Census 2000 Basics

Issued September 2002

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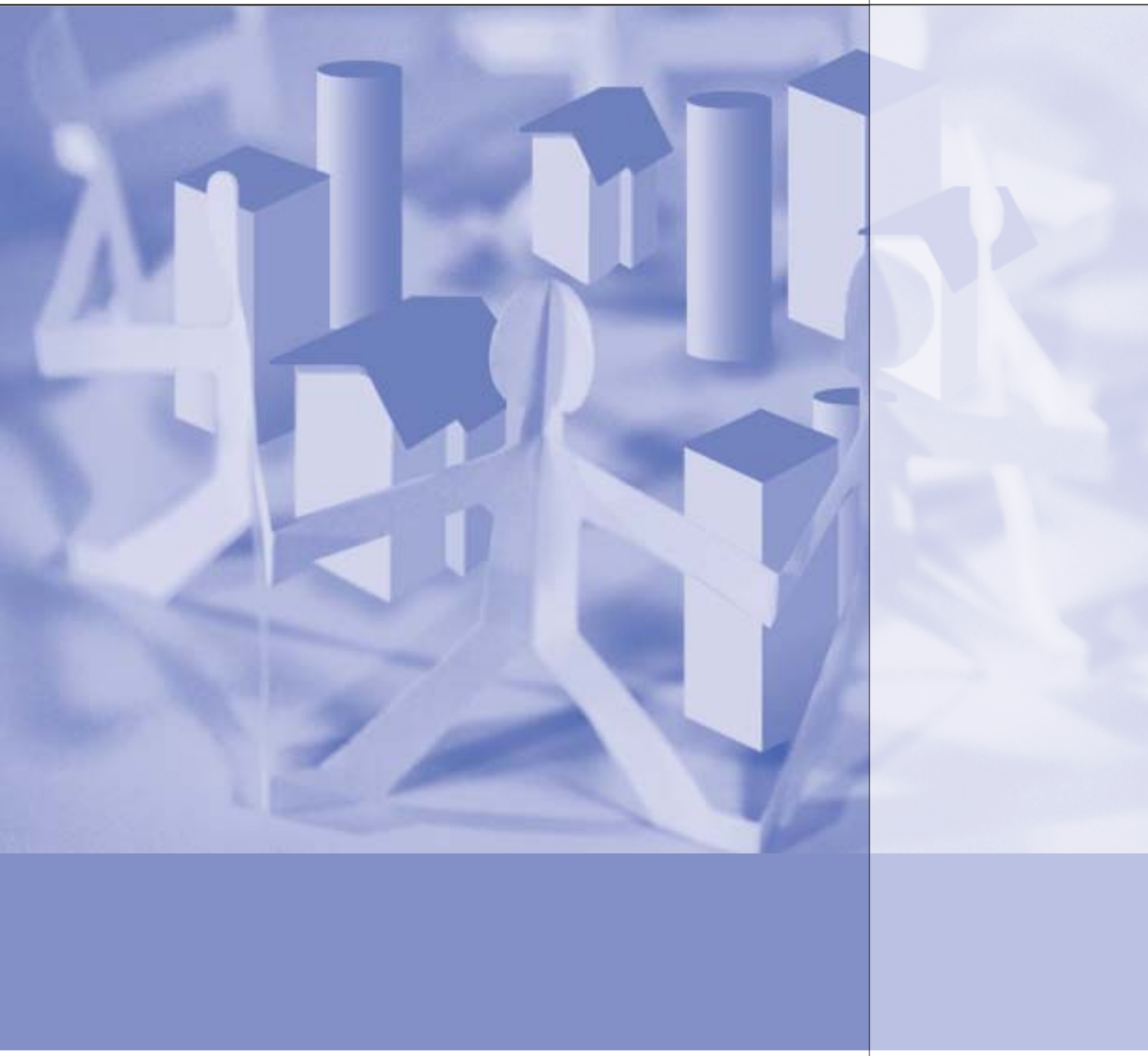

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U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

United States Census 2000

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Census 2000 Basics

We've come a long way since the first census in 1790 that counted 3.9 million people. Then the census was taken in the 13 original states, plus the districts of Kentucky, Maine, Vermont, and the Southwest Territory (of Tennessee). Federal Marshalls asked six questions: name of head of family and number of persons in household and the number of persons in each household of the following descriptions: Free White males 16 years and upward, free White males under 16 years, free White females, all other free persons (by sex and color) and slaves.

In the 210 years since the first census, the census has grown to a sophisticated tool. Census 2000, taken April 1, 2000, counted ***281,421,906*** *people in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The questionnaire included seven questions for each household: name, sex, age, relationship, Hispanic origin, race, and whether the housing unit was owned or rented. In addition to these seven questions, about 17 percent of the households got a much longer questionnaire including questions about ancestry, income, mortgage, and size of the housing unit. Census 2000 not only counted the population, but also sampled the socio-economic status of the population, providing a tool for government, educators, business owners, and others to get a snapshot of the state of the nation.*

I. Importance of the Census: What it is used for and why

The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2 mandates that an apportionment of representatives among the states, for the House of Representatives, be carried out every 10 years (decennially). Apportionment is the process of dividing the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the 50 states. Congress decides the method to carry out the apportionment and, since 1940, has used the method of 'equal proportions' in accordance with Title 2, U.S. Code.

