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ABSTRACT

The 1970 Census showed that we Americans are an urban people. Seven of every 10 U.S. residents live in metropolitan areas: 3 in central cities and 4 in suburban areas. The movement to the suburbs swelled to high tide in the 1950's. Although it abated somewhat in the 1960's, it reached an historic height in 1970. In April 1970 there were 203.2 million inhabitants in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Almost 70 percent (nearly 140 million) lived in the 243 SMSA's; 32 percent (about 64 million) lived in the 308 central cities; and 37 percent (nearly 76 million) lived in the suburbs. Although overall there was a small gain in population for central cities between 1960 and 1970, a great many cities actually lost population. If past trends continue, nearly half of the American people will be living in the suburban portions of our metropolitan areas by 1985. And one-third of the central city population will be black by 1985, compared with one-fifth at present. We can expect the greatest growth to be in middle-sized SMSA's, those that now have between 500,000 and two million inhabitants. The old image of suburbia as a fringe of "bedroom communities" is fading. Satellite communities, complete with most consumer--oriented facilities and services once located exclusively in the city, are springing up to serve the rapidly growing suburban population. (Author/JM)

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WE THE AMERICANS

Our Cities And Suburbs



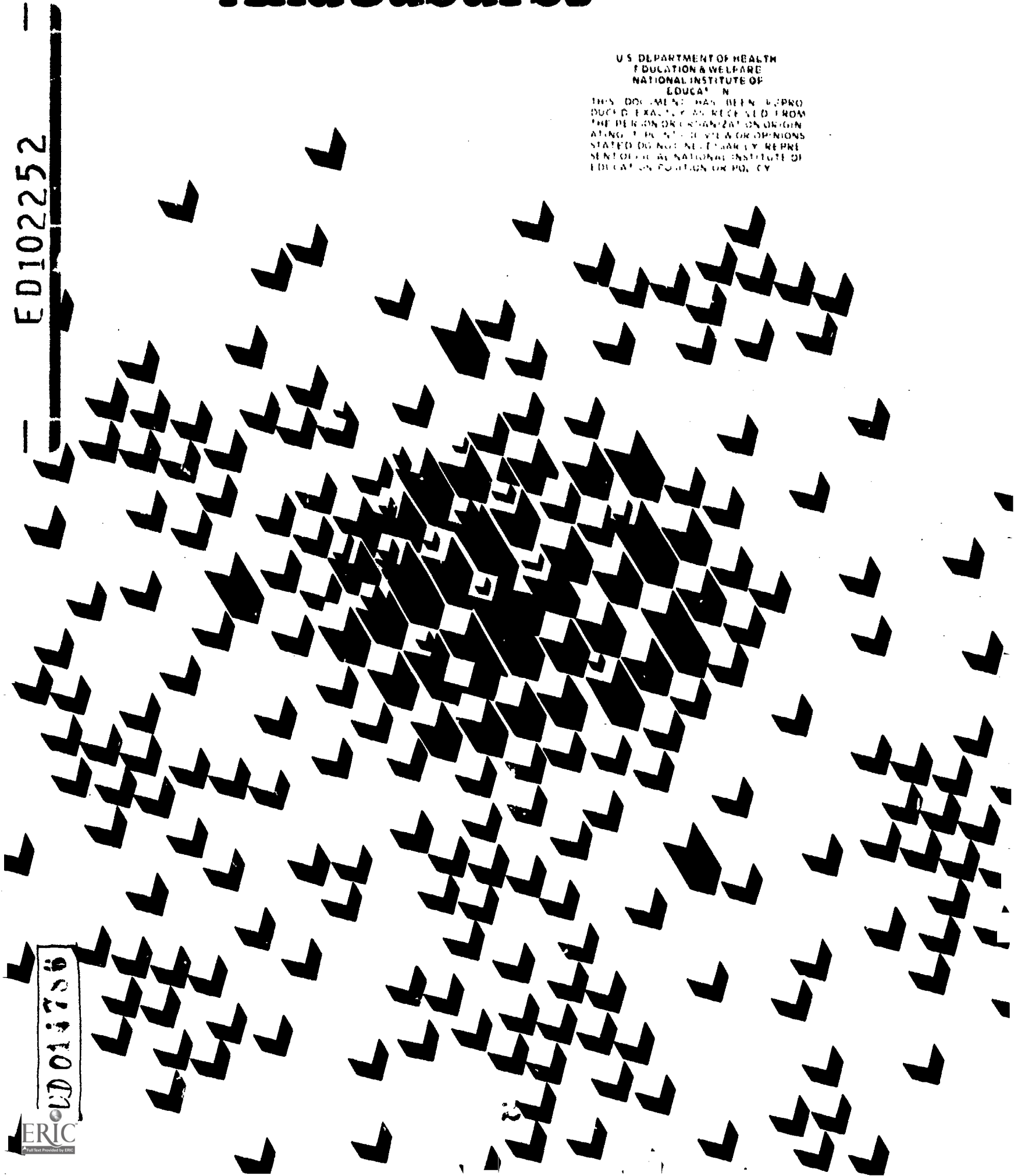
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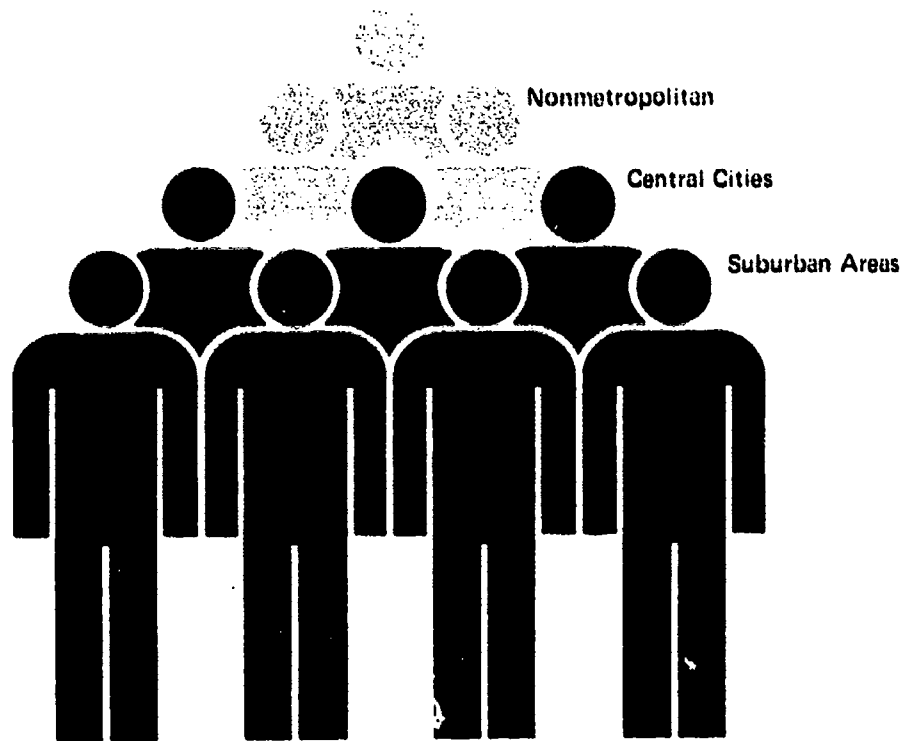
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**The 1970 Census Showed That
We Americans Are An Urban
People. Seven In Every Ten
U.S. Residents Live In
Metropolitan Areas:
Three In Central Cities,
And Four In
Suburban Areas.**

