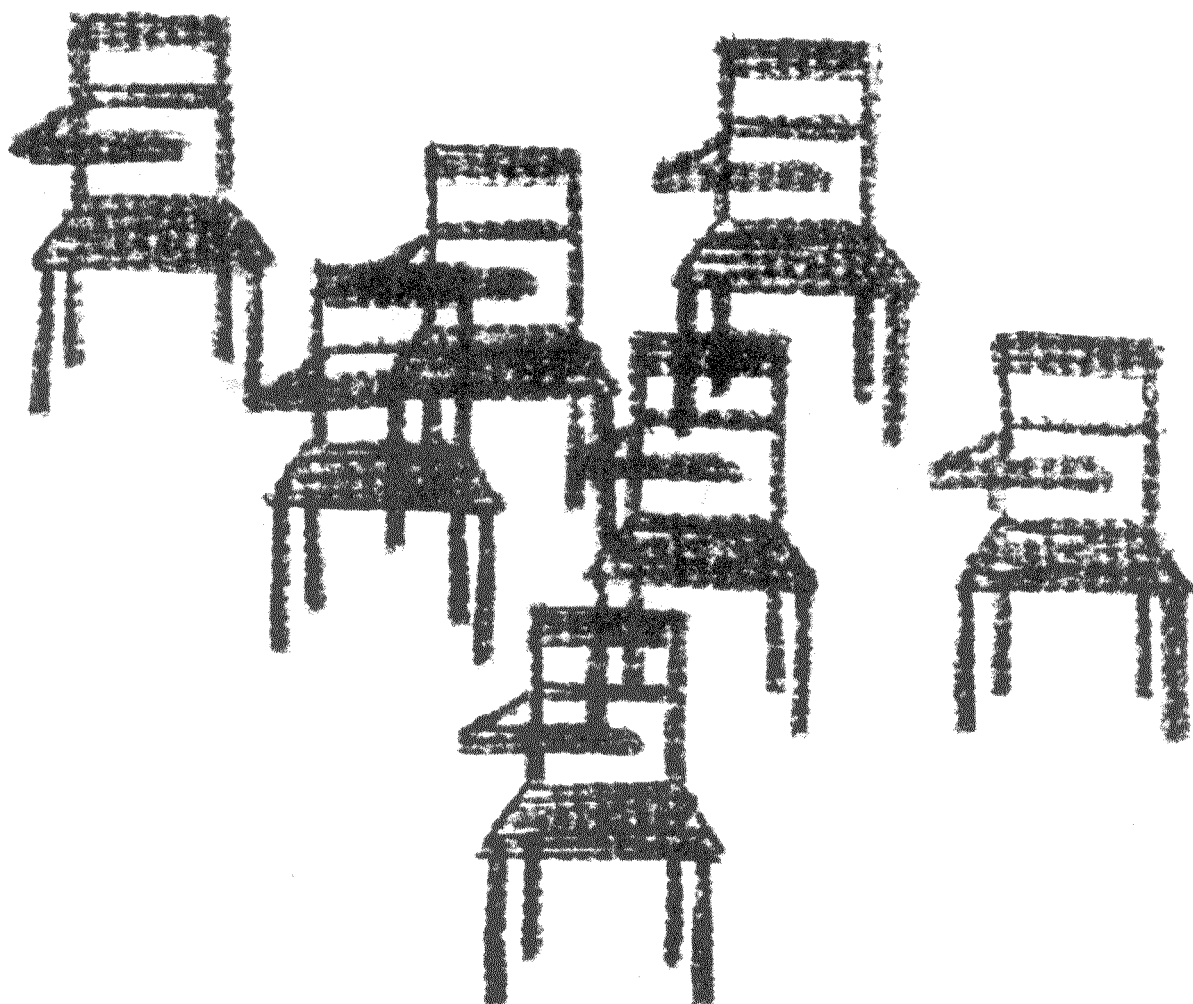


# **School Enrollment— Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1979**



CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

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**School Enrollment—  
Social and Economic  
Characteristics of  
Students:  
October 1979**



**U.S. Department of Commerce**

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES**

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

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# School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1979

