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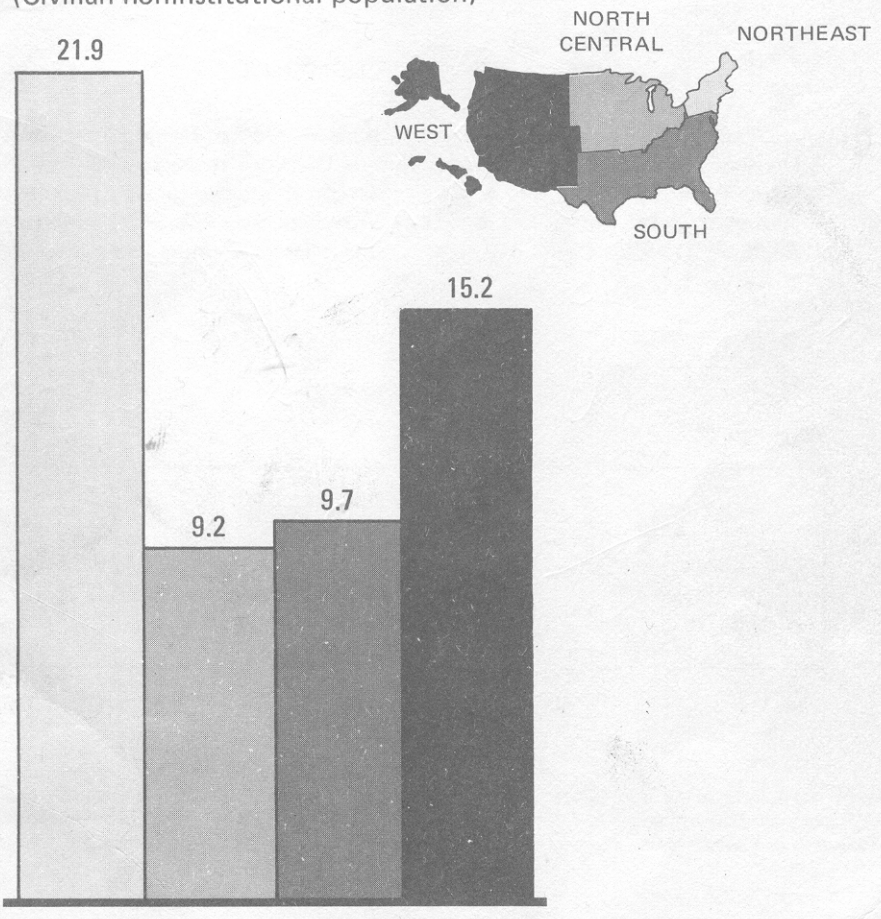
VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 1972

Percent Casting Vote After 6:00 P.M. by Regions: November 1972

(Civilian noninstitutional population)



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APPENDIX

VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 1972

About 63 percent of the civilian population of voting age, excluding persons residing in institutions, were reported as having voted in the 1972 Presidential election, according to the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Bureau of the Census in November 1972. This compares with voting turnouts reported in previous Bureau surveys of 68 percent in 1968 and 69 percent in 1964.

Approximately 9 percent of the voting age population were reported as being registered to vote but as not having cast a ballot, whereas about 24 percent of the persons 18 years of age and older were not eligible to vote because they were not registered or otherwise not eligible. The remaining 3 percent comprised persons whose voting participation was not reported or was not known to the person who was responding for other household members.

This report presents highlights from the November 1972 survey--from two different aspects: First, a comparison of the 1972 election with those of 1968 and, where appropriate, 1964, to indicate trends in recent Presidential elections; and second, a discussion of data which were unique to the 1972 survey. The 1972 survey includes information about potential new voters who, because of the lowering of the voting age to 18, comprised a larger proportion (18 percent) of the voting age population than ever before. Also presented for the first time in this series are registration and voting data by school enrollment status, marital status, reasons why registered persons did not vote, information on the time of day people voted and on the use of absentee ballots, and selected data for the 15 largest States. The text can only suggest the wealth of data collected in this survey; those who are interested in examining the relationships in greater detail are directed to the detailed tables, 1 to 38, of this report.

In general, the 1972 survey data serve to confirm the results of earlier surveys in this series, as well as independent research efforts, with regard to the demographic characteristics which were associated with the propensity to register to vote and, in turn, to vote in a national election. Thus, higher levels of registration and voting were associated with persons who were male, white, those in the middle age group (35-64), those persons with at least a high school diploma, those in families with incomes greater then $10,000, and those in white collar occupations. Conversely, females, Negroes, persons of Spanish ethnic origin, the youngest (18-34) and oldest age groups (65 or older), those who did not complete elementary school education, those in families with incomes less than $5,000, and those in unskilled occupations, such as laborers and private household workers, were less likely to be registered and to vote.

COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The overall voting turnout in the last three Presidential elections has declined from 69.4 percent in 1964 to 63.0 percent in 1972. Table A shows that this decline has not been the same across educational levels. Among white voters with the fewest years of schooling (below the 8th grade), the turnout has decreased at a rate greater than the national average. White college graduates, on the other hand, exhibited a drop in voting participation between 1964 and 1972 which was less than the national average. Negroes as a group reported as having voted at rates below those for whites in all three elections. The drop in turnout among Negroes between 1968 and 1972 roughly approximated that for whites,[1] although there was less of a decline among Negroes with elementary education or below than for their white counterparts.

Table B shows a regional variation in turnout for the last three elections. The South, although consistently lower in turnout than the rest of the Nation, did not decline in each successive election. Rather, the South exhibited its greatest turnout, about 60 percent, in 1968 and declined in 1972 to about the same level as in 1964. With regard to age, the youngest age group for which comparative data are available, those 21 to 24 years old, showed no change in turnout over the three Presidential elections. Table B also shows that Negroes in the North and West dropped sharply in

[1]The Negro decline was 5.5 percent whereas the white decline was 4.6 percent. Because of sampling variability, the Negro decline could be as high as 6.9 percent and the white decline as low as 4.2 percent at the two standard error level.

percentage point voting turnout from 1964 to 1972; whereas Negroes in the South increased their turnout from 1964 to 1968 and showed no evidence of a significant change in turnout between 1968 and 1972.

According to results from CPS reports for previous elections, educational attainment has been highly correlated with involvement in the political process. Table C presents data from the 1968 and 1972 elections on the proportion of registered voters who voted in these elections. The range in percent turnout in 1972 from the lowest to the highest educational level is about 28 points for both males and females. The range was narrower in 1968, with the greater change between 1968 and 1972 found among those who had not completed high school. Education is also a major determinant of registration (table 6). But once on the registration rolls, the overwhelming majority of Americans manage to cast a ballot. Even in the relatively low turnout of the 1972 election, 87 percent of those reported as registered reported that they voted. For the college educated, virtually all those who were registered cast ballots.

Table A. Reported Voter Participation of Persons of Voting Age by Years of School Completed for the Presidential Elections of 1964, 1968, and 1972

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Years of school completed and race	1972		1968		1964	
	All persons	Percent reported voted	All persons	Percent reported voted	All persons[1]	Percent reported voted
ALL RACES						
Total	136,203	63.0	116,535	67.8	110,309	69.4
Elementary: 0 to 4 years	5,312	33.0	5,926	38.4	15,681	51.2
5 to 7 years	9,067	44.3	9,687	52.4		
8 years	13,686	55.2	14,817	62.4	15,401	67.0
High school: 1 to 3 years	22,277	52.0	20,429	61.3	19,359	65.4
4 years	50,749	65.4	39,704	72.5	34,872	76.1
College: 1 to 3 years	19,254	74.9	13,312	78.4	10,426	82.1
4 years	9,771	82.3	7,974	83.1	10,271	87.5
5 years or more	6,088	85.6	4,685	85.7		
WHITE						
Total	121,243	64.5	104,521	69.1	99,122	70.7
Elementary: 0 to 4 years	3,774	32.2	4,273	38.7	12,246	53.4
5 to 7 years	7,253	43.5	7,729	52.4		
8 years	12,349	55.6	13,556	63.3	14,190	67.3
High school: 1 to 3 years	18,906	53.1	17,637	62.2	16,928	65.9
4 years	46,248	66.5	36,898	73.1	32,605	76.5
College: 1 to 3 years	17,759	76.0	12,459	79.0	9,851	82.6
4 years	9,226	83.1	7,550	83.6	9,734	87.8
5 years or more	5,728	86.9	4,419	86.7		
NEGRO[2]						
Total	13,493	52.1	10,935	57.6	11,187	57.6
Elementary: 0 to 4 years	1,400	35.9	1,540	39.4	3,435	43.4
5 to 7 years	1,708	48.5	1,869	53.2		
8 years	1,248	52.1	1,149	53.7	1,211	62.8
High school: 1 to 3 years	3,177	46.9	2,645	56.3	2,431	61.7
4 years	4,037	55.3	2,489	65.3	2,267	70.8
College: 1 to 3 years	1,279	63.5	744	74.0	575	73.4
4 years	405	80.3	339	79.9	537	81.9
5 years or more	240	79.0	159	90.6		

[1]Persons 21 years old and over. The total for 1964 includes persons who did not report on years of school completed not shown separately.

[2]Negro and other races in 1964.

