

MIDTERMS 2022

The Changing Demographics of the Electorate at a State Level

While less than two full presidential election cycles ago, 2016 may feel like a significant time ago politically. Hotly contested midterm elections and the 2020 presidential contest, the coronavirus, and now the war in Ukraine have all transformed the tenor and dynamics of American politics. So too have the demographics of the electorate changed since 2016.

Data from the 2020 Census has already shown how the U.S. population has continued and even sped up its demographic diversification.¹ This demographic change in the overall population has trickled slowly into the electorate as younger, more diverse generations of U.S.-born people age into voting eligibility and as more foreign-born individuals take the important step of gaining U.S. citizenship and the right the vote.

With the 2022 midterm elections on the horizon, this factsheet takes a look at the latest Current Population Survey data from 2022 and compares it to data from 2020 and 2016 in order to provide a snapshot of which states' electorates are changing the most rapidly. In some swing states where close races are expected to take place, the extent to which changing electorates can be activated by different campaigns may help determine who wins and who loses come November.

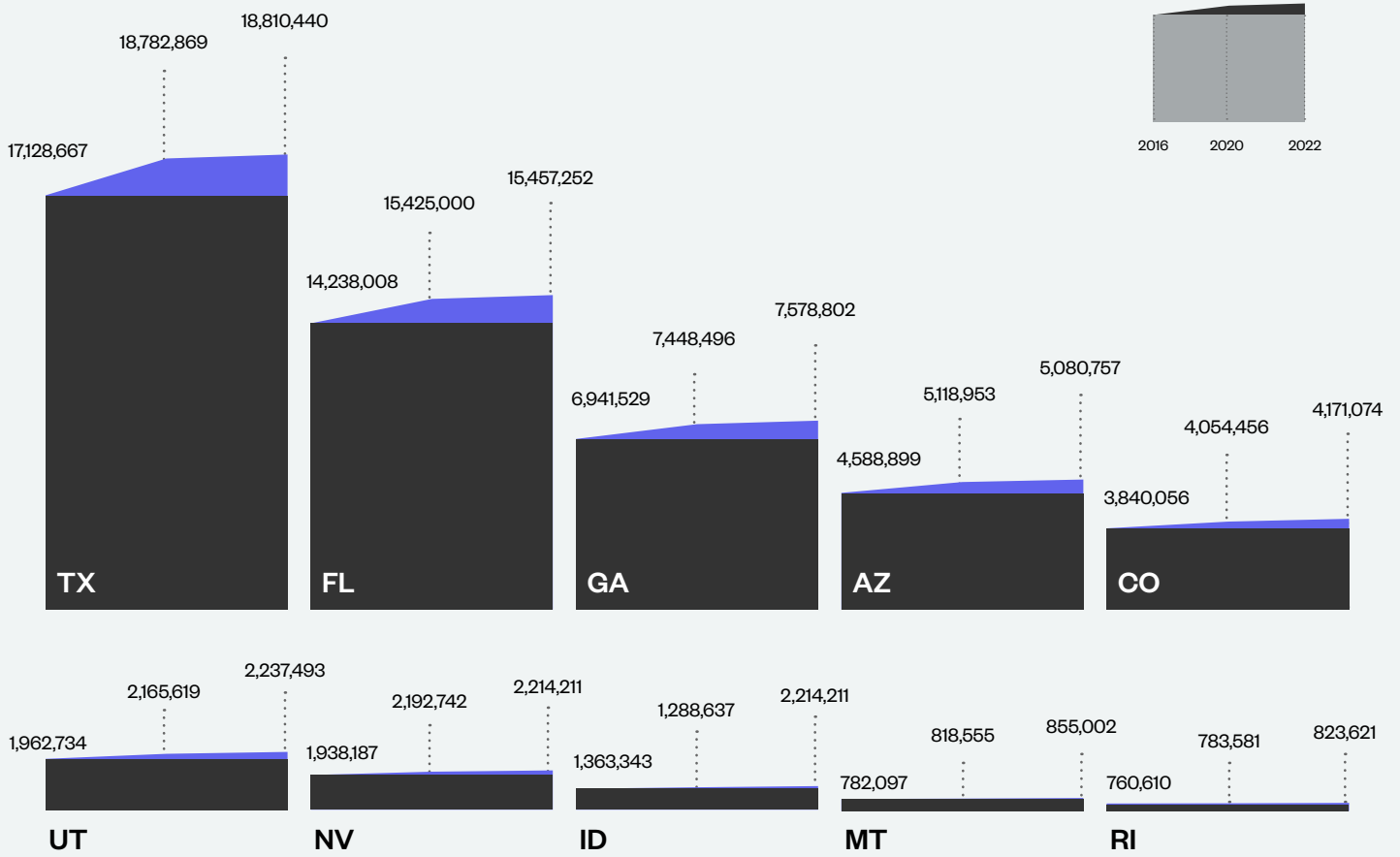


TABLE 1: FASTEST GROWING STATES BY NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS, 2016-2022

