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A NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

POPULATION AND CENSUS

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Issue 34 September 1984

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF DEMOGRAPHIC & ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
DIVISION OF PLANNING & RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
C N 388
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0388

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE 1990 CENSUS

October 11, 1984

The New Jersey State Data Center (NJSDC) in conjunction with the U. S. Bureau of the Census is sponsoring a local public meeting to discuss the 1990 census.

The meeting, to be held on Thursday, October 11, 1984 at Trenton State College, Brower Student Center (Room 202), Route 31, Trenton, New Jersey, is open to the public and all users and potential users of census data at no charge. It is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the issues to be covered include: population items; housing items; data products and services; geography; and the planning of the 1990 census.

Whether you are a government official who uses census information for planning urban or regional development; a business person who uses census data to determine future markets; a community leader interested in studying local trends; a scholar or researcher interested in various social, economic or housing problems; or a private citizen desiring information on the census, the Census Bureau is interested in hearing your views and recommendations for improving the quality of the 1990 census.

The Census Bureau is currently reviewing the data needs of a wide variety of data users and this meeting will offer the opportunity for individuals to present their comments and suggestions on all phases of the 1990 census.

COSPONSORS:
American Marketing Association, NJ Chapter
American Planning Association, NJ Chapter
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NJ Chamber of Commerce
NJ Council of State Colleges
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Puerto Rican Congress of NJ, Inc.
South Jersey Economic Development District
Urban League of Trenton
U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, NY Office

REGISTRATION: Complete the registration form on the following page and mail it to NJSDC, Division of Planning and Research, Department of Labor, CN388, Trenton, NJ 08625-0388 (Attn: Roger Linder).

1990 Census

A one-day conference on planning the bicentennial census of population and housing

You are invited
to participate in a public meeting to discuss plans for the 1990 census with representatives from the Bureau of the Census.

The meeting is open to the public and all users and potential users of data including:

- Government officials who use information to plan, direct, or evaluate programs such as urban or regional development, education, transportation, health, or employment.
- Business persons who use information to locate industrial plants or stores, to determine markets, or to make other decisions based on social and economic statistics.
- Community leaders interested in studying local trends, problems, or local needs..
- Scholars, researchers, and others interested in various social, economic or housing problems.
- Private citizens, librarians, and others desiring information on the census.

There is no charge to attend the meeting

1990 is only a few short years away
The Census Bureau staff is currently reviewing the data needs of a wide variety of data users. Don't miss this opportunity to present your comments and offer suggestions on all phases of the census.

You may submit your suggestions in writing.

The Census Bureau wants to hear your recommendations regarding:

- Modifications or deletions of population and housing items
- New population or housing subjects
- Geographic detail needed by subject matter
- Geographic areas and products
- Data products and formats
- User guides and other material
- User services
- Publicity and community relations

The Census Bureau also needs to know:

- What 1980 data products did you find most useful?
- What were your problems in using the information from the 1980 census?
- What new or unusual applications were tried?

General Agenda

8:30am Registration

9:00am Welcome and Introductions

Population Items and Issues
Public Comment

Housing Items and Issues
Public Comment

Data Products and Services Issues
Public Comment

12:00 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Data Products and Services Issues Continued
Geographic Issues
Public Comment
1990 Census Outreach
General Discussion

4:30 pm Adjourn

Registration
Please register in advance by returning the attached to

N.J. State Data Center
Labor & Industry Building
C N 388
Trenton, N.J. 08625-0388

For further information please call: (609) 984-2593 or
(215) 597-8313

Local Public Meeting on the 1990 Census

☐ **I plan to attend the 1990 census local public meeting.**

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

Alternatives and Issues Concerning the 1990 Census Subject Content, Geographic Areas and Data Products

Although the 1990 census is still several years away, the Census Bureau must make important decisions long before Census Day, April 1, 1990. One such decision is the determination of the subjects and questions to include in the 1990 census. By law, the Census Bureau must submit to Congress by April 1, 1987, the subjects that are planned for the census and by April 1, 1988, the specific questions that will be asked.

In the past three censuses, the length of the census questionnaire has remained very stable, providing only those data needed to implement governmental programs or meet demonstrated broad public needs. We expect this trend to continue, and the length of the 1990 questionnaire likely will be no longer than in 1980.

In the 1980 census, seven population questions were asked of every person and nine housing questions were asked about every housing unit. To keep respondent burden to a minimum, additional population and housing questions were asked of only a sample (about 19 percent nationwide) of households.

While such constraints as respondent burden, questionnaire space, cost and so forth strictly limit the number of items included in the census, there is greater flexibility in tabulation categories, geographic levels of presentation and dissemination media. We need your specific recommendations on these topics and your views on which 1980 questionnaire items would continue to provide needed statistics for your work in the 1990's.

Some of the specific issues and alternatives being considered for the 1990 census are outlined in this paper under four major headings:

I Population Issues
II Housing Issues
III Geographic Issues
IV Data Products and Services Issues

Following Section IV is a chart listing the subjects included in the 1980 census, along with questions about your need for these items and the geographic levels at which the information is used.

We would appreciate your completing this chart and we welcome your additional comments and suggestions. Persons attending a public meeting on the 1990 census should make their comments directly to the Census Bureau representatives and return the completed chart at that time. Otherwise, please send your comments and completed chart to the Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

I. Population Issues

In 1980, the Census Bureau asked seven questions of every person: name, relationship to the householder, age, race, sex, marital status, and Spanish origin. Other items, such as income, education, ancestry, employment, and occupation, were asked of only a sample of households.