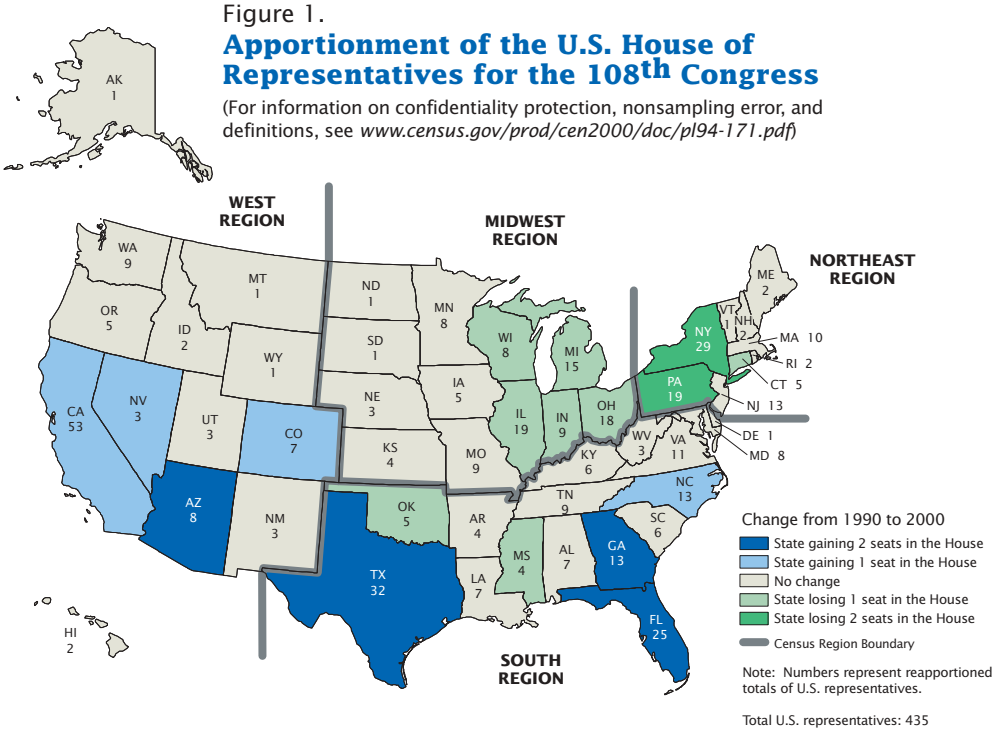
Using equal portions, each state is assigned one congressional seat (as provided by the Constitution). The apportionment formula then allocates the remaining 385 seats one at a time among the 50 states until all 435 seats are assigned.

In addition to apportionment, the decennial census results are used to:

- distribute almost $200 billion annually in federal, state, local, and tribal funds;
- draw state legislative districts;
- evaluate the success of programs or identify populations in need of services;
- and many other purposes. The URL http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/content.htm has a comprehensive review of each of the questions and why it is asked.

While the federal government uses census data for many purposes, businesses, students, and many others also use census data. Businesses may use the data to decide where to locate an outlet, or to select products for a specific area. Students research neighborhoods and cities for class projects and the local parent-teacher organization may use data to track trends in the local area. Historians,

Figure 1.
Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 108th Congress
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf*)



writers, and other researchers use census data to get a flavor of what the country looked like at a particular point in time.

II. Census 2000 Activities

Taking the decennial census is a big project. For Census 2000, many people were hired to assist in counting the population; temporary employment peaked at about 475,000 one week. In preparation for this effort, the U.S. Census Bureau developed operational plans that were evaluated by using the results of test censuses to find out how response would be affected.

A. Questionnaire

Deciding which subjects to include in Census 2000 was 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 and the government's need for data, only those subjects having specific federal justification for their inclusion were on the Census 2000 questionnaire.

For Census 2000, as in several previous censuses, two forms were used—a short form and a long form. The short form was sent to every household, and the long form, containing the seven 100 percent questions plus the sample questions, was sent to only a limited number of households.

Generally, about one in every six houses nationwide received the long form. The rate varied from one in two households in some smaller areas, to one in eight households for more densely populated areas.

Changes to the Questionnaire. One new subject was added to the Census 2000 questionnaire: grandparents as caregivers. This additional question complied 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, U.S. Code, Chapter 5, Section 141). Several questions from the 1990 Census, including information about children ever born, source of water, sewage disposal, and condominium status, were dropped for Census 2000.

One important change for Census 2000 was the question on disability. In 1990, the question was "Does this person have a physical, mental or other health condition which has lasted for more than 6 months and that limits the amount of work this person can do at a job or prevents this person from working at a job." In 2000, the question was revised to inquire about blindness, deafness, and the ability to perform physical and mental tasks. Also in 1990, the questions on disability were asked for those 15 years and older; while in 2000, the data were collected for persons 5 years and over.

Additionally, there was a revision to the question on race. Respondents were given the option of selecting one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities.

Figure 2.
Census 2000 Content

100-percent characteristics (short form): A limited number of questions were asked of every person and housing unit in the United States. Information is available on:

- Name
- Household relationship
- Sex
- Age
- Hispanic or Latino origin
- Race
- Tenure (whether the home is owned or rented)

Sample characteristics (long form): Additional questions were asked of a sample of persons and housing units. Data are provided on:

Population

Social Characteristics

- Marital status
- Place of birth, citizenship, and year of entry
- School enrollment and educational attainment
- Ancestry
- Residence 5 years ago (migration)
- Language spoken at home and ability to speak English
- Veteran status
- Disability
- Grandparents as caregivers

Economic Characteristics

- Labor force status
- Place of work and journey to work
- Occupation, industry, and class of worker
- Work status in 1999
- Income in 1999

Housing

Physical Characteristics

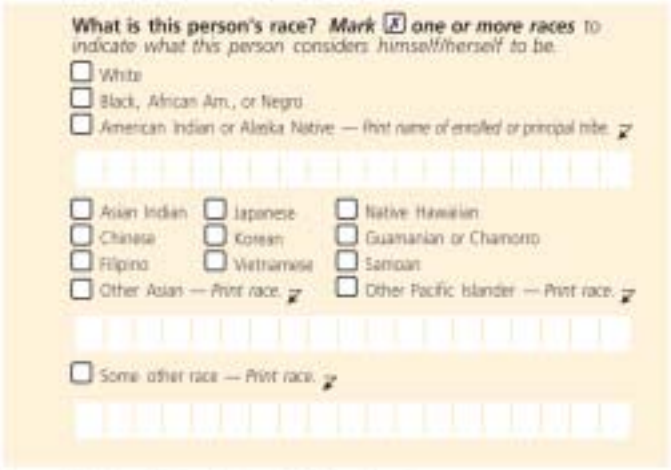
- Units in structure
- Year structure built
- Number of rooms and number of bedrooms
- Year moved into residence
- Plumbing and kitchen facilities
- Telephone service
- Vehicles available
- Heating fuel
- Farm residence

Financial Characteristics

- Value of home or monthly rent paid
- Utilities, mortgage, taxes, insurance, and fuel costs

Figure 3.

