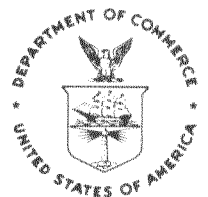
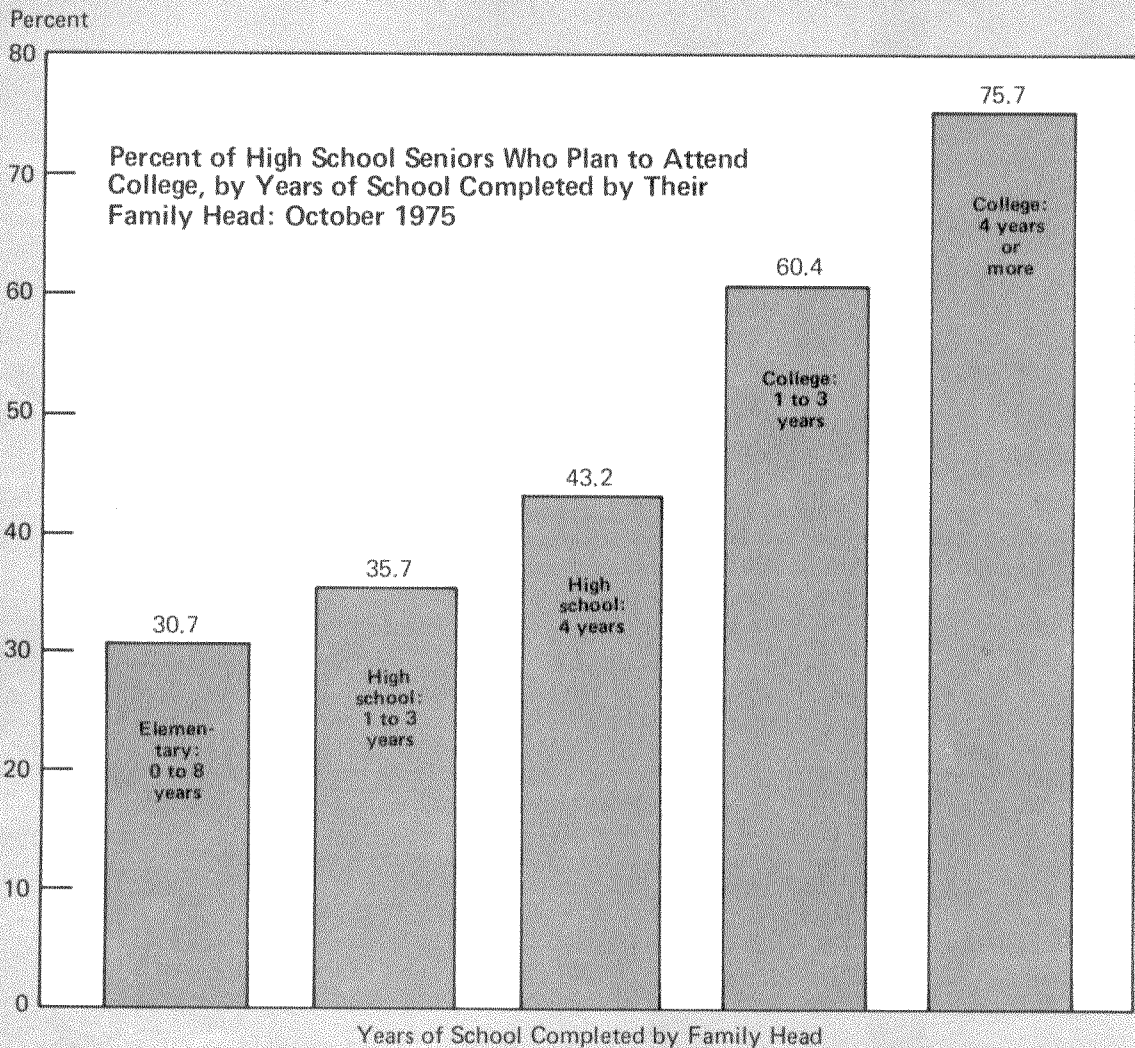


