

College Enrollment Hits All-Time High, Fueled by Community College Surge

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A Social & Demographic Trends Report

College Enrollment Hits All-Time High, Fueled by Community College Surge

By Richard Fry, Pew Research Center

Executive Summary

The share of 18- to 24-year-olds attending college in the United States hit an all-time high in October 2008, driven by a recession-era surge in enrollments at community colleges, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Just under 11.5 million students, or 39.6% of all young adults ages 18 to 24, were enrolled in either a two- or four-year college in October 2008 (the most recent date for which comprehensive nationwide data are available). Both figures—the absolute number as well as the share—are at their highest level ever.

Enrollments have been rising over many decades at both two- and four-year colleges, but the most recent annual spike has taken place entirely at two-year colleges.

In October 2007, some 3.1 million young adults, or 10.9% of all 18- to 24-year-olds, were enrolled in a community college.¹ A year later, that figure had risen to 3.4 million students, or 11.8% of all 18- to 24-year-olds. By contrast, enrollments at four-year colleges were essentially flat from 2007 to 2008.

This new peak in college enrollment has come in the midst of a recession that has driven the national unemployment rate to its highest level in more than a quarter of a century and has had an especially harsh impact on young adults. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a smaller share of 16- to 24-year-olds were employed in September 2009—46.1%—than at any time since the government began collecting such data in 1948.

Community college enrollments have long been considered somewhat countercyclical; that is, they tend to rise as the economy worsens (Betts and McFarland, 1995). One reason is that community colleges are less expensive than four-year institutions—they average \$6,750 per year (including tuition, fees, and room and board) in the net price for full-time students, compared with \$9,800 for four-year public colleges and \$21,240 for four-year private colleges (College Board, 2009).²

Despite the higher costs of four-year institutions, their enrollments have not dropped during this recession. Rather, they have held steady—and have been able to do so despite tuition increases averaging 4.9% per year beyond general inflation from 1999-2000 to 2009-10 at public four-year colleges and universities (College Board, 2009).

¹ Technically, not all two-year colleges are “community colleges.” But 96% of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in two-year colleges are enrolled in community colleges, so this report refers to two-year colleges as community colleges.

² The net price refers to the published tuition, fees and room and board and then deducts grant aid from all sources and federal tax benefits. Financial aid in the form of loans to students or parents is not subtracted.

Changes in the labor market and the overall economy are not the only factors that affect college enrollment levels. Another important factor is the rate at which young adults complete high school. Here, too, Census Bureau data show that a new milestone has been reached.

Education and Labor Market Status of Young Adults					
	1973	2007	2008	Percentage Point Change 1973 to 2008	Percentage Point Change 2007 to 2008
	%	%	%		
Enrolled in college (18 to 24)	24.0	38.8	39.6	15.6	0.8
Enrolled in 2-year college (18 to 24)	6.9	10.9	11.8	4.9	0.9
Enrolled in 4-year college (18 to 24)	17.1	27.9	27.8	10.7	-0.1
Labor force participant (16 to 24)	64.3	59.0	58.4	-5.9	-0.6
Employed (16 to 24)	57.9	52.7	50.4	-7.5	-2.3
Completed high school (18 to 24)	80.7	83.9	84.9	4.2	1.0
High school dropout (18 to 24)	15.7	10.2	9.3	-6.4	-0.9

Source: October Current Population Survey.

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According to census figures, a record 84.9% of 18- to 24-year-olds had completed high school as of October 2008, up from 75.5% in 1967 and 83.9% in 2007. Along these same lines, there is a record low in the share of young adults who are high school dropouts—9.3% in 2008, less than half the figure (19.8%) in 1967 and down nearly a percentage point from 10.2% in 2007.

About this Report

This report is primarily based on the Pew Research Center's analysis of the October 2008 Current Population Survey and Census Bureau's historical time series on college enrollment available at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/school.html>. The charts were prepared by research associate Wendy Wang. The historical tables in the Appendix were formatted by research assistant Daniel Dockterman. Paul Taylor, director of the Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends project, provided editorial guidance and wrote the overview. Senior researcher Rakesh Kochhar provided helpful insights on the use of the Current Population Survey. Research analyst Gabriel Velasco did the number checking, and Marcia Kramer copy-edited the report.

I. The Rise in College Enrollment

Newly released Census Bureau data indicate that college enrollment among 18- to 24 year-olds reached an all-time high last year. In October 2008, 39.6% of 18- to 24-year-olds were in college (Figure 1), an increase from 38.8% in October 2007 and 24.0% in October 1973.³ The relatively high proportion of young adults attending college is due to a recent spike in enrollments at two-year colleges. In October 2008 11.8% of 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled in two-year colleges, the highest figure for two-year college attendance among that age group on record. In October 2008, 27.8% of 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled in four-year colleges. This was

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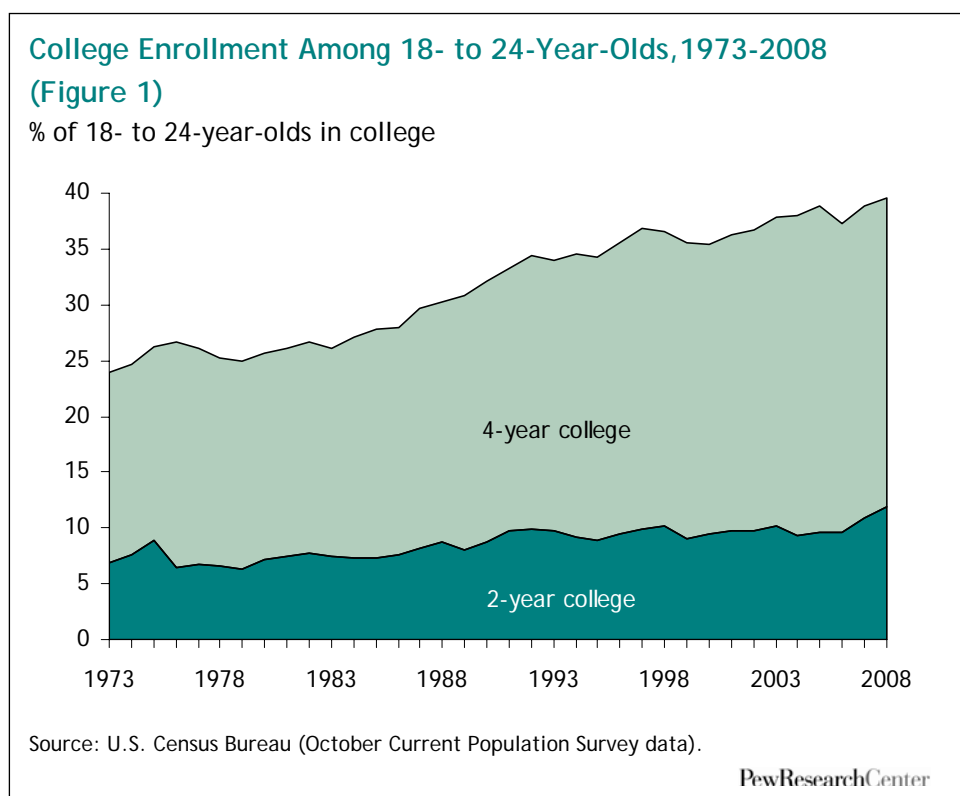
October 2007

(27.9%) and below the October 2005 peak (29.2%).

Among 18- to 24-year-olds, two-year colleges educated about 30% of college students in October 2008, not much different from the 29% share they educated in 1973.

The size of the total 18- to 24-year-old population in 2008 (29 million) was close to its all-time high attained in 1981,⁴ so

the high college enrollment rate in 2008 also led to a record in the absolute number of young adults attending college. Almost 11.5 million 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled in college in 2008, the highest figure ever (Appendix Table A1).⁵



³ 1973 is the earliest year in which the split of college enrollment between two-year enrollment and four-year enrollment is available in the historical time series. See Table 204 of the National Center for Education Statistics (2009a).

