

Where to Find Information on Demographics

by Christine Bruzzese

United States Census. The City Hall Library maintains a collection of materials from 1910 to 1980. Please note that the collection is not complete. There are some reports specifically concerning New York City for 1940 to 1980, covering such topics as census tract data and population and housing. For a complete collection of federal census materials, check the New York Public Library website at www.nypl.org. *Statistical History of the United States from Colonial Times to the Present*, published in 1965, contains demographic, social, income and other statistics from the eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.

New York State and other censuses. The Municipal Archives keeps some census records of New York City areas from the nineteenth century. These were mainly compiled by New York State. The Division of Old Records of the New York County Clerk also maintains state census records from 1855 and the federal census from 1870. Their telephone number is (646) 386-5395.

City Planning materials. The City Planning Commission and Department of City Planning have published numerous reports on demographics using information drawn from the various federal censuses. One publication of note is *Demographic Profiles: a Portrait of New York City's Community Districts from the 1980 & 1990 Censuses of Population and Housing* in which population and household statistics are presented by community

district. *Socioeconomic Profiles* is a companion publication with data given on income, education and similar indicators, again by community district. CUNY Graduate Center also prepared *Tract and Block Statistics* for City Planning from the 1980 census.

Other city agencies. Various agencies such as Department for the Aging (DFTA), Department of Health and Human Resources Administration (HRA) have published reports over the years using census data to focus on relevant issues. One example is DFTA's *Profiles of Older New Yorkers*, which presents census data on the elderly by community district. The Police Department prepared *1990 Census Data for New York City Police Precincts*.

Other sources. *The Encyclopedia of New York City* contains general information on New York City population, ethnic and racial groups and neighborhoods. Try checking the catalogue for reports and books on census, population and related topics..

Websites. The U.S. Census Bureau website at www.census.gov contains detailed information from the 2000 census regarding demographics, health, housing, income and more. The latest economic census from 2002 is presented here, too. Department of City Planning at www.nyc.gov/dcp includes profiles, tables and maps featuring New York City data from the 2000 census, community district information and population update plus much more. Check the Department of Records website at www.nyc.gov/records for information on census materials in the Municipal Archives and to locate city agency publications.