FOUNDINGS AND CUMULATIVE INCIDENCE OF VERY LARGE U.S. MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATIONS
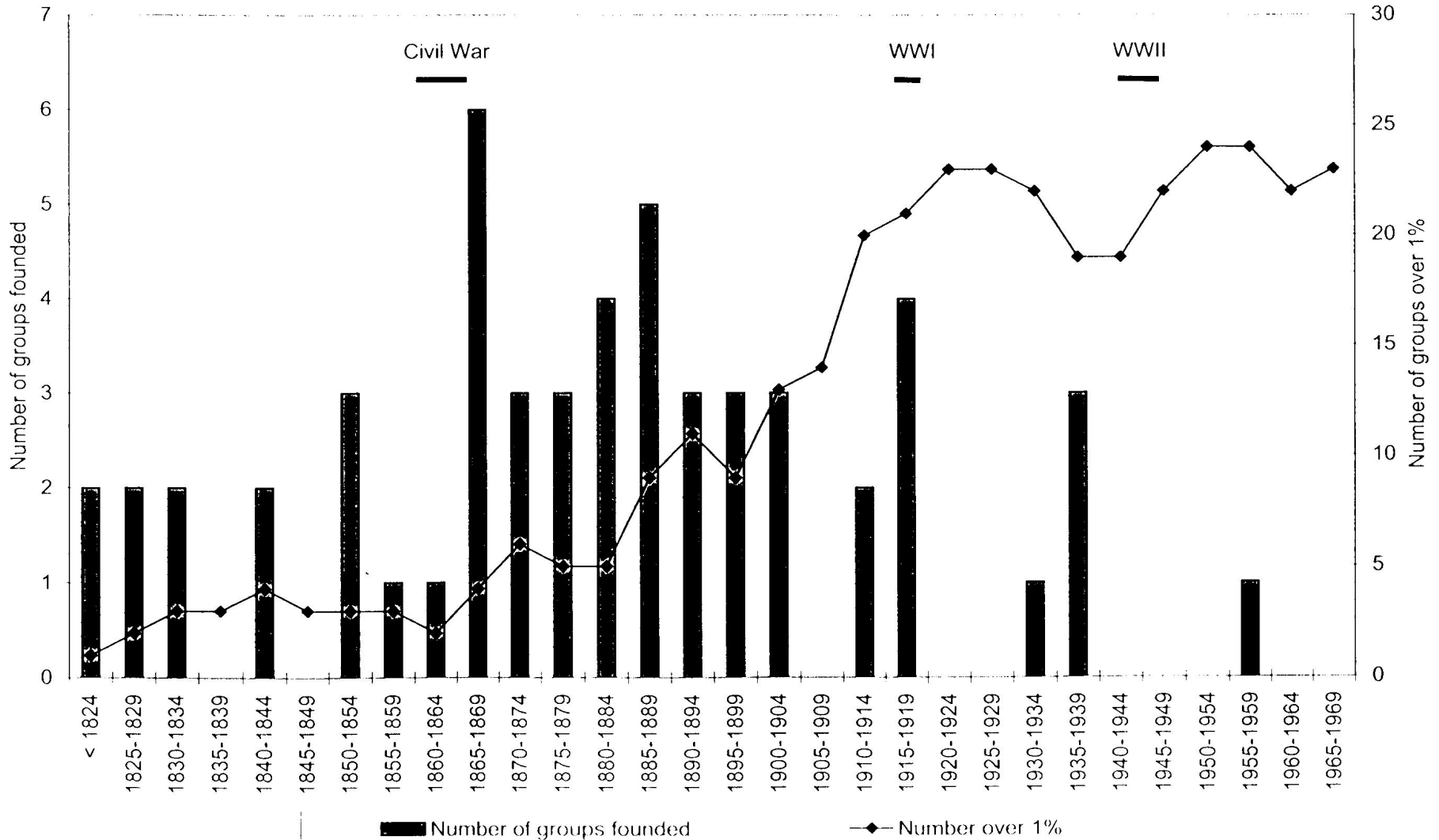
Table 1. U.S. Membership Associations Enrolling One Percent or More of American Adults in 1955

Name (Year Founded)	Membership	Percent of Adults Who Belong	Number of Local Units
AFL-CIO (1886)	12,622,000	12.05	NA
National Congress of Parents and Teachers (1897)	9,409,282	8.99	40,396 local PTAs
American Automobile Association (1902)	5,009,346	4.78	464
Ancient and Accepted Free Masons (1733)	4,009,925	7.86 (m)	15,662 lodges
American Legion (1919)	2,795,990	5.48 (m)	16,937 posts
Order of the Eastern Star (1868)	2,365,778	2.26	12,277 chapters
Young Men's Christian Association (1851)	2,222,618	2.12	1502
United Methodist Women (1939)	1,811,600	3.37 (w)	NA
American Bowling Congress (1895)	1,741,000	3.41 (m)	43,090
American Farm Bureau Federation (1919)	1,600,000 (est.)	1.53	3,000 (est.)
Boy Scouts of America (1910)	1,350,000 (est.)	1.29	53,804
Woman's Missionary Union (1888)	1,245,358	2.32 (w)	65,132
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (1867)	1,149,613	2.25 (m)	1,720 lodges
Veterans of Foreign Wars (1913)	1,086,859	2.13 (m)	7,000 (est.)
Loyal Order of Moose (1888)	843,697	1.65 (m)	1,767 lodges
General Federation of Women's Clubs (1890)	826,458	1.54 (w)	15,168 clubs
Knights of Columbus (1882)	800,486	1.57 (m)	3,083 councils
Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (1872)	761,179	1.49 (m)	166
Fraternal Order of Eagles (1898)	760,007	1.49 (m)	1,566 aeries
Women's International Bowling Congress (1916)	706,193	1.31 (w)	22,842
Independent Order of Odd Fellows (1819)	543,171	1.07 (m)	7,572 lodges
American Red Cross (1881)	*	*	3,713 chapters
March of Dimes (1938)	*	*	3,090 chapters

NOTES: Data come from the Civic Engagement Project, Harvard University.

(m) indicates men only; (w) indicates women only. (est.) indicates a best available estimate.

NA indicates data not available at this time.

* Membership data are not given for the Red Cross and March of Dimes, because they include contributors as well as participants.