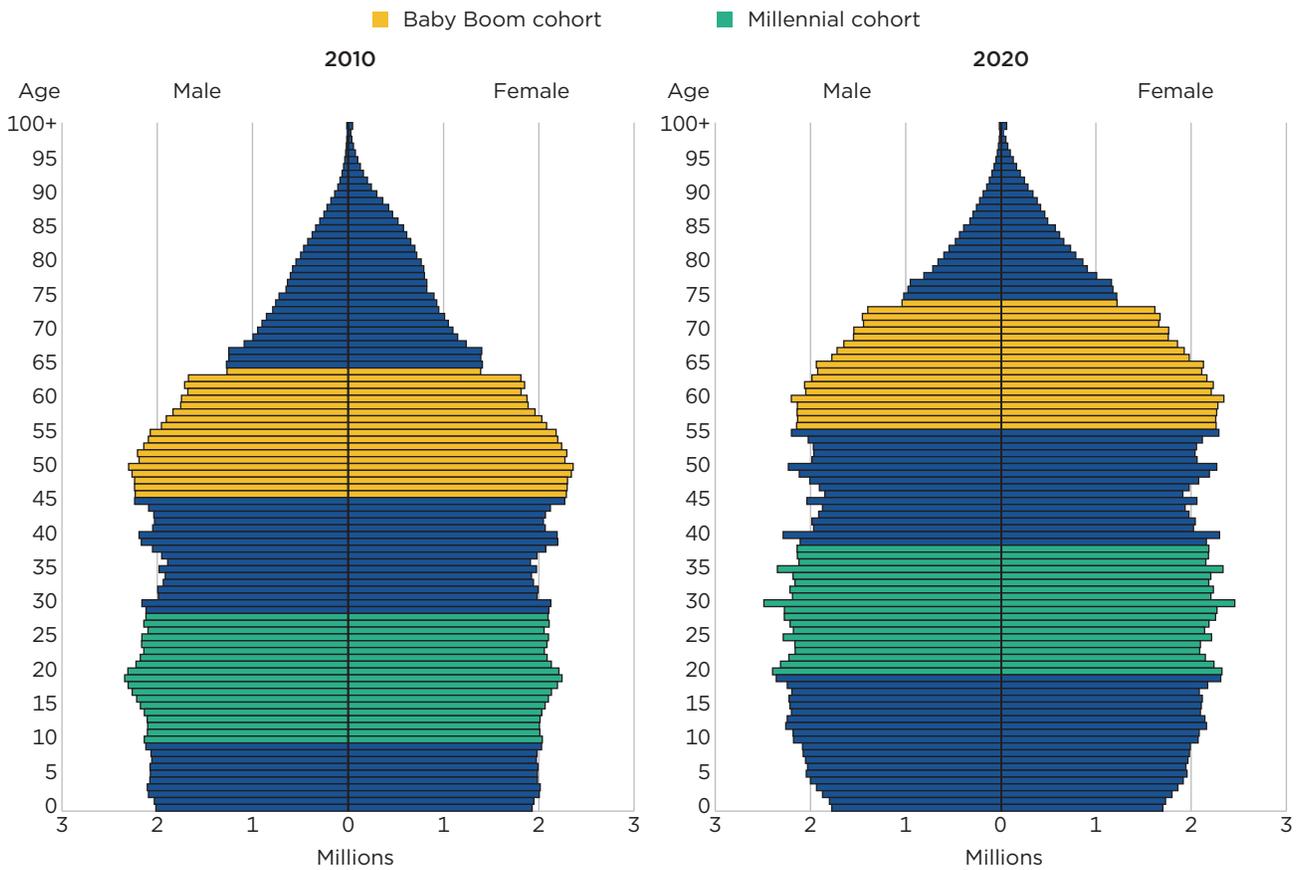
At the same time, the base of the pyramid got smaller as fewer children filled the youngest ages. This finding is consistent with the decline in the total number of births and the birth rate for the United States since 2015.⁴

Consistent with the aging of the Baby Boom cohort, the population aged 55 to 74 years collectively increased by over 18.3 million between 2010 and 2020; those aged 65 to 69 increased by 5.9 million (47.1 percent) and those aged 70 to 74 increased by over 5.5 million (59.8 percent). Meanwhile, Millennials increased the numbers aged 20 to 38 by over 6.1 million, with those aged 30 to 34 growing by almost 2.6 million (12.9 percent).

³ While generally accurate (refer to “2020 Census Data Quality” at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/process/data-quality.html>), there was notable age heaping in the 2020 Census. This has been previously identified by demographers at the Census Bureau (refer to “Adapting Population Estimates to Address COVID-19 Impacts” at <www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2022/04/population-estimates-covid-19-impacts.html> and more recently <www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2023/05/age-heaping-2020-census-dhc.html>) and work is under way to investigate modifying future products based on the 2020 Census to address this phenomenon.

⁴ Michelle J. K. Osterman, Brady E. Hamilton, Joyce A. Martin, Anne K. Driscoll, and Claudia P. Valenzuela, “Births: Final data for 2020,” *National Vital Statistics Reports*, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, Vol. 70, No. 17, <<https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:112078>>.

Figure 2.
Age-Sex Pyramids for the United States: 2010 and 2020



Note: While generally accurate (refer to "2020 Census Data Quality" at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/process/data-quality.html), there was notable age heaping in the 2020 Census. This has been previously identified by demographers at the Census Bureau (www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2022/04/population-estimates-covid-19-impacts.html) and more recently (www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2023/05/age-heaping-2020-census-dhc.html) and work is under way to investigate modifying future products based on the 2020 Census to address this phenomenon. For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary File 1 and 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

While people aged 90 and over also had large percent increases (the two oldest age groups each increased by about 50 percent), their smaller numbers had less impact on the size of the total population. At the same time, the populations under 5 years and 45 to 49 years had the largest percent decreases across the decade (declining by 8.9 and 11.3 percent, respectively).

Males became a smaller share of the younger population and larger share of the older population.

From 2010 to 2020, the total number of males and females in the United States increased by 10.9 million and 11.8 million, respectively. This growth varied by age group, however.

Across all ages below 50, the percent increase in the female population exceeded that of the male

population (especially between the ages of 15 to 49). In contrast, for 55 years and over, the percent change among males was greater than or equal to that of females, with the largest percent differences at the oldest ages. For example, the number of males aged 80 to 84 increased by 18.6 percent while females increased by only 6.3 percent; the female population aged 85 to 89 declined by 0.5 percent while males increased by 17.3 percent; and for every age group 90 years and over, the percent increase for males was about double that for females.

However, because males made up a smaller share of the older population than females, larger percent changes among males reflected smaller numeric changes. For example, among people aged 70 and over, males and females increased by about the same

Table 2.
Population by 5-Year Age Groups and Sex: 2010 and 2020

Age	2010			2020			Percent change: 2010 to 2020		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All ages	308,745,538	151,781,326	156,964,212	331,449,281	162,685,811	168,763,470	7.4	7.2	7.5
Under 5 years	20,201,362	10,319,427	9,881,935	18,400,235	9,388,285	9,011,950	-8.9	-9.0	-8.8
5 to 9 years	20,348,657	10,389,638	9,959,019	20,130,423	10,288,218	9,842,205	-1.1	-1.0	-1.2
10 to 14 years	20,677,194	10,579,862	10,097,332	21,627,830	11,066,169	10,561,661	4.6	4.6	4.6
15 to 19 years	22,040,343	11,303,666	10,736,677	22,036,076	11,241,567	10,794,509	Z	-0.5	0.5
20 to 24 years	21,585,999	11,014,176	10,571,823	22,166,199	11,265,350	10,900,849	2.7	2.3	3.1
25 to 29 years	21,101,849	10,635,591	10,466,258	22,301,254	11,229,510	11,071,744	5.7	5.6	5.8
30 to 34 years	19,962,099	9,996,500	9,965,599	22,533,412	11,241,831	11,291,581	12.9	12.5	13.3
35 to 39 years	20,179,642	10,042,022	10,137,620	21,874,944	10,857,087	11,017,857	8.4	8.1	8.7
40 to 44 years	20,890,964	10,393,977	10,496,987	20,309,193	10,028,183	10,281,010	-2.8	-3.5	-2.1
45 to 49 years	22,708,591	11,209,085	11,499,506	20,145,294	9,920,816	10,224,478	-11.3	-11.5	-11.1
50 to 54 years	22,298,125	10,933,274	11,364,851	20,723,512	10,176,612	10,546,900	-7.1	-6.9	-7.2
55 to 59 years	19,664,805	9,523,648	10,141,157	22,120,489	10,759,761	11,360,728	12.5	13.0	12.0
60 to 64 years	16,817,924	8,077,500	8,740,424	21,287,919	10,223,302	11,064,617	26.6	26.6	26.6
65 to 69 years	12,435,263	5,852,547	6,582,716	18,288,727	8,634,739	9,653,988	47.1	47.5	46.7
70 to 74 years	9,278,166	4,243,972	5,034,194	14,823,238	6,881,732	7,941,506	59.8	62.2	57.8
75 to 79 years	7,317,795	3,182,388	4,135,407	9,955,322	4,475,564	5,479,758	36.0	40.6	32.5
80 to 84 years	5,743,327	2,294,374	3,448,953	6,388,779	2,721,048	3,667,731	11.2	18.6	6.3
85 to 89 years	3,620,459	1,273,867	2,346,592	3,829,179	1,494,421	2,334,758	5.8	17.3	-0.5
90 to 94 years	1,448,366	424,387	1,023,979	1,876,291	626,847	1,249,444	29.5	47.7	22.0
95 to 99 years	371,244	82,263	288,981	550,826	147,792	403,034	48.4	79.7	39.5
100 years and over . .	53,364	9,162	44,202	80,139	16,977	63,162	50.2	85.3	42.9
Median age	37.2	35.8	38.5	38.8	37.5	39.9	X	X	X

X Not applicable.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary File 1 and 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

number (4.9 and 4.8 million, respectively), but this change was a larger percent increase for males (42.2 percent) than females (29.5 percent). And among all people aged 90 and over, while males increased by 53.5 percent (compared with 26.4 percent for females), there were fewer additional males (275,804) than females (358,478).

Fewer children and larger older cohorts increased the median age.

The median age of a population is the age which divides the population into two parts of equal size; that is, there are as many people with ages above the median as there are with ages below the median. Figure 3 shows an aging U.S. population over time with both a higher median age and an age distribution shifting from younger to older age groups.