State	Total, 2022	Total, 2016	Change in Total, 2016-2022	Growth Rate, 2016-2022
Idaho	1,363,343	1,155,413	207,930	18.0%
Nevada	2,214,211	1,938,187	276,023	14.2%
Utah	2,237,493	1,962,734	274,759	14.0%
Arizona	5,080,757	4,588,899	491,857	10.7%
Texas	18,810,440	17,128,667	1,681,773	9.8%
Montana	855,002	782,097	72,905	9.3%
Georgia	7,578,802	6,941,529	637,273	9.2%
Colorado	4,171,074	3,840,056	331,018	8.6%
Florida	15,457,252	14,238,008	1,219,244	8.6%
Rhode Island	823,621	760,610	63,012	8.3%

- Several states have seen especially rapid expansion of their eligible voter populations. States that have seen rapid population growth, unsurprisingly have seen their numbers of adult U.S. citizen residents increases commensurately.
- Idaho, which was the fastest growing state in terms of population in 2021,² also saw the fastest growth in its voting eligible population between 2016 and 2022, growing by 208,000 or 18 percent.
- Texas, a perennially fast growing state for decades now, also saw significant growth with almost more 1.7 million eligible voters in 2022 than estimated in 2016.

STATES WITH LARGEST NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS, 2016-2022



STATES WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS, 2016-2022

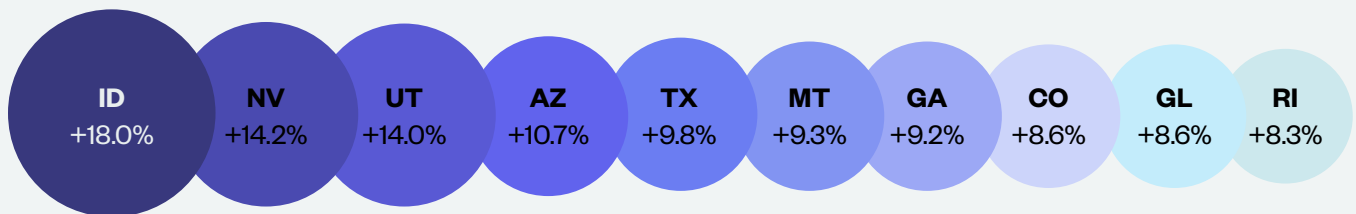


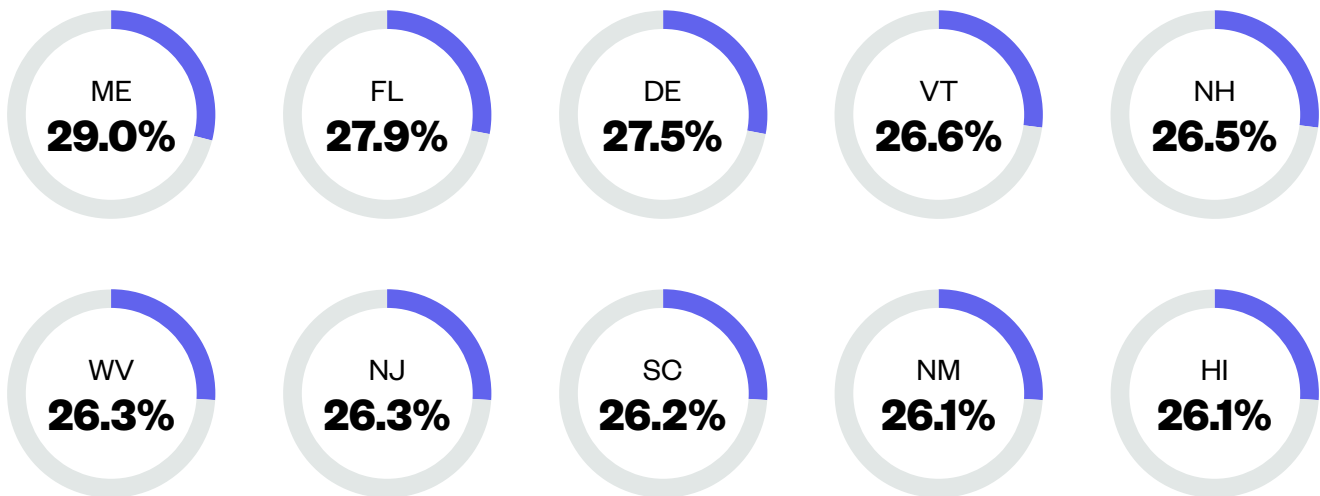
TABLE 2: FASTEST AGING ELECTORATES, 2016-2022

