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Mining the Decennial Censuses for Louisiana Data, 1940-2000

by Lora Amsberryaugier and Marilyn Hankel

Academic and public librarians who work in reference areas are often asked for assistance in locating statistical information, much of which can be found in the decennial census. Some users may know they need to use census information and others may have no idea where to start, so it is up to librarians to get appropriate information to them. A brief overview of the early censuses will be presented, but this article will explore the Louisiana demographic information available in federal censuses for the decennials from 1940 to 2000. This time period has been chosen for discussion because researchers have a strong interest in these censuses due to the increasing amount of social and economic information collected in these decennials, and that information is available at smaller geographic levels. A broad overview of the data, the data users, the geographic levels, the formats, and comparability issues will be presented.

A Brief History of the Census

The federal government has taken a decennial census each decade since 1790, and most state and local governments have relied on these census results. However, some state governments also took periodic censuses. Usually they were taken in years different from the federal census, and most at the state level ceased about 1945. Louisiana was one of the states that took its own census, and even before it became a state, previous rulers enumerated its people, both free and slaves. The French were the first to conduct censuses, one in 1706, and the other in 1763. In 1767, the inhabitants were counted by Spain after it took control of the territory following the French and Indian War.

The United States purchased the Louisiana territory in 1803 and a census count was held in 1806. As stated previously, Louisiana did take a census of the population that was separate from the federal decennial censuses. The Louisiana constitution of 1812 required that a census be taken. The first state-conducted census was supposed to have taken place in 1813, and it may very well have occurred. Unfortunately, only the counts from 1853 and 1858 have been found. Louisiana stopped taking its own census with the constitutional change of 1898, specifying that the United States decennial census would be the only census taken.

The original constitutional intent of the decennial census was to provide for the allocation of seats in the House of Representatives. Congress began to expand the kind of data gathered in the census each decade. In the 1940 census, the census bureau started using sampling techniques, and with each decennial census after

that, the demographic data grew. Statistical methods and technology also improved, increasing the amounts of data collected and reported.

The wide variety of data, which went beyond the original purpose of allotting seats in Congress, created new opportunities for research for both public and private organizations. Federal agencies use it for planning, monitoring, and evaluating programs in areas such as education, health care, and transportation. The federal government also uses it to calculate the distribution of federal funds to states and local governments for many of their programs. Academic researchers such as sociologists, demographers, geographers, urban planners, and economists produce studies based on information gathered from the census. State and local governments are major users of census data for a wide variety of purposes, including projects such as facility planning for communities, disaster planning, and economic development.

Geographic Units

This section will highlight the major geographic units for Louisiana that are the most frequently requested, and it will also explain the general concepts. It is very important to consult the official definitions when using census data because terms and definitions change over time. The introduction sections of population and housing reports contain information regarding how comparable the data is between each preceding census and the current count. It is important to review this information when preparing any kind of research using this data.

Since the census was a political instrument before a demographic one, early censuses mainly included reports of data by political units, such as states, counties (parishes in Louisiana), townships, cities, and wards. Statistical units such as metropolitan areas, census tracts, block groups, and blocks were introduced in later census years, and varying amounts of data are available by those geographic areas, as outlined in the accompanying charts.

When the census bureau started using sampling techniques for the 1940 census, it introduced the concept of a census tract. Generally, a census tract is a small geographic subdivision of a large city. New Orleans was one of 60 cities in the country that had demographic statistics by census tract in 1940. It was not until the 1950 census that the census bureau defined the concept of a metropolitan area. Generally, a metropolitan area refers to a large city and its suburbs. The definitions, the criteria for inclusion, and what they are

called (Standard Metropolitan Areas (SMAs), Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs), Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)) have all changed over the years, resulting in some confusion, so once again, it is important to check definitions when using data about metropolitan areas.

Until the 1980 census, census tract data was only available for metropolitan areas. In 1980, the census bureau began to provide census tract data for a limited number of non-metropolitan areas in the country. It was not until the 1990 census that census tract data, or block numbering area (BNA) data, became readily available on a widespread basis for non-metropolitan as well as metropolitan areas. Generally, detailed social and economic information is available for metropolitan areas and census tracts in the census. One resource to use to understand the current definitions for geographic terms is the Decennial Management Division Glossary on the Bureau of the Census Web site at <http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/glossary.html>.

