

## 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.

**Support payment.** As used in this report, support payments mean regular or one-time lump-sum cash payments made to someone living outside the respondent's household during the 12-month period prior to the interview. In the 1988 survey, separate questions asked specifically about lump-sum payments; in the 1985 survey, no separate question was included, although lump-sum payments were undoubtedly reported as support payments by some respondents. In 1988, as in 1985, payments included court ordered alimony and support payments for women and children, other regular voluntary cash payments to children and ex-spouses, and lump-sum payments to any others living outside the provider's household.

Excluded from consideration here are cash gifts and cash transfers for educational expenses to own children living temporarily away from home at school and non-cash transactions such as food, clothing, or services to individuals, however important they may have been to the recipients.

Information on payments made jointly by more than one individual in a household (e.g., a husband and a wife supporting the wife's mother) was collected and tabulated for only one provider and all payments were attributed to a single provider.

While this joint-payment tabulation avoids double-counting payments, it does produce an underestimate of the actual number of persons contributing to the support of nonhousehold persons. On the other hand, an overestimate of the number of recipients may occur where joint payments are made to an individual by two or more persons who are living in separate households (e.g., a brother and sister living apart and jointly supporting an elderly parent). Similarly, payments received jointly by parents living together are counted as being paid to only one individual and are so shown in the tables.

Detailed data on relationship to the provider were collected only for the first two mentioned adults in the survey (see questionnaire in appendix E), resulting in an estimated 458,000 adult recipients for whom no relationship data were obtained.

Children of providers in this report refers to the sons and daughters under 21 years of age of the provider. Adults include parents, spouses and ex-spouses, the provider's own children 21 years old and over, and all other relatives and nonrelatives for whom financial support was regularly provided. For expository purposes, individuals not defined as "children" are collectively called "adults"; this includes 113,000 persons under 21 years of age who were not the provider's own children (e.g. nephews, grandchildren).

In addition, the proportion of people in any specific population group providing financial support is influenced by the number of persons who potentially may need support and who are related to the respondent in the survey. For example, single (never married) and elderly people will not have as many children or older parents to support as will middle-aged, divorced persons. Therefore, data showing the incidence and amount of financial support and the characteristics of the providers and recipients are descriptive in nature and are influenced by persons' fertility and marital histories. Moreover, these incidence rates cannot be interpreted as indicative of the degree of concern of individuals for their relatives, ex-relatives, or friends and associates.

**Age.** The age of a person is based on their age at last birthday. The adult population in this report comprises persons 18 years old and over.

**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 origin.** Persons of Hispanic 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 "flashcard" listing ethnic origins. Hispanics 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.** The marital status classification identifies four major categories: never married, married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration.

The category "married" is further divided into "married, spouse present," "separated," and "other married, spouse absent." A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or on vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Persons reported as separated included those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other persons permanently or temporarily separated because of marital discord. The group "other married, spouse absent" includes married persons living apart because either the husband or wife was employed and living at a considerable distance from home, was serving away from home in the Armed Forces, had moved to another area, or had a different place of residence for any other reason except separation as defined above.

**Household.** A household consists of all the 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 direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

A household includes the related family members and all the 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 a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit as partners, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters.

**Family.** A family is a group of two persons or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family.

**Provider.** As used in this report, provider refers to a person 18 years old and over who made regular cash payments for the support, full or partial, of one or more persons not living with them in their household.

**Recipient.** Persons identified in the survey as receiving financial assistance (in any amount) from someone not living in the household with them. Assistance can be in a lump-sum or in regular payments. Recipients can be of any age, they may maintain their own family, be parents or other relatives of their provider, or unrelated to the person providing the support.

**Children.** The term "children" in this report refers to the sons and daughters under 21 years old of a provider.

**Adults.** The complementary category "adults" includes parents, spouses and ex-spouses, own children 21 years and over, and all other relatives and nonrelatives for whom financial support was provided regardless of age.

**Living arrangement.** For the first two persons identified as recipients of outside support, a question was included asking whether during the past 12 months the person had lived in a private home or apartment, a nursing home, or someplace else.

**With a job.** Persons are classified as "with a job" during the period if, during the 4-month reference period, either (a) they 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. In general, the word "job" implies an arrangement for regular work for pay where payment is in cash wages or salaries, at piece rates, in tips, by commission, or in kind (meals, living quarters, supplies received). In this report, "job" also includes self-employment at a business, professional practice, or farm. A business is defined as an activity that involves the use of machinery or equipment in which money has been invested or an activity requiring an office or place of business or an activity that requires advertising. Payment may be in the form of profits or fees.

The Current Population Survey (CPS), the official source of labor force statistics for the Nation, uses the same definition for a job or business. The term "with a job" however, should not be confused with the term "employed" as used in the CPS. In SIPP, with a job includes those who were temporarily absent from a job because of layoff and those waiting to begin a new job in 30 days; in the CPS these persons are not considered employed, but are classified as "unemployed."

**Looking for work.** Persons who looked for work during the entire period are those who (a) were without a job during at least 1 week during the 4-month reference period, (b) tried to get work or establish a business or profession, and (c) were available to accept a job. Examples of job-seeking activities are (1) registering at a public or private employment office, (2) meeting with prospective employers, (3) investigating possibilities for starting a professional practice or opening a business, (4) placing or answering advertisements, (5) writing letters of application, (6) being on a professional register, and (7) asking friends or relatives.

In addition, persons were on layoff during the 4-month reference period if they were with a job but absent without pay from that job for at least 1 full week during that period, and they responded that their main reason for being absent from their job or business was layoff. In this report, the figures for persons on layoff also include

a small number of persons who responded that they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job that was to begin within 30 days.

**In labor force.** The phrase "in the labor force" as used in this report includes all persons with a job (defined above) and those looking for work or on layoff from a job for at least 1 week during the 4-month reference period. Conversely, those persons with no labor-force activity had no job, were not on layoff from a job, and made no effort to find a job during the entire 4-month reference period.

**Family income.** Family money income represents the total money income of all members of the family. Family money income in this report is limited to money income before payment of Federal, State, local, or Social Security taxes and before any other types of deductions such as union dues and Medicare premiums. Total income is the sum of the amounts received from wages, salaries, self-employment income (including losses), Social Security, Supplemental Security income, public assistance, interest, dividends, rent, veterans' payments, unemployment and workers' compensations, and any other source of money income which was regularly received.

**Annualized family income.** The average monthly family income received from all sources by all members of

the family for the 4-month period prior to the interview was computed. This monthly average was then multiplied by 12 to give the annualized family income shown in the tables of this report.

**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 400,000 persons); NA means not available, and X means not applicable.

**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.