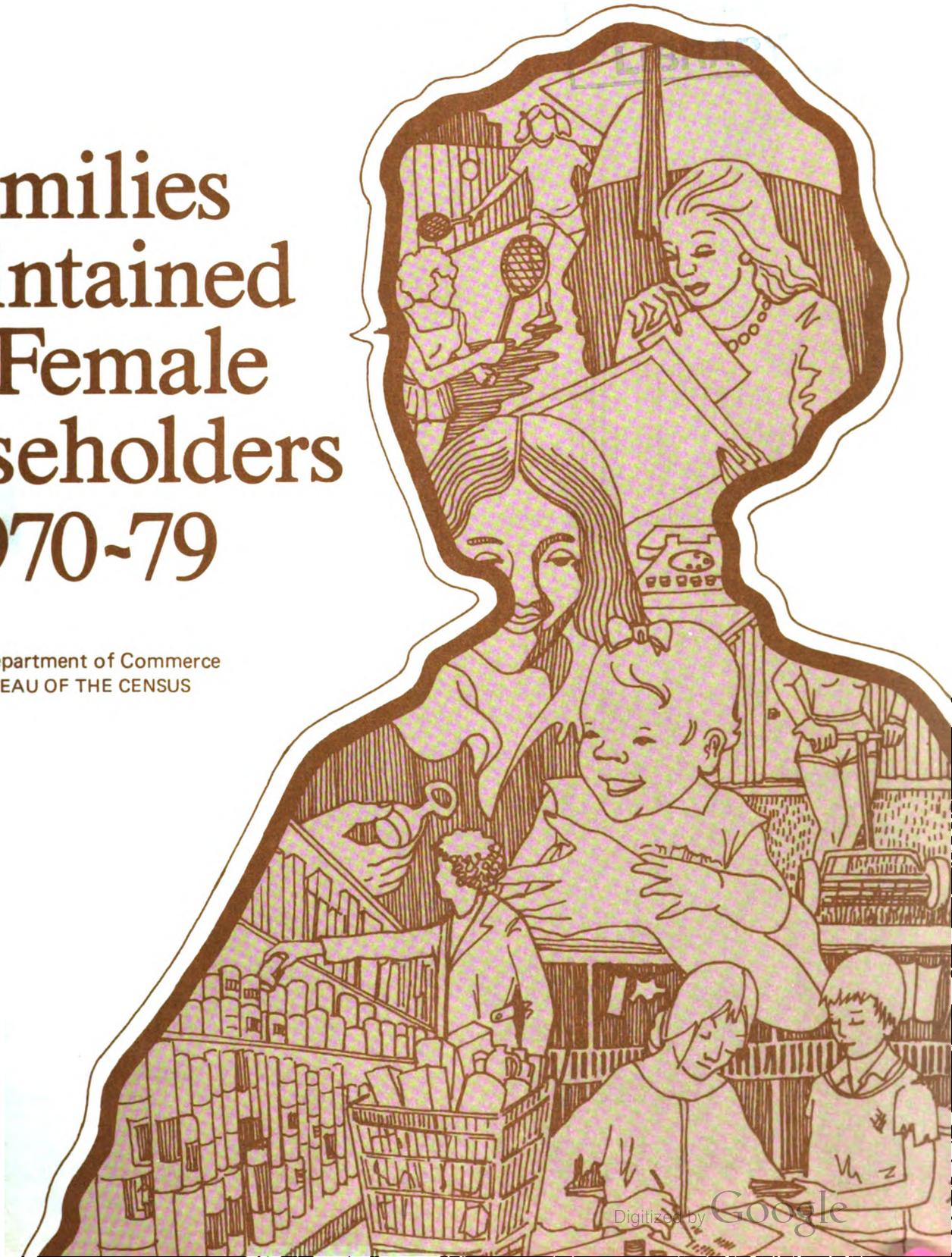


**CURRENT  
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# Families Maintained by Female Householders 1970-79

U.S. Department of Commerce  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



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Series P-23, No. 107

Issued October 1980

# Families Maintained by Female Householders 1970-79

by  
Steve W. Rawlings



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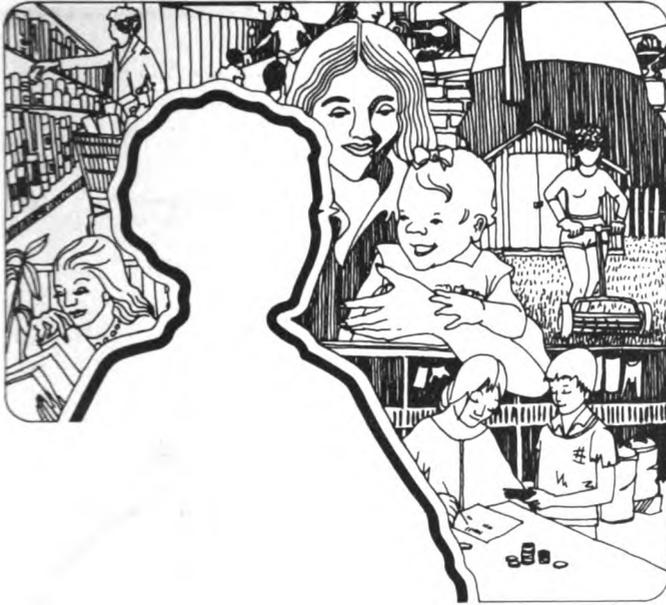
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**SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES**

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
  - B Base is less than 75,000.
  - X Not applicable.
  - NA Not available.
-



# Introduction

When people talk about the vitality of *the family*, they often are referring to a traditional nuclear family comprised of a married couple with at least one child. There are, however, other types of family groups, and strict adherence to this narrow definition of the family excludes a significant proportion of people who actually live in families.

Over the past two decades, the Census Bureau has documented the especially large increase in the number of one of these alternative family types: families maintained by women with no husband present. In 1974, the Bureau issued a special report devoted to what were then referred to as "female family heads." That study included data primarily for the 1960-73 period. This year's report provides new information for the decade of the 1970's on female householders and their families.

The Census Bureau is moving toward the elimination of terminology such as "head of household" and "head of family," recognizing that many households and families are no longer organized in accordance with autocratic principles. Roles now overlap or are shared, and decision-making within the family is often distributed on a more equitable basis.

This report focuses on the sort of family living units that the Bureau once called "female-headed families." The new terminology, however, is "families maintained by female householders with no husband present." During the 1970's, this type of family had a higher rate of growth than any other type. Various factors contributed to this phenomenon: childbearing outside marriage; the dissolution of nuclear families through separation, divorce, or widowhood; the inclination and ability of women to establish or maintain independent families rather than residing with parents or other relatives as they might have done at one time; and the disproportionate population increase in the young adult ages.

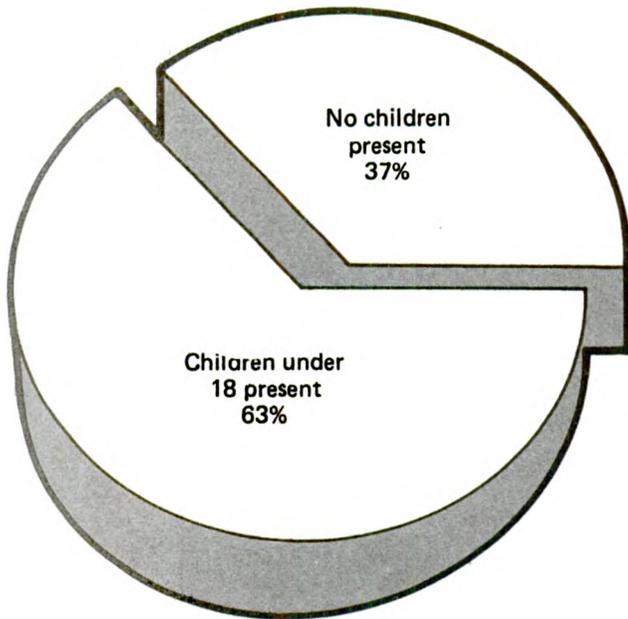
Although the strength of the family today as compared

with other points in the past is debatable, the institution of the family is still the major conduit for transmitting social values and distributing economic benefits. Families maintained by female householders, particularly those with children, tend to suffer financial hardships due to the absence of an earner who either has been or could be a major income contributor. This situation makes it difficult for these families to secure their fair share of the Nation's economic pie. Even if a female householder is a full-time worker, she probably earns less than a comparable male worker and her family's income is not likely to be supplemented with the earnings of a second income recipient. Especially perilous is the economic security of those families maintained by women who have never worked outside the home, dropped out of the labor force years ago to be full-time mothers, or only worked part time. When large numbers of families have found it difficult to fulfill their traditional responsibilities, public programs have been devised to ameliorate the attendant social and economic difficulties. The emergence of large numbers of female-householder families, a majority of which are one-parent situations, has enlarged the pool of families which may require the attention and assistance of policymakers.

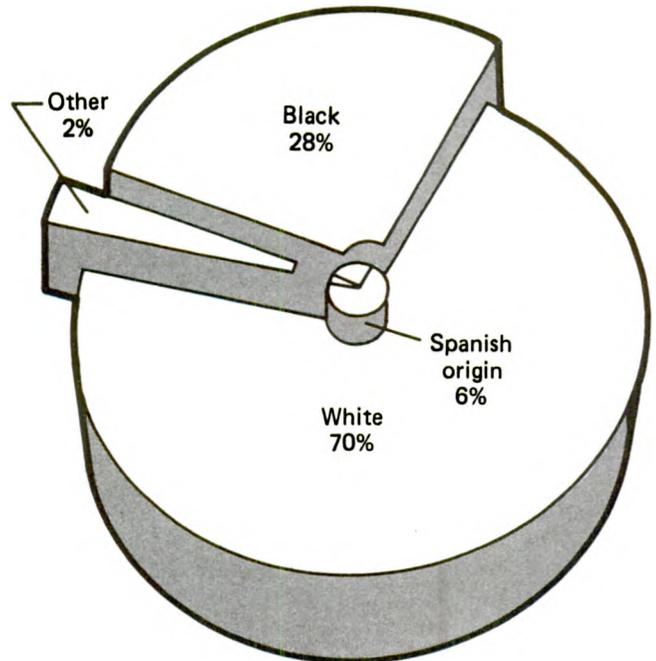
This report presents a compilation of data describing changes between 1970 and 1979 in families maintained by women with no husband present. Included is information relating to characteristics such as age, race, Spanish origin, number and age of children, place of residence, marital status, education, employment status, occupation, mobility, and income. (See the following charts.) Most of the data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. Since the figures are estimates based on samples of the population, they are subject to sampling variability, which is relatively large for small numbers. A full statement about the sampling variability is presented in Appendix B, "Source and Reliability of the Estimates."

# A Profile of the 8.5 Million Families Maintained by Female Householders in 1979

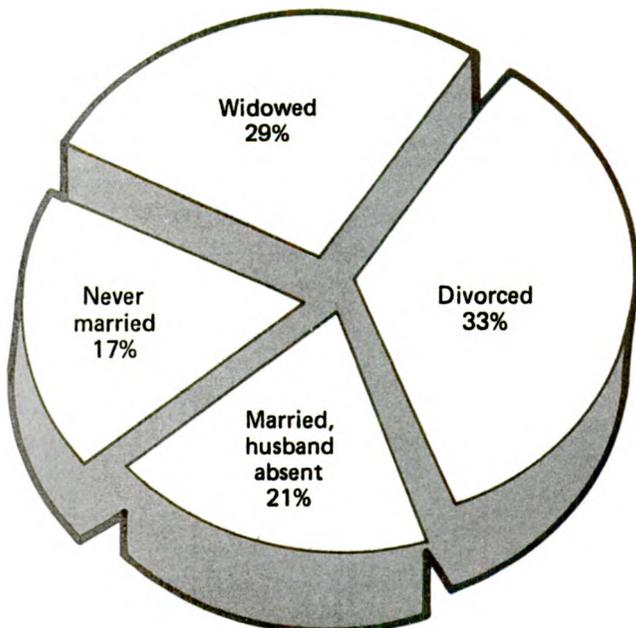
**Presence of Children**



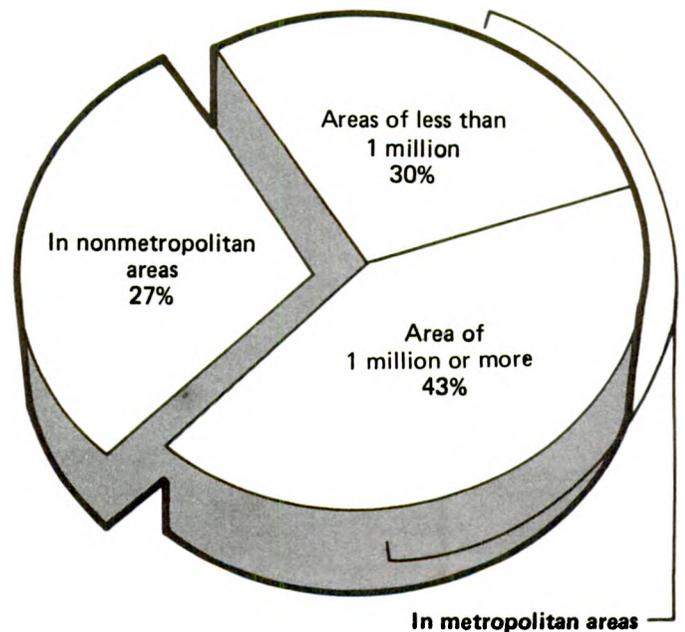
**Race and Spanish Origin**



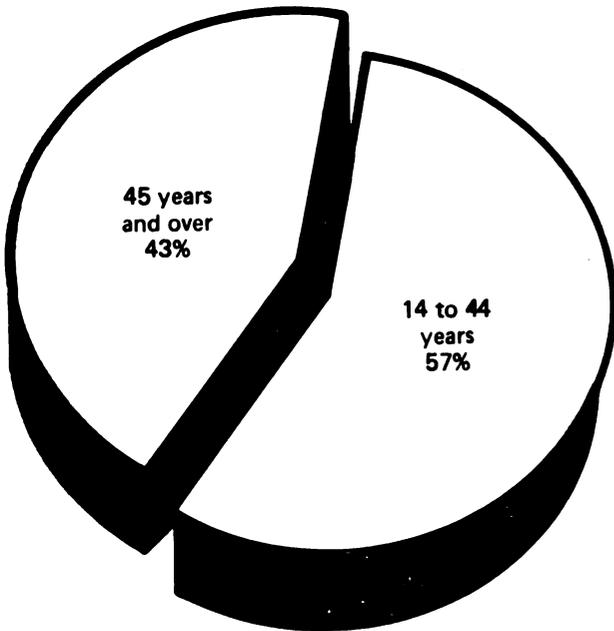
**Marital Status**



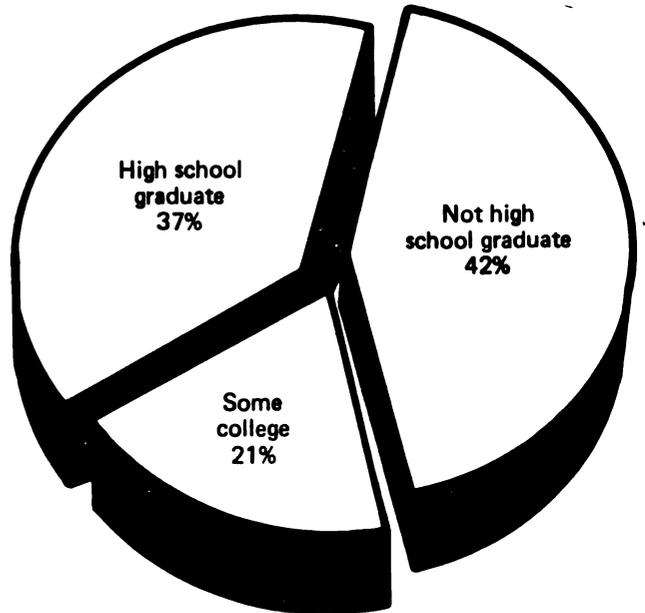
**Place of Residence**



**Age**



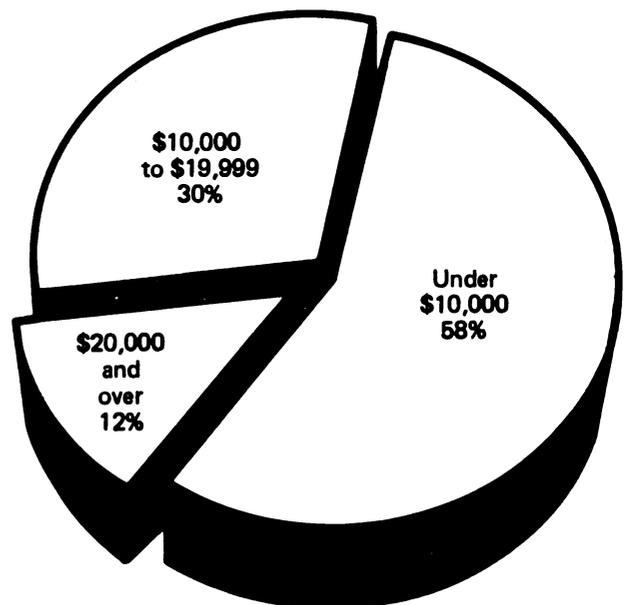
**Education**



**Labor Force Participation**



**Income**





# Female Householders in Context

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Before discussing female householders in more detail, it might be helpful to examine the full range of women's living arrangements. The vast majority of women live in family settings, although the proportion in families has declined slightly since 1970. In 1979, 55 percent of women 14 years old and over were living with their husbands, 10 percent were maintaining a family or subfamily without a husband, and 20 percent were living in some other family situation (usually with their parents); the corresponding proportions at the beginning of the decade were 59 percent, 8 percent, and 21 percent, respectively (table 1).

