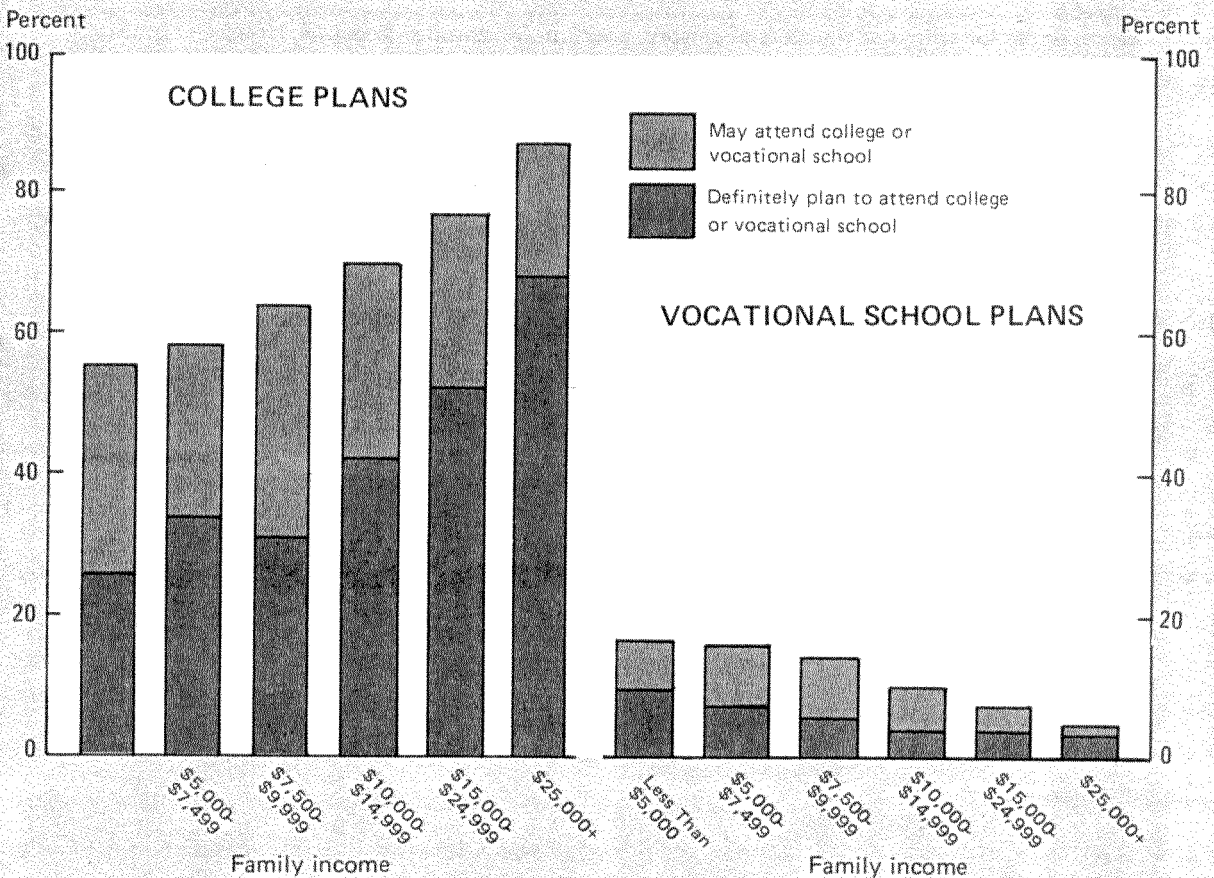


Population Characteristics

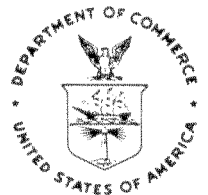
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COLLEGE PLANS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: OCTOBER 1974

Plans of High School Seniors for College and Vocational School



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



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COLLEGE PLANS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: OCTOBER 1974

This report presents data on the post-high school education plans of seniors enrolled in high school during October 1974. Statistical tables are presented on college and vocational school plans of high school seniors by their sex, race, region of residence, metropolitan residence, education and occupation of family head, and family income. Since the survey is taken early in the senior school year, the statistics indicate the intentions for further study before most seniors had been accepted by college or vocational schools. Thus, the plans to enter college reported here probably indicate general values and wishes of the students rather than concrete decisions based on results of applying for entrance to college. Many students appeared unsure of their future

plans—about 27 percent of the high school seniors said they may enter college and 44 percent said they definitely planned to go to college.

