

We the People: Women and Men in the United States

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By
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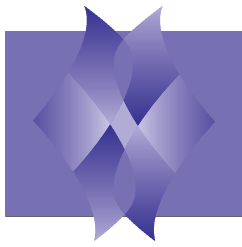
Acknowledgments

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We the People: Women and Men in the United States

This report provides a portrait of women in the United States and highlights comparisons with men at the national level. It is part of the Census 2000 Special Reports series that presents several demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000. The data contained in this report are based on the samples of households who responded to the

1970, 1980, and 1990 censuses and Census 2000.

A companion brief, based on the short-form data from Census 2000, that provides more information on this report topic is *Gender: 2000*.¹

It presents information on the male and female populations in regions, states, counties, and places of 100,000 or more and highlights comparisons with data from the 1990 census.

¹ Denise I. Smith and René E. Spraggins, 2001, *Gender: 2000*, Washington, DC, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-9, U.S. Census Bureau. This report is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-9.pdf>.

Table 1.
Population by Age and Sex: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cens2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Age	Population			Percent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	281,421,906	137,916,186	143,505,720	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 to 4 years	19,046,754	9,755,707	9,291,047	6.8	7.1	6.5
5 to 9 years	20,608,282	10,555,503	10,052,779	7.3	7.7	7.0
10 to 14 years	20,618,199	10,577,571	10,040,628	7.3	7.7	7.0
15 to 19 years	19,911,052	10,243,740	9,667,312	7.1	7.4	6.7
20 to 24 years	19,025,980	9,705,979	9,320,001	6.8	7.0	6.5
25 to 29 years	19,212,244	9,682,926	9,529,318	6.8	7.0	6.6
30 to 34 years	20,365,113	10,219,811	10,145,302	7.2	7.4	7.1
35 to 39 years	23,083,337	11,471,622	11,611,715	8.2	8.3	8.1
40 to 44 years	22,822,134	11,325,993	11,496,141	8.1	8.2	8.0
45 to 49 years	20,181,127	9,924,965	10,256,162	7.2	7.2	7.1
50 to 54 years	17,397,482	8,500,612	8,896,870	6.2	6.2	6.2
55 to 59 years	13,383,251	6,454,809	6,928,442	4.8	4.7	4.8
60 to 64 years	10,787,979	5,114,578	5,673,401	3.8	3.7	4.0
65 to 69 years	9,569,199	4,415,402	5,153,797	3.4	3.2	3.6
70 to 74 years	8,931,950	3,940,173	4,991,777	3.2	2.9	3.5
75 to 79 years	7,385,783	3,008,302	4,377,481	2.6	2.2	3.1
80 to 84 years	4,931,479	1,815,117	3,116,362	1.8	1.3	2.2
85 years and over	4,160,561	1,203,376	2,957,185	1.5	0.9	2.1

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

The majority (51 percent) of the total population was female.

- In 2000, 143.5 million females lived in the United States, 16 million more than a decade earlier.²
- The female population exceeded the male population at older

² The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households that responded to the Census 2000 long form. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

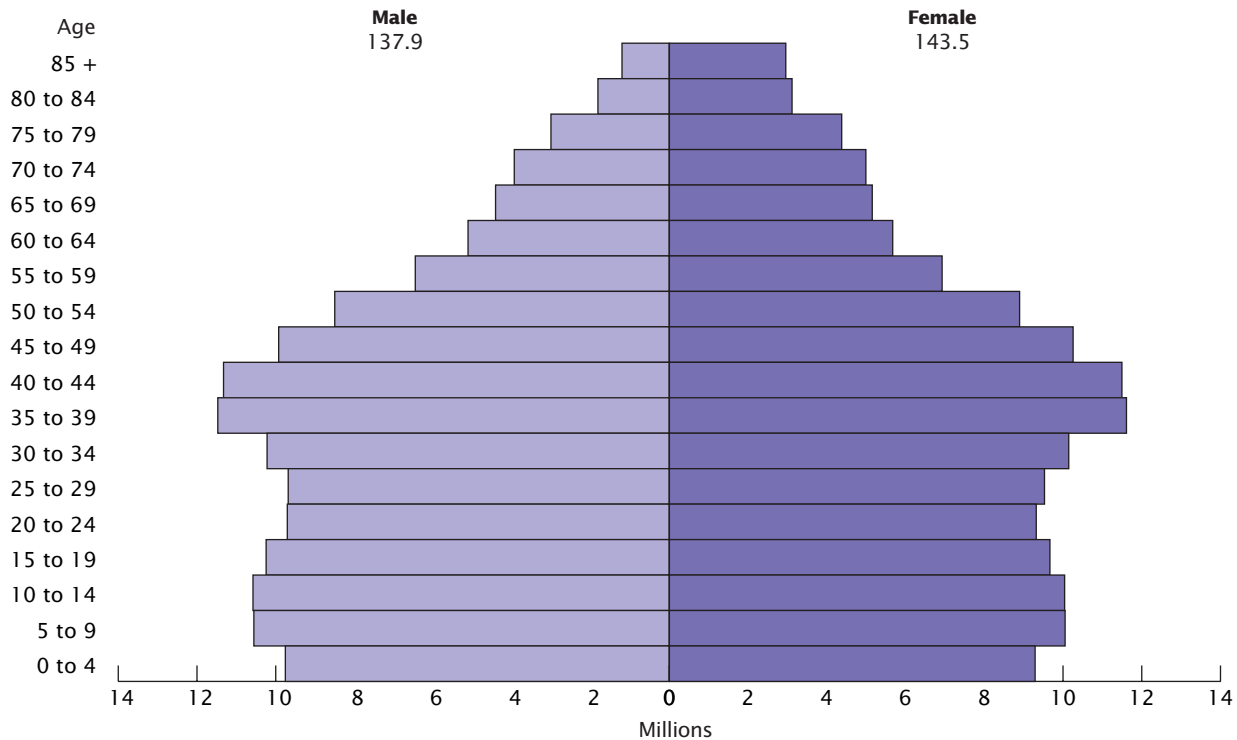
ages, but the reverse was true at younger ages. Women aged 85 and over outnumbered men about 2.5 to 1 (3.0 million compared with 1.2 million). In contrast, the population under 18 consisted of 37.0 million males and 35.1 million females.

the age group 35 to 39, women outnumbered men. The most notable difference between the number of men and women occurred in the older ages (65 years and over). Older women outnumbered older men by about 6 million (20.6 million compared with 14.4 million).

