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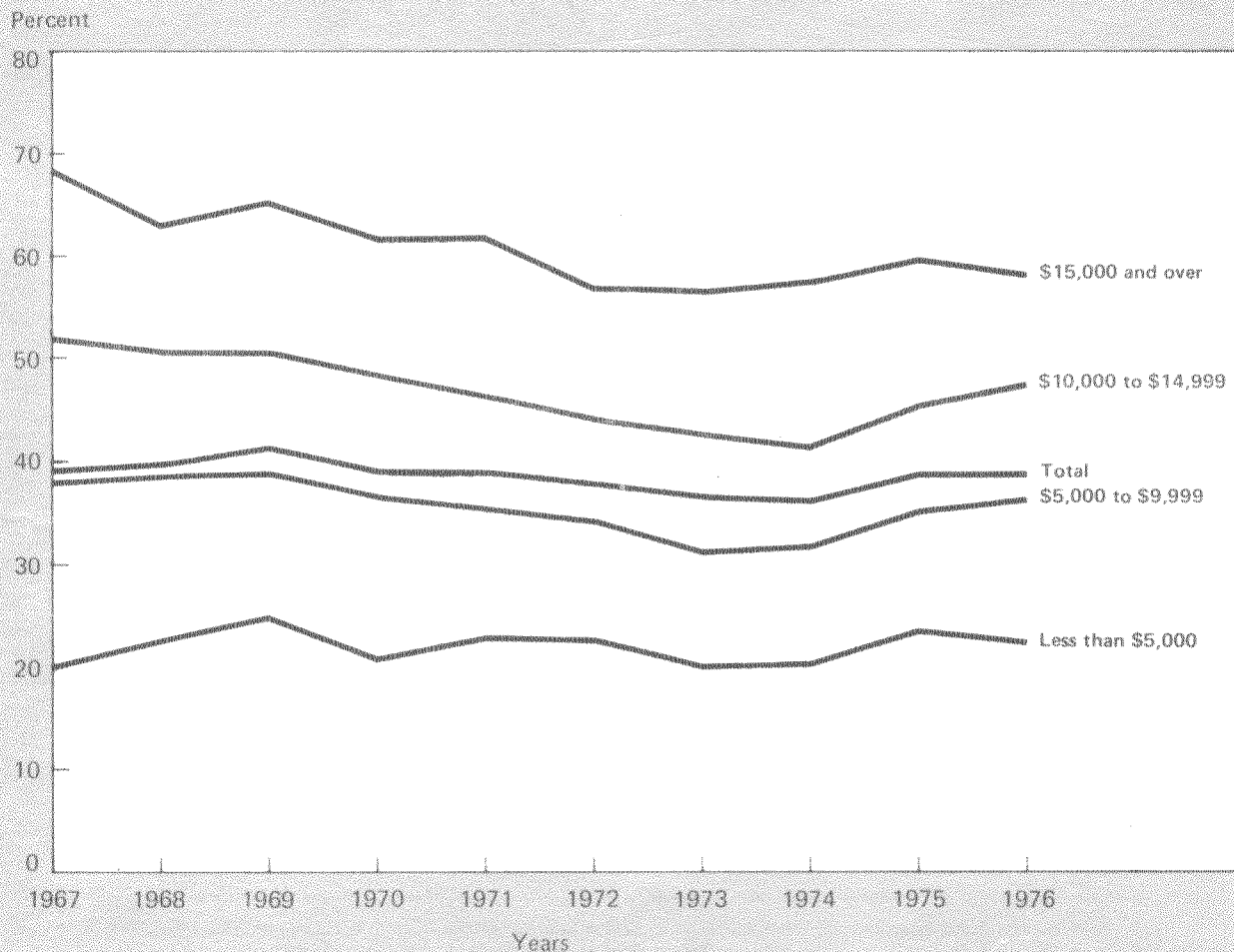
Population Characteristics

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Series P-20, No. 319
Issued February 1978

School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1976

Figure 1. College Enrollment Rates of Dependent Family Members 18 to 24 Years Old, by Family Income (in 1967 Dollars): October 1967 to October 1976





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**Population
Characteristics**

Series P-20, No. 319
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Social and Economic
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October 1976**

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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 1976

INTRODUCTION

This report presents an analysis of data for October 1976 from the Current Population Survey (CPS) on recent changes in school and college enrollment. The statistical tables present data on school enrollment patterns in 1976 for students attending nursery school through college by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics such as age, race, sex, marital status, household relationship, and family income level. These tables are limited to persons enrolled in regular school (nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school, high school, and college or professional school) and exclude persons enrolled in vocational school or adult education classes.

An earlier report on the October 1976 data showed that the following major trends in school enrollment have occurred.¹

- There was no significant change from October 1975 to October 1976 in the total number of students 3 to 34 years old enrolled in school.
- The number of students enrolled in nursery school declined for the first time since these data were first collected by the Census Bureau in 1964.
- The trend of declining elementary school enrollment continued; it has decreased 12 percent since 1970.
- College enrollment did not change significantly from 1975 to 1976 following a 10 percent increase in the preceding year.
- College enrollment of Black students 14 to 34 years old reached 1.1 million in 1976, about twice the number enrolled in 1970.

This report focuses on changes in college enrollment by family income, the effect of the changing size of the Armed Forces in the 1960's and 1970's on enrollment rates of young men, means of obtaining a high school diploma, and type of degree being sought by college students.

College Enrollment and the GI Bill

Recent changes in the education benefits of the GI bill (chapter 34, title 38, of the U.S. Code) might have affected the level of college enrollment in the fall of 1976. In November 1975, a period of high unemployment, 1.3 million

veterans were enrolled in college under the GI bill; by November 1976 the figure dropped to about 835,000. This reduction in the number of GI bill college enrollees could be attributed in large part to changes in the law and the imposition of a delimiting date, May 31, 1976, which eliminated peacetime post-Korean veterans from participation in college training and, consequently, dropped many older veterans from the rolls. In 1975, 12 percent of all college students were funded by the GI bill, as compared with only 8 percent in 1976.²

According to the Veterans Administration, a majority of veterans attending college under the GI bill in 1976 were in junior colleges. Six out of ten undergraduate veterans were attending junior colleges, compared with 3 out of 10 for all undergraduates. Between 1975 and 1976, junior college enrollment of GI bill participants dropped by about 259,000 (36 percent). This downward shift in enrollment of veterans probably affected the total number of students in junior colleges. CPS data show that among persons 14 to 34 years old, 2-year college enrollment did not increase between October 1975 and 1976. Also, there is some evidence of a slight decline in 2-year college enrollment among men between 1975 and 1976 as compared with a substantial increase between 1974 and 1975.³ A surge in total college enrollment by veterans eligible for GI benefits occurred in 1975 when the delimiting date was passed by Congress; in that year enrollment of veterans in college rose by one-third, but by 1976 college enrollment under the GI bill had dropped below the 1974 level.