The college enrollment rates for young men have fallen dramatically since the end of the deferral from the Armed Forces for college students. Fewer males who were high school seniors in 1974 had any plans to attend college than did their counterparts in 1972. This decrease in the percent of male high school seniors with any plans to attend college—from 76 percent in 1972 to 69 percent in 1974—is an indication that the current college enrollment rates of young men could decline still

Table A. College Plans of High School Seniors, by Sex and Race for Those Reporting: October 1974, October 1973, and October 1972

(Civilian noninstitutional population)

Year, race, and sex	Number reporting college plans (thousands)	Percent of total			
		Plan to attend college	May attend college	Plan to or may attend vocational school	Do not plan to attend any school
TOTAL					
1974.....	3,406	43.6	26.9	10.3	19.2
1973.....	3,346	42.9	28.4	10.9	17.8
1972.....	3,242	46.2	27.1	12.0	14.6
Male					
1974.....	1,650	40.9	28.5	11.2	19.6
1973.....	1,710	43.5	28.6	9.6	18.3
1972.....	1,670	46.1	29.8	10.2	13.8
Female					
1974.....	1,755	46.2	25.4	9.6	18.8
1973.....	1,637	42.3	28.2	12.2	17.2
1972.....	1,573	46.3	24.3	13.8	15.4
WHITE					
1974.....	2,927	44.6	26.2	9.7	19.6
1973.....	2,858	43.2	27.6	11.2	18.1
1972.....	2,785	46.4	26.4	12.0	15.2
NEGRO					
1974.....	422	36.0	31.8	14.5	17.8
1973.....	451	38.6	34.1	10.0	17.5
1972.....	413	44.6	33.4	11.4	10.9

further. Although the proportion of male high school seniors planning for college declined somewhat, there was no corresponding increase among them in plans for vocational-technical school enrollment. In 1974, female high school seniors were more certain of their college plans than were the men; although about the same proportion of both sexes indicated they had some plans to enter college. There is some evidence that black high school seniors were less likely to make definite plans for entering college in 1974 than in 1972.

Socioeconomic status of family is also related to decisions to attend either a college or vocational school. Seniors from families whose head attended college are more likely than those from families whose head had not attended college to have college plans themselves. Plans for post-secondary vocational education are more

common among seniors from families whose head did not go past high school than among those who had attended college. Children of professional and managerial workers are more likely to have some plans for college attendance after high school graduation and less likely to intend to go to a vocational school than are children of workers in other occupations. A high family income, \$25,000 per year or more, also greatly increases the chances that a senior had some plans to attend college, and decreases the likelihood that he or she anticipated any post-secondary vocational training. Table B shows that students planning for vocational school were more likely than students who intended to go to college to live in the South, to come from families with incomes of less than \$10,000 in the previous year, and to be from families in which the head was in a blue collar occupation or had completed less than eight years of schooling.

Table B. Proportion of High School Seniors With Selected Characteristics, by Educational Plans: October 1974

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Selected characteristics of seniors	All high school seniors	Seniors planning for college	Seniors planning for vocational school	Seniors with no post-high school plans
High school seniors.....thousands..	3,518	1,486	352	653
Percent living in the South.....	30	28	45	31
Percent male.....	49	45	52	49
Percent black.....	13	10	17	11
Percent in families with incomes under \$10,000.....	30	21	45	39
OCCUPATION OF FAMILY HEAD				
Percent professional or managerial.....	27	40	16	13
Percent in blue collar occupations.....	35	27	42	47
EDUCATION OF FAMILY HEAD				
Percent less than 8 years.....	9	5	18	11
Percent high school 4 or more.....	67	79	55	52
Percent one year college or more.....	30	44	19	13

RELATED REPORTS

Data on college plans of high school seniors for October 1973 were published in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 270. Statistics on school enrollment for October 1974 were presented in Series P-20, No. 278. Statistics on school enrollment in October for years prior to 1974 have been published annually in the P-20 Series of the Current Population Reports.

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

College Plans, and Occupational Status of Farm and Nonfarm Youths: October 1959," Farm Population, Series Census-ERS (P-27), No. 30. Statistics on college attendance and related factors, including type of college, living arrangements, marital status, field of specialization and college rank, can be found in "Characteristics of Students and Their Colleges: October 1966," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 183.

1960 and 1970 census data. Statistics on school enrollment for cities, standard metropolitan statistical areas, States, regions and the United States appear in reports of the decennial censuses. Detailed statistics on school enrollment by age and socioeconomic characteristics for regions and the United States are presented in Subject Reports of the 1970 census, especially in PC(2)-5A, School Enrollment.

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

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage. The data presented here are for the civilian noninstitutional population 14 to 34 years old.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. Except in New England, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1970 census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes.

