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ABSTRACT

This paper describes recent patterns of income stratification in American colleges. Data from the Current Population Survey provide estimates of college enrollment stratification by income during the period 1970-1988. The National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 and the High School and Beyond survey provide data for two cohorts on the relationships between family income and college graduation. Time trends indicate that for each income quintile, the fraction of youth enrolled in private colleges increased modestly but steadily from the early 1970s through the late 1980s. The fraction of youth in public colleges showed little change during the 1970s, but during the early 1980s the poor lost ground while the rich gained ground. In the late 1980s, public college enrollments strongly increased for all income groups. The distribution of enrollments in 2-year institutions is close to equal across income groups; the inequality is concentrated in four-year institutions. Although enrollments are stratified by income in both public and private four-year colleges, more stratification occurs in the private four-year colleges. Roughly half of all youth who enroll in college do not obtain a bachelor's degree. The recipiency of a degree is more stratified by income than is college enrollment. Contains five references and an appendix that provides data from the annual October Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau. (Author/GLR)

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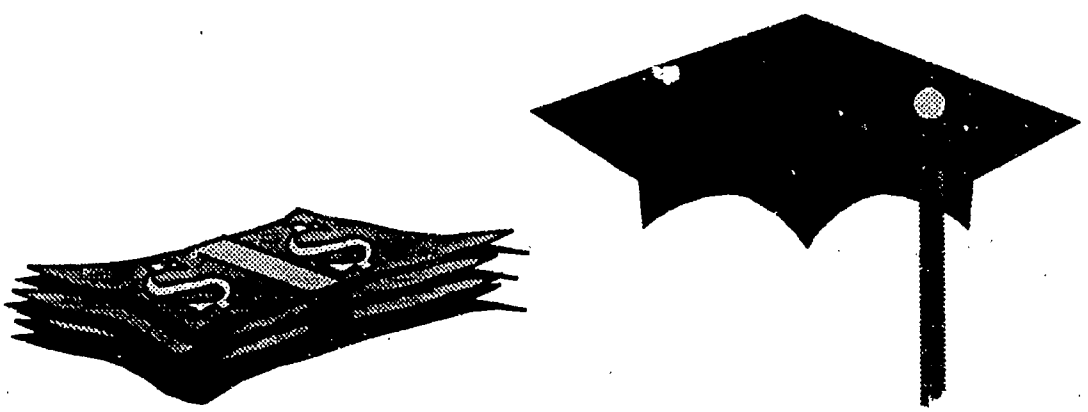
PARENTAL INCOME AND COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY

August 26, 1992



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ABSTRACT

This paper describes recent patterns of income stratification in American colleges. Data from the Current Population Survey provide a rough estimate of college enrollment stratification by income during the period 1970 - 1988. The National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 and the High School and Beyond survey provide data for two cohorts on the relationship between family income and college graduation.

Time trends indicate that for each income quintile, the fraction of youth enrolled in private colleges increased modestly but steadily from the early 1970s through the late 1980s. The fraction of youth in public colleges showed little if any change during the 1970s, but during the early 1980s the poor lost ground and the rich gained ground. In the late 1980s, public college enrollments increased strongly for all income groups.

The data indicate persistent patterns of stratification of college enrollments by income. The distribution of enrollments in two-year institutions is close to equal across income groups; the inequality is concentrated in four-year institutions. Although enrollments are stratified by income in both public and private four-year colleges, more stratification occurs in the private four-year colleges.

Roughly half of all youth who enroll in college do not obtain a bachelor's degree. The recipiency of a degree is more stratified by income than is college enrollment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

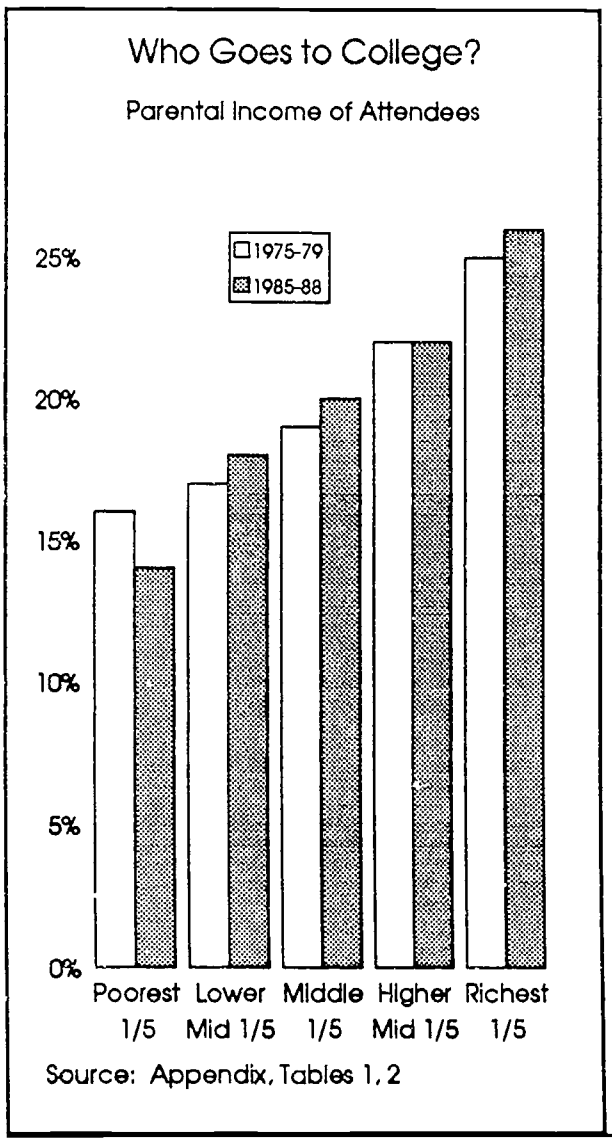
The author is grateful to Bob Hauser for making available to me his combined extract of the October Current Population Survey and its School Enrollment Supplement. Ted Shen provided able research assistance.

