

NICHOLAS A. JONES AND JUNGMIWHA J. BULLOCK *U.S. Census Bureau*

Understanding Who Reported Multiple Races in the U.S. Decennial Census: Results From Census 2000 and the 2010 Census

The United States's collection of race data in Census 2000 and the 2010 Census provides a historical and landmark opportunity to compare results from two decennial censuses on the distributions of people reporting multiple races in response to the census. This research provides insights on the number of people who reported more than one race and details on various multiple-race combinations (e.g., White and Black or African American; White and Asian; White and American Indian and Alaska Native). This article presents analyses of the Two or More Races population and the largest multiple-race groups at the national and state level. The results inform data users and the public about an evolving portrait of the multiple-race population in the United States.

Increasing numbers of Americans identify with a combination of multiple race groups. The ability to self-identify with more than one race on the U.S. Census was enacted about a decade ago, with Census 2000 being the first decennial census to allow individuals to self-identify with more than one race, and, as such, this census marked a significant milestone for people of multiple-race backgrounds in this country. Ten years later, the 2010 Census offered a second opportunity for people who identify

with multiple racial heritages to wholly identify on the United States Census, and this provides researchers and the public with a unique occasion for analyzing and understanding data from both censuses on the multiple-race population as two major data points for the first time in U.S. Census history.

One of the most effective ways to compare the 2000 and 2010 data is to examine changes in specific race combination groups, such as people who reported White as well as Black or African American. This population grew by over one million people, increasing by 134%. Also, people who reported White as well as Asian grew by about three quarters of a million people, with an increase of 87%. These two groups exhibited some of the most significant growth in size and proportion since 2000 and exemplify the important changes that have occurred among people who reported more than one race over the last decade.

This article provides an overview of the numbers and geographic distribution of people who reported more than one race as well as details on the largest multiple-race combinations. Analyses are presented for the national level and geographic comparisons across states. In the Findings, we discuss the size and growth of multiple-race combinations in the context of what the Census Bureau learned in Census 2000 about the population reporting more than one race and how the results from the 2010 Census inform data users and the public about an evolving portrait of the multiple-race population in the United States. The new census findings shed

Racial Statistics Branch, Population Division,
U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233-8800
(nicholas.a.jones@census.gov).

Key Words: 2010 Census, multiple race, two or more races.

light on the changing racial and ethnic diversity we are experiencing in the United States.

Understanding Race Data from the 2010 Census

The 2010 Census used established federal standards to collect and present data on race. Specifically, the U.S. Census Bureau collected information on race following the guidance of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's (OMB; 1997) *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*. For the 2010 Census, individuals living in the United States were asked to specify their race based on their own self-identification. By definition, self-identification refers to the provision that the Census Bureau not tell individuals which boxes to mark or what heritage to write in. In accordance with OMB standards, race categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflected a social definition of race recognized in this country and were not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. With the 1997 revisions, OMB required federal agencies to use a minimum of five race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. For respondents unable to identify with any of these five race categories, OMB approved the Census Bureau's inclusion of a sixth category "Some Other Race" on the Census 2000 and 2010 Census questionnaires. In total, the 2010 Census question on race included 15 separate response categories and three areas where respondents could write in detail information about their race. The response categories and write-in answers could be combined to create the five minimum OMB race categories plus Some Other Race. In addition to White, Black (note that the terms "Black or African American" and "Black" are used interchangeably in this article), American Indian and Alaska Native, and Some Other Race, 7 of the 15 response categories were Asian groups and 4 were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander groups.

Options of race and national origin or sociocultural groups were also included within the categories. This is because Hispanic origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival

FIGURE 1. QUESTION ON RACE FROM THE 2010 CENSUS.

Reproduction of the Question on Race From the 2010 Census

6. What is this person's race? Mark one or more boxes.

White
 Black, African Am., or Negro
 American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.

Asian Indian Japanese Native Hawaiian
 Chinese Korean Guamanian or Chamorro
 Filipino Vietnamese Samoan
 Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on. Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.

Some other race — Print race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire.

in the United States, so people who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. Because race and Hispanic origin (ethnicity) are considered separate and distinct concepts, OMB federal standards mandate that when collecting these data via self-identification, two different questions must be used: one question inquiring as to their Hispanic origin (ethnicity) and the other specifically addressing their race. Furthermore, the OMB requires federal agencies to use a minimum of two ethnicities when asking about Hispanic Origin (ethnicity): Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Within this distinction, "Hispanic or Latino" referred to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race (see Figure 1).

