

District of Columbia

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This report is based on data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and may differ from data produced by other entities.

Age and Sex Composition: 2010

Introduction

One of the most basic ways to understand population change over time is to analyze a population's age and sex composition. Such analysis also provides insight into future social and economic challenges for the population in question. Since Census 2000, the population of the District of Columbia has continued, in general, to grow younger, reaching a median age of 33.8 years in 2010. This report describes the age and sex composition of the District of Columbia's population in 2010 at the District-wide level, as well as for the eight wards. A comparison with Census 2000 data is also provided, showing the changes in age and sex composition that have taken place over the last 10 years.

Age and Sex Composition

According to the 2010 Census, the population of the District of Columbia on April 1, 2010, was 601,723, representing a 5.2 percent increase in population since 2000, when the population was 572,059 (Table 1).

Of the 2010 Census population in the District, 317,501 were female (52.8 percent) while 284,222 were male (47.2 percent). Between 2000 and 2010, the male population grew at a slightly faster rate (5.5 percent) than the female population (4.9 percent).

- **The population grew at a faster rate in the working-age population than in other ages.**

The data presented in Table 1 and Figure 1 includes the distribution of the population for selected age categories. In the 2010 Census, the number of people under age 18 was 100,815 or 16.8 percent of the total population. The younger working-age population, ages 18 to 44, represented 292,419 persons or 48.6 percent of the population. The older working-age population, ages 45 to 64, represented 139,680 persons or 23.2 percent of the population. The 65 years and over population numbered 68,809 persons or 11.4 percent of the population.

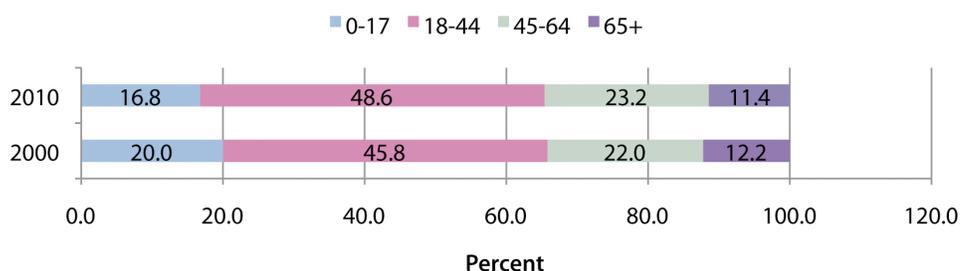
Table 1. District of Columbia Population by Sex and Selected Age Groups: 2000 and 2010

Sex and age groups	2010		2000		Change 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population	601,723	100.0	572,059	100.0	29,664	5.2
Sex						
Male	284,222	47.2	269,366	47.1	14,856	5.5
Female	317,501	52.8	302,693	52.9	14,808	4.9
Age Groups						
Under 5 years	32,613	5.4	32,536	5.7	77	0.2
5 to 9 years	26,147	4.3	35,385	6.2	-9,238	-26.1
10 to 14 years	25,041	4.2	30,018	5.2	-4,977	-16.6
15 to 19 years	39,919	6.6	37,867	6.6	2,052	5.4
20 to 24 years	64,110	10.7	51,823	9.1	12,287	23.7
25 to 29 years	69,649	11.6	52,849	9.2	16,800	31.8
30 to 34 years	55,096	9.2	48,913	8.6	6,183	12.6
35 to 39 years	42,925	7.1	45,949	8.0	-3,024	-6.6
40 to 44 years	37,734	6.3	41,728	7.3	-3,994	-9.6
45 to 49 years	38,539	6.4	39,397	6.9	-858	-2.2
50 to 54 years	37,164	6.2	35,913	6.3	1,251	3.5
55 to 59 years	34,274	5.7	27,803	4.9	6,471	23.3
60 to 64 years	29,703	4.9	21,980	3.8	7,723	35.1
65 to 69 years	21,488	3.6	18,525	3.2	2,963	16.0
70 to 74 years	15,481	2.6	17,394	3.0	-1,913	-11.0
75 to 79 years	11,820	2.0	14,976	2.6	-3,156	-21.1
80 to 84 years	9,705	1.6	10,028	1.8	-323	-3.2
85 years and over	10,315	1.7	8,975	1.6	1,340	14.9
Under 18 years	100,815	16.8	114,992	20.1	14,177	-12.3
18 years and over	500,908	83.2	457,067	79.9	43,841	9.6
18 to 44 years	292,419	48.6	262,076	45.8	30,343	11.6
45 to 64 years	139,680	23.2	125,093	21.9	14,587	11.7
65 years and over	68,809	11.4	69,898	12.2	-1,089	-1.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010.

