



Population Characteristics

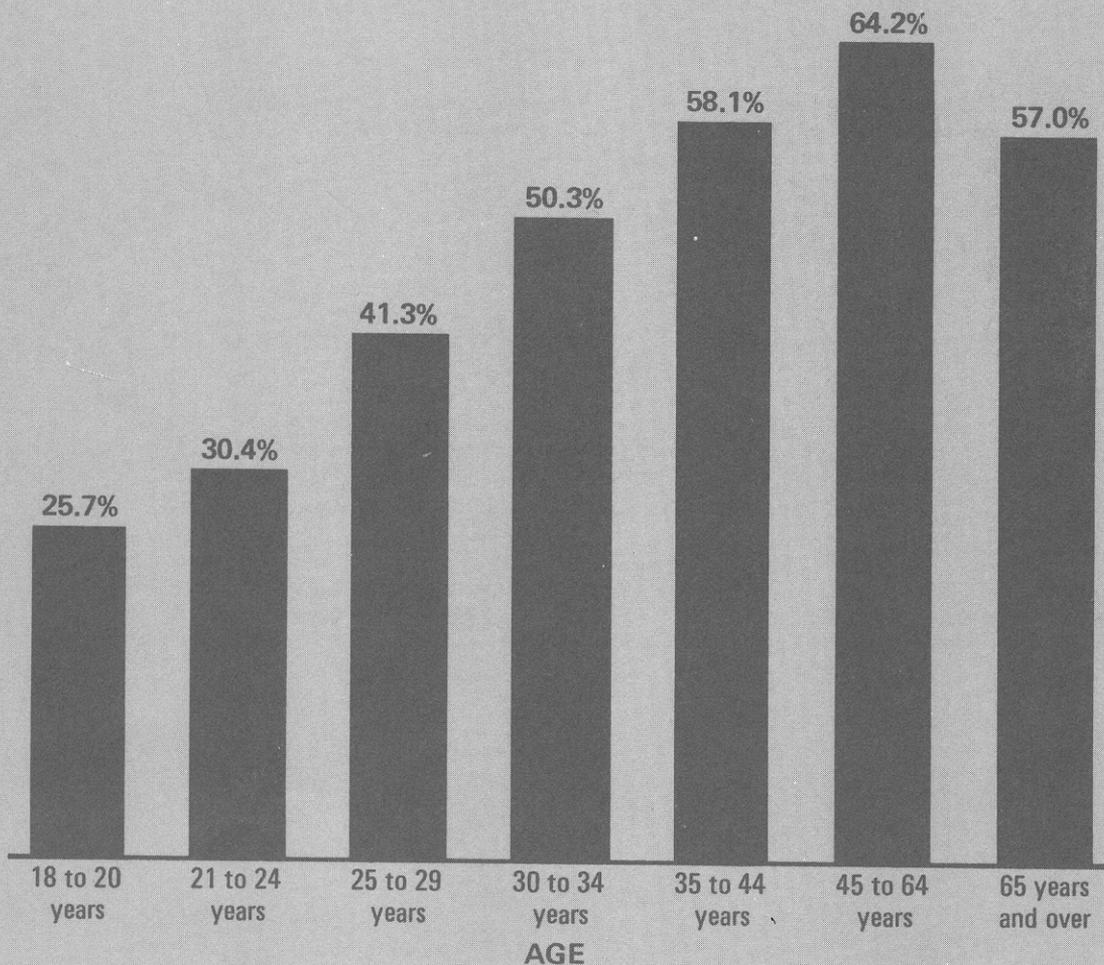
**FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE**

Series P-20, No. 228
November 1971

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / Bureau of the Census

VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 1970

Figure 1.—Reported Voter Participation Rates, by Age:
November 1970



BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

GEORGE HAY BROWN, Director

JOSEPH R. WRIGHT, JR., Deputy Director

CONRAD TAEUBER, Associate Director

Population Division

HERMAN P. MILLER, Chief

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was prepared by Richard W. Dodge, Demographic Surveys Division, and Charles E. Johnson, Jr., and Jerry T. Jennings, Population Division.

SUGGESTED CITATION

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 228, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1970," U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1971.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, 60 cents. Current Population Reports issued in Series P-20, P-23, P-25, P-26, P-27, P-28 (summaries only), P-60, and P-65 are sold as a single consolidated subscription at \$14.00 per year, \$3.50 additional for foreign mailing.

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
The typical American voter	1
Characteristics of voters	4
Difference between the congressional elections of 1966 and 1970	4
Difference between the presidential election of 1968 and the congressional election of 1970	5
Voter consistency, 1968 and 1970	6
Evaluation of the accuracy of the data	6
Related reports	6
Definitions and explanations	7
Source and reliability of the estimates	9

TEXT TABLES

Table	
A. Reported voter participation for persons of voting age, by age: November 1970	2
B. Reported voter participation for persons of voting age, by sex, race, and residence: November 1970	2
C. Reported voter participation for persons of voting age, by years of school completed: November 1970	3
D. Reported voter participation for persons of voting age, by employment status and class of worker: November 1970	4
E. Reported voter participation for persons of voting age in primary families, by family income: November 1970	4
F. Standard errors of estimated numbers: November 1970	10
G. Standard errors of estimated percentages: November 1970	11