About 16 percent of women 14 years old and over in 1979 were not living in family households, up from 12 percent in 1970. Most of these women lived alone. The proportion of women living with persons to whom they were not related by birth, marriage, or adoption was 3.6 percent in 1979, compared with 2.3 percent in 1970. This group of women included, among others, female partners in unmarried-couple households.

Women 35 to 44 years old were the most likely to reside in family households. By contrast, women 75 years old and older were most likely to be living in nonfamily households, generally because these women continue to maintain their own homes after their families have dissolved (usually due to the deaths of their husbands).

Women without husbands living in a family setting with one or more of their own children present are likely to be younger than comparable women living in families with no children present. In 1979, about 83 percent of those with

children were under age 45, while only 14 percent of those without children at home were in that age group (table 2).

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

The increase in the number of families maintained by female householders was one of the most dramatic changes in the composition of family units during the 1970's. While the total number of families increased by 12 percent between 1970 and 1979, the number maintained by female householders grew by 51 percent (table 3). Even more striking was the 81-percent increase in the number of householders who were mothers with one or more of their children present in the home (table 4).

Due to their high rate of growth, female householders constituted 15 percent of the total number of families in 1979, up from 11 percent of the 1970 total. Among families with children under 18 present, 17 percent were maintained by the mother alone in 1979, compared with 10 percent in 1970.

Among Whites, 12 percent of all families were maintained by female householders in 1979. By contrast, 41 percent of Black families and 20 percent of Spanish-origin families were maintained by women.

Not all female householders are mothers living with children in households where the husband is not present. People sometimes use statistics on female householders as if they were synonymous with "single-parent" situations. In fact, only 5.3 million (63 percent) of the 8.5 million families maintained by women in 1979 were single-parent (mother-child) families.

**Table 1. Age of Women, by Living Arrangements: 1979 and 1970**

(Does not include inmates of institutions. Numbers in thousands. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Age of women	All women 14 years and over		Women in families							Women not in families					
			Living with husband				Not living with husband <sup>1</sup>			Total	Living alone	Living with nonrelatives			
			Total	Total	In own household	Others	Total	Children present	No children			Others	Total	In own household	Others
1979															
Total, 14 years and over	88,617	100.0	84.3	54.5	53.8	0.7	10.0	6.5	3.6	19.8	15.7	12.1	1.2	2.4	
14 to 24 years.....	22,308	100.0	90.2	22.8	21.9	0.9	4.4	3.9	0.4	63.0	9.8	3.4	1.7	4.7	
25 to 34 years.....	17,334	100.0	89.3	70.5	69.5	1.0	13.3	12.7	0.7	5.5	10.7	6.2	1.6	2.8	
35 to 44 years.....	12,671	100.0	94.1	76.5	75.9	0.5	15.0	13.1	1.9	2.6	5.9	4.1	0.6	1.3	
45 to 54 years.....	11,790	100.0	91.3	75.4	75.0	0.5	13.1	6.9	6.2	2.8	8.7	7.1	0.4	1.3	
55 to 64 years.....	10,887	100.0	80.1	67.4	67.0	0.4	8.9	1.4	7.5	3.8	19.9	18.0	0.7	1.2	
65 to 74 years.....	8,382	100.0	62.1	46.9	46.3	0.5	8.4	0.1	8.4	6.8	37.9	35.4	1.3	1.2	
75 years and over.....	5,245	100.0	47.7	20.9	20.6	0.3	9.2	0.1	9.2	17.5	52.3	50.0	1.2	1.0	
1970															
Total, 14 years and over	76,841	100.0	88.1	59.1	58.2	0.9	7.9	4.4	3.5	21.1	11.9	9.5	0.7	1.6	
14 to 24 years.....	19,741	100.0	95.3	28.7	27.0	1.7	3.3	3.0	0.3	63.4	4.7	1.4	0.7	2.5	
25 to 34 years.....	12,617	100.0	95.3	81.9	81.1	0.9	8.5	8.2	0.3	4.9	4.7	2.8	0.6	1.3	
35 to 44 years.....	11,814	100.0	96.3	83.3	82.8	0.5	9.8	8.4	1.3	3.2	3.7	2.6	0.2	0.8	
45 to 54 years.....	11,938	100.0	92.0	78.7	78.1	0.5	9.6	5.6	3.9	3.8	8.0	6.6	0.5	0.9	
55 to 64 years.....	9,703	100.0	80.0	64.5	64.1	0.4	9.6	1.2	8.4	6.0	20.0	17.3	1.1	1.6	
65 to 74 years.....	6,823	100.0	64.6	44.4	43.8	0.7	9.4	0.1	9.2	10.8	35.4	32.3	1.4	1.7	
75 years and over.....	4,204	100.0	55.7	20.8	20.4	0.4	11.7	-	11.7	23.2	44.3	40.3	1.6	2.5	

<sup>1</sup>Includes female householders and women maintaining subfamilies (i.e., related subfamilies) and secondary families (i.e., unrelated subfamilies).**Table 2. Living Arrangements of Women, by Age: 1979 and 1970**

(Does not include inmates of institutions. Numbers in thousands. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Age of women	All women 14 years and over		Women in families							Women not in families					
			Living with husband				Not living with husband <sup>1</sup>			Total	Living alone	Living with nonrelatives			
			Total	Total	In own household	Others	Total	Children present	No children			Others	Total	In own household	Others
1979															
Total, 14 years and over	88,617	74,721	48,257	47,662	595	8,889	5,719	3,170	17,575	13,896	10,738	1,029	2,129		
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
14 to 24 years.....	25.2	26.9	10.5	10.3	32.9	10.9	15.4	2.9	80.0	15.7	7.0	36.9	49.5		
25 to 34 years.....	19.6	20.7	25.3	25.3	28.4	26.0	38.4	3.6	5.4	13.3	10.0	27.7	22.9		
35 to 44 years.....	14.3	16.0	20.1	20.2	10.9	21.4	29.1	7.4	1.9	5.4	4.8	7.4	7.5		
45 to 54 years.....	13.3	14.4	18.4	18.5	9.4	17.3	14.2	23.1	1.9	7.4	7.8	4.3	7.0		
55 to 64 years.....	12.3	11.7	15.2	15.3	8.1	10.9	2.7	25.6	2.3	15.6	18.3	7.3	6.0		
65 to 74 years.....	9.5	7.0	8.1	8.1	7.2	8.0	0.2	22.1	3.2	22.8	27.7	10.2	4.7		
75 years and over.....	5.9	3.3	2.3	2.3	2.9	5.5	0.1	15.2	5.2	19.7	24.4	6.2	2.6		
1970															
Total, 14 years and over	76,841	67,717	45,397	44,728	669	6,075	3,409	2,665	16,245	9,123	7,319	565	1,240		
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
14 to 24 years.....	25.7	27.8	12.5	11.9	49.2	10.7	17.1	2.4	77.0	10.1	3.9	25.7	40.2		
25 to 34 years.....	16.4	17.8	22.8	22.9	16.3	17.7	30.3	1.5	3.8	6.5	4.9	12.9	12.8		
35 to 44 years.....	15.4	16.8	21.7	21.9	8.7	19.0	29.3	5.8	2.4	4.8	4.3	5.0	7.8		
45 to 54 years.....	15.5	16.2	20.7	20.9	9.6	18.8	19.7	17.6	2.8	10.5	10.8	9.6	9.0		
55 to 64 years.....	12.6	11.5	13.8	13.9	6.4	15.3	3.3	30.6	3.6	21.3	23.0	18.8	12.3		
65 to 74 years.....	8.9	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.9	10.6	0.3	23.7	4.5	26.5	30.1	16.5	9.6		
75 years and over.....	5.5	3.5	1.9	1.9	2.7	8.1	-	18.4	6.0	20.4	23.1	11.9	8.3		

<sup>1</sup>Includes female householders and women maintaining subfamilies (i.e., related subfamilies) and secondary families (i.e., unrelated subfamilies).

**Table 3. Number of Families, by Type, Race, and Spanish Origin of Householder: 1979 and 1970**  
(Numbers in thousands).

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
All families.....	57,804	100.0	51,586	100.0	6,218	12.1
Families maintained by:						
Married couple.....	47,692	82.5	44,755	86.8	2,937	6.6
Other male householder.....	1,655	2.9	1,239	2.4	416	33.6
Other female householder.....	8,458	14.6	5,591	10.8	2,867	51.3
<b>WHITE</b>						
All families.....	50,910	100.0	46,261	100.0	4,649	10.0
Families maintained by:						
Married couple.....	43,636	85.7	41,049	88.7	2,587	6.3
Other male householder.....	1,355	2.7	1,048	2.3	307	29.3
Other female householder.....	5,918	11.6	4,165	9.0	1,753	42.1
<b>BLACK</b>						
All families.....	5,906	100.0	4,887	100.0	1,019	20.9
Families maintained by:						
Married couple.....	3,244	54.9	3,323	68.0	-79	-2.4
Other male householder.....	272	4.6	182	3.7	90	49.5
Other female householder.....	2,390	40.5	1,382	28.3	1,008	72.9
<b>SPANISH ORIGIN<sup>1</sup></b>						
All families.....	2,741	100.0	2,004	100.0	737	36.8
Families maintained by:						
Married couple.....	2,089	76.2	1,615	80.6	474	29.3
Other male householder.....	110	4.0	82	4.1	28	34.1
Other female householder.....	542	19.8	307	15.3	235	76.5

<sup>1</sup>Source of 1970 Spanish-origin data: 1970 Census of Population, Family Composition, Vol. II, 4A, table 6. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**Table 4. Number of Families With Own Children Under 18, by Type, Race, and Spanish Origin of Householder: 1979 and 1970**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
All families.....	30,371	100.0	28,812	100.0	1,559	5.4
Families maintained by:						
Married couple.....	24,514	80.7	25,541	88.6	-1,027	-4.0
Other male householder.....	569	1.9	345	1.2	224	64.9
Other female householder.....	5,288	17.4	2,926	10.2	2,362	80.7
<b>WHITE</b>						
All families.....	26,056	100.0	25,543	100.0	513	2.0
Families maintained by:						
Married couple.....	22,101	84.8	23,277	91.1	-1,176	-5.1
Other male householder.....	444	1.7	271	1.1	173	63.8
Other female householder.....	3,511	13.5	1,995	7.8	1,516	76.0
<b>BLACK</b>						
All families.....	3,690	100.0	2,984	100.0	706	23.7
Families maintained by:						
Married couple.....	1,890	51.2	1,999	67.0	-109	-5.5
Other male householder.....	116	3.1	73	2.4	43	(B)
Other female householder.....	1,684	45.6	912	30.6	772	84.6
<b>SPANISH ORIGIN<sup>1</sup></b>						
All families.....	1,902	100.0	1,407	100.0	495	35.2
Families maintained by:						
Married couple.....	1,456	76.6	1,158	82.3	298	25.7
Other male householder.....	36	1.9	35	2.5	1	(B)
Other female householder.....	410	21.6	214	15.2	196	91.6

<sup>1</sup>Source of 1970 Spanish-origin data: 1970 Census of Population, Family Composition, Vol. II, 4A, table 6. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.



# Geography

## PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Female householders maintaining families are distributed throughout the Nation in essentially the same manner as other types of families, or the population in general. The highly populated States with large numbers of families, not surprisingly, tend to be the ones containing most of the families maintained by women. In 1976 (the most recent year for which this information is currently available for States), about 1 of every 5 of the Nation's female-householder families lived in either California or New York. In fact, one-half of all such families were concentrated in just eight States: California, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, and Florida (table 5).

A somewhat more meaningful way of examining the inter-State differences is to compare the proportion of all families in each State that are maintained by female householders. In 1976, female householders constituted 15 percent or more of all families living in Mississippi, Georgia, New York, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Alabama. In 1970, there were no States with as many as 15 percent of the families being maintained by women with no husbands present.

In 1976, North Dakota and Wyoming had the lowest incidence of female family householders as a proportion of their families (6 percent and 7 percent, respectively). The corresponding proportions for the States in 1970 were essentially the same. One reason why relatively sparsely populated States such as Wyoming and North Dakota do not have a high incidence of female householder families is that families of this type tend to live inside the central cities of large metropolitan areas, and these States have few, if any, big cities. In 1979, 41 percent of female householders were in central cities and 32 percent were in the adjacent suburbs. Thus, metropolitan areas as a whole accounted for 73 percent of the total (table 6).

Black and Spanish-origin women maintaining families were more likely than were women maintaining families in

the general population to be concentrated in and around cities; 80 percent of Black and 90 percent of Spanish-origin women lived in metropolitan areas.

Not only did female householders tend to live in metropolitan areas (SMSA's), but 43 percent of all such women were in SMSA's with a population of 1 million or more. The proportion was even higher for Black (52 percent) and Spanish-origin women (64 percent).

The increase in women maintaining families is by no means confined to the centers of large cities. During the 1970's, the number of these families increased at a higher rate in suburban areas (71 percent) than in central cities (41 percent).

## MOBILITY

Female householders were somewhat more mobile than family householders overall during the 1975-79 period. Among all family households, about 41 percent moved from one location to another within the United States or moved into the country from abroad, whereas 47 percent of families maintained by women made similar moves (table 7). The median age among these women was 33.4 years for those who changed their place of residence within the United States versus 50.5 years for female householders who had not moved since 1975. It seems likely that many of the moves were related to the dissolution of marriages, usually through separation or divorce.

It has been suggested that women maintaining families would tend to migrate to different States offering the most generous public services for women in their circumstances. However, the data do not indicate that this is necessarily true. About 8 percent of all family households and 7 percent of female family households moved to a different State between 1975 and 1979. While these data say nothing about the motivation for such moves, economic or otherwise, they do indicate that families maintained by women do not have a significantly greater likelihood than other families of moving to another State.

