

## THE QUESTIONNAIRE

A census of population and housing is designed to give a comprehensive count of the resident population and its housing stock. With respect to information content, it should show a good balance between demographic, social and economic characteristics and be in accord with international standards regarding the capture of basic data items.

Bermuda's 1991 Census questionnaire satisfies these criteria and was developed after consultations with government departments, other public sector agencies and a number of user groups. This process served to assure the inclusion of vital data items with identified uses in the area of policy formulation and evaluation and programme management.

The population and housing questionnaires (see Appendix 1) include a total of 80 questions which may be grouped in ten broad sections for discussion purposes:

- geographic identifiers (census district, constituency and parish)
- demographic characteristics
- marital status
- birthplace, migration and Bermudian status
- education and training
- economic activity and journey to work
- fertility
- physical and mental health
- income
- housing

### **Geographic Identifiers**

This group includes questions 1-5 and records information inclusive of parish, constituency, census district and special areas, i.e. City of Hamilton or Town of St. George. Unique household numbers and person numbers are also included. The information in this section is necessary for deriving tabulations by parish, constituency and census district, and is essential for mapping applications of the data.

### **Demographic Characteristics**

Information in this group includes questions 8-16 of the population questionnaire and seeks details on an individual's relationship to the head of household, sex, age, racial group, ancestry, religion, and the size and type of household.

The questions on age and sex are the key questions in the population questionnaire. Distributions by age and sex are necessary for most of the detailed tabulations since many other characteristics of the population vary according to age and sex. In addition, many of the quality tests of census data relate to the age and sex distributions of the enumerated population.

The question on race in the 1991 Census allows for a wider range of racial groupings compared to previous censuses. In 1980 for example, the substantive response categories were 'black' and 'white and other'; children of a mixed racial union with one of the partners being black, were categorized as 'black'. In 1991, the response categories are black, white, Asian, black and white, black and other, white and other and other racial groups. The 1991 data can be grouped on the 1980 basis for comparative purposes and the Census Office does this automatically in such instances.

The question on ancestry is a new item and it was included in the questionnaire in response to a demand for information about different cultural groups in Bermudian society.

Information on religion was obtained by recording the religious denomination to which the respondents indicated an affiliation. The questionnaire provides for 17 pre-identified religious groups

including the five major denominations: Anglican (Church of England), Roman Catholic, African Methodist Episcopal, Seventh Day Adventist and Methodist.

The questions on relationship to head of household, household type and size of household enables analysis of household composition and provide benchmark data on the number and characteristics of lone parent households in Bermuda.

### **Marital Status**

Questions 17-19 of the population questionnaire relate to marital status and are directed to persons 16 years and older. Marital status is a basic social indicator for analysis of the population. The data can be used with economic activity profiles to show married persons in the workforce and also linked with housing and income data to estimate housing demand:

The main question in this section refers to present marital status and it has 5 response categories: never married, married, widowed, divorced and legally separated.

Never married covers all individuals 16 years or older who have never been married, including persons whose marriage were annulled.

Married covers all persons who are formally married, whether or not they are living with the partner to whom they are legally married.

Widowed covers all persons married legally or through customary rites and whose partners have died.

Divorced covers all persons whose marriages have been dissolved by legal proceedings.

Legally separated applies to a married person separated from his/her partner by way of a deed of separation or some similar court order.

Questions on age at first marriage, length of the present marriage and whether the partner is Bermudian or not are also included in this section.

### **Birthplace, Migration and Bermudian Status**

Questions 21-25 and 53-54 provide the information for this section. This information allows for tabulations on the Bermuda-born population, foreign-born persons and those with Bermudian status. It also shows the major countries of birth for the foreign-born population as well as the year or period when such persons entered Bermuda. The information in this section is useful in the formulation and examination of population policy and related issues.

### **Education and Training**

Questions 26-36 of the population questionnaire provide information about the level of formal schooling and educational achievement, and the extent of certified job-related training in Bermuda's adult population.

The questions are straight-forward but care should be taken so as not to confuse highest level of educational attainment (question 30) with highest academic qualification (question 31).

Information on the highest level of educational attainment refers to the level (on the 'educational stairway') at which an individual's formal schooling stopped, irrespective of whether or not the full programme of study was completed. Thus if an individual began secondary school but did not graduate, the correct response for this individual would still be 'secondary'. Information on highest level of educational attainment provides a very broad indicator of the literacy level in Bermuda.

Turning to the question of highest academic qualification, this refers to an individual's success at public or external examinations which is verified by receipt of a certificate, diploma or a degree. The range of academic achievement extends from 'no exams passed' to 'post-graduate' degrees; only the highest level in respect of each individual (16 years and over) is recorded.

The questions on specialized training (questions 32-36) seek to find the extent of specific job skills held by or being developed by Bermuda's adult population. The training refers to structured and specialized programmes which lead to certification.

### **Economic Activity and Journey to Work**

The purpose of this section (questions 37-48) is to statistically identify those persons who comprise Bermuda's labour force and to develop a profile of them in terms of such factors as:

- main economic activity
- number of months worked
- number of jobs held
- number of hours worked
- occupation
- industry (sector of employment)
- modes of travel to work
- work location
- starting time of work day.

This section is directed to persons 16 years and over who are not attending school as full-time students.

The key question in this section is question 38 which refers to main activity during the reference week of May 13-19, 1991. From the responses to this question, we derive measures of the labour force (i.e. the working population and the unemployed population), retirees, and those engaged in voluntary work and other non-market activities.

Other information from this section enables the production of detailed occupational listings and sector analysis of the economy by employment levels.

### **Fertility**

Questions 49-52 capture information on the fertility behaviour of females 15 years and over except those who are attending high-school on a full-time basis.

The key questions seek information on the number of live births and the age of the mother at her first and last live birth. This information is used for the study of fertility patterns and for the development of population forecasts, both of which inform national population policy.

### **Physical and Mental Health Constraints**

This section of the population questionnaire seeks to develop a baseline of information on that segment of the non-institutional population with physical or mental health conditions which prevents or limits their participation in the activities of daily life; the condition or constraint must have been present for at least six months. Examples of such conditions include respiratory or lung disorders, heart conditions, hypertension, diabetes and so on.

This section also allows analysis of the specific ways in which chronic health conditions affect the individual's activities at home, at school, at work and in other areas of everyday life.

### **Income**

The income section appears for the first time in a Bermuda census of population and housing. The results will provide a new and comprehensive source of data on the level and distribution of individual (or person) income. Income is an important economic indicator in its own right and is very useful in the analysis of social issues related to family assistance, employment and housing.

The income question was administered to a sample of 1 in 7 households and within each selected household it included all persons 16 years and over who had received any form of income during the year preceding the Census.

## **Housing**

There are 19 questions in the housing questionnaire and the purpose of the section is to provide a statistical profile of the size and quality of the residential housing stock:

The key questions in the housing section relate to factors such as:

- type of dwelling
- condominium or not
- water supply
- number of bathrooms
- energy source for heating piped water
- year of construction
- state of repair
- number of rooms
- number of bedrooms
- type of tenure
- ownership of other dwellings
- rent payments

The above data can be cross-classified for the analysis of particular housing issues including correlations of household income with rental payments.