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**Child Support  
and Alimony:  
1983**



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B

C

D

E

F

G

H

DETAIL

I

J

K

L

M

APPEND

Index

Index

Index

# Contents

	Page
Introduction . . . . .	1
Award and receipt of child support payments . . . . .	1
The deficit in child support payments . . . . .	2
Award and receipt of alimony payments . . . . .	3
Award of property settlements . . . . .	5

## TEXT TABLES

A. Award and reciprocity status of women—child support payments in 1983, 1981, and 1978 . . . . .	1
B. Comparison of mean child support payments received by women in 1983, 1981, and 1978, by selected characteristics . . . . .	2
C. Child support payments awarded and received in 1983—women with children present, by selected characteristics . . . . .	3
D. Mean child support of women due payments in 1983, by type of arrangement . . . . .	3
E. Award and reciprocity status of women—alimony payments in 1983, 1981, and 1978 . . . . .	4
F. Comparison of mean alimony payments received by women in 1983, 1981, and 1978, by selected characteristics . . . . .	4
G. Receipt of property settlement by ever-divorced women, as reported in 1984, 1982, and 1979 . . . . .	5
H. Receipt and type of property settlement for ever-divorced women, by marital status and presence of own children from an absent father . . . . .	5

## DETAILED TABLES

1. Child support payments agreed to or awarded—women with own children present, by selected characteristics, for all women and women with incomes below the poverty level in 1983 . . . . .	7
2. Reciprocity of child support income in 1983—women with children present, by type of arrangement . . . . .	8
3. Alimony or maintenance payments agreed to or awarded—ever-divorced or currently separated women, by selected characteristics for all women and women with incomes below the poverty level in 1983 . . . . .	9
4. Property settlement following divorce—ever-divorced women, by selected characteristics . . . . .	10

## APPENDIXES

Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations . . . . .	11
Appendix B. Source and Reliability of Estimates . . . . .	
Source of data . . . . .	13
Reliability of estimates . . . . .	13

**APPENDIX TABLES**

	Page
A-1. Weighted average poverty thresholds in 1983 .....	11
A-2. Consumer price index (CPI): 1977 to 1983 .....	12
B-1. Standard errors of estimated numbers of women: 1983 .....	14
B-2. Standard errors of estimated percentages of women: 1983 .....	14
B-3. "a" and "b" parameters for calculating approximate standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages of women: 1983 .....	14

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**Symbols Used in Tables**

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
  - B Base is less than 75,000.
  - X Not applicable.
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# Child Support and Alimony: 1983

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on the receipt by women of support payments following divorce and separation. The report includes information on both the award and actual receipt of child support to women on behalf of their children and on alimony for their own support. Additional data concerning receipt and type of property settlement following divorce is provided for ever-divorced women.

The Bureau of the Census, under the joint sponsorship of the Department of Health and Human Services, first conducted a survey specifically designed to obtain data on child support and alimony in the spring of 1979. The survey, with minor modifications, was conducted again in both the spring of 1982 and 1984 by the Bureau of the Census and sponsored, in part, by the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Department of Health and Human Services. Data from the 1979 and 1982 surveys were presented in Current Population Reports, Series P-23, Nos. 112 and 140, respectively.<sup>1</sup> Findings from the 1984 survey are presented in this report.

<sup>1</sup>For a comparison of the 1982 and 1979 surveys, see Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 140, the section entitled "Changes in the Survey."

## AWARD AND RECEIPT OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

- As of spring 1984, 8.7 million women were living with children under 21 years of age whose fathers were not living in the households; 58 percent or about 5.0 million of these women had been awarded child support payments as of the survey date. (See table A.)
- Of the 5.0 million women awarded child support, 4.0 million women were supposed to receive child support for their children in 1983. (The remaining mothers awarded payments were not due them in 1983.) Of those due payment, half received the full amount due. Of the remaining women, there was no evidence of a difference between the proportion receiving partial payment and those receiving no payment at all: about 26 percent and 24 percent, respectively.
- The child support award rate reported in 1984 (58 percent) was not significantly different from those for 1982 or 1979. However, the proportion of women receiving payments in 1983 (76 percent) increased over that of the two previous surveys (72 percent).

**Table A. Award and Reciprocity Status of Women—Child Support Payments in 1983, 1981, and 1978**

(Numbers in thousands. Women with own children under 21 years of age present from an absent father as of spring 1984, 1982, or 1979)

Award and reciprocity status of women	1983		1981		1978	
	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution
Total.....	8,690	100.0	8,387	100.0	7,094	100.0
Awarded <sup>1</sup> .....	5,015	57.7	4,969	59.2	4,196	59.1
Supposed to receive payments....	3,935	46.0	4,043	48.2	3,424	48.3
Not supposed to receive payments.	1,020	11.7	926	11.0	772	10.9
Not awarded <sup>1</sup> .....	3,675	42.3	3,417	40.7	2,898	40.9
Supposed to receive payments...	3,935	100.0	4,043	100.0	3,424	100.0
Actually received payments.....	3,037	76.0	2,902	71.8	2,455	71.6
Received full amount.....	2,018	50.5	1,888	46.7	1,675	48.9
Received partial amount.....	1,019	25.5	1,014	25.1	779	22.7
Did not receive payments.....	958	24.0	1,140	28.2	969	28.4

<sup>1</sup>Award status as of spring 1984, 1982, or 1979.

- The mean amount of child support for all women who received some payment increased from \$2,110 in 1981 to \$2,340 in 1983.<sup>2</sup> After adjusting for inflation during this period, however, child support payments showed no significant change in real terms. Consequently, average child support payments in 1983 remained about 15 percent below the level reported in 1978 in real terms. (See table B.) Child support payments as a percentage of the average income of men (\$18,110 in 1983, \$16,520 in 1981, and \$13,110 in 1978) remained at about the same level (13 percent) in all three years.<sup>3</sup>
- The proportion of women that had been awarded child support payments as of 1984 was higher for Whites (67 percent) than for Blacks (34 percent) or those of Spanish origin (41 percent). (The percent difference between Black women and women of Spanish origin was not significant.) (See table C.)
- Women with 4 or more years of college were more likely to have been awarded support payments (71 percent) than

women with 4 years of high school (61 percent). There was also some evidence that women with a high school education (76 percent) were less likely to receive payments than women with 4 or more years of college (84 percent).

