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The Center for Information & Research on
Civic Learning & Engagement

Youth Demographics

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The size of the youth population in recent years has begun to rival that of the youth population in the mid-1970s and early 1980s. In 2006, there were over 32 million young people between the ages of 18 and 25. There were also 70 million young people under the age of 18. By comparison, the baby boomer generation numbered approximately 77 million in 2006. Table 1 contains estimates of the number of young people by age category between 1968 and 2004. As can be seen, the number of young people has grown in recent years and is likely to continue growing in the foreseeable future. However, young people represent a declining share of the adult population in the U.S.

Today's youth are more racially and ethnically diverse than their predecessors, and better educated. Young people today are also less likely to be married than their counterparts of thirty years ago, and less likely to have any military service record. They are more concentrated in the West and more likely to be unemployed.

In this fact sheet, we explore such demographic characteristics of young people using data from the March Annual Demographic Supplement of the Current Population Survey from 1968 to 2006. Descriptive tables of the size of the youth population for sub-groups are contained in the appendix to this fact sheet.

Table 1—Resident Youth Population Estimates, In Millions

	Ages 18-25	Ages 15-25	Ages 15-17	Ages 18-19	Ages 20-21	Ages 22-25	Ages 0-17
1968	23.3	34.2	10.9	6.5	6.2	10.6	70.5
1970	25.0	36.4	11.4	6.8	6.2	12.0	70.4
1972	28.0	40.2	12.1	7.4	6.9	13.7	69.1
1974	29.0	41.5	12.5	7.8	7.4	13.8	67.3
1976	30.3	42.8	12.5	8.1	7.8	14.3	65.4
1978	31.3	43.7	12.4	8.1	8.1	15.0	63.4
1980	32.2	44.3	12.0	8.2	8.2	15.8	61.9
1982	33.4	44.8	11.5	8.1	8.4	17.0	62.7
1984	33.0	43.9	10.8	7.7	8.1	17.2	62.4
1986	31.6	42.8	11.1	7.2	7.6	16.8	63.0
1988	30.4	41.2	10.8	7.2	7.2	15.9	63.5
1990	29.4	39.4	9.9	7.3	7.0	15.0	64.3
1992	28.1	38.0	10.0	6.6	7.0	14.5	66.2
1994	29.4	40.1	10.8	6.9	6.9	15.5	69.8
1996	29.1	40.6	11.5	7.2	6.9	15.0	71.1
1998	28.7	40.6	11.9	7.6	7.2	13.9	71.7
2000	30.0	42.1	12.0	8.1	7.7	14.3	72.3
2002	31.0	43.1	12.1	7.9	8.1	14.9	72.6
2004	31.7	44.6	12.9	7.5	8.3	16.0	70.0
2006	32.1	45.4	13.2	7.6	8.0	16.5	73.9

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

Table 2—Resident Adult (18 and older) Population Share

	Ages 18-25	Ages 18-19	Ages 20-21	Ages 22-25
1968	18.6%	2.2%	5.0%	8.8%
1970	19.2%	5.3%	4.8%	9.2%
1972	20.7%	5.5%	5.1%	10.1%
1974	20.6%	5.5%	5.3%	9.8%
1976	20.8%	5.6%	5.4%	9.8%
1978	20.8%	5.4%	5.4%	10.0%
1980	20.6%	5.3%	5.2%	10.1%
1982	20.3%	4.9%	5.1%	10.3%
1984	19.5%	4.5%	4.8%	10.2%
1986	18.2%	4.1%	4.4%	9.7%
1988	17.1%	4.1%	4.1%	9.0%
1990	16.2%	4.0%	3.9%	8.3%
1992	15.1%	3.6%	3.8%	7.8%
1994	15.5%	3.6%	3.6%	8.2%
1996	15.1%	3.7%	3.6%	7.8%
1998	14.6%	3.8%	3.7%	7.0%
2000	14.9%	4.0%	3.8%	7.1%
2002	14.8%	3.8%	3.9%	7.1%
2004	14.8%	3.5%	3.9%	7.4%
2006	14.7%	3.5%	3.7%	7.5%

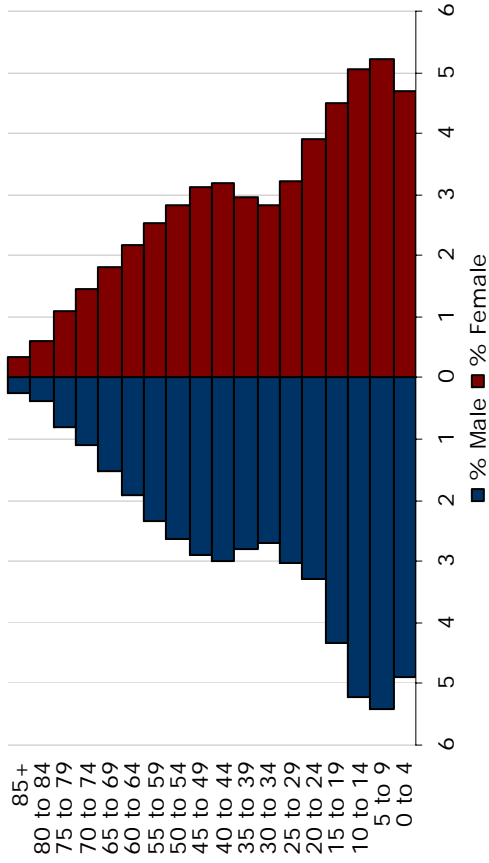
Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

Population Pyramids

In order to assess the relative size of the youth population compared to other age groups, we present population pyramids of the U.S. resident population. The progress of the baby boomer generation can be viewed in Figures 1A to 1C. In 1968, they are the numerous group that is between five and 14 years old; they move up in the subsequent graphs.

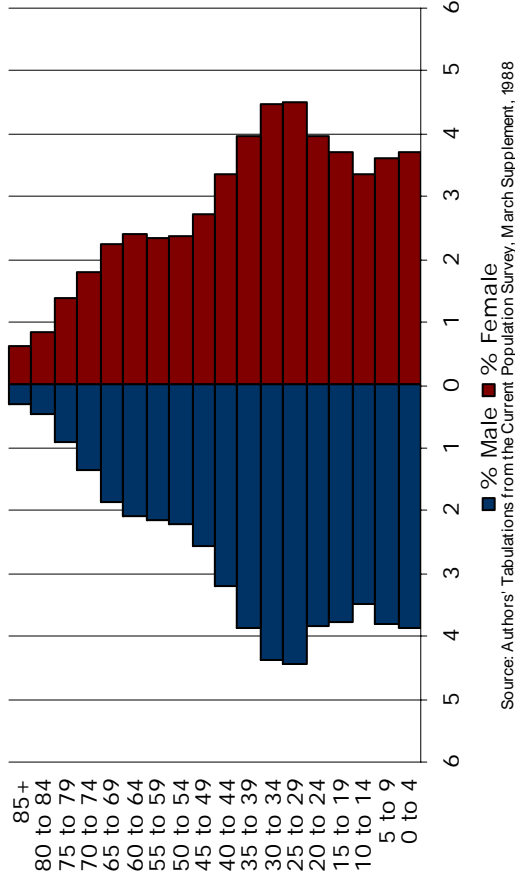
Figures 2A to 2D show population pyramids for racial and ethnic groups in 2006. The differences are substantial. First, the Hispanic population is more likely to be young and male than any other group. Second, among African Americans, for older age groups, women outnumber men. Third, the African American and Hispanic populations are similar in the sense that they boast the largest percentages of young people—typically making up over 4 percent of their population per age bracket. Fourth, Asian Americans are concentrated in the 30 to 39 year old age bracket (unlike Whites, whose largest cohort is between 40 and 49, thanks to the Baby Boom). And last, white and Asian American youth make up a smaller percentage of their population pyramid than young African Americans and Hispanics do of their population pyramids.