Data on race have been collected since the first U.S. decennial census in 1790, and, for the first time, individuals were given the option to self-identify with more than one race in Census 2000. As prescribed by OMB, this continued with the 2010 Census. People who identify with more than one race could choose to provide multiple races in response to the race question. For example, if a respondent identifies as both Asian and White, they could respond to the question on race by checking the appropriate boxes that described their racial identities, writing in these identities on the spaces provided, or both.

Information about the comparability of 2010 Census data on race and Hispanic origin to data collected in previous censuses can be found in the *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File—Technical Documentation* (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011). Additional reports on selected race population groups and the Hispanic population are part of the 2010 Census Briefs series, and a detailed listing of these and other products can be found by visiting <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data>.

Race Concepts

The data on race collected in the 2010 Census can be divided into two broad categories: the *race alone* population and the *Two or More Races* population. People who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the *race alone* population or the group who reported *only one* race. For example, people who marked only the “White” category on the census questionnaire constitute the *White alone* population. This population can be viewed as the minimum number of people reporting White. The *Two or More Races* population refers to people who reported more than one of the six race categories, and this term is used in Census statistics as well as the tables and figures in this article. In the text of this article, we also refer to the Two or More Races population as the group who reported *more than one race* or the *multiple-race* population. For example, people who reported they were both White *and* Black or reported they were both Black *and* Asian would be included in the *multiple-race* population.

Analyzing Data for the Multiple-Race Population

Data from the 2010 Census and Census 2000 provide information on the population reporting more than one race. The best way to compare the multiple-race data between the two censuses is to examine changes in specific OMB race combinations, such as the White *and* Black population or the White *and* Asian population. These comparisons provide detailed insights into the changes in different race combination groups from 2000 to 2010 and yield a clearer understanding of the important changes that have occurred in the Two or More Races population since 2000. The observed changes in race data between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census

could be attributed to a number of factors. First, demographic change since 2000, which includes births and deaths in a geographic area and migration in and out of a geographic area, will have an impact on the resulting 2010 Census counts. Additionally, changes made to the wording and format of the Hispanic origin and race questions within the 2010 Census could influence reporting patterns.

Also, in Census 2000 an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people nationally (about 15%), which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. The Census Bureau issued a Data Note to advise data users about this processing error (U.S. Census Bureau, 2001, p. 467). Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the *total* Two or More Races population between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution and should instead examine changes in *specific* race combinations involving OMB race groups, such as White *and* Black, White *and* Asian, Black *and* Asian, and so forth to gain detailed insights into the Two or More Races population. Because the Census Bureau did not go back to reprocess the figures after Census 2000, there is not a definitive assessment on impact. Having said this, the Census 2000 base was overestimated by about 15%, so the percent change from 2000 to 2010 for people reporting more than one race could actually be higher.

Recent Literature on Multiple-Race Reporting

Since the 1997 OMB changes to the standards for race and ethnicity data, the research literature on the topic of multiple-race reporting has grown exponentially. Some of this research attempted to ascertain *who* may report more than one race, *what* races people report, and *how* this affects our understanding and conception of race and Hispanic origin in the United States. Several research articles, using different data sources, provide a significant foundation for exploring these questions. Also, this research poses several interesting questions as we begin to understand more about this new racial and demographic reality.

Research by Goldstein and Morning (2000) examined ancestry data from the 1990 census and the Race and Ethnic Supplement to the 1995 Current Population Survey to estimate the multiple-race population in the United States.

The authors presented national estimates of those likely to identify with more than one race and concluded that in 1990 between 8 and 18 million people, or 3.1% to 6.6% of the U.S. population, would likely mark multiple races. This figure was much greater than those suggested by previous researchers. Goldstein and Morning emphasized that, “the indeterminacy of race is not new for people with mixed heritage, but whereas the old system put the burden of choosing a single race on individuals, the new system will put this burden on the government, institutions, and users of racial data” (p. 623).

