

Population Characteristics

Series P-20, No. 162
March 24, 1967

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: OCTOBER 1965

(Advance data for October 1965 published in Series P-20, No. 149 are consistent with this report. Advance data for October 1966 are available in P-20, No. 161)

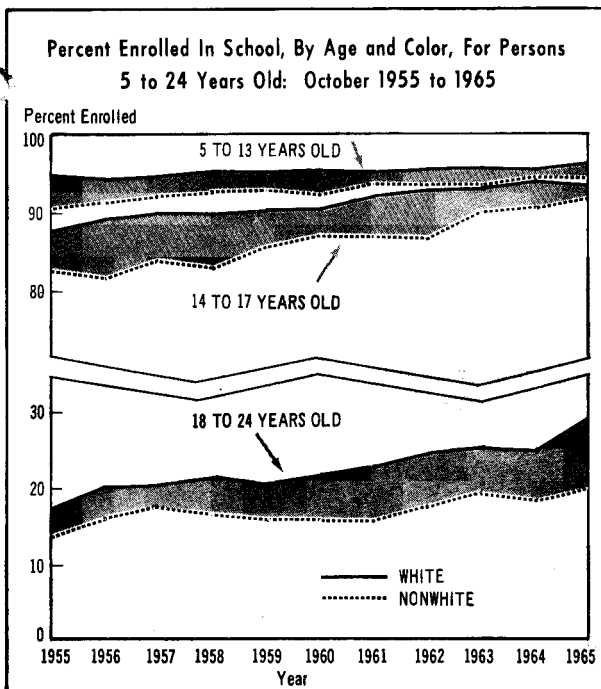
Differences in school enrollment between whites and nonwhites decreased among young people of kindergarten through high school age but increased at college age during the 10-year period 1955-65. Data on school enrollment are

gathered in October of each year as part of the monthly Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census.

The percentage of nonwhite children age 5 to 13 years enrolled in school in October 1965 was 94.4, 1.7 percentage points lower than the figure for whites of the same age, compared with a difference of 3.6 percentage points in 1955 (table A). Among young people 14 to 17, 91.7 percent of the nonwhites were enrolled in 1965, also 1.7 percentage points below the figure for white children of the same age group. The difference in 1955 was 4.7 percentage points, with 82.8 percent of the nonwhites 14 to 17 years old enrolled in school.

In the group 18 to 24 years old, 20.1 percent of the nonwhites were enrolled in school in October 1965, compared with 29.3 percent of whites of the same age group, a difference of 9.2 percentage points. In 1955, the difference was only 4.2 percentage points, with 13.5 percent of the nonwhites and 17.7 percent of the whites enrolled in school.

Furthermore, of those persons 18 to 24 years old who were enrolled in school, greater proportions of white persons than nonwhite persons were attending college (table 5). In October 1965, 87 percent of the white but only 59 percent of the nonwhite persons in this age group were attending college.



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, 15 cents.
Annual subscription (Series P-20, P-23, P-25, P-27, P-28 summaries, P-60, and P-65, combined), \$4.00; foreign mailing, \$5.25.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Alexander B. Trowbridge, Acting Secretary
William H. Shaw, Asst. Secy., Economic Affairs
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS A. Ross Eckler, Director



Table A.--PERCENT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY AGE AND COLOR, FOR PERSONS 5 TO 24 YEARS OLD: OCTOBER 1955 TO 1965

Year	5 to 13 years old			14 to 17 years old			18 to 24 years old		
	White	Non-white	Difference	White	Non-white	Difference	White	Non-white	Difference
1965.....	96.1	94.4	1.7	93.4	91.7	1.7	29.3	20.1	9.2
1964.....	95.5	94.4	1.1	93.5	90.7	2.8	25.2	17.8	7.4
1963.....	95.7	93.6	2.1	93.3	90.4	2.9	25.1	19.5	5.6
1962.....	95.5	93.1	2.4	92.8	86.6	6.2	24.9	17.2	7.7
1961.....	95.4	93.4	2.0	92.0	86.9	5.1	22.5	15.8	6.7
1960.....	95.5	92.6	2.9	90.8	86.8	4.0	21.8	15.9	5.9
1959.....	95.1	92.8	2.3	90.8	85.3	5.5	20.6	16.1	4.5
1958.....	95.2	92.5	2.7	90.0	82.8	7.2	21.2	16.5	4.7
1957.....	94.7	92.0	2.7	90.1	84.8	5.3	20.6	17.3	3.3
1956.....	94.3	91.5	2.8	89.2	81.2	8.0	20.1	15.8	4.3
1955.....	94.4	90.8	3.6	87.5	82.8	4.7	17.7	13.5	4.2

Enrollment rates increase rapidly from age 3 through 6.--Among 3-year-old children in 1965, 5 percent were enrolled in school, while 16 percent of the 4-year-olds, 71 percent of the 5-year-olds, and about 99 percent of the 6-year-olds were enrolled (table B). Nearly all (96 percent) of the 3-year-olds were attending nursery school; but, among the 4-year olds, 41 percent were in nursery school and 58 percent were in kindergarten. Of the 5-year-olds enrolled in school, 84 percent attended kindergarten and almost all (96 percent) of the 6-year-old children were in elementary school.