Table B. Reported Voter Participation of Persons 21 Years Old and Over for the Presidential Elections of November 1964, 1968, and 1972

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age, race, and region	1972		1968		1964	
	All persons	Percent reported voted	All persons	Percent reported voted	All persons	Percent reported voted
UNITED STATES						
All Races						
21 years and over	125,181	64.3	116,103	67.9	110,309	69.4
21 to 24 years	13,590	50.7	11,170	51.1	9,623	51.3
25 to 44 years	49,173	62.7	46,103	66.6	45,296	69.0
45 to 64 years	42,344	70.8	40,362	74.9	38,121	75.9
65 years and over	20,074	63.5	18,468	65.8	17,269	66.3
Negro[1]						
21 years and over	12,110	54.6	10,846	57.9	10,281	58.6
21 to 24 years	1,610	38.2	1,255	38.9	1,055	44.8
25 to 44 years	5,130	55.6	4,713	60.3	4,596	61.5
45 to 64 years	3,757	61.9	3,515	64.5	3,364	64.1
65 years and over	1,613	50.6	1,363	49.9	1,266	45.3
NORTH AND WEST						
All Races						
21 years and over	86,095	67.6	81,579	71.1	78,163	74.6
21 to 24 years	9,333	54.2	7,790	54.7	6,687	57.5
25 to 44 years	33,452	65.8	32,214	69.5	32,054	73.9
45 to 64 years	29,474	74.1	28,500	78.2	27,112	81.0
65 years and over	13,836	67.2	13,075	69.0	12,310	71.3
Negro[1]						
21 years and over	5,864	59.0	4,944	64.8	5,400	72.0
21 to 24 years	807	40.0	574	44.3	578	55.7
25 to 44 years	2,639	57.7	2,394	64.5	2,706	71.8
45 to 64 years	1,782	68.4	1,498	73.4	1,606	81.4
65 years and over	636	62.3	480	64.4	510	62.5
SOUTH						
All Races						
21 years and over	39,087	56.8	34,524	60.4	32,147	56.8
21 to 24 years	4,257	43.2	3,380	42.8	2,935	37.0
25 to 44 years	15,721	56.0	13,889	59.9	13,243	57.1
45 to 64 years	12,870	63.2	11,862	67.0	11,009	63.2
65 years and over	6,237	55.3	5,393	58.0	4,960	53.8
Negro[1]						
21 years and over	6,246	50.4	5,900	52.0	5,789	44.2
21 to 24 years	803	36.4	681	34.4	561	30.1
25 to 44 years	2,490	53.3	2,319	56.0	2,395	46.6
45 to 64 years	1,975	56.1	2,017	57.8	1,997	49.1
65 years and over	978	42.9	883	42.0	836	34.7

[1]Negro and other races in 1964.

Table C. Reported Voter Participation and Registration of Persons of Voting Age by Years of School Completed for the Presidential Elections of 1968 and 1972

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Years of school completed and sex	1972			1968		
	Reported registered	Reported that they voted	Voted as a percent of the registered	Reported that they registered	Reported that they voted	Voted as a percent of the registered
Total	98,480	85,766	87.1	86,574	78,964	91.2
Elementary: 0 to 4 years	2,560	1,751	68.4	2,937	2,278	77.6
5 to 7 years	5,398	4,012	74.3	6,108	5,072	83.0
8 years	9,302	7,548	81.1	10,627	9,242	87.0
High school: 1 to 3 years	14,024	11,587	82.6	13,987	12,519	89.5
4 years	37,558	33,193	88.4	30,859	28,768	93.2
College: 1 to 3 years	15,722	14,420	91.7	11,038	10,443	94.6
4 years	8,509	8,042	94.5	6,899	6,627	96.1
5 years or more	5,408	5,213	96.4	4,120	4,016	97.5
Male	46,682	40,908	87.6	41,379	38,014	91.9
Elementary: 0 to 4 years	1,511	1,036	68.6	1,729	1,359	78.6
5 to 7 years	2,751	2,149	78.1	3,228	2,747	85.1
8 years	4,629	3,857	83.3	5,328	4,741	89.0
High school: 1 to 3 years	6,333	5,342	84.4	6,448	5,839	90.6
4 years	15,494	13,607	87.8	12,786	11,965	93.6
College: 1 to 3 years	7,795	7,133	91.5	5,371	5,075	94.5
4 years	4,436	4,176	94.1	3,637	3,509	96.5
5 years or more	3,734	3,607	96.6	2,852	2,779	97.4
Female	51,798	44,858	86.6	45,197	40,951	90.6
Elementary: 0 to 4 years	1,049	715	68.2	1,208	919	76.1
5 to 7 years	2,647	1,864	70.4	2,881	2,326	80.7
8 years	4,673	3,691	79.0	5,298	4,500	84.9
High school: 1 to 3 years	7,691	6,245	81.2	7,539	6,680	88.6
4 years	22,064	19,585	88.8	18,073	16,803	93.0
College: 1 to 3 years	7,928	7,288	91.9	5,668	5,368	94.7
4 years	4,073	3,866	94.9	3,262	3,118	95.6
5 years or more	1,674	1,605	95.9	1,268	1,237	97.6

