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CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

**Special Studies**

Series P-23, No. 167

by  
Gordon H. Lester

# Child Support and Alimony: 1987

U.S. Department of Commerce  
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# Child Support and Alimony: 1987



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**Symbols Used in Tables**

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

# Child Support and Alimony: 1987

NOTE: The child support, alimony, and property settlement data as well as data on income and poverty status presented in this report were derived from the 1988 Current Population Survey (CPS). Child support and alimony data presented in this report are the first to reflect a new processing system that was incorporated into the April 1988 supplement to the CPS. A description of the new procedures can be found in the section discussing the revisions. The changes in the processing system and their possible effects on the estimates should be kept in mind when comparing the data from this report with data from prior years.

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on the receipt of support payments by women following divorce or separation and receipt of child support payments for children of never-married women. It includes information on both the award and actual receipt of child support payments by women for the benefit of their children and on alimony receipt for their own support, as well as additional data pertaining to the receipt and type of property settlement for ever-divorced women. Data used to produce the information presented in this report was not collected from men with children under 21 from an absent mother as the sample size is insufficient to provide reliable statistics.

The Bureau of the Census, under joint sponsorship with 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 subsequently conducted in the springs of 1982, 1984, 1986, and 1988 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 earlier surveys were presented in Current Population Reports, Series P-23, Nos. 112, 140, 148, and 154.

## HIGHLIGHTS

(The figures in parentheses denote 90-percent confidence intervals.)

- As of spring 1988, 9.4 ( $\pm 0.4$ ) million mothers were living with own children under 21 years of age whose fathers were not living in the households; 59 ( $\pm 2.2$ ) percent or about 5.6 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) million of these women were awarded child support payments.
- The poverty rate for all women with children from an absent father was 34 ( $\pm 3.0$ ) percent in 1987.
- Of the 5.6 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) million women awarded child support, 4.8 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) million were supposed to receive child support payments in 1987. Of the women due payment, about half received the full amount they were due. The remaining women were about equally divided between those receiving partial payment, and those receiving nothing.
- The child support award rate for never-married women was 20 ( $\pm 3.3$ ) percent as of spring 1988 as compared with the 74 ( $\pm 2.1$ ) percent award rate for ever-married women.
- The mean (average) amount of child support received in 1987 was \$2,710 ( $\pm \$157$ ). This amount represents a 16 ( $\pm 7.9$ ) percent increase from 1985 after adjusting for inflation.
- The aggregate amount of child support received in 1987 was 10.0 ( $\pm 0.9$ ) billion dollars, 69 ( $\pm 7.9$ ) percent of the total 14.6 ( $\pm 1.1$ ) billion dollars due. The aggregate amount of child support received in 1987 was 32 ( $\pm 9.3$ ) percent higher than the 7.6 ( $\pm 0.6$ ) billion dollars received in 1985 after adjusting for inflation.
- Of the 3.9 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) million women with children from an absent father who were never awarded child support, 64 ( $\pm 3.3$ ) percent wanted an award but did not obtain it for various reasons, about 14 ( $\pm 2.4$ ) percent had final agreement pending or had made other arrangements, and the remaining 22 ( $\pm 2.8$ ) percent did not want any award.
- As of spring 1988, 2.6 ( $\pm 0.2$ ) million women with children from an absent father had, at some time, contacted a government agency for assistance in obtaining child support.
- Of the 19.3 ( $\pm 0.5$ ) million ever-divorced or currently separated women as of spring 1988, 17 ( $\pm 1.1$ ) percent were awarded alimony payments.
- Of the 16.5 ( $\pm 0.5$ ) million ever-divorced women as of spring 1988, 32 ( $\pm 1.5$ ) percent received a property settlement.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN WITH CHILDREN FROM AN ABSENT FATHER

As of spring 1988, 9.4 million women were living with children under 21 years of age whose fathers were not living in the household. This was a 6.9-percent increase from the spring of 1986. (See table A.) Of these women, the only significant change was for those never married (2.6 million, an increase of 600,000 from 1986). (See figure 1.)

White women fell from 72.0 percent to 68.7 percent of the total between 1986 and 1988. The percentage of women with children from an absent father who were Black or of Hispanic origin (28.5 and 10.0 percent in 1988, respectively) did not change significantly from 1986.

The poverty rate for women with children from an absent father was 33.9 percent in 1987, not significantly different from the 1985 poverty rate. The poverty rate

**Table A. Women With Own Children Under 21 Years of Age Present from Absent Fathers, by Selected Characteristics**

(Numbers in thousands)

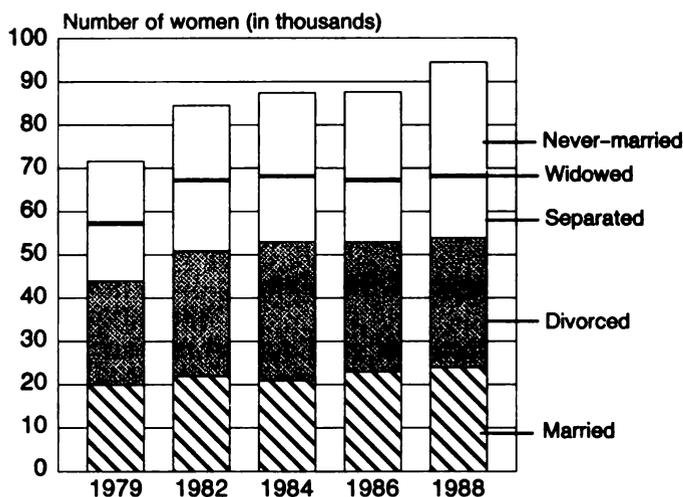
Characteristic	1988	1986	1984	1982	1979
<b>ALL WOMEN</b>					
Total.....	9,415	8,808	8,690	8,387	7,094
Current marital status:					
Married <sup>1</sup> .....	2,386	2,322	2,129	2,201	2,006
Divorced.....	2,958	3,045	3,204	2,861	2,390
Separated.....	1,381	1,363	1,451	1,552	1,257
Widowed <sup>2</sup> .....	64	69	53	64	67
Never married.....	2,625	2,009	1,854	1,708	1,374
Race and Hispanic origin:					
White.....	6,467	6,341	6,183	5,977	5,085
Black.....	2,686	2,310	2,341	2,283	1,895
Hispanic <sup>3</sup> .....	937	813	790	628	521
Age:					
18 to 29 years.....	3,169	2,887	3,077	3,053	2,585
30 to 39 years.....	3,924	3,614	3,316	3,288	2,655
40 years and over.....	2,321	2,307	2,298	2,045	1,854
Years of school completed:					
Less than 12 years.....	2,349	2,231	2,246	2,386	2,365
High school: 4 years.....	4,486	4,176	4,201	3,971	3,157
College: 1 to 3 years.....	1,739	1,653	1,508	1,385	1,117
4 years or more.....	842	748	734	644	455
Number of own children present from an absent father:					
One child.....	5,111	4,607	4,437	4,174	3,627
Two children.....	3,026	2,881	2,797	2,772	2,100
Three children.....	862	867	1,008	892	830
Four children or more.....	416	456	448	549	537
<b>WOMEN WITH INCOMES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IN 1987</b>					
Total.....	3,191	2,797	2,898	2,566	1,973
Current marital status:					
Married <sup>1</sup> .....	167	180	187	181	113
Divorced.....	791	795	726	784	624
Separated.....	710	646	925	694	553
Widowed <sup>2</sup> .....	25	18	13	13	18
Never married.....	1,498	1,159	1,048	893	666
Race and Hispanic origin:					
White.....	1,659	1,569	1,577	1,355	1,007
Black.....	1,431	1,190	1,256	1,167	944
Hispanic <sup>3</sup> .....	473	414	394	284	213
Age:					
18 to 29 years.....	1,562	1,419	1,465	1,293	936
30 to 39 years.....	1,201	920	928	837	655
40 years and over.....	427	458	506	435	383
Years of school completed:					
Less than 12 years.....	1,403	1,244	1,289	1,246	1,099
High school: 4 years.....	1,373	1,188	1,209	997	656
College: 1 to 3 years.....	353	333	338	252	194
4 years or more.....	62	32	62	71	23
Number of own children present from an absent father:					
One child.....	1,423	1,185	1,259	1,000	800
Two children.....	1,034	940	897	891	591
Three children.....	449	400	482	387	299
Four children or more.....	285	272	260	287	283

<sup>1</sup>Remarried women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.

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

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

**FIGURE 1.**  
**Marital Status of Women With Own Children Age 21 From an Absent Father**



for never-married women was 57.1 percent in 1987, as compared with a poverty rate of 24.9 percent for ever-married women.

The poverty rate for White women with children present from an absent father, 25.7 percent, was about half that of Black women (53.3 percent). The poverty rate for Hispanic women was 50.5 percent.<sup>1</sup>

Women having less than a high school education who also had children from an absent father had a poverty rate of 59.7 percent in 1987, about twice that of women with at least a high school education (25.3 percent).

Younger women with children from an absent father were much more likely to have family incomes below the poverty level than their older counterparts. Poverty rates for women aged 18 to 29, 30 to 39, and over 39 with children from an absent father were 49.3 percent, 30.6 percent and 18.4 percent, respectively.

Of women with children present from an absent father, women with only one child were less likely to be poor than those with two or more children. The poverty rate for women with one child was 27.8 percent in 1987 compared with the poverty rate of 41.2 percent for women with two or more children.

### AWARD AND RECEIPT OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

As of spring 1988, 5.6 million women had been awarded child support payments (see table B). Of these, 4.8 million were supposed to receive payments for their children in 1987. (The remaining 725,000 mothers did not have payments due them in 1987.) (See figure 2.)

<sup>1</sup>The percentage differences between Blacks and those of Hispanic origin were not statistically significant.

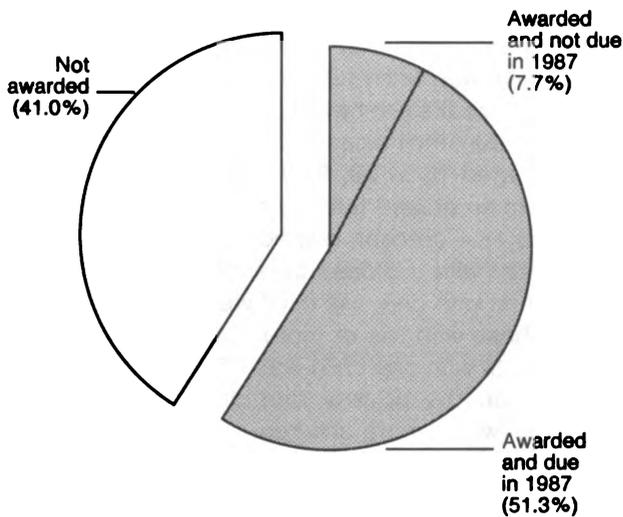
**Table B. Award and Reciprocity Status of Women—Child Support Payments for All Women**

(Numbers in thousands. Women with own children under 21 years of age present from absent fathers as of spring 1988, 1986, 1984, 1982, and 1979)

Award and reciprocity status	Number					Percent distribution				
	1987	1985	1983	1981	1978	1987	1985	1983	1981	1978
<b>ALL WOMEN</b>										
Total.....	9,415	8,808	8,690	8,387	7,094	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Awarded <sup>1</sup> .....	5,554	5,396	5,015	4,969	4,196	59.0	61.3	57.7	59.2	59.1
Supposed to receive payments.....	4,829	4,381	3,995	4,043	3,424	51.3	49.7	46.0	48.2	48.3
Not supposed to receive payments....	725	1,015	1,020	926	772	7.7	11.5	11.7	11.0	10.9
Not awarded <sup>1</sup> .....	3,861	3,411	3,675	3,417	2,898	41.0	38.7	42.3	40.7	40.9
Supposed to receive payments.....	4,829	4,381	3,995	4,043	3,424	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Actually received payments.....	3,676	3,243	3,037	2,902	2,455	76.1	74.0	76.0	71.8	71.7
Received full amount.....	2,475	2,112	2,018	1,888	1,675	51.3	48.2	50.5	46.7	48.9
Received partial amount.....	1,201	1,131	1,019	1,014	779	24.9	25.8	25.5	25.1	22.8
Did not receive payments.....	1,153	1,138	958	1,140	969	23.9	26.0	24.0	28.2	28.3
<b>WOMEN BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL</b>										
Total.....	3,191	2,797	2,898	2,566	1,973	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Awarded <sup>1</sup> .....	1,413	1,130	1,231	1,018	752	44.3	40.4	42.5	39.7	38.1
Supposed to receive payments.....	1,231	905	916	806	596	38.6	32.4	31.6	31.4	30.2
Not supposed to receive payments....	182	225	315	212	156	5.7	8.0	10.9	8.3	7.9
Not awarded <sup>1</sup> .....	1,778	1,668	1,667	1,547	1,221	55.7	59.6	57.5	60.3	61.9
Supposed to receive payments.....	1,231	905	916	806	596	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Received payments.....	885	595	568	495	351	71.9	65.7	62.0	61.4	58.9
Did not receive payments.....	346	310	348	311	245	28.1	34.3	38.0	38.6	41.1

<sup>1</sup>Award status as of spring 1988, 1986, 1984, 1982, and 1979.

**FIGURE 2.**  
**Award of Child Support Payments**  
(As of spring 1988)



Base: 9.4 million women with children from absent fathers.

Of those awarded child support, about half received the full payment of the amount awarded. The remainder were split about evenly between those receiving partial payments and those receiving no payments at all. (See figure 3.)

Of women with children from an absent father, 59.0 percent were awarded child support as of spring 1988, not significantly different from the 61.3 percent awarded support as of 1986. The percentage of women awarded child support who were due and actually received payments in 1987 was 76.1 percent, not significantly different from 1985.

Women with child support awards as of spring 1988 had a significantly lower poverty rate than those without child support awards. Poverty rates of women with children from an absent father with and without child support awards were 25.4 percent and 46.1 percent, respectively.

Of poor women due child support payments, 71.9 percent received payments in 1987, not significantly different from the comparable 1985 receipt rate. There was no significant difference between the receipt rates of poor and nonpoor women in 1987.

The child support award rate for never-married women was 19.7 percent as of 1988, significantly lower than the 74.2 percent award rate for ever-married women. The percentage of never-married women who were awarded and actually received child support payments in 1987 (83.3 percent) was not significantly different from the comparable percentage for ever-married women (see table C).

The award rate for Whites (68.8 percent) was about twice that of Blacks (35.6 percent). The award rate for Hispanics was 42.4 percent.<sup>1</sup> There were no statistically significant differences in the percentages of women actually receiving support payments by race and Hispanic origin.

Women with 4 or more years of college were more likely to be awarded payments than women with less than a college education, and were also more likely to receive payments.

### Mean Child Support Received

The mean amount of child support received by all women who received payments was \$2,710 in 1987. This amount represents a 15.9-percent increase from the comparable 1985 figure after adjusting for inflation. This is a marked change from the 1983 to 1985 period, when the average amount of child support decreased by 12.4 percent in real terms.<sup>2</sup> (See table D).

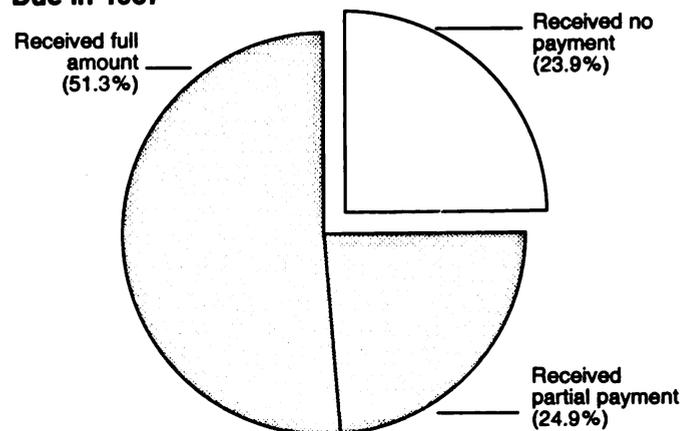
Mean child support payments received by divorced and separated women were the highest of any marital status (\$3,000) in contrast to never-married women whose payments averaged \$1,632.

Mean payments received by White women (\$2,950) were about twice those received by Black women (\$1,503).

Women with 4 or more years of college received mean payments (\$4,310) which were about two-thirds higher than the mean received by women with at least a high school education (or some college) (\$2,595) and about double those received by women with less than a high school education (\$1,872).

<sup>2</sup>See appendix B for a comparison of mean child support received using the CPI-U versus CPI-U-X1.

**FIGURE 3.**  
**Receipt of Child Support Payments Due in 1987**



Base: 4.8 million women due child support in 1987.