General

What population data will still be needed in the 1990's? Are any modifications to the questions needed?

Are there population questions or subjects that are no longer useful and that do not have to be asked in the 1990 census?

Are there new subject areas that could become critical in the 1990's, for which the Census Bureau should consider collecting data?

Race and Spanish Origin

The 1980 census questionnaire included separate questions on race and Spanish origin. Since each of these items had reporting problems, two alternative approaches are suggested for 1990.

The first approach would combine race and Spanish origin in a single question that would be asked on a 100-percent basis, with an expanded version of the question asked on a sample basis. The single race/Spanish origin 100-percent item would obtain information on five major groups--White, not Hispanic; Black, not Hispanic; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian and Pacific Islander; and Hispanic--required by federal guidelines and for legislative redistricting. Each person would report in only one category. The sample question would be expanded to collect information on specific Asian and Pacific Islander groups (e.g., Chinese or Japanese) and Hispanic groups (e.g., Mexican or Puerto Rican).

Alternatively, separate race and Spanish-origin questions would be maintained; simplified race and Spanish-origin questions would be asked on a 100-percent basis with an expanded version of the questions asked on a sample basis.

Are data needed at the local level for each of the 14 detailed racial groups listed in the 1980 questionnaire? Would it be acceptable to obtain a response only of a race group or of Spanish origin rather than both?

Relationship to Householder

Several categories of relationship were listed on the 1980 census questionnaire: for relatives there was a choice of husband/wife, son/daughter, brother/sister,

father/mother, or other relative; for nonrelatives the choices were roomer/boarder, partner/roommate, paid employee, or other nonrelative. Are these categories adequate to identify those living arrangements of interest to data users?

Ancestry

The 1980 census question on ancestry allowed persons to self-identify their ethnicity, regardless of the number of generations removed from their country of origin. More than one ancestry response was allowed. Evaluation of the item has shown inconsistency in the reporting of ancestry.

Should the ancestry question be replaced by questions on the place of birth of parents and number of foreign-born grandparents? Or should the ancestry question be retained along with questions on place of birth of persons and of their parents? (The parents' birthplace question, which had been included in previous censuses, was dropped in 1980.) Which set of questions would provide the most useful information on ethnicity? Are these data needed at the local level?

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English

The 1980 sample questionnaire included questions on what language(s) (other than English) was spoken at home and on the ability to speak English. These replaced questions from previous censuses on "mother tongue." The information gathered in these questions does seem to meet legislative and administrative needs and the Bureau anticipates no radical changes to these questions. What are local needs for language data?

Fertility

The 1980 census asked a sample question on the number of "children ever born." Responses are used in the computation of fertility rates. Are data on the number of "children ever born" needed at the local level or are state and regional data sufficient?

Should this question be replaced by one that asks if a women has had a birth in the last year? Responses to such a question would permit the computation of current fertility rates for subnational areas for use in population projections and permit the development of a current population profile of mothers with newborn children. Would data from this question be useful for local areas?

Marital History

In both 1970 and 1980, there were sample questions on (a) whether a person was married more than once, (b) the date of the first marriage, and (c) how the first

marriage of remarried persons was terminated. The responses to these questions are cross-classified with information on living arrangements or household composition to produce information on the status of one-parent families and reconstituted families. Are there any local uses of the data? Is there any other justification for collecting marital history in the census?

Education

Since 1940, school enrollment and educational attainment have been ascertained in a single series of questions centered around the highest grade or year of regular school a person has attended. However, increasingly, vocational and non-degree courses are being offered in institutions of higher education, and job and income-relevant training is being sought outside of "regular schooling." How adequate are the traditional education items in measuring educational attainment for local uses? What are local needs for vocational training data?

The census has traditionally asked questions on highest grade or year of school completed, rather than degrees received. Would a question on degrees received provide data more useful than years of school completed?

Disability

Although the decennial census is the only source of data on disability rates for states and local areas, questions have been raised concerning the reliability and specificity of the data.

Studies on the reliability of other survey data on disability status have produced conflicting results and a reinterview study of the reliability of the 1980 disability data is not yet complete.

The 1970 census asked about work disability and the 1980 census asked about both work disability and public transportation disability. Neither census identified the condition causing the limitation and it is unlikely that such detailed information could be obtained on a census questionnaire. Pretests conducted for the 1980 census indicated that a question which asked about a list of specific activity limitations provided generally unreliable data.

The primary reason for including a disability item in the 1990 census is the ability to provide estimates for local areas. The data indicate the general prevalence and allow comparisons to be made between local areas, but the Bureau has had little indication that the data are intensively used for specific planning purposes. Are these uses enough to support the continuation of a disability item in the decennial census? The inclusion of the same disability item in 1990 as was asked in 1980 would provide, for the first time, data on the change in disability prevalence.

Place of Work

In 1980, place-of-work data were coded to the block level so that data could then be aggregated and made available at user-specified small geographic areas. The ability to code to the block varied from area to area.

What would be the effect on data users if data were coded only to higher geographic levels (i.e., tracts, counties or cities), even if better quality coding could be assured?