Figure 1. District of Columbia Age Distribution 2000 to 2010

Working-age population grew faster than other ages



Source: DC Office of Planning/State Data Center

Between 2000 and 2010, the population under 18 years decreased at a rate of 12.3 percent. This contrasted with positive growth rates at older ages. The population aged 18 to 44 grew at a rate of 11.6 percent and the population aged 45 to 64 grew at a rate of 11.7 percent. However, the population aged 65 and over decreased at a rate of 1.6 percent.

Another important tool for analyzing the age and sex composition of the population is the age-sex pyramid (Figures 2 & 3). The age-sex pyramid shows the number of males (on the left) and number of females (on the right) by five-year age groups. Between 2000 and 2010, the population pyramid has become more constrictive with fewer people in the younger age categories (0-14). This is typical of the U.S. population as the late baby boomers and early Generation X population shifted to more conservative birth rates. The baby boom population in 2010 is evident in the pyramid as a bulge at ages 45 to 64. Consistent with this trend, the age group 60-64 was the five-year age group with the largest percent increase between 2000 and 2010 (35.1 percent) (Table 1).

Another important observation in the 2010 pyramid for the District is the bulge in the population between ages 20 and 34. This age cohort grew by 35,270 persons or 23 percent between 2000 and 2010. This large, younger cohort than baby boomers seems to have been attracted to the area because of job opportunities and lifestyle.

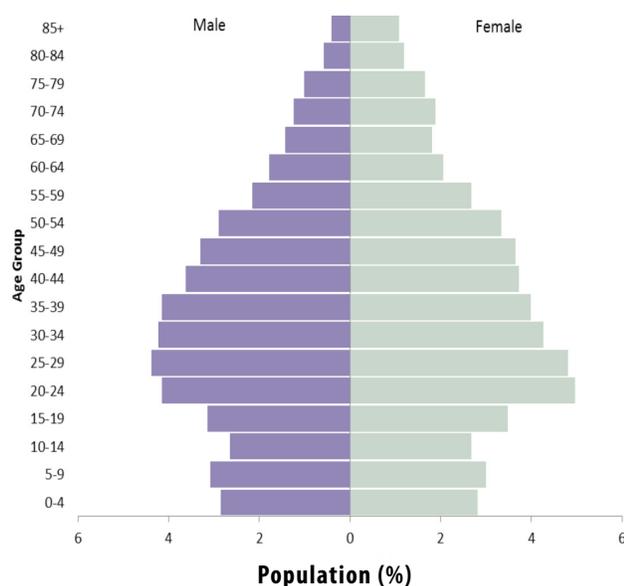
The lopsided point at the top of the pyramid indicates differences in the number of males and females at older ages, where women tend to live longer than men. These mortality differences between men and women also impact another important indicator of population composition, the sex ratio.

- **Faster growth in the male population led to increased sex ratios.**

The sex ratio is a common measure used to describe the balance between males and females in the population. It is defined as the number of males per 100 females. The sex ratio at birth in the United States has been around 105 males for every 100 females. However, since mortality at every age is generally higher for males, the sex ratio naturally declines with age. But sex ratios can vary from these patterns

