

**BIRTHS** - Total number of live births occurring to residents of an area as estimated using reports from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates (FSCPE).

**CENSUS** - A canvass of a given area, resulting in an enumeration of the entire population and often the compilation of other demographic, social, and economic information pertaining to that population at a specific time. See also survey.

**COHORT** - A group of people sharing a common temporal demographic experience who are observed through time. For example, the birth cohort of 1900 is the people born in that year. There are also marriage cohorts, school class cohorts, and so forth.

**COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE** - Demographic events (births, deaths, and migration) used to estimate changes in the population during a specified time period.

**DEATHS** - Total number of deaths occurring to residents of an area as estimated using reports from NCHS and FSCPE.

**DECENNIAL CENSUS** – A census conducted every 10 years in years ending in “0” as required by the U.S. Constitution.

**DEMOGRAPHY** - The scientific study of human populations, including their sizes, compositions, distributions, densities, growth, and other characteristics, as well as the causes and consequences of changes in these factors.

**DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS** - A technique used to develop an understanding of the age, sex, and racial composition of a population and how it has changed over time through the basic demographic processes of birth, death, and migration.

**ETHNICITY** - The cultural practices, language, cuisine, and traditions—not biological or physical differences—used to distinguish groups of people.

**FAMILY** - Usually two or more persons living together and related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Families may consist of siblings or other relatives as well as married couples and any children they have.

**HOUSEHOLD POPULATION** - All U.S. residents who live in housing units such as single family homes, townhouses, apartments, and mobile homes.

**MEAN** - The mathematical average of a given property of all the members of a population. For example, the population mean age is equal to the sum of the age of every individual divided by the total number of individuals.

**MEDIAN** – The numerical value separating the higher half of a data from the lower half. For example, median age is the age which divides the population into two numerically equal groups; that is, half the people are younger than this age and half are older.

**MIGRATION** - The difference between domestic in-migration to an area and domestic out-migration from the same area during a specified time period. Domestic in- and out-migration consist of moves where both the origin and the destination are within the United States (excluding Puerto Rico).

**NUMERIC POPULATION CHANGE** - The difference between the population of an area at the beginning and end of a time period.

**PERCENT POPULATION CHANGE** - The difference between the population of an area at the beginning and end of a time period, expressed as a percentage of the beginning population.

**POPULATION** - A group of objects or organisms of the same kind.

**POPULATION DENSITY** - Population per unit of land area; for example, people per square mile or people per square kilometer of arable land.

**POPULATION DISTRIBUTION** - The patterns of settlement and dispersal of a population.

**RACE** - Race is defined primarily by society, not by genetics, and there are no universally accepted categories. The racial categories included in the census generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in the U.S., and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically or genetically. People may choose to report more than one race to indicate their racial mixture, such as "American Indian" and "White." People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. In addition, it is recognized that the categories of the race item include both racial and national origin or socio-cultural groups.

**SURVEY** - A canvass of selected persons or households in a population usually used to infer demographic characteristics or trends for a larger segment or all of the population. See also census.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data, 2008.