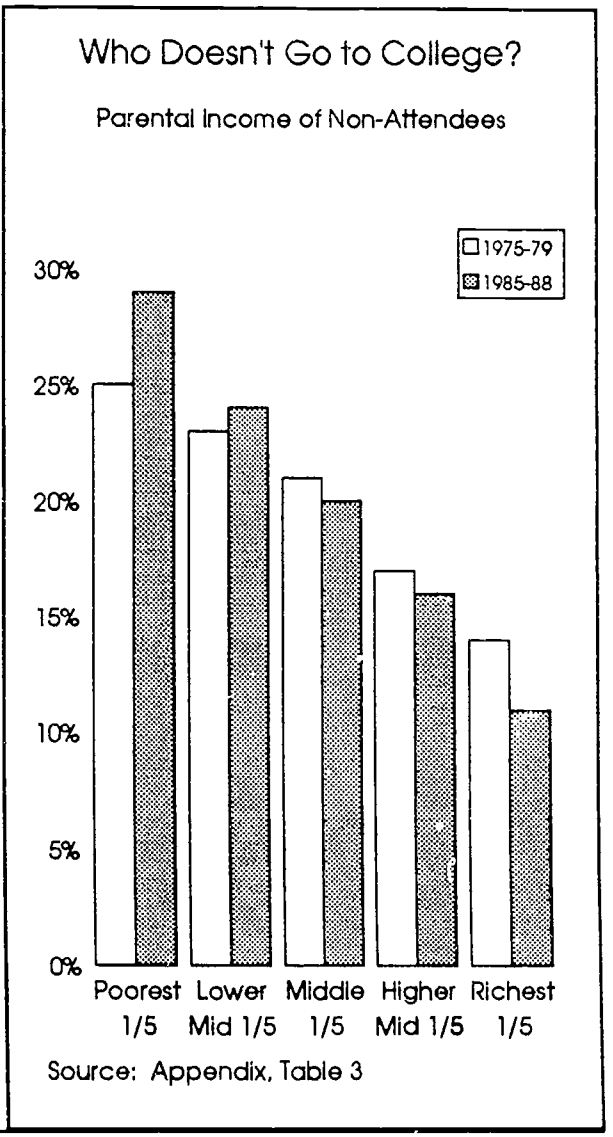
PARENTAL INCOME AND COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY

This paper describes recent patterns of income stratification in American colleges. The broad dimensions of enrollment stratification from 1970 through 1988 can be traced through the Current Population Survey (CPS), whose basic household questionnaire is supplemented each October by a school enrollment survey. The paper presents tabulations of these CPS data and also of data from the National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 (NLS72) and the High School and Beyond (HSB) surveys, and interprets the empirical findings.

The Family Income Distribution of College Enrollments

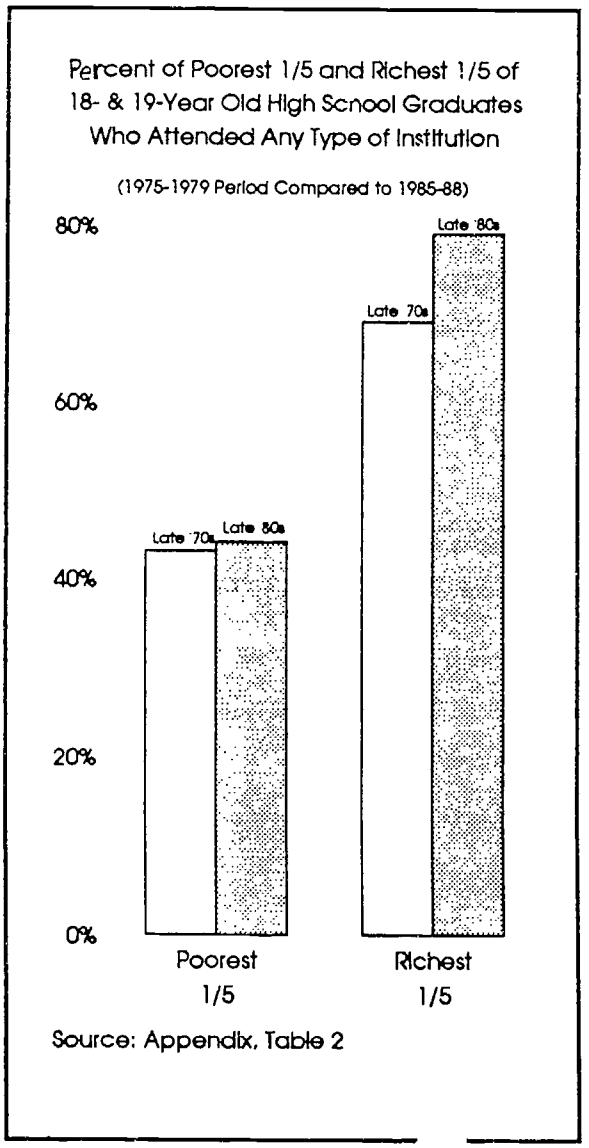
Respondents to the October Current Population Survey report the current school enrollment status of household members aged 3 through 34. For each enrolled person, respondents report whether the school is public or





private. For each person enrolled in college, respondents report whether the college is a two-year or four-year institution. These enrollment data are available for each of the years 1970 through 1988, with the exception of 1980.[1]

Although a more refined typology of colleges would be useful, the CPS disaggregation of colleges into public and private, two- and four-year programs reveals the basic facts about enrollment stratification.[2] The CPS is used here to examine the enrollment status of 18- and 19-year old dependent high school graduates. The economic status of each such person is characterized by the quintile of the income distribution within which his or her family is located.[3]



The CPS sample sizes are not large enough for reliable interpretation of yearly enrollments but are adequate for interpretation of enrollments during multiple-year periods. The analysis of this paper considers the periods 1970-1974, 1975-1979, 1981-1984, and 1985-1988. The underlying yearly CPS data are presented in Appendix Table A1. The Appendix explains in detail the definitions of variables, the assumptions made in estimating income quintiles, etc.

