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By
Christy Richardson
and
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Census 2000 counted 208.1 million civilians 18 and older in the United States.¹ Within this population, approximately 26.4 million or 12.7 percent were veterans. Census data define a civilian veteran as someone 18 and older who is not currently on active duty, but who once served on active duty in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or who served in the Merchant Marine during World War II.² This definition includes people who served for even a short time. Census 2000 collected data about the periods and length of service for veterans. Period of military service data distinguish veterans who

Figure 1.

Reproduction of the Questions on Veterans Status From Census 2000

- 20 a. Has this person ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard?** *Active duty does not include training for the Reserves or National Guard, but DOES include activation, for example, for the Persian Gulf War.*
- Yes, now on active duty
 - Yes, on active duty in past, but not now
 - No, training for Reserves or National Guard only → *Skip to 21*
 - No, never served in the military → *Skip to 21*
- b. When did this person serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?** *Mark a box for EACH period in which this person served.*
- April 1995 or later
 - August 1990 to March 1995 (including Persian Gulf War)
 - September 1980 to July 1990
 - May 1975 to August 1980
 - Vietnam era (August 1964—April 1975)
 - February 1955 to July 1964
 - Korean conflict (June 1950—January 1955)
 - World War II (September 1940—July 1947)
 - Some other time
- c. In total, how many years of active-duty military service has this person had?**
- Less than 2 years
 - 2 years or more

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

¹ The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Table 2 and Figure 4.

² Active duty does not include active duty for training in the military Reserves or National Guard, such as the 4 to 6 months of initial training or year-long summer camps.

served during wartime from those who served during peacetime. Questions about period and length of military service provide information necessary to estimate the number of veterans who are

eligible to receive specific benefits.³

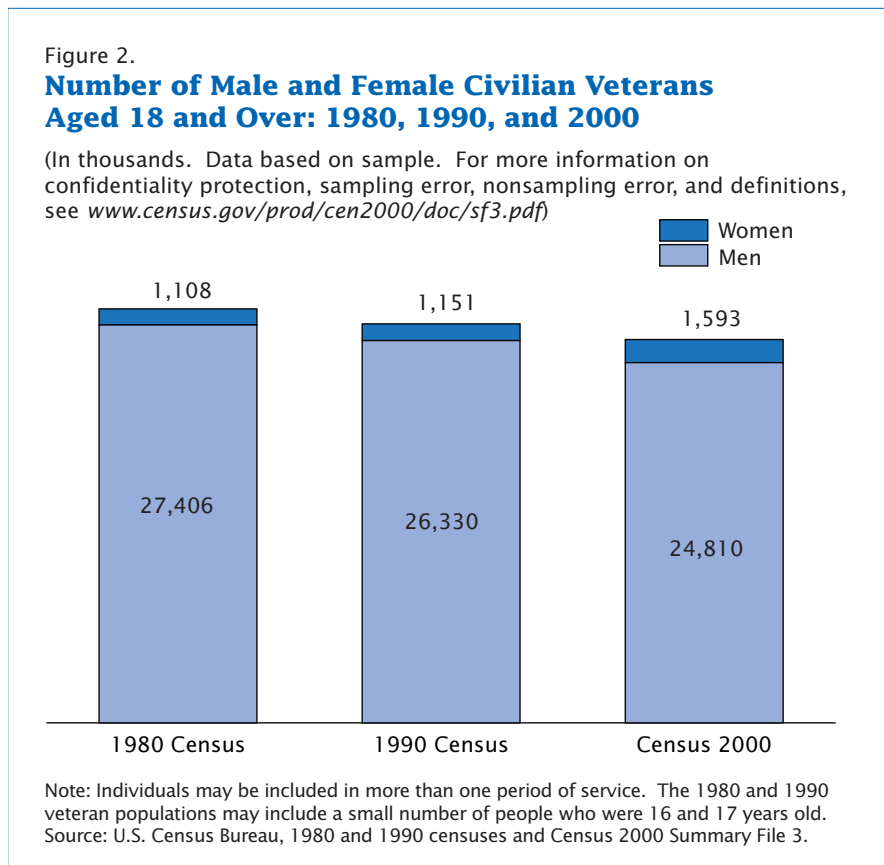
Decennial censuses have included a question on veterans since 1840. In the 1990 census, veterans data were collected from the population 15 and older, and data were released for those 16 and older. Veteran status information was also collected from people 15 and older in Census 2000, but the Census 2000 data are reported here only for the population 18 and older.

The Census 2000 long form was distributed to 1 in 6 households in the United States. Question 20, the veterans item on this form, asked respondents about any active-duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard; about periods of service; and about the number of years of active-duty military service (see Figure 1).

The 1990 census and Census 2000 questions asked about different periods of service. The most recent period on the Census 2000 questionnaire was April 1995 or later, while in 1990 it was September 1980 or later. The 1990 census provided a separate category for World War I service; Census 2000 asked people with such service to mark the “Some other time” category. In both 1990 and 2000, respondents could indicate that they served during more than one period.