Census 2000 Question on Race



What is this person's race? *Mark* ☒ *one or more races* to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black, African Am., or Negro
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*
- ☐ Asian Indian
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Other Asian — *Print race.*
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race.*
- ☐ Some other race — *Print race.*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

The race question included 15 separate response categories and 3 areas where respondents could write in a more specific race group. The response categories and write-in answers were combined to create the five Office of Management and Budget race categories plus "Some other race." The Census 2000 Brief *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin* <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf> provides an overview of these questions and national results. One side effect of the change in this question is that the 2000 data aren't directly comparable to the 1990 data on race.

B. Address List Development

To mail out the questionnaires, the Census Bureau had to have an accurate address list for the country. One of the important initiatives for Census 2000 was the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program <http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/LUCA.htm> made possible by the Census Address List Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-430). Under LUCA, the Census Bureau and local governmental officials worked together to update mailing and address information.

In addition to LUCA, the Census Bureau worked with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) using a postal check to validate addresses and to identify and add addresses that were missing from their database. The Census Bureau also used enumerators, the Census Bureau staff who go door-to-door gathering the data, to canvass roads and streets looking for living quarters. After block canvassing was completed, the information was added to the TIGER® database. The Census Bureau also planned for an update just prior to Census Day (April 1, 2000) of newly constructed units and followed up after Census Day with a check on vacant buildings. As a result, more than 80 percent of all households had USPS-delivered questionnaires. For rural areas (e.g., those with a rural route number or a post office box), the Census Bureau had a door-to-door canvass to identify each structure and locate it on census maps.

C. Promotion

Census 2000 was the first decennial census to use a paid advertising campaign. The campaign featured print and broadcast media, as well as outdoor advertising to encourage positive informative coverage that emphasized the importance of responding to the census.

The core message of the campaign was "This is your future. Don't leave it blank." Five advertising agencies were used - one to create the core message, and the others to tailor the message to specific audiences. The Census Bureau used an integrated plan to generate publicity and to encourage everyone to respond to the census. The Census Bureau established partnerships with many diverse groups and all levels of government both to publicize the census and to encourage participation. Numerous promotions and special events were held across the country.

D. Mailing

An advance letter was sent out to alert the public to the importance of Census 2000. It stated that individuals could request a census

questionnaire in Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Chinese, or Korean. The U.S. Postal Service delivered questionnaires between March 13-15. A follow-up postcard was sent out Census Day to remind those who had not yet completed their questionnaires to fill them out and thanked those who had already done so. The "Be Counted" program allowed people who hadn't received a questionnaire to pick up a questionnaire in community locations across the country and fill it out. And, enumerators followed up with the households that did not return their questionnaires, making multiple contacts (telephone calls and personal visits) to housing units believed to be occupied.

As a result of the advertising campaign and follow-up, the national final response rate was 67 percent. This exceeded the projected response rate of 61 percent and was better than the 65 percent response rate from the 1990 census. This was the first time in census history that the mail response rate increased from the previous census.

E. Technology

A major improvement in automation for taking Census 2000 was a data capture method that took advantage of available hardware and software representing advances in information technology and systems. Returned questionnaires were processed at the Census Bureau's National Processing Center located in Jeffersonville, Indiana, and three other centers, to carry out the following functions:

- A full electronic data capture and processing system recorded an image of every questionnaire.
- Questionnaires returned by mail were sorted automatically to ensure timely capture of critical information. This was needed before follow-up could occur with addresses for which no response, or an incomplete response, was received.
- Optical mark recognition was used for all check-box data items.
- Intelligent character recognition (ICR) was used to capture write-in character-based data items.
- A clerical keying operation captured and resolved difficult ICR cases.
- A quality assurance review was conducted on data keying and scanning activities.
- Electronic imaging captured the data, reducing the logistical and staffing requirements that handling large volumes of paper questionnaires would have required.

After the census was taken, the Census Bureau evaluated the coverage using a coverage measurement survey. Each of the past few censuses have had debates about undercount and whether or not data should be "adjusted," and the 2000 Census was no exception. In October 2001, after the coverage measurement survey was evaluated, the decision to use the unadjusted Census 2000 figures was announced.

Another important technological advance between the 1990 and 2000 censuses was the development and use of the Internet. In 1996, the Census Bureau made a decision to use the Internet to disseminate Census 2000 data and publications. This was followed by the development and implementation of what is now the American Factfinder (AFF). AFF has data from multiple sources (e.g. 1990 census, 1997 Economic Census) and also has thematic and reference maps so that users can see the area for which they want data. See page 8 for more information on AFF.

F. Results

After the census was taken, numbers were reported on a schedule determined in part by U.S. law. The results of the census are reported:

- To the President. Title 13, U.S. Code requires that the apportionment population counts for each state be delivered to the President within 9 months of the census date. Apportionment counts are the population counts for each state, which determine the number of members each gets in the U. S. House of Representatives.

  On December 28, 2000, the apportionment counts were delivered to the President. These counts showed that the resident population of the United States on April 1, 2000, was 281,421,906, an increase of 13.2 percent over the 248,709,873 persons counted during the 1990 Census.
- To the states. According to Title 2, U.S. Code, within 15 days of receiving the apportionment population counts from the President, the Clerk of the House must inform each state governor of the number of representatives to which each state is entitled.
- In March 2001, the Census Bureau released the first results of Census 2000 data, which were used by the states for redrawing Congressional and State Legislative Districts.

III. Confidentiality

Census Bureau officials are extremely aware of the importance of confidentiality in taking the

census and in reporting the results. Under 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 computer systems and programs used to store and process information collected are configured to ensure that an individual's information is protected from any unauthorized access; access to the Census Bureau's computer systems is controlled through secure technology including passwords, firewalls, encryption, and auditing to prevent unauthorized access.

