Population Characteristics

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OCTOBER 1964

In the 12-month period prior to October 1964, 604,000 persons between 14 and 24 years of age dropped out of school before completing high school, according to data from the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census (table A). About four-fifths left high school prior to graduation, and the remaining one-fifth dropped out of elementary school.

Table A.--ENROLLMENT STATUS IN OCTOBER 1963 OF PERSONS 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL AND NOT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN OCTOBER 1964

(In thousands)

Enrollment status in October 1963 and color	Total	Male	Female
ALL CLASSES			
Total[1]	5,154	2,408	2,746
Enrolled in school in 1963	604	273	331
Below high school	113	65	48
High school[2]	491	208	283
Not enrolled in school in 1963	4,437	2,081	2,356
NONWHITE			
Total[1]	1,083	541	542
Enrolled in school in 1963	144	76	68
Below high school	43	23	20
High school[2]	101	53	48
Not enrolled in school in 1963	924	456	468

[1] Includes persons not reporting enrollment status in 1963.

[2] Includes persons not reporting level of school in which enrolled in 1963.

About 64 percent of all school dropouts came from families with incomes under $5,000, and only 10 percent were members of families with earnings of $7,500 or more (table B). These and other results of the survey provide evidence of the inverse relationship between family income and school dropout rates.

Table B.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL DROPOUTS AND ALL PERSONS 16 TO 24 YEARS OLD BY FAMILY INCOME: OCTOBER 1964

(Excludes nonrelatives of household head. Income for preceding 12 months)

Family income	Persons 16 to 24 years old	
	Total	School dropouts
Total[1]	100.0	100.0
Under $2,000	9.6	20.3
$2,000 to $2,999	8.1	14.3
$3,000 to $4,999	20.9	29.8
$5,000 to $7,499	24.7	18.8
$7,500 to $9,999	14.4	6.3
$10,000 and over	15.5	4.0

[1] Includes income not reported, not shown separately.

Steady rise in enrollment since 1947 for 5-year-olds and persons 14 and over.--In the postwar period, total school and college enrollment went up from 29 million persons 5 to 34 years old in 1947 to 52 million in 1964, and the school enrollment rate increased from

42 percent to 59 percent. For ages 7 through 13, however, enrollment rates showed little change during this period. There was a substantial increase in school attendance among 5-year-olds and among young people 14 to 24 years old (table C). Among the former, the increase was due primarily to the spread of kindergartens during this period. In the latter group, the percent attending school for persons 16 and 17 years old rose from 68 percent to 88 percent, reflecting increases in the proportion completing high school. Among 18- and 19-year-olds, the enrollment rate rose from 24 percent in 1947 to 42 percent in 1964. Enrollment rates also rose among persons 20 to 34 years of age.

Table C.--PERCENT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY AGE, FOR PERSONS 5 TO 34 YEARS OLD: OCTOBER 1947 TO 1964

