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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

J. C. CAPT, Director

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MORRIS H. HANSEN, Statistical Assistant to the Director

RALPH E. GALLOWAY, Executive Assistant to the Director



SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

POPULATION

DIFFERENTIAL FERTILITY

1940 AND 1910

Women by Number of Children
Ever Born

*Bureau of the Census
Library*

Prepared under the supervision of

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Chief, Population Division

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

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Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants, by States.
- II Characteristics of the Population, by States.
- III The Labor Force—Occupation, Industry, Employment, and Income, by States.
- IV Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, by States.

REPORTS ON HOUSING

Volume

- I Data for Small Areas, by States.
Supplement: Block Statistics for Cities.
- II General Characteristics of Housing, by States.
- III Characteristics by Monthly Rent or Value, by States.
- IV Mortgages on Owner-Occupied Nonfarm Homes, by States.

SPECIAL REPORTS

[Individual reports, grouped according to subject. Reports denoted by an asterisk (*) are based on sample statistics]

Statistics for Census Tracts (Including Housing Data) :

A report for each of 60 tracted cities and suburbs.
Unincorporated Communities.

Institutional Population, 14 Years Old and Over.

*Families (Including Housing Data) :

- General Characteristics.
- Tenure and Rent.
- Income and Rent.
- Characteristics of Rural-Farm Families.
- Types of Families.
- Size of Family and Age of Head.
- Employment Status.
- Family Wage or Salary Income in 1939.

*Differential Fertility, 1940 and 1910 :

- Fertility for States and Large Cities.
- Standardized Fertility Rates and Reproduction Rates.
- Women by Number of Children Under 5 Years Old.
- Women by Number of Children Ever Born.

State of Birth of the Native Population.

Internal Migration, 1935 to 1940 :

Color and Sex of Migrants.

Characteristics of the Nonwhite Population by Race.

*Nativity and Parentage of the White Population :

- General Characteristics.
- Country of Origin of the Foreign Stock.
- Mother Tongue.

*The Labor Force (Sample Statistics) :

- Employment and Personal Characteristics.
- Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force.
- Employment and Family Characteristics of Women.
- Wage or Salary Income in 1939.
- Education, Occupation, and Household Relationship of Males 18 to 44 Years Old.
- Industrial Characteristics.
- Occupational Characteristics.
- Usual Occupation.

*Education :

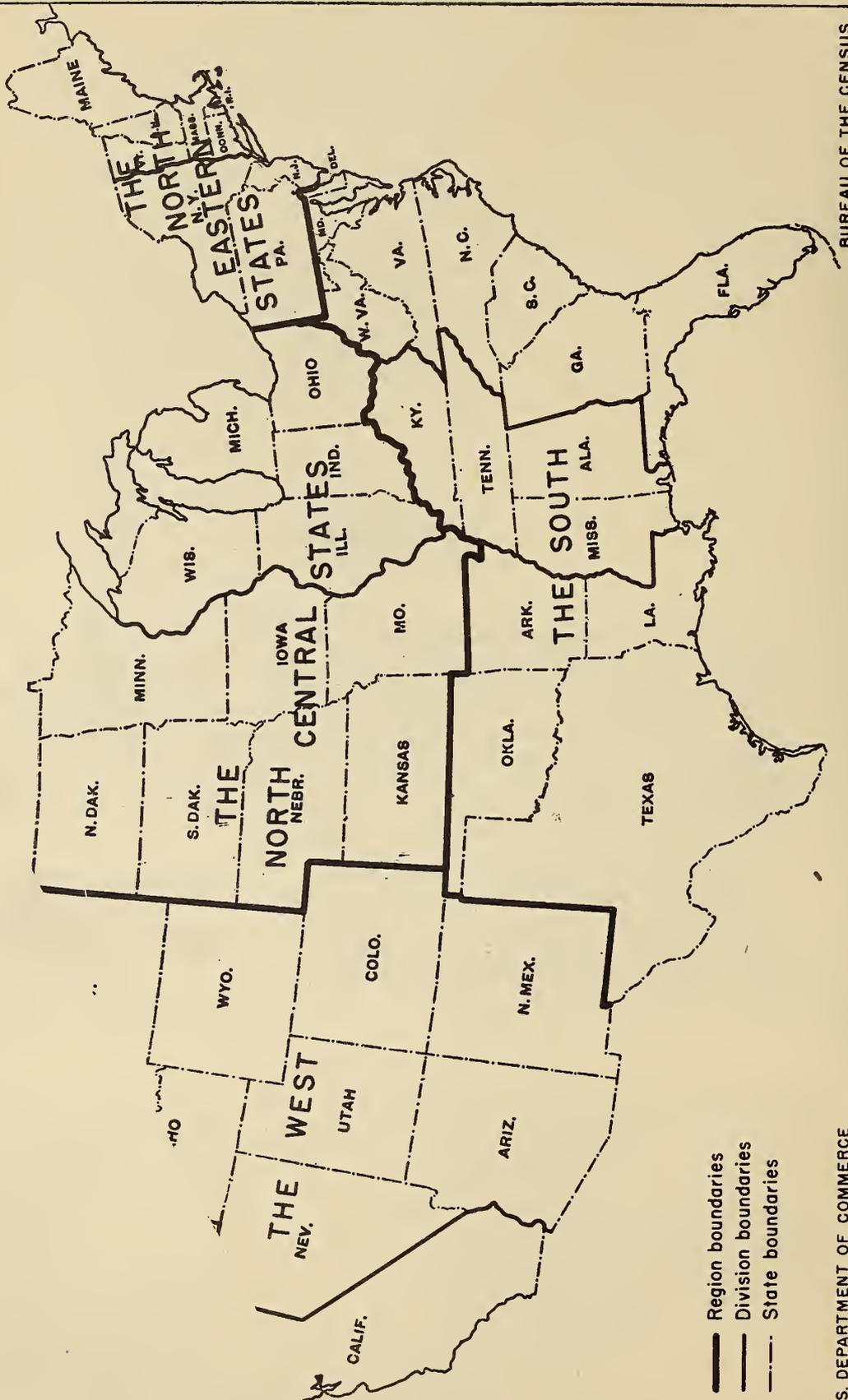
- Educational Attainment of Children by Rental Value of Home.
- Comparative Occupation Statistics for the United States, 1870 to 1940.
- Estimates of Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment in the United States, 1940 and 1930.
- Characteristics by Type of Structure.