## HIGHLIGHTS

- In October 1979, 57.9 million persons 3 to 34 years old were enrolled in school, about 2.5 million less than in 1970, reflecting the decline in the elementary and high school-age population.
- About the same number of men and women under 35 years old were enrolled in college in 1979 (5 million of each), while the number of women 35 years old and over who were enrolled (914,000) was almost twice the number of men (487,000). The majority of students 35 years old and over were enrolled part time.
- In October 1979, college students 25 years old and over constituted 36 percent of all students, 3 percentage points above the figure in 1974.
- The number of women 25 years old and over enrolled in college in 1979 increased by 62 percent since 1974, while the number of men enrolled did not change.
- The growth in 2-year college enrollment among 14- to 34-year-olds was the result of a substantial rise in attendance among women; from 1974 to 1979, the number of 14- to 34-year-olds enrolled in 2-year colleges rose by 300,000, while the number of 14- to 34-year-old women enrolled in 2-year colleges increased by 400,000.
- For 14- to 34-year old undergraduates, about 31 percent of women and 27 percent of men were attending junior and community colleges in 1979.
- The probability of college enrollment tended to increase with income. Among high school graduates under 25 years old in families with incomes of \$25,000 or more, 54 percent were enrolled as compared with 31 percent of those in families with incomes of less than \$10,000.

## INTRODUCTION

There were substantial changes in school enrollment from October 1974 to October 1979 that involved all levels of education and reflected changes in both population size and enrollment patterns. The total number of persons 3 to 34 years old enrolled in school was about 57.9 million in October 1979, about 2 million less than the number enrolled 5 years earlier (table A). From 1974 to 1979, enrollment in kindergarten and elementary school declined, while enrollment in nursery school and college rose; total high school enrollment in 1979 was not significantly different from enrollment in 1974.

In 1979, 1.9 million students were enrolled in nursery school, 262,000 more students than in 1974 and 773,000 more students than in 1970. Changes in nursery school enrollment were due to the increased enrollment rate of 3- and 4-year-olds in spite of the decrease in the number of children in the age group.<sup>1</sup> The increase in this enrollment may have occurred because more mothers entered the labor force, pursued college careers, or participated in other activities outside the home.

Elementary school enrollment, however, experienced a decline of about 3.3 million students between 1974 and 1979, representing a drop of 10 percent. Changes that occurred in enrollment at the elementary level between 1974 and 1979 were similar for males and females and were caused by a decrease in the eligible population.

College enrollment increased by 13 percent from 1974 to 1979, and the increase was due largely to the increased enrollment of women. Table A shows that in 1979, 5 million men and 5 million women 14 to 34 years old were enrolled in college. While there was not a significant change from 1974 in the number of men enrolled, there was an increase of about 1.1 million women (28 percent). This rise occurred at both the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as for women 14 to 24 and 25 to 34 years of age.

Table B shows that in 1979, about 500,000 men and 900,000 women 35 and over were enrolled in college. This represents an increase of 400,000 women since 1974 but no change for men.

## ENROLLMENT IN 2- AND 4-YEAR COLLEGES

In October 1979, there were about equal numbers of men and women 14 to 34 years old enrolled in college as undergraduates; 5 years earlier, there were 8 women for every 10 men. While the number of women enrolled rose by about one-fourth between 1974 and 1979, there was no significant change for men. Undergraduate enrollment in 4-year colleges increased by 650,000 between 1974 and 1979, largely because of the increased enrollment of women. Almost one-half of the increase in female college enrollment occurred in 2-year colleges. In 1979, the number of women 14 to 34 years old enrolled in 2-year colleges surpassed the number of men enrolled by about 200,000, while enrollment of men and women in the first and second year of 4-year colleges was not significantly different (table C).

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 355, *School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1979 (Advance Report)*.