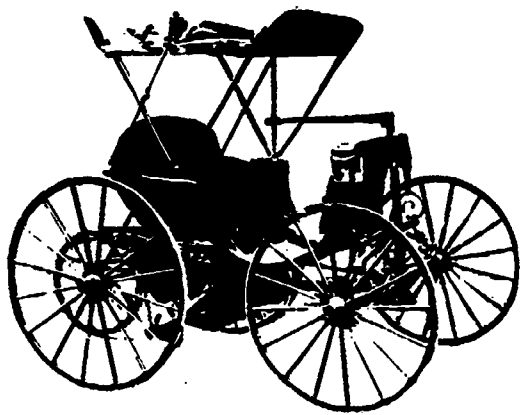


From The Farm

To The City



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In 1893 the first American automobile, the Duryea, took to the road. Who could have foreseen, then, that the internal combustion engine was to be a major factor in transforming our way of life and the face of much of our land?

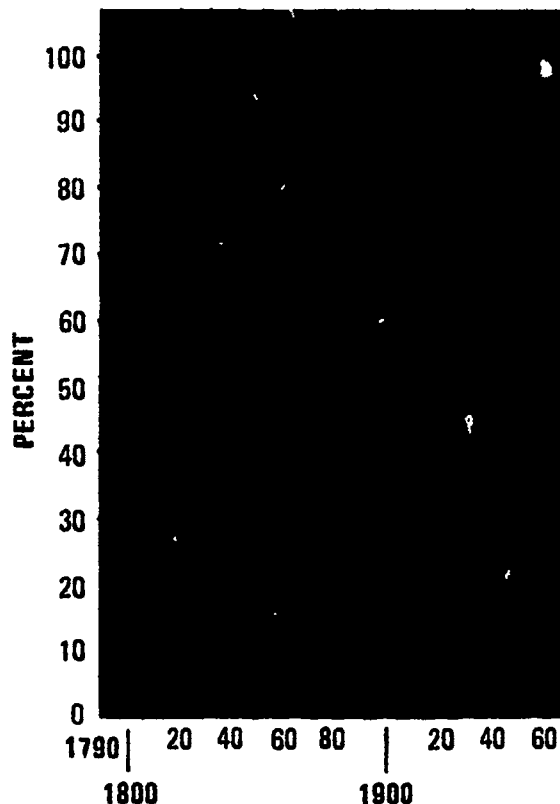
We were a predominantly rural people in 1893. Agriculture had always been the basis of our economy, but we were well on our way to becoming an industrial nation. Factories were being established on city outskirts at a rapid rate, as were consumer businesses to serve them. This created a hungry job market drawing the farmer from his fields and livestock to seek work. As a result, soon after the turn of the century, there were more of us in cities than in villages and the countryside.

Prior to 1860, major Eastern cities had suburbs which were developed along commuter railroad lines,

but they tended to be the private preserves of the well-to-do. It was not until the early 1920's, when cars began to be mass-produced at prices within reach of the average family, that suburban expansion got under way in earnest. With a car, a working man's family could choose a home site outside the city with little regard to availability of public transportation.

The movement to the suburbs—a small wave in the 1920's—had swelled to high tide in the 1950's. Although it abated somewhat in the 1960's, it reached an historic height in 1970. America's suburban population then was greater than either the total central city population or the population outside metropolitan territory.

**Percent of Population
Urban: 1790-1970**



Do You Live In An SMSA?

