

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 102 253

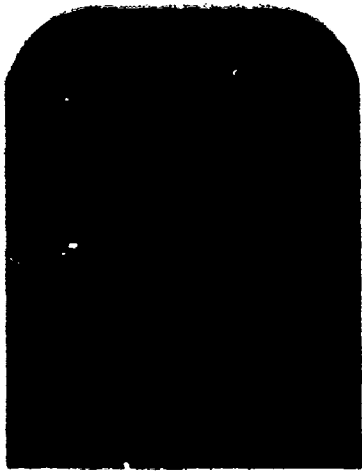
UD 014 787

TITLE We, the Youth of America.
INSTITUTION Bureau of the Census (DOC), Suitland, Md.
PUB DATE Jun 73
NOTE 15p.
AVAILABLE FROM Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (Stock No. 0324-00043; \$0.40 domestic postpaid)

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.76 HC-\$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS Academic Achievement; *Census Figures; Geographic Distribution; Income; *Marital Status; Minority Groups; National Demography; *Occupational Surveys; Out of School Youth; Population Trends; Racial Distribution; *Socioeconomic Status; Voting; *Youth; Youth Employment

ABSTRACT

One person in five--42.4 million Americans--belongs to youth, viz. those who are 14 to 24 years of age. The 1970 census showed that there were 1.8 million Spanish heritage young Americans between 15 and 24 years of age. The number of white youth is estimated to be 36.6 million. The estimate for blacks and other racial minorities was 5.8 million in 1972. In youth, the population balance between the sexes is almost even. In 1970, for example, the census showed that there were 19.6 million men and boys among youth and 19.9 million women and girls. The 1972 estimate of 42.4 million youth was higher than the 1970 census total of 39.5 million Americans 14 to 24. Population growth accounts for the difference between these figures. Overall, the proportion of all young Americans enrolled in school or college in 1972 was 55 percent. Statistics hint at the Nation's preoccupation with young America--one of five belongs to youth, educational attainment going up, income an important fraction of the whole income spectrum, 44 percent on the move in one year, older at first marriage, and so on. Perhaps, though, the recent stress on youth is lifing. Declining birth rates since the late 1960's suggest a somewhat different future for youth. Not better. Not worse. Different, along with the good that always comes with being 14 to 24 years of age. (Author/JM)



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WE THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

We are the youth of America.

**Neither adults nor children,
we are those who are 14 to 24 years of age.**

**Being young,
we are filled with dreams of adult life in the 21st century.**

**We are numerous.
One person in five—42.4 million Americans—belongs to youth.**

**We have been making a comeback.
Early in the present century we made up
as large a proportion of the population as we do now.
Part of our preeminence then was due to the younger age of
the population—people did not live as long in 1910 as they now do.**

**After 1910, though,
we declined as a proportion of the total population.
By 1950, we were only 16 percent (about one person in six) and,
in 1960, we were 15 percent of the total.**

**These low proportions were due to low birth rates
during the Depression of the 1930's and the early war years.**

**By 1970, however,
the great numbers of post-World War II babies had started to grow up,
and now we are again more than 20 percent of the population.**

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A Majority And Minorities

The number of us who are white is estimated to be 36.6 million. The estimate for blacks and other racial minorities was 5.8 million in 1972.



The 1970 census provided a more exact measure of other racial and ethnic groups among us. It showed that there were 1.8 million Spanish heritage young Americans between 15 and 24 years of age. Totals for other groups in this 15-24 year age bracket were:

American Indian . .	148,000
Japanese	96,000
Chinese	90,000
Filipino	56,000
Hawaiian	21,000
Korean	16,000

Sexes Are Equal

Numerical equality of the sexes is closer to reality in youth than at any other time of life. Adult women outnumber men by a widening margin as they grow older. In childhood, boys outnumber girls. In youth, the population balance between the sexes is almost even. In 1970, for example, the census showed that there were 19.6 million men and boys among youth and 19.9 million women and girls. The count by single years of age was as follows:



