

Issued occasionally by the Bureau of the Census with the assistance of the Small-Area Data Advisory Committee.
Vol. 3, No. 4

December 1968

SMALL-AREA DATA ACTIVITIES NEWSLETTER ENDS PUBLICATION

SMALL-AREA DATA NOTES TAKES OVER IN 1969

This is the last issue of the newsletter in its current format. Beginning in 1969 a series of small-area data notes will replace the newsletter. The notes will be issued as they are current so that important news will not be delayed. The notes will also provide a format for the distribution of reprints and other items of interest too long or too difficult to print in newsletter format.

MORRIS HANSEN RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS AT BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Morris Hansen, Associate Director for Research and Development, retired from Federal service on November 4, 1968, after 33 years of service with the Census Bureau. The work of the Data Access and Use Laboratory, including the Small-Area Data Activities newsletter, had been under Mr. Hansen's supervision.

During his tenure at the Bureau, Mr. Hansen has made outstanding contributions to the progress of many Census programs. These include the application of probability sampling methods to all phases of Bureau operations, the development of standards of statistical quality as well as methods of measuring and improving the accuracy of censuses and surveys, and the development and use of electronic equipment for census work.

Mr. Hansen received the Department of Commerce Silver Medal Award in 1949, the Gold Medal Award in 1954, and the Rockefeller Public Service Award in 1962. He was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Wyoming in 1959. Mr. Hansen has joined Westat Research Inc., a statistical consulting firm.

Dr. Joseph F. Daly succeeds Mr. Hansen as Associate Director for Research and Development. Dr. Daly has been with the Census Bureau for more than 22 years and has been the Bureau's Chief Mathematical and Statistical Adviser since 1963.

SUMMARY TAPE USE ORIENTATION PERIOD BEGINS AT AIP

On October 13, 1968, the Data Access and Use Laboratory of the Bureau of the Census launched the official beginning of the 1970 census summary tape use orientation period. The occasion was the Annual Conference of the American Institute of Planners at Pittsburgh. Over 150 persons registered to attend the sessions on summary tape use activities and new potential summary tape users were identified, raising the current total to approximately 450 persons who intend to make use of summary tape products from the 1970 census.

The staff of the Data Access and Use Laboratory presented an afternoon workshop on "1970 Census Summary Tape Use Coordination." Topics covered were "The Place of the Summary Tape User in the 1970 Census Data Delivery System," "The 1970 Census User Guide" (which is available in draft form to potential summary tape users), "1970 Census Tape Content and Delivery Schedules," "General Plans of Coordinators of Summary Tape Use," and "Possibilities of Summary Tape Use Workshops and Summary Tape Processing Centers."

Evening workshops were held on the specific topics of "The Address Coding Guide/Dual Independent Map Encoding System Approach for Cities" and "Journey-to-Work Special Tabulations from the 1970 Census."

Proceedings of the AIP summary tape use orientation sessions are now in preparation and will be sent to potential summary tape users. Other persons who wish to receive a copy of the proceedings should write Mrs. Carolee Bush, Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.



For sale by the Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 20233, and U.S. Department of Commerce Field Offices. 10 cents.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE C. R. Smith, Secretary
William H. Chartener, Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS A. Ross Eckler, Director

FIRST MEETING OF URBAN INFORMATION SYSTEMS INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE (USAC)

On November 6, 1968, at the new HUD building in Washington, the Urban Information Systems Inter-Agency Committee (USAC) inaugurated its activities. USAC has been established by HUD with concurrence (and representation) from several Federal agencies including OEO, Department of Transportation, Commerce, HEW, Bureau of the Budget, and Department of Labor. At the first meeting the committee began a review of its future functions which will be related to the facilitation of effective participation by Federal, State, and local government groups in developing and improving urban information systems. The objective of this work is to improve the capability of local organizations to acquire, manage, and produce data for administrative and planning decisions.

Among the committee members and alternates present at the first meeting were Roderick Symmes and William Ross (HUD), Fred Winkleman (OEO), William Mitchell (HEW), John McNicholas and Royce Lowry (Budget), Edward Salner (Labor), Robert Barraclough (Transportation), and Joseph Daly and John Beresford (Commerce-Census).

