



Projections of the Voting-Age Population, for States: November 1994

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Note: The estimates and projections shown in this report are consistent with the population as enumerated in the April 1, 1990 census, and have not been adjusted for census coverage errors. For a description of the methodology, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P25, No. 1111.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents projections of the population of voting age (18 years and over) for States for November 1, 1994, by broad age groups and gender and for the White, Black, and other races populations.¹ The projections shown here are based on the April 1, 1990, population as enumerated in the 1990 census projected forward to November 1, 1994.

These projections are designed to serve as a reference for the November general elections for members of the 104th Congress of the United States. They are for the resident population of the United States, including

members of the Armed Forces where they reside at their duty stations. They exclude the military and civilian population overseas and their dependents of voting age who would be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in their home states.

In addition to projections of the voting-age population for States for 1994, this report shows their relative ranking by various demographic indicators for the upcoming November 1994 election. Also shown are the voting-age population estimates and the percent voting for U.S. Representatives in 1990 and 1992, and historical voting statistics for the United States since 1930.

GENERAL TRENDS

Age distribution. The voting-age population of the United States is expected to reach 193.7 million persons by November 1, 1994, an increase of 7.8 million, or 4.2 percent, since the 1990 Congressional elections (table A).

¹No further information on age, gender, and race distributions for the voting-age population for November, 1994 will be published by the Bureau of the Census. However, estimates by State for the total population age 18 and over will be revised in subsequent reports.

Table A. **Estimated Voting-Age Population and Change Since Last Election: November 1964 to November 1994**

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Voting-age population	Change since previous election		Year	Voting-age population	Change since previous election	
		Number	Percent			Number	Percent
1994 ¹	193,650	4,126	2.2	1978	158,369	6,061	4.0
1992	189,524	3,722	2.0	1976	152,308	5,970	4.1
1990	185,812	3,856	2.1	1974	146,338	5,561	4.0
1988	181,956	4,034	2.3	1972	140,777	16,279	13.1
1986	177,922	3,927	2.3	1970	124,498	4,213	3.5
1984	173,995	4,352	2.6	1968	120,285	3,647	3.1
1982	169,643	5,698	3.5	1966	116,638	2,548	2.2
1980	163,945	5,576	3.5	1964	114,090	1,138	1.0

Note: Population 18 and over beginning in 1972; prior to 1972, population 21 and over except population 18 and over in Georgia since 1944, 18 and over in Kentucky since 1956, 19 and over in Alaska since 1959, and 20 and over in Hawaii since 1959.

¹Projection.

Source: Table 4.

The past two decades have shown a large increase in the size of the U.S. voting-age population (see section "Population Eligible to Register"). In 1972, the first year persons age 18 years old and over were eligible to vote in all States, the voting-age population numbered 140.8 million. The 1994 projection of 193.7 million represents a 38 percent increase since 1972 in the number of persons who are eligible to register to vote. The major factor accounting for this increase was the large numbers of births that occurred during the Baby Boom years from the mid-1950s to the early 1960s (over 4 million births a year).

The largest single biennial increase in the voting-age population occurred between 1970 and 1972 with the ratification of the 22nd Constitutional Amendment which lowered the legal voting age from 21 in most States (see note in table A) to 18 in all States. Of the 16.3 million person increase in the voting-age population between these two years, the 22nd amendment was responsible for adding 11 million persons to the voting-age population while population growth added the remaining 5.3 million.

Since around 1982, however, when the smaller cohorts born after the Baby Boom began to reach age 18, the growth in the voting-age population has slowed from about 4 percent biennially in the 1970s to around 3 percent in the early 1980s to about 2 percent in recent years.

There has been a shift to older ages in the voting-age population between 1990 and 1994 due primarily to the aging of the Baby Boomers (table B). Since 1990, the population aged 45 and over will increase by 7.1 million persons by November, 1994, compared to a projected increase of only 1.8 million for the 18-to-44 year old age group. In 1994, the older group will constitute 44 percent of the voting-age population, up from 42 percent in 1990. Current projections indicate that this group will continue to grow through the end of the decade reaching 95.2 million people by the year 2000, up from the 1994 projection of 84.4 million. Over the same period, no

growth is anticipated for the population 18-to-44 years old; their numbers are projected to remain at 109 million.²

Unlike the older age groups, the 18-to-24 year old population will decline by 1.3 million between 1990 and 1994 and will number 25.6 million. In 1994, 18-to-24 year olds will constitute only 13.2 percent of the total voting-age population. Virtually no change in their numbers is anticipated by 2000 when this age group is projected to reach 25.9 million.

