

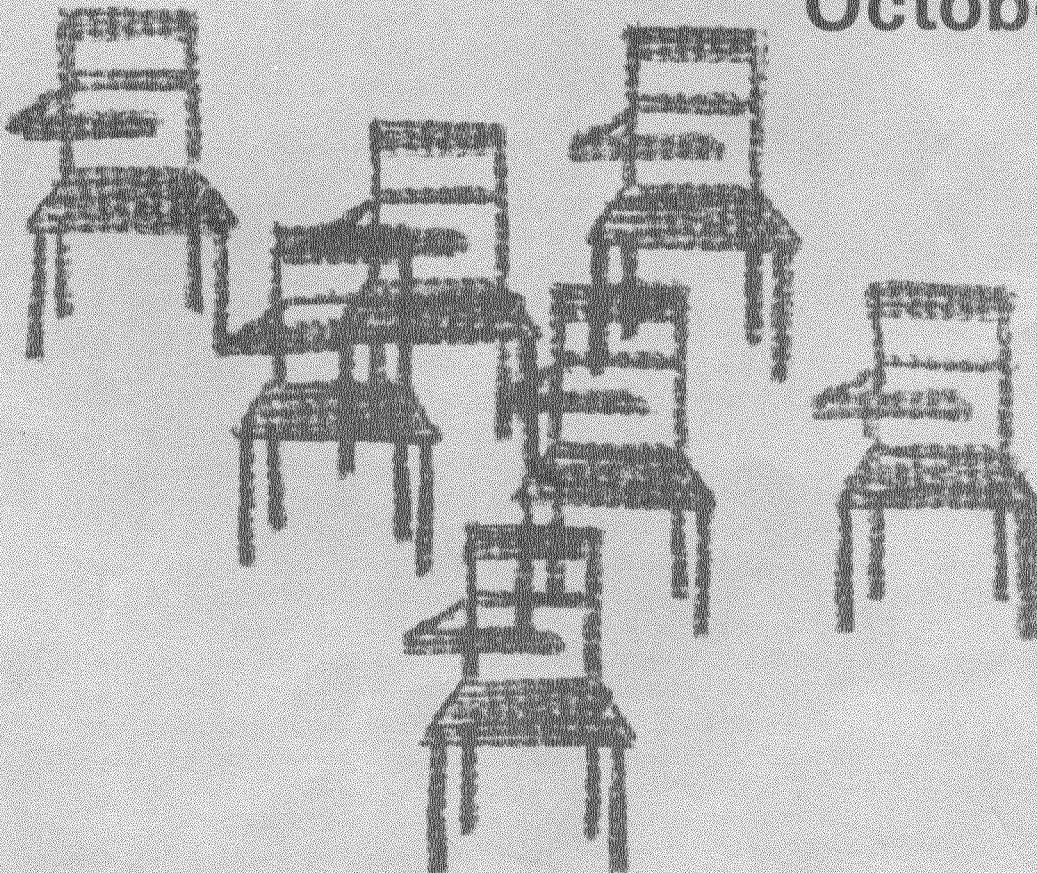


# Population Characteristics

U.S. Department of Commerce  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Series P-20, No. 346  
Issued October 1979

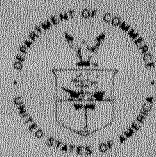
## School Enrollment— Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1978



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#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# Contents

	Page
Introduction . . . . .	1
Relative progress of men and women through school . . . . .	1
College enrollment of men and women . . . . .	2
Undergraduate enrollment . . . . .	4
Enrollment in graduate schools . . . . .	6
Family membership and marital status of college students . . . . .	7
Conclusion . . . . .	8

## TEXT TABLES

Table		
A.	Changes in enrollment between 1970 and 1978 for persons 3 to 34 years old . . . . .	1
B.	Enrollment in college, by sex and age: 1978 and 1970 . . . . .	3
C.	Year enrolled for college students 18 to 34 years old, by age and sex: 1978 and 1970 . . . . .	3
D.	College enrollment of persons 16 to 34 years old, by level and sex: 1978 and 1970 . . . . .	4
E.	Enrollment in 2-year colleges for freshmen and sophomores, by age and sex: 1978 and 1970 . . . . .	4
F.	Full-time and part-time enrollment of freshmen and sophomores 18 to 34 years old, by type of college and sex: 1978 and 1970 . . . . .	5
G.	Graduate enrollment, by sex, age, and enrollment status: 1978 and 1970 . . . . .	7
H.	Marital status and family membership of persons 18 to 24 years old, by college enrollment status and sex: 1978 and 1970 . . . . .	7
I.	Marital status of college students 25 to 34 years old, by level and type of college and sex: 1978 and 1970 . . . . .	8

## CHARTS

Figure		
1.	Proportion of male and female college students with selected characteristics: 1970 and 1978.	2
2.	Number of men and women 18 to 22 years old enrolled in college, by level: 1970-1973 and 1975-1978 . . . . .	6

## DETAILED TABLES

Table		
1.	Enrollment status of the population 3 to 34 years old, by age, sex, race, and Spanish origin . . . . .	11
2.	Enrollment status of the population 3 to 34 years old, by level of education and metropolitan residence . . . . .	13
3.	Level of enrollment of the population 3 to 34 years old, by control of school and metropolitan residence . . . . .	18
4.	Enrollment status and level of school for the population 3 years old and over . . . . .	21
5.	Full-day attendance status for children 3 to 6 years old in nursery school and kindergarten, by level and control of school and metropolitan residence . . . . .	22
6.	College enrollment of the population 16 to 34 years old, by full-time attendance . . . . .	23

