

FACT SHEET: Voting by Race and Hispanic Origin

Lowest Voting Rate Among Hispanics; Majority of Missing Voters were White

Voting participation varied markedly by race and Hispanic origin in 2016. More than half of non-Hispanic white citizens (65.3%) and Black citizens (58.9%) voted, compared with fewer than half of Hispanic citizens (47.6%) and Asian citizens (49.8%) (Figure 7). The majority of voting age citizens were non-Hispanic white (69%). Consequently the largest number of missing voters were white (40.3 million), despite the highest rate of voting participation (Figure 8). More than three-quarters of missing voters of all ethnicities were not registered prior to the election, with the highest rates of non-registration among Hispanics (81.5%) and Asians (85.2%) (Figure 8).

Whites

The majority (65.3%) of non-Hispanic white citizens voted in 2016 (Figure 7). There were 53.6 million missing voters, including 40.3 million (75.2%) who were not registered to vote prior to the election (Figure 8).

Blacks

More than half (58.9%) of Black citizens voted in 2016 (Figure 7). This resulted in 12.5 million missing voters (Figure 8). Only 24.6% of these missing voters were registered to vote before the election.

Hispanics

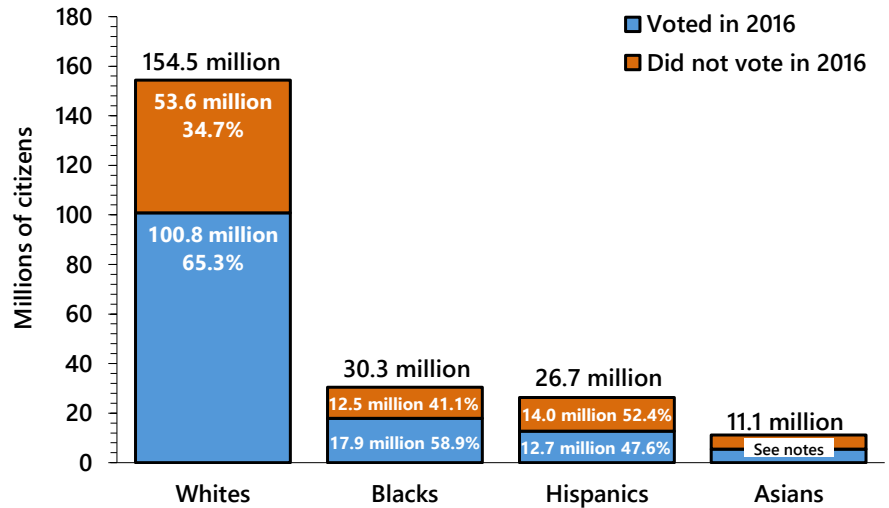
Only 47.6% of Hispanic citizens voted in 2016 (Figure 7), resulting in 14.0 million missing voters. The majority of missing Hispanic voters (11.4 million, 81.5%) were not registered to vote before the election.

Asians

Fewer than half (49.8%) of Asian citizens voted in 2016 (Figure 7). There were 5.6 million missing voters, including 4.7 million (85.2%) who were not registered to vote before the election (Figure 8).

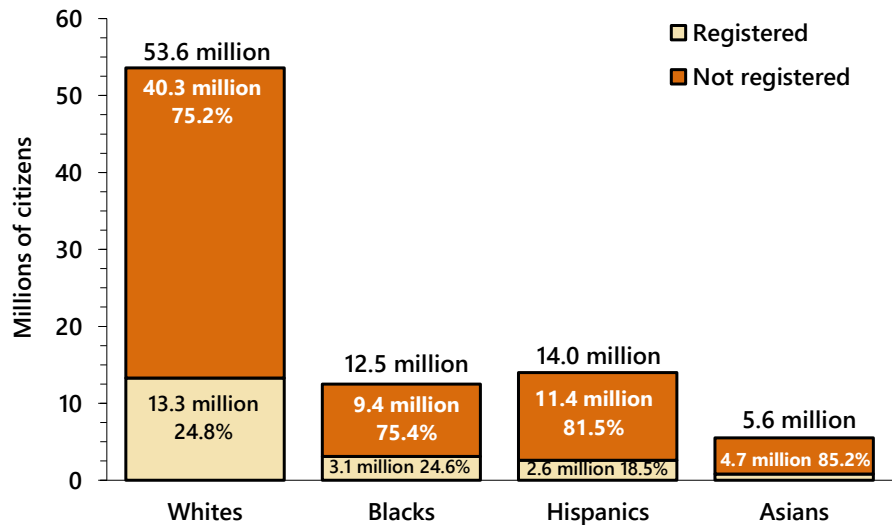
Voting by Race and Hispanic Origin

Citizens 18+ years old in 2016
Total = 224 million



Missing Voters by Race and Hispanic Origin

Citizens 18+ years old who did not vote in 2016
Total = 86.5 Million



Notes

Whites are non-Hispanic, and Hispanics may be of any race. Blacks and Asians include small number of multiracial individuals. For Asians in Figure 7, 5.5 million citizens voted, and 5.6 million did not vote. 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 these charts 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 available at <https://www.wiise-usa.org/mvp>.

