Appendix B. Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. The figures in this report for October 1992 are sample survey data and related to the civilian noninstitutional population of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. 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, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. 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 for 1972 through 1980 were based on independent population estimates derived by updating the 1970 decennial census counts. Starting with the data collected in the October 1981 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 had significant effect on the absolute numbers.

School enrollment. The school enrollment statistics from the current survey are based on replies to the interviewer's inquiry whether the person was enrolled in regular school. Interviewers 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 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. Regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary or high school diploma, 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.

Enrollment in schools which are not in the regular school system, such as trade schools, business colleges, and schools for the mentally handicapped, which do not advance students to regular school degrees, is not included.

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.

Level of school. The statistics on level of school indicate the number of persons enrolled at each of five levels—nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school (1st to 8th grades), high school (9th to 12th grades), and college or professional school. The last group includes graduate students in colleges or universities. Persons enrolled in elementary, middle school, intermediate school or junior high school through the eighth grade are classified as in elementary school. All persons enrolled in 9th through 12th grade are classified 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 in both the morning and the 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 school 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 estab lished 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.

Modal grade. Enrolled persons are classified according to their relative progress in school: that is, 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 is the year of school in which the largest proportion of students of a given age is enrolled.

Annual High School Dropout Rate. The annual high school dropout rate is an estimate of the proportion of students who drop out of school in a single year. Table A-3 presents estimates of the annual dropout rate for various groups since 1967. This section briefly explains

Basic School Enrollment Supplement

(Questions included in the October CPS since 1967)

30-CK. CHECK ITEM
School enrollment status *(Transcribe from 26a)*
Yes ○ } *(VERIFY 30)*
No ○
Blank ○ *(ASK 30)*

30. Is . . . attending or enrolled in regular school?
Yes ○ *(ASK 31)*
No ○ *(SKIP to 36)*

31. Is . . . enrolled in public or private school?
Public ○
Private ○

32. What grade or year is . . . attending?

Elementary							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

High School			
9	10	11	12
○	○	○	○

} *(GO to 37)*

College					
21	22	23	24	25	26
○	○	○	○	○	○

(If entry in 26b SKIP TO item 34, OTHERWISE, ask item 33)

33. Is . . . attending college full-time or part-time?
Full time ○
Part time ○

34. Is this a two-year college or a four-year college or university? *
2-year college (community or junior college) ○
4-year college or university. . . . . ○

37. Was . . . attending or enrolled in a regular school or college in October 1989, that is, October of last year?
Yes ○ *(ASK 38)*
No ○ *(SKIP to 39)*

39. CHECK ITEM
Entry of "1–12" in item 32 . . ○ *(GO to 45)*
All others . . . . . ○ *(Fill 40)*

40. CHECK ITEM
Age 15–24 ○ *(FILL 41)*
Age 25+ ○ *(GO to 45)*

41. CHECK ITEM
High School Graduate (entries of "12" and "yes" in CC items 23a and 23b OR entry of "21–26" in CC item 23a). . . . ○ *(SKIP to 43)*
Not High School graduate . . . . ○ *(ASK 42)*

42. In what calendar year did . . . last attend regular school?
1990. . . . . ○
1989 or before ○ } *(Skip to 44)*
Never attended ○

43. In what calendar year did . . . complete high school?
1990. . . . . ○
1989 or before ○

* Added in 1972.

how the annual dropout rate is calculated; for further explanation and details of its derivation see CPR Series P-20, No. 413, School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1983.

Annual dropout rates for a single grade(x) are estimated as the ratio of the number of persons who were enrolled in grade(x) in the year preceding the survey, did not complete grade(x) and are not currently enrolled, to the number enrolled in grade(x) at the start of the year preceding this survey. Persons reported as enrolled last year but not currently enrolled are presented in table 8 by the highest grade completed and are presumed to have dropped out of the succeeding grade (except those who graduated this year). Thus, individuals counted as 10th grade dropouts are those not enrolled in school whose highest grade completed is the 9th grade. (They include not only those persons who were enrolled in the 10th grade in the fall of the year preceding the survey and left school without completing the year, but also those persons who finished the 9th grade in the spring preceding the survey and were not enrolled at the survey date.) These estimates form the numerator of estimates of the annual grade specific dropout rate.

