

Puerto Ricans in Continental United States

GENERAL

This report, based on the 1950 Census of Population, presents 20-percent sample data on demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons of Puerto Rican birth or parentage living in continental United States. These data are presented for continental United States and for New York City. Total figures, by color and sex, are presented for regions.

All the classifications presented in this report (marital status, years of school completed, employment status, major occupation group, and income) are further cross-classified by color, sex, and age.

RELATED MATERIALS

Statistics on the distribution by State of 1950 residence of persons of Puerto Rican birth living in continental United States are presented in the report "State of Birth," which appears as Chapter A, Part 4 of Volume IV. These data are classified by age, color, and sex.

Data from the 1950 Census of Population of Puerto Rico which are published in Volume II, General Characteristics, Chapter 53, Puerto Rico, provide a valuable base for comparison of characteristics of Puerto Ricans in continental United States with those living in Puerto Rico.

On the basis of special tabulations from the 1950 Census prepared by the Bureau of the Census, the Welfare and Health Council of New York City has compiled statistics and published them in a report on persons of Puerto Rican birth or parentage. This report presents statistics by color and nativity for the census tracts, health areas, and boroughs of New York City.¹

ACCURACY AND INTERNAL CONSISTENCY OF DATA

The figures on the number of persons born in Puerto Rico presented here may, in some instances,

differ from those in the report, "State of Birth." These differences are caused by errors in the tabulation processes. These errors include machine failure, loss of punch cards, and other types. (The net effect is a tendency toward slightly smaller counts of the same item in successive tabulations.) Experience has shown that in mass operations two tabulations of a set of punch cards are not likely to yield precisely identical results. Therefore, tolerance limits allowing for insignificant variations were established in advance for each tabulation. If the differences between the results of two tabulations fell within these limits, nothing was done to bring them into exact agreement with each other. This procedure was adopted in order to provide a greater volume of data within the limits of time and resources available. In earlier censuses, however, the results of different tabulations were adjusted to bring them into exact agreement.

AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED DATA

A large part of the data tabulated for Puerto Ricans from the 1950 Census is presented in this report. A limited amount of material for small areas was omitted for reasons of economy. These data comprise a tabulation of the number of persons born in Puerto Rico or of Puerto Rican parentage for enumeration districts in New York State. The major portion of these data are published for New York City in the New York City Welfare and Health Council report cited above.

For the United States and New York City, detailed age data for the population under 14 years of age have been tabulated; however, the age detail in this report consists of 5-year groups only.

The unpublished data can be obtained upon request for the cost of transcribing or reproducing them. Requests for such unpublished statistics, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington 25, D. C., will receive a prompt reply, which will include an estimate of the cost of preparing the data.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The definitions of the pertinent concepts used in the 1950 Census are given below. Several of these definitions differ from those used in 1940. The changes

were made after consultation with users of census data in order to improve the statistics, even though it was recognized that comparability would be adversely affected. In many cases, the new definitions were tested in connection with the Current Population Survey; and, where feasible, measures of the impact of the change on the statistics were developed.

¹ Research Bureau, Welfare and Health Council of New York City. Population of Puerto Rican Birth or Parentage, New York City: 1950. New York, N. Y., 1952.

For a discussion of the definitions of concepts used in the 1950 Census, the quality of the data, and the problems of comparability with earlier census data, see Volume II, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1, United States Summary, or the Series P-B and Series P-C United States Summary bulletins. The 1950 Population Census schedule and the major part of the instructions to enumerators are also reproduced in Volume II, Part 1.

PERSONS OF PUERTO RICAN ORIGIN

For the purposes of this report, persons of Puerto Rican origin in continental United States comprise persons born in Puerto Rico or persons born elsewhere in the United States with one or both parents of Puerto Rican birth, that is, migrants from

Puerto Rico and their children. No census data are available on the later immigrant generations.

In 1950 there were, in continental United States, more than 300,000 persons of Puerto Rican origin, a number equivalent to more than 10 percent of the 1950 population of the Island of Puerto Rico. Of this number, about 75,000, or one-fourth, were persons born in the United States of Puerto Rican parentage and the remaining 225,000 were migrants of Puerto Rican birth. This latter number represents an increase of about 155,000, or more than 200 percent, over the 70,000 persons of Puerto Rican birth enumerated in continental United States in 1940 (table A). In the depression decade, 1930-1940, the rate of growth in this population was only about 33 percent, as compared with a rate of nearly 350 percent between 1920 to 1930, when it increased from about 12,000 to 53,000.

