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**Demographic, household and family characteristics**

### **Household and family characteristics - Draft text for the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 census round**

**Note by the UNECE Task Force on Demographic, household and family  
characteristics**

#### *Summary*

This document presents the draft text on household and family characteristics for the new Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. It was prepared by the UNECE Task Force on Demographic, household and family characteristics based on the first proposal discussed at the September 2013 meeting of the UNECE-Eurostat Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses, and on further discussion within the Task Force and with the UNECE Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses.

## **I. Introduction**

1. Household and family composition can be examined from several different points of view. In considering topics related to households it is important to be aware of the different concepts relating to households and families. These issues are explored in detail in this chapter. A number of census topics (such as car availability and amenities) focus on data at the household or family level rather than the individual level. In many countries the pattern

of family and household formation is changing, and so it is important to examine the structural changes that are occurring.

### Definitions

2. It is recommended to use the place of usual residence as the basis of household membership, see the chapter on population bases [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized and paragraph numbering will be completed] on the core topic "place of usual residence" where, *inter alia*, issues such as temporary absence are considered. If only *de jure* information is available (for example from registers) on place of legal residence (that is, no information is available on place of usual residence) then that information can be used (alone or in combination with other information from other sources) provided that it is judged to reflect the usual residence situation sufficiently accurately.

## II. The household concept

3. A private household is either:

(a) A one-person household, that is a person who lives alone in a separate housing unit or who occupies, as a lodger, a separate room (or rooms) of a housing unit but does not join with any of the other occupants of the housing unit to form part of a multi-person household as defined below; or

(b) A multi-person household, that is a group of two or more persons who combine to occupy the whole or part of a housing unit and to provide themselves with food and possibly other essentials for living. Members of the group may pool their incomes to a greater or lesser extent.

4. This concept of a private household is known as the housekeeping concept and does not assume that the number of private households is necessarily equal to the number of housing units. Within this concept, it is useful to distinguish between "boarders" and "lodgers" where relevant. Boarders take meals with the household and generally are allowed to use the household facilities. They are thus to be considered as members of the household as defined in paragraph 3 [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]. Lodgers on the other hand have hired part of the housing unit for their exclusive use. They will belong to a different household even though they may share the same housing unit.

5. Some countries may be unable to collect data on common housekeeping of household members, for example where their census is register-based. Many of these countries use a different concept of the private household, namely, the household-dwelling concept. The household-dwelling concept considers all persons living in a housing unit to be members of the same household, such that there is one household per occupied housing unit. In the household-dwelling concept, then, the number of occupied housing units and the number of households occupying them is equal. Whether a country uses the 'housekeeping unit' or the 'household-dwelling' concept of a household has generally little implication for the total number of private households. However, differences can be large for certain household types, for example for one-person households.

6. Countries should specify in their census reports and/or relevant metadata whether they used the 'housekeeping unit' or the 'household-dwelling' concept of a private household.

7. An institutional household comprises persons whose need for shelter and subsistence are being provided by an institution. An institution is understood to be a legal body for the

purpose of long-term inhabitation and provision of services to a group of persons. Institutions usually have common facilities shared by the occupants (baths, lounges, eating facilities, dormitories and so forth). The great majority of institutional households fall under the following categories:

- (1.0) Residences for students;
- (2.0) Hospitals, convalescent homes, establishments for the disabled, psychiatric institutions, old people's homes and nursing homes;
- (3.0) Assisted living facilities and welfare institutions including those for the homeless;
- (4.0) Military barracks;
- (5.0) Correctional and penal institutions;
- (6.0) Religious institutions; and
- (7.0) Worker dormitories.

8. Members of an institutional household have their place of usual residence at the institution. People who are normally members of private households but who are living in institutions are considered as members of institutional households if their actual or expected absence from a private household exceeds one year.

9. Countries should endeavour to distinguish between the institutional population and persons who are part of private households within collective living quarters. For example, employees of the institution who live alone or with their family at the institution should be treated as members of private households.

10. Prior to the census enumeration, countries should consider using a living quarters validation instrument. A brief questionnaire can identify, among other things, the nature and functions of collective living quarters, the potential presence of private households, and whether services are offered to persons considered to be homeless. Also, one main advantage of using such a validation instrument is that it allows for the identification of multipurpose institutional households. Thus, parts of an institutional household may be classified differently.

11. There may be differences between countries in the ways in which the boundary between the population living in private households and the population living in institutional or other households is drawn. The definitions used should therefore be explained clearly in the census metadata and publications, and attention should be drawn to any differences between national practice and these recommendations.

