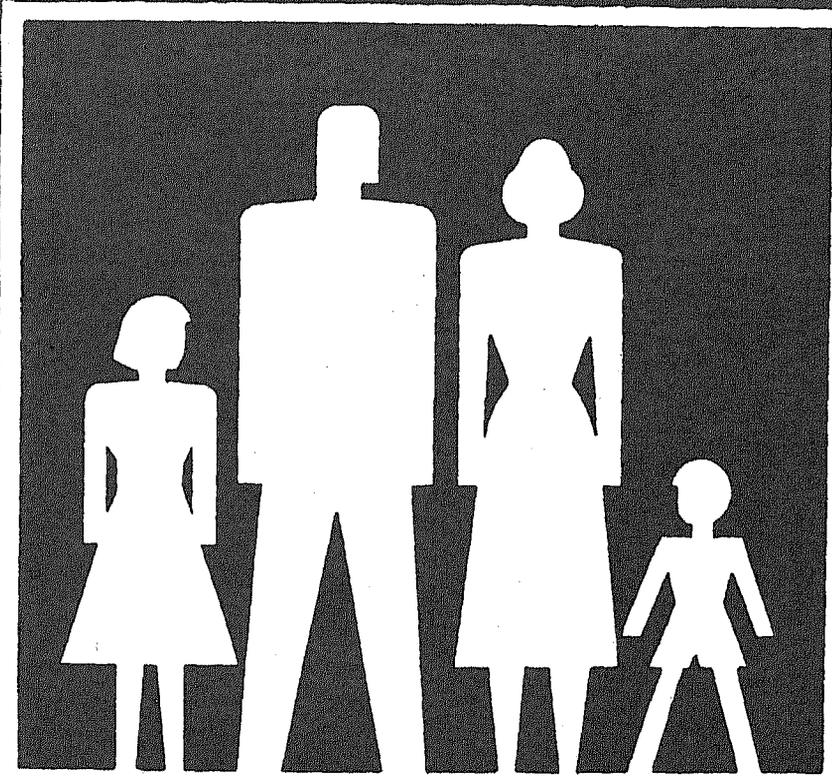




1950 UNITED STATES CENSUS OF POPULATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE • BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION

UNITED STATES CENSUS of POPULATION: 1950

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SPECIAL REPORTS

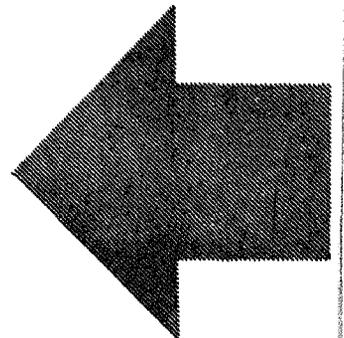
INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION

*Prepared under the supervision of
Howard G. Brunzman, Chief
Population and Housing Division*

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Type of institution by

**AGE · RACE · NATIVITY · MOBILITY ·
CITIZENSHIP · MARITAL STATUS ·
EDUCATION · INCOME · ETC.**





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PREFACE

This report presents detailed statistics on the characteristics of persons under care in each of several types of institutions in the United States. The data are based on tabulations from the Seventeenth Decennial Census of the population of the United States, conducted as of April 1, 1950. Provision for the Seventeenth Decennial Census was made in the act providing for the Fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses, approved June 18, 1929. The major portion of the information compiled from the Census of Population of 1950 appears in Volume I, Number of Inhabitants, and in Volume II, Characteristics of the Population. These two volumes contain statistics for regions, divisions, States, and parts of States, as well as for the country as a whole.

This is one of a series of reports (Series P-E bulletins) which comprise Volume IV, Special Reports, and supplement the information contained in Volumes I and II. The present bulletin is a preprint of Chapter C of Part 2, Family Characteristics, of Volume IV.

The materials presented here were prepared under the supervision of Howard G. Brunsman, Chief, Population and Housing Division, and Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., Assistant Chief for Population Statistics, with the assistance of Edwin D. Goldfield, Program Coordinator. They were prepared by Dr. Henry D. Sheldon, Chief, Demographic Statistics Section, assisted by Tobia Bressler, Robert L. Rowland, and Edgar H. Elam, Jr. The compilation of the statistics was under the direction of Robert B. Voight, Assistant Chief for Operations, assisted by Morton A. Meyer, E. Richard Bourdon, and Edward I. Lober. Sampling procedures were under the direction of Joseph Steinberg, Chief, Statistical Sampling Section, assisted by Joseph Waksberg and Albert Mindlin. The technical editorial work and planning were under the supervision of Mildred M. Russell, assisted by Dorothy M. Belzer. The collection of the information on which these statistics were based was under the supervision of Lowell T. Galt, then Chief, Field Division, and the tabulations were under the supervision of C. F. Van Aken, Chief, Machine Tabulation Division.

