

proportion of the time, sampling fluctuations will yield samples in which the relationships between a control factor and the independent and dependent variables are grossly unrepresentative of what they are in the population. This means a risk that a spurious determinant will not "wash out" when it should, as well as the converse risk that a genuine determinant will wash out even though it should not. Of course analogous risks arise in the analyses being called interpretation and specification. Unless these risks are known approximately, the results remain ambiguous and uncertified, however plausible. Hyman offers no techniques for estimating these risks. Nor is the point made that without probability sampling these risks cannot be estimated; and furthermore, that unless the sampling design is of a particularly simple sort, the estimates of these risks are much more difficult to calculate for subgroups than for the entire sample. Hyman acknowledges that the wholesale use of subgroup comparisons is often complicated by case attenuation and by "imprecision of control" (when a continuous variable is dichotomized or trichotomized in order to serve as a control). All the examples he gives have large enough samples and clear enough results so as to minimize these problems. But nothing is said about what to do in the more common case where small sample size or weak relationships render impractical an exclusive reliance on subgroup comparisons.

ROBERT G. POTTER, JR.

• • •

IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, 1850-1950¹

HUTCHINSON'S IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, 1850-1950, is a 1950 Census monograph. It is a namesake of Carpenter's earlier Census monograph on this subject. As described by Hutchinson:

A summary of census information on the foreign stock, up to and including the Census of 1920, is provided in the 1920 Census

¹ Hutchinson, E. P.: IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, 1850-1950. New York, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1956, 391 pp. \$6.50.

monograph by Niles Carpenter, *Immigrants and Their Children*.² The present monograph continues the summary up to the most recent census, describing changes in the size, composition, and geographical distribution of the foreign stock from 1920 to 1950; but deals more particularly with occupational data for the foreign stock, a body of census material not covered in detail by Carpenter. (p. 268.)

Hutchinson first describes the general trend of the foreign stock during the past century. (Chapter 1.) He reminds us that census data on the foreign born were first available from the 1850 Census. The changing composition and geographical distribution since 1920 are then discussed in Chapters 2 and 3. The characteristics considered are country of birth and parentage, ratio of first to second generation, age, and sex ratio. Except for the conclusions, the remaining chapters (4-10) are devoted to occupational characteristics and occupational distribution of the foreign born and foreign stock.

Chapter 4 describes some of the occupational characteristics of the foreign stock by country of origin and discusses the nature of occupational data on the foreign stock available for each census since that of 1870 when such data were first reported separately for the foreign born. The question of comparability of occupational groups since 1870 is raised. On this matter the author is wisely guided by Alba M. Edward's earlier study, *COMPARATIVE OCCUPATION STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED STATES, 1870 TO 1940*. He finds that elements of incomparability may be introduced by changes in classification and by changes of occupations themselves. "Comparison over time is also impeded by the change of the classification of occupations from a predominantly industrial basis in 1870 to 1900 inclusive to a more fully occupational basis thereafter. . . . For 1900 and earlier years, therefore, comparisons from one census to another are more in terms of major occupational groups than for specific occupations; and, because of the irregularity of the data from census to census and the predominantly industrial classification, it has seemed sufficient to review rather briefly the occupational data for these earlier years in order to provide background data

² Carpenter, Niles: *IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN*, 1920, Census Monographs VII, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1927, 431 pp.

for the more recent material. . . . Fortunately, the occupational data from 1910 onward constitute a more uniform series, and permit classification of workers according to their position or occupational status. The 1910 and 1920 occupational data are accordingly regrouped to conform to the abbreviated occupational classification available for 1950 with some adjustment for changes in classification procedure." (pp. 75 and 76.)

Accordingly, the author does not attempt to discuss trends in the occupational characteristics prior to 1900 except in a very general way. Instead he writes four rather self-contained chapters (5-8) on the occupational distribution of the foreign born or foreign stock in 1870, 1880, 1890, and 1900, respectively. In each case he discusses the distribution by major occupational group, distribution by detailed occupational group, country of origin and detailed occupation, and occupational concentration or dispersion of the foreign born. The reading becomes rather tortuous before these four chapters are completed. The pace quickens, however, in the chapter (9) on trends in occupational distribution during 1910-1950.