For Louisiana, the number of metropolitan areas, and the parishes that comprise those metropolitan areas, have changed and grown since 1950. In the 1950 census, there were three metropolitan areas in Louisiana: Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Shreveport. In the next decade, SMAs changed to SMSAs. Monroe was added in the 1950s, so it was included in the 1960 census, in addition to Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Shreveport. Lafayette became an SMSA in the 1960s, so it was included in the 1970 census. The Alexandria SMSA was formed in the 1970s, so it was also included in the 1980 census. The definitions of the metropolitan areas and the parishes that are included also change as population shifts occur, resulting in metropolitan area definitions in the state continuing to change accordingly.

An even smaller geographic unit in the census is a block, which is roughly equivalent to a city block in an urban area, and in a non-urbanized area it is a geographic unit of about 70 people. Blocks do not cross census tract or block numbering area boundaries. Social and economic characteristics are not available at the block level. The data for blocks is collected from the census form that goes to 100 percent of the population. Complete count data are suppressed if revealing the data would be a violation of privacy.

A block group is a combination of blocks that are part of a census tract or a block numbering area. A block group consists of blocks whose numbers begin with the same digit in a tract or block numbering area. A block group is the lowest geographic level for which social and economic information from the sample data is available.

In the 1980 census, the census bureau provided some data by neighborhoods as part of the Neighborhood Statistics Program. This program was developed to assist localities that wanted census data for

locally recognized neighborhoods, and participation was voluntary. The program was restricted to areas that already had census blocks, and New Orleans was the one area in the state that participated. In the long history of New Orleans, it has had clearly defined neighborhoods such as the French Quarter, the Garden District, Uptown/Carrollton, and Gentilly.

Nineteen-eighty was the only year that the census bureau published this neighborhood series, but the City of New Orleans has a 21-volume series entitled Neighborhood Profiles that was published from 1978 to 1980. This series used census tract and block data from the 1960 and 1970 censuses of the U. S. Census Bureau. In 1992, the City of New Orleans published two reports on neighborhoods based on the 1990 census. For 2000, demographic data for New Orleans neighborhoods is available on the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center Web site at <http://www.gnocdc.org/>.

Another small geographic area that has some census data available is zip code. Although zip codes are defined by the postal service and not the census bureau, zip code data became available on CD in 1990 from the census bureau in Summary Tape File 3B. Census data was tabulated for zip codes in 1970 and 1980, but it was not widely distributed to libraries until the 1990 census.

Comparing Questions and Counting of Data

Many factors can complicate the use of census data, particularly when comparing data over time. Definitions of terms used for measuring concepts and describing population characteristics such as "race," "occupation," and "ethnicity," as well as geographic boundaries, particularly smaller geographic areas, have changed over time. As Lavin notes, census users should have a healthy respect for the complexity of the reports. Lavin stresses the importance of understanding the geography, the questions asked, and the definitions of terms to avoid many of the pitfalls in using census information, such as misinterpretation of data, reading tables incorrectly, and making unwarranted assumptions when interpreting data. When trying to compare from one census year to the next, it is important to consult the detailed definitions and explanations that are available in census reports.

Sampling was introduced in the 1940 census, but the questions weren't divided into "short" and "long" forms until 1960. Only a small percentage of the population receives the long form, and it provides a way to obtain more information than is needed for the basic population count, without requiring the whole country to respond to all items. The long form is the place that data such as income, employment, and education is gathered, and the short form is limited to basic population count and housing items. Researchers should be aware that not only will some data be imputed from a sample population, but also each census varied slightly

in what percentage of the population was sampled. To illustrate, the 1940 census asked sample questions to one in 20 of the population, in contrast to the 2000 census, which averaged a one in six sample ratio.

It is also important to verify how a question is defined between census counts. An example of a difference is the handling of dwelling unit counts in the 1940 and 1950 censuses. The definition for both censuses was the same, having residences with fewer than ten lodgers counted as a dwelling unit. The difference occurred during the tabulation of the 1950 census. During the coding of data, units with five to nine lodgers were moved into the non-dwelling unit category. Statistics dealing with work and marriage must be considered by the youngest age counted. Between 1940 and 1970, persons 14-years or older were counted in the marriage statistics. In 1980, that age changed to 15 or older. From 1940 to 1960, workers were counted at 14-years old and older. In 1970, the age counted was raised to 16-years old or older, only to have it dropped back down to 15 in the 1980 to 2000 censuses.