**Table 5. Families and Female Householders With No Husband Present, by State: 1976 and 1970**

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

Regions, divisions, and States	All families	1976 <sup>1</sup>			1970			
		Female householder, no husband present			All families	Female householder, no husband present		
		Total	Percent of all families	Percent distribution		Total	Percent of all families	Percent distribution
United States, total.....	56,080	7,493	13.4	100.0	50,969	5,504	10.8	100.0
<b>Northeast.....</b>	<b>12,842</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>12,342</b>	<b>1,459</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>26.5</b>
New England.....	3,136	428	13.6	5.7	2,925	327	11.2	5.9
Maine.....	278	32	11.7	0.4	246	24	9.8	0.4
New Hampshire.....	218	23	10.8	0.3	183	16	8.7	0.3
Vermont.....	122	14	11.6	0.2	106	10	9.4	0.2
Massachusetts.....	1,482	215	14.5	2.9	1,388	169	12.2	3.1
Rhode Island.....	241	35	14.6	0.5	235	28	11.9	0.5
Connecticut.....	820	107	13.1	1.4	767	80	10.4	1.5
<b>Middle Atlantic.....</b>	<b>9,678</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>9,417</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>20.6</b>
New York.....	4,675	775	16.6	10.3	4,585	592	12.9	10.8
New Jersey.....	1,926	266	13.8	3.5	1,833	203	11.1	3.7
Pennsylvania.....	3,076	435	14.2	5.8	2,999	337	11.2	6.1
<b>North Central.....</b>	<b>15,060</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>14,127</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>23.9</b>
East North Central.....	10,683	1,344	12.6	17.9	10,039	975	9.7	17.7
Ohio.....	2,832	349	12.3	4.7	2,683	263	9.8	4.8
Indiana.....	1,421	146	10.3	1.9	1,318	115	8.7	2.1
Illinois.....	2,848	399	14.0	5.3	2,784	297	10.7	5.4
Michigan.....	2,398	333	13.9	4.4	2,182	211	9.7	3.8
Wisconsin.....	1,181	114	9.7	1.5	1,072	88	8.2	1.6
<b>West North Central.....</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>4,089</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Minnesota.....	994	93	9.4	1.2	917	72	7.9	1.3
Iowa.....	750	61	8.2	0.8	713	52	7.3	0.9
Missouri.....	1,275	147	11.6	2.0	1,200	119	9.9	2.2
North Dakota.....	158	9	6.2	0.1	147	10	6.8	0.2
South Dakota.....	177	15	8.5	0.2	160	12	7.5	0.2
Nebraska.....	401	35	8.8	0.5	372	28	7.5	0.5
Kansas.....	619	63	10.2	0.8	579	47	8.1	0.9
<b>South.....</b>	<b>18,251</b>	<b>2,544</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>15,839</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>33.4</b>
<b>South Atlantic.....</b>	<b>9,078</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>7,742</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>17.0</b>
Delaware.....	153	19	13.0	0.3	136	14	10.3	0.3
Maryland.....	1,066	157	14.8	2.1	972	112	11.5	2.0
District of Columbia.....	158	56	35.6	0.7	163	41	25.2	0.7
Virginia.....	1,317	160	12.1	2.1	1,159	130	11.2	2.4
West Virginia.....	494	56	11.4	0.7	452	49	10.8	0.9
North Carolina.....	1,504	228	15.2	3.0	1,286	153	11.9	2.8
South Carolina.....	730	107	14.7	1.4	624	83	13.3	1.5
Georgia.....	1,292	215	16.7	2.9	1,144	150	13.1	2.7
Florida.....	2,360	310	13.2	4.1	1,806	201	11.1	3.7
<b>East South Central.....</b>	<b>3,638</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Kentucky.....	909	115	12.7	1.5	821	88	10.7	1.6
Tennessee.....	1,161	163	14.1	2.2	1,020	119	11.7	2.2
Alabama.....	969	146	15.1	1.9	870	108	12.4	2.0
Mississippi.....	597	101	17.0	1.3	530	71	13.4	1.3
<b>West South Central.....</b>	<b>5,535</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>4,856</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Arkansas.....	584	67	11.6	0.9	502	51	10.2	0.9
Louisiana.....	944	146	15.5	1.9	868	117	13.5	2.1
Oklahoma.....	748	77	10.4	1.0	677	67	9.9	1.2
Texas.....	3,258	413	12.7	5.5	2,810	284	10.1	5.2
<b>West.....</b>	<b>9,924</b>	<b>1,271</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>8,660</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>Mountain.....</b>	<b>2,527</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2,033</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Montana.....	193	16	8.5	0.2	170	13	7.6	0.2
Idaho.....	221	19	8.9	0.3	179	13	7.3	0.2
Wyoming.....	100	7	7.3	0.1	84	6	7.1	0.1
Colorado.....	660	72	11.0	1.0	545	50	9.2	0.9
New Mexico.....	297	42	14.3	0.6	242	26	10.7	0.5
Arizona.....	592	67	11.4	0.9	439	43	9.8	0.8
Utah.....	303	27	9.1	0.4	249	20	8.0	0.4
Nevada.....	159	21	13.5	0.3	124	11	8.9	0.2
<b>Pacific.....</b>	<b>7,397</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>6,628</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>12.9</b>
Washington.....	924	98	10.6	1.3	862	75	8.7	1.4
Oregon.....	615	69	11.3	0.9	542	45	8.3	0.8
California.....	5,574	796	14.3	10.6	4,988	571	11.4	10.4
Alaska.....	82	8	10.5	0.1	66	4	(B)	0.1
Hawaii.....	200	22	11.1	0.3	170	16	9.4	0.3

<sup>1</sup>The 1976 total includes secondary families (i.e., unrelated subfamilies). Such family groups were not included in 1970 Census total.

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 334, Demographic, Social, and Economic Profile of States: Spring 1976, table 6. 1970 Census of Population, Vol. I, U.S. Summary, table 65.

**Table 6. Residence of Families Maintained by Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race and Spanish Origin: 1979 and 1970**

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

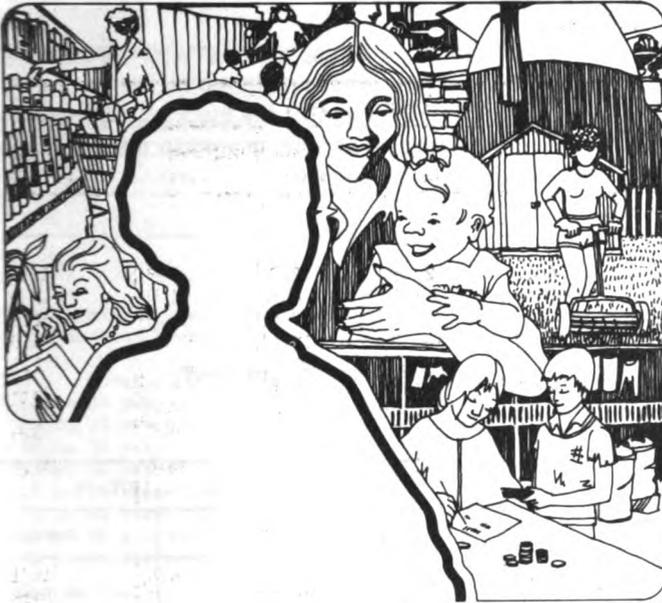
Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	8,458	100.0	5,591	100.0	2,867	51.3
In nonmetropolitan areas.....	2,263	26.8	1,535	27.5	728	47.4
In metropolitan areas.....	6,195	73.2	4,056	72.5	2,139	52.7
Central cities.....	3,473	41.1	2,465	44.1	1,008	40.9
Suburban areas.....	2,722	32.2	1,591	28.5	1,131	71.1
Size of metropolitan area:						
3,000,000 or more.....	1,810	21.4	1,292	23.1	518	40.1
1,000,000 to 2,999,999.....	1,825	21.6	1,136	20.3	689	60.7
250,000 to 999,999.....	1,882	22.3	1,130	20.2	752	66.5
Less than 250,000.....	678	8.0	499	8.9	179	35.9
<b>WHITE</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	5,918	100.0	4,165	100.0	1,753	42.1
In nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,727	29.2	1,198	28.8	529	44.2
In metropolitan areas.....	4,192	70.8	2,966	71.2	1,226	41.3
Central cities.....	1,891	32.0	1,559	37.4	332	21.3
Suburban areas.....	2,300	38.9	1,408	33.8	892	63.4
Size of metropolitan area:						
3,000,000 or more.....	1,079	18.2	903	21.7	176	19.5
1,000,000 to 2,999,999.....	1,253	21.2	791	19.0	462	58.4
250,000 to 999,999.....	1,362	23.0	867	20.8	495	57.1
Less than 250,000.....	497	8.4	405	9.7	92	22.7
<b>BLACK</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	2,390	100.0	1,382	100.0	1,008	72.9
In nonmetropolitan areas.....	490	20.5	324	23.5	166	51.2
In metropolitan areas.....	1,899	79.5	1,058	76.5	841	79.5
Central cities.....	1,530	64.0	883	63.9	647	73.3
Suburban areas.....	369	15.4	175	12.7	194	110.9
Size of metropolitan area:						
3,000,000 or more.....	686	28.7	382	27.6	304	79.6
1,000,000 to 2,999,999.....	548	22.9	341	24.6	207	60.7
250,000 to 999,999.....	489	20.5	244	17.7	245	100.4
Less than 250,000.....	177	7.4	91	6.6	86	94.5
<b>SPANISH ORIGIN <sup>1</sup></b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	542	100.0	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
In nonmetropolitan areas.....	59	10.8	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
In metropolitan areas.....	484	89.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Central cities.....	347	63.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Suburban areas.....	137	25.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Size of metropolitan area:						
3,000,000 or more.....	251	46.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1,000,000 to 2,999,999.....	97	18.0	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
250,000 to 999,999.....	97	18.0	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Less than 250,000.....	38	7.0	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

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

**Table 7. Mobility of Family Householders Between 1975 and 1979**

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

Subject	Total		Nonmovers	Movers in United States				Movers from abroad
	Number	Percent		Total	Same county	Same State	Different State	
<b>ALL FAMILY HOUSEHOLDERS</b>								
Total, 14 years and over...	57,804	100.0	58.7	40.0	23.5	8.7	7.8	1.3
14 to 19 years.....	312	100.0	10.3	87.8	61.5	14.7	11.5	1.9
20 to 24 years.....	3,525	100.0	7.1	90.3	56.8	17.3	16.2	2.6
25 to 29 years.....	6,473	100.0	19.5	77.5	44.9	17.3	15.2	3.0
30 to 34 years.....	7,005	100.0	37.1	60.9	35.7	13.5	11.7	2.0
35 to 44 years.....	11,754	100.0	58.0	40.5	23.8	8.6	8.1	1.5
45 to 64 years.....	20,225	100.0	77.3	22.0	12.8	5.0	4.2	0.7
65 years and over.....	8,510	100.0	85.8	13.8	7.2	3.4	3.2	0.4
Median age.....	44.8	(X)	52.5	33.6	33.4	33.9	34.0	33.4
<b>ALL FEMALE HOUSEHOLDERS, NO HUSBAND PRESENT</b>								
Total, 14 years and over...	8,458	100.0	53.0	45.8	31.5	7.6	6.8	1.1
14 to 19 years.....	121	100.0	10.7	88.4	62.8	15.7	9.9	0.8
20 to 24 years.....	680	100.0	10.9	88.1	61.8	13.2	13.1	1.0
25 to 29 years.....	1,016	100.0	20.4	78.0	52.7	12.2	13.0	1.8
30 to 34 years.....	1,112	100.0	39.4	58.4	38.8	10.4	9.2	2.2
35 to 44 years.....	1,851	100.0	52.1	46.6	32.0	8.0	6.5	1.4
45 to 64 years.....	2,482	100.0	70.1	28.9	20.2	5.0	3.7	0.9
65 years and over.....	1,196	100.0	87.6	12.4	8.8	1.6	2.0	-
Median age.....	42.0	(X)	50.5	33.4	33.5	33.8	32.6	34.7



# Demographic Characteristics of the Women

## AGE

Women maintaining families in 1979 were likely to be younger than their 1970 counterparts. In 1970, the median age of these women was 48.2 years (table 8). Since then, the number of women 45 years or older maintaining families has increased by 525,000 (17 percent), while the number of those under 45 years of age has increased by about 2.3 million (96 percent). As a result, the median age of women maintaining families declined by 6.2 years from 48.2 to 42.0 years between 1970 and 1979.

As one would expect, female family householders with children still at home were younger than the overall population of women maintaining families. In 1970, 75 percent of female householders with children were under 45 years old, compared with 44 percent of all female householders; the corresponding proportions for 1979 were 82 percent and 57 percent, respectively.

Between 1970 and 1979, the median age of White female householders declined by 6.8 years from 50.5 to 43.7 years; however, they were still likely to be somewhat older than their Black or Spanish-origin counterparts. The race and ethnicity differentials in median age were smaller among women with children.

## MARITAL STATUS

Marital status is closely related to the age composition of the population. For instance, if there is a high proportion of people in their seventies or older, there is likely to be a similarly high proportion of widowed persons. Conversely, if a high proportion of the population is made up of people in their twenties or younger, there is likely to be a relative abundance of single (never-married) persons.

As the average age of female householders has declined, their marital status characteristics have altered significantly.

Between 1970 and 1979, the proportion that were widows showed a large decline, while the percentage who were single or divorced women increased rather dramatically. Consequently by 1979, 1 of every 2 female householders had either never been married or had terminated the marriage by divorce (table 9).

Most of the female householders without children were widows, whereas those with children were most likely to be divorced. However, it was those families with children that were maintained by never-married mothers which registered the most dramatic increase during the decade. During the 1970-79 period, there was a four-fold increase in the number of "unmarried-mother" families.

Black women maintaining families were more likely to be single or separated and less likely to be divorced or widowed than their White counterparts. This pattern was observed in both 1970 and 1979.

## EDUCATION

More than one-half of the female family householders in 1970 had not completed 4 years of high school. However, this level of schooling was not typical of the numerous mother-child situations. Many of those who had not completed high school were older women and women whose children were no longer living at home. As the population of female householders has become more youthful and includes more women with children, there has been a decrease in the proportion of women who did not finish high school. Thus in 1979, the majority (59 percent) of women maintaining families were at least high school graduates, and 21 percent had attended college (table 10).

In terms of the increase in female householders by level of education, the highest rate of growth since 1970 was for those with some college. Growth rates in excess of 100

percent were exhibited by both those with 1 to 3 years of college and those with 4 years of college or more. Among the corresponding female householders under age 45 with children, the rates of increase since 1970 in the number of women maintaining families were even higher.

Racial differences in the years of school completed by women maintaining families were substantial. Even as recently as 1979, a majority (53 percent) of the Black women were not high school graduates; among White women the proportion was considerably less (37 percent).

