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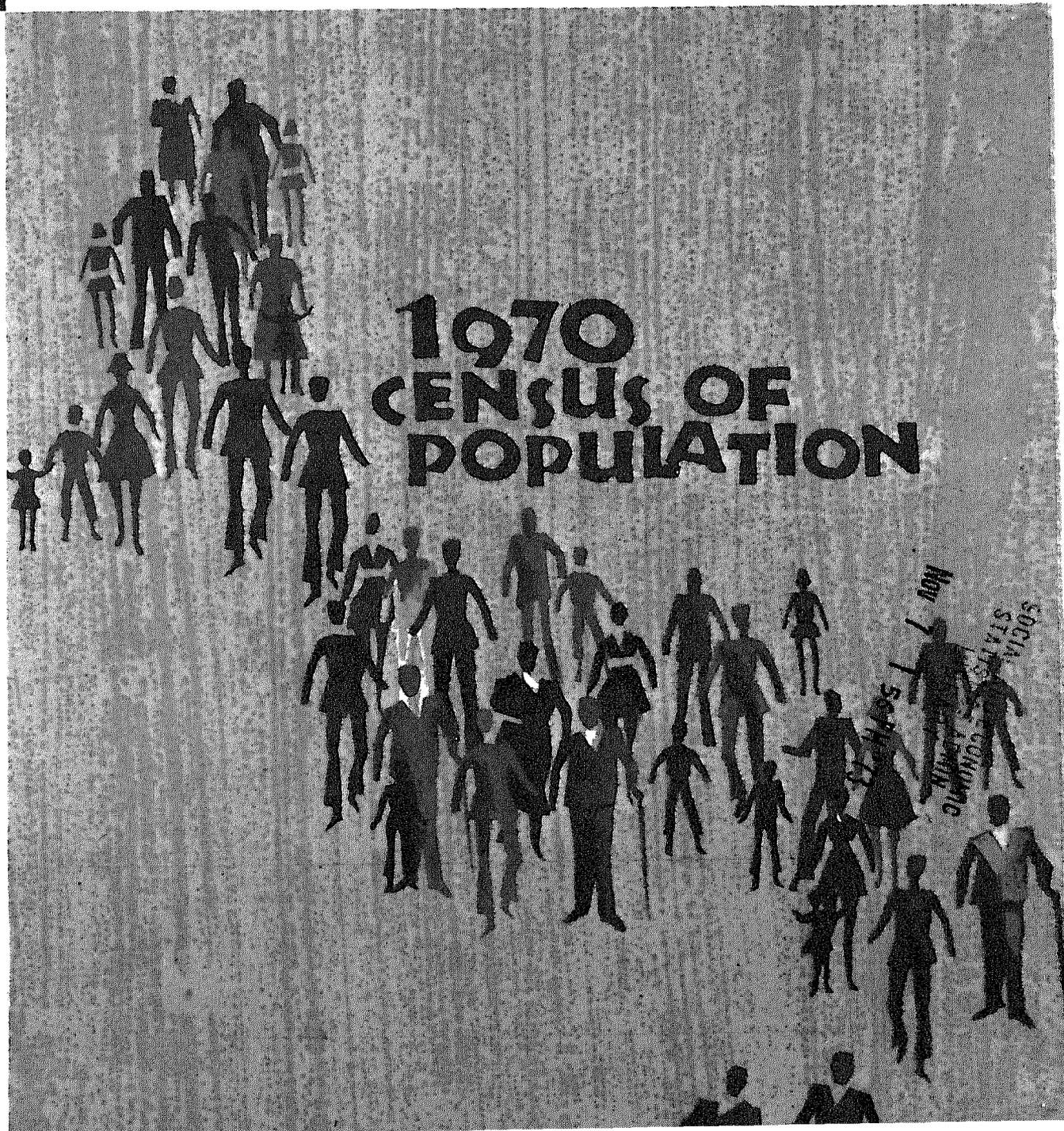
COMMERCE
PUBLICATION



SUBJECT REPORTS

Women by Number of Children Ever Born

PC(2)-3A



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE
Social and Economic
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PC(2)-3A

