

# Divorce, Child Custody, and Child Support



Special Studies  
Series P-23, No. 84

Current Population Reports

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Issued June 1979

# Divorce, Child Custody, and Child Support



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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This report was prepared by **Ruth Sanders** and **Graham Spanier**, under the general direction of **Gordon Green** and **Arthur Norton**. Assistance in preparation and review of the report was provided by **Carol Fendler**, **Mary Henson**, **Arlene Saluter**, and **Arno Winard**. The tables on child support and alimony were programmed by **Richard Hornseth**. Overall direction was provided by **Roger Herriot**, Assistant Division Chief (Socioeconomics Statistics Programs) and **Paul Glick**, Senior Demographer, of the Population Division. Sampling review was conducted by **Paul Hsen** and **Donald Luery** of the Statistical Methods Division. The publication was edited by **Paula Coupe**, Publications Services Division, with the assistance of **Vivian Brown**, Population Division.

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**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data**

United States. Bureau of the Census.  
Divorce, child custody, and child support.

(Current population reports : Special studies :  
Series P-23 ; no. 84)

1. Divorce—United States—Statistics.
2. Custody of children—United States—Statistics.
3. Support (Domestic relations)—United States—  
Statistics. I. Title. II. Series: United States.

Bureau of the Census. Current population reports :  
Special studies : Series P-23 ; no. 84.

HA203.A218 no. 84 [HQ833] 312'.0973s  
[312'.5'0973] 79-607067

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For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Postage stamps not acceptable; currency submitted at sender's risk. Remittances from foreign countries must be by international money order or by a draft on a U.S. bank. **Current Population Reports** are sold in two subscription packages: Series P-20, P-23, P-27, and P-60 are available for \$40.00 per year (\$10 additional for foreign mailing); Series P-25, P-26, and P-28 are available for \$70.00 per year (\$17.50 additional for foreign mailing). The single-copy price of this report is \$1.50.

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### SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
- B Base less than 75,000 for CPS, or less  
than 60 sample cases for SIE.
- . . . Not applicable.
- NA Not available.

# Divorce, Child Custody, and Child Support

## INTRODUCTION

The rapid rise in the divorce rate during the last two decades has stimulated interest in the living arrangements and financial position of persons involved in divorce, especially that of the women and children. The extent to which women report receiving child support and alimony, based on information collected by the Bureau of the Census in the Survey of Income and Education (SIE) during the spring of 1976, is presented in this report.

The first several sections of this report are devoted to background information which place the SIE data in historical perspective. These sections deal with the increase in divorce and in one-parent families and with changes in the living arrangements of children, in particular, the children of divorce. The information in these sections was obtained from reports of the Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, and from reports based on the Census Bureau's decennial censuses and the Current Population Survey (CPS).

The statistics from the CPS and from the SIE are based on samples and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability as well as other sources of error. A further discussion of the sampling variability is presented in the section, "Source and Reliability of the Estimates."

## TRENDS IN DIVORCE

Before 1940, the divorce rate in the United States was relatively low, about 2 per 1,000 population. Shortly after World War II (by 1946), the rate reached 4.3, an all-time high at that time (figure 1 and table 1). From that peak, the rate fell steadily until it reached a low of 2.2 in 1960, at which time it again turned upward and started the climb which culminated in the historic high level of 5.1 per 1,000 population in 1978. Throughout 1976 and 1977, the divorce rate remained virtually unchanged with the number of divorces (1.1 million) amounting to about one-half the number of marriages (2.1 million in 1976 and 2.2 million in 1977). In 1978, there were 1.1 million divorces and 2.2 million marriages; the divorce rate was 5.1 per 1,000, and the marriage rate was 10.3 per 1,000 population. If the current level of divorce continues on a lifetime basis, the proportion of marriages ending in divorce may be close to 40 percent.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Paul C. Glick and Arthur J. Norton, "Marrying, Divorcing, and Living Together in the U.S. Today," *Population Bulletin*, Vol. 32, No. 5, (Population Reference Bureau Inc., Washington, D.C., 1977, updated February 1979).

## CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DIVORCE

The number of children involved in divorce tripled in two decades, from 361,000 in 1956 to 1,117,000 in 1976 (table 2). The average number of children per divorce rose from 0.95 in 1956 to a peak of 1.36 in 1964. During that time, the proportion of divorces involving no children declined from 51 percent to 37 percent. By 1976, the average number of children per divorce fell to 1.03, while the proportion of divorces involving no children rose from 37 percent in 1964 to 43 percent in 1976.

Despite the decrease in the number of children involved per divorce and the increase in divorces not involving children, the rising divorce rate caused the total number of children involved in divorce to climb to an all-time high of 1,123,000 in 1975. The corresponding number in 1976 remained virtually unchanged at 1,117,000. This recent stabilization has provided a basis for anticipating that the annual number of children involved in divorce may decline significantly in the years ahead.

## ONE-PARENT VERSUS TWO-PARENT FAMILIES

Since 1960, there has been a far more rapid increase in the number of one-parent families than in two-parent families (table 3). In fact, the number of two-parent families declined slightly between 1970 and 1978 after having increased moderately during the 1960's. During both of these periods, the number of one-parent families maintained by a woman increased tremendously—by 55 percent during the 1960's and 78 percent during the shorter span from 1970 to 1978. By 1978, fully 19 percent of all families with sons/daughters under 18 years of age in the home were maintained by only one parent—17 percent by the mother and 2 percent by the father.

Because close to one-third (32 percent) of the 5.2 million mother-only families are maintained by Black women and Blacks only constitute one-ninth of the total U.S. population, the information about one-parent families as a whole reflects disproportionately the characteristics of Black mothers. For example, the proportion of mother-only families maintained by a never-married woman is four times as large for Black women as for White women (34 percent versus 8 percent). Moreover, the proportion of mother-only families maintained by a separated woman is larger for Black women than for White women (29 percent versus 21 percent). However, a larger proportion of White than Black

mother-only families are maintained by a divorced woman (52 percent versus 24 percent). This leads to the conclusion that White couples are more likely than Black couples to resolve an unsatisfactory marital situation by divorce.

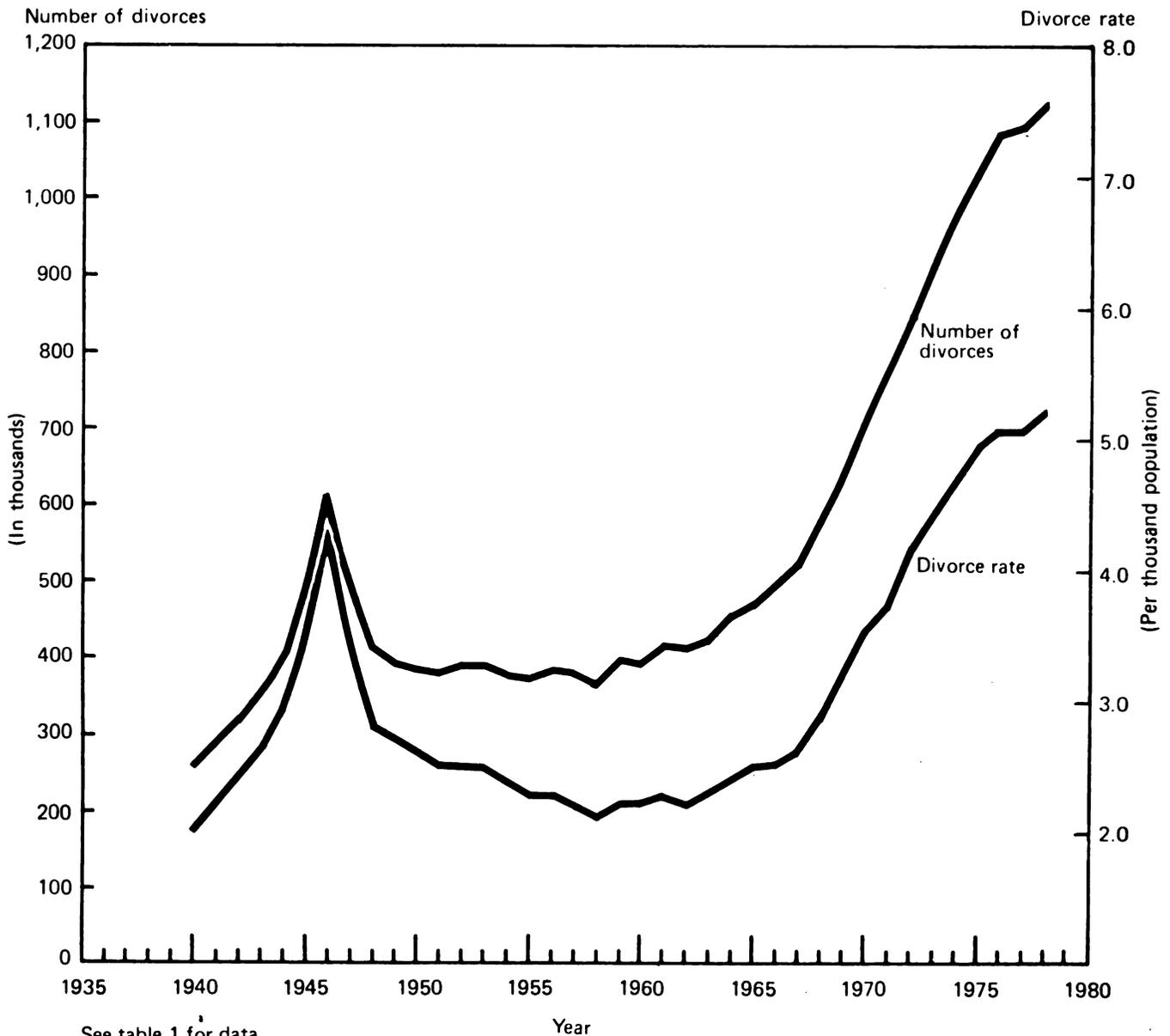
More than twice as large a proportion of families with children present were maintained by only the mother in 1978 as in 1960—17 percent in 1978 versus 7 percent in 1960. The corresponding figures for White mother-only families (13 percent and 6 percent, respectively) stood in sharp contrast with those for comparable Black families (45 percent and 21 percent, respectively). As shown in table 3, the rate of increase for White mother-only families was even more pronounced during the 8 years since 1970 than during the 10 years of the 1960's. Although Black mother-only families already constituted a far higher proportion of all Black families than White mother-only families did of all

White families in 1970, the proportion of Black mother-only families increased at a more rapid rate during the 1970-78 period than their White counterparts (83 percent versus 74 percent).

More of the mother-only families in 1978 than in 1970 were maintained by a woman under 35 years of age (51 percent versus 43 percent). A contributing factor is the movement of the large numbers of women who were born during the baby boom into the age range in which marriages and divorces most often occur.

The number of families maintained by the father only is relatively small but has been growing at about as fast a pace as mother-only families since 1970. In 1978, 1.6 percent of children under 18 years of age were living in father-only families.

**FIGURE 1.**  
**Number of Divorces and Divorce Rate:**  
**United States, 1940 to 1978**



## REMARRIAGE OF DIVORCED WOMEN

Table 5 presents a profile of divorced women who had remarried and of those who had not remarried by the survey date in 1975. More than three-fourths of the women whose first marriage ended in divorce before the age of 30 were remarried. The likelihood of remarriage was more than twice as great for women who were under 30 years of age at the time of divorce as for those who were 40 or older when they divorced. Among women who remarried after their first marriage was terminated by divorce, the average time between divorce and remarriage was 3.2 years.

Young women with no children were most likely to remarry following a divorce; nearly 4 out of 5 of the women who were under 30 and who were childless when they divorced were already remarried by the survey date. However, children appear to be a minor deterrent to remarriage for young women.

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN

Nearly all of the children under 18 years of age<sup>2</sup> (96 percent) in 1978 were living with one or both of their parents. About 3.1 percent were living with a grandparent or other close relative.

Data on children living with one or both parents are featured in table 6. Primarily because of fluctuations in the birth rate during the last three decades, the number of children under 18 living with parent(s) increased between 1960 and 1970 but actually declined overall between 1960 and 1978. During the 18-year period, the proportion of children living with two parents dropped sharply from 91 percent in 1960 to 81 percent in 1978. In the same period, the proportion living with their mother only more than doubled, rising from 8.2 percent to 17.6 percent, while those living with their father only rose from 1.2 percent to 1.6 percent. Thus, 19.2 percent of all children living with parent(s) lived with one parent in 1978.

For most children in one-parent families, this living arrangement is a temporary one, spanning a period of a few years, usually until their custodial parent remarries, reconciles, or marries for the first time. Only a minority of children under 18 are likely to spend a major portion of their childhood in a one-parent family. Nevertheless, to the child living with only one parent for a few years, this period represents a psychologically and socially significant part of his or her life span.

The number of children living with one parent increased by 440,000 per year between 1970 and 1978 as compared with 240,000 per year during the 1960's. The most rapid rates of increase were for children living with a divorced or never-married mother. The proportion of children living with a divorced mother doubled between 1970 and 1978 (from 3.4 percent to 7.1 percent), and the proportion living with a never-married mother tripled (from 0.8 percent to 2.7 percent) during that period. The slower growth in the proportion living with a separated mother (from 3.5 percent to 4.8 percent) reflects a growing tendency for couples with

serious marital problems to resolve them by divorce rather than by separation.

