

Press Table Monday, May 10, 1982

Public Information Office
(301) 763-4040

For Release Tuesday, May 11, 1982
CB82-66

AMERICAN SOCIETY A CHANGING MOSAIC,
CENSUS ANCESTRY STUDY SHOWS

Americans continue to identify with their ancestral roots and mother tongues, according to a report by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The report says 83 percent of individuals surveyed reported at least one specific ancestry, 6 percent reported "American" or "United States," while 11 percent provided no ancestry. About 20 percent (32.4 million) of the population 14 years old and over grew up in households in which a language other than English was spoken.

The report is based on a 1979 population survey which asked questions on ancestry, country of birth, mother tongue, current language spoken at home, ability to speak English, and ability to read and write in any language.

The study was designed to serve as a bridge between the 1970 and 1980 decennial censuses. Bureau officials indicated population estimates may differ slightly with counts from the 1980 census because of differences in collecting and processing data.

(more)

Other highlights from the report:

o German, Irish, and English are the largest ancestry groups. About 52 million people classify themselves as solely or partly of German ancestry. The other ancestry groups most frequently reported (either alone or with another ancestry group) are Irish (44 million), English (40 million), Afro-American or African (16 million), Scottish (14 million), French (14 million), Spanish (12 million), Italian (12 million), American Indian (10 million), Polish (8 million), and Dutch (8 million).

o A single ancestry was reported by 45 percent of the total population; about 38 percent provided more than one ancestry group.

o The most frequently reported mother tongues other than English were Spanish (7.7 million persons), German (5.1 million), Italian (4.1 million), Polish (2.5 million), French (2.4 million) and Yiddish (1.2 million).

o A language other than English is spoken at home by about 9 percent of the population 5 years old and over. Slightly less than half of the 18 million persons 5 and over who speak a language other than English at home speak Spanish. Italian, German, French, and Polish are the other most frequently spoken languages.

o About 8 percent (2.6 million) of elementary-school age children (5 to 13 years old) speak languages other than English at home. Two-thirds (1.8 million) of all children who speak languages other than English at home speak Spanish.

(more)

o Of the 18 million people who speak languages other than English at home, 22 percent do not speak English at all or speak English "not well"; about 20 percent speak English "well"; the remaining 58 percent speak English "very well."

o About 981,000 people (0.6 percent) 14 years old and over had not attended the 6th grade and could not read and write in any language. The proportion is larger among older persons and among persons who are foreign born.

Information from the 1980 census on ancestry and current language spoken in the home will be available for the United States, states, and substate areas in late 1982 and early 1983.

Copies of the report, Ancestry and Language in the United States: November 1979, Series P-23, No. 116, may be obtained for \$2.50 each prepaid from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or from Commerce district offices in major U.S. cities.

(NOTE: The ancestry question in the survey was open-ended, did not list examples of responses, and asked respondents to self-identify their ancestry. Social and economic characteristics of specific single and multiple ancestries, and definitions and explanations are presented in the report.)

(more)

Reported Single and Multiple Ancestries: November 1979

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Ancestry	Total	Percent of total	Persons reported single ancestry		Persons reported multiple ancestry	Percent of persons by kind of ancestry response		
			Number	Percent		Total	Single ancestry	Multiple ancestry
Reported at least one specific ancestry..	1,179,078	100.0	96,496	100.0	182,582	100.0	53.9	46.1
Afro-American, African.....	16,193	9.0	15,057	15.6	1,136	100.0	93.0	7.0
American Indian.....	9,900	5.3	2,053	2.1	7,847	100.0	20.7	79.3
Asian Indian.....	182	0.1	156	0.2	26	100.0	85.7	14.3
Austrian.....	1,070	0.6	385	0.4	685	100.0	36.0	64.0
Belgian.....	448	0.3	113	0.1	335	100.0	25.2	74.8
Canadian.....	609	0.3	228	0.2	381	100.0	37.4	62.6
Chinese, Taiwanese.....	705	0.4	540	0.6	165	100.0	76.6	23.4
Czechoslovakian.....	1,695	0.9	794	0.8	901	100.0	46.8	53.2
Danish.....	1,672	0.9	438	0.5	1,234	100.0	26.2	73.8
Dutch.....	8,121	4.5	1,362	1.4	6,759	100.0	16.8	83.2
English.....	40,004	22.3	11,501	11.9	28,503	100.0	28.7	71.3
Filipino.....	764	0.4	525	0.5	239	100.0	68.7	31.3
Finnish.....	616	0.3	255	0.3	361	100.0	41.4	58.6
French.....	14,047	7.8	3,047	3.2	11,000	100.0	21.7	78.3
French Canadian.....	1,053	0.6	582	0.6	471	100.0	55.3	44.7
German.....	51,649	28.8	17,160	17.8	34,489	100.0	33.2	66.8
Greek.....	990	0.6	567	0.6	423	100.0	57.3	42.7
Hungarian.....	1,592	0.9	534	0.6	1,058	100.0	33.5	66.5
Iranian.....	118	0.1	103	0.1	15	100.0	87.3	12.7
Irish.....	43,752	24.4	9,760	10.1	33,992	100.0	22.3	77.7
Italian, Sicilian.....	11,751	6.6	6,110	6.3	5,641	100.0	52.0	48.0
Jamaican.....	184	0.1	158	0.2	26	100.0	85.9	14.1
Japanese.....	680	0.4	529	0.5	151	100.0	77.8	22.2
Korean.....	265	0.1	230	0.2	35	100.0	86.8	13.2
Lebanese.....	322	0.2	179	0.2	143	100.0	55.6	44.4
Lithuanian.....	832	0.5	317	0.3	515	100.0	38.1	61.9
Norwegian.....	4,120	2.3	1,232	1.3	2,888	100.0	29.9	70.1
Polish.....	8,421	4.7	3,498	3.6	4,923	100.0	41.5	58.5
Portuguese.....	946	0.5	493	0.5	453	100.0	52.1	47.9
Romanian.....	335	0.2	132	0.1	203	100.0	39.4	60.6
Russian.....	3,466	1.9	1,496	1.6	1,970	100.0	43.2	56.8
Scandinavian.....	340	0.2	110	0.1	230	100.0	32.4	67.6
Scottish.....	14,205	7.9	1,615	1.7	12,590	100.0	11.4	88.6
Slavic.....	722	0.4	300	0.3	422	100.0	41.6	58.4
Spanish.....	12,493	7.0	9,762	10.1	2,731	100.0	78.1	21.9
Colombian.....	117	0.1	101	0.1	16	100.0	86.3	13.7
Cuban.....	675	0.4	558	0.6	117	100.0	82.7	17.3
Dominican.....	119	0.1	107	0.1	12	100.0	89.9	10.1
Mexican.....	6,682	3.7	5,889	6.1	793	100.0	88.1	11.9
Puerto Rican.....	1,333	0.7	1,107	1.1	226	100.0	83.0	17.0
Other Spanish.....	3,566	2.0	2,000	2.1	1,566	100.0	56.1	43.9
Swedish.....	4,886	2.7	1,216	1.3	3,670	100.0	24.9	75.1
Swiss.....	1,228	0.7	312	0.3	916	100.0	25.4	74.6
Ukrainian.....	525	0.3	231	0.2	294	100.0	44.0	56.0
Vietnamese.....	198	0.1	177	0.2	21	100.0	89.4	10.6
Welsh.....	2,568	1.4	455	0.5	2,113	100.0	17.7	82.3
West Indian.....	193	0.1	129	0.1	64	100.0	66.8	33.2
Yugoslavian.....	467	0.3	283	0.3	184	100.0	60.6	39.4
Other specified ancestry groups.....	4,942	2.8	2,372	2.5	2,571	100.0	48.0	52.0

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

¹Number and percent by ancestry groups do not add to total, as persons may be counted in more than one ancestry group.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 116.

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Special Studies

Series P-23, No. 116
Issued March 1982

Ancestry and
Language in the
United States:

November
1979



U.S. Department of Commerce
Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary
Joseph R. Wright, Jr., Deputy Secretary
Robert G. Dederick, Assistant Secretary for
Economic Affairs

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Bruce Chapman,
Director



BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Bruce Chapman, Director

C. L. Kincannon, Deputy Director

**James R. Wetzel, Acting Associate Director
for Demographic Fields**

POPULATION DIVISION

Roger A. Herriot, Chief

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was coordinated and prepared by **Michael J. Levin** and **Nancy S. Sweet**, Ethnic and Racial Statistics Programs. **Paul M. Siegel**, Chief, Education and Social Stratification Branch, wrote the section on language and literacy. The ethnic and language study was planned and designed by **Jennifer Marks**. **Edward Fernandez**, Chief, Ethnic and Spanish Statistics Branch, **Edith McArthur**, and **Elmore Seraile** made contributions to the planning, design, and content. Sampling review was conducted by **Diana Harley**, Statistical Methods Division. Overall direction was provided by **Nampeo R. McKenney**, Assistant Division Chief, Ethnic and Racial Statistics Programs, Population Division. In Publications Services Division, the report was edited by **Paula Coupe** and the cover was designed by **Beverly Jo Jaquish**.

Appreciation is expressed to other individuals who provided valuable comments on the report.

SUGGESTED CITATION

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 116, *Ancestry and Language in the United States: November 1979*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1982

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Postage stamps not acceptable; currency submitted at sender's risk. Remittances from foreign countries must be by international money order or by a draft on a U.S. bank. Current Population Reports are sold in two subscription packages: Series P-20, P-23, P-27, and P-60 are available for \$75 per year (\$18.75 additional for foreign mailing); Series P-25, P-26, and P-28 are available for \$100 per year (\$25 additional for foreign mailing). The single-copy price of this report is \$2.50.

Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Ancestry	1
Characteristics of persons by single or multiple ancestry response	2
Characteristics of persons reporting specific single ancestry groups	4
Mother tongue	4
Current language	5
Ability to speak English and current language	5
Literacy	5

TEXT TABLES

A. Type of ancestry response: November 1979	1
B. Multiple-ancestry reporting, by age and nativity of persons who reported at least one specific ancestry group: November 1979	2
C. Selected social and economic characteristics of persons who reported at least one specific ancestry group: November 1979	3

DETAILED TABLES

1. Reported single and multiple ancestries: November 1979	7
2. Age of the population, by ancestry and sex: November 1979	8
3. Selected social and economic characteristics of ancestry groups: November 1979	10
4. Mother tongue of persons 14 years old and over, by age: November 1979	14
5. Persons 5 years old and over speaking various languages at home, by age: November 1979	14
6. Persons 5 years old and over speaking languages other than English at home, by age: November 1979	14
7. English ability of persons 5 years old and over who speak a language other than English at home, by language: November 1979	15
8. Literacy of persons 14 years old and over, by age, race, nativity, and parentage: November 1979	17

APPENDIXES

Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

Comparability with other data	20
1980 census	20
1969 Current Population Survey	20

Appendix B. Source and Reliability of the Estimates

Source of data	21
Reliability of sample estimates	21
Standard error tables and their use	22

APPENDIX TABLES

B-1. Standard errors of estimated numbers	22
B-2. Standard errors of estimated percentages	23
B-3. Factors to be applied to generalized standard errors in tables B-1 and B-2	23
B-4. "a" and "b" parameters for estimated numbers and percentages	23

Ancestry and Language in the United States: November 1979

NOTE

The estimates of the population in this report may not agree with counts from the 1980 Census of Population and Housing. The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates are based on population controls from the 1970 census which have been updated for changes in the population since that time. In addition, the CPS and the 1980 census used different procedures for collecting and processing the data.

INTRODUCTION

This is the first report presenting information on the ancestry¹, languages and literacy of the U.S. population based on data collected by the Bureau of the Census in November 1979 in a special supplement to its monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). The supplement was designed to provide users with a basic set of data on ethnicity and language and serve as a bridge between the 1970 and 1980 censuses. Items surveyed included ancestry, country of birth of the individual and parents, citizenship, year of immigration, mother tongue, current language spoken in the home, and ability to speak English. Questions on ability to read and write any language, which were not asked in either census, were asked in this November 1979 CPS supplement.

Only general characteristics are shown in this report. Cross-tabulations, to be presented in subsequent reports, will provide a basis for comparing ethnic and language items in the 1970 and 1980 censuses.