**Table A. School Enrollment of Persons 3 to 34 Years Old, by Level and Sex:  
October 1979, 1974, and 1970**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Level and sex	1979	1974	1970	Percent change, 1970-79	Percent change, 1974-79
	Both sexes, 3 to 34 years old.....	57,854	60,259	60,357	-4.1
Nursery school.....	1,869	1,607	1,096	70.5	16.3
Kindergarten.....	3,025	3,252	3,183	-5.0	-7.0
Elementary school.....	27,864	31,126	33,950	-17.9	-10.5
High school.....	15,116	15,447	14,715	2.7	-2.1
College.....	9,978	8,827	7,413	34.6	13.0
Male, 3 to 34 years old.....	29,535	31,177	31,413	-6.0	-5.3
Nursery school.....	944	822	572	65.0	14.8
Kindergarten.....	1,574	1,649	1,655	-4.9	-4.5
Elementary school.....	14,321	15,954	17,364	-17.5	-10.2
High school.....	7,702	7,825	7,422	3.8	-1.6
College.....	4,993	4,926	4,401	13.5	1.4
Female, 3 to 34 years old.....	28,319	29,081	28,944	-2.2	-2.6
Nursery school.....	925	785	524	76.5	17.8
Kindergarten.....	1,451	1,603	1,529	-5.1	-9.5
Elementary school.....	13,544	15,172	16,584	-18.3	-10.7
High school.....	7,414	7,623	7,294	1.6	2.7
College.....	4,985	3,900	3,013	65.4	27.8

**Table B. Characteristics of Students 35 Years Old and Over Enrolled in Regular School:  
October 1979 and 1974**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Characteristics	1979						1974					
	Number			Percent			Number			Percent		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
<b>ALL RACES</b>												
Total, 35 years and over.....	91,864	42,437	49,427	(X)	(X)	(X)	86,205	39,848	46,357	(X)	(X)	(X)
Enrolled below college.....	88	33	54	(X)	(X)	(X)	78	30	49	(X)	(X)	(X)
Enrolled in college.....	1,402	487	914	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,025	476	548	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time.....	228	81	147	16.3	16.6	16.1	209	105	103	20.4	22.1	18.8
Part time.....	1,166	402	764	83.2	82.5	83.6	811	368	443	79.1	77.3	80.8
Not reported.....	8	4	3	0.6	0.8	0.3	5	3	2	0.5	0.6	0.4
In labor force.....	1,063	427	634	75.8	87.7	69.4	823	423	400	80.3	88.9	73.0
Not in labor force.....	339	59	280	24.2	12.1	30.6	201	53	148	19.6	11.1	27.0
Married, spouse present.....	1,022	412	610	72.9	84.6	66.7	790	393	396	77.1	82.6	72.3
Other marital status.....	380	75	304	27.1	15.4	33.3	235	83	152	22.9	17.4	27.7
<b>WHITE</b>												
Total, 35 years and over.....	81,718	37,920	43,798	(X)	(X)	(X)	77,198	35,806	41,392	(X)	(X)	(X)
Enrolled below college.....	73	25	47	(X)	(X)	(X)	43	15	30	(X)	(X)	(X)
Enrolled in college.....	1,247	423	823	100.0	100.0	100.0	908	414	493	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time.....	184	57	127	14.8	13.5	15.4	173	82	90	19.1	19.8	18.3
Part time.....	1,055	362	693	84.6	85.6	84.2	730	329	401	80.4	79.5	81.3
Not reported.....	8	4	3	0.6	0.9	0.4	5	3	2	0.6	0.7	0.4
<b>BLACK</b>												
Total, 35 years and over.....	10,146	4,517	5,629	(X)	(X)	(X)	9,007	4,042	4,965	(X)	(X)	(X)
Enrolled below college.....	15	8	7	(X)	(X)	(X)	35	15	19	(X)	(X)	(X)
Enrolled in college.....	155	64	91	100.0	(B)	100.0	117	62	55	100.0	(B)	(B)
Full time.....	44	24	20	28.4	(B)	22.0	36	23	13	30.8	(B)	(B)
Part time.....	111	40	71	71.6	(B)	78.0	81	39	42	69.2	(B)	(B)
Not reported.....	-	-	-	-	(B)	-	-	-	-	-	(B)	(B)

- Represents zero.

(B) Base less than 75,000.

(X) Not applicable.

