

Changes in the Relationship Categories Between 2007 and 2008

The relationship question has several new categories in 2008. The “Child” category in 2007 has been expanded to “Biological child,” “Adopted child,” and “Stepchild.” Compare with caution as in previous years, respondents may have been including “children” other than biological, adopted, or stepchildren when they chose the category, “Child”. We also have two other categories, “Parent-in-law” and “Son/daughter-in-law” that have replaced “In-law.” Exercise caution when comparing the 2007 “In-law” to the 2008 categories as any “in-law” could have been included in this category by respondents in 2007 and earlier, especially brothers- and sisters-in-law. Combining “In-law” and “Other relative” for 2007 and the “Parent-in-law,” “Son/daughter-in-law,” and “Other relative” categories for 2008 is recommended.