#### **Persons with no usual residence: the "homeless"**

12. There are some persons who do not live in either private or institutional households. These are often referred to as the "homeless." However, "homelessness" is essentially a cultural definition based on concepts such as "adequate housing", "minimum community housing standard" or "security of tenure" which can be perceived in different ways by different communities. For certain policy purposes, some persons living in institutions may be considered as homeless persons. People who frequently stay with different households, without secure access to any one, are also sometimes considered as "homeless." As such, "homelessness" is not a useful category for international comparisons. Rather, distinct categories, precisely defined, should be used.

13. For tabulations of "homelessness," the following two categories can be considered:

(1.0) Rooflessness: This category includes persons living in the streets without a shelter that would fall within the scope of living quarters (see the chapter on housing [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]).

(2.0) Rootlessness: This category may include persons with no place of usual residence who move frequently between various types of accommodations (including dwellings, shelters, institutions for the homeless or other living quarters), but who at least have a roof over their heads at the time of the census. This category includes persons living in private dwellings but who report having “no usual address” on their census form.

14. Only the first category, "Rooflessness," comprises people not already included in either private or institutional households. As such, it needs to be separately accounted for.

15. The "rootless" (2.0) are, by definition, found either in private or institutional households and are already accounted for. Still, some countries may for policy reasons, wish to capture information on such persons, but this can only be specifically done by collecting information on place of usual residence and identifying people who report no such place. These definitions must be supported by a collection strategy or other means that ensure, for example, that certain dwellings be properly identified as shelters and not as private dwellings (see the chapter on housing).

### III. The family concept

16. A family nucleus is defined in the narrow sense as two or more persons who live in the same household and who are related as marital, registered, or consensual union (that is, cohabiting) partners of either opposite or same sex, or as parent and child. Thus a family comprises a couple without children, or a couple with one or more children, or a lone parent with one or more children. [NOTE: It is proposed that the section on same-sex partnerships at paras 502-504 of the previous Recommendations be deleted. In fact, the categories that were proposed referred to a mix of legal and de facto status categories. However, the importance of collecting information on both opposite and same sex relationships (through marriage, legal partnership or consensual union) is still acknowledged in the proposed text whenever relevant (see paragraphs 29-30, 35-37, 43, 48, 56, 70)]

17. The family concept as defined above limits relationships between children and adults to direct (first-degree) relationships, that is between parents and children. In some countries, numbers of “skip generation households”, that is households consisting of grandparent(s) and one or more grandchild(ren), but where no inter-generational parent (that is the parent of those grandchildren) is present, are considerable. Therefore, countries may include such skip generation households in their family definition. The relevant census report and/or metadata should clearly state whether or not skip generation households are included in the family nucleus definition.

18. Child refers to a blood, step- or adopted son or daughter (regardless of age or marital status) who has usual residence in the household of at least one of the parents, and who has no partner or own child(ren) in the same household. Grandsons and granddaughters who have usual residence in the household of at least one grandparent while there are no parents present may also be included. Foster children are not included. A (grand)son or (grand)daughter who lives with a spouse, with a registered partner, with a consensual partner, or with one or more own children, is not considered to be a child. A child who alternates between two households (for instance after his or her parents have divorced or separated) should be considered to be a member the household (and hence the family within that household) where he or she spends the majority of the time. Where an equal amount of time is spent with both parents the child should be considered to be a member of the household/family where he/she is present at the time of the census.

19. The term couple should include married couples, registered couples, and couples who live in a consensual union (whether of the opposite or same sex). Two persons are considered to be partners in a consensual union when: they have usual residence in the same household, they are not married to nor are in a registered/legal partnership with each other, and they have a marriage-like relationship with each other.

20. A three-generation household consists of two or more separate family nuclei or one family nucleus and (an)other family member(s), containing at least three generations. The youngest two generations always constitute one family nucleus. For example, a woman who is living in a household with her own child(ren) and her own parent(s) should be regarded as being in the same family nucleus as the child(ren) even if she is never married.

21. A reconstituted family is a family consisting of a married, registered or cohabiting couple, with one or more children, where at least one child is a non-common child, that is the natural child of only one member of the couple. If the other partner adopts the child of one partner later, the resulting family is no longer a reconstituted family.

22. A few family nuclei live in institutional households, for example elderly couples living in old age homes. However, the number is very small in most countries in the ECE region and it is often difficult to identify them. The scope of the basic data to be compiled on family nuclei is therefore confined to family nuclei living in private households. If those living in institutional households are included, they should, if there are no disclosure issues, be shown separately.

