

# HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

### Chapter 3. Households and Families

The household structure of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands differs from that found in the United States because of the more traditional life-style of extended families and frequent movements between households. This different kind of structure is seen in the census data.

The Census Bureau uses particular definitions for households, families, and the relationships of the individuals in them, and these conventions do not always correspond exactly to the configuration of households and families in the CNMI.

In 1980, the Census Bureau defined a household as including all the persons who occupied a housing unit. A housing unit was a house, an apartment, a group of rooms, or a single room, occupied as a separate living quarters or, if vacant, intended for occupancy as a separate living quarters. Separate living quarters were those in which the occupants lived and ate separately from any other persons in the building and which had direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. The occupants could be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who shared living arrangements.

The actual classification of a housing unit as a household depended on entries in question 2 and item B on the census questionnaire. Item B on type of unit or quarters was filled by an enumerator or a census office clerk for each housing unit or group quarters.

The measure "persons per household" was obtained by dividing the number of persons in households by the number of households (or householders).

#### RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLDER

The data on relationship to householder were obtained from answers to question 2, which was asked of all persons in housing units.

When relationship was not reported for an individual, it was allocated according to the responses for age and marital status for that person while maintaining consistency with responses for other individuals in the household.

The following types of relationships were defined:

**Householder.** One person in each household was designated as the "householder." In most cases, this was the person, or one of the persons, in whose name the home was owned or rented or was associated with and who was listed in column 1 of the census questionnaire. If there was no such person in the household, any adult household member could be designated as the "householder." Two types of householders were distinguished - a family householder and a nonfamily householder. A family householder was a householder living with one or more persons related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. The householder and all persons in the household related to him or her were family members. A nonfamily householder was a householder living alone or with nonrelatives only.

Spouse. A spouse was a person married to and living with a householder. This category included persons in formal marriages as well as persons consensually married.

Child. A child was a son, daughter, stepchild, or adopted child of the householder, regardless of the child's age or marital status. The category excluded sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. "Own children" were sons and daughters, including stepchildren and adopted children of the householder who were single (never married) and under 18 years of age.

The number of children "living with two parents" included stepchildren and adopted children as well as sons and daughters born to the couple.

"Related children" in a family included own children and all other persons under 18 years of age in the household, regardless of marital status, who were related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption, except the spouse of the householder.

Other relative. Any other relative was any person related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption, and who was not shown separately in the particular table (e.g., "spouse," "child," "brother or sister," or "parent").

Nonrelative. A nonrelative any was person in the household not related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Roomers, boarders, roommates, paid employees, wards, and foster children were included in this category.

#### FAMILY

A family consisted of a householder and one or more other other persons who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All persons in a household who were related to the householder were regarded as members of his or her family. A "married-couple family" was a family in which the householder and spouse were enumerated as members of the same household. Not all households contained families because a household might have been composed of a group of unrelated persons or one person living alone. The measure "persons per family" was obtained by dividing the number of persons in families by the total number of families (or family householders).

#### GROUP QUARTERS

All persons not living in households were classified by the Bureau of the Census as living in group quarters. Two general categories of persons in group quarters were recognized:

**Inmates of Institutions.** Persons under care or custody in institutions at the time of enumeration were classified as "Patients or inmates" of an institution regardless of their length of stay in that place and regardless of the number of people in that place. Institutions included homes, schools, hospitals, or wards for the physically or mentally handicapped; hospitals or wards for mental, tubercular, or chronic disease patients; homes for unmarried mothers; nursing, convalescent, and rest homes for the aged and dependent; orphanages; and correctional institutions.

