

## Demographics, 2012

Demographics are characteristics used to describe a population.<sup>1</sup> Looking at Maine's age and sex composition is one of the most basic ways to see not just what the population is like today, but also how it is changing over time.<sup>2</sup> Maine's population is older than the United States as a whole; Maine has the highest median age in the country.<sup>1</sup> In 2010, one of every 6 Mainers (15.9%) was 65 years of age or older<sup>3</sup> and that percentage is projected to increase to 26.4% in 2030.<sup>4</sup> At the other end of the age spectrum, only 20.7% of Mainers were less than 18 years old in 2010,<sup>2</sup> down from 23.6% in 2000.<sup>5</sup> In comparison, 24.0% of the United States population was less than 18 years old in 2010.<sup>2</sup> Females made up just over half (51.1%) of the Maine population in 2010.<sup>2</sup>

Maine is less diverse than the United States as a whole, but racial and ethnic diversity is gradually increasing. In 2010, Maine had the smallest minority population of any state in the country; only 5.6% of Mainers reported their race and ethnicity as something other than non-Hispanic White, up from 3.5% in 2000. The comparable figure for the United States in 2010 was 36.3%.<sup>6</sup>

Maine's population grew by 4.2% between 2000 and 2010.<sup>7</sup> Slight further growth is expected through 2020, after which the population is projected to begin slowly decreasing.<sup>4</sup>

Each Maine county and Public Health District has its own unique demographic profile. In 2011, for example, the percentage of the population that was under 18 years of age ranged from 17.9% in Hancock to 22.3% in Androscoggin. The percentage of the population aged 65 and over ranged from 14.3% in Androscoggin to 22.3% in Lincoln.<sup>8</sup> In 2010, the percentage of the county population who reported their race as White alone ranged from 92.1% in Washington to 97.6% in Lincoln. The county with the highest percentage of the population reporting race as Black or African American alone was Androscoggin (3.6%), followed



by Cumberland (2.4%). In most counties, less than 1% of the population reported their race as American Indian or Alaska Native alone, but in Washington County, that figure was 4.9%.<sup>9</sup> Only five counties (Androscoggin, Cumberland, Knox, Penobscot, and York) are expected to experience population growth between 2010 and 2030.<sup>1</sup>

Demographic measures included in the State Health Assessment include:<sup>9</sup>

- Population
- Age and sex
- Race
- Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual
- Disability status
- Disability: type of difficulty
- Military members
- Veterans
- Living in rural areas
- Population density

Additional demographic-related measures can be found in the socio-economic status section of the State Health Assessment.<sup>9</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Rector A. Maine population outlook to 2030. Issued February 2013. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=501734&an=1> (accessed 5/20/2013).
- <sup>2</sup> Howden LM, Meyer JA. 2010 Census brief: age and sex composition: 2010. Issued May 2011. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-03.pdf> (accessed 5/20/2013).
- <sup>3</sup> Werner CA. 2010 Census brief: the older population: 2010. Issued November 2011. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-09.pdf> (accessed 5/20/2013).
- <sup>4</sup> Maine Economics and Demographics Program. State and county projections. Issued February 2013. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=501734&an=3> (accessed 5/20/2013).
- <sup>5</sup> United States Census Bureau. Maine: 2000. Issued August 2002. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/c2kprof00-me.pdf> (accessed 5/20/2013).
- <sup>6</sup> Humes KR, Jones NA, Ramirez RR. 2010 Census brief: overview of race and Hispanic origin. Issued March 2011. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf> (accessed 5/20/2013).
- <sup>7</sup> Mackun P, Wilson S. 2010 Census brief: population distribution and change: 2000 to 2010. Issued March 2011. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-01.pdf> (accessed 5/20/2013).
- <sup>8</sup> United States Census Bureau. State & county quickfacts. Available from: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/23000.html> (accessed 5/20/2013).
- <sup>9</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. State health assessment – 2012. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/phdata/sha/index.shtml> (accessed 5/20/2013).