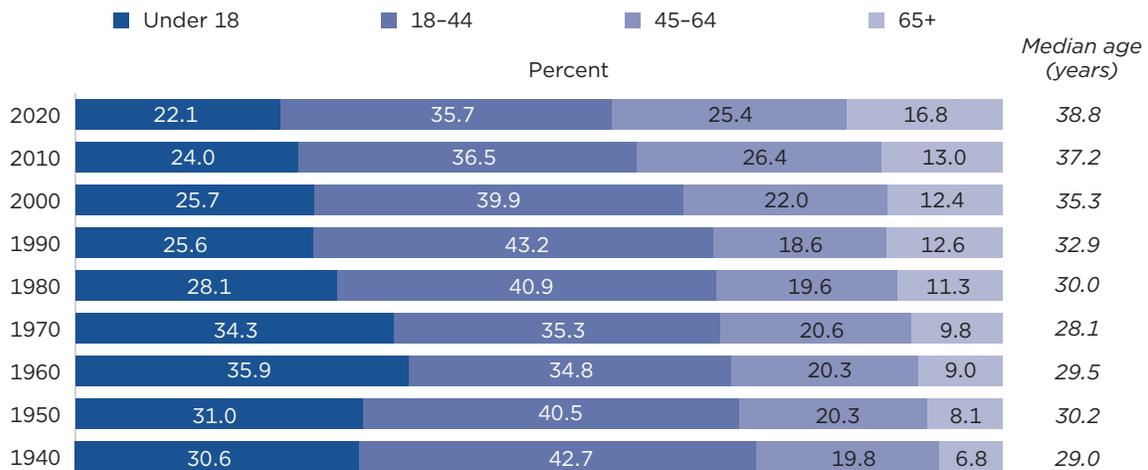
Since 1970, the median age of the United States increased as the population continued to grow older. In 1970, after all the Baby Boomers had been born, one-half of the population was younger than

28.1 years. By 2020, the median age was 38.8 years, an increase of more than 10 years over the past 5 decades.

This aging was also reflected in the relative size of various age groups. In 1940, the population aged 18 to 44 made up nearly 43 percent of the U.S. population; by 1960, the largest portion of the population (almost 36 percent) was under the age of 18. But by 2020, those aged 18 to 44 were less than 36 percent and children represented only 22 percent of the U.S. population.

Over the same period, the two oldest age groups both increased in size. People aged 45 to 64 made up one-fifth (19.8 percent) of the U.S. population in 1940, but over one-quarter (25.4 percent) in 2020. At the same time, the share of the population aged 65 and over more than doubled (from under 7 percent to nearly 17 percent). Overall, the population 45 years and over accounted for less than 27 percent of the total population in 1940 but grew to more than 42 percent of the population in 2020.

Figure 3.
Age Distribution and Median Age: 1940 to 2020



Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC); 2010 Census Summary File 1; Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census Summary File 2C; 1980 Census Summary File 2C; 1970 Census of Population, Vol. 1, Characteristics of the Population, Chapter B, Table 50; 1960 Census of Population, Vol. 1, Characteristics of the Population, Chapter C, Table 156; 1950 Census of Population: Advance Reports, Population of the United States by Age: Series PC-14, No. 5; and 1940 Census of the Population, Vol. 2, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1, Table 7.

Sex ratios at older ages higher in 2020 than in 2010.

Sex ratio is another important indicator of a population's composition. Defined as the number of males per 100 females, the sex ratio is a common measure used to describe the balance between males and females in a population. A sex ratio of exactly 100 indicates an equal number of males and females. A sex ratio over 100 indicates a greater number of males, while a sex ratio under 100 indicates a greater number of females.

Historically, the sex ratio at birth in the United States is around 105 males for every 100 females. Then, since mortality at every age is generally higher for males than females, the sex ratio naturally declines with age. At the oldest ages (85 years and over), sex ratios often fall below 50, with only one man for every two women.

These trends tend to result in more males than females at younger ages and more females than males at older ages; however, sex ratios can vary from these patterns for various reasons. Migration for economic opportunities can impact the sex ratio of a particular geographic area, as can the existence of certain types of group quarters, like college student housing and military facilities.

Figure 4 reflects both the typically higher sex ratios at younger ages and the continuation of a recent narrowing of the mortality gap between males and females at older ages.⁵

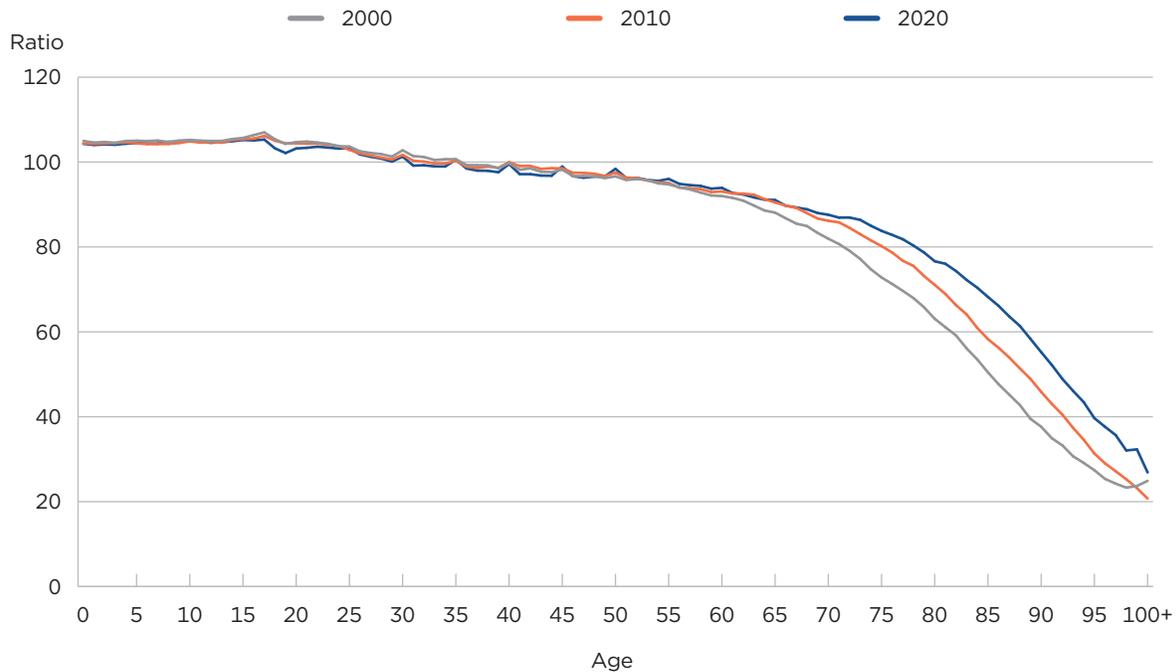
In 2000, 2010, and 2020, the sex ratios for ages under 30 remained above 100, then dropped to about 90 by age 65. But over time, sex ratios diverged among the population aged 65 and over (seen in the distance between the three lines). In 2000, the sex ratio fell below 60 at age 82; that is, for every 100 females aged 82, there were fewer than 60 males. But by 2010, the sex ratio did not fall below 60 until age 85, and by 2020, the sex ratio did not fall below 60 until age 89. These higher sex ratios at the older ages mirrored the increased number of males in the older age groups (seen in Table 2) which was due, at least in part, to males living relatively longer in 2020 than they had in 2000.⁶

Additionally, the sex ratio was noticeably higher in 2010 than in 2000 starting around age 63 (where the orange

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, "65+ in the United States: 2010," *Current Population Reports*, P23-212, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2014.

⁶ Elizabeth Arias, Betzaida Tejada-Vera, Farida Ahmad, Kenneth D. Kochanek, "Provisional life expectancy estimates for 2020," *Vital Statistics Rapid Release*, No. 15, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, July 2021, <<https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:107201>>.

Figure 4.
Sex Ratio by Age: 2000, 2010, and 2020



Note: Sex ratio is calculated as the number of males per 100 females. For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, 2010 Census Summary File 1, and 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

line visibly rises above the grey line), but the sex ratio in 2020 was higher than in 2010 starting around age 72 (where the blue line rises above the orange line). This shift of about 9 years (from the age of 63 to 72) suggests the recent narrowing of the mortality gap between men and women has extended into even older ages.

DIFFERENCES IN AGE AND SEX BY GEOGRAPHY

Table 3 presents 2020 data by sex and selected age groups for the nation, regions, states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Across the total U.S. population in 2020, there were 96.4 males for every 100 females, a slight decrease from 2010 when the sex ratio was 96.7.⁷ The median age was 38.8 years (an increase from 37.2 years in 2010). Split into four selected age groups: 22.1 percent

⁷ While the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are both state equivalents, figures calculated for the United States include the 50 states and the District of Columbia, but do not include Puerto Rico. Also, Puerto Rico is not included in any region.

of the population were children (under 18 years); 35.7 percent were aged 18 to 44; 25.4 percent were aged 45 to 64; and 16.8 percent were older adults (aged 65 and over).

As in 2010, the Northeast was the oldest region while the West was the youngest.

In 2020, there were nearly 126.3 million people living in the South (38.1 percent of the total U.S. population).⁸ With almost 78.6 million people (23.7 percent), the West was the second largest region, while the Midwest had about 69.0 million people (20.8 percent). The Northeast was the smallest region with 57.6 million people (17.4 percent of the total population).

⁸ 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.

Table 3.

