

SUMMARY

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This monograph has presented historical and contemporary population and housing data for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, based primarily on census data. The statistical profile has been general in nature so that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands could assess our past, our present, and look a little bit into our future.

Chapter 1 presented historical data, covering the periods of Spanish, German and Japanese occupation, the American Administration, and the beginnings of the Commonwealth. The next series of chapters looked at demographic characteristics - age and sex (Chapter 2), households and families (Chapter 3), marital status (Chapter 4), fertility (Chapter 5), mortality (Chapter 6), and migration (Chapter 7). Estimates and projections for the CNMI population were presented in Chapter 8. Chapter 9 discussed housing characteristics. The rest of the monograph has been devoted to the social and economic conditions of the commonwealth - ethnicity (Chapter 10), education (Chapter 11), labor force participation (Chapter 12), industry and occupation (Chapter 13), and income and poverty (Chapter 14).

In this summary, data are presented to help planners and other interested people in the Northern Mariana Islands compare the situation here with that found in the United States and the other U.S. territories - the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

Data for year-round housing units are presented in Table 15.1. The number of housing units in the CNMI (3,373) was the smallest for any of the territories, which is not surprising since we are also the smallest in population. Except for American Samoa, we have the smallest median number of rooms of any of the territories, slightly smaller than the Virgin Islands. Because of our smaller number of rooms, we also had a smaller percentage of units with 3 or more bedrooms than either the United States or Guam.

Table 15.1. Characteristics of Year-round Housing Units: 1980

Characteristics	Northern Marianas	United States	Guam	American Virgin Samoa	Virgin Islands
Total Persons.....	16780	226545805	105979	32297	96569
Total Housing Units.....	3432	88411263	28249	4728	33548
Year-Round Housing Units:					
Total.....	3373	86692832	28091	4688	32560
Median Rooms.....	4.1	5.1	4.7	3.5	4.2
Percents:					
3 or more bedrooms.....	43.6	50.5	53.5	35.8	N/A
One Unit in Structure.....	90.9	71.1	74.0	93.5	52.0
5 or More Units in Structure....	4.4	17.8	15.6	1.1	24.8
Structure Built 1970 to 1980....	57.6	26.2	58.7	44.9	38.4
Structure Built before 1940.....	.8	25.8	.3	4.2	6.5
Lacking Complete Plumbing in					
this building.....	49.8	2.7	4.2	56.3	6.9
Source of water: Public System..	92.1	83.6	99.6	77.4	35.6
Public Sewer.....	24.8	74.0	71.6	12.1	55.5
Electric Power.....	94.1	N/A	98.1	96.2	N/A
Air conditioning.....	24.3	55.0	59.8	7.9	10.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census publications, 1980

Also, we have the largest proportion of one unit structures (91 percent), except for American Samoa (94 percent) and the smallest proportion of structures with 5 or more units (4 percent), again except for American Samoa (1 percent).

Because of frequent typhoons, both CNMI and Guam had a large proportion of recently constructed houses - almost 6 out of every 10 having been built between 1970 and 1980 compared to only about 1 in 4 in the United States; on the other hand, while about 1 in 4 U.S. units were constructed before 1940, this was true for less than 1 in 100 of our units.

About half of our structures lack complete plumbing, compared to only 3 percent in the United States and 4 percent in Guam, but 56 percent in American Samoa. Except for Guam, more of water comes from a public system than any of the other territories, but only about 1 in 4 of our units is connected to a public sewer, compared to about 3 in 4 in the U.S., and only slightly less in Guam. A smaller percent of our units have electricity than either Guam or American Samoa, but while 6 in every 10 units in Guam has air conditioning, only 1 in 4 of our units does (but only 1 in 12 of those in American Samoa).

