

## Exploring Utah's Pacific Islander Groups: A Detailed Analysis

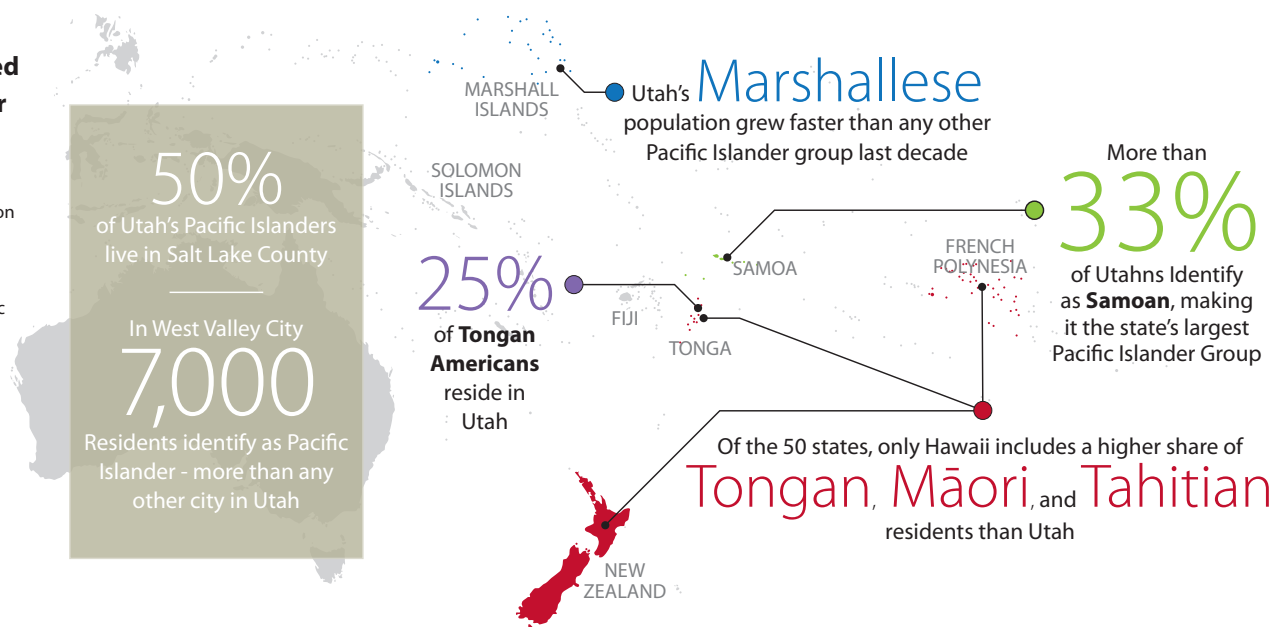
More than 59,000 Utah residents identify as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with other races. These Pacific Islanders represent 1.8% of Utah's population, the third highest share in the United States.

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Utahns identify as 28 different detailed races and belong to three regional groups.

Data from the 2020 census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A) describes these groups, revealing the unique profile of Utah's Pacific Islander population: a young, fast-growing population with most residents identifying as Tongan or Samoan and one-third identifying within other Pacific Islander groups.

**Figure 1: 2020 Census Detailed Pacific Islander Highlights**

Note: All facts refer to alone or in combination populations.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)



## Geography, Race, Ethnicity, and Age

### Geography

The United States' largest Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander populations (referred to as Pacific Islander populations throughout this report) primarily reside in the western states. Utah's Pacific Islander population of 59,247 residents is the fifth largest in the 50 states and Washington D.C., behind Hawaii (394,102), California (337,617), Washington (114,189), and Texas (77,196). Pacific Islanders compose 1.8% of Utah's total population, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest share in the nation after Hawaii (27.1%) and Alaska (2.5%).

Half of Utah's Pacific Islander population (50.5%) resides in Salt Lake County, where 29,937 residents identify as Pacific Islander alone or in combination with other races. In Salt Lake

County, 2.5% of residents identify as Pacific Islander, the highest share in the state, followed by Utah County at 2.1%, and Washington County at 1.7%.

In 2020, West Valley City (7,636), Salt Lake City (5,377), and West Jordan (3,454) had the largest Pacific Islander populations (alone or in combination). In West Valley City, one in twenty city residents (5.4%) identify as Pacific Islander, the highest share of any city with 10,000 residents. Vineyard and Kearns have the second and third-highest shares of Pacific Islander residents, 4.1% and 3.7%, respectively. See Appendix Table 12 for more city-level insights on the Pacific Islander population.

VT 725  
NH 1,792  
MA 10,436  
CT 5,971  
RI 2,331  
NJ 14,621  
MD 11,440  
DC 1,494  
DE 1,547

VT 0.1%  
NH 0.1%  
MA 0.1%  
CT 0.2%  
RI 0.2%  
NJ 0.2%  
MD 0.2%  
DC 0.2%  
DE 0.2%

Map of Texas showing population by county for the year 2000. The map uses a color gradient from light pink to dark red to represent population density. The most populous counties are highlighted in dark red, including Harris County (2,993,714) and Dallas County (1,381,614). Other major counties like Tarrant (1,003,000) and Bexar (750,000) are shown in lighter shades of pink. The map includes county boundaries and numerical labels for each county's population.

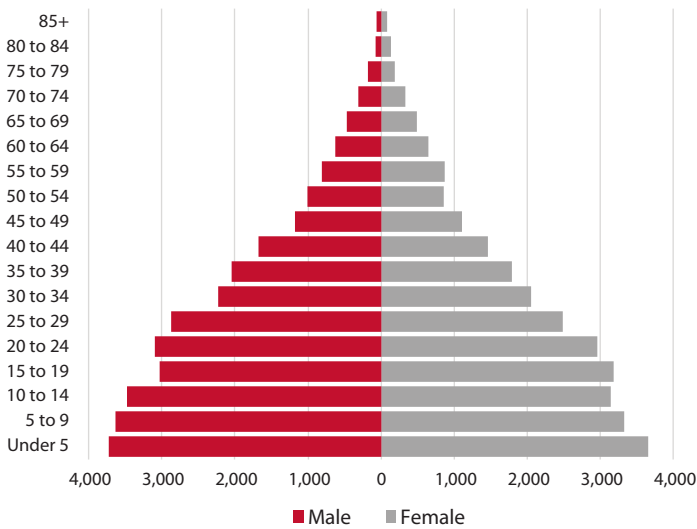
## Age

Utah's Pacific Islander population is younger than the state population. In Utah, four in ten Pacific Islanders (41.8%) are younger than 18, compared to just under three in ten residents (29.0%) overall. While 11.7% of Utahns have reached retirement age, only 3.9% of Utah's Pacific Islanders are 65 or older.

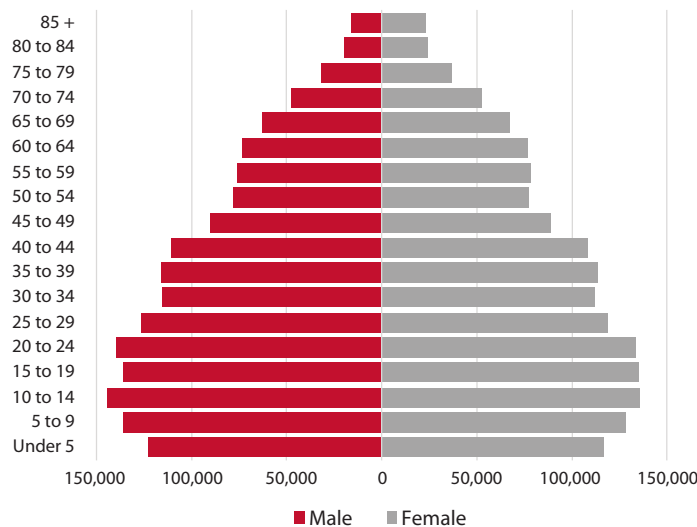
Like Utah's other multiracial populations, multiracial Pacific Islanders are younger than Utahns who identify as Pacific Islander alone. While youth under age 18 compose 35.3% of Utah's Pacific Islander alone population, this share increases to 52.6% among Utahns who identify as Pacific Islander in combination with other races.

