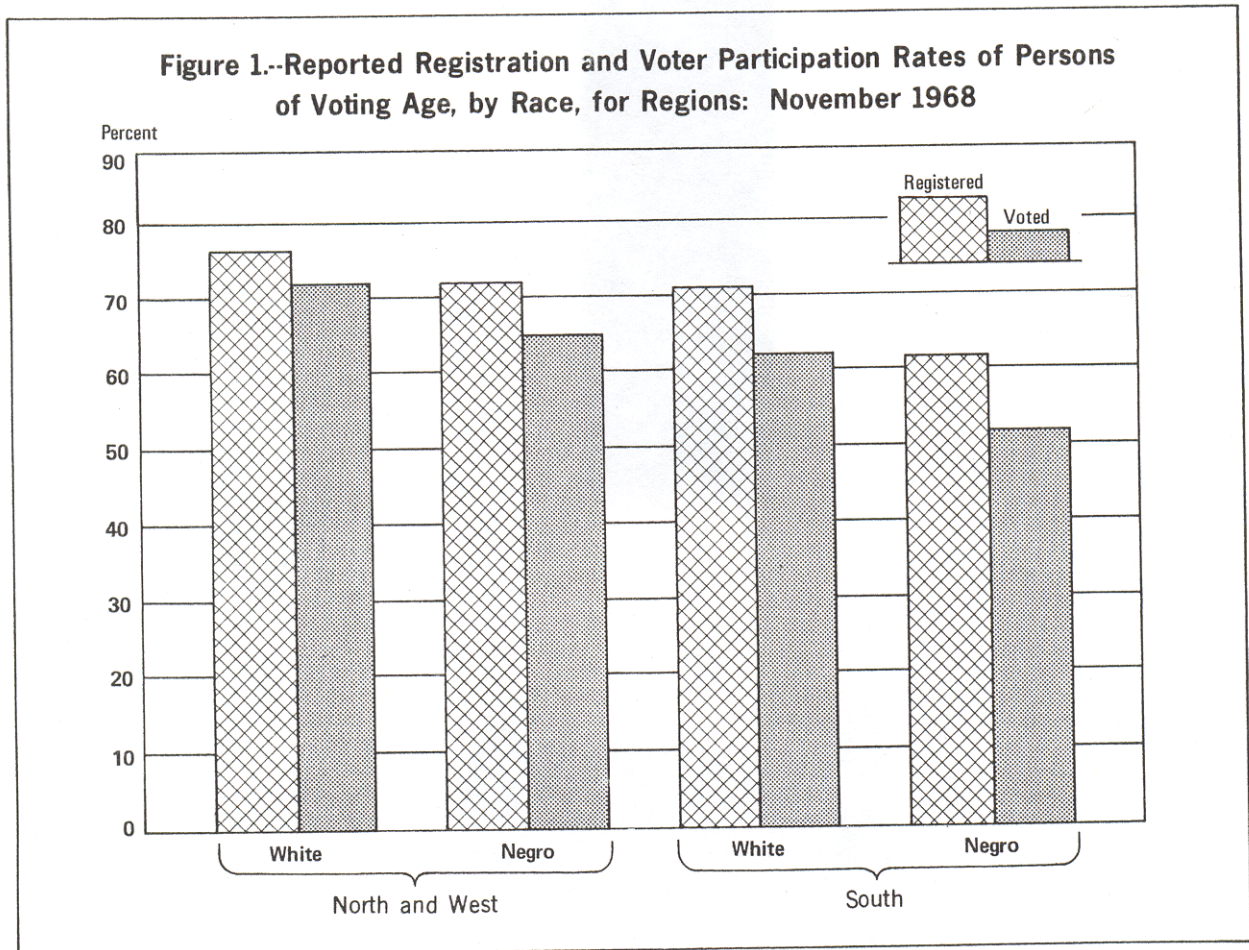




Population Characteristics

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VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 1968



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VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 1968

About 68 percent of the civilian population, excluding persons residing in institutions, were reported as having voted in the November 1968 Presidential election according to the results of the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census in November 1968. An additional 7 percent were reported as being registered to vote but not casting a ballot, while 23 percent were reported as not eligible to vote because they were not registered. For the remaining 3 percent, there was either no report on the person's voting behavior or the household respondent did not know whether the person in question had voted or was registered.