This report is part of a series that presents population and housing data collected by Census 2000. It contains data on the veteran status of the civilian population 18 and

³ The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All statements made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.



older. It highlights the size of the veteran population, changes between 1990 and 2000, the distribution of the population by periods of service, and the distribution of the population in regions, states, counties, and places with populations of 100,000 or more.

The total number of civilian veterans in the United States has been decreasing, but the number of female veterans has been increasing.

During the last 20 years of the 20th Century, the veteran population declined as older veterans, particularly Korean War, World War II, and World War I veterans, aged and died. In 1980, 28.5 million civilian veterans lived in the United States, but the number dropped to 27.5 million in 1990, and to 26.4 million in 2000.⁴ The

⁴ The 1980 and 1990 veteran populations may include a small number of people who were 16 and 17 years old.

declines occurred exclusively among the male veteran population, which fell from 27.4 million in 1980 to 24.8 million in 2000. Although women made up only 6.0 percent of the total veteran population in 2000, their numbers have steadily increased, as shown in Figure 2. Of the 26.4 million veterans in the United States in 2000, 24.8 million were men and 1.6 million were women.

Vietnam era veterans accounted for the largest veteran population in 2000.

Vietnam era veterans constituted the largest group of veterans in Census 2000, accounting for 8.4 million people or 31.7 percent of the total veteran population (see Table 1 and Figure 3).⁵ World War II veterans made up the next largest group, 5.7 million people or

⁵ Veterans may have served during more than one period of service.

Table 1.
Number and Percentage of Civilian Veterans Aged 18 and Over by Period of Service and Other Characteristics: 2000

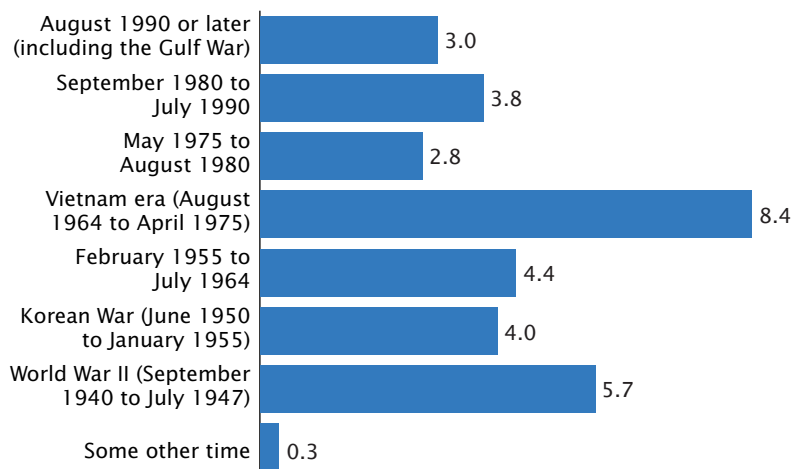
(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Period of service	Number in 2000	Percentage of all veterans	Median age	Percentage women	Percentage employed	Percentage in poverty in 1999	Percentage disabled
All veterans 18 years and over	26,403,703	100.0	57.4	6.0	54.7	5.6	29.1
August 1990 or later (including Gulf War)	3,024,503	11.5	33.3	15.7	81.4	6.2	16.3
September 1980 to July 1990	3,806,602	14.4	38.8	13.0	82.7	5.5	18.2
May 1975 to August 1980	2,775,492	10.5	45.5	9.9	78.0	5.6	22.7
Vietnam era (August 1964 to April 1975)	8,380,356	31.7	53.2	3.2	75.4	5.1	24.8
February 1955 to July 1964	4,355,323	16.5	62.8	2.4	51.4	4.9	29.4
Korean War (June 1950 to January 1955)	4,045,521	15.3	70.1	2.2	24.6	4.5	33.6
World War II (September 1940 to July 1947) . .	5,719,898	21.7	76.7	4.2	11.6	4.8	45.2
Some other time	323,785	1.2	74.3	4.5	16.1	6.6	46.4

Note: The figures do not add to 100 percent because veterans may have served in more than one time period.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3 and special tabulations.

Figure 3.
Number of Civilian Veterans Aged 18 and Over by Period of Service: 2000

(In millions. Data based on sample. For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Note: Individuals may be included in more than one period of service.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

21.7 percent of all veterans, followed by veterans who served from February 1955 to July 1964 (4.4 million or 16.5 percent) and those who served during the Korean War (4.0 million or 15.3 percent). Veterans who served from September 1980 to July 1990

accounted for 3.8 million or 14.4 percent of the veteran population. Finally, those who served from May 1975 to August 1980 (2.8 million or 10.5 percent) and those who served in August 1990 or later (3.0 million or 11.5 percent) made up the smallest percentages

of the total veteran population, respectively. This last group includes Gulf War veterans.⁶

Table 1 shows selected characteristics of the veteran population by period of service. In 2000, the median age of all veterans living in the United States was 57.4. Both age and period of service are time-dependent and closely related to each other. The median age ranged from 33.3 years for those serving since August 1990 to 76.7 years for World War II veterans. In total, 16.7 million veterans were under the age of 65 and 9.7 million were 65 and over.