23. Family nuclei are usually identified at the processing stage on the basis of marital status, sex, age, and relationship either to the reference member of the household or to other household members. In the case of multi-family households, however, these data are often not sufficient to provide a reliable basis for allocating persons to particular family nuclei. It is left to countries to decide whether family nuclei in these households should be distinguished by asking the respondent to list the members of each family nucleus in consecutive order, or in some other way.

24. Some countries may wish to derive information on "extended families" also. It is recommended that an extended family be defined for census purposes as a group of two or more persons who live together in the same household and who do not constitute a family nucleus as defined above but are related to each other (to a specified degree) through blood, marriage or adoption. Data on extended families can have certain advantages for studying the economic relationships of families or kin as spending units, but they also have certain advantages for studying and classifying families from a demographic point of view. Countries that derive information on this type of family unit are encouraged to use the suggested classifications proposed for the non-core topics "extended family status" (see paragraphs 51-53) and "type of extended family" (see paragraphs 64-65) [NOTE: Cross references to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized].

## IV. Household and family characteristics of persons

### Relationships between household members (core topic)

25. Information should be collected for all persons living in private households on their relationship to other members of the household. Data on this topic are needed for use in (i) identifying family nuclei and private households of various types; (ii) deriving the family status and the household status of household members.

26. In previous censuses, the selection of the one reference person in the household to whom all other household members report or designate their relationship was the recommended method for mapping household structures. When the household's reference

person is chosen carefully, this method gives accurate information for most household types and family types. In certain cases, however, for instance in multiple family households, this method will not always give the information that is required. Therefore, a more elaborative method has been developed, namely the household relationship matrix method. The household relationship matrix allows for the collection of all relationships between all household members. Countries should note that information collected via the matrix method may be only practicable for those adopting a traditional, questionnaire-based census. Information obtained from registers is unlikely to identify intra-household relationships.

27. Some countries have good experience with the household relationship matrix method in their censuses. Other countries have noted problems with this approach, due to its complicated character. Therefore, it is recommended that countries consider the relationship matrix only as one possible method for mapping household structures. Pre-census tests of the relationship matrix are recommended to check the feasibility of the method. Where feasible, the relationship matrix method is the recommended approach. Otherwise, it is recommended that use the household's reference person. It is to be noted that the household relationship matrix, if necessary, may be limited to certain members of the household, for example only the adult members, or the children.

28. The classification of types of relationship to one (in case the reference person method is used) or more (when the household relationship matrix is used) other members is given in paragraph 35 and paragraph 29, respectively [NOTE: Cross references to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized].

29. In case the household relationship matrix method is used, the following classification of persons living in a private household by relationship to other household members is recommended. The classification is recommended at the one-digit level and optional at the two-digit level.

- (1.0) Other person's husband / wife / spouse
- (2.0) Other person's registered partner
- (3.0) Other person's partner in consensual union (cohabiting partner)
  - (3.1) Other person's opposite-sex cohabiting partner
  - (3.2) Other person's same-sex cohabiting partner
- (4.0) Other person's child
- (5.0) Other person's father or mother
- (6.0) Other person's other relative
- (7.0) Non-relative of other person
  - (7.1) Foster child
  - (7.2) Boarder
  - (7.3) Other, including domestic servant

30. The term "cohabiting partner" may be used as a synonym for people in a consensual union. The optional distinction between categories (3.1) "Other person's opposite-sex cohabiting partner" and (3.2) "Other person's same-sex cohabiting partner" should be considered by countries that wish to produce data on same-sex partnerships. Adding a specific category for same-sex partners distinct from the category for opposite-sex partners allows for the collection of data on same-sex partnerships without having to rely on the sex question to distinguish between opposite-sex and same-sex partnerships. It is suggested that

a thorough testing program (both cognitive and quantitative) be conducted prior to introducing such a sensitive topic on the census questionnaire.

31. Countries may wish to subdivide category (4.0) into children according to the different age groups. It is further suggested that employees, other than domestic servants, who are members of the household (for instance nurses, farm workers) be included in category (7.3). Countries that use the household-dwelling concept may also need separate headings for sub-tenants and members of subtenants' households.

32. Countries that identify skip generation families should use two additional categories, namely one for grandparent and one for grandchild.

