

THE NATION

Census predicts ethnic face of the nation in 100 years

By Haya El Nasser
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — One century barely comes to a close, and the Census Bureau already is looking at where the nation will be in 100 years.

Wednesday, the agency released a report projecting for the first time population numbers by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin for every year until 2100. The projections, based on current population trends, show that in 2100:

► U.S. population could be more than double to 571 million.

► There could be 190 million Hispanics, six times more than today, and 72 million Asian-Americans, almost seven times more than today.

► Non-Hispanic whites could

drop from their majority status — 72% now — to 40%. Hispanics of any race could rise to 33% from 12% today and Asians to 13% from 4%. Non-Hispanic blacks are projected to stay the same at 13% of the population.

"As we get beyond 2050, we're less confident of racial distribution," Census demographer Frederick Hollmann says. "There will be more mixed-race couples. Our current perception of race is not going to be the same."

Social demographers say that Hispanics might no longer be broken out as a separate ethnic group in a few decades and that new minority groups could emerge.

► The number of people 65 and older will almost quadruple to 131 million, 5.3 million

will be centenarians compared with 59,000 today.

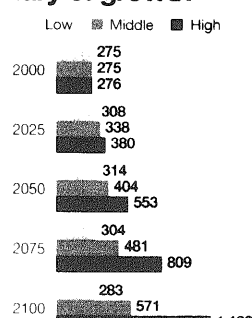
"Anyone who claims to be able to predict with accuracy what the population will be 100 years from now is an entertainer, not an analyst," says Peter Morrison, a demographer at the Rand Corp., a think tank in Santa Monica, Calif.

However, he says the projections are useful because they give a road map to future population trends.

"We cover ourselves in a cloak of caution," Hollmann says. Each projection includes a low, middle and high estimate. The middle estimates are the ones most often used by planners and policymakers who need to worry about Social Security benefits, health-care services and the nation's ability to take care of its elderly.

Another century of growth

The Census Bureau estimates the U.S. population will more than double in 100 years. But even the Census Bureau admits these long-range projections are far from exact. That's why it releases low and high population estimates, based on different assumptions about birth, death and immigration rates each year. The middle estimates are considered the most likely. The estimates, in millions, by year.



The projections are based on assumptions about birth, death, and immigration rates in the next century.

Any unforeseen event, from stricter immigration policies to a war, could alter the numbers.

In 1989, the Census Bureau projected the U.S. population at 268 million by 2000. It is approaching 275 million, largely because of a burst in immigration since 1990 that the bureau could not predict.



Seeking visitation rights: Kelly and Jennifer Brown argue their arguments in court on Wednesday.

'Grandparents' rights' arguments are heard

Justices question broadness of Washington state law

By Richard Willing
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court waded into the uncharted waters of grandparents' rights Wednesday, and several justices expressed doubts about a Washington state law that allows "any person," non-relatives as well as grandparents, to seek visitation rights with children.

"This is a breathtakingly broad provision," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said as the court heard oral arguments on the law. It could mean, she suggested, that "anyone can march in at any time and file a court action" against parents.

But Justice John Paul Stevens, one of six grandparents on the nine-member court, worried that allowing parents an "absolute veto" over who visits their children could result in grandparents being left out of their grandchildren's lives. Should a parent be able to bar even small visits of "only 20 minutes every six months?" Stevens asked.

The case, *Troxel v. Granville*, could have a major impact because all 50 states, reflecting modern realities, have laws allowing grandparents to visit grandchildren. The laws are most frequently invoked when parents divorce or die. But the Supreme Court could issue a narrow decision by limiting its ruling to the language of the Washington statute, the broadest in the country.

The justices peppered lawyers on both sides with questions. All nine seemed intrigued by the



Girls' mother: Jennifer Brown, with her husband, Kelly Wynn, at the court Wednesday.

Thomas, David Souter and Stephen Breyer are grandparents, Smith said. "They were parents first." A decision is expected before July.

► Keeping drivers' records private, 1A

Police get broader authority on stops

Ruling short of giving cops right to question anyone

By Richard Willing
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Citizens who run away when police officers approach can be stopped and questioned provided there are "common sense" reasons to suspect them of committing crimes, a sharply divided Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

At the same time, the justices refused to say that police may stop anyone who flees at the sight of a police officer.

Several police organizations had sought such a ruling, but the court said the "totality of the circumstances" should be considered in deciding whether the questioning of an individual is legal.

Robert Scully, executive director of the National Association of Police Organizations based in Washington, D.C., said that he was "gratified by the decision" and that "effective law enforcement requires no less."

Susan Herman, counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union, called the decision "bad news."

The ruling "gives the police a great blanket behind which to hide. We all know that some are not going to be able to resist temptation," she said.

The case, *Illinois v. Wardlow*, was decided by a 5-4 margin. Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas formed the majority. Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer dissented.

The case involved William Wardlow, who in 1995 was

standing on a sidewalk in a Chicago neighborhood where police said drugs were openly sold. When a car with two police officers passed, Wardlow ran. Police stopped Wardlow and found a .38-caliber handgun and five bullets in a bag he was carrying.

Wardlow appealed his subsequent conviction for carrying a concealed weapon and argued that police did not have a legal basis to stop him. An Illinois court overturned the conviction, but the Supreme Court reinstated it Wednesday.

Wardlow's presence in a high-crime area, as well as the fact that he ran, created a "reasonable suspicion" that he was involved in crime, Rehnquist wrote for the majority.

"Headlong flight is not necessarily indicative of wrongdoing, but it is certainly suggestive of such," he wrote. "The determination of reasonable suspicion must be based on common sense judgments and inferences about human behavior."

The court's minority, however, found the facts too sketchy to support a stop.

There are many "innocent explanations" for "unprovoked flight," Stevens wrote — to catch a bus, to get home for dinner. In a high-crime neighborhood, the sudden approach of unidentified strangers "makes an inference of guilt less appropriate rather than more so," he said.

Stevens did not note the racial backgrounds of the principals — Wardlow is black and the officers are white. Stevens argued that members of racial minorities often perceive discrimination on the part of police officers.

He took note of Justice Department studies that suggest some police departments unfairly single out minority groups for questioning.

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