

Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1998 (Update)

By Jennifer C. Day and Andrea E. Curry

C E N S U S B U R E A U

P20-513
Issued October 1998

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available which provide statistics on educational attainment of the noninstitutional population of the United States, based on the March 1998 Current Population Survey. In the highlights below, the numbers in *italics* are significantly different from the corresponding numbers in 1997; others are not significantly different. These tables provide information such as:

- About **82.8 percent** of all adults ages 25 and over have completed high school and **24.4 percent** have completed a Bachelor's degree or more.
- The high school completion level of young adults (ages 25 to 29) was 88.1 percent, while the college completion level was 27.3 percent.
- Among women 25 and over, **82.9 percent** have earned a high school diploma, and **22.4 percent** have completed a Bachelor's degree or more.
- College completion rates for young women exceeded those for young men, 29.0 versus 25.6 percent, respectively, for those aged 25 to 29.
- For Whites 25 and over, **83.7 percent** completed high school and 25.0 percent have a Bachelor's degree or more.
- Annual average earnings for those age 18 and over in 1997 who only completed high school was **\$22,895**, with only a Bachelor's degree – **\$40,478**.
- About 89.5 percent of the employed civilian labor force ages 25 and over had a high school degree.
- High school completion levels for those age 25 and over were highest for the Midwest, 85.8 percent, and lowest for the South, **80.1 percent**.

DETAILED TABULATIONS

The set of detailed tabulations consists of 16 tables from the 1998 March CPS (86 pages) and 3 historical tables. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet, at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, click on "Subjects A-Z," then on "E", and finally on "Educational Attainment."

A paper version of these tables is available as PPL-99 for \$30.00. To receive a paper copy, send your request for "PPL-99, Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1998," along with a check or money order in the amount of \$30.00 payable to Commerce-Census-88-00-9010, to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. A copy of these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this update. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

For additional information on these topics, contact Jennifer C. Day or Andrea E. Curry, Education and Social Stratification Branch, on 301-457-2464 or via Internet E-mail (jday@census.gov or acurry@census.gov).

The data in the detailed tables are estimates based on a sample survey (the Current Population Survey) and are subject to sampling variability since they are not based on a complete enumeration of the population. For information on the source of the data, the accuracy of the estimates, the use of standard errors, and the computation of standard errors, contact John Finamore, Demographic Statistical Methods Division (301-457-4183) or via Internet E-mail, (john.finamore@cmail.census.gov).

NOTICE TO USERS

In order to keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey, short data updates will be made available in both printed and electronic forms for years when full reports are not produced. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic form on the Internet. If you wish to obtain the new tabulations for March 1998, updating Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1997 (Current Population Reports, P20-505), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section.

Our decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately, we hope this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. If you have comments about this change or the P20 series in general, please contact us on the Internet at: pop@census.gov, or write to: Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.