**Other.** The "other" category included all persons living in group quarters who were not inmates of institutions. Rooming and boarding houses, convents and monasteries, and other living quarters were classified as "other" group quarters if there were 9 or more persons unrelated to the person listed in column 1 of the census questionnaire or if 10 or more unrelated persons shared the unit. Persons residing in certain other types of living arrangements were classified as living in "other" group quarters regardless of the number or relationship of people in the unit. These included persons residing in military barracks, on ships, or in college dormitories; patients in general or maternity wards of hospitals who had no usual residence elsewhere; staff members in institutional quarters; and persons enumerated in missions, flophouses, etc.

Of the 16,780 persons in the Northern Mariana Islands in 1980, 16,234 (96.7 percent) were living in households, and the remaining 546 were living in group quarters (Tables 3.1 and 3.2). There were 3028 households in 1980, 2652 (87.6 percent) being family households, households with a householder and at least one other relatives, and 376 being nonfamily households.

Table 3.1. Household Relationship by Birthplace: 1980

Relationship	Numbers			Percent		
	Total	CNMI born	Not CNMI	Total	CNMI born	Not CNMI
In Households.....	16234	11953	4281	100.0	100.0	100.0
Householder.....	3028	1855	1173	18.7	15.5	27.4
Family.....	2652	1752	900	16.3	14.7	21.0
Male non-family.....	292	60	232	1.8	.5	5.4
Female non-family.....	84	43	41	.5	.4	1.0
Spouse.....	2113	1394	719	13.0	11.7	16.8
Child.....	7822	6662	1160	48.2	55.7	27.1
Grandchild.....	1002	896	106	6.2	7.5	2.5
Parent.....	120	83	37	.7	.7	.9
Other relatives.....	1338	865	473	8.2	7.2	11.0
Nonrelatives.....	811	198	613	5.0	1.7	14.3

Source: PC80-1-C/D57A, Table 24

There were 2113 married-couple families because there were 2113 spouses. There were more than 500 families in which no spouse was present, indicating the diversity of households in the CNMI. Also, as shown in the chapters on age and sex, and fertility, the population is youthful. This finding is reinforced by the fact that almost half the population living in households were "children", that more than half of those born in the CNMI were children in households (twice the percentage as for those born outside the CNMI.) More than 6 percent of the CNMI population in households were recorded as "grandchildren", less than 1 percent as parent, and more than 8 percent as other relatives.

Only 40 of the 546 persons (7.3 percent) living in group quarters were born in the CNMI. In fact, 437 (80 percent) were persons born in the Philippines - 436 of these lived in "other" noninmate group quarters, and 1 was a prisoner. Most of the CNMI born living in group quarters were inmates, whereas most of those born elsewhere were noninmates.

Table 3.2. Persons in Group Quarters by Birthplace: 1980

Type of Quarters	Numbers			Percent		
	Total	CNMI born	Not CNMI	Total	CNMI born	Not CNMI
In group quarters...	546	40	506	100.0	100.0	100.0
Inmates.....	39	33	6	7.1	82.5	1.2
Correctional facility.	11	9	2	2.0	22.5	.4
Other.....	28	24	4	5.1	60.0	.8
Noninmates.....	507	7	500	92.9	17.5	98.8
Military quarters.....	7	0	7	1.3	0.0	1.4
College dormitory.....	17	0	17	3.1	0.0	3.4
Other.....	483	7	476	88.5	17.5	94.1

Source: PC80-1-C/D57A, Table 24

Persons living in group quarters had a different age distribution than those living in households. Altogether, persons living in group quarters were 5 percent of the total population 15 years and over (Table 3.3).

Although less than 1 percent of those 15 to 19 years old were living in group quarters, 10 percent of those 35 to 44 were staying in group quarters as were 9 percent of those in the 45 to 54 year old age group. Since most of these were born in the Philippines the impact of group quarters living must be considered in infrastructure planning in the CNMI.

