

## Chapter I

### CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

This manual does not attempt to consider details of the methodological problems of the statistics relating to households and families. Other publications of the United Nations have dealt more comprehensively with concepts, definitions and classifications of census data on households and families, presenting internationally recommended standards for these statistics and treating problems of the application of the standards in national census.<sup>1</sup>

It will be assumed for the present purpose that a census or alternate national sample survey has been taken and that the tabulations of the results upon which projections are to be based are given. However, as an introduction to the discussion of projection methods, it would be appropriate to review some of the principal features of the internationally recommended standards and to note some of the important variations of national census practices concerning data on households and families and their structural components. It seems particularly necessary to do so, because there is no text that covers these points.

#### HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY

The concepts of "household" and "family" are often confused because of their close relationship to each other and because of the lack of unambiguous definitions for either of them. According to the United Nations *Multilingual Demographic Dictionary*, the household is a socio-economic unit, consisting of individuals who live together.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, the *Dictionary* defines the "family" primarily by reference to relationships which pertain to or arise from reproductive processes and which are regulated by law or by custom.<sup>3</sup>

There is no uniform and universally acceptable definition of the family as a sociological-anthropological concept, partly because of differences in the structure and function of family organization in various parts of the world and partly because of the many different approaches and

schools of thought among sociologists, anthropologists, social psychologists and others.<sup>4</sup>

According to one definition, the family is a social group characterized by a common residence, economic co-operation and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship, and one or more children born to the sexually cohabiting adults or adopted by them.<sup>5</sup> This definition, which embodies the concept of the "nuclear family", has been the most widely cited definition in the sociological literature of the family, particularly in view of its emphasis on the morphological characteristics of the family, namely, its residential base and the fact that its coherent members are related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption.<sup>6</sup>

Despite the international recommendations in this field, fairly substantial differences exist in various censuses with regard to the basic notions of household and family and their components.

<sup>4</sup> Reuben Hill and associates classify various approaches to the study of the family within a framework of sociology as follows: (a) the institutional approach; (b) the structural-functional approach; (c) the interactional approach; (d) the situational approach; (e) the developmental approach. Under the first, the family is dealt with as an institution, that establishes the practices by which societies control the association of the sexes in marriage and the family and sanction the reproduction and socialization of human generations. In the structural-functional approach, "family" usually means the "nuclear family" made up of husband and wife and/or their children. According to this approach the family is viewed as a social system, with constituent parts bound together by interaction and interdependence. In the interactional approach, the family is described as a unit of interacting personalities. It interprets family phenomena in terms of role-playing, status relations, communication problems and the like. According to the situational approach also the family is viewed as a unit of interacting personalities, that are further subject to external stimuli which influence the behaviour of family members. Finally, the development approach also views the family as a unit of interacting personalities, but its point of departure is the family cycle or the stages of development through which the family and its members travel. This approach deals specifically with the unifying theme of family change through the dimension of time. See Reuben Hill and Donald A. Hansen, "The identification of conceptual frameworks utilized in family study", *Marriage and Family Living* (Minneapolis, Minn.), vol. 22 (1960), pp. 299-311; Harold T. Christensen, ed., *Handbook of Marriage and the Family* (Chicago, Rand McNally and Company, 1964).

<sup>5</sup> George P. Murdock, *Social Structure* (New York, Macmillan, 1949), p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> For example, Marion J. Levy's recent work uses the statistical approach and the residential family, that is, a group of persons usually related by blood or marriage, living together in a common residence or dwelling. Therefore, his generalizations may not be taken to apply to family and kinship units defined in terms of interaction or reciprocal obligations among kin living in different households. See Marion J. Levy Jr., "Aspects of the analysis of family

<sup>1</sup> *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 67.XVII.3), paras. 144-149, paras. 213-221, paras. 266-270, para. 313, tabulations (4) and (5); *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Housing Censuses* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 67.XVII.4), paras. 249-254, 263-265 and 268-271, paras. 289-293, para. 354, tabulations (1), (2) and (3), para. 354, tabulation (12).

<sup>2</sup> *Multilingual Demographic Dictionary* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.58.XIII.4), p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

The United Nations definition of the term "household" recommended for use within the Organization is as follows:

The concept of "household" is based on the arrangements made by persons, individually or in groups, for providing themselves with food or other essentials for living. A household may be either: (a) a one-person household, that is, a person who makes provision for his own food or other essentials for living without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household; or (b) a multi-person household, that is, a group of two or more persons who make common provision for food or other essentials for living. The persons in the group may pool their incomes and have a common budget to a greater or lesser extent; they may be related or unrelated persons, or a combination of both.

