

# the condition of education 2007



## INDICATOR 21

### Time Spent on Homework

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. 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 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Student Attitudes and Aspirations

## Time Spent on Homework

Between 1980 and 2002, the percentage of sophomores spending more than 10 hours per week on homework increased from 7 to 37 percent.

Homework are tasks given to students by teachers as a means to review, practice, and learn material outside of the classroom. This indicator examines 1980 and 2002 high school sophomores’ reports of how much time they spend on homework per week. In 1980 and 2002, high school sophomores were asked, “What is the average time per week you spend on homework?”<sup>1</sup>

Between 1980 and 2002, the average amount of time per week that sophomores reported spending on homework increased (see supplemental table 21-1). During this period, the percentage of sophomores who reported spending less than 1 hour per week on homework declined from 17 to 2 percent. At the same time, the percentage who reported spending less than 5 hours per week on homework decreased from 71 to 37 percent. These declines were accompanied by an increase in the percentage of sophomores who reported spending between 5 and 10 hours per week on homework (from 22 to 26 percent) and a fivefold increase in the percentage who

reported spending more than 10 hours per week on homework (from 7 to 37 percent).

This general increase between 1980 and 2002 in the number of hours sophomores reported spending on homework was apparent for both males and females. The percentage of males who reported spending more than 10 hours per week on homework increased from 6 to 33 percent. For females, this percentage increased from 8 to 41 percent.

Among the 1980 and 2002 sophomores, females generally reported spending more time on homework than males. For example, 41 percent of females in 2002 compared with 33 percent of males reported spending more than 10 hours per week on homework. That same year, 19 percent of females compared with 26 percent of males reported spending 3 hours or less per week on homework. No measurable differences were detected by sex in the percentage who reported spending between 3 to 10 hours per week on homework.

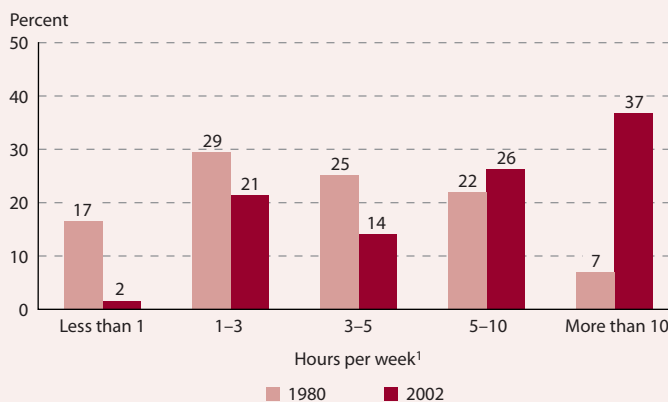
<sup>1</sup> Caution must be used when interpreting the estimates reported here because the survey method used to ask about time spent on homework per week differed in 1980 and 2002. The 1980 survey asked about “homework” without differentiating between homework completed in school and out of school; it also used the categories reported here as predefined response categories. The 2002 survey asked students to report both in-school and out-of-school homework and used an open-ended response format. The 2002 responses were then grouped into the 1980 response categories.

SOURCE: Cahalan, M., Ingels, S., Burns, L., Planty, M., and Daniel, B. (2006). *United States High School Sophomores: A Twenty-Two Year Comparison, 1980–2002* (NCES 2006-327), data from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores (HS&B-50:80) and Education Longitudinal Study of 2002, Base Year (ELS:2002).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
 Supplemental Note 3  
 Supplemental Table 21-1



**HOMEWORK: Percentage of 10th-graders reporting time spent on homework, by hours spent on homework per week: 1980 and 2002**



## Time Spent on Homework

**Table 21-1. Percentage distribution of 10th-graders reporting time spent on homework, by hours spent on homework per week: 1980 and 2002**

Hours spent per week	All		Male		Female	
	1980	2002	1980	2002	1980	2002
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 1	17	2	21	2	13	1
Between 1 and 3	29	21	31	24	28	19
More than 3 but less than 5	25	14	24	14	26	14
Between 5 and 10	22	26	18	26	25	26
More than 10	7	37	6	33	8	41

NOTE: Caution must be used when interpreting the estimates reported here because the survey method used to ask about time spent on homework per week differed in 1980 and 2002. The 1980 survey asked about "homework" without differentiating between homework completed in school and out of school; it also used the categories reported here as predefined response categories. The 2002 survey asked separately about in-school and out-of-school homework and used an open-ended response format. The 2002 responses to both questions were then grouped into the 1980 response categories. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: Cahalan, M., Ingels, S., Burns, L., Planty, M., and Daniel, B. (2006). *United States High School Sophomores: A Twenty-Two Year Comparison, 1980–2002* (NCES 2006-327), data from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores (HS&B-So:80) and Education Longitudinal Study of 2002, Base Year (ELS:2002).

## Time Spent on Homework

**Table S21-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of 10th-graders reporting time spent on homework, by hours spent on homework per week: 1980 and 2002**

Hours spent per week	All		Male		Female	
	1980	2002	1980	2002	1980	2002
<b>Total</b>	†	†	†	†	†	†
Less than 1	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1
Between 1 and 3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6
More than 3 but less than 5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Between 5 and 10	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6
More than 10	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.8

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: Cahalan, M., Ingels, S., Burns, L., Planty, M., and Daniel, B. (2006). *United States High School Sophomores: A Twenty-Two Year Comparison, 1980–2002* (NCES 2006-327), data from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores (HS&B-So:80) and Education Longitudinal Study of 2002, Base Year (ELS:2002).