Research by Harris and Sim (2000) suggested that measurements of “*the*” Two or More Races population are in actuality simply measures of “*a*” Two or More Races population. Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), they examined patterns of mixed-race identity. The authors posited that because race and racial identity are fluid concepts, accurately counting the multiple race population is a complex exercise. Further, the reality that race is socially constructed led them to conclude that there can be no *one* measure of the population of Two or More Races. Additional research by Harris (2000) pointed out the difficulty of accurately measuring racial identity and especially “multiracial” identity. He noted that, despite its long legacy in American society, we know little about this population. Harris made two points that are of utmost significance for the present study: (a) most research to date identifies a *subset* of the multiple race population, without offering an estimate of what *share* of the population is covered, and (b) no research to date accounts for the *fluidity* of racial identity. Harris concluded that as a result of these shortcomings, research to date provides significantly *different* estimates of the size of the multiple race population.

Research by Jones and Smith (2001a) provided some of the first analysis of the 6.8 million people who reported more than one race in Census 2000. The authors provided a descriptive analysis of geographic concentrations and patterns of the Two or More Races population at the national, regional, state, and place levels. The authors found that the overwhelming majority of individuals who reported more than one race reported exactly two races. Also, Jones and Smith (2001a) pointed to findings regarding the age and Hispanic origin of

this population in comparison to the population that reported one race and variations in multiple-race reporting for each race group. An extension of this research by Jones and Smith (2001b) pointed to the differences and similarities on basic demographic and geographic characteristics for the four largest combinations of Two or More Races in Census 2000: “White and Some Other Race,” “White and American Indian and Alaska Native,” “White and Asian,” and “White and Black.” The authors found that reporting of more than one race varied by geography and racial concentration within areas. They also reported differences in the age structure of the “White and Asian” and “White and Black” populations, who were much younger than the population reporting only one race.

Research by Smith and Jones (2001) showed that the degree of consistency and completeness between parents’ and children’s race(s) varied across race groups, both for single- and multiple-race children. These authors explored differences in race reporting within interracial households by analyzing whether a child’s race followed the mother’s race(s), the father’s race(s), or a combination of both parents’ race(s). Smith and Jones concluded that race reporting for parents and children in households is a complex decision influenced by numerous factors, including the race of the mother and the father.

Finally, research by Rockquemore and Brunsma (2001) presented findings from extensive studies of White/Black biracial individuals using in-depth interviews and survey data. The authors documented how biracial people develop a number of various biracial identities. Their efforts provide answers to “what it means to be Biracial in contemporary American society, and how that meaning is fundamentally shaped by the culture in which we live” (p. 15).

The 2010 Census provides the first comprehensive data for which comparisons can and should be undertaken against the results from Census 2000. This comparison is the purpose of this article.

Data Used in the Analyses

The analyses employ data from Census 2000 and the 2010 Census to examine race reporting results and geographic distributions for people who reported multiple races in the United States. The data for this report are based primarily

on the *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, which was the first 2010 Census data product released with data on race and ethnicity, and was provided to each state for use in drawing boundaries for legislative districts (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011). The *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File* provides data on Hispanic origin and race, including information on the population reporting more than one race as well as detailed race combinations.

FINDINGS

Over the past 10 years, considerable research has been conducted on the population reporting multiple races, and the reality that people may self-identify with more than one race has become a more common part of discussions and understanding of race and ethnicity. Results from the 2010 Census provide new information on the diversity and changes in the Two or More Races population in the United States and enabled comparisons of this population from two major decennial data points.

Changes in the Two or More Races Population

Results of this analysis show an increase in the Two or More Races population by one third since the Census 2000. Table 1 shows the number and percentage of respondents who reported one or more races in both the 2010 Census and Census 2000. In 2010, 9.0 million people, or 2.9% of the total population, reported multiple races. This was up from 6.8 million people, or 2.4%, who reported multiple races in 2000. These comparisons of the total Two or More Races population should, however, be made with caution, considering that the 2000 base was overstated by about 15% nationally, and thus the percentage change for people reporting more than one race could actually be higher.

