

# Products and Services from the 1980 Census

Larry W. Carbaugh

The results of the 1980 Census of Population and Housing were released through three major media, namely, printed reports, computer tapes, and microfiche. These 1980 products reflected some changes over their 1970 counterparts. For example, in 1980 more data were tabulated by race and data were presented for more areas, such as Indian reservations, Alaska Native villages, and census blocks. However, the new look in the 1980 data program was the emphasis on data for local areas and the involvement of users in defining tabulation areas and disseminating the data products. The contents of the 1980 census are shown in Table 1. The resulting data products and services are listed in the Census Bureau publication 1980 Census Basics (1). A review of some of these products and services follows.

## PRINTED REPORTS

The 1980 census reports are organized into three major groups according to subject: population census (PC80), housing census (HC80), and joint population and housing census (PHC80). They are further classified geographically into a series of area reports, one for each state and another for each metropolitan area. In addition, special population and housing subject reports are prepared that present detailed characteristics data (e.g., workers by place of work, employed persons by occupation and industry, or mobile homes) for the nation as a whole.

The population data are issued in four parts, or chapters, with Chapters A and B presenting basic demographic data (e.g., sex, age, race, and ethnicity, which are collected on a complete-count or 100-percent basis) for counties, townships, places, and Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs) and Chapters C and D containing estimates of social and economic characteristics (e.g., income, education, and occupation) for similar areas within each state.

Similarly, the housing data are issued in two chapters; Chapter A contains complete-count data and Chapter B contains sample estimates for the same areas as the population reports. An additional housing report series presents detailed sample housing data for each metropolitan area.

The joint population and housing reports contain similar complete-count and sample data but are issued by metropolitan area. PHC80-1 presents complete-count data for blocks (including those in nonmetropolitan areas) and PHC80-2 contains a combination of complete-count and sample data for census tracts. A new joint population and housing report was introduced for the 1980 Census: PHC80-3, Summary Characteristics for Governmental Units and Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas. This report contains data for each of approximately 39,000 general-purpose local governments (counties, incorporated places, and, in 20 states, most minor civil divisions) in the nation.

**TABLE 1 Subject Items Included in the 1980 Census**

Population	Housing
100-Percent Items	
Household relationship	Number of living quarters at address
Sex	Access to unit
Race	Complete plumbing facilities
Age	Number of rooms
Marital status	Tenure (whether unit is owned or rented)
Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent	Condominium identification
	Acreage and presence of commercial establishment or medical office
	Value of home (owner-occupied units and condominiums)
	Contract rent (renter-occupied units)
	Vacant for rent, for sale, etc., and duration of vacancy
Sample Items <sup>a</sup>	
School enrollment	Type of unit and units in structure
Years of school completed	Stories in building and presence of elevator
State or foreign country of birth	Year structure built
Citizenship and year of immigration	Year householder moved into unit
Language spoken at home and ability to speak English	Acreage and crop sales
Residence in 1975	Source of water
Activity in 1975	Sewage disposal
Veteran status and period of service	Heating equipment
Work disability and public transportation disability	Fuels used for house heating, water heating, and cooking
Children ever born	Costs of utilities and fuels
Marital history	Complete kitchen facilities
Labor force status	Number of bedrooms
Hours worked previous week	Number of bathrooms
Place of work	Telephone
Travel time to work	Air conditioning
Means of transportation to work	Number of automobiles
Private vehicle occupancy	Number of light trucks and vans
Year last worked	Homeowner shelter costs for mortgage, real estate taxes, and hazard insurance
Industry	
Occupation	
Class of worker	
Number of weeks worked in 1979	
Usual hours worked per week in 1979	
Unemployment in 1979	
Income in 1979 by source	
Poverty status in 1979	

<sup>a</sup>To meet the aim of greater statistical reliability for small areas, there was a 50-percent sample of the population in governmental jurisdictions with a population of less than 2,500. The sample was 1 in 6 (16.7) in areas with a population of 2,500 or more, yielding a national sample rate of 19.7 percent.

