

**ABORTION.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) surveillance program counts legal abortions only. For surveillance purposes, legal abortion is defined as a procedure performed by a licensed physician or someone acting under the supervision of a licensed physician to induce the termination of a pregnancy.

**ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS.** Long-term reductions in activities resulting from a chronic disease or impairment. A person is classified as having an activity limitation if he or she reports (1) an inability to perform the major activity for a person in his or her age group, (2) being able to perform the major activity but being limited in the kind or amount of this activity, or (3) not being limited in the major activity but being limited in the kind or amount of other activities. For children under age 5, the major activity consists of ordinary play. For children ages 5 to 17, the major activity is attending school. Children are classified as being limited in a major activity if they are unable to engage in the major activity or are limited in the kind or amount of this activity (classifications (1) and (2) above).

**ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE UTILIZATION INDEX (APCU).** Measures the adequacy of prenatal care by (a) the timing of the first prenatal visit and (b) the appropriateness of the number of visits based on gestational age (i.e., at the first prenatal visit and at delivery).

**APGAR SCORE.** A numerical expression of the physical condition of an infant shortly after delivery.

**BINGE DRINKING.** Five or more drinks in a row in the previous 2 weeks.

**BIRTHWEIGHT.** The first weight of the newborn obtained after birth. Low birthweight is defined as less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds 8 ounces. Very low birthweight is defined as less than 1,500 grams or 3 pounds 4 ounces. Before 1979 low birthweight was defined as 2,500 grams or less and very low birthweight as 1,500 grams or less.

**BODY MASS INDEX (BMI).** A measure that adjusts body weight for height. It is calculated as weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared. Sex- and age-specific cut points of BMI are used in this book in the definition of overweight.

**CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS.** Includes day care centers, Head Start programs, preschools, prekindergartens, and other early childhood programs.

**CHRONIC CONDITIONS.** A condition is considered chronic if the respondent indicates it was first noticed more than 3 months before the reference date of the interview, or it is a type of condition that ordinarily has a duration of more than 3 months.

**COMPUTER LITERACY.** The ability to operate a computer for school work at school or at home.

**CUSTODIAL.** Having custody, especially of a child.

**DEPENDENT POPULATION.** Persons considered economically inactive due to their age. Defined as persons under age 18 and over age 65.

**DROPOUT RATE.** See "Event Dropout Rate."

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES (ECC).** A form of tooth decay that occurs in children as early as 6 months old.

**EVENT DROPOUT RATE.** Event rates are calculated using the October CPS data and measure the proportion of students who dropped out between October of one year and the next. These dropouts are 15- through 24-year-olds who were enrolled in high school in October 1 year, but had not completed high school and were not enrolled in grades 10–12 a year later. According to this definition, a young person could complete high school by either earning a high school diploma or receiving an alternative credential such as a GED. This is in contrast to status dropout rates which provide cumulative data on dropouts among all youth within a specified age range, and cohort dropout rates which follow a particular cohort of students over time.

**FAMILY.** Refers to a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption who reside together; the Census Bureau considers all such people as members of one family. Two or more people living in the same household who are related to one another, but are not related to the householder, form an “unrelated subfamily.” Beginning with the 1980 Current Population Survey, the Census Bureau excluded unrelated subfamilies from the count of families and unrelated subfamily members from the count of family members.

**FAMILY INCOME.** The combined income of all family members 14 years old and older living in the household for a period of 1 year. Income includes money incomes from jobs, net incomes from business, farms or rent, pensions, dividends, interest, Social Security, and any other money income.

**FERTILITY RATE.** Computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to women ages 15-44.

**FOOD SECURITY.** The percentage of children under age 18 in households experiencing food insecurity with moderate to severe hunger is based on the food security scale derived from data collected in the Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey. The food security scale provides a near continuous measure of the level of food insecurity and hunger experienced within each household. A categorical measure based on the scale classifies households according to four designated levels of severity of household food insecurity: food secure, food insecure without hunger, food insecure with moderate hunger, and food insecure with severe hunger. Food secure households do not report a pattern of difficulty obtaining enough or acceptable quality food. Food insecure households without hunger report having difficulty obtaining enough food, reduced quality of diets, anxiety about their food supply, and increasingly resorting to emergency food sources and other coping behaviors, but do not report indicators of hunger. Food insecure households with moderate hunger report food insecurity and a pattern of indicators of hunger for one or more adults and, in some cases, for children. Food insecure households with severe hunger report multiple indicators of both adults' and children's hunger. For more information, see Food and Nutrition Service (1997). *Household Food Security in the United States in 1995 and 2000 guide to measuring household food security*. Alexandria, VA: Food and Nutrition Service.