Because of the lowering of the age for eligibility to vote, the 1972 election saw the largest addition to the electorate since women were guaranteed the franchise and voted in significant numbers for the first time in 1920. In addition to those "aging in" to the electorate at the traditional age of 21, approximately 11 million more persons were enfranchised by the 26th Amendment which lowered the voting age in national elections to 18. Much interest focused on these new voters and the degree to which they would avail themselves of this newly acquired power. Traditionally, the youngest age groups have exhibited the poorest turnout and 1972 was no exception. However, table D demonstrates a substantial variation in the registration and voting behavior of the young, depending upon whether or not they were enrolled in school. In the youngest age group, 18 to 20, the differences were especially striking. Among the 45 percent who were enrolled in school, 73 percent reported that they were registered and more than 63 percent reported that they voted, while the comparable figures among youth not enrolled in school were about 50 percent and 40 percent, respectively. These differences persist as age increases and the enrolled in school become a very small part of the total, down to about 5 percent for those in the 30 to 34 year category (table E). Although only half of the 18- to 20-year-olds not attending school reported that they were registered, 80 percent of those registered reported that they did vote.

Table D. Reported Voter Participation and Registration of Persons 18 to 34 Years Old by School Enrollment Status and Age: November 1972

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

School enrollment status and age	All persons	Percent reported registered	Percent reported voted	Voted as a percent of the registered
TOTAL PERSONS				
18 to 34 years	51,545	63.9	54.9	85.9
18 to 20 years	11,022	58.1	48.3	83.0
21 to 24 years	13,590	59.5	50.7	85.3
25 to 29 years	14,750	66.1	57.8	87.5
30 to 34 years	12,183	71.2	61.9	87.0
ENROLLED IN SCHOOL				
18 to 34 years	8,998	76.2	68.5	89.8
18 to 20 years	4,689	72.8	63.5	87.2
21 to 24 years	2,481	78.6	71.3	90.7
25 to 29 years	1,263	81.8	77.2	94.4
30 to 34 years	565	82.5	79.1	95.9
NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL				
18 to 34 years	42,547	62.8	54.0	86.0
18 to 20 years	6,333	49.7	39.7	79.9
21 to 24 years	11,109	55.9	47.4	84.9
25 to 29 years	13,487	66.1	58.0	87.8
30 to 34 years	11,618	72.5	63.1	87.0

Table E. School Enrollment Rates for Persons 18 to 34 Years Old by Whether Registered or Voted: November 1972

Age	All persons	Reported that they registered	Reported that they voted
PERCENT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL			
18 to 34 years	18.3	21.3	22.1
18 to 20 years	45.0	54.5	56.7
21 to 24 years	19.2	25.1	26.4
25 to 29 years	8.8	10.7	11.4
30 to 34 years	4.4	5.0	5.5

VOTER CONSISTENCY BETWEEN 1968 AND 1972

Another way of comparing voting participation over time is to look at the voting patterns of two consecutive elections from the perspective of the individual voter. As in previous studies, respondents were asked whether they had voted in a previous election, in this case the Presidential election of 1968. These tables were restricted to persons 25 years of age and older in 1972, since very few younger persons could have voted in 1968.

If we define consistent performance in the 1968 and 1972 elections as either voting in both elections or not voting in either, then 78 percent of the eligible population exhibited consistent behavior. Three-quarters of this group reported that they voted in both 1968 and 1972; the remaining one quarter were reported as voting in neither election. Those who voted in one election, but not in the other, constitute a rather small proportion of the total eligible, about 16 percent. About two-thirds of these persons reported that they voted in 1968, but not in 1972, while the other one-third were reported as voting only in 1972.

The consistent voters comprised 79 percent of those with five years or more of college, but only about 30 percent of those with only four years of schooling or less. Nonvoters in both elections accounted for about 45 percent of those in the

lowest educational category, but only 6 percent of those with education beyond four years of college. Among the one-time voters, the difference in voter turnout between these educational levels was not as great (see table 34). Substantially more persons with eight years or less education reported that they voted only in 1968 (about 14 percent) than only in 1972 (about 3 percent). For persons with four or more years of college, the figures are about the same for the two elections--approximately 6 percent. The one-time voters in the youngest age group eligible to vote in both elections, those 25 to 29 years old, voted more heavily in 1972, reflecting the often noted relationship between voting and increasing age.

REASONS FOR NONREGISTRATION AND NONVOTING

Earlier surveys in this series have sought to ascertain the reasons why people do not register to vote. The number of persons who do not register is a sizable group, about 33 million in 1972. For the first time, a question was also asked of the reason for not voting which was directed at the much smaller group of approximately 12 million persons who were registered to vote or who lived in areas where registration was not required, but who did not vote in the 1972 election. Asking the reason why people do not perform a socially sanctioned act such as registering and voting in elections presents some difficulty in obtaining reliable information. This is compounded by the fact that, for 47 percent of the population, information was provided by a household respondent who had to assess the motivations of other family members. Nevertheless, the question on reason not registered to vote has been used before and the distribution of responses to this question has been relatively stable, lending some reliability to the findings.

