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## UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT IN TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES: OCTOBER 1970

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OF COMMERCE  
Social and Economic  
Statistics Administration  
 Bureau of Economic  
Analysis  
U.S. Bureau of the Census

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT IN TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES: OCTOBER 1970

There were 6.3 million students 16 to 34 years old enrolled in the first four years of college in October 1970. About 1.7 million, or 27 percent, of these students reported that they were enrolled in two-year colleges, and 2.2 million, or 36 percent, reported that they were enrolled in the first two years of four-year colleges.<sup>1</sup> The students enrolled in two-year colleges comprised 43 percent of all the 3.9 million students enrolled in either two-year colleges or the first two years of four-year colleges (table A). These findings are based on results from the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census in October

1970 and relate to the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 34 years old enrolled in the first four years of college.

There were 482,000 Negroes enrolled in the first four years of college in October 1970. About 336,000, or 70 percent of these Negro students were enrolled in the first two years of college. Negro students comprised 8 percent of all undergraduate students and a similar proportion of the students enrolled in the first two years of college (table B).

### Students Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges

The students enrolled in two-year colleges differed in their demographic and socioeconomic

<sup>1</sup>There were 205,000 undergraduate students who did not report whether they were attending a two-year or a four-year college.

**Table A. Type of College, Year of Enrollment, Sex, and Residence of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in the First Four Years of College: October 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Residence and sex	Total, under- graduate enrollment	Type of college			
		2-year colleges	4-year colleges (year)		Not reported
			1st and 2nd	3rd and 4th	
Total, 16 to 34 years.....	6,274	1,692	2,244	2,133	205
Male.....	3,627	1,001	1,206	1,319	101
Female.....	2,646	691	1,038	814	103
Residence					
Metropolitan areas.....	4,401	1,220	1,507	1,525	149
Inside central cities.....	1,870	457	687	660	66
Outside central cities.....	2,530	763	820	864	83
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,873	472	737	608	56
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION					
Total, 16 to 34 years.....	100.0	27.0	35.8	34.0	3.3
Male.....	100.0	27.6	33.3	36.4	2.8
Female.....	100.0	26.1	39.2	30.8	3.9
Residence					
Metropolitan areas.....	100.0	27.7	34.2	34.7	3.4
Inside central cities.....	100.0	24.4	36.7	35.3	3.5
Outside central cities.....	100.0	30.2	32.4	34.2	3.3
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	100.0	25.2	39.3	32.5	3.0

**Table B. Year of College, Age, and Race of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in the First Four Years of College: October 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian non-institutional population)

Race and age	Total, undergraduate enrollment	Year of college	
		1st and 2nd year	3rd and 4th year
<b>ALL RACES</b>			
Total, 16 to 34 years old.....	6,274	3,951	2,323
Percent.....	100.0	63.0	37.0
16 to 19 years old..	2,854	2,693	161
20 and 21 years old.	1,803	467	1,336
22 to 24 years old..	866	366	502
25 to 34 years old..	750	427	326
<b>NEGRO</b>			
Total, 16 to 34 years old.....	482	336	146
Percent.....	100.0	69.7	30.3
16 to 19 years old..	213	200	13
20 and 21 years old.	149	61	88
22 to 24 years old..	55	33	22
25 to 34 years old..	68	45	23

characteristics from those enrolled in the first two years of four-year colleges. The students enrolled in two-year colleges were older than those enrolled in four year colleges. Forty-seven percent of the two-year college students were 20 years old or older as compared with only about 23 percent of the four-year college students. Men made up a larger proportion of the two-year college students, 59 percent, than they did of the four-year college students, 54 percent. The two-year college students were about twice as likely to be married as were the four-year college students, 23 percent and 11 percent, respectively. The two-year college students were more likely to live in metropolitan areas but outside the central cities than were the four-year college students, 45 percent and 37 percent, respectively. The two-year college students were more likely to live in the West, 34 percent, than were the four-year college students, 14 percent (table C).