- Of women with children from an absent father as of spring 1984, about 33 percent (2.9 million) had incomes below the poverty level in 1983.
- About 42 percent of these women below the poverty level with children from an absent father had been awarded child support, compared with 58 percent for all women.
- Only about 916,000 women below the poverty level were due payments in 1983, and only 62 percent of these women received some amount of payment.
- The mean child support payment received in 1983 by women below the poverty level was \$1,430, about 60 percent of the average payment received by all women.

#### THE DEFICIT IN CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

- For the 4.0 million women due child support payments in 1983, the mean amount of child support for all women due payments (including those who received nothing) was \$1,780. If the full amount of payment due had been made

<sup>1</sup>Mean income figures in the text are rounded to the nearest \$10.

<sup>2</sup>Mean child support payments were compared with mean income of all males as a proxy, since the income of the absent father was not available from the survey. Hence, for a meaningful comparison to be made, it must be assumed that the average income of all males was also representative of the average income of absent fathers. Income figures for males can be found in table 12 of Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 145.

**Table B. Comparison of Mean Child Support Payments Received by Women in 1983, 1981, and 1978, by Selected Characteristics**

Characteristic of woman	1983 constant dollars						Current dollars	
	Mean child support			Percent change			1981	1978
	1983	1981	1978	1981-83	1978-83	1978-81		
Total.....	\$2,341	\$2,307	\$2,746	1.5	** -14.7	** -16.1	\$2,106	\$1,799
<b>CURRENT MARITAL STATUS<sup>1</sup></b>								
Married <sup>2</sup> .....	2,164	2,091	2,445	3.5	-11.5	* -14.6	1,909	1,602
Divorced.....	2,491	2,431	2,978	2.5	** -16.4	** -18.4	2,220	1,951
Separated.....	2,682	2,600	2,909	3.2	-7.8	-10.7	2,374	1,906
Never-married.....	1,132	1,112	1,490	1.8	* -24.0	* -25.5	1,015	976
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN</b>								
White.....	2,475	2,388	2,841	3.6	** -12.9	** -16.0	2,180	1,861
Black.....	1,465	1,796	1,975	* -18.4	** -25.8	-9.1	1,640	1,294
Spanish origin <sup>3</sup> .....	1,839	2,265	2,012	-18.8	-8.6	12.5	2,068	1,318
<b>YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED</b>								
Less than 12 years.....	1,535	1,837	2,294	** -16.4	** -33.1	** -20.0	1,677	1,503
High school: 4 years.....	2,159	2,091	2,540	3.2	** -15.0	** -17.8	1,909	1,664
College: 1 to 3 years.....	2,332	2,529	3,189	-7.8	** -26.9	** -20.8	2,309	2,089
4 years or more....	4,118	3,383	3,929	21.7	4.8	-14.0	3,089	2,574

\*Significant between the 90- and 95-percent confidence levels.

\*\*Significant at the 95-percent confidence level.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes a small number of currently widowed women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.

<sup>2</sup>Remarried women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.

<sup>3</sup>Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**Table C. Child Support Payments Awarded and Received in 1983—Women With Children Present, by Selected Characteristics**

(Women with own children under 21 years of age present from an absent father as of spring 1984)

Characteristic of woman	Total (thousands)	Percent awarded child support payments <sup>1</sup>	Supposed to receive child support in 1983			
			Total (thousands)	Actually received child support in 1983		
				Percent	Mean child support	Mean total money income
<b>Total</b> .....	8,690	57.7	3,995	76.0	\$2,341	\$13,132
<b>CURRENT MARITAL STATUS</b>						
Married <sup>2</sup> .....	2,129	75.8	1,226	71.9	2,164	11,602
Divorced.....	3,204	76.2	2,092	76.4	2,491	14,986
Separated.....	1,451	40.9	434	87.1	2,682	11,207
Widowed <sup>3</sup> .....	53	(B)	24	(B)	(B)	(B)
Never-married.....	1,854	17.7	219	75.8	1,132	7,257
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN</b>						
White.....	6,183	66.9	3,389	77.1	2,475	13,534
Black.....	2,341	33.7	534	69.3	1,465	10,188
Spanish origin <sup>4</sup> .....	790	40.9	252	62.7	1,839	10,067
<b>YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED</b>						
Less than 12 years.....	2,247	42.4	707	66.1	1,535	7,637
High school: 4 years.....	4,201	61.2	2,056	76.5	2,159	12,351
College: 1 to 3 years.....	1,508	64.1	784	79.2	2,332	14,169
4 years or more.....	734	71.3	447	84.1	4,118	21,520

B Base less than 75,000.

<sup>1</sup>Award status as of spring 1984.

<sup>2</sup>Remarried women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.

<sup>3</sup>Widowed women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.

<sup>4</sup>Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

to all women, the mean amount would have been \$2,520. (See table D.)

- For women with court-ordered payments, the mean payment due was \$2,290, but the mean amount received was only \$1,330; therefore, women with court orders received only 58 percent of the amount they were due. In contrast,

women with voluntary written agreements received 88 percent of the amount they were due, and their mean child support payments due (\$2,960) and received (\$2,590) were higher.

- The aggregate amount of child support payments due in 1983 was \$10.1 billion, but actual payments received amounted to only about \$7.1 billion. Thus, 71 percent of the total amount due was paid in 1983.<sup>4</sup>

**Table D. Mean Child Support of Women Due Payments in 1983, by Type of Arrangement**

(Women with own children present under 21 years of age from an absent father as of spring 1984)

Type of arrangement	Number (thous.)	Mean child support income received <sup>1</sup>	Mean child support income due
All payments <sup>2</sup> .....	3,995	\$1,779	\$2,521
Court ordered.....	2,524	1,334	2,288
Voluntary.....	1,297	2,591	2,958

<sup>1</sup>Mean amount based on all women due payments, whether or not payments were received.

<sup>2</sup>Includes a small number of women whose arrangement type was "other," not shown separately.