Population Characteristics

Series P-20, No. 299
Issued November 1976

COLLEGE PLANS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: OCTOBER 1975



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SUGGESTED CITATION

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20,
No. 299 "College Plans of High School Seniors: October 1975" U.S.
Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1976

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, and U.S. Department of Commerce district offices. Postage stamps not acceptable; currency submitted at sender's risk. Remittances from foreign countries must be by international money order or by draft on a U.S. bank. Additional charge for foreign mailing, \$14.00. All population series reports sold as a single consolidated subscription \$56.00 per year. Price for this report 55 cents.

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Population Characteristics

COLLEGE PLANS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: OCTOBER 1975

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COLLEGE PLANS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: OCTOBER 1975

Overview. This report presents statistics on the post-high school educational plans of seniors enrolled in high school in October 1975. Information is presented on college and vocational school plans of seniors by such characteristics as their sex, race, metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence, region of residence, family income, and the educational attainment and occupation of their family head. The data are based on responses of high school seniors to the Current Population Survey conducted in October 1975 by the Bureau of the Census. These same data have been collected on an annual basis since 1972. Similar data were also collected in the October 1965 and October 1959 Current Population Surveys.

to attend college, compared with 44 percent in 1974 and 43 percent in 1973 (a figure not statistically different from the 1974 figure). An additional 25 percent of the 1975 seniors indicated that they "may" attend college upon completion of their high school education.

Although about one-fourth of seniors in 1975 did not plan to attend a regular college or university, a large portion of this group (about 38 percent) did plan to attend a post-secondary business, technical, trade or similar type of vocational school. This group represented approximately 1 of every 10 high school seniors in 1975.¹

Post-high school plans of seniors. A higher proportion of 1976 high school graduates will be attending college in the fall of 1976 than have the graduates in the past 2 years, if the plans of these students in October of their senior year are fulfilled (table A). Forty-nine percent of the 3.3 million seniors who reported their intentions expressed definite plans

¹ Since postsecondary vocational school plans were only asked of students who indicated that they did not plan to attend a regular college, this figure may represent an underestimate of student interest in vocational school attendance.

Table A. Plans to Attend College of High School Seniors 14 to 34 Years Old, by Sex: 1972 to 1975

(Excluding seniors not reporting)

Sex of student and year	Number reporting college plans (thousands)	Percent of those reporting who--			
		Plan to attend college	May attend college	Do not plan to attend college	
				Total	Plan or may attend vocational school
BOTH SEXES					
1975.....	3,306	48.9	25.1	26.0	9.8
1974.....	3,406	43.6	26.9	29.5	10.3
1973.....	3,346	42.9	28.4	28.7	10.9
1972.....	3,242	46.2	27.1	26.6	12.0
MALE					
1975.....	1,686	46.6	27.5	25.9	9.5
1974.....	1,650	40.9	28.5	30.7	11.2
1973.....	1,710	43.5	28.6	28.0	9.6
1972.....	1,670	46.1	29.8	24.0	10.2
FEMALE					
1975.....	1,620	51.4	22.6	26.0	10.1
1974.....	1,755	46.2	25.4	28.4	9.6
1973.....	1,637	42.3	28.2	29.4	12.2
1972.....	1,573	46.3	24.3	29.2	13.8

Differences by sex and race of seniors. There is some evidence that a somewhat higher proportion of females than males had definite plans to attend college in 1975 (51 percent and 47 percent, respectively) as was the case in 1974. However, the proportion of men who indicated that they "may" attend college was slightly larger than that for women, so that the proportion of seniors who were at least considering college attendance was the same for men and women (table A). A somewhat higher proportion of men than women with definite college plans wished to attend a four-year college only, while the proportion of women who planned to attend only a two-year college exceeded that for men.