**Figure 5: Utah's Pacific Islander and Total Population by Sex and Age, 2020**

### Pacific Islander



### Utah



Note: Pacific Islander figure displays alone or in combination population.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

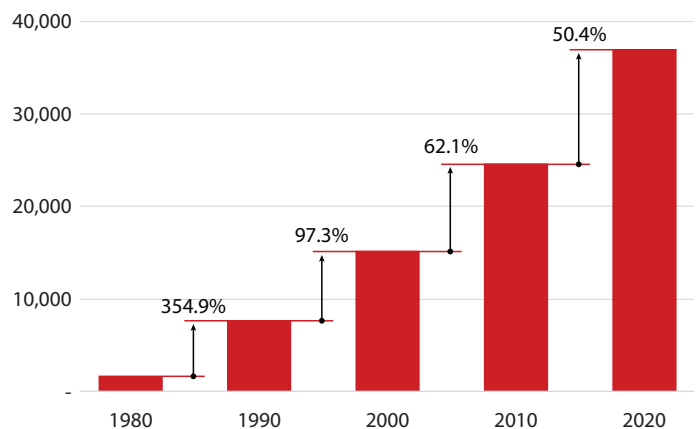
## Pacific Islander Population Growth

Although Pacific Islanders began arriving in Utah around 1875, the majority of population growth has occurred since 1970.<sup>1</sup> Over the past four decades Utah's Pacific Islander alone population has been one of the state's fastest growing groups.<sup>2</sup> During the 1980s, the Pacific Islander population nearly quadrupled, gaining almost 6,000 new residents and increasing from 1,687 to 7,675 residents. The population almost doubled in the 1990s, increasing by 7,470. In the following decades, the Pacific Islander population increased by another 9,409 and then 12,376 residents.

When Pacific Islander residents who identify as multiple races are included in growth calculations, the Pacific Islander population grew from 36,777 residents in 2010 to 59,247 in 2020. Gaining more than 22,000 new residents, Utah's Pacific Islander population (alone or in combination) had the fifth highest growth of the fifty states and Washington D.C. and a growth rate of 61.1%. This caused Utah to rise from the 6<sup>th</sup> largest Pacific Islander population in the nation in 2010 to the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in 2020.

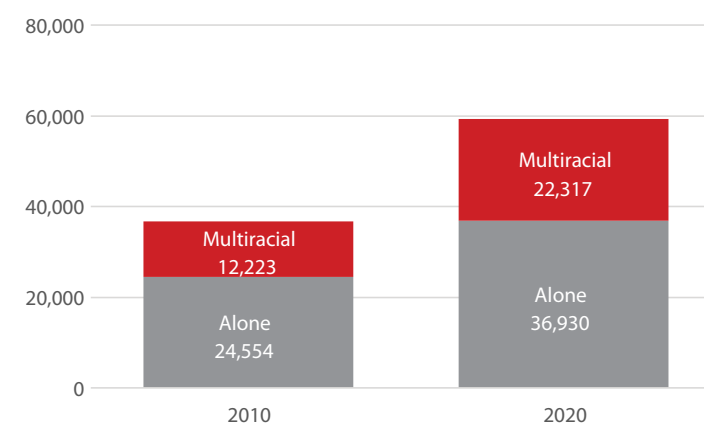
Between 2010 and 2020, Utah's multiracial Pacific Islander population grew faster than the Pacific Islander alone population. As a result, the share of multiracial residents within Utah's Pacific Islander population increased from 33.2% in 2010 to 37.7% in 2020.

**Figure 6: Utah's Pacific Islander Alone Population, 1980-2020**



Note: Brackets and percentages display percent change in the Pacific Islander population each decade. 1980 Census tables did not publish counts for the Pacific Islander population, so displayed values were calculated by combining available group counts for Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Guamanian.  
Source: IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org), U.S. Census Bureau, 2000-2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File (PL 94-171)

Figure 7: Utah's Pacific Islander Alone and Multiracial Pacific Islander Residents, 2010 and 2020

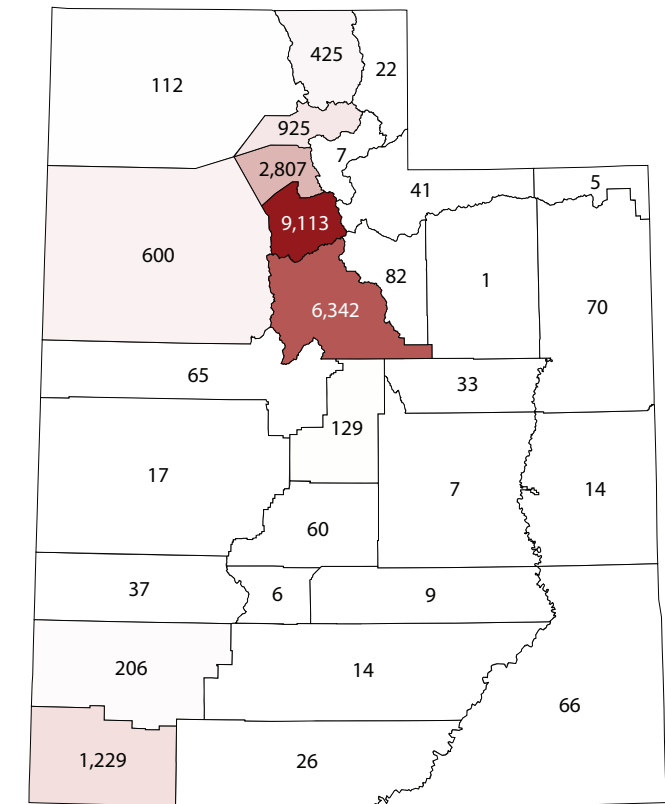


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

County Growth Comparison

Between 2010 and 2020, Salt Lake County added 9,113 Pacific Islander residents, more than any other county in the state. Utah County added the second most Pacific Islander residents (6,342), followed by Davis County (2,807) and Washington County (1,229).

Figure 8: Pacific Islander Population Growth by County, 2010-2020



Note: Pacific Islander alone or in combination population growth  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

City Growth Comparison

The three cities that gained the most Pacific Islander residents last decade were West Valley City (2,079), West Jordan (1,186), and Provo (1,057). The fastest-growing Pacific Islander populations (in places with 200 Pacific Islander residents) between 2010 and 2020 were Eagle Mountain (216% increase), Saratoga Springs (183% increase), and Midvale (171% increase). In eight Utah cities with 5,000 residents, Pacific Islander population growth accounted for at least one-quarter of overall population growth: Cedar Hills (41.3%), Provo (39.5%), Cottonwood Heights (32.1%), White City (31.3%), Kearns (26.4%), and Washington Terrace (25.0%).

Table 1: Top 10 Utah Cities with Highest Pacific Islander Population Growth, 2010-2020

	Pacific Islander Population Change, 2010-2020
West Valley City	2,079
West Jordan	1,186
Provo	1,057
Orem	1,003
Herriman	959
South Jordan	758
Lehi	744
Salt Lake City	717
St. George	689
Eagle Mountain	633

Note: Alone or in combination population.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census Summary File 1 (SF 1), 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

Table 2: Top 10 Utah Cities and Towns with Fastest Growing Pacific Islander Populations, 2010-2020

	Pacific Islander Population Growth Rate, 2010-2020
Eagle Mountain	216.0%
Saratoga Springs	183.1%
Midvale	171.2%
Tooele	142.6%
Washington	133.9%
Lehi	116.8%
North Salt Lake	116.2%
South Jordan	112.0%
American Fork	91.7%
Springville	88.6%

Note: Of places with 200 or more Pacific Islander residents in 2010, including alone or in combination populations.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census Summary File 1 (SF 1), 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

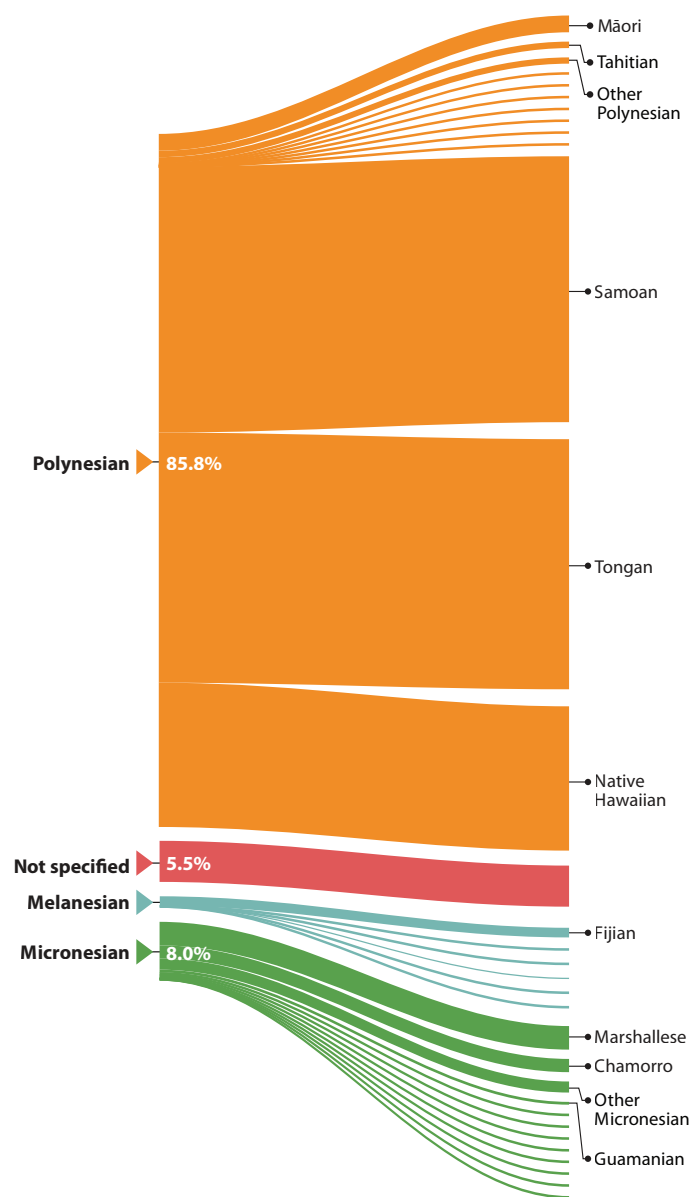
# Pacific Islander Regional Groups and Detailed Races

## Regional Groups

Utahns identifying as Pacific Islander belong to three regional groups: Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian. For a map of these regions, see the Regional Group Appendix.

