

# CHILDREN AND INCOME IN URBAN SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

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IN AN EARLIER article on the findings from the family composition study it was shown that, in urban families of specified size, household income decreases with an increase in the number of children under 16 years of age in the family.<sup>1</sup> The analysis of income in urban single-family households, on the other hand, shows that with increasing family size there is an increase in both the proportion on relief and the proportion in the highest income groups.<sup>2</sup> This variation may be explained largely by the fact that increased family size may mean a larger number of children or a larger number of adults. When the increase is caused by a large number of children under 16, it is associated with low income. In families with a large number of adults it is associated with higher income, partly because there is customarily more than one wage earner in such families or, if there is only one worker, his earnings are usually sufficient to make it unnecessary for the other adult members to be in the labor market.

The object of the present paper is to indicate the nature of the association between family income and number of children in urban single-family households. The term "child" as used in this article is limited to children under the age of 16.

While single-family households include 69 percent of all the individuals in the urban sample, they represent 76 percent of the child population. Consistent with this high relative proportion of children, a larger percentage (46 percent) of single-family households reported children as

compared with all families (36 percent). This excess, as shown in table 1, is largely attributable to husband-and-wife families,<sup>3</sup> which have a greater representation in single-family households

Table 1.—Proportion of families with children under 16 in all urban families and in single-family households by family type

[Preliminary data subject to revision]

Type of family <sup>1</sup>	All families		Single-family households	
	Total number <sup>2</sup>	Percent with children	Total number	Percent with children
All types.....	931,269	36.1	532,384	45.8
Husband and wife.....	554,164	51.0	415,235	54.0
Husband or wife, husband.....	63,586	10.9	20,295	13.2
Husband or wife, wife.....	170,825	19.8	67,906	25.1
Nonparent, male.....	62,764	9.0	13,404	.6
Nonparent, female.....	73,930	9.3	15,484	.8

<sup>1</sup> For definitions of types of families, see footnote 3 in text.  
<sup>2</sup> Excludes 110 families with unknown number of children.

and also have a higher proportion of families with children in single-family households than in all households. The proportions reporting children were also relatively higher in one-spouse families in single-family households but very much lower in nonparent families. Since this article deals with more than three-fourths of the urban child population, and since there is no reason to believe that the per capita income in families with children in multi-family households is any larger than for those in single-family households,<sup>4</sup> the income variations noted in this article may be regarded as typical of all urban families with children.

\*Bureau of Research and Statistics, Division of Health Studies. This article, the fifth in a series, is based on findings from the study of family composition in the United States, which utilizes data from schedules of the National Health Survey and is conducted as Work Projects Administration Project Nos. 365-31-3-5, 765-31-3-3, and 65-2-31-44 under the supervision of the Bureau of Research and Statistics. Data from the study are preliminary and subject to revision. For earlier articles, see the *Bulletin* for April, May, September, and October 1939.

<sup>1</sup> Falk, I. S., and Sanders, Barkev S., "The Economic Status of Urban Families and Children," *Social Security Bulletin*, Vol. 2, No. 5 (May 1939), pp. 25-34. For a description of the basis, purpose, and scope of the study of family composition and definitions of terms used in this article, see Sanders, Barkev S., "Family Composition in the United States," *Social Security Bulletin*, Vol. 2, No. 4 (April 1939), pp. 9-13.

<sup>2</sup> Sanders, Barkev S., and Kantor, Anne G., "Income of Urban Families and Individuals in Single-Family Households," *Social Security Bulletin*, Vol. 2, No. 9 (September 1939), pp. 25-36.

<sup>3</sup> The families studied are classified by 5 major types, as follows, according to the relationship of the members to the head: (1) *Husband-and-wife families*.—Families with both spouses, with or without unmarried children; (2) *Husband-or-wife families, husband*.—Families with only the male spouse, with or without unmarried children; (3) *Husband-or-wife families, wife*.—Families with only the female spouse, with or without unmarried children; (4) *Nonparent families, male*.—Families without either spouse, with an unmarried male as the head, with or without unmarried sisters and/or brothers; (5) *Nonparent families, female*.—Families without either spouse, with an unmarried female as the head, with or without unmarried sisters and/or brothers. The head of the family was determined as follows: In husband-and-wife families, the husband was always designated as the head; in one-spouse families, the spouse; and in nonparent families, the oldest person.