During the 1974-79 period, enrollment of 14- to 34-year-olds in 2-year colleges grew by about 336,000. This growth was the result of a substantial rise in attendance among women, especially in the number of women attending college on a part-time basis. Between 1974 and 1979, part-

time enrollment of women in 2-year colleges rose by 250,000. Students in 2-year colleges were much more likely than those in 4-year colleges to be attending part time. In 1979, almost one-half of all women in 2-year colleges attended part time, while only about 1 in 6 students in 4-year colleges attended part time, regardless of gender.

**Table C. Undergraduate Enrollment of Persons 14 to 34 Years Old, by Type of School, Attendance Status, and Sex: October 1979 and 1974**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Status and sex	Total undergraduate <sup>1</sup>			2-year college			4-year college					
	1979	1974	Percent change	1979	1974	Percent change	Total			1st and 2d year		
							1979	1974	Percent change	1979	1974	Percent change
Male students, 14 to 34 years....	4,106	4,030	1.9	1,106	1,172	-5.6	2,871	2,696	6.5	1,349	1,248	8.1
Full time.....	3,172	3,128	1.4	661	709	-6.8	2,412	2,303	4.7	1,187	1,088	9.1
Part time.....	934	901	3.7	445	463	-3.9	459	393	16.8	162	160	1.3
Female students, 14 to 34 years....	4,183	3,307	26.5	1,301	899	44.7	2,737	2,260	21.1	1,385	1,170	18.4
Full time.....	3,054	2,561	19.3	680	528	28.8	2,262	1,916	18.1	1,170	997	17.4
Part time.....	1,129	746	51.3	621	371	67.4	475	344	38.1	215	173	24.3

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

## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT OF NONTRADITIONAL-AGE STUDENTS

Total college enrollment increased by 16 percent, from 9.9 million to 11.4 million, between 1974 and 1979. About one-half (56 percent) of this increase was in the number of students beyond the traditional age of college students: 31 percent was in the number of students aged 25 to 34 and 25 percent was in the number aged 35 and over (table B). Although there was some evidence of change in the relative size of these two groups of college students, it was not appreciable. In both 1974 and 1979, about 23 percent of all college students were 25 to 34 years old, while the proportion 35 years and over rose from 10 to 12 percent.

Since 1974, enrollment of persons 25 and over has increased substantially. This increase (about 26 percent) is due to both an increase in the eligible population and an increase in the enrollment rate. The enrollment increase of persons over 34 was proportionately greater than the increase for those 25 to 34, although both groups had significant gains. Enrollment of younger students increased by 10 percent from 1974 to 1979.

Women 25 and over have experienced particularly large increases in college enrollment. The number of women 25 to 34 years old enrolled in college rose by 59 percent from 1974 to 1979, while the number of men enrolled was about the same in 1974 and 1979. The total number of women 25 to 34 years old enrolled in college in 1979 was about equal to the number of men of the same age who were enrolled, about 1.3 million. The number of women 35 years old and over enrolled in college rose by 67 percent between 1974 and 1979, while the number of men enrolled was essentially unchanged (table B).

In 1979, the largest proportion of students 25 to 34 years old were attending graduate school (43 percent) and the majority of students, both undergraduates and graduates, were enrolled part time (about two-thirds). In this age group, women were more likely than men to be starting their college education: 21 percent of all female students were enrolled as first year students as compared with only 12 percent of the men (table 15).

As in 1974, about one-fourth of students 25 to 34 years old enrolled in college in 1979 were attending junior and community colleges. In both years, about the same proportion of students aged 14 to 24 (about one-fourth) were attending 2-year colleges. In 1979, women 25 to 34 years old were more likely to be enrolled in 2-year colleges than men (28 percent and 21 percent, respectively), while in 1974, there were no differences in the proportion of men and women enrolled in 2-year colleges. Part-time attendance was more common than full-time attendance among older students in 2-year colleges, and in 1979, women were more likely than men to be attending part time (78 percent and 65 percent, respectively).

Some changes in the characteristics of students 25 to 34 years old have been noted in the 1974-79 period (table B). For example, a smaller proportion of students were married and living with their spouse in 1979 than in 1974. In 1979, about 58 percent of male students as compared with 50 percent of female students were married and living with their spouse. Among nonstudents of the same age, a higher proportion of women than men were married with their spouse present (72 percent and 70 percent, respectively).