CHARTS

Figure	
1. Reported voter participation rates, by age: November 1970	Cover
2. Race and sex of persons reported voting in November 1970	1
3. Residence of persons reported voting in November 1970	3
4. Educational attainment and labor force status of persons reported voting in November 1970	5

DETAILED TABLES

Table	
1. Age and sex--Reported voter participation and registration of persons of voting age, by race, for the United States: November 1970	12
2. Age, sex, and regions--Reported voter participation and registration for persons of voting age, by race: November 1970	14
3. Voter participation reported by self or others--Reported voter participation for persons of voting age, by sex, for the United States: November 1970	17
4. Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence and farm-nonfarm residence--Reported voter participation and registration for persons of voting age, by race, for the United States and regions: November 1970	18

CONTENTS--Continued

DETAILED TABLES--Continued

Table	Page
5. Years of school completed--Reported voter participation and registration for persons of voting age, by race and sex, for the United States: November 1970	20
6. Employment status and class of worker--Reported voter participation and registration for persons of voting age, by race and sex, for the United States: November 1970	22
7. Broad occupation group--Reported voter participation and registration for employed persons of voting age, by race and sex, for the United States: November 1970	25
8. Family income--Reported voter participation and registration for persons of voting age in primary families, by age and race, for the United States: November 1970	28
9. Family income and education of head--Reported voter participation and registration for persons of voting age in primary families, by race, for the United States: November 1970	31
10. Race and sex--Reported voter participation in 1970 and 1968 for persons 23 years old and over, for the United States: November 1970	34
11. Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence and farm-nonfarm residence--Reported voter participation in 1970 and 1968 for persons 23 years old and over, by race, for the United States and regions: November 1970	34
12. Years of school completed--Reported voter participation in 1970 and 1968 for persons 23 years old and over, by race and sex, for the United States: November 1970	37
13. Employment status and class of worker--Reported voter participation in 1970 and 1968 for persons 23 years old and over, by race and sex, for the United States: November 1970	39
14. Broad occupation group--Reported voter participation in 1970 and 1968 for employed persons 23 years old and over, by race and sex, for the United States: November 1970	42
15. Family income--Reported voter participation in 1970 and 1968 for persons 23 years old and over in primary families, by age and race, for the United States: November 1970	45
16. Family income and education of head--Reported voter participation in 1970 and 1968 for persons 23 years old and over in primary families, by race, for the United States: November 1970	48
17. Reported reason for not registering to vote by age--Persons of voting age who did not register, by race and sex, for the United States: November 1970	51
18. Reported reason for not registering to vote by years of school completed--Persons of voting age who did not register, by race, for the United States and regions: November 1970	53
19. Reported registration status and reason not registered in 1970 of persons who voted in 1968 but did not vote in 1970, by age, race, and sex, for the United States: November 1970	55
20. Reported registration status and reason not registered in 1970 of persons who voted in 1968 but did not vote in 1970, by years of school completed and race, for the United States and regions: November 1970	57

VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 1970

Slightly more than half of the civilian population of voting age, excluding persons residing in institutions, were reported as having voted in the November 1970 Congressional election, according to the results of the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census in November 1970. The voting turnout in 1970 (55 percent) was virtually the same as in the 1966 Congressional election, but substantially (13 percentage points) below that reported in the Presidential election of 1968.

About 14 percent of the population of voting age were reported in 1970 as being registered to vote but as not having cast a ballot and another 28 percent were not eligible to vote because they were not registered. The remaining 4 percent of persons did not report whether they voted or were registered.

The typical American voter. Data on the age, sex, race, residence, educational attainment, la-

bor force status, class of worker, and family income of those persons who reported that they voted and those who reported that they did not vote are presented in tables A, B, C, D, and E.

These tables show that the young voter (under 30 years old) comprised a relatively small proportion of the total reported as voting. Persons under 30 years of age comprised only about 13 percent of the reported voters while persons 30 years old and over comprised 87 percent of the voters. In fact, persons 65 years old and over comprised a larger proportion of the voters, 17 percent, than did those under 30. Moreover, among those who reported that they did not vote,¹ persons under 30 comprised a larger proportion than did persons 65 years old and over--28 percent of the nonvoters were under 30 as compared with 15 percent who were 65 years old and over.

¹"Nonvoters" include those who reported that they did not vote, did not know if they voted, or did not report on voting.