<sup>4</sup> Sanders, Barkev S., and Kantor, Anne G., *ibid.*

**Income Distribution of Families With Specified Number of Children**

The percentage distribution of families with specified number of children according to the income status of the family is shown in table 2. The percent of families on relief increases progressively with increasing number of children; for families without children the percent is only 12, for those with one child it rises to 15, for those with two children to 20, and it reaches a maximum of 59 for families with nine or more children. Families were classified as being on relief if any member was reported to have received relief at some time during the preceding 12 months.

The proportions among the nonrelief families with annual incomes of less than \$1,000 show some decline as the number of children increases. The decrease is sharpest in passing from families with no children to those with one child and is barely perceptible for families with two to five children; there is, nevertheless, a general downward trend. This negative association holds, with minor exceptions, for all the nonrelief groups, the relative rate of decrease being most rapid in the highest income categories. The table indicates a consistently negative association between income status and the number of children in the family.

If nonrelief families are analyzed independently of relief families, there is a definite increase in the proportion of families with a large number of children in the lowest income groups, while relatively larger proportions of families with no children, or with one or two children, are in the higher income groups.

**Income of Families of Specified Size With Varying Number of Children**

Table 3 indicates that when family size is held constant there is an even more striking negative association between economic status and number of children per family. For instance, in families of three persons without children, only 11 percent reported relief; in those with one child, 14 percent; and in those with two children, which invariably were broken families, i. e., having either or both parents missing, 50 percent reported relief. In families of four, 10 percent of those without children reported relief; 16 percent of those with one child reported relief, 18 percent of those with two children, and 62 percent of those with three. Table 3 is limited to families of three to seven persons, but the relationships shown in these families are repeated in families of all other sizes.

There is some tendency for the proportion of families on relief to rise with increasing number of children as family size increases. For instance, in families of four, less than 16 percent of those with one child reported receipt of relief, while in families of six more than 16 percent of those with one child reported relief. In four-person families with two children, less than 18 percent reported relief, and in six-person families with two children nearly 24 percent reported relief. This relationship does not always hold true for larger families. Furthermore, the proportion on relief for four-person families with three children is much higher than the proportion for families of five or six persons with three children. The latter apparent anomaly is accounted for by the fact that a four-

**Table 2.—Number of urban single-family households by number of children under 16, and percentage distribution by income status**

[Preliminary data subject to revision]

Number of children per family	Number of families <sup>1</sup>	Income status of family							
		All families	Relief families	Nonrelief families					
				Under \$1,000	\$1,000-1,499	\$1,500-1,999	\$2,000-2,999	\$3,000-4,999	\$5,000 and over
Total.....	519,801	100.0	16.6	28.1	23.3	16.9	10.4	3.5	1.2
No children.....	279,880	100.0	12.4	33.7	22.1	15.6	10.7	4.0	1.5
1 child.....	106,595	100.0	15.2	25.0	26.0	17.9	11.4	3.5	1.0
2 children.....	79,708	100.0	19.0	22.9	25.4	17.3	10.5	3.1	.9
3 children.....	33,517	100.0	28.1	22.7	23.6	14.5	8.2	2.1	.8
4 children.....	15,555	100.0	36.2	21.8	21.2	12.1	6.0	1.6	.5
5 children.....	7,458	100.0	43.4	21.4	19.0	9.5	5.2	1.2	.3
6 children.....	3,692	100.0	49.1	10.0	17.3	8.9	4.0	.7	.4
7 children.....	1,513	100.0	55.1	16.6	14.3	8.9	4.0	.9	.2
8 children.....	603	100.0	57.1	16.9	13.3	7.8	4.1	.8	.4
9 children and over.....	280	100.0	68.9	13.9	12.2	10.7	3.9	-----	.4

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 12,583 families with unknown income and/or number of children.

person family with three children is a broken family, while this is not generally the case with a family of five or more persons. By and large, broken families have the least favorable economic status. Among these families also the proportion reporting relief increases with increasing number of children; thus, in families of three persons with only one adult member (i. e., with two children), about 50 percent reported relief; in those of four 62 percent; in those of five 73 percent; in those of six 76 percent; and in those of seven 85 percent.

Families with a large number of children are concentrated in the relief and lowest nonrelief income groups, while the relative proportions of these families in the higher income groups are almost negligible. For example, in families of three persons with two children, nearly 86 percent reported relief or an income of less than \$1,000, while less than 1 percent reported incomes of \$3,000 or more. The corresponding percentages for three-person families without children are 34 and 8, respectively.

