

FACT SHEET: Education

MISSING VOTERS PROJECT: Young Adults 2016

College Graduates Most Likely to Vote; More Than Half of Missing Voters Had No College

Voting participation among young adults varied dramatically by educational attainment in 2016. Among the 3.5 million young adult citizens who had not graduated from high school, only 20.1% voted (Chart A). Slightly more than one-third (35.7%) of young adults with a high school diploma voted, while about half (50.5%) of those with some college voted. The highest voting participation (59.5%) was found among young adult citizens with a bachelor's degree or higher. The largest groups of missing voters were young adults with some college (5.8 million) or a high school diploma (5.4 million) (Chart B).

No Diploma

Only 20.1% of the 3.5 million young adult citizens with no high school diploma voted in 2016 (Chart A). This resulted in 2.8 million missing voters, 88.9% were not registered to vote before the election (Chart B).

High School Diploma

Slightly more than one-third (35.7%) of young adults with a high school diploma voted in 2016 (Chart A). This resulted in 5.4 million missing voters (Chart B), of whom 4.3 million (80.3%) were not registered to vote before the election.

Some College

About half (50.5%) of young adult citizens with some college education voted in 2016 (Chart A). There were 5.8 million missing voters, including 4.2 million (72.2%) who were not registered to vote before the election (Chart B).

Bachelor's or Higher

There were 3.3 million young adult citizens with a college degree and 59.5% reported voting in 2016 (Chart A). There were 1.3 million missing voters, and only 27.1% were registered to vote before the election (Chart B).

Chart A: Young Adult Voting by Education

Citizens 18 to 24 years old in 2016

Total = 26.9 million

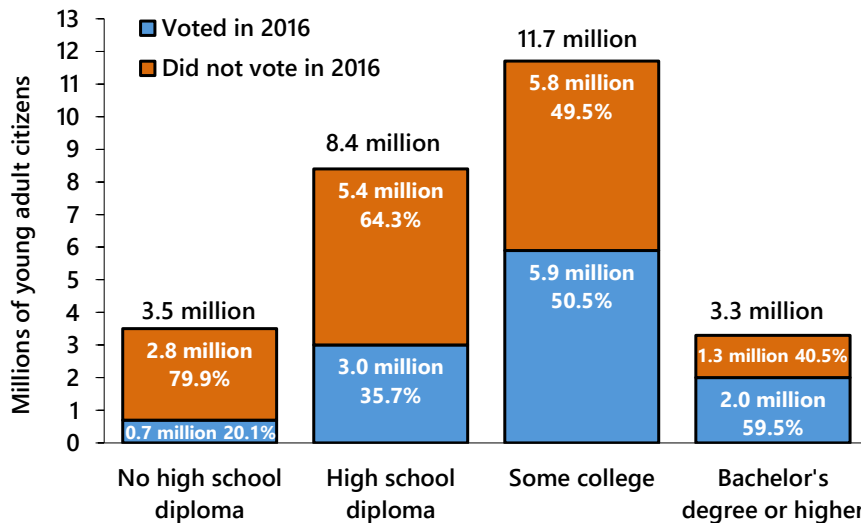
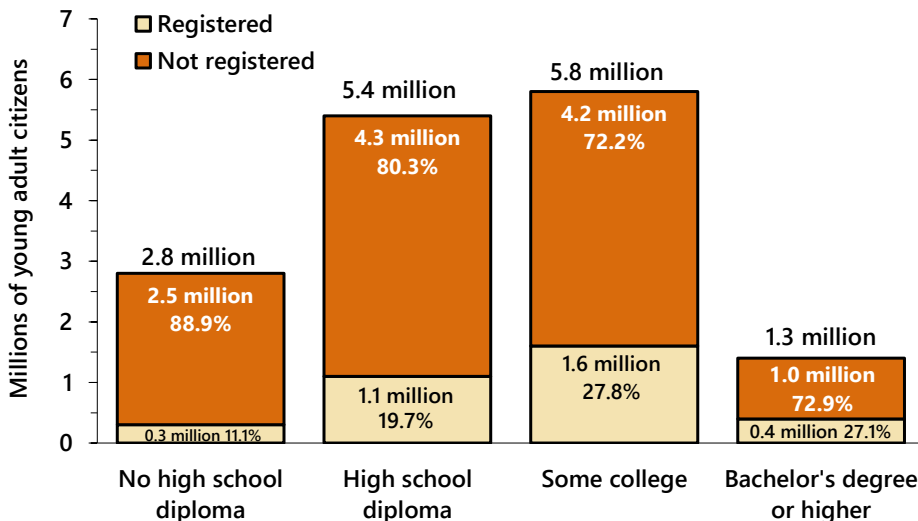


Chart B: Missing Young Adult Voters by Education

Citizens 18 to 24 years old who did not vote in 2016

Total = 15.3 million



Notes

Please note that some numbers may appear not to add up correctly due to rounding. Voting data are from the Current Population Survey (November 2016). Population counts and percentages in this report are statistically-weighted estimates derived by the Bureau of the Census from a national sample of over 90,000 respondents in 54,000 households. Full technical details for the Missing Voters Project, links to the original census data, and other valuable resources are at <https://www.wiise-usa.org/mvp>.

