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## Census 2000: Background and Issues

### IP 537C



The official Census Day for the 22<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Census was on April 1, 2000. Every 10 years since 1790, there has been a national counting of the people of the United States. This is mandated by the Constitution and underscored in Title XIII of the U.S. Code, and not answering the census questionnaire can have legal consequences. The results of the Decennial Census are the basis for determining congressional reapportionment. On or before December 31, 2000, the Bureau is required to report to the President state population counts used to reapportion the seats in the House of Representatives. By April 1, 2001, the states will receive race and ethnicity data for redistricting purposes, as specified by P.L. 94-171 and the Voting Rights Act.

The amount of federal money divided among the states for some government programs is, in part, determined by Census results. Certain questions are asked just to help in this effort. In addition, public policy research and many business initiatives depend on the existence of the continual stream of data that the Bureau of the Census provides, not only in the decennial population and housing counts, but also in other data-producing activities hosted by the Bureau in the years between decennial censuses.

Conducting the Census is a costly effort (the FY2000 appropriation is \$4.8 billion, as compared with \$2.6 billion in 1990 and \$1.8 billion in 1980) and not without inherent problems. How can a nation of over 275 million people residing in over 3.7 million square miles count *all* its inhabitants and record salient data about their lives? Won't people be missed, for a variety of reasons? Measuring the undercount has been a persistent problem. Commerce Secretary William M. Daley indicated that the 1990 Census was the first census in 50 years to be less accurate than its predecessor, containing over 12 million errors and undercounting millions of Americans, especially children and racial and ethnic minorities. For Census 2000, the Bureau developed a number of outreach efforts, such as partnerships with business and local groups and paid advertising campaigns, to encourage people to return their answered questionnaires.

Prior to Census 2000, particular questions regarding race and Hispanic identity were changed to reflect new OMB guidelines released in 1997. These guidelines are included in this Info Pack. Once Census 2000 got underway, the long-form questionnaire (sent to one in six U.S. households) raised a number of privacy concerns due to its length and the detailed and personal nature of its questions. (Sample questionnaires are available on the Census Bureau's Web site: [<http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/infoquest.html>].) News articles,

included in this Info Pack, describe public reaction to the use of the long form and how this reaction might have hindered the Census 2000 response rate. On September 19, 2000, the Bureau announced that 67% of the 120 million households that received a form in the mail filled it out and returned it, indicating a 2% increase over the 65% response rate from 1990.

The controversial question of statistical sampling, which the Bureau endorses, was settled largely, but not entirely, by the Supreme Court's determination in January 1999 that only a strict enumeration will be allowed for reapportionment purposes. The Census Bureau interpreted the Court's decision as not denying the legitimacy of statistical methods for other purposes. Thus, the Bureau will conduct a two-tiered Census, one based on a strict enumeration of all households for reapportionment, and a second which will generate a set of data "adjusted" by sampling. The sampling issue is addressed by this Info Pack; also included is information on how some states intend to use the Census numbers to redraw their legislative districts ("redistrict") and the court cases involved.

A special bipartisan body, the Census Monitoring Board, was created by the House Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on the Census, to monitor the plans for conducting Census 2000. The Board has two WEB sites, one for its congressionally-appointed members [<http://www.cmbc.gov>] and one for its presidential appointees [<http://www.cmbp.gov>]. The Subcommittee on the Census can also be accessed at the following Internet site: [<http://www.house.gov/danmiller/census>]. The Census Bureau Internet site may be accessed at: [<http://www.census.gov>].

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan areas for statistical purposes according to published standards that are applied to Decennial Census data. These standards are reviewed with each Census. Final recommendations from the current Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee to OMB were published in the *Federal Register* on August 22, 2000, for public comment. An excerpt is enclosed.

Members of Congress who want more information may contact CRS at 7-5700. Other CRS products can be found via the CRS Home Page on the Web by searching "All CRS Products" [<http://www.congress.gov/crsp/crspquery.html>] for the word "census." This Info Pack will be updated as legislation or news events warrant.

Constituents can find more on this topic in a local library by using printed and online indexes. They include *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*, Public Affairs Information Service *Bulletin* (PAIS), and various newspaper indexes. Books on this subject can be found in the library's catalog or *Subject Guides to Books in Print*. Many libraries have the World Wide Web for public use, and many of the sources we cite, and others, can be found online.

We hope this information will be helpful.

Information Research  
Division

# Virginia asks court ruling on census

By Stephen Dinan  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Virginia might not be able to hold elections in 2001 if the state doesn't get permission to use actual census-count numbers, a lawyer for the state told a three-judge federal court panel in the District yesterday.

The actual question before the panel was whether this is the right time to hear the case. The judges took the issue under advisement.

But beneath that legal question is the issue of how municipalities, states and the federal government will use the 2000 census numbers.

This year's census is different than previous ones because the U.S. Census Bureau is planning to issue two different sets of numbers — one for the actual head count and one adjusted count, based on mathematical models that are supposed to account for uncounted residents. The 1990 census missed millions of people, particularly minorities in inner cities, Census Bureau officials say.

But legislatures in Virginia and four other states passed laws saying only actual count numbers will be used when they redraw their legislative districts.

It's safe to say lots of people are watching the Virginia case.

Yesterday the judges were considering only whether now is the right time to approve Virginia's law.

Frank S. Ferguson, deputy attorney general for Virginia, said the state needs to know the rules it must follow for redistricting soon — and that means which numbers to use — or else there won't be enough time for lawmakers to draw up an acceptable plan.

Virginia, because of past voting discrimination, must submit any changes to its voting laws either to a court or to the Justice Department for clearance. Not knowing which numbers it should use means "a very real possibility we will not be able to hold elections in November of 2001," Mr. Ferguson told the judges.

But the Justice Department argued that without seeing the adjusted numbers, it can't tell whether using actual count numbers would disadvantage minority voters in Virginia.

The Census Bureau is leaning toward recommending adjusted numbers be used in redistricting, but that isn't final, said Stephen B. Pershing, who argued the case for the Justice Department.

"We don't think there's a controversy in front of this court in real terms until a [Census Bureau] decision is issued."

Mr. Pershing believes Virginia will still have plenty of time to draw up districts and submit them for review.

The federal government isn't the only one opposing Virginia. Four other groups, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and 15 cities and counties throughout the nation, spearheaded by Los Angeles, have intervened in the case to make sure their interests are protected.

Voting rights groups say minority representation is threatened by Virginia's plan — which is the first in the nation to go to court — because minorities are usually undercounted by a larger margin than the population as a whole. That means states could draw fewer districts friendly to minorities than the numbers would recommend.

City and county officials say if Virginia prevails, the Census Bureau may not produce adjusted numbers at all. That could cost them billions of dollars in federal grants, which are divided up among localities by population.

And Republican and Democratic strategists care because how districts are drawn will affect the balance of power in statehouses and local councils across the nation.

# Defying Forecasts, Census Response Ends Declining Trend

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 — A higher percentage of households completed and returned census forms this year than in 1990, reversing a three-decade trend away from participation in the national population count census officials said today.

The officials said 67 percent of of the 120 million households that received a form in the mail filled it out and sent it back, compared with the 65 percent that returned the forms 10 years ago.

The results, which census officials attributed to an aggressive marketing campaign, surprised outsiders who had predicted that this year would continue a trend of declines in the percentage of households completing and returning census forms.

In 1970, the first year officials conducted the initial part of the census by mail, 83 percent of households returned the questionnaires. In 1990, 75 percent of households sent them back, and the response rate hit 65 percent in 1990.

Before the start of the census this year, bureau officials had predicted that 61 percent of households would return forms. Preliminary figures released in May showed that 66 percent of households were responding.

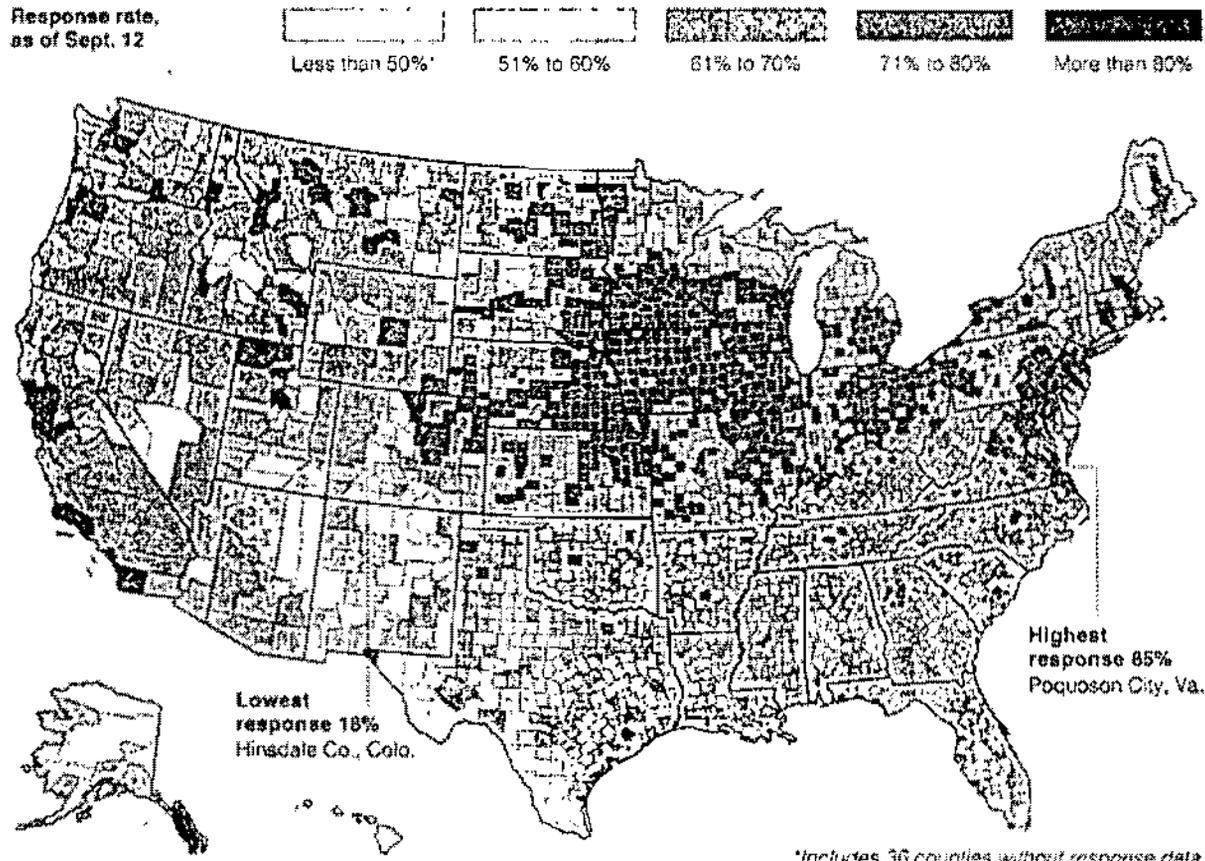
"A decade-long trend line in social behavior is hard to change, hard to reverse," said Kenneth W. Prewitt, director of the census. "Trend lines are stubborn things."

Some experts called the Census Bureau achievement all the more

## UPDATE

### Response Rates for the 2000 Census

Here are the percentages of households, by county, that returned their census forms by mail, telephone or the Internet. The final response rate for the whole country was 67 percent, up from 65 percent in 1990.



remarkable because it comes as participation is declining in community activities, like voting, church attendance and philanthropic giving.

"Against that background, to have successfully produced a two-percentage-point increase in mail-back response rates is actually stunning," said Robert Putnam, a political scientist at Harvard University who wrote "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community" (Simon & Schuster).

Census Bureau officials credited the improvement to their enhanced marketing, which stressed the involvement of local officials, and a \$103 million advertising campaign that strongly suggested people who returned census forms would help their communities win new schools, day-care centers and firehouses.

Some Census Bureau officials have fretted that the campaign may have promised too much. Federal and state financial aid is sometimes based on population, but no direct correlation exists between completed census forms and more services.

Census officials warned that the relatively high response rate did not mean the census would be able to avoid the problems of 1990, when 8 million people were missed and 4 million more were counted twice.

Indeed, some experts worry that the larger number of returns may result in more people being counted twice, known as inclusions.

"I've sat in the room with people who argued that the public relations campaign and the extensive activities have increased the chances of erroneous enumeration," said Stephen E. Fienberg, a statistician and social scientist at Carnegie Mellon University. "I've also heard the bureau describe the process of entering the data and how they believe they will have fewer duplicates."

Census Bureau figures indicate that 29 states raised their response rates from 1990, with five states —

California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Nevada and Wyoming — lifting rates by five percentage points.

The improved response came in spite of a falloff in responses to the long-form questionnaire. This year, the gap between long-form and short-form returns was 11 percentage points, double that of 1990. Some politicians, including Gov. George W. Bush, had suggested people might not return the long form because its questions were too intrusive.

Officials said the bureau's preliminary analysis suggested that the higher response rates could be attributed to improved performance by Hispanic households. Many cities showing the greatest increases over 1990 — Hialeah, Fla.; El Paso; and Santa Ana, Anaheim and San Diego, Calif. — have large and growing Hispanic populations.

Response rates in white communities showed much less improvement over 1990, and in some cases produced declines. Several states, including Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri and Tennessee, did not improve at all from 10 years ago. And response rates declined in Minnesota, Kansas, Washington, Wisconsin, Idaho, Vermont and Delaware.

Among counties with the most significant improvements was New York County — Manhattan — which raised its response rate to 60 percent, from 52 percent in 1990. It was the third-best improvement among the nation's 100 most populous counties.

Census officials hope to factor in those missed in this census by using a survey of 330,000 households to adjust final population counts.

Republicans have fought against — and Democrats have supported — this sampling because they believe it will raise the numbers of minorities living in traditionally Democratic areas, giving Democrats an advantage when boundaries for Congressional districts are redrawn.

# Extending Tenure Where It Counts

## *Census Chief's Term Reviewed*

By D'VERA COUS  
*Washington Post Staff Writer*

Republicans and Democrats are floating separate proposals to appoint the census director to a fixed term across a presidential election, saying they hope to insulate the statistical agency from the bitter political debate that engulfed it this year.

Rep. Dan Miller (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Government Reform census subcommittee, plans to announce his proposal today for the census director to serve for 10 years, comparing it to the term of the FBI director. The subcommittee's ranking Democrat, Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-N.Y.) has announced her proposal for a five-year term.

"This bill is the first step in removing partisan politics from the census," Miller said in a statement. "It is my hope that this new level of insulation will allow the director to be more independent and less influenced by partisan politics."

A 10-year term, Miller said, would allow a director to supervise a census from long-range planning to implementation. Maloney's bill would allow a director to supervise the crucial phase of planning and operations, aides said.

Political bickering over the census has been intense, centering on the administration's plan to use a survey of a sample of households to account for minorities and poor people who were missed by the door-to-door count. Republicans oppose the idea, saying it would invent people for Democratic benefit.

There are more than 300 federal appointees with fixed terms ranging from two to 15 years, according to the Congressional Research Service. In addition to the FBI director, appointees with terms of 10 years or more also include Feder-

al Reserve governors, veterans claims appeals judges and the administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration.

Census Director Kenneth Prewitt, who has spoken out about the need to insulate the census from political pressures that undermine public confidence in it, "welcomes the bipartisan interest in this approach and is optimistic," said a spokesman, Steven J. Jost.

"He believes it is in the best interest of the statistical system and the country to take any steps that reassure the country that the Census Bureau is a nonpartisan agency."

There is only one problem with the fixed-term approach, according to Paul C. Light, deputy director of the Brookings Institution: It will not work.

"The census is a highly charged political issue and a 10-year (or five-year) term will not make that go away," he said. "It doesn't blow me away as a good device."

Light said a fixed term can offer protection in some situations—at the FBI, for example, where there is a long tradition of political insulation. And it works, he said, at the General Accounting Office and other agencies where the head can only be removed for cause, a provision not in the census bills.

Another way to achieve insulation is to make the agency independent, like the Social Security Administration, he said. The Census Bureau is part of the Commerce Department.

A spokesman for Miller, Chip Walker, said it is not likely the bill could be debated and enacted this year, but "certainly this will get the debate going and get people thinking about it and we could enact something in the next Congress."

# Census mobilization is largest in peacetime

By Haya El Nasser  
USA TODAY

The government is dispatching 500,000 troops this week to every hamlet, town and city. Their mission: Combat apathy, mistrust of government and privacy concerns, and persuade people to answer Census questions.

The Census Bureau is mobilizing a temporary workforce equal to the population of Charlotte, N.C., or Nashville, making it the largest peacetime effort in the nation's history.

Workers will be sent to every one of the estimated 40 million households that did not mail back forms, if they can't reach someone the first time, they'll leave a note asking him or her to call to schedule an interview. If that doesn't work, they'll try two more times in person and then three more times by phone. If all fails, they'll interview neighbors.

More than 300,000 of these enumerators begin three-day training today. They hit the streets Thursday. The Census Bureau will add personnel as needed until an estimated 500,000 workers are knocking doors before the door-to-door effort ends in July.

Thursday morning, they will get their mission briefings. Crew leaders will assign them up to 40 addresses and send them on their way, forms in hand, Census badge on their shirt and a black canvas bag over their shoulder.

They hope it'll be a pleasant journey. But they're prepared for the worst.

"I expect some people to be apologetic (about not having mailed their forms) and invite you in," says Lila Smith, a Census crew leader who will be leading her team through Roswell, an affluent Atlanta suburb. "But that's not going to be the norm."

Especially not this year, when concern over privacy seems to be on the rise. People who see the S3-question long form as an invasion of privacy have dominated talk-radio shows, and complaints have flooded Congress. Some

Republicans have urged people to skip questions they find too intrusive. Some are pushing to eliminate the penalties for not responding.

This backlash might cause problems for Census workers as they make their rounds. Fewer people returned the long form than the short one, so workers will have to persuade more people to spend an average of 38 minutes with them filling out the long form.

"We're telling our folks to be ready for more resistance," says Jamey Christy, assistant regional Census manager in the Denver regional office. "We know that going into it."

The Census Bureau tried to modify its training material to address the long-form backlash, but it was too late. Officials decided to rely on what the bureau's 40,000 crew leaders report after a few days of canvassing.

Many workers are being told to downplay the fact that refusing to respond to the Census is against the law.

"We're going to go real easy on any legal requirements and go more with the positive aspects of participating," says Pard Ward, 70, a retiree working as a Census crew leader in Smyrna, Ga.

He says he would tell his team members to introduce themselves, explain why they're there and emphasize the process's confidential nature. Workers will hand people a card detailing the penalty workers face if they share the information with anyone (up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine).

Census workers are told to leave if they sense trouble. Blitz teams of up to seven people will work high-crime areas, officials say.

In every Census, people pose as Census workers to break into homes or obtain information illegally. Officials are warning people to watch for anyone who asks to come in. Census workers will stay on the doorstep unless they're invited in.

Another clue to impostors: "If they ask for Social Security numbers or bank account numbers," Ward says,

# High Court Rejects Sampling In Census

## *Ruling Has Political, Economic Impacts*

By JOAN BISKUPIC  
and BARBARA VOJEJDA  
*Washington Post Staff Writers*

The Supreme Court yesterday rejected the federal government's plan for using a controversial counting method to estimate portions of the nation's population in the 2000 Census, ruling in a case that carries enormous political and economic consequences for communities around the country.

