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 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 "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. Two classifications are used in this report: "married, spouse present" and "all other marital statuses" (also sometimes referred to as "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 of age 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 of age, while grade-school age children are those 5 to 14 years of age. Infants are defined as children under 1 year of age.

Child care arrangements. Data on child care arrangements were obtained from persons interviewed during the period of October 1991 to January 1992 and who were the parents or legal guardians of children under 15 years of age at the time of the interview and who were also employed, looking for work, or enrolled in school or in training during the month prior to the interview. The arrangements used to care for the children refer to the arrangements usually used during the month preceding the interview while the parent/guardian was in any one of the aforementioned activities.

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 or in school.

Latchkey kids. For the purposes of this report, latchkey kids are defined as those children who are reported to be caring for themselves without any adult supervision for some period of time during the mother's working hours.

It is possible that these reported incidents are underestimated if respondents leave their children unsupervised for brief amounts of time and forget to report these occurrences or if they are embarrassed to admit such occurrences to the interviewer.

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 or in school. Excluded are the amounts of any noncash payments made for child care services. Costs attributable to nursery schools or preschools are included but costs incurred when enrolling a child in kindergarten or grade school are excluded from the estimates.

If a child used an arrangement for which a separate cash payment was made to the child care provider (a separate arrangement), the hourly cost of child care was determined by dividing the cost paid to the provider by the number of hours the child was in care. If two or more children in the family were cared for by the same provider and one cash payment was made to cover the cost of all of the children in the provider's care (a shared arrangement), the hourly cost of this arrangement was determined by dividing the cost paid to the provider for all of the children by the total number of hours all the children were cared for by that single provider. Hourly

cost for the separate and shared arrangements are shown to illustrate variations in the pricing structure of child care arrangements under different circumstances.

Time lost from work or school. This refers to the time lost from work or school 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 employment. 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.

Work shift. Information on the hours during the day that the respondent was working was obtained from the work schedule module in this particular wave of SIPP. If one-half or more of the hours a respondent worked at his/her principal job fell between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and the respondent said that these hours were regularly scheduled, then the respondent was categorized as having his/her principal job in a day shift. All other hourly schedules were categorized as being in non-day shifts. This definition is more stringent than those used by other researchers who may have included persons with irregular or split shifts in the day-shift category as long as one-half or more of their working hours were in the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. core period.

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 refers to the respondent's principal job (i.e., 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 which may or may not coincide with actual achievement of any degrees attained or diplomas granted: 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).

School enrollment. School enrollment in this report includes enrollment in an elementary, high school, or college, or any vocational, technical, or business school.

Geographic regions. The four major regions of the United States for which data are presented in this report represent groups of States as follows:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. MSA's are defined by the Office of Management and Budget for use in presentation of statistics by agencies of the Federal Government. An MSA is a geographic area consisting of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities which have a high degree of economic and social integration. The definitions specify a boundary around each large city so as to include most or all of its suburbs. Entire counties form the MSA building blocks, except in New England where cities and towns are used.

An area qualifies for recognition as an MSA if (1) it includes a city of at least 50,000 population, or (2) it includes 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). In addition to the county containing the main city or urbanized area, an MSA may include other counties having strong commuting ties to the central county.

Central cities. The largest city in each MSA is always designated a central city. There may be additional central cities if specified requirements, designed to identify places of central character with the MSA, are met. The balance of the MSA outside the central city or cities is often regarded as equivalent to the "suburbs."

Family income. Family money income represents the total money income of all members of the family. It is the average monthly amount reported for the 4-month period prior to the survey date. The income estimates cited in this report are based on money income alone and do not include the value of noncash benefits.

Mean income. The mean income is the amount obtained by dividing the total income of a group by the number of units in that group.

Poverty level. Persons whose monthly family income for the 4-month period prior to the survey interview fell below the average monthly poverty level cutoff for that family were determined to be living in poverty in this report. The poverty threshold for a family of 4 in 1991 was about $13,924 annually or $1,160 per month.

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); "X" means not applicable; and "NA" indicates that the data are not available.

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.