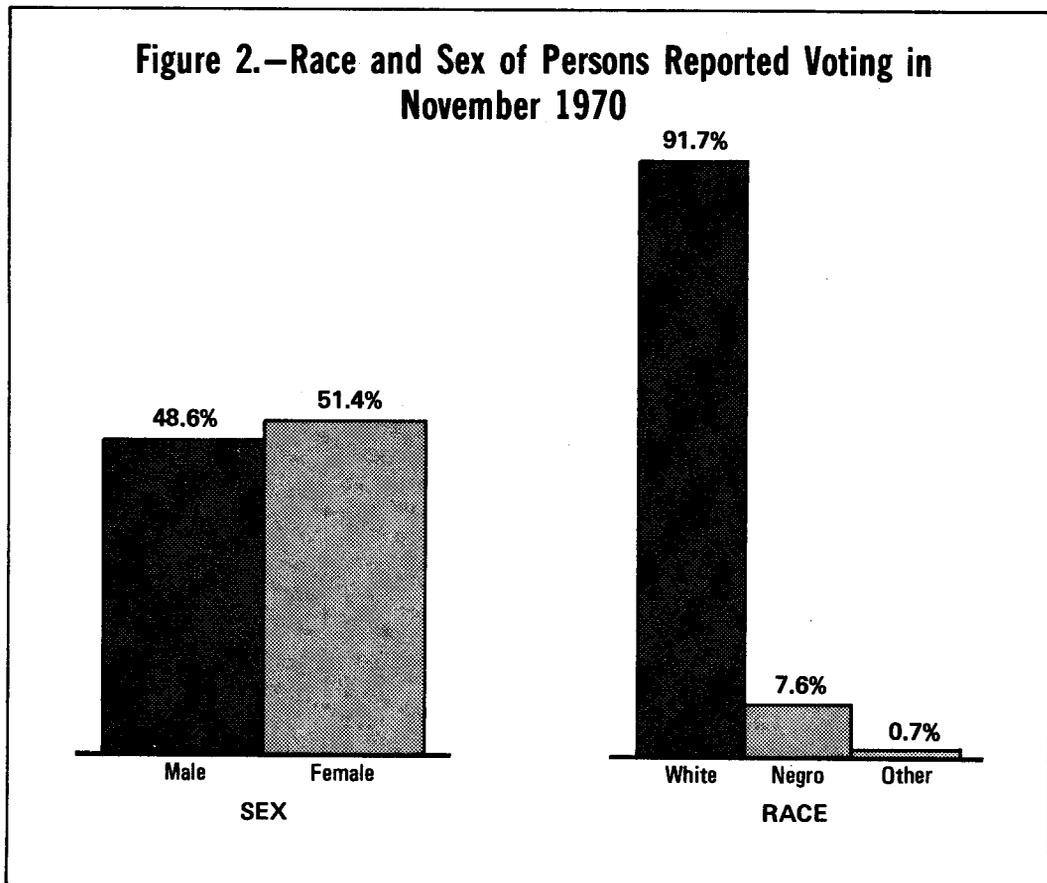


Table A. Reported Voter Participation for Persons of Voting Age, by Age: November 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian non-institutional population)

Age	Reported that they voted		Reported that they did not vote ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total ²	65,888	100.0	54,814	100.0
21 to 24 years.....	3,834	5.8	8,762	16.0
25 to 29 years.....	4,550	6.9	6,480	11.8
30 to 34 years.....	6,854	10.4	6,783	12.4
35 to 44 years.....	13,002	19.7	9,389	17.1
45 to 54 years.....	14,767	22.4	8,367	15.3
55 to 64 years.....	11,864	18.0	6,480	11.8
65 to 74 years.....	7,293	11.1	4,631	8.4
75 years and over..	3,613	5.5	3,601	6.6
Median.....years..	48.1	(X)	40.4	(X)

X Not applicable.

¹Includes persons who were recorded as "do not know" and "not reported" on voting.

²Includes persons of voting age 18 to 20 years old, not shown separately.

Women comprised a slightly larger proportion of the total reported voters than did the men, 51 percent and 49 percent, respectively. Women

comprised an even larger proportion of nonvoters, as 56 percent of the nonvoters were women.

White persons comprised a larger proportion of the reported voters than they did of the nonvoters. Among those who reported that they voted, 92 percent were white and 8 percent were Negro. Among those who did not vote, 87 percent were white and 12 percent were Negro.

Persons living in the North and West comprised a larger proportion of the voters than they did of the nonvoters. Among those who reported that they voted, 75 percent lived in the North and West and 25 percent lived in the South. Among those who reported that they did not vote, 62 percent lived in the North and West and 38 percent in the South.

About two-thirds of both the voters and nonvoters lived in metropolitan areas and one-third lived in nonmetropolitan areas.

Reported voters were more likely than nonvoters to be high school graduates and to have completed some years of college. Among those who reported that they voted, 66 percent were at least high school graduates, including 28 percent who had completed at least 1 year of college and 15 percent who had completed 4 years of college or more. Persons with less than an 8th grade