Table 1 also shows the percentage of veterans who were women by period of service. Nearly 10.0 percent of veterans who served from May 1975 to August 1980 and 13.0 percent of those who served from September 1980 to July 1990 were women. In the most recent period of service, August 1990 or later, 15.7 percent were women. These numbers at least partially reflect the growing involvement of women in the military. Women

⁶ "Gulf War" refers to active-duty service at any time in August 1990 or later, until the time of Census 2000.

made up 4.2 percent of the World War II veteran population and 2.2 percent of the Korean War veteran population.

A large percentage of U.S. veterans were employed.

The majority of U.S. veterans (54.7 percent) were employed in 2000, as shown in Table 1.⁷ Reflecting the ties between age and period of service, and age and employment, veterans who served most recently were most likely to be employed in 2000. Among veterans serving in August 1990 or later, 81.4 percent were employed, while 82.7 percent of those who served from September 1980 to July 1990 were employed. They were closely followed by veterans who served from May 1975 to August 1980 (78.0 percent). More than three quarters (75.4 percent) of veterans of the Vietnam era were employed in 2000, and more than half (51.4 percent) of those who served from February 1955 to July 1964 were employed. The percentage employed was low for Korean War veterans (24.6 percent) and World War II veterans (11.6 percent), many of whom were likely to be retired.

Poverty rates were low among veterans for every period of service.

Overall, 5.6 percent of veterans lived in poverty in 1999, as shown in Table 1, compared with 10.9 percent of the U.S. adult population in general. The youngest veterans, those who served in August 1990 or later, were among the most likely to be poor, with a poverty rate of 6.2 percent. The poverty rate for Vietnam era veterans was 5.1 percent. Korean War and World War II veterans had among the lowest

⁷ Among the general population 20 and older, 61.3 percent were employed according to Census 2000.

poverty rates for veterans, 4.5 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively.

The oldest veterans had the highest disability rates in 2000.

Almost 3 out of every 10 veterans (29.1 percent) were disabled (see Table 1).⁸ However, 1 in 3 Korean War veterans (33.6 percent) and almost 1 in 2 World War II veterans (45.2 percent) were disabled. Approximately 1 in 4 Vietnam veterans (24.8 percent) was disabled. The disability rates for those who served most recently, from September 1980 to July 1990 or in August 1990 or later, were the lowest, at 18.2 percent and 16.3 percent, respectively.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VETERANS

The following discussion of the geographic distribution of veterans focuses on the civilian population 18 and older.

In 2000, the largest veteran populations lived in the South and the Midwest.⁹

The veteran population was largest in the South (9.9 million) and the Midwest (6.1 million), the two most

⁸ Veterans responding to Census 2000 were considered to have a disability if they answered "yes" to having a sensory, physical, mental, or self-care disability; or they answered "yes" to having a disability affecting their ability to go outside the home; or they were under 65 years old and answered "yes" to having an employment disability.

⁹ The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

populous regions of the country (see Table 2). The West and Northeast had veteran populations of 5.7 million and 4.6 million, respectively. The percentage of civilians 18 and older who were veterans varied only slightly among the regions, ranging from 11.5 percent in the Northeast to 13.4 percent in the South.

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of veterans decreased in every region except the South, where it increased from 9.3 million to 9.9 million (a 6.7 percent increase). The greatest decline was in the Northeast, where the number of veterans dropped from 5.5 million to 4.6 million or 15.4 percent. The veteran population fell 7.6 percent in the Midwest and 2.7 percent in the West.

Between 1990 and 2000, veterans declined as a percentage of the civilian population in all regions. The percentage of veterans in the West fell 2.3 percentage points, while it dropped 2.2 percentage points in the Northeast. The Midwest and the South experienced smaller declines, 1.7 percentage points and 0.9 percentage points, respectively.

The most populous state, California, had the greatest number of veterans.

California was the only state that was home to more than 2.5 million veterans in 2000. Additionally, six other states had veteran populations of one million or more: Florida, Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. Together, these seven states, which contained 44.6 percent of the total U.S. population 18 and older, accounted for 11.0 million veterans or 41.6 percent of the U.S. total.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Alaska had

Table 2.

