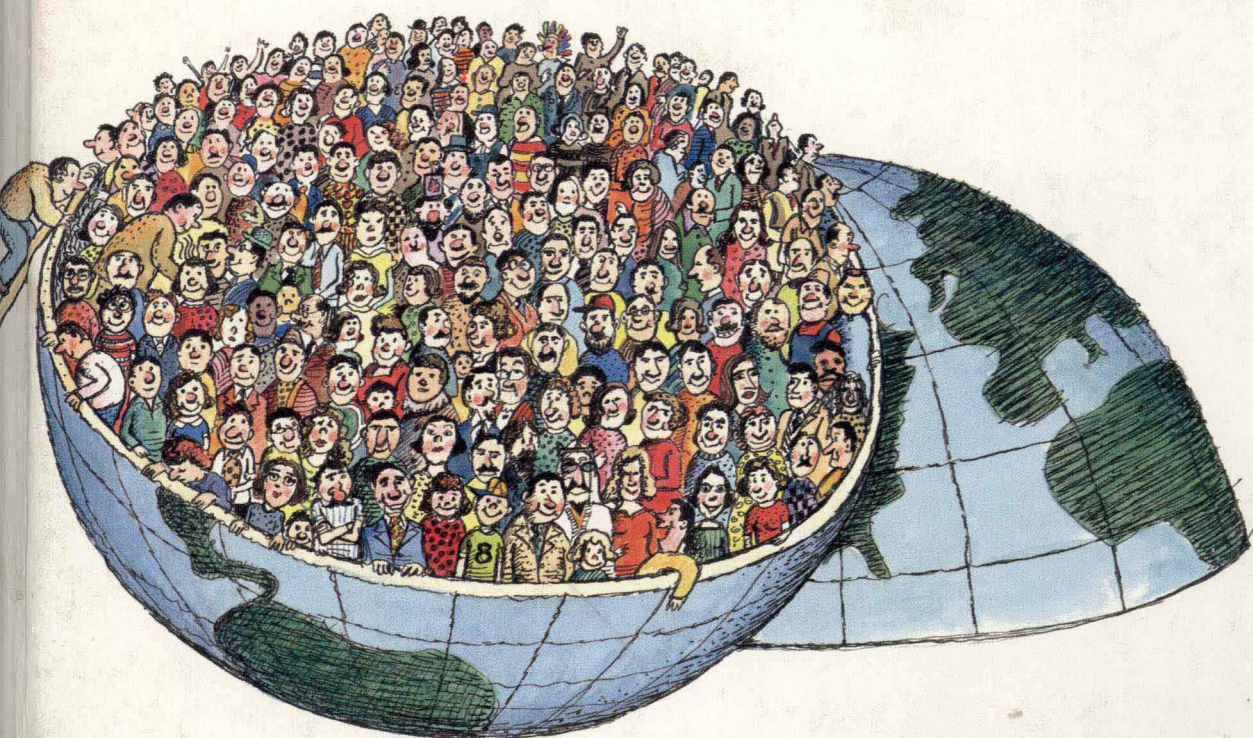


POPULATION

An Introduction to Social Demography

PAUL E. ZOPF, JR.



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Mayfield Publishing Company



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First edition

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 83-062833
International Standard Book Number: 0-87484-715-X
Manufactured in the United States of America
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Mayfield Publishing Company
285 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94301

Sponsoring editor: Franklin C. Graham
Manuscript editor: Victoria Nelson
Managing editor: Pat Herbst
Production editor: Deborah L. Cogan
Art director: Nancy Sears
Designer: Richard Kharibian
Cover designer: Richard Kharibian/Nancy Sears
Cover artist: Jim M'Guinness
Production manager: Cathy Willkie
Compositor: Publisher's Typography
Printer and binder: Kingsport Press

Preface

This is a textbook for students taking their first or second course in population studies. Its principal focus is social demography, which is the study of demographic facts in a larger social and cultural context that molds various population realities and is shaped by them. Consequently, while the analysis is strongly concerned with the birth and death rates of populations, their patterns of migration, and their basic characteristics, it is even more involved with their broader setting. Why do some countries have high birth rates and others low ones? Why can people in some societies expect to live only 40 years, while in others they can look forward to 70 or 75 years? Why do people migrate from one country to another or shift around within their own societies? The task of social demography is to attempt answers to these and similar questions.