**Table C. Child Support Payments Awarded and Received—Women With Children Present, by Selected Characteristics for All Women and Women With Incomes Below the Poverty Level in 1987**

(Numbers in thousands. Women with own children under 21 years of age present from absent fathers as of spring 1988)

Characteristic	Total	Percent awarded child support payments <sup>1</sup>	Supposed to receive child support in 1987					
			Actually received child support in 1987				Child support as percent of total income	
			Total	Percent	Mean child support	Mean total money income		
<b>ALL WOMEN</b>								
Total .....	9,415	59.0	4,829	76.1	\$2,710	\$14,245	19.0	
<b>Current marital status:</b>								
Married <sup>2</sup> .....	2,386	82.0	1,656	72.9	2,540	12,582	20.2	
Divorced .....	2,958	77.2	2,087	78.0	3,073	17,487	17.6	
Separated .....	1,381	54.8	628	74.0	2,745	12,777	21.5	
Widowed <sup>3</sup> .....	64	(B)	27	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	
Never married .....	2,625	19.7	430	83.3	1,632	7,203	22.7	
<b>Race and Hispanic origin:</b>								
White .....	6,467	68.8	3,910	76.6	2,950	14,988	19.7	
Black .....	2,686	35.6	787	73.2	1,503	10,257	14.7	
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	937	42.4	344	75.6	2,628	9,184	28.6	
<b>Age:</b>								
18 to 29 years .....	3,169	42.5	1,198	76.3	1,946	8,964	21.7	
30 to 39 years .....	3,924	67.0	2,358	75.0	2,742	14,628	18.7	
40 years and over .....	2,321	67.9	1,273	78.1	3,354	18,421	18.2	
<b>Years of school completed:</b>								
Less than 12 years .....	2,349	42.9	855	69.7	1,872	6,474	28.9	
High school: 4 years .....	4,486	59.4	2,285	75.6	2,518	12,205	20.6	
College: 1 to 3 years .....	1,739	71.0	1,105	77.5	2,750	16,699	16.5	
4 years or more .....	842	77.0	584	85.1	4,310	26,430	16.3	
<b>Number of own children present from an absent father:</b>								
One child .....	5,111	56.7	2,486	75.0	2,247	14,694	15.3	
Two children .....	3,026	65.4	1,743	77.3	3,239	14,882	21.8	
Three children .....	862	56.5	438	77.6	3,368	11,629	29.0	
Four children or more .....	416	46.4	161	77.0	2,118	7,758	27.3	
<b>WOMEN WITH INCOMES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IN 1987</b>								
Total .....	3,191	44.3	1,231	71.9	1,673	4,566	36.6	
<b>Current marital status:</b>								
Married <sup>2</sup> .....	167	78.4	108	70.4	1,646	2,520	65.3	
Divorced .....	791	74.2	538	68.4	1,799	5,272	34.1	
Separated .....	710	50.8	300	68.3	2,222	4,181	53.1	
Widowed <sup>3</sup> .....	25	(B)	11	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	
Never married .....	1,498	21.3	274	83.9	1,018	4,468	22.8	
<b>Race and Hispanic origin:</b>								
White .....	1,659	53.0	772	71.1	1,962	4,758	41.2	
Black .....	1,431	34.2	417	72.9	1,187	4,276	27.8	
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	473	38.1	150	79.3	2,850	4,629	61.6	
<b>Age:</b>								
18 to 29 years .....	1,562	35.4	490	73.9	1,458	4,192	34.8	
30 to 39 years .....	1,201	51.8	555	69.7	1,816	5,127	35.4	
40 years and over .....	427	55.7	185	73.5	1,842	3,963	46.5	
<b>Years of school completed:</b>								
Less than 12 years .....	1,403	37.0	454	68.9	1,725	3,823	45.1	
High school: 4 years .....	1,373	47.4	567	73.5	1,588	4,938	32.2	
College: 1 to 3 years .....	353	56.9	178	76.4	1,579	5,270	30.0	
4 years or more .....	62	(B)	33	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	
<b>Number of own children present from an absent father:</b>								
One child .....	1,423	42.4	522	69.0	1,478	3,991	37.0	
Two children .....	1,034	46.4	423	73.5	1,888	4,843	39.0	
Three children .....	449	46.1	177	73.4	1,884	5,142	36.6	
Four children or more .....	285	42.5	109	78.0	1,392	5,107	27.3	

B Base less than 75,000.

<sup>1</sup>Award status as of spring 1988.

<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 Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**Table D. Mean Child Support Payments Received, by Selected Characteristics of Women**

(In 1987 dollars using the CPI-U-X1 and CPI-U)

Characteristic	Mean child support payment <sup>1</sup>					Percent change, 1985-87	Mean child support (CPI-U)	
	1987	1985	1983	1981	1978		1981	1978
All women.....	2,710	2,339	2,670	2,655	3,028	*15.9	2,632	3,134
Current marital status: <sup>2</sup>								
Married <sup>3</sup> .....	2,540	2,076	2,468	2,407	2,696	*22.4	2,386	2,791
Divorced.....	3,073	2,680	2,841	2,799	3,283	*14.7	2,774	3,399
Separated.....	2,745	2,198	3,059	2,993	3,208	24.9	2,967	3,321
Never married.....	1,632	1,211	1,291	1,280	1,643	34.8	1,268	1,701
Race and Hispanic origin:								
White.....	2,950	2,422	2,823	2,749	3,132	*21.8	2,724	3,242
Black.....	1,503	1,852	1,671	2,068	2,178	*-18.8	2,050	2,255
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	2,628	2,123	2,097	2,607	2,218	23.8	2,584	2,296
Age:								
18 to 29 years.....	1,946	1,549	1,965	1,870	2,163	*25.6	1,853	2,239
30 to 39 years.....	2,742	2,531	2,687	2,813	3,159	8.4	2,788	3,270
40 years and over.....	3,354	2,694	3,385	3,132	3,763	*24.5	3,104	3,896
Years of school completed:								
Less than 12 years.....	1,872	1,937	1,751	2,114	2,529	-3.4	2,096	2,619
High school: 4 years.....	2,518	2,154	2,462	2,407	2,800	*16.9	2,386	2,899
College: 1 to 3 years.....	2,750	2,583	2,660	2,911	3,516	6.4	2,886	3,640
4 years or more.....	4,310	3,144	4,697	3,895	4,332	*37.1	3,860	4,485
Number of own children present from an absent father								
One child.....	2,247	1,773	2,029	2,048	2,168	*26.9	2,030	2,244
Two children.....	3,239	2,742	3,173	2,890	3,358	*18.1	2,864	3,476
Three children.....	3,368	2,956	3,357	3,527	4,255	13.9	3,495	4,405
Four children or more.....	2,118	3,947	4,226	3,967	4,632	*-46.3	3,932	4,795

\* Significant at 10 percent.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the CPI-U for 1983-1987 and CPI-U-X1 for 1978 and 1981.<sup>2</sup>Excludes a small number of currently widowed women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.<sup>3</sup>Remarried women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.<sup>4</sup>Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Note: For a discussion of the CPI-U-X1 and CPI-U, see appendix B.

The mean child support payment received in 1987 by women below the poverty level was \$1,673, three-fifths of that for all women. The mean total money income of women below the poverty level who actually received child support was \$4,566, about one-third of that for all women who received child support (see table C).

Women who were awarded and received support payments for their children were better off in terms of mean total money income in 1987 than women who were not awarded or did not receive payments. The mean total money income of women who were awarded but did not receive support payments was \$11,793, lower than the mean income of women who were awarded and received payments (\$14,245). The mean income of women who were not awarded support payments was \$9,242, lower than the average income of those women who were due payments, regardless of whether or not payments were actually received. (See figure 4.)

In 1987, on average, child support payments were 19.0 percent of the total money income of all women who received payments, and 36.6 percent of the total

money income of women with income below poverty who received payments. Child support payments constituted 41.2 and 27.8 percent of the total money income of White and Black women below poverty, respectively.<sup>3</sup>

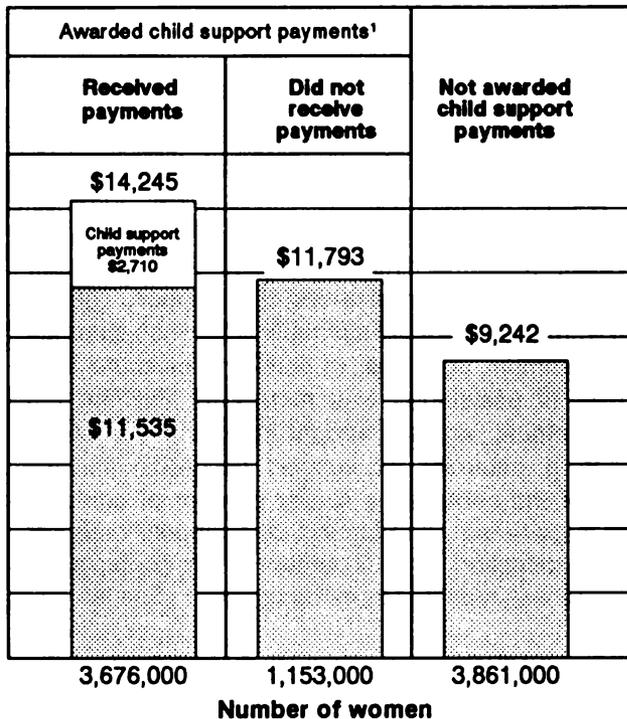
### The Deficit in Child Support Payments

The mean amount of child support payments received by the 4.8 million women awarded and due payments (including the 1.1 million women who were due payments but received nothing) was \$2,063 in 1987. If the full amount of payment awarded had been made, the average received would have been \$3,017. (See table E). The aggregate amount of child support due in 1987 was 14.6 billion dollars. The aggregate payment received was 10.0 billion dollars, or 68.5 percent of the total due.

When compared with 1985 data adjusted for inflation, aggregate child support payments received grew by

<sup>3</sup>The latter two percentages were not statistically significant from one another.

**FIGURE 4.**  
**Mean Income of Women with Children Under**  
**Age 21 Present From Absent Fathers: 1987**



<sup>1</sup>Excludes a small number of women who were awarded payments but were not supposed to receive them in 1987.

\$2.4 billion between 1985 and 1987. The payment deficit also rose by \$0.6 billion over this time period. (See figure 5.)

### Award and Receipt of Child Support by Type of Arrangement

Of women due child support payments in 1987, 63.6 percent were awarded payment through the court system. An additional 31.8 percent of women had voluntary agreements. The remaining women arrived at some other type of arrangement for support. (See table F.)

Women with voluntary child support agreements had mean awards of \$3,463 in 1987, 22.3 percent higher than the mean amount due for court-ordered agreements (\$2,831). However, the mean amount of child support actually received for women with voluntary agreements (\$2,895) was 71.8 percent higher than that received by women with court-ordered agreements (\$1,685). Women with voluntary agreements also received a higher percentage of payments due (83.6 percent) than those women with court-ordered payments (59.5 percent).

### Inclusion of Health Care Benefits in Award

Of the women who were awarded child support payments, 38.9 percent also had health insurance benefits currently included in their award. Of White mothers who were awarded payments, 43.0 percent had this benefit as opposed to only 20.6 percent of Black mothers. (See table G.)

For women with family incomes below the poverty level, the health insurance inclusion rate was 31.8 percent, significantly lower than the comparable rate for nonpoor women. Never-married women with children from an absent father were much less likely than women of other marital statuses to have had health insurance

**Table E. Child Support Payments Due and Actually Received: 1978 to 1987**

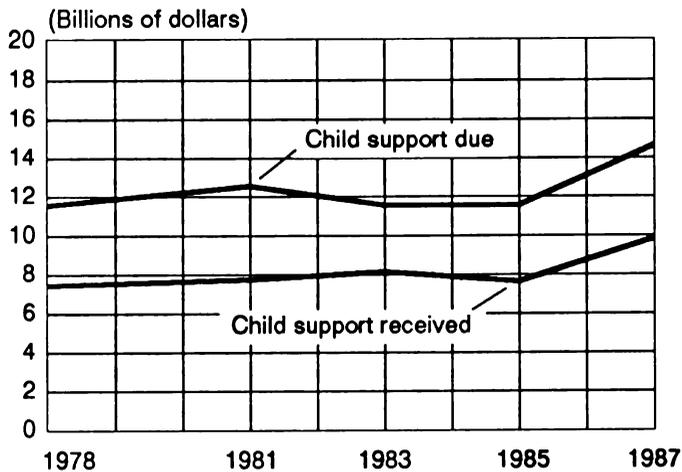
(Aggregates in billions of dollars. In 1987 dollars using the CPI-U and CPI-U-X1)

Characteristic	In 1987 dollars <sup>1</sup>					In 1987 CPI-U adjusted dollars	
	1987	1985	1983	1981	1978	1981	1978
Women due child support payments:							
Total (in thousands) .....	4,829	4,381	3,995	4,043	3,424	4,043	3,424
Mean payments (dollars) <sup>2</sup> :							
Due .....	\$3,017	\$2,836	\$2,876	\$3,098	\$3,371	\$3,071	\$3,490
Received .....	2,063	1,733	2,029	1,906	2,171	1,890	2,248
Deficit .....	954	903	847	1,192	1,200	1,181	1,243
Aggregate payments:							
Child support due .....	14.6	11.5	11.5	12.5	11.5	12.4	11.9
Child support received .....	10.0	7.6	8.1	7.7	7.4	7.6	7.7
Aggregate child support deficit .....	4.6	4.0	3.4	4.8	4.1	4.8	4.3
Percent of aggregate due actually received .....	68.5	66.1	70.4	61.6	64.3	61.3	64.7

<sup>1</sup>Based on the CPI-U for 1983-1987 and CPI-U-X1 for 1978 and 1981.

Note: For a discussion of the CPI-U-X1 and CPI-U, see appendix B.

FIGURE 5.  
Aggregate Child Support  
Due and Received



benefits included in their award; 18.4 percent of never-married women received awards with health insurance benefits included, compared with 40.8 percent for ever-married women.

### Reasons for Non-award of Child Support

About 3.9 million women, or 41.0 percent of all women with children under 21 years of age from an absent father, were never awarded child support as of spring 1988. About one-half (55.7 percent) of women with family incomes below the poverty level were not awarded child support as of spring 1988. (See table H.)

Of the women not awarded child support, 13.9 percent either had final agreement pending or had made other financial agreements, 63.9 percent wanted child support but did not obtain it for various reasons, and 22.1 percent did not want any child support. (See figure 6.) Women with family incomes below the poverty level

Table F. Mean Child Support Payments to Women Due Child Support in 1985, by Type of Arrangement

(Numbers in thousands. Women with own children under 21 years of age present from absent fathers as of spring 1988)

Type of arrangement	Number	Per- cent distrib- ution	Mean child support income received <sup>1</sup>	Mean child support income due
All payments <sup>2</sup> .....	4,829	100.0	\$2,063	\$3,017
Court ordered.....	3,072	63.6	1,685	2,831
Voluntary.....	1,536	31.8	2,895	3,463

<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.

who were not awarded child support were more likely to have wanted child support than their nonpoor counterparts: 71.5 percent of poor women wanted payments, compared with 57.6 percent of nonpoor women.

### Use of Government Assistance In Obtaining Child Support

Of the 9.4 million women with children from an absent father as of spring 1988, 2.6 million (27.9 percent) had, at some time, contacted a government agency for assistance in obtaining child support. The 2.6 million women who sought aid made 3.5 million contacts with government agencies; in some cases more than one type of assistance was requested. For the 3.5 million contacts, aid was sought in finding the father, establishing paternity, or support obligation in 29.7 percent of the contacts; a similar percent of contacts sought assistance in enforcing the support order or obtaining collection. In 31.5 percent of the contacts, no assistance was received from the agency.<sup>4</sup> (See table I.)

### AWARD OF ALIMONY PAYMENTS

Of the 19.3 million ever-divorced or currently separated women as of spring 1988, 16.8 percent were awarded alimony payments. (See table J.) The alimony award rate in 1988 was 2.2 percent higher than the 14.6 percent award rate in 1986.

The award rate for Whites (18.3 percent) was about twice that of Blacks (7.6 percent). The award rate for women of Hispanic origin was 11.6 percent.<sup>5</sup> (See table K.)

The award rate for women over 40 (21.6 percent) was twice that of women under 40 (10.8 percent). Of the women awarded alimony payments as of spring 1988, 91.1 percent were White, 71.4 percent were women over 40 years of age, and 71.8 percent were women with no children present.<sup>6</sup>

### AWARD OF PROPERTY SETTLEMENTS

Of the 16.5 million ever-divorced women as of spring 1988, 5.3 million (31.8 percent) received a property settlement. This was a decrease from 35.6 percent of women as of spring 1986. (See table L.)

<sup>4</sup>The latter two percentages were not statistically significant from one another.

<sup>5</sup>The percentage differences between Blacks and those of Hispanic origin were not statistically significant.

<sup>6</sup>The percentage differences between Blacks and those of Hispanic origin were not statistically significant.

