

THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE 1980s

A Census Monograph Series

MIGRATION
AND RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY
IN THE UNITED STATES

Larry Long

*for the
National Committee for Research
on the 1980 Census*

RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION / NEW YORK

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Long, Larry E.

Migration and residential mobility in the United States / by Larry Long.
p. cm.—(The Population of the United States in the 1980s)

Bibliography: p.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-87154-555-1

1. Migration, Internal—United States. 2. Residential mobility—United States.

I. Title. II. Series.

HB1965.L578 1988

304.8'0973—dc19

88-15758
CIP

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Cover and text design: HUGUETTE FRANCO

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

MIGRATION
AND RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY
IN THE UNITED STATES

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Foreword

Migration and Residential Mobility 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. Wetzels 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 project—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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National Committee for Research
on the 1980 Census*

Acknowledgments

The major goal of this book is to integrate and communicate the trends and patterns of geographical mobility within the United States, as revealed by decennial censuses since 1940 and major national surveys conducted during those decades. Census questions on state of birth and residence five years earlier and survey questions on residence one year earlier provide overlapping images of the amount and major forms of geographical mobility in the United States from the late 1930s to the early 1980s. This book attempts to show where the picture is clear, where it is blurred, and where there are missing pieces that need to be filled in for policy or for research purposes.

Other studies have analyzed net migration for states and regions over longer periods of time, have undertaken more intensive analyses of the determinants of place-to-place migration flows, or have carried out more detailed research on particular types of mobility. This book was designed to give an overall perspective, highlighting relationships among the various forms and patterns of spatial mobility, as measured in censuses and surveys and describing what has changed and what has not over nearly the last half century.

With these goals in mind, I have drawn from many government publications, journal articles, and books and monographs about internal migration, and the extensive bibliography in this volume testifies to the vast expansion—perhaps it should be called proliferation—of research on the subject during the last twenty years or so. Until recently, demographers sometimes said that internal migration was the “stepchild of demography,” but demographers, geographers, economists, and sociologists have contributed to the very rapid growth of publications that deal with internal migration. I have tried to concentrate on a few core questions that usually focus on trends and overlap academic disciplines. The book stresses what has been learned, and it tries to show how research

and policy debates have influenced and been influenced by the availability of statistics on internal migration.

The work was supported by the Social Science Research Council and the consortium of organizations and experts that came together under SSRC's auspices. David L. Sills of SSRC, James R. Wetzel of the Census Bureau, and Charles F. Westoff of Princeton University were the visible presences behind the production of the series of analyses of the 1980 census. The advisory panel for this book was chaired by Sidney Goldstein of the Population Studies and Training Center at Brown University. The other members were Jacob Mincer of the Department of Economics at Columbia University, Julie DaVanzo of the Rand Corporation, and Diana DeAre of the Census Bureau's Population Division. Their comments were erudite, incisive, and offered in a way that gratifies and humbles an author. As chairperson of the National Committee for Research on the 1980 Census, Charles F. Westoff read the entire manuscript and provided comments that were as insightful as they were timely. These reviewers cannot be held responsible for the things I did badly or did not do.

The book was also made possible by the computer skills of several persons. In the Center for Demographic Studies, Mike Fortier designed the overall systems for computerized processing of data, text, and the bibliography. Ruth Breads programed many tabulations from microdata files maintained on mainframe computers. Tom Cochran did much of the manipulation of summary data on microcomputers, and Darlene Young and Pamela Smith prepared many computer-drawn charts and illustrations. Andrea Walter assisted in assembling the manuscript and verifying the tables in their final form.

Several chapters draw heavily upon work done over many years of collaboration with Kristin Hansen and Celia Boertlein of the Census Bureau's Population Division. They read and commented on the entire manuscript. Donald Dahmann of the Population Division also provided comments on the manuscript, and many other persons read portions of it. I tried to incorporate all the advice I received.

The manuscript benefited from careful and efficient work at the Russell Sage Foundation. Priscilla Lewis was in charge of making a book out of the text, tables, and figures, with the valuable editorial and production assistance of Charlotte Shelby and John Johnston. I am grateful for their expertise.

LARRY LONG

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