

March 22, 2005

Ethnic Studies 10
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U.S. Census

Every 10 years a new census is administered in the U.S. Each census, 1790 to 2000, is usually modified to reflect the new interests and issues of its decade. As a basic overview to the use of the census and especially for any comparative studies, there are a few basic items to keep in mind:

Geography:

- # General
- # States
- # Counties
- # County Subdivisions
- # Places
- # American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Entities
- # Census Tracts
- # Block Groups
- # Census Blocks
- # Urban and Rural
- # ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)
- # Other Geographic Entities
- # Glossary

Census Questionnaire:

What questions are asked in each census? Each printed census has a copy of the questionnaires (short form and long form) asked in each census.

Short Form questionnaire:

The decennial census questionnaire containing only the 100-percent questions, such as, population and housing information collected for all living quarters in the United States. These questions appear on both the short- and long-form questionnaires. The questions include age, Hispanic or Latino origin, race, relationship to the householder, sex, and whether the housing unit is owned or rented.

Long Form questionnaire:

Census data derived from additional questions asked of about 17 percent of the population on the long-form questionnaire for Census 2000. The person questions cover social characteristics, such as

ancestry, disability, grandparents as caregivers, education, marital status, and veteran status, and economic characteristics, such as 1999 income and work status and industry, occupation, and class of worker. The housing questions cover physical characteristics, such as the number of rooms, type of heating fuel, and telephone service availability, and financial characteristics, such as rent, mortgage, utilities, taxes, and fuel costs.

You can also find the questionnaires online at:

Census Questions (<http://www.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tQuestions.html>)

1990 Census

Online access at American Factfinder <http://factfinder.census.gov> . Primarily 2000 Census data, but check Data Files for two 1990 Census files. Choose 1990 Summary Tape File 3 (STF 3)- Sample Data. Next choose Detailed Tables. You are now ready to select your location or place and data files.

1990 Census print set is available at the Doe Library, North Reading Room, gref collection. You will need to use:

1990 Census of Population. Social & Economic Characteristics. California. HA201 1990 P76 v.6:1 & v.6:2

1970 Census

Data is NOT available online. You will need to use the 1980 Census printed volumes that are located in Doe Library, North Reading Room, gref collection. You will need to use:

1970 Census of Population. Characteristics of the Population. California HA201 1970 P6 A4 v.1:6:1

[Example:

http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/doemoff/ethn_stds/pdfs/census70.pdf]

Any problems? Contact Susana Hinojosa at: shinojos@library.berkeley.edu