ANCESTRY

The ancestry question in the November 1979 CPS supplement was open-ended (that is, no prelisted categories were provided) and was based upon self-identification. Some individuals reported a single ancestry group; others reported more than one group. All single- and double-ancestry responses were coded. In addition, 17 triple-origin ancestries expected to be frequently reported were coded; only the first two reported ancestries were coded for all other responses of three or more ancestries. Since persons who reported multiple ancestries were included in more than one group, the sum of persons reporting the ancestry groups is greater than the total; for example, in table 1, a person reporting "German-English" was tabulated in both the "German" and "English" categories.

¹ In this report, the terms "ancestry" and "origin" are used interchangeably.

About 83 percent of the population in the sample reported at least one specific ancestry². The remaining 17 percent of the population included 6 percent who reported "American" or "United States" and 11 percent who did not provide any ancestry. About 45 percent of the total population reported a specific single ancestry, while about 38 percent provided more than one ancestry group (table A).

In November 1979, German, Irish, and English were the most frequently reported ancestry groups. About 52 million persons were classified as being solely or partly of German ancestry. Irish or part-Irish accounted for 44 million persons and English or part-English accounted for 40 million persons (table 1).

**Table A. Type of Ancestry Response:
November 1979**

(Numbers in thousands)

Type of ancestry response	Number	Percent
Total persons.....	216,613	100.0
Reported at least one specific ancestry.....	179,078	82.7
Single ancestry.....	96,496	44.5
Multiple ancestry.....	82,582	38.1
Ancestry not specified...	37,535	17.3
American or United States....	13,592	6.3
Other ¹	195	0.1
Not reported.....	23,748	11.0

¹Includes responses indicating religious groups and other unclassifiable responses.

²"Specific ancestry" excludes persons reporting "American," "United States," religious groups, and other unclassifiable responses.

Figures for other frequently reported ancestry groups (single and multiple combined) were:

Afro-American or African ³	16 million
Scottish	14 million
French	14 million
Spanish	12 million
Italian	12 million
American Indian ³	10 million
Polish	8 million
Dutch	8 million

The selection of ancestry groups shown in the tables of this report was based on the frequency of reporting. The ancestry groups shown in table 1 were selected on the basis of 100,000 or more individuals reporting in the single ancestry category. For tables 2 and 3, ancestry groups having 450,000 or more persons were shown.

The ancestry data from the November 1979 survey reflect the diverse nationality groups which have come to the United States throughout its history. Prior to the 17th century, most of the residents of this country were American Indians; however, most of the 10 million respondents who reported American Indian ancestry in the survey did so in combination with other groups, such as Irish, German, and English. Persons of German, Irish, and English origin—groups reported most frequently in the CPS—were the first Europeans to arrive in large numbers; the immigration of these groups peaked in the late 19th century. From the early 17th century to the early 19th century, many Africans were forcibly moved to the United States. The number of "newer immigrants" including the Italian and Polish, reached an apex in the early part of the 20th century. The most recent immigrants (during the last two decades) include substantial numbers of both Spanish⁴ and Asian persons, who were also among the earlier arrivals.

Further explanations of ancestry information in this report appear in appendix A.

Characteristics of Persons by Single or Multiple Ancestry Response

The November 1979 CPS is the first Census Bureau survey that collected information on both single- and multiple-ancestry groups. More than one-half (54 percent) of the population that specified an ancestry reported a single response. The most frequently reported single ancestry groups were:

German	17 million
Afro-American or African	15 million
English	12 million
Irish	10 million
Spanish	10 million
Italian	6 million

³ See appendix A for a discussion of these groups.

⁴ In this report, Spanish refers both to immigrants directly from Spain and to immigrants from Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The proportion of multiple-origin responses varied considerably by ancestry group. For instance, 89 percent of persons indicating Scottish ancestry provided multiple responses (that is, part-Scottish); multiple responses were also frequently reported by other ancestry groups, such as Dutch, Welsh, French, and Irish. In contrast, the proportion of multiple-ancestry responses was much lower for other groups, such as Polish (59 percent), Italian (48 percent), Filipino (31 percent), and Spanish (22 percent) (table 1).

Data presented in table B show that multiple-origin reporting was also related to age and nativity of the individual. Specifically, younger persons were more likely than older persons and native persons were more likely than foreign-born persons to report multiple ancestries.

The demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the single- and multiple-ancestry populations differed considerably. The median age of persons who reported a single ancestry was much higher (34.6 years) than the median age of persons who reported a multiple ancestry (24.5 years) (table C). This differential is due, in part, to the fact that the single-ancestry population included a higher proportion of foreign-born persons who tended to be older than native-born persons. There may have also been a greater tendency for a multiple ancestry to be reported for children whose parents had different ancestries.

Table B. Multiple-Ancestry Reporting, by Age and Nativity of Persons Who Reported at Least One Specific Ancestry Group: November 1979

Age and nativity	Percent reported multiple ancestry
AGE	
Under 18 years.....	59.6
18 to 64 years.....	42.1
65 years and over.....	32.5
NATIVITY	
Native of native parentage...	51.8
Native of foreign or mixed parentage.....	27.8
Foreign born.....	9.3

The single-ancestry population was more likely than the multiple-ancestry population to be foreign born or native of foreign or mixed parentage. The proportion foreign born and native of foreign or mixed parentage for the single-ancestry population was 27 percent, about three times the 9 percent shown for the multiple-ancestry persons. Conversely, a larger proportion of persons with multiple ancestries (91 percent) than with single ancestries (73 percent) was native of native parentage (table C).

The proportion of single-ancestry persons (19 percent) living in central cities within SMSA's of 1 million or more

Table C. Selected Social and Economic Characteristics of Persons Who Reported at Least One Specific Ancestry Group: November 1979

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Selected characteristics	Reported at least one specific ancestry	Reported single ancestry	Reported multiple ancestry
AGE			
Total persons.....	179,078	96,496	82,582
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 18 years.....	28.9	21.7	37.4
18 to 24 years.....	12.7	11.8	13.7
25 to 64 years.....	47.5	52.9	41.2
65 years and over.....	10.9	13.7	7.7
Median age (years).....	30.3	34.6	24.5
NATIVITY			
Total persons.....	179,078	96,496	82,582
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Native of native parentage.....	81.1	72.5	91.1
Foreign birth or parentage.....	18.8	27.2	8.8
Native of foreign or mixed parentage.....	12.6	16.9	7.6
Foreign born.....	6.2	10.4	1.2
Not reported.....	0.1	0.2	-
RESIDENCE			
Total persons.....	179,078	96,496	82,582
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metropolitan.....	69.3	70.9	67.4
In SMSA's of 1 million or more.....	39.5	42.3	36.1
In central cities.....	14.5	19.1	9.2
Outside central cities.....	24.9	23.2	26.9
In SMSA's of under 1 million.....	29.8	28.6	31.3
Nonmetropolitan.....	30.7	29.1	32.6
MARITAL STATUS			
Persons, 14 years old and over.....	140,265	80,729	59,536
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single (never married).....	27.0	22.2	33.4
Ever married.....	73.0	77.8	66.6
YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED			
Persons, 25 years old and over.....	104,554	64,207	40,347
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elementary: 0 to 8 years.....	16.0	19.9	9.8
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	13.3	14.1	11.9
High school graduates.....	70.7	66.0	78.2
College: 1 year or more.....	33.2	29.5	39.0
EMPLOYMENT STATUS			
Persons, 16 years old and over.....	133,905	78,236	55,669
In civilian labor force.....	86,006	49,273	36,733
Percent in civilian labor force.....	64.2	63.0	66.0
Percent unemployed.....	5.6	5.5	5.7
FAMILY INCOME¹			
Total families reporting income.....	44,711	28,626	16,085
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$10,000.....	25.6	28.1	21.1
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	19.4	19.9	18.5
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	31.7	30.9	33.0
\$25,000 and over.....	23.3	21.0	27.3

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

¹Families are classified by the kind of ancestry group reported by the householder.

was much higher than for multiple-ancestry persons (9 percent). Likewise, differences are noted in marital status; about 78 percent of persons who reported only one origin were ever married, compared with only 67 percent of persons reporting multiple origins (table C).

Persons who reported a single ancestry had a lower level of educational attainment than persons with multiple ancestries. For instance, about 20 percent of persons 25 years old and over who reported a single ancestry had only an elementary education; only 10 percent of persons of multiple ancestries were in this category. Also, about 66 percent of single-ancestry persons graduated from high school, compared with 78 percent of the multiple-ancestry persons (table C).

Economic differences between single- and multiple-ancestry groups were also evident. Families maintained by persons who reported one origin had lower incomes than families whose householders reported multiple origins. About 28 percent of families with single-ancestry householders had incomes under \$10,000; the proportion was about 21 percent for families with multiple-ancestry householders. At the upper end of the income scale, 21 percent of the families with householders of single ancestry had incomes of \$25,000 or more, while about 27 percent of the families with multiple-ancestry householders were at that income level (table C). The noticeable differentials by education and income between single- and multiple-ancestry groups may be related to the age and nativity factors noted earlier.

Characteristics of Persons Reporting Specific Single Ancestry Groups

In this section of the report, characteristics of *specific* single-ancestry groups are compared. However, it is noted that the proportion reporting a single response varied significantly among the ancestry groups. Also, in some instances, characteristics for a single-ancestry group, such as Polish, differed from those for the corresponding multiple-ancestry group, such as Polish and other group(s). A subsequent publication will provide more information on the multiple-ancestry groups.

Age. In 1979, the median ages of single-ancestry groups were quite different from the median age of 30.3 years for the total population. For example, the median ages of Hungarians (49.7 years) and Russians (48.4 years) were twice as high as the median age for persons of Spanish ancestry (23.5 years), who were at the other end of the continuum. All of these mentioned groups had median ages that were significantly different from the national median age (table 2).⁵

Nativity. Single-ancestry groups in the United States differ in their nativity and parentage distributions; these observed differences reflect somewhat the different immigration patterns noted earlier in the text. Among persons reporting Italian, Polish, or Spanish ancestry, about one-half or more were either foreign born or native of foreign or mixed parentage. In contrast, one-fifth or less of persons of English,

French, German, Irish, and Scottish origin were foreign born or native of foreign or mixed parentage. These latter groups were predominantly native of native parentage (table 3).

Residence. In 1979, about 68 percent of the total population lived in metropolitan areas. The proportion of Italian, Polish, and Spanish populations in metropolitan areas (80 percent or more) was notably higher than the national level. The proportion of metropolitan residents of English, French, German, Irish, and Scottish single-ancestry groups was close to or somewhat lower than the national proportion (table 3).

Marital Status. Since marital status is closely related to age, those single-ancestry groups with relatively older members had larger proportions of persons who had ever been married. For example, among persons of English ancestry 14 years old and over, about 80 percent of the men and 85 percent of the women had been married at some time, compared with about 67 percent of the men and 73 percent of the women of Spanish origin. The proportions for Spanish were similar to those for the Nation (table 3).

Education. Although the November 1979 survey indicated that more than two-thirds of the adults in the U.S. population were high school graduates, there was considerable variation among the single-ancestry groups. For example, about 81 percent of Scottish-ancestry males 25 years old and over and 78 percent of Scottish-ancestry females in this age group were high school graduates. Relatively high proportions were also noted for adults of English and German ancestries. However, the proportion of persons of Italian, Polish, and Spanish origin who had completed high school was lower than the national average (table 3).

Employment. In November 1979, the unemployment rate for persons 16 years old and over in the civilian labor force was 5.7 percent. The figures for some single-ancestry groups, such as French, Polish, and Irish, were close to the national rate, whereas the unemployment rates for other groups, such as English, German, and Scottish, were substantially below the national average. The unemployment rate for persons of Spanish ancestry (9.0 percent) was much higher than the national average (table 3).

Income. Among the single-ancestry groups, Scottish families had the highest median income⁵ of \$20,000. The median income for families maintained by persons of English, German, Italian, and Polish ancestries was also higher than the national median income. Of the groups shown in table 3, only families of Spanish origin (\$10,600) had a median income significantly below the 1979 national family median of \$15,800.

MOTHER TONGUE

Among persons 14 years old and over, 32 million (19.7 percent) reported that a language other than English was

⁵ See Appendix A, Definitions and Explanations, for discussion on income.

spoken in their childhood homes. The proportion was substantively the same in the 1970 census (20.1 percent). As table 4 shows, about 7.7 million persons 14 years old and over reported Spanish as their mother tongue, making it the largest mother tongue group after English (131.9 million). Other frequently reported mother tongue groups were German (5.1 million), Italian (4.1 million), Polish (2.5 million), French (2.4 million), and Yiddish (1.2 million). No other mother tongue group contained more than 600,000 persons 14 years and over. The mother tongues presented as "other" in table 4 included 16 language groups with 100,000 to 300,000 speakers each:

Arabic	Korean
Armenian	Lithuanian
Danish	Pennsylvania Dutch
Dutch	Russian
Farsi	Serbo-Croatian
Finnish	Slovak
Gaelic	Ukrainian
Hungarian	Vietnamese

Because an individual may never have learned to speak his or her mother tongue or may no longer speak a language spoken as a child, mother tongue is not an accurate measure of current language ability or usage of the population.