College Enrollment and Armed Forces Participation

College enrollment figures by age and sex have been available from the CPS for the civilian noninstitutional population only. Since Armed Forces participation of young men is concentrated in the same age span as college attendance, changes in Armed Forces levels can appreciably affect college enrollment rates. The civilian college enrollment rate by age will provide a reliable measure of the changes in enrollment over time, if the size of the Armed Forces remains stable. However, if the size of the Armed Forces varies, as it did in the last half of the 1960's, the civilian population also changes and thereby affects the base for the college enrollment rate of males.

¹U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, No. 309, "School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1976 (Advance Report)."

²Veterans Administration, Reports and Statistics Service, Office of the Controller Information Bulletin (IB 4-77-3), "Veterans Benefits Under Current Educational Programs."

³U.S. Bureau of the Census, *op. cit.*

Figure 2a. College Enrollment of the Population 18 to 24 Years Old by Sex:
October 1960 to October 1976

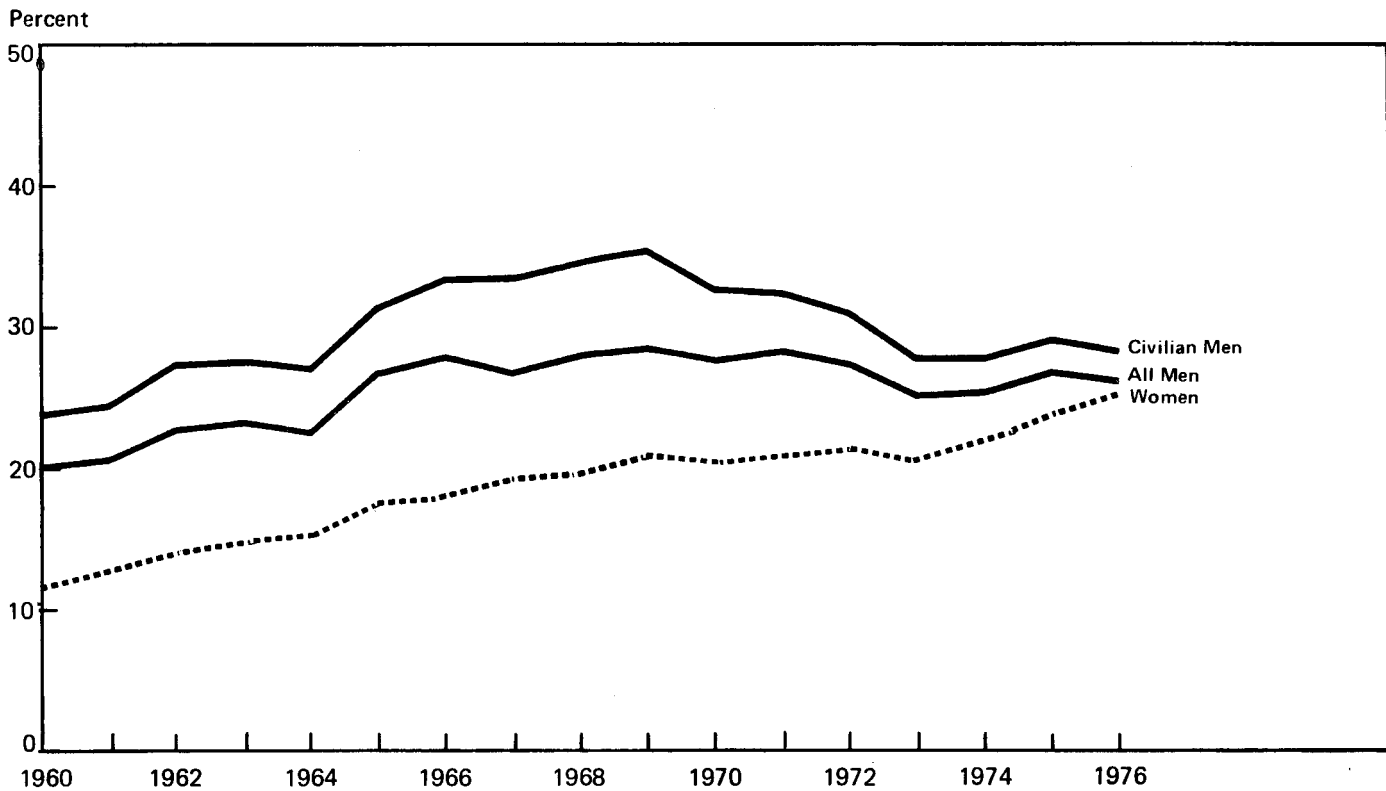


Figure 2b. Armed Forces Participation of Men 18 to 24 Years Old by Age:
October 1960 to October 1976