The vast majority of Utah's Pacific Islander residents identify within the Polynesian regional group, which includes 85.5% of Pacific Islanders statewide. This group includes Utahns who identify as Samoan, Tongan, and Native Hawaiian, among other detailed races.

**Figure 9: Utah's Pacific Islander Population by Regional Group and Detailed Race, 2020**



Note: Data reflects alone or in combination populations. Individuals who reported multiple detailed Pacific Islander races are tallied multiple times in this figure. Made using Sankeymatic.com. Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

## Detailed Groups

Pacific Islander Utahns identify as 28 different detailed races at the most detailed level, although two groups compose more than 70% of the entire population.

Over one-third (36.6%) of Pacific Islanders in Utah identify as Samoan, the state's largest detailed Pacific Islander group. Of Utah's 21,658 Samoan residents, 12,526 (57.8%) selected Samoan as their only detailed race.

Tongan Utahns are the state's second-largest detailed Pacific Islander group, composing another third (34.4%) of Pacific Islander residents statewide. Over half (12,961 of 20,372) of Tongan residents identify as Tongan alone - the largest single-race Pacific Islander group in Utah. The third largest Pacific Islander group (alone or in combination with other races) is Native Hawaiian, with 11,753 Utahns, followed by Marshallese, with 1,918 residents.

## State Comparisons

In addition to having the nation's 3rd highest share of Pacific Islanders, Utah also ranks high for many regional and detailed group shares. The 1.6% of Utah residents identifying as Polynesian is the 3rd highest in the nation. Within the Polynesian population, Utah includes the 2nd highest shares of Tongan, Māori, Tahitian, Other Polynesian, Niuean, Rotuman, Cook Islander, and French Polynesian residents and the third highest share of Samoan residents in the nation.

Utah is also home to the 5th largest share of Melanesian residents, including the 5th largest Fijian share in the nation. Utah's Micronesian population makes up the 9th largest population share in the nation, with the 5th highest Marshallese and the 2nd highest I-Kiribati shares.

# Comparing Pacific Islander Groups

## Geography

Each of the four Wasatch Front counties features a unique regional makeup of Pacific Islander residents. In Utah and Salt Lake counties, nearly 9 in 10 Pacific Islanders are Polynesian, while Polynesian residents in Davis and Weber counties compose close to 75% of the Pacific Islander populations. Davis and Weber counties also include higher shares of Micronesian residents than Salt Lake and Utah counties: 16.1% in Davis and 18.6% in Weber, compared to 6.3% in Salt Lake County and 4.6% in Utah County.

Utah's 5th largest county, Washington County, has a similar Pacific Islander makeup to Utah County, with 89.8% of Pacific Islanders identifying as Polynesian. Meanwhile, Cache County's Pacific Islander population includes the smallest Polynesian



share (65.6%) and the largest Micronesian (26.4%) and Melanesian (8.6%) shares out of Utah's six largest counties. For more county-level insights into regional groups, see Regional Group Appendix Table 11.

Age

Like the Pacific Islander population overall, all eight detailed Pacific Islander groups with available age data are younger than Utah's total population. In each of these eight groups, over one-third of residents are under 18, and no more than 5.0% of residents have reached retirement age (65 or older).

Utah's Marshallese, Fijian, and Tahitian populations are the youngest Pacific Islander groups, with nearly half of residents under age 18 and 0.9 to 3.0% of residents age 65 and older. In contrast, Utah's Chamorro population is the oldest Pacific Islander group, with 35.1% of residents under 18 and 5.0% 65 and older.

Due to their large youth populations, detailed Pacific Islander groups include smaller percentages of working-age residents than the state, with residents age 18 to 64 composing 47.8% to 53.9% of each group. The Chamorro population is the exception, exceeding the state's 59.4% working-age share by half a percentage point.

Population Change

Data back to 1990 shows all eight of Utah's detailed Pacific Islander alone groups with available data growing over time. Utah's Tongan alone population has remained the state's largest single-race Pacific Islander group over the past three decades. In 1990, Utah's Samoan alone and Native Hawaiian alone populations were each less than half the size of the state's Tongan population. However, between 1990 and 2010, the Samoan population grew rapidly, nearly matching the Tongan population in 2020. For three decades, Utah's Other Micronesian alone population has experienced the fastest growth, increasing from 83 to 2,852 residents and nearly surpassing the Native Hawaiian population in size.

Additional data from 2010 and 2020 includes Pacific Islanders who identify with multiple detailed races in growth calculations. This data reveals that Utah's Polynesian population increased by 18,884 residents last decade (58.9%). Utah's Micronesian and Melanesian populations added fewer residents but grew faster, both doubling in size with growth rates of 104.0% and 101.3%, respectively.

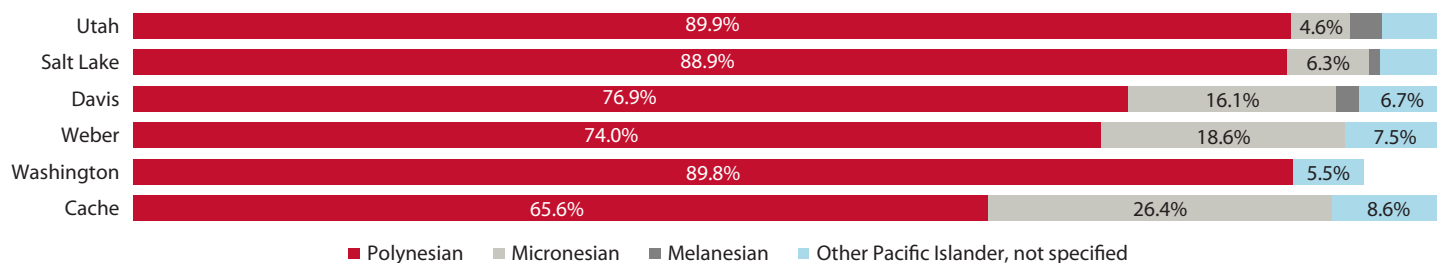
Of the seven detailed Pacific Islander groups with available 2010 and 2020 data, Utah's Samoan alone or in combination population gained the most new residents - 8,572 (a 65.5% increase). The Marshallese alone or in combination population grew fastest, increasing 141.9% with a gain of 1,125 residents.

Table 3: Utah's Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population, Share, and U.S. Rank by Regional Group and Detailed Race, 2020

Detailed Group	Population		Share of Total Population	U.S. Rank by Share of Total Population
	Alone	Alone or in Combination		
<b>Polynesian</b>	<b>31,414</b>	<b>50,862</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>3</b>
Samoan	12,526	21,658	0.7%	3
Tongan	12,961	20,372	0.6%	2
Native Hawaiian	2,870	11,753	0.4%	6
Māori	180	1,366	0.0%	2
Tahitian	103	527	0.0%	2
Other Polynesian	291	509	0.0%	2
Niuean	8	74	0.0%	2
Rotuman	5	68	0.0%	2
Cook Islander	8	48	0.0%	2
Tokelauan	1	46	0.0%	4
French Polynesian	7	22	0.0%	2
Tuvaluan	2	11	0.0%	6
Wallisian and Futunan	0	1	0.0%	1
Easter Islander	2	X		22
<b>Micronesian</b>	<b>3,489</b>	<b>4,725</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>9</b>
Marshallese	1,761	1,918	0.1%	5
Chamorro	485	1,077	0.0%	15
Other Micronesian	777	901	0.0%	7
Guamanian	103	227	0.0%	15
Palauan	76	147	0.0%	14
Pohnpeian	95	129	0.0%	7
Chuukese	72	120	0.0%	13
I-Kiribati	33	97	0.0%	2
Yapese	17	38	0.0%	9
Saipanese	10	19	0.0%	12
Kosraean	10	18	0.0%	12
Carolinian	1	5	0.0%	1
<b>Melanesian</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5</b>
Fijian	227	785	0.0%	5
Papua New Guinean	8	23	0.0%	9
Ni-Vanuatu	10	17	0.0%	3
Other Melanesian	1	10	0.0%	17
New Caledonian	1	5	0.0%	7
Solomon Islander	X	4	0.0%	1
Other Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, not specified	1,466	3,263	0.1%	9

