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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE AMERICAN SAMOA HOUSEHOLD SAMPLE SURVEY

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INTRODUCTION

Although American Samoa has had a census program which has given it an important data set for gauging social, economic and demographic changes, a need has arisen for current and additional social, economic and demographic data for development planning. In response to this need the Economic Development Planning Office (DPO) conducted a household sample survey in April/May 1985. The survey also asked health and transportation questions requested by the Health Planning Agency and the Office of Manpower Resources. Both of these agencies provided financial support for the survey.

The survey contacted a 20 percent systematic sample of households on Tutuila. In each selected housing unit, all persons were interviewed giving a total of 6,434 individual responses. This means that the total population on Tutuila about April/May 1985 was close to 32,200. The reason for limiting the survey to the population of Tutuila is that this is where the majority of the population lives, and where the need for new economic development data is most apparent.

In order to draw the sample from a suitable reference frame, a comprehensive mapping program was undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Public Works. The mapping program entailed mapping of all housing units on Tutuila. From these maps, a listing of housing units was prepared from which each 5th house was selected in each village. These houses were then contacted by a crew of enumerators which was recruited and supervised by the DPO. The questionnaire employed in the survey is given in the Appendix.

In view of the present demand for the survey information, the report gives a selection of preliminary statistical tables and commentaries. These tables have been produced from a set of edited data. A more detailed analysis of the data has been requested from the South Pacific Commission. This report is now in progress. Supplementary tabulations from the survey data are available upon request from the DPO.

Several of the tables presented in the report contain a large number of not stated or not applicable cases. In order to draw correct conclusions from the tables these categories should not be overlooked. Because the primary objective of the report is to bring a selection of main tables to the users, it does not give a detailed analysis of each table.

To some extent the survey is of an exploratory nature. For instance, when planning the survey, it was not known how responsive people would be to answering a large number of questions concerning migration and income. The collected data suggest that the environment in American Samoa is suitable for survey taking, and that a broad spectrum of important statistics could be collected by means of probability sampling.

1. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Age and sex structure of the population

American Samoa has a young population structure in that close to half the population is below 20 years of age, and only about 3.5 percent are above age 65. In the future, when it is expected that fertility and mortality will decline, the population of American Samoa will see a relatively rapid increase over time in the proportion of people at retirement ages, and a similarly rapid decrease in the proportion of young people. In the long run, this demographic change will lead to different requirements and objectives for development planning in American Samoa.

Consequently, most of the demographic statistics brought out in the present report are not stationary in the sense that they will remain the same during the next decades. Continuous monitoring of demographic changes is therefore necessary in order to achieve rational and efficient social and economic planning in American Samoa.

Table 1.1 gives the enumerated population and the percentage distribution by age for Tutuila obtained from the present survey and from the 1980 population census.

Table 1.1 Enumerated population of Tutuila in the survey and in the 1980 population census

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BOTH SEXES

Age	Survey	Percent	Census	Percent
0-4	845	13.1	4,558	14.9
5-9	826	12.8	3,957	13.0
10-14	726	11.3	3,880	12.7
15-19	789 ⁷	12.3	3,652	12.0
20-24	713	11.1	2,980	9.8
25-29	537	8.3	2,329	7.6
30-34	444	6.9	2,005	6.6
35-39	332	5.2	1,559	5.1
40-44	288	4.5	1,431	4.7
45-49	272	4.2	1,107	3.6
50-54	174	2.7	980	3.2
55-59	160	2.5	702	2.3
60-64	114	1.8	562	1.8
65-69	89	1.4	365	1.2
70-74	58	0.9	219	0.7
75+	67	1.0	252	0.8
Total	6,434		30,538	

845
 826
 726
~~789~~
 789⁷
 6434
~~2397~~
 4027

It is clear (see Table 1.1) that there is some difference between the age distributions for the survey and the census. When considering the differences between the two age distributions, it should be borne in mind that the census was taken five years before the survey, and that there has been considerable migration during this period. Ongoing demographic changes may also account for the differences which, by and large, are marginal. On the whole, the distributions are sufficiently close to confirm that the survey has contacted a part of the population which may be seen as an adequate representation of the total population. Table 1.2 gives the survey population by age and sex, and Table 1.3 the marital status distribution for both sexes at age 15 and over.