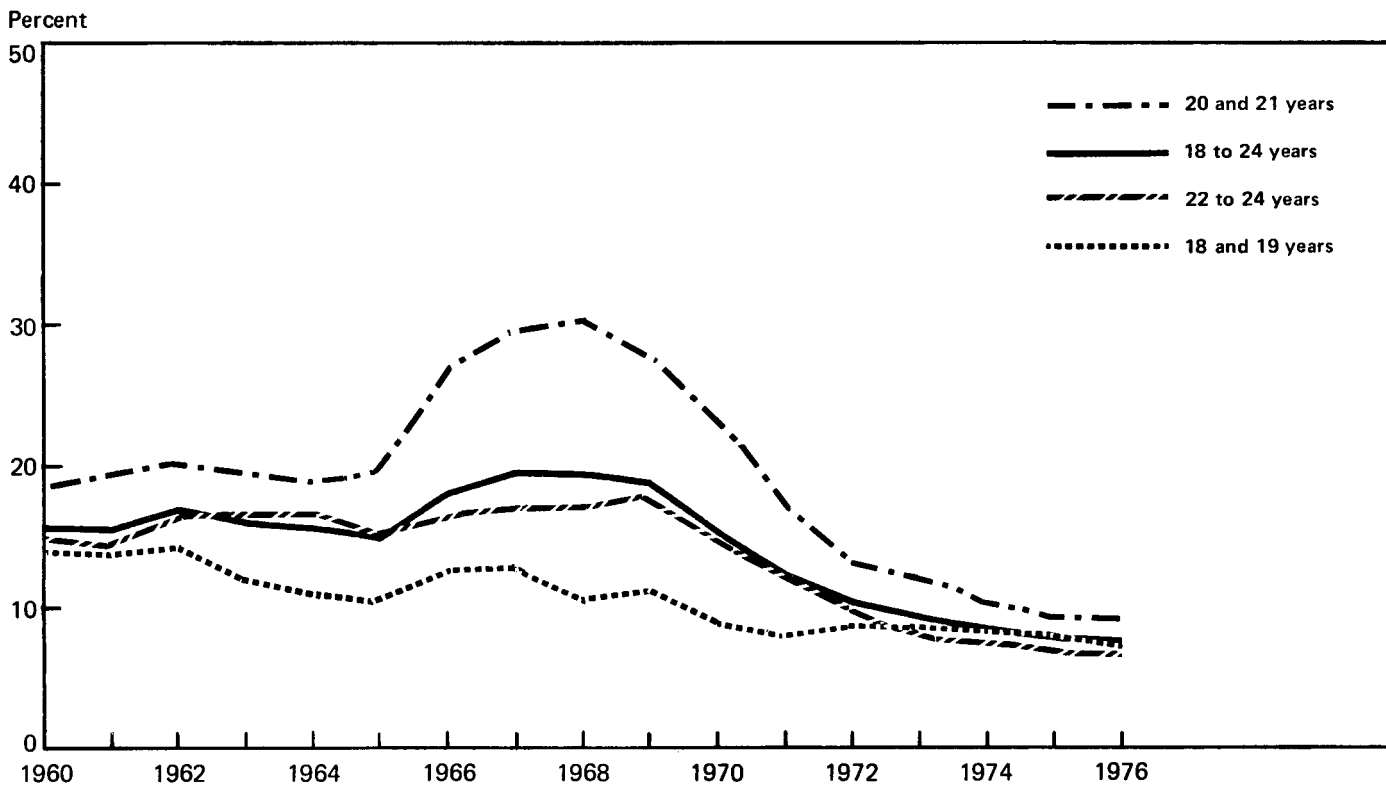
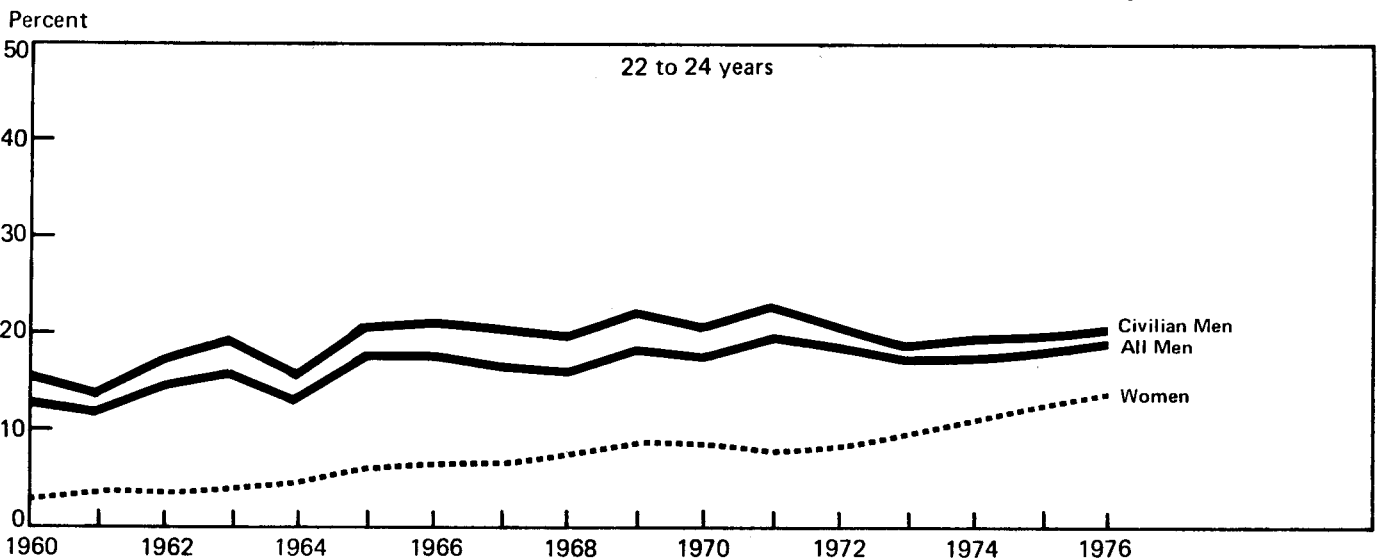
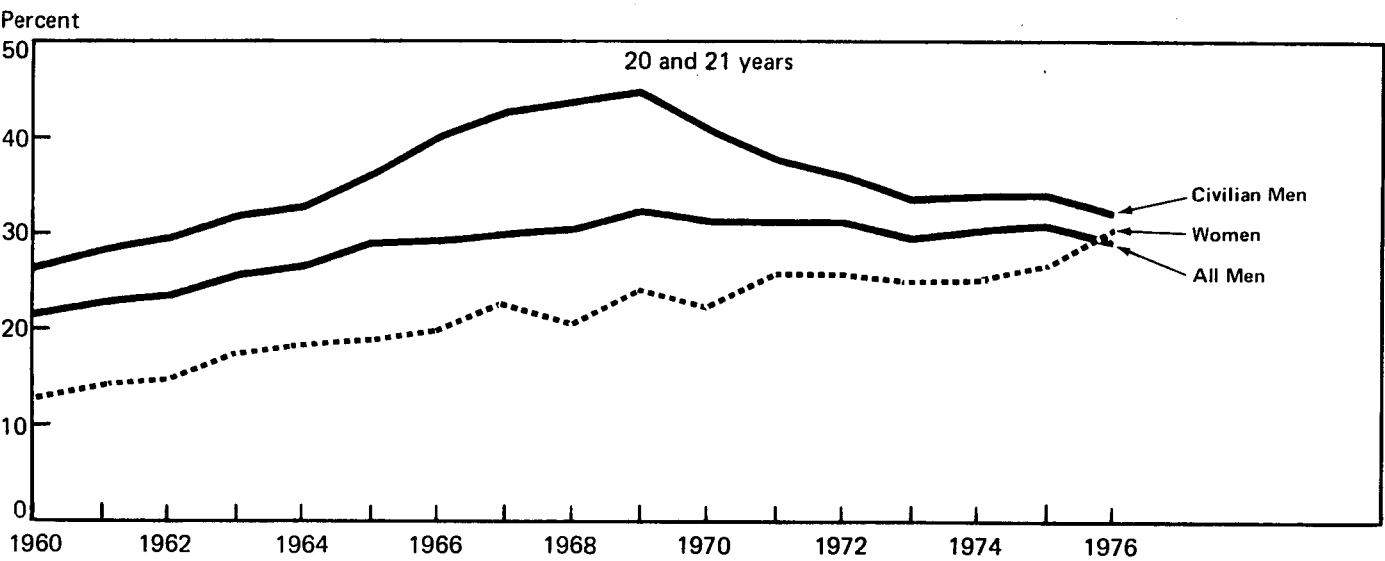
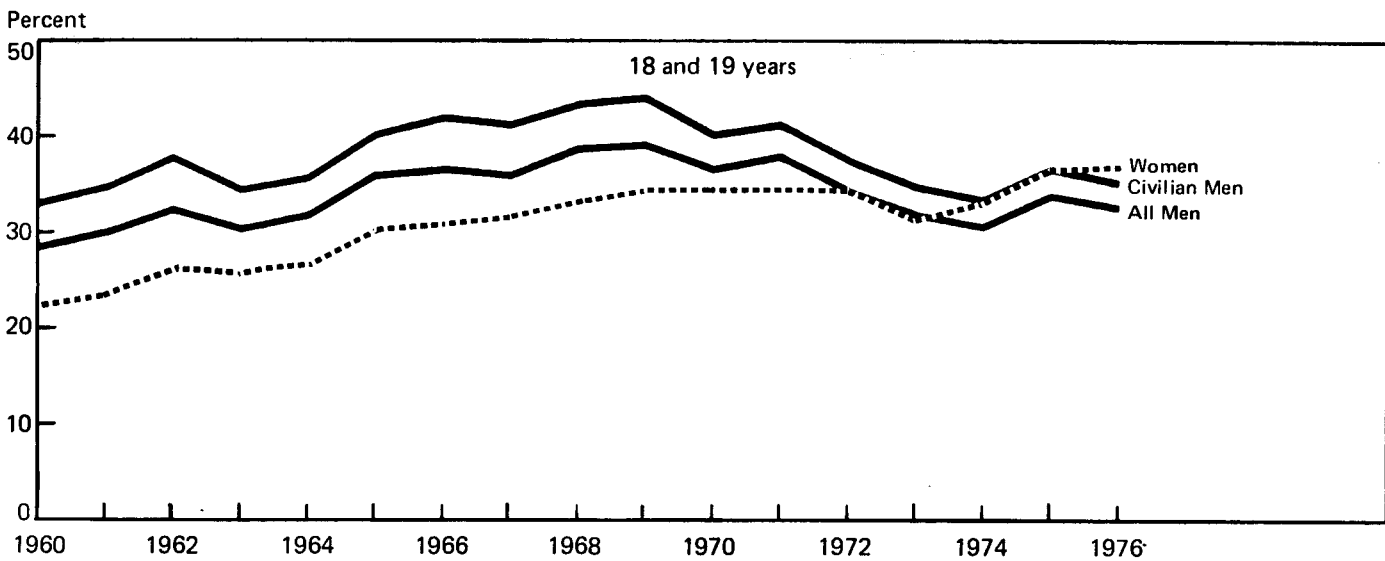