Since the major impetus for producing small area place-of-work data comes from state and local transportation planning agencies, should/could these agencies provide some financial support for the collection and processing of these data in 1990? In 1980, some localities paid part of the cost for producing special tabulations of these data (i.e., Urban Transportation Planning Package), but they did not pay for any collection or processing of the data.

Are there additional transportation-related data that may be needed? For example, distance to work, multimodal commuting, nonwork travel?

Residence Five Years Ago (Migration) and Place of Birth

The major issue for these sample subjects is the geographic specificity required. Are there any needs for these data at the subcounty and subcity levels (e.g., minor civil divisions, census tracts)?

Unemployment in Previous Year

The 1980 census included a sample question about weeks of unemployment in the previous year (1979). Responses to the question provided information on the cumulative number of weeks during the year that a person was jobless, but not about the length of continuous periods of unemployment, or about the number of stretches of unemployment.

Which of the following options should be considered for 1990? (a) delete questions about unemployment in previous year; (b) retain the 1980 question; (c) replace the 1980 question with one about duration of unemployment in previous year; (d) include a question about the number of stretches of unemployment in the previous year; or (e) include some combination of information on cumulative unemployment, duration of unemployment, and stretches of unemployment.

Is there sufficient need at the local level for data about unemployment in the previous year? If so, are data on cumulative weeks of unemployment more useful than data on duration of unemployment or on stretches of unemployment?

Money Income

A battery of seven types of income questions and a total income inquiry were incorporated into the 1980 census sample questionnaire. The seven income types included income from: (1) wages or salary, (2) nonfarm self-employment, (3) farm self-employment, (4) interest, dividend, and net rental income, (5) Social Security, (6) public assistance, and (7) other regular sources. Will these types of income categories be sufficient for 1990? Should additional income sources, such as pension income, be covered in the 1990 census?

In 1980, total income, type of income, and poverty statistics were available in Summary Tape File 3 for geographic areas as small as census tracts and block groups. The number of households and the aggregate income by income types were tabulated for these areas. Should the Bureau produce income statistics in greater or lesser detail for these areas? What are user needs for information on the type of income recipiency and amount received at these geographic levels?

Nonmoney Income

In recent years the Bureau has collected information in the Current Population Survey on nonmoney income received through such programs as the Food Stamp Program, National School Lunch Progam, public and other subsidized housing, Medicare, Medicaid, and the employer contributions to employee pension and health insurance plans. These data are available at the national and regional geographic levels. It is anticipated that within the next few years, the official Federal poverty definition may be modified to include nonmoney income data. With this in mind, should nonmoney income questions be an essential part of the 1990 census sample questionnaire to enable the Bureau to develop small-area data (e.g., cities, tracts, block groups) from these sources? What type of nonmoney income questions should be included? Would it be sufficient to incorporate these questions into a post-census survey that would provide detailed statistics for states, large metropolitan areas, and large cities?

Institutional Population

In both 1970 and 1980, sample questions were asked of inmates and patients in institutions. For many types of inmates these questions have little relevance. What types of census data on institutional persons have been used? What effect would there be if sample data on, for example, income, education, migration and disability were available only for the noninstitutional population?

Residency

In 1980 the Census Bureau counted persons who spent parts of the year at different addresses--college students and "snow birds," for example--where they spent the greatest part of the year. As a result, college students were counted where they attended school, rather than at their parents' address. In some areas these persons consititute a sizeable portion of the population and have a considerable effect on the social and economic statistics of an area. Where should these persons be counted?

II. Housing Issues

The Census Bureau has collected housing data in conjunction with the population census since 1890. In 1940, the decennial census became a combined population and housing program. Federal, state, and local governments and other organizations use the information collected to monitor changes in the housing inventory, evaluate the quality of the Nation's housing stock, analyze trends, and plan appropriate policies and programs. There were nine housing questions on the 1980 short-form questionnaire: number of units at address, access to living quarters, presence of complete plumbing facilities, number of rooms, tenure, condominium status, acreage, value and rent.

General

What housing data are required to maintain historical comparability or monitor trends?

Are there housing items that are obsolete or no longer useful that need not be asked in the 1990 census? Is there a need for statistics on stories in structure or elevator in structure? Is there a need for a count of bathrooms? Are there any areas of housing concern or policy that might be important issues by 1990?

What housing data are needed at the block level? The Census Bureau is considering moving questions on rent, value, plumbing, and condominium status to the sample portion of the 1990 questionnaire, and as a result, tabulations of these items would no longer be available at the block level. Would this change cause any problems? Are there other items that could be asked on a sample rather than 100-percent basis?

Housing Unit Definition

The Census Bureau made a number of changes in the housing unit definition between 1970 and 1980. In 1980, vacant mobile homes were included in the housing unit inventory for the first time. Also in 1980, the Census Bureau deleted the complete kitchen facilities alternative; all housing units had to have direct access rather than either direct access or complete kitchen facilities, as was the case in 1970. This change emphasized privacy over facilities and brought the United States' definition into line with the United Nations' recommendation. Further, the Bureau increased the number of nonrelated persons required to change the classification of a housing unit to group quarters from 5 to 9 or more individuals unrelated to the householder.

Did these changes cause any problems? Are there similar modifications that might be made to the definition for 1990?

Expansion of the Housing Inventory

In past censuses, the Census Bureau has omitted group quarters from the housing inventory. In recent years, however, traditional distinctions between housing units and group quarters have become blurred with the development of structures such as apartment buildings for the elderly where at least one communal meal a day is served and a full-time nurse is available.