Approximately one-half of the respondents who were not registered were reported as being in some degree estranged from participation in the 1972 election--either from lack of interest or dislike of politics. The proportion who cited not satisfying residence requirements as a factor in their not being registered declined to about one-half of the proportion in 1968. This drop reflects the virtual eradication of durational residence as a requirement for voting for President and Vice President--reduced to 30 days by the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1970. The fact that 6 percent still offer it as reason for nonregistration is perhaps a reflection of the lack of awareness on the part of the politically uninvolved.

The smaller group of registered persons reported not voting were more prone to have been unavoidably prevented from casting their ballots, suggesting that they had intended to vote, but circumstances dictated otherwise. The reasons which fell in this category were: Unable to go to polls for health reasons, because no transportation was available, or couldn't take time off from work; because the respondent was out of town on election day and did not file an absentee ballot; or because when he went to the polling place he was discouraged from voting by long lines, voting machine failure, and related reasons. Taken together, these reasons account for over 48 percent of the registered nonvoters. Another 27 percent were apathetic or expressed dislike of politics, candidates, etc., with the latter reason relatively more important than it was among the nonregistered. The remaining 25 percent were about equally divided between those who cited other reasons for not voting and those whose reason was not known or not reported by the household respondent.

The relatively small numbers of registered nonvoters prohibit extensive analysis of these reasons in terms of the usual demographic variables. Nevertheless, the survey shows that the elderly cited inability to get to the polls as the most important reason for not voting. The same reason was reported more often by persons with less than an elementary school education, than by the college educated. The latter cited being out of town as an important reason (along with unable to get to the polls); for those with less than an elementary school education, out of town was seldom given as a reason.

Those who reported as having voted in 1968, but not in 1972, form a group of particular interest. The majority of these persons (58 percent) reported that they were registered in 1972. However, the reasons for nonvoting given by this group are similar to those reported for all registered nonvoters. There was evidence to suggest that the "unavoidable" barriers loomed larger to the registered nonvoters in 1972 who had voted in 1968 than to the registered nonvoters as a whole. For example, it is interesting to note that with increasing age, these 1968 voters were more likely to be registered to vote in 1972, but, on the other hand, unable to vote for health or related reasons.

TIME OF DAY AND ABSENTEE VOTING

A question was introduced for the first time in the 1972 survey in order to ascertain the time of day when people voted and the use of

absentee ballots. Election officials can estimate from registration lists the overall number of votes cast by a specific time on election day. However, the evidence has been rather fragmentary as to the characteristics of persons who voted at different times of day and whether there were variations by geographic region. Specifically, with four time zones in the 48 contiguous States, there has been a question whether voting turnout in the three West Coast States (and even more so in Alaska and Hawaii) might be affected by the fact that the polls were closed in the populous Northeast and election returns and media projections were being disseminated throughout the Nation, while polling places in these Western States were still open. The survey results indicate that in 1972 voters in the Northeast were more likely to vote after 6 in the evening, 21 percent compared with the national average of 13 percent. About 16 percent of the voters in the five States that make up the Pacific Division voted after 6 p.m., slightly above the proportion for the Nation as a whole. Differences in the time of day voted occurred among various demographic groups--for example, the elderly (65 and over) cast proportionally more ballots by noon than persons in other age groups, 58 percent versus 40 percent for all voters. White collar workers tended to vote early (16 percent by 8 o'clock in the morning, compared with 11 percent overall). In contrast, persons in blue collar occupations were more likely to vote after 4 p.m.--about 50 percent in contrast with 33 percent for all persons.

About 4 percent of the voters were reported as casting absentee ballots. There is some evidence that persons in the Mountain Division were more frequent users of this voting method than were persons nationally. The youngest voters, many who were students away at college, utilized absentee ballots more than any other age group (almost 14 percent), followed by those 21 to 24 years old and the elderly. Negroes reported very little use of absentee ballots, about 1 percent compared with 4 percent for whites.

Table F. Reported Time of Day Vote Cast for Persons Who Reported Voting for the United States and Regions: November 1972

Time of day voted	Total	Northeast	North Central	South	West
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Before 8:00 a.m.	10.6	6.9	13.5	10.6	11.0
8:00 a.m. to noon	29.8	28.9	29.5	31.0	29.6
Noon to 4:00 p.m.	20.0	19.0	20.6	21.2	18.4
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	19.8	17.6	21.0	21.0	18.8
After 6:00 p.m.	13.1	21.2	9.0	9.3	14.9
Absentee ballot	3.7	3.1	3.9	3.1	4.9
Did not know or did not report time voted	3.0	3.3	2.5	3.8	2.3

EVALUATION OF THE ACCURACY OF THE DATA

In the November 1972 Current Population Survey supplement on voting, 84.6 million of the 136.2 million persons in the civilian noninstitutional population were reported (by themselves or by members of their households) as having voted for President in the 1972 election. Official counts show 77.6 million votes cast for President. The survey estimate is thus 9.0 percent higher than the official count of votes cast for President.