14 years	2.1 million	2.0 million
15 years	2.1 million	1.9 million
16 years	2.0 million	1.9 million
17 years	1.9 million	1.9 million
18 years	1.9 million	1.9 million
19 years	1.8 million	1.8 million
20 years	1.7 million	1.8 million
21 years	1.6 million	1.7 million
22 years	1.6 million	1.8 million
23 years	1.6 million	1.8 million
24 years	1.3 million	1.4 million

The 1972 estimate of 42.4 million youth was higher than the 1970 census total of 39.5 million Americans 14 to 24. Population growth accounts for the difference between these figures. In fact, the increase in the youth total has been much greater than for the population as a whole during the 1960's and early 1970's. We young Americans increased in number by 56 percent during 1960-72, while the U.S. population went up by only about 16 percent.



Divided Three Ways

Youth can be divided into three parts. There are the high schoolers (14 to 17 years of age); those in the early college years (18 and 19 year olds); and those in the early working years (20 to 24 year olds).

Not everyone fits these categories, but it is useful to group us young Americans this way, so that we can be measured according to what we're doing--in school, working, or whatever--during these years of rapid change.

The Census Bureau estimates that the high schoolers totaled about 16.4 million in 1972. The early-college-years group numbered 7.5 million. And the early careerists numbered 17.1 million.

Of the high schoolers, more than 93 percent in 1972 were enrolled in school, most of them in high school. In 1960, about 90 percent of the high school age group were enrolled. The proportions were 83 percent in 1950 and 79 percent in 1940.

About 46 percent of the early-college-years group were actually enrolled in school in 1972, the bulk of these in college. Back in 1960, only 38 percent were enrolled. The proportions were 30 percent in 1950 and 29 percent in 1940.

One in five of the 20- to 24-year group was enrolled in school in 1972. Back in 1940, barely 7 percent of young Americans 20 to 24 years were still enrolled in school.

Overall, the proportion of all of us young Americans enrolled in school or college in 1972 was 55 percent. This included 6.6 million in college and 15.9 million in high school or elementary school.

There is no doubt that more of us young Americans are in school than has been the case in past years. This is particularly true of persons 20 to 24 years. As recently as 1950, only 8 percent of civilian youth--1.9 million young men and women--were enrolled in college, compared to the 6.6 million (16 percent of civilian youth) estimated to be in college in 1972.

Those Not In School

We have seen that 55 percent of us were enrolled in school in 1972. What of the others? How much education are they taking with them into the adult world? A Census Bureau survey taken in 1971 provides answers. It showed that 1.3 million of those 14 to 24 years old that year had finished 4 years of college; 2.4 million had had 1 to 3 years of college; and almost 9 million had finished high school.

Only 4.8 million had left either high school or elementary school without completing their training through high school.

1 In 5 Has A Vocational Skill

College is not the only key to our futures. One in five young Americans has already completed some kind of vocational training. The 1970 census showed that 5.4 million young men and women 18 to 24 years old had such training. Business and office training was the most popular kind for young women, and trade and craft skills among the young men.

Included among those with vocational training were 314,000 young black men and 348,000 young black women, as well as 107,000 young men of Spanish heritage and 119,000 young women of Spanish heritage.

The following table shows the numbers of young persons who have had various types of vocational training:

VOCATIONAL
TRAINING
1970

TRAINING	MEN 18-24	WOMEN 18-24
Business-Office	300,000	1,100,000
Nursing-Health	63,000	432,000
Trades	1,100,000	384,000
Engineering	277,000	19,000
Agriculture Home Economics	83,000	46,000
Other	153,000	93,000

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How Many of Us Work?

We young Americans are also an industrious group. Many are working, some are both working and going to school, some are in the Armed Forces, and some (many of them young married women keeping house) are not in the labor force.

