

Chapter 8.

User Updates

User updates supply data users with additional or corrected information that becomes available after the technical documentation and files are prepared. They are issued as Data Notes, Geography Notes, and Technical Documentation Notes in a numbered series and are available in portable document format (PDF) on our Web site at <http://www.census.gov>.

If you print the documentation, please file the user updates behind this page. If there are technical documentation replacement pages, they should be filed in their proper location and the original pages destroyed.

Public Use Microdata Sample Files

Data Note 1

TECHNICAL NOTE ON SAME-SEX UNMARRIED PARTNER DATA FROM THE 1990 AND 2000 CENSUSES

The release of data from the 2000 census has brought with it a number of analyses documenting change that has occurred since the last census was conducted in 1990. While many of the variables and processes between the two censuses are comparable, some are not, and direct comparison of some estimates may lead to misleading conclusions. This note discusses one such topic, that of "unmarried partners," and advises that for some analyses—those involving unmarried same-sex partners—direct comparison of the 1990 and 2000 estimates is not substantively valid.

The household relationship item in both the 1990 and the 2000 censuses offered many ways of identifying how other people in the household were related to the householder (the person in whose name the house is owned or rented). Categories included spouse, child or other relative of the householder, housemate/roommate, roomer/boarder, and unmarried partner. In all circumstances, the respondent was asked to choose the category that best represented how other members of the household were related to the householder.

In both censuses, the "spouse" and "unmarried partner" response categories were defined and asked the same way. However, there were important differences in data processing that mean that some of the data are not comparable, limiting the usefulness of comparisons of the number of same-sex unmarried partners between these two censuses.

In both censuses, if a person was identified as the "spouse" of the householder and was the same sex as the householder, the "spouse" response was flagged for further review and allocation, that is, assignment of a value other than that originally reported, based on other data on the form. In 1990, the edit and allocation procedures did not allow same-sex "spouse" combinations to occur, thus resulting in the allocation of one of these two items in order to achieve editing consistency among the responses.

Processing steps were changed for Census 2000 for households that contained same-sex "spouses." If the person with the "spouse" category was the same sex as the householder and if neither person had their sex previously allocated, a relationship response of "spouse" was allocated as an "unmarried partner" response. Data allocation is a standard statistical practice that is followed by most data collection agencies. Data on the relationship item (as other items) were subject to allocation in the census, as they are in virtually all Census Bureau surveys.

Two principal factors affected our decision to take this approach for Census 2000.

1. Marriage Act (H.R. 3396) passed by the 104th Congress. This act instructs all federal agencies only to recognize opposite-sex marriages for the purposes of enacting any agency programs. In order for Census Bureau data to be consistent with this act and the data requirements of other federal agencies, same-sex spouse responses were invalidated. The legislation defines marriage and spouse as follows:

"In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word 'marriage' means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or wife." In order for the Census Bureau to be consistent with this act and the data requirements of other federal agencies, same-sex "spouse" responses were invalidated.

2. The second factor took into consideration that couples in long term same-sex relationships may consider themselves as "married partners" and thus respond as such on the census form. In addition, at the time of writing the editing program for Census 2000, there were several challenges in the courts concerning the legality of same-sex marriages. Clearly, we could not ignore the fact that same-sex spouse responses were going to be recorded during Census 2000. In light of these social and legal aspects and the lack of a key variable in the statistical allocation routine (marital status) the assignment of same-sex "married" couples to the same-sex "unmarried partner" category was the procedure chosen for the editing process. We were adverse to a randomized allocation of these responses after people had clearly marked a close relationship preference on the census form.

As a result of these changes in the processing routine, estimates of same-sex unmarried partners are not comparable between the 1990 and 2000 census. We believe 2000 census estimates of this category are better estimates than those produced in 1990. It should also be noted that estimates of opposite-sex unmarried partners, however, were not affected by these editing procedures and changes and are comparable between the two censuses.

For further information on this topic, please contact the Fertility and Family Statistics Branch on 301-763-2416.

March 2003

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Data Note 2

The variable PNUM, Person Sequence Number, on the Housing Unit record of the 1-percent PUMS files should not be used. Users will have to create their own sort key. However, the number of person records is correct and matches the number in the variable PERSONS on the Housing Unit record.

April 2003

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Data Note 3

The variable TAXAMT on the housing unit record erroneously includes data for a code of 68 for the 1-percent files. Data for code 68 should be collapsed into code 67.

May 2003

Public Use Microdata Sample Files

Data Note 4

The geographic equivalency file in the ftp directory for Montana for the 1-percent PUMS files inadvertently contained data for Kansas (http://www2.census.gov/census_2000/datasets/PUMS/OnePercent/Montana/PUMEQ1-MT.TXT). The file was replaced with the geographic equivalency file data for Montana.

June 2003

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Data Note 5

Two weights are present in microdata records, the weight of the housing unit, labeled HWEIGHT, and the weight of each person, labeled PWEIGHT.

The basic rules for determining the correct weight to use for a particular table are listed below:

- a. Tables with a universe of "Housing units," "occupied housing units," "vacant housing units," or "occupied housing units with a particular characteristic" use the housing unit weight.
- b. Tables with a universe of "Population," "population of a particular type, such as race/Hispanic/American Indian tribe," "population XX years and over," and subsets of a population such as "institutionalized population" or "population for whom poverty status is determined" use the person weight.
- c. Tables with a universe of "Households," "households with a householder who is.....," "families," and "families with a householder who is" are usually tallied by the householder's characteristics and use the person weight of the person who is the householder.
- d. Tables with a specific universe, such as "own children," "civilian noninstitutionalized population," and "population in subfamilies" describe subsets of the population and use the person weight of the individual people who meet the specific criteria.
- e. Tables with a universe of subfamilies use the weight of the "reference person" for each subfamily. There can be a maximum of four different subfamilies in the same household, but each person can only be in one subfamily. The reference person is defined independently for each subfamily and varies by the type of subfamily: in a parent-child subfamily, the reference person is the parent; in a husband/wife subfamily, the reference person is the husband.
- f. In some tables, one may want to tally the number of households where the characteristic of a person other than the householder qualifies a household for inclusion in the specific table. In this situation, the person weight of the person who is the householder is always used, even though the householder's characteristics would not have qualified the household for inclusion. For example, when tallying the number of households with a disabled person, one would tally the householder's weight based on the presence of any person (which may or may not be the householder) who is disabled.