## AWARD AND RECEIPT OF ALIMONY PAYMENTS

- Of the 17.1 million ever-divorced or currently separated women as of spring 1984, 14 percent were awarded alimony payments. (See table E.)
- Of the 791,000 women due alimony payments in 1983, 77 percent received at least some portion of their award.
- The alimony award rate in 1984 (14 percent) showed no significant change from that reported in either 1982 or

<sup>4</sup>Aggregate child support payments due and received are derived from table 2. The aggregate payments due refer only to the total due for the income year 1983 based on the information reported by the women in the survey; arrearages are not included in the aggregate figure.

**Table E. Award and Reciprocity Status of Women—Alimony Payments in 1983, 1981, and 1978**

(Numbers in thousands. Ever divorced and currently separated women as of spring 1984, 1982, or 1979)

Award and reciprocity status of women	1983		1981		1978	
	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution
Total.....	17,122	100.0	16,996	100.0	14,334	100.0
Awarded <sup>1</sup> .....	2,382	13.9	2,534	14.9	2,052	14.3
Supposed to receive payments.....	791	4.6	782	4.6	760	5.3
Not supposed to receive payments.....	1,591	9.3	1,752	10.3	1,292	9.0
Not awarded <sup>1</sup> .....	14,741	86.1	14,462	85.1	12,282	85.7
Supposed to receive payments...	791	100.0	782	100.0	760	100.0
Received payments.....	608	76.9	527	67.4	528	69.5
Did not receive payments.....	183	23.1	255	32.6	232	30.5

<sup>1</sup>Award status as of spring 1984, 1982, or 1979.

1979. However, the reciprocity rate in 1983 (77 percent) was up from 1981 (67 percent). (The 1979 reciprocity rate was not significantly different from that of 1983 or 1981.)

from the 1981 level. (See table F.) Alimony payments as a percentage of average male income in 1983 (22 percent) was not significantly different from that of previous years.<sup>5</sup>

- The mean amount of alimony received by women in 1983 was \$3,980, up from \$3,000 in 1981. However, after adjusting for inflation, this reflected no significant increase

<sup>5</sup>Mean alimony payments were compared with the mean income of all males as a proxy, since the income of ex-husbands was not available from the survey. The above analysis assumes that the average income of all males is representative of the average income of ex-husbands.

**Table F. Comparison of Mean Alimony Payments Received by Women in 1983, 1981, and 1978, by Selected Characteristics**

Characteristic of woman	1983 constant dollars						Current dollars	
	Mean alimony			Percent change			1981	1978
	1983	1981	1978	1981-83	1978-83	1978-81		
Total.....	\$3,976	\$3,286	\$4,352	21.0	-8.6	** -24.6	\$3,000	\$2,851
<b>CURRENT MARITAL STATUS<sup>1</sup></b>								
Divorced.....	4,450	3,292	4,827	*35.2	-7.8	** -31.9	3,006	3,162
Separated.....	3,233	3,605	3,552	-10.3	-9.0	1.4	3,291	2,327
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN</b>								
White.....	4,292	3,330	4,642	28.9	-7.5	** -28.3	3,040	3,041
Black.....	(B)	(B)	(B)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(B)	(B)
Spanish origin <sup>2</sup> .....	(B)	(B)	(B)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(B)	(B)
<b>YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED</b>								
Less than 12 years.....	(B)	1,910	2,705	(X)	(X)	* -29.4	1,744	1,772
High school: 4 years.....	3,015	2,610	3,471	15.5	-13.1	* -24.9	2,383	2,274
College: 1 to 3 years.....	4,968	4,568	6,826	8.8	* -27.2	* -33.1	4,171	4,472
4 years or more....	5,096	4,867	5,326	4.7	-4.3	-8.7	4,444	3,489

B Base less than 75,000.

X Not applicable.

\*Significant between the 90- and 95-percent confidence levels.

\*\*Significant at the 95-percent confidence level.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes currently married and widowed women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.<sup>2</sup>Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

## AWARD OF PROPERTY SETTLEMENTS

- Of the 14.5 million ever-divorced women as of spring 1984, about 37 percent were awarded a property settlement, appearing to establish a downward trend. (See table G.)
- About 25 percent of women with a property settlement as of spring 1984 received a "one-time" cash payment as at least part of the settlement. (See table H.) About 21 percent received only a cash payment while about 4 percent received both a cash payment and other property.
- Of women awarded a property settlement, about 28 percent also received some form of support payment in 1983. Of ever-divorced women without a property settlement, about 14 percent received support payments in 1981.

**Table G. Receipt of Property Settlement by Ever-Divorced Women, as Reported in 1984, 1982, and 1979**

(Numbers in thousands)

Receipt of property settlement	1984	1982	1979
Total.....	14,491	14,209	12,02
No settlement reached.....	9,102	8,270	6,67
Received property settlement.	5,389	5,939	5,35
Percent receiving property settlement.....	37.2	41.8	44.

- The average total income of women with property settlements (\$12,920) was higher than those without settlements (\$10,370).

**Table H. Receipt and Type of Property Settlement for Ever-Divorced Women, by Marital Status and Presence of Own Children From an Absent Father**

(Numbers in thousands. Women as of spring 1984)

Characteristic	Total	No settlement reached	Property settlement reached			
			Total	Type of settlement (percent)		
				Cash only <sup>1</sup>	Other types only <sup>2</sup>	Cash and other types <sup>1</sup>
Total.....	14,491	9,102	5,389	21.4	74.2	4.
Current marital status:						
Divorced.....	7,404	4,406	2,998	23.8	71.7	4.
Married <sup>3</sup> .....	6,178	4,005	2,173	18.1	77.8	4.
Widowed <sup>4</sup> .....	909	691	218	19.7	72.5	7.
Presence of own children from an absent father:						
No children.....	9,106	5,906	3,199	22.1	72.9	5.
One or more children.....	5,385	3,196	2,190	20.3	76.1	3.

<sup>1</sup>A one-time cash settlement.

<sup>2</sup>Other property (house, other real estate, cars, furnishings, etc.).

<sup>3</sup>Remarried women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.

<sup>4</sup>Widowed women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.