Patterns Among the Four Largest Multiple-Race Combinations

There are 57 possible multiple race combinations involving the five OMB race categories and the category Some Other Race. The analysis in this article focuses on the four largest multiple-race combination groups (the *White and Black* population; the *White and Some Other Race [SOR]* population; the *White and Asian* population;

and the *White and American Indian and Alaska Native [AIAN]* population), which exemplify some of the important changes that have occurred among people who reported more than one race over the past decade. Each of the four largest race combinations were over one million in population size, making them the largest race combinations in 2010. People who reported both *White and Black* numbered 1.8 million, people reporting both *White and SOR* numbered 1.7 million, those reporting both *White and Asian* numbered 1.6 million, and, finally, people who reported both *White and AIAN* numbered 1.4 million. Nine additional multiple-race groups had at least 100,000 people in 2010, and each represented at least 1% of the population reporting more than one race (for detailed analysis on multiple-race reporting for smaller race combinations, see Jones & Bullock, 2012).

The four largest multiple-race combination groups were the only combinations that each accounted for more than 15% of the Two or More Races population in 2010. People who reported both *White and Black* accounted for 20% of the multiple-race population. *White and SOR* represented another 19%, and *White and Asian* made up 18%. People who reported both *White and AIAN* constituted another 16% of the Two or More Races population (see Figure 2). Together, these four combination groups represented nearly three fourths of the Two or More Races population in the 2010 Census.

The results of this analysis showed that there were considerable increases in the size of a number of multiple-race groups. Between 2000 and 2010, the *White and Black* population increased the most in size, growing by over 1 million people, with a substantial 134% change. With the second largest increase, the *White and Asian* population also grew by about three quarters of a million people, with an 87% change in its size. Finally, the third largest increase was that of the *White and AIAN* population, which increased by about 350,000 people, a 32% change in size. In contrast to these increases, the *White and SOR* population decreased by about half of a million people, and declined 21% in size. Again, as discussed earlier, this decrease was likely because of the Census 2000 error in data processing that resulted in an overstatement of the race combinations involving Some Other Race, of which *White and SOR* was the largest group in 2000. Many multiple-race groups increased by 50% or more over the past decade, and several more than

Table 1. *Total Population by Number of Races Reported: 2000 and 2010*

Number of Races	2000			2010			Change from 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percent of Total Population ^a	Percent of Total Two or More Races Population ^a	Number	Percent of Total Population ^a	Percent of Total Two or More Races Population ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Total population	281,421,906	100.0		308,745,538	100.0		27,323,632	9.7
One race	274,595,678	97.6		299,736,465	97.1		25,140,787	9.2
Two or more races	6,826,228	2.4	100.0	9,009,073	2.9	100.0	2,182,845	32.0
Two races	6,368,075	2.3	93.3	8,265,318	2.7	91.7	1,897,243	29.8
Three races	410,285	0.1	6.0	676,469	0.2	7.5	266,184	64.9
Four races	38,408	—	0.6	57,875	—	0.6	19,467	50.7
Five races	8,637	—	0.1	8,619	—	0.1	—18	—0.2
Six races	823	—	—	792	—	—	—31	—3.8

Notes: In Census 2000, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15%) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population and race combinations involving Some Other Race between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution. Changes in specific race combinations not involving Some Other Race, such as White and Black or Black and Asian, generally should be more comparable. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/pl94-171.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1, and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

^aPercentage rounds to 0.0.

doubled in size over 10 years. For a more detailed examination of the changes in specific multiple-race groups, see Jones and Bullock (2012).

Geographic Distribution of the Two or More Races Population

Three states had a multiple-race population of one half of a million or more. California, by far, had the largest Two or More Races population in the country (1.8 million) and was the only state with over one million people who reported more than one race. The other two states with a multiple-race population of over one half of a million in 2010 were Texas, with 679,000 people, and New York, with 586,000 people. These states, in addition to California, were also the only states that had multiple-race populations greater than one half of a million people in 2000. In addition to California, Texas, and New York, a number of other states did, however, have multiple-race populations of 200,000 or more people in 2010. This included the northeastern states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania; the midwestern states

of Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan; the southern states of Florida, Virginia, Oklahoma, Georgia, and North Carolina; and the western states of Hawaii, Washington, and Arizona.

An interesting finding, about one out of six multiple-race individuals lived in 1 of 10 states. The 10 states with the largest Two or More Races populations in 2010 were California, Texas, New York, Florida, Hawaii, Washington, Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio (see Figure 3). Combined, these states represented nearly 60% of the multiple-race population. California contributed the greatest proportion of multiple-race reporting at 20%, followed by Texas (7.5%) and New York (6.5%). In 2000, the state of Michigan was in the top 10 states, but was replaced by Pennsylvania in 2010 (Jones & Smith, 2001). All of the other states in the top 10 in 2000 maintained their place on this list for the 2010 reporting.