FOREWORD

This report is based on tabulations of samples of the census returns for 1940 and 1910. It presents statistics on number of children ever born to native white and Negro women classified by social and economic characteristics of the woman and her family. Statistics for 1910 are included in order to show the changes in fertility which have occurred in the course of a generation. The transcription, coding, and punching of the sample of the population returns for 1910 were performed by New York City Work Projects Administration Project No. O.P. 65-2-97-48 (Census Records and Research Project), sponsored by the Bureau of the Census.

This report was prepared by Wilson H. Grabill, under the supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, Chief, Population Division, Howard G. Brunzman, Assistant Chief, and Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., Chief of General Population Statistics. The sampling procedures were under the direction of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Mathematical Adviser.

REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES



- Region boundaries
- Division boundaries
- State boundaries

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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WOMEN BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

This report presents statistics on the fertility of native white, foreign-born white, and Negro women 15 to 74 years old in the United States, according to social and economic characteristics of the woman and her family. The data are based on tabulations of samples of the returns of the Sixteenth and Thirteenth Decennial Censuses of Population, taken as of April 1, 1940, and April 15, 1910, respectively.¹ Women are classified by number of children ever born and by age and marital status, in relation to parentage, birthplace, length of residence in the United States, education (last full grade of school completed), literacy, age at first marriage, duration of present marriage, and monthly rental value of the home. Statistics are presented for the United States by regions, urban and rural.

The statistics presented show significant differences in the rates of reproduction of various social and economic groups. These fertility differentials have played an important part in determining the characteristics of the population in the United States at the present time, and they will have a significant influence on the composition of the population in the future. The downward trend of the birth rate for all groups of the population combined, which has been going on for many decades in the United States and other countries inhabited mainly by European peoples, itself has important implications with respect to the future social and economic development of the Nation. The trends for the various population groups are even more significant because they have a direct bearing on the quality of our future population as well as its numbers. A comparison of the 1940 and 1910 data on fertility of women classified according to social and economic characteristics shows in what classes of the population the birth rate has been falling most rapidly. These statistics, and the data given in the related reports described below, will contribute to a better understanding of the reasons for the falling birth rate, as well as its potential effects upon the composition of the population.

Related reports on fertility.—This is the fourth of a series of reports based on sample tabulations of the 1940 and 1910 fertility data. The general title of this series is "Differential Fertility, 1940 and 1910." The specific titles and the contents of the other reports in this series are listed below:

1. Fertility for States and Large Cities: Limited data on fertility for women in a large number of areas, including States, cities of 250,000 inhabitants or more, and the metropolitan districts of cities of 1,000,000 or more are presented in this report. Women are classified by number of children ever born, number of children under 5 years old, and number of children 5 to 9 years old, with cross-classifications by age, color, and marital status of the woman, but not by social and economic characteristics such as education and value or rental of the home. Statistics on age at marriage and on duration of marriage are also presented, although not in combination with number of children.

2. Standardized Fertility Rates and Reproduction Rates: This is a supplement to the first report and gives fertility rates and related measures derived from the data presented in that report. The measures shown include number of children ever born and number of children under 5 years

old per 1,000 women, standardized for age, marital status, and color of the woman, and for urban-rural residence. In addition, the report gives gross and net reproduction rates, average annual age-specific birth rates, data on mean length of generation, intrinsic rates of natural increase, and intrinsic birth and death rates, all of which were derived from data for women by number of children under 5 years old and 5 to 9 years old presented in the report on fertility for States and large cities.

3. Women by Number of Children Under 5 Years Old: This report, like the present report on children ever born, presents national and regional statistics relating to differences in fertility of women classified by social and economic characteristics. In it the fertility of the different classifications of women is measured by the number of their children under 5 years old at the time of the census, and the data reflect the conditions of fertility during the 5 years preceding the census date, whereas the data in the present report refer to lifetime fertility. The social and economic characteristics shown in the third report include parentage, education, migration, region of birth, and employment status of the woman, tenure and monthly rental value of the home, relationship of the woman to the household head, and occupation, education, and region of birth of the husband.

A fifth report on differential fertility is planned, which will give national and regional data relating to social and economic differentials in fertility of married women classified by duration of marriage. The cross-classifications by social and economic characteristics in that report will be comparatively few, but they will include education of the woman and employment status and occupation of the husband.

Related reports on population.—The 1940 Population report entitled "The Labor Force (Sample Statistics)—Employment and Family Characteristics of Women" contains sample data on the labor force status of women by age, color, and marital status, cross-classified with number of children under 5 years old and 5 to 9 years old. Figures are shown for the United States by regions, urban and rural, and for the metropolitan districts of 100,000 inhabitants or more.