## Contents—Continued

### DETAILED TABLES—CONTINUED

Table	Page
7. Enrollment status in 1978 of the population 14 to 24 years old, by enrollment status in 1977 . . . . .	24
8. Year of high school graduation for persons 16 to 34 years old, by selected education characteristics . . . . .	27
9. Enrollment status of the population 3 to 34 years old, by region of residence . . . . .	29
10. Marital status of the population 14 to 34 years old, by enrollment status, level of school, and full-time attendance . . . . .	30
11. Years of school completed by family head, by enrollment status, for primary family members 3 to 34 years old . . . . .	32
12. Primary families, by enrollment status and family income for primary family members 18 to 24 years old . . . . .	39
13. Family income for primary family members 18 to 24 years old, by enrollment status, level of school, and marital status . . . . .	41
14. Enrollment status of primary family members 3 to 17 years old, by family income . . . . .	45
15. Single grade of enrollment, by single years of age, for persons 3 to 34 years old . . . . .	49
16. Modal grade of enrollment, by single years of age, for persons 3 to 21 years old . . . . .	52
17. Characteristics of students 35 years old and over . . . . .	54
18. Undergraduate college enrollment of persons 14 to 34 years old, by type of college and metropolitan residence . . . . .	55
19. Undergraduate college enrollment of persons 16 to 34 years old, by full-time attendance and sex . . . . .	56
20. Undergraduate college enrollment of persons 16 to 34 years old, by year of high school graduation and sex . . . . .	58
21. Undergraduate college enrollment of persons 14 to 24 years old, by enrollment status in October 1977 and sex . . . . .	59
22. Undergraduate college enrollment of persons 14 to 34 years old, by region . . . . .	60
23. Undergraduate college enrollment of persons 14 to 34 years old, by marital status and sex . . . . .	61
24. Undergraduate college enrollment of primary family members 14 to 34 years old, by years of school completed by family head . . . . .	62
25. Undergraduate college enrollment of primary family members 18 to 24 years old, by family income . . . . .	63

### APPENDIXES

Appendix A. Supplementary Longitudinal Tables . . . . .	65
Table	
A-1. Percent enrolled in school for the population 3 to 34 years old, by age, sex, and race: October 1968 to October 1978 . . . . .	65
A-2. Age distribution of college students 14 to 34 years old, by sex: October 1947 to October 1978 . . . . .	67
A-3. College enrollment of men and women and armed forces participation of men 18 to 24 years old: October 1960 to October 1978 . . . . .	68
Appendix B. Definitions and Explanations . . . . .	69

# Contents—Continued

## APPENDIXES—Continued

	Page
Appendix C. Source and Reliability of the Estimates . . . . .	72
Table	
C-1. CPS sample sizes from October 1967 to October 1978 . . . . .	73
C-2. Standard errors for estimated numbers of persons: Total or White . . . . .	75
C-3. Standard errors for estimated numbers of persons: Black and other races . . . . .	75
C-4. Standard errors for estimated numbers of persons: Spanish origin . . . . .	76
C-5. Standard errors of estimated percentages: Total or White population . . . . .	76
C-6. Standard errors of estimated percentages: Black and other races . . . . .	76
C-7. Standard errors of estimated percentages: Persons of Spanish origin . . . . .	77
C-8. "f" Factors to be applied to tables C-2 through C-7 to approximate standard errors . . . . .	77

### SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
- B Base less than 75,000.
- NA Not available.
- . . . Not applicable.

# School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1978

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents an analysis of trends since 1970 in school and college enrollment with special emphasis on the recent increase in the number and proportion of women enrolled in college. The statistical tables present 1978 data for students attending nursery school through college by such characteristics as age, race, Spanish origin, sex, marital status, household relationship, and family income level. These tables are limited to enrollment of the civilian noninstitutional population in regular schools thus excluding enrollment in special schools, vocational schools, and adult education classes. An advance report, also based on the October 1978 Current Population Survey data, covered changes in the number of persons enrolled in school and was released earlier as **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 335.

In October 1978, about 58.6 million persons 3 to 34 years old were enrolled in school at all levels, about 1.7 million less than the number enrolled in October 1970 (table A). While the number of students enrolled in nursery school and high school increased during this period, these increases were greatly outweighed by the continued decline in the number of persons enrolled in elementary school; in 1978, the number of persons enrolled in elementary school was 5.5 million less than in 1970.

Changes which occurred in enrollment between 1970 and 1978 were similar for men and for women through the high

school level. At the college level, however, the majority of the increase in enrollment was due to the growth in women's college attendance. While the number of men enrolled in college increased by about 723,000 during the period, the number of women enrolled in college increased by 1.7 million. In 1970, the number of women enrolled in college was about 1.4 million less than the number of men enrolled, but by 1978, this difference had dropped to about 410,000. The increase in college enrollment for women occurred not only for women 18 to 24 years old but also for women 25 to 34 years old (table B).