**Table 8. Age of Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race, Spanish Origin, and Presence of Children: 1979 and 1970**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
All Female Householders, No Husband Present						
Total, 14 years and over.....	8,458	100.0	5,591	100.0	2,867	51.3
14 to 24 years.....	801	9.5	436	7.8	365	83.7
25 to 29 years.....	1,016	12.0	463	8.3	553	119.4
30 to 34 years.....	1,112	13.1	466	8.3	646	138.6
35 to 44 years.....	1,851	21.9	1,075	19.2	776	72.2
45 to 54 years.....	1,518	17.9	1,100	19.7	418	38.0
55 to 64 years.....	963	11.4	921	16.5	42	4.6
65 to 74 years.....	712	8.4	640	11.4	72	11.3
75 years and over.....	484	5.7	491	8.8	-7	-1.4
Median age.....	42.0	(X)	48.2	(X)	(X)	(X)
With Own Children Under 18						
Total, 14 years and over.....	5,288	100.0	2,926	100.0	2,362	80.7
14 to 24 years.....	709	13.4	371	12.7	338	91.1
25 to 29 years.....	946	17.9	440	15.0	506	115.0
30 to 34 years.....	1,068	20.2	449	15.3	619	137.9
35 to 44 years.....	1,616	30.6	921	31.5	695	75.5
45 to 54 years.....	786	14.9	630	21.5	156	24.8
55 to 64 years.....	151	2.9	106	3.6	45	42.5
65 years and over.....	12	0.2	9	0.3	3	(B)
Median age.....	34.6	(X)	37.2	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>WHITE</b>						
All Female Householders, No Husband Present						
Total, 14 years and over.....	5,918	100.0	4,165	100.0	1,753	42.1
14 to 24 years.....	468	7.9	283	6.8	185	65.4
25 to 29 years.....	647	10.9	297	7.1	350	117.8
30 to 34 years.....	719	12.1	287	6.9	432	150.5
35 to 44 years.....	1,296	21.9	742	17.8	554	74.7
45 to 54 years.....	1,105	18.7	860	20.6	245	28.5
55 to 64 years.....	716	12.1	739	17.7	-23	-3.1
65 to 74 years.....	559	9.4	534	12.8	25	4.7
75 years and over.....	408	6.9	423	10.2	-15	-3.5
Median age.....	43.7	(X)	50.5	(X)	(X)	(X)
With Own Children Under 18						
Total, 14 years and over.....	3,511	100.0	1,995	100.0	1,516	76.0
14 to 24 years.....	400	11.4	200	10.0	200	100.0
25 to 29 years.....	601	17.1	279	14.0	322	115.4
30 to 34 years.....	693	19.7	303	15.2	390	128.7
35 to 44 years.....	1,146	32.6	654	32.8	492	75.2
45 to 54 years.....	562	16.0	453	22.7	109	24.1
55 to 64 years.....	102	2.9	92	4.6	10	10.9
65 years and over.....	6	0.2	14	0.7	-8	(B)
Median age.....	35.5	(X)	38.3	(X)	(X)	(X)

**Table 8. Age of Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race, Spanish Origin, and Presence of Children: 1979 and 1970—Continued**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>BLACK</b>						
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total, 14 years and over.....	2,390	100.0	1,382	100.0	1,008	72.9
14 to 24 years.....	316	13.2	148	10.7	168	113.5
25 to 29 years.....	351	14.7	162	11.7	189	116.7
30 to 34 years.....	376	15.7	175	12.7	201	114.9
35 to 44 years.....	526	22.0	327	23.7	199	60.9
45 to 54 years.....	378	15.8	233	16.9	145	62.2
55 to 64 years.....	230	9.6	173	12.5	57	32.9
65 to 74 years.....	144	6.0	102	7.4	42	41.2
75 years and over.....	70	2.9	63	4.6	7	(B)
Median age.....	37.9	(X)	41.3	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>With Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total, 14 years and over.....	1,684	100.0	912	100.0	772	84.6
14 to 24 years.....	295	17.5	124	13.6	171	137.9
25 to 29 years.....	331	19.7	157	17.2	174	110.8
30 to 34 years.....	358	21.3	168	18.4	190	113.1
35 to 44 years.....	447	26.5	285	31.3	162	56.8
45 to 54 years.....	204	12.1	137	15.0	67	48.9
55 to 64 years.....	43	2.6	33	3.6	10	(B)
65 years and over.....	6	0.4	8	0.9	-2	(B)
Median age.....	33.0	(X)	35.2	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>SPANISH ORIGIN<sup>1</sup></b>						
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total, 14 years and over.....	542	100.0	307	100.0	235	76.5
14 to 24 years.....	79	14.6	32	10.4	47	(B)
25 to 29 years.....	97	17.9	39	12.7	58	(B)
30 to 34 years.....	81	14.9	41	13.4	40	(B)
35 to 44 years.....	127	23.4	80	26.1	47	58.8
45 to 54 years.....	90	16.6	55	17.9	35	(B)
55 to 64 years.....	34	6.3	33	10.7	1	(B)
65 to 74 years.....	28	5.2	26	8.5	8	(B)
75 years and over.....	6	1.1				
Median age.....	36.1	(X)	40.2	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>With Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total, 14 years and over.....	410	100.0	214	100.0	196	91.6
14 to 24 years.....	69	16.8	28	13.1	41	(B)
25 to 29 years.....	88	21.5	36	16.8	52	(B)
30 to 34 years.....	80	19.5	38	17.8	42	(B)
35 to 44 years.....	115	28.0	69	32.2	46	(B)
45 to 54 years.....	50	12.2	34	15.9	16	(B)
55 to 64 years.....	8	2.0	8	3.7	-	(B)
65 years and over.....	-	-	2	0.9	-	(B)
Median age.....	33.0	(X)	35.7	(X)	(X)	(X)

<sup>1</sup>Source of 1970 Spanish-origin data: 1970 Census of Population, Family Composition, Vol. II, 4A, table 6. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**Table 9. Marital Status of Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race and Presence of Children: 1979 and 1970**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total.....	8,458	100.0	5,591	100.0	2,867	51.3
Single (never married).....	1,416	16.7	610	10.9	806	132.1
Married, husband absent.....	1,770	20.9	1,326	23.7	444	33.5
Separated.....	1,502	17.8	945	16.9	557	58.9
Other.....	268	3.2	381	6.8	-113	-29.7
Divorced.....	2,807	33.2	1,259	22.5	1,548	123.0
Widowed.....	2,465	29.1	2,396	42.9	69	2.9
<b>With No Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total.....	3,170	100.0	2,667	100.0	503	18.9
Single (never married).....	514	16.2	377	14.1	137	36.3
Married, husband absent.....	296	9.3	234	8.8	62	26.5
Separated.....	243	7.7	174	6.5	69	39.7
Other.....	53	1.7	60	2.2	-7	(B)
Divorced.....	573	18.1	303	11.4	270	89.1
Widowed.....	1,786	56.3	1,753	65.7	33	1.9
<b>With Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total.....	5,288	100.0	2,926	100.0	2,362	80.7
Single (never married).....	902	17.1	234	8.0	668	285.8
Married, husband absent.....	1,473	27.9	1,093	37.4	380	34.8
Separated.....	1,258	23.8	771	26.3	487	63.2
Other.....	215	4.1	322	11.0	-107	-33.2
Divorced.....	2,234	42.2	956	32.7	1,278	133.7
Widowed.....	679	12.8	644	22.0	35	5.4
<b>WHITE</b>						
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total.....	5,918	100.0	4,165	100.0	1,753	42.1
Single (never married).....	681	11.5	382	9.2	299	78.3
Married, husband absent.....	1,050	17.7	767	18.4	283	36.9
Separated.....	846	14.3	470	11.3	376	80.0
Other.....	204	3.4	297	7.1	-93	-31.3
Divorced.....	2,297	38.8	1,055	25.3	1,242	117.7
Widowed.....	1,891	32.0	1,960	47.1	-69	-3.5
<b>With No Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total.....	2,408	100.0	2,170	100.0	238	11.0
Single (never married).....	383	15.9	316	14.6	67	21.2
Married, husband absent.....	146	6.1	136	6.3	10	7.4
Separated.....	107	4.4	85	3.9	22	25.9
Other.....	39	1.6	51	2.4	-12	(B)
Divorced.....	474	19.7	256	11.8	218	85.2
Widowed.....	1,406	58.4	1,461	67.3	-55	-3.8
<b>With Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total.....	3,511	100.0	1,995	100.0	1,516	76.0
Single (never married).....	298	8.5	66	3.3	232	(B)
Married, husband absent.....	904	25.7	630	31.6	274	43.5
Separated.....	739	21.0	384	19.2	355	92.4
Other.....	165	4.7	246	12.3	-81	-32.9
Divorced.....	1,823	51.9	799	40.1	1,024	128.2
Widowed.....	485	13.8	500	25.1	-15	-3.0

**Table 9. Marital Status of Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race and Presence of Children: 1979 and 1970—Continued**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>BLACK</b>						
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total.....	2,390	100.0	1,382	100.0	1,008	72.9
Single (never married).....	705	29.5	223	16.1	482	216.1
Married, husband absent.....	687	28.7	546	39.5	141	25.8
Separated.....	636	26.6	468	33.9	168	35.9
Other.....	51	2.1	78	5.6	-27	-34.6
Divorced.....	474	19.8	196	14.2	278	141.8
Widowed.....	523	21.9	417	30.2	106	25.4
<b>With No Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total.....	706	100.0	472	100.0	234	49.6
Single (never married).....	118	16.7	58	12.3	60	(B)
Married, husband absent.....	147	20.8	94	19.9	53	56.4
Separated.....	133	18.8	87	18.4	46	52.9
Other.....	14	2.0	7	1.5	7	(B)
Divorced.....	93	13.2	45	9.5	48	(B)
Widowed.....	348	49.3	276	58.5	72	26.1
<b>With Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total.....	1,684	100.0	912	100.0	772	84.6
Single (never married).....	588	34.9	166	18.2	422	254.2
Married, husband absent.....	541	32.1	454	49.8	87	19.2
Separated.....	503	29.9	382	41.9	121	31.7
Other.....	38	2.3	72	8.0	-34	(B)
Divorced.....	381	22.6	151	16.6	230	152.3
Widowed.....	174	10.3	141	15.5	33	23.4

**Table 10. Years of School Completed by Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Age, Race, and Presence of Children: 1979 and 1970**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total, all ages.....	8,458	100.0	5,591	100.0	2,867	51.3
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	1,696	20.1	1,797	32.1	-101	-5.6
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	1,810	21.4	1,274	22.8	536	42.1
4 years.....	3,160	37.4	1,777	31.8	1,383	77.8
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	1,184	14.0	464	8.3	720	155.2
4 years or more.....	608	7.2	279	5.0	329	117.9
Total, under age 45.....	4,780	100.0	2,439	100.0	2,341	96.0
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	440	9.2	402	16.5	38	9.5
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	1,174	24.6	741	30.4	433	58.4
4 years.....	2,009	42.0	961	39.4	1,048	109.1
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	821	17.2	240	9.8	581	242.1
4 years or more.....	336	7.0	94	3.9	242	257.4
Total, age 45 and over.....	3,677	100.0	3,153	100.0	524	16.6
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	1,256	34.2	1,395	44.2	-139	-10.0
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	636	17.3	533	16.9	103	19.3
4 years.....	1,151	31.3	816	25.9	335	41.1
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	363	9.9	224	7.1	139	62.1
4 years or more.....	272	7.4	185	5.9	87	47.0
<b>With Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total, all ages.....	5,288	100.0	2,926	100.0	2,362	80.7
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	656	12.4	614	21.0	42	6.8
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	1,295	24.5	830	28.4	465	56.0
4 years.....	2,118	40.1	1,085	37.1	1,033	95.2
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	883	16.7	267	9.1	616	230.7
4 years or more.....	336	6.4	131	4.5	205	156.5
Total, under age 45.....	4,339	100.0	2,181	100.0	2,158	98.9
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	403	9.3	358	16.4	45	12.6
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	1,095	25.2	693	31.8	402	58.0
4 years.....	1,808	41.7	853	39.1	955	112.0
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	756	17.4	200	9.2	556	278.0
4 years or more.....	277	6.4	77	3.5	200	259.7
Total, age 45 and over.....	949	100.0	745	100.0	204	27.4
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	253	26.7	256	34.4	-3	-1.2
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	200	21.1	137	18.4	63	46.0
4 years.....	310	32.7	232	31.1	78	33.6
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	127	13.4	67	9.0	60	(B)
4 years or more.....	59	6.2	54	7.2	5	(B)

**Table 10. Years of School Completed by Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Age, Race, and Presence of Children: 1979 and 1970—Continued**

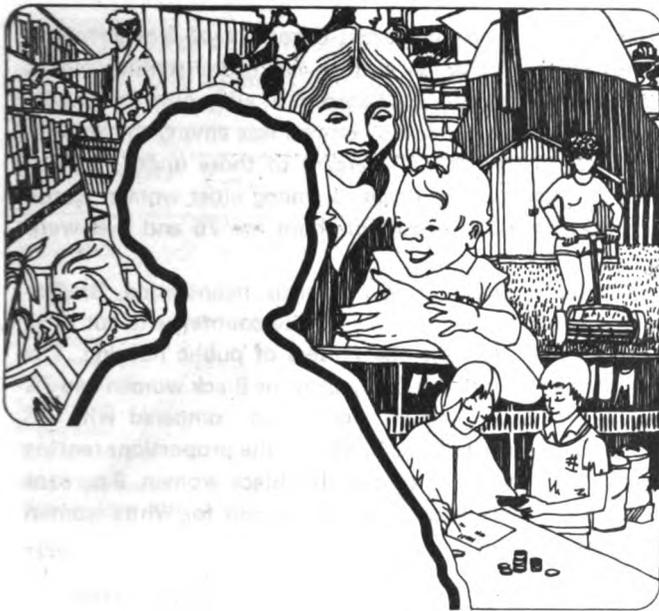
(Numbers in thousands. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>WHITE</b>						
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total, all ages.....	5,918	100.0	4,165	100.0	1,753	42.1
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	1,141	19.3	1,236	29.7	-95	-7.7
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	1,042	17.6	825	19.8	217	26.3
4 years.....	2,367	40.0	1,447	34.7	920	63.6
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	863	14.6	397	9.5	466	117.4
4 years or more.....	505	8.5	261	6.3	244	93.5
Total, under age 45.....	3,130	100.0	1,609	100.0	1,521	94.5
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	281	9.0	235	14.6	46	19.6
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	643	20.5	402	25.0	241	60.0
4 years.....	1,368	43.7	696	43.3	672	96.6
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	562	18.0	191	11.9	371	194.2
4 years or more.....	276	8.8	86	5.3	190	220.9
Total, age 45 and over.....	2,788	100.0	2,556	100.0	232	9.1
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	860	30.8	1,001	39.2	-141	-14.1
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	399	14.3	423	16.5	-24	-5.7
4 years.....	999	35.8	751	29.4	248	33.0
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	301	10.8	206	8.1	95	46.1
4 years or more.....	229	8.2	175	6.8	54	30.9
<b>With Own Children Under 18</b>						
Total, all ages.....	3,511	100.0	1,995	100.0	1,516	76.0
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	413	11.8	375	18.8	38	10.1
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	701	20.0	489	24.5	212	43.4
4 years.....	1,494	42.6	770	38.6	724	94.0
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	616	17.5	225	11.3	391	173.8
4 years or more.....	286	8.1	136	6.8	150	110.3
Total, under age 45.....	2,840	100.0	1,438	100.0	1,402	97.5
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	258	9.1	223	15.5	35	15.7
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	603	21.2	371	25.8	232	62.5
4 years.....	1,227	43.2	585	40.7	642	109.7
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	516	18.2	166	11.5	350	210.8
4 years or more.....	237	8.3	94	6.5	143	152.1
Total, age 45 and over.....	670	100.0	557	100.0	113	20.3
Elementary:						
0 to 8 years.....	155	23.1	154	27.6	1	0.6
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	98	14.6	118	21.2	-20	-16.9
4 years.....	267	39.9	186	33.4	81	43.5
College:						
1 to 3 years.....	100	14.9	60	10.8	40	(B)
4 years or more.....	49	7.3	40	7.2	9	(B)

**Table 10. Years of School Completed by Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Age, Race, and Presence of Children: 1979 and 1970—Continued**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>BLACK</b>						
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
<b>Total, all ages.....</b>	2,390	100.0	1,382	100.0	1,008	72.9
<b>Elementary:</b>						
0 to 8 years.....	523	21.9	544	39.4	-21	-3.9
<b>High school:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	735	30.8	439	31.8	296	67.4
4 years.....	748	31.3	321	23.2	427	133.0
<b>College:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	305	12.8	63	4.6	242	(B)
4 years or more.....	79	3.3	15	1.1	64	(B)
<b>Total, under age 45.....</b>	1,568	100.0	812	100.0	756	93.1
<b>Elementary:</b>						
0 to 8 years.....	150	9.6	164	20.2	-14	-8.5
<b>High school:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	511	32.6	334	41.1	177	53.0
4 years.....	613	39.1	262	32.3	351	134.0
<b>College:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	251	16.0	44	5.4	207	(B)
4 years or more.....	44	2.8	7	0.9	37	(B)
<b>Total, age 45 and over.....</b>	822	100.0	571	100.0	251	44.0
<b>Elementary:</b>						
0 to 8 years.....	373	45.4	380	66.5	-7	-1.8
<b>High school:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	224	27.3	105	18.4	119	113.3
4 years.....	135	16.4	59	10.3	76	(B)
<b>College:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	54	6.6	19	3.3	35	(B)
4 years or more.....	35	4.3	8	1.4	27	(B)
<b>With Own Children Under 18</b>						
<b>Total, all ages.....</b>	1,684	100.0	912	100.0	772	84.6
<b>Elementary:</b>						
0 to 8 years.....	230	13.7	258	28.3	-28	-10.9
<b>High school:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	567	33.7	344	37.7	223	64.8
4 years.....	593	35.2	238	26.1	355	149.2
<b>College:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	257	15.3	50	5.5	207	(B)
4 years or more.....	37	2.2	22	2.4	15	(B)
<b>Total, under age 45.....</b>	1,430	100.0	734	100.0	696	94.8
<b>Elementary:</b>						
0 to 8 years.....	139	9.7	166	22.6	-27	-16.3
<b>High school:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	472	33.0	294	40.1	178	60.5
4 years.....	555	38.8	213	29.0	342	160.6
<b>College:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	234	16.4	44	6.0	190	(B)
4 years or more.....	30	2.1	17	2.3	13	(B)
<b>Total, age 45 and over.....</b>	253	100.0	178	100.0	75	42.1
<b>Elementary:</b>						
0 to 8 years.....	91	36.0	93	52.2	-2	-2.2
<b>High school:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	95	37.5	50	28.1	45	(B)
4 years.....	38	15.0	26	14.6	12	(B)
<b>College:</b>						
1 to 3 years.....	23	9.1	6	3.4	17	(B)
4 years or more.....	7	2.8	5	2.8	2	(B)



# Demographic Characteristics of the Families

## SIZE

Most families maintained by female householders are not very large. Almost three-quarters of such families (73 percent) consisted of no more than two or three people. As of 1979, the average number of family members was 3.08 persons, down from 3.22 persons in 1970 (table 11).

