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PRELIMINARY PROJECTIONS OF THE POPULATION
OF STATES: 1975 TO 1990

These projections are consistent with the 1970 census counts and represent a preliminary revision of data published in 1967 in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 375. The techniques used here are similar to those used in the earlier report, with separate projections for births, deaths, internal migration, and net immigration from abroad. April 1, 1970 census counts by age, race, and sex were carried forward three months to July 1, 1970 and then projected by five-year intervals to 1990.¹

These projections, which are generally consistent with the national population projections published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 470, are described as preliminary for several reasons. Interpolation techniques were applied to estimate five-year age detail which was unavailable in the 1970 census advance reports. It is believed, however, that these interpolations do not significantly affect the projected population totals for each State. The projections are also preliminary because 1965 to 1970 gross migration data from the 1970 census are not yet available and because the census populations used as the base of the projections do not reflect adjustments made subsequent to the publication of the advance reports.

Four alternative series of projections are given here, based on alternative assumptions concerning future national fertility and interstate migration. (Only one assumption concerning future mortality

is used.) For analytical purposes, a set of projections assuming no net immigration is also shown. The projections are not intended as predictions, but rather as indications of the population distributions which would develop on the basis of the assumptions regarding fertility, mortality, and interstate migration.

The projections are predicated on the general assumption that there will be no severe economic depression, major war, or other similar catastrophe. No attempt has been made to adjust the projections to reflect the possible effects of economic development programs, or other specialized programs, for various regions (e.g., Appalachia), which could have a significant effect on patterns of interstate migration.

METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS

General. Two fertility assumptions corresponding to Series C and E of the national projections are presented here. Series C and E assume that completed cohort fertility rates will move toward 2.78 and 2.11 children per woman, respectively. For each fertility series, there are two internal migration assumptions designated as I and III, giving four basic projection series, namely, I-C, III-C, I-E, and III-E. Series I assumes the continuation of 1960 to 1970 gross migration trends to 1990 whereas Series III assumes no net internal migration among States for the projection period. Series II, which was shown in the previous projections report, assumes a gradual convergence of trends in interstate migration. It generally yields results which fall

¹These projections are consistent with census data published in Advance Reports, Series PC(v2).

between Series I and III. Series II is not included in this preliminary report because the results for most of the projection period differ little from those in Series I.² In addition, some data are shown in the appendix for Series IV which assumes both no net internal migration and no net immigration from abroad between 1970 and 1990. One set of projected national mortality rates adjusted to reflect variations among States was used for all series. In Series I and III, immigration from abroad, consistent with the national population projections, is assumed to be 400,000 per year.

Projections of fertility. A general fertility rate by color for the 1960 to 1970 period was estimated for each State. The ratio of each State rate to the national rate for the period was then computed. This ratio was assumed to continue throughout the projection period. Projections of births for Series C and E were determined by multiplying each State's adjusted fertility rate by the number of women 15 to 44 years old and then adjusting the results to agree with the national projected total for each period. For further information on national population projections, see Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 470.

Projections of mortality. In Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 375, one set of projected mortality rates by age, sex, and color was used for all States. This produced unreasonable projections of total deaths in some instances, especially in those States where the proportionate distribution of the population of Negro and other races was unlike that of the Nation as a whole. For this report an adjustment factor by color based on data from the 1960 to 1965 period was developed for each State. More specifically, period estimates of deaths for each State were computed using projected national mortality rates by age, sex, and color. Total numbers of computed deaths by color were divided by the actual number of registered deaths for each State to obtain correction ratios. National survival rates from 1970 to 1990 were adjusted by these ratios before computing projected deaths. As a final step, deaths for each State were adjusted to sum to totals from the national projections.

Projections of internal migration. The procedures used to project internal migration for this report were similar to those used in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 375. Gross out-migration, using rates estimated for the base period, was projected first. The out-migrants

computed for all States were summed to form a national migrant pool. These migrants were then distributed back to the States as in-migrants, using proportions estimated for the base period.

In this report, the base period for projecting migration was the ten-year period between the 1960 and 1970 censuses. However, gross migration data from the 1970 census are not yet available. To estimate 1960 to 1970 gross migration patterns, the gross migration data from the 1960 census, reflecting patterns of 1955 to 1960, were adjusted to be consistent with net migration levels observed for the 1960 to 1970 intercensal period. Net immigration from abroad for each State, consistent with observed national totals for the 1960 to 1970 period, was introduced as a separate component.

For Series I, these adjusted rates and proportions were used throughout the 1970 to 1990 projection period, thus assuming that internal migration trends for the 1960 to 1970 period would continue into the future. As in the previous State projections report, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 375, out-migration was computed as a rate. From the resulting migrant pool, in-migration was computed as a proportion.

This technique of projecting gross migration results in an automatic moderation of the rates of net migration observed during the base period. For example, a State growing rapidly from net in-migration contributes an increasing share of the migrant pool since its population grows more rapidly than the national average. The number of in-migrants, however, increases only at the national population growth rate since each State receives an unvarying proportion of the migrant pool.

This moderation of net migration rates is a desirable characteristic of the projections. It is consistent with the idea that migration is responsive to economic and social imbalances and that migration will, to a large extent, tend to moderate the imbalances existing at the beginning of the projection period. This projection procedure makes no allowance for a change in trend due to imbalances which develop during the course of the projections. For this reason, the resulting projections, with internal logic superior to other similar models applying net migration rates, will not necessarily be more accurate in describing future migration.³

Projections of net immigration from abroad. For the national population projections, it is assumed that net immigration from abroad will be 400,000 per year. For these State projections,

²For a more detailed discussion, see Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 375, pp. 10-13.

³Ibid.

the national total was divided among the States by reference to data for fiscal years 1969 and 1970. Major changes in the laws controlling immigration were brought about by the Immigration Act of 1965. By July 1, 1968, the provisions of this act were fully operable, and thus the projected immigration total for each State reflected the new immigration legislation.

Data from the 1970 census showing the State of residence of recently arrived immigrants or of the foreign-born population are not yet available, and so the distribution of immigrants by State was estimated on the basis of data on State of intended residence, as provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The proportionate distribution of immigrants by sex and color for the nation as a whole was applied to each State.

Projections for the District of Columbia. The methods and assumptions described above were applied uniformly to all States and to the District of Columbia, although it is recognized that the

methods and assumptions are not equally applicable. This is particularly true for the District of Columbia, which, because it is a densely settled city serving as the core of a large metropolitan area, may presently have a population close to its practical maximum. The District of Columbia had a maximum census-year population of 802,000 in 1950, followed by counts of 764,000 in 1960 and 757,000 in 1970.

The uniform application of the methodology yields population projections for the District of Columbia of close to 900,000 in 1980 and of over 1,000,000 in 1990 in most series. These figures do not appear reasonable in light of recent population trends in the District of Columbia. Consequently, projections for the District of Columbia are not shown separately in the tables, but the figures are included in the totals for the United States which were derived independently. Population projections for the District of Columbia will be discussed in more detail in the final report on State projections.