1970 CENSUS OF POPULATION

SUBJECT REPORTS

Women by Number of Children Ever Born

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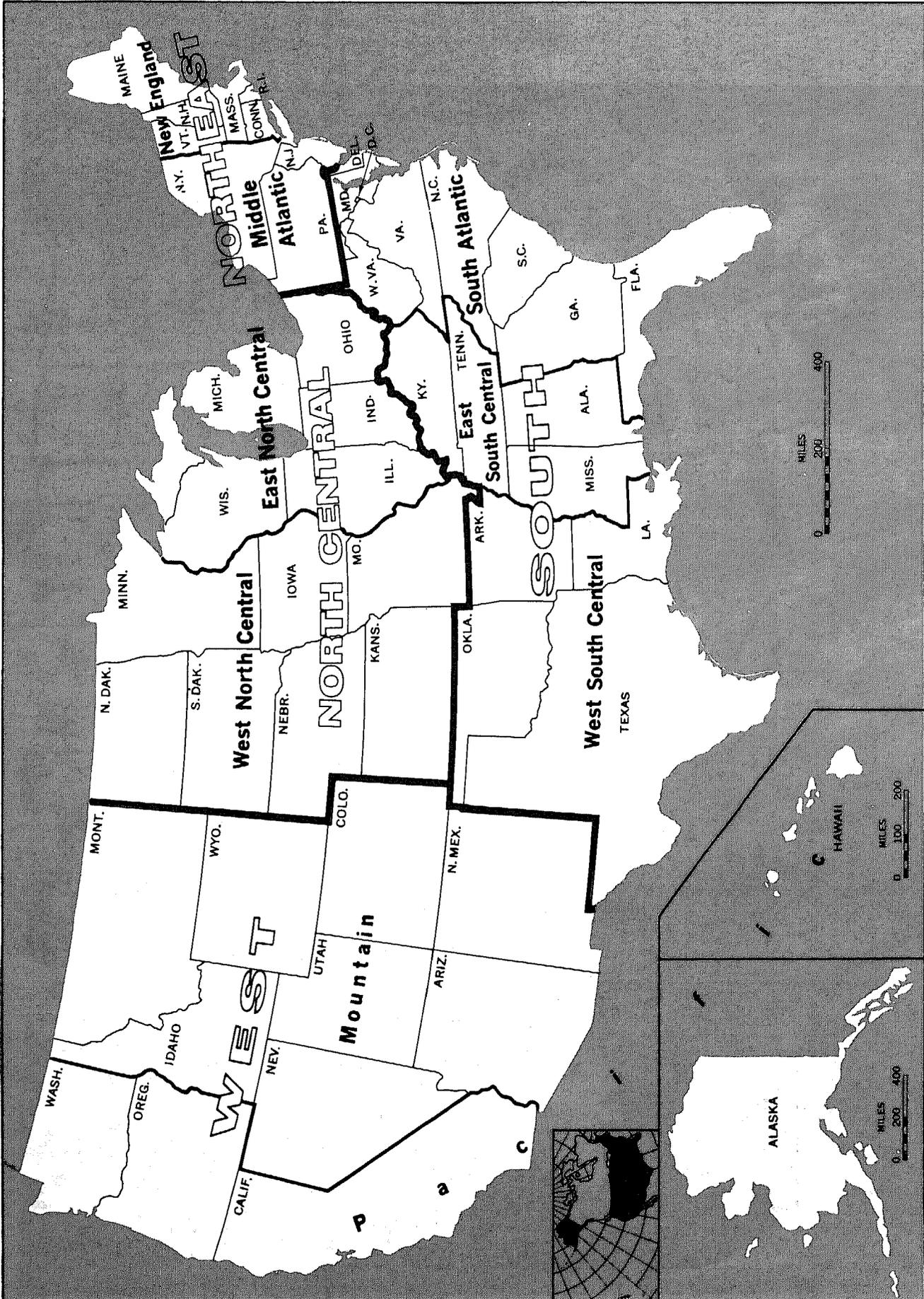
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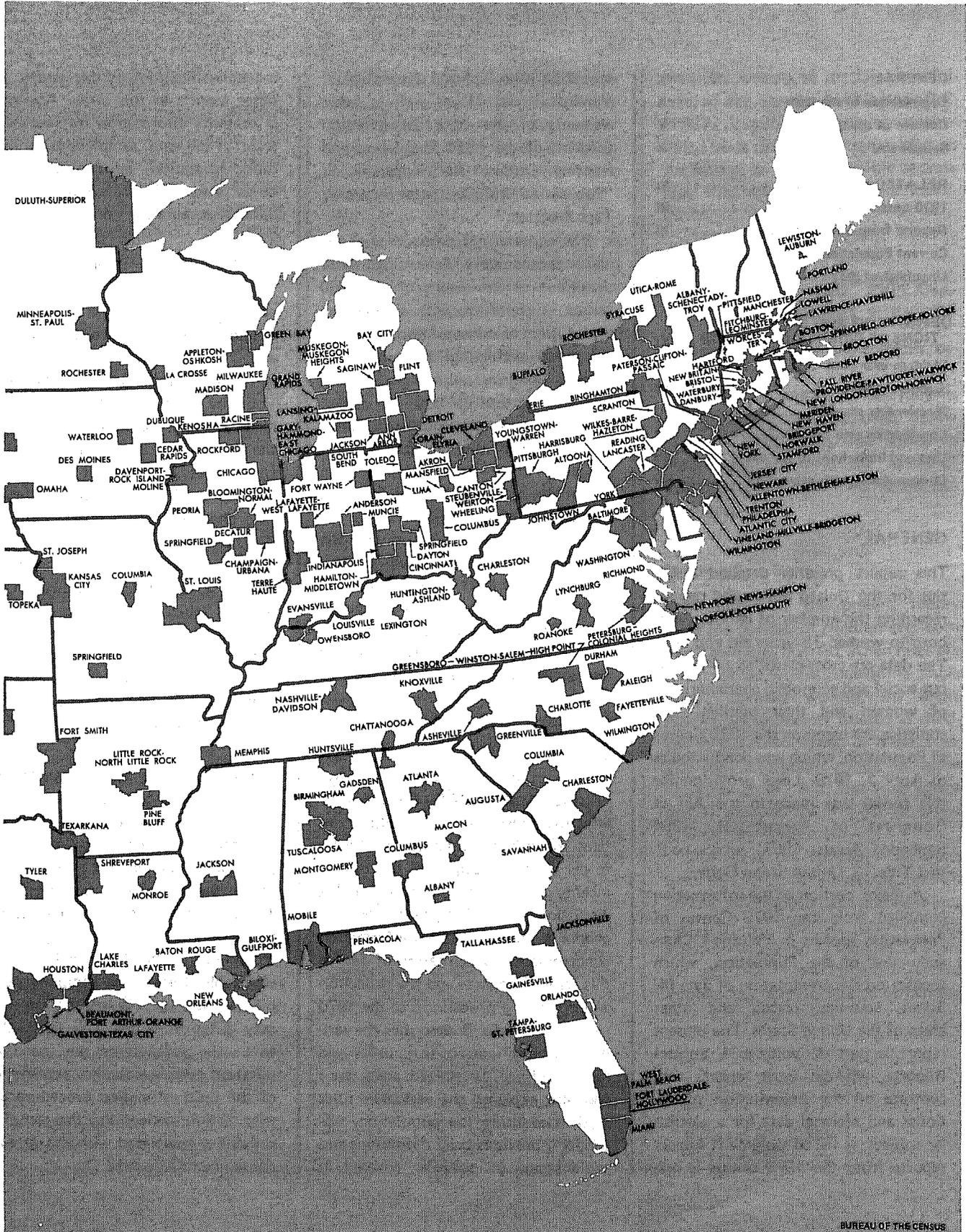
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Regions and Geographic Divisions of the United States





