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AREA CLASSIFICATIONS

The 11 metropolitan areas selected for the 1987 American Housing Survey included metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's), primary statistical areas (PMSA's), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA's). Of the 11 metropolitan areas selected for 1987, 1 had the same geographic boundaries as the standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) used in earlier Annual Housing Survey reports. That one is the San Diego, CA MSA.

Metropolitan statistical areas. Metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) shown in the American Housing Survey are defined by the Office of Management and Budget. By current standards, as published in the Federal Register on January 3, 1980, an area qualifies for recognition as an MSA in one of two ways: if there is a city of at least 50,000 population, or a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area of at least 50,000 with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). Except in the New England States, a MSA is defined in terms of entire counties. In New England, MSA's are composed of cities and towns. In addition to the county containing the main

city, additional counties are included in a MSA if they are socially and economically integrated with the central county. An MSA may contain more than one city of 50,000 population and may cross State lines.

Primary metropolitan statistical areas. Within the metropolitan statistical areas classified as Level A (population size of 1,000,000 or more), some areas may qualify for separate recognition as primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSA's). PMSA is a large urbanized county, or cluster of counties, that demonstrates very strong internal economic and social links, in addition to close ties to the other portions of the Level A metropolitan statistical area.

Consolidated metropolitan statistical areas. Consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA's) are a Level A metropolitan statistical area when at least two primary metropolitan statistical areas are defined.

Central cities. Every metropolitan statistical area has at least one central city, which is usually its largest city. Smaller cities are also identified as central cities if they have at least 25,000 population and meet the following two

commuting requirements. First, the city must have at least 75 jobs for each 100 residents who are employed. Second, no more than 60 percent of the city's resident workers may commute to jobs outside the city limits. In addition, any city with at least 250,000 population or at least 100,000 persons working within its corporate limits qualifies as a central city even if it fails to meet the above two commuting requirements. Finally, in certain smaller metropolitan statistical areas, there are places with between 15,000 and 25,000 population that also qualify as central cities, because they are at least one-third the size of the metropolitan statistical area's largest city and meet the two commuting requirements.

Central counties. Every MSA has one or more central counties. These are counties in which at least half the population lives in the Census Bureau-defined urbanized area.

Outlying counties. Qualification as an outlying county requires a significant level of commuting from the outlying county to the central county(ies) and a specified degree of "metropolitan character."

Selected subareas. Data for three of the largest central cities and/or central counties in each metropolitan area are shown in chapters 1 through 5 under the boxhead columns "selected subareas." For a list of the selected subareas in each metropolitan area, see the inside back cover of this report.

Standard metropolitan statistical areas. The definitions of standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) used in the Annual Housing Survey prior to 1984 corresponded to the 243 SMSA's used in the 1970 census. Except in the New England States, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county or counties containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In the New England States, SMSA's consist of towns and cities instead of counties. Each SMSA must include at least one central city, and the complete title of an SMSA identifies the central city or cities.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS OF SUBJECT CHARACTERISTICS

General

As stated in the introduction, the American Housing Survey was conducted by personal interview. The survey interviewers were instructed to read the questions directly

from the questionnaire. The definitions and explanations given for each subject are, to a considerable extent, drawn from various technical and procedural materials used in the collection of the data. These materials helped the field interviewers to understand more fully the intent of each question and, thus, to resolve problems or unusual cases. Additional explanatory information has been added to this portion of the text to assist the user in understanding the statistics.

Comparability with the 1974 through 1983 Annual Housing Survey data. Most of the concepts and definitions used in the 1974 through 1983 Annual Housing Survey are essentially the same for items that also appear in the American Housing Survey in 1985 and beyond (redesigned AHS).

There are one major and two minor differences in the housing unit definition. The major difference is that the redesigned American Housing Survey includes vacant mobile homes as housing units. The 1974 through 1983 Annual Housing Surveys excluded these units. A minor difference in the definition is the 1974 through 1983 requirement that a housing unit must have either direct access from the outside or through a common hallway, or complete kitchen facilities for the exclusive use of the occupants. In the redesigned American Housing Survey, the complete kitchen facilities alternative was dropped with direct access required of all units. A second minor difference is in the definition of group quarters. In the 1974 through 1983 Annual Housing Surveys, a household containing five or more persons unrelated to the householder was considered to be group quarters. In the redesigned American Housing Survey, the cutoff was changed to nine or more persons unrelated to the householder. Differences that relate to specific subject areas are discussed under the subjects in this appendix.