Figure 1A: 1968 U.S. Population Pyramid



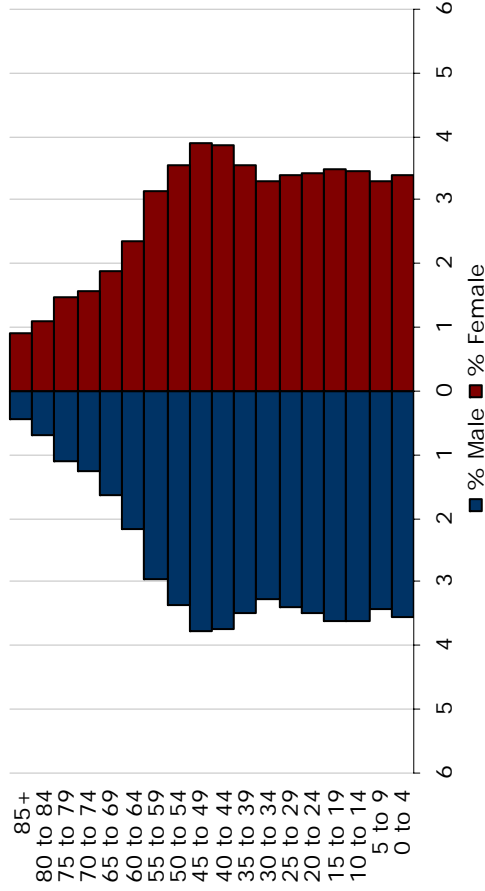
Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplement, 1968

Figure 1B: 1988 U.S. Population Pyramid



Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplement, 1988

Figure 1C: 2006 U.S. Population Pyramid



Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplement, 2006

Figure 2A : 2006 U.S. Population Pyramid, Whites

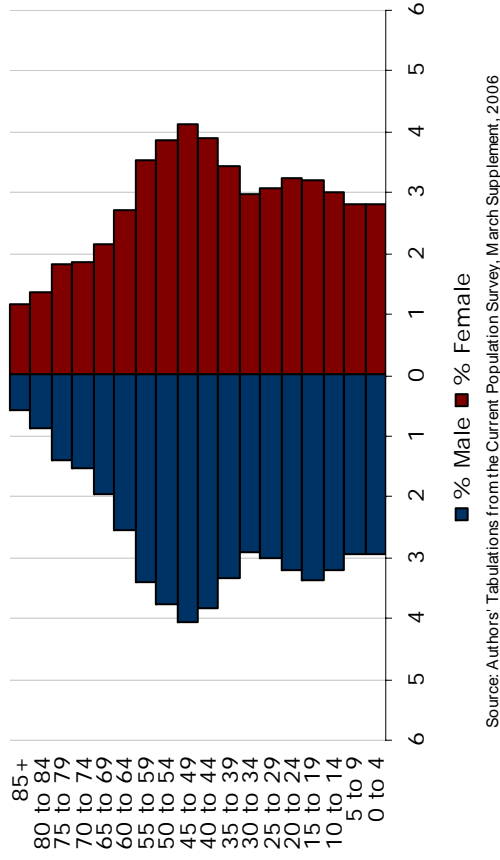


Figure 2B : 2006 Population Pyramid, African Americans

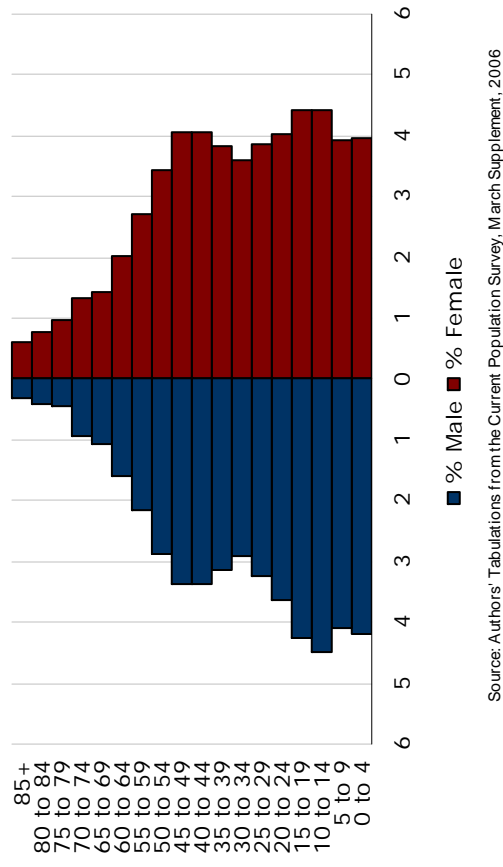


Figure 2C: 2006 U.S. Population Pyramid, Hispanics

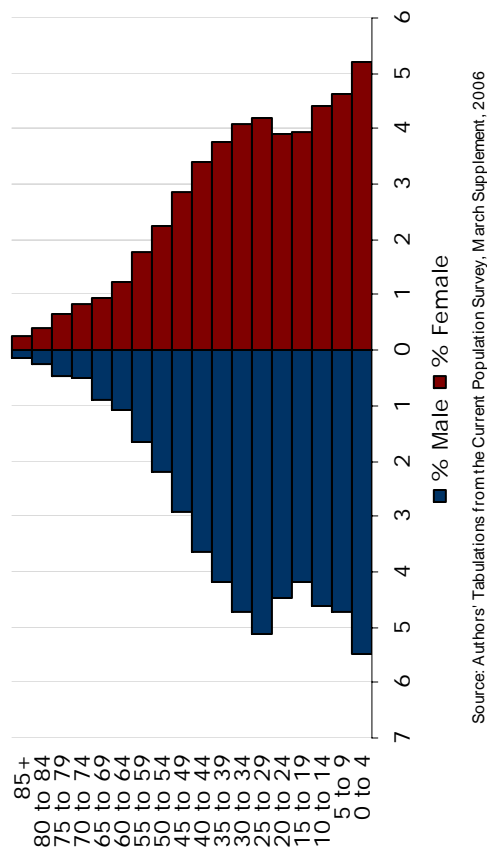
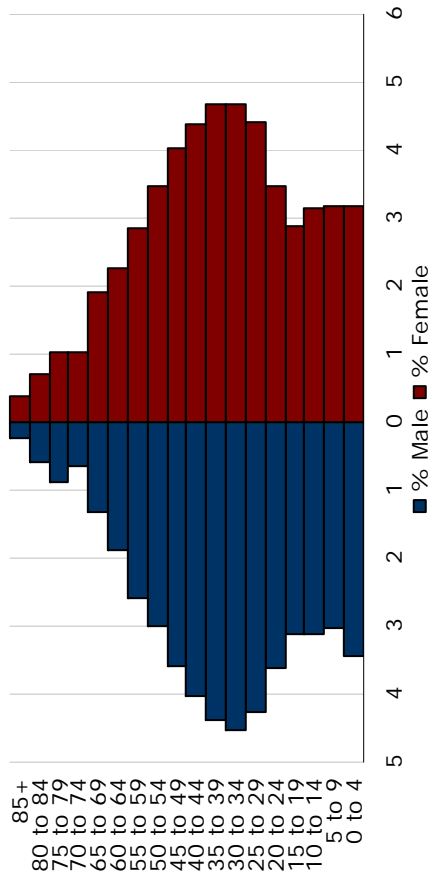


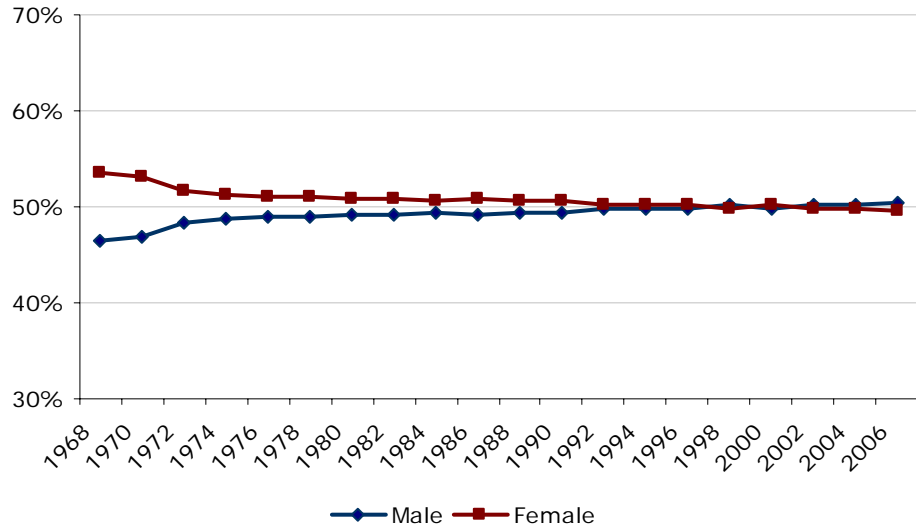
Figure 2D: 2006 U.S. Population Pyramid, Asian Pacific Islander American



Gender Distribution

Among young people, the distribution of gender has been narrowing over time. While young females represented a significant majority of young people for most of the time since 1968, young males became the majority for the first time in 30 years in 1998.