⁴ The universe for the Current Population Survey is the civilian non-institutional population. The figures for the numbers of 18- to 24-year-olds refer to those in the civilian non-institutional population.

⁵ The National Center for Education Statistics, as part of its Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), tabulates fall enrollment in degree-granting institutions from its survey of the nation's college and universities. The latest figures available are October 2007. The count of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in degree-granting institutions in October 2007 is 10.6 million. This compares to college enrollment of 11.2 million based on the October 2007 Current Population Survey.

This peak in college enrollment is occurring concurrently with difficult labor market prospects facing youths. Recent news accounts have noted that the employment rate among 16- to 24-year-olds is at its lowest level since the government began collecting the data in 1948. And labor force participation for that age group is at its lowest level since at least 1970.

Further analysis is needed to determine the extent to which the recent increase in community college enrollment among 18- to 24-year-olds is explicitly related to the current recession, which officially began in December 2007. Previous research has shown that community college enrollments tend to rise as labor market conditions deteriorate and unemployment rates rise (Betts and McFarland, 1995). But recent movements in both college enrollment and labor force participation might also reflect longer-running trends. College enrollment among youth has been rising since 1980 (Turner, 2004), and labor force participation among younger people has been declining since the mid-1980s (Juhn and Potter, 2006). Moreover, schooling and work are not mutually exclusive endeavors. About half of young full-time college students are either working or looking for work.

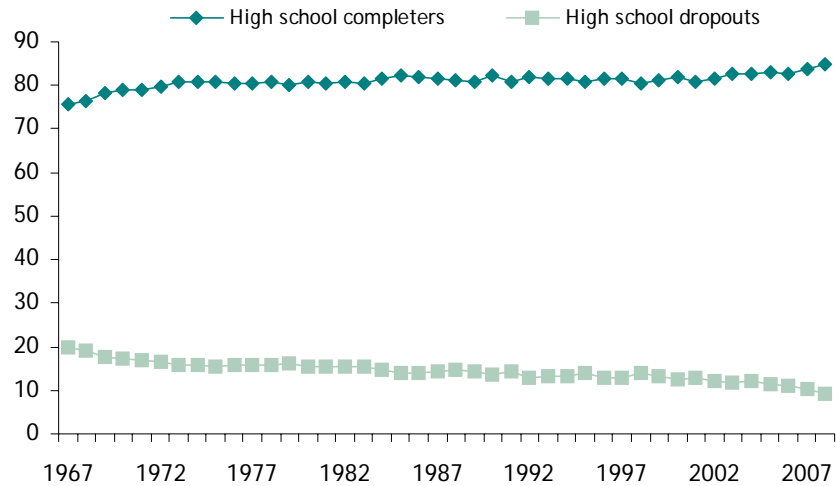
II. The Expanding Base of Young High School Completers

The record share of 18- to 24-year-olds attending college in 2008 comes at a time when a record proportion of young adults have completed high school, either by regular high school graduation or passing an equivalency test. According to Census Bureau figures, in October 2008, almost 85% of 18- to 24-year-olds had completed high school, an all-time high for this basic measure of educational attainment (Figure 2) and up from 75.5% in 1967. Thus, more youths than ever before were eligible to attend college (most college students have finished high school). Another factor that could account for the greater share of 18- to 24-year-olds attending college could be an increase in the rate of college attendance among those who have finished high school. However, this did not occur in October 2008. The measured college enrollment rate of 18- to 24-year-old high school completers was 46.7% in 2008, slightly below the peak attained for this measure in 2005 (46.9%). Effectively, a record high proportion of youths are in college because the base of young high school completers is at an all-time high, not because college enrollment among high school-educated youth has increased.

Census figures also indicate that a record low share⁶ of 18- to 24-year-olds were high school dropouts in 2008 (Figure 2). In October 2008, 9.3% of 18- to 24-year-olds were high school dropouts—less than half the 19.8% of 18- to 24-year-olds who were high school dropouts in 1967.⁷

Share of 18- to 24-Year-Olds Completing High School, 1967-2008 (Figure 2)

% of 18- to 24-year-olds who completed high school or dropped out



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (October Current Population Survey data).

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⁶ The status high school dropout rate refers to the percent of the population that has not completed high school and is not enrolled in school. As many analysts have noted, some high school dropouts were never enrolled in school in the United States and left school in their country of origin before migrating to the United States.

⁷ Again, these rates refer to 18- to 24-year-olds in the civilian non-institutional population. Thus, they might overstate the decline in the fraction of youths who are high school dropouts. A larger share of 18- to 24-year-olds were institutionalized in 2008 than 1967, and high school dropouts are much more likely to be institutionalized than other youth. Nonetheless, high school dropout rates calculated using all youths, not just those in the civilian non-institutionalized population, still show a marked decline in dropout status over the past 40 years (Fry, 2009).

III. College Enrollment by Gender

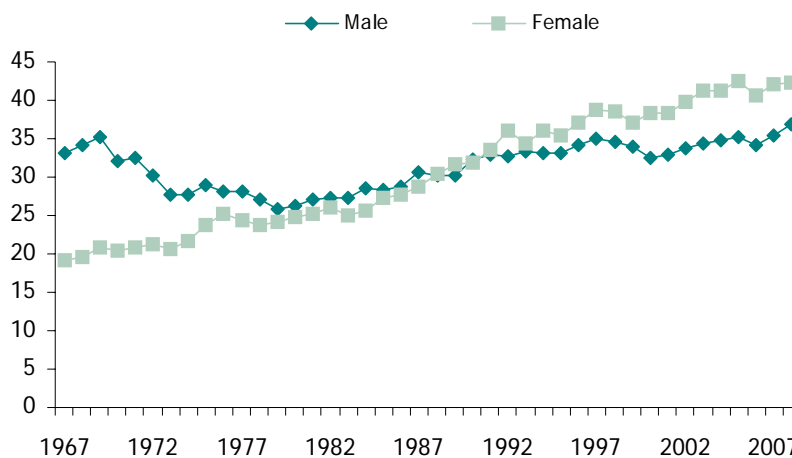
Since 1987 women have been a majority of 18- to 24-year-olds attending college. As of October 2008, women comprised 53% of all young college students.⁸

Notwithstanding that trend by gender, the percentage of 18- to 24-year-old men enrolled in college reached an all-time high in October 2008 (37.0%) (Figure 3). For many years, young men's college participation had remained below the level reached during the height of the Vietnam War (35.2% in October 1969), when many male students extended their education because they wanted to hang on to their student deferment from the military draft. Not until October 2005 did college enrollment among young men surpass the October 1969 level. It has kept rising since then.

In October 2008, a larger share of 18- to 24-year-old women were enrolled in college (42.3%) than their male counterparts (37%), but young female college enrollment was not much different than its October 2005 peak (42.5%)

Share of Young Adults in College, by Gender, 1967-2008
(Figure 3)

% of 18- to 24-year-olds in college



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (October Current Population Survey data).

