

APPENDIX A

National Sample Descriptions

The national and regional results presented in this report are based on nationally representative probability samples of fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students. The samples were selected using a multistage design involving the sampling of students from selected schools within selected geographic areas across the country. The sample design had the following stages:


- 1) selection of geographic areas (counties or groups of counties);
- 2) selection of schools (both public and nonpublic) within the selected areas; and
- 3) selection of students within selected schools.

Each selected school that participated in the assessment, and each student assessed, represents a portion of the population of interest. To make valid

inferences from the student samples to the respective populations from which they were drawn, sampling weights are needed. Sampling weights are required to account for disproportionate representation due to oversampling of students attending schools with a high concentration of Black and/or Hispanic students, and from nonpublic schools. Lower sampling rates for very small schools must also be accounted for with the sampling weights.

The national sample includes students attending domestic Department of Defense schools and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. (Students attending overseas Department of Defense schools and schools in United States territories were not sampled.)

Table A.1 provides a summary of the weighted and unweighted student sample sizes for the national U.S. history assessment. The numbers reported include both public and nonpublic school students. The sample sizes for grades 8 and 12 are larger to accommodate extended theme blocks that were part of the assessment at those grades.

TABLE A.1 Unweighted and Weighted Sample Sizes by Grade for the NAEP 1994 U.S. History Assessment, Public and Nonpublic Schools			<small>THE NATION'S REPORT CARD</small>  <small>1994 U.S. History Assessment</small>
	Unweighted Sample Size (and Percentage of Total)	Weighted Sample Size (and Percentage of Total)	
Grade 4			
Nation	5,499 (100.0%)	3,527,794 (100.0%)	
Region			
Northeast	1,334 (24.3%)	767,788 (21.8%)	
Southeast	1,440 (26.2%)	818,785 (23.2%)	
Central	1,241 (22.6%)	887,761 (25.2%)	
West	1,484 (27.0%)	1,053,461 (29.9%)	
Grade 8			
Nation	8,767 (100.0%)	3,449,193 (100.0%)	
Region			
Northeast	1,614 (18.4%)	692,421 (20.1%)	
Southeast	2,644 (30.4%)	878,674 (25.5%)	
Central	1,821 (20.8%)	820,691 (23.8%)	
West	2,668 (30.4%)	1,057,406 (30.7%)	
Grade 12			
Nation	7,818 (100.0%)	2,545,898 (100.0%)	
Region			
Northeast	1,770 (22.6%)	517,336 (20.3%)	
Southeast	2,168 (27.7%)	582,651 (22.9%)	
Central	1,575 (20.1%)	687,761 (26.8%)	
West	2,305 (29.5%)	1,053,461 (29.9%)	

Percentages may not total 100 percent due to rounding.
 SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1994 U.S. History Assessment.

