



1970 CENSUS OF POPULATION

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U S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE • Social and Economic Statistics Administration • BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Educational Characteristics of the Population of the United States: 1970

(The data presented here are extracted from table 99 of Final Report PC(1)-C1, **General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary**, which contains additional summary information on education and other characteristics as well as more detailed technical explanations)

In the United States in the spring of 1970, there were 58.6 million persons 3 to 34 years old who were enrolled in school. There were nearly 1 million in nursery school, 3.0 million in kindergarten, 33.2 million in elementary school (grades 1 to 8), 14.5 million in high school (grades 9 to 12), and 7.0 million in college. In addition, there were 823,000 persons enrolled in school who were 35 years old or over. Almost all of the children of the compulsory school attendance ages were enrolled in school, and so were 57 percent of the 18 and 19 year olds and 31 percent of the 20 and 21 year olds.

Among the 109.9 million persons 25 years old and over, 57.5 million, or 52 percent, had completed 4 years of high school or more, and 11.7 million, or 11 percent had completed 4 years of college or more. Only 5 percent of these adults had completed less than 5 years of school. Among the young adults 18 to 24 years old, 73 percent had completed 4 years of high school or more.

Of the 105.8 million persons 16 to 64 years old who had completed less than 3 years of college, 29 percent of the men and 22 percent of the women had completed a vocational training program.

URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENCE

The urban population comprises all persons living in urbanized areas and in places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside urbanized areas. More specifically, the urban population consists of all persons in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, villages, boroughs, and towns with certain exceptions; (b) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more; and (c) other territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in urbanized areas. The population not classified as urban constitutes the rural population.

URBANIZED AREAS

An urbanized area generally contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more and includes that portion of the surrounding territory, whether incorporated or unincorporated, which meets specified criteria relating to population density. This surrounding territory is designated as the "urban fringe."

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Persons were included as enrolled in school if they reported attending a "regular" school or college at any time between February 1, 1970, and the time of enumeration. Regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional degree. Schooling that was obtained in a regular school and schooling from a tutor or through correspondence courses were counted only if the credits obtained were regarded as transferrable to a school in the regular school system. Elementary school, as defined here, includes grades 1 to 8, and high school includes grades 9 to 12. If a person was attending a junior high school, the equivalent in terms of 8 years of elementary school and 4 years of high school was recorded. In general, a "public" school is defined as any school which is controlled and supported primarily by a local, State, or Federal government agency.

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

A person was reported as not having completed a given grade if he dropped out or failed to pass the last grade attended.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Persons were included as having had a vocational training program only if they had completed the program. Included as "vocational training" were formal vocational training programs completed in high school, through an apprenticeship program, in a school of business, in a nursing school or trade school, in a technical institute, in the Armed Forces, or in Job Corps Training.

SAMPLE SIZE, DERIVED FIGURES, AND SYMBOLS

Data on years of school completed are based on the 20-percent sample, and those on vocational training on the 5-percent sample. Those for the other subjects are based on the 15-percent sample.

Derived figures such as percents, medians, means as well as certain rates or ratios are not presented (but indicated by three dots "...") if the base is smaller than the minimum number prescribed for the sample on which the figures are based. The minimum bases are 100 (persons, families, or households) for the 20-percent sample, 132 for the 15-percent, and 400 for the 5-percent.

Percents which round to less than 0.1 are not shown but indicated as zero (i.e., "--"). The median, which is a type of average, is the middle value in a distribution, i.e., the median divides the distribution into two equal parts—one-half of the cases fall below the median and one-half of the cases exceed the median. The median school years completed was computed after the statistics on years of school completed had been converted to a continuous series of numbers (e.g., completion of the 1st year of high school was treated as completion of the 9th year and completion of the 1st year of college as completion of the 13th year). Persons completing a given school year were assumed to be distributed evenly within the interval from .0 to .9 of the year.

A dash "--" signifies zero. Three dots "..." means not applicable or that the base of a derived figure is too small for it to be shown or that the data are being withheld to avoid disclosure of information for individuals. The symbol "NA" means not available.