

NOTICE TO USERS

Last year, the Census Bureau announced its intention to offer more information in electronic format while reducing the number of printed reports. This change is now being implemented for the P20 Current Population Reports series. Many P20 reports, such as the Household and Family Characteristics report, will now be printed every other year.

Instead, to keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey, short data updates will be produced each year and made available in both printed and electronic forms. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic form on the Internet. If you wish to obtain the new tabulations for March 1996, updating *Household and Family Characteristics: March 1995* (Current Population Reports, P20-488), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section at the end of this update.

Our decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately, we hope this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. If you have comments about this change or the P20 series in general, please contact us on the Internet at: pop@census.gov, or write to: Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available which provide statistics on the composition of households and families in the United States, based on the March 1996 Current Population Survey. These tables provide information such as:

- The average number of people per household was 2.65.
- Married couples with their own children under age 18 accounted for 25 percent of all households.
- 29.2 million households were maintained by women with no husband present (29 percent of all households).
- 32 percent of all family groups with children were single-parent situations.
- People living alone made up 25 percent of all households.

DETAILED TABULATIONS

The tables include 18 detailed tables (175 pages), 10 historical tables, and 2 summary tables, providing demographic characteristics of families and households by race and Hispanic origin. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet in portable document format using the Adobe Acrobat reader, at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, click on *Subjects A-Z*, then on *Households and Families*.

A paper version of these tables, along with related historical tables, is available as PPL-66 for \$39.00. To receive a paper copy, send your request for "PPL-66, Household and Family Characteristics: March 1996 (Update)," along with a check or money order in the amount of \$39.00 payable to **Commerce-Census-88-00-9010**, to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. A copy of these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this update. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

For additional information on this topic, contact Fertility and Family Statistics Branch, on 301-457-2465, or via Internet e-mail (moconnel@census.gov).

The data in the detailed tables are from the March 1996 Current Population Survey. All survey data are subject to sampling variability as well as survey design flaws, respondent classification errors, and data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors. However, because of methodological differences, use caution when comparing these data with data from other sources. For information on the source of the data, the accuracy of the estimates, the use of standard errors, and the computation of standard errors for estimates, see the section on "Source and Accuracy" on the Internet (<http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/1996/ssrcacc.htm>). For additional information, contact Andrew Zbikowski, Demographic Statistical Methods Division, on (301) 457-4200 or via Internet e-mail (andrew.a.zbikowski@cmail.census.gov).