The four previous surveys of voting conducted by the Bureau of the Census, beginning in 1964, similarly resulted in overestimates of the official count of votes cast. The reports of those surveys, Series P-20, Nos. 143, 174, 192, and 228, contain analyses of 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 an evident tendency for the respondent to give another member of the household the benefit of the doubt and report that the

person had voted when there was uncertainty about it. This problem may have been magnified in 1972 by the addition of those 18 to 20 years old to the electorate inasmuch as less than 30 percent of these respondents reported for themselves. Another factor is the Current Population Survey 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 for President could be expected to be higher than the official count because some ballots are invalidated--perhaps 1 or 2 percent, according to independent studies.

A test was conducted in conjunction with the December 1972 Current Population Survey to examine one facet of the overreporting problem. The hypothesis was that by reversing the question order and asking the presumably less sensitive question on registration first, the tendency to overreport on voting might be lessened. The test questions were confined to the one-quarter of the sample that had not been included in the November survey. The results of this test were somewhat confounded by nonreporting rates in December that were twice as high as those in November, 4.2 percent as compared with 1.9 percent. The higher rates were probably due to combination of some memory loss (respondents were interviewed about five weeks after the election) and the location of the questions which, because of space limitations, could not be placed on the same pages as other questions pertaining to individual respondents and, therefore, were evidently not asked by some interviewers. Thus, an apparently lower reported turnout of 60.8 percent in the December survey was largely nullified when the comparison was restricted to those who reported on voting. When this was done, the difference narrowed so that there was no evidence of decline in turnout in the December survey as compared with November. The general conclusion from this test is that reversing the question order does not make much, if any, difference in the results, and efforts to account for the persistent overreporting must be directed toward investigating areas such as those specified earlier.

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 the population of voting age, by race and sex, for the United States and regions in the November 1972 election are contained in the report Series P-20, No. 244.

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 and 1970 Congressional elections were published in the reports Series P-20, No. 143, 192, 174, and 228, respectively.

Data on the social and economic characteristics of persons 18 to 24 years old who became eligible to vote on the basis of age in 1972 were published in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 230.

Projections of the population of voting age for the United States, regions, divisions, and States for November 1, 1972 were published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 479.

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.

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[2]For a comprehensive discussion of this problem, including a comparison of the 1964 Bureau of the Census survey with that conducted by the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan, see Aage R. Clausen, "Response Validity: Vote Report," Public Opinion Quarterly, Vol. XXXII, No. 4, Winter 1968-69, pp. 588-606.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage. The data in this report were collected in conjunction with the November 1972 sample survey which covered the population of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The figures shown relate to the civilian noninstitutional population.

Geographic regions. The four major regions of the United States, for which data are presented in this report, represent groups of States, as follows:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

West: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, and Hawaii.

The North as used in this report includes the combined Northeast and North Central regions.

Geographic divisions. The two major geographic divisions for which data are shown in this report represent groups of States as follows:

Mountain: Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada.

Pacific: Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii.

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 1970 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 1972 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 1972 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 November 7th Presidential election. Did (this person) vote in the election held on November 7th?"

Those of voting age were classified as "voted" or "did not vote." In most tables, "did not vote" class includes those reported as "did not vote," "do not know if voted," and nonrespondents, but there are exceptions, which are properly noted in the tables where the "did not vote" class includes only those reported as "did not vote." Nonrespondents and persons who reported that they did not know if they voted were included in the "did not vote" class because of the general overreporting by respondents in the sample.

Data shown in this report on voting for President in 1968 were derived from questions asked in 1972. The question referring to 1968 was as follows: "Thinking back to 1968, did (this person) vote for someone for President that year?"

Reason not voted. Data on reported reason for not voting were collected in the Current Population Survey by asking the following question of those persons who reported that they were registered but did not vote: "What was the main reason (this person) did not vote?"

The answer was recorded in one of the following categories:

Not interested, just never got around to it
Dislikes politics, did not prefer any of the candidates
Unable to vote because of illness, no transportation, couldn't take time off from work, etc.
Machines not working, lines too long, etc.
Out of town or away from home
Other
Don't know

Time of day voted. Data on time of day voted was obtained in the November 1972 Current Population Survey from replies to the direct question: "At what time of day did (this person) vote?" The answer was recorded in one of the following categories:

Before 8 a.m.
8 a.m. to noon
Noon to 4 p.m.
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
After 6 p.m.
Don't know
Voted absentee ballot

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 the November 7th 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 resident 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 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, did not prefer any of the candidates
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 1970 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.

Family. The term "family," as used here, refers to a group of two persons or more related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of one family.

Head of family. One person in each family residing together was designated as the head. The head of a family is usually the person regarded as the head by members of the family. Women are not classified as heads if their husbands are resident members of the family at the time of the survey.

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.

Marital status. The marital status classification identifies four major categories: single, married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration.

