

Work Session on Gender Statistics
(Orvieto, Italy, 11-13 October 2000)

GENDER STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES 2000 CENSUS

Paper submitted by the United States*

The United States Census Bureau conducts a census of the population and housing every 10 years. The census provides a statistical profile of the nation, producing a complete count of the population and describing the demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics of the U.S. population. Census 2000 collected information about the 118 million housing units and 275 million people in the United States, and the information will be available in a variety of formats.

The census has a long history of collecting information on the gender of individuals. Since the first census in 1790, a question on the sex of individuals has been asked in all censuses. The decennial census will provide data by sex for many levels of geography, such as state, county, city, census tract, and block.

Information on gender is critical for all phases of planning and research. American women have experienced dramatic changes over the last two decades, as measured by the 1970, 1980, and 1990 censuses. We will continue to measure these changes using data from the 22nd Decennial Census. The purpose of this paper is to provide you with some information on the data collected in Census 2000 and our plans for disseminating Census 2000 information.

* Paper prepared by Annetta C. Smith and Denise I. Smith, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Profile of Women in the United States

Census data provide critical information to show how women's lives are changing and evolving in the United States. According to the 1990 Census, women in the United States were increasingly delaying marriage and childbirth to attend college and to establish careers. College enrollment of women was near that of men, but women still chose major fields of study that were different from those of men and less likely to lead to higher paying jobs. More women in the United States were joining the labor force than ever before and women were more likely to have continuous lifetime work experience. There was a remarkable increase in the proportion of mothers who worked. Women remained in a secondary economic status despite unprecedented change. Women were spending more years prior to marriage supporting themselves; in marriage, women were contributing more to the household income, and a great number of women were rearing children alone, often with little or no financial help.

This profile of women was developed using data from the 1990 census and previous censuses. Data from Census 2000 will enable researchers and policy makers to update this profile for the United States as a whole and for lower-level geography as well as complete other detailed analysis on gender issues.

The remaining sections of this paper will discuss the data being collected in Census 2000, show its application to analyzing gender issues, and then briefly discuss plans for releasing Census 2000 data.

Data Collected in Census 2000

Two forms, a short form questionnaire and a long form questionnaire, were used to collect data in Census 2000. Most people (about 83 percent of all housing units) in Census 2000 received the short form questionnaire.

100-Percent Characteristics

The short form was used to collect basic information of every person and housing unit. The short form asked five population questions and two housing question. These basic questions are the source of data on 100-percent characteristics. Information is available on:

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

Data on 100-percent characteristics will enable users to address the following questions:

- C **Number of Males and Females** - How many males and females are there in the United States? In 1990, there were 127 million females and 121 million males in the United States. Females made up 51.3 percent of the U.S. population.
- C **Sex Ratios by Age** - Do the number of males and females vary by age? Does the sex composition of Americans change with age? For example, in 1990, for the 25-to-34-year old group, the proportion of males and females was about the same. For those under 14 years old, the sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) was about 105, but for those 65 years old and over, the sex ratio was only 67.
- C **Geography** - How does the sex ratio vary geographic area within the United States?
- C **Age Distribution** - What are the age distributions of males and females and how much do they differ?
- C **Racial and Ethnic Composition** - What is the racial and ethnic composition of women in the United States?
- C **Households Maintained by Women** - How many households are maintained by women with no husband present? How many families maintained by a woman with no husband present have children under 18 years old.
- C **Females in Group Quarters** - How many females are in institutional settings, such as correctional facilities, nursing homes, college dormitories, etc?

Sample Characteristics

The long form asked the same questions as the short form plus 27 additional questions on the social and economic characteristics of people and the characteristics of housing units. The long form was sent to a sample of housing units and people. These questions are the source of data on sample characteristics. In this way, we are able to collect useful social, economic, and housing unit information while keeping the burden on the respondent low.

Data are available on many topics, such as:

- o Income
- o Occupation
- o Education
- o Place of birth
- o Disabilities
- o Journey to work
- o Housing costs
- o Vehicle availability

There is also one new item included in Census 2000 **B** grandparents as caregivers.

See Figure 1 for a full list of topics on the Census 2000 questionnaire.