Households usually occupy the whole, part of, or more than one housing unit, but they may also be found in camps, in boarding houses or hotels, or as administrative personnel in institutions, or they may be homeless. Households consisting of extended families which make common provision for food, or of potentially separate households with a common head, resulting from polygamous unions, may occupy more than one housing unit.<sup>7</sup>

Three recent seminars, the Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for Asia and the Far East,<sup>8</sup> the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes,<sup>9</sup> and the Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for Africa,<sup>10</sup> drew attention to the importance of separating the concepts of "household" and "living quarters" in carrying out housing censuses in order to permit the identification of the persons or groups of persons in need of a separate dwelling.

On the other hand, the term "family" is defined by the United Nations recommendations as follows:

The family is defined as those members of the household who are related to a specified degree, through blood, adoption or marriage. The degree of relationship used in determining the limits of the family is dependent upon the uses to which the data are to be put and so cannot be precisely set for world-wide use.

A family cannot comprise more than one household; a household can, however, consist of more than one family, of one family together with one or more non-related persons, or entirely of non-related persons. In practice, most households are composed of a single family consisting of a married couple without children or of one or both parents and their unmarried children. It should not be assumed, however, that this identity exists.<sup>11</sup>

The term "family" may also refer to the "extended family" or "joint family" which would include a couple with not only their minor children but also their married

children and their families and other relatives as well; the extended family is often found in predominantly rural economies. Such a family may be scattered or may live together and share a housing unit. For statistical purposes, it would not be practical to deal with the "family" in this wider sense, that includes persons tied to each other by kinship but residing in different households.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, in conformity with the United Nations definition, the family can be interpreted in a limited sense as a group of two or more persons who live together and share the same housing unit. This group may be referred to as the "family household".<sup>13</sup>

Table 1 gives an inventory of data on households and families from the 1960 round of population and housing censuses in countries and territories of the world. It includes a classification of concepts and definitions of the household used in those countries according to (a) the housekeeping unit approach; (b) the household-housing unit approach.<sup>14</sup> It further provides information on the availability of data on heads of households or families by sex and age.

From this table, it will be immediately noticed that except for several Eastern European countries and for Portugal the household concept has been used in practically all the recent censuses of Western European, African, American and Asian countries. Among Latin American countries, some use the term *familia*, but study of their census schedules and definitions shows that in practice

<sup>12</sup> The joint family or composite family generally is defined as consisting of more than two generations of a biological family and is found in countries where it is not the custom for children to leave the parental home on marriage; United Nations *Multilingual Demographic Dictionary*, p. 6.

<sup>13</sup> *Handbook of Population Census Methods. Volume III: Demographic and Social Characteristics of the Population* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 58.XVII.6), p. 76. Generally, sociologists, anthropologists and social psychologists have emphasized interactional, institutional, functional and social psychological aspects of the family within a society, so that its scope is much broader than and somewhat different from this statistical approach. To family sociologists the family is a form of social organization and institution, through which a child grows up, develops his personality and acquires socialization. For the sociological literature, see, for example, the following: Marion J. Levy Jr., "Aspects of the analysis of family structure", in Ansley J. Coale, et al., *Aspects of the Analysis of Family Structure* (Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1965), pp. 1-63; Clifford Kirkpatrick, *The Family as a Process and Institution*, second edition (New York, Ronald Press, 1963); Marvin B. Sussman, ed., *Sourcebook in Marriage and the Family*, second edition (Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1963).

<sup>14</sup> The household may be described as a socio-economic unit which may have one or more functions, the basic one being to provide the members of the unit with a common shelter. Therefore, most definitions of the household require — and in some instances this is the only requirement — that, in order to be considered a household, a group of persons must share the same housing unit, that is, live under the same roof. Usually, but not universally, the concept is expressed in terms of two basic functions, namely living in the same housing unit and having common provisions for essential living needs, particularly food. This is the housekeeping unit concept of the household, on which the definition recommended by the United Nations is based. In some cases, however, the concept is expressed in terms of one basic function only, namely sharing a housing unit. This is the housing unit concept, which is used in some countries, particularly in Northern American and Latin American countries, mainly because it is easy to apply during data collection. However its application obviously does not provide information for the direct analysis of two or more separate housekeeping groups sharing the same dwelling.

structure" in Ansley J. Coale, et al., *Aspects of the Analysis of Family Structure* (Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1965), pp. 1-63.