The category "married" is further divided into "married, spouse present," "separated," and "other married, spouse absent." A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or on vacation, visiting in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Persons reported as separated included those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other persons permanently or temporarily separated because of marital discord. The group "other married, spouse absent" includes married persons living apart because either the husband or wife was employed and living at a considerable distance from home, was serving away from home in the Armed Forces, had moved to another area, or had a different place of residence for any other reason except separation as defined above.

Level of school. The statistics on level of school indicate the number of persons enrolled at each of two levels: High school or below and college. The latter group includes students enrolled in the first or higher year in a college or university, including graduate students.

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.

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.

Origin or descent. The information in this report on ethnic origin or descent was obtained from responses to the following direct question.

"What is (this person's) origin or descent?"

The answer was recorded in one of the following categories:

German
Italian
Irish
French
Polish
Russian
English, Scottish, Welsh
Mexican-American
Chicano
Mexican (Mexicano)
Puerto Rican
Cuban
Other Spanish
Negro
Other
Don't know

Responses to this question generally refer to the respondent's perceived national or ethnic lineage and do not necessarily indicate the country of birth of himself or his parents. Categories for identifying persons of Spanish origin were somewhat different in the March 1972 Current Population Survey; thus, population figures shown in this report may differ slightly from published figures for March 1972.

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 1970 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 received wages, salary, commissions, tips, pay in kind, or piece rates 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 1972 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.

The money income level of families shown in this report may be somewhat understated. Income data from the November control card are based on the respondent's estimate of total family money income for the preceding 12 months coded in broad, fixed income intervals (table G). Income

data collected in the March supplement to the Current Population Survey are based on responses to 8 direct questions asked for all persons 14 years old and over identifying 14 different sources of income and cover the preceding calendar year.

Table G. Income Intervals on the Control Card Used in the November Current Population Survey

Under $1,000	$6,000 to $7,499
$1,000 to $1,999	$7,500 to $9,999
$2,000 to $2,999	$10,000 to $14,999
$3,000 to $3,999	$15,000 to $24,999
$4,000 to $5,999	$25,000 and over

Previous research has shown that the use of broad income intervals to record money income tends to reduce the rate of nonreporting while increasing the likelihood that the amounts reported will be significantly understated as compared with results from more detailed questions (table H).

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.

Table H. October CPS Control Card Family Income and March CPS Supplement Family Income for 1967 Through 1972

Year	Median family income, October control card	Percent change	Median family income, March supplement	Percent change	October-March ratio
1967	$6,811	(X)	$7,974	(X)	.85
1968	7,189	+5.5	8,632	+8.3	.83
1969	7,770	+8.1	9,433	+9.3	.82
1970	8,268	+6.4	9,867	+4.6	.84
1971	8,680	+5.0	10,285	+4.2	.84
1972	9,275	+6.9	11,116	+8.1	.83

X Not applicable.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data. The estimates are based on data obtained in November of 1972 in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. The sample is spread over 461 areas comprising 923 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 47,000 occupied housing units are eligible for interview each month. Of this number 2,000 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 47,000, there are also about 8,000 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

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, race and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1970 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 it does not measure, as such, 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 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, and most are significant at a level of more than 2.0 standard errors. This means that 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 tables I through N 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. Tables I through K contain the standard errors of estimated numbers for a given class of persons 18 years old or older.

Table I. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers for 1968 and 1972

Total or White

(Numbers in thousands. 68 chances out of 100)

Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
5,000.....	3,500	750,000....	43,000
10,000.....	5,000	1,000,000..	50,000
20,000.....	7,100	2,500,000..	79,000
25,000.....	7,900	5,000,000..	110,000
50,000.....	11,000	7,500,000..	133,000
75,000.....	14,000	10,000,000.	152,000
100,000....	16,000	25,000,000.	224,000
150,000....	19,000	50,000,000.	272,000
200,000....	22,000	75,000,000.	268,000
250,000....	25,000	100,000,000	209,000
500,000....	35,000		

Table J. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers for 1968 and 1972

Negro and Other Races or Ethnic Groups

(Numbers in thousands. 68 chances out of 100)

Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
2,500.....	3,000	250,000....	30,000
5,000.....	4,200	500,000....	42,000
10,000.....	6,100	750,000....	51,000
20,000.....	8,600	1,000,000..	58,000
25,000.....	9,600	1,500,000..	70,000
50,000.....	14,000	2,000,000..	79,000
75,000.....	17,000	2,500,000..	86,000
100,000....	19,000	5,000,000..	106,000
150,000....	23,000	7,500,000..	107,000
200,000....	27,000	10,000,000.	89,000

Table K. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers for 1968 and 1972

Regions

(Numbers in thousands. 68 chances out of 100)

Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
5,000.....	5,500	500,000....	56,000
10,000.....	7,900	750,000....	68,000
20,000.....	11,000	1,000,000..	77,000
25,000.....	12,000	2,500,000..	124,000
50,000.....	18,000	5,000,000..	173,000
75,000.....	22,000	7,500,000..	210,000
100,000....	25,000	10,000,000.	239,000
150,000....	31,000	25,000,000.	352,000
200,000....	35,000	50,000,000.	428,000
250,000....	39,000	75,000,000.	422,000

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. Tables L through N contain the standard errors of estimated percentages.