This report presents the highlights from the November 1968 survey, through selected comparisons with the two previous election surveys conducted by the Bureau of the Census, and describes two special features of the 1968 survey. These two special features are a measurement of change in voting behavior between the 1964 and 1968 elections obtained in 1968 by asking respondents in 1968 about their voting behavior in 1964 and a more detailed presentation of reasons for nonregistration than appeared in previous reports.

Characteristics of voters.--The 1968 voting turnout was slightly below the 69 percent reported in 1964, but substantially above the 55 percent reported in the Congressional election of 1966. In general, the same characteristics that were associated with differential turnout in 1964 and 1966 were confirmed by the results of the 1968 survey. Thus, higher voting participation was found among men, persons 45 to 64 years old, whites, people living outside the South, those with higher educational attainment, those with larger family incomes, and persons in white-collar occupations, especially professionals and managers. Lower participation was more likely among women, persons under 35 years of age and to a lesser degree those 65 and older, Negroes, residents of the South, those of low educational level, those with small family incomes, and persons in unskilled occupations, such as laborers (both industrial and agricultural) and private household workers.

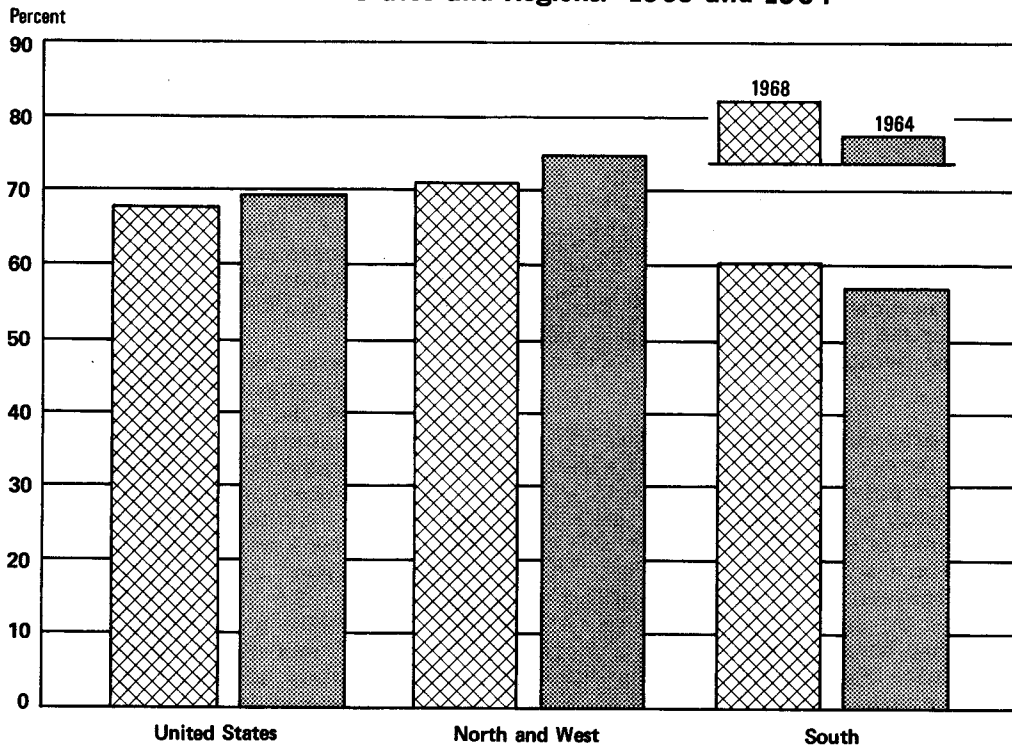
Changes between 1964 and 1968.--Although there was a slight decline in voting turnout generally in 1968, as compared with 1964, this pattern varied by region (figure 2). An important instance where

voting turnout of a particular group went counter to the national trend was among Negroes and other races in the South where the proportion reporting that they had voted rose from 44 percent in 1964 to around 51 percent in 1968. The South, generally, had a higher voting turnout in 1968 than 4 years earlier, probably reflecting both the effects of Congressional legislation to protect civil and voting rights and increased party competition. Persons in farm occupations were also reported as voting at a higher rate in 1968 than in 1964.

