Q. Questions about the New 2000 Census Data?

When can I receive data from Census 2000 that will show me what the population is of the block groups in my city and racial break down of these blocks?

The requested data is contained in the Redistricting Data File (Public Law 94-171) and is now available on the Census Bureau's web site at or on CD-ROM. The PL94-171 data enable the states to redraw congressional and legislative boundaries based on population changes. It is also America's first look at Census 2000 results for their communities as well as the local racial/ ethnic demographic makeup of these areas.

The data items included in the Redistricting data are: the total population, Hispanic/Latino Origin, Race, and Voting Age Population (over 18 years of age). The various levels of geography for which data are available on the PL94-171 are: States, Counties, County Subdivisions, Places (incorporated and census designated), census tracts, census block groups, census blocks, and voting districts.

When will the educational attainment data, labor force data, and income information be available from Census 2000?

When the Census Bureau conducts a census, two questionnaires are used to gather the information: a short form questionnaire and a long form questionnaire. The Census 2000 short form was received by 5 out of 6 housing units. Only seven questions were asked on the short form: name, sex, age, relationship, Hispanic/Latino, race, and whether you own or rent your home. These are referred to as 100-percent data items.

Overall, the Census 2000 long form was received by 1 out of 6 households. The long form contained all the questions asked on the short form plus 27 more, for a total of 34 subjects. Both the Census 2000 short and long form can be viewed on the Census Bureau's web site, www.census.gov. Examples of some of the population and housing items on the long form are: labor force status (current), place of work and journey to work, work status last year, industry, occupation and class of worker, income, school enrollment and educational attainment. These are referred to as sample data items.

All Census 2000 products are contained within 5 data sets:
1.   PL 94-171 ... available now
2.   SF1 (short form or 100-percent) ... available by state on a flow basis in June - September 2001
3.   SF2 (short form or 100-percent) ... available by state on a flow basis beginning in October - December 2001.
4.   SF3 (long form or sample data) ... available in the summer of 2002
5.   SF4 (long form or sample data) ... available in the fall-winter of 2002

What are the major changes in Census 2000 compared to the 1990 Census in the way in which racial and ethnic information is captured and reported?

The major difference between Census 2000 and the 1990 Census in the way in which racial and ethnic information is captured and reported is that people could select more than one race. Other differences between these censuses include: the Hispanic/Latino question was asked before the race question, the American Indian and Alaska Native categories were combined, and the Asian and Pacific Islander category was split into Asian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

What are the implications of these changes? Census 2000 will give us more and improved information on racial and ethnic diversity. But this also means that Census 2000 race data are not directly comparable with data from 1990 and previous censuses. The new OMB (Office of Management and Budget) race categories are: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; White; and Some other Race. Hispanic Origin is an ethnic characteristic rather than a race and people of Hispanic Origin can be of any race.

How will race and ethnicity by shown in Census 2000 data tables? In some tabulations, race data will be shown for all 63 categories. In other tabulations, race will be collapsed and shown as:
1.   Race *alone* categories
2.   A *two or more* races category
3.   Race *alone or in combination* with one or more races categories
4.   Counts and characteristics for specific groups will be included in later tabulations.

What kind of disability data will be available from Census 2000 and when?

The disability question for Census 2000 was revised and expanded from the disability question asked in 1990. For Census 2000, the disability question includes:
1. Vision or hearing impairment
2. Mobility limitation
3. Condition that limits
4. Learning or remembering
5. Getting around the house
6. Getting around outside
7. Working

The disability question was asked on the long form or sample questionnaire so the data will be available when SF3 is released in the summer of 2002.

Where can I find the age distribution data from Census 2000 for my county?

Age distribution for counties is available now in the Census 2000 Demographic Profiles. These profiles are one-page summaries of the data from the short or 100-percent questionnaire. The profiles are available by State and include profiles for: the entire state, all counties in the state, all places in the state, all Federal and State Indian Reservations, and all Congressional Districts in the state. They can be found on the main page of the Census Bureau web site at www.census.gov.

A more detailed age distribution will be available when SF1 is released on a state-by-state basis from June - September 2001. This data will be available from the Census Bureau web site from American FactFinder. American FactFinder is the Census Bureau's online data dissemination tool and can be found at factfinder.census.gov or on the www.census.gov main page under American FactFinder. SF1 data will also be released on CD-ROM in 2002.

What are the various formats in which Census 2000 data will be available and is there a charge for the data?

Census products will be available as:
- Printed reports
  - Limited number of reports issued ... 3 volumes per state
  - Limited detail for both subject and geography ... only to the place level
- CD-ROMs/DVDs
  - *All* **of the data will be available in this easy-to-use format**
  - Windows 95 (or higher) and NT users get software on disk
- Internet
  - *All of the data will be released on the Internet first*
  - Census Bureau website:
  - American FactFinder ... primary media for Census Bureau data on the Internet

There will be no charge for data on the Internet. There will be a charge for CD-ROMs/DVDs and printed reports. The cost for most CDs will be $50 and most DVDs will be priced at $70. The charge for printed reports has yet to be determined.

For more information on Census 2000 products and Census Bureau data, please contact:

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