

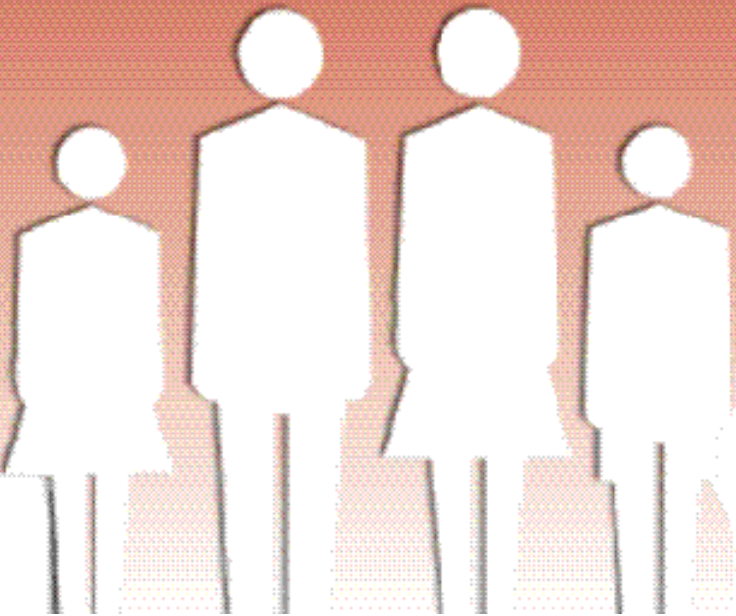
Arkansas

DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH BRIEF

Arkansas 2020

Arkansas Population Projections and Demographic Characteristics for 2020

Prepared by Gregory Hamilton, Ph.D.
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Arkansas 2020: Arkansas Population Projections and Demographic Characteristics for 2020

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Preface

Demographic Research at the Institute for Economic Advancement On-Line Publications

This on-line publication produced by Demographic Research at IEA presents population-related information regarding the state of Arkansas of interest to researchers, policymakers, the media, and the general public. This series consists of short and timely reports that will appear on a regular basis.

The initiative for this publication comes from the Arkansas 2020 group. Arkansas 2020 is a project initiated by the Arkansas Legislature that brings together state agencies and the major universities of Arkansas to study potential implications and devise possible new policies, programs, and structures. One of the initial tasks for Arkansas 2020 is to collect and analyze demographic estimates and projections that will shed light upon the coming changes.

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Questions concerning this series or this particular publication shall be directed to Gregory L. Hamilton at glhamilton@ualr.edu, (501) 569-8571.

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Introduction

The demographic profile of Arkansas is constantly changing. Recent indications are that over the next 15 years, there will be a major increase in the aging population, as well as other potential demographic changes. These changes are likely to have significant impacts upon the needs of, and resources available to, Arkansas citizens. Arkansas 2020 is a project initiated by the Arkansas Legislature that brings together state agencies and the major universities of Arkansas to study potential implications and devise possible new policies, programs, and structures. One of the initial tasks for Arkansas 2020 is to collect and analyze demographic estimates and projections that will shed light upon the coming changes.

This report is a description of the Arkansas population in 2000 and the potential population in 2020. It is derived from U.S. Census Bureau data, with projections and analysis prepared by the UALR Institute for Economic Advancement.

The three basic demographic characteristics of a population are included in the analysis: gender, age, and race and ethnic origin. Methodologies and terminology used in the study conform to U.S. Census Bureau and professional standards.

Substate areas used for study include Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), a combination of MSAs and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and rural areas of the state. The study provides projections of the number and percent of Arkansans by age, race and gender, their growth rates, their changes relative to the U.S., the state as a whole, and the substate areas. Demographic statistics regarding age dependency and other ratios are also included in the study, for purposes of further analysis.