Most two-year colleges are public community colleges serving a small area and financed by local and State governments. As a result, relatively few two-year college students were enrolled in private colleges. In October 1970, 92 percent of all students 16 to 34 years old

enrolled in junior colleges were attending publicly supported colleges as compared with about 73 percent of the first- and second-year students in four-year colleges (table D).

The two-year college students were about three times as likely to attend college on a part-time basis as were the students enrolled in four-year colleges. In October 1970, 30 percent of all students enrolled in two-year colleges were attending part time as compared with 11 percent of the first- and second-year students attending four-year colleges. Married men attending college part time comprised 16 percent of the men enrolled in two-year colleges but only about 6 percent of the men enrolled in the first- and second-year of four-year colleges. Married women students attending part time also comprised a larger proportion of two-year college enrollment than of four-year college enrollment (table E).

The education of a student's family head had some bearing on the likelihood of his attending a junior college. Students enrolled in two-year colleges in October 1970 were less likely than students enrolled in the first two years of four-year colleges to be from families in which the head had completed four years of college or more. Only about 15 percent of the students in two-year colleges were from families in which the head had completed four years of college or more as compared with 26 percent of the students enrolled in the first two years of four-year colleges. Moreover, 69 percent of the students in two-year colleges (who lived in families) were from families in which the head had not completed a single year of college as compared with 59 percent of the freshmen and sophomores in four-year colleges (table F).

The students enrolled in two-year colleges were less likely to be from families with incomes of \$10,000 or more than were the students enrolled in the first two years of four-year colleges. About 57 percent of the students in two-year colleges who were members of primary families (excluding any students who were family heads or who were married and living with their spouse) lived in families whose incomes were \$10,000 or more as compared with 65 percent of the students in four-year colleges (table G).

In summary, a comparison of students in two-year colleges with those in the first two years of four-year colleges shows that the two-year college students were older, more likely to be men, more likely to live in the West, more likely to be married, more likely to be part-time students, more likely to be from families whose head was not a college graduate, but less likely to be from families with incomes of \$10,000 or more.

**Table C. Age, Sex, Marital Status, and Residence of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age, sex, marital status, residence, and region	2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges	Percent distribution	
			2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges
Total.....	1,692	2,244	100.0	100.0
Age:				
16 to 19 years old.....	895	1,728	52.9	77.0
20 and 21 years old.....	281	219	16.6	9.8
22 to 24 years old.....	234	140	13.8	6.2
25 to 34 years old.....	283	157	16.7	7.0
Sex:				
Male.....	1,001	1,206	59.2	53.7
Female.....	691	1,038	40.8	46.3
Marital status:				
Married, spouse present.....	392	238	23.2	10.6
Male.....	259	151	15.3	6.7
Female.....	133	87	7.9	3.9
Other marital status.....	1,300	2,006	76.8	89.4
Male.....	742	1,055	43.9	47.0
Female.....	558	951	33.0	42.4
Residence:				
Metropolitan areas.....	1,220	1,507	72.1	67.2
Inside central cities.....	457	687	27.0	30.6
Outside central cities.....	763	820	45.1	36.5
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	472	737	27.9	32.8
Region:				
Northeast.....	329	579	19.4	25.8
North Central.....	378	713	22.3	31.8
South.....	404	649	23.9	28.9
West.....	582	303	34.4	13.5

Note: Excludes 205,000 students who did not report on type of college.

**Table D. Control of College, Full-Time and Part-Time Enrollment, and Marital Status of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Control of college, full-time and part-time enrollment, and marital status	2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges	Percent distribution	
			2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges
Total.....	1,692	2,244	100.0	100.0
Public.....	1,559	1,633	92.1	72.8
Private.....	133	611	7.9	27.2
Full time.....	1,177	2,004	69.6	89.3
Married, spouse present.....	123	126	7.3	5.6
Other marital status.....	1,054	1,878	62.3	83.7
Part time.....	515	240	30.4	10.7
Married, spouse present.....	269	112	15.9	5.0
Other marital status.....	246	128	14.5	5.7

Note: Excludes 205,000 students who did not report on type of college.