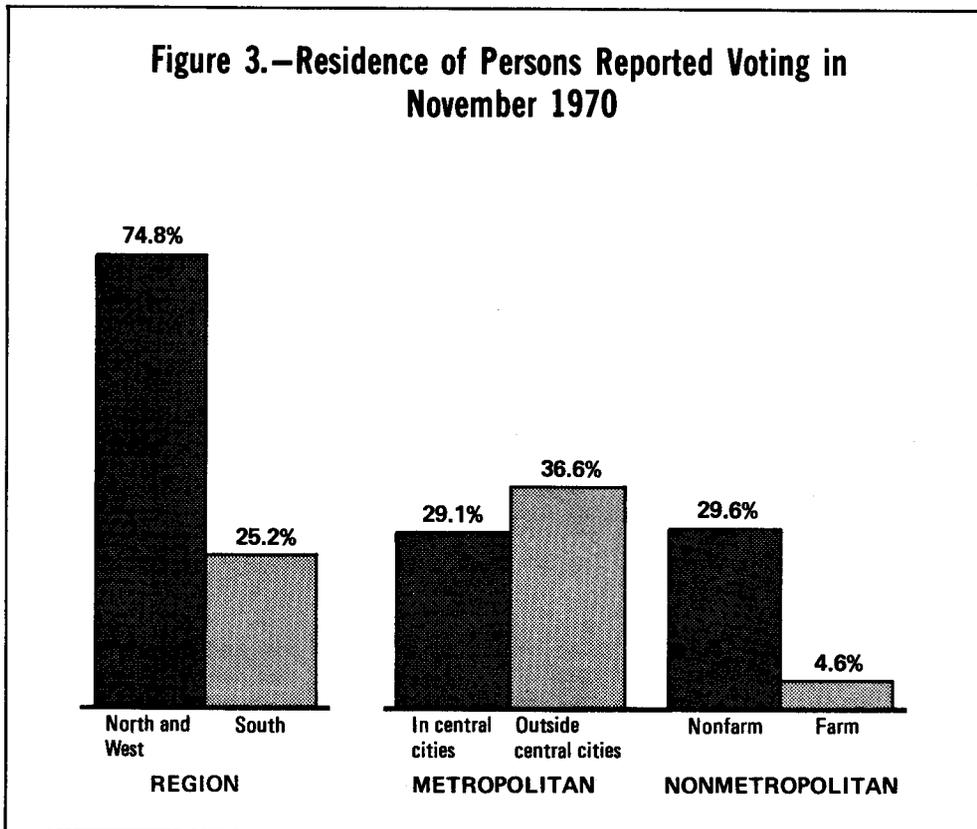
Table B. Reported Voter Participation for Persons of Voting Age, by Sex, Race, and Residence: November 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Sex, race, and residence	Reported that they voted		Reported that they did not vote ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	65,888	100.0	54,814	100.0
Male.....	32,048	48.6	24,383	44.5
Female.....	33,840	51.4	30,430	55.5
Total.....	65,888	100.0	54,814	100.0
White.....	60,426	91.7	47,571	86.8
Negro.....	4,992	7.6	6,480	11.8
Other.....	469	0.7	764	1.4
Total.....	65,888	100.0	54,814	100.0
North and West.....	49,264	74.8	34,251	62.5
South.....	16,624	25.2	20,562	37.5
Total.....	65,888	100.0	54,814	100.0
Metropolitan.....	43,337	65.8	34,978	63.8
In central cities.....	19,199	29.1	16,503	30.1
Outside central cities.....	24,139	36.6	18,475	33.7
Nonmetropolitan.....	22,550	34.2	19,835	36.2
Nonfarm.....	19,534	29.6	17,830	32.5
Farm.....	3,016	4.6	2,006	3.7

¹Includes persons who were recorded as "do not know" and "not reported" on voting.

Figure 3.—Residence of Persons Reported Voting in November 1970



education comprised only about 8 percent of the voters; however, among the nonvoters, persons with less than an 8th grade education comprised 17 percent of the total. Moreover, among those

who reported that they did not vote, 50 percent had less than a high school education and only about 18 percent had completed any years of college.

Table C. Reported Voter Participation for Persons of Voting Age, by Years of School Completed: November 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Years of school completed	Reported that they voted		Reported that they did not vote ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	65,888	100.0	54,814	100.0
Elementary: 0 to 4 years.....	1,558	2.4	3,742	6.8
5 to 7 years.....	3,881	5.9	5,819	10.6
8 years.....	7,236	11.0	6,937	12.7
High school: 1 to 3 years.....	9,557	14.5	10,733	19.6
4 years.....	25,062	38.0	17,865	32.6
College: 1 to 3 years.....	8,845	13.4	5,574	10.2
4 years.....	5,979	9.1	2,727	5.0
5 years or more..	3,769	5.7	1,416	2.6
Total.....	65,888	100.0	54,814	100.0
Not high school graduate.....	22,232	33.7	27,231	49.7
High school graduate.....	43,655	66.3	27,582	50.3
Some college.....	18,593	28.2	9,717	17.7
4 years of college or more.	9,748	14.8	4,143	7.6

¹Includes persons who were recorded as "do not know" and "not reported" on voting.

Table D. Reported Voter Participation for Persons of Voting Age, by Employment Status and Class of Worker: November 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Employment status and class of worker	Reported that they voted		Reported that they did not vote ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	65,888	100.0	54,814	100.0
Civilian labor force.....	42,234	64.1	32,548	59.4
Employed.....	40,904	62.1	30,644	55.9
Agriculture.....	1,697	2.6	1,180	2.2
Nonagricultural industries.	39,207	59.5	29,464	53.8
Private wage and salary workers.....	27,062	41.1	23,859	43.5
Government workers.....	8,458	12.8	3,577	6.5
Self-employed workers ² ...	3,687	5.6	2,028	3.7
Unemployed.....	1,331	2.0	1,904	3.5
Not in the labor force.....	23,654	35.9	22,266	40.6

¹Includes persons who were recorded as "do not know" and "not reported" on voting.

²Includes unpaid family workers.