The contrast in income distribution between families with maximum number of children for the family size and those without children becomes more striking as family size increases. Although most marked in families with only one adult, the contrast is fairly pronounced between families with only two adults and those in which all members are adults, as indicated in the accompanying summary percentages. The increasing divergence with increased family size is clear.

Size of family and number of children	Percent of specified families with given income status	
	Relief and under \$1,000	\$3,000 and over
5 persons:		
No children.....	25	13
3 children.....	49	3
6 persons:		
No children.....	20	18
4 children.....	57	2
7 persons:		
No children.....	19	23
5 children.....	66	1

Table 3 reveals a tendency toward bifurcation

Table 3.—Number of urban single-family households by size of family and number of children under 16, and percentage distribution by income status  
[Preliminary data subject to revision]

Size of family	Number of families	Income status of family							
		All families	Relief families	Nonrelief families					
				Under \$1,000	\$1,000-1,499	\$1,500-1,999	\$2,000-2,999	\$3,000-4,999	\$5,000 and over
3 persons.....	118,615	100.0	13.6	25.3	25.9	18.2	11.9	3.0	1.3
No children.....	42,867	100.0	10.9	23.3	24.1	18.4	14.5	5.7	2.1
1 child.....	72,858	100.0	13.7	26.1	27.7	18.1	10.7	2.9	.8
2 children.....	2,890	100.0	49.6	35.9	8.6	3.9	1.3	.6	.1
4 persons.....	89,163	100.0	16.2	21.4	25.2	18.6	12.8	4.4	1.4
No children.....	20,240	100.0	10.1	16.9	22.8	21.8	18.2	7.9	2.8
1 child.....	15,480	100.0	15.6	21.1	24.2	19.0	13.6	4.6	1.7
2 children.....	62,004	100.0	17.5	23.1	26.9	18.0	10.6	3.0	.9
3 children.....	1,438	100.0	61.7	28.6	6.5	2.1	.8	.2	.1
4 children.....	1	100.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
5 persons.....	48,502	100.0	21.5	21.0	23.8	17.1	11.1	4.1	1.4
No children.....	7,433	100.0	10.4	14.6	21.2	21.6	19.2	9.9	3.1
1 child.....	8,447	100.0	16.0	18.4	24.7	20.2	13.9	6.0	1.8
2 children.....	8,194	100.0	21.9	21.7	23.8	17.4	10.7	3.5	1.3
3 children.....	23,805	100.0	25.5	23.6	25.0	14.9	8.1	2.2	.7
4 children.....	623	100.0	72.7	19.1	6.3	2.1	.6	.2	.1
6 persons.....	26,313	100.0	27.1	20.1	22.0	15.5	10.4	3.7	1.2
No children.....	2,440	100.0	9.6	10.8	19.4	20.8	21.5	12.6	3.3
1 child.....	3,467	100.0	16.3	15.5	22.9	21.0	16.3	6.3	1.7
2 children.....	4,528	100.0	23.5	20.0	22.9	17.8	11.2	3.6	.8
3 children.....	4,005	100.0	30.2	21.4	23.3	14.7	8.4	2.1	.9
4 children.....	10,678	100.0	33.7	23.3	22.4	12.2	6.5	1.4	.5
5 children.....	297	100.0	76.8	16.8	3.7	2.4	1.0	.3	.1
7 persons.....	13,345	100.0	32.2	19.5	21.1	13.6	9.3	3.2	1.1
No children.....	763	100.0	8.4	10.6	14.4	20.3	23.1	15.9	7.3
1 child.....	1,206	100.0	15.3	13.4	21.8	20.7	17.3	8.8	2.7
2 children.....	1,969	100.0	23.2	16.9	23.9	17.9	12.9	3.9	1.3
3 children.....	2,442	100.0	30.8	19.0	22.9	15.4	9.4	1.8	.7
4 children.....	2,098	100.0	37.7	19.8	21.7	12.2	6.5	1.8	.3
5 children.....	4,759	100.0	41.0	23.8	20.1	9.0	5.1	.9	.1
6 children.....	108	100.0	85.2	10.2	3.7	.9	.1	.1	.1

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 2,998 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>2</sup> Excludes 2,323 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>3</sup> Not computed, because base is less than 25.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes 1,284 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>5</sup> Excludes 661 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>6</sup> Excludes 349 families with unknown income and/or number of children.

in the economic status of families with one or two children as family size increases; simultaneous with increasing proportions on relief there is an increase in the relative proportions of these families in the highest income groups.