Figure 1.--Age of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970

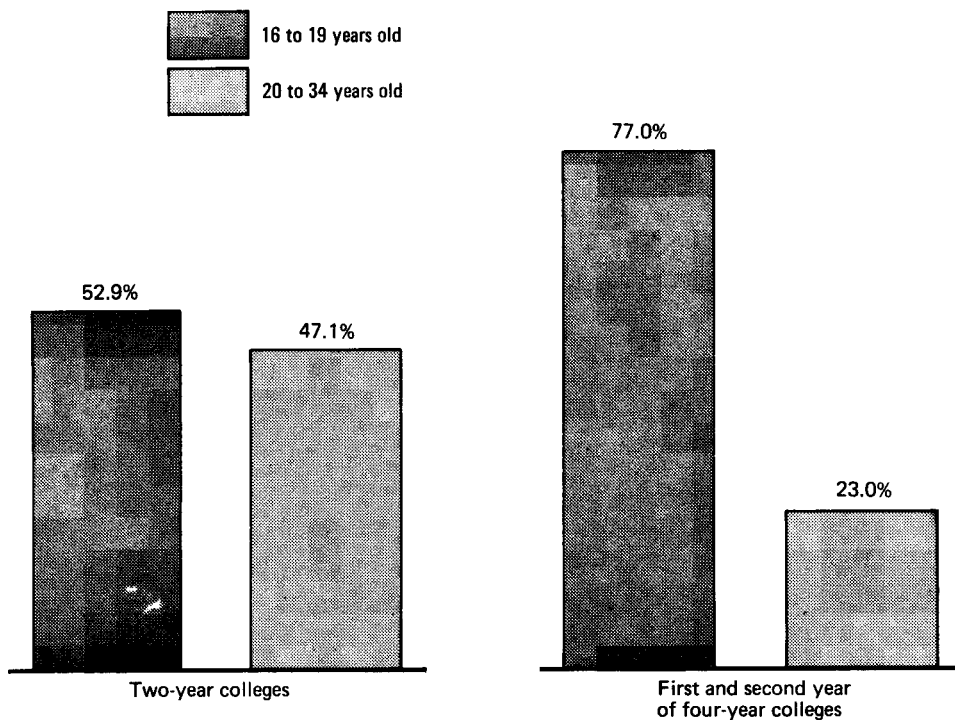


Table E. Marital Status, Sex, and Full-Time and Part-Time Enrollment of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Sex, marital status, and full-time and part-time enrollment	2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges	Percent distribution	
			2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges
Male.....	1,001	1,206	100.0	100.0
Married, wife present.....	259	151	25.9	12.5
Enrolled full time.....	94	84	9.4	7.0
Enrolled part time.....	165	67	16.5	5.6
Other marital status.....	742	1,055	74.1	87.5
Enrolled full time.....	632	1,003	63.1	83.2
Enrolled part time.....	110	52	11.0	4.3
Female.....	691	1,038	100.0	100.0
Married, husband present.....	133	87	19.2	8.4
Enrolled full time.....	29	42	4.2	4.0
Enrolled part time.....	104	45	15.1	4.3
Other marital status.....	558	951	80.8	91.6
Enrolled full time.....	423	875	61.2	84.3
Enrolled part time.....	135	76	19.5	7.3

Note: Excludes 205,000 students who did not report on type of college.



