

1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION

PRELIMINARY REPORTS

FOR RELEASE

September 10, 1951

Washington 25, D. C.

Series PC-12, No. 36

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF WASHINGTON

APRIL 1, 1950

(This is one of a series of reports presenting figures on selected characteristics of the population of the smaller States. In this series, reports are numbered alphabetically by States. Additional reports will be issued as figures for other States become available. Preliminary sample data for the larger States, not covered in this series, will be found in Series PC-6)

Gains in the population of Washington between 1940 and 1950 were most marked among young children, according to figures from the 1950 Census of Population released today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. Although the total population of the State increased by 642,772, or 37.0 percent, during the decade, the number of children under 5 years of age increased by 141,335, or 115.9 percent. Smaller increases were shown by the figures for each of the remaining broad age groups. The smallest increase, 12.8 percent, occurred among persons 15 to 24 years old. In 1950 there were more males than females in the population of Washington, but the excess of males was relatively smaller than it had been at the time of the preceding census. There were 106.0 males for every 100 females in 1950 as compared with 109.1 in 1940. Between 1940 and 1950, the nonwhite population of the State increased by 64.2 percent, in contrast to an increase of 36.4 percent in the white population.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

Urban and rural residence.--Under the urban definition established for use in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, towns,¹ and villages; (b) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more; and (c) unincorporated

¹ Except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are minor civil divisions of counties and are not necessarily densely settled centers like the towns in other States.

places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural. According to the definition used in previous censuses, urban population comprised all persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and areas (usually minor civil divisions) classified as urban under special rules relating to population size and density.

Farm and nonfarm residence.--The rural population is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population. However, the method of determining farm and nonfarm residence in the 1950 Census differs somewhat from that used in earlier censuses. In the 1950 Census, persons on "farms" who were paying cash rent for their house and yard only were classified as nonfarm; furthermore, persons in institutions, summer camps, and tourist courts were classified as nonfarm.

Color.--The group designated as "non-white" consists of Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who are not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race are classified as white.

Age.--The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before the date of the census, that is, the age of the person in completed years. The median age may be defined as that age which divides the population into two equal groups--one-half being older and one-half younger than the median.

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(over)

Table 1.--COLOR BY SEX, FOR WASHINGTON, URBAN AND RURAL: 1950 AND 1940

Color and sex	The State			Urban, 1950	Rural, 1950	Percent distribution			
	1950	1940	Percent change, 1940 to 1950			The State		Urban, 1950	Rural, 1950
						1950	1940		
Total.....	2,378,963	1,736,191	37.0	1,503,166	875,797	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	2,316,495	1,698,147	36.4	1,460,179	856,316	97.4	97.8	97.1	97.8
Nonwhite.....	62,468	38,044	64.2	42,987	19,481	2.6	2.2	2.9	2.2
Male.....	1,223,856	905,757	35.1	749,983	473,873	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	1,188,075	883,688	34.4	726,086	461,989	97.1	97.6	96.8	97.5
Nonwhite.....	35,781	22,069	62.1	23,897	11,884	2.9	2.4	3.2	2.5
Female.....	1,155,107	830,434	39.1	753,183	401,924	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	1,128,420	814,459	38.5	734,093	394,327	97.7	98.1	97.5	98.1
Nonwhite.....	26,687	15,975	67.1	19,090	7,597	2.3	1.9	2.5	1.9

Table 2.--AGE BY SEX, FOR WASHINGTON, URBAN AND RURAL: 1950 AND 1940

Age and sex	The State			Urban, 1950	Rural nonfarm, 1950	Rural farm, 1950	Percent distribution				
	1950	1940	Per- cent change, 1940 to 1950				The State		Urban, 1950	Rural non- farm, 1950	Rural farm, 1950
							1950	1940			
Total population.....	2,378,963	1,736,191	37.0	1,503,166	602,026	273,771	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent by residence	100.0	...	...	63.2	25.3	11.5	...	...	...	...	...
Under 5 years.....	263,253	121,918	115.9	165,793	69,477	27,983	11.1	7.0	11.0	11.5	10.2
5 to 14 years.....	363,169	244,604	48.5	206,824	100,724	55,621	15.3	14.1	13.8	16.7	20.3
15 to 24 years.....	333,385	295,592	12.8	200,034	97,343	36,008	14.0	17.0	13.3	16.2	13.2
25 to 34 years.....	383,820	281,351	36.4	258,746	92,754	32,320	16.1	16.2	17.2	15.4	11.8
35 to 44 years.....	339,909	243,515	39.6	219,461	81,353	39,095	14.3	14.0	14.6	13.5	14.3
45 to 54 years.....	264,703	230,624	14.8	171,021	59,442	34,240	11.1	13.3	11.4	9.9	12.5
55 to 64 years.....	219,264	174,267	25.8	141,692	49,657	27,915	9.2	10.0	9.4	8.2	10.2
65 years and over.....	211,460	144,320	46.5	139,595	51,276	20,589	8.9	8.3	9.3	8.5	7.5
Median age.....years..	31.0	32.3	...	31.9	28.6	30.3	...	...	...	...	...
Male.....	1,223,856	905,757	35.1	749,983	327,198	146,675	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	133,903	62,151	115.4	84,234	35,466	14,203	10.9	6.9	11.2	10.8	9.7
5 to 14 years.....	185,192	124,244	49.1	104,498	51,763	28,931	15.1	13.7	13.9	15.8	19.7
15 to 24 years.....	177,284	151,021	17.4	95,847	61,335	20,102	14.5	16.7	12.8	18.7	13.7
25 to 34 years.....	193,335	145,082	33.3	128,935	48,414	15,986	15.8	16.0	17.2	14.8	10.9
35 to 44 years.....	174,392	126,109	38.3	111,104	43,042	20,246	14.2	13.9	14.8	13.2	13.8
45 to 54 years.....	136,700	123,161	11.0	86,416	31,832	18,452	11.2	13.6	11.5	9.7	12.6
55 to 64 years.....	114,390	96,085	19.1	71,218	26,955	16,217	9.3	10.6	9.5	8.2	11.1
65 years and over.....	108,660	77,904	39.5	67,731	28,391	12,538	8.9	8.6	9.0	8.7	8.5
Median age.....years..	31.0	33.0	...	32.0	28.1	31.3	...	...	...	...	...
Female.....	1,155,107	830,434	39.1	753,183	274,828	127,096	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	129,350	59,767	116.4	81,559	34,011	13,780	11.2	7.2	10.8	12.4	10.8
5 to 14 years.....	177,977	120,360	47.9	102,326	48,961	26,690	15.4	14.5	13.6	17.8	21.0
15 to 24 years.....	156,101	144,571	8.0	104,187	36,008	15,906	13.5	17.4	13.8	13.1	12.5
25 to 34 years.....	190,485	136,269	39.8	129,811	44,340	16,334	16.5	16.4	17.2	16.1	12.9
35 to 44 years.....	165,517	117,406	41.0	108,357	38,311	18,849	14.3	14.1	14.4	13.9	14.8
45 to 54 years.....	128,003	107,463	19.1	84,605	27,610	15,788	11.1	12.9	11.2	10.0	12.4
55 to 64 years.....	104,874	78,182	34.1	70,474	22,702	11,698	9.1	9.4	9.4	8.3	9.2
65 years and over.....	102,800	66,416	54.8	71,864	22,885	8,051	8.9	8.0	9.5	8.3	6.3
Median age.....years..	31.0	31.6	...	31.8	29.2	29.4	...	...	...	...	...