



“In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.”

Luke 2:1-5

"There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics."

Attributed to Benjamin Disraeli by Mark Twain.

“Demographics measure characteristics of human populations. Basic demographics are called *vital statistics*; they include measures of births, deaths, infant mortality, marriages, divorces, and life-expectancy.” Berinstein, Paula. Finding Statistics Online: How to Locate the Elusive Numbers You Need. Medford, NJ: Information Today, 1998, p 83,

“A number of other statistics are also collected for demographics: population numbers and distribution; racial, ethnic, religious, age, sex and other similar distributions; how people spend their time; income and wealth distribution; poverty; spending, purchasing and saving habits; education levels; number of people in particular occupations or businesses; immigration, emigration, and migration; eating habits; transportation habits; religious beliefs and practices; housing patterns; birth and death rates; literacy; number of adherents to particular religions.” Berinstein, p. 85.

“Demographic data is gathered through the use of censuses (everyone is counted), surveys (samples), and extrapolation (projections and forecasts based on current and past data and the incorporation of information which may affect outcomes). The major U.S. population census, the Census of Population and Housing, is taken every ten years. Various supplementary counts are made in between, including the monthly Current Population Survey,” Berinstein, p. 84

“Key producers of demographic data are government agencies. Chief among these are the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics, and various non-U.S. statistical agencies.” Berinstein, p. 85.

For a discussion and the history of census, see this article at Britannica Online

<http://search.eb.com/eb/article?eu=22402>

A few important statistical term definitions

Mean (arithmetic) – the sum of a list of numbers divided by the total number of items in the list.

Median – the mid-point or middle value in a list of numbers. If the list of numbers is of an equal value, then the median is the sum of the two middle values divided by 2.

Mode – the value(s) in a list of numbers that repeat most often or are most frequent.

Average – an imprecise term that usually refers the arithmetic mean.

See StatSoft, Inc. (2002). Electronic Statistics Textbook. Tulsa, OK: StatSoft. WEB: <http://www.statsoft.com/textbook/stathome.html> for an in-depth discussion of statistics.

The following sources may be helpful in locating demographical information.

Internet Resources

Digital Librarian - Statistics

<http://www.digital-librarian.com/statistics.html>

Librarian's Guide to the Internet – Statistics

<http://lii.org/search/file/statistics>

Virtual Reference Desk - Demographic and Population Resources

<http://www.refdesk.com/factpop.html>

The World-Wide Web Virtual Library – Demographic and Population Resources

<http://demography.anu.edu.au/VirtualLibrary/>

2000 Census Data

<http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>

Bureau of the Census

<http://www.census.gov/>

Bureau of Economic Analysis

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/>

Bureau of Justice Statistics

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/>

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

<http://www.bts.gov/>

County Business Patterns

<http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html>

County and City Data Book

<http://www.census.gov/statab/www/ccdb.html>

Current Population Survey (from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Census)

<http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm>

Education

<http://nces.ed.gov/>

Federal Electronic Research and Review Extraction Tool (FERRET)

<http://ferret.bls.census.gov/cgi-bin/ferret>

Internal Revenue Service Tax Statistics

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/taxstats/index.html>

National Center for Education Statistics

<http://www.ed.gov/NCES>

National Center for Health Statistics

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/default.htm>

LexisNexis

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/cis>

Penn. State Data Center

<http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu>

Population Reference Bureau

<http://www.prb.org/>

State and County Quick Facts

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>

State of the Cities Data System (SOCDS)

<http://socds.huduser.org/>

State Search

<http://www.nasire.org/stateSearch/>

Statistical Abstract of the U.S. (Might be easier to deal with in paper--REF HA 202 2001)

http://www.census.gov/stat_abstract

Statistical Resources on the Web

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/sthealth.html>

United States Counties

<http://www.naco.org/counties/counties/index.cfm>

United States Historical Census Browser – 1790 to 1960

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/census/>

Reference Sources

1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Social, Economic, and Housing
Characteristics: Pennsylvania.

REF HA 601.5 1990 pt. 5

2000 Pennsylvania Abstract.

REF HA 607 .P4 2000

2000 County and City Extra.

REF HA 203 .C68 2000

Berinstein, Paula. Finding Statistics Online: How to Locate the Elusive Numbers You Need.
REF HA 33.5 .B47 1998

Demographic Yearbook.
REF HA 17 .D45 1999

Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970.
REF HA 202 .B7 1976

International Historical Statistics: Europe.
REF HA 1107 .M5 1998

Statistical Abstract of the U.S: 2001
REF HA 202 2001

The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2002.
REF AY 67 .N5 W7 2002

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