Note: Gray rows display regional groups. Share of total population calculated using alone or in combination population. U.S. rank compares the share of the total state population in all 50 states and Washington D.C. Values showing an "X" are suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A), 2020 DEC Redistricting Data (PL 94-171)

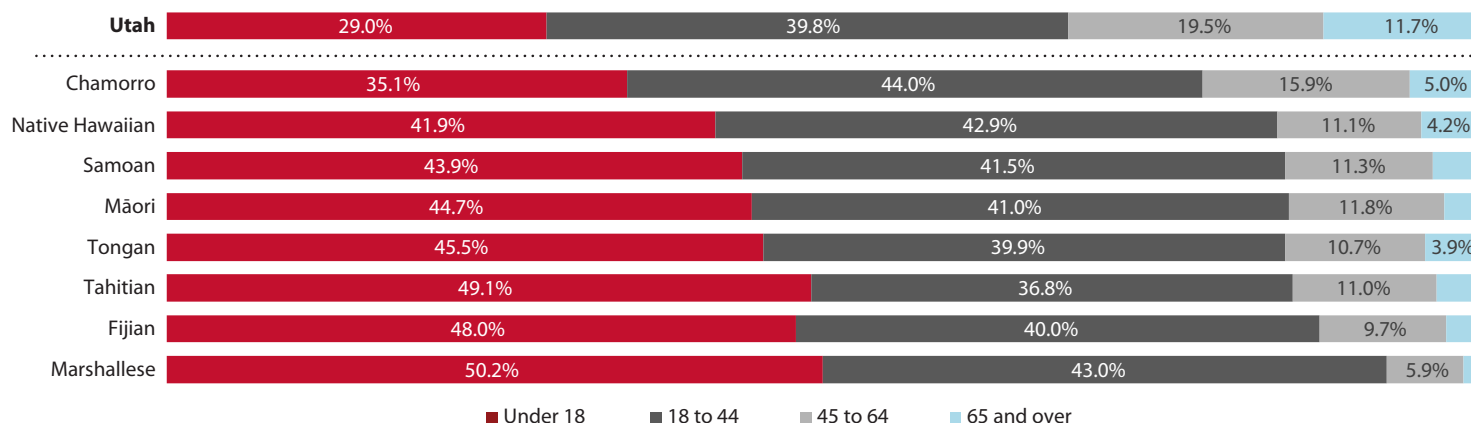
**Figure 10: Pacific Islander Population by Regional Group for Utah's 6 Largest Counties, 2020**



Note: Alone or in combination population. Shares may not sum to 100% due to rounding and the effects of privacy protections. Data is only available for regional groups with at least 94 county residents.

Source: Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A), 2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

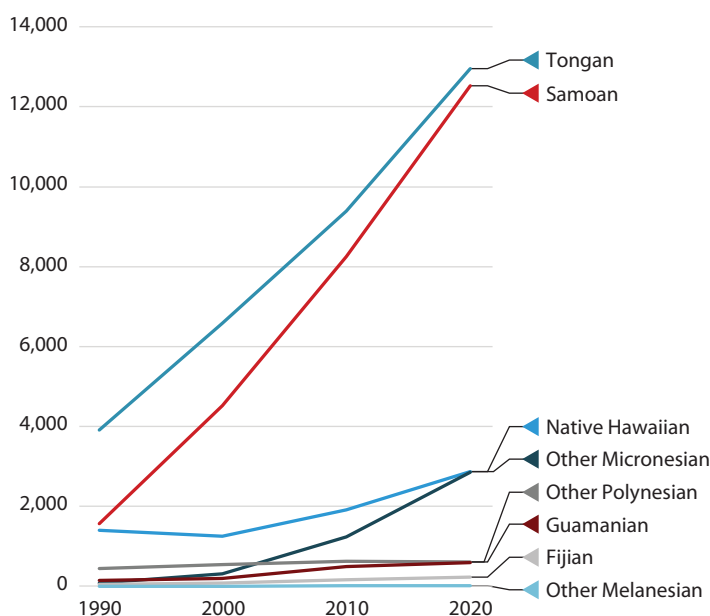
**Figure 11: Utah's Largest Pacific Islander Detailed Groups by Age Group, 2020**



Note: Figure displays alone or in combination populations. Utah bar displays Utah's total population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

**Figure 12: Utah's Detailed Pacific Islander Alone Group Populations, 1990-2020**



Note: Figure displays single race alone population. All detailed Pacific Islander groups with available data to 1990 are shown.

Source: IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org), U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census Summary File 1 (SF 1), 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

**Figure 13: Pacific Islander Population Growth Rates by Regional and Detailed Group, 2010-2020**

#### Regional Groups

Micronesia	104.0%	+2,409
Melanesian	101.3%	+397
Polynesian	58.9%	+18,884

#### Detailed Groups

Marshallese	141.9%	+1,125
Guamanian or Chamorro	48.2%	+424
Fijian	114.5%	+419
Tongan	53.9%	+7,137
Samoa	65.5%	+8,572
Native Hawaiian	80.1%	+5,228
Tahitian	81.7%	+237

Note: Data reflects alone or in combination population. Values below group names represent absolute growth between 2010 and 2020. Detailed group colors correlate to regional groups.

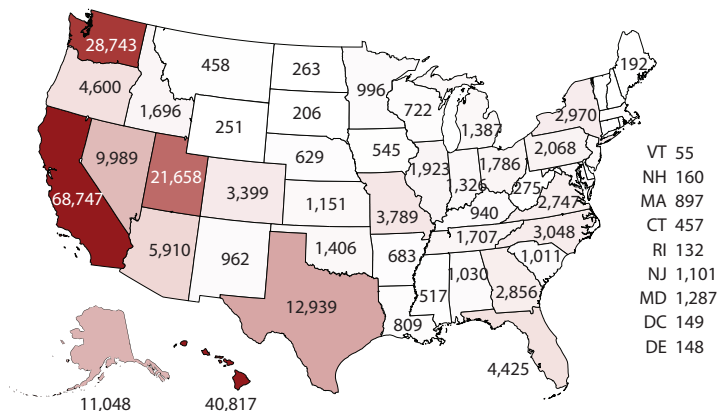
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary File (SF2), 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

# Samoan Utahns: Utah's Largest Pacific Islander Group

Utah's Samoan population is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation at 21,658 residents. More than 1 in 3 Pacific Islanders in Utah (36.6%) identify as Samoan. Within Utah's Samoan population, 12,526 residents (57.8%) identify as Samoan alone, while another 9,132 residents identify as Samoan in combination with other detailed races.

Samoan Utahns compose 0.7% of Utah's total population, the 3rd highest Samoan share in the 50 states and D.C., after Hawaii (2.8%) and Alaska (1.5%).

Figure 14: Samoan Population by State, 2020



Note: Data reflects alone or in combination population.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

## Geography

Over half of Utah's Samoan residents (52.7%) live in Salt Lake County, home to 36.2% of the state's total population. Another 35.3% of the Samoan population lives in Weber, Davis, or Utah counties, which combined amounts to nearly 9 in 10 Samoan Utahns (88.1%) living along the Wasatch Front.

In Salt Lake County, Samoan residents compose 1.0% of the total population, the highest share of any county in Utah. Washington County includes the second-highest share of Samoan residents (0.8%), followed by Utah County (0.8%).

West Valley City has the largest Samoan population of any city in Utah, with 3,103 residents. The second largest Samoan population in the state resides in West Jordan, with 1,679 residents, followed by Salt Lake City, with 1,429. Orem and Provo also have Samoan populations of more than 1,000 residents.