**Table G. Child Support Award Status and Health Insurance Inclusion, by Selected Characteristics for All Women and Women With Incomes Below the Poverty Level in 1987**

(Numbers in thousands. Women with own children under 21 years of age present from absent fathers as of spring 1988)

Characteristic	Total	Awarded child support payments		
		Total	Health insurance currently included in award	
			Number	Percent of total awarded
<b>ALL WOMEN</b>				
Total .....	9,415	5,554	2,160	38.9
Current marital status: <sup>1</sup>				
Married <sup>2</sup> .....	2,386	1,957	759	38.8
Divorced .....	2,958	2,284	974	42.6
Separated .....	1,381	757	323	42.7
Never married .....	2,625	517	95	18.4
Race and Hispanic origin:				
White .....	6,467	4,448	1,912	43.0
Black .....	2,686	956	197	20.6
Hispanic <sup>3</sup> .....	937	397	185	46.6
Age:				
18 to 29 years .....	3,169	1,346	475	35.3
30 to 39 years .....	3,924	2,631	1,087	41.3
40 years and over .....	2,321	1,577	598	37.9
Years of school completed:				
Less than 12 years .....	2,349	1,007	320	31.8
High school: 4 years .....	4,486	2,665	1,002	37.6
College: 1 to 3 years .....	1,739	1,235	581	47.0
4 years or more .....	842	648	258	39.8
Number of own children present from an absent father:				
One child .....	5,111	2,896	1,119	38.6
Two children .....	3,026	1,979	793	40.1
Three children .....	862	487	186	38.2
Four children or more .....	416	193	62	32.1
<b>WOMEN WITH INCOMES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IN 1987</b>				
Total .....	3,191	1,413	450	31.8
Current marital status: <sup>1</sup>				
Married <sup>2</sup> .....	167	131	26	19.8
Divorced .....	791	587	233	39.7
Separated .....	710	361	145	40.2
Never married .....	1,498	319	42	13.2
Race and Hispanic origin				
White .....	1,659	879	347	39.5
Black .....	1,431	490	96	19.6
Hispanic <sup>3</sup> .....	473	180	74	41.1
Age				
18 to 29 years .....	1,562	553	168	30.4
30 to 39 years .....	1,201	622	199	32.0
40 years and over .....	427	238	83	34.9
Years of school completed:				
Less than 12 years .....	1,403	519	124	23.9
High school: 4 years .....	1,373	651	207	31.8
College: 1 to 3 years .....	353	201	110	54.7
4 years or more .....	62	42	9	21.4
Number of own children present from an absent father:				
One child .....	1,423	604	215	35.6
Two children .....	1,034	480	140	29.2
Three children .....	449	207	51	24.6
Four children or more .....	285	121	43	35.5

<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 Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**Table H. Reason for Non-Award of Child Support, for All Women and Women With Incomes Below the Poverty Level in 1987 Who Were Not Awarded Child Support**

(Numbers in thousands. Women with own children under 21 years of age present from absent fathers as of spring 1988)

Characteristic	Total	Reasons for non-award						
		Final agreement pending	Other settlement or father lives in household	Did not want award	Wanted award but unable to obtain because—			
					Father unable to pay	Unable to locate father	Did not pursue award	Other reasons <sup>1</sup>
<b>ALL WOMEN</b>								
Total .....	3,861	190	348	853	658	653	591	568
Percent .....	100.0	4.9	9.0	22.1	17.0	16.9	15.3	14.7
<b>WOMEN WITH INCOMES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IN 1987</b>								
Total .....	1,778	84	158	266	330	385	269	286
Percent .....	100.0	4.7	8.9	15.0	18.6	21.7	15.1	16.1

<sup>1</sup>Includes instances where paternity could not be established as well as all other reasons for non-award.

The property settlement receipt rate was 34.2 percent for Whites, 13.7 percent for Blacks, and 22.3 percent for Hispanics<sup>7</sup>. The receipt rate for women 18 to 29 years of age was 22.9 percent, lower than the receipt rate for those over 30 (33.1 percent).

Of women receiving a property settlement, 26.5 percent received a "one-time" cash payment as the only settlement; the balance of the settlements included some form of property settlement, with or without the inclusion of cash. Real estate, cars, and/or household furnishings were the most often received form of property settlements. (See table M.)

Of women awarded a property settlement, 28.8 percent also received some form of support payment in

<sup>7</sup>The latter two percentages were not statistically significant from one another.

1987. Of ever-divorced women without a property settlement, 18.7 percent received support payments in 1987. (See table 5.)

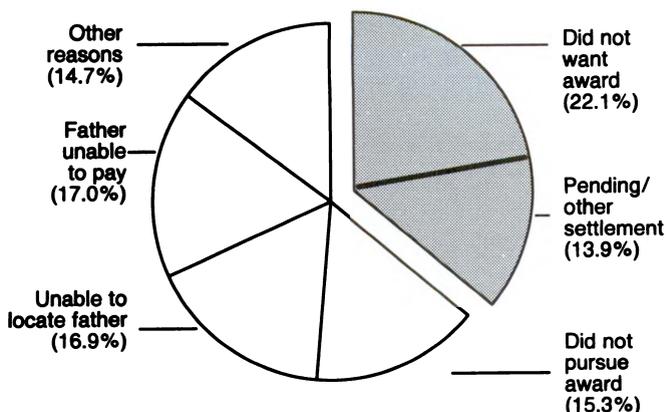
The average total money income of women with property settlements (\$16,629) was higher than those without settlements (\$13,536).

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY

The data on child support and alimony were collected in a special supplement to the April 1988 Current Population Survey (CPS). All women 18 years of age and older, and women between the ages of 14 and 17 with own or adopted children, were within the universe for the supplemental questions.<sup>8</sup> The presence of own

<sup>8</sup>Women between the ages of 14 and 17 were excluded from this report to ensure comparability between this report and earlier Census Bureau child support and alimony reports.

**FIGURE 6.**  
**Women Not Awarded Child Support**  
(As of spring 1988)



Base: 3.9 million women not awarded child support payments.

**Table I. Women Contacting Government Agencies for Aid in Obtaining Child Support**

(Numbers in thousands. Women with own children under 21 years of age present from absent fathers as of spring 1988)

Characteristic	Number	Percent
Women requesting aid .....	2,629	(X)
Type of aid requested:		
Total contacts <sup>1</sup> .....	3,487	100.0
Locate the father .....	397	11.4
Establish paternity .....	186	5.3
Establish support obligation .....	455	13.0
Enforce support order .....	595	17.1
Obtain collection .....	468	13.4
No help provided .....	1,097	31.5
Other types .....	289	8.3

<sup>1</sup>The number of contacts is greater than the total number of women requesting aid since women may request more than one type of assistance.

**Table J. Award Status of Women—Alimony Payments**

(Numbers in thousands. Ever-divorced and currently separated women as of spring 1988, 1986, 1984, 1982, and 1979)

Award and reciprocity status	Number					Percent distribution				
	1987	1985	1983	1981	1978	1987	1985	1983	1981	1978
Total.....	19,271	19,156	17,392	16,996	14,334	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Awarded.....	3,243	2,803	2,416	2,534	2,052	16.8	14.6	13.9	14.9	14.3
Supposed to receive payments.....	1,186	840	791	782	760	6.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	5.3
Not supposed to receive payments....	2,057	1,963	1,625	1,752	1,292	10.7	10.2	9.3	10.3	9.0
Not awarded <sup>1</sup> .....	16,028	16,354	14,976	14,462	12,282	83.2	85.4	86.1	85.1	85.7

<sup>1</sup>Award status as of spring 1988, 1986, 1984, 1982, or 1979.**CHANGES IN THE APRIL 1988 CPS SURVEY**

In response to user needs and to improve the quality of reporting and useability of the data, several modifications, additions, and deletions were made to the questions from the previous survey. (See Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 154, appendix C.)

**Questionnaire additions.** Three new questions were added to the survey concerning the absent father of the children from the most recent divorce or separation. The first was to establish the residence of the father. The second was to ascertain the father's custody and visitation rights. The third was to determine the number of days in 1987 that the father either had custody of or visited his child(ren).

Three questions on child support awards were added: 1) year of original child support award, 2) changes in the award amount, and 3) year of most recent award change. In addition, questions were added to establish reasons why women who were awarded child support were not supposed to receive payments in 1987, and to determine if the child(ren)'s father actually provided health care benefits in 1987. A follow-up question was added to determine what year a government agency had been contacted for the purpose of obtaining child support.

**Questionnaire modifications.** The question concerning the inclusion of health care benefits in child support awards was changed from, asking if the benefits were included in the original support agreement to, were the benefits included in the current support agreement.

**Questionnaire deletions.** Due to space constraints and new data requirements, five questions were deleted from the survey: 1) receipt of AFDC payments, 2) amount of child support received as a result of seeking aid from a government agency, 3) frequency of receipt of alimony payments, 4) amount of alimony due, and 5) amount of alimony actually received.

**REVISIONS TO THE APRIL CPS PROCESSING SYSTEM**

During 1988, a new computer processing system was introduced for the March and April Current Population

Surveys. The primary reasons for rewriting the processing system were the phasing out of the computer language which was used on the original supplement in 1979, and the institution of new survey processing standards by the Census Bureau. The processing system for the April and March CPS used prior to 1988 was amended for changes in the questionnaire but never fully revised and documented. For a discussion of the impact of the processing system revisions on the March CPS, see Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Series P-60, No. 166, *Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1988*.

Some of the important processing revisions are summarized below:

**Table K. Alimony Payments Awarded in 1987—Ever-Divorced and Currently Separated Women, by Selected Characteristics**

(Numbers in thousands. Women as of spring 1988)

Characteristic	Number awarded alimony payments		Percent awarded alimony payments
	Total		
All women.....	19,271	3,243	16.8
Current marital status: <sup>1</sup>			
Divorced.....	8,110	1,373	16.9
Married <sup>2</sup> .....	7,321	1,421	19.4
Separated.....	2,727	269	9.9
Race and Hispanic origin:			
White.....	16,119	2,954	18.3
Black.....	2,698	205	7.6
Hispanic <sup>3</sup> .....	1,299	151	11.6
Age:			
18 to 29 years.....	2,748	302	11.0
30 to 39 years.....	5,821	624	10.7
40 years and over.....	10,703	2,317	21.6
Years of school completed:			
Less than 12 years.....	4,714	672	14.3
High school: 4 years.....	8,473	1,414	16.7
College: 1 to 3 years.....	3,724	693	18.6
4 years or more.....	2,362	464	19.6
Number of own children present from an absent father:			
No children.....	12,481	2,328	18.7
One or more children.....	6,790	915	13.5

<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 Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Table L. **Receipt of Property Settlement for Ever-Divorced Women, by Selected Characteristics**

(Numbers in thousands. Women as of spring 1988, 1986, 1984, 1982, and 1979)

Characteristic	Total					Property settlement reached									
	1988	1986	1984	1982	1979	Number					Percent receiving				
						1988	1986	1984	1982	1979	1988	1986	1984	1982	1979
All women.....	16,545	16,547	14,761	14,209	12,025	5,259	5,883	5,492	5,939	5,350	31.8	35.6	37.2	41.8	44.5
Current marital status:															
Divorced.....	8,110	8,000	7,404	6,749	5,311	2,798	3,131	2,998	2,839	2,675	34.5	39.1	40.5	42.1	50.4
Married <sup>1</sup> .....	7,322	7,361	6,366	6,453	5,758	2,208	2,468	2,243	2,697	2,447	30.2	33.5	35.2	41.8	42.5
Widowed <sup>2</sup> .....	1,113	1,186	991	1,007	955	253	285	251	403	227	22.7	24.0	25.3	40.0	23.8
Race and Hispanic origin:															
White.....	14,399	14,408	12,833	12,487	10,568	4,918	5,330	4,995	5,359	4,933	34.2	37.0	38.9	42.9	46.7
Black.....	1,782	1,832	1,669	1,521	1,307	244	459	436	508	355	13.7	25.1	26.1	33.4	27.2
Hispanic <sup>3</sup> .....	907	866	774	643	548	202	247	215	208	160	22.3	28.5	27.8	32.3	29.2
Age:															
18 to 29 years.....	2,071	2,046	2,249	2,302	2,067	475	511	645	532	902	22.9	25.0	28.7	23.1	43.6
30 to 39 years.....	4,970	4,950	4,373	4,180	3,273	1,620	1,844	1,766	2,043	1,686	32.6	37.3	40.4	48.9	51.5
40 years and over.....	9,504	9,550	8,139	7,727	6,684	3,164	3,528	3,081	3,365	2,762	33.3	36.9	37.9	43.5	41.3
Years of school completed:															
Less than 12 years.....	3,727	4,146	3,853	4,018	3,999	798	1,171	1,049	1,416	1,293	21.4	28.2	27.2	35.2	32.3
High school: 4 years.....	7,366	7,354	6,653	6,297	5,114	2,231	2,619	2,576	2,674	2,518	30.3	35.6	38.7	42.5	49.2
College: 1 to 3 years.....	3,342	3,091	2,533	2,432	1,849	1,246	1,182	1,030	1,087	919	37.3	38.2	40.7	44.7	49.7
4 years or more.....	2,110	1,955	1,721	1,463	1,062	983	911	837	763	619	46.6	46.6	48.6	52.2	58.3
Number of own Children present from an absent father:															
No children.....	11,136	11,110	9,375	9,083	7,562	3,409	3,913	3,302	3,824	2,964	30.6	35.2	35.2	42.1	39.2
One or more children.....	5,409	5,436	5,385	5,127	4,462	1,850	1,970	2,190	2,116	2,386	34.2	36.2	40.7	41.3	53.5

<sup>1</sup>Remarried women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.<sup>2</sup>Widowed women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.<sup>3</sup>Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

- Under the new processing system, the procedure for allocation of missing responses was changed. Under the old processing system, a statistical match was used to allocate all responses for nonmatch and noninterview cases simultaneously. The new system uses a series of "hot decks" for the imputation of all missing responses.
- A standardized matching routine was used to link the March and April CPS data files. This change reduced the number of mismatched records between the two months.
- Under the old processing system, child support and alimony payments reported in April were compared with those reported in March. If either of the amounts reported in April were greater than those reported in March, the April amount was substituted, and the total income and poverty status determinations were recomputed. This practice has been discontinued. Total income and poverty status are now based solely on the March income supplement.

Processing of the 1988 April CPS supplement using both systems was not feasible. Therefore, caution should be exercised in making comparisons with prior years.

## USER COMMENTS

We are interested in your reaction to the usefulness of the information presented here and to the content of the survey questionnaire. (See the facsimile in the appendix.) We welcome the opportunity to improve our survey work, so please send your suggestions or comments to:

Gordon H. Lester  
Income Statistics Branch  
Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division  
U.S. Bureau of the Census  
Washington, DC 20233  
(301) 763-8576

**Table M. Receipt and Type of Property Settlement for Ever-Divorced Women, by Selected Characteristics**

(Numbers in thousands. Women as of spring 1988)

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 <sup>1</sup> and other types <sup>2</sup>
All women .....	16,545	11,286	5,259	26.5	69.7	3.9
<b>Current marital status:</b>						
Divorced .....	8,110	5,312	2,798	22.5	72.6	4.9
Married <sup>3</sup> .....	7,322	5,114	2,208	31.8	65.4	2.8
Widowed <sup>4</sup> .....	1,113	860	253	23.7	74.3	2.0
<b>Race and Hispanic origin:</b>						
White .....	14,999	9,481	4,918	26.9	69.0	4.0
Black .....	1,782	1,538	244	15.6	84.0	0.4
Hispanic <sup>5</sup> .....	907	704	202	16.8	73.3	9.9
<b>Age:</b>						
18 to 29 years .....	2,071	1,596	475	26.3	71.6	1.9
30 to 39 years .....	4,970	3,349	1,620	31.1	63.2	5.7
40 years and over .....	9,504	6,340	3,164	24.1	72.7	3.2
<b>Years of school completed:</b>						
Less than 12 years .....	3,727	2,929	798	21.3	77.3	1.4
High school: 4 years .....	7,366	5,135	2,231	26.4	69.6	4.0
College: 1 to 3 years .....	3,342	2,096	1,246	28.9	66.9	4.3
4 years or more .....	2,110	1,127	983	27.8	67.2	5.1
<b>Number of own children present from an absent father:</b>						
No children .....	11,136	7,727	3,409	27.1	68.8	4.1
One or more children .....	5,409	3,559	1,850	25.4	71.2	3.4

<sup>1</sup>A one time cash settlement.<sup>2</sup>Other property (e.g., house, other real estate, cars, or furnishing).<sup>3</sup>Remarried women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.<sup>4</sup>Widowed women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.<sup>5</sup>Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.