An analysis of current data on living arrangements suggests that if current conditions persist, children born in the mid-1970's have about 45 chances in 100 of living in a one-parent family for a period of at least several months before they reach the age of 18 years.<sup>3</sup> However, because most young women remarry, a large proportion of these children will eventually spend part of their childhood in a two-parent family with a biological parent and a stepparent. In 1977, an estimated one-tenth of the children living with two parents were living with a stepparent, that is, were born before the natural parent they live with had remarried.<sup>4</sup>

## SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN RECEIVING CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS IN 1975

### Family Characteristics

Data on the receipt of child support from the fathers of children were obtained from the SIE for women with one or more own children present at the survey date who were either divorced, separated, remarried, or never married. About one-fourth of the 4.9 million mothers in these four categories received child support payments. Because of the design of the SIE questionnaire, data on the amount of child support received are not available for about 110,000 women who received alimony or other regular contributions from outside the household in addition to their child support payments. The data in this and later sections on amounts of child support received apply to the 1.1 million women whose only support payments came from child support. It should be noted that the data refer only to child support reported as actually received, not to payments which may have been awarded or agreed upon but were not collected.

The median family income in 1975 for mothers who received some child support was considerably higher than that for women who did not (\$12,210 compared to \$8,440). (See table 7.) For most women, however, the amount of child support received was fairly small. The mean amount was \$2,430, but that figure apparently reflects the impact of large payments received by a relatively small number of women. About two-fifths of women with child support income received less than \$1,000; about three-fifths received less than \$1,500. Interestingly, mean child support payments per family did not increase significantly as the number of children increased. As might be expected from the rather small amounts received, child support payments are generally not the primary source of income for recipients. For approximately half of the women getting child support, the payments constituted less than 10 percent of total family income. Only 5 percent obtained more than half of their family income from child support.

The poverty rate for women receiving child support payments was considerably lower than the rate for women who did not (12 percent compared to 32 percent). In many in-

<sup>3</sup> Paul C. Glick and Arthur J. Norton, *op. cit.*

<sup>2</sup> There were 63,206,000 children under 18 years of age in March 1978. See *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, No. 338, table 4.

<sup>4</sup> Paul C. Glick, "The Future of the American Family," *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 78, January 1979.

stances, women near the poverty line who received child support would have fallen below the poverty level if those payments were eliminated. In fact, when child support income is excluded from total income, the poverty rate for mothers who received it rises from 12 percent to 19 percent. By excluding child support income and then examining poverty status, it becomes evident that child support is a major source of income for some mothers with incomes close to the poverty line. For example, women whose family incomes would have been below the poverty level without child support reported mean child support incomes of \$3,330.

### Characteristics of Women

Both the likelihood that a woman with children will receive child support and the amount she receives may vary widely, depending on her characteristics. For example, 42 percent of currently divorced mothers with at least one child present in their homes received child support payments, compared to 26 percent of remarried mothers, 18 percent of separated mothers, and only 4 percent of never-married mothers (table 8). Mean amounts received ranged from \$3,180 (for separated mothers) to \$1,500 (for never-married mothers).

Black women constituted 28 percent of all women eligible for, but not necessarily awarded, child support payments. However, of all the women who actually received child support payments, only 12 percent were Black. The amount of child support paid to White women was, on the average, higher than the amount received by either Black women or women of Spanish origin. For White women, the mean amount of this type of income was approximately \$2,540, compared to \$1,600 for Black women and \$1,980 for women of Spanish origin.

Women under 30 years of age, on the average, received less in child support payments than those who were older. The mean amount received by younger women was approximately \$1,350 as compared to \$2,870 for women 30 years old and older. Although information on incomes of fathers is not available from this survey, incomes of men tend to increase as their age increases, up until retirement age. Because men and women traditionally tend to marry within similar age groups, the ex-husbands of older mothers are likely to have higher incomes than those of younger mothers. Since older women tend to have older children, it is not surprising that the mean amount of child support received also increased along with the age of the youngest child. For women whose youngest child was under 5 years old, the mean child support payment was \$1,750. For women whose youngest child was 5 to 11 or 12 to 17 years of age, the mean amounts were \$2,310 and \$3,450, respectively.

Receipt of child support is directly related to the level of educational attainment. About 45 percent of mothers with 4 or more years of college received some child support from the fathers of their children, compared to 29 percent of mothers who were only high school graduates and just 11 percent of mothers who did not complete any years of high school. Furthermore, the mean amount received by college graduates (\$5,290) was higher than that received by women with lower educational attainment, such as high school

graduates (\$1,960). Presumably, highly educated women tend to marry similarly well-educated men with relatively high incomes, who can better afford to make substantial child support payments.

The median income of women who received child support was higher than that of women who did not (\$6,860 compared to \$4,250). However, among women with child support, higher income levels were not consistently associated with higher child support payments. Mean amounts of child support received rose along with income for women whose total incomes were in the upper and lower portions of the income distribution (less than \$4,000, or \$8,000 and over). For women with incomes between \$4,000 and \$8,000, the mean amount received did not vary significantly, indicating that increases in total income came from income sources other than child support.

Interestingly, women who received child support were more likely to have earnings than women who did not, perhaps due in part to their higher educational level. About three-fourths of women getting child support payments also had some earnings, compared to 58 percent of women who received no child support. Conversely, 38 percent of women without child support from the father of their children received public assistance income, compared to only 13 percent of women with child support income.

There was no significant difference in the mean amount of child support paid to women who worked some time during the year and those who did not work at all. However, women working at part-time jobs received a considerably higher mean amount (\$3,640) than women who worked full time (\$2,210). It is possible that the women working full time do so because they are receiving lower child support payments. Among women who worked, there was some difference in mean amount of child support received for the various occupation groups. Although the mean amounts received by white-collar workers (\$2,650) and service workers (\$2,410) were not significantly different from one another, both were much greater than the mean amount received by blue-collar workers.

### Living Arrangements and Poverty Status

There were 18.3 million persons living in families which included a divorced, separated, remarried, or never-married woman. The poverty rate for these persons was 27 percent, compared to 8 percent for all other persons in families. Of the 18.3 million persons, only 13 percent of those in families with child support were poor, compared to 32 percent of those in families without child support.

There was some variation in the poverty status of persons depending on the type of family they lived in. Among persons in families not receiving child support, those in primary families<sup>5</sup> (by far the largest group) had a poverty rate of 32 percent. In primary families where there was

<sup>5</sup>A primary family is a family which includes among its members the person maintaining the household. A married couple or one parent with children who share the living quarters of a relative maintaining the household constitutes a subfamily within the primary family. A secondary family is a family whose members are not related to the person maintaining the household.

also a subfamily present, the poverty rate was much higher (71 percent); this may be due in part to larger size families.

Persons in primary families receiving child support experienced poverty rates that were much lower. The poverty rate for persons in these families was 13 percent. The comparable rate was 47 percent for those in which a subfamily was also present.

### Regions and Divisions

The mean amount of child support received by women living in the Northeast Region (\$3,210) was significantly higher than that received by women living in the South Region (\$2,130) and the North Central Region (\$2,240). Because of the high degree of sampling variability, no other differences between regions were statistically significant. Within the southern region, women in the East South Central Division (consisting of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi) received a particularly low mean amount (\$1,510), considerably less than the figure for the region as a whole (table 9).

### CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN RECEIVING ALIMONY PAYMENTS IN 1975

Data on alimony were tabulated from the SIE for women who were either divorced or separated before 1975. Out of the 4.5 million divorced or separated women, only 4 percent reported that they had received alimony in 1975 (table 10).

It is not known how many of these women were actually entitled to receive such benefits. The mean amount of alimony received by women was about \$4,120 in 1975<sup>6</sup>. However, because of the large sampling variability associated with this figure (the standard error was \$1,000), this is only a rough approximation of the average amount of alimony actually received by these women.

In general, older women were more likely to receive alimony than younger women. For example, 5 percent of women 30 years old and over who had been divorced or separated received alimony compared to only 1 percent of those under 30 years. There may be various reasons for this occurrence. Since husbands and wives tend to be within the same approximate age range, one might conclude that the lower earnings received by younger husbands may be one factor behind the low proportion of women under 30 receiving alimony.

The proportion of women receiving alimony was considerably higher for those who had children 12 to 17 years old than for those whose children were younger (8 percent vs. 3 percent). This difference may be attributable to the age of the woman (the older the children, the older she is likely to be) and the factors mentioned above. In addition, women who had some college education were more likely to receive alimony than those with lower educational attainment.

<sup>6</sup>This mean is for women receiving alimony and no other support payments from outside their household.

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### NOTE

In the past the Census Bureau has designated a head of household to serve as the central reference person for the collection and tabulation of data for each member of the household (or family). However, the trend toward recognition of equal status and roles for adult family members makes the term "head" less relevant in the analysis of household and family data. As a result, the Bureau is currently developing new techniques for the enumeration and presentation of data which will eliminate the concept "head." Although the data in this report are based on this concept, methodology for future Census Bureau reports will reflect a gradual movement away from this traditional practice.

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**Table 1. Number of Divorces and Divorce Rates With Percent Changes From Preceding Years: 1940 to 1978**

(For meaning of symbols, see text)

Year	Number of divorces	Percent change in number	Rate per 1,000 total population	Percent change in rate	Rate per 1,000 married women, 15 years and over	Percent change in rate
1978 <sup>1</sup> .....	1,122,000	+2.9	5.1	+2.0	22.0	+3.3
1977 <sup>1</sup> .....	1,090,000	+0.6	5.0	-	21.3	+0.9
1976 <sup>1</sup> .....	1,083,000	+4.5	5.0	+2.0	21.1	+3.9
1975.....	1,036,000	+6.0	4.9	+6.5	20.3	+5.2
1974.....	977,000	+6.8	4.6	+4.5	19.3	+6.0
1973.....	915,000	+8.3	4.4	+7.3	18.2	+7.1
1972.....	845,000	+9.3	4.1	+10.8	17.0	+7.6
1971.....	773,000	+9.2	3.7	+5.7	15.8	+6.0
1970.....	708,000	+10.8	3.5	+9.4	14.9	+11.2
1969.....	639,000	+9.4	3.2	+10.3	13.4	+7.2
1968.....	584,000	+11.7	2.9	+11.5	12.5	+11.6
1967.....	523,000	+4.8	2.6	+4.0	11.2	+2.8
1966.....	499,000	+4.2	2.5	-	10.9	+2.8
1965.....	479,000	+6.4	2.5	+4.2	10.6	+6.0
1964.....	450,000	+5.1	2.4	+4.3	10.0	+4.2
1963.....	428,000	+3.6	2.3	+4.5	9.6	+2.1
1962.....	413,000	-0.2	2.2	-4.3	9.4	-2.1
1961.....	414,000	+5.3	2.3	+4.5	9.6	+4.3
1960.....	393,000	-0.5	2.2	-	9.2	-1.1
1959.....	395,000	+7.3	2.2	+4.8	9.3	+4.5
1958.....	368,000	-3.4	2.1	-4.5	8.9	-3.3
1957.....	381,000	-0.3	2.2	-4.3	9.2	-2.1
1956.....	382,000	+1.3	2.3	-	9.4	+1.1
1955.....	377,000	-0.5	2.3	-4.2	9.3	-2.1
1954.....	379,000	-2.8	2.4	-4.0	9.5	-4.0
1953.....	390,000	-0.5	2.5	-	9.9	-2.0
1952.....	392,000	+2.9	2.5	-	10.1	+2.0
1951.....	381,000	-1.1	2.5	-3.8	9.9	-3.9
1950.....	385,144	-3.0	2.6	-3.7	10.3	-2.8
1949.....	397,000	-2.7	2.7	-3.6	10.6	-5.4
1948.....	408,000	-15.5	2.8	-17.6	11.2	-17.6
1947.....	483,000	-20.8	3.4	-20.9	13.6	-24.0
1946.....	610,000	+25.8	4.3	+22.9	17.9	+24.3
1945.....	485,000	+21.3	3.5	+20.7	14.4	+20.0
1944.....	400,000	+11.4	2.9	+11.5	12.0	+9.1
1943.....	359,000	+11.8	2.6	+8.3	11.0	+8.9
1942.....	321,000	+9.6	2.4	+9.1	10.1	+7.4
1941.....	293,000	+11.0	2.2	+10.0	9.4	+6.8
1940.....	264,000	(NA)	2.0	(NA)	8.8	(NA)

<sup>1</sup>Provisional data.

Source: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 21, No. 29, "Divorces and Divorce Rates: United States," table 1; and *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 27, No. 5 Supplement, "Advance Report: Final Divorce Statistics, 1976," table 1, and Vol. 27, No. 12, "Provisional Statistics: Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths for 1978," page 1; and unpublished base for rate per 1,000 married women 15 years and over.

**Table 2. Children Under 18 Years Old Involved in Parents' Divorce: 1956 to 1976**

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total divorces	No children at divorce		1 or more children at divorce		
		Number	Percent of total	Total children	Per decree	Per decree involving children
1976.....	1,083	465	42.9	1,117	1.03	1.81
1975.....	1,036	426	41.1	1,123	1.08	1.84
1974.....	977	410	42.0	1,099	1.12	1.94
1973.....	915	371	40.5	1,079	1.17	1.98
1972.....	845	337	39.9	1,021	1.20	2.01
1971.....	773	310	40.1	946	1.22	2.04
1970.....	708	284	40.1	870	1.22	2.05
1969.....	639	252	39.4	840	1.31	2.17
1968.....	584	228	39.0	784	1.34	2.20
1967.....	523	204	39.0	701	1.34	2.20
1966.....	499	198	39.7	669	1.34	2.22
1965.....	479	193	40.2	630	1.32	2.20
1964.....	450	168	37.4	613	1.36	2.25
1963.....	428	164	38.4	562	1.31	2.21
1962.....	413	164	39.8	532	1.29	2.16
1961.....	414	164	39.7	516	1.25	2.01
1960.....	393	170	43.3	463	1.18	2.08
1959.....	395	162	40.9	468	1.18	2.01
1958.....	368	165	44.9	398	1.08	1.96
1957.....	381	187	49.1	379	0.99	1.95
1956.....	382	195	51.1	361	0.95	1.93

Source: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, Vol. III, Marriage and Divorce, annual reports; and Monthly Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 27, No. 5 Supplement, "Advance Report: Final Divorce Statistics, 1976," tables 2, 4, and 5.

