

# Appendix C.

## Age-Race Modifications to the 1990 Census (CPH-L-74 Series)

Where possible, 1990 census data in this report are from a special Modified Age, race, and Sex (MARS) file, the CPH-L-74 series. Age and race data have been modified in this series to meet the needs of many users of census data. Essentially, the race statistics were modified to be consistent with the classification used in data sets other than the census, while the age data were adjusted to correspond with the April 1, 1990 census data. These modified data are consistent with the counts of the 1990 census as enumerated. Information about modified data for states, counties, census tracts and MCD's are available from Data Users Services Division (301-457-4100). Further information about the modifications in the CPH-L-74 series are available from David L. Word (301-457-2103) or Gregory Spencer (301-457-2428).

### Race Modification

There were 9.8 million "Other race" persons included in the 1990 census. Over 95 percent were of Hispanic origin. Such non-specified race persons are not found in data sources other than the census and the category is inconsistent with the Office of Management and Budget Directive 15. The CPH-L-74 series assigns each "other race" person to a specified

race. The race assignment rule was: assign each "other race" person to the specified race reported by a nearby person with an identical response to the Hispanic origin question.

The assignment of a specified race was made on an individual basis. That is, no effort was made to minimize racial heterogeneity within households.

### Age modification

The following is a portion of the text of a user note which is incorporated in 1990 census products:

Review of detailed 1990 information indicated that respondents tended to provide their age as of the date of completion of the questionnaire, not their age as of April 1, 1990. In addition, there may have been a tendency for respondents to round up their age if they were close to having a birthday. It is likely that approximately 10 percent of persons in most age groups are actually one year younger. For most single years of age, the misstatements are largely offsetting. The problem is most pronounced at age 0 because persons lost to age 1

may not have been fully offset by the inclusion of babies born after April 1, 1990 and because there may have been more rounding up to age 1 to avoid reporting age as 0 years. Age in completed months was not collected for infants under age 1. The reporting of age one year older than age on April 1, 1990 is likely to have been greater in areas where the census data were collected later in 1990.

About 95 percent of the population provided acceptable birth year responses where were adjusted with the following procedures. The age data for individuals in households were modified by adjusting the reported birth year data by race and sex to correspond with the national level quarterly distribution of births available from the National Center for Health Statistics. Approximately 100 million persons have an age in this modified file which is one year different from what they marked in the 1990 census.

The modification procedure was done separately for each birth year, by sex, for the White, Black, Asian and Pacific Islander; and American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut populations.