**FOOD STAMPS.** The Food Stamp act of 1977 was enacted for the purpose of increasing the food purchasing power of eligible households through the use of coupons to purchase food. The Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers the Food Stamp Program through state and local welfare offices. The Food Stamp Program is the major national income support program which provides benefits to all low-income and low-resource households regardless of household characteristics (e.g., sex, age, disability, etc.). The questions on participation in the Food Stamp Program in the March Current Population Survey were designed to identify households in which one or more of the current members received food stamps during the previous calendar year. Once a food stamp household was identified, a question was asked to determine the number of current household members covered by food stamps during the previous calendar year. Questions were also asked about the number of months food stamps were received during the previous calendar year and the total face value of all food stamps received during that period.

**FOREIGN BORN.** Foreign-born residents are those people born outside the United States to noncitizen parents, while native residents are those people born inside the United States or born abroad to United States citizen parents. One notable difference between the two populations concern children. Any child born to foreign-born parents after entering the United States, by definition becomes part of the native population. The foreign-born child population, therefore is quite small, while the native child population (and the overall native population) are inflated by births to foreign-born parents after migrating to the United States. Data are consistent with the 1990 population estimates base. Also includes both immigrants (citizens and noncitizens) and illegal aliens.

**FOSTER CARE.** A living arrangement where a child resides outside his or her own home, under the case management and planning responsibility of a state child welfare agency. These living arrangements include relative and nonrelative foster homes, group homes, child-care facilities, emergency shelter care, supervised independent living, and nonfinalized adoptive homes.

**FREQUENT SMOKING.** Smoking on 20 or more of the previous 30 days.

**GESTATION.** The interval between the first day of the mother's last normal menstrual period and the date of birth.

**HALLUCINOGENS.** Substances such as LSD or other psychedelic drugs such as mescaline, peyote, psilocybin, or PCP.

**HEALTH INSURANCE.** A child is considered covered by health insurance if he or she was covered by at least one of the following types of insurance at some time during the year; (1) Employer/Union, (2) Privately purchased not related to employment, (3) Medicare, (4) Military, (5) Medicaid health care (CHAMPUS). "Private health care" includes 1 and 2. Government insurances include 3, 4, and 5.

**HEALTHY BIRTH.** 5-minute Apgar Score of 9 or above, birthweight of at least 2500 grams, gestational age of 37 weeks or more, and prenatal care in the first trimester.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.** 12 years of school completed for 1971-1991 and high school diploma or equivalency certificate for 1992-1998.

**HISPANIC ORIGIN.** Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**HOMICIDES.** Includes death by legal intervention.

**HOUSEHOLD(S).** Consist of all people who occupy a housing unit. The Census Bureau regards a house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters: the occupants do not live and eat with any other people in the structure and there is direct access from the outside **OR** through a common hall.

A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. The Census Bureau also counts a person living alone in a housing unit or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit as partners as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters.

**ILLICIT DRUGS.** Includes marijuana, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens (including PCP), inhalants, and non-medical use psychotherapeutics.

**INCOME.** For each person in the sample 15 years old and over, the Current Population Survey asks questions on the amount of money income received in the preceding calendar year from each of the following sources: 1. Earnings. 2. Unemployment compensation. 3. Workers' compensation. 4. Social Security. 5. Supplemental Security Income. 6. Public assistance. 7. Veterans' payments. 8. Survivor benefits. 9. Disability benefits. 10. Pension or retirement income. 11. Interest. 12. Dividends. 13. Rents, royalties, and estates and trusts. 14. Educational assistance. 15. Alimony. 16. Child support. 17. Financial assistance from outside of the household. 18. Other income.