Figure 2.--Sex of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970

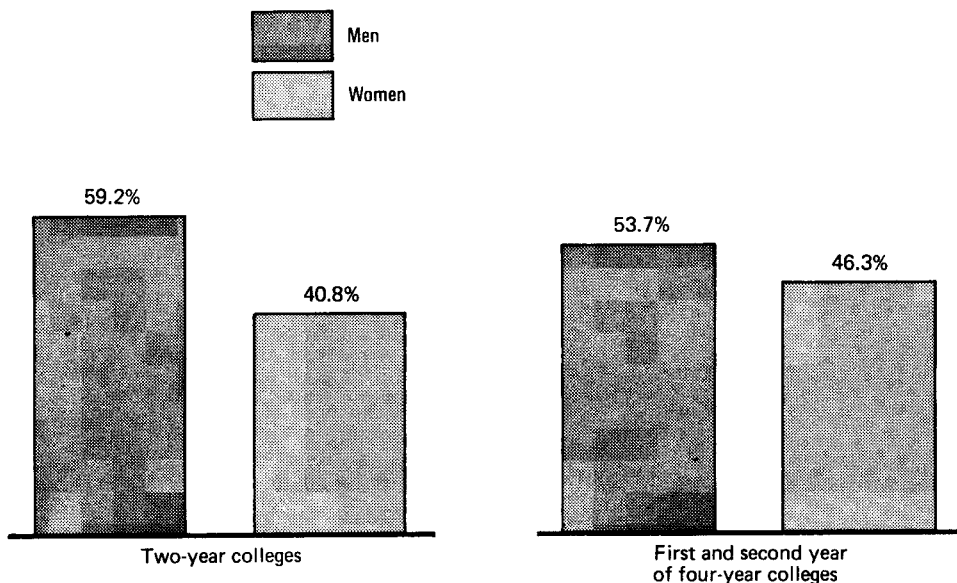
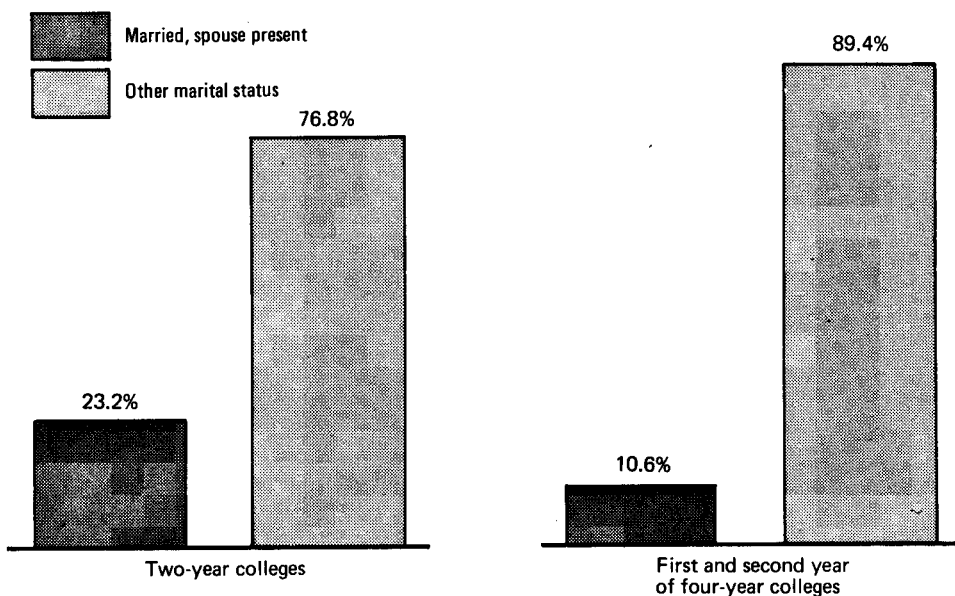
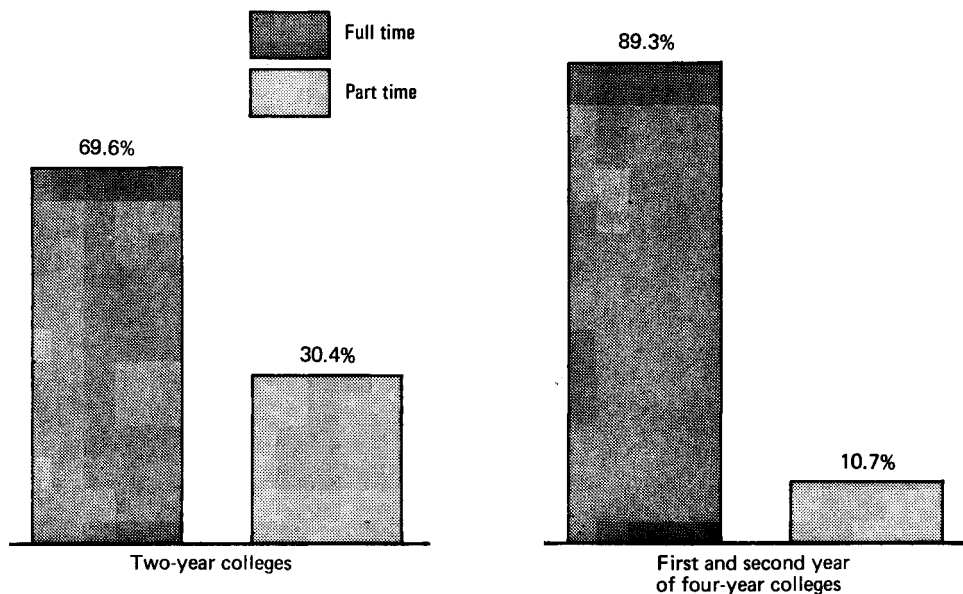


