



2012 Population File for Use with AHRQ Quality Indicators

Version 4.4

Prepared for:

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Overview

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Quality Indicators include area-based measures, which are defined according to the location of the patient's residence. The denominators for these indicators must be constructed from an outside source rather than drawn from a subset of discharges in the user's input file. This document describes the file of population data that is constructed from public-use Census data and provided for use with the Quality Indicator syntax. Population figures through 2012 for use with AHRQ Quality Indicator syntax are provided in the file POP95T12.txt.

These figures for v4.4 of the AHRQ QI SAS® and WinQI software were derived in a very similar manner to those previously provided through 2011 for v4.3 of the AHRQ QI software. However, where the v4.3 file contained intercensal estimates for the years 2000 through 2010 based on the 2000 Census population, the v4.4 file contains intercensal estimates for these years that have been reconciled with the 2010 Census population. The v4.4 file uses the same intercensal estimates for the years 1995 through 1999 as the v4.3 file, so counts for these years did not change.

All counts represent total resident population as of July 1.

Sources

To quote the Census Bureau, "Estimates are for the past, while projections are based on assumptions about future demographic trends. Estimates generally use existing data collected from various sources, while projections must assume what demographic trends will be in the future"

(<http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/aboutproj.html>). Estimates are generated with the assistance of the Federal State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates (FSCPE) using residence, total births, total deaths, and net migration. With each new issue of July 1 estimates from the Census Bureau, revisions are made to all years back to the last census. The estimates used for this v4.4 update were obtained at <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/intercensal/county/county2010.html>. County level detail was taken from "Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population by Five-Year Age Groups and Sex for Counties: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2010" and "Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for Counties: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2010". To generate the 18-24 year old age group, the state-level "Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for States and the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2010" file (available at: <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/intercensal/state/state2010.html>) was used to calculate the percent of the population between 15 and 19 years old (the age grouping for the county-level data) that are between 18 and 19 years old. The county-level population of 18-19 year olds were subtracted from the Census-defined age group of 15-19 and added to the 20-24 age group.

Projections for 2011 and 2012 were generated by fitting a linear model to the population counts for each county, sex, age group and race combination over the years 2000 through 2010 and estimating the population for 2011 and 2012.

There are four counties that existed for the 2000 Census, but not for the 2010 Census (<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/tgrshp2010/usernotes.html>):

- 02201 - Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area, AK
- 02232 - Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK
- 02280 - Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area, AK
- 51560 - Clifton Forge city, VA

Since the updated estimates are based on 2010 Census populations, the populations for these counties for the years after 1999 are redistributed to other counties; therefore the populations are listed as “NA” for the years 2000 through 2012.

Estimates for 1995 through 1999 intercensal years are from “Intercensal estimates by demographic characteristics (1990-1999)” under “County population datasets” at <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/intercensal/st-co/characteristics.html>. These are unchanged from previous years.

Data File Specification

POP95T12.txt is an ASCII-based text file containing 679,752 records with a fixed logical record length of 150 bytes. The file is structured for use with AHRQ Quality Indicator programs PQSASA2.SAS, PQSASA3.SAS, PSSASA2.SAS, IQSASA2.SAS, IQSASA3.SAS, PDSASA2.SAS and PDSASA3.SAS. As such, any modification to this file will affect the operation of these programs.

A given county is identified by the Federal Information Processing Standards code (FIPS code) for the State in which it is located and by the county’s FIPS code. For each county within the U.S., the file contains 216 records: a record for each unique combination of gender, eighteen age groups, and six race groups. Each physical record represents a gender, age group and race group combination for that county and contains population estimates (rounded to integer values) for that combination for each year from 1995 through 2012.

The file has data for 3,147 counties or “equivalent areas”, defined to constitute primary divisions of their states. “Equivalent areas” include the “independent cities of Baltimore, Maryland, St. Louis, Missouri, Carson City, Nevada, and 39 independent cities in Virginia”. Because they are independent of any contiguous county, they are treated as separate counties with their own population records. Population figures for surrounding counties exclude them. Differences in the record count from previous population files are due to changes in county definitions or such independent cities. Definitions for State and county FIPS codes can be found at http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_fips.htm. POP95T12.txt is in fixed column format. Table 1 presents the file’s specific fields and the code schema used for each field.

Table 1. Data Fields in POP95T12.txt

Field	Variable	Column Position	Format	Codes
1	State	1-2	Zero Filled Numeric	FIPS Code
2	County	3-5	Zero Filled Numeric	FIPS Code
3	Sex	7	Numeric	1=Male, 2=Female
4	Age Group	9-10	Numeric	1=0-4 years 2=5-9 years 3=10-14 years 4=15-17 years 5=18-24 years 6=25-29 years 7=30-34 years 8=35-39 years 9=40-44 years 10=45-49 years 11=50-54 years 12=55-59 years 13=60-64 years 14=65-69 years 15=70-74 years 16=75-79 years 17=80-84 years 18=85+ years
5	Race	12	Numeric	1=White, 2=Black, 3=Hispanic, 4=Asian & PI, 5=Amer. Indian, 6=Other
6	1995 Population	13-19	Numeric	Integer Totals
7	1996 Population	20-26	Numeric	
8	1997 Population	27-33	Numeric	
9	1998 Population	34-40	Numeric	
10	1999 Population	41-47	Numeric	
11	2000 Population	48-54	Numeric	
12	2001 Population	55-61	Numeric	
13	2002 Population	62-68	Numeric	
14	2003 Population	69-75	Numeric	
15	2004 Population	76-82	Numeric	
16	2005 Population	83-89	Numeric	
17	2006 Population	90-96	Numeric	
18	2007 Population	97-103	Numeric	
19	2008 Population	104-110	Numeric	
20	2009 Population	111-117	Numeric	
21	2010 Population	118-124	Numeric	
22	2011 Population	125-131	Numeric	
23	2012 Population	132-138	Numeric	