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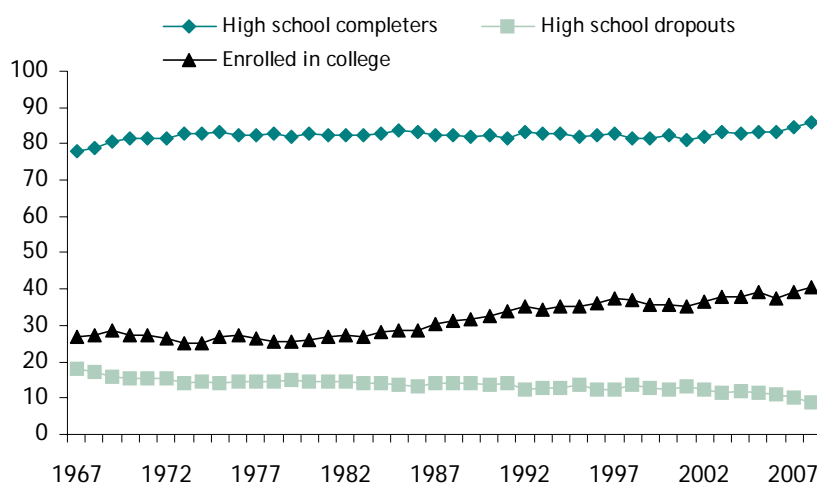
⁸ Among college students of all ages, women became the majority of undergraduate college students in 1979 and the majority of graduate students in 1990 (Census Bureau, 2008).

IV. College Enrollment by Race and Ethnicity

White youths attained several educational milestones in 2008 (Figure 4).⁹ Nearly 41% of white 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled in college in 2008, an all-time high. This is partly accounted for by the relatively high levels of high school completion attained by white 18- to 24-year-olds in 2008. Nearly 86% of white youths completed high school (by either receiving a high school diploma or high school equivalency) in 2008, an all-time high. There were fewer white high school dropouts than ever before, and the white high school dropout rate reached an all-time low in 2008. The absolute number of white 18- to 24-year-olds who were not enrolled and had not completed high school fell below 2 million for the first time. The white high school dropout rate also fell under 9% for the first time in 2008.

Trends in Educational Attainment Among Whites (Figure 4)

% of white 18- to 24-year-olds who are ...



Note: From 2003 onward white refers to those who identified as white alone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (October Current Population Survey data)

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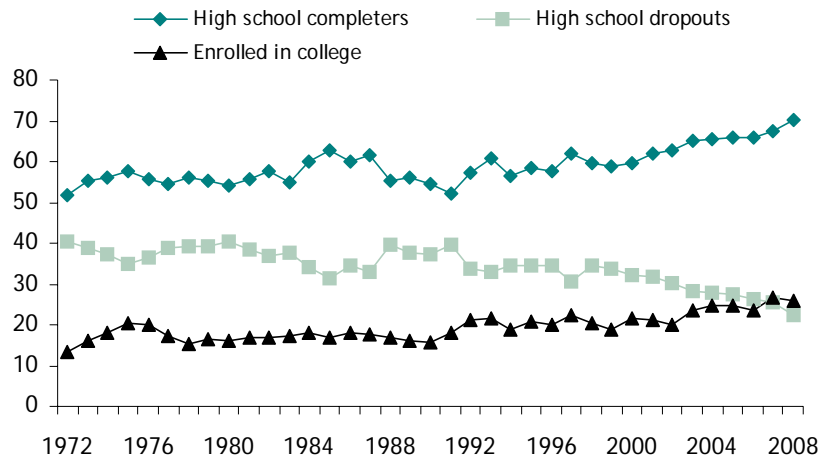
About 26% of Hispanic 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled in college in 2008 (Figure 5). This level did not surpass the 2007 young Hispanic college enrollment rate and trailed the white young college enrollment rate by nearly 15 percentage points. However, more Hispanic 18- to 24-year-olds had completed high school (70%) than ever before. And the Hispanic high school dropout rate among 18- to 24-year-olds continued its downward march in 2008. In 2008, 22% of Hispanic 18- to 24-year-olds were high school dropouts, the lowest rate on record.¹⁰

⁹ In this report, “white” refers to any person reporting white racial identity regardless of his or her Hispanic origin. The longest running Census Bureau historical time series on white college enrollment includes Hispanics and non-Hispanics. It should also be noted that the historical series on the “white alone” population has a break in 2003. Beginning in 2003, respondents in the Current Population Survey could identify more than one race. The “white alone” category from 2003 onward refers to respondents of only white racial identity. Hence, the figures for “white alone” persons before 2003 may not be entirely comparable to figures for 2003 and thereafter.

¹⁰ The U.S. Department of Education, on the basis of the same Census Bureau data utilized in this report, tabulates Hispanic high school dropout rates for 16- to 24-year-olds (NCES, 2009b). It finds that the Hispanic high school dropout rate has been trending downward since 1990.

Black college enrollment among 18- to 24-year-olds in 2008 (32%) did not surpass the 2007 level (33%) (Figure 6).¹¹ The high school completion rate of 18- to 24-year-old blacks in 2008 was lower than 2007, and the black high school dropout rate for 18- to 24-year-olds in 2008 was higher than in 2007.

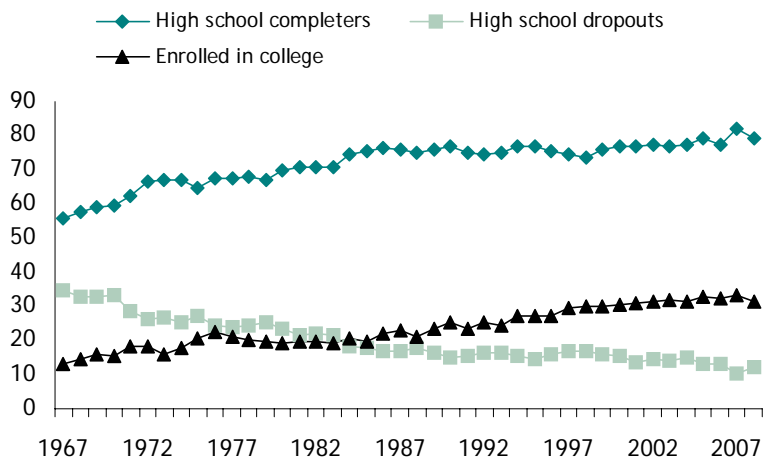
Trends in Educational Attainment Among Hispanics (Figure 5)
 % of Hispanic 18- to 24-year-olds who are ...



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (October Current Population Survey data).

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Trends in Educational Attainment Among Blacks (Figure 6)
 % of black 18- to 24-year-olds who are ...



Note: From 2003 onward black refers to those who identified as black alone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (October Current Population Survey data)

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¹¹ As discussed in footnote 9, “black” college enrollment in this report refers to the “black alone” population. Because of the change in 2003 of the racial identity question, figures for the black population before 2003 are not entirely comparable to those for 2003 and since then.

V. Looking Ahead to 2009

The U.S. Census Bureau's reports on college enrollment rely on the bureau's supplement to the October Current Population Survey (CPS). The October 2009 CPS supplement is being processed. It will not be publicly available for many months, and thus it is impossible to know definitively how the 2009 levels of college enrollment compare with 2008 and earlier years.

However, each month the Census Bureau collects more limited information on school enrollment in its basic monthly questionnaire. The share of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college can be estimated each month from the basic questionnaire. College enrollment is seasonal, and hence comparison of enrollment across different months reflect that seasonality.

College enrollment estimates based on the September 2009 CPS suggest that enrollment among 18- to 24-year-olds has not decreased from its 2008 peak. In September 2009, 39.9% of 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled in college. In comparison, 38.6% of 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled in college in September 2008. Hence, early indications suggest that 2009 college enrollment for 18- to 24-year-olds at a minimum continues at the high levels of college enrollment measured for 2008.