Comparisons between the 1968 and the 1964 surveys are hampered slightly by two factors. First, in 1964, the respondent was forced to select a "Yes-No" alternative to the single question on voting, whereas a "Don't Know" category was provided for all questions asked in 1968. The proportion of persons for whom no information was obtained in 1964 was 0.9 percent. The addition of the "Don't Know" category in 1968 increased this proportion to 2.6 percent. Second, in the 1964 report, the more general category "Negroes and other races" was used in all tables, with Negroes being separately identified in only one table. In 1968, Negroes and other races combined are shown only in tables 1 and 2, with Negroes identified separately throughout. Since Negroes constitute approximately 91 percent of Negroes and other races who are of voting age, the two terms are similar, but they are not identical.

Changes between 1966 and 1968.--There was an increase of 12 percentage points in reported voting participation in 1968 over that in 1966. Typically there is a higher voter participation rate in Presidential election years than in Congressional election years. The proportion of the potential electorate who reported that they were not registered declined only slightly from 26 percent in 1966 to 23 percent in 1968 (figure 3). Thus, the net increase in turnout in Presidential election years apparently stems more from registered voters going to the polls, than from the unregistered becoming involved in politics. However, among the younger age groups (under 35 years of age) there was a significant movement out of the nonregistered category in 1968, with the Presidential election acting as more of a stimulus to participation than the mid-term Congressional election. In the older age groups, the proportion reporting that they were not registered did not vary between the elections.

Figure 2.--Reported Voter Participation Rates of Persons of Voting Age, for the United States and Regions: 1968 and 1964



There is little or no difference in the registration rates in 1966 and 1968 by educational attainment, except for persons with a high school education or above (see table A). Despite the fairly constant registration rates for those with less than a high

school education, the voting turnout in 1968 was substantially above that in the Congressional election at all educational levels.

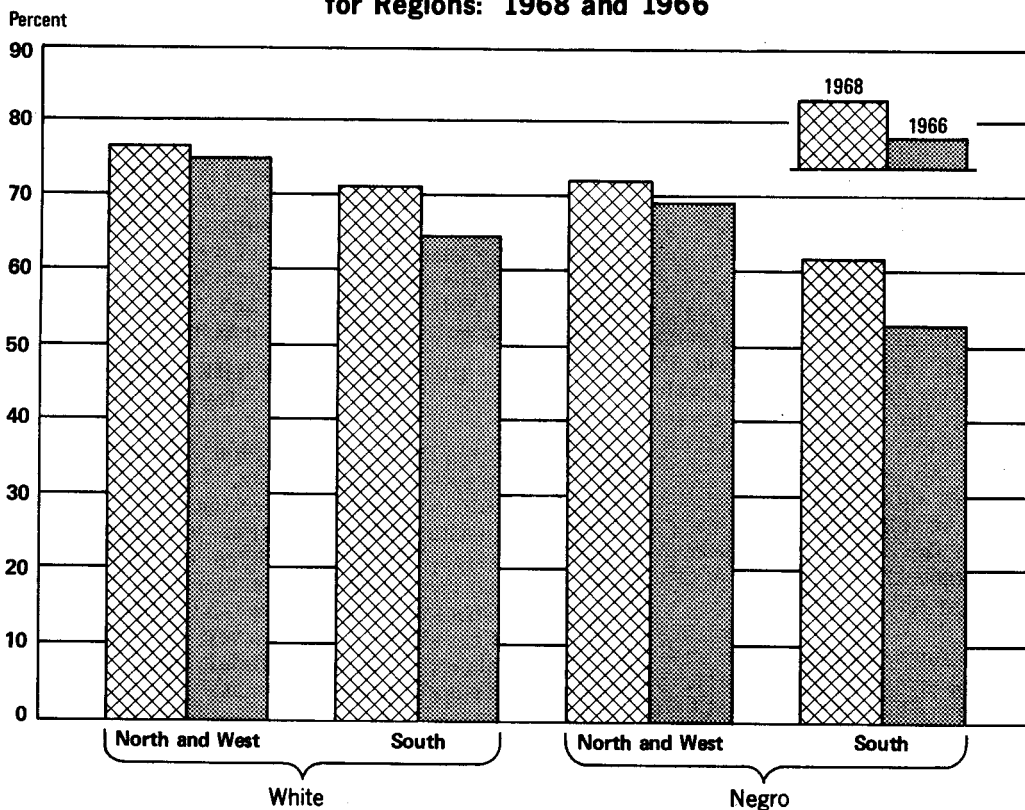
Table A.--PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OF VOTING AGE WHO REPORTED THAT THEY WERE REGISTERED TO VOTE, BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED: 1968 AND 1966

