INTRODUCTION

The Census Bureau publishes many of its statistics in terms of racial or ethnic groups. Racial groups include Whites; Blacks (African Americans); American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts; and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Ethnic groups comprise Germans, Italians, Irish, Arab Americans, persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race), and many others. (See fig. 1.)

The Bureau meets periodically with members and leaders of various racial and ethnic groups and organizations, as well as those in universities, commerce, and government at all levels. They help review efforts toward improving the quality, completeness, and usefulness of the data, and suggest changes in censuses and surveys.

USING RACIAL AND ETHNIC STATISTICS

Many individuals, agencies, businesses, and organizations—either directly or through secondary sources—use the census racial and ethnic statistics:

- Federal, State, and local (including American Indian and Alaska Native) governments—in connection with employment, housing, educational programs and legislation, health systems and public services, legislative redistricting, civil rights issues, minority business development, and other situations that require data on race and ethnicity.
- Religious or community organizations that aid the elderly, teach English to the foreign-born, provide recreation facilities, conduct voter registration drives, or are otherwise concerned about political representation.
- Chambers of commerce, industries, and businesses—in locating new stores and factories, marketing, and hiring.
- Sociologists, economists, historians, and other scholars find the figures essential to their studies of (for example) income and education gaps and the movement of racial and ethnic groups from one part of the country to another.

In combination, census and local data can help determine the location of

Figure 7.
Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan
Distribution of Owner-Occupied
Households: 1987
(In percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Metropolitan</th>
<th>Nonmetropolitan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic origin (may be of any race)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

many types of needed facilities, and offer evidence required in making applications for grants.

Various kinds of statistics about racial and ethnic groups in the United States (and other areas under its sovereignty or jurisdiction; except Puerto Rico, where such data were not collected) are available in census reports dating back to 1790, although such data in the earliest censuses are limited.

In recent years, census and survey statistics have been issued not only in printed reports (paper and microfiche), but also—and usually in much greater detail—on a variety of electronic media, such as computer tapes or disks. See the legend box for the symbols used in this Factfinder.

DEMOGRAPHIC CENSUSES

There have been major Federal censuses at 10-year intervals since 1790. The 1900 Census of Population and Housing asked for specific information about everyone's race and Hispanic origin, and for a sample of persons, ancestry or ethnic origin (see fig. 1). The censuses also covered the other topics shown in figure 2, and published results began appearing in 1991. In addition to basic counts by race and Hispanic origin for areas as small as a city block, some of the reports contain cross-tabulations of demographic, social, and economic characteristics, such as race by income or housing. Cross-tabulations of 100-percentage and sample data most useful at the local level appear for block numbering areas (BNA's) or census tracts (which average about 4,000 inhabitants). In the printed reports for these areas, characteristics are identified for a particular racial or Hispanic-origin group if it meets or exceeds a minimum number of persons living in the BNA or tract—400 (for 100-percentage data) or 1,000 (for the sample data). Where the number is fewer than 400, it normally will be shown separately only in the electronic products. All census and survey data are reviewed prior to publication, however, to make certain that no individual or household (or firm, in the case of the economic censuses) can be identified in the tabulations.¹

Printed Reports

The final, official 1900 census figures are published (1991-1993) in several series of reports, one for each State or statistically equivalent entity, and a U.S. summary, except as noted:

1 Individuals who need to establish age, race, place of birth, relationship, citizenship, etc., may apply to the Census Bureau for official transcripts of their own confidential census records, or others persons', with proper authorization.

²All/ANA's include American Indian reservations, trust lands, tribal jurisdiction statistical areas (TJSA's), and tribal designated statistical areas (TDSA's).

1990 CP-1. (1 U.S. or State No.), General Population Characteristics ² + . Data from the 100-percentage items (see fig. 2) for States, counties, places of 1,000 or more inhabitants, county subdivisions of 1,000 or more inhabitants in 12 States, State parts of American Indian areas, Alaska Native areas, and summary geographic areas (such as urban/rural and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan). This series covers basic characteristics, such as age, sex, and marital status, by race and Hispanic origin. The race groups include White; Black; Asian and Pacific Islander, and its subgroup; Native American/Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut; and "Other race." Hispanic origin includes its subgroups. There are similar reports—CP-1-1A, for entire American Indian/Alaska Native areas (All/ANA’s);² CP-1-1B, metropolitan areas (MA’s); and CP-1-1C, urbanized areas (UA’s).

