

### 3.6 Public Use Microdata Files (PUMFs)

The public use microdata files (PUMFs) contain samples of anonymous responses from 1996 Census questionnaires. The files are powerful research tools. Users can combine or manipulate variables to meet their own data and research needs. They can generate tables not included in other census products or analyse relationships between variables with a number of statistical tests. The files have been carefully checked to ensure the complete confidentiality of individual responses. In addition, geographic identifiers have been restricted to provinces, territories and large metropolitan areas.

#### Description

Three PUMFs are available: the Individuals File, the Families File, and the Households and Housing File.

**Individuals File** – This file provides data on the characteristics of the population, such as labour force activity and income. It contains 122 variables.

**Families File** – This file contains information about family composition, which can be combined with 145 variables, including labour force activity, census family income and non-family person income.

**Households and Housing File** – This file provides housing information, such as structural type, number of rooms and shelter costs, as well as details of household composition and socio-economic information concerning the household maintainers and their families. It contains 137 variables.

#### Geographic areas

PUMFs are available for the following geographic areas: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and some large municipalities.

#### Media

Two sets of CD-ROMs will be produced for these products. The first set will contain the data files in flat ASCII format only and will include input record descriptions in both SAS and SPSS syntaxes. The second set, to be released at a later date, will contain the data files in both the flat ASCII format and the Beyond 20/20™ format accompanied by the Beyond 20/20™ analytical software.

#### Prices

The price is \$1,000 for the first file, \$300 for the second file, \$200 for the third file, or \$1,500 for the three files. The PUMFs can be bought only through the regional reference centres.

**Note:** When ordering the second set of CD-ROMs, they will be provided free of charge if you have already purchased the flat ASCII format product.

This page was intentionally left blank.

## Public Use Microdata Files

The 1996 Census public use microdata files (PUMFs) contain samples of anonymous responses to the 1996 Census questionnaire. The files have been carefully scrutinized to ensure the complete confidentiality of the individual responses. Three files are available: the Individuals File, the Families File and the Households and Housing File. PUMFs enable the development of statistical information about Canadians, the families and households to which they belong and the dwellings in which they live.

Microdata files are unique among census products in that they give users access to non-aggregated data. This makes PUMFs powerful research tools. Each file contains anonymous individual responses on a large number of variables. The PUMF user can group and manipulate these variables to suit his/her own data and research requirements. Tabulations not included in other census products can be created or relationships between variables can be analysed by using different statistical tests. PUMFs provide quick access to a comprehensive social and economic database about Canada and its people.

All subject matter covered by the census is included in the microdata files. However, to ensure the anonymity of the respondents, geographic identifiers have been restricted to the provinces/territories and large metropolitan areas.

Microdata files have traditionally been made available on magnetic tape, which requires access to a mainframe computer. The 1996 PUMFs will only be available on CD-ROM using microcomputer applications.

The 1996 PUMFs contain data based on a 2.8% sample of the population enumerated in the census. In order to protect the confidentiality of the information provided by individual respondents, special measures were taken.

Data for small geographic areas are not available in this product. The user will find information for only the provinces, the territories, selected census metropolitan areas and selected census subdivisions. Furthermore, the data have been aggregated in such a way as to preserve confidentiality while, at the same time, providing as much detail as possible in order to maintain the analytical value of the file. For example, the data on occupation do not indicate "Physician", but rather the more general category "Occupations in Medicine and Health". This category also includes other medical occupations, such as "Nurse". For some variables, such as ethnic origin, less detailed information is available for some geographic areas than for other areas.

For selected variables, data were suppressed from some records. The code "Not available" was assigned to those records.

Income data were rounded so as not to exceed pre-set upper and lower income limits.

The microdata files contain a record for each selected unit in the sample. Each record contains a certain number of characteristics or variables. Thus, each of these units represents, on average, many other units that are not part of the sample. To represent all of these other units in the estimation process, a variable called WEIGHT (weighting factor) has been added to the files; it corresponds to the number of units (including the unit selected) represented by each record from the files. The sample selection method is carried out in such a way that this variable would be constant for all the records. The sample is referred to as a "self-weighting" sample. The WEIGHT variable is equal to 36 in the files. The weighting factor therefore indicates the number of times a record must be repeated to obtain population estimates.