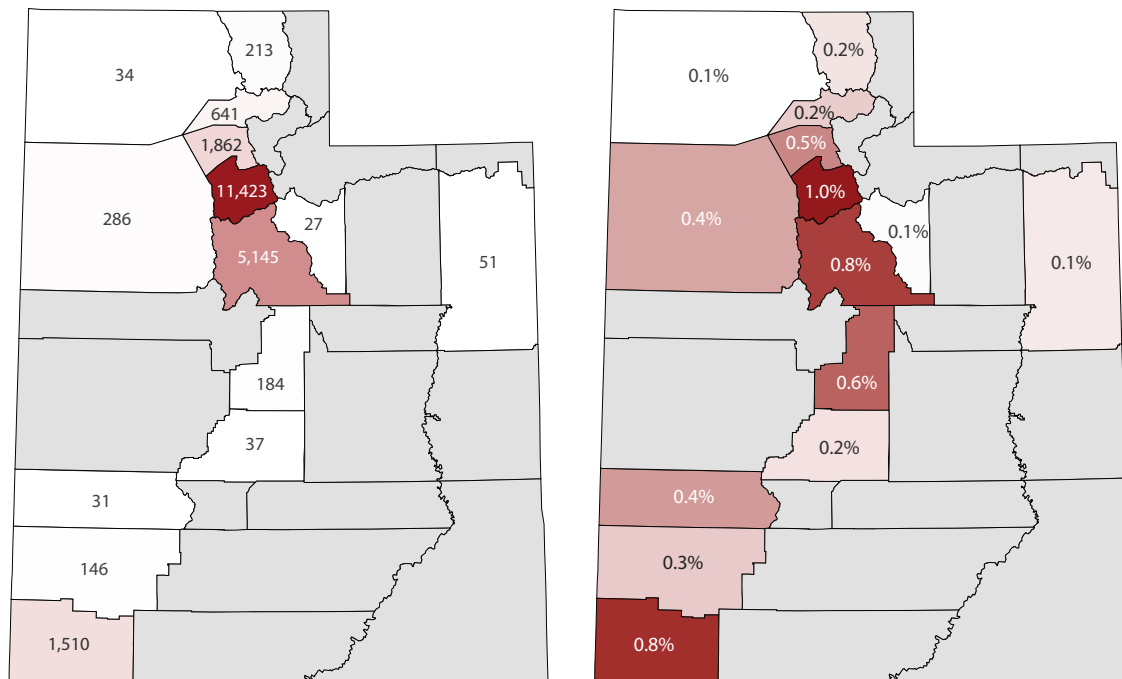
In West Valley City, 2.2% of the total population identifies as Samoan, the highest share of any city (with 2,000 residents) in the state. Kearns, Ephraim, Vineyard, and Taylorsville follow, with Samoan residents composing more than 1.5% of their populations.

## Age

Utah's Samoan population is the youngest in the nation, with a higher share of Samoan residents under 18 than any other state. Idaho's Samoan population is the second youngest, followed by Alaska and Kansas.

Figure 15: Utah's Samoan Population and Share of Population by County, 2020

Note: Alone or in combination population. Counties shaded gray had fewer than 22 Samoan residents.  
Source: Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A), 2020 Redistricting Files (PL 94-171)





Youth under age 18 compose 43.9% of Utah's Samoan population, with Samoan youth under age five outnumbering retirement-aged Samoans by 4 to 1. In comparison, youth under 18 make up 41.8% of the Pacific Islander population and 29.0% of Utah's total population. Residents age 65 and older compose 3.3% of Utah's Samoan population, a smaller share than at the state level (11.7%) or within the full Pacific Islander population (3.9%).

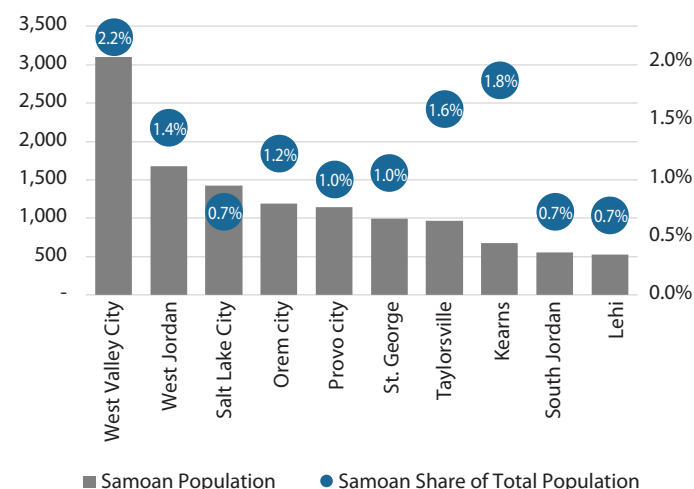
### Population Change

Since 1980, the population of Utahns identifying as Samoan alone has grown quickly, with the fastest growth occurring in the 1990s, when Utah's Samoan population nearly tripled. Since this 188.1% increase, growth has slowed but remained high compared to Utah overall, increasing 82.3% during the 2000s and 51.9% in the 2010s.

Between 2010 and 2020, Utah gained just as many multiracial Samoan residents (4,292) as Samoan alone residents (4,280). Combined, the Samoan alone or in combination population gained 8,572 residents last decade, a 65.5% increase.

Between 2010 and 2020, Salt Lake County added 3,734 Samoan residents (48.6% increase), the most of any county in Utah. Tooele County's Samoan population grew the fastest, more than doubling from 101 to 286 residents (183.2% growth). Over the decade, West Valley City gained the most Samoan residents- 690, followed by West Jordan (600) and Orem (598). Meanwhile, the Samoan population tripled in Eagle Mountain and Midvale and more than doubled in South Jordan, Washington, and Orem.

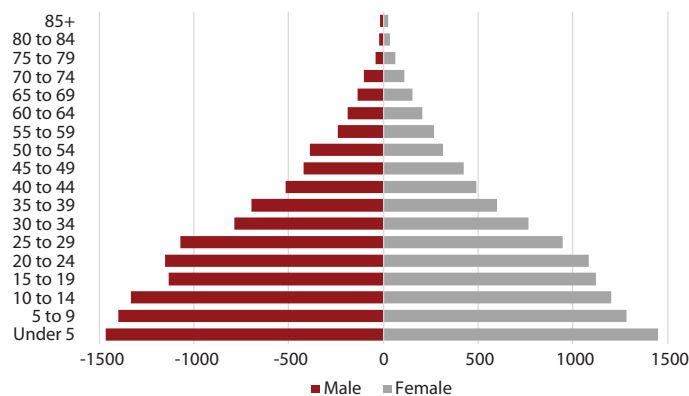
**Figure 16: Top 10 Utah Cities with Largest Samoan Populations, 2020**



Note: Alone or in combination population.

Source: 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File-A (DDHC-A)

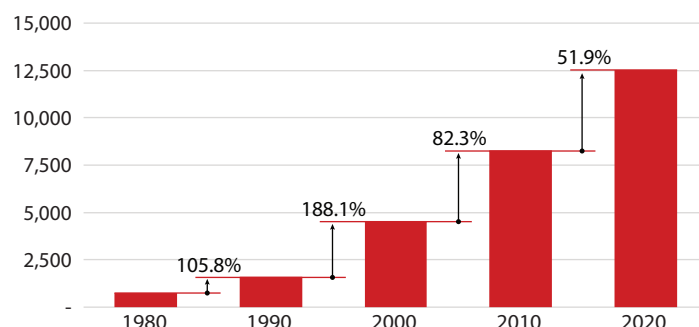
**Figure 17: Utah's Samoan Population by Sex and Age Group, 2020**



Note: Alone or in combination population.

Source: 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File-A (DDHC-A)

**Figure 18: Utah Samoan (Alone) Population, 1980-2020**



Source: IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org), U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census Summary File 1 (SF 1), 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

# Tongan Utahns: Utah's Largest Pacific Islander Alone Group

Utah's 20,372 residents identifying as Tongan are the 2nd largest Tongan population in the nation after California. One-quarter of Tongan Americans reside in Utah, comprising 0.6% of the state's total population, a share exceeded only by Hawaii.

Within Utah's Tongan population, almost 13,000 residents (63.6%) identify as Tongan alone —the largest single-race Pacific Islander population in the state. Another 7,000 residents identify as Tongan in combination with other detailed races.

More than 1 in 3 Pacific Islanders in Utah (34.4%) identify as Tongan (alone or in combination with other races). Nationally, 1 in 20 Pacific Islanders identify as Tongan (5.0%). In no other U.S. state do Tongan residents compose more than 8% of the Pacific Islander population.

## Geography

Six in ten Tongan Utahns (63.1%), or 12,859 Tongan residents, live in Salt Lake County — the largest county-level Tongan population in the United States. These residents compose 1.1% of Salt Lake County's total population, the largest Tongan share in Utah. Utah and Tooele counties have the second and third-highest shares of Tongan residents at 0.6%. Utah's Tongan population is highly concentrated along the Wasatch Front, with 91.9% of residents living in Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, or Utah counties.

Among Utah's cities and towns, West Valley City has the largest Tongan population, with 3,343 Tongan residents composing 2.4% of the population. Salt Lake City ranks second, with 3,163 Tongan residents, followed by West Jordan (1,274) and Provo (1,019).

## Age

Like the Pacific Islander population, Utah's Tongan population is young. Within Utah's Tongan population, children under age five outnumber retirement-age residents (65 and older) by 3 to 1. Youth under age 18 compose 45.5% of the Tongan population, while residents 65 and older compose only 3.9%.

Utahns who identify as Tongan alone are considerably older than those who identify as Tongan along with other detailed races. While 35.1% of single-race Tongan residents are younger than 18, 63.7% of Tongans who identify as multiple detailed races are under 18.