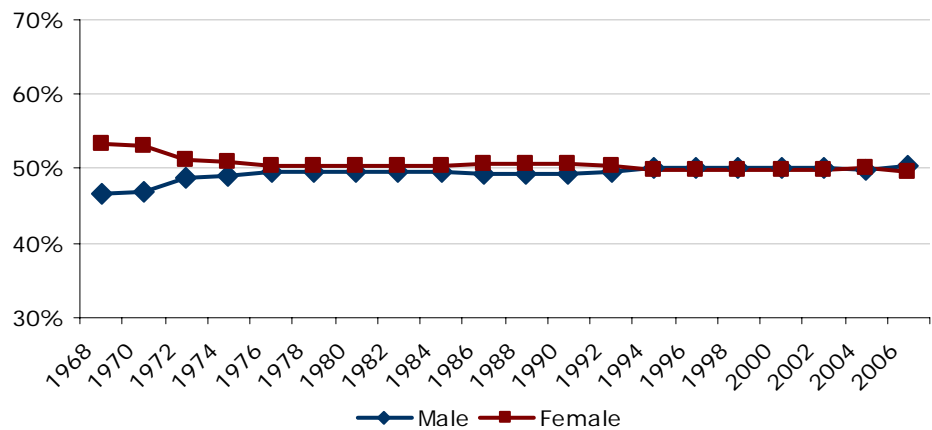
Figure 3: Gender, Ages 18-25



Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

The change in the distribution of gender does not apply for all racial and ethnic groups, however. Figure 4 shows the gender distribution for young whites and suggests little change in the gender split between 1968 and 2006. Males represented a greater share of young whites from 1994 to 2006 (except for 2004).

Figure 4: White Gender, Ages 18-25



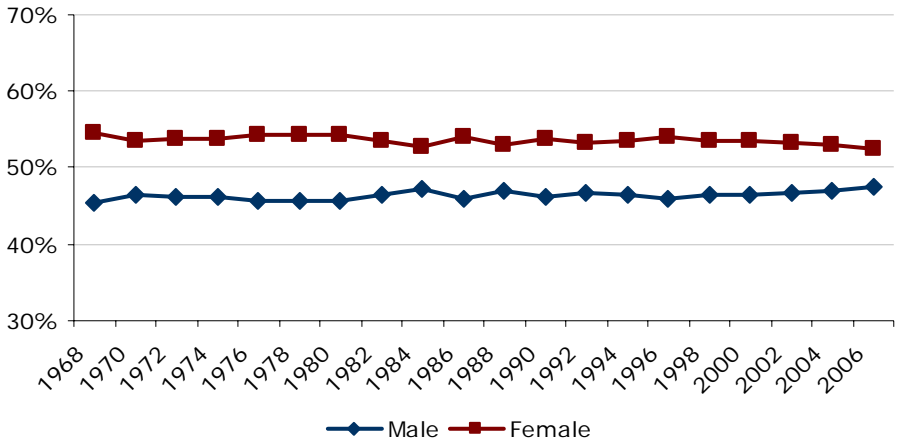
Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

Figure 5 depicts the relatively steady distribution of gender between African American

young people. Young females are in the majority among African Americans, but this is not the case for Hispanics and Asians.

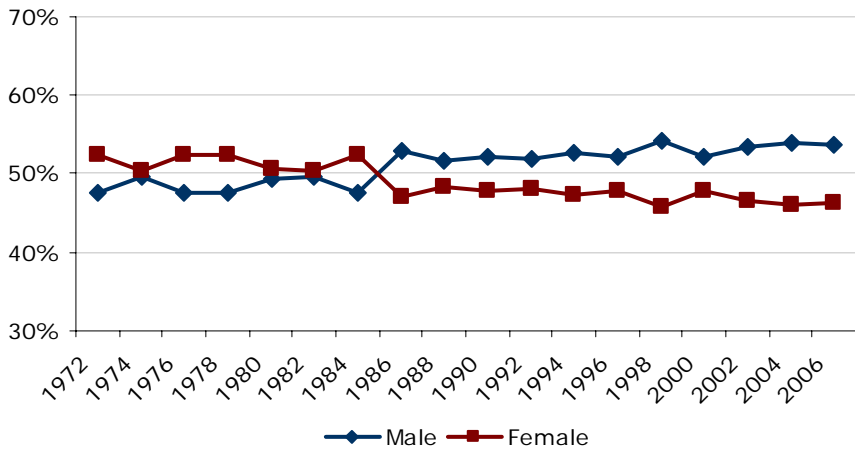
Figures 6 and 7 show young males in the majority among Hispanics and Asians. Hispanics and Asians demonstrate the most volatile shifts in the gender split among racial/ethnic groups.

≡ **Figure 5: African American Gender, Ages 18-25**



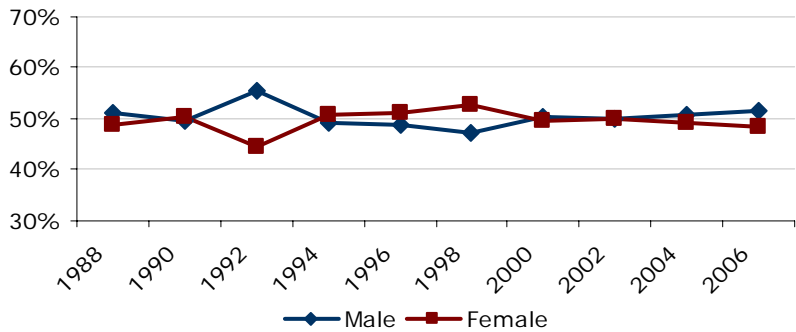
Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

≡ **Figure 6: Hispanic Gender, Ages 18-25**



Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

≡ **Figure 7: Asian Gender, Ages 18-25**



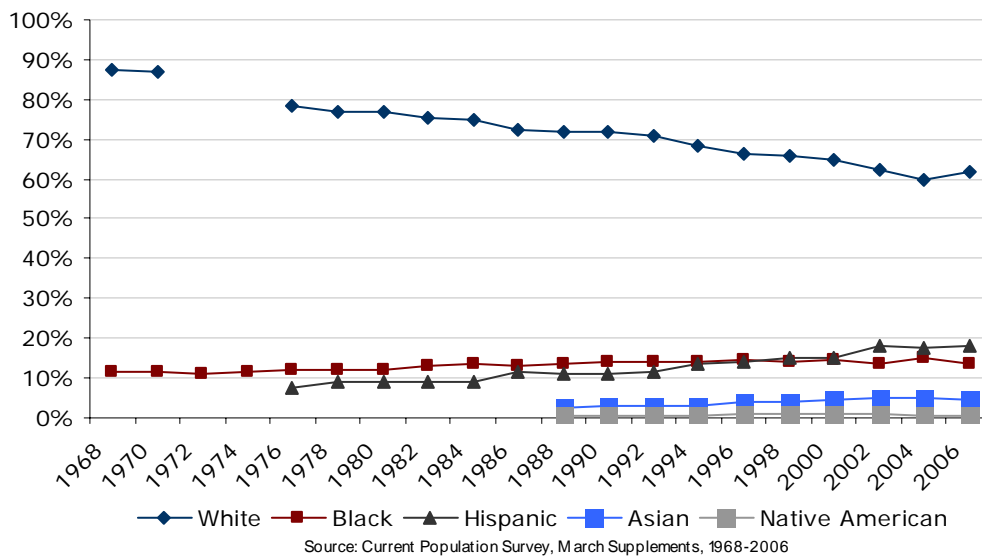
Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplement, 1988-2006

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Young People

Over the last 35 years, the population of young people ages 18-25 has grown more racially and ethnically diverse, and is likely to continue to do as young African American and Hispanic populations 17 and younger enter the 18-25 year old age group.