Year	Total, 5 to 34 years[1]	5 years[1]	6 years[1]	7 to 9 years	10 to 13 years	14 and 15 years	16 and 17 years	18 and 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 29 years	30 to 34 years
1964	58.7	68.5	98.2	99.0	99.0	98.6	87.7	41.6	16.8	5.2	2.6
1963	58.5	67.8	97.4	99.4	99.3	98.4	87.1	40.9	17.3	4.9	2.5
1962	57.8	66.8	97.9	99.2	99.3	98.0	84.3	41.8	15.6	5.0	2.6
1961	56.8	66.3	97.4	99.4	99.3	97.6	83.6	38.0	13.7	4.4	2.0
1960	56.4	63.7	98.0	99.6	99.5	97.8	82.6	38.4	13.1	4.9	2.4
1959	55.5	62.9	97.5	99.4	99.4	97.5	82.9	36.8	12.7	5.1	2.2
1958	54.8	63.8	97.3	99.5	99.5	96.9	80.6	37.6	13.4	5.7	2.2
1957	53.6	60.2	97.4	99.5	99.5	97.1	80.5	34.9	14.0	5.5	1.8
1956	52.3	58.9	97.0	99.4	99.2	96.9	78.4	35.4	12.8	5.1	1.9
1955	50.8	58.1	98.2	99.2	99.2	95.9	77.4	31.5	11.1	4.2	1.6
1954	50.0	57.7	96.8	99.2	99.5	95.8	78.0	32.4	11.2	4.1	1.5
1953	48.8	58.4	97.7	99.4	99.4	96.5	74.7	31.2	11.1	2.9	1.7
1952	46.8	57.8	96.8	98.7	98.9	96.2	73.4	28.7	9.5	2.6	1.2
1951	45.4	53.8	96.0	99.0	99.2	94.8	75.1	26.3	8.3	2.5	0.7
1950	44.2	51.8	97.0	98.9	98.6	94.7	71.3	29.4	9.0	3.0	0.9
1949	43.9	55.1	96.2	98.5	98.7	93.5	69.5	25.3	9.2	3.8	1.1
1948	43.1	55.0	96.2	98.3	98.0	92.7	71.2	26.9	9.7	2.6	0.9
1947	42.3	53.4	96.2	98.4	98.6	91.6	67.6	24.3	10.2	3.0	1.0

[1] Includes children enrolled in kindergarten.

Enrollment rates increase for both men and women 18 to 34 years old, but men retain lead.-- Although enrollment rates for both men and women between 18 and 34 years went up significantly between 1950 and 1964, men not only retained their lead over women, but the attendance disparity between men and women continued to widen. In 1950, the difference between 18- and 19-year-old males and females was about 11 percentage points (table D). By 1964 this difference had reached 17 percentage points. Among persons 20 to 24 years old, the difference in enrollment between the sexes increased from 10 percentage points in 1950 to 13 in 1964. The age groups in which the enrollment differences increased were those in which the greatest proportions of students were enrolled in college.

White-Negro enrollment differences greatest during college ages.--About 28 percent of the white and 14 percent of the Negro population 20 and 21 years old were enrolled in school in the fall of 1964 (figure 1). The white enrollment rates exceeded those for Negroes by large amounts at ages 18 and 19 and 22 to 24 as well.
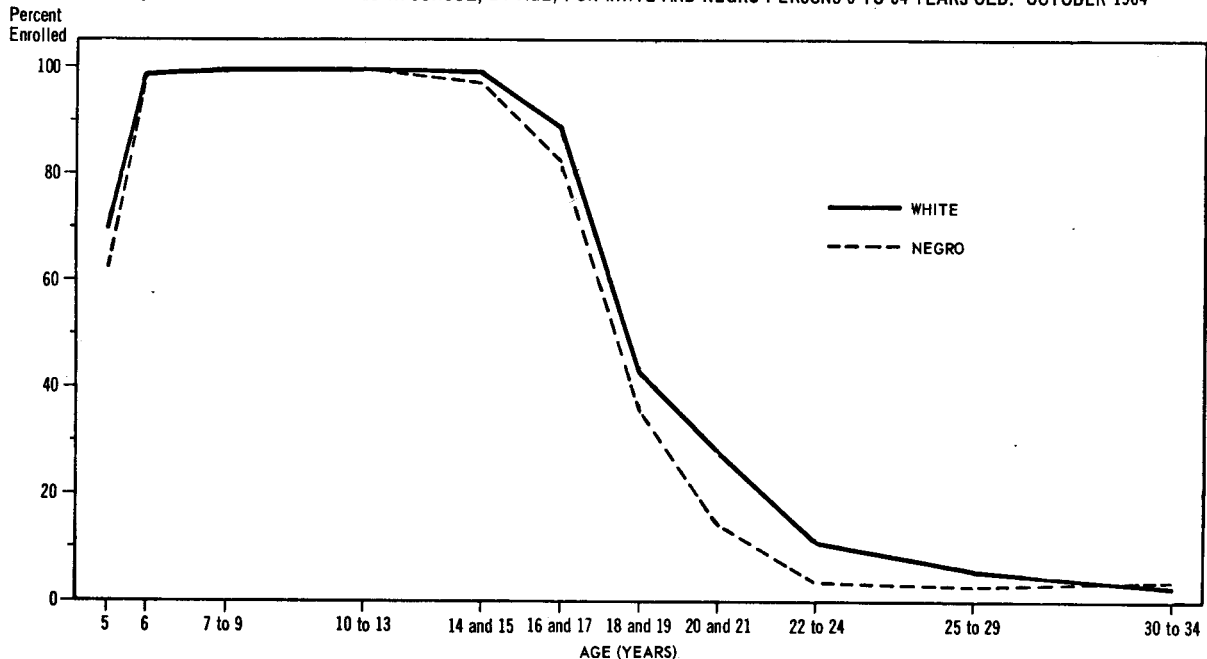
Furthermore, of those who were enrolled in school, greater proportions of white persons than of Negroes were attending college (table 5). Among the 18-and 19-year olds, 78 percent of the enrolled whites but only 36 percent of the enrolled Negroes were in college, whereas, in the 20- to 34-year-group, 96 percent of white but only 73 percent of Negro enrolled persons were attending college.

