

CALL FOR ARTICLES

RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences

U.S. Census 2020: Continuity and Change

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The decennial population census in the United States has registered over two centuries of growth and transformation in America's political, social, and economic life. It records the population size, composition, growth, and change. It documents patterns and trends of families and living arrangements, education, employment and earnings, and housing and residential patterns. It witnesses growing population diversity in ethnicity, race, and nativity. It captures multiple dimensions of inequality at individual and structural levels.

The 2010 Census revealed that income and wealth inequality increased in the first decade of the twenty first century, continuing the trend started in the 1970s and with the Great Recession furthering the divide that separates the rich from both the poor and the middle class (Levy 1987, Logan 2014). Meanwhile, young adults and women have completed more education than their parents and men, respectively, but are otherwise behind in employment, earnings, and economic mobility (Burkhauser and Larrimore 2014, DiPrete and Buchmann 2013). Continuing immigration, increasing shares of racial minorities, population aging, and the transformation of gender, family, and work further diversified the U.S. population. Growing diversity, reflective of tremendous group differences in opportunities and constraints, exacerbated inequality in living arrangements, health, wealth, and poverty (Bean et al. 2014, Qian 2014, Seltzer and Yahirun 2014).

What happened in the 2010s? Occupy Wall Street condemned growing inequality; Black Lives Matter underscored persistent racism, racial injustice, and mass incarceration; the #MeToo Movement raised awareness of sexual harassment and sexism in the workplace and beyond; the legalization of same-sex marriages advanced the rights of LGBTQ individuals; differences in the adoption of digital technology and other opportunities broadened the urban and rural divide; life expectancy declined; and the COVID-19 pandemic further exposed health disparities and social inequalities in the United States.

In this special issue of RSF, we aim to gather researchers from multiple social science disciplines to analyze data from the 2020 Census, American Community Survey, Current Population Survey or other (administrative or qualitative) sources and provide a deep understanding of the American population, its growth, structure, diversity, and inequality. Building on work from earlier censuses, surveys, and administrative data, published by the Russell Sage Foundation (Bean and Tienda 1987, Bianchi and Spain 1986, Farley 1995, Farley and Haaga 2005, Fischer and Hout 2006, Levy 1987, Lieberman and Waters 1988, Logan 2014, among others), this issue aims to document and analyze changes, continuity, and inequality in the United States, centering on the period between 2010 and 2020. It plans to cover topics on employment, earnings, wealth, and poverty; housing and residential mobility; families and living arrangements; and gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and immigration among all other topics, with a focus on whether these patterns follow the trends of past decades or change in other directions.

We outline a number of topics we would like to include in this issue. The questions for each topic outlined below are illustrative. We anticipate that the papers will cover one or more questions for each topic or address questions that cut across several topics.

Census count, politics, and political representation

Based on the U.S. Census Bureau, the Post-Enumeration Survey estimates that, for the 2020 Census, the African American alone or in combination population and the Hispanic population had a statistically significant undercount of 3.3% and 4.99%, respectively; and the population aged 0-4 had an undercount of 4.6% (U.S. Census Bureau 2022). As in the past censuses, disadvantaged populations continued to be undercounted (Prewitt 2012). The undercount is an important civil rights issue. Growing racial/ethnic diversity for the population in general and for the younger population in particular is likely to increase the negative impact of the undercounts among the disadvantaged populations. We seek quantitative, qualitative, and multi-method papers to help understand what undercounts mean for exclusion, lack of representation, public goods provision, and inequitable resource allocation of the disadvantaged populations.

Census history, racial classification of Americans, and growth in multiracial populations

The question on race has been included starting from the very first census in 1790. Over time, racial classification of Americans has undergone tremendous change, reflective of increasing racial and ethnic diversity in the population. In 2000, Americans were able to mark one or more racial groups for the first time. The Census Bureau reported that the number of non-Hispanic Americans who identify two or more races in 2020 was 1.27 times more than in 2010. The sharp rise in multiracial populations calls for a better understanding of race and racial classification. Papers in this area might address the following questions: Who selected two or more races and which groups experienced the largest increases (Bratter 2018)? Was the increase due to more children born to interracial couples? Were Americans rethinking about their racial identities (Roth, Côté and Eastmond 2022)? How would the growth in the multiracial populations play a role in the declining share of the non-Hispanic white population (Alba 2020)? What are the social and/or political consequences of these changes over time?

Race and immigration

Increasing racial and ethnic diversity is in large part due to continuous influx in recent decades of immigrants from Latin America and Asia. Meanwhile, their fertility, i.e., number of children born to diverse immigrants, has also contributed to a significant increase in the population of racial and ethnic minorities (Parrado 2011). Censuses provide detailed and consistent racial/ethnic and nativity data, including for small population subgroups and geographic areas. In the era of racial reckoning, how did African Americans, Latinos, American Indians, Asian Americans, or other ethnic groups fare relative to whites across a broad range of social, economic, and political dimensions? How did immigration play a role? Papers in this area might address one or more topics outlined above.