The findings can be summarized only in very broad terms in this review. In 1850 there were about 2.2 million foreign born in this country and they constituted 9.7 per cent of the population. In so far as census years are concerned the peak in the number of foreign born was reached in 1930 when 14.2 million were enumerated. However, the peak in the "per cent foreign born" (14.7 per cent) was reached in 1910. In 1950 the foreign born numbered 10.3 million and they comprised only 6.9 per cent of the total population.

Besides a marked reduction in the number and per cent of the foreign born in this country, there has been a shift of origins. Since the enactment of the immigration restriction legislation in the 'twenties there has been a marked increase in the proportion of our immigrants that come from the Western Hemisphere. The rapid aging of the foreign born population has followed rather automatically the marked reduction in the stream of immigration. A marked decline in the sex ratio of the foreign-born whites is apparent. There were about 122 males per 100 females among the foreign-born whites in 1920 and 102 in 1950. The sex ratio varies widely by country of origin. Thus,

in 1940 the number of males per 100 females was 74 among the foreign-born whites from Ireland (Eire) and 298 among those from Bulgaria.

Traditionally, the foreign born in this country have been concentrated in large cities of the Northeast. They have been relatively rare in the South and especially in the rural South. The foreign-born whites of 1950 are even more highly concentrated in urban areas than were those of 1920. The urbanization of the population since 1920, of course, also applies to the natives.

Thirty years ago, the term "immigrant labor" was almost synonymous with "unskilled labor" in this country. Many of the immigrants were young adults just entering the labor force. Many of them had been reared in rural areas of Europe and had no special skills for urban employment. However, there has been a marked decrease in the proportion of unskilled laborers among the immigrants. According to the author, over half (54 per cent) of the immigrants during 1905-1914 were classified as "unskilled." The proportion was 31 per cent for the 1920-1929 immigrants and 16 per cent for the 1930-1939 immigrants.

The author finds that the proportion of professional workers tends to be higher among the English, Welsh, Scots, and French than among other foreign white stocks in the United States. The lowest proportion is found among the Mexicans, Yugoslavs, Greeks, and Italians. The Mexicans, Scandinavians, and Dutch have exhibited the highest proportions in agriculture. In terms of urbanization, the immigrants from Ireland, Poland, Russia, and Greece are most concentrated in cities and those from Mexico and Scandinavian countries are least concentrated in cities.

In the reviewer's opinion the repetition of Niles Carpenter's title, *IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN*, is somewhat misleading. A title including some variant of "occupation" or "labor force" would be much more indicative of the content of the book. Students who are particularly interested in occupational changes of the foreign stock, of course, will be glad that this subject is emphasized. Doubtless others will consider it unfortunate that the author made little or no use of a variety of census data that would have contributed to a better under-

standing of immigrants and their children. No use is made of previous data on mother tongue. No use is made of the data on educational attainment collected in 1940 and 1950. No use is made of census data on marital status or of data from other sources on intermarriage.

Despite these statements, the reviewer hastens to emphasize his belief in the value of this book. The author does provide excellent data on a variety of characteristics other than occupation. His measure of "relative concentration" by state of residence and by occupation is worthy of wider use. Those interested in trends in the occupational characteristics of the foreign born will be particularly indebted to Dr. Hutchinson for this work.

CLYDE V. KISER

• • •

HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY¹

HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY is a report which was originally presented at a seminar held by the Bureau of State Services of the Public Health Service on some of the population trends and developments which may have an impact on present and future health programs. A running commentary faces all of the forty-four charts which are organized in five major groups: (1) Dynamics of population trends in the United States, (2) Population trends for major geographic areas and states, (3) Population characteristics: age and marital status, (4) Population characteristics: economic, and (5) Indicators of health and disease.

Demography is the study of "the past, present and probable future of the population—in terms of total number, fertility and mortality trends, age and sex composition, occupation, mobility, and other measurable characteristics." Public health and demography are interdependent. Every population change affects public health just as public health programs affect the age-composition of the population.

¹ Dunn, Halpert L.: HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY. Public Health Service, United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, October, 1956, 94 pp.