Another finding of note, 13 states had greater proportions of people who reported multiple races than the national average of 2.9%. These states were led by the western states of Hawaii (24%), Alaska (7%), California

FIGURE 2.

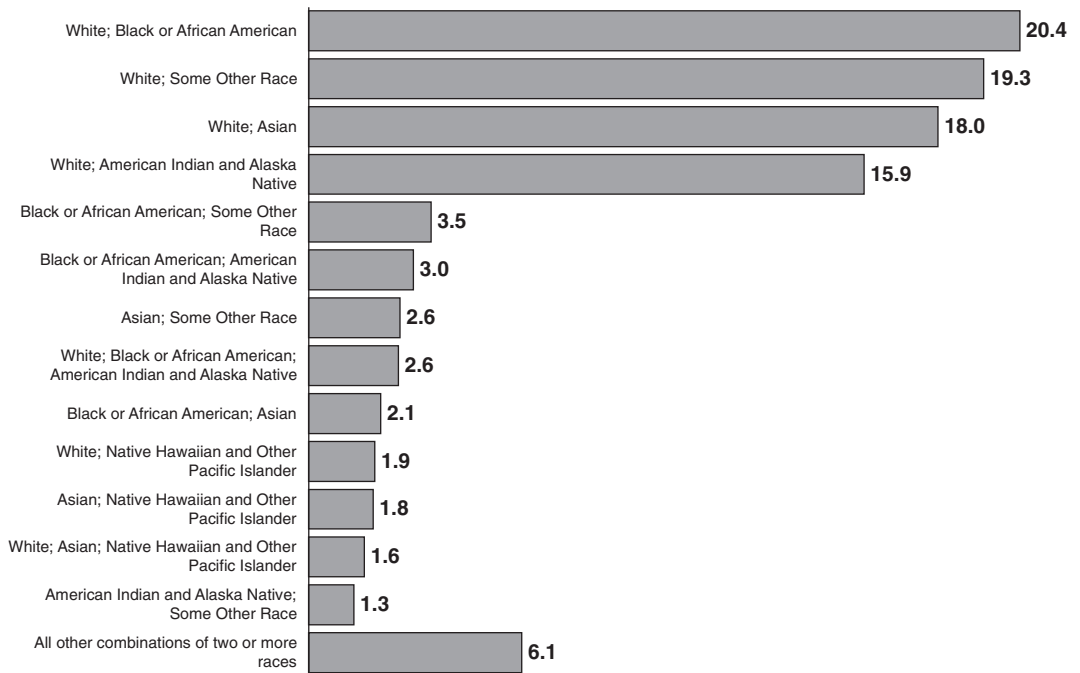
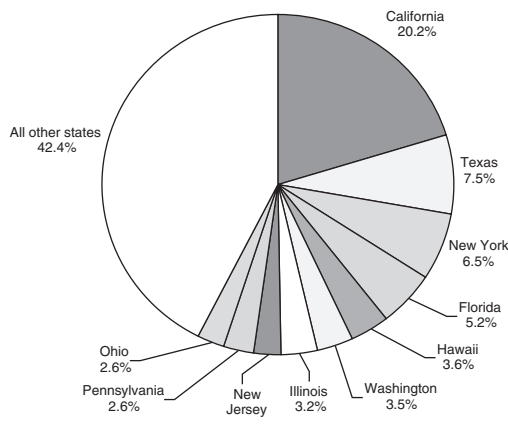


FIGURE 3.



(5%), Washington (5%), and Nevada (5%), and the southern state of Oklahoma (6%). The other top states included the western states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Oregon; the northeastern states of New York and Rhode Island; and Kansas in the Midwest. No other southern states exceeded the national average,

although Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent, approached 2.9%. Three states were represented in the top 10 states for both number and percent reporting multiple races (California, Hawaii, and Washington).