## RELATIVE PROGRESS OF MEN AND WOMEN THROUGH SCHOOL

Although boys and girls had similar enrollment rates at the high school and elementary school levels, their rate of progress through school was not the same. Traditionally, a higher proportion of boys than of girls are enrolled below the normal grade for their age. (The normal, or modal, grade is the grade in which most persons of a certain age are enrolled.)<sup>1</sup> The proportion of students who were enrolled below the modal grade in 1978 was lower among those of elementary school age than among those of high school age.

<sup>1</sup> See definition section for definition of modal grade. For further discussion of modal grade, See **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 337, "Relative Progress of Children in School: 1976."

**Table A. Changes in Enrollment Between 1970 and 1978 for Persons 3 to 34 Years Old**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Year and sex	Total enrolled	Nursery school	Kindergarten	Elementary grades 1 to 8	High school grades 1 to 4	College
<b>Total, 3 to 34 years:</b>						
1978.....	58,616	1,824	2,989	28,490	15,475	9,838
1970.....	60,357	1,096	3,183	33,950	14,715	7,413
Difference.....	-1,741	728	-194	-5,460	760	2,425
<b>Males, 3 to 34 years:</b>						
1978.....	30,054	959	1,521	14,617	7,833	5,124
1970.....	31,414	572	1,655	17,364	7,422	4,401
Difference.....	-1,360	387	-134	-2,747	411	723
<b>Females, 3 to 34 years:</b>						
1978.....	28,563	865	1,469	13,873	7,642	4,714
1970.....	28,944	524	1,529	16,584	7,294	3,013
Difference.....	-381	341	-60	-2,711	348	1,701



For example, among 8-year-olds in 1978, about 19 percent of the boys and about 14 percent of the girls were enrolled below the normal grade, that is, in the second grade or below. Among 17-year-olds, about 26 percent of the boys and 19 percent of the girls were enrolled below the normal grade, that is, in the third year of high school or below. The greater proportion of boys than girls who were behind in school in October 1978 resulted in a higher proportion of boys who were still enrolled in high school when they were 18 years old. Among persons who were 18 years old, about 20 percent of the men and about 11 percent of the women were still enrolled in high school in 1978. Although more men than women were still enrolled in high school when they were 19 years old, the same proportion of men and women had completed high school by age 21. In 1978, for example, among 20- to 24-year-olds of both sexes, the proportion who had completed high school was about 83 percent (table 1).

### COLLEGE ENROLLMENT OF MEN AND WOMEN

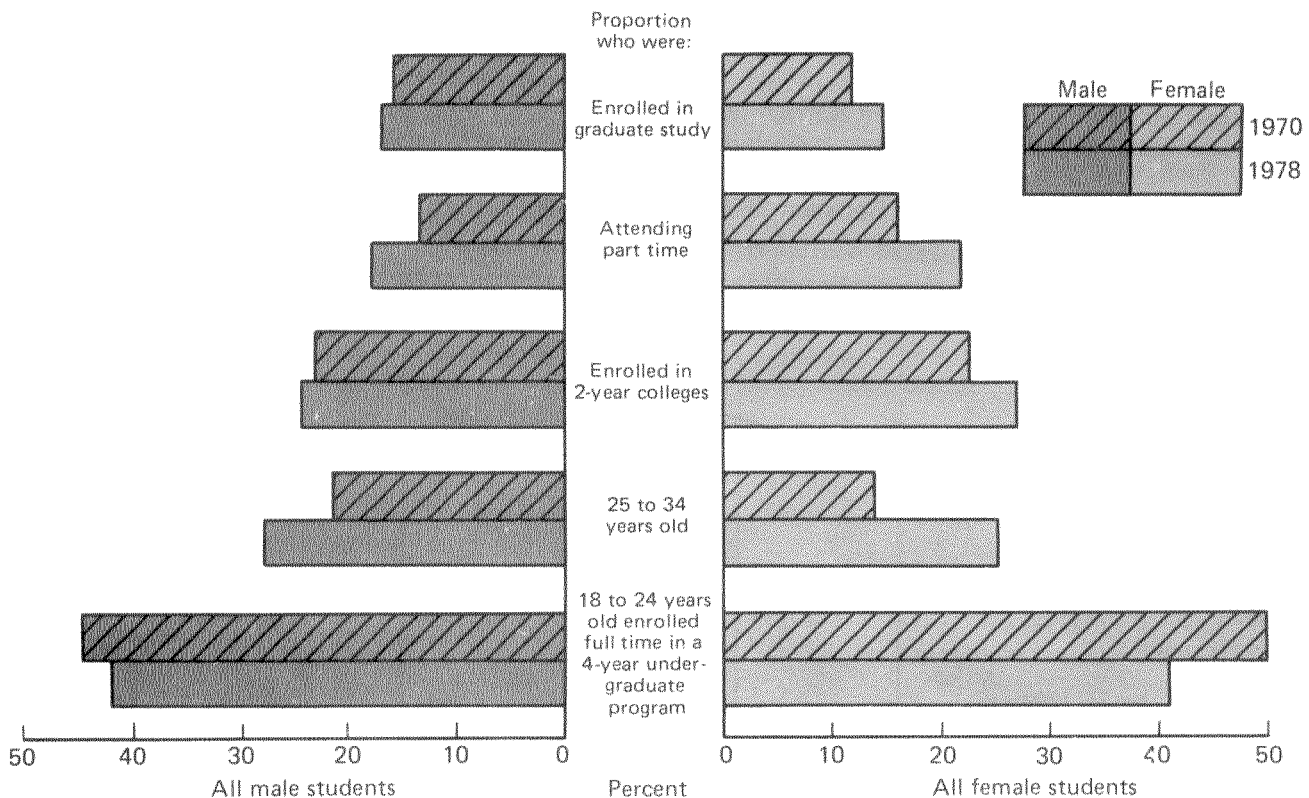
Although women seemed to progress through high school faster than men, they still were less likely to enroll in college. In 1970, among persons 18 and 19 years old, about 35 percent of women and about 40 percent of men were enrolled in college; and in 1978, however, about 35 percent of both men and women enrolled (table B). There was some evidence of a difference in college enrollment rates among those 18- and 19-year-olds who had completed high school;