April 1953.

U. S. CENSUS OF POPULATION: 1950

Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants (comprising Series P-A bulletins)
- II Characteristics of the Population (comprising Series P-A, P-B, and P-C bulletins)
- III Census Tract Statistics (comprising Series P-D bulletins)
- IV Special Reports: Employment Characteristics, Occupational and Industrial Characteristics, Characteristics of Families, Marital Status, Institutional Population, Nativity and Parentage, Non-white Population by Race, Persons of Spanish Surname, Puerto Ricans in Continental United States, State of Birth, Mobility of the Population, Characteristics by Size of Place, Education, Fertility.

U. S. CENSUS OF HOUSING: 1950

Volume

- I General Characteristics (comprising Series H-A bulletins)
- II Nonfarm Housing Characteristics (comprising Series H-B bulletins)
- III Farm Housing Characteristics
- IV Residential Financing
- V Block Statistics (comprising Series H-E bulletins)
Housing statistics for census tracts are included in the Population Series P-D bulletins.

Institutional Population

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The prefix for this chapter is 2C)

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Institutional Population

GENERAL

This report, based on the 1950 Census of Population, presents complete-count data on the age, color, and sex of persons under care in each of several types of institutions--correctional institutions, hospitals for mental disease, tuberculosis hospitals, homes for the aged, homes and schools for the mentally and physically handicapped, homes for neglected and dependent children, and other types of institutions for younger persons. These statistics are presented for the United States, regions, and States. For counties and urban places with an institutional population of 500 or more, data on the age, color, and sex of the total institutional population are also presented.

In addition to these data from the complete count, 3 1/3-percent sample statistics are presented for the United States, by type of institution, on the following characteristics: residence inside and outside standard metropolitan areas; race, nativity, and citizenship; school enrollment; years of school completed; marital status; mobility; and income.

RELATED MATERIALS

Statistics on the total institutional population for States, their urban and rural parts, counties, standard metropolitan areas, urbanized areas, and urban places of 10,000 or more are presented in Chapter B of Volume II, Characteristics of the Population. Additional information on the institutional population 14 years old and over is available in several of the other special reports comprising Volume IV. The report "Employment and Personal Characteristics" classifies inmates by the size of the place in which the institution is located. In addition, inmates 14 to 24 years of age are distributed by single years of age, and greater age detail is provided in the classification of inmates by race and nativity than is shown in this present report. Statistics are also presented in the report "Employment and Personal Characteristics" on the extent to which inmates may have worked in 1949 prior to entering the institution. The special report "Marital Status" also supplements the present report; in the classification of inmates by marital status, it provides greater detail, in respect to both marital status and age categories, than is shown here.

ACCURACY AND INTERNAL CONSISTENCY OF DATA

The figures presented here may in some instances differ from those which appear in Volume II and in other reports presenting figures on the institutional population or on inmates. These differences are caused by errors in the tabulation

processes. These errors include machine failure, loss of punch cards, and other types. (The net effect is a tendency toward slightly smaller counts of the same item in successive tabulations.) Experience has shown that in mass operations two tabulations of a set of punch cards are not likely to yield precisely identical results. Therefore, tolerance limits allowing for insignificant variations were established in advance for each tabulation. If the differences between the results of two tabulations fell within these limits, nothing was done to bring them into exact agreement with each other. This procedure was adopted in order to provide a greater volume of data within the limits of time and resources available. In earlier censuses, however, the results of different tabulations were adjusted to bring them into exact agreement. In addition, the data based on the 3 1/3-percent sample are subject to sampling variability and therefore are not expected to agree exactly with figures from the complete count or those from the 20-percent sample.

The enumeration of the institutional population presents a rather special problem in that in many instances the physical or mental condition of the respondent precludes direct interview by the enumerator. Moreover, there is a tendency on the part of institutional officials to resist an enumeration procedure which involves a direct interview with inmates, since such a procedure is likely to upset the normal routine. The result is that, for an appreciable proportion of the institutional population, information was gathered from records rather than by interview. In some institutions the records were reasonably complete and adequate; in other institutions, the records were less adequate, and information on such items as education and income could not be obtained. As a result the nonresponse rates for these items and to a lesser degree those for population mobility are much higher than for the general population. Information on age, sex, nativity, and marital status was much more likely to be found in the institutional records, and the conventional editing procedures were used to eliminate unknowns on these characteristics.

