

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

J. C. CAPT, Director (Appointed May 22, 1941)

WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, Director (Retired January 31, 1941)

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

POPULATION

DIFFERENTIAL FERTILITY

1940 AND 1910

Fertility for States and Large Cities

Prepared under the supervision of

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

REPORTS ON POPULATION

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.

Statistics for Census Tracts (Including Housing Data).

Additional Reports—Internal Migration, Families (Including Housing Data), Fertility, Parentage, Mother Tongue, Further Statistics on The Labor Force, etc.

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REPORTS ON HOUSING

- 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.

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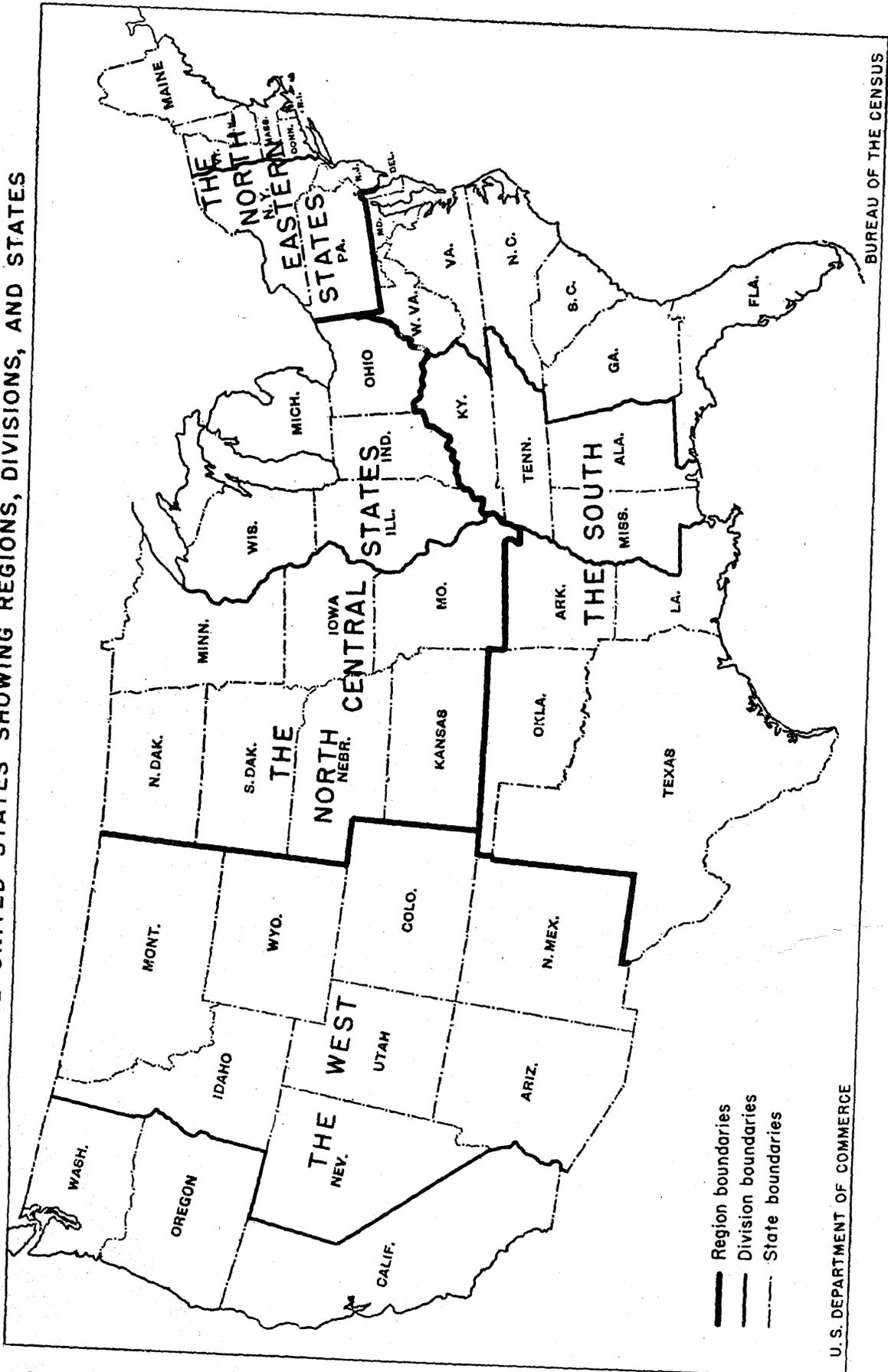
FOREWORD

Sampling techniques were utilized in the Sixteenth Decennial Census for the first time in the history of the Population Census. The use of sampling methods permitted the collection of statistics on a larger number of inquiries than has heretofore been possible, the release of preliminary population statistics at an early date, and the tabulation of a great many social and economic characteristics of the population at a relatively low cost.

