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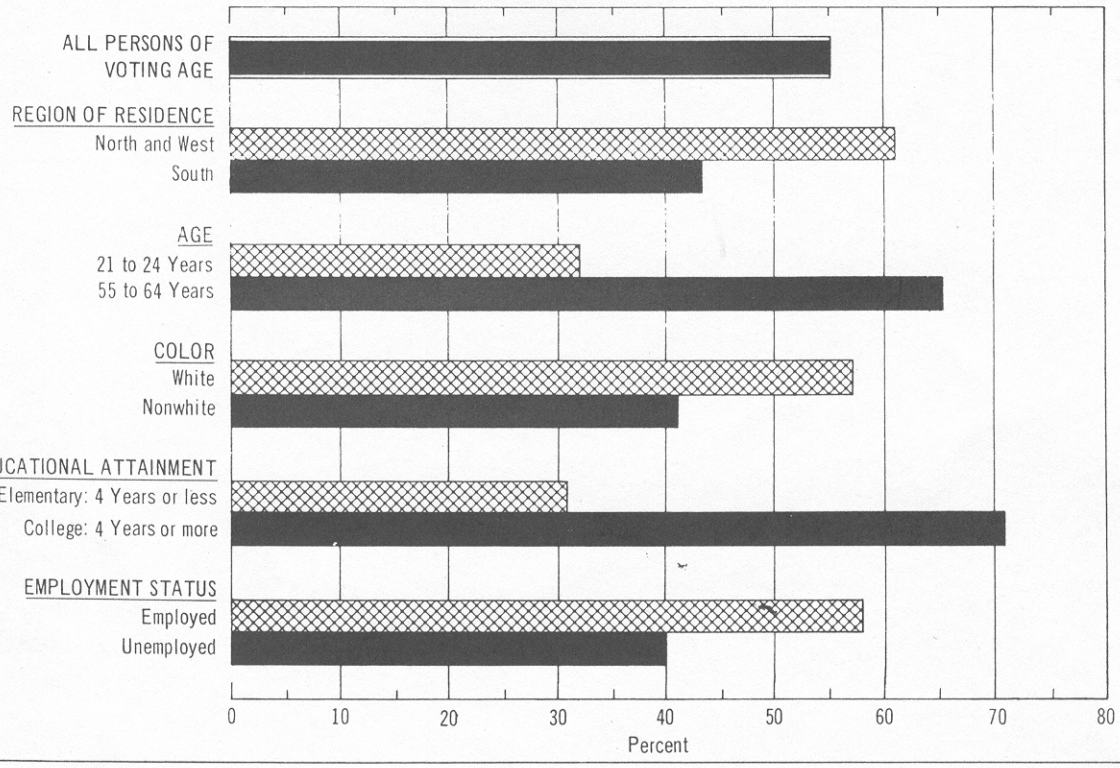
VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 1966

Rates of Reported Voter Participation, by Selected Socio-Economic Characteristics, for the United States: November 1966



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VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 1966

Some characteristics of persons of voting age and persons who registered to vote are presented in this report. The data are based on a survey made in conjunction with the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Bureau of the Census in November 1966.[1] Fifty-five percent of the civilian population of voting age, excluding persons residing in institutions, were reported as having voted in the 1966 congressional election. An additional 15 percent were registered to vote, but did not cast a ballot, and approximately 26 percent were not registered. For the remaining 3 percent the person's voting behavior was not reported or the respondent indicated that he did not know whether the person in question had voted or was registered. There was considerable variation by age, sex, color, region, residence, and a number of other social and economic characteristics. Detailed tables presenting the survey findings begin on page 10.

AGE, SEX, AND COLOR

Reported voter participation increased with age from a low of 31 percent for those persons under 25 years old to a peak of approximately 65 percent for persons 45-54 and 55-64 years old (table 1). In older age groups, there was a decline in voter participation, but persons 75 years of age and older had higher voter participation rates than those in the youngest age group. The proportion of persons who were registered but did not vote was fairly constant except for the oldest age category, where the proportion was 21 percent, as opposed to the overall figure of 15 percent. Among the youngest age groups, nonvoting resulted primarily from not being registered; but among persons 45 to 74 years old the proportion of nonvoters who were registered rose to about 40 percent.