ARRANGEMENT OF TABLES

In this report data are presented for the United States in tables 1 to 25, for regions in tables 26 to 34, for States in tables 35 to 43, and for selected counties and urban places in table 44. Within each type of area, tables are arranged by type of institution. In general each table presents data for a given type of institution and its subdivisions by type of control. This arrangement means that the population for which statistics are presented in a single table are relatively homogeneous with respect to

general category of nursing, rest, and general convalescent homes that provided care for older persons with various kinds of disabilities. On examination of the raw data, however, and of various lists of such places, it became clear that such a classification on the basis of health needs could not be made reliably. Therefore, the two groups were combined into a single category.

Homes and schools for the mentally handicapped.--This category comprises those institutions which provide care primarily for the mentally deficient but in many instances also for epileptics. They are divided by type of control into public homes and schools; the vast majority of which are operated by State agencies, and private homes and schools. As indicated in the discussion of mental hospitals, there was difficulty in the case of certain institutions in determining whether they were homes for the mentally handicapped or hospitals for mental diseases. If there is a bias in this classification, it is in the direction of classifying homes as hospitals.

Homes and schools for physically handicapped.--This group of institutions includes homes and schools for the blind and deaf, and institutions and orthopedic hospitals for crippled children and for other types of serious disability. These institutions are classified by type of control into public homes and schools, operated largely by States, and private homes and schools.

Homes for neglected and dependent children.--This class of homes covers institutions which were known in earlier days as orphan asylums. There is still considerable evidence of the persistence of a pattern of care for both dependent children and older persons in the same institutions. Wherever possible, this kind of situation was met by allocating the older persons to the statistical category "homes for the aged" and the younger persons to "children's homes." In a number of cases, however, it was not feasible to make this allocation; and, in such cases, the mixed types were classified as homes for the aged, in order to keep the classification of children's homes relatively pure. The application of this rule of classification was moderately successful, although it is clear that not all adults were excluded from places classified as children's institutions.

The homes for neglected and dependent children are classified by type of control into public and private homes.

Training schools for juvenile delinquents.--These institutions are classified by type of control into public and private institutions.

The public training schools are readily identifiable institutions and are generally operated for children of high school age by State departments of public welfare and at the lower age levels by county and city governments. From the point of view of age, there is some overlap of the State training schools, operated by departments of public welfare, and reformatories, operated by State correctional agencies, that is, the upper age-limit for juvenile training schools in many instances is higher than the lower age-limit for an appreciable number of reformatories. Thus the classification in this report is based on administrative considerations rather than on a clear-cut age criterion. Private training schools for juvenile delinquents are a somewhat more heterogeneous group ranging from

institutions providing care for juvenile delinquents of essentially the same character as those who find their way into public training schools to schools providing care for "problem children." It is, therefore, somewhat difficult to specify precisely the exact limits of this latter classification.

Detention homes.--Detention homes are institutions providing temporary care for juveniles who, by reason of delinquency, dissolution of the home, or other crises, present a social problem which must be dealt with immediately, before a final solution of the problem is reached. As a result of this situation, the groups of persons found in these homes are extremely heterogeneous in character.

Homes for unwed mothers.--Ideally, this category comprises homes and hospitals providing, for unmarried mothers, prenatal, obstetrical, and post-natal care. The extent of services provided varies, of course, from one hospital or home to another. From the point of view of effective enumeration, these places fall into two common types, those which are operated by reputable social agencies with community approval and those whose status in the community is somewhat equivocal. In either case they present a difficult enumeration problem since with the first type the enumeration of patients as residents of the home tends to be regarded by the persons in charge as a violation of their obligations to their patients, and in the second type any sort of canvassing is met with hostility and suspicion. As a result of this situation, it is believed that the figures obtained are relatively incomplete; and, therefore, figures for States are not shown. The figures shown for the country as a whole then simply indicate something as to the minimal magnitude of this problem.

Reliability of Classification

The foregoing discussion of classification indicates some of the problems encountered in a fairly detailed classification such as the one presented here. One of the problems arises from the fact that all persons under care in a given type of institution were classified as of that type into mutually exclusive categories and that a single institution could have been classified in two or more categories. Thus, for example, institutions for the criminally insane might logically be regarded as either hospitals for mental disease or correctional institutions. If the focus of attention is directed entirely toward one type of disability, then there is no particular problem in classification since all institutions providing care for a particular class can be included. If, however, the classification is to be made in terms of two or more types of disability, then problems in classification arise as indicated in the preceding discussion. If this problem is solved by creating classifications of mixed types, the number of classes so created becomes unmanageable. If, however, mixed types are thrown together into a residual category, there is a considerable loss of information.