about 47 percent of the women and 50 percent of the men were enrolled in college. Also, among persons who were 20 to 24 years old, men were still significantly more likely to be enrolled than women. For both men and women, college enrollment rates peaked for the 18- and 19-year-old age group, but the drop by ages 20 and 21 was less pronounced for men than for women. In 1970, about 35 percent of 18- and 19-year-old women were enrolled in college, but only about 22 percent of 20- and 21-year-olds and 9 percent of 22 to 24-year-olds were enrolled (table B). By 1978, it appeared that more women were remaining in college than in 1970 so that higher rates of enrollment occurred for persons 20 to 24 years old. In 1978, much smaller percentages of men 20 to 24 years old were enrolled in college than in 1970.<sup>2</sup>

There is evidence that women are attending college at older ages to complete college degrees begun earlier or even to begin college for the first time. The enrollment rates of women who were 25 to 34 years old in 1978 were approaching those of men (table B). In 1978, twice the

<sup>2</sup> Enrollment rates of these civilian men who were 18 to 24 years old appeared to drop substantially between 1970 and 1978. However, because of the tremendous declines in Armed Forces participation, many more men were included in the civilian population used as the base for enrollment rate calculation in 1978. If Armed Forces and civilian men are combined, the enrollment changes during the period would appear smaller. The rates would decline from 37 percent to 33 percent of 18- and 19-year-olds; from 31 to 28 percent of 20- and 21-year-olds; and remain stable for 22- to 24-year-olds at about 18 percent (table A-3). Further discussion of the relationship between enrollment and Armed Forces participation is contained in *Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 319*.

**FIGURE 1.**  
**Proportion of Male and Female College Students**  
**With Selected Characteristics: 1970 and 1978**





**Table B. Enrollment in College, by Sex and Age: 1978 and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands, Civilian noninstitutional population)

Sex and age	1978			1970		
	Total persons	Number enrolled	Percent enrolled	Total persons	Number enrolled	Percent enrolled
Men, 18 to 34 years.....	29,548	5,017	17.0	22,225	4,271	19.2
18 and 19 years.....	3,975	1,391	35.0	3,349	1,346	40.2
20 and 21 years.....	3,911	1,202	30.7	2,651	1,083	40.9
22 to 24 years.....	5,499	1,028	18.7	4,385	902	20.6
25 to 29 years.....	8,539	922	10.8	6,467	684	10.6
30 to 34 years.....	7,624	474	6.2	5,373	256	4.8
Women, 18 to 34 years.....	31,379	4,546	14.5	24,930	2,883	11.6
18 and 19 years.....	4,178	1,507	36.1	3,609	1,248	34.6
20 and 21 years.....	4,181	1,096	26.2	3,467	774	22.3
22 to 24 years.....	5,903	770	13.0	5,091	452	8.9
25 to 29 years.....	9,050	697	7.7	6,948	255	3.7
30 to 34 years.....	8,067	476	5.9	5,815	154	2.6
18 and 19-year-old high school graduates:						
Men.....	2,772	1,391	50.2	2,337	1,346	57.6
Women.....	3,218	1,507	46.8	2,767	1,248	45.1

**Table C. Year Enrolled for College Students 18 to 34 Years Old, by Age and Sex: 1978 and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands, Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age and year in which enrolled	Men			Women		
	1978	1970	Percent change	1978	1970	Percent change
Persons 18 to 24 years:						
Total enrolled.....	3,622	3,333	8.7	3,370	2,474	36.2
1st and 2d undergraduate.....	1,986	1,810	9.7	1,962	1,457	34.7
3d and 4th undergraduate.....	1,296	1,176	10.2	1,132	823	37.5
5th year or higher graduate.....	340	347	-2.0	276	194	42.3
Persons 25 to 34 years:						
Total enrolled.....	1,397	942	48.3	1,173	409	186.8
1st and 2d undergraduate.....	417	261	59.8	419	166	152.4
3d and 4th undergraduate.....	384	255	50.6	286	71	302.8
5th year or higher graduate.....	596	426	39.9	468	172	172.1

proportion of women in this age range were enrolled as in 1970—about 8 percent of 25- to 29-year-olds and about 6 percent of 30- to 34-year-old women. During the same period, enrollment rates of men remained at about 11 percent for 25- to 29-year-olds and about 5 or 6 percent for 30- to 34-year-olds.