CURRENT LANGUAGE

Eighteen million persons aged 5 and over were reported as currently speaking a language other than English at home. There may well have been additional speakers of languages other than English who only used the language someplace other than home, and there were doubtless many individuals who were able to speak a language other than English, but did not do so at home (table 5).

Just less than one-half of those who spoke a language other than English at home spoke Spanish, and relatively large numbers of persons spoke Italian, German, French, or Polish at home. Although no language included as "other" in table 5 was spoken by 200,000 persons or more in 1979, the following languages were each spoken by more than 100,000 persons: Czech, Serbo-Croatian, Hungarian, Vietnamese, and Arabic.

Among children of elementary-school age (5 to 13 years old), Spanish was the only language, other than English, spoken by 200,000 persons or more. The 1.8 million Spanish-speaking children constituted two-thirds of all children of this age who spoke a language other than English and about 6 percent of all elementary-school-aged children. Other languages spoken by more than 50,000 school-aged children included Italian, French, German, Chinese, and Greek.

The 768,000 persons of high school age (14 to 17 years old) who spoke Spanish at home constituted about three-fifths of all persons of that age who spoke a language other than English and about 5 percent of all persons of high school age. For this age group, the next most frequently mentioned languages were German, Italian, French, and Chinese (table 6).

ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH AND CURRENT LANGUAGE

Of the 18 million persons 5 years old and over who spoke a language other than English at home in 1979, 3.9 million (22 percent) were reported as not speaking English at all or speaking English "not well," whereas 10.5 million (58 percent) were judged to speak English very well by the household respondent (table 7).

Spanish was spoken by 64 percent of those who spoke a language other than English and had limited ability to speak or could not speak English at all. Spanish was also the modal non-English language spoken by those with limited or no ability in English in each age group shown in table 7. A clear majority of persons under 65 with limited or no ability to speak English spoke Spanish: about three-fourths of persons aged 5 to 13 years old and two-thirds of persons aged 14 to 64 years old. However, only 40 percent of those aged 65 and over with limited or no English spoke Spanish.

Among persons of all ages who spoke Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, or Greek at home in November 1979, the proportion who spoke English either "not well" or "not at all" ranged from about 20 percent to 45 percent. The proportion whose ability to speak English was limited or nil varied by age within languages. Generally, the proportion was lowest among those of high-school age (14 to 17) and increased in successively older age groups. This pattern was particularly noticeable among those who spoke Spanish, and was found in many of the languages shown in table 7. Language groups may have differed in the relation between age and ability to speak English because of differences in the periods and levels of migration and in the extent of their exposure to the use of English.

LITERACY

Approximately 822,000 persons aged 14 and over were reported as unable to read and write in any language. The proportion of the U.S. population 14 and over who were illiterate, which now stands at about one-half of 1 percent, has been approximately halved in each decade since 1959 (Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Nos. 99 and 217). Illiteracy as defined in this report refers to persons who have not attended the sixth or higher grades (either in the United States or abroad) and who are reported as unable to read and write in English or the language they reported currently speaking at home. (See appendix A for further discussion.)

For all of the single-ancestry groups except Spanish and all of the multiple-ancestry groups shown in table 3, the proportion unable to read and write was no higher than 1 percent. At 2.8 percent, the illiteracy rate for the Spanish-ancestry group is higher than that for each of the groups shown.

In table 8, it can be seen that the percent unable to read and write in any language increases with age; that the foreign born are more likely to be unable to read and write in any language than the native born; and that while a higher percentage are reported illiterate among Blacks than Whites, the racial differences are large only above age 45.

Table 2. Age of the Population, by Ancestry and Sex: November 1979

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Ancestry and sex	Total, all ages	Age (years)									Median age
		Under 5	5 to 13	14 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	
BOTH SEXES											
Total persons.....	216,613	15,801	30,414	15,955	27,988	34,487	24,898	22,675	20,823	23,572	30.3
Single ancestry groups.....	96,496	5,446	10,320	5,150	11,373	16,542	12,135	11,509	10,846	13,176	34.6
Afro-American, African.....	15,057	1,523	2,892	1,290	2,060	2,259	1,570	1,338	1,034	1,091	24.2
American Indian.....	2,053	148	264	130	302	434	294	206	138	136	29.2
Chinese.....	540	27	69	36	74	112	79	67	29	47	30.8
Czechoslovakian.....	794	25	26	28	80	118	87	118	149	162	47.7
Dutch.....	1,362	50	94	48	137	268	193	175	177	219	39.3
English.....	11,501	424	900	564	1,113	1,923	1,538	1,516	1,462	2,062	40.4
Filipino.....	525	60	72	39	35	98	70	46	47	57	30.7
French.....	3,047	114	284	141	336	598	407	393	374	400	36.2
German.....	17,160	789	1,428	744	2,073	3,078	2,282	2,231	1,995	2,540	37.1
Greek.....	567	18	76	19	61	105	90	94	68	38	35.6
Hungarian.....	534	8	22	13	38	85	66	73	112	117	49.7
Irish.....	9,760	334	765	450	1,111	1,703	1,276	1,294	1,239	1,587	39.0
Italian.....	6,110	169	422	250	701	950	768	870	987	993	42.3
Japanese.....	529	30	54	32	52	97	61	101	53	50	35.0
Norwegian.....	1,232	25	82	28	123	230	178	162	174	229	42.2
Polish.....	3,498	78	195	118	344	545	422	483	642	671	46.0
Portuguese.....	493	20	46	20	71	102	61	63	63	47	33.7
Russian.....	1,496	41	69	35	110	264	169	172	224	410	48.4
Scottish.....	1,615	37	85	41	145	273	265	221	237	309	43.5
Spanish.....	9,762	1,158	1,866	750	1,403	1,708	1,172	762	498	445	23.5
Cuban.....	558	28	70	57	51	66	101	82	52	52	35.8
Mexican.....	5,889	787	1,208	433	903	1,062	618	394	261	224	21.9
Puerto Rican.....	1,107	124	246	108	139	204	123	85	46	31	22.1
Central and South American.....	475	52	80	26	64	97	88	40	14	14	26.6
Other Spanish.....	1,733	167	263	126	246	279	242	161	125	125	27.3
Swedish.....	1,216	25	42	24	120	214	162	148	156	326	46.5
Other single ancestry groups.....	7,646	344	566	349	882	1,376	926	976	989	1,239	38.3
Multiple ancestry groups ¹	82,582	7,780	15,267	7,848	11,340	12,039	8,266	7,200	6,488	6,354	24.5
Ancestry not specified ²	37,535	2,575	4,827	2,958	5,275	5,906	4,497	3,966	3,489	4,043	30.3
American.....	13,592	1,153	2,123	1,096	1,909	1,957	1,433	1,277	1,142	1,502	27.6
Other.....	195	14	21	9	18	34	18	12	17	52	35.9
Not reported.....	23,748	1,408	2,684	1,853	3,348	3,915	3,046	2,677	2,331	2,488	31.6
Selected multiple ancestry groups: ³											
American Indian and other group(s).....	7,847	838	1,508	710	1,127	1,235	841	714	498	376	23.4
Dutch and other group(s).....	6,759	534	1,131	677	835	871	684	661	633	733	27.3
English and other group(s).....	28,503	2,382	4,767	2,655	3,633	3,808	2,983	2,839	2,685	2,752	27.1
French and other group(s).....	11,000	1,012	2,027	1,106	1,478	1,585	1,135	922	902	833	24.5
German and other group(s).....	34,489	3,497	6,817	3,457	4,995	5,092	3,355	2,830	2,309	2,136	23.0
Irish and other group(s).....	33,992	2,971	5,991	3,191	4,536	4,709	3,553	3,048	2,963	3,030	25.7
Italian and other group(s).....	5,622	745	1,482	621	1,072	881	433	197	127	62	17.7
Polish and other group(s).....	4,923	498	1,205	568	734	786	495	261	208	167	20.3
Scottish and other group(s).....	12,590	823	1,779	1,026	1,511	1,608	1,256	1,421	1,482	1,685	32.2
MALE											
Total persons.....	104,527	8,080	15,515	8,105	13,577	16,764	11,971	10,964	9,834	9,716	29.2
Single ancestry groups.....	47,299	2,826	5,292	2,647	5,387	8,316	6,119	5,767	5,240	5,705	34.0
Afro-American, African.....	7,015	780	1,453	653	908	992	683	621	481	445	23.0
American Indian.....	965	73	133	60	129	209	152	91	64	54	29.2
Chinese.....	259	11	38	25	33	54	29	33	14	23	29.3
Czechoslovakian.....	387	15	17	13	44	58	49	62	76	51	44.2
Dutch.....	685	26	55	30	71	146	86	86	82	104	36.7
English.....	5,650	221	473	287	559	976	789	762	711	871	38.9
Filipino.....	258	38	43	26	10	28	30	26	15	42	29.3
French.....	1,465	58	143	66	140	325	208	185	165	174	35.0
German.....	8,756	405	747	387	977	1,670	1,232	1,196	1,005	1,136	36.6
Greek.....	283	11	34	6	33	53	47	41	41	16	35.9
Hungarian.....	260	6	15	6	13	48	41	37	39	56	45.4
Irish.....	4,583	173	401	228	522	841	602	611	566	639	37.1
Italian.....	3,039	82	229	129	362	485	390	446	468	448	41.0
Japanese.....	242	17	33	11	28	50	23	29	29	22	31.3
Norwegian.....	608	10	32	10	62	102	92	87	98	115	44.6
Polish.....	1,693	48	112	59	178	265	213	219	321	279	43.7
Portuguese.....	234	7	25	8	24	60	29	34	31	17	34.0
Russian.....	728	25	35	19	52	144	84	95	105	169	45.6
Scottish.....	933	18	41	21	71	175	175	141	132	159	43.0
Spanish.....	4,772	600	944	399	666	804	565	360	234	200	22.7
Cuban.....	255	10	33	43	25	31	35	43	21	15	30.4
Mexican.....	2,986	420	595	240	439	540	322	194	126	111	21.8
Puerto Rican.....	474	50	132	47	54	77	53	35	15	12	20.0
Central and South American.....	229	28	37	19	32	46	41	16	4	5	24.5
Other Spanish.....	827	92	146	50	116	110	115	72	69	56	25.8
Swedish.....	598	13	16	12	51	117	84	88	73	145	45.7
Other single ancestry groups.....	3,884	189	274	191	452	715	516	516	491	540	37.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Age of the Population, by Ancestry and Sex: November 1979—Continued