By a 5 to 4 vote, the justices said federal law prevents the Clinton administration from supplementing the Census Bureau's traditional procedure of trying to reach every household with statistical estimates that would be used to determine the nation's population and divide seats in Congress among the states.

But beyond the crucial apportionment purpose of the census, the court did not foreclose allowing "statistical sampling" for other important purposes, such as the drawing of political boundaries within each state and the allocation of federal funds for everything from road construction to housing for the poor. And, the Clinton administration made clear yesterday it intends to move forward with plans to provide population estimates that states could use for everything other than determining how many congressional seats each state would receive.

Whether the Republican-controlled Congress will provide the money for two sets of population figures and whether states and localities would then be faced with dueling courts remained open questions yesterday. Several battles remain over census methods that could ultimately have a significant impact on state politics and social programs after the year 2000.

In hopes of getting more accurate population figures, the Census Bureau had wanted to combine the results of a traditional head count with a statistical "sample" that uses information drawn from a representative group to estimate the number and demographic characteristics of Americans who didn't respond to mailed questionnaires or who were missed in door-to-door surveys. The idea, similar to that used to conduct public opinion polls, was to get a more accurate fix on the nation's population at a time when increasingly larger numbers of people do not speak English, are not part of stable families or move frequently.

Those people most apt to be missed by traditional head counts are minorities and poor people who tend to vote Democratic. As a result, the stakes are high for politicians on both sides of the ledger as well as for racial minorities seeking equal representation through the next decade.

In her opinion for the court, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor relied on "over 200 years" of federal policy against "the use of statistical sampling where apportionment is concerned." She referred to the historical practice of census takers visiting houses and said a provision in federal law bans outright the use of sampling for congressional apportionment. In reconciling a 1976 amendment to the law permitting sampling in some situations, O'Connor said that provision "required that sampling be used for such purposes [other than apportionment] if feasible."

The Clinton administration, lawyers for state and local groups, minority organizations and other advocates of sampling immediately seized upon that part of the opinion.

"Congress now is faced with a dilemma," said TerriAnn Lowenthal, a consultant for urban and minority groups that favor sampling. "It has to determine whether it is not only willing, but possibly required, to fund a census that has one set of numbers for apportionment and another set for other purposes."

Yesterday's case, one of the most closely watched of the term, arises from a long-running debate over what to do about those households missed by the census. To address the problem, the Census Bureau's plan was to count at least 90 percent of the households in every census tract and then to extrapolate from a portion of those households the information needed to estimate population and characteristics for the remainder.

The GOP-led House, as well as a separate group of individuals from cities and states expected to "lose"

The court did not foreclose allowing "statistical sampling" for other purposes, such as the drawing of political boundaries within each state.

relative population under the sampling method, challenged the plan as a violation of federal law and the Constitution's requirement that the government conduct an "actual enumeration" of people every 10 years. They said statistical adjustments invite political manipulation and that the better way to try to accurately count people is to improve the methods for contacting and questioning every household.

Continued from previous page...

## Court Rejects Administration Plan For Statistical Sampling in Census

The whole battle has preoccupied Congress and tied up funding for the census that is to be taken next year. In the twin cases before the justices, the House and the group of 16 individuals from around the country had won in lower courts. But the Clinton administration appealed, contending that federal law permitted sampling for all census purposes, and as a threshold matter, asserted that neither group had legal "standing" to challenge the sampling policy.

The justices didn't say whether the House had a legitimate claim, but they said an Indiana resident had grounds to sue because Indiana could lose a seat under the census plan and that other challengers were from suburban counties that would see their political power diluted.

The court also did not address the constitutional merits of the argument, relying instead on the history of the federal statute involved, including changes made in 1976. O'Connor was joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas.

Dissenting justices—John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer—argued that the 1976 amendments specifically authorized the use of sampling for the purpose of determining how many House seats each state should receive. Michael Carvin, the lawyer who represented the individual challengers, said the paired cases of *Department of Commerce v. U.S. House of Representatives* and *Clinton v. Glavin*, "will prevent the Census bureau from creating statistical people" and prevent the distribution of "a lot more money and political power to urban areas than would have resulted from a traditional head count."

# Ruling Tangles Scenarios For Census

By BARBARA VOREJDA  
*Washington Post Staff Writer*

Rather than resolving a bitter partisan debate, the Supreme Court's ruling yesterday on the federal government's 2000 census plan set in motion a tangled new scenario of how the next national head count will be conducted.

Within hours of the court's decision, Clinton administration officials pointed to language in the opinion as evidence that they have permission to use a controversial counting system for some purposes even if they are barred from using it to distribute congressional seats among the states.

The arcane details of how the census is taken have significant political consequences because the sampling method is likely to add minorities and poor people, groups that traditionally support Democrats, to the overall population estimates.

An administration official said the Census Bureau will likely propose a design that relies on two sets of numbers: one produced by the traditional questionnaire and door-to-door count, used to divide the 435 House seats among the states, and a second set "adjusted" to compensate for those people thought to have been missed by the head count.

Those adjusted numbers could then be used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds and to redraw political boundaries within each state for congressional, state legislative and local electoral districts.

That suggestion elicited vociferous complaints from Republicans on Capitol Hill, throwing into question the fate of next year's census and once more pushing the esoteric details of statistical sampling to the forefront of national political debate.

"This is a disastrous idea," House Census subcommittee Chairman Dan Miller (R-Fla.) said of the two-number proposal. "It's a nonstarter as far as I'm concerned."

"If those sampled numbers are used for redistricting, the administration is going to find itself in court again," vowed Matthew Glavin, president of the Southeastern Legal Foundation, a conservative organization that joined House Republican leaders

## Two Counting Methods

### FULL CENSUS COUNT

- The Census Bureau sends questionnaires to every household identified in the United States.

- Interviewers knock on the doors of households that haven't responded to the questionnaire or ask neighbors to describe the family characteristics of those who couldn't be located.

- In the 1990 census, the bureau missed 10 million to 15 million Americans and double-counted or otherwise erred with 6 million to 9 million people, for a total undercount of 4 million, according to the General Accounting Office.

### CENSUS SAMPLING

- The Census Bureau would send out questionnaires to all households on its mailing list, as it has in the past, and would send interviewers into every census tract to find those who didn't respond by mail.

- The government would extrapolate, based on the households it had found in each census tract, the demographic characteristics of those households it couldn't locate.

- The bureau would conduct a survey of 750,000 households, a representative subset of the entire population, and use those results to check the accuracy of the initial head count.

THE WASHINGTON POST

in challenging the sampling plan.

The remarkable irony is that the use of these adjusted numbers for redistricting could ultimately carry a much heavier political impact than the use of sampling for apportionment.

Redistricting experts estimate that just three or four seats would be shifted among states if sampling were used to divide congressional seats among the states. But the use of adjusted figures to redraw congressional districts within states could affect many more elections.

In California, for example, adjusted numbers would likely add tens of thousands of people, mostly to urban areas where low-income and minority families reside who are often missed in the traditional census. These larger numbers would mean that suburban districts, which are more likely to elect Republicans, would be redrawn stretching closer into the urban center, that could jeopardize the Republican strength in those redrawn districts.

Clark Benson, whose firm Polidata conducts redistricting research, mostly for Republicans, estimated that five to six California House seats could shift from Republicans to Democrats if the state legislature uses adjusted numbers.

The same numbers would have greater impact when used to redraw state legislative boundaries, perhaps shifting political control of some state legislatures between parties.

Whether such a census plan could muster support from a Republican-led Congress remains an open ques-

tion, although veto threats from President Clinton over past census disagreements have forced Republicans to compromise and made this one of the most contentious issues in Washington in recent years.

Democrats were equally determined not to drop their support for statistical sampling, which uses a survey to project characteristics and numbers for missing households. "We're not going to let the majority [in Congress] prevent those people from being counted," said Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (N.Y.), ranking Democrat on the census subcommittee.

Commerce Secretary William Daley yesterday stopped short of saying the administration would pursue a "two-number" census, but an official who asked to remain unnamed said that was the plan unless it was proved to be unfeasible, which he considered unlikely.

Daley and others pointed to the court's majority opinion, which said sampling was required for purposes other than apportionment "if feasible." And, officials said, the recent census dress rehearsal proved that, without sampling, the census would miss millions of Americans.

Administration officials said they would probably propose a new plan resembling the method used in the 1990 census, when the government used both a head count and a population estimate. But only the head count was used for official purposes.

*Staff writer Juliet Eilperin contributed to this report.*

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

**Final Report and Recommendations From the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee to the Office of Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the Standards for Defining Metropolitan Areas**

**AGENCY:** Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** OMB requests comment on the final recommendations it has received from the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee for changes to OMB's metropolitan area standards. The committee's recommendations, which are published in their entirety in the appendix to this Notice, reflect the comprehensive review of the metropolitan area concept and the current standards that began in the early 1990s. These recommendations also reflect consideration of comments received in response to the committee's initial recommendations as published in the October 20, 1999 Federal Register (64 FR 56628-56644). The committee's final recommendations include both modifications and additions to the initial recommendations.

Decisions on changes to the metropolitan area standards will not affect the collection, tabulation, and publication of data from Census 2000 and other current Federal data collections for geographic areas such as states, counties, county subdivisions, and municipalities. In addition, the Census Bureau will tabulate and publish data from Census 2000 for all metropolitan areas in existence at the time of the census.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration during the final decision making process, OMB must receive all written comments no later than October 6, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send comments about the committee's final recommendations to: Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10201 New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503; fax: (202) 395-7245.

*Electronic Availability and Addresses:* This Federal Register Notice, and the two previous Notices related to the review of the metropolitan area standards, are available electronically from the OMB web site: <<<http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/fedreg/index.html>>>.

Federal Register Notices also are available electronically from the U.S. Government Printing Office web site: <<[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aces140.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html)>>. Maps portraying the extent of areas that would be defined if the recommended standards were applied to 1990 census data, as well as lists of those areas, their components, and principal cities, are available electronically from the Census Bureau's web site: <<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/masrp.html>>>. Paper copies of those additional materials may be obtained by calling (301) 457-2419.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James D. Fitzsimmons, Chair, Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee, (301) 457-2419; or E-mail <<[pop.fquestion@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:pop.fquestion@ccmail.census.gov)>>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Outline of Notice**

1. Background
  2. Review Process
  3. Summary of Comments Received in Response to the October 20, 1999 Federal Register Notice
  4. Overview of Final Recommendations From the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee
  5. Specific Issues for Comment
- Appendix—Final Report and Recommendations From the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee to the Office of Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the Standards for Defining Metropolitan Areas
- A. Discussion of Final Recommendations
  - B. Comparison of 1999 Metropolitan Area Standards With the Recommended 2000 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Area Standards
  - C. Recommended Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Areas
  - D. Key Terms

**1. Background**

The metropolitan area program has provided standard statistical area definitions for 50 years. In the 1940s, it became clear that the value of metropolitan data produced by Federal agencies would be greatly enhanced if agencies used a single set of geographic definitions for the Nation's largest centers of population and activity. OMB's predecessor, the Bureau of the Budget, led the effort to develop what were then called "standard metropolitan areas" in time for their use in 1950 census reports. Since then, comparable data products for metropolitan areas have been available.

The general concept of a metropolitan area is that of an area containing a large population nucleus and adjacent communities that have a high degree of

integration with that nucleus. The purpose of the metropolitan area standards is to provide nationally consistent definitions for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for a set of geographic areas. OMB establishes and maintains these areas solely for statistical purposes. In reviewing and revising the areas, OMB does not take into account or attempt to anticipate any public or private sector nonstatistical uses that may be made of the definitions. These areas are not designed to serve as a general purpose geographic framework applicable for nonstatistical activities or for use in program funding formulas.

OMB discussed the evolution of the standards for defining metropolitan areas in detail in its December 21, 1998 Federal Register Notice, "Alternative Approaches to Defining Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Areas" (63 FR 70526-70561). Table 1 of that Notice summarized the evolution of metropolitan area standards since 1950. The Notice includes the standards that were used to define metropolitan areas during the 1990s.

OMB published the committee's report on its review and initial recommendations to OMB as part of the October 20, 1999 Federal Register Notice entitled, "Recommendations From the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee to the Office of Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the Standards for Defining Metropolitan Areas" (64 FR 56628-56644). In that Notice, the committee recommended the creation of a "Core Based Statistical Area" (CBSA) classification. That Notice also included four maps, as well as a table that compared the 1990 metropolitan area standards with the committee's initial recommendations for revised standards.

**2. Review Process**

From the beginning, OMB has reviewed the metropolitan area standards and, if warranted, revised them in the years preceding their application to new decennial census data. Periodic review of the standards is necessary to ensure their continued usefulness and relevance. The current review of the metropolitan area standards—the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Project—is the fifth such review. If addresses, as a first priority, users' concerns with the conceptual and operational complexity of the standards as they have evolved over the decades. Other key concerns of the review have been whether and how:

- To modify the standards further to stay abreast of changes in population distribution and activity patterns;

- To use advances in computer applications to consider new approaches to defining areas; and
- To capture a more complete range of U.S. settlement and activity patterns than the 1990 standards.

The committee has addressed a number of specific, major issues:

- Whether the Federal Government should define metropolitan and nonmetropolitan statistical areas;
- What geographic units—"building blocks"—should be used in defining the statistical areas;
- What criteria should be used to group together such building blocks in defining the statistical areas;
- Whether the statistical areas should account for all territory of the Nation;
- Whether there should be hierarchies or multiple sets of statistical areas in the classification;
- What kinds of entities should receive official recognition in the classification;
- Whether the classification should reflect statistical rules only or allow a role for local opinion; and
- How frequently statistical areas should be updated.

The review has included several Census Bureau research projects, open conferences held in November 1995 and January 1999, a congressional hearing in July 1997, presentations at professional and academic conferences, and meetings with Federal, state, and local officials. The December 1998 and October 1999 Federal Register Notices discuss these activities in detail.

In the fall of 1998, OMB chartered the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee and charged it with examining the 1990 metropolitan area standards in light of work completed earlier in the decade and providing recommendations for possible changes to those standards. Agencies represented on the committee include the Bureau of the Census (Chair), Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Economic Research Service (Agriculture), National Center for Health Statistics, and, *ex officio*, OMB. The Census Bureau provides research support to the committee.

This is the third Notice that seeks public comment. The December 1998 Federal Register Notice presented four alternative approaches to defining metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The October 1999 Federal Register Notice presented the committee's initial recommendations to OMB. OMB sought and received comments on the issues, approaches, and recommendations outlined in these

Notices. In developing the final recommendations set forth in this Notice, the committee has continued its work based on the earlier research and has considered all of the comments received in response to previous Notices, as well as comments received at numerous meetings where the proposals under consideration were discussed.

Ongoing research projects will improve our understanding of the Nation's patterns of settlement and activity and the ways in which the patterns can be portrayed. Research will continue into aspects of all of the alternative approaches presented in the December 1998 Notice. For example, Census Bureau staff are investigating the feasibility of developing a census tract level classification to identify settlement and land use categories along an urban-rural continuum. The Census Bureau has a project to conduct additional research on the comparative density approach outlined in the December 1998 Notice. It also is continuing research on potential uses of directional commuting statistics and commodity flow data in defining statistical areas. The Economic Research Service, in conjunction with the Office of Rural Health Policy in the Department of Health and Human Services and the University of Washington, has developed a nationwide census tract level rural-urban commuting area classification. This classification is available from the Economic Research Service web site: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/80/briefing/rural/ruca/rucc.htm>. In addition, the Census Bureau is investigating the possibility of defining statistical areas that would better describe the functional relationships between geographic areas within the large, densely settled urban areas. These research efforts may lead to pilot projects of the Census Bureau or other agencies.

### J. Summary of Comments Received in Response to the October 20, 1999 Federal Register Notice

The October 20, 1999 Federal Register Notice requested comment on the committee's initial recommendations to OMB concerning revisions to the standards for defining metropolitan areas. OMB received a total of 673 comments, including some that arrived after the December 30, 1999, deadline.

OMB received 167 comment letters and 34 E-mail messages on a variety of issues from individuals (72), municipalities (39), nongovernmental organizations (38), state governmental agencies (18), regional governmental

and planning organizations (14), Federal agencies (10), and Members of Congress (10). In addition, it received 404 letters and 88 E-mail messages from individuals and organizations regarding the situation of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Eight commenters addressed the committee's recommendations about the qualification requirements for areas and central counties. Three commenters supported the committee's recommendation that areas should qualify for CBSA status if a core of sufficient size—a Census Bureau defined urban cluster of at least 10,000 population or an urbanized area of at least 50,000 population—was present. (In this Notice, the term "urban cluster" replaces the term "settlement cluster" that was used in the October 1999 Federal Register Notice.) Two commenters expressed concern that some current metropolitan areas that qualify based on the presence of a city of at least 50,000 population might not qualify as a metropolitan area under the recommended standards if an urbanized area is not present. They suggested including criteria in the new standards that would either (1) allow an area that contains a city of 50,000 or more population, but not an urbanized area, to qualify as a metropolitan area or (2) "grandfather" current metropolitan statistical areas. Three commenters questioned the way in which the recommended standards would use urban clusters and urbanized areas as cores to qualify central counties, in particular when a core crosses county lines, but the portion of the core in one county is not sufficient to qualify that county as central.

Many comments addressed whether core population or total area population should be used to determine the level to which each CBSA is assigned. Two commenters supported using total population of the CBSA to determine the level; one pointed out that by using core population to assign levels, it would be possible to have a micropolitan area with a greater total CBSA population than the total population of a metropolitan area. Two commenters suggested that the level to which a CBSA is assigned should be based on the population of the largest core in the area rather than on the total population in all cores. More than 470 commenters suggested that a county with a total population of at least 100,000 should qualify as a micropolitan area solely on that basis, even though its core population is less than 50,000; all but one of these commenters were specifically

concerned with Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

OMB received 29 comments about terminology and the number of levels in the proposed CBSA standards. Six commenters argued that the core population size range recommended for the macropolitan area level was too broad and suggested that the standards should include five levels of areas instead of the recommended four. Six commenters favored use of the terms "metropolitan" and "nonmetropolitan." One commenter favored using "metropolitan" and "nonmetropolitan," but also supported recognizing micropolitan areas as a subset of nonmetropolitan areas. Two additional commenters supported using the term "metropolitan," but one of them suggested not using the term "nonmetropolitan." Another commenter supported a metropolitan/nonmetropolitan breakdown, but suggested classifying metropolitan areas into small, midsize, and large categories with core population thresholds of 50,000, 250,000, and 1,000,000, respectively. Two commenters argued that if the CBSA standards were to include several levels, these levels should be denoted with a numbering or lettering system instead of using specific terms. Some of these commenters and others opposed the use of the terms "megapolitan," "macropolitan," and "micropolitan" because they found them confusing. Other commenters suggested "community statistical area" to replace "core based statistical area," and "nanopolitan" to replace "outside core based statistical area." Three commenters suggested that all territory in the United States should be classified in the new system, and no area should be classified as a "non-" or "outside" area.