**Table 2. Receipt of Child Support Payments in 1987—Women With Children Present, by Type of Arrangement**

(Women with own children under 21 years of age present from absent fathers as of spring 1988. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Characteristic	Total due payments		Amount of payments due in 1987							
	Number	Standard error	\$1 to \$499	\$500 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 to \$1,999	\$2,000 to \$2,499	\$3,000 to \$4,999	\$5,000 to \$6,999	\$7,000 and over
<b>ALL PAYMENTS<sup>1</sup></b>										
Total payments received in 1987 (thous.) . . . . .	4,829	180	155	512	700	674	1,052	1,129	347	261
0.0 percent . . . . .	1,153	90	47	151	221	208	258	208	33	26
0.1 to 24.9 percent . . . . .	300	46	14	39	44	36	75	55	15	22
25.0 to 49.9 percent . . . . .	283	45	15	32	45	33	73	61	16	9
50.0 to 74.9 percent . . . . .	317	47	7	39	52	39	46	90	28	18
75.0 to 99.9 percent . . . . .	301	46	2	22	32	53	58	88	29	17
100.0 percent and over . . . . .	2,475	131	69	230	306	304	542	627	225	171
Mean income from child support <sup>2</sup> (dols.) . . . . .	2,063	(X)	152	393	672	998	1,487	2,607	4,564	9,593
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	80	(X)	23	26	38	55	60	87	193	932
Mean total money income (dols.) . . . . .	13,659	(X)	8,416	8,921	11,774	12,412	13,861	14,754	17,933	23,116
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	329	(X)	1,303	643	725	826	885	603	1,479	2,395
Number below poverty level (thous.) . . . . .	1,231	(X)	75	262	188	167	232	241	45	21
Standard error . . . . .	136	(X)	34	63	53	50	59	61	(B)	(B)
If full amount of payments were received in 1987:										
Mean income from child support <sup>2</sup> (dols.) . . . . .	3,017	(X)	301	691	1,201	1,738	2,383	3,764	5,724	13,088
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	90	(X)	18	11	7	10	14	31	47	987
Mean total money income (dols.) . . . . .	14,613	(X)	8,565	9,220	12,303	13,152	14,757	15,911	19,093	26,610
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	333	(X)	1,305	644	723	823	686	595	1,471	2,449
Number below poverty level (thous.) . . . . .	1,109	(X)	74	255	168	155	208	208	36	6
Standard error . . . . .	129	(X)	(B)	62	50	49	56	56	(B)	(B)
<b>COURT-ORDERED PAYMENTS</b>										
Total payments received in 1987 (thous.) . . . . .	3,072	145	117	333	454	485	667	701	188	127
0.0 percent . . . . .	913	80	35	123	169	167	213	160	29	18
0.1 to 24.9 percent . . . . .	213	39	9	28	22	35	52	35	12	19
25.0 to 49.9 percent . . . . .	194	37	15	16	35	28	45	41	10	4
50.0 to 74.9 percent . . . . .	224	40	7	33	40	26	32	56	23	8
75.0 to 99.9 percent . . . . .	193	37	2	11	14	36	31	71	14	14
100.0 percent and over . . . . .	1,335	97	50	123	172	192	295	338	101	65
Mean income from child support <sup>2</sup> (dols.) . . . . .	1,685	(X)	152	333	608	914	1,322	2,403	3,995	7,956
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	84	(X)	26	31	48	66	79	113	295	1,261
Mean total money income (dols.) . . . . .	12,853	(X)	8,819	7,908	11,128	12,335	13,691	14,556	16,408	18,619
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	367	(X)	1,622	634	910	962	815	755	1,589	2,150
Number below poverty level (thous.) . . . . .	849	(X)	66	172	129	125	145	163	33	17
Standard error . . . . .	113	(X)	(B)	51	44	44	47	50	(B)	(B)
If full amount of payments were received in 1987:										
Mean income from child support <sup>2</sup> (dols.) . . . . .	2,831	(X)	302	684	1,201	1,747	2,397	3,743	5,720	13,713
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	108	(X)	20	13	9	11	17	39	61	1,540
Mean total money income (dols.) . . . . .	13,998	(X)	8,970	8,259	11,721	13,168	14,766	15,895	18,132	24,376
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	377	(X)	1,623	638	908	957	821	746	1,589	2,388
Number below poverty level (thous.) . . . . .	754	(X)	64	166	112	116	130	139	24	3
Standard error . . . . .	107	(X)	(B)	50	41	42	45	46	(B)	(B)
<b>VOLUNTARY WRITTEN AGREEMENT</b>										
Total payments received in 1987 (thous.) . . . . .	1,536	103	27	145	197	161	344	392	144	124
0.0 percent . . . . .	195	37	6	18	48	35	36	39	5	9
0.1 to 24.9 percent . . . . .	74	(B)	3	11	15	-	23	20	3	0
25.0 to 49.9 percent . . . . .	48	(B)	-	7	4	5	17	10	-	5
50.0 to 74.9 percent . . . . .	83	24	-	3	10	13	14	29	5	8
75.0 to 99.9 percent . . . . .	93	26	-	11	8	15	27	15	15	2
100.0 percent and over . . . . .	1,043	85	18	94	112	93	228	279	117	100
Mean income from child support <sup>2</sup> (dols.) . . . . .	2,895	(X)	(B)	549	785	1,205	1,826	3,037	5,295	11,527
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	181	(X)	(B)	47	69	100	88	131	195	1,405
Mean total money income (dols.) . . . . .	15,690	(X)	(B)	11,268	13,982	12,526	14,423	15,555	20,382	27,944
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	695	(X)	(B)	1,533	1,329	1,835	1,306	1,053	2,813	4,408
Number below poverty level (thous.) . . . . .	304	(X)	8	66	38	36	79	61	12	3
Standard error . . . . .	68	(X)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	35	(B)	(B)	(B)
If full amount of payments were received in 1987:										
Mean income from child support <sup>2</sup> (dols.) . . . . .	3,483	(X)	(B)	728	1,209	1,712	2,361	3,795	5,688	12,674
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	176	(X)	(B)	21	14	21	24	53	74	1,265
Mean total money income (dols.) . . . . .	16,259	(X)	(B)	11,447	14,406	13,035	14,958	16,313	20,775	29,092
Standard error (dols.) . . . . .	699	(X)	(B)	1,532	1,322	1,840	1,300	1,046	2,795	4,496
Number below poverty level (thous.) . . . . .	283	(X)	8	65	36	32	73	53	12	3
Standard error . . . . .	66	(X)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)

<sup>1</sup>Includes a small number of women whose arrangement type was 'other' not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Mean amount based on all women due payments, whether or not payments were received.

**Table 3. Child Support Award Status and Reason for Non-Award, by Selected Characteristics for All Women and Women With Incomes Below the Poverty Level in 1987**

(Numbers in thousands. Women with own children under 21 years of age present from absent fathers as of spring 1986)

Characteristic	Not awarded child support payments									
	Total	Total	Reason for non-award (percent)						Other reasons <sup>1</sup>	
			Final agreement pending	Other settlements or father lives in household	Did not want award	Wanted award but unable to obtain because—				
						Father unable to pay	Unable to locate father	Did not pursue award		
<b>ALL WOMEN</b>										
Total .....	9,415	3,861	4.9	9.0	22.1	17.0	16.9	15.3	14.7	
<b>Current marital status:<sup>2</sup></b>										
Married <sup>3</sup> .....	2,386	429	1.4	8.6	35.7	11.7	14.5	14.2	14.0	
Divorced .....	2,958	674	2.4	8.6	26.0	18.7	11.7	16.0	16.6	
Separated .....	1,381	624	10.7	7.1	14.9	22.3	14.7	14.1	16.2	
Never married .....	2,625	2,108	4.8	9.8	20.2	16.1	20.0	15.7	13.4	
<b>Race and Hispanic origin:</b>										
White .....	6,467	2,020	6.5	10.1	25.6	15.9	14.2	12.6	15.0	
Black .....	2,686	1,730	3.1	7.8	17.5	19.0	19.6	18.8	14.2	
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	937	540	6.7	7.0	16.7	23.7	19.8	12.4	11.7	
<b>Age:</b>										
18 to 29 years .....	3,169	1,823	7.0	6.6	20.4	17.6	16.7	14.4	13.3	
30 to 39 years .....	3,924	1,294	3.6	9.9	20.5	16.7	17.0	15.6	14.8	
40 years and over .....	2,321	744	2.2	8.5	29.2	12.9	12.4	16.9	18.0	
<b>Years of school completed:</b>										
Less than 12 years .....	2,349	1,342	4.8	7.9	15.1	21.5	20.6	15.1	14.9	
High school: 4 years .....	4,486	1,822	4.0	10.0	23.2	13.6	17.5	17.0	14.7	
College: 1 to 3 years .....	1,739	504	9.1	6.0	31.3	20.4	9.7	10.1	13.3	
4 years or more .....	842	193	3.1	14.5	35.8	9.3	4.7	14.5	18.1	
<b>Number of own children present from an absent father:</b>										
One child .....	5,111	2,215	5.3	8.7	25.3	13.6	15.8	15.2	16.0	
Two children .....	3,026	1,047	3.9	12.9	19.2	21.7	16.5	13.2	12.6	
Three children .....	882	375	7.5	3.2	14.9	20.3	24.3	19.2	10.7	
Four children or more .....	416	224	1.8	3.6	16.5	23.7	17.4	19.2	17.9	
<b>WOMEN WITH INCOMES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IN 1987</b>										
Total .....	3,191	1,778	4.7	8.9	15.0	16.6	21.7	15.1	16.1	
<b>Current marital status:<sup>2</sup></b>										
Married <sup>3</sup> .....	167	37	5.4	-	16.2	16.2	40.5	8.1	13.5	
Divorced .....	791	204	1.5	5.4	18.6	17.2	14.7	18.1	24.5	
Separated .....	710	349	7.7	8.9	13.5	21.8	19.2	15.5	13.5	
Never married .....	1,498	1,179	4.4	9.8	14.8	17.7	23.2	14.8	15.1	
<b>Race and Hispanic origin:</b>										
White .....	1,659	780	7.1	9.0	16.9	16.4	21.3	12.2	17.2	
Black .....	1,431	941	2.9	8.7	12.9	20.8	21.5	18.0	15.3	
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	473	293	5.5	4.4	12.3	23.5	28.0	10.9	15.4	
<b>Age:</b>										
18 to 29 years .....	1,562	1,009	6.9	8.9	14.3	19.9	21.1	13.7	15.2	
30 to 39 years .....	1,201	580	2.2	8.8	14.7	17.8	23.1	19.0	14.5	
40 years and over .....	427	189	-	7.9	19.0	13.8	20.1	11.1	28.0	
<b>Years of school completed:</b>										
Less than 12 years .....	1,403	884	5.1	10.1	12.2	20.9	23.1	12.0	16.6	
High school: 4 years .....	1,373	721	2.9	7.5	16.5	16.2	21.5	19.8	15.5	
College: 1 to 3 years .....	353	152	11.8	4.6	25.7	15.8	17.8	9.9	14.5	
4 years or more .....	62	19	-	31.6	-	15.8	-	26.3	26.3	
<b>Number of own children present from an absent father:</b>										
One child .....	1,423	818	5.4	9.0	18.1	15.9	19.4	14.4	17.7	
Two children .....	1,034	555	2.0	13.0	13.3	21.1	23.2	14.4	13.0	
Three children .....	449	242	10.7	1.2	10.7	20.2	27.3	14.9	14.9	
Four children or more .....	285	163	1.8	4.9	10.4	21.5	19.0	21.5	20.9	

<sup>1</sup>Includes instances where paternity could not be established as well as all other reasons for non-award.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes a small number of currently widowed women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.

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

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

**Table 4. Alimony Or Maintenance Payments Agreed to or Awarded, by Characteristics of All Women and Women With Incomes Below the Poverty Level in 1987**

(Numbers in thousands. Ever-divorced or currently separated women as of spring 1988. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Characteristic	Total	Agreed to or awarded payments	Supposed to receive payments	Not awarded payments
<b>ALL WOMEN</b>				
Total .....	19,271	3,243	1,186	16,028
Standard error .....	328	149	91	306
<b>Current marital status:</b>				
Married <sup>2</sup> .....	7,321	1,421	430	5,900
Widowed <sup>3</sup> .....	1,113	180	17	933
Divorced .....	8,110	1,373	591	6,737
Separated .....	2,727	269	148	2,458
<b>Race and Hispanic origin:</b>				
White .....	16,119	2,954	1,053	13,165
Black .....	2,698	205	96	2,493
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	1,299	151	55	1,148
<b>Age:</b>				
18 to 29 years .....	2,748	302	181	2,448
30 to 39 years .....	5,821	624	333	5,197
40 years and over .....	10,703	2,317	671	8,386
<b>Years of school completed:</b>				
Less than 12 years .....	4,714	672	220	4,042
High school: 4 years .....	8,473	1,414	457	7,059
College: 1 to 3 years .....	3,724	693	321	3,031
4 years or more .....	2,362	464	187	1,898
<b>Presence of own children from an absent father:</b>				
No children present .....	12,481	2,328	722	10,153
One child or more present .....	6,790	915	464	5,875
<b>Year of divorce or separation:</b>				
1980 and later .....	9,390	1,307	705	8,083
1975 to 1979 .....	3,456	515	207	2,941
1970 to 1974 .....	2,169	424	91	1,745
Before 1970 .....	4,256	996	183	3,260
<b>Work experience in 1985:</b>				
Worked .....	13,350	2,215	880	11,135
Worked at full-time jobs .....	10,682	1,682	674	9,000
50 to 52 weeks .....	8,100	1,268	505	6,832
Worked at part-time jobs .....	2,667	532	206	2,135
Did not work .....	5,921	1,028	306	4,893
<b>WOMEN WITH INCOMES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IN 1985</b>				
Total .....	3,682	505	204	3,177
Standard error .....	303	87	56	216
<b>Current marital status:</b>				
Married <sup>2</sup> .....	470	104	35	366
Widowed <sup>3</sup> .....	239	26	2	213
Divorced .....	1,786	270	117	1,516
Separated .....	1,187	105	50	1,082
<b>Race and Hispanic origin:</b>				
White .....	2,576	438	177	2,138
Black .....	992	49	21	943
Hispanic <sup>4</sup> .....	469	55	22	414
<b>Age:</b>				
18 to 29 years .....	842	101	63	741
30 to 39 years .....	1,110	102	50	1,008
40 years and over .....	1,730	302	91	1,428
<b>Presence of own children from an absent father:</b>				
No children present .....	1,990	337	102	1,653
One child or more present .....	1,692	168	102	1,524

<sup>1</sup>Includes women who were not supposed to receive payments in 1987.