The series of reports entitled "Families" contains sample data on families by number of children under 10 years old, under 18 years old, and under 21 years old. The report in that series which contains the most statistics relating to fertility is entitled "Types of Families" and presents figures on families by marital status, age, color, and sex of head, and number of children under 18 years old, cross-classified by age of wife for families with married male heads, number of children under 10 years old, size of family, education of head, monthly rental value of home, and other characteristics.

Valuable source materials on fertility for areas smaller than those presented in the reports on fertility are contained in Volumes II and IV of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population, entitled "Characteristics of the Population" and "Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship," respectively, and in the series of Population and Housing reports entitled "Statistics for Census Tracts." From data on individuals classified by age and sex in those reports, ratios of children to women of childbearing age and reproduction rates computed by the so-called "indirect method" can be derived. The measures of fertility which may be computed from those source materials, however, are not so precise as those shown in the present series of reports on differential fertility.

¹ The 1940 Population Census schedule and the instructions to enumerators are reproduced in Part I of Volumes III and IV of the Sixteenth Decennial Census Reports on Population. The 1910 Population Census schedule is reproduced in Volume I of the Thirteenth Decennial Census Reports on Population.

Availability of unpublished data.—The statistics presented for the United States represent most of the detail obtained in the tabulations on which this report is based. Somewhat less detailed statistics have been presented in certain tables for regions than in corresponding tables for the United States, partly because of limited funds for publication and partly because of the comparatively large sampling errors that are to be expected in a more detailed cross-classification for categories containing small numbers of persons.

Unpublished statistics for native white women in urban places classified according to size are available for each region in the detail shown for the United States. Urban-size statistics are also available for Negro women in the South region and for foreign-born white women in the combined North and West regions.

The unpublished statistics can be made available upon request, for the cost of preparing and reproducing them. Requests for these data, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington 25, D. C., will receive a prompt reply, including an estimate of the cost of preparing the figures.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

Children ever born.—In the classification of women by number of children ever born, all children ever born alive to a woman during her lifetime were counted, including children by any former marriage. Although this question was not asked of women reported as single, the statistics are not limited strictly to legitimate fertility because many of the single mothers with illegitimate children living in the household reported themselves as married, widowed, or divorced.² In the determination of total children ever born to women in all marital status groups combined, it has been assumed that women reported as single had borne no children. Without this assumption, fertility rates could have been computed only for women who were or had been married.

In 1940, women ever married (that is, women who were married, widowed, or divorced at the time of the census) but not reporting on number of children ever born comprised 9.4 percent of all women 15 to 74 years old and 12.7 percent of all women who were or had ever been married. The corresponding proportions in 1910 were 5.3 and 7.6 percent, respectively. The proportion of women ever married who made no report on number of children ever born was highest for the youngest women (21.8 percent for those 15 to 19 years old in 1940 and 23.0 percent for the corresponding group in 1910). The proportion was progressively smaller up to about 45 years old but tended to be progressively larger at higher ages in both 1940 and 1910. The younger age groups, which contained the largest proportions not reporting on number of children, were the ones in which there was the greatest possibility that the woman had never borne a child. These groups included relatively large numbers of women who were working at the time of the enumeration and for whom information was given by a person who was not sufficiently well acquainted with the woman to report for her on number of children ever born. The proportion of women not reporting also varied with other factors such as color and urban-rural residence. These women who were or had been married but did not report on number of children ever born were excluded from the computation of fertility rates.

² If illegitimate births which are registered may be attributed to single women, it appears that few of the women having illegitimate children in the household were reported as single in the 1940 census. Moreover, the number of single women with illegitimate children in the household was a negligible proportion of the total number of single women.

In the period 1935 to 1939, there were 161,047 illegitimate births registered for white women and 210,693 illegitimate births registered for nonwhite women in the United States, exclusive of those States which did not require a statement on the birth certificate concerning legitimacy (namely, Massachusetts, New York, and California for all years, 1935 to 1939, and Texas for 1938 and 1939). The figures on number of illegitimate births are subject to considerable understatement as there is a tendency to report such births as legitimate. In contrast, only 13,400 native white single women and 16,040 Negro single women were reported as mothers of illegitimate children under 5 years old in the 1940 census (Sample C) for the entire United States.

The 13,400 native white single women with illegitimate children under 5 years old comprised only 0.1 percent of the 10,049,300 native white single women 15 to 49 years old represented in Sample C; the 16,040 Negro single women with illegitimate children under 5 years old comprised only 1.5 percent of the 1,038,620 Negro single women 15 to 49 years old represented in Sample C.

Because of the failure of some women to report on number of children ever born, the fertility rates for women ever married, as shown in the detailed tables, are probably slightly higher than the actual rates. The rates for all women without regard to marital status may be either slightly too high or slightly too low, depending on age. In general, the possibility that a published rate for women without regard to marital status may be too low is greatest for the youngest women and least for the oldest women shown. A fuller discussion of the nature of the errors to be expected is given in the Appendix, together with fertility rates computed on the basis of several different assumptions as to the fertility of women ever married who made no report on number of children ever born.

The distribution of native white and Negro women who are or have ever been married by number of children ever born is presented for 1940 and 1910 in table I. The distribution shown in this table represents the full frequency detail that has been tabulated in association with each social and economic characteristic in the counts upon which this report is based. In computing the total number of children ever born to a group of women, mean values had to be estimated for the terminal class "10 children or more," as well as for the classes "5 and 6 children" and "7 to 9 children." Somewhat more detail has been tabulated for foreign-born white women and has been used in obtaining the total number of children, but this detail is not shown in any of the tables.