33. The selection of the one reference person in a household to whom all other persons in the household report, or designate, their relationship requires careful consideration. In the past the person considered to be the 'head' of the household was generally used as the reference person, but this concept is no longer considered appropriate in many countries of the region. It has also sometimes been proposed that the person designated as the reference person should be the oldest person in the household or the one who contributes the most income. However, given that the primary purpose of the question is to assign family status and to assign individuals into families, both of these approaches have weaknesses. The automatic selection of the oldest person may be undesirable because in multi-generational households the broadest range of explicit kin relationships can be reported where the reference person is selected from the middle generation. Similarly, the selection of the person with the highest income may be a person who will not solicit the broadest range of explicit kin relationships. There is some evidence though to suggest that the following guidance for selection of the reference person will yield the most fruitful range of explicit kin relationships:

(a) Either the husband or the wife of a married couple living in the household (preferably from the middle generation in a multi-generational household);

(b) Either partner of a consensual union couple living in the household where there is no married couple present;

(c) Otherwise, the parent, where one parent lives with his or her sons or daughters of any age; or

(d) Where none of the above conditions apply, any adult member of the household may be selected.

34. These criteria, although not strictly mutually exclusive, will be workable in most cases and are presented here to provide an example of how an adult member of the household could be selected with a view to facilitating the determination of family relationships. The considerations given here may also be appropriate when countries wish to apply the concept of head of household.

35. In order to facilitate identification of family nuclei and households, the following classification of persons living in a private household by relationship to the household's reference person is recommended. The classification is recommended at the one-digit level and optional at the two-digit level.

(1.0) Reference person

(2.0) Reference person's spouse or registered partner

(2.1) Opposite sex spouse or registered partner

(2.2) Same-sex spouse or registered partner

(3.0) Reference person's partner in consensual union (cohabiting partner)

- (3.1) Opposite-sex partner
- (3.2) Same-sex partner
- (4.0) Child of reference person and/or of husband/wife/ partner
  - (4.1) Child of reference person only
  - (4.2) Child of reference person's husband/wife/ partner
  - (4.3) Child of both
- (5.0) Husband/wife or cohabiting partner of child of reference person
- (6.0) Father or mother of reference person, of spouse, or of cohabiting partner of reference person
- (7.0) Other relative of reference person, of spouse, or of cohabiting partner of reference person
- (8.0) Non-relative of reference person of the household
  - (8.1) Foster child
  - (8.2) Boarder
  - (8.3) Other, including domestic servant

36. Countries that define a skip generation family as family nucleus should use two additional categories, namely one for grandparent and one for grandchild.

37. The optional distinction between categories (3.1) "Opposite-sex cohabiting partner" and (3.2) "Same-sex cohabiting partner" should be considered by countries that would like to collect data on same-sex partnerships.

38. The optional distinction between categories (4.1), (4.2) and (4.3) allows the identification of reconstituted families in private households provided that the reference person is a parent in the reconstituted family (see paragraph 21 [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]).

39. Countries may wish to subdivide categories (4.1) to (4.3) by children according to different age groups. It is further suggested that employees who are members of the household (for instance nurses, farm workers) be included in category (8.3). Countries, which use the household-dwelling concept, may also need separate headings for sub-tenants and members of sub-tenants' households.

## **A. Household and family status**

40. For purposes of determining household and family status and identifying how a person relates to other household or family members, persons may be classified according to their position in the household or family nucleus. Classifying persons according to household and family status has uses in social and demographic research and policy formulation. Census data can be presented according to both household and family status for a variety of purposes. Although status itself is based on information derived from responses to the item on relationship to the head or other reference member of the household and other items, the classification of persons by their household and family status represents a different approach from the traditional one of classifying household members solely according to their relationship to the head or reference person.

**Household status (derived core topic)**

41. Information should be derived for all persons on their status or position in the household and for people in private households whether they are living alone, in a nuclear family household or living with others.

42. The following classification of the population by household status is recommended:

- (1.0) Person in a private household
  - (1.1) Person in a nuclear family household
    - (1.1.1) Husband / male spouse or registered partner
    - (1.1.2) Wife /female spouse or registered partner
    - (1.1.3) Male partner in a consensual union
    - (1.1.4) Female partner in a consensual union
    - (1.1.5) Lone father
    - (1.1.6) Lone mother
    - (1.1.7) Child under 25 years of age
    - (1.1.8) Son/daughter aged 25 or older
    - (1.1.9) Other persons not member of the nuclear family, but in a nuclear family household
  - (1.2) Person in other private households
    - (1.2.1.)Living alone
    - (1.2.2.)Living with relatives
    - (1.2.3.)Living with non-relatives
- (2.0) Person not in a private household
  - (2.1) Person in institutional household
  - (2.2) Primary homeless person
  - (2.3) Other.

43. This classification is recommended at the three-digit level. Depending on national legislation and data needs, countries may include the oldest partner of a registered (marital) same-sex couple in category (1.1.1), and the youngest partner in category (1.1.2).

