

Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1996 (Update)

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

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NOTICE TO USERS

Last year, the Census Bureau announced its intention to offer more information in electronic format while reducing the number of printed reports. This change is now being implemented for the P20 Current Population Reports series. Many P20 reports, such as the "Educational Attainment" report, will now be printed only every other year.

Instead, to keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey, short data updates will be produced each year and made available in both printed and electronic forms. 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 1996, updating Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1995 (Current Population Reports, P20-489), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section at the end of this report.

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.

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 1996 Current Population Survey. These tables provide information such as:

- 81.7 percent of all adults ages 25 and over have completed high school and 23.6 percent have completed a Bachelor's degree or more.
- The high school completion level of young adults (ages 25 to 29) was 87.3 percent, while the college completion level was 27.1 percent.
- Among women ages 25 and over, 81.6 percent have earned a high school diploma, and 21.4 percent have completed a Bachelor's degree or more.

- Annual average earnings in 1995 for people with a Bachelor's degree was \$36,980.
- 89.4 percent of the employed civilian labor force ages 25 and over had a high school degree or more.

DETAILED TABULATIONS

The tables include 16 detailed tables (86 pages) and 3 historical tables, providing demographic characteristics of educational attainment by race and Hispanic origin. 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 Educational Attainment.

A paper version of these tables, along with related historical tables, is available as PPL-56 for \$30.00. To receive a paper copy, send your request for "PPL-56, Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1996," 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@ccmail.census.gov).