Table I.—NATIVE WHITE AND NEGRO WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS OLD, EVER MARRIED, BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 AND 1910

[Statistics based on Sample C (1940) and Sample W (1910)]

RACE OF WOMAN AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN	1940		1910	
	Number of women ever married	Percent	Number of women ever married	Percent
NATIVE WHITE				
Total, 15 to 74 years.....	27,205,980	100.0	13,895,888	100.0
Reporting on children.....	23,822,960	87.6	12,835,636	92.4
Not reporting on children.....	3,383,020	12.4	1,060,252	7.6
Reporting on children.....	23,822,960	100.0	12,835,636	100.0
No children.....	4,952,180	20.8	1,807,971	14.1
1 child.....	5,473,880	23.0	2,345,114	18.3
2 children.....	4,823,900	20.2	2,161,173	16.8
3 children.....	3,033,160	12.7	1,654,814	12.9
4 children.....	1,909,500	8.0	1,266,206	9.9
5 and 6 children.....	2,034,780	8.5	1,695,371	13.2
7 to 9 children.....	1,175,120	4.9	1,326,719	10.3
10 or more.....	420,440	1.8	578,268	4.5
NEGRO				
Total, 15 to 74 years.....	3,426,040	100.0	2,228,652	100.0
Reporting on children.....	2,902,640	84.7	1,983,989	89.0
Not reporting on children.....	523,400	15.3	244,663	11.0
Reporting on children.....	2,902,640	100.0	1,983,989	100.0
No children.....	753,800	26.0	311,602	15.7
1 child.....	547,960	18.9	324,150	16.8
2 children.....	424,860	14.6	256,475	12.9
3 children.....	309,720	10.7	197,647	10.0
4 children.....	232,180	8.0	166,012	8.4
5 and 6 children.....	304,200	10.5	249,740	12.6
7 to 9 children.....	214,280	7.4	246,873	12.4
10 or more.....	115,640	4.0	231,290	11.7

Childless women.—Childless women are defined as those who reported that they had never had a child born alive.³ The proportion of childless women among those 50 years old and over, who have generally passed beyond the fecund ages, is particularly meaningful.

Mothers.—Mothers are defined as women who reported one or more children ever born. The number of mothers plus the number of childless women is thus equal to the total number of women of a given class reporting on number of children ever born.³

³ As stated in the section on "Children ever born," all women reported as single are assumed, in this classification, to have borne no children.

Urban and rural areas.—Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census in 1940, is, in general, that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. The remainder of the population is classified as rural and is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, without regard to occupation, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population. (For further details, see Volume I of the 1940 Population reports.) In the recent compilation of the 1910 fertility data, the 1940 rules of classification as urban or rural, which differ in a few States from those used in the 1910 census reports, have been applied, as far as possible.

This report and the others in the series of reports on differential fertility contain the only data for 1910 on rural-farm and rural-nonfarm residence ever tabulated by the Bureau of the Census. The rural-farm figures shown for 1910 are somewhat too small and the rural-nonfarm figures are somewhat too large for exact comparability with the corresponding figures for 1940, but the comparability is adequate for an analysis of the fertility differentials involved. Farm residence could be identified from the 1910 Population schedule only for members of the household of the person responsible for the operation of the farm. Households located on farms, but containing no member responsible for the operation of the farm, were returned as nonfarm homes in 1910. The number of such households was probably less than 10 percent, however, of all households located on farms in 1910.

In certain tables in this report, statistics are shown for urban places classified according to size. Statistics for such areas, in combination with those for rural-nonfarm and rural-farm areas, permit an analysis of the variation in fertility of women by type of community. In interpreting the fertility differentials, however, it should be borne in mind that there had been considerable migration of population within and between urban and rural areas, so that many women living in a given area at the time of the census may have borne some or all of their children while living in another area.

Age.—The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before the date of the census, that is, the age of the person in completed years. In the 1940 census tabulations, when the age of a person was not reported, it was estimated on the basis of other information on the Population schedule, such as marital status, school attendance, employment status, age of other members of the family, etc. The 1910 data in this report do not include the small number of persons whose age was not reported. No data on fertility were tabulated from either census for women under 15 years old or 75 years old and over. Since fertility is more highly correlated with age than with any other demographic variable, all of the detailed tables in this report showing women by number of children present the figures cross-classified with the age of the woman.

The relation between age of woman and number of children ever born and the decline in number of children ever born per 1,000 women between 1910 and 1940 are shown by the figures in table II, which presents data for native white women in urban and rural areas.