Some differences in the data may exist for subjects covered in both the 1974 through 1983 AHS and the redesigned AHS as a result of the redesign of the questionnaires used. For a detailed discussion of those characteristics that show significant differences between 1973 through 1983 AHS and the redesigned AHS, see the "Qualifications of the Data" section in the introduction.

Comparability with 1980 Census of Housing data. The concepts and definitions are essentially the same for items that appear in both the 1980 census and the redesigned AHS survey.

There is a major difference, however, in the time period of the recent mover classification. In the redesigned American Housing Survey, recent movers are households that moved into their unit during the 12 months prior to interview, a period of 1 year or less. In the 1980 Census of Housing, Volume III, *Mover Households* reports, the time period was from January 1, 1979, through March 31, 1980, a period of 15 months or less.

A variety of data on mortgages and homeowner properties are presented in the 1980 Census of Housing, Volume V, *Residential Finance* report. Differences in the concepts and definitions in the redesigned American Housing Survey and Volume V include the following: The basic unit of tabulation in AHS is the housing unit; in Volume V, it is the property. All the data in AHS are provided by the occupant; in Volume V, mortgage is reconciled with responses from the lender.

In the redesigned American Housing Survey, units are classified as new construction if constructed 4 years or less from the date of interview. In the 1980 Census of Housing, Volume VI, *Components of Inventory Change* report, units are classified as new construction if constructed in 1974 through October of 1980.

Data on poverty level in the 1980 Census of Housing do not contain the income of household members unrelated to the householder. In the redesigned American Housing Survey, data on poverty level include the income of all household members whether or not they are related to the householder.

Differences between the redesigned American Housing Survey data and the 1980 census may also be attributed to several other factors. These include the extensive use of self-enumeration in the census in contrast to personal interview in the survey; differences in processing procedures and sample designs; the sampling variability associated with the sample data from the redesigned AHS; the nonsampling errors associated with the survey estimates; and the nonsampling errors associated with census data.

Comparability with Current Construction Reports from the Surveys of Construction. The Census Bureau issues several publications under the general titles, "Current Construction Reports." The data for these reports are primarily from the Surveys of Construction.

The Surveys of Construction consists of approximately 8,300 permit-issuing places throughout the United States. The reports from the survey contain current data on housing starts and completions, construction authorized by building permits, housing units authorized for demolition in permit-issuing places for selected areas, new one-unit structures sold and for sale, characteristics of new housing, and value of new construction put in place. The concepts and definitions used in this report differ from some of those used in the Surveys of Construction. The major difference is that the Surveys of Construction shows counts and characteristics of housing units in various stages of construction through completion. The redesigned American Housing Survey shows counts and characteristics of the existing housing inventory. Additional differences between the redesigned American Housing Survey and the Surveys of Construction may be attributed to factors such as the sampling variability and nonsampling errors of the data from the two surveys, survey procedures and techniques, and processing procedures.

Comparability with other Bureau of the Census data.

Statistics in this report refer, for the most part, to the housing unit, household, or householder. Data on the individual household members may differ from other similar data compiled by the Bureau of the Census. For these types of data, write to Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

Living Quarters

Living quarters are classified as either housing units or group quarters. Usually, living quarters are in structures intended for residential use (e.g., a one-unit structure, apartment house, hotel or motel, boarding house, or mobile home or trailer). Living quarters may also be in structures intended for nonresidential use (e.g., the rooms in a warehouse where a watchman lives), as well as in places such as tents, caves, and old railroad cars.

Housing units. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall that is used or intended for use by the occupants of another unit or by the general public. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements (except as described in the section on group quarters).

For a detailed discussion of changes to the housing unit definition, see the "Comparability with the 1974 through 1983 Annual Housing Survey data" section in this appendix.

Group quarters. Group quarters are living arrangements for institutional inmates or for other groups containing nine or more persons not related to the person in charge. Group quarters are located most frequently in institutions, boarding houses, military barracks, college dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses, hospitals, monasteries, convents, and ships. A house or apartment is considered group quarters if it is shared by the person in charge and nine or more persons not related to the person in charge or, if there is no person in charge, by ten or more unrelated persons. Information on the housing characteristics of group quarters was not collected.