Is there a need to identify such living arrangements? How would such data be used? At what geographic level are they needed?

Vacancy Classification

In past censuses, the Census Bureau has made a distinction between vacant seasonal units and year-round vacant units held for occasional use, based on the pattern of occupancy. For example, a modern self-contained, centrally heated, condominium apartment in a high rise building on the beach is a seasonal unit if it is used only during the summer, while an identical adjacent unit is year round if the owner uses it at various times throughout the year.

Are such distinctions useful? Would it be more useful to combine the categories into a category of vacant-recreational or vacant-secondary occupancy? What definitions or criteria would be appropriate for such units?

Are there changes in the occupancy/vacancy residency rules classification that might provide more useful data? A unit that is occupied on Census Day by a household that has a usual home elsewhere is classified as vacant. Is this an appropriate classification?

Restricted Market Housing

In the past, the Census Bureau has presented housing data for all units without regard to availability to the general public. Are separate data needed for restricted type housing such as apartment developments for the elderly, dependent housing on military bases, low-income public housing, caretakers' cottages, etc.?

Value

In 1980, the Census Bureau collected value and selected monthly costs for specified single-family units and condominiums. Should the Bureau attempt to broaden the universe for value and costs to include cooperatives and mobile homes?

Quality Of Housing

While there was no specific question in the 1980 census on housing quality, the Census Bureau did collect information on structural characteristics of housing units and on the presence or lack of certain facilities or amenities. These data are generally regarded as indicators of housing quality. There were a number of cross-tabulations and aggregations, particularly on Summary Tape File 4, of such items as

persons per room, plumbing, year built, heating equipment and others. The tabulations were presented for all households, as well as for various population subgroups such as the elderly, minority, and poverty households. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development cooperated in designing several of these tabulaions which were intended to be used in completing the housing needs assessment required for Community Development Block Grants.

Were these tables useful in assessing housing quality? What other combinations of items might be more useful? What other items might provide information on quality?

Energy-Related Items

In 1980, the Bureau collected data on house heating, water heating and cooking fuel. Other energy-related items included heating equipment, air conditioning and number of vehicles available. Are there any other energy-related questions that might be useful?

Condominium and Cooperative Housing Units

Should the Census Bureau continue to identify condominium units? At what geographic level are the data needed? Pre-1980 efforts to measure the number of cooperatives were not successful and the Bureau dropped the cooperative question from the final 1980 questionnaire. Is there a need for information on cooperatives? At what geographic level?

III. Geographic Issues

Most data collected in the census are presented in tabulations organized by geographic area. These geographic areas range from large-area presentations, such as those for the Nation, regions, divisions, states, counties, and metropolitan statistical areas, to small area presentations, such as those for census tracts, block groups, and blocks.

Census Blocks

The Census Bureau is considering plans to collect and process 100-percent data by block for the entire Nation in 1990, with block numbers assigned wholly or in part by computer. The map used for block numbering purposes will include roads, streets, railroads, streams, water bodies, and other selected features. Would using all map features, including freeway interchange ramps and small streams, as block boundaries be useful or misleading? Will the numerous zero-population blocks that would result be cumbersome? Or would this be useful data? How should the Bureau deal with "superblocks," that is, blocks with a large land area or population where there are no visible features to serve as boundaries? How valuable is 1980-1990 block comparability?

For blocks to be established for the entire country, a nationwide framework for assigning block numbers is proposed. This proposed framework would be composed of census block numbering areas (CBNAs) and the boundaries of these areas would be identified along visible features or county lines, even in areas where census tracts already are defined. What would be the effect on data users if the Bureau tabulated block data within CBNA, rather than within census tracts? (Census tract data would continue to be tabulated separately.) What common uses exist for data by block and by census tract? What problems would be caused by having a block comparability listing that showed 1990 CBNA/block by 1980 census tract/block?

Block Groups (BGs) and Enumeration Districts (EDs)

With the prospect of nationwide block numbering for 1990, there would no longer be any areas for which data would be tabulated by enumeration district (ED). (ED data were tabulated only outside block numbered areas for 1980. In the block numbered areas the block group [BG], identified by the 1st digit of the 3-digit individual block number, was the equivalent summary area.) Is there really a need for block group-level data? Would it be acceptable for the Bureau to prepare, upon request, data tabulations (including sample data) for user-defined sets of blocks rather than for Bureau-defined BGs? What effect would there be if the Bureau had to charge a fee for these user-defined tabulations? Could these user-defined area tabulations replace products like the school district, neighborhood, and ZIP code equivalency files? Are these equivalency files useful to data users?

Census Tracts

Approximately 20 percent of the Nation's land area, containing 80 percent of the population, had census tracts defined for the 1980 census. Should census tracts be

defined for the remainder of the country? If not, what specific areas should have census tracts defined? What is the optimum population size for newly defined census tracts?

What guidelines should there be for revising existing census tracts? Under what conditions should census tracts with a small population be combined or census tracts with a large population be split?

Census Designated Places (CDPs)

The purpose of the Census Designated Place (formerly known as unincorporated places) program is to identify and publish statistical data for communities with relatively large concentrations of population that are identifiable by name and are recognized locally but that do not have legal status.