Differences between the enrollment rates of the two races also occurred at younger ages. White youths 16 and 17 years old had an 88 percent enrollment rate compared with 82 percent for Negroes of the same age, whereas among 5-year-olds the proportions were about 70 percent for white children and 63 percent for Negro. However, between the ages of 6 and 13 years, when school attendance is generally compulsory, the percentage of children enrolled in school was the same for both races.

Table D.--PERCENT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR PERSONS 18 TO 34 YEARS OLD: OCTOBER 1964

Year and age	Male	Female	Difference
1964			
18 and 19 years	50.9	33.7	17.2
20 to 24 years	23.8	10.9	12.9
25 to 29 years	8.1	2.6	5.5
30 to 34 years	3.6	1.6	2.0
1950			
18 and 19 years	35.2	24.3	10.9
20 to 24 years	14.2	4.6	9.6
25 to 29 years	5.9	0.4	5.5
30 to 34 years	1.5	0.4	1.1

Figure 1.-PERCENT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY AGE, FOR WHITE AND NEGRO PERSONS 5 TO 34 YEARS OLD: OCTOBER 1964

Small percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in nursery schools and kindergartens.-- According to information from the Current Population Survey collected for the first time in 1964, approximately 800,000 children 3 and 4 years old

Table E.—ENROLLMENT OF 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN IN NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN, BY TYPE OF SCHOOL: OCTOBER 1964

(Numbers in thousands)

Enrollment status and level and type of school	Total, 3 and 4 years old	3 years old	4 years old
ENROLLMENT STATUS			
Total.........................	8,386	4,238	4,148
Percent...................	100.0	100.0	100.0
Enrolled......................	9.5	4.3	14.9
Not enrolled[1]..................	90.5	95.7	85.1
LEVEL AND TYPE OF SCHOOL			
Total enrolled...............	798	181	617
Percent...................	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nursery school...................	55.0	96.1	42.9
Public.......................	10.4	19.9	7.6
Private......................	44.6	76.2	35.3
Kindergarten[2]..................	45.0	3.9	57.1
Public.......................	35.0	1.7	44.7
Private......................	10.0	2.2	12.3

[1] Includes enrollment status not reported.
[2] Includes the small number enrolled in elementary school.

were enrolled in public and private nursery schools and kindergartens (table E). These data revealed that most boys and girls under 5 years were not attending school. Only 4 percent of the 3-year-olds and 15 percent of the 4-year-olds were enrolled in nursery schools and kindergartens.