Figure 8 displays the trend in the composition of the 18-25 year old youth resident population from 1968 to 2006². Between 1968 and 2006, the percentage of young residents who are white has fallen from 88 percent in 1968 to 62 percent in 2006. During the same period, the percentage of young people who are African American or Hispanic has grown by 2.3 and 10.6 percentage points respectively. The percentage of Asian and Native American young residents has also increased, but has dropped slightly in 2006.

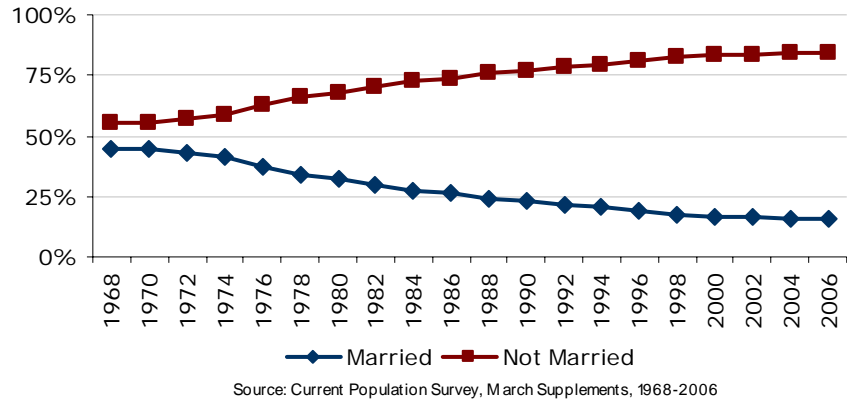
Figure 8: Race and Ethnicity, Ages 18-25



Marital Status of Young Residents

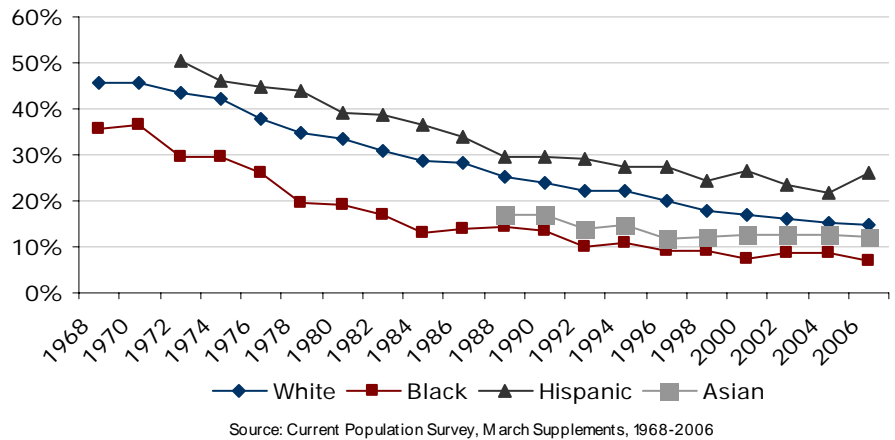
One of the most striking demographic trends among young people over the past 35 years is the decline in the percent of young people who are married. Since 1968, young people have become more likely to delay their time to first marriage. Figure 9 shows the trend in marital status for young residents ages 18 to 25. Only 15.4 of young people in this age group were married in 2006.

Figure 9: Marital Status, Ages 18-25



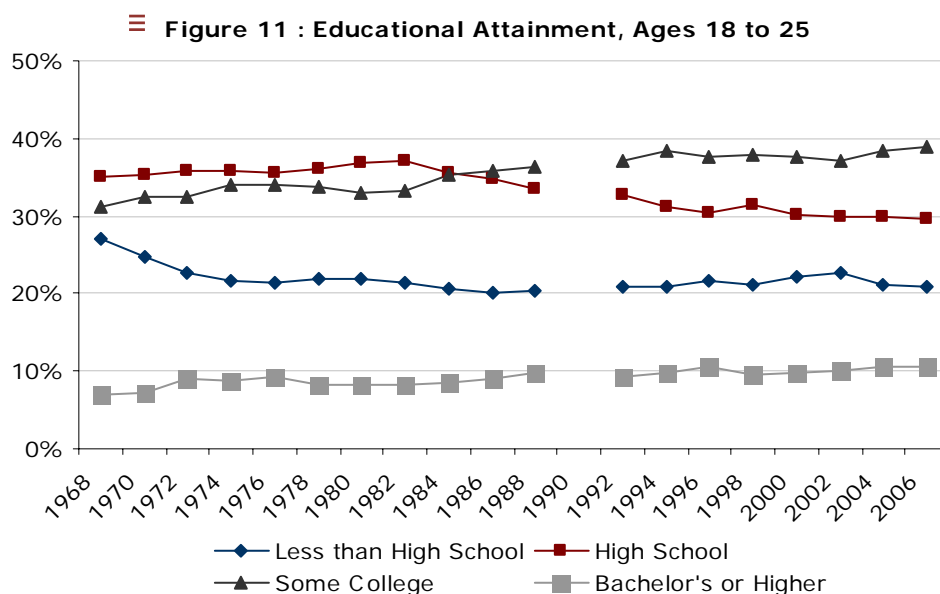
The pattern observed in Figure 9 is evident for each racial/ethnic group (See Figure 10). Historically, African and Asian Americans have the lowest marriage rates; whites and Hispanics report the highest levels of marriage. However, while young Hispanics have the highest marriage rate in 2004. Whites have exhibited the largest decline in marriage rates between 1968 and 2006—a 29 percentage point decline.

Figure 10: Marriage Rates, Ages 18 to 25, by Race/Ethnicity



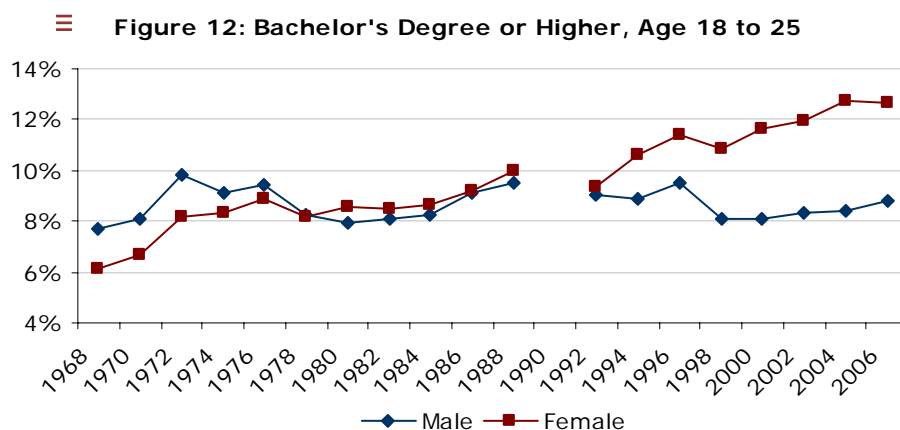
Educational Attainment³

More young people today are enrolled in college or have completed a bachelor's degree or higher than in 1968. The percentage of young people who have completed a high school degree or less has decreased since 1968. Overall, young people in 2006 had more educational attainment than their counterparts in 1968. Figure 11 illustrates these trends from 1968 to 2006.



Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

While educational attainment is up among all young people over the last 35 years, there are some large differences between groups of young people in educational attainment progress. Since 1992, young males have lagged behind young females in obtaining a college degree by the age of 25. Figure 12 shows that the percentage of young females who have a bachelor's degree has steadily increased since the late 1960s. In contrast, the percentage of young males with a bachelor's degree has declined slightly in recent years with a small increase in 2006. Today, females ages 18 to 25 were more likely to have a bachelor's degree than their male counterparts by a margin of 3.8 percentage points. Also, the percentage of young males with a bachelor's degree or higher was lower in 2006 than most of the 1970s and 1990s.



Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

Figures 13-16 show that the pattern of educational attainment varies by race and ethnicity. Across all races and ethnicities, the percentage of young people with some college training has increased since 1968; in addition, the percentage of young people with a bachelor's degree or higher has grown slightly from 1968 to 2006, although Whites and Asians are much more likely to have attended college than their 1968 counterparts. Hispanics are the least likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher and are the most likely to have less than a high school diploma. The Pew Hispanic Center reports that while many Latinos are pursuing higher education, they are the least likely to go to college full-time.⁴ This fact may have a depressive influence on Latino college graduation and retention rates.