The CDP concept has been modified slightly with each decennial census since 1950. In planning for 1990, suggested changes need to be evaluated in terms of the effect any change would have on the data presentation. What are the most appropriate population size requirements for CDPs? Should the size requirements be different for urban and rural areas? Under what conditions should CDPs be delineated adjacent to incorporated places when the development could be considered urban sprawl rather than a locally recognized community? Should several small, locally recognized, adjacent communities be grouped together to form a single, multinamed, larger CDP if the separate areas do not have enough population to qualify individually?

Census County Divisions (CCDs)

Minor civil divisions (MCDs) are primary divisions of counties established under state law and are recognized by the Bureau for tabulation purposes in 29 states. In other states, there are no legally established MCDs, or the boundaries change frequently, or are not generally known to the public. In these states, the Bureau, in cooperation with state and local officials and local Census Statistical Areas Committees, has defined and recognized census county divisions (CCDs) for census purposes. The CCDs are designed to represent community areas and have visible, permanent, and easily identified boundaries. What changes, if any, should be made to existing CCD definitions?

(In MCD States)

Do you feel your state would benefit from inclusion in this program?

Urbanized Areas (UAs)

An urbanized area (UA) represents an agglomeration of 50,000 persons living in contiguous territory having a population density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile. An urbanized area consists of a central city and surrounding closely settled territory.

Should changes be made in the size of the population concentrations recognized as UAs?

There are an increasing number of cities in the United States that include vast areas with few people. In 1970 and 1980, portions of these "extended cities" were excluded from the urban population. Separate tabulations were provided for the total and urbanized portion on the summary tape files and in publications. Did this special treatment increase the utility of the data for these places?

Digital Files

With the advent of the TIGER System, which includes a digital cartographic computer file as one of its principal components, the GBF/DIME-Files will be absorbed and cease to exist as a separate set of files. However, because of public interest in and use of the GBF/DIME-Files, should the Bureau provide a version of the TIGER File in a GBF/DIME-File format to permit continued use of this address reference information? If the Bureau does provide some version of the TIGER File, what format would be most useful--computer tape, microfiche, or paper printout?

Should the Bureau provide computer software to manipulate the TIGER Files in order to fulfill the public's need for automated mapping and address matching? Or does the private sector serve this need adequately?

IV. Data Products and Services Issues

The Census Bureau will continue to provide data in various media. The questions are which data and how much data should be made available in which media, and what kind of user support is required.

Printed Reports

Several of the 1980 printed reports, such as the Census Tracts (PHC80-2) reports and the Detailed Population Characteristics (PC80-1-D) reports, were quite large. Could some of the data detail in the printed reports be eliminated? If so, which specific subject areas could be reduced?

Are there any report series that could be eliminated? Or ones that should be expanded? Which are the most useful or most widely used reports?

How useful were the historic counts in the 1980 reports? Could these be dropped from the 1990 reports?

Did the availability of Block Statistics (PHC80-1) only on microfiche affect the usefulness of the data? Should the Census Bureau consider publishing other reports--the Detailed Population Characteristics (PC80-1-D), and the Metropolitan Housing Characteristics (HC80-2) reports, for example--only on microfiche rather than on paper.

How useful are the Block Statistics (PHC80-1) reports? For what specific program or purpose are they needed? Would block-level data on computer tape be sufficient? In 1970 blocks were tabulated within census tract within county. In 1980 the hierarchy was changed to census tract, place, MCD/CCD, county. Did this change affect the usefulness of the data?

Were the Provisional Estimates and Advance Estimates reports useful? Did they cause confusion when the final products were released?

The Summary Characteristics for Governmental Units and Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PHC80-3) reports, a new report series for 1980, provided both complete-count and sample data items for metropolitan areas and all governmental jurisdictions, regardless of size. How useful were these reports? Should a similar series be issued in 1990? Should the Census Bureau produce more short, summary-style reports like these rather than large, general-purpose reports?

Many of the reports presented information on the general population followed by information on specific population groups (e.g., White, Black, etc.). Was this format useful or could some of the detail on specific subgroups be limited to other media such as machine-readable files?

The Detailed Population Characteristics (PC80-1-D) and Metropolitan Housing Characteristics (HC80-2) reports were limited to large geographic areas (e.g.,

SMSAs and cities of 50,000 or more population). Would it be better to have less subject detail and more geographic areas? What specific uses were made of these reports? Should highly detailed reports such as these be limited to machine-readable files?

The 1980 Block Statistics maps and Census Tracts outline maps were available separately from the reports. How useful was this arrangement? What problems, if any, did it cause?

Machine-Readable Files

Five principal summary tape files were prepared from the 1980 census. STFs 1 and 2 contained complete-count (100%) data and STFs 3, 4, and 5 contained sample data. Did the geographic summary levels on the individual files meet local needs. If not, what particular geographic areas should be used for the 1990 STFs?

The geographic areas on the 1980 STFs were "nested" hierarchically; for example, the first county record on STF 1A was followed by the first MCD/CCD record within that county, followed by the first place record, etc. Is there some other format that might be more useful, such as all county records together, all MCD/CCD records together, etc.?

How useful was (and how much use was made of) the racial detail on STFs 2 and 4 and ancestry detail on STF 4? Should this information have been released on separate files?

STF 5 contained very detailed cross tabulations for geographic areas of 50,000 or more population. Was any use made of this file? If so, for what purpose or program?