Among those who reported that they voted, 64 percent were in the civilian labor force and 36 percent were not in the labor force. About 60 percent of the voters were employed in nonagricultural industries, including 41 percent who were private wage and salary workers and 13 percent who were government workers. Only about 3 percent of the voters were employed in agricultural work. The nonvoters were less likely than the voters to be in the labor force, 59 percent and 64 percent, respectively. The nonvoters were also less likely than the voters to be employed as government workers, 7 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

Of the reported voters who lived in primary families and provided data on their family income, 83 percent had family incomes of \$5,000 or more and only about 17 percent had incomes under \$5,000. Moreover, 47 percent of these voters, had family incomes of \$10,000 or more, including 18 percent who had incomes of \$15,000 or more. Among those family members who reported that they did not vote, 27 percent had incomes below \$5,000 and only about 9 percent had incomes of \$15,000 or more.

Characteristics of voters. With regard to characteristics associated with voter turnout, the 1970 survey findings confirm those of the three previous census voting surveys, as well as those of independent voting studies. Higher voting participation was found among men, persons 45 to 64 years old, whites, persons living outside the South, those with higher educational attainment, those with large family incomes, and persons in white collar occupations. Low voting participation was more apt to characterize women, persons under

35 years of age and those 75 and over, Negroes, residents of the South, those of low educational attainment, those with small family incomes, and persons employed as industrial or agricultural laborers.

Difference between the Congressional elections of 1966 and 1970. Comparisons can be made for the first time in this series between the Congressional elections, those of 1966 and 1970. Official statistics indicate that a slightly lower proportion of the population voted in the 1970 election, and the survey results to some extent

Table E. Reported Voter Participation for Persons of Voting Age in Primary Families, by Family Income: November 1970

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Family income	Reported that they voted		Reported that they did not vote ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total ²	55,997	100.0	44,472	100.0
Under \$3,000.....	3,878	6.9	5,360	12.1
\$3,000 to \$4,999..	5,541	9.9	6,761	15.2
\$5,000 to \$7,499..	9,308	16.6	10,084	22.7
\$7,500 to \$9,999..	10,817	19.3	8,732	19.6
\$10,000 to \$14,999	16,141	28.8	9,356	21.0
\$15,000 and over..	10,311	18.4	4,179	9.4

¹Includes persons who were recorded as "do not know" and "not reported" on voting.

²Excludes 6,323,000 persons whose family income was not reported.

confirm this. In addition, an examination of the two sets of survey results discloses that the voting patterns of various segments of the population maintain substantial similarity from one "off-year" election to the next.

There is some indication that the proportion voting in the South increased in 1970 over 1966, running counter to the trend in the rest of the country. Southern Negroes as a group appear to have moved in the direction of greater involvement in the political process than was the case in the previous Congressional election. A clear instance of this is found among Southern Negroes living in the central cities of large metropolitan areas (those with over a million population) who voted at a rate which was about 15 percentage points above their 1966 level. However, the South as a whole lagged 14 percentage points behind the turnout in the rest of the country.

Difference between the Presidential election of 1968 and the Congressional election of 1970. There was a substantial decline in voter participation between the 1968 Presidential election and the 1970 Congressional election. The reported percentage turnout in 1970 was 13 percentage points below that reported in the 1968 survey. However, there was only about a 6 percentage point decrease in the total who were registered

to vote. Among younger persons of voting age (those under 35) the proportion registered decreased by 11 percentage points from the 1968 level, while for those persons 55 years old and over, the decrease was only about 2 percentage points. The 13 percentage point decrease in voter participation when compared with the 6 percentage point decrease in voter registration indicates that the largest contributors to the lower turnout in 1970 were registered voters who stayed home on election day, rather than any significant movement into the group not registered.

Education attainment, as we have seen previously, is positively related to voter registration. A comparison of the proportion of persons registered in 1970 and 1968 show no appreciable change among persons who had completed no years of high school but a substantial decline among those who had completed 1 or more years of college. Approximately 30 percent of those who had completed 1 or more years of college and were not registered reported that they were unable to meet the residence requirement. Another way of comparing 1968 and 1970 is to examine the group of persons who voted in 1968, but did not do so in 1970. As might be expected, the majority of this group was registered (62 percent), since in most States these persons would still be on the rolls because of their having voted in 1968 and no additional action would have been required.