- In 2000, the male population was larger than the female population up through age group 30 to 34, but beginning with

Figure 1.
Age and Sex: 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)



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

The sex composition varied by race.

- Census 2000 asked respondents to choose one or more races. 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 and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race.³ The use of

³ 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.⁴

- In 2000, the sex ratio (number of males per 100 females)

⁴ This report draws heavily on Summary File 3, a Census 2000 product that can be accessed through the 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, can be found in Summary File 4, also available through American FactFinder. About 2.6 percent of people reported more than one race.

varied by race and Hispanic-origin groups.⁵

- Among the race groups shown here, the Some Other Race population had the highest sex ratio at 108, followed by the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population with a sex ratio of 103. The lowest sex ratio was 90 males per 100 females in the Black or African American population.⁶
- The number who were male was balanced with the number who were female for the Two or More Races population (a sex ratio of 100).
- The Hispanic population had a sex ratio of 105.

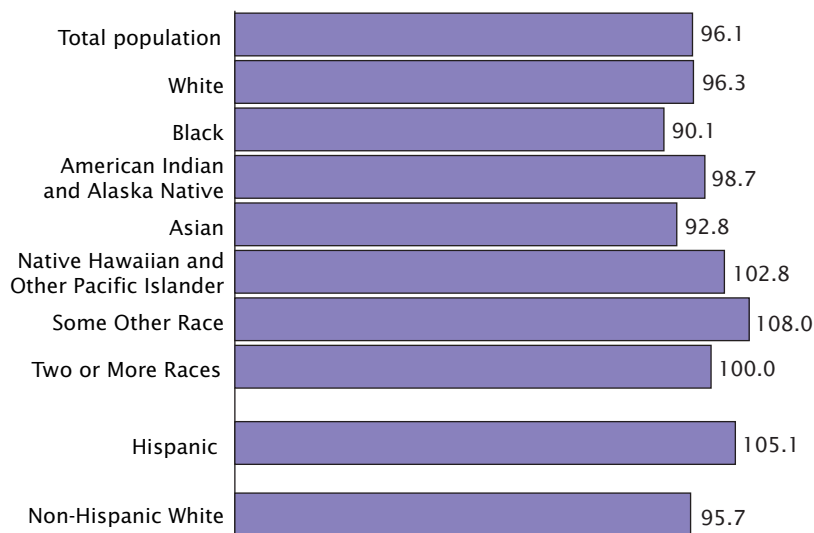
⁵ The sex ratio for the American Indian and Alaska Native population is not statistically different from the sex ratios for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander and the Two or More Races populations. The sex ratio for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population is not statistically different from the sex ratios for the Two or More Races and the Hispanic populations.

⁶ Hereafter, this report uses the term Black to refer to people who reported a single race of Black or African American, and the term Hispanic to refer to people who are Hispanic or Latino. The term non-Hispanic White refers to people who reported only White and that they were not Hispanic. Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 sample data, the proportion Hispanic among respondents who reported only one race 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 Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, 97.1 percent for those reporting Some Other Race, and 31.1 percent for those reporting Two or More Races.

Figure 2.

Sex Ratio by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000

(Males per 100 females. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



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

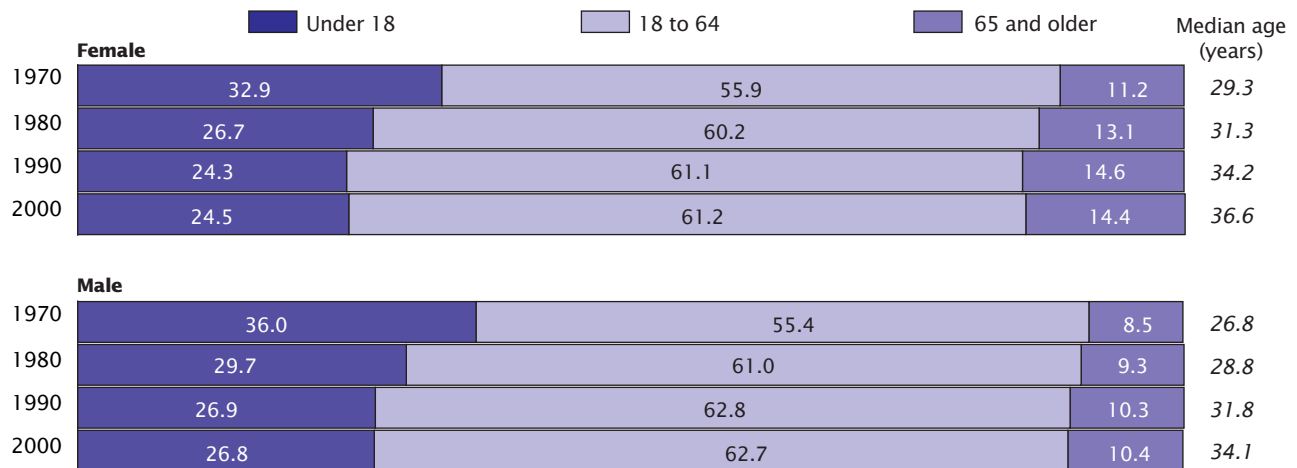
The distribution of people by age differed by sex.