1970 CENSUS USER GUIDE BEING TESTED

The Data Access and Use Laboratory has prepared a first draft of the 1970 Census User Guide. The text portion of the Guide contains background information on the history of population and housing censuses 1790 to 1970; information on collection and processing procedures for the 1970 census; and summary descriptions of products and services to be available generally or on a special request basis from the 1970 census data base. Various documents which provide more detailed information about particular products, define concepts, etc., are included as appendixes to the Guide.

The final version of the 1970 Census User Guide will become available in 1970. It will probably be distributed as a regular publication of the Bureau through the Government Printing Office.

In the meantime, criticism of the Guide draft will be sought from potential summary tape users to help make sure the Guide provides information about the 1970 census data base which potential users find important. Therefore, the Laboratory is making the draft version of the Guide available to persons who have indicated they plan to use 1970 census summary tapes and are starting to think about their requirements in advance. The Laboratory intends to work with these potential summary tape users over the coming year to redraft and expand the Guide to meet their needs and criticisms.

The Guide, even as it now stands in draft form, is a bulky package. The text alone is some 70 pages. Sections of the text describing reference materials users will need to work with the Guide and organizational arrangements for delivery and use of 1970 census products are still to be added. Existing sections will need to be updated or revised. Appendixes may be added or expanded.

If you wish to be identified as a summary tape user and to work with the Guide in draft form, please write Mrs. Carolee Bush, Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

FIRST DRAFT OF CENSUS DICTIONARY AVAILABLE

The Data Access and Use Laboratory of the Bureau of the Census has available a draft of the Census User Dictionary including the General Introduction; Part I, Geographic Areas; Part II, Population Census Concepts; Part III, Housing Census Concepts; and Alphabetical Indexes.

This is a draft version of the Dictionary in the sense that changes in concept definitions may be made up to the 1970 census. Errors may also be discovered. Corrected pages will be mailed out as necessary.

In addition to definitions of concepts as tabulated, this version contains information about the census questions from which concepts derive, additional categories not tabulated but stored on basic record tapes at the Bureau which may be available on a special tabulation basis, the universes to which concepts apply, etc. However, information is not provided on more technical aspects of census processing which affect concept definitions, such as sample weighting, sampling error, editing and allocation procedures. This information will be contained in a later listing of operational definitions for the 1970 census. This listing cannot be prepared until details of processing procedures for the 1970 census are worked out at the Bureau.

If you would like to receive the draft of the Census User Dictionary, write Mrs. Carol A. Sellner, Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

CENSUS CONSIDERING PROBLEMS OF ESTABLISHING SUMMARY TAPE DEPOSITORIES LIBRARIES

Recently, the Census Bureau sent a letter to a number of libraries inquiring about their interest in becoming depositories of 1970 census summary tapes if a program can be developed to make this possible. The 12 libraries selected--9 are university-affiliated and 3 are State libraries--are all Government Depository Libraries and familiar with census materials. They are also all participants in the Library of Congress' Project MARC and equipped with the necessary facilities, experience, and interest in managing data on computer tape. (In Project MARC, the Library of Congress each week creates records on computer tape of the week's new acquisitions, containing all the information necessary to catalog the items. The tapes are distributed to 16 participating libraries, which use them for their own needs and also make tape copies and printouts available to other libraries.)

Several libraries contacted have responded indicating some interest. Other libraries with an interest in this program as it develops are encouraged to get in touch with the Bureau.

There are several factors libraries should keep in mind in determining their interest in the tape depository idea. A notion of the potential market for summary tape use is desirable. Libraries might want to communicate with the summary tape users in their area on this point. Questions of budget, staffing, procedures for servicing user requests, etc., also enter the picture.

Libraries may only want to serve as tape depositories in the strict sense and limit their services to tape-copying and tape-printout services. Or they may actually want to provide programing and data manipulation services for their clients and ineffect serve as summary tape processing centers. This is a matter for each library to decide.

In any case, the Bureau feels that interested libraries should be brought in as active participants in the 1970 census data delivery system. Libraries traditionally function in a service relationship to a broad range of clients. The role libraries can play in the communications network linking the Census Bureau and the community of census data users is a strategic and vital one.

It should be pointed out that while the Bureau is encouraging libraries to consider becoming summary tape depositories, the depository concept is not being employed in the strict, legal sense of the word. The Bureau will not limit the number of tape depositories in any way nor stipulate the services a depository must perform. The Bureau will not be able to provide the entire set of tape reels containing the 1970 census summaries free to tape depositories, but may be able to provide some cost support, as well as provide tape documentation and other reference materials needed to work with the tapes.