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An SMSA (Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area) is composed of a city of 50,000 inhabitants or more (the "central city"), or two or three cities with combined population of 50,000 or more, together with the county or counties they are in, plus one or more adjoining counties if their stores, businesses, and other consumer services together with traffic arteries are expansions of those in the central city or its satellite cities. In New England,

SMSA's consist of cities and townships instead of counties.

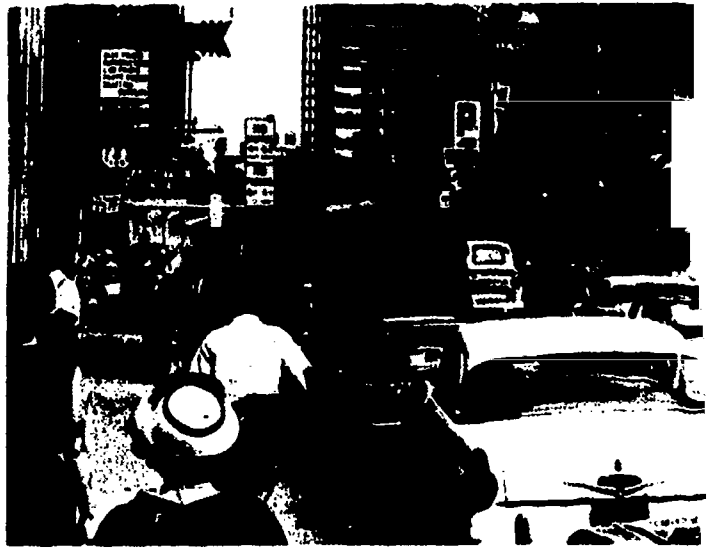
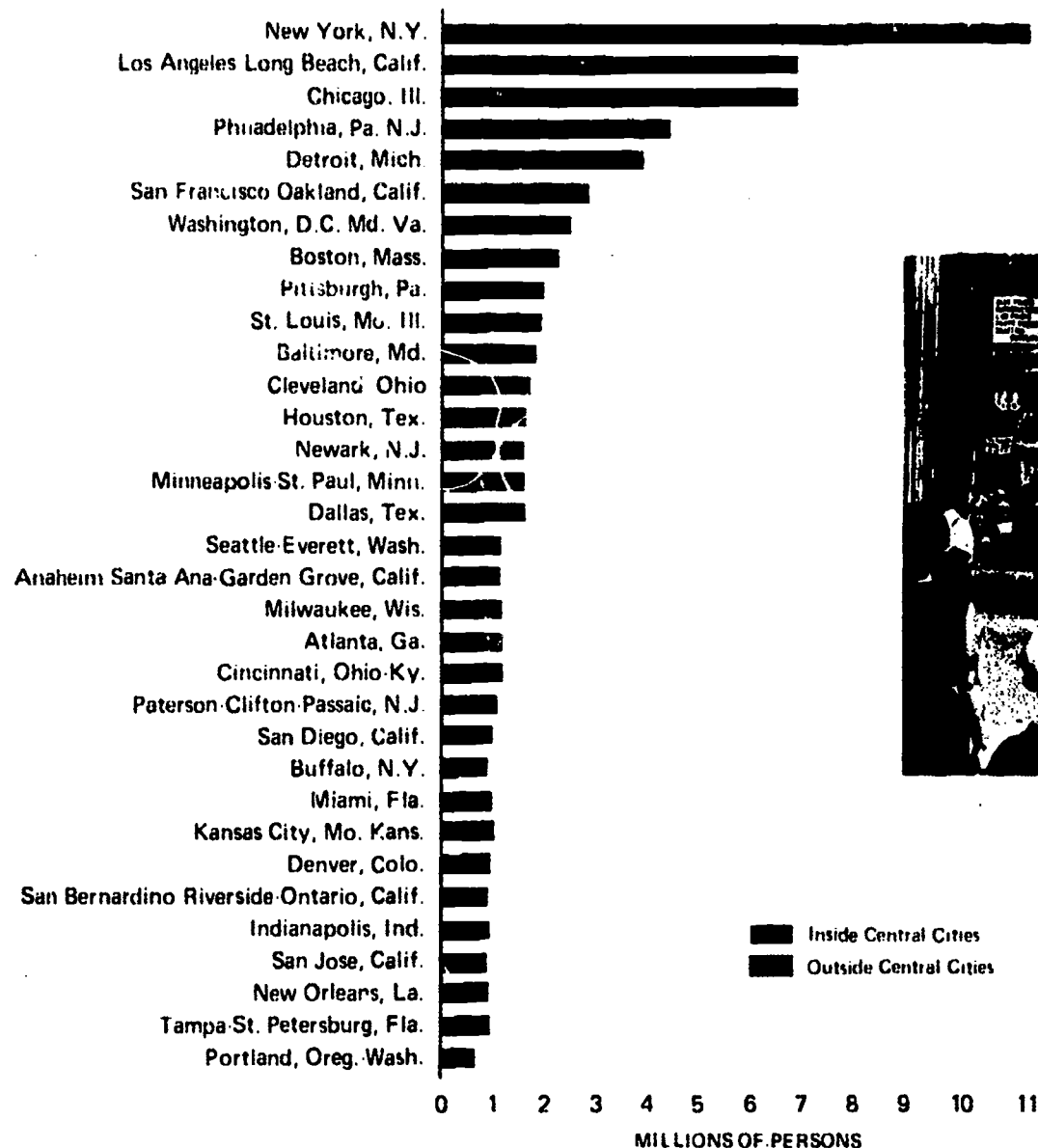
The population living in SMSA's is called "metropolitan" and is divided into "central city" and "outside central city." In most SMSA's the area outside the central city includes some rural population. In many larger SMSA's, it may include densely settled industrial areas. For convenience, however, the entire area of SMSA's outside central cities is referred to as "suburban."

taken. However, as a result of the census, 26 more areas met SMSA requirements and 12 existing SMSA's were combined into 6, bringing the current total of SMSA's in the United States to 263.

