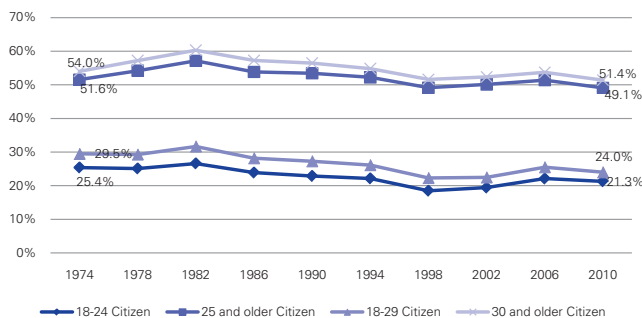


NEW CENSUS DATA CONFIRM AFRICAN AMERICAN AND ASIAN AMERICAN YOUTH INCREASED THEIR TURNOUT RATES IN 2010 MIDTERMS

YOUTH TURNOUT OVERALL SIMILAR TO PAST MIDTERM ELECTIONS

An estimated 24% of young people (ages 18-29) voted in the 2010 midterm elections, according to newly released Census data analyzed by CIRCLE. While turnout declined slightly between 2006 and 2010, youth turnout remained similar to past midterm elections and tracks a similar decline in adult turnout.

Graph 1: Voter Turnout by Age, 1974-2010



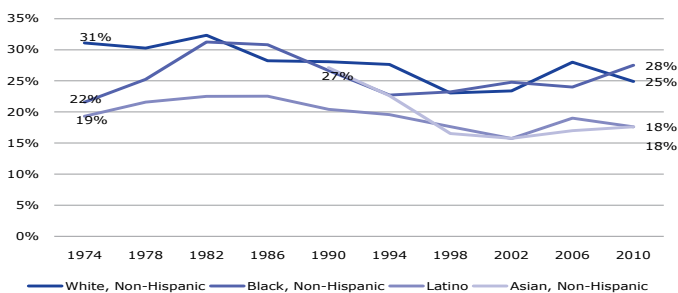
Source: Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplements 1974-2010

“Youth turnout has stayed between 22% and 25% in all midterm elections since 1998, compared to an average of 30% in the 1970s and 1980s. We have to find a way to raise it,” said CIRCLE Director, Peter Levine.

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICANS STILL STRONG IN 2010

In 2010, as in 2008, young African Americans led the way in youth voter turnout. Young African Americans voted at a rate of 27.5% compared to 24.9% of young Whites, 17.6% of young Latinos and 17.7% of young Asian Americans. White youth experienced the largest decline in voter turnout, dropping from 28.0% in 2006 to 24.9% in 2010.

Graph 2: 18-to-29 Year-Old Citizen Turnout, by Race 1974-2010

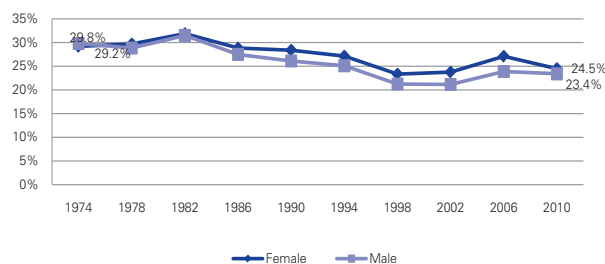


Source: Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplements 1974-2010

VOTER TURNOUT AMONG YOUNG FEMALES DECLINES SLIGHTLY

The report also found a closing gender gap in turnout. In 2008, an eight point voter turnout gap existed between young men and women (54.9% of young females voted compared to 47.2% of young men). In 2010, the gap shrunk to just slightly over one percentage point.