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Ancestry and sex	Total, all ages	Age (years)									Median age
		Under 5	5 to 13	14 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	
MALE—Continued											
Multiple ancestry groups ¹	38,810	3,967	7,737	3,963	5,519	5,406	3,658	3,269	2,924	2,368	22.9
Ancestry not specified ²	18,418	1,287	2,486	1,495	2,672	3,042	2,195	1,928	1,670	1,644	29.2
American.....	6,439	572	1,088	522	922	977	662	608	489	599	26.2
Other.....	83	8	5	3	11	14	8	7	5	21	35.7
Not reported.....	11,896	708	1,393	970	1,738	2,051	1,525	1,313	1,175	1,024	30.6
Selected multiple ancestry groups: ³											
American Indian and other group(s).....	3,696	470	825	373	515	513	333	305	216	146	20.8
Dutch and other group(s).....	3,061	243	589	359	410	365	258	298	286	254	24.0
English and other group(s).....	13,286	1,245	2,406	1,316	1,823	1,739	1,300	1,271	1,204	982	24.5
French and other group(s).....	4,979	515	998	560	662	699	486	414	351	296	22.7
German and other group(s).....	16,645	1,807	3,481	1,762	2,519	2,316	1,541	1,348	1,056	816	21.8
Irish and other group(s).....	15,390	1,560	2,982	1,579	2,121	2,017	1,441	1,275	1,295	1,121	23.4
Italian and other group(s).....	2,742	382	766	294	499	415	205	101	43	37	16.9
Polish and other group(s).....	2,427	225	594	291	373	371	257	142	114	60	20.4
Scottish and other group(s).....	5,831	421	912	534	754	696	535	663	689	628	29.2
FEMALE											
Total persons.....	112,086	7,720	14,899	7,851	14,410	17,723	12,926	11,711	10,990	13,856	31.3
Single ancestry groups.....											
Afro-American, African.....	49,197	2,619	5,028	2,502	5,986	8,226	6,016	5,742	5,606	7,471	35.4
American Indian.....	8,042	743	1,439	638	1,152	1,267	886	717	554	646	25.4
Chinese.....	1,088	75	131	71	172	225	142	115	75	82	29.2
Czechoslovakian.....	280	16	31	11	41	58	51	34	15	24	32.2
Dutch.....	407	10	9	15	36	60	38	56	73	110	51.4
English.....	677	25	39	18	66	123	107	90	94	115	41.4
English.....	5,851	202	427	277	554	948	754	751	1,191	1,191	41.9
Filipino.....	267	22	30	13	25	70	40	20	32	15	31.3
French.....	1,582	56	141	75	195	273	200	207	209	226	37.6
German.....	8,403	384	682	356	1,096	1,407	1,049	1,034	990	1,404	37.6
Greek.....	284	7	42	12	28	52	42	52	27	22	35.3
Hungarian.....	274	2	8	7	25	38	36	73	61	54.2	
Irish.....	5,177	161	364	222	589	862	674	683	673	949	40.8
Italian.....	3,071	86	193	121	339	465	378	425	519	545	43.8
Japanese.....	287	12	21	21	24	47	37	73	24	28	39.9
Norwegian.....	624	15	50	18	62	128	86	75	76	114	39.6
Polish.....	1,804	30	83	59	166	280	209	265	321	391	47.8
Portuguese.....	259	13	21	12	47	42	32	29	32	30	33.4
Russian.....	768	17	34	17	58	120	85	77	119	240	51.8
Scottish.....	682	19	44	20	74	98	90	80	106	150	44.4
Spanish.....	4,990	558	922	351	737	904	607	402	263	245	24.3
Cuban.....	303	18	37	14	26	35	66	39	31	37	38.3
Mexican.....	2,903	367	612	193	464	522	296	201	135	113	22.0
Puerto Rican.....	633	75	114	62	86	127	70	50	31	19	23.5
Central and South American.....	246	24	43	7	32	51	47	24	10	9	28.4
Other Spanish.....	905	74	117	76	129	169	127	88	56	69	28.4
Swedish.....	618	12	25	12	69	97	77	60	83	182	47.6
Other single ancestry groups.....	3,762	154	292	157	432	661	410	460	497	700	39.5
Multiple ancestry groups ¹	43,772	3,813	7,530	3,886	5,821	6,633	4,608	3,931	3,564	3,986	26.3
Ancestry not specified ²	19,117	1,287	2,341	1,463	2,603	2,864	2,302	2,038	1,820	2,399	31.5
American.....	7,153	581	1,035	574	986	980	771	669	652	904	29.1
Other.....	112	6	16	7	7	20	10	5	11	31	36.0
Not reported.....	11,852	700	1,291	882	1,610	1,864	1,521	1,364	1,156	1,465	32.7
Selected multiple ancestry groups: ³											
American Indian and other group(s).....	4,152	369	683	337	611	722	508	409	282	230	26.0
Dutch and other group(s).....	3,698	291	542	318	425	506	427	363	348	479	30.4
English and other group(s).....	15,216	1,136	2,361	1,339	1,811	2,069	1,682	1,568	1,480	1,770	29.6
French and other group(s).....	6,021	498	1,029	547	816	886	649	508	551	538	26.4
German and other group(s).....	17,844	1,690	3,337	1,695	2,476	2,776	1,814	1,482	1,254	1,320	24.3
Irish and other group(s).....	18,602	1,410	3,009	1,611	2,415	2,692	2,113	1,773	1,668	1,910	28.2
Italian and other group(s).....	2,880	363	716	327	574	466	228	96	84	25	18.4
Polish and other group(s).....	2,496	273	611	277	361	416	238	119	94	107	20.3
Scottish and other group(s).....	6,759	403	867	492	757	912	720	758	793	1,057	34.4

¹Persons reporting multiple ancestry groups may be included in more than one category. Total represents all persons reporting multiple ancestry groups, rather than the sum of ancestry groups reported.²Includes nonresponses, responses indicating religious groups, and other unclassifiable responses.³Persons reporting multiple ancestry groups may be included in more than one category.

Table 3. Selected Social and Economic

(Numbers in thousands. Civil-

Line No.	Selected characteristics	Total		Selected single ancestry groups								
		Number	Percent	English	French	German	Irish	Italian	Polish	Scottish	Spanish	Other
NATIVITY												
1	Total.....	216,613	(X)	11,501	3,047	17,160	9,760	6,110	3,498	1,615	9,762	34,043
2	Percent.....	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
3	Native of native parentage.....	174,175	80.4	89.9	79.4	85.3	86.8	42.7	48.7	75.2	44.4	71.3
4	Foreign birth or parentage.....	35,378	16.3	10.0	20.4	14.7	13.1	57.3	51.1	24.8	55.4	28.4
5	Native of foreign or mixed parent- age.....	23,648	10.9	6.2	15.3	10.7	10.4	44.1	40.3	14.2	25.1	16.0
6	Foreign born.....	11,730	5.4	3.8	5.1	4.0	2.7	13.1	10.8	10.5	30.3	12.3
7	Not reported.....	7,061	3.3	-	0.2	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.2	0.4
RESIDENCE												
8	Total.....	216,613	(X)	11,501	3,047	17,160	9,760	6,110	3,498	1,615	9,762	34,043
9	Percent.....	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
10	Metropolitan.....	146,219	67.5	57.2	58.4	61.3	62.6	86.3	83.2	62.9	84.4	76.4
11	In SMSA's of 1 million or more....	82,467	38.1	27.1	24.7	32.2	36.1	58.2	59.9	30.4	54.6	48.3
12	In central cities.....	31,081	14.3	7.8	7.4	8.7	12.4	20.4	23.6	10.3	30.9	27.5
13	Outside central cities.....	51,386	23.7	19.2	17.4	23.5	23.7	37.8	36.3	20.1	23.7	20.8
14	In SMSA's of under 1 million.....	63,752	29.4	30.1	33.7	29.1	26.5	28.1	23.3	32.5	29.8	28.1
15	Nonmetropolitan.....	70,394	32.5	42.8	41.6	38.7	37.4	13.7	16.8	37.0	15.6	23.6
MARITAL STATUS												
16	Male, 14 years and over.....	80,931	(X)	4,955	1,264	7,605	4,009	2,728	1,534	874	3,227	12,984
17	Percent.....	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
18	Single (never married).....	24,555	30.3	19.7	18.1	19.6	23.0	21.8	21.8	13.4	33.0	28.7
19	Married.....	50,982	63.0	73.7	75.5	73.9	69.2	70.6	71.2	79.6	62.8	63.9
20	Widowed.....	1,887	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.8	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.2	1.0	3.0
21	Divorced.....	3,508	4.3	4.5	4.2	3.7	4.8	4.2	3.5	3.9	3.2	4.4
22	Female, 14 years and over.....	89,467	(X)	5,223	1,385	7,338	4,651	2,791	1,691	618	3,511	14,341
23	Percent.....	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
24	Single (never married).....	21,643	24.2	14.9	15.0	16.7	17.1	19.3	18.2	12.6	26.5	25.4
25	Married.....	51,864	58.0	63.2	68.6	64.7	63.1	61.4	60.6	62.5	60.7	55.4
26	Widowed.....	10,353	11.6	15.4	11.3	13.2	14.9	13.9	16.9	20.4	6.2	12.7
27	Divorced.....	5,607	6.3	6.5	5.1	5.4	5.0	5.4	4.3	4.5	6.6	6.5
HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP												
28	In households.....	216,571	(X)	11,499	3,047	17,158	9,754	6,110	3,498	1,613	9,761	34,037
29	Percent.....	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
30	Householder.....	79,343	36.6	47.1	45.3	46.6	44.9	45.8	47.1	58.8	29.7	40.4
31	Family householder.....	59,001	27.2	35.1	35.4	36.1	32.5	34.9	34.4	45.6	25.1	30.0
32	Male.....	50,425	23.3	31.6	31.4	33.1	28.6	31.4	31.0	42.7	20.0	23.7
33	Female.....	8,577	4.0	3.5	4.1	3.0	3.9	3.5	3.4	2.9	5.2	6.3
34	Nonfamily householder.....	20,342	9.4	11.9	9.8	10.5	12.4	10.9	12.6	13.1	4.5	10.3
35	Male.....	8,526	3.9	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.9	4.4	4.7	5.9	2.4	4.8
36	Female.....	11,816	5.5	7.5	5.3	6.1	7.5	6.5	7.9	7.3	2.1	5.6
37	Spouse.....	47,818	22.1	27.3	29.1	26.6	28.4	26.6	27.8	22.8	18.5	20.3
38	Own child under 14 years old.....	43,080	19.9	10.8	12.4	12.4	10.5	9.3	7.2	7.2	29.1	17.2
39	Other relative.....	41,109	19.0	12.4	10.9	11.9	13.6	16.0	15.0	8.9	19.9	19.4
40	Nonrelative.....	5,220	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.4	2.8	2.7
41	In group quarters.....	42	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	0.1	-	-
YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED												
42	Male, 25 years and over.....	59,249	(X)	4,109	1,057	6,240	3,258	2,237	1,297	782	2,163	10,004
43	Percent.....	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
44	Elementary: 0 to 8 years.....	10,629	17.9	13.5	18.6	15.5	17.2	20.6	19.7	9.1	44.7	21.1
45	High school: 1 to 3 years.....	7,913	13.4	11.9	14.4	12.1	14.0	16.8	15.9	9.7	12.8	15.2
46	4 years.....	19,448	32.8	32.8	36.3	37.8	33.5	34.1	34.5	31.2	22.1	30.8
47	College: 1 or more years.....	21,258	35.9	41.8	30.7	34.6	35.3	28.6	29.8	50.0	20.3	32.9
48	Percent high school graduates.....	(X)	68.7	74.6	67.0	72.4	68.8	62.7	64.4	81.2	42.5	63.7
49	Female, 25 years and over.....	67,206	(X)	4,392	1,115	5,886	3,840	2,332	1,466	524	2,422	11,084
50	Percent.....	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
51	Elementary: 0 to 8 years.....	11,370	16.9	11.5	20.5	15.9	15.8	23.0	26.1	9.5	44.6	20.9
52	High school: 1 to 3 years.....	9,717	14.5	11.9	13.8	12.0	14.2	16.6	14.8	12.4	14.8	16.3
53	4 years.....	27,525	41.0	42.6	43.0	46.4	43.9	43.8	37.7	38.4	27.3	36.4
54	College: 1 or more years.....	18,593	27.7	34.1	22.7	25.6	26.1	16.5	21.4	39.7	13.3	26.4
55	Percent high school graduates.....	(X)	68.6	76.7	65.7	72.0	70.0	60.4	59.1	78.1	40.5	62.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Characteristics of Ancestry Groups: November 1979

lian noninstitutional population)