Forty-two commenters remarked on the committee's recommendation to use counties as the building block for CBSAs. Seventeen commenters supported the use of counties, and 25 favored census tracts or some other subcounty unit. One commenter suggested that if counties are used as building blocks, subcounty commuting data should be provided to data users. Nineteen commenters favored the use of minor civil divisions as building blocks; 18 of these commenters specifically favored the use of minor civil divisions as the building block for a primary set of areas in New England.

Eighteen commenters responded about the use of commuting data in the standards for qualifying outlying counties as well as mergers and combinations of adjacent CBSAs. Six commenters supported a 25 percent

commuting threshold for outlying county qualification as the committee recommended; two suggested a 20 percent threshold. One commenter questioned the rationale behind raising the commuting threshold to 25 percent from the 15 percent threshold that has been in the standards since they were developed, arguing that raising the threshold to 25 percent will omit many counties that realistically are within the core's labor market. Two commenters expressed general support for the committee's recommendations. Seven commenters, however, expressed concerns that commuting data alone cannot measure all kinds of social and economic interactions between areas. One of these commenters suggested using population density data as an additional measure. One commenter noted that journey-to-work data alone are not sufficient to determine whether sufficient ties exist to warrant merging or combining two adjacent CBSAs.

Two commenters supported the committee's recommendations on mergers and three supported its recommendations on combinations. Two commenters suggested that local opinion should play a larger role in determining whether two adjacent areas should merge or combine.

Seventy-one commenters responded about the recommended criteria for titling CBSAs. Sixty-four of these 71 commenters remarked specifically on the impact that these criteria would have on the titles of current metropolitan areas in North Carolina. Seven commenters responded regarding the potential title of the current Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Forty-two commenters responded about the lack of recommended criteria for subdividing the largest CBSAs to form smaller component groupings of counties. All but one of these commenters favored development of criteria for subdividing areas. Twenty-six of these commenters were concerned with New Jersey or Long Island; their remarks pertained specifically to the perceived need for smaller groupings of counties within the New York and Philadelphia megapolitan areas to provide greater detail for data users. One commenter did not favor subdividing the New York megapolitan area. Sixteen commenters who favored subdividing CBSAs focused on Massachusetts; their remarks pertained primarily to the need for subdivisions of the Boston area.

Twenty-three commenters raised questions about the potential impact of the recommended standards on various nonstatistical programs, particularly

those involving funding. Some commenters suggested that there should be a study to provide information about the current nonstatistical programmatic uses of metropolitan areas and the potential effect of new standards on existing programs.

Five commenters expressed concerns about the comparability of data provided under the 1990 standards and the proposed standards. They suggested that statistical areas should be defined for a period after the 2000 census using both the old and the new standards. Two commenters remarked on the confusion between the urban/rural and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan classifications. Both of these commenters suggested that a single classification that unambiguously identifies metropolitan, nonmetropolitan, urban, and rural without any overlapping of these concepts should be developed by OMB. Similarly, one commenter stated that the classification should include specific criteria for identifying rural areas.

The committee took all of these comments into account, giving them careful consideration. As outlined below, it adopted some of these suggested changes and modified its recommendations to OMB as a result of the comments. In a number of other cases, however, the committee concluded that it could not adopt the suggestions made by commenters without undermining efforts to achieve a consistent, national approach designed to enhance the value of metropolitan data produced by Federal agencies.

#### 4. Overview of Final Recommendations From the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee

This Federal Register Notice makes available for comment the committee's final recommendations to OMB on how the current metropolitan area standards should be revised. These recommendations are presented in their entirety in the "Final Report and Recommendations From the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee to the Office of Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the Standards for Defining Metropolitan Areas," provided in the appendix to this Notice. Section C of the appendix presents for public comment the specific standards recommended by the committee for adoption by OMB.

The committee recommends a classification based on densely settled concentrations of population called "cores." The cores for this classification would be Census Bureau defined

urbanized areas of 50,000 or more population and smaller urban clusters of 10,000 to 49,999 population that will be identified using Census 2000 data. Defining a CBSA would require the presence of at least one core of 10,000 or more population. The recommended CBSA classification has two categories of areas: (1) Metropolitan areas defined around at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population; and (2) micropolitan areas defined around at least one urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 population. The recommendation to identify micropolitan areas extends the classification to smaller population centers that in earlier decades would have been in a "nonmetropolitan residual." The title for the new classification would be "Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Areas."

These recommendations include a change from the committee's initial recommendation to identify "megapolitan areas," based on one or more cores with a total core population of at least one million, and "macropolitan areas," based on one or more cores with a total core population of 50,000 to 999,999. The committee recommends that additional research be undertaken to study the analytical utility of various categories based on population size, and more specifically, to determine meaningful size thresholds for such categories. In addition, these recommendations include a change from the committee's initial recommendation to base categories of areas on the total population in *all* cores within a CBSA.

The committee recommends the use of counties and equivalent entities as the building block for CBSAs throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Island Areas, including the use of counties as building blocks for CBSAs in New England. The committee also recommends that minor civil divisions be used as building blocks for a set of statistical areas conceptually similar to CBSAs for the New England states only.

The committee recommends identifying principal cities within CBSAs. It also recommends that component entities comprising one or more counties be identified within CBSAs that contain a single core with 2.5 million or more population. These component entities would be termed "metropolitan divisions." (The committee's recommendations would extend this practice to the minor civil division based areas in New England.) This recommendation is in addition to the initial recommendations. The

committee recommends titling each metropolitan division using the names of up to three principal cities within the metropolitan division, in order of descending city population size. If there are no principal cities located within a metropolitan division, the committee recommends including in the title the names of up to three counties in order of descending population size.

The committee recommends combining adjacent CBSAs when their employment interchange rate is at least 15. The areas that combine also would retain their identities as separate metropolitan and micropolitan areas.

#### 5. Specific Issues for Comment

With this Notice, OMB requests comment on all of the final recommendations of the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee concerning revisions to the current standards for defining metropolitan areas. The standards recommended to OMB for adoption appear in Section C of the appendix to this Notice. Section A of the appendix provides a discussion of the recommendations on the various issues considered by the committee. Section B of the appendix presents a comparison of the 1990 metropolitan area standards with the recommended Metropolitan and Micropolitan Area Standards.

OMB notes that there were several issues on which comment was received, but on which the committee has not changed its initial recommendations, including the use of population in cores (in contrast to total area population) as a means of determining a CBSA's category (metropolitan or micropolitan), and the use only of the name of the largest principal city in each of up to three CBSAs that combine to title Combined Areas.

OMB particularly seeks comment on those final recommendations that differ from the committee's initial recommendations published in the October 20, 1999 Federal Register. These are the recommendations about the:

- Number of categories of CBSAs and the terms by which they would be identified (see Section A.1);
- Categorization of CBSAs on the basis of population in cores (Section A.1);
- Identification of New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs) to indicate that NECTAs are conceptually similar to CBSAs (Section A.2);
- Criteria for qualifying a central county (Section A.3);
- Identification of metropolitan divisions within CBSAs with a core of 2.5 Million or more population and

NECTA divisions within NECTAs that have a core of that size (Section A.7); and

- Criteria for titling Combined Areas, which would now require that the second- and third-largest CBSAs in a Combined Area each have at least one-third the population of the largest area for their single largest principal cities to appear in the title (Section A.9).

OMB would appreciate receiving views and comments on any aspects of the recommended standards.

John T. Spotila,  
Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

#### Appendix—Final Report and Recommendations From the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee to the Office of Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the Standards for Defining Metropolitan Areas

##### Transmittal Memorandum

July 6, 2000.

Memorandum for Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician, Office of Management and Budget

From: Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee

Subject: Transmittal of Final Report and Recommendations Concerning Changes to the Standards for Defining Metropolitan Areas

We are pleased to transmit to you the attached report presenting this committee's final recommendations for modifying the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) standards for defining metropolitan areas. They represent our best technical and professional advice for how the standards could better account for and describe changes in settlement and activity patterns throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas, yet still meet the data reporting needs and requirements of Federal agencies and the public. In developing these final recommendations, we have continued our review of work completed over the past several years, and we have considered and discussed comments that were received in response to our initial recommendations published in the October 20, 1999 Federal Register. In addition to a discussion of our final recommendations, we are providing a comparison of the standards we propose with the 1990 metropolitan area standards. We also are providing the specific standards recommended by the committee and definitions of key terms used in this report.

Source: Bureau of the Census [Online]. Available on the Internet:  
<http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/hhes/poverty/thresh95.html>  
(Downloaded on April 25, 2000)

## Uses of Population Questions

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### Age and Date of Birth

- To distribute funds to the states for adult programs in postsecondary education opportunities (Department of Education)
- To distribute funds to the states for establishment and expansion of community colleges (Department of Education)
- To distribute funds for basic, adult education programs (Department of Education)
- To distribute funds for transportation services for the elderly and persons with disabilities (Federal Highway Administration - Department of Transportation)
- For reporting status of persons with disabilities of working age (National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research)
- For reporting the U.S. population's vital, social, and health statistics (National Center for Health Statistics - Department of Health and Human Services)
- To distribute funds for programs for elderly under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (Department of Health and Human Services)

### Ancestry

- Assistance to minority businesses in low-income areas under the Minority Business Development Program (Minority Business Development Agency - Department of Commerce)
- Research conducted on welfare dependency and income and employment characteristics to reduce dependency rates in Social Security Act programs (Social Security Administration - Department of Health and Human Services)
- Funds allocation to states for programs to access post secondary education opportunities for adults (Department of Education)
- Funds allocation for bilingual education programs under the Bilingual Education Act (Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs - Department of Education)
- Collection of vital, social, and health statistics (National Center for Health Statistics - Department of Health and Human Services)

### Citizenship and Year of Entry

- Compilation of naturalization statistics by the Attorney General (Department of Justice)
- Employment assessment of refugee population and compilation of secondary migration data on refugees under the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, as amended (Office of Refugee Resettlement - Department of Health and Human Services)
- Publication of social, health, and economic statistics of Hispanic origin persons (Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Labor)

### Disability

- Determination of housing needs for elderly and persons with disabilities under the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Allocation of funds for state vocational education programs for persons with disabilities (Department of Education)
- Allocation of funds for transportation services for elderly and for persons with disabilities (Federal Highway Administration--Department of Transportation)
- Allocation of funds for projects encouraging car pools for elderly and persons with disabilities (Federal Highway Administration--Department of Transportation)
- Reports on status of persons with disabilities of working age (National Institute of on Disability and Rehabilitation Research)
- Evaluation of programs for persons with disabilities (National Council on the Disability)
- Annual report (President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities)
- Allocation of funds for employment programs for persons with disabilities (Department of Labor)
- Allocation of funds for programs for elderly with special needs under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (Department of Health and Human Services)
- Allocation of funds for mass transit systems for elderly and persons with disabilities (Urban Mass Transportation Administration--Department of Transportation)

### **Education**

- Identification of needs for adult education and funds allocation for programs under the Adult Education Act (Department of Education)
- Funds allocation for state vocational education programs under the Vocational Educational Act of 1963 (Department of Education)
- Funds allocation for bilingual education programs under the Bilingual Education Act (Department of Education)
- Financial assistance for programs assuring educational equity for women under the Women's Educational Equity Act of 1978 (Department of Education)
- Identification of special needs of labor markets when formulating job training programs under the Job Training Partnership Act (Department of Labor)

### **Employment Status (Work Status Last Week, Layoff or Temporary Absence From Work, Looking for Work During the Last 4 Weeks, Availability to Accept a Job)**

- Information from these questions helps describe local and regional economic conditions. This information can be used by governments to address economic problems, by businesses to decide where to locate new facilities, and by persons to identify economic opportunities.
- These questions also serve to screen out persons for whom the industry, occupation, class of worker, and work experience questions do not apply.

### **Grandparents**

- These questions are used to estimate the number of grandparents providing assistance to their grandchildren and the duration of time grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren.

### **Hispanic Origin**

- Establishment and evaluation of guidelines for Federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)
- Compilation of data on home mortgage lending patterns of depository institutions by race,

geographic area, housing conditions, and income (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council)

- Assistance to minority businesses in low-income areas under the Minority Business Development Program (Minority Business Development Agency - Department of Commerce)
- Publication of social, health, and economic statistics of Hispanic origin persons (Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Labor)
- Collection of vital, social, and health statistics (National Center for Health Statistics - Department of Health and Human Services)
- Commission on Civil Rights acts as clearinghouse for information on discrimination in housing, education, and employment under the Civil Rights Act of 1957, as amended
- Technical assistance for school desegregation plans (Department of Education) and enforcement of desegregation plans (Department of Justice)
- Conduct demonstration projects addressing needs of low-income, minority, American Indian, older, and limited English-speaking persons under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (Health Care Financing Administration - Department of Health and Human Services)

### Household Relationship

- To distribute funds for education programs for low-income children under the Educational Consolidation and Improvement Act (Department of Education)
- To identify eligible children in families near or below the poverty level to distribute funds for Head Start programs (Department of Health and Human Services)
- To plan social services programs for low-income families with children 0-5 years under the Head Start Program (Department of Health and Human Services)
- For reporting the U.S. population's vital, social, and health statistics (National Center for Health Statistics - Department of Health and Human Services)

### Income

- To allocate funds for education programs for low-income children under the Educational Consolidation and Improvement Act (Department of Education)
- For job training programs under the Job Training Partnership Act (Department of Labor)
- To allocate revenue sharing funds to units of local government for maintenance and operating expenses for public safety, environmental protection, public transportation, health, recreation, libraries, social services, for the poor and elderly, financial administration, and capital expenditures (Department of Transportation)
- To allocate funds for housing assistance for low-income families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To allocate funds for local plans to assist lower-income housing needs, needs of the handicapped or for minority enterprises, and small research and development projects (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To allocate loans to farm owners, other real estate owners, and to the elderly or handicapped to construct or repair dwellings and related facilities by the Farmers Home Administration (Department of Agriculture)
- For community development block grants for housing and economic opportunities for persons of low and moderate income (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To allocate grants to cities and urban counties to stimulate economic recovery (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To allocate funds for financial assistance to urban and rural poverty areas to aid persons with

developmental disabilities (Department of Health and Human Services)

- To allocate funds for social services provided to low-income families with children 0-5 years under the Head Start Program (Department of Health and Human Services)

### **Industry, Occupation, and Class of Worker**

- Publish data on small business economic indexes (Small Business Administration)
- Occupational information system includes occupational supply and demand data to meet vocational education, employment, and training programs at the national, state, and local levels (National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee)
- Funds allocation for migrant and seasonal farmworkers programs under the Job Training Partnership Act (Employment and Training Administration - Department of Labor)
- Evaluation of affirmative action programs in private sector employment under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)
- Determine funding eligibility for local public works projects (Department of Labor)

### **Journey to Work/Place of Work [Means of Transportation to Work; Private Vehicle Occupancy; Time of Departure From Home to Go to Work; Travel Time (Minutes) to Work]**

- Journey-to-work data provide information for the states and large metropolitan areas on how we use national transportation and energy. This information helps to forecast transportation and energy needs and assists our leaders in developing transportation and energy policies.
- Journey-to-work data for local areas provide information for local community planners to develop transportation programs and develop plans for disaster recovery or contingency planning. In addition this information is used for business-related activities to define daytime populations in marketing.

### **Language Spoken**

- Required by states to identify needs for services authorized under the Adult Education Act (Department of Education)
- Research assistance to schools to provide equal education opportunities for students of limited English-speaking ability, women, and the disadvantaged (Office of Education Research and Improvement - Department of Education)
- Provides information for research on the status of bilingual vocational training for reports to the President and Congress by the Secretary of Labor under the Vocational Education Act
- Funds allocation for state vocational education programs for persons 15 to 24 years with limited English-speaking ability (Department of Education)
- Funds allocation for bilingual education programs under the Bilingual Education Act, as amended (Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs - Department of Education)

### **Marital Status**

- To fund research for population and voluntary family planning programs (Department of Health and Human Services)
- To fund adolescent family life projects (Department of Health and Human Services)
- For reporting the U.S. population's vital, social, and health statistics (National Center for Health Statistics - Department of Health and Human Services)

### **Migration (Residence 5 Years Ago)**

- Provides information to study the effects of residential movement among the different areas of the country. Helps planners design programs for improving the areas affected by the migration.

### **Place of Birth**

- Data on place of birth are used to study long-time trends in migration. These data are used to measure residential movement among the different regions of the country as well as from countries outside of the United States.

### **Race**

- Determination of whether financial institutions are meeting credit needs of race/Hispanic origin groups in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods under the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (Federal Reserve Board)
- Planning needs of schools serving American Indian and Alaska Native children on or adjacent to reservations or Alaska Native villages under the Indian Education Assistance Act (Bureau of Indian Affairs - Department of the Interior)
- Assessment of needs under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (Indian Health Service - Department of Health and Human Services)
- Technical assistance for school desegregation plans (Department of Education) and enforcement of desegregation plans (Department of Justice)
- Provides data to Congress, Federal policy makers, and other data users on the status of women and minorities in science and engineering (National Science Foundation)
- Provides information on the U.S. population's vital, social, and health statistics (National Center for Health Statistics - Department of Health and Human Services)
- Establishment and evaluation of guidelines for Federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)

### **Sex**

- To evaluate and establish guidelines for Federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)
- To distribute funds for research and development activities under the Women's Educational Equity Act of 1978 (Department of Education)
- To distribute funds for adolescent family life projects (Department of Health and Human Services)
- Provides the U.S. population's vital, social, and health statistics (National Center for Health Statistics - Department of Health and Human Services)

### **Veteran Status (Period of Service, Total Years in Military Service)**

- Program evaluation including participation and provision of services (Department of Veterans Affairs)
- Report to Congress on needs of selected groups of veterans, such as Vietnam-era veterans and female veterans (Department of Veterans Affairs)
- Report to Congress on number of eligible veterans and Vietnam-era veterans (Department of Veterans Affairs)

### **Work Last Year (Weeks Worked, Usual Hours Worked)**

Source: Bureau of the Census [Online]. Available on the Internet:  
<http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/hhes/poverty/thresh95.html>  
(Downloaded on April 25, 2000)

## Uses of Housing Questions

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### Acceage and Sale of Agricultural Products

- Funds allocation to states for cooperative extension work (Extension Service --Department of Agriculture)
- Rural development and small farm research and education programs (Extension Service -- Department of Agriculture)
- Loans to construct, repair, or purchase rural dwellings and related facilities (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Research and analysis regarding the adequacy of farm housing (Department of Agriculture)

### Automobiles, Vans, and Trucks

- Develop and maintain the National Energy Information System to analyze energy supply and consumption for predicting energy needs (Energy Information Administration --Department of Energy)
- Development of transportation plans, policy, and programs for urban areas (Federal Highway Administration --Department of Transportation)
- Funds allocation to states to aid rural areas and small communities in highway development (Federal Highway Administration --Department of Transportation)
- Develop and maintain an energy data and information program to meet future energy demands (Energy Information Administration --Department of Energy)
- Evaluation of plans, planning assistance, and funds allocation for construction and maintenance of public transit systems in urbanized areas (Urban Mass Transportation Administration -- Department of Transportation)
- Development of long-range transportation plans and technical studies in cooperation with state and local governments (Urban Mass Transportation Administration --Department of Transportation)
- Planning, evaluation, and technical assistance for public transit projects outside urbanized areas (Urban Mass Transportation Administration --Department of Transportation)
- Formulating nuclear disaster evacuation plans under the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

### Bedrooms

- Loans to construct, repair, or purchase rural dwellings and related facilities (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Housing loans for low- and moderate-income persons and families (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Identification of rural areas targeted for housing rehabilitation grants (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Identification of areas targeted for housing rehabilitation loans (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

- Used by city and community officials to determine neighborhood housing deficiencies.