1990 CP-2. (1 U.S. or State No.), Social and Economic Characteristics ² + . Data collected on a sample basis focusing on population subjects such as education, occupation, and income, and cross-tabulated by more detailed race and Hispanic-origin groups than found in the CP-1 series. There are also totals for about 90 ancestry groups. Race and Hispanic origin data are shown for States (including summaries such as urban and rural) and all the other areas listed under CP-1 above, except that the lower limit for places is 2,500 instead of 1,000 inhabitants. There are similar reports for All/ANA’s (CP-2-1A), MA’s (CP-2-1B), and UA’s (CP-2-1C).

Data on American Indian tribe or on ancestry-group characteristics do not appear in the CP-1 or CP-2 reports, but some special data products, in addition to the CP-3 reports noted below, are planned to provide information for these groups.

1990 CP-3. Population Subject Reports ² + . Initial studies, bringing together detailed data on characteristics such as education, occupation, and income, principally at the national level. Some reports, including those for race and Hispanic-origin groups, contain housing statistics as well. Detailed information is presented on topics such as American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts; American Indians by tribe and language; Asians and Pacific Islanders; Blacks; people of Hispanic origin; ancestry groups; the foreign born; persons in poverty; current language; and the older population.

There are parallel series for housing subjects—1990 CH-1 (General Housing Characteristics). CH-2 (Detailed Housing Characteristics), and CH-3 (Housing Subject Reports)—where the focus is on the variety of housing items (see fig. 2). They contain detail on such topics as persons per room, persons in unit, value, rent, plumbing, etc., cross-tabulated by race and Hispanic origin.

Broader coverage can be found in the 1990 CPH series, which summarize both population and housing data:

1990 CPH-1. (1 U.S. or State No.), Summary Population and Housing Characteristics ² + . Total population and housing-unit counts as well as summary statistics on age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, household relationship, and the various 100-percentage housing items (see fig. 2). Data are shown for local governments, such as counties and incorporated places, and All/ANA’s.

1990 CPH-3. (State or MSA/PSMAs No.), Population and Housing Characteristics for Census Tracts and Block Numbering Areas ² + . Selected
FIGURE 1. RACE, HISPANIC ORIGIN, AND ANCESTRY/ETHNIC ORIGIN QUESTIONS IN THE 1990 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

Race. This question was asked about all persons. The concept of race the Census Bureau uses reflects self-identification; that is, the individual’s perception of his/her identity. The concept is not intended to reflect any biological or anthropological definition.

1. Race
   - White
   - Black or Negro
   - Indian (Am.) (Print the name of the enrolled or principal tribe)
   - Alaska Native
   - Asian or Pacific Islander (API)
   - Chinese
   - Filipino
   - Hawaiian
   - Korean
   - Vietnamese

2. Other race, print race.

Spanish/Hispanic origin. This question was asked about all persons. People of Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent were those who classified themselves in one of the specific Hispanic-origin categories listed in the question—for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban—as well as those who indicated that they were of “Other Spanish/Hispanic” origin. Persons reported as “Other Spanish/Hispanic” were those whose origins were in other Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean, Central or South America, or from Spain, or who identified themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, Hispanic, Latino, etc. Spanish origin and race are distinct; thus, persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

7. Is this person of Spanish/Hispanic origin?
   - Yes
   - No

Ancestry. This item, asked of a sample of persons, was based on self-identification and was open-ended (respondents wrote in their answers). Ancestry refers to a person’s ethnic origin or descent, “roots,” or heritage. Ancestry also may refer to the country of birth of the person, the person’s parents, or ancestors, before their arrival in the United States. Persons could report their ancestry regardless of the number of generations removed from their ancestors’ places of origin. Furthermore, responses to the ancestry question reflect the ethnic group(s) with which the persons identified and not necessarily the degree of attachment most persons had with the particular groups.

13. What is this person’s ancestry or ethnic origins?

   (See Instruction guide for further information.)

   (For example: German, Italian, African-American, Croation, Cape Verdean, Dominican, Ecuadorian, Haitian, Cuban, French Canadian, Jamaican, Korean, Lebanese, Mexican, Nigerian, Irish, Polish, Slovak, Taiwanese, Thai, Ukrainian, etc.)