A smaller proportion of Black than White high school seniors had definite plans to attend college (40 percent compared with 49 percent, table B). However, the larger proportion of Black than White students who indicated they "may" attend college raised the proportion of Black students who were at least considering college to about three out of four, a figure not different from that for Whites.

About 48 percent of seniors of Spanish origin indicated definite plans to attend college and an additional 37 percent reported they may do so. Because of sampling variability, these figures should not necessarily be interpreted as different from those for either White or Black students, even though they may appear to be.

Differences by type of residence and region of seniors. The college expectations of high school seniors living outside metropolitan areas in 1975 were lower than those of students living within such areas (table C). About 52 percent of metropolitan seniors had definite plans to attend college, compared with about 42 percent of their nonmetropolitan peers. However, a higher proportion of nonmetropolitan seniors (15 percent) were considering attendance at a post-secondary vocational school than were their metropolitan counterparts (8 percent). Within metropolitan areas, there was no difference in the proportion of seniors with definite college plans between residents of central cities and suburban areas.

A higher proportion of students in the West had definite plans to attend college (59 percent) than in any of the other regions. Also, a higher proportion (50 percent) of seniors in Western States who planned on attending college expected to attend both (or had not decided between attending) a two-year and four-year college than in the other regions combined (27 percent); this fact in part reflects the large two-year college system in the State of California.

Differences by control of high school. Students enrolled in private schools were more likely to plan enrollment in college than students in public high schools. About two-thirds (68 percent) of the 260,000 high school seniors enrolled in private high schools who reported their intentions

Table B. Plans to Attend College of High School Seniors 14 to 34 Years Old, by Race and Spanish Origin: 1972 to 1975

(Excluding seniors not reporting)

Race of student and year	Number reporting college plans (thousands)	Percent of those reporting who--			
		Plan to attend college	May attend college	Do not plan to attend college	
				Total	Plan or may attend vocational school
WHITE					
1975.....	2,780	49.4	23.8	26.7	9.7
1974.....	2,927	44.6	26.2	29.2	9.7
1973.....	2,858	43.2	27.6	29.3	11.2
1972.....	2,785	46.4	26.4	27.1	12.0
BLACK					
1975.....	462	40.5	34.6	24.7	11.3
1974.....	422	36.0	31.8	32.2	14.5
1973.....	451	38.6	34.1	27.5	10.0
1972.....	413	44.6	33.4	22.5	11.4
SPANISH ORIGIN¹					
1975.....	180	47.8	36.7	15.6	2.2
1974.....	219	47.9	29.7	22.4	2.3
1973.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1972.....	140	49.3	27.9	22.9	10.0

NA Not available.

¹Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

expressed definite plans to attend college in the future, compared with about 47 percent of students enrolled in public high schools (table C). In addition, of those students who expected to attend college, about 78 percent of those who attended private high schools compared with 51 percent of their counterparts at public schools wished to attend a four-year college only. Only 12 percent of private high school seniors were not considering the possibility of college attendance in the future, compared with 27 percent of students at public schools.

Differences by family income. The tendency for family income (for the most part parental) to play a strong role in determining the college plans of high school seniors continued to persist in 1975: As family (parental) income increased, so did the proportion of seniors with definite plans to attend college. For example, about 81 percent of students in families with income over \$25,000 had definite plans to attend college whereas only 39 percent of students in families with income under \$10,000 had such plans. Because of this differential, students from families with income over \$25,000 represented about one out of five students with definite college plans, while for high school seniors as a whole, they represented only about one of every eight students. The vast majority (71 percent) of the seniors from a high-family-income background who planned to attend college intended to enroll in a four-year college only, whereas about 60 percent of students with definite plans and family income below \$10,000 were considering enrollment in a two-year college. Also, about 15 percent of students with

income under \$10,000 were considering attending a post-secondary vocational school compared with students from families with high income (5 percent).