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GENERAL

This report presents detailed statistics for the United States and regions regarding the number of children ever born to women 15 years old and over. The data are cross-classified by numerous social and economic characteristics of women and their families. The statistics are based on the 1970 Census of Population, which was conducted as of April 1, 1970. Legal provision for this census was made in the Act of Congress of August 31, 1954 (amended August 1957), which codified Title 13, United States Code.

A major portion of the information compiled from the 1970 Census of Population appears in Volume I, **Characteristics of the Population**, which focuses on the presentation of data for States, counties, places, and other areas of the United States. The present report is part of Volume II, **Subject Reports**, wherein most reports concentrate on the presentation of national and regional data for a particular subject. A list of Volume II subject reports from the 1970 census is pre-

sented on page II. For a description of Volumes I and II, as well as other elements of the data dissemination program of the 1970 Population and Housing Census, see Appendix E, "Publication and Computer Summary Tape Program."

The content and procedures of the 1970 census were determined after evaluation of the results of the 1960 census, consultation with a wide variety of users of census data, and extensive field pretesting. A number of changes were introduced in 1970 to improve the usefulness of the census results. For the characteristics shown in this report, the changes do not, however, affect to any appreciable extent the comparability of the 1970 data with those for 1960.

More detailed information on the technical and procedural matters covered in the text of this report can be obtained by writing to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. Such information will also appear in later reports of the 1970 census.