This report is based on the tabulation of samples of the census returns for 1940 and for 1910 and presents statistics on the fertility and other characteristics of women for regions, States, cities of 250,000 or more, and metropolitan districts of cities of 1,000,000 or more. This report contains the only statistics published from either census relating directly to the fertility of women for States, cities, and metropolitan districts. 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 under the supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, Chief Statistician for Population, and Dr. A. Ross Eckler, Assistant Chief Statistician, by Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., Wilson H. Grabill, Dr. Paul C. Glick, and Dr. A. J. Jaffe. The sampling procedures were under the direction of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Mathematical Adviser.

MAP OF THE UNITED STATES SHOWING REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES



BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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FERTILITY FOR STATES AND LARGE CITIES

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

This report presents statistics for the United States on the fertility of women 15 to 74 years old, based on 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, number of children under 5 years old, and number of children 5 to 9 years old. Women classified by number of children are also classified by age, color, and marital status. Data on age at marriage and duration of marriage are also presented, although not in combination with number of children. These figures will be helpful in interpreting the fertility differentials and are of direct interest in the study of marriage. Statistics are given for the United States by regions and States, urban and rural; for cities of 250,000 or more; for metropolitan districts of cities of 1,000,000 or more; and for the urban and rural-nonfarm parts of these districts.

Related reports on fertility.— This report is based on sample tabulations of the 1940 and 1910 fertility data. A supplement to this report will present gross and net reproduction rates, standardized rates of children per 1,000 women, and other summary measures of fertility derived from data in the present report. Additional reports are being prepared. These reports will present statistics on social, economic, and other characteristics of whites and Negroes for the United States, including country of birth for the foreign-born white, by regions, urban and rural. The tentative titles of these reports are presented below:

Women by Number of Children Ever Born.

Women by Number of Children Under 5 Years Old.

Marital Fertility by Duration of Marriage.— Data are to be presented for women married only once and living with their husbands at the time of the census, classified by number of children ever born by duration of marriage. Data on number of children ever born are also to be given for women whose marriages were broken by divorce or by the death of the husband.

Related reports on population.— A report entitled "The Labor Force (Sample Statistics)—Employment and Family Characteristics of Women: 1940" 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.

A 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 this 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 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 material on fertility for areas smaller than those presented in this report are contained in Volumes II and IV of the Population reports, 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 these 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 these source materials, however, are not so precise as those shown in the present and subsequent reports on fertility.

Sources of fertility statistics.— The statistics shown in this report are based on tabulations of samples of women 15 to 74 years old enumerated in the 1940 and 1910 censuses. These samples are identified as Sample C and Sample W, respectively. Characteristics of the woman and of her household were obtained from the entries on the Population schedules, where the individual members of a household were enumerated on consecutive lines. (See section on "Comparison between results of sample tabulations and complete counts.")

Arrangement of tables.— Data on fertility by age of woman are presented in tables 1 to 45 of this report. These tables are arranged in four major groups according to area. Statistics for the United States are given in tables 1 to 14; for regions in tables 15 to 28; for States in tables 29 to 39; and for cities and metropolitan districts in tables 40 to 45. Within these four groups, tables presenting data on number of children ever born precede those presenting data on number of children under 5 years old, which in turn precede tables presenting data on number of children 5 to 9 years old. Data for 1940 and 1910 are shown in separate tables. Each 1940 table is followed by a corresponding table for 1910, so far as 1910 data are available.

Following the tables on fertility, there is a group of tables on age at marriage or duration of marriage of women married only once and living with their husbands at the time of the census. Tables 46 to 49 present statistics for 1940 on age at marriage, for the United States, regions, States, cities, and metropolitan districts; and tables 50 to 52 present statistics for 1910 on duration of marriage, for the United States, regions, and States.

Availability of unpublished data.— The statistics presented for the United States and regions represent most of the detail tabulated in the counts on which this report is based. Similar statistics are available for white women in each area and for nonwhite women in the selected States, cities, and metropolitan districts, shown in this report.

Statistics on age at first marriage for 1940 and on duration of present marriage for 1910 are available for all women 15 to 74 years old who are or have ever been married. These statistics are available for all areas shown in this report, in detail similar to that presented in tables 46 to 52 for women married once, husband present.

Because of space limitations, the data on certain subjects are published in condensed form for the smaller areas. The unpublished statistics, so far as the figures are large enough to be significant, 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, 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.—The present report contains the first statistics on the number of children ever born that the Bureau

¹ The 1940 Population Census Schedule is reproduced in Part 1 of Volume IV of the Sixteenth Decennial Census Reports on Population. The instructions to enumerators are also reproduced in this volume. The 1910 Population Census Schedule is reproduced in Volume I of the Thirteenth Decennial Census Reports on Population.

DIFFERENTIAL FERTILITY, 1940 AND 1910

of the Census has published.² Statistics for 1910 as well as for 1940 have been included in order to furnish a basis for analyzing fertility changes that have taken place during the course of a generation.

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, there is evidence that most of the single mothers with illegitimate children living in the household reported themselves as married, widowed, or divorced. Hence the statistics are not limited strictly to legitimate fertility. In the determination of total children born to women of all marital statuses combined, therefore, it has been assumed that women reported as single had borne no children. (See discussion of this problem in section on "Children under 5 years old.") Without this assumption, fertility rates could have been computed only for women ever married.

