

the condition of education 2004



INDICATOR 12

Education and Health

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2004*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2004* visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004077>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Social and Cultural Outcomes

Education and Health

The better educated a person is, the more likely that person is to report being in “excellent” or “very good” health, regardless of income.

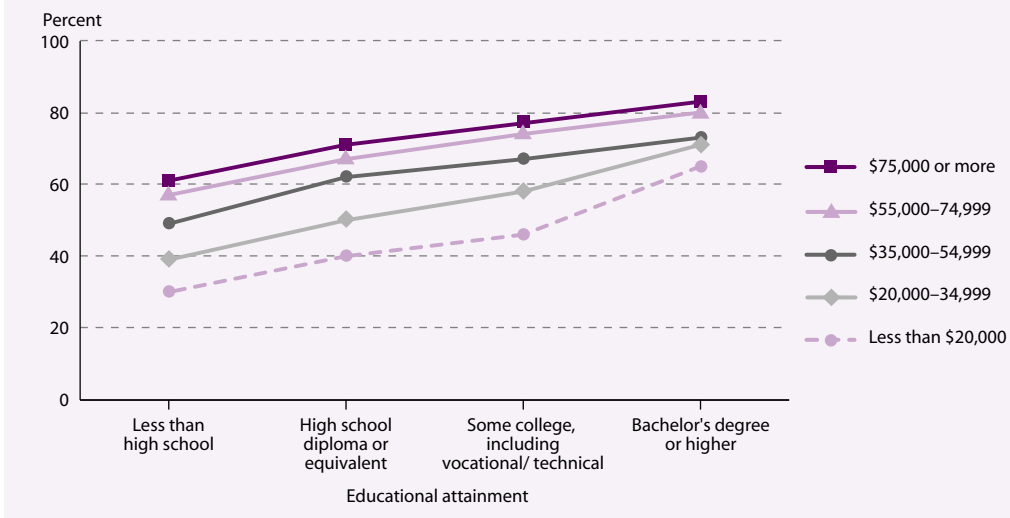
Education and health are positively related. In the National Health Interview Survey, the National Center for Health Statistics annually surveys people concerning their health. One question asks respondents to rate their own health. In 2001, the better educated a person was, the more likely that person was to report being in “excellent” or “very good” health. Among adults age 25 and above, 78 percent of those with a bachelor’s degree or higher reported being in excellent or very good health, compared with 66 percent of those with some education beyond high school, 56 percent of high school completers, and 39 percent of those with less than a high school education (see supplemental table 12-1).

Family income, age, and poverty status are also related to health. The more family income a person has and the farther above the poverty level, the more likely that person is to report being in excellent or very good health. In 2001, 40 percent of people living below the poverty threshold reported being in excellent or very good health, compared with 46 percent of near-

poor (100–199 percent of poverty level) and 69 percent of nonpoor (twice the poverty level) people. Age is inversely related to health: as age increases, the likelihood of reporting being in excellent or very good health decreases.

Education remains positively related to health, independent of the relationship between health and either family income, age, or poverty status. For example, within each income range, people with a bachelor’s degree or higher reported being in better health than people with some education beyond high school, who, in turn, reported being in better health than high school completers. Those with less than a high school education reported being less healthy than their peers with more education. In 2001, among all adults age 25 and above with a family income between \$20,000 and \$34,999, 72 percent with a bachelor’s degree or higher reported being in excellent or very good health, compared with 58 percent of those with some education beyond high school, 50 percent of high school completers, and 39 percent of those with less than a high school education.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH: Percentage of the population age 25 and above who reported being in excellent or very good health, by educational attainment and family income: 2001



NOTE: Includes those who responded “excellent” or “very good” on a scale of “excellent,” “very good,” “good,” “fair,” and “poor.”

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2001, previously unpublished tabulation (October 2003).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Supplemental Notes 1,3
 Supplemental Table 12-1
 Bjorner et al. 1996
 Lantz et al. 2001



Education and Health

Table 12-1. Percentage of respondents age 25 and above who reported being in excellent or very good health, by educational attainment and selected characteristics: 2001