Changes in the age distribution of the population combined with the growth in enrollment rates of persons 25 to 34 years old greatly increased the number of persons over age 25 enrolled in college. Between 1970 and 1978, the number of men and women in the population who were 25 to 34 years old grew by about 35 percent (table B), while the population 18 to 24 years old (including men in the Armed Forces) grew by about 17 percent (table A-3). As a result,

the number of persons in the age group 25 to 34 years old who were enrolled in college underwent the greatest relative increase compared to other age groups. For men 25 to 34 years old, the number enrolled in college increased by about 48 percent (from 940,000 to 1,396,000), while among 18- to 24-year-olds, the number enrolled increased by about 9 percent. Among women in the older age group, the number enrolled increased by about 187 percent (from 409,000 to 1,173,000) while the number in the younger age group who were enrolled increased by about 36 percent (table C). Overall, the growth in the number of 25- to 34-year-old persons enrolled in college was responsible for 51 percent of the 2,404,000 increase in college enrollment between 1970 and 1978. Even with the rapidly increasing enrollment rates

of the 1960's (when the 1978 cohort of 25- to 34-year-olds were first of college age), everyone who planned to attend or complete college did not do so immediately after high school. Their continued enrollment at all levels may be due to several factors: the need to compete for jobs with the largest birth cohort in history, the recognition of the value of college education (especially among those who already completed 1 or more years of college work), the availability of Federal and State government financial support, and the decline in the birth rate which left more women with time to attend college that was formally used in rearing children.

The changes in college enrollment rates are also reflected in the growth of the number of women enrolled compared to men. During the period from 1970 to 1978, the number of women enrolled in college increased from about 3 million to about 4.7 million, while the number of men enrolled increased from 4.4 million to about 5.1 million (table D).

There was some evidence that in 1977 college enrollment rates of persons under 35 were higher than in 1978.<sup>3</sup> As a result of the comparatively greater increases in women's enrollment, the ratio of women to men in college shifted dramatically between 1970 and 1978. In 1970, there were about 69 women per 100 men in college, but by 1978, there were about 92 women per 100 men.

### UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

In 1978, the number of women enrolled in 2-year colleges as well as the first 2 years of 4-year colleges was about equal to the number of men enrolled. This ratio had increased since 1970, when about 78 women had been enrolled for every 100 men (table D). Between 1970 and 1978, enrollment by

<sup>3</sup>This decline seemed to occur mainly among men, while the decline among women was not statistically significant. For a discussion of differences in enrollment between 1977 and 1978, see Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 335.

**Table D. College Enrollment of Persons 16 to 34 Years Old, by Level and Sex: 1978 and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

College level and type	Men		Women		Percent increase between 1970 and 1978	
	1978	1970	1978	1970	Men	Women
Total college enrollment.....	5,124	4,401	4,714	3,013	16.4	56.5
Undergraduate enrollment <sup>1</sup> .....	4,188	3,627	3,969	2,646	15.5	50.0
2-year college.....	1,214	1,001	1,239	691	21.3	79.3
4-year college.....	2,822	2,525	2,579	1,852	11.8	39.3
1st and 2d year.....	1,291	1,206	1,289	1,038	7.1	24.2
3d and 4th year.....	1,531	1,319	1,290	814	16.1	58.5
Graduate enrollment.....	935	774	745	366	20.8	103.6
1st year.....	389	340	383	244	14.4	57.0
2d year and higher.....	546	434	362	122	25.8	196.7

<sup>1</sup>Includes persons who did not report type of undergraduate college.

**Table E. Enrollment in 2-Year Colleges for Freshmen and Sophomores, by Age and Sex: 1978 and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age and sex	1978			1970		
	Freshmen and sophomores	Students in 2-year colleges <sup>1</sup>	Proportion of freshmen and sophomores attending 2-year colleges	Freshmen and sophomores	Students in 2-year colleges <sup>1</sup>	Proportion of freshmen and sophomores attending 2-year colleges
Men, 18 to 34 years...	2,400	1,197	49.9	2,068	961	46.5
18 and 19 years.....	1,324	407	30.7	1,272	448	35.2
20 to 24 years.....	662	429	64.8	538	335	62.3
25 to 34 years.....	417	360	86.3	261	178	68.2
Women, 18 to 34 years.	2,382	1,190	50.0	1,624	654	40.3
18 and 19 years.....	1,432	493	34.4	1,162	369	31.8
20 to 24 years.....	530	387	73.0	295	180	61.0
25 to 34 years.....	419	310	74.0	166	104	62.7

<sup>1</sup>Includes some 3d year students enrolled in 2-year colleges.

**Table F. Full-Time and Part-Time Enrollment of Freshmen and Sophomores 18 to 34 Years Old, by Type of College and Sex: 1978 and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Type of college and enrollment status	Men			Women		
	1978	1970	Percent change, 1970-78	1978	1970	Percent change, 1970-78
<b>2-year colleges:</b>						
Total enrolled.....	1,197	961	24.6	1,190	654	82.0
Full time.....	665	689	-3.5	620	420	47.6
Part time.....	532	272	95.6	570	234	143.6
<b>1st and 2d year of 4-year colleges:</b>						
Total enrolled.....	1,232	1,122	9.8	1,209	947	27.7
Full time.....	1,086	1,005	8.1	1,041	833	25.0
Part time.....	146	117	24.8	168	114	47.4

Note: 2-year college enrollment figures include some students in the 3d academic year.

persons 16 to 34 years old in the first 2 years of college had increased by about 14 percent for men and about 46 percent for women.