<sup>7</sup> *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses*, paras. 146-147; *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Housing Censuses*, paras. 201-202 and 289-290.

<sup>8</sup> *Report of the Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for Asia and the Far East* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 65.II.F.12).

<sup>9</sup> *Report of the Latin American Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 63.II.G.14).

<sup>10</sup> *Report of the United Nations Seminar on Housing Statistics and Programmes for Africa* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 68.II.K.7).

<sup>11</sup> *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses*, paras. 213-214.

TABLE 1. AVAILABILITY OF STATISTICS ON HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES AND SEX-AGE SPECIFIC HEADSHIP DATA IN THE 1960 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES IN COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES OF THE WORLD

Continent and country or territory	Census year	Household statistics		Distribution of households and families by size	Family statistics	Family nucleus data	Headship data by sex and age
		Housekeep- ing unit concept	Household- housing unit concept				
<i>Africa</i>							
Algeria . . . .	1960	x	—	—	x	—	—
Angola . . . .	1960	—	x	—	x	—	—
Basutoland (now Lesotho) . . .	1956	—	x	x	x	—	—
Cameroon . . .	1957	...	...	x	—	—	—
Congo (Brazzaville) (now Congo)	1958	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dahomey . . . .	1961	—	—	x	—	—	—
Ethiopia . . . .	1961	—	x	—	—	—	—
Gabon . . . . .	1960/61	x	—	x	—	—	—
Ghana . . . . .	1960	—	x	—	—	—	—
Ifni , . . . . .	1960	x	—	—	—	—	—
Ivory Coast . .	1956/58	...	...	x	x	—	—
Kenya . . . . .	1962	x	—	x	—	—	—
Libya . . . . .	1964	—	x	x	—	—	—
Mali . . . . .	1960/61	...	...	x	—	—	—
Mauritius . . .	1962	x	—	—	—	—	—
Morocco . . . .	1960	...	...	x	—	—	—
Mozambique . .	1960	—	x	x (1950)	—	—	—
Réunion . . . .	1961	...	...	x	—	—	—
Seychelles . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
Sierra Leone .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
South Africa .	1960	—	x	x	—	—	—
Southern Rhodesia . . .	1962	—	x	x	—	—	—
Sudan . . . . .	1960	x	—	—	—	—	—
Togo . . . . .	1958/59	—	x	—	—	—	—
United Arab Republic (now Egypt)	1960	—	x	x	—	—	—
Zambia . . . .	1961	x	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Northern and Middle America and the Caribbean</i>							
Bahamas . . .	1963	x	—	—	...	—	—
Barbados . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	—	x
Bermuda . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
British Honduras . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
Canada . . . .	1961	—	x	x	x	x	x
Cayman Islands . . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
Costa Rica . . .	1963	x	—	x	x	—	x
Dominica . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	—	—
Dominican Republic . . . .	1960	—	x	x	x	—	x
El Salvador . .	1961	—	x	x	—	—	—
Greenland . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	x
Grenada . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	x
Guadeloupe . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	x
Guatemala . . .	1964	—	x	x	x	—	x (1950)
Haiti . . . . .	1950	x	—	x	x	—	x
Honduras . . .	1961	—	x	x	x	—	—
Jamaica . . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
Martinique . . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	x
Mexico . . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	—	—
Nicaragua . . .	1963	—	x	x	x	—	x (1950)
Panama . . . .	1960	—	x	x	x	x	x
Puerto Rico . .	1960	—	x	x	x	x	x
St. Lucia . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	—	—

TABLE 1 (continued)