Comparing data between censuses is dependent upon the same questions being available in each census. Questions dropped or added to the survey form can cause problems for comparability. New questions were added to the 1970 census regarding Hispanic origin or descent, year of immigration, vocational training completed, presence/duration of a disability, and activity five years ago (vocational training and duration of disability never made it onto another census). The 2000 census asked questions of grandparents as caregivers of children under the age of 18. These questions don't have comparable statistics for comparison in previous population counts.

Charts are available that compare the questions in each decennial census from 1790 to 2000. One is available at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/census2/cen-subj.pdf>. The other chart used for this article is in the census bureau publication, *Measuring America: the Decennial Censuses from 1790 to 2000*. Tables A and B demonstrate questions asked and to what geographic levels answers can be found. These resources list the questions asked by each census, as well as specify whether the question was asked of 100% of the population or if it was a sample question. It is important to keep in mind that the more detailed the information, the more likely it was asked of the sample rather than the whole population, and the smaller the geographic area, the less data will be available.

Conclusion

The complexity of the data and sheer volume of information available in the decennial censuses and related reports can be overwhelming. We have only looked at a few sources to explain the evolution of the census as a tool for librarians and researchers using this

information.

Those who are interested in earlier censuses should find useful information in Cindi Wolff's article, "Deconstructing Historical Census Publications: A Primer." It presents a good overview of the 19th and early 20th century federal historical census publications. For more detailed information and listings of census publications and reports, consult the Census Bureau's Catalog of Publications 1790-1972, the Oryx Press series *Population Information in Nineteenth Century Census Volumes*, and *Population Information in Twentieth Century Volumes, 1900-1940*.

Census reports were first available only in print, but as technology changed, census information became available on microfiche, magnetic tape, CD-ROM, and now DVD and the Web. Not all libraries will have census information readily available, but many of Louisiana's depository libraries collect census materials, so they are good starting places for locating this information. They will have the resources in print and will have the technology needed to access census information in the most recent electronic formats.

There are 28 federal depositories in Louisiana serving every congressional district in the state. Usually they will also collect supplementary materials to aid researchers. A unique document purchased by the University of New Orleans Library is the 1980 Summary Tape File 3A microfiche of New Orleans, which has social and economic information down to a block group level. Although that kind of block group-level data is available for more recent census years on CD/DVD or the Web, it was not available electronically in 1980. The UNO Library also selects all depository items of Louisiana and New Orleans census data. In New Orleans, Tulane University and the New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) also have large collections of census material. They have large historic collections of state and local census-related material.

New Orleans Public Library is the repository for the city and houses the 1791 census of New Orleans taken by the Spanish. Two other depositories serving Louisiana are the regional libraries, which collect all public materials published by the federal government. The Louisiana State University Library in Baton Rouge is the regional serving the southern half of the state, and it has been a depository since 1907. The Louisiana Tech University Library in Ruston serves the northern part of the state, and has been a regional library since the 1960's.

In summary, the kind of data needed may vary depending on the researchers. Also, the time periods needed and the geographic areas needed may vary. Some researchers may need only the most current information available. Others, particularly those involved in analyzing trends, may need a time series comparing many years. Some will need very detailed demographic

information on different geographic levels from the state all the way down to a tract or zip code. It is important that the librarian first narrow down specifically what the user wants because it will help to determine what source or what library to refer the patron to first. Knowledge of the answers before the question is asked takes the stress out of census-related reference work.

Notes

¹Anderson, Margo J., ed. *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2000, 333.

²Voorhies, Jacqueline K., trans. and comp. *Some Late Eighteenth-Century Louisianans Census Records 1758-1796*. Lafayette, LA: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1973, vii.

³Bubester, Henry J. *State Censuses: an Annotated Bibliography of Censuses of Population Taken After the Year 1790 by States and Territories of the United States*. New York: Burt Franklin, 1969, 23.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Anderson, *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census*, 181.

⁷Ibid., 109, 336-339.

⁸Anderson, *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census*, 181, 333.

⁹U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Decennial Management Division Glossary*. Accessed November 25, 2003, <http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/glossary.html>.

¹⁰Maruggi, Vincent. "The History of Metropolitan Areas in Louisiana." *Louisiana Business Survey* (Spring 1993): 4-5.

¹¹Lavin, Michael R. *Business Information: How to Find It, How to Use It*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1992, 299.

¹²U. S. Bureau of the Census. "Neighborhood Statistics Program." 1980 Census of Population and Housing, Special Report. Washington, DC: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, 1983.