44. Countries that identify skip generation families should use two additional categories under (1.1), namely one for grandparent and one for grandchild.

45. It should be noted that information on household status can be used to derive what is commonly known as *de facto* marital status, for example, whether a person who is not legally married, lives together with a partner in a consensual union, or whether a person who is legally married, lives without a partner, understanding that a small number of married people may be cohabiting with someone other than their legal spouse.

**Family status (derived core topic)**

46. Information should be derived for all persons on their family status. Family status is measured in terms of partner, lone parent or child.

47. The following classification of the population living in families is recommended:

- (1.0) Partner
  - (1.1) Husband in a married couple / registered union
  - (1.2) Wife in a married couple / registered union
  - (1.3) Male partner in a consensual union
  - (1.4) Female partner in a consensual union
- (2.0) Lone parent
  - (2.1) Lone father
  - (2.2) Lone mother
- (3.0) Child
  - (3.1) Child aged under 25
    - (3.1.1) Child of both partners
    - (3.1.2) Child of male partner only
    - (3.1.3) Child of female partner only
    - (3.1.4) Child of lone father
    - (3.1.5) Child of lone mother
  - (3.2.) Son/daughter aged 25 or over
    - (3.2.1) Son/daughter of both partners
    - (3.2.2) Son/daughter of male partner only
    - (3.2.3) Son/daughter of female partner only
    - (3.2.4) Son/daughter of lone father
    - (3.2.5) Son/daughter of lone mother.

48. This classification is recommended at the two-digit level. Further detail on the age of the youngest child may be added, for instance under 18, 18-24, 25-29, and 30 or over. Depending on national legislation and data needs, countries may include the oldest partner of a registered (marital) same-sex couple in category (1.1), and the youngest partner in category (1.2).

49. Countries that identify skip-generation families should use three additional categories, namely (3.3) grandchild aged under 25, (3.4) grandson/granddaughter aged 25 or over, and (4.0) grandparent.

50. The classification of children in reconstituted families requires special attention. These children should be classified according to the relationship with both parents. If the child has been adopted by the new partner, he/she should be classified in (3.1.1) or (3.2.1), and the family should not be considered a reconstituted family (unless not all children have been adopted by the new partner), see paragraph 21 [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]. If not, he/she belongs to (3.1.2) or (3.1.3) or (3.2.2) or (3.2.3).

**Extended family status (derived non-core topic)**

51. It is suggested that countries interested in deriving data on extended families classify persons in private households by extended family status.
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52. The following classification, on the basis of their relationship to the reference person of the household is recommended:

- (1.0) Extended family reference person
- (2.0) Husband/wife/spouse, registered partner, or cohabiting partner of reference person
- (3.0) Child of reference person
- (4.0) Other relative of reference person
- (5.0) Not member of an extended family

53. Some countries may also wish to subdivide category (4.0) by type of relationship to meet specific requirements.

## B. Characteristics of family nuclei

### Type of family nucleus (derived core topic)

54. The family nucleus is defined in paragraph 16 [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]. Family nuclei should be classified by type.

55. The following classification of family nuclei by type is recommended:

- (1.0) Husband-wife family, not reconstituted family
  - (1.1) Without resident children
  - (1.2) With at least one resident child under 25
  - (1.3) Youngest resident son/daughter 25 or older
- (2.0) Cohabiting couple, not reconstituted family
  - (2.1) Without resident children
  - (2.2) With at least one resident child under 25
  - (2.3) Youngest resident son/daughter 25 or older
- (3.0) Lone father
  - (3.1) With at least one resident child under 25
  - (3.2) Youngest resident son/daughter 25 or older
- (4.0) Lone mother
  - (4.1) With at least one resident child under 25
  - (4.2) Youngest resident son/daughter 25 or older
- (5.0) Reconstituted family
  - (5.1) With at least one resident child under 25
  - (5.2) Youngest resident son/daughter 25 or older.

56. This classification is recommended at the two-digit level, except for category (5.0) and sub-categories (5.1) and (5.2) on reconstituted families. Countries that do not wish to distinguish reconstituted families as a separate type of family nucleus should consider an amended version the classification, where categories (1.0) "Husband-wife family" and (2.0)

“Cohabiting couple” would also include reconstituted families, and where the last category should be (5.0) "Other type of family nucleus", without further subdivision. Depending on national legislation and data needs, countries may include registered (marital) same-sex couple in category (1.0).

57. Countries that identify skip generation families should use an additional category, namely (6.0) Skip generation family.