- In 2000, 25 percent of the female population was under 18 years, 61 percent was 18 to 64, and 14 percent was 65 and over. The corresponding proportions of the male population were 27 percent, 63 percent, and 10 percent, respectively.
- From 1970 to 1990, the proportion of the female population under 18 decreased, but from 1990 to 2000, it increased slightly from 24 percent to 25 percent. The percentage of the male population that was under 18 decreased from 1970 to 2000.
- The proportion of the female population 65 and older increased from 1970 to 1990, and had a slight drop in 2000. In contrast, the proportion of the male population 65 and older increased from 8.5 percent to 10.4 percent between 1970 and 2000.
- The median age for women continued to increase from 1970 to 2000: it rose from 29.3 to 36.6. Between 1970 and 2000, the median age for both women and men increased by 7.3 years.

Figure 3.

Selected Age Groups and Median Age: 1970 to 2000

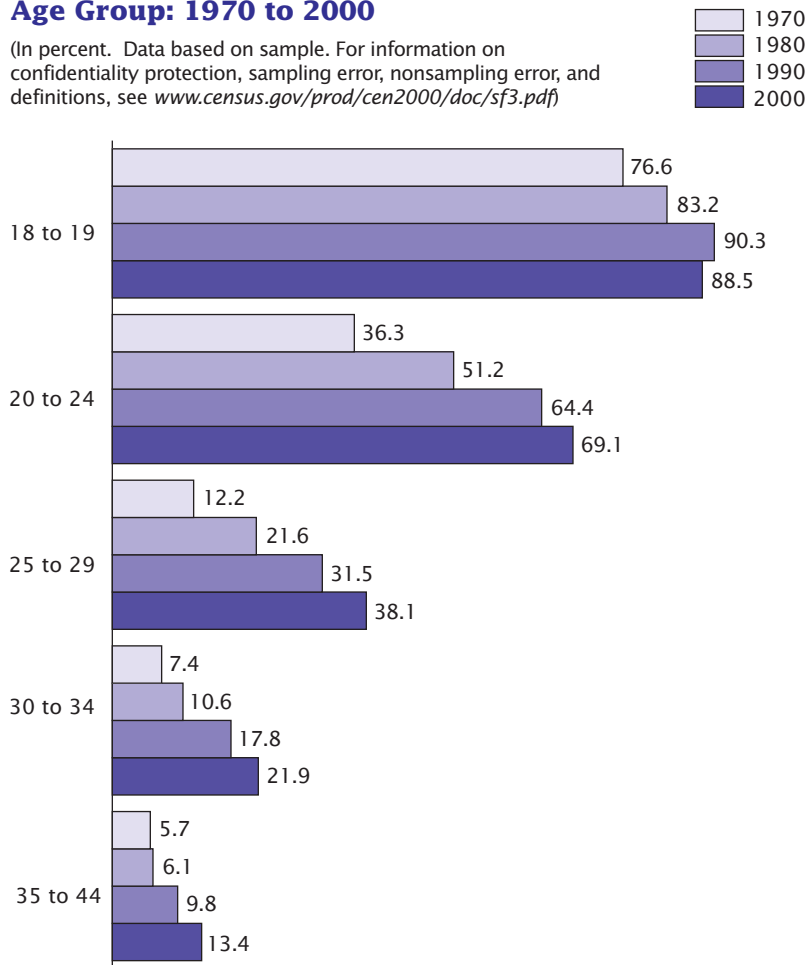
(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1970 to 2000.

Figure 4.
Never-Married Women by Selected Age Group: 1970 to 2000

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1970 to 2000.

The marital status of women reflected the current trend toward remaining single.

