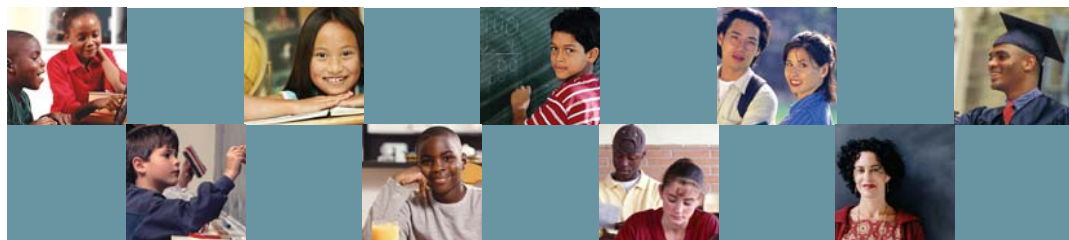


the condition of education 2006



INDICATOR 25

Grade Retention

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. 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 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Elementary/Secondary Persistence and Progress

Grade Retention

Between 1995 and 2004, the percentage of youth ages 16–19 who had ever been retained decreased; high school dropouts were more likely than high school completers to have been retained in a grade at some point in their school career.

Students may be retained in a grade for a number of reasons including if they are judged not to have the academic or social skills to advance to the next grade. This indicator examines the grade retention rates for youth ages 16–19 between 1995 and 2004.

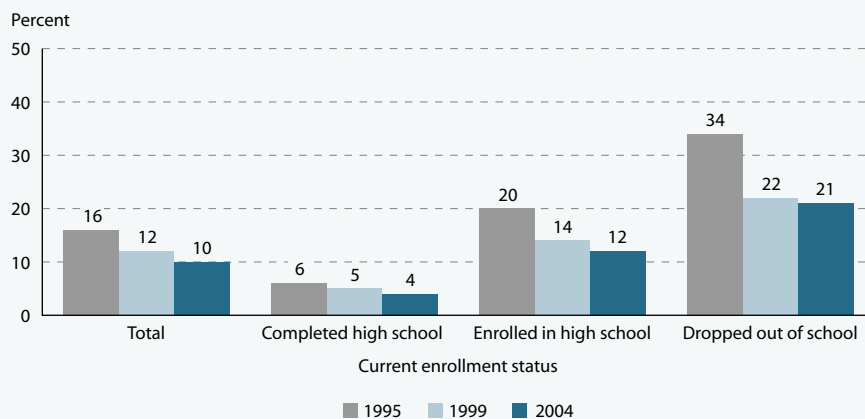
The total percentage of youth ages 16–19 in 2004 who had ever been retained during their school career was smaller than the percentage in 1995 (see supplemental table 25-1). The decrease in retention varied by the youth’s current enrollment status: the decrease was particularly pronounced among youth who were enrolled in high school (decreasing from 20 percent of enrolled youth in 1995 to 12 percent of enrolled youth in 2004) and among youth who had dropped out of high school (decreasing from 34 percent of dropouts in 1995 to 21 percent of dropouts in 2004). The percentage of youth who had been retained in kindergarten through grade 5 decreased from 11 percent of youth in 1995 to 5 percent of youth in 2004, while the percentage retained in grades 6–12 was not measurably different between the two years (7 percent in 1995 and 5 percent in 2004). Youth were more likely to have been retained in grades K–5 than in grades 6–12

in 1995, but in 1999 and 2004, there were no measurable differences by grade level.

Youth who had dropped out of high school in each of the years observed were more likely to have ever been retained than youth who were enrolled in high school or youth who had completed high school. In 2004, for example, 21 percent of youth who had dropped out had ever been retained, compared with 12 percent of those still enrolled and 4 percent of high school completers. Furthermore, of those youth that had dropped out of school, a greater percentage had been retained in grades 6–12 (17 percent) than in grades K–5 (10 percent).