Organization of the text.—The text consists of this introduction and Appendixes A through E, which appear after the tables. The introduction contains information relating specifically to the principal subject of this report, including definitions of terms and a discussion of editing procedures. Appendix A provides general information concerning the presentation of data in this series of reports and the collection and processing procedures of the 1970 census. Appendix B describes the various area classifications (e.g., urban and rural residence, urbanized areas, etc.) and also explains the residence rules used in counting the population. Appendix C provides brief definitions and explanations of subjects covered in

cross-classifications in this report and other reports in this series. Appendix D presents information on sources of error in the data, sampling variability, ratio estimation, and editing procedures. Appendix E summarizes the data dissemination program.

Content of the tables.—Tables 1 through 21 present data on children ever born cross-classified by age, race, ethnic group, urban-rural residence, and residence in 1965. Tables 22 through 43 emphasize cross-classifications by marital status and marital history. Tables 44 through 57 focus on the economic details of occupation and income. Tables 58 through 64 relate primarily to housing and household characteristics. Tables 65 through 67 show the data available regarding children born to single women who are otherwise regarded as childless in the detailed tables of this report. Finally, tables A-1 through A-4 provide information regarding proportions of women failing to report on children ever born and the numbers of children allocated to them.

Sample size.—The statistics in this report are based on samples of various sizes which have been adjusted to represent the total population. Depending on the content of the several tables, the data may come from the 5-, 15-, or 20-percent samples. The sample size on which each table is based is indicated in a headnote to the particular table. Because of sampling variability, data for a given characteristic may differ from one table to another when the tabulations are based on different sample sizes. An explanation of the ratio estimation procedure and information concerning the sampling variability associated with the data are contained in Appendix D.

RELATED MATERIALS

1970 census reports.—Data on children ever born, based on a 20-percent sample, have been published in chapter C, Parts 1 through 53, of the 1970 Census of Population, Volume I, **Characteristics of the Population**. The information is tabulated by 10-year age groups of women 15 to 44 years old for the United States, regions, States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; and within States for counties, standard metropolitan statistical areas, urbanized areas, and places of 10,000 inhabitants or more. In chapter D of Volume I, the same information appears in greater age detail and is cross-classified by certain types and sizes of areas.

In addition to the present report, several other Volume II reports show fertility-related data. Some examples are: PC(2)-1F, **American Indians**; PC(2)-4B, **Persons by Family Characteristics**; PC(2)-6A, **Employment Status and Work Experience**; and PC(2)-9A, **Low-Income Population**.

Reports from earlier censuses.—Information similar to that described above on children ever born appears in chapters B, C, and D, Parts 1 through 53, of 1960 Census of Population, Volume I, **Characteristics of the Population**. Three special reports on fertility appear in Volume II of the 1960 Census of Population; they are entitled PC(2)-3A, **Women by Number of Children Ever Born**; PC(2)-3B, **Childspacing**; and PC(2)-3C, **Women by Children Under 5 Years Old**. Many of the tabulations of the present report are directly comparable to those of the 1960 PC(2)-3A report on children ever born.

A special report entitled **Fertility**, which is Part 5C of Volume IV of the 1950 Census of Population, presents

statistics on number of children ever born and on number of own children under 5 years old. Additional material is presented in 1950 Census of Population, Series PC-14, No. 22, **Fertility by Duration of Marriage: 1950**.

Current Population Survey.—Data on various aspects of fertility, including childspacing, progressive fertility for age and marriage cohorts of women, and birth expectations, are published in Series P-20 of the **Current Population Reports**. These data are collected on an irregular basis by the Bureau of the Census through its Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS currently gathers information from a sample of about 50,000 households.

Some Series P-20 reports related to fertility are: No. 186, "Marriage, Fertility, and Childspacing: June 1965"; No. 211, "Previous and Prospective Fertility: 1967"; No. 232, "Birth Expectations Data: June 1971"; and No. 248, "Birth Expectations and Fertility: June 1972."

Unpublished data.—For most of the Volume II reports, statistics in addition to those published in the report are available on a reimbursable basis from computer tape files. Data shown for the United States as a whole are available for regions, divisions, and States, and, in a number of instances, the data for some characteristics were tabulated in greater detail than shown in the reports. Requests for unpublished data, giving a specific description of the figures desired, may be

made by writing to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. Inquiries concerning unpublished data should be transmitted to the Bureau as soon as possible because tape files are not maintained indefinitely.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS OF PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS

The definitions and explanations below relate either to the principal subjects of this report or to subjects not elsewhere defined. Brief definitions of other items that appear in cross-classifications in the tables of this report are presented in the appendixes.