Figure 2c. College Enrollment of the Population 18 to 24 Years Old for All Men, Including the Armed Forces, and Civilian Men and Women, by Age: October 1960 to October 1976



Note: Civilian enrollment rate is based on the civilian noninstitutional population only; the total enrollment rate for men is derived by dividing the civilian population enrolled in college by the total population of men including the Armed Forces. For this chart and table A-4 Armed Forces personnel are assumed not to be enrolled in college. Figures for women are based on the civilian population only because the Armed Forces involvement of young women has been quite small.

In this section college enrollment rates of young men are compared in terms of "civilian enrollment rates" based on the civilian population only, and "total enrollment rates" based on the total population including the Armed Forces overseas. This adjusted college enrollment ratio based on the total population assumes that none of the men in the Armed Forces were in college, an assumption known to be false; but the changes in the college enrollment level of civilian men as shown by this ratio more accurately reflect the true changes in total population and the number enrolled.

From 1965 to 1969, the number of men 18 to 24 years old in the Armed Forces increased by about one-half, from 1.5 to 2.2 million; but the proportion of the age group increased only from 15 to 19 percent because the size of the group also increased. By 1976, this number had dropped to 1.1 million or to about 8 percent of the age group. The most dramatic shifts in the Armed Forces population occurred among 20- and 21-year-old males (table A-4). In 1968, 30 percent of these young men were in the Armed Forces; this meant that the civilian enrollment rate was based on 70 percent of the population in the age group and that rate was about 44 percent. By 1976, when only 9 percent of the age group was in the Armed Forces, the civilian enrollment rate dropped to 32 percent. However, when enrollment for 20- and 21-year-old civilian young men is based on the total population including the Armed Forces (considered to be not enrolled in school), the total enrollment rate was 30 percent in 1968 and 29 percent in 1976, not a significant difference. The difference in rates based on the civilian population lends support to the hypothesis that many young men only enrolled in college during the Vietnam era to avoid the draft; however the rates based on the total population indicate that the rates of college enrollment during the period were relatively steady.

The rapid increase followed by the equally rapid decline in the college enrollment rate of civilian men 20 and 21 years old between 1965 and 1971 was not duplicated by changes in the enrollment rate based on the total population but reflects the trend of changes in Armed Forces participation during the Vietnam era as figure 2 shows. The enrollment rate based on the total population increased slowly through the early 1960's and has remained at or near 30 percent since that time. Enrollment rates also rose in the 1960's for 22- to 24-year-olds, although their military and college enrollment rates were never as high as for the younger group. The total enrollment rate of 22- to 24-year-old men remained high after the Vietnam era, perhaps in part because some men who were in the Armed Forces at around 20 years of age took advantage of veterans' benefits and enrolled in college at a later time. Perhaps enrollment increased because of the draft laws during the Vietnam era, but even after the threat of the draft had passed, men 20 years old and over continued their higher education at the same rate.

Since 1960, fewer than 15 percent of men 18 and 19 years old have been members of the Armed Forces. Enrollment rates for men in this age group increased among both civilians and the total population in the late 1960's; sub-

sequently, the total enrollment rate did drop off from 39 percent in 1968 and 1969 to 33 percent in 1976, not significantly different from the enrollment level of the early 1960's.