**INFANT.** Child under 1 year old.

**INFANT DEATH.** The death of a live-born child before his or her first birthday. Deaths in the first year of life may be further classified according to age as neonatal and post-neonatal. Neonatal deaths are those that occur before the 28th day of life; postneonatal deaths are those that occur between 28 and 365 days of age.

**INHALANTS.** Substances such as glues and aerosols.

**LABOR FORCE.** Persons are classified as in the labor force if they are employed, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" includes all civilians classified as employed or unemployed. The file includes labor force data for civilians age 15 and over. However, the official definition of the civilian labor force is age 16 and over.

1. Employed. Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the survey week did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who work 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or a business operated by a member of the family; and (2) all those who have jobs but who are not working because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they are taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they are seeking other jobs. These persons would have a Labor Force Status Recode (LFSR) of 1 or 2 respectively in character 145 of the person record which designates "at work" and "with a job, but not at work." Each employed person is counted only once. Those persons

who held more than one job are counted in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the survey week. If they worked an equal number of hours at more than one job, they are counted at the job they held the longest.

2. Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, have no employment but are available for work, and (1) have engaged in any specific job-seeking activity within the past 4 weeks such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) are waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) are waiting to report to a new wage or salary job with 30 days.

**LIVE BIRTH.** In the World Health Organization's definition, also adopted by the United Nations and the National Center for Health Statistics, a live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as heartbeat, umbilical cord pulsation, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered live born.

**LOW BIRTHWEIGHT.** See **BIRTHWEIGHT.**

**LOW INCOME.** Total family income for the year of the interview below 130 percent of the federal poverty threshold, middle is between 130 and 350 percent, and high is over 350 percent.

**LOW RISK TEEN CUMULATIVE RISK INDEX.** Suspension or expulsion from school, engaging in sexual intercourse, use of illegal drugs, unsupervised consumption of alcohol, and regular smoking of tobacco cigarettes.

**MEDIAN INCOME.** Median income is the amount which divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having incomes above the median, half having incomes below the median. The medians for households, families, and unrelated individuals are based on all households, families, and unrelated individuals, respectively. The medians for people are based on people 15 years old and over with income.

**NATIVE POPULATION.** U.S. residents who were born in the United States, and U.S. residents who were born in a foreign country but who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen.

**NEONATAL.** Child under 28 days old.

**OVERWEIGHT.** Body mass index (BMI) at or above the sex- and age-specific 95th percentile. BMI cutoff points calculated at 6-month age intervals for children ages 6 through 11, and for adolescents ages 12 through 17.

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.** Low parental involvement consists of 0-1 activity; moderate parental involvement consists of 2 activities; high parental involvement consists of 3 or more activities.

**PERINATAL.** Near the time of birth, usually after the 20th week of gestation.

## ***Glossary of Technical Terms***

**PHYSICAL PROBLEMS.** Include plumbing, heating, electricity, upkeep, and/or condition of apartment hallways.

**POSTNATAL.** Child who is 28 days to 1 year old.

**POVERTY LINE.** Poverty statistics are based on definitions originally developed by the Social Security Administration. These include a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition. Families or individuals with income below their appropriate thresholds are classified as below the poverty level. These thresholds are updated annually by the U.S. Bureau of the Census to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U). For example, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$15,569 in 1995 and \$13,359 in 1990.

**PRETERM.** Infants born before 37 weeks of gestation, one of the major causes of infant mortality.

**REGULAR DRINKING.** Having an alcoholic beverage on more than two occasions in the previous 30 days.

**RISK BEHAVIORS.** Regular alcohol abuse, regular binge drinking, regular tobacco use, marijuana use, cocaine use, sexual intercourse, physical fighting, weapon carrying, suicidal thoughts, and suicide attempt.

**SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS).** The sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation, including the performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the clinical history.

**TWO PARENTS.** Biological and adoptive parents only.

**UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES.** Includes death from motor vehicle crashes, fires, burns, drowning, suffocation, and accidents caused by firearms and other explosive materials, as well as homicides, suicides, and other external causes of death.

**VERY LOW BIRTHWEIGHT,** Babies born weighing less than 1,500 grams (3lb, 4oz.).

**VIOLENT CRIMES.** Includes aggravated assaults, rape, and robbery.

**WEAPON.** Includes guns, knives, and clubs.