Women 35 years old and over enrolled in college were substantially more likely than those not enrolled to be in the labor force (69 percent and 43 percent, respectively)



**Table D. Distribution of College Students, by Age and Sex: October 1979 and 1972**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age	October 1979			October 1972			Percent change, 1972-79		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 14 years and over.	11,380	5,480	5,900	9,096	5,218	3,877	25.1	5.0	52.2
14 to 24 years old.....	7,302	3,637	3,665	6,552	3,675	2,877	11.4	-1.0	27.4
25 years old and over.....	4,077	1,843	2,233	2,543	1,543	999	60.3	19.4	123.5
25 to 34 years old.....	2,675	1,356	1,319	1,760	1,178	581	52.0	15.1	127.0
35 years old and over.....	1,402	487	914	783	365	418	79.1	33.4	118.7

Note: 1972 was the first year for which data were available for students 35 years old and over.

**Table E. Selected Characteristics of College Students 25 to 34 Years Old: October 1979 and 1974**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Characteristics	1979						1974					
	Number			Percent			Number			Percent		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 25 to 34 years old	34,389	16,715	17,674	(X)	(X)	(X)	29,215	14,133	15,082	(X)	(X)	(X)
Enrolled in college.....	2,675	1,356	1,319	100.0	100.0	100.0	2,202	1,371	831	100.0	100.0	100.0
Freshman.....	441	160	281	16.5	11.8	21.3	366	190	176	16.6	13.9	21.2
Sophomore.....	405	193	212	15.1	14.2	16.1	350	236	114	15.9	17.2	13.7
Junior.....	349	203	146	13.0	15.0	11.1	272	170	102	12.4	12.4	12.3
Senior.....	331	193	138	12.4	14.2	10.5	284	209	75	12.9	15.2	9.0
Graduate.....	1,149	606	543	43.0	44.7	41.2	932	567	365	42.3	41.4	43.9
Full time.....	920	558	364	34.4	41.2	27.6	818	562	257	37.1	41.0	30.9
Part time.....	1,755	798	955	65.6	58.8	72.4	1,384	809	574	62.9	59.0	69.1
Race:												
White.....	2,333	1,186	1,147	87.2	87.5	87.0	1,921	1,205	716	87.2	87.9	86.2
Black.....	262	118	145	9.8	8.7	11.0	224	130	94	10.2	9.5	11.3
Marital status:												
Married, spouse present.....	1,450	786	663	54.2	58.0	50.3	1,474	978	496	66.9	71.3	59.7
Other marital status.....	1,225	570	656	45.8	42.0	49.7	728	393	335	33.1	28.7	40.3
Type of undergraduate college:												
2-year college.....	664	288	375	24.8	21.2	28.4	565	345	220	25.7	25.2	26.5
Full time.....	185	102	81	6.9	7.5	6.1	152	99	53	6.9	7.2	6.4
Part time.....	479	186	294	17.9	13.7	22.3	413	246	167	18.8	17.9	20.1
4-year college.....	862	460	402	32.2	33.9	30.5	707	460	247	32.1	33.6	29.7
Full time.....	340	203	136	12.7	15.0	10.3	336	236	102	15.3	17.2	12.3
Part time.....	522	257	266	19.5	19.0	20.2	371	224	145	16.8	16.3	17.4

(X) Not applicable.

(table 17). About 88 percent of male college students 35 years old and over were also in the labor force, compared with 72 percent of nonstudents. Although a smaller proportion of women than men were in the labor force, a substantially larger number of women than men were in the labor force *and* attending school.

In 1979, about 90 percent of college students 35 years old and over were White—comparable to the proportion in the total population. Students who were Black or of other races were more likely than White students to be enrolled in college full time (28 percent and 15 percent, respectively) (table 17). As in the total population, about three-fourths of all college students 35 years old and over were married and living with their spouse.