**Table 3. Two-Parent and One-Parent Families by Race: 1978, 1970, and 1960**

(Numbers in thousands. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Type of family	1978	1970	1960	Percent change	
				1970 to 1978	1960 to 1970
<b>All families with own children under 18.....</b>	30,369	28,665	25,691	5.9	11.6
<b>Percent.....</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	...	...
<b>Two-parent families.....</b>	81.1	88.6	91.5	-3.1	8.1
<b>One-parent families.....</b>	18.9	11.4	8.5	76.2	48.7
<b>Maintained by a:</b>					
<b>Woman.....</b>	17.1	10.2	7.4	78.0	54.6
<b>Man.....</b>	1.8	1.2	1.1	60.9	11.3
<b>White families with own children under 18.....</b>	26,168	25,439	23,294	2.9	9.2
<b>Percent.....</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	...	...
<b>Two-parent families.....</b>	85.0	91.1	93.0	-4.0	7.0
<b>One-parent families.....</b>	15.0	8.9	7.0	72.6	38.3
<b>Maintained by a:</b>					
<b>Woman.....</b>	13.3	7.9	6.0	73.6	43.9
<b>Man.....</b>	1.7	1.0	1.0	65.3	6.5
<b>Black families with own children under 18.....</b>	3,641	2,933	<sup>1</sup> 2,191	24.1	33.9
<b>Percent.....</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	...	...
<b>Two-parent families.....</b>	52.2	67.0	77.0	-3.2	16.4
<b>One-parent families.....</b>	47.8	33.0	23.0	79.6	92.3
<b>Maintained by a:</b>					
<b>Woman.....</b>	45.0	30.6	20.7	82.7	97.8
<b>Man.....</b>	2.7	2.4	2.3	39.4	42.0

<sup>1</sup>The number of Black families in 1960 was distributed on the basis of data for persons of races other than White.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 218, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1970," table 1; 1960 Census of Population, Vol. I, United States Summary, table 186, and Vol. II, 4A, Families, table 5; and unpublished Current Population Survey data.

**Table 4. Characteristics of One-Parent Families Maintained by a Woman: 1978, 1975, and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	1978			1975			1970		
	Total	White	Black	Total	White	Black	Total	White	Black
All mother-child families <sup>1</sup> ...	5,206	3,485	1,641	4,405	2,973	1,382	2,926	1,995	912
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Marital status of mother:									
Never married.....	16.1	7.9	33.7	11.7	5.8	24.7	8.0	3.3	18.2
Separated.....	23.6	21.2	29.2	27.1	22.8	36.4	26.3	19.2	41.9
Divorced.....	42.8	51.8	23.5	38.2	46.1	20.9	32.7	40.1	16.6
Widowed.....	12.7	13.9	9.9	17.8	19.9	13.7	22.0	25.1	15.5
Married spouse absent, except separated.....	4.8	5.2	3.7	5.2	5.5	4.3	11.0	12.3	7.9
Age of mother:									
Under 35 years.....	50.9	47.9	57.2	50.2	47.8	56.2	43.1	39.8	50.0
35 to 44 years.....	31.2	32.5	28.8	29.5	30.0	28.0	31.4	31.4	31.6
45 to 64 years.....	17.6	19.4	13.7	19.9	21.9	15.3	25.2	28.4	18.2
65 years and over.....	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.2
Number and age of children:									
Average number of children under 18.....	1.93	1.80	2.21	2.10	1.94	2.43	2.29	2.06	2.77
Average number of children under 6.....	1.28	1.20	1.41	1.31	1.27	1.41	1.43	1.37	1.52

<sup>1</sup>Families maintained by a woman with no husband present but with one or more of her own children under 18 years of age present.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 291, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1975," tables 1 and 13, and unpublished Current Population Survey data.

**Table 5. Characteristics of Divorced Women: 1975**

(Numbers in thousands. Women whose first marriage ended in divorce, by age at divorce, number of children born before divorce, duration of divorce, and whether remarried)

Age at divorce and number of children born before divorce	All women whose first marriage ended in divorce		Percent remarried by survey date	Median years divorced <sup>1</sup>		
	Number	Percent		Total	At survey date	
					Divorced	Remarried
Total, aged 14 to 75 with fewer than 6 children born before divorce.....	9,068	100.0	66.0	3.8	4.7	3.2
Aged 14 to 29 at divorce.....	5,845	64.5	76.3	3.1	3.4	3.1
No children.....	1,932	21.3	79.6	2.9	2.6	2.9
1 child.....	1,947	21.5	75.0	3.1	3.6	3.0
2 children.....	1,233	13.6	74.9	3.1	3.4	3.0
3 to 5 children.....	732	8.1	73.6	4.0	5.2	3.8
Aged 30 to 39 at divorce.....	2,202	24.3	56.2	4.5	5.8	3.8
Aged 40 to 75 at divorce.....	1,021	11.3	28.1	5.5	6.5	2.9

<sup>1</sup>Number of years between divorce and survey date for those still divorced; number of years between divorce and second marriage for those remarried.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 312, "Marriage, Divorce, Widowhood, and Remarriage by Family Characteristics: June 1975," tables I, J, and K.

**Table 6. Children Under 18 Years Old Living With Two Parents or With One Parent, by Sex of Parent and Marital Status : 1978, 1970, and 1960**

(Numbers in thousands. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Sex of parent and marital status	1978	1970	1960	Percent change	
				1970 to 1978	1960 to 1970
All children under 18 living with one or both parents.....	60,842	67,138	62,119	-9.4	8.1
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	...	...
Living with two parents.....	80.8	87.8	90.6	-16.6	4.7
Living with one parent.....	19.2	12.2	9.4	42.8	40.6
Living with mother only.....	17.6	11.1	8.2	43.9	45.9
Never married.....	2.7	0.8	0.4	209.9	138.5
Separated.....	4.8	3.5	2.4	26.2	55.5
Divorced.....	7.1	3.4	1.9	88.8	89.8
Widowed.....	2.1	2.1	2.1	-10.4	6.4
Married, husband absent, except separated.....	0.9	1.3	1.4	-37.3	4.4
Living with father only.....	1.6	1.1	1.2	31.9	2.9
Divorced.....	0.7	0.3	0.2	135.6	37.2
Other.....	0.9	0.9	1.0	-0.5	-4.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, Vol. I, U.S. Summary, table 185; and unpublished Current Population Survey data.

**Table 7. Currently Divorced, Separated, Remarried, and Never-Married Women, by Total Money Income, Poverty Status, and Amount of Child Support Payments Received in 1975: SIE**

(NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS. WOMEN AS OF SPRING 1976. WOMEN DIVORCED OR SEPARATED BEFORE 1975 WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD LIVING WITH THEM AT THE TIME OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION AND AT THE SURVEY DATE. FOR MEANING OF SYMBOLS, SEE TEXT)

TOTAL MONEY INCOME AND POVERTY STATUS	TOTAL	DID NOT RECEIVE CHILD SUPPORT IN 1975	RECEIVED SUPPORT PAYMENTS IN 1975 <sup>1</sup>												MEAN AMOUNT		
			RECEIVED CHILD SUPPORT BUT NO OTHER SUPPORT PAYMENTS											AND OVER	VALUE (DOLS.)	STANDARD ERROR (CLS.)	
			TOTAL	AMOUNT OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS RECEIVED													
				\$1 TO \$999	\$1,000 TO \$1,499	\$1,500 TO \$1,999	\$2,000 TO \$2,999	\$3,000 TO \$3,999	\$4,000 TO \$4,999	\$5,000 TO \$6,999	\$7,000 TO \$10,000	\$11,000 TO \$14,999	\$15,000 TO \$24,999				\$25,000 AND OVER
<b>TOTAL FAMILY INCOME</b>																	
TOTAL	4 922	3 676	1 246	1 137	445	232	160	170	67	32	19	11	2 432	107			
STANDARD ERROR	80	69	40	39	24	17	15	15	9	7	5	4	...	...			
UNDER \$2,000	249	225	24	20	15	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)			
\$2,000 TO \$3,999	680	607	73	69	39	14	7	6	3	-	-	-	1 462	108			
\$4,000 TO \$5,999	606	500	105	93	40	20	10	11	6	5	1	-	2 202	115			
\$6,000 TO \$7,999	558	428	129	115	51	25	15	16	4	3	-	1	1 987	124			
\$8,000 TO \$9,999	479	341	138	124	41	36	21	14	6	2	3	2	2 408	185			
\$10,000 TO \$11,999	414	274	139	125	52	21	16	20	8	3	2	4	2 413	199			
\$12,000 TO \$14,999	506	345	160	146	58	26	25	22	8	5	2	1	2 204	164			
\$15,000 TO \$24,999	952	654	298	278	103	65	43	37	10	7	10	3	2 370	188			
\$25,000 AND OVER	481	301	180	167	46	22	22	45	21	7	2	1	3 777	585			
MEDIAN INCOME, DOLLARS	9 529	8 443	12 208	12 359	11 364	11 581	12 868	14 490	14 385	13 629	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR, DOLLARS	133	152	216	235	383	719	632	891	1 603	1 131	(B)	(B)	...	...			
MEAN INCOME, DOLLARS	12 157	11 205	14 966	15 079	13 095	13 801	15 103	18 658	19 572	17 588	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR, DOLLARS	132	148	278	290	367	518	672	877	1 541	1 806	(B)	(B)	...	...			
PER CAPITA INCOME, DOLLARS	2 971	2 697	3 835	3 830	3 363	3 887	3 840	4 455	4 440	3 863	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR, DOLLARS	38	41	81	83	116	166	228	211	379	416	(B)	(B)	...	...			
<b>CHILD SUPPORT AS A PERCENT OF FAMILY INCOME</b>																	
LESS THAN 10 PERCENT	...	...	...	587	361	113	54	44	14	-	1	-	1 061	33			
10 TO 19 PERCENT	...	...	...	297	55	83	71	61	16	10	1	-	2 046	52			
20 TO 29 PERCENT	...	...	...	109	17	20	16	35	14	4	3	-	3 715	541			
30 TO 39 PERCENT	...	...	...	58	5	7	8	14	7	7	7	3	3 936	251			
40 TO 49 PERCENT	...	...	...	29	4	3	5	6	5	4	1	1	6 758	494			
50 TO 74 PERCENT	...	...	...	33	1	5	4	8	7	3	4	1	9 964	1 206			
75 PERCENT AND OVER	...	...	...	24	2	1	2	2	5	5	1	6	(B)	(B)			
MEDIAN PERCENT	...	...	...	9.7	4.9	10.3	13.6	15.8	23.8	32.7	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR	...	...	...	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.0	1.5	3.7	4.3	(B)	(B)	...	...			
<b>BELOW SPECIFIED POVERTY LEVEL-- INCLUDES CHILD SUPPORT</b>																	
NUMBER																	
BELOW 75 PERCENT	827	744	83	77	46	13	8	4	6	-	-	-	1 428	119			
STANDARD ERROR	43	40	13	13	10	5	4	3	4	-	-	-	...	...			
BELOW 100 PERCENT	1 343	1 186	156	141	75	29	14	12	9	2	-	-	1 594	89			
STANDARD ERROR	54	51	19	18	13	8	6	5	4	2	-	-	...	...			
BELOW 125 PERCENT	1 706	1 485	221	202	107	40	20	17	9	7	1	-	1 725	82			
STANDARD ERROR	61	57	22	21	15	9	7	6	4	4	1	-	...	...			
<b>POVERTY RATE</b>																	
BELOW 75 PERCENT	16.8	20.2	6.6	6.8	10.4	5.4	5.2	2.6	8.7	-	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	2.1	2.2	2.6	1.8	5.1	-	(B)	(B)	...	...			
BELOW 100 PERCENT	27.3	32.3	12.5	12.4	16.8	12.3	9.0	7.0	13.5	6.5	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.4	2.6	3.2	3.4	2.9	6.2	6.5	(B)	(B)	...	...			
BELOW 125 PERCENT	34.7	40.4	17.7	17.7	24.0	17.2	12.5	10.2	13.5	23.2	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.7	3.0	3.7	3.9	3.4	6.2	11.0	(B)	(B)	...	...			
<b>BELOW SPECIFIED POVERTY LEVEL-- EXCLUDES CHILD SUPPORT</b>																	
NUMBER																	
BELOW 75 PERCENT	...	...	...	150	59	26	16	19	12	7	3	7	3 818	296			
STANDARD ERROR	...	...	...	18	11	8	6	6	5	4	3	4	...	...			
BELOW 100 PERCENT	...	...	...	214	91	40	22	24	16	9	5	7	3 332	225			
STANDARD ERROR	...	...	...	22	14	9	7	7	6	4	3	4	...	...			
BELOW 125 PERCENT	...	...	...	276	114	53	26	37	20	12	7	7	3 214	193			
STANDARD ERROR	...	...	...	25	16	11	8	9	7	5	4	4	...	...			
<b>POVERTY RATE</b>																	
BELOW 75 PERCENT	...	...	...	13.2	13.2	11.2	10.3	11.1	18.2	23.2	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR	...	...	...	1.5	2.4	3.1	3.6	3.6	7.0	11.0	(B)	(B)	...	...			
BELOW 100 PERCENT	...	...	...	18.9	20.5	17.3	13.7	14.3	24.3	26.7	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR	...	...	...	1.7	2.8	3.7	4.0	4.0	7.8	11.6	(B)	(B)	...	...			
BELOW 125 PERCENT	...	...	...	24.2	25.7	22.6	16.5	21.9	30.0	36.9	(B)	(B)	...	...			
STANDARD ERROR	...	...	...	1.9	3.1	4.1	4.4	4.7	8.3	12.6	(B)	(B)	...	...			

<sup>1</sup>SUPPORT PAYMENTS INCLUDE CHILD SUPPORT, ALIMONY, REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PERSONS NOT LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLD, AND OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME NOT SPECIFICALLY ENUMERATED IN THE SIE.

