

19.

REASONS FOR LEAVING SCHOOL*

(Base: Did not finish high school = 85%)

	Total %	Negro %	White %
Wanted to/had to work	22 } 35	23 } 39	21 } 30
Help out family by working	13 }	16 }	9 }
Didn't like anything about it	23 } 34	20 } 31	28 } 40
Bored, lost interest	11 }	11 }	12 }
Got into trouble, kicked out	21 } 34	22 } 34	18 } 32
Cutting classes, wrong crowd	8 }	7 }	9 }
Trouble with other kids, fights	5 }	5 }	5 }
Was failing, couldn't do work	20	15	27
Felt I was too old	6	6	10
Got sick	4	3	6
To join Job Corps	3	4	2
To join military, wasn't accepted	3	2	4
All other	11	8	14

* Adds to more than 100 percent as some respondents gave more than one answer.

Over one in three of the no-shows gave the need to work as a reason for leaving school.

(Fifty percent more no-shows than dropouts volunteered this reason).

A general lack of interest and trouble with school authorities or other students were equally important reasons for not finishing high school.

When Negroes and whites are compared, three areas show marked differences: whites more than Negroes left school because of failing work or a generally low level of interest. Negroes more than whites left because of a need to work.