A NEW TECHNIQUE FOR MEASURING HOUSEHOLD CHANGES

MARSHALL L. TURNER, JR.*

RESUMEN

Debido a que muchas decisiones recientes sobre política, han estado dirigidas a producir cambios en las características socioeconómicas de familias y viviendas, se ha hecho necesario aislar aquellos cambios inducidos por la política de los que producen los cambios demográficos en las viviendas con el transcurso del tiempo. Para obtener tales datos longitudinales se usaron, en una operación de confrontación de registros en una computadora, los records de tres paneles de la Encuesta Actual de Población (CPS) de familias que fueron entrevistadas en marzo de 1964 y en marzo de 1965.

Los datos resultantes confirman que aproximadamente el 20 per ciento de las familias se movilizan durante el lapso de un año, como se evidencia por las familias no emparejadas que se encontró en 1964 pero que no estaban presentes en 1965. Lo que es más importante, los datos indican que el 3 por ciento de las viviendas de familias no móviles se convirtieron en viviendas individuales, o al revés, y que el 15 por ciento de las viviendas restantes cambiaron en cuanto al tamaño de la familia. Estos dos últimos datos estadísticos representan las primeras estimaciones nacionales de los cambios totales en las características demográficas de las viviendas.

Además de los datos sobre cambios en las viviendas, este método relativamente económico, puede ser utilizado para comparar los registros personales de las Encuestas Actuales de Población, y proporcionar información longitudinal sobre las personas en sus viviendas. En general este prototipo de técnica ofrece a los planificadores de la política un instrumento analítico con los controles estadísticos necesarios para apreciar los efectos de las decisiones de caracter político y predecir su éxito.

SUMMARY

Because many recent policy decisions have been aimed at effecting changes in the socioeconomic characteristics of families or households, it has become necessary to isolate policy-induced changes from demographic changes in households over time. To obtain such longitudinal data, the family records from three panels of the Current Population Survey that were interviewed both in March, 1964, and March, 1965, were used in a computer record-matching operation.

The resulting data confirm that approximately 20 percent of all households are mobile in the period of a year as evidenced by the nonmatched households that were found in 1964 but not present in 1965. More important, the data indicate that 3 percent of the nonmobile family households became individual households, or the reverse, and 15 percent of all the remaining households changed in family size. These last two statistics represent the first national estimates of gross changes in the demographic characteristics of households.

In addition to data on changes in households, this relatively inexpensive method can be used to match Current Population Survey persons' records and provide longitudinal data on the persons within households. Over all, this prototype technique offers policy planners an analytical tool with the necessary statistical controls for assessing the effects of policy decisions and predicting policy success.

INTRODUCTION

The contributions of demographers to policy are not necessarily limited to analyses of births, deaths, and migration. Their efforts often spill over into legal, economic, and sociological territory to fill the demands of contemporary problems in assessing policy needs and predicting policy success. Individual persons or events occurring to persons have usually been the focus of such analyses. Yet many recent problems attracting policy attention have been such things as low *family* income, aid to school districts with many children in poor *families*, housing demands for *households*, and so on. For the analyses of these types of problems, the desirable unit is the household, not the person.

This research started with the need to measure the normal yearly component of demographic change in households so that more meaning could be attached to year-

* United States Bureau of the Census. The writer wishes to acknowledge the guidance and advice of John C. Beresford; the helpful criticisms of Dr. Conrad Taeuber; and the suggestions and comments of Dr. Paul C. Glick, Mr. Robert Parke, and Mr. Jerry Jennings.

to-year changes in family income. The family income measurement problem was pushed first by the Council of Economic Advisers and recently with vigor by the Social Security Administration. In response to these pressures, an attempt was made to take advantage of existing Bureau of the Census records to help solve the problem of measuring year-to-year demographic and economic changes in households.

Possibilities with published data.—One could examine Current Population Survey data (or other surveys) for two successive years and get a reading on the net changes in the number of households and the net change for a given household characteristic. The March, 1964, and March, 1965, CPS household data, for example, show that the total number of primary individual households (households with no relatives present) increased from 8.7 million to 9.5 million over this one-year period. These same surveys also show that the number of families grew from approximately 47.4 million in 1964 to 47.8 million in 1965. These net increases suggest that there might have been a potential demand for one million or more housing units in the ratio of two units suitable for primary individuals to one unit suitable for a family. We could check the reasonableness of this ratio if we knew more about the number of changes in status from primary individual to family (and the reverse) which are not accompanied by a change in housing unit.