A large portion of the increase (71 percent) in enrollment in the first 2 academic years of college was due to larger enrollments in 2-year colleges during the period. In 1978, about one-half of all first and second year college students were enrolled in 2-year colleges compared with about 47 percent of men and about 40 percent of women in 1970 (table E). Apparently, many have decided to attend a college near home either to prepare for employment or to take advantage of courses available in community colleges.

Choosing to enroll in a 2-year college was much more common among freshmen and sophomores who were over 19 years old than among younger students (table E). In fact, the proportion of all students 20 to 34 years old who were enrolled in the entry years of college who attended a 2-year college had increased over the period. Thus, in 1978 there were nearly as many men 25 to 34 years old enrolled as freshmen or sophomores in 2-year colleges as there were men 18 and 19 years old in the same schools at that grade level. Apparently, the growth of enrollment in 2-year colleges, especially among the older female students, is a result of their locations, scheduling, and orientation of courses toward the students who had other full-time or part-time responsibilities such as a job or a family.

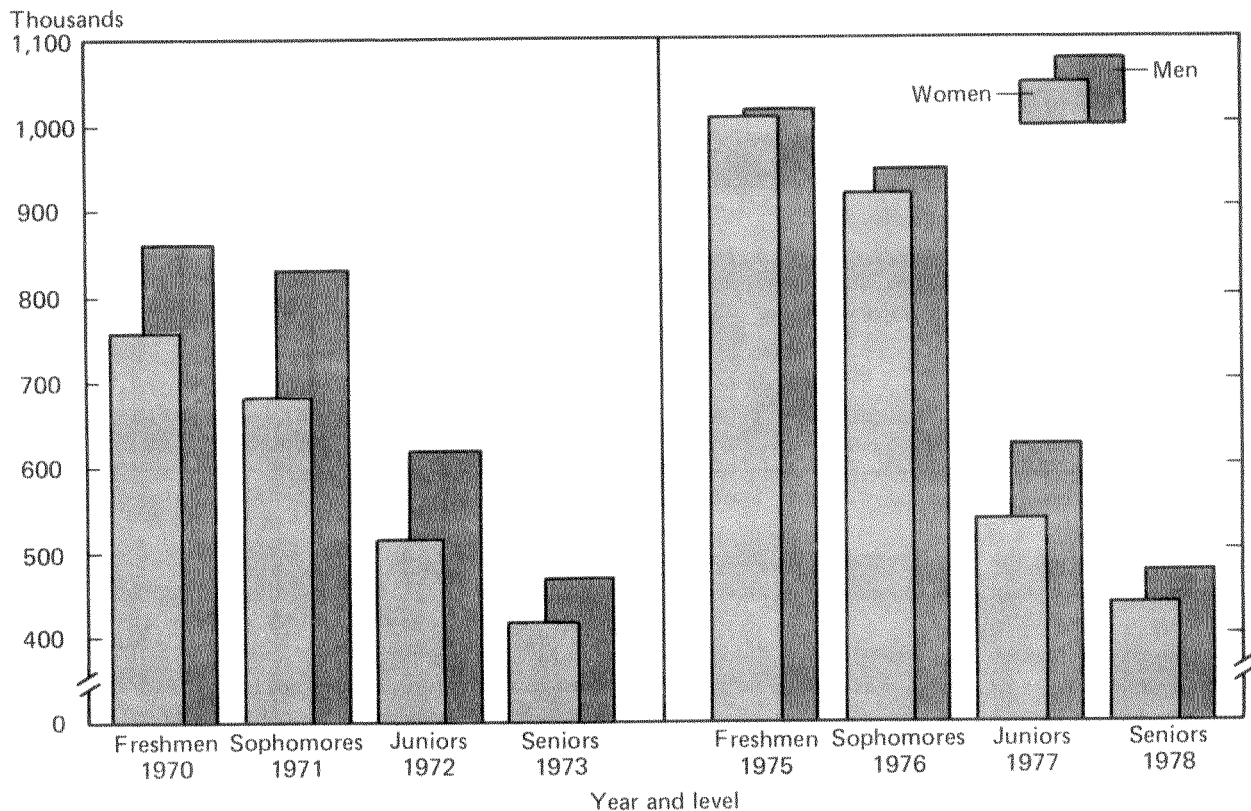
One reason for an increase in the number of persons attending 2-year schools during the 1970-78 period may have been that more persons chose to attend college part time. Between 1970 and 1978, the proportion of students who were enrolled part time grew much faster than the proportion of students who were enrolled full time. In fact, most of the total increase in enrollment for freshmen and sophomores between 1970 and 1978 was attributable to part-time enrollment (table F). While the number of men attending 2-year colleges full time remained about the same, the number attending part time almost doubled. Among

women, both full-time and part-time enrollment increased between 1970 and 1978; full-time enrollment in 2-year colleges increased by about 48 percent while part-time enrollment increased about 144 percent. By 1978, about 46 percent of all men and women attending 2-year colleges were attending part time, and about 13 percent of all students attending the first 2 years of college in 4-year colleges were attending school part time.