<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 Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Table 5. Property Settlements Following Divorce—Ever-Divorced Women, by Selected Characteristics

(Numbers in thousands. Women as of spring 1988. 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 only <sup>2</sup>	Other types only <sup>2</sup>	Cash <sup>2</sup> and other types <sup>3</sup>
Total.....	16,545	11,286	1,515	476	125	5,259	1,078	302	135	1,392	3,664	203
Standard error.....	310	265	103	58	30	187	87	46	31	99	158	38
Current marital status:												
Divorced.....	8,110	5,312	819	227	57	2,798	648	201	105	629	2,031	138
Married <sup>4</sup> .....	7,322	5,114	682	241	66	2,208	430	93	30	702	1,445	61
Widowed <sup>5</sup> .....	1,113	880	14	7	2	253	2	7	-	60	188	5
Race and Hispanic origin:												
White.....	14,399	9,481	1,331	412	114	4,918	1,001	286	121	1,325	3,395	198
Black.....	1,782	1,538	143	54	8	244	48	11	2	38	205	1
Hispanic <sup>6</sup> .....	907	704	115	33	9	202	46	4	2	34	148	20
Age:												
18 to 29 years.....	2,071	1,596	351	94	18	475	138	19	11	125	340	9
30 to 39 years.....	4,970	3,349	802	102	57	1,620	576	69	50	504	1,024	92
40 years and over.....	9,504	6,340	363	280	51	3,164	364	214	74	763	2,299	102
Years of school completed:												
Less than 12 years.....	3,727	2,929	247	116	29	798	82	40	11	170	617	11
High school: 4 years.....	7,366	5,135	726	197	42	2,231	494	123	42	589	1,552	90
College: 1 to 3 years.....	3,342	2,096	396	107	26	1,246	292	91	45	360	833	53
4 years or more.....	2,110	1,127	146	55	27	963	210	47	37	273	661	50
Presence of own children from an absent father:												
No children present.....	11,136	7,727	-	400	-	3,409	-	254	-	923	2,346	140
One child or more present.....	5,409	3,559	1,515	75	125	1,850	1,078	47	135	469	1,317	63
Year of divorce:												
1980 and later.....	7,541	4,904	999	221	91	2,637	764	161	106	739	1,790	107
1975 to 1979.....	3,078	2,047	342	104	26	1,030	244	56	14	307	672	51
1970 to 1974.....	1,957	1,302	111	46	6	655	66	24	8	138	494	24
Before 1970.....	3,969	3,033	63	105	2	937	5	62	7	206	707	22
Income in 1987:..												
Without income.....	771	618	50	32	1	155	25	11	2	51	99	5
With income.....	15,773	10,670	1,465	444	124	5,103	1,053	291	133	1,341	3,564	198
\$1 to \$999 or less.....	997	701	70	25	12	296	29	24	4	95	194	8
\$1,000 to \$1,999.....	505	392	60	10	12	113	25	-	4	40	66	7
\$2,000 to \$3,999.....	1,328	1,005	135	46	12	324	47	18	-	72	233	18
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	1,642	1,235	136	38	10	406	54	13	14	105	301	1
\$6,000 to \$7,999.....	1,362	956	77	28	7	407	75	33	4	98	294	15
\$8,000 to \$9,999.....	1,136	767	132	38	17	369	66	18	9	100	245	25
\$10,000 to \$11,999.....	1,118	777	98	28	4	341	49	16	12	98	237	6
\$12,000 to \$14,999.....	1,507	1,028	159	47	8	479	123	33	6	142	330	8
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	1,972	1,313	246	51	9	659	182	41	14	142	493	24
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	1,812	1,002	191	62	12	610	138	28	18	153	432	26
\$25,000 and over.....	2,593	1,493	164	70	20	1,100	265	66	48	299	740	61
Median income (dols.).....	11,638	10,716	12,502	12,459	8,961	13,855	16,609	14,045	19,726	13,365	13,933	17,451
Standard error (dols.).....	204	241	662	1,255	1,542	406	807	1,488	3,282	703	492	2,753
Mean income (dols.).....	14,537	13,536	13,876	14,709	12,602	16,629	18,223	17,253	20,913	16,813	16,271	21,837
Standard error (dols.).....	205	243	532	1,021	1,947	372	699	1,578	2,371	806	395	3,332

<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 (e.g., house, other real estate, cars, or furnishings).<sup>4</sup>Includes remarried women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.<sup>5</sup>Includes widowed women whose previous marriage ended in divorce.<sup>6</sup>Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

## Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

### DEFINITIONS RELATED TO CHILD SUPPORT, ALIMONY, AND PROPERTY SETTLEMENTS

**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 1988. 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 1987. For ever-married women, 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 1988. Information on recipiency status was obtained from those women who reported that they were awarded or had agreements to receive alimony payments in 1987. The data are limited to alimony awards 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 1988. For the purposes of this survey, a property settlement consists of a one-time cash settlement or other property (i.e., house, other real estate, car, or furniture) or a combination of both.

#### Reason for non-award of child support.

*Final agreement pending:* A child support agreement was awaiting final court, magisterial, or legal action before becoming final, and/or a voluntary written agreement was not yet final.

*Accepted property settlement in lieu of child support:* A one-time property settlement was accepted in lieu of regular child support payments.

*Joint custody granted:* Housing, care, and support of the child(ren) was shared by both the child(ren)'s mother and father and, therefore, no money or other support was exchanged by the parents.

*Did not want child support:* The mother indicated she did not want child support for her child(ren).

*Unable to locate father:* Child support was desired, but the child(ren)'s father could not be located.

*Unable to establish paternity:* Child support arrangements could not be made because the child(ren)'s paternity could not be established.

*Some other reason:* The mother wanted child support, and the reason for non-award did not fit any of the reasons listed above.

**Inclusion of health insurance in child support award.** This item refers to whether the child(ren)'s father had made health insurance arrangements for his child(ren) as part of the child support award. Arrangements for health insurance could have been made by his purchasing a separate policy for the child(ren) or including the child(ren) under the health insurance provided by the father's employer. In either event, the purchase of or inclusion of health insurance must be part of the child support agreement. Insurance taken out by the mother but paid for with monies for child support from the father is not included.

#### Type of child support arrangement.

*Voluntary written agreement:* Voluntary written agreements between the parties. This agreement may or may not have been recognized by the courts as part of the divorce or separation proceedings. This type of agreement was not ordered by the courts.

*Court ordered:* Payments ordered by a court. Court-ordered payments usually take place when a mutually acceptable agreement cannot be worked out between the parties.

*Other:* Arrangements not within either of the two cases above. This category includes informal verbal agreements.

#### Method of payment of child support.

*Directly from child's father:* The child(ren)'s father sent or brought the money directly to the household with no intermediaries or agencies involved.

*Through a court or public agency:* The father made the payments to an agency or court which then forwarded the payments to the mother.

*Some other method:* Another method other than the two above was established, such as through an intermediary other than a public agency or court.

## DEFINITIONS OF SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

**Age.** The age classification is based on the age of the woman at her last birthday.

**Race.** The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: White, Black, and "other races." The last category includes American Indians, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and any other race except White and Black.

**Hispanic origin.** Hispanics were identified by a question that asked for self-identification of their origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (and the origin of other household members) from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Persons of Hispanic origin, in particular, were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin. It should be noted that Hispanics can be of any race.

**Years of school completed.** Data on years of school completed were derived from the combination of answers to questions concerning the highest grade of school attended by the woman and whether or not that grade was finished. The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools. Such schools include graded public and private elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day schools or night schools. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a woman toward an elementary school certificate or a 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.

**Marital status.** The marital status classification refers to the status at the time of enumeration. Women classified as "married" or "widowed" consist of those who remarried after having been divorced. Women classified as separated are either legally separated or otherwise absent from their spouse because of marital discord. Women in common-law marriages are classified as married, and women who have never been married or whose only marriage was annulled are classified as never married.

**Year of divorce or separation.** The year of divorce or separation reflects the year of marital dissolution. For women who were divorced or separated more than once, it is the year of most recent divorce or separation. For divorces that require a formal (legal) separation, the year reflects that year the actual divorce took place.

**Children from an absent father.** Children from an absent father are a woman's sons and daughters (including adopted children) whose father was not living in the same household. The questionnaire was designed to count children from an absent father only when at least one such child in the household is under 21 years of age.

**Family.** A family is a group of two persons or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. Beginning with the 1980 CPS, unrelated subfamilies (referred to in the past as secondary families) are no longer included in the count of families, nor are the members of unrelated subfamilies included in the count of family members.

## DEFINITIONS OF MONEY INCOME AND POVERTY STATUS

**Income.** For each person in the sample 15 years old and over, questions were asked on the amount of money income received in the preceding calendar year for each of the following sources: (1) money wages or salary; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security or railroad retirement income; (5) Supplement Security income; (6) public assistance or welfare payments; (7) interest (on savings or other investments which pay interest); (8) dividends, income from estates or trusts, or net rental income; (9) veterans' payments or unemployment and workers' compensations; (10) private pensions or government employee pensions; (11) alimony or child support, regular contributions from persons not living in the household, and other periodic income.

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

Data on consumer income collected in the CPS by the Bureau of the Census cover money income received (exclusive of certain money receipts such as capital gains) before payments for personal income taxes, Social Security, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc. Therefore, money income does not reflect the fact that some families receive part of their income in the form of noncash benefits such as food stamps, health benefits, and subsidized housing; that some farm families receive

noncash benefits in the form of rent-free housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm; or that noncash benefits are also received by some nonfarm residents which often take the form of the use of business transportation and facilities, full or partial payments by business for retirement programs, medical and educational expenses, etc. These elements should be considered when comparing income levels. Moreover, readers should be aware that for many different reasons there is a tendency in household surveys for respondents to underreport their income. From an analysis of independently derived income estimates, it has been determined that income earned from wages or salaries is much better reported than other sources of income, and is nearly equal to independent estimates of aggregate income.

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

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

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

*Net income from farm self-employment* is net money income (gross receipts minus operating expenses) from the operation of a farm by a person on his own account, as an owner, renter, or sharecropper. Gross receipts include the value of all products sold, government farm programs, money received from the rental of farm equipment to others, and incidental receipts from the sale of wood, sand, gravel, etc. Operating expenses include cost of feed, fertilizer, seed, and other farming supplies, cash wages paid to farmhands, depreciation charges, cash rent, interest on farm mortgages, farm building repairs, farm taxes (not State and Federal personal income taxes), etc. The value of fuel, food, or other farm products used for family living is not included as part of net income. In general, inventory changes

were considered in determining net income only when they were accounted for in replies based on income tax returns or other official records which reflect inventory changes; otherwise inventory changes were not taken into account.

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

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

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

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

*Unemployment compensation, veterans' payments, or worker's compensation* include (1) unemployment compensation received from government unemployment insurance agencies or private companies during periods of unemployment and any strike benefits received from union funds; (2) money paid periodically by the Veterans Administration to disabled members of the Armed Forces or to survivors of deceased veterans, subsistence allowances paid to veterans for education and on-the-job training, as well as so-called "refunds" paid to ex-servicemen as GI insurance premiums, and (3) worker's compensation received periodically from public or private insurance companies for injuries incurred at work. The cost of this insurance must have been paid by the employer and not by the person.

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

*Annuities, child support, alimony, regular contributions from persons not living in the household, and other periodic income* include (1) periodic receipts from annuities or insurance; (2) child support and alimony; (3)

contributions received periodically from persons not living in the household; (4) other periodic income such as military family allotments, net gambling winnings, and other kinds of periodic income other than earnings.

*Government transfer payments* include Social Security or railroad retirement, public assistance or welfare payments, Supplemental Security Income, retirement and annuities, veterans' payments, and unemployment and worker's compensations.

**Receipts not counted as income.** Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: (1) money received from the sale of property, such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car (unless the person was engaged in the business of selling such property, in which case the net proceeds would be counted as income from self-employment); (2) withdrawals of bank deposits; (3) money borrowed; (4) tax refunds; (5) gifts; and (6) lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments.

All sources of income may be combined into two major types: *total money earnings*, the algebraic sum of money wages or salary and net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment, and *income other than earnings*, the algebraic sum of all sources of money income except wages and salaries and income from self-employment.

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

The income tables for families include in the lowest income group (under \$2,500) those who were classified as having no income in the income year and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income. Some of these were living on income "in-kind," savings, or gifts, or were newly constituted families, or families in which the sole earner had recently died or had left the household. However, other families who reported no income probably had some money income which was not recorded in the survey.

**Median income.** The median income is the amount which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median, and the other having incomes below the median. The medians for households and families are based on all households and families. The medians for persons are based on persons with income.

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

**Computation of constant dollar means.** The adjustment for price change was made by converting the mean incomes for women for the years 1978, 1981,

1983, and 1985 into 1987 dollars on the basis of the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Estimates are provided using both the CPI-U and CPI-U-X1 as price indexes.

The indexes used to make the constant dollar conversions are shown in table A-1. Both the CPI-U and CPI-U-X1 are indexes designed to measure changes in family purchasing power. While either is a good measure of the changes in prices paid by the average family represented in the index (urban consumers), it is not necessarily a good measure of the changes in prices faced by consumers of different characteristics and income levels. These limitations should be noted when comparing income figures adjusted to constant dollars using the CPI since the same indexes were used for all women and all income levels. For further discussion of the CPI-U and CPI-U-X1 and the impact of these indexes on income and poverty data, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 166, *Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1988*.

**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 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.

**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

Table A-1. **Annual Average Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) and (CPI-U-X1): 1977-87**

(1982-84 = 100.0)

Year	CPI-U	CPI-U-X1
1977.....	60.6	63.2
1978.....	65.2	67.5
1979.....	72.6	74.0
1980.....	82.4	82.3
1981.....	90.9	90.1
1982.....	96.5	95.6
1983.....	99.6	99.6
1984.....	103.9	103.9
1985.....	107.6	107.6
1986.....	109.6	109.6
1987.....	113.6	113.6

NA Not available.

Source: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 \$11,611 in 1987. Weighted average poverty thresholds by size of family are shown in table A-2. For further details, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 163.

#### Weighted average thresholds at the poverty level.

As shown in table A-2, the poverty cutoffs used by the Bureau of the Census to determine the poverty status of families and unrelated individuals consist of a set of 48 thresholds arranged in a two-dimensional matrix consisting of family size (from one person, i.e., unrelated individuals, to nine or more persons) cross-classified by presence and number of family members under 18 years old (from no children present to eight or more children present). Unrelated individuals and two-person families are further differentiated by the age of the individual or family householder (under 65 years and 65 years and over). The total family income of each family in the sample is tested against the appropriate dollar

threshold to determine the poverty status of that family. If the family's total income is less than its corresponding cutoff, the family is classified as below the poverty level. The average thresholds shown in table A-2 were weighted by the presence and number of children. For a given size of family, the weighted average threshold for that group is obtained by multiplying the threshold for each presence and number of children category within the given family size by the number of families in that category. These products are then aggregated across the entire range of presence and number of children categories, and the total aggregate is divided by the total number of families in the group to yield the weighted average threshold at the poverty level for that family. Because family composition does not remain constant from year to year, the weighted average thresholds for 1987 will not reflect, identically, the change in the CPI between 1987 and earlier years.

#### EXPLANATIONS OF TEXT AND TABLE CONVENTIONS

**Rounding.** Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent; therefore, the percentages in a distribution do not always add to exactly 100.0 percent. The totals, however, are always shown as 100.0. Moreover, 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.

**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, the symbol "X" means not applicable, the symbol "NA" means not available, and the symbol "r" means revised.

Table A-2. **Poverty Thresholds in 1987, by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years Old**

Size of family unit	Weighted average thresholds	Related children under 18 years								
		None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual).....	\$5,778									
15 to 64 years.....	5,909	\$5,909								
65 years and over.....	5,477	5,447								
Two persons.....	7,397									
Householder 15 to 64 years..	7,641	7,606	\$7,829							
Householder 65 years and over.....	6,872	6,865	7,799							
Three persons.....	9,056	8,885	9,142	\$9,151						
Four persons.....	11,611	11,715	11,907	11,519	\$11,559					
Five persons.....	13,737	14,128	14,334	13,895	13,555	\$13,348				
Six persons.....	15,509	16,250	16,314	15,978	15,656	15,177	\$14,893			
Seven persons.....	17,649	18,698	18,814	18,412	18,131	17,609	16,999	\$16,330		
Eight persons.....	19,515	20,912	21,096	20,717	20,384	19,912	19,313	18,689	\$18,530	
Nine persons or more.....	23,105	25,156	25,277	24,941	24,659	24,196	23,558	22,981	22,839	\$21,959

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## Appendix B. Introduction of the CPI-U-X1 as a Price Index

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In order to accurately assess changes over time in economic well-being, an adjustment for cost of living changes is required. Incomes from different years need to be made comparable by evaluating them in dollars with the same purchasing power. In order to adjust for cost of living changes, the Census Bureau uses the official Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), which is provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This is an index of the cost of a market basket of goods and services representing the average consumption of the urban population. The Census Bureau uses the CPI-U in order to (1) adjust annual poverty thresholds for inflation and (2) compare changes in real income over time.

According to many analysts, prior to 1983 the CPI-U measured housing costs in a way that led to excessive growth in the index during the late 1970's when interest rates increased rapidly. In particular, the housing component of the CPI-U gave inordinate weight to the costs

of newly purchased homes, including both the purchase price and mortgage interest rates, as well as property taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs. As a result of the large weights assigned to homeownership costs, many analysts think that the CPI-U overstated the true rise in living costs in the late 1970's.

In 1983, the BLS began using a revised method to calculate the CPI-U. This method uses estimates of the cost of renting equivalent housing to measure homeownership costs, and as a result it is less affected by changes in housing prices and mortgage rates. The official CPI-U time series is based on the old methodology prior to 1983 and on the new methodology for the years 1983 to the present.

For further discussion of the effect of the introduction of the CPI-U-X1 on income and poverty estimates, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 166, *Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1988*.

## Appendix C. Source and Accuracy of Estimates

### SOURCE OF DATA

Most estimates in this report come from data obtained in March and April of years 1978 through 1988 in the Current Population Survey (CPS). The Bureau of the Census conducts the survey every month, although this report uses only March and April data for its estimates. The March and April surveys use two sets of questions, the basic CPS and a separate supplement for each month.

**Basic CPS.** The basic CPS collects primarily labor force data about the civilian noninstitutional population. Interviewers ask questions concerning labor force participation about each member 14 years old and over in every sample household.

The present CPS sample was selected from the 1980 decennial census files with coverage in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The sample is continually updated to account for new residential construction. It is located in 729 areas comprising 1,973 counties, independent cities, and minor civil divisions. About 59,500 occupied housing units were eligible for interview in March excluding about 2,500 Hispanic housing units added from the previous November sample. Because of a sample reduction, approximately 56,100 occupied housing units were eligible for interview in April. Interviewers were unable to obtain interviews at about 2,500 of these units in both months because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason.

Since the introduction of the CPS, the Bureau of the Census has redesigned the CPS sample several times to improve the quality and reliability of the data and to satisfy changing data needs. The most recent changes were completely implemented in July 1985.

The following table summarizes changes in the CPS designs for the years for which data appear in this report.