The Bureau plans to begin a series of memorandums before the end of the year to libraries indicating an interest in the tape depository proposal. The memorandums will furnish information about the tapes--content, format, etc.; discuss the relationship between the Bureau and the depository library; and explore how a summary tape depository might operate in terms of services offered, handling of user requests, etc.

Libraries interested in considering becoming 1970 census summary tape depositories and in receiving the summary tape depository library memorandums series should write Mrs. Constance F. Citro, Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

SPECIAL TABULATIONS FUNDING

The Division of Planning Assistance of the Department of Housing and Urban Development has indicated that special tabulations of the 1970 census data base are eligible for financial assistance under Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended. The tabulations must be necessary to the normal operations of the planning program being assisted. Communities interested in special tabulations of 1970 census data for planning purposes and in learning more about this avenue of funding should contact the Division of Planning Assistance, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. 20410, and send a note on the special tabulation plans to the Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

MEETING OF CENSUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SMALL-AREA DATA

The Census Advisory Committee on Small-Area Data met October 24th and 25th at Bureau headquarters.

The concept of a Standard Consolidated Area was brought up for evaluation and discussion. In the Census User Dictionary an SCA is defined as a group of contiguous SMSA's and additional counties which do not meet the formal integrational criteria for SMSA's but have strong interrelationships of other kinds. It was felt that recognizing SCA's is a step in the direction of recognizing inter-urban dynamics; however, the question arose as to how large to make an SCA and what criteria should be used in defining such areas. It was felt that defining SCA's might tend to limit geographic flexibility. A decision has not been reached on this matter and the Bureau of the Budget is taking suggestions and comments from a number of agencies.

The next topic of discussion was rural areas in "overbounded" cities, i.e., cities whose limits include a substantial amount of rural area. The problem is that where rural areas are included in figures for such incorporated cities, statistics for rural population and for population density are distorted. It was proposed that any areas within cities of more than five square miles with less than 100 persons per square mile be identified as rural areas within cities.

The next area of discussion centered around developments in the New Haven Census Use Study. A report of activities was presented and a draft of the Urban Atlas, which contains maps generated by computer programs, was distributed to committee members for evaluation.

The second day began with a review of recent developments which may affect the scope of the 1970 Censuses of Population and Housing due to concern over invasion of privacy (by Director A. Ross Eckler). Morris Hansen, Associate Director for Research and Development (now retired), reviewed the status of small-area statistics programs of the Bureau and presented several statements for discussion. The committee generally felt that the Bureau could be moving more positively in anticipating demand for special tabulations of the data base following the 1970 census.

URBAN AND REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION HOLDS CONFERENCE

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) held its 1968 Annual Conference in Clayton, Missouri, September 5-7, 1968. Over 200 representatives of State and local governments, businesses, and academic institutions interested in furthering the development of information systems attended.

The conference met in plenary session to hear Royce Lowry of the Bureau of the Budget speak on "Federal Activities Affecting Urban and Regional Information Systems--Survey, Issues, Plans," followed by a panel on the same topic composed of representatives of relevant Federal agencies.

A second plenary session convened to hear "Bureau of the Census Plans for Servicing Urban and Regional Information Systems Needs." Robert Voight and John Beresford of the Bureau of the Census presented papers on "Planning Developments, Costing, and Progress Reporting for the 1970 Census" and the "1970 Census Data Delivery System." A panel of Data Access and Use Laboratory and New Haven Census Use Study staff members presented "A Potpourri of Data Access and Use Developments." (For copies of these papers, write Mrs. Ruth Bussell, Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.)

A number of panels on more specific topics pertinent to information systems also met, including panels on law enforcement and social deviance, advanced urban information systems, regional information systems and sources of information for urban economic planning. Workshops were held on computer graphic and geocoding systems.

AGC-DIME DRESS REHEARSAL IN GREENVILLE

The city of Greenville, South Carolina, was selected as the fourth location in the U.S. to serve as a test area for the development of an improved version of the Address Coding Guide. Similar tests have been conducted in Binghamton, New York; Roanoke, Virginia; and New Haven, Connecticut. The work is being performed by the Greenville County Planning Commission with the cooperation of the city of Greenville. The project is being financed by an urban planning assistance grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Members of the County Planning Commission have surveyed the test area which includes the city and surrounding residential areas and designated the low and high addresses on each block face. Five clerks have recorded the address ranges and other geographic information on worksheets. This phase took approximately a month for completion. Census Bureau personnel are checking and reformatting the data. The completed file will not only serve the purpose of an address coding guide, but will also serve as a base file for computer mapping.

