

Current Population Survey (CPS), March Supplement

Family Structure

Variable Notes

1 **Nonfamily Householder.** A nonfamily householder (formerly called a primary individual) is a person maintaining a household while living alone or with nonrelatives only.

2 **Secondary Individuals.** A secondary individual is a roomer, boarder, or resident employee with no relatives in the household, or a group quarters member who has no relatives living with him/her.

Family. A family is a group of two persons or more (one of whom is the householder) residing together and related by birth, marriage, or adoption. All such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. Beginning with the 1980 CPS, unrelated subfamilies (referred to in the past as secondary families) are no longer included in the count of families, nor are the members of unrelated subfamilies included in the count of family members.

Subfamily:

3 **Related Subfamily.** A related subfamily is a married couple with or without children, or one parent with one or more own single (never married) children under 18 years old, living in a household and related to, but not including, the householder or spouse. The most common example of a related subfamily is a young married couple sharing the home of the husband's or wife's parents. The number of related subfamilies is not included in the number of families.

Unrelated Subfamily. An unrelated subfamily is a family that does not include among its members the householder and relatives of the householder. Members of unrelated subfamilies may include persons such as guests, roomers, boarders, or resident employees and their relatives living in a household. The number of unrelated subfamily members is included in the number of household members but is not included in the count of family members. Persons living with relatives in group quarters were formerly considered as members of families; however, the number of such unrelated subfamilies is so small that persons in these unrelated subfamilies are included in the count of secondary individuals.

4 **Own Child.** A child related by birth, marriage, or adoption to the family householder.

5 All persons from FHEADIDX through FLASTIDX are members of this family. (Primary family includes related subfamily members.)

6 FHEADIDX through FMLASIDX are members of this family. (Primary family excludes subfamily members.)

7 Excludes children under 18 who are family reference people or are the spouse of a family reference person.

For more information on parent pointer, see a working paper by Rose Kreider.

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps08/twps08.pdf>

This project was supported with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, grant number 5 UOI AE000001-03. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the Federal government.

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