

Table 359.—Participation in adult education during the previous 12 months by adults 17 years old and older, by selected characteristics of participants: 1991, 1995, and 1999

Characteristics of participants	Percent participating in any program, 1991 ¹	1995						1999								
		Population, in thousands	Adult education participants, in thousands ¹	Percent participating ²				Population, in thousands	Adult education participants, in thousands ¹	Percent participating						
				In any program	In part-time post-secondary education	In career or job related courses	Personal development courses			In any program	In basic education	In English as a second language	In part-time post-secondary education	In career or job related courses	In apprentice programs	Personal development courses
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Total	33.0	189,543	76,261	40.2	6.1	20.9	19.9	194,559	86,593	44.5 (0.8)	1.1 (0.2)	0.9 (0.2)	9.3 (0.4)	22.2 (0.6)	1.8 (0.2)	22.2 (0.6)
Sex																
Men	32.6	90,256	34,450	38.2	5.6	21.8	15.8	93,071	38,765	41.7 (1.2)	1.0 (0.2)	0.9 (0.2)	9.9 (0.6)	22.1 (0.9)	2.5 (0.4)	17.4 (0.9)
Women	33.2	99,287	41,811	42.1	6.5	20.2	23.5	101,488	47,828	47.1 (1.0)	1.1 (0.2)	1.0 (0.2)	8.8 (0.5)	22.2 (0.8)	1.1 (0.2)	26.7 (0.9)
Age																
17 to 24 years	37.8	22,407	10,539	47.0	12.6	14.7	21.5	23,372	11,673	49.9 (2.3)	4.9 (1.0)	1.1 (0.3)	13.6 (1.4)	16.4 (1.5)	4.0 (1.1)	22.8 (1.9)
25 to 29 years	40.0	18,988	9,420	49.6	10.9	25.5	21.0	18,427	10,406	56.5 (2.5)	1.2 (0.5)	2.5 (0.8)	18.6 (1.8)	30.0 (2.1)	3.4 (0.8)	23.8 (2.0)
30 to 34 years	37.6	21,338	10,088	47.3	8.0	26.1	23.3	19,423	10,908	56.2 (2.6)	1.0 (0.4)	1.6 (0.6)	13.0 (1.5)	29.4 (2.2)	3.0 (0.8)	26.5 (2.2)
35 to 39 years	42.1	22,494	10,737	47.7	7.5	29.1	20.9	23,183	11,622	50.1 (2.4)	0.6 (0.3)	1.4 (0.5)	10.9 (1.3)	26.2 (1.9)	1.7 (0.6)	25.4 (2.1)
40 to 44 years	49.2	19,810	10,078	50.9	7.1	31.2	24.9	22,116	11,159	50.5 (2.4)	0.7 (0.3)	0.3 (0.2)	10.2 (1.3)	31.3 (2.1)	1.7 (0.5)	24.7 (2.0)
45 to 49 years	40.0	17,463	8,499	48.7	5.7	32.5	21.1	18,299	9,116	49.8 (2.7)	0.7 (0.4)	0.8 (0.4)	9.4 (1.3)	26.0 (2.1)	1.5 (0.6)	25.5 (2.1)
50 to 54 years	26.8	14,344	6,093	42.5	3.9	26.3	19.7	16,893	7,966	47.2 (2.5)	0.4 (0.3)	0.2 (0.1)	5.8 (1.0)	28.2 (2.1)	1.1 (0.4)	23.5 (2.1)
55 to 59 years	29.0	11,096	3,577	32.2	1.7	17.8	17.3	13,450	5,107	38.0 (2.6)	0.3 (0.3)	0.1 (0.1)	6.7 (1.5)	23.3 (2.1)	0.5 (0.4)	16.2 (1.8)
60 to 64 years	17.4	10,728	2,540	23.7	0.6	10.6	15.2	10,718	3,368	31.4 (2.8)	0.0 (0.0)	1.4 (1.4)	2.4 (0.7)	13.4 (1.8)	0.3 (0.4)	18.8 (2.2)
65 to 69 years	14.2	10,215	1,850	18.1	0.2	4.0	15.3	9,211	2,339	25.4 (2.5)	0.3 (0.3)	0.3 (0.3)	1.2 (0.6)	6.9 (1.2)	0.1 (0.1)	19.6 (2.3)