Veteran Status of the Civilian Population Aged 18 and Over for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 1990 and 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Area	1990*			2000						
	Total civilian population 18 and over	Veteran population		Total civilian population 18 and over	Veteran population		Veteran periods of service			
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Percentage in the following periods:			
							WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Gulf**
United States	190,120,343	27,481,055	14.5	208,130,352	26,403,703	12.7	21.7	15.3	31.7	11.5
Region										
Northeast	40,048,451	5,489,799	13.7	40,513,717	4,642,102	11.5	25.8	16.1	28.7	7.5
Midwest	45,530,120	6,597,258	14.5	47,671,646	6,096,476	12.8	21.7	15.0	31.2	9.7
South	64,931,795	9,316,232	14.3	74,066,441	9,941,610	13.4	20.1	15.2	32.5	14.0
West	39,609,977	5,880,963	14.8	45,878,548	5,723,515	12.5	20.9	15.3	33.4	12.1
State										
Alabama	3,078,549	434,787	14.1	3,310,446	447,397	13.5	19.0	16.7	32.9	13.5
Alaska	368,403	68,252	18.5	419,320	71,552	17.1	8.5	8.6	41.2	21.4
Arizona	2,760,050	464,023	16.8	3,747,180	562,916	15.0	23.5	17.4	30.7	11.8
Arkansas	1,789,273	265,055	14.8	1,987,107	281,714	14.2	21.4	15.7	32.0	11.9
California	22,516,192	3,001,905	13.3	24,501,941	2,569,340	10.5	22.5	15.7	32.4	10.8
Colorado	2,480,094	409,932	16.5	3,177,044	446,385	14.1	16.6	13.7	36.3	15.1
Connecticut	2,600,983	373,933	14.4	2,557,792	310,069	12.1	26.2	16.1	29.6	6.8
Delaware	513,564	80,909	15.8	585,855	84,289	14.4	20.1	15.7	31.7	11.8
District of Columbia	497,090	57,874	11.6	454,454	44,484	9.8	24.1	16.6	29.5	11.1
Florida	10,275,382	1,719,129	16.7	12,283,486	1,875,597	15.3	27.8	17.8	28.0	10.7
Georgia	4,865,246	693,225	14.2	5,954,362	768,675	12.9	14.6	13.0	34.4	17.3
Hawaii	801,517	119,256	14.9	878,220	120,587	13.7	18.7	15.0	34.5	15.2
Idaho	724,306	116,609	16.1	920,973	136,584	14.8	20.0	14.4	32.3	14.9
Illinois	8,759,325	1,162,158	13.3	9,158,208	1,003,572	11.0	23.0	15.0	30.1	9.7
Indiana	4,239,391	623,098	14.7	4,504,723	590,476	13.1	20.1	14.5	31.3	10.0
Iowa	2,129,083	310,122	14.6	2,192,132	292,020	13.3	23.0	16.3	31.4	9.0
Kansas	1,854,980	280,806	15.1	1,962,154	267,452	13.6	22.1	14.6	32.6	12.4
Kentucky	2,808,878	380,610	13.6	3,028,902	380,618	12.6	19.6	14.9	32.6	11.9
Louisiana	3,086,591	404,186	13.1	3,232,426	392,486	12.1	20.4	14.5	32.2	13.7
Maine	940,466	159,333	16.9	969,780	154,590	15.9	20.9	16.1	33.1	9.3
Maryland	3,689,812	558,613	15.1	3,910,942	524,230	13.4	18.8	13.8	32.1	14.0
Massachusetts	4,793,859	656,850	13.7	4,847,708	558,933	11.5	26.8	16.6	28.4	7.1
Michigan	7,088,397	1,005,699	14.2	7,341,880	913,573	12.4	21.6	14.5	31.4	9.0
Minnesota	3,317,776	489,498	14.8	3,630,355	464,968	12.8	20.7	15.2	32.8	8.3
Mississippi	1,892,443	237,977	12.6	2,054,721	249,431	12.1	19.9	16.1	31.0	14.8
Missouri	3,920,715	613,859	15.7	4,153,926	592,271	14.3	21.2	15.7	31.6	10.3
Montana	594,845	102,536	17.2	668,651	108,476	16.2	20.7	14.9	34.2	10.7
Nebraska	1,179,872	177,852	15.1	1,253,717	173,189	13.8	20.7	16.3	32.3	12.6
Nevada	925,692	182,084	19.7	1,480,440	238,128	16.1	18.1	16.8	34.8	12.2
New Hampshire	854,028	141,617	16.6	926,066	139,038	15.0	19.8	15.4	33.6	9.2
New Jersey	6,105,807	817,409	13.4	6,321,650	672,217	10.6	26.9	16.6	28.1	6.7
New Mexico	1,098,172	178,022	16.2	1,300,288	190,718	14.7	19.8	15.9	34.7	12.8
New York	14,151,119	1,707,476	12.1	14,278,716	1,361,164	9.5	25.7	16.0	27.7	7.6
North Carolina	5,084,798	719,458	14.1	5,997,177	792,646	13.2	18.2	14.6	32.3	14.9
North Dakota	470,571	64,772	13.8	474,210	61,365	12.9	19.8	14.8	32.7	12.7
Ohio	8,331,105	1,259,535	15.1	8,458,130	1,144,007	13.5	22.1	14.5	30.7	9.6
Oklahoma	2,369,564	377,148	15.9	2,536,569	376,062	14.8	20.2	15.4	34.6	12.9
Oregon	2,188,212	384,189	17.6	2,574,798	388,990	15.1	22.1	14.4	33.9	9.4
Pennsylvania	9,374,206	1,450,037	15.5	9,354,471	1,280,788	13.7	26.3	16.0	28.7	7.5
Rhode Island	794,112	118,330	14.9	797,047	102,494	12.9	26.9	16.4	29.6	7.8
South Carolina	2,604,958	381,691	14.7	2,967,197	420,971	14.2	17.4	14.9	34.1	15.2
South Dakota	510,794	76,923	15.1	548,771	79,370	14.5	20.3	17.4	31.3	12.4
Tennessee	3,772,465	531,723	14.1	4,274,395	560,141	13.1	18.0	14.6	33.9	12.5
Texas	12,525,484	1,726,617	13.8	14,871,550	1,754,809	11.8	18.6	14.3	34.6	15.0
Utah	1,146,986	146,630	12.8	1,510,842	161,351	10.7	22.1	15.4	31.7	13.2
Vermont	433,871	64,814	14.9	460,487	62,809	13.6	20.3	15.4	32.2	8.2
Virginia	4,674,603	733,092	15.7	5,211,916	786,359	15.1	15.9	13.6	35.4	20.3
Washington	3,677,089	653,068	17.8	4,336,464	670,628	15.5	18.2	13.7	35.9	14.0
West Virginia	1,403,095	210,941	15.0	1,404,936	201,701	14.4	22.0	16.2	32.5	9.3
Wisconsin	3,728,111	532,936	14.3	3,993,440	514,213	12.9	21.4	15.1	30.6	9.0
Wyoming	328,419	54,457	16.6	362,387	57,860	16.0	18.0	13.9	36.2	14.4
Puerto Rico	2,491,952	138,150	5.5	2,714,765	146,001	5.4	15.1	26.8	26.8	10.1