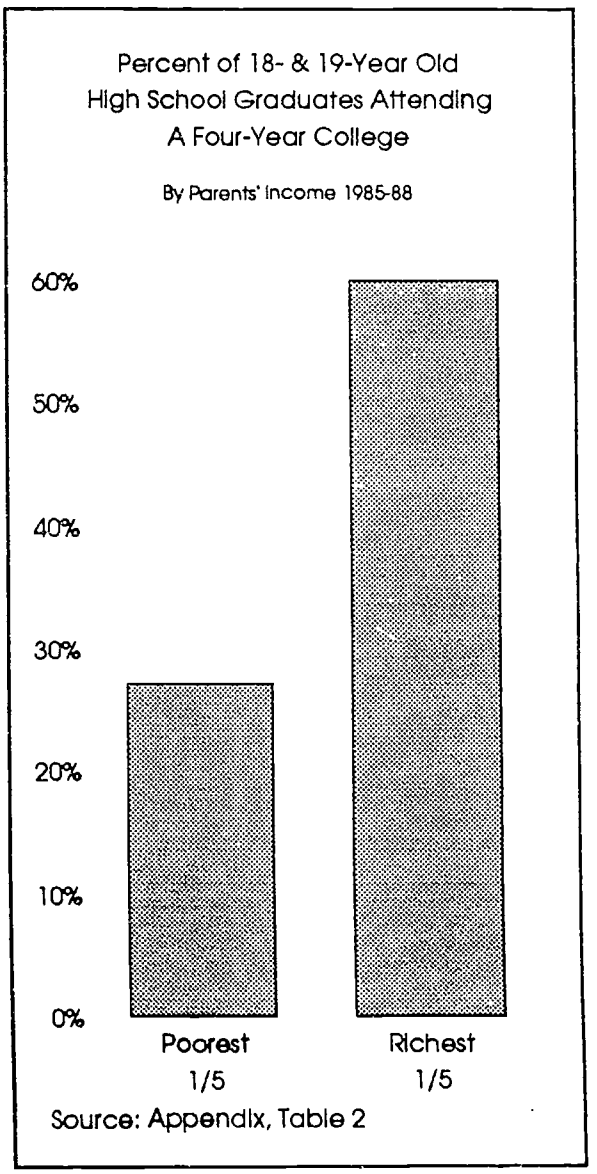
Table 1 in the Appendix presents the CPS data on enrollment status in the four time periods. We are interested not in the enrollment numbers per se, which partially reflect cohort sizes, but in the enrollment distributions across college type and student economic status. Tables 2 and 3, which are derived from Table 1, view the data from two distributional perspectives. Table 2 shows, for the members of each income quintile, the distribution of enrollments across the four college types; the percentage of persons not enrolling is also given. Table 3 shows, for each college type, the income distribution of enrollments. Tables 4 through 6 show, for purposes of comparison, CPS enrollment figures for dependent high school seniors.

Inspection of the tables reveals the following:

TIME TRENDS IN ENROLLMENTS (Table 2): For each income quintile, the fraction of youth enrolled in private colleges increased modestly but steadily from the early 1970s through the late 1980s. In the period 1970-1974, 7 percent of youth in the lowest income quintile, 10 percent in the middle quintile, and 21 percent in the highest quintile were enrolled in private colleges. In the period 1985-1988, the corresponding figures were 9, 14, and 22 percent. For each income quintile, the fraction of youth enrolled in public colleges showed little if any change during the 1970s, but noteworthy changes took place in the 1980s. In the early 1980s, the poor lost and the rich gained. Enrollment by youth in the lowest income quintile dropped sharply (from 35 percent in 1975-1979 to 30 percent in 1981-1984), enrollment by youth in the three middle quintiles remained stable or rose modestly, and enrollment by youth in the highest quintile rose sharply (from 48 percent in 1975-1979 to 54 percent in 1981-1984). In the late 1980s, public college enrollments increased strongly for all income groups. Between 1981-1984 and 1985-1988, enrollments by youth in the lowest quintile rebounded from 30 percent to 36 percent, enrollments in the middle quintile grew from 42 percent to 49 percent, and in the highest quintile grew from 54 percent to 57 percent.

STRATIFICATION OF ENROLLMENTS (Tables 2 and 3): The data indicate persistent patterns of stratification of college enrollments by income. In the late 1980s, 44 percent of the youth in the lowest income quintile, 62 percent of those in the middle quintile, and 79 percent in the highest quintile were enrolled in some college (Table 2). Viewed another way, those youth not enrolled in college were drawn 29 percent from the lowest income quintile, 20 percent from the middle quintile, and 11 percent from the highest quintile (Table 3).

