

**Table 363.—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	1995						1999								
		Population, in thousands	Adult education participants, in thousands <sup>1</sup>	Percent participating <sup>2</sup>				Population, in thousands	Adult education participants, in thousands <sup>1</sup>	Percent participating <sup>2</sup>						
				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
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>33.0</b>	<b>189,543</b>	<b>76,261</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>194,434</b>	<b>88,809</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>22.8</b>
<b>Sex</b>																
Men .....	32.6	90,256	34,450	38.2	5.6	21.8	15.8	92,946	40,204	43.3	2.2	0.9	10.2	23.4	2.4	18.0
Women .....	33.2	99,287	41,811	42.1	6.5	20.2	23.5	101,488	48,605	47.9	2.0	0.9	8.7	22.8	1.3	27.1
<b>Age</b>																
17 to 24 years .....	37.8	22,407	10,539	47.0	12.6	14.7	21.5	25,276	13,029	51.5	9.8	0.9	14.7	18.9	5.1	21.5
25 to 29 years .....	40.0	18,988	9,420	49.6	10.9	25.5	21.0	16,403	9,308	56.7	2.7	2.4	17.9	30.8	3.2	24.8
30 to 34 years .....	37.6	21,338	10,088	47.3	8.0	26.1	23.3	18,477	10,123	54.8	1.2	1.6	12.8	28.8	2.9	25.8
35 to 39 years .....	42.1	22,494	10,737	47.7	7.5	29.1	20.9	22,384	11,215	50.1	1.3	1.5	10.8	25.6	1.7	25.7
40 to 44 years .....	49.2	19,810	10,078	50.9	7.1	31.2	24.9	22,874	11,833	51.7	0.7	0.2	9.8	33.3	1.5	24.0
45 to 49 years .....	40.0	17,463	8,499	48.7	5.7	32.5	21.1	19,283	10,138	52.6	0.8	0.7	9.5	28.2	1.2	28.6
50 to 54 years .....	26.8	14,344	6,093	42.5	3.9	26.3	19.7	17,870	8,834	49.4	0.5	0.5	6.8	28.5	0.9	25.3
55 to 59 years .....	29.0	11,096	3,577	32.2	1.7	17.8	17.3	14,058	5,483	39.0	0.3	0.2	5.7	23.6	0.4	17.6
60 to 64 years .....	17.4	10,728	2,540	23.7	0.6	10.6	15.2	10,252	3,520	34.3	( <sup>3</sup> )	1.2	3.3	14.5	0.3	21.5
65 to 69 years .....	14.2	10,215	1,850	18.1	0.2	4.0	15.3	9,143	2,229	24.4	0.2	0.3	1.3	7.1	( <sup>3</sup> )	18.2
70 years and over .....	8.6	20,661	2,841	13.8	0.1	1.4	12.6	18,415	3,098	16.8	0.8	( <sup>3</sup> )	1.7	2.2	( <sup>3</sup> )	12.8
<b>Racial/ethnic group</b>																
White, non-Hispanic ...	34.1	144,587	59,982	41.5	6.0	22.8	20.8	143,679	65,547	45.6	1.4	0.1	8.9	24.4	1.3	23.6
Black, non-Hispanic ...	25.9	20,806	7,704	37.0	7.3	16.2	18.9	22,129	10,803	48.8	4.9	0.5	11.1	21.1	3.6	24.9
Hispanic .....	31.4	15,689	5,281	33.7	4.8	11.8	13.8	19,491	7,981	40.9	3.4	6.2	9.1	14.2	3.9	15.1
Asian American/Pacific Islander .....	35.9	4,377	1,739	39.7	6.5	18.1	15.9	5,328	2,789	52.3	1.6	4.8	17.6	28.4	0.4	22.1
American Indian/Alaskan Native .....	29.3	1,155	448	38.8	9.3	20.6	21.6	990	369	37.3	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	11.2	20.8	3.2	14.0
<b>Highest level of education completed</b>																
Eighth grade or less ...	7.7	12,808	1,283	10.0	0.1	1.9	4.9	11,078	1,527	13.8	3.1	5.2	0.2	1.3	0.4	5.8
9th to 12th grade, no diploma .....	15.8	16,511	3,332	20.2	0.8	4.9	9.2	21,375	5,578	26.1	9.5	1.1	3.1	5.6	1.7	9.4
High school diploma ...	24.1	62,956	19,341	30.7	3.6	13.9	15.4	53,488	19,693	36.8	2.3	0.6	7.3	16.5	2.2	18.3
Some vocational/technical .....	34.2	6,327	2,648	41.9	5.4	21.9	21.1	6,319	2,629	41.6	2.3	1.6	7.3	21.0	2.7	22.4
Some college .....	41.4	34,433	16,978	49.3	12.1	22.3	25.3	35,147	18,220	51.8	0.8	0.3	13.4	22.5	2.8	28.0
