

FACT SHEET: Voting by Age

Young Adults Least Likely to Vote as Voting Rates Increase with Age

Voting participation varied sharply by age in 2016. Only 43% of young adult citizens voted, compared with 70.9% of seniors aged 65 years and older (Figure 3). However, because the senior population is larger, the number of missing young adult voters (15.4 million) was only slightly larger than the number of missing senior voters (13.7 million) (Figure 4). The majority of missing voters were 25 to 44 years old (31.6 million) or 45 to 64 years old (25.9 million) (Figure 4).

Young Adults

Only 43% of the 26.9 million citizens aged 18 to 24 years voted in 2016 (Figure 3). This resulted in 15.4 million missing voters, 12 million of whom (78%) were not registered to vote before the election (Figure 4).

Adults 25-44 Years

Slightly more than half (56.5%) of adults 25 to 44 years old voted in 2016 (Figure 3). This resulted in 31.6 million missing voters (Figure 4). Only 24% of these missing voters were registered to vote before the election.

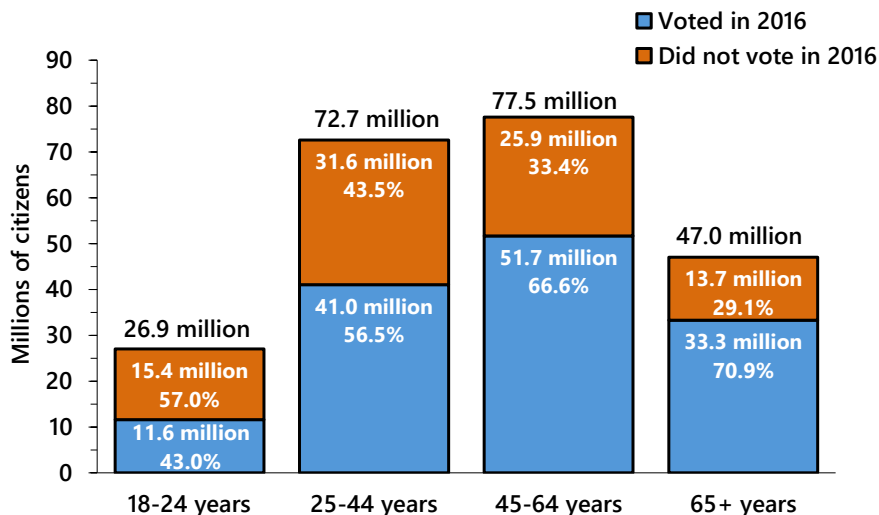
Middle-aged Adults

The largest number of voting age citizens are in this age group (77.5 million), and 66.6% reported voting (Figure 3). There were 25.9 million missing middle-aged voters, including 20.2 million who were not registered to vote in 2016 (Figure 4).

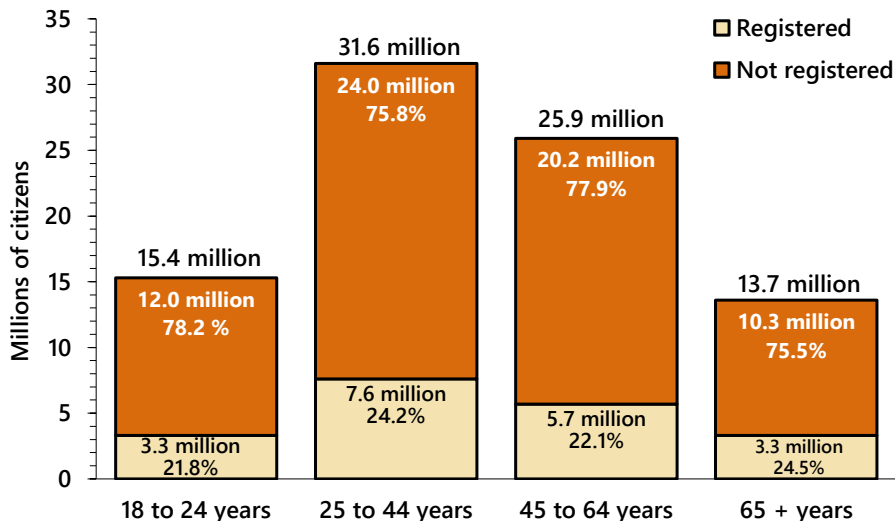
Seniors

There were 47.0 million senior citizens in 2016 and 70.9% of them voted (Figure 3). Among the 13.7 million missing voters, 75.5% were not registered to vote prior to the 2016 election (Figure 4).

Voting by Age
Citizens 18+ years old in 2016
Total = 224 Million



Missing Voters by Age
Citizens 18+ years old who did not vote in 2016
Total = 86.5 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 available at www.wiise-usa.org/mvp.

