

## **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY 2002**

### **APPENDIX F. SOURCE AND ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES**

#### **Introduction**

The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from the actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

#### **Source of the Data**

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2001 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The SIPP is a longitudinal survey conducted at four-month intervals. The data in this report were collected from October 2002 through January 2003. For the 2001 SIPP Panel, approximately 50,500 housing units were in sample for Wave 1. Of the 40,500 eligible units, 35,000 were interviewed. In Wave 6, 26,600 interviews were obtained from 31,400 eligible units. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized population in Census 2000).

#### **Accuracy of the Estimates**

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and the statistical review of reports to minimize these errors. The Survey of Income and Program Participation weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than the age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to [http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A01\\_w1tow6\\_cross\\_puf.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A01_w1tow6_cross_puf.pdf) or contact “John Boies” of the Census Bureau’s Demographic Statistical Methods Division on the Internet at [John.L.Boies@census.gov](mailto:John.L.Boies@census.gov)

Additional information on the SIPP can be found at the following websites:  
[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/) (main SIPP website),  
[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf), (SIPP Quality Profile) and  
[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf) (SIPP User’s Guide).