Population by Sex and Selected Age Groups for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 2020

Area	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Under 18 years		18 to 44 years		45 to 64 years		65 years and over		Median age
					Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
United States	331,449,281	162,685,811	168,763,470	96.4	73,106,000	22.1	118,273,566	35.7	84,277,214	25.4	55,792,501	16.8	38.8
Region													
Northeast	57,609,148	28,001,150	29,607,998	94.6	11,710,364	20.3	20,405,432	35.4	15,295,931	26.6	10,197,421	17.7	40.1
Midwest	68,985,454	34,040,411	34,945,043	97.4	15,473,403	22.4	23,983,606	34.8	17,637,795	25.6	11,890,650	17.2	39.0
South	126,266,107	61,610,352	64,655,755	95.3	28,361,793	22.5	44,679,998	35.4	32,078,391	25.4	21,145,925	16.7	38.7
West	78,588,572	39,033,898	39,554,674	98.7	17,560,440	22.3	29,204,530	37.2	19,265,097	24.5	12,558,505	16.0	37.7
State													
Alabama	5,024,279	2,426,844	2,597,435	93.4	1,107,113	22.0	1,725,815	34.3	1,306,628	26.0	884,723	17.6	39.7
Alaska	733,391	381,417	351,974	108.4	179,388	24.5	278,428	38.0	180,390	24.6	95,185	13.0	35.6
Arizona	7,151,502	3,537,343	3,614,159	97.9	1,609,526	22.5	2,476,711	34.6	1,726,093	24.1	1,339,172	18.7	38.9
Arkansas	3,011,524	1,476,498	1,535,026	96.2	699,251	23.2	1,032,425	34.3	750,981	24.9	528,867	17.6	38.8
California	39,538,223	19,549,003	19,989,220	97.8	8,711,118	22.0	14,961,896	37.8	9,848,045	24.9	6,017,164	15.2	37.5
Colorado	5,773,714	2,899,751	2,873,963	100.9	1,264,138	21.9	2,228,615	38.6	1,412,266	24.5	868,695	15.0	37.2
Connecticut	3,605,944	1,749,853	1,856,091	94.3	736,717	20.4	1,226,056	34.0	996,106	27.6	647,065	17.9	41.1
Delaware	989,948	476,719	513,229	92.9	206,405	20.9	329,938	33.3	259,028	26.2	194,577	19.7	41.1
District of Columbia	689,545	322,777	366,768	88.0	114,384	16.6	350,698	50.9	137,687	20.0	86,776	12.6	33.9
Florida	21,538,187	10,464,234	11,073,953	94.5	4,198,955	19.5	7,049,786	32.7	5,721,420	26.6	4,568,026	21.2	43.0
Georgia	10,711,908	5,188,570	5,523,338	93.9	2,491,634	23.3	3,901,314	36.4	2,739,671	25.6	1,579,289	14.7	37.5
Hawaii	1,455,271	727,844	727,427	100.1	299,366	20.6	500,615	34.4	372,839	25.6	282,451	19.4	40.8
Idaho	1,839,106	919,196	919,910	99.9	462,706	25.2	642,653	34.9	424,064	23.1	309,683	16.8	36.8
Illinois	12,812,508	6,283,130	6,529,378	96.2	2,813,039	22.0	4,599,004	35.9	3,306,480	25.8	2,093,985	16.3	38.8
Indiana	6,785,528	3,344,660	3,440,868	97.2	1,592,949	23.5	2,360,918	34.8	1,712,781	25.2	1,118,880	16.5	38.2
Iowa	3,190,369	1,586,092	1,604,277	98.9	740,266	23.2	1,096,100	34.4	779,550	24.4	574,453	18.0	38.6
Kansas	2,937,880	1,462,305	1,475,575	99.1	708,564	24.1	1,032,179	35.1	706,747	24.1	490,390	16.7	37.4
Kentucky	4,505,836	2,214,921	2,290,915	96.7	1,021,936	22.7	1,541,715	34.2	1,175,026	26.1	767,159	17.0	39.4
Louisiana	4,657,757	2,261,286	2,396,471	94.4	1,087,209	23.3	1,645,979	35.3	1,161,426	24.9	763,143	16.4	38.1
Maine	1,362,359	667,560	694,799	96.1	252,274	18.5	426,916	31.3	386,140	28.3	297,029	21.8	45.1
Maryland	6,177,224	2,975,416	3,201,808	92.9	1,362,022	22.0	2,204,879	35.7	1,624,008	26.3	986,315	16.0	38.8
Massachusetts	7,029,917	3,401,702	3,628,215	93.8	1,366,194	19.4	2,570,799	36.6	1,861,136	26.5	1,231,788	17.5	39.9
Michigan	10,077,331	4,970,856	5,106,475	97.3	2,162,729	21.5	3,439,384	34.1	2,669,438	26.5	1,805,780	17.9	40.1
Minnesota	5,706,494	2,835,448	2,871,046	98.8	1,317,461	23.1	2,004,748	35.1	1,434,992	25.1	949,293	16.6	38.4
Mississippi	2,961,279	1,429,853	1,531,426	93.4	683,680	23.1	1,011,912	34.2	756,126	25.5	509,561	17.2	39.0
Missouri	6,154,913	3,024,114	3,130,799	96.6	1,379,301	22.4	2,139,270	34.8	1,558,585	25.3	1,077,757	17.5	39.0
Montana	1,084,225	544,238	539,987	100.8	234,102	21.6	364,163	33.6	270,677	25.0	215,283	19.9	40.5
Nebraska	1,961,504	976,742	984,762	99.2	485,377	24.7	692,144	35.3	462,636	23.6	321,347	16.4	36.9
Nevada	3,104,614	1,553,734	1,550,880	100.2	691,288	22.3	1,119,165	36.0	785,701	25.3	508,460	16.4	38.6
New Hampshire	1,377,529	681,709	695,820	98.0	256,849	18.6	451,971	32.8	402,755	29.2	265,954	19.3	43.6
New Jersey	9,288,994	4,518,705	4,770,289	94.7	2,007,684	21.6	3,242,139	34.9	2,507,872	27.0	1,531,299	16.5	39.9
New Mexico	2,117,522	1,044,156	1,073,366	97.3	478,533	22.6	723,675	34.2	524,107	24.8	391,207	18.5	39.2
New York	20,201,249	9,770,361	10,430,888	93.7	4,113,114	20.4	7,456,433	36.9	5,223,236	25.9	3,408,466	16.9	39.0
North Carolina	10,439,388	5,067,350	5,372,038	94.3	2,284,289	21.9	3,659,469	35.1	2,706,182	25.9	1,789,448	17.1	39.4
North Dakota	779,094	398,069	381,025	104.5	183,001	23.5	294,858	37.8	177,815	22.8	123,420	15.8	35.8
Ohio	11,799,448	5,781,618	6,017,830	96.1	2,591,886	22.0	4,016,513	34.0	3,072,312	26.0	2,118,737	18.0	39.8
Oklahoma	3,959,353	1,961,629	1,997,724	98.2	948,655	24.0	1,406,166	35.5	951,454	24.0	653,078	16.5	37.3
Oregon	4,237,256	2,097,500	2,139,756	98.0	866,604	20.5	1,530,111	36.1	1,045,433	24.7	795,108	18.8	39.9
Pennsylvania	13,002,700	6,362,357	6,640,343	95.8	2,649,152	20.4	4,424,085	34.0	3,446,409	26.5	2,483,054	19.1	41.0
Rhode Island	1,097,379	531,730	565,649	94.0	209,785	19.1	393,571	35.9	293,562	26.8	200,461	18.3	40.5
South Carolina	5,118,425	2,473,758	2,644,667	93.5	1,103,965	21.6	1,717,821	33.6	1,324,688	25.9	971,951	19.0	40.5
South Dakota	886,667	445,772	440,895	101.1	217,412	24.5	303,112	34.2	209,552	23.6	156,591	17.7	37.7
Tennessee	6,910,840	3,366,400	3,544,440	95.0	1,526,367	22.1	2,425,892	35.1	1,779,010	25.7	1,179,571	17.1	39.1
Texas	29,145,505	14,394,682	14,750,823	97.6	7,278,805	25.0	10,979,034	37.7	6,966,531	23.9	3,921,135	13.5	35.6
Utah	3,271,616	1,643,531	1,628,085	100.9	947,565	29.0	1,302,829	39.8	639,425	19.5	381,797	11.7	31.3
Vermont	643,077	317,173	325,904	97.3	118,595	18.4	213,462	33.2	178,715	27.8	132,305	20.6	43.5
Virginia	8,631,393	4,220,517	4,410,876	95.7	1,886,339	21.9	3,117,562	36.1	2,232,201	25.9	1,395,291	16.2	38.7
Washington	7,705,281	3,843,772	3,861,509	99.5	1,680,592	21.8	2,877,997	37.4	1,894,264	24.6	1,252,428	16.3	38.1
West Virginia	1,793,716	888,898	904,818	98.2	360,784	20.1	579,593	32.3	486,324	27.1	367,015	20.5	42.9
Wisconsin	5,893,718	2,931,605	2,962,113	99.0	1,281,418	21.7	2,005,376	34.0	1,546,907	26.2	1,060,017	18.0	40.1
Wyoming	576,851	292,413	284,438	102.8	135,514	23.5	197,672	34.3	141,793	24.6	101,872	17.7	38.7
Puerto Rico	3,285,874	1,553,793	1,732,081	89.7	560,971	17.1	1,073,030	32.7	919,974	28.0	731,899	22.3	45.2

Note: Sex ratio is calculated as the number of males per 100 females. For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

At the same time, the Northeast had the oldest median age of all four regions (40.1 years), followed by the Midwest (39.0), the South (38.7), and the West (37.7). This ranking of region by age was the same as in 2010. But while median ages rose in all four regions and the Northeast was still the oldest, median age increased the least in the Northeast (up 0.9 years, from 39.2 years) and the most in the West (up 2.1 years, from 35.6 years). As a result, the range of median ages across all four regions declined from a difference of 3.6 years in 2010 to 2.5 years in 2020.

Among the four regions in 2020, the South had the largest share of children in its population (22.5 percent) followed closely by the Midwest and West (with 22.4 and 22.3 percent, respectively). The Northeast had the smallest share of children (20.3 percent).

The West had the largest share of adults aged 18 to 44 (37.2 percent), but the smallest share of people in the two oldest age groups (24.5 percent were aged 45 to 64, and 16.0 percent were aged 65 and over). Reflecting its older median age, the Northeast had the largest share of its population in these two oldest age groups (26.6 and 17.7 percent, respectively).

The West's sex ratio declined but remained the highest.

While all four regions had more females than males in 2020 (with sex ratios below 100), the West had the highest sex ratio (with 98.7 males for every 100 females) followed by the Midwest (97.4), the South (95.3), and the Northeast (94.6). However, sex ratios in both the West and South declined since 2010 (from 99.3 and 96.1 in 2010, respectively), while the sex ratio remained about the same in the Northeast (94.5 in 2010) and increased slightly in the Midwest (from 96.8).

States in the Northeast continued to have the highest median ages.

In 2020, 14 states had a median age of 40 or over, twice as many as in 2010. As expected from the regional data, states with the highest median ages were located largely in the Northeast (Figure 5). All nine states in the Northeast had a median age of at least 39.0 years (higher than the total U.S. median age of 38.8); and six of the 14 states with a median age of 40 or over were in the Northeast.

The three states with the highest median ages in 2020 were Maine (45.1), New Hampshire (43.6), and Vermont (43.5). While Maine was also the oldest state in 2010, its median age increased by 2.4 years over the decade.

No state in 2020 had an age profile exactly the same as the nation's but three states came closest. Arkansas, Illinois, and Maryland each had the same median age as the U.S. figure (38.8 years). But of those three states, Illinois's age composition (with 22.0, 35.9, 25.8, and 16.3 percent in the four selected age groups) most closely mirrored that of the country.