**Table 2. Reciprocity of Child Support Income in 1983—Women With Children Present, by Type of Arrangement**

(NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS. WOMEN WITH OWN CHILDREN PRESENT UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE FROM AN ABSENT FATHER AS OF SPRING 1984. FOR MEANING OF SYMBOLS, SEE TEXT)

TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT	SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS IN 1983									
	NUMBER	STANDARD ERROR	AMOUNT OF PAYMENT DUE IN 1983							
			\$1 TO \$499	\$500 TO \$999	\$1,000 TO \$1,499	\$1,500 TO \$1,999	\$2,000 TO \$2,999	\$3,000 TO \$4,999	\$5,000 TO \$6,999	\$7,000 AND OVER
<b>TOTAL<sup>1</sup></b>										
<b>PERCENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED IN 1983:</b>										
TOTAL . . . . .	3 995	133	181	443	788	642	907	725	174	134
0.0 . . . . .	910	67	60	142	262	162	176	125	22	13
0.1 TO 24.9 . . . . .	281	36	9	19	59	55	78	44	14	4
25.0 TO 49.9 . . . . .	180	29	13	27	31	37	37	28	5	2
50.0 TO 74.9 . . . . .	322	39	26	15	82	55	64	65	7	9
75.0 TO 99.9 . . . . .	232	33	5	20	44	52	60	44	8	-
100.0 AND OVER . . . . .	2 018	96	69	221	310	282	492	420	119	106
MEAN INCOME FROM CHILD SUPPORT, DOLLARS . . . . .	1 779	(x)	285	449	628	1 010	1 679	2 622	4 319	11 464
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	78	(x)	135	28	31	47	77	96	271	1 485
MEAN TOTAL MONEY INCOME . . . . .	12 005	(x)	6 663	10 061	9 805	10 707	11 992	14 666	17 714	23 061
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	246	(x)	537	738	461	555	467	583	1 452	1 994
NUMBER BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	916	(x)	77	145	224	144	192	105	23	6
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	98	(x)	29	39	49	39	45	33	(8)	(8)
<b>IF FULL AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS WERE RECEIVED IN 1983:</b>										
MEAN INCOME FROM CHILD SUPPORT, DOLLARS . . . . .	2 521	(x)	307	762	1 201	1 713	2 388	3 677	5 611	13 772
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	77	(x)	14	10	6	9	13	33	64	1 421
MEAN TOTAL MONEY INCOME . . . . .	12 774	(x)	6 811	10 374	10 379	11 417	12 783	15 753	19 006	25 169
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	245	(x)	536	734	456	552	456	566	1 373	1 940
NUMBER BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	838	(x)	74	140	210	130	179	83	20	2
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	94	(x)	(8)	39	47	37	43	30	(8)	(8)
<b>COURT-ORDERED PAYMENTS</b>										
<b>PERCENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED IN 1983:</b>										
TOTAL . . . . .	2 524	107	112	311	561	407	568	425	91	49
0.0 . . . . .	811	61	45	118	211	116	163	97	22	9
0.1 TO 24.9 . . . . .	212	31	9	15	49	39	54	30	12	4
25.0 TO 49.9 . . . . .	127	24	13	23	23	22	22	20	2	2
50.0 TO 74.9 . . . . .	205	31	13	9	50	34	47	44	6	3
75.0 TO 99.9 . . . . .	159	27	5	13	34	35	33	28	8	-
100.0 AND OVER . . . . .	1 009	68	26	131	163	162	249	205	42	31
MEAN INCOME FROM CHILD SUPPORT, DOLLARS . . . . .	1 334	(x)	125	393	506	941	1 347	2 301	3 403	(8)
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	86	(x)	22	33	36	60	72	128	452	(8)
MEAN TOTAL MONEY INCOME . . . . .	10 976	(x)	6 080	10 427	9 182	9 566	11 541	13 354	15 807	(8)
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	291	(x)	661	968	550	578	599	668	1 389	(8)
NUMBER BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	666	(x)	48	106	176	106	133	81	15	1
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	84	(x)	(8)	34	43	34	38	29	(8)	(8)
<b>IF FULL AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS WERE RECEIVED IN 1983:</b>										
MEAN INCOME FROM CHILD SUPPORT, DOLLARS . . . . .	2 288	(x)	326	754	1 200	1 716	2 381	3 641	5 607	(8)
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	90	(x)	15	12	8	11	17	41	94	(8)
MEAN TOTAL MONEY INCOME . . . . .	11 931	(x)	6 281	10 789	9 876	10 343	12 575	14 705	18 011	(8)
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	291	(x)	662	962	544	576	583	643	1 190	(8)
NUMBER BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	613	(x)	45	106	162	99	125	59	15	-
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	80	(x)	(8)	34	41	32	36	(8)	(8)	(8)
<b>VOLUNTARY WRITTEN AGREEMENT</b>										
<b>PERCENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED IN 1983:</b>										
TOTAL . . . . .	1 297	77	49	107	211	215	304	266	68	76
0.0 . . . . .	121	24	4	21	14	46	10	23	-	4
0.1 TO 24.9 . . . . .	64	(8)	-	4	9	16	21	14	-	-
25.0 TO 49.9 . . . . .	53	(8)	-	3	9	15	16	8	3	-
50.0 TO 74.9 . . . . .	97	21	13	2	31	21	12	13	-	4
75.0 TO 99.9 . . . . .	67	(8)	-	5	8	14	24	16	-	-
100.0 AND OVER . . . . .	894	64	31	73	140	104	221	192	64	68
MEAN INCOME FROM CHILD SUPPORT, DOLLARS . . . . .	2 591	(x)	(8)	577	949	1 085	2 276	3 095	(8)	12 422
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	159	(x)	(8)	53	45	81	172	158	(8)	1 511
MEAN TOTAL MONEY INCOME . . . . .	14 278	(x)	(8)	9 123	11 594	13 002	13 198	17 184	(8)	24 571
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	475	(x)	(8)	1 087	871	1 180	787	1 112	(8)	2 185
NUMBER BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	200	(x)	15	27	45	30	51	22	5	4
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	46	(x)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)
<b>IF FULL AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS WERE RECEIVED IN 1983:</b>										
MEAN INCOME FROM CHILD SUPPORT, DOLLARS . . . . .	2 958	(x)	(8)	791	1 202	1 712	2 402	3 725	(8)	13 284
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	155	(x)	(8)	22	13	15	21	58	(8)	1 515
MEAN TOTAL MONEY INCOME . . . . .	14 726	(x)	(8)	9 337	11 848	13 644	13 568	17 853	(8)	25 432
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	473	(x)	(8)	1 080	866	1 173	777	1 093	(8)	2 160
NUMBER BELOW POVERTY LEVEL . . . . .	181	(x)	15	25	45	24	45	22	5	-
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	44	(x)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)

<sup>1</sup>INCLUDES A SMALL NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO RECEIVED PAYMENTS BY 'SOME OTHER METHOD,' NOT SHOWN SEPARATELY.