Graph 3: Voter Turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds, by Gender, 1974-2010



Source: Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplements 1974-2010

YOUNG PEOPLE WITH MORE EDUCATION ARE MORE LIKELY TO VOTE

As in past elections, young people with at least some college experience voted at twice the rate as their counterparts without college experience (14.2% vs. 30.8%).¹ One’s educational level has long been understood to be a strong predictive factor of one’s likelihood of voting. More-educated individuals—those who have had at least some college education—have consistently been almost twice as likely to vote as those who have received no more than a high school diploma. Despite the fact that college attendance has grown since 1972, the turnout gap between these two groups has remained relatively constant (see Table 1).

MORE-EDUCATED INDIVIDUALS—THOSE WHO HAVE HAD AT LEAST SOME COLLEGE EDUCATION—HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN ALMOST TWICE AS LIKELY TO VOTE AS THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED NO MORE THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

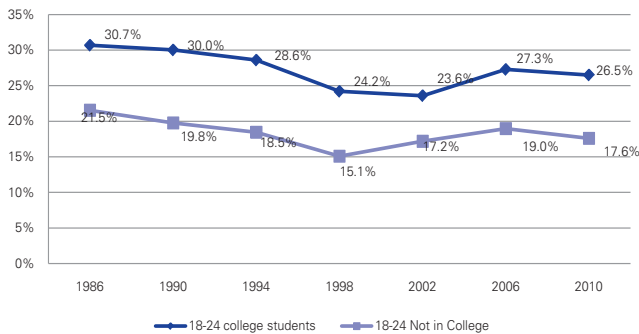


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	College	Non-College	Difference
1974	40.0%	20.9%	-19.1 points
1978	39.9%	20.2%	-19.7 points
1982	41.4%	23.6%	-17.8 points
1986	36.6%	20.7%	-15.9 points
1990	36.0%	20.2%	-17.8 points
1994	35.7%	15.8%	-19.9 points
1998	29.9%	13.8%	-16.1 points
2002	29.8%	13.9%	-15.9 points
2006	30.4%	13.1%	-17.3 points
2010	30.8%	14.2%	-16.6 points

In the 2010 election, young people age 18 to 24² who were currently in college were more likely to vote than their peers who were not currently attending college, by a margin of nine percentage points.

Graph 4: 18-to-24 year-old Citizen Turnout, by Current College Status, 1986-2010



Source: Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplements 1986-2010

Full-time college students were more likely to vote (26.8%) than part-time students (24.9%). Moreover, young African American current college students were more likely than their White counterparts to vote in 2010 (29.6% versus 27.4%). Latino college students lagged behind their peers, with a turnout rate of 22.7%.

STATE-BY-STATE VOTER TURNOUT FOR 2010³

Among the states that had sufficiently large and reliable samples in 2010, youth voter turnout was highest in Oregon (35.7%), North Dakota (35.5%), South Carolina (34.9%) and Minnesota (34.6%). Voter turnout in 2010 was lowest in Nebraska (13.6%), Indiana (13.8%), Texas (16.1%), and Tennessee (16.4%). Turnout gaps between young people and adults varied between 20 and 35 points depending on the state. South Carolina, Hawaii, West Virginia, Arizona, Nevada, Mississippi, Georgia and Virginia had some of the smallest gaps between youth and adult turnout.

For more information on the youth vote in 2010, please visit <http://www.civicyouth.org/official-youth-turnout-rate-in-2010-was-24/> ★

ENDNOTES

1 Individuals with college experience have a high school diploma and have attended, but not necessarily completed, college, technical school, or community college. The turnout rate of those currently enrolled in college was 27%.

2 School enrollment status questions are asked only of 18-to-24 year old respondents. Therefore, we cannot estimate the turnout among college students who are 25 and older.

3 Several states have not been reported because, due to their small populations and sample sizes, CPS must collapse more than one age group in order to increase the number of publishable estimates. Therefore, we have followed the CPS model and have not reported turnout in states where the youth sample must be combined with other age groups. All turnout estimates are subject to random error and to inflation due to self-reports. The Oregon youth turnout figure of 35.7% is incompatible with the Oregon Secretary of State's estimate, which is based on voter records. It may be either a random error or a case of especially high over-reporting.