Table II.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 NATIVE WHITE WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS OLD, BY AGE OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1940 AND 1910

[Statistics based on Sample C (1940) and Sample W (1910). Rates based on total women, except ever married not reporting on children]

AGE OF WOMAN	UNITED STATES			URBAN		RURAL-NONFARM		RURAL-FARM	
	1940	1910	Percent of change, 1910 to 1940	1940	1910	1940	1910	1940	1910
	Total, 15 to 74.	1,632		2,150	-24.1	1,292	1,609	1,975	2,354
15 to 19 years.....	54	60	-10.0	37	34	82	100	68	71
20 to 24 years.....	475	610	-22.1	348	395	669	827	704	810
25 to 29 years.....	1,090	1,474	-26.1	836	1,014	1,394	1,768	1,669	2,053
30 to 34 years.....	1,643	2,270	-27.6	1,308	1,595	1,959	2,549	2,488	3,195
35 to 39 years.....	2,107	3,019	-30.2	1,667	2,182	2,405	3,259	3,197	4,191
40 to 44 years.....	2,417	3,542	-31.8	1,917	2,668	2,704	3,640	3,667	4,833
45 to 49 years.....	2,602	3,859	-32.6	2,067	3,017	2,880	3,878	3,850	5,116
50 to 54 years.....	2,684	4,116	-34.8	2,140	3,347	2,938	3,990	3,913	5,269
55 to 64 years.....	2,850	4,374	-34.8	2,286	3,669	3,122	4,326	4,054	5,320
65 to 74 years.....	3,100	4,449	-30.3	2,556	3,960	3,412	4,500	4,301	5,171

Marital status.—In the classification by marital status, two major groups are shown: "Single" and "ever married." Women classified as "ever married" include those who were widowed or divorced, as well as those who were married, at the time of the census.

In some of the tables, the category "ever married" is further divided into "married once, husband present," "married more than once, husband present," "married unknown times, husband present," "married, husband absent," and "widowed and divorced." A married woman was classified as "husband present" if the husband was reported as a member of the household in which the woman was enumerated. The group "married, husband absent" consists of married women whose husbands were not living in the same household at the time of the census. This group includes married women whose families had been broken by separation (often preceding divorce), immigrants whose husbands were left abroad, wives of persons enumerated as inmates of institutions, and other married women whose usual place of residence was not the same as that of their husbands, including wives of soldiers, sailors, men in labor camps, etc.

Race and nativity.—Fertility statistics are shown only for native white, foreign-born white, and Negro women in the detailed tables of this report. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were returned as white in 1940 and in 1910. In the classification by nativity, a person born in the United States or in any of its territories or possessions is counted as native. Likewise included as native is the small group of persons who, although born in a foreign country or at sea, were American citizens by birth because their parents were American citizens. All other persons are counted as foreign born.

Somewhat less age detail has been shown for foreign-born white women in the detailed tables for 1940 than in the corresponding tables for 1910 because the number of young foreign-born white women enumerated in 1940 was small. For comparative purposes, fertility statistics are shown in table III in somewhat greater age detail for foreign-born white women in 1940 than appears elsewhere in this report. Statistics for women of "other races" are also shown in this table.*

*The figures in table III for number of children ever born contain corrections of minor errors discovered in the report on "Fertility for States and Large Cities" after publication.

Table III.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS OLD, EVER MARRIED AND REPORTING ON CHILDREN, BY RACE AND AGE OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 AND 1910

[Statistics based on Sample C (1940) and Sample W (1910). Rate for 1940 not shown where base is less than 3,000]

RACE AND AGE OF WOMAN	1940			1910		
	Number of women reporting on children	Children ever born		Number of women reporting on children	Children ever born	
		Number	Per 1,000 women		Number	Per 1,000 women
NATIVE WHITE						
Total, 15 to 74.	23,822,960	56,732,066	2,381	12,335,636	42,784,141	3,333
15 to 19 years.....	466,560	282,740	606	303,372	213,427	704
20 to 24 years.....	2,243,520	2,233,533	996	1,404,008	1,883,232	1,341
25 to 29 years.....	3,139,100	4,576,687	1,462	1,880,921	3,375,253	2,060
30 to 34 years.....	3,200,600	6,299,006	1,968	1,810,972	5,065,523	2,797
35 to 39 years.....	2,920,620	7,081,784	2,425	1,719,408	6,083,382	3,588
40 to 44 years.....	2,641,580	7,232,308	2,738	1,409,034	5,706,688	4,050
45 to 49 years.....	2,388,300	6,974,157	2,920	1,184,102	5,137,469	4,339
50 to 54 years.....	2,026,260	6,123,419	3,022	1,050,303	4,813,592	4,583
55 to 64 years.....	2,965,520	9,551,808	3,221	1,348,790	6,481,415	4,805
65 to 74 years.....	1,770,900	6,276,024	3,544	724,726	3,524,160	4,863
FOREIGN-BORN WHITE						
Total, 15 to 74.	3,837,400	12,651,272	3,297	4,033,215	17,241,437	4,275
15 to 19 years.....	4,640	3,390	728	38,008	25,085	660
20 to 24 years.....	37,900	36,707	969	302,373	410,049	1,355
25 to 29 years.....	144,100	209,229	1,452	489,693	1,099,500	2,245
30 to 34 years.....	270,100	516,392	1,912	512,502	1,625,016	3,171
35 to 39 years.....	402,280	963,816	2,396	519,487	2,161,410	4,161
40 to 44 years.....	485,300	1,409,720	2,905	437,582	2,378,178	4,877
45 to 49 years.....	557,680	1,922,191	3,447	441,479	2,330,036	5,278
50 to 54 years.....	545,260	2,006,037	3,679	355,610	1,958,007	5,906
55 to 64 years.....	860,500	3,330,432	3,870	541,141	3,158,068	5,836
65 to 74 years.....	529,640	2,253,368	4,255	345,140	2,096,088	6,073

DIFFERENTIAL FERTILITY, 1940 AND 1910

Table III.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS OLD, EVER MARRIED AND REPORTING ON CHILDREN, BY RACE AND AGE OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 AND 1910—Continued

[Statistics based on Sample C (1940) and Sample W (1910). Rate for 1940 not shown where base is less than 3,000]

