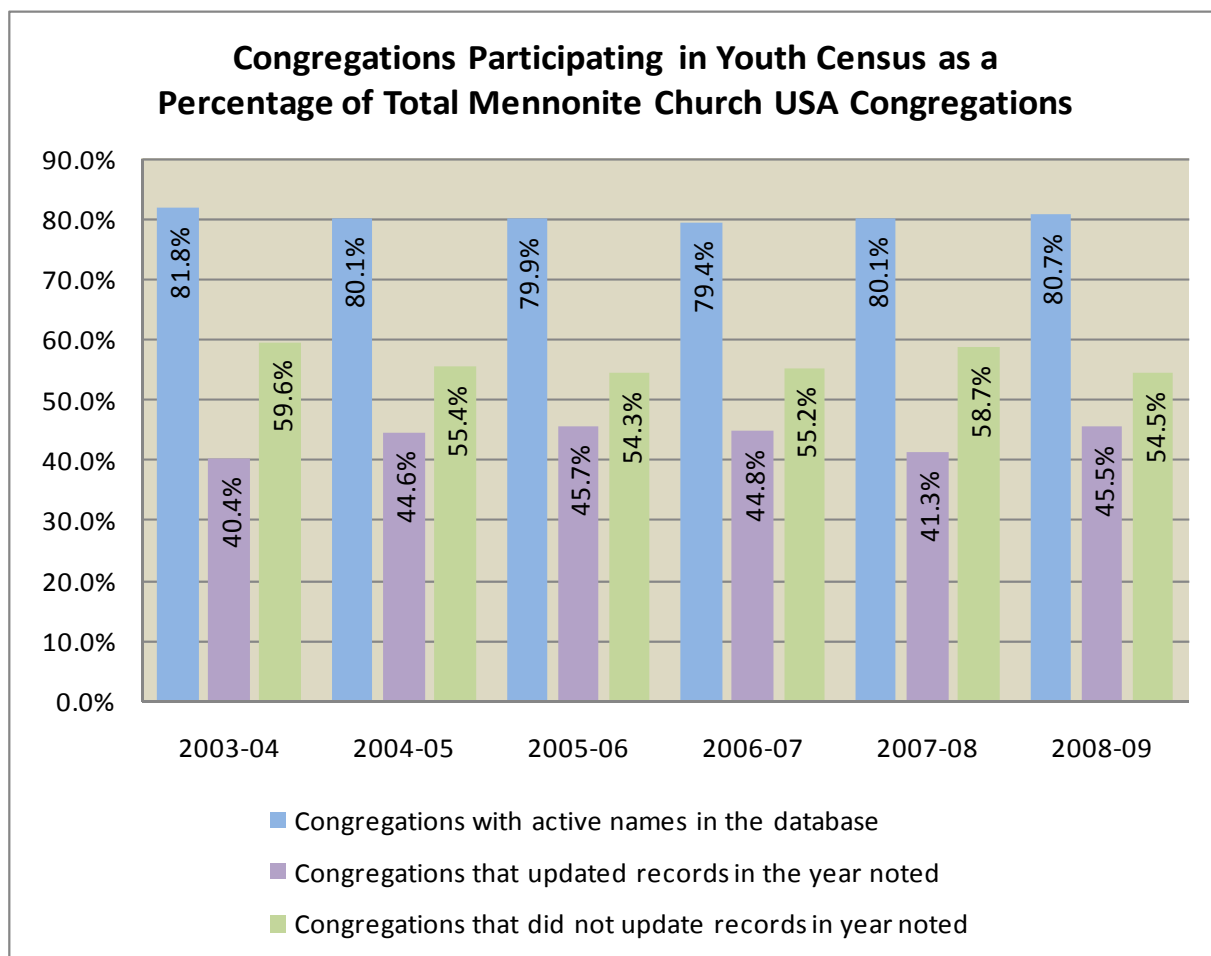


YOUTH CENSUS

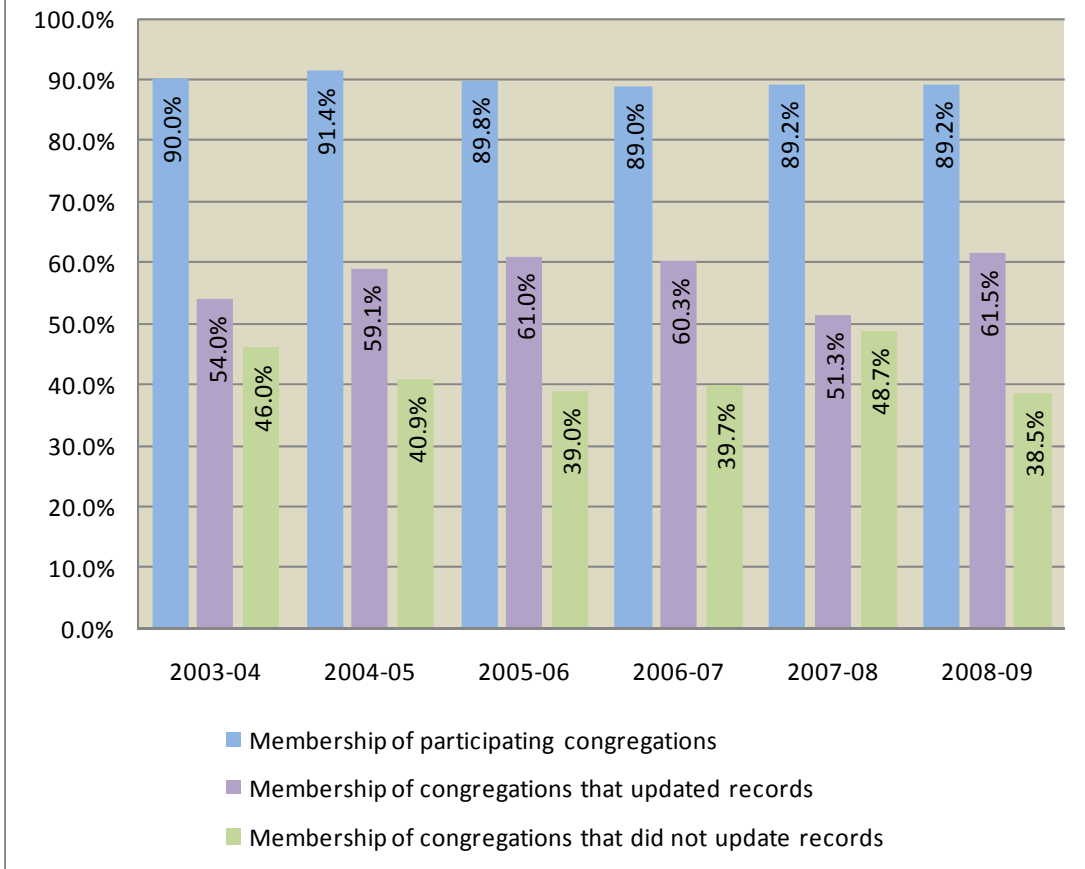
Data included in this report was gathered from the 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 academic years. While not enough to document long-term trends or to extract full-blown census projections for the denomination, these statistics lay a foundation for understanding the parameters of the Mennonite Church USA Youth Census.

Only data from the school years 2003-04 through 2008-09 Youth Census collections were included in this analysis because they represent the cleanest Youth Census data available. Prior to 2003, Youth Census data did not include the General Conference Mennonite Church and only names from the Mennonite Church.

Composition of MEA Youth Census Database



Membership of Participating Congregations as a Percentage of Total Mennonite Church USA Membership



<u>Congregational participation</u>	<u>2004-05</u>		<u>2005-06</u>		<u>2006-07</u>		<u>2007-08</u>		<u>2008-09</u>	
	<u>Congs</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Congs</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Congs</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Congs</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Congs</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Mennonite Church USA congregations in database	960		946		936		920		905	
Congregations with active names in the database	769	80.1%	756	79.9%	743	79.4%	737	80.1%	730	80.7%
Congregations that updated records in the year noted	428	44.6%	432	44.7%	419	44.8%	380	41.3%	412	45.5%
Congregations that did not update records in the year noted	532	55.4%	514	54.3%	517	55.2%	540	58.7%	493	54.5%
<u>Membership participation</u>										
Total Mennonite Church USA membership in database	111,924		111,793		109,580		108,241		106,582	
Membership of participating congregations	102,255	91.4%	100,418	89.8%	97,511	89.0%	96,516	89.2%	96,286	89.2%
Membership of updated congregations	66,160	59.1%	68,242	61.0%	66,031	60.3%	55,500	51.3%	66,391	61.5%
Membership of congregations not updated	45,764	40.9%	43,551	39.0%	43,549	39.7%	52,741	48.7%	41,601	38.5%

