Census Housing Indicators

I. Definitions

A **housing unit** is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, a single room occupied as a separate living quarter or vacant units intended for occupancy.

A housing unit is classified as **occupied** if it is the usual residence of the person(s) living in the unit.

Vacant units include housing units with no one living in them at the time of the Census, temporarily occupied units where the usual residence is elsewhere (such as vacation homes), and new units not yet occupied.

The **total number of housing units** is equal to the number of occupied units + the number of vacant units.

Tenure refers to whether a unit is owner- or renter-occupied. Owner-occupied means that the owner lives in the unit. Renter-occupied refers to those units where the owner does not live in the unit. Owner-occupied + renter-occupied is equal to **total occupied housing units.**

Units in Structure refer to the number of housing units (occupied + vacant) in the various structures by type and size, NOT the number of buildings. A structure is a separate building that is open on all sides or is separated from other structures by a dividing wall that extends from the ground to the roof. **Structure: 1, detached** refers to housing units that are one-family (single-family homes) that are detached from any other house. **Structure: 1, attached** refers to housing units that are one-family but that are attached to other housing units by a wall extending from the ground to the roof, such as with row houses or townhouses. Two-family homes where there is an upstairs unit and a downstairs unit would be considered a structure with two housing units. The **Other** category includes structures such as houseboats, campers and vans.

Year structure built refers to when the structure was first constructed NOT when it was remolded, added to, or converted. This category includes both occupied and vacant housing units.

Median Gross Rent is the number where half the renter-occupied units have rent above it and half the renter-occupied units have rent below it. For example, the median gross rent for Cuyahoga County in 2000 was $541. This means half the renter-occupied units had rents above this figure and half had rents below this figure.

Crowded housing is defined as housing units with more than 1.5 occupants per room. The Census Bureau calculates occupants per room by dividing the number of people living in the housing unit by the number of rooms. The **number and percent of crowded housing units are available for occupied housing units, owner-occupied housing units, and renter-occupied housing units.**

The **burden of paying for housing** is measured by comparing housing expenses and household income. When the cost of the housing is 30% or more of the household income, there is a **housing cost burden**.

The **number and percent of renter households paying 30% or more of their household income for gross rent** is provided.

Example of calculation for housing burden:

Renter households with a housing cost burden X 100
Renter households

The **number (and percent) of owner households paying 30% or more of their household income for selected owner costs** is also provided. Selected monthly owner costs include mortgage payments, real estate taxes, insurance on the property, utilities, and fuels.

II. Precautions and Information regarding use of data

The number of housing units reported in the Census may differ from the number of housing units reported in the County Auditor data. The Census housing unit counts are self-reported and the units from the County Auditor are based on property records. In addition, the Center estimated the number of units in multi-family buildings when the figure was not available from the Auditor. Also, some motels and hotels operate as apartment buildings where tenants live for several months at a time. The Center was unable to determine these types of units using the Auditor's data. The Census Bureau does include these units in their counts.

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 2010+ contains selected tables from the 2000 and 2010 Census. The Community Survey data are updated annually. All 2000 and 2010 Census and the American Community Survey tables are available at the Census Bureau website (http://data.census.gov).

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. In 2010, the American Community Survey has replaced the long-form.

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.

The Census Bureau releases a number of files containing different geographic levels and/or different variables. The data in NEO CANDO 2010+ from the 2000 Census are extracted from Summary File 3 (SF3) and Summary File 1 (SF1). The SF3 is a sample file (derived from the long-form questionnaire), which is weighted to represent the entire population, and the SF1 contains the 100-percent count data (short-form questionnaire). 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 2010+ are extracted from Summary File 1 (SF1) (100-percent count data). The American Community Survey data in NEO CANDO 2010+ are extracted from the ACS 5-year estimates.

The 2000 data in NEO CANDO 2010+ have been put into the 2010 census tract boundaries to allow for comparisons between the 2000 and 2010 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 the 2 Census years, we used GIS techniques to determine the proportion of the 2000 tract population that lived in the corresponding 2010 tract.

III. Data source and suggested citation

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

Update Schedule: Decennial Census - Every 10 years (data are generally available within 2 years of the actual Census); American Community Survey – Annually

Years Available: Decennial Census - 2000 and 2010; American Community Survey – 1-year and 5-year estimates, 2010 and onward

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: The data in the Neighborhood Data Warehouse come from a variety of data sources. All indicators are processed by the Center on Poverty and Community Development. We suggest the following citation format:

[Name of indicator], [geography of indicator],[time period of indicator]. [Data source of indicator]. Summary statistics processed by the Center on Poverty and Community Development, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. Accessed through the NEOCANDO Neighborhood Data Warehouse, [date accessed]. http://neocando.case.edu

An example would be:

Children under age 6 tested for lead with elevated blood lead level, 2015, City of Cleveland. Ohio Department of Health. Summary statistics processed by the Center on Poverty and Community Development, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. Accessed through the NEOCANDO Neighborhood Data Warehouse, May 24, 2018. http://neocando.case.edu