There are, of course, some racial and ethnic differentials in average family size. For example, families maintained by Black women in 1979 were larger on the average (3.63 persons) than those maintained by either Spanish-origin women (3.30 persons) or White women (2.86 persons).

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Families maintained by women in 1979 were more likely to include children than were their 1970 counterparts. The rate of increase since 1970 in the number of families comprised of a mother and one or more children has been about 81 percent as compared with a 51-percent increase in the overall number of women maintaining families (table 12).

Contrary to the stereotype of a mother who has been abandoned to fend for herself and her numerous offspring, families maintained by women, if they had any children at all, were likely to include only one or two children. These one-child and two-child families have more than doubled in number since 1970. As of 1979, about 28 percent of all women maintaining families had one child and 20 percent had two, whereas 9 percent had three and only 5 percent had 4 or more children; the other 38 percent had either never had any children or their children were living elsewhere.

The average number of children in families of female householders with children in 1979 was down to 1.86 from the average of 2.29 in 1970. The averages were somewhat higher in Black and Spanish-origin families than in White families in both years.

The total number of children under 18 living in families maintained by women in 1979 was 9.8 million. About 2.4 million of these children were under 6 years of age and the remaining 7.4 million children were 6 to 17 years of age. It should be noted that these numbers do not include every child living in a one-parent situation. A relatively small, but nevertheless significant, number of children living with one parent were either with mothers who were not the person responsible for maintaining the household (about 700,000 children), or else they lived with their father instead of their mother (about 1.0 million children, or 9 percent of all those living with one parent).

## AGE OF CHILDREN

Since most women with children at home are under age 45, the data in this section refer only to women in that age category. In 1979, there were just over 1 million families maintained by such women which contained only children under age 6, and an additional 861,000 families which had both children under 6 and some 6 to 17 (table 13).

All women with responsibility for the care and custody of their children (i.e., no husband present) face special, and sometimes debilitating, problems. However, when these families include very young children, it may be especially difficult for the woman to enter the work force on a full-time or even part-time basis, unless she is able to find acceptable day-care services for her preschool children. The number of families maintained by women with only children under age 6 has doubled since 1970, and the rate of increase for this type of family was much greater than the overall rate of increase in the number of families maintained by women.

There were about 2.4 million families maintained by women which included only children of school age (6 to 17 years old). The women maintaining these families must cope with economic realities and the needs of their older children

which are no less urgent than those difficulties faced by women with younger children. These mothers are, however, relieved of some of the constant child-care requirements implicit during infancy and early childhood. Mothers who are responsible only for school-age children are seemingly in an improved position to shift their focus from the immediacy of daily child care to childrearing processes which may consume less of the mothers' time. In any event, once all the children are in school, the woman may feel that she can seek employment outside the home at least on a part-time basis without jeopardizing the care required by her children.

## TENURE

Families maintained by female householders were much more likely than families in general to be in rented housing. Whereas 25 percent of all families were renters, the proportion of female householders (no husband present) who were

renters was 50 percent. About 8 percent of female householders were not only renters but were renting public housing, as compared with 2 percent of all families (table 14).

The highest proportion of renters was among the women under age 25. Whereas 86 percent of those under 25 were renters, the proportion declined among older women to the point that only 21 percent of those age 75 and over were renters.

Black and Spanish-origin women maintaining families were far more likely than their White counterparts not only to be renters, but also the renters of public housing. The proportions renting were 66 percent for Black women and 72 percent for Spanish-origin women, as compared with 43 percent for White women. Similarly, the proportions renting public housing were 19 percent for Black women, 9 percent for Spanish-origin women, and 3 percent for White women maintaining families.

**Table 11. Size of Families Maintained by Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race and Spanish Origin: 1979 and 1970**

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

Size of family	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	8,458	100.0	5,591	100.0	2,867	51.3
2 persons.....	3,906	46.2	2,532	45.3	1,374	54.3
3 persons.....	2,287	27.0	1,337	23.9	950	71.1
4 persons.....	1,209	14.3	763	13.6	446	58.5
5 persons.....	596	7.0	440	7.9	156	35.5
6 persons.....	246	2.9	251	4.5	-5	-2.0
7 or more persons.....	214	2.5	268	4.8	-54	-20.1
Total persons.....	26,032	(X)	17,995	(X)	(X)	(X)
Persons per family.....	3.08	(X)	3.22	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>WHITE</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	5,918	100.0	4,165	100.0	1,753	42.1
2 persons.....	3,056	51.6	2,093	50.3	963	46.0
3 persons.....	1,643	27.8	1,049	25.2	594	56.6
4 persons.....	746	12.6	540	13.0	206	38.1
5 persons.....	299	5.1	266	6.4	33	12.4
6 persons.....	107	1.8	128	3.1	-21	-16.4
7 or more persons.....	68	1.1	89	2.1	-21	-23.6
Total persons.....	16,898	(X)	12,285	(X)	(X)	(X)
Persons per family.....	2.86	(X)	2.95	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>BLACK</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	2,390	100.0	1,382	100.0	1,008	72.9
2 persons.....	787	32.9	419	30.3	368	87.8
3 persons.....	608	25.4	280	20.3	328	117.1
4 persons.....	442	18.5	218	15.8	224	102.8
5 persons.....	276	11.5	172	12.4	104	60.5
6 persons.....	136	5.7	121	8.8	15	12.4
7 or more persons.....	140	5.9	172	12.4	-32	-18.6
Total persons.....	8,674	(X)	5,537	(X)	(X)	(X)
Persons per family.....	3.63	(X)	4.01	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>SPANISH ORIGIN<sup>1</sup></b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	542	100.0	307	100.0	235	76.5
2 persons.....	200	36.9	93	30.3	107	115.1
3 persons.....	147	27.1	75	24.4	72	96.0
4 persons.....	100	18.4	55	17.9	45	(B)
5 persons.....	53	9.8	34	11.1	19	(B)
6 persons.....	23	4.2	22	7.2	1	(B)
7 or more persons.....	19	3.6	29	9.4	-10	(B)
Total persons.....	1,792	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)
Persons per family.....	3.30	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)

<sup>1</sup>Source of 1970 Spanish-origin data: 1970 Census of Population, Family Composition, Vol. II, 4A, table 5. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**Table 12. Families Maintained by Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race, Spanish Origin, and Number of Own Children: 1979 and 1970**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	8,458	100.0	5,591	100.0	2,867	51.3
With own children under 18.....	5,288	62.5	2,926	52.3	2,362	80.7
1 child.....	2,360	27.9	1,048	18.7	1,312	125.2
2 children.....	1,701	20.1	834	14.9	867	104.0
3 children.....	782	9.2	493	8.8	289	58.6
4 children.....	293	3.5	268	4.8	25	9.3
5 children.....	97	1.1	142	2.5	-45	-31.7
6 or more children.....	55	0.7	141	2.5	-86	-61.0
With own children under 6.....	1,926	22.8	1,110	19.9	816	73.5
1 child.....	1,471	17.4	688	12.3	783	113.8
2 children.....	384	4.5	296	5.3	88	29.7
3 or more children.....	71	0.8	126	2.3	-55	-43.7
Total own children under 18....	9,822	(X)	6,694	(X)	3,128	46.7
Children under 18 per family.....	1.16	(X)	1.20	(X)	(X)	(X)
Children under 18 per family with children.....	1.86	(X)	2.29	(X)	(X)	(X)
Total own children under 6.....	2,380	(X)	1,591	(X)	789	49.6
Children under 6 per family.....	0.28	(X)	0.28	(X)	(X)	(X)
Children under 6 per family with children.....	1.24	(X)	1.43	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>WHITE</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	5,918	100.0	4,165	100.0	1,753	42.1
With own children under 18.....	3,511	59.3	1,995	47.9	1,516	76.0
1 child.....	1,729	29.2	780	18.7	949	121.7
2 children.....	1,162	19.6	634	15.2	528	83.3
3 children.....	439	7.4	319	7.7	120	37.6
4 children.....	126	2.1	151	3.6	-25	-16.6
5 children.....	40	0.7	67	1.6	-27	(B)
6 or more children.....	14	0.2	44	1.0	-30	(B)
With own children under 6.....	1,154	19.5	664	15.9	490	73.8
1 child.....	923	15.6	438	10.5	485	110.7
2 children.....	200	3.4	179	4.3	21	11.7
3 or more children.....	30	0.5	46	1.1	-16	(B)
Total own children under 18....	6,025	(X)	4,103	(X)	1,922	46.8
Children under 18 per family.....	1.02	(X)	0.99	(X)	(X)	(X)
Children under 18 per family with children.....	1.72	(X)	2.06	(X)	(X)	(X)
Total own children under 6.....	1,381	(X)	908	(X)	473	52.1
Children under 6 per family.....	0.23	(X)	0.22	(X)	(X)	(X)
Children under 6 per family with children.....	1.20	(X)	1.37	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>BLACK</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	2,390	100.0	1,382	100.0	1,008	72.9
With own children under 18.....	1,684	70.5	912	66.0	772	84.6
1 child.....	592	24.8	261	18.9	331	126.8
2 children.....	510	21.3	197	14.2	313	158.9
3 children.....	325	13.6	171	12.3	154	90.1
4 children.....	162	6.8	114	8.2	48	42.1
5 children.....	56	2.3	74	5.4	-18	(B)
6 or more children.....	40	1.7	95	6.9	-55	-57.9
With own children under 6.....	730	30.5	437	31.6	293	67.0
1 child.....	520	21.8	243	17.6	277	114.0
2 children.....	174	7.3	116	8.4	58	50.0
3 or more children.....	36	1.5	77	5.7	-41	-53.2
Total own children under 18....	3,622	(X)	2,528	(X)	1,094	43.3
Children under 18 per family.....	1.52	(X)	1.83	(X)	(X)	(X)
Children under 18 per family with children.....	2.15	(X)	2.77	(X)	(X)	(X)
Total own children under 6.....	948	(X)	663	(X)	285	43.0
Children under 6 per family.....	0.40	(X)	0.48	(X)	(X)	(X)
Children under 6 per family with children.....	1.30	(X)	1.52	(X)	(X)	(X)

**Table 12. Families Maintained by Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race, Spanish Origin, and Number of Own Children: 1979 and 1970—Continued**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>SPANISH ORIGIN<sup>1</sup></b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	542	100.0	307	100.0	235	76.5
With own children under 18.....	410	75.6	214	69.7	196	91.6
1 child.....	156	28.7	65	21.2	91	(B)
2 children.....	120	22.1	56	18.2	64	(B)
3 children.....	79	14.6	39	12.7	40	(B)
4 children.....	35	6.4	24	7.8	11	(B)
5 children.....	12	2.2	15	4.9	-3	(B)
6 or more children.....	9	1.6	16	5.2	-7	(B)
With own children under 6.....	200	36.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1 child.....	137	25.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2 children.....	52	9.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
3 or more children.....	11	2.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total own children under 18....	860	(X)	567	(X)	293	51.7
Children under 18 per family.....	1.59	(X)	1.85	(X)	(X)	(X)
Children under 18 per family with children.....	2.10	(X)	2.65	(X)	(X)	(X)
Total own children under 6.....	272	(X)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Children under 6 per family.....	0.50	(X)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Children under 6 per family with children.....	1.36	(X)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

<sup>1</sup>Source of 1970 Spanish-origin data: 1970 Census of Population, Family Composition, Vol. II, 4A, table 6. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**Table 13. Age of Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race and Age of Own Children: 1979 and 1970**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
All ages.....	8,458	100.0	5,591	100.0	2,867	51.3
No own children under 18.....	3,170	37.5	2,665	47.7	505	18.9
With own children under 18.....	5,288	62.5	2,926	52.3	2,362	80.7
35 years and under.....	2,929	100.0	1,364	100.0	1,565	114.7
No own children under 18.....	206	7.0	104	7.6	102	98.1
With own children under 18.....	2,723	93.0	1,260	92.4	1,463	116.1
All under 6.....	990	33.8	454	33.3	536	118.1
Some under 6, some 6 to 17.....	665	22.7	407	29.8	258	63.4
All 6 to 17.....	1,068	36.5	399	29.3	669	167.7
35 to 44 years.....	1,851	100.0	1,074	100.0	777	72.3
No own children under 18.....	235	12.7	154	14.3	81	52.6
With own children under 18.....	1,616	87.3	920	85.7	696	75.7
All under 6.....	54	2.9	23	2.1	31	(B)
Some under 6, some 6 to 17.....	196	10.6	185	17.2	11	5.9
All 6 to 17.....	1,366	73.8	712	66.3	654	91.9
45 to 64 years.....	2,481	100.0	2,021	100.0	460	22.8
No own children under 18.....	1,545	62.3	1,285	63.6	260	20.2
With own children under 18.....	936	37.7	736	36.4	200	27.2
65 years and over.....	1,196	100.0	1,131	100.0	65	5.7
No own children under 18.....	1,183	98.9	1,122	99.2	61	5.4
With own children under 18.....	13	1.1	9	0.8	4	(B)
<b>WHITE</b>						
All ages.....	5,918	100.0	4,165	100.0	1,753	42.1
No own children under 18.....	2,408	40.7	2,170	52.1	238	11.0
With own children under 18.....	3,511	59.3	1,995	47.9	1,516	76.0
35 years and under.....	1,834	100.0	866	100.0	968	111.8
No own children under 18.....	140	7.6	71	8.2	69	(B)
With own children under 18.....	1,694	92.4	795	91.8	899	113.1
All under 6.....	665	36.3	316	36.5	349	110.4
Some under 6, some 6 to 17.....	336	18.3	219	25.3	117	53.4
All 6 to 17.....	693	37.8	260	30.0	433	166.5
35 to 44 years.....	1,297	100.0	742	100.0	555	74.8
No own children under 18.....	150	11.6	115	15.5	35	30.4
With own children under 18.....	1,147	88.4	627	84.5	520	82.9
All under 6.....	38	2.9	9	1.2	29	(B)
Some under 6, some 6 to 17.....	103	7.9	100	13.5	3	3.0
All 6 to 17.....	1,006	77.6	518	69.8	488	94.2
45 to 64 years.....	1,821	100.0	1,599	100.0	222	13.9
No own children under 18.....	1,157	63.5	1,033	64.6	124	12.0
With own children under 18.....	664	36.5	566	35.4	98	17.3
65 years and over.....	967	100.0	957	100.0	10	1.0
No own children under 18.....	961	99.4	951	99.4	10	1.1
With own children under 18.....	6	0.6	7	0.7	-1	(B)