Data on sample characteristics will enable researchers and planners to continue to study the following major trends on women in the United States:

- C **Education** - What is the educational level of women? Are women continuing to improve their education? What types of degrees of study are women pursuing? For example, in 1990, 75 percent of women and 76 percent of men had received a high school diploma. In 1990, men were more likely to have graduated from college than women (23 percent and 18 percent, respectively).
- C **Marriage Age - Has the trend for women to marry at a later age continue since 1990? In 1990, 63 percent of women in their early twenties had not yet married compared with only 36 percent in 1970.**
- C **Marital Status** - What is the marital status of women? Will the trend of increasing numbers of women who are divorced continue? What about the proportion of women who are married and widowed? In 1970, just 4 percent of women and 3 percent of men reported their current marital status as divorced. By 1990, 10 percent of women and 7 percent of men were divorced. The proportion of women who had never married also increased between 1970 and 1990, from 21 percent to 23 percent. At the same time, the proportion of married women decreased from 63 percent to 55 percent. Because women live longer than men, it is not surprising that twelve percent of women and only 3 percent of men reported their marital status as widowed.
- C **Families Maintained by Women** - The proportion of families maintained by women increased steadily since 1970. In 1970, 10.8 percent of families were maintained by women. By 1990, it had increased to 16.5 percent. Has the proportion increased since 1990?
- C **Living Arrangements** - What are the living arrangements of women in the United States who are older? In 1990, 13.4 million female householders and 9.2 million male householders lived alone. Older women (women 65 years and older) were much more likely than older men to live alone.
- C **Labor Force Participation** - In the United States, more women are participating in the labor force. Did this trend continue to 2000? The majority of adult women were at work or looking for work. The proportion of women 16 years old and over in the labor force increased from 50 percent in 1980 to 57 percent in 1990.
- C **Occupations** - What types of occupations are women pursuing? Are more women pursuing occupations traditionally dominated by men in the past? In 1990, women were not equally represented in all professions. The overall labor market remained sharply segregated by sex in 1990. Even though women have made progress in entering occupations predominately held by men in the past, especially managerial and professional specialty occupations, the majority of women are still in traditional "female" occupations.

- C **Economic Conditions** - What are the economic conditions of women? How do those conditions compare to the economic conditions of men? Do income and poverty differ for men and women? Do the social and economic characteristics of families maintained by a women differ from the characteristics of married-couple families or of families maintained by a man?

Women who maintain families without husbands have significantly lower incomes. Few statistics about women reveal as much about their place in the economy as income data. The economic position of women was considerably lower than that of men in 1990. In 1989, the median family income for families with a female householder, no husband present, was \$17,414, significantly less than the median family income for married-couple families (\$39,584).

Families maintained by women were nearly six times as likely to be living in poverty than married-couple families in 1990. Families maintained by women with no husband present were more likely to be poor than married-couple families. Families maintained by a women had a poverty rate of 31.1 percent in 1989 and accounted for nearly half of all poor families. Since the mid-1960's, even with major changes in the economy over this period, there has been relatively little fluctuations in the poverty rates for families maintained by women.

At all age groups, women have higher poverty rates than men. Two-thirds of the poor female population in 1989 were either under 18 years old (37 percent) or 65 years old and over (30 percent).

Data from Census 2000 will enable researchers to evaluate the trends described above, as well as many other significant trends. The data have virtually unlimited applications.

Census 2000 Data Will be Available in Many Forms

Census 2000 data products will be released during the next two to three years. Figure 2 provides a summary of these data products. Information will be available in printed reports, on the Internet, and CD-ROM. The 100-percent data will be released first.

Demographic Profile

First, the demographic profile is a user-friendly presentation that shows a set of basic demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for various geographic areas. Specific to gender analysis, the 100-percent profile table shows population totals for the number of males and females, the number of female householders with no husband present, and the number of female householders with no husband present who have children under 18 years. The sample demographic profile tables will show the same 100-percent items as well as the marital status of females 15 years and older, number of females in the labor force, and the number of families with a female householder with no husband present who are in poverty.

Summary Files--100 Summary Files

The summary files planned for Census 2000 will present extensive tabulations of data summarized for various geographic areas.

Two files will be released with tabulations of 100-percent data. The first census file is Summary File 1. This file presents counts and basic cross-tabulations of information collected from all people and housing units. This information includes age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino origin, household relationship, and whether the residence is owned or rented.

Summary File 2 will contain 100-percent population and housing characteristics down to the census tract level that will be iterated for a selected list of detailed racial categories, Hispanic groups, and American and Alaska Native tribes. To show characteristics for a large number of racial and Hispanic groups and to avoid using a massive amount of space in the files to show characteristics for small population groups, a population size threshold will be applied.

Similarly, two files will be released with tabulations of sample characteristics data. Summary File 3 will be the first release of the information collected on a sample basis. Data will be provided down to the block group for many tabulations but only down to the census tracts for others.

Summary File 4 will include sample population and housing characteristics iterated for an extensive list of race and Hispanic categories, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, and ancestry groups. The lowest level of geography is census tract and a population threshold will be applied.

Quick Tables

Quick Tables represent a new, interactive approach on the Internet to help data users find the statistics they want easily and quickly. Quick tables allow users to choose from among approximately 50 table shells, then specify the geographic area and the universe or population subgroup (such as the number of female African Americans by selected age groups).