In 1940, women ever married 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 women who were or had been married. The corresponding proportions in 1910 were 5.3 percent 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 thereafter in both 1940 and 1910. The age groups with the largest proportions not reporting on number of children were those in which there is the greatest possibility that the woman had never borne a child. Furthermore, these age groups include 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 the number of children ever born. The proportion of women not reporting also varied with other factors, such as color and residence, as well as with age. These women who were or had been married but did not report on number of children ever born were excluded from the figures on number of women in the computation of fertility rates.

These published rates for women ever married are probably slightly higher than the actual rates, and the published rates for all women 15 to 74 years old 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 is too low is greatest for the youngest women and least for the oldest women shown.

No simple alternative assumption would have produced more accurate rates. If the rates had been computed on the assumption that the women who were or had been married but did not report on number of children were childless, the resulting rates would have been too low--both for women ever married and for all women. On the other hand, if the rates had been computed on the assumption that women who made no report on number of children were as fertile as reporting women who were or had been married, the rates would have been the same as the published ones for women ever married and probably also too high for all women.

The distribution of 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 as shown in this report represents the full frequency detail that was tabulated from the 1940 census data. The terminal class was thus "10 or more" and, in computing the total number of children born to a group of women, mean values had to be estimated for this group. Further detail was tabulated for 1910 and was used in obtaining the total number of children, but this detail is not shown in the regular tables because of space limitations. Moreover, women with 10 or more children ever born constituted in 1940 only 2.2 percent and in 1910 only 6.1 percent of all women ever married and reporting on children ever born.

Women in 1910 were much more fertile than women in 1940, as indicated by the fact that the proportion of women reporting 4 or more children ever born was much higher in 1910 than in 1940. That this higher fertility among the women living in 1910 was not merely a function of their relative age composition may be seen from tables 1 and 2 where similar statistics are shown for women in each 5-year age period.

² Although in 1890 and 1900, as well as in 1910, the enumerators were instructed to ask of all women who were or had been married, the number of children ever borne, no statistics on this subject were ever published in reports of these censuses.

Table I. WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS OLD WHO WERE OR HAD BEEN MARRIED, BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 AND 1910

[1940 statistics based on Sample C; 1910 statistics based on Sample W]

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN	1940		1910	
	Number of women ever married	Percent	Number of women ever married	Percent
Total, 15 to 74 years.....	85,108,480	100.0	20,476,625	100.0
Reporting on children.....	80,648,780	87.8	18,911,888	92.4
Not reporting.....	4,459,700	12.7	1,564,737	7.6
Reporting on children...	80,648,780	100.0	18,911,888	100.0
No children.....	6,228,960	20.3	2,570,074	13.6
1 child.....	6,606,120	21.6	3,187,739	16.9
2 children.....	5,990,700	19.5	2,964,832	15.7
3 children.....	3,948,240	12.9	2,338,236	12.4
4 children.....	2,586,240	8.4	1,657,260	9.8
5 children.....	1,707,040	5.6	1,451,787	7.7
6 children.....	1,164,140	3.8	1,178,150	6.2
7 children.....	779,000	2.5	918,561	4.8
8 children.....	580,120	1.9	744,894	3.9
9 children.....	384,860	1.3	558,000	3.0
10 or more.....	688,360	2.2	1,151,495	6.1
10 children.....	(1)	-	440,991	2.3
11 children.....	(1)	-	267,960	1.4
12 children.....	(1)	-	201,877	1.1
13 or 14 children.....	(1)	-	171,416	0.9
15 or more.....	(1)	-	69,751	0.4

¹ Statistics for 1940 not available.

Childless women.— Childless women are defined as those reporting that they have 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

Children under 5 years old.— In the classification of women by number of children under 5 years old, only those children born to the woman and living with her at the time of the census were counted. The number of such children was obtained by an inspection of the entries on the successive lines of the Population schedule. Stepchildren, adopted children, grandchildren, and other related children in the family not born to this woman, as well as wards and other unrelated children in the household, were excluded so far as such children could be identified.

For 1940, children living with mothers who were single were included in the count, but for 1910 they were excluded. It is probable, however, that most of the single women living with their illegitimate children reported themselves as married, widowed, or divorced because few such single women were found.⁴

The number of children not living in the same household as their mothers and therefore excluded from the count is small in comparison with the number of children living in the same household. (See table IX in section on "Comparison between results of sample tabulations and complete counts.")

A more important source of error is the underenumeration of children under 5 years old (and particularly of infants under 1 year old) in both the Census of 1940 and that of 1910. The underenumeration of young children is not peculiar to the United States Census. It has been noted, for example, in the census returns of England and Wales and of some of the countries of continental Europe. In the United States as a whole, about 7 percent of the children under 5 years old were missed in the census of 1940, 6 percent of the white and 15 percent of the nonwhite. The corresponding percentages for 1910 were about the same. A study of this undercount, together with fertility rates adjusted for underenumeration of children under 5 years old, will be presented in a supplement to this report.

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.

⁴ In 1940 among the single native white women 15 to 49 years old, 13,400, or 0.1 percent, reported 16,020 children under 5 years old. Among the single Negro women 15 to 49 years old, 16,040, or 1.5 percent, reported 20,620 children under 5 years old. Corresponding figures are available for neither the foreign-born white nor the women of "other races."