58. It is suggested that countries that wish to subdivide the classification by age of female partner (for couple families) and/or by age of parent (for lone parent families) do so by using at least the following age groups: below 35; 35 to 54; 55 and over. These age groups are suggested because they are the significant groupings to use in family life cycle constructions. An additional subdivision showing the age of children is encouraged.

**Type of reconstituted family (derived non-core topic)**

59. A reconstituted family is defined in paragraph 21 [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]. Reconstituted families may or may not have one or more children that are common to both partners, in addition to at least one child that is non-common. Information should be collected on type of reconstituted family by number of non-common and common children.

60. The following classification of reconstituted families is recommended:

- (1.0) Reconstituted family, one non-common child
  - (1.1) And no common children
  - (1.2) And one common child
  - (1.3) And two or more common children
- (2.0) Reconstituted family, two non-common children
  - (2.1) And no common children
  - (2.2) And one common child
  - (2.3) And two or more common children
- (3.0) Reconstituted family, three non-common children
  - (3.1) And no common children
  - (3.2) And one common child
  - (3.3) And two or more common children
- (4.0) Reconstituted family, four or more non-common children
  - (4.1) And no common children
  - (4.2) And one common child
  - (4.3) And two or more common children

61. Some countries may wish to add further detail on the family status of the couple (married or cohabiting), on the age of the children, and/or whether the children are solely the woman’s children, solely the man’s children, or children from an earlier liaison of both the man and the woman.

62. The identification of reconstituted families requires careful attention. Several approaches have been used in previous censuses and these are described below.

- (a) Household relationship matrix

A reconstituted family can be identified provided that each child in the household can specify his/her relationship to each adult so that he/she can be classified in one of the following three distinct categories:

- (1.0) Child of both the adult person and his/her spouse/partner;
- (2.0) Child of the adult person only; and
- (3.0) Not the child of the adult person.

In category (1.0) it is assumed that the spouse/partner of the adult person is a member of the same private household.

(b) The partial household relationship matrix

The household relationship matrix as described under (a) covers the relationships between all members of the household. For the purpose of identifying a reconstituted family it is sufficient to use only part of that matrix, namely that part that asks all children information on their relationship to all adults in the household, as specified by categories (1.0) to (3.0) above.

(c) Relationship to the reference person of the household

In those cases where the reference person is a parent in a reconstituted family, that family can be identified when relationship to reference person includes the following three categories:

- (1.0) Child of both the reference person and his/her spouse/partner;
- (2.0) Child of reference person only; and
- (3.0) Child of the reference person's spouse/partner only.

However, this approach will not cover reconstituted families in those cases where the reference person is not a parent in the reconstituted family.

(d) Birth dates

Countries with a register-based census should identify reconstituted families on the basis of children's birth dates. More particularly, a matching between birth dates of all natural children ever-born to each adult household member on the one hand, and the birth dates of all children present in the household on the other, will facilitate identification of reconstituted families.

63. It is recommended that countries with a register-based census use the fourth approach for the purpose of identifying reconstituted families. Other countries should use the first or the second approach, provided that the household relationship matrix method is feasible. Otherwise, the third approach can be used, provided that the reference person is chosen carefully.

**Type of extended family (derived non-core topic)**

64. Extended families are defined in paragraph 24 [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]. Some countries may also wish to derive data by type of extended family.

65. The following classification is recommended:

- (1.0) One-couple extended families
  - (1.1) One couple with other relatives only
  - (1.2) One couple with children and other relatives

- (2.0) Two-couple extended families
  - (2.1) Two couples only
  - (2.2) Two couples with children but no other relatives
    - (2.2.1) Two couples both with children
    - (2.2.2) One couple with children, one without
  - (2.3) Two couples with other relatives only
  - (2.4) Two couples with children and other relatives
    - (2.4.1) Both couples with children and other relatives
    - (2.4.2) One couple with children, one without, and other relatives
- (3.0) All other extended families

**Size of family nucleus (derived core topic)**

66. Family nuclei (as defined in paragraph 16 [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]) should be classified by size according to the total number of resident members of the family.

67. Family nuclei should also be classified according to the total number of resident children in the family.

**C. Characteristics of private households**

**Type of private household (derived core topic)**

68. Private households are defined in paragraph 3 [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]. Information on different types of private households should be collected.