Children Ever Born

Most tables in the present report show the number of children ever born to women ever married. When rates are given for all women, including single (never married) women, the single women are uniformly treated as childless in the computation of these rates. The only exceptions appear in tables 65 through 67, A-2, and A-4, where special data on the fertility of single women are presented.

The data on children ever born were derived from answers to item 25 on the 1970 census questionnaire (see facsimile of item 25 below). This question was asked of females 14 years old and over in the 15- and 5-percent samples; its purpose was to obtain the

25. If this is a girl or a woman—									
How many babies has she ever had, not counting stillbirths?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	<input type="radio"/>								
Do not count her stepchildren or children she has adopted.	9	10	11	12	or more			None	
	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>					

INTRODUCTION—Continued

total number of live births a woman ever had.

The terminal category for recording the number of children ever born was "12 or more." In tabulating the total number of children ever born to a group of women, the relatively few women with "12 or more" children were each counted as having 13 children. Thirteen represents a mean value derived from data from other censuses, surveys, and birth registrations. When the number of children ever born was not reported for a woman, an estimated (allocated) number was assigned. Tables A-1 through A-4 show the proportions of allocations. The allocation procedures employed took into account in various ways such characteristics as the woman's race, marital status, age, years since first marriage, relationship to household head, and number of own children present. The woman who was given an allocated number of children ever born was assigned the same number of children as that reported by a previ-

ously recorded woman of matching characteristics.

Although most of the tables in this report show only the number of children ever born to women ever married, the data are not limited to legitimate fertility. As already stated, births before marriage were included to the extent that they occurred to, and were counted by, women ever married. Information on the proportion of births reported as having occurred before marriage is available from some sample surveys. For example, according to the June 1971 CPS, white women first married in 1965 to 1969 reported that 6 percent of their children were born before marriage, as compared with 30 percent for Negro women of the same marriage cohort. The census data are surely less complete for illegitimate births than for legitimate births. A general idea of the magnitude of the undercounting of illegitimate children can be obtained from the information provided in the section entitled "Comparability With Other Data."

Children ever born to single women.—

As noted above, the data on the number of children ever born are limited in most of the tables of this report to women who have ever been married, with single women being treated as childless for the purpose of computing rates of children ever born to women of all marital classes combined. Table I below is a summary, based on table 66, which compares rates of children ever born both including and excluding the children of single women. As may be seen from the summary table, the differences are minor for the white population but are somewhat larger for Negroes. For women 15 years old and over, table I indicates that including the children of single women would increase the rates of children ever born by approximately 0.8 percent for whites and 7.1 percent for Negroes, and that the relative increase is larger at younger ages than at older ages.

The data in table I include allocations (estimates) of children ever born

TABLE I. Children Ever Born Per 1,000 Women of All Marital Statuses Combined by Race and Age of Woman: 1970

Age of woman	White				Negro			
	Single women treated as childless (1)	Children of single women included (2)	Absolute difference (3)	Column (2) as percent of column (1) (4)	Single women treated as childless (5)	Children of single women included (6)	Absolute difference (7)	Column (6) as percent of column (5) (8)
15 years and over	1,965	1,980	15	100.8	2,226	2,385	159	107.1
15 to 19 years	69	84	15	121.7	118	268	150	227.1
20 to 24 years	648	674	26	104.0	918	1,205	287	131.3
25 to 29 years	1,709	1,732	23	101.3	1,996	2,274	278	113.9
30 to 34 years	2,551	2,569	18	100.7	2,956	3,196	240	108.1
35 to 39 years	2,920	2,934	14	100.5	3,450	3,639	189	105.5
40 to 44 years	2,852	2,864	12	100.4	3,520	3,649	129	103.7
45 to 49 years	2,633	2,643	10	100.4	3,162	3,256	94	103.0
50 years and over	2,381	2,392	11	100.5	2,787	2,851	64	102.3

for those women for whom no original report was available. The following percentages summarize the proportions of allocations by race and marital status (for more detail see tables A-1 and A-2 of this report):

	White	Negro
Women ever married ..	5.2	10.5
Single women	29.6	28.2

The allocation procedures may have tended to slightly overestimate the number of children ever born to single women, because the single women with no report on number of children ever born are more likely to be childless than the single women who did report and because the data for reporting women were used as a basis for the allocations. Women who said they were childless comprised 96.2 percent of white single women reporting on number of children ever born and 70.6 percent of reporting Negro single women.