Table 3.3. Persons Staying in Group Quarters by Age: 1980

Household type	Total	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	45-	55-	60-	65+
		19	24	29	34	44	54	59	64	
Persons, 15+..	9975	1703	1512	1463	1303	1688	1156	388	267	495
In group quarters.	543	10	69	81	79	168	109	15	6	6
Percent.....	5.4	.6	4.6	5.5	6.1	10.0	9.4	3.9	2.2	1.2

Source: PC80-1-C/D57A, Table 19

The average household size in the Northern Mariana Islands in 1980 was 5.3 persons (Table 3.4). Saipan and Rota both had 5.3 persons per household, while there were 5.6 persons per household on Tinian, and 8.0 for the Northern Islands. The distribution of relationship across the islands did not vary very much. Almost 97 percent of the population were living in households in 1980. Less than 1 in 5 were householders, and about 3 in 5 were other relatives.

Table 3.4. Household Type and Relationship: 1980

Relationship	Numbers				Total	Percent			
	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N. Is.	N. Is.		Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	Tin-ian	N. Is.
Total.....	14549	1261	866	104	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In households.....	14062	1233	835	104	96.7	96.7	97.8	96.4	100.0
Householder.....	2632	233	150	13	18.0	18.1	18.5	17.3	12.5
Spouse.....	1841	146	116	10	12.6	12.7	11.6	13.4	9.6
Other relatives.....	8906	780	524	72	61.3	61.2	61.9	60.5	69.2
Nonrelatives.....	683	74	45	9	4.8	4.7	5.9	5.2	8.7
Inmate of institution...	39	0	0	0	.2	.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other, in group quarter.	448	28	31	0	3.0	3.1	2.2	3.6	0.0
Persons per household...	5.3	5.3	5.6	8.0	...	...	...	...	...

Source: PC80-1-B57A, Table 15

By breaking the distribution of the population in households into family and nonfamily households, the average family size can be determined (Table

3.5). The average family size for the CNMI in 1980 was 6, and varied from 6 for Saipan to 9 for the Northern Islands. About 93 percent of the CNMI population in 1980 lived in family households (although 101 of the 104 persons in the Northern Islands lived in these households). Less than 4 percent of the population in 1980 were in nonfamily households, although this was true for more than 5 percent of the households on Rota.

Table 3.5. Persons by Household Relationship: 1980

Relationship	Numbers				Total	Percent			
	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N.ian	N.Is.		Sai-pan	Rota	Tin-ian	N.Is.
Total.....	14549	1261	866	104	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Family household.....	13529	1165	802	101	92.9	93.0	92.4	92.6	97.1
Family householder...	2320	188	133	11	15.8	15.9	14.9	15.4	10.6
Spouse.....	1841	146	116	10	12.6	12.7	11.6	13.4	9.6
Other relatives.....	8906	780	524	72	61.3	61.2	61.9	60.5	69.2
Nonrelatives.....	462	51	29	8	3.3	3.2	4.0	3.3	7.7
Nonfamily household....	533	68	33	3	3.8	3.7	5.4	3.8	2.9
Male householder.....	242	33	15	2	1.7	1.7	2.6	1.7	1.9
Female householder...	70	12	2	0	.5	.5	1.0	.2	0.0
Nonrelatives.....	221	23	16	1	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.0
Group Quarters.....	487	28	31	0	3.3	3.3	2.2	3.6	0.0
Inmate of institution	39	0	0	0	.2	.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others.....	448	28	31	0	3.0	3.1	2.2	3.6	0.0

Source: Summary Tape File 3, Table 19

About 88 percent of all households were family households; 65 percent of all households were family households with own children (Table 3.6). More than 2 out of 3 of all households were married-couple households, but more than 1 in 10 were family households with a female householder and no husband present. About 1 in 8 of all households were nonfamily households.

Rota had the smallest percentage of family households (at 81 percent), and also had the smallest percentages with own children and married couple families.