69. The following classification of private households by type is recommended at the three-digit level:

- (1.0) Non-family households
  - (1.1) One-person households
  - (1.2) Multi-person households
- (2.0) One-family households
  - (2.1) Husband-wife couples without resident children
    - (2.1.1) Without other persons
    - (2.1.2) With other persons
  - (2.2) Husband-wife couples with at least one resident child under 25
    - (2.2.1) Without other persons
    - (2.2.2) With other persons
  - (2.3) Husband-wife couples, youngest resident son/daughter 25 or older
    - (2.3.1) Without other persons
    - (2.3.2) With other persons

- (2.4) Cohabiting couples without resident children
  - (2.4.1) Without other persons
  - (2.4.2) With other persons
- (2.5) Cohabiting couples with at least one resident child under 25
  - (2.5.1) Without other persons
  - (2.5.2) With other persons
- (2.6) Cohabiting couples, youngest resident son/daughter 25 or older
  - (2.6.1) Without other persons
  - (2.6.2) With other persons
- (2.7) Lone fathers with at least one resident child under 25
  - (2.7.1) Without other persons
  - (2.7.2) With other persons
- (2.8) Lone fathers, youngest resident son/daughter 25 or older
  - (2.8.1) Without other persons
  - (2.8.2) With other persons
- (2.9) Lone mothers with at least one resident child under 25
  - (2.9.1) Without other persons
  - (2.9.2) With other persons
- (2.10) Lone mothers, youngest resident son/daughter 25 or older
  - (2.10.1) Without other persons
  - (2.10.2) With other persons
- (3.0) Two or more-family households

70. Depending on national legislation and data needs, countries may include registered (marital) same-sex couple in categories (2.1)-(2.3).

71. Countries that that identify skip generation families should use one or more additional categories under (2.0) for this family type.

72. It is recommended that countries classify one-person households by sex and five-year age group of the person in the household. This classification is recommended. A further breakdown by marital status is optional.

#### **Other household classifications**

73. The family-based classification recommended above involves expensive and time-consuming processing; it is therefore only derived for a sample of households in some countries and this limits its use. In earlier censuses, some countries used a supplementary classification of private households by type on the basis of the age and sex structure and size of household that could be derived easily and quickly on a 100 per cent basis at an early stage of the census processing and that could therefore be used down to the small area level. These countries found that these types of classifications complemented each other, and that the classification of private households by type, on the basis of age structure and size of household, had produced useful and interesting results. In view of this, the following classification is suggested on an optional basis, as a complement to the classification

recommended in paragraph 69 above [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized]:

- (1.0) One adult under legal retirement age without children
- (2.0) One adult over legal retirement age without children
- (3.0) Two adults both under legal retirement age without children
- (4.0) Two adults one or both over legal retirement age without children
- (5.0) One adult with one or more children
  - (5.1) Adult female with one or more children
  - (5.2) Adult male with one or more children
- (6.0) Two adults with one child
- (7.0) Two adults with two children
- (8.0) Two adults with three children
- (9.0) Two adults with four or more children
- (10.0) Three or more adults with one or more children
- (11.0) Three or more adults without children.

74. Countries in which individuals have the legal right to retire during a certain age span (for instance, between ages 63 and 68) may use the highest legal retirement age (68 in the previous example) in categories (1.0) to (4.0).

**Generational composition of private households (derived non-core topic)**

75. In addition to deriving data on type of private household, some countries may also wish to derive information on the generational composition of private households, particularly in cases where the practice of living together in multi-generational households is considered to be sufficiently widespread or important.

**Size of private household (derived core topic)**

76. Private households should be classified by size according to the total number of resident members in the household.

**Tenure status of households (core topic)**

77. This topic refers to the arrangements under which a private household occupies all or part of a housing unit.

78. Private households should be classified by tenure status as follows:
- (1.0) Households of which a member is the owner of the housing unit
  - (2.0) Households of which a member is a tenant of all or part of the housing unit
    - (2.1) Households of which a member is a main tenant of all or part of the housing unit
    - (2.2) Households of which a member is a sub tenant of an owner occupier or main tenant
  - (3.0) Households occupying all or part of a housing unit under some other form of tenure.

79. This classification is recommended at the one digit level and optional at the two-digit level.

80. In view of the diversity of legal arrangements internationally, countries should describe fully in their census report or relevant metadata the coverage of each of the categories in the above classification. These descriptions should specify, where applicable, the treatment of households which (a) live in housing units as members of different types of housing cooperatives, (b) live in housing units rented from an employer under the terms of the contract of employment of one of the household members, and (c) live in housing units provided free of charge by an employer of one of the household members or by some other person or body. Some countries may wish to extend the recommended classification to distinguish these or other groups of households that are of interest for national purposes. Households that are in the process of paying off a mortgage on the housing unit in which they live or in purchasing their housing unit over time under other financial arrangements should be classed as (1.0) in the classification.