### Variation of Income in Families by Type, Size, and Number of Children

The variation of income among families of specified size and with varying number of children, by family type, is shown in tables 4 and 5. These tables are limited to families of three to seven persons, but the relationships and trends found for these families are typical of families of other sizes.

In husband-and-wife families of a given size, there is an increase in the proportion of families on relief as the number of children increases. This is true even among families of three persons, in which 10 percent of the families without a child reported relief, while in those with one child 13 percent reported relief. As family size increases, this rate of increase is accelerated.

Comparison of families by income categories in the nonrelief brackets shows that with increasing

number of children there is, in general, a progressive increase in the proportion of families in the lowest income groups. With increasing family size the proportion of families in the higher income groups increases in families with no children, while the opposite relationship exists among those families for which increased size means more children.

Husband-and-wife families without children show a decreasing relative proportion on relief with increased family size. In families with children the reverse tendency is more often prevalent; with increasing family size the proportion on relief tends to increase, at least in families of intermediate size. A similar rise is observed in the relative proportions of families reporting incomes of \$3,000 and over. The increase in the proportion reporting relief associated with presence of children is relatively most marked in passing from families with no children to those with one child, and the rate of increase with additional number of children decreases progressively; however, the absolute differences increase progressively.

Among one-spouse families with the husband as

Table 4.—Number of urban husband-and-wife single-family households by size of family and number of children under 16, and percentage distribution by income status  
[Preliminary data subject to revision]

Size of family and number of children	Number of families	Income status of family							
		All families	Relief families	Nonrelief families					
				Under \$1,000	\$1,000-1,499	\$1,500-1,999	\$2,000-2,999	\$3,000-4,999	\$5,000 and over
3 persons.....	103,259	100.0	12.0	24.6	26.8	19.0	12.3	4.0	1.3
No children.....	32,886	100.0	10.2	22.3	23.9	20.1	15.0	8.2	2.3
1 child.....	70,368	100.0	12.9	25.8	28.1	18.4	11.0	3.0	.8
4 persons.....	81,376	100.0	14.8	21.1	25.0	19.2	13.1	4.4	1.5
No children.....	16,516	100.0	9.8	16.3	22.9	21.6	18.5	8.1	2.8
1 child.....	13,043	100.0	13.7	20.2	24.6	19.9	14.8	5.0	1.8
2 children.....	50,917	100.0	16.8	22.9	27.2	18.3	10.8	3.1	.9
5 persons.....	44,657	109.0	20.1	21.0	24.6	17.5	11.3	4.0	1.4
No children.....	6,143	100.0	10.4	14.7	21.4	21.6	19.4	9.3	3.2
1 child.....	7,713	100.0	14.8	17.9	24.8	20.8	14.5	5.3	1.9
2 children.....	7,488	100.0	19.6	21.2	24.3	18.3	11.4	3.8	1.4
3 children.....	23,313	100.0	24.7	23.7	25.3	15.1	8.2	2.2	.8
6 persons.....	23,379	100.0	25.9	20.1	22.7	15.9	10.6	3.7	1.1
No children.....	2,028	100.0	9.2	10.4	19.7	21.0	22.3	12.8	4.6
1 child.....	3,146	100.0	15.7	15.2	22.9	21.3	16.7	6.5	1.7
2 children.....	4,169	100.0	21.9	19.7	23.5	18.2	11.6	4.0	.9
3 children.....	3,662	100.0	28.0	21.1	23.3	15.0	8.9	2.3	.8
4 children.....	10,365	100.0	33.0	23.3	22.7	12.4	6.6	1.5	.5
7 persons.....	12,391	100.0	31.2	19.6	21.5	13.9	9.4	3.3	1.1
No children.....	637	100.0	8.2	10.7	12.1	21.8	22.4	16.6	8.2
1 child.....	1,091	100.0	15.2	13.1	21.3	20.7	17.6	9.4	2.7
2 children.....	1,803	100.0	22.2	17.0	24.3	18.1	13.1	4.0	1.3
3 children.....	2,275	100.0	29.6	19.0	23.6	15.7	9.6	1.9	.7
4 children.....	1,937	100.0	35.9	19.6	22.4	13.0	6.8	1.9	.4
5 children.....	4,648	100.0	40.4	23.8	20.5	9.1	5.2	.9	.1

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 2,473 families with unknown income and/or number of children and includes 5 families with 2 children.  
<sup>2</sup> Excludes 2,083 families with unknown income and/or number of children and includes 1 family with 3 children.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes 1,152 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>4</sup> Excludes 603 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>5</sup> Excludes 318 families with unknown income and/or number of children.

head, similar variations are observed, except that the comparative differences between families without children and those with maximum number of children are much larger than the differences observed in the husband-and-wife families. For instance, in families of three without children, 13 percent reported relief, as compared with 30 percent for three-person families with one child and 44 for those with two children. It is also evident that there is a concentration of families with a large

number of children in the lowest income groups, and a relatively low proportion of these families in the highest income groups. For instance, among families of three without children, 8 percent reported incomes of \$3,000 and over; the corresponding percent for families with two children was less than 2. In this type of family the decrease, with increasing size, in the relative proportion of families reporting relief is frequently observed both in families with and in those without children.