### House Heating Fuel

- Develop and maintain the National Energy Information System to analyze supply and consumption for predicting energy needs (Energy Information Administration --Department of Energy)
- Grants to states and local governments for rehabilitation of privately-owned property intended for residential rental purposes (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Provide data to measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of national housing policy: decent home and suitable living environment for every American family (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Develop and maintain an energy data and information program to meet future energy demands (Energy Information Administration --Department of Energy)
- Grants to states for home energy assistance to low-income persons and families under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended (Department of Health and Human Services)
- Reports on home energy consumption and costs (Department of Health and Human Services)

### Kitchen Facilities

- Develop rural development policy annually under the Rural Development Policy Act of 1980 (Department of Agriculture)
- Analysis of acquisition and design of congregate housing for displaced or elderly families where central dining facilities are used (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To provide data to measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of national housing policy: decent home and suitable living environment for every American family (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Annual reports of the President to Congress on housing production, occupancy, and tenure, and analysis of housing needs (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Loans to construct, repair, or purchase rural dwellings and related facilities (Farm Housing Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Housing loans for low- and moderate-income persons and families (Farm Housing Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Identification of rural areas targeted for housing rehabilitation grants (Farm Housing Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Develop housing assistance plans to identify communities eligible for development programs under the Housing and Community Development Acts of 1968 and 1974 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To identify areas that need special programs such as meals on wheels.

### Occupancy/Vacancy

- Supplemental rental payments to qualified low-income families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Home mortgage insurance for elderly, low- and moderate-income and displaced families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Grants to states and local governments for rehabilitation of privately-owned property intended for residential rental purposes (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Funds allocation for demolition or disposition of public housing (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

- Loans to construct, repair, or purchase rural dwellings and related facilities (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Identification of rural areas targeted for housing rehabilitation grants (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Develop housing assistance plans to identify communities eligible for development programs under the Housing and Community Development Acts of 1968 and 1974 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Key indicators of the vibrancy/health of the housing market in local areas. For example, high rates indicate areas where the supply of available housing units is higher than the demand for such units.

**Owner Costs [Mortgage payments (including second/junior mortgages and home equity loans); Real estate taxes; Fire, hazard, and flood insurance; Utilities (electricity, gas, and water); Fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.); Mobile home costs; Condominium fees]**

- Used by Department of Housing and Urban Development in nearly all of its housing assistance programs listed below:
  - Low-Income Housing Tax Credits-Difficult Development Areas
  - Energy Efficiency Standards
  - Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategies (CHAS)
  - Public Housing/Section 8 Certificate and Housing Voucher Allocation Programs
  - Fair Market Rents
  - FHA Multifamily Insurance
  - Housing Assistance Fund
- Use data about utility costs to help analyze energy supply and consumption - National Energy Information System (Department of Energy)
- Community Services Block Grant Act (Department of Health and Human Services)
- To allocate funds for housing for the elderly under the Older Americans Act, the handicapped, and for home energy assistance to low-income individuals and families under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Department of Health and Human Services)
- To measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of goals for national housing policy: a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family - National Affordable Housing Act of 1990/HOME Allocations (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To evaluate a locality's qualification for Federal housing assistance in programs such as the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Used as one of the selection criteria for urban development grants for cities and counties under the Community Development Block Grant Program (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Used by the Farmers Home Administration (USDA) to provide housing loans to construct or repair rural dwellings and related facilities Single-Family Rural Housing (Department of Agriculture)
- To develop and maintain the National Energy System that analyzes current residential energy supply and consumption in order to forecast future needs (Department of Energy)

**Plumbing Facilities**

- Develop rural development policy annually under the Rural Development Policy Act of 1980 (Department of Agriculture)
- Grants to states and local governments for rehabilitation of privately-owned property intended for residential rental purposes (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To provide data to measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of national housing:

decent home and suitable living environment for every American family (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

- Identification of areas targeted for housing rehabilitation loans (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Loans to construct, repair, or purchase rural dwellings and related facilities (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Research and analysis regarding the adequacy of farm housing (Department of Agriculture)
- Identification of rural areas targeted for housing rehabilitation grants (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Develop housing assistance plans to identify communities eligible for development programs under the Housing and Community Development Acts of 1968 and 1974 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

## Rent

- Housing assistance for elderly and persons with disabilities and determination of fair market rents in local program areas under the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Supplemental rental payments to qualified low-income families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- House mortgage insurance for elderly, low- and moderate-income, and displaced families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Housing assistance for low-income families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Annual contributions for low-income housing projects (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Housing assistance for low-income families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Grants to states and local governments for rehabilitation of privately-owned property intended for residential rental purposes (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To provide data to measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of national housing policy: decent home and suitable living environment for every American family (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Annual reports by the President to Congress on housing production, occupancy, and tenure, and analysis of housing needs (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Identification of areas targeted for housing rehabilitation loans (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Develop housing assistance plans to identify communities eligible for development programs under the Housing and Community Development Acts of 1968 and 1974 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Grants to States for home energy assistance to low-income persons and families under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended (Department of Health and Human Services)
- Reports on home energy consumption and costs (Department of Health and Human Services)
- To help identify areas for people who need to relocate.

## Rooms

- Housing assistance for elderly and handicapped and determination of fair market rents in local program areas under the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Mortgage insurance for equity investments in rental housing for moderate-income families

**(Department of Housing and Urban Development)**

- Loans to construct, repair, or purchase rural dwellings and related facilities (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Develop housing assistance plans to identify communities eligible for development programs under the Housing and Community Development Acts of 1968 and 1974 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Identification of areas targeted for housing rehabilitation loans (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- City and community officials to determine neighborhood housing deficiencies.
- Determine selection criteria for urban development action grants for cities and urban counties (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Reports on home energy consumption and costs (Department of Health and Human Services)

**Telephone**

- Access the level of social isolation among elderly, low-income, and handicapped households (Department of Health and Human Services and other local social service agencies)
- Measure the extent of universal access to telephone service and enforce requirements under the Voting Rights Act (Federal Communications Commission and Department of Justice)

**Tenure and Condominium Fee**

- Supplemental rental payments to qualified low-income families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Home mortgage insurance for elderly, low- and moderate-income families, and displaced families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Mortgage insurance for rental in urban renewal areas (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Mortgage insurance for equity investments in rental housing for moderate-income families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Mortgage insurance for national defense housing (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Direct housing loans to veterans (Department of Veterans Affairs)
- Annual reports by the President to Congress on housing production, occupancy, and tenure, and analysis of housing needs (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Identification of areas targeted for housing rehabilitation loans (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Loans to construct, repair, or purchase rural dwellings and related facilities (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Develop housing assistance plans to identify communities eligible for development programs under the Housing and Community Development Acts of 1968 and 1974 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

**Units in Structure**

- Housing assistance for elderly and low-income persons and families in rural areas. (Department of Agriculture)
- Grants to states and local governments for rehabilitation of privately-owned property intended for residential rental purposes (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Benchmark data to measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of national housing

policy: decent home and suitable living environment for every American family (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

### Utilities and Fuels (Costs of)

- Housing assistance for elderly and persons with disabilities and determination of fair market rents in local program areas under the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Supplemental rental payments to qualified low-income families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Develop and maintain the National Energy Information System to analyze energy supply and consumption for predicting energy needs (Energy Information Administration-Department of Energy)
- Grants to states and local governments for rehabilitation of privately-owned property intended for residential rental purposes (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To provide data to measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of national housing policy: decent home and suitable living environment for every American family (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Annual reports by the President to Congress on housing production, occupancy, and tenure, and analysis of housing needs (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Identification of rural areas targeted for housing rehabilitation grants (Farmers Home Administration-Department of Agriculture)
- Develop housing assistance plans to identify communities eligible for development programs under the Housing and Community Development Acts of 1968 and 1974 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Determine selection criteria for urban development grants for cities and urban counties (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

### Value

- Housing assistance for elderly and persons with disabilities and determination of fairmarket rents in local program areas under the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Home mortgage insurance for elderly, low- and moderate-income families, and displaced families (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Mortgage insurance for national defense housing (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Direct housing loans to veterans (Department of Veterans Affairs)
- Grants to states and local governments for rehabilitation of privately-owned property intended for residential rental purposes (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- To provide data to measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of national housing policy: decent home and suitable living environment for every American family (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Annual reports by the President to Congress on housing production, occupancy, and tenure, and analysis of housing needs (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Identification of areas targeted for housing rehabilitation loans (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Loans to construct or repair rural dwellings and related facilities (Farmers Home Administration --Department of Agriculture)
- Develop housing assistance plans to identify communities eligible for development programs under

the Housing and Community Development Acts of 1968 and 1974 (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

- Grants to states for home energy assistance to low-income persons and families under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended (Department of Health and Human Services)
- To help identify areas for people who need to relocate.

### Year Structure Built

- To compile data on home mortgage lending patterns by race, geographic area, housing conditions, and income.
- To allocate funds for demolition or disposition of public housing.
- To provide grants to states for home energy assistance to low-income persons and families.
- To prepare reports on home energy consumption and costs.
- To provide direct housing loans to veterans.
- To forecast the needs of local governments for services such as police and fire protection.
- To provide developers and contractors with information for selecting sites for new housing developments.

### Year Householder Moved In

- Congressional declaration of national housing policy: decent home and suitable living environment for every American family (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Identification of areas targeted for housing rehabilitation loans (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Determine selection criteria for urban development action grants for cities and urban counties (Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Assessing the amount of displacement by hurricanes and other natural disasters (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

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**U.S. Census Bureau**

**Census 2000 Data Products  
 At a Glance**

(Revised: 09/18/00)

Planned Release Date (Dates in this column refer to the first medium of release.)	100-Percent Data Products	Lowest Level Geography
MAR - APR 1, 2001	<b>Census 2000 Redistricting Data Summary File</b> State population counts for legislative redistricting. <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM</i>	Blocks
JUN - SEP 2001	<b>Demographic Profile</b> Population totals and selected population and housing characteristics in a single table. <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM, paper</i>	Places Census tracts (Internet only)
JUN - SEP 2001	<b>Congressional District Demographic Profile</b> Population totals and selected population and housing characteristics in a single table for Congressional Districts only. <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM, paper</i>	Congressional Districts of the 106th Congress
JUL 2001	<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino Summary File on CD-ROM</b> <i>Medium: CD-ROM</i>	Places
States: JUN - SEP 2001  <i>Advance national:</i> NOV - DEC 2001  <i>Final national:</i> JUN - JUL 2002	<b>Summary File 1 (SF 1):</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Population counts for 63 race categories and Hispanic or Latino.</li> <li>2. Population counts for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.</li> <li>3. Selected population and housing characteristics.</li> </ol> [Urban/rural data are on the final national file-this is the only difference from the advance national file.] <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blocks</li> <li>2. Census tracts</li> <li>3. Blocks/ Census tracts</li> </ol>
States: SEP - DEC 2001  <i>Advance national:</i> MAR - APR 2002  <i>Final national:</i> MAY - JUN 2002	<b>Summary File 2 (SF 2):</b> Population and housing characteristics iterated for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. [Urban/rural data are on the final national file-this is the only difference from the advance national file.] <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM</i>	Census tracts

Continued from previous page. . .

<p><i>States:</i> APR - DEC 2001</p> <p><i>National:</i> NOV 2001 - APR 2002</p>	<p><b>Quick Tables</b> Table shells with population and housing characteristics where the user can specify a geographic area and a population group. <i>Medium: Internet</i></p>	Census tracts
<p><i>States:</i> APR 2001 - JAN 2002</p> <p><i>National:</i> DEC 2001 - AUG 2002</p>	<p><b>Geographic Comparison Tables</b> Population and housing characteristics for a list of geographic areas (e.g., all counties in a state). <i>Medium: Internet</i></p>	Places
<p>SEP - DEC 2001 (Release subject to policy decisions on access and confidentiality.)</p>	<p><b>Advanced Query Function</b> User specifies contents of tabulations from full microdata file. Includes safeguards against disclosure of identifying information about individuals and housing units. <i>Medium: Internet</i></p>	User defined down to block groups
JAN - NOV 2002	<p><b>Census 2000: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics</b> <i>Media: Internet, paper (printed report)</i></p>	Places
2003	<p><b>Census 2000: Population and Housing Unit Totals</b> <i>Media: Internet, paper (printed report with selected historical counts)</i></p>	Places
<p><b>Planned Release Date</b> (Dates in this column refer to the first medium of release.)</p>	<p><b>Sample Data Products</b></p>	<p><b>Lowest Level Geography</b></p>
DEC 2001 - MAR 2002	<p><b>Demographic Profile</b> Demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics presented in three separate tables. <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM, paper</i></p>	<p>Places</p> <p>Census tracts (Internet only)</p>
DEC 2001 - MAR 2002	<p><b>Congressional District Demographic Profile</b> Demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics presented in three separate tables for Congressional Districts only. <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM, paper</i></p>	Congressional Districts of the 106th Congress
JUN - SEP 2002	<p><b>Summary File 3 (SF 3):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Population counts for ancestry groups.</li> <li>2. Selected population and housing characteristics.</li> </ol> <p><i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Census tracts</li> <li>2. Block groups/ Census tracts</li> </ol>
OCT 2002 - FEB 2003	<p><b>Summary File 4 (SF 4):</b> Population and housing characteristics iterated for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, and ancestry groups. <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM</i></p>	Census tracts

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JUN 2002 - FEB 2003	<b>Quick Tables</b> Table shells with population and housing characteristics where the user can specify a geographic area and a population group. <i>Medium: Internet</i>	Census tracts
JUL 2002 - JAN 2003	<b>Geographic Comparison Tables</b> Population and housing characteristics for a list of geographic areas (e.g., all counties in a state). <i>Medium: Internet</i>	Places
<i>For 1-percent sample:</i> 2002  <i>For 5-percent sample:</i> 2003	<b>Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files</b>  1. 1-percent sample (information for the nation and states, as well as substate areas where appropriate). 2. 5-percent sample (information for state and sub-state areas).  <i>Medium: CD-ROM</i>	1. Super Public Use Microdata Areas (Super-PUMAs) of 400,000+ 2. PUMAs of 100,000+
DEC 2002 - MAR 2003 (Release subject to policy decisions on access and confidentiality.)	<b>Advanced Query Function</b> User specifies contents of tabulations from full microdata file. Includes safeguards against disclosure of identifying information about individuals and housing units. <i>Medium: Internet</i>	User defined down to census tracts
2003	<b>Census 2000: Summary Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics</b> <i>Media: Internet, paper (printed report)</i>	Places
2003	<b>Congressional District Data Summary File</b> 100-percent and sample data for the redistricted 108th Congress. <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM</i>	Census tracts within Congressional Districts

**GENERAL** -- Census 2000 data products are designed to meet a variety of data needs for different segments of the data user community. The data products described here provide a summary of the general tabulation and publication program for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (which is treated as a state equivalent for each data product). Please note that constraints with staffing and budget, federal guidelines regarding the tabulation of data by race and ethnicity, data processing, or other considerations may result in changes to the types of data products prepared or the timing of their release. For more information on Census 2000 data products, please call Customer Services on 301-457-4100 or contact Louisa Miller (Population Division) on 301-457-2073.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division,  
 Decennial Programs Coordination Branch  
 Maintained By: Laura K. Yax (Population Division)  
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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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### I. Conducting a Census

- I have already mailed in my census form (I have already given information to a census taker). Why am I being contacted (called) by the Census Bureau again?
- I want to be counted in Census 2000. I did not receive a questionnaire!
- I have not received a census questionnaire and I also have not been contacted by a census taker. What should I do?
- I am angry! Why should I cooperate with a census taker when I have already sent in my completed form?
- I have been asked to complete a census long form questionnaire and would like to exchange it for a short form. Is this possible?
- To whom do I report the inappropriate behavior/appearance of a census taker?
- Why is a census employee contacting me by telephone when I have already sent in my completed form?
- I have received a census questionnaire package that is defective (pages missing, etc.). What do I do to receive a complete census questionnaire package?
- I have received (two or more) two questionnaires, at least one a long form (D2) and the other(s) a short form (D1). Which questionnaire(s) should I answer?
- Why am I receiving two or more duplicate questionnaires from the Census Bureau?
- What should I do when I receive duplicate forms?
- Why are you wasting the taxpayers' money?
- I received a pre-census letter with an incorrect address. How will the Census Bureau ensure that the questionnaire will be mailed to my correct address?
- Why did I receive a letter with a return envelope and no questionnaire enclosed?
- Why are you printing instructions on the pre-census letter in languages other than English?
- What is the Census Bureau doing to promote Census 2000?
- How will Telephone Questionnaire Assistance (TOA) operators handle callers who have difficulty completing the long form questionnaire?
- Why don't you have a lottery to increase cooperation with the census?
- Census workers recently contacted our house but asked only about our address. Why are they collecting addresses more than a year before the Census?
- What type of automation is being incorporated in Census 2000?
- How does the Census Bureau plan to use sampling now that the Supreme Court has prohibited its use?
- What are some of the important milestone dates for conducting the census?
- What is the Census Bureau doing to provide non-English language assistance?
- Are there differences in the ways you count big cities and small rural towns?
- Why are the address list and maps so important for Census 2000?
- Can the local or tribal government use the address list for other purposes?
- Will the Census Bureau provide funds to support local or tribal address lists and map review activities?

### II. Participating in the Census

- Why should people fill out their census forms?

Continued from previous page. . .

- How is the privacy of the respondents protected?

### III. The Census Questionnaire

- Why does the Census Bureau ask these questions?
- Why does the census form have room for only six people?
- Why do census forms have so many questions?
- How much money is distributed by the Federal government based on the census?
- Why does the Census need to know about race?
- Why does the Census Bureau collect information on Hispanic origin?
- What questions are on the census forms?
- How much does it cost to obtain the long form (sample) data?
- Does the long form questionnaire decrease the response rate?
- Why do you have one question on race and another question on Hispanic origin?
- Does the Census Bureau collect data on Hispanic subgroups other than Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban?
- How does the layout of race question correspond to the changes in the classification of race as directed by OMB?
- Why were some questions on the 1990 form deleted from the 2000?
- Why were some of the questions on the 1990 short form moved to the Census 2000 long form?
- Why did you add questions to the Census 2000 form that were not in the 1990 Census?
- What have you done to make it easier to fill out the form?
- What are the specific differences in the way you are planning to conduct the 2000 census from the way it was done in 1990?
- How long does it take to complete the forms?
- Isn't there an easier way that would take less time and money, such as use of public records or private companies, to compile the population figures?