Continent and country or territory	Census year	Household statistics		Distribution of households and families by size	Family statistics	Family nucleus data	Headship data by sex and age
		Housekeep- ing unit concept	Household- housing unit concept				
Northern and Middle America and the Caribbean (continued)							
St. Pierre and Miquelon . .	1957	x	—	x	x	x	x (1967)
St. Vincent . .	1960	x	—	x	x	—	—
Trinidad and Tobago . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	—	x
Turks and Caicos Islands . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
United States of America . .	1960	—	x	x	x	x	x
United States Virgin Islands . . .	1960	—	x	x	x	x	—
South America							
Argentina . . .	1960	—	x	x	x	—	x
Brazil . . . . .	1960	—	x	x	x	—	x (1950)
British Guiana (now Guya- na) . . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	—	—
Chile . . . . .	1960	—	x	x	x	—	—
Colombia . . .	1964	x	—	x	x	—	—
Ecuador . . .	1962	x	—	x	x	—	—
French Guiana	1961	—	x				
Paraguay . . .	1962	—	x	x (1950)	x	—	—
Peru . . . . .	1961	—	x	x	x	—	—
Surinam . . .	1964	...	...	x	—	—	—
Uruguay . . .	1963	—	x	—	—	—	—
Venezuela . . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	—
Asia							
Brunei . . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
Cambodia (now Khmer Republic) . .	1962	...	...	x (1958)	—	—	—
Ceylon . . . .	1963	x	—	x (1953)	—	—	—
Cyprus . . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
Hong Kong . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	—
India . . . . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	—
Iran . . . . .	1956	—	x	x	—	—	—
Iraq . . . . .	1957	...	...	x	—	—	—
Israel . . . . .	1961	—	x	x	—	—	x
Japan . . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	x
Jordan . . . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	—
Korea, Republic of . .	1960	x	—	x	x	—	—
Macau . . . . .	1960	—	x	x	x	x	—
Malaysia . . .							
Federation of Malaya (now West Malaysia) . .	1957	x	—	x	—	—	—
North Borneo (now Sabah) . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
Sarawak . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
Pakistan . . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	—
Philippines . .	1960	x	—	x (1957)	—	—	—
Ryukyu Islands . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—

TABLE 1 (continued)

Continent and country or territory	Census year	Household statistics		Distribution of households and families by size	Family statistics	Family nucleus data	Headship data by sex and age
		Housekeep- ing unit concept	Household- housing unit concept				
Asia (continued)							
Singapore (sample survey) . .	1966	x	—	x	x	x	x
Syria . . . .	1960	—	x	x	x	—	—
Thailand . . .	1960	—	x	x	—	—	—
Turkey . . . .	1960	x	—	x	—	—	—
Europe							
Albania . . . .	1955	—	—	x	x	—	—
Austria . . . .	1961	x	—	x	x	x	x
Belgium . . . .	1961	x	—	x	x	x	x
Bulgaria . . . .	1956	—	—	x	x	—	—
Czechoslovakia	1961	—	x	x	x	x	x
Denmark . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	x
Finland . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	x
France . . . .	1962	—	x	x	x	x	x
Germany, Federal Republic of	1961	x	—	x	x	x	x
Germany, West Berlin	1961	x	—	x	x	x	...
Gibraltar . . .	1951	x	—	x	—	—	—
Greece . . . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	—
Hungary . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	x
Iceland . . . .	1960	x	—	x (1950)	—	—	—
Ireland . . . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	—
Italy . . . . .	1961	x	—	x	x	x	x
Jersey and Guernsey . .	1961	x	—	x	—	—	—
Luxembourg . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	x
Malta and Gozo . . . .	1957	x	—	x	—	—	—
Monaco . . . .	1962	...	...	x	—	—	—
Netherlands . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	x
Norway . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	x
Poland . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	x	—
Portugal . . . .	1960	x	—	x	x	—	—
Romania . . . .	1965	—	—	—	x	—	—
Spain . . . . .	1960	x	—	—	x	x	—
Sweden . . . .	1960	—	x	x	x	x	x
Switzerland . .	1960	—	x	x	x	x	x
United Kingdom England and Wales . . .	1961	x	—	x	x	x	x
Northern Ireland . . .	1961	x	—	x	x	x	x
Scotland . . .	1961	x	—	x	x	x	x
Yugoslavia . .	1961	x	—	x	x	x	—
Oceania							
American Samoa . . .	1960	—	x	—	x	x	—
Australia . . .	1961	—	x	x	—	—	x
Christmas Islands (Australia) .	1957	...	...	x	—	—	—
Fiji . . . . .	1956	x	—	—	—	—	—
Guam . . . . .	1960	—	x	—	x	x	—
New Zealand .	1961	x	—	x (1956)	—	—	—
Niue . . . . .	1961	...	...	x	—	—	—
Pacific Islands	1958	...	...	x	—	—	—
Western Samoa	1961	—	x	—	—	—	—

TABLE 1 (concluded)

Continent and country or territory	Census year	Household statistics		Distribution of households and families by size	Family statistics	Family nucleus data	Headship data by sex and age
		Housekeep- ing unit concept	Household- housing unit concept				
USSR							
USSR . . . .	1959	—	—	x	x	—	—
Byelorussian SSR . . . .	1959	—	—	x	x	—	—
Ukrainian SSR . . . .	1959	—	—	x	x	—	—

x Given type of data was available or category concerned was relevant.