In April 1970, there were 203.2 million inhabitants of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Almost 70 percent (nearly 140 million) lived in the 243 SMSA's; 32 percent (about 64 million) lived in the 308 central cities; and 37 percent (nearly 76 million) lived in the suburbs.

Figures in this booklet are for the 243 SMSA's recognized in April 1970 at the time the 1970 census was

Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas Of 1 Million Persons Or More Ranked by Size: 1970



Many Large Cities Losing Population



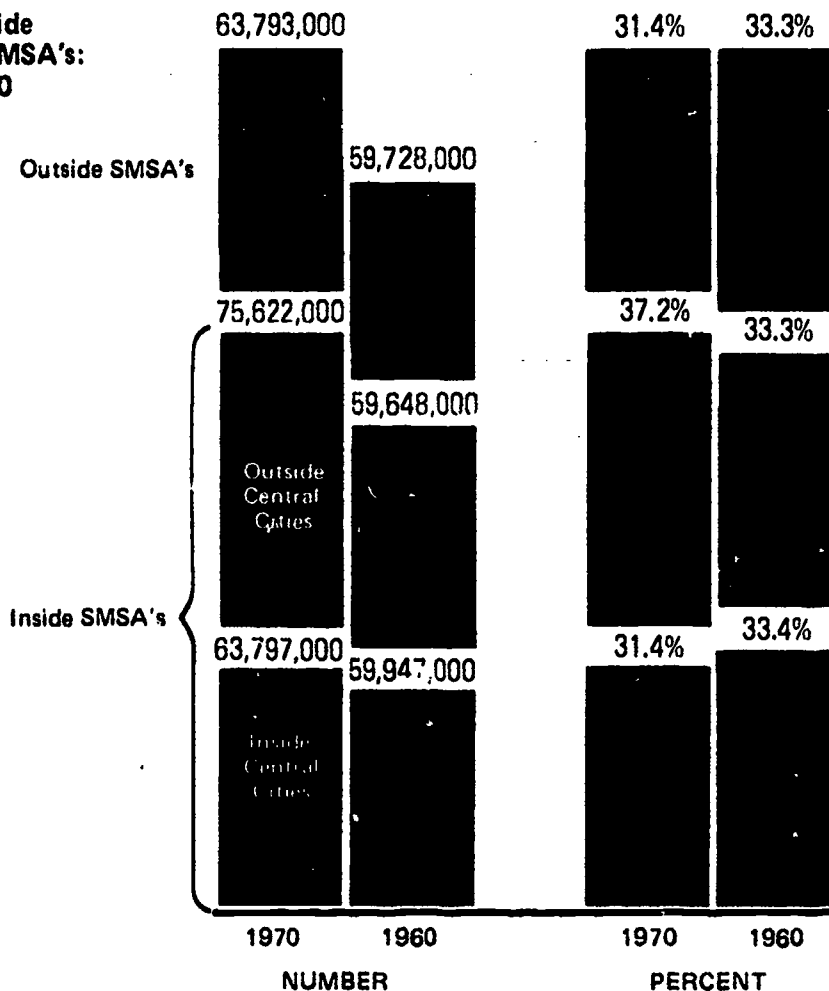
Although the overall figure indicates a small gain in population for central cities (3.8 million, or 6.4 percent) between 1960 and 1970, a great many cities actually lost population. Almost half of the 50 largest cities did so, intensifying losses that had occurred in the 1950's.

One of the steepest declines was experienced by St. Louis with a 17 percent loss, this on top of a 12.5 percent loss in the 1950's. Other large cities that had 1960-70 losses of more than 10 percent include Cleveland, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Minneapolis, and Pittsburgh.

In general, it's the very large cities of the Northeast and North Central regions that show the greatest population declines. In addition, many of the smaller central cities in SMSA's of these regions showed little growth.

Central cities in metropolitan areas of the South and West tended to show some population growth, and in some States, such as California and Arizona, the showed substantial growth. Many cities in these regions added significantly to their population by annexing suburban territory in which home building and business development occurred as a result of annexation.

Population Inside
And Outside SMSA's:
1970 And 1960



Suburbia Attracts Young Families

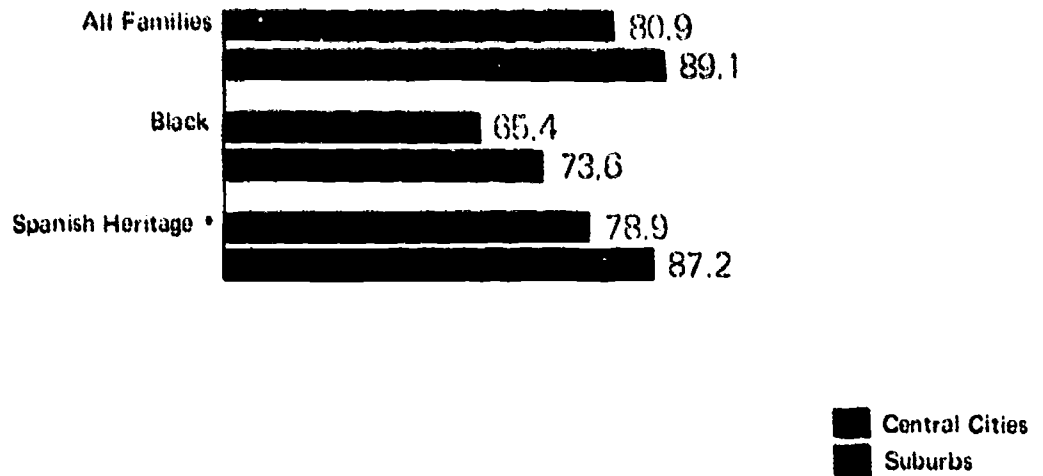
What picture comes to mind when you think of suburbia? Homes, young parents, children? You're not far wrong.