But the analysis cannot stop with that, for the other large phase of social demography concerns the results of population conditions. Therefore, we need to examine the consequences for social systems of high or low birth rates, death rates that are poorly controlled or close to the minimum, and particular streams of human movement. What happens to a society that has a huge proportion of children as a result of high fertility, or to one with a relatively large elderly population because of low birth and death rates? What are the economic consequences of population growth or decline, and of the numerical balance between men and women, unskilled and skilled workers? How are social relations structured by the proportions of white and black people, natives and immigrants, city dwellers and farm people?

Thus, the book attempts to portray many of these strategic matters in a comprehensive context meant to enrich our understanding of population and social linkages. In this vein, Part One considers population realities and problems, including the population explosion, the goal of zero population growth, the nature of population at the world level and in the United States, and the age-sex profiles of various human groups. In Part Two we study the com-

ponents of population change—fertility, mortality, and migration. Part Three deals with several human systems and their demographic dimensions; there we look at rural and urban systems, races and ethnic groups, marriage and family systems, economic systems, and educational patterns. Finally, Part Four concerns human efforts to manipulate population conditions, especially growth rates, by the use of official policies, both national and international. Altogether, these elements are the principal substance of social demography in its intricate richness.

My debt for the content of this volume is a large one indeed. First and foremost, though, is the late T. Lynn Smith, who was an abiding source of insight into social demography, and whose own work represents major contributions to that field. Teacher, friend, and colleague, Smith blended concern for the human condition with intellectual curiosity and discipline, making social demography a natural part of his life. I hope to have caught the spirit of his major efforts in both realms.

I am grateful also to a large number of demographers, social theorists, methodologists, and other professionals of many persuasions, for the book arises out of their contributions. I have tried to do justice to many of them in my citations but never cease to marvel at how much we really do stand on the shoulders of giants. I hope they will find I have accounted for their work and will forgive whatever errors my endeavors may contain.

I am indebted to the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the demographic data it painstakingly collects and publishes, and especially to Larry Long, at the Center for Demographic Studies, for helping me acquire materials necessary for the research. Thanks are also due the National Center for Health Statistics for providing vital statistics, the United Nations for international data and projections, and other agencies that supply the raw materials and analyses with which many of us work.

Charles Hohm at San Diego State University, Ralph Thomlinson at California State University at Los Angeles, and Bruce Warren at Eastern Michigan University each read the entire manuscript and provided valuable criticisms and suggestions, though any flaws in the book are my responsibility, not theirs. Frank Graham, sponsoring editor at Mayfield Publishing Company, was supportive and patient in guiding the book through its many phases.

Guilford College was, as always, the hospitable setting for my research and writing. I am grateful for the study leave and the faculty research grants that the college provided to help make this project possible. In particular, I appreciate the support of Cyrus Johnson, William Rogers, Sam Schuman, Bruce Stewart, and other friends in academe.

As ever, Evelyn Zopf is my constant inspiration to keep going, for her life reminds me that it is all worthwhile. Eric Zopf also continues to play his significant unfolding role, shaped now by the maturity of adulthood and pursuit of his own professional career.

Paul E. Zopf, Jr.

Contents

List of Tables	xv
List of Figures	xix
Preface	xxiii

Part One Demographic Realities and Problems 1

CHAPTER 1	The Population Explosion: Myths and Facts 3
	Source of the Explosion 5
	Why Birth and Death Rates Diverge 7
	<i>Nutrition, Sanitation, and Medicine 8</i>
	<i>Values and Attitudes 10</i>
	<i>Institutional Factors 13</i>
	<i>National Policies 17</i>
	Patterns of Growth and Decline 18
	Summary 21
 CHAPTER 2	 Zero Population Growth 22
	Progress Toward Zero Growth 22
	Factors That Influence Progress Toward Zero Growth 27
	<i>Economic Factors 27</i>
	<i>Levels of Education 32</i>
	<i>Rising Expectations 33</i>
	<i>Individual Perceptions 35</i>
	<i>Birth Control Technology and Organization 38</i>
	<i>Views of the World Population Problem 40</i>
	<i>Pressure Groups 41</i>
	<i>Religious Influences 41</i>