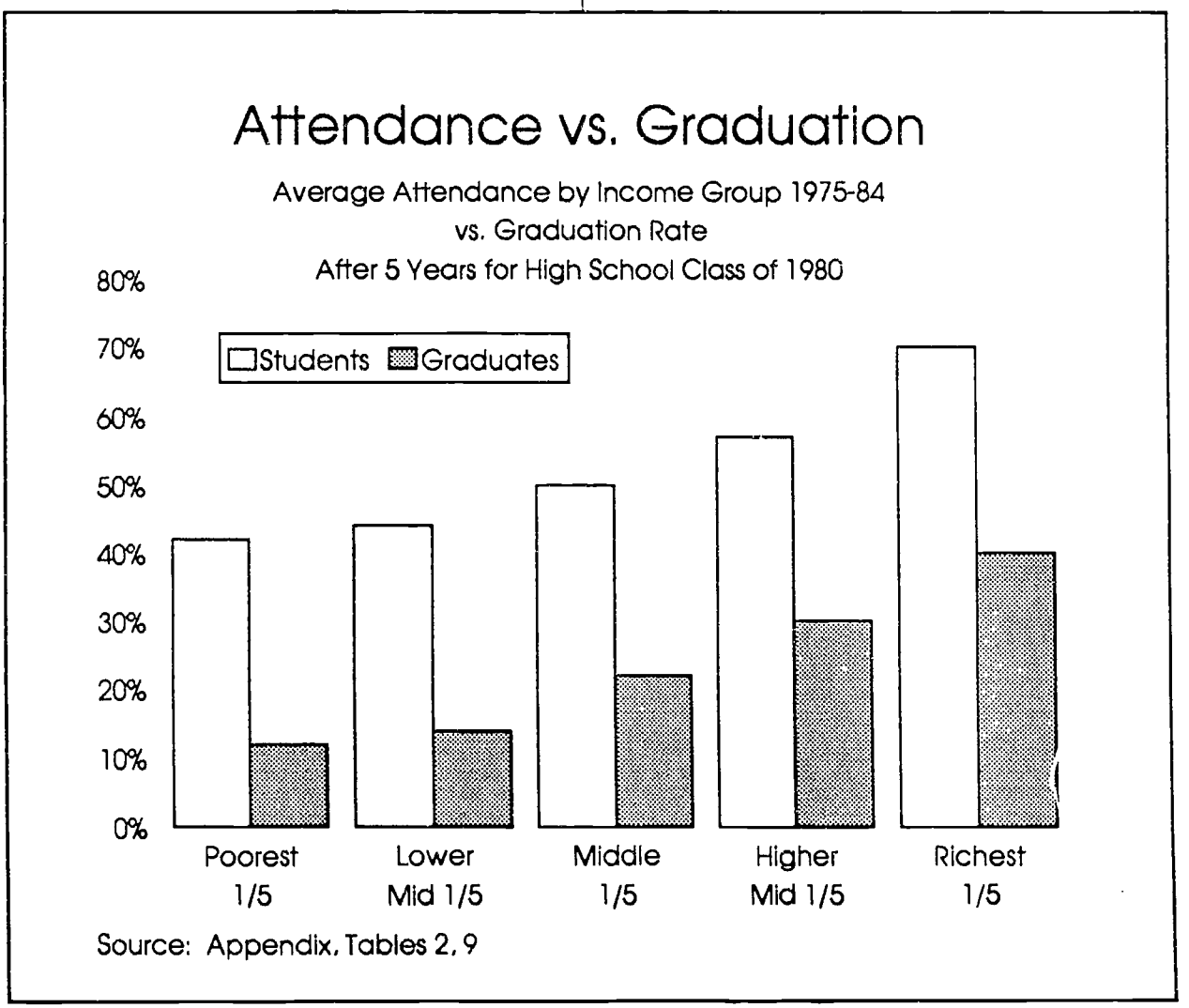
Interestingly, the distribution of enrollments in two-year institutions is close to equal across income groups. In the late 1980s, 16 percent of the youth in the lowest income quintile, 20 percent of those in the middle quintile, and



17 percent in the highest quintile were enrolled in two-year public colleges. In every income quintile, the same 2 percent of the youth were enrolled in a two-year private college (Table 2).

The inequality in enrollments occurs only in the four-year institutions. In the late 1980s, 20 percent of the youth in the lowest income quintile, 29 percent of those in the middle quintile, and 40 percent in the highest quintile were enrolled in four-year public colleges. At the same time, 7 percent of the youth in the lowest income quintile, 12 percent of those in the middle quintile, and 20 percent in the highest quintile were enrolled in four-year private colleges (Table 2).

The data indicate that, while enrollments are stratified in both public and private four-year colleges, they are more stratified in the private four-year colleges. In the late 1980s, the chance that a high school graduate from the highest income quintile would enroll in a public four-year college was double that of a youth from the lowest income quintile (40 percent to 20 percent) but the chance that a high school graduate from the highest income quintile would enroll in a private four-year college was triple that of a youth from the lowest income quintile (20 percent to 7 percent) (Table 2). Viewed another way, public



four-year colleges drew 27 percent of their enrollment from the highest income quintile and 13 percent from the lowest quintile, while private four-year colleges drew 33 percent of their enrollment from the highest quintile and 11 percent from the lowest quintile (Table 3).

COMPARISON WITH ENROLLMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: Tables 4 through 6 present CPS enrollment data for dependent high school seniors; These tables exclude from consideration non-enrolled youth and do not restrict attention to a specific age group. For the sake of comparability with Tables 1 through 3, Tables 4 through 6 apply the same definition of dependency and the same income quintiles as were used earlier.[4] The underlying yearly data are presented in Appendix Table A2.

Observe first that, for youth in all but the highest income quintile, the distribution of enrollments between public and private high schools remains essentially unchanged over time (Table 5). For youth in the highest quintile, there are modest fluctuations over time, with some evidence of movement toward private schools. I focus here on the most recent figures, for 1985-1988, and find the following.

Public high schools enroll most high school seniors at all income levels; 95 percent of the youth in the lowest income quintile, 91 percent of those in the middle quintile, and 82 percent in the highest quintile. Income stratification in private high school enrollments is similar to that in private four-year college enrollments. Table 5 shows that, in the late 1980s, 5 percent of the high school seniors in the lowest income quintile, 9 percent of those in the middle quintile, and 18 percent of those in the highest quintile were enrolled in a private high school. So the chance that a high school senior from the highest income quintile was enrolled in a private high school was about three and a half times that of a youth from the lowest income quintile (18 percent to 5 percent); this ratio is close to the three-to-one ratio found in Table 2 for private college enrollments (20 percent to 7 percent). Viewed another way, private high schools drew 31 percent of their enrollment from the highest quintile and 13 percent from the lowest quintile (Table 6); these figures are close to the corresponding 33 percent and 11 percent ones for private four-year colleges (Table 3).