Persons currently enrolled in high school are presumed to have successfully completed and been enrolled in the preceding grade in the preceding year. Thus, those who have successfully completed the 10th grade are enrolled in the 11th grade. Along with the persons who dropped out of that grade, they comprise the denominator of the estimate of the annual grade-specific dropout rate.

$$\text{Dropout from grade n} = \frac{\text{Not enrolled and highest grade completed} = \text{n-1}}{\text{Enrolled in grade n+1} + \text{Not enrolled and highest grade completed} = \text{n-1}}$$

Since persons who complete the 12th grade cannot be presumed to enroll in college, the estimate of the number of persons enrolled in the 12th grade one year prior to the survey is constructed as the sum of the number of persons reported as having graduated from high school "this year" in table 8 (both those enrolled in the first year of college and persons not currently enrolled whose highest grade completed is the 12th grade) and those persons not currently enrolled who were enrolled last year and whose highest grade completed is the 11th grade (dropouts).

The annual dropout rate for all grades during one year can be obtained by summing the components of the rates for the individual grades. In other words, those persons who were enrolled in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade last year and who are not currently enrolled and do not have a diploma. The following chart shows the components of the annual dropout rate calculation for each grade.

Dropped out of grade	Numerator	Denominator	
	Not currently enrolled and highest grade =	Current grade in which enrolled =	Not currently enrolled and highest grade =
10	9	11	9
11	10	12	10
12	11	College 1 + (not enrolled, completed 12 and graduated this year)	11

In addition to the annual rate, two other estimates of dropouts are frequently used. The annual dropout rate is different from a "pool" (or status) measure such as the proportion of an age group who are high school dropouts (not enrolled in school, not high school graduates, shown in table 1), which does not depend on when the individuals dropped out.

A third measure of dropouts is the cohort measure, most commonly from a longitudinal study, in which one calculates the proportion of a specific group of people enrolled in a specific year, who had not received diplomas (and who were no longer in school) some years later. For example, the proportion of a cohort enrolled in ninth grade in year X, who were not enrolled and had not received a diploma by year X+4.

College enrollment. The college enrollment statistics are based on replies to the interviewer's inquiry as to whether the person was attending or enrolled in college. Interviewers 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. The college student need not be working toward a degree, but he/she must be enrolled in a class for which credit would be applied toward a degree. (see "school enrollment")

Two-year and four-year colleges. College students 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 enrolled in the first 4 years were classified by the type of college they reported. Type of college is shown in tables for undergraduates only. Graduate students are shown as a separate group.

Revisions in processing and tabulations have resulted in data not strictly comparable to that published for earlier years. In tabulations for years prior to 1987, students in the fourth academic year of college were

assumed to be in a 4-year college or university regardless of the type of college they reported (74,000 fourth-year students were reported enrolled in 2-year colleges in 1986 on the questionnaire but included in 4-year colleges in the tabulations). Also before 1987, type of college was not allocated for students who did not report (about 250,000 students in the first to third year in 1986). Revised edit and allocation procedures for 1987 and 1988 increased the estimated number of college students, which also increased the numbers of persons reported in 2-year and 4-year colleges. The following table shows data for 1986 using both the revised and old processing and tabulation systems. The differences are due to procedural changes rather than real change:

Undergraduates (X 1000)	Revised	Old	Difference
14 to 34 years old	9,098	8,972	126
2-year college	3,087	2,831	256
4-year college	6,011	5,892	119
Type not reported	000	249	-249

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/she was taking 12 or more hours of classes during the average school week, and part time if he/she was taking less than 12 hours of classes during the average school week.

School enrollment in year preceding current survey. An inquiry on enrollment in regular school or college in October of the preceding year was asked for all persons (enrolled and not enrolled). In years before 1988, the question was asked only of persons who were not currently attending regular school or were enrolled in college. In the tabulations of persons enrolled in secondary school in the previous year, persons currently enrolled in high school are assumed to have been enrolled the previous year.