Figure 13: White Educational Attainment, Ages 18 to 25

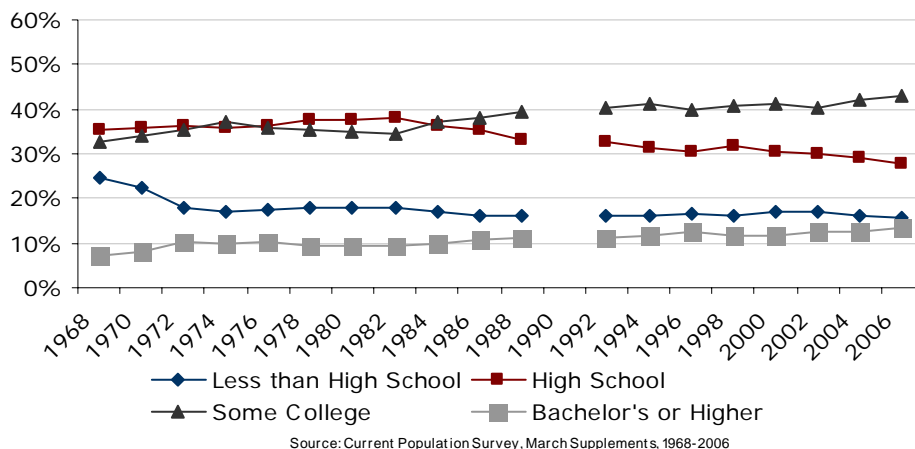


Figure 14 : African American Educational Attainment, Ages 18 to 25

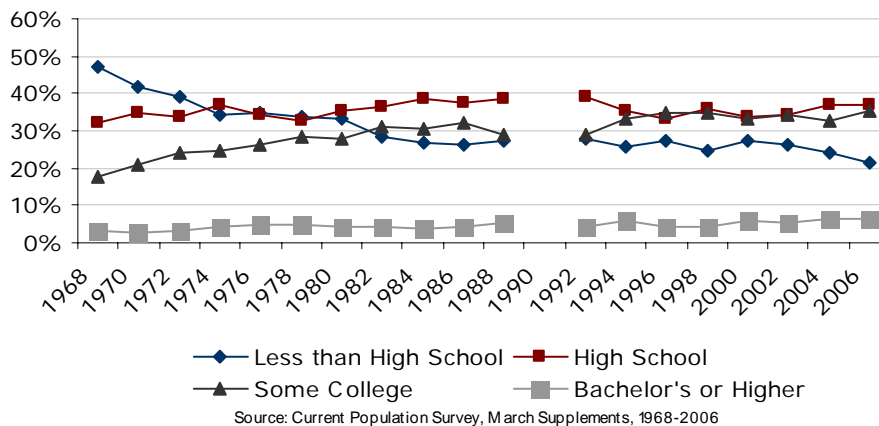
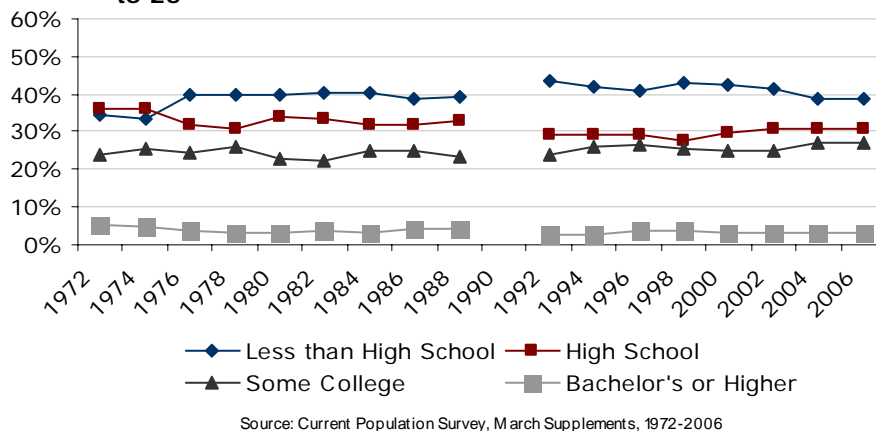
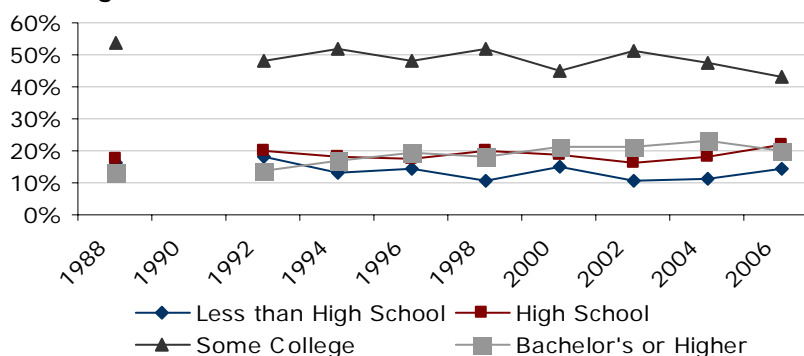


Figure 15: Hispanic Educational Attainment, Ages 18 to 25



≡ **Figure 16: Asian American Educational Attainment, Ages 18 to 25**



Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1988-2006

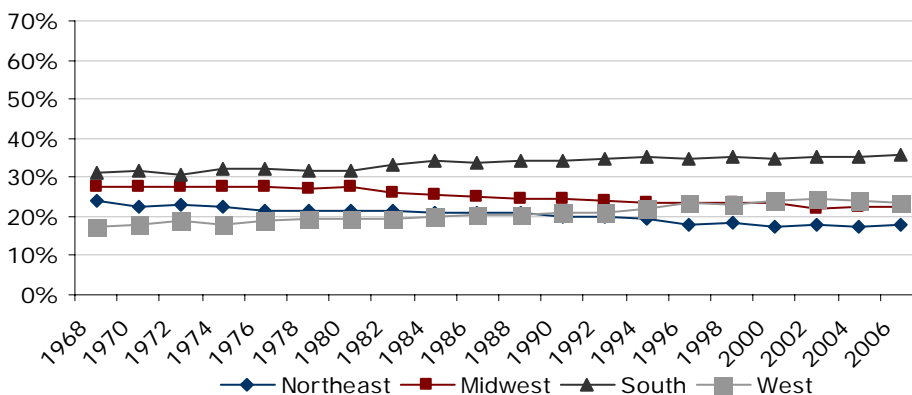
Geographic Regions⁵

Young people are not evenly dispersed across the U.S., nor has their geographic distribution been constant over the 1968 to 2006 period. Figure 17 displays the changing geographic distribution of young people, ages 18 to 25 since 1968. Over this period, a growing

plurality of young people have lived in the south, but the midwest and northeast witnessed declining youth populations.

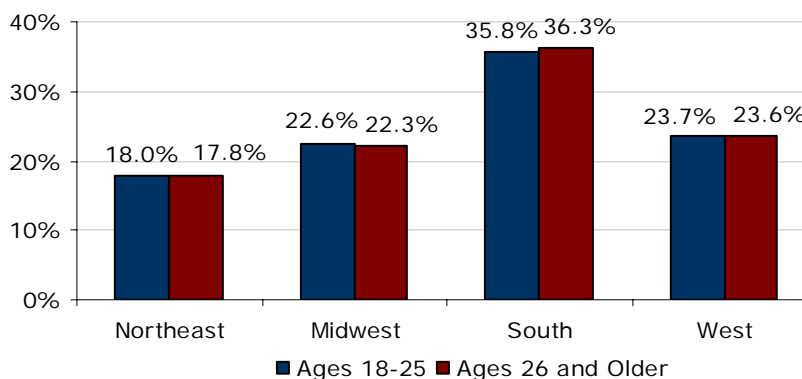
Today, young people are least likely to live in the Northeast. The percentage of young people living in the West region has grown by 6.3 percentage points since

≡ **Figure 17 : Geographic Distribution, Ages 18 to 25**



Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

≡ **Figure 18: 2006 Geographic Distribution**



Source: Current Population Survey, March Supplement, 2006

1968—the largest gain for any region.

The region where young people live varies by race and ethnicity. Figures 19-22 show the geographic distribution over time, by race and ethnicity. Whites and African Americans are least likely to live in the West region, while Hispanics and Asian Americans are most likely to live in the West region. The percentage of Whites living in the West has increased between 1968 and 2006. Whites and African Americans are most likely to live in the South, which is the most populous region for people ages 18 to 25. Hispanics have become increasingly likely to live in the South between 1990 and 2006; during the same period, the percentage of Hispanics living in the West has decreased.