THE FAMILY INCOME DISTRIBUTION OF COLLEGE GRADUATES: Roughly half of all youth who enroll in college do not persist to a bachelor's degree. It is therefore important to ask whether the income stratification patterns found among 18 and 19 year old enrollees are indicative of stratification among college graduates. The CPS cannot be used to answer this question but the National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 and the High School and Beyond surveys can, at least for the high school classes of 1972 and 1980.

Respondents to NLS72 were first interviewed in the spring of 1972, when they were high school seniors, and were followed through October 1979.[5] Thus, the NLS72 data can be

used to learn the family income distribution of recipients of bachelor's degrees seven years after high school graduation. Respondents to HSB were first interviewed in the spring of 1980, when they were high school seniors, and were followed through early 1986. Thus, the HSB data can be used to learn the family income distribution of recipients of bachelor's degrees five-and-a-half years after high school graduation.[6] For details on the NLS72 and HSB survey designs, see Riccobono et al. (1981) and Sebring et al. (1987) respectively. Tables 7 through 9 show the NLS72 and HSB enrollment and graduation distributions. Tables 7 and 8, which report spring high school enrollments and fall college enrollments in 1972 and 1980, are included for comparison with the CPS data in Tables 5 and 2 respectively. Although the NLS72, HSB, and CPS sampling frames and variable definitions differ in significant respects, the data sources show enrollment patterns that are broadly similar and match well in most details.[7]

Table 9 reveals that bachelor's degree recipiency is more income-stratified than is college enrollment. Because the NLS72 and HSB patterns are so similar, only the more recent HSB data will be discussed here. By early 1986, only 12 percent of the 1980 high school seniors with family income in the lowest quintile had received a bachelor's degree; of these 9 percent were from public four-year colleges and 3 percent were from private colleges. In the middle quintile, 24 percent had degrees, with 16 percent from public colleges and 8 percent from private ones. In the highest quintile, 39 percent had degrees, with 22 percent from public colleges and 17 percent from private ones. Thus, compared with a youth in the lowest income quintile, a youth in the highest quintile had two and a half times the chance of receiving a bachelor's degree from a public college (22 percent to 9 percent) and almost six times the chance of receiving a degree from a private college (17 percent to 3 percent).

CONCLUSIONS

The main empirical finding is that American colleges remain substantially stratified by income. The consequences of income stratification are known only in part. Ample empirical evidence relates college graduation to later labor market outcomes. In fact, recent studies indicate that the income return to college-going increased during the 1980s (see, for example, Murphy and Welch, 1989). This evidence, combined with that presented here, indicates a continuing problem of intergenerational immobility: youth from low-income families tend not to graduate from college, and then have low incomes themselves.

There is little empirical evidence relating the type of college one attends to labor market outcomes. In particular, we do not know whether, controlling for ability, students who graduate from private colleges earn higher incomes than ones who graduate from public colleges. In the absence of this information, we cannot say whether the more pronounced income stratification of private college enrollments should be a matter of public concern.

Notes

[1]Prior to 1970, respondents were not asked to distinguish two-year from four-year colleges. In 1980, the Bureau of the Census did not release data on whether schools were publicly or privately controlled. See the Appendix for further information.

[2]The various college types differ substantially in their costs of enrollment. It is reported in Congressional Budget Office (1991, Table B-4) that, in fall 1986, the "adjusted net cost" of attendance per student was $7124 in private four-year institutions, $3498 in public four-year institutions, and $2049 in public two-year institutions. Adjusted net cost was defined as cost (tuitions, fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation costs) minus grants minus 40 percent of loans.

[3]Because the CPS reporting unit is the household, the available income data do not necessarily describe the economic status of the family in which a person grew up. On the other hand, the CPS data do permit one to determine with little ambiguity those persons who are dependent members of their family's households; the Appendix describes how this may be done. I restrict attention to 18- and 19-year-olds because the great majority of these persons are still dependents.

[4]Thus the income quintiles of Tables 4 through 6 refer not to the distribution of family income among dependent high school seniors but to the distribution of family income among dependent high school graduates. Table 4 shows that the quintiles of the latter distribution are higher than are those of the former one. The entries for 1985-1988, for example, show 24 percent of the youth in the lowest income quintile and 16 percent in the highest quintile rather than 20 percent in each quintile.

[5]A sub-sample of respondents were later interviewed in 1986. These data are not used here.

[6]The HSB survey also interviewed youth who were high school sophomores in spring 1980 and followed them into 1986. But this time span is not sufficiently long for these persons to complete a four-year college program; hence data from the sophomore cohort are not reported here.

[7]In each of the NLS72 and HSB surveys, a sample of high schools was drawn and a sample of students were interviewed in each high school. The enrollment, degree, and family income data are student self-reports. For the sake of comparability with the CPS data, the income quintiles applied in Tables 7 through 9 are the CPS quintiles given in the Appendix. The NLS72 and HSB data do show some different enrollment patterns than do the CPS ones. In particular, the former data sets indicate a sizeable shift of high income high school seniors from public to private schools between 1972 and 1980 (Table 7).

Appendix

DATA SOURCE: The source for Tables A1 and A2 (and for the summary Tables 1 through 6) is the annual October Current Population Survey (CPS) of the U.S. Census Bureau. The School Enrollment Supplement to the October CPS provides enrollment status data for those household members aged 3-34. The schooling data and household background data for these persons have been combined into a single, unified file by Hauser et al.(1991). The present tables are based on the Hauser CPS extract.

The entries in Table A1 are obtained by applying CPS-provided weights to the raw data for dependent high school graduates aged 18 and 19. The entries in Table A2 are obtained in the same way for dependent high school seniors. The CPS does not directly report a person's dependency status. In the tables, a person is defined to be dependent if he or she is neither the head of a household nor the spouse of the head and if the head of the person's household is at least 39 years old. The tables restrict attention to dependent persons because the household data reported in the CPS refer to the household in which a respondent is located at the time of interview, although college students living in dormitories are not considered to constitute separate households.