Unlike 2000, no state had less than 1.0% multiple-race reporting in 2010. In 2000, there were five states where the Two or More Races population represented 1.0% or less of the total population (Alabama, Maine, Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Virginia). In 2010, however, there were no states where less than 1.0% of the population reported multiple races. In fact, by 2010, nearly every state in the country (with only Mississippi at 1.1%) had a multiple-race population of 1.5% or more. These changes in the multiple-race population across the country were fueled largely by increases in the White and Black population and the White and Asian population, which will be examined in more detail in the next section.

The last important finding to mention, nine states had 70% or greater increase in their multiple-race populations during the time between 2000 and 2010. These states included South Carolina, North Carolina, Delaware,

Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Mississippi, and South Dakota. Each state, with the exception of South Dakota, was a southern state. Although these states showed the largest increase, many other states also had large percentage changes in their multiple-race populations. More specifically, the multiple-race population grew by 50% or more in 22 additional states. For a more detailed examination of the changes by state, see Jones and Bullock (2012).

Distribution of White-Black, White-AIAN, White-Asian, and White-SOR by State

Within this section, patterns among the top 10 states for each of the four largest multiple-race combination groups are presented. This is done first by the size and distribution of each race combination within the different states and then by proportion within the states with the largest populations. States that accounted for 5.0% or more of their respective race combination group's total population are then highlighted and discussed.

White and Black. The 10 states with the largest White and Black population in 2010 were California, New York, Florida, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Virginia, and North Carolina (see Table 2). Combined, these states represented over half (53.5%) of the White and Black population in the United States. The White and Black populations exceeded 100,000 people in the top four states (California, New York, Florida, and Texas).

White and AIAN. The 10 states with the largest White and AIAN population in 2010 were California, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, Florida, Michigan, Oregon, New York, Ohio, and Colorado (see Table 3). Combined, they represented over half (54.0%) of the White and AIAN population in the United States. The White and AIAN population exceeded 100,000 people in California and Oklahoma.

White and Asian. The 10 states with the largest White and Asian population in 2010 were California, Texas, Washington, New York, Florida, Hawaii, Virginia, Illinois, New Jersey, and Michigan (see Table 4). Combined, these states represented nearly two thirds (63.9%) of the White and Asian population in the United States. California's White and Asian population neared 450,000 people.

Table 2. *Top 10 States for the White and Black Population: 2010*

State	Number
U.S. total	1,834,212
California	180,920
New York	123,455
Florida	112,370
Texas	109,713
Ohio	99,741
Pennsylvania	87,287
Michigan	72,344
Illinois	70,615
Virginia	62,204
North Carolina	61,973

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

Table 3. *Top 10 States for the White and AIAN Population: 2010*

State	Number
U.S. Total	1,432,309
California	208,833
Oklahoma	134,957
Texas	92,305
Washington	66,769
Florida	55,974
Michigan	52,202
Oregon	44,530
New York	41,342
Ohio	40,911
Colorado	34,995

Notes: AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

White and SOR. The 10 states with the largest White and SOR populations in 2010 were California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey, Colorado, Washington, and Massachusetts (see Table 5). Combined, these states represented nearly three quarters (72.6%) of the White and SOR population in the United States. The White and SOR populations exceeded 100,000 people in four states (California, Texas, New York, and Florida).

Table 4. *Top 10 States for the White and Asian Population: 2010*

State	Number
U.S. Total	1,623,234
California	446,563
Texas	91,963
Washington	83,994
New York	83,642
Florida	70,932
Hawaii	66,456
Virginia	59,051
Illinois	56,258
New Jersey	40,703
Michigan	38,198

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

Table 5. *Top 10 States for the White and SOR Population: 2010*

State	Number
U.S. Total	1,740,924
California	494,321
Texas	240,679
New York	125,731
Florida	106,667
Illinois	66,820
Arizona	61,934
New Jersey	60,186
Colorado	38,859
Washington	34,488
Massachusetts	34,355

Notes: SOR refers to Some Other Race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

Proportion of White-Black, White-AIAN, White-Asian, and White-SOR by Selected States

White and Black. California contributed the greatest proportion of the White and Black population in the United States (see Table 6) at 9.9%, followed by New York (6.7%), Florida (6.1%), Texas (6.0%), and Ohio (5.4%).

White and AIAN. California also contributed the greatest proportion of the White and AIAN population (see Table 7) in the United States (14.6%), followed by Oklahoma (9.4%) and Texas (6.4%).