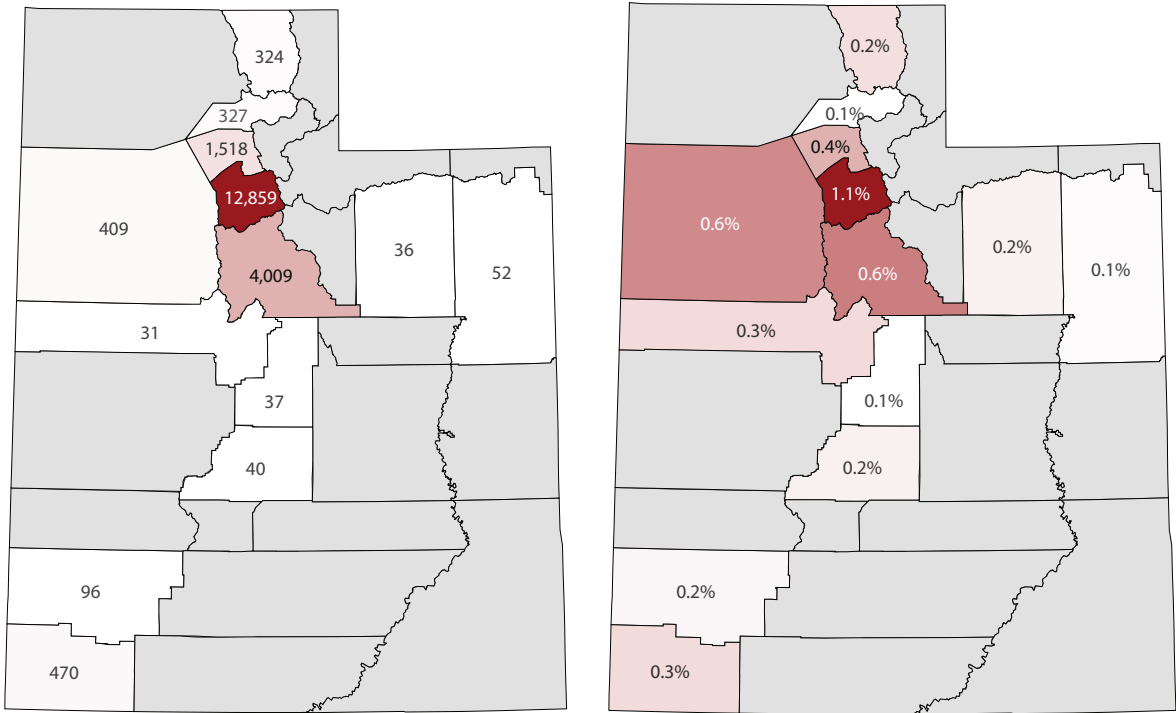
## Population Change

The population of Tongan alone Utahns has increased over the last three decades, with growth slowing over time. The fastest growth occurred in the 1990s, when Utah's Tongan alone population grew 68.7%, increasing from 3,904 to 6,587 residents. In the 2000s, this growth rate dropped to 42.3%, then in the 2010s to 38.0%.

Counts that include Tongan residents identifying as multiple detailed races show Utah's Tongan population increasing from 13,235 residents in 2010 to 20,372 in 2020. This 53.9% growth rate is more than double Utah's statewide growth rate last decade but is lower than growth rates for most other Pacific Islander groups.

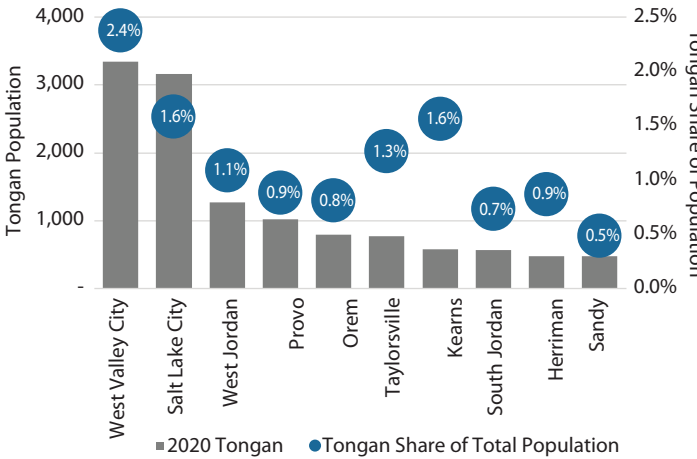
**Figure 19: Utah's Tongan Population and Share of Population by County, 2020**

Note: Alone or in combination population. Counties shaded gray had fewer than 22 Tongan residents.  
Source: Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A), 2020 Redistricting Files (PL 94-171)



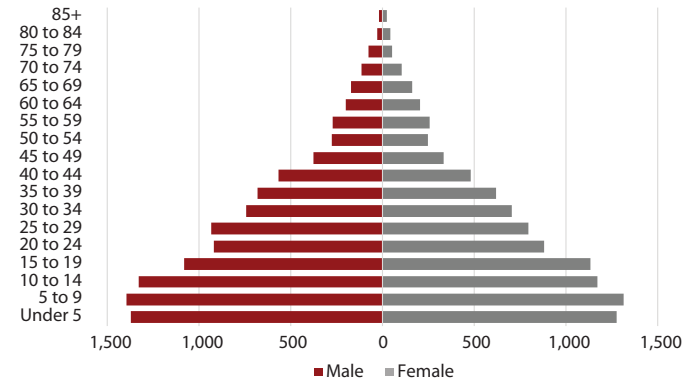
Between 2010 and 2020, Salt Lake County added 3,596 Tongan alone or in combination residents (38.8% growth), the most of any county in Utah. Tooele County's Tongan population grew the fastest, tripling from 130 to 409 residents (214.6% growth). At the city level, West Valley City added the most Tongan residents- 981 (41.5% increase), followed by West Jordan (456; 55.7%) and Provo (339; 49.9%). In eight Utah cities, the Tongan population doubled between 2010 and 2020: Layton, North Salt Lake, Lehi, Tooele, Midvale, Murray, Saratoga Springs, and St. George.

**Figure 20: Top Ten Utah Cities with Largest Tongan Populations, 2020**



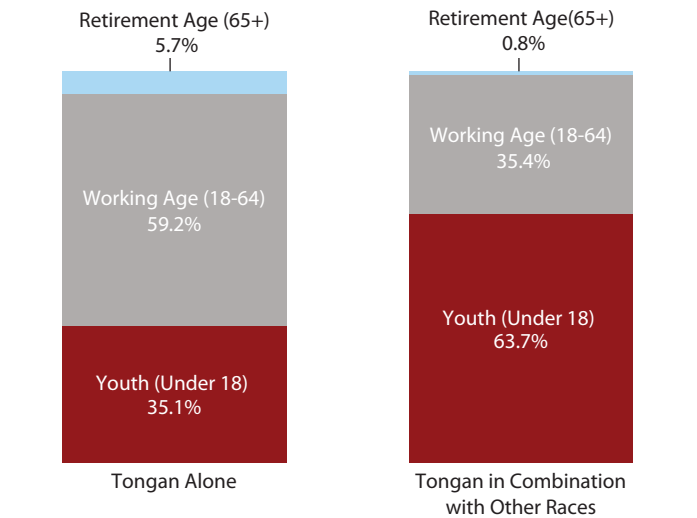
Note: Alone or in combination population.  
Source: 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File-A (DDHC-A), 2020 Redistricting Files (PL 94-171)

**Figure 21: Utah's Tongan Population by Sex and Age, 2020**



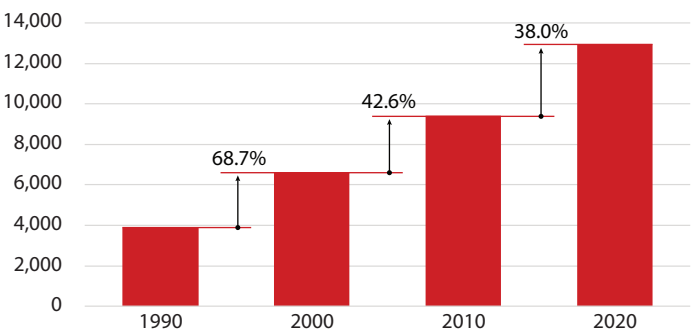
Note: Alone or in combination population.  
Source: 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File-A (DDHC-A)

**Figure 22: Utah's Tongan Alone and Multiracial Tongan Population by Age Group, 2020**



Source: 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File-A (DDHC-A)

**Figure 23: Utah's Tongan (Alone) Population, 1990-2020**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A), 1990 Decennial Census Reports, IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org).

Data Appendix

This data appendix presents all available DDHC-A data for Utah's Pacific Islander detailed groups (besides Samoan and Tongan, analyzed in detail above). For each of Utah's 28 detailed Pacific Islander groups, DDHC-A data provides total population counts for the state and any county with 22 or more residents identifying within the group. Age breakdowns are available for most groups:

- 23 age categories available for populations of 7,000 or more,
- Nine categories for populations of 1,000-6,999, and
- Four categories for populations of 500 to 999.

For 7 of the 28 Pacific Islander groups, 2010 data is also available, allowing for growth calculations across the decade.