State	Share 65+, 2022	Share 65+, 2016	Change in Share 2016-2022	Growth Rate, 2016-2022
New Hampshire	26.5%	20.4%	6.1%	18.0%
Wyoming	25.2%	19.7%	5.5%	14.2%
South Carolina	26.2%	21.1%	5.1%	14.0%
Maine	29.0%	24.1%	4.9%	10.7%
New Jersey	26.3%	21.5%	4.8%	9.8%
Connecticut	24.7%	20.0%	4.7%	9.3%
Alaska	20.0%	15.3%	4.7%	9.2%
Vermont	26.6%	22.0%	4.6%	8.6%
Louisiana	22.7%	18.3%	4.4%	8.6%
New Mexico	26.1%	21.7%	4.4%	8.3%

- New Hampshire, a key swing state in the Northeast, saw the largest relative increase in the share of its eligible voter population that was 65 years or older. From 20.4 percent in 2016, the elderly share of the electorate increased by more than 6 percentage points to reach 26.5 percent, meaning well over 1 out of 4 eligible voters in the Granite State were 65 years or older.
- While population growth is usually associated with younger segments of the population, South Carolina, a fast-growing state, saw the elderly share of its eligible voter population increase by more than 5 percentage points from 2016 to 2022.



TABLE 3: SHARE OF 65+ ELECTORATES, 2022



- Overall, however, the oldest electorates were found in states that are already well-known for having larger elderly population. Maine, the oldest state in the Union with a median age of 44.8 years, is also the state with the largest share (29%) of its eligible voter population aged 65 and older.
- Florida, a longtime destination for retirees, also has a high share of eligible voters who are elderly, with 27.9 percent being aged 65 or older.

TABLE 4: STATES WITH FASTEST GROWING HISPANIC ELECTORATES, 2016-2022

State	Total 2022	Share 2022	Total 2016	Share 2016	Change in Total, 2016-2022	Change in Share, 2016-2022
Nevada	495,860	22.4%	342,819	17.7%	153,041	4.7%
California	8,250,286	32.5%	7,151,797	28.4%	1,098,490	4.1%
Florida	3,427,218	22.2%	2,767,037	19.4%	660,181	2.7%
New Jersey	902,965	14.6%	737,277	12.1%	165,688	2.4%
Arizona	1,361,736	26.8%	1,117,651	24.4%	244,085	2.4%
Texas	5,835,065	31.0%	4,898,446	28.6%	936,619	2.4%
Connecticut	316,617	12.2%	262,291	10.3%	54,327	1.9%
Virginia	372,721	6.2%	268,907	4.6%	103,814	1.6%
Georgia	452,814	6.0%	311,593	4.5%	141,220	1.5%
Massachusetts	478,135	9.6%	391,413	8.1%	86,722	1.5%

- Several swing states have rapidly growing Hispanic electorates. Nevada, which has a competitive senate contest this year, saw the largest increase in the Hispanic share of its voting eligible population since 2016. In Nevada, the share of the electorate that identified as Hispanic increased by almost 5 percentage points, from 17.7 percent in 2016 to 22.4 percent in 2022.
- Other states, like Florida (+2.7 percentage points to 22.2% of the electorate), Arizona (+2.4 percentage points to 26.8%), and Texas (+2.4 percentage points to 31.0%) also saw strong growth in the Hispanic share of their eligible voter populations.