¹³Office of Planning and Analysis, City of New Orleans. *Neighborhood Profiles*. New Orleans: Office of Planning and Analysis, 1978-80.

¹⁴MIS Data & Microcomputer Services. *Summary Characteristics by Neighborhood, 1990 Census: Summary Tape File 1A*. New Orleans: CAO/Division of MIS, 1992; *MIS Data & Microcomputer Services. Summary Characteristics by Neighborhood: 1990 Census, Public Law 94-171*. New Orleans: CAO/Division of Personnel and General Services, 1992.

¹⁵Greater New Orleans Community Data Center. Accessed October 27, 2003, <http://www.gnocdc.org/>.

¹⁶Anderson, *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census*, 44.

¹⁷Lavin, *Business Information: How to Find It, How to Use It*, 322.

¹⁸Ibid., 316-317.

¹⁹Anderson, *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census*, 181.

²⁰Ibid., 273.

²¹Ibid., 273.

²²Ibid., 273.

²³U. S. Bureau of the Census. *Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790-2000*. Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 2002, 64, 104.

²⁴Ibid., 71.

²⁵U. S. Bureau of the Census. *200 Years of U. S. Census Taking: Population and Housing Questions, 1790-1990*. Washington, D. C.: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, 1990, 83.

²⁶U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Measuring America*, 102.

²⁷York, Grace, comp. *Population and Housing Items on the General Census Schedules 1790-2000*. Accessed November 7, 2003, <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/census2/censubj.pdf>.

²⁸U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790-2000*.

²⁹Lavin, *Business Information: How to Find It, How to Use It*, 295.

³⁰Wolff, Cindi. "Deconstructing Historical Census Publications: A Primer." *DTTP* 31, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 20-25.

³¹U. S. Bureau of the Census. *Bureau of the Census Catalog, 1790-1972*. Washington, DC: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1980; Schulze, Suzanne. *Population Information in Nineteenth Century Census Volumes*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1983; Schulze. *Population Information in Twentieth Century Census Volumes, 1900-1940*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1985.

³²History of the LSU Federal Depository Library, Accessed November 26, 2003, <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/govdocs/about/history.html>.

Table A
Selected Population and Housing Questions from the 1940 Decennial to the 2000 Decennial Census.

Question	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Age	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Color or Race	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ancestry/Ethnic Origin					S	S	S
If American Indian, Name of Tribe				X	X	X	X
Relationship to Head of Family or Household	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marital Status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ill or Disabled				S	S	S	S
School Attendance	X	S	S	S	S	S	S
Educational Attainment	X	S	S	S	S	S	S
Public or Private School				S	S	S	S
Place of Birth	X	X	S	S	S	S	S
Place of Birth of Parents		S	S	S	S	S	S
Citizenship	X	X	X	S	S	S	S
If Foreign Born, Year of Immigration				S	S	S	S
Language				S	S	S	S
Spanish Origin or Descent		S	S	S	S	S	S
Number of Children Ever Born to Mother		S	S	S	S	S	S
Grandchildren Under Age 18 in Household?							S
Grandparents Responsible for Basic Needs?							S
Length of Responsibility for Grandchild							S
Residence in Previous Year	X	S	S	S	S	S	S
Year Moved to Residence				S	S	S	S
Industry	X	X	S	S	S	S	S
Occupation	X	X	S	S	S	S	S
Class of Worker	X	X	S	S	S	S	S
Employment Status	X	X	S	S	S	S	S
Duration of Employment	X	S					S
Year Last Worked			S	S	S	S	S
Weeks Worked in Preceding Year	X	S	S	S	S	S	S
Hours Worked in Preceding Week	X	X	S	S	S	S	S
Value of Real Estate				S	S	S	S
Income	X	S	S	S	S	S	S
Place of Work			S	S	S	S	S
Means of Transportation to Work			S	S	S	S	S

X=all forms S=sample form *asked outside of cities
Measuring of America: The Decennial Censuses from 1790 to 2000, U.S. Census Bureau, FOL02-MAC(RV), 2002.

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Table B
Small Geographic Levels in Relation to Questions Asked in Louisiana Censuses
 This is not a complete listing of questions, but a sampling of the majority that were asked at the lowest geographic levels.