*1990 data includes veterans aged 16 and older.

**Gulf war veterans include those who served on active duty in August 1990 or later.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Figure 4. The Veteran Population: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

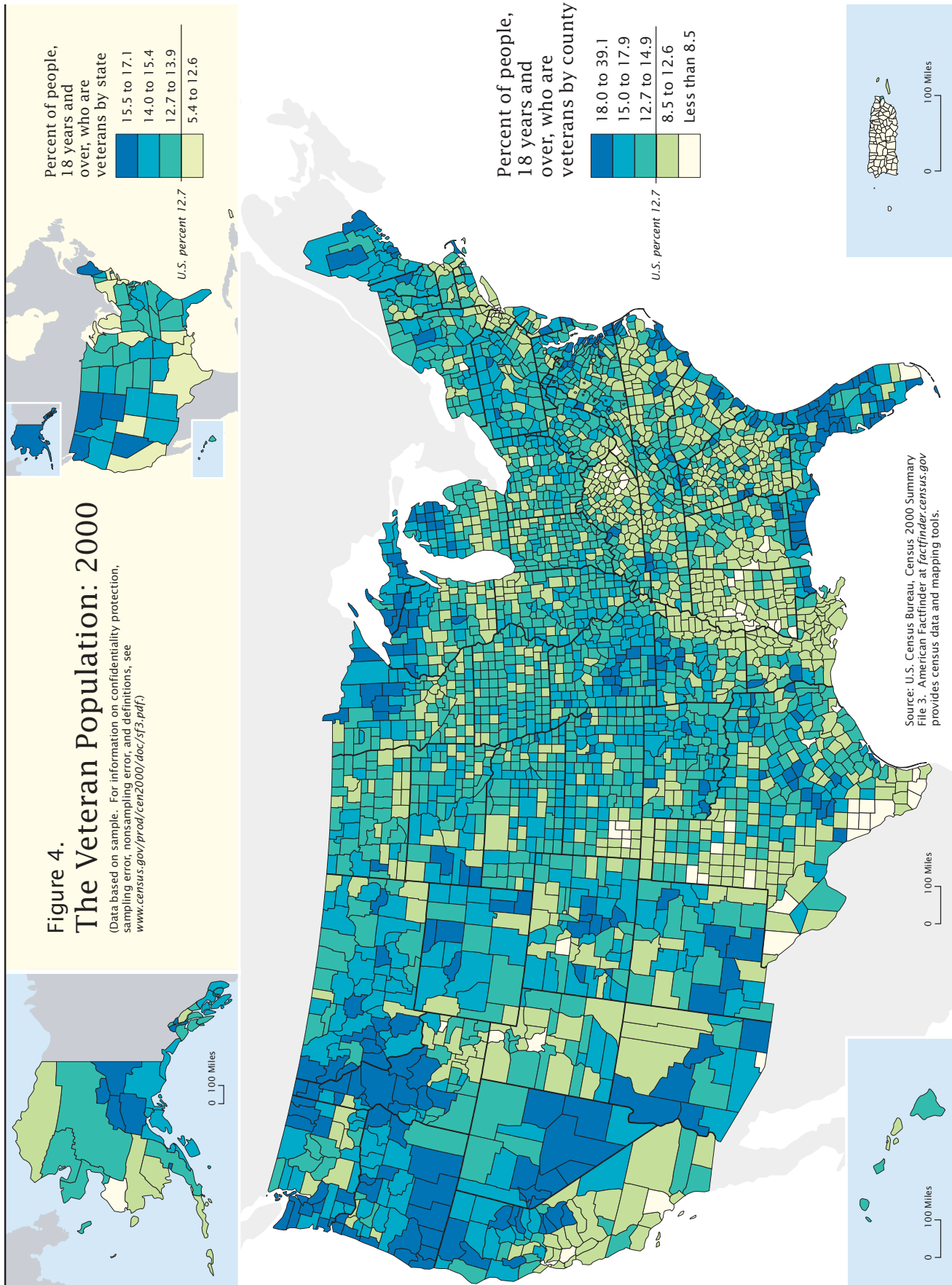


Table 3.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Highest Percentage of Veterans in the Civilian Population Aged 18 and Over: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place	Number of veterans	Percent of veterans	90-percent confidence interval
Hampton, VA	28,312	27.1	26.5 - 27.8
Clarksville, TN	15,319	24.4	23.7 - 25.1
Fayetteville, NC	19,060	23.7	23.0 - 24.4
Virginia Beach, VA	60,260	21.7	21.4 - 22.1
Colorado Springs, CO	51,609	20.2	19.9 - 20.6
Norfolk, VA	30,068	19.9	19.5 - 20.4
Newport News, VA	24,021	19.9	19.4 - 20.4
Columbus, GA*	24,984	19.6	19.1 - 20.1
Chesapeake, VA	25,621	18.9	18.4 - 19.4
Portsmouth, VA	12,955	18.4	17.8 - 19.1

*Columbus city is consolidated with Muscogee County.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from other places not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

the highest percentage of veterans, 17.1 percent (see Table 2). Veterans accounted for about 16.2 percent of the adult population in Montana, followed by Nevada, Wyoming, and Maine.¹⁰ New York state (9.5 percent) and the District of Columbia (9.8 percent) had the lowest percentages of veterans in their populations.¹¹

Even though the number of veterans fell nationwide between 1990 and 2000, some states saw increases. The state with the most rapidly growing veteran population was Nevada, the state with the fastest growing total population. In Nevada, veterans increased by 30.8 percent, from 182,000 to 238,000. Increases of 10 percent or more were recorded in veteran populations in Arizona, Idaho, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Utah.

Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia recorded declines in

¹⁰ The percentage of veterans in the population was not statistically different in Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, and Maine.

¹¹ The percentage of veterans in the population was not statistically different in New York and the District of Columbia.

their veteran populations during the 1990s. Among the states, New York had the largest decline — 20.3 percent. The 23.1 percent decline in the veteran population in the District of Columbia was not statistically different from declines in New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut.

The percentage of the civilian population 18 and over who were veterans fell in every state and the District of Columbia. Nevada, the state with the largest percent increase in the number of veterans, was also the state with the largest decline in veterans as a percent of the total population 18 and over. Because of rapid growth of nonveterans in Nevada, the veteran population dropped from 19.7 percent of all civilian Nevadans 18 and older to 16.1 percent, a 3.6 percentage-point decline.