Figure 19: White Geographic Distribution, Ages 18 to 25

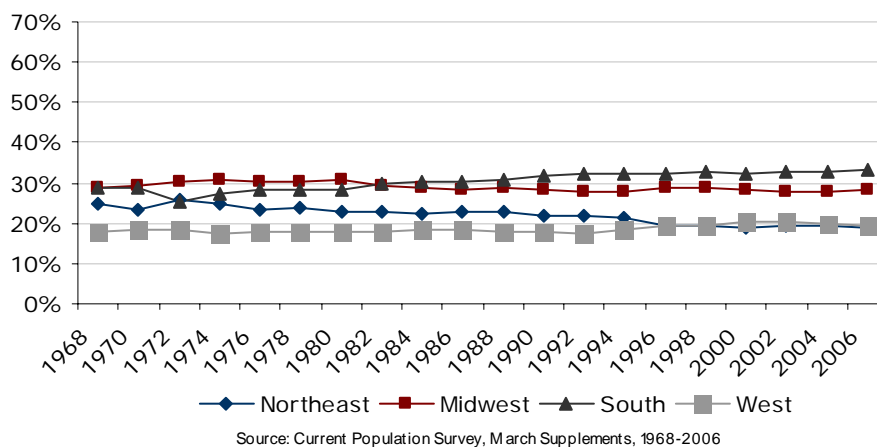


Figure 20: African American Geographic Distribution, Ages 18 to 25

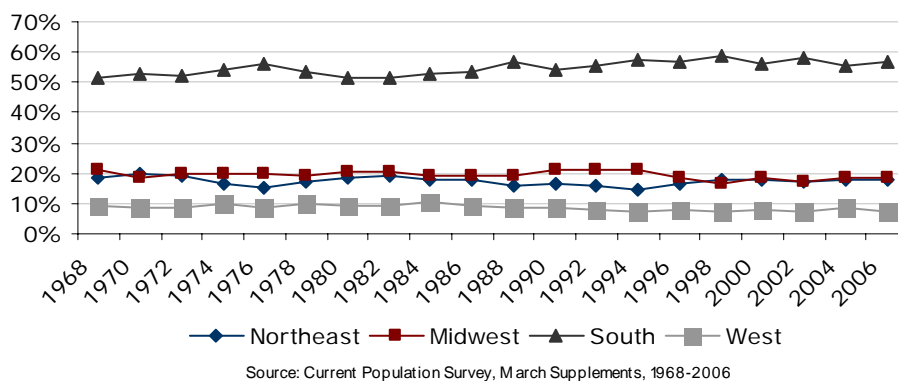
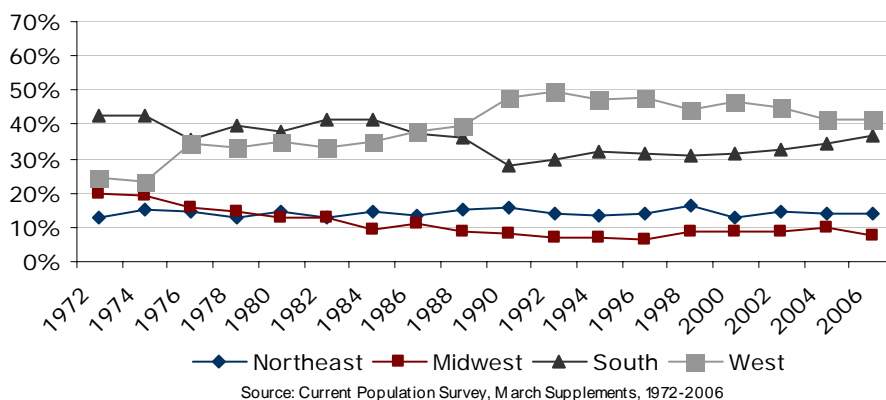
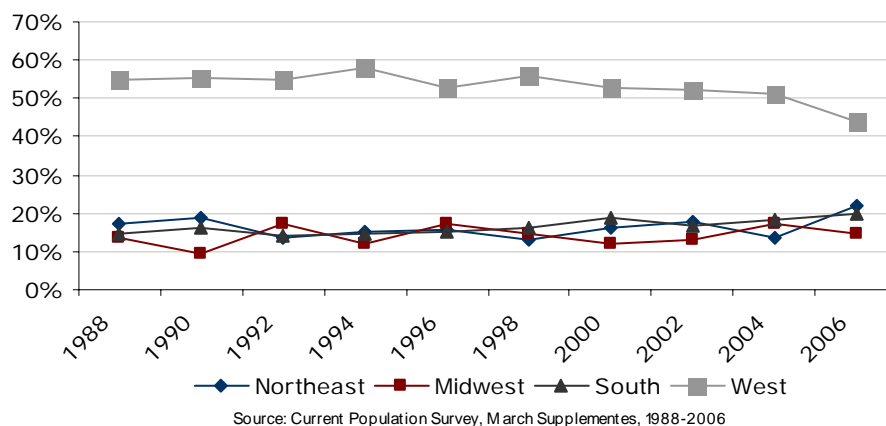


Figure 21: Hispanic Geographic Distribution, Ages 18 to 25



≡ **Figure 22: Asian American Geographic Distribution, Ages 18 to 25**



Metropolitan Statistical Area

In 2006, 85.8 percent of young people lived in a metropolitan statistical area (MSA). (The rest lived in rural areas or small cities.) Young people are less likely to live in the central city (30 percent) of an MSA than in the suburbs (42 percent). Table 3 shows the MSAs with the greatest number of young people and the share of the local population young people represent. As expected, the largest metropolitan areas also have the greatest number of young people, but not necessarily the highest local youth population share.

Table 3—2005 Resident Youth (Ages 18-25) Population Estimates by Metropolitan Statistical Area

Rank	Metropolitan Area	Population Estimates in Thousands	% Share of MSA Adult population (18 and older)
1	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island	1,926	13.7%
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana	1,576	16.3%
3	Chicago-Naperville-Joliet	1,045	16.0%
4	Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington	658	15.6%
5	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria	618	14.7%
6	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land	580	16.3%
7	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy	542	15.4%
8	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta	532	15.5%
9	Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Miami Beach	500	12.3%
10	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington	481	11.8%

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplement, 2005

Service in the Armed Forces

Since mid 1970s, the percentage of young people who are either active military or veterans of the armed forces has declined. This trend is exhibited in figure 23. To a large extent this is a function of the elimination of the draft in 1974.

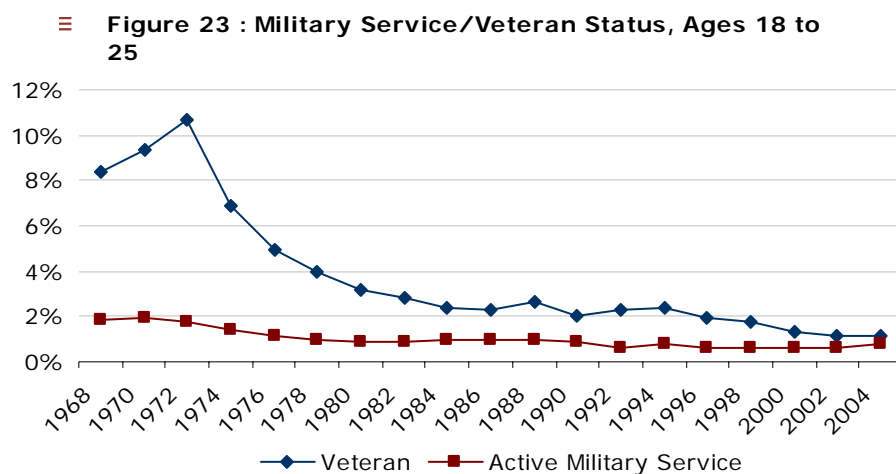


Table 4 lists the demographic characteristics of active armed servicemembers and veterans in 2004 and 1968. Women have greatly increased their participation in the armed forces. Armed servicemembers also report higher levels of educational attainment (many now have some college experience). Over 50 percent of all veterans in 2004 are from the South.