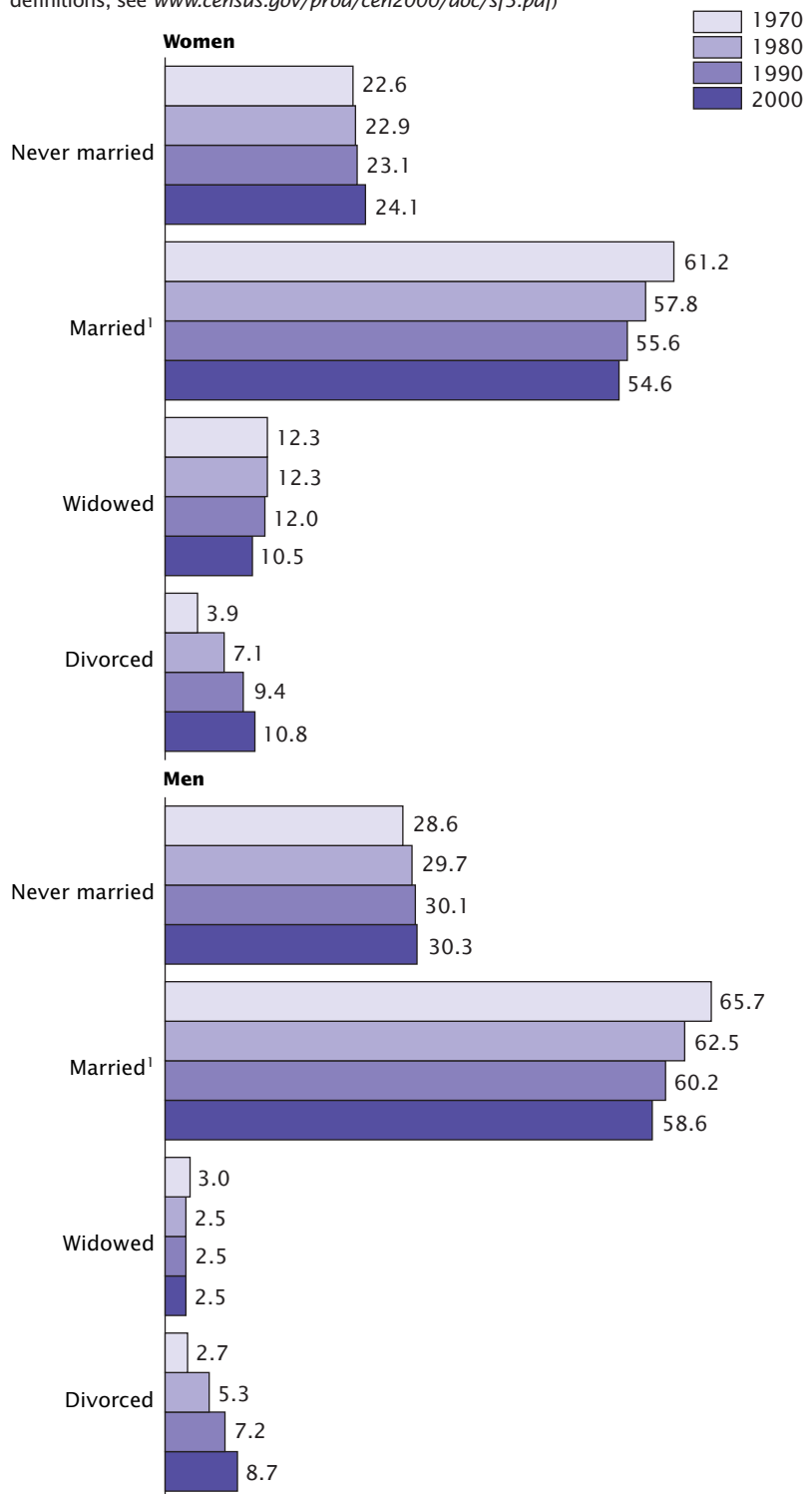
- Since 1970, dramatic increases in the proportions of never-married women have occurred among women in the age groups 20 to 24 and 25 to 29. In 1970, 36 percent of women 20 to 24 and 12 percent of women 25 to 29 had not married. By 2000, the proportions rose to 69 percent and 38 percent, respectively.
- In 1990, 90 percent of women 18 to 19 were never married and by 2000, the proportion dropped slightly to 89 percent. This change represents the only decrease in the proportion of never-married women from 1970 to 2000 among the age groups shown here.
- The percentage of women 30 to 34 who were never married approximately tripled between 1970 and 2000, reaching 22 percent.

The proportions married of women and men decreased between 1990 and 2000.

- Overall, higher proportions of men were never married and currently married than women, while higher proportions of women were widowed and divorced. The marital status trends from 1970 to 2000 for men and women followed similar patterns, with increases for those never married or divorced and decreases for those married or widowed.
- Between 1970 and 2000, the proportion of women who were divorced more than doubled and the corresponding proportion of men more than tripled. The largest change in marital status from 1970 to 2000 for women and men was the decline in the proportion of those who were married, 6.6 percentage points and 7.1 percentage points, respectively.
- The proportion of women who were widowed dropped between 1970 and 2000, from 12 percent to 11 percent, while the rate for their male counterparts changed little. The proportion who had never married increased by 1.5 percentage points for women and 1.8 percentage points for men between 1970 and 2000.

Figure 5.
Marital Status: 1970 to 2000

(Percent distributions of women and men 15 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



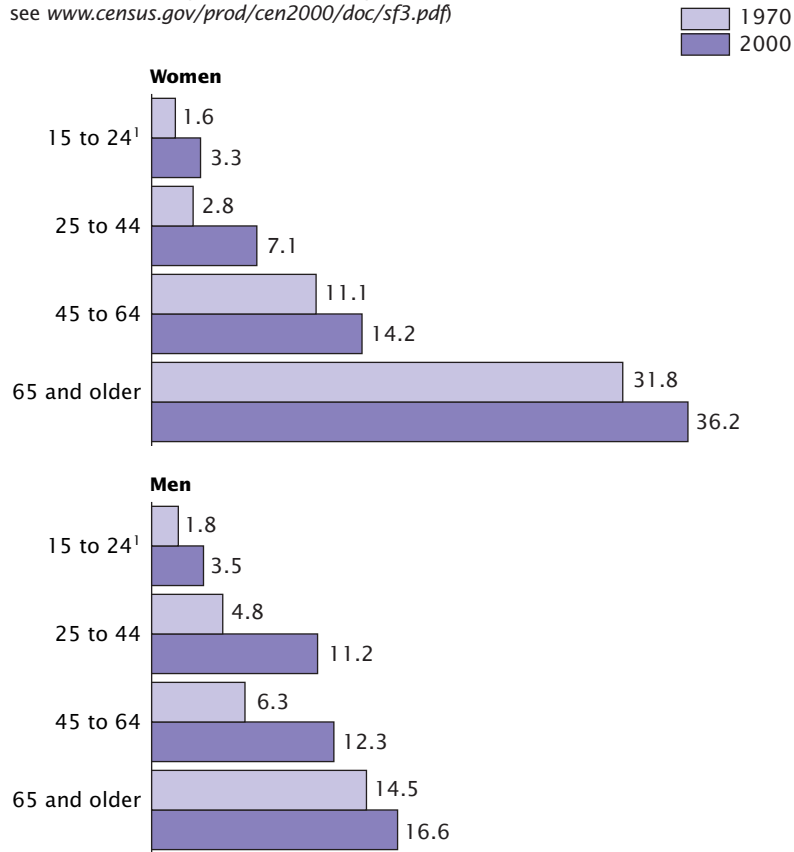
¹ Includes separated.

Note: Data for 1970 refer to the population 14 and older.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1970 to 2000.

Figure 6.
**People Living Alone by Selected
 Age Group: 1970 and 2000**

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



¹ Data for 1970 refer to the population 14 to 24.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1970 and 2000.

More older women than older men lived alone.

