

the condition of education 2008



INDICATOR 23

Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2008*. 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 2008*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008031>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

Planty, M., Hussar, W., Snyder, T., Provasnik, S., Kena, G., Dinkes, R., KewalRamani, A., and Kemp, J. (2008). *The Condition of Education 2008* (NCES 2008-031). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.

Elementary/Secondary Persistence and Progress

Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Status dropout rates for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics ages 16–24 have each generally declined between 1972 and 2006. Over this time period, status dropout rates for Whites remained lower than rates for Hispanics and Blacks.

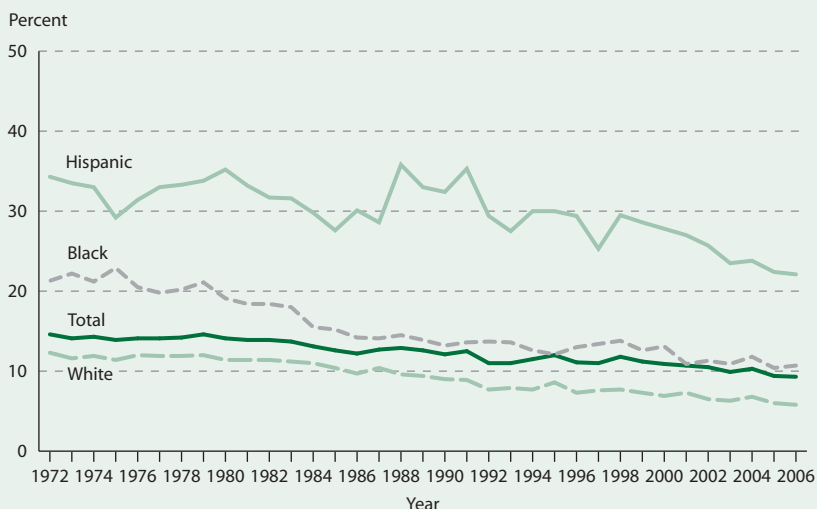
The status dropout rate represents the percentage of persons in an age group who are not enrolled in school and have not earned a high school diploma or equivalent credential, such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. For this indicator, status dropout rates are reported for 16- through 24-year-olds. The status dropout rate for this age group declined from 15 percent in 1972 to 9 percent in 2006 (see supplemental table 23-1). A decline was also seen between 2000 and 2006, the more recent years of this time span (11 to 9 percent).

Status dropout rates and changes in these rates over time differ by race/ethnicity. In general, the status dropout rates for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics each declined between 1972 and 2006. However, for each year between 1972 and 2006, the status dropout rate was lowest for Whites and highest for Hispanics. For example, in 2006, the status dropout rate for Whites was 6 percent, compared with 11 percent for Blacks and 22 percent for Hispanics. Although the gaps between the rates of Blacks and Whites and between the rates of Hispanics

and Whites have decreased, the patterns have not been consistent. The Black-White gap narrowed during the 1980s, with no measurable change during the 1970s or between 1990 and 2006. In contrast, the Hispanic-White gap narrowed between 1990 and 2006, with no measurable change in the gap during the 1970s and 1980s.

In 2006, Hispanics who were born outside of the United States¹ represented 7 percent of the 16- through 24-year-old population and 28 percent of all status dropouts in this age group (see supplemental table 23-2). Higher dropout rates among these Hispanic immigrants partially account for the persistently high dropout rates for all Hispanic young adults. Among Hispanic 16- through 24-year-olds who were born outside the United States, the status dropout rate was 36 percent in 2006—triple the rates for both first-generation and second-generation or higher Hispanics in this age group (12 percent each). Yet, regardless of immigration status, greater percentages of Hispanics born in the United States were status dropouts than their non-Hispanic counterparts.