Geographic Comparison Tables

Next, we are developing Geographic Comparison Tables for users who want to easily obtain basic demographic, social, economic, and housing measures for similar geographies in one table (such as all counties in a state). These tables will enable users to compare key data items across geographic areas. Geographic Comparison tables include a table showing the sex ratio for all ages and for the population 18 years and over.

Printed Reports

For Census 2000, we currently plan on three printed report series. The first series will include data on the basic 100 percent subjects such as race, Hispanic or Latino, age, sex, relationship, and tenure. The second printed publication will be based on the sample data. Here, more social,

economic, and housing characteristics will be included. The last printed report series will include information showing population and housing unit totals for Census 2000 as well as the 1980 and 1990 censuses. The data in these printed reports also will be available on the Internet.

References:

Census 2000 Data Products at a Glance. U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, August 2000.

Introduction to Census 2000 Data Products. U. S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, July, 2000.

Smith, Denise I. *We, the American Women.* U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, September 1993.

We asked...You told us-Gender. Census Questionnaire Content, 1990 CQC-3. U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, December 1993.

Figure 1: Information Available from the 22nd Census of Population and Housing

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

- o Household relationship
- o Sex
- o Age
- o Hispanic or Latino origin
- o Race
- o Tenure (whether the housing unit is owned or rented)
- o Vacancy Characteristics

Sample characteristics: Additional questions are asked of a sample (generally 1-in-6) of persons and housing units. Data are provided on:

Population

Marital Status
Place of birth, citizenship, and year of entry
School enrollment and Educational attainment
Ancestry
Migration (residence in 1995)
Language spoken at home and Ability to speak English
Veteran Status
Disability
Grandparents as caregivers
Labor force status
Place of work and journey to work
Occupation, industry, and class of worker
Work status in 1999
Income in 1999

Housing

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

Persons in group quarters, including institutions, are asked population items only.

Figure 2: CENSUS 2000 DATA PRODUCTS
At a Glance

(Revised:08/04/00)

Planned Release Date	100-Percent Data Products (Excludes the Redistricting Data Summary File, which has no data by sex)	Lowest Level Geography
JUN - SEP 2001	Demographic Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population totals and selected population and housing characteristics in a single table <i>Media : Internet, CD-ROM, paper</i>	Places
States: JUN - SEP 2001 Advance national: NOV - DEC 2001 Final national: MAY - JUN 2002	Summary File 1 (SF 1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population counts for 63 race categories and Hispanic or Latino... Population counts for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes... Selected population and housing characteristics.... [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>	Blocks Census tracts Blocks/Census tracts
States: SEP - DEC 2001 Advance national: MAR - APR 2002 Final national: JUN - JUL 2002	Summary File 2 (SF 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
States: APR - DEC 2001 National: NOV 2001 - APR 2002	Quick Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
States: APR 2001- JAN 2002 National: DEC 2001 - AUG 2002	Geographic Comparison Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population and housing characteristics for a list of geographic areas (e.g., all counties in a state) <i>Medium: Internet</i>	Places of 1,000 or more population
SEP - DEC 2001 (Release subject to policy decisions on access and confidentiality)	Advanced Query Function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 block groups
JAN - NOV 2002	Census 2000: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics <i>Media: Internet, paper (printed report)</i>	Places
2003	Census 2000: Population and Housing Unit Counts <i>Media: Internet, paper (printed report with selected historical counts)</i>	Places

Planned Release Date	Sample Data Products	Lowest Level Geography
DEC 2001 - MAR 2002	Demographic Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics presented in three separate tables <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM, paper</i>	Places
JUN - SEP 2002	Summary File 3 (SF 3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population counts for ancestry groups..... • Selected population and housing characteristics..... <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM</i>	Census tracts Block groups/ Census tracts
OCT 2002 - FEB 2003	Summary File 4 (SF 4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>	Census tracts
JUN 2002 - FEB 2003	Quick Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Geographic Comparison Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and housing characteristics for a list of geographic areas (e.g., all counties in a state) <i>Medium: Internet</i>	Places of 1,000 or more population
<i>For 1-percent sample: 2002</i> <i>For 5-percent sample: 2003</i>	Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-percent sample (information for the nation and states, as well as substate areas where appropriate) • 5-percent sample (information for state and sub-state areas) <i>Medium: CD-ROM</i>	Super Public Use Microdata Areas (Super-PUMAs) of 400,000+ PUMAs of 100,000+
DEC 2002 - MAR 2003 (Release subject to policy decisions on access and confidentiality)	Advanced Query Function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Census 2000: Summary Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics <i>Media: Internet, paper (printed report)</i>	Places
2003	Congressional District Data Summary File <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100-percent and sample data for the redistricted 108th Congress <i>Media: Internet, CD-ROM</i>	Census tracts within Congressional Districts

GENERAL INFORMATION -- 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. * The dates in this column refer to the first medium of releases.