**Table 3. Alimony or Maintenance Payments Agreed to or Awarded—Ever-Divorced or Currently Separated Women, by Selected Characteristics, for All Women and Women With Incomes Below the Poverty Level in 1983**

(WOMEN AS OF SPRING 1984. FOR MEANING OF SYMBOLS, SEE TEXT)

CHARACTERISTIC	ALIMONY OR MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS--													
	AGREED TO OR AWARDED											NOT AWARDED		
	SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS IN 1983													
	TOTAL (THOUS.)	TOTAL <sup>1</sup> (THOUS.)	TOTAL (THOUS.)	NUMBER (THOUS.)	RECEIVED PAYMENTS				DID NOT RECEIVE PAYMENTS				NUMBER (THOUS.)	MEAN TOTAL MONEY INCOME
MEAN TOTAL MONEY INCOME VALUE (DOL.)					STAND-ARD ERROR (DOL.)	MEAN INCOME FROM ALIMONY OR MAIN. VALUE (DOL.)	STAND-ARD ERROR (DOL.)	NUMBER	MEAN TOTAL MONEY INCOME VALUE (DOL.)	STAND-ARD ERROR (DOL.)	VALUE (DOL.)	STAND-ARD ERROR (DOL.)		
<b>ALL WOMEN</b>														
TOTAL . . . . .	17 122	2 382	791	608	17 785	869	3 976	331	183	11 261	1 172	14 741	10 162	125
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	249	104	60	53	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	29	(x)	(x)	236	(x)	(x)
<b>CURRENT MARITAL STATUS OF WOMAN</b>														
MARRIED <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	6 178	853	90	45	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	45	(b)	(b)	5 325	8 646	215
WIDOWED <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	909	118	5	2	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	2	(b)	(b)	791	9 034	477
DIVORCED . . . . .	7 404	1 143	529	415	18 465	1 143	4 450	453	114	13 589	1 631	6 261	12 291	195
SEPARATED . . . . .	2 631	268	168	146	16 891	1 401	3 233	385	22	(b)	(b)	2 363	8 319	242
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN OF WOMAN</b>														
WHITE . . . . .	14 250	2 198	709	538	18 604	945	4 292	366	171	11 199	1 234	12 052	10 477	144
BLACK . . . . .	2 573	163	75	65	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	10	(b)	(b)	2 410	8 634	249
SPANISH ORIGIN <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	1 103	132	46	26	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	20	(b)	(b)	971	7 596	592
<b>AGE OF WOMAN</b>														
18 TO 29 YEARS . . . . .	2 958	193	90	58	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	32	(b)	(b)	2 765	7 968	216
30 TO 39 YEARS . . . . .	5 062	537	254	199	16 126	1 058	2 457	328	55	(b)	(b)	4 525	11 706	232
40 YEARS AND OVER . . . . .	9 103	1 652	447	351	20 109	1 319	5 332	511	96	13 983	1 831	7 451	10 039	183
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF WOMAN</b>														
LESS THAN 12 YEARS . . . . .	4 839	488	119	74	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	45	(b)	(b)	4 351	5 745	129
HIGH SCHOOL 4 YEARS . . . . .	7 587	1 060	314	231	16 393	1 233	3 015	442	83	9 289	1 432	6 528	10 036	166
COLLEGE: 1 TO 3 YEARS . . . . .	2 820	475	189	159	17 259	1 348	4 968	742	30	(b)	(b)	2 345	12 986	360
4 YEARS OR MORE . . . . .	1 876	359	169	144	24 789	2 328	5 096	772	25	(b)	(b)	1 517	19 010	522
<b>PRESENCE OF OWN CHILDREN</b>														
NO CHILDREN PRESENT . . . . .	10 286	1 573	369	275	17 781	1 197	5 262	614	95	11 602	1 737	8 713	10 060	168
1 OR MORE CHILDREN PRESENT . . . . .	6 836	808	422	333	17 788	1 241	2 915	300	89	10 899	1 558	6 028	10 310	184
<b>YEAR OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION</b>														
1975 AND LATER . . . . .	9 593	1 160	627	508	18 499	937	4 287	386	119	9 030	1 250	8 433	10 896	166
1970 TO 1974 . . . . .	2 529	326	96	71	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	23	(b)	(b)	2 203	10 555	371
1960 TO 1969 . . . . .	2 343	439	50	28	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	22	(b)	(b)	1 904	9 203	333
BEFORE 1960 . . . . .	2 657	456	19	2	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	17	(b)	(b)	2 201	7 789	257
<b>WORK EXPERIENCE IN 1983 OF WOMAN</b>														
WORKED . . . . .	11 292	1 553	603	459	20 561	964	4 319	413	144	12 492	1 283	9 739	13 256	157
WORKED AT FULL-TIME JOBS . . . . .	8 775	1 151	450	339	22 523	1 202	4 330	506	112	14 645	1 463	7 625	14 909	169
50 TO 52 WEEKS . . . . .	6 951	859	312	246	24 488	1 386	4 361	374	66	(b)	(b)	5 692	16 954	191
WORKED AT PART-TIME JOBS . . . . .	2 517	402	153	120	15 043	1 096	4 289	675	33	(b)	(b)	2 115	7 301	311
DID NOT WORK . . . . .	5 830	828	188	149	9 216	1 457	2 915	424	39	(b)	(b)	5 002	4 138	121
<b>WOMEN WITH INCOMES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IN 1983</b>														
TOTAL . . . . .	3 765	348	117	71	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	46	(b)	(b)	3 417	3 507	139
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	195	61	35	27	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	22	(x)	(x)	186	(x)	(x)
<b>CURRENT MARITAL STATUS OF WOMAN</b>														
MARRIED <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	500	44	4	-	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	4	(b)	(b)	457	2 033	424
WIDOWED <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	254	28	2	-	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	2	(b)	(b)	226	3 332	356
DIVORCED . . . . .	1 839	206	89	54	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	34	(b)	(b)	1 633	3 745	195
SEPARATED . . . . .	1 171	71	22	17	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	5	(b)	(b)	1 101	3 800	239
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN OF WOMAN</b>														
WHITE . . . . .	2 635	306	95	53	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	42	(b)	(b)	2 329	3 351	170
BLACK . . . . .	1 050	36	18	16	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	2	(b)	(b)	1 014	3 863	247
SPANISH ORIGIN <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	413	35	11	2	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	9	(b)	(b)	377	3 565	660
<b>AGE OF WOMAN</b>														
18 TO 29 YEARS . . . . .	976	49	23	12	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	11	(b)	(b)	927	3 503	265
30 TO 39 YEARS . . . . .	1 117	87	41	32	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	10	(b)	(b)	1 030	3 994	279
40 YEARS AND OVER . . . . .	1 672	211	52	27	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	25	(b)	(b)	1 461	3 166	193
<b>PRESENCE OF OWN CHILDREN</b>														
NO CHILDREN PRESENT . . . . .	1 915	223	61	35	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	26	(b)	(b)	1 692	2 765	159
1 OR MORE CHILDREN PRESENT . . . . .	1 850	125	56	36	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	20	(b)	(b)	1 725	4 235	213