One-half of all states had a larger share aged 65 and over than the state with the largest share in 2010.

In 2010, 17.3 percent of Florida's population was aged 65 and over, the highest share of any state. But in 2020, 25 states had higher percentages 65 years and over than Florida's share in 2010; and four states (Maine, Florida, Vermont, and West Virginia) had over one-fifth of their populations in this oldest age group (21.8, 21.2, 20.6, and 20.5 percent, respectively).

Between 2010 and 2020, median age rose by 3.0 years in two states: Arizona (from 35.9 to 38.9) and Mississippi (from 36.0 to 39.0). Meanwhile, Puerto Rico saw an even sharper increase in its median age (up 8.3 years, from 36.9 to 45.2) along with 12.3 percent more of its population in the two oldest age groups (45 to 64, and 65 and over). At the same time, Puerto Rico's population declined by 11.8 percent between 2010 and 2020, reflecting increased outmigration from the Commonwealth.

North Dakota was the only state where median age declined.

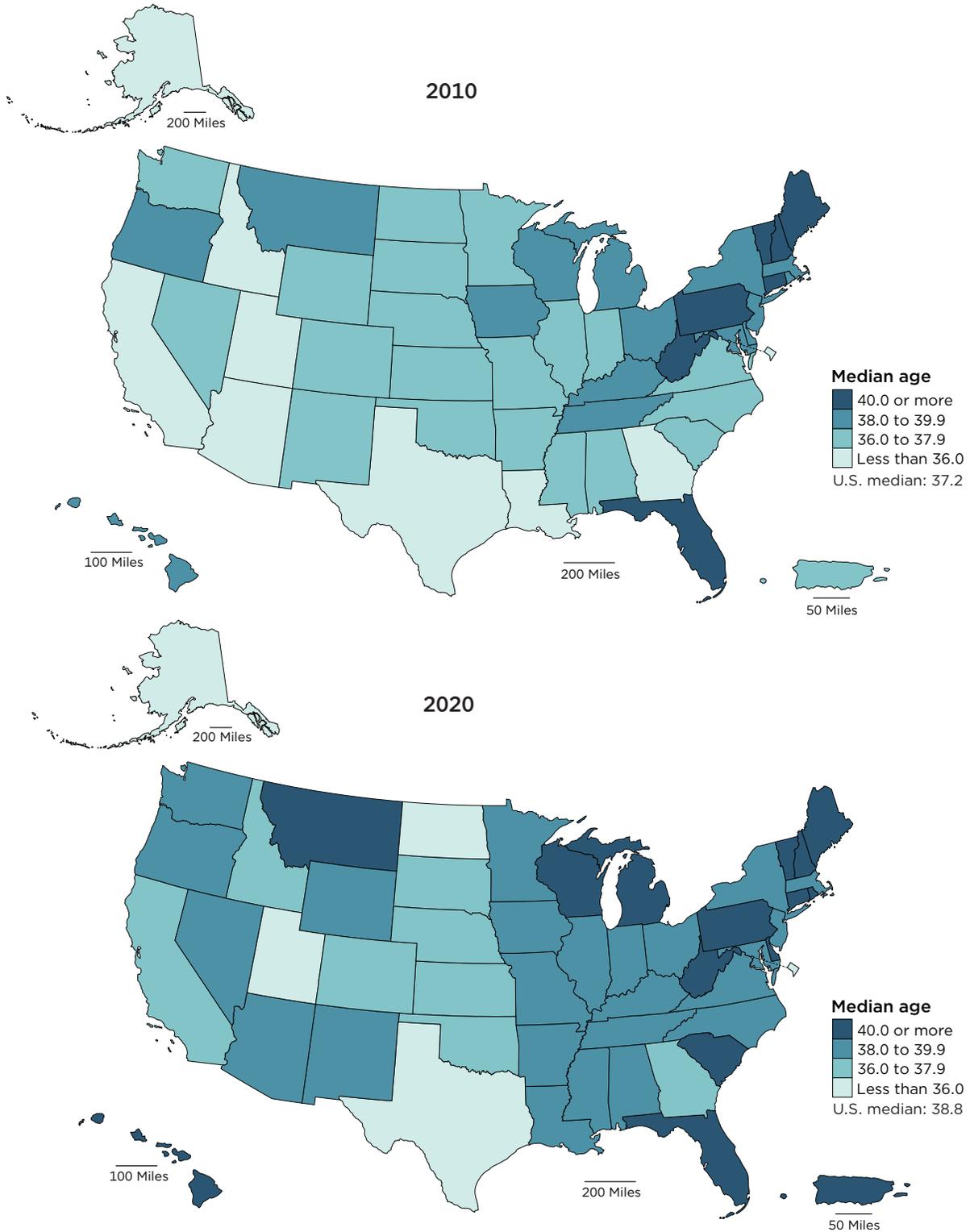
North Dakota was the only state whose median age was lower in 2020 than in 2010, declining by 1.2 years from 37.0 to 35.8 over the decade. The state also saw its population under 45 years increase by 20.5 percent (compared with only a 9.2 percent increase in 45 years and over). North Dakota's population grew rapidly in the early part of the past decade because of substantial domestic migration from other states.

Utah remained the youngest state while Maine remained the oldest.

The three states with the lowest median ages (excluding the District of Columbia) remained the same as in 2010: Utah (31.3), Texas (35.6), and Alaska (35.6). Yet, even for these relatively young states, their median ages increased over the past decade by about 2 years.

Figure 6 displays age-sex pyramids for Utah and Maine (the youngest and oldest states in 2020). Nearly one-half of Utah's population was under the age of 31 (with more 12-year-olds than any other single age) while more than one-half of Maine's population was 45 or

Figure 5.
Median Age by State: 2010 and 2020

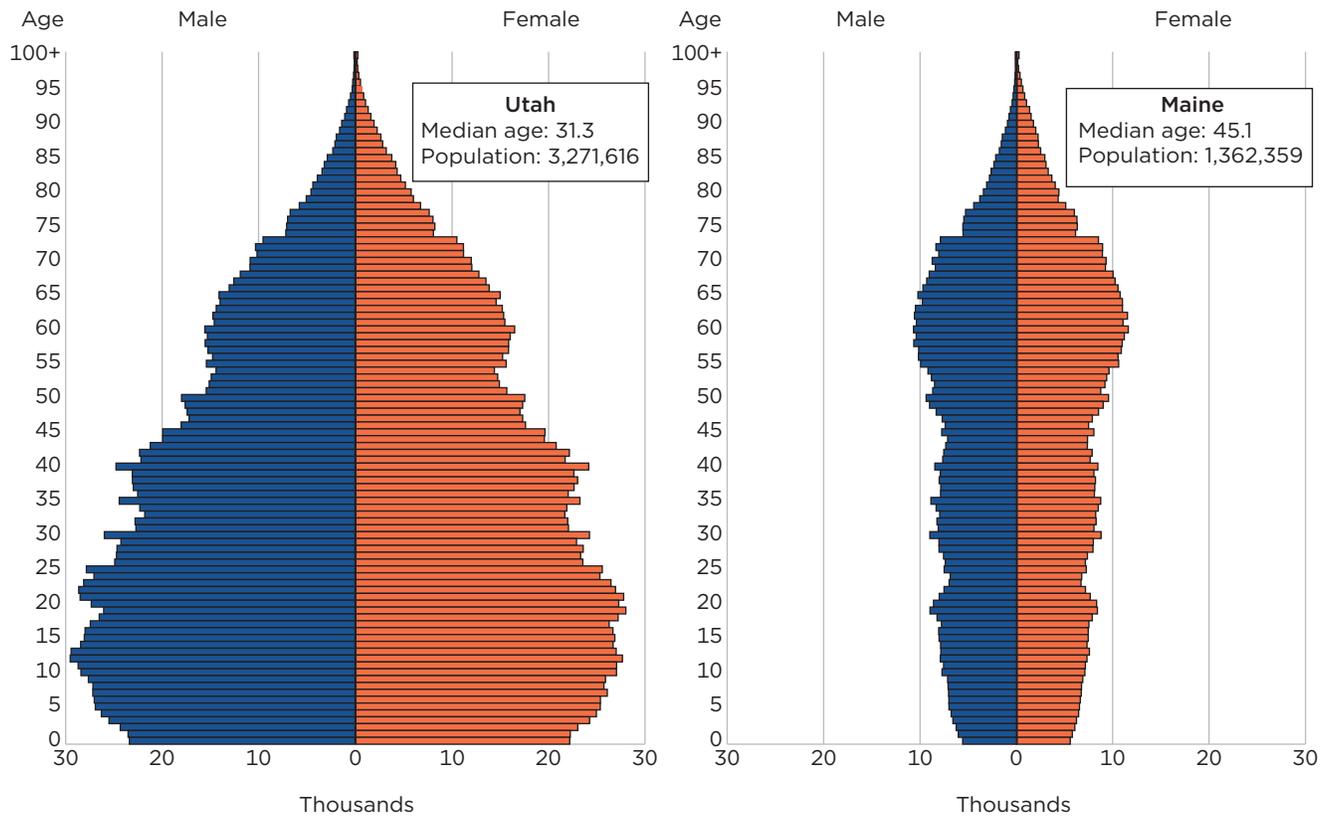


Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary File 1 and 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

Figure 6.

Age-Sex Pyramids for Two States With the Lowest and Highest Median Age: 2020



Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

over (with 60 years as its most common age). Also, the relative area of the two pyramids illustrates the difference in size of the two states in 2020: Utah had 3.3 million people while Maine had 1.4 million people.