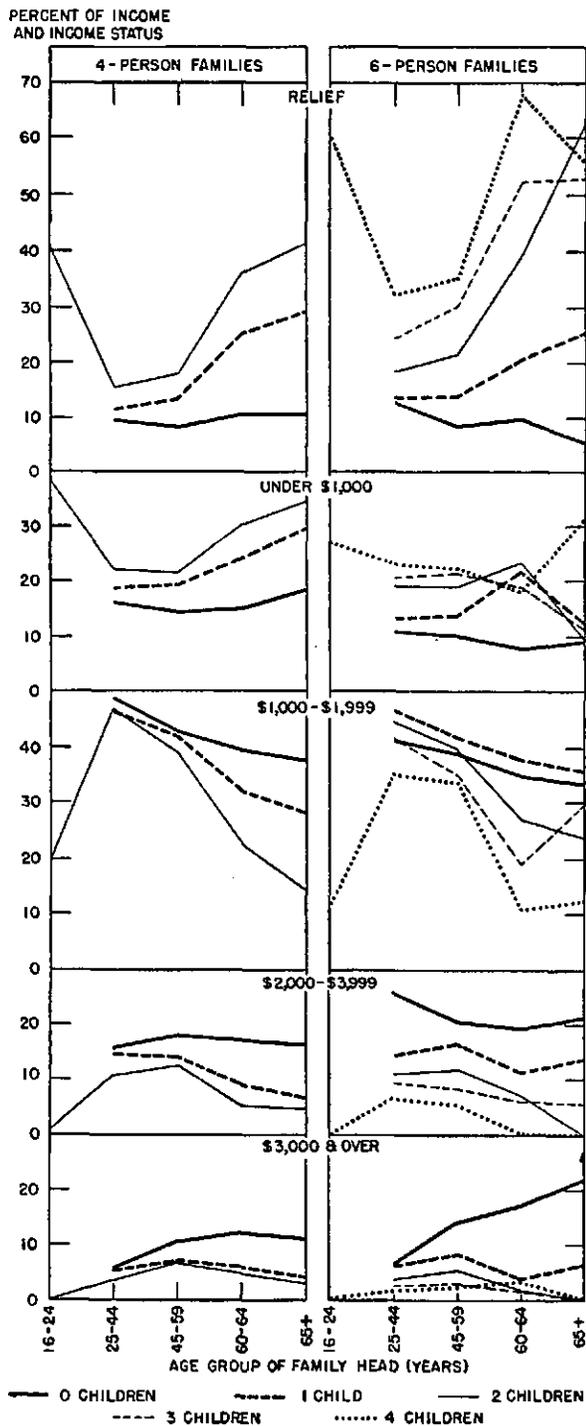
Table 5.—Number of urban husband-or-wife single-family households by size of family and number of children under 16, and percentage distribution by income status  
[Preliminary data subject to revision]