<sup>1</sup>INCLUDES A SMALL NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS IN 1983. <sup>2</sup>REARRIED WOMEN WHOSE PREVIOUS MARRIAGE ENDED IN DIVORCE. <sup>3</sup>WIDOWED WOMEN WHOSE PREVIOUS MARRIAGE ENDED IN DIVORCE. <sup>4</sup>PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN MAY BE OF ANY RACE.

Table 4. Property Settlements Following Divorce—Ever-Divorced Women, by Selected Characteristics

(NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS. WOMEN AS OF SPRING 1984. FOR MEANING OF SYMBOLS, SEE TEXT)

CHARACTERISTIC	TOTAL	NO SETTLEMENT REACHED				PROPERTY SETTLEMENT REACHED						
		TOTAL <sup>1</sup>	RECEIVED--			TOTAL <sup>1</sup>	RECEIVED--			TYPE OF SETTLEMENT		
			CHILD SUPPORT ONLY	ALIMONY ONLY	CHILD SUPPORT AND ALIMONY		CHILD SUPPORT ONLY	ALIMONY ONLY	CHILD SUPPORT AND ALIMONY	CASH <sup>2</sup> ONLY	OTHER TYPES <sup>3</sup> ONLY	CASH <sup>2</sup> AND OTHER TYPES <sup>3</sup>
TOTAL . . . . .	14 491	9 102	1 143	81	46	5 389	1 152	184	152	1 151	4 000	238
STANDARD ERROR . . . . .	234	193	72	19	(8)	153	73	29	27	73	133	33
CURRENT MARITAL STATUS OF WOMAN												
DIVORCED . . . . .	7 404	4 406	699	69	39	2 998	718	165	142	714	2 151	133
REMARIED <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	6 178	4 005	438	12	7	2 173	426	16	10	394	1 690	89
WIDOWED <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	909	691	5	-	-	218	8	2	-	43	158	17
RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN OF WOMAN												
WHITE . . . . .	12 598	7 692	1 011	77	38	4 906	1 085	167	141	1 097	3 641	168
BLACK . . . . .	1 647	1 224	111	3	8	424	55	16	8	46	317	61
SPANISH ORIGIN <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	759	551	64	5	2	208	31	2	13	31	175	1
AGE OF WOMAN												
18 TO 29 YEARS . . . . .	2 222	1 583	318	7	6	639	218	12	10	148	47 <sup>c</sup>	16
30 TO 39 YEARS . . . . .	4 299	2 564	586	22	25	1 736	618	28	78	402	1 280	54
40 YEARS AND OVER . . . . .	7 970	4 956	240	52	15	3 014	316	143	63	600	2 24 <sup>c</sup>	169
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF WOMAN												
LESS THAN 12 YEARS . . . . .	3 781	2 757	181	10	3	1 025	141	19	24	200	76 <sup>c</sup>	60
HIGH SCHOOL: 4 YEARS . . . . .	6 542	4 008	573	35	27	2 534	637	61	58	520	1 92 <sup>c</sup>	90
COLLEGE: 1 TO 3 YEARS . . . . .	2 485	1 477	258	2 <sup>a</sup>	13	1 008	221	47	20	216	75 <sup>c</sup>	36
4 YEARS OR MORE . . . . .	1 683	860	131	10	3	823	153	56	49	214	55 <sup>c</sup>	52
PRESENCE OF OWN CHILDREN UNDER 21 YEARS OLD BY AN ABSENT FATHER												
NO CHILDREN PRESENT . . . . .	9 106	5 906	(x)	57	(x)	3 199	(x)	157	(x)	706	2 33 <sup>c</sup>	160
1 OR MORE CHILDREN PRESENT . . . . .	5 385	3 196	1 143	24	46	2 190	1 152	27	152	445	1 66 <sup>c</sup>	78
YEAR OF DIVORCE												
1975 AND LATER . . . . .	7 564	4 494	921	64	39	3 070	947	141	130	762	2 188	120
1970 TO 1974 . . . . .	2 299	1 449	194	13	7	850	127	26	17	166	63 <sup>c</sup>	54
BEFORE 1969 . . . . .	4 628	3 158	28	5	-	1 470	78	16	5	224	1 182	64
INCOME OF WOMAN												
WITHOUT INCOME . . . . .	788	613	(x)	(x)	(x)	175	(x)	(x)	(x)	43	124	8
WITH INCOME . . . . .	13 703	8 489	1 143	81	46	5 214	1 152	184	152	1 107	3 877	231
\$1 TO \$999 OR LOSS . . . . .	1 090	753	52	-	-	337	25	6	-	68	253	16
\$1,000 TO \$1,999 . . . . .	603	402	71	-	-	202	40	-	1	27	174	1
\$2,000 TO \$3,999 . . . . .	1 674	1 145	95	10	-	529	84	23	10	96	410	22
\$4,000 TO \$5,999 . . . . .	1 537	1 055	92	5	1	482	42	7	9	99	359	25
\$6,000 TO \$7,999 . . . . .	1 278	839	106	7	8	439	104	17	10	93	318	29
\$8,000 TO \$9,999 . . . . .	1 115	692	104	11	5	423	84	8	6	85	316	22
\$10,000 TO \$11,999 . . . . .	1 050	678	100	3	4	372	108	27	11	76	283	14
\$12,000 TO \$14,999 . . . . .	1 453	860	160	4	6	593	128	17	18	114	453	25
\$15,000 TO \$24,999 . . . . .	2 732	1 459	275	28	14	1 273	403	34	44	307	918	47
\$25,000 AND OVER . . . . .	1 171	605	88	14	8	565	115	44	44	142	392	31
MEDIAN INCOME . . . . . DOLLARS	9 200	8 145	11 024	15 437	(8)	11 053	13 627	12 699	17 683	12 269	10 762	10 307
STANDARD ERROR . . . . . DOLLARS	166	205	538	3 537	(8)	307	632	1 545	2 234	694	349	1 480
MEAN INCOME . . . . . DOLLARS	11 343	10 374	12 051	18 437	(8)	12 921	14 734	17 267	19 459	14 069	12 569	13 323
STANDARD ERROR . . . . . DOLLARS	140	166	418	3 207	(8)	245	489	1 600	1 807	604	272	1 169