Multiple ancestry groups ¹	Ancestry not specified ²	Selected multiple ancestry groups ³									Line No.
		American Indian and other group(s)	Dutch and other group(s)	English and other group(s)	French and other group(s)	German and other group(s)	Irish and other group(s)	Italian and other group(s)	Polish and other group(s)	Scottish and other group(s)	
82,582	37,535	7,847	6,759	28,503	11,000	34,489	33,992	5,622	4,923	12,590	1
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2
91.1	77.1	97.2	94.8	93.4	92.1	93.5	95.0	89.5	84.5	92.8	3
8.8	4.7	2.8	5.2	6.6	7.8	6.5	5.0	10.5	15.5	7.2	4
7.6	3.0	2.4	4.2	5.7	6.8	5.9	4.5	9.9	13.9	6.1	5
1.2	1.7	0.4	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.6	1.0	6
-	18.2	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1	7
82,582	37,535	7,847	6,759	28,503	11,000	34,489	33,992	5,622	4,923	12,590	8
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	9
67.4	58.9	56.1	57.7	66.6	66.8	67.1	65.6	80.9	80.7	65.4	10
36.1	31.4	24.8	24.3	34.1	32.3	37.0	33.9	50.4	52.2	32.1	11
9.2	13.4	7.7	5.0	7.8	8.7	8.7	8.1	11.6	15.5	7.1	12
26.9	17.9	17.2	19.2	26.3	23.6	28.2	25.8	38.8	36.8	25.0	13
31.3	27.5	31.2	33.4	32.5	34.5	30.1	31.7	30.5	28.5	33.3	14
32.6	41.1	43.9	42.3	33.4	33.2	32.9	34.4	19.1	19.3	34.6	15
27,107	14,644	2,401	2,229	9,635	3,467	11,357	10,848	1,594	1,608	4,498	16
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	17
38.9	31.1	34.1	38.0	37.3	39.4	41.5	37.7	54.6	46.1	32.9	18
55.1	61.5	59.4	54.9	56.9	54.2	52.7	55.7	40.3	50.3	60.3	19
1.8	2.4	1.5	2.5	2.0	1.4	1.5	2.1	0.8	1.1	2.0	20
4.3	5.0	5.0	4.7	3.8	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.3	2.5	4.8	21
32,429	15,489	3,100	2,865	11,719	4,495	12,817	14,182	1,801	1,611	5,490	22
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	23
28.9	24.3	22.5	24.6	27.5	27.9	30.9	27.1	45.1	39.7	24.2	24
55.3	56.9	60.5	56.6	54.7	55.9	55.0	56.4	46.8	48.7	55.9	25
9.1	12.5	8.2	12.0	10.8	9.4	7.5	9.9	2.9	5.4	13.0	26
6.7	6.3	8.8	6.8	7.1	6.8	6.6	6.6	5.2	6.3	6.8	27
82,570	37,524	7,846	6,757	28,497	10,997	34,482	33,988	5,622	4,923	12,589	28
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	29
29.1	37.5	28.3	30.4	31.4	28.7	27.4	29.3	18.8	24.1	35.1	30
21.0	27.8	21.7	21.6	22.3	20.4	20.0	20.9	13.0	18.2	24.5	31
18.0	23.5	17.6	18.2	19.2	17.1	17.3	17.7	11.1	16.2	21.4	32
3.0	4.4	4.2	3.4	3.1	3.3	2.7	3.2	2.0	2.0	3.1	33
8.2	9.6	6.5	8.8	9.1	8.3	7.5	8.4	5.7	5.8	10.6	34
3.2	4.3	2.5	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.4	2.7	3.4	35
5.0	5.3	4.0	6.0	5.9	5.2	4.2	5.3	2.3	3.1	7.1	36
20.3	21.2	21.8	22.6	21.1	21.2	19.3	22.0	13.7	14.9	23.0	37
26.7	17.5	27.5	23.8	24.1	26.7	28.9	25.2	38.3	33.3	19.7	38
22.0	20.3	20.3	21.7	22.0	21.3	22.6	21.8	27.0	25.4	20.8	39
1.8	3.4	2.2	1.6	1.4	2.1	1.8	1.7	2.3	2.4	1.3	40
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
17,625	10,478	1,513	1,460	6,496	2,245	7,077	7,148	801	944	3,211	42
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	43
10.5	25.1	21.0	16.2	9.0	10.8	9.4	12.8	5.1	8.9	8.4	44
11.1	15.7	16.7	15.3	10.1	12.0	10.8	12.6	9.5	6.7	10.1	45
33.4	32.1	37.8	37.0	32.3	34.3	35.0	34.1	35.2	32.3	30.6	46
44.9	27.1	24.5	31.5	48.6	42.9	44.8	40.6	50.2	52.2	50.9	47
78.3	59.2	62.4	68.5	80.9	77.2	79.8	74.6	85.5	84.5	81.5	48
22,722	11,423	2,152	2,122	8,570	3,132	8,646	10,156	900	973	4,240	49
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50
9.2	23.0	19.1	16.0	6.8	9.0	7.7	10.7	5.4	6.2	7.6	51
12.6	18.4	19.6	16.0	11.4	14.4	11.8	13.8	10.8	9.8	11.3	52
43.8	38.0	43.4	42.2	41.9	41.9	46.6	44.9	49.4	44.2	41.8	53
34.4	20.6	17.9	25.8	40.0	34.7	33.9	30.6	34.3	39.9	39.2	54
78.2	58.6	61.3	68.0	81.8	76.6	80.5	75.5	83.8	84.0	81.0	55

Table 3. Selected Social and Economic Characteristics

(Numbers in thousands. Civi-

Line No.	Selected characteristics	Total		Selected single ancestry groups								
		Number	Percent	English	French	German	Irish	Italian	Polish	Scottish	Spanish	Other
LITERACY IN ANY LANGUAGE												
1	Total, 14 years old and over..	170,398	100.0	10,177	2,649	14,943	8,660	5,520	3,225	1,493	6,738	27,325
2	Can read and write.....	163,629	96.0	10,160	2,622	14,929	8,625	5,478	3,208	1,493	6,547	27,084
3	Cannot read and write.....	981	0.6	17	28	14	36	41	17	-	191	241
4	Percent of those reporting.....	0.60	(X)	0.17	1.04	0.09	0.41	0.75	0.54	-	2.84	0.88
5	Not reported.....	5,788	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EMPLOYMENT STATUS												
6	Both sexes, 16 years old and over.....	162,589	100.0	9,911	2,576	14,600	8,431	5,411	3,167	1,472	6,356	26,311
7	Civilian labor force.....	103,997	64.0	6,166	1,665	9,642	5,164	3,363	1,944	961	4,067	16,300
8	Employed.....	98,099	60.3	5,947	1,572	9,347	4,908	3,204	1,840	941	3,699	15,112
9	Unemployed.....	5,898	3.6	219	93	296	256	159	104	21	368	1,189
10	Percent of civilian labor force.....	5.7	(X)	3.6	5.6	3.1	5.0	4.7	5.4	2.1	9.0	7.3
11	Not in labor force.....	58,592	36.0	3,745	911	4,958	3,267	2,048	1,223	510	2,289	10,011
12	Males, 16 years old and over....	76,959	100.0	4,807	1,229	7,419	3,879	2,672	1,499	865	3,042	12,465
13	Civilian labor force.....	59,354	77.1	3,650	966	5,917	2,921	2,031	1,124	682	2,478	9,168
14	Employed.....	56,389	73.3	3,540	915	5,766	2,795	1,957	1,066	667	2,290	8,602
15	Unemployed.....	2,965	3.9	110	51	151	127	74	58	15	188	566
16	Percent of civilian labor force.....	5.0	(X)	3.0	5.2	2.5	4.3	3.7	5.2	2.1	7.6	6.2
17	Not in labor force.....	17,605	22.9	1,157	263	1,503	958	641	375	183	564	3,297
18	Females, 16 years old and over..	85,631	100.0	5,104	1,347	7,181	4,552	2,739	1,668	607	3,314	13,847
19	Civilian labor force.....	44,643	52.1	2,516	699	3,726	2,243	1,332	820	279	1,589	7,133
20	Employed.....	41,710	48.7	2,407	657	3,581	2,114	1,247	774	273	1,409	6,510
21	Unemployed.....	2,933	3.4	109	43	145	129	85	46	6	180	623
22	Percent of civilian labor force.....	6.6	(X)	4.3	6.1	3.9	5.8	6.4	5.6	2.1	11.3	8.7
23	Not in labor force.....	40,988	47.9	2,588	648	3,455	2,309	1,408	848	327	1,725	6,714
OWN CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS												
24	Total families ⁴	59,001	(X)	4,039	1,080	6,196	3,174	2,134	1,205	736	2,453	10,226
25	Percent.....	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
26	No own children under 14 years.....	34,559	58.6	65.5	57.9	60.2	61.7	64.8	65.9	65.1	39.2	56.5
27	Some own children under 14 years....	24,442	41.4	34.5	42.1	39.8	38.3	35.2	34.1	34.9	60.8	43.5
28	One child.....	11,272	19.1	16.4	20.9	17.5	17.5	17.4	16.5	18.8	23.2	20.5
29	Two children.....	8,701	14.7	12.7	15.0	15.7	14.8	11.4	12.4	13.0	20.5	14.6
30	Three children or more.....	4,470	7.6	5.4	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.4	5.2	3.1	17.2	8.4
31	Some under 6 years.....	12,829	21.7	17.4	22.0	21.6	18.4	17.1	16.4	14.9	38.9	23.1
32	Some 6 to 13 years.....	17,043	28.9	24.5	28.1	27.7	27.3	25.8	24.1	24.9	39.4	30.1
FAMILY INCOME												
33	Total families ⁴	59,001	(X)	4,039	1,080	6,196	3,174	2,134	1,205	736	2,453	10,226
34	Families reporting income.....	53,714	(X)	3,715	1,007	5,672	2,956	1,902	1,065	677	2,276	9,358
35	Percent.....	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
36	Under \$5,000.....	5,135	9.6	6.9	8.6	5.2	7.7	4.9	6.4	5.2	18.8	14.3
37	\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	9,378	17.5	16.8	17.7	14.6	17.3	17.0	12.9	14.2	27.5	20.3
38	\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	10,634	19.8	19.4	21.0	19.7	20.2	18.6	22.0	16.4	22.8	19.6
39	\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	8,583	16.0	15.2	17.5	18.0	17.0	19.5	18.4	14.0	12.8	14.7
40	\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	8,111	15.1	15.5	17.7	18.6	16.3	16.9	15.9	16.0	9.0	12.5
41	\$25,000 and over.....	11,873	22.1	26.2	17.5	23.9	21.5	23.0	24.5	34.1	8.9	18.7
42	Median family income.....	\$15,764	(X)	\$16,891	\$15,571	\$17,531	\$16,092	\$16,993	\$16,977	\$20,018	\$10,607	\$13,755

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹Persons reporting multiple ancestry groups may be included in more than one category. Total represents all persons reporting multiple ancestry groups, rather than the sum of ancestry groups reported.²Includes nonresponses, responses indicating religious groups, and unclassifiable responses.³Persons reporting multiple ancestry groups may be included in more than one category.⁴Families are classified by the ancestry group of the householder.

of Ancestry Groups: November 1979—Continued

lian noninstitutional population)

Multiple ancestry groups ¹	Ancestry not specified ²	Selected multiple ancestry groups ³									Total No.
		American Indian and other group(s)	Dutch and other group(s)	English and other group(s)	French and other group(s)	German and other group(s)	Irish and other group(s)	Italian and other group(s)	Polish and other group(s)	Scottish and other group(s)	
59,535	30,133	5,501	5,094	21,354	7,961	24,174	25,030	3,394	3,219	9,988	1
59,456	24,027	5,479	5,086	21,343	7,955	24,153	24,993	3,389	3,213	9,975	2
79	317	22	8	11	6	22	37	5	7	13	3
0.13	1.30	0.39	0.16	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.15	0.15	0.21	0.13	4
-	5,788	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
55,669	28,684	5,135	4,774	20,046	7,401	22,467	23,499	3,079	2,942	9,524	6
36,733	17,991	3,438	2,975	12,848	4,834	15,295	14,970	2,261	2,170	5,785	7
34,625	16,907	3,135	2,770	12,184	4,534	14,465	14,073	2,100	2,060	5,505	8
2,108	1,084	303	204	664	300	829	897	161	110	281	9
5.7	6.0	8.8	6.9	5.2	6.2	5.4	6.0	7.1	5.1	4.9	10
18,936	10,693	1,697	1,799	7,198	2,567	7,172	8,529	818	773	3,738	11
25,183	13,898	2,220	2,059	9,012	3,185	10,487	10,107	1,452	1,458	4,247	12
19,821	10,596	1,752	1,564	6,978	2,546	8,425	7,733	1,204	1,222	3,133	13
18,794	9,997	1,617	1,463	6,640	2,415	8,021	7,322	1,122	1,168	2,986	14
1,027	598	135	101	339	130	403	412	82	54	148	15
5.2	5.6	7.7	6.5	4.9	5.1	4.8	5.3	6.8	4.4	4.7	16
5,362	3,303	467	495	2,033	639	2,062	2,374	249	236	1,114	17
30,486	14,785	2,915	2,715	11,035	4,216	11,980	13,392	1,627	1,485	5,276	18
16,912	7,395	1,686	1,410	5,870	2,288	6,870	7,237	1,057	947	2,652	19
15,830	6,909	1,518	1,307	5,544	2,118	6,444	6,752	978	891	2,519	20
1,081	486	168	103	326	170	426	485	79	56	133	21
6.4	6.6	10.0	7.3	5.5	7.4	6.2	6.7	7.5	5.9	5.0	22
13,574	7,390	1,299	1,304	5,165	1,928	5,110	6,155	570	537	2,624	23
17,309	10,449	1,706	1,457	6,344	2,244	6,889	7,112	733	897	3,086	24
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	25
58.7	57.9	50.8	63.8	63.3	56.6	56.9	60.5	42.6	44.0	68.0	26
41.3	42.1	49.2	36.2	36.7	43.4	43.1	39.5	57.4	56.0	32.0	27
19.0	19.9	22.9	16.0	16.8	20.9	19.5	19.0	27.1	24.2	15.9	28
15.1	14.2	16.2	12.8	14.1	13.9	16.3	13.7	21.6	20.5	10.6	29
7.2	8.1	10.1	7.3	5.8	8.5	7.3	6.8	8.7	11.3	5.5	30
21.1	22.3	26.6	18.2	17.1	21.8	22.3	20.1	31.1	30.8	14.0	31
28.8	29.7	34.0	25.8	26.9	30.8	29.9	27.1	38.6	38.5	23.7	32
7,309	10,449	1,706	1,457	6,344	2,244	6,889	7,112	733	897	3,086	33
6,085	9,003	1,578	1,364	5,908	2,075	6,395	6,593	676	827	2,854	34
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	35
6.4	14.1	13.1	8.8	5.3	7.2	5.3	7.2	7.8	4.6	5.6	36
14.7	19.8	20.8	19.1	14.5	15.5	13.8	16.2	12.9	10.0	14.2	37
18.5	21.8	21.5	18.6	17.9	19.6	18.5	19.4	16.0	17.4	17.3	38
16.3	15.2	16.9	15.5	15.6	15.9	16.9	16.3	20.6	18.0	14.9	39
16.7	13.0	15.0	16.4	16.0	16.0	17.0	16.2	16.6	20.1	17.1	40
27.3	16.1	12.8	21.6	30.7	25.8	28.6	24.7	26.0	29.9	30.9	41
\$17,810	\$13,454	\$13,641	\$15,868	\$18,680	\$17,048	\$18,375	\$16,860	\$17,833	\$19,968	\$19,148	42