   - Cuban
   - Others

100-percent and sample data tabulated by MA and balance of State at the census tract/BNA levels. These reports show totals for race, Hispanic, and ancestry groups for every tract/BNA, and characteristics for race groups or the Hispanic population if they meet the threshold criteria (400 persons for 100-percent data, 1,000 for sample data).

- 1990 CPH-5 (1 or State No.), Summary Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics O + . Sample data for local governments and AI/ANA’s.
- 1990 CPH-4 (State No.), Population and Housing Characteristics for Congressional Districts of the 103rd Congress O + . Selected 100-percent and sample data for congressional districts; counties; places and, in 12 States, minor civil divisions (MCD’s: 10,000 + pop.); and AI/ANA’s. Tables include totals for race, Hispanic, and selected ancestry groups.
- 1990 CPH-3 (1 or State No.), Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics O + . Sample data for local governments and AI/ANA’s.
- 1990 CPH-1 (1 or State No.), Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics O + . Sample data for local governments and AI/ANA’s.
- 1990 CPH-S Supplementary Report Series.

Electronic media

- Virtually all data produced from the 1990 census appear in electronic form, often in considerably greater detail than in the printed reports, and for small geographic areas for which no data are available in print. In some cases, the Bureau produces computer printouts or microfiche.

- Public Law 94-171 Counts File O + . Total population: counts by race (White; Black; Asian or Pacific Islander; American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; and Other race), total Hispanic origin, cross-tabulations for non-Hispanic persons by race, and age (18 and over, and under 18) for these racial groups and the Hispanic population. Data from the State to the block level, and for voting districts in all or parts of participating States, for purposes of congressional and legislative reapportionment and redistricting. Comparative information for AI/ANA’s.

- Summary tape files (STF’s). 100-percent population and housing data appear in STF’s 1 (A-D) O + , with some files on O and +, and 2 (A-C) + at various levels of geographic detail. For example, 1B has statistics at the census block level that are not available in printed reports; there are extracts on O + . Parallel series, STF’s 3 (A-D) O + , with some files on O and +, and 4 (A-C) + contain mostly sample (but some 100-percent) population and housing data, except that they do not go down to the block level. STF 3A O + goes to the block-group level, while 3B O + has tabulations by five-digit ZIP Code within States, including county portions of areas.

STF’s 1 and 3 show totals and limited characteristics for race groups and the Hispanic population. By contrast, STF’s 2 and 4 have more detailed characteristics for detailed race and Hispanic subgroups. STF’s 3 and 4 include totals for ancestry groups.

For more information on STF’s and their particular geographic detail, see the Census Catalog & Guide O + or call Customer Services +. Some STF tables can be accessed through CENDATA™ (see legend box).

- Census/Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Special File O + . Detailed occupation and educational attainment data by age, cross tabulated by sex, race, and Hispanic origin, for counties, MA’s, and places (50,000 + pop.).
- County-to-County Migration File O + . Selected characteristics of persons making up migration streams in States and counties. Flows include Puerto Rico and outlying areas and some data on race and Hispanic origin.
Special Tabulations

- **1990 User-Defined Areas Program (UDAP)**
  - Tables, maps, text for specialized geographic entities not available in standard tables and publications; user must specify boundaries that coincide with 1990 census blocks.

Maps and Other Geographic Products

The Census Bureau produces both printed and electrostatically plotted maps. Some appear within the printed reports; others, because of their size and detail, are published separately. These materials are described more completely in *Factfinders* ("Census Geography—Concepts and Products") and 18 ("Bureau Programs and Products") . The separate maps of primary importance to users of 1990 census data on race and ethnicity are *County Block Maps*, *Voting District Outline Maps*, *Census Tract/Block Numbering Area Outline Maps* + , and *American Indian/Alaska Native Area (AI/ANA) Outline Maps* .

The Bureau's TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing) system includes an automated geographic data base developed for the 1990 census. It covers the United States, Puerto Rico, and the outlying areas. The agency can plot digital (machine-readable) maps from this data base, which is partitioned by county for ease of operations. Requests for public-use extracts from TIGER therefore must be for specific counties. Users also must have, or obtain from commercial sources, the software or systems necessary to utilize these extracts. For information on the various TIGER products and their electronic applications, see *TIGER: The Coast-to-Coast Digital Map Data Base* (free + ).