Steady rise in enrollment continues in 1965.--The percent of persons 5 to 34 years old enrolled in regular school or college has risen from 42 percent in 1947, when data on school enrollment were first collected in the Current Population Survey, to about 60 percent in October 1965 (table C). The increase in the enrollment rate occurred at all ages but has been least for ages 6 through 13 because these children have consistently had nearly 100 percent enrollment. The percent of persons 18 through 34 years old attending school has about doubled in the 18 years since 1947.

Table B.--ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN 3 TO 6 YEARS OLD IN NURSERY SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN, AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: OCTOBER 1965

(Numbers in thousands)

Enrollment status and level and type of school	Age (years)			
	3	4	5	6
Total population.....	4,149	4,238	4,162	4,130
Enrolled in school.....	203	683	2,964	4,077
Nursery school.....	194	281	45	-
Kindergarten.....	5	393	2,476	170
Elementary school.....	4	9	443	3,907
Not enrolled in school ¹	3,946	3,556	1,199	53
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Enrolled in school.....	4.9	16.1	71.2	98.7
Nursery school.....	4.7	6.6	1.1	-
Kindergarten.....	0.1	9.3	59.5	4.1
Elementary school.....	0.1	0.2	10.6	94.6
Not enrolled in school.....	95.1	83.9	28.8	1.3
Total enrolled.....	203	683	2,964	4,077
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nursery school.....	95.6	41.1	1.5	-
Kindergarten.....	2.5	57.5	83.5	4.2
Elementary school.....	2.0	1.3	14.9	95.8

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes enrollment status not reported.

Table C.--PERCENT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY AGE, FOR PERSONS 5 TO 34 YEARS OLD: OCTOBER 1947 TO 1965

Year	Total, 5 to 34 years ¹	5 years ¹	6 years ¹	7 to 9 years	10 to 13 years	14 and 15 years	16 and 17 years	18 and 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 29 years	30 to 34 years
1965.....	59.7	70.1	98.7	99.3	99.4	98.9	87.4	46.3	19.0	6.1	3.2
1964.....	58.7	68.5	98.2	99.0	99.0	98.6	87.7	41.6	16.8	5.2	2.6
1963.....	58.5	67.8	97.4	98.4	98.3	98.4	87.1	40.9	17.3	4.9	2.5
1962.....	57.8	66.8	97.9	98.2	99.3	98.0	84.3	41.8	15.6	5.0	2.6
1961.....	56.8	66.3	97.4	99.4	99.3	97.6	83.6	38.0	13.7	4.4	2.0
1960.....	56.4	63.7	98.0	99.6	99.5	97.8	82.6	38.4	13.1	4.9	2.4
1959.....	55.5	62.9	97.5	99.4	99.4	97.5	82.9	36.8	12.7	5.1	2.2
1958.....	54.8	63.8	97.3	99.5	99.5	96.9	80.6	37.6	13.4	5.7	2.2
1957.....	53.6	60.2	97.4	99.5	99.5	97.1	80.5	34.9	14.0	5.5	1.8
1956.....	52.3	58.9	97.0	99.4	99.2	96.9	78.4	35.4	12.8	5.1	1.9
1955.....	50.8	58.1	98.2	99.2	99.2	95.9	77.4	31.5	11.1	4.2	1.6
1954.....	50.0	57.7	96.8	99.2	99.5	95.8	78.0	32.4	11.2	4.1	1.5
1953.....	48.8	58.4	97.7	99.4	99.4	96.5	74.7	31.2	11.1	2.9	1.7
1952.....	46.8	57.8	96.8	98.7	98.9	96.2	73.4	28.7	9.5	2.6	1.2
1951.....	45.4	53.8	96.0	99.0	99.2	94.8	75.1	26.3	8.3	2.5	0.7
1950.....	44.2	51.8	97.0	98.9	98.6	94.7	71.3	29.4	9.0	3.0	0.9
1949.....	43.9	55.1	96.2	98.5	98.7	93.5	69.5	25.3	9.2	3.8	1.1
1948.....	43.1	55.0	96.2	98.3	98.0	92.7	71.2	26.9	9.7	2.6	0.9
1947.....	42.3	53.4	96.2	98.4	98.6	91.6	67.6	24.3	10.2	3.0	1.1

¹ Includes children enrolled in kindergarten.