The figures for young Americans in the labor force cover only those 16 to 24 years (most 14- and 15-year-olds are in school, in any case). The totals for those not in school in 1972 were as follows:

THOSE NOT IN SCHOOL	
Employed	11.3 million
Unemployed	1.4 million
In Armed Forces	1.7 million
Not in labor force (including young married women)	4.6 million

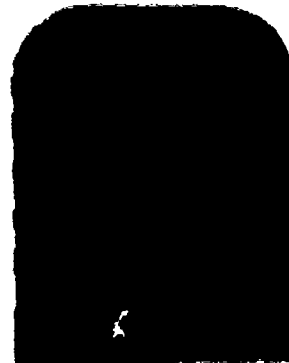
All Kinds of Jobs

Clerical	877,000	3.1 Million
Service Workers Except Private Household	1.1 Million	1.2 Million
Operatives	1.5 Million	665,000
Professional, Technical and Kindred Workers	841,000	859,000
Sales Work	687,000	613,000
Craftsmen or Foremen	1.2 Million	100,000

American youth takes on all kinds of jobs. But we are most likely to be found working in a clerical role. When the 1970 census was taken nearly 4 million of us were holding clerical jobs. Of this total 3.1 million were young women and 877,000 young men.

The next table shows leading occupations for black youth and for Spanish heritage youth:





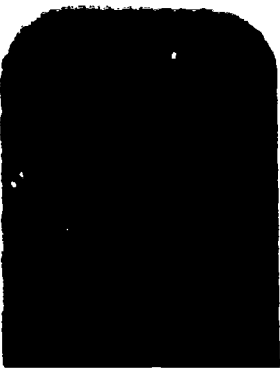
LEADING OCCUPATIONS FOR BLACK YOUTH

MEN, 14 to 24	WOMEN, 14 to 24
Operatives, except transport . . . 188,000	Clerical jobs 272,000
Laborers, except farm 132,000	Service workers, except household 139,000
Service workers, except household 131,000	Operatives, except transport 112,000

LEADING OCCUPATIONS FOR SPANISH HERITAGE YOUTH

MEN, 14 to 24	WOMEN, 14 to 24
Operatives, except transport . . . 88,000	Clerical workers 128,000
Service workers, except household 58,000	Service workers, except household 52,000
Laborers, except farm 68,000	Operatives, except transport 48,000