### CURRENT POPULATION AND HOUSING PROGRAMS

The results of the Bureau's surveys, except for those conducted for other Federal agencies that publish the data in their own reports, appear in the following series:

3See especially the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Housing and Urban Development, and Justice.

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**Current Population Reports**

- **P.20, Population Characteristics** offers annual reports for the Nation with many of the data cross-tabulated by race and Hispanic origin. They cover such topics as marital status and living arrangements, household and family characteristics, school enrollment, fertility, mobility, voting (biennial), and the farm population. There also are annual reports in this series that focus exclusively on the Hispanic and Black populations, and periodic reports are planned on the Asian or Pacific Islander population as well.
- **P.23, Special Studies** are published irregularly. They survey, for example, youth, women, and elderly, Black, and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan populations.
- **P.25, Population Estimates and Projections** carry monthly estimates of the U.S. population; annual national estimates for race (White, Black, Other) and Hispanic origin by age and sex, and estimates of births, deaths, and net migration for the Nation and the States (no race or Hispanic data); periodic estimates by race and Hispanic origin for States; and projections on an irregular basis by age, sex, and race (Nation and States), and Hispanic origin (national figures only).
- **P.28, Special Censuses** are undertaken by contract, primarily with counties and places, and usually cover total population, age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and number of housing units.
- **P.60, Consumer Income** deals annually with money income, noncash benefits, and poverty status by age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, level of education, and type of household. Data appear for the United States and its regions.
- **P.70, Household Economic Studies** are quarterly and annual reports for the United States and its regions on income, labor-force activity, wealth, participation in government programs, disability, child care, and pensions.

Related products are:

- **Survey of Income and Program Participation Microdata File** is a tape, issued three times a year, that contains P-70 series national data (including race and Hispanic origin) with monthly longitudinal measurements; there are topical modules in rectangular files.
- **Current Population Survey Microdata File** is available monthly for the United States, States, regions, divisions, MA's, and some central cities; it contains labor-force characteristics and data from the periodic supplements used to produce the P-20 and P-60 tabulations.
## Table 162. Social Characteristics Selected Hispanic Origin Groups: 1990

| County (in alphabetical order) | Dominican | Puerto Rican | Cuban | Other (Dominican) | Central American | Costa Rican | Guatemalan | Panamanian | Salvadoran | South American | Argentinean | Peruvian | Ecuadorian | Venezuelan |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| **FERTILITY**                  |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Women 15 to 24 years           |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Children ever born             |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Per 1,000 women                |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Women 20 to 24 years           |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Children ever born             |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Per 1,000 women                |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Women 25 to 44 years           |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Children ever born             |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Per 1,000 women                |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Women 45 to 64 years           |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Children ever born             |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Per 1,000 women                |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| **FAMILY TYPE BY PRESENCE OF OWN CHILDREN** |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Married-couple families        |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| With own children under 5 years |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| With own children under 6 years |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Marital status                 |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Married-couple families        |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| With own children under 18 years |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| With own children under 6 years |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Per own children under 18 years |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Per own children under 6 years |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| **ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH**   |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |
| Persons 5 years and over       |           |              |       |                 |                 |            |            |            |            |             |             |          |          |           |            |

## ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL CENSUSES

In 1969, the Census Bureau conducted the Survey of Housing by Owner-Occupancy (HOH) to identify households that were owner-occupied. This survey is based on the 1960 census, which was the first survey of its kind. The survey has been conducted every 5 years since 1969, and it continues to be an important source of data on housing conditions and characteristics.

### Economic and Agricultural Censuses

- **H-10. American Housing Survey**: Published every 5 years, this survey provides detailed information on housing conditions and characteristics.
- **H-11. Housing Characteristics**: This survey provides data on the structure and characteristics of housing units, including the age, size, and type of housing.
- **H-12. Housing Characteristics, by Race and Hispanic Origin**: This survey provides data on the housing characteristics of households, by race and Hispanic origin.
- **H-13. Housing Characteristics, by Income and Education**: This survey provides data on the housing characteristics of households, by income and education.
- **H-14. Housing Characteristics, by Age**: This survey provides data on the housing characteristics of households, by age.
- **H-15. Housing Characteristics, by Household Type**: This survey provides data on the housing characteristics of households, by household type.
- **H-16. Housing Characteristics, by Housing Type**: This survey provides data on the housing characteristics of households, by housing type.
- **H-17. Housing Characteristics, by Housing Condition**: This survey provides data on the housing characteristics of households, by housing condition.
- **H-18. Housing Characteristics, by Housing Quality**: This survey provides data on the housing characteristics of households, by housing quality.
- **H-19. Housing Characteristics, by Housing Age**: This survey provides data on the housing characteristics of households, by housing age.
- **H-20. Housing Characteristics, by Housing Status**: This survey provides data on the housing characteristics of households, by housing status.