Hotels, motels, rooming houses, etc. Occupied rooms or suites of rooms in hotels, motels, and similar places are classified as housing units only when occupied by permanent residents; i.e., persons who consider the hotel as their usual place of residence or have no usual place of residence elsewhere. Vacant rooms or suites of rooms are

classified as housing units only in those hotels, motels, and similar places in which 75 percent or more of the accommodations are occupied by permanent residents.

If any of the occupants in a rooming or boarding house live and eat separately from everyone else in the building and have direct access, their quarters are classified as separate housing units. The remaining quarters are combined. If the combined quarters contain eight or fewer roomers unrelated to the householder, or person in charge, they are classified as group quarters. In a dormitory, residence hall, or similar place, living quarters of the supervisory staff and other employees are separate housing units if they satisfy the housing unit criteria; other living quarters are considered group quarters.

Occupied housing units. A housing unit is classified as occupied if a person or group of persons is living in it at the time of the interview or if the occupants are only temporarily absent, for example, on vacation. However, if the unit is occupied entirely by persons with a usual place of residence elsewhere, the unit is classified as vacant. By definition, the count of occupied housing units is the same as the count of households.

Race. The classification of "race" refers to the race of the householder occupying the housing unit. The concept of race as used by the Census Bureau does not denote a clear-cut scientific definition of biological stock. Race was determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of a person's race. Figures on tenure are given separately for White and Black householders in table 1. Detailed characteristics of units with Black householders are presented in chapter 4.

Hispanic. The classification "Hispanic" refers to the origin of the householder occupying the housing unit. Detailed characteristics of housing units with Hispanic householders are presented in chapter 5. Hispanic origin was determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of persons living in the unit who were Hispanic or Spanish American. Hispanic persons may be of any race.

In the 1980 census and the 1973 through 1983 Annual Housing Survey, the concept Spanish origin was used. Spanish origin is basically the same as Hispanic according to Census Bureau definitions. Both the census and the 1973 through 1983 AHS asked respondents to choose from a list or flashcard containing a variety of Spanish-origin categories. For this reason, care should be taken in making comparisons of Spanish-origin estimates from the 1974 through 1983 Annual Housing Survey, the 1980 census, and the 1986 American Housing Survey.

Tenure. A housing unit is owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit, even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. Also, a cooperative or condominium unit is owner occupied only if the owner or co-owner lives in it. All other

occupied housing units are classified as renter occupied, including housing units rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment of cash rent.

Utilization Characteristics

Persons. All persons occupying the housing unit are counted. These persons include not only occupants related to the householder but also any lodgers, roomers, boarders, partners, wards, foster children, and resident employees who share the living quarters of the householder. The median for persons is rounded to the nearest tenth.

A person is counted at the usual place of residence for that person. This refers to the place where the person lives and sleeps most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as a legal residence, voting residence, or domicile.

Rooms. The statistics on rooms are for the number of housing units with a specified number of rooms. Rooms counted include whole rooms used for living purposes, such as bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, recreation rooms, permanently enclosed porches that are suitable for year-round use, lodgers' rooms, and other finished and unfinished rooms. Also included are rooms used for offices by a person living in the unit. The median for rooms is rounded to the nearest tenth.

A dining room, to be counted, must be a separate room. It must be separated from adjoining rooms by built-in floor-to-ceiling walls extending at least a few inches from the intersecting walls. Movable or collapsible partitions or partitions consisting solely of shelves or cabinets are not considered built-in-walls. Bathrooms are not counted as rooms.

Data on the number of rooms are not completely comparable with data on the number of rooms collected prior to the redesigned AHS. For a detailed discussion see the "Qualifications of the Data" section in the introduction.

Persons per room. Persons per room is computed for each occupied housing unit by dividing the number of persons in the unit by the number of rooms in the unit. The figures shown refer, therefore, to the number of housing units having the specified ratio of persons per room.

Structural Characteristics

New construction. Housing units built in the 4 years prior to the date of the interview are classified as new construction.

Year structure built. Year structure built refers to when the building was first constructed, not when it was remodeled, added to, or converted. The figures refer to the number of housing units in structures built during the specified periods and in existence at the time of the

interview. For mobile homes and trailers, the manufacturer's model year was assumed to be the year built. Median year built is rounded to the nearest year.

Units in structure. In determining the number of housing units in a structure, all units, both occupied and vacant, were counted. The statistics are presented for the number of housing units in structures of specified type and size, not for the number of residential structures.