<sup>1</sup>DETAIL DOES NOT ADD TO TOTAL BECAUSE SOME EVER-DIVORCED WOMEN RECEIVED NEITHER CHILD SUPPORT NOR ALIMONY, NOT SHOWN SEPARATELY.<sup>2</sup>A ONE-TIME CASH SETTLEMENT.<sup>3</sup>OTHER PROPERTY (HOUSE, OTHER REAL ESTATE, CARS, FURNISHINGS, ETC.).<sup>4</sup>REMARIED WOMEN WHOSE PREVIOUS MARRIAGE ENDED IN DIVORCE.<sup>5</sup>WIDOWED WOMEN WHOSE PREVIOUS MARRIAGE ENDED IN DIVORCE.<sup>6</sup>PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN MAY BE OF ANY RACE.

## Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

**Child support.** Data on award of child support payments were collected from women 18 years or older with children under 21 years of age whose father was not living in the household as of spring 1984. Information on recipiency and amount of payments was obtained from women who reported that they were awarded or had agreements to receive child support payments in 1983. Payment amounts were limited to only those from the last divorce or separation.

**Alimony.** Data on the award of alimony or maintenance payments were collected from women 18 years or older who were ever-divorced or currently separated as of spring 1984. Information on recipiency status and payment amounts was obtained from those women who reported that they were awarded or had agreements to receive alimony payments in 1983. The data are limited to payments received from the most recent divorce or separation.

**Property settlements.** Data on property settlements were collected from women 18 years or older who were ever-divorced as of spring 1984. For the purposes of this survey, property settlements consist of a one-time cash settlement or other property (i.e., house, other real estate, car, or furniture) or a combination of both.

**Money income.** Income distributions and income summary measures (such as medians and means) shown in this report are limited to money income before payment of Federal, State, local, or Social Security (FICA) taxes and before any other types of deductions, such as union dues and Medicare premiums. Total money income is the sum of the amounts received from wages and salaries, self-employment income (including losses), Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, public assistance, interest, dividends, rent, royalties, estates or trusts, veterans' payments, unemployment and workers' compensations, private and government retirement and disability pensions, alimony, child support, and any other source of money income which was regularly received. Capital gains (or losses) and lump sum or one-time payments such as life insurance settlements are excluded.

**Poverty definition.** Families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level using the poverty index originated at the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by Federal Interagency Committees in 1969 and 1980. The poverty index is based solely on

money income and does not reflect the fact that many low-income persons receive food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing. The 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. It was determined from the Department of Agriculture's 1955 Survey of Food Consumption that families of three or more persons spend approximately one-third of their income on food; the poverty level for these families was, therefore, set at three times the cost of the economy food plan. For smaller families and persons living alone, the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly higher in order to compensate for the relatively larger fixed expenses of these smaller households. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$10,178 in 1983. Weighted average poverty thresholds by size of family are shown in table A-1. For further details, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 144.

**Table A-1. Weighted Average Poverty Thresholds in 1983**

Size of family unit	Threshold
One person (unrelated individual).....	\$ 5,061
15 to 64 years.....	5,180
65 years and over.....	4,775
Two persons.....	6,483
Householder 15 to 64 years.....	6,697
Householder 65 years and over.....	6,023
Three persons.....	7,938
Four persons.....	10,178
Five persons.....	12,049
Six persons.....	13,630
Seven persons.....	15,500
Eight persons.....	17,170
Nine persons or more.....	20,310

**Computation of constant dollar means.** The adjustment for price change was made by converting the mean income for women for a given year into 1983 dollars on the basis of the change in the Consumer Price Index. The indices used to make the constant dollar conversions are shown in table A-2.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an index designed to measure changes in purchasing power. While the CPI is a

**Table A-2. Consumer Price Index (CPI): 1977 to 1983**

(1977 = 100)

Year	CPI	Year	CPI
1977.....	100.0	1980.....	136.0
1978.....	107.6	1981.....	150.1
1979.....	119.8	1982.....	159.3
		1983.....	164.4

Source: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

good measure of the changes in prices, it is not necessarily a good measure of the changes in prices faced by consumers of different characteristics and income levels. Furthermore, the housing component of the CPI has been criticized for contributing to unduly large increases in the CPI over the past several years. These limitations should be noted when com-

paring income figures adjusted to constant dollars using the CPI since the same index was used for all women and all income levels.

**Underreporting.** As in most household surveys, the estimates of the number of money income recipients and the total amount of money income derived from the March CPS are somewhat less than comparable estimates derived from independent sources, such as the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Social Security Administration, and Veterans Administration. The difference between the survey estimate and the independent estimate is generally termed "underreporting." Underreporting tends to be more pronounced for income sources such as public assistance and welfare, unemployment compensation, and property income (interest, dividends, and net rental income). Estimates of income from wages and salaries tend to have less underreporting than most income types.