Table 6. *State Distribution of the White and Black Population: 2010*

State	Proportion
California	9.9
New York	6.7
Florida	6.1
Texas	6.0
Ohio	5.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

Table 7. *State Distribution of the White and AIAN Population: 2010*

State	Proportion
California	14.6
Oklahoma	9.4
Texas	6.4

Notes: AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

Table 8. *State Distribution of the White and Asian Population: 2010*

State	Proportion
California	27.5
Texas	5.7
Washington	5.2
New York	5.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

White and Asian. California again contributed the greatest proportion of the White and Asian population (see Table 8) in the United States at 27.5%, followed by Texas (5.7%), Washington (5.2%), and New York (5.2%).

White and SOR. California also contributed the greatest proportion of the White and SOR population (see Table 9) in the United States at 28.4%, followed by Texas (13.8%), New York (7.2%), and Florida (6.1%).

Overall, it is clear that California accounted for the greatest proportion of the total Two or More Races population (20.2%) in the United States. California also accounted for

Table 9. *State Distribution of the White and SOR Population: 2010*

State	Proportion
California	28.4
Texas	13.8
New York	7.2
Florida	6.1

Notes: SOR refers to Some Other Race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

the greatest proportion among all states for the White and Black population (9.9%), the White and AIAN population (14.6%), the White and Asian population (27.5%), and the White and SOR population (28.4%). The remaining states that contributed 5.0% or more of their race combination's total population were, however, ranked in different orders. Often, New York, Texas, and Florida (also large states) were represented. Ohio, Oklahoma, and Washington also made appearances on the list of the greatest proportions for the White and Black population, the White and AIAN population, and the White and Asian population, respectively.

States With the Highest Proportion of the Four Largest Multiple-Race Combinations

Finally, patterns for the percent of the four largest multiple-race combination groups by state are presented. Generally, the states with the highest proportions for each group are discussed.

White and Black. Delaware was the state with the highest percent White and Black among all states in the country (see Table 10), accounting for 1.0% of all people in Delaware. This was followed by Ohio, Kansas, Maryland, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, and Indiana, all with White and Black populations exceeding 0.8% of their respective state population.

White and AIAN. Alaska was the state with the highest percent White and AIAN among all states in the country (see Table 11), accounting for 3.7% of all people in Alaska. This was followed by Oklahoma, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington, all with White and AIAN populations exceeding 1.0% of their respective state population.

Table 10. *Percentage of Population That Is White and Black: 2010*

State	Percent
U.S. Total	0.6
Delaware	1.0
Ohio	0.9
Kansas	0.8
Maryland	0.8
Rhode Island	0.8
Virginia	0.8
Washington	0.8
Indiana	0.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

Table 11. *Percentage of Population That Is White and AIAN: 2010*

State	Percent
U.S. Total	0.5
Alaska	3.7
Oklahoma	3.6
Montana	1.4
Oregon	1.2
South Dakota	1.0
Washington	1.0

Notes: AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

White and Asian. Hawaii was the state with the highest percent White and Asian among all states in the country (see Table 12), accounting for 4.9% of all people in Hawaii. This was followed by Washington, California, Nevada, and Alaska, all with White and Asian populations exceeding 1.0% of their respective state population.

White and SOR. New Mexico was the state with the highest percent White and SOR among all states in the country (see Table 13), accounting for 1.4% of all people in New Mexico. This was followed by California, Nevada, Arizona, and Texas, all with White and SOR populations exceeding 1.0% of their state population.

The geographic diversity of the largest multiple-race combinations is seen when comparing the states with the highest proportion of their respective race combinations. The states with the highest percent White and Black

Table 12. *Percentage of Population That Is White and Asian: 2010*

State	Percent
U.S. Total	0.5
Hawaii	4.9
Washington	1.2
California	1.2
Nevada	1.0
Alaska	1.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

Table 13. *Percentage of Population That Is White and SOR: 2010*

State	Percent
U.S. Total	0.6
New Mexico	1.4
California	1.3
Nevada	1.0
Arizona	1.0
Texas	1.0

Notes: SOR refers to Some Other Race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

ranged from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Rhode Island to Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, and Washington. The states with the highest percent White and AIAN were mainly in the West (Alaska, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington) and Oklahoma in the South. The states with the highest percent White and Asian were all in the West (Hawaii, Washington, California, Nevada, and Alaska). The states with the highest percent White and SOR were the five southwestern states that shared the U.S.-Mexico border (New Mexico, California, Nevada, Arizona, and Texas).