A person is considered to be enrolled in college (or as a high school senior) if he or she was enrolled full-time or part-time in a two- or four-year college (or in the twelfth grade). Youth enrolled in noncollegiate postsecondary schools are not included in Table A1; these persons are reported as not enrolled.

RELATIONSHIP TO SERIES P-20 FIGURES: The U.S. Census Bureau, in its Series P-20 Current Population Reports, presents October CPS figures for the number of 18- and 19-year-old persons who are high school graduates and who are enrolled in college. The figures reported in Table A1 range from 80 to 90 percent as large as those given in Series P-20. One reason for the reduction in size is my restriction of attention to dependent youth. A second reason is that the table uses data only on those persons for whom actual income and other survey responses are available. The Census Bureau practice of "allocating" respondents with missing responses to response categories is not followed here.

INCOME QUINTILES: In these tables, income quintiles refer to the income distribution of the families of 18- and 19-year-old dependent high school graduates. Each year's income distribution was estimated from the October CPS income responses, as follows.

Respondents to the October CPS are asked to report yearly household income in current-dollar income intervals; the number of intervals and their end points have varied from year to year. To derive a complete income distribution from interval-coded data requires an assumption about how income is distributed within each interval. I assumed that income is distributed uniformly within each interval. (This assumption cannot be maintained in the highest reporting interval, which is open ended. In all cases, however, less than 20 percent of households had income in the highest interval; so no assumption about the distribution of income within the highest interval was required.) The estimated income quintiles for each year were, in current dollar terms:

	INCOME QUINTILE				
Year	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
1970	$0	$6,808	$9,684	$12,774	$18 036
1971	$0	$6,875	$9,955	$13,311	$19,644
1972	$0	$7,260	$10,907	$14,092	$21 033
1973	$0	$8,342	$12,183	$15,750	$22,576
1974	$0	$8,821	$12,937	$16,868	$23,208
1975	$0	$9,683	$13,743	$18,136	$23,910
1976	$0	$9,800	$14,636	$19,648	$27,162
1977	$0	$10,835	$15,883	$21,094	$32,456
1978	$0	$11,491	$17,368	$22,972	$36,439
1979	$0	$12,458	$19,479	$25,229	$40,519
1980	$0	$13,307	$20,306	$28,300	$42,345
1981	$0	$13,916	$21,875	$31,889	$45,013
1982	$0	$14,183	$23,474	$32,000	$44,199
1983	$0	$14,210	$23,834	$33,080	$46,283
1984	$0	$15,813	$25,714	$35,060	$48,939
1985	$0	$16,861	$26,789	$36,734	$50,364
1986	$0	$17,151	$28,563	$39,606	$56,603
1987	$0	$17,500	$30,242	$41,294	$60,911
1988	$0	$20,561	$32,400	$44,393	$63,387

Once the income quintiles were estimated, it was necessary to assign each sampled person to the appropriate quintile. This is straightforward in those cases in which a CPS income-reporting interval lies completely within a single quintile span. Some intervals, however, cross quintile boundaries. Given the assumption that income is distributed uniformly within each reporting interval, the correct way to deal with this is to allocate persons fractionally to adjacent quintiles.

For example, one of the CPS reporting intervals in 1988 was [$30 000,$34 999]. This interval lies partly

in the second quintile [$20,561,$32,400] and partly in the third quintile [$32,400,$44,393]. Under the assumption that income is distributed uniformly within reporting intervals, the probability that a person with family income in the interval [$30,000,$34,999] has income less than $32,400 is .48. Hence, each person with income in the interval [$30,000,$34,999] was allocated with fractional weight .48 to the second income quintile and with weight .52 to the third quintile.

ABSENCE OF DATA FOR 1980: In 1980, the Bureau of the Census did not release data on the public or private control of the schools where students were enrolled. Apparently, the Bureau decided that problems in the wording of the 1980 survey question concerning school control made unambiguous interpretation of the responses infeasible.

SAMPLING ERROR IN TABLES 2 and 5: Each October, 3000 or more 18- and 19-year-old dependent high school graduates appear in the CPS. Each income quintile contains roughly 20 percent of the observations. (Each need not contain exactly 20 percent of the raw observations, as our quintiles are based on the weighted rather than raw samples.) Hence, the yearly samples on which Table 2 is based contain roughly 600 observations. The table aggregates over four- or five-year periods, yielding 2400 or more observations in each income quintile category. These sample sizes imply that the standard errors for the entries in Table 2 are 1.0 percent or less. The CPS samples of dependent high seniors are somewhat more than half the size of those of the dependent 18 and 19 year-old high school graduates. As a consequence, the standard errors for the entries in Table 5 are 1.5 percent or less.

SAMPLING ERROR IN TABLES 3 AND 6: The sample size for each school type is proportional to the enrollment in the type; hence the standard errors for the entries in Tables 3 and 6 vary as well, roughly as follows: public two-year colleges (2.3 percent or less); public four-year colleges (1.8 percent or less); private two-year colleges (7.0 percent or less); private four-year colleges (2.9 percent or less; public high schools (1.5 percent or less); private high schools (4.5 percent or less).

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TABLE 1

Yearly College Enrollment Status for Dependent 18- and 19-Year Old High School Graduates, by Family Income and Type of College (thousands)

YEAR	LOWEST INCOME QUINTILE					SECOND INCOME QUINTILE					THIRD INCOME QUINTILE					FOURTH INCOME QUINTILE					HIGHEST INCOME QUINTILE				
	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE
	2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR		2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR.		2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR.		2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR.		2 YR	4 YR	2YR	4 YR	
70 74	110	153	8	46	466	113	180	10	61	416	126	202	10	72	373	128	228	12	90	322	113	270	14	147	237
75 79	134	160	14	51	478	124	187	13	69	444	134	208	12	86	397	129	266	11	105	325	110	295	8	163	261
81 84	122	133	16	49	533	136	180	17	70	449	160	197	20	86	391	159	254	21	110	308	154	306	18	173	201
85 88	123	152	13	55	437	144	200	12	68	353	158	223	14	89	293	148	265	15	111	239	135	308	14	158	161