Table 15.2. Characteristics of Occupied Housing Units: 1980

Characteristics	Northern Marianas	United States	Guam	American Virgin Samoa	Virgin Islands
Occupied.....	3028	80389673	24834	4513	28329
Owner Occupied.....	1809	51794545	11469	3337	11292
Median Rooms.....	4.2	5.2	4.8	3.5	4.3
Median Number, of Persons.....	4.89	2.37	3.74	6.56	2.93
Percent:					
1.01 or more Persons per room... Householder moved into unit between 1979 to March 1980....	53.9	4.5	24.4	73.5	23.9
1 or more Vehicles available....	84.8	87.1	93.5	44.8	65.5
Specified Owner:					
Median value.....(\$).	10400	47200	57600	11200	53600
Renter Occupied:					
Median Contract Rent.....(\$).	125	198	193	100	142
Median Gross Rent.....(\$).	153	243	251	158	186

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census publications, 1980

In our occupied housing units, we had a higher median number of persons (4.9) than any of the other territories except for American Samoa (6.6) (Table 15.2). We had about one more person per unit than Guam, 2 more than the Virgin Islands, and 2 1/2 more than the United States median. Also, except for American Samoa, we were the most crowded: although almost 3 in every 4 occupied units in American had more than 1 person per room, about half of our units fell in that category, compared to 1 in 4 in Guam and the Virgin Islands, and less than 1 in 20 in the United States.

More than 87 percent of the occupied units in the United States in 1980 had 1 or more vehicles available. The CNMI was just about as mobile (85 percent), more mobile than American Samoa (44 percent) and Virgin Islands (66 percent), but somewhat less mobile than Guam (94 percent).

Our average occupied unit was worth only about 1/5 of units in the United States. In fact, in 1980 our units were worth less, on average, than those of any of the other territories. On the other hand, our contract rent was somewhat more than what American Samoans paid, but quite a bit less than units in the United States, Guam, or the Virgin Islands.

The summary data for housing show that as of 1980 our housing conditions were somewhat better than those in American Samoa, but not as good as the housing conditions in the United States, Guam, or the Virgin Islands.

The 16,780 persons living in the Commonwealth in 1980 constituted the smallest population of any of the U.S. territories (Table 15.3). We had more than twice as many persons per household as in the United States (5.4 compared to 2.8), more than Guam (4.1) or the Virgin Islands (3.3), but less than

American Samoa (7.1). A larger part of the population of Guam lived in group quarters than our population, mostly because of the military, but our population in group quarters was more than that found in the United States, probably because of construction and other non-institutional group quarters.

Table 15.3. Selected Demographic Characteristics: 1980

Characteristics	Northern Marianas	United States	Guam	American Virgin Samoa Islands
Total Population.....	16780	226545805	105979	32297 96569
Households.....	3028	80389673	24834	4513 28329
Persons per household.....	5.36	2.75	4.07	7.08 3.39
Percent in Group quarters.....	3.3	2.5	4.7	1.0 .6
Percent:				
Under 18 years.....	47.1	28.1	41.1	48.3 43.3
18 to 64 Years.....	50.0	60.6	56.0	48.8 52.1
65 years and over.....	2.9	11.3	2.8	2.9 4.6
Median age.....	19.6	30.0	22.2	18.8 22.5
Mean Age at Marriage (1976-1980)..	23.2		21.9	23.8
Percent:				
Males, now married, 15+.....	60.5	60.1	62.2	54.6 52.8
Females, now married, 15+.....	56.0	54.8	63.4	54.5 46.1
CEB per 1000 women 35-44 yrs.....	5211	2639	3589	4884 3493
Total Fertility Rate, 1976-1980...	4.24		3.02	4.67
Age Specific Fertility Rate:				
15 to 19 years.....	103		66	42
20 to 24 years.....	227		171	175
25 to 29 years.....	208		164	254
30 to 34 years.....	163		110	200
35 to 39 years.....	86		64	143
40 to 44 years.....	42		24	76
45 to 49 years.....	17		6	44

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census publications and unpublished data

Except for American Samoa, we were the youngest population of any of the territories, with our median age of 19.6, about 1 year more than American Samoa, but more than 10 years younger than the 30.0 for the United States in 1980. Almost half of our population was under 18 and only 3 percent was 65 years and over, compared to 28 percent less than 18 and more than 11 percent 65 and over in the States.