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## Appendix B. Source and Reliability of Estimates

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### SOURCE OF DATA

The estimates in this report are based on data collected in the March and April 1984 Current Population Surveys (CPS) conducted by the Bureau of the Census. The present CPS sample was initially selected from the 1970 census files with coverage in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The sample is continually updated to reflect new construction. The current sample is located in 629 areas comprising 1,148 counties, independent cities, and minor civil divisions in the Nation.

In the March sample, approximately 62,000 occupied households were eligible for interview. Of this number about 3,000 occupied units were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were unavailable for some other reason.

About 43,500 of the households interviewed in March were interviewed again in April. Women 18 years of age and older were asked supplemental questions regarding child support and alimony payments. Of the 43,740 eligible women interviewed in March, 38,190 were matched to women interviewed in April.<sup>1</sup> Child support and alimony information was imputed for the other 5,550 eligible women.

The estimation procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are based on statistics from the 1980 decennial census; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

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

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<sup>1</sup>The main reasons the responses were not obtained for all eligible women interviewed in March are relocation of families and April nonresponse.

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 the 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 (under-coverage).

Other elements of nonsampling variability will be discussed more fully in a later, more detailed report.

**Sampling variability.** The standard errors given in this report 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 standard error enable one to construct 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 identical conditions using the same sample design; and if an estimate and its 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 may or may not be contained in any particular computed interval.

However, for a particular sample one can say with specified confidence that the average estimate derived from all possible samples is included within the constructed interval.

Standard errors may also be used to perform hypothesis testing, a procedure for distinguishing between population parameters using sample estimates. The most common types of hypotheses are 1) the population parameters are identical or 2) they are different. An example of this would be comparing the mean annual income of divorced women to the mean annual income of separated women. Tests may be performed at various levels of significance, where a level of significance is the probability of concluding that the parameters are different when, in fact, they are identical.

All statements of comparison in the text have passed a hypothesis test at the 0.10 level of significance or better, and most have passed a hypothesis test at the 0.05 level of significance or better. This means that, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference between parameters is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. For the other differences mentioned, the estimated difference between parameters is between 1.6 and 2.0 times the standard error of the difference. When this is the case, the statement of comparison will be qualified in some way; e.g., by use of the phrase "some evidence."

**Note when using small estimates.** Summary measures (such as means and percent distributions) are shown in the report only when the base 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 the corresponding percentages. These smaller estimates are provided primarily to permit such combinations of the categories as serve each user's needs.

Standard errors are provided in table B-1 and B-2, and two standard error parameters (denoted "a" and "b") are provided in table B-3 for estimated numbers and percentages of women in the United States for certain characteristics which

**Table B-1. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Women: 1983**

(Numbers in thousands)

Size of estimate	Standard error <sup>1</sup>	Size of estimate	Standard error <sup>1</sup>
10.....	5	7,000.....	126
75.....	14	8,000.....	134
250.....	25	9,000.....	141
500.....	35	10,000.....	148
1,000.....	50	11,000.....	154
2,000.....	70	12,000.....	159
3,000.....	85	13,000.....	165
4,000.....	98	15,000.....	174
5,000.....	108	17,000.....	182
6,000.....	118		

<sup>1</sup>These values must be multiplied by the appropriate factor in table B-3 to obtain the correct standard error.

**Table B-2. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages of Women: 1983**

Base of estimated percentage (thousands)	Estimated percentage <sup>1</sup>				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
75.....	2.6	4.0	5.5	7.9	9.2
200.....	1.6	2.4	3.4	4.9	5.6
300.....	1.3	2.0	2.7	4.0	4.6
400.....	1.1	1.7	2.4	3.4	4.0
500.....	1.0	1.5	2.1	3.1	3.5
600.....	0.9	1.4	1.9	2.8	3.2
800.....	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.4	2.8
1,000.....	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.2	2.5
1,200.....	0.6	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.3
1,500.....	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.0
2,000.....	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.8
3,000.....	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.4
4,000.....	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.3
5,000.....	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.1
10,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8
15,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6
17,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6

<sup>1</sup>These values must be multiplied by the appropriate factor in table B-3 to obtain the correct standard error.

are considered the most important among the data in the report. A more complete source and reliability statement for the 1983 data will be published with the forthcoming 1983 detailed report.

**Standard errors of estimated numbers and estimated percentages.** The approximate standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages can be computed directly with formulae (1) and (2) below, respectively. The formulae are:

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

**Table B-3. "a" and "b" Parameters for Calculating Approximate Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers and Percentages of Women: 1983**

Characteristic	Parameter		f factor
	a	b	
<b>Income:</b>			
Total or White.....	-0.000033	2,513	1.00
Black.....	-0.000296	2,873	1.07
Spanish origin.....	-0.000078	6,741	1.64
<b>Persons below the poverty level:</b>			
Total or White.....	-0.000138	10,595	2.05
Black.....	-0.001093	10,595	2.05
Spanish origin.....	-0.000299	25,904	3.21
<b>Nonincome:</b>			
Total or White.....	-0.000061	4,667	1.36
Black.....	-0.000690	6,693	1.63
Spanish origin.....	-0.000115	9,959	1.99

where  $x$  is the size of the estimate and  $a$  and  $b$  are the parameters associated with the characteristic; and

$$\sigma_{(x,p)} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{x} \cdot p(100-p)} \quad (2)$$

where  $x$  is the size of the subclass of the population which is the base of the percentage,  $p$  is the percentage ( $0 < p < 100$ ), and  $b$  is the parameter associated with the characteristic.

Table B-3 provides the values of the  $a$  and  $b$  parameters that are used in formulae (1) and (2) to approximate standard errors of estimated numbers and estimated percentages.

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

$$\sigma_{(x-y)} = \sqrt{\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2} \quad (3)$$

Where  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_y$  are the standard errors of the estimates  $x$  and  $y$ ; the estimates can be numbers, percents, ratios, etc. The result of this formula will represent the estimated standard error quite accurately for the difference between two estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas or for the difference between two 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.

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