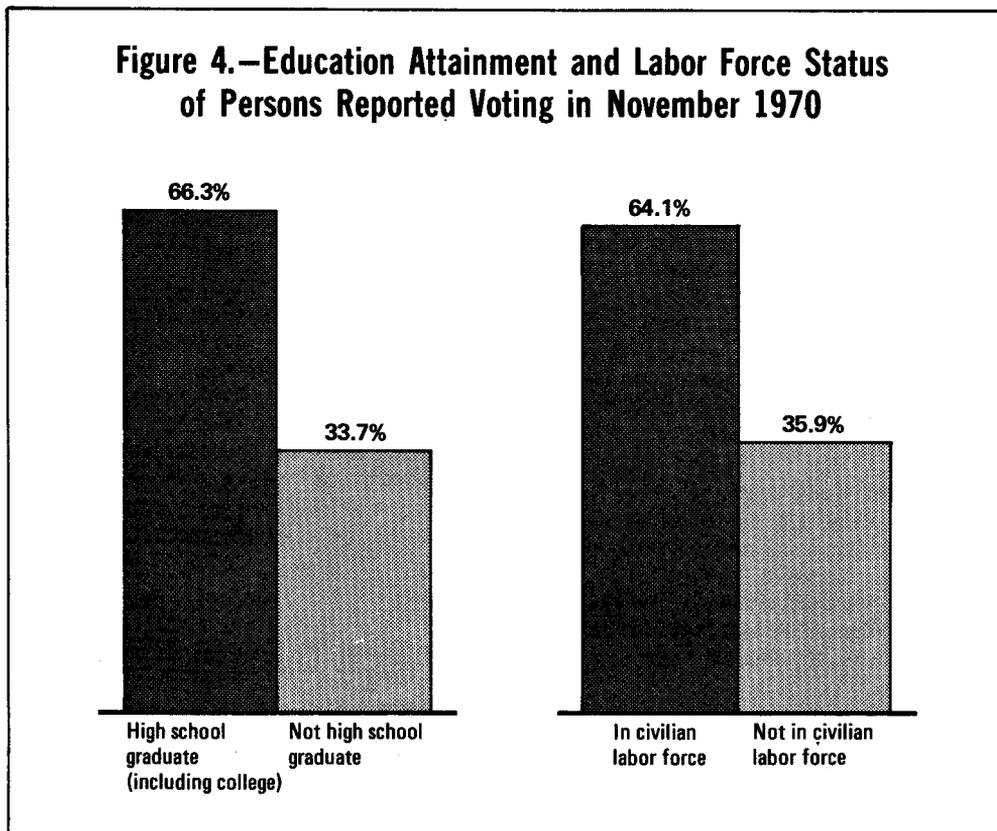


Table 18 indicates that the proportion of 1968 voters who were registered but did not vote in 1970 varies inversely with educational level. Thus, a smaller proportion of the college educated were registered than was true of those with a high school or elementary school education.

Voter consistency, 1968 and 1970. A further perspective on the changes that occurred in voting patterns between 1968 and 1970, was provided by asking respondents in 1970 about their voting behavior in 1968. Persons who were under 23 in 1970 were excluded from these tables because all but a few of them were not old enough to vote in 1968. The purpose of this question was to examine, in more detail, the nature of the decline in participation in Congressional elections. By focusing on the behavior of individual voters, it is possible to examine, in more detail, the shifts between the status of voting and not voting.

Fifty-three percent of the eligible electorate reported that they voted in both 1970 and 1968, while about 22 percent voted in neither election. Another 19 percent voted in 1968 but not in 1970, while 3 percent voted in 1970 but not in 1968. Another 3 percent did not report on their 1968 voting behavior. The level of voting turnout of those who voted in both 1968 and 1970 is positively related to educational attainment, in much the same way as was observed earlier with 1970 voters alone.

EVALUATION OF THE ACCURACY OF THE DATA

In the November 1970 Current Population survey supplement on voting, 65.9 million of the 120.7 million persons of voting age in the civilian non-institutional population were reported (by themselves or by members of their households) as having voted in the 1970 election. Official counts show 58.0 million votes cast. The survey estimate is 13.5 percent higher than the official count of votes cast. The official national count of votes was obtained by summing the number of votes cast for either Senator, Congressman, or Governor in each State, depending on which office received the highest number of votes.

The 1964, 1966, and 1968 surveys of the Bureau of the Census on voting all resulted in similar over-estimates of the official count of votes cast. The reports of those surveys, Series P-20, Nos. 143, 174, and 192 contain analyses of the possible reasons for this difference. Much of the discussion in those reports is applicable here.

In summary, several general reasons were advanced to account for the different estimates of the number of voters. There appears to be a tendency for persons to overreport their voter

participation because of a reluctance to admit a dereliction in civic responsibility. Associated with this reason is the assumption by the respondent, in some instances, that another member of the household had voted when, in fact, he had not. Another factor is the CPS estimation procedure which attributes the characteristics of interviewed persons to persons in similar households where no interview was obtained. The coverage of the CPS sample and the independent population estimates to which the survey results were adjusted are known to underrepresent certain groups where nonvoting has been found to be high. Finally, the total number of persons reporting that they cast votes could be expected to be higher than the official count because some ballots are invalidated--perhaps 1 or 2 percent, according to independent studies.

The 1968 survey on voting resulted in an estimate of the total number of voters that was about 7.4 percent higher than the official count of votes cast for President. The 1970 survey, in addition to asking for information on voter participation in the 1970 election, also asked persons of voting age if they had voted for President in 1968. Asking this retrospective question introduced a possible memory bias into the data in this report on voting in 1968. This bias tends toward a further overstatement of voter participation. For instance, in the 1968 survey conducted just after the 1968 election, 68 percent of the persons 21 years old and over reported that they had voted. In the 1970 survey conducted just after the 1970 election; 72 percent of persons 23 years old and over reported that they had voted for President in 1968. This is basically the same cohort as in 1968; however, there has been some change in the universe due to the combined effect of sampling difference, deaths, movement in and out of the Armed Forces, and international migration.

