

# We asked... You told us

## Household Relationship

The Census Bureau conducts a census of population and housing every 10 years. This bulletin is one of a series that shows the questions asked in the 1990 census and the answers that you, the American people, gave. Each bulletin focuses on a question or group of questions appearing on the 1990 census questionnaires.

**Please fill one column → for each person listed in Question 1a on page 1.**

	PERSON 1	PERSON 2
	Last name	Last name
	First name Middle initial	First name Middle initial
<p><b>2. How is this person related to PERSON 1?</b></p> <p>Fill ONE circle for each person.</p> <p>If <b>Other relative</b> of person in column 1, fill circle and print exact relationship, such as mother-in-law, grandparent, son-in-law, niece, cousin, and so on.</p>	<p>START in this column with the household member (or one of the members) in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented.</p> <p>If there is no such person, start in this column with any adult household member.</p>	<p>If a RELATIVE of Person 1:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Husband/wife      <input type="radio"/> Brother/sister</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Natural-born or adopted son/daughter      <input type="radio"/> Father/mother</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Stepson/stepdaughter      <input type="radio"/> Grandchild</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other relative</p> <hr/> <p>If NOT RELATED to Person 1:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Roomer, boarder, or foster child      <input type="radio"/> Unmarried partner</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Housemate, roommate      <input type="radio"/> Other nonrelative</p>

In question 2 on the 1990 census forms, we asked people to tell us their relationship to "Person 1." Person 1, called the householder, was the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the home was owned, being bought, or rented. One person in each household was designated as the householder, and any other persons in the household were classified by their relationship to the householder.

The following table shows what you told us in replying to this question.

Household's status category	Number (millions)	Percent
Persons in households	242.0	100.0
Householder (Person 1)	91.9	38.0
If a RELATIVE of Person 1:		
Husband/wife	50.7	21.0
Child	76.7	31.7
Natural-born or adopted son/daughter	72.9	30.1
Stepson/stepdaughter	3.8	1.6
Brother/sister	2.6	1.1
Father/mother	1.7	0.7
Grandchild	4.2	1.7
Other relative	3.4	1.4
If NOT RELATED to Person 1:		
Roomer/boarder/foster child	1.6	0.7
Housemate, roommate	4.1	1.7
Other nonrelative <sup>1</sup>	5.0	2.1

<sup>1</sup>Includes "Unmarried partner," not shown separately.

- In 1990, the Nation had nearly 92 million households, about 12 million more than in 1980 and about 28 million more than in 1970. A household, as defined by the Census Bureau, consists of one or more persons who occupy separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those that have a separate entrance and whose occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the building. A house, an apartment, or even a single room, if occupied as separate living quarters, is considered a household.

- There are many different types of households. A household can include related family members and unrelated persons, such as boarders or foster children. A person living alone, as well as a small group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit as roommates, also are counted as households.
- As the table shows, about 91 percent of all household members in 1990 were either the householder (38 percent), the child of the householder (32 percent), or the householder's spouse (21 percent). Being another relative of the householder or a nonrelative was rare. For example, only about 1.7 percent of the household population was a grandchild of the householder and—even less common—fewer than 1 percent were living in households as a roomer, boarder, or foster child.
- In 1990, 242 million persons, or 97 percent of the total U.S. population, lived in households. However, not all people live in households. Another 6.7 million persons, or 3 percent, lived in group quarters such as military barracks, college dormitories, and prisons.

*Census Trivia:* According to the 1990 census, which State had the highest percentage of married-couple households? Which one had the lowest? (Answer on reverse.)

