FACT SHEET: Family Income
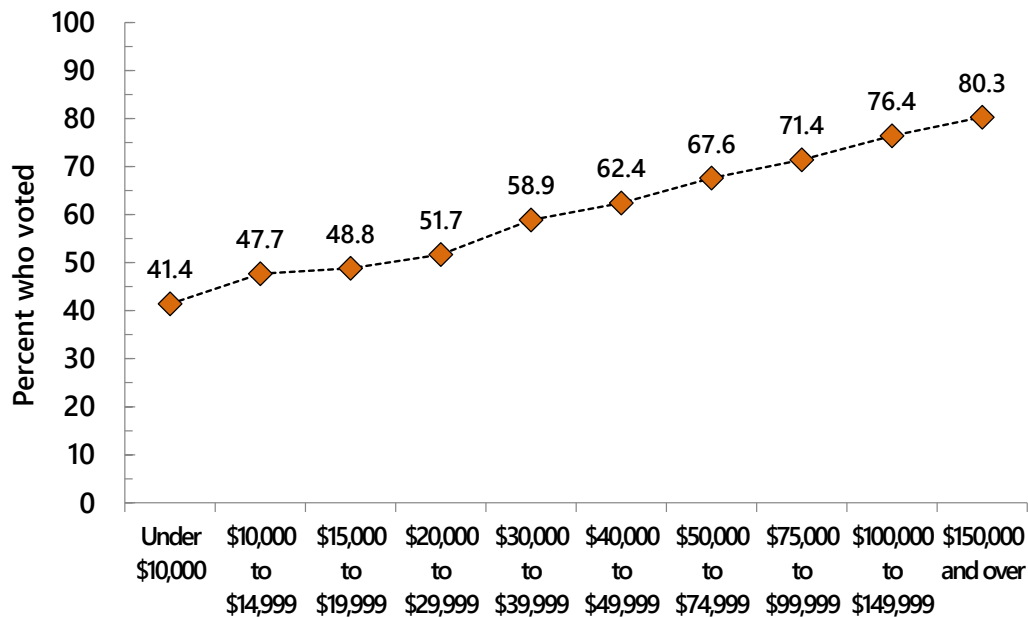
Voting by Family Income
Citizens 18+ years old residing in families in 2016
Total = 129.5 million (see text)

Who is Included in the Voting by Family Income Chart?

Family income is the total annual dollar income for all members of a family combined. Family members were defined as people with the following relationship to the householder: spouse, child, grandchild, parent, sibling, or other relative. The data presented here are limited to persons who resided in a family and reported income. The Bureau of the Census excluded foster children, unmarried partners, non-relatives, and roommates from family income tabulations. Voting data for respondents who refused to state their income or reported not knowing their income are not shown.

Voting by Family Income

Fewer than half of low-income citizens voted in 2016: 41.4% of those with family incomes less than $10,000 per year, 47.7% of those with family incomes $10,000 to $14,999 per year, and 48.8% of those with family incomes $15,000 to $19,999 per year (Figure 17).

In contrast, over three-fourths of citizens with the highest family incomes voted in 2016: 76.4% of those with family incomes $100,000 to $149,999 per year and 80.3% of those with family incomes $150,000 per year and higher (Figure 17).

Missing Voters by Family Income

We did not calculate missing voter counts by family income because of the large number of citizens who were missing family income data (94.5 million out of 224 million) in the Bureau of the Census data.

Notes

Please note that some numbers may appear not to add up correctly due to rounding. Voting data are from the Current Population Survey (November 2016). Population counts and percentages in this report are statistically-weighted estimates derived by the Bureau of the Census from a national sample of over 90,000 respondents in 54,000 households. Full technical details for the Missing Voters Project, links to the original census data, and other valuable resources are available at www.wiise-usa.org/mvp.