As shown in Table 3, Utah had the largest shares of people in the two youngest age groups: 29.0 percent were children under the age of 18 (the next highest

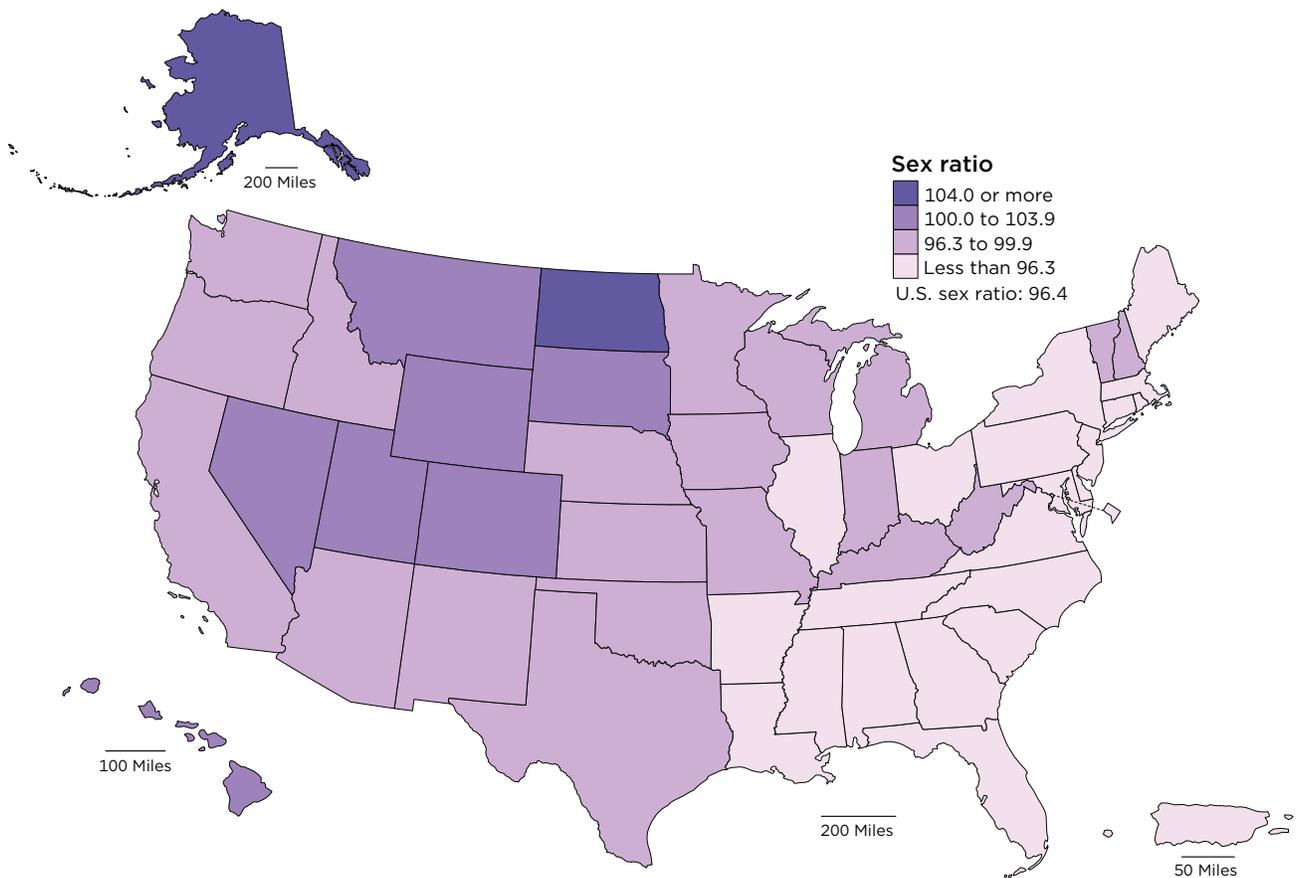
state was Idaho, at 25.2 percent), and 39.8 percent were adults aged 18 to 44 (the next highest state was Colorado, with 38.6 percent). At the same time, Utah had the smallest shares of its population in the two oldest age groups: 19.5 percent were adults aged 45 to 64 (the next lowest state was North Dakota, with 22.8 percent), and 11.7 percent were aged 65 and over (the next lowest was Alaska, with 13.0 percent).

In contrast, Maine had the largest share of people in the oldest age group (21.8 percent were aged 65 and over) and the second largest share aged 45 to 64 (28.3 percent), behind only New Hampshire (29.2 percent). Adults aged 18 to 44 made up less than one-third of Maine's population (31.3 percent), the smallest share of any state; and children under the age of 18 made up only 18.5 percent of Maine's population, similar to Vermont (18.4 percent).

DATA VISUALIZATION

Explore 2020, 2010, and 2000 age-sex pyramids for the nation, states, counties, metropolitan areas, and micropolitan areas at www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/how-has-our-nations-population-changed.html.

Figure 7.
Sex Ratio by State: 2020



Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

Over one-half of the 2020 population in the District of Columbia (50.9 percent) was aged 18 to 44; this reflects the large number of young working-age adults who commonly live in urban areas. At the same time, only 16.6 percent of the city’s population were children aged 17 or younger (even lower than Maine’s 18.5 percent), 20.0 percent were aged 45 to 64, and 12.6 percent were aged 65 and over. Consistent with its younger population, the District of Columbia’s median age was 33.9 (almost as low as Utah’s).

No state in the South or Northeast had a sex ratio above 100.

Alaska had the highest sex ratio of any state in 2020 (Figure 7) with 108.4 males per 100 females. North Dakota had the second highest sex ratio (104.5).

Seven other states had more males than females in their populations (indicated by a sex ratio greater than 100), all located in the West or Midwest: Wyoming (102.8), South Dakota (101.1), Utah (100.9), Colorado (100.9), Montana (100.8), Nevada (100.2), and Hawaii (100.1). The next seven highest sex ratios also were in the West and Midwest, ranging from 99.9 (Idaho) to 98.8 (Minnesota); all nine states with sex ratios greater than 100 were west of the Mississippi River.

Meanwhile, no state in the South or Northeast had a sex ratio above 100; all these states had more females than males. The five states with the lowest sex ratios, not including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico (88.0 and 89.7, respectively), were in the South: Delaware (92.9), Maryland (92.9), Mississippi (93.4), Alabama (93.4), and South Carolina (93.5).

No state in 2020 had a sex ratio exactly the same as the U.S. figure of 96.4 males per 100 females, but three states came closest: Arkansas (96.2) and Illinois (96.2) each with slightly more females, and Missouri (96.6) with slightly more males. Given that Illinois's age profile was most comparable to the nation's, one might argue that Illinois's age and sex composition most closely resembled that for the U.S. population.

2020 saw more counties with a median age of 40 or higher, fewer with a median age under 30.

Median age in 2020 varied widely across the country's 3,143 counties.⁹ Lexington City, Virginia (with a population of 7,320 and home to Washington and Lee University and the Virginia Military Institute) had the lowest median age (22.7 years); Sumter County, Florida (home to 129,752 people and The Villages, an age-restricted retirement community) had the highest median age (68.5 years). Overall, the difference between counties with the highest and lowest median ages increased by 5 years (from 40.8 years in 2010 to 45.8 years in 2020).

Despite this variation, over two-thirds of all counties (2,173 counties, 69.1 percent) had a median age of 40 or higher in 2020. This was an increase from the 1,683 counties (53.5 percent) with a median age over 40 in 2010, and nearly three times the 734 counties (23.4 percent) in 2000.

In contrast, there were only 43 counties (1.4 percent) in 2020 with a median age under 30 years. This was less than one-half of the 93 counties (3.0 percent) with a median age under 30 in 2010, and about one-third of the 131 counties (4.2 percent) in 2000.

Of counties with 100,000 or more, four Florida counties had the highest median ages; counties with the lowest median ages often contained large universities.

Over the past decade, Sumter County not only aged considerably (its median age increased by 5.8 years), but also grew in population (up 38.9 percent); as a

⁹ 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, city 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.

Table 4.

Ten Counties With the Highest and Lowest Median Age: 2020¹

County	Median age
HIGHEST MEDIAN AGE	
Sumter County, FL	68.5
Charlotte County, FL	60.2
Citrus County, FL	57.9
Sarasota County, FL	57.6
Brunswick County, NC	56.5
Yavapai County, AZ	55.5
Indian River County, FL	55.1
Barnstable County, MA	55.0
Highlands County, FL	54.7
Flagler County, FL	54.0
LOWEST MEDIAN AGE	
Utah County, UT	25.9
Brazos County, TX	26.0
Cache County, UT	26.3
Clarke County, GA	28.3
Onslow County, NC	28.3
Tippecanoe County, IN	29.6
Webb County, TX	30.6
Champaign County, IL	30.8
Monroe County, IN	31.0
Tompkins County, NY	31.0

¹ Counties of 100,000 or more total population.
 Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>>.

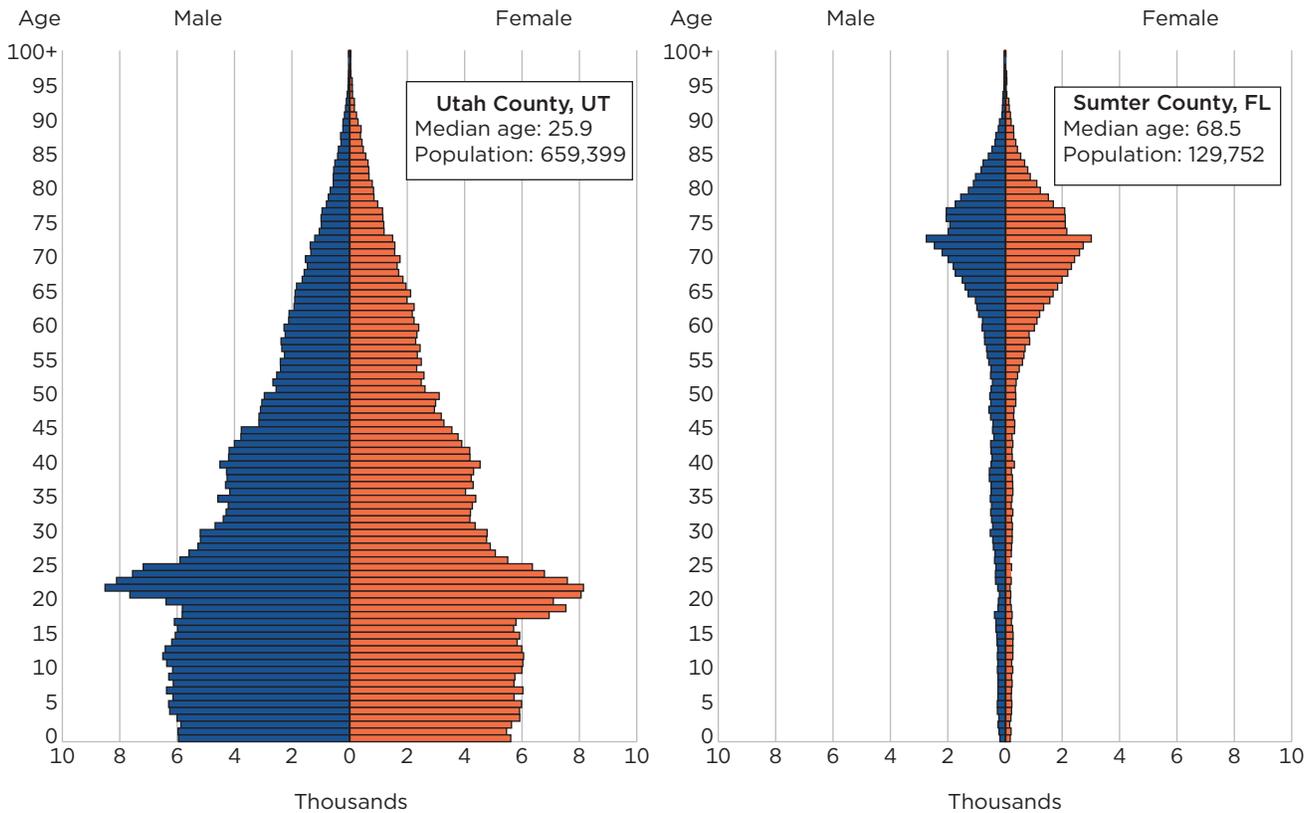
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

result, it was the oldest of the 604 counties with over 100,000 people (Table 4).