The population inside SMSA's is further classified as "in central cities" and "outside central cities." With a few exceptions, central cities are determined according to the following criteria:

1. The largest city in an SMSA is always a central city.
2. One or two additional cities may be secondary central cities on the basis and in the order of the following criteria:
 - a. The additional city or cities have at least 250,000 inhabitants.
 - b. The additional city or cities have a population of one-third or more of that of the largest city and a minimum population of 25,000.

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, Mississippi, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at his or her 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.

Persons of Spanish origin were persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. However, all persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano were combined into the one category: Mexican. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

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.

Primary family. A primary family is a family that includes among its members the head of a household.

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.

High school seniors. Persons were classified as high school seniors who were enrolled in the fourth year of a "regular" high school in October 1974. As defined in the survey, a "regular" high school is one which may advance a person toward a high school diploma. Examples of schools which are not regarded as "regular" schools are private business and trade schools, such as television repair schools, beautician schools, and secretarial schools.

College plans. Information on college plans was derived from responses of high school seniors in October 1974 to questions as to whether they planned to attend college, and if so the type of college they planned to attend (two-year, four-year or both). If the students did not plan to attend college, they were asked whether they planned to attend any other type of school (see facsimile of questions below).

In not all of the cases was the respondent to these items the high school senior. If the student were not present, the typical proxy reporting would be his or her mother. A relative of the specific individual, reporting for the student, would likely have some idea of the person's future educational plans.

The table below lists possible combinations of responses to items 49 and 50 and the column in tables 1 through 3 in which the students were classified:

Column heads in tables 1 to 3	Responses to--	
	Item 49	Item 50
Plan to attend college:		
2-year college only.....	{ yes yes	no blank
4-year college only.....	{ no blank	yes yes
Both 2-year and 4-year college	{ yes yes maybe	yes maybe yes
May attend college:		
2-year college only.....	{ maybe maybe	no blank
4-year college only.....	{ no blank	maybe maybe
Both 2-year and 4-year college	maybe	maybe
Do not plan to attend college...	{ no no blank	blank no no
Not reported.....	blank	blank

49. Does ... plan to attend a two-year community or junior college?

Yes }
 Maybe } (Ask 50)
 No }

50. Does ... plan to attend a four-year college or university?

Yes }
 Maybe } (Fill 51)
 No }

51. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

- Entry of "Yes" or "Maybe" in item 49 or 50 (Skip to 56)
- Entry of "No" in items 49 and 50 (Ask 52)

52. Does ... plan to attend any other school, such as a business college, barber college, technical or trade school, or hospital school of nursing?

Yes.. }
 Maybe } (Skip to 56)
 No... }

Public or private school. In this report, a public school is defined as any educational institution operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and supported by public funds. Private schools included educational institutions established and operated by religious bodies, as well as those which are under other private control. In cases where enrollment was in a school or college which was both publicly and privately controlled or supported, enrollment was counted according to whether it was primarily public or private.

Occupation. Data on occupation 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 groups used here are generally the major groups used in the 1970 Census of Population. The composition of these groups is shown in 1970 Census of Population reports PC(1)-C1, General Social and Economic Characteristics, U.S. Summary.

Rounding of estimates. Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. With few exceptions, percentages are based on the unrounded absolute numbers.

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 surveys. 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, marital 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 previous 12 months and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data. The estimates are based on data obtained in October of 1974 in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census.

The current 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 reliability of an estimate is described in terms of standard errors which are primarily measures 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 certain response and enumeration errors but 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 the 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 tables C, D, E, and 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 items. Table C contains standard errors of estimated numbers of the total population or, separately, the white population, ages 3 to 34, enrolled in school. For convenience, both have been presented in the same table since their standard errors are equal. Similarly, table D contains standard errors of estimated numbers of Negro and other races, ages 3 to 34, enrolled in school.

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. Tables E and F show the standard errors of estimated percentages.

Illustration of the use of the tables of standard errors. Table A of this report shows that in October 1974, 422,000 of the 3,406,000 total high school seniors with college plans were Negroes. Interpolation in table D shows the standard error on an estimate of this

size to be approximately 31,000. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would differ from a complete census figure by less than 31,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would differ from a complete census figure by less than 62,000, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 360,000 to 484,000.

Table A shows that 44.6 percent of the 2,927,000 white high school seniors had definite plans to attend college. Interpolation in table E shows that the standard error of the estimated 44.6 percent is approximately 1.3 percent. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 44.6 percent would be within 1.3 percentage points of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 2.6

percentage points of a census figure. That is, this 95 percent confidence interval would be between 42.0 and 47.2 percent.

