

CHANGES IN U.S. FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS: 1950 – 2000

Learning Objectives

Skill

- Using software to access and analyze census data
- Identifying independent and dependent variables
- Learning how to construct, read, and interpret bivariate tables displaying frequencies and percentages
- Identifying population trends over time
- Using census data and simple statistical analyses to trace and assess the magnitude

Substance

- To examine changes in household types between 1950-2000.
- Pace and timing of changes in families and households from 1950 to 2000 for the U.S. as a whole and by race.

PART A. CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD TYPE IN 1950-2000

U.S. analysis. To examine changes in household types between 1950 and 2000, use WebCHIP.

- You can access WebCHIP through the following link:
<http://ssdan.net/datacounts/webchip>
- In the left sidebar to choose the collection "**centrend**"
- Next, select the dataset "**hh502k.dat**"
- Click "Compute Marginals" to see all the marginals in the dataset
- Make a Percent Down table with "HHTYPE" as the row variable, and "YEAR" as the column variable to look at household type over time
- Record the % of households by type in the table below (combining the categories as shown). Complete the % Difference column.

	Year						
Household Type	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Difference
Married Couple Families							

Male Headed Families							
Female Headed Families							
Nonfamily Households							
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

1. What changes have taken place in household types between 1950 and 2000? Use the % difference to distinguish the magnitude of the changes over the six decades.
2. Was the pace of change more rapid in some decades than in others or has change taken place at a relative constant rate? Justify answer.
3. Why have these changes taken place?

Race analysis. To examine changes in household type by race, create a Percent Down table with "HHTYPE" as the row variable, "YEAR" as the column variable and "RACE" as the control variable. Record the % of households by type for each race (combining the categories as shown). Complete the % Difference column.

	Year						
Household Type	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Difference
Nonblack							
Married Couple Families							
Male Headed Families							
Female Headed Families							
Nonfamily Households							
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Black							
Married Couple Families							
Male Headed Families							
Female Headed Families							

Nonfamily Household s							
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

4. What similarities and differences are there between racial groups in the changes in household type?

5. Why were there racial differences, if any, in the changes in household type?

PART B. CHANGES IN MARITAL STATUS BETWEEN 1950 AND 2000

U.S. analysis. To examine changes in marital status between 1950 and 2000:

- You can access WebCHIP through the following link:
<http://ssdan.net/datacounts/webchip>
- In the left sidebar to choose the collection "**centrend**"
- Next, select the dataset "**marr052k.dat**"
- Click "Compute Marginals" to see all the marginals in the dataset
- Make a Percent Down table with "MARTIAL" as the row variable, and "YEAR" as the column variable to look at marital status type over time. Record the % of adults 15 plus by marital status in the following table. Complete the % Difference column.

	Year						
Marital Status	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Difference
Married							
Divorced							
Separated							
Widowed							
Never Married							
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

- What changes have taken place in marital status between 1950 and 2000?
- Was the pace of change more rapid in some decades than in others or has change taken place at a relative constant rate? Justify answer.
- Why have these changes taken place?

Race analysis: To examine changes in marital status by race, make a Percent Down table with "MARITAL" as the row variable, "YEAR" as the column variable and "RACE" as the control variable. Record the marital status % by race. Complete the % Difference column.

	Year						
Household Type	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Difference
Nonblack							
Married							
Divorced							
Separated							
Widowed							

- What changes have taken place in the number of children ever born to women between 1950 and 1990?
- Was the pace of change more rapid in some decades than in others or has change taken place at a relative constant rate? Justify answer.
- Why have these changes taken place?

Race analysis. To examine changes in never married childbearing by race, create a Percent Down table with "CHILD" as the row variable, "YEAR" as the column variable, and "RACE" and "MARTIAL" as the control variables. Record the % of never married women with and without children in the table. Complete the % Difference column.

Any Children?	Year						% Difference
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	
Nonblack							
Yes							
No							
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Black							
Yes							
No							
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

- What are the similarities and differences in the changes in the number of children ever born across racial groups?
- Why were there racial differences, if any, in the changes?

PART D. SUMMARY QUESTIONS

- What have you learnt about changes in families and households in the U.S. since 1950 from this module?
- Would you say that these changes indicate that the U.S. families are losing critical functions?
- Other than those examined in this module, what other critical functions have been lost by U.S. families over time?
- Would you want to reverse the changes in the family? Why or why not?