Florida is projected to be the only State where over one-half (51.3 percent) of the voting-age population will be above age 45 (table 1). Alaska will have proportionately more of its voting-age population under 45 years of age (69.7 percent) than any other State. Utah, which historically has had very high birth rates, will have the greatest proportion of its voting-age population 18 to 24 years old (19.4 percent).

Regional differences by age. Florida is also projected to have the greatest proportion of its population 65 years and over (24.6 percent) in November 1994. Rounding out the top five States, Pennsylvania, Iowa, South Dakota and Arkansas have about one fifth of their population in the 65 and over category (table C). The State with the smallest proportion of senior voters is Alaska with only 1 out of every 16 potential voters 65 years and over (figure 1).

The overall increase for the Nation in the population 65 years and over between 1990 and 1994 is projected to be 5.4 percent. The 65 and over population in Florida is projected to increase by 10.3 percent from 1990 to 1994, an increase about twice the national average. The other States that will have an increase of at least 5 percent in the elderly electorate tend to be in the western part of the United States (figure 2).

²See Jennifer Cheeseman Day, *Population Projections of United States, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1993 to 2050*, Current Population Reports, Series P25-1104, table 2.

Table B. Population 18 Years and Over, by Broad Age Groups: 1960 to 1994

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	*Total	18 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 years and over	Percent of total			
						18 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 years and over
1994 (Nov. 1) ¹	193,650	25,618	83,681	50,905	33,446	13.2	43.2	26.3	17.3
1990 (census)	184,786	26,942	80,595	46,169	31,079	14.6	43.6	25.0	16.8
1980 (census)	162,791	30,022	62,717	44,503	25,549	18.4	38.5	27.3	15.7
1970 (census)	133,568	23,697	47,995	41,810	20,066	17.7	35.9	31.3	15.0
1960 (census)	115,121	15,604	46,899	36,057	16,560	13.6	40.7	31.3	14.4

¹Projection.

Source: Table 1 and decennial censuses for 1960, 1970, 1980, and 1990.

Table C. The Five Highest and Lowest States Ranked by Selected Demographic Indicators: November 1994

(Figures refer to the percentage of the population 18 years and older)

Ranking among 50 States and the District of Columbia	65 years and over		White		Black		Hispanic ¹	
	State	Percent	State	Percent	State	Percent	State	Percent
Highest								
1	FL	24.6	VT	99.1	DC	62.2	NM	37.2
2	PA	20.8	ME	98.8	MS	32.0	TX	24.9
3	IA	20.7	NH	98.1	LA	28.5	CA	24.7
4	SD	20.3	WY	97.1	SC	27.5	AZ	17.6
5	AR	20.2	IA	97.1	MD	25.1	FL	13.1
Lowest								
47	TX	14.3	MD	71.0	NH	0.4	KY	0.6
48	GA	13.9	LA	70.0	ID	0.2	ME	0.5
49	CO	13.7	MS	67.1	ME	0.2	VT	0.5
50	UT	13.6	HA	40.7	MT	0.2	ND	0.4
51	AK	6.3	DC	35.6	VT	-	SD	0.4

Note: Order of States determined by percentages derived from detailed data before rounding.

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

¹Hispanic persons may be of any race.

Source: Table 2.

At the other end of the spectrum, States with rather low projected increases in the elderly (less than 2 percent) between 1990 and 1994 are more geographically dispersed, ranging from the lower Mississippi Valley States of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi to the New England area States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

In 1994, California will have about 3.4 million persons age 65 and over, the largest number in any State. The elderly population of Florida is projected to reach 2.7 million by 1994, while New York ranked third with 2.4 million persons (table 1).

