

Summary of U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 County Characteristics Estimates for Massachusetts Counties

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For Release June 25, 2015

On June 25, 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau released its 2014 State and County Characteristics Estimates for Massachusetts, Puerto Rico and the United States. These estimates break down the estimated 2014 county populations, released in March 2015, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin.

The official U.S. Census Release can be found at:

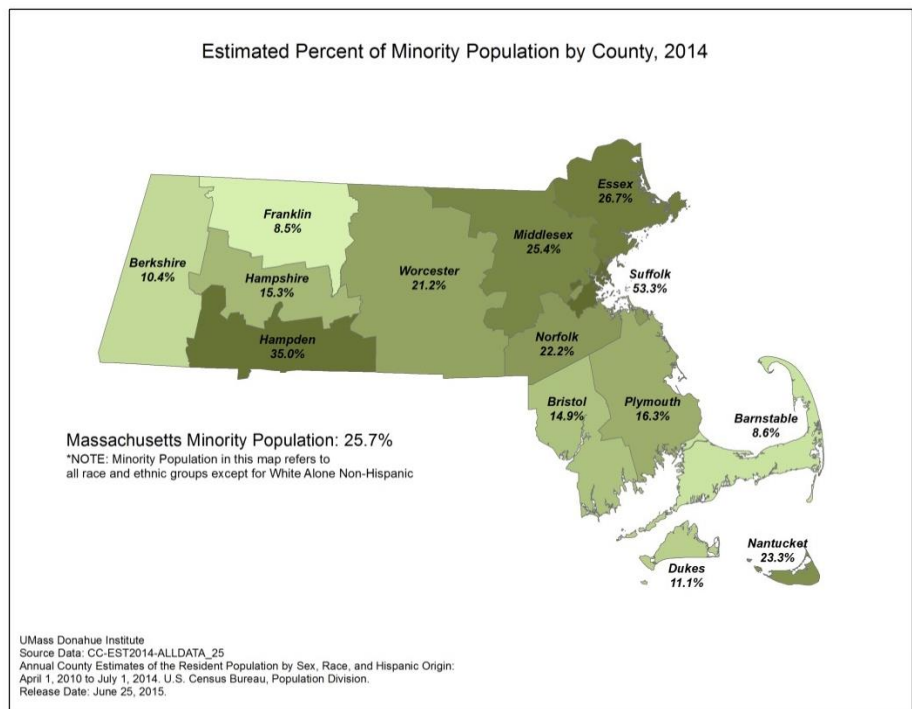
<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-113.html>

and detailed tables can be found at:

<http://www.census.gov/topics/population/population-estimates.html>

Race and Origin

Estimates for Massachusetts follow the national trend, showing a population that is growing older and more racially and ethnically diverse. Even though Massachusetts is less racially and ethnically diverse than the U.S. as a whole, with a minority population of just 25.7% compared to 37.9% in the U.S., the minority population has been increasing in all Massachusetts counties since 2010 and beyond.¹ The percent minority population in Massachusetts has also been increasing slightly more rapidly in the state compared to the U.S., increasing from 25.1% to 25.7% percent between 2013 and 2014—a gain of 0.6 percentage points—compared to a 0.4 percentage point increase for the U.S., which



¹ “Minority population” is defined for the purposes of this report as the Hispanic and non-White/non-Hispanic population.