Our mean age at first marriage in 1980 fell between that of American Samoa and Guam. Our percents currently married were not very different from the percentages found in the States; adults on Guam were more likely to be married, those in American Samoa and the Virgin Islands less likely to be married.

In 1980, we had higher fertility than the United States or any of the other territories. The average number of children ever born per woman 35 to 44 for the CNMI was 5.2 compared to 2.6 for the United States (CNMI having twice the number of children per woman), 3.5 for the Virgin Islands, 2.6 for Guam, and 4.9 for American Samoa. On the other hand the total fertility rate from the 1976 to 1980 period for American Samoa was slightly more than our own. Our younger women were having higher fertility than American Samoan women, but their older women were having higher fertility.

Although it seemed like we were experiencing a wave of immigrants in 1980, actually American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and Guam were all had larger proportions of persons born elsewhere (Table 15.4). In fact, almost half of the populations of Guam and the Virgin Islands were not born there. On the other hand, only 6 percent of the United States population was born elsewhere compared to 28 percent for the CNMI.

Table 15.4. Selected Social Characteristics: 1980

Characteristics	Northern Marianas	United States	Guam	American Samoa	Virgin Islands
Percent:					
Born outside this area.....	27.6	6.2	47.7	41.6	49.7
5 years and over:					
Different house in 1975.....	45.2	44.5	61.3	33.9	44.8
Speak other language at home..	95.0	11.0	64.3	96.1	18.8
25 years old and over:					
High school graduates.....	44.7	66.5	65.6	42.1	50.0
Completed 4+ yrs. college.....	11.3	16.2	17.5	7.6	14.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census publications, 1980

On the other hand, our recent movements were very similar to those in the United States. On the other hand a larger percentage of persons on Guam moved in the 5 years before the census (mostly because of the large proportion of military), but fewer in American Samoa.

Fully 95 percent of the CNMI population 5 years and over spoke a language other than English at home, compared to 96 percent of those in American Samoa, and 64 percent on Guam. Only 11 percent of the United States population and 19 percent of those in the Virgin Islands spoke a language other than English at home.

Slightly more of our males and less of our females were in the labor force in 1980 than the United States labor force population (Table 15.5). For males, only Guam's participation was higher, but for females, only American Samoa had a smaller female labor force participation rate. As noted in chapter 10, our unemployment was artificially low; the same circumstances existed in American Samoa in 1980, also creating an artificially low rate there as well.

Table 15.5. Economic Demographic Characteristics: 1980

Characteristics	Northern Marianas	United States	Guam	American Virgin Samoa	Islands
16 years and over:					
Males in labor force.....	77.1	75.1	82.2	55.6	75.4
Females in labor force.....	47.6	49.9	49.2	35.5	54.5
Unemployed,Civilian labor force.	2.4	6.5	4.9	2.4	6.2
Median hhld income in 1979 (\$)...	8955	16841	15752	9718	11090
Median family income in 1979 (\$)..	8809	19917	16203	9615	11914
Per capita income in 1979 (\$)....	2418	7298	4793	1866	4254
Persons below poverty (%).....	59.3	12.4	16.3	60.1	33.4
Families below poverty (%).....	53.2	9.6	13.8	58.3	28.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census publications, 1980

Our median household and family incomes were the lowest for any of the territories, although our per capita income for 1979 was somewhat more than that found in American Samoa. Also, except for American Samoa which was comparable, we had much larger proportions of our persons and families in poverty.

These summary population measures show that although we had attained Commonwealth status, we cannot say yet that we are in the American mainstream - in demographic, social, or economic terms. As we prepare for the 1990 Census, we will begin to develop a new measuring stick for our progress, to see how the decade of the 1980s has treated us.