A structure is a separate building if it has either open space on all sides or is separated from other structures by dividing walls that extend from ground to roof. Structures containing only one housing unit are further classified as detached or attached.

A one-unit structure is detached if it has open space on all four sides even though it has an adjoining shed or garage. A oneunit structure is attached if it has one or more walls extending from ground to roof that divide it from other adjoining structures and does not share a furnace or boiler with adjoining structures such as in rowhouses, townhouses, etc.

Mobile homes and trailers are shown as a separate category. When one or more rooms have been added to a mobile home or trailer, it is classified as a mobile home. In previous AHS reports, these units were classified as a house, apartment, or flat.

Data on units in structure, including mobile homes, are not completely comparable with data on units in structure collected prior to the redesigned AHS. For a detailed discussion, see the "Qualifications of the Data" section in the introduction.

Plumbing Characteristics

Water supply stoppage. Water supply stoppage means that the housing unit was completely without running water from its regular source. Completely without running water means that the water system servicing the unit supplied no water at all, that is, no equipment or facility using running water (in kitchen and bathroom sinks, shower, in bathtub, flush toilet, dishwasher, and other similar items) had water supplied to it, or all were inoperable. The reason could vary from a stoppage because of a flood or storm, to a broken pipe, to a shutdown of the water system, to a failure to pay the bill, or other reasons.

Data on water supply stoppage are shown if the stoppage occurred in the 3 months prior to the interview or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months, and if the breakdown or failure lasted 6 consecutive hours or more. Housing units with water supply stoppage are also classified according to the number of times the stoppages occurred.

Sewage disposal and sewage disposal breakdowns. A public sewer is connected to a city, county, sanitary district, neighborhood, or subdivision sewer system. Included are

only systems operated by a government body or private organization with a system serving six or more units. Small sewage treatment plants, which in some localities are called neighborhood septic tanks, are classified as public sewers. A septic tank or cesspool is an underground tank or pit used for disposal of sewage (serving five or fewer units). A chemical toilet, which may be inside or outside the unit, uses chemicals to break down or dissolve sewage. Housing units for which sewage is disposed of in some other way are included in the "other" category.

The data on breakdowns in the means of sewage disposal are limited to housing units in which the means of sewage disposal was a public sewer, septic tank, or cesspool. Breakdowns refer to situations in which the system was completely unusable. Examples include septic tank being pumped because it no longer perked, tank collapsed, tank exploded, sewer main broken, sewer treatment plant not operating due to electric failure or water service interruption, etc.

Data on breakdowns are shown if they occurred in the 3 months prior to the interview or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months, and if the breakdown lasted 6 consecutive hours or more. Housing units with a breakdown in sewage disposal are also classified according to the number of breakdowns.

Flush toilet and flush toilet breakdowns. A privy or chemical toilet is not considered a flush toilet. Flush toilets outside the unit were not counted. The statistics on breakdowns of flush toilet are shown for housing units with at least one flush toilet for the household's use only. The flush toilet may be completely unusable because of a faulty flushing mechanism, broken pipes, stopped up soil pipe, lack of water supplied to the flush toilet, or some other reason.

Data on breakdowns are classified by whether any of the flush toilets were working in the 3 months prior to the interview, or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months, and the number of times the breakdown lasted 6 hours or more.

Heating Equipment

Heating equipment and heating equipment breakdowns. Data are shown for the main heating equipment and other heating equipment used in addition to the main heating equipment. More than one category of "other heating equipment" could be reported for the same household. Only one type of equipment was reported as the "main heating equipment." Warm-air furnace refers to a central system that provides warm air through ducts leading to various rooms. Steam or hot-water system refers to a central heating system in which heat from steam or hot water is delivered through radiators or other outlets. It also includes solar heated hot water that is circulated throughout the home. An electric heat pump refers to a heating-cooling system that utilizes indoor and outdoor coils, a

compressor, and a refrigerant to pump in heat during the winter and pump out heat during the summer. Only heat pumps that are centrally installed with ducts to the rooms are included in this category. Built-in electric units refers to units permanently installed in floors, walls, ceilings, or baseboards. A floor, wall, or other built-in hot-air unit without ducts delivers warm air to the room right above the furnace or to the room(s) on one or both sides of the wall in which the furnace is installed. Room heaters with flue include non-portable room heaters in the wall or free-standing heaters that burn liquid fuel, and which are connected to a flue, vent, or chimney to remove smoke and fumes. Room heaters without flue include any room heater that burns gas, oil, or kerosene, which does not connect to a flue, vent, or chimney. Portable electric heaters include heaters that receive current from an electrical wall outlet. Stoves refer to ranges, stoves, or Franklin stoves that burn wood, coal, or other solid fuel. Fireplaces with inserts have a fan-forced air circulation system to force the heat into the room. A fireplace without inserts or with only glass doors, fire screens, or firebacks inserted in the back of the fireplace to passively reflect heat is included in the category "fireplace without inserts."

