MATERNAL HEALTH HAZARDS

CPC population analyst Robert Krasowski reports that high risk births in North Carolina still account for 30 percent of all new babies. "High risk" is a health term bracketing deliveries that are illegitimate or in which the mother is under 17, over 35, or already has had four or more births. Such births, often unplanned, incur excessive risks of infant and maternal illness and mortality, and frequently add to dependency costs.

PEOPLE: NORTH CAROLINA'S GROWTH AND CHANGE

Concluding another phase of its comprehensive program for assessing the state's demographic trends, CPC will publish a new book in December -- North Carolina's Changing Population, by CPC Associate Thomas E. Steahr with an introduction by CPC Associate Director Joseph J. Spengler. The volume interprets new census data on rural-urban distribution, fertility, age structure, race and migration, and projects further changes for the decade ahead.

In his introduction, Professor Spengler observes that if North Carolina's population grows slowly, many present advantages can be preserved. But most critical problems will worsen without long-range state planning mindful of population dynamics. Its absence, he observes, constitutes "a tyranny of small decisions."

TARHEEL POP FACTS

Though North Carolina's growing population -- now about 5.2 million -- is shifting toward the state's larger cities, it still remains about 54 percent rural, compared to 38.8 percent for the nation. This leaves options open for some orderly growth without undue congestion, Dr. Steahr points out in his book, if population distribution is effectively guided. But time is short, since the state's urban growth and in-migration rates are high.

POP ON PBS AND ABC WITH JDR

U.S. population problems are spotlighted by two current network TV specials in which CPC has been much involved. On November 29, the official two-hour television report to the public of the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future was telecast nationally by the Public Broadcasting Service, and a repeat this winter is probable. On Saturday, January 6 from 10 to 11 pm, ABC will telecast its documentary "Population: Boom or Boom?", including coverage of the Bartlett-Yancey High School's (Yanceyville) family planning education program, developed with CPC support, and John D. Rockefeller 3rd's "Dialog on Population" with UNC students, sponsored by CPC when Mr. Rockefeller visited Chapel Hill this fall.

GLIMPSES: WITH CPC ABROAD

CPC and its affiliated UNC Departments and programs are coordinating more than 15 population projects in 20 nations . . . In Africa, seven keystone universities are being helped to increase their capacities in population-related research and teaching . . . In Colombia, Morocco, the Philippines and Kenya, the "Poplab" program is developing new statistical methods for measuring population trends . . . In Thailand, CPC is aiding efforts to improve the nation's family planning services . . . In India, Iran and Egypt, major CPC assistance relationships continue . . . In 15 countries ranging from Guatemala to Nepal, the CPC-affiliated International Fertility Research Program is helping scientists develop a variety of improved birth control techniques . . . CPC is working with United Nations' agencies also on population programs.