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# America by the numbers: Homes, jobs, cats, dogs ...

By Genaro C. Armas  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Here's the truth about cats and dogs: Canines rule in American households, though just barely.

About 36 percent of homes have dogs, while 32 percent have cats. Feline fanatics can take heart with this statistic: your pet sees the vet less often.

Those are just two examples from hundreds of pages of facts and figures about America found in the new Statistical Abstract of the United States, being released Tuesday by the Census Bureau.

The nearly 1,000 pages in the 122nd edition are light on words but heavy on numbers detailing life for Americans.

"We got all kinds of tidbits in here," said Glenn King, director of the staff that assembles the abstract. "It's America in numbers."

Here are some of them: —The average cell phone call in 2001 lasted just under three minutes, and the average monthly bill ran \$47.37.

—In 2000, 44 percent of adults did volunteer work, contributing an average of 15 hours per month.

—U.S. residents spent over \$38 billion on lottery tickets in 2001, with about \$2 of every \$5 going toward instant scratch-off games.

—Cat owners are slightly more likely to have more than one pet roaming the home. Dogs, meanwhile, are more likely to visit the animal doctor

—85 percent of dog households took the pet to the vet in 2001, compared with 67

percent of cat homes.

—Nearly one in 20 pet-owning homes had a bird, and one in 50 owned a horse. Households that made at least \$55,000 a year were more likely to have a dog, cat or horse, while homes that made less than \$20,000 were more likely to have a bird.

—The larger the family, the more likely it was to own a pet, no matter what the animal.

The government puts together

the fat fact book each year, compiling statistics collected by the Census Bureau as well as from private sources. For instance, the American Veterinary Medical Association supplied the data on pets.

It's not all fun and games, of course. This year's compendium includes a summary of recently released data from the 2000 census, covering income, education and poverty.

One section covers solely crime and law enforcement statistics. Another covers politics and voting data. Page 238 shows that Republican George Bush received about 1,000 more votes for president than Democrat Al Gore in Florida in the 2000 election, according to statistics rounded off to the nearest thousand. (The final, certified tally showed Bush won by 537 votes.)

New information is added, too, to keep up with America's changing preferences. For instance, statistics on snowboarding were first added two years ago (more than 4.3 million people like to "get air" down the slopes).

Tables added this year include one on alternative work schedules — about 29 percent of full-time workers 16 and older who were not self-employed in 2001 said they had flexible work hours; and home schooling — 2 percent of kids age 5 to 17 with an educational level equivalent to between kindergarten and 12th grade were taught at home in 1999.

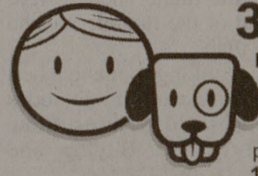
Outdated tables are expunged, with this year's deletions including "Commercial Buildings-Energy Consumption and Expenditures: 1995" and "Civil Flying-Summary: 1970 to 1997."

The statistical abstract is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office (\$51 for a hard-bound version, \$41 for paperback) by calling 202-512-1800.

It is also available from the National Technical Information Service (\$47 for hardcover, \$39 for paperback) by calling 800-553-6847.

## Census gets down to the details

The 122nd annual edition of the Statistical Abstract of the United States, released Tuesday by the Census Bureau contains nearly 1,000 pages of statistics collected by the Census Bureau as well as from private sources.

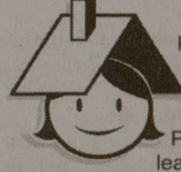


**36 percent** of U.S. households that owned a pet had a dog, compared to **32 percent** having cats. **85 percent** of dog households brought the pet to the veterinarian in 2001, compared with **67 percent** of homes with cats. **1 in 20** pet-owning homes had a bird, and **1 in 50** owned a horse.

**30 percent** of residential and commercial waste generated in municipal collections was recovered in 2000, compared to **16 percent** in 1990.