1940	
Tract	Block
Age by race and sex	Total structures
Age broken down by ranges	Total dwelling units
Population by race and country of birth	Owner occupied
Occupied dwelling units, Population by dwelling unit	Tenant occupied
Years of school completed -25 years or older	Vacant for sale or rent
Employment status - 14 years or older	Number of units by year built
Class of worker, Major occupation group	Dwelling units occupied by non-white
Country of birth (white population only), Citizenship	Number of units needing repair
Type of Structure, Value and rent of dwelling units	Number of units with no private bath
State of Repair, Radio, Plumbing	Number of units mortgaged
Size of household, Persons per room	Average monthly rent
Presence of radio, refrigerator, and heating equipment	
Statistics available: Tracts and Blocks - New Orleans	
U.S. Bureau of the Census. 16 th Census of the United States, 1940. Population and Housing Statistics for Census Tracts, New Orleans, LA	
Bureau of the Census. Housing Supplement to the First Series Housing Bulletin for Louisiana, New Orleans, Block Statistics	

1950	
SMSA and Tract	Block
Age divided into ranges, Sex, Color or Race	Total dwelling units
Married couples or Household	Occupancy/tenure
Marital Status -14 years or older (single, married, widowed/divorced)	Own/rent
School completed - 25 years or older	Vacant
Country of Birth (white only), Residence in previous year	Condition
Institutional population	Plumbing
Household income - divided into ranges	Persons per room
Occupation group	Value of real estate
Employment Status - 14 years old or older (also sex for nonwhites)	Occupied by nonwhite
Income - divided into ranges	
# units in dwelling, # of persons in dwelling unit/per room	
condition of dwelling/plumbing	
value owned/rent, heating/refrigeration, television	
Statistics Available:	
SMAs - Baton Rouge (including E. Baton Rouge Parish), New Orleans (including Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes), Shreveport (Caddo Parish)	
Tracts - New Orleans	
Blocks - New Orleans, Baton Rouge	
Bureau of the Census. Census Tract Statistics, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1950 Population Census Report, Volume 3, Chapter 36.	
U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1950 Housing Census Report, V.5, part 123. United States Census of Housing: 1950, Block Statistics for New Orleans, LA	

1960	
SMSA and Tract	Block
Population	Housing units
Tracts for Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes	Group quarters - percentages only listed >10% or <=10%
Age - divided into ranges, Sex, Color or Race	Persons per room
Relationship to Head of Family or Household	Condition (sound or deteriorating)
Marital Status - 14 years old or older (single, married, separated, widowed, divorced)	Plumbing
School Attendance - 5 to 34 years old (white only)	Toilets
School completed - 25 years old or older	Housing value (owned)/Rent paid
Country of Birth (white only), Residence 5 yrs ago	
Industry, Occupation (divided by sex), Class of Worker	
Employment Status - 14 years old or older	
Family Income - divided into ranges	
Means of Transportation to work	
Work inside or outside SMSA	
Housing units, Owned or rented, value (owned)/Rent	
Occupied/vacant, Rooms, Units in structure	
# of automobiles	
Statistics Available: SMSAs, Tracts, and Blocks available for Baton Rouge, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport	
U.S. Bureau of the Census. U.S. Censuses of Population and Housing: 1960, Census Tracts, New Orleans, LA, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. Report PH (1)-103.	
U.S. Bureau of the Census. United States Census of Housing 1960, New Orleans, LA, City Blocks. Report HC (3)-174	

1970	
SMSA and Tract	Block
Total population	Total population
Age by sex, Color or Race	Housing units for places 2,500 or less (not in blocks)
Spanish language (population/socioeconomic)	Negro population
Marital status - 14 years old or older (single, married, separated, widowed, divorced)	Group quarters
School Attendance - ages 3 - 34	Under 18 years count
Educational attainment - 25 years or older	Over 52 years population
Country of birth (white only)	Plumbing facilities
Relationship to head of household	Average number of rooms
Type of family and number of children	Owned/rented
Number of children ever born to mother (married/35 to 44 years old)	Value/rent
Residence 5 years ago	Percent Negro owner/renter
Industry, Occupation by sex, Class of worker	One person households
Employment Status - 16 years old or older	Female head of household
Family Income, Poverty measures	Roomers/boarders/lodgers
Means of transportation to work	
Place of work in or outside SMSA	
# housing units, Tenure and race	
Rooms, Housing units by # of persons, Persons per room	
Value (owned)/Rent, Units in structure	
# of automobiles	
Statistics available:	
SMSAs - Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport	
Tracts - Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport	
Blocks - Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport	
*Includes data for selected areas adjacent to the SMSA.	
U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1970 Census of Population and Housing, Census Tracts, New Orleans, LA Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. Report PHC (1)-144.	
U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1970 Census of Housing, Block Statistics, New Orleans, LA Urbanized Area. Report HC (3)-101.	