After the increase in enrollment rates of males in the late 1960's, some expected that enrollment of young students would be curtailed⁴ and that colleges would suffer a loss in enrollment which would result in an oversupply of facilities and personnel. Actually, total enrollment rates for all 18- to 24-year-old men have varied little in the last 10 years and were not significantly different in 1976 from 1966. For women the proportion enrolled has increased (figure 2). The warnings about college graduates not obtaining jobs commensurate with their learned skills when they finish apparently have not deterred many potential students from enrolling.

Women 18 to 24 years old have continued to increase their college enrollment during the 1970's until it has met the level for all men. Women 18 to 21 years old have exceeded the enrollment rate for men; at older ages they remain slightly behind.

College Attendance and Family Income

Family income has long been associated with college attendance.⁵ Young adults from high income families are much more likely to attend college than are those from low income families. Although there may have been some lessening of the differences in rates by income level since 1967, persons 18 to 24 years old in 1976 whose families have at least \$15,000 in income (1967 dollars) were still about three times as likely to attend college as were young adults from families with less than \$3,000 income (table A-5).

Figures 1, 3, and 4 and table A exhibit college enrollment rates of dependent family members 18 to 24 years old (defined as relatives, but not wives, of the family head). These persons are primarily sons and daughters of the head. The data show that, overall, enrollment rates were not different in 1976 than they were in 1967; only for persons in the top income groups (\$10,000 and over) have rates declined significantly (figure 1). There was no significant change for those of lower incomes.

Family income was standardized to 1967 dollars in table A-5 to allow comparison of similar income groups over time. With about 70 percent inflation from 1967 to 1976, comparison of income groups in current dollars becomes distorted; \$15,000 in 1967 had the same buying power as about \$25,600 in 1976. The Consumer Price Index for 1976 is 170.5 based on an index of 1967 dollars = 100.0.⁶

⁴Richard B. Freeman, *The Overeducated American*, New York: Academic Press, 1976.

⁵U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Education of the American Population* by John K. Folger and Charles B. Nam (a 1960 census monograph).

⁶U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Monthly Labor Review*, Vol. 100, No. 3, March 1977.

Approximate comparable buying power of 1967 and 1976 dollars is as follows:

1967 dollars		1976 dollars
\$ 3,000	=	\$ 5,115
\$ 5,000	=	\$ 8,525
\$ 7,500	=	\$12,788
\$10,000	=	\$17,050
\$15,000	=	\$25,575

Two limitations of the data on trends in enrollment by family income should be noted. First, since these data are based on the civilian noninstitutional population, changes over time in the proportion of young men of college age who were in the Armed Forces and thus omitted from the population base could influence computation of school enrollment rates. Discussion in the preceding section showed that the increased enrollment rate for civilian men, in years when the strength of the Armed Forces was greatest, was largely artificial. The change in rates for dependent men of all incomes, shown in figure 3, was similar to that for civilian men in figure 2a, that is, a general decrease of about 8 percentage points from 1969 to 1976, with little change since 1972.

The second limitation relates to young women in their parents' households. The direction and magnitude of the trends are probably real but total enrollment rates compared with those for men may be inflated. Since women generally marry at younger ages than men, they are less likely to be in their parents' households; about half of the women 18 to 24 years old, but only a third of the men, who were not in school were married, in their own households, and no longer dependent family members in 1976 (table 10). The absence of a greater number of young women from their parental homes deflates the base for computation of rates for women more than for men and therefore inflates the enrollment rates for women to some extent.

Although important changes occurred between 1967 and 1976 in college enrollment rates by sex and income level for all dependent family members 18 to 24 years old, the proportion enrolled in college in 1976 was not significantly different from the proportion enrolled in 1967 (figure 1). This stability resulted from a decrease of 8 percentage points for young men over the period and a comparable increase for women (figures 3 and 4). For both sexes combined, the period showed a decline in enrollment rates to 1973 and then a recovery by 1976 (table A). A similar trend was apparent for the two middle income groups, (families with incomes of

Table A. College Enrollment Rates of Dependent Family Members 18 to 24 Years Old, by Family Income and Sex: October 1967 to October 1976

(In 1967 dollars)

Sex and family income	Percent enrolled									
	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
BOTH SEXES										
All incomes.....	38.8	38.7	36.2	36.6	37.8	38.9	39.1	41.3	39.7	39.1
Less than \$5,000.....	22.4	23.5	20.3	20.1	22.6	22.8	20.8	24.8	22.5	20.0
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	36.3	35.1	31.7	31.2	34.2	35.4	36.6	38.8	38.5	37.9
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	47.5	45.4	41.4	42.7	44.2	46.4	48.4	50.6	50.7	51.9
\$15,000 and over.....	58.2	59.6	57.5	56.6	56.9	61.8	61.7	65.2	63.0	68.3
Not reported.....	34.9	37.9	38.0	39.8	36.5	36.6	37.1	38.6	37.4	36.4
MALE										
All incomes.....	35.3	36.7	34.9	36.5	37.8	40.0	40.9	44.4	43.5	42.9
Less than \$5,000.....	18.9	20.2	19.5	19.9	21.5	22.0	20.7	25.9	23.1	22.1
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	32.1	33.2	29.5	30.6	34.3	37.0	38.4	41.3	42.0	43.0
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	43.0	43.0	40.5	41.4	43.7	48.3	50.7	54.7	56.6	56.8
\$15,000 and over.....	54.5	56.5	56.0	56.8	57.3	61.9	63.7	70.5	66.7	71.0
Not reported.....	33.6	40.2	37.3	41.0	37.9	38.2	39.1	41.3	42.3	39.2
FEMALE										
All incomes.....	43.2	41.2	37.9	36.8	38.0	37.5	37.0	37.8	35.5	34.9
Less than \$5,000.....	26.4	27.4	21.4	20.3	23.9	23.7	20.8	23.5	21.9	17.5
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	41.6	37.6	34.7	31.9	34.2	33.5	34.5	35.9	34.5	32.0
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	53.1	48.5	42.7	44.3	45.0	44.0	45.5	46.0	44.6	46.3
\$15,000 and over.....	63.1	63.6	59.5	56.4	56.4	61.6	59.3	58.6	58.3	65.2
Not reported.....	36.6	35.0	39.0	38.3	34.7	34.3	34.6	35.6	32.1	33.5

Note: Dependent family members are relatives of the family head, excluding the wife.