70 years and over	8.6	20,661	2,841	13.8	0.1	1.4	12.6	19,466	2,929	15.0 (1.4)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	1.3 (0.5)	1.7 (0.5)	0.0	12.2 (1.2)
Racial/ethnic group																
White, non-Hispanic	34.1	144,587	59,982	41.5	6.0	22.8	20.8	143,135	63,522	44.4 (0.9)	0.6 (0.1)	0.1 (0.1)	8.8 (0.5)	23.6 (0.7)	1.3 (0.2)	22.9 (0.7)
Black, non-Hispanic	25.9	20,806	7,704	37.0	7.3	16.2	18.9	22,129	10,241	46.3 (2.3)	2.7 (0.8)	0.2 (0.1)	11.0 (1.3)	20.2 (1.7)	2.9 (0.9)	23.6 (1.9)
Hispanic	31.4	15,689	5,281	33.7	4.8	11.8	13.8	1,102	400	36.3 (9.2)	—	—	12.7 (6.2)	19.2 (7.4)	4.1 (3.4)	10.6 (4.7)
Asian American/Pacific Islander	35.9	4,377	1,739	39.7	6.5	18.1	15.9	5,619	2,872	51.1 (4.6)	2.0 (1.1)	5.8 (2.2)	17.1 (3.4)	26.9 (3.8)	0.5 (0.5)	22.6 (3.6)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	29.3	1,155	448	38.8	9.3	20.6	21.6	19,491	8,045	41.3 (2.5)	2.4 (0.6)	6.5 (1.2)	8.6 (1.3)	12.5 (1.3)	3.7 (1.1)	16.2 (1.9)
Highest level of education completed																
Eighth grade or less	7.7	12,808	1,283	10.0	0.1	1.9	4.9	11,438	1,680	14.7 (2.9)	0.9 (0.4)	5.0 (1.7)	0.2 (0.2)	1.4 (0.6)	0.4 (0.4)	6.6 (2.4)
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	15.8	16,511	3,332	20.2	0.8	4.9	9.2	21,174	5,419	25.6 (2.6)	4.8 (1.0)	1.3 (0.5)	3.3 (1.1)	5.5 (1.2)	1.9 (0.9)	10.1 (1.9)
High school diploma	24.1	62,956	19,341	30.7	3.6	13.9	15.4	55,553	19,356	34.8 (1.4)	1.1 (0.3)	0.6 (0.2)	6.9 (0.7)	15.5 (1.0)	1.9 (0.4)	16.9 (1.1)
Some vocational/technical	34.2	6,327	2,648	41.9	5.4	21.9	21.1	6,517	2,678	41.1 (4.0)	2.5 (1.1)	1.9 (1.0)	6.5 (1.7)	19.9 (3.1)	3.2 (1.5)	21.8 (3.2)
Some college	41.4	34,433	16,978	49.3	12.1	22.3	25.3	34,270	17,504	51.1 (1.8)	0.6 (0.2)	0.4 (0.2)	13.9 (1.1)	22.2 (1.4)	2.8 (0.6)	27.5 (1.5)
Associate degree	49.2	9,975	5,601	56.1	10.9	32.1	27.4	11,275	6,384	56.6 (2.9)	—	—	0.2 (0.1)	17.4 (2.1)	33.3 (2.6)	2.4 (0.8)
Bachelor's degree	51.1	26,858	15,286	56.9	7.1	36.1	27.0	30,121	18,178	60.3 (1.8)	—	—	0.5 (0.2)	11.2 (1.1)	36.7 (1.7)	0.9 (0.3)
Some graduate work (or study)	55.1	19,677	11,792	59.9	8.5	40.4	29.1	24,211	15,394	63.6 (2.0)	—	—	0.8 (0.4)	12.8 (1.3)	38.9 (1.9)	1.2 (0.3)
No degree	—	4,123	2,563	62.2	15.2	32.5	33.5	4,083	2,640	64.7 (4.4)	—	—	0.0 (0.0)	20.9 (3.5)	45.1 (4.4)	1.1 (0.6)
Master's	—	10,522	6,219	59.1	8.1	41.0	29.0	12,715	8,357	65.7 (2.6)	—	—	1.1 (0.7)	12.5 (1.7)	38.8 (2.6)	0.7 (0.4)
Doctor's	—	2,564	1,384	54.0	4.7	35.0	25.1	5,039	2,675	53.1 (4.7)	—	—	1.0 (0.9)	7.9 (2.0)	26.7 (3.8)	2.7 (1.1)
Professional	—	2,467	1,626	65.9	3.0	56.6	26.0	2,374	1,722	72.5 (5.8)	—	—	0.0 (0.0)	10.9 (5.6)	54.7 (6.2)	1.1 (1.1)
Metropolitan area																