For breakdowns of heating equipment, statistics are shown for housing units occupied by the householder during the winter prior to the interview. The data are classified by whether the housing unit was uncomfortably cold for 24 hours or more, the number of times equipment breakdowns occurred lasting 6 hours or more, and causes for the breakdowns.

The heating equipment is broken down if it is not providing heat at its normal heating capacity through some fault in the equipment. Utility interruptions occur when there is a cut off in the gas, electricity, or other fuel supplying the heat. Inadequate heating capacity refers to heating equipment that is providing heat at its normal capacity but the housing unit is still too cold for the occupants. Inadequate insulation refers to air drafts through window frames, electrical outlets, or walls that are cold.

Housing and Neighborhood Quality

Selected amenities:

Porch, deck, balcony, or patio. The porch, deck, balcony, or patio must be attached to the sample unit, not just to the building or free standing. Porches may be enclosed or open.

Telephone available. A housing unit is classified as having a telephone if there is a telephone for receiving calls available to the occupants of the unit. The telephone may be located outside or inside the housing unit, and one telephone may serve the occupants of several units. The number of housing units with a telephone available, therefore, does not indicate the number of telephones installed in homes.

Usable fireplace. Excludes the following: fireplaces that have been blocked off or whose chimney or flue have been filled, decorative or artificial fireplaces, and Franklin stoves. Freestanding fireplaces are included in this item.

Separate dining room. A separate dining room is an area separated from adjoining rooms by a built-in floor-to-ceiling wall extending at least a few inches from its intersecting wall. Built-in walls do not include movable or collapsible partitions, or partitions consisting solely of shelves and cabinets.

Living rooms, recreation rooms, etc. Includes family rooms, dens, recreation rooms and/or libraries.

Garage or carport. The garage or carport must be on the same property but does not have to be attached to the house. Offstreet parking is considered driveway or parking lot privileges that is paid for as part of the rent.

Selected deficiencies:

Signs of rats. The statistics on signs of rats refer to respondents who reported seeing rats or signs of rats inside the house or building during the last 3 months or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months. Signs of rats include droppings, holes in the wall, or ripped or torn food containers.

Holes in floors. Data are shown on whether there are holes in the interior floors of a housing unit. The holes do not have to go all the way through to a lower floor or to the exterior of the unit. The holes must be large enough to cause someone to trip.

Open cracks or holes (interior). Statistics are presented on whether or not there are open cracks or holes in the interior walls or ceilings of the housing unit. Included are cracks or holes that do not go all the way through to the next room or to the exterior of the housing unit. Hairline cracks or cracks that appear in the walls or ceilings but are not large enough to insert the edge of a dime and very small holes caused by nails or other similar objects are not considered to be open cracks or holes.

Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior). The area of peeling paint or broken plaster must be on the inside walls or ceilings, and at least one area of broken plaster or peeling paint must be larger than 8 inches by 11 inches.

Electric wiring. A housing unit is classified as having exposed electric wiring if the unit has any wiring that is not enclosed either in the walls or in metal coverings, or if the unit has any wiring outside the walls enclosed in some material other than metal. Excluded from the tabulation are appliance cords, extension cords, chandelier cords, and telephone or antenna wires.

Electric wall outlets. A housing unit is classified as having rooms without electric wall outlets if there is not at least one working electric wall outlet in each room of the unit. A working electric wall outlet is one that is in operating condition; i.e., can be used when needed. If a room does not have an electric wall outlet, an extension cord used in place of a wall outlet is not considered to be an electric wall outlet.

Severe physical problems. A unit has severe physical problems if it has any of the following five problems:

Plumbing. Lacking hot or cold piped water or a flush toilet, or lacking both bathtub and shower, all inside the structure for the exclusive use of the unit.

Heating. Having been uncomfortably cold last winter for 24 hours or more because the heating equipment broke down, and it broke down at least three times last winter for at least 6 hours each time.