Should the Bureau develop special purpose summary files from the 1990 census similar to the 1980 Census/EEO Special File? If so, what subjects or tabulations would be useful? (For example, education, place of work, and so forth). What about geographic subsets of data files? If so, for what areas?

Should the Bureau include percentages, medians, etc., on the 1990 tape files? Are other statistical measures needed?

Several 1980 geographic equivalency and boundary files were produced; these showed the component census geographic areas for school districts, neighborhoods, and so forth. Were these files used? What modifications, if any, should the Bureau consider to make these files more useful?

Should the Census Bureau develop software to access the 1990 computer tape files? Was the technical documentation for the 1980 census files adequate? How useful were the machine-readable data dictionaries? What about the routines for developing profiles?

Public Use Microdata Files

Was the value of the microdata files increased by lowering the size threshold for areas identified to those with 100,000+ population?

Was sample size sufficient to allow for meaningful user tabulations? Should special microdata samples be developed (e.g., labor force participants, specific population subgroups, etc.)?

Microfiche

Assuming that microfiche is still a widely used medium in 1990, would you recommend greater or less reliance on it?

STFs 1A and 1C, 3A and 3C, and the 1980 Census/EEO Special File were available on microfiche. How useful were these products? Should other machine-readable files also be made available in this medium?

How useful would microfiche maps be?

Are there any suggestions for better indexing of the fiche?

Other Media

How should data be packaged for floppy disks/laser disks--for example, by geography or by subject matter? Should such media be used only to present subsets or extracts of summary files or should the entire array of data be made available? Should summary data on disk be available for selected subjects, selected areas, or both?

Should the Bureau develop and maintain an online data base so that users could access selected summary statistics? If so, what should be included, how should it be packaged, etc?

In 1970, the Bureau produced narrative profiles for SMSAs, congressional districts, and cities. In 1980, narrative profiles were provided for neighborhoods. Are narrative profiles preferable to actual data tables? Should narrative profiles be produced for 1990? If so, for what geographic units?

Data Delivery

The Census Bureau currently makes data available directly to the general public or through intermediaries such as the State Data Center organizations, or organizations registered with the National Clearinghouse for Census Data Services. Have these programs proven useful? What changes should be made, if any? Are there alternative or additional approaches the Census Bureau should consider?

User Support

Data User News and the Monthly Product Announcement were two of the Bureau's major devices for communicating with users regarding the availability of 1980 census products. Were they sufficient? What improvements or changes do you recommend?

What approach should the Bureau take regarding training for 1990 data users, given changing technology? Is there a need for face-to-face training of users by the Bureau or can this be handled by State Data Centers, video tape presentations, self-study workbooks, teleconferencing, computer-assisted instruction, etc? Were there specific topics or aspects of the 1980 census that should have been covered in training programs but were not?

How useful was the 1980 Census Users' Guide and the supplements? Are there any suggestions for improving it? Was the Index to Summary Tape Files 1 to 4 useful?

Would special topic booklets, guides or case studies, illustrating uses of census data, be useful? What topics should be covered?

How can the Bureau improve current services to users or what additional services should the Bureau provide?

How useful were the 1980 Census Update and the Factfinder brochures?

How useful is the Procedural History? Is more detailed information required on specific areas?

RECOMMENDATIONS FORM: YOUR CHANCE TO COMMENT
1990 Census of Population and Housing

Based on your review of the 1990 census issues, please complete the charts on the following pages. They may be returned to a Census Bureau representative at the public meeting on the 1990 census (October 11, 1984, Trenton State College), or mail them to:

Data User Services Division
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

Thank you for your cooperation.

334 **Activity**

Line number	Items included in the 1980 census	Which 1980 items do you recommend be included in the 1990 census?			At what geographic levels would you need these data?											Are there State or local, legal or programmatic requirements? *(If appropriate, mark (X) YES and give title or description. Use page 20 or separate sheet of paper if necessary.)*		Line number
		High priority (a)	Low priority (b)	Not needed (c)	States (d)	Metro areas (e)	Counties and cities (f)	Census designated places (g)	MCD's and CCD's (h)	Census tracts (i)	Enumeration districts/ block groups (j)	Blocks (k)	Urbanized areas (l)	*Other – Specify below (m)	YES (n)		
	POPULATION SUBJECTS 100 percent items (collected from all households)																
1	Population count																1
2	Household relationship																2
3	Age																3
4	Race																4
5	Sex																5
6	Marital status																6
7	Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent																7
	Sample items (collected from a national sample)																
8	School enrollment																8
9	Years of school completed																9
10	Place of birth																10
11	Citizenship and year of immigration																11
12	Current language																12
13	Ancestry																13
14	Place of residence 5 years ago																14
15	Major activity 5 years ago																15
16	Veteran status																16
17	Disability or handicap limiting work																17
18	Disability or handicap limiting use of public transportation																18
19	Children ever born																19
20	Marital history																20
21	Employment/unemployment																21
22	Place of work																22
23	Journey to work																23
24	Industry and occupation of workers																24
25	Weeks and hours worked in 1979																25
26	Weeks looking for work in 1979																26
27	Sources of income																27
28	Total income in 1979																28