Source Annual October Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of the Census

TABLE 2

Distribution of College Enrollment Status for Dependent 18- and 19-Year-Old High School Graduates, by Family Income (percentages)

YEAR	LOWEST INCOME QUINTILE					SECOND INCOME QUINTILE					THIRD INCOME QUINTILE					FOURTH INCOME QUINTILE					HIGHEST INCOME QUINTILE				
	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE
	2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR.		2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR.		2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR.		2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR	4 YR		2 YR	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR.	
70 74	14%	20%	1%	6%	60%	15%	23%	1%	8%	53%	16%	26%	1%	9%	48%	16%	29%	2%	12%	41%	15%	35%	2%	19%	30%
75 79	16%	19%	2%	6%	57%	15%	22%	2%	8%	53%	16%	25%	1%	10%	47%	15%	32%	1%	13%	39%	13%	35%	1%	20%	31%
81 84	14%	16%	2%	6%	63%	16%	21%	2%	8%	53%	19%	23%	2%	10%	46%	19%	30%	3%	13%	36%	18%	36%	2%	20%	24%
85 88	16%	20%	2%	7%	56%	19%	26%	2%	9%	45%	20%	29%	2%	12%	38%	19%	34%	2%	14%	31%	17%	40%	2%	20%	21%

Source Annual October Current Population Survey of the U S Bureau of the Census

TABLE 3

Distribution of Income for Dependent 18- and 19-Year-Old High School Graduates, by College Type (percentages)

YEAR	PUBLIC TWO-YEAR COLLEGES					PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES					PRIVATE TWO-YEAR COLLEGES					PRIVATE FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES					NOT IN COLLEGE				
	INCOME QUINTILES					INCOME QUINTILES					INCOME QUINTILES					INCOME QUINTILES					INCOME QUINTILES				
	lowest	second	third	fourth	highest	lowest	second	third	fourth	highest	lowest	second	third	fourth	highest	lowest	second	third	fourth	highest	lowest	second	third	fourth	highest
70 74	19%	19%	21%	22%	19%	15%	17%	20%	22%	26%	15%	19%	19%	22%	26%	11%	15%	17%	22%	35%	26%	23%	21%	18%	13%
75 79	21%	20%	21%	20%	17%	14%	17%	19%	24%	26%	24%	22%	21%	19%	14%	11%	15%	18%	22%	34%	25%	23%	21%	17%	14%
81 84	17%	19%	22%	22%	21%	12%	17%	18%	24%	29%	17%	19%	22%	23%	20%	10%	14%	18%	23%	36%	28%	24%	21%	16%	11%
85 88	17%	20%	22%	21%	19%	13%	17%	19%	23%	27%	19%	18%	21%	22%	21%	11%	14%	19%	23%	33%	29%	24%	20%	16%	11%

Source Annual October Current Population Survey of the U S. Bureau of the Census

TABLE 4

Yearly Enrollment Status for Dependent High School Seniors, by Family Income and Control of School (thousands)

YEAR	LOWEST QUINTILE		SECOND QUINTILE		THIRD QUINTILE		FOURTH QUINTILE		HIGHEST QUINTILE	
	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
70 74	662	27	551	47	480	46	435	49	380	62
75 79	668	27	558	38	468	40	421	52	377	70
81 84	649	29	539	39	461	47	420	46	386	60
85 88	596	31	516	36	483	48	412	52	351	77

Source: Annual October Current Population Survey of the U S Bureau of the Census

TABLE 5

Distribution of Enrollment Status for Dependent High School Seniors, by Family Income (percentages)

YEAR	LOWEST QUINTILE		SECOND QUINTILE		THIRD QUINTILE		FOURTH QUINTILE		HIGHEST QUINTILE	
	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
70-74	96%	4%	92%	8%	91%	9%	90%	10%	86%	14%
75-79	96%	4%	94%	6%	92%	8%	89%	11%	84%	16%
81-84	96%	4%	93%	7%	91%	9%	90%	10%	87%	14%
85-88	95%	5%	93%	7%	91%	9%	89%	11%	82%	18%

Source. Annual October Current Population Survey of the U S Bureau of the Census

TABLE 6

Distribution of Income for Dependent High School Seniors, by High School Control (percentages)

YEAR	PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS					PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS				
	INCOME QUINTILES					INCOME QUINTILES				
	lowest	second	third	fourth	highest	lowest	second	third	fourth	highest
70-74	26%	22%	19%	17%	15%	12%	20%	20%	22%	27%
75-79	27%	22%	19%	17%	15%	12%	17%	18%	23%	31%
81-84	26%	22%	19%	17%	16%	13%	18%	21%	21%	27%
85-88	25%	22%	21%	18%	15%	13%	15%	20%	21%	31%

Source: Annual October Current Population Survey of the U S Bureau of the Census

TABLE 7

Distribution of High School Enrollment Status for the High School Classes of 1972 and 1980, by Family Income (percentages)

CLASS OF	LOWEST QUINTILE		SECOND QUINTILE		THIRD QUINTILE		FOURTH QUINTILE		HIGHEST QUINTILE	
	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
1972	95%	5%	91%	9%	90%	10%	91%	9%	90%	10%
1980	95%	5%	92%	8%	89%	11%	87%	13%	81%	19%

Sources. 1972 National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972, data for Spring 1972
1980 High School and Beyond Survey, data for February 1980

TABLE 8

Distribution of College Enrollment Status for the High School Classes of 1972 and 1980, by Family Income (percentages)