RACE AND AGE OF WOMAN	1940			1910		
	Number of women reporting on children	Children ever born		Number of women reporting on children	Children ever born	
		Number	Per 1,000 women		Number	Per 1,000 women
NEGRO						
Total, 15 to 74.	2,902,640	7,884,938	2,716	1,983,989	6,202,671	4,184
15 to 19 years.....	100,800	79,340	791	78,102	65,146	834
20 to 24 years.....	336,160	437,362	1,301	305,872	518,869	1,696
25 to 29 years.....	415,020	765,530	1,845	338,236	894,729	2,645
30 to 34 years.....	389,820	899,956	2,309	270,128	954,069	3,532
35 to 39 years.....	406,580	1,118,986	2,740	269,261	1,216,597	4,515
40 to 44 years.....	326,100	1,008,120	3,091	193,967	1,063,659	5,484
45 to 49 years.....	276,420	923,125	3,340	165,189	1,017,915	6,162
50 to 54 years.....	213,260	786,812	3,688	128,518	845,635	6,580
55 to 64 years.....	263,380	1,045,469	3,985	156,327	1,078,234	6,897
65 to 74 years.....	175,600	821,538	4,678	78,899	548,818	7,000
OTHER RACES						
Total, 15 to 74.	85,780	316,526	3,690	58,998	349,572	5,925
15 to 19 years.....	2,780	2,320	-	2,890	2,340	903
20 to 24 years.....	10,400	16,738	1,609	7,933	31,446	3,964
25 to 29 years.....	13,020	32,586	2,503	9,140	56,814	6,216
30 to 34 years.....	10,940	36,604	3,346	8,088	45,160	5,618
35 to 39 years.....	10,880	44,734	4,112	7,672	51,860	6,760
40 to 44 years.....	11,340	51,836	4,571	5,813	40,416	6,953
45 to 49 years.....	8,520	41,475	4,868	4,627	32,026	6,922
50 to 54 years.....	6,180	29,984	4,852	3,759	30,803	8,194
55 to 64 years.....	7,400	36,855	4,980	6,165	36,985	5,999
65 to 74 years.....	4,320	23,394	5,415	3,261	21,722	6,661

Age at marriage and duration of marriage.—In the 1940 census, women who were married or had ever been married were asked their age at first marriage. In the 1910 census, women who were married were asked the number of years of their present marriage. The resulting data give an indication of the length of time during which the woman could have had a legitimate live birth and also some information on racial and geographic variations in age at marriage. Data on these subjects are limited in this report to women married once, husband present, since relatively large proportions of widowed and divorced women made no report on age at marriage or duration of marriage.

Parentage.—Native white women are classified by parentage into four groups as follows: (1) Native parentage (both parents born in the United States or in the outlying territories or possessions); (2) foreign parentage (both parents foreign born); (3) father foreign (father foreign born and mother native); and (4) mother foreign (mother foreign born and father native). The last two of these groups are usually combined under the heading "mixed parentage," and the last three, under the heading "foreign or mixed parentage." The full parentage detail has been shown only for the United States as a whole.

Foreign-born white women are persons of the first generation in the United States. Native white women of foreign or mixed parentage are persons of the second generation. Native white women of native parentage are persons of the third and subsequent generations in the United States. The cultural, social, and economic standards of these three groups of women may be different. The differences in the fertility of women ever married, with respect to number of children ever born, for these nativity and parentage groups are shown in table IV, which also shows data for subdivisions of the foreign or mixed parentage group.

Table IV.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 WHITE WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS OLD, EVER MARRIED AND REPORTING ON CHILDREN, BY NATIVITY, PARENTAGE, AND AGE OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940

[Statistics based on Sample C]

AGE OF WOMAN	NATIVE WHITE BY PARENTAGE					Foreign-born white
	Both parents native	Mixed parentage			Both parents foreign	
		Total	Mother foreign	Father foreign		
Total, 15 to 74 years....	2,409	2,271	2,214	2,301	2,294	3,297
15 to 19 years.....	601	605	580	618	677	728
20 to 24 years.....	1,028	914	902	920	829	969
25 to 29 years.....	1,515	1,347	1,354	1,348	1,254	1,452
30 to 34 years.....	2,016	1,837	1,793	1,863	1,796	1,912
35 to 39 years.....	2,475	2,203	2,152	2,233	2,282	2,396
40 to 44 years.....	2,795	2,501	2,478	2,514	2,591	2,905
45 to 49 years.....	2,965	2,684	2,659	2,697	2,830	3,447
50 to 54 years.....	3,065	2,749	2,757	2,745	2,957	3,679
55 to 64 years.....	3,275	2,933	2,869	2,960	3,104	3,870
65 to 74 years.....	3,596	3,255	3,219	3,271	3,440	4,255

Region of birth.—In some of the tables, statistics are shown for native white and Negro women classified according to region of birth. Four major regions of birth are shown for native white women. Only two categories, "Born in the South" and "Born elsewhere or region of birth not reported," are shown for Negro women. The figures for women classified by region of birth and by number of children ever born provide an indication of the fertility of migrant women relative to the fertility of women in the region to which they migrated and the fertility of nonmigrant women in the region of origin.