The number of women enrolled in the third and fourth academic years of college was still smaller than that of men in 1978 (table D), although the differences were narrower than in 1970. In 1978, the ratio of women to men was about 84 to 100, up from 62 per 100 in 1970. Enrollment of men had increased by about 16 percent during the period while enrollment of women increased by 59 percent.

Enrollment of men and women in the early years of college increased greatly in recent years, and the number of women enrolled compared to the number of men became less disparate. However, the larger increases of women freshmen and sophomores may not lead to a similar increase in the number of women completing 4 years of college. In figure 2, the progress through school for women and men of traditional college ages (18 to 22 years old) is illustrated for two periods: 1970 to 1973 and 1975 to 1978. Data for the initial year of each period represent enrollment at the freshmen level; data for the second year of each series are for the sophomore level; and the third and fourth year of each series contain data for the junior and senior levels, respectively. The number of women enrolled increased tremendously for the freshmen and sophomore levels from 1970 and 1971 to 1975 and 1976. But the number of women who were juniors and seniors in 1977 and 1978 was not significantly different from the number enrolled at those levels in 1972 and 1973. Although a smaller number of women entered college in 1970 than in 1975, there was some evidence that the ratio between freshmen in 1970 and seniors 3 years later was higher than the ratio of freshmen in 1975 and seniors in 1978. The

**FIGURE 2.**  
**Number of Men and Women 18 to 22 Years Old Enrolled in**  
**College, by Level: 1970-73 and 1975-78**



lower ratio of seniors to freshmen in the later series of years may have been a result of the growth of enrollment in 2-year college programs and the increase in the proportion of persons attending college part time.

## ENROLLMENT IN GRADUATE SCHOOLS

The number of persons enrolled in the fifth and sixth years of college increased greatly between 1970 and 1978 (table D). A large majority of this increase resulted because the enrollment of women in graduate schools doubled during the period. The number of men enrolled at these levels increased by about 21 percent. The greater increases in the enrollment of women led to the ratio of women to men at this level of study becoming more nearly equal; in 1970, about 47 women were enrolled in graduate programs for every 100 men, by 1978, about 80 women were enrolled per 100 men.

The age distribution of graduate students has shifted as a result of the more rapid growth in enrollment of older students. In 1970, about one-half of all graduate students were under 25 years of age (table G). By 1978, the growth in enrollment of older students shifted the distribution so that only about 37 percent of all graduate students were less than 25 years old. A large amount of this change was a consequence of increased enrollment of persons 30 to 34 years old in graduate programs; their proportion increased from 15 to 23 percent of all graduate students.

With the increase in graduate enrollments, some shift has occurred in the proportion of persons who were enrolled full time in graduate programs over the period, but the changes have not been great. Among men, full-time enrollment at the graduate school level remained at around 53 percent. The proportion of women who were enrolled full time for graduate study increased from 34 to 45 percent. These changes indicate that a greater proportion of graduate students were enrolled at older ages than before and that the women, at least, appeared to be more seriously pursuing higher degrees than in the past.

Among persons enrolled in the fifth and sixth years of college, there may be some who are not necessarily part of a graduate program of study. For example, some of the 1.7 million persons reported in the fifth and sixth years of college in 1978 may have already completed 4 years or more of college study and enrolled in college classes for purposes other than completing a higher degree. For example, people who have completed a bachelor's or higher degree may enroll in their local 2-year college for work-related courses such as computer programming or a language course, or for personal enrichment such as art courses. In fact, unpublished data from the October 1978 survey show that about 6 percent of all persons who had completed 4 or more years of college and were still enrolled in college were enrolled in 2-year colleges. Future studies will attempt to separate persons enrolled in a graduate program in pursuit of a degree from

other students who had already completed 4 or more years of college work but were taking courses for their own enrichment.

### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AND MARITAL STATUS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

Since 1970, the proportion of 18- to 24- year-old men and women who were not living with any relatives (as members

of families) increased from about 9 to 16 percent (table H). The proportion who were married and living with a spouse declined from 40 to 30 percent, and the proportion who were still members of their parents' households (as "other family members") stayed relatively stable.

Changes in marital status and family membership of persons between 18 and 24 years old occurred both for

**Table G. Graduate Enrollment, by Sex, Age, and Enrollment Status: 1978 and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population. For meaning of symbols, see text)

Age, sex, and enrollment status	1978		1970	
	Total	Percent distribution	Total	Percent distribution
Men, 18 to 34 years.....	935	100.0	774	100.0
Percent full time.....	51.0	...	55.8	...
18 to 24 years.....	340	36.3	347	44.8
25 to 29 years.....	390	41.7	312	40.3
30 to 34 years.....	206	22.0	114	14.7
Women, 18 to 34 years.....	745	100.0	366	100.0
Percent full time.....	44.8	...	33.6	...
18 to 24 years.....	276	37.1	194	53.0
25 to 29 years.....	293	39.4	117	32.0
30 to 34 years.....	175	23.5	55	15.0