Detailed Groups with 7,000 or more Utah residents

3 groups: Samoan, Tongan, Native Hawaiian

**Samoan: 21,658 Utahns** (Insights on pages 8–9)

**Tongan: 20,372 Utahns** (Insights on pages 10–11)

**Native Hawaiian: 11,753 Utahns**

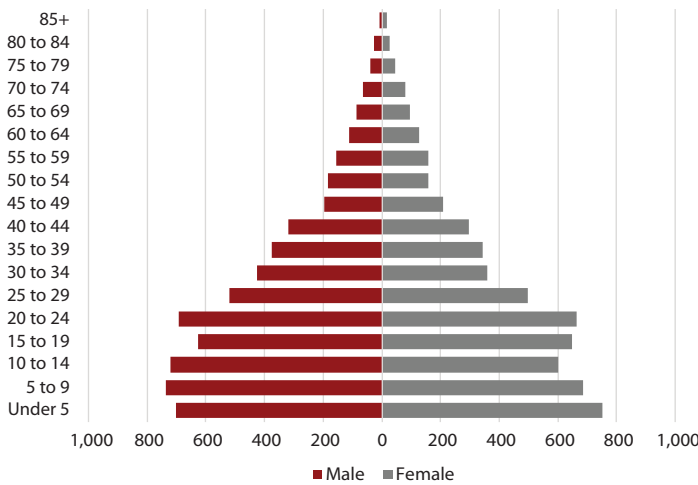
- Utah's 3rd largest detailed Pacific Islander alone or in combination group.
- 2,870 Utahns (24.4%) identify as Native Hawaiian alone, while another 8,883 Utahns identify as Native Hawaiian in combination with other detailed races (75.6%).
- 8 in 10 Native Hawaiian Utahns (83.3%) live in the Wasatch Front counties. Another 7.8% reside in Washington County.
- Utah's Native Hawaiian population grew from 6,525 residents in 2010 to 11,753 in 2020, increasing 80.1%.
- Utah's Native Hawaiian population is younger than Utah's population overall, with:
  - 41.9% under 18 (compared to 29.0% of Utah residents)
  - 4.2% age 65 and older (compared to 11.7% of Utah residents)

Table 4: Utah's Native Hawaiian Population by County, 2020

County	Native Hawaiian Population	County	Native Hawaiian Population
Box Elder	97	Sevier	60
Cache	229	Summit	43
Davis	1,211	Tooele	162
Iron	191	Uintah	57
Juab	23	Utah	4,049
Salt Lake	3,846	Wasatch	39
San Juan	29	Washington	911
Sanpete	60	Weber	681

Note: Table displays alone or in combination population counts. Counties omitted from the table did not meet the Census Bureau population threshold of 22 residents. Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

Figure 24. Utah's Native Hawaiian Population by Sex and Age Group, 2020



Note: Figure displays alone or in combination population counts. Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

Detailed Groups with 1,000 to 6,999 Utah Residents

3 groups: Marshallese, Māori, Chamorro

Table 5: Detailed Pacific Islander Populations between 999 and 7,000 by County, 2020

County	Māori	Marshallese	Chamorro
Box Elder		33	
Cache		301	
Davis	106	309	285
Iron			23
Salt Lake	462	900	307
Tooele	24		39
Utah	562	134	139
Washington	77		59
Weber	45	186	158

Note: Table displays alone or in combination population counts. Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

Table 6: Detailed Pacific Islander Populations between 999 and 7,000 by Age, 2020

	Māori	Marshallese	Chamorro
Total	1,366	1,918	1,077
Under 5	198	375	113
5 to 17	413	587	265
18 to 24	216	320	141
25 to 34	212	287	188
35 to 44	132	217	145
45 to 54	101	82	76
55 to 64	60	32	95
65 to 74	19	14	35
75 and over	15	4	19
Under 18	44.7%	50.2%	35.1%
65+	2.5%	0.9%	5.0%

Note: Table displays alone or in combination population counts. Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

Table 7: Absolute and Percent Change for Detailed Pacific Islander Populations between 999 and 7,000, 2010 to 2020

	2010	2020	Change	Percent Change
Marshallese	793	1,918	1,125	141.9%
Chamorro or Guamanian	880	1,304	424	48.2%

Note: Table displays alone or in combination population counts. In 2010 Chamorro and Guamanian counts were combined. 2020 counts for both groups are combined in this table for a direct comparison. Maori data is unavailable for 2010.

Detailed groups with less than 1,000 residents

25 groups: Other Micronesian, Fijian, Tahitian, Other Polynesian, Guamanian, Palauan, Pohnpeian, Chuukese, I-Kiribati, Niuean, Rotuman, Cook Islander, Tokelauan, Yapese, Papua New Guinean, French Polynesian, Saipanese, Kosraean, Ni-Vanuatu, Tuvvaluan, Other Melanesian, Carolinian, New Caledonian, Solomon Islander, and Wallisian and Futunan

Table 8: Detailed Pacific Islander Populations under 1,000 by County, 2020

County	Fijian	Tahitian	Guamanian	Palauan	Pohnpeian	Chuukese	I-Kiribati	Niuean	Rotuman	Cook Islander
Davis	55	58	40	42	32	40				
Salt Lake	292	153	76	40	60	63	22	39		24
Tooele			25							
Uintah	26									
Utah	309	242	23	29	27		54	26	52	
Washington	43		32							
Weber	28			24						

Note: Table displays alone or in combination counts. Counties excluded from the table had less than 22 residents from each of the 22 detailed Pacific Islander groups with less than 1,000 residents. Detailed groups with less than 22 residents in every Utah county are excluded from the table.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

Table 9: Detailed Pacific Islander Populations Under 1,000 by Age, 2020

	Fijian	Tahitian
Total	785	527
Under 18	377	259
18 to 44	314	194
45 to 64	76	58
65 and Over	18	16
Share Under 18	48.0%	49.1%
Share 65+	2.3%	3.0%

Note: Table displays alone or in combination counts. Utah's 23 Other Pacific Islander groups with less than 1,000 residents were too small to receive age-specific data.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

Table 10: Absolute and Percent Change for Detailed Pacific Islander Populations under 1,000, 2010 to 2020

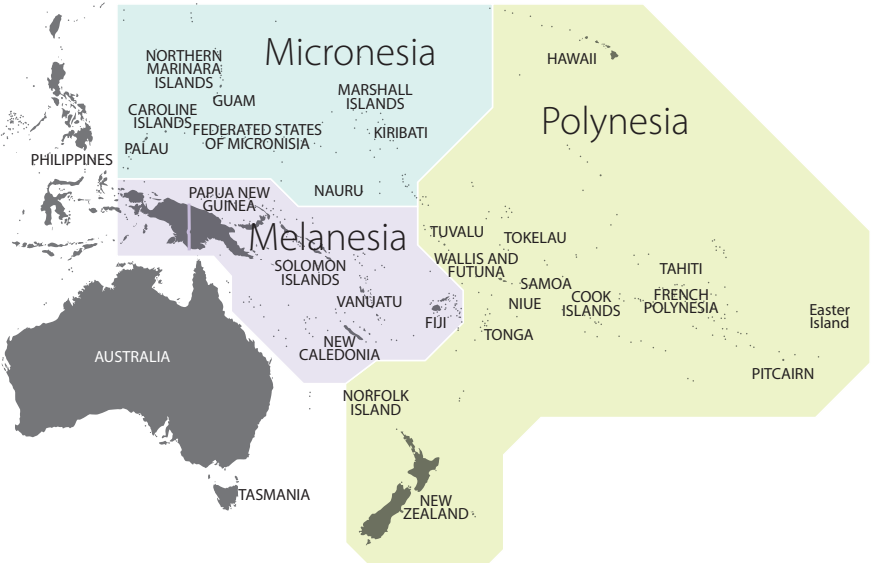
	2010	2020	Absolute Growth	Percent Growth
Guamanian or Chamorro	880	1,304	424	48.2%
Fijian	366	785	419	114.5%
Tahitian	290	527	237	81.7%

Note: Table displays alone or in combination population counts. In 2010 Chamorro and Guamanian counts were combined. 2020 counts for both groups are summed in this table for a direct comparison. Excluded groups were not reported in 2010 Census Data.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census Summary File 2 (SF 2), 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

Regional Group Appendix

Figure 25: Pacific Islander Regional Group Map

- Polynesia:**  
New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Easter Island
- Micronesia:**  
Palau, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Marshall Islands, I-Kiribati
- Melanesia:**  
Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Ni Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji





**Table 11: Pacific Islander Regional Group Populations by County, 2020**

County	Polynesian	Micronesian	Melanesian
Box Elder	156	99	
Cache	767	309	
Davis	4,409	922	101
Iron	417		
Salt Lake	26,618	1,884	263
Sanpete	288		