Years of school completed	1968	1966
Total.....	74.3	70.3
Elementary: 0 to 4 years....	49.6	49.8
5 to 7 years....	63.1	61.6
8 years.....	71.7	70.5
High school: 1 to 3 years....	68.5	66.7
4 years.....	77.7	73.5
College: 1 to 3 years....	82.9	75.5
4 years or more.	87.0	79.0

A precise comparison of changes in reported Negro registration between 1966 and 1968 by socioeconomic characteristics cannot be made, since only data for Negroes and other races are available for 1966. However, the data suggest that there were substantial increases in registration among Negroes who were white-collar workers, those in families with incomes of \$7,500 and above, and those with some college education.

Voter consistency, 1964 and 1968.-- An important part of the 1968 survey of voting was a question asking whether the respondent voted for someone for President in the 1964 election. The purpose of this question was to investigate whether there were substantial changes in voting behavior within specific groups from one election to the next, even though there was only a slight decline in turnout in 1968 as compared with 1964. This question makes it possible to identify the consistent

Figure 3.--Reported Registration Rates of Persons of Voting Age, by Race, for Regions: 1968 and 1966



voters and nonvoters, as well as those who abstained in one of the elections. Persons who were under 25 in 1968 were excluded from these tables because the great majority of them were not old enough to vote in 1964. (This procedure eliminated a small number of persons in the four States with lower voting ages, but their number would not modify the results significantly.)

Tables 9 through 15 present the results of this comparison. Overall, about 80 percent of the electorate was consistent--either in voting in both elections (62 percent) or in abstaining in both elections (17 percent). Another 17 percent reported that they had voted in one of the two elections with more voting in 1964 and not in 1968. Almost 4 percent were not reported on their 1964 voting behavior.

Tables 9 and 10 show that for both Negroes and whites who reported that they had voted in only one election, overall more voted in 1964 than in 1968, although the proportion of "1968 only" voters among

Negroes is higher than for whites. However, in nonmetropolitan areas, the distribution of Negroes who voted in one election is reversed, with the majority reported as having voted in 1968.

Table 11 shows a substantial variation in voting turnout within the two consistent groups--paralleling the usual pattern of voting turnout and educational level. Persons who completed at least 4 years of college are more likely to have voted in both elections (78 percent), while the nonvoters in both elections are more likely to be in the lower educational levels (nearly 45 percent of those with 4 years or less of education did not vote in either 1964 or 1968). The "one-time" voters in 1968 demonstrate a different pattern--constituting a relatively fixed proportion of the total at each educational level.

Reason not registered to vote.--As in the 1966 survey of voting and registration, an attempt was made to ascertain the reason for nonregistration among those who were reported as not registered.

Based on an examination of a variety of responses to a question included in an experimental panel in 1966, a series of four specific reasons for non-registration was provided. In addition, answers that did not fit the specific categories were recorded separately. Interviewers were instructed not to read the answer categories to the respondent and to mark the main reason that explained nonregistration, if more than one answer was offered.

The data for all nonregistered persons are presented in tables 16 and 17. About 10 percent of those persons who were reported as "not registered" reported their reason as "not a citizen." An additional 11 percent cited failure to meet residence requirements. The largest category was the 53 percent who reported a lack of interest in the election, or politics in general, or expressed distaste for the political process. Another 13 percent of those not registered reported that they were unable to register because of illness, lack of transportation, inability to take time off from the job, etc. Somewhat less than 10 percent of the nonregistered respondents gave other reasons that interviewers were not able to classify in any of the existing categories. For the final 3 percent, the respondent either did not know the reason for nonregistration or none was reported.