Associate degree .....	49.2	9,975	5,601	56.1	10.9	32.1	27.4	11,377	6,735	59.2	( <sup>3</sup> )	0.6	18.3	35.8	2.1	25.0
Bachelor's degree .....	51.1	26,858	15,286	56.9	7.1	36.1	27.0	29,890	18,018	60.3	—	0.4	10.6	37.0	1.0	30.4
Some graduate work (or study) .....	55.1	19,677	11,792	59.9	8.5	40.4	29.1	25,761	16,408	63.7	—	0.6	12.7	40.1	1.1	33.6
No degree .....	—	4,123	2,563	62.2	15.2	32.5	33.5	4,678	2,990	63.9	—	( <sup>3</sup> )	19.9	43.5	0.7	30.4
Master's .....	—	10,522	6,219	59.1	8.1	41.0	29.0	13,461	9,059	67.3	—	0.8	13.4	40.6	0.9	38.0
Doctor's .....	—	2,564	1,384	54.0	4.7	35.0	25.1	4,817	2,444	50.7	—	0.9	6.8	27.6	2.3	28.1
Professional .....	—	2,467	1,626	65.9	3.0	56.6	26.0	2,804	1,915	68.3	—	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.9	53.1	0.6	27.3
<b>Metropolitan area</b>																
Inside metropolitan area .....	34.5	142,522	59,627	41.8	6.5	22.0	20.3	146,184	69,281	47.4	2.2	1.1	9.4	24.4	1.9	22.9
Inside central city ...	—	118,170	49,996	42.3	6.7	22.7	20.2	125,107	60,023	48.0	2.2	1.2	9.7	24.8	2.0	23.3
Outside central city .....	—	24,352	9,630	39.5	5.6	18.4	21.1	21,077	9,258	43.9	1.9	0.4	7.9	21.8	1.4	20.9
Outside metropolitan area .....	28.3	47,021	16,634	35.4	4.9	17.9	18.5	48,250	19,528	40.5	1.8	0.2	9.3	19.2	1.6	22.3
<b>Labor force status</b>																
In labor force .....	40.7	125,982	62,717	49.8	8.1	29.8	21.7	140,190	74,282	53.0	2.2	0.6	11.9	30.4	2.2	23.6
Employed .....	42.0	117,826	59,734	50.7	8.2	31.1	22.0	132,227	70,849	53.6	1.8	0.5	11.9	31.5	2.2	23.8
Unemployed .....	26.0	8,155	2,983	36.6	5.5	11.1	17.4	7,963	3,433	43.1	8.2	1.9	12.2	12.0	2.5	20.2
Not in labor force .....	15.7	63,562	13,544	21.3	2.2	3.4	16.2	54,244	14,527	26.8	1.8	1.5	2.9	4.2	0.8	20.7
<b>Occupation</b>																
Executive, administrative, or managerial ...	49.3	13,098	7,313	55.8	7.3	42.1	23.1	28,665	15,986	55.8	( <sup>3</sup> )	0.4	10.1	37.3	1.2	24.7
Engineers, surveyors, and architects .....	62.6	1,756	1,150	65.5	14.1	44.6	23.3	1,872	1,528	81.6	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	29.6	55.4	5.3	27.5
Natural scientists and mathematicians .....	48.2	1,743	1,261	72.3	9.9	58.6	24.8	2,387	1,665	69.7	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	12.7	53.8	1.8	22.1
Social scientists and workers, lawyers .....	55.6	2,530	1,938	76.6	11.5	59.4	32.3	3,216	2,608	81.1	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	13.1	60.2	0.4	38.0
Teachers, elementary and secondary .....	55.0	5,414	4,155	76.7	16.6	52.4	36.9	6,778	5,319	78.5	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	23.0	51.8	0.6	37.7
Teachers, postsecondary .....	45.5	1,254	687	54.8	4.1	40.8	26.0	2,582	1,776	68.8	0.3	2.3	16.6	41.8	2.3	48.1
Physicians, dentists, veterinarians .....	67.1	859	611	71.1	1.2	67.1	19.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registered nurses, pharmacists .....	59.6	2,337	2,026	86.7	10.6	71.3	33.6	3,034	2,571	84.7	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	15.2	72.8	0.1	42.5
Writers, artists, entertainers, and athletes .....	42.9	1,874	934	49.9	7.7	23.1	30.0	2,388	1,233	51.6	0.4	( <sup>3</sup> )	15.1	30.8	1.8	21.7
Health technologists and technicians .....	68.6	1,697	1,270	74.8	12.8	47.5	33.0	2,077	1,445	69.6	1.7	0.6	21.8	42.9	5.3	35.9