The next three large counties with the highest median ages in 2020 were also in Florida (and topped this list in 2010 and 2000): Charlotte County (60.2 years), Citrus County (57.9 years), and Sarasota County (57.6 years). Rounding out the top ten oldest counties were three other counties in Florida, plus one county each in North Carolina, Arizona, and Massachusetts.

Eight of the ten counties with the lowest median ages contained large universities (and many were on the list of youngest counties in 2010 and 2000 as well). The youngest counties in 2020 were: Utah County, Utah (home to Brigham Young University, with a median age of 25.9); Brazos County, Texas (Texas A&M University, with a median age of 26.0); Cache County, Utah (Utah State University, with a median age of 26.3); and Clarke County, Georgia (University of Georgia, with a median age of 28.3). Four other counties in the top ten also contained big college towns.

Figure 8.
Age-Sex Pyramids for Two Counties With the Lowest and Highest Median Age: 2020¹



¹ Counties of 100,000 or more total population, excluding the District of Columbia.

Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

The age-sex pyramids in Figure 8 illustrate how different the population sizes and age distributions were for Utah County, Utah and Sumter County, Florida (the two counties with the lowest and highest median ages). Not only was Utah County's population over five times the size of Sumter County's (as seen by the different areas of their two pyramids), but Utah County also had both a large college student population aged 18 to 25 and a large number of families with young children, while Sumter County was almost exclusively made up of older adults aged 60 and over.

Females outnumbered males in fewer counties in 2020 than 2010.

In 2020, 62.1 percent of all 3,143 U.S. counties had a sex ratio below 100, indicating more females than

males in their population. This is lower than 2010 and 2000 when 66 and 73 percent of counties, respectively, had sex ratios below 100. Also, fewer counties had a sex ratio below the total United States in 2020 (30.2 percent) than in 2010 (34.9 percent). Both these findings indicate females became a smaller share of the population in many counties.

At the same time, the U.S. sex ratio declined slightly over the decade (from 96.7 in 2010 to 96.4 in 2020) indicating females had become a larger share of the U.S. population overall. These seemingly contradictory findings suggest some counties increased their male populations (countering the larger share of females in the total United States).

Table 5.

Ten Counties With the Highest and Lowest Sex Ratio: 2020¹

County	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio
HIGHEST SEX RATIO				
Kings County, CA	152,486	82,573	69,913	118.1
Onslow County, NC	204,576	110,622	93,954	117.7
Jefferson County, NY	116,721	60,853	55,868	108.9
Centre County, PA	158,172	82,095	76,077	107.9
Gallatin County, MT	118,960	61,593	57,367	107.4
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK	107,081	55,383	51,698	107.2
Comanche County, OK	121,125	62,533	58,592	106.7
LaPorte County, IN	112,417	57,942	54,475	106.4
Jackson County, MI	160,366	82,341	78,025	105.5
Pinal County, AZ	425,264	218,012	207,252	105.2
LOWEST SEX RATIO				
Florence County, SC	137,059	64,024	73,035	87.7
Hampshire County, MA	162,308	75,823	86,485	87.7
Clayton County, GA	297,595	139,121	158,474	87.8
District of Columbia	689,545	322,777	366,768	88.0
Bronx County, NY	1,472,654	689,426	783,228	88.0
Baltimore City, MD	585,708	274,635	311,073	88.3
New York County, NY	1,694,251	794,484	899,767	88.3
Pitt County, NC	170,243	80,026	90,217	88.7
Henrico County, VA	334,389	157,250	177,139	88.8
Clarke County, GA	128,671	60,601	68,070	89.0

¹ Counties of 100,000 or more total population.

Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

Counties with highest sex ratios often contained men's prisons or military bases.

In 13 of the 20 counties with the highest sex ratios, one or more male prisons were located in the county. Of all U.S. counties (of any size), the three counties with the highest sex ratios were: Crowley County, Colorado (287.6); Forest County, Pennsylvania (236.4); and Aleutians East Borough, Alaska (226.0).

Among the country's 604 counties with a population of 100,000 or more (Table 5), the highest sex ratio was found in Kings County, California (118.1), where three men's state prisons were located. The next two highest sex ratios were found in Onslow County, North Carolina (117.7), home to a large Marine Corps base with a primarily young male population, and Jefferson County, New York (108.9), where a U.S. Army division is located.

Lower sex ratios were often found in counties with women's prisons, colleges and universities, and large urban areas.

Among all U.S. counties, three of the five counties with the fewest males per 100 females contained a women's prison: Pulaski County, Georgia (with a sex ratio of 73.2); Falls County, Texas (78.5); and Pickens County, Alabama (81.2).

Among the largest U.S. counties, the three counties with the lowest sex ratios were: Florence County, South Carolina (home to Francis Marion University, with a sex ratio of 87.7); Hampshire County, Massachusetts (with five colleges including two women's colleges, 87.7); and Clayton County, Georgia (Clayton State University near Atlanta, 87.8). Other counties with low sex ratios and universities included: Pitt County, North Carolina (East Carolina University, 88.7); and Clarke County, Georgia (University of Georgia, 89.0). Counties with low sex ratios in large urban areas included: the District of Columbia (88.0); two boroughs of New York City, Bronx County (88.0) and New York County (88.3); Baltimore City, Maryland (also with several colleges and universities, 88.3); and Henrico County, Virginia (outside Richmond, 88.8).

Among places with 100,000 or more population, six of the ten with the highest median ages were in Florida.

The Census Bureau defines "places" as either incorporated cities, towns, or villages, or unincorporated communities.¹⁰ Table 6 provides a ranking of the ten places (among those with a population of 100,000 or more) with the highest and lowest median ages in 2020.

¹⁰ The 2020 Census showed 322 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 321 incorporated places (including 5 consolidated cities) and one census designated place (Urban Honolulu CDP, Hawaii) that was not legally incorporated.

As in 2010, Scottsdale, Arizona, topped the list of places with the highest median age in 2020 (49.3), up 3.9 years from 45.4 years in 2010. Cape Coral, Florida, and Clearwater, Florida, also rounded out the top three in 2010, and their median ages increased as well (up 4.8 years and 2.6 years, respectively). Of the remaining places with the highest median ages, four were in Florida and three were in California.

Places with the lowest median ages were often home to large universities.

In 2020, College Station, Texas (home to Texas A&M) had the lowest median age (22.5 years) among places with a population of 100,000 or more. Provo, Utah (23.8) and Gainesville, Florida (26.6), home to Brigham Young University and the University of Florida, respectively, were first and second in 2010 and dropped to second and third in 2020. In all, nine of the ten places with the lowest median ages were home to large universities. Clarksville, Tennessee, home to a U.S. Army installation, had the tenth lowest median age.

The age-sex pyramids in Figure 9 illustrate how different the population sizes and age distributions were in College Station, Texas (the place with the lowest median age) and Scottsdale, Arizona (the highest median age). While College Station's population is predominantly made up of 18-to-25-year-old students, Scottsdale has twice the population of College Station with a much larger number of older adults.

Among places with a population of 100,000 or more, the lowest sex ratios were all in the South, while the highest were mostly in the West.

Table 7 provides a list of the ten places (among those with a population of 100,000 or more) with the highest and lowest sex ratios in 2020. As in 2010, the highest sex ratios were found in Fort Lauderdale, Florida (109.7) followed by Tempe, Arizona (108.7). Seven of the ten places with the highest sex ratios were in western states (including four in California and one each in Arizona, Colorado, and Utah), with the remaining three places in the South (Texas and Florida).

All ten of the places with the lowest sex ratios were found in the South. South Fulton, Georgia, a newly incorporated city outside of Atlanta, had the lowest sex ratio (83.4). The remaining list of the lowest sex ratios (from 86.2 to 87.8 males per 100 females) included three places each in Florida and Alabama, two places in North Carolina, and one place in Louisiana.

Table 6.

Ten Places With the Highest and Lowest Median Age: 2020¹

Place	Median age
HIGHEST MEDIAN AGE	
Scottsdale, AZ	49.3
Cape Coral, FL	47.2
Clearwater, FL	46.4
Hialeah, FL	46.3
Thousand Oaks, CA	45.0
Port St. Lucie, FL	44.0
Fort Lauderdale, FL	43.9
Huntington Beach, CA	43.6
Carlsbad, CA	43.5
St. Petersburg, FL	43.5
LOWEST MEDIAN AGE	
College Station, TX	22.5
Provo, UT	23.8
Gainesville, FL	26.6
Ann Arbor, MI	27.9
Athens-Clarke County unified government, GA ²	28.3
Tallahassee, FL	29.0
Columbia, MO	29.2
Tempe, AZ	29.4
Columbia, SC	29.9
Clarksville, TN	29.9

¹ Places of 100,000 or more total population.

² Athens-Clarke County unified government is an incorporated place within the consolidated city.

Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

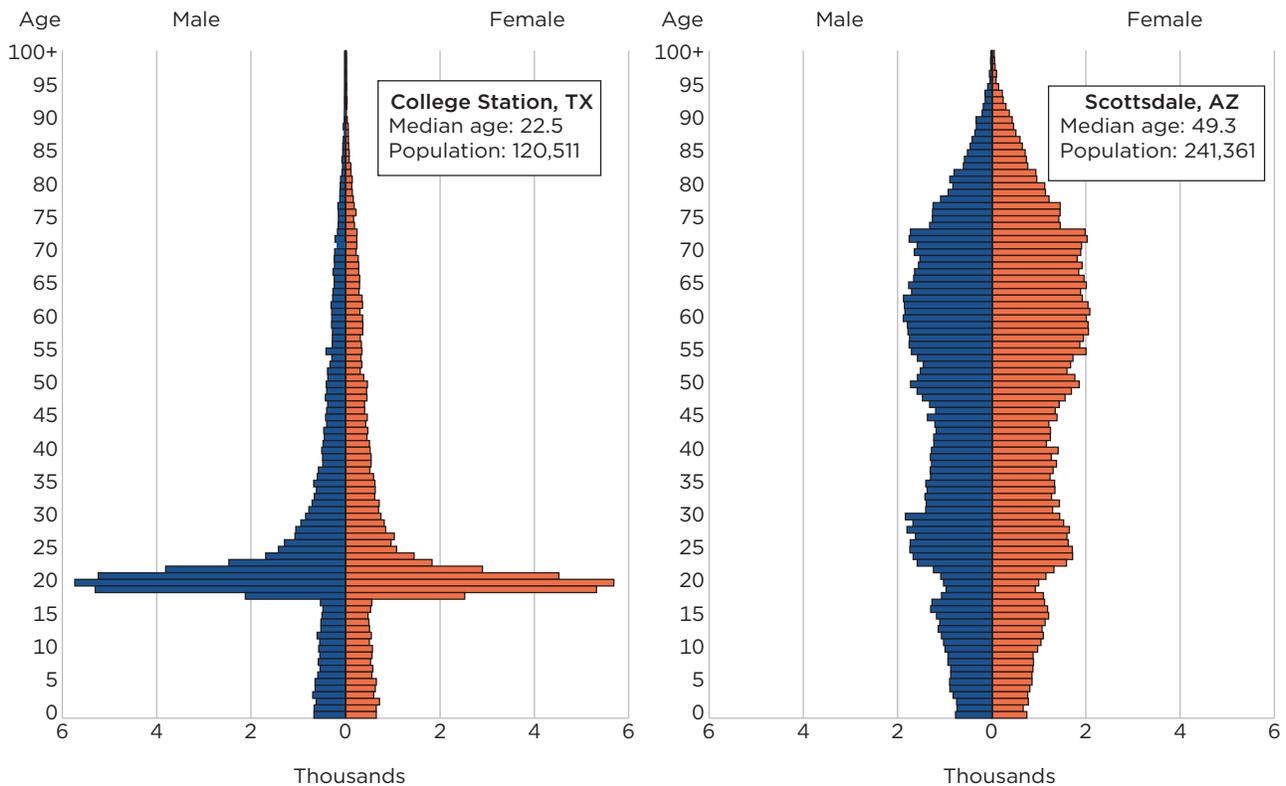
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

AGE DEPENDENCY RATIOS

The Total Dependency Ratio provides a rough approximation of economic dependency in a population by dividing the dependent-age populations (children and older adults, who are not generally expected to work) by the working-age population. It is often derived as the number of children under the age of 18 plus the number of older adults aged 65 and over per 100 working-age people (18 to 64 years). The Total Dependency Ratio can be separated into two parts: the Child Dependency Ratio (the population under 18 years divided by the working-age population); and the Old-Age Dependency Ratio (the population 65 years and over divided by the working-age population).

In 2020, the Total Dependency Ratio in the United States was 63.6, with 36.1 children under the age of 18 and 27.5 older adults aged 65 and over for every 100 working-age adults. This value was an increase from 58.9 in 2010 (reflecting another 4.7 people either

Figure 9.
Age-Sex Pyramids for Two Places With the Lowest and Highest Median Age: 2020¹



¹ Places of 100,000 or more total population.

Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

under the age of 18 or aged 65 and over for every 100 working-age adults) and reversed a decline seen in the previous decade when Total Dependency Ratio fell by 2.7 from 61.6 in 2000.

Evaluating the two dependency ratios separately, a shift from the younger to older dependent ages is evident. Continuing a trend seen in the previous decade when the Child Dependency Ratio declined by 3.3 (from 41.5 in 2000 to 38.2 in 2010), the Child Dependency Ratio decreased again to 36.1 in 2020, indicating another 2.1 fewer children per 100 working-age adults. Meanwhile, following a slight rise over the previous decade (when the Old-Age Dependency Ratio rose by just 0.6 from 20.1 in 2000 to 20.7 in 2010), the Old-Age Dependency Ratio increased markedly to 27.5 in 2020, indicating 6.8 more older adults per 100 workers.

Total, Child, and Old-Age Dependency Ratios varied widely.

The Total Dependency Ratio, Child Dependency Ratio, and Old-Age Dependency Ratio varied widely from state to state, mirroring age distributions and median ages discussed above. Figure 10 presents dependency ratios for the nation and each state plus the District of Columbia. Showing both the Child Dependency Ratio (in light blue bars) and the Old-Age Dependency Ratio (in dark blue bars), geographies are ranked by their Total Dependency Ratio (the sum of its two component parts).

In 2010, Utah had the highest Total Dependency Ratio of any state (68.2). But a decade later, while Utah's Total Dependency Ratio had risen slightly to 68.4, including the highest Child Dependency Ratio of any state (48.8), eleven other states had even higher Total

Table 7.

Ten Places With the Highest and Lowest Sex Ratio: 2020¹

Place	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio
HIGHEST SEX RATIO				
Fort Lauderdale, FL	182,760	95,600	87,160	109.7
Tempe, AZ	180,587	94,042	86,545	108.7
Vacaville, CA	102,386	53,104	49,282	107.8
Boulder, CO	108,250	55,982	52,268	107.1
Sunnyvale, CA	155,805	80,520	75,285	107.0
Wichita Falls, TX	102,316	52,839	49,477	106.8
Salt Lake City, UT	199,723	102,530	97,193	105.5
Santa Clara, CA	127,647	65,441	62,206	105.2
San Francisco, CA	873,965	446,144	427,821	104.3
College Station, TX	120,511	61,203	59,308	103.2
LOWEST SEX RATIO				
South Fulton, GA	107,436	48,861	58,575	83.4
Greensboro, NC	299,035	138,465	160,570	86.2
Pembroke Pines, FL	171,178	79,470	91,708	86.7
Birmingham, AL	200,733	93,280	107,453	86.8
Lakeland, FL	112,641	52,425	60,216	87.1
Montgomery, AL	200,603	93,391	107,212	87.1
Shreveport, LA	187,593	87,459	100,134	87.3
Mobile, AL	187,041	87,212	99,829	87.4
Tallahassee, FL	196,169	91,674	104,495	87.7
Winston-Salem, NC	249,545	116,698	132,847	87.8

¹ Places of 100,000 or more total population.

Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

Dependency Ratios. In 2020, South Dakota and Idaho had the highest Total Dependency Ratios of any states (73.0 and 72.4, respectively) followed by Montana (70.8), Arizona (70.2), and Iowa (70.1).

Aside from the District of Columbia (Total Dependency Ratio of 41.2), the two states with the lowest Total Dependency Ratios in 2020 were Colorado and Massachusetts (both 58.6) indicating each had fewer than 59 people outside the working ages for every 100 working-age people. But while Colorado had a higher Child Dependency Ratio (34.7 versus 30.8), Massachusetts had a higher Old-Age Dependency Ratio (27.8 versus 23.9).

Ten of the twelve states with the highest Total Dependency Ratios were in the West and Midwest.

Figure 11 shows Total Dependency Ratio, Child Dependency Ratio, and Old-Age Dependency Ratio by state in 2020, illustrating how these three measures varied across the nation.

While South Dakota and Idaho had the highest Total Dependency Ratios of any states, many of the other states with high Total Dependency Ratios were found in the West: Montana (70.8), Arizona (70.2), Wyoming (69.9), New Mexico (69.7), and Utah (68.4); and in

the Midwest: Iowa (70.1), Nebraska (69.9), and Kansas (68.9).

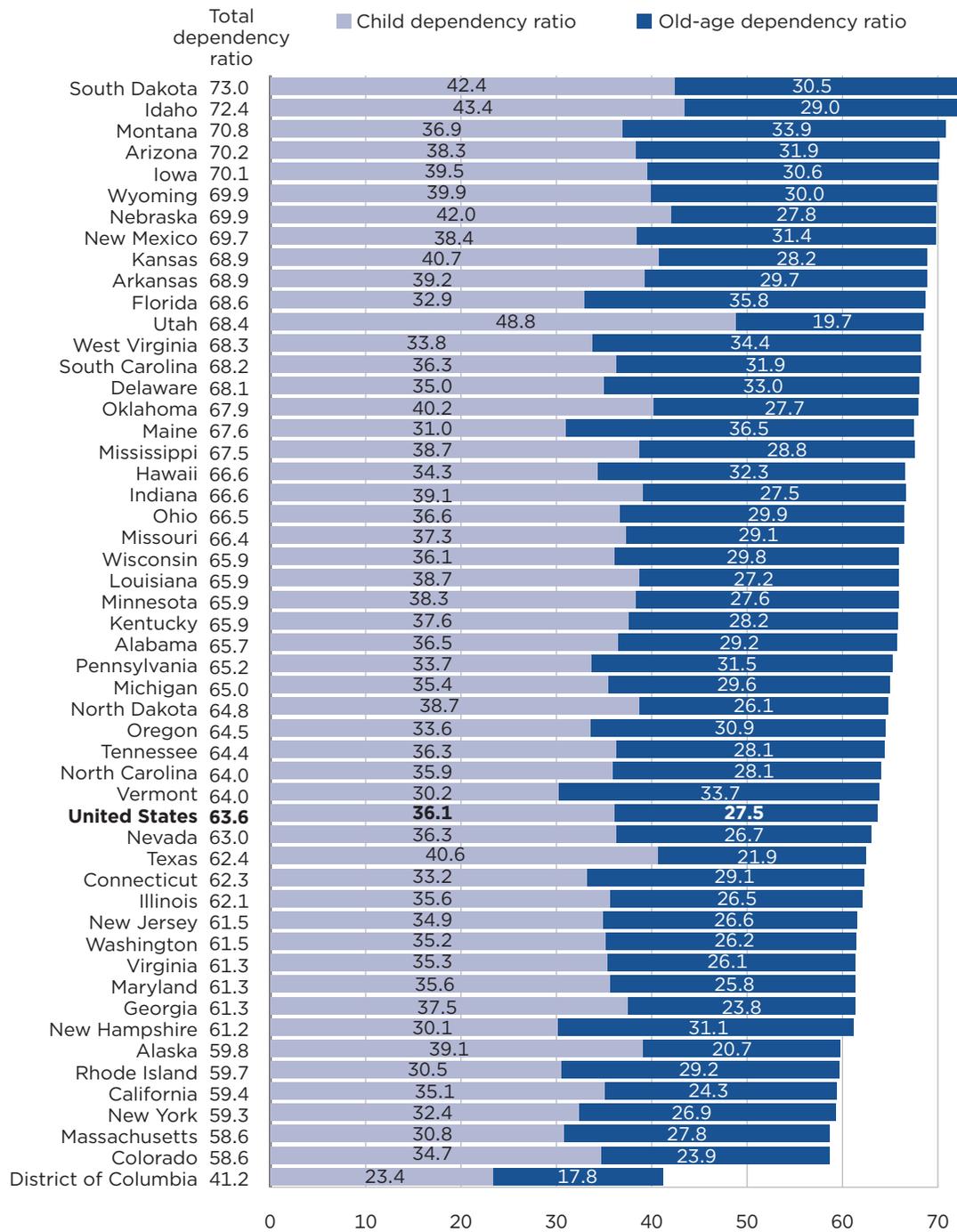
Other states with high Total Dependency Ratios included several states in the South: Arkansas (68.9), Florida (68.6), West Virginia (68.3), South Carolina (68.2), Delaware (68.1), and Oklahoma (67.9). Maine (67.6) was the only state in the Northeast with a similarly high Total Dependency Ratio.