CLASS OF	LOWEST INCOME QUINTILE					SECOND INCOME QUINTILE					THIRD INCOME QUINTILE					FOURTH INCOME QUINTILE					HIGHEST INCOME QUINTILE				
	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE
	2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR.		2 YR.	4 YR	2YR.	4 YR.		2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR.	4 YR.		2 YR.	4 YR.	2YR	4 YR.		2 YR	4 YR.	2YR	4 YR.	
1972	13%	15%	1%	5%	67%	15%	20%	1%	8%	57%	16%	22%	1%	9%	51%	16%	30%	2%	13%	38%	15%	34%	2%	21%	29%
1980	13%	17%	1%	7%	62%	15%	18%	1%	8%	58%	15%	25%	2%	13%	46%	16%	30%	1%	15%	38%	12%	32%	1%	22%	34%

Sources: 1972 National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972, data for October 1972
1980 High School and Beyond Survey, data for October 1980

TABLE 9

Distribution of Bachelor's Degree Status for the High School Classes of 1972 and 1980, by Family Income (percentages)

CLASS OF	LOWEST INCOME QUINTILE			SECOND INCOME QUINTILE			THIRD INCOME QUINTILE			FOURTH INCOME QUINTILE			HIGHEST INCOME QUINTILE		
	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	NONE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	NONE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	NONE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	NONE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	NONE
1972	8%	3%	89%	12%	5%	83%	15%	6%	79%	20%	8%	72%	24%	13%	62%
1980	9%	3%	89%	10%	4%	86%	16%	8%	76%	19%	11%	71%	22%	17%	61%

Sources 1972 National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972, data for October 1979
1980 High School and Beyond Survey, data for February 1986

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TABLE A1

College Enrollment Status for Dependent 18- and 19-Year Old High School Graduates, by Family Income and Type of College (thousands)

YEAR	LOWEST INCOME QUINTILE					SECOND INCOME QUINTILE					THIRD INCOME QUINTILE					FOURTH INCOME QUINTILE					HIGHEST INCOME QUINTILE				
	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		NONE
	2 YR	4 YR.	2YR	4 YR		2 YR	4 YR	2YR	4 YR		2 YR	4 YR	2YR.	4 YR		2 YR	4 YR	2YR	4 YR		2 YR	4 YR	2YR	4 YR	
1970	109	158	13	46	427	121	171	15	55	392	126	206	12	76	333	130	220	13	88	303	128	252	20	142	211
1971	102	174	8	58	441	125	191	4	53	403	135	209	10	72	360	137	240	11	86	303	134	297	12	142	197
1972	111	164	8	51	469	114	191	8	72	415	137	204	9	81	369	145	224	8	107	315	120	252	13	164	251
1973	118	129	4	34	499	109	184	7	56	425	106	196	7	70	405	100	239	13	91	339	97	260	12	144	270
1974	109	141	:	41	493	98	165	15	71	443	124	193	12	62	400	129	219	14	78	352	87	288	15	144	257
1975	156	160	12	56	447	130	185	11	68	434	147	224	7	63	388	149	250	10	85	341	102	307	10	161	251
1976	123	153	11	41	527	112	192	10	72	459	138	226	13	94	384	130	294	14	104	309	118	310	8	168	247
1977	125	162	18	45	475	131	168	12	63	455	150	190	10	83	393	133	273	11	110	299	103	307	11	182	225
1978	139	157	22	54	462	116	195	15	68	444	122	208	16	89	402	125	251	11	117	327	116	265	7	173	277
1979	127	168	9	57	480	130	194	18	73	430	111	193	16	101	416	110	260	10	111	351	112	286	6	130	307
1980	n a	n a	n a	n.a.	n a	n.a.	n.a	n.a	n a	n.a	n a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a.	n a	n a	n a	n a	n a.	n a	n a	n a	n a
1981	147	175	27	49	472	144	173	18	78	458	173	206	23	108	359	165	223	25	122	335	149	264	23	205	226
1982	125	115	14	49	560	143	173	16	75	454	153	198	11	75	429	171	240	24	120	311	148	315	16	165	216
1983	104	124	14	56	577	147	196	13	69	448	145	191	24	81	435	159	263	17	108	323	153	332	20	178	193
1984	113	119	7	40	521	108	176	21	58	436	167	194	20	81	340	139	291	18	91	262	166	311	14	143	167
1985	102	127	15	51	507	122	198	17	71	387	140	197	17	104	340	154	248	22	114	261	121	322	17	142	195
1986	141	143	16	49	447	155	192	13	58	381	162	232	17	92	290	152	261	14	123	247	116	323	17	175	163
1987	114	159	13	46	438	143	225	9	62	329	163	246	6	88	266	163	258	11	104	232	142	297	14	169	149
1988	133	177	9	74	354	155	185	9	82	314	167	217	14	71	277	122	291	13	104	216	162	290	9	147	137

Source: Annual October Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of the Census

TABLE A2

Enrollment Status for Dependent High School Seniors, by Family Income and Control of School (thousands)

YEAR	LOWEST QUINTILE		SECOND QUINTILE		THIRD QUINTILE		FOURTH QUINTILE		HIGHEST QUINTILE	
	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
1970	679	31	536	44	420	43	402	46	389	61
1971	617	27	562	44	480	48	457	48	424	60
1972	647	25	547	52	505	50	449	56	368	68
1973	653	22	541	39	515	41	424	44	389	62
1974	716	28	570	55	461	47	441	53	332	57
1975	676	29	503	32	436	37	412	45	371	81
1976	645	23	578	40	471	37	451	61	361	68
1977	725	31	581	40	446	39	422	44	389	54
1978	640	33	532	42	495	43	421	55	394	76
1979	652	21	595	34	494	44	399	53	371	70
1980	n a	n a	n a	n a	n a	n a	n a	n a	n a	n a
1981	728	35	539	36	467	44	460	42	413	68
1982	645	19	600	45	475	45	437	54	404	64
1983	630	34	527	29	473	51	435	50	395	53
1984	593	27	491	47	430	47	347	37	330	56
1985	592	25	413	30	411	54	374	72	355	80
1986	602	44	530	39	529	46	397	46	363	96
1987	593	25	628	38	481	46	447	41	385	66
1988	596	30	492	38	509	46	431	50	302	65

Source Annual October Current Population Survey of the U S Bureau of the Census