Size of family and number of children	Number of families	Income status of family							
		All families	Relief families	Nonrelief families					
				Under \$1,000	\$1,000-1,499	\$1,500-1,999	\$2,000-2,999	\$3,000-4,999	\$5,000 and over
Husband or wife, husband									
3 persons.....	1,154	100.0	20.1	23.4	22.7	18.9	10.8	4.7	1.4
No children.....	1,510	100.0	13.4	23.0	24.1	18.2	13.4	6.2	1.7
1 child.....	385	100.0	29.9	25.2	21.8	19.6	5.7	1.0	.8
2 children.....	259	100.0	44.0	23.5	16.2	11.6	3.1	1.2	.4
4 persons.....	2,196	100.0	21.6	19.1	21.1	16.5	13.7	5.7	2.3
No children.....	624	100.0	6.9	17.0	20.7	20.0	19.9	8.7	3.8
1 child.....	255	100.0	26.7	19.0	22.3	15.7	10.6	4.7	.4
2 children.....	176	100.0	38.6	18.8	22.7	12.0	5.7	1.1	1.1
3 children.....	141	100.0	42.6	28.4	18.4	8.5	2.1	.....	.....
5 persons.....	709	100.0	25.7	16.4	21.4	17.6	11.3	6.2	1.4
No children.....	272	100.0	9.0	12.9	19.5	22.4	18.7	13.2	3.7
1 child.....	155	100.0	28.4	13.5	24.5	18.1	12.9	2.6	.....
2 children.....	139	100.0	31.7	22.3	23.0	18.0	3.6	1.4	.....
3 children.....	83	100.0	42.2	22.9	21.7	8.4	3.6	1.2	.....
4 children.....	60	100.0	55.0	16.6	18.3	6.7	1.7	.....	.....
6 persons.....	338	100.0	32.0	16.6	16.0	15.7	11.8	4.1	3.8
No children.....	96	100.0	11.6	16.3	19.9	16.3	16.3	9.3	10.4
1 child.....	94	100.0	23.4	10.9	17.2	23.5	18.8	3.1	3.1
2 children.....	63	100.0	41.3	14.3	9.5	17.5	11.1	6.3	.....
3 children.....	64	100.0	37.5	20.3	20.3	12.5	6.3	.....	3.1
4 children.....	30	100.0	60.0	20.0	10.0	6.7	3.3	.....	.....
5 children.....	31	100.0	48.4	22.6	12.9	9.7	6.4	.....	.....
Husband or wife, wife									
3 persons.....	11,917	100.0	26.4	31.5	19.6	11.9	7.7	2.3	0.6
No children.....	7,217	100.0	14.5	27.6	25.1	16.8	11.7	3.4	.9
1 child.....	2,078	100.0	37.5	38.0	15.4	6.4	2.2	.4	.1
2 children.....	2,622	100.0	50.2	37.1	7.9	3.1	1.1	.5	.1
4 persons.....	6,154	100.0	33.9	20.0	16.9	11.3	8.2	2.8	1.0
No children.....	2,705	100.0	12.8	20.5	23.2	19.5	16.2	5.9	1.9
1 child.....	1,250	100.0	34.9	30.5	19.9	10.0	3.6	.7	.5
2 children.....	808	100.0	52.8	32.5	10.7	2.7	1.2	.....	.1
3 children.....	1,295	100.0	63.8	28.6	5.3	1.5	.6	.2	.1
5 persons.....	3,001	100.0	41.8	21.3	14.5	10.1	7.4	4.2	.7
No children.....	910	100.0	11.4	15.6	20.5	19.8	17.7	13.1	1.9
1 child.....	562	100.0	29.7	26.2	23.5	12.4	7.1	.7	.4
2 children.....	559	100.0	51.5	27.2	12.7	6.5	2.7	.2	.2
3 children.....	407	100.0	67.6	22.1	5.9	3.0	.7	.....	.....
4 children.....	663	100.0	74.6	19.4	3.9	1.6	.5	.....	.....
6 persons.....	1,560	100.0	45.4	20.2	13.1	9.9	6.6	3.3	1.5
No children.....	299	100.0	12.7	11.7	18.0	20.1	18.4	12.4	6.7
1 child.....	252	100.0	21.4	20.6	23.8	17.5	11.9	4.0	.8
2 children.....	289	100.0	42.6	23.9	16.9	11.1	4.8	.7	.....
3 children.....	275	100.0	57.5	26.2	10.2	4.3	.7	.7	.4
4 children.....	179	100.0	69.8	24.6	3.9	1.1	.6	.....	.....
5 children.....	266	100.0	78.9	16.2	2.6	1.5	.4	.4	.....

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 86 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>2</sup> Excludes 43 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>3</sup> Excludes 33 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>4</sup> Excludes 18 families with unknown income and/or number of children.

<sup>5</sup> Excludes 358 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>6</sup> Excludes 187 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>7</sup> Excludes 91 families with unknown income and/or number of children.  
<sup>8</sup> Excludes 38 families with unknown income and/or number of children.

**Chart I.—Percentage distribution of urban husband-and-wife single-family households of 4 and 6 persons with specified age of head and number of children under 16, by income status**



For one-spouse families with the wife as the head, the relationships are similar to those observed for husband-and-wife families and one-spouse families with a male head, but the intensity of the negative association between income and number of children in the family is more pronounced. Thus, in families of three without children, 15 percent reported relief, while the corresponding percentage for families with one child was 38, and for those with two children, 50.