The proportion of veterans fell by 2 percentage points or more in almost half of the states in the Northeast and the West. In the Midwest, most states fell by at least 1 percentage point, but less than 2 percentage points. States in

the South experienced the least decline. The decline in Texas and the District of Columbia was about 2 percentage points, but it was less than 1 percentage point in many other Southern states.

Rural and nonmetropolitan counties had the highest concentrations of veterans.

Figure 4 shows the percentage of veterans in 2000 for each county in the United States. The highest concentrations of veterans were found in many Florida counties, numerous counties of the upper Great Lakes areas, various western counties with low populations excluding California and Utah, and in scattered counties along the East Coast, all containing or near military bases. In general, Census 2000 found the highest concentrations of veterans in rural and nonmetropolitan counties. Florida was an exception, probably because of retiree migration. The lowest concentrations of veterans were found in the counties of the lower Mississippi River valley, many Appalachian counties, and several counties in the Rio Grande valley of southern Texas.

Hampton, Virginia, had the greatest concentration of veterans of any place of 100,000 or more in the United States.¹²

Among places of 100,000 or more, Hampton, Virginia, near the country's largest naval station, had the greatest concentration of veterans in 2000, 27.1 percent (see Table 3). It was followed by Clarksville, Tennessee (24.4 percent), and Fayetteville, North Carolina (23.7 percent) — whose

¹² Census 2000 shows 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They include 238 incorporated places (including four city-county consolidations) and seven census designated places that are not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html.

percentages were not statistically different. Six of the 10 places with the highest concentrations of veterans were in Virginia. With the exception of Colorado Springs, Colorado, home of the Air Force Academy, all of the places with the highest concentrations were located in the Southern region of the United States.

In 2000, the concentrations of veterans in places varied depending on their period of service.

The list of places with the greatest concentrations of Gulf War veterans¹³ was similar to the list of places with the greatest concentration of veterans in general (see Table 4). In both cases, Hampton, Virginia, topped the list. Gulf War veterans made up 13.4 percent of the adult civilian population in Hampton; followed by Clarksville, Tennessee, with 11.4 percent; and Fayetteville, North Carolina, with 9.0 percent.

