

Appendix B. Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. The figures shown are for the civilian noninstitutional population.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. 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 city. 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.

Comparability of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan data from the 1979 CPS with data for previous years. Changes in CPS design and procedures over the last several years have made the annual series of sample population data for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas inconsistent. Analytic comparisons of year-to-year changes in these figures should be avoided. Trends in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan population growth over the 1970-79 and 1976-79 periods should not be appreciably affected by the procedural changes.

The major revisions to the CPS sample design and estimation methods have involved the expansion of the number of sample units from 55,000 housing units to 65,500 housing units. This incorporation of approximately 10,000 supplemental housing units into the March CPS sample in 1977 was accompanied by new procedures for inflating the sample results to reflect national estimates. It was determined subsequent to the introduction of the additional sample that the new inflating (weighting) procedures used for processing both the March 1977 and March 1978 CPS supplement data had resulted in an apparent overestimate of the nonmetropolitan population and corresponding underestimate of the metropolitan population for those years. For March 1979, another revision of the weighting process was introduced to correct the problem discovered in the earlier procedures. The result of this change was a spurious large increase in the metropolitan population and decrease in the nonmetropolitan population relative to March 1978 levels.

The March 1979 CPS metropolitan-nonmetropolitan population estimates also reflect other operational changes including the introduction of a coverage improvement

sample designed to provide greater accuracy in survey estimation. The net effect of all changes in procedure was to increase the metropolitan area estimates. Research and detailed analysis of the impact of each procedural change on the population estimates is underway and the results will be issued in a forthcoming technical report.

Central cities. Each SMSA must include at least one central city, and the complete title of an SMSA identifies the central city or cities. If only one central city is designated, then it must have 50,000 inhabitants or more. The area title may include, in addition to the largest city, up to two city names on the basis and in the order of the following criteria: (1) The additional city has at least 250,000 inhabitants or (2) the additional city has a population of one-third or more of that of the largest city and a minimum population of 25,000. An exception occurs where two cities have contiguous boundaries and constitute, for economic and social purposes, a single community of at least 50,000, the smaller of which must have a population of at least 15,000.

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.

North Central: 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.

School enrollment. The school enrollment statistics from the current survey are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person was enrolled in school. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include nursery schools, kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time

basis and during the day or night. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Children enrolled in nursery schools and kindergarten are included in the enrollment figures for "regular" schools, and are also shown separately.

"Special" schools are those which are not in the regular school system, such as trade schools or business colleges. Persons attending "special" schools are not included in the enrollment figures.

Persons enrolled in classes which do not require physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, and in training courses given directly on the job, are also excluded from the count of those enrolled in school, unless such courses are being counted for credit at a "regular" school.

College enrollment. The college enrollment statistics are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person was attending or enrolled in college. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year, except those who have left for the remainder of the term. Thus, regular college enrollment includes those persons attending a 4-year or 2-year college, university or professional school (such as medical or law school), in courses that may advance the student toward a recognized college or university degree (e.g. BA or MA). Attendance may be either full time or part time, during the day or night.

Two-year and four-year college. Students enrolled in the first 3 years of college were asked to report whether the college in which they were enrolled was a 2-year college (junior or community college) or a 4-year college or university. Students in the fourth academic year of college or higher were assumed to be in a 4-year college or university.

School enrollment in year preceding current survey. An inquiry on enrollment in regular school or college in October of the preceding year was asked in the survey concerning persons 14 to 24 years old who were not currently attending regular school or who were enrolled in college.

Level of school. The statistics on level of school indicate the number of persons enrolled at each of five levels: Nursery, kindergarten, elementary school (first to eighth grades), high school (ninth to twelfth grades), and college or professional school. The last group includes graduate students in colleges or universities. Persons enrolled in junior high school through the eighth grade are classified as in elementary school and the others as in high school.

Nursery school. A nursery school is defined as a group or class that is organized to provide educational experiences for children during the year or years preceding kindergarten. It includes instruction as an important and integral phase of its program of child care. Private homes in which essentially custodial care is provided are not considered nursery schools.

Children attending nursery school are classified as attending during either part of the day or the full day. Part-day attendance refers to those who attend either in the morning or in the afternoon, but not both. Full-day attendance refers to those who attend both in the morning and afternoon.