— Data were not available or category was not relevant.

... Some statistics on households were available, but the definition was vague or unobtainable.

their definition of this term is equivalent to the concept of "household" or "family household".<sup>15</sup>

As shown in table 1, in most Western European and Asian countries, the housekeeping unit concept has been predominantly used, whereas in the American nations, in both Northern and Latin America (except small islands in the Caribbean Sea) the household-housing unit approach has been more widely practised in their respective censuses. The Pan-American practice of the household-housing unit approach has its own history and it has been derived from the recommendations made in the past at meetings of the Inter-American Statistical Institute.<sup>16</sup>

Persons not living in households include persons in military installations and correctional and penal institutions, in the dormitories of schools and universities, in hospitals and in religious institutions. As a rule, a relatively small proportion of the population belongs in this category. The relative numbers of private and institutional households may be affected by the criteria established for the census treatment of certain border-line cases. In some censuses, for example, the directors and personnel of certain institutions are counted as households if they occupy a separate housing unit. Guests in hotels who have no other residence are also, when they fulfil certain requirements, counted as households in some censuses. A boarding house may be classified as a household if the number of roomers does not exceed the number of family members, including servants, or if the number does not exceed a given number, usually 5 or 10, depending on the definition adopted.<sup>17</sup> In some countries, such as Japan,

persons residing in rooming houses are tabulated with institutional households to form a group of so-called "quasi-households".

### FAMILY NUCLEUS

The "family nucleus" is the family in the narrow sense and may be called the conjugal family nucleus. More popularly it has been widely termed the "nuclear family". It consists of one of the following combinations: (a) a married couple without children; (b) a married couple with one or more unmarried children; (c) one parent (either father or mother) with one or more unmarried children.<sup>18</sup> An unmarried woman with one or more unmarried children should be treated as a separate family nucleus, even if she and her children are living in the same household as her parents. "Children" in the above usage includes foster children as well as adopted children.

The United Nations publication *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses* has recommended as first priority the classification of family nuclei by the number of members.<sup>19</sup> Regionally, however, as seen in table 1, the availability of family nucleus data is confined mainly to European and Northern American countries. In African and Asian regions only a few countries tabulated family nucleus data in the 1960 round of censuses.

### HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY

According to the United Nations definition, the head of the household is the person who is acknowledged as such by the other household members.<sup>20</sup> Although a more desirable definition for purposes of dependency statistics would be the person who bears the chief responsibility for the economic maintenance of the household, it is not recommended that this definition be applied because of the

<sup>15</sup> The following countries in Latin America use different terms meaning much the same as "household": Chile: *hogar censal*; Colombia: *familia censal*; Costa Rica: *familia censal*; Ecuador: *hogar censal particular*; El Salvador: *hogar particular o familia censal privada*; Honduras: *familia censal*; Guatemala: *hogar particular*; Nicaragua: *hogar particular*; Paraguay: *hogar particular*; Panama: *hogar o familia*; Republic of Dominica: *hogar particular*; Uruguay: *hogar particular*; Peru: *familia censal*; Argentina: *hogar censal*; Brazil: *Familias recenseadas*. Before the 1970 censuses, the concept of "private household" had been used. For the 1970 censuses, however, the concept of "household" was recommended to replace it.

<sup>16</sup> Inter-American Statistical Institute, *Report on the VI Session of the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics*, Buenos Aires, 17-18 November 1958 (Washington, D.C., 1958), chap. I, "Program of the 1960 census of America", pp. 703 and 732.

<sup>17</sup> *Handbook of Population Census Methods, Volume III*, pp. 68-69.

<sup>18</sup> *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses*, para. 215; *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Housing Censuses*, para. 249.

<sup>19</sup> *Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses*, para. 313, tabulation (4).