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Appendix Tables

Table A1
The Population of 18-to 24-Year-Olds by High School Completion Status,
College Enrollment and Attainment: October 1967 to 2008

(Numbers in thousands unless otherwise noted. Civilian noninstitutionalized population ages 18 to 24)

Year	HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS					PERCENT					HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS	
	TOTAL	Total	Enrolled in College	Enrolled in 2-Year College	Enrolled in 4-Year College	High School Completers	Enrolled in College	Enrolled in 2-Year College	Enrolled in 4-Year College	Of High School Completer Enrolled in College	Number	Percent
2008	28,950	24,570	11,466	3,425	8,041	84.9	39.6	11.8	27.8	46.7	2,702	9.3
2007	28,778	24,146	11,161	3,145	8,016	83.9	38.8	10.9	27.9	46.2	2,937	10.2
2006	28,372	23,430	10,586	2,711	7,876	82.6	37.3	9.6	27.8	45.2	3,128	11.0
2005	27,855	23,103	10,834	2,688	8,147	82.9	38.9	9.6	29.2	46.9	3,154	11.3
2004	27,948	23,086	10,611	2,616	7,995	82.6	38.0	9.4	28.6	46.0	3,836	12.1
2003	27,404	22,603	10,364	2,786	7,578	82.5	37.8	10.2	27.7	45.9	3,228	11.8
2002	27,367	22,319	10,033	2,649	7,384	81.6	36.7	9.7	27.0	45.0	3,375	12.3
2001	26,965	21,836	9,629	2,632	7,160	81.0	35.7	9.8	26.6	44.1	3,519	13.0
2000	26,658	21,822	9,452	2,508	6,944	81.9	35.5	9.4	26.0	43.3	3,315	12.4
1999	26,041	21,127	9,259	2,367	6,893	81.1	35.6	9.1	26.5	43.8	3,413	13.1
1998	25,507	20,567	9,322	2,608	6,715	80.6	36.6	10.2	26.3	45.3	3,544	13.9
1997	24,973	20,338	9,204	2,462	6,738	81.4	36.9	9.9	27.0	45.3	3,236	13.0
1996	24,671	20,131	8,767	2,332	6,436	81.6	35.5	9.5	26.1	43.5	3,147	12.8
1995	24,900	20,125	8,539	2,223	6,316	80.8	34.3	8.9	25.4	42.4	3,471	13.9
1994	25,254	20,581	8,729	2,301	6,428	81.5	34.6	9.1	25.5	42.4	3,365	13.3
1993r	25,522	20,844	8,630	---	---	81.7	33.8	---	---	41.4	3,349	13.1
1993	24,100	19,772	8,193	2,360	5,833	82.0	34.0	9.8	24.2	41.4	3,070	12.7
1992	24,278	19,921	8,343	2,414	5,928	82.1	34.4	9.9	24.4	41.9	3,083	12.7
1991	24,572	19,883	8,172	2,378	5,793	80.9	33.3	9.7	23.6	41.1	3,486	14.2
1990	24,852	20,311	7,964	2,166	5,798	82.3	32.0	8.7	23.3	39.2	3,379	13.6
1989	25,261	20,461	7,804	2,027	5,776	81.0	30.9	8.0	22.9	38.1	3,644	14.4
1988	25,733	20,900	7,791	2,253	5,539	81.2	30.3	8.8	21.5	37.3	3,749	14.6
1987	25,950	21,118	7,693	2,112	5,582	81.4	29.6	8.1	21.5	36.4	3,751	14.5
1986	26,512	21,768	7,477	2,005	5,393	82.1	28.2	7.6	20.3	34.3	3,687	13.9
1985	27,122	22,349	7,537	1,999	5,538	82.4	27.8	7.4	20.4	33.7	3,687	13.9
1984	28,031	22,870	7,591	2,048	5,544	81.6	27.1	7.3	19.8	33.2	4,142	14.8
1983	28,580	22,988	7,477	2,118	5,360	80.4	26.2	7.4	18.8	32.5	4,410	15.4
1982	28,846	23,291	7,678	2,230	5,447	80.7	26.6	7.7	18.9	33.0	4,500	15.6
1981	28,965	23,343	7,575	2,174	5,400	80.6	26.2	7.5	18.6	32.5	4,520	15.6
1980	28,957	23,413	7,400	2,059	5,381	80.9	25.6	7.1	18.6	31.6	4,515	15.6
1979	27,974	22,421	6,991	1,749	5,242	80.1	25.0	6.3	18.7	31.2	4,560	16.3
1978	27,647	22,309	6,995	1,825	5,169	80.7	25.3	6.6	18.7	31.4	4,388	15.9
1977	27,331	22,008	7,142	1,847	5,295	80.5	26.1	6.8	19.4	32.5	4,313	15.8
1976	26,919	21,677	7,181	1,734	5,447	80.5	26.7	6.4	20.2	33.1	4,276	15.9
1975	26,387	21,326	6,935	2,362	4,574	80.8	26.3	9.0	17.3	32.5	4,110	15.6
1974	25,670	20,725	6,316	1,948	4,367	80.7	24.6	7.6	17.0	30.5	4,070	15.9
1973	25,237	20,377	6,055	1,741	4,314	80.7	24.0	6.9	17.1	29.7	3,973	15.7
1972	24,579	19,618	6,257	---	---	79.8	25.5	---	---	31.9	4,068	16.6
1971	23,668	18,691	6,210	---	---	79.0	26.2	---	---	33.2	4,025	17.0
1970	22,552	17,768	5,805	---	---	78.8	25.7	---	---	32.7	3,908	17.3
1969	21,362	16,703	5,840	---	---	78.2	27.3	---	---	35.0	3,769	17.6
1968	20,562	15,683	5,356	---	---	76.3	26.0	---	---	34.2	3,929	19.1
1967	20,009	15,114	5,100	---	---	75.5	25.5	---	---	33.7	3,967	19.8

r = Revised, controlled to 1990 census-based population estimates; previous 1993 data controlled to 1980 census-based population estimates.

Notes: High school completers are people who have completed 4 years of high school or more, for 1967 to 1991. Beginning in 1992, they were people whose highest degree was a high school diploma (including equivalency) or higher.

Sources: Pew Research Center analysis of the October 2008 Current Population Survey and U. S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967 to 2007, <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/school/TableA-5a.csv>

Table A2
The Male Population 18-to 24-Year-Olds by High School Completion Status,
College Enrollment and Attainment: October 1967 to 2008
(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutionalized population ages 18 to 24)

