

GROWTH OF AMERICAN FAMILIES:
SINGLE WOMEN, 1955

A User's Guide to the Machine Readable Data File

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1 data file (254 logical records) + accompanying documentation (1 v.). -- (Growth of American families / Arthur A. Campbell . . . [et al.]).

NOTE: The Growth of American Families Survey conducted by the Survey Research Center was continued in 1960 and every five years thereafter. Beginning in 1965 the data are known as the National Fertility Surveys.

SUMMARY: The data file represents interviews with a probability sample of 254 white single women aged 18 to 24, living in the United States, and collected as a complement to a larger sample of married women. John Modell created machine-readable numeric and textual files from the original protocols. Information is available on respondents' expectations concerning marriage, child-bearing, and child-rearing; attitudes towards prosperity, education, and family planning; and friend's family-building probabilities. Standard demographic information was collected on respondents' (and their families') occupations, income, religious preferences, and household compositions.

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ABSTRACT

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TYPE OF FILE: numeric

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METHODOLOGY: This is a probability sample of 254 white single women aged 18 to 24, residing in the United States, and located through household canvassing, drawn as a complement to a larger survey of white married women made by the principal investigators (see DPLS study QP-003-001). The household canvass yielded about 200 interviews with single white women, which was then supplemented with a quota sample of one-fourth again as many single 18-24 year old women living in dormitories at colleges and YMCA's. Single women over 24 were omitted even when located in sample households because many of them were likely never to marry or never reproduce. During interviewing family members and others were permitted to attend.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: This study focuses on attitudes towards fertility and family planning of white single women aged 18 to 24. This sample was part of a larger survey of child-bearing age women, which represented a national inquiry into the determinants of fertility, nature and social location of family planning and its relationship to demographic performance. Due to obvious differences between the two groups, a separate questionnaire was developed for the single women. Attitudes towards marriage, contraception, and children, as well as information on peer groups, were collected, along with standard demographic data. The original data were collected in 1955 by the principal investigators and put into machine-readable form by John Modell. Modell's project in historical demography explored the personal projections and public ideologies regarding family building.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE: United States

DESCRIPTORS: fertility, family planning, contraceptive practice, children

TECHNICAL NOTES: The public use file consists of four 90-column cards per observation, giving a total of 1016 cards for 254 observations. In addition to the file described herein, the complete transcribed interviews, interviewer's impressions of respondents, and marginal notes, also exist in textual files. The DPLS staff have updated the codebook by removing certain variables and making other changes where needed.

TERMS OF AVAILABILITY: There are no restrictions on access to the public use file. The data file is software and hardware independent, and can be provided in a variety of character sets and densities. Copies of the data and documentation are available from the Data and Program Library Service, 3313 Social Science Building, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706 (608-262-7962).

CITED REFERENCES: Family Ideology and Family Values in the "Baby Boom": A Secondary Analysis of the 1955 Growth of American Families Survey of Single Women by John Modell and John Campbell (Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Family Study Center, 1984); and Rhetoric and Family Building Motives: A Secondary Analysis of the 1955 Growth of American Families Survey of Single Women by Judith Modell (Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Family Study Center, 1984). Family Planning, Sterility, and Population Growth by John E. Patterson, Pascal K. Whelpton and Arthur A. Campbell (New York, NY: McGraw Hill Book Company, Inc., 1959).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONATION

This edition of the Growth of American Families: Single Women, 1955 has been deposited at the Data and Program Library Service, University of Wisconsin-Madison for distribution by John Modell, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Family Study Center. The production of these data into machine readable form was supported by Department of Health, Education, and Welfare grant number 1 R01-HD 16025 under the program direction of Robert K. Leik, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Family Study Center.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ASSISTANCE

All manuscripts utilizing data made available through the Data and Program Library Service should acknowledge that fact as well as cite the title of the study as indicated on the title page and sample catalog statement and identify the original collector(s) of the data. All users of these data are urged to follow some adaptation of this statement with the parentheses indicating items to be completed or deleted appropriately by the individual analyst.

The data (and tabulations) utilized in this publication were made available (in part) by the Data and Program Library Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison. The Growth of American Families: Single Women, 1955 was produced by John Modell and is distributed by the Data and Program Library Service. The production of the data files was supported by grant number 1 R01-HD 16025 from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, under the program direction of Robert K. Leik, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Family Studies Center. Neither the principal investigators, John Modell, nor the Data and Program Library Service bears any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

In order to provide funding agencies with essential information about the use of archival resources and to facilitate the exchange of information about DPLS participants' research activities, each user of these facilities is expected to send two copies of each completed manuscript, thesis abstract, or reprint to the Data and Program Library Service.