

The following explains the major differences between the old and the new IPUMS-CPS systems.

The old system distinguished between **browsing variables** and **making an extract**.

The new system has abolished this distinction: there is now a single link for **browsing and selecting data**.

MINNESOTA POPULATION CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

IPUMS_{CPS}

Minnesota Population Center MPC

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Integrated Public Use Microdata Series
census microdata for social and economic research

IPUMS-CPS is a project dedicated to integrating and disseminating data from the Current Population Survey. Its goals are to:

- Collect and preserve data and documentation
- Harmonize data to be compatible over time and with [IPUMS-USA](#)
- Disseminate the data absolutely free!

Use it for GOOD -- never for EVIL

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In the old system, selecting “Variables” took you to the overall menu.

In the new system, choose “Select Data” to see dynamic menus along with search functionality.

The screenshot shows the old CPS website interface. The header includes the CPS logo, the Minnesota Population Center (MPC) logo, and navigation links for DATA, VARIABLES (highlighted with a yellow box), DOCUMENTATION, and CONTACT US. The main content area is titled 'Variable Availability' and features a grid of variable categories organized by letter (A-Z). The categories are:

- Household Record
- Person Record
- Technical Variables
- Geographic Variables
- Economic Characteristics Variables
- Dwelling Characteristic Variables
- Appliances, Mechanical, Other Variables
- Household Constructed Variables
- Family Interrelationship Variables
- Core Demographic Variables
- Ethnicity/Nativity Variables
- Education Variables
- Work Variables
- Income Variables
- Poverty Variables
- Tax Variables
- Veteran Status Variables
- Disability Variables
- Migration Variables
- Summary Health Insurance Variables
- Health Insurance Variables
- Welfare Variables

At the bottom of the main content area, there is a link for 'CPS Data Quality Flags'.

The screenshot shows the new IPUMS CPS website interface. The header includes the Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota logo, the IPUMS CPS logo, and navigation links for Home, Select Data (highlighted with a green box), FAQ, Contact Us, and Login. The main content area features a 'Variables' section with a search interface. The search interface includes dropdown menus for 'Household' and 'Person', an 'A-Z' dropdown, and a 'Search' button. There are also buttons for 'Select Samples', 'Options', and 'Help'. An orange arrow points to the 'Select Data' link in the header, with the text 'START HERE to browse and select variables.' below it.

If you hover over “Person”, you will see all the person-level variable groups. Click “Core Demographic” to see the variables of interest to you.

The screenshot displays the IPUMS CPS website interface. At the top, it reads "MINNESOTA POPULATION CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA" and "IPUMS CPS" with a world map background. Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Home", "Select Data", "FAQ", "Contact Us", and "Login". The main content area features a "Variables" section with a dropdown menu currently set to "Person". An orange arrow points to the "Core Demographic" option in the dropdown list. To the right of the dropdown, there are buttons for "Select Samples" and "Options Help".

Variables

Household Person A-Z Search

- Technical
- Family Interrelationship
- Core Demographic
- Ethnicity/Nativity
- Education
- Work
- Income
- Poverty
- Tax
- Veteran Status
- Disability
- Migration
- Summary Health Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Welfare

Select Samples Options Help

Click here to browse variables.

In the old system, you saw a list of all core demographic variables embedded in the full list of variables. This was often overwhelming.

Core Demographic Variables (Person)				
Variable Name	Variable Description	Record Type	Codes	62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76
RELATE	Relationship to household head	P	codes	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
AGE	Age	P	codes	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
SEX	Sex	P	codes	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
RACE	Race	P	codes	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
MARST	Marital status	P	codes	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
POPSTAT	Adult civilian, armed forces, or child	P	codes	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
AGEMARR	Age at first marriage	P	codes	X . . . X . X X X X X
MARRQTR	Quarter of marriage	P	codes	. . . . . X X X X X
BIRTHQTR	Quarter of birth	P	codes	. . . . . X X X X X

Ethnicity/Nativity Variables (Person)				
Variable Name	Variable Description	Record Type	Codes	62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76
BPL	Birthplace	P	codes	. . . . .
YRIMMIG	Year of immigration	P	codes	. . . . .
CITIZEN	Citizenship status	P	codes	. . . . .
MBPL	Mother's birthplace	P	codes	. . . . .
FBPL	Father's birthplace	P	codes	. . . . .
NATIVITY	Foreign birthplace or parentage	P	codes	. . . . .
ANCESTRY	Ancestry	P	codes	. . . . . X X X X X
HISPAN	Hispanic origin	P	codes	. . . . . X X X X X X X X

Education Variables (Person)				
Variable Name	Variable Description	Record Type	Codes	62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76
EDUC	Educational attainment recode	P	codes	X . . X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
EDUC99	Educational attainment, 1990	P	codes	. . . . .
HIGRADE	Highest grade of school	P	codes	X . X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
COLLEG75	Attending college in March 1975	P	codes	. . . . . X

- There are more entirely new features:
- More recent (and therefore more frequently used) samples now appear **on the left** to limit scanning across rows. (You can switch back to the old look by clicking on “Options”.)
 - You can limit browsing only to those variables available in your desired samples by clicking “**Select Samples**”.
 - If you’re stuck, **help** is just a click away.