Differences associated with educational attainment of family head. College aspirations of high school seniors in 1975 were positively associated with the educational attainment of the heads of their respective families (table E). Seventy-eight percent of students who were members of families in which the head was a college graduate, for example, had definite college plans, whereas only 45 percent of students whose family head had completed 4 years of high school but no college, and 32 percent of those in families whose head had not completed any years of high school, had like plans.

However, plans to attend college were reported by many students whose family head had only a moderate to small amount of formal education. Over half (55 percent) of the seniors who definitely planned to enroll in a college or university were members of families in which the head had never attended college, and 23 percent were members of families in which the head had not graduated from high school.

College plans and college attendance. At this time it is not possible to ascertain whether the 1975 high school seniors' aspirations regarding college attendance will be fulfilled. The Census Bureau has, however, collected longitudinal data relating to college plans and actual college attendance of two previous groups of high school students, namely those who

Table C. Plans to Attend College of High School Seniors 14 to 34 Years Old, by Type of Residence, Region, and Control of School: October 1975

(Excluding seniors not reporting)

Type of residence, region, and control of school	Number reporting college plans (thousands)	Percent of those reporting who--			
		Plan to attend college	May attend college	Do not plan to attend college	
				Total	Plan or may attend vocational school
TYPE OF RESIDENCE					
Metropolitan.....	2,322	51.8	25.9	22.4	7.6
In central cities.....	939	52.2	28.5	19.3	7.5
Outside central cities.....	1,383	51.5	24.1	24.4	7.7
Nonmetropolitan.....	984	42.3	23.2	34.6	14.9
REGION					
Northeast.....	754	45.9	26.3	27.7	8.5
North Central.....	987	42.9	25.9	31.2	11.9
South.....	945	50.9	23.6	25.4	11.4
West.....	621	59.1	24.5	16.4	5.5
CONTROL OF SCHOOL					
Public high school.....	3,044	47.3	25.5	27.2	10.2
Private high school.....	262	67.6	19.8	12.2	5.3

Table D. Percent Distribution of Plans to Attend College by Family Income in Preceding 12 Months for High School Seniors in Primary Families: October 1975

(Excluding seniors not reporting)

Family income	Total reporting on college plans	Plan to attend college	May attend college	Do not plan to attend college	
				Total	Plan or may attend vocational school
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY FAMILY INCOME					
Total.....	100.0	49.9	25.0	25.1	9.6
Under \$10,000.....	100.0	38.6	27.5	33.9	14.6
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	100.0	43.1	27.7	29.2	11.1
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	100.0	56.3	23.9	19.8	5.8
\$25,000 and over.....	100.0	81.2	11.3	7.9	4.5
Not reported.....	100.0	39.2	32.0	28.9	9.6
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY COLLEGE PLANS					
Total, with income reported	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$10,000.....	28.8	21.8	32.7	39.5	43.8
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	26.7	22.6	30.5	31.5	30.8
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	31.1	34.4	30.7	24.9	18.8
\$25,000 and over.....	13.3	21.1	6.2	4.2	6.2

Table E. Percent Distribution of Plans to Attend College of High School Seniors 14 to 34 Years Old in Primary Families, by Years of School Completed by the Family Head: October 1975

(Excluding seniors not reporting)

Years of school completed by family head	Total reporting on college plans	Plan to attend college	May attend college	Do not plan to attend college	
				Total	Plan or may attend vocational school
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED					
Total.....	100.0	49.9	25.0	25.1	9.6
Elementary: 0 to 8 years.....	100.0	31.6	28.9	39.7	15.3
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	100.0	36.9	29.7	33.3	12.0
4 years.....	100.0	45.3	27.5	27.3	10.6
College: 1 to 3 years.....	100.0	61.8	21.7	16.8	6.8
4 years or more.....	100.0	77.5	15.2	7.2	2.6
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY COLLEGE PLANS					
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elementary: 0 to 8 years.....	14.9	9.5	17.3	23.7	23.8
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	18.5	13.7	22.0	24.6	23.2
4 years.....	35.4	31.7	38.4	38.0	38.7
College: 1 to 3 years.....	12.0	15.0	10.5	8.1	8.6
4 years or more.....	19.2	30.2	11.8	5.6	5.3