RELATED REPORTS

Advance data on school enrollment for October 1965 were presented in Series P-20, No. 149 and for October 1966 in P-20, No. 161. Statistics on school enrollment for October of the years prior to 1965 have been published in other reports in Series P-20.

Statistics on the economic characteristics of students are presented in an article entitled "The Employment of High School Graduates and Dropouts in 1964" in the June 1965 issue of the Monthly Labor Review, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data from the Current Population Survey concerning the college plans of high school seniors, their major fields of study, and the educational characteristics of persons 16 to 24 years old who were not enrolled in school as of October 1959 have been presented in the Census-ERS Series (P-27), No. 30. Additional data on the realization of college plans in relation to ability and socioeconomic factors have been presented in No. 32 of the Census-ERS Series (P-27).

A report titled "Nursery-Kindergarten Enrollment of Children Under Six: October 1965," has been released by the Office of Education of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Funds from the Office of Education made possible the collection and analysis of data on 3- and 4-year-old children in this report.

1950 and 1960 Census data.--Statistics on school enrollment for cities, standard metropolitan statistical areas, States, regions, and the United States appear in reports of the decennial censuses. Detailed statistics on school enrollment by age and socioeconomic characteristics for regions and the United States are presented in Subject Reports of the 1960 Census, especially in PC(2)-5A, School Enrollment.

Figures on school enrollment from the October Current Population Surveys differ from decennial census data for reasons in addition to the difference in the dates. In the first place, the survey data exclude the institutional population and members of the Armed Forces. These two groups were included in the census. Second, there were differences in field work. The small group of Current Population Survey enumerators were more experienced and had more intensive training and supervision than the large number of temporary Census enumerators and may have more often obtained more accurate answers from respondents. Third, the census was taken in April and relates to enrollment since February 1, whereas the surveys were taken in October and relate to enrollment in the current term. This difference in months of the year affects not only the extent of

school enrollment (through "dropouts" during the school year, etc.) but also the level of school in which persons of a given age are enrolled.

Data from school systems.--Information on school enrollment and educational attainment is also collected and published by Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, and by independent research organizations. This information is generally obtained from reports of school systems and institutions of higher learning, and from other surveys and censuses. These data are only roughly comparable with data collected by the Bureau of the Census by household interviews, however, because of differences in definitions, subject matter covered, and enumeration methods. The census data are subject to sampling variability, which may be relatively large where numbers for specific age or population groups, or for given school categories, are small.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage.--The figures shown are for the civilian population excluding the relatively small number of inmates of institutions.

School enrollment.--The school enrollment statistics from the current surveys are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Beginning with 1954, children enrolled in kindergarten have been included in the enrollment figures for "regular" schools, and have also been shown separately. Figures shown in this report on school enrollment for years prior to 1954 have been revised to include children in kindergarten.

"Special" schools are those which are not in the regular school system, such as trade schools or business colleges. Persons attending "special" schools are not included in the enrollment figures.

Persons enrolled in classes which do not require physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, and in training courses given directly on the job, are also excluded from the count of those enrolled in school, unless such courses are being counted for credit at a "regular" school.

Level of school.--The statistics on level of school indicate the number of persons enrolled at each of four levels: Kindergarten, elementary school (first to eighth grades), high school (ninth to twelfth grades); and college or professional school. The last group includes graduate students in colleges or universities. Persons enrolled in junior high school through the eighth grade are classified as in elementary school, and the others as in high school.

Nursery school.--A nursery school is defined as a group or class that is organized to provide educational experiences for children during the year or years preceding kindergarten. It includes instruction as an important and integral phase of its program of child care. Private homes in which essentially custodial care is provided are not considered nursery schools.

"Head Start"--Children enrolled in "Head Start" programs or similar programs sponsored by local agencies to provide pre-school opportunities to young children are counted under "Nursery" or "Kindergarten" as appropriate.

Public or private school.--In this report, a public school is defined as any educational institution operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and supported by public funds. Private schools included educational institutions established and operated by religious bodies, as well as those which are under other private control. In cases where enrollment was in a school or college which was both publicly and privately controlled or supported, enrollment was counted according to whether it was primarily public or private.

Full-time and part-time attendance.--College students were classified, in this report, according to whether they were attending school on a full-time or part-time basis. A student was regarded as attending college full time if he was taking 12 or more hours of classes during the average school week, and part time if he was taking less than 12 hours of classes during the average school week.

Age.--The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Race and color.--The term "race" refers to the division of population into three groups, white, Negro, and other races. The group designated as "other races" consists of Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races. The term "color" refers to the twofold classification white and nonwhite.

Marital status.--The marital status category shown in this report, "married, spouse present," includes persons who are currently married and living with their spouse.

Rounding of estimates.--Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data.--The estimates are based on data obtained in October 1965 in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. The sample is spread over 357 areas comprising 701 counties and independent cities, with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 35,000 occupied housing units are designated for interview in the Current Population Survey each month. Of this number, 1,500 occupied units, on the average, are visited but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 35,000, there are also about 5,000 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be enumerated.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian non-institutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Reliability of the estimates.--Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census figure by less than

the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

The figures presented in tables D and E are approximations to the standard errors of various estimates shown in this report. In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a wide variety of items and could be prepared at a

moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item.

Table D contains the standard errors for a given class of persons age 3 to 34 enrolled in school.

Table D.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL
(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated number of persons	Total persons in age group (thousands)							
	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000
25,000.....	6	6	6	6	-	-	-	-
50,000.....	8	8	8	8	8	-	-	-
100,000.....	10	12	12	12	12	12	-	-
200,000.....	8	10	12	14	17	17	17	-
250,000.....	-	14	14	16	18	18	19	-
400,000.....	-	11	15	17	19	19	21	23
500,000.....	-	-	19	19	20	22	22	25
800,000.....	-	-	15	21	24	26	29	31
1,000,000.....	-	-	-	25	27	29	32	35
2,000,000.....	-	-	-	23	29	36	45	52
2,500,000.....	-	-	-	-	33	39	51	60
4,000,000.....	-	-	-	-	32	45	60	75
5,000,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	60	72	85
8,000,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	47	88	103
10,000,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	115
20,000,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	121
25,000,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115
40,000,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100

- Represents zero.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding absolute estimates of the numerator of the percentage, particularly if the percentage is 50 percent or greater.

Table E shows the standard error of estimated percentages for a given class of persons age 3 to 34 enrolled in school.

Table E.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL
(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of estimated percentage (thousands)						
	500	1,000	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	75,000
2 or 98.....	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
10 or 90.....	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
25 or 75.....	2.3	1.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
50.....	2.7	1.9	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors: Table 2 of this report shows that 1,378,000, or 27.6 percent, of the 4,991,000 persons in the age group 20 and 21 years were enrolled in school at the time of this survey. Table D shows the standard error of the estimated 1,378,000 persons out of a total of 4,991,000 persons in the age group to be approximately 28,000. Chances are 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have differed from the sample result by less than 28,000. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the difference would have been less than 56,000 or twice the standard error.

Table E shows the standard error of 27.6 percent with a base of 4,991,000 to be approximately 0.7 percent. Consequently, chances are about 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have disclosed a figure between 26.9 and 28.3 percent. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the census result would have been within 1.4 percentage points (two standard errors) of the sample estimate, i.e., between 26.2 and 29.0 percent.

DETAILED TABLES

Table	Page
1.--Fall school enrollment of the civilian noninstitutional population 5 to 34 years old, by age and sex, for the United States: October 1950, 1960, and 1962 to 1965.....	7
2.--Fall school enrollment of the civilian noninstitutional population 5 to 34 years old, by age and sex, for the United States: October 1965.....	7
3.--Fall school enrollment of the civilian noninstitutional population 5 to 34 years old, by age, race, and sex, for the United States: October 1965.....	8
4.--Fall school enrollment of the civilian noninstitutional population 4 to 6 years old in public and private kindergartens, by age, color, and sex, for the United States: October 1965.....	9
5.--Fall school enrollment of the civilian noninstitutional population 5 to 34 years old, by level of school, age, race, and sex, for the United States: October 1965.....	9
6.--Fall enrollment of the civilian noninstitutional population 5 to 34 years old in public and private schools, by level of school, age, color, and sex, for the United States: October 1965.....	11
7.--Marital status of the civilian noninstitutional population 14 to 34 years old, by enrollment status, age, and sex, for the United States: October 1965.....	11
8.--Enrollment in special schools of the civilian noninstitutional population 5 to 34 years old, by age and sex, for the United States: October 1965.....	12
9.--Percent of the civilian noninstitutional population 5 to 34 years old enrolled in school, by region of residence and age, for the United States: October 1965 and 1959.....	12