Table 3.6. Family Type by Presence of Own Children: 1980

Relationship	Numbers				Percent				
	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N.ian	N.Is.	Total	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N.ian	N.Is.
All households.....	2632	233	150	13	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Family household.....	2320	188	133	11	87.6	88.1	80.7	88.7	84.6
With own children....	1727	131	101	10	65.0	65.6	56.2	67.3	76.9
Without own children.	593	57	32	1	22.6	22.5	24.5	21.3	7.7
Married-couple fam....	1841	146	116	10	69.8	69.9	62.7	77.3	76.9
Male Hh, no wife pres.	193	17	7	1	7.2	7.3	7.3	4.7	7.7
Female Hh, no husb pres.	286	25	10	0	10.6	10.9	10.7	6.7	0.0
Nonfamily household.....	312	45	17	2	12.4	11.9	19.3	11.3	15.4

Source: Summary Tape File 3, Table 20

About 3 out of every 4 family households in 1980 had own children under 18 (Table 3.7). Again, Rota had the smallest proportion of these families - only 7 out of 10, while 10 of the 11 family households in the Northern Islands had own children.

Table 3.7. Family Type by Presence of Own Children: 1980

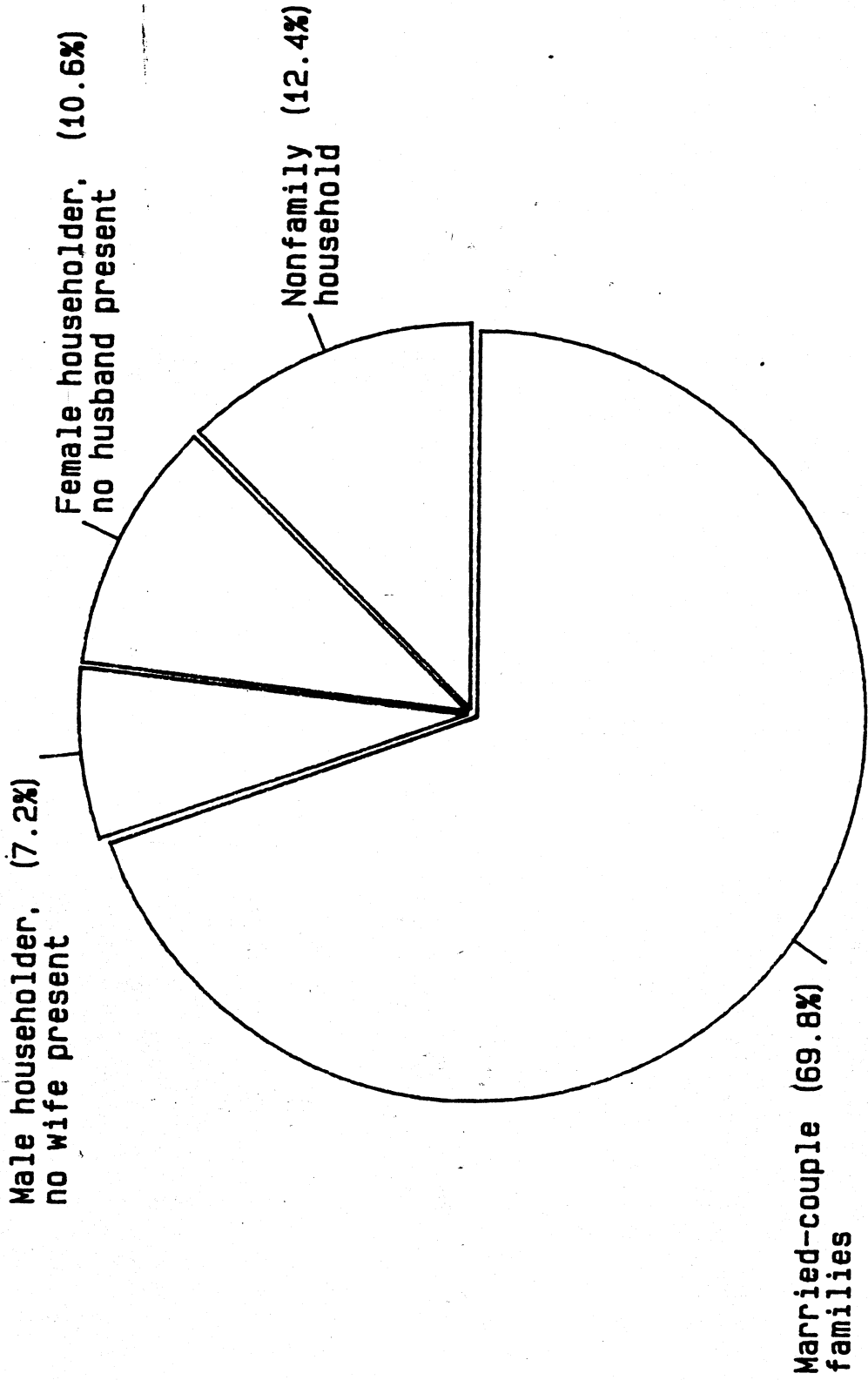
Relationship	Numbers				Percent				
	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N.ian	N.Is.	Total	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N.ian	N.Is.
Family households..	2320	188	133	11	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With own children.....	1727	131	101	10	74.2	74.4	69.7	75.9	90.9
Without own children....	593	57	32	1	25.8	25.6	30.3	24.1	9.1