	Implications of a No-Growth Situation	42
	<i>Effects on Age and Sex Patterns</i>	43
	<i>ZPG and Economic Systems</i>	47
	<i>ZPG and Questions of Quality</i>	51
	Summary	52
CHAPTER 3	World Population	54
	Numbers of People	54
	The Demographic Transition	55
	<i>Relationships Between Birth and Death Rates</i>	56
	<i>Major Transition Stages</i>	57
	<i>Evaluation of Transition Theory</i>	66
	Distribution and Redistribution of People	68
	<i>Proportional Distribution by Region</i>	69
	<i>Patterns of Population Density</i>	70
	<i>Effects of High Density</i>	71
	<i>Redistribution by Country</i>	73
	Population Growth and Subsistence	78
	Summary	80
CHAPTER 4	Population of the United States	81
	Numbers of People	81
	The American Demographic Transition	83
	<i>Potential Growth</i>	83
	<i>Transitional Growth</i>	83
	<i>Incipient Decline</i>	86
	<i>Controlled Growth</i>	87
	<i>Equilibrium at ZPG</i>	90
	<i>Absolute Decline</i>	93
	<i>Sociocultural Factors in the Twentieth Century</i>	93
	Distribution and Redistribution	98
	<i>Patterns by State and Region</i>	98
	<i>Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Change</i>	103
	<i>Patterns of Population Density</i>	105
	The Future American Population	106
	Summary	109
CHAPTER 5	Age-Sex Profiles	111
	The Age-Sex Pyramid	112
	Factors Affecting Age Patterns	112
	<i>Fertility</i>	113
	<i>Mortality</i>	116
	<i>War</i>	116
	<i>Migration</i>	118
	Variations in Age Patterns	118
	<i>Developed and Developing Countries</i>	120
	<i>Differences in the United States</i>	121

Dependency Ratios	126
<i>International Variations</i>	127
<i>Rural-Urban Differences</i>	131
Changes in Age Composition	131
<i>International Fluctuations in Dependency Ratios</i>	132
<i>U.S. Fluctuations in Dependency Ratios</i>	134
Factors Affecting the Sex Ratio	137
<i>Fertility</i>	137
<i>Mortality</i>	139
<i>Migration</i>	139
Variations in the United States	141
<i>Race and Nativity</i>	142
<i>Rural-Urban Differences</i>	144
Changes in Sex Composition	145
<i>Trends in the United States</i>	146
Summary	148

Part Two Components of Demographic Change 149

CHAPTER 6	Fertility Patterns, Differentials, and Trends	151
	Rates of Reproduction Throughout the World	152
	<i>Developed and Developing Countries</i>	152
	Trends in World Fertility	154
	<i>The Long Fall in the Birth Rate in the Developed Countries</i>	154
	<i>Changing Fertility in the Developing Countries</i>	158
	Fertility Differentials in the United States	162
	<i>Fertility Differentials by Age</i>	163
	<i>Rural-Urban Differentials</i>	165
	<i>Racial and Ethnic Differentials</i>	167
	<i>Socioeconomic Differences</i>	169
	Fertility Trends in the United States	173
	<i>Black-White Differences</i>	175
	<i>Implications of Fertility Trends</i>	175
	Summary	178
CHAPTER 7	Mortality Patterns, Differentials, and Trends	180
	Rates of Death Throughout the World	180
	<i>Developed and Developing Countries</i>	181
	<i>Causes of Death</i>	183
	Reductions in World Mortality	185
	<i>Mortality Control in the Developed Countries</i>	185
	<i>Mortality Control in the Developing Countries</i>	187
	<i>Reasons for Declining Mortality</i>	189
	Mortality Differentials in the United States	191
	<i>Sex Differentials</i>	192
	<i>Racial Differentials</i>	194
	<i>Socioeconomic Differentials</i>	195

Causes of Death in the United States 195

Cause-of-Death Differences by Sex 197
Cause-of-Death Differences by Race 198
Cause-of-Death Differences by Age 200

Mortality Trends in the United States 201

Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates 201
Infant Mortality Rates 204
Causes of Death 206

Prospects for Mortality Changes 207

Curve-Squaring Technologies 208
Life Span—Extending Technologies 211

Summary 211

CHAPTER 8 Migration 213

The Significance of Migration 213

Sociocultural Impact 214
Social Dynamics of Migration 218
Fallacies About Migration 224

Forces and Factors That Motivate Migration 225

Voluntary Migration 226
Nonpeaceful Migration 229
Impelled Migration 231

Emigration and Immigration 232

Major International Movements 232
Selectivity of International Migration 235
Immigration to the United States 237

Internal Migration 239

Types of Internal Migration 239
Rural-Urban Migration in Other Countries 241
Rural-Urban Migration in the United States 242
The Selectivity of Internal Migration 245
Streams of Migration in the United States 249

Summary 250

Part Three Populations and Human Systems 253

CHAPTER 9 Populations and Social Systems 255

System Processes 256

Demographic Dynamics 256
Social Processes That Preserve System Forms 258
Social Processes That Change System Forms 263
Change 267

Functions and Dysfunctions 268

Functions 269
Dysfunctions 271

Summary 273

CHAPTER 10	Rural and Urban Systems	275
	Rural-Urban Social Differences	276
	<i>Differences in Interaction</i>	276
	<i>Differences in Cohesion</i>	277
	Measuring Rural and Urban Populations	278
	<i>Large Urban Centers</i>	279
	The Surge of Urban Growth	281
	<i>Magnitude of Urban Growth</i>	282
	<i>Some Reasons for Third World Urbanization</i>	286
	Some Problems of Third World Urbanization	288
	<i>Problems of Assimilation</i>	288
	<i>Unemployment and Low Levels of Living</i>	290
	<i>Problems of Urban Development</i>	292
	Rural-Urban Populations in the United States	293
	<i>Current Patterns</i>	293
	<i>Trends</i>	296
	Summary	298
CHAPTER 11	Races and Ethnic Groups	299
	Measuring Racial and Ethnic Composition	299
	<i>International Classifications</i>	300
	<i>Categories in the United States</i>	301
	Native and Foreign-Born People	303
	<i>Recent Proportions in Various Countries</i>	303
	<i>Social Implications</i>	304
	Race and Nativity in the United States	305
	<i>Black People and White People</i>	305
	<i>Other Races</i>	309
	<i>Spanish-Origin People</i>	310
	<i>Racial and Ethnic Demographic Differentials</i>	312
	<i>Redistribution of Racial and Ethnic Groups</i>	316
	<i>Social Consequences of Redistribution</i>	319
	<i>Demographic Indicators of Accommodation</i>	319
	Summary	321
CHAPTER 12	Marriage and Family Systems	322
	Age and Marital Status	322
	<i>Trends in Age and Marital Status</i>	325
	Some International Comparisons	326
	Differentials in Marital Status in the United States	327
	<i>Sex Differentials</i>	328
	<i>Racial and Ethnic Differentials</i>	328
	<i>Farm-Nonfarm Differentials</i>	331
	Patterns of Mate Selection	332
	<i>Exogamy</i>	332
	<i>Endogamy</i>	333

	Changing Marriage Rates	334
	Changing Divorce Rates	335
	<i>One-Parent Families</i>	336
	<i>Remarriage</i>	337
	Family Functions	338
	Summary	339
CHAPTER 13	Population and Economic Systems	341
	The Labor Force	342
	<i>Differences by Sex</i>	343
	<i>Differences by Race</i>	344
	Some International Comparisons	345
	<i>Increases in the Working-Age Population</i>	345
	<i>The Working Elderly</i>	347
	Occupations in the United States	349
	<i>White Collar Workers</i>	349
	<i>Blue Collar Workers</i>	350
	<i>Service Workers</i>	350
	<i>Farm Workers</i>	351
	<i>Occupational Differences by Sex</i>	351
	<i>Occupational Differences by Race</i>	353
	Industries in the United States	355
	Employment and Unemployment	356
	<i>Unemployment in the United States Since 1900</i>	357
	Income in the United States	358
	Poverty Status in the United States	360
	Economic Ideologies and Population	361
	Summary	362
CHAPTER 14	The Education of Populations	364
	Measuring Levels of Education	365
	Some International Comparisons	366
	<i>Educational Attainment</i>	366
	<i>School Enrollment</i>	369
	<i>Progress in Education</i>	372
	Educational Differentials in the United States	373
	<i>Sex Differentials</i>	374
	<i>Racial and Ethnic Differentials</i>	375
	Educational Trends in the United States	377
	<i>Illiteracy</i>	377
	<i>Educational Attainment</i>	378
	<i>School Enrollment</i>	380
	<i>The Question of Quality</i>	381
	Summary	381

CHAPTER 15 Population Policies: Successes, Failures, Prospects 385

The World Population Conference: 1974 387

The World Population Plan of Action 387

Coordinated Action Since 1974 391

The Colombo Declaration 392

The World Fertility Survey 393

Conditions for the 1980s 394

Population and Socioeconomic Development 395

Official Fertility Control Policies 396

The Developed Countries 398

The Developing Countries 400

The Mortality Control Component 401

The Family Planning Approach 402

Basic Limitations 403

Vigorous Planning Programs 403

No Vigorous Planning Programs 405

Assistance Programs 406

Manipulating Nondemographic Factors 407

Appeals to Responsibility 408

Coercion 408

Using Self-Interest 409

A Combined Approach: The Case of China 411

Summary 413

APPENDIX: Data Sources and Demographic Measures 415

Sources of Demographic Data 415

Censuses 415

Registrations 416

Surveys 416

Measures of Fertility 416

Crude Birth Rate 416

Total Fertility Rate 417

Children Ever Born 418

Birth Expectations 418

Measures of Mortality 418

Crude Death Rate 418

Infant Mortality Rate 419

Maternal Mortality Rate 419

Age-Sex-Specific Death Rate 419

Age-Adjusted Death Rate 420

Cause-of-Death Rate 421

The Life Table and Expectation of Life 422

Some Other Indexes 425

Crude Marriage Rate 425

<i>Crude Divorce Rate</i>	425
<i>Age-Sex Pyramid</i>	425
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	425
Labor Force Participation Rate	426
Notes	427
Glossary	456
Bibliography	470
Author and Source Index	488
Subject Index	492

List of Tables

CHAPTER 1 The Population Explosion: Myths and Facts

Rates of natural increase by major world regions, 1947–80 5

Changes in average annual rates of growth between 1965–70 and 1975–80 20

CHAPTER 2 Zero Population Growth

Populations and average annual rates of growth in the 16 countries with 50 million or more people in 1980 26

Number of children ever born per 1,000 wives in married-couple families, by age, race, and labor force participation, United States, 1980 31

Number of children ever born per 1,000 women ever married, by schooling completed and age, United States, 1970–80 32

CHAPTER 3 World Population

Estimates of midyear populations of the world and its major regions, 1920 and 1980 69

Number of people per square kilometer in the major world regions, 1920, 1950, and 1980, and proportional increase, 1920–80 71

Population changes in countries with over 20 million people in 1980 74

CHAPTER 4 Population of the United States

Population, increase, and density in the United States, 1790–1980 82

Population and changes in the regions, divisions, and states of the United States 100

Changes in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan populations of the United States, 1950–80	105
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CHAPTER 5 Age-Sex Profiles

Percentages of people in three broad age groups, classified according to crude birth rates in 1975–80	115
Percentages of people in various age groups, by farm and nonfarm residence, United States, 1980	123
Selected countries with low and high dependency ratios, latest census or estimate	128
Changes in age patterns in the United States, 1870–2050	135
Sex ratios in selected countries, by age groups, latest census or estimate	138
Sex ratios in the United States, by age, race, and Spanish origin, 1980	143
Changes in the sex ratio in the United States, by race, 1820–1980	146

CHAPTER 6 Fertility Patterns, Differentials, and Trends

Fertility indicators for world regions and selected major countries	153
Crude birth rates in countries with 10 million or more people in 1980, for which data are available for about 1960 and 1980	156
Children ever born per 1,000 women ever married, by residence and age, 1980	166
Children ever born per 1,000 women ever married, by age, race, and Spanish origin, 1980	167
Children ever born per 1,000 wives aged 35–44 in married-couple families, by years of schooling completed and race, 1980	169
Births per 1,000 wives, by selected socioeconomic characteristics and age, 1980	170

CHAPTER 7 Mortality Patterns, Differentials, and Trends

Measures of mortality in selected developed and developing countries	182
Percent of all deaths from each of 19 selected causes, Egypt, Mexico, Sweden, and England and Wales, late 1970s	184
Reductions in infant mortality rates in selected developed and developing countries, 1920–24 to 1976–80	187
Age-specific death rates in the United States, by race and sex, 1981	193
Death rates in the United States from the fifteen leading causes, by race and sex, 1979	196
Age-adjusted death rates in the United States from the fifteen leading causes, by race and sex, 1979	199
Changes in life expectancy at birth in the United States, by race and sex, selected years, 1900–1981	203

Death rates from selected causes in the death registration states, 1900, 1920, 1940, 1960, and 1980 208

CHAPTER 8 Migration

Countries that sent a quarter-million or more immigrants to the United States between 1820 and 1979 216

Recent international migration to and from selected countries 234

Interregional migration in the United States, 1965–70 to 1975–80 241

Estimates of people moving to and from farms in the United States, 1930–80 243

Residential mobility in the United States, by race, 1975–80 247

Sex ratios for various categories of movers in the United States between 1975 and 1980, by age 248

Percentage of persons aged 25–29 involved in interstate migration between 1975 and 1980, by level of education and sex 249

CHAPTER 10 Rural and Urban Systems

Definitions of urban in 10 countries, 1980 280

The world's 10 largest cities and metropolitan areas, latest available year 283

Percent change in the rural and urban populations of the United States, 1790–1980 284

Reported vital rates and natural increase in four developing countries, by rural-urban residence, 1978 287

Populations of SMSAs with 1 million or more inhabitants, 1980 295

CHAPTER 11 Races and Ethnic Groups

Black and white populations of the United States, 1790–1980 306

Black population of the United States, by region and division, 1980 308

“Other races” in the United States, 1980 310

Spanish-origin population of the United States, by country of background, 1980 311

Some demographic variations between blacks, whites, and Spanish-origin people in the United States, 1980 313

Percent distribution of the black population, by region, 1860–1980 317

CHAPTER 12 Marriage and Family Systems

Median age at first marriage in the United States, by sex, 1890–1980 326

Percentages of American men and women in various marital status categories, by age group and race, 1980 329

Marriages, divorces, and rates in the United States, 1958–82 336

CHAPTER 13 Population and Economic Systems

- Numbers and percentages of civilians aged 16 and over in the labor force of the United States, by sex, 1960, 1970, and 1980 343
- Percentages of people 65 and over who are still in the labor force in representative developed and developing countries, by sex 348
- Percentages of employed workers in each occupational category in the United States, 1900, 1960, and 1980 349
- Percentages of employed persons in each occupational category in the United States, by sex, 1960 and 1980 352
- Percentages of employed persons in each occupational category in the United States, by race, 1960 and 1980 354
- Percentages of employed persons in each industry group in the United States, by sex, 1960 and 1980 355
- Index numbers based on per capita income in families of various types, by race and Spanish origin, 1980 359

CHAPTER 14 The Education of Populations

- Estimated percentages of the illiterate population aged 15 and over in various regions and countries, 1980 367
- Percentages of people aged 15 and over with fewer than 5 years of schooling, selected countries, by sex 369
- Percentages of people in specified ages enrolled in school, selected countries, by sex 371
- Percentages of Americans aged 25 and over who had completed specified years of schooling, by sex, race, and Spanish origin, 1980 373
- Median years of schooling completed by Americans aged 15 and over, by race and sex, 1948–80 378
- Percentages of Americans aged 25 and over in selected educational categories, by race and sex, 1940–80 379

CHAPTER 15 Population Policies: Successes, Failures, Prospects

- Changes in total fertility rates in selected countries with vigorous family planning programs 404
- Changes in total fertility rates in selected countries without vigorous family planning programs up to the mid-1970s 405

APPENDIX: Data Sources and Demographic Measures

- Computation of age-specific fertility rates for the United States, 1979 417
- Computations for determining the age-adjusted death rates of the black and white populations of the United States, 1979 421
- Abridged life table for the total population of the United States, 1981 423