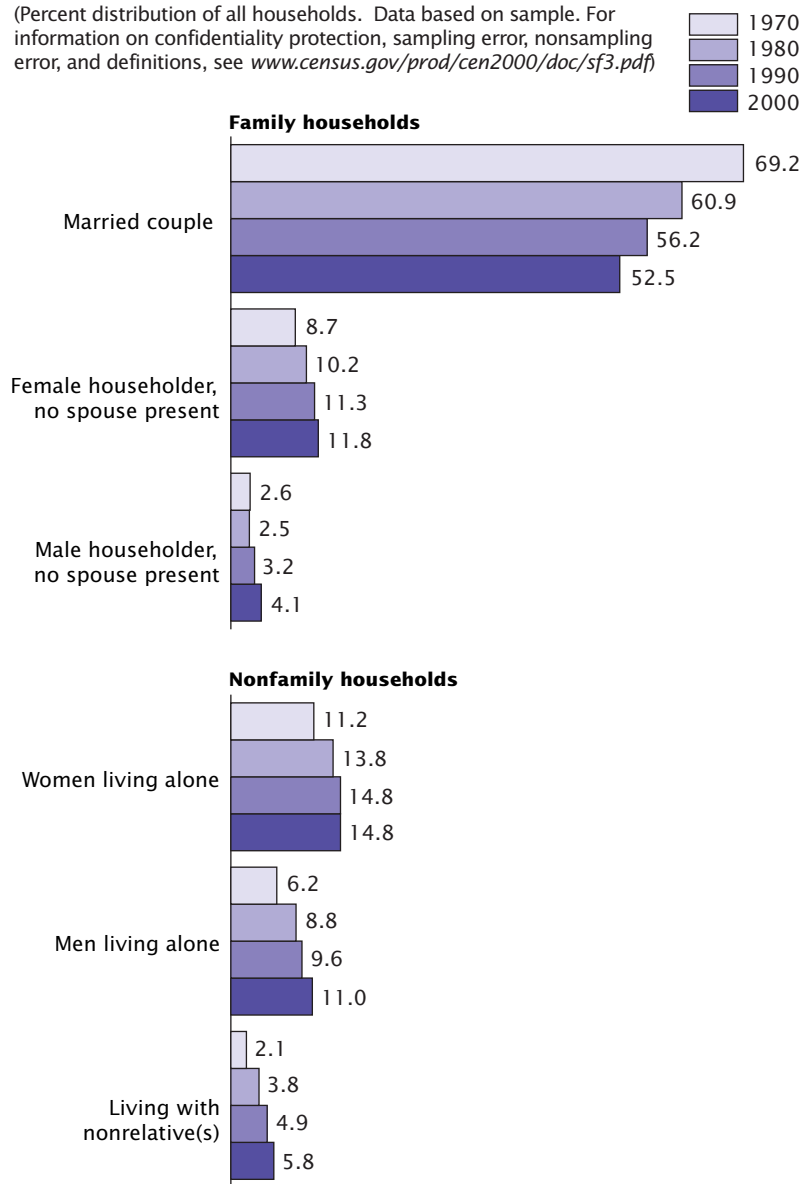
- In 1970 and 2000, the proportions of the female population 15 to 24 and 25 to 44 who lived alone were lower than those of their male counterparts. However, the pattern for men and women 45 to 64 was reversed in both 1970 and 2000.
- Older women were more than twice as likely as older men to live by themselves. In 1970, 32 percent of women 65 and older lived alone, compared with 15 percent of men 65 and older. In 2000, a similar pattern was found—36 percent and 17 percent, respectively.

Married-couple families constituted over half of all households.

- Census 2000 revealed 105.5 million total households. Married-couple families accounted for 53 percent of all households; female-maintained family households with no husband present represented 12 percent, while male-maintained family households with no wife present were 4 percent of all households.
- From 1970 to 2000, the number of male-maintained family households and female-maintained family households both with no spouse present increased. During the same time period, the proportion of female-maintained family households with no husband present was more than double that of their male counterparts.
- Married-couple households dropped from 69 percent of all households in 1970 to 53 percent in 2000.
- The proportion of women living alone remained approximately the same from 1990 to 2000 after growing during the 1970s and the 1980s, while the proportion of their male counterparts increased from 1970 to 2000.

Figure 7.
Households by Family Type: 1970 to 2000

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

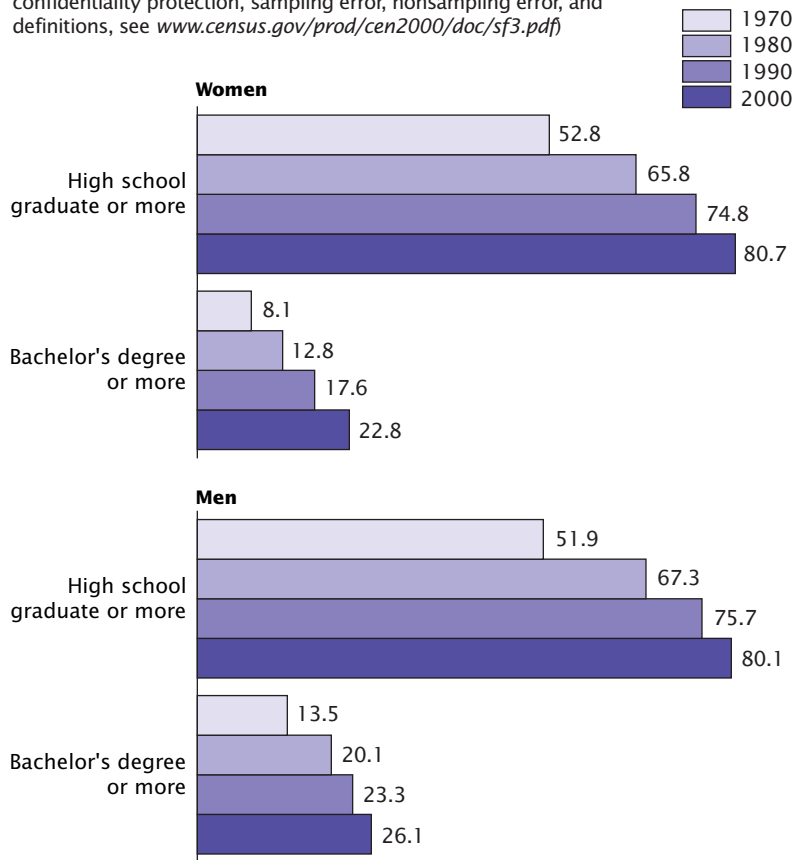


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1970 to 2000.