**57 percent** of workers age 25 and older used a computer on the job in 2001.



Households in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Calif., area spent the most for food (**\$7,442**) and housing (**\$19,682**) among selected metropolitan areas in 1999-2000. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla., consumers spent the least on food (**\$4,589**) and Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley, Pa., spent the least on housing (**\$10,451**).

**44 percent** of adults did volunteer work, contributing an average of **15 hours per month** in 2000.



The average cell phone call in 2001 lasted **2.74 minutes**, and the average monthly bill ran **\$47.37**.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

AP

# Investigator: Clara Harris ran over husband at least twice

By Pam Easton  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON (AP) — Clara Harris ran over her cheating husband at least two times, not just once as the defense claims, a Houston police accident investigator testified Monday.

Officer Rolando Saenz, the prosecution's first rebuttal witness after Clara Harris' attorneys rested midday Monday, said earlier testimony by defense collision reconstructionist Steve Irwin was flawed.

Irwin testified the turning radius of Clara Harris' Mercedes-Benz would have made it impossible for her to circle back and hit 44-year-old David Harris repeatedly in a suburban Houston hotel parking lot on July 24. Saenz, who has investigated more than 10,000 collisions over nearly two decades, disagreed.

"As you make a left hand turn, sometimes you will swing out right and it will change the turning radius," Saenz said, explaining how it would have been possible for the car to hit David Harris repeatedly.

Wheels on the left side of a car have a smaller turning radius than the center of the car, which vehicle manufacturers typically use in measurements for data, he said.

Separate and distinct blood stains on the underside of the car showed Harris' orthodontist husband was run over at least two times and possibly more, Saenz testified.

The distinction is important because Clara Harris says her husband's death was an accident. Prosecutors say Clara Harris intentionally hit her husband, and to prove their case have produced evidence showing he was hit multiple times.

Saenz also said evidence shows Clara Harris took a wider arc around David Harris' lover's Lincoln Navigator than Irwin surmised, which Saenz said meant she probably had a clear look at her husband standing near the open driver's door of his girlfriend's vehicle.

During cross-examination, defense attorney George Parnham said the Houston police officer wasn't involved in the investigation last summer, hadn't interviewed witnesses on his own and implied his only role was to rebut Irwin's testimony.

"I was called in to assist the (district attorney's) office," said Saenz, who later said he only viewed the undercarriage of the Mercedes in photographs.

Linda Haley, a fingerprint expert from the Harris County Sheriff's Department, testified fingerprints found on the hood of the Mercedes belonged to David Harris. Under cross-examination, however, Haley said she could not tell jurors how the prints got there.

The defense rested Monday after calling David Harris' mother, father and brother, who all said they believe the accused murderer is a truthful, law-abiding person.

"I love her very much," Mildred Harris said of her daughter-in-law. "She's really

more like a daughter."

Mildred Harris smiled at Clara Harris as she testified, telling jurors the woman her son married a decade earlier on Valentine's Day grew concerned about him after learning he was having an affair. Mildred Harris described her son's union with Clara Harris as "a marriage made in heaven."

"Sometimes, I thought she loved him too much," Mildred Harris said. "We were like friends. We could talk to each other because we both loved David."

During cross-examination, prosecutor Mia Magness implied that once David Harris died, Clara Harris could have kept the couple's twin boys from their grandparents if not for their support.

Mildred Harris quickly took offense at the assertion.

"I don't know what you are trying to get me to say, but there is no problem with me getting to see those children," she shot back at the prosecutor.

Meanwhile, David Harris' father, Gerald Harris, testified Clara Harris and his granddaughter Lindsey Harris, who was in the Mercedes when her father was struck and killed, had a very close relationship.

He also said the family did not approve of David Harris' affair with Gail Bridges, his former receptionist.

"We did not think it was proper," Gerald Harris told jurors. He went on to describe his daughter-in-law as a loving wife and good mother who was hardworking.



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