Reported voter participation rates for men were, on the average, about 5 percentage points higher than those for women. The differences were small however, at ages under 55 years but increased significantly thereafter and reached a substantial 16 percentage points for persons 75 years old and over. In the three oldest age categories, women were much less likely to be registered than men. This situation may reflect attitudes of an earlier era concerning women's lesser role in political life. The youngest women in this group would have been 29 in 1920 when most of them would have been eligible to vote for the first time.

The reported voter participation of the nonwhite population was significantly lower than that of the nation as a whole, 41 percent as compared with the overall rate of 55 percent. Nonwhites exhibited the same general tendency as the total population to increase their voter participation with age, and to show a decline in the older ages. However, the disparity in rates of voter participation between nonwhites and all persons tended to grow with increasing age. There was little evidence of any difference in voter participation between nonwhite men and women. However, in the oldest age groups, nonwhite men voted at substantially higher rates than nonwhite women.

Because Negroes make up 91 percent of nonwhites of voting age, the discussion of the voting behavior of the nonwhite population is essentially that of Negroes. Figures for Negroes are shown separately in tables 1, 2, and 3.

REGION AND RESIDENCE

The South had a much lower reported voter participation rate in the 1966 election than did the rest of the United States. Only 43 percent of persons of voting age cast votes in the South, as compared with 61 percent for all other regions combined (table 2). There was also a greater disparity in voter participation between the sexes in the South than elsewhere. Negroes voted at lower rates than whites both in the South and in the rest of the country. Negroes in the North and West, however, voted at a rate 7 percentage points higher than that of Southern whites.

Persons residing in metropolitan areas were more likely to vote than were those persons who lived outside these areas. However, there were significant variations within metropolitan areas. Persons living in central cities of metropolitan areas were less likely to vote than those who lived in the balance of the metropolitan area (table 3). Voting behavior of nonwhites did not exhibit these differences, however. Although people in nonmetropolitan areas (small cities and rural areas) voted at a lower rate than their urban counterparts, those living on farms tended to approximate in voter participation the performance of the big-city

[1] The specific questions may be found under the heading "Reported voter participation," page 6.

suburbanites (and to some extent exceed it, as in the North and West). On the other hand, there is some evidence to suggest that nonwhites living on farms voted at a lower rate than those living in nonfarm areas.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The level of education a person has attained is strongly related to his voter participation and registration. In general, as his level of education rises, so does the likelihood that he will vote. There was some evidence in the survey that those who had started but not finished high school had a slightly lower voter participation rate than those who had completed 8 grades of elementary school. Otherwise, reported voter participation rose for each higher educational level from a low of 31 percent for those with 4 years or less of elementary school, to a high of about 71 percent for college graduates (table 4). The difference between the lowest and highest voter participation rates was about 40 percentage points. However, persons with less than an elementary school education are a declining proportion of our population of voting age. Persons with only an eighth grade education had a markedly higher voter participation rate than those with less education and were less than 10 percentage points behind college graduates in the proportion who either voted or were registered.

Men and women exhibited similar patterns of increasing voter participation as levels of educational attainment increased. In the category "persons with 4 years or less of elementary school," however, voter participation rates for women were almost 11 percentage points lower than those for men with comparable education. The lower voter participation rate for women with less than a grade school education is probably related to the earlier finding concerning the lower levels of voting among older women.

Most of these same relationships hold for the voting behavior for white and nonwhite persons. There is a tendency for increased voter participation as the educational level rises, although, lower proportions of nonwhites than whites, at all levels, reported that they voted. Voter participation rates for nonwhite women were about the same as for nonwhite men at all educational levels except 8 years of elementary school, where the rate was nearly 12 percentage points greater for males.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Persons of voting age who were employed voted to a substantially greater degree than those who were reported as unemployed. The comparative figures from table 5 are 58 percent and 40 percent, respectively. Among the employed, the highest voter participation rates were found among government workers and among the self-employed and unpaid family workers, both in agriculture and in nonagricultural industries. Only one-third of wage and salary workers in agriculture went to the polls, a rate significantly below those of all other groups of employed persons.

Nonwhites employed in agriculture, most of whom are found in the South, had an especially low voter participation rate as compared with other nonwhite workers. Nonwhites 65 years old and over not in the labor force had a voter participation rate of 32 percent (compared to 55 percent for whites).

Nonregistration was highest among wage and salary agricultural workers, the unemployed, the very young not in the labor force, and nonwhites generally. In contrast, nearly 90 percent of the self-employed in agriculture reported themselves as voting or registered.