Table 1.2 Survey population by age and sex

	Males	Percent	Females	Percent
0-4	427	13.1	418	14.9
5-9	454	12.8	372	13.0
10-14	392	11.3	334	12.7
15-19	412	12.3	377	12.0
20-24	323	11.1	390	9.8
25-29	246	8.3	291	7.8
30-34	207	6.9	237	6.6
35-39	163	5.2	169	5.1
40-44	149	4.5	139	4.7
45-49	159	4.2	113	3.6
50-54	84	2.7	90	3.2
55-59	79	2.5	81	2.6
60-64	50	1.8	64	1.8
65-69	50	1.4	39	1.2
70-74	33	0.9	25	0.7
75+	31	1.0	36	1.1
Total	3,259	100.00	3,175	100.00

Table 1.3 Marital status for the survey population aged 15 years and over.

	Number of persons	Percent
Married	2134	52.9
Never Married	1701	42.1
Consensually Married	8	0.2
Separated	28	0.7
Widowed	113	2.8
Divorced	53	1.3

It will be noted that consensual marriage is rather uncommon and that as a statistical category it plays a marginal role. Nonetheless, in future surveys as well as in the census in 1990, it is important to retain the category consensually married since non-marital cohabitational unions are likely to become increasingly frequent with modernization of society.

Table 1.4 Ethnicity of the survey population

	Number of persons	Estimated total for Tutuila	Percent
Samoan	5858	29,290	91.0
Caucasian	157	785	2.4
Tongan	108	540	1.7
Niuean	68	340	1.1
Filipino	54	270	0.8
Tokelauan	32	160	0.5
Korean	13	65	0.2
Other	124	620	1.9
Not stated	16	80	0.2
	6,434	32,170	

The totals in table 1.4 are obtained by multiplying the survey figures by 5. Throughout, the reader may make estimates of total populations by multiplying the relevant survey figures with this factor.

2. MIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS

Table 2.1 Mother's country of birth for the survey population

Country	Number of persons	Percent
United States	225	3.5
American Samoa	2,931	45.6
Western Samoa	2,954	45.9
Other	322	5.0
Not Stated	2	0.0
Total persons	6434	100.0

Table 2.2 Person's country of birth for the survey population

Country	Number of persons	Percent
United States	509	7.9
American Samoa	3,751	58.3
Western Samoa	1,908	29.7
Other	266	4.1
Total persons	6,434	100.0

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 show that American Samoa has received a large proportion of its population from Western Samoa. For example, for a person living in American Samoa, it is as likely that his/her mother is born here as in Western Samoa. About 30 percent of the American Samoa population are born in Western Samoa (see Table 2.2).

Table 2.3 Year of arrival for the survey population not born in American Samoa

Year	Number of persons	Percent
1900-1929	21	0.8
1930-1959	235	8.8
1960-1979	394	14.7
1970-1979	872	32.5
1980-1985	1,162	43.3
Not applicable and not stated	3,750	-

Table 2.3 supplements tables 2.1 and 2.2 in that it reflects when those who were not born in American Samoa came to stay in American Samoa. Although the question is somewhat ambiguous, it will be seen that the vast majority of persons who have migrated to American Samoa have done so during the past 15 years, i.e. between 1970 and 1985.

Table 2.4 Year of most recent arrival of the survey population

Year	Number of persons	Percent
1900-1929	23	0.7
1930-1959	94	3.1
1960-1969	182	5.9
1970-1979	587	19.1
1980-1985	2,184	71.1
Not applicable and not stated	3,364	-

Table 2.4 gives responses to the question when the person most recently arrived in American Samoa. Persons who never left American Samoa are included in the category not applicable. Tables 2.5 and 2.6 reflect the responses to the questions where the interviewed persons stayed 1 and 5 years ago.

respondents

Table 2.5 Person's country of residence one year ago

Country	Number of persons	Percent
United States	264	4.2
American Samoa	5,645	90.9
Western Samoa	253	4.1
Other	51	0.8
Not applicable and not stated	221	-

Table 2.6 Person's country of residence five years ago

Country	Number of persons	Percent
United States	417	7.5
American Samoa	4,461	80.7
Western Samoa	507	9.2
Other	143	2.6
Not applicable and not stated	906	-

