

Quick Facts about Young Voters in New Hampshire: The Presidential Election Year 2008

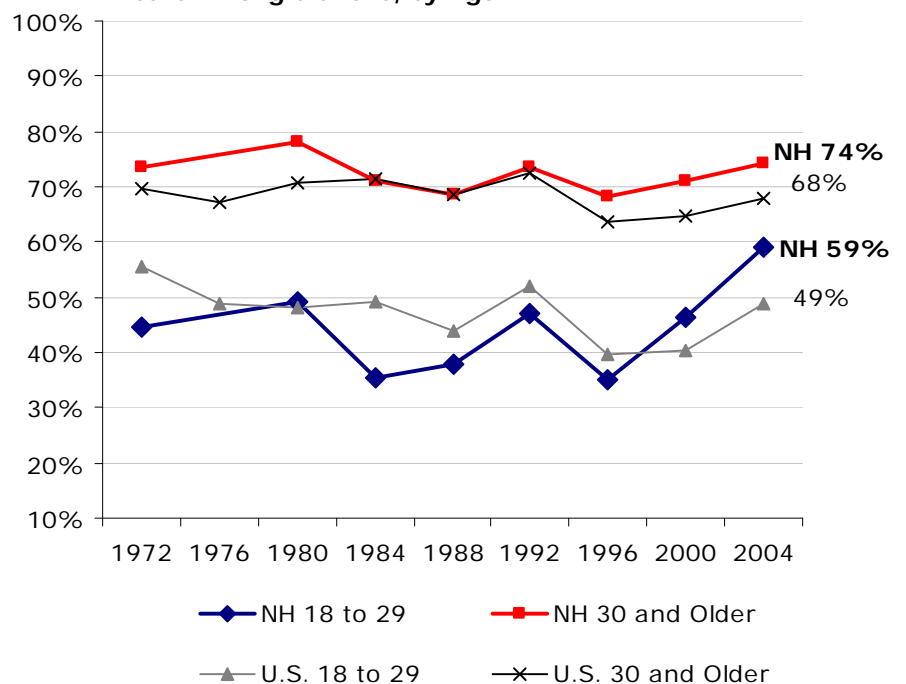
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This year's general election follows a primary season in which more than 6.5 million young people under the age of 30 participated. Moreover, in the 2008 New Hampshire primary youth voter turnout rose by 15 percentage points compared to the 2000 primary.²

In 2004, turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds in New Hampshire ranked 8th among all states and the District of Columbia in 2004, and was up thirteen percentage points over 2000. Whether the nation-wide voter mobilization momentum of 2008 primary season—which witnessed a eight percentage point increase in youth voter turnout from nine percent in 2000 to 17 percent in 2008—continues into the general election remains unpredictable.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of New Hampshire, including estimates of the number of young voters and voter turnout rates in 2004 and 2000 for various sub-groups of young people.

Figure 1: New Hampshire Voter Turnout in Presidential Years Among Citizens, by Age



Source: Author's tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1972-2004. No 1976 data for NH.

**Table 1: Summary of Young Voters in the New Hampshire Primary, 2008 and 2000
Youth Turnout, Vote Count, and Vote Share**

	<u>Turnout Rate</u>	<u>Number of youth who voted</u>	<u>Youth as Share of All Voters</u>
2008	43 percent	84,232	16 percent
2000	28 percent	43,924	11 percent

Young Voters by Party

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2000</u>
Democratic	Number of Primary Participants	51,218	20,103
	Share of Primary Participants	18 percent	13 percent
Republican	Number of Primary Participants	33,014	23,821
	Share of Primary Participants	14 percent	10 percent

Youth Vote Choice by Party (Ages 18-24)

	<u>Democratic Choice</u>	<u>Republican Choice</u>
Clinton	22 percent	Huckabee 15 percent
Edwards	9 percent	McCain 27 percent
Obama	60 percent	Paul 19 percent
		Romney 17 percent

Youth Vote Choice by Party (Ages 25-29)

	<u>Democratic Choice</u>	<u>Republican Choice</u>
Clinton	37 percent	Huckabee 11 percent
Edwards	18 percent	McCain 37 percent
Obama	35 percent	Paul 15 percent
		Romney 33 percent

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2008

In 2008, a Presidential election year, there are an estimated 193 thousand young people in New Hampshire who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 2 shows voting statistics for the years 2004 and 2000.³ New Hampshire's youth voter turnout rate was in the top fifth of all states in 2004, but it had the twelfth highest turnout rate among youth in 2000 among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.⁴

Table 2 – New Hampshire Voter Turnout Statistics, 2008, 2004, and 2000

	<u>Young People 18 to 29</u>	<u>Adults 30 and Older</u>
2008		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2008	193 thousand	787 thousand
2004		
Number of Votes Cast	94 thousand	583 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	59 percent	74 percent
Share of all Voters	14 percent	86 percent
2000		
Number of Votes Cast	72 thousand	499 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	46 percent	71 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, March Supplement 2008 and November Supplement 2004 and 2000.

Voter Turnout Rates in 2004 and 2000 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 3 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2004 and 2000 in State. 2004 was a year of high voter turnout for all youth groups in State relative to 2000. Compared to the nation as a whole in 2004, youth in New Hampshire were more electorally engaged.

Table 3 – State Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2004 and 2000

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2004	2000
National Youth Rate	49 percent	40 percent
NH Youth Rate	59 percent	46 percent
NH Registered Voter	93 percent	89 percent
<i>Race/Ethnicity^s</i>		
White non-Hispanic	60 percent	47 percent
Black non-Hispanic	***	***
Hispanics	***	***
Asian non-Hispanic	***	***
Native American non-Hispanic	***	***
<i>Gender</i>		
Women	62 percent	47 percent
Men	57 percent	46 percent
<i>Educational Attainment</i>		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	53 percent	41 percent
Some College	58 percent	46 percent
BA or more	82 percent	***
<i>College Experience</i>		
No experience	49 percent	34 percent
At least some experience	63 percent	57 percent
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single Men	53 percent	***
Single Women	59 percent	***
Married Men	***	***
Married Women	***	***

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2004 and 2000 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey. '***' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

NOTES

¹ We thank Mark Hugo Lopez for his 2006 fact sheet series on which this fact sheet is based. We also thank Peter Levine, Abby Kiesa, and Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

² Comparisons to other caucuses and primaries must be made with caution, because turnout is affected by the date of the primaries and by the nature of the Democratic and Republican Presidential campaigns, which are different in every state.

³ 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.

⁴ For state-by-state comparisons of voter turnout rates, see the CIRCLE fact sheet "Youth Voter Turnout in the States during the 2004 Presidential and the 2002 Midterm Elections."

⁵ We have defined racial/ethnic groups in the CPS November Supplements by defining anyone with Hispanic background as Latino; individuals who cite a single non-Hispanic race or ethnicity are identified as non-Hispanic white, African American, Asian American or Native American.