In addition to variation by enrollment status, the percentage of youth who had ever been retained varied by sex, race/ethnicity, and family income in 2004. For example, in 2004, a greater percentage of males than females (13 vs. 6 percent) and of Blacks than Whites (16 vs. 8 percent) had ever been retained. Youth whose families were in the lowest income quarter were also more likely to have been retained than youth whose families were in the middle or highest income quarters.

GRADE RETENTION: Percentage of youth ages 16–19 who had ever been retained in a grade in their school career, by current enrollment status: 1995, 1999, and 2004



NOTE: The term “high school completer” includes those who earned a high school diploma or equivalent (e.g., a General Educational Development [GED] certificate) and includes those with higher levels of educational attainment. Estimates rely upon retrospective data reported by the respondent or a household informant on behalf of the respondent.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1995, 1999, and 2004, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2005).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1,2
Supplemental Table 25-1
NCES 2003-008, indicator 3.2



Grade Retention

Table 25-1. Percentage of youth ages 16–19 who had ever been retained in a grade in their school career, by current enrollment status and selected characteristics: 1995, 1999, and 2004

Characteristic	1995				1999				2004			
	Total	Enrolled in high school	Completed high school	Dropped out of school	Total	Enrolled in high school	Completed high school	Dropped out of school	Total	Enrolled in high school	Completed high school	Dropped out of school
Total	16.1	19.7	6.1	34.5	11.6	14.3	21.7	21.7	9.6	11.7	3.8	21.4
Grade level retained												
K–5	11.3	14.2	4.6	22.5	7.7	10.1	3.4	12.2	5.2	6.7	2.3!	9.5
6–12	7.1	18.0	5.9	22.5	5.3	6.2	1.9!	14.1	5.1	6.0	1.6!	16.5
Race/ethnicity ¹												
White	14.9	18.0	6.2	38.4	10.5	12.6	5.0	25.1	8.1	9.8	2.9	26.3
Black	22.0	25.0	9.2	41.6	16.3	19.4	6.8!	30.0	16.1	18.7	7.6	30.9
Hispanic	18.0	24.3	4.9!	21.3	13.2	18.7	4.0!	12.2	9.2!	11.5	4.3!	10.5!
Sex												
Male	20.5	24.2	9.0	39.7	14.4	17.9	5.5	26.4	13.0	15.5	5.4	25.0
Female	11.7	14.4	3.6	29.8	8.7	10.4	4.7	16.5	6.0	7.4	2.4!	16.3
Family income												
Lowest quarter	25.5	28.9	10.4	40.0	18.9	23.2	7.1	27.5	16.9	23.4	3.7!	28.3
Middle two quarters	15.0	20.0	4.3	29.9	12.3	15.6	5.7	18.0	10.6	12.6	4.7	23.1
Highest quarter	9.1	11.4	5.9!	20.0	7.1!	8.2	4.2!	23.9	3.9!	4.9!	1.9!	11.3!
Family type												
Two-parent household	14.4	17.5	5.6	34.6	10.0	12.0	4.8	21.2	7.8	9.4	3.1	20.1
None or one-parent household	19.7	25.2	7.2	34.3	14.4	19.2	5.4	22.0	12.5	16.0	4.9	22.6
Region												
Northeast	14.5	18.5	6.3!	33.9	11.9	14.4	6.6!	22.0	8.9	11.0	4.5!	19.2
South	20.6	24.9	6.3	42.9	14.8	18.4	6.5	23.6	14.0	16.9	5.1	31.6
Midwest	13.6	17.2	5.0!	29.0	9.2	11.4	3.5!	22.5	7.3!	8.2	3.4!	22.3
West	12.8	14.8	7.1	21.6	9.0	11.1	3.5!	17.7	5.4!	7.6!	1.6!	7.6!
Primary language spoken in the home												
English	16.4	19.7	6.3	39.8	11.8	14.1	5.5	26.4	10.0	12.0	3.8	28.8
Language other than English	14.4	19.1	5.1!	18.1	10.8	15.6	2.5!	11.2	7.7!	10.2	4.2!	6.4!

