



## CIRCLE

The Center for Information & Research on  
Civic Learning & Engagement

### Quick Facts about Young Voters: 2004

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In 2004, voter turnout among young people surged to its highest level in more than a decade. Below is a snapshot of voter participation in the 2004 elections.<sup>2</sup>

#### Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2004

Number of 18-24 year old American citizens eligible to vote: 24.9 million  
Number of people in this group who voted in the 2004 elections: 11.7 million or 47%

Number of American citizens over 25 eligible to vote: 172.1 million  
Number of citizens over 25 who voted in the 2004 elections: 114.1 million or 66%

#### Turnout Among Eligible Young Citizens, age 18-24

47% of young citizens ages 18-24 turned out in 2004 (up 11 percentage points from 2000)

50% of the white population voted (up 11 percentage points from 2000)<sup>3</sup>

47% of African Americans voted (up 11 percentage points from 2000)

36% of Asian Americans voted (up 8 percentage points from 2000)

33% of Latinos voted (up 7 percentage points from 2000)

59% of college citizens voted (up 11 percentage points from 2000)

34% of non-college citizens voted (up 9 percentage points from 2000)

51% of single women voted (up 12 percentage points from 2000)

46% of single men voted (up 10 percentage points from 2000)

44% of married women voted (up 5 percentage points from 2000)

38% of married men voted (up 5 percentage points from 2000)

## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> Research Director, Research Associate, and Graduate Assistant, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> For a full discussion of the different ways voter turnout can be calculated please see "CIRCLE Working Paper 35: The Youth Voter 2004: With a Historical Look at Youth Voting Patterns 1972-2004." All voter turnout estimates presented in this fact sheet are calculated for U.S. citizens only, and according to the "Census Citizen Method" described in CIRCLE Working Paper 35.

<sup>3</sup> We have defined racial/ethnic groups in the 2004 CPS November Supplements by defining anyone with Hispanic background as Latino, single race or ethnicity individuals who are non-Hispanic as white, African American, Asian American or Native American, and those of mixed race/ethnicity as a separate category. Since 2003, the CPS has allowed survey participants to mark more than once racial/ethnic category in describing their backgrounds. This potentially means that 2000 and 2004 may not be entirely comparable when identifying race and ethnicity categories of survey respondents. All programs used to generate race and ethnicity variables are available from the authors upon request.