OCCUPATION

For the 60 percent of the voting age population who were employed, there were differences in reported voter participation according to the kinds of jobs they held. Within broad occupational categories, a higher voter participation rate was associated with the white-collar occupations. Thus, persons in professional and managerial occupations showed similar voter participation rates of about 70 percent (table 6). Clerical and sales occupations had slightly lower rates. Craftsmen had the highest rate among the blue-collar occupations; next was the rate for service workers; and at the lower end of the scale were the rates for operatives, laborers, and private household workers. Nonregistration was 25 percent for employed persons as a whole, but ranged from 7 percent for farmers to 37 percent for laborers.

Among both men and women, white-collar workers as a group had higher voter participation rates than the other three major occupation categories, but the differences were greater for women.

Nonwhites had uniformly lower voter participation rates than whites in the four major occupation categories. However, the same general relationship between voting patterns of white-collar workers and the other major occupation groups seemed to obtain as for the general population. Nonwhite farm workers with a voter participation rate of 26 percent were substantially below the other groups.

FAMILY INCOME

The reported voter participation rate increased with an increase in family income. Within each age group category, the higher the family income

the more likely it was that a person of voting age would vote. The lowest level of voter participation, 24 percent, was found among the young (persons under 35 years old) in the lowest income class, whereas the highest, 78 percent, was for persons 45 to 64 years of age in families with income of $10,000 or more a year.

There was no clear trend in voter participation for persons 65 and over as income rose. This is perhaps explained by the fact that most (about 80 percent) of these persons are not in the labor force and their incomes are less closely related to education and occupation than is true of persons of working age.

The voting pattern for nonwhites was similar to that for all persons, in that voter participation rates were higher for those with the highest family incomes. For persons in the 35-44 and 45-64 age groups, for example, the difference in voter participation rates between the lowest and highest income classes was 40 and 36 percentage points, respectively.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL WITHIN INCOME GROUPS

The relationship of voting and registration to the education of the family head within five levels of family income is shown in table 8. Within each of the three highest income classes reported, voter participation rates were positively correlated with education of the family head. In the two lowest income categories a corresponding relationship was evident in the increase in voter participation between persons having less than eight years of schooling and those with an elementary school education; but a similar relationship was not clear at other educational levels. With these exceptions in the lower income groups, these data suggest that education does have a significant independent effect, when income is held constant, in increasing voter participation. A peak voting rate was 75 percent for white college graduates with family incomes of $10,000 or more.

REASON NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE

As part of the 1966 survey of voting, persons who were reported as not registered were asked to state the reason that best explained their nonregistration. The question was phrased in such a way as to allow the respondent to indicate what he considered to be the most significant reason, because it was recognized that more than one reason for nonregistration could apply in a particular case. (For example, a person might have no interest in politics but also might not meet the residence requirements. He might cite either reason to best explain his not being registered.) A compromise was reached between an entirely open-ended question allowing a free response and a structured series of answer categories. Thus, two specific reasons were mentioned in the question as it was read by the interviewer, i.e., that the respondent was not a citizen or had not met the local or State residence requirements. In addition, the respondent was invited to give another reason if neither of these adequately explained his failure to register.

The data on "reason not registered to vote" are presented in tables 9 and 10. The reasons for nonregistration are limited to the two preselected categories--"not a citizen" and "residence requirement not satisfied"--plus a large catch-all category for "other" reasons and a final category for those whose reason for not registering was not known or not reported.

Almost 8 percent of those persons who were reported as "not registered" reported their reason for not registering as "not a citizen." An additional 19 percent of persons not registered to vote were recorded as "residence requirement not satisfied." Therefore, a total of 27 percent of those persons who were not registered to vote failed to register because they were not citizens or they did not meet residence requirements. Of the remaining 73 percent of persons not registered to vote, 63 percent stated "other" as the reason, and about 11 percent were recorded as "do not know" or "not reported" on registration.

Persons who reported "other" as the reason for not registering to vote were asked to specify their "other" reason. No systematic tabulation was made of the reasons specified, however, among these were responses such as; "just didn't get around to it," "couldn't be bothered," etc.