Characteristic	Less than high school	High school diploma or equivalent	Some college, including vocational/technical	Bachelor's degree or higher	Total
Total	39.0	56.2	65.9	78.4	61.2
Sex					
Male	42.0	58.6	67.2	78.7	63.1
Female	36.3	54.2	64.8	78.1	59.5
Family income					
Less than \$20,000	29.9	39.8	45.6	65.3	39.3
\$20,000–34,999	38.9	50.3	57.9	71.5	52.3
\$35,000–54,999	49.3	62.3	67.1	73.4	64.3
\$55,000–74,999	56.9	66.7	74.1	79.6	72.1
\$75,000 or more	61.2	71.2	76.6	83.3	78.3
Poverty status ¹					
Poor	30.7	40.3	48.9	65.8	39.5
Near-poor	36.7	46.7	52.2	67.1	46.3
Nonpoor	47.4	62.6	70.6	79.8	69.2
Race/ethnicity ²					
American Indian	36.6	48.7	62.9	67.1	50.7
Asian	44.4	50.6	63.9	74.8	64.2
Black	33.1	49.7	57.8	69.8	51.1
White	36.6	57.1	67.4	79.7	63.4
Hispanic	47.0	60.4	65.0	76.1	56.8
Age					
25–34	61.6	70.9	77.1	87.7	76.1
35–44	50.6	65.7	72.6	83.8	70.6
45–54	36.3	54.9	64.0	77.8	61.8
55–64	29.8	46.9	56.3	71.4	51.8
65 and above	25.9	39.5	44.2	55.1	38.1
Metropolitan status area					
2.5 million and above	43.0	58.6	64.8	78.5	63.3
1–2.49 million	42.4	58.2	66.8	80.0	64.4
Under 1 million	38.3	55.4	65.8	77.9	60.9
Nonmetropolitan area	33.3	53.8	66.0	75.7	55.7
Region					
Northeast	40.9	58.0	65.3	78.3	62.5
Midwest	33.6	56.5	66.7	79.0	61.5
South	38.0	54.3	65.0	78.1	59.1
West	44.0	57.5	66.7	78.3	63.5

¹"Near-poor" is defined as 100–199 percent of the poverty level, and "nonpoor" is defined as twice the poverty level. See *supplemental note 1* for more information on poverty.

²American Indian includes Alaska Native, Asian includes Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian, Black includes African American, and Hispanic includes Latino. Racial categories exclude Hispanic origin. Other race/ethnicities are included in the total but are not shown separately.

NOTE: Includes those who responded "excellent" or "very good" from a scale of "excellent," "very good," "good," "fair," and "poor." See *supplemental note 1* for more information on metropolitan status area and region.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2001, previously unpublished tabulation (October 2003).

Education and Health

Table S12. Standard errors for the percentage of the population age 25 and above who reported being in excellent or very good health, by educational attainment and family income: 2001

Family income	Less than high school	High school diploma or equivalent	Some college, including vocational/technical	Bachelor's degree or higher
Less than \$20,000	0.87	1.01	1.34	1.98
\$20,000–34,999	1.38	1.11	1.24	1.53
\$35,000–54,999	1.76	1.07	1.10	1.23
\$55,000–74,999	2.69	1.30	1.06	1.08
\$75,000 or more	2.67	1.33	0.90	0.63

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2001, previously unpublished tabulation (October 2003).

Education and Health

Table S12-1. Standard errors for the percentage of respondents age 25 and above who reported being in excellent or very good health, by educational attainment and selected characteristics: 2001

Characteristic	Less than high school	High school diploma or equivalent	Some college, including vocational/technical	Bachelor's degree or higher	Total
Total	0.64	0.48	0.46	0.42	0.32
Sex					
Male	0.84	0.60	0.58	0.52	0.35
Female	0.73	0.54	0.58	0.57	0.36
Family income					
Less than \$20,000	0.87	1.01	1.34	1.98	0.67
\$20,000–34,999	1.38	1.11	1.24	1.53	0.74
\$35,000–54,999	1.76	1.07	1.10	1.23	0.64
\$55,000–74,999	2.69	1.30	1.06	1.08	0.73
\$75,000 or more	2.67	1.33	0.90	0.63	0.53
Poverty status					
Poor	1.31	1.69	2.11	3.16	1.07
Near-poor	1.18	1.27	1.40	2.24	0.79
Nonpoor	1.08	0.64	0.55	0.52	0.37
Race/ethnicity					
American Indian	6.39	5.41	5.91	10.13	3.24
Asian	4.30	3.24	3.17	1.96	1.49
Black	1.52	1.14	1.18	1.65	0.80
White	0.87	0.56	0.53	0.47	0.37
Hispanic	1.12	1.11	1.22	1.52	0.72
Age					
25–34	1.37	0.98	0.82	0.66	0.48
35–44	1.23	0.81	0.78	0.62	0.49
45–54	1.31	0.98	0.90	0.81	0.52
55–64	1.26	1.16	1.20	1.25	0.68
65 and above	0.88	0.94	1.33	1.36	0.63
Metropolitan status area					
2.5 million and above	1.33	1.05	0.88	0.76	0.62
1–2.49 million	1.47	0.87	0.89	0.75	0.58
Under 1 million	1.18	0.92	0.86	0.78	0.61
Nonmetropolitan area	1.14	0.93	1.14	1.33	0.68
Region					
Northeast	1.78	1.02	0.95	0.99	0.72
Midwest	1.26	0.90	0.89	0.96	0.67
South	0.95	0.86	0.83	0.69	0.54
West	1.38	1.09	0.94	0.80	0.63

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2001, previously unpublished tabulation (October 2003).