TABLE I. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND RATIO
OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS TO TOTAL BIRTHS BY COLOR, UNITED STATES

Year	Number of Illegitimate Births		Illegitimacy Ratios per 1,000 Live Births	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
1965	123,700	167,500	39.6	263.2
1964	114,300	161,300	33.9	245.0
1963	104,600	154,900	30.4	235.5
1962	94,700	150,400	27.0	227.8
1960	82,500	141,800	22.9	215.8
1955	64,200	119,200	18.6	202.4
1950	53,500	88,100	17.5	179.6
1945	56,400	60,900	23.6	179.3
1940	40,300	49,200	19.5	168.3
1937	32,231	42,707	20.1	163.9
1930	29,490	34,077	18.6	141.1
1923	18,139	16,901	14.4	126.2
1920	15,170	12,579	15.0	125.0
1918	12,000	7,906	12.5	113.8
1917	12,238	8,226	13.0	120.1

Source: For years between 1917 and 1937, Vital Statistics of U.S., Part I, 1937, U.S. Government Printing Office, p. 7; for years between 1940 and 1965, Clague and Ventura.[1] Figures for 1955 through 1965 are based on a 50 per cent sample.

in spacing and completed family size and the proportion of women who are married. If this changes, the ratio will change, even if the numerator remains the same." Berkov, however, in discussing the denominator used in computing illegitimacy ratios, notes that it "is a function of the number of women of childbearing age, the proportion of women married, and the level of legitimate as well as illegitimate fertility."[2] Berkov's description of factors affecting the total live births (denominator) is more complete and in the discussion of racial differences it reminds us that legitimate as well as illegitimate fertility among blacks is higher than it is for whites. (For a discussion of fertility see Reynolds Farley and for a discussion of marital stability by color in the United States, see Glick, both in this volume.)

Berkov is in agreement with Clague and Ventura that the illegitimacy rate, which takes the number of unmarried women of childbearing age as the denominator, is a more valuable index of change in measuring trends in the illegitimacy problem because it is apparently free of the weakness brought on by using a denominator that is influenced by marital fertility, proportion of women married and number of women of childbearing age. Many students of illegitimacy tend to