To protect respondent confidentiality, names and addresses are separated from the electronic files that contain an individual's answers when no longer needed. The Census Bureau withholds data if they represent a population (within a geographic area) so small that the numbers might identify someone.

The Census Bureau works hard to ensure that confidentiality is not breached. Edits are performed on all data products to make sure confidential information is not released for any individual or household. Confidentiality means that only sworn employees of the Census Bureau may have access to individual census information for a period of 72 years, with the exception that individuals or their legal representatives can obtain official transcripts of information about themselves from a census for use as evidence of age, relationship, citizenship, etc.

After 72 years the records are released to the public. Copies of census schedules (forms on which the enumerators recorded information) from 1790-1930 are available on microform for research at the National Archives and at libraries. The questionnaires used for Census 2000 will be available for researchers on April 1, 2072.

IV. Geographic Areas

Census geography provides the framework for interpreting, analyzing, and understanding census data. The Census Bureau classifies all geographic entities into two broad categories: legal and administrative entities, and statistical entities.

Legal/Administrative entities generally originate from charters, laws, treaties, resolutions, or court decisions. They include:

- **Congressional District.** One of the 435 areas from which people are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **County.** The primary legal division of every state except Alaska and Louisiana. A number of geographic entities are not legally designated as a county, but are recognized by the Census Bureau as equivalent to a county for data presentation purposes. These include the boroughs, city and boroughs, municipalities, and census areas in Alaska; parishes in Louisiana; and cities that are independent of any county in Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia. They also include the municipios in Puerto Rico, districts and islands in American Samoa, municipalities in the Northern Mariana Islands, and islands in the Virgin Islands of the United States. Because they contain no primary legal divisions, the Census Bureau treats the District of Columbia and Guam each as equivalent to a county (as well as equivalent to a state) for data presentation purposes. In American Samoa, a county is a minor civil division.
- **Incorporated Place** (cities, towns, villages, etc.). A type of governmental unit, incorporated under state law as a city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), borough (except in Alaska and New York), or village, generally to provide a wide array of specific governmental services for a concentration of people within legally prescribed boundaries. New for Census 2000 are "city and borough" and "municipality," which serve as both place- and county-level entities in Alaska.
- **Minor Civil Division (MCD).** The primary governmental or administrative division of a county or statistically equivalent entity in many states and statistically equivalent entities. MCDs are identified by a variety of terms, such as township, town (in 8 states), or district. The Census Bureau recognizes MCDs in 28 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. In 20 states and American Samoa, all or many MCDs are active general-purpose governmental units. Many MCDs are not general-purpose governmental units, and therefore do not have elected officials to carry out legal functions; instead, they serve as nonfunctioning administrative entities.

- **State.** A primary governmental division of the United States. The Census Bureau treats the District of Columbia as the equivalent of a state for data presentation purposes. It also treats a number of entities that are not legal

divisions of the United States (e.g. Island Areas) as the equivalent of states for data presentation purposes.

- **United States.** The 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- **Voting District (VTD).** The generic name for a geographic entity - such as an election district, precinct, or ward - established by state, local, and tribal governments for the purpose of conducting elections. Some reviewing officials adjusted the boundaries of the voting districts (VTDs) they submitted to conform to census block boundaries for data presentation purposes, and therefore a VTD for which Census 2000 provides data might not exactly represent the legal entity; the Census Bureau refers to such VTDs as *pseudo-voting districts* (*pseudo-VTDs*). Such VTDs, as well as any others for which state officials did not specify a status, are identified by a "P" in the VTD indicator field of the Public Law (PL) data file.

Statistical entities usually evolve from practice, custom, usage, or need, and generally the Census Bureau develops criteria and guidelines for their identification and delineation. They include:

- **Block Group (BG)**. A statistical subdivision of a census tract. A BG consists of all tabulation blocks whose numbers begin with the same digit in a census tract. BGs generally contain between 300 and 3,000 people, with an optimum size of 1,500 people. The BG is the lowest-level geographic entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates sample data from a decennial census.
- **Census Block**. An area bounded on all sides by visible and/or nonvisible features shown on a map prepared by the Census Bureau. A block is the smallest geographic entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates decennial census data. The census blocks were completely renumbered for Census 2000 using 4- digit numbers.
- **Census County Divisions (CCD)**. A statistical subdivision of a county, established and delineated cooperatively by the Census Bureau and state, local, and tribal officials for data presentation purposes. CCDs have been established in 21 states.
- **Census Designated Place (CDP**). A geographic entity that serves as the statistical counterpart of an incorporated place for the purpose of presenting census data for an area with a concentration of population, housing, and commercial structures that is identifiable by name, but is not within an incorporated place. CDPs usually are defined cooperatively with state, local, and tribal officials based on Census Bureau guidelines. For Census 2000, for the first time, CDPs did not have to meet minimum population threshold to qualify for the tabulation of census data. Note: A CDP in Puerto Rico is called a comunidad or zona urbana.
- **Census Regions and Divisions**. The 50 states and the District of Columbia have been grouped into four regions, each containing two or three divisions.
- **Census Tract**. A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county or statistically equivalent entity, delineated for data presentation purposes by a local group of census data users or the geographic staff of a regional census center in accordance with Census Bureau guidelines. Census tracts generally contain between 1,000 and 8,000 people. Census tract boundaries are delineated with the intention of being stable over many decades, so they generally follow relatively permanent visible features. However, they may follow governmental unit boundaries and other invisible features in some instances; the boundary of a state or county is always a census tract boundary. Block Numbering Areas (BNAs) are now called census tracts.
- **Metropolitan Area (MA)**. A large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. (Some MAs are defined around two or more nuclei.) MA is a collective term, established by the federal Office of Management and Budget in 1990, to refer to metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs), and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs).

