

Census Population Indicators

I. Definitions

The **population** data include race, ethnicity (Hispanic), age and gender of the population. The census population data come from the 100-percent or short-form questionnaire. Information from the Census is derived either from questions asked of the entire population or from questions asked of only a sample of the population. Questions asked of every person are called the 100-percent or short-form questions. The questions asked of a sample of the population are called the sample or long-form questions.

Population density is reported for the number of people per square mile. It is calculated by dividing the total population by the area of the land.

The **age of the population** is technically based on a person's age at the time of the Census, which is April 1 of the Census year. The wording of the question changed from 1990 to 2000. In 1990, the question asked for a person's age at their last birthday. In 2000 and 2010, the question specifically asked for a person's age on April 1 of the Census year. Additionally, the 2000 and 2010 Censuses asked for the entire date of birth: month, day and year, whereas the 1990 Census asked only for the year of birth.

There are 5 **race categories** reported in NEO CANDO in 1990, 2000 and 2010: White, Black, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Other race.

There was a **major change** in the race question in the 2000 and 2010 Censuses. In 2000 and 2010, the Census question read "Mark [X] one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be." In 1990, the question instructed persons to "Fill ONE circle for the race that the person considers himself/herself to be." Therefore, by allowing persons to choose more than one race in 2000 and 2010 made it nearly impossible to compare racial change across the decades. However, the Center employed a method developed by the Urban Institute in Washington, DC, with some modifications, to allow for comparisons of racial composition across the censuses. The method basically assigns those who chose more than one race to only one of the racial groups chosen. Single race groups are determined using the following methodology:

White + any other race --> White, otherwise

Black + any other race --> Black, otherwise

American Indian + any other race --> American Indian, otherwise

Asian + any other race --> Asian, otherwise

Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander + any other race --> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, otherwise

Some Other Race

Information regarding population indicators in NEO CANDO

Hispanic origin is NOT a race. Those of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

Population by age (both counts and percents) is provided for the following age groups:

- Population aged 0-4
- Population aged 5-17
- Population aged 0 -17
- Population aged 18-34
- Population aged 35-59
- Population aged 60-64
- Population aged 65+

2010 Census data for some of the age groups are not available yet.

Adult/child ratio is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Population Aged 18+}}{\text{Population Aged < 18}}$$

Adult/child ratio provides a measure of the number of children per adult. The higher the ratio the more adults there are per child.

II. Precautions and Information regarding use of data

The Census occurs every ten years on the decade. However, the actual data are not available for 2-3 years following the Census. NEO CANDO contains selected tables from the 1990, 2000 and 2010 Censuses. All 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census data tables are available at [American FactFinder](#).

Information from the Census is derived either from questions asked of the entire population or from questions asked of only a sample of the population. Questions asked of every person are called the 100-percent or short-form questions. The short-form questions include basic demographic and housing information. The questions asked of a sample of the population are called sample or long-form questions. Approximately 1 in 6 households received the long-form questionnaire. The long-form questions, in addition to the demographic and housing information, include data about income, employment status and educational attainment. [Click here](#) to view copies of the 1990 and 2000 Census questionnaires. The 2010 Census will be a short-form-only census. This is because the decennial long form has been replaced by the [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#). The ACS is a nationwide, continuous survey designed to provide reliable and timely demographic, housing, social, and economic data every year. The ACS will replace the long form in 2010 and thereafter by collecting long-form-type information throughout the decade rather than only once every 10 years.

The Census questionnaire is either mailed to households or delivered by census enumerators (mainly in rural areas). The Census Bureau follows up, either by phone or in person, with those who have not responded to the questionnaire.

Information regarding population indicators in NEO CANDO

The Census Bureau releases a number of files containing different geographic levels and/or different variables. The data in NEO CANDO from the 1990 Census are extracted from [Summary Tape File 3A \(STF3A\)](#) and [Summary Tape File 1A \(STF1A\)](#). The STF3A is a sample file (derived from the long-form questionnaire), which is weighted to represent the entire population, and the STF1A contains the 100-percent count data (short-form questionnaire). The 2000 Census data in NEO CANDO are extracted from [Summary File 3 \(SF3\)](#) (sample data) and [Summary File 1 \(SF1\)](#) (100-percent count data). The 100% counts may differ from the sample counts for the same variable particularly at the census tract level. The 2010 Census data in NEO CANDO are extracted from Redistricting Data (PL 94-171) Summary File.

The 1990 and 2010 data in NEO CANDO have been put into the 2000 census tract boundaries to allow for comparisons between the Censuses. Some census tract boundaries and numbers change from Census year to Census year. In order to accurately compare the data over time, the data must be in the same geographic boundaries. For those census tracts that have changed between Census years, we used GIS techniques to determine the proportion of the 1990 and 2010 population that lived in the corresponding 2000 tract.

III. Data source and suggested citation

Source of Census Data: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Update Schedule: Every 10 years

Years Available: 1990, 2000 and 2010

Geographic Coverage: 8 County Cleveland-Akron Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA), which includes Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit Counties, and the following counties: Ashland, Columbiana, Erie, Huron, Mahoning, Richland, Stark, Trumbull and Wayne Counties

Suggested Citation: NEO CANDO system, Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, MSASS, Case Western Reserve University (<http://neocando.case.edu>).

IV. Links to related web sites

[Gateway to 2000 Census](#)

[Census 2010](#)