TABLE 5: STATES WITH LARGEST HISPANIC ELECTORATES, 2022

State	Total 2022	Share 2022
New Mexico	587,371	39.2%
California	8,250,286	32.5%
Texas	5,835,065	31.0%
Arizona	1,361,736	26.8%
Nevada	495,860	22.4%
Florida	3,427,218	22.2%
Colorado	641,143	15.4%
New Jersey	902,965	14.6%
New York	1,911,661	14.0%
Connecticut	316,617	12.2%

- Overall, New Mexico had the largest share of its electorate that was Hispanic, with almost 4 out of 10 eligible voters identifying as Hispanic.
- California and Texas also had electorates where more than 3 out of 10 eligible voters were Hispanic.

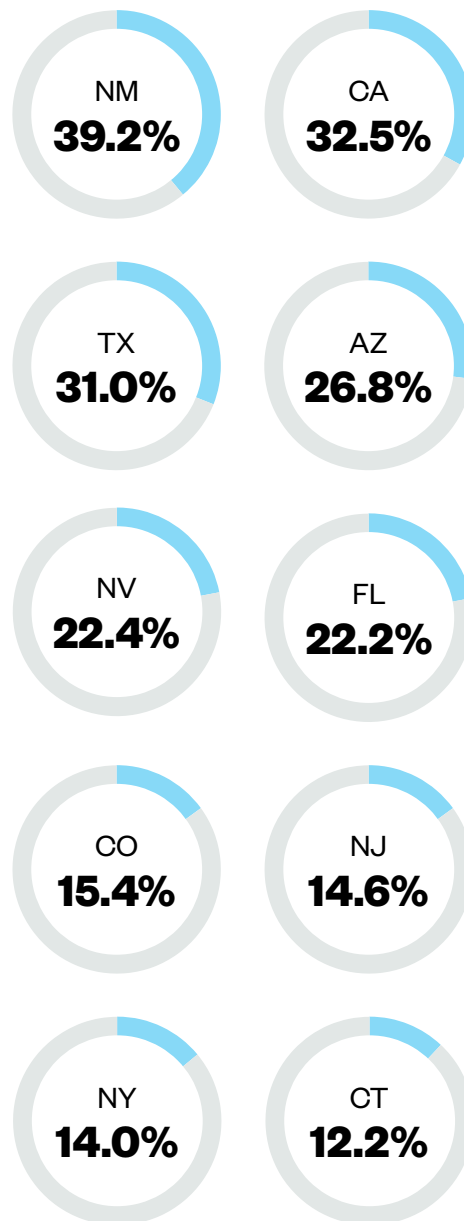


TABLE 6: STATES WITH FASTEST GROWING ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER ELECTORATES, 2016-2022

State	Total Asian, 2022	Share Asian, 2022	Total Asian, 2016	Share Asian, 2016	Change in Total Asian, 2016- 2022	Change in Share Asian, 2016-2022
Minnesota	198,118	4.8%	83,325	2.1%	114,793	2.7%
New Jersey	587,324	9.5%	432,558	7.1%	154,765	2.4%
Maryland	279,335	6.4%	188,611	4.5%	90,724	1.9%
New York	1,148,004	8.4%	936,320	6.9%	211,684	1.6%
Michigan	215,824	2.9%	102,088	1.4%	113,736	1.5%
Massachusetts	299,606	6.0%	222,146	4.6%	77,461	1.4%
New Hampshire	26,419	2.4%	11,557	1.1%	14,861	1.3%
Texas	883,636	4.7%	603,832	3.5%	279,804	1.2%
Washington	423,600	7.9%	336,418	6.7%	87,182	1.1%
Indiana	106,271	2.1%	55,503	1.2%	50,768	1.0%

- Asian and Pacific Islanders (APIs) are also an increasingly important segment of the electorate in several states. Minnesota saw the fastest relative growth in its API voting eligible population, which grew by 2.7 percent point to reach almost 5 percent of the state's electorate.
- Texas, home to increasing numbers of Asian immigrants, also saw a significant increase in the share of eligible voters that were API. From 2016 to 2022, the share of eligible voters that identified as API increased by 1.2 percentage points to reach 4.7 percent of the state's electorate.