Line number	Items included in the 1980 census	Which 1980 items do you recommend be included in the 1990 census?			At what geographic levels would you need these data?										Are there State or local, legal or programmatic requirements? *(If appropriate, mark (X) YES and give title or description. Use page 20 or separate sheet of paper if necessary.)*	Line number
		High priority (a)	Low priority (b)	Not needed (c)	State (d)	Metro areas (e)	Counties and cities (f)	Census designated places (g)	MCD's and CCD's (h)	Census tracts (i)	Enumeration districts/ block groups (j)	Blocks (k)	Urbanized areas (l)	*Other — Specify below (m)	YES (n)	
	HOUSING SUBJECTS															
	100 percent items															
29	Number of housing units at address															29
30	Complete plumbing facilities															30
31	Number of rooms in unit															31
32	Tenure (whether the unit is owned or rented)															32
33	Condominium identification															33
34	Value of home (for owner-occupied units and condominiums)															34
35	Rent (for renter-occupied units)															35
36	Vacant for rent, for sale, etc.; and period of vacancy															36
	Sample items															
37	Number of units in structure															37
38	Stories in building and presence of elevator															38
39	Year unit built															39
40	Year moved into this house															40
41	Source of water															41
42	Sewage disposal															42
43	Heating equipment															43
44	Fuel used for house heating, water heating, and cooking															44
45	Cost of utilities and fuels															45
46	Complete kitchen facilities															46
47	Number of bedrooms and bathrooms															47
48	Telephone															48
49	Air-conditioning															49
50	Number of automobiles															50
51	Number of light trucks and vans															51
52	Homeowner shelter costs for mortgage, real estate taxes, and hazard insurance															52

**Enter other geographic areas for all items marked (X) in column (n) on pages 18 and 19.*

1. The following additional item(s) should be included in the 1990 census for the following reasons(s). (Use additional paper if necessary.)

2. Other suggestions/comments

3. Please indicate here your affiliation

1 [ ] Local Government
2 [ ] State Government
3 [ ] Federal Government
4 [ ] Library
5 [ ] University/college
6 [ ] Business
7 [ ] Private consultant
8 [ ] Community organization
9 [ ] Other — *Specify*

4. *(Optional)*

Name

Title

Address *(Number and street)*

City State ZIP Code

Telephone *(Area code, number, extension)*

FORM S-667 (2-15-84) USDC-BC

1990 CENSUS TO BE PRETESTED IN JERSEY CITY

Planning for the 1990 census is already underway and Jersey City, NJ has been chosen as one of the pretest areas; the other is Tampa, FL. In the past, the U. S. Bureau of the Census has conducted several pretest censuses during the years leading up to each Decennial Census to help develop the most up-to-date and effective procedures possible. Before the 1980 census, tests were conducted in seven different sites, including Camden, NJ.

In 1985, the Bureau will conduct two pretest censuses to gain experience and information about automation techniques and data collection methods not previously used. These techniques have potential to improve the census-taking process, but they must be examined in a test setting before decisions can be made on their use in a national census.

There are two major objectives of the 1985 pretest program. One is to make an initial attempt to automate as many tasks as possible using a collection method similar to the one used in 1980 -- mail out/mailback. The other major objective is to examine whether a "two-stage" collection method will increase the efficiency of the census process in areas that are difficult to enumerate (for example, central parts of large cities). In the first stage of this method, the U. S. Postal Service will deliver "short-form" questionnaires to all addresses; later, census takers will visit those addresses that do not respond by mail to collect the basic information. In the second stage of the enumeration, the postal service will deliver "long-form" questionnaires to a sample of addresses, and again, census takers will visit those that do not respond by mail to collect the sample data.

While both pretests will use new automation techniques for fundamental tasks, the Tampa, FL test will focus more specifically on automation and the Jersey City, NJ test will focus more on two-stage data collection.

Among the reasons for selecting Jersey City, NJ as a pretest site were:

- It contains a substantial proportion of multiple-unit dwellings (88%), most of which contain fewer than 10 units; this contributes to the difficulty of enumeration.

- It contains a significant minority population (27.1% Black, 18.6% Hispanic, 4.4% Asian and Pacific Islander, and 0.1% Native Americans); this allows the

Bureau to evaluate the two-stage procedure in minority communities.

- It contains only a small number of places with special living arrangements (e.g., institutions, dormitories); this reduces the chances of complications arising from enumeration of these types of places.

- It is an urban site that is difficult to enumerate; therefore, it will provide a good setting to determine if a two-stage census is more effective.

It is anticipated that local offices for the pretests will open in November/December 1984; Census Day will be in late March 1985; and, local offices will close in July/August 1985.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

NEW JERSEY STATE DATA CENTER (For further information contact the NJSDC -- 609-984-2593.)

October 11, 1984 - 1990 Census Local Public Meeting
Trenton State College
Brower Student Center (Room 202)
Route 31
Trenton, New Jersey
(Free, pre-registration requested)

November 20, 1984 - "New Jersey: The Next 10 Years"
Hyatt Regency
Route 1 & Alexander Road
Princeton, New Jersey
($25.00-30.00, pre-registration required)

U. S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Washington, D.C.
(For further information contact User Training Branch)
(301-763-1510)

October 15-18, 1984 - Census Bureau Statistical Resources for Librarians ($130.00)

October 24-25, 1985 - 1980 Census Computer Tape Files ($80.00)

November 14-15, 1984 - 1980 Census Data: An Intermediate Workshop ($40.00)

December 5, 1984 - Workshop on Economic Statistics ($40.00)

Philadelphia Regional Office
(For further information contact Information Services)
(215-597-8313)