Vocational school enrollment. Vocational school enrollment includes enrollment in business, vocational, technical, secretarial, trade, or correspondence courses which are not counted as regular school enrollment and are not for recreation or adult education classes. Courses counted as college enrollment should not also be included as vocational.

Comparability of enrollment data in previous years. Changes in the edit and tabulation packages used in processing the October CPS school enrollment supplement have caused some minor revisions in the estimates. The current edit and tabulation package began with 1987 data. The 1986 data which were published in CPR series P-20 No. 429, were reprocessed with the rewritten programs in order to clarify comparability. Tables A-1 to A-6 contain enrollment data in time series. In each table, there are two presentations for 1986. The original was from the edit and tabulation package used for this data series from 1967 to 1986. The revised version (1986R) will be used from 1987 until a new tabulation package is written.

Major changes in the data due to the edit revisions are:

a. Among 14- and 15-year-olds, an edit improvement allowed persons with enrollment data not reported who were previously automatically imputed "not enrolled" to be enrolled.

b. Revisions in tabulation of enrollment in the previous year simplifies calculation of an annual high school dropout rate.

c. Edit improvements caused increases in college enrollment estimates, most notably above age 24; this age group was largely ignored in earlier edits.

d. Type of college is fully allocated (discussed earlier).

e. Tabulations of type of college are available by race.

f. Dependent family member is defined consistently.

g. New data on employment status, vocational course enrollment, college retention and re-entry, and families with children enrolled in public and private school are available.

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

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race—White, Black, and other races. The last category includes American Indians, Japanese, Chinese, other Asian and Pacific Islanders, and any other race except White and Black. In this report, other races is not shown separately.

Hispanic 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 his/her birth or that of his/her parents.

Persons of Hispanic origin are persons who reported themselves as Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Hispanic origin. However, all persons who reported themselves as Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, or Mexicano were combined into the one category—Mexican. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

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 "never married" is self-explanatory. The category "other marital status" includes persons who are separated, divorced, or widowed.

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.

Family. A family (also referred to in this publication as a primary 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 are considered members of one family.

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.

Family householder. The family member who is also the householder (the person or one of the persons who maintain the household), or reference person, is the family householder.

Head versus householder. Beginning with 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 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." The householder is the first adult household member listed on the questionnaire. The instructions call 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 may be listed first, thereby becoming the reference person, or householder, to whom the relationship of other household members is to be recorded.

The practice of using the term "head of family" or "family head", to refer to the person maintaining the household, was discontinued in CPS surveys conducted after the 1980 Census of Population. In surveys taken prior to the 1980 Census of Population, husbands in husband-wife families were always classified as "family heads." Women were only "family heads" if no spouse was present. The person who maintains the household is now called the "family householder."

Dependent family member. In theory, a dependent family member is one who is financially dependent on the householder. In these data a dependent family member is a primary family member, under 25 years old, who is an own child, brother/ sister, or other relative (not parent) of the householder, and is not "married, spouse present."

In analyses of data on college enrollment by family income for earlier years, persons who were primary family members, 18 to 24 years old, and not "married, spouse present" were often treated as dependent family members, although not labelled as such and including some householders (e.g. "other marital status" in table 13 of CPR Series P-20, No. 429.) The family income reported for dependent family members is presumed to be that of the parental family; for others, it is presumed to be that of the individual and his/her spouse. In tables 15 and 34, persons labeled "dependent family member" and "other marital and family status" combined are equivalent to persons labeled "other marital status" in table 13 of CPR Series P-20, No. 429. Persons who are "other marital and family status" in this report are the family householders who are not "married, spouse present."