Table A.--PUERTO RICANS IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, NEW YORK STATE, AND NEW YORK CITY: 1910 TO 1950
(Statistics for 1950 based on 20-percent sample)

Census year and generation	Continental United States		New York State		New York City	
	Number	Percent of increase	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Puerto Rican birth:						
1950.....	226,110	223.2	191,305	84.6	187,420	82.9
1940.....	69,967	32.6	63,281	90.4	61,463	87.8
1930.....	52,774	346.8	45,973	87.1	(2)	...
1920.....	11,811	680.6	7,719	65.4	7,364	62.4
1910.....	1,513	...	641	42.4	554	36.6
Puerto Rican parentage: ¹						
1950.....	75,265	...	(2)	...	58,460	77.7

¹ Born in continental United States.

² Not available.

Migrants from Puerto Rico have in large part settled in New York City. In 1940 about 87 percent of all persons of Puerto Rican birth in continental United States were enumerated in New York City and 90 percent in New York State. This tendency toward concentration in New York City developed progressively in the period prior to 1940. In 1910, 37 percent of all Puerto Ricans in continental United States were living in New York City, and the proportion has increased at each succeeding census. (A 1930 figure for New York City is not available, but the State figure indicates a continuation of the trend.) The figures for 1950 give some indication of a reversal of this trend--of the total number of persons of Puerto Rican birth in that year, about 83 percent were residents of New York City and 85 percent, of New York State.

Persons of Puerto Rican birth enumerated in the 1950 Census were identified on the basis of answers to the question "What State (or foreign country) was he born in?" This question was asked of all persons enumerated. A similar question relating to the place of birth of parents was asked of a 20-percent sample of the persons enumerated and provides the basis for the identification of persons of Puerto Rican parentage. Since all persons born in continental United States and its Territories and possessions are defined as native,

this report deals with a special segment of the native population.

Summary statistics on various characteristics of persons of Puerto Rican origin in continental United States and of the entire population of Puerto Rico are presented in table B.

MEDIANS

The median, a type of average, is presented in connection with the data on age, years of school completed, and personal income which appear in this report. The median is the value which divides the distribution into two equal parts--one-half of the cases falling below this value and one-half of the cases exceeding this value.

RACE AND COLOR

The concept of race as it has been used by the Bureau of the Census is derived from that which is commonly accepted by the general public. It does not, therefore, reflect clear-cut definitions of biological stock, and several categories obviously refer to nationalities. The information on race is ordinarily

not based on a reply to questions asked by the enumerator but rather obtained by observation. Enumerators were instructed to ask a question when they were in doubt.

Since the classification by race is made by the enumerators, it tends to reflect their conceptions of race. It is likely that the commonly held conceptions of race among Puerto Ricans in Puerto Rico, among Puerto Ricans in continental United States, and among

other persons in continental United States are somewhat different, and therefore there tends to be a considerable variation in the classification. Thus, differences in the proportion of whites among Puerto Ricans in continental United States and in Puerto Rico, and differences between successive censuses in this proportion may reflect shifts in attitudes as well as selective migration and differential fertility. The percentage of persons reported as white increased between 1940 and 1950, both in Puerto Rico and in continental United States (table B).

Table B.--CHARACTERISTICS OF PUERTO RICANS IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND IN PUERTO RICO: 1950
(Statistics for continental United States for 1950 based on 20-percent sample)

Item	Continental United States			Puerto Rico
	Total	Puerto Rican birth	Puerto Rican parentage ¹	
TOTAL POPULATION				
Males per 100 females.....	94.7	92.3	102.2	101.0
Median age.....	24.3	29.2	8.8	18.4
Percent white:				
1950.....	92.0	92.3	91.2	79.7
1940.....	(²)	86.8	(²)	76.5
PERSONS 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER				
Median years of school completed:				
Male.....	8.2	8.0	9.8	4.1
Female.....	8.0	7.5	10.1	3.3
PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER				
Percent in labor force:				
Male.....	76.2	79.2	55.8	70.7
Female.....	38.9	39.6	34.2	21.3
Median income.....dollars..	1,654	1,664	1,526	378
Percent widowed and divorced:				
Male.....	3.9	4.1	2.4	4.2
Female.....	13.0	14.2	3.7	12.9

¹ Born in continental United States.