Variations by age in reasons for nonregistration were slight, although persons under 35 years of age were more likely to cite residence requirements. However, differences due to varying educational attainment were substantial, as can be seen in table 10. Failure to meet residence requirements was cited by only 7 percent of those persons with less than 8 years of schooling, but was the most common reason for not registering (42 percent) given by respondents who were college graduates. This may well reflect the fact that people with little education are not aware of the residence laws for voting or do not know what they require, and, therefore, are more accurately categorized as apathetic. College graduates, on the other hand, may be tempted to give residence requirements as a reason, rather than reporting a less acceptable reason. Nonetheless, the mobility of the better educated may frequently act as a deterrent to voting. Persons reporting lack of citizenship as their reason for not registering tend to be clustered at the upper and lower extremes of the educational scale.

EVALUATION OF THE ACCURACY OF THE DATA

In 1964, the Bureau of the Census conducted a survey on voting in the national election of that year which resulted in an estimate about 8.5 percent higher than the official count of votes cast for President. The report of that survey contained an analysis of the possible reasons for this difference.[2] Much of that discussion is applicable here.

In summary, several general reasons were advanced to account for the different estimates of the number of voters. Although these reasons could create differences in the direction of either an overestimate or an underestimate, in general, their net effect would result in overestimating the number of voters in the survey. There appears to be a tendency for persons to over-report their voter participation because of a reluctance to admit such a dereliction in civic responsibility. Associated with this reason is the assumption by the respondent that another member of the household had voted when, in fact, he had not. Another factor is the CPS estimation procedure which attributes the characteristics of interviewed persons to persons in similar households where no interview was obtained. The coverage of the CPS sample and the independent population estimates to which the survey results were adjusted are known to underrepresent certain groups where nonvoting has been found to be high. Finally, the total number of votes cast for President could be expected to be less than the survey estimates because some ballots were invalidated--perhaps 1 or 2 percent, according to some independent studies--and because some persons who voted did not vote for any presidential candidate.

As a result of the 1964 experience, several changes were made in the 1966 survey, which, it was hoped, would reduce the difference between the survey estimate and the official count. First, the question was phrased in such a way as to make it easier for persons to admit not having voted. Thus, the 1964 survey question, "Did (this person) vote in the national election held on November 3?" became, "This month we have some questions about whether people voted in the November 8th election this year. In any election some people are not able to vote because they are sick, or busy, or have some other reason. Did (this person) vote in the election held on November 8th, (pause) or did something keep (this person) from voting?"

A second change was to introduce a "do not know" category in each question of the voting survey on the theory that forcing people into a "yes-no" alternative might have been responsible for increasing the number of persons reported as voting. In the 1964 survey, no direct comparison could be made with the official count of votes cast for President because the survey question merely asked if the respondent had voted in the election. In the 1966 survey persons who said that they had voted were asked if they had voted for anyone for Congressman. Finally, the interviewer was instructed to indicate on the questionnaire whether or not a respondent's voting behavior was reported by himself or by some other household member.

Despite these efforts to reduce the difference between the survey results and the official count, the difference remains substantial. In 1966, the official count of votes cast for members of the House of Representatives was 52,902,000, whereas the survey estimate was 57,585,000. In addition, there were 3,096,000 persons for whom the respondent was unable to say whether he had voted for a candidate for Congress. To the extent that these persons did vote for someone for Congress, the difference is increased.[3] On the other hand, 51 candidates for the House of Representatives ran either unopposed or without major party opposition in the election of 1966. It is possible that some respondents in these districts thought that they had voted for someone for Congress when, in fact, there was no candidate running on their party ticket.

In retrospect, it is probable that there are a number of pitfalls in attempting to use the votes cast for the office of Congressman as a way of validating survey results. Opinion polls have previously demonstrated that most voters cannot identify their Congressman by name. Although this is not the same thing as knowing whether one voted for the office of Congressman, it is perhaps indicative of an inability many voters may have to single out this office and recall whether they had voted for a candidate. This problem is compounded when a respondent is asked to report on someone else's voting behavior.

The introduction of the "do not know" category in the 1966 survey increased the overall proportion of those for whom a report on voting was not obtained from 1 percent in 1964 to 3 percent in 1966. Among Negroes the figure rises to almost 6 percent. The lower figure from the 1964 report may have resulted in part from the fact that the "yes-no" alternative forced respondents to give answers

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[2] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 143, "Voter Participation in the National Election: November 1964," pp. 4-5.