The geographic coverage is:

Canada, provinces and territories;

CSDs (12): Montréal, Laval, Ottawa, Toronto, North York, Scarborough, Mississauga, Etobicoke, Hamilton, Edmonton, Vancouver and Surrey;

CMAAs (19): Halifax, Québec, Montréal, Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivières, Ottawa - Hull, Oshawa, Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines - Niagara, Kitchener, London, Windsor, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Regina and Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria.

## ➤ Individuals File

This file provides data on the characteristics of the population such as ethnic origin, labour force activity and income levels. It contains 122 variables.

**Catalogue No.:** 95M0010XTE **CANCELLED**  
**Release:**  
**Media:** Magnetic tape  
**Price:** Canada: \$1,000 Other countries: US\$1,000  
 \$1,000 for the first file, \$300 for the second file and \$200 for the third file

**Catalogue No.:** 95M0013XCB **ISBN:** 0-660-60582-1 **NEW**  
**Release:** Second quarter of 1999  
**Media:** CD-ROM (containing the flat ASCII file)  
**Price:** Canada: \$1,000 Other countries: US\$1,000  
 \$1,000 for the first file, \$300 for the second file and \$200 for the third file; or \$1,500 for all three files

**Catalogue No.:** 95M0010XCB **ISBN:** 0-660-59288-6  
**Release:** Second quarter of 1999  
**Media:** CD-ROM (containing the flat ASCII file, the Beyond 20/20™ format and the Beyond 20/20™ analytical software)  
**Price:** Canada: \$1,000 Other countries: US\$1,000  
**Special Note:** When ordering this CD-ROM, it will be provided free of charge if you have already purchased the flat ASCII format product. Otherwise, the cost for this product will be \$1,000 in Canada and US\$1,000 in other countries.

## ➤ Families File

This file contains details of family composition in Canada. It features 145 variables, such as information on labour force activity and income for census family and non-family persons.

**Catalogue No.:** 95M0012XTE **CANCELLED**  
**Release:**  
**Media:** Magnetic tape  
**Price:** Canada: \$1,000 Other countries: US\$1,000  
 \$1,000 for the first file, \$300 for the second file and \$200 for the third file

**Catalogue No.:** 95M0014XCB **ISBN:** 0-660-60583-X **NEW**  
**Release:** Second quarter of 1999  
**Media:** CD-ROM (containing the flat ASCII file)  
**Price:** Canada: \$1,000 Other countries: US\$1,000  
 \$1,000 for the first file, \$300 for the second file and \$200 for the third file; or \$1,500 for all three files

**Catalogue No.:** 95M0012XCB **ISBN:** 0-660-59290-8  
**Release:** Second quarter of 1999  
**Media:** CD-ROM (containing the flat ASCII file, the Beyond 20/20™ format and the Beyond 20/20™ analytical software)  
**Price:** Canada: \$1,000 Other countries: US\$1,000

**Note:** When ordering this CD-ROM, it will be provided free of charge if you have already purchased the flat ASCII format product. Otherwise, the cost for this product will be \$1,000 in Canada and US\$1,000 in other countries.

## ➤ Households and Housing File

This file provides housing information, such as structural type, number of rooms and shelter costs, along with details of household composition and socio-economic information pertaining to the household maintainers and their families. It contains 137 variables.

**Catalogue No.:** 95M0011XTE **CANCELLED**  
**Release:**  
**Media:** Magnetic tape  
**Price:** Canada: \$1,000 Other countries: US\$1,000  
 \$1,000 for the first file, \$300 for the second file and \$200 for the third file

**Catalogue No.:** 95M0015XCB **ISBN:** 0-660-60584-8 **NEW**  
**Release:** Second quarter of 1999  
**Media:** CD-ROM (containing the flat ASCII file)  
**Price:** Canada: \$1,000 Other countries: US\$1,000  
 \$1,000 for the first file, \$300 for the second file and \$200 for the third file; or \$1,500 for all three files

**Catalogue No.:** 95M0011XCB **ISBN:** 0-660-59289-4  
**Release:** Second quarter of 1999  
**Media:** CD-ROM (containing the flat ASCII file, the Beyond 20/20™ format and the Beyond 20/20™ analytical software)  
**Price:** Canada: \$1,000 Other countries: US\$1,000  
**Note:** When ordering this CD-ROM, it will be provided free of charge if you have already purchased the flat ASCII format product. Otherwise, the cost for this product will be \$1,000 in Canada and US\$1,000 in other countries.

This page was intentionally left blank.