Standard error of a difference. 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 characteristics 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 C. Standard Errors for Estimated Numbers of Persons, Ages 3 to 34, Enrolled in School

Total or White Population

(All numbers in thousands. 68 chances out of 100)

Estimated number of persons	Total persons in age group									
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
10.....	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
20.....	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
30.....	6.9	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
40.....	7.4	8.6	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
50.....	7.5	9.5	9.8	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1
75.....	6.5	11.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
100.....	-	12.0	13.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
200.....	-	9.5	16.0	19.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
300.....	-	-	16.0	22.0	24.0	24.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
400.....	-	-	13.0	23.0	27.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	29.0	29.0
500.....	-	-	-	24.0	30.0	31.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
750.....	-	-	-	21.0	34.0	38.0	38.0	39.0	39.0	39.0
1,000.....	-	-	-	-	37.0	42.0	44.0	45.0	45.0	45.0
2,000.....	-	-	-	-	30.0	52.0	60.0	63.0	63.0	64.0
3,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	52.0	69.0	76.0	77.0	78.0
4,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	42.0	74.0	86.0	88.0	89.0
5,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	75.0	95.0	98.0	100.0
7,500.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	65.0	110.0	120.0	120.0
10,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120.0	130.0	140.0
20,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95.0	160.0	190.0
30,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160.0	220.0
40,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130.0	230.0
50,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	240.0
75,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	210.0

- Represents zero.

Note: The standard errors for both total population and white population are equal, consequently, only one table has been presented.

Table D. Standard Errors for Estimated Numbers of Persons, Ages 3 to 34, Enrolled in School

Negro and Other Races

(All numbers in thousands. 68 chances out of 100)

Estimated number of persons	Total persons in age group						
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
10.....	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
20.....	6.6	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4
30.....	7.6	8.5	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.1
40.....	8.2	9.6	10.1	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.5
50.....	8.3	10.5	11.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
75.....	7.3	12.0	13.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
100.....	-	13.0	15.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	17.0
200.....	-	11.0	18.0	21.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
300.....	-	-	18.0	24.0	27.0	28.0	28.0
400.....	-	-	15.0	26.0	30.0	32.0	33.0
500.....	-	-	-	26.0	33.0	35.0	36.0
750.....	-	-	-	23.0	38.0	42.0	44.0
1,000.....	-	-	-	-	41.0	47.0	50.0
2,000.....	-	-	-	-	34.0	58.0	66.0
3,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	58.0	76.0
4,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	48.0	82.0
5,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	83.0
7,500.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	73.0
10,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Represents zero.

Table E. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages of Persons, Ages 3 to 34, Enrolled in School

Total or White Population

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)									
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
2 or 98.....	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	3.1	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
10 or 90.....	4.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
25 or 75.....	6.2	3.9	2.8	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
50.....	7.2	4.5	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2

Note: The standard errors for both total population and white population are equal, consequently, only one table has been presented.

Table F. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages of Persons, Ages 3 to 34, Enrolled in School

Negro and Other Races

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)							
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
2 or 98.....	3.3	2.3	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
5 or 95.....	5.1	3.6	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4
10 or 90.....	7.1	5.0	3.2	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5
25 or 75.....	10.2	7.2	4.6	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7
50.....	11.8	8.4	5.3	3.7	2.6	1.7	1.2	0.8

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference. Table A shows that 43.6 percent of the 3,406,000 high school seniors had definite plans to attend college in 1974. The corresponding percentage for 1972 was 46.2 percent. The apparent difference between the percentages of 1974 high school seniors and 1972 high school seniors who had definite plans to attend college is 2.6 percent. Interpolation in table E shows that the standard error on 43.6 percent is approximately 1.2 percent. The standard error on 46.2 percent of the 3,242,000 1972 high school seniors who had definite plans to attend college is approximately 1.3 percent. The standard error of the estimated difference of 2.6 percent is about $\sqrt{1.8} = (1.2)^2 + (1.3)^2$. This means the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated difference based on the sample would differ from the change derived using complete census figures by less than 1.8 percent. The 68 percent confidence interval around the 2.6 percentage point difference is from 0.8 percent to 4.4 percent, i.e., 2.6 ± 1.8 percent. 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 from -1.0 percent to 6.2 percent or $2.6 \pm (2 \times 1.8)$ percent. This confidence interval does not exclude negative values and thus we cannot conclude

with 95 percent confidence that a smaller percentage of high school seniors had definite plans to attend college in 1974 than in 1972.

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

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.