STATUS DROPOUTS: Status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds, by race/ethnicity: October 1972–2006



¹The United States refers to the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

NOTE: The status dropout rate reported in this indicator is one of a number of rates measuring high school dropout and completion behavior in the United States. See supplemental note 7 for more information about the rate reported here. Total includes other race/ethnicity categories not separately shown. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 2, 7
Supplemental Tables 23-1,
23-2



Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Table 23-1. Status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds, by race/ethnicity: October 1972–2006

Year	Total ¹	Race/ethnicity ²		
		White	Black	Hispanic
1972	14.6	12.3	21.3	34.3
1973	14.1	11.6	22.2	33.5
1974	14.3	11.9	21.2	33.0
1975	13.9	11.4	22.9	29.2
1976	14.1	12.0	20.5	31.4
1977	14.1	11.9	19.8	33.0
1978	14.2	11.9	20.2	33.3
1979	14.6	12.0	21.1	33.8
1980	14.1	11.4	19.1	35.2
1981	13.9	11.4	18.4	33.2
1982	13.9	11.4	18.4	31.7
1983	13.7	11.2	18.0	31.6
1984	13.1	11.0	15.5	29.8
1985	12.6	10.4	15.2	27.6
1986	12.2	9.7	14.2	30.1
1987	12.7	10.4	14.1	28.6
1988	12.9	9.6	14.5	35.8
1989	12.6	9.4	13.9	33.0
1990	12.1	9.0	13.2	32.4
1991	12.5	8.9	13.6	35.3
1992	11.0	7.7	13.7	29.4
1993	11.0	7.9	13.6	27.5
1994	11.5	7.7	12.6	30.0
1995	12.0	8.6	12.1	30.0
1996	11.1	7.3	13.0	29.4
1997	11.0	7.6	13.4	25.3
1998	11.8	7.7	13.8	29.5
1999	11.2	7.3	12.6	28.6
2000	10.9	6.9	13.1	27.8
2001	10.7	7.3	10.9	27.0
2002	10.5	6.5	11.3	25.7
2003	9.9	6.3	10.9	23.5
2004	10.3	6.8	11.8	23.8
2005	9.4	6.0	10.4	22.4
2006	9.3	5.8	10.7	22.1

¹Total includes other race/ethnicity categories not separately shown.

²Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. From 2003 onwards, respondents were able to identify as being more than one race, and the Black and White categories include individuals who considered themselves to be of only one race.

NOTE: The *status dropout rate* is the percentage of 16- through 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in high school and who lack a high school credential. A high school credential includes a high school diploma or equivalent credential such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. Estimates beginning in 1987 reflect new editing procedures for cases with missing data on school enrollment items. Estimates beginning in 1992 reflect new wording of the educational attainment item. Estimates beginning in 1994 reflect changes due to newly instituted computer-assisted interviewing. See *supplemental note 7* for more information on measures of student persistence and progress.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2006.

Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Table 23-2. Status dropout rates and number and percentage distribution of status dropouts ages 16–24, by selected characteristics: October 2006

Characteristic	Status dropout rate (percent)	Number of status dropouts (in thousands)	Population (in thousands)	Percent of all status dropouts	Percent of population
Total	9.3	3,462	37,047	100.0	100.0
Sex					
Male	10.3	1,935	18,707	55.9	50.5
Female	8.3	1,527	18,340	44.1	49.5
Race/ethnicity¹					
White	5.8	1,337	22,863	38.6	61.7
Black	10.7	565	5,260	16.3	14.2
Hispanic	22.1	1,421	6,439	41.0	17.4
Asian	3.7	53	1,444	1.5	3.9
Pacific Islander	‡	‡	105	‡	0.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	14.7	34	231	1.0	0.6
More than one race	7.0	49	703	1.4	1.9
Age					
16	2.8	124	4,462	3.6	12.0
17	5.0	210	4,212	6.1	11.4
18	8.6	356	4,120	10.3	11.1
19	9.7	386	3,982	11.2	10.7
20–24	11.8	2,385	20,270	68.9	54.7
Immigration status					
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia					
Hispanic	36.2	959	2,648	27.7	7.1
Non-Hispanic	6.6	126	1,898	3.6	5.1
First generation ²					
Hispanic	12.3	270	2,196	7.8	5.9
Non-Hispanic	4.2	100	2,387	2.9	6.4
Second generation or more ³					
Hispanic	12.1	193	1,595	5.6	4.3
Non-Hispanic	6.9	1,815	26,322	52.4	71.1
Region					
Northeast	6.5	426	6,523	12.3	17.6
Midwest	6.1	515	8,390	14.9	22.6
South	11.7	1,577	13,467	45.6	36.4
West	10.9	945	8,666	27.3	23.4

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

¹ All racial/ethnic categories except "More than one race" are of persons who considered themselves as being of one race, with the exception of the Hispanic category, which consists of Hispanics of all races and racial combinations. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

² *First generation* describes an individual born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia with at least one parent born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

³ *Second generation or more* describes an individual born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia whose parents were both born inside the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

NOTE: The *status dropout rate* is the percentage of 16- through 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in high school and who lack a high school credential. See *supplemental note 7* for more information. A high school credential includes a high school diploma or equivalent credential such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2006.

Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Table S23-1. Standard errors for the status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds, by race/ethnicity: October 1972–2006

Year	Total	Race/ethnicity		
		White	Black	Hispanic
1972	0.28	0.29	1.07	2.22
1973	0.27	0.28	1.06	2.24
1974	0.27	0.28	1.05	2.08
1975	0.27	0.27	1.06	2.02
1976	0.26	0.28	1.01	2.01
1977	0.27	0.28	1.00	2.02
1978	0.27	0.28	1.00	2.00
1979	0.27	0.28	1.01	1.98
1980	0.26	0.27	0.97	1.89
1981	0.26	0.27	0.93	1.80
1982	0.27	0.29	0.98	1.93
1983	0.27	0.29	0.97	1.93
1984	0.27	0.29	0.92	1.91
1985	0.27	0.29	0.92	1.93
1986	0.27	0.28	0.90	1.88
1987	0.28	0.30	0.91	1.84
1988	0.30	0.32	1.00	2.30
1989	0.31	0.32	0.98	2.19
1990	0.29	0.30	0.94	1.91
1991	0.30	0.31	0.95	1.93
1992	0.28	0.29	0.95	1.86
1993	0.28	0.29	0.94	1.79
1994	0.26	0.27	0.75	1.16
1995	0.27	0.28	0.74	1.15
1996	0.27	0.26	0.75	1.13
1997	0.27	0.28	0.80	1.11
1998	0.27	0.28	0.81	1.12
1999	0.26	0.27	0.77	1.11
2000	0.26	0.26	0.78	1.08
2001	0.25	0.26	0.71	1.06
2002	0.24	0.24	0.70	0.93
2003	0.23	0.24	0.69	0.90
2004	0.23	0.24	0.70	0.89
2005	0.22	0.23	0.66	0.87
2006	0.22	0.23	0.66	0.86

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2006.

Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Table S23-2. Standard errors for the status dropout rates and number and percentage distribution of status dropouts ages 16–24, by selected characteristics: October 2006

Characteristic	Status dropout rate (percent)	Number of status dropouts (in thousands)	Population (in thousands)	Percent of all status dropouts	Percent of population
Total	0.22	81.8	302.8	†	†
Sex					
Male	0.33	60.8	210.7	1.23	0.38
Female	0.30	54.6	208.9	1.23	0.38
Race/ethnicity					
White	0.23	51.8	248.6	1.21	0.37
Black	0.66	34.9	118.0	0.97	0.28
Hispanic	0.86	55.1	120.4	1.38	0.33
Asian	0.77	11.1	63.7	0.32	0.16
Pacific Islander	†	†	18.2	†	0.04
American Indian/Alaska Native	3.62	8.4	26.9	0.26	0.06
More than one race	1.49	10.5	46.3	0.31	0.11
Age					
16	0.36	16.0	115.7	0.46	0.25
17	0.49	20.6	112.5	0.59	0.24
18	0.64	26.3	111.3	0.75	0.24
19	0.68	27.3	109.5	0.78	0.23
20–24	0.33	67.0	235.8	1.15	0.38
Immigration status					
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia					
Hispanic	1.55	41.0	88.5	1.26	0.22
Non-Hispanic	0.83	15.8	75.9	0.46	0.17
First generation					
Hispanic	1.16	25.5	81.8	0.75	0.20
Non-Hispanic	0.60	14.3	85.0	0.42	0.19
Second generation or more					
Hispanic	1.35	21.6	71.0	0.65	0.17
Non-Hispanic	0.23	60.0	264.0	1.24	0.34
Region					
Northeast	0.46	30.0	139.0	0.84	0.30
Midwest	0.39	33.0	156.9	0.91	0.33
South	0.42	56.3	196.0	1.28	0.38
West	0.49	42.8	159.3	1.12	0.32

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2006.