THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES
IN THE 1980s

A Census Monograph Series


This series of volumes is aimed at converting the vast statistical yield of the 1980 Census into independent, authoritative analyses of major changes and trends in American life. The topics treated in this comprehensive series span virtually all major aspects of society, including ethnic groups, spatial dimensions, and status features. The scholars commissioned to prepare these volumes drew not only on the 1980 Census but also on previous censuses and on subsequent national data, producing definitive reference works that are enriched by a sense of history and an awareness of the future challenges posed by contemporary population trends.

American Women in Transition
Suzanne M. Bianchi and Daphne Spain

Few recent social trends have been as dramatic as women's move from the private domain to the public, from traditional family life to the realms of work and higher education. American Women in Transition draws on 1980 Census data, previous censuses, and subsequent national surveys to offer a landmark summary and assessment of these important developments.

Bianchi and Spain document women's increasing educational attainment and labor force participation, their continued commitment to marriage and family, and the "balancing act" necessitated by this overlap of roles. Pointing to the lack of affordable child care and women's lower earning power, the authors describe the current realities of women's lives in a society that has not yet adapted to their changing status.

This definitive and sensitive study is certain to become an essential reference work on American women today. It will surely contribute, as well, to the ongoing intellectual and political debate concerning the roles and needs of women in contemporary society.

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