**Table 13. Age of Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race and Age of Own Children: 1979 and 1970—Continued**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>BLACK</b>						
All ages.....	2,390	100.0	1,382	100.0	1,008	72.9
No own children under 18.....	706	29.5	470	34.0	236	50.2
With own children under 18.....	1,684	70.5	912	66.0	772	84.6
35 years and under.....	1,042	100.0	486	100.0	556	114.4
No own children under 18.....	58	5.6	30	6.2	28	(B)
With own children under 18.....	984	94.4	456	93.8	528	115.8
All under 6.....	309	29.7	135	27.8	174	128.9
Some under 6, some 6 to 17.....	313	30.0	182	37.4	131	72.0
All 6 to 17.....	362	34.7	139	28.6	223	160.4
35 to 44 years.....	525	100.0	327	100.0	198	60.6
No own children under 18.....	79	15.0	39	11.9	40	(B)
With own children under 18.....	446	85.0	288	88.1	158	54.9
All under 6.....	14	2.7	14	4.3	-	(B)
Some under 6, some 6 to 17.....	88	16.8	85	26.0	3	3.5
All 6 to 17.....	344	65.5	189	57.8	155	82.0
45 to 64 years.....	608	100.0	406	100.0	202	49.8
No own children under 18.....	361	59.4	240	59.1	121	50.4
With own children under 18.....	247	40.6	166	40.9	81	48.8
65 years and over.....	214	100.0	165	100.0	49	29.7
No own children under 18.....	208	97.2	162	98.2	46	28.4
With own children under 18.....	6	2.8	2	1.2	4	(B)

**Table 14. Families and Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Housing Tenure, Age, Race, and Spanish Origin: 1979**

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

Subject	Total		Owner	Renter		
	Number	Percent		Total	Public	Private
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
<b>All Families</b>						
Total, all ages.....	57,804	100.0	74.6	25.4	2.0	23.4
Under 25 years.....	3,827	100.0	32.0	67.9	4.7	63.3
25 to 29 years.....	6,473	100.0	54.4	45.6	3.0	42.6
30 to 34 years.....	7,005	100.0	69.1	30.9	2.3	28.6
35 to 44 years.....	11,754	100.0	77.4	22.6	2.2	20.4
45 to 54 years.....	10,883	100.0	84.4	15.6	1.4	14.3
55 to 64 years.....	9,342	100.0	87.0	13.0	0.9	12.0
65 to 74 years.....	5,832	100.0	84.1	15.9	1.4	14.6
75 years and over.....	2,678	100.0	83.8	16.2	1.3	14.8
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total, all ages.....	8,458	100.0	50.2	49.8	7.8	42.0
Under 25 years.....	801	100.0	14.5	85.5	13.7	71.8
25 to 29 years.....	1,016	100.0	23.8	76.2	11.5	64.7
30 to 34 years.....	1,112	100.0	38.6	61.4	8.4	53.1
35 to 44 years.....	1,851	100.0	50.4	49.7	9.2	40.4
45 to 54 years.....	1,518	100.0	63.3	36.8	5.9	30.8
55 to 64 years.....	963	100.0	70.1	30.0	5.2	24.8
65 to 74 years.....	712	100.0	70.9	29.1	3.4	25.7
75 years and over.....	484	100.0	79.5	20.5	1.0	19.4
<b>WHITE</b>						
<b>All Families</b>						
Total, all ages.....	50,910	100.0	77.6	22.4	1.1	21.4
Under 25 years.....	3,239	100.0	34.9	65.1	2.5	62.6
25 to 29 years.....	5,580	100.0	57.5	42.6	1.6	40.9
30 to 34 years.....	6,020	100.0	73.1	26.9	1.3	25.6
35 to 44 years.....	10,256	100.0	80.8	19.2	1.0	18.2
45 to 54 years.....	9,644	100.0	87.0	13.0	0.7	12.4
55 to 64 years.....	8,468	100.0	88.5	11.5	0.6	10.9
65 to 74 years.....	5,237	100.0	85.7	14.3	0.9	13.4
75 years and over.....	2,466	100.0	84.8	15.2	1.1	14.1
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total, all ages.....	5,918	100.0	56.7	43.3	3.4	39.9
Under 25 years.....	468	100.0	16.9	83.1	7.1	76.1
25 to 29 years.....	647	100.0	26.4	73.6	6.0	67.5
30 to 34 years.....	719	100.0	43.5	56.5	4.2	52.3
35 to 44 years.....	1,296	100.0	57.2	42.8	3.1	39.7
45 to 54 years.....	1,105	100.0	70.5	29.5	2.8	26.7
55 to 64 years.....	716	100.0	73.9	26.1	2.5	23.5
65 to 74 years.....	559	100.0	73.9	26.1	1.6	24.5
75 years and over.....	408	100.0	80.9	19.1	0.5	18.6
<b>BLACK</b>						
<b>All Families</b>						
Total, all ages.....	5,906	100.0	52.2	47.8	9.9	37.9
Under 25 years.....	542	100.0	16.1	83.9	16.8	67.0
25 to 29 years.....	773	100.0	36.5	63.4	12.8	50.7
30 to 34 years.....	806	100.0	43.5	56.5	9.9	46.5
35 to 44 years.....	1,259	100.0	51.8	48.2	12.5	35.7
45 to 54 years.....	1,076	100.0	63.8	36.2	7.4	28.7
55 to 64 years.....	749	100.0	71.3	28.8	4.7	24.0
65 to 74 years.....	508	100.0	69.3	30.7	6.5	24.2
75 years and over.....	192	100.0	71.9	28.6	4.7	23.4

**Table 14. Families and Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Housing Tenure, Age, Race, and Spanish Origin: 1979—Continued**

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

Subject	Total		Owner	Renter		
	Number	Percent		Total	Public	Private
<b>BLACK--Continued</b>						
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total, all ages.....	2,390	100.0	34.4	65.6	18.6	47.0
Under 25 years.....	316	100.0	9.5	90.2	23.1	67.4
25 to 29 years.....	351	100.0	19.7	80.3	21.9	58.1
30 to 34 years.....	376	100.0	28.2	71.8	16.5	55.1
35 to 44 years.....	526	100.0	34.0	66.0	24.7	41.3
45 to 54 years.....	378	100.0	44.4	55.6	15.3	40.2
55 to 64 years.....	230	100.0	58.7	41.7	11.7	29.6
65 to 74 years.....	144	100.0	59.7	40.3	9.7	30.6
75 years and over.....	70	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
<b>SPANISH ORIGIN<sup>1</sup></b>						
<b>All Families</b>						
Total, all ages.....	2,741	100.0	49.3	50.7	3.9	46.8
Under 25 years.....	316	100.0	18.4	81.6	4.4	77.2
25 to 29 years.....	444	100.0	32.7	67.3	2.5	64.9
30 to 34 years.....	393	100.0	45.0	54.7	4.1	50.6
35 to 44 years.....	662	100.0	55.1	44.9	4.7	40.2
45 to 54 years.....	457	100.0	62.8	37.4	4.8	32.6
55 to 64 years.....	254	100.0	72.0	28.0	3.1	24.8
65 to 74 years.....	150	100.0	62.7	37.3	2.7	34.0
75 years and over.....	65	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
<b>All Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total, all ages.....	542	100.0	27.7	72.3	8.5	63.8
Under 25 years.....	79	100.0	8.9	91.1	13.9	77.2
25 to 29 years.....	97	100.0	10.3	89.7	4.1	85.6
30 to 34 years.....	81	100.0	19.8	81.5	8.6	71.6
35 to 44 years.....	127	100.0	29.9	70.1	10.2	59.8
45 to 54 years.....	90	100.0	48.9	51.1	7.8	42.2
55 to 64 years.....	34	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
65 to 74 years.....	28	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
75 years and over.....	6	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)

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



# Employment Characteristics

## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Data published annually by the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated that in 1979, nearly one-half of all women living with their husbands were in the labor force (i.e., either working or looking for work outside the home). The economic realities faced by most women maintaining families with no husband present provide an additional impetus for them to enter the labor force. In fact, the proportion of these women in the labor force was 60 percent (table 15) as compared with 49 percent for wives in married-couple families.

Although the labor force participation rate of women maintaining families has increased significantly since 1970, there is evidence that a higher proportion of these women had problems finding employment. The number who were involuntarily unemployed increased by 158 percent between 1970 and 1979. No one knows how many others became discouraged, stopped looking for work, and thus, did not appear in the unemployment data.

White women maintaining families were more likely than their Black counterparts to be in the labor force, and the gap between the races widened substantially during the decade. In 1979, about 62 percent of White women were in the labor force, compared with 54 percent of Black women. There was

no significant difference in 1970 between the participation rates of White and Black women.

## OCCUPATION

In both 1970 and 1979, the majority of employed women maintaining families (58 and 57 percent, respectively) were clerical or service workers (table 16). There has, however, been a large increase since 1970 in the number who had either professional or managerial positions, with the number of women in each of these occupational groups doubling during the decade. In spite of these increases, only one-fifth of the employed women with the responsibility for their families were in professional or managerial positions in 1979, and able to enjoy the favorable economic benefits generally associated with such jobs.

As might be expected, the proportion of employed Black women working in either professional or managerial occupations in 1979 was much lower (12 percent) than for Whites (22 percent), but there has been a three-fold increase since 1970 in the number of Black women in these occupations. The occupational category in which most Black women were employed in both 1970 and 1979 was service work, but the proportion in this occupation group declined from 51 percent to 36 percent during the period.

**Table 15. Labor Force Status of Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race: 1979 and 1970**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	8,458	100.0	5,591	100.0	2,867	51.3
In labor force.....	5,033	59.5	2,943	52.6	2,090	71.0
Employed.....	4,608	54.5	2,778	49.7	1,830	65.9
Unemployed.....	425	5.0	165	3.0	260	157.6
Not in labor force.....	3,425	40.5	2,648	47.4	777	29.3
<b>WHITE</b>						
Total, female householders, no husband present.....	5,918	100.0	4,165	100.0	1,753	42.1
In labor force.....	3,661	61.9	2,224	53.4	1,437	64.6
Employed.....	3,406	57.6	2,118	50.9	1,288	60.8
Unemployed.....	255	4.3	106	2.5	149	140.6
Not in labor force.....	2,257	38.1	1,941	46.6	316	16.3
<b>BLACK</b>						
Total female householders, no husband present.....	2,390	100.0	1,382	100.0	1,008	72.9
In labor force.....	1,284	53.7	703	50.9	581	82.6
Employed.....	1,118	46.8	650	47.0	468	72.0
Unemployed.....	166	6.9	53	3.8	113	(B)
Not in labor force.....	1,106	46.3	679	49.1	427	62.9

**Table 16. Occupation Group of Female Householders With No Husband Present, by Race: 1979 and 1970**

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

Subject	1979		1970		Change, 1970-79	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
Total employed female householders, no husband present.....	4,608	100.0	2,778	100.0	1,829	65.8
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	603	13.1	299	10.8	304	101.7
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	303	6.6	149	5.4	154	103.4
Sales workers.....	214	4.6	139	5.0	75	54.0
Clerical and kindred workers.....	1,569	34.0	839	30.2	730	87.0
Craft and kindred workers.....	95	2.1	26	0.9	69	(B)
Operatives.....	677	14.7	498	17.9	179	35.9
Service workers.....	1,076	23.4	777	28.0	299	38.5
Farm related workers.....	14	0.3	29	1.0	-15	(B)
Other laborers.....	55	1.2	23	0.8	32	(B)
<b>WHITE</b>						
Total employed female householders, no husband present.....	3,406	100.0	2,118	100.0	1,287	60.7
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	480	14.1	262	12.4	218	83.2
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	269	7.9	144	6.8	125	86.8
Sales workers.....	181	5.3	125	5.9	56	44.8
Clerical and kindred workers.....	1,240	36.4	736	34.7	504	68.5
Craft and kindred workers.....	76	2.2	19	0.9	57	(B)
Operatives.....	465	13.7	351	16.6	114	32.5
Service workers.....	649	19.1	445	21.0	204	45.8
Farm related workers.....	12	0.4	25	1.2	-13	(B)
Other laborers.....	34	1.0	12	0.6	22	(B)
<b>BLACK</b>						
Total employed female householders, no husband present.....	1,118	100.0	650	100.0	468	72.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	104	9.3	34	5.2	70	(B)
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	29	2.6	6	0.9	23	(B)
Sales workers.....	30	2.7	14	2.2	16	(B)
Clerical and kindred workers.....	313	28.0	101	15.5	212	209.9
Craft and kindred workers.....	19	1.7	7	1.1	12	(B)
Operatives.....	194	17.4	144	22.2	50	34.7
Service workers.....	405	36.2	330	50.8	75	22.7
Farm related workers.....	2	0.2	4	0.6	-2	(B)
Other laborers.....	21	1.9	10	1.5	11	(B)



# Income and Poverty Status

## INCOME

The severity of the economic disadvantages with which families maintained by women must cope becomes apparent when their income level is compared with the income of families in general. The median income in 1978 of families maintained by women was \$8,540, or slightly less than one-half (48 percent) of the \$17,640 median income of families overall (table 17). In other words, a woman with no husband contributing directly to the family income can expect to have only about \$1 for essential expenses to every \$2 available to most families.

The income differential reflected by the 1978 data does not represent even a marginal improvement since 1969. The median income for all families in 1969 was \$16,790 (expressed in 1978 constant dollars to allow for inflation). Thus, the 1978 income of all families (\$17,640) had increased by \$850 (5 percent) over the 9-year period. The median in 1969 for families maintained by women, however, was \$8,580 (expressed in 1978 dollars)—and it was no higher in 1978 (\$8,540).

The median income in 1978 of families maintained by White women (\$9,910) was substantially higher than that of families maintained by their Black or Spanish-origin counterparts (\$5,890 and \$5,580, respectively). The difference in the incomes of Black and Spanish-origin women was not significant.

The 1978 family income of White women expressed as a proportion of the median income for all White families was about 54 percent; the proportion was the same for Blacks. The corresponding figure for families maintained by Spanish-origin women was only 44 percent.

Most families in the very lowest income categories are likely to be maintained by women. In 1978, about 3.2 million families had incomes of less than \$4,000 (table 18);

more than one-half (54 percent) of these very low income families were maintained by women. Among Blacks, about 80 percent of those families with incomes under \$4,000 were maintained by women with no husbands present.

At the opposite end of the income spectrum, there were about 2.1 million families whose income during 1978 was \$50,000 and over; less than 2 percent of these families were maintained by women.

## AGE AND INCOME

The family income of young female householders is likely to be lower than that of similarly situated middle-aged or older women. For example, if the woman is under 25 years old, her family's median income in 1978 (\$3,950) was only one-third as high as that for families of women 55 to 64 years old (\$12,250). The family income of female householders under age 25 actually dropped by \$410 (10 percent) since 1969, once the 1969 income was adjusted for inflation (table 19). Among Blacks, the whole group of families maintained by women under the age of 45 had a decline in income since 1969, once allowances were made for inflation.

## CHILDREN AND INCOME

Among families maintained by women, those with one or more children under age 18 had a much lower median income in 1978 (\$7,040) than those without children (\$11,970). The association between low income and the presence of children reflects to some extent the fact that women with children are likely to be young, and thus have yet to reach the ages usually associated with higher income levels.