Source: Summary Tape File 3, Table 20

Although 3 out of 4 households had own children under 18, less than half of the family households had own children under 6 (Table 3.8). About 8 out 10 married couple families had own children under 18, compared to somewhat more than half of the households with a female householder and no husband present, and less than half of the households with a male householder having no wife present.

FIGURE 3.1

Family Type: 1980



Although less than half of the CNMI family households had own children in 1980, more than half of the married-couple families had own children under 6. Only 1 in 5 households which were not married-couple households had own children under 6.

Table 3.8. Type of Family Household by Presence of Own Children: 1980

Family households	With Own Children		Percent		
	Type of Household	Under 18	Under 6	Under 18	Under 6
Family households.....	2652	1969	1237	74.2	46.6
Married-couple families....	2113	1691	1128	80.0	53.4
Male Hh, no wife present...	218	97	41	44.5	18.8
Female Hh, no husband pres.	321	181	68	56.4	21.2

Source: PC80-1-B57A, Table 15

As would be expected, most of the persons under 18 years old were children (Table 3.9). More than 8 in 10 were own children, and more than 7 in 10 were own children in married-couple families. Another 18 percent were "other relatives", so most of the persons under 18 were related to their householder in some way. Less than 2 percent were non-relatives or living in group quarters.

Table 3.9. Household Type and Relationship for Persons under 18: 1980

Relationship	Numbers				Percent				
	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N.ian	N.Is.	Total	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N.ian	N.Is.
Total.....	6813	584	435	66	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Householder or spouse...	13	2	0	0	.2	.2	.3	0.0	0.0
Own child.....	5446	470	363	62	80.3	79.9	80.5	83.4	93.9
In married-couple fam.	4729	432	332	59	70.3	69.4	74.0	76.3	89.4
W/ fmle Hhld, no husb.	473	33	13	0	6.6	6.9	5.7	3.0	0.0
Other relatives.....	1253	107	64	0	18.0	18.4	18.3	14.7	0.0
Nonrelatives.....	98	5	8	4	1.5	1.4	.9	1.8	6.1
In group quarters.....	3	0	0	0	.0	.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: PC80-1-B57A, Table 15

More than half of those over 65 were either householders or spouses in 1980 (Table 3.10). More than 4 in 10 were householders, with more than twice

as many male householders as females householders. About 3 in 10 of the other persons 65 years and over were recorded as "other" relatives. Again, only 4 percent were listed as nonrelatives, again attesting to the string of family ties in the society. Only 1 percent lived in group quarters.