Of about 800,000 3- and 4-year-old children enrolled, about 600,000 were 4 years old. Nearly all (96 percent) of the 3-year-olds were attending nursery schools; but, among the 4-year-olds, 43 percent were in nursery schools and 57 percent in kindergartens. Among the total enrolled, the proportion attending public schools was about 22 percent for 3-year-olds, but 52 percent for 4-year-olds.

Enrollment rates of 3- and 4-year-olds were higher among children in families with incomes of $10,000 or more than among children in any other income category (table F). Among 3-year-olds, the enrollment rate varied from 2.2 percent for families with incomes of less than $3,000 to 13.5 percent for those with incomes of $10,000 or more. Enrollment also increased among 4-year-olds as family income rose. Attendance among these children went up from 7.3 percent for those in the lowest income group to 33.6 percent in the highest income group. These percentages do not reflect the effect of Operation Headstart, which began after the date of the survey.

Table F.--PERCENT ENROLLED IN NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN, BY FAMILY INCOME, FOR CHILDREN 3 AND 4 YEARS OLD: OCTOBER 1964

Age and family income	Total enrolled	Nursery school	Kinder-garten[1]
Total, 3 and 4 years old..	9.5	5.2	4.3
3 years old.................	4.2	4.1	0.2
Under $3,000...............	2.2	2.2	-
$3,000 to $4,999..........	2.8	2.5	0.3
$5,000 to $7,499..........	3.2	2.9	0.3
$7,500 to $9,999..........	4.5	4.5	-
$10,000 and over..........	13.5	13.5	-
4 years old................	14.9	6.4	8.5
Under $3,000..............	7.3	1.8	5.5
$3,000 to $4,999..........	10.0	3.1	7.0
$5,000 to $7,499..........	13.5	4.3	9.3
$7,500 to $9,999..........	16.6	7.4	9.2
$10,000 and over..........	33.6	20.9	12.7

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
[1] Includes the small number enrolled in elementary school.

School enrollment of 3- and 4-year-olds varied considerably by region and by residence (table G). Greater proportions of these children were enrolled in the West and Northeast than in the North Central Region and the South. In metropolitan areas, about 12 percent attended nursery schools and kindergartens compared with 5 percent in nonmetropolitan areas.

Table G.--PERCENT OF 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ENROLLED IN NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN, BY REGION, COLOR, AND TYPE OF RESIDENCE: OCTOBER 1964

Subject	Total, 3 and 4 years old	3 years old	4 years old
Total[1]...................	9.5	4.3	14.9
REGION OF RESIDENCE			
Northeast..................	12.3	4.4	20.8
North Central..............	6.9	3.0	11.1
South.....................	7.9	3.4	12.3
West......................	12.8	7.8	17.8
METROPOLITAN-NONMETROPOLITAN RESIDENCE			
Metropolitan...............	11.9	5.4	18.5
Nonmetropolitan............	5.2	2.2	8.4
COLOR			
White.....................	9.4	4.2	14.6
Nonwhite..................	10.5	4.6	16.7

[1] Includes the small number enrolled in elementary school.

Greatest difference in metropolitan-nonmetropolitan enrollment rates occurred among nonwhite 5-year-olds.--About 78 percent of all 5-year-old children residing in metropolitan areas, compared with 51 percent of those living in nonmetropolitan areas, were enrolled in school in October 1964

(table H). Although white and nonwhite 5-year-olds had similar enrollment rates in metropolitan areas, this was not the case in nonmetropolitan areas, where about 55 percent of the white 5-year-olds and about 25 percent of the nonwhite were attending school. Among children 6 to 15 years of age, proportions enrolled were about the same by residence and by color.