Table O shows factors to be applied to the standard errors in tables I through N for those tabulations for which standard error tables have not been produced. Factors are shown for tabulations in the Pacific and Mountain Divisions and the fifteen largest States, data gathered in the 1964 Current Population Survey, and tabulations by school enrollment status in October 1972.

Table L. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages for 1968 and 1972

Total or White

(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	150,000
2 or 98.....	2.2	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	3.5	2.2	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
10 or 90.....	4.8	3.0	2.1	1.5	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
20 or 80.....	6.3	4.0	2.8	2.0	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
25 or 75.....	6.9	4.3	3.1	2.2	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
50.....	7.9	5.0	3.5	2.5	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2

Table M. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages for 1968 and 1972

Negro and Other Races or Ethnic Groups

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)									
	50	100	250	500	750	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000
2 or 98.....	3.8	2.7	1.7	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2
5 or 95.....	5.9	4.2	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3
10 or 90.....	8.1	5.8	3.6	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.4
20 or 80.....	10.9	7.7	4.9	3.4	2.8	2.4	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.5
25 or 75.....	11.8	8.3	5.3	3.7	3.0	2.6	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.5
50.....	13.6	9.6	6.1	4.3	3.5	3.0	1.9	1.4	1.0	0.6

Table N. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages for 1968 and 1972

Regions

(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.....	3.5	2.2	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
5 or 95.....	5.4	3.4	2.4	1.7	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
10 or 90.....	7.4	4.7	3.3	2.4	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
20 or 80.....	9.9	6.2	4.4	3.1	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3
25 or 75.....	10.7	6.8	4.8	3.4	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3
50.....	12.4	7.8	5.5	3.9	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.4

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors. Table 15 of this report shows that 3,197,000 males 21 to 24 years old reported that they voted in November 1972. Table I shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 88,000. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 88,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have differed from a complete census figure by less than 176,000.

Of these 3,197,000 males 21 to 24 years old who reported having voted in November 1972, 234,000 or 7.3 percent, reported voting by absentee ballot. Table L shows the standard error of 7.3 percent on a base of 3,197,000 to be approximately 0.9 of one percent. Consequently chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 7.3 percent would be within 0.9 of one percentage point of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 1.8 percentage points of a census figure; i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 5.5 to 9.1 percent.

Differences. For a difference between two sample estimates, the standard error is approximately equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard errors of each estimate considered separately. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between two estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate the true standard error.

Table 15 of this report shows that 7.3 percent of the 3,197,000 males 21 to 24 years old reported voting by absentee ballot in the November 1972 election, whereas only 2.7 percent of the 4,103,000 males 25 to 29 years old reported using an absentee ballot. Thus, the apparent difference in voting by absentee ballot between these age groups is about 4.6 percentage points. The standard error of 7.3 percent on a base of 3,197,000 is 0.9 of one percent, as shown above. Table L shows that the standard error of 2.7 percent on a base of 4,103,000 is approximately 0.5 of one percent. The standard error of the estimated difference of 4.6 percentage points is about $1.0 = \sqrt{(0.9)^2 + (0.5)^2}$ percentage point.

This means the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated difference based on the samples would be less than 1.0 percentage point from the difference derived using complete census figures. The 68 percent confidence interval around the 4.6 percentage point difference is from 3.6 to 5.6 percentage points, i.e., 4.6 ± 1.0 percentage points. A conclusion that the average estimate of the difference derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 68 percent of all possible samples. The 95 percent confidence interval is 2.6 to 6.6 percentage points, and thus we can conclude with 95 percent confidence that the percent of males 21 to 24 years old voting by absentee ballot in November 1972 was greater than the percent of males 25 to 29 years old using the absentee ballot.

Illustration of the use of the table of factors (Table O). Table 6 of this report shows that there were approximately 1,052,000 Negroes enrolled in school in October 1972. Table J shows that the standard error on an estimate of 1,052,000 is approximately 59,000. Table O shows that the factor for school enrollment in October is 1.2. Thus, the standard error on an estimate of 1,052,000 Negroes enrolled in school in October 1972 is about 71,000 = 1.2 x 59,000.

Table O. Factors to be Applied to Tables I Through N to Approximate Standard Errors

Census Divisions	Approximate Factors
Pacific Division	1.3
Mountain Division	1.9
Individual States	
California	1.3
Florida	1.9
Georgia	2.5
Illinois	1.9
Indiana	2.5
Massachusetts	2.5
Michigan	2.5
Missouri	2.2
New Jersey	1.3
New York	1.3
North Carolina	2.5
Ohio	1.9
Pennsylvania	1.6
Texas	2.2
Virginia	2.5
1964 CPS	1.2
Tabulations by School Enrollment	1.2