Gender. Women will represent 52.0 percent of the voting-age population by November, 1994, outnumbering men by 7.8 million (table 1). They will outnumber men in all voting-age groups except for ages 18 to 24, where men will outnumber women by 460,000. Women will represent 59.3 percent of the population 65 years and over. There will be more women than men in all States except Alaska, Hawaii, and Nevada. Women will outnumber men by the largest margin in New York (822,000); Pennsylvania and Florida will also have more than one-half million more women than men in the voting-age population.

Race and Hispanic Origin. By November 1, 1994, Blacks 18 years and over will number 22.2 million and represent 11.5 percent of the persons of voting age (table 1). Another 8.2 million or 4.2 percent of the voting-age population will be races other than White or Black; persons of other races include Asian or Pacific Islander, American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut. Hispanics (who may be of any race) will number 17.1 million or 8.8 percent of the electorate.

The District of Columbia will have a higher proportion of Blacks in its electorate (62.2 percent) than any State (table 2). At least 1 out of every 5 persons of voting-age will be Black in Mississippi (32.0), Louisiana (28.5), South Carolina (27.5), Maryland (25.1), Georgia (25.0), Alabama (23.0), and North Carolina (20.3). In 1994, projections indicate that very low proportions (less than 1 percent) of the voting-age population will be Black in several New England (Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire) and Mountain States (Montana, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming).

The voting-age population of other races will be concentrated in the West. Alaska and Hawaii are States with high concentrations of other races: in Hawaii, over one-half (56.8 percent) of the electorate will be of other races (mainly Asian or Pacific Islander). A projected 18.2 percent of Alaska's voting-age population will be other races (mostly American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut). California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Arizona, Washington, Montana, and Nevada are the only other States that will have more than 5 percent of their voting-age populations of other races.

The Hispanic voting-age population will be concentrated in the southern and western parts of the United States with New Mexico projected to have 37.2 percent of its voting-age population Hispanic (table C). Hispanics will constitute about one-quarter of the voting-age population in Texas and California, ranking second and third, respectively. Other States with a substantial percentage (more than 10 percent) of their voting-age population Hispanic will be Arizona (17.6), Florida (13.1), New York (11.9), Colorado (11.8), Nevada (11.2), and New Jersey (10.2) (table 2).

The Hispanic electorate will be younger than either the Black or White voting-age population in the November, 1994 election. Persons under age 25 will make up 18.7 percent of the Hispanic electorate compared to 17.0 percent for Blacks and 12.6 percent for Whites.

VOTER TURNOUT

The "official" count of votes in table 4 and voter turnout rates shown in tables 3 and 4 are based on tabulations of actual votes provided by each State and compiled by the U.S. Congress, Clerk of the House, and published in *Statistics of the Presidential and Congressional Elections*, *Statistics of the Congressional Elections* or by the Election Research Center published in its volumes, *America Votes*.

Highest voter turnout traditionally occurs in the West North Central States and New England (table 3). Maine had the highest voter turnout of any State, with 71.9 percent of the population 18 years and over voting in the 1992 Presidential election; it also had the highest voter turnout rate in the November, 1990 Congressional election when 56.0 of the electorate voted. Minnesota recorded the second highest voter turnout in both of these election years, trailing Maine by only 1 or 2 percentage points. Other States with voter turnout rates of at least 65 percent in the 1992 elections were Montana, Vermont, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The lowest voter turnout for U.S. Representatives in the November, 1992 election was in Louisiana (22.5 percent). In Louisiana, Congressional seats are determined by open primaries held earlier in the election year. Only in the case where no single candidate receives a majority of the votes is a run-off election held in November between the top two finishers. The South has consistently had the lowest voter turnout, but the gap between the South and the remainder of the United States is not nearly as great now as it was before the voting rights reforms of the 1960s.

The count of votes shown in table 4 should not be confused with estimates of voter participation published regularly in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, which are obtained from household respondents in the Current Population Survey (CPS), and relate to the civilian noninstitutional population. Survey estimates, which provide information on the voting and registration patterns of population groups, indicate levels of voting considerably higher than those supported by official voting records.