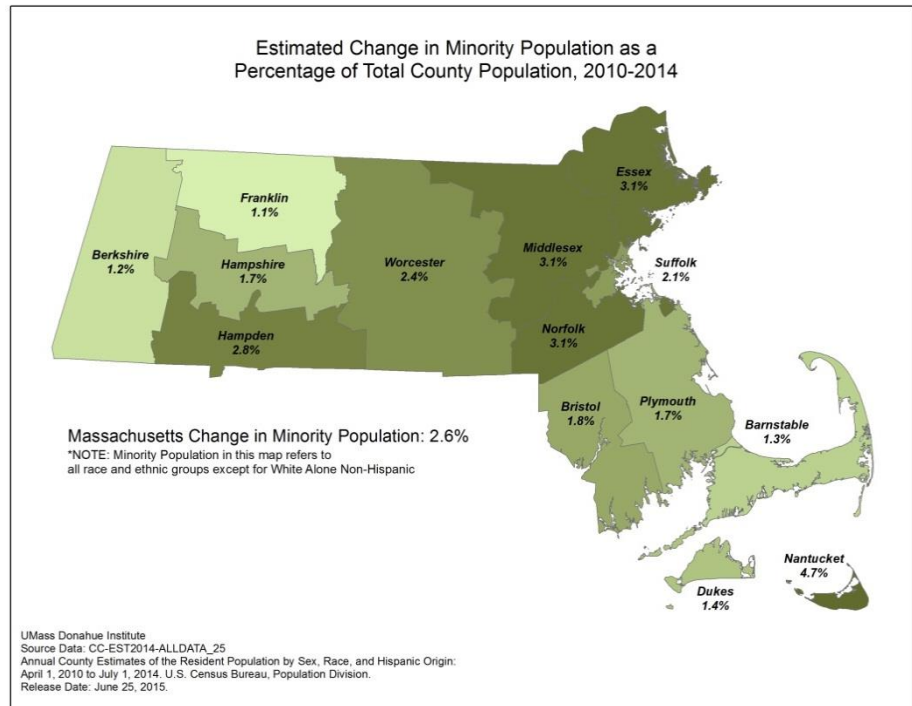


changed from 37.5% to 37.9% minority population. Since the 2010 Census, Massachusetts has increased its minority population by a cumulative 2.6 percentage points compared to an increase of 1.9 percentage points in the U.S.

The Massachusetts counties with the greatest percentage of minority populations in 2014 were Suffolk (53.3%), Hampden (35%), and Essex (26.7%). The counties with the lowest percentage of minority populations were Franklin (8.5%), Barnstable (8.6%), and Berkshire (10.4%).

The largest increases of minority populations as a percentage of the total population since 2010 (by percentage point gain) were seen in Nantucket, Middlesex, and Essex County. Franklin, Berkshire, and Barnstable County showed the least amount of increase and also represent the only three Massachusetts counties that have lost population since the April 2010 Census count. (See Appendix B for details for all Massachusetts counties.)

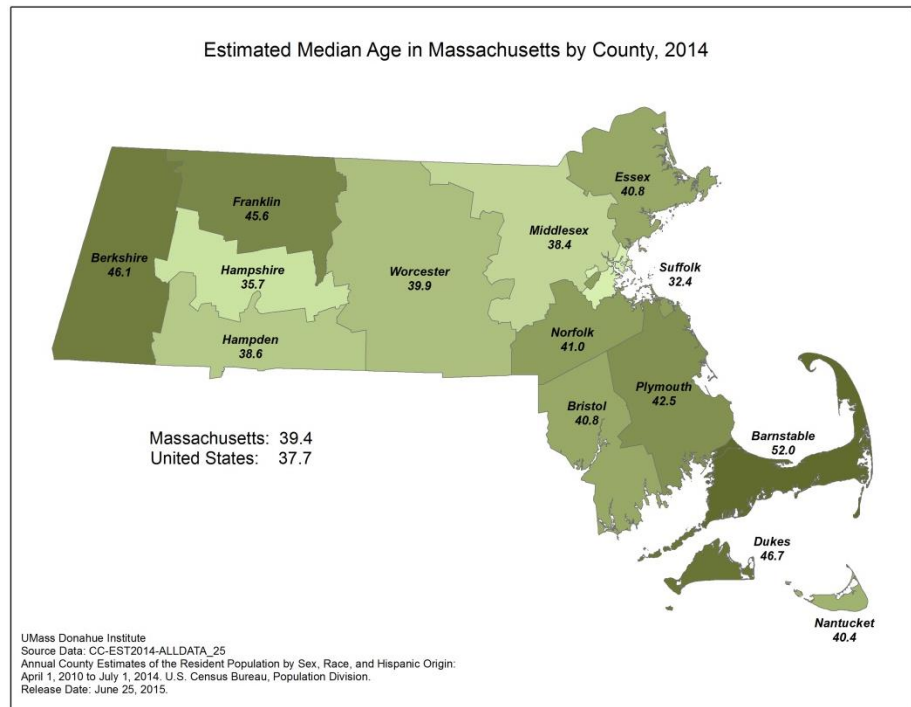
The counties with the highest percentage of Hispanic residents in Massachusetts in 2014 were Hampden (23.2%), Suffolk (21.8%), and Essex (18.6%); those with the smallest were Barnstable (2.7%), Dukes (3.1%), and Plymouth (3.6%). The overall Hispanic population in Massachusetts in 2014 was 10.8% compared to 17.4% in the U.S.



