

Census: Decennial Data

(Used for Indicators E1, E2, E3, E10, E11)

Brief description of the data set	The U.S. Census Bureau collects detailed population data for the entire United States every 10 years.
Who provides the data set?	U.S. Census Bureau.
How are the data gathered?	The decennial census collects detailed population information for the entire United States every 10 years using a mail survey and/or personal interviews. In 1990, 2000, and 2010 the entire population was asked a small set of questions (including age, sex, race, and ethnicity). In 1990 and 2000 about one in six households were also asked more detailed questions (including income).
What documentation is available describing data collection procedures?	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
What types of data relevant for children’s environmental health indicators are available from this database?	Relevant data include populations (by year, county, census tract, census block group, census block,) race, ethnicity, age, sex, and income (not for 2010 and not for census blocks).
What is the spatial representation of the database (national or other)?	National.
Are raw data (individual measurements or survey responses) available?	Not publicly released.
How are database files obtained?	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml (county and national populations) http://geolytics.com/USCensus,Census-2000-Products,Categories.asp (2000 census blocks)
Are there any known data quality or data analysis concerns?	Populations by county, race, and income level are not released for combinations with populations below 100 or where the estimate is based on a sample of 50 or less. Income data are based on a sample and not the entire census. Census block locations are given by the census block centroid (geographical center) which does not account for the shape and size of the census block.
What documentation is available describing quality assurance procedures?	http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
For what years are data available?	1990, 2000, 2010.
What is the frequency of data collection?	Every 10 years.
What is the frequency of data release?	Every 10 years.

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Are the data comparable across time and space?	Detailed race data for different decades are not comparable due to changing race group definitions, such as the treatment of respondents with multiple races. Comparisons between populations below reporting thresholds are not possible. Populations for some smaller regions (census blocks, block groups, tracts, and occasionally counties) are not comparable for different decades due to boundary changes.
Can the data be stratified by race/ethnicity, income, and location (region, state, county or other geographic unit)?	Data can be stratified by race, ethnicity, and location (region, state, county, census tract, census block group, census block, MSA, urban area). Income data are available from the American Community Survey (2005 and later) and from samples from the 1990 and 2000 censuses.