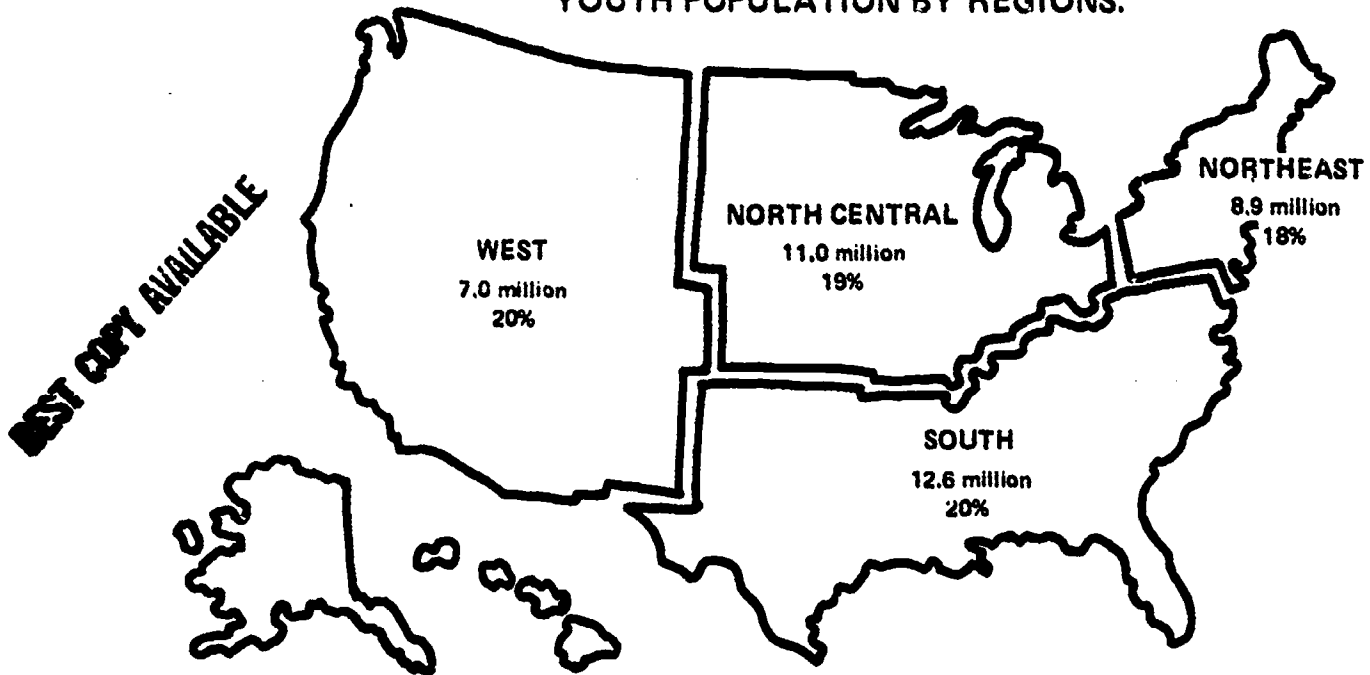




Where Are The Young?

A total of 29.7 million of us lived in urban areas, and 9.8 million in rural areas in 1970. There were 12.6 million in the South, which was 20 percent of the region's population. The South includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, in addition to the States of the Old South. The following tables show in detail the way we young Americans are divided by urban and rural residence and by region.

YOUTH POPULATION BY REGIONS.



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URBAN	29.7 million
Central cities	12.8 million
Urban fringes	10.3 million
Other places of 10,000 or more	3.8 million
Places of 2,500 to 10,000	2.8 million
RURAL	9.8 million
Places of 1,000 to 2,500	1.2 million
Open country	8.6 million

More Youth In Some States

Although we are generally distributed among the States the way the population as a whole is, there are States with somewhat higher proportions of youth than others. For example, among States with high proportions of youth are Alaska (22.8 percent), Utah (22.6 percent), and South Carolina (22.2 percent). States with low proportions of people in the 14-to-24-year bracket include New Jersey (17.6 percent) and Florida (17.7 percent). The following table shows the youth population by States:

YOUTH IN EACH STATE

	1970		Percentage 14-24 years
	Population 14-24 years	Total Population	
United States	39,500,000	203,200,000	19.5
Alabama	691,000	3,400,000	20.1
Alaska	69,000	300,000	22.8
Arizona	355,000	1,800,000	20.1
Arkansas	365,000	1,900,000	19.0
California	3,900,000	20,000,000	19.8
Colorado	468,000	2,200,000	21.2
Connecticut	563,000	3,000,000	18.3
Delaware	107,000	648,000	19.4
Dist. of Columbia	158,000	767,000	20.9
Florida	1,200,000	6,789,000	17.7
Georgia	965,000	4,590,000	20.8
Hawaii	169,000	769,000	22.0
Idaho	144,000	713,000	20.1
Illinois	2,100,000	11,100,000	18.7
Indiana	1,000,000	5,200,000	19.7
Iowa	535,000	2,800,000	19.0
Kansas	451,000	2,200,000	20.1
Kentucky	650,000	3,200,000	20.2
Louisiana	756,000	3,600,000	20.8
Maine	188,000	992,000	19.0
Maryland	761,000	3,900,000	19.4
Massachusetts	1,100,000	5,700,000	19.1
Michigan	1,800,000	8,900,000	19.9
Minnesota	746,000	3,800,000	19.6
Mississippi	457,000	2,200,000	20.6
Missouri	877,000	4,700,000	18.8
Montana	137,000	694,000	19.8
Nebraska	288,000	1,500,000	19.4
Nevada	89,000	489,000	18.2
New Hampshire	140,000	738,000	19.0
New Jersey	1,300,000	7,168,000	17.6
New Mexico	212,000	1,000,000	20.8
New York	3,300,000	18,200,000	18.0
North Carolina	1,100,000	5,100,000	21.4
North Dakota	128,000	618,000	20.7
Ohio	2,100,000	10,700,000	19.4
Oklahoma	500,000	2,600,000	19.5
Oregon	409,000	2,100,000	19.5
Pennsylvania	2,159,000	11,800,000	18.3
Rhode Island	191,000	947,000	20.2
South Carolina	576,000	2,600,000	22.2
South Dakota	134,000	666,000	20.1
Tennessee	779,000	3,900,000	19.8
Texas	2,300,000	11,200,000	20.4
Utah	239,000	1,100,000	22.6
Vermont	89,000	444,000	20.1
Virginia	974,000	4,600,000	21.0
Washington	695,000	3,400,000	20.4
West Virginia	337,000	1,700,000	19.3
Wisconsin	863,000	4,400,000	19.5
Wyoming	65,000	332,000	19.7



