

Appendix B. Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. The estimates in this report are restricted to the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States and members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post. The estimates exclude persons living in group quarters.

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: White, Black, and "other races." The last category includes American Indians, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and any other race except White and Black.

Persons of Hispanic origin. Hispanic origin was determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (or the origin of some other household member) from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Persons of Hispanic origin were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Spanish origin. It should be noted that persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Householder. The person (or one of the persons) in whose name the home is owned or rented. If the house is owned jointly by a married couple, the householder may be either the husband or the wife. One person in each household is designated as the "householder." The number of householders, therefore, is equal to the number of households.

Household. A household consists of all persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

For this report, the household composition was determined as of the interview date. A household includes the related family members and all unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit or two or more unrelated persons sharing a housing unit is also counted as a household. However,

the count of households excludes group quarters. Examples of group quarters include rooming and boarding houses, college dormitories, and convents and monasteries.

Family. In this report, "family" and "household" are used interchangeably.

Parent. Unless specified otherwise, a parent is a child's biological, step-, adoptive, or foster mother or father.

Child. Children are all persons under age 18 at the time of the survey, regardless of their marital status or whether or not they are parents.

Nuclear family. The nuclear family is composed of two parents and their children. The parent-child relationship may be biological, step-, adoptive, or foster. Sibling ties may be biological, step-, half-, or adoptive. The parents are not necessarily married. No additional relatives or non-relatives are present in the household.

Traditional nuclear family. A traditional nuclear family consists of a married couple and their biological child(ren). Therefore, a child in a traditional nuclear family lives with both biological parents and, if siblings are present, only full brothers and sisters (i.e., siblings who share the same two biological parents). No others are present in the household (i.e., no step-relatives, foster and adopted children, half-siblings, other relatives, non-relatives).

Extended family/extended household. An extended family/household includes at least one parent, one or more children, and one or more members (related or unrelated) other than a parent or sibling. Parent-child and sibling relationships may be biological, step, adoptive, or foster.

Blended family/blended household: A blended family/household must include at least one stepparent, stepsibling, and/or half-sibling. A stepparent is the spouse of a child's biological parent, but is not the child's biological parent. Stepsiblings do not share a common biological parent; the biological parent of one child is the stepparent of the other. Half-siblings share only one biological parent.