Because of the small number of women having 4 or more children under 5 years old, the frequency distributions in the detailed tables are shown with "3 or more under 5" as the terminal class. Furthermore, because of the small number of women 50 to 74 years old with young children, this group is not shown in the detailed tables. The distribution of women 15 to 54 years old by number of children under 5 years old up to "5 or more" is presented in table II. Women 50 to 54 are included in this table in order to demonstrate the fact that very few of the older women had children under 5 years old.

Table II. WOMEN 15 TO 54 YEARS OLD BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD, BY AGE OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 AND 1910

[1940 statistics based on Sample C; 1910 statistics based on Sample W. Percent not shown where less than 0.1]

CENSUS YEAR AND AGE OF WOMAN	Total women	WOMEN HAVING SPECIFIED NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD					
		None	1	2	3	4	5 or more
1940							
Total, 15 to 54...	39,357,680	31,894,380	5,258,520	1,820,020	348,480	33,480	2,800
15 to 19 years.....	6,149,940	5,844,940	252,480	48,200	4,140	80	100
20 to 24 years.....	5,885,060	4,229,320	1,098,500	460,220	93,880	7,580	560
25 to 29 years.....	5,608,720	3,454,100	1,439,420	582,040	120,140	12,220	800
30 to 34 years.....	5,144,160	3,462,600	1,183,260	396,120	73,480	8,100	600
35 to 39 years.....	4,768,260	3,741,160	754,860	224,500	42,860	4,460	420
40 to 44 years.....	4,327,860	3,838,760	385,660	90,880	12,100	820	120
45 to 49 years.....	4,001,800	3,849,580	133,080	17,120	1,260	80	180
50 to 54 years.....	3,472,880	3,453,900	18,260	1,440	620	140	20
Percent, 15 to 54.	100.0	81.0	13.4	4.6	0.9	0.1	-
15 to 19 years.....	100.0	95.0	4.1	0.8	0.1	-	-
20 to 24 years.....	100.0	71.9	18.6	7.8	1.6	0.1	-
25 to 29 years.....	100.0	61.6	25.7	10.4	2.1	0.2	-
30 to 34 years.....	100.0	67.7	23.0	7.7	1.4	0.2	-
35 to 39 years.....	100.0	78.5	15.8	4.7	0.9	0.1	-
40 to 44 years.....	100.0	88.7	8.9	2.1	0.3	-	-
45 to 49 years.....	100.0	96.2	3.3	0.4	-	-	-
50 to 54 years.....	100.0	99.5	0.5	-	-	-	-
1910							
Total, 15 to 54...	25,469,297	18,673,152	3,995,513	2,276,340	490,417	32,372	1,503
15 to 19 years.....	4,587,017	4,315,132	184,411	35,047	2,362	26	39
20 to 24 years.....	4,450,677	3,055,527	823,546	465,975	99,589	5,822	158
25 to 29 years.....	3,923,768	2,104,726	944,026	687,546	175,297	11,796	327
30 to 34 years.....	3,314,146	1,841,840	811,185	534,151	118,521	8,198	251
35 to 39 years.....	3,040,867	1,927,024	653,431	373,223	72,015	4,888	286
40 to 44 years.....	2,474,989	1,890,350	409,472	153,444	20,168	1,363	192
45 to 49 years.....	2,088,040	1,916,453	144,132	24,885	2,287	162	141
50 to 54 years.....	1,639,793	1,622,100	15,310	2,069	208	57	49
Percent, 15 to 54.	100.0	73.3	15.7	8.9	1.9	0.1	-
15 to 19 years.....	100.0	95.1	4.1	0.8	0.1	-	-
20 to 24 years.....	100.0	68.7	18.5	10.5	2.2	0.1	-
25 to 29 years.....	100.0	53.6	24.1	17.5	4.5	0.3	-
30 to 34 years.....	100.0	55.6	24.5	16.1	3.6	0.2	-
35 to 39 years.....	100.0	63.4	21.8	12.9	2.4	0.2	-
40 to 44 years.....	100.0	76.4	16.5	6.2	0.8	0.1	-
45 to 49 years.....	100.0	91.8	6.9	1.2	0.1	-	-
50 to 54 years.....	100.0	98.9	0.9	0.1	-	-	-

Data on number of children under 5 years old indicate "current" fertility in contrast with "life-time" fertility indicated by number of children ever born, since all of the children under 5 were born during the 5 years preceding the census date, namely, from April 1, 1935, to March 31, 1940, or from April 15, 1905, to April 14, 1910. Rates based on the number of children under 5 are not, of course, equivalent to birth rates since the children have lived for about 2.5 years on the average. With an allowance for mortality during this period, these rates can be converted into age-specific birth rates by a method that will be described in the supplement to this report. The data published in the present report on children under 5 and children 5 to 9 may be said to describe "effective" fertility.