Several factors contributed to the different rates of response for single women and ever-married women. Where self-enumeration procedures were used, the only instructions supplied for item 25 asked the respondent to "count all the children the girl or woman has ever had, even if some of them have died or no longer live with her." In reporting for some of the single women for whom no information was supplied, the respondent may have thought that the question did not apply, because the women had not yet married or had any children.

Another factor that may have contributed to differential coverage pertains to households visited by census

enumerators. The instructions to the enumerator stated that a single woman was *not* to be asked the question about children ever born unless someone in the household was listed as her son or daughter. Enumerators were instructed, however, to ask the question of each woman 14 years old or over who had ever been married. Enumerators were provided with more elaborate instructions and clarifications than were respondents who reported through self-enumeration. Enumerators were provided with an explicit definition of a stillbirth as "a birth at which the baby showed no signs of life" and were explicitly instructed that babies born before the present marriage were to be included.

Standard Deviation

In addition to presenting data on the number of children ever born per 1,000 women, tables 24, 25, 56, and 57 also present the "standard deviation" for the rates of children ever born per 1,000 women.

The standard deviation gives a measure of how widely the observations are scattered around the average. As an indication of the usefulness of the standard deviation in describing a distribution, take as an example two groups of women categorized according to some social or economic characteristic. The average number of children ever born per 1,000 women might be virtually the same in both groups. In one group, however, the vast majority of women might report two or three children (numbers which are close to the average), whereas in the other group many women might report no children or only one child, or four, five, or more children. The size of the standard deviation will show that the first group has a narrow dispersion of

the individual observations about the group mean and that the second group has a wide dispersion.

Women Ever Married

This concept includes all women who are currently married (including separated), widowed, or divorced. It excludes women who have never been married, that is, single women.

Low-Income Area

A "low-income area" is defined for this report as an area in which the poverty rate (percent of persons with 1969 incomes below the poverty level) is 20 percent or more. The geographic area on which the statistics are based is the "weighting area" described in the "Ratio Estimation" section of Appendix D. These weighting areas are groups of generally contiguous enumeration districts with a minimum total population of 2,500 persons for the 15- and 20-percent samples and 25,000 persons for the 5-percent sample. They were originally defined for purposes of determining sample weighting factors. They were also utilized, however, for determining neighborhood or community characteristics, such as the percent of persons with incomes below poverty level. The concept of low-income areas as defined for this report differs from the concept employed in the 1970 Volume II report, PC(2)-9B, **Low-Income Areas in Large Cities**, where the low-income areas are defined in terms of census tracts rather than in terms of weighting areas.

Uses and Limitations of the Data

The statistics shown in this report may be used to study fertility in

relation to a wide variety of social and economic characteristics of women and their families. For the first time in any decennial census some data on children ever born to single women are shown for the United States, although these data are limited to a few tables (tables 65 through 67, A-2, and A-4). Most of the tables in this report are consistent with the practice in earlier censuses of showing the number of children ever born to women who had ever married, with all single women treated as childless for the purpose of computing the average number of children for women of all marital classes combined.

Some researchers may wish to use the data for 1970 with those from reports of previous decennial censuses for the purpose of exploring family building practices on a longitudinal basis. Data for women 15 to 19 years old from the 1940 census, for example, can be compared with those for women 25 to 29 years in the 1950 census, 35 to 39 in the 1960 census, and finally with those for women 45 to 49 in the 1970 census, to determine approximately the average number of children ever born as the surviving women advanced from age to age. The 1970 census is the first decennial census in which a full range of the childbearing ages can be compared in that manner. The reader is reminded that the social and economic characteristics of the women and their families are those prevailing at the time of each census, not necessarily those prevailing at the time their children were born. Occasional misstatements of age, differential mortality, differential completeness of enumeration, and many other possible sources of error in cohort progression data might be cited, but the net effect of the biases seems to be small, as is evident from

the high degree of consistency from census to census for the older women who had completed or nearly completed their fertility by 1940. See the section below on "Comparability With Other Data."

One limitation of rates of children ever born is that the statistics for younger age cohorts have no final meaning in themselves. They are useful for comparisons with other similar age cohorts at other times and in other places, and to show which groups have early or late beginning childbearing patterns and trends. In themselves they indicate current levels of fertility, but do not show what the completed fertility of the younger women will be.