Married couples in suburbia are more likely to have families than are married couples in central cities. About 60 percent of suburban couples have children under 18 years, compared with 52 percent of city couples.

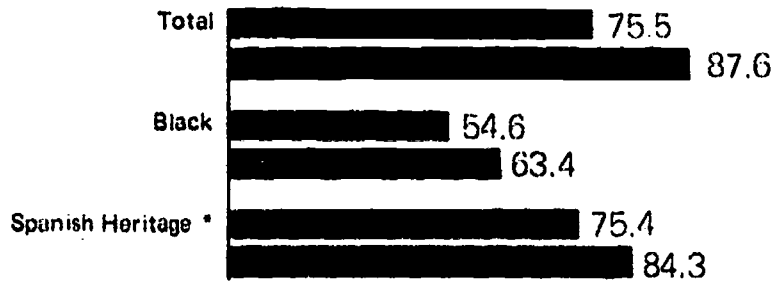
In approximately 9 out of 10 suburban families both husband and wife are present. (The tenth has only a man or woman as head of the family.) Over half of the husbands in the husband-wife families are less than 45 years old. About 9 out of 10 suburban children (87.6 percent of those under 18 years) are living with both parents.

For central cities as a whole, about 8 out of 10 families are husband-wife families, with slightly less than half the husbands under 45 years old. Only about 76 percent of city children under 18 years live with both parents.

Percentage Of Families That Are Husband-Wife Families



Percentage Of Children Under 18 Years Living With Both Parents



* "Spanish Heritage" is an ethnic population and therefore may include persons of any race.

We're Older In The Cities

As a whole, the central city population is older than the suburban population. Median age in 1970 for city inhabitants was 28.8 years; for suburbanites, 27.3 years. Half were younger and half older than these median ages.

About 32 percent of the city residents and 36 percent of the suburban residents were under 18. In central cities, 11 percent were 65 and older, compared with 8 percent in the suburbs.

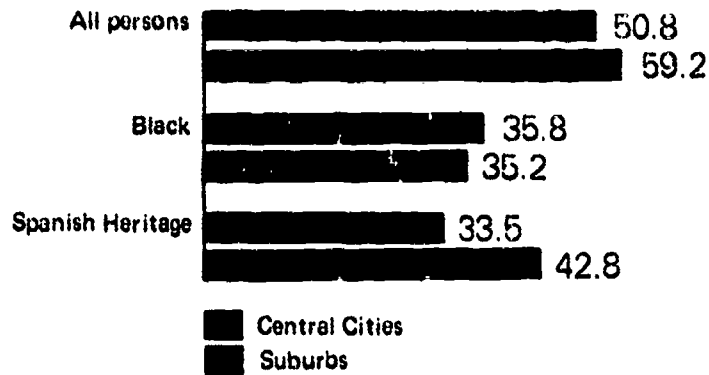
The Young And The Old

	All Persons		Black		Spanish Heritage	
	Central Cities	Suburbs	Central Cities	Suburbs	Central Cities	Suburbs
1970 Pop.	63,800,000	75,600,000	13,100,000	3,600,000	4,600,000	3,000,000
Median age (years)	28.8	27.3	23.2	22.0	21.2	20.5
Percent						
Under 18	31.9%	36.0%	41.2%	42.6%	44.0%	45.3%
65 or older	10.8%	8.0%	6.3%	6.2%	4.2%	3.6%

Cities Trail Suburbs In Educational Attainment

The 1970 census found that in central cities 5 out of 10 adults had finished high school or done some college work; in the suburbs, the proportion was 6 out of 10 adults.

Persons With High School
Or Some College Education
(Percentage of persons 25 or older)