Children 5 to 9 years old.— The number of children 5 to 9 years old was determined by an inspection of entries on the Population schedule in the same manner as the number of children under 5 years old. The children who were 5 to 9 years old in 1940 were born during the period from April 1, 1930, to March 31, 1935. (Figures were not tabulated for women by number of children 5 to 9 years old in 1910.)

Table III presents for the United States as a whole the full detail tabulated for women 15 to 59 years old by number of children 5 to 9 years old in 1940. The detailed tables in this report show "3 or more 5 to 9" as the terminal class for

children 5 to 9 years old as well as for children under 5 years old. The detailed tables also omit the age classes of women 15 to 19 and 55 to 59 years old.

Table III. WOMEN 15 TO 59 YEARS OLD, BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN 5 TO 9 YEARS OLD, BY AGE OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940

[Statistics based on Sample C. Percent not shown where less than 0.1]

AGE OF WOMAN	Total women	WOMEN HAVING SPECIFIED NUMBER OF CHILDREN 5 TO 9 YEARS OLD					
		None	1	2	3	4	5 or more
Total, 15 to 59...	42,180,980	34,982,080	4,944,420	1,824,760	384,120	39,080	6,520
15 to 19 years.....	6,149,940	6,142,480	6,340	1,040	80	-	-
20 to 24 years.....	5,885,060	5,535,900	286,150	55,460	6,680	440	450
25 to 29 years.....	5,608,720	4,045,100	1,022,420	433,240	97,160	9,740	1,360
30 to 34 years.....	5,144,160	3,195,880	1,255,300	554,540	122,340	14,420	1,580
35 to 39 years.....	4,768,260	3,186,480	1,074,200	409,280	82,560	8,260	1,400
40 to 44 years.....	4,327,860	3,313,460	724,860	236,280	48,120	4,600	1,040
45 to 49 years.....	4,001,800	3,437,780	427,320	115,360	18,660	1,380	600
50 to 54 years.....	3,472,420	3,322,280	130,080	17,460	2,080	240	280
55 to 59 years.....	2,823,260	2,802,720	18,200	2,100	-	-	-
Percent, 15 to 59.	100.0	82.9	11.7	4.3	0.9	0.1	-
15 to 19 years.....	100.0	99.9	0.1	-	-	-	-
20 to 24 years.....	100.0	94.1	4.9	0.9	0.1	-	-
25 to 29 years.....	100.0	72.1	18.2	7.7	1.7	0.2	-
30 to 34 years.....	100.0	62.1	24.4	10.8	2.4	0.3	-
35 to 39 years.....	100.0	66.8	22.5	8.6	1.9	0.2	-
40 to 44 years.....	100.0	76.6	16.7	5.5	1.1	0.1	-
45 to 49 years.....	100.0	85.9	10.7	2.9	0.6	-	-
50 to 54 years.....	100.0	95.7	3.7	0.5	0.1	-	-
55 to 59 years.....	100.0	99.3	0.6	0.1	-	-	-

The enumeration of children 5 to 9 years old in the Population Census is considered to be relatively complete. The remarks in the section on "Children under 5 years old" concerning the effects of mortality also apply here, however.

The statistics on women by number of children 5 to 9 years old, in combination with those on women by number of children under 5 years old, furnish information on the fertility of women during the entire intercensal period 1930 to 1940. The rates must be interpreted with caution if used for the study of fertility during the depression and subsequent recovery period, because of the trend of births during the decade. The trend of fertility during this period of changing economic conditions can best be determined from such figures as annual birth statistics, or the statistics showing the number of children by single years of age in 1940 that appear in Volume IV of the Population reports.

Urban and rural areas.— Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is made up for the most part of cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more, places of this type constituting about 96 percent of the urban places in the United States. A second type is limited to the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, in which States it is not the practice to incorporate as municipalities places of less than 10,000. This type is made up of towns (townships) in which there is a village or thickly settled area having more than 2,500 inhabitants and comprising, either by itself or when combined with other villages within the same town, more than 50 percent of the total population of the town. A third type of urban places is made up of townships and other political subdivisions (not incorporated as municipalities, nor containing any areas so incorporated) with a total population of 10,000 or more and a population density of 1,000 or more per square mile. 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, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population. (For further details for each State, see Volume I of the 1940 Population reports.)

In the reports of the 1910 census, not only incorporated places of 2,500 or more but also all New England towns of this size were classified as urban. In the recent compilation of the 1910 fertility data, however, the 1940 rules of classification as urban or rural were applied as far as possible. The 1910 urban population was 1.5 percent smaller according to the 1940 rules than according to the 1910 rules.

Metropolitan districts.— A metropolitan district has been set up for use in the 1940 Census of Population in connection with each city of 50,000 or more, two or more such cities sometimes being in one district. The general plan is to include, in addition to the central city or cities, all adjacent and

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contiguous minor civil divisions or incorporated places having a population of 150 or more per square mile. A metropolitan district is thus not a political unit but rather an area including all the thickly settled territory in and around a city or group of cities. It tends to be a more or less integrated area with common economic, social, and, often, administrative interests.