Table 4 shows that voter turnout for U.S. Representatives in the November, 1990 election was 33.1 percent, considerably less than that recorded for the Presidential election of 1992 when 50.8 percent of eligible voters turned out to vote. Historically, voter turnout for U.S. Representatives has been higher during Presidential election years than in "off years." Declines in voter

turnout in non-Presidential years have been noted since the mid-1960s when about 45 percent of the electorate voted for U.S. Representatives. Voter turnout in non-Presidential election years fell to a post-World War II low of 33.1 percent in 1990.

POPULATION ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER

The population of voting age shown in this report is for the resident population and includes a number of persons who meet the age requirement but cannot vote because they cannot register. Since citizenship is a universal requirement for registering in the United States, noncitizens (documented residents) are the principal group of ineligible voting-age persons. According to the November 1992 Current Population Survey on Voting and Registration, an estimated 11.9 million persons aged 18 years and over (6.4 percent) were not citizens. Census Bureau research to evaluate decennial census coverage estimated that about 2 million undocumented immigrants (all ages) were included in Current Population Surveys in 1988³ and 1989.⁴ These estimates of undocumented residents are being updated by analysis of 1990 census data.

Because of shortened State residence requirements for voting in national elections and the availability of absentee ballots, few persons are now disenfranchised because they change residence before the election. In addition, convicted felons, and persons committed to penal institutions, mental hospitals, and other institutions are prohibited from voting.

METHODOLOGY

Projections. The projections of the voting-age population for States use the cohort-component method which requires separate assumptions for each of the components of population change. The fertility, mortality, and international net migration assumptions are consistent with those used in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 1111, which also explains the derivation and application of these assumptions. The internal migration assumptions involve the application of time-series methods to annual data on State-to-State migration for the years 1975-1991. The particular time-series model used assumes that for each State-to-State migration rate the change that occurs in a given year is a function of the

³Karen A. Woodrow and Jeffrey S. Passel, "Post-IRCA Undocumented Immigration to the United States: An Assessment Based on the June 1988 CPS," in F.D. Bean, B. Edmonston, and J.S. Passel, eds. *Undocumented Migration to the United States: IRCA and the Experience of the 1980s* (Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, 1990).

⁴Karen A. Woodrow, "Undocumented Immigrants Living in the United States," in *Proceedings of the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association* (Washington, D.C.: American Statistical Association, 1990).

change that occurred in the previous year. The research that led to our adoption of this model is presented in Edward Frees, *Forecasting State-to-State Migration Rates*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Research Division Report, Series RR-90/06.

Pre-1994 State Estimates. A version of Component Method II is used to produce July 1st estimates for each single year of age up to age 65. In this method each age follows the standard demographic formula of $P1 = P0 + B - D + M$: where P1 is the population on the estimate date; P0 is the population on the census date; B and D are the births and deaths occurring during the estimate period, and M is the net migration (including international net migration) occurring during the estimate period. This is a cumulative method, where the estimate period is from the date of the last census to the estimate date.

The age 65 and over population is estimated using the Medicare Change Method. State estimates of the population aged 65 and over by single year of age and gender are based on the change in the number of persons covered under the Medicare program. Single years 18 and over are summed to form the voting-age population for each July 1st.

The pre-1994 November 1st estimates shown in this report were obtained by the Straight-line Interpolation Method between successive July 1st estimates. A more detailed description of the state-age estimates methodology is published in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, *State Population Estimates by Age and Sex: 1980 to 1992*, Series P25-1106.

RELATED REPORTS

The voting age population as of November 1st for States, by age, gender, and race are published biennially in Current Population Reports, Series P25 (the most recent report in this series in No. 1085). The estimates of the voting age population for November, 1984 through 1990 shown in this report are consistent with the population of States by age for July 1, 1981 to 1990, published in Current Population Reports, Series P25, No. 1106, table 8.

Data users can purchase copies of the tables shown in this report on 5.25" floppy diskettes in ASCII format for \$10 (checks payable to "Commerce-Census"). To place an order, contact:

Fertility Statistics Branch
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ROUNDING OF ESTIMATES

The estimates shown in the tables in this report have been rounded to the nearest thousand without adjustment to group totals, which are independently rounded.