**TABLE 2 Relationship of Summary Tape Files to Reports**

Report Series	Complete-Count Data		Sample-Estimate Data		
	STF 1	STF 2	STF 3	STF 4	STF 5
Population	PC80-1-A	PC80-1-B	--	PC80-1-C	PC80-1-D
Housing	--	HC80-1-A	--	HC80-1-B	HC80-2
Population and housing	PHC80-1 (blocks)	PHC80-2 (census tracts)	--	PHC80-2 (census tracts)	--
	PHC80-3 (governmental units)	--	PHC80-3 (governmental units)	--	--
	PHC80-4 (congressional districts)	--	PHC80-4 (congressional districts)	--	--

## COMPUTER TAPES

A series of machine-readable summary data files parallels the release of the printed reports. These files contain the same data items as those presented in the reports but often in more detail and for smaller areas. In addition, data files are also released that contain, instead of summary data, disaggregated individual person and household records with identifying information removed. These files allow users to develop their own tabulations.

### Summary Data

As noted previously, the summary tape files (STFs) are released in conjunction with the printed reports (see Table 2). However, two of these tape files, STFs 1 and 3, also present data for census areas (enumeration districts and block groups) that do not appear in print. Because STFs 1 and 3 also contain summaries for larger areas such as tracts, minor civil divisions, and counties, users are able to obtain data for these areas well in advance of comparable printed reports containing these data.

Users are also able to obtain more race tabulations on the summary files than is possible from the printed reports. The printed reports are limited to those census areas having 400 or more of a particular race or ethnic group, whereas the tape files present separate summaries for areas having as few as 15 in a particular group. In fact, summaries are provided for up to 24 different race and ethnic groups on STF 2 and up to 327 race and ethnic and ancestry groups on STF 4.

### Microdata

Public-Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files, as noted previously, provide users with the ability to prepare their own tabulations. For example, tabulations showing the characteristics of those who work at home or households with more than two workers can be prepared.

To protect the confidentiality of the respondents to the census, these individuals person and household record files do not identify any geographic area with fewer than 100,000 population. This limitation still allows for SMSAs, central cities, groups of counties, and even large counties and cities to be identified.

To make the PUMS geographic areas more meaningful, the Census Bureau asked users within each state, usually through the State Data Center, to identify the area groupings. Most commonly used areas are state planning areas, economic development districts, or similar regional areas.

Three mutually exclusive samples are available: the A sample includes 5 percent of all persons and housing units and the B and C samples each include 1 percent of all persons and housing units.

### Software

To assist users in accessing and using the machine-readable data, the Census Bureau has developed a computer system called CENSPAC. This system, written in COBOL, makes use of other machine-readable files, known as data dictionaries, to display and label printouts or to create extract files. The CENSPAC system also allows users to specify the format of the data files they are processing so that it can be used for census files other than the summary files, such as those from the Urban Transportation Planning Package (UTPP).

## MICROFICHE

In order to provide users with access to some of the more useful data for enumeration districts and block groups from STF 1 and 3, special microfiche are available that contain these summaries.

## SPECIAL DATA SERVICES

As noted in the introduction, the 1980 data program emphasized local involvement in specifying tabulation areas and in disseminating the 1980 data products. Two programs in particular highlight this new involvement--the Neighborhood Statistics Program and the State Data Center Program.

### Neighborhood Statistics Program

In this program almost 1,300 cities, counties, townships, and other areas defined neighborhoods for which they wanted data prepared. The Census Bureau then prepared several products for each neighborhood defined. These include (a) tables that present data about the population, such as age, family income, and employment status as well as data about housing; (b) a nine-page narrative profile covering a variety of subjects such as marital status, educational attainment, income, and poverty status and the characteristics of the neighborhood's housing units; and (c) STF 1 and 3 summaries for each neighborhood.

### State Data Center Program

This program is a cooperative effort between the Census Bureau and individual states to distribute census products and provide services. A network consisting of one or more state-level organizations and including many libraries, planning groups, and others that serve as local data center affiliates has been set up in all states (except Wyoming), the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

These networks receive all Census Bureau reports, computer tapes, maps, and microfiche from the 1980 census for their state as well as technical assistance and training. In return for these products and services from the Census Bureau, the state networks maintain libraries that are open to the public, provide assistance in using the data, and offer tape copies, computer printouts, map reproduction, and photocopy services, often on a cost-reimbursable basis.

This presentation has only highlighted the major 1990 census products available services. More details about these products can be obtained from the Census Bureau's main office or any of the 12 regional offices or from the nearest state data center.

## REFERENCE

1. 1980 Census Basics. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, n.d.