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

¹ Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Included in the total but not shown separately are Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and American Indian (including Alaska Native) youth. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: "Completed high school" includes those who earned a high school diploma or equivalent (e.g., a General Educational Development [GED] certificate) and includes those with higher levels of educational attainment. Estimates rely upon retrospective data reported by the respondent or a household informant on behalf of the respondent. See *supplemental note 1* for the states in each region.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1995, 1999, and 2004, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2005).

Grade Retention

Table S25. Standard errors for the percentage of youth ages 16–19 who had ever been retained in a grade in their school career, by current enrollment status: 1995, 1999, and 2004

Enrollment status	1995	1999	2004
Total	1.2	1.1	1.1
Completed high school	0.8	1.5	0.7
Enrolled in high school	1.3	1.2	1.2
Dropped out of school	1.5	1.5	1.5

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1995, 1999, and 2004, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2005).

Grade Retention

Table S25-1. Standard errors for the percentage of youth ages 16–19 who had ever been retained in a grade in their school career, by current enrollment status and selected characteristics: 1995, 1999, and 2004

Characteristic	1995				1999				2004			
	Total	Enrolled in high school	Completed high school	Dropped out of school	Total	Enrolled in high school	Completed high school	Dropped out of school	Total	Enrolled in high school	Completed high school	Dropped out of school
Total	1.18	1.27	0.77	1.52	1.14	1.25	1.47	1.47	1.09	1.19	0.71	1.52
Grade level retained												
K–5	1.34	1.48	0.89	1.76	1.28	1.44	0.86	1.57	1.23	1.37	0.83	1.61
6–12	1.30	1.95	1.20	2.12	1.22	1.32	0.75	1.90	1.15	1.23	0.65	1.93
Race/ethnicity												
White	1.42	1.53	0.96	1.94	1.42	1.54	1.01	2.01	1.39	1.52	0.86	2.24
Black	3.16	3.31	2.21	3.77	3.07	3.29	2.09	3.81	2.94	3.12	2.12	3.70
Hispanic	3.79	4.23	2.14	4.04	3.38	3.89	1.96	3.27	3.09	3.41	2.17	3.27
Sex												
Male	1.61	1.71	1.14	1.95	1.57	1.72	1.02	1.97	1.50	1.62	1.01	1.94
Female	1.72	1.89	1.00	2.45	1.66	1.79	1.24	2.18	1.58	1.75	1.03	2.46
Family income												
Lowest quarter	2.21	2.29	1.54	2.48	2.56	2.76	1.68	2.92	2.58	2.92	1.29	3.10
Middle two quarters	1.79	2.01	1.02	2.29	1.85	2.04	1.31	2.16	1.67	1.80	1.14	2.28
Highest quarter	2.59	2.86	2.11	3.60	2.15	2.31	1.69	3.58	2.26	2.53	1.60	3.69
Family type												
Two-parent household	1.44	1.56	0.94	1.96	1.45	1.57	1.03	1.97	1.40	1.53	0.91	2.10
None or one-parent household	2.03	2.22	1.32	2.42	1.86	2.09	1.20	2.20	1.74	1.93	1.14	2.20
Region												
Northeast	2.74	3.02	1.88	3.68	2.69	2.92	2.06	3.45	2.51	2.76	1.83	3.47
South	1.91	2.04	1.14	2.33	1.89	2.06	1.31	2.26	1.79	1.93	1.14	2.40
Midwest	2.43	2.68	1.54	3.22	2.35	2.59	1.49	3.40	2.31	2.42	1.61	3.69
West	2.63	2.80	2.03	3.25	2.43	2.66	1.56	3.24	2.34	2.74	1.30	2.74
Primary language spoken in the home												
English	1.27	1.37	0.84	1.68	1.26	1.36	0.89	1.72	1.20	1.31	0.76	1.82
Language other than English	3.09	3.46	1.93	3.38	2.72	3.18	1.36	2.77	2.58	2.92	1.94	2.36

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1995, 1999, and 2004, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2005).