Longitudinal household investigations.—The first large-scale attempts at collecting data from the same group of respondent households at several points in time focused on the incidence of disease.[1] The work of Sydenstricker[2] is representative of these studies and of their weaknesses in coping with sample bias and attrition. In 1932, Downes and her colleagues conducted a three-year study of approximately 2,000 households.[3] Not only did this study describe the demographic profiles of the sample households that moved during the study and those that did not, but it focused on the family as its basic sampling unit and reported on the socioeconomic characteristics of these families.[4] Unfortunately for national policy purposes, the Downes study and similar past studies were based on a sample from one city and lacked the statistical controls necessary for making reliable inferences to a large universe.

Today the Current Population Survey effectively deals with some of the problems that handicapped past panel studies. The use of a rotating sample (in which a given household provides only four consecutive monthly interviews in two different time periods) helps to maintain respondent co-operation, to reduce sample attrition, and to provide some degree of continuity of respondents over one- to two-year ranges. Monthly measurements of sensitive items are protected against the fluctuations which a completely new sample might introduce, even though only a part of the households interviewed one month was in the sample the previous month.

An inexpensive opportunity for a longitudinal analysis of households.—Because the Current Population Survey sample of 35,000 households is divided into eight panels, four of which are the same for any given calendar month in two successive years, these panels can be used as the basis of a relatively inexpensive longitudinal study. As part of the regular CPS processing, a household record is created.

[1] Jean Downes, "The Longitudinal Study of Families as a Method of Research," *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, XXX (April, 1952), 101–18; Jean Downes, D. Collins Selwyn, and Elizabeth H. Jackson, "Characteristics of Stable and Non-stable Families in the Morbidity Study in the Eastern Health District of Baltimore," *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, XXVIII, (July, 1949), 260–82; and Nathan Goldfarb, *Longitudinal Statistical Analysis* (Glencoe, Ill.: Free Press, 1960).

[2] Edgar Sydenstricker, "Hagerstown Morbidity Studies No. IV," *Public Health Reports*, XLII (June, 1927), 1, 565–71, 576.

[3] Downes, *op. cit.*, pp. 101–18.

[4] Downes, Selwyn, and Jackson, *op. cit.*, 260–82.

This record contains data for the head of each household and a summary of characteristics for the household unit, such as income of families or number of members in the unit. To obtain longitudinal data for the households in these panels at two points in time, one can match the computer magnetic-tape records of the same households in both years. Income is obtained for six of the eight CPS panels. If income data are required (the case here), only three panels may be matched. This computer matching operation can be based on an index of three identification numbers that is unique for each CPS household record:

1. *Primary sampling unit number.*—Three digits that indicate a county or group of contiguous counties
2. *Serial number.*—Four digits that specify a unique housing unit address within a given PSU
3. *Household number.*—One digit that ranges from 1 to 7 to define the times the household population of a given housing unit has changed completely since the housing unit entered the CPS sample

This matching operation was used to secure data on households with identical index numbers ("matched") and match failures from three panels of the March surveys of 1964 and 1965. The details and results of the operation are shown in Figure 1. In explanation of this schematic, column A represents the proportion of primary individual and family households in the total household population of 1964. Column B depicts the appropriately inflated number of 1964 households which were matched to 1965 records. In column C, parts 1, 2, 3, and 4 represent the number of matched households, by type, in both years. For example, a "family to family" household is one that was a family in 1964 and a family in 1965,

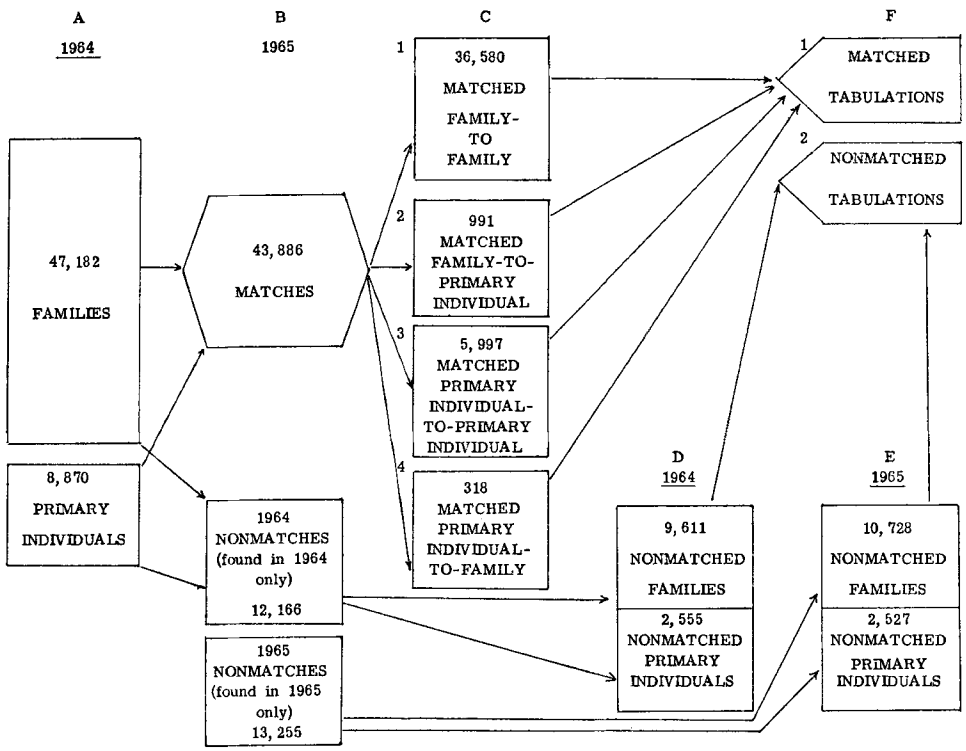

FIG. 1.—Household matching operation (numbers in thousands, based on three-eighths of CPS sample).

whereas a "primary individual to family" household is one that was a primary individual in 1964 but had become a family in 1965. Boxes under Columns D and E show the number of family or primary individual households from 1964 or 1965, respectively, that were not matched. Parts 1 and 2 of Column F identify the two types of tabulations that were made. The "matching" errors arising from this procedure will be assessed, in part, by a study which is now in progress.

MOBILITY AND MATCHING

The major obstacle which longitudinal studies must overcome is, of course, mobility of the respondents. Some small-scale studies have gone to considerable lengths to locate the mobile cases.[5] This "bargain basement economy" study began with the certain knowledge that no longitudinal data would be obtained for households which moved out of the CPS sample. Nevertheless, the question must be asked, "Do measurements of the nonmatched households correspond to data for mobile heads of households?" To get a rough answer to this question, the similarities and differences of these two groups were compared.

As shown in Tables 1 and 2, the volume of unmatched households (12.2 million) could be mostly accounted for by mobile heads (11.1 million). In addition, approximately 78 percent of the nonmatched households and 81 percent of the mobile households had male heads. However, the age distributions of the two groups differ substantially. In particular, 13 percent of all nonmatched household heads were 65 years old and over while only 7 percent of the mobile heads were in this age category. This difference might be partly explained by deaths in the nonmatch group. A nonmatch could result from the move-

[5] *Ibid.* Ernest Burgess and Paul Wallin, *Engagement and Marriage* (Chicago: J. P. Lippincott Co., 1953); and David Goldberg, Harry Sharp, and Ronald Freedman, "The Stability and Reliability of Expected Family Size Data," *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, XXXVII, (October, 1959), 369–85.

Table 1.—NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS BY SEX OF HEAD, BY MATCHED STATUS FOR THE LONGITUDINAL STUDY, AND BY MOBILITY STATUS FROM THE CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY, MARCH, 1965

(Numbers in Thousands)

Matched or mobility status and year and source of data	Total households	Male household heads	Female household heads	Percent male household heads	Percent by match or mobility status
1964					
Longitudinal data					
Total	56,052	45,301	10,749	80.8	100.0
Matched households	43,886	35,787	8,097	81.5	78.3
Nonmatched households (Found in 1964 not found in 1965)	12,166	9,514	2,652	78.2	21.7
1965					
Longitudinal data					
Total	57,141	46,499	10,640	81.4	100.0
Matched households	43,886	35,787	8,097	81.5	76.8
Nonmatched households (Found in 1965 only)	13,255	10,712	2,543	80.8	23.2
CPS data					
Total	56,960	45,745	11,215	80.3	100.0
Nonmobile households	45,943	36,800	9,143	80.1	80.6
Mobile households (Between 1964 and 1965)	11,017	8,945	2,072	81.2	19.4

Source: Special tabulations of CPS records and unpublished March 1965 CPS mobility data.

Estimates of the standard errors of the longitudinal data in Tables 1-6 are shown in the Appendix.

Table 2.—NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE OF HEAD, BY MATCHED STATUS FOR THE LONGITUDINAL STUDY, BY MOBILITY STATUS FROM THE CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY, MARCH, 1965

(Numbers in Thousands)

Match or mobility status and year and source of data	Total household heads				Male household heads				Female household heads			
	Total	Under 25	25 to 64	65 and over	Total	Under 25	25 to 64	65 and over	Total	Under 25	25 to 64	65 and over
Longitudinal data												
Total.....	56,050	3,094	41,953	11,002	45,303	2,639	35,828	6,836	10,747	455	6,128	4,164
Matched households..	43,884	1,456	33,036	9,392	35,787	1,272	28,503	6,012	8,096	184	4,534	3,378
Nonmatched households..... (Found in 1964 only)	12,166	1,638	8,917	1,610	9,516	1,367	7,325	824	2,651	271	1,594	786
CPS data												
Total.....	56,960	3,343	42,688	10,929	45,745	2,862	36,151	6,732	11,215	481	6,537	4,197
Nonmobile households	45,943	987	34,833	10,123	36,800	860	29,684	6,256	9,143	127	5,149	3,867
Mobile households... (Between 1964 and 1965)	11,017	2,356	7,855	806	8,945	2,002	6,467	476	2,072	354	1,388	330

Source: Special tabulations of CPS records and unpublished March 1965 CPS mobility data.

ment of an individual household head or the death of this head, who would, of course, not be counted in the CPS mobility data. In Table 3, the age distribution of the mobile heads has been adjusted with estimates of decedents. Of all mobile and deceased heads, approximately 12 percent were 65 years old and over as compared with 13 percent of the nonmatched household heads.

The CPS mobility data are not based on exactly the same calendar time period during which a nonmatching household could move into or out of the CPS sample. The mobility data presented in Tables 1 and 2 refer to mobility of household heads, whereas nonmatch status refers to an entire household; that is, a nonmatch household occurs only when all members move out, but a mobile head occurs when only the head moves. The reason there is not a greater discrepancy between the total number of nonmatch and mobile households is that in families, at least, the overwhelming majority of family members old enough to migrate (about 94 percent) share the same migration status as the head.[6]

Family to primary individual and primary individual to family changes.—About 318,000 primary individuals of the 6.3 million that we were able to trace moved into or set up families within the one-year period. Approximately 1 million of 37.6 million 1964 families had been converted to primary individuals by 1965. These estimates (see Table 4) provide the first national measure of year-to-year gross change in household type for nonmobile households. The measurement of matched units which have experienced these unexpected changes in a given year provides a statistic on an aspect of change. The nature of the change (an alteration in housekeeping arrangements is a concomitant of the changes) is such that income, consumption, and other economic characteristics are radically affected by it.

Over all, the longitudinal data in Table 4 indicate certain differences between the matched primary individuals who became family heads and those who did not. In comparing these two groups, the larger proportions of males and persons under 25 that made this change suggest the exercise of male initiative in household formation

[6] Bureau of the Census, *United States Census of Population, 1960—Subject Reports: Characteristics of Persons in Families*, PC(2)-4B, Table 20. In this table, "same migration status" means sharing 1 of 11 statuses as defined on page xvi of the report text.

Table 3.—NUMBER OF NONMATCHED HOUSEHOLDS AND MOBILE HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING DECEDENTS,[a] BY AGE OF HEAD
(Numbers in Thousands)

Match or mobility status and year and source of data	Total household heads			
	Total	Under 25	25 to 64	65 and over
Longitudinal data				
Nonmatched households (Found in 1964, not found in 1965)	12,166	1,638	8,917	1,610
CPS data				
Total	11,943	2,359	8,130	1,454
Mobile households (Between 1964 and 1965)	11,017	2,356	7,855	806
Decedents[a]	926	3	275	648

[a] Proportion of persons in each age category who were household heads was applied to estimates of deceased persons, by age, to obtain crude estimates of decedents who headed households.

Source: Special tabulations of CPS records and unpublished March 1965 mobility data. Vital Statistics of the United States, 1964, Volume II, Part B, National Office of Vital Statistics. Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 139, July 11,1965.

and the high rate of household change associated with the population under 25.

The characteristics of the matched heads of families whose status changed to primary individual can be related to the same traits (see Table 4) of the family heads who did not make this switch. Apparently, females were more likely to make this change than were males—probably a result of differential mortality converting wives into primary individuals. In support of this notion is the great proportion of family heads in the 65-or-over age group that shifted to primary individual status.

Changes in family size.—The examina-

Table 4.—AGE, SEX, COLOR, AND FARM RESIDENCE ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGE IN LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

(Numbers in Thousands)

Status in 1964	Number and status in 1965			Percent changing status		Percent with no change in status
	Total	Primary individual	Primary family	Within 1964 category	Of all changes	
Primary individual						
Total	6,315	5,997	318	5.0	100.0	100.0
Male	1,869	1,757	112	6.0	35.2	29.3
Under 25	52	24	27	(B)	8.5	0.4
25 to 64	1,118	1,066	52	4.7	16.4	17.8
65 and over	699	667	32	4.6	10.1	11.1
Female	4,445	4,239	205	4.6	64.5	70.7
Under 25	78	60	18	(B)	5.7	1.0
25 to 64	1,926	1,808	119	6.2	37.4	32.1
65 and over	2,440	2,371	70	2.9	22.0	40.7
White	5,671	5,391	281	5.0	88.4	94.6
Male	1,645	1,538	107	6.5	33.6	27.4
Female	4,026	3,853	174	4.3	54.7	67.1
Nonwhite	643	605	37	5.8	11.6	10.7
Male	224	219	5	2.2	1.6	3.7
Female	419	386	32	7.6	10.1	7.0
Nonfarm	6,094	5,800	293	4.8	92.1	96.7
Under 25	126	84	41	(B)	12.9	1.4
25 to 64	2,943	2,786	156	5.3	49.0	46.5
65 and over	3,025	2,928	97	3.2	30.5	48.8
Farm	220	197	23	10.5	7.2	3.3
Under 25	4	0	4	(B)	1.3	0.0
25 to 64	102	88	15	(B)	4.7	1.5
65 and over	114	110	4	(B)	1.3	1.8
Primary family						
Total	37,571	991	36,580	2.6	100.0	100.0
Male head	33,918	689	33,229	2.0	69.5	90.8
Under 25	1,220	26	1,194	2.1	2.6	3.3
25 to 64	27,385	338	27,047	1.2	34.1	73.9
65 and over	5,313	326	4,987	6.1	32.9	13.9
Female head	3,652	303	3,349	8.3	30.6	9.2
Under 25	106	14	92	(B)	1.4	0.3
25 to 64	2,608	180	2,428	6.9	18.2	6.6
65 and over	938	108	830	11.5	10.9	2.3
White	33,936	853	33,083	2.5	86.1	90.4
Male	31,050	614	30,436	2.0	62.0	83.2
Female	2,886	239	2,647	8.3	24.1	7.2
Nonwhite	3,636	138	3,498	3.8	13.9	9.6
Male	2,870	75	2,795	2.6	7.6	7.6
Female	766	63	703	8.2	6.4	1.9
Nonfarm	34,874	937	33,937	2.7	94.5	92.8
Under 25	1,288	40	1,248	3.1	4.0	3.4
25 to 64	27,954	486	27,468	1.7	49.0	75.1
65 and over	5,631	410	5,221	7.3	41.4	14.3
Farm	2,699	54	2,645	2.0	5.4	7.2
Under 25	38	0	38	(B)	0.0	0.1
25 to 64	2,039	32	2,007	1.6	3.2	5.5
65 and over	620	23	597	3.7	2.3	1.6

(B) Base less than 200,000

Source: Special tabulations of CPS records.

tion of family size changes is limited to households with the same families present in both years. Table 5 provides the totals of size changes for these matched families. The tabulation was cut at the size category "5 persons or more," and this restriction limits the view considerably since there are undoubtedly many size changes occurring within the category that are not observable.

The basic observation is that at least 15 percent of all the matched families underwent a change in size during this twelve-month period. (Expansion of the "5 or more" size interval would yield additional changes.) The 15 percent change agrees with roughly similar observations from a limited selection of families in the 66 urban areas of the Consumer Expenditure Survey for 1960 to 1961. In the CES for this one-year period, roughly 15 percent of the consumer units had part-year consumers, and this was taken as an indication of change in family size.

Of all the matched families, two-person families were the least likely to change. They were apparently the most stable. However, over one-third of these two-person families were married couples with heads at least 65 years old. These families had completed child-rearing and were at the end of family size increases. If we attribute all change in size of two-person matched families to those with heads under 65, roughly 10 percent of the under-65 two-person families would have increased in size during the year.

Nine percent of three-person families became four-person families and 10 percent of four-person families became five-person families. We assumed that most of these changes reflect life cycle increases due to childbearing, although some may be the result of relatives moving in or of other unexpected changes.

Ultimately, of course, the family begins a decline in size. The percentage of 1964 three-person matched families declining in size was 13 percent. For four- and five-person families, 13 percent and 9 percent, respectively, declined in size. Families with heads under age 25 in 1964 and with three or more members which declined in size by 1965 represent 4 percent of the age group—a possible estimate of unexpected decline for that age group.

These observations of year-to-year alterations in the volume of families in each size class are likely to be of interest to researchers and policy makers con-

Table 5.—SIZE OF MATCHED FAMILIES[a] IN 1964 AND 1965 BY AGE OF HEAD IN 1964
(Numbers in Thousands)

Age and size in 1964	Size in 1965					Percent		
	All matched households	2 person	3 person	4 person	5+ person	Increasing in size	Decreasing in size	Stable
Total families.....	36,585	11,730	7,484	7,234	10,137	8.0	6.5	85.5
Under 25.....	1,289	314	439	308	228	26.5	4.3	69.2
2 person.....	440	274	137	24	5	37.7	NA	62.3
3 person.....	416	20	292	99	5	25.0	4.8	70.2
4 person.....	275	20	5	179	71	25.8	9.1	65.1
5+	158	0	5	6	147	(B)	(B)	(B)
25 to 64.....	29,477	7,229	6,033	6,644	9,571	6.3	8.5	85.2
2 person.....	6,747	6,220	386	100	41	7.8	NA	92.2
3 person.....	6,158	762	4,702	586	108	11.3	12.4	76.3
4 person.....	6,927	143	754	5,399	631	9.1	12.9	77.9
5+ person.....	9,645	104	191	599	8,791	NA	8.8	91.2
65 +.....	5,819	4,187	1,012	282	338	6.1	3.4	90.5
2 person.....	4,081	3,949	66	33	33	3.2	NA	96.8
3 person.....	1,144	216	877	28	23	4.5	18.9	76.7
4 person.....	246	0	59	174	13	5.3	24.0	70.7
5+ person.....	348	22	10	47	269	NA	22.7	77.3

[a] Two or more person families in both years. NA not applicable (B) Base less than 200,000

Source: Special tabulations of CPS records.

Table 6.—CHARACTERISTICS OF MATCHED FAMILIES[a] CHANGING THEIR SIZES
(Numbers in Thousands)

Characteristics in 1964	Number				Percent				Percent			
	All matched families	Increasing in size	Decreasing in size	Stable	All matched families	Increasing in size	Decreasing in size	Stable	All matched families	Increasing in size	Decreasing in size	Stable
All families.....	36,582	2,385	2,921	31,274	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6.5	8.0	85.5
Head under 25....	1,289	341	56	892	3.5	14.3	1.9	2.9	100.0	26.5	4.3	69.2
Head 25 to 64....	29,477	1,852	2,513	25,112	80.6	77.7	86.0	80.3	100.0	6.3	8.5	85.2
Head 65 and over.	5,819	196	354	5,269	15.9	8.2	12.1	16.8	100.0	3.4	6.1	90.5
Male head.....	33,230	2,098	2,618	28,514	90.8	88.0	89.6	91.2	100.0	6.3	7.9	85.8
Under 25.....	1,197	300	50	847	3.3	12.6	1.7	2.7	100.0	25.1	4.2	70.8
25 to 64.....	27,049	1,638	2,248	23,163	73.9	68.7	77.0	74.1	100.0	6.1	8.3	85.6
65 and over.....	4,990	162	323	4,505	13.6	6.8	11.1	14.4	100.0	3.2	6.5	90.3
Female.....	3,348	288	302	2,758	9.1	12.1	10.3	8.8	100.0	8.6	9.0	82.4
Under 25.....	92	41	6	45	-	1.7	0.2	0.1	100.0	(B)	(B)	(B)
25 to 64.....	2,428	214	265	1,949	6.6	9.0	9.1	6.2	100.0	8.8	10.9	80.3
65 and over.....	829	34	31	764	2.3	1.4	1.1	2.4	100.0	4.1	3.7	92.2
White.....	33,081	2,141	2,633	28,307	90.4	90.0	90.1	90.5	100.0	6.5	8.0	85.6
Nonwhite.....	3,498	244	288	2,967	9.6	10.0	9.9	9.5	100.0	7.0	8.2	84.8
Nonfarm.....	33,937	2,305	2,721	28,912	92.8	96.6	93.2	92.4	100.0	6.8	8.0	85.2
Farm.....	2,645	80	200	2,362	7.2	3.4	6.8	7.6	100.0	3.0	7.6	89.3

[a] Two or more person families in both years (B) Base less than 200,000 - Denotes zero or rounds to zero

Source: Special tabulations of CPS records.

cerned with fertility, family size expectations, population model building, and estimates of consumer demand.

The sex, color, and residence differences shown in Table 6 between the families that increased in size and those that decreased or remained stable are very slight. As would be expected, however, heads under age 25 appeared disproportionately among the families increasing in size. Heads aged 25 to 64 had a disproportionate percentage of families decreasing in size (heads in that age range have family members to lose). Over age 65, the stable family size class is slightly overrepresented.

SUMMARY

This work is an introduction to what we hope will be a continued exploration of the possibilities of using matched families from successive years of the Current Population Survey to begin building indices of year-to-year change in nonmobile families. At the present, work is under way to match CPS records for persons in families. The results of this investigation will help in interpreting these first data on changes in families themselves and, hopefully, in providing new data on the dynamics of household living arrangements.

The work done thus far adds two new numbers to one old number to yield a new estimate of households undergoing a basic demographic change in a one-year period. Previously we knew that about 20 percent of the households migrated each year. Now we know that another 3 percent convert from family to primary individual status, or the reverse, and, of the remaining households, 10 percent change size in a year. Thus, only about two-thirds of all households have no change in mobility, size, or family status in a given year.

APPENDIX

ESTIMATES OF THE STANDARD ERRORS OF THE LONGITUDINAL DATA IN TABLES 1–6

Table A-1.—STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS, BASED ON LONGITUDINAL STUDY, THREE-EIGHTHS OF CPS SAMPLE

(68 Chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000.....	10,000	2,500,000	125,000
50,000.....	18,000	5,000,000	165,000
100,000.....	24,000	10,000,000	230,000
250,000.....	39,000	25,000,000	330,000
500,000.....	55,000	50,000,000	380,000
1,000,000.....	78,000		

Table A-2.—STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES OF HOUSEHOLDS LONGITUDINAL STUDY, THREE-EIGHTHS OF CPS SAMPLE

(68 Chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentages (000)					
	500	1,000	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000
2 or 98.....	1.3	.8	.3	.3	.2	.1
5 or 95.....	2.0	1.5	.7	.5	.3	.2
10 or 90.....	2.8	2.0	.8	.7	.4	.3
25 or 75.....	3.9	2.8	1.3	.8	.5	.4
50.....	4.6	3.1	1.5	1.0	.6	.5