

THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE 1980s

A Census Monograph Series

REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN
GROWTH AND DECLINE
IN THE UNITED STATES

William H. Frey
and
Alden Speare, Jr.

for the
National Committee for Research
on the 1980 Census

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Foreword

Regional and Metropolitan Growth and Decline in the United States is one of an ambitious series of volumes aimed at converting the vast statistical yield of the 1980 census into authoritative analyses of major changes and trends in American life. This series, "The Population of the United States in the 1980s," represents an important episode in social science research and revives a long tradition of independent census analysis. First in 1930, and then again in 1950 and 1960, teams of social scientists worked with the U.S. Bureau of the Census to investigate significant social, economic, and demographic developments revealed by the decennial censuses. These census projects produced three landmark series of studies, providing a firm foundation and setting a high standard for our present undertaking.

There is, in fact, more than a theoretical continuity between those earlier census projects and the present one. Like those previous efforts, this new census project has benefited from close cooperation between the Census Bureau and a distinguished, interdisciplinary group of scholars. Like the 1950 and 1960 research projects, research on the 1980 census was initiated by the Social Science Research Council and the Russell Sage Foundation. In deciding once again to promote a coordinated program of census analysis, Russell Sage and the Council were mindful not only of the severe budgetary restrictions imposed on the Census Bureau's own publishing and dissemination activities in the 1980s, but also of the extraordinary changes that have occurred in so many dimensions of American life over the past two decades.

The studies constituting "The Population of the United States in the 1980s" were planned, commissioned, and monitored by the National Committee for Research on the 1980 Census, a special committee appointed by the Social Science Research Council and sponsored by the Council, the Russell Sage Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, with the collaboration of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This com-

mittee includes leading social scientists from a broad range of fields—demography, economics, education, geography, history, political science, sociology, and statistics. It has been the committee's task to select the main topics for research, obtain highly qualified specialists to carry out that research, and provide the structure necessary to facilitate coordination among researchers and with the Census Bureau.

The topics treated in this series span virtually all the major features of American society—ethnic groups (blacks, Hispanics, foreign-born); spatial dimensions (migration, neighborhoods, housing, regional and metropolitan growth and decline); and status groups (income levels, families and households, women). Authors were encouraged to draw not only on the 1980 census but also on previous censuses and on subsequent national data. Each individual research project was assigned a special advisory panel made up of one committee member, one member nominated by the Census Bureau, one nominated by the National Science Foundation, and one or two other experts. These advisory panels were responsible for project liaison and review and for recommendations to the National Committee regarding the readiness of each manuscript for publication. With the final approval of the chairman of the National Committee, each report was released to the Russell Sage Foundation for publication and distribution.

The debts of gratitude incurred by a project of such scope and organizational complexity are necessarily large and numerous. The committee must thank, first, its sponsors—the Social Science Research Council, the Russell Sage Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The long-range vision and day-to-day persistence of these organizations and individuals sustained this research program over many years. The active and willing cooperation of the Bureau of the Census was clearly invaluable at all stages of this project, and the extra commitment of time and effort made by Bureau economist James R. Wetzel must be singled out for special recognition. A special tribute is also due to David L. Sills of the Social Science Research Council, staff member of the committee, whose organizational, administrative, and diplomatic skills kept this complicated project running smoothly.

The committee also wishes to thank those organizations that contributed additional funding to the 1980 census report—the Ford Foundation and its deputy vice president, Louis Winnick, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute on Aging, and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Their support of the research program in general and of several particular studies is gratefully acknowledged.

The ultimate goal of the National Committee and its sponsors has been to produce a definitive, accurate, and comprehensive picture of the U.S. population in the 1980s, a picture that would be primarily descriptive but also enriched by a historical perspective and a sense of the challenges for the future inherent in the trends of today. We hope our readers will agree that the present volume takes a significant step toward achieving that goal.

CHARLES F. WESTOFF

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on the 1980 Census*

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The preparation of this book was facilitated by the Russell Sage Foundation through the National Committee on the 1980 Census, which provided support to the authors at The University of Michigan and Brown University. In addition, Alden Speare worked on the monograph while on sabbatical leave from Brown University at the Bureau of the Census during 1984–1985. While at the Bureau, he received partial salary and research support from the Center for Demographic Studies. Further support at Michigan was provided to William H. Frey by the Center for Population Research, NICHD grant No. HD17168. Special tabulations from the 1980 census were provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and a wide range of computer-readable census data was made available by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research in Ann Arbor.

The authors wish to acknowledge the helpful comments they received from the advisory panel members, John D. Kasarda (chair), Sidney Goldstein, and John F. Long, as well as from Charles F. Westoff, chairman and executive director of the National Committee for Research on the 1980 Census. They are also grateful to Richard L. Forstall for his valuable critiques of several of the chapters and to the authors of other books in this series for their reactions and cooperation.

The preparation of this book represents the product of many individual efforts. The authors are grateful for the assistance of Priscilla Lewis and her staff at the Russell Sage Foundation, who are responsible for the final copyediting and processing of the entire manuscript. At Brown University, Michael P. Guest, Jean Lynch, Mary Speare, and Joan Winter assisted in the preparation and analyses of data. At the Bureau of the Census, Michael Fortier assisted with data processing, and at The University of Michigan, Anne Croisier and Kelvin Pollard assisted with the data analysis, Kathleen Duke assisted with copyediting, and Ingrid Naaman assisted in the typing and preparation of the manuscript. Fi-

nally, the authors wish to express a particular debt of gratitude for the computer programming efforts of Cathy Sun of The University of Michigan Population Studies Center, who single-handedly made order out of the vast array of census data for different time periods, geographic areas, and boundary definitions that were placed at her disposal. The rich geographic detail and consistent time series that appear in the various tables and figures in this monograph would not have been possible without her efforts.

This monograph represents a joint effort wherein both authors contributed to each chapter. Nevertheless, each author bore primary responsibility for one of the book's two major parts. Alden Speare took the lead in drafting the chapters for Part One (3, 4, 5, and 6), which pertain to regional and metropolitanwide growth and decline. William H. Frey took the lead in drafting the Part Two chapters (7, 8, 9, 10, and 11) pertaining to city-suburb redistribution within large metropolitan areas. In this examination of various aspects of regional, metropolitan, and city growth and decline in the United States, the authors have attempted to provide an authoritative description of post-1970 trends that is possible only with the rich area-based data at their disposal. It is hoped that these analyses provide fresh insights to scholars, practitioners, and general readers who seek a thorough understanding of the fundamental population redistribution shifts that have been occurring in the United States since 1970.

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OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Charting Post-1970 Redistribution Changes

PRIOR to 1970 the patterns of growth and decline across the nation's regions and metropolitan areas could be characterized, fairly accurately, as a redistribution that favored the West region over the Northeast, Midwest, and South, that favored the large metropolis over smaller-sized metropolitan areas, and that favored urban communities over rural ones. This characterization did not apply to all areas, but it constitutes a relatively apt description of the broad redistribution tendencies that dominated the nation's growth and decline patterns over most of its recent history. Redistribution patterns within the nation's largest and oldest metropolitan areas had also become well established. The selective suburbanization that had begun to emerge in the early decades of this century became greatly accelerated during the immediate post-World War II period. As a consequence, many central cities sustained significant population declines over the 1950s and 1960s, and their population compositions became sharply differentiated from their surrounding suburbs with regard to race, socioeconomic status, and family characteristics.

During the post-1970 period—even before the 1980 census was taken—decidedly different redistribution tendencies became evident across the nation's regions, metropolitan areas, and central cities, and gained the attention of demographers, popular commentators, and academic scholars, alike. The most dramatic of these new patterns—those