Figure 8.

Educational Attainment: 1970 to 2000

(Percent of population 25 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1970 to 2000.

The educational attainment of women continued to rise and the college education gap with men narrowed.

- Higher proportions of both women and men earned high school diplomas and college degrees in 2000 than 30 years before.
- In 2000, of those 25 and older, 81 percent of women and 80 percent of men had received a high school diploma, compared with about 53 percent of women and 52 percent of men in 1970.
- In the last three decades, women narrowed the college education gap. In 2000, 23 percent of women and 26 percent of men had graduated from college, representing a gap of about 3 percentage points. In 1970, the gap was about 5 percentage points.

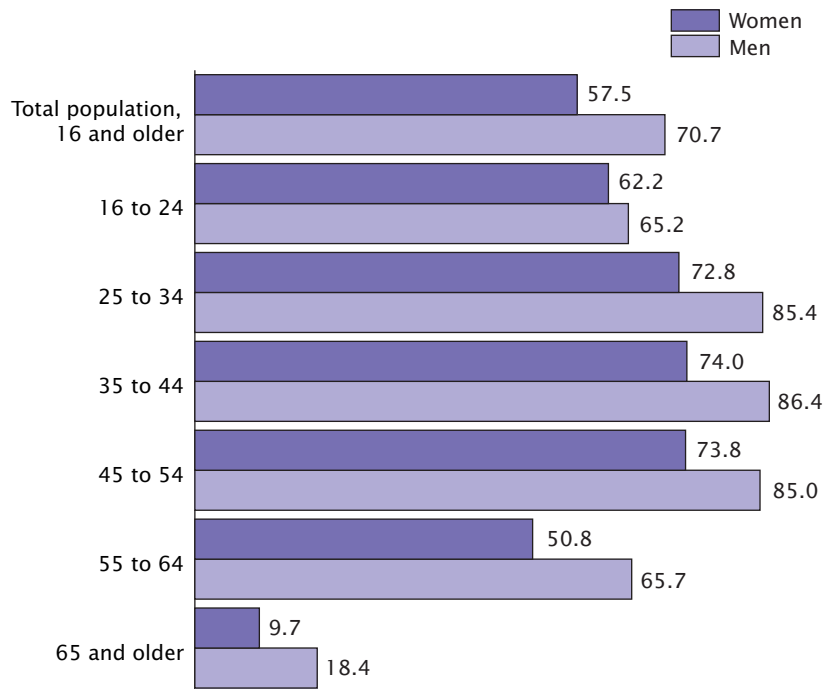
Participation rates in the labor force varied by age for women and men.

- In 2000, 58 percent of women and 71 percent of men 16 and older were in the labor force.
- The proportion of men and women in the labor force varied by age, but men had higher participation rates than women in all age groups.
- The highest proportions of women and men in the labor force were in the age groups 25 to 34, 35 to 44, and 45 to 54, while the smallest proportions were for those 65 and over.

Figure 9.

Labor Force Participation Rate by Age: 2000

(Percent of specified population that is in the labor force. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



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

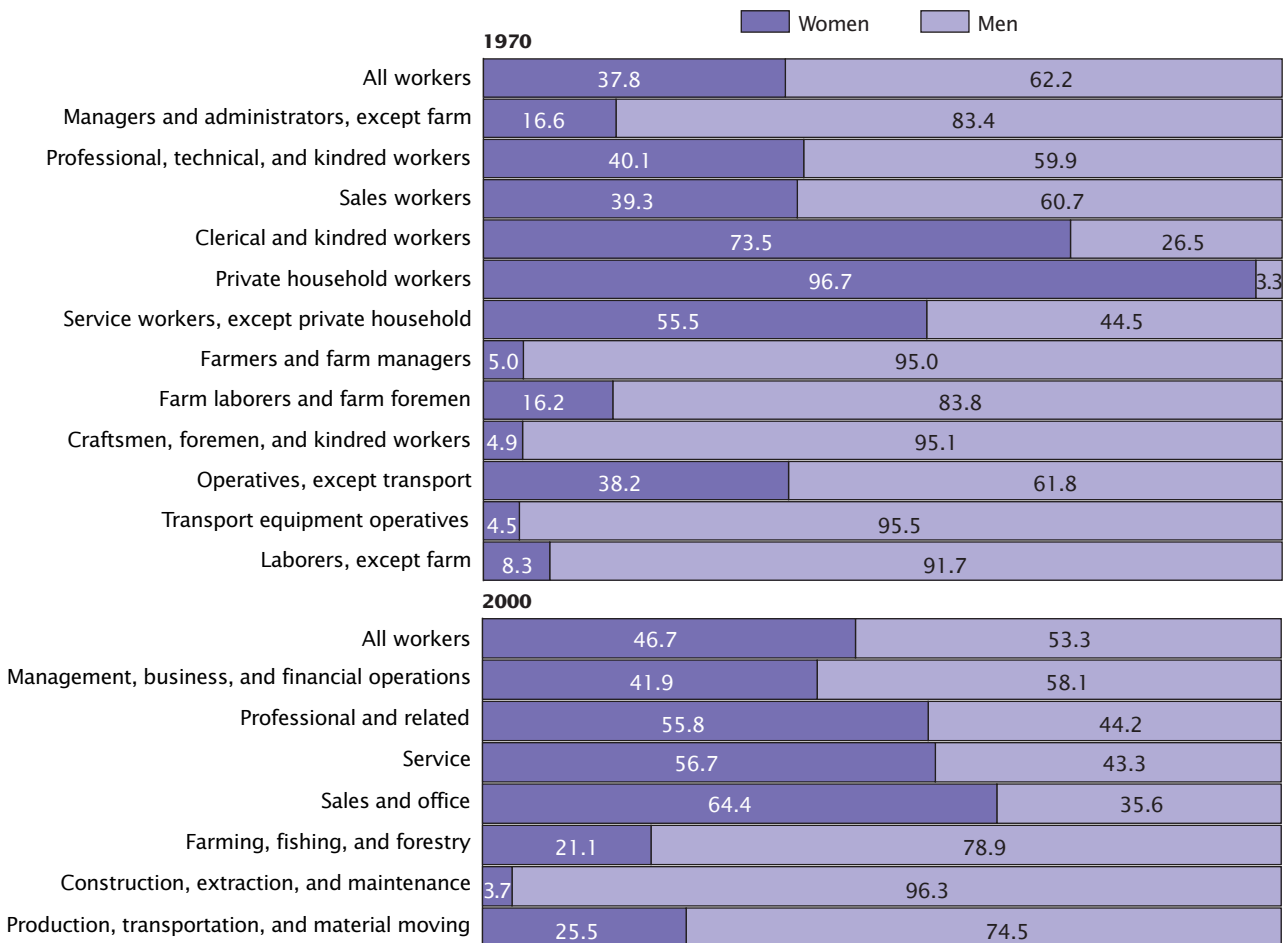
In 2000, nearly half of the employed civilian labor force was women.