Youth Census Issues

- A Youth Census goal is to increase the number of congregational participants. The modest 0.6% increase in participating congregations did not result in an increase in membership participation in the Youth Census which remained the same for 2008-09 compared with 2007-08.
- Efforts to strengthen the quality of the database by MEA staff include calls and e-mails to congregational representatives to verify the accuracy of information submitted for inclusion in the database.
- Several times a year, the database is “cleansed” by a process designed to complete incomplete addresses, correct zip codes, change addresses for persons that moved and other details that increase the accuracy of the addresses.

Mennonite Church USA Response to Requests for Youth Census Information

- The movement of congregations in and out of Mennonite Church USA membership makes detailed trend comparisons difficult. Each year will be considered on its own merits until an adequate history has been created to see longer-range trends.
- The total Youth Census database, as of 2008-09, contains 27,641 active names.

Active Count by Graduation Year

The Youth Census table reflects the database according to high school graduation year. These counts represent the actual number of Youth Census names available for each graduation year, not the total number of high school graduates for the entire church.

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>
12	1,851	1,917	1,764	1,721	1,625
11	1,944	1,859	1,767	1,695	1,570
10	1,897	1,807	1,709	1,589	1,579
9	1,816	1,669	1,622	1,614	1,363
8	1,655	1,688	1,632	1,397	1,435
7	1,689	1,457	1,401	1,458	1,267
6	1,437	1,494	1,468	1,265	1,225
5	1,458	1,251	1,247	1,250	1,151
4	1,166	1,263	1,261	1,140	1,078
3	1,204	1,139	1,129	1,087	1,068
2	1,056	1,004	1,058	1,055	856
1	868	908	1,012	921	763
Age 5	426	293	726	575	530
Age 4	198	299	328	458	426
Age 3	231	232	286	331	334
Age 2	164	184	217	275	282
Age 1	108	132	187	241	253
Younger than age 1	11	16	171	260	147
Special needs (no age/grade)	15	29	47	47	50
Total, birth through Grade 12	19,194	18,641	19,032	18,379	17,002
Current college-age count (prior five graduation years)	8,155	8,123	6,622	6,641	6,897
Total active count	27,349	26,764	25,654	25,020	23,899

Returns by Area Conference and by Region

A breakdown of the Youth Census returns by area conference may be found on Table 15. Three regions were created to provide a geographical perspective of the congregations that participated in the census. Fifty-three percent of the congregations in the middle region reported 62% of the region's membership. In the west, 44% of the congregations reported 64% of the region's membership. In the east, 41% of the congregations reported 59% of the region's membership.

Comparison of Mennonite College/University Attendance Reporting with Youth Census Reporting of Higher Education Enrollment by Congregations

College/university attendance information is requested on the Youth Census data collection form. Some persons submitting the census information have good data available to them and some do not, so the consistency of this information varies.

However, a comparison of the reports regarding Mennonite college/university attendance was included on Table 16 even though the long-term value of this report may be in question.

This model is flawed in that it assumes the college/university students included in a specific enrollment year all came directly from high school to higher education. The reality is that college/university students often take time out for service, work or travel rather than follow a four-year lock-step sequence to enrollment in college/university. However, the model begins to lay the foundation for tightening the collection of data around this question.

**Table 15. Youth Census Returns Summary by Area Conference,
Data from the 2008-09 Youth Census
Mennonite Education Agency**

The Youth Census Count includes students that graduated in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