The younger the children, the lower the income of families of female householders with no husband present was likely to be. The income for families with children all over the age of 6 was \$8,690 in 1978. If there was at least one

child under age 6 and one or more age 6 to 17, the income was only \$4,930 (a difference of \$3,760). If all of the children were under 6, there was some evidence that the income (\$4,500) was even lower (table 20).

## POVERTY

There were 19.1 million persons living in families with incomes below the poverty level in 1978. This constituted a poverty rate of 10 percent (table 21).

About 9.3 million of the family members living below the officially defined poverty threshold (\$6,662 for a nonfarm family of four in 1978) were in families maintained by women. The poverty rate for persons in these families,

38 percent, was considerably higher than the 10 percent for persons in families overall. Although the overall poverty rate for persons in families maintained by women is high, it has decreased somewhat from 38 percent since 1969. The 1978 poverty rate for persons in families maintained by White women was 26 percent, much lower than the rate for persons in comparable Black or Spanish-origin families.

The poverty rate among children living in families maintained by women was much higher than for children in families overall (51 versus 16 percent). Among children in Spanish-origin and Black families maintained by women, the rates were 69 and 66 percent, respectively, compared with 40 percent for their White counterparts.

**Table 17. Median Income of All Families and Female-Headed Families With No Husband Present, by Race and Spanish Origin: 1978 and 1969**

(In 1978 dollars. Families as of March 1979 and 1970. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Subject	1978	1969	Change, 1969-78	
			Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>				
All families.....	\$17,640	\$16,787	\$853	5.1
Female householders, no husband present.....	\$8,537	\$8,581	\$-44	-0.5
Percent.....	48.4	51.1	(X)	(X)
<b>WHITE</b>				
All families.....	\$18,368	\$17,429	\$939	5.4
Female householders, no husband present.....	\$9,911	\$9,788	\$123	1.3
Percent.....	54.0	56.2	(X)	(X)
<b>BLACK</b>				
All families.....	\$10,879	\$10,783	\$96	0.9
Female householders, no husband present.....	\$5,888	\$5,946	\$-58	-1.0
Percent.....	54.1	55.1	(X)	(X)
<b>SPANISH ORIGIN<sup>1</sup></b>				
All families.....	\$12,566	\$13,085	\$-519	-4.0
Female householders, no husband present.....	\$5,578	\$6,512	\$-934	-14.3
Percent.....	44.4	49.8	(X)	(X)

<sup>1</sup>Source of 1969 Spanish-origin income data: 1970 Census of Population, Family Composition, Vol. II, 4A, table 15. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**Table 18. Total Money Income, by Family Type and Race: 1978**

(Numbers in thousands. Families as of March 1979. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Total money income	All families		Married-couple families		Female householder, no husband present	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
Total families.....	57,804	100.0	47,692	82.5	8,458	14.6
Under \$2,000.....	1,027	100.0	473	46.1	520	50.6
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	852	100.0	301	35.3	529	62.1
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	1,336	100.0	617	46.2	676	50.6
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	1,504	100.0	784	52.1	669	44.5
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	1,711	100.0	1,091	63.8	572	33.4
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	1,783	100.0	1,249	70.1	484	27.1
\$7,000 to \$7,999.....	1,925	100.0	1,333	69.2	524	27.2
\$8,000 to \$8,999.....	1,876	100.0	1,341	71.5	477	25.4
\$9,000 to \$9,999.....	1,859	100.0	1,400	75.3	398	21.4
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	3,911	100.0	3,016	77.1	752	19.2
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	5,745	100.0	4,697	81.8	853	14.8
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	9,769	100.0	8,553	87.6	956	9.8
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	8,392	100.0	7,621	90.8	540	6.4
\$25,000 to \$49,999.....	14,033	100.0	13,219	94.2	475	3.4
\$50,000 and over.....	2,082	100.0	1,998	96.0	35	1.7
<b>WHITE</b>						
Total families.....	50,910	100.0	43,636	85.7	5,918	11.6
Under \$2,000.....	751	100.0	436	58.1	293	39.0
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	556	100.0	269	48.4	273	49.1
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	899	100.0	507	56.4	364	40.5
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	1,098	100.0	663	60.4	397	36.2
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	1,375	100.0	975	70.9	361	26.3
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	1,468	100.0	1,100	74.9	328	22.3
\$7,000 to \$7,999.....	1,608	100.0	1,177	73.2	377	23.4
\$8,000 to \$8,999.....	1,541	100.0	1,191	77.3	309	20.1
\$9,000 to \$9,999.....	1,597	100.0	1,268	79.4	283	17.7
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	3,384	100.0	2,690	79.5	587	17.3
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	5,073	100.0	4,244	83.7	673	13.3
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	8,790	100.0	7,797	88.7	775	8.8
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	7,757	100.0	7,095	91.5	461	5.9
\$25,000 to \$49,999.....	12,998	100.0	12,287	94.5	408	3.1
\$50,000 and over.....	2,015	100.0	1,936	96.1	29	1.4
<b>BLACK</b>						
Total families.....	5,906	100.0	3,244	54.9	2,390	40.5
Under \$2,000.....	246	100.0	28	11.4	207	84.1
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	285	100.0	28	9.8	252	88.4
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	409	100.0	97	23.7	296	72.4
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	382	100.0	109	28.5	264	69.1
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	300	100.0	92	30.7	199	66.3
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	278	100.0	120	43.2	150	54.0
\$7,000 to \$7,999.....	288	100.0	136	47.2	138	47.9
\$8,000 to \$8,999.....	301	100.0	129	42.9	160	53.2
\$9,000 to \$9,999.....	239	100.0	113	47.3	110	46.0
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	454	100.0	263	57.9	159	35.0
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	588	100.0	381	64.8	169	28.7
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	819	100.0	622	75.9	157	19.2
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	524	100.0	428	81.7	70	13.4
\$25,000 to \$49,999.....	757	100.0	666	88.0	59	7.8
\$50,000 and over.....	35	(B)	33	(B)	2	(B)

**Table 19. Median Income of Female-Householder Families With No Husband Present, by Age and Race: 1978 and 1969**

(In 1978 dollars. Families as of March 1979 and 1970)

Age of householder	1978	1969	Change, 1969-78	
			Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>				
All female householders, no husband present, 14 years and over.....	\$8,537	\$8,581	\$-44	-0.5
14 to 24 years.....	3,953	4,367	-414	-9.5
25 to 34 years.....	6,570	6,472	98	1.5
35 to 44 years.....	9,473	8,889	584	6.6
45 to 54 years.....	11,919	10,767	1,152	10.7
55 to 64 years.....	12,251	10,964	1,287	11.7
65 years and over.....	9,584	8,873	711	8.0
<b>WHITE</b>				
All female householders, no husband present, 14 years and over.....	\$9,911	\$9,788	\$123	1.3
14 to 24 years.....	4,434	4,517	-83	-1.8
25 to 34 years.....	7,227	6,770	457	6.8
35 to 44 years.....	10,823	9,699	1,124	11.6
45 to 54 years.....	13,240	11,993	1,247	10.4
55 to 64 years.....	13,985	12,027	1,958	16.3
65 years and over.....	10,649	10,142	507	5.0
<b>BLACK</b>				
All female householders, no husband present, 14 years and over.....	\$5,888	\$5,946	\$-58	-1.0
14 to 24 years.....	3,584	4,114	-530	-12.9
25 to 34 years.....	5,463	6,003	-540	-9.0
35 to 44 years.....	6,865	7,031	-166	-2.4
45 to 54 years.....	8,020	6,762	1,258	18.6
55 to 64 years.....	7,968	6,038	1,930	32.0
65 years and over.....	5,637	4,469	1,168	26.1

**Table 20. Median Income of Families, by Type, Age of Householder, and Presence and Age of Own Children: 1978**

(Families as of March 1979. For meaning of symbols, see text.)

Subject	All families	Married-couple families	Female householders, no husband present
All families.....	\$17,640	\$19,340	\$8,537
No own children under 18 years.....	16,956	17,808	11,970
With own children under 18 years.....	18,190	20,410	7,035
All 6 to 17 years.....	20,150	22,698	8,687
Some under 6, some 6 to 17 years.....	17,158	18,871	4,927
All under 6 years.....	15,220	16,846	4,498
Householder under 25 years.....	\$11,936	\$13,784	\$3,953
No own children under 18 years.....	15,107	15,284	10,801
With own children under 18 years.....	9,010	12,479	3,705
All 6 to 17 years.....	7,941	11,515	3,784
Some under 6, some 6 to 17 years.....	6,563	13,977	3,928
All under 6 years.....	9,298	12,446	3,653
Householder 25 to 44 years.....	\$18,700	\$20,476	\$7,792
No own children under 18 years.....	20,960	21,603	13,719
With own children under 18 years.....	18,162	20,248	7,417
All 6 to 17 years.....	19,080	21,953	8,525
Some under 6, some 6 to 17 years.....	17,288	18,929	5,040
All under 6 years.....	17,427	18,460	6,419
Householder 45 to 64 years.....	\$21,124	\$22,598	\$12,040
No own children under 18 years.....	20,716	21,855	13,686
With own children under 18 years.....	21,950	24,141	9,551
All 6 to 17 years.....	22,168	24,550	9,604
Some under 6, some 6 to 17 years.....	18,775	19,403	6,201
All under 6 years.....	18,927	19,498	3,935
Householder 65 years and over.....	\$10,141	\$10,152	\$9,584
No own children under 18 years.....	10,071	10,046	9,662
With own children under 18 years.....	13,486	14,500	5,410
All 6 to 17 years.....	13,589	14,599	5,410
Some under 6, some 6 to 17 years.....	12,619	12,619	(B)
All under 6 years.....	(B)	(B)	(B)

**Table 21. Persons Below Poverty Level, by Race and Spanish Origin: 1978 and 1969**

(Numbers in thousands. Persons as of March of 1979 and 1970. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Subject	1978		1969		Change, 1969-78	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<b>ALL RACES</b>						
<b>All Persons in Families</b>						
Total.....	19,062	10.0	19,175	10.4	-113	-0.6
Householders.....	5,280	9.1	5,008	9.7	272	5.4
Related children under 18.....	9,722	15.7	9,501	13.8	221	2.3
Other family members.....	4,060	5.7	4,667	7.2	-607	-13.0
<b>Persons in Families With Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total.....	9,269	35.6	6,879	38.2	2,390	34.7
Householders.....	2,654	31.4	1,827	32.7	827	45.3
Related children under 18.....	5,687	50.6	4,247	54.4	1,440	33.9
Other family members.....	928	14.6	805	17.5	123	15.3
<b>WHITE</b>						
<b>All Persons in Families</b>						
Total.....	12,050	7.3	12,623	7.8	-573	-4.5
Householders.....	3,523	6.9	3,575	7.7	-52	-1.5
Related children under 18.....	5,674	11.0	5,667	9.7	7	0.1
Other family members.....	2,853	4.5	3,381	5.8	-528	-15.6
<b>Persons in Families With Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total.....	4,371	25.9	3,577	29.1	794	22.2
Householders.....	1,391	23.5	1,069	25.7	322	30.1
Related children under 18.....	2,627	39.9	2,068	45.2	599	27.0
Other family members.....	353	8.1	440	12.4	-87	-19.8
<b>BLACK</b>						
<b>All Persons in Families</b>						
Total.....	6,493	29.5	6,245	30.9	248	4.0
Householders.....	1,622	27.5	1,366	27.9	256	18.7
Related children under 18.....	3,781	41.2	3,677	39.6	104	2.8
Other family members.....	1,091	15.7	1,202	20.0	-111	-9.2
<b>Persons in Families With Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total.....	4,712	54.2	3,225	58.2	1,487	46.1
Householders.....	1,208	50.6	737	53.3	471	63.9
Related children under 18.....	2,948	66.4	2,137	68.2	811	38.0
Other family members.....	556	29.9	350	34.4	206	58.9
<b>SPANISH ORIGIN<sup>1</sup></b>						
<b>All Persons in Families</b>						
Total.....	2,343	20.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Householders.....	559	20.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Related children under 18.....	1,354	27.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other family members.....	429	12.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
<b>Persons in Families With Female Householders, No Husband Present</b>						
Total.....	1,024	56.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Householders.....	288	53.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Related children under 18.....	663	68.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other family members.....	74	23.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

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



# Appendix A.

## Definitions and Explanations

**Coverage.** The population in this report includes the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States plus approximately 824,000 members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post in 1979, but excludes all other members of the Armed Forces.

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

**Rounding of estimates.** Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded; percentages are based on the unrounded numbers.

**Head versus householder.** In the 1980 census, the Bureau of the Census plans to discontinue the use of the terms "head of household" and "head of family." Instead, the terms "householder" and "family householder" are likely to be used. Recent social changes have resulted in greater sharing of household responsibilities among the adult members and, therefore, have made the term "head" increasingly inappropriate in the analysis of household and family data. Specifically, the Bureau is reconsidering its longtime practice of always classifying the husband as the head when he and his wife are living together.

In this report, the term "householder" is used for the purpose of acquainting users of census data with the new concept. The user is cautioned that the term "householder," refers to the "family head," as defined in earlier reports. For example, the data for "female householders, no husband present" include a relatively small number of women maintaining "secondary families" (i.e., "unrelated subfamilies"; see secondary family definition) who are not actually

"householders." The number of such families in 1979 was 238,000 as compared with 91,000 in 1970.

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

**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.

**Marital status.** The marital status classification identifies four major categories; single, 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.

**Household.** A household consists of all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room, is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees, who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit as partners, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters.

**Family.** The term "family," as used here, refers to a group of two persons or more related by birth, 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 (i.e., unrelated subfamily) 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.

Persons living with relatives in group quarters were formerly considered as members of secondary families. However, the number of such families became so small (37,000 in 1967) that beginning with data for 1968 (and beginning with census data for 1960) the Bureau of the Census includes persons in these families in the count of secondary individuals.

**Subfamily.** A subfamily (i.e., related 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.

**Unrelated individuals.** Unrelated individuals are persons (other than inmates of institutions) who are not living with any relatives. An unrelated individual may be (1) a person living alone or with nonrelatives only, (2) a lodger or resident employee with no relatives in the household, or (3) a group quarters member who has no relatives living with him/her. Thus, a widow who occupies her house alone or with one or more other persons not related to her, a roomer not related to anyone else in the housing unit, a maid living as a member of her employer's household but with no relatives in the household, and a resident staff member in a hospital living apart from any relatives are all examples of unrelated individuals.

**Primary individual.** A primary individual (i.e., nonfamily householder) is a person maintaining a household while living alone or with nonrelatives only.

**Secondary individual.** A secondary individual is a person in a household or group quarters such as a guest, lodger, or resident employee (excluding primary individuals and inmates of institutions) who is not related to any other person in the household or group quarters. (See section above on secondary family for slight change in coverage of secondary individuals in 1968.)

**Own children and related 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 married couple or parent in the subfamily. "Related" children in a family include own children and all other children in the household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All children shown as members of subfamilies are own children. For each type of family unit identified in the CPS, the count of own children under 18 years old is limited to single (never married) children.

The count of related children in families was formerly restricted to single (never married) children. However, beginning with data for 1968 the Bureau of the Census includes ever-married children under the category of related children. This change added approximately 20,000 children to the category of related children in March 1968.

**Years of school completed.** In this report, data on years of school completed were derived from the combination of answers to two questions, (a) "What is the highest grade of

school that the person has attended?" and (b) "Did the person finish this grade?"

The questions on educational attainment applied only to progress in "regular" schools. Such schools include 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 advances a person toward an elementary 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.

**Labor force and employment status.** The definitions of labor force and employment status in this report related to the population 14 years old and over.

**Employed.** Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

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

**Labor force.** Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" is comprised of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

**Not in the labor force.** All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-

term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season, and the voluntary idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force.

**Occupation.** The data on occupation of employed persons refer to the civilian 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 occupation groupings used here are mainly the major groups used in the 1970 Census of Population. The composition of these groups is shown in Volume 1, *Characteristics of the Population*, Part 1, United States Summary, chapter D. The categories used are either detailed classifications or combinations thereof.

**Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence.** The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. Except in New England, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central county. In New England SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1970 census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes.

**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 a least 50,000, the smaller of which must have a population of at least 15,000.

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

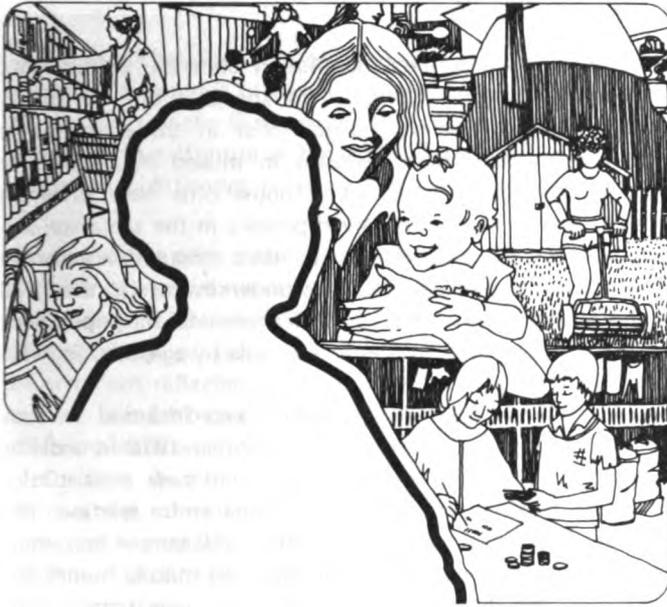
**Persons of Spanish origin.** Persons of Spanish origin were determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-

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. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**Income.** Data on income cover money income only, prior to deduction for taxes, received from such sources as wages or salaries, net income from self-employment, Social Security, dividends, interest, public assistance and welfare, unemployment compensation, government pensions, and veterans payments. Certain money receipts such as capital gains are

not included. For a more detailed explanation, see Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 123.

**Poverty.** 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 householder, and farm-nonfarm residence. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For a more detailed explanation, see Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 124.



# Appendix B. Source and Reliability of the Estimates

## SOURCE OF DATA

Most of the estimates in this report are based on data obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS) of the Bureau of the Census. Some data, as footnoted in the tables were obtained from the 1970 Census of Population. The 1976 State data shown in the report was obtained from the Survey of Income and Education. Brief descriptions of the sources from and procedures by which data were obtained are presented below.

**Current Population Survey (CPS).** The CPS estimates in this report are based on data obtained in March of 1970 and 1979. The monthly CPS deals mainly with labor force data for the civilian noninstitutional population. Questions relating to labor force participation are asked about each member 14 years old and older in each sample household. In addition, supplementary questions are asked each March about household and family characteristics. In order to obtain more reliable data for the Spanish-origin population, the March CPS sample was enlarged to include all households from the November sample which contained at least one person of Spanish origin. This resulted in almost doubling the number of sample persons of Spanish origin. For this report, persons

in the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included.

The present CPS sample was initially selected from the 1970 census file and is continuously updated to reflect new construction. (See the section, "Nonsampling variability.") The monthly CPS sample is spread over 614 areas with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The CPS sample areas comprised 1,113 counties, independent cities, and divisions in the nation.

Previous sample designs used were based on files from the most recently completed census updated for new construction. The following table provides a description of some aspects of the CPS sample designs in use during the referenced data collection periods.

The estimation procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the total 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. For this report, persons in the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post were also included. The estimation

## Description of the Current Population Survey for the March Supplement

Time period	Number of sample areas <sup>1</sup>	Households eligible		Housing units visited, not eligible <sup>2</sup>
		Interviewed	Not interviewed	
March 1979.....	614	54,000	2,500	10,000
March 1970.....	449	48,000	2,000	8,500

<sup>1</sup>These areas were chosen to provide coverage in each State and the District of Columbia.

<sup>2</sup>These are housing units which were visited, but were found to be vacant or otherwise not eligible for interview.

procedure for the data in the report also involved a further adjustment so that husband and wife of a household received the same weight.

**Survey of Income and Education (SIE).** The SIE estimates in this report are based on data collected from personal interviews conducted mostly in May and June of 1976 with a small number occurring in April and July. This survey was conducted by the Bureau of the Census acting as collection agent for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Approximately 158,500 households, selected independently in the 50 States and the District of Columbia, were eligible for interview in SIE. Of this number, 7,300 interviews were not obtained because the occupants were temporarily absent, refused to be interviewed, or, after repeated callbacks, no one could be found at home. In addition to the 158,500 households, there were about 33,000 sample units which were visited and found to be vacant, condemned, unfit, demolished, etc. and therefore were ineligible for interview.

**Decennial Census of Population.** Descriptions of the samples from the decennial census data for 1970 in this report, as footnoted, can be found in the appropriate census publications.

## RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Since the CPS estimates in this report 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 errors. 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 the 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 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. It is known that CPS 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, as described previously, 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.

A coverage improvement sample was included in computing the estimates beginning in October 1978 in order to provide coverage of mobile homes and new construction housing units that previously had no chance for selection. This sample is composed of approximately 450 sample household units which represent 237,000 occupied mobile homes and 600,000 new construction units. These new construction units are composed of those units where building permits were issued prior to January 1970 and construction was not completed by the time of the 1970 Census (i.e., April 1970). 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 variations that occurred by chance because a sample rather than the entire population was surveyed. The sample estimate and its estimated standard error enables 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 CPS and SIE are not entirely comparable. This is due in large part to differences in interviewer training and experience and in differing survey processes. 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 exercised in comparing metropolitan and nonmetropolitan area estimates from 1976 and later years to each other and to those from earlier years. Methodological and sample design changes have occurred in these years resulting in relatively large differences in the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan area estimates.

**Note when using small estimates.** Summary measures (such as averages and percent distributions) are shown in the report only when the base of the measure is 75,000 or greater. 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 decennial census.** Sampling errors on all data from the 5-percent sample of the 1970 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 SIE.** The tables in the report based on SIE data are footnoted to a previously published report. Due to lack of space in this report, the standard errors are not included. However, standard errors can be obtained from the earlier report.

**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 in tables B-1 and B-2 provide approximations to standard errors of estimated numbers and estimated percentages. Standard errors for intermediate values not shown in the generalized tables of standard errors may be

approximated by linear interpolation. Estimated standard errors for specific characteristics cannot be obtained from tables B-1 or B-2 without the use of factors in table B-3. These factors must be applied to the generalized standard errors in order to adjust for the combined effect of sample design and estimating procedure on the value of the characteristic.

Two parameters (denoted "a" and "b") are used to calculate standard errors for each type of characteristic; they are presented in table B-4. These parameters were used to calculate the standard errors in tables B-1 and B-2, and to calculate the factors in table B-3. 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.** The approximate standard error,  $\sigma_x$ , of an estimated number shown in this report can be obtained in two ways. It may be obtained by use of the formula

$$\sigma_x = f\sigma \quad (1)$$

where  $f$  is the appropriate factor from table B-3, and  $\sigma$  is the standard error on the estimate obtained by interpolation from table B-1. Alternatively, standard errors may be approximated by the following formula (2) from which the standard errors were calculated in table B-1. Use of this formula will provide more accurate results than the use of formula (1) above.

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

Here  $x$  is the size of the estimate and  $a$  and  $b$  are the parameters in table B-4 associated with the particular type of characteristic.

**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 the 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 factor or parameters from table B-3 or B-4 indicated by the numerator. The approximate standard error,  $\sigma_{(x,p)}$ , of an estimated percentage can be obtained by use of the formula

$$\sigma_{(x,p)} = f\sigma \quad (3)$$

In this formula  $f$  is the appropriate factor from table B-3 and  $\sigma$  is the standard error on the estimate from table B-2. Alternatively, standard errors may be approximated by formula (4), from which standard errors in table B-2 were calculated; direct computation will give more accurate results than use of the standard error tables and the factors.

$$\sigma_{(x,p)} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{x} \cdot p (100 - p)} \quad (4)$$

Here  $x$  is the size of the subclass of families, households, or householders which is the base of the percentage,  $p$  is the percentage ( $0 \leq p \leq 100$ ), and  $b$  is the parameter in table B-4 associated with the particular type of characteristic in the numerator of the percentage.

**Illustration of the use of standard error tables.** Table 8 shows that in 1979, there were 8,458,000 female householders 14 years old and over with no husband present. Table B-1 shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 106,000. Applying the appropriate factor from table B-3 and using formula (1) the approximate standard error is  $1.0 \times 106,000 = 106,000$ .<sup>1</sup> The 68-percent confidence interval as shown by the data is from 8,352,000 to 8,564,000. 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 with 95-percent confidence that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within the interval from 8,246,000 to 8,670,000, i.e.,  $8,458,000 \pm (2 \times 106,000)$ .

Of these 8,458,000 female householders, 4,780,000 or 56.5 percent were women under 45 years old. Using formula (4) and table B-4, the standard error on an estimate of 56.5 percent is

$$\sqrt{\frac{1389}{8,458,000} (56.5) (100 - 56.5)} = 0.6 \text{ percent}^2$$

Consequently, the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 56.5 percent would be within 0.6 percentage points of the average of all possible samples. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 1.2 percentage points of all possible samples, i.e., the 95-percent confidence interval would be from 55.3 to 57.7 percent.

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

$$\sigma_{(x-y)} = \sqrt{\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2} \quad (5)$$

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 error 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.

<sup>1</sup> Formula (2) for this example with  $a = -0.000010$  and  $b = 1389$  gives a standard error of 105,000.

<sup>2</sup> Table B-2, B-3 and formula (3) also give a standard error of 0.6 percent.

**Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference between estimates.** Table 8 shows that in 1970, there were 5,591,000 female householders 14 years old and over with no husband present. Tables B-1 and B-3 show the standard error on an estimate of that size to be approximately 86,000. The apparent difference between the number of female householders 14 years old and over with no husband present in 1970 and 1979 is 2,867,000. The standard error on 8,458,000 is 106,000 as shown above. Therefore, use formula (5), the standard error of the estimated difference of 2,867,000 is about

$$136,000 \approx \sqrt{(106,000)^2 + (86,000)^2}$$

This means that the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated difference based on the sample estimates would vary from the difference derived from the average of all possible samples by less than 136,000. The 68-percent confidence interval about the 2,867,000 difference is from 2,731,000 to 3,003,000, i.e.,  $2,867,000 \pm 136,000$ . A conclusion that the average estimate of the difference derived from all possible samples of the same size and design lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 68 percent of all possible samples. The 95-percent confidence interval is from 2,595,000 to 3,139,000. Since this interval does not contain zero, we can conclude with 95-percent confidence that the number of female householders 14 years old and over with no husband present in 1979 was actually greater than the female householders in 1970.

**Standard error of a ratio.** All mean values for persons in families shown in the tables of this report were calculated as the ratio of two numbers. For example, the mean number of own children under 18 per family is calculated by

$$\frac{x}{y} = \frac{\text{total number of own children under 18}}{\text{total number of family householders with own children}}$$

The denominator,  $y$ , of the ratio always represents a count of family householders of a certain class. The numerator,  $x$ , represents a count of persons with the characteristic under consideration who are members of these families; this count may be 0, 1, 2, 3 or more. Standard errors for these means may be approximated using the following formula:

$$\sigma_{\frac{x}{y}} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2 \left[ \left(\frac{\sigma_y}{y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\sigma_x}{x}\right)^2 \right]} \quad (6)$$

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

**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 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 median based on a complete census 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 (4), 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).

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).

**Illustration of the computation of a confidence interval for a median.** Table 8 of this report shows that the median age in 1979 of female householders with no husband present was 42.0 years. The base of the distribution from which the median was determined is 8,458,000 persons.

1. Table B-2 and factor table B-3 show the standard error of 50 percent on a base of 8,458,000 is about 0.7 percent.
2. To obtain a 95-percent confidence interval on an estimated median add to and subtract from 50 percent twice the standard error found in step 1. This yields percentage limits 48.6 and 51.4.
3. From table 8 it can be seen that 34.6 percent of all female householders with no husband present were younger than 35 years and 21.9 percent were 35 to 44 years old. By linear interpolation, the lower limit of the estimate is found to be about

$$35.0 + (45.0 - 35.0) \left( \frac{48.6 - 34.6}{21.9} \right) = 41.4$$

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

$$35.0 + (45.0 - 35.0) \left( \frac{51.4 - 34.6}{21.9} \right) = 42.7$$

Thus, the 95-percent confidence interval for the median age of female householders with no husband present is 41.4 to 42.7 years.

**Table B-1. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers—CPS Estimates**

(68 chances out of 100. Numbers in thousands)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
25.....	6	2,500.....	58
50.....	8	5,000.....	82
100.....	12	10,000.....	117
250.....	19	25,000.....	169
500.....	26	50,000.....	211
1,000.....	37		

**Table B-2. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages—CPS Estimates**

(68 chances out of 100)

Base of percentage (in thousands)	Estimated percentage					
	1 or 99	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
75.....	1.4	1.9	3.0	4.1	5.9	6.8
100.....	1.2	1.6	2.6	3.5	5.1	5.9
250.....	0.7	1.0	1.6	2.2	3.2	3.7
500.....	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.6	2.3	2.6
1,000.....	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.6	1.9
2,500.....	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.2
5,000.....	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8
10,000.....	0.12	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
25,000.....	0.07	0.10	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
50,000.....	0.05	0.07	0.11	0.2	0.2	0.3

**Table B-3. Factors to be Applied to Generalized Standard Errors in Tables B-1 and B-2**

Characteristic	Persons	Families, female householders, unrelated individuals
<b>Income:</b>		
Total or White.....	(X)	1.1
Black.....	(X)	1.2
Spanish origin.....	(X)	1.3
<b>Labor Force, not in labor force, employed, occupation:</b>		
Total or White.....	(X)	1.1
Black.....	(X)	1.1
Spanish origin.....	(X)	1.0
<b>Living arrangements, size of family, marital status, type of family, mobility, tenure status:</b>		
Total or White.....	(X)	1.0
Black.....	(X)	1.0
Spanish origin.....	(X)	1.0
<b>Poverty:</b>		
Total or White.....	2.4	(X)
Black.....	2.4	(X)
Spanish origin.....	2.9	(X)
<b>Residence:</b>		
Total or White.....	(X)	1.2
Black.....	(X)	1.4
Spanish origin.....	(X)	1.4
<b>Unemployed:</b>		
Total or White.....	(X)	1.2
Black.....	(X)	1.3
<b>Years of School Completed:</b>		
Total or White.....	1.2	(X)
Black.....	1.4	(X)

X Not applicable.

**Table B-4. "a" and "b" Parameters for CPS Data for Estimated Numbers and Percentages of Persons, Families, Female Householders, or Unrelated Individuals**

Characteristic	Persons		Families, female householders, unrelated individuals	
	a	b	a	b
<b>Income:</b>				
Total or White.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000008	1721
Black.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000067	1876
Spanish origin.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000014	2420
<b>Labor Force, not in labor force, employed, occupation:</b>				
Total or White.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000019	1541
Black.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000152	1541
Spanish origin.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000018	1381
<b>Living arrangements, size of family, marital status, type of family, mobility, tenure status:</b>				
Total or White.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000010	1389
Black.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000087	1255
Spanish origin.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000020	1422
<b>Poverty:</b>				
Total or White.....	-0.000031	7946	(X)	(X)
Black.....	-0.000270	7946	(X)	(X)
Spanish origin.....	-0.000063	11528	(X)	(X)
<b>Residence:</b>				
Total or White.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000016	2170
Black.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000178	2561
Spanish origin.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000039	2844
<b>Unemployed:</b>				
Total or White.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000015	1971
Black.....	(X)	(X)	-0.000139	2265
<b>Years of school completed:</b>				
Total or White.....	-0.000016	2064	(X)	(X)
Black.....	-0.000186	2792	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable.

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