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On The Move

We're movers. In fact, those of us 20 to 24 years old are more likely than any other group in the population to be mobile. For example, in the year ending March 1971, about 44 percent of all Americans 22 to 24 years old changed residence. Nearly 37 percent of those 20 to 21 years also moved. The rate for young people 14 to 17, most of whom live with their parents and attend high school, was considerably lower: about 12 percent.

In the 1970 census, it was found that fewer than 4 million of the 16.1 million people 20 to 24 years old had lived in the same house 5 years earlier. The total who had lived in a different house in the United States was nearly 10.5 million. Another 1.3 million reported having moved between 1965 and 1970 but didn't report what their 1965 residence had been. Another 361,000 said they had been abroad 5 years before the census.

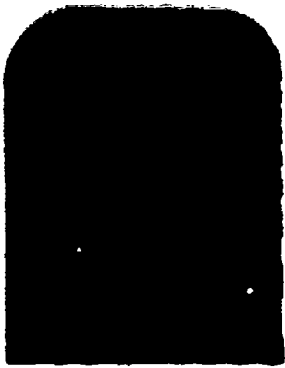


How Many Are Married?

Popular magazine writers used to say a lot about teen-age marriage. Now, they are more likely to write about the lack of it. Census figures show the origin of this new interest in our seeming hesitant attitude about marriage.

In 1972, about 68 percent of all men 18 to 24 years were single. Back in 1960, however, being single was less popular. The proportion of single men 18 to 24 years then was only 65 percent. As for young women, in 1972, 48 percent of those 18 to 24 years were single, but back in 1960 only 41 percent were single.

The 1970 census shows the number of us married and single. The figures illustrate, also, to what an extent the ages from 20 to 24 years are the marrying years, compared with the late teens when only a comparative few walk to the altar. The table on opposite page shows total married by ages in 1970.



Nearly 400,000 Divorced

Nearly 400,000 of the young Americans counted in 1970 had already been divorced—246,000 of them women and the remainder men. Ten years earlier in the 1960 census, the total of divorced persons 14 to 24 years was 182,000, 123,000 of them women.



Our Voting Record

Our voting record shows that we don't take part in elections as fully as older people. In the 1972 election, about half of those 18 to 24 years said they cast ballots. The totals were 5.3 million of the 11.0 million 18 to 20 year olds and 6.9 million of the 13.6 million 20 to 24 year olds.

For older persons, the figure was 73.6 million, 66 percent of those 25 years and over.

Black youth is even less likely to vote than white youth. The 1972 figures, by race, show that only 31 percent of blacks 18 to 20 said they took part in the election, along with 38 percent of young blacks 20 to 24. For whites, the record was 51 percent of the 18 to 20 year olds and 53 percent of those 20 to 24 years.