- Between 1970 and 2000, the percentage of the population 16 and over employed in the civilian labor force who were women increased—47 percent in 2000, compared with 38 percent in 1970.
- In 2000, women represented over half of the employed workers in three types of major occupations: sales and office (64 percent), service (57 percent), and professional and related occupations (56 percent).
- In 1970, women represented 97 percent of employed workers in the occupational group private household workers (a group that was included in the service category in 2000). Women composed 56 percent of service workers, except private household workers in 1970, and 74 percent of clerical and kindred workers (now included in sales and office workers).
- Between 1970 and 2000, women's representation in the civilian labor force increased in an array of major occupational groups. By 2000, except for the major occupational category construction, extraction, and maintenance, women 16 and over represented at least 20 percent of the employed civilian labor force in each of the major occupational groups shown in Figure 10. In 1970, women represented 17 percent of the managers and administrators, except farm group, and by 2000, women in the closest comparable group—management, business, and financial operations—represented 42 percent of the group.

Figure 10.

Occupation: 1970 and 2000

(Percent distribution of employed civilian population 16 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Note: Due to changes with the classification of occupations, most of the major occupation groups are not comparable between the 1970 census and Census 2000. For more information on these changes, see www.census.gov/hhes/www/ioindex.html
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1970 and 2000.

Median earnings of women and men varied by race and Hispanic origin.

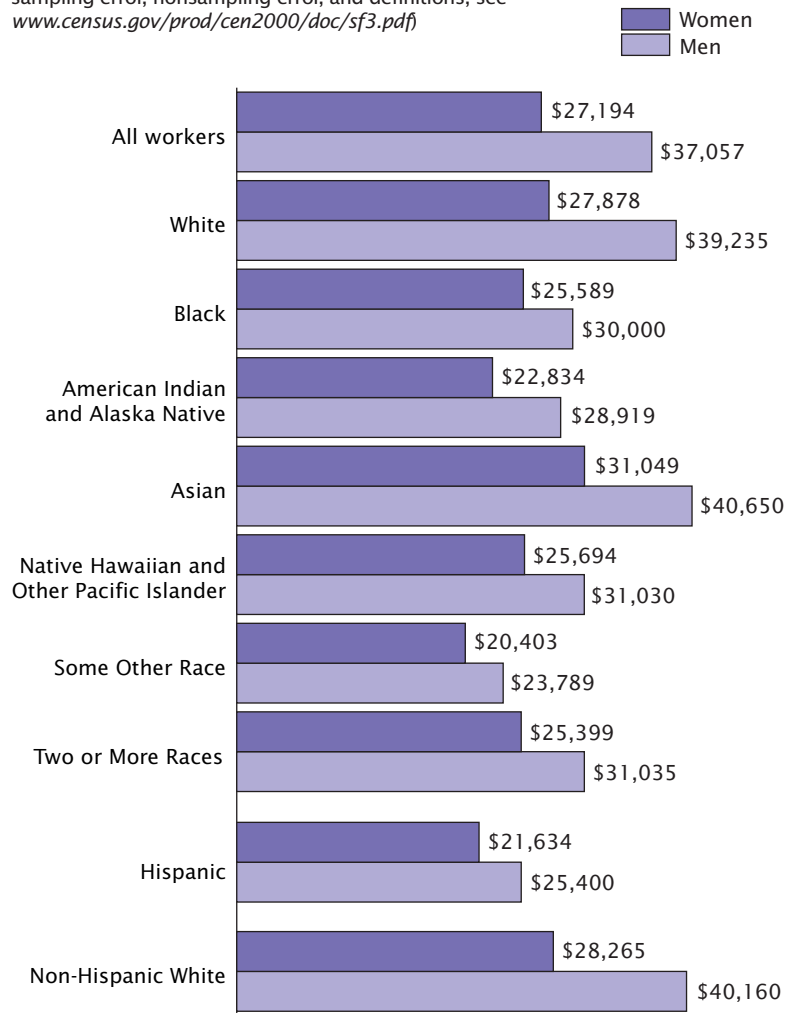
- Overall, median earnings for men were higher than those for women. In 1999, the median earnings of women 16 and over who worked full-time, year-round were \$27,200, about \$10,000 less than the median earnings of their male counterparts (\$37,100).
- Among the groups examined here, men 16 and over who worked full-time, year-round earned more than similarly employed women. Black, Some Other Race, and Hispanic women earned about 85 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. In contrast, non-Hispanic White women earned about 70 cents for every dollar earned by non-Hispanic White men.