**Implications of the new higher enrollment rates.** Among persons 25 and older, enrollment rates may remain high.

With the increased need for production and social services, coupled with intense job competition, persons may return to school at a later age to update their knowledge in rapidly advancing fields, learn a new trade, or earn an advanced degree which will give them a competitive advantage in the labor market.

As the following simplified projection illustrates, it is possible that the expected decline in college enrollment among younger persons during the 1980's (due to a drop in the size of the young adult population) may be largely offset by an increased enrollment of older persons. If the enrollment rate of persons 25 years old and over remains at its present level, the number enrolled will increase, because the population 25 and over will grow.<sup>2</sup> The first cohort

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 704, *Projections of the Population of the United States 1977 to 2050*.

of the post World War II baby boom was 32 years old in 1979 while the largest cohort was 18 years of age. Applying 1979 age-specific college enrollment rates to the projected 1990 population 14 to 64 years old,<sup>3</sup> there would be an increase of about 939,000 college students 25 to 64 years old and a decrease of 803,000 students 14 to 24 years old. In 1990, older students would constitute 43 percent of all students, compared with 36 percent in 1979.

Since older students are more likely to attend college part time (72 percent of older students and 17 percent of younger students attend part time), they will replace a smaller proportion of younger students, in terms of full-time equivalent enrollment, than their numbers imply. At present, one part-time student is equivalent to 0.36 full-time students.<sup>4</sup> If the present age-specific allocation of enrolled students among part time and full time persists, and if the fractional full-time equivalency of part-time students remains constant, the potential increase in older student enrollment will absorb about 70 percent of the loss in full-time equivalents.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, National Center for Education Statistics, *Fall Enrollment in Higher Education 1977*, Final Report, 1979.

## UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT AND FAMILY INCOME

It is evident from the 1979 data that college enrollment is closely related to family income. Table F shows enrollment figures for dependent family members 18 to 24 years old who were high school graduates. In 1979, high school graduates from high-income families were much more likely to attend college than those from low-income families. For high school graduates in families with incomes of \$25,000 or more, 54 percent were enrolled in college, compared with 31 percent of those in families with incomes of less than \$10,000.

Among 18- to 24-year-old high school graduates who were dependent family members, the proportion enrolled in college was about the same for males and females in families with incomes below \$20,000, about 36 percent. In families with incomes of \$20,000 or more, the proportion of females enrolled was slightly higher than the proportion of males enrolled (53 and 48 percent, respectively). However, women usually marry at younger ages than men, and therefore, are less likely to be enrolled in school and members of

**Table F. College Enrollment Rates of Dependent Family Members 18 to 24 Years Old Who Were High School Graduates, by Family Income: October 1979**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Income and race	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	All persons	In college		All persons	In college		All persons	In college	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
<b>ALL RACES</b>									
All income levels.....	12,246	5,320	43.4	6,260	2,678	42.8	5,986	2,642	44.1
Under \$10,000.....	1,911	589	30.8	789	265	33.6	1,122	324	28.9
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	1,584	575	36.3	774	273	35.3	810	302	37.3
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	1,565	660	42.2	806	323	40.1	759	337	44.4
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	1,810	760	42.0	913	355	38.9	897	405	45.2
\$25,000 and over.....	4,171	2,232	53.5	2,332	1,193	51.2	1,839	1,039	56.5
Not reported.....	1,205	503	41.7	645	267	41.4	560	236	42.1
Median family income.....	\$21,272	\$23,845	(X)	\$22,401	\$24,852	(X)	\$20,123	\$22,963	(X)
<b>WHITE</b>									
All income levels.....	10,301	4,601	44.7	5,428	2,357	43.4	4,873	2,244	46.0
Under \$10,000.....	1,161	363	31.3	531	163	30.7	630	200	31.7
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	1,215	443	36.5	615	220	35.8	600	223	37.2
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	1,347	556	41.3	700	271	38.7	647	285	44.0
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	1,593	667	41.9	788	313	39.7	805	354	44.0
\$25,000 and over.....	3,970	2,135	53.8	2,240	1,158	51.7	1,730	977	56.5
Not reported.....	1,016	442	43.5	555	234	42.2	461	208	45.1
Median family income.....	\$22,886	\$25,000+	(X)	\$23,747	\$25,000+	(X)	\$22,043	\$24,379	(X)
<b>BLACK</b>									
All income levels.....	1,679	584	34.8	691	244	35.3	988	340	34.4
Under \$10,000.....	700	204	29.1	232	90	38.8	468	114	24.4
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	313	104	33.2	136	40	29.4	177	64	36.2
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	183	84	45.9	88	42	47.7	95	42	44.2
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	189	80	42.3	107	32	29.9	82	48	58.5
\$25,000 and over.....	142	63	44.4	64	21	(B)	78	42	53.8
Not reported.....	151	48	31.8	65	20	(B)	86	28	32.6
Median family income.....	\$11,022	\$13,077	(X)	\$12,978	\$12,750	(X)	<\$10,000	\$13,281	(X)