**March and April 1988 supplements.** In addition to the basic CPS questions, interviewers asked supplementary questions in March about the economic situation of persons and families for the previous year. About 39,000 of the housing units interviewed in March were interviewed again in April. In these housing units all women 18 years of age and older as well as women between the ages of 14 and 17 who had children were asked

### Description of the Current Population Survey

Time period	Number of sample areas	Housing units eligible <sup>1</sup>	
		Inter-viewed	Not inter-viewed
April 1988-89 .....	729	53,600	2,500
1986 to March 1988 .....	729	57,000	2,500
1985 .....	<sup>2</sup> 629/729	57,000	2,500
1982-84 .....	629	59,000	2,500
1980-81 .....	629	65,500	3,000
1978-79 .....	614	55,000	3,000

<sup>1</sup>Excludes about 2,500 Hispanic households added from the previous November sample. (See "March Supplement.")

<sup>2</sup>The CPS was redesigned following the 1980 Census of Population and Housing. During phase-in of the new design, housing units from the new and old designs were in the sample.

supplemental questions. These questions concerned child support and alimony payments. Of the 42,867 women found eligible in March, 36,647 of these women matched women interviewed in April. For the remaining 6,220 women interviewed in March the child support and alimony information was imputed. Table C-1 gives the sample sizes and the imputation rates by marital status.

**Estimation procedure.** This survey's estimation procedure inflates weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, sex, race, and Hispanic/non-Hispanic categories. The independent estimates were based on statistics from decennial censuses of population; statistics on births, deaths, immigration and emigration; and statistics on the size of the Armed Forces. The independent population estimates used for the March 1981 CPS to present were based on updates to controls established by the 1980 decennial census. Data collected before 1981 were based on independent population estimates from the most recent decennial census. For more details on the change in independent estimates, see the section entitled "Introduction of 1980 Census Population Controls" in an earlier report (Series P-60, No. 133).

Estimates in this report from 1984 to the present employ a revised survey weighting procedure for persons of Hispanic origin. In previous years, weighted sample results were inflated to independent estimates of the noninstitutional population by age, sex, and race. There was no specific control of the survey estimates

for the Hispanic population. Since then, the Bureau of the Census developed independent population controls for the Hispanic population by sex and detailed age groups. Revised weighting procedures incorporate these new controls. In 1984 the new procedures resulted in an increase of about 11 percent in the Hispanic population estimate. The independent population estimates include some, but not all, illegal immigrants.

## ACCURACY OF ESTIMATES

Since the CPS estimates come from a sample, they may differ from figures from a complete census using the same questionnaires, instructions, and enumerators. A sample survey estimate has two possible types of error: sampling and nonsampling. The accuracy of an estimate depends on both types of error, but the full extent of the nonsampling error is unknown. Consequently, one should be particularly careful when interpreting results based on a relatively small number of cases or on small differences between estimates. The standard errors for CPS estimates primarily indicate the magnitude of sampling error. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in responses and enumeration, but do not measure systematic biases in the data. (Bias is the average over all possible samples of the differences between the sample estimates and the desired value.)

**Nonsampling variability.** Nonsampling errors can be attributed to many sources. These sources include the inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, respondents' inability or unwillingness to provide correct information or to recall information, errors made in data 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).

CPS undercoverage results from missed housing units and missed persons within sample households. Compared to the level of the 1980 decennial census, overall CPS undercoverage is about 7 percent. CPS undercoverage varies with age, sex, and race. Generally, undercoverage is larger for males than for females and larger for Blacks and other races combined than for Whites. As described previously, ratio estimation to independent age-sex-race-Hispanic population controls partially corrects for the bias due to 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 from those of interviewed persons in the same age-sex-race-Hispanic group. Furthermore, the independent population controls have not been adjusted for undercoverage in the 1980 census.

For the estimates obtained from this report, the nonsampling error due to imputing values may be particularly severe. Intended to reduce nonsampling error due to missing data, imputation procedures lose some of their effectiveness when the rate is so high. Table C-1 provides sample sizes and imputation rates by marital status. The imputation rates for divorced and separated women are the highest; over 25 percent of the data was not collected from interviews. The imputation rates are particularly high because of the April 1988 sample reduction. Women interviewed in March but not interviewed in April because of the reduction were identified as eligible. This accounted for about 7 percent of the overall imputation. Item imputation rates are as high as 42.5 percent.

Table C-1. **Sample Sizes and Imputation Rates**

Marital status	Sample size	Imputed cases	Rates
Total .....	42,867	6,220	14.5
Married .....	24,956	2,971	11.9
Widowed .....	5,287	647	12.2
Divorced .....	3,692	881	23.9
Separated .....	1,175	340	28.9
Never married .....	7,757	1,381	17.8

Answers to questions about income often depend on the memory or knowledge of one person in a household. Recall problems can cause underestimates of income in survey data because people can easily forget minor or irregular sources of income. Respondents may also misunderstand what the Census Bureau considers income, or may simply be unwilling to answer these questions correctly because the questions are considered too personal.

**Comparability of data.** Data obtained from the CPS and other sources are not entirely comparable. This results from differences in interviewer training and experience and in differing survey processes. This is an example of nonsampling variability not reflected in the standard errors. Use caution when comparing results from different sources.

Caution should also be used when comparing estimates in this report, which reflect 1980 census-based population controls, with estimates for 1980 and earlier years, which reflect 1970 census-based population controls. This change in population controls had relatively little impact on summary measures such as means, medians, and percentage distributions, but did have a significant impact on levels. For example, use of 1980 based population controls results in about a 2-percent increase in the civilian noninstitutional population and in the number of families and households. Thus, estimates of levels for data collected in 1981 and later years will differ from those for earlier years by more than what could be attributed to actual changes in the population.

These differences could be disproportionately greater for certain subpopulation groups than for the total population.

Since no independent population control totals for persons of Hispanic origin were used before 1985, compare Hispanic estimates over time cautiously.

For additional information on nonsampling error including the possible impact on CPS data when known, refer to Statistical Policy Working Paper 3, *An Error Profile: Employment as Measured by the Current Population Survey*, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1978 and Technical Paper 40, *The Current Population Survey: Design and Methodology*, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**Note when using small estimates.** Summary measures (such as medians and percent distributions) are shown only when the base is 75,000 or greater. Because of the large standard errors involved, summary measures would probably not reveal useful information when computed on a smaller base. However, estimated numbers are shown even though the relative standard errors of these numbers are larger than those for corresponding percentages. These smaller estimates permit combinations of the categories to suit data users' needs. Take care in the interpretation of small differences. For instance, even a small amount of nonsampling error can cause a borderline difference to appear significant or not, thus distorting a seemingly valid hypothesis test.

**Sampling variability.** Sampling variability is variation that occurred by chance because a sample was surveyed rather than the entire population. Standard errors, as calculated by methods described later in "Standard Errors and Their Use," are primarily measures of sampling variability, although they may include some nonsampling error.

**Standard errors and their use.** A number of approximations are required to derive, at a moderate cost, standard errors applicable to all the estimates in this report. Instead of providing an individual standard error for each estimate, generalized sets of standard errors are provided for various types of characteristics. Thus, the tables show levels of magnitude of standard errors rather than the precise standard errors. Standard errors for intermediate values not shown in the tables may be approximated by linear interpolation.

Two parameters,  $a$  and  $b$ , are used to calculate the standard errors for each type of characteristic; they are presented in table C-4. These parameters were used to calculate the standard errors of various estimates for women in tables C-2 and C-3 and the factors in table C-4. They may also be used directly to calculate standard errors. Methods for direct computation are given in the following sections.

**Table C-2. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers**  
(Numbers in thousands)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
10 .....	6	7,000 .....	146
75 .....	16	8,000 .....	155
250 .....	29	9,000 .....	163
500 .....	40	10,000 .....	171
1,000 .....	57	11,000 .....	178
2,000 .....	80	12,000 .....	185
3,000 .....	98	13,000 .....	191
4,000 .....	112	15,000 .....	203
5,000 .....	125	17,000 .....	213
6,000 .....	136	20,000 .....	227

NOTE: These standard errors were calculated using  $a = 0.000036$  and  $b = 3,287$ . For a particular characteristic, see table C-4 for the appropriate factor to apply to the above standard errors.

The sample estimate and its standard error enable one to construct a confidence interval, a range that would include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, if all possible samples were surveyed under essentially the same general conditions and using the same sample design, and if an estimate and its standard error were calculated from each sample, then 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.

A particular confidence interval may or may not contain the average estimate derived from all possible samples. However, one can say with specified confidence that the interval includes the average estimate calculated from all possible samples.

Some statements in the report may contain estimates followed by a number in parentheses. This number can be added to and subtracted from the estimate to calculate upper and lower bounds of the 90-percent confidence interval. For example, if a statement contains the phrase "grew by 1.7 percent ( $\pm 1.0$ )," the 90 percent confidence interval for the estimate, 1.7 percent, is from 0.7 percent to 2.7 percent.

Standard errors may also be used to perform hypothesis testing, a procedure for distinguishing between population parameters using sample estimates. The most common type of hypothesis appearing in this report is that the population parameters are different. An example of this would be comparing the poverty rate for White families with the poverty rate for Black families.

Tests may be performed at various levels of significance, where a significance level is the probability of concluding that the characteristics are different when, in fact, they are the same. All statements of comparison in the text have passed a hypothesis test at the 0.10 level of significance or better. This means that the absolute value of the estimated difference between characteristics is greater than or equal to 1.6 times the standard error of the difference.

**Standard errors of estimated numbers.** There are two ways to compute the approximate standard error,  $s_x$ , of an estimated number shown in this report. The first uses the formula

$$s_x = fs \quad (1)$$

where  $f$  is a factor from table C-4, and  $s$  is the standard error of the estimate obtained by interpolation from table C-2. The second method uses formula (2), from which the standard errors in table C-2 were calculated. This formula will provide more accurate results than formula (1).

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

Here  $x$  is the size of the estimate and  $a$  and  $b$  are the parameters in table C-4 associated with the particular type of characteristic. When calculating standard errors for numbers from cross-tabulations involving different characteristics, use the factor or set of parameters for the characteristic which will give the largest standard error.

*Illustration.* Table 1 of this report shows there were 5,554,000 women with child support payments agreed to or awarded in 1987. Using formula (1) with  $f = 1.47$  from table C-4 and  $s = 131,000$  by interpolation from table C-2, the standard error of 5,554,000 is

$$s_x = (1.47)(131,000) = 193,000$$

Using the second method with  $a = -0.000078$  and  $b = 7,089$  from table C-4, the approximate standard error is

$$s_x = \sqrt{(-0.000078)(5,554,000)^2 + (7,089)(5,554,000)} = 192,000$$

The 90-percent confidence interval for the number of women with child support payments agreed to or awarded is from 5,247,000 to 5,861,000, i.e.,  $5,554,000 \pm 1.6(192,000)$ .

A conclusion that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 90-percent of all possible samples.

**Standard errors of estimated percentages.** The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends on the size of the percentage and its base. 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 parameter from table C-4 indicated by the numerator.

The approximate standard error,  $s_{x,p}$ , of an estimated percentage can be obtained by using the formula

$$s_{x,p} = fs \quad (3)$$

In this formula,  $f$  is the appropriate factor from table C-4 and  $s$  is the standard error of the estimate obtained by interpolation from table C-3.

Alternatively, formula (4) will provide more accurate results:

$$s_{x,p} = \sqrt{bp(100 - p)/x} \quad (4)$$

Here  $x$  is the total number of persons, families, households, or unrelated individuals in the base of the percentage,  $p$  is the percentage ( $0 \leq p \leq 100$ ), and  $b$  is the parameter in table C-4 associated with the characteristic in the numerator of the percentage.

*Illustration.* Table 1 of this report shows that of the 4,829,000 women due child support payments in 1987, 76.1 percent, of the women actually received payment.

**Table C-3. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages**

Base of estimated percentage (thousands)	Estimated percentages				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
75 .....	2.9	4.6	6.3	9.1	10.5
200 .....	1.8	2.8	3.8	5.6	6.4
300 .....	1.5	2.3	3.1	4.5	5.2
400 .....	1.3	2.0	2.7	3.9	4.5
500 .....	1.1	1.8	2.4	3.5	4.1
600 .....	1.0	1.6	2.2	3.2	3.7
800 .....	0.9	1.4	1.9	2.8	3.2
1,000 .....	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.5	2.9
1,200 .....	0.7	1.1	1.6	2.3	2.6
1,500 .....	0.7	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.3
2,000 .....	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.0
3,000 .....	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.7
4,000 .....	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.4
5,000 .....	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3
10,000 .....	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.9
15,000 .....	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7
17,000 .....	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7

Note: These standard errors were calculated using  $b = 3,287$ . For a particular characteristic, see table C-4 for the appropriate factor to apply to the above standard errors.

**Table C-4. Parameters for 1987 Child Support and Alimony**

Characteristic	Parameter		f factor
	a	b	
<b>INCOME</b>			
All women:			
Total or White .....	-0.000036	3,287	1.00
Black .....	-0.000288	3,757	1.07
Hispanic origin .....	-0.000996	6,331	1.39
Women below the poverty level:			
Total or White .....	-0.000167	15,234	2.15
Black .....	-0.001169	15,234	2.15
Hispanic origin .....	-0.004041	25,674	2.79
Families:			
Total or White .....	-0.000033	3,000	0.96
Black .....	-0.000252	3,271	1.00
Hispanic origin <sup>1</sup> .....	-0.000868	5,513	1.30
<b>NONINCOME</b>			
Marital status of women with dependent children whose fathers are absent:			
Total or White .....	-0.000078	7,089	1.47
Black .....	-0.000781	10,168	1.76
Hispanic origin <sup>1</sup> .....	-0.002697	17,136	2.28
Selected characteristics of women:			
Education .....	-0.000040	3,650	1.05
Employment .....	-0.000030	2,723	0.91
Unemployment .....	-0.000038	3,483	1.03
Selected characteristics of families:			
Tenure .....	-0.000031	2,807	0.92

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

NOTE: To obtain standard error parameters by residence, multiply the above parameters by a factor of 1.0 for metropolitan residence, 1.5 for nonmetropolitan residence, 0.82 for Northeast; 0.88 for Midwest; .91 for South; 1.34 for West.

Using formula (3) with  $f = 1.47$  from table C-4 and  $s = 1.1$  by interpolation from table C-3, the standard error of 76.1 percent is

$$s_{x,p} = (1.47)(1.1) = 1.6$$

Using the alternate method with  $b = 7,089$  from table C-4, the approximate standard error is

$$s_{x,p} = \sqrt{\frac{7,089}{4,829,000}} (76.1)(23.9) = 1.6$$

So, the 90-percent confidence interval for the estimated percentage of women who actually received payment is from 73.5 to 78.7, i.e.,  $76.1 \pm 1.6(1.6)$ .

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

$$s_{x-y} = \sqrt{s_x^2 + s_y^2} \quad (5)$$

where  $s_x$  and  $s_y$  are the standard errors of the estimates,  $x$  and  $y$ . The estimates can be numbers, percentages, ratios, etc. This will represent the actual standard error

quite accurately for the difference between estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. However, if there is a high positive (negative) correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate (underestimate) the true standard error.

*Illustration.* Table 1 of the report shows that in 1987, 72.9 percent of the 1,656,000 married women due child support actually received payments, whereas 78 percent of the 2,087,000 divorced women due child support actually received payments. The apparent difference in the percentages between these two groups of women is 5.1 percent. Using  $b = 7,089$  from table C-4 in formula (4), the standard error on 72.9 percent is approximately 2.9 percent, and the standard error on 78 percent is approximately 2.4 percent. Using formula (5), the standard error of the estimated difference of 5.1 percent is about

$$s_{x-y} = \sqrt{(2.9)^2 + (2.4)^2} = 3.8 \text{ percent}$$

The 90-percent confidence interval around the difference is from -1.0 to 11.2 percent, i.e.,  $5.1 \pm 1.6(3.8)$ . Since this interval includes zero, we cannot conclude at the 10 percent significance level that the percentage of married women actually receiving child support payments is less than the percentage of divorced women actually receiving child support payments.

**Standard error of a median.** The sampling variability of an estimated median depends on the form of the distribution and the size of the base. One can approximate the reliability of an estimated median by determining a confidence interval about it. (See the section, "standard errors and their use" for a general discussion of confidence intervals.)

Estimate the 68-percent confidence limits of a median based on sample data using the following procedure.

1. Determine, using 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, determine upper and lower limits of the 68-percent confidence interval by calculating values corresponding to the two points established in step 2.

Use the following formula to calculate the upper and lower limits.

$$X_{pN} = \frac{pN - N_1}{N_2 - N_1} (A_2 - A_1) + A_1 \quad (6)$$

where  $X_{pN}$  = estimated upper and lower bounds for the confidence interval ( $0 \leq p \leq 1$ ). For purposes of calculating the confidence interval,  $p$  takes on the values determined in step 2. Note that  $X_{pN}$  estimates the median when  $p = 0.50$ .

