

United States Census Bureau

How Do We Know?

The Educational Path of Our Nation

Education plays a fundamental role in American society. Here we take a look at school enrollment, costs and educational outcomes. How does school enrollment today compare with 1970, when the baby boom generation was in its prime years of school attendance (age 6 to 24) and made up 90 percent of all student enrolled in schools? The American Community and other Census Bureau survey provide us with information to answer these other valuable questions. Education statistics are vital to communities in determining funding allocations and guiding program planning.

Total Enrollment

(FOR 3 TO 34 YEAR OLDS IN MILLIONS)

0.9 1970

4.9 2010

NURSERY SCHOOL

3.0 1970

4.2 2010

KINDERGARTEN

33.2 1970

32.9 2010

GRADE SCHOOL

14.5 1970

17.0 2010

HIGH SCHOOL

7.0 1970

18.9 2010

COLLEGE & GRAD SCHOOL

Source: US Census Bureau, 1970 Census of Population, American Community Survey 2010

PERCENT ENROLLED BY AGE

3 TO 5 YEARS

1970 27 %

2010 60 %

5 TO 6 YEARS

1970 73 %

2010 92 %

6 TO 14 YEARS

1970 97 %

2010 98 %

14 TO 18 YEARS

1970 89 %

2010 93 %

18 TO 24 YEARS

1970 32 %

2010 52 %

Source: US Census Bureau, 1970 Census of Population, American Community Survey 2010

Early Childhood Education

PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

(PERCENT OF CHILDREN 3 TO 5 YEARS ENROLLED)

Public Kindergarten

1965 18.3 %

2009 24.7 %

PRIVATE PRE-SCHOOL

1965 3.1 %

2009 15.3 %

PUBLIC PRE-SCHOOL

1965 1.0 %

2009 21.3 %

PRIVATE KINDERGARTEN

1965 4.7 %

2009 2.2 %

Students start school earlier and spend more time in school

In 2009, about 61 percent of the children attended a full-day preprimary program, compared with 17 percent in 1970 (bar graph)

Source: US Department of Education

College and Grad School

TOTAL ENROLLED BY SEX

(PERCENT OF POPULATION 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD)

MEN

1970 27 %

2010 38.6 %

WOMEN

1970 20 %

2010 47.5 %

In 2010, women outnumber men in higher education

Women 7,168,580

Men 6,095,371

Source: US Census Bureau, 1970 Census of Population, American Community Survey 2010

What Are We Spending on Our Public Schools?

IN FISCAL YEAR 2010, AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS SPENT:

\$602.6 BILLION ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY

Instruction

52.7 %

\$317.8 Billion

SUPPORT SERVICES

29.7 %

\$179.0 Billion

CAPITAL OUTLAYS

9.8 %

\$59.4 Billion

OTHER

7.7 %

\$46.5 Billion

Instruction Spending Amounts Per Pupil

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEMS BY STATE: 2009 – 2010 (Map)

Map Key

\$9,000 +

\$6,000 to \$8,999

\$3,000 to \$5,999

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Annual Survey of School System Finances

The Outcomes of Education

PEOPLE 25 AND OVER IN 2010 WITH AT LEAST A BACHELOR DEGREE

57,578,042

MEDIAN EARNINGS BY EDUCATION

(PEOPLE 25 YEARS AND OVER IN 2010) (BAR GRAPH)

GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE

TOTAL POPULATION \$62,618

MEN \$79,962

WOMEN \$52,866

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

TOTAL POPULATION \$47,422

MEN \$57,815

WOMEN \$40,393

SOME COLLEGE OR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

TOTAL POPULATION \$31,928

MEN \$39,925

WOMEN \$27,062

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (INCLUDES EQUIVALENCY)

TOTAL POPULATION \$26,349

MEN \$31,376

WOMEN \$21,427

LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

TOTAL POPULATION \$18,413

MEN \$21,387

WOMEN \$14,470

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010

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Source: US Census Bureau, 1970 Census of Population, American Community Survey 2010, 2010 Annual Survey of School Systems Finances, US Department of Education