Inside metropolitan area	34.5	142,522	59,627	41.8	6.5	22.0	20.3	146,309	67,322	46.0 (0.9)	1.2 (0.2)	1.2 (0.2)	9.4 (0.5)	23.2 (0.7)	1.9 (0.2)	22.4 (0.7)
Inside central city	—	118,170	49,996	42.3	6.7	22.7	20.2	124,108	57,688	46.5 (1.0)	1.3 (0.2)	1.3 (0.2)	9.7 (0.5)	23.4 (0.7)	1.9 (0.3)	22.8 (0.8)
Outside central city	—	24,352	9,630	39.5	5.6	18.4	21.1	22,200	9,634	43.4 (2.2)	0.5 (0.3)	0.4 (0.3)	7.9 (1.1)	22.2 (1.7)	1.5 (0.4)	20.4 (1.8)
Outside metropolitan area	28.3	47,021	16,634	35.4	4.9	17.9	18.5	48,250	19,271	39.9 (1.6)	0.8 (0.3)	0.2 (0.1)	9.1 (0.9)	18.9 (1.2)	1.6 (0.4)	21.5 (1.3)
Labor force status																
In labor force	40.7	125,982	62,717	49.8	8.1	29.8	21.7	140,400	73,097	52.1 (0.9)	1.1 (0.2)	0.7 (0.1)	12.0 (0.5)	29.4 (0.8)	2.2 (0.3)	23.3 (0.8)
Employed	42.0	117,826	59,734	50.7	8.2	31.1	22.0	132,715	69,644	52.5 (1.0)	1.0 (0.2)	0.6 (0.1)	11.9 (0.5)	30.5 (0.8)	2.2 (0.3)	23.4 (0.8)
Unemployed	26.0	8,155	2,983	36.6	5.5	11.1	17.4	7,685	3,453	44.9 (4.6)	3.6 (1.7)	2.4 (1.2)	13.7 (2.8)	11.3 (2.4)	1.9 (0.9)	21.5 (4.1)
Not in labor force	15.7	63,562	13,544	21.3	2.2	3.4	16.2	54,159	13,496	24.9 (1.2)	0.9 (0.3)	1.5 (0.4)	2.3 (0.4)	3.3 (0.4)	0.7 (0.2)	19.4 (1.1)
Occupation																
Executive, administrative, or managerial	49.3	13,098	7,313	55.8	7.3	42.1	23.1	27,315	15,579	57.0 (2.1)	0.0 (0.0)	0.2 (0.2)	10.9 (1.1)	38.7 (2.0)	1.2 (0.4)	24.6 (1.7)
Engineers, surveyors, and architects	62.6	1,756	1,150	65.5	14.1	44.6	23.3	2,042	1,629	79.8 (6.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	27.9 (5.8)	52.4 (6.8)	5.8 (4.2)	28.8 (5.8)
Natural scientists and mathematicians	48.2	1,743	1,261	72.3	9.9	58.6	24.8	2,289	1,386	60.5 (6.7)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	13.0 (4.0)	44.1 (6.3)	1.3 (0.9)	24.8 (5.5)
Social scientists and workers, lawyers	55.6	2,530	1,938	76.6	11.5	59.4	32.3	3,069	2,433	79.3 (4.4)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	10.4 (3.1)	56.6 (5.4)	0.6 (0.6)	42.0 (5.3)

Table 359.—Participation in adult education during the previous 12 months by adults 17 years old and older, by selected characteristics of participants: 1991, 1995, and 1999—Continued

Characteristics of participants	Percent participating in any program, 1991 ¹	1995						1999								
		Population, in thousands	Adult education participants, in thousands ¹	Percent participating ²				Population, in thousands	Adult education participants, in thousands ¹	Percent participating						
				In any program	In part-time postsecondary education	In career or job related courses	Personal development courses			In any program	In basic education	In English as a second language	In part-time postsecondary education	In career or job related courses	In apprentice programs	Personal development courses