\$5,000 to \$9,999 and \$10,000 to \$14,999) but for members of high income families, the enrollment rate decreased significantly (10 percentage points) over the entire period. For members of low income families (less than \$5,000) enrollment rates did not change significantly.

The concern expressed with some reason in the early 1970's that the enrollment of middle income students was declining compared with other income groups⁷ appears to be alleviated now. By 1973, the enrollment rates of persons in families with incomes of \$5,000 to \$14,999 had dropped below earlier levels, while persons in lower income families remained relatively stable. By 1976 the trend of declining enrollment of middle income students had reversed and returned to the higher levels. The decrease to around 1973 seems to have combined different trends for males and females. There was a large drop in enrollment for males, coincident with the shift in the Armed Forces as discussed earlier, and a relatively stable enrollment rate for females. The recovery by 1976 was due to a combined leveling of enrollment rates for males of middle income and rise in rates for females of comparable incomes (figures 3 and 4).

The decrease for all men was probably a result of the decrease in the proportion in the Armed Forces, as discussed earlier. As the proportion of all men enrolled decreased 8 percentage points between 1967 and 1976, there were decreases for all income groups except the lowest. For men in the highest income families (\$15,000 and over) the decrease was twice that of all men.

The trend for women shows an increased rate of enrollment in each income group in the last few years (figure 4). Significant increases in the enrollment rate occurred after 1973. Before that year, fluctuations were minor and, for the

⁷U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 51, "Characteristics of American Youth." The data shown in this report were for families with one or more members 18 to 24 years old.

most part, not statistically significant. Only for women in high income families (\$15,000 and over) was the enrollment in 1976 not significantly different from the rate in 1967.

The speculation that, with government aid for low income students and the greater ability to bear costs by high income families, the children of middle income families, who neither qualify for aid nor can as well afford escalating costs, are being squeezed out of the opportunity for higher education is not substantiated in the new CPS data. Figure 1 shows the enrollment rates of middle income youth since 1973 restored to levels equal to or near the 1967 levels. It is possible that the entire downward trend seen earlier was attributable to the decrease in the participation of men in the Armed Forces. Differences in enrollment rates between income groups have decreased; however, large disparities between enrollment rates of low income families and high income families endured.

The study of changes in college enrollment rates of various income groups can also be approached through examination of the distribution of students by family income. The income distribution of students has changed over time, but so has the income distribution of all dependent family members 18 to 24 years old (table B). Although income is standardized to 1967 dollars in table A-5 and the derived charts to account for inflation, real income has risen since 1967; consequently, the income distribution has shifted upward. The proportion of dependent family members and college students in high income families has therefore increased, the proportion in middle income families has decreased, and the proportion in low income families has stayed about the same.

In the 9-year period from 1967 to 1976, the college enrollment rate of all male dependent family members dropped 8 percentage points (table A-5); for men in the highest income families, the enrollment rate dropped substantially more. However, the rise in real income increased the total size of the group so that the proportion of de-

Table B. Percent Distribution of Dependent Family Members 18 to 24 Years Old, by College Enrollment, Family Income, and Sex: October 1976 and October 1967

(In 1967 dollars. Numbers in thousands)

Family income	1976				1967			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	Total population	Enrolled in college	Total population	Enrolled in college	Total population	Enrolled in college	Total population	Enrolled in college
All persons.....	7,941	2,800	6,281	2,715	5,639	2,420	5,048	1,763
Percent ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than \$5,000.....	23.4	12.5	24.8	14.8	23.9	11.9	24.3	12.0
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	36.3	32.9	36.5	34.5	42.8	41.6	42.1	37.9
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	22.7	27.5	21.9	26.4	21.7	27.8	21.9	28.6
\$15,000 and over.....	17.6	27.1	16.9	24.2	11.6	18.7	11.7	21.5

¹Excludes persons for whom income was not reported.

Note: Dependent family members are relatives of the family head, excluding the wife.

Figure 3. College Enrollment Rates of Male Dependent Family Members 18 to 24 Years Old, by Family Income (in 1967 Dollars): October 1967 to October 1976