Figure 3.--Marital Status of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970

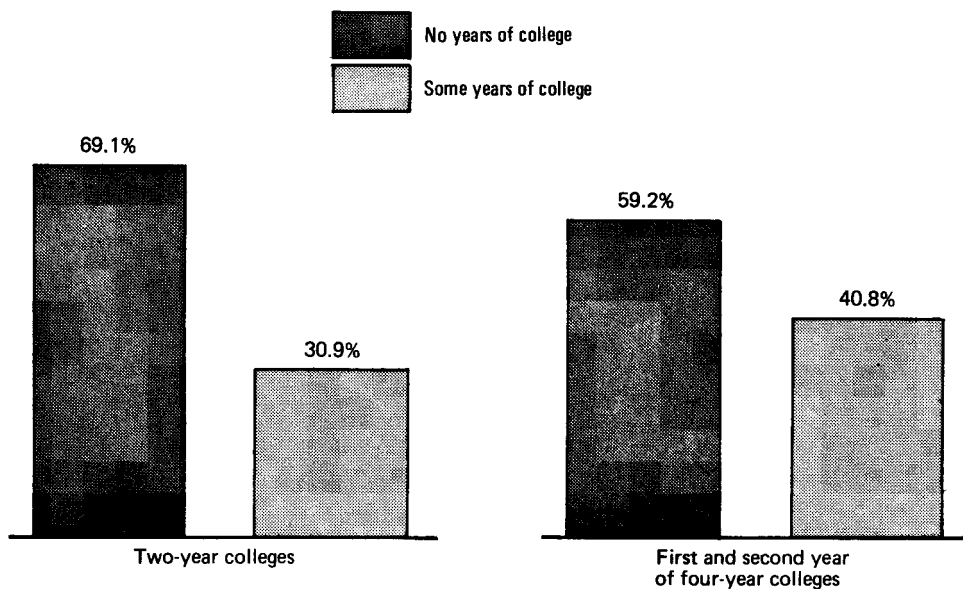


**Figure 4.--Full-Time and Part-Time Enrollment of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970**



**Figure 5.--Years of School Completed by Family Head of Primary Family Members 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970**

(Excludes family members who are family heads and family members who are married, spouse present)