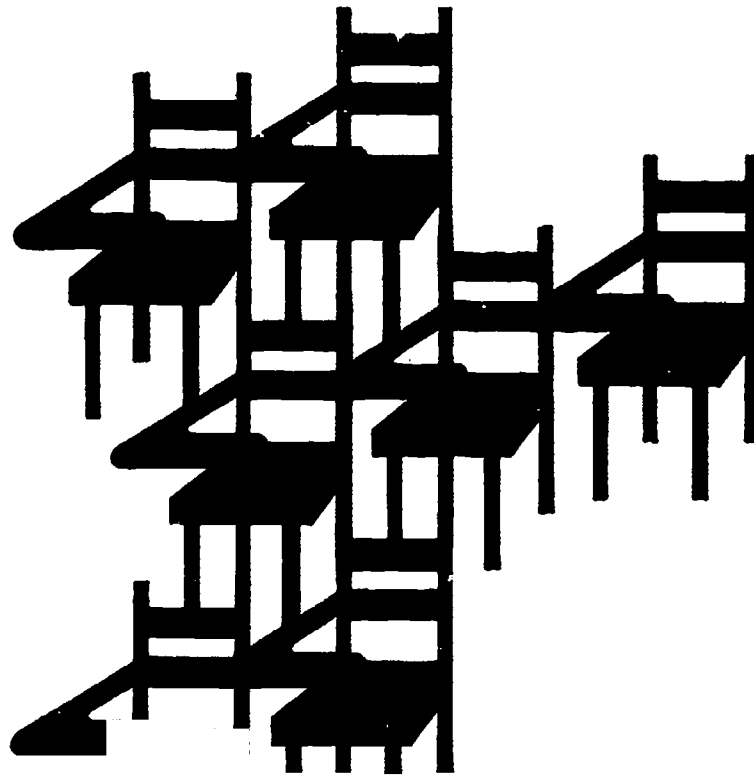
Public Schools More Popular In Suburbia

Most children and teenagers attend public rather than parochial or private schools. However, a suburban student is a little more likely to be going to a public school than a city student.

In 1970, about 83 percent of the elementary school children in the cities and 87 percent in the suburbs were in public schools. Among high school students, 85 percent of those in the cities and 90 percent in suburban areas were in public schools.

Public School Enrollment
(Percentage of total school enrollment)

	All Students		Black		Spanish Heritage	
	Elementary School	High School	Elementary School	High School	Elementary School	High School
Central Cities	83.5	84.5	95.1	95.0	88.0	89.3
Suburbs	87.5	89.9	96.7	96.6	90.8	92.7



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Unemployment Higher In Central Cities



With a large proportion of the Nation's unskilled, poorly educated and untrained living in central cities, this population has a higher unemployment rate than the suburban population. In 1970, 5.7 percent of the central city civilian labor force was out of work, as compared with 3.7 percent of the suburban labor force.

However, 25.2 million central city civilians and 28.9 million suburban civilians had jobs. The following table shows the kinds of work they were doing when the 1970 census was taken.

**Types Of Jobs
By Area Of Residence**

	Central Cities	Suburbs
Total employed 16 or older	25.2 million	28.9 million
Professional, Technical	15.2%	16.8%
Managers and Administrators	7.6%	9.4%
Sales workers	7.3%	8.0%
Clerical workers	21.6%	18.7%
Craftsman, Formen	12.1%	14.9%
* Operatives, non-transport	12.9%	12.2%
Transport equipment operatives	3.8%	3.6%
Farmers, Farm managers	0.1%	0.8%
Farm laborers	0.2%	0.8%
Nonfarm laborers	4.5%	3.8%
Service workers, non household	12.9%	9.0%
Private household workers	1.7%	1.0%

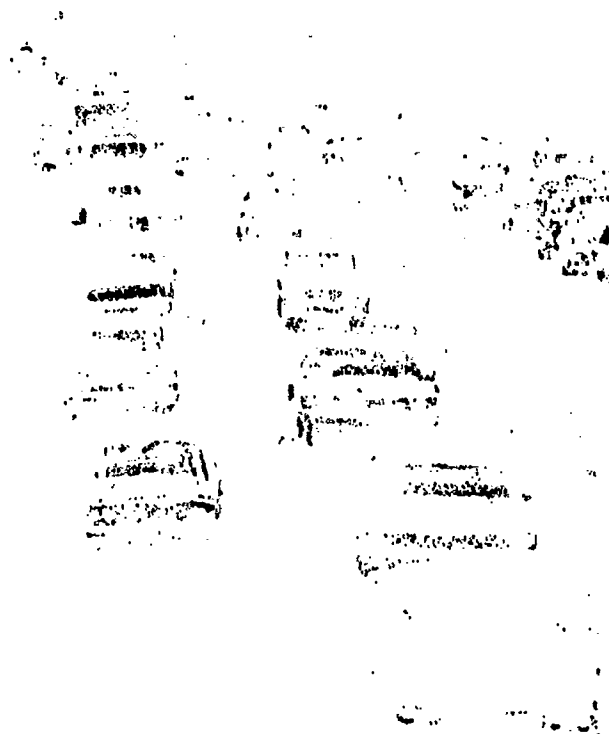
* Operate machines or do similar work.

This Is The Way We Go To Work

How We Get To Work By Area Of residence

	Central Cities	Suburbs
Private car	69.1%	84.1%
Bus, streetcar	12.2%	3.4%
Subway, elevated train	6.5%	0.5%
Train	0.4%	1.3%
Taxicab	0.5%	0.3%
Walked	7.9%	5.7%
Worked at home	1.8%	2.5%
Other means	1.6%	2.2%

The private car is far and away the most popular means of getting to work for both central city and suburban workers. Every workday 35.7 million cars in the Nation's metropolitan areas take their drivers and 6 million additional passengers to work. However, the proportion of workers riding public transportation is nearly five times greater for central city residents than for those in the suburbs. The table below shows the percentage of workers living in each area by the means they use in getting to work.

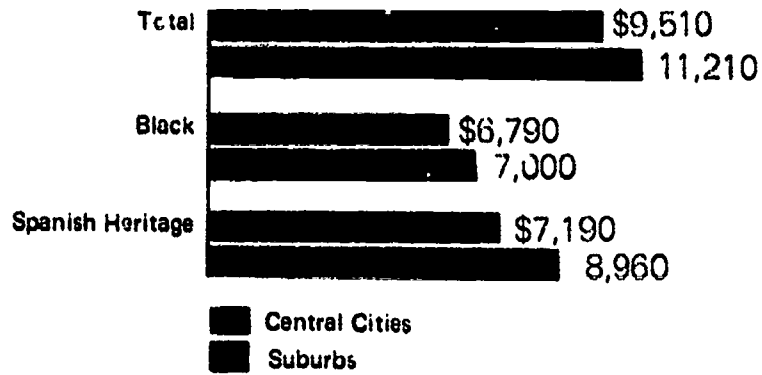


Incomes Higher In Suburbia

Over one-half (53 percent) of the Nation's 2.4 million families with incomes of \$25,000 or more live in suburban areas of SMSA's. Not quite one-third (31 percent) live in central cities.