RELATED REPORTS

were seniors in October 1965 and in October 1959.² Data from these studies indicate that 68 percent of the high school seniors in 1959 who planned to attend college did so in 1960, a figure not statistically different from that for the 1965 seniors who planned to attend and had done so by February 1967 (70 percent).³ These data do not necessarily suggest that some of these students were overly optimistic about attending college. Some for instance, may plan to defer college entrance for a year or longer after graduation from high school. For example, by 1971, 77 percent of the 1965 seniors with college plans had attended college.⁴

Although some students in both previous studies indicated that they would not attend college, a small but significant proportion of these seniors in both 1960 and 1965 had actually attended college in the year following graduation. Of all the high school seniors in 1959 who graduated, 42 percent were attending college in 1960. For the high school seniors of 1965, 47 percent had attended college by February 1967. More recent data from the National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972, an ongoing survey sponsored by the National Center for Educational Statistics, show that 64 percent of the high school seniors interviewed in the spring of 1972 had actually attended some kind of post-secondary school or college by October 1973 (1½ years after graduation from high school), and about 50 percent were currently taking courses at a college or postsecondary vocational school.⁵ When originally interviewed as high school seniors, 59 percent indicated they were planning on attending a college or vocational school in the year following their graduation.

Data on college plans of high school seniors for October 1974, 1973 and 1972 were published in **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, Nos. 284, 270, and 252, respectively.

Statistics on school enrollment for October 1975 were presented in **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 294. Statistics on school enrollment for years prior to 1975 have been published annually in the P-20 Series of **Current Population Reports**.

Data on characteristics of high school seniors by graduation status and high school graduates by college attendance status are presented in "Factors Related to High School Graduation and College Attendance: 1967," **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 185. Data on college plans and college attendance of high school graduates are also presented in "Factors Related to College Attendance of Farm and Nonfarm High School Graduates: 1960," **Farm Population**, Series Census-ERS (P-27), No. 32; and "Educational Status, College Plans, and Occupational Status of Farm and Nonfarm Youths: October 1959," **Farm Population**, Series Census-ERS (P-27), No. 30. 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.

1960 and 1970 census data. 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 for 1970 on school enrollment by age and socioeconomic characteristics for regions and the United States are included in Subject Reports of the 1970 census, especially in PC(2)-5A, **School Enrollment**.

Figures on school enrollment from the October Current Population Surveys differ from decennial census data for reasons in addition to the difference 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 "drop-outs" during the school year, etc.) but also the level of school in which persons of a given age are enrolled.

² See the reports "Factors Related to High School Graduation and College Attendance: 1967," **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 185; "Factors Related to College Attendance of Farm and Nonfarm High School Graduates: 1960," **Farm Population**, Series Census-ERS (P-27), No. 32; and "Educational Status, College Plans, and Occupational Status of Farm and Nonfarm Youths: October 1959," **Farm Population**, Series Census-ERS (P-27), No. 30.

³ Even though the figures appear similar, the data for high school seniors in 1965 and 1959 are not strictly comparable due to the nature of the question. See discussion on page 5 of "College Plans of High School Seniors: October 1972," **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 252.

⁴ A. J. Jaffe and Walter Adams, 1971-72 Progress Report and Findings: Follow-up of Cross-section of 1965-66 High School Seniors and Related Materials, Bureau of Applied Social Research, Columbia University, July 1972, page 30.

⁵ See National Center for Educational Statistics, "National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972: Comparative Profiles One and One-Half Years After Graduation," N.C.E.S. 76-220, and "National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972: Tabular Summary of Student Questionnaire Data," N.C.E.S. publication No. 74-227a and b.