September 2003

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Geography Note 1

New Jersey: 34

Super-PUMA 34101 is not contiguous. A small portion of the super-PUMA, comprising the Saddle River borough, is detached from the main area of super-PUMA 34101.

April 2003

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Technical Documentation Note 1

The definition for some variables in Chapter 6 (Data Dictionary) may not be easily found in [Appendix B \(Definitions of Subject Characteristics\)](#). Below is a list of the subjects that may be difficult to locate and the appropriate topic to refer to in Appendix B.

Housing Record Type Variable Description

Size of building	See Units in Structure
Year building built	See Year Structure Built
Cost of electricity (annual)	See Utilities
Cost of gas (annual)	See Utilities
Cost of water and sewer (annual)	See Utilities
Cost of oil, kerosene, or wood (annual)	See Utilities
Number of people 65 years and over in household	See Household Type and Relationship
Number of people under 18 years in household	See Household Type and Relationship
Number of people in family	See Household Type and Relationship
Number of own children under 18 years in household	See Household Type and Relationship
Number of related children under 18 years in household	See Household Type and Relationship
Presence of subfamily in household	See Household Type and Relationship
Presence and age of own children under 18 years	See Household Type and Relationship
Presence and age of related children under 18 years	See Household Type and Relationship
Specified value indicator	See Value
Family type and employment status	See Household Type and Relationship and see Employment Type
Family type and work experience of householder	See Household Type and Relationship and see Work Status in 1999

Appendix B Topic

Person Record Type Variable Description

Able to go out disability	See Disability Status
Military service	See Veteran Status
Years of military service	See Veteran Status
Vehicle occupancy	See Journey to Work
Layoff from job	See Employment Status
Absent from work	See Employment Status
Return-to-work recall	See Employment Status
Looking for work	See Employment Status
Back to work	See Employment Status
Hours per week in 1999	See Work Status in 1999

Appendix B Topic

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Technical Documentation Note 2

The unweighted counts for housing units for all states in Appendix I were incorrect. Appendix I (column 2) has been corrected to include the correct total housing unweighted counts.

May 2003

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Technical Documentation Note 3

The value for the variable SAMPLE in the housing unit record of the Data Dictionary (Chapter 6) for the 1-percent files was incorrectly listed as 2. It has been corrected to show a value of 1.

May 2003

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Technical Documentation Note 4

The value of 9 for the variable CLWRKR in the person record of the Data Dictionary (Chapter 6) for the 1-percent files was missing. It has been corrected as shown below.

CLWRKR
Class of Worker

0. Not in universe (Under 16 years of LASTWRK = 2)
1. Employee of private for-profit company
2. Employee of private not-for-profit company
3. Employee of local government
4. Employee of state government
5. Employee of federal government
6. Self-employed in unincorporated business or company
7. Self-employed in incorporated business or company
8. Unpaid family worker
9. Unemployed, no work experience in the last 5 years

May 2003

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Technical Documentation Note 5

The last line of the Housing Unit Record of the Data Dictionary (Chapter 6, page 6-41) for the 1-percent files was incorrectly listed as FILLER in character positions 267-314. It has been corrected to show that the last variable is FINC in character positions 259-266.

The last variable of the Person Record of the Data Dictionary (Chapter 6, page 6-71) for the 1-percent files was incorrectly listed as POVERTY in character positions 312-314. It has been corrected to show that the last line is FILLER in character positions 315-316.

June 2003

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Technical Documentation Note 6

The last line of Table E. Census 2000 PUMS Standard Error Design Factors, "Household income in 1999 by selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of income in 1999" was inadvertently omitted on page 4-29 (Delaware) and page 4-55 (North Carolina). These pages have been corrected.

July 2003

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Technical Documentation Note 7

Two codes for the variable REGION in Chapter 6 (Data Dictionary) of the technical documentation were not correct. "Region not identified" and "Puerto Rico" have been corrected as shown below.

REGION

Region Code

0. Region not identified
1. Northeast
2. Midwest
3. South
4. West
9. Puerto Rico

August 2003

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Technical Documentation Note 8

In the Race section of the Code List appendix, the tribes with codes F49-F52 were incorrectly listed under the tribal grouping "Monacan." These tribes should have appeared under the tribal grouping "Mono" as shown below.

Monacan

F48	Monacan Indian Nation
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Mono

F49	Mono
F50	North Fork Rancheria
F51	Cold Springs Rancheria
F52	Big Sandy Rancheria

September 2003

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Technical Documentation Note 9

The Language section of the Code List appendix had two spelling errors. They have been corrected to read as follows:

772	Tahitian
971	OTO-MANGUEAN

September 2003

Public Use Microdata Sample Files Technical Documentation Note 10

This technical documentation has been updated to include components for the 5-Percent PUMS.

October 2003

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Technical Documentation Note 11

An explanatory note was inadvertently omitted from Appendix G. Code List "One-to-One Correspondence of Census 2000 Codes and Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Equivalent Codes (Sorted by Census 2000 Codes)." Page G-138 is corrected to include the note.

November 2003