Electric. Having no electricity, or all of the following three electric problems: exposed wiring; a room with no working wall outlet; and three blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers in the last 90 days.

Upkeep. Having any five of the following six maintenance problems: water leaks from the outside, such as from the roof, basement, or around windows and doors; leaks from inside structure such as pipes or plumbing fixtures; holes in the floors; holes or open cracks in the walls or ceilings; more than 8 inches by 11 inches of peeling paint or broken plaster; or signs of rats or mice in the last 90 days.

Hallways. Having all of the following four problems in public areas: no working light fixtures; loose or missing steps; loose or missing railings; and no elevator.

Moderate physical problems. A unit has moderate physical problems if it has any of the following five problems, but none of the severe problems.

Plumbing. On at least three occasions during the last 3 months or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months, all the flush toilets were broken down at the same time for 6 hours or more.

Heating. Having unvented gas, oil, or kerosene heaters as the primary heating equipment.

Upkeep. Having any three of the overall list of six upkeep problems mentioned above under severe physical problems.

Hallways. Having any three of the four hallway problems mentioned above under severe physical problems.

Kitchen. Lacking a sink, refrigerator, or either burners or oven all inside the structure for the exclusive use of the unit.

Overall opinion of structure. The data presented are based on the respondent's overall opinion of the house or apartment as a place to live. The respondent was asked to rate the structure based on a scale from 1 to 10, where 10 is the best and 1 is the worst.

Overall opinion of neighborhood. The data presented are based on the respondent's overall opinion of the neighborhood. The respondent defines neighborhood. The respondent was asked to rate the neighborhood based on a scale from 1 to 10, where 10 is the best and 1 is the worst.

Neighborhood conditions. The statistics presented in table 3 are based on the respondent's opinion and attitude toward the neighborhood. The respondent defines neighborhood. The respondent was asked a two part question: (1) If anything about the neighborhood bothered the respondent and (2) if so, what? The interviewer coded the responses into the following categories: crime; noise; traffic; litter or housing deterioration; poor city/county services; undesirable commercial, institutional, or industrial property; people; and other. Multiple responses were allowed. The respondent may not have the same opinion as a neighbor about neighborhood conditions. The respondent's opinion may or may not reflect the actual neighborhood situation.

Neighborhood conditions and neighborhood services. The statistics presented in table 4, as a percent of the total occupied units, are based on the respondent's opinion and attitude toward the neighborhood in which he/she lives. Thus, the respondent's answer may or may not reflect the actual description of the neighborhood. Furthermore, the respondent may not have the same opinion as a neighbor about the neighborhood services; for example, the respondent may feel that the street lighting or neighborhood shopping facilities are inadequate while a neighbor may not.

Neighborhood conditions and wish to move. Data on neighborhood conditions and wish to move in table 4 are based on the respondent's answers to a three-part question concerning specific neighborhood conditions. The respondent was asked (1) if the condition was present, (2) if the condition was bothersome, and (3) if the condition was so objectionable that the respondent would like to move from the neighborhood.

a. Street noise or traffic—Street noise refers to noise made by children playing outdoors, noise from a factory or business, or any other sounds that the respondent considers street noise.

- b. Streets needing repair—The data are based on the respondent's opinion that the streets, either paved or unpaved, are continually in need of repair or are bordered by open ditches used for water or sewage drainage.
- c. Neighborhood crime—This category refers to all forms of street and neighborhood crime such as petty theft, assaults against the person, burglary, etc., or any related activities that the respondent judges to be a crime.
- d. Littered streets or lots—Included are all types of trash, debris, or junk such as paper, cans, or abandoned cars in the street, on empty lots, or on properties on the street that the respondent considers as litter.
- e. Rundown buildings—This category refers to both single and multiunit buildings that the respondent reported to be rundown. Included in this category are remains of previous buildings.
- f. Non-residential activities—This category refers to commercial, industrial, or other activities, including both large and small industries as well as businesses and stores, that the respondent considers to be nonresidential.
- g. Odors, smoke or gas—This category refers to the respondent's opinion concerning fumes, smoke, or gas coming from cars, trucks, nearby industries, factories, businesses, etc.

Neighborhood services. Data on neighborhood services are based on the respondent's answer to a series of questions concerning neighborhood services. Police protection and hospitals or health clinics were covered by a two-part question in which the respondent was asked (1) if a particular neighborhood service was satisfactory and (2) if the condition was so unsatisfactory that the respondent would like to move from the neighborhood.