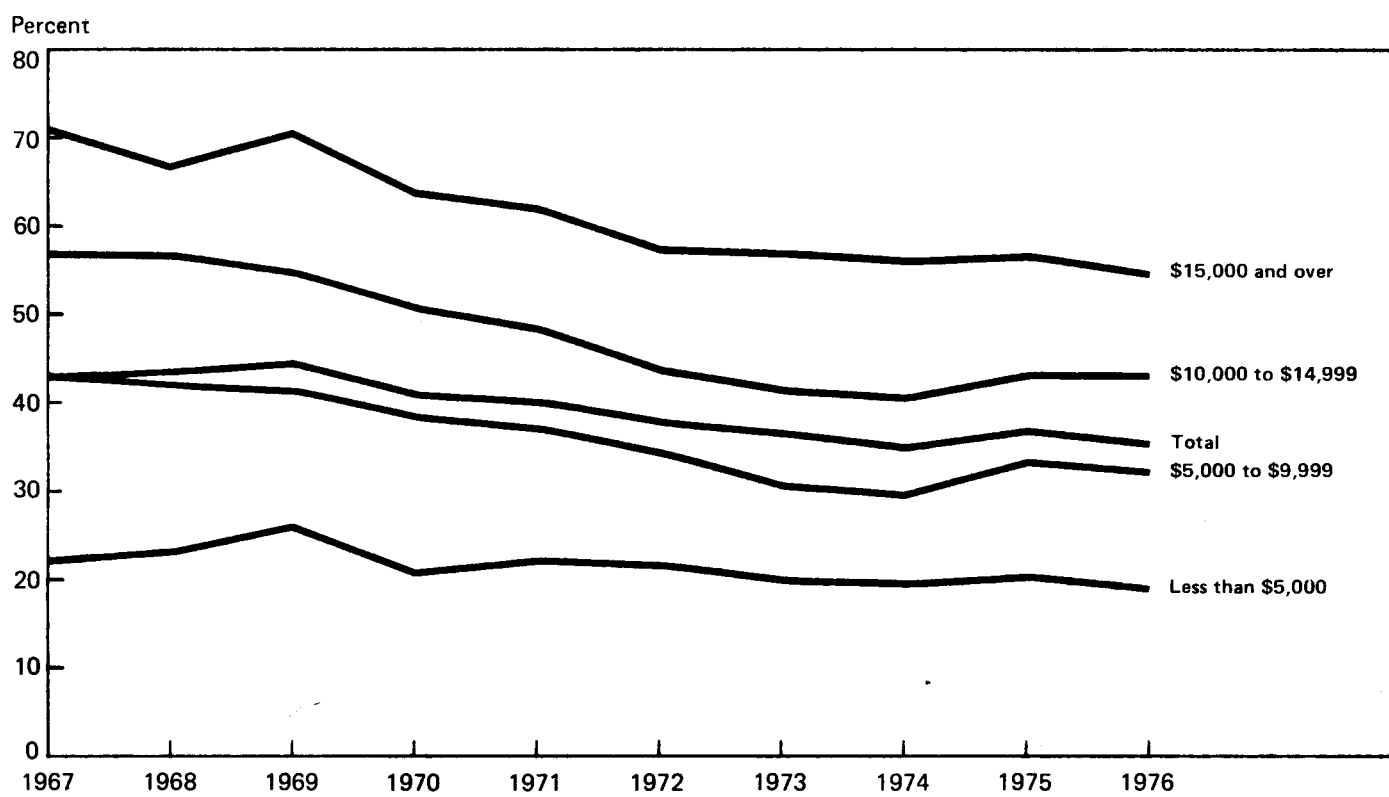
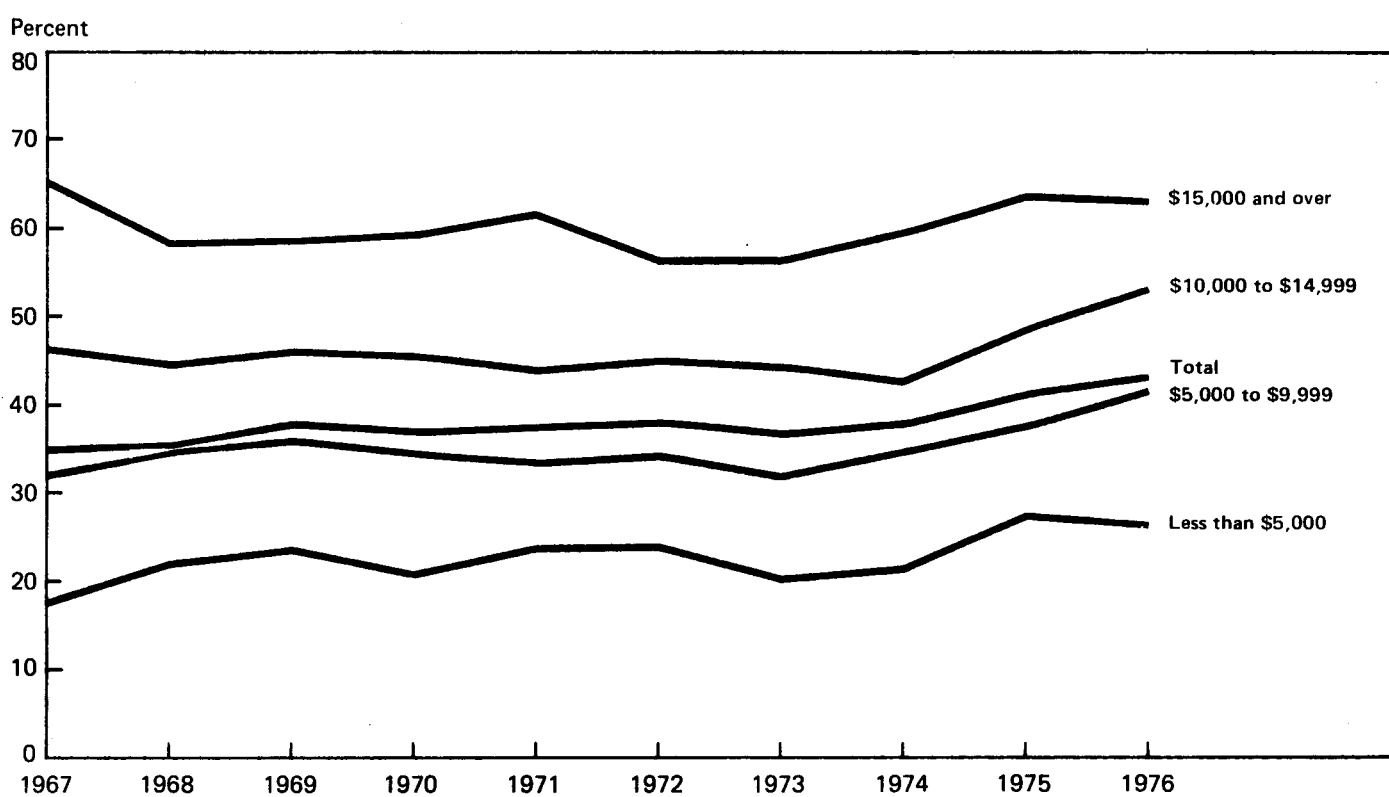


Figure 4. College Enrollment Rates of Female Dependent Family Members, 18 to 24 Years Old, by Family Income (in 1967 Dollars): October 1967 to October 1976



pendent male college students in the top income group increased from 19 to 27 percent. At the same time, male students in families with less than \$5,000 income remained at about 12 percent, and the proportion of middle income students from families with incomes of \$5,000 to \$9,999 declined. For dependent women, on the other hand, the total enrollment rate grew 8 percentage points in the period, but the distribution of women enrolled in school by family income did not change significantly.

In summary, although students from middle income families declined as a proportion of all students, the change seems to have been related to a change in real income of families rather than a "squeezing out" of the middle income students. The changes in income distribution of all young adults and students were not significantly different; hence, it cannot be concluded that there was a disproportionate drop in college enrollment among middle income youth.

High School Diplomas and College Degrees

In the October 1975 CPS supplement on school enrollment, an attempt was made to gather new information on the means of acquiring a high school and college degree so that current information on the number of persons who completed 4 years of high school and the number of persons enrolled in college could be evaluated. Persons 18 to 34 years old who had completed 4 years of high school were asked to report whether they had graduated after having attended with their high school class, after having attended night school, or after having taken an equivalency examination to graduate. This information would provide a national estimate of the number of high school graduates who complete high school by taking equivalency examinations and who are thereby increasing the level of education of the U.S. population.⁸ Likewise, students enrolled in college were asked to name the degree that they were seeking. According to the definition of college enrollment in the CPS, a college student must be enrolled in a program which provides credit applicable to a bachelor's degree. Recent discussion about colleges broadening their entrance requirements to enroll more students in nontraditional programs suggests that current statistical measures of college enrollment may include many nontraditional students. One purpose of this analysis was to determine the number and characteristics of persons identified as "college students" in the CPS but who were not actually seeking a college degree.