Another problem arises from the fact that rather nice distinctions are consistently blurred in the data as reported. The ordinary enumerator and coder are not equipped to make the necessary discriminations, for example, between mental illness on the one hand and mental deficiency on the other, or between ill elderly persons and well elderly persons.

A third factor which complicates classification is the heterogeneous character of the kinds of persons cared for in certain types of general-purpose institutions such as county homes. In some cases the administrative setup is such that homogeneous groups are clearly set off; in other cases they are not.

Ideally, of course, persons under care should be classified by their particular type of disability rather than by the type of institution in which they are living. Since classification on the basis of individual disability is not feasible, the approximation obtained by using type of institution is extremely rough in the case of institutions providing care for a wide variety of disabilities.

In short, there are several dimensions of classification in which a really adequate classification would demand intensive field study by highly trained personnel, and it is not possible to meet this requirement in a decennial census. It is felt, however, that the classification as presented here is reasonably adequate and provides useful information as to the magnitude of the population of the various types of institutions, and also useful information as to the characteristics of the persons under care in them.

Consistency Between Characteristics and Type of Institution

It seems reasonable to assume that if an institution is established for the express purpose of providing care for a certain class of persons, only that class of persons should be found in the institution. Within certain broad limits this assumption is true. Certainly statistics showing the presence of several 65-year-old males in a home for unmarried mothers, or several college graduates in a school for the mentally deficient, constitute strong presumptive evidence of errors in reporting or processing the data.

On the contrary, it is equally clear that any strict criteria for admission which may be implicit in allocating an institution to a given classification will be consistently violated in a small number of cases. On occasion nonveterans are to be found in veterans hospitals, male trustees (as members of the operating staff) in reformatories for women, older persons in homes for children, children in homes for the aged, and so on. The background from which the apparent contradictions between the characteristics of inmates and type of institution arises is, of course, implicit in the foregoing discussion. In general, these discrepancies between theory and practice reflect the wide variety of situations in which a need for institutional care arises, on the one hand, and the lack of institutional facilities, on the other. Since in many cases the need is acute, expediency takes precedence over the approved canons of social welfare administration.

Comparability With Data of Earlier Censuses

The statistics presented in this report differ from those presented in the corresponding report for 1940 in that they cover the population of all ages rather than the population 14 years old and over; in that they cover tuberculosis hospitals, which were definitely excluded from the 1940 report; and in that they are classified by type of institution in considerably more detail. This more detailed classification applies particularly to the category "Homes for the aged, infirm, and needy," of the 1940 report. The net effect of this emphasis on classification has been in all probability

to increase the field coverage in this area, particularly with respect to such places as commercial boarding homes for the aged and rest, convalescent, and nursing homes.

As indicated in the discussion of urban-rural residence and farm population, the figures in this report on the urban and rural nonfarm institutional population are not comparable with the 1940 figures on the institutional population by urban-rural residence. The figures on the urban and rural population presented here are based on the new definition of urban-rural residence, whereas those presented in the 1940 report are based on the old definition. In addition, the change in the definition of farm-nonfarm residence between 1940 and 1950 specifically excludes the inmates of institutions from the rural-farm population, whereas in 1940 no such blanket exclusion was made.

The present emphasis on the type of institution and type of control of institution has resulted in the restriction of resources available for further tabulations and, therefore, somewhat less detail on the characteristics of the institutional population is given in the 1950 report than in the 1940 report. This situation is mitigated somewhat, however, by the statistics from the 3 1/3-percent sample on various population characteristics for the United States as a whole.

Historically the Bureau of the Census has collected statistics on certain types of institutions over a considerable period of time. At each census from 1850 to 1890 information on the inmates of certain types of institutions were collected in the regular decennial census and published. In an effort to obtain pertinent information not only on the population of institutions by type of institution but also on the characteristics of admissions and separations from institutions, special establishment surveys were made in 1904, 1910, 1923, and 1933. As a result of the interest stimulated by the survey of 1923, annual series of establishment surveys were begun in 1926 for prisons and for mental institutions. These reports were published under the titles of Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories and Patients in Mental Institutions. In 1948 the survey of mental institutions was transferred to the National Institute of Mental Health of the Public Health Service which has continued the survey and the publication of the report. Similarly, the survey of prisoners was transferred to the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice in 1949 and that agency has continued to issue reports.

USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE

In accordance with Census practice dating back to 1790, each person enumerated in the 1950 Census was counted as an inhabitant of his usual place of residence or usual place of abode, that is, the place where he lives and sleeps most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as his legal residence, voting residence, or domicile, although, in the vast majority of cases, the use of these different bases of classification would produce identical results.