Figure 11.
Median Earnings by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1999

(For employed, full-time, year-round workers 16 and older.

Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see

www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf



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

Families maintained by a woman with no husband present had lower incomes.

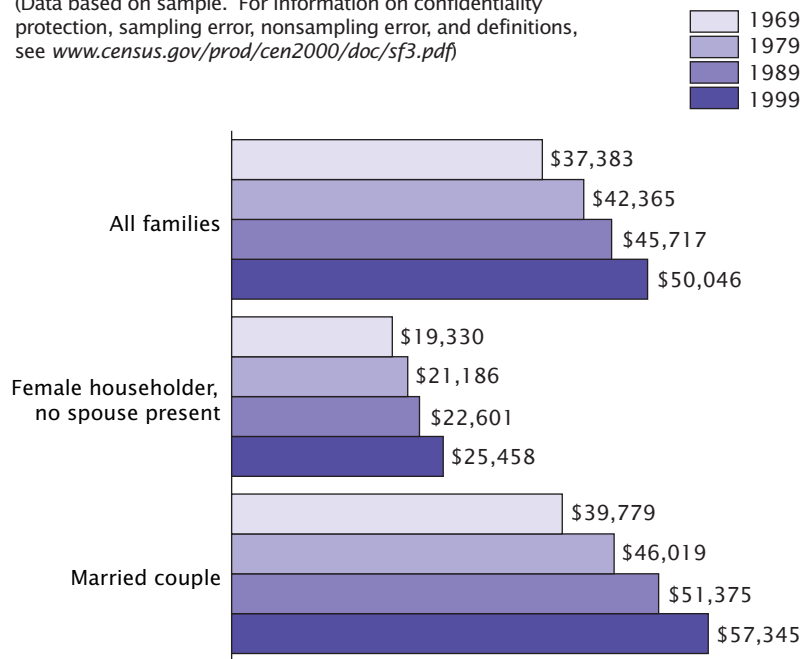
- The median income of families maintained by women with no husband present continued to be lower than that of other families.
- The median family income for female householders with no husband present in 1999 was \$25,500, about half of the

family income of all families and less than half of married-couple families. After adjusting for inflation, this amount was also less than the median family income of married-couple families in 1969 (\$39,800).

- From 1969 to 1999, the income gap between families maintained by women with no husband present and married-couple families widened. During that time, families maintained by women with no husband present had a smaller percentage increase in median income (32 percent) than that of married-couple families (44 percent).

Figure 12.
Median Family Income by Family Type: 1969 to 1999

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



Note: Income in 1999 inflation adjusted dollars.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1970 to 2000.

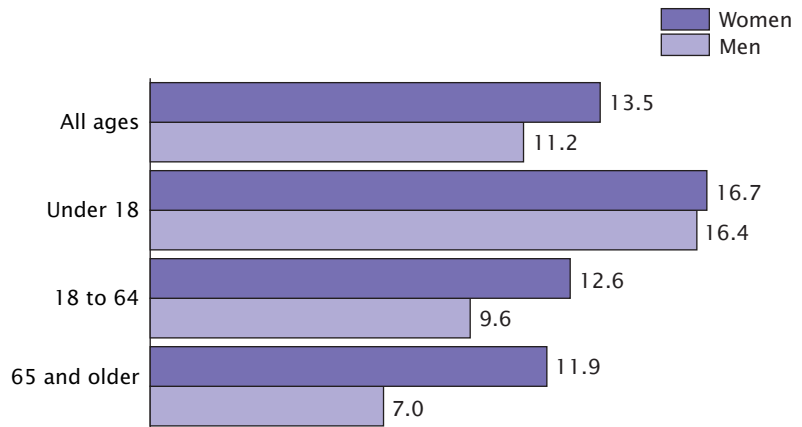
Women 18 and older were more likely than their male counterparts to live in poverty.

- In 1999, 12.4 percent of the total population, 13.5 percent of the female population, and 11.2 percent of the male population lived below the poverty level. Females represented 56 percent of the total number of people in poverty, a higher rate than their proportion of the total population (51 percent).
- Similar proportions of the female and male populations under age 18 lived below the poverty level: 16.7 percent and 16.4 percent, respectively.
- In 1999, for those 18 to 64, the poverty rate was 12.6 percent for women and 9.6 percent for men.
- For those 65 and older, the poverty rate was 11.9 percent for women and 7.0 percent for men.

Figure 13.

Poverty Rate by Broad Age Group: 1999

(Percent of specified age group in poverty. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Note: Poverty status was determined for everyone except those in institutions, military group quarters, or college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

The data for 2000 contained in this report are based on the sample of households that responded to the Census 2000 long form.

Nationally, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units was included 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, and hence of people living in 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 sampling, 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.

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>.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: first, errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and second, 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.

All statements in this Census 2000 Special Report have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in the figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, the estimates used to summarize statistics for one population group may not be statistically different from estimates for another population group. 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

For more information on women in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/women.html>. Data on women from Census 2000 Summary File 3 were released on a state-by-state basis in 2001. The Census 2000 Summary File 3 data are available from American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's Web site at <factfinder.census.gov> and for purchase on CD-ROM and on DVD.

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 and Census 2000 Special Reports series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html>.

These series present information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

To find more information about Census 2000, including data products, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