The median income for city families in 1969 was \$9,510; 4.6 percent of city families had \$25,000 or more income. The median income for suburban families was \$11,210, and 6.5 percent of them had \$25,000 or more.

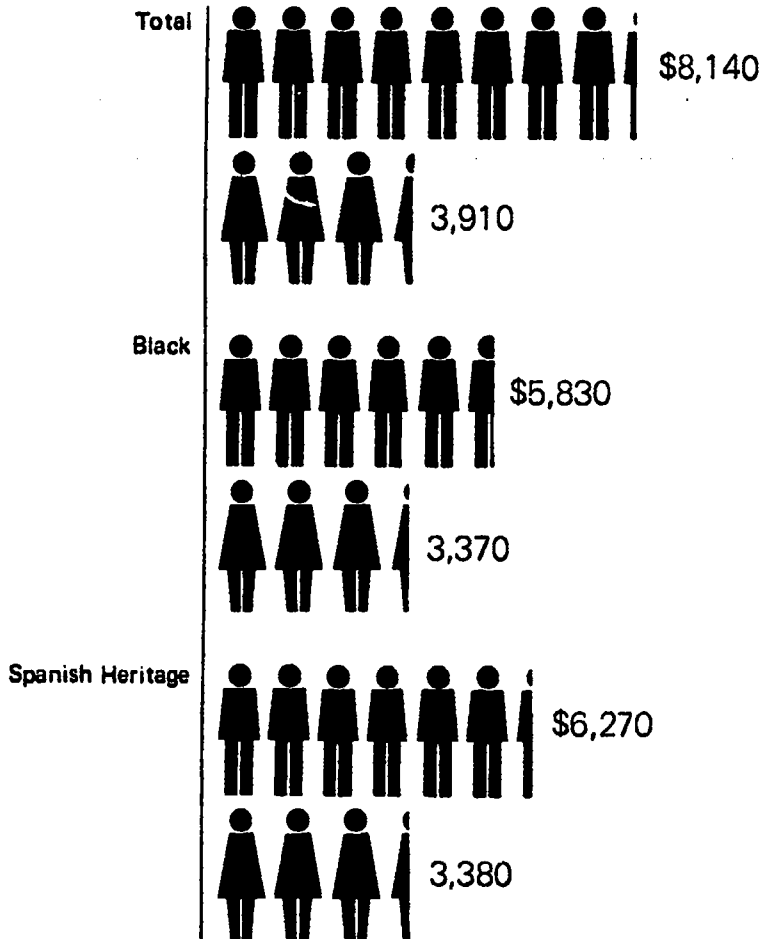
Median Income Of Metropolitan Families



Men Earn Twice As Much As Women

Earnings—from wages and salaries or from self-employment—provide the principal source of income for most Americans, and men average much higher earnings than women. In metropolitan areas they average more than twice as much, \$8,140 vs. \$3,910.

Median Earnings Of Metropolitan Workers



But Suburbia Has Its Poor, Too

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Over one-half (54 percent) of the Nation's poor families live in metropolitan areas; 32 percent live in central cities, and 22 percent in the suburbs.

The 1969 income level that separated "poor" from "nonpoor" was officially established at \$4,140 for a nonfarm family of four; for a nonfarm individual living alone or with non-relatives, it was \$2,040.

The following table shows that 11 percent of central city families and 6 percent of suburban families were below the low income or poverty level in 1969.

Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of all poor Americans living alone or with nonrelatives are in metropolitan areas; 40 percent are in central cities and 24 percent in suburban areas.

The following table shows that one-third of all persons in central cities not living with relatives and nearly one-third in the suburbs are below the poverty level.

Low-Income Families

	Total	Black	Spanish Heritage	
Central Cities	Number of Families	1,700,000	723,000	223,000
	Percent	11.0	24.5	21.4
Suburbs	Number of Families	1,200,000	185,000	96,000
	Percent	6.3	24.6	14.4

Low-Income Individuals Not Living With Relatives

	Total	Black	Spanish Heritage	
Central Cities	Individuals	2,400,000	530,000	90,100
	Percent	33.1	41.1	37.7
Suburbs	Individuals	1,400,000	122,000	40,000
	Percent	31.5	47.6	36.2



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More Households, More Housing