Year	HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS			PERCENT			HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS	
	TOTAL	Total	Enrolled in College	High School Completers	Enrolled in College	Of High School Completer	Number	Percent
						Enrolled in College		
2008	14,559	12,199	5,383	83.8	37.0	44.1	1,445	9.9
2007	14,515	11,825	5,156	81.5	35.5	43.6	1,680	11.6
2006	14,300	11,508	4,874	80.5	34.1	42.4	1,741	12.2
2005	14,077	11,182	4,973	79.4	35.3	44.5	1,852	13.2
2004	14,018	11,258	4,865	80.3	34.7	43.2	1,942	13.9
2003	13,681	10,919	4,697	79.8	34.3	43.0	1,875	13.7
2002	13,744	10,823	4,629	78.7	33.7	42.8	1,925	14.0
2001	13,434	10,461	4,437	77.9	33.0	42.4	2,028	15.1
2000	13,338	10,622	4,343	79.6	32.6	40.9	1,837	13.8
1999	12,905	10,201	4,396	79.1	34.0	43.1	1,818	14.9
1998	12,764	9,915	4,403	77.7	34.5	44.4	2,018	15.8
1997	12,513	9,933	4,374	79.4	35.0	44.0	1,765	14.1
1996	12,285	9,815	4,187	80.0	34.1	42.7	1,628	13.2
1995	12,351	9,789	4,089	79.3	33.1	41.8	1,791	14.5
1994	12,557	9,970	4,152	79.4	33.1	41.6	1,804	14.4
1993r	12,712	10,142	4,237	79.8	33.3	41.8	1,745	13.7
1993	11,898	9,541	3,994	80.2	33.6	41.9	1,575	13.2
1992	11,965	9,576	3,912	80.0	32.7	40.9	1,617	13.5
1991	12,036	9,493	3,954	78.9	32.9	41.7	1,810	15.0
1990	12,134	9,778	3,922	80.6	32.3	40.1	1,689	13.9
1989	12,325	9,700	3,717	78.7	30.2	38.3	1,941	15.7
1988	12,491	9,832	3,770	78.7	30.2	38.3	1,950	15.6
1987	12,626	10,030	3,867	79.4	30.6	38.6	1,948	15.4
1986	12,921	10,338	3,702	80.0	28.7	35.8	1,924	14.9
1985	13,199	10,614	3,749	80.4	28.4	35.3	2,015	15.3
1984	13,744	10,914	3,929	79.4	28.6	36.0	2,184	15.9
1983	14,003	10,906	3,820	77.9	27.3	35.0	2,379	17.0
1982	14,083	11,120	3,837	79.0	27.2	34.5	2,329	16.5
1981	14,127	11,052	3,833	78.2	27.1	34.7	2,424	17.2
1980	14,107	11,125	3,717	78.9	26.3	33.4	2,390	16.9
1979	13,571	10,657	3,508	78.5	25.8	32.9	2,320	17.1
1978	13,385	10,614	3,621	79.3	27.1	34.1	2,200	16.4
1977	13,218	10,440	3,712	79.0	28.1	35.6	2,170	16.4
1976	13,012	10,312	3,673	79.2	28.2	35.6	2,109	16.2
1975	12,724	10,214	3,693	80.3	29.0	36.2	1,928	15.2
1974	12,315	9,835	3,411	79.9	27.7	34.7	1,958	15.9
1973	12,111	9,716	3,360	80.2	27.7	34.6	1,853	15.3
1972	11,712	9,247	3,534	79.0	30.2	38.2	1,898	16.2
1971	11,092	8,669	3,599	78.2	32.4	41.5	1,865	16.8
1970	10,385	8,087	3,331	77.9	32.1	41.2	1,746	16.8
1969	9,649	7,445	3,392	77.2	35.2	45.6	1,640	17.0
1968	9,251	6,864	3,152	74.2	34.1	45.9	1,777	19.2
1967	8,999	6,678	2,982	74.2	33.1	44.7	1,804	20.0

r = Revised, controlled to 1990 census-based population estimates; previous 1993 data controlled to 1980 census-based population estimates. High school completers are people who have completed 4 years of high school or more, for 1967 to 1991. Beginning in 1992, they were people whose highest degree was a high school diploma (including equivalency) or higher.

Sources: Pew Research Center analysis of the October 2008 Current Population Survey and U. S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967 to 2007, <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/school/TableA-5a.csv>

Table A3
The Female Population 18-to 24-Year-Olds by High School Completion Status,
College Enrollment and Attainment: October 1967 to 2008
(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutionalized population ages 18 to 24)

Year	TOTAL	HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS			PERCENT		HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS	
		Total	Enrolled in College	High School Completers	Enrolled in College	Of High School Completer Enrolled in College	Number	Percent
2008	14,391	12,371	6,083	86.0	42.3	49.2	1,257	8.7
2007	14,263	12,321	6,005	86.4	42.1	48.7	1,256	8.8
2006	14,073	11,922	5,712	84.7	40.6	47.9	1,387	9.9
2005	13,778	11,921	5,861	86.5	42.5	49.2	1,302	9.5
2004	13,930	11,828	5,746	84.9	41.2	48.6	1,444	10.4
2003	13,724	11,684	5,667	85.1	41.3	48.5	1,354	9.9
2002	13,623	11,496	5,404	84.4	39.7	47.0	1,450	10.6
2001	13,531	11,375	5,192	84.1	38.4	45.6	1,491	11.0
2000	13,319	11,200	5,109	84.1	38.4	45.6	1,478	11.1
1999	13,136	10,926	4,863	83.2	37.0	44.5	1,594	12.1
1998	12,743	10,651	4,919	83.6	38.6	46.2	1,526	12.0
1997	12,460	10,403	4,829	83.5	38.8	46.4	1,471	11.8
1996	12,386	10,317	4,582	83.3	37.0	44.4	1,519	12.3
1995	12,548	10,338	4,452	82.4	35.5	43.1	1,679	13.4
1994	12,696	10,611	4,576	83.6	36.0	43.1	1,561	12.3
1993r	12,810	10,702	4,393	83.5	34.3	41.0	1,604	12.5
1993	12,202	10,232	4,199	83.9	34.4	41.0	1,494	12.2
1992	12,313	10,344	4,429	84.0	36.0	42.8	1,466	11.9
1991	12,536	10,391	4,218	82.9	33.6	40.6	1,676	13.4
1990	12,718	10,533	4,042	82.8	31.8	38.4	1,690	13.3
1989	12,936	10,758	4,085	83.2	31.6	38.0	1,702	13.2
1988	13,242	11,068	4,021	83.6	30.4	36.3	1,799	13.5
1987	13,324	11,086	3,826	83.2	28.7	34.5	1,803	13.5
1986	13,591	11,430	3,775	84.1	27.8	33.0	1,751	12.9
1985	13,923	11,736	3,788	84.3	27.2	32.3	1,804	13.0
1984	14,287	11,956	3,662	83.7	25.6	30.6	1,958	13.7
1983	14,577	12,082	3,657	82.9	25.1	30.3	2,031	13.9
1982	14,763	12,171	3,841	82.4	26.0	31.6	2,171	14.7
1981	14,838	12,290	3,741	82.8	25.2	30.4	2,097	14.1
1980	14,851	12,287	3,682	82.7	24.8	30.0	2,124	14.3
1979	14,403	11,763	3,482	81.7	24.2	29.6	2,240	15.6
1978	14,262	11,694	3,373	82.0	23.7	28.8	2,188	15.3
1977	14,113	11,569	3,431	82.0	24.3	29.7	2,143	15.2
1976	13,907	11,365	3,508	81.7	25.2	30.9	2,168	15.6
1975	13,663	11,113	3,243	81.3	23.7	29.2	2,181	16.0
1974	13,355	10,889	2,905	81.5	21.8	26.7	2,112	15.8
1973	13,126	10,663	2,696	81.2	20.5	25.3	2,119	16.1
1972	12,867	10,371	2,724	80.6	21.2	26.3	2,170	16.9
1971	12,576	10,020	2,610	79.7	20.8	26.0	2,159	17.2
1970	12,167	9,680	2,474	79.6	20.3	25.6	2,163	17.8
1969	11,713	9,259	2,448	79.0	20.9	26.4	2,128	18.2
1968	11,311	8,820	2,205	78.0	19.5	25.0	2,150	19.0
1967	11,011	8,436	2,117	76.6	19.2	25.1	2,162	19.6

r = Revised, controlled to 1990 census-based population estimates; previous 1993 data controlled to 1980 census-based population estimates. High school completers are people who have completed 4 years of high school or more, for 1967 to 1991. Beginning in 1992, they were people whose highest degree was a high school diploma (including equivalency) or higher.