Country of birth of foreign-born white women.—Statistics for white women born in certain foreign countries are shown for 1940 and for 1910. In the 1940 census the question on country of birth referred to the political boundaries as they were on January 1, 1937. Such countries as Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland are therefore included. The classification of the 1910 population, while not referring to the political boundaries as of a given date, largely represents the foreign countries as they existed in 1910, with the exception of Poland, which was not then a political entity but which was nonetheless reported by many immigrants as their country of birth. The 1910 figures shown for "Poland" in this report also include those persons who reported Polish mother tongue but who gave Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia as their country of birth. Although the 1940 and 1910 figures for a given country or group of countries do not always pertain to the same political boundaries, they should be sufficiently comparable to permit an analysis of change between 1910 and 1940 in the fertility of immigrants living in the United States. The nature of the change in lifetime fertility for women from selected countries is indicated by the figures in table V, which shows the number of children ever born per 1,000 women ever married, 45 to 74 years old, or for women who had for the most part completed the childbearing period.

Not all countries are shown separately in the tables on country of birth of foreign-born white women. Only those countries reported by at least 25,000 women 15 to 44 years old were tabulated separately. Figures for these countries are shown in full in the tables for the United States. The same general principal of selection applied also to the listing of countries for the urban and rural parts of each region.

Table V.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN PER 1,000 FOREIGN-BORN WHITE WOMEN 45 TO 74 YEARS OLD, EVER MARRIED AND REPORTING ON CHILDREN, BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 AND 1910

[Statistics based on Sample C (1940) and Sample W (1910)]

COUNTRY OF BIRTH AND CENSUS YEAR	Number of women reporting on children	CHILDREN EVER BORN	
		Number	Per 1,000 women
England and Wales:			
1940.....	149,540	402,169	2,689
1910.....	159,687	815,490	5,107
Scotland:			
1940.....	53,580	147,672	2,756
1910.....	37,813	206,161	5,452
Irish Free State (Eire), 1940.....	141,680	472,020	3,332
Ireland, 1910.....	252,847	1,426,756	5,423
Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland:			
1940.....	198,080	630,080	3,181
1910.....	182,238	966,943	5,306
Germany:			
1940.....	269,760	901,616	3,342
1910 ¹	482,921	2,793,824	5,785
Poland, 1940.....	251,420	1,178,844	4,689
Poland, 1910².....	58,648	398,178	7,422
Czechoslovakia, 1940.....	86,980	389,360	4,476
Austria, 1940.....	124,140	501,632	4,041
Hungary, 1940.....	76,380	281,228	3,682
Austria-Hungary, 1910¹.....	79,599	481,062	6,044
Russia (U.S.S.R.), 1940.....	243,500	919,812	3,777
Russia, 1910¹.....	70,695	505,916	7,156
Italy:			
1940.....	316,300	1,576,304	4,984
1910.....	69,376	412,237	5,942
Canada-French:			
1940.....	55,720	242,496	4,352
1910.....	51,831	382,640	7,382
Canada-Other:			
1940.....	141,780	372,508	2,627
1910.....	132,649	579,988	4,366
Mexico:			
1940.....	50,500	286,024	5,664
1910.....	14,239	92,658	6,507
All other and not reported:			
1940.....	333,720	1,210,264	3,627
1910.....	85,627	480,346	5,610

¹ Exclusive of those who reported Polish mother tongue.

² Poland was not a political entity in 1910. The category "Poland" comprises persons who nonetheless reported Poland as their birthplaces and those who reported that they were born in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia, but who reported Polish mother tongue.

relatively high birth rates and in other years they came from countries having relatively low birth rates. There was a tendency for earlier immigrants to settle in rural areas, whereas the more recent immigrants settled mainly in industrial communities in response to the demand for labor, and these differences in place of settlement in the United States must also be considered in interpreting these data.

Education.—In the 1940 census, for the first time, a question on the formal educational attainment of each person was included. The question on the schedule referred to the last full grade that the person had completed in the regular school system—public, private, or parochial school, college or university. Statistics on the last full grade of school completed are shown in this report for native white and Negro women. With the exception of the statistics shown for single women 15 to 19 years old, many of whom were still attending school, the statistics on educational attainment shown in this report pertain mainly to persons who have completed their formal education.

Literacy.—From 1870 to 1930, the Population Census schedule contained a question on literacy, or the ability to read and write in English or in some other language. No specific test of ability to read or write was prescribed, but the enumerators were instructed not to return a person as able to write simply because he was able to write his name.

Monthly rental value of home.—Statistics on monthly rental value of homes are available only for those women living in private households and related to the head of the household. In interpreting the figures presented in the tables, it should be remembered that many women currently in a given economic category may have had a different economic status when their children were born. Moreover, the monthly rental value of the home is not always a precise indication of the plane of living because the prevailing rental value for homes of comparable quality varies for different areas and because some persons with high incomes live in homes of low rent. For rural-farm areas in particular, the data on monthly rental value are not entirely satisfactory because of the difficulty in separating the value of the farmhouse from that of the rest of the farm property.

For women living in rented houses, the monthly rental value represents the reported monthly contract rent. For those in owner-occupied houses, it represents one percent of the reported value of the home.

COMPARISON BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNTS

Nature of the sample data.—The fertility statistics shown in this report are based on tabulations of samples of women 15 years old and over enumerated in the 1940 and 1910 censuses, identified as Sample C and Sample W, respectively. Sample C was designed so that in certain portions of the areas shown, a 2 1/2-percent sample was used (multiplied by a uniform factor of 40), and elsewhere a 5-percent sample was used (multiplied by a uniform factor of 20). Sample W was designed so that in the North and the South an 8-percent sample was used (multiplied by a uniform factor of 12.5) and in the West a somewhat larger sample.

