

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 in group quarters.

Age. The age (in years) of the child is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

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.

Hispanic or Spanish origin. Persons of Hispanic or Spanish origin were 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. Hispanics, in particular, 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 Hispanics may be of any race.

Marital status. Data refer to marital status at the time of the survey. The two classifications are used in this report: "married, spouse present" and "all other marital statuses" (also called "unmarried"). The latter classification includes persons who are separated, married but whose spouse is absent from the household, widowed, divorced, or single (never married).

Children. Children in this report refer to all persons under 15 years old in households who are living either with their natural parents, adopted or step-parents, or with legal guardians. Excluded are children in foster homes. Preschool age children are defined as children under 5 years old while grade-school age children are those 5 to 14 years old. Infants are defined as children under 1 year of age.

Child care arrangements. Data on child care arrangements were obtained from persons interviewed from January to April 1985, who were the parents or legal guardians of children under 15 years old at the time of the interview and were employed during the month prior to the interview. The arrangements used to care for their children refer to the arrangements usually used during the month preceding the interview while the parent/guardian was at work.

Child care arrangements for each child were classified as either primary or secondary arrangements depending on which arrangement was used most and which was used second most (as measured in hours) during a typical week. Attending school and care by the child himself were also included as possible child care arrangements since they indicate what the child was doing during the hours that the mother was at work.

Child care expenses. The monetary amounts shown in this report represent the estimated weekly costs for all children under 15 years of age while the mother was at work. Excluded are the amounts of any noncash payments made for child care services. Costs attributable to nursery or preschools are included but costs incurred when enrolling a child in kindergarten or grade school are excluded from the estimates.

Median cost of child care. The median weekly cost for child care services is the amount which divided the dollar distribution of the costs into two equal groups, one having expenses above the median, and the other having expenses below the median.

Time lost from work. This refers to the time lost from work by the respondent or the respondent's spouse in the reference month due to a failure in obtaining child care arrangements.

Employment status. Persons in the child care supplement were classified as being employed in the month preceding the interview if they either (a) worked as paid employees or worked in their own business or profession or on their own farm or worked without pay in a family business or farm, or (b) were temporarily absent from work either with or without pay.

Full time and part time. The data on full- and part-time workers pertain to the number of hours a person usually works per week from all jobs, either as an employee or in his own business or profession. Persons who report themselves as usually working 35 or more hours each week are classified as full-time workers; persons who report that they usually work fewer than 35 hours per week are classified as part-time workers.

Occupation. Data refer to the civilian job currently held at the time of the interview. If two or more jobs were held, the occupation shown in this report refer to the job in which the respondent worked the most hours.

Years of school completed. Data on years of school completed in this report are derived from the combination of answers to questions concerning the highest grade of school attended by the person and whether or not that grade was completed. The following categories used in this report are based on the number of years of school completed: not a high school graduate (less than 12 years); high school graduate (12 years); college, 1 to 3 years (13 through 15 years); and college, 4 or more years (16 or more years of school completed).

Symbols. A dash (-) represents zero or a number which rounds to zero; "B" means that the base is too small to show the derived measure (less than 200,000 persons).

Rounding of estimates. Individual numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Derived measures are based on unrounded numbers when possible; otherwise, they are based on the rounded numbers.