A Data Access Description concerned with the new file, known as Geographic Base File, is in preparation. It will explain the new look of the Address Coding Guide as a geographic base file, the practical applications in local areas, and developments related to geographic base files, such as matching and computer mapping.

Negotiations are currently underway looking to the possibility of providing such files, not only for the areas which now have Address Coding Guides, but also for the non-mail standard metropolitan statistical areas.

NEW GUIDE TO DATA FOR STATES

The Bureau of the Census has issued a 350-page guide to current statistics for States. The Directory of Federal Statistics for States: 1967, a companion document to the Directory of Federal Statistics for Local Areas: 1966, is intended to serve as a comprehensive finding guide to available published sources of Federal statistics on social, political, and economic subjects.

The Directory presents, in tabular form, a summary of the kinds of detailed information to be found in each source document cited and the frequency with which it is presented. (No figures are shown.) The subject matter is organized under 24 major headings, including Population, Public Welfare, Parks and Recreation, Power, etc. A subject index and complete bibliography are included.

The Directory is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402. (Price \$2.25.)

SMALL-AREA DATA FOCUS OF FEDERAL STATISTICS USER'S CONFERENCE

On September 12 the Federal Statistics Users' Conference met for an all-day session at the Commodore Hotel in New York to review current events in the development and use of small-area data. There were approximately 160 people in attendance. The 1970 census programs were discussed by Conrad Taeuber and John Beresford. A. Ross Eckler, Director of the Bureau of the Census, spoke at the luncheon on problems facing the Bureau today related to various bills in Congress and on prospects for the 1970 census.

A number of papers described sources or uses of small-area data. Among these are:

"Local Area Economic Data Available from Office of Business Economics."

By Robert E. Graham, Jr., Chief, Regional Economics Division, OBE.

"Today's Capabilities for Handling Small-Area Data With Computers."

By Richard S. Hanel, Vice President and Manager, Urban Statistical Division, R. L. Polk & Company, Detroit, Michigan.

"How Allied Stores Uses Small-Area Data in the Market Planning and Store Location Functions."

By William M. Salzer, Director of Research, Allied Stores Corporation, New York, N.Y.

"Uses of Area Data for Planning Purposes."

By J. L. Hutchinson, Manager-Economic Analysis, International Paper Company, New York, N.Y.

"How Nielsen Company Uses Local Area Data in Marketing Research."

By William J. Hawkes, Director of Research, A.C. Nielsen Company, Chicago, Ill.

Persons desiring copies should write directly to the the authors.

DATA ACCESS AND USE LABORATORY BRANCHES OUT

The Data Access and Use Laboratory has a West
Coast Office

Mrs. Joyce Purdy is now representing the Lab in Santa Monica, California, at DAUL-West. Mrs. Purdy is concerned with the creation of summary tape processing centers for the region and the development of increased census special tabulations. She expects to be in contact with potential census data users in southern

California as these plans go forward. In the meantime, she will be available to assist local users with their current use of census data and plans for use of the 1970 census data. Her office is located at the System Development Corporation in Santa Monica.

At SDC she is also continuing her work with the Urban Systems Research Division on automated data documentation and description techniques. A systematic approach to the description of tabulated data has been defined and some preliminary computer programs for displaying the descriptions have been written. This work will be incorporated in a SPAN-360 system which is being designed to handle large information files such as census summary tapes.

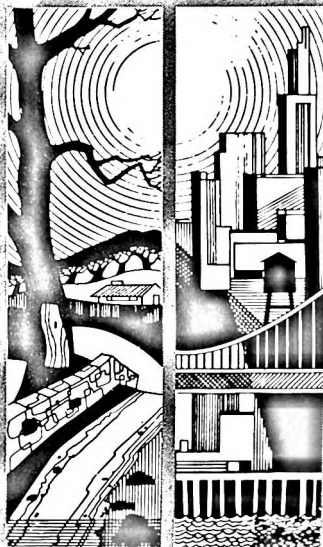


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