Sources: Pew Research Center analysis of the October 2008 Current Population Survey and U. S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967 to 2007, <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/school/TableA-5a.csv>

Table A4
 The Hispanic Population 18-to 24-Year-Olds by High School Completion Status,
 College Enrollment and Attainment: October 1972 to 2008
(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutionalized population ages 18 to 24)

Year	TOTAL	HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS			PERCENT		HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS	
		Total	Enrolled in College	High School Completers	Enrolled in College	Of High School Completer Enrolled in College	Number	Percent
2008	5,176	3,632	1,338	70.2	25.8	36.8	1,155	22.3
2007	5,175	3,487	1,375	67.4	26.6	39.4	1,310	25.3
2006	5,006	3,301	1,182	65.9	23.6	35.8	1,313	26.2
2005	4,898	3,230	1,215	66.0	24.8	37.6	1,335	27.3
2004	4,941	3,244	1,221	65.6	24.7	37.6	1,386	28.0
2003	4,754	3,096	1,115	65.1	23.5	36.0	1,353	28.4
2002	4,918	3,078	979	62.6	19.9	31.8	1,479	30.1
2001	4,892	3,031	1,035	62.0	21.1	34.1	1,548	31.7
2000	4,134	2,462	899	59.6	21.7	36.5	1,335	32.3
1999	3,953	2,325	739	58.8	18.7	31.8	1,340	33.9
1998	4,014	2,403	820	59.8	20.4	34.1	1,383	34.4
1997	3,606	2,236	806	62.0	22.4	36.0	1,103	30.6
1996	3,510	2,019	706	57.5	20.1	35.0	1,210	34.5
1995	3,603	2,112	745	58.6	20.7	35.3	1,250	34.7
1994	3,523	1,995	662	56.6	18.8	33.2	1,224	34.7
1993r	3,363	2,049	728	60.9	21.6	35.5	1,103	32.8
1993	2,772	1,682	602	60.7	21.7	35.8	907	32.7
1992	2,754	1,579	586	57.3	21.3	37.1	936	33.9
1991	2,874	1,498	516	52.1	18.0	34.4	1,139	39.6
1990	2,749	1,498	435	54.5	15.8	29.0	1,025	37.3
1989	2,818	1,576	453	55.9	16.1	28.7	1,062	37.7
1988	2,642	1,458	450	55.2	17.0	30.9	1,046	39.6
1987	2,592	1,597	455	61.6	17.6	28.5	849	32.8
1986	2,514	1,507	458	59.9	18.2	30.4	864	34.4
1985	2,221	1,396	375	62.9	16.9	26.9	700	31.5
1984	2,018	1,212	362	60.1	17.9	29.9	691	34.2
1983	2,025	1,110	349	54.8	17.2	31.4	759	37.5
1982	2,001	1,153	337	57.6	16.8	29.2	740	37.0
1981	2,052	1,144	342	55.8	16.7	29.9	790	38.5
1980	2,033	1,099	327	54.1	16.1	29.8	820	40.3
1979	1,754	968	292	55.2	16.6	30.2	687	39.2
1978	1,672	935	254	55.9	15.2	27.2	656	39.2
1977	1,609	880	277	54.7	17.2	31.5	622	38.7
1976	1,551	862	309	55.6	19.9	35.8	566	36.5
1975	1,446	832	295	57.5	20.4	35.5	505	34.9
1974	1,506	842	272	55.9	18.1	32.3	558	37.1
1973	1,285	709	206	55.2	16.0	29.1	500	38.9
1972	1,338	694	179	51.9	13.4	25.8	541	40.4

r = Revised, controlled to 1990 census-based population estimates; previous 1993 data controlled to 1980 census-based population estimates. Hispanics may be of any race.

High school completers are people who have completed 4 years of high school or more, for 1967 to 1991. Beginning in 1992, they were people whose highest degree was a high school diploma (including equivalency) or higher.

Sources: Pew Research Center analysis of the October 2008 Current Population Survey and U. S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967 to 2007, <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/school/TableA-5a.csv>

Table A5
The White Alone Population 18-to 24-Year-Olds by High School Completion Status,
College Enrollment and Attainment: October 1967 to 2008
(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutionalized population ages 18 to 24)

Year	HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS						HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS	
	TOTAL	PERCENT			Of High School Completer Enrolled in College		Number	Percent
		Total	Enrolled in College	High School Completers	Enrolled in College	Enrolled in College		
2008	22,530	19,340	9,141	85.8	40.6	47.3	1,991	8.8
2007	22,392	18,913	8,780	84.5	39.2	46.4	2,248	10.0
2006	22,169	18,489	8,298	83.4	37.4	44.9	2,399	10.8
2005	21,777	18,130	8,498	83.3	39.0	46.9	2,466	11.3
2004	21,896	18,213	8,351	82.6	38.0	45.9	2,599	11.9
2003 ¹	21,502	17,901	8,150	83.3	37.9	45.5	2,489	11.6
2002	21,704	17,793	7,921	82.0	36.5	44.5	2,641	12.2
2001	21,372	17,348	7,548	81.2	35.3	43.5	2,865	13.4
2000	21,257	17,512	7,566	82.4	35.6	43.2	2,598	12.2
1999	20,866	17,052	7,447	81.7	35.7	43.7	2,680	12.8
1998	20,465	16,701	7,541	81.6	36.9	45.2	2,810	13.7
1997	20,020	16,557	7,495	82.7	37.4	45.3	2,476	12.4
1996	19,676	16,199	7,123	82.3	36.2	44.0	2,458	12.5
1995	19,866	16,269	7,011	81.9	35.3	43.1	2,711	13.6
1994	20,171	16,670	7,118	82.6	35.3	42.7	2,553	12.7
1993r	20,493	16,989	7,074	82.9	34.5	41.6	2,595	12.7
1993	19,430	16,196	6,763	83.4	34.8	41.8	2,369	12.2
1992	19,671	16,379	6,916	83.3	35.2	42.2	2,398	12.2
1991	19,980	16,324	6,813	81.7	34.1	41.7	2,845	14.2
1990	20,393	16,823	6,635	82.5	32.5	39.4	2,751	13.5
1989	20,825	17,089	6,631	82.1	31.8	38.8	2,926	14.1
1988	21,261	17,491	6,659	82.3	31.3	38.1	3,012	14.2
1987	21,493	17,689	6,483	82.3	30.2	36.6	3,042	14.2
1986	22,020	18,291	6,307	83.1	28.6	34.5	2,961	13.4
1985	22,632	18,916	6,500	83.6	28.7	34.4	3,050	13.5
1984	23,347	19,373	6,256	83.0	28.0	32.3	3,281	14.1
1983	23,899	19,643	6,463	82.2	27.0	32.9	3,428	14.3
1982	24,206	19,944	6,694	82.4	27.2	33.6	3,523	14.6
1981	24,486	20,123	6,549	82.2	26.7	32.5	3,590	14.7
1980	24,482	20,214	6,423	82.6	26.2	31.8	3,525	14.4
1979	23,895	19,616	6,120	82.1	25.6	31.2	3,571	14.9
1978	23,650	19,526	6,077	82.6	25.7	31.1	3,464	14.6
1977	23,430	19,291	6,209	82.3	26.5	32.2	3,445	14.7
1976	23,119	19,045	6,276	82.4	27.1	33.0	3,407	14.7
1975	22,703	18,883	6,116	83.2	26.9	32.4	3,149	13.9
1974	22,141	18,318	5,589	82.7	25.2	30.5	3,212	14.5
1973	21,766	18,023	5,438	82.8	25.0	30.2	3,085	14.2
1972	21,315	17,410	5,624	81.7	26.4	32.3	3,241	15.2
1971	20,533	16,593	5,594	81.3	27.2	33.7	3,156	15.4
1970	19,608	15,960	5,305	81.4	27.1	33.2	2,974	15.2
1969	18,606	15,031	5,347	80.8	28.7	35.6	2,915	15.7
1968	17,951	14,127	4,929	78.7	27.5	34.9	3,107	17.3
1967	17,500	13,657	4,708	78.0	26.9	34.5	3,141	17.9

r = Revised, controlled to 1990 census-based population estimates; previous 1993 data controlled to 1980 census-based population estimates. Hispanics may be of any race.

¹ Starting in 2003 respondents could identify more than one race. Except as noted, the race data in this table from 2003 onward represent those respondents who indicated only one race category.