Table 4. Mother Tongue of Persons 14 Years Old and Over, by Age: November 1979

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Mother tongue	Total, 14 years and over	Percent by age (years)						
		Total	14 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75 and over
Total.....	170,398	100.0	9.4	16.4	34.9	25.5	8.8	5.0
English only.....	131,864	100.0	10.5	17.9	35.5	23.9	7.9	4.3
Chinese.....	514	100.0	6.4	16.9	42.4	24.1	7.4	3.1
Czechoslovakian.....	511	100.0	0.8	4.1	21.9	40.5	18.0	14.5
French.....	2,417	100.0	4.5	9.7	36.0	32.7	10.9	6.2
German.....	5,138	100.0	2.2	6.0	25.3	37.1	16.3	13.2
Greek.....	475	100.0	4.8	9.3	41.7	35.8	5.1	3.6
Italian.....	4,100	100.0	2.4	7.3	30.0	38.4	14.8	7.2
Japanese.....	449	100.0	4.7	13.8	31.8	37.2	8.2	4.5
Norwegian.....	590	100.0	-	2.9	23.7	41.5	18.8	13.1
Philippine languages.....	442	100.0	7.5	9.7	45.2	23.5	6.8	7.0
Polish.....	2,452	100.0	1.5	5.1	29.1	41.2	16.7	6.3
Portuguese.....	409	100.0	7.1	13.7	40.6	29.8	4.4	4.4
Spanish.....	7,652	100.0	10.9	20.6	43.0	18.9	4.1	2.6
Swedish.....	550	100.0	0.9	2.0	19.6	32.9	25.3	19.3
Yiddish.....	1,180	100.0	0.4	3.6	26.1	29.6	25.8	14.7
Other.....	5,569	100.0	3.7	10.3	31.6	33.5	12.9	8.0
Not reported.....	6,084	100.0	9.3	15.2	30.9	27.8	10.6	6.3

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

Table 5. Persons 5 Years Old and Over Speaking Various Languages at Home, by Age: November 1979

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Language spoken at home	Persons 5 years old and over	Total, percent	5 to 13 years	14 to 17 years	18 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 to 74 years	75 years and over
Total.....	200,812	(X)	30,414	15,955	27,988	59,385	43,498	15,053	8,519
Percent.....	(X)	100.0	15.1	7.9	13.9	29.6	21.7	7.5	4.2
Speaking English only.....	176,319	100.0	15.4	8.0	14.1	29.5	21.5	7.4	4.0
Speaking other language.....	17,985	100.0	14.4	6.9	12.6	30.8	21.8	7.5	3.1
Chinese.....	514	100.0	12.5	5.8	15.8	34.8	21.2	6.8	6.0
French.....	987	100.0	8.1	5.5	10.2	29.9	30.4	9.9	6.0
German.....	1,261	100.0	5.4	7.1	10.8	24.3	27.4	12.8	12.2
Greek.....	365	100.0	16.7	4.9	10.4	38.1	21.9	4.4	3.6
Italian.....	1,354	100.0	7.5	4.9	8.1	19.3	31.5	15.1	13.7
Japanese.....	265	100.0	7.9	6.8	7.9	27.2	36.6	9.4	3.8
Korean.....	191	100.0	16.2	5.8	17.8	35.6	19.9	3.7	1.0
Philippine languages.....	419	100.0	10.7	5.3	8.6	40.8	20.3	7.2	6.9
Polish.....	731	100.0	2.7	1.4	3.7	13.8	45.7	21.6	10.9
Portuguese.....	245	100.0	15.9	8.6	12.2	33.9	22.0	3.7	3.3
Spanish.....	8,768	100.0	20.2	8.8	15.4	34.6	15.8	3.1	2.2
Yiddish.....	234	100.0	8.5	0.4	3.0	15.8	20.9	29.1	21.8
Other.....	2,651	100.0	10.0	4.9	10.8	30.3	23.3	10.1	10.6
Not reported.....	6,508	100.0	11.1	8.4	13.5	26.9	25.1	9.5	5.6

(X) Not applicable.

Table 6. Persons 5 Years Old and Over Speaking Languages Other Than English at Home, by Age: November 1979

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Language spoken at home	Persons 5 years old and over	5 to 13 years	14 to 17 years	18 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 to 74 years	75 years and over
Total speaking languages other than English.....	17,985	2,585	1,241	2,258	5,548	3,918	1,355	1,080
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chinese.....	2.9	2.5	2.4	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.6	1.5
French.....	5.5	3.1	4.4	4.5	5.3	7.7	7.2	5.5
German.....	7.0	2.6	7.3	6.0	5.5	8.8	12.0	14.3
Greek.....	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.7	2.5	2.0	1.2	1.2
Italian.....	7.5	3.9	5.4	4.8	4.7	10.9	15.1	17.1
Japanese.....	1.5	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.3	2.5	1.8	0.9
Korean.....	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.2
Philippine languages.....	2.3	1.7	1.8	1.6	3.1	2.2	2.2	2.7
Polish.....	4.1	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.8	8.5	11.7	7.4
Portuguese.....	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.4	0.7	0.7
Spanish.....	48.8	68.5	61.9	59.8	54.6	35.3	20.2	17.9
Yiddish.....	1.3	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.7	1.3	5.0	4.7
Other languages.....	14.7	10.2	10.5	12.7	14.5	15.8	19.7	25.9

Table 7. English Ability of Persons 5 Years Old and Over Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home, by Language: November 1979

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age and ability to speak English	Total	Percent	Language spoken at home					
			Chinese	French	German	Greek	Italian	Japanese
Persons 5 years old and over.....	17,985	100.0	514	987	1,261	365	1,354	265
Ability to speak English:								
Very well.....	10,470	58.2	262	754	1,014	222	887	139
Well.....	3,639	20.2	107	178	198	59	248	64
Not well.....	2,739	15.2	104	45	44	72	173	55
Not at all.....	1,137	6.3	40	10	5	12	45	7
PERCENT								
Persons 5 years old and over.....	100.0	(X)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ability to speak English:								
Very well.....	58.2	(X)	51.0	76.4	80.4	60.8	65.5	52.5
Well.....	20.2	(X)	20.8	18.0	15.7	16.2	18.3	24.2
Not well.....	15.2	(X)	20.2	4.6	3.5	19.7	12.8	20.8
Not at all.....	6.3	(X)	7.8	1.0	0.4	3.3	3.3	2.6
Persons 5 to 13 years old.....	2,585	100.0	64	80	68	61	101	21
Ability to speak English:								
Very well.....	1,630	63.1	46	63	62	53	93	14
Well.....	572	22.1	11	17	5	8	9	6
Not well.....	292	11.3	8	-	1	-	-	-
Not at all.....	90	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Persons 14 to 17 years old.....	1,241	100.0	30	54	90	18	67	18
Ability to speak English:								
Very well.....	947	76.3	19	53	90	18	52	16
Well.....	211	17.0	9	1	-	-	13	1
Not well.....	70	5.6	2	-	-	-	1	1
Not at all.....	15	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Persons 18 to 24 years old.....	2,258	100.0	81	101	136	38	109	21
Ability to speak English:								
Very well.....	1,419	62.8	60	81	124	29	93	13
Well.....	391	17.3	8	16	10	4	11	1
Not well.....	276	12.2	11	4	2	5	5	7
Not at all.....	172	7.6	3	-	-	-	-	-
Persons 25 to 64 years old.....	9,464	100.0	288	595	651	219	687	170
Ability to speak English:								
Very well.....	5,283	55.8	127	454	542	115	453	89
Well.....	1,935	20.4	75	113	90	42	118	46
Not well.....	1,626	17.2	62	24	18	55	85	32
Not at all.....	621	6.6	24	3	2	6	31	3
Persons 65 years and over.....	2,434	100.0	51	157	316	29	390	36
Ability to speak English:								
Very well.....	1,192	49.0	10	102	196	7	197	7
Well.....	530	21.8	4	31	94	6	97	10
Not well.....	475	19.5	22	17	23	11	82	15
Not at all.....	238	9.8	14	7	3	6	14	4

Table 7. English Ability of Persons 5 Years Old and Over Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home, by Language: November 1979—Continued

(Number in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age and ability to speak English	Language spoken at home						
	Korean	Philippine languages	Polish	Portuguese	Spanish	Yiddish	Other
Persons 5 years old and over.....	191	419	731	245	8,768	234	2,651
Ability to speak English:							
Very well.....	58	191	513	138	4,446	180	1,667
Well.....	48	169	97	37	1,845	30	556
Not well.....	66	54	86	56	1,640	21	324
Not at all.....	20	5	35	15	836	2	105
PERCENT							
Persons 5 years old and over.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ability to speak English:							
Very well.....	30.4	45.6	70.2	56.3	50.7	76.9	62.9
Well.....	25.1	40.3	13.3	15.1	21.0	12.8	21.0
Not well.....	34.6	12.9	11.8	22.9	18.7	9.0	12.2
Not at all.....	10.5	1.2	4.8	6.1	9.5	0.9	4.0
Persons 5 to 13 years old.....	31	45	20	39	1,770	20	264
Ability to speak English:							
Very well.....	18	32	16	33	1,033	6	161
Well.....	3	11	-	4	441	9	50
Not well.....	8	3	4	2	227	3	37
Not at all.....	2	-	-	-	69	2	17
Persons 14 to 17 years old.....	11	22	10	21	768	1	130
Ability to speak English:							
Very well.....	3	16	7	21	566	-	86
Well.....	3	6	1	-	144	1	31
Not well.....	6	-	2	-	46	-	11
Not at all.....	-	-	-	-	12	-	2
Persons 18 to 24 years old.....	34	36	27	30	1,351	7	286
Ability to speak English:							
Very well.....	13	22	17	15	787	7	158
Well.....	10	9	-	3	239	-	79
Not well.....	11	5	3	10	166	-	46
Not at all.....	-	-	7	1	158	-	3
Persons 25 to 64 years old.....	107	256	435	137	4,413	86	1,423
Ability to speak English:							
Very well.....	25	116	331	62	1,968	71	930
Well.....	33	109	51	26	928	7	296
Not well.....	39	30	36	39	1,058	8	140
Not at all.....	11	1	17	10	459	-	56
Persons 65 years and over.....	8	59	239	18	467	119	548
Ability to speak English:							
Very well.....	-	5	142	6	92	96	331
Well.....	-	34	44	3	93	13	100
Not well.....	2	17	41	5	142	9	90
Not at all.....	7	4	12	3	139	-	26

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
(X) Not applicable.