Metropolitan Housing Characteristics

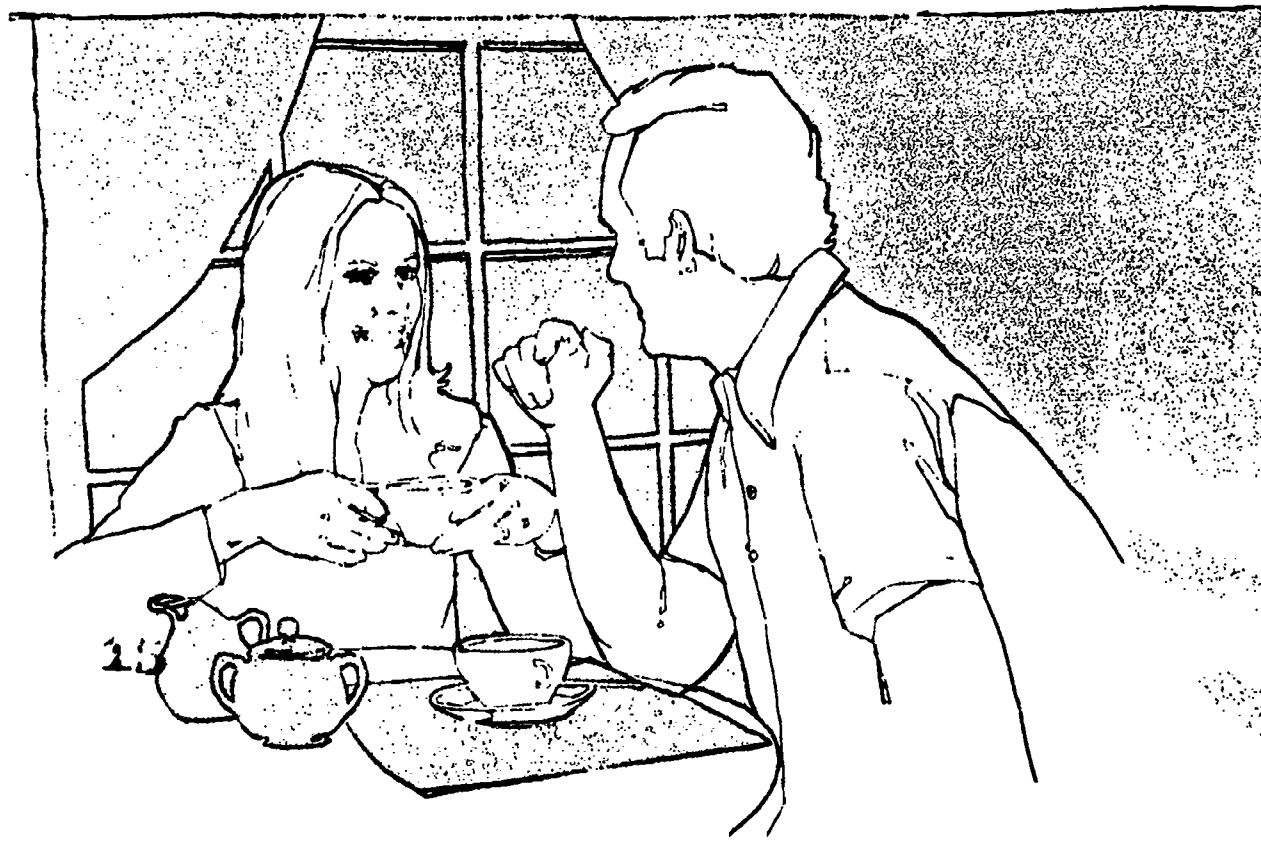
	Central Cities	Suburbs
Units for use year-round	22,600,000	23,500,000
Built		
1960-70	18.5%	32.7%
1950-59	19.1	27.2
1940-49	14.4	12.4
1939 or before	48.1	27.7
With air conditioning	38.2	40.1
Occupied Units	21,400,000	22,500,000
Population in housing units	61,800,000	73,700,000
With clothes washing machine	60.4%	77.3%
With clothes dryer	31.2	52.5
With dishwasher	15.4	27.0
With food freezer	16.6	28.7
With TV	94.8	97.2
Two or more cars	26.2	44.7
Moved into unit 1969-70	23.2	21.1
Owner-occupied housing—median value	\$16,400	\$20,000
Renter-occupied housing—median rent	\$90	\$114

In metropolitan areas, fewer young married couples were living in a parental home in 1970 than in 1960. More young single working people were living alone, as were more elderly individuals who no longer had a husband, wife, or family to care for. As a result, the number of housing units in both central cities and suburbia increased more rapidly during the 1960's than their population.

Housing within central cities rose from 20.4 to 22.6 million units (10.5 percent), while the population in housing units rose from 58.8 to 61.8 million (5.1 percent).

Suburban housing grew from 18.2 to 23.5 million units (29.3 percent) while the population in housing units increased from 58.3 to 73.7 million (26.3 percent).

Here are some comparisons between housing in central cities and suburban areas:



Suburban Expansion— Where Will It End?

If past trends continue, nearly half of the American people will be living in the suburban portions of our metropolitan areas by 1985. Only one-fourth will be in central cities and one-fourth in rural areas. And one-third of the central city population will be black by 1985, compared with one-fifth at present.

Also, we can expect the greatest growth to be in middle-sized SMSA's, those that now have between 500,000 and 2 million inhabitants.

Behind this phenomenal suburban expansion and general decline of many large central cities is a combination of forces: modern technology and America's growing affluence.

Technology developed the high-powered automobiles and built the superhighways that together minimize distances and enable metropolitanites to commute from suburb to suburb and from suburb to city with comparative ease.

America's affluence, the product of high employment and increasing family income, has put a home in suburbia and at least one car within reach of millions of families who, for whatever reason, prefer suburban to city living.

The old image of suburbia as a fringe of "bedroom communities" is fading. Satellite communities, complete with most consumer-oriented facilities and services once located exclusively in the city, are springing up to serve the rapidly growing suburban population. Shopping centers, restaurants, branch banks, medical and business offices, and the like follow, indeed often precede, housing developments in a seemingly never-ending expansion.

Where will it end?

What do you think?

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