High school completers are people who have completed 4 years of high school or more, for 1967 to 1991. Beginning in 1992, they were people whose highest degree was a high school diploma (including equivalency) or higher.

Sources: Pew Research Center analysis of the October 2008 Current Population Survey and U. S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967 to 2007, <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/school/TableA-5a.csv>

Table A6
The Black Alone Population 18-to 24-Year-Olds by High School Completion Status,
College Enrollment and Attainment: October 1967 to 2008
(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutionalized population ages 18 to 24)

Year	TOTAL	HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS					HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS	
		Total	Enrolled in College	PERCENT			Number	Percent
				High School Completers	Enrolled in College	Of High School Completer Enrolled in College		
2008	4,265	3,386	1,349	79.4	31.6	39.8	514	12.0
2007	4,182	3,423	1,396	81.8	33.4	40.8	425	10.2
2006	4,085	3,156	1,321	77.3	32.3	41.9	532	13.0
2005	3,964	3,137	1,297	79.1	32.7	41.3	512	12.9
2004	3,940	3,050	1,238	77.4	31.4	40.6	596	15.1
2003 ¹	3,837	2,948	1,225	76.8	31.9	41.6	545	14.2
2002	3,924	3,040	1,226	77.5	31.3	40.3	571	14.5
2001	3,916	3,016	1,206	77.0	30.8	40.0	540	13.8
2000	4,013	3,090	1,216	77.0	30.3	39.4	615	15.3
1999	3,827	2,911	1,145	76.1	29.9	39.3	613	16.0
1998	3,745	2,747	1,116	73.4	29.8	40.6	642	17.1
1997	3,650	2,725	1,085	74.7	29.7	39.8	611	16.7
1996	3,637	2,738	983	75.3	27.0	35.9	581	16.0
1995	3,625	2,788	988	76.9	27.3	35.4	522	14.4
1994	3,661	2,818	1,001	77.0	27.3	35.5	568	15.5
1993r	3,666	2,747	897	74.9	24.5	32.7	600	16.4
1993	3,516	2,629	861	74.8	24.5	32.8	578	16.4
1992	3,521	2,625	886	74.6	25.2	33.8	575	16.3
1991	3,504	2,630	828	75.1	23.6	31.5	545	15.6
1990	3,520	2,710	894	77.0	25.4	33.0	530	15.1
1989	3,559	2,708	835	76.1	23.5	30.8	583	16.4
1988	3,568	2,680	752	75.1	21.1	28.1	631	17.7
1987	3,603	2,739	823	76.0	22.8	30.0	611	17.0
1986	3,653	2,795	812	76.5	22.2	29.1	617	16.8
1985	3,716	2,810	734	75.6	19.8	26.1	655	17.6
1984	3,862	2,885	786	74.7	20.4	27.2	712	18.4
1983	3,865	2,740	741	70.9	19.2	27.0	832	21.5
1982	3,872	2,744	767	70.9	19.8	28.0	851	22.0
1981	3,778	2,678	750	70.9	19.9	28.0	821	21.7
1980	3,721	2,592	715	69.7	19.2	27.6	876	23.5
1979	3,510	2,356	696	67.1	19.8	29.5	895	25.5
1978	3,452	2,340	694	67.8	20.1	29.7	850	24.6
1977	3,387	2,286	721	67.5	21.3	31.5	808	23.9
1976	3,315	2,239	749	67.5	22.6	33.5	803	24.2
1975	3,213	2,081	665	64.8	20.7	32.0	877	27.3
1974	3,105	2,083	555	67.1	17.9	26.6	780	25.1
1973	3,114	2,079	498	66.8	16.0	24.0	826	26.5
1972	2,986	1,992	540	66.7	18.1	27.1	782	26.2
1971	2,866	1,789	522	62.4	18.2	29.2	825	28.8
1970	2,692	1,602	416	59.5	15.5	26.0	897	33.3
1969	2,542	1,497	407	58.9	16.0	27.2	828	32.6
1968	2,421	1,399	352	57.8	14.5	25.2	799	33.0
1967	2,283	1,276	297	55.9	13.0	23.3	788	34.5

r = Revised, controlled to 1990 census-based population estimates; previous 1993 data controlled to 1980 census-based population estimates. Hispanics may be of any race.

¹ Starting in 2003 respondents could identify more than one race. Except as noted, the race data in this table from 2003 onward represent those respondents who indicated only one race category.

High school completers are people who have completed 4 years of high school or more, for 1967 to 1991. Beginning in 1992, they were people whose highest degree was a high school diploma (including equivalency) or higher.

Sources: Pew Research Center analysis of the October 2008 Current Population Survey and U. S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1967 to 2007, <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/school/TableA-5a.csv>

Table A7
College Students 14 Years Old and Over: October 1947 to 2008

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutionalized population ages 14 and older)