SUMMARY BY AREA CONFERENCE		<i>NOT RETURNED</i>		<i>RETURNED</i>		<i>TOTALS</i>		YOUTH CENSUS COUNT
Region	Area conference name	# congs	# mbrshp	# congs	# mbrshp	# congs	# mbrshp	
East	Atlantic Coast	10	1,491	13	2,605	23	4,096	249
East	Eastern District	11	946	3	912	14	1,858	54
East	Eastern Dist & Atlantic Coast	-	-	1	49	1	49	-
East	Franconia	12	1,368	28	5,082	40	6,450	489
East	Franklin	7	454	6	672	13	1,126	58
East	Gulf States	11	519	3	240	14	759	71
East	Lancaster	107	8,393	61	7,903	168	16,296	952
East	New York	9	287	7	942	16	1,229	92
East	Southeast	24	2,028	6	657	30	2,685	113
East	Virginia	34	2,276	31	6,091	65	8,367	501
Middle	Allegheny	14	949	16	1,962	30	2,911	171
Middle	Central District	15	1,057	15	2,506	30	3,563	138
Middle	Central District & Illinois	2	130	5	649	7	779	40
Middle	Central District & Ind-Mich	4	120	2	230	6	350	27
Middle	Central District & Ohio	1	-	3	540	4	540	22
Middle	Illinois	24	4,154	11	1,845	35	5,999	202
Middle	Indiana-Michigan	32	3,540	42	6,432	74	9,972	593
Middle	Ohio	29	3,310	43	7,934	72	11,244	690
West	Central Plains	18	1,084	35	6,765	53	7,849	331
West	Mountain States	9	826	12	895	21	1,721	76
West	North Central	10	362	3	64	13	426	41
West	Pacific Northwest	24	1,501	16	1,680	40	3,181	165
West	Pacific Southwest	35	2,228	11	1,263	46	3,491	111
West	South Central	17	655	8	2,080	25	2,735	165
West	Western District	31	3,635	31	6,393	62	10,028	379
West	Western Dist & South Central	3	288	-	-	3	288	20
Grand Total		493	41,601	412	66,391	905	107,992	5,750
Average Congregation Size		84		161		119		
NUMERICAL SUMMARY BY REGION		<i>NOT RETURNED</i>		<i>RETURNED</i>		<i>TOTALS</i>		
		# congs	# mbrshp	# congs	# mbrshp	# congs	# mbrshp	
East		225	17,762	159	25,153	384	42,915	
Middle		121	13,260	137	22,098	258	35,358	
West		147	10,579	116	19,140	263	29,719	
Totals		493	41,601	412	66,391	905	107,992	
PERCENTAGE RETURNED BY REGION				congs	mbrshp			
East				41%	59%			
Middle				53%	62%			
West				44%	64%			

**Table 16. Mennonite Student Enrollment at Mennonite Colleges/Universities,
Per the Youth Census and the Institutions, Fall 2008**

RAW NUMBERS		Youth Census reported for Grads from 06, 07 and 08	Mennonite College Enrollees per YC	Mennonite College Enrollees per Colleges	Students at Mennonite Colleges not reported by YC	Percent Youth Census enrolled at Menno Coll as reported by YC	Percent Youth Census enrolled at Menno Coll as reported by Colleges
Region	Area conference name						
East	Atlantic Coast	249	20	38	18	8%	15%
East	Eastern District	54	1	5	4	2%	9%
East	Eastern District & Atlantic Coast	-	-	1	1	0%	0%
East	Franconia	489	69	103	34	14%	21%
East	Franklin	58	7	9	2	12%	16%
East	Gulf States	71	1	1	-	1%	1%
East	Lancaster	952	33	71	38	3%	7%
East	New York	92	10	9	(1)	11%	10%
East	Southeast	113	4	17	13	4%	15%
East	Virginia	501	79	138	59	16%	28%
Middle	Allegheny	171	13	28	15	8%	16%
Middle	Central District	138	33	107	74	24%	78%
Middle	Central District & Illinois	40	9	12	3	23%	30%
Middle	Central District & Ind-Mich	27	5	21	16	19%	78%
Middle	Central District & Ohio	22	5	2	(3)	23%	9%
Middle	Illinois	202	17	53	36	8%	26%
Middle	Indiana-Michigan	593	134	196	62	23%	33%
Middle	Ohio	690	99	167	68	14%	24%
West	Central Plains	331	59	111	52	18%	34%
West	Mountain States	76	19	31	12	25%	41%
West	North Central	41	1	1	-	2%	2%
West	Pacific Northwest	165	20	37	17	12%	22%
West	Pacific Southwest	111	3	10	7	3%	9%
West	South Central	165	35	61	26	21%	37%
West	Western District	379	64	152	88	17%	40%
West	Western District & South Central	20	7	1	(6)	35%	5%
Grand Total		5,750	747	1,382	635	13%	24%