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Teachers, elementary and secondary	55.0	5,414	4,155	76.7	16.6	52.4	36.9	7,033	5,511	78.4 (3.1)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	23.8 (2.8)	50.2 (3.4)	0.3 (0.2)	38.8 (3.3)
Teachers, postsecondary	45.5	1,254	687	54.8	4.1	40.8	26.0	2,214	1,472	66.5 (5.6)	0.4 (0.4)	3.5 (3.4)	17.0 (5.0)	37.1 (5.8)	1.8 (1.1)	42.1 (5.9)
Physicians, dentists, veterinarians ...	67.1	859	611	71.1	1.2	67.1	19.0	610	487	79.8 (9.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	4.6 (4.5)	62.5 (11.5)	4.2 (4.2)	29.1 (11.2)
Registered nurses, pharmacists	59.6	2,337	2,026	86.7	10.6	71.3	33.6	3,210	2,741	85.4 (4.1)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	16.0 (4.7)	71.1 (4.9)	0.2 (0.2)	46.0 (5.3)
Writers, artists, entertainers, and athletes	42.9	1,874	934	49.9	7.7	23.1	30.0	2,481	1,241	50.0 (6.9)	0.4 (0.4)	0.0 (0.0)	13.4 (4.2)	29.1 (5.6)	2.2 (1.2)	21.4 (5.1)
Health technologists and technicians	68.6	1,697	1,270	74.8	12.8	47.5	33.0	2,190	1,465	66.9 (6.2)	1.7 (1.2)	0.6 (0.6)	19.1 (4.3)	40.6 (5.7)	4.9 (3.3)	35.5 (5.7)
Technologists, except health	55.4	3,543	2,279	64.3	13.5	41.3	28.7	5,090	3,032	59.6 (5.1)	0.0	0.4 (0.4)	20.9 (3.8)	37.0 (4.7)	3.8 (2.7)	24.5 (4.0)
Marketing and sales occupations	34.4	18,174	8,038	44.2	6.8	23.2	20.4	13,578	6,022	44.4 (2.7)	1.4 (0.5)	0.1 (0.1)	6.1 (1.1)	20.7 (2.1)	1.6 (0.6)	25.1 (2.3)
Administrative support, including clerical	29.9	22,968	11,867	51.7	9.5	28.9	24.7	22,052	11,042	50.1 (2.3)	1.9 (0.7)	0.3 (0.2)	10.3 (1.2)	25.1 (1.8)	0.8 (0.3)	22.5 (1.8)
Service occupations	25.2	20,072	9,342	46.5	9.0	20.9	22.8	18,649	9,497	50.9 (2.7)	3.2 (0.9)	1.3 (0.5)	13.7 (1.8)	18.5 (1.9)	2.5 (0.7)	23.7 (2.4)
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	14.3	2,336	616	26.4	1.6	11.5	15.6	2,809	964	34.3 (7.2)	2.0 (1.5)	2.0 (1.6)	9.2 (4.0)	10.5 (3.4)	6.4 (5.5)	11.2 (3.8)
Mechanics and repairers	32.1	4,692	2,231	47.6	7.1	27.7	15.6	4,964	2,097	42.2 (5.4)	2.1 (1.4)	0.0 (0.0)	14.7 (3.5)	14.4 (3.3)	5.8 (2.2)	21.9 (4.8)
Construction and extractive occupations	21.9	6,100	2,319	38.0	4.3	17.6	18.0	4,734	1,634	34.5 (4.8)	0.7 (0.4)	2.5 (1.3)	10.4 (2.8)	12.0 (2.8)	7.0 (2.4)	11.1 (2.9)
Precision production occupations	31.2	1,875	807	43.0	5.5	23.2	16.1	1,638	628	38.3 (8.5)	1.2 (1.2)	1.9 (1.4)	9.0 (4.2)	17.5 (6.2)	11.4 (5.0)	19.9 (6.3)
Production workers	21.1	9,483	2,908	30.7	5.8	14.7	10.7	10,638	4,043	38.0 (3.5)	0.7 (0.4)	0.7 (0.3)	6.8 (1.6)	20.2 (2.8)	2.1 (1.0)	15.9 (2.4)
Transportation, material moving	20.7	5,311	1,507	28.4	3.5	15.5	11.9	5,829	1,941	33.3 (4.3)	2.8 (1.5)	0.9 (0.7)	5.9 (1.7)	17.1 (3.3)	2.5 (1.1)	11.8 (2.6)