In the present report, some of the tables for 1940 give fertility statistics for the 5 metropolitan districts having a central city of 1,000,000 or more inhabitants. Figures are also shown for the main central city, the other urban areas, and the rural-nonfarm areas. There were too few women 15 to 49 years old in the rural-farm areas of these metropolitan districts to justify presentation of figures for these areas.

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 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 the detailed tables in this report showing women by number of children present the figures cross-classified with the age of the woman. Table IV shows the number of children ever born per 1,000 women 15 to 74 years old by age for the United States, urban and rural, in 1940 and 1910.

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

[Data based on total women, except ever married, not reporting on children. 1940 statistics based on Sample C; 1910 statistics based on Sample W. Urban-rural figures for 1910 adjusted to the 1940 classification]

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.	1,796	2,465	-27.1	1,518	2,045	1,983	2,609	2,529	3,112
15 to 19 years.....	61	69	-11.6	43	42	87	117	80	78
20 to 24 years.....	505	681	-25.9	368	470	685	933	769	897
25 to 29 years.....	1,129	1,601	-29.5	865	1,188	1,419	1,930	1,768	2,197
30 to 34 years.....	1,678	2,446	-31.4	1,339	1,885	1,984	2,733	2,591	3,364
35 to 39 years.....	2,156	3,286	-34.4	1,786	2,607	2,448	3,498	3,385	4,449
40 to 44 years.....	2,501	3,904	-35.9	2,068	3,215	2,775	3,953	3,773	5,169
45 to 49 years.....	2,758	4,295	-35.8	2,311	3,615	3,009	4,270	4,005	5,553
50 to 54 years.....	2,891	4,529	-36.2	2,465	3,901	3,087	4,367	4,062	5,686
55 to 59 years.....	3,038	4,816	-36.9	2,582	4,258	3,258	4,674	4,200	5,798
60 to 64 years.....	3,101	4,847	-36.0	2,679	4,376	3,293	4,778	4,251	5,693
65 to 69 years.....	3,296	4,982	-33.9	2,832	4,623	3,596	4,888	4,446	5,974
70 to 74 years.....	3,470	5,001	-30.6	3,096	4,654	3,623	5,046	4,602	5,866

Table V shows the number of children under 5 years old per 1,000 women 15 to 49 years old, by age, for the United States, urban and rural, in 1940 and 1910. The decline in age-specific birth rates in this 30-year period was even greater than the table suggests, as there was a far higher child mortality in 1910 than in 1940. It may be noted that the percentage decline in fertility has tended to be progressively greater from the younger to the older women of child-bearing age.

Color.—The color classification used in this report is limited to white and nonwhite. The nonwhite population includes Negroes and other nonwhite races such as Indians, Chinese, and Japanese. 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. The great majority of the nonwhite population consist of Negroes, except in the Pacific States, where there are many Chinese and Japanese, and in Oklahoma and certain Mountain States, where many of the nonwhite population are Indians.

Because of the small number of nonwhite women in many areas, statistics for nonwhites are shown for only selected States, urban and rural, and selected cities. In general, the data are presented for only those areas in which there were in

1940 at least 25,000 nonwhite women 15 to 49 years old. This criterion was based on all nonwhite women in each area without regard to marital status except for the tables showing statistics exclusively for women married once and living with their husbands, where the criterion was based on such married women. If 1940 statistics are shown for nonwhite women in a State, 1910 statistics for nonwhite women in the State are also shown, with the exception of Michigan which had very few nonwhite women in 1910.

Table V. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD PER 1,000 WOMEN 15 TO 49 YEARS OLD, BY AGE OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1940 AND 1910

[1940 statistics based on Sample C; 1910 statistics based on Sample W. Urban-rural figures for 1910 adjusted to the 1940 classification]

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 49.	281	425	-33.9	219	327	345	495	409	552
15 to 19 years.....	59	58	-1.7	41	35	63	95	78	66
20 to 24 years.....	396	467	-15.2	295	386	526	605	579	608
25 to 29 years.....	538	758	-27.1	431	578	646	836	799	988
30 to 34 years.....	484	685	-30.6	353	537	492	738	663	948
35 to 39 years.....	284	542	-47.6	211	401	319	570	501	798
40 to 44 years.....	140	316	-55.7	94	219	156	316	233	501
45 to 49 years.....	43	97	-55.7	26	61	43	96	97	162

The nature of the differences in fertility between white and nonwhite women is illustrated by the statistics in table VI, which shows the number of children under 5 years old per 1,000 women 15 to 49 years old, by age and color, for the United States in 1940 and 1910.

Table VI. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD PER 1,000 WOMEN 15 TO 49 YEARS OLD, BY AGE AND COLOR OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 AND 1910

[1940 statistics based on Sample C; 1910 statistics based on Sample W]

AGE OF WOMAN	1940		1910	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
Total, 15 to 49 years.....	278	300	426	420
15 to 19 years.....	51	117	58	91
20 to 24 years.....	385	477	457	535
25 to 29 years.....	544	488	748	658
30 to 34 years.....	441	370	696	585
35 to 39 years.....	283	285	545	519
40 to 44 years.....	138	160	316	317
45 to 49 years.....	40	74	92	147

Marital status.—The statistics on the marital status of women shown in this report refer to the marital status at the time the census was taken. 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. Women classified as married comprise both those who had been married only once and those who remarried after being widowed or divorced.