Household ▾

Person ▾

A-Z ▾

Search

Select Samples

Options
Help

Core Demographic Variables -- PERSON [top]

Add to cart	Variable	Variable Label	Type	Codes	10 09 08	706 05 04 03 02 01 00 99 98 97 96 95 94 93 92
<input type="checkbox"/>	RELATE	Relationship to household head	P	codes	X X X	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
<input type="checkbox"/>	AGE	Age	P	codes	X X X	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
<input type="checkbox"/>	SEX	Sex	P	codes	X X X	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
<input type="checkbox"/>	RACE	Race	P	codes	X X X	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARST	Marital status	P	codes	X X X	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
<input type="checkbox"/>	POPSTAT	Adult civilian, armed forces, or child	P	codes	X X X	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
<input type="checkbox"/>	AGEMARR	Age at first marriage	P	codes	. . . . .	. . . . .
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARRQTR	Quarter of marriage	P	codes	. . . . .	. . . . .
<input type="checkbox"/>	BIRTHQTR	Quarter of birth	P	codes	. . . . .	. . . . .

After submitting your variable selections in the old system, separate screens would let you select cases and attach characteristics.

When checking out in the new system, you first log in, then set extract options, and finally have the option to select cases, attach characteristics, and include data quality flags. (These dialogs look very similar to the old system.) At each step, you'll find context-sensitive help.

Attached Variable Selection

Please check the boxes below to indicate whose characteristics you would like attached to all persons in the dataset. Checking the boxes below will produce versions of the selected variable that end in the suffixes "_HEAD", "_POP", "_MOM", and "_SP." For instance checking the "Spouse" box next to the AGE variable would produce a variable called AGE_SP, which would specify the age of each respondent's spouse. AGE_SP would have values only in cases where a respondent's spouse is present in the household. Persons without a spouse in the household would have a missing value in the AGE_SP variable.

Variable	Head	Father	Mother	Spouse
RACE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Continue

Case Selection

Individual/Household Case Selection

- Include only those persons meeting case selection criteria
- Include all persons in the household of person meeting case selection criteria

Age (Person)

10 10
17 17
18 18
19 19
20 20
21 21
22 22
23 23
24 24
25 25
26 26

Continue to Extract Request Summary

IPUMS CPS data extract system 1 → 2 → 3

Set extract options (help)

Extract file type

- Rectangular
- Hierarchical (syntax files might require modification by user)

Continue to next step

IPUMS CPS data extract system 1 → 2 → 3

Set variable options (help)

Set Variable options				Variable	Variable Label	Type
Include in extract	Select Cases	Attach Characteristics	Include Flags			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				YEAR	Survey year	H
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				SERIAL	Household serial number	H
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				HHWT	Household weight	H
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		PERWT	Person weight	P
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RELATE	Relationship to household head	P
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AGE	Age	P
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SEX	Sex	P
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RACE	Race	P
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MARST	Marital status	P
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		POPSTAT	Adult civilian, armed forces, or child	P

Continue to next step

Finally, you'll have a chance to review your extract and change selections and options before submitting it. The old and the new versions of the system look quite similar, although the new version has been streamlined.

We hope you find our new look helpful!

2008
2009

Extract File Type

rectangular

Case Selection

Include all persons in the households of individuals meeting case selection criteria

Variables and Case Selection

Type	Variable	Label	Case Selection
H	YEAR	Survey year	--
H	HHWT	Household weight	--
P	PERWT	Person weight	--
P	RELATE	Relationship to household head	--
P	AGE	Age	details
P	SEX	Sex	--
P	RACE	Race	--
P	MARST	Marital status	--
P	HCOVANY	Any insurance, public or private (summary)	--
P	RACE_SP	Race [of spouse]	--

Case selection method: Include all persons residing in a household with a selected person

Use these buttons to make changes to your extract

Submit extract request

Description of extract

2008
2009

Variables and Case Selection

Type	Variable	Label	Case Selection
H	YEAR	Survey year	--
H	SERIAL	Household serial number	--
H	HHWT	Household weight	--
P	PERWT	Person weight	--
P	RELATE	Relationship to household head	--
P	AGE	Age	details
P	SEX	Sex	--
P	RACE	Race	--
P	MARST	Marital status	--
P	POPSTAT	Adult civilian, armed forces, or child	--
P	RACE_SP	Race [of spouse]	--

Case selection method: Include all persons residing in a household with a selected person.

Use these buttons to make changes to your extract.

Description