**Table 8. Selected Characteristics of Currently Divorced, Separated, Remarried, and Never-Married Women, by Amount of Child Support Payments Received in 1975: SIE**

(NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS. WOMEN AS OF SPRING 1976. WOMEN DIVORCED OR SEPARATED BEFORE 1975 WHO HAD ONE OR MORE OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD LIVING WITH THEM AT THE TIME OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION AND AT THE SURVEY DATE. FOR MEANING OF SYMBOLS, SEE TEXT)

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	RECEIVED SUPPORT PAYMENTS IN 1975 <sup>1</sup>														
	TOTAL	DID NOT RECEIVE CHILD SUPPORT IN 1975	RECEIVED CHILD SUPPORT BUT NO OTHER SUPPORT PAYMENTS											MEAN AMOUNT	
			TOTAL	AMOUNT OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS RECEIVED										VALUE (DOLLS.)	STANDARD ERROR (DOLLS.)
				\$1 TO \$999	\$1,000 TO \$1,499	\$1,500 TO \$1,999	\$2,000 TO \$2,999	\$3,000 TO \$3,999	\$4,000 TO \$4,999	\$5,000 TO \$6,999	\$7,000 AND OVER				
TOTAL . . . . .	4 922	3 676	1 246	1 137	445	232	160	170	67	32	19	11	2 433	107	
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	80	69	40	39	24	17	15	15	9	7	5	4	...	...	
<b>MARITAL STATUS OF WOMAN</b>															
CURRENTLY DIVORCED . . . . .	1 333	773	561	487	176	104	64	77	35	15	12	4	2 836	187	
CURRENTLY SEPARATED . . . . .	689	564	125	110	49	16	13	16	4	5	1	6	3 178	272	
REMARRIED WOMEN WHOSE PREVIOUS MARRIAGE ENDED IN DIVORCE . . . . .	2 001	1 477	524	504	197	103	83	75	27	11	6	2	1 947	144	
NEVER-MARRIED . . . . .	899	863	37	36	23	10	-	3	-	1	-	-	1 503	145	
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN OF WOMAN</b>															
WHITE . . . . .	3 488	2 400	1 088	990	357	207	144	161	60	31	18	11	2 536	120	
BLACK . . . . .	1 372	1 225	147	140	85	24	16	9	4	1	1	-	1 601	133	
SPANISH ORIGIN <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	363	303	60	57	28	12	6	6	3	1	-	-	1 977	254	
<b>AGE OF WOMAN</b>															
14 TO 24 YEARS . . . . .	732	652	80	76	48	15	7	2	2	1	-	2	1 388	163	
25 TO 29 YEARS . . . . .	966	707	259	254	123	63	35	30	1	1	-	-	1 358	65	
30 TO 34 YEARS . . . . .	1 064	723	341	312	106	66	52	46	20	16	5	1	2 393	136	
35 TO 39 YEARS . . . . .	884	607	277	252	83	37	38	48	26	10	3	2	2 698	207	
40 TO 44 YEARS . . . . .	631	467	164	138	47	28	16	29	6	7	3	2	2 897	622	
45 YEARS AND OVER . . . . .	646	520	125	105	39	24	13	15	12	2	1	-	3 381	377	
<b>YEAR OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION</b>															
1974 . . . . .	567	301	265	228	68	53	32	40	15	7	6	7	2 779	186	
1973 . . . . .	472	289	183	161	57	24	31	29	9	10	-	2	2 846	299	
1972 . . . . .	407	240	166	156	46	36	27	20	13	5	8	1	2 506	202	
1971 . . . . .	384	223	121	112	40	26	18	16	7	2	2	-	2 719	525	
1970 . . . . .	354	244	110	106	35	26	19	16	6	3	1	1	1 947	175	
1965 TO 1969 . . . . .	1 017	747	270	251	123	44	27	36	14	4	2	-	2 065	222	
1960 TO 1964 . . . . .	474	398	76	72	42	11	6	9	2	-	-	-	1 595	159	
1955 TO 1959 . . . . .	223	208	15	14	9	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)	
BEFORE 1955 . . . . .	166	163	4	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)	
<b>NUMBER OF OWN CHILDREN</b>															
1 OWN CHILD . . . . .	1 988	1 529	459	415	191	119	53	32	10	6	1	3	2 258	194	
2 OWN CHILDREN . . . . .	1 469	1 061	408	369	133	63	58	74	24	8	8	2	2 469	198	
3 OR MORE OWN CHILDREN . . . . .	1 466	1 086	380	352	121	50	50	64	33	18	11	7	2 600	157	
MEAN NUMBER OF OWN CHILDREN . . . . .	2.05	2.04	2.08	2.10	1.97	1.78	2.21	2.29	2.58	2.89	(B)	(B)	...	...	
<b>AGE OF YOUNGEST OWN CHILD</b>															
UNDER 5 YEARS . . . . .	1 631	1 306	325	309	143	73	44	30	8	8	2	1	1 751	111	
5 TO 11 YEARS . . . . .	2 081	1 490	592	554	201	98	76	95	44	17	15	9	2 310	129	
12 TO 17 YEARS . . . . .	1 210	881	329	274	102	62	39	46	15	8	2	1	3 448	327	
<b>TYPE OF RESIDENCE</b>															
INSIDE METROPOLITAN AREAS . . . . .	3 666	2 746	921	829	313	165	114	128	54	28	16	11	2 701	143	
IN CENTRAL CITIES . . . . .	1 943	1 550	393	363	149	82	45	50	20	8	7	2	2 459	232	
OUTSIDE CENTRAL CITIES . . . . .	1 723	1 196	528	466	164	83	69	78	34	20	9	8	2 890	177	
OUTSIDE METROPOLITAN AREAS . . . . .	1 256	930	325	308	132	67	46	42	13	4	3	1	1 709	82	
<b>TENURE</b>															
OWNER OCCUPIED . . . . .	2 245	1 574	670	603	218	118	85	101	41	19	16	3	2 699	164	
RENTER OCCUPIED . . . . .	2 596	2 041	555	515	216	111	72	68	24	11	4	8	2 141	137	
OCCUPIER PAID NO CASH RENT . . . . .	82	61	20	19	10	3	3	1	1	2	-	-	(B)	(B)	
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF WOMAN</b>															
ELEMENTARY: LESS THAN 9 YEARS . . . . .	597	531	66	63	34	12	8	5	3	-	-	-	1 546	148	
HIGH SCHOOL: 1 TO 3 YEARS . . . . .	1 315	1 102	213	197	97	35	32	20	8	2	1	2	1 697	106	
4 YEARS . . . . .	2 044	1 447	597	559	221	117	72	99	27	14	6	2	1 962	76	
COLLEGE: 1 TO 3 YEARS . . . . .	702	450	252	215	62	50	36	30	14	10	8	5	3 228	285	
4 YEARS OR MORE . . . . .	265	146	118	103	30	18	12	16	14	7	4	1	5 288	825	
<b>TYPE OF INCOME IN 1975 OF WOMAN</b>															
WITH EARNINGS . . . . .	3 100	2 138	963	875	322	183	126	140	53	27	17	8	2 431	122	
WITH OTHER INCOME <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	3 288	2 043	1 245	1 136	444	232	160	170	67	32	19	11	2 434	107	
WITH GOV'T TRANSFER PAYMENTS <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	2 040	1 746	294	275	140	52	27	37	11	5	1	2	1 694	95	
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INCOME . . . . .	1 562	1 404	158	149	92	28	14	11	1	2	-	-	1 315	72	
AID TO FAM. WITH DEP. CHILD . . . . .	1 490	1 343	147	139	90	25	12	8	1	2	-	-	1 282	76	
OTHER GOV'T TRANSFER PAYMENTS . . . . .	628	473	195	145	62	28	13	27	9	3	1	2	1 983	161	
WITH GOV'T TRANSFER PAYMENTS ONLY . . . . .	924	924	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)	
WITH OTHER UNEARNED INCOME . . . . .	1 668	421	1 246	1 137	445	232	160	170	67	32	19	11	2 433	107	

<sup>1</sup> SUPPORT PAYMENTS INCLUDE CHILD SUPPORT, ALIMONY, REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PERSONS NOT LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLD, AND OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME NOT SPECIFICALLY ENUMERATED IN THE SIE.

<sup>2</sup> PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN MAY BE OF ANY RACE.

<sup>3</sup> DETAIL DOES NOT ADD TO TOTAL BECAUSE SOME WOMEN HAVE MORE THAN ONE OF THE TYPES OF INCOME SPECIFIED.

NOTE: GOVERNMENT TRANSFER PAYMENTS INCLUDE SOCIAL SECURITY OR RAILROAD RETIREMENT, SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR WELFARE PAYMENTS, VETERANS' PAYMENTS, AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATIONS.

**Table 8. Selected Characteristics of Currently Divorced, Separated, Remarried, and Never-Married Women, by Amount of Child Support Payments Received in 1975: SIE—Continued**

(NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS. WOMEN AS OF SPRING 1976. WOMEN DIVORCED OR SEPARATED BEFORE 1975 WHO HAD ONE OR MORE OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD LIVING WITH THEM AT THE TIME OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION AND AT THE SURVEY DATE. FOR MEANING OF SYMBOLS, SEE TEXT)

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	RECEIVED SUPPORT PAYMENTS IN 1975 <sup>1</sup>													MEAN AMOUNT		
	TOTAL	DID NOT RECEIVE CHILD SUPPORT IN 1975	RECEIVED CHILD SUPPORT BUT NO OTHER SUPPORT PAYMENTS										VALUE (DOLLS.)			STANDARD ERROR (DOLLS.)
			TOTAL	AMOUNT OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS RECEIVED												
				\$1 TO \$999	\$1,000 TO \$1,499	\$1,500 TO \$1,999	\$2,000 TO \$2,999	\$3,000 TO \$3,999	\$4,000 TO \$4,999	\$5,000 TO \$6,999	\$7,000 AND OVER					
<b>INCOME IN 1975 OF WOMAN</b>																
WITHOUT INCOME . . . . .	514	514	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)
WITH INCOME . . . . .	4 408	3 162	1 246	1 137	445	232	160	170	67	32	19	11	2 433	107		
\$1 TO \$999 OR LOSS . . . . .	322	247	75	71	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	650	45		
\$1,000 TO \$1,999 . . . . .	447	349	97	95	33	37	26	-	-	-	-	-	1 201	47		
\$2,000 TO \$2,999 . . . . .	539	444	95	93	40	19	10	24	-	-	-	-	1 452	84		
\$3,000 TO \$3,999 . . . . .	524	450	74	65	26	11	11	6	10	-	-	-	2 059	102		
\$4,000 TO \$4,999 . . . . .	468	368	100	94	39	21	9	11	8	6	-	-	1 901	120		
\$5,000 TO \$5,999 . . . . .	393	293	101	91	37	23	8	13	4	3	3	-	2 168	143		
\$6,000 TO \$6,999 . . . . .	320	225	95	86	40	18	14	8	3	1	2	-	2 008	159		
\$7,000 TO \$7,999 . . . . .	308	211	97	87	29	23	12	16	9	2	-	1	1 919	126		
\$8,000 TO \$9,999 . . . . .	447	264	184	167	47	40	32	30	9	2	5	2	2 486	151		
\$10,000 TO \$14,999 . . . . .	506	249	257	230	69	37	33	49	18	14	4	6	2 809	157		
\$15,000 TO \$24,999 . . . . .	114	50	64	52	13	5	4	12	8	4	4	2	6 150	748		
\$25,000 AND OVER . . . . .	21	12	9	5	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	(B)	(B)		
MEDIAN INCOME . . . . . DOLLARS	4 797	4 246	6 857	6 688	5 362	6 350	7 172	8 435	8 588	10 737	(B)	(B)	...	...		
STANDARD ERROR . . . . . DOLLARS	82	88	213	227	326	482	567	482	971	1 745	(B)	(B)	...	...		
MEAN INCOME . . . . . DOLLARS	5 747	5 093	7 407	7 183	5 866	6 527	7 204	8 611	10 015	10 204	(B)	(B)	...	...		
STANDARD ERROR . . . . . DOLLARS	82	86	183	186	241	297	395	401	950	942	(B)	(B)	...	...		
<b>WORK EXPERIENCE IN 1975 OF WOMAN</b>																
WORKED . . . . .	3 126	2 157	970	881	324	184	127	142	53	27	17	8	2 427	121		
WORKED AT FULL-TIME JOBS . . . . .	2 499	1 693	806	745	271	162	112	119	40	24	11	5	2 206	118		
40 WEEKS OR MORE . . . . .	1 810	1 188	623	579	213	119	88	97	31	19	7	4	2 184	143		
50 TO 52 WEEKS . . . . .	1 947	1 007	540	501	182	106	75	82	29	19	6	3	2 205	159		
39 WEEKS OR LESS . . . . .	689	506	183	166	58	42	24	22	9	5	4	2	2 282	185		
WORKED AT PART-TIME JOBS . . . . .	627	464	163	136	53	22	15	23	12	3	6	2	3 637	424		
40 WEEKS OR MORE . . . . .	281	205	76	64	21	12	8	13	6	1	3	1	4 176	858		
50 TO 52 WEEKS . . . . .	200	146	54	45	13	9	7	10	3	1	3	-	3 448	463		
39 WEEKS OR LESS . . . . .	345	258	87	72	32	11	7	10	6	2	3	2	3 157	227		
PART-YEAR WORKERS . . . . .	1 379	1 004	375	335	130	69	45	51	21	7	8	5	2 622	201		
MAIN REASON FOR PART-YEAR WORK:																
LOOKING FOR WORK . . . . .	387	285	102	88	30	20	12	18	5	1	2	-	2 478	267		
ILL OR DISABLED . . . . .	183	134	49	45	21	10	7	5	2	-	-	-	1 639	230		
GOING TO SCHOOL . . . . .	96	78	18	14	9	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)		
KEEPING HOUSE . . . . .	638	457	181	167	58	34	23	23	13	6	6	4	2 448	186		
ALL OTHER REASONS . . . . .	74	50	24	21	12	2	3	3	-	-	-	1	(B)	(B)		
DID NOT WORK . . . . .	1 796	1 520	277	255	121	48	33	28	14	5	2	4	2 452	232		
MAIN REASON FOR NOT WORKING:																
ILL OR DISABLED . . . . .	201	176	25	23	9	8	3	2	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)		
GOING TO SCHOOL . . . . .	103	90	13	8	3	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)		
KEEPING HOUSE . . . . .	1 262	1 064	198	184	89	28	25	23	8	5	1	4	2 436	301		
ALL OTHER REASONS . . . . .	231	189	41	40	20	9	5	1	5	-	1	-	1 609	310		
<b>OCCUPATION GROUP OF LONGEST JOB OF WOMAN</b>																
TOTAL <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	3 126	2 157	970	881	324	184	127	142	53	27	17	8	2 427	121		
WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS . . . . .	1 694	1 042	652	589	191	122	91	109	35	22	15	6	2 650	172		
PROFESSIONAL & MANAGERIAL WORKERS . . . . .	523	305	218	199	65	33	26	36	15	11	9	3	3 361	443		
CLERICAL AND SALES WORKERS . . . . .	1 170	736	434	390	125	89	64	73	19	11	6	3	2 287	122		
BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS . . . . .	592	449	143	137	64	29	19	15	7	2	1	-	1 570	105		
SERVICE WORKERS . . . . .	808	640	168	149	64	33	17	18	11	3	1	1	2 405	184		
<b>LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND POVERTY STATUS</b>																
<b>IN PRIMARY FAMILIES:</b>																
TOTAL PERSONS . . . . .	17 296	12 782	4 513	4 151	1 538	765	616	664	289	146	91	42	...	...		
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	4 659	4 083	576	516	256	85	67	52	43	13	-	-	...	...		
TOTAL OWN CHILDREN . . . . .	9 532	7 007	2 525	2 316	840	399	352	375	172	93	58	27	...	...		
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	3 001	2 618	383	339	165	52	50	33	29	10	-	-	...	...		
<b>NOT IN SUBFAMILIES:</b>																
TOTAL PERSONS . . . . .	17 082	12 612	4 470	4 109	1 524	761	606	660	279	146	91	42	...	...		
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	4 519	3 963	556	496	247	84	64	52	36	13	-	-	...	...		
TOTAL OWN CHILDREN . . . . .	9 414	6 915	2 499	2 291	833	397	346	374	164	93	58	27	...	...		
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	2 922	2 552	370	326	161	51	47	33	23	10	-	-	...	...		
<b>IN SUBFAMILIES:</b>																
TOTAL PERSONS . . . . .	214	170	43	42	15	3	10	4	10	-	-	-	...	...		
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	141	120	20	20	8	1	3	-	7	-	-	-	...	...		
TOTAL OWN CHILDREN . . . . .	118	92	26	25	7	2	6	2	8	-	-	-	...	...		
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	79	66	13	13	4	1	3	-	5	-	-	-	...	...		
<b>IN SECONDARY FAMILIES:</b>																
TOTAL PERSONS . . . . .	990	865	124	119	69	25	2	21	-	-	-	1	...	...		
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	255	242	13	12	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	...	...		
TOTAL OWN CHILDREN . . . . .	576	506	70	67	37	15	1	13	-	-	-	1	...	...		
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	154	147	7	7	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	...	...		