Figure 2

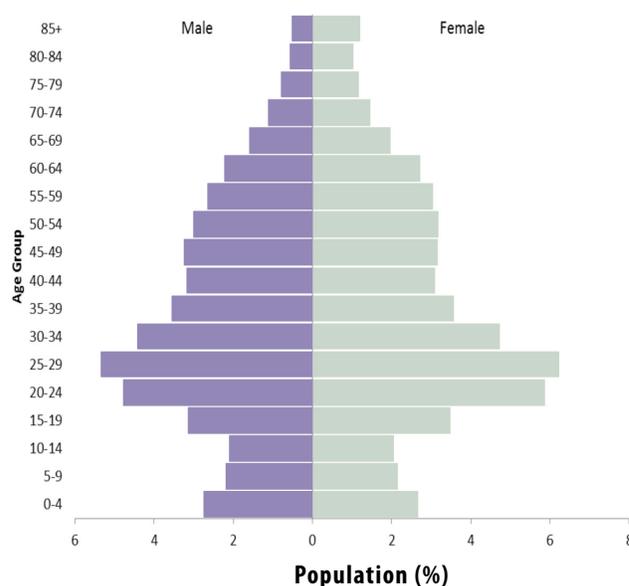
DC 2000 Population by Age Group and Sex



Source: DC Office of Planning/State Data Center

Figure 3

DC 2010 Population by Age Group and Sex



Source: DC Office of Planning/State Data Center

In 2010, there were 89 males for every 100 females in the District

Table 2. District of Columbia Population by Age Group and Sex: 2000 and 2010

Age	2000			2010			Percent change, 2000 to 2010		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
All ages	572,059	269,366	302,693	601,723	284,222	317,501	5.2	5.5	4.9
Under 5 years	32,536	16,483	16,053	32,613	16,533	16,080	0.2	0.3	0.2
5 to 9 years	35,385	17,760	17,625	26,147	13,198	12,949	-26.0	-26.0	-27.0
10 to 14 years	30,018	15,097	14,921	25,041	12,641	12,400	-17.0	-16.0	-17.0
15 to 19 years	37,867	18,016	19,851	39,919	18,951	20,968	5.4	5.2	5.6
20 to 24 years	51,823	23,617	28,206	64,110	28,801	35,309	23.7	22.0	25.2
25 to 29 years	52,849	25,232	27,617	69,649	32,167	37,482	31.8	27.5	35.7
30 to 34 years	48,913	24,522	24,391	55,096	26,617	28,479	12.6	8.5	16.8
35 to 39 years	45,949	23,391	22,558	42,925	21,447	21,478	-6.6	-8.3	-4.8
40 to 44 years	41,728	20,618	21,110	37,734	19,136	18,598	-9.6	-7.2	-12.0
45 to 49 years	39,397	18,745	20,652	38,539	19,534	19,005	-2.2	4.2	-8.0
50 to 54 years	35,913	16,615	19,298	37,164	18,114	19,050	3.5	9.0	-1.3
55 to 59 years	27,803	12,675	15,128	34,274	15,994	18,280	23.3	26.2	20.8
60 to 64 years	21,980	10,052	11,928	29,703	13,398	16,305	35.1	33.3	36.7
65 to 69 years	18,525	8,162	10,363	21,488	9,605	11,883	16.0	17.7	14.7
70 to 74 years	17,394	6,941	10,453	15,481	6,671	8,810	-11.0	-3.9	-16.0
75 to 79 years	14,976	5,602	9,374	11,820	4,782	7,038	-21.0	-15.0	-25.0
80 to 84 years	10,028	3,415	6,613	9,705	3,516	6,189	-3.2	3.0	-6.4
85 years and over	8,975	2,423	6,552	10,315	3,117	7,198	14.9	28.6	9.9
Median age	34.6	33.7	35.6	33.8	33.6	34.0	(X)	(X)	(X)

(X) Not applicable

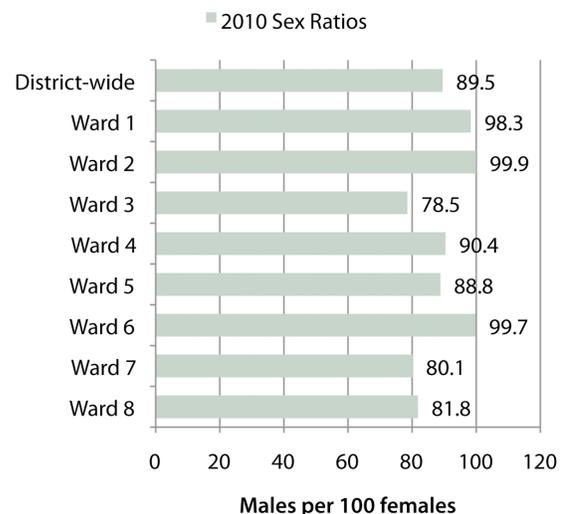
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010

for many reasons such as the impact of international or domestic migration, or features of geographic location like the existence of college student housing or military facilities.

In 2010, there were 89.5 males per 100 females in the District of Columbia, an increase from 2000 when the sex ratio was 89 males per 100 females. Looking at five-year age groups (Table 2), where there were population gains by age groups, females and males each gained higher percentages in five of ten age groups. On the other hand, where there were population loss by age groups, females lost population at higher percentages in seven of eight age groups, thus the slight increase in the male to female ratio in 2010.

Sex ratio by District wards shows a diverse pattern in 2010 (Figure 4). Wards 2 and 6 had sex ratios that were close to an even proportion among males and females with sex ratios of 99.9 and 99.7 males per 100 females, respectively. On the other end of the spectrum was Ward 3 with a sex ratio of 78.5 males per 100 females.

Figure 4: Sex Ratio by District of Columbia Wards: 2010 (Males per 100 females)



Source: DC Office of Planning/State Data Center

- Population increases for the younger working-age groups led to a decreased median age.

Changes in the structure of the population also impact another measure of population composition, median age. In 2010, the median age of the District's population decreased to 33.8 years, from 34.6 years in 2000. Unlike the U.S. population which is aging, given an increase in median age of 1.9 years between 2000 and 2010, the District's population is trending younger. While the District lost population among its youngest (5-14 years) and oldest population groups (65 years and over), the tremendous increase in number and percent in the 20-34 years age group more than accounted for these losses and contributed to a lower median age.