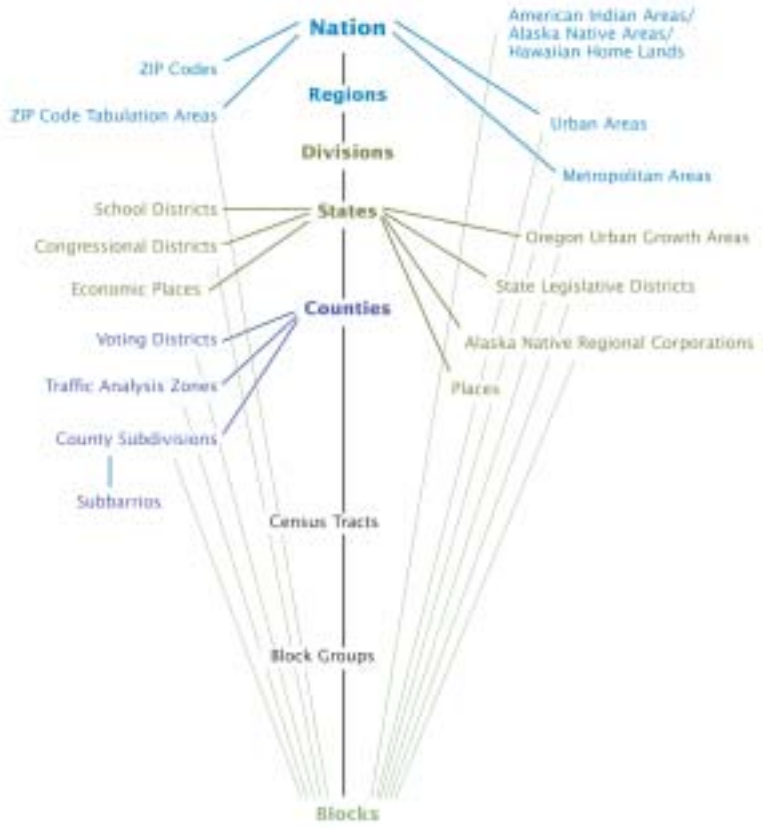
  Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). An MSA is a metropolitan area (MA) that is not closely associated with another MA. An MSA consists of one or more

counties, except in New England, where MSAs are defined in terms of county subdivisions (primarily cities and towns).

Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA). If an area that qualifies as a metropolitan area (MA) has a population of 1,000,000 or more, two or more primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs) may be defined within it if they meet official standards and local governments favor that designation. When PMSAs are established within an MA, that MA is designated a consolidated metropolitan statistical area.

Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA). An area becomes a CMSA if it qualifies as a metropolitan area, has a population of 1,000,000 or more, has component parts that qualify as primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs) based on official standards, and local governments favor the designation. CMSAs consist of whole counties except in New England, where they consist of county subdivisions (primarily cities and towns).

Figure 4.
Geographic Hierarchy for the 2000 Decennial Census



- **Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)**. A geographic entity for which the U.S. Census Bureau provides specially selected extracts of raw data from a small sample of long-form census records that are screened to protect confidentiality of census records. The extract files are referred to as public use microdata samples (PUMS). Public use microdata areas (PUMAs), which must have a minimum census population of 100,000 and cannot cross a state line, receive a 5-percent sample of the long-form records; these records are presented in state files. These PUMAs are aggregated into *super-PUMAs*, which must have a minimum census population of 400,000 and receive a 1-percent sample in a national file. PUMAs and super-PUMAs are mutually exclusive, that is, they use different records to create each sample. Data users can use these files to create their own statistical tabulations and data summaries.
- **Rural**. All territory, population, and housing units located outside of urbanized areas and urban clusters.
- **Urban**. All territory, population, and housing units located within urbanized areas and urban clusters.
- **Urbanized Area (UA)**. Densely settled area that has a census population of at least 50,000. The geographic core of block groups or blocks must have a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile, and adjacent block groups and blocks with at least 500 people per square mile.
- **Urban Cluster (UC)**. Consists of a geographic core of block groups or blocks must have a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile, and adjacent block groups and blocks with at least 500 people per square mile that together encompass a population of at least 2,500 people, but fewer than 50,000 people.
- **ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)**. A statistical entity developed by the Census Bureau to approximate the delivery area for a U.S. Postal Service five-digit or three-digit ZIP Code in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. A ZCTA is an aggregation of census blocks that have the same predominant ZIP Code associated with the mailing addresses in the Census Bureau's Master Address File. Thus, the Postal Service's delivery areas have been adjusted to encompass whole census blocks so that the Census Bureau can tabulate census data for the ZCTAs. ZCTAs do not include all ZIP Codes used for mail delivery.

There are both legal and statistical **American Indian, Alaska Native, and native Hawaiian entities** for which the Census Bureau provides data for Census 2000. The legal entities consist of federally recognized American Indian reservations and off-reservation trust land areas, the tribal subdivisions that can divide these entities, state recognized American Indian reservations, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, and Hawaiian home lands. The statistical entities are Alaska Native village statistical areas, Oklahoma tribal statistical areas, tribal designated statistical areas, and state designated American Indian statistical areas. Tribal subdivisions can exist within the statistical Oklahoma tribal statistical areas.

For more information on these areas, as well as other census geography, see the *Geographic Changes for Census 2000 + Glossary* <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/glossary.html>, which provides good background for Census 2000 users including changes from 1990 geography and new terms. *The Geographic Areas Reference Manual* (1994) <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/garm.html> has excellent background and user aids.

The geographic areas may work in a hierarchical fashion, with smaller areas nested within larger ones (e.g., blocks in block groups, in census tracts in counties, etc.). Some areas, like ZIP Code Tabulation Areas, are given only as subsets of the nation (see Figure 4).