X Not applicable.

B Base is less than 75,000.

their parents' household. In 1979, 44 percent of women, but only 29 percent of men, 18 to 24 years old who were not in school were married, in their own households, and no longer dependent family members. Although there was some evidence that a higher proportion of women than men in families with incomes of \$25,000 or more were enrolled in college, there was some evidence that the number of men was larger (table F).

Table F further shows that differences in college enrollment and family income are most visible when comparing college enrollment and family income by race. In 1979, the median family income for White dependent students was more than \$25,000, while the median family income for Black dependent students was \$13,077, roughly half that for Whites.

There is a 10-percentage-point difference between the proportions of White and Black dependent high school graduates enrolled, but no such difference was evident within most of the income groups shown in table F. It is evident from table F that, regardless of race, the probability of college enrollment tends to increase with income. For each income group in table F, the differences between enrollment rates of Blacks and Whites were not statistically significant. Thus, the data in table F are consistent with the hypothesis that the overall White-Black enrollment difference for dependent high school graduates derives largely from Black-White income differences. Since, in addition, Blacks and Whites are not equally likely to graduate from high school,<sup>5</sup> the total Black-White difference in enrollment has other causes as well.

## COLLEGE DEGREE SOUGHT

In the October 1979 CPS survey, the question, "What degree is ... working toward?" was asked for college students. In this survey, persons were classified as college students if they were enrolled in courses creditable toward an academic college, graduate, or professional-school degree. With increased availability of vocational and adult education courses at some colleges, there has been confusion over the meaning

of the total college enrollment figures e.g., whether they include only academic students. In this survey, fully 7 out of 8 college students (87 percent of those reporting) were working on an academic or professional degree, 10 percent of those reporting were not working toward a degree, and only 2 percent were working toward a vocational certificate.

Highlights of the data on college degrees, derived from table A-4, follow. One-half of all college students who reported on degrees were working toward a bachelor's degree. Among undergraduates in 4-year colleges, 87 percent of reporting students were working toward a bachelor's degree in 1979. In 2-year colleges, 62 percent were working toward an associate degree, 13 percent were working toward a bachelor's degree, 7 percent were working toward a vocational certificate, and 17 percent were not working toward a degree. Among graduate students, about one-half were working toward a master's degree, 11 percent were working toward a doctorate, 14 percent were working toward a professional degree, and 17 percent were not working toward a degree. In some cases, students reported the highest degree expected rather than the current degree; data in table A-4 were not edited to force compliance of degree with year of college.

Almost all full-time students were working toward a degree. Of part-time students, however, about one-fourth of those reporting were not working toward a degree, including 29 percent of 2-year college students, 17 percent of 4-year college undergraduates, and 27 percent of graduate students. Almost one-half of part-time students were working on undergraduate degrees and one-fourth on graduate degrees. Among nontraditional-age students (25 years old and over) 44 percent of those reporting were working on undergraduate degrees, 32 percent were working on graduate degrees, and 20 percent were not working on a degree.

Table A-4 further reveals that among undergraduates, about one-third of both Black and White students were enrolled in 2-year colleges. Black students appear to be more likely than Whites to be working toward a degree. Also, Black undergraduates were slightly more likely to be working toward an associate degree and less likely to be working toward a bachelor's degree than Whites, but the differences were not great.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 356, *Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1979 and 1978*.