Table 8. Literacy of Persons 14 Years Old and Over, by Age, Race, Nativity, and Parentage: November 1979

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age and literacy	Race			Nativity				
	Total ¹	White	Black	Total ²	Native of native parentage	Foreign birth or parentage		
						Total	Native of foreign or mixed parentage	Foreign born
All persons 14 years and over.....	170,398	148,969	18,337	170,398	133,516	30,858	19,999	10,859
Reported literacy.....	164,610	143,872	17,798	164,610	133,516	30,858	19,999	10,859
Percent reported able to read and write.....	99.40	99.56	98.40	99.40	99.49	99.06	99.54	98.17
Percent reported unable to read and write.....	0.60	0.44	1.60	0.60	0.51	0.94	0.46	1.83
Literacy not reported.....	5,788	5,097	539	5,788	-	-	-	-
Persons 14 to 24 years.....	43,943	37,244	5,825	43,943	38,297	4,172	2,519	1,653
Reported literacy.....	42,520	36,065	5,628	42,520	38,297	4,172	2,519	1,653
Percent reported able to read and write.....	99.81	99.82	99.77	99.81	99.86	99.30	99.84	98.50
Percent reported unable to read and write.....	0.19	0.18	0.23	0.19	0.14	0.70	0.16	1.50
Literacy not reported.....	1,423	1,179	197	1,423	-	-	-	-
Persons 25 to 44 years.....	59,385	51,703	6,411	59,385	49,370	8,200	4,163	4,037
Reported literacy.....	57,633	50,215	6,205	57,633	49,370	8,200	4,163	4,037
Percent reported able to read and write.....	99.68	99.73	99.47	99.68	99.73	99.40	99.57	99.23
Percent reported unable to read and write.....	0.32	0.27	0.53	0.32	0.27	0.60	0.43	0.77
Literacy not reported.....	1,752	1,488	206	1,752	-	-	-	-
Persons 45 to 64 years.....	43,498	38,726	4,109	43,498	31,158	10,661	8,067	2,594
Reported literacy.....	41,867	37,243	3,997	41,867	31,158	10,661	8,067	2,594
Percent reported able to read and write.....	99.22	99.45	97.38	99.22	99.20	99.32	99.57	98.58
Percent reported unable to read and write.....	0.78	0.55	2.62	0.78	0.80	0.68	0.43	1.42
Literacy not reported.....	1,631	1,483	112	1,631	-	-	-	-
Persons 65 years and over.....	23,572	21,296	1,992	23,572	14,691	7,825	5,250	2,575
Reported literacy.....	22,589	20,349	1,968	22,589	14,691	7,825	5,250	2,575
Percent reported able to read and write.....	98.27	98.89	93.17	98.27	98.32	98.24	99.39	95.88
Percent reported unable to read and write.....	1.73	1.11	6.83	1.73	1.68	1.76	0.61	4.12
Literacy not reported.....	983	947	24	983	-	-	-	-

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

¹Includes other races, not shown separately.²Includes persons not reporting nativity, not shown separately.

Appendix A.

Definitions and Explanations

Ancestry. The ancestry question in the November 1979 CPS was open-ended and worded "What is . . .'s ancestry?"; that is, no prelisted responses were provided. Persons were asked to report their ancestry (ethnic origin) based on self-identification. Ancestry refers to the nationality group, lineage, descent, or the country in which the person or person's parents or ancestors were born. Thus, persons reported their ancestry group regardless of the number of generations removed from their country of origin. Responses to the ancestry question reflect ethnic group(s) with which persons identified but did not necessarily indicate the degree of attachment or association the person had with the particular ethnic group(s).

Since ancestry was reported separately from race, a person indicating a particular ancestry could be of any race. The ancestry item, which was identical to that used in the 1980 census, was different from measures of ethnicity, such as country of birth and mother tongue, used by the Bureau in earlier censuses.

All responses to the ancestry question were manually coded with a coding procedure that allowed all single- and double-ancestry groups and 17 selected triple-origin groups to be identified. The following list of 17 unique triple-ancestry categories were selected because they were reported frequently in previous Census Bureau surveys.

- American Indian-English-French
- American Indian-English-German
- American Indian-English-Irish
- American Indian-German-Irish
- Dutch-French-Irish
- Dutch-German-Irish
- Dutch-Irish-Scotch (or Scottish)
- English-French-German
- English-French-Irish
- English-German-Irish
- English-German-Swedish
- English-Irish-Scotch (or Scottish)
- English-Scotch (or Scottish)-Welsh
- French-German-Irish
- German-Irish-Italian
- German-Irish-Scotch (or Scottish)
- German-Irish-Swedish

These combinations of ancestries were coded regardless of the order in which they were reported. Only the first and second origins were coded for all other responses consisting of three or more origins.

Persons reporting multiple ancestries may be included in more than one category in the tables. For example, a person reporting "English-Irish" was counted in both of these categories: "English and other group(s)" and "Irish and other group(s)." Persons reporting one of the unique triple-origin ancestries were tabulated in each of the three ancestry categories. The number of persons indicating two or more ancestries are shown in the "Multiple ancestry" category of the tables. A small number of persons reporting two Spanish ancestries, e.g., Puerto Rican and Mexican, are counted twice in the "Total" and "Multiple ancestry" columns for Spanish in table 1.

The Russian category shown in this report is not comparable to previous Current Population Surveys that collected data on ethnicity; in prior surveys, the Russian category included persons who reported Ukrainian as their origin, whereas, in this report, the Russian category excludes persons reporting Ukrainian as their origin.

Limited information on the categories American Indian, Afro-American, and American is provided in this report. However, further analysis is required for an adequate interpretation of the data relating to these groups. The large number of persons (10 million) reporting American Indian *ancestry* in the November 1979 CPS may reflect, in part, differences between the concepts of race and ancestry. First, the CPS ancestry figure of 10 million includes about 8 million persons who reported American Indian ancestry with other ancestry groups; most of these 8 million persons reported their race as White in the CPS. The number (2 million) who reported American Indian ancestry alone in the 1979 CPS exceeded the 1.4 million who reported racially as American Indian in the 1980 census.

Also, the difference between the count of the Afro-American and African ancestry group (15 million) from the November 1979 CPS and the March 1980 CPS count of Blacks (25 million) from the race item was greater than expected. On the basis of other Census Bureau experiences, one may reasonably suspect that the nonresponse rate for the ancestry item was relatively high for persons who identified as Black in the race item.

About 14 million persons provided a response of "American." If persons gave an initial response of "American" to the ancestry question, interviewers were instructed to explain that ancestry refers to the specific nationality of the person or his or her ancestors prior to their arrival in the United States. However, if the respondent still reported "American," then that response was accepted.

Mother tongue. An individual's mother tongue is the language spoken at home when the person was a child. An individual can have a non-English mother tongue without ever having been able to speak that language. The mother tongue question, "Was a language other than English spoken in . . . 's home when . . . was a child?," was only asked and tabulated for persons aged 14 years old and over. It is almost identical to the mother tongue question included in the 1970 census in a sample of 15 percent of households. Future reports on language from the November 1979 Current Population Survey will include tabulations showing persons under 14 years old by language currently spoken in their homes.

Current language. The household respondent was asked whether each person 5 years old or over currently spoke a language other than English at home. Persons able to speak a language other than English who did not do so at *home* were reported as speaking English only.

Ability to speak English. For each person 5 years old or over reported as speaking a language other than English at home, respondents were asked "Does . . . speak English—very well, well, not well, or not at all?" This and the current language question are identical to questions asked in the 1980 census.

Literacy. For every person aged 14 years and over who did not attend the sixth or a higher grade and who spoke at least some English, respondents were asked "Does . . . read and write English—easily, with difficulty, or not at all?" The three possible responses provided in this question distinguish it from literacy questions in previous censuses and surveys. For persons aged 14 or older reported as speaking a language other than English at home, respondents were asked: "Can . . . read and write that language?" In this report, only persons unable to read and write English at all or unable to read and write a language other than English which they also spoke at home were reported as unable to read and write. Persons who could not speak English at all were presumed to be unable to read and write English. All persons who attended the sixth or a higher grade were included among those tabulated as able to read and write.

Income. Family income in this survey tends to be lower than from other surveys since income is taken directly from data collected and tabulated within intervals. In surveys attempting to ascertain optimal estimates of total income, the individual responses to detailed sources of income questions for each family member are summed to obtain total income; then, total family income is derived by aggregating the total income of all family members.

Allocation of nonresponse for ethnic and language items in the supplement. Nonresponses to ancestry and mother tongue were not allocated during computer editing. Non-

responses to other ethnic and language items in the supplement were allocated based on information reported in related items. However, in cases where all the ethnic and language items were blank, none of the items in the supplement was allocated.

COMPARABILITY WITH OTHER DATA

1980 Census

The estimates from the November 1979 CPS may not agree with data from the 1980 Census of Population and Housing. The CPS estimates are based on population controls from the 1970 census which have been updated for changes in the population since that time. Also, the survey excludes inmates of institutions and all members of the Armed Forces.

The CPS and the 1980 census used different procedures for collecting and processing the data. For example, the information in the CPS was obtained through personal interviews. However, the 1980 census was conducted primarily through self-enumeration; questionnaires were mailed to householders who were asked to fill in the required information. Differences between census and CPS data for the ethnic and language items were also affected by inconsistent reporting by respondents and differences in computer editing for unacceptable or missing data.

1969 Current Population Survey

The data on ethnicity and language from the November 1979 CPS differ in some respects from those published from a similar supplement to the November 1969 CPS. Although the statistics on nativity, parentage, and mother tongue are comparable, the data for ancestry and current language are not comparable. In 1969, respondents were provided with a list of ethnic origins, and were asked to report only *one* ethnic origin. However, some respondents provided multiple-origin responses, which were included in the "other" category. Only single-origin responses were tabulated separately. In 1979, no prelisted categories were provided for the ancestry question; respondents could report single- or multiple-ancestry groups. (See "Ancestry" in this section for a description of procedures used to code and tabulate multiple-ancestry responses.)

Also, there are differences in the information on current language from the two surveys. In 1969, respondents were asked what was the language *usually* spoken in the home—responses could include English as well as any non-English language. In 1979, each respondent was asked whether he or she spoke a language *other than English* at home; responses could include only non-English languages. Therefore, the language *usually* spoken cannot be determined from the collected data in 1979.

Appendix B.

Source and Reliability of the Estimates

SOURCE OF DATA

The estimates in this report are based on data obtained in November 1979 from the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Bureau of the Census.

The monthly CPS deals mainly with labor force data for the civilian noninstitutional population. Questions relating to labor force participation are asked about each member 14 years old and over in every sample household. In addition, supplementary questions were asked in November 1979 about ethnicity and language. The items included ancestry, country of birth of the individual and parents, citizenship, year of immigration, mother tongue, current language spoken in the home, and ability to speak English. Questions on ability to read and write any language were also asked in this supplement. The CPS sample at the time of this report was initially selected from the 1970 census file and is updated continuously to reflect new constructions where possible. (See the section, "Nonsampling Variability.") The CPS sample in November 1979 was located in 614 areas comprising 1,113 counties, independent cities, and minor civil divisions in the Nation. In this sample, approximately 56,500 occupied households were eligible for interview. Of this number, about 2,500 occupied units were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason.

The estimation procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the total civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are based on statistics from decennial censuses; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

RELIABILITY OF SAMPLE ESTIMATES

Estimates based on a sample may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same questionnaires, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling and nonsampling. The standard errors provided for the report primarily indicate the magnitude of the sampling error. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in response and enumeration, but do not measure any

systematic biases in the data. The full extent of nonsampling error is unknown. Consequently, particular care should be exercised in the interpretation of figures based on a relatively small number of cases or on small differences between estimates.

Nonsampling variability. Nonsampling errors can be attributed to many sources, e.g., inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, inability or unwillingness on the part of the respondents to provide correct information, inability to recall information, errors made in collection such as in recording or coding the data, errors made in processing the data, errors made in estimating values for missing data, and failure to represent all units with the sample (undercoverage).

