

Glossary

Glossary of Technical Terms

ABORTION. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 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 LIMITATION. 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 (1) the timing of the first prenatal visit and (2) 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. The Apgar score is used to predict the newborn's chance of survival. The score considers five characteristics of the baby—heart rate, respiratory effort, muscle tone, reflex irritability, and color, with the total score ranging between one and 10.

BIRTH RATE. The number of live births per 1,000 members of a defined population. For example, age-specific birth rates are the numbers of live births per 1,000 members of a given age group. It is calculated by dividing the number of live births in a population in a year by the midyear resident population, as of April 1.

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 CONDITION. Long-standing, not easily or quickly resolved. Also, continuous or persistent over an extended period of time. Chronic condition (as used in Indicator HC2.6) is an impairment that has been apparent for at least 3 months, or is a new condition that will ordinarily last for more than 3 months.

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

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

DETACHED YOUTH. Youth ages 16 to 19 who are neither enrolled in school nor working.

DROPOUT RATE. See **EVENT DROPOUT RATES.**

EVENT DROPOUT RATES. Event rates are calculated using the October Current Population Survey data and measure the proportion of students who dropped out between October of one year and the following year. These dropouts are 15- to 24-year-olds who were enrolled in high school in October one 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 General Education Development (GED) credential. 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 one 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. The total number of live births, regardless of age of mother, per 1,000 women of reproductive age, 15-44 years. See also Total fertility rate.

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.

Glossary of Technical Terms

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 POPULATION. The foreign-born population includes people born outside the United States to noncitizen parents, 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.

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 government or private insurance at some time during the year. Government health insurance for children consists primarily of Medicaid, but also includes Medicare and CHAMPUS. Private health insurance includes employer or union coverage or privately purchased health insurance not related to employment.

HEALTHY BIRTH. Five-minute Apgar Score of seven or above, birthweight of at least 2,500 grams, gestational age of 37 weeks or more, and prenatal care in the first trimester.

HIGH INCOME. The top 20 percent of all family incomes for the year.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES. 12 years of school completed for 1971-1991 and high school diploma or equivalency certificate for 1992-1997.

HOUSEHOLDER. Usually the household member, or one of the members, in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented.

HOUSEHOLDS. 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, LSD, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens (including PCP), inhalants, and other opiates, stimulants, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

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 one year old.

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.

Glossary of Technical Terms

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. The bottom 20 percent of all family incomes for the year.

MEDIAN INCOME. Median income is the amount that 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.

MIDDLE INCOME. Income between 20 and 80 percent of all family incomes for the year.

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.

NEEDY CHILDREN. Includes those who have been deprived of parental support or care because their father or mother is absent from the home continuously, is incapacitated, is deceased, or is unemployed.

NEONATAL CHILD. 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 to 11, and for youth ages 12 to 17.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT. The level of involvement depends on the number of different activities in which parents report participating. Low parental involvement consists of zero to one activity; moderate parental involvement consists of two activities; high parental involvement consists of three or more activities.

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

POSTNEONATAL. 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 (not including noncash benefits, such as Food Stamps) thresholds that vary by family size and composition. Families or individuals with income below their appropriate thresholds are classified as living 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 BIRTH. Infants born before 37 weeks of gestation, one of the major causes of infant mortality.

RELATED CHILDREN. Related children in a family include own children and all other children in the household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. For each type of family unit identified in the Current Population Survey, the count of own children under 18 years old is limited to single (never married) children; however, “own children under 25” and “own children of any age,” include all children regardless of marital status. The totals include never-married children living away from home in college dormitories.

SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS). The sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age that 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.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE. A measure of fertility that summarizes the rate of childbearing over the course of a year. It is derived by summing the age-specific *birth rates* for a population of women. It is also a hypothetical measure of completed fertility for a synthetic cohort of women assumed to pass through life bearing children according to the age-specific birth rates in a given period. See also Birth rate and Fertility rate.

UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES. Includes death from motor vehicle crashes, fires, burns, falls, drowning, suffocation, and accidents caused by poisons, firearms, and other explosive materials.

VERY LOW BIRTHWEIGHT. See Birthweight.

VERY LOW INCOME. Incomes at or below one-half the median income in a geographic area.

VIOLENT CRIME. Includes aggravated assault, rape, robbery, and homicide.

Glossary of Technical Terms