² Not available.

Color.--The term "color" refers to the division of population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The group designated as "nonwhite" consists of Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were classified as white in 1950 and 1940. In the 1930 publications, Mexicans were included in the group "Other races."

Negro.--In addition to full-blooded Negroes, this classification includes persons of mixed white and Negro parentage and persons of mixed Indian and Negro parentage unless the Indian blood very definitely predominates or unless the individual is accepted in the community as an Indian.

Other races.--This category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Mixed parentage.--Persons of mixed parentage are classified according to the race of the nonwhite

parent and mixtures of nonwhite races are generally classified according to the race of the father.

NATIVITY

The classification of the population into the two basic groups, native and foreign born, is based on replies to the question, "What State (or foreign country) was he born in?" A person born in the United States or any of its Territories or possessions is counted as native. Also included as native is the small group of persons who, although born in a foreign country or at sea, were American citizens by birth because their parents were American citizens. The small number of persons for whom place of birth was not reported were assumed to be native. It follows then that the population covered by this report is a part of the native population--a part which has been further subdivided by birthplace, however, into persons born in Puerto Rico and those born of Puerto Rican parents in continental United States and in Territories and possessions other than Puerto Rico.

AGE

The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday as of the date of enumeration, that is, the age of the person in completed years. The enumerator was instructed to obtain the age of each person as of the date of his visit rather than as of April 1, 1950.

MARITAL STATUS

In the 1950 Census of continental United States, data on marital status are based on the replies to the question, "Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or [has he] never [been] married?" The classification refers to the status at the time of enumeration. Persons classified as "married" comprise, therefore, both those who have been married only once and those who have remarried after having been widowed or divorced. Persons reported as separated or in common-law marriages are classified as married. Those reported as never married or with annulled marriages are classified as single. Since it is probable that some divorced persons are reported as single, married, or widowed, the census returns doubtless understate somewhat the actual number of divorced persons who have not remarried. Differences between the number of married men and the number of married women arise from spouses' having their usual residences in different areas, from variations in the completeness of enumeration of married men and women, and from response and processing errors.

In the Census of Puerto Rico, the marital status classification, in contrast to that of the United States, divides married persons into two classes, "married" and "consensually married." This latter group comprises persons living together in a common-law marriage without a civil or religious ceremony. An appreciable proportion of the Puerto Rican population is reported in this category. It seems probable that the same type of relationship persists among migrants from Puerto Rico to continental United States, and that, in consequence, among members of this group a significant number of persons classified as "married" are, in fact, "consensually married."

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

The data on years of school completed were derived from the combination of answers to two questions: (a) "What is the highest grade of school that he has attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?" In the present report, these data are shown for the population 14 years old and over.

The questions on educational attainment applied only to progress in "regular" schools. Such schools are public, private, or parochial schools, colleges, universities, or professional schools, either day or night, full time or part time--that is, those schools where enrollment may lead to an elementary or high school diploma, or to a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling obtained through a correspondence course was counted only if the course was given by a regular school, such as a university, and the person received credit thereby in the regular school system.

The question on highest grade of school attended called for the highest grade attended, regardless of

"skipped" or "repeated" grades, rather than the number of full school years which the person had spent in school.

The question on completion of highest grade was to be answered "Yes" if the person had completed the full grade. If a person was still attending school in that grade, had completed only a half grade, or had dropped out of or failed to pass the last grade attended, the required answer was "No." In this report, persons who failed to report on completion of the grade were assumed to have finished.

The median number of school years completed is expressed in terms of a continuous series of numbers. For example, the fourth year of high school is indicated by 12 and the first year of college by 13. For the sake of comparability, the first year of high school is uniformly represented by 9, although there are some areas with only 7 years of elementary school.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The major concepts involved in the employment status classification are as follows:

Census week.--The 1950 data on employment status pertain to the calendar week preceding the enumerator's visit, which is defined as the "census week."

Employed.--Employed persons comprise all civilians 14 years old and over who, during the census week, were either (1) "at work"--those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or in a family business; or (2) "with a job but not at work"--those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of layoff. Also included as "with a job" are persons who had new jobs to which they were scheduled to report within 30 days. In this report, these two categories are combined and shown as "employed."

Unemployed.--Persons 14 years old and over are classified as unemployed if they were not at work during the census week but were either looking for work or would have been looking for work except that (1) they were temporarily ill, (2) they expected to return to a job from which they had been laid off for an indefinite period, or (3) they believed no work was available in their community, or in their line of work.

Labor force.--The labor force includes all persons classified as employed or unemployed, as described above, and also members of the armed forces (persons on active duty with the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard). The "civilian labor force" comprises the employed and unemployed components of the labor force.

Not in labor force.--Persons not in the labor force comprise all civilians 14 years of age and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed, including persons doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours). Included in this group are persons primarily engaged in their own home work, students, seasonal workers in an "off" season, the retired, persons unable to work, inmates of institutions, and persons not reporting on their employment status.

MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP

The data on major occupation group of employed persons presented here refer to the job held during the census week and are based on answers to the question, "What kind of work was he doing?" If the person was employed at two or more jobs, the job at which he worked the greatest number of hours during the census week was reported.

The occupational classification system developed for the 1950 Census of Population consists of 469 items, 270 of which are specific occupation categories; the remainder are subgroupings (mainly on the basis of industry) of 13 of the occupation categories. The 469 detailed items are classified into 12 major occupation groups, which form the basis on which the occupation data are presented in this report. The 1950 major groups are generally comparable with the 1940 major groups, although there are a number of differences in title and content. For further information on comparability between 1950 and earlier census data on occupation, see Volume II, Characteristics of the Population, Part I, United States Summary.

The composition of the 1950 major groups (except the "not reported" group) is indicated in the illustrative list shown below:

Professional, technical, and kindred workers.-- Includes Accountants; Actors; Airplane pilots and navigators; Architects; Artists; Athletes; Auditors; Authors; Chemists; Chiropractors; Clergymen; College presidents, professors, and instructors; Conservationists; Dancers; Dentists; Designers; Dietitians; Draftsmen; Editors; Embalmers; Entertainers; Farm management advisors; Foresters; Funeral directors; Healers; Home management advisors; Judges; Lawyers; Librarians; Musicians; Natural scientists; Nutritionists; Optometrists; Osteopaths; Personnel workers; Pharmacists; Photographers; Physicians; Professional nurses; Radio operators; Recreation workers; Religious workers; Reporters; Social scientists; Social workers; Sports instructors and officials; Student professional nurses; Surgeons; Surveyors; Teachers; Technical engineers; Therapists; Veterinarians.

Farmers and farm managers.--Includes tenant farmers and share croppers.

Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm.--Includes Buyers; Building superintendents; Credit men; Lodge officials; Postmasters; Public administration officials; Purchasing agents; Railroad conductors; Ship officers, pilots, pursers, and engineers; Shippers of farm products; Union officials.

Clerical and kindred workers.--Includes Bank tellers; Bill and account collectors; Bookkeepers; Cashiers; Dentist's office attendants; Express agents; Express messengers; Library assistants and attendants; Mail carriers; Messengers; Office boys; Office machine operators; Physician's office attendants; Railway mail clerks; Receiving clerks; Secretaries; Shipping clerks; Station agents; Stenographers; Telegraph messengers; Telegraph operators; Telephone operators; Ticket agents; Typists.

Sales workers.--Includes Advertising agents and salesmen; Auctioneers; Demonstrators; Hucksters;

Insurance agents and brokers; Newsboys; Peddlers; Real estate agents and brokers; Stock and bond salesmen.

Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers.-- Includes Annealers; Bakers; Blacksmiths; Boiler-makers; Bookbinders; Brickmasons; Cabinetmakers; Carpenters; Cement finishers; Compositors; Concrete finishers; Coppermiths; Cranemen; Derrickmen; Die makers; Die setters; Electricians; Electrotypers; Engravers; Excavating machinery operators; Forgemmen; Glaziers; Goldsmiths; Grading machinery operators; Heat treaters; Hoistmen; Lens grinders and polishers; Lithographers; Locomotive engineers; Locomotive firemen; Log and lumber scalers and graders; Loom fixers; Machinists; Mechanics; Metal molders; Metal rollers; Metal roll hands; Millers; Millwrights; Motion picture projectionists; Opticians; Organ tuners; Painters (construction and maintenance); Paperhangers; Photoengravers; Piano tuners; Pipe fitters; Plasterers; Plate printers; Plumbers; Power linemen and servicemen; Printing pressmen; Road machinery operators; Roofers; Sheet metal workers; Shoemakers, except in factories; Silversmiths; Slaters; Stationary engineers; Stereotypers; Stone carvers; Stone cutters; Stonemasons; Structural metal workers; Tailors; Telegraph and telephone linemen and servicemen; Tile setters; Tinsmiths; Tool makers; Typesetters; Upholsterers; Watchmakers; Window dressers.

Operatives and kindred workers.--Includes Apprentices; Asbestos workers; Auto service attendants; Blasters; Boatmen; Bus conductors and drivers; Canalmen; Chauffeurs; Deck hands; Deliverymen; Dressmakers; Dry cleaning operatives; Dyers; Fruit, nut, and vegetable graders and packers; Furnacemen; Insulation workers; Laundry operatives; Meat cutters; Metal filers, grinders, and polishers; Metal heaters; Milliners; Mine operatives and laborers; Motormen; Painters (except construction and maintenance); Parking lot attendants; Photographic process workers; Powdermen; Power station operators; Railroad brakemen and switchmen; Routemen; Sailors; Sawyers; Seamstresses; Smeltermen; Stationary firemen; Street railway conductors; Surveying chainmen, rodmen, and axmen; Taxicab drivers; Textile spinners; Textile weavers; Tractor drivers; Truck drivers; Welders.

Private household workers.--Includes housekeepers and laundresses in private households.

Service workers, except private household.--Includes Attendants and ushers in amusement places; Bailiffs; Barbers; Bartenders; Beauticians; Boarding house keepers; Bootblacks; Bridge tenders; Charwomen; Cooks, except in private households; Detectives; Doorkeepers; Elevator operators; Firemen (fire protection); Fountain workers; Guards; Hospital attendants; Janitors; Lodginghouse keepers; Manicurists; Marshals; Midwives; Policemen; Porters; Practical nurses; Sextons; Sheriffs; Stewards; Waiters; Watchmen.

Farm laborers and foremen.--Includes both paid and unpaid family farm laborers, and self-employed farm service laborers.

Laborers, except farm and mine.--Includes Car washers; Fishermen; Garage laborers; Groundskeepers; Longshoremen; Oystermen; Raftsmen; Stevedores; Teamsters; Woodchoppers.

INCOME

Income, as defined in the 1950 Census, is the sum of the money received, less losses, from the following sources: wages or salary; net income (or loss) from the operation of a farm, ranch, business, or profession; net income (or loss) from rents, or receipts from roomers or boarders; royalties; interest, dividends, and periodic income from estates and trust funds; pensions; veterans' payments, armed-forces allotments for dependents, and other governmental payments or assistance; and other income such as contributions for support from persons who are not members of the household, alimony, and periodic

receipts from insurance policies or annuities. The figures in this report represent the amount of income received before deductions for personal income taxes, social security, bond purchases, union dues, etc.

Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: money received from the sale of property, unless the recipient was engaged in the business of selling such property; the value of income "in kind," such as food produced and consumed in the home, free living quarters; withdrawals of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; gifts; and lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments.

RELIABILITY OF SAMPLE DATA

SAMPLE DESIGN

The data in this report are based on a representative sample of approximately 20 percent of the population. On the population schedules, a separate line was filled out for each person enumerated, with every fifth line designated as a sample line. Within each enumeration district, the schedules were divided approximately equally among five versions. On each version the sample constituted a different set of lines so that each line on the schedule was in the sample on one of the five versions. The data shown in this report are based on the persons enumerated on these sample lines.

Estimates of the number of persons with specified characteristics have in all cases been obtained by multiplying the number of persons in the sample containing these characteristics by five. Estimates of percentages have been obtained in each case by using the sample values for both the numerator and denominator.

Although, owing to the presence of blank or voided lines, special entries, etc., the sampling plan used did not automatically insure an exact 20 percent of the total population of Puerto Rican birth or parentage, the sampling plan was unbiased and the deviation from 20 percent was expected to be quite small. An 0.25 percent shortage in the total number of persons enumerated on population sample lines in the United States as a whole, and in New York State, constituted a very slight bias. This slight bias has relatively little effect on the distributions shown, although it results in the total number of persons in the various categories and areas being slightly understated.

SAMPLING VARIABILITY

Since the data are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability which can be determined from the standard errors shown in tables C and D. These tables do not reflect the effects of the bias mentioned above. Table C presents the approximate standard errors of sample estimates of selected sizes. Table D shows the approximate standard errors of percentages when computed by using data from this report for both numerator and denominator. Linear interpolation can be used for estimates not shown in the tables.

The standard error is a measure of sampling variability. The chances are about 2 out of 3 that the difference due to sampling variability between an estimate and the figure that would have been obtained from a complete count of the population is less than the standard error. The amount by which the standard error must be multiplied to obtain other odds deemed more appropriate can be found in most statistical textbooks. For example, the chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference is less than twice the standard error, and 99 out of 100 that it is less than 2½ times the standard error.

Illustration: Table 1 shows that there were an estimated 187,420 persons of Puerto Rican birth residing in New York City in April 1950 (82.9 percent of the 226,110 persons of Puerto Rican birth residing in continental United States). From linear interpolation between values in table C it is found that the standard error of an estimate of 187,420 is about 890. Consequently, the chances are about 2 out of 3 that the figure which would have been obtained from a complete count of the persons of Puerto Rican birth residing in New York City in April 1950 would differ by less than 890 from the sample estimate. It also follows that there is only about 1 chance in 100 that a complete census result would differ by as much as 2,220, that is, by about 2½ times the number given in the table. Table D indicates, also by linear interpolation, that the standard error of the 82.9 percent on a base of 226,110 is about 0.2 percent.

Table C.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED NUMBER (Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Estimated number	Standard error	Estimated number	Standard error
50.....	10	15,000.....	250
100.....	20	25,000.....	330
250.....	30	50,000.....	460
500.....	50	75,000.....	560
1,000.....	70	100,000.....	650
2,500.....	100	200,000.....	920
5,000.....	150	300,000.....	1,130
10,000.....	210		

The standard errors shown in tables C and D are not directly applicable to differences between estimates shown in this report. The standard error of the difference between a 1950 and a 1940 figure is identical with the variability of the 1950 estimate. The standard error of the difference between two 1950 estimates is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard error of each estimate considered separately. This formula represents the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area, although it is only a rough approximation in most other cases.

Some of the tables present estimates of the median number of persons as well as the corresponding distributions. The sampling variability of estimates of medians depends on the distributions upon which the medians are based.²

The smaller figures and small differences between figures should be used with particular care because they are subject to larger relative error

arising from processing and enumeration bias and larger relative sampling variability. These smaller figures have been included in the tables to permit analysis of broader groups with smaller relative bias and sampling variability.

² The standard error of a median based on sample data may be estimated as follows: If the estimated total number reporting the characteristic is N , compute the number $\frac{N}{2} - \sqrt{N}$. Cumulate the frequencies in the table until the class interval which contains this number is located. By linear interpolation, obtain the value below which $\frac{N}{2} - \sqrt{N}$ cases lie. In a similar manner, obtain the value below which $\frac{N}{2} + \sqrt{N}$ cases lie. If information on the characteristic had been obtained from the total population, the chances are about 2 out of 3 that the median would lie between these two values. The chances will be about 19 out of 20 that the median will be in the interval computed similarly but using $\frac{N}{2} + 2\sqrt{N}$ and about 99 in 100 that it will be in the interval obtained by using $\frac{N}{2} + 2.5\sqrt{N}$.

Table D.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE

(Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage							
	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	100,000	300,000
2 or 98.....	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	2.0	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1
10 or 90.....	2.8	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1
25 or 75.....	4.0	2.8	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.2
50.....	4.6	3.3	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.2