Tables 5, 6, and 7 show the top ten places with the highest concentrations of Vietnam, Korean War, and World War II veterans, respectively. The tables suggest that the places with the highest concentrations of Vietnam veterans tend to contain or be near military facilities in the South and West, and that the highest concentrations of Korean War and World War II veterans tend to be in retirement areas in Florida, Arizona, or California, and other places with warm climates. Caution must be used in interpreting these data, since the percentages in the numbers are so close that two places may not be statistically different from one another.

Among places with populations of 100,000 or more, Hialeah, Florida,

¹³ Includes veterans who served anytime in August 1990 or later, until the time of Census 2000.

**Table 4.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Highest Percentage of Gulf War Veterans in the Civilian Population Aged 18 and Over: 2000**

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place	Number of Gulf War veterans	Percent of Gulf War veterans	90-percent confidence interval
Hampton, VA	13,981	13.4	12.9 - 13.9
Clarksville, TN	7,184	11.4	10.9 - 12.0
Fayetteville, NC	7,221	9.0	8.5 - 9.4
Virginia Beach, VA	21,176	7.6	7.4 - 7.9
Newport News, VA	8,010	6.6	6.3 - 6.9
Norfolk, VA	9,931	6.6	6.3 - 6.9
Columbus, GA*	7,373	5.8	4.9 - 6.7
Colorado Springs, CO	14,650	5.7	5.6 - 5.9
Chesapeake, VA	6,413	4.7	4.5 - 5.0
Augusta-Richmond, GA**	6,300	4.6	4.3 - 4.8

*Columbus city is consolidated with Muscogee County.
 **In 2000, Richmond County and the incorporated place of Augusta-Richmond County are coextensive.
 Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from other places not listed in this table.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

**Table 5.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Highest Percentage of Vietnam Era Veterans in the Civilian Population Aged 18 and Over: 2000**

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place	Number of Vietnam era veterans	Percent of Vietnam era veterans	90-percent confidence interval
Fayetteville, NC	6,935	8.6	8.2 - 9.1
Virginia Beach, VA	22,763	8.2	8.0 - 8.4
Colorado Springs, CO	20,011	7.8	7.6 - 8.1
Clarksville, TN	4,872	7.8	7.3 - 8.2
Anchorage, AK	12,801	7.3	7.0 - 7.5
Columbus, GA*	9,245	7.3	6.9 - 7.6
Hampton, VA	7,555	7.2	6.9 - 7.6
Chesapeake, VA	9,638	7.1	6.8 - 7.4
Newport News, VA	8,115	6.7	6.4 - 7.0
Sunrise Manor, NV	7,208	6.7	6.4 - 7.0

*Columbus city is consolidated with Muscogee County.
 Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from other places not listed in this table.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

and East Los Angeles, California (CDP),¹⁴ had the lowest concentrations of veterans. Many of the places with low concentrations of veterans were areas with

large populations of foreign-born residents, as shown in Table 8. Some of the places with low concentrations were areas with large student populations, such as Provo, Utah, and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

¹⁴ East Los Angeles, California, is a Census Designated Place and not an incorporated city.

Table 6.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Highest Percentage of Korean War Veterans in the Civilian Population Aged 18 and Over: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place	Number of Korean War veterans	Percent of Korean War veterans	90-percent confidence interval
Cape Coral, FL	2,617	3.3	3.0 - 3.6
Fayetteville, NC	2,499	3.1	2.8 - 3.4
Columbus, GA*	3,773	3.0	2.8 - 3.2
Huntsville, AL	3,595	3.0	2.8 - 3.2
Scottsdale, AZ	4,685	2.9	2.7 - 3.0
Henderson, NV	3,760	2.9	2.7 - 3.1
Clearwater, FL	2,470	2.8	2.6 - 3.1
Oceanside, CA	3,145	2.8	2.6 - 3.0
Pueblo, CO	2,133	2.8	2.6 - 3.0
Las Vegas, NV	9,480	2.7	2.6 - 2.8

*Columbus city is consolidated with Muscogee County.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from other places not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Table 7.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Highest Percentage of World War II Veterans in the Civilian Population Aged 18 and Over: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place	Number of World War II veterans	Percent of World War II veterans	90-percent confidence interval
Clearwater, FL	4,744	5.4	5.1 - 5.8
Cape Coral, FL	4,013	5.1	4.7 - 5.4
Oceanside, CA	5,036	4.5	4.2 - 4.7
Pueblo, CO	3,201	4.2	3.9 - 4.5
Scottsdale, AZ	6,604	4.0	3.8 - 4.2
Metairie, LA	4,620	4.0	3.8 - 4.2
St. Petersburg, FL	7,710	4.0	3.8 - 4.2
Santa Rosa, CA	4,282	3.8	3.6 - 4.1
Mesa, AZ	10,983	3.8	3.7 - 4.0
Independence, MO	3,201	3.7	3.5 - 4.0

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from other places not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

What was the racial and ethnic makeup of veterans in 2000?