Table 4—Demographics of 18-25s Who are in Active Military Service or Veterans

	2004		1968	
	Veteran	In Military	Veteran	In Military
<i>Sex</i>				
Male	82.7%	86.9%	100.0%	99.5%
Female	17.3%	13.1%	*	0.5%
<i>Educational Attainment</i>				
Less than High School	3.7%	3.7%	16.7%	11.9%
High School	53.1%	44.1%	52.9%	48.9%
Some college	40.8%	48.4%	26.3%	26.5%
Bachelor's or Higher	2.4%	3.8%	4.1%	12.7%
<i>Region</i>				
Northeast	11.8%	8.2%	24.4%	20.2%
Midwest	21.1%	11.9%	30.8%	17.5%
South	52.6%	39.4%	26.2%	31.2%
West	14.6%	40.5%	18.6%	31.2%
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>				
White	68.1%	68.4%	91.4%	92.6%
Black	10.4%	5.1%	7.8%	6.6%
Hispanic	16.0%	19.5%	***	***
Asian	3.0%	4.1%	***	***
<i>Nativity Status</i>				
U.S.-Born to only U.S.-Born Parents	80.8%	82.5%	***	***
U.S.-Born to one U.S.-Born Parent and one Foreign-Born Parent	6.7%	2.5%	***	***
U.S.-Born to only Foreign-Born Parents	7.0%	7.5%	***	***
Foreign-Born to only Foreign-Born Parents	5.6%	7.5%	***	***

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplement, 1968 and 2004. * Not Applicable.

Youth Labor Force

After a sharp increase in the unemployment rate between 2000 to 2002, 2006 witnessed a decline in the unemployment rate of young people, ages 18 to 25. In 2006 the youth unemployment rate was 8.6 percent. For all adults, in 2004, the unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in 2006. As has been the case over the last 35 years, young people have higher unemployment rates than their adult counterparts.

Young People ages 15 to 17

As shown in Figure 24, young people today, ages 15 to 17, are more likely to be unemployed than their 1968 counterparts⁶. However, the number of working young people, ages 15 to 17, has recently increased, reflecting better job market prospects generally. There were 2.39 million working young people in 2006.

Young People Ages 18 to 25

Figure 26 shows a less volatile trend than figure Figure 26. The relative smoothness of the

Figure 24 : Unemployment Rate

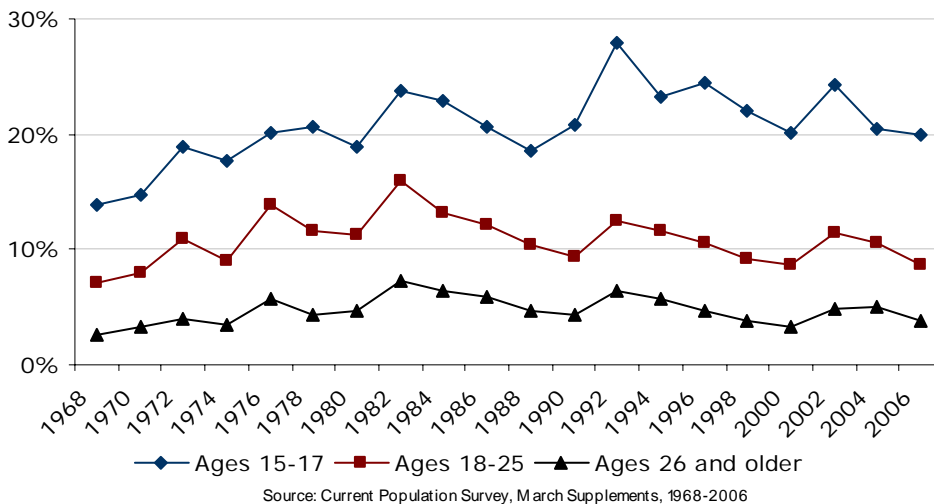


Figure 25 : Working Young People, Ages 15 to 17, In Thousands

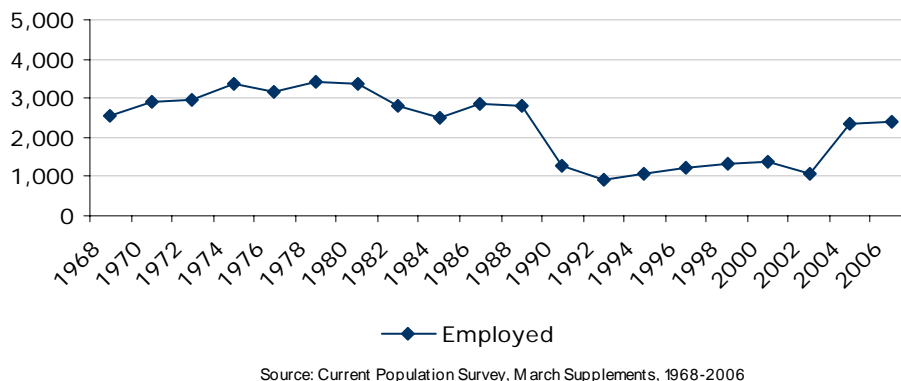
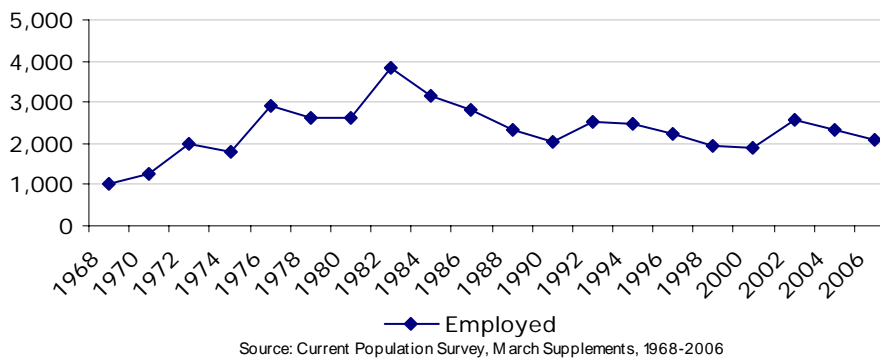


Figure 26: Working Young People, Ages 18 to 25, In Thousands



population of employed young people when compared to the unemployment rate in figure 26 is attributed to young people moving in and out of the labor force—most likely to pursue educational attainment opportunities, especially in leaner economic years.

Appendix

Table A—Population Share, Residents, Ages 18-25

	Male	Female	White	African American	Hispanic	Asian American
1968	46.4%	53.6%	87.5%	11.4%	N/A	N/A
1970	46.9%	53.1%	87.2%	11.7%	N/A	N/A
1972	48.3%	51.7%	N/A	11.0%	N/A	N/A
1974	48.7%	51.3%	N/A	11.5%	N/A	N/A
1976	48.9%	51.1%	78.5%	12.0%	7.7%	N/A
1978	48.9%	51.1%	77.1%	12.2%	8.9%	N/A
1980	49.2%	50.8%	76.7%	12.2%	9.0%	N/A
1982	49.2%	50.8%	75.4%	13.0%	9.1%	N/A
1984	49.3%	50.7%	75.0%	13.4%	8.9%	N/A
1986	49.2%	50.8%	72.5%	13.2%	11.3%	N/A
1988	49.4%	50.6%	72.0%	13.6%	11.2%	2.6%
1990	49.3%	50.7%	71.7%	13.8%	10.9%	3.0%
1992	49.7%	50.3%	70.7%	14.3%	11.3%	3.0%
1994	49.9%	50.1%	68.5%	14.0%	13.5%	3.2%
1996	49.8%	50.2%	66.2%	14.4%	14.3%	4.3%
1998	50.2%	49.9%	65.8%	14.3%	15.1%	4.1%
2000	49.9%	50.1%	65.0%	14.7%	15.0%	4.5%
2002	50.2%	49.8%	62.2%	13.8%	18.2%	4.9%
2004	50.2%	49.8%	59.6%	15.3%	17.8%	4.8%
2005	50.3%	49.7%	61.6%	13.6%	18.2%	4.3%
2006	50.5%	49.5%	61.6%	13.7%	17.9%	4.6%

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

Table B—Educational Attainment, Residents, Ages 18-25

	Less than High School	High School	Some College	Bachelor's or Higher
1968	27.0%	35.0%	31.1%	6.9%
1970	24.7%	35.4%	32.6%	7.3%
1972	22.7%	35.9%	32.5%	9.0%
1974	21.6%	35.7%	34.0%	8.7%
1976	21.4%	35.5%	33.9%	9.2%
1978	21.9%	36.1%	33.8%	8.2%
1980	22.0%	36.7%	33.1%	8.2%
1982	21.3%	37.2%	33.2%	8.3%
1984	20.6%	35.6%	35.4%	8.4%
1986	20.2%	34.7%	35.9%	9.1%
1988	20.4%	33.5%	36.4%	9.8%
1990	*	*	*	*
1992	21.0%	32.7%	37.1%	9.2%
1994	20.8%	31.1%	38.4%	9.7%
1996	21.6%	30.3%	37.6%	10.5%
1998	21.2%	31.3%	38.0%	9.5%
2000	22.2%	30.3%	37.7%	9.9%
2002	22.7%	30.0%	37.2%	10.2%
2004	22.7%	29.7%	37.9%	9.7%
2005	21.0%	29.9%	38.4%	10.8%
2006	20.8%	29.6%	38.9%	10.7%

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006. * Not reported. See Note 3.