DISCUSSION

This article analyzed data from the 2010 Census and Census 2000 to illustrate the first comparisons of decennial census data for people of more than one racial heritage. In the past decade, the United States experienced substantial growth among people who reported more than one race, and examination of data on this population enables comparisons of the self-identified multiple-race population in two

major data points. The most effective way to compare the multiple-race data is to examine changes in specific race combination groups (e.g., White and Black, White and Asian). These comparisons provide detailed insights into the changes in different race combination groups from 2000 to 2010 and yield a clearer understanding of the important changes that have occurred in the Two or More Races population over the past decade.

Examination of multiple-race group distributions nationally showed that four multiple-race groups were by far the largest race combinations in 2010 (White and Black, White and Some Other Race, White and Asian, White and American Indian and Alaska Native). Since 2000, two groups exhibited the most significant changes: the White and Black population, which grew by over one million people and increased by 134%, and the White and Asian population, which grew by about three quarters of a million people and increased by 87%. Sixteen states had a multiple-race population of 200,000 or more people. Among all states, nine had a 70% or greater increase in their multiple-race population, and the multiple-race population grew by 50% or more in 22 additional states. Thirteen states had greater proportions of people who reported multiple races than the national average of 2.9%, and, unlike in 2000, no states had less than 1.0% multiple-race reporting in 2010.

Comparisons of the four largest race combinations across states revealed some geographic diversity within the multiple-race population. States with the highest percent White and Black included Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia in the Mid-Atlantic, Rhode Island in the Northeast, Ohio and Indiana in the Midwest, and Kansas and Washington in the West. The states with the highest percent White and AIAN were mainly in the West (Alaska, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington) and Oklahoma in the South. The states with the highest percent White and Asian (Hawaii, Washington, California, Nevada, and Alaska) were all in the West. The states with the highest percent White and SOR were the five southwestern states that shared the U.S.-Mexico border (New Mexico, California, Nevada, Arizona, and Texas).

Data from the 2010 Census and Census 2000 present information on the population reporting more than one race and enable comparisons of this population from two major data points for the first time in U.S. Census history.

Future research regarding this population will explore detailed patterns of race reporting within interracial families and children to compare findings from Census 2000 research in comparison to results from the 2010 Census. This research will offer even more insights to the multiple-race population and our nation's changing racial and ethnic diversity.

NOTE

This article reports the results of research and analysis undertaken by Census Bureau staff. It has undergone a more limited review than official Census Bureau publications and is released to inform interested parties of research and to encourage discussion. The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau.

REFERENCES

- Goldstein, J. R., & Morning, A. J. (2000). The multiple-race population of the United States: Issues and estimates. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 97, 6230 – 6235.
- Harris, D. R. (2000). *Does it matter how we measure? Implications of definitions of race on the characteristics of mixed-race youth*. Paper presented at the conference Multiraciality: How will the new census data be used? Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.
- Harris, D. R., & Sim, J. J. (2000). *An empirical look at the social construction of race: The case of mixed-race adolescents* (Population Studies Center Research Report 00-452). Retrieved from <http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/pubs/>
- Jones, N. A., & Bullock, J. (2012). *The two or more races population: 2010*. 2010 Census Brief Series. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.
- Jones, N. A., & Smith, A. S. (2001a). *The two or more races population: 2000* (Census 2000 Brief C2KBR/01-6). Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-6.pdf>.
- Jones, N. A., & Smith, A. S. (2001b). *Who makes up the two or more races population? Exploratory analysis of multiple race reporting in Census 2000*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Demographic Association, Miami Beach, FL.
- Rockquemore, K., & Brunson, D. L. (2001). *Beyond Black: Biracial identity in America*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Smith, A. S., & Jones, N. A. (2001). *Who is really reporting 'Two or More Races?': Exploring the 'Multiple Race' population in the 1999 American Community Survey*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Washington, DC.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2001). *Census 2000 Summary File 1 Technical Documentation*. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf>
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). *2010 Census redistricting data (Public Law 94-171) summary file—Technical documentation*. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf>
- U.S. Office of Management and Budget. (1997). *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*. Retrieved from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html>