#### **Single or shared occupancy (non-core topic)**

81. Countries that carry out a traditional census and use the housekeeping unit concept for defining households may wish to collect information on this topic directly through the census questionnaire, while others may prefer to derive the information from the non-core housing topic occupancy by number of private households (see the chapter on housing) [NOTE: Cross references to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized].

82. The following classification of private households living in conventional dwellings by single or shared occupancy is suggested for countries using the housekeeping unit concept of households:

- (1.0) Households living alone in a dwelling
- (2.0) Households sharing a dwelling with one or more other households

83. Category (2.0) may be subdivided to distinguish households sharing with one, two, or three or more other households. This category may also be sub divided, where feasible, to distinguish households which are voluntarily sharing a dwelling and those which are doing so involuntarily. This classification will not apply to countries that use the household dwelling concept of households, since all would appear in category (1.0) of the classification.

84. There is an increasing amount of accommodation which is being specifically provided for the elderly, the disabled, and other special groups where the distinction between an institutional and a private household is not clear, in that meals can be taken communally or by each household with its own cooking facilities. It is suggested that if at least half the population living in such accommodation possess their own cooking facilities, then all persons should be treated as living in private households and, if possible, identified separately in the output.

#### **Rent and other housing costs (non-core topic)**

85. Rent is the amount to be paid in respect of a specified period for the space occupied by a household including, in some cases, local rates and ground rent. Payments for the use of furniture, heating, electricity, gas and water and for the provision of special services like washing, cooking, etc., should be excluded.

86. Concerning heating and hot water, the practices differ in different countries. In some countries the heating and/or hot water are normally included in the rent, in other countries they are not, while still in some other countries both practices exist in parallel. It would be important that countries which include "rent" in their census clearly describe whether the

heating and/or hot water are included in the rent or not. The recommendation would be to exclude heating and hot water expenditures from the rent. The ideal solution would be to produce the rent information separately without heating and hot water expenditures and to report the expenditures for heating, hot water and electricity separately.

87. Nominal rent paid may not correctly reflect the real rates. For instance, an individual housing allowance determined on the basis of a means test and paid by housing authorities directly to the landlord should be included in the rent; and if a public sector landlord on the basis of a means test charges a rebated rent, the full rent should be recorded. It may also be possible to ask questions such as whether the tenant is a relative or an employee of the landlord, whether he performs any function or office as part of his rent, etc., in order to appraise the actual rent paid.

88. If this topic is included in the census, it may be desirable to obtain information on the range within which the rent paid falls rather than on the exact amount paid.

89. In addition to the amount of rent paid by renting households, it may be useful to collect information on the housing costs of all households. Such costs could include, for example, information on monthly mortgage payments, the provision of utility services, and local taxes if these are not available from the information collected from the housing topics (see the chapter on housing) [NOTE: Cross reference to be updated when the recommendations will be finalized].

#### **Durable consumer goods possessed by the household (non-core topic)**

90. With the purpose of obtaining some qualitative indicators on the households' levels of living, a question on durable goods in the possession of the household might be included. Examples of durable goods, which could be considered, include: washing machines, refrigerators, deep-freezers, ovens, televisions, fax machines and personal computers. Consideration could also be given to the household's accessibility to durable consumer goods rather than their possession.

#### **Number of cars available for the use of the household (non-core topic)**

91. It is suggested that this topic cover the number of cars and vans available for use by members of the household, including any car and van provided by an employer if available for use by the household but excluding vans used solely for carrying goods.

92. The following classification is recommended:

- (1.0) No car
- (2.0) One car
- (3.0) Two or more cars

#### **Availability of car parking (non-core topic)**

93. It is recommended that this topic cover the availability of car parking facilities for use by the members of the household. Such facilities are restricted for census purposes to physical space for the exclusive use of the household, either owned by one or more household members, or for which a written or oral agreement exists between the owner of the physical space and the household member(s).

94. The following classification is recommended:

- (1.0) No car parking available
- (2.0) Car parking for one car available
- (3.0) Car parking for two or more cars available

(4.0) Not applicable

**Telephone and Internet connection (non-core topic)**

95. Telephone and Internet connections reflect a household's ability to communicate with the rest of society using technology.
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96. The following telephone classification is recommended:

- (1.0) Telephone(s) fixed in the housing unit
- (2.0) Mobile cellular telephone(s)
- (3.0) Both (1.0) and (2.0) are available.
- (4.0) No telephone in the housing unit.

97. The following internet classification is recommended:

- (1.0) Broadband internet access fixed in the housing unit
  - (2.0) Other internet access fixed in the housing unit.
  - (3.0) Access through a mobile device
  - (4.0) More than one mode of access
  - (5.0) No internet access in the housing unit.
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