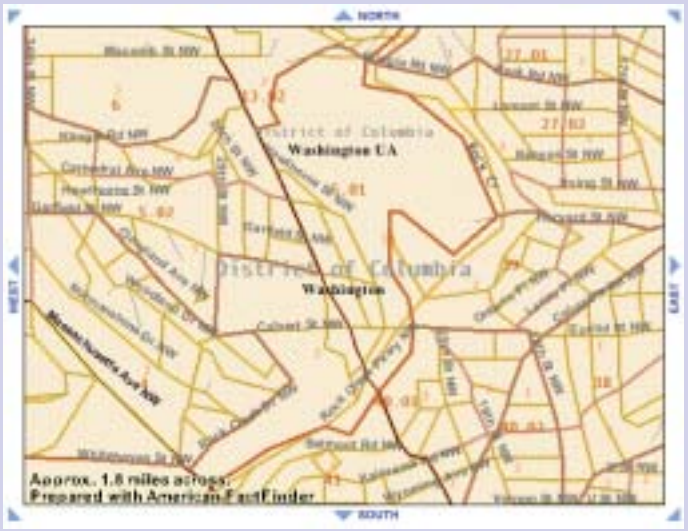
One easy way to understand the relationships of the geographic areas is to use the American FactFinder (AFF). An address search shows a series "Geographies Containing" that address. Users can click on block, block group, census tract, etc., and press the "map it" button to explore the different levels of geography.

When you look up the "National Zoo," AFF displays the census geographies for that area (see Figure 5). After selecting the tract number (5.01) and clicking on the "map it" button, the map shown in Figure 6 is displayed.

The labels show you the city, county, and state (or in this case, the equivalents), tract numbers, and more.

Figure 5.
American FactFinder Geographies Listing

Figure 6.
Map of Census Tract 5.02, Washington, DC



V. Census 2000 Data Releases

Census 2000 is the first census for which the Internet site is the primary means of disseminating the data. Whatever you're looking for, you will find it first on the Census Bureau's Web site. In addition to formatted tables, the Census Bureau Web site has maps and data sets available for downloading (file transfer protocol (ftp)), printing, viewing, and manipulating.

Web Site and American FactFinder

The Census Bureau Web site provides online access to much of the census and many of its data, publications, products, and programs. Using the "Subjects A to Z" is an efficient way to research all kinds of census-related topics.

Census 2000 data users will be very interested in the American FactFinder (AFF), the Census Bureau's primary online data retrieval tool. AFF also includes data from the 1990 Census, the American Community Survey, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, the 1997 Economic Census, and Census 2000. Data are released on AFF as soon as they are available, usually on a flow basis, state by state within each series.

The Census Bureau has created a "Census 2000 Gateway" page to pull together background information, questionnaires, links to the data sets, PDF files, tutorials, and other user aids.

Figure 7.
Important Web Pages for Census 2000

Census Bureau Home page
www.census.gov

American FactFinder
factfinder.census.gov

Census 2000 Gateway
www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html

Data Products

In addition to the large data sets, the Census Bureau also produced a series of briefs and special reports. These provide background on the topics, and also explain how the data was analyzed, and differences between 1990 and 2000 Census data. The titles listed below, plus new *Briefs*, are listed on the page: <http://www.census.gov/population/ww/cen2000/briefs.html>.

Census 2000 Special Reports

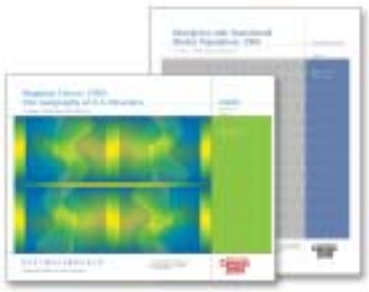
- Demographic Trends in the 20th Century
- Emergency and Transitional Shelter Population: 2000
- Mapping Census 2000: The Geography of U.S. Diversity
- Racial and Ethnic Residential Segregation in the United States: 1980-2000

Census 2000 Briefs:

- The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000
- Age: 2000
- The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2000
- The Asian Population: 2000
- The Black Population: 2000
- Congressional Apportionment
- Gender: 2000
- The Hispanic Population (also issued in Spanish)
- Households and Families: 2000
- Housing Characteristics: 2000
- The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2000
- Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin
- Population Change and Distribution: 1990-2000
- The Two or More Races Population: 2000
- The United States in International Context: 2000
- The White Population: 2000

The additional briefs, listed below, will be issued based on sample data.

- Ancestry: 2000
- Disability Status: 2000
- Educational Attainment: 2000
- English Ability: 2000
- Employment Status: 2000
- The Foreign-Born Population: 2000
- Grandparents Living with Grandchildren: 2000



- Home Values: 2000
- Household Income: 2000
- Housing Costs of Homeowners: 2000
- Housing Costs of Renters: 2000
- Journey-to-Work: 2000
- Language Use and Marital Status: 2000
- Occupations: 2000
- Poverty: 2000
- Residential Mobility: 2000
- School Enrollment: 2000
- Structural and Occupancy Characteristics: 2000
- Veterans: 2000

The Census Bureau's Web site also contains links to other PHC-T (Census of Population and Housing) tables.

100-Percent Data Products

- *Redistricting Data Summary File.* Provides population counts for all persons and all person 18 years and over. It also has counts of Hispanic/Latino persons by race (63 categories) and not Hispanic/Latino persons by race (63 categories) for both the total population and the population 18 years and over.

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD;

  Lowest level geography: Blocks

- *Demographic Profile.* Selected population and housing characteristics.

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD (w/Summary File 1), paper

  Lowest level geography: Census Tracts

- *Congressional District Demographic Profile.* Same as profile described above, but for Congressional Districts.

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD (available w/Summary File 1), paper

  Lowest level geography: Congressional Districts of the 106th Congress

- *Race and Hispanic or Latino Summary File.* This file provides the same data as the Redistricting Data Summary File, but for a higher level of geography.

Released on: Internet (FTP only), CD-ROM

Lowest level geography: Places

- *Summary File 1 (SF 1).* Presents counts and basic cross-tabulations of information collected from all people and housing units. SF 1 provides population counts for 63 race categories and Hispanic or Latino, and population counts 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].

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD,

  Lowest level geography: Blocks

- *Summary File 2 (SF 2).* Similar to SF 1, this file contains 100-percent population and housing characteristics, but tables in this file are given for the United States, and a selected list of detailed race and Hispanic- or Latino-origin groups, as well as American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. Each of the 250 population groups is subject to a population threshold. [Urban/rural data are on the final national file]

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD

  Lowest level geography: Census Tracts

- *Advanced Query Function (100-percent data).* Allows user specified tabulations from full microdata file; Includes safeguards against disclosure of identifying information about individuals and housing units.