In 1975, about 8 out of 10 persons 18 to 34 years of age had completed 4 years of high school. About 95 percent of these received their diploma upon graduation with their high school class. The remainder took the General Educational Development Test (GED), attended night school until they completed the requirements for high school

graduation, or graduated by some other means (table C). For those persons who did not graduate with their high school class, the most common alternative method of completing high school was by passing the GED exam, especially for persons over age 24. Of high school graduates 25 to 34 years old, about 4 percent had passed the GED exam, 6 percent of men and 2 percent of women. Thus, a significant number of high school graduates are added to the population through the GED program, especially men who may have taken the examination as part of Armed Forces programs. Black men are less likely than White men to obtain a high school diploma through the GED program, but the tendency for men of Spanish origin to receive a GED diploma is not measurably different from all men. Graduation by night school was infrequent. Of all graduates 18 to 34 years old, about 1 percent completed high school requirements in this way.

Undergraduates enrolled in the first 3 years of college reported which degree they were currently seeking (table B-2). For about 13 percent of the persons, degree intentions were not reported, perhaps because a large proportion of college students attend college away from home, and their degree status is provided by some other family member who sometimes does not know the specific intentions of the student. There is no way to estimate the degree status of those students. About one-half of the students reported they were seeking a bachelor's degree and a little over one-fourth were seeking an associate of arts degree. Those seeking an associate of arts degree were asked whether the degree was an academic or applied degree. Data not included in this report show that 7 percent did not respond, 4.5 percent said "applied," and 88 percent said "academic." Thus, three-fourths of the undergraduates in this study were identifiable as degree-seeking college students. Another 5 percent were seeking vocational diplomas and 5 percent said they were not seeking a college degree at all. These nondegree students were likely to be enrolled part time (87 percent of about 375,000) and to be older than those seeking a traditional degree. Students who said they were seeking a vocational diploma would not be considered "traditional" college students because they were not seeking a degree transferable to a bachelor's program. As would be expected from the programs offered by the different institutions of higher education, a high proportion (74 percent) of vocational students were enrolled in 2-year colleges.

Altogether, about 800,000 students (10 percent of undergraduates in the first 3 years of college) were reported to be attending college for purposes other than to obtain a college degree. These students were more likely than the degree-seeking students to be enrolled part time, to be over age 25, and to be attending 2-year colleges. Nearly all students in the youngest age group, 14 to 24 years old, who reported whether they were working toward a degree, were seeking an associate or bachelor's degree; only 8 percent were seeking vocational diplomas or had no degree plans. More detailed tables on the means of acquiring a high school diploma or

⁸GED Statistical Report, 1975, General Educational Development Testing Service of the American Council on Education, One Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C.

college degree are available upon request from the Population Division of the Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

RELATED REPORTS

Advance data on school enrollment for October 1976 were presented in Series P-20, No. 309. Statistics on school enrollment for October of the years prior to 1976 have been published in other reports in Series P-20. See back cover for list.

Data on the relationship between preprimary enrollment of children and labor force participation of mothers were presented in **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 318, "Nursery School and Kindergarten Enrollment of Children and Labor Force Status of Their Mothers: October 1967 to October 1976."

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 1970 census, especially in PC(2)-5A School Enrollment.

Figures on school enrollment from the October Current Population Survey differ from decennial census data for reasons in addition to the difference in the dates. In the

first place, the survey data exclude the institutional population and members of the Armed Forces. These two groups were included in the census. Second, there were differences in field work. The small group of Current Population Survey enumerators were more experienced and had more intensive training and supervision than the large number of temporary census enumerators and may have more often obtained more accurate answers from respondents. Third, the census was taken in April and relates to enrollment since February 1, whereas the surveys were taken in October and relate to enrollment in the current term. This difference in months of the year affects not only the extent of school enrollment (through "dropouts" during the school year, etc.) but also the level of school in which persons of a given age are enrolled.

Data from school systems. Information on college enrollment is also collected and published by Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, and by independent research organizations. This information is generally obtained from reports of school systems and institutions of higher learning, and from other surveys and censuses. These data are only roughly comparable with data collected by the Bureau of the Census by household interviews, however, because of differences in definitions, subject matter covered, and enumeration methods. The census data are subject to sampling variability, which may be relatively large where numbers for specific age or population groups, or for given school categories, are small.

Table C. Reported Method of High School Completion for Persons 18 to 34 Years Old by Age, Sex, Race and Spanish Origin: October 1975

(Numbers in thousands)

Age, sex, race, and Spanish origin	All persons	Percent high school graduates	Percent distribution by method of completing high school ¹				
			All graduates	Graduated with high school class	Attended night school or part time	Took equivalency examination	Other
Both sexes, total.....	56,757	81.4	100.0	95.0	1.2	3.0	0.8
18 to 24 years.....	26,387	80.8	100.0	95.9	1.1	2.2	0.8
25 to 34 years.....	30,370	81.9	100.0	94.3	1.2	3.6	0.8
White, 18 to 34 years.....	49,274	83.4	100.0	95.1	1.1	3.0	0.8
Black, 18 to 34 years.....	6,398	66.1	100.0	93.9	1.8	3.3	1.1
Spanish origin, 18 to 34 years	3,144	55.3	100.0	93.1	1.7	4.3	0.9
Male, total.....	27,438	81.9	100.0	93.5	1.1	4.4	1.0
18 to 24 years.....	12,724	80.3	100.0	95.2	1.0	3.0	0.8
25 to 34 years.....	14,714	83.2	100.0	92.1	1.2	5.6	1.1
White, 18 to 34 years.....	24,084	83.7	100.0	93.5	1.1	4.5	1.0
Black, 18 to 34 years.....	2,863	66.0	100.0	93.2	1.2	4.1	1.4
Spanish origin, 18 to 34 years	1,457	56.5	100.0	91.3	1.9	6.0	1.2
Female, total.....	29,319	80.9	100.0	96.5	1.2	1.7	0.6
18 to 24 years.....	13,663	81.3	100.0	96.6	1.1	1.6	0.7
25 to 34 years.....	15,656	80.6	100.0	96.5	1.2	1.7	0.6
White, 18 to 34 years.....	25,190	83.1	100.0	96.7	1.1	1.6	0.6
Black, 18 to 34 years.....	3,534	66.2	100.0	94.4	2.3	2.5	0.9
Spanish origin, 18 to 34 years	1,687	54.1	100.0	95.0	1.6	2.8	0.8

¹Based on persons who reported the method of completion.

Note: Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

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.