Undercoverage in the CPS results from missed housing units and missed persons within sample households. Overall undercoverage, as compared with the level of the 1970 decennial census, is about 5 percent. It is known that CPS undercoverage varies with age, sex, and race. Generally, undercoverage is larger for males than for females and larger for Blacks and other races than for Whites. Ratio estimation to independent age-sex-race population controls, as described previously, partially corrects for the bias due to survey undercoverage. However, biases exist in the estimates to the extent that missed persons in missed households or missed persons in interviewed households have different characteristics than interviewed persons in the same age-sex-race group. Further, the independent population controls used have not been adjusted for undercoverage in the 1970 census, which was estimated at 2.5 percent of the population, with similar undercoverage differentials by age, sex, and race as in CPS.

A coverage improvement sample was included in computing CPS estimates beginning in 1978 in order to provide coverage of mobile homes and new construction housing units which previously had no chance for selection in the sample. This sample is composed of approximately 450 sample housing units which represent 237,000 occupied mobile homes and 600,000 new construction housing units. These new construction units are composed of those units where building permits were issued prior to January 1970 and construction was not completed by the time of the 1970 census (i.e., April 1970). The inclusion of this coverage improvement sample in the CPS does not have a significant effect on the estimates. The extent of other sources of housing undercoverage is unknown but believed to be small.

Sampling variability. The standard errors given in the following tables are primarily measures of sampling variability, that is, of the variation that occurred by chance because a sample rather than the entire population was surveyed. The sample estimate and its estimated standard error enable one to construct confidence intervals - ranges that would include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, if all possible samples were selected, each of these were surveyed under essentially the same general conditions and using the same sample design, and an estimate and its estimated standard error were calculated from each sample, then:

1. Approximately 68 percent of the intervals from one standard error below the estimate to one standard error above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.
2. Approximately 90 percent of the intervals from 1.6 standard errors below the estimate to 1.6 standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.
3. Approximately 95 percent of the intervals from two standard errors below the estimate to two standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

The average estimate derived from all possible samples may or may not be contained in any particular computed interval. However, for a particular sample, one can say with a specified confidence that the average estimate derived from all possible samples is included in the confidence interval.

Standard errors may also be used to perform hypothesis testing, a procedure for distinguishing between population parameters using sample estimates. The most common types of hypotheses appearing in this report are 1) the population parameters are identical or 2) they are different. An example of this would be comparing the median age of persons reporting single ancestry versus those reporting multiple ancestry. Tests may be performed at various levels of significance, where a level of significance is the probability of concluding that the parameters are different when, in fact, they are identical.

All statements of comparison in the text have passed a hypothesis test at the 0.10 level of significance or better, and most have passed a hypothesis test at the 0.05 level of significance or better. This means that, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference between parameters is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. For other differences mentioned, the estimated difference between parameters is between 1.6 and 2.0 times the standard error of the difference. When this is the case, the statement of comparison will be qualified in some way, e.g., by use of the phrase "some evidence."

Note when using small estimates. Summary measures (such as percent distributions) are shown in the report only when

the base of the measure is 75,000 or greater. Because of the large standard errors involved, there is little chance that summary measures would reveal useful information when computed on a smaller base. Estimated numbers are shown, however, even though the relative standard errors of these numbers are larger than those for corresponding percentages. These smaller estimates are provided primarily to permit such combinations of the categories as serve each user's need.

STANDARD ERROR TABLES AND THEIR USE

In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a large number of estimates and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. Therefore, instead of providing an individual standard error for each estimate, generalized sets of standard errors are provided for various types of characteristics. As a result, the sets of standard errors provided give an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard error of an estimate rather than the precise standard error.

The figures in tables B-1 and B-2 provide approximations to standard errors of estimated numbers and estimated percentages. Standard errors for intermediate values not shown in the generalized tables of standard errors may be approximated by linear interpolation. Estimated standard errors for specific characteristics cannot be obtained from tables B-1 or B-2 without the use of factors in table B-3. These factors must be applied to the generalized standard errors in order to adjust for the combined effect of sample design and estimating procedure on the value of the characteristic.

Two parameters (denoted "a" and "b") are used to calculate standard errors for each type of characteristic; they are presented in table B-4. These parameters were used to calculate the standard errors in tables B-1 and B-2, and to calculate the factors in table B-3. They also may be used to directly calculate the standard errors for estimated numbers and percentages. Methods for direct computation are given in the following sections.

Table B-1. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers

(68 chances out of 100. Numbers in thousands)

Size of estimate	Standard error
75.....	19
100.....	21
250.....	34
500.....	48
1,000.....	67
2,500.....	106
5,000.....	149
10,000.....	208
25,000.....	316
35,000.....	363
50,000.....	414
75,000.....	462
100,000.....	476
150,000.....	410
180,000.....	279

Table B-2. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages

(68 chances out of 100)

Base of estimated percentage (thousands)	Estimated percentage				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
75.....	3.5	5.4	7.4	10.7	12.3
100.....	3.0	4.7	6.4	9.3	10.7
250.....	1.9	2.9	4.1	5.9	6.8
500.....	1.3	2.1	2.9	4.1	4.8
1,000.....	0.9	1.5	2.0	2.9	3.4
2,500.....	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.9	2.1
5,000.....	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.5
10,000.....	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.1
25,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7
35,000.....	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6
50,000.....	0.13	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
75,000.....	0.11	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
100,000.....	0.09	0.15	0.2	0.3	0.3
200,000.....	0.07	0.10	0.14	0.2	0.2

Table B-3. Factors to Be Applied to Generalized Standard Errors in Tables B-1 and B-2

Type of characteristic	Factor
Total single and multiple ancestry by age, marital status, household and family, residence, Mother tongue, current language.....	1.0
Years of school completed, literacy, ability to speak English:	
Race:	
Total or White.....	0.7
Black.....	0.8
Ethnic origin (foreign born, native of foreign or mixed parentage).....	0.8
Income, employment, unemployment, not in labor force.....	0.7

Standard errors of estimates numbers. The approximate standard error, σ_x , of an estimated number shown in this report can be obtained in two ways. It may be obtained by use of the formula

$$\sigma_x = f\sigma \quad (1)$$

where f is the appropriate factor from table B-3, and σ is the standard error on the estimate obtained by interpolation from table B-1. Alternatively, standard errors may be approximated by the following formula (2) from which the standard errors were calculated in table B-1. Use of this formula will provide more accurate results than the use of formula (1) above.

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{ax^2 + bx} \quad (2)$$

Here x is the size of the estimate and a and b are the parameters in table B-4 associated with the particular type of characteristic. When calculating standard errors for numbers

Table B-4. "a" and "b" Parameters for Estimated Numbers and Percentages

Type of characteristic	Parameters	
	a	b
Total single and multiple ancestry by age, marital status, household and family, residence, mother tongue, current language.....	-0.000023	4,571
Years of school completed, literacy, ability to speak English:		
Race:		
Total or White.....	-0.000016	2,064
Black.....	-0.000186	2,792
Ethnic origin (foreign born, native of foreign or mixed parentage).....	-0.000019	3,033
Income, employment, unemployment, not in labor force.....	-0.000017	2,423

from cross-tabulations involving different characteristics, use the factor or set of parameters for the characteristic which will give the largest standard error.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of an estimated number. Table C shows that in November 1979 there were 96,496,000 persons reporting a specific single ancestry. Using formula (2) with $a = -0.000023$ and $b = 4571$ from table B-4, the approximate standard error¹ is

$$\sqrt{-0.000023(96,496,000)^2 + 4571(96,496,000)} \doteq 476,000$$

¹Using formula (1), the appropriate factor from table B-3 (1.0) and table B-1, the approximate standard error is $1.0 \times 474,000 = 474,000$.

The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from the average of all possible samples by less than 476,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from the average of all possible samples by less than 952,000 (twice the standard error), i.e., the 95-percent confidence interval for number of persons reporting single ancestry is from 95,544,000 to 97,448,000.

Standard errors of estimated percentages. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more. When the numerator and denominator of the percentage are in different categories, use the factor or parameters from table B-3 or B-4 indicated by the numerator. The approximate standard error, $\sigma_{(x,p)}$, of an estimated percentage can be obtained by use of the formula

$$\sigma_{(x,p)} = f\sigma \quad (3)$$

In this formula, f is the appropriate factor from table B-3, and σ is the standard error on the estimate from table B-2. Alternatively, standard errors may be approximated by formula (4), from which standard errors in table B-2 were calculated; direct computation will give more accurate results than use of the standard error tables and the factors.

$$\sigma_{(x,p)} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{x} \cdot p(100-p)} \quad (4)$$

Here x is the size of the subclass of persons, families and unrelated individuals, households, or householders which is the base of the percentage, p is the percentage ($0 \leq p \leq 100$), and b is the parameter in table B-4 associated with the particular type of characteristic in the numerator of the percentage.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a percentage. Table C shows that of the 96,496,000 persons reporting a specific single ancestry in November 1979, 27.2 percent were of foreign birth or parentage. From table B-4, the appropriate b parameter is 4571. Using formula (4), the approximate standard error on 27.2 percent is

$$\sqrt{\frac{4571}{96,496,000} (27.2)(72.8)} \doteq 0.3 \text{ percent}^2$$

Consequently, the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated percent would be within 0.3 percentage points of the average of all possible samples. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 0.6 percentage points

of the average of all possible samples, i.e., the 95-percent confidence interval for the percentage of persons reporting single ancestry that were of foreign birth or parentage is from 26.6 to 27.8 percent.

Standard error of a difference. For a difference between two sample estimates, the standard error is approximately equal to

$$\sigma_{(x-y)} = \sqrt{\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2} \quad (5)$$

where σ_x and σ_y are the standard errors of the estimates x and y ; the estimates can be of numbers, percents, ratios, etc. This will represent the actual standard errors quite accurately for the difference between two estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive (negative) correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate (underestimate) the true standard error.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference. As stated earlier, table C shows that in November 1979, 27.2 percent of persons reporting a single ancestry were of foreign birth or parentage. Table C also shows that 8.8 percent of persons reporting a multiple ancestry (82,582,000) were of foreign birth or parentage. Thus, the apparent difference between the percent of persons reporting single ancestry and multiple ancestry of foreign birth or parentage, is 18.4 percent. Using formula (4) and the appropriate b parameter (4571) from table B-4, the approximate standard error on the 8.8 percent is 0.2 percent. Therefore, using formula (5), the standard error of the estimated difference of 18.4 percent is about

$$\sqrt{(0.3)^2 + (0.2)^2} \doteq 0.4 \text{ percent}$$

This means that the 68-percent confidence interval for the difference between the percent of persons reporting as single ancestry and multiple ancestry of foreign birth or parentage is from 18.0 to 18.8 percent, and the 95-percent confidence interval is from 17.6 to 19.2 percent.

Standard error of a median. The sampling variability of an estimated median depends upon the form of the distribution as well as the size of its base. An approximate method for measuring the reliability of a median is to determine a confidence interval about it. (See the section on sampling variability for a general discussion of confidence intervals.) The following procedure may be used to estimate the 68-percent confidence limits of a median based on sample data.

1. Determine, using formula (3) or formula (4) and the appropriate base, the standard error on a 50-percent characteristic;
2. Add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error determined in step (1);

²Using formula (3), the appropriate factor from table B-3 (1.0) and table B-2, the approximate standard error is also 0.3 percent.

3. Using the distribution of the characteristic, calculate the confidence interval corresponding to the two points established in step (2). These values will be the limits for the confidence interval.

A 95-percent confidence interval may be determined by finding the values corresponding to 50 percent plus and minus twice the standard error determined in step (1).

Illustration of the computation of a confidence interval for a Median. Table 2 of this report shows that in November 1979 the median age of persons reporting their single ancestry as German was 37.1 years. The base of the distribution from which the median was determined is 17,160,000 persons.

1. Using formula (4) and the parameter from table B-4, the standard error of 50 percent on a base of 17,160,000 is about 0.8 percent.
2. To obtain a 95-percent confidence interval on the estimated median, add to and subtract from 50 percent twice

the standard error found in step (1). This yields percentage limits 48.4 and 51.6.

3. From table 2 it can be determined that 47.3 percent reporting German as their single ancestry were younger than 35 years old and 13.3 percent were 35 to 44 years old. By linear interpolation, the lower limit of the estimate is found to be about

$$35.0 + (45.0 - 35.0) \left(\frac{48.4 - 47.3}{13.3} \right) = 35.8$$

Similarly, the upper limit is found to be about

$$35.0 + (45.0 - 35.0) \left(\frac{51.6 - 47.3}{13.3} \right) = 38.2$$

Thus, the 95-percent confidence interval for the median age of persons reporting German as their single ancestry is 35.8 to 38.2 years.