No separate tabulations have been shown for nonparent families, since a negligible proportion of these families have children.

These analyses of the relative distribution of families in different income categories indicate that where increasing family size means an increase in the number of children there is a marked negative association between income and family size. This holds true invariably in all family types, the negative association being relatively most marked in one-spouse families with a female head.

***Income of Families Differentiated by Age of Family Head and Number of Children***

In an earlier article of this series it was demonstrated that there is a definite association, for families of specified size, between family income and the age of the head of the family.<sup>5</sup> It was assumed that this association was brought about in part by the relationship between the proportion of children and adults in families of specified size with specified age of head. It is therefore of interest to determine whether there is any association between income and the age of the family head for families of specified size and number of children.

In broad outline, the nature of this relationship in husband-and-wife families is demonstrated in chart I. The vertical scale on the chart shows the percentage of families of specified size, with specified number of children, in each income bracket. The horizontal scale shows the age of the family head. It will be observed that for relief families the curves are, on the whole, U-shaped, except where there are no families with heads under 25 years of age. In the income group of less than \$1,000, the U-shape is still apparent, though not

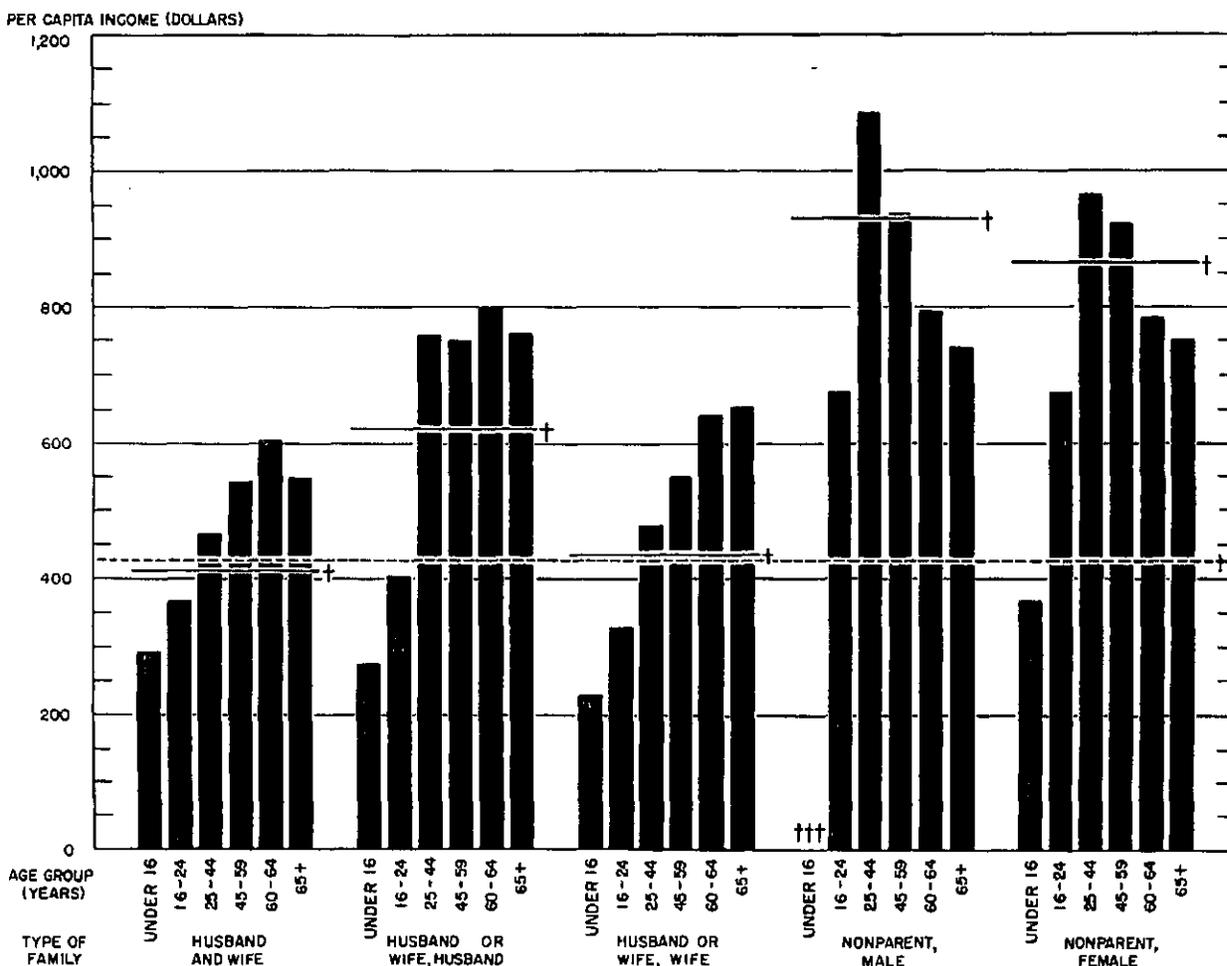
<sup>5</sup> Sanders, Barkev S., and Kantor, Anne G., *ibid.*