**Table 363.—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	1995						1999								
		Population, in thousands	Adult education participants, in thousands <sup>1</sup>	Percent participating <sup>2</sup>				Population, in thousands	Adult education participants, in thousands <sup>1</sup>	Percent participating <sup>2</sup>						
				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
Technologists, except health .....	55.4	3,543	2,279	64.3	13.5	41.3	28.7	5,237	3,193	61.0	( <sup>3</sup> )	0.3	21.1	40.7	8.5	21.1
Marketing and sales occupations .....	34.4	18,174	8,038	44.2	6.8	23.2	20.4	14,626	7,139	48.8	1.7	0.1	6.3	22.7	1.6	29.2
Administrative support, including clerical .....	29.9	22,968	11,867	51.7	9.5	28.9	24.7	22,276	11,149	50.1	3.1	0.3	9.9	26.0	0.6	23.1
Service occupations ...	25.2	20,072	9,342	46.5	9.0	20.9	22.8	18,192	9,231	50.7	6.9	1.1	13.4	18.6	2.2	23.3
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing .....	14.3	2,336	616	26.4	1.6	11.5	15.6	2,532	953	37.6	3.4	2.0	8.4	15.6	6.4	11.7
Mechanics and repairers .....	32.1	4,692	2,231	47.6	7.1	27.7	15.6	4,519	2,001	44.3	2.0	( <sup>3</sup> )	15.9	16.3	4.5	23.0
Construction and extractive occupations	21.9	6,100	2,319	38.0	4.3	17.6	18.0	5,200	1,779	34.2	2.3	2.1	10.7	12.3	6.3	12.0
Precision production occupations .....	31.2	1,875	807	43.0	5.5	23.2	16.1	1,460	629	43.1	1.1	1.8	7.8	17.6	10.9	23.8
Production workers .....	21.1	9,483	2,908	30.7	5.8	14.7	10.7	10,121	3,803	37.6	2.9	0.8	6.8	18.5	1.7	17.2
Transportation, material moving .....	20.7	5,311	1,507	28.4	3.5	15.5	11.9	5,476	1,981	36.2	4.3	0.8	5.7	17.5	3.7	12.9
Handler, equipment, cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	20.8	2,456	617	25.1	3.1	11.1	9.7	3,683	849	23.1	1.1	2.1	6.3	5.6	1.2	5.0
Miscellaneous occupations .....	—	2,311	1,308	56.6	7.9	35.4	22.6	2,161	974	45.1	( <sup>3</sup> )	2.7	14.3	15.6	2.7	24.7
<b>Annual family income</b>																
\$5,000 or less .....	13.6	12,638	2,689	21.3	3.3	4.1	11.8	5,306	1,029	19.4	4.1	1.3	2.5	5.0	0.4	10.6
\$5,001 to \$10,000 .....	17.5	17,560	4,194	23.9	4.0	6.7	13.2	9,029	2,165	24.0	5.3	1.0	3.8	4.6	1.2	13.9
\$10,001 to \$15,000 .....	22.8	13,523	3,610	26.7	4.0	8.7	14.8	11,113	2,568	23.1	3.0	2.5	6.2	5.0	1.3	11.2
\$15,001 to \$20,000 .....	21.9	13,116	4,176	31.8	5.4	13.0	15.8	12,572	4,055	32.3	4.4	2.1	5.9	10.8	1.6	17.8
\$20,001 to \$25,000 .....	26.7	13,812	4,339	31.4	4.8	13.3	17.0	13,864	5,039	36.3	1.9	1.5	8.0	12.5	3.0	18.6
\$25,001 to \$30,000 .....	32.1	16,386	6,208	37.9	6.5	17.1	19.2	16,794	6,460	38.5	2.7	1.5	7.7	17.2	3.4	15.9
\$30,001 to \$40,000 .....	35.6	28,628	12,220	42.7	6.9	22.1	22.0	24,965	11,174	44.8	0.9	0.9	11.9	20.0	1.7	22.2
\$40,001 to \$50,000 .....	44.8	20,446	9,567	46.8	6.8	27.0	22.4	19,816	9,354	47.2	0.6	0.7	11.6	26.6	2.5	23.1
\$50,001 to \$75,000 .....	46.6	29,161	15,169	52.0	7.6	32.8	23.6	34,643	19,657	56.7	1.4	0.2	11.6	31.1	1.7	29.9
More than \$75,000 .....	48.7	24,274	14,089	58.0	7.7	37.3	26.8	46,332	27,310	58.9	2.0	0.3	10.1	35.9	1.2	28.5

<sup>1</sup> Adult 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.

—Data not available or not applicable.

NOTE.—Data are based upon a sample survey of the civilian noninstitutional population. Because of rounding and survey item nonresponse, details may not add to totals.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Participation in Adult Education," unpublished data. (This table was prepared October 1999.)