

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: **Idoma**
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): **idu**
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): **80 miles east of confluence of Benue and Niger rivers**
- 1.4 Brief history: **have a very strong oral tradition, history precedes 1950's**
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: **Ibibio, Igbo, Mama**
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): **always close to rivers**
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: **population – 3.5 million**

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): **rice, millet**
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: **fish, yams, chicken**
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: **spears for fishing**
- 2.4 Food storage:
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: **men – fishermen, woman – harvest crops**
- 2.6 Land tenure:
- 2.7 Ceramics:
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos:
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f):
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): **female - 15**
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): **4-8**
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): **female - 13**
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: **not very polygynous**
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns:
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: **ancestors very highly revered, parents seen as elders**
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized? **Usually paternity lays with just one man**
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”) **seen as elder parent but lesser than father**
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape? **Not a lot, very rare**
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females? **1:1 typically**
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? **Respect for elders, part of their religion**
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations? **Right of chief of tribe is paternal**
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) **Within community preferred, but outside is usually accepted**
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? **Parents can arrange marriages**
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: **little to none**
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: **little to none**
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: **little to none**
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): **some, maybe 25-30%**
- 4.18 Cannibalism? **no**

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: **100-2000**
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): **little to none**
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): **chiefs, appointed through bloodline**
- 5.4 Post marital residence: **females move in with males**
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): **males hunt, woman prepare food**
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:
- 5.8 Village and house organization:
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? **Typically ground**
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: **lineages important, ancestors tell who you are**
- 5.12 Trade:
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? **Chief, but not a lot other than that**

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR: **any**
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): **worship ancestors**
- 6.2 Stimulants:
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):
- 6.4 Other rituals:
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): **legend of Iduh the father**
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- 6.8 Missionary effect:
- 6.9 RCR revival:
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) **ancestor worship, other assorted legends**

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint:
- 7.2 Piercings:
- 7.3 Haircut:
- 7.4 Scarification:
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment:
- 7.8 Missionary effect:
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system:
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate:
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. Arts of the Benue River Valley
2. Uiowa.edu
3. Ethnologue.com