TABLE 7: STATES BY ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER (API) SHARE OF THE ELECTORATE, 2022

State	Total API, 2022	Share API, 2022
Hawaii	546,875	54.5%
California	3,927,893	15.5%
Nevada	235,058	10.6%
New Jersey	587,324	9.5%
New York	1,148,004	8.4%
Washington	423,600	7.9%
Maryland	279,335	6.4%
Massachusetts	299,606	6.0%
Alaska	29,403	5.7%
Virginia	325,392	5.4%

- Hawaii, with its unique history, remains the state with the largest share of its electorate that identifies as Asian or Pacific Islander (including Native Hawaiians). More than half, or 54.5 percent of Hawaii's electorate was API in 2022.
- Nevada, another fast-growing state, APIs now make up more than 1 in 10 eligible voters.

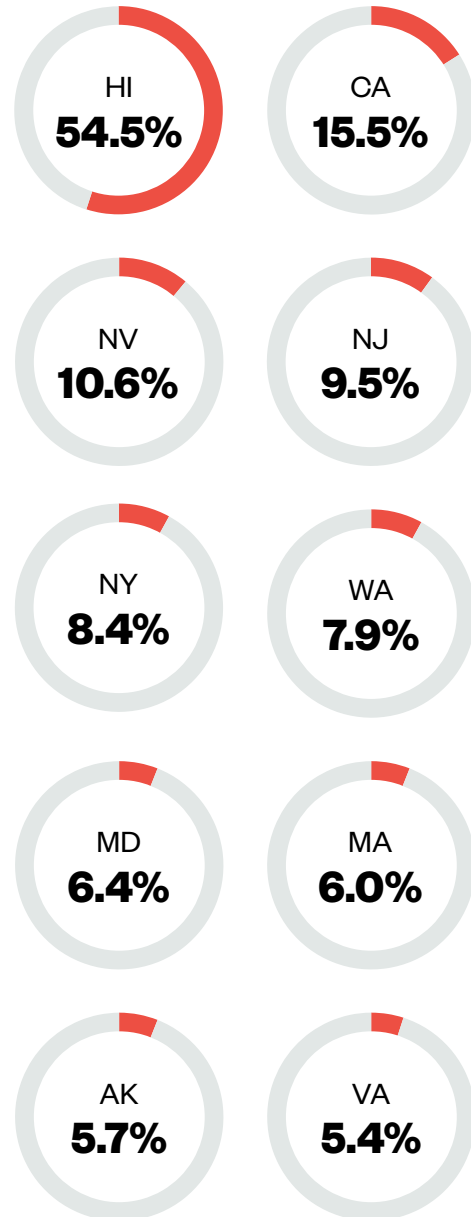


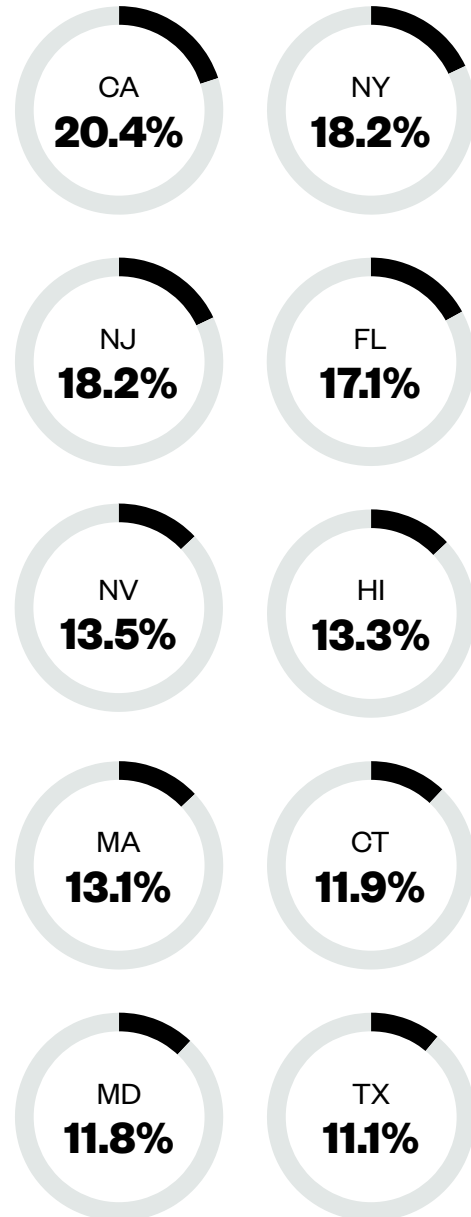
TABLE 8: STATES WITH FASTEST GROWING FOREIGN-BORN ELECTORATES, 2016-2022

State	Total 2022	Share 2022	Total 2016	Share 2016	Change in Total, 2016-2022	Change in Share, 2016- 2022
Connecticut	309,934	11.9%	233,796	9.2%	76,138	2.7%
Michigan	437,651	5.8%	264,456	3.6%	173,196	2.2%
Florida	2,650,860	17.1%	2,139,399	15.0%	511,461	2.1%
New Jersey	1,130,414	18.2%	988,673	16.2%	141,741	2.0%
Massachusetts	655,966	13.1%	540,980	11.2%	114,986	1.9%
Texas	2,096,286	11.1%	1,583,078	9.2%	513,208	1.9%
Arizona	534,739	10.5%	406,606	8.9%	128,133	1.7%
Georgia	515,223	6.8%	375,541	5.4%	139,682	1.4%
Virginia	588,099	9.8%	492,634	8.4%	95,465	1.3%
Ohio	329,756	3.8%	213,720	2.5%	116,036	1.3%

- Florida, a traditional immigrant destination, saw rapid growth in the number and share of immigrant eligible voters between 2016 and 2022, with the immigrant share increasing by 2.1 percentage points to reach 17.1 percent of the state's electorate.
- Texas also saw significant growth among immigrant voters, with the immigrant share of the electorate increasing by almost 2 percentage points to reach 11.1 percent. This means 1 in 9 eligible voters in Texas are immigrants.
- Georgia also saw significant growth among immigrant voters. The immigrant share of the electorate increased by 1.4 percentage points to reach 6.8 percent.

TABLE 9: STATES WITH LARGEST IMMIGRANT SHARES OF THE ELECTORATE, 2022

State	Total 2022	Share 2022
California	5,177,273	20.4%
New York	2,482,462	18.2%
New Jersey	1,130,414	18.2%