**Table F. Years of School Completed by Family Head of Primary Family Members 16 to 34 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population. Excludes family members who are family heads and family members who are married, spouse present. Excludes persons in families whose head is a member of the Armed Forces)

Years of school completed by family head	2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges	Percent distribution	
			2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges
Total.....	1,141	1,872	100.0	100.0
Elementary: 0 to 7 years.....	69	98	6.0	5.2
8 years.....	105	143	9.2	7.6
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	191	243	16.7	13.0
4 years.....	424	625	37.2	33.4
College: 1 to 3 years.....	181	274	15.9	14.6
4 years or more.....	171	489	15.0	26.1

Note: Excludes 154,000 students who did not report on type of college.

**Table G. Family Income of Primary Family Members 18 to 24 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population. Excludes family members who are married, spouse present. Income for preceding 12 months)

Family income	2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges	Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>	
			2-year colleges	1st and 2nd year of 4-year colleges
Total.....	1,069	1,712	100.0	100.0
Under \$3,000.....	28	45	2.8	2.8
\$3,000 to \$4,999.....	60	79	6.0	5.0
\$5,000 to \$7,499.....	168	181	16.7	11.5
\$7,500 to \$9,999.....	177	242	17.6	15.3
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	301	508	29.9	32.2
\$15,000 and over.....	275	522	27.3	33.0
Not reported.....	61	132	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Excluding those "not reported" on family income.

Note: Excludes 145,000 students who did not report on type of college.

## RELATED REPORTS

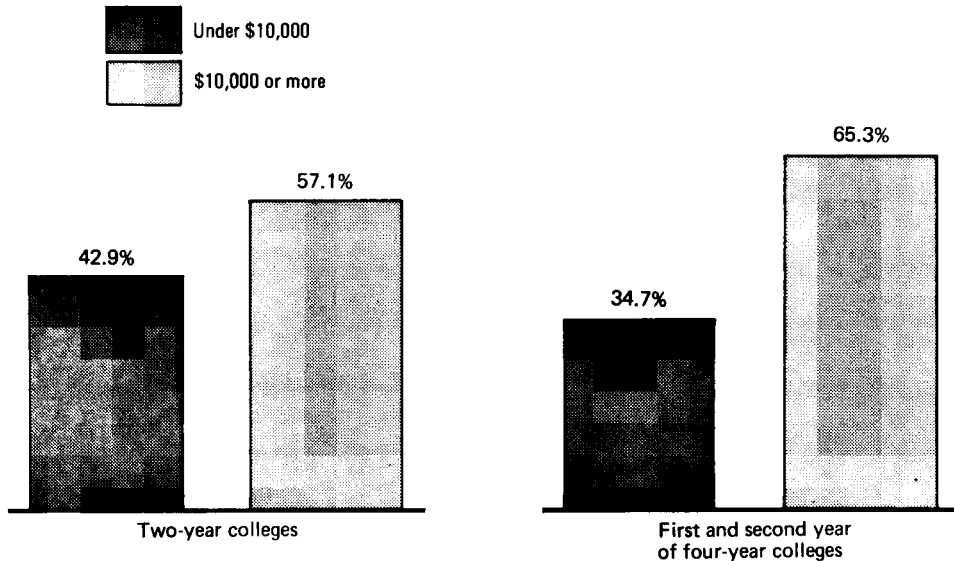
Data on school enrollment for all levels for October 1970 were presented in Series P-20, No. 222. Statistics on school enrollment for October in the years prior to 1970 have been published in other reports in Series P-20. Statistics on college attendance and related factors, including type of college, living arrangements, marital status, field of specialization and college rank, can be found in "Characteristics of Students and Their Colleges: October 1966," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 183.