October 23, 1984 - Community and Neighborhood Profiles (Free, pre-registration required)

October 24, 1984 - Census Data for Businesses (Free, pre-registration required)

November 27, 1984 - Census Data on Women (Free, pre-registration required)

November 28, 1984 - Census Data for Businesses (Free, pre-registration required)

December 18, 1984 - Census Data Applications (Free, pre-registration required)

December 19, 1984 - Census Data for Businesses (Free, pre-registration required)

NEW PUBLICATIONS

NEW JERSEY STATE DATA CENTER: To obtain any of the following, complete the order form at the end of this newsletter and mail it along with a check (Payable to: NJ Department of Labor) to NJSDC, Division of Planning and Research, New Jersey Department of Labor, CN388, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0388. A copy of the publications are also available for review at all NJSDC network agencies.

Statistical Source Directory for NJ State Government (Revised 1984): lists and briefly describes statistical information generated or maintained by the various agencies of State government; selected directories and sources of published maps are also included. ($2.50)

NJ's Growth Areas: New vs. Old: Selected proceedings from the 4th annual NJSDC conference. Includes presentations made by Jane Newitt (Hudson Institute), James W. Hughes (Rutgers University), and Adam Broner (NJ Office of Economic Policy). ($1.00)

Population Trends, 1790-1980: Total population for the U.S., regions, divisions, and states. Total population and density for NJ, 21 counties, and 567 municipalities. ($2.00)

Demographic & Economic Factbook 1984: Selected data on population, income, building permits, employment, labor force, and occupation for a variety of areas in New Jersey. ($2.00)

U. S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS: Available for review at all federal depository libraries and for purchase from Customer Services, U. S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233 (prepayment required).

1982 Census of Agriculture, Geographic Area Series, NJ, AC82-A-30, Stock Number: 003-024-91210-4 ($7.50)

1980 Census of Population, Supplementary Reports, Detailed Occupation of the Experienced Civilian Labor Force by Sex: 1980 and 1970, PC80-S1-15, Stock Number: 003-024-05647-0 ($2.25)

1980 Census of Population, Supplementary Reports, Population and Land Area of Urbanized Areas for the United States and Puerto Rico: 1980 and 1970, PC80-S1-14, Stock Number: 003-024-05646-1 ($12.00)

1980 Census of Population, Supplementary Reports, Residence in 1975 for States by Age, Sex, Race and Spanish Origin, PC80-S1-16, Stock Number: 003-024-05649-6 ($9.50)

1980 Census of Population, Supplementary Reports, Gross Migration for Counties: 1975 to 1980, PC80-S1-17, Stock Number: 003-024-05648-8 ($7.00)

1980 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristeristics, United States Summary, PC80-1-C1, Stock Number: 003-024-05119-2 ($14.00)

1980 Census of Population, Detailed Population Characteristics, U. S. Summary
Section A - United States Summary, PC80-1-D1-A, 003-024-05642-9 ($14.00)

Section B - Regions, Book 1 of 2, PC80-1-D1-B 003-024-05643-7 ($14.00)

Regions, Book 2 of 2, PC80-1-D1-B 003-024-05644-5 ($15.00)

Section C - Standard Consolidated Statistical Areas, PC80-a-D1-C 003-024-05645-3 ($15.00)

Conditions of Hispanics in America Today, Stock Number: 003-024-05700-0 ($1.75)

Population Profile of the United States: 1982, P-23, Number 130, Stock Number: 003-001-91546-4 ($4.00)

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(R 8/84)

NJSDC PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

(Note: There is a Limit of 1 Copy of Each Free Publication Per Agency)
(Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery)

1980 Census Products	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL AMOUNT (if applicable)
NJ Population Per Household, 1970 & 1980	$ 1.00		
County Profiles (all 21 counties & state)	$ 1.50		
Municipal Profiles (all 567 + 21 counties + state)			
Vol. I: Characteristics of Persons	$20.00		
Vol. II: Characteristics of Households & Families	$20.00		
Vol. III: Characteristics of Housing Units	$20.00		
Vol. IV: Characteristics of the Labor Force	$20.00		
Vol. V: Income Statistics for NJ	$20.00		
NJ Population by Age and Household Type and Relationship	$ 2.50		
NJ Population by Race, Spanish Origin and Age Groups	$ 2.50		
NJ Population by Age and Sex	$ 2.50		
Income & Poverty in New Jersey	$ 2.50		
Geocode Book	Free		NA
NJ Population Trends, 1790 to 1980	$ 2.00		
Other Data Products			
County Summary, 1982	Free		NA
NJ's Growth Areas: New vs. Old (Conference Proceedings)	$ 1.00		
Demographic & Economic Factbook 1984	$ 2.00		
Miscellaneous			
Statistical Source Directory for NJ State Government	$ 2.50		
Subscription to NJSDC "Population & Census" Newsletter	Free		NA

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: New Jersey Department of Labor

MAIL TO: Connie O. Hughes, Staff Director
New Jersey State Data Center
Division of Planning & Research
Department of Labor, CN 388
Trenton, NJ 08625-0388

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NOTICE

This newsletter will publicize any Census, population, planning and economic conference or senimar to be held in New Jersey. Please send all pertinent information, including the name and phone number of a contact person, to Connie O. Hughes, Office of Demographic and Economic Analysis, New Jersey Department of Labor CN 388, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.