### IV. Census 2000 Data (The Census 2000 Data Products At a Glance has been added on the internet at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata/c2kproducts.html> )

- When will data from the census be available?
- How will data from Census 2000 be made available?
- What Hispanic origin data will be available?
- What kind of data will the Census Bureau provide on people without conventional housing?
- How will we collect information on people without conventional housing?
- Will the Census 2000 count Americans overseas?
- Will people of mixed racial or ethnic heritage be able to identify themselves on the form?
- If respondents are allowed to mark more than one racial category, how will that affect response and reporting of race?
- How do I answer the question on race?
- How should Hispanics answer the race question?
- Does everyone need to answer the question on Hispanic origin?

### V. About the Census Bureau

- What does the Census Bureau do between censuses?
-

Continued from previous page. . .

## I. Conducting a Census

**I have already mailed in my census form (I have already given information to a census taker). Why am I being contacted (called) by the Census Bureau again!**

Census 2000 isn't entirely over. We are still in the process of conducting the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation, which is coverage measurement survey used to determine the number of people and housing units missed or erroneously included in Census 2000. Household (person) interviewing is being conducted.

**A. I want to be counted in Census 2000, I did not receive a questionnaire!**

We are not sure why you did not originally receive a questionnaire. The U.S. Census Bureau made every effort to produce a complete list of households for delivering the Census 2000 forms. Households that did not return questionnaires, for whatever reason, were included as part of our follow-up operations. During these operations, census enumerators contacted households from which we did not receive a questionnaire and conducted an interview with a resident of that household to collect their census information. If, after multiple attempts, enumerators were unable to reach a household member, they collected data on that household from neighbors or apartment managers as a last resort. It is quite possible that data from your household were captured during these operations.

**B. I am angry! Why should I cooperate with a census taker when I have already sent in my completed form?**

Census takers are visiting all households for which we didn't have a questionnaire by April 18. If you sent your questionnaire prior to this date, it's possible that we did not receive it in time to be excluded from Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU). Census takers are instructed to complete all questionnaires in their assignment areas. We would appreciate your cooperation in completing the questionnaire again.

**C. I have been asked to complete a census long form questionnaire and would like to exchange it for a short form. Is this possible?**

It is not possible to exchange a long form for a short form. Long form census questionnaires are sent to approximately 1 in 6 households in the United States. Your answers to the long form questionnaire represent other addresses in your neighborhood that are not designated for the long form. Selectively exchanging the long form for the short form will bias our long form data and not be a representative sample of your area. As in previous censuses, the Census Bureau uses sampling, based on established scientific methods, as a cost effective tool to collect additional information needed to implement and evaluate federal and state programs. Every question asked has a specific federal legislative or judicial mandate or requirement.

**D. To whom do I report the inappropriate behavior/appearance of a census taker?**

We regret that the behavior/appearance of the enumerator was not business-like and up to Census Bureau standards. This should be reported to the Assistant Manager for Field Operations, or to the Manager of the Local Census Office. You may get the telephone number for the Local Census Office from Directory Assistance or from the Census internet site at <http://www.census.gov/jobs2000/www/where.html> (Note to Census Bureau headquarters staff: take the initiative to go on the internet site and provide the appropriate LCO telephone number to the questioner.)

**E. Why is a census employee contacting me by telephone when I have already sent in my completed form?**

There may be other reasons that the Census Bureau is contacting your household by telephone (or in person). These operations include:

- \* Follow-up reinterviews to check the completeness and accuracy of census taker performance (if the respondent cannot be reached by telephone, he or she may be visited in person)

Continued from previous page. . .

\* Questionnaire edits to

- \* complete information for a large household, or
- \* check inconsistencies in answers to a submitted questionnaire

- \* An Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation survey of sample households who have mailed back Census 2000 questionnaires to measure the overall and differential coverage of the U.S. population in Census 2000

**F. I have received a census questionnaire package that is defective (pages missing, etc.). What do I do to receive a complete census questionnaire package?**

If you have received a damaged census questionnaire package or one that is missing a postage-paid return envelope or pages of the questionnaire, call Telephone Questionnaire Assistance at 1-800-471-9424 for another census questionnaire package. Their hours are 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM for all time zones through June 30. By calling early in the morning or later in the evening, you will more likely avoid peak calling hours and get the assistance you need promptly. We apologize for the inconvenience that this may have caused you. After completing the census questionnaire, please mail it as soon as possible. Participation in Census 2000 is a very important civic responsibility. The data collected in Census 2000 are used to apportion the U.S. House of Representatives among the states, draw legislative districts within states, and allocate more than \$185 billion in annual Federal funding to communities all over the United States.

**G. I have received (two or more) two questionnaires, at least one a long form (D2) and the other(s) a short form (D1). Which questionnaire(s) should I answer?**

Please compare the addresses on each of the questionnaires. If one (or more) address(es) is incorrect, ignore that (those) questionnaire(s) and answer the questionnaire with the best address. If both (all) addresses are correct, pick the one with the address that is closest to the current, correct address. It is possible a Census taker may visit you, even if you mail back your questionnaire. We will be continuing to verify census information.

**H. Why am I receiving two or more duplicate questionnaires from the Census Bureau?**

In preparing our address list for mailing Census questionnaires, we tried to be as inclusive as possible. We started with our 1990 address list and added address information from the U.S. Postal Service, and local and tribal governments as well as field checks by census workers to build a comprehensive address list. However, this inclusive process sometimes results in duplicate addresses and, thus, multiple questionnaires. Before we eliminate any address from our list, we have a number of census operations which review and verify these addresses. These review procedures are designed to resolve duplicate addresses and will continue through spring and summer of this year.

**I. What should I do when I receive duplicate forms?**

We understand we may have delivered more than one census questionnaire to your residence. We are asking you:

- \* to select the addressed form that best represents your current, correct address.
- \* Please ignore the other questionnaires and return your selected form in the postage-paid return envelope that has your current, correct address.
- \* We ask that you do not use or mail back the other questionnaires.

You may be visited by a Census taker, even if you mail back your questionnaire. We will be continuing to verify census information.

Continued from previous page. . .

**J. Why are you wasting the taxpayers' money?**

This is not a waste of the taxpayers' money. Our process is designed to produce the most complete count of the Nation's population. Only a small proportion of households in the United States will receive multiple questionnaires. We would appreciate your help in doing what you can to mail back the questionnaire with the correct address information.

**K. I received a pre-census letter with an incorrect address. How will the Census Bureau ensure that the questionnaire will be mailed to my correct address?**

At the time the address was imprinted on these letters, an extra digit was erroneously inserted in front of the house number. However, the postal bar code, used for mail sorting at delivery, was printed correctly. Therefore, we have been assured by the United States Postal Service that they can deliver the advance letters.

Quality assurance procedures have been reviewed. Our research shows that this printing problem is limited to these advance letters and will have no effect on the questionnaire or reminder card delivered later by the postal service or on the questionnaire dropped off by census employees in our update/leave operation. Census questionnaires and reminder cards will be delivered to your correct address.

**L. Why did I receive a letter with a return envelope and no questionnaire enclosed?**

For the first time, the Census Bureau is alerting the American public, via an advance letter, to the importance of the upcoming Census and alerting them that a questionnaire will be arriving in the mail soon or will be left by a census enumerator. If you will note, the first sentence of the letter reads either "About one week from now, you will receive a U.S. Census 2000 form in the mail" or "In the next few weeks, a census worker will deliver your U.S. Census 2000 form." This letter also is used as a way for those needing a questionnaire in a language other than English--Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, or Tagalog--to request such a questionnaire by checking the appropriate box on the reverse side of the letter and returning it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If you do not need a foreign language questionnaire, you do not need to do anything with the enclosed return envelope.

**M. Why are you printing instructions on the pre-census letter in languages other than English?**

A nationwide population census of all people residing in the United States was established by the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 2. In order to reduce the number of people historically undercounted in a population census, for example, recent immigrants, the Census Bureau decided to print questionnaires in 5 languages to improve the response among the non-English speaking population.

**N. What is the Census Bureau doing to promote Census 2000?**

The Census 2000 Partnership and Marketing Program is a multi-faceted effort to remind the general population about the census, educate those members of the public who do not understand the purpose of the census and its significance to their communities, and motivate them to complete their census questionnaires. The Census Bureau recognizes that different segments of the population respond in different ways and with different levels of trust and willingness to participate in the census. The Partnership and Marketing Program incorporates five components designed to reach these populations in the manner most appropriate to each. Together, these components provide many vehicles to reach people many times - in the places where they live, work, go to school, and play.

The five components of the Partnership and Marketing Program are:

\* The establishment of partnerships with state, local, and tribal governments, community groups, advocacy groups, labor unions, trade and professional associations, service organizations, religious organizations, schools, youth groups, stores/local businesses, chambers of commerce, and media organizations.

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\* A direct mail campaign designed to draw attention to the census questionnaire when it arrives in people's mailboxes.

\* A paid advertising campaign to generate awareness about Census 2000 via print, broadcast and outdoor advertising.

\* A media relations campaign to encourage positive, informative coverage emphasizing the importance of responding to the census.

\* Promotions and special events to provide non-threatening, fun, educational activities in communities and schools, particularly in hard-to-enumerate areas.

Examples of the many opportunities for partners' participation in the census include having local governments participate in the compilation of address lists; sponsoring workshops, conferences, speaker bureaus, and community meetings; developing and distributing materials to constituents/clients/members endorsing the census and explaining the importance of participating; generating positive media coverage about the census; recruiting community members to work as address listers, enumerators, and Questionnaire Assistance staff; donating space, such as space for training and Questionnaire Assistance Centers; and providing advice and support to the Census Bureau on the development of data collection strategies, particularly with regard to hard-to-enumerate populations.

**O. How will Telephone Questionnaire Assistance (TQA) operators handle callers who have difficulty completing the long form questionnaire?**

The Census Bureau has decided not to conduct long form questionnaire interviews by telephone. This decision reflects the need to scale back the requirements for the TQA Program in a manner consistent with the available level of funding. The operator will inform the caller that an enumerator will collect their long form data during a subsequent follow-up operation. The long form holders will only receive assistance, whereas the short form holders will be interviewed.

The TQA operators will provide assistance or conduct interviews for the short form questionnaires.

**P. Why don't you have a lottery to increase cooperation with the census?**

After the 1990 census, the Census Bureau appointed a Sweepstakes Committee to investigate the issues and questions of using a sweepstakes to increase participation in the census. After consideration of legal and other issues relating to this approach and meeting with representatives of a corporation involved with sweepstakes, the Committee made its recommendation that we should not proceed with research and development on this concept.

**Q. Census workers recently contacted our house but asked only about our address. Why are they collecting addresses more than a year before the Census?**

Census workers are updating our address lists that were obtained primarily from the U.S. Postal Service and the 1990 census address list. Postal Service letter carriers also will check the final mailing lists for Census 2000 just before they deliver the questionnaires to ensure that all housing units to which they deliver mail receive a form. In areas without house numbers and street names, census workers list the address of each housing unit or other structure they see where a person lives or could live, note on their map the location of each housing unit, and update the map they are using with any new streets or street names. Census workers can locate housing to deliver, or leave or complete a questionnaire.

**R. What type of automation is being incorporated in Census 2000?**

The major features of automation for Census 2000 include data capture methodology that will accommodate the use of respondent-friendly questionnaires. The Census Bureau has identified components of the data capture process that may be best performed by private-sector partners although it will not limit itself to creating in-house solutions. The

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Census Bureau will take advantage of available commercial off-the-shelf hardware and software representing advancements in information technology and systems.

The Census Bureau will operate the National Processing Center and work with contractors who will operate three processing centers responsible for data capture functions including:

- \* A full electronic data capture and processing system to record an image of every questionnaire
- \* Questionnaires returned by mail will be sorted automatically to ensure timely capture of critical information needed before nonresponse follow-up (census workers enumerate addresses for which we have not received a completed questionnaire).
- \* Optical mark recognition will be used for all check-box data items.
- \* Intelligent character recognition (ICR) will be used to capture write-in character-based data items.
- \* A clerical keying operation will capture and resolve difficult ICR cases.
- \* A quality assurance review will be conducted on data keying and scanning activities.
- \* The use of electronic imaging and captured data will reduce the logistical and staffing requirements that handling large volumes of paper questionnaires would require.

**S. How does the Census Bureau plan to use sampling now that the Supreme Court has prohibited its use?**

On January 25, 1999, the Supreme Court upheld '195, Title 13, United States Code, prohibiting the Census Bureau from using statistical sampling to determine the population count for congressional apportionment purposes (No. 98-564, Clinton, President of the United States, et al. v. *Glavin et al.*, on appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia).

Though the Court's decision does affect the way in which the Census Bureau uses sampling to collect additional information, the Census Bureau will use a sampling ratio of about one long form (sample) questionnaire for every six households to obtain sample data on content as it has in previous censuses. We plan to include sample questions on place of birth, work status last year, income, ancestry, monthly rent, veteran status, disability, plumbing and kitchen facilities, and others. This sample for content provides the necessary data to produce a wide array of information for redistricting and supply data on social, economic, physical characteristics of housing, and financial characteristics.

**T. What are some of the important milestone dates for conducting the census?**

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IMPORTANT MILESTONES			
START DATE	FINISH DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
3/6/00	3/31/00	Mail Delivery	The mail delivery strategy includes an advance letter, questionnaire mailout, and a reminder card for nonrespondents (the reminder card is sent to all on the mailing out list -- as a thank you card to those that have responded and to those who have not yet responded).
3/3/00	3/30/00	Update/Leave	This is conducted in areas with predominately non-city-style addresses. Census workers will deliver the questionnaires to housing units and at the same time update their list of addresses of the units in their assignment area.
1/31/00	5/1/00	List/Enumeration (Including Alaska)	Enumerators will visit each household in very remote or very sparsely populated areas (e.g. remote Alaska). Census maps will be updated, interviews conducted, and each address/location will be listed.
3/3/00	6/08/00	Telephone Questionnaire Assistance (TQA)	A toll-free telephone service will be provided by a commercial phone center to provide respondents assistance completing their Census 2000 questionnaires. Assistance will be available in several languages.
4/27/00	7/7/00	Nonresponse Followup (NRFU)	Enumerators begin follow-up on addresses for which we have not received a completed questionnaire.
7/27/00	8/15/00	Coverage Improvement Followup	The purpose of this operation is to improve coverage of persons in housing units potentially classified in error during NRFU. Census staff will re-visit these addresses, determine the status of the address as of Census Day.
3/7/00	8/24/00	Data Capture	The operation to convert the responses on the census questionnaires into computer processed data.
12/31/00	12/31/00	Delivery of Apportionment Data	By legal mandate, apportionment data will be delivered to the President of the United States.
2/12/01	3/31/01	Redistricting Data	Complete the release of redistricting data to the states.

**U. What is the Census Bureau doing to provide non-English language assistance?**

Those households who receive the census form in the mail will have the option of requesting the questionnaire in Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Korean. Those individuals or households who believe that they were not included on a form or did not receive a form can use the Be Counted questionnaires that will be available in public areas. The Be Counted forms will be printed in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean.

The Census Bureau is also launching the Census 2000 Language Program. The goal is to provide census information and to overcome language barriers that might prevent any individual from full participation in the decennial census. Census 2000 Language Assistance Guides will use visual aids to assist respondents completing the Census 2000 mail/out/back questionnaires. There will be one short form and long form guide in each of the following languages:

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Census 2000 Languages for Language Assistance Guides			
Albanian	Dinka	Korean	Swahili
Amharic	Dutch	Kurdish	Tagalog
Arabic	Farsi	Lao	Thai
Armenian	French	Polish	Tibetan
Bengali	German	Portuguese	Tigrinya
Burmese	Greek	Romani	Tongan
Cambodian	Hebrew	Romanian	Ukrainian
Chamorro	Hindi	Russian	Urdu
Chinese	Hmong	Samoan	Vietnamese
Creole	Hungarian	Serbian (Serbo-Croatian)	Yiddish
Croatian (Serbo-Croatian)	Ilocano	Slovak	
Czech	Italian	Somali	
Dari	Japanese	Spanish	

**V. Are there differences in the ways you count big cities and small rural towns?**

Improving our address list is a key element in making sure we reach people everywhere in the U.S. Partnerships with local governments and American Indian tribal officials is the first step in making sure our address list is as accurate as possible. Every address will receive a letter in advance of the census, the questionnaire, and a thank you/reminder card, but the way these items are delivered will vary between big cities and rural areas.

In places where street addresses are used for mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service, we will mail the questionnaire to the residence. In rural areas where rural route/box number, post office box, and/or general delivery addresses are used, enumerators will canvass each block before the census to create an address list of all living quarters. At the time of the census, enumerators will deliver questionnaires to each address and check the address list again to ensure that it includes every housing unit.

**W. Why are the address list and maps so important for Census 2000?**

The address list and related maps are the foundation of a complete and accurate census. Some of the people not counted in the 1990 census were missed because the Census Bureau did not know their housing units existed. A complete address list will ensure that Census 2000 will be accurate. Up-to-date maps will help the Census Bureau verify where each housing unit is located.

**X. Can the local or tribal government use the address list for other purposes?**

The only purpose for which this address list can be used is to conduct Census 2000 and other Census Bureau programs. Only individuals who agree, under oath, to keep the address information confidential may review the address list.

By law (Title 13, United States Code), the Census Bureau cannot share the individual answers it receives with others, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, or police. The military personnel who help with the census on-base are sworn to protect the confidentiality of your answers. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to 5 years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The law works - millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990s without any breach of trust.

**Y. Will the Census Bureau provide funds to support local or tribal address lists and map review activities?**

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The Census Bureau has no funding to reimburse local or tribal governments for money or staff time they spend on address list and map review activities. This is a partnership program. The participating government agrees to review and update these materials. Better maps and a better address list will lead to a better census, which will assure that local and tribal governments receive their full allocation of federal funding based on population.

Participating governments should contact their Census Bureau regional offices by electronic mail or telephone with any questions. The Census Bureau established a help desk at 1-888-879-6656 for localities with computer readable files and this number will remain operational until at least August 2000. The Census Bureau has offered regional planning agencies and the State Data Centers the opportunity to assist the Census Bureau in implementing the program.

## II. Participation in the Census

### A. Why should people fill out their census forms?

Participating in the census is in the individuals' own self interest. People who answer the census help their communities obtain federal and state funding and valuable information for planning schools, hospitals, roads, and more. For example, census information helps decision makers understand which neighborhoods need new schools and which ones need greater services for the elderly. But they will not be able to tell what your neighborhood needs if you do not fill out your census form.

### B. How is the privacy of the respondents protected?

The numbers we publish are combined with thousands of answers from people in your neighborhood and across the country. No one, except sworn Census Bureau employees, can see your questionnaire or link your name with your responses. In fact, the law provides severe penalties for any census employee that makes your answers known.  
(Detailed Information)

## III. The Census Questionnaire

### A. Why does the census form have room for only six people?

The Census Bureau decided to adopt a six-person questionnaire for Census 2000, which would apply to both the short and long-form questionnaires. Planning estimates put the number of mailback households with seven or more persons at slightly more than one million households versus about four million households with six or more persons.

Respondents with more than six person households can record the names of the other people on the last page of the D-1 or D-1 (UL) form. The Census Bureau checks this page for names and will call the household two to three weeks later and ask for the census information for those people.