There were a few variations by age in the reasons given for nonregistration. For example, persons 65 years of age and older were more likely than any other age group to report that a specific obstacle prevented them from registering to vote. On the other hand, there are substantial differences by levels of educational attainment. Table 17 shows that not meeting residence requirements is reported by only about 2 percent of those who have completed less than 5 years of elementary school, but by almost 33 percent of persons who have completed 5 years of college or more. On the other hand, disinterest in politics declines in importance as a reason at the higher educational levels (persons who have completed at least 4 years of college). Persons at the upper and lower extremes of the educational scale are more likely to report lack of citizenship as their reason for not being registered.

One-time voters.--The final two tables, 18 and 19, take a closer look at those who reported that they voted for President in 1964 and also reported that they did not vote at all in 1968. These tables present data on reported registration in 1968 as well as on reported reasons for nonregistration. (Noncitizens are excluded from these tables as not likely to have voted in 1964.) Among the reasons for nonregistration, failure to meet residence requirements and inability to register for a specific reason are relatively more important for this group than for all 1968 nonvoters. Table 18 shows that for persons 25 and above, as age increases there

was a greater likelihood for these 1968 nonvoters to be registered--60 percent were registered in the 65 and older group as compared with 32 percent of those 25 to 34 years of age.

The proportion of 1964 voters who reported that they did not vote in 1968, but were registered to vote, was 59 percent for those with 4 years or less of schooling but only 25 percent for persons who had studied beyond the undergraduate college level. Among the most highly educated, failure to meet residence requirements is by far the most important reason reported for not being registered. Lack of interest is the most important reason for those who finished from 8 to 12 years of school, while for those who did not complete grade school, being unable to register and disinterest are the most important reasons mentioned.

EVALUATION OF THE ACCURACY OF THE DATA

In the November 1968 Current Population Survey supplement on voting, 78.5 million of the 116.5 million persons of voting age in the civilian non-institutional population were reported (by themselves or by members of their households) as having voted for President in the 1968 election. Official counts show 73.0 million votes cast for President.¹ The survey estimate is 7.4 percent higher than the official count of votes cast for President.

The 1964 and 1966 surveys of the Bureau of the Census on voting both resulted in similar overestimates of the official count of votes cast. The reports of those surveys, Series P-20, Nos. 143 and 174, contain analyses of the possible reasons for this difference. Much of the discussion in those reports is applicable here.

In summary, several general reasons were advanced to account for the different estimates of the number of voters. There appears to be a tendency for persons to overreport their voter participation because of a reluctance to admit a dereliction in civic responsibility. Associated with this reason is the assumption by the respondent, in some instances, 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

¹Votes cast in 1968 based on U.S. Congress, Clerk of the House, The Presidential Election of November 1968, corrected to April 15, 1969.

has been found to be high. Finally, the total number of persons reporting that they cast votes for President could be expected to be higher than the official count because some ballots are invalidated--perhaps 1 or 2 percent, according to independent studies.

The 1964 survey on voting resulted in an estimate of the total number of voters that was about 8.5 percent higher than the official count of votes cast for President. The 1968 survey, in addition to asking for information on voter participation in the 1968 election, also asked persons of voting age if they had voted for President in 1964. Asking this retrospective question introduced a possible memory bias into the data in this report on voting in 1964. This bias tends toward a further overstatement of voter participation. For instance, in the 1964 survey conducted just after the 1964 election, 69 percent of the persons 21 years old and over reported that they had voted. In the 1968 survey conducted just after the 1968 election, 74 percent of persons 25 years old and over reported that they had voted for President in 1964. This is basically the same cohort as in 1964; however, there has been some change in the universe due to the combined effect of sampling difference, deaths, movement in and out of the Armed Forces, and international migration.

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. Explanations similar to those cited in this report have been given by these groups to account for the discrepancies.² However, in spite of these limitations, the differences in levels of voting and registration behavior among various subgroups in the population presented here are believed to be genuine differences.