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 Survey differ from decennial census data for reasons in addition to the difference

**Figure 6.--Family Income of Primary Family Members 18 to 24 Years Old Enrolled in Two-Year Colleges and the First Two Years of Four-Year Colleges: October 1970**

(Excludes family members who are married, spouse present. Income for preceding 12 months)



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 college enrollment 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.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. Except in New England, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1960 census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes.

The population inside SMSA's is further classified as "in central cities" and "outside central cities." With a few exceptions, central cities are determined according to the following criteria:

1. The largest city in an SMSA is always a central city.

2. One or two additional cities may be secondary central cities on the basis and in the order of the following criteria:

a. The additional city or cities have at least 250,000 inhabitants.

b. The additional city or cities have a population of one-third or more of that of the largest city and a minimum population 25,000.

Geographic regions. The four major regions of the United States, for which data are presented in this report, represent groups of States, as follows:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Poverty Areas. Poverty areas were determined by first ranking census tracts in SMSA's of 250,000 or more according to the relative presence (as reported in the 1960 census) of each of five equally weighted poverty-linked characteristics, and then combining these rankings into an overall measure termed a "poverty index." The five socioeconomic characteristics used to construct this poverty index were:

1. Percent of families with money incomes under \$3,000 in 1959.

2. Percent of children under 18 years old not living with both parents.

3. Percent of males 25 years old and over with less than 8 years of school completed.

4. Percent of unskilled males (laborers and service workers) in the employed civilian labor force.

5. Percent of housing units dilapidated or lacking some or all plumbing facilities.

After each tract had been ranked by the poverty index, those falling in the lowest quartile were designated as "poor" tracts.

In an attempt to approximate neighborhood concentrations of poverty, the following Poverty Area definition was developed:

1. Any area having five or more contiguous poor tracts regardless of the number of families contained within.

2. Any area of one to four contiguous poor tracts, containing an aggregate of 4,000 or more families.

3. Any area of one or two contiguous tracts not ranked in the lowest quartile that was completely surrounded by poor tracts. In some cases, areas of three or four contiguous tracts, not themselves poor but surrounded by poor tracts, were included in the neighborhood after analysis of their characteristics. Areas of five or more contiguous tracts not ranked in the lowest quartile but surrounded by poor tracts were not designated as poor tracts.

Because poverty designations were based on 1960 census data, it was considered desirable to update these designations on the basis of information on subsequent urban renewal received from local renewal agencies. Any tract where 50 percent or more of the 1960 population was displaced as a result of clearance, rehabilitation, or code enforcement was then further examined on the basis of location as follows:

1. Any previously poor tract completely surrounded by poor tracts was retained as part of the Poverty Area.

2. Any previously poor tract not completely surrounded by poor tracts was excluded from the final Poverty Area designation.

3. A "nonpoor" tract originally surrounded by poor tracts which no longer remained surrounded was also deleted from the final Poverty Area designation.

College enrollment. The college enrollment statistics are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person was enrolled in college. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current term of school year in any type of regular college or university. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Thus, regular college is school that may advance a person toward a college or university degree. The statistics on college enrollment shown in this report refer only to undergraduate enrollment, that is to enrollment in the first four years of college.

Two-year and four-year college. Students enrolled in the first three years of college were asked to report whether the college in which they were enrolled was a two-year college (junior or community college). Those who replied "yes" were classified as enrolled in a two-year college. Those who replied "no" were classified as enrolled in a four-year college.

Public or private college. In this report, a public college is defined as any institution of higher education operated by publicly elected or appointed officials and supported by public funds. Private colleges included institutions established and operated by religious bodies, as well as those which are under other private control. In cases where enrollment was in a 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. 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.

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

Family. The term "family," as used here, refers to a group of two persons or more related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of one family.

Head of family. One person in each family residing together was designated as the head. The head of a family is usually the person regarded as the head by members of the family. Women are not classified as heads if their husbands are resident members of the family at the time of the survey.