Estimates of voter participation that are higher than the official counts have been the common experience of other survey organizations which have studied voting behavior. Explanations similar to those cited in this report have been given by these groups to account for the discrepancies.² However, in spite of these limitations, the differences in levels of voting and registration behavior among various subgroups in the population presented here are believed to be genuine differences.

RELATED REPORTS

Current Population Reports. Advance data on reported voter participation and registration of

²For a recent discussion of responses to voting surveys, see Aage R. Clausen, "Response Validity: Vote Report," Public Opinion Quarterly, Vol. XXXII, No. 4, Winter 1968-69, pp. 588-606.

the population of voting age, by race and sex, for the United States and regions in the November 1970 election are contained in the report Series P-20, No. 208.

Data on voter participation by social and economic characteristics of the population of voting age in the 1964 and 1968 Presidential elections and in the 1966 Congressional election were published in the reports Series P-20, No. 143, 192, and 174, respectively.

Estimates of the population of voting age for the United States, regions, divisions, and States for November 1, 1970 were published as a press release on October 19, 1970.

Data on the social and economic characteristics by reported voter participation of the population of voting age in the 1966 and 1964 elections and estimates of the population of voting age for the United States, regions, divisions, and States, as of November 1, 1968, were published in a composite report Series P-20, No. 172.

The number of persons of voting age in 1960 and the votes cast for President in the elections of 1964 and 1960 for the United States, by States and counties, are contained in the report Series P-23, No. 14.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage. The data in this report were collected in conjunction with the November 1970 sample survey which covered the population of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The figures shown relate to the civilian noninstitutional population. Although the statistics on voting in this report relate primarily to the population 21 years old and over, the minimum voting age is 21 in 46 of the States and the District of Columbia, 20 in Hawaii, 19 in Alaska, and 18 in Georgia and Kentucky; all persons of voting age in the United States are represented in the voting age population shown in this report.

Regions. In this report, the North and West includes the Northeast, North Central, and West Regions.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas constitutes the metropolitan population. Except in New England a standard metropolitan statistical area is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in a standard metropolitan statistical area if according to certain criteria they are essentially metropolitan in character and socially and economically

integrated with the central city. In New England, standard metropolitan statistical areas have been defined on a town rather than county basis. Standard metropolitan statistical areas of this report are identical with the standard metropolitan statistical areas of the 1960 census and do not include any subsequent additions or other changes.

Farm-nonfarm residence. The farm population refers to rural residents living on farms. The method of determining farm-nonfarm residence in the November 1970 survey and in the Current Population Surveys since March 1960 is the same as that used in the 1960 census but differs from that used in earlier censuses.

According to the current definition, the farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places of less than 10 acres yielding agricultural products which sold for \$250 or more in the previous year, or on places of 10 acres or more yielding agricultural products which sold for \$50 or more in the previous year. Rural persons in institutions, motels and tourist camps, and those living on rented places where no land is used for farming are not classified as farm population.

The nonfarm population, as the term is used here, comprises persons living in urban areas and rural persons not on farms.

Reported voter participation. Voter participation data for 1970 were derived from replies to the following question asked of all persons of voting age:

"This month we have some questions about whether people voted in the recent Congressional election. Did (this person) vote in the election held on November 3rd, (pause) or did something keep (this person) from voting?"

Those of voting age are classified as "voted" or "did not vote." The "did not vote" class includes those reported as "did not vote" do not know if voted" and nonrespondents, except in tables 19 and 20 where the "did not vote" class includes only those reported as "did not vote." Nonrespondents and person who reported that they did not know if they voted were included in the "did not vote" class because of the general overreporting of voting by respondents, in the sample.

Data shown in this report on voting for President in 1968 were derived from questions asked in 1970. The question referring to 1968 was as follows:

"Thinking back to 1968, did (this person) vote in the Presidential election that year?"

Reported registration. The data shown on registration were obtained by tabulating replies to the following question for those persons included in the category "did not vote":

"Was (this person) registered to vote in that election?"

All persons reported as having voted were assumed to have been registered. Therefore, the total registered population is obtained by combining the number of persons who voted and persons included in the category "did not vote," but who had registered.

Persons eligible to register. The population of voting age includes a considerable number of persons who meet the age requirement but cannot register and vote. Only citizens are eligible to vote. Among citizens of voting age, some persons are not permitted to vote because they have been committed to penal institutions, mental hospitals, or other institutions, or because they fail to meet State and local residence requirements for various reasons. The eligibility to register is governed by State laws which differ in many respects.

Registration is the act of qualifying to vote by formally enrolling on a list of voters. With certain exceptions, such as for members of the Armed Forces, registration must be done in person. For the majority of States, registration is permanent, that is, once a person has enrolled as a voter his name remains on the list as long as he continues to vote in the same jurisdiction--usually at least once every two or four years. In a few States or parts of States voters must register for each election in which they desire to vote. People who have moved to another election district must take steps to have their names placed on the voting rolls in their new place of residence.

In a few States or parts of States, no formal registration is required. Voters merely present themselves at the polling place on election day with proof that they are of age and have met the appropriate residence requirements. Therefore, in these areas persons who are citizens and of voting age, and who meet the residence requirements would be considered as being registered.