<sup>1</sup> SUPPORT PAYMENTS INCLUDE CHILD SUPPORT, ALIMONY, REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PERSONS NOT LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLD, AND OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME NOT SPECIFICALLY ENUMERATED IN THE SIE.

<sup>4</sup> INCLUDES FARM WORKERS, NOT SHOWN SEPARATELY.

**Table 9. Currently Divorced, Separated, Remarried, and Never-Married Women, by Amount of Child Support Payments Received in 1975, for Regions and Divisions: SIE**

(Numbers in thousands. Women as of Spring 1976. Women divorced or separated before 1975 who had one or more own children under 18 years old living with them at the time of divorce or separation and at the survey date. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Regions and divisions	Total		Did not receive child support in 1975	Received support payments in 1975 <sup>1</sup>												Mean amount		
	Number	Standard error		Total	Received child support but no other support payments											Value (dols.)	Standard error (dols.)	
					Total	Amount of child support payments received												
						\$1 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 to \$1,999	\$2,000 to \$2,999	\$3,000 to \$3,999	\$4,000 to \$4,999	\$5,000 to \$6,999	\$7,000 and over					
United States.....	4,922	80	3,676	1,246	1,137	445	232	160	170	67	32	19	11	2,433	107			
Northeast.....	1,004	37	788	216	186	63	41	18	37	12	8	2	5	3,206	376			
New England.....	224	11	173	51	45	15	10	4	9	3	2	1	1	2,696	250			
Middle Atlantic.....	780	36	615	164	141	48	31	14	28	9	6	1	4	3,367	524			
North Central.....	1,204	33	874	330	304	106	70	44	52	20	5	8	-	2,243	135			
East North Central.....	904	30	649	255	236	79	52	35	43	17	4	7	-	2,273	167			
West North Central.....	300	14	225	75	68	27	18	9	9	3	1	1	-	2,139	208			
South.....	1,714	48	1,313	400	378	168	79	58	38	22	7	3	2	2,126	186			
South Atlantic.....	853	35	646	207	189	74	47	35	18	11	1	3	-	2,318	233			
East South Central.....	357	20	273	84	80	42	14	10	8	3	2	-	1	1,509	159			
West South Central.....	505	26	395	110	109	52	18	13	12	8	5	-	1	2,248	493			
West.....	1,000	41	700	300	268	108	43	40	43	12	12	7	4	2,543	228			
Mountain.....	232	9	165	67	61	27	12	8	8	3	2	1	1	2,535	375			
Pacific.....	768	40	535	233	207	81	31	32	35	10	10	6	3	2,545	200			

<sup>1</sup>Support payments include child support, alimony, regular contributions from persons not living in the household, and other sources of income not specifically enumerated in the SIE.

**Table 10. Selected Characteristics of Currently Divorced and Separated Women by Receipt of Alimony Payments in 1975: SIE**

(Numbers in thousands. Women as of Spring 1976. Divorced or separated before 1975. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Selected characteristics of women	Total	Did not receive alimony payments	Received alimony payments	
			Number	Percent of total
Total.....	4,522	4,342	180	4.0
Standard error.....	76	75	15	...
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>				
Currently divorced.....	3,200	3,054	146	4.6
Currently separated.....	1,322	1,288	34	2.6
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN</b>				
White.....	3,303	3,139	164	5.0
Black.....	1,150	1,138	12	1.0
Spanish origin <sup>1</sup> .....	307	303	4	1.3
<b>AGE</b>				
14 to 24 years.....	255	252	4	1.6
25 to 29 years.....	607	601	5	0.8
30 to 34 years.....	588	564	24	4.1
35 to 39 years.....	522	498	23	4.4
40 to 44 years.....	489	461	28	5.7
45 years and over.....	2,062	1,966	96	4.7
<b>AGE OF YOUNGEST OWN CHILD</b>				
Under 5 years.....	525	513	12	2.3
5 to 11 years.....	1,039	1,006	33	3.2
12 to 17 years.....	663	607	56	8.4
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>				
Elementary: Less than 9 years....	877	863	14	1.6
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	983	961	22	2.2
4 years.....	1,581	1,515	66	4.2
College: 1 to 3 years.....	676	634	42	6.2
4 years or more.....	405	370	35	8.6

<sup>1</sup>Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

# Appendix

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

**Population coverage.** This report includes the civilian non-institutional population of the United States and approximately 1,000,000 members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post, but excludes all other members of the Armed Forces.

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

**Persons of Spanish origin.** Persons of Spanish origin in this report were determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (or the origin of some other household member) from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Persons of Spanish origin, in particular, were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Spanish origin. It should be noted that persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**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." 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, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other persons permanently or temporarily separated because of marital discord. The group "other married, spouse absent" 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.

**Marital history.** In addition to their current marital status, persons 14 years old and over were asked how many times they had been married; when they had married for the first time; whether that marriage had ended in widowhood or divorce and when that marriage had ended (if it was no longer intact); and if they had remarried, they were asked when they had entered their latest marriage and when that marriage had ended (if it was no longer intact). All dates were recorded in terms of month and year, and this detail was used in deriving age at each event or interval between events.

**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. A lodger and his/her spouse who are not related to the person or persons who maintain the household, or a resident employee and his/her spouse living in, are considered as a separate family. Thus, a household may contain more than one family. However, if the son of the person or couple who maintains the household and the son's wife are members of the household, they are treated as part of the parent's family. A person maintaining a household alone, or with unrelated persons only, is regarded as a household but not as a family. Thus, some households do not contain a family.

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

**Secondary family.** A secondary family is a family that does not include among its members the person or couple who maintains the household, or any persons related to the person or couple who maintains the household. Members of secondary families may include persons such as guests, lodgers, or resident employees and their relatives living in a household.

**Subfamily.** A subfamily is a married couple with or without children, or one parent with one or more own single children under 18 years old, living in a household and related to, but not including, the person or couple who maintains the household. The most common example of a subfamily is a young married couple sharing the home of the husband's or wife's parents. Members of a subfamily are also members of a primary family. The number of subfamilies, therefore, is not included in the number of families.

**Own children.** "Own" children in a family are sons and daughters, including stepchildren and adopted children, of the householder. Similarly, "own" children in a subfamily are sons and daughters of the person(s) maintaining the subfamily. For each type of family unit identified, the count of own children under 18 years old is limited to single (never married) children.

**Children ever born.** The question "How many babies has . . . ever had, if any? (Do not count stillbirths)" was asked of all women 14 to 49 years old who were reported as married (including separated), widowed, or divorced, and all women 18 to 49 years old who were reported single (never married). When asking about children ever born, interviewers were instructed to include children born to the woman before her present marriage, children no longer living, and children away from home as well as children who were still living in the home. It is possible that some never-married mothers living with one or more of their natural children reported themselves as having been married. In addition, many mothers who first married after the birth of one or more children counted those children, as they were expected to do. Nevertheless, data are probably less complete for births out of wedlock than for births within wedlock.

**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 this person has ever attended?" and (b) "Did this person 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.

**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 contain 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 figures shown in this report for SMSA's are based on the SMSA's as defined on the basis of the 1970 census.

**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 and nine Census divisions of the United States represent groups of States, as follows:

**Northeast:**

**New England:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

**Middle Atlantic:** New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.

**North Central:**

**East North Central:** Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin.

**West North Central:** Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

**South:**

**South Atlantic:** Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia.

**East South Central:** Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee.

**West South Central:** Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas.

**West:**

**Mountain:** Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming.

**Pacific:** Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington.

**Tenure.** A housing unit is "owner occupied" if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit, even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. A cooperative or condominium unit is "owner occupied" only if the owner or co-owner lives in it. All other occupied units are classified as "renter occupied," including units rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment of cash rent. For renter-occupied units, information was also obtained as to whether the unit was publicly owned or subsidized by the Federal, State, or local government.

**Occupation.** The data on occupation refer to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week.

The data on occupation refer to the job held longest during the income year.

The major occupation groups are combined into four divisions, as follows:

**White-collar workers.** Professional, technical, and kindred workers; managers and administrators, except farm; sales workers; and clerical and kindred workers.

**Blue-collar workers.** Craft and kindred workers; operatives, except transport; transport equipment operatives; and laborers, except farm.

**Farm workers.** Farmers and farm managers; and farm laborers and supervisors.

**Service workers.** Service workers, excluding private households; and private household workers.

The sequence in which these four divisions appear is not intended to imply that any division has a higher social or skill level than another.

**Work experience.** A person with work experience is one who, during the preceding calendar year, did any civilian work for pay or profit or worked without pay on a family-operated farm or business at any time during the year, on a part-time or full-time basis.

**Weeks worked.** Persons are classified according to the number of different weeks, during the preceding calendar year, in which they did any civilian work for pay or profit (including paid vacations and sick leave) or worked without pay on a family-operated farm or business.

**Part-time or full-time jobs.** A person is classified as having worked at part-time jobs during the preceding calendar year, if he worked at civilian jobs which provided less than 35 hours of work per week in a majority of the weeks in which he worked during the year. He is classified as having worked at full-time jobs if he worked 35 hours or more per week during a majority of the weeks in which he worked.

**Year-round full-time worker.** A year-round full-time worker is one who worked primarily at full-time civilian jobs for 50 weeks or more during the preceding calendar year.

**Nonworker.** A nonworker is one who did not do any civilian work in the calendar year preceding the survey.

**Main reason for working part year.** For persons who worked 1 to 49 weeks during the year, the main reason for working part year is based on the response to the question "What were you doing most of the remaining weeks?"

**Main reason for not working.** For persons who reported that they did not work at a civilian job for pay or profit or on a family-operated farm or business during the year, the main reason for not working is derived from the response to the question "What were you doing most of last year?"

**Income.** For each person in the sample 14 years old and over, questions were asked on the amount of money income received in the preceding calendar year from each of the following sources: (1) Money wages or salary; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm

self-employment; (4) Social Security or railroad retirement; (5) Supplemental Security income; (6) public assistance or welfare payments; (7) interest (on savings or bonds); (8) dividends, income from estates or trusts, or net rental income; (9) veterans' payments or unemployment and workmen's compensation; (10) private pensions or government employee pensions; (11) alimony or child support, regular contributions from persons not living in the household, and other periodic income.