[3] Preliminary evidence from comparing self reports on voting with reports by others indicates the bulk of the persons recorded as "do not know if voted for Congressman," probably did vote for the office of Congressman.

which more properly should have been classified as "do not know." The inclusion of a check item in the 1966 survey which indicated whether the answers were given by the respondent himself or by someone else in the household, demonstrates the value of asking people about their own behavior on such matters as voting for Congressman or registering to vote. This can be shown by comparing the effect of self reports and reports by others on the "do not know" rate for three questions--whether voted in the election, whether voted for Congressman, and whether registered to vote (table A). Where a respondent answered for himself, the "do not know" categories were almost nonexistent, except for voting for Congressman, where the rate was about 1 percent. At the other extreme, where a respondent reported on the voting behavior of other household members, 5 percent could not answer whether the person had voted for Congressman. Among nonwhites the corresponding figure was 7 percent.

Estimates of voter participation that are higher than the official counts have been the common experience of other survey organizations which have studied voting behavior. Similar kinds of explanations to those cited in this report have been reported by these groups to account for the discrepancies. However, in spite of these limitations, the data presented here are believed to represent genuine differences in voting and registration behavior among various subgroups in the population.

Table A.--PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OF VOTING AGE WHO REPORTED "DO NOT KNOW" TO THE QUESTION ON VOTING, BY COLOR AND TYPE OF RESPONDENT, FOR THE UNITED STATES: NOVEMBER 1966

"Do not know" responses	Total persons			Reported by self			Reported by other		
	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white
Whether voted.....	1.7	1.3	4.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.7	3.0	10.1
If voted, whether voted for Congressman.	2.7	2.6	3.9	0.9	0.8	1.4	5.2	4.9	7.4
If did not vote, whether registered.....	0.8	0.7	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.5	1.3	4.0

RELATED REPORTS

Current Population Reports.--Advance data on reported voter participation and registration of the population of voting age, by race and sex, for the United States and regions in the November 1966 congressional election are contained in the report Series P-20, No. 160.

Data on voter participation by social and economic characteristics of the population of voting age in the 1964 presidential election were published in the report Series P-20, No. 143.

Data on registration and voter participation by age and sex of the Negro population of voting age in the November 1966 congressional election were shown for the United States and regions in the report Series P-20, No. 168.

Projections of the population of voting age for the United States, regions, divisions, and States for November 1, 1966 and 1968 were published in Series P-25, No. 342. A similar report for November 1, 1968 and 1972 is forthcoming in the P-25 series.

Estimates of the population of voting age for the United States, regions, divisions, and States, as of November 1, 1968, and data on the social and economic characteristics by reported voter participation of the population of voting age in the 1966 and 1964 elections were published in a composite report Series P-20, No. 172.

The number of persons of voting age in 1960 and the votes cast for President in the elections of 1964 and 1960 for the United States, by States and counties, are contained in Series P-23, No. 14.

The figures presented in this report may differ slightly from corresponding statistics shown in previously published reports in Series P-20. These differences were generally minor tabulation inconsistencies and should not affect the validity and usefulness of the data.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage.--The data in this report were collected in conjunction with the November 1966 sample survey which covered the population of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The figures shown relate to the civilian noninstitutional population. Although the statistics on reported voter participation and registration in this report relate primarily to the population 21 years old and over, the minimum voting age is 21

in 46 of the States and the District of Columbia, 20 in Hawaii, 19 in Alaska, and 18 in Georgia and Kentucky; all persons of voting age in the United States are represented in the voting age population shown in this report.

Regions.--In this report, the North and West includes the Northeast, North Central, and West Regions.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence.--The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas constitutes the metropolitan population. Except in New England a standard metropolitan statistical area is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in a standard metropolitan statistical area if according to certain criteria they are essentially metropolitan in character and socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, standard metropolitan statistical areas have been defined on a town rather than county basis. Standard metropolitan statistical areas of this report are identical with the standard metropolitan statistical areas of the 1960 Census and do not include any subsequent additions or other changes.

Farm-nonfarm residence.--The farm population refers to rural residents living on farms. The method of determining farm-nonfarm residence in the November 1966 survey and in the Current Population Surveys since March 1960 is the same as that used in the 1960 Census but differs from that used in earlier censuses.