In some tables statistics are shown for women classified as "married once, husband present." This category includes only those married women living with their husbands at the time of the census and reporting that they had been married only once.

Group differences in current fertility among women of the same age depend upon such factors as the proportion married, the duration of the marriage, and the fertility of the married women. Fertility rates for all women in an age group reflect the combined effect of all three factors. Rates based on all women who are or have been married or on women who have been married only once and are still living with their husbands permit an analysis of the effect on fertility of the two factors, age at marriage and continuity of married life. Examples of fertility rates by marital status are given in table VII.

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 women 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 the other women ever married made no report on these subjects. Many enumerators probably assumed that the questions on age at marriage and duration of marriage were inapplicable to the latter women and accordingly made no entries for them.

Table VII. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD PER 1,000 WOMEN 15 TO 49 YEARS OLD, BY AGE AND MARITAL STATUS OF WOMAN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 AND 1910

[1940 statistics based on Sample C; 1910 statistics based on Sample W]

AGE OF WOMAN	1940			1910		
	Total women	Women ever married	Women married once, husband present	Total women	Women ever married	Women married once, husband present
Total, 15 to 49 years...	281	413	456	425	661	736
15 to 19 years.....	59	493	495	58	478	491
20 to 24 years.....	396	747	773	467	906	947
25 to 29 years.....	538	695	750	738	984	1,051
30 to 34 years.....	434	508	563	685	816	889
35 to 39 years.....	284	319	362	542	619	691
40 to 44 years.....	140	155	179	316	363	405
45 to 49 years.....	43	47	51	97	106	127

In certain tables, the median age at marriage and the median duration of marriage are shown for women 15 to 74 years old. The median age at marriage may be defined as the age that divides the group of women into two equal parts, one-half having married at an earlier age and one-half at a later age than the median. Similarly, the median duration of marriage may be defined as the number of years that divides the group of women into two equal parts, one-half having been married fewer years and one-half more years than the median.

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 to 74 years old 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 2½-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.

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.

Processing of the sample data.—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. The data for Sample C were processed differently from those for Sample W. The information for Sample C came from two sources: data for several subjects were obtained from entries on a transcription sheet which contained one line of information from the 1940 Population schedule for the woman and her household;

data for the remaining subjects were reproduced mechanically from the card for the same woman in another sample, identified as Sample B (the data for the B cards were obtained from the entries on the 1940 Population schedule for the individuals in a five-percent sample). The information for a woman in Sample W, on the other hand, was obtained from the entries on a transcription card, one for each woman, prepared from the entries on the 1910 Population schedule as a research project of the Work Projects Administration.

In both censuses, for certain items the basic data were obtained in response to questions on the specific subject. For example, the enumerator was instructed to ask for each woman who was or had been married the number of children ever born alive to her. For certain other items the basic data were obtained by an inspection of the entries on the successive lines of the schedules. For example, the number of children under 5 years old and 5 to 9 years old living in the household and belonging to the woman was determined by an inspection of the entries for the members of the household and not by a query on the subject by the enumerator.

Differences between sample tabulations and complete counts.—In table VIII statistics based on the results of Samples C and W and of the corresponding complete counts are presented for women classified by urban-rural residence, color, age, and marital status. Distributions by urban-rural residence in 1910 would be expected to be somewhat different for the sample tabulations and the complete count 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.

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

[1940 statistics based on Sample C; 1910 statistics based on Sample W. Urban-rural figures for Sample W have been adjusted to the 1940 classification]

AREA, COLOR, AGE, AND MARITAL STATUS OF WOMAN	WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS, 1940			WOMEN 15 TO 74 YEARS, 1910		
	Based on complete count	Based on Sample C		Based on complete count	Based on Sample W	
		Number	Percent of complete count		Number	Percent of complete count
AREA						
Total.....	47,957,502	47,566,800	99.4	29,395,758	29,885,578	100.0
Urban.....	29,328,372	29,137,040	99.3	15,083,513	14,814,026	98.5
Rural.....	18,629,130	18,429,760	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	-
COLOR						
White.....	43,242,881	43,023,060	99.5	26,271,881	26,237,739	99.9
Nonwhite.....	4,715,121	4,643,740	98.5	3,124,877	3,147,839	100.7
MARITAL STATUS						
Single.....	12,625,007	12,556,320	99.5	2,884,502	2,819,752	99.7
Married, widowed, and divorced.....	35,332,495	35,108,480	99.4	19,180,663	19,192,429	100.1
AGE						
15 to 19 years.....	6,153,370	6,149,940	99.9	4,536,321	4,537,017	100.0
20 to 24 years.....	5,895,443	5,885,050	99.8	4,475,694	4,450,677	99.4
25 to 29 years.....	5,645,975	5,608,720	99.3	3,935,655	3,923,768	99.7
30 to 34 years.....	5,172,075	5,144,160	99.5	3,315,417	3,314,146	100.0
35 to 39 years.....	4,799,713	4,768,260	99.3	3,029,084	3,040,837	100.4
40 to 44 years.....	4,363,703	4,327,850	99.1	2,475,237	2,474,989	100.0
45 to 49 years.....	4,045,956	4,001,300	99.9	2,090,281	2,098,040	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	1,302,033	100.3
60 to 64 years.....	2,330,524	2,307,390	99.0	1,081,134	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	552,034	554,403	100.4

1 Statistics for 1910 not available.
 2 Includes statistics for women for whom marital status was not reported.
 3 Figures shown for 1910 by marital status comprise women 15 to 64 years old.