When an indefinite amount was reported by the respondent, a specific value was assigned during processing wherever possible. If the indefinite amount was reported in terms of a range, the midpoint of the range was assigned (i.e., \$10,000 to \$15,000 was coded as \$12,500). Open-ended amounts were converted to designated specific amounts; e.g., over \$10,000 may be coded as \$15,000.

It should be noted that although the income statistics refer to receipts during the preceding year the characteristics of the person, such as age, labor force status, etc., and the composition of families refer to the time of the survey. The income of the family does not include amounts received by persons who were members of the family during all or part of the income year if these persons no longer resided with the family at the time of enumeration. On the other hand, family income includes amounts reported by related persons who did not reside with the family during the income year but who were members of the family at the time of enumeration.

Data on consumer income collected in the SIE by the Bureau of the Census cover money income received (exclusive of certain money receipts such as capital gains) before payments for personal income taxes, Social Security, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc. Therefore, money income does not reflect the fact that some families receive part of their income in the form of nonmoney transfers such as food stamps, health benefits, and subsidized housing; that many farm families receive nonmoney income in the form of rent-free housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm; or that nonmoney incomes are also received by some nonfarm residents which often take the form of the use of business transportation and facilities, full or partial payments by business for retirement programs, medical and educational expenses, etc. These elements should be considered when comparing income levels. Moreover, readers should be aware that for many different reasons there is a tendency in household surveys for respondents to underreport their income. From an analysis of independently derived income estimates, it has been determined that wages and salaries tend to be much better reported than such income types as public assistance, Social Security, and net income from interest, dividends, rents, etc.

The various sources for which income is reported are defined as follows:

**Money wages or salary** is total money earnings received for work performed as an employee during the income year. It includes wages, salary, Armed Forces pay, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses earned, before deductions were made for taxes, bonds, pensions, union dues, etc.

**Net income from nonfarm self-employment** is net money income (gross receipts minus expenses) from one's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership. Gross receipts include the value of all goods sold and services rendered. Expenses include costs of goods purchased, rent, heat, light, power, depreciation charges, wages and salaries paid, business taxes (not personal income taxes), etc. In general, inventory changes were considered in determining net income; replies based on income tax returns or other official records do reflect inventory changes. However, when values of inventory changes were not reported, net income figures exclusive of inventory changes were accepted. The value of saleable merchandise consumed by the proprietors of retail stores is not included as part of net income.

**Net income from farm self-employment** is net money income (gross receipts minus operating expenses) from the operation of a farm by a person on his own account, as an owner, renter, or sharecropper. Gross receipts include the value of all products sold, government crop loans, money received from the rental of farm equipment to others, and incidental receipts from the sale of wood, sand, gravel, etc. Operating expenses include cost of feed, fertilizer, seed, and other farming supplies, cash wages paid to farmhands, depreciation charges, cash rent, interest on farm mortgages, farm building repairs, farm taxes (not State and Federal income taxes), etc. The value of fuel, food, or other farm products used for family living is not included as part of net income. In general, inventory changes were considered in determining net income only when they were accounted for in replies based on income tax returns or other official records which reflect inventory changes, otherwise, inventory changes were not taken into account.

**Social Security** includes Social Security pensions and survivors' benefits, and permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration prior to deductions for medical insurance and railroad retirement insurance checks from the U.S. Government. "Medicare" reimbursements are not included.

**Supplemental Security income** includes payments made by Federal, State, and local welfare agencies to low income persons who are (1) aged (65 years old or over), (2) blind, or (3) disabled.

**Public assistance or welfare payments** include public assistance payments such as aid to families with dependent children and general assistance.

**Dividends, interest (on savings or bonds), income from estates or trusts, net rental income or royalties** include dividends from stockholdings or membership in associations, interest on savings or bonds, periodic receipts from estates or trust funds, net income from rental of a house, store, or other property to others, receipts from boarders or lodgers, and net royalties.

**Unemployment compensation, veterans' payments, or workmen's compensation** include: (1) Unemployment compensation received from government unemployment

insurance agencies or private companies during periods of unemployment and any strike benefits received from union funds; (2) money paid periodically by the Veterans Administration to disabled members of the Armed Forces or to survivors of deceased veterans, subsistence allowances paid to veterans for education and on-the-job training, as well as so called "refunds" paid to ex-servicemen as GI insurance premiums; and (3) workmen's compensation received periodically from public or private insurance companies for injuries incurred at work. The cost of this insurance must have been paid by the employer and not by the person.

**Private and government employee pensions** include: (1) Private pensions or retirement benefits paid to a retired person or his survivors by a former employer or by a union, either directly or through an insurance company; (2) government employee pensions received from retirement pensions paid by Federal, State, county, or other governmental agencies to former employees (including members of the Armed Forces) or their survivors.

**Annuities, alimony, regular contributions** from persons not living in the household, and other periodic income include the following types of income: (1) Periodic receipts from annuities or insurance; (2) alimony and child support; (3) contributions received periodically from persons not living in the household; (4) other periodic income such as military family allotments, net gambling winnings, and other kinds of periodic income other than earnings.

**Government transfer payments** include Social Security or railroad retirement, public assistance or welfare payments, Supplemental Security income, retirement and annuities, veterans' payment, unemployment and workmen's compensation, etc.

**Alimony and child support payments.** Because of the design of the SIE questionnaire, data on the specific amounts of alimony or child support received are available for those women who reported receiving only one of these two types of income and no other miscellaneous income, such as regular contributions from outside the household and other sources not specifically enumerated in the SIE.

**Alimony.** Data for this source of income were tabulated for women who were either divorced or separated before 1975. They are based only on those women who reported that they received alimony payments. In the SIE no attempt was made to determine how many women were actually entitled to such benefits.

**Child support payments.** Data for this source of income were tabulated from women who were either divorced, separated, remarried, or never married with one or more own children under 18 years old present at the survey date. No attempt was made in this survey to determine the actual number of women who were entitled to child support payments.

**Receipts not counted as income.** Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: (1) Money received from the sale of property, such as stocks, bonds, a house, or

a car (unless the person was engaged in the business of selling such property, in which case the net proceeds would be counted as income from self-employment); (2) withdrawals of bank deposits; (3) money borrowed; (4) tax refunds; (5) gifts; and (6) lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments.

**Total money income.** The algebraic sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings represents total money income. The total income of a family is the algebraic sum of the amounts received by all income recipients in the family.

**Median income.** The median income is the amount which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median, and the other having incomes below the median.

**Mean income.** The mean income is the amount obtained by dividing the total income of a group by the number of units in that group (families or persons). The means for families are based on all families. The means for persons are based on the number of persons with income. The mean for a particular type of income is based on the number of persons or families with that particular type of income.

**Poverty (low-income) classification.** Families and persons are classified as being above or below the poverty level using the poverty index adopted by a Federal Interagency Committee in 1969. This index is based on the Department of Agriculture's 1961 Economy Food Plan and reflects the different consumption requirements of families based on their size and composition, sex and age of the family head, and farm-nonfarm residence. It was determined from the Department of Agriculture's 1955 survey of food consumption that families of three or more persons spend approximately one-third of their income on food; the poverty level for these families was, therefore, set at three times the cost

of the economy food plan. For smaller families and persons living alone, the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly higher in order to compensate for the relatively larger fixed expenses of these smaller households. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Poverty thresholds are computed on a National basis only. No attempt has been made to adjust these thresholds for regional, State, or other local variations in the cost of living.

For a detailed definition of the poverty concept, see **Current Population Reports, Series P-60, Nos. 110-113.**

**Alternate levels.** Because the poverty definition currently in use by the Federal Government does not meet all the needs of the analysts of the data, additional data are presented for alternate definitions ranging from 75 percent to 125 percent of the current poverty level. Alternate cutoffs are obtained by multiplying the income cutoffs at the poverty level by the appropriate factor. For example, the income cutoff at 125 percent of the poverty level was \$6,875 in 1975 for a nonfarm family of four persons.

**Poverty status excluding child support.** The data on poverty for women receiving child support payments are presented in two ways. First, poverty status of women was determined based on their total income including child support payments. Second, their poverty status was recalculated by excluding the amount of child support payments received. The purpose of this analysis was to determine the additional number of women who would fall below the poverty line if they could not depend on child support payments.

**Weighted average thresholds at the poverty level.** The low-income cutoffs used by the Bureau of the Census to determine the low-income status of families and unrelated individuals consist of a set of 124 thresholds arranged in a

**Table A-1. Weighted Average Thresholds at the Poverty Level in 1975 by Size of Family and Sex of Head, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence**

Size of family unit	Total	Nonfarm			Farm		
		Total	Male head <sup>1</sup>	Female head <sup>1</sup>	Total	Male head <sup>1</sup>	Female head <sup>1</sup>
1 person (unrelated individual).	\$2,717	\$2,724	\$2,851	\$2,635	\$2,305	\$2,396	\$2,224
14 to 64 years.....	2,791	2,797	2,902	2,685	2,396	2,466	2,282
65 years and over.....	2,572	2,581	2,608	2,574	2,196	2,216	2,187
2 persons.....	3,485	3,506	3,515	3,460	2,955	2,963	2,834
Head 14 to 64 years.....	3,599	3,617	3,636	3,530	3,079	3,086	2,933
Head 65 years and over.....	3,232	3,257	3,260	3,237	2,772	2,772	2,770
3 persons.....	4,269	4,293	4,317	4,175	3,643	3,652	3,480
4 persons.....	5,469	5,500	5,502	5,473	4,695	4,697	4,616
5 persons.....	6,463	6,499	6,504	6,434	5,552	5,552	5,595
6 persons.....	7,272	7,316	7,322	7,270	6,224	6,230	6,105
7 persons or more.....	8,939	9,022	9,056	8,818	7,639	7,639	7,647

<sup>1</sup>For one person (i.e., unrelated individual), sex of the individual.

four-dimensional matrix consisting of family size (from one person, i.e., unrelated individuals, to seven or more person families) cross-classified by presence and number of family members under 18 years old (from no children present to six or more children present); sex of head, and farm-nonfarm residence. Unrelated individuals and two-person families are further differentiated by age of head (under 65 years and 65 years and over). The total family income of each family in the sample is tested against the appropriate dollar threshold to determine the low-income status of that family. If the family's total income is less than its corresponding cutoff, the family is classified as below the low-income level. The average thresholds shown in table A-1 were weighted by the presence and number of children. For example, for a given size of family, sex of head, and residence category, the weighted average threshold for that group is obtained by multiplying the threshold for each presence and number of children category within the given family size by the number of families in that category. These products are then aggregated across the entire range of presence and number of children categories, and the total aggregate is divided by the total number of families in the group to yield the weighted average threshold at the low-income level for that size family.

Because family composition varies by farm-nonfarm residence, the weighted average thresholds at the poverty level for farm families, as shown in table A-1 will not be exactly 85 percent of the nonfarm levels. Moreover, since family composition does not remain constant from year to year, the weighted average thresholds for 1975 will not reflect, identically, the change in the CPI between 1975 and earlier years.

Since the basic thresholds used to determine the low-income status of families and unrelated individuals are applied to all families and unrelated individuals, the weighted poverty thresholds are derived using all families and unrelated individuals rather than just those families and unrelated individuals classified as below the low-income level.

**Symbols.** A dash "--" represents zero or rounds to zero. The symbol "B" means that the base for the derived figure is less than approximately 60 sample cases for SIE data and less than 75,000 weighted cases for the CPS data. Three dots "... " mean not applicable, and "NA" means not available.

**Rounding.** Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded.

**Base figures.** The figures shown in this report were prepared by inflating weighted sample results to agree with independent estimates of the population based on statistics updated from the 1970 census.

## SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

### Source of Data

Most of the estimates in this report are based on data obtained from the Bureau of the Census collected in the Current Population Survey (CPS), Survey of Income and Education (SIE), and the 1960 Census of Population. Other data are from Vital Statistics.

**Current Population Survey (CPS).** The CPS estimates are based on data obtained in June 1975 and March 1970, 1975, and 1978. The monthly CPS deals mainly with labor force data for the civilian noninstitutional population. Questions relating to labor force participation are asked every month about each member 14 years old and over in each sample household. In addition, supplementary questions are asked in most months about various population characteristics. Brief descriptions of the sources and the procedures by which the data were obtained are presented below.

The present CPS sample was initially selected from the 1970 census files and is updated continuously to reflect new construction where possible (see section "nonsampling variability" below). Samples for previous sample designs were selected from files from the most recently completed census. The monthly CPS sample is spread over 461 areas with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. A supplementary sample of housing units in 24 States and the District of Columbia was incorporated with the monthly CPS sample to produce the March 1978 data. The expanded CPS sample is located in 614 areas comprising 1,113 counties, independent cities, and divisions in the Nation. The 614 sample areas used in March 1978 include 461 areas from the monthly CPS and 153 supplementary areas.

### Brief Description of the Current Population Survey

Time period	Number of sample areas	Housing units eligible		Housing units visited, not eligible <sup>1</sup>
		Interviewed	Not interviewed	
Supplemental sample.....	153	8,500	500	1,500
Aug. 1972 to present.....	461	45,000	2,000	8,000
Aug. 1971 to July 1972.....	449	45,000	2,000	8,000
Jan. 1967 to July 1971.....	449	48,000	2,000	8,500

<sup>1</sup>These are housing units which were visited, but were found to be vacant or otherwise not eligible for interview.

The estimation procedure used for the monthly CPS data involved 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 were based on statistics from decennial censuses; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. The estimation procedure in March for the data in this report also involves a further adjustment so that husband and wife in a household receive the same weight.

**Survey of Income and Education (SIE).** The SIE was a one-time survey of approximately 151,000 interviewed households nationwide, conducted in each State by the Bureau of the Census between April and July 1976. The purpose of the SIE was to provide estimates of the number of children 5 to 17 years old in poverty in each State and the District of Columbia, as required by the Education Amendments of 1974.