Census 2000 allowed respondents to choose more than one race. With the exception of the Two or more races group, all race groups discussed in this report refer to people who indicated only one racial identity among the six major

categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race.¹⁵ The use of

¹⁵ For further information on each of the six major race groups and the Two or more races population, see reports from the Census 2000 Brief series (C2KBR/01), available on the Census 2000 Web site at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html.

the single-race population in this report does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.¹⁶

Table 9 shows that, in 2000, 82.9 percent of veterans and 72.3 percent of the total civilian population 18 and older were White (and no other race), not of Hispanic origin.¹⁷ The next largest population of veterans was in the single-race group of Black or African American, representing 9.7 percent of the veteran population. Slightly more than 11.0 percent of the general population was Black or African American. Hispanics accounted for 4.3 percent of the veteran population and 11.0 percent of the general population, and the single-race Asian population composed 1.1 percent of veterans and 3.7 percent of the general population. The smallest percentages of the veteran population were the single-race groups of American Indian and Alaska Natives, at 0.7 percent,

¹⁶ This report draws heavily on Summary File 3, a Census 2000 product that can be accessed through American FactFinder, available from the Census Bureau's Web site, www.census.gov. Information on people who reported more than one race, such as "White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native" or "Asian **and** Black or African American," is forthcoming in Summary File 4, which will also be available through American FactFinder in 2003. About 2.6 percent of people reported more than one race.

¹⁷ Hereafter this report uses the term Black to refer to people who are Black or African American, the term Pacific Islander to refer to people who are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and the term Hispanic to refer to people who are Hispanic or Latino.

Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 sample data, the proportion Hispanic was 8.0 percent for Whites, 1.9 percent for Blacks, 14.6 percent for American Indians and Alaska Natives, 1.0 percent for Asians, 9.5 percent for Pacific Islanders, 97.1 percent for those reporting Some other race, and 31.1 percent for those reporting Two or more races.

followed by Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, at 0.1 percent. These groups represented 0.8 percent and 0.1 percent of the general population, respectively.

The above proportions change somewhat when the population is divided into younger veterans and older veterans, as shown in Table 9. The non-Hispanic White group makes up 78.9 percent of younger veterans, but 89.9 percent of veterans 65 and older. The Black and Hispanic groups are more concentrated among veterans aged 18 to 64 (12.1 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively) than among veterans 65 and older (5.7 percent and 2.4 percent, respectively).

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Why Census 2000 Asked About Veteran Status

Veteran status, including period of military service, is used primarily by the Department of Veterans Affairs to measure the needs of veterans and to evaluate the impact of veteran benefits programs dealing with health care, education and employment, and disability and retirement. These data are needed to conduct policy analysis, program planning, and budgeting, for federal veterans' programs, and for reports to Congress on veterans' facilities and services. Based on data about veterans, local agencies develop health care and other services for elderly veterans under the Older Americans Act.

Accuracy of the Estimates

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form. Nationally, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units was included

Table 8.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Lowest Percentage of Veterans in the Civilian Population Aged 18 and Over: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place	Number of veterans	Percent of veterans	90-percent interval
Hialeah, FL	28,312	2.1	1.9 - 2.2
East Los Angeles, CA, CDP*	15,319	3.3	3.0 - 3.6
Miami, FL	19,060	4.2	4.0 - 4.3
Santa Ana, CA	60,260	4.2	4.0 - 4.4
Provo, UT	51,609	4.4	4.1 - 4.7
El Monte, CA	30,068	4.5	4.2 - 4.9
Cambridge, MA	24,021	4.9	4.6 - 5.3
Paterson, NJ	24,984	5.0	4.7 - 5.2
Elizabeth, NJ	25,621	5.1	4.8 - 5.4
Laredo, TX	12,955	5.7	5.4 - 6.0

*East Los Angeles is a Census Designated Place (CDP) and not an incorporated city.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from other places not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Table 9.
Percentage of Adults by Veterans Status, Race and Hispanic Origin and Age: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Characteristics	Total population	Veterans		
		Total	18 to 64 years	65 years and over
Total population 18 years and over	208,130,352	26,403,703	16,740,194	9,663,506
White alone	77.7	85.5	81.9	91.7
Black or African American alone	11.3	9.7	12.1	5.7
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.4
Asian alone	3.7	1.1	1.2	0.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Some other race alone	4.8	1.4	1.9	0.5
Two or more races	2.1	1.4	1.8	0.8
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	11.0	4.3	5.4	2.4
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	72.3	82.9	78.9	89.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3.

in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The

sample estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from the sampling procedures, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: (1) errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and (2) errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher income

categories and overstated for the lower income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in *Summary File 3 Technical Documentation* under Chapter 8, "Accuracy of the Data," located at www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf.

All statements in this Census 2000 Brief have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in tables, maps, and other figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, estimates in one category may not be significantly different from estimates assigned to a different category. Further information on the accuracy of the data is located at www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf. For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the

Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

For More Information

The Census 2000 Summary File 3 data are available from the American Factfinder on the Internet (factfinder.census.gov). They were released on a state-by-state basis during 2002. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf or contact the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

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

To find information about the availability of data products, including reports, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636), or e-mail webmaster@census.gov.

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