### B. Why do census forms have so many questions?

Every question in Census 2000 is required by law to manage or evaluate federal programs or is needed to meet legal requirements stemming from U.S. court decisions such as the Voting Act. In addition, the data collected by them is as much a part of our Nation's infrastructure as highways and telephone lines. Federal dollars supporting schools, employment services, housing assistance, highway construction, hospital services, programs for the elderly, and more are distributed based on census data.

### C. How much money is distributed by the federal government based on the census?

Twenty-two of the 25 largest Federal funding grant programs of fiscal year 1998 are responsible for \$162 billion being distributed to state, local, and tribal governments, and about half of this money was distributed using formulas involving census population data, according to a report by the General Accounting Office. We expect that at least

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\$182 billion will be distributed annually based on formulas using Census 2000 data.

**D. Why does the Census need to know about race?**

Race is key to implementing any number of federal programs and it is critical for the basic research behind numerous policy decisions. States require these data to meet legislative redistricting requirements. Also, they are needed to monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act by local jurisdictions. Race data are required by federal programs that promote equal employment opportunity and to assess racial disparities in health and environmental risks. The Census Bureau has included a question on race since the first census in 1790.

**E. Why does the Census Bureau collect information on Hispanic origin?**

The 1970 decennial census was the first to have a question on Hispanic origin on the sample or "long" census form. Since 1980 this question has appeared on the 100 percent or "short" form. Hispanic origin data are needed for the implementation of a number of federal statutes such as the enforcement of bilingual election rules under the Voting Rights Act and the monitoring and enforcement of equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act. Additionally, information on people of Hispanic origin is needed by local governments to run programs and meet legislative requirements at the community level. For example, these data are used to help identify segments of the population who may not be receiving medical services under the Public Health Act or to evaluate whether financial institutions are meeting credit needs of minority populations under the Community Reinvestment Act.

**F. What questions are on the census forms? (Follow the links to detailed information.)**

The following questions will be on the short form (100%) questionnaire that everyone receives: Tenure (whether a housing unit is owned or rented), Name, Sex, Age, Relationship to household, Hispanic Origin, and Race. The long form (sample) questionnaire, which goes to an average of one in six households, has the short form questions plus additional questions on the following subjects:

**Social characteristics of Population:** marital status, place of birth/citizenship/year of entry, education-school enrollment/educational attainment, ancestry, residence 5 years ago (migration), language spoken at home, veteran status, disability, grandparents as caregivers.

**Economic characteristics of Population:** labor force status (current), place of work and journey to work, work status last year, industry/occupation/class of worker, income (previous year).

**Physical characteristics of Housing:** units in structure, number of rooms, number of bedrooms, plumbing and kitchen facilities, year structure built, year moved into unit, house heating fuel, telephone, vehicles available, farm residence.

**Financial characteristics of Housing:** value of home, monthly rent, shelter costs (selected monthly owner costs).

**G. How much does it cost to obtain the long form (sample) data?**

The long form is a cost effective tool for gathering information needed to evaluate and implement federal and state programs. In 1990, the long form added only 11 to 19 percent to the total cost of the census, according to a National Academy of Sciences panel.

**H. Does the long form questionnaire decrease the response rate?**

Before 1940, everyone had to answer all the questions that the census collected. The long form questions - asked only of a sample of households - was introduced as a way to collect more data, more rapidly, without increasing respondent burden.

The National Academy of Science's Panel on Census Requirements in the Year 2000 and Beyond looked at the

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question of whether the long form discourages participation in the census. They found that the difference in mail return rates between the long and short forms in 1990 reduced the overall mail return rate by less than one percentage point.

**I. Why do you have one question on race and another question on Hispanic origin?**

On October 30, 1997 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued "Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity." All federal agencies, including the Census Bureau, who collect and report data on race and ethnicity must follow these standards. Race and ethnicity are considered to be two separate and distinct concepts in this standard, and OMB accepted the Interagency Committee for the Review of the Racial and Ethnic Standards recommendation that two separate questions -- one for race and one for ethnicity or Hispanic origin -- be used whenever feasible to provide flexibility and ensure data quality.

**J. Does the Census Bureau collect data on Hispanic subgroups other than Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban?**

Yes. In Census 2000, like in the 1990 census, the Hispanic origin question has a write-in line which is used to obtain write-in responses of Hispanic subgroups other than the major groups of Mexican, Cuban, and Puerto Ricans. Persons with other Hispanic origins such as Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, Argentinean, and so on, will be able to write in their specific origin group. In fact, the Census Bureau's code list contains over 30 Hispanic or Latino subgroups. For Census 2000 maximum detail on Hispanic subgroups will be made available in micro data files while data products containing tabulations will report less detail information.

**K. How does the layout of the race question correspond to the changes in the classification of race as directed by OMB?**

The question on race for Census 2000 has been modified to be consistent with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) revised standards for collecting and tabulating data on race and ethnicity. First, the instructions on race now read "Mark [X] one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be." Second, three separate response identifiers (Indian (Amer.), Eskimo, and Aleut) used in the 1990 Census are combined into one response category -- American Indian or Alaska Native--for Census 2000. Third, the Asian and Pacific Islander groups listed in two columns under the spanner "Asian or Pacific Islander" on the 1990 Census questionnaire are now grouped into two separate categories: 1) Asian and 2) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. The detailed Asian groups are listed alphabetically in the first two columns and the detailed Pacific Islander groups are listed in the third column alphabetically after the Native Hawaiian response category. Fourth, in 1990 there were two write-in areas: one for Indian (Amer.) and a shared area for Other Asian and Pacific Islander (Other API) and Other Race. For Census 2000, there are three write-in areas for people to provide more detailed information on an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe, an Other Asian group, an Other Pacific Islander group, or Some Other Race. On this form, the write-in area for an Other Asian group and for an Other Pacific Islander group is shared.

**L. Why were some questions on the 1990 form deleted from the 2000?**

Deciding which subjects to include is an interactive process involving the Census Bureau, the Office of Management and Budget, and the U.S. Congress. To balance concerns about the intrusiveness of the decennial census, the many requirements placed on federal agencies, and the needs of state, local, and tribal governments to manage programs, only those subjects that had specific federal legislative justification were recommended for Census 2000.

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**M. Why were some of the questions on the 1990 short form moved to the Census 2000 long form?**

For Census 2000, the Census Bureau has proposed subjects on the short form only when data are both needed in response to legislative requirements and required at the block level - the smallest level of geography for which we report information. Therefore, we moved five subjects that were asked of every housing unit in 1990 to the long form, which will go out to a sample of housing units in 2000. These subjects include marital status, units in structure, number of rooms, value of home, and monthly rent.

**N. Why did you add questions to the Census 2000 form that were not in the 1990 Census?**

Only one new subject was added to the Census 2000 questionnaire: grandparents as caregivers. This addition complies with legislation passed by the 104th Congress requiring that the decennial census obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for care of grandchildren (Title 13, United States Code, Chapter 5, Section 141).

**O. What have you done to make it easier to fill out the form?**

The Census Bureau has been working with private sector designers to produce forms that are easy to read and understand, simple to fill out and mail back, and help people understand the importance of answering the census. Some of the user-friendly features include the following:

- \* Symbols to help guide;
- \* A larger, easier to read type face;
- \* Navigational aids to guide the respondent through the questionnaire;
- \* Instructions written directly on the form instead of in a separate guide; and
- \* Graphics that illustrate census benefits.

**P. What are the specific differences in the way you are planning to conduct the 2000 census from the way it was done in 1990?**

Although there are many aspects of Census 2000 that are different from the 1990 Census, the key differences are:

- \* Using address information provided by the U.S. Postal Service.
- \* Asking state, local, and tribal governments to help correct census maps and address lists.
- \* First-time utilizing paid advertising by extremely qualified experts.
- \* Creating a new "user-friendly" questionnaire that will be simpler and easier for respondents to understand and fill out.
- \* Digitally capturing of forms enabling us to scan responses directly into computers that can read handwriting.
- \* Using "matching" software that allows us to check individual blocks and identify multiple responses from the same household. This allows the Census Bureau to provide more opportunities for the public to respond, including placing forms called "Be Counted" documents in community locations across the country.

**Q. How long does it take to complete the forms?**

Compared with 1990, there is a significant improvement in the estimated time required to complete both the short and long forms. In 1990, it was estimated to take 14 minutes to complete the short form and 43 minutes to complete the

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long form. For Census 2000, it will only take about 10 minutes to complete the short form and 38 minutes for the long form.

**R. Isn't there an easier way that would take less time and money, such as use of public records or private companies, to compile the population figures?**

No other government agency has information on every person in the United States. And no private company is equipped to bring on the number of temporary workers needed to take the census. Some people think that the Postal Service ought to do the census. The Postal Service delivers all the questionnaires that are mailed to individual addresses and picks up and returns the bulk of them. But we still need to hire temporary workers to visit those households that do not mail back a questionnaire. The key job for postal workers is to assist the U.S. Census in developing the address list and to locate mailboxes. Right now, the best way for American taxpayers to save money on the census is to fill out and mail back their census questionnaire.

**IV. Census 2000 Data** (The Census 2000 Data Products At a Glance has been placed on the internet at:

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata/c2kproducts.html>)

**A. When will data from the census be available?**

For data products required by law [Title 13, United States Code], we will deliver the products on or before the specified dates. These data products include delivery of the state population counts to the President within nine months of Census Day (on or before December 31, 2000). These counts are used to reapportion the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Under the Voting Rights Act, the Census Bureau is required to provide the states with race and ethnic data for small geographic areas to be used for the redistricting process specified in P.L. 94-171 by April 1, 2001. After discussing and consulting with stakeholders and advisors, including the Department of Justice, the Census Bureau has decided to meet the needs of redistricting by providing the sixty-three categories of race in combination with Hispanic/Latino categories tabulated for both total population and people of eighteen years of age or over.

Other products will be released on a flow basis from June, 2001, through September, 2003.

**B. How will data from Census 2000 be made available?**

Census 2000 data will be disseminated mainly using a new data retrieval system called the American FactFinder (AFF). Census 2000 data products will be available on a flow basis beginning January 2001. The American FactFinder will be accessible to the widest possible array of users through the Internet, through intermediaries, including the nearly 1,800 State Data Centers and affiliates, the 1,400 Federal Depository libraries and other libraries, universities, and private organizations.

The American FactFinder will find and retrieve the information needed at the geography of choice from some of the largest census databases. The American FactFinder is accessible directly from the Census Bureau's new website.

Census 2000 will offer five categories of products:

**Profiles**

Demographic Profiles for both 100 percent and sample data (AFF; CD-ROM; print); and Congressional District Profiles, for both 100 percent and sample data (AFF; CD-ROM; print by special request).

**Printed Reports**

Demographic Profiles and Table Shells (AFF; CD-ROM; print)

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Populations Totals (AFF, CD-ROM, print by special request).

**Electronic Files**

Redistricting Data Public Law 94-171 Summary File (AFF; CD-ROM; print by special request); 100 percent Summary File (AFF; CD-ROM; Sample Summary File (AFF; CD-ROM)  
Congressional District Summary Files (AFF; CD-ROM)

**Quick Tables and Geographic Summary Tables**  
(AFF; some CD-ROM; some in print).

**Microdata Files**

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) 5% File (AFF; CD-ROM)  
Full microdata tabulations (AFF).

Finding Traditional 1990 Census Products in Census 2000			
1990	Title	Description	2000
Population and Housing Unit Counts	CPH-2 Reports	Historical population and housing totals with boundary and annexation information	Printed Reports
Population and Housing Characteristics for Census Tracts and Block Numbering	CPH-3 Reports	Both 100 percent and sample population and housing data published for each MSA/PMSA portion of each state	American FactFinder Summary Files & Quick Tables
Census of Population and Census of Housing Reports for Metropolitan Areas and Urbanized Areas	CP-1, CP-2 CH-1, CH-2	Population and housing for metro and urban areas	Printed Reports & Quick Tables
Subject Summary Tape Files and Subject Reports	SSTS CP-3 CH-3	Includes electronic files and some corresponding reports covering specific populations and housing subjects and subgroups	American FactFinder custom cross-tabulations
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)	Basic EEO File	Tabulations for detailed occupations, educational attainment, age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin	Census Bureau analysts working with federal agencies through reimbursable tabulation agreements
County-to-County Migration File	County-to-County Migration File	A reimbursable product preceded the release of the standard product	Census Bureau analysts working with reimbursable tabulations agreements
Zip Code File	STF3B	Census Bureau purchased equivalency ZIP Code file to produce STF3	American FactFinder

**C. What Hispanic origin data will be available?**

The Census Bureau is in the process of planning data products for Census 2000. Most of our products will be released

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through the American FactFinder. We are in the process of identifying the content and presentation of these data. Generally, we plan to release some of the data products that were available in the 1990 census.

The release of special reports will depend on internal and external funding. We plan to seek outside money from stakeholders that wish us to focus on a particular population group and/or issue.

**D. What kind of data will the Census Bureau provide on people without conventional housing?**

For Census 2000, the Census Bureau will produce only one category showing the number of persons tabulated at "Emergency and transitional shelters." People enumerated at shelters for abused women (shelters against domestic violence or family crisis centers), soup kitchens, regularly scheduled mobile food vans, and targeted nonsheltered outdoor locations will be tabulated into the category "Other noninstitutional group quarters population." The category will include people enumerated at:

\* Shelters with sleeping facilities, low-cost hotels and motels, and hotels/motels used by cities to house the homeless regardless of cost.

**E. How will we collect information on people without conventional housing?**

An operation called Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) is designed to provide people with no usual residence, who might not be included through other enumeration methods, an opportunity to be enumerated. Additionally, people with no usual residence will be able to pick up Be Counted questionnaires at selected non-SBE service locations, such as travelers' aid centers and health care clinics.

**F. Will the Census 2000 count Americans overseas?**

For Census 2000 the Census Bureau will once more include overseas counts in the census using definitions and procedures similar to those used in 1990. U. S. military and federal civilian personnel stationed overseas and their dependents living with them will be included in the overseas population counts and the Census 2000 apportionment counts. Included in these counts will be members of the U.S. Armed Forces on military vessels assigned to a home port in a foreign country and their dependents overseas with them. Private U.S. citizens living abroad will not be included in the overseas counts in Census 2000.

Overseas counts by home state will be provided by departments and agencies of the federal government from their administrative records. These counts will be used solely for reapportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The data will not provide the sub-state geographical precision required to conduct Congressional redistricting.

**G. Will people of mixed racial or ethnic heritage be able to identify themselves on the form?**

Yes. In October 1997 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued revised federal standards for collecting and presenting data on race and ethnicity. Among other changes, the standards allow respondents when answering the race question option to "mark or select one or more races." The OMB made this modification after considering recommendations from its Interagency Committee for the Review of Racial and Ethnic Standards, information obtained through public hearings and other sources of public opinion, and test results from the Census Bureau and other federal agencies.

**H. If respondents are allowed to mark more than one racial category, how will that affect response and reporting of race?**

In the 1996 Census Survey, the Census Bureau tested revisions to the questionnaire that would allow multiple responses to the race question. There was no evidence that any of these experimental treatments had a negative effect on the final mail response rates. Also, we do not expect the instruction "mark one or more" to significantly affect reporting of race, because fewer than two percent of respondents in recent tests used this option.

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### **I. How do I Answer the question on Race?**

Each respondent decides his or her racial identity. For the first time ever, people with mixed racial heritage may select more than one racial category. The groups shown in the census race question can be collapsed into the minimum race categories needed by the federal government: "White," "Black or African American," "American Indian and Alaska Native," "Asian," and "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander." People who mark the American Indian or Alaska Native category are asked to provide the name of their principal or enrolled tribe. People who select the "Other Asian," "Other Pacific Islander," or "Some other race" are asked to write-in their specific race.

### **J. How Should Hispanics Answer the Race question?**

People of Hispanic origin may be of any race and should answer the question on race by marking one or more race categories shown on the questionnaire, including White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race. Hispanics should indicate their origin in the Hispanic origin question, not in the race question because in federal statistical systems ethnic origin is considered to be a separate concept from race.

### **K. Does Everyone Need to Answer the Question on Hispanic Origin?**

Yes, the Hispanic origin question must be answered by EVERYONE. Those who are not of Hispanic origin are asked to mark the box "NO, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino." People who are of Hispanic origin are asked to indicate the specific group they belong to: Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or other groups, such as Spanish, Honduran, or Venezuelan.

## **V. About the Census Bureau**

### **A. What does the Census Bureau do between censuses?**

The decennial census is well known because it is a national event that involves everyone. However, the Census Bureau conducts numerous other censuses and surveys for government, private entities, and individuals as well as tabulating the decennial data and publishing the tables and data. These activities include the planning, preparation, conducting, and publishing of data for numerous economic and demographic surveys and censuses, such as the Census of Manufactures, American Housing Survey, Consumer Expenditure Survey; 1997 Economic Census: Numerical List of Manufactured & Mining Products; Survey of Income and Program Participation; U.S. Merchandise Trade: Exports, General Imports, and Imports for Consumption; Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders to list just a few.

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

**Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity**

**AGENCY:** Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice of decision.

**SUMMARY:** By this Notice, OMB is announcing its decision concerning the revision of Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting. OMB is accepting the recommendations of the Interagency Committee for the Review of the Racial and Ethnic Standards with the following two modifications: (1) the Asian or Pacific Islander category will be separated into two categories—"Asian" and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," and (2) the term "Hispanic" will be changed to "Hispanic or Latino."

The revised standards will have five minimum categories for data on race: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White. There will be two categories for data on ethnicity: "Hispanic or Latino" and "Not Hispanic or Latino."

The Supplementary Information in this Notice provides background information on the standards (Section A); a summary of the comprehensive review process that began in July 1993 (Section B); a brief synopsis of the public comments OMB received on the recommendations for changes to the standards in response to the July 9, 1997, Federal Register Notice (Section C); OMB's decisions on the specific recommendations of the Interagency Committee (Section D); and information on the work that is underway on tabulation issues associated with the reporting of multiple race responses (Section E).

The revised standards for the classification of Federal data on race and ethnicity are presented at the end of this notice; they replace and supersede Statistical Policy Directive No. 15.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The new standards will be used by the Bureau of the Census in the 2000 decennial census. Other Federal programs should adopt the standards as soon as possible, but not later than January 1, 2003, for use in household surveys, administrative forms and records, and other data collections. In addition, OMB has

approved the use of the new standards by the Bureau of the Census in the "Dress Rehearsal" for Census 2000 scheduled to be conducted in March 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send correspondence about OMB's decision to: Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10201 New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503; fax: (202) 395-7245.

**ELECTRONIC AVAILABILITY AND ADDRESSES:** This Federal Register Notice and the related OMB Notices of June 9, 1994, August 28, 1995, and July 9, 1997, are available electronically from the OMB Homepage on the World Wide Web: <<<http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/OMB/html/fedreg.html>>>.

Federal Register Notices are also available electronically from the U.S. Government Printing Office web site: <<[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aces140.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html)>>. Questions about accessing the Federal Register online via GPO Access may be directed to telephone (202) 512-1530 or toll free at (888) 293-6498; to fax (202) 512-1262; or to E-mail <<[gpoaccess@gpo.gov](mailto:gpoaccess@gpo.gov)>>.