URBAN, RURAL-NONFARM, AND RURAL-FARM POPULATION

Urban and rural residence.--According to the new definition that was adopted for use in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more

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incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages, (b) incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties, (c) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more, and (d) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural. According to the old definition, the urban population was limited to all persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and in areas (usually minor civil divisions) classified as urban under special rules relating to population size and density. In view of this change in definition, the statistics for 1940 by urban-rural residence are not comparable with those presented here for 1950.

Farm population--urban and rural.--The farm population for 1950, as for 1940 and 1930, includes all persons living on farms without regard to occupation. In determining farm and nonfarm residence in the 1950 Census, however, certain special groups were classified otherwise than in earlier censuses. In 1950, all persons living in institutions were classified as nonfarm whereas in 1940 some of them were included in the farm population. In addition, persons living on what might have been considered farm land were classified as nonfarm if they paid cash rent for their home and yards only. Likewise, persons in summer camps, "motels," and tourist camps were classified as nonfarm in 1950, although they had been classified as farm residents in 1940.

Rural-nonfarm population.--The rural-nonfarm population includes all persons living outside of urban areas who do not live on farms. It comprises persons living in a variety of types of residences, such as isolated nonfarm homes in the open country, villages and hamlets of fewer than 2,500 inhabitants, and some of the fringe areas surrounding the smaller incorporated places.

STANDARD METROPOLITAN AREAS

Except in New England, a standard metropolitan area is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city, or cities, contiguous counties are included in a standard metropolitan area if according to certain criteria they are essentially metropolitan in character and socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, the city and town are administratively more important than the county, and data are compiled locally for such minor civil divisions. Therefore, towns and cities, rather than counties, are the units used in defining standard metropolitan areas.

Since persons living in institutions are classified as usual residents of such places, the figures on the institutional population classified by location inside or outside standard metropolitan areas, and presented in table 12, merely reflects the geographic distribution of institutions and not necessarily the origin of the inmate population living in them.

MEDIANS

The median, a type of average, is presented in connection with the data on age, years of school completed, and personal income which appear in this

report. The median is the value which divides the distribution into two equal parts--one-half of the cases falling below this value and one-half of the cases exceeding this value.

AGE

The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday as of the date of enumeration, that is, the age of the person in completed years. The enumerator was instructed to obtain the age of each person as of the date of his visit rather than as of April 1, 1950.

RACE AND COLOR

The concept of race as it has been used by the Bureau of the Census is derived from that which is commonly accepted by the general public. It does not, therefore, reflect clear-cut definitions of biological stock, and several categories obviously refer to nationalities. The information on race is ordinarily not based on a reply to questions asked by the enumerator but rather obtained by observation. Enumerators were instructed to ask a question when they were in doubt,

Color.--The term "color" refers to the division of population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The group designated as "nonwhite" consists of Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were classified as white in 1950 and 1940. In the 1930 publications, Mexicans were included in the group "Other races."

Negro.--In addition to full-blooded Negroes, this classification includes persons of mixed white and Negro parentage and persons of mixed Indian and Negro parentage unless the Indian blood very definitely predominates or unless the individual is accepted in the community as an Indian.

Other races.--This category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Mixed parentage.--Persons of mixed parentage are classified according to the race of the nonwhite parent and mixtures of nonwhite races are generally classified according to the race of the father.

NATIVITY

The classification of the population into the two basic groups, native and foreign born, is based on replies to the question, "What State (or foreign country) was he born in?" A person born in the United States or any of its Territories or possessions is counted as native. Also 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. The small number of persons for whom place of birth was not reported were assumed to be native.

CITIZENSHIP

Statistics on citizenship are shown here only for the foreign-born white. This group is divided into citizens (that is, those who are naturalized), aliens, and persons for whom citizenship was not reported.

In this report the latter group is included with the "alien" category. The total citizen population comprises native persons, all of whom are assumed to be citizens, and the naturalized foreign born.

POPULATION MOBILITY

The classification of the population by mobility status is made possible by the use of several questions asked of a 20-percent sample regarding usual place of residence in 1949, that is, usual residence one year prior to the date of the enumeration. The responses to this question were (1) same house, (2) different house in the same county, and (3) county and State of residence for persons whose county of residence in 1949 differed from that in 1950, that is, migrants, and (4) abroad in 1949. An additional question provided information as to whether or not the respondent had lived on a farm in 1949.

For the purposes of this report, the population is classified into persons living in the same house as in 1949 (nonmovers), persons living in a different house in continental United States in 1949 (movers), persons living abroad in 1949, and persons for whom residence in 1949 was not reported.

Movers in turn are classified in two ways. In the first place they are divided on the basis of county and State of residence into persons who moved within a county, persons who moved between counties in the same State (intrastate migrants), and persons who moved between States (interstate migrants). Secondly, they are independently classified into those who lived on a farm in 1949, those who did not live on a farm in 1949, and those for whom farm or nonfarm residence in 1949 was not reported.

The classification by mobility status is limited to the population one year old and over, and the classification relates, of course, only to the two terminal points of the migration period. The number of persons who were living in different houses in 1950 and 1949 is somewhat less than the total number of moves during the year. Some persons in the same house at the two dates had moved during the year but by the time of enumeration had returned to their 1949 residence. Other persons made two or more progressive moves. Furthermore, persons in a different house in the same county may actually have moved between counties during the year but by 1950 had returned to the same county of residence as that in 1949.

For the institutional population, the relatively large number of persons who changed residence between 1949 and 1950 represents admissions to institutions. Enumerators were instructed not to count as a change of residence moves from one building to another within the institutional grounds.

MARITAL STATUS

In the 1950 Census, data on marital status are based on the replies to the question, "Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or [has he] never [been] married?" The classification refers to the status at the time of enumeration. Persons classified as married comprise, therefore, both those who have been married only once and those who remarried after having been widowed or divorced. Persons reported as separated or in common-law marriages are classified as married. Those reported as never married or with annulled marriages are

classified as single. Since it is probable that some divorced persons are reported as single, married, or widowed, the census returns doubtless understate somewhat the actual number of divorced persons who have not remarried.

The category "Married" is further divided into "married, spouse present" and "married, spouse absent." A person is classified as "married, spouse present" if the person's husband or wife was reported as a member of the household or quasi household in which the person was enumerated, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration.

Persons reported as "separated" are shown as one subdivision of the group designated as "married, spouse absent." Separated persons are married persons permanently or temporarily living apart from their spouse because of marital discord. The group "other married, spouse absent" includes married persons employed and living at a considerable distance from their homes, and all other married persons (except those reported as separated) whose place of residence was not the same as that of their spouse.

It is obvious that the admission to an institution places a married person, in most instances, in the "married spouse, absent" category. In recognition of this situation, all married persons are classified as "married, spouse absent" in the tabulations of the institutional population, even though this disposition may be contrary to the facts in a very few cases.

Differences between the number of married men and the number of married women arise from spouses' having their usual residences in different areas, from variations in the completeness of enumeration of married men and women, and from response and processing errors.

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

The data on years of school completed were derived from the combination of answers to two questions: (a) "What is the highest grade of school that he has attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?" In the present report, these data are shown for the population 25 years old and over.

The questions on educational attainment applied to progress in "regular" schools, as defined in the section on "School enrollment."

The question on highest grade of school attended called for the highest grade attended, regardless of "skipped" or "repeated" grades, rather than the number of full school years which the person had spent in school.

The question on completion of highest grade was to be answered "Yes" if the person had completed the full grade. If a person was still attending school in that grade, had completed only a half grade, or had dropped out of or failed to pass the last grade attended, the required answer was "No." In this report, persons who failed to report on completion of the grade were assumed to have finished.

The median number of school years completed is expressed in terms of a continuous series of numbers. For example, the fourth year of high school is indicated by 12 and the first year of college by 13. For the sake of comparability, the first year of high school is uniformly represented by 9, although there are some areas with only 7 years of elementary school.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The data on school enrollment were derived from answers to the question, "Has he attended school at any time since February 1st?" Such data are shown in this report for persons 5 to 24 years of age.

In the instructions to the enumerators, enrollment was defined as enrollment in "regular" schools only. Such schools are public, private, or parochial schools, colleges, universities, or professional schools, either day or night, full time or part time--that is, those schools where enrollment may lead to an elementary or high school diploma, or to a college, university, or professional school degree.

If a person was enrolled in a regular school subsequent to February 1, 1950, he was classified as enrolled even if he had not actually attended school since that date. For example, he may not have attended because of illness.

Children enrolled in kindergarten were reported separately and were not counted as enrolled in school.

Persons enrolled in vocational, trade, or business schools were excluded from the enrollment figures unless such schools were graded and considered a part of a regular school system. Persons receiving on-the-job training in connection with their work were not counted as enrolled in school.

In 1950, as in prior censuses, persons for whom there was no report as to school enrollment are not shown separately in most of the reports. In general, for persons not reporting on school enrollment, those 5 through 17 years of age were treated as enrolled, whereas older persons were considered not enrolled.

In view of the rather specialized arrangements for schooling in institutions and the difficulties of enumeration in such places, however, figures on "school enrollment not reported" are shown separately in this report.

INCOME

Income, as defined in the 1950 Census, is the sum of the money received, less losses, from the following sources: wages or salary; net income (or loss) from the operation of a farm, ranch, business, or profession; net income (or loss) from rents, or receipts from roomers or boarders; royalties; interest, dividends, and periodic income from estates and trust funds; pensions; veterans' payments, armed-forces allotments for dependents, and other governmental payments or assistance; and other income such as contributions for support from persons who are not members of the household, alimony, and periodic receipts from insurance policies or annuities. The figures in this report represent the amount of income received before deductions for personal income taxes, social security, bond purchases, union dues, etc.

Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: money received from the sale of property, unless the recipient was engaged in the business of selling such property; the value of income "in kind," such as food produced and consumed in the home, free living quarters; withdrawals of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; gifts; and lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments.

RELIABILITY OF SAMPLE DATA

SAMPLE DESIGN

The data in tables 12 to 25 are based on information for a representative sample of approximately 3 1/3 percent of the total institutional population in the United States. A separate line was provided on the population schedule for each person enumerated, with every fifth line designated as a sample line. Within each enumeration district, the schedules were divided approximately equally among five versions. On each version the sample constituted a different set of lines, so that each line in the schedule was in the sample on one of the five versions. The statistics in tables 12 to 25 are based on tabulations of a systematic selection of one-sixth of the persons on these sample lines, or about 3 1/3 percent of the institutional population.

Estimates in these tables of the number of persons with specified characteristics have in all cases been obtained by multiplying the number of persons in the sample with these characteristics by 30. Estimates of percentages have been obtained in each case by using the sample values for both numerator and denominator.

Although the sampling plan used did not automatically insure an exact 3 1/3-percent sample of persons, it was unbiased and for the United States the deviation from 3 1/3 percent was expected to be quite small for major categories of the institutional population. Small biases, however, arose when the enumerator failed to follow his instructions exactly. Errors of processing as noted in the section on "Accuracy and internal consistency of data" resulted in a further reduction in the sample size. Differences between the columns in

table A reflect, among other things, enumerators' errors in selecting the sample and errors in processing. The net effect of these factors is relatively small and should have little influence on the interpretation of the data.

SAMPLING VARIABILITY

Since the data in tables 12 to 25 are based on a sample of the population, they are subject to sampling variability, which can be determined from the standard errors shown in tables B and C. These tables do not reflect the biases mentioned above. Table B presents the approximate standard errors of estimates of selected sizes. Table C shows the approximate standard errors of percentages when computed by using sample data from this report for both numerator and denominator. Linear interpolation can be used for estimates not shown in the tables.

The standard error is a measure of sampling variability. The chances are about 2 out of 3 that the difference due to sampling variability between an estimate and the figure that would have been obtained from a complete count of the population is less than the standard error. The amount by which the standard error must be multiplied to obtain other odds deemed more appropriate can be found in most statistical textbooks. For example, the chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference is less than twice the standard error, and 99 out of 100 that it is less than 2 1/2 times the standard error.

INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION

Illustration: Table 14 shows an estimated 21,480 females aged 14 to 17 in institutions and enrolled in school in the United States (64.2 percent of the 33,450 females aged 14 to 17 in institutions in the United States). From linear interpolation between values in table B, it is found that the standard error of an estimate of 21,480 for the United States as a whole is about 800. Consequently the chances are about 2 out of 3 that the figure which would have been obtained from

a complete count of the number of females aged 14 to 17 in institutions and enrolled in school in the United States differs by less than 800 from the sample estimate. It also follows that there is only about 1 chance in 100 that a complete census would differ by as much as 2000, that is, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the standard error. Table C shows also by linear interpolation that the standard error of the 64.2 percent on a base of 33,450 is about 1.4 percent.

Table A.--COMPARISON OF COMPLETE-COUNT AND 3 1/3-PERCENT SAMPLE DATA FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION, BY COLOR AND SEX, AND BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950

Type of institution, color, and sex	Complete count	Estimate based on 3 1/3-percent sample	Percentage distribution		Ratio of complete count to 3 1/3-percent sample
			Complete count	3 1/3-percent sample	
Total population.....	1,566,846	1,556,970	100.0	100.0	1.0063
COLOR AND SEX					
Male.....	949,628	940,350	60.6	60.4	1.0099
White.....	791,150	783,240	50.5	50.3	1.0101
Nonwhite.....	158,478	157,110	10.1	10.1	1.0087
Female.....	617,218	616,620	39.4	39.6	1.0010
White.....	560,002	560,280	35.7	36.0	.9995
Nonwhite.....	57,216	56,340	3.7	3.6	1.0155
TYPE OF INSTITUTION					
Prisons and reformatories.....	178,065	181,080	11.4	11.6	.9833
Jails and workhouses.....	86,492	84,180	5.5	5.4	1.0275
Mental hospitals.....	613,628	607,290	39.2	39.0	1.0104
Tuberculosis hospitals.....	76,291	75,870	4.9	4.9	1.0055
Other special hospitals.....	20,084	18,600	1.3	1.2	1.0798
Homes for aged and dependent.....	296,783	295,560	18.9	19.0	1.0041
Homes and schools for mentally handicapped.....	134,189	129,540	8.6	8.3	1.0359
Homes and schools for physically handicapped.....	20,999	21,210	1.3	1.4	.9901
Homes for neglected and dependent children.....	96,300	98,160	6.1	6.3	.9811
Public training schools for juvenile delinquents..	29,042	30,300	1.9	1.9	.9585
Other institutions for juveniles.....	14,973	15,180	1.0	1.0	.9864

The standard errors shown in tables B and C are not directly applicable to a difference between two estimates. The standard error of a difference between a sample estimate and a complete count, such as would arise from comparisons between 1950 and 1940 data, is identical with the variability of the 1950 estimate. The standard error of a difference between two sample estimated is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard error of each estimate considered separately. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive correlation between the two characteristics, it will overestimate the standard error.

Tables B and C are also not directly applicable to estimates of medians computed from sample data. The sampling variability of estimates of medians

depends on the distribution upon which the medians are based.¹

¹ For tables 12-25 the standard error of a median may be estimated as follows: If the estimated number reporting the characteristic is N, compute the number $\frac{N}{2} - 2.8\sqrt{N}$. Cumulate the frequencies in the table until the class interval which contains this number is located. By linear interpolation, obtain the value below which $\frac{N}{2} - 2.8\sqrt{N}$ cases lie. In a similar manner, obtain the value below which $\frac{N}{2} + 2.8\sqrt{N}$ cases lie. If information on the characteristic had been obtained from a complete count of the population, the chances are about 2 out of 3 that the median would lie between these two values. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the median would be in the interval computed similarly but using $\frac{N}{2} \pm (2)(2.8)\sqrt{N}$, and about 99 out of 100 that it would be in the interval obtained by using $\frac{N}{2} \pm (2.5)(2.8)\sqrt{N}$.

INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION

The smaller figures and small differences between figures should be used with particular care because they are subject to large relative error arising from sampling variability and processing and enumeration errors. These figures have been included in the tables to permit analysis of broader groups with smaller relative error.

RATIO ESTIMATES

It is possible to make an improved estimate of an absolute number (improved in the sense that the standard error is smaller) whenever the class in question forms a part of a larger group for which both a sample estimate and a complete count are available. This alternative estimate is particularly useful when the characteristic being estimated is a substantial part of the larger group; when the proportion is small, the improvement will be relatively minor. The improved estimate (usually referred to as a ratio estimate) may be obtained by multiplying a percentage based on sample data by the figure which represents the complete count of the base of the percentage. An alternative method is to multiply the estimate shown in this report by the ratio of the complete count of the larger group to the sample estimate of this larger group. Complete counts for many of the items in tables 12 to 25 may be obtained in tables 1 to 11. In addition, the last column of table A contains such ratios for some major groups of the institutional population and can be used to derive ratio estimates.

The effect of using ratio estimates of this type is, in general, to reduce the relative sampling variability from that shown for an estimate of a given size in table B to that shown for the corresponding percentage in table C. Estimates of these types are not being published by the Bureau of the Census because of the much higher cost necessary for their preparation than for the estimates derived by multiplying the sample result by 30.

Table B.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED NUMBER

(Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
100.....	60	75,000.....	1,520
500.....	120	100,000.....	1,760
1,000.....	180	150,000.....	2,160
2,500.....	280	250,000.....	2,780
5,000.....	390	500,000.....	3,930
10,000.....	560	1,000,000.....	5,550
25,000.....	880	1,500,000.....	6,790
50,000.....	1,240		

Table C.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE

(Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage							
	3,000	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000	500,000	1,500,000
2 or 98.....	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	2.2	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1
10 or 90.....	3.0	2.4	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.1
25 or 75.....	4.4	3.4	2.4	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.2
50.....	5.1	3.9	2.8	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.2