Florida	2,650,860	17.1%
Nevada	298,116	13.5%
Hawaii	133,382	13.3%
Massachusetts	655,966	13.1%
Connecticut	309,934	11.9%
Maryland	512,700	11.8%
Texas	2,096,286	11.1%



CONCLUSION

Given the outcomes of various electoral contests since 2016, political commentators know better than to embrace the axiom that ‘demographics is destiny’ blindly. Indeed, each subsequent election comes with reminders for campaigns to avoid the pitfalls of taking entire ethnicities or demographic groups’ votes for granted. While it remains important to understand the make-up of the voting population, understanding how best to reach and appeal to increasingly diverse and intersectional blocs of voters will be key for campaigns looking to adapt effectively now and in the future.

METHODOLOGY

This factsheet uses data from the monthly samples of the Current Population Survey. From each of the years 2016, 2020, and 2022, we combine the six consecutive (January to July) monthly basic samples to create datasets large enough to generate accurate estimates for different demographic groups at the state-level. Each of the monthly samples was downloaded from the University of Minnesota's Population Center's IPUMS data portal (www.ipums.org). In order to generate estimates from the combined sample for each year, the individual final weights from each monthly sample were divided by the number of samples combined for each year (6).

Definitions

We define eligible voters as those who are resident in the United States, who are 18 years of age or older and who are U.S. citizens at the time of the survey. As such, this includes people of voting age who were either born in the United States or who were born abroad to non-citizen parents, who by the time of the survey had completed their naturalization process to become U.S. citizens.

Given that race and ethnicity (Hispanic status) are coded as two separate variables in U.S. Census data, we combine the two for the purposes of our analysis. As Hispanics can be of any race, we mark anyone who identifies as Hispanic as such. This means that anyone who is identified in this factsheet as any broad race group (White, Black, Asian, Native American, etc.) should be understood to be non-Hispanic (e.g. non-Hispanic white, etc.).