Table 2.7 Purpose of most recent arrival of the survey population

Purpose	Number of persons	Percent
BOTH SEXES		
Returning from business trip	145	4.6
Returning from visit family/friends	975	31.0
To look for a job	157	5.0
To take up a job	167	5.3
To visit family/friends here	379	12.1
To have a baby here	3	0.1
To get medical treatment	40	1.3
Accompanied parents	599	19.1
Education	129	4.1
Other	540	17.2
Not applicable and not stated	3,300	-
Total	6,43	100.0

Table 2.8 Purpose of most recent arrival of the survey population aged 15 years and over

Purpose	Number of persons	Percent
BOTH SEXES		
Returning from business trip	138	5.7
Returning from visit family/friends	856	35.3
To look for a job	156	6.4
To take up a job	155	6.4
To visit family/friends here	331	13.7
To have a baby here	3	0.1
To get medical treatment	36	1.5
Accompanied parents	188	7.8
Education	93	3.8
Other	466	19.2
Not applicable and not stated	1,615	
Total	4,037	100.0

Table 2.9 Purpose of most recent arrival of the male survey population aged 15 years and over

Purpose	Number of persons	Percent
MALES		
Returning from business trip	88	7.3
Returning from visit family/friends	388	32.1
To look for a job	100	8.3
To take up a job	78	6.4
To visit family/friends here	167	13.8
To have a baby here	1	0.1
To get medical treatment	14	1.2
Accompanied parents	90	7.4
Education	51	4.2
Other	233	19.3
Not applicable and not stated	1,615	
Total	1,986	100.0

Table 2.10 Purpose of most recent arrival of the female survey population aged 15 years and over

Purpose	Number of persons	Percent
FEMALES		
Returning from business trip	50	4.1
Returning from visit family/friends	468	38.6
To look for a job	56	4.6
To take up a job	77	6.4
To visit family/friends here	164	13.5
To have a baby here	2	0.2
To get medical treatment	22	1.8
Accompanied parents	98	8.1
Education	42	3.5
Other	233	19.2
Not applicable and not stated	839	
Total	2,051	100.0

3. EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Table 3.1 Survey population by educational attainment

	Number of persons	Percent
Kindergarten	344	5.3
Grade 1	165	2.6
Grade 2	182	2.8
Grade 3	170	2.6
Grade 4	190	3.0
Grade 5	179	2.8
Grade 6	246	3.8
Grade 7	211	3.3
Grade 8	343	5.3
Grade 9	488	7.6
Grade 10	306	4.8
Grade 11	320	5.0
Grade 12	1,737	27.0
Above grade 12	643	10.0
Never in school	442	7.3
Not applicable and not stated	442	6.9
	6,434	100.0

Table 3.2 Survey population aged 15 years and over by sex and educational attainment

	Number of males	Percent	Number of females	Percent
Grade 2	-	-	7	0.3
Grade 4	19	1.0	30	1.5
Grade 5	19	1.0	25	1.2
Grade 6	38	1.9	64	3.1
Grade 7	29	1.5	45	2.2
Grade 8	101	5.1	96	4.7
Grade 9	210	10.6	215	10.5
Grade 10	150	7.6	135	6.6
Grade 11	164	8.3	155	7.6
Grade 12	814	41.0	920	44.9
Above grade 12	363	18.3	279	13.6
Never in school	16	0.6	15	0.7
Not stated	63	3.2	65	3.2
Total	1,986	100.0	2,051	100.0

Table 3.2 confirms the general tendency for women to leave the education system earlier than men. Notice, for instance, that while 18.3 percent of the men have gone beyond grade 12 the similar percentage for women is 13.6.

Table 3.3 School attendance for the survey population aged below 20 years of age

Age	Males			Females		
	In school	Not in school	Total	In school	Not in school	Total
0-4	73	269	342	76	256	332
5-9	407	37	444	343	24	367
10-14	377	9	386	319	12	331
15-19	303	105	408	262	114	376

Age	Males			Females		
	In school	Not in school	Total	In school	Not in school	Total
0-4	21.3	78.7	100	22.9	77.1	100
5-9	91.7	8.3	100	93.5	6.5	100
10-14	97.7	2.3	100	96.4	3.6	100
15-19	74.3	25.7	100	69.7	30.3	100