These surveys provide a wealth of information on housing conditions and characteristics, and they are an important source of data for researchers and policymakers.
broad economic sectors. Tabulations identify areas or places with 100 or more firms owned by the specified minority. (There is a similar series, WB, without race or ethnic characteristics, for women-owned business enterprises.)

The agriculture censuses, also for years ending in “2” and “7,” contain some cross-tabulations—down to the county level—for farms by operator characteristics such as race and Hispanic origin. These data, for 1987, appear in the AC87-A Geographic Area Series □ + .

**STATISTICAL COMPENDIA**

Race and ethnicity data also appear in several Bureau reference publications. The best known are the annual Statistical Abstract of the United States □ + , and the periodic County and City Data Book □ + , State and Metropolitan Area Data Book □ + , Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970 □ + , and a computer tape, County Statistics File 4 □ + , that includes county data from various sources.

**GUIDES AND CATALOGS**

The Bureau’s annual Census Catalog & Guide □ + describes the agency’s products, gives ordering information and prices, and lists a variety of finding and reference contacts. The Monthly Product Announcement □ (free +) and the monthly newsletter, Census and You □ (subscription +; free single copies +), report continuously on recent or upcoming products and other items of interest to data users. CPH-R-1, 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Guide □ + is a multi-volume reference source; several free, nontechnical brochures, such as Census ’90 Basics □ + , are also available.

**FINDING AND USING THE DATA**

There are Census Bureau products in a variety of places and media. They may be purchased (see legend box) or otherwise accessed. Some 1,500 Federal and Census depository libraries across the country have printed reports □ , and an increasing number have microfiche □ , computer tapes □ , CD-ROM □ , and access to on-line services □ . (List on request.) □ Current publications are kept for reference at the 47 International Trade Administration district offices, and at the Census Bureau’s 12 regional offices (see box on p.2), where there are information specialists who assist users. Customer Service staff and subject specialists at Bureau headquarters also can answer questions about census and survey data. (Telephone contact list on request.) □

Tape copies, software, and related services are available from a number of private and public organizations. The latter include State Data Centers in all States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Several national nonprofit organizations have established information centers for their members and affiliates as well as for the public. (Lists on request.) □

The Bureau conducts workshops for data users + and its Census Education Project offers lecture outlines, texts, student exercises, and other instructional aids. +

**FACTFINDER FOR THE NATION**

More information about the Census Bureau is contained in Factfinder CFF 4, “History and Organization” □ (single copies free +). Inquiries about the agency’s various programs and activities are invited.

Write or call:

Director
Bureau of the Census
Washington, DC 20233
Telephone 301-763-5180
FAX 301-763-5013

**TYPICAL TABLE FROM SERIES H121 (HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS MAINTAINED BY WOMEN AND SINGLE PARENTS)** □

| Selected Physical Characteristics of Units Occupied by One-Parent Subfamilies by Tenure, Race and Hispanic Origin of Parent: 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | One-Parent Subfamilies | | | | | |
| | White | Black | Hispanic Origin (May be any race) |
| | Maintained by mother | Maintained by father | Under 25 years old | Maintained by mother | Maintained by father | Under 25 years old |
| Total | | | | | | |
| ALL OCCUPIED UNITS | 1,870 | 1,771 | 1,219 | 1,090 | 305 | 367 | 673 |
| Owner-occupied units | 1,227 | 1,006 | 740 | 610 | 212 | 263 | 351 |
| Percent of all occupied | 55% | 57% | 61% | 60% | 55% | 55% | 55% |
| Renter-occupied units | 443 | 722 | 475 | 430 | 172 | 164 | 222 |
| Percent of all occupied | 45% | 43% | 39% | 40% | 45% | 45% | 48% |

1 National figures, in 000's.