In 2010, the median age of the District's population by ward varied widely. The youngest population by median age was in Ward 8 (29.6 years) and Ward 2 (29.9 years), while Ward 4 had the oldest median age at 40 years, followed by Ward 5 at 38.2 years (Figure 5).

Dependency Ratio

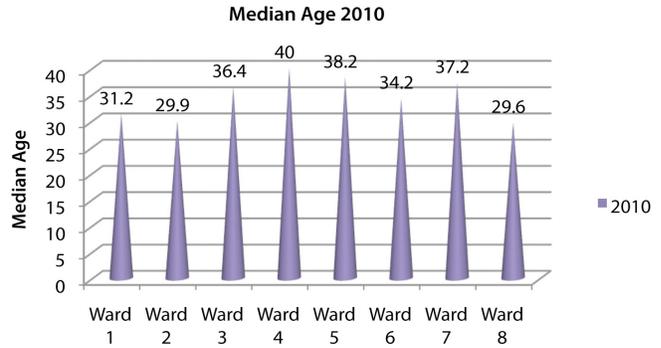
The age dependency ratio provides a very rough approximation of economic dependency in a population by dividing the dependent-age population (children and older adults) by the working age population. Thus, the total dependency ratio is the number of children (ages 0-17) plus the number of older adults (ages 65 and over) per 100 people of working age (ages 18 to 64). This ratio can be separated into two parts, the old-age dependency ratio which is the number of older adults (ages 65 and over) per 100 people of working age (ages 18 to 64), and the child dependency ratio which is the number of children (ages 0-17) per 100 people of working age (18 to 64).

At the national level, the total age dependency ratio declined from 61.6 in 2000 to 58.9 in 2010, meaning that there were 2.7 fewer "dependent-age" people for every 100 working-age people. When evaluating the two dependency ratios separately at the national level, the child dependency ratio declined by 3.3 (41.5 in 2000 to 38.2 in 2010) while the old-age dependency ratio increased slightly by 0.6 (20.1 in 2000 to 20.7 in 2010). For the District of Columbia, the total age dependency ratio declined from 47.8 in 2000 to 39.3 in 2010, indicating that there were 8.5 fewer "dependent-age" people for every 100 working-age people (Figure 6). The District's child dependency ratio declined by 6.4 (29.7 in 2000 to 23.3 in 2010). Similarly, the old-age dependency ratio, unlike the national level, showed a decline from 18.1 in 2000 to 15.9 in 2010. Again, confirming that the District lost population at its pre-working age and older age groups while increasing its working-age population. When compared to states, the District had the lowest total dependency ratio.

Dependency ratio by ward showed Ward 8 with the highest child dependency ratio at 48.9, while Ward 2 had the lowest child dependency ratio at 6.8 (Figure 7). For old-age dependency, Ward 4 had the highest ratio at 23.6 while Ward 1 had the lowest ratio at 8.7.

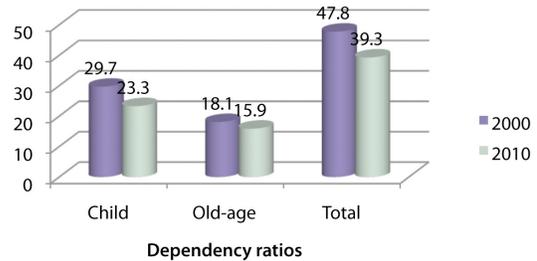
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Figure 5. Median Age by District of Columbia Wards:2010



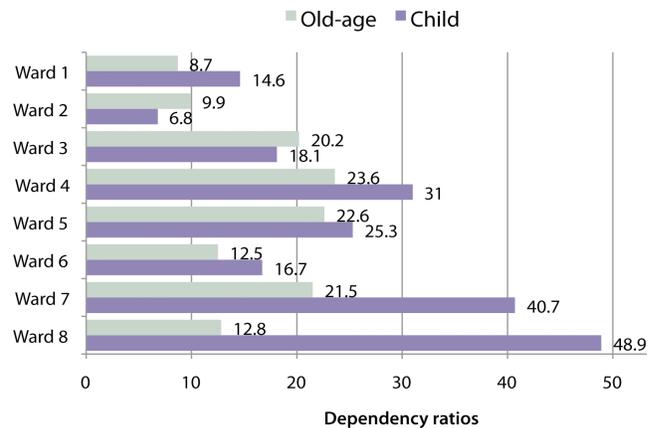
Source: DC Office of Planning/State Data Center

Figure 6. Dependency Ratios by District of Columbia 2000 and 2010



Source: DC Office of Planning/State Data Center

Figure 7. Dependency Ratios by District of Columbia Wards: 2010



Source: DC Office of Planning/State Data Center