Figure 1.
Percent of Voting-Age Population 65 years and
Over, by State: November 1994

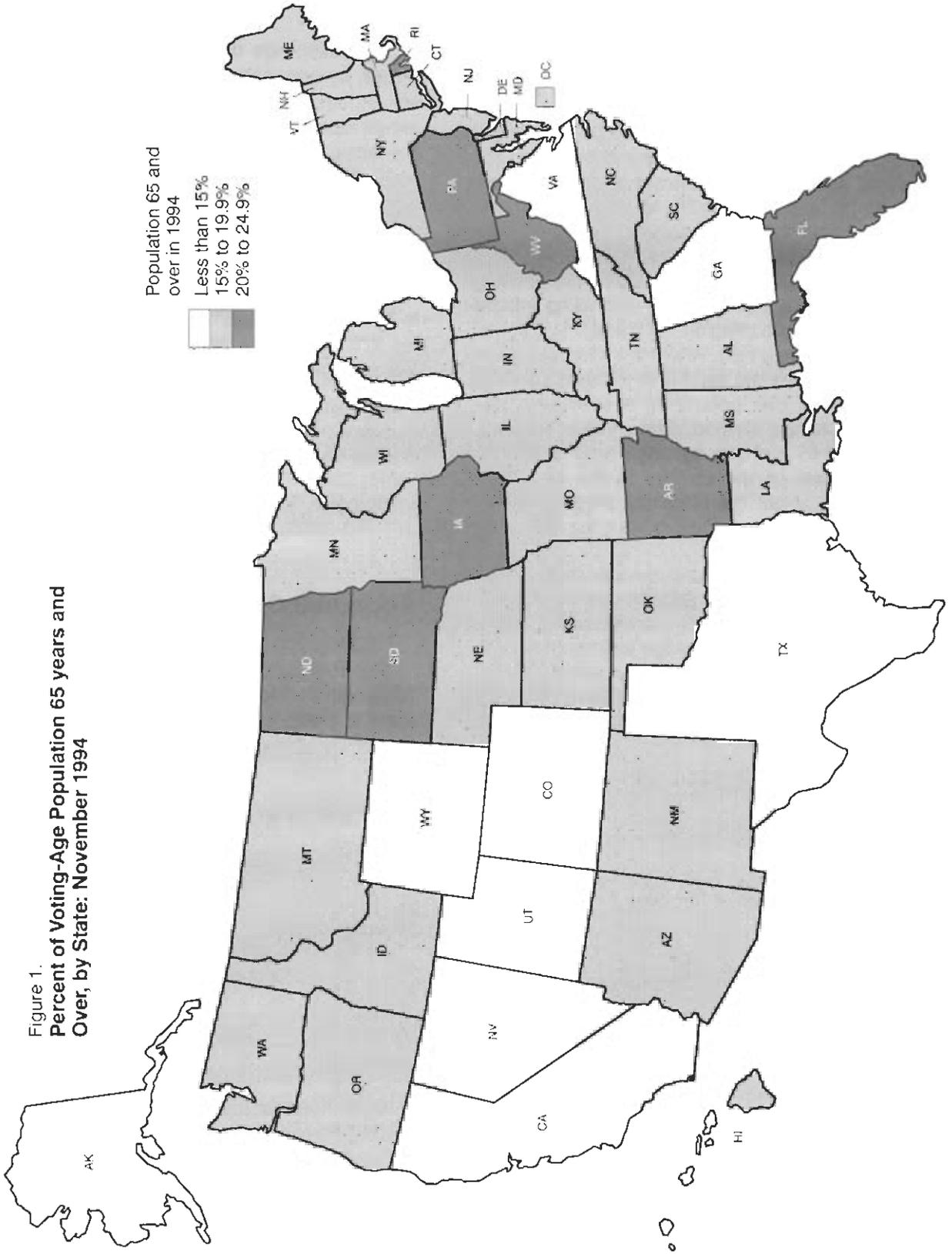


Figure 2.
Increase in Population 65 Years and Over, by State:
November 1990-94