Table H.--PERCENT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY METROPOLITAN-NONMETROPOLITAN RESIDENCE, AGE, AND COLOR, FOR PERSONS 5 TO 34 YEARS OLD: OCTOBER 1964

(Minus sign (-) denotes decrease)

Age and color	Metro-politan	Nonmetro-politan	Differ-ence
Total, 5 to 34 years......	58.9	58.4	0.5
5 years......................	77.9	51.2	26.7
6 to 13 years..................	99.0	98.8	0.2
14 and 15 years................	98.8	98.2	0.6
16 and 17 years................	89.7	84.4	5.3
18 and 19 years................	43.2	38.8	4.4
20 and 21 years................	28.4	22.5	5.9
22 to 24 years.................	11.2	7.2	4.0
25 5o 29 years.................	5.9	4.0	1.9
30 to 34 years.................	3.2	1.3	1.9
White, 5 to 34 years........	58.9	58.1	0.8
5 years......................	77.6	55.3	22.3
6 to 13 years..................	98.9	98.9	-
14 and 15 years................	98.9	98.5	0.4
16 and 17 years................	90.0	85.3	4.7
18 and 19 years................	44.4	38.4	6.0
20 and 21 years................	29.9	23.9	6.0
22 to 24 years.................	12.1	7.8	4.3
25 to 29 years.................	6.0	4.1	1.9
30 to 34 years.................	3.1	1.5	1.6
Nonwhite, 5 to 34 years.....	59.0	60.4	-1.4
5 years......................	79.2	24.5	54.7
6 to 13 years..................	99.4	98.1	1.3
14 and 15 years................	98.2	96.1	2.1
16 and 17 years................	87.0	77.8	9.2
18 and 19 years................	34.4	41.3	-6.9
20 and 21 years................	17.7	11.4	6.3
22 to 24 years.................	4.3	2.9	1.4
25 to 29 years.................	4.7	3.0	1.7
30 to 34 years.................	3.6	-	3.6

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

At ages 16 to 34, enrollment rates in metropolitan areas were greater than in nonmetropolitan areas. In both types of areas, enrollment rates for whites in these ages were higher than for nonwhites.

RELATED REPORTS

Advance data on school enrollment for October 1964 were presented in Series P-20, No. 133. Statistics on school enrollment for October of the years prior to 1964 have been published in other reports in Series P-20.

Statistics on the economic characteristics of students are presented in an article entitled "The Employment of High School Graduates and Dropouts in 1964" in the June 1965 issue of the Monthly

Labor Review, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data from the Current Population Survey concerning the college plans of high school seniors, their major fields of study, and the educational characteristics of persons 16 to 24 years old who were not enrolled in school as of October 1959 have been presented in the Census-ERS Series (P-27), No. 30. Additional data on the realization of college plans in relation to ability and socioeconomic factors have been presented in No. 32 of the Census-ERS Series (P-27).

A report titled "Enrollment of 3-, 4-, and 5-Year Olds in Nursery Schools and Kindergartens: October 1964," has been released by the Office of Education of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Funds from the Office of Education made possible the collection and analysis of data on 3- and 4-year-old children in this report.

1950 and 1960 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 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 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 "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 school enrollment and educational attainment 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, time references, and enumeration methods. To illustrate, the enrollment figures of the Bureau of the Census tend to be lower than those in the Biennial Survey of Education conducted by the United States Office of Education, largely because the census data refer to shorter time periods and count a person only once, although he may have attended more than one school during the reporting period. In the biennial survey, some persons are included in the enrollment figures more than once, such as those enrolled in both public and private schools and, generally, those enrolled in two different States at any time during the school year. On the other hand, 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.

The 1964 Bureau of the Census figures on college enrollment were lower than those released by the United States Office of Education. The difference resulted mainly from differences in data for part-time college students.

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.

School enrollment.--The school enrollment statistics from the current surveys are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include

kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Beginning with 1954, children enrolled in kindergarten have been included in the enrollment figures for "regular" schools, and have also been shown separately. Figures shown in this report on school enrollment for years prior to 1954 have been revised to include children in kindergarten.

"Special" schools are those which are not in the regular school system, such as trade schools or business colleges. Persons attending "special" schools are not included in the enrollment figures.