In addition to collecting income data needed to determine poverty status, the opportunity presented by such a large survey was also used to gather some additional income-related information not usually collected in the Census Bureau's current income surveys. Such data include the receipt of food stamps, housing costs for homeowners and renters, and estimated cash assets. Also, information relevant to a number of Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) programs was collected, including data on English language proficiency, school enrollment, public assistance reciprocity, housing tenure, liquid asset holdings, child and adult disability, and health insurance coverage. More detailed information on the SIE appear in **Current Population Reports**, Series P-60, Nos. 108 and 110 through 113 and series P-20, No. 334.

**Vital statistics data.** Data on divorces and divorce rates are published by the Division of Vital Statistics Analysis of the National Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The divorce rate in this report is defined as the number of divorces per 1,000 total population.

**1960 Census of Population.** Decennial census data in this report are based on complete counts or on the samples associated with the census as indicated in the list of sources. Descriptions of samples from the census are found in the appropriate census publications.

### Reliability of the Estimates

Since the CPS and SIE estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same questionnaires, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey—sampling and nonsampling. The standard errors provided for this report primarily indicate the magnitude of the sampling error. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in response and enumeration, but do not measure any systematic biases in the data. The full

extent of nonsampling error is unknown. Consequently, particular care should be exercised in the interpretation of figures based on a relatively small number of cases or on small differences between estimates.

**Nonsampling variability.** Nonsampling errors can be attributed to many sources, e.g., inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, inability or unwillingness on the part of respondents to provide correct information, inability to recall information, errors made in collection such as in recording or coding the data, errors made in processing the data, errors made in estimating values for missing data, and failure to represent all units with the sample (undercoverage).

Undercoverage in the CPS and SIE results from missed housing units and missed persons within sample households. Overall undercoverage, as compared to the level of the decennial census, is about 5 percent for CPS and slightly higher for SIE. It is known that the CPS and SIE undercoverage varies with age, sex, and race. Generally, undercoverage is larger for males than for females and larger for Blacks and other races than for Whites. Ratio estimation to independent age-sex-race population controls partially corrects for the bias due to survey undercoverage. However, biases exist in the estimates to the extent that missed persons in missed households or missed persons in interviewed households have different characteristics than interviewed persons in the same age-sex-race group. Further, the independent population controls used have not been adjusted for undercoverage in the 1970 census, which was estimated at 2.5 percent of the population, with similar undercoverage differentials by age, sex, and race as in CPS and SIE.

The approximate magnitude of the two sources of undercoverage of housing units is known. Of the 83,000,000 housing units in the United States about 600,000 conventional new construction housing units are not represented in the CPS sample because they were assigned building permits prior to January 1970, but building was not completed by the time of the 1970 census, (i.e., April 1970). Almost all conventional new construction, for which building permits were issued after 1969, is represented. About 290,000 occupied mobile homes are not represented in CPS; these units were either missed in the census or have been built or occupied since the census. These estimates of missed units are relevant to the present sample only and not to earlier designs where the extent of undercoverage was generally less. The extent of other sources of undercoverage of housing units is unknown but believed to be small.

**Sampling variability.** The standard errors given in the following tables are primarily measures of sampling variability, that is, of the variation that occurred by chance because a sample rather than the entire population was surveyed. The sample estimate and its estimated standard error enable one to construct confidence intervals, ranges that would include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, if all possible samples were selected, each of these surveyed under essentially the

same general conditions and using the same sample design, and an estimate and its estimated standard error were calculated from each sample, then:

1. Approximately 68 percent of the intervals from one standard error below the estimate to one standard error above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.
2. Approximately 90 percent of the intervals from 1.6 standard errors below the estimate to 1.6 standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.
3. Approximately 95 percent of the intervals from two standard errors below the estimate to two standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

The average estimate derived from all possible samples is or is not contained in any particular computed interval. However, for a particular sample, one can say with a specified confidence that the average estimate derived from all possible samples is included in the confidence interval.

All the statements of comparison appearing in the text are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better, and most are significant at a level of more than 2.0 standard errors. This means that for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. Statements of comparison qualified in some way (e.g., by use of the phrase, "some evidence") have a level of significance between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors.

**Comparability with other data.** Data obtained from the CPS and SIE are not entirely comparable. This is due in large part to differences in survey objectives, month of interview, conditioning of respondents, mode of interview and interviewer experience. This is an additional component of error not reflected in the standard error tables. Therefore, caution should be used in comparing results between these different sources.

Caution should also be used in comparing estimates from 1978, when the expanded sample was used, to those from 1975 and 1970. Some relatively large differences in estimates of population in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas have been observed between the 461 and 614 area samples. These differences reflect a relatively large increase in variance on those estimates and do not represent actual changes in population.

**Note when using small estimates.** Summary measures (such as means, medians, and percent distributions) derived from CPS data are shown only when the base of the measure is 75,000 or greater. Summary measures derived from SIE data are shown if approximately 60 or more sample cases are present; a weighted cutoff cannot be used since the SIE sampling weights vary greatly by geographical area. Because of the large standard errors involved, there is little chance that summary measures would reveal useful information when computed on a smaller base. Estimated numbers are shown, however, even though the relative standard errors of

these numbers are larger than those for corresponding percentages. These smaller estimates are provided primarily to permit such combinations of the categories as serve each user's need.

**Standard errors for data based on the 1960 census.** Sampling errors on all data from the 25-percent sample of the decennial census shown in this report are small enough to be disregarded. However, the standard errors may be found in the appropriate census volumes.

**Standard errors for data based on vital statistics.** Since sample statistics are not involved in the numerator or denominator of any vital rate (divorce), the standard error of such a rate is zero.

**Standard error tables and their use.** In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a large number of estimates and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. Therefore, instead of providing an individual standard error for each estimate, generalized sets of standard errors are provided for various types of characteristics. As a result, the sets of standard errors provided give an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard error of an estimate rather than the precise standard error.

The figures presented in tables A-2 through A-5 are approximations to standard errors of the CPS estimates for families, unrelated individuals, and persons in the United States. Standard errors for intermediate values not shown in the generalized tables of standard errors may be approximated by linear interpolation. Two parameters (denoted as "a" and "b") are used to calculate standard errors for each type of characteristic; they are presented in table A-6. These parameters were used to calculate the standard errors in tables A-2 through A-5. They also may be used to directly calculate the standard errors for estimated numbers and percentages.

**Table A-2. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Families and Unrelated Individuals: CPS**

Total or White  
(Numbers in thousands)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
75.....	10	2,500.....	56
100.....	11	5,000.....	79
250.....	18	10,000.....	109
500.....	25	25,000.....	162
1,000.....	35	35,000.....	184
		50,000.....	200

Note: To obtain approximate standard errors for families and unrelated individuals of Black and other races, multiply the above standard errors by 1.0.

**Table A-3. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages of Families and Unrelated Individuals: CPS**

Total or White Base of estimated percentage (thousands)	Estimated percentage				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
75.....	1.9	2.9	4.0	5.7	7.0
100.....	1.5	2.4	3.4	5.0	5.7
250.....	1.0	1.5	2.2	3.1	3.6
500.....	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.2	2.5
1,000.....	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.8
2,500.....	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.1
5,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.8
10,000.....	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6
25,000.....	0.10	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
50,000.....	0.07	0.11	0.2	0.2	0.2

Note: To obtain approximate standard errors for families and unrelated individuals of Black and other races, multiply the above standard errors by 1.0.

The figures presented in tables A-7 and A-8 are approximations to standard errors of the SIE estimates. To find the standard error of a percentage for a specific region, division, or the United States, multiply the standard error shown in table A-8 by the factor shown in table A-9. Two parameters (denoted as "a" and "b") are used to calculate standard errors for regions and divisions; they are presented in table A-10. These parameters were used to calculate the standard errors in tables A-7 and A-8 and to calculate the factors in table A-9. They also may be used to directly calculate the standard errors for estimated numbers and percentages. Methods for direct computation are given in the following sections.

**Standard errors of estimated numbers (CPS).** The approximate standard error,  $\sigma_x$ , of an estimated number can be obtained in two ways. It may be obtained by interpolation from table A-2 or A-4. Alternatively, standard errors may be approximated by using formula (1), from which the standard errors in tables A-2 and A-4 were calculated. Use of this formula will provide more accurate results than the use of interpolation.

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{ax^2 + bx} \quad (1)$$

Here x is the size of the estimate and a and b are the parameters in table A-6 associated with the particular type of characteristic.

**Standard errors of estimated numbers (SIE).** The approximate standard error,  $\sigma_x$ , of an estimated number can also be obtained by use of formula (1) above, from which the standard errors were calculated in table A-7. Here x is the size of the estimate and a and b are the parameters in table A-10 associated with the United States, regions or divisions of the United States. When calculating the standard error of an estimate involving poverty, multiply the standard error as calculated above by 1.3.

**Standard errors of estimated percentages.** The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which this percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more. When the numerator and denominator of the percentage are in different categories, use the parameters or factors from table A-6 for CPS or from tables A-9 or A-10 for SIE as indicated by the numerator. The approximate standard error,  $\sigma_{(x,p)}$ , of an estimated percentage can be obtained by use of the formula

$$\sigma_{(x,p)} = fp \quad (2)$$

In this formula f is the appropriate factor from table A-9 for SIE and equals to 1.0 for CPS, and  $\sigma$  is the standard

**Table A-4. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Persons: CPS**

Total or White (Numbers in thousands)			
Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
75.....	17	5,000.....	131
100.....	18	10,000.....	182
250.....	30	25,000.....	276
500.....	42	30,000.....	299
1,000.....	49	35,000.....	318
2,500.....	93	50,000.....	365
		75,000.....	413

Note: To obtain approximate standard errors for persons of Black and other races, multiply the above standard errors by 1.2.

error on the estimate from table A-3 or A-5 for CPS or from table A-8 for SIE. Alternatively, standard errors may be approximated by using formula (3) from which the standard errors in tables A-3 and A-5 for CPS and in table A-8 for SIE were calculated. Use of this formula will provide more accurate results than use of formula (2).

$$\sigma_{(x,p)} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{x} \cdot p(100-p)} \quad (3)$$

Here  $x$  is the size of the subclass of persons or families and unrelated individuals which is the base of the percentage,  $p$  is the percentage ( $0 < p < 100$ ), and  $b$  is the parameter in table A-6 or A-10 associated with the particular type of characteristic in the numerator of the percentage.

**Illustration of use of standard error tables (CPS).** Table 4 shows that in 1978 there were 5,206,000 families maintained by a woman with no husband present but with one or more of her own children under 18 years of age present. Table A-2 shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be

approximately 81,000<sup>1</sup>. The 68-percent confidence interval as shown by the data is from 5,125,000 to 5,287,000. Therefore, a conclusion that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 68 percent of all possible samples. Similarly, we could conclude that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within the interval from 5,044,000 to 5,368,000 (using twice the standard error) with 95 percent confidence.

Of these 5,206,000 families maintained by a mother, 42.8 percent of the families were maintained by a divorced mother. From table A-6, the  $b$  parameter for computing standard errors is 1,389; using formula (3), the standard error on an estimate of 42.8 percent is

$$\sqrt{\frac{1,389}{5,206,000} (42.8)(100 - 42.8)} = 0.8 \text{ percent}$$

<sup>1</sup> Formula (1) gives a standard error of 83,000.

**Table A-5. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages of Persons: CPS**

Total or White

Base of estimated percentage (thousands)	Estimated percentage				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
75.....	3.0	4.7	6.5	9.3	10.7
100.....	2.6	4.1	5.6	8.1	9.3
250.....	1.7	2.6	3.5	5.1	5.9
500.....	1.2	1.8	2.6	3.6	4.2
1,000.....	0.8	1.4	1.8	2.6	3.0
2,500.....	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.7	1.8
5,000.....	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.4
10,000.....	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.9
25,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6
35,000.....	0.14	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5
50,000.....	0.12	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5
75,000.....	0.09	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3

Note: To obtain approximate standard errors for persons of Black and other races, multiply the above standard errors by 1.2.

**Table A-6. "a" and "b" Parameters for Estimated Numbers and Percentages of Persons, Household Heads, Families and Unrelated Individuals: CPS**

Characteristic	Parameters			
	Persons		Household heads, families and unrelated individuals	
	a	b	a	b
<b>MARITAL STATUS AND FAMILY COMPOSITION</b>				
Total or White.....	-0.000017	3,500	-0.000010	1,389
Black and other races.....	-0.000210	5,020	-0.000087	1,255

Consequently, the 68-percent confidence interval is from 42.0 to 43.6 percent, and the 95-percent confidence interval is from 41.2 to 44.4 percent.