**Table H. Marital Status and Family Membership of Persons 18 to 24 Years Old, by College Enrollment Status and Sex: 1978 and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Year, enrollment status, and sex	Total number	Total (percent)	In primary family		Not in primary family
			Married, spouse present	Other family member	
<b>1978</b>					
<b>Total</b> .....	27,647	100.0	29.6	54.7	15.7
Men.....	13,385	100.0	22.9	60.1	17.0
Women.....	14,262	100.0	35.9	49.7	14.4
<b>Enrolled in college</b> .....	6,995	100.0	8.9	76.7	14.4
Men.....	3,621	100.0	8.5	76.4	15.1
Women.....	3,373	100.0	9.3	77.0	13.7
<b>Not enrolled in college</b> .....	20,652	100.0	36.6	47.3	16.1
Men.....	9,764	100.0	28.2	54.0	17.7
Women.....	10,889	100.0	44.1	41.2	14.6
<b>1970</b>					
<b>Total</b> .....	22,552	100.0	40.2	51.2	8.5
Men.....	10,385	100.0	32.5	58.9	8.5
Women.....	12,167	100.0	46.9	44.6	8.5
<b>Enrolled in college</b> .....	5,805	100.0	13.3	78.2	8.5
Men.....	3,331	100.0	15.1	76.9	8.1
Women.....	2,474	100.0	11.0	80.0	9.1
<b>Not enrolled in college</b> .....	16,747	100.0	49.6	41.8	8.5
Men.....	7,054	100.0	40.7	50.5	8.5
Women.....	9,693	100.0	56.1	35.5	8.3

students and nonstudents as table H shows. Although nonstudents were still more likely to be married with spouse present than were students, both groups were less likely to be married in 1978 than they were in 1970. While both proportions of married students and married nonstudents declined, an increase occurred in the proportions of students and of nonstudents who were not members of primary families. It appears that these declines in the proportion married and increases in the proportion not in primary families were not only due to changes in college attendance patterns, but also to men and women postponing marriage in order to allow time to establish themselves in a career or to live independently before starting another family. Both men and women were still quite likely to be members of their parent's household if they were enrolled in college (about 77 percent of all women and men in college). But a small majority (about 54 percent) of men 18 to 24 years old and a large minority (about 40 percent) of comparable women who were not in college were living with their parents.

Among older college students, 25 to 34 years old, there has also been a decline in the proportion who were married and living with a spouse (table I). This finding is significant because it had been thought that a great part of the increase in older students' enrollment occurred among married persons, especially women, who were taking courses at nearby colleges. Contrary to that assertion, there was some evidence that the proportion of persons enrolled in 2-year colleges who were married and living with a spouse actually dropped from 77 to 66 percent between 1970 and 1978, and

the corresponding proportion enrolled part time in 2-year institutions dropped from 85 to 70 percent.

## CONCLUSION

This report has featured changes in college enrollment of women in relation to changes which occurred in enrollment of men between 1970 and 1978. Major increases occurred in overall enrollment rates of women. These increases were especially great among persons above the traditional age for college attendance; that is, women 25 years old and over in 1978 had higher enrollment rates than in 1970 and experienced larger increases in enrollment over that period than women of other ages or men. A large amount of this increase occurred among women beginning college at the freshman or sophomore level, many of whom attended 2-year colleges. Enrollment in 2-year colleges made up about 67 percent of the total increases of enrollment of women as first and second year students. Also, women gained in graduate study enrollment. For example, in 1978, women and men had similar numbers enrolled in the first year of graduate study, and women were increasingly likely to enroll in the higher levels full time. During the period, changes in marital status and family membership occurred for women and men who were 18 to 24 years old. In 1978, a higher proportion of men and women than in 1970 were not living with their families; both among college students and others, the proportion who were married decreased. Thus, it appears that young adults have been postponing marriage not only because of college attendance but also because of other reasons, such as the desire to work at a job or to establish themselves in a career.

**Table I. Marital Status of College Students 25 to 34 Years Old, by Level and Type of College and Sex: 1978 and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Sex, marital status, and year of survey	Undergraduate students				Graduate students
	Total <sup>1</sup>	2-year colleges		4-year colleges	
		Total	Enrolled part time		
<b>1978</b>					
Total enrolled.....	1,505	670	503	773	1,064
Percent married <sup>2</sup> .....	60.7	65.5	69.6	56.8	55.2
Men.....	800	360	253	406	596
Percent married <sup>2</sup> .....	64.4	67.8	73.5	63.1	58.7
Women.....	705	310	250	367	468
Percent married <sup>2</sup> .....	56.5	62.9	65.6	49.9	50.4
<b>1970</b>					
Total enrolled.....	750	283	203	441	599
Percent married <sup>2</sup> .....	73.2	77.0	84.7	70.3	70.5
Men.....	514	178	121	324	426
Percent married <sup>2</sup> .....	74.9	79.8	90.9	72.2	73.5
Women.....	236	104	81	118	173
Percent married <sup>2</sup> .....	69.9	72.1	75.3	65.3	63.0

<sup>1</sup>Includes students who did not report on type of college attended, not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Represents persons who are married with spouse present.



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## NOTE

In the past the Census Bureau has designated a head of household to serve as the central reference person for the collection and tabulation of data for individual members of the household (or family). However, recent social changes have resulted in a trend toward recognition of more equal status for all members of the household (or family), making the term "head" less relevant in the analysis of household and family data. As a result, the Bureau is currently developing new techniques of enumeration and data presentation which will eliminate the concept of "head." While much of the data in this report are based on the concept of "head," methodology for future Census Bureau reports will reflect a gradual movement away from this traditional practice.

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