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 269-270.

difficulty of collecting the information needed to determine economic responsibility.<sup>20</sup>

Likewise, according to the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations*, the head of the family can be either (a) the person who is acknowledged as such by the other members of the census family or of the family nucleus; (b) the member of the family or of the family nucleus who meets specified requirements.<sup>20</sup> If the first definition is used, the head of the family must be identified by means of a direct question during the enumeration. If the second definition is employed, the head of the family can be identified at the processing stage by such characteristics as sex, age and marital status, or simply by virtue of being the head of a one-person household.<sup>20</sup>

Sociologically, the head of a family may be the person who sits at the apex of the system of dominant and subordinate relationships among the members. But, where there are gaps between the largest income earner and the titular head in the family, the problem of how to determine which person should be the head remains unsolved.

In the 1960 round of censuses, according to table 1, 36 countries and territories provided the headship data cross-tabulated at least by sex and age. Definitions of the head of the household among these countries are shown in table 2 by three major categories. Out of 36 countries, 23 have defined the head of the household (or family) as the one who reports himself as such or is so reported by another member of the household (or family). Seven countries have defined the head as "a person who controls the maintenance of the household (exercises the authority to run the household)" or used a similar definition. Another three countries have defined the "head" as the "main supporter" (chief earner) of the household.

As is apparent from table 2, a majority of the countries that have tabulated heads of households (or families) by sex and age have defined the head as the person reported as such and have not applied any particular economic and sociological criteria to distinguish the head of the household (or family) from the other members. By the same token, categories 2 and 3, defining the head as "the person who controls the maintenance of the household (exercises the authority to run the household)" and "the main supporter (chief earner of household)", may overlap considerably and there is no real difference between them.

TABLE 2. DEFINITION OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (OR FAMILY) IN THE 1960 ROUND OF CENSUSES IN 36 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHERE HOUSEHOLD (OR FAMILY) DATA HAVE BEEN TABULATED AT LEAST BY SEX AND AGE

Country or territory	Head of household reported by respondents as such (either by himself or by the other members) <sup>a</sup>	Person who controls the maintenance of household (exercises the authority to run the household)	Main supporter and others
<i>Northern and Middle America and the Caribbean</i>			
Barbados . . . . .	—	—	x
Canada . . . . .	x	—	—
Costa Rica . . . . .	x	—	—
Dominican Republic . . . . .	x	—	—
Grenada . . . . .	—	—	x
Guadeloupe . . . . .	x	—	—
Guatemala . . . . .	x	—	—
Haiti . . . . .	—	x	—
Martinique . . . . .	x	—	—
Nicaragua . . . . .	x	—	—
Panama . . . . .	x	—	—
Puerto Rico . . . . .	x	—	—
St. Pierre and Miquelon . . . . .	—	x	—
Trinidad and Tobago . . . . .	—	x	—
United States of America . . . . .	x	—	—
<i>South America</i>			
Argentina . . . . .	x	—	—
Brazil . . . . .	x	—	—
<i>Asia</i>			
Israel . . . . .	x <sup>b</sup>	—	—
Japan . . . . .	x	—	—
Singapore . . . . .	x	—	—
<i>Europe</i>			
Austria . . . . .	x	—	—
Belgium . . . . .	—	x	—
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	—	x	—
Denmark . . . . .	—	—	x
Finland . . . . .	—	—	x
France . . . . .	x	—	—
Germany, Federal Republic of . . . . .	x	—	—
Hungary . . . . .	—	—	x
Italy . . . . .	x	—	—
Luxembourg . . . . .	—	x	—
Netherlands . . . . .	x	—	—
Norway . . . . .	—	—	x
Sweden . . . . .	—	x	—
Switzerland . . . . .	x	—	—
United Kingdom . . . . .	x	—	—
<i>Oceania</i>			
Australia . . . . .	x	—	—
TOTAL	23	7	6

SOURCE: for European countries, *European Population Censuses: The 1960 Series, International Recommendations and National Practices*, Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 64.II.E/Mim.36), tables 5 and 6, pp. 110-111 and pp. 112-113; other countries, national census volumes.

<sup>a</sup> In some cases even where there are no definitions given in the census reports, the census questionnaires included a question on the relationship of the household or family members to the head, and hence it was concluded that the head of the household or family was reported or designated as such either by himself or by the other members.

<sup>b</sup> When identification is difficult, the oldest member of household is designated.