Age

Massachusetts is older than the U.S. as a whole, with an estimated median age of 39.4 years in 2014, compared to a median of 37.7 in the U.S. As of 2014, 9 out of 14 Massachusetts counties—almost two-thirds—have a median age over 40. Counties with the highest median age are Barnstable (52.0 years), Dukes (46.7 years), and Berkshire (46.1 years), while the counties with the youngest median ages are Suffolk (32.4 years), Hampshire (35.7 years), and Middlesex (38.4 years). See map below and Appendix C for details.

The aging population in Massachusetts, as with the U.S. as a whole, is reflected in the long term population trends among age cohorts. Since 2000, the percentage of persons over 65 in each county has increased while the percentage of children under 5 has been decreasing, on average. The trend lines below show how the percentages of these age groups have changed since 2000, by county and for Massachusetts and the U.S. The highest points in the time series are represented by blue dots and the lowest by red.



Region	Trend in Population under 5, 2000-2014	Trend in Population 65+, 2000-2014
Barnstable		
Berkshire		
Bristol		
Dukes		
Essex		
Franklin		
Hampden		
Hampshire		
Middlesex		
Nantucket		
Norfolk		
Plymouth		
Suffolk		
Worcester		
Massachusetts		
United States		

Comparing the percentage of the Hispanic population by county against the median age by county, we see that Massachusetts follows the national trend where a higher percentage of Hispanic population generally relates to a lower median age. Estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau for the nation show that the median age of the Hispanic population (28.5 years) is much lower than non-Hispanic populations (40.3 years). Likewise in Massachusetts, the median age of the Hispanic population is 27.4 compared to 41.4 for the Non-Hispanic population.

At the county level, we see that Barnstable and Dukes County are the two oldest in Massachusetts in terms of median age, and are also the two counties with the lowest percentage of Hispanic population. On the other hand, the “youngest” county, Suffolk, has the second highest percentage of Hispanic population in Massachusetts.

The new Census Bureau data (see Table PEPASR6H) also show that half (50.2%) of the nation's children younger than five belonged to a minority population in 2014, 25.8% of which identified as Hispanic. In Massachusetts that same year, 39.6% of children younger than five belonged to a minority population and 19.4% were Hispanic. To get a sense of how race and ethnicity relate to age in Massachusetts compare the *Estimated Percent Minority Population by County* and the *Estimated Percent of County Population under 5* maps accompanying this report.

For more details on selected Massachusetts characteristics data and trends, please refer to the appendices to this document. You may also view the complete datasets by visiting the U.S. Census Bureau's Estimates page at:

Attachments to this report include:

Appendix A1: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for Counties in Massachusetts and Massachusetts and U.S. Totals, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014

Appendix A2: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for Counties in Massachusetts April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014 as a Percentage of the County Population

Appendix B: Trends in Minority Population Growth in Massachusetts Counties: Estimated Percentage of Non-Hispanic White Alone Population Compared to Minority Population by County, 2010-2014

Appendix C: Comparison of Selected Age Groups in Massachusetts Counties: Estimated Population and Percent of Population, 2014

Appendix D1: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups for Massachusetts Counties and Massachusetts and U.S. Totals, 2010-2014

Appendix D2: Trends in Selected Age Groups as a Percentage of Population for Massachusetts Counties: and Massachusetts and U.S. Totals, 2010-2014

Map 1: Estimated Percent of Minority Population by Massachusetts County, 2014

Map 2: Estimated Change in Percent Minority as a Percentage of Total County Population, 2010-2014

Map 3: Estimated Median Age by Massachusetts County, 2014

Map 4: Estimated Percent of County Population Under 5, 2014

Map 5: Estimated Percent of County Population over 65, 2014

Map 6: Estimated Percent of County Population 18-64, 2014

Map 7: Estimated Percent of County Population under 18, 2014

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June 25, 2015