According to the current definition, the farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places of less than 10 acres yielding agricultural products which sold for $250 or more in the previous year, or on places of 10 acres or more yielding agricultural products which sold for $50 or more in the previous year. Rural persons in institutions, motels and tourist camps, and those living on rented places where no land is used for farming are not classified as farm population.

The nonfarm population, as the term is used here, comprises persons living in urban areas and rural persons not on farms.

Reported voter participation.--Voter participation data were derived from replies to the following question asked of all persons of voting age:

"This month we have some questions about whether people voted in the November 8th election this year. In any election some people are not able to vote because they are sick, or busy, or have some other reason. Did (this person) vote in the election held on November 8th, (pause) or did something keep (this person) from voting?"

In this report, the population of voting age is classified into two categories, "voted" and "did not vote." The "did not vote" category includes persons reported as "did not vote" or "do not know if voted" and persons for whom no information on voting was obtained.

Reported registration.--The data shown on registration were obtained by tabulating replies to the following question for those persons included in the category "did not vote":

"Was (this person) registered to vote in that election; that is, could (this person) have voted?"

All persons reported as having voted were assumed to have been registered. Therefore, the total registered population is obtained by combining the number of persons who voted and persons included in the category "did not vote," but who had registered.

Persons eligible to register.--The population of voting age includes a considerable number of persons who meet the age requirement but cannot register and vote. Only citizens are eligible to vote. Among citizens of voting age, some persons are not permitted to vote because they have been committed to penal institutions, mental hospitals, or other institutions, or because they fail to meet State and local residence requirements for various reasons. The eligibility to register is governed by State laws which differ in many respects.

Registration is the act of qualifying to vote by formally enrolling on a list of voters. With certain exceptions, such as for members of the Armed Forces, registration must be done in person. For the majority of States, registration is permanent, that is, once a person has enrolled as a voter his name remains on the list as long as he continues to vote in the same jurisdiction--usually at least once every two or four years. In a few States or parts of States voters must register for each election in which they desire to vote. People who have moved to another election district must take steps to have their names placed on the voting rolls in their new place of residence.

In a few States or parts of States, no formal registration is required. Voters merely present themselves at the polling place on election day with proof that they are of age and have met the appropriate residence requirements. Therefore, in these areas persons who are citizens and of voting age, and who meet the residence requirements would be considered as being registered.

To cover these cases, the phrase "that is, could (this person) have voted?" was added to the question on registration. The literacy test and poll tax, which were administered by a minority of the States, are no longer requirements for voting in State and local elections or in Federal elections.[4]

The District of Columbia does not have an elected Representative to Congress. As a result, there is a substantial number of persons of voting age in the District of Columbia who cannot vote for a Representative. Some persons living in the District of Columbia who met the residence requirements of other States may have cast their ballots for a Representative in those States.

Reason not registered.--Data on reported reason for not registering to vote were collected in the Current Population Survey by asking the following question of those persons who reported that they had not registered to vote:

"Which of the following best explains why (this person) was not registered to vote--
--not a citizen of the United States,
--had not lived here long enough to be qualified to vote
--or some other reason?"

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

Race and color.--The term "race" refers to the division of the 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.

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[4]Literacy tests were suspended under the 1965 Voting Rights Act in those States or political subdivisions of States where less than half of the voting-age population had registered to vote or voted in the 1964 election. Consequently, such tests are no longer applicable in the States of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina, and selected counties of other States, notably North Carolina. (Alaska was removed from the scope of the Act by declaratory judgment of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.)

In 1966, the Supreme Court of the United States found use of the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting in State and local elections to be unconstitutional. Up to that time, four States, Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia, and Texas, had such taxes. State poll taxes as a requirement for voting in Federal elections were banned by a Constitutional Amendment in 1964.

Years of school completed.--Data on years of school completed in this report were derived from the combination of answers to questions concerning the highest grade of school attended by the person and whether or not that grade was finished. The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools.

Household.--A household includes all of the persons who occupy a house, an apartment, or other group of rooms, or a room which constitutes a housing unit under the 1960 Census rules. A group of rooms or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure, and when there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall, or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

Primary families and individuals.--The term "primary family" refers to the head of a household and all other persons in the household related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption. If nobody in the household is related to the head, then the head himself constitutes a "primary individual." A household can contain one and only one primary family or primary individual. The number of "primary" families and individuals is identical with the number of households.

Employed.--Employed persons comprise those who, during the survey week, were either (1) "at work"--those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business; or (2) "with a job but not at work"--those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, or bad weather, or because they were taking the week off for various other reasons.