  Released on: Internet

  Lowest level geography: Block Groups

- *Summary Population and Housing Characteristics (PHC-1).* This report contains information collected from all people and housing units. This report will be issued for each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and a national summary volume.

  Released on: Internet, paper

  Lowest level geography: Places

- *Population and Housing Unit Counts (PHC-3).* This report contains population and housing unit totals for Census 2000, as well as the 1990 and 1980 censuses. Information on area measurements, population density, and apportionment counts will be included. This report will be issued for each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and a national summary volume.

  Released on: Internet, paper

  Lowest level geography: Places

Sample Data Products:

- *Demographic Profile.* Demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics presented in three separate tables.

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD (w/Summary File 3), paper

  Lowest level geography: Census Tracts

- *Congressional District Demographic Profile.* Demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics presented in three separate tables.

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD (w/Summary File 3), paper

  Lowest level geography: Congressional Districts of the 106th Congress

- *Summary File 3 (SF 3).* SF 3 contains tables with social, economic and housing characteristics compiled from a sample of approximately 19 million housing units (about 1-in-6 households) that received the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. Many tables are given for nine major race and Hispanic or Latino groups. Ancestry group population counts are included.

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD

  Lowest level geography: Block Groups/Census Tracts

- *Summary File 4 (SF 4).* Similar to SF 3, this file contains tabulations of population and housing data from sample questions. Tables in this file will be given for the United States, and a selected list of detailed race and Hispanic- or Latino-origin groups, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and various ancestry groups. Each of the 336 population groups is subject to a population threshold.

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD

  Lowest level geography: Census Tracts

- *Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS).* Extracts of raw data from a small (1-percent or 5-percent) sample of long-form census records. Records are screened to protect confidentiality.

  One-percent files include data for the nation and states, as well as substate areas where appropriate. Five-percent sample have data for state and substate areas.

  Released on: CD-ROM/DVD

  Lowest level geography: Super Public Use Microdata Areas (Super-PUMAs) of 400,000+ for 1-percent file; PUMAs of 100,000+ for 5-percent file.

- *Advanced Query Function (Sample Data).* Allows user specified tabulations from full microdata file. Includes safeguards against disclosure of identifying information about individuals and housing units.

  Released on: Internet

  Lowest level geography: Census Tracts

- *Summary Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics (PHC-2).* Reports for each state include information from the sample population and housing subjects.

  Released on: Internet, paper

  Lowest level geography: Places

- *Congressional District Data Summary File.* 100-percent and sample data for Congressional Districts of the 108th Congress

  Released on: Internet, CD-ROM/DVD

  Lowest level geography: Census Tracts within Congressional Districts

Both SF 2 and SF 4 contain data for race, Hispanic- or Latino-origin groups, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. SF 4 also contains data for various ancestry groups. If the population for the group does not meet a threshold, or minimum number of people, within a geographic area, the data are suppressed and not shown. If you are looking at several areas on AFF, and the threshold is not met, a note is displayed. If you are using the CD-ROMs or DVD-ROMs, the area (e.g. a tract number or county name) does not appear.

Where are the Data?

You can access information about the products by viewing the extensive documentation on the Internet, the CD-ROM or DVD-ROM, and in printed publications. Each contains a copy of the questionnaire, geographic terms and concepts, definitions of subject characteristics, data collection and processing procedures, as well as product-specific information.

The data are available in multiple formats and on several platforms.

Internet. Internet access to the data is through *American FactFinder* and the *Census 2000 Gateway*. There are several, easy-to-use, options.

- *Quick Tables* give you a set of key variables for areas down to the census tract.
- *Geographic Comparison Tables* let you see how your state, city, county, or metropolitan area stacks up in comparison to others using key variables.
- *Thematic Maps* illustrates the data in a map format.
- *Detailed Tables* give you access to all the tables released in each dataset.

Downloading the Data. Every *American FactFinder* data page has a download tab on one of the menu bars at the top of the screen so you can download comma or tab delimited files into spreadsheet or data base software. In addition, ASCII files for each state are available on the Internet via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) <http://ftp2.census.gov/>. These files are available in ASCII (comma-delimited) format, and do not come with viewing software.

CD-ROM or DVD. In addition to the FTP site and *American FactFinder*, the Summary Files are available on CD-ROM (state by state) or on one DVD (all 50 states). Data are generally available in ASCII format without accompanying software, and there is also a release of the data with software that facilitates retrieval and manipulation of the data. Whether downloading information for a single area like a census tract, or a city, or for a group of geographic areas (e.g., all counties, places, or ZIP Code tabulation areas in the country), the software simplifies the process and leads you through the steps. These files are available for purchase or through State Data Centers, Federal Depository Libraries, and other data providers (see "Census 2000 Products and Assistance" below).

Geographic Products

The Census Bureau has a number of products available to assist users in identifying and mapping the census geographic entities. Most of these map products are available for viewing or FTP on the Web site. Paper copies of the Census 2000 maps are available for sale through the Census Bureau's Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

All geographic products are derived from the TIGER database. TIGER is an acronym for the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing System. It is a geographic database that automates the mapping and related geographic activities required to support the U.S. Census Bureau's census and survey programs.

TIGER/Line®

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/

UA Census 2000 TIGER/Line® Files

Census 2000 TIGER/Line® Files

Redistricting Census 2000 TIGER/Line® Files

108th CD Census 2000 TIGER/Line® Files

Post 2000 TIGER/Line®

2002 TIGER/Line® Files

Census 2000 Geographic Data Files

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/census2k.html

Census Block Relationship Files

Census Tract Relationship Files

Cartographic Boundary Files

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cob/

Census 2000 Maps

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/

- American Indian Tribal Census Tract Outline maps
- Census Tract Outline Maps
- Census Block Maps for Places
- Census Block Maps for Counties
- P.L. 94-171 County Block Maps

- P.L. 94-171 Voting District/State Legislative District Outline Maps
- Public Use Microdata Area Outline maps
- State/County Outline maps
- State/County Subdivision maps
- Urbanized Area Outline maps
- Urban Cluster Outline maps
- ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) Outline maps
- 108th Congressional District Atlas
- 108th Congressional District individual state-based maps

VI. Census 2000 Products and Assistance

The *Census Catalog* and the *Census Product Update* provide information on how to order Census Bureau products.