The nature of the differences between the figures from the sample tabulations and the complete counts may be further illustrated by an inspection of the figures shown for the distribution of women by color in 1940. Figures from Sample C (for which information on color was derived from Sample B) show a larger proportion of white women than those from the complete count. This bias resulted from a tendency in the coding of Sample B to classify persons as white at the expense of the

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nonwhite. More precisely, the bias was one in which persons in Sample B were sometimes coded as native white of native parentage, whereas they should have been classified in one of the other categories.

Table IX presents figures from the sample tabulations and the complete counts on the number of children under 5 years old

in 1940 and 1910 and on the number 5 to 9 years old in 1940. It should be borne in mind that only children under 5 years old living with mothers 15 to 49 years old and children 5 to 9 years old living with mothers 20 to 54 years old are included in the sample figures of the present report, whereas all children are included in the data from the complete counts.

Table IX. COMPARISON BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNTS, FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD AND 5 TO 9 YEARS OLD, 1940, AND FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD, 1910, BY COLOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL

[1940 statistics based on Sample C; 1910 statistics based on Sample W. Urban-rural figures in Sample W adjusted to the 1940 classification. Figures from sample tabulations include only children under 5 years old living with mothers 15 to 49 years old and children 5 to 9 years old living with mothers 20 to 54 years old]

AREA, AGE OF CHILD, AND CENSUS YEAR	TOTAL			WHITE			NONWHITE		
	All children, based on complete count	Children living with mother, based on Sample C (1940) or Sample W (1910)		All children, based on complete count	Children living with mother, based on Sample C (1940) or Sample W (1910)		All children, based on complete count	Children living with mother, based on Sample C (1940) or Sample W (1910)	
		Number	Percent of complete count		Number	Percent of complete count		Number	Percent of complete count
CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD									
1940									
Total.....	10,541,524	10,070,260	95.5	9,229,505	8,927,380	96.7	1,312,019	1,142,680	87.1
Urban.....	5,007,137	4,799,500	95.9	4,530,397	4,385,660	96.8	476,740	413,840	86.8
Rural-nonfarm.....	2,522,831	2,420,800	95.0	2,291,571	2,220,540	96.9	230,260	200,280	87.0
Rural-farm.....	3,011,556	2,849,960	94.6	2,406,537	2,321,380	96.5	605,019	528,580	87.4
1910									
Total.....	10,631,384	10,135,941	95.3	9,322,914	8,999,856	96.5	1,308,450	1,136,065	86.8
Urban.....	4,200,291	3,975,997	94.7	3,966,957	3,772,943	95.1	238,334	208,054	87.0
Rural.....	6,431,073	6,159,944	95.8	5,355,957	5,226,913	97.6	1,075,116	938,031	86.8
CHILDREN 5 TO 9 YEARS OLD									
1940									
Total.....	10,684,622	9,903,460	92.7	9,328,951	8,781,280	94.1	1,355,671	1,122,180	82.8
Urban.....	5,083,240	4,749,340	93.4	4,570,749	4,322,460	94.6	512,491	426,880	83.3
Rural-nonfarm.....	2,446,807	2,265,300	92.6	2,216,869	2,075,860	93.6	229,938	189,440	82.4
Rural-farm.....	3,154,575	2,888,820	91.6	2,541,333	2,382,960	93.9	613,242	505,860	82.5

The differences between all children in the complete counts and children living with their mothers as shown by Sample C and Sample W are not large, although they necessarily exceed the differences that would be expected by sampling variations. It will be noted from the figures in table IX that, in 1940, children under 5 years old living with their mothers more nearly approach the corresponding figure for "all" children in the complete count than the corresponding data for children 5 to 9 years old. This tendency may be explained by the fact that more of the mothers of the older children than of the younger children had died.

Most of the deviations discussed in this section are relatively small, yet some are appreciably larger than would be expected to result from sampling variations alone. Such deviations, however, do not seriously affect most of the relationships that may be deduced from the statistics presented in this report.

The data for this report and for the report entitled "The Labor Force (Sample Statistics)--Employment and Family Characteristics of Women" were processed separately and were not completely reconciled. Consequently, there are slight differences between corresponding figures in the two reports. Specifically, the present report shows 1,200 fewer women 30 to 34 years old and 40 fewer women 35 to 39 years old in New Jersey and Pennsylvania combined, and 600 fewer women 35 to 39 years old in Missouri.

In a forthcoming technical report, there will be a detailed exposition of the sampling method, descriptions of the various samples that were taken, and comparisons between the samples and the complete count. The purpose of the report will be to assist in evaluating data that are published on the basis of the samples.