Handler, equipment, cleaners, helpers, and laborers	20.8	2,456	617	25.1	3.1	11.1	9.7	3,981	781	19.6 (4.6)	0.0 (0.0)	2.1 (1.5)	4.6 (2.0)	6.1 (3.0)	1.5 (1.2)	5.6 (2.2)
Miscellaneous occupations	—	2,311	1,308	56.6	7.9	35.4	22.6	2,150	925	43.0 (8.0)	0.0 (0.0)	3.3 (1.9)	11.7 (4.6)	16.7 (5.0)	3.3 (2.1)	24.6 (6.5)
Annual family income																
\$5,000 or less	13.6	12,638	2,689	21.3	3.3	4.1	11.8	5,198	1,092	21.0 (3.2)	2.0 (1.0)	1.2 (0.8)	3.0 (1.1)	5.0 (1.4)	0.5 (0.3)	11.9 (2.6)
\$5,001 to \$10,000	17.5	17,560	4,194	23.9	4.0	6.7	13.2	9,137	2,236	24.5 (3.4)	2.8 (1.4)	0.9 (0.4)	3.8 (1.2)	4.1 (1.1)	1.2 (0.6)	14.5 (3.0)
\$10,001 to \$15,000	22.8	13,523	3,610	26.7	4.0	8.7	14.8	11,263	2,564	22.8 (2.5)	2.4 (0.9)	2.3 (0.8)	6.1 (1.4)	4.3 (0.9)	1.5 (0.8)	11.5 (1.8)
\$15,001 to \$20,000	21.9	13,116	4,176	31.8	5.4	13.0	15.8	12,623	3,967	31.4 (2.8)	2.7 (0.9)	2.3 (0.7)	5.4 (1.2)	10.1 (1.6)	1.6 (0.7)	16.4 (2.2)
\$20,001 to \$25,000	26.7	13,812	4,339	31.4	4.8	13.3	17.0	13,663	4,885	35.8 (2.8)	1.5 (0.6)	1.7 (0.7)	7.8 (1.3)	12.7 (1.8)	3.1 (1.4)	17.5 (2.1)
\$25,001 to \$30,000	32.1	16,386	6,208	37.9	6.5	17.1	19.2	17,353	6,375	36.7 (2.6)	0.8 (0.3)	1.5 (0.7)	7.3 (1.0)	15.5 (1.9)	2.1 (0.9)	17.0 (1.9)
\$30,001 to \$40,000	35.6	28,628	12,220	42.7	6.9	22.1	22.0	27,715	12,524	45.2 (2.1)	0.3 (0.2)	0.9 (0.6)	11.7 (1.3)	20.0 (1.5)	1.6 (0.5)	22.4 (1.7)
\$40,001 to \$50,000	44.8	20,446	9,567	46.8	6.8	27.0	22.4	21,715	10,394	47.9 (2.3)	0.6 (0.4)	0.7 (0.4)	12.0 (1.4)	26.0 (1.9)	2.5 (0.7)	23.3 (1.9)
\$50,001 to \$75,000	46.6	29,161	15,169	52.0	7.6	32.8	23.6	35,984	19,828	55.1 (1.8)	0.5 (0.2)	0.2 (0.1)	11.2 (1.0)	30.6 (1.5)	2.1 (0.5)	29.8 (1.6)
More than \$75,000	48.7	24,274	14,089	58.0	7.7	37.3	26.8	39,909	22,726	56.9 (1.7)	1.0 (0.4)	0.3 (0.2)	10.1 (1.0)	35.2 (1.5)	1.1 (0.3)	26.5 (1.4)

—Not available.

¹Adult education is defined as all education activities, except full-time enrollment in higher education credential programs. Examples of adult education activities include part-time college attendance, classes or seminars given by employers, and classes taken for adult literacy purposes, or for recreation and enjoyment.

²Any participation includes adult basic education, English as a second language, and apprentice programs not shown separately.

NOTE: Data are based upon a sample survey of the civilian noninstitutional population. Data revised from previously published figures. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding and survey item nonresponse.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Participation in Adult Education," unpublished data. (This table was prepared June 2001.)