1980	
Tract	Block and Blocked part of SMSA
Age by sex, color or race and ancestry/ethnic origin	Population
Color or Race, Ancestry/ethnic origin	Person by color/Asian & Pacific Islander/Spanish origin and age - under 16 years/65 years and older
Household type and relationship/institutionalized/other group quarters	Owned - one unit at address/10 or more units at address
Marital status - 15 years or older (married, separated, widowed, divorced) - color or race and ancestry	Rented - 1.01 or more persons per room/lacking complete plumbing/ average rent
Number of children ever born to mother	Owned or Rented - person per unit/one person household/family household no spouse present person under 18.
Place of birth	
School Attendance - 3 years and older	
Educational attainment - 25 years and older	
Language spoken at home - ability to speak English	
Year moved to present residence	
Occupation/selected industries, Class of Worker	
Employment status - 15 years or older	
Disability status of non-institutional workers	
Average hours worked in preceding year	
# of workers in family, Work - in or outside SMSA	
Means of transportation to work	
Family Income, Poverty levels	
Housing - divided by race/color/ancestry	
Occupancy, Value of real estate	
Persons in unit, Persons per room	
Value (owned)/ rent, Mortgage status (owned)	
# of automobiles	
Statistics available:	
SMSAs - Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport	
Tracts - Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport, Houma and Thibodaux	
Blocks - Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport.	
Bureau of the Census. 1980 Census of Population and Housing, Census Tracts, New Orleans, LA, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. Report PHC80-2-259.	
Bureau of the Census. 1980 Census of Population and Housing, Block Statistics, New Orleans, LA, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. Report PHC80-1-259	

1990	
Tract and Block Numbering Area	Block
Stats for white, black, American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic origin	Housing units/units in structure
Age - divided by ranges and sex, Sex, Race	Tenure of occupants
Marital status - 15 years or older, Household type & relationship	Value (owned)/ rent
Institutionalized/group quarters	Occupied housing units
Ill or disabled	1-person household
School attendance, Educational attainment	Family with no spouse & 1 or more persons < 18 years.
Number of children under 18, Number of own children under 18	Total population divided by white/black/American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut/Asian/Pacific Islander/ Hispanic origin
Veterans status, Length of service, In service date	Total persons under 18 years
Place of residence in previous year	Total persons over 65 years
Year moved to present residence	
Industry, Occupation, Class of worker, Employment Status	
Duration of Unemployment, Year last worked	
Weeks worked in preceding year	
Hours worked in preceding week	
Value of real estate	
Income, Place of work, Means of transportation to work.	
Statistics available: All areas in the United States are tracted and blocked.	
Bureau of the Census. American Factfinder. Available: http://factfinder.census.gov . [accessed 11/12/03].	
Bureau of the Census. U.S. Census of Population and Housing, Population and Housing Characteristics for Census Tracts and Block Numbering Areas, New Orleans, LA MSA, Report 1990 CPH-3-244	
Bureau of the Census. 1990 Census of Population and Housing Block Statistics, West South Central Division: AR, LA, OK, TX. Report CD90-1B-9. 1992	

2000	
Tract and Block Group	Block
Age, Sex, Color or Race, Ancestry/Ethnic origin	Sex by Age divided into ranges
Marital status	Color or Race/Ancestry/Ethnic origin/Hispanic origin
Deaf or deaf mute, Blind, ill or disabled	Place of residence in previous year
School Attendance	Year moved to residence
Educational attainment	
Place of birth, Citizenship, If foreign born, year of immigration	
Language, Spanish origin or descent	
Are grandchildren under 18 living within the household?	
Are grandparents Responsible for a Grandchild's basic needs?	
Length of responsibility for grandchild	
Veteran status, Length of service, In service date	
Place of residence in previous year, Year moved to residence	
Industry, Occupation, Class of worker	
Employment status, Duration of employment, Year last worked	
Weeks worked in preceding year	
Hours worked in the preceding week	
Value of real estate	
Income, Place of work, Means of transportation to work	
Statistics available: All areas of the United States are tracted and blocked	
Bureau of the Census. American Factfinder. Available at: http://factfinder.census.gov . Access: 11/24/2003.	