- a. Police protection—This category refers to the respondent's opinion about the presence, quality, quantity, and response time of services that should be provided by the police.
- b. Hospitals or health clinics—This category refers to the quality and proximity of health facilities, etc., serving the local community in the opinion of the respondent.

The respondent was also asked a three-part question on public transportation: (1) if service is available, (2) if service is satisfactory, and (3) if any member of the household used the service at least once a week.

Data were also collected on satisfaction with neighborhood shopping such as grocery stores and drug stores, and whether or not these stores are located within 1 mile of the neighborhood.

Respondents were asked a three-part question on public elementary schools: (1) if children within the household attended public elementary school or private elementary school, (2) if the public elementary school is satisfactory, and (3) if the public elementary school is within 1 mile of the neighborhood.

Financial Characteristics

All of the financial characteristics shown in this report are shown for all renters and/or all owners. In 1983 and earlier, the Annual Housing Survey reported characteristics such as value and rent for specified owners and specified renters only. Specified owners are single-family, owner-occupied units on less than 10 acres, with no business or medical office. Specified renters exclude single-family units on 10 acres or more. This report does not present financial characteristics for specified owners and specified renters. For data on specified owners and renters, see the individual metropolitan AHS reports (series H170).

Value. Value is the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot) would sell for if it were for sale. Any nonresidential portions of the property are excluded from the cost. Medians for value are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Income. The statistics on income in the American Housing Survey are based on the respondent's reply to questions on income for the 12 months prior to the interview and are the sum of the amounts reported for wage and salary income, self-employment income, interest or dividends, Social Security or railroad retirement income, public assistance or welfare payments, alimony or child support, and all other money income. The figure represents the amount of income received before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, union dues, bond purchases, health insurance premiums, Medicare deductions, etc. Medians for income are rounded to the nearest hundred dollars.

In this report, the statistics are shown for the money income of the household (the sum of the income of the householder and all other household members 14 years old and over). Household income is shown separately for family households and nonfamily households.

Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: Value of income "in kind," such as free living quarters, housing subsidies, food stamps, or food produced and consumed in the home; money received from the sale of property (unless the recipient was engaged in the business of selling such property); money borrowed; tax refund; withdrawal of bank deposits; accrued interest on uncashed savings bonds; exchange of money between relatives living in the same household; gifts of money; and lumpsum payments from inheritances, insurance policies, estates, trusts, gifts, etc.

The income statistics and the characteristics of the household refer to different periods in time. For 1985, the income data refer to the 12 months prior to the interview, whereas, the household characteristics refer to the date of interview. Thus, family or household income does not include amounts received by persons who were members of the family during all or part of the income period if these persons no longer resided with the family at the time of the interview. On the other hand, family or household income includes income reported by persons who did not reside with the household during the income period but who were members at the time of the interview. For most households, however, the income reported was received by persons who were members of the household throughout the income period.

There may be significant differences in the income data between the American Housing Survey and other Census Bureau surveys and censuses. For example, the time period for the income data in the American Housing Survey refers to the 12 months prior to the interview while other income data generally refer to the calendar year prior to the date of the interview. Additional differences in the income data may be attributed to factors such as the various ways income questions are asked, the sampling variability and nonsampling errors between the American Housing Survey and other Bureau surveys and censuses, survey procedures and techniques, and processing procedures.

Poverty status. The poverty data in this report differs from official poverty estimates in two important respects. The first important difference is the use of a poverty definition that is based on household income in place of the official method that is based on the income of the family or the unrelated individual. Under the official approach, the poverty status of two unrelated individuals living together would be determined by comparing the income of each individual to the poverty threshold for an unrelated individual. The result might be that both were in poverty, both were out of poverty, or one was in poverty and one was not. Under the approach used in this report, the two unrelated individuals were treated as members of a two-person family, and their poverty status was determined by comparing their combined income to the poverty threshold for a two-person family. The effect of using a poverty concept that is based on household income is to undercount the number of persons in poverty relative to the official estimate. A study based on the March 1975 Current Population Survey found that poverty estimates based on a household income concept were about 6 percent lower than official estimates. For more information, see Technical Paper X, *Effect of Using a Poverty Definition Based on Household Income*, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1976. A second important difference between the poverty estimates in this report and the official poverty estimates has to do with the method used to measure income. The official annual poverty estimates are based on

data collected in the March supplement to the Current Population Survey. The income questions asked in that survey are very detailed and measure the amount of income received during the previous calendar year. The income questions asked in the AHS are much less detailed and measure the amount received during the previous 12 months. Because interviews were conducted during the period August through December, the income measures do not pertain to a fixed period. Many of the income questions in the AHS were asked on a household rather than an individual income basis. The lack of data for individuals made it necessary to adopt a poverty definition based on household income.