Years of residence in the United States.—The 1910 Population Census schedule contained a question on the year of immigration of the foreign born. In the compilation of the fertility statistics for 1910 the data on year of immigration were converted into data on years of residence in the United States, by subtraction of the reported year of immigration from the year 1910. The figures for foreign-born white women classified by duration of residence in the United States provide an indication of the fluctuations in the fertility of the foreign-born white population present in the United States for short or long periods prior to 1910. The figures do not, however, indicate the extent to which "Americanization" of the foreign-born whites affected their fertility. In some years the majority of the immigrants came from countries having

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Exact agreement is not to be expected between these tabulations and the corresponding tabulations of the complete counts, but the sample data nevertheless indicate the relationships among the various characteristics involved. With regard to the individual numbers in the tables, comparisons thus far made for Sample C indicate that 95 percent of the numbers above 25,000 will differ from those given by the complete count by less than 5 percent, 95 percent of those between 10,000 and 25,000 will differ by less than 10 percent, and 95 percent of those between 2,500 and 10,000 will differ by less than 20 percent. Somewhat larger variations may occur in the case of numbers below 2,500, but even here the majority of the differences are less than 15 percent.

Similar comparisons made for Sample W indicate that 95 percent of the numbers above 10,000 will differ from those given by the complete count by less than 5 percent, 95 percent of those between 3,000 and 10,000 will differ by less than 10 percent, and 95 percent of those between 800 and 3,000 will differ by less than 20 percent. Somewhat larger variations may occur for numbers below 800, but even here the majority of the differences are less than 15 percent.

In table VI statistics based on the results of Samples C and W and on the corresponding complete counts are presented for women classified by several characteristics. Distributions by urban-rural residence in 1910 would be expected to be somewhat different for the sample tabulations and the complete counts since, as stated in the section on "Urban and rural areas," the slightly different rules of classification used in 1940 were applied to the sample of the 1910 population.

Figures based on the sample tabulations differ slightly from those based on the complete counts, not only because of the sampling variations, but also because of the manner in which the data were processed. For example, figures from Sample C show a larger proportion of native white women than those from the complete count. This bias resulted from a tendency in the coding to classify persons as native white at the expense of other categories. On the other hand, there was a tendency in the coding of Sample W to classify persons as "Other" (Indian, Chinese, and other minor races) when the appropriate race classification was not immediately evident from the entries on the Population schedule.

Table VI.—COMPARISON BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNTS, FOR WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS OLD, BY URBAN-RURAL RESIDENCE, RACE, MARITAL STATUS, AND AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 AND 1910

[For 1910, urban-rural figures in Sample W, but not those in complete count, have been adjusted to the 1940 classification]

AREA, RACE, MARITAL STATUS, AND AGE OF WOMAN	WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS OLD, 1940			WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS OLD, 1910		
	Based on complete count	Based on Sample C		Based on complete count	Based on Sample W	
		Number	Percent of com- plete count		Number	Percent of com- plete count
AREA						
Total.....	47,957,502	47,666,800	99.4	29,396,758	29,385,578	100.0
Urban.....	29,328,372	29,137,040	99.3	15,033,513	14,814,026	98.5
Rural.....	18,629,130	18,529,760	99.5	14,363,245	14,571,552	101.5
Rural-						
nonfarm.....	9,275,188	9,262,760	99.9	(1)	6,247,401	-
Rural-farm....	9,353,942	9,267,000	99.1	(1)	8,324,151	-
RACE						
White.....	43,242,381	43,023,060	99.5	26,271,881	26,237,739	99.9
Native.....	38,198,673	38,150,180	99.9	21,011,224	20,959,336	99.8
Foreign born..	5,043,708	4,872,880	96.6	5,260,657	5,278,403	100.3
Negro.....	4,565,734	4,502,820	98.6	3,041,587	3,058,923	100.6
Other races....	149,387	140,920	94.3	83,290	88,916	106.8
MARITAL STATUS						
Single.....	12,625,007	12,558,320	99.5	¹ 8,848,502	² 8,819,752	99.7
Married, wid- owed, and divorced.....	35,332,495	35,108,480	99.4	³ 19,180,663	19,192,429	100.1
AGE						
15 to 19 years..	6,158,370	6,149,940	99.9	4,536,321	4,537,017	100.0
20 to 24 years..	5,895,443	5,885,060	99.8	4,476,694	4,450,677	99.4
25 to 29 years..	5,645,976	5,608,720	99.3	3,935,655	3,923,768	99.7
30 to 34 years..	5,172,076	5,144,160	99.5	3,315,417	3,314,146	100.0
35 to 39 years..	4,799,718	4,768,260	99.3	3,023,084	3,040,867	100.4
40 to 44 years..	4,368,708	4,327,860	99.1	2,475,237	2,474,989	100.0
45 to 49 years..	4,045,956	4,001,300	98.9	2,090,281	2,088,040	99.9
50 to 54 years..	3,504,096	3,472,420	99.1	1,790,778	1,790,235	100.0
55 to 59 years..	2,832,501	2,823,260	99.7	1,298,514	1,302,038	100.3
60 to 64 years..	2,330,524	2,307,380	99.0	1,081,184	1,090,409	100.9
65 to 69 years..	1,910,569	1,894,420	99.2	815,509	818,994	100.4
70 to 74 years..	1,298,565	1,284,020	98.9	552,084	554,403	100.4

¹ Statistics for 1910 not available.

² Includes women for whom marital status was not reported, shown separately in the 1910 reports.

³ Figures shown for 1910 by marital status comprise women 15 to 64 years old.