Year	All Students	Male	Female	White Alone	Black Alone	Hispanic	Undergrads 2-Year	Undergrads 4-Year	Graduate Students	Public	Private	Full-Time	Part-Time
2008	18,632	8,311	10,320	14,400	2,481	2,227	5,345	9,610	3,676	14,740	3,893	13,245	5,387
2007	17,956	7,826	10,130	13,835	2,501	2,172	4,814	9,551	3,591	14,072	3,884	12,656	5,300
2006	17,232	7,506	9,726	13,273	2,334	1,968	4,294	9,560	3,378	13,466	3,766	12,070	5,162
2005	17,472	7,539	9,934	13,466	2,217	1,942	4,327	9,842	3,304	13,435	4,037	12,238	5,235
2004	17,383	7,575	9,808	13,381	2,301	1,975	4,340	9,664	3,378	13,651	3,731	11,989	5,393
2003 ¹	16,638	7,318	9,319	12,870	2,144	1,714	4,384	8,986	3,268	13,109	3,528	11,490	5,148
2002	16,497	7,240	9,258	12,781	2,278	1,656	4,378	9,048	3,072	12,833	3,663	11,141	5,356
2001	15,873	6,875	8,998	12,208	2,230	1,700	4,159	8,393	3,321	12,421	3,452	10,404	5,469
2000	15,314	6,682	8,631	11,999	2,164	1,426	3,881	8,520	2,913	12,009	3,305	10,159	5,155
1999	15,203	6,956	8,247	12,053	1,998	1,307	3,794	8,252	3,157	11,659	3,545	10,112	5,091
1998	15,546	6,905	8,641	12,401	2,016	1,363	4,234	8,275	3,037	11,984	3,563	10,188	5,358
1997	15,436	6,843	8,593	12,442	1,903	1,260	4,078	8,331	3,027	12,090	3,345	10,236	5,200
1996	15,226	6,820	8,406	12,189	1,901	1,223	4,174	8,131	2,922	12,014	3,212	9,839	5,388
1995	14,715	6,703	8,013	12,021	1,772	1,207	3,882	8,084	2,749	11,372	3,343	9,543	5,172
1994 ²	15,022	6,764	8,258	12,222	1,800	1,187	4,208	8,202	2,613	11,693	3,329	9,573	5,450
1993 ^r	14,394	6,599	7,795	11,735	1,599	1,169	4,345	7,614	2,435	11,317	3,077	9,425	4,969
1993	13,898	6,324	7,574	11,434	1,545	995	4,196	7,311	2,391	10,910	2,988	9,019	4,879
1992	14,035	6,192	7,844	11,710	1,424	918	4,239	7,404	2,392	11,065	2,970	9,189	4,846
1991	14,057	6,439	7,618	11,686	1,477	830	4,277	7,097	2,683	11,081	2,976	9,049	5,009
1990	13,621	6,192	7,429	11,488	1,393	748	3,965	7,143	2,514	10,753	2,868	8,697	4,924
1989	13,180	5,950	7,231	11,243	1,287	754	3,627	7,034	2,520	10,295	2,884	8,454	4,726
1988	13,116	5,950	7,166	11,140	1,321	747	3,837	6,768	2,511	10,333	2,783	8,213	4,903
1987	12,719	6,030	6,689	10,731	1,351	739	3,648	6,656	2,415	9,961	2,758	7,961	4,758
1986	12,651	5,957	6,694	10,707	1,359	794	3,391	6,645	2,365	9,579	2,822	7,899	4,503
1985	12,524	5,906	6,618	10,781	1,263	580	3,289	6,808	2,427	9,694	2,830	8,035	4,489
1984	12,304	5,989	6,315	10,520	1,332	524	3,172	6,738	2,395	9,592	2,713	8,085	4,220
1983	12,320	6,010	6,310	10,565	1,273	521	3,416	6,509	2,442	9,422	2,946	7,999	4,368
1982	12,308	5,899	6,410	10,551	1,294	494	3,448	6,504	2,393	9,495	2,850	8,012	4,333
1981	12,127	5,825	6,303	10,353	1,335	510	3,347	6,622	2,205	9,267	2,906	7,835	4,339
1980	11,387	5,430	5,957	9,925	1,163	443	3,107	6,172	2,173	(NA)	(NA)	7,355	4,097
1979	11,380	5,480	5,900	9,956	1,156	439	2,897	6,296	2,214	8,868	2,539	7,241	4,166
1978	11,141	5,580	5,559	9,661	1,175	377	2,904	6,043	2,217	8,462	2,701	7,182	3,982
1977	11,546	5,889	5,657	9,962	1,284	417	2,510	5,898	1,810	7,924	2,292	7,190	3,026
1976	11,139	5,785	5,354	9,679	1,217	426	2,854	6,134	2,152	8,712	2,421	7,388	3,748
1975	10,880	5,911	4,969	9,546	1,099	411	2,561	5,547	1,590	7,703	1,994	7,105	2,592
1974	9,852	5,402	4,449	8,689	930	354	2,072	5,266	1,490	6,904	1,922	6,351	2,477
1973	8,966	5,048	3,918	8,014	781	289	1,797	4,997	1,385	6,224	1,955	6,090	2,089
1972	9,096	5,218	3,877	7,458	727	242	1,910	5,082	1,320	6,337	1,975	6,314	2,000
1971	8,087	4,850	3,236	7,273	680	---	1,830	5,065	1,192	6,271	1,816	6,204	1,883
1970	7,413	4,401	3,013	6,759	522	---	1,692	4,582	1,140	5,699	1,714	5,763	1,651
1969	7,435	4,448	2,987	6,827	492	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1968	6,801	4,124	2,677	6,255	434	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1967	6,401	3,841	2,560	5,905	370	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1966	6,085	3,749	2,337	5,708	282	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1965	5,675	3,503	2,172	5,317	274	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1964	4,643	2,888	1,755	4,337	234	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1963	4,336	2,742	1,594	4,050	286	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1962	4,208	2,742	1,466	3,934	274	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1961	3,731	2,356	1,375	3,498	233	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1960	3,570	2,339	1,231	3,342	227	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1959	3,340	2,187	1,153	3,118	222	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1958	3,242	2,129	1,113	3,030	212	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1957	3,138	2,028	1,110	2,932	206	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1956	2,883	1,932	951	2,687	196	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1955	2,379	1,579	800	2,224	155	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1950	2,175	1,474	701	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1947	2,311	1,687	624	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

r = Revised, controlled to 1990 census-based population estimates; previous 1993 data controlled to 1980 census-based population estimates. Hispanics may be of any race.

¹ Starting in 2003 respondents could identify more than one race. Except as noted, the race data in this table from 2003 onward represent those respondents who indicated only one race category.

² Prior to 1994, total enrolled does not include the 35 and over population.

Data for 1955 to 1963 are for Black and other races.

Sources: Pew Research Center analysis of the October 2008 Current Population Survey and U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1947 to 2007,

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/school.html>.

Table A8
College Students 14 Years Old and Older: October 1972 to 2008

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutionalized population ages 14 and older)

Year	All Students	AGE			
		14 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 and Older
2008	18,632	241	11,466	4,013	2,911
2007	17,956	186	11,161	3,838	2,772
2006	17,232	212	10,587	3,658	2,776
2005	17,472	181	10,834	3,600	2,857
2004	17,383	198	10,611	3,690	2,884
2003	16,638	150	10,365	3,494	2,630
2002	16,497	195	10,033	3,401	2,867
2001	15,873	138	9,630	3,421	2,685
2000	15,314	149	9,451	3,206	2,507
1999	15,203	151	9,260	3,095	2,697
1998	15,546	123	9,323	3,414	2,685
1997	15,436	171	9,204	3,270	2,791
1996	15,226	237	8,767	3,443	2,778
1995	14,715	158	8,539	3,349	2,669
1994 ¹	15,022	150	8,729	3,419	2,725
1993r	14,394	130	8,630	3,140	2,493
1993	13,898	123	8,193	3,094	2,488
1992	14,035	205	8,342	3,125	2,364
1991	14,057	132	8,172	3,285	2,468
1990	13,621	178	7,964	3,162	2,319
1989	13,180	183	7,804	3,081	2,112
1988	13,116	182	7,791	2,963	2,179
1987	12,719	239	7,693	2,985	1,802
1986	12,651	201	7,477	3,105	1,867
1985	12,524	262	7,537	3,064	1,661
1984	12,304	253	7,591	3,015	1,445
1983	12,320	260	7,477	3,088	1,495
1982	12,308	254	7,678	2,988	1,389
1981	12,127	232	7,575	2,928	1,393
1980	11,387	249	7,226	2,703	1,207
1979	11,380	311	6,991	2,675	1,402
1978	11,141	274	6,995	2,569	1,303
1977	11,546	274	7,142	2,801	1,329
1976	11,139	281	7,181	2,489	1,189
1975	10,880	293	6,935	2,469	1,183
1974	9,852	309	6,316	2,202	1,025
1973	8,966	295	6,055	1,829	787
1972	9,096	295	6,257	1,760	783

r = Revised, controlled to 1990 census-based population estimates; previous 1993 data controlled to 1980 census-based population estimates.

¹ Prior to 1994, total enrolled does not include the 35 and over population.

Sources: Pew Research Center analysis of the October 2008 Current Population Survey and U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1947 to 2007, <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/school.html>.

The share of 18- to 24-year-olds attending college in the United States hit an all-time high in October 2008, driven by a recession-era surge in enrollments at community colleges, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Just under 11.5 million students, or 39.6% of all young adults ages 18 to 24, were enrolled in either a two- or four-year college in October 2008 (the most recent date for which comprehensive nationwide data are available). Both figures — the absolute number as well as the share — are at their highest level ever. Enrollment... 2 1 Enrollment Hits All-Time High, Fueled by Community Surge By Richard Fry, Pew Research Center Executive Summary The share of 18- to 24-year-olds attending college in the United States hit an all-time high in October 2008, driven by a recession-era surge in enrollments at community colleges, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of newly released data. Both figures the absolute number as well as the share are at their highest level ever. Enrollments have been rising over many decades at both two- and four-year colleges, but the most recent annual spike has taken place entirely at two-year colleges. In October 2007, some 3.1 million young adults, or 10.9% of all 18- to 24-year-olds, were enrolled in a community college. 18- to 24-year-olds attending college in the United States hit an all-time high in October 2008, driven by a recession-era surge in enrollments at community colleges, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Just under 11.5 million students, or 39.6% of all young adults ages 18 to 24, were enrolled in either a two- or four-year college in October 2008 (the most recent date for which comprehensive nationwide data are available). Both figures — the absolute number as well as the share — are at their highest level ever. Enrollments have been