as pronounced. In the income groups \$1,000-\$1,999, the curves take a definite inverted U-shape; they are relatively horizontal in the income group \$2,000-\$2,999 and show some upward tendency in the highest income group.

The chart indicates that a relatively large proportion of families with heads under the age of 25 and over age 60, and a low proportion of those with heads in the intermediate ages, reported relief. To a lesser extent this is also true of families with incomes of less than \$1,000. The inverted U-curves indicate a relatively low proportion of families headed by younger and older persons in the intermediate income groups, especially for families with children. The proportions of families in the income group \$2,000-\$2,999

show a slight decrease with advancing age of head. Finally, in the highest income group the curve shows some upward tendency, especially for families without children, indicating that at least up to age 60 the proportion of families in this highest income group tends to increase with increasing age of the head of the family. In other words, families headed by younger and by older persons are economically least favored, and this is especially true for large families. Those with heads in the intermediate ages are relatively most favored, and this relationship holds true generally even when family size and number of children are held constant. The pattern of relationship indicated in chart I depicts, in a measure, the relationship for other family types also, except that the asso-

Chart II.—Per capita income by type of family and age of individuals in urban single-family households



**Table 6.—Per capita income by age of individuals in all urban single-family households of specified type**

[Preliminary data subject to revision]

Type of family	Age groups (years)						
	All ages	Under 18	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-64	65 and over
All types.....	\$431	\$287	\$371	\$488	\$564	\$627	\$601
Husband and wife.....	414	291	366	467	541	605	550
Husband or wife, husband.....	628	276	402	759	750	800	780
Husband or wife, wife.....	434	230	328	481	552	643	655
Nonparent, male.....	940	(1)	677	1,084	937	794	741
Nonparent, female.....	868	368	677	985	923	783	751

1 Not estimated, because too few individuals.

ciation in relation to age of head tends to be more marked in one-spouse families with a female head than in husband-and-wife families. In these families there is a more definitive improvement in the income status of families with older heads as compared with those with younger heads.

The associations observed in relation to number of children, age of the family head, and economic status of the family favor the hypothesis of differential marriage and birth rates as an additional factor in determining the income status of families with children, the major factor being the smaller number of income producers usually found in families of fixed size with increasing number of children. The latter inference will be substantiated more definitely in subsequent articles dealing with the association between income and number of supplementary workers in the family.

The net effect of the consistently negative association between presence of children in the family and income may be shown in terms of per capita income of children compared with that of adults

in different age groups.<sup>6</sup> These results are summarized in table 6 and chart II. They indicate that per capita incomes of children are markedly lower than those of adults in specified age groups, and irrespective of family type they constitute less than half the per capita incomes received by persons aged 60 and over.

It is important to observe that the per capita figures fail to differentiate families with many children from those with one or two. If such a differentiation were made, the per capita income of a large proportion of children would be in still sharper contrast to the larger per capita incomes of older persons. It should be observed that the per capita income given for children is also the per capita income of the other individuals in families with children, since there was no way of determining what portion of the family income was used to provide for the needs of children. Therefore, in these figures adjustment cannot be made for the fact that the cost of living is materially less for children than for adults, as is generally assumed in cost-of-living studies, or for the fact that there is an economy made possible in the cost of living per individual in large families, which are more likely to have children. Even if some adjustment were made for these factors, the conclusion to be drawn from the present study would still be that, by and large, children are economically the least favored group in our population.

<sup>6</sup> The per capita income estimates were obtained by a weighted average of the estimates of nonrelief and relief per capita income of individuals of specified age in families of specified size. The per capita estimates for nonrelief were obtained by constructing frequency curves giving the distribution of income for individuals of specified age in families of specified size. This gave the mean income, which was divided by the size of the family to obtain the per capita income. For an explanation of the per capita estimates of individuals from relief families see Sanders, Barkov S., and Kantor, Anne G., *ibid.*