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ABSTRACT

Since the late 1980s, school choice has become a popular education reform strategy. Parents who select which school their child attends do so for a variety of reasons, including academic, religious, or moral environment, and convenience. Differences in the proportion of students who attend an assigned school and those who attend a school selected by their parents may reflect greater parental involvement and may increase competition among schools to attract and retain students. This brief analyzes data from the 1993 National Household Education Survey (NHES), National Center for Education Statistics, United States Department of Education. Statistics show that in 1993, 20 percent of students in grades 3-12 attended a school chosen by their parents. Eleven percent attended a public school, and 9 percent attended a private school. Black students were more likely than white students to attend a school chosen by their parents (23 compared to 19 percent). Students from families with incomes over \$50,000 were more likely than students from families with incomes less than \$15,000 to attend a chosen school. Finally, parents whose children were enrolled in a private school, or a chosen school, were more likely to be satisfied with certain aspects of the school than were parents whose children attended other types of schools, or an assigned public school. One table and one figure are included. (LMI)

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- ◆ In 1993, 20 percent of students in grades 3–12 attended a school chosen by their parents. Of these students, 11 percent attended a public school, and 9 percent attended a private school. In addition, parents of 39 percent of students reported that their child attended an assigned public school, but their choice of residence was influenced by where the child would go to school.
- ◆ Black students were more likely than white students to attend a school chosen by their parents (23 compared to 19 percent). Of those students who attended a school chosen by their parents, black students were more likely to attend a public school, while white students were more likely to attend a private school.
- ◆ Students from families with incomes over \$50,000 were more likely than students from families with incomes less than \$15,000 to attend a chosen school. In fact, 16 percent of students from families with incomes over \$50,000 attended private schools, while 9 percent attended a chosen public school.
- ◆ Parents whose children were enrolled in a private school were more likely to be satisfied with certain aspects of the school than were parents whose children attended other types of schools. Parents whose children were enrolled in a chosen school were more likely than parents whose child attended an assigned public school to be satisfied with aspects of their child’s school, such as the school itself, teachers, academic standards, and discipline policy.

Percentage distribution of students in grades 3–12 who attended a chosen or assigned school, by race/ethnicity, urbanicity, parents’ highest education level, and family income: 1993

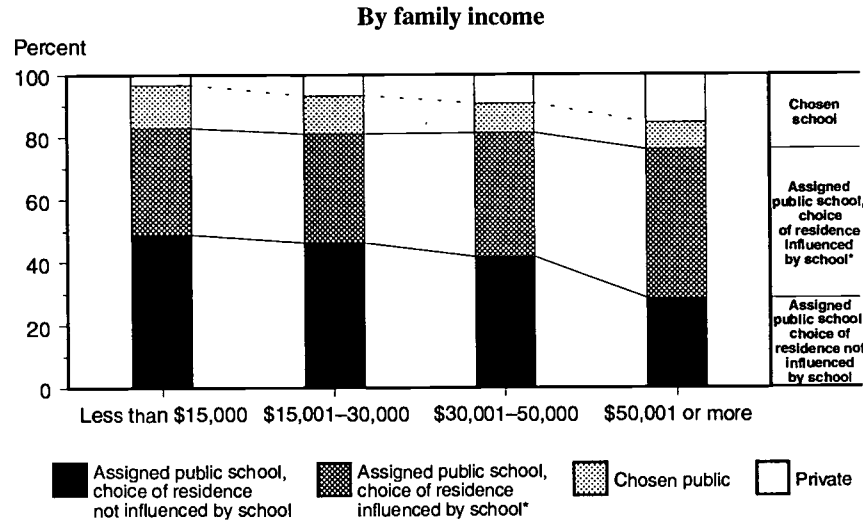
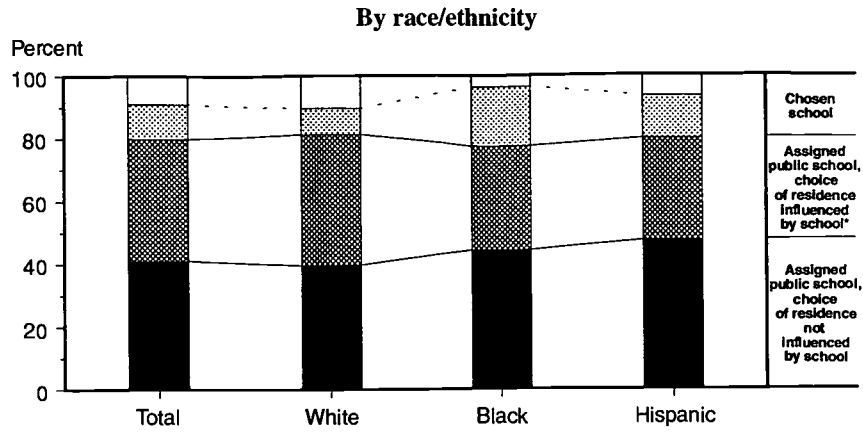
Student characteristics	Total	Chosen school			Assigned public school		Other
		Total	Public	Private	Total	Choice of residence influenced by school*	
Total	100.0	19.7	10.9	8.8	80.2	39.1	41.1
Race/ethnicity							
White	100.0	18.6	8.4	10.2	81.4	41.7	39.7
Black	100.0	22.6	18.9	3.7	77.5	33.2	44.3
Hispanic	100.0	20.3	13.6	6.7	79.8	32.3	47.5
Urbanicity							
Inside urban area	100.0	24.9	13.7	11.2	75.2	40.1	35.1
Outside urban area	100.0	12.4	7.3	5.1	87.6	35.2	52.4
Rural	100.0	12.0	6.5	5.5	88.1	39.2	48.9
Parents' highest education level							
Less than high school diploma	100.0	15.6	13.3	2.3	84.4	31.8	52.6
High school diploma or GED	100.0	16.4	11.2	5.2	83.5	36.1	47.4
Some college/vocational/technical	100.0	20.0	11.2	8.8	80.1	39.3	40.8
Bachelor's degree	100.0	23.1	8.8	14.3	77.0	45.2	31.8
Graduate/professional school	100.0	26.9	10.0	16.9	73.1	45.5	27.6
Family income							
Less than \$15,000	100.0	17.1	13.9	3.2	82.9	33.9	49.0
15,001–30,000	100.0	18.7	12.2	6.5	81.2	34.9	46.3
30,001–50,000	100.0	18.8	9.4	9.4	81.3	39.6	41.7
50,001 or more	100.0	24.1	8.5	15.6	76.0	47.6	28.4

Table reads: In 1993, 19.7 percent of students in grades 3–12 attended a school chosen by their parents, of which 10.9 percent attended a public school, and 8.8 percent attended a private school.

* Students whose parents indicated that their choice of residence was influenced by where their child would go to school.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1993 (School Safety and Discipline File).

Percentage distribution of students in grades 3-12 who attended a chosen or assigned school, by race/ethnicity and family income: 1993



* Students whose parents indicated that their choice of residence was influenced by where their child would go to school.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1993 (School Safety and Discipline File).

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