1950 CENSUS

An Overview of the 1950 Census
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Please stand by for live Webinar
An Overview of the 1950 Census
Questions?

• Toll-free number **1-888-790-3521**
• Participant passcode: **2555685**
• Dial *1 for the Operator
An Overview of the 1950 Census

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An Overview of the 1950 Census

Sharon Tosi Lacey
Chief Historian
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Disclaimer

• Historic census records are maintained and released by the National Archives and Records Administration, not the U.S. Census Bureau

• Historical content on the Census Bureau’s history website and in historical census documents may contain outdated terminology or views which reflect the authors’ attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written and may be considered inappropriate or offensive today
1950: Context

- Post World War II
- Population growth
- Building boom
- Americans living abroad
- Research and methodology changes
- Technological advances
1940 vs 1950 Censuses

1940
- 50 possible questions
- 5% sampling
- 25 final reports
- Census of Manufacturing, Minerals, and Industry conducted in same year
- 147,000 Enumeration Districts

1950
- 38 possible questions
- 20% & 3.5% sampling
- 47 final reports
- Census of Manufacturing, Minerals, and Industry moved to years ending in “3” and “8”
- 230,000 Enumeration Districts
1950: The Questions
1950: Innovations and Changes

- Standard Metropolitan Areas (SMA)
- Overseas/vessel crew enumerations
- Counting of college students
- Hard to count populations
- UNIVAC I
- Experimentation
- Post-Enumeration Survey
After 1950

- Agriculture and Economic Censuses
- American Indian Census
- Self enumeration
- Long form
- Film Optical Sensing Device for Input to Computers (FOSDIC)
- Employment and Transportation
- Data Preparation Division (later National Processing Center)
Contact Information

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Demographic Perspectives on the 1950 Census

Marc Perry
U.S. Census Bureau
March 14, 2022
Peak populations for cities in Northeast, Midwest

- Detroit, MI
- Chicago, IL
- St Louis, MO
The Baby Boom Had Begun
Households and Families
Women in the Workforce
Nascent Suburbanization
Some Sunbelt Cities Yet to Show Explosive Growth

Las Vegas, NV

Phoenix, AZ
Changes in Relative Rankings of Cities

Cleveland, OH 1950s vs 2020s

Aurora, OH 1950s vs 2020s
A Genealogy Goldmine

1950 Census enumerator
Thank You

Marc.J.Perry@Census.gov
Overview of the 1950 Census Release

Claire Kluskens
March 14, 2022
Resources Available on NARA’s Websites

• 1950 Census Information - [https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950](https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950)

• NARA Genealogy Lecture Series on 1950 Census - [https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022](https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022)

• 1950 Census Blog Series on History Hub - [https://historyhub.history.gov/docs/DOC-1481](https://historyhub.history.gov/docs/DOC-1481)

NARA’s 1950 Census Website

www.archives.gov/research/census/1950

1950 CENSUS RELEASE
NARA’s 1950 Census Lecture Series

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022
History Hub

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022

Ask Questions!

Follow the 1950 Census Blog Series!
History Hub website

https://historyhub.history.gov

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Follow the 1950 Census Blog Series!
NARA Catalog

https://catalog.archives.gov

Search Term= “1950CensusAdminRecords”
Three Record Sets

• NARA Microfilm Publication T628, *Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950* (6,373 rolls) – about 6.57 million digital images

• Forms P8, *Indian Reservation Schedules* – about 33,000 digital images

• Population census forms for Canton [Kanton], Johnston, Midway, and Wake Islands in the Pacific Ocean – about 2,000 images
NARA’s 1950 Census website will include:

- The three record sets listed on previous slide
- Enumeration District Maps
- Enumeration District Descriptions
Enumeration District Maps – 234,000 Enumeration Districts (+/-)
1950 Census Website will include Enumeration District Descriptions

- 234,000 Enumeration Districts
- Transcriptions
- Original Typescripts
NARA’s 1950 Census Website:

• Free Access for Everyone
• Features Based on User Research
• Design Process for Visual Elements
• Development of Functional Website
1950 Census Website Search Capability:

Search by

- State
- County
- Enumeration District Number
- Indian Reservation
- Personal Name
  - Exact matches
  - Similar names
  - Transcription tool to allow users to correct the name results
1950 Census Name Search:

- “First Draft” name index
- Imperfect – OCR / ML / AI
- Line Number + Name on that Line
- Surnames are only on lines for
  - Head of Household
  - Persons with different surname
- 140,000 enumerators with different handwriting of varying legibility and quality
- Transcription tool allows user corrections
- Free access to everyone - no paywall
1950 CENSUS RELEASE

Information (available now)
Free Access to the Census Schedules
Enumeration District Maps
Enumeration District Descriptions
“First Draft” Name Index
User Ability to Improve the Name Index
Thank You!

Please Visit

www.archives.gov/research/census/1950
Questions?

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Resources

1950 Census Records Release Press Kit

JANUARY 27, 2022

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is scheduled to digitally release the 1950 Census population records on April 1, 2022. This release is in accordance with the “72-Year Rule” (92 Stat. 915; Public Law 95-416; October 5, 1978) that states that after 72 years, NARA is responsible for releasing to the public decennial census records.

Webinar

Monday, March 14, at 1 p.m. EDT.

The webinar will highlight statistics from the 1950 Census, provide historical context to how the 1950 Census was conducted, and provide information from the NARA on how to access these records when they become available to the public and what resources are available now.

News

Press Release | March 07, 2022

Webinar to Provide Overview Ahead of 1950 Census Records Release

A pre-release webinar to give the media and data users an overview of 1950 Census records set to be released from the NARA on April 1.
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Upcoming Releases

March 17
American Community Survey 2016-2020
5-Year Data Release
• March 17: Data Release
• March 15: Embargo begins
• March 10: Pre-Release Webinar
• Press Kit

March 24
County, Puerto Rico Municipio, and Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Population Estimates
• March 24: Data Release
• March 22: Embargo begins
• Tip Sheet
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Media:

Public Information Office
pio@census.gov
301-763-3030/877-861-2010 (U.S. and Canada only)

General Public:

Customer Service Center
1-800-923-8282 or
301-763-INFO (4636)

Press Kit:

Go to U.S. Census Bureau at
Census.gov ▶ Newsroom ▶ Press Kits