Table C—Marital, Employment, and Military Share, Residents, Ages 18-25

	Married	Unemployed	Veteran	Active Military Service
1968	44.5%	7.1%	8.4%	1.9%
1970	44.4%	8.0%	9.4%	2.0%
1972	43.0%	11.0%	10.6%	1.7%
1974	41.2%	9.1%	6.8%	1.4%
1976	37.1%	13.8%	5.0%	1.2%
1978	33.6%	11.7%	4.0%	1.0%
1980	32.0%	11.3%	3.2%	0.9%
1982	29.6%	16.0%	2.8%	0.9%
1984	27.1%	13.2%	2.4%	1.0%
1986	26.8%	12.1%	2.3%	1.0%
1988	24.0%	10.4%	2.6%	1.0%
1990	23.0%	9.3%	2.1%	0.9%
1992	21.2%	12.5%	2.3%	0.6%
1994	21.0%	11.7%	2.4%	0.8%
1996	19.1%	10.5%	2.0%	0.6%
1998	17.2%	9.2%	1.8%	0.6%
2000	16.7%	8.6%	1.3%	0.6%
2002	16.3%	11.5%	1.2%	0.7%
2004	15.3%	10.6%	1.0%	0.8%
2005	15.8%	10.4%	1.3%	0.6%
2006	15.4%	8.6%	**	**

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006. ** Unable to generate reliable estimates.

Table D—Region Share, Residents, Ages 18-25

	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
1968	23.9%	27.7%	31.1%	17.3%
1970	22.7%	27.7%	31.6%	18.1%
1972	23.2%	27.5%	30.6%	18.7%
1974	22.3%	27.3%	32.4%	18.0%
1976	21.4%	27.7%	32.0%	18.9%
1978	21.7%	27.2%	31.9%	19.2%
1980	21.5%	27.6%	31.7%	19.3%
1982	21.2%	26.0%	33.5%	19.3%
1984	20.8%	25.3%	34.0%	19.9%
1986	20.7%	25.0%	33.9%	20.4%
1988	20.7%	24.7%	34.4%	20.2%
1990	20.1%	24.7%	34.0%	21.2%
1992	19.9%	24.2%	34.9%	21.0%
1994	19.2%	23.6%	35.1%	22.2%
1996	18.0%	23.6%	34.8%	23.5%
1998	18.2%	23.4%	35.4%	23.1%
2000	17.6%	23.3%	34.9%	24.2%
2002	18.0%	21.9%	35.3%	24.8%
2004	17.5%	22.5%	36.0%	24.0%
2005	17.5%	22.4%	36.3%	23.8%
2006	18.0%	22.6%	35.8%	23.7%

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1968-2006

Table E—Population Share Among U.S. Citizens, Ages 18-25

	Male	Female	White	African American	Hispanic	Asian American
1994	49.6%	50.4%	74.2%	14.7%	8.4%	1.9%
1996	49.6%	50.4%	71.7%	15.2%	9.4%	2.7%
1998	49.6%	50.4%	71.2%	15.0%	10.3%	2.7%
2000	49.2%	50.9%	70.9%	15.6%	9.9%	2.7%
2002	49.4%	50.6%	68.7%	14.5%	12.3%	3.3%
2004	50.4%	49.6%	68.0%	14.3%	12.2%	3.2%
2005	50.3%	49.7%	67.6%	14.5%	12.0%	3.3%
2006	49.6%	50.4%	67.4%	14.6%	12.0%	3.5%

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1994-2006

Table F—Educational Attainment Among U.S. Citizens, Ages 18-25

	Less than High School	High School	Some College	Bachelor's or Higher
1994	18.4%	31.7%	39.7%	10.2%
1996	19.4%	31.1%	38.8%	10.7%
1998	19.0%	32.0%	39.4%	9.7%
2000	19.9%	30.7%	39.3%	10.1%
2002	19.9%	30.6%	39.2%	10.4%
2004	18.4%	30.3%	40.3%	10.9%
2005	18.4%	29.9%	40.4%	11.3%
2006	18.3%	26.7%	41.1%	11.0%

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1994-2006

Table G—Marriage, Employment, Veteran, and In Military Share Among U.S. Citizens, Ages 18-25

	Married	Unemployed	Veteran	Active Military Service
1994	20.3%	11.7%	2.7%	0.8%
1996	18.0%	10.6%	2.2%	0.6%
1998	16.2%	9.2%	1.9%	0.6%
2000	15.5%	8.7%	1.4%	0.6%
2002	15.0%	11.8%	1.3%	0.7%
2004	14.0%	10.9%	1.2%	0.8%
2005	14.4%	10.8%	1.4%	0.7%
2006	13.6%	8.9%	**	**

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1994-2006. ** Unable to generate reliable estimates.

Table H—Region Share Among U.S. Citizens, Ages 18-25

	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
1994	19.3%	25.0%	36.1%	19.6%
1996	18.2%	25.0%	36.0%	20.9%
1998	17.8%	24.7%	36.5%	21.1%
2000	17.4%	24.7%	36.1%	21.8%
2002	17.7%	23.4%	36.1%	22.9%
2004	17.6%	23.8%	35.9%	22.7%
2005	17.6%	23.7%	36.3%	22.4%
2006	18.0%	24.1%	35.6%	22.3%

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1994-2006

Notes

¹ Research Director and Research Associate, respectively. This fact sheet is an update of a previous CIRCLE fact sheet on youth demographics released in October of 2002. We thank Peter Levine, Emily Kirby, Abby Kiesa, and Deborah Both for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

² Prior to 1990, the Current Population Survey allowed individuals to categorize their race/ethnicity as “other.” Those classifications have been suppressed here.

³ We do not report educational attainment from 1990. The 1990 educational recode does not properly align with other years. The Current Population Survey changed their questioning format in 1990 in regards to educational attainment. From 1990 to the present, the Current Population Survey determines what level of educational attainment has been reached. Prior to 1990, survey respondents reported the highest grade attended. In this fact sheet, educational attainment prior to 1990 has been collapsed into the following manner: respondents reporting schooling up to 11th grade was “less than high school;” 12th grade was “high school; grades 13-15 was “some college”; and 16th grade and higher was considered “bachelor’s or higher.” For a discussion of this method, see “Estimation of Sheepskin Effects and Returning to Schooling Using the Old and the New CPS Measures of Educational Attainment.” Jin Huem Park. 1994. Princeton, Department of Economics—Industrial Relations Sections. Visit: <http://ideas.repec.org/s/fth/prinin.html>

⁴ Fry, Richard. “Latinos in Higher Education: Many Enroll, Too Few Graduate.” The Pew Hispanic Center. September 2002. Visit: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/11.pdf>

⁵ Geographic regions are classified by the Current Population Survey as following: Northeast Region—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; Midwest Region—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; South Region—Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; and West Region—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

⁶ The (non-institutionalized) unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the number of people who report being unemployed by the number of employed people plus the number of unemployed. The unemployment rate does not count young children, retired persons and people not actively looking for work and others who are not in the labor force (this includes the armed forces). The Current Population Survey defines unemployed civilians in the following manner: “Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, have no employment but are available for work, and (1) have engaged in any specific job seeking activity within the past 4 weeks such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) are waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) are waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.” For more information on how the Current Population Survey defines unemployed civilians visit http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_faq.htm#Ques5.