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 1968 Presidential election are contained in the report Series P-20, No. 177.

Data on voter participation by social and economic characteristics of the population of voting age in the 1964 Presidential election and in the 1966 Congressional election were published in the reports Series P-20, No. 143, and No. 174, respectively.

²For a recent discussion of responses to voting surveys, see Aage R. Clausen, "Response Validity: Vote Report," Public Opinion Quarterly, Vol. XXXII, No. 4, Winter 1968-69, pp. 588-606.

Estimates of the population of voting age for the United States, regions, divisions, and States for November 1, 1968 were published in Series P-25, No. 406.

Data on the social and economic characteristics by reported voter participation of the population of voting age in the 1966 and 1964 elections and estimates of the population of voting age for the United States, regions, divisions, and States, as of November 1, 1968, 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 the report Series P-23, No. 14.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage.--The data in this report were collected in conjunction with the November 1968 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 voting 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 1968 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 for 1968 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 recent Presidential election. Did (this person) vote in the election held on November 5th, (pause) or did something keep (this person) from voting?"

Those of voting age are classified as "voted" or "did not vote." The "did not vote" class includes those reported as "did not vote" or "do not know if voted" and nonrespondents, except in tables 18 and 19 where the "did not vote" class includes only those reported as "did not vote."

Data shown in this report on voting for President in 1968 and 1964 were derived from questions asked in 1968. The question referring to 1964 was as follows:

"Thinking back to 1964, did (this person) vote for someone for President that year?"

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?"

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.

Reasons 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:

"What was the main reason (this person) was not registered to vote?"

The answer was recorded in one of the following categories:

- Not a citizen of the United States
- Had not lived here long enough to be qualified to vote
- Not interested, just never got around to it, dislikes politics, etc.
- Unable to register because of illness, no transportation, couldn't take time off from work, etc.
- Other reason
- Don't know

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

Race.--The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: white, Negro, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except white and Negro.

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.

Head.--One person in each household is designated as the "head." The head is usually the person regarded as the head by the members of the group.

Primary family.--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.

Years of school completed.--Data on years of school completed in this report were derived from the combination of answers to two questions: (a) "What is the highest grade of school he has ever attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?" The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools.

Labor force and employment status.--The definitions of labor force and employment status in this report relate to the population 14 years old and over.

Employed.--Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed.--Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific jobseeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Civilian labor force.--The "civilian labor force" is comprised of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

Not in the labor force.--All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season, and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as 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 1968 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 who were classified as having no income in the preceding 12 months 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 of 1968 in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. The sample is spread over 449 areas comprising 863 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 50,000 occupied housing units are designated for interview each month. Of this number 2,250 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 50,000, there are also about 8,500 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

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, race,

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.

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 table B 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 ERRORS OF ESTIMATED NUMBERS

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000.....	10,000	2,500,000.....	98,000
50,000.....	14,000	5,000,000.....	137,000
100,000.....	20,000	10,000,000....	189,000
250,000.....	31,000	25,000,000....	276,000
500,000.....	44,000	50,000,000....	329,000
1,000,000....	63,000		

Table C contains the standard errors of estimated percentages. 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 upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors.--Table I of this report shows that 6,300,000 Negroes reported that they had voted in the November 1968 election. Table B shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 151,000. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a figure differing from a complete census by less than

151,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a figure differing from a complete census by less than 302,000 (twice the standard error).

Of these 6,300,000, 3,446,000, or 54.7 percent, are women. Table C shows the standard error of 54.7 percent on a base of 6,300,000 to be approximately 1.3 percent. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 54.7 would be within 1.3 percent of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 2.6 percent of a census figure, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be between 52.1 and 57.3 percent.

Table C.--STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)								
	100	250	500	1,000	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
2 or 98.....	2.8	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	4.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
10 or 90.....	6.0	3.8	2.7	1.9	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
20 or 80.....	7.9	5.0	3.6	2.5	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3
25 or 75.....	8.6	5.4	3.8	2.7	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.3
50.....	9.9	6.3	4.4	3.1	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3