"Head Start." Children enrolled in "Head Start" programs or similar programs sponsored by local agencies to provide preschool education to young children are counted under "Nursery" or "Kindergarten" as appropriate.

Public or private school. In this report, a public school is defined as any educational institution operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and supported by public funds. Private schools include educational institutions established and operated by religious bodies, as well as those which are under other private control. In cases where enrollment was in a school or college which was both publicly and privately controlled or supported, enrollment was counted according to whether it was primarily public or private.

Full-time and part-time attendance. College students were classified, in this report, according to whether they were attending school on a full-time or part-time basis. A student was regarded as attending college full time if he was taking 12 or more hours of classes during the average school week, and part time if he was taking less than 12 hours of classes during the average school week.

Modal grade. Enrolled persons are classified according to their relative progress in school, that is, according to whether the grade or year in which they were enrolled was below, at, or above the modal (or typical) grade for persons of their age at the time of the survey. The modal grade, then, is the year of school in which the largest proportion of students of a given age is enrolled.

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.

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. The category Spanish origin includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Marital status. The marital status category shown in this report, "married, spouse present," includes persons who are currently married and living with their spouse.

The category "other marital status" includes persons who are single (never married), separated, divorced, or widowed.

Family. The term "family," as used here, refers to a group of two persons or more related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of one family.

Primary family. A primary family is a family that includes among its members the person or couple who maintains the household.

Family head. In the Current Population Survey, the term "head of family" is used to refer to persons maintaining the household. This practice will be discontinued in surveys conducted after the 1980 Census of Population. However, in surveys taken prior to the 1980 Census of Population, women were not classified as the "head of family" if their husbands were present.

Head versus householder. In the 1980 census, 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" were used. Recent social changes resulted in greater sharing of household responsibilities among the adult members and, therefore, made the term "head" inappropriate in the analysis of household and family data. Specifically, the Bureau reconsidered its longtime practice of always classifying the husband as the head when he and his wife are living together.

In the 1980 census, the householder was the first adult household member listed on the census questionnaire. The instructions called for listing first the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the home is owned or rented. If a home is owned jointly by a married couple, either the husband or the wife was listed first, thereby becoming the reference person, or householder, to whom the relationship of other household members was recorded. Thus, the Bureau is publishing the responses on relationships as given in the 1980 census, except in selected tables where the husband is always shown as the householder in order to maintain comparability with previous census classifications.

Dependent family members. In this survey, a dependent family member is a relative of the person maintaining the family other than the spouse. Such persons are generally sons and daughters within the family. Family members who are living away from home while attending college are also counted as dependent family members.

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, 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.

Family income. In this report, family income is derived from a single question asked of the household respondent when a household first enters the sample and is updated on the anniversary of entry. Income includes money income from jobs; net income from business, farm, or rent; pensions; dividends; interest; social security payments; and any other money income. The income of nonrelatives living in the household is excluded, but the income of all family members 14 and over, including those temporarily living away, is included. It should be noted that while characteristics of the person, such as age and marital status, and the composition of families refer to the date of the interview, family income statistics refer to receipts over a 12-month period starting 12 to 16 months prior to the interview.

The income tables include in the lowest income group those who were classified as having no income in the 12-month reference period and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income.

The detailed income tables in this report include a separate category for families for which no income information was obtained. In most other Current Population Reports showing income data, the missing income data have been allocated.

The money income level of families shown in this report may be somewhat understated. Income data from the October control card are based on the respondent's estimate of total family money income in broad, fixed income intervals. Income data collected in the March supplement to the Current Population Survey are based on responses to 11 direct questions asked about each person 14 and over and identifying 23 different sources of income in the preceding calendar year. (See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 333, *School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1977*, table B-1.)

Previous research has shown that the use of broad income intervals to record money income tends to reduce the rate of nonreporting, while increasing the likelihood that the amounts reported will be significantly understated as compared with results from more detailed questions.

Symbols. A dash (—) represents zero or rounds to zero and the symbol "B" means that the base of the derived figure is less than 75,000. An "X" means not applicable and "NA" means not available.

Rounding of estimates. Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals which are independently rounded. With few exceptions, percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.