Employment, earnings, wealth, poverty, and inequality

The continuing rise in inequality was one of the notable trends in the 2000s (Logan 2014). Income inequality and especially wealth disparity has increased since the late 1970s (Levy 1987). The Great Recession further weakened the economic standing for all but the top 1 percent of the population in wealth and drove unemployment high especially for male, less educated,

young, and minority workers. It is unclear whether inequality narrowed after the Great Recession. The papers in this area might ask these questions: How did the trends in employment, self-employment, earnings, wealth, and/or poverty change during the 2010s compared to previous decades? How did they differ by age, race, gender, educational attainment, and nativity?

Gender, education, and work

The gender revolution started in the late 1960s has inspired more women to attend college, participate in the labor force, and engage in full time employment. The rapid rise of women in the workplace also happened during the era of declines in manufacturing jobs and increases in demand for women's paid labor. In the 2000s, women received more education but continued to earn less than men (DiPrete and Buchmann 2013). The papers in this area might ask these questions: How has this pattern changed in the 2010s? Did the earnings gap narrow controlling for educational attainment? How much of the earnings gap was due to more women working in part time and temporary jobs?

Divergent families

American families continue to undergo changes (Qian 2014). More young Americans delayed marriage and many others did not marry. Unmarried cohabitation continued to increase as the initial coresidential choice for many young men and women. Divorce and separation continued to be common. Meanwhile, the legalization of same-sex marriages increased the number of same-sex households recorded by the Census, and we now have the ability to describe their change over time. Fewer babies were born not only for whites, but also for Blacks, American Indians, Asian Americans and Hispanics. The papers in this area might document increasing divergence of American families, changes in living arrangements, and growing inequality of children's wellbeing by age, race/ethnicity, nativity, education, and other characteristics.

Migration, residential mobility, housing, and segregation

The 2000s witnessed a decline in long-distance migration and an increase in local moves within metropolitan areas (Stoll 2014). People making local moves turned out to be young adults, poorly educated, below the poverty line, Blacks, and Latinos, who had to adapt to unemployment, home foreclosures, and limited economic prospects. Retreat from marriage among the less educated and high levels of educational homogamy among the college educated increased economic inequality among families. They lived in neighborhoods in which they and their neighbors shared similar attributes. Spatial differences in housing prices and homeownership rose and income segregation by neighborhood escalated (Bischoff and Reardon 2014). Meanwhile, large urban centers were shown to be positively related to wages and economic growth, but unaffordable cities limited economic opportunity and growth and the high cost of urban living led to an over-statement of the college-wage premium (Hsieh and Moretti 2019, Moretti 2013). What happened to these patterns in the 2010s? How did zoning, agglomeration, and housing policy contribute to American inequality and quality of life in the last decade? The papers in this topic might examine these questions. The papers might also address how the pandemic played a role in residential mobility, housing, and segregation.

Rural America

Rural America has been losing population for more than fifty years, in large part, due to outmigration of young adults, including those of reproductive ages, and people seeking or having college education (Carr, Lichter and Kefalas 2012). Outmigration of young people and low fertility accelerate the population aging in rural areas (Lichter and Johnson 2020). Rural America has poor economic prospects and lags behind in digital and other technology (Slack and Jensen 2020). One factor that bucks the trend is the Hispanic population growth in parts of rural America, where Hispanic immigrants settle with low pay jobs. The papers in this topic might provide an update of the rural America with new data in the 2010s: Did the outmigration of young people continue? How did in-migration, especially that of Hispanic immigrants slow the decline in rural America? How did socioeconomic wellbeing, poverty, and mortality change in the 2010s and/or during the pandemic?

Anticipated Timeline

Prospective contributors should submit a CV and an abstract (up to two pages in length, single or double spaced) of their study along with up to two pages of supporting material (e.g., tables, figures, pictures, references that don't fit on the proposal pages, etc.) no later than 5 PM EST on November 16, 2022 to:

<https://rsf.fluxx.io>

NOTE that if you wish to submit an abstract and do not yet have an account with us, it can take up to 48 hours to get credentials, so please start your application at least two days before the deadline. All submissions must be original work that has not been previously published in part or in full. Only abstracts submitted to <https://rsf.fluxx.io> will be considered. Each paper will receive a \$1,000 honorarium when the issue is published. All questions regarding this issue should be directed to Suzanne Nichols, Director of Publications, at journal@rsage.org and **not** to the email addresses of the editors of the issue.

A conference will take place at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York City on **June 9, 2023** (with a group dinner the night before). The selected contributors will gather for a one-day workshop to present draft papers (due a month prior to the conference **on 5/9/23**) and receive feedback from the other contributors and editors. Travel costs, food, and lodging for one author per paper will be covered by the foundation. Papers will be circulated before the conference. After the conference, the authors will submit their revised drafts by 10/5/23. The papers will then be sent out to three additional scholars for formal peer review. Having received feedback from reviewers and the RSF board, authors will revise their papers by 3/21/24. The full and final issue will be published in the November of 2024. Papers will be published open access on the RSF website as well as in several digital repositories, including JSTOR and UPCC/Muse.

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