Some assessment of the percent of final fertility completed at various ages may be made on the basis of birth expectation information from Current Population Surveys. Birth expectation data for wives from the June 1972 CPS indicated that wives of all races in the group 14 to 19 years of age had completed 26 percent of their anticipated lifetime fertility. This compares with 43 percent of expected lifetime fertility for wives 20 to 24 years old, 74 percent for wives 25 to 29, and 94 percent for wives 30 to 34. Finally, wives 35 to 39 years old had completed 99 percent of their expected fertility.

Percent of completed fertility based on birth expectations of wives probably represents an upper limit of effectiveness in planning family size. Real cohorts of women born in 1920 to 1929, whose fertility was virtually complete in 1972, indicated at that time that they had completed approximately 3 percent of their fertility when they were 15 to 19 years old, 22 percent when 20 to 24, 52 percent when 25 to 29, 75 percent when 30 to

34, 92 percent when 35 to 39, and 99 percent when 40 to 44. Percentages of completed fertility based on the experience of the 1920 to 1929 real cohort of women are probably too low to be used as estimates of completed fertility for women currently in their twenties and thirties. Changes both in social values and in the diffusion and effectiveness of means for achieving family limitation should permit the younger cohorts of women to come close to meeting their expectations of a fairly low level of fertility.

The uses of data on the number of children ever born to women are enhanced when the data can be compared with the number of children that must be born in order to replace the women of one generation with those of the next. For example, since the sex ratio for all races is 1,052 males born for every 1,000 females, and since the 1968 U.S. life tables show 96.7 percent of female babies are expected to survive to age 27, 1,000 women must bear 2,122 children to provide 1,000 daughters who will survive to age 27, the approximate average age of childbearing. The current replacement quota, therefore, is about 2,122. A group of women whose rate of children ever born per 1,000 women falls below 2,122 has not yet reached the general replacement level of fertility. Groups of women whose rates exceed 2,122 have more than replaced themselves according to the overall replacement quota. Because sex ratios and especially mortality levels differ from group to group, replacement quotas for various groups of the population will differ.

Presented on page XV are illustrative replacement quotas by race based on the corresponding sex ratios at birth and on U.S. life tables for three dates.

	1968	1950	1940
All races . . .	2,122	2,153	2,240
White	2,118	2,145	2,221
Negro	2,139	2,205	2,381

Information on allocations for non-response is provided in tables A-1 through A-4 of this report. In 1970, 5.8 percent of women who had ever married did not report on the number of children ever born and therefore had a number allocated for them. The level of nonresponse on this subject in 1960 was 6.0 percent. Nonresponse rates on children ever born to women ever married were lower for rural than for urban residents, and lower in areas where enumeration was by direct interview than in areas where self-enumeration procedures were used. The women with nonresponses generally had fewer own children present than the women with responses.

The quality of response on number of children ever born in 1970 probably was similar to that in 1960. Comparisons of 1960 census reports on children ever born with matched birth registration records for 880 women ever married age 14 and over from a nationwide sample indicated that in 90 percent of cases the census report agreed exactly with the order of live birth reported on the birth certificate for the woman's latest baby. For 7 percent of the women the census report was lower (usually by 1 child) and in 2 percent it was higher, resulting in a *net* difference of 5 percent. Because many women had several children and because undercounts usually involve differences of only one child, the average number of *children ever born per woman* differed by less than 5 percent. For example, matched

white women 14 to 44 years old in the 1960 census test had an average of 2.60 children per mother according to the census reports and 2.61 according to the birth registration records. For those who were 45 years old and over the respective averages were 3.53 and 3.64, which represents a difference of 3 percent. (See Clyde V. Kiser, Wilson H. Grabill, and Arthur A. Campbell, **Trends and Variations in Fertility in the United States**, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1968, p. 306, table B.5.)

Comparability With Other Data

Earlier censuses.—Consistency of census data for measures which are expected to remain virtually constant with the passage of time provides an indication of the reliability of the data. Once a woman's childbearing years have nearly or fully been completed, the rate of children ever born per 1,000 women should remain constant except for sampling variability and differential mortality, if any. Table II below shows quite close agree-

TABLE II. Children Ever Born Per 1,000 Women at Specified Ages in 1940, 1950, 1960, and 1970