You can access the *Census Catalog*, from the Census Bureau's home page or at <https://catalog.mso.census. gov/>. The *Catalog* has a "Census 2000" category that pulls together all available titles and gives short descriptions of the Census 2000 products that are for sale. You also may order products through the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

The *Census Product Update* is a biweekly newsletter with information on recently released and key upcoming Census Bureau data products. In addition, it often has user hints and updates for online products. Subscribe to the e-mail *Update* or view it online at:

<http://www.census.gov/mp/www/cpu.html>.

Where To Go For Assistance

The Census Bureau has a nationwide network to help users in getting census information. The Web page <http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/groupcnr.html> links to the descriptions for and locations of program participants where users can receive in-depth

assistance in using Census 2000 products and data.

Resources for census information include:

- Census Bureau's 12 *Regional Offices with* Partnership and Data Services staff who conduct data workshops, seminars and training sessions on a variety of census topics. They respond to inquiries via telephone, e-mail, etc. The Web page <http://www.census.gov/field/www/> lists local information and services that each of the offices provides. There is also a map showing the region covered by each of the offices. Contact information for the Regional Offices is as follows:

Atlanta	404-730-3833
Boston	617-424-0510
Charlotte	704-344-6144
Chicago	708-562-1740
Dallas	214-253-4481
Denver	303-969-7750
Detroit	313-259-1875
Kansas City	913-551-6711
Los Angeles	818-904-6339
New York	212-264-4730
Philadelphia	215-656-7578
Seattle	206-553-5835

- *State Data Centers* located in state agencies, universities, libraries, and regional and local governments. The State Data Centers also provide training and technical assistance, among other services;

- *Census Information Centers*, located at 57 national, regional, and local nonprofit organizations, which represent and serve the interests of underserved communities;

- *Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)* disseminates information products from all three branches of the government to more than 1,300 libraries nationwide. Libraries identified as Regional Depository Libraries usually have extensive collections of Census Bureau publications and electronic products. Other depository libraries often have a more limited selection of census products, but each should have publications for their own state. All library depository publications are available to the public.

Census 2000 contacts

For questions that require an expert, (e.g. language spoken at home, disability, commuting, residence rules), there is a list of contacts at http://www.census.gov/contacts/www/c-census2000.html.

VII. Other Census Services

The decennial census is well known because it is a national event involving every resident of the United States. The Census Bureau also conducts numerous other censuses and surveys including the *American Housing Survey*, the *Consumer Expenditure Survey*; the *Current Population Survey*; the *Census of Governments*; the *Economic Census*, taken every 5 years; and the *Survey of Income and Program Participation*; among others.

For information about the other censuses and surveys, contact the partners listed above, look at the Census Bureau's Web site, call the Customer Service Center (301) 763-INFO (4636), or send e-mail to <webmaster@census.gov>.

For more information, visit the Census 2000 Gateway at http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html

U.S. Census Bureau

Census 2000 Gateway | Glossary

United States Census 2000

Your Gateway to Census 2000

Thank you, America, for your participation in Census 2000.
The population of the U.S. on April 1, 2000 was **281,421,906** (PDF).

Information Links

News Media - News releases, web casts, tip sheets, videos, photos, and embargo access

Introduction to Census 2000 Data - Overviews of Census 2000 and PowerPoint slides to download

Release Schedules by:
- Product
- Geography
- Subject

Census Store - Order products on-line

Count Question Resolution - Program for challenging Census 2000 counts

Notes and Errata (PDF 1.4e) - Includes geography and data corrections

Questionnaires - Short and long forms, and why we asked the questions

Operations - Overview information, participation rates, and ESCAP

Local Sources for Census 2000 - Regional Offices, State Data Centers, Census Information Centers, and Depository Libraries

Partnerships - Information of interest to partners, elected officials, and advisors

Census in Schools - Lesson plans, teaching kits, and resource materials

Contact List - Names and phone numbers of subject matter experts

Access Data by Geography

American FactFinder - Tables and maps of Census 2000 data for all geographies to the block level. Go

State & County QuickFacts - Summaries of the most requested data for states and counties. Go

Enter a street address to find Census 2000 data

Data Highlights - Data highlights, documentation, and FTP access for the U.S., states, counties, places (cities & towns) and more, including Puerto Rico and Island Areas

Select a state: United States Go

Census Data

Rankings and Comparisons
Population change, comparisons with 1990, Race and Hispanic or Latino origin, and other topics for states, counties, and places

Briefs and Special Reports
Analytical reports on population change, race, age, family structure, housing, apportionment, and more

Publications Library
View or download published results from Census 2000 available in Portable Document Format (PDF).

Geographic Products and Information
Maps and digital geographic products for use in GIS and mapping software

1990 Census
Data and information from the 1990 Census

Selected Historical Census Data - 1790 to 1990
Data from previous censuses

Census 2000 Data Releases
- Summary File 3
- Demographic Profiles
- Summary File 2
- Summary File 1
- Redistricting Data
- Resident Population
- Congressional Apportionment

Future Releases
- Summary File 4

Census 2000 Supplementary Survey
US and state estimates on income, poverty, education, and other topics

Future Releases
- 2001 Supplementary Survey

If you can't find what you're looking for
Census 2000 data (current and future product releases), and what you will and won't find here

The letters PDF or symbol indicate a document is in the Portable Document Format (PDF). To view file you will need the Adobe(R) Acrobat(R) Reader which is available for **free** from the Adobe web site

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Maintained By: Laura K. Yax (Population Division)
Created: January 23, 2002
Last Revised: September 13, 2002 at 07:35:12 AM

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