Officially, families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below poverty level using the poverty index originated at the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by the Federal Interagency Committees in 1969 and 1980. The poverty index is based solely on money income and does not reflect the fact that many low-income persons receive noncash benefits such as food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing. The index is based on the Department of Agriculture's 1961 Economy Food Plan and reflects the different consumption requirements of families based on their size and composition. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For further details, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 160, *Poverty in the United States: 1986*.

Monthly housing costs. The data are presented for owner- and renter-occupied housing units. Monthly housing costs for owner-occupied units is the sum of monthly payments for the mortgage or installment loan or contract; real estate taxes (including taxes on mobile homes or trailer sites if the site is owned); property insurance; homeowners association fee; cooperative or condominium fee; mobile home park fee; land rent; utilities (electricity, gas, water, and sewage disposal); fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.); and garbage and trash collection. Monthly housing costs are not computed for households with a mortgage or similar debt that failed to report the amount of their loan or contract payment.

For renter-occupied housing units, monthly housing costs include the contract rent plus estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water), fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.); property insurance, mobile home land rent and garbage and trash collection if these items are paid for by the renter (or paid for by someone else, such as a relative, welfare agency, or friend) in addition to rent. Renter housing units occupied without payment of cash rent are shown separately as no cash rent. Monthly housing costs for vacant-for-rent housing units include rent asked.

Monthly housing costs are shown for all renters and all owners. In 1983 and earlier, the Annual Housing Survey published selected monthly housing costs and gross rent for specified owners and specified renters only. This report

does not present data for specified owners or renters. Medians for monthly housing costs are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Monthly housing costs as percent of income. The yearly housing costs (monthly costs multiplied by 12) are expressed as a percentage of the total income of the family or primary individual. This percentage is calculated for the same owner- and renteroccupied housing units for which "monthly housing costs" were computed (for exclusion, see "monthly housing costs"). The percentage was computed separately for each unit and rounded to the nearest percent. The measure was not computed for units where occupants reported no income or a net loss.

Household Characteristics

Household. A household consists of all the persons who occupy a housing unit. By definition, the count of households is the same as the count of occupied housing units.

Householder. The householder is the first household member who is 18 years old and over and is the owner or renter of the sample unit. If no household member occupying the sample unit owns or rents the unit, the householder is the first household member listed who is 18 years old or older. In cases where no household member listed owns or rents the unit or is 18 years or older, the first household member listed is the householder. Prior to 1980, the concept "head of household" was used. One person in each household was designated as the head, that is, the person who was regarded as the head by the respondent. However, if a married woman living with her husband was reported as the head, her husband was considered the head for the purpose of simplifying the tabulations.

Family Type

Family. Family refers to the householder and all (one or more) other persons living the same household who may be related to the householder by blood, marriage, or

adoption. Married couples related to the householder of a family are included in the family and are not considered as separate families unless they reside in separate living quarters.

Married couple. Each household in this group consists of the householder and spouse, and one or more other persons if any.

Male householder, no wife present. This category includes families with male householders who are married, but with wife absent because of separation or other reason where husband and wife maintain separate residences; and male householders who are widowed, divorced, or single.

Female householder, no husband present. This category includes families with female householders who are married, but with husband absent because of separation or other reason where husband and wife maintain separate residences; and female householders who are widowed, divorced, or single.

Nonfamily households. Housing units where the householder lives alone or with nonrelatives only. A lodger, servant, or other person unrelated to the householder is considered a member of the household but not of the family.

Own children under 18 years old. Statistics on presence of own children of households are shown in this report. A child under 18 years old is defined as an own child if he or she is a single (never married) son, daughter, stepchild, or adopted child of a householder. Own children of subfamilies are excluded from the total count of own children.

Age of householder. The age classification refers to the age reported for the householder as of that person's last birthday.

Elderly. Data for elderly include all households with a householder 65 years of age and over.