

## Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

**Population coverage.** The figures in this report for March 1982 to March 1985 are sample survey data and relate to the noninstitutional population of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included; all other members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The March 1985 survey included 925,000 members of the Armed Forces, in March 1984 there were 879,000 members, in March 1983, 881,000 members, and in March 1982, 871,000 members.

Population figures shown for States and SMSA's are based on weighted results of the Current Population Survey and have not been adjusted to independent Census Bureau estimates.

The estimation procedure used for this survey involves the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are based on civilian noninstitutional population counts from the decennial censuses and are updated with statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. Data published in this series for 1972 through 1979 were based on independent population estimates derived by updating the 1970 decennial census counts. Starting with the data collected in March 1980 Current Population Survey (CPS), independent estimates were based on civilian noninstitutional population controls for age, race, and sex established by the 1980 decennial census.

The April 1980 census population count differed somewhat from the independent estimates for April 1980 derived by updating 1970 census population figures. The April 1980 census count of the civilian noninstitutional population was 222,420,441, compared with the 1970 census based figure of 217,400,244 used for the CPS. Basically, this difference had little impact on summary or proportional measures, such as medians and percent distributions; however, use of the new controls could have significant effect on the absolute numbers.

**Age.** The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

**Race.** The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: White, Black, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any

other race except White and Black. In this report, "other races" is not shown separately.

**Spanish origin.** Information on origin or descent was obtained by asking "What is (this person's) origin or descent?" Responses generally refer to a person's perceived national or ethnic lineage and do not necessarily indicate the country of birth of himself or his parents.

Persons of Spanish origin are persons who reported themselves as Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**Years of school completed.** Data on years of school completed in this report were derived from the combination of answers to two questions: (a) "What is the highest grade of school he has ever attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?"

The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools. Such schools include graded public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day schools or night schools. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling in other than regular schools was counted only if the credits obtained were regarded as transferable to a school in the regular school system.

The median years of school completed is defined as the value which divides the population into two equal parts, one-half having completed more schooling and one-half having completed less schooling than the median. This median was computed after the statistics on years of school completed had been converted to a continuous series of numbers (e.g., completion of the first year of high school was treated as completion of the 9th year and the completion of the first year of college as completion of the 13th year). The persons completing a given school year were assumed to be distributed evenly within the interval from .0 to .9 of the year (for example, persons completing the 12th year were assumed to be distributed evenly between 12.0 and 12.9). In fact, at the time of the March survey, most of the enrolled persons had completed about three-fourths of a school year beyond the highest grade

completed, whereas a large majority of persons who were not enrolled had not attended any part of a grade beyond the highest one completed. The effect of the assumption is to place the median for younger persons slightly below, and for older person's slightly above, the true median. Because of the inexact assumption as to the distribution within an interval, this median is more appropriately used for comparing groups and the same group at different dates than as an absolute measure of educational attainment.

**Marital status.** The marital status classification identifies four major categories: single (never married), married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration.

The category "married" is further divided into "married, spouse present," "separated," and "other married, spouse absent." Only the first is shown separately in this report. A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or on vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Persons reported as separated included those with legal separations and other persons permanently or temporarily separated because of marital discord. The remainder includes married persons living apart because either the husband or wife was employed and living at a considerable distance from home, was serving away from home in the Armed Forces, had moved to another area, or had a different place of residence for any other reason except separation as defined above.

**Household.** A household consists of all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room, is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit as partners, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters.

**Householder.** The householder refers to the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees. If the house is owned or rented jointly by a married couple, the householder may be

either the husband or the wife. The person designated as the householder is the "reference person" to whom the relationship of all other household members, if any, is recorded.

Prior to 1980, the husband was always considered the householder in married-couple households. The number of householders is equal to the number of households. Also, the number of family householders is equal to the number of families.

**Head versus householder.** Beginning with the 1980 CPS, the Bureau of the Census discontinued the use of the terms "head of household" and "head of family." Instead, the terms "householder" and "family householder" are used. Recent social changes have resulted in greater sharing of household responsibilities among the adult members and, therefore, have made the term "head" increasingly inappropriate in the analysis of household and family data. Specifically, the Census Bureau has discontinued its longtime practice of always classifying the husband as the reference person (head) when he and his wife are living together.

In this report, the term "householder" is used in the presentation of data that had previously been presented with the designation "head."

**Family.** A family is a group of two persons or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family.

**Family household.** A family household is a household maintained by a family (as defined above). The family householder is the designated householder of such a household. Prior to 1980 this person was referred to as the "family head."

**Employed.** Employed persons comprise those civilians who, during the survey week, were either (1) "at work"—those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business; or (2) "with a job but not at work"—those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, labor-management dispute, bad weather, or because they were taking the week off for various other reasons.

**Occupation.** Data on occupation are shown for the employed and relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two jobs or more were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The major groups used here are generally the major groups used in the 1980 Census of Population, Vol. 1, *Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary*.

**Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence.** Data for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas are available for March 1983 in tables 14 and 17. The Current Population Survey was undergoing a major redesign from April 1984 to June 1985, which affected the estimates of geographic components and, therefore, data for March 1985 have been omitted from this report. The major purpose of the redesign was to make use of data from the 1980 census in order to update the sampling frame, to improve the efficiency and quality of the survey, and to meet the increased need for State data. Technical aspects of the redesign are discussed in appendix B.

SMSA's are defined by the Office of Management and Budget for use in the presentation of statistics by agencies of the Federal Government. Although a change in the criteria for identifying metropolitan areas was implemented in 1983 and the name was changed to Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the change was not implemented in the CPS until after the phase-in of the sample redesign was complete in July 1985. Therefore the metropolitan definition in this report uses the pre-1983 criteria.

The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. Except in New England, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county or counties containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central county. In New England, SMSA's consist of towns and cities rather than counties. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1970 census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes.

The population inside SMSA's is further classified as "in central cities" and "outside central cities." With a few exceptions, central cities are determined according to the following criteria:

- a. The largest city in an SMSA is always a central city.
- b. One or two additional cities may be secondary central cities on the basis and in the order of the following criteria:
  1. The additional city or cities has at least 250,000 inhabitants.
  2. The additional city or cities has a population of one-third or more of that of the largest city and a minimum population 25,000.

**Farm-nonfarm residence.** The farm population refers to rural residents living on farms. The definition of a farm was changed in the mid-1970's, and the new definition was introduced into this data series beginning with the report for March 1980 and 1981.

According to the current definition, the farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold during the preceding 12 months. Rural persons in institutions, motels, and tourist camps are not classified as farm population.

The nonfarm population comprises persons living in urban areas and all rural persons not on farms.

**Geographic regions.** The four major regions of the United States, for which data are presented in this report, represent groups of States, as follows:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.