Although there was only 1 person 65 years and over in the Northern Islands, the distributions did not vary very much for the other islands. The percentage of elderly spouses was greater on Rota and Tinian than on Saipan, and the proportion of "other" relatives was much higher on Saipan than either Rota or Tinian, which may indicate that some persons were moving from Rota and Tinian to stay with relatives, perhaps to be closer to health care services and other amenities. The percentage of nonrelatives on Tinian was greater than on the other islands.

The percentage of elderly nonfamily households was higher on Rota and Tinian than on Saipan, particularly households with female householders. Only Saipan had elderly living in group quarters.

Table 3.10. Household Type and Relationship for Persons 65 Yrs and Over: 1980

Relationship	Numbers				Percent				
	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N.ian	N.Is.	Total	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	N.ian	N.Is.
Persons 65 yrs +...	399	62	33	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Family h/h:									
Male....	122	16	10	0	29.9	30.6	25.8	30.3	0.0
Female..	49	7	4	0	12.1	12.3	11.3	12.1	0.0
Spouse.....	57	11	6	1	15.2	14.3	17.7	18.2	100.0
Other relatives.....	127	11	7	0	29.3	31.8	17.7	21.2	0.0
Nonrelatives.....	15	4	3	0	4.4	3.8	6.5	9.1	0.0
Nonfamily h/h:									
Male....	9	4	2	0	3.0	2.3	6.5	6.1	0.0
Female..	14	9	1	0	4.8	3.5	14.5	3.0	0.0
Inmate of institution...	4	0	0	0	.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other, in group quarters	2	0	0	0	.4	.5	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: PC80-1-B57A, Table 15

Finally, Table 3.11 shows the distribution of the population by size of household. Although the majority of households had between 2 and 7 persons, there were a few very large households, and some people living alone. Although 8 percent of the households were a single person living alone, almost 15 percent of the households on Rota were in this category (but only 5 percent of those on Tinian.)

At the other extreme, 35 households in the Northern Mariana Islands in 1980 had 15 or more persons.

Table 3.11. Households By Persons in Households: 1980

Persons	Numbers				Percent				
	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	ian	N. Is.	Total	Sai-pan	Tin-Rota	ian	N. Is.
Total.....	2632	233	150	13	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 person.....	210	34	7	1	8.3	8.0	14.6	4.7	7.7
2 persons.....	309	25	23	2	11.9	11.7	10.7	15.3	15.4
3 persons.....	328	24	13	0	12.1	12.5	10.3	8.7	0.0
4 persons.....	359	12	18	0	12.8	13.6	5.2	12.0	0.0
5 persons.....	331	31	20	0	12.6	12.6	13.3	13.3	0.0
6 persons.....	270	28	19	1	10.5	10.3	12.0	12.7	7.7
7 persons.....	294	29	17	1	11.3	11.2	12.4	11.3	7.7
8 persons.....	148	16	9	3	5.8	5.6	6.9	6.0	23.1
9 persons.....	86	8	7	2	3.4	3.3	3.4	4.7	15.4
10 persons.....	94	6	6	1	3.5	3.6	2.6	4.0	7.7
11 persons.....	62	11	3	0	2.5	2.4	4.7	2.0	0.0
12 persons.....	58	1	1	0	2.0	2.2	.4	.7	0.0
13 persons.....	31	4	3	0	1.3	1.2	1.7	2.0	0.0
14 persons.....	22	3	1	1	.9	.8	1.3	.7	7.7
15 or more persons.....	30	1	3	1	1.2	1.1	.4	2.0	7.7

Source: Summary Tape File 3, Table 18

The household and family structure reflects both the traditional life-style in the islands, and a move toward nuclear families as the commonwealth industrializes and becomes more "Western" in its thinking and planning.

FIGURE 3.2

# Households by Persons in Households: 1980

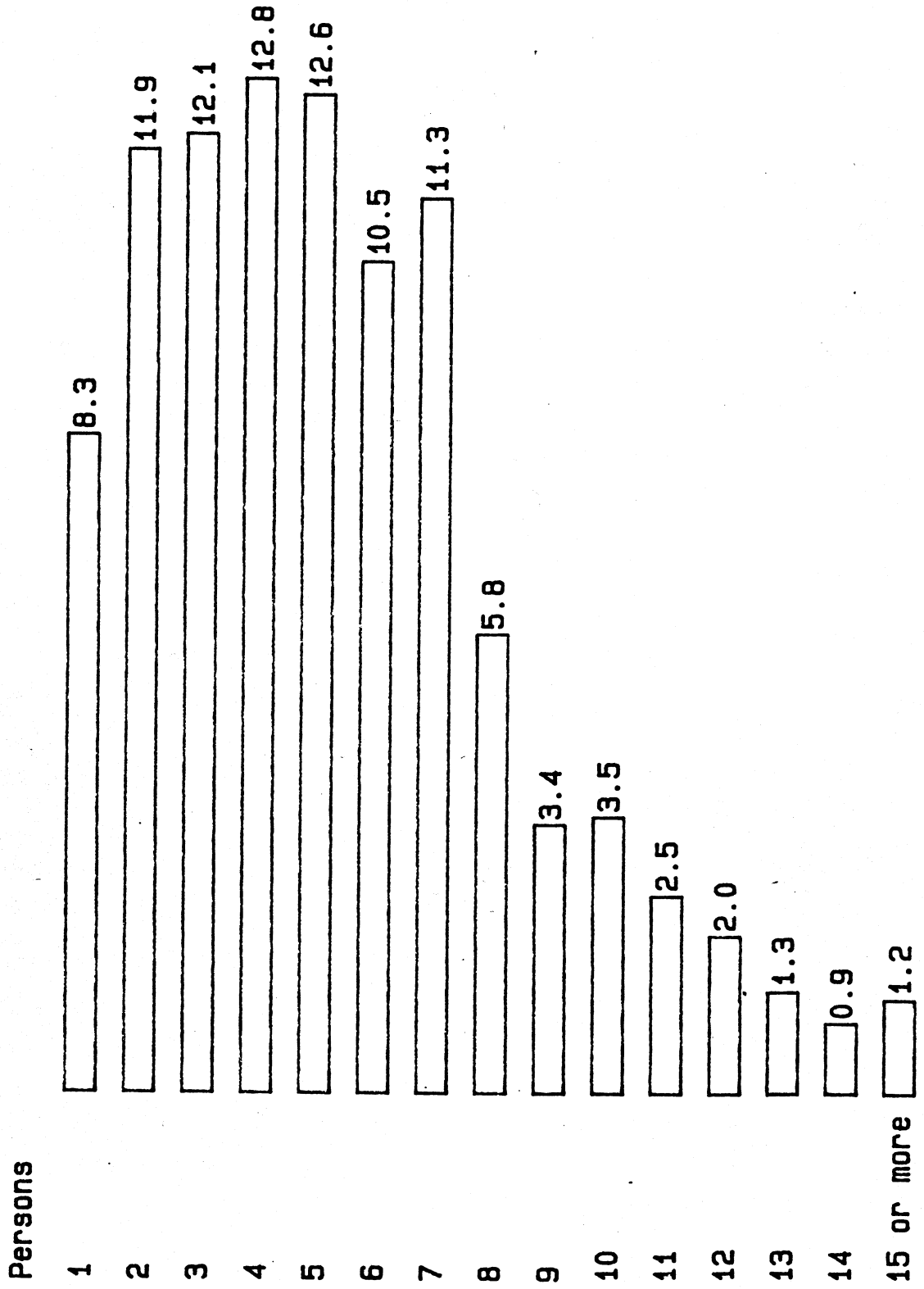


FIGURE 3.3 PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD BY DISTRICT: 1980