Persons enrolled in classes which do not require physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, and in training courses given directly on the job, are also excluded from the count of those enrolled in school, unless such courses are being counted for credit at a "regular" school.

School dropouts, 1963 to 1964.--For persons 14 to 24 years old, who were not enrolled in school and not high school graduates in October 1964, a direct question was asked to determine whether they were enrolled in October 1963, and if so, at what level they were enrolled.

Level of school.--The statistics on level of school indicate the number of persons enrolled at each of four levels: Kindergarten, elementary school (first to eighth grades), high school (ninth to twelfth grades); and college or professional school. The last group includes graduate students in colleges or universities. Persons enrolled in junior high school through the eighth grade are classified as in elementary school, and the others as in high school.

Public or private school.--In this report, a public school is defined as any educational institution operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and supported by public funds. Private schools include educational institutions established and operated by religious bodies, as well as those which are under other private control. In cases where enrollment was in a school or 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 and color.--The term "race" refers to the division of population into three groups, white, Negro, and other races. The group designated as "other races" consists of Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races. The term "color" refers to the twofold classification white and nonwhite.

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 income.--Income as defined in this report represents the combined total money income of the family, before deductions for personal taxes, Social Security, banks, etc. It is the 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 interview.

In this report, family income is shown for persons who are related to the head of the household, and for those who are themselves heads of households. Family income for household heads with no relatives present refers to the income of the person.

Rounding of estimates.--Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data.--The estimates are based on data obtained in October 1964 in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. The sample is spread over 357 areas comprising 701 counties and independent cities, with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 35,000 occupied housing units are designated for interview in the Current Population Survey each month. Of this number, 1,500 occupied units, on the average, are visited but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. In

addition to the 35,000, there are also about 5,000 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be enumerated.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Reliability of the estimates.--Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

The figures presented in tables J and K are approximations to the standard errors of various estimates shown in this report. In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a wide variety of items and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item.

Table J contains the standard errors for a given class of persons age 3 to 34 enrolled in school.

Table J.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated number of persons	Total persons in age group (thousands)							
	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000
25,000	6	6	6	6	-	-	-	-
50,000	8	8	8	8	8	-	-	-
100,000	10	12	12	12	12	12	-	-
200,000	8	10	12	14	17	17	17	-
250,000	-	14	14	16	18	18	19	-
400,000	-	11	15	17	19	19	21	23
500,000	-	-	19	19	20	22	22	25
800,000	-	-	15	21	24	26	29	31
1,000,000	-	-	-	25	27	29	32	35
2,000,000	-	-	-	23	29	36	45	52
2,500,000	-	-	-	-	33	39	51	60
4,000,000	-	-	-	-	32	45	60	75
5,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	60	72	85
8,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	47	88	103
10,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	115
20,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	121
25,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115
40,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100

- Represents zero.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding absolute estimates of the numerator of the percentage, particularly if the percentage is 50 percent or greater.

Table K shows the standard error of estimated percentages for a given class of persons age 3 to 34 enrolled in school.

Table K.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of estimated percentage (thousands)						
	500	1,000	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	75,000
2 or 98	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
10 or 90	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
25 or 75	2.3	1.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
50	2.7	1.9	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors: Table 1 of this report shows that 2,196,000 or 41.6 percent of the 5,276,000 persons in the age group 18 and 19 years were enrolled in school at the time of this survey. Table J shows the standard error of the estimated 2,196,000 persons out of a total of 5,276,000 persons in the age group to be approximately 31,000. Chances are 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have differed from the sample result by less than 31,000. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the difference would have been less than 62,000 or twice the standard error.

Table K shows the standard error of 41.6 percent with a base of 5,276,000 to be approximately 0.8 percent. Consequently, chances are about 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have disclosed a figure between 40.8 and 42.4 percent. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the census result would have been within 1.6 percentage points (two standard errors) of the sample estimate, i.e., between 40.0 and 43.2 percent.

LIST OF TABLES