This Notice is available in paper copy from the OMB Publications Office, 725 17th Street, NW, NEOB, Room 2200, Washington, D.C. 20503; telephone (202) 395-7332; fax (202) 395-6137.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzann Evinger, Statistical Policy Office, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Room 10201, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503; telephone: (202) 395-3093; fax (202) 395-7245.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Background**

For more than 20 years, the current standards in OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 have provided a common language to promote uniformity and comparability for data on race and ethnicity for the population groups specified in the Directive. They were developed in cooperation with Federal agencies to provide consistent data on race and ethnicity throughout the Federal Government. Development of the data standards stemmed in large measure from new responsibilities to enforce civil rights laws. Data were needed to monitor equal access in housing, education, employment, and other areas, for populations that historically had experienced discrimination and differential treatment because of their race or

ethnicity. The standards are used not only in the decennial census (which provides the data for the "denominator" for many measures), but also in household surveys, on administrative forms (e.g., school registration and mortgage lending applications), and in medical and other research. The categories represent a social-political construct designed for collecting data on the race and ethnicity of broad population groups in this country, and are not anthropologically or scientifically based.

**B. Comprehensive Review Process**

Particularly since the 1990 census, the standards have come under increasing criticism from those who believe that the minimum categories set forth in Directive No. 15 do not reflect the increasing diversity of our Nation's population that has resulted primarily from growth in immigration and in interracial marriages. In response to the criticisms, OMB announced in July 1993 that it would undertake a comprehensive review of the current categories for data on race and ethnicity.

This review has been conducted over the last four years in collaboration with the Interagency Committee for the Review of the Racial and Ethnic Standards, which OMB established in March 1994 to facilitate the participation of Federal agencies in the review. The members of the Interagency Committee, from more than 30 agencies, represent the many and diverse Federal needs for data on race and ethnicity, including statutory requirements for such data. The Interagency Committee developed the following principles to govern the review process:

1. The racial and ethnic categories set forth in the standards should not be interpreted as being primarily biological or genetic in reference. Race and ethnicity may be thought of in terms of social and cultural characteristics as well as ancestry.

2. Respect for individual dignity should guide the processes and methods for collecting data on race and ethnicity; ideally, respondent self-identification should be facilitated to the greatest extent possible, recognizing that in some data collection systems observer identification is more practical.

3. To the extent practicable, the concepts and terminology should reflect clear and generally understood definitions that can achieve broad public acceptance. To assure they are reliable, meaningful, and understood by respondents and observers, the racial and ethnic categories set forth in the standard should be developed using

appropriate scientific methodologies, including the social sciences.

4. The racial and ethnic categories should be comprehensive in coverage and produce compatible, nonduplicative, exchangeable data across Federal agencies.

5. Foremost consideration should be given to data aggregations by race and ethnicity that are useful for statistical analysis and program administration and assessment, bearing in mind that the standards are not intended to be used to establish eligibility for participation in any federal program.

6. The standards should be developed to meet, at a minimum, Federal legislative and programmatic requirements. Consideration should also be given to needs at the State and local government levels, including American Indian tribal and Alaska Native village governments, as well as to general societal needs for these data.

7. The categories should set forth a minimum standard; additional categories should be permitted provided they can be aggregated to the standard categories. The number of standard categories should be kept to a manageable size, determined by statistical concerns and data needs.

8. A revised set of categories should be operationally feasible in terms of burden placed upon respondents; public and private costs to implement the revisions should be a factor in the decision.

9. Any changes in the categories should be based on sound methodological research and should include evaluations of the impact of any changes not only on the usefulness of the resulting data but also on the comparability of any new categories with the existing ones.

10. Any revision to the categories should provide for a crosswalk at the time of adoption between the old and the new categories so that historical data series can be statistically adjusted and comparisons can be made.

11. Because of the many and varied needs and strong interdependence of Federal agencies for racial and ethnic data, any changes to the existing categories should be the product of an interagency collaborative effort.

12. Time will be allowed to phase in any new categories. Agencies will not be required to update historical records.

13. The new directive should be applicable throughout the U.S. Federal statistical system. The standard or standards must be usable for the decennial census, current surveys, and administrative records, including those using observer identification.

The principal objective of the review has been to enhance the accuracy of the demographic information collected by the Federal Government. The starting point for the review was the minimum set of categories for data on race and ethnicity that have provided information for more than 20 years for a variety of purposes, and the recognition of the importance of being able to maintain this historical continuity. The review process has had two major elements: (1) public comment on the present standards, which helped to identify concerns and provided numerous suggestions for changing the standards; and (2) research and testing related to assessing the possible effects of suggested changes on the quality and usefulness of the resulting data.

Public input, the first element of the review process, was sought through a variety of means: (1) During 1993, Congressman Thomas C. Sawyer, then Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Census, Statistics, and Postal Personnel, held four hearings that included 27 witnesses, focusing particularly on the use of the categories in the 2000 census. (2) At the request of OMB, the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) conducted a workshop in February 1994 to articulate issues surrounding a review of the categories. The workshop included representatives of Federal agencies, academia, social science research institutions, interest groups, private industry, and a local school district. (A summary of the workshop, *Spotlight on Heterogeneity: The Federal Standards for Racial and Ethnic Classification*, is available from CNSTAT, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.) (3) On June 9, 1994, OMB published a Federal Register (59 FR 29831-29835) Notice that contained background information on the development of the current standards and requested public comment on: the adequacy of current racial and ethnic categories; the principles that should govern any proposed revisions to the standards; and specific suggestions for change that had been offered by individuals and interested groups over a period of several years. In response, OMB received nearly 800 letters. As part of this comment period and to bring the review closer to the public, OMB also heard testimony from 94 witnesses at hearings held during July 1994 in Boston, Denver, San Francisco, and Honolulu. (4) In an August 28, 1995, Federal Register (60 FR 44674-44693) Notice, OMB provided an interim report

on the review process, including a summary of the comments on the June 1994 Federal Register Notice, and offered a final opportunity for comment on the research to be conducted during 1996. (5) OMB staff have also discussed the review process with various interested groups and have made presentations at numerous meetings.

The second element of the review process involved research and testing of various proposed changes. The categories in OMB's Directive No. 15 are used not only to produce data on the demographic characteristics of the population; but also to monitor civil rights enforcement and program implementation. Research was undertaken to provide an objective assessment of the data quality issues associated with various approaches to collecting data on race and ethnicity. To that end, the Interagency Committee's Research Working Group, co-chaired by the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, reviewed the various criticisms and suggestions for changing the current categories, and developed a research agenda for some of the more significant issues that had been identified. These issues included how to collect data on persons who identify themselves as "multiracial"; whether to combine race and Hispanic origin in one question or have separate questions on race and Hispanic origin; whether to combine the concepts of race, ethnicity, and ancestry; whether to change the terminology used for particular categories; and whether to add new categories to the current minimum set.

Because the mode of data collection can have an effect on how a person responds, the research agenda proposed studies both in surveys using in-person or telephone interviews and in self-administered questionnaires, such as the decennial census, which are filled out by the respondent and mailed back. Cognitive interviews were conducted with various groups to provide guidance on the wording of the questions and the instructions for the tests and studies.

The research agenda included several major national tests, the results of which are discussed throughout the Interagency Committee's *Report to the Office of Management and Budget on the Review of Statistical Policy Directive No. 15*: (1) In May 1995, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) sponsored a Supplement on Race and Ethnicity to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The findings were made available in a 1996 report, *Testing Methods of Collecting Racial and Ethnic Information: Results of the Current Population Survey Supplement on Race*.

and Ethnicity, available from BLS, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Room 4915, Postal Square Building, Washington, D.C. 20212, or by calling 202-806-7375. The results were also summarized in an October 26, 1995, news release, which is available electronically at <<<http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/ethnic.toc.htm>>>. (2) The Bureau of the Census, as part of its research for the 2000 census, tested alternative approaches to collecting data on race and ethnicity in the March 1996 National Content Survey (NCS). The Census Bureau published the results in a December 1996 report, *Findings on Questions on Race and Hispanic Origin Tested in the 1996 National Content Survey*; highlights of the report are available at <<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/96natcontentsurvey.html>>>. (3) In June 1996, the Census Bureau conducted the Race and Ethnic Targeted Test (RAETT), which was designed to permit assessments of the effects of possible changes on smaller populations not reliably measured in national samples, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, detailed Asian and Pacific Islander groups (such as Chinese and Hawaiians), and detailed Hispanic groups (such as Puerto Ricans and Cubans). The Census Bureau released the results in a May 1997 report, *Results of the 1996 Race and Ethnic Targeted Test*; highlights of the report are available at <<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps-0018.html>>>. Single copies (paper) of the NCS and RAETT reports may be obtained from the Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233; telephone 301-457-2402.

In addition to these three major tests, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education jointly conducted a survey of 1,000 public schools to determine how schools collect data on the race and ethnicity of their students and how the administrative records containing these data are maintained to meet statutory requirements for reporting aggregate information to the Federal Government. NCES published the results in a March 1996 report, *Racial and Ethnic Classifications Used by Public Schools* (NCES 96-092). The report is available electronically at <<<http://nces.ed.gov/pub/96092.html>>>. Single paper copies may be obtained from NCES, 555 New Jersey, NW, Washington, D.C. 20208-5574, or by calling 202-219-1442.

The research agenda also included studies conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, and

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to evaluate the procedures used and the quality of the information on race and ethnicity in administrative records such as that reported on birth certificates and recorded on death certificates.

On July 9, 1997, OMB published a Federal Register Notice (62 FR 36874-36946) containing the Interagency Committee's *Report to the Office of Management and Budget on the Review of Statistical Policy Directive No. 15*. The Notice made available for comment the Interagency Committee's recommendations for how OMB should revise Directive No. 15. The report consists of six chapters. Chapter 1 provides a brief history of Directive No. 15, a summary of the issues considered by the Interagency Committee, a review of the research activities, and a discussion of the criteria used in conducting the evaluation. Chapter 2 discusses a number of general concerns that need to be addressed when considering any changes to the current standards. Chapters 3 through 5 report the results of the research as they bear on the more significant suggestions OMB received for changes to Directive No. 15. Chapter 6 gives the Interagency Committee's recommendations concerning the various suggested changes based on a review of public comments and testimony and the research results.

#### C. Summary of Comments Received on the Interagency Committee's Recommendations

In response to the July 9, 1997, Federal Register Notice, OMB received approximately 300 letters (many of them hand written) on a variety of issues, plus approximately 7000 individually signed and mailed, preprinted postcards on the issue of classifying data on Native Hawaiians, and about 500 individually signed form letters from members of the Hapa Issues Forum in support of adopting the recommendation for multiple race reporting. Some of the 300 letters focused on a single recommendation of particular interest to the writer, while other letters addressed a number of the recommendations. The preponderance of the comments were from individuals. Each comment was considered in preparing OMB's decision.

#### 1. Comments on Recommendations Concerning Reporting More Than One Race

The Interagency Committee recommended that, when self-identification is used, respondents who wish to identify their mixed racial

heritage should be able to mark or select more than one of the racial categories originally specified in Directive No. 15, but that there should not be a "multiracial" category. This recommendation to report multiple races was favorably received by most of those commenting on it, including associations and organizations such as the American Medical Association, the National Education Association, the National Council of La Raza, and the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, as well as all Federal agencies that responded. Comments from some organizations, such as the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the Equal Employment Advisory Council, were receptive to the recommendation on multiple race responses, but expressed reservations pending development of tabulation methods to ensure the utility of those data. The recommendation was also supported by many of the advocacy groups that had earlier supported a "multiracial" (box) category, such as the Association of MultiEthnic Americans and its affiliates nationwide. Several individuals wrote in support of "multiple race" reporting, basing their comments on a September 1997 article, "What Race Am I?" in *Mademoiselle* magazine, which urged its readers "to express an opinion on whether or not a 'Multiracial' category should be included in all federal recordkeeping, including the 2000 census." A few comments specifically favoring multiple race responses suggested that respondents should also be asked to indicate their primary racial affiliation in order to facilitate the tabulation of responses. A handful of comments on multiple race reporting suggested that individuals with both Hispanic and non-Hispanic heritages be permitted to mark or select both categories (see discussion below).

A few comments, in particular some from state agencies and legislatures, opposed any multiple race reporting because of possible increased costs to collect the information and implementation problems. Comments from the American Indian tribal governments also were opposed to the recommendation concerning reporting more than one race. A number of the comments that supported multiple race responses also expressed concern about the cost and burden of collecting the information to meet Federal reporting requirements, the schedule for implementation, and how the data would be tabulated to meet the requirements of legislative redistricting

and enforcement of the Voting Rights Act. A few comments expressed support for categories called "human," or "American"; several proposed that there be no collection of data on race.

### 2. Comments on Recommendation for Classification of Data on Native Hawaiians

The Interagency Committee recommended that data on Native Hawaiians continue to be classified in the Asian or Pacific Islander category. This recommendation was opposed by the Hawaiian congressional delegation, the 7,000 individuals who signed and sent preprinted yellow postcards, the State of Hawaii departments and legislature, Hawaiian organizations, and other individuals who commented on this recommendation. Instead, the comments from these individuals supported reclassifying Native Hawaiians in the American Indian or Alaska Native category, which they view as an "indigenous peoples" category (although this category has not been considered or portrayed in this manner in the standards). Native Hawaiians, as the descendants of the original inhabitants of what is now the State of Hawaii, believe that as indigenous people they should be classified in the same category as American Indians and Alaska Natives. On the other hand, the American Indian tribal governments have opposed such a reclassification, primarily because they view the data obtained from that category as being essential for administering Federal programs for American Indians. Comments from the Native Hawaiians also noted the Asian or Pacific Islander category provides inadequate data for monitoring the social and economic conditions of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander groups. Because the Interagency Committee had recommended against adding categories to the minimum set of categories, requesting a separate category for Native Hawaiians was not viewed as an option by those who commented.

### 3. Comments on Recommendation Concerning Classification of Data on Central and South American Indians

The Interagency Committee recommended that data for Central and South American Indians be included in the American Indian or Alaska Native category. Several comments from the American Indian community opposed this recommendation. Moreover, comments from some Native Hawaiians pointed out what they believed to be an inconsistency in the Interagency Committee's recommendation to

include in the American Indian or Alaska Native category descendants of Central and South American Indians—persons who are not original peoples of the United States—if Native Hawaiians were not to be included.

### 4. Comments on Recommendation Not to Add an Arab or Middle Eastern Ethnic Category

The Interagency Committee recommended that an Arab or Middle Eastern ethnic category should not be added to the minimum standards for all reporting of Federal data on race and ethnicity. Several comments were received in support of having a separate category in order to have data viewed as necessary to monitor discrimination against this population.

### 5. Comments on Recommendations for Terminology

Comments on terminology largely supported the Interagency Committee's recommendations to retain the term "American Indian," to change "Hawaiian" to "Native Hawaiian," and to change "Black" to "Black or African American." There were a few requests to include "Latino" in the category name for the Hispanic population.

### D. OMB's Decisions

This section of the Notice provides information on the decisions taken by OMB on the recommendations that were proposed by the Interagency Committee. The Committee's recommendations addressed options for reporting by respondents, formats of questions, and several aspects of specific categories, including possible additions, revised terminology, and changes in definitions. In reviewing OMB's decisions on the recommendations for collecting data on race and ethnicity, it is useful to remember that these decisions:

- retain the concept that the standards provide a *minimum* set of categories for data on race and ethnicity;
- permit the collection of more detailed information on population groups provided that any additional categories can be aggregated into the minimum standard set of categories;
- underscore that self-identification is the preferred means of obtaining information about an individual's race and ethnicity, except in instances where observer identification is more practical (e.g., completing a death certificate);
- do not identify or designate certain population groups as "minority groups";
- continue the policy that the categories are *not* to be used for determining the eligibility of population

groups for participation in any Federal programs;

- do not establish criteria or qualifications (such as blood quantum levels) that are to be used in determining a particular individual's racial or ethnic classification; and
- do not tell an individual who he or she is, or specify how an individual should classify himself or herself.

In arriving at its decisions, OMB took into account not only the public comment on the recommendations published in the Federal Register on July 9, 1997, but also the considerable amount of information provided during the four years of this review process, including public comments gathered from hearings and responses to two earlier OMB Notices (on June 9, 1994, and August 28, 1995). The OMB decisions benefited greatly from the participation of the public that served as a constant reminder that there are real people represented by the data on race and ethnicity and that this is for many a deeply personal issue. In addition, the OMB decisions benefited from the results of the research and testing on how individuals identify themselves that was undertaken as part of this review process. This research, including several national tests of alternative approaches to collecting data on race and ethnicity, was developed and conducted by the professional statisticians and analysts at several Federal agencies. They are to be commended for their perseverance, dedication, and professional commitment to this challenging project.

OMB also considered in reaching its decisions the extent to which the recommendations were consistent with the set of principles (see Section B of the Supplementary Information), developed by the Interagency Committee to guide the review of this sensitive and substantively complex issue. OMB believes that the Interagency Committee's recommendations took into account the principles and achieved a reasonable balance with respect to statistical issues, data needs, social concerns, and the personal dimensions of racial and ethnic identification. OMB also finds that the Committee's recommendations are consistent with the principal objective of the review, which is to enhance the accuracy of the demographic information collected by the Federal Government by having categories for data on race and ethnicity that will enable the capture of information about the increasing diversity of our Nation's population while at the same time respecting each individual's dignity.

As indicated in detail below, OMB accepts the Interagency Committee's recommendations concerning reporting more than one race, including the recommendation that there be no category called "multiracial," the formats and sequencing of the questions on race and Hispanic origin, and most of the changes to terminology.

OMB does not accept the Interagency Committee's recommendations concerning the classification of data on the Native Hawaiian population and the terminology for Hispanics, and it has instead decided to make the changes that follow.

*Native Hawaiian classification.—*

OMB does not accept the recommendation concerning the continued classification of Hawaiians in the Asian or Pacific Islander category. Instead, OMB has decided to break apart the Asian or Pacific Islander category into two categories—one called "Asian" and the other called "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander." As a result, there will be five categories in the minimum set for data on race.

The "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" category will be defined as "A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands." (The term "Native Hawaiian" does not include individuals who are native to the State of Hawaii by virtue of being born there.) In addition to Native Hawaiians, Guamanians, and Samoans, this category would include the following Pacific Islander groups reported in the 1990 census: Carolinian, Fijian, Kosraean, Melanesian, Micronesian, Northern Mariana Islander, Palauan, Papua New Guinean, Panapean (Pohnpeian), Polynesian, Solomon Islander, Tahitian, Tarawa Islander, Tokelaunan, Tongan, Trukese (Chuukese), and Yapese.

The "Asian" category will be defined as "A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam."

The Native Hawaiians presented compelling arguments that the standards must facilitate the production of data to describe their social and economic situation and to monitor discrimination against Native Hawaiians in housing, education, employment, and other areas. Under the current standards for data on race and ethnicity, Native Hawaiians comprise about three percent of the Asian and Pacific Islander population. By creating separate categories, the data on the Native

Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander groups will no longer be overwhelmed by the aggregate data of the much larger Asian groups. Native Hawaiians will comprise about 60 percent of the new category.

The Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander population groups are well defined; moreover, there has been experience with reporting in separate categories for the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population groups. The 1990 census included "Hawaiian," "Samoan," and "Guamanian" as response categories to the race question. In addition, two of the major tests conducted as part of the current review (the NCS and the RAETT) used "Hawaiian" and/or "Native Hawaiian," "Samoan," "Guamanian," and "Guamanian or Chamorro" as response options to the race question. These factors facilitate breaking apart the current category.

*Terminology for Hispanics.—*OMB does not accept the recommendation to retain the single term "Hispanic." Instead, OMB has decided that the term should be "Hispanic or Latino." Because regional usage of the terms differs—Hispanic is commonly used in the eastern portion of the United States, whereas Latino is commonly used in the western portion—this change may contribute to improved response rates.

The OMB decisions on the Interagency Committee's specific recommendations are presented below:

(1) OMB accepts the following recommendations concerning reporting more than one race:

- When self-identification is used, a method for reporting more than one race should be adopted.

- The method for respondents to report more than one race should take the form of multiple responses to a single question and not a "multiracial" category.

- When a list of races is provided to respondents, the list should not contain a "multiracial" category.

- Based on research conducted so far, two recommended forms for the instruction accompanying the multiple response question are "Mark one or more \* \* \*" and "Select one or more \* \* \*"

- If the criteria for data quality and confidentiality are met, provision should be made to report, at a minimum, the number of individuals identifying with more than one race.

Data producers are encouraged to provide greater detail about the distribution of multiple responses.

- The new standards will be used in the decennial census, and other data producers should conform as soon as

possible, but not later than January 1, 2003.

(2) OMB accepts the following recommendations concerning a combined race and Hispanic ethnicity question:

- When self-identification is used, the two question format should be used, with the race question allowing the reporting of more than one race.

- When self-identification is not feasible or appropriate, a combined question can be used and should include a separate Hispanic category co-equal with the other categories.

- When the combined question is used, an attempt should be made, when appropriate, to record ethnicity and race or multiple races, but the option to indicate only one category is acceptable.

(3) OMB accepts the following recommendations concerning the retention of both reporting formats:

- The two question format should be used in all cases involving self-identification.

- The current combined question format should be changed and replaced with a new format which includes a co-equal Hispanic category for use, if necessary, in observer identification.

(4) OMB accepts the following recommendation concerning the ordering of the Hispanic origin and race questions:

- When the two question format is used, the Hispanic origin question should precede the race question.

(5) OMB accepts the following recommendation concerning adding Cape Verdean as an ethnic category:

- A Cape Verdean ethnic category should not be added to the minimum data collection standards.

(6) OMB accepts the following recommendation concerning the addition of an Arab or Middle Eastern ethnic category:

- An Arab or Middle Eastern ethnic category should not be added to the minimum data standards.

(7) OMB interprets the recommendation not to add any other categories to mean the expansion of the minimum set to include new population groups. The OMB decision to break apart the "Asian or Pacific Islander" category does not create a category for a new population group.

(8) OMB accepts the following recommendation concerning changing the term "American Indian" to "Native American":

- The term American Indian should not be changed to Native American.

(9) OMB accepts the following recommendation concerning changing the term "Hawaiian" to "Native Hawaiian":

• The term "Hawaiian" should be changed to "Native Hawaiian."

(10) OMB does not accept the recommendation concerning the continued classification of Native Hawaiians in the Asian or Pacific Islander category.

• OMB has decided to break apart the Asian or Pacific Islander category into two categories—one called "Asian" and the other called "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander." As a result, there are five categories in the minimum set for data on race.

• The "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" category is defined as "A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands."

• The "Asian" category is defined as "A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam."

(11) OMB accepts the following recommendations concerning the use of "Alaska Native" instead of "Eskimo" and "Aleut": "Alaska Native" should replace the term "Alaskan Native."

• Alaska Native should be used instead of Eskimo and Aleut.

• The Alaska Native response option should be accompanied by a request for tribal affiliation when possible.

(12) OMB accepts the following recommendations concerning the classification of Central and South American Indians:

• Central and South American Indians should be classified as American Indian.

• The definition of the "American Indian or Alaska Native" category should be modified to include the original peoples from Central and South America.

• In addition, OMB has decided to make the definition for the American Indian or Alaska Native category more consistent with the definitions of the other categories.

(13) OMB accepts the following recommendations concerning the term or terms to be used for the name of the Black category:

• The name of the Black category should be changed to "Black or African American."

• The category definition should remain unchanged.

• Additional terms, such as Haitian or Negro, can be used if desired.

(14) OMB decided to modify the recommendations concerning the term or terms to be used for Hispanic:

• The term used should be "Hispanic or Latino."

• The definition of the category should remain unchanged.

• In addition, the term "Spanish Origin," can be used if desired.

Accordingly, the Office of Management and Budget adopts and issues the revised minimum standards for Federal data on race and ethnicity for major population groups in the United States which are set forth at the end of this Notice.

#### Topics for Further Research

There are two areas where OMB accepts the Interagency Committee's recommendations but believes that further research is needed: (1) multiple responses to the Hispanic origin question and (2) an ethnic category for Arabs/Middle Easterners.

**Multiple Responses to the Hispanic Origin Question.**—The Interagency Committee recommended that respondents to Federal data collections should be permitted to report more than one race. During the most recent public comment process, a few comments suggested that the concept of "marking more than one box" should be extended to the Hispanic origin question. Respondents are now asked to indicate if they are "of Hispanic origin" or "not of Hispanic origin." Allowing individuals to select more than one response to the ethnicity question would provide the opportunity to indicate ethnic heritage that is both Hispanic and non-Hispanic.

The term "Hispanic" refers to persons who trace their origin or descent to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, and other Spanish cultures. While there has been considerable public concern about the need to review Directive No. 15 with respect to classifying individuals of mixed racial heritage, there has been little comment on reporting both an Hispanic and a non-Hispanic origin. On many Federal forms, Hispanics can also express a racial identity on a separate race question. In the decennial census, individuals who consider themselves part Hispanic can also indicate additional heritages in the ancestry question.

On one hand, it can be argued that allowing individuals to mark both categories in the Hispanic origin question would parallel the instruction "to mark (or select) one or more" racial categories. Individuals would not have to choose between their parents' ethnic heritages, and movement toward an increasingly diverse society would be recognized.

On the other hand, because the matter of multiple responses to the Hispanic ethnicity question was not raised in the

early phases of the public comment process, no explicit provisions were made for testing this approach in the research conducted to inform the review of Directive No. 15. While a considerable amount of research was focused on how to improve the response rate to the Hispanic origin question, it is unclear whether and to what extent explicitly permitting multiple responses to the Hispanic origin question would affect nonresponse to the race question or hamper obtaining more detailed data on Hispanic population groups.

Information on the possible impact of any changes on the quality of the data has been an essential element of the review. While the effects of changes in the Hispanic origin question are unknown, they could conceivably be substantial. Thus, OMB has decided not to include a provision in the standards that would explicitly permit respondents to select both "Hispanic origin" and "Not of Hispanic Origin" options. OMB believes that this is an item for future research. In the meantime, the ancestry question on the decennial census long form does provide respondents who consider themselves part Hispanic to write in additional heritages.

**Research on an Arab/Middle Easterner category.**—During the public comment process, OMB received a number of requests to add an ethnic category for Arabs/Middle Easterners so that data could be obtained that could be useful in monitoring discrimination. The public comment process indicated, however, that there was no agreement on a definition for this category. The combined race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry question in the RAETT, which was designed to address requests that were received from groups for establishing separate categories, did not provide a solution.

While OMB accepted the Interagency's Committee recommendation not to create a new category for this population group, OMB believes that further research should be done to determine the best way to improve data on this population group. Meanwhile, the write-ins to the ancestry question on the decennial census long form will continue to provide information on the number of individuals who identify their heritage as Arab or Middle Easterner.

#### E. Tabulation Issues

The revised standards retain the concept of a minimum set of categories for Federal data on race and ethnicity and make possible at the same time the collection of data to reflect the diversity of our Nation's population. Since the

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**M. Why were some of the questions on the 1990 short form moved to the Census 2000 long form?**

For Census 2000, the Census Bureau has proposed subjects on the short form only when data are both needed in response to legislative requirements and required at the block level - the smallest level of geography for which we report information. Therefore, we moved five subjects that were asked of every housing unit in 1990 to the long form, which will go out to a sample of housing units in 2000. These subjects include marital status, units in structure, number of rooms, value of home, and monthly rent.

**N. Why did you add questions to the Census 2000 form that were not in the 1990 Census?**

Only one new subject was added to the Census 2000 questionnaire: grandparents as caregivers. This addition complies with legislation passed by the 104th Congress requiring that the decennial census obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for care of grandchildren (Title 13, United States Code, Chapter 5, Section 141).

**O. What have you done to make it easier to fill out the form?**

The Census Bureau has been working with private sector designers to produce forms that are easy to read and understand, simple to fill out and mail back, and help people understand the importance of answering the census. Some of the user-friendly features include the following:

- \* Symbols to help guide;
- \* A larger, easier to read type face;
- \* Navigational aids to guide the respondent through the questionnaire;
- \* Instructions written directly on the form instead of in a separate guide; and
- \* Graphics that illustrate census benefits.

**P. What are the specific differences in the way you are planning to conduct the 2000 census from the way it was done in 1990?**

Although there are many aspects of Census 2000 that are different from the 1990 Census, the key differences are:

- \* Using address information provided by the U.S. Postal Service.
- \* Asking state, local, and tribal governments to help correct census maps and address lists.
- \* First-time utilizing paid advertising by extremely qualified experts.
- \* Creating a new "user-friendly" questionnaire that will be simpler and easier for respondents to understand and fill out.
- \* Digitally capturing of forms enabling us to scan responses directly into computers that can read handwriting.
- \* Using "matching" software that allows us to check individual blocks and identify multiple responses from the same household. This allows the Census Bureau to provide more opportunities for the public to respond, including placing forms called "Be Counted" documents in community locations across the country.

**Q. How long does it take to complete the forms?**

Compared with 1990, there is a significant improvement in the estimated time required to complete both the short and long forms. In 1990, it was estimated to take 14 minutes to complete the short form and 43 minutes to complete the

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long form. For Census 2000, it will only take about 10 minutes to complete the short form and 38 minutes for the long form.

**R. Isn't there an easier way that would take less time and money, such as use of public records or private companies, to compile the population figures?**

No other government agency has information on every person in the United States. And no private company is equipped to bring on the number of temporary workers needed to take the census. Some people think that the Postal Service ought to do the census. The Postal Service delivers all the questionnaires that are mailed to individual addresses and picks up and returns the bulk of them. But we still need to hire temporary workers to visit those households that do not mail back a questionnaire. The key job for postal workers is to assist the U.S. Census in developing the address list and to locate mailboxes. Right now, the best way for American taxpayers to save money on the census is to fill out and mail back their census questionnaire.

**IV. Census 2000 Data** (The Census 2000 Data Products At a Glance has been placed on the internet at:

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata/c2kproducts.html>)

**A. When will data from the census be available?**

For data products required by law [Title 13, United States Code], we will deliver the products on or before the specified dates. These data products include delivery of the state population counts to the President within nine months of Census Day (on or before December 31, 2000). These counts are used to reapportion the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Under the Voting Rights Act, the Census Bureau is required to provide the states with race and ethnic data for small geographic areas to be used for the redistricting process specified in P.L. 94-171 by April 1, 2001. After discussing and consulting with stakeholders and advisors, including the Department of Justice, the Census Bureau has decided to meet the needs of redistricting by providing the sixty-three categories of race in combination with Hispanic/Latino categories tabulated for both total population and people of eighteen years of age or over.

Other products will be released on a flow basis from June, 2001, through September, 2003.

**B. How will data from Census 2000 be made available?**

Census 2000 data will be disseminated mainly using a new data retrieval system called the American FactFinder (AFF). Census 2000 data products will be available on a flow basis beginning January 2001. The American FactFinder will be accessible to the widest possible array of users through the Internet, through intermediaries, including the nearly 1,800 State Data Centers and affiliates, the 1,400 Federal Depository libraries and other libraries, universities, and private organizations.

The American FactFinder will find and retrieve the information needed at the geography of choice from some of the largest census databases. The American FactFinder is accessible directly from the Census Bureau's new website.

Census 2000 will offer five categories of products:

**Profiles**

Demographic Profiles for both 100 percent and sample data (AFF; CD-ROM; print); and Congressional District Profiles, for both 100 percent and sample data (AFF; CD-ROM; print by special request).

**Printed Reports**

Demographic Profiles and Table Shells (AFF; CD-ROM; print)

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Populations Totals (AFF, CD-ROM, print by special request).

**Electronic Files**

Redistricting Data Public Law 94-171 Summary File (AFF; CD-ROM; print by special request); 100 percent Summary File (AFF; CD-ROM); Sample Summary File (AFF; CD-ROM)  
Congressional District Summary Files (AFF; CD-ROM)

**Quick Tables and Geographic Summary Tables**

(AFF; some CD-ROM; some in print).

**Microdata Files**

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) 5% File (AFF; CD-ROM)  
Full microdata tabulations (AFF).

Finding Traditional 1990 Census Products in Census 2000			
1990	Title	Description	2000
Population and Housing Unit Counts	CPH-2 Reports	Historical population and housing totals with boundary and annexation information	Printed Reports
Population and Housing Characteristics for Census Tracts and Block Numbering	CPH-3 Reports	Both 100 percent and sample population and housing data published for each MSA/PMSA portion of each state	American FactFinder Summary Files & Quick Tables
Census of Population and Census of Housing Reports for Metropolitan Areas and Urbanized Areas	CP-1, CP-2 CH-1, CH-2	Population and housing for metro and urban areas	Printed Reports & Quick Tables
Subject Summary Tape Files and Subject Reports	SSTS CP-3 CH-3	Includes electronic files and some corresponding reports covering specific populations and housing subjects and subgroups	American FactFinder custom cross-tabulations
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)	Basic EEO File	Tabulations for detailed occupations, educational attainment, age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin	Census Bureau analysts working with federal agencies through reimbursable tabulation agreements
County-to-County Migration File	County-to-County Migration File	A reimbursable product preceded the release of the standard product	Census Bureau analysts working with reimbursable tabulations agreements
Zip Code File	STF3B	Census Bureau purchased equivalency ZIP Code file to produce STF3	American FactFinder

**C. What Hispanic origin data will be available?**

The Census Bureau is in the process of planning data products for Census 2000. Most of our products will be released

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through the American FactFinder. We are in the process of identifying the content and presentation of these data. Generally, we plan to release some of the data products that were available in the 1990 census.

The release of special reports will depend on internal and external funding. We plan to seek outside money from stakeholders that wish us to focus on a particular population group and/or issue.

**D. What kind of data will the Census Bureau provide on people without conventional housing?**

For Census 2000, the Census Bureau will produce only one category showing the number of persons tabulated at "Emergency and transitional shelters." People enumerated at shelters for abused women (shelters against domestic violence or family crisis centers), soup kitchens, regularly scheduled mobile food vans, and targeted nonsheltered outdoor locations will be tabulated into the category "Other noninstitutional group quarters population." The category will include people enumerated at:

\* Shelters with sleeping facilities, low-cost hotels and motels, and hotels/motels used by cities to house the homeless regardless of cost.

**E. How will we collect information on people without conventional housing?**

An operation called Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) is designed to provide people with no usual residence, who might not be included through other enumeration methods, an opportunity to be enumerated. Additionally, people with no usual residence will be able to pick up Be Counted questionnaires at selected non-SBE service locations, such as travelers' aid centers and health care clinics.

**F. Will the Census 2000 count Americans overseas?**

For Census 2000 the Census Bureau will once more include overseas counts in the census using definitions and procedures similar to those used in 1990. U. S. military and federal civilian personnel stationed overseas and their dependents living with them will be included in the overseas population counts and the Census 2000 apportionment counts. Included in these counts will be members of the U.S. Armed Forces on military vessels assigned to a home port in a foreign country and their dependents overseas with them. Private U.S. citizens living abroad will not be included in the overseas counts in Census 2000.

Overseas counts by home state will be provided by departments and agencies of the federal government from their administrative records. These counts will be used solely for reapportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The data will not provide the sub-state geographical precision required to conduct Congressional redistricting.

**G. Will people of mixed racial or ethnic heritage be able to identify themselves on the form?**

Yes. In October 1997 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued revised federal standards for collecting and presenting data on race and ethnicity. Among other changes, the standards allow respondents when answering the race question option to "mark or select one or more races." The OMB made this modification after considering recommendations from its Interagency Committee for the Review of Racial and Ethnic Standards, information obtained through public hearings and other sources of public opinion, and test results from the Census Bureau and other federal agencies.

**H. If respondents are allowed to mark more than one racial category, how will that affect response and reporting of race?**

In the 1996 Census Survey, the Census Bureau tested revisions to the questionnaire that would allow multiple responses to the race question. There was no evidence that any of these experimental treatments had a negative effect on the final mail response rates. Also, we do not expect the instruction "mark one or more" to significantly affect reporting of race, because fewer than two percent of respondents in recent tests used this option.

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### **I. How do I Answer the question on Race?**

Each respondent decides his or her racial identity. For the first time ever, people with mixed racial heritage may select more than one racial category. The groups shown in the census race question can be collapsed into the minimum race categories needed by the federal government: "White," "Black or African American," "American Indian and Alaska Native," "Asian," and "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander." People who mark the American Indian or Alaska Native category are asked to provide the name of their principal or enrolled tribe. People who select the "Other Asian," "Other Pacific Islander," or "Some other race" are asked to write-in their specific race.

### **J. How Should Hispanics Answer the Race question?**

People of Hispanic origin may be of any race and should answer the question on race by marking one or more race categories shown on the questionnaire, including White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race. Hispanics should indicate their origin in the Hispanic origin question, not in the race question because in federal statistical systems ethnic origin is considered to be a separate concept from race.

### **K. Does Everyone Need to Answer the Question on Hispanic Origin?**

Yes, the Hispanic origin question must be answered by EVERYONE. Those who are not of Hispanic origin are asked to mark the box "NO, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino." People who are of Hispanic origin are asked to indicate the specific group they belong to: Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or other groups, such as Spanish, Honduran, or Venezuelan.

## **V. About the Census Bureau**

### **A. What does the Census Bureau do between censuses?**

The decennial census is well known because it is a national event that involves everyone. However, the Census Bureau conducts numerous other censuses and surveys for government, private entities, and individuals as well as tabulating the decennial data and publishing the tables and data. These activities include the planning, preparation, conducting, and publishing of data for numerous economic and demographic surveys and censuses, such as the Census of Manufactures, American Housing Survey, Consumer Expenditure Survey; 1997 Economic Census: Numerical List of Manufactured & Mining Products; Survey of Income and Program Participation; U.S. Merchandise Trade: Exports, General Imports, and Imports for Consumption; Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders to list just a few.

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United States  
**Census  
2000**

**Census  
2000  
Operational  
Plan**

**Using Traditional  
Census-Taking  
Methods**

March 1999  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic and Statistics Administration  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS