

UNITED STATES CENSUS of POPULATION: 1950

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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
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(From Feb. 5, 1953)

ROY V. PEEL, Director
(To Feb. 4, 1953)



SPECIAL REPORTS

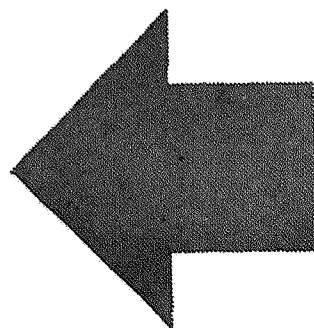
MARITAL STATUS

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

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Marital status by

**RESIDENCE · COLOR · AGE ·
FAMILY STATUS · INCOME**





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PREFACE

This report presents detailed statistics on the marital status and family status of the population of the United States. The statistics provide a basis for the study of changes in family living arrangements and income with age and marital status.

These data are based on tabulations of a sample of the returns obtained in the Seventeenth Decennial Census of the population of the United States, its Territories and possessions, 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 which supplement the information contained in Volumes I and II. This bulletin is a preprint of Chapter D 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. Paul C. Glick, Chief, Social Statistics Section, and Emanuel Landau, Chief, Family Statistics Unit, assisted by Elizabeth A. Larmon. The compilation of the statistics was under the direction of Robert B. Voight, Assistant Chief for Operations, assisted by Morton A. Meyer, Ruth T. Stanton, 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.

IV

Marital Status

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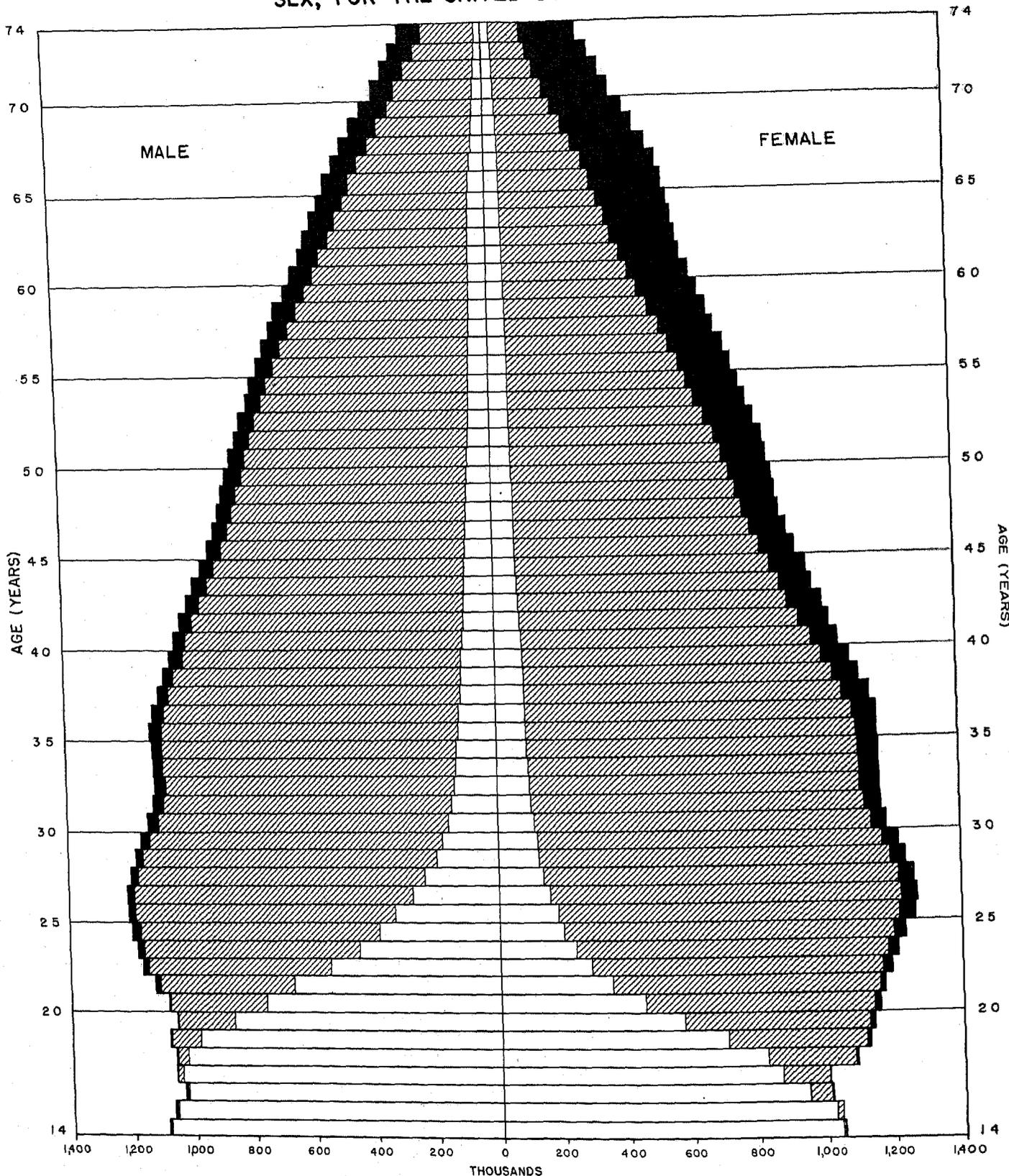
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MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 14 TO 74 YEARS OLD, BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950



□ SINGLE ▨ MARRIED ■ WIDOWED AND DIVORCED

SOURCE: TABLE 5; DATA SMOOTHED

Marital Status

GENERAL

This report presents detailed statistics for the Nation as a whole on the marital status of the population by single years of age, and on marital status by family status, age, and income. In addition, statistics on family status of children under 18 years of age are included in the report. The data have been tabulated by color for two types of areas, urban and rural-nonfarm areas combined and rural-farm areas; but, for reasons of economy, data have been published only for some of the resulting groups. In many cases, the groups that are not shown can be obtained by subtraction.

The statistics are based on tabulations of a 3 1/3-percent sample of the returns of the Seventeenth Decennial Census of the population, taken as of April 1, 1950. These statistics throw light on the changes in family living arrangements which occur among persons of each marital status as they become older, as well as on the shifts in marital status with age. Analyses of lifetime variations in characteristics are often made from such a cross-section of the population by age, in the absence of data based on a "longitudinal" study of identical persons covering their lifetime experiences. The figures are of considerable value, also, for studying differences between social and economic groups with respect to the likelihood of marriage, separation, divorce, and widowhood, and the likelihood of maintaining homes or of sharing the living quarters of others. The data on persons under 18 years of age and 65 years of age and over are of special significance for research on problems of dependency and social security.

RELATED MATERIALS

1950 Census reports.--This report supplements the information on marital status, family status, and household relationship contained in Series P-B and P-C bulletins, which are bound in Volume II of the 1950 Census of Population; limited data on these subjects are also shown for census tracts in Series P-D bulletins.

The Series P-B bulletins contain data on the number of households and inmates of institutions, and on the population by abridged marital status categories based on a complete count for States, standard metropolitan areas, urbanized areas, cities, and counties. They also contain statistics on the number of families and unrelated individuals as well as family income distributions, all based on the 20-percent sample. In the Series P-C bulletins, cross-classifications of marital status by age, relationship to head of household by age, and family status by personal income are shown for States and standard metropolitan

areas, and data on marital status by age are also shown for large cities; all of these statistics are based on the 20-percent sample.

Additional statistics on marital status are presented in nearly all of the special reports of the 1950 Census of Population, which are bound in Volume IV of the 1950 Census of Population. (See list of publications on an earlier page.) Data on household relationship are presented in the special report "Employment and Personal Characteristics." Furthermore, statistics on family status are shown in the special report "Characteristics by Size of Place" and in the several reports on "Mobility of the Population." Characteristics of inmates of institutions are presented by type of institution and age in the special report "Institutional Population."

Data on families by type, composition, and economic characteristics for the United States, regions, States, and the larger standard metropolitan areas and cities are to be shown, according to present plans, in a special report entitled "General Characteristics of Families." Plans have also been made to treat these subjects in greater detail for the United States and, in some cases, for regions, in an additional report, "Detailed Characteristics of Families"; but it is not known at present whether it will be feasible to tabulate and publish the data. Furthermore, a special report on "Duration of Current Marital Status" has been planned, but at this time it is likewise problematic as to whether the data will be tabulated and published. This report would show persons by marital status, by age at which they entered their current marital status and duration of their current marital status, cross-classified by social and economic characteristics.

1940 Census reports.--The publications of the 1940 Census included no report comparable with the present one. Statistics on marital status by age and on relationship to head of household by age for States and large cities were published in Volume IV of the 1940 Census of Population. Furthermore, the 1940 special report entitled "The Labor Force (Sample Statistics)--Employment and Personal Characteristics" contains a cross-classification of household relationship by broad marital status categories and age.

Some of the information on family heads presented in this report may be compared with that contained in the 1940 Census reports on "Families," if account is taken of the changes in family concepts that were introduced by the Bureau of the Census in 1947. Thus, data in this report on "primary family"

heads may be compared with data in the 1940 reports on "Families" (as defined in 1940) comprising 2 or more persons. No data on "secondary families" were tabulated from the 1940 Census. On the other hand, the income data in this report are not comparable with those for 1940, because the latter were limited to wage or salary income, whereas data on income shown in this report include income from all sources.

Current Population Reports.--The Bureau of the Census conducts every month the Current Population Survey covering a sample of 25,000 households in 68 areas in 43 States and the District of Columbia. In February 1944, February and June 1946, and April of each year beginning with 1947, this survey has provided national estimates of the marital status of the population by age (Current Population Reports, Series P-20). Statistics on families and households, based on the present concepts, have been published in these reports each year since 1947. The statistics provided by the Current Population Survey are, in general, designed to be comparable with the data for the United States obtained in the decennial population censuses. The actual comparability of the statistics on marital status is discussed below in the section on "Marital status," and of the statistics on various types of family units in the section on "Family status."

INTERNAL CONSISTENCY OF DATA

In the 1950 Census of Population, many of the data were obtained from the enumeration of the total population; however, data on income and family status were based on reports from a 20-percent sample of the population. As indicated earlier, the statistics in the present report were based on a 3 1/3-percent sample of census returns. Accordingly, because of sampling variability and certain small biases, described in the section on "Reliability of sample data," differences may be expected among figures

obtained from the complete count, the 20-percent sample, and the 3 1/3-percent sample.

Some differences between figures for corresponding items in different reports, or in tables within the same report, 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 large 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.

AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED DATA

As indicated above, some of the data obtained from the tabulation on which the tables in this report are based have not been published. For example, all of the tabulated statistics include a cross-classification by color, farm residence, and the most detailed age distribution shown in the report. Many of the unpublished figures can be obtained by subtraction. Furthermore, the same amount of detail on family status shown for the United States as a whole is also available for all color, residence, and age groups.

The tabulated, but unpublished, statistics can be made available, upon request, for the cost of transcription or consolidation. Requests for such unpublished material should be addressed to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The definitions of the major concepts used in the 1950 Census are given below. Several of these definitions differ from those used in 1940. These changes were made after consultation with users of census data in order to improve the statistics, even though it was recognized that comparability would be adversely affected. In many cases, the new definitions were tested in connection with the Current Population Survey; and, where feasible, measures of the impact of the change on the statistics were developed.

For a complete discussion of the definitions of concepts used in the 1950 Census, the quality of the data, and the problems of comparability with earlier census data, see Volume II, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1, United States Summary, or the Series P-B and P-C United States Summary bulletins. The 1950 Population Census schedule and the major part of the instructions to enumerators are also reproduced in Volume II, Part 1.

MARITAL STATUS

Definitions

In the 1950 Census, data on marital status are based on 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. The number of married men with wife present classified as heads of households is the same as the number of wives of heads of households except for differences arising from sampling variation or from processing errors.

Persons reported as separated are shown as one subdivision of the group designated as "married, spouse absent." Separated persons include those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other married persons permanently or temporarily estranged from their spouse because of marital discord. The group "other married, spouse absent" includes married persons employed and living for several months at a considerable distance from their homes, those whose spouse was absent in the armed forces, in-migrants whose spouse remained in another area, husbands or wives of inmates of institutions, and all other married persons (except those reported as separated) whose place of residence was not the same as that of their spouse. All married inmates of institutions are classified as married, spouse absent, even though this disposition may be contrary to the facts in a few cases.

Differences between the number of married men and the number of married women are due partly to the absence of husbands or wives from the country at the time of enumeration. Examples are women whose husbands were in the armed forces overseas and immigrants whose husbands or wives were still abroad. Differences may also arise from the fact that many husbands and wives had their usual place of residence in different areas within the country, from variations in the completeness of enumeration of married men and women, and from response and processing errors.

The number of married men with wife present should obviously be the same as the number of married women with husband present, but the figure in this report for the former is about 1.7 percent smaller than that for the latter. The difference may be attributed in part to small biases which arose when the enumerators failed to follow their sampling instructions exactly, and in part to processing errors.

Comparability

Earlier census data.--Inquiry regarding marital status was first made in the Census of 1880 but the results were not tabulated; the earliest federal census figures for marital status available are therefore those for 1890.

The category "Separated" was included in the question on marital status for the first time in 1950. It was added to the categories "Single," "Married," "Widowed," and "Divorced" included in previous censuses, in order to distinguish between those married persons with spouse absent on account of marital discord and other married persons with spouse absent. With the introduction of this category,

figures on separated, divorced, and widowed persons may be combined to yield the total number of persons with "broken" marriages. This change, however, may have made the number of persons reported as divorced somewhat smaller in 1950 than it would have been under the earlier procedure. Furthermore, it is possible that estranged husbands and wives may not have reported their marital status consistently.

In 1950, as in previous censuses, marital status was not reported for a small number of persons. For such persons marital status was estimated in 1950 and 1940 on the basis of age and the presence of spouse or children. Because of the methods of estimation used, however, some persons who would have been classified as single under the 1940 procedure were classified as "married, spouse absent" or widowed in 1950.

Current Population Survey.--Statistics on marital status are collected annually for the Nation as a whole in the Current Population Survey. The estimated marital status distribution of the population based on the Current Population Survey for March 1950 is quite close to that based on the 1950 Census for the major marital status categories. (See table A.)

An examination of 1950 Census returns on marital status for a sample of persons who were also included in the Current Population Survey for April 1950 indicates, again, that the major categories, single and total married, showed relatively close agreement, but that some of the smaller categories showed greater relative differences. (See table B.) The difference with respect to married persons with spouse absent may have been affected by the fact that the category "Separated" was used in the 1950 Census but not in the Current Population Survey for April 1950. The differences between the percentages in tables A and B based on the Current Population Survey arise in part from the fact that the sample of "matched" persons on which table B is based is not necessarily representative of all persons 14 years old and over, since those not matched may have somewhat different characteristics.

FAMILY STATUS

Definitions

The classification of the population by "family status" is presented in greater detail in this report than in any other 1950 Census report. In this classification, an initial distinction is made between persons living in households and persons living in quasi households. Within each of these broad categories, persons who are family members are distinguished from those who are not family members. Persons in families are subdivided into those who are related to the household head (that is, persons in "primary families") and all others (persons in "secondary families"). Family members are further classified by relationship to the family head. Persons not in families are subdivided into those who are household heads ("primary individuals"), inmates of institutions, and all others ("secondary individuals"). The complexity of this classification is a reflection of the varied family living arrangements which characterize the population.

Household.--A household includes all the persons who occupy a house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a room that constitutes a dwelling unit. In general, a group of rooms occupied as separate living quarters is a dwelling unit if it has separate cooking equipment or a separate entrance; a single room occupied as separate living quarters is a dwelling unit if it has separate cooking equipment or if it constitutes the only living quarters in the structure. A household includes the related family members and also the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the dwelling unit. A person living alone in a dwelling unit, or a group of unrelated persons sharing a dwelling unit as partners, is also counted as a household.

One person in each household is designated as the "head." The number of heads of households, therefore, is equal to the number of households; it is also equal to the number of heads of primary families plus the number of primary individuals.

The average population per household may be obtained by dividing the population in households by the number of heads of households.

Quasi household.--A quasi household is a group of persons living in quarters not classified as a dwelling unit, for example, in a house with at least five lodgers, or in a hotel, dormitory, institution, labor camp, or military barracks.

Family.--A family, as defined in the 1950 Census, is a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and living together; all such persons are regarded as members of one family. A family may comprise persons in either a household or a quasi household. If the son of the head of the household and the son's wife are members of the household, they are treated as part of the head's family. A lodger and his wife who are not related to the head of the household, or a resident employee and his wife living in, are considered as a separate family, however. Thus, a household may contain more than one family. A household head living alone or with non-relatives only is not regarded as a family. Some households, therefore, do not contain a family.

A "primary family" comprises the head of a household and all (one or more) other persons in the household related to the head. All other families are "secondary families"; these comprise groups of mutually related persons, such as lodgers or resident employees, in either households or quasi households, who are not members of a primary family. A few groups of mutually related inmates of institutions may have been sharing the same living quarters, but they are not counted here as families because of the special circumstances under which they were living.

The average population per family may be obtained by dividing the population in families by the number of heads of families.

Primary individual.--A primary individual is a household head living alone or with nonrelatives only. About five out of every six primary individuals were living alone (as one-person households) in 1950, according to statistics from the 1950 Censuses of

Population and Housing. Examples of primary individuals living with nonrelatives include a single woman who shares her apartment with a partner or housekeeper, and a widow who has a lodger occupying a room in her house.

Secondary individual.--A secondary individual is a person (other than a primary individual or an inmate of an institution) who is not related to any other person in the household or quasi household. Secondary individuals include lodgers, resident employees, hotel guests, students living in college dormitories, members of the armed forces living in military barracks, resident staff members of institutions, and other persons living apart from relatives.

In other reports of the Bureau of the Census, the term "unrelated individuals" is used when referring to the combination of primary and secondary individuals.

Inmate of institution.--This category includes persons living as inmates in such places as homes for delinquent or dependent children, homes and schools for the mentally or physically handicapped, places providing specialized medical care, homes for the aged, prisons, and jails. Persons in this category exclude staff members and their families.

As indicated earlier in the discussion of "family status," persons not in families comprise "unrelated individuals" (primary and secondary individuals) and inmates of institutions. The term "unrelated individuals" has been defined so as to exclude inmates of institutions, largely because statistics on "unrelated individuals" are more useful to consumers of data on labor force, income, and housing statistics if they exclude inmates.

Head of family.--One person in each family is designated as the "head." The number of heads of families is, therefore, equal to the number of families. The head is usually the person regarded as the head by the members of the family. Married women are not classified as heads if their husbands are living with them at the time of the census.

Wife of family head.--The number of women who are wives of family heads is the same as the number of "husband-wife families."

The number of married women with husband present who are not wives of family heads is the same as the number of "husband-wife subfamilies"; these subfamilies are primary family members and represent married couples who are sharing the living quarters of a relative who is a household head. In the tables in this report, husband-wife subfamilies can thus be identified; but from the punch cards used in preparing the tables it was impossible to identify the other type of subfamilies, namely, "parent-child subfamilies" (groups consisting of one parent and one or more sons or daughters under 18 years old sharing the home of a relative who is a household head).

Child of family head.--This category includes sons and daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children of the family head regardless of their age or marital status. It excludes sons-in-law and daughters-in-law and, of course, any children of the head who have left their parental home.

Son- or daughter-in-law of family head.--This group includes the husbands and wives of children, stepchildren, and adopted children of the head.

Grandchild of family head.--This category comprises family members who are sons, daughters, stepchildren, or adopted children of a child of the head.

Parent of family head.--This class comprises family members who are either parents or parents-in-law of the head.

Other relative of family head.--In the most detailed relationship classification, shown for primary family members in table 1, this group includes such family members as sisters-in-law, nephews, brothers, aunts, grandparents, cousins, great-grandchildren, and all other persons in the household or quasi household not mentioned above who were reported as related to the family head (or his wife) by blood, marriage, or adoption. This includes occasional instances of distant relatives. In the less detailed classifications, this group includes, in addition, some of the types of family members mentioned above. For example, "other relatives" in secondary families shown in table 1 includes children, sons- or daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and parents of the secondary family head; in this particular case, the greater relationship detail was not available from the punch cards.

Lodger.--All persons in households who are not related to the head, except resident employees and their families, are counted as lodgers. Among these persons are lodgers, roomers, and boarders, and their relatives residing in the same household. Also included here are the small numbers of partners, foster children, and wards.

Resident employee.--This category consists of all employees of the head of the household who usually reside in the household with their employer, and their relatives residing in the same household. The main types of such employees are cooks, maids, nurses, and hired farm hands. In 1950, the small number of relatives of resident employees were included in the count of resident employees with whom they lived, whereas, in 1940, they were shown as lodgers.

Comparability

Earlier census data.--Population reports for each census since 1850 contain figures on the number of households. Information on household relationship has been collected in each census since 1880, but it was not until 1940 that the reports contained any data on this subject. (See section on "Related materials.") Statistics on relationship to family head are not available from the 1940 Census in the detail shown here. The figures on relationship to head of primary family shown in this report may be compared with the 1940 and 1950 statistics on relationship to head of household, provided primary individuals are added to heads of primary families to obtain the total number of heads of households for 1950.

Table C shows data for 1940 and 1950 on relationship to head of household by marital status and sex. The increase in the proportion of persons

classified as heads of households and the decrease in the proportion of relatives (other than wife) of the head reflect the unusually rapid rate of household formation during the 1940's; the decrease in the proportion of relatives of the head reflects also the increase in the number of young men who had left their parental homes for service in the armed forces and the fact that college students were enumerated at their college residences in 1950 but usually at their parental homes in 1940.

Minor changes in the instructions for identifying dwelling units in 1950 as compared with 1940 may have affected to a slight extent the increase in households (that is, the number of heads of households) between the two dates. For example, in the 1940 Census, the occupants of a lodginghouse were regarded as constituting a quasi household if the place included 11 lodgers or more; in the 1950 Census the criterion was reduced to 5 lodgers or more. In general, however, the number of households and the number of occupied dwelling units in the 1950 Census may be regarded as comparable with the number of "families," "private households," and occupied dwelling units as shown in the census reports for 1930 and 1940.

In the 1950 Census, the number of households and the number of occupied dwelling units were identical by definition; small differences between these numbers appear in the published reports, however, because the data for the Population and the Housing reports were processed independently.

The term "family" as used in the 1950 Census is not comparable with that used by the Bureau of the Census before 1947. The new definition excludes the large number of primary individuals who would have been classified as families under the old definition. On the other hand, the new definition includes the small number of secondary families who would not have been classified as families under the old definition. The net effect has been to decrease the number of families.

The coverage of the institutional population in the 1950 Census is somewhat more inclusive than that in the 1940 Census. For example, patients in tuberculosis sanitariums were counted as inmates in 1950 but not in 1940. Furthermore, the identification of certain other types of institutions, such as nursing, convalescent, and rest homes, was probably improved in 1950 by the use of lists of such places compiled from welfare agencies.

Current Population Survey data.--Estimates of the number of households and the number of families for the United States as a whole are published annually from the Current Population Survey. The estimate based on this survey for March 1950 were higher than the corresponding figures from the census. For households, the census figure based on the complete count was 42,857,335, and the survey estimate was 43,468,000. For families, the census figure based on the 20-percent sample data was 38,310,980, whereas the survey estimate was 39,193,000. In both cases, the differences are too great to be attributed to sampling variability alone. Such factors as the methods used in weighting the survey estimates and the differences between the training and experience of the interviewers used in the survey and in the census may also account in part for the lack of agreement in the two sets of data. (See also section below on "Post-Enumeration Survey.")

These factors also affect the comparability of the figures on the number of unrelated individuals (primary and secondary individuals) obtained from the census and from the Current Population Survey. The census figure for the number of primary individuals based on the 3 1/3-percent sample data, 4,754,000, was virtually the same as the survey estimate for March 1950, namely, 4,737,000. The difference was much greater among secondary individuals 14 years old and over, for whom the 3 1/3-percent sample figure was 6,095,000, as compared with the survey estimate of 4,098,000. In this case, the difference is in part a reflection of the fact that, unlike the census, the survey excluded from its coverage all members of the armed forces except those living off post or with their families on post; these armed forces members were classified as secondary individuals in the census. Moreover, college students were generally enumerated at their own homes in the Current Population Survey and classified as family members but were enumerated at their college residence in the census, usually as secondary individuals. The difference in coverage of the armed forces and college students may account for about 1,250,000 of the total difference of 2 million in the number of secondary individuals.

Data available from a sample of persons included in both the 1950 Census of Population and the Current Population Survey for April 1950 indicate that the survey enumerators classified as heads of households some persons whom census enumerators classified as other types of household members, generally as lodgers; most lodgers are secondary individuals. (See table D.) This fact suggests that, when complex living arrangements were encountered, survey enumerators more often than census enumerators identified as separate households a person or group of persons occupying only a part of the living quarters in a house or apartment.

Post-Enumeration Survey. -- The Post-Enumeration Survey of the 1950 Census studied to some extent the accuracy of census data on the number of households and on relationship to head of household; marital status, however, was not among the items that were checked. This survey was a sample re-enumeration which entailed a direct check on a case-by-case basis of the original enumeration.

The results of the survey show that some households were erroneously omitted from the census count, whereas others were included that should not have been. On balance, the data indicate a net undercount of about a million households, or 2.5 percent, in the 1950 Census. This estimate is subject to a standard error of about 90,000 households. It represents the difference between an estimated 1,300,000 households missed in the census or erroneously enumerated as a part of another household and an estimated 300,000 households included in the census by mistake or erroneously enumerated as separate households.

Households are more likely to be "erroneously enumerated" when living arrangements are complex and there is difficulty in identifying the proper number of households. For example, two married couples occupying a given set of living quarters may have been erroneously counted as one household whereas the circumstances were such that they should have been counted as two households; or they may have been erroneously counted as two households instead of one.

Errors of this type do not necessarily affect the count of persons; in part for this reason, and in part because households missed in the census tend to be relatively small, the Post-Enumeration Survey indicates that the net undercount of population (1.4 percent) is less than the undercount of households (2.5 percent).

Besides the difficulty in identifying the proper number of households, other factors influencing the count of households include errors in the classification of dwelling units as vacant, as occupied by nonresidents, or as occupied by residents; enumeration of households in the wrong enumeration district; duplicate enumeration of households; and failure to enumerate households.

Furthermore, an analysis of the data from the Post-Enumeration Survey on the accuracy of the census enumeration by relationship to head of household indicates a greater tendency for census enumerators to miss household members in the categories "Lodger" and "Resident employee" than those who are household heads or relatives of heads.

Additional information from the Post-Enumeration Survey on census enumeration errors is given on pp. XIII and XIV of Volume I and in Part 1 of Volume II of the 1950 Census of Population. A more complete discussion of the completeness of enumeration of occupied dwelling units (same as number of households) is given in the United States Summary of Volume I of the 1950 Census of Housing; this source also contains a statement on the difference between the completeness of the count of occupied dwelling units and of the count of population. A more detailed account of the methods and results of the Post-Enumeration Survey will be published at a later date.

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.

A considerable body of evidence exists which indicates that statistics for single years of age generally reflect a tendency toward the overreporting of ages ending in 0, 2, 5 and 8, that is, the frequencies for these single years of age tend to exceed those for the two adjoining years. This type of misreporting presumably occurs in situations in which the respondent, in the absence of specific knowledge as to his exact age or the age of the person for whom he is reporting, gives an approximate figure. For similar reasons, the ages which tend to be overreported also generally contain disproportionately large numbers of persons reported as single.

The population "pyramid" on p. 2D-2 portrays the marital status of persons at each single year of age.¹ This schematic representation is of particular value for the analysis of changes in marital status by age as a net result of marriage, remarriage, widowhood, and divorce. It reveals, among other things, the extent to which women tend to marry at a younger age than men; the ages by which most persons have married for the first time; and the

ages by which married persons of each sex are no longer in the majority.

FARM RESIDENCE

In this report, the population is divided by "farm residence" into two groups: (1) Urban and rural-nonfarm population and (2) rural-farm population. 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 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 for 1950.

The rural-farm population for 1950, as for 1940 and 1930, includes all persons living on farms in rural areas 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, persons living on what might have been considered farm land were classified as nonfarm if they paid cash rent for their homes and yards only. Persons in institutions, summer camps, "motels," and tourist camps were classified as nonfarm. For the United States as a whole, there is evidence from the Current Population Survey that the farm population in 1950 would have been slightly larger had the 1940 procedure

¹ The estimated number of persons in the population at each single year of age was obtained, for the most part, by mathematical interpolation of complete-count statistics for 5-year age groups. The number of persons by marital status in each single year of age was obtained by multiplication of the smoothed population data by the respective marital status percentages shown in table 1 for persons 14 to 29 years old. For persons 30 to 74 years old, it was believed that age misreporting had introduced a bias in the single year of age figures for the number in each marital status as well as for the number in the population. Therefore, the percentages by marital status in table 1 for persons in these ages were graphically smoothed and then applied to the smoothed population data to obtain the numbers for the figure.

been used. In this report separate data are presented for the rural-farm population rather than for the total farm population since virtually all of the farm population is located in rural areas and since other census data are nearly always presented in this manner.

The rural-nonfarm population includes all persons living outside urban areas who do not live on farms. The rural-nonfarm population 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 areas.

COLOR

The term "color" refers to the division of the 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.

INCOME IN 1949

Income, as defined in the 1950 Census, is the sum of 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 by persons 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 and free living quarters; withdrawals of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; gifts; and lump-sum inheritance or insurance payments.

Income data in this report are for the non-institutional population 14 years old and over reporting on income. (Because of mechanical limitations, data for persons not reporting on income were not tabulated separately for persons in each family status.) The income is the person's own income; it does not include income received by any other member of the family.

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Table A.--MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY SEX, BASED ON CENSUS (SERIES P-B) AND ON CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950

(Complete-count data from 1950 Census and sample data from Current Population Survey for March 1950)

Marital status and sex	Census		Current Population Survey ¹	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Male.....	55,311,617	100.0	54,287,000	100.0
Single.....	14,518,079	26.2	14,212,000	26.2
Married.....	37,399,617	67.6	37,022,000	68.2
Widowed and divorced.....	3,393,921	6.1	3,054,000	5.6
Female.....	57,042,417	100.0	56,635,000	100.0
Single.....	11,454,266	20.1	11,126,000	19.6
Married.....	37,503,836	65.7	37,451,000	66.1
Widowed and divorced.....	8,084,315	14.2	8,058,000	14.2

¹ Excludes about 500,000 members of the armed forces (mostly single) who were living in military barracks; also assumes about 250,000 fewer persons in institutions than shown by census.

Table B.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS FOR IDENTICAL PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, OBTAINED BY CENSUS AND BY CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY ENUMERATORS

(Data for a matched group of approximately 51,000 persons enumerated in both the 1950 Census of Population and the Current Population Survey for April 1950)

Marital status and sex	Census	Current Population Survey
Male.....	100.0	100.0
Single.....	22.9	23.4
Married.....	72.0	71.6
Married, wife present.....	70.3	70.4
Married, wife absent.....	1.7	1.2
Widowed.....	3.7	3.7
Divorced.....	1.4	1.3
Female.....	100.0	100.0
Single.....	18.0	18.2
Married.....	68.0	67.4
Married, husband present.....	65.3	65.5
Married, husband absent.....	2.6	1.9
Widowed.....	11.9	12.3
Divorced.....	2.2	2.1

Table C.--RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD BY MARITAL STATUS AND SEX, FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950 AND 1940

(Data for 1950 based on 3 1/3-percent sample and data for 1940 based on 5-percent sample)

Marital status, relationship to head of household, and sex	1950	1940	Percent distribution	
			1950	1940
Male.....	54,620,430	50,543,840	100.0	100.0
Head of household.....	35,870,770	29,762,800	65.7	58.9
Married, wife present.....	32,699,480	26,632,400	59.9	52.7
Other.....	3,171,290	3,130,400	5.8	6.2
Relative of head.....	13,386,400	16,102,860	24.5	31.9
Married, wife present.....	1,779,390	1,646,220	3.3	3.3
Other.....	11,607,010	14,456,640	21.3	28.6
Nonrelative of head or member of quasi household..	5,363,260	4,678,180	9.8	9.3
Married, wife present.....	521,260	419,740	1.0	0.8
Other.....	4,842,000	4,258,440	8.9	8.4
Female.....	57,081,030	50,471,900	100.0	100.0
Head of household.....	6,372,400	5,361,580	11.2	10.6
Single.....	1,034,580	903,460	1.8	1.8
Other.....	5,337,820	4,458,120	9.4	8.8
Wife of head.....	33,322,070	26,295,660	58.4	52.1
Other relative of head.....	13,690,170	15,316,540	24.0	30.3
Married, husband present.....	1,772,220	1,558,120	3.1	3.1
Other.....	11,917,950	13,758,420	20.9	27.3
Nonrelative of head or member of quasi household..	3,696,390	3,498,120	6.5	6.9
Married, husband present.....	500,860	402,600	0.9	0.8
Other.....	3,195,530	3,095,520	5.6	6.1

Table D.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD FOR IDENTICAL PERSONS OBTAINED BY CENSUS AND BY CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY ENUMERATORS

(Data for a matched group of approximately 69,000 persons enumerated in both the 1950 Census of Population and the Current Population Survey for April 1950)

Relationship to head of household	Census	Current Population Survey	Relationship to head of household	Census	Current Population Survey
All persons.....	100.0	100.0	Other relative of head.....	6.9	7.2
Head of household.....	29.9	30.1	Nonrelative of head.....	2.7	2.4
Wife of household head.....	23.6	23.6	Quasi household member.....	0.1	0.1
Child of household head.....	36.7	36.6			

RELIABILITY OF SAMPLE DATA

SAMPLE DESIGN

The data in the tables which follow are based on information tabulated for a representative sample of approximately 3 1/3 percent of the population. 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 on the schedule was in the sample on one of the five versions.² The statistics in this report 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 population.

Estimates 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 the 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 the deviation from 3 1/3 percent was expected to be quite small for major categories of the population. Small biases, however, arose when the enumerator failed to follow his instructions exactly. These were usually in the direction of a slight underrepresentation of adult males, particularly heads of households in the sample. Errors of processing as noted in the section on "Internal consistency of data" resulted in a further reduction in the sample size. (As a result of these errors, a few numbers may not be exact multiples of 30.)

² In 19 counties of Michigan and Ohio, the sample consisted basically of every fifth household and all persons in these households were considered in the sample. Such a household sample was used as an experiment to determine the feasibility of this type of sample in future censuses of population.

Tables E and F present comparisons of marital status, household, and family statistics based on complete counts or 20-percent sample estimates, and on 3 1/3-percent sample estimates. Differences between complete counts and 3 1/3-percent sample estimates reflect, among other things, enumerators' errors in selecting the sample, and errors in processing. Differences between 20-percent sample estimates and 3 1/3-percent sample estimates reflect primarily sampling variability, although they also may include some processing errors. The net effect of these factors is relatively small and should have little influence on the interpretation of the data. Volume II of the 1950 Census of Population is the source of the complete count and 20-percent sample data.

SAMPLING VARIABILITY

Since the data in this report are based on a sample of the population, they are subject to sampling variability, which can be estimated from the standard errors shown in tables G and H. These tables do not reflect the biases mentioned above. Table G presents the approximate standard errors of estimates of selected sizes. Table H shows the approximate standard errors of percentages when computed by using 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 2½ times the standard error.

Illustration.--Table 3 shows that in April 1950 there were an estimated 45,720 rural-farm divorced women 14 years old and over in primary families

(81.7 percent of the estimated 55,980 rural-farm divorced women 14 years old and over). From linear interpolation between values in table G it is found that the standard error of an estimate of 45,720 rural-farm residents is about 1,180. 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 rural-farm divorced women 14 years old and over in primary families would have differed by less than 1,180 from the sample estimate. It also follows that there is only 1 chance in 100 that a complete count would have differed by as much as 2,950, that is, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the standard error. Table H shows, also by linear interpolation, that the standard error of the 81.7 percent on a base of 55,980 is about 0.9 percent.

The standard errors shown in tables G and H are not directly applicable to differences between two estimates. The standard error of a difference between two sample estimates is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard error of each estimate considered separately. This formula is a good approximation for the difference between estimates of the same characteristic in different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. In other cases, it is only a rough approximation.

Tables G and H are not directly applicable to estimates of medians, if these are computed from the data in this report. The sampling variability of estimates of medians depends on the distributions upon which the medians are based.³

The smaller figures and small differences between figures should be used with particular care because they are subject to larger 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. (Complete counts for some of the broader classes for which data are shown may be found in Volume II of the 1950 Census of Population.) 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 to the sample estimate of the larger group. The last column of table E contains such ratios for some major classes of items 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 G to that shown for the corresponding percentage in table H. 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 estimates derived by multiplying the sample results by 30.

³ The standard error of a median based on sample data may be estimated as follows: If the estimated total 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 the total population, the chances are about 2 out of 3 that the median would lie between these two values. The chances will be about 19 out of 20 that the median will be in the interval computed similarly but using $\frac{N}{2} \pm 2(2.8)\sqrt{N}$ and about 99 in 100 that it will be in the interval obtained by using $\frac{N}{2} \pm (2.5)(2.8)\sqrt{N}$.

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Table E.--COMPARISON OF COMPLETE-COUNT AND 3 1/3-PERCENT SAMPLE DATA ON MARITAL STATUS, BY FARM RESIDENCE, COLOR, AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950

Subject	Complete count	3 1/3-percent sample	Percent distribution		Ratio of complete count to 3 1/3-percent sample
			Complete count	3 1/3-percent sample	
UNITED STATES--TOTAL					
Male, 14 years and over.....	55,311,617	54,620,430	100.0	100.0	1.013
Single.....	14,518,079	14,373,990	26.2	26.3	1.010
Married.....	37,399,617	36,883,830	67.6	67.5	1.014
Widowed or divorced.....	3,393,921	3,362,610	6.1	6.2	1.009
Female, 14 years and over.....	57,042,417	57,081,030	100.0	100.0	0.999
Single.....	11,454,266	11,368,410	20.1	19.9	1.008
Married.....	37,503,836	37,602,960	65.7	65.9	0.997
Widowed or divorced.....	8,084,315	8,109,660	14.2	14.2	0.997
UNITED STATES--NONWHITE					
Male, 14 years and over.....	5,332,608	5,297,820	100.0	100.0	1.007
Single.....	1,530,810	1,505,250	28.7	28.4	1.017
Married.....	3,419,009	3,416,520	64.1	64.5	1.001
Widowed or divorced.....	382,789	376,050	7.2	7.1	1.018
Female, 14 years and over.....	5,688,302	5,692,860	100.0	100.0	0.999
Single.....	1,182,248	1,175,580	20.8	20.7	1.006
Married.....	3,526,356	3,530,850	62.0	62.0	0.999
Widowed or divorced.....	979,698	986,430	17.2	17.3	0.993
RURAL FARM--TOTAL					
Male, 14 years and over.....	8,399,488	8,329,320	100.0	100.0	1.008
Single.....	2,606,842	2,599,290	31.0	31.2	1.003
Married.....	5,379,478	5,330,070	64.0	64.0	1.009
Widowed or divorced.....	413,168	399,960	4.9	4.8	1.033
Female, 14 years and over.....	7,484,868	7,489,140	100.0	100.0	0.999
Single.....	1,539,893	1,534,440	20.6	20.5	1.004
Married.....	5,296,108	5,308,080	70.8	70.9	0.998
Widowed or divorced.....	648,867	646,620	8.7	8.6	1.003
RURAL FARM--NONWHITE					
Male, 14 years and over.....	1,022,851	1,026,090	100.0	100.0	0.997
Single.....	346,645	346,710	33.9	33.8	1.000
Married.....	624,504	629,700	61.1	61.4	0.992
Widowed or divorced.....	51,702	49,680	5.1	4.8	1.041
Female, 14 years and over.....	992,903	991,680	100.0	100.0	1.001
Single.....	257,861	257,340	26.0	25.9	1.002
Married.....	628,858	626,760	63.3	63.2	1.003
Widowed or divorced.....	106,184	107,580	10.7	10.8	0.987

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Table F.--COMPARISON OF COMPLETE-COUNT DATA, 20-PERCENT SAMPLE DATA, AND 3 1/3-PERCENT SAMPLE DATA, ON MARITAL STATUS, HOUSEHOLDS, AND FAMILIES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950

Subject	Complete count	20-percent sample	3 1/3-percent sample	Ratio of complete count to 3 1/3-percent sample	Ratio of 20-percent sample to 3 1/3-percent sample
MARITAL STATUS					
Male, 14 years and over.....	55,311,617	54,601,105	54,620,430	1.013	1.000
Single.....	14,518,079	14,399,840	14,373,990	1.010	1.002
Married.....	37,399,617	36,866,055	36,883,830	1.014	1.000
Widowed or divorced.....	3,393,921	3,335,210	3,362,610	1.009	0.992
Female, 14 years and over.....	57,042,417	57,102,295	57,081,030	0.999	1.000
Single.....	11,454,266	11,418,335	11,368,410	1.008	1.004
Married.....	37,503,836	37,576,800	37,602,960	0.997	0.999
Widowed or divorced.....	8,084,315	8,107,160	8,109,660	0.997	1.000
HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES					
Number of households.....	42,857,335	42,251,415	42,243,170	1.015	1.000
Number of families.....	(¹)	38,310,980	38,236,250	...	1.002
Number of unrelated individuals 14 years and over.....	(¹)	11,051,050	10,849,260	...	1.019
Population in households.....	145,030,888	144,551,805	144,575,340	1.003	1.000
Population per household.....	3.38	3.42	3.42	0.988	1.000
Population in quasi households.....	5,666,473	5,664,450	5,674,560	0.999	0.998
Inmates of institutions, 14 years and over...	1,444,136	1,436,820	1,443,510	1.000	0.995

¹ Not available.Table G.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED NUMBER
(Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Estimated number	Residence class of estimate		Estimated number	Residence class of estimate	
	United States, urban, and rural nonfarm	Rural farm		United States, urban, and rural nonfarm	Rural farm
100.....	60	60	500,000.....	3,930	3,920
500.....	120	120	1,000,000.....	5,550	5,520
1,000.....	180	180	5,000,000.....	12,240	11,870
2,500.....	280	280	10,000,000.....	17,020	15,920
5,000.....	390	390	15,000,000.....	20,480	18,360
7,500.....	480	480	25,000,000.....	25,460	...
10,000.....	560	560	50,000,000.....	32,290	...
25,000.....	880	880	75,000,000.....	34,280	...
50,000.....	1,240	1,240	100,000,000.....	32,500	...
100,000.....	1,760	1,760	110,000,000.....	30,610	...

Table H.--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	5,000,000
2 or 98.....	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0
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	0.1
50.....	5.1	3.9	2.8	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.1