Illustration of use of standard error tables (SIE). Table 9 shows that in the North Central region the estimated number

of women either divorced, separated, remarried, or never married with one or more own children present at the survey date who reported the amount of child support they receive was 304,000. By linear interpolation, table A-7 shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 16,500. Consequently, the 68-percent confidence

Table A-7. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Totals, for the United States, Regions, and Divisions: SIE

Size of estimate	United States	Northeast			North Central		
		Total	New England	Middle Atlantic	Total	East North Central	West North Central
1,000.....	1,100	1,200	700	1,300	1,000	1,000	800
1,500.....	1,400	1,400	900	1,600	1,200	1,300	1,000
2,500.....	1,800	1,900	1,100	2,000	1,500	1,600	1,300
5,000.....	2,600	2,600	1,600	2,900	2,200	2,300	1,800
7,500.....	3,100	3,200	2,000	3,500	2,600	2,800	2,200
10,000.....	3,600	3,700	2,300	4,100	3,000	3,200	2,500
15,000.....	4,400	4,600	2,800	5,000	3,700	4,000	3,100
25,000.....	5,700	5,900	3,600	6,500	4,800	5,100	4,000
50,000.....	8,100	8,300	5,000	9,200	6,800	7,200	5,600
75,000.....	9,900	10,200	6,200	11,200	8,300	8,900	6,600
100,000.....	11,500	11,800	7,100	12,900	9,600	10,200	7,900
150,000.....	14,100	14,400	8,700	15,800	11,800	12,500	9,700
250,000.....	18,200	18,600	11,200	20,400	15,200	16,100	12,400
500,000.....	25,700	26,200	15,600	28,800	21,400	22,800	17,400
750,000.....	31,400	32,000	18,900	35,100	26,200	27,800	21,200
1,000,000.....	36,200	36,900	21,600	40,400	30,200	32,000	24,300
1,500,000.....	44,300	44,900	25,900	49,100	36,800	38,900	29,300
2,500,000.....	57,100	57,400	31,800	62,500	47,100	49,600	36,500
5,000,000.....	80,300	78,900	38,700	85,200	65,100	67,800	46,700

Size of estimate	South				West		
	Total	South Atlantic	East South Central	West South Central	Total	Mountain	Pacific
1,000.....	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,200	1,300	600	1,500
1,500.....	1,400	1,500	1,300	1,400	1,600	700	1,800
2,500.....	1,900	1,900	1,700	1,800	2,100	1,000	2,300
5,000.....	2,600	2,700	2,400	2,600	2,900	1,400	3,300
7,500.....	3,200	3,300	3,000	3,200	3,600	1,700	4,100
10,000.....	3,700	3,800	3,400	3,700	4,100	1,900	4,700
15,000.....	4,500	4,700	4,200	4,500	5,100	2,400	5,700
25,000.....	5,900	6,000	5,400	5,800	6,600	3,100	7,400
50,000.....	8,300	8,500	7,700	8,300	9,300	4,300	10,500
75,000.....	10,100	10,400	9,400	10,100	11,400	5,300	12,800
100,000.....	11,700	12,000	10,800	11,700	13,100	6,100	14,800
150,000.....	14,300	14,700	13,200	14,300	16,000	7,400	18,100
250,000.....	18,500	19,000	17,000	18,400	20,700	9,500	23,300
500,000.....	26,100	26,800	23,900	25,800	29,100	13,300	32,800
750,000.....	31,900	32,700	28,900	31,400	35,600	16,100	40,000
1,000,000.....	36,800	37,600	33,100	36,000	40,900	18,300	45,900
1,500,000.....	44,900	45,700	39,700	43,600	49,800	21,800	55,800
2,500,000.....	57,500	58,000	49,000	54,800	63,400	26,300	70,000
5,000,000.....	79,700	78,600	60,900	71,900	86,300	29,900	94,800

Note: To obtain approximate standard errors involving poverty, multiply the above standard errors by 1.3.

Table A-8. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages of Totals: SIE

Base of percentage	Estimated percentage						
	1 or 99	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	15 or 85	25 or 75	50
25,000.....	2.3	3.2	5.0	6.9	8.2	10.0	11.5
50,000.....	1.6	2.3	3.5	4.9	5.8	7.0	8.1
75,000.....	1.3	1.9	2.9	4.0	4.7	5.7	6.6
100,000.....	1.1	1.6	2.5	3.5	4.1	5.0	5.7
150,000.....	0.9	1.3	2.0	2.8	3.4	4.1	4.7
250,000.....	0.7	1.0	1.6	2.2	2.6	3.2	3.6
500,000.....	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.6
750,000.....	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.1
1,000,000.....	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.8
1,500,000.....	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5
2,500,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.2
5,000,000.....	0.16	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8

Note: To obtain approximate standard errors involving poverty, multiply the above standard errors by 1.3. To obtain approximate standard errors for regions and divisions, multiply the above standard errors by the factors shown in table A-9.

interval is from 287,500 to 320,500 women. Therefore, a conclusion that the average estimate, derived from all possible samples, lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 68 percent of all possible samples. Similarly, we could conclude that the average estimate, derived from all possible samples, lies within the interval from 271,000 to 337,000 women with 95 percent confidence.

Of these 304,000 persons, 85,000 or 28.0 percent reported receiving \$2,000 or more for child support. By linear interpolation, standard error table A-8 shows the preliminary standard error of 28.0 percent on a base of 304,000 to be approximately 3.0 percentage points. The factor for the North Central region from table A-9 is 0.839. Thus, the final standard error is 2.5 (3.0 x .839). Consequently, the 68-percent confidence interval is from 25.5 to 30.5 percent, and the 95-percent confidence interval is from 23.0 to 33.0 percent.

**Standard error of a difference.** For a difference between two sample estimates, the standard error is approximately equal to

$$\sigma_{(x-y)} = \sqrt{\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2} \quad (4)$$

where  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_y$  are the standard errors of the estimates  $x$  and  $y$ ; the estimates can be of numbers, percents, ratios, etc. This will represent the actual standard errors quite accurately for the difference between two estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive (negative) correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate (underestimate) the true standard error.

**Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference between estimated percentages.** Table 4 shows

that of 5,206,000 families maintained by a mother, 23.6 percent were maintained by a separated mother. The apparent difference between the percent of families maintained by a divorced mother (42.8 percent) and those maintained by a separated mother is 19.2 percent. Using formula (3) and the  $b$  parameter from table A-6, the standard error ( $\sigma_y$ ) on 23.6 percent is 0.5 percent. Therefore, using formula (4), the standard error of the estimated difference of 19.2 percent is about

$$\sqrt{(0.8)^2 + (0.7)^2} = 1.1$$

Thus, the 68-percent-confidence interval for the difference is from 18.1 to 20.3 percent. Similarly, the 95-percent confidence interval for the difference is from 17.0 to 21.4 percent. Therefore, a conclusion that the average estimated difference, derived from all possible samples, lies within the range computed in this manner would be correct for 95 percent of all samples. Thus, we can conclude with 95 percent confidence that there is a difference between the percentage of families maintained by a divorced mother and the percentage of families maintained by a separated mother.

**Standard error of a ratio.** Certain mean values for persons in families shown in the tables were calculated as the ratio of two numbers. For example, the mean number of children per family is calculated as

$$\frac{x}{y} = \frac{\text{total number of children in families}}{\text{total number of families}}$$

Standard errors for these means may be approximated as shown below. The denominator  $y$  represents a count of families of a certain class, and the numerator  $x$  represents a count of persons with the characteristic under consideration who are members of these families.

**Table A-9. Factors to be Applied to Generalized Standard Errors in Table A-8: SIE**

Regions and divisions	Factor
United States.....	1.000
Northeast.....	1.027
New England.....	0.621
Middle Atlantic.....	1.128
North Central.....	0.839
East North Central.....	0.892
West North Central.....	0.690
South.....	1.021
South Atlantic.....	1.050
East South Central.....	0.948
West South Central.....	1.017
West.....	1.143
Mountain.....	0.533
Pacific.....	1.290

$$\sigma \left( \frac{x}{y} \right) = \sqrt{\left( \frac{x}{y} \right)^2 \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma_y}{y} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\sigma_x}{x} \right)^2 \right]} \quad (5)$$

The standard error of the estimated number of families,  $\sigma_y$ , and the standard error of the estimated number of persons with the characteristic in those families,  $\sigma_x$ , may be calculated by the methods described above.

**Standard errors of estimated means and medians.** Estimated standard errors are provided for the means and medians of the published income distribution and do not need to be calculated by the user. However, some users may wish to combine two or more income distributions to compute means and medians for the combined distribution. The following sections are provided to enable the user to calculate standard errors for estimates of means and medians for the combined distributions.

**Estimating the standard error of the mean.** The standard error of a mean can be approximated by formula (6). Because of the approximations used in developing formula (6), an estimate of the standard error of the mean obtained from that formula will generally underestimate the true standard deviation. The formula used to estimate the standard error of a mean is

$$s_{\bar{x}} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{y} s^2} \quad (6)$$

where  $y$  is the size of the base and  $b$  is a constant which depends on the sample size, the sample design, the estimation procedure, and the type of characteristic. The  $b$  values are given in table A-6 or table A-10. The variance,  $s^2$ , is given by formula (7):

$$s^2 = \sum_{i=1}^c p_i \bar{x}_i^2 - \bar{x}^2 \quad (7)$$

where  $\bar{x}$  is the mean of the distribution;

$c$  is the number of groups;  $i$  indicates a specific group, thus taking on values 1 through  $c$ ,

$p_i$  is the estimated proportion of families or persons whose values, for the characteristic ( $x$ -values) being considered fall in group  $i$ .

$\bar{x}_i = (Z_{i-1} + Z_i)/2$  where  $Z_{i-1}$  and  $Z_i$  are the lower and upper interval boundaries, respectively for group  $i$ .

$\bar{x}_i$  is assumed to be the most representative value for the characteristic for families or persons in group  $i$ . Group  $c$  is open-ended, i.e., no upper interval boundary exists. For this group an approximate average value is

$$\bar{x}_c = \frac{3}{2} Z_{c-1}$$

When two or more distributions are combined the mean of the combined distribution is:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{y} \sum_j \bar{x}_j y_j$$

where  $\bar{x}_j$  is the mean of the  $j$ th distribution,  $y_j$  is the base of the  $j$ th distribution, and  $y = \sum_j y_j$ .

**Standard error of a median.** The sampling variability of an estimated median depends upon the form of the distribution as well as the size of its base. An approximate method for

**Table A-10. "a" and "b" Parameters for Estimated Numbers and Percentages of Persons: SIE**

Regions and divisions	Parameters	
	a	b
United States....	-0.000006	1,319
Northeast.....	-0.000029	1,390
New England.....	-0.000042	509
Middle Atlantic.....	-0.000046	1,678
North Central.....	-0.000016	928
East North Central...	-0.000026	1,049
West North Central...	-0.000038	628
South.....	-0.000020	1,373
South Atlantic.....	-0.000044	1,456
East South Central...	-0.000088	1,183
West South Central...	-0.000066	1,365
West.....	-0.000046	1,721
Mountain.....	-0.000039	374
Pacific.....	-0.000079	2,190

measuring the reliability of a median is to determine an interval about the estimated median, such that there is a stated degree of confidence that the average median derived from all possible samples lies within the interval. The following procedure may be used to estimate the 68-percent confidence limits of a median based on sample data.

1. Determine, using the standard error tables and factors or formula (3), the standard error of the estimate of 50 percent from the distribution;
2. Add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error determined in step (1);
3. Using the distribution of the characteristic, calculate the confidence interval corresponding to the two points established in step (2).

For calculation of the confidence interval use Pareto interpolation for any point in an income interval greater than \$1,000 in width, and linear interpolation otherwise. For the purpose of calculating standard errors linear interpolation gives approximately the same result as Pareto interpolation.

A 95-percent confidence interval may be determined by finding the values corresponding to 50 percent plus and minus twice the standard error determined in step (1).

The formulae used to implement step (3) for Pareto or linear interpolation are:

$$\text{Pareto: } x_{pN} = A_1 \exp \left[ \ln \left( \frac{pN}{N_1} \right) \ln \left( \frac{A_2}{A_1} \right) / \ln \left( \frac{N_2}{N_1} \right) \right] \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Linear: } x_{pN} = \frac{N_1 - pN}{N_1 - N_2} (A_2 - A_1) + A_1 \quad (9)$$

where  $N$  = total number of families or persons in the distribution.

$x_{pN}$  = estimated income for which the number  $pN$ , ( $0 < p < 1$ ) of the families or persons in the distribution have larger incomes. For the purposes of calculating the confidence interval,  $p$  takes on the two values in step (2). Note that the median can be approximated by using  $p=.50$  in the formulae.

$A_1$  and  $A_2$  = the estimated incomes which are the lower and upper bounds, respectively, on the interval in which  $x_{pN}$  falls.

$N_1$  and  $N_2$  = the estimated number of families or persons with incomes greater than  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , respectively.

exp = refers to the exponential function.

ln = refers to the natural logarithm function.

It should be noted that a mathematically equivalent result is obtained by using common logarithms (base 10) and antilogs.

**Illustration of the computation of a confidence interval for a median using linear interpolation.** Table 8 shows that the median income in 1975 of currently divorced, separated, remarried, and never-married women in the United States who had at least one own child living with them was \$4,797. Table 8 also shows that the base of the distribution from which this median was determined is 4,408,000.

1. Using formula (3), the standard error of 50 percent on a base of 4,408,000 is about 0.9 percent.
2. To obtain a 95-percent confidence interval on the estimated median, add to and subtract from 50 percent twice the standard error found in step 1. This yields percent limits of 48.2 and 51.8.
3. From table 8, the income of 2,577,000 (or 58.5 percent) of these families is at least \$4,000 and the income of 2,109,000 (or 47.8 percent) of these families is at least \$5,000. Thus, the entire 95-percent confidence interval falls in the income interval \$4,000 to \$5,000. Therefore, the median income and the upper and lower limits on the confidence intervals are to be calculated using linear interpolation. Using formula (9), the lower limit on the estimate is found to be about

$$\frac{2,577,000 - (.518) (4,408,000)}{2,577,000 - 2,109,000} (\$5,000 - \$4,000) + \$4,000 = \$4,628$$

Similarly, the upper limit is found by linear interpolation to be about

$$\frac{2,577,000 - (.482) (4,408,000)}{2,577,000 - 2,109,000} (\$5,000 - \$4,000) + \$4,000 = \$4,966$$

Thus, the 95-percent confidence interval on the estimated median is from \$4,628 to \$4,966.

The confidence interval, as calculated above, for an estimated median may differ from one calculated using the standard errors present in the report. Rounding in the display of the standard errors in table A-8 and rounding in the computations in the example will primarily effect the length of the confidence interval (i.e., the upper minus the lower confidence limits). The reader should also note that for median incomes of \$18,000 or more, the method of calculating median income and standard errors described here will produce different results than the published values since the latter were calculated using Pareto interpolation. Further discussion on the Pareto technique can be found in the **Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 118**.

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