Family members. For the purpose of this report, the term "family members" is often used to include only relatives of the household head, excluding the head's wife or any other relative who is married with a spouse present. Such persons are generally sons and daughters of the household head. However, members who are living away from home while attending college are also counted as family members, if they are not married with a spouse present. Whenever the term "family members" is used in this restricted sense an appropriate footnote is included. These "family members" are identical with the universe of "dependent family members" used in previous school enrollment reports.

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. Such schools include graded public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day schools or night schools. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling in other than regular schools was counted only if the credits obtained were regarded as transferable to a school in the regular school system.

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 surveys. It should be noted



Table I. Standard Errors for Estimated Numbers, Negro and Other Races

(Numbers in thousands. 68 chances out of 100)

Estimated number of persons	Total persons in age, sex group						
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
10.....	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
20.....	6.6	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4
30.....	7.6	8.5	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.1
40.....	8.2	9.6	10.1	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.5
50.....	8.3	10.5	11.1	11.4	11.6	11.7	11.7
75.....	7.3	12.1	13.3	13.8	14.2	14.3	14.3
100.....	-	12.9	14.9	16.0	16.0	16.0	17.0
200.....	-	10.7	18.0	21.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
300.....	-	-	18.0	24.0	27.0	28.0	28.0
400.....	-	-	15.0	26.0	30.0	32.0	33.0
500.....	-	-	-	26.0	33.0	35.0	36.0
750.....	-	-	-	23.0	38.0	42.0	44.0
1,000.....	-	-	-	-	41.0	47.0	50.0
2,000.....	-	-	-	-	34.0	58.0	66.0
3,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	58.0	76.0
4,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	48.0	82.0
5,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	83.0
7,500.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	73.0
10,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table J. Total Persons in Age, Sex Groups

(Numbers in thousands)

Age group	Total		Negro	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
16 to 34.....	26,100	28,754	2,892	3,389
16 to 19....	7,224	7,433	897	959
20 to 21.....	2,651	3,467	332	432
22 to 24.....	4,385	5,091	474	575
25 to 34.....	11,840	12,763	1,189	1,423

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 in this report are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census, 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. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate

from the survey differs from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 90 out of 100 that this difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error, and the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

All statements of comparison appearing in the text are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better, and most are significant at a level of more than 2.0 standard errors. This means that for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. Statements of comparison qualified in some way (e.g., by the use of the phrase, "some evidence") have a level of significance between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors.

The figures presented in tables H, I, K and L 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 provided are an indication of the order of magnitude, rather than the precise standard error for any specific item. As calculated for this report the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and interviewer errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. Tables H and I, in



conjunction with table J, contain the standard errors of estimated numbers for a given class of persons age 16 to 34 enrolled in college.

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. Tables K and L contain the standard errors of the estimated percentages.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors. Table A of this report shows that 1,692,000 in the age group 16-34 are enrolled in 2-year colleges. Table J shows there are 54,854,000 persons 16-34. Interpolation in table H shows the standard error on an estimate of

this size to be approximately 57,000. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 57,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 114,000, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 1,578,000 to 1,806,000.

Of these 1,692,000, 691,000 or 40.8 percent were female. Interpolation in table K shows the standard error of 40.8 percent on a base of 1,692,000 to be approximately 1.8 percent. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the 40.8 percent would be within 1.8 percentage points of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 3.6 percentage points of a complete census figure, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 37.2 to 44.4 percent.

**Table K. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages, Total or White Population**

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)									
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
2 or 98.....	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	3.1	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
10 or 90.....	4.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
25 or 75.....	6.2	3.9	2.8	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
50.....	7.2	4.5	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2

**Table L. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages, Negro and Other Races**

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)							
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
2 or 98.....	3.3	2.3	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
5 or 95.....	5.1	3.6	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4
10 or 90.....	7.1	5.0	3.2	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5
25 or 75.....	10.2	7.2	4.6	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7
50.....	11.8	8.4	5.3	3.7	2.6	1.7	1.2	0.8