States with the lowest Total Dependency Ratios (all below 60 children under the age of 18 plus older adults aged 65 and over per 100 working-age people) were located across the country: from Colorado (58.6), California (59.4), and Alaska (59.8) in the West; to Massachusetts (58.6), New York (59.3), and Rhode Island (59.7) in the Northeast.

High Total Dependency Ratios were found in both states with high Child Dependency Ratios and high Old-Age Dependency Ratios.

While Utah is among the states with a high Total Dependency Ratio, its ranking is mostly due to its high Child Dependency Ratio (48.8). On the other hand, the four states with the highest Old-Age Dependency Ratios—Maine (36.5), Florida (35.8), West Virginia (34.4), and Montana (33.9)—have high Total Dependency Ratios because of their older populations.

Figure 10.
Age Dependency Ratios by State: 2020



Note: Total bar length represents the Total Dependency Ratio, which is the number of children (aged 0-17) and older adults (aged 65 and over) per 100 people of working age (aged 18-64) in the state or state equivalent. Components may not sum to Total Dependency Ratio due to rounding. For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

New England states had the lowest Child Dependency Ratios.

In 2020, six of the seven states with the lowest numbers of children per 100 workers (aside from the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) were found in the Northeast: New Hampshire (30.1), Vermont (30.2), Rhode Island (30.5), Massachusetts (30.8), Maine (31.0), and New York (32.4). Florida also had one of the lowest Child Dependency Ratios (32.9).

Reflecting their older populations, four of these states (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Florida) had the highest median ages of all states (45.1, 43.6, 43.5, and 43.0 years), and the other three states (Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York) also had median ages above the total U.S. median of 38.8 years.

The West and Midwest had the highest Child Dependency Ratios.

Similar to the Total Dependency Ratio, many states with high Child Dependency Ratios were found in the West and Midwest. Utah had, by far, the highest Child Dependency Ratio (with 48.8 children per 100 workers). The next highest Child Dependency Ratios were in Idaho (43.4), South Dakota (42.4), and Nebraska (42.0). Utah also had the lowest median age of all states (31.3 years), but the other three states (Idaho, South Dakota, and Nebraska) also had median ages below the United States (36.8, 37.7, and 36.9 years, respectively).

High Old-Age Dependency Ratios reflected aging across the country.

Old-Age Dependency Ratios in 2020 reflect the recent increase in the older population across the country. In 2010, no state had an Old-Age Dependency Ratio greater than 30.0; Florida came closest with 28.2 people aged 65 and over for every 100 working-age people. But in 2020, 16 states and Puerto Rico had Old-Age Dependency Ratios of 30.0 or higher.

After Puerto Rico (36.7), the highest Old-Age Dependency Ratios were found in Maine (36.5), Florida (35.8), West Virginia (34.4), Montana (33.9), and Vermont (33.7). Not surprisingly, these five states also had among the highest median ages (45.1, 43.0, 42.9, 40.5, and 43.5, respectively) reflecting the large shares of older people in their populations.

While the District of Columbia had the lowest Old-Age Dependency Ratio (17.8), Utah, Alaska, and Texas had the next lowest (19.7, 20.7, and 21.9, respectively). Interestingly, these three states had among the highest

Child Dependency Ratios (above 39.0). At the same time, they ranged widely in their Total Dependency Ratios, from as high as 68.4 in Utah to 62.4 in Texas (close to the overall U.S. ratio of 63.6), and as low as 59.8 in Alaska.

ABOUT THE 2020 CENSUS

Why was the 2020 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 apportionment, the number of seats each state is to receive in the U.S. House of Representatives. Age data are used to determine the voting-age population (aged 18 and over) for use in the legislative redistricting process.

Why did the 2020 Census ask the questions on age and sex?

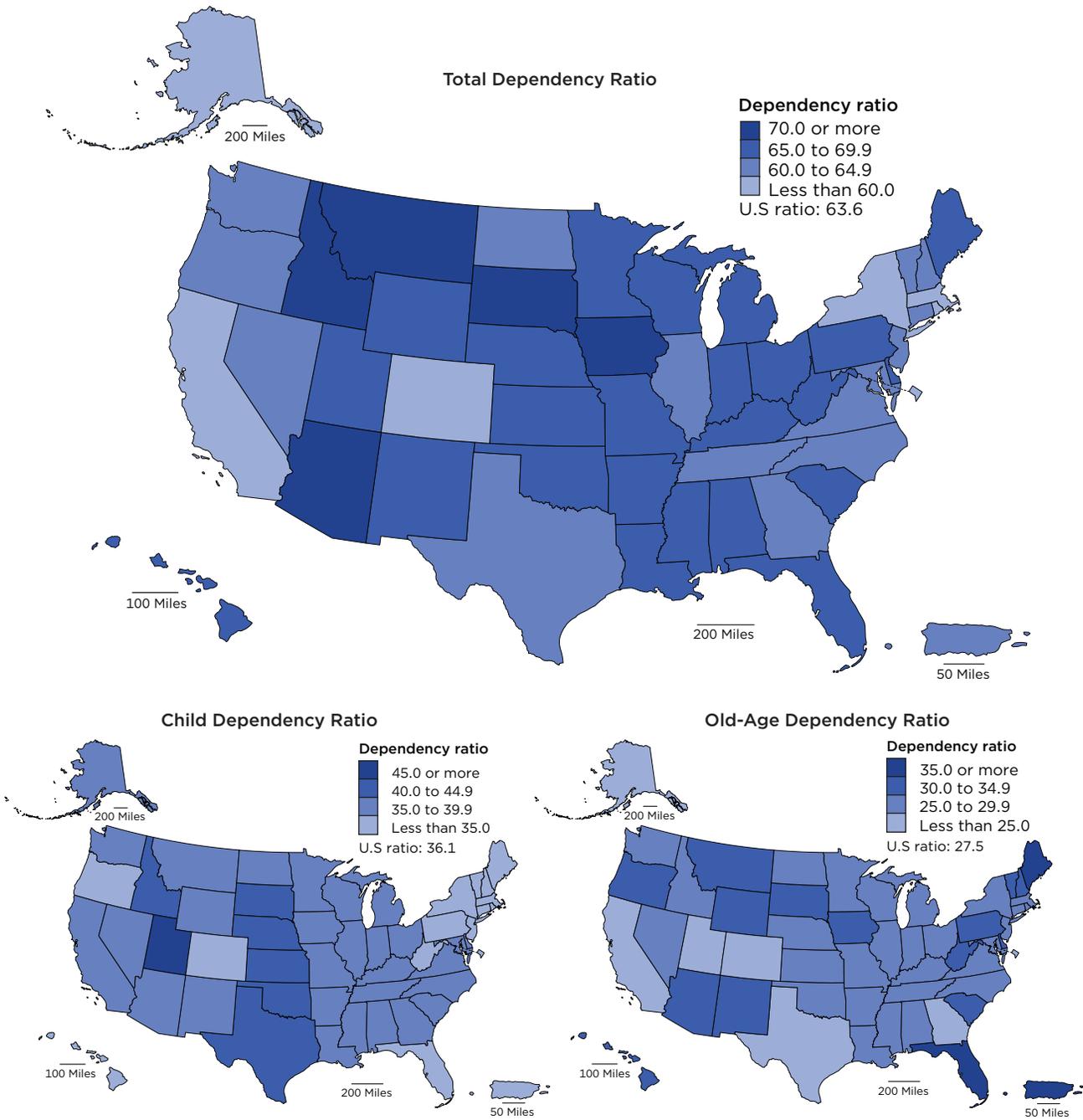
The Census Bureau collects data on age and sex to support a variety of legislative and program requirements. These data are also used to aid in allocating funds from federal programs to programs targeting specific age groups. For example, age data are used to calculate the proportion of school-aged children in each district in order to properly allocate funds for education.

How are age and sex data beneficial to my family and community?

All levels of government need information on age and sex to implement and evaluate programs such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Women's Educational Equity Act, the Older Americans Act, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and the Job Training Partnership Act. Age and sex data are used by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, among others, to aid in planning and development of services.

Other equally important uses for census age and sex data are in planning adequate schools for the school-age population and to determine funding distributions for schools and planning for numerous social services such as highways, hospitals, health services, and services for the older population. Census age data are also an important source of information on population aging, such as measurement of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits. In addition to these public uses, census data can also be used by

Figure 11.
Total, Child, and Old-Age Dependency Ratios by State: 2020



Note: For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

private organizations. For example, census data can help researchers studying trends related to mortality and population aging or help small business owners in planning where to best locate their businesses to fit the needs of the community.

How are data collected in the 2020 Census protected from disclosure?

To protect respondent confidentiality, data have undergone disclosure avoidance methods which add “statistical noise”—small, random additions or subtractions—to the data so that no one can reliably link the published data to a specific person or household. The Census Bureau encourages data users to aggregate small populations and geographies to improve accuracy and diminish implausible results.

For more information on the statistical methods used to protect confidentiality, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/process/disclosure-avoidance.html>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on age and sex in the United States, including 2020 Census data products, visit the Census Bureau’s website at <www.census.gov> or call the Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282. Also visit the Census Bureau’s Question and Answer Center at <ask.census.gov> to submit your questions online.

Data on age and sex from the *2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)*, which provides information at the state level and below, are available at <<https://data.census.gov>>.

For information on data collection, confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile/2020census-demographic-and-housing-characteristics-file-and-demographic-profile-techdoc.pdf>>.

For questions related to the contents of this report and the accompanying tables and figures, contact Laura Blakeslee, Zoe Caplan, Julie A. Meyer, Megan A. Rabe, or Andrew W. Roberts at the Census Bureau.