Census year	Age of women at census	Number of women	Children ever born	
			Per 1,000 total women	Per 1,000 women ever married
1960	40 to 44	5,897,554	2,407	2,564
1970	50 to 54	5,741,230	2,442	2,590
1960	45 to 49	5,559,609	2,247	2,402
1970	55 to 59	5,228,025	2,262	2,419
1950 ¹	40 to 44	5,082,810	2,170	2,364
1960	50 to 54	4,927,204	2,179	2,359
1970	60 to 64	4,599,123	2,208	2,379
1950 ¹	45 to 49	4,480,170	2,292	2,492
1960	55 to 59	4,405,986	2,290	2,495
1970 ²	65 to 69	3,870,351	2,323	2,510
1940 ³	40 to 44	4,327,960	2,490	2,754
1950 ¹	50 to 54	4,077,240	2,497	2,706
1960	60 to 64	3,718,944	2,503	2,713
1970 ²	70 to 74	3,095,984	2,499	2,709

¹ The 1950 data exclude Alaska and Hawaii.

² The 1970 data for age groups 65 to 69 and 70 to 74 are for whites and Negroes combined, excluding other races. Negroes and whites combined comprise approximately 99 percent of the population at these ages.

³ The 1940 data exclude Alaska and Hawaii. The rates shown here for 1940 include estimates of children ever born for women with no report and therefore differ from those published in the 1940 census reports.

ment in rates of children ever born per 1,000 women for the same cohort of women in succeeding censuses.

Current Population Survey.—Table III on page XVII compares the results of the 1970 census with those of two CPS studies, one about 5 months previous to the date of the census, the other about 14 months afterward.

Despite differences in question wording, in context of the questionnaire item, and in coding and editing procedures, the estimated rates of children ever born per 1,000 women are reasonably comparable between the two CPS surveys and the 1970 census. The differences are well within the limits of acceptable sampling variability.

Birth registration data.—Cumulations of birth rates from age to age for

cohorts of women are published in the annual report **Vital Statistics of the United States**, issued by the National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Those data are available in limited detail (not by race or social and economic groups) and differ in several ways from those available from the decennial censuses. The age references differ by half a year, on the average, from those used in census data; the vital statistics for cohorts use data for women in a year of age centered at an exact birthday, whereas the census statistics use data for women in a year of age centered midway between birthdays. The data for cohorts from vital statistics include all births, in theory, whereas those from census data generally include only births reported by women who

have been married, and some of those women may not have reported the births that occurred before marriage. The data for cohorts from vital statistics include corrections for under-registration of births (for numerators of birth rates) and for undercounting of women in the population estimates used as bases for the birth rates. Intercensal estimates of numbers of women are involved, and they are subject to possible error.

At the time this was written (March 1973), cohort data were not yet available from vital statistics for comparison with the 1970 census data. Perhaps such comparisons will show little change from those made with the 1960 census in the summary data in table IV on page XVII, which may largely reflect underreporting of illegitimate births in the census.

TABLE III. Comparison of Children Ever Born Per 1,000 Women from the 1970 Census With the Current Population Surveys of November 1969 and June 1971 for Selected Age Cohorts of Completed or Nearly Completed Fertility

Survey	Approximate age at date of 1970 census					
	40 to 44		45 to 49		50 to 59	
	Per 1,000 women	Per 1,000 women ever married	Per 1,000 women	Per 1,000 women ever married	Per 1,000 women	Per 1,000 women ever married
November 1969 CPS ¹	2,936	3,067	2,651	2,783	2,350	2,475
1970 census	2,927	3,096	2,688	2,840	2,356	2,508
June 1971 CPS ²	2,951	3,095	2,771	2,893	³ 2,450	³ 2,568

¹ Ages shown are as of November 1969.

² Ages shown are as of June 1970.

³ For women 50 to 58 years old in 1970.

TABLE IV. Children Ever Born Per 1,000 Women 15 to 49 Years Old by Age, from Cohort Cumulations of Vital Statistics and from the Census: United States, 1960

Age of woman	Vital statistics (to January 1, 1960)		1960 census	Column (2) as percent of column (3)
	As published (by exact age)	Adjusted to match census age detail		
	(1)	(2)		
15 to 19	101	146	127	115.0
20 to 24	969	1,097	1,032	106.3
25 to 29	2,035	2,134	2,006	106.4
30 to 34	2,508	2,564	2,445	104.9
35 to 39	2,646	2,674	2,523	106.0
40 to 44	2,515	2,523	2,409	104.7
45 to 49	2,315	2,315	2,245	103.1

Source: Clyde V. Kiser, Wilson H. Grabill, and Arthur A. Campbell, *Trends and Variations in Fertility in the United States*, Harvard University Press (1968), p. 301, table B.3. Reprinted by permission of publisher.