Educational Attainment. Data on educational attainment are derived from a single question that asks, "What is the highest level of school ... has completed, or the highest degree ... has received?" Levels of completion beyond a high school degree are identified with specific categories, such as associate, bachelors and

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

The single educational attainment question now in use was introduced in the CPS beginning January 1992, and is similar to that used in the 1990 Decennial Census of Population and Housing. Consequently, data on educational attainment from the 1992 CPS are not directly comparable to CPS data from earlier years. The new question replaces the previous two-part question used in the CPS that asked respondents to report the highest grade they had atended, and whether or not they had completed that grade.

Labor force status.

In the labor force. The definition of labor force and employment status relates to the population 15 years old and over. Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. Data tabulated from the October CPS are for the civilian population only.

Not in the labor force. All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force."

Employed. Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the survey week containing October 12, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, on their own farm, or in a business operated by a member of the family and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework and painting or repairing own home) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific jobseeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Full-time and part-time employment. Persons who worked 35 hours or more during the survey week and those who worked 1 to 34 hours but usually work full time are classified as employed full time. Part-time workers are persons who worked 1 to 34 hours during the survey week and usually work only 1 to 34 hours. Persons with a job but not at work during the survey week are classified according to whether they usually work full time or part time.

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 1-year 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 years old 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 include a separate category ("not reported") for families for which no income information was obtained. In most other CPS's 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 CPS are based on responses to 11 direct questions asked about each person 14 years old and over and identifying 23 different sources of income in the preceding calendar year. Previous research has shown that the use of broad income intervals to record money income tends to reduce the

rate of nonresponse, while increasing the likelihood that the amounts reported will be significantly understated as compared with results from more detailed questions.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. MSA's are defined by the Office of Management and Budget for use in the presentation of statistics by agencies of the Federal Government. An MSA is a geographic area consisting of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. The definitions specify a boundary around each large city so as to include most or all its suburbs. Entire counties form the MSA building blocks, except in New England where cities and towns are used. The former term, SMSA, was changed to MSA in 1983.

An area qualifies for recognition as an MSA if (1) it includes a city of at least 50,000 population, or (2) it includes a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area of at least 50,000 with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). In addition to the county containing the main city or urbanized area, an MSA may include other counties having strong commuting ties to the central county. If specified conditions are met, certain large MSA's are designated as consolidated MSA's (CMSA's) and divided into component primary MSA's (PMSA's).

Central cities. The largest city in each MSA is always designated a central city. There may be additional central cities if specified requirements, designed to identify places of central character within the MSA, are met. Although the largest central cities are generally included in the title of the MSA, there may be central cities that are not part of the title. The balance of the MSA outside the central city or cities often is regarded as equivalent to "suburbs."

In July 1985, the CPS began carrying the metropolitan statistical area definitions announced by the Office of Management and Budget on June 30, 1984. Figures published from the CPS in the early 1980's and throughout most of the 1970's referred to metropolitan areas as defined on the basis of the 1970 census. Since there are important differences in the population classified as metropolitan using the 1970 and 1984 definitions, comparisons should be avoided.

Comparability of metropolitan estimates. The new CPS metropolitan estimates have consistently been higher than independent estimates of the metropolitan population prepared by the Census Bureau; the new CPS nonmetropolitan estimates have been lower than the independent estimates. For example, between July 1985 and August 1986, the magnitude of the monthly differences varied from 900,000 to 2.5 million persons, so that the proportion of the population living in metropolitan areas according to the CPS has ranged from 0.4 to 1.0 percentage points higher than the independent estimate. The difference in level between the two sets of estimates is partially attributable to the basic CPS sample design, which, because of sampling variability, includes an oversample of metropolitan households and an undersample of nonmetropolitan households. The monthly variations result from the exit and entrance of rotation groups, each with slightly different metropolitan-nonmetropolitan pro portions, into the sample. The apparent overestimation of metropolitan and underestimation of nonmetropolitan population in the CPS relative to the Bureau's independent estimates should be taken into account when using the data.

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

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

Midwest[1]*—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.

Symbols. The following symbols are used throughout the tables:

-	Represents zero or rounds to zero.
B	The base of the derived figure is less than 75,000.
X	Not applicable
NA	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.

[1]Formerly North Central.