$N$  = for distribution of numbers: the total number of units (persons, households, etc.) for the characteristic in the distribution;

= for distribution of percentages: the value 1.0.

$p$  = the values obtained in step 2.

$A_1, A_2$  = the lower and upper bounds, respectively, of the interval containing  $X_{pN}$ .

$N_1, N_2$  = for distribution of numbers: the estimated number of units (persons, households, etc.) with values of the characteristic greater than or equal to  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , respectively.

= for distribution of percentages: the estimated percent of units (persons, households, etc.) having values of the characteristic greater than or equal to  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , respectively.

4. Divide the difference between the two points determined in step 3 by two to obtain the standard error of the median.

*Illustration.* Table 5 shows the median income in 1987 for ever-divorced women with income is \$11,638 on a base of 15,773,000 women.

1. Using formula (4) with  $b = 3,287$  from table C-4, the standard error of 50 percent on a base of 15,773,000 is about 0.7 percentage points.
2. To obtain a 68-percent confidence interval on the estimated median, add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error found in step 1. This yields limits of 49.3 and 50.7.
3. The income of 8,802,000 (53.2 percent) of these women was at least \$10,000 and the income of 7,684,000 (46.4 percent) of these women was at least \$12,000. Using formula (6), the lower limit on the estimate is found to be about

$$\frac{(.507)(15,773,000) - 8,802,000}{7,684,000 - 8,802,000} (\$12,000 - \$10,000) + \$10,000 = \$11,440$$

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

$$\frac{(.493)(15,773,000) - 8,802,000}{7,684,000 - 8,802,000} (\$12,000 - \$10,000) + \$10,000 = \$11,835$$

Thus the 68-percent confidence interval on the median income of ever-divorced women in 1987 is from \$11,440 to \$11,835.

4. The standard error of the median is, therefore,  $(\$11,835 - \$11,440)/2$ , i.e. \$198.

NOTE: Standard errors in the tables are calculated by the same method as above. However, a different standard error may be obtained because of rounding errors.

**Standard error of a mean for grouped data.** The formula used to estimate the standard error of a mean for grouped data is

$$s_{\bar{x}} = \sqrt{(b/y) S^2} \quad (7)$$

In this formula,  $y$  is the size of the base of the distribution and  $b$  is a parameter from table C-4. The variance,  $S^2$ , is given by the following formula:

$$S^2 = \sum_{i=1}^c p_i \bar{x}_i^2 - \bar{x}^2 \quad (8)$$

where  $\bar{x}$ , the mean of the distribution, is estimated by

$$\bar{x} = \sum_{i=1}^c p_i \bar{x}_i \quad (9)$$

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

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

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

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

$$\bar{x}_c = \frac{3}{2} Z_{c-1} \quad (10)$$

# Appendix D. Facsimile of April 1988 CPS Questionnaire

<p><b>INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM</b></p> <p>Only CPS-1 for household ..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>First CPS-1 of continuation h'hold. .... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Second CPS-1 of continuation h'hold ..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Third, fourth, and 5th CPS-1 ..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>FORM CPS-1</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Bureau of the Census</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY</h2> </div> <p><small>Form Approved - O.M.B. No. 1220-0100-Expires 11-30-91</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Foadic 26.1:1</small></p>	<p><b>CONTROL NUMBER</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px dashed black; width: 33%;"></td> <td style="border-right: 1px dashed black; width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><small>PSU</small></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><small>SEGMENT</small></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><small>SERIAL</small></td> </tr> </table>				<small>PSU</small>	<small>SEGMENT</small>	<small>SERIAL</small>
<small>PSU</small>	<small>SEGMENT</small>	<small>SERIAL</small>						

**LINE NO. OF H'HOLD RESP.** \_\_\_\_\_

**NON H'HOLD RESPONDENT** .....   
*(Specify and Send Intercomm for interviewed household)*

---

**INTERVIEW**

ANY ENTRY OTHER THAN NEVER WORKED IN ITEMS 23A-E in this CPS-1 ..... Yes  No

**NONINTERVIEW**

TYPE A .....

TYPE B .....

TYPE C .....

*(SEND INTER COMM FOR TYPE A AND C)*

# CURRENT

**TELEPHONE HOLD**  
*(Mark this box for office "telephone hold" cases only)*

# POPULATION

**INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM**

CPS-665 being held for followup

# SURVEY

**CHILDREN'S (0-13 years old) TRANSCRIPTION ITEMS**  
*(If more than 4 children in household, use continuation CPS-1 document.)*

FIRST CHILD					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON (Control Card Item 14b)	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18G1. SEX Male ..... 1 Female ..... 2	18K. ORIGIN
0 0	Natural/Adopted Child ..... 06	0 0	0 0		0 0
1 1	Step Child ..... 06	0 0	1 1		1 1
2 2	Grandchild ..... 07	1 1	3 3		3 3
3 3	Brother/Sister ..... 09	2 2	4 4		4 4
4 4	Other Rel. of ref. person ..... 10	3 3	5 5		5 5
5 5	Foster Child ..... 11	4 4	6 6		6 6
6 6	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 12	5 5	7 7		7 7
7 7	Non-rel. of Ref. Person with NO OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 14	6 6	8 8		8 8
8 8		7 7	9 9		9 9
9 9		8 8			
		9 9			
		None 0			
				18J. RACE White ..... 1 Black ..... 2 Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo ..... 3 Asian or Pacific Islander ..... 4 Other ..... 5	

SECOND CHILD					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON (Control Card Item 14b)	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18G1. SEX Male ..... 1 Female ..... 2	18K. ORIGIN
0 0	Natural/Adopted Child ..... 06	0 0	0 0		0 0
1 1	Step Child ..... 06	0 0	1 1		1 1
2 2	Grandchild ..... 07	1 1	3 3		3 3
3 3	Brother/Sister ..... 09	2 2	4 4		4 4
4 4	Other Rel. of ref. person ..... 10	3 3	5 5		5 5
5 5	Foster Child ..... 11	4 4	6 6		6 6
6 6	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 12	5 5	7 7		7 7
7 7	Non-rel. of Ref. Person with NO OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 14	6 6	8 8		8 8
8 8		7 7	9 9		9 9
9 9		8 8			
		9 9			
		None 0			
				18J. RACE White ..... 1 Black ..... 2 Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo ..... 3 Asian or Pacific Islander ..... 4 Other ..... 5	

THIRD CHILD					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON (Control Card Item 14b)	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18G1. SEX Male ..... 1 Female ..... 2	18K. ORIGIN
0 0	Natural/Adopted Child ..... 06	0 0	0 0		0 0
1 1	Step Child ..... 06	0 0	1 1		1 1
2 2	Grandchild ..... 07	1 1	3 3		3 3
3 3	Brother/Sister ..... 09	2 2	4 4		4 4
4 4	Other Rel. of ref. person ..... 10	3 3	5 5		5 5
5 5	Foster Child ..... 11	4 4	6 6		6 6
6 6	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 12	5 5	7 7		7 7
7 7	Non-rel. of Ref. Person with NO OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 14	6 6	8 8		8 8
8 8		7 7	9 9		9 9
9 9		8 8			
		9 9			
		None 0			
				18J. RACE White ..... 1 Black ..... 2 Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo ..... 3 Asian or Pacific Islander ..... 4 Other ..... 5	

FOURTH CHILD					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON (Control Card Item 14b)	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18G1. SEX Male ..... 1 Female ..... 2	18K. ORIGIN
0 0	Natural/Adopted Child ..... 06	0 0	0 0		0 0
1 1	Step Child ..... 06	0 0	1 1		1 1
2 2	Grandchild ..... 07	1 1	3 3		3 3
3 3	Brother/Sister ..... 09	2 2	4 4		4 4
4 4	Other Rel. of ref. person ..... 10	3 3	5 5		5 5
5 5	Foster Child ..... 11	4 4	6 6		6 6
6 6	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 12	5 5	7 7		7 7
7 7	Non-rel. of Ref. Person with NO OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 14	6 6	8 8		8 8
8 8		7 7	9 9		9 9
9 9		8 8			
		9 9			
		None 0			
				18J. RACE White ..... 1 Black ..... 2 Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo ..... 3 Asian or Pacific Islander ..... 4 Other ..... 5	

**ARMED FORCES MEMBERS TRANSCRIPTION ITEMS**  
*(Fill only in living household for persons with "AF" in CC Item 22. If more than 2 AF persons in household, use continuation CPS-1 document.)*

FIRST ARMED FORCES MEMBER					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18E. MARITAL STATUS	
0 0	Ref. Person WITH rel. in H'hld. .... 01	0 0	0 0	Married - spouse present ..... 1	
1 1	Ref. person with NO rel. in H'hld. .... 02	0 0	0 0		
2 2	Husband ..... 03	0 0	0 0		
3 3	Wife ..... 04	1 1	1 1	Married - spouse absent (Exclude separated) ..... 2	
4 4	Natural/Adopted Child ..... 05	2 2	2 2		
5 5	Step Child ..... 06	3 3	3 3		
6 6	Grandchild ..... 07	4 4	4 4		
7 7	Parent ..... 08	5 5	5 5	Widowed ..... 3	
8 8	Brother/Sister ..... 09	6 6	6 6	Divorced ..... 4	
9 9	Other rel. of Ref. Person ..... 10	7 7	7 7	Separated ..... 5	
	Foster Child ..... 11	8 8	8 8	Never married ..... 6	
	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 12	9 9	9 9		
	Partner/Roommate ..... 13	0			
	Non-rel. of Ref. Person (other than partner/roommate) with NO OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 14	0			
18F. SPOUSE'S LINE NO.	18G1. SEX Male 1 Female 2	18H. HIGHEST GRADE ATTENDED 0 0 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8 9 9	18I. GRADE COMPLETED Yes 1 No 2	18J. RACE White ..... 1 Black ..... 2 Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo ..... 3 Asian or Pacific Is. .... 4 Other ..... 5	18K. ORIGIN 0 0 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8 9 9
0 0					
1 1					
2 2					
3 3					
4 4					
5 5					
6 6					
7 7					
8 8					
9 9					
None 0					

SECOND ARMED FORCES MEMBER					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18E. MARITAL STATUS	
0 0	Ref. Person WITH rel. in H'hld. .... 01	0 0	0 0	Married - spouse present ..... 1	
1 1	Ref. person with NO rel. in H'hld. .... 02	0 0	0 0		
2 2	Husband ..... 03	0 0	0 0		
3 3	Wife ..... 04	1 1	1 1	Married - spouse absent (Exclude separated) ..... 2	
4 4	Natural/Adopted Child ..... 05	2 2	2 2		
5 5	Step Child ..... 06	3 3	3 3		
6 6	Grandchild ..... 07	4 4	4 4		
7 7	Parent ..... 08	5 5	5 5	Widowed ..... 3	
8 8	Brother/Sister ..... 09	6 6	6 6	Divorced ..... 4	
9 9	Other rel. of Ref. Person ..... 10	7 7	7 7	Separated ..... 5	
	Foster Child ..... 11	8 8	8 8	Never married ..... 6	
	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 12	9 9	9 9		
	Partner/Roommate ..... 13	0			
	Non-rel. of Ref. Person (other than partner/roommate) with NO OWN rel. in H'hld. .... 14	0			
18F. SPOUSE'S LINE NO.	18G1. SEX Male 1 Female 2	18H. HIGHEST GRADE ATTENDED 0 0 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8 9 9	18I. GRADE COMPLETED Yes 1 No 2	18J. RACE White ..... 1 Black ..... 2 Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo ..... 3 Asian or Pacific Is. .... 4 Other ..... 5	18K. ORIGIN 0 0 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8 9 9
0 0					
1 1					
2 2					
3 3					
4 4					
5 5					
6 6					
7 7					
8 8					
9 9					
None 0					

**CHILDREN'S (0-13 years old) TRANSCRIPTION ITEMS**  
*(If more than 4 children in household, use continuation CPS-1 document.)*

FIRST CHILD					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON (Control Card Item 14b)	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18G1. SEX Male ... 1 Female ... 2	18K. ORIGIN
0 0	Natural/Adopted Child ... 05	0 0	1 1		1 1
1 1	Step Child ... 06	0 0	2		2 2
2 2	Grandchild ... 07	1 1	3	18J. RACE White ... 1	3 3
3 3	Brother/Sister ... 09	2 2	4	Black ... 2	4 4
4	Other Rel. of ref. person ... 10	3 3	5		5 5
5	Foster Child ... 11	4	6	Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo	6 6
6	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 12	5	7	Asian or Pacific Islander	7 7
7	Non-rel. of Ref. Person with NO OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 14	6	8		8 8
8		7	9		9 9
9		8			
		9			
		None			
		0			

SECOND CHILD					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON (Control Card Item 14b)	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18G1. SEX Male ... 1 Female ... 2	18K. ORIGIN
0 0	Natural/Adopted Child ... 05	0 0	1 1		1 1
1 1	Step Child ... 06	0 0	2		2 2
2 2	Grandchild ... 07	1 1	3	18J. RACE White ... 1	3 3
3 3	Brother/Sister ... 09	2 2	4	Black ... 2	4 4
4	Other Rel. of ref. person ... 10	3 3	5		5 5
5	Foster Child ... 11	4	6	Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo	6 6
6	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 12	5	7	Asian or Pacific Islander	7 7
7	Non-rel. of Ref. Person with NO OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 14	6	8		8 8
8		7	9		9 9
9		8			
		9			
		None			
		0			

THIRD CHILD					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON (Control Card Item 14b)	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18G1. SEX Male ... 1 Female ... 2	18K. ORIGIN
0 0	Natural/Adopted Child ... 05	0 0	1 1		1 1
1 1	Step Child ... 06	0 0	2		2 2
2 2	Grandchild ... 07	1 1	3	18J. RACE White ... 1	3 3
3 3	Brother/Sister ... 09	2 2	4	Black ... 2	4 4
4	Other Rel. of ref. person ... 10	3 3	5		5 5
5	Foster Child ... 11	4	6	Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo	6 6
6	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 12	5	7	Asian or Pacific Islander	7 7
7	Non-rel. of Ref. Person with NO OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 14	6	8		8 8
8		7	9		9 9
9		8			
		9			
		None			
		0			

FOURTH CHILD					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON (Control Card Item 14b)	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18G1. SEX Male ... 1 Female ... 2	18K. ORIGIN
0 0	Natural/Adopted Child ... 05	0 0	1 1		1 1
1 1	Step Child ... 06	0 0	2		2 2
2 2	Grandchild ... 07	1 1	3	18J. RACE White ... 1	3 3
3 3	Brother/Sister ... 09	2 2	4	Black ... 2	4 4
4	Other Rel. of ref. person ... 10	3 3	5		5 5
5	Foster Child ... 11	4	6	Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo	6 6
6	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 12	5	7	Asian or Pacific Islander	7 7
7	Non-rel. of Ref. Person with NO OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 14	6	8		8 8
8		7	9		9 9
9		8			
		9			
		None			
		0			

**ARMED FORCES MEMBERS TRANSCRIPTION ITEMS**  
*(Fill only in interview household for persons with "AF" in CC Item 22. If more than 2 AF persons in household, use continuation CPS-1 document.)*

FIRST ARMED FORCES MEMBER					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18E. MARITAL STATUS	
0 0	Ref. Person WITH rel. in H'hd. 01	0 0		Married - spouse present 1	
1 1	Ref. person with NO rel. in H'hd. 02	0 0			
2 2	Husband ... 03	0 0			
3 3	Wife ... 04	1 1	1 1	Married - spouse absent (Exclude separated) ... 2	
4	Natural/Adopted Child ... 05	2 2	2 2		
5	Step Child ... 06	3 3	3 3		
6	Grandchild ... 07	4	4 4		
7	Parent ... 08	5	5 5	Widowed ... 3	
8	Brother/Sister ... 09	6	6 6	Divorced ... 4	
9	Other rel. of Ref. Person ... 10	7	7 7	Separated ... 5	
	Foster Child ... 11	8	8 8	Never married ... 6	
	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 12	9	9 9		
	Partner/Roommate ... 13	None			
	Non-rel. of Ref. Person (other than partner/roommate) with NO OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 14	0			

18F. SPOUSE'S LINE NO.	18G1. SEX Male 1 Female 2	18H. HIGHEST GRADE ATTENDED	18I. GRADE COMPLETED Yes 1 No 2	18J. RACE White ... 1 Black ... 2 Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo 3 Asian or Pacific Isl. 4 Other ... 5	18K. ORIGIN
0 0					0 0
1 1		0 0			1 1
2 2		1 1			2 2
3 3		2 2			3 3
4		3			4 4
5		4			5 5
6		5			6 6
7		6			7 7
8		7			8 8
9		8			9 9
None		9			
0					

SECOND ARMED FORCES MEMBER					
18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON	18C. PARENT'S LINE NUMBER	18D. AGE	18E. MARITAL STATUS	
0 0	Ref. Person WITH rel. in H'hd. 01	0 0		Married - spouse present 1	
1 1	Ref. person with NO rel. in H'hd. 02	0 0			
2 2	Husband ... 03	0 0			
3 3	Wife ... 04	1 1	1 1	Married - spouse absent (Exclude separated) ... 2	
4	Natural/Adopted Child ... 05	2 2	2 2		
5	Step Child ... 06	3 3	3 3		
6	Grandchild ... 07	4	4 4		
7	Parent ... 08	5	5 5	Widowed ... 3	
8	Brother/Sister ... 09	6	6 6	Divorced ... 4	
9	Other rel. of Ref. Person ... 10	7	7 7	Separated ... 5	
	Foster Child ... 11	8	8 8	Never married ... 6	
	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 12	9	9 9		
	Partner/Roommate ... 13	None			
	Non-rel. of Ref. Person (other than partner/roommate) with NO OWN rel. in H'hd. ... 14	0			

18F. SPOUSE'S LINE NO.	18G1. SEX Male 1 Female 2	18H. HIGHEST GRADE ATTENDED	18I. GRADE COMPLETED Yes 1 No 2	18J. RACE White ... 1 Black ... 2 Amer. Indian, Aleut, Eskimo 3 Asian or Pacific Isl. 4 Other ... 5	18K. ORIGIN
0 0					0 0
1 1		0 0			1 1
2 2		1 1			2 2
3 3		2 2			3 3
4		3			4 4
5		4			5 5
6		5			6 6
7		6			7 7
8		7			8 8
9		8			9 9
None		9			
0					

MARCH 1980 U.S. Department of Commerce BUREAU OF THE CENSUS		<b>1. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM</b> Only CPS-1 for household ..... <input type="checkbox"/> } (Fill all applicable items on this page) First CPS-1 of continuation h'ld. .... <input type="checkbox"/> Second CPS-1 of continuation h'hold ..... <input type="checkbox"/> } (Transcribe items 1-13 from first CPS-1) Third, fourth, etc. CPS-1 ..... <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>2. SAMPLE</b> A C <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>3. CONTROL NUMBER</b> 									
<b>CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY</b> <b>FORM CPS-1</b>		<b>4. TYPE OF LIVING QUARTERS</b> <b>HOUSING UNIT</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>OTHER UNIT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> House, apartment, flat ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Quarters not HU in nontransient hotel, motel, etc. .... <input type="checkbox"/> HU in rooming or boarding house <input type="checkbox"/> HU, permanent, in transient hotel, motel, etc. .... <input type="checkbox"/> Unit not permanent HU in rooming house ..... <input type="checkbox"/> in transient hotel, motel, etc. .... <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile home or trailer ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Tent site or trailer site ..... <input type="checkbox"/> with no permanent room added ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Student quarters Mobile home or trailer with one in college dormitory ..... <input type="checkbox"/> or more permanent rooms added ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Other non HU (Describe below) ..... <input type="checkbox"/> HU not specified above (Describe below) ..... <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>5a. LAND USAGE</b> Urban I Rural 2 (Fill 5b) 7		<b>6. PSU NO.</b> 0 0 0 1 1 1 2 2 2 3 3 3 4 4 4		<b>7. SEGMENT NO.</b> 0 0 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4		<b>8. SERIAL NO.</b> 0 0 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4		<b>9. HOUSE-HOLD NO.</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 (Go to 10)			
<b>10. INTERVIEWER CODE</b> A B C D E F G H J K L M 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		<b>11. DAY COMPLETED</b> S M T W T H F S 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 After interview week		<b>12. LINE NO. OF H'LD RESP.</b> I 2 3 4 5 6 + Non. h'ld. resp. (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> (Send Inter Comm Interviewed Households Only)		<b>13. TYPE INTERVIEW</b> Noninterview <input type="checkbox"/> Personal ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Tel. - regular <input type="checkbox"/> Tel. - callback <input type="checkbox"/> ICR filled ..... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<b>14. (Mark reason and race.)</b> <b>REASON</b> No one home <input type="checkbox"/> Temporarily absent <input type="checkbox"/> Refused ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Other - Occ. (Describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>15. TYPE B</b> Vacant - regular ..... <input type="checkbox"/> (Fill 16) Vacant - storage of h'ld furniture ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Temp. occ. by persons with URE ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Unfit or to be demolished ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Under construction, not ready ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Converted to temp. business or storage ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Occ. by Armed Force members or persons under 14 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> (Omit 16-17) Unoccupied tent site or trailer site Permit granted, construction not started ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify below) ..... <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>16. TYPE C (Send Inter Comm)</b> Demolished ..... <input type="checkbox"/> House or trailer moved ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Outside segment ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Converted to permanent business or storage ..... <input type="checkbox"/> (Omit 16-17) Merged ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Condemned ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Built after April 1, 1960 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Unused line of listing sheet ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe below) ..... <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>17. SEASONAL STATUS</b> 16. This unit is intended for occupancy: Year round ..... <input type="checkbox"/> (Fill NYS if HU in Item 4) By migratory workers <input type="checkbox"/> (Fill Item 17 below if HU in Item 4) Seasonally ..... <input type="checkbox"/> 17. This unit is intended for occupancy: Summers only ..... <input type="checkbox"/> (Transcribe as instructed on back of Control Card) Winters only ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>13A. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM</b> Telephone Hold (Fill circle for office "telephone hold" cases only) <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>TRANSCRIPTION ITEMS</b> Fill for interviewed households only. (If continuation CPS-1's required, only fill on first CPS-1 each month.)		(Fill for noninterviewed and interviewed households)		<b>HOUSEHOLD ITEMS Fill after basic labor force interview and proceed to CPS-665</b>									
<b>27A. TENURE</b> (Transcribe from cc item 10) Owned or being bought ..... 1 Rented ..... 2 No cash rent ..... 3		<b>29A. Telephone in Household</b> (Transcribe from C.C. Item 27a) Yes I (Skip to 29c) No 2 (Fill 29b)		<b>30. NUMBER OF CONTACTS - ACTUAL AND ATTEMPTED</b> (Transcribe from C.C. Item 31) Personal (C.C. Item 31c) I 2 3 4 5 6 + Telephone I 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 + (C.C. Items 31 d & e)		<b>32A. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM</b> (From Control Card Item 25) Is Spanish origin (Codes 10 through 17) entered on the Control Card for any person 14+ in this household? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (Ask 32B) No <input type="checkbox"/> (Go to CPS-665)									
<b>27B. HOUSEHOLD STATUS CHANGE</b> Is this a replacement household this month? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<b>29B. Telephone Available</b> (Transcribe from C.C. Item 27b) Yes I (Fill 29c) No 2 (Skip to 30)		<b>31. TIME OF INTERVIEW</b> (Mark the time period in which the majority of the labor force interview was obtained or noninterview classification was determined.) Midnight to 6 a.m. .... 3 to 6 p.m. .... 6 to 9 a.m. .... 6 to 9 p.m. .... 9 a.m. to Noon .... 9 p.m. to Noon to 3 p.m. .... Midnight		<b>32B. Did (Read name of Reference Person) live at this address during the week of November 19, 1980?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (Fill 32C) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Go to CPS-665)									
<b>28. TOTAL FAMILY INCOME</b> (Transcribe from cc item 29) 0 1 0 0 5 0 0 0 9 0 0 1 3 0 0 2 0 0 6 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 4 0 0 3 0 0 7 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 2 0 0 4 0 0 8 0 0 0 1 2 0 0 2 0		<b>29C. Telephone Interview Acceptable</b> (Transcribe from C.C. Item 27c) Yes I } (Fill 30) No 2 }		<b>32C. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM</b> (From Control Card Item 25) Is reference person's origin code 10 through 17? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (Go to CPS-665) No <input type="checkbox"/> (Ask 32D)											
<b>REINDER</b> Fill items 18A-18K on pages 2, 5, 7, 9, and 11.		<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b> <b>REINTERVIEWER</b> Program supervisor ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisory field representative ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Other ..... <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>CODER NUMBER</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A B C D E F G H J K L M 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9											



18A. LINE NO.	18B. RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON				18C. PAR'S LINE NO.	18D. AGE	18E. MARITAL STATUS	18F. SPOUSE'S LINE NUMBER	18G1. SEX Male 1 Female 2	18G2. VETERAN STATUS	18H. HIGHEST GRADE ATTENDED	18I. GRADE COMPLETED	18J. RACE	18K. ORIGIN											
	Ref. Person WITH rel. in H'hld. ....	01																							
	Ref. person with NO rel. in H'hld. ....	02																							
	Husband .....	03																							
	Wife .....	04																							
	Natural/Adopted Child .....	05																							
	Step Child .....	06																							
	Grandchild .....	07																							
	Parent .....	08																							
	Brother/Sister .....	09																							
	Other Rel. of Ref. Person .....	10																							
	Foster Child .....	11																							
	Non-rel. of Ref. Person WITH OWN rel. in H'hld. ....	12																							
	Partner/Roommate Non-rel. of Ref. Person (other than partner/roommate) with NO OWN rel. in H'hld. ....	13	None																						

**26. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM**  
(Transcribe from control card item 18)  
This person is 16-24 years of age (Ask 26A)  
All others (Ship to 26C)

**26A. (If "School" in 19, Verify) LAST WEEK was ...**  
standing or enrolled in a high school, college, or university? (Mark "Yes" if currently on holiday or seasonal vacation. Mark "No" for summer vacation.)  
Yes (Verify) No (Ship to 26C)

High School ... (Ask 26B)  
College or Univ. ... (Ask 26B)

**26B. Is ... enrolled in school as a full-time or part-time student?**  
Full time (Ask 26C)  
Part time (Ask 26C)

**26C. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM**  
Who responded to the labor force items for this person?  
Self ( )  
Other ( )  
Self/Other ( )

**REMEMBER: ASK THE L.F. ITEMS FOR ALL H.H. MEMBERS BEFORE ASKING THE SUPPLEMENT**

**29. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM**  
A. This unit is in  
Rotation 1 or 5 (End questions)  
Rotations 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 or 8 (FIN 29B)

B. Sex, Age, Presence of Children  
This person is:  
Male ( )  
Female 14-17 with No own or adopted children in household (Go To Next Person)  
Female 14-17 WITH own or adopted children in household ( )  
Female 18+ (FIN 29C)

C. Marital Status  
Married ( ) (Ship to 31)  
Widowed ( ) (Ship to 31)  
Divorced ( ) (Ship to 33)  
Separated ( ) (Ship to 33)  
Never married (Ask 30)

This month we are asking some questions concerning child support

**30. Has ... ever had any children?**  
Yes (Ship to 36)  
No (Go to next person)

**31. Has ... been married more than once?**  
Yes (Ask 32)  
No (Go to next person)

**32. Has ... ever been divorced?**  
Yes (Ask 33)  
No (Go to next person)

**33. When did ... (most recent) divorce/separation take place? (Month)**  
J F M A M J J A S O N D  
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  
(Year 19 - )  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**34. What was the date of that marriage? (Month)**  
J F M A M J J A S O N D  
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  
(Year 19 - )  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**35. Has ... ever had or adopted any children?**  
Yes (Ask 36)  
No (Ship to 61 - Ask questions of woman herself)

**36. How many children has ... ever had (or adopted)?**  
I 2 3 4 + (FIN 37)

**37. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM**  
(See c.c. items 14 and 18)  
Any (other) H.H. member 20 years old or under? Yes (FIN 38)  
No (Ship to 61)

**38. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM**  
This person is currently:  
Never married (Ask 39)  
All other (Ship to 40)

**REMEMBER: ASK ITEMS 39 THROUGH 68 OF THE WOMAN HERSELF - IF NOT PRESENT MAKE TELEPHONE CALLBACK(S)**

**39. Are any of your children living here now?**  
Yes ( ) No (Go to next person)  
How many? I 2 3 4 + (Ship to 41)

**40. How many of the children living here now were fathered or adopted by your (most recently) divorced/separated husband?**  
None ( ) (Ship to 61)  
I 2 3 4 + (Ask 41)

**41. Does the child(ren)'s father live in:**  
Same State as you ( )  
Different State ( )  
Other - Specify ( )

**42. Does the child(ren)'s father have visitation privileges, joint custody, or neither?**  
Visitation privileges ( ) (Ask 43)  
Joint custody ( ) (Ask 43)  
Neither ( ) (Ship to 44)

**43. During 1987, how many days did the child(ren)'s father have custody of or visit the child(ren)? (Days)**  
0 1 2 3  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
None ( )

**44. Were child support payments agreed to or awarded (Last divorce or separation)?**  
Yes ( ) Was it a ( )  
Voluntary written agreement? ( ) (Ship to 46)  
Court ordered? ( ) (Ship to 46)  
Other - Specify ( )  
No (Ask 45)

**45. Why were child support payments not agreed to or awarded?**  
Final agreement pending ( )  
Other financial agreement made ( )  
Father lives in household ( )  
Wanted child support but:  
Did not pursue an award ( ) (Ship to 57)  
Father financially unable to pay ( )  
Unable to locate father ( )  
Unable to establish paternity ( )  
Other - Specify ( )  
Did not want child support ( )

**46. In what year were these payments first agreed to or awarded? (Year 19 - )**  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**47. Has the amount ever been changed?**  
Yes (Ask 48)  
No (Ship to 49)

**48. In what year was the most recent change? (Year 19 - )**  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**49. Is health insurance now included as part of the child support agreement?**  
Yes ( )  
No ( )

**50. During calendar year 1987 were you or your child(ren) SUPPOSED to receive any child support payments (Last divorce or separation)?**  
Yes (Ask 51)  
No (Ship to 52)

**51. Were these payments to be received - (Read categories)**  
Directly from the child(ren)'s father? ( ) (Ship to 53)  
Through a court or public agency? ( ) (Ship to 53)  
By some other method? ( ) (Specify in notes)

**52. Why were you or your child(ren) not supposed to receive payments in 1987?**  
Child(ren) too old ( )  
Payments not awarded or agreed to until calendar year 1988 ( ) (Ship to 57)  
Child(ren)'s father died before 1987 ( )  
Other - Specify ( )

**53. Did you receive these child support payments (Read Categories)**  
Regularly ( ) (Ship to 55)  
Occasionally ( ) (Ask 54)  
Seldom or ( ) (Ask 54)  
Never ( )

**54. What was the main reason you did not receive these payments regularly, was it because (Read categories)**  
The father refused to pay? ( )  
You were unable to locate father? ( )  
Or was there some other reason? ( ) (Specify in notes)

**55. In total, how much in child support payments were you SUPPOSED to receive in 1987?**  
0 0 0 0 0  
1 1 1 1 1  
2 2 2 2 2  
3 3 3 3 3  
4 4 4 4 4  
5 5 5 5 5  
6 6 6 6 6  
7 7 7 7 7  
8 8 8 8 8  
9 9 9 9 9

**56. How much in child support payments did you ACTUALLY receive in 1987?**  
\$ .00  
0 0 0 0 0  
1 1 1 1 1  
2 2 2 2 2  
3 3 3 3 3  
4 4 4 4 4  
5 5 5 5 5  
6 6 6 6 6  
7 7 7 7 7  
8 8 8 8 8  
9 9 9 9 9

**57. Did the child(ren)'s father actually provide health insurance in 1987 for the child(ren)?**  
Yes ( )  
No ( )

**58. Have you ever contacted any government agency for aid in obtaining child support (for child(ren) of last divorce or separation)?**  
Yes (Ask 59) No (Ship to 61)

**59. In what year did you last contact such an agency? (Year 19 - )**  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**60. What type of help did this office provide? (Mark all that apply)**  
Locate the father ( )  
Establish paternity ( )  
Establish support obligation ( )  
Enforce support order ( )  
Obtain collection ( )  
No help provided ( )  
Other (Specify in notes) ( )

**61. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM**  
This person is currently:  
Never married ( ) (Go to next person)  
All others (Ask 62)

**62. Concerning your (last) divorce/separation, were alimony or maintenance payments agreed to or awarded?**  
Yes (Ask 63) No (Ship to 64)

**63. During 1987 were you SUPPOSED to receive alimony or maintenance payments?**  
Yes ( ) No ( )

**64. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM**  
This person is currently:  
Separated (Ship to 66)  
All others (Ask 65)

**66. After your (last) divorce, did you receive a property settlement such as: (Read categories and mark all that apply)**  
A one time cash settlement ( )  
Some other type of settlement ( )  
Or was there no settlement reached ( )

**68. At the time of your (last) separation, were you working?**  
Yes (Ask 67)  
No (Ship to 68)

**67. Were you working 36 hours or more per week or less than 36 hours per week?**  
36+ per week ( )  
Less than 36 hours per week ( ) (End Questions)

**68. Did you work at any time during the 5 years before your (last) separation?**  
Yes ( ) No ( )

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