Reasons not registered. Data on reported reason for not registering to vote were collected in the Current Population Survey by asking the following question of those persons who reported that they had not registered to vote:

"What was the main reason (this person) was not registered to vote?"

The answer was recorded in one of the following categories:

Not a citizen of the United States
Had not lived here long enough to be qualified to vote

Not interested, just never got around to it, dislikes politics, etc.

Unable to register because of illness, no transportation, couldn't take time off from work, etc.

Other reason

Don't know

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: white, Negro, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except white and Negro.

Household. A household includes all of the persons who occupy a house, an apartment, or other group of rooms, or a room which constitutes a housing unit under the 1960 census rules. A group of rooms or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure, and when there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall, or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

Head. One person in each household is designated as the "head." The head is usually the person regarded as the head by the members of the group.

Primary family. The term "primary family" refers to the head of a household and all other persons in the household related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Years of school completed. Data on years of school completed in this report were derived from the combination of answers to two questions: (a) "What is the highest grade of school he has ever attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?" The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools.

Labor force and employment status. The definitions of labor force and employment status in this report relate to the population 14 years old and over.

Employed. Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which

they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific jobseeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Civilian labor force. The "civilian labor force" is comprised of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

Not in the labor force. All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season, and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force.

Occupation and class of worker. Data on occupation and class of worker are shown for the employed and relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week.

The major occupation groups used here are mainly the major groups used in the 1960 Census of Population. The composition of these groups is shown in Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1, United States Summary.

The class-of-worker classification specifies "wage and salary workers" and "self-employed workers." Wage and salary workers receive wages, salary, commissions, tips, pay in kind, or piece rates from a private employer or from

a private employer or from a private employer or from a government unit. Self-employed workers have their own business, profession, or trade, or operate a farm for profit or fees. The self-employed include unpaid family workers.

Family income. Income as defined in this report represents the combined total money income of the family before deductions for personal taxes, Social Security, bonds, etc. It is the algebraic 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 November 1970 survey. It should be noted that, although the family income statistics refer to receipts during the previous 12 months, the characteristics of the person, such as age, labor force status, etc., and the composition of families refer to the date of the survey.

The income tables include in the lowest income group (under \$3,000) those who were classified as having no income in the preceding 12 months and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income. Many of these were living on income "in kind," savings, or gifts; or were newly constituted families, or families in which the sole breadwinner had recently died or had left the household. However, many of the families who reported no income probably had some money income which was not recorded in the survey.

The income tables in this report include a separate category for families for whom no income information was obtained. In most of the other Current Population Survey reports showing income data, the missing income data have been allocated.

Rounding. The individual figures in this report are rounded to the nearest thousand. With few exceptions, the individual figures in this report have not been adjusted to group totals which are independently rounded. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent; therefore, the percentages in a distribution do not always add to exactly 100.0 percent. The totals, however, are always shown as 100.0.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data. The estimates for the November 1970 election and on voting for President in 1968 are based on data obtained in November 1970 in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. All other 1968 estimates are based on data collected in November 1968 in the Current Population Survey. The sample is spread over 449 areas comprising 863 counties and inde-

pendent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 50,000 occupied housing units are eligible for interview each month. Of this number 2,250 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 50,000, there are also about 8,500 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

The estimates for 1966 are based on data collected in November 1966 in the Current Population Survey. The sample was 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 households were eligible for interview each month.

The estimating procedure used in the Current Population Survey involves the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are 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. Estimates based on a sample may differ somewhat from the figures 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. The standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in that data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate differs from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 90 out of 100 that this difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error, and the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error. All statements of comparison appearing in the text are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better. Most are significant at a level of more than 2.0 standard errors. Thus, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error of the

difference. Statements of comparison qualified in some way (e.g., by use of the phrase "some evidence") have a level of significance between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors.

The figures presented in table F 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 F. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers:
November 1970**

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000.....	10,000	2,500,000...	98,000
50,000.....	14,000	5,000,000...	137,000
100,000.....	20,000	10,000,000..	189,000
250,000.....	31,000	25,000,000..	276,000
500,000.....	44,000	50,000,000..	329,000
1,000,000....	63,000		

Note: For standard errors of November 1966 estimates, multiply the standard errors by 1.23.

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

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors. Table 6 of this report shows that 39,207,000 persons employed in nonagricultural industries reported having voted in the 1970 Congressional election. Table F shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 306,000. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 306,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 612,000 (twice the standard error).

Of these 39,207,000 persons, 8,458,000 or 21.6 percent were government workers. Table G shows the standard error of 21.6 percent on a base of

39,207,000 to be approximately 0.4 percentage points. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the 21.6 percent would be within 0.4 percentage points of a complete census figure, and

chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 0.8 percentage points of a complete census figure, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 20.8 to 22.4 percent.

Table G. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages: November 1970

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)								
	100	250	500	1,000	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
2 or 98.....	2.8	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	4.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
10 or 90.....	6.0	3.8	2.7	1.9	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
20 or 80.....	7.9	5.0	3.6	2.5	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3
25 or 75.....	8.6	5.4	3.8	2.7	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.3
50.....	9.9	6.3	4.4	3.1	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3

Note: For standard errors of November 1966 estimates, multiply the standard errors by 1.23.