Males 14 to 19 years	11.9 million	402,000
Males 20 to 24 years	7.8 million	3.3 million
Females 14 to 19 years	11.5 million	1.1 million
Females 20 to 24 years	8.4 million	5.1 million
WHITE		
Males 14 to 19 years	1.5 million	55,000
Males 20 to 24 years	808,000	326,000
Females 14 to 19 years	1.5 million	137,000
Females 20 to 24 years	956,000	504,000
SPANISH HERITAGE		
Males 14 to 19 years	578,000	29,000
Males 20 to 24 years	363,000	177,000
Females 14 to 19 years	574,000	71,000
Females 20 to 24 years	410,000	259,000

**TOTAL
MARRIED
BY AGES**



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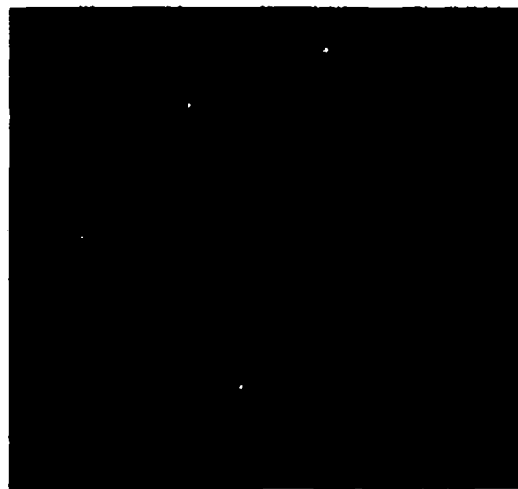
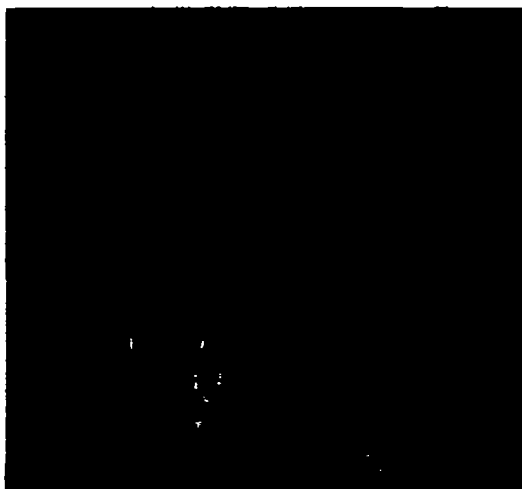
Big Percentage Have Income

We're income producers. Nearly all young men (94 percent) 20-24 years old received income in 1971, and 76 percent of the young women in that age bracket did. A large proportion of teen-agers got income, too. The proportions were 58 percent of the boys and 48 percent of the girls, 14 to 19 years old. Incomes of the younger group were largely less than \$1,000, however; the median income for 14- to 19-year old boys was \$685 and for girls it was \$491.

Youth 20 to 24 received considerably more income. The median for men in this age group was \$4,132; for women it was \$2,623. Twenty-two percent of young men 20 to 24 and more than 7 percent of the young women had 1971 incomes of \$7,000 or more.

And Some of Us Are Poor

About 4 million or 13 percent of American youth were in families with incomes below the low-income level (which was \$4,100 for four-person non-farm families in 1971). Of the total, 2.7 million were white and 1.3 million were black. Poor young whites are more likely to live in families headed by a man (53 percent were in this category) and poor young blacks are likely to be found in families headed by a woman (52 percent). In addition, the young whites below the low-income line are found more often living with non-relatives (20 percent in all) than young blacks below the low-income line, only 6 percent of whom were with non-relatives.



Will Youth Continue To Dominate?

Much has been written in very recent times of our youth-dominated society. It's not difficult to understand why we young Americans have stamped our mark on today. We made a numerical comeback after a comparatively low profile in the 1940's and 1950's. Everyone had to cope with the stresses of a rising population of young people. New schools and institutions had to be built to train us. New ideas for forming our minds were tried. We were more visible everywhere, and we influenced contemporary style in clothes, popular literature, entertainment, food, and home design to a remarkable degree.

Statistics hint at the Nation's preoccupation with young America—one in five belongs to youth, educational attainment going up, income an important fraction of the whole income spectrum, 44 percent on the move in 1 year, older at first marriage, and so on.

Perhaps, though, the recent stress on youth is lifting. Declining birth rates since the late 1960's suggest a somewhat different future for youth. Not better. Not worse. Different, along with the good that always comes with being 14 to 24 years of age.

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