

the condition of education 2007



INDICATOR 10

Participation in Adult Education

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.

Suggested Citation:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2007). *The Condition of Education 2007* (NCES 2007-064). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.



Adult Learning

Participation in Adult Education

The percentage of the population age 16 or older participating in adult education increased from 1995 to 2001 and then declined in 2005. Work-related courses and personal interest courses were the most popular forms of adult education in 2005.

Adult education activities are formal activities including basic skills training, apprenticeships, work-related courses, personal interest courses, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and part-time college or university degree programs. This indicator examines the participation rates for adult education activities of individuals age 16 or older.

Overall participation in adult education among individuals age 16 or older increased from 40 percent in 1995 to 46 percent in 2001 and then declined to 44 percent in 2005 (see supplemental table 10-1). In 2005, among the various types of adult education activities, individuals age 16 or older participated most in work-related courses (27 percent), followed by personal interest courses (21 percent), part-time college or university degree programs (5 percent), and other activities (3 percent).

Participation rates varied by sex, age, race/ethnicity, employment/occupation, and education in 2005 (see supplemental table 10-2). For example, a greater percentage of females than males participated in personal interest courses (24 vs. 18 percent) and work-related activities (29 vs. 25 percent). Individuals ages 16–24 had a higher overall participation rate in adult education activities than their counterparts age 55 or older. Blacks and Whites had higher rates of overall participation in adult education than their Hispanic peers. Among those employed in the past 12 months, the overall participation rate in adult education was higher for those in a professional or managerial occupation (70 percent) than for those employed in service, sales, or support jobs (48 percent) or those in trade occupations (34 percent). In addition, the overall participation rate in adult education for individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher was greater than for those individuals who had some college or less education.

¹ Includes basic skills training, apprenticeships, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

NOTE: Estimates exclude persons who were attending elementary or secondary school, on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, or institutionalized. Estimates include part-time participation in college or university degree programs and vocational or technical diploma programs. Full-time participation for all or part of the year in a degree or diploma program was not counted as an adult education activity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 1995, 1999, and 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) and Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the 2001 NHES.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1,3
Supplemental Tables 10-1,
10-2

ADULT EDUCATION: Percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by type of activity: Selected years, 1995–2005



Participation in Adult Education

Table 10-1. Percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by age and type of activity: Selected years, 1995–2005

Type of activity	1995	1999	2001	2005
Age 16 or older				
Overall participation	40.2	44.5	46.4	44.4
Work-related courses	20.9	22.1	29.7	26.9
Personal interest courses	19.9	22.2	21.3	21.4
Part-time degree or diploma programs	6.1	9.3	5.5	5.0
Other activities ¹	2.9	4.1	3.6	3.2
Ages 16–24				
Overall participation	47.0	50.1	52.8	52.9
Work-related courses	14.6	16.3	22.3	21.2
Personal interest courses	21.5	22.7	27.6	26.6
Part-time degree or diploma programs	12.6	13.6	12.8	11.4
Other activities ¹	8.7	11.6	11.5	9.7
Age 25 or older				
Overall participation	39.3	43.8	45.6	43.2
Work-related courses	21.8	22.9	30.7	27.7
Personal interest courses	19.6	22.1	20.5	20.7
Part-time degree or diploma programs	5.2	8.7	4.5	4.2
Other activities ¹	2.1	3.1	2.6	2.4

¹ Includes basic skills training, apprenticeships, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

NOTE: Estimates exclude persons who were attending elementary or secondary school, on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, or institutionalized. Estimates include part-time participation in college or university degree programs and vocational or technical diploma programs. Full-time participation for all or part of the year in a degree or diploma program was not counted as an adult education activity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 1995, 1999, and 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) and Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the 2001 NHES.

Participation in Adult Education

Table 10-2. Percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by type of activity and selected characteristics: 2005