Unemployed.--Unemployed persons include those who did not work at all during the survey week and were looking for work. Also included as unemployed are those who did not work at all during the survey week and (1) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (2) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the survey week); or (3) would have been looking for work except that they were temporarily ill or believed no work was available in their line of work or in the community.

Civilian labor force.--In this report, the civilian labor force includes all civilians classified as employed or unemployed, as described above.

Not in labor force.--All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in labor force." These persons include those "engaged in own home housework," in "school," "unable to work" because of long-term physical or mental illness, and "other," the latter group including for the most part retired persons, those too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an "off" season, and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force. In November 1966, persons attending school during the survey week who had new jobs to which they were scheduled to report within 30 days, were also included among those not in the labor force.

Occupation and class of worker.--Data on occupation and class of worker are shown for the employed and relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week.

The major occupation groups used here are mainly the major groups used in the 1960 Census of Population. The composition of these groups is shown in Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1, United States Summary.

The class-of-worker classification specifies "wage and salary workers" and "self-employed workers." Wage and salary workers receive wages, salary, commissions, tips, pay in kind, or piece rates from a private employer or from a government unit. Self-employed workers have their own business, profession, or trade, or operate a farm for profit or fees. The self-employed include unpaid family workers.

Family income.--Income as defined in this report represents the combined total money income of the family before deductions for personal taxes, Social Security, bonds, etc. It is the algebraic sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings received by all family members during the 12 months prior to the November 1966 survey. It should be noted that, although the family income statistics refer to receipts during the previous 12 months, the characteristics of the person, such as age, labor force status, etc., and the composition of families refer to the date of the survey.

The income tables include in the lowest income group (under $3,000) those that were classified as having no income in 1965 and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income. Many of these were living on income "in kind," savings, or gifts; or were newly constituted families, or families in which the sole breadwinner had recently died or had left the household. However, many of the families who reported no income probably had some money income which was not recorded in the survey.

The income tables in this report include a separate category for families for whom no income information was obtained. In most of the other Current Population Survey Reports showing income data, the missing income data have been allocated.

Rounding.--The individual figures in this report are rounded to the nearest thousand. With few exceptions, the individual figures in this report have not been adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent; therefore, the percentages in a distribution do not always add to exactly 100.0 percent. The totals, however, are always shown as 100.0.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data.--The estimates are based on data obtained in November 1966 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 households 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 noninstitutional 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 figure 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. Although we do not have measures for the effect of all of these errors, the standard error is the closest measure available.

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 B and C 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 B.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED NUMBER

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000.....	12,000	2,500,000.....	120,000
50,000.....	17,000	5,000,000.....	170,000
100,000.....	24,000	10,000,000.....	230,000
250,000.....	38,000	25,000,000.....	340,000
500,000.....	54,000	50,000,000.....	420,000
1,000,000.....	77,000		

Table B shows standard errors of the estimated number of persons in a given class who were reported as voting in the 1966 national election.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which the percentage is based. Generally, estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimate of the numerator of the percentage, particularly if the percentage is high.

Table C shows standard errors of estimated percentages of persons in a given class who reportedly voted in the 1966 national election.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors.--Table 7 shows that 2,240,000 persons in the age group 25 to 34 years who are in families in the income category $7,500 to $9,999 voted in the 1966 congressional election. Table B shows the standard error of 2,240,000 to be approximately 111,000. Chances are 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have differed from the sample results by less than 111,000. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the difference would have been less than 222,000.

These 2,240,000 voters comprised 54.1 percent of all persons 25 to 34 years in families whose income was $7,500 to $9,999. Table C shows the standard error on an estimated 54.1 percent with a base of 4,137,000 is about 2.2 percent. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have disclosed a figure between 51.9 and 56.3 percent, and 95 out of 100 that the figures would have been between 49.7 and 58.5 percent.

Table C.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (in thousands)								
	100	250	500	1,000	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
2 or 98.....	3.4	2.2	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
5 or 95.....	5.3	3.4	2.4	1.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
10 or 90.....	7.3	4.6	3.3	2.3	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
20 or 80.....	9.7	6.2	4.4	3.1	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3
25 or 75.....	10.5	6.7	4.7	3.3	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3
50.....	12.2	7.7	5.4	3.8	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.4