County	Polynesian	Micronesian	Melanesian
Tooele	834		
Uintah	187		
Utah	12,425	635	342
Wasatch	94		
Washington	2,696		
Weber	1,611	406	

Note: Blank table cells indicate a population of less than 94 residents, a population threshold set by the Census Bureau. Excluded counties had fewer than 94 residents in each of the three regional groups.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (DDHC-A)

**Table 12: Pacific Islander Population of Utah Cities and Towns (10,000 residents and above), 2010 and 2020**

Place	Pacific Islander Population			
	2010	2020	Change	Percent Change
Alpine	55	105	50	90.9%
American Fork	325	623	298	91.7%
Bluffdale	56	212	156	278.6%
Bountiful	548	927	379	69.2%
Brigham City	49	103	54	110.2%
Cedar City	221	403	182	82.4%
Cedar Hills	98	190	92	93.9%
Centerville	71	204	133	187.3%
Clearfield	355	644	289	81.4%
Clinton	163	350	187	114.7%
Cottonwood Heights	242	301	59	24.4%
Draper	438	637	199	45.4%
Eagle Mountain	293	926	633	216.0%
Farmington	117	207	90	76.9%
Grantsville	29	62	33	113.8%
Heber	33	90	57	172.7%
Herriman	199	1,158	959	481.9%
Highland	185	258	73	39.5%
Holladay	177	272	95	53.7%
Hurricane	188	263	75	39.9%
Kaysville	117	252	135	115.4%
Kearns metro tow	1111	1,373	262	23.6%
Layton	595	1,091	496	83.4%
Lehi	637	1,381	744	116.8%
Lindon	121	224	103	85.1%
Logan	390	679	289	74.1%
Magna	712	1,011	299	42.0%
Mapleton	93	114	21	22.6%
Midvale	316	857	541	171.2%
Millcreek	570	779	209	36.7%
Murray	385	708	323	83.9%
North Logan	89	93	4	4.5%

Place	Pacific Islander Population			
	2010	2020	Change	Percent Change
North Ogden	59	114	55	93.2%
North Salt Lake	359	776	417	116.2%
Ogden	525	770	245	46.7%
Orem	1666	2,669	1003	60.2%
Payson	103	233	130	126.2%
Pleasant Grove	358	626	268	74.9%
Pleasant View	44	80	36	81.8%
Provo	2258	3,315	1057	46.8%
Riverton	400	643	243	60.8%
Roy	186	411	225	121.0%
Salt Lake City	4660	5,377	717	15.4%
Sandy	929	1,227	298	32.1%
Santaquin	21	122	101	481.0%
Saratoga Springs	296	838	542	183.1%
Smithfield	32	69	37	115.6%
South Jordan	677	1,435	758	112.0%
South Ogden	119	199	80	67.2%
South Salt Lake	344	622	278	80.8%
Spanish Fork	446	693	247	55.4%
Springville	350	660	310	88.6%
St. George	1189	1,878	689	57.9%
Syracuse	158	360	202	127.8%
Taylorsville	1567	1,991	424	27.1%
Tooele	237	575	338	142.6%
Vernal	46	81	35	76.1%
Vineyard	0	514	514	NA
Washington	221	517	296	133.9%
West Haven	50	112	62	124.0%
West Jordan	2268	3,454	1186	52.3%
West Point	59	110	51	86.4%
West Valley City	5557	7,636	2079	37.4%
Woods Cross	173	373	200	115.6%

Note: Table displays alone or in combination population counts.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census Summary File 2 (SF 1), 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

# Technical Details

## 2020 Census Questionnaire

The 2020 census form asked U.S. residents to indicate their specific, or detailed, race in addition to selecting one or more of the seven major race categories. For example, after checking the “Black or African American” box, respondents could write in “Nigerian.” This opportunity was not available to all groups in 2010.<sup>4</sup>

Race data produced by the Census Bureau is based on how individuals self-identify and reflects “a social definition of race recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically.” The Census Bureau recognizes that the race categories contained in the data include “racial and national origin or sociocultural groups.”<sup>5</sup>

**7. What is this person's race?**  
Mark ☒ one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

☐ White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

☐ Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.

☐ Chinese ☐ Vietnamese ☐ Native Hawaiian

☐ Filipino ☐ Korean ☐ Samoan

☐ Asian Indian ☐ Japanese ☐ Chamorro

☐ Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.

☐ Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

☐ Some other race – Print race or origin.

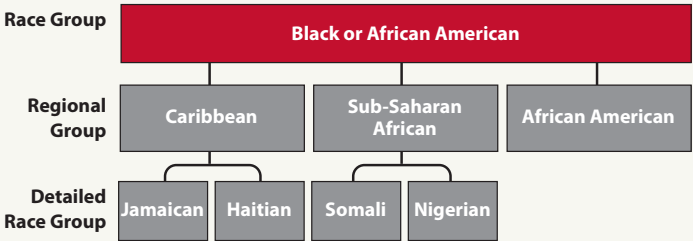
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

## Data Organization

The detailed race data collected by the 2020 questionnaire, called the Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DDHC-A), provides the basis for this report. The Census Bureau organized this data at three levels.<sup>6</sup>

- Race Groups:** Data initially organizes populations into six broad race groups. These include the five race groups prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget: American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and White, plus Some Other Race.
- Regional Groups:** Detailed DHC-A data divides the six race groups into 24 regional groups.<sup>7</sup> Most regional groups refer to global geographies, such as Caribbean or European, but others refer to identities independent of specific geographies, such as African American.
- Detailed Race Groups:** At the most granular level, many regional groups further split to form 270 detailed race groups and 1,187 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages. Detailed race groups indicate a specific origin, such as Jamaican or Swedish.

**Figure 26: Sample Detailed DHC-A Race Data Organizational Flow Chart**



Note: Groups shown above are a sample of the six race groups, 24 regional groups, and 270 detailed race groups and 1,187 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages contained in the Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristic File (DDHC-A) data. The African American regional group does not disaggregate into detailed race groups.

## Technical Details (Continued)

### Alone or In Combination

The Census Bureau reports detailed race groups two ways: “alone” and “alone or in combination.”<sup>8</sup> An “alone” count includes respondents who chose a single race group to describe themselves, such as “Japanese.” This count represents the minimum number of people who could be included in a detailed group.

An “alone or in combination” count includes everyone identifying a detailed race as part or all of their background. It includes respondents who selected a single race group, such as “Japanese,” and those who selected multiple, such as “Japanese and Thai” or “Japanese and White.” For this reason, multiracial individuals are included in alone or in combination totals rather than counted separately.

This paper utilizes counts of “alone or in combination” (unless otherwise noted), as they provide a useful lens for understanding Utah’s increasingly racially diverse residents. One limitation of alone or in combination data is that individuals who report more than one detailed race are tallied multiple times, causing aggregated totals to exceed published group counts.

### Decadal Comparisons

The Census Bureau updates questionnaire items around race and ethnicity, reflecting changes in society each decade.<sup>9</sup> Data users should use caution when comparing 2010 and 2020 Census race data, considering improvements in the 2020 race and ethnicity question design, processing, and coding.<sup>10</sup>

### Endnotes

1. Perlich, P. S. (2002, October). *Utah Minorities: The Story Told by 150 Years of Census Data*. Bureau of Economic and Business Research, David S. Eccles School of Business, University of Utah.
2. During the 1980s Utah’s Asian and Pacific Islander alone population was the state’s fastest-growing race group. During the 1990s and 2010s, the Pacific Islander alone population was the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing group. During the 2000s The Pacific Islander population grew third fastest out of seven groups.
3. Counts showing an “X” are suppressed for one of two reasons: (1) the count was negative or (2) it is an alone count larger than its equivalent alone or in any combination count. If the suppressed count is an alone count, data users should use the equivalent alone in any combination count, if it is available.
4. Coritz, A., Peña, J. E., Jacobs, P., Rico, B., Hahn, J. K., & Lowe, R. H. (2023, September 21). *Census Bureau releases 2020 Census population for more than 200 new detailed race and ethnicity groups*. Census.gov. <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/09/2020-census-dhc-a-race-overview.html#:~:text=More%20than%20350%20million%20detailed,data%20processing%20and%20coding%20procedures>
5. U.S. Census Bureau (2022, March 1). *About the Topic of Race*. Census.gov <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html>
6. 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (Detailed DHC-A) Technical Documentation, prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2023.
7. The 2020 Census Hispanic Origin and Race Iterations List details the countries and people groups included in each regional group. It can be downloaded at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2023/dec/2020-census-detailed-dhc-a.html#technical-documentation>
8. 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (Detailed DHC-A) Technical Documentation, prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2023.
9. Pratt, B. M., Hixson, L., & Jones, N. A. (2015, November 2). *Measuring race and ethnicity across the decades: 1790-2010*. Census.gov. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2015/11/measuring-race-and-ethnicity-across-the-decades-1790-2010.html>
10. 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (Detailed DHC-A) Technical Documentation, prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2023.