Characteristic	Overall participation	Type of adult education activity			
		Part-time degree or diploma programs	Work-related courses	Personal interest courses	Other activities ¹
Total	44.4	5.0	26.9	21.4	3.2
Sex					
Male	41.1	5.0	24.5	18.4	3.9
Female	47.5	5.1	29.2	24.3	2.6
Race/ethnicity ²					
White	45.6	4.9	29.1	22.2	2.1
Black	46.4	5.4	27.0	23.7	3.4
Hispanic	37.6	4.9	16.8	15.3	9.8
Asian	48.3	7.9!	27.2	26.5	3.7!
Education					
Less than high school	22.1	1.0!	4.2	11.1	9.2
High school diploma or equivalent	32.6	2.6	16.5	16.1	2.9
Some college, including vocational/technical	51.4	7.7	31.4	24.9	2.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	62.5	7.3	46.2	29.5	1.1
Age					
16–24	52.9	11.4	21.2	26.6	9.7
25–34	52.2	8.7	31.7	22.1	6.7
35–44	48.7	5.3	33.7	22.1	2.1
45–54	47.9	3.8	36.5	19.7	1.4
55–64	40.3	1.5	27.0	20.7	0.9
65 or older	22.9	0.3!	5.2	18.8	0.2!
Household income					
\$15,000 or less	29.0	2.8	10.9	17.9	4.8
\$15,001–30,000	30.7	4.9	14.6	15.1	3.9
\$30,001–50,000	42.1	3.3	22.6	21.8	4.3
\$50,001–75,000	47.7	5.8	33.0	20.5	1.6
More than \$75,000	57.6	6.7	39.0	27.0	2.7
Employment/occupation					
Employed in past 12 months	51.7	6.4	35.9	22.0	3.5
Professional or managerial	70.2	8.8	56.3	29.2	1.2
Services, sales, or support	48.3	6.3	30.6	22.0	3.6
Trades	34.0	3.3	18.7	12.9	6.3
Not employed in past 12 months	25.5	1.6	4.0	20.0	2.6

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

¹ Includes basic skills training, apprenticeships, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

² Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

NOTE: Estimates exclude persons who were attending elementary or secondary school, on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, or institutionalized. Estimates include part-time participation in college or university degree programs and vocational or technical diploma programs. Full-time participation for all or part of the year in a degree or diploma program was not counted as an adult education activity. Individuals may participate in more than one adult education activity. Therefore, totals for each activity may not sum to overall participation totals.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES).

Participation in Adult Education

Table S10-1. Standard errors for the percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by age and type of activity: Selected years, 1995–2005

Type of activity	1995	1999	2001	2005
Age 16 or older				
Overall participation	0.48	0.74	0.55	0.74
Work-related courses	0.36	0.58	0.47	0.63
Personal interest courses	0.33	0.62	0.54	0.71
Part-time degree or diploma programs	0.16	0.43	0.23	0.29
Other activities	0.11	0.32	0.25	0.31
Ages 16–24				
Overall participation	1.12	2.70	2.02	2.71
Work-related courses	0.77	1.63	1.66	2.20
Personal interest courses	0.91	2.28	1.57	2.56
Part-time degree or diploma programs	0.70	1.34	1.30	1.33
Other activities	0.63	1.72	1.33	1.66
Age 25 or older				
Overall participation	0.51	0.77	0.55	0.80
Work-related courses	0.41	0.61	0.51	0.69
Personal interest courses	0.38	0.63	0.53	0.74
Part-time degree or diploma programs	0.14	0.44	0.20	0.27
Other activities	0.10	0.26	0.22	0.27

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 1995, 1999, and 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) and Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the 2001 NHES.

Participation in Adult Education

Table S10-2. Standard errors for the percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by type of activity and selected characteristics: 2005

Characteristic	Overall participation	Type of adult education activity			
		Part-time degree or diploma programs	Work-related courses	Personal interest courses	Other activities
Total	0.74	0.29	0.63	0.71	0.31
Sex					
Male	1.20	0.44	0.99	1.08	0.58
Female	1.01	0.37	0.95	0.88	0.26
Race/ethnicity					
White	0.84	0.35	0.70	0.87	0.31
Black	2.81	0.97	2.53	2.11	0.84
Hispanic	2.43	1.05	1.71	1.75	1.54
Asian	5.39	2.70	4.70	5.06	1.23
Education					
Less than high school	1.67	0.40	0.73	1.16	1.34
High school diploma or equivalent	1.49	0.36	1.08	1.17	0.47
Some college, including vocational/technical	1.44	0.81	1.28	1.36	0.50
Bachelor's degree or higher	1.24	0.60	1.35	1.15	0.33
Age					
16–24	2.71	1.33	2.20	2.56	1.66
25–34	2.23	0.93	1.80	1.83	1.13
35–44	1.97	0.56	2.06	1.91	0.40
45–54	1.49	0.40	1.38	1.24	0.28
55–64	2.01	0.30	1.63	1.30	0.27
65 or older	1.10	0.17	0.68	1.09	0.08
Household income					
\$15,000 or less	2.39	0.67	1.64	2.29	0.85
\$15,001–30,000	1.67	0.90	1.46	1.18	0.61
\$30,001–50,000	1.90	0.45	1.48	1.50	0.88
\$50,001–75,000	1.74	0.69	1.37	1.67	0.43
More than \$75,000	1.48	0.58	1.35	1.12	0.74
Employment/occupation					
Employed in past 12 months	0.90	0.37	0.80	0.89	0.42
Professional or managerial	1.56	0.71	1.58	1.56	0.31
Services, sales, or support	1.48	0.56	1.49	1.31	0.61
Trades	2.22	0.64	1.62	1.56	1.27
Not employed in past 12 months	1.37	0.32	0.59	1.06	0.40

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES).