

the condition of education 2008



INDICATOR 1

Enrollment Trends by Age

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.

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All Ages

Enrollment Trends by Age

Between 1970 and 2006, children ages 3–4 saw the largest increase in enrollment rates. There was also notable growth in enrollment rates for those ages 18–19 and 20–24, the period when individuals are typically enrolled in postsecondary education.

Changes in enrollment patterns may reflect changes in attendance requirements, the perceived value or cost of education, as well as the time taken to complete degrees. Between 1970 and 2006, the enrollment rate of children ages 3–4 (typically nursery school ages) increased from 20 to 56 percent. This rate is up from 52 percent of students in this age group 5 years earlier in 2001. Some of this increase may reflect changes in the data collection method in 1994;¹ however, the rate of nursery school attendance had already doubled before that year (see supplemental table 1-1). The enrollment rate of children ages 5–6 (typically kindergarten² or 1st-grade ages) increased from 90 percent in 1970 to 96 percent in 1976 and has since remained roughly stable.

The enrollment rate for youth ages 7–13 has remained high over the past 35 years (between 98 and 99 percent), reflecting state school attendance requirements. The maximum compulsory age of school attendance varies by state between ages 16 and 18; this fact may account for the lower enrollment rates for youth ages 14–17 (between 93 and 97 percent) compared with those for youth ages 7–13 (Education Commission of the States 2006).

No measurable differences have been found in the enrollment rates for these age groups since 2001.

Youth ages 18–19 are typically transitioning into postsecondary education or the workforce. Between 1970 and 2006, the enrollment rates for these youth increased at the elementary/secondary level (from 10 to 19 percent) and at the postsecondary level (from 37 to 46 percent), raising the overall enrollment rate of those ages 18–19 from 48 to 65 percent. This overall rate is up from 61 percent of students in this age group 5 years earlier in 2001.

Adults ages 20–34 who are enrolled in school are usually enrolled in postsecondary education. Between 1970 and 2006, the enrollment rate of young adults ages 20–21 increased from 32 to 48 percent, and the rate of those ages 22–24 increased from 15 to 27 percent. Among older adults, the enrollment rate increased from 8 to 12 percent for those ages 25–29 during this period, and from 4 percent in 1970 to 7 percent in 2006 for those ages 30–34. Despite this pattern of increase from 1970 to 2006, there was no measurable change in the enrollment rates for those ages 20–34 between 2001 and 2006.

¹ Beginning in 1994, new procedures were used to collect preprimary enrollment data. As a result, pre-1994 data may not be comparable to data from 1994 or later.

² As of April 2005, of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, there were 36 states or jurisdictions that did not require kindergarten attendance; however, most mandate that school districts offer kindergarten programs (Education Commission of the States 2005).

NOTE: Includes enrollment in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private schools. Includes nursery schools, kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Excludes homeschooled students and enrollments in less-than-2-year postsecondary institutions and enrollments in “special” schools, such as trade schools, business colleges, or correspondence schools. The age breakouts used in this indicator reflect the different schooling stages that are typical for students given their age. For example, students at ages 18–19 are typically transitioning from elementary/secondary education into postsecondary education or the workforce. See supplemental note 2 for more information on the Current Population Survey (CPS).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2007* (NCES 2008-022), table 7, data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 1970–2006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

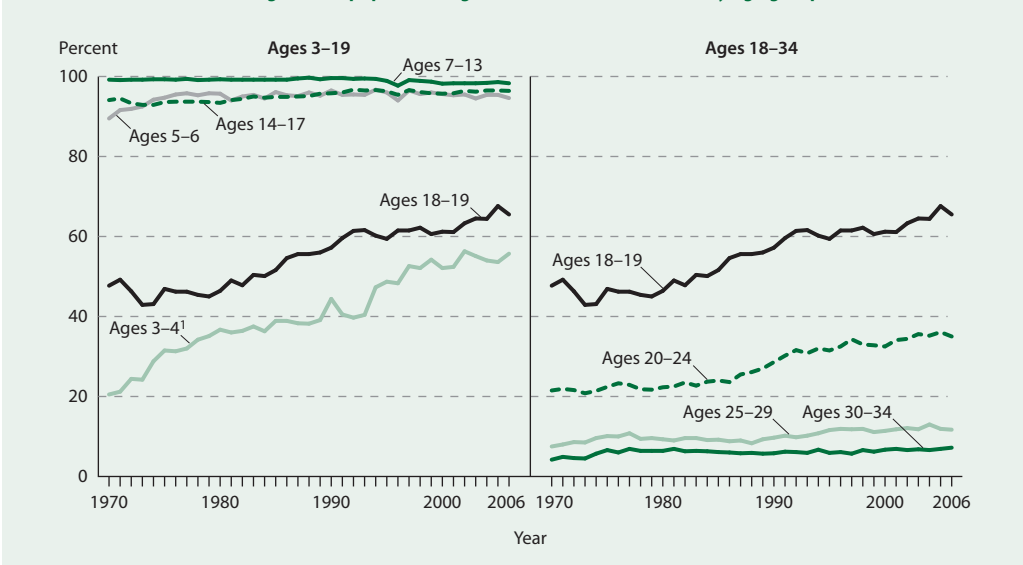
Supplemental Note 2

Supplemental Table 1-1

Education Commission of the States 2005, 2006



ENROLLMENT RATES: Percentage of the population ages 3–34 enrolled in school, by age group: October 1970–2006



Enrollment Trends by Age

Table 1-1. Percentage of the population ages 3–34 enrolled in school, by age group: October 1970–2006

October	Total, ages 3–34	Ages 3–4 ¹	Ages 5–6	Ages 7–13	Ages 14–17	Ages 18–19			Ages 20–24				
						Total	In elementary/ secondary	In post- secondary	Total	Ages 20–21	Ages 22–24	Ages 25–29	Ages 30–34
1970	56.4	20.5	89.5	99.2	94.1	47.7	10.5	37.3	21.5	31.9	14.9	7.5	4.2
1971	56.2	21.2	91.6	99.1	94.5	49.2	11.5	37.7	21.9	32.2	15.4	8.0	4.9
1972	54.9	24.4	91.9	99.2	93.3	46.3	10.4	35.9	21.6	31.4	14.8	8.6	4.6
1973	53.5	24.2	92.5	99.2	92.9	42.9	10.0	32.9	20.8	30.1	14.5	8.5	4.5
1974	53.6	28.8	94.2	99.3	92.9	43.1	9.9	33.2	21.4	30.2	15.1	9.6	5.7
1975	53.7	31.5	94.7	99.3	93.6	46.9	10.2	36.7	22.4	31.2	16.2	10.1	6.6
1976	53.1	31.3	95.5	99.2	93.7	46.2	10.2	36.0	23.3	32.0	17.1	10.0	6.0
1977	52.5	32.0	95.8	99.4	93.7	46.2	10.4	35.7	22.9	31.8	16.5	10.8	6.9
1978	51.2	34.2	95.3	99.1	93.7	45.4	9.8	35.6	21.8	29.5	16.3	9.4	6.4
1979	50.3	35.1	95.8	99.2	93.6	45.0	10.3	34.6	21.7	30.2	15.8	9.6	6.4
1980	49.7	36.7	95.7	99.3	93.4	46.4	10.5	35.9	22.3	31.0	16.3	9.3	6.4
1981	48.9	36.0	94.0	99.2	94.1	49.0	11.5	37.5	22.5	31.6	16.5	9.0	6.9
1982	48.6	36.4	95.0	99.2	94.4	47.8	11.3	36.5	23.5	34.0	16.8	9.6	6.3
1983	48.4	37.5	95.4	99.2	95.0	50.4	12.8	37.6	22.7	32.5	16.6	9.6	6.4
1984	47.9	36.3	94.5	99.2	94.7	50.1	11.5	38.6	23.7	33.9	17.3	9.1	6.3
1985	48.3	38.9	96.1	99.2	94.9	51.6	11.2	40.4	24.0	35.3	16.9	9.2	6.1
1986	48.2	38.9	95.3	99.2	94.9	54.6	13.1	41.5	23.6	33.0	17.9	8.8	6.0
1987	48.6	38.3	95.1	99.5	95.0	55.6	13.1	42.5	25.5	38.7	17.5	9.0	5.8
1988	48.7	38.2	96.0	99.7	95.1	55.6	13.9	41.8	26.1	39.1	18.2	8.3	5.9
1989	49.0	39.1	95.2	99.3	95.7	56.0	14.4	41.6	27.0	38.5	19.9	9.3	5.7
1990	50.2	44.4	96.5	99.6	95.8	57.2	14.5	42.7	28.6	39.7	21.0	9.7	5.8
1991	50.7	40.5	95.4	99.6	96.0	59.6	15.6	44.0	30.2	42.0	22.2	10.2	6.2
1992	51.4	39.7	95.5	99.4	96.7	61.4	17.1	44.3	31.6	44.0	23.7	9.8	6.1
1993	51.8	40.4	95.4	99.5	96.5	61.6	17.2	44.4	30.8	42.7	23.6	10.2	5.9
1994	53.3	47.3	96.7	99.4	96.6	60.2	16.2	43.9	32.0	44.9	24.0	10.8	6.7
1995	53.7	48.7	96.0	98.9	96.3	59.4	16.3	43.1	31.5	44.9	23.2	11.6	5.9
1996	54.1	48.3	94.0	97.7	95.4	61.5	16.7	44.9	32.5	44.4	24.8	11.9	6.1
1997	55.6	52.6	96.5	99.1	96.6	61.5	16.7	44.7	34.3	45.9	26.4	11.8	5.7
1998	55.8	52.1	95.6	98.9	96.1	62.2	15.7	46.4	33.0	44.8	24.9	11.9	6.6
1999	56.0	54.2	96.0	98.7	95.8	60.6	16.5	44.1	32.8	45.3	24.5	11.1	6.2
2000	55.9	52.1	95.6	98.2	95.7	61.2	16.5	44.7	32.5	44.1	24.6	11.4	6.7
2001	56.4	52.4	95.3	98.3	95.8	61.1	17.1	44.0	34.1	46.1	25.5	11.8	6.9
2002	56.2	56.3	95.5	98.3	96.4	63.3	18.0	45.3	34.4	47.8	25.6	12.1	6.6
2003	56.2	55.1	94.5	98.3	96.2	64.5	17.9	46.6	35.6	48.3	27.8	11.8	6.8
2004	56.2	54.0	95.4	98.4	96.5	64.4	16.6	47.8	35.2	48.9	26.3	13.0	6.6
2005	56.5	53.6	95.4	98.6	96.5	67.6	18.3	49.3	36.1	48.7	27.3	11.9	6.9
2006	56.0	55.7	94.6	98.3	96.4	65.5	19.3	46.2	35.0	47.5	26.7	11.7	7.2

¹ Beginning in 1994, new procedures were used to collect preprimary enrollment data. As a result, pre-1994 data may not be comparable to data from 1994 or later.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Includes enrollment in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private schools. Includes nursery schools, kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Excludes enrollments in less-than-2-year postsecondary institutions and enrollments in "special" schools, such as trade schools, business colleges, or correspondence schools. The age breakouts used in this indicator reflect the different schooling stages that are typical for students given their age. For example, students at ages 18–19 are typically transitioning from elementary/secondary education into postsecondary education or the workforce. See *supplemental note 2* for more information on the Current Population Survey (CPS).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2007* (NCES 2008-022), table 7, data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 1970–2006.

Enrollment Trends by Age

Table S1-1. Standard errors for the percentage of the population ages 3–34 enrolled in school, by age group: October 1970–2006

October	Total, ages 3–34	Ages 3–17					Ages 18–19			Ages 20–24				
		Ages 3–4	Ages 5–6	Ages 7–13	Ages 14–17	Total	In		Total	Ages 20–21	Ages 22–24	Ages 25–29	Ages 30–34	
		elementary/ secondary	In post- secondary	Ages 20–21	Ages 22–24		Ages 25–29	Ages 30–34						
1970	0.22	0.73	0.53	0.08	0.27	0.85	0.52	0.83	0.47	0.85	0.52	0.33	0.27	
1971	0.21	0.75	0.49	0.08	0.26	0.84	0.54	0.81	0.46	0.83	0.51	0.33	0.29	
1972	0.21	0.80	0.50	0.08	0.28	0.82	0.50	0.79	0.45	0.79	0.50	0.33	0.27	
1973	0.21	0.78	0.49	0.08	0.28	0.81	0.49	0.77	0.44	0.78	0.49	0.32	0.26	
1974	0.21	0.83	0.43	0.08	0.28	0.80	0.48	0.76	0.44	0.76	0.50	0.33	0.29	
1975	0.21	0.87	0.41	0.08	0.27	0.80	0.48	0.77	0.44	0.76	0.51	0.33	0.30	
1976	0.21	0.90	0.38	0.09	0.27	0.79	0.48	0.76	0.44	0.75	0.51	0.33	0.28	
1977	0.21	0.93	0.38	0.07	0.27	0.80	0.49	0.77	0.44	0.75	0.51	0.34	0.30	
1978	0.21	0.94	0.41	0.09	0.27	0.80	0.48	0.77	0.43	0.73	0.50	0.31	0.28	
1979	0.21	0.95	0.40	0.09	0.28	0.79	0.48	0.76	0.42	0.74	0.49	0.31	0.28	
1980	0.21	0.95	0.40	0.09	0.29	0.80	0.49	0.77	0.43	0.74	0.49	0.30	0.27	
1981	0.21	0.92	0.46	0.09	0.27	0.80	0.51	0.78	0.42	0.73	0.48	0.29	0.27	
1982	0.22	0.96	0.44	0.10	0.29	0.85	0.54	0.81	0.45	0.79	0.50	0.31	0.27	
1983	0.22	0.94	0.42	0.09	0.27	0.86	0.57	0.83	0.44	0.79	0.50	0.31	0.27	
1984	0.22	0.92	0.45	0.09	0.28	0.88	0.56	0.86	0.45	0.80	0.51	0.30	0.27	
1985	0.22	0.94	0.38	0.09	0.27	0.89	0.56	0.88	0.46	0.83	0.51	0.30	0.26	
1986	0.22	0.93	0.40	0.10	0.28	0.90	0.61	0.89	0.46	0.83	0.53	0.29	0.25	
1987	0.22	0.93	0.41	0.07	0.28	0.89	0.60	0.89	0.48	0.88	0.53	0.30	0.25	
1988	0.24	1.01	0.41	0.07	0.30	0.96	0.67	0.95	0.53	0.96	0.60	0.31	0.27	
1989	0.22	1.00	0.44	0.09	0.29	0.95	0.68	0.95	0.55	0.97	0.63	0.33	0.26	
1990	0.23	0.99	0.37	0.06	0.28	0.94	0.67	0.94	0.54	0.92	0.63	0.33	0.25	
1991	0.22	0.96	0.41	0.06	0.27	0.96	0.71	0.97	0.55	0.92	0.64	0.34	0.26	
1992	0.22	0.95	0.41	0.08	0.25	0.96	0.74	0.98	0.56	0.95	0.65	0.34	0.26	
1993	0.22	0.93	0.41	0.07	0.25	0.95	0.74	0.97	0.56	0.97	0.65	0.35	0.25	
1994	0.21	0.87	0.32	0.08	0.22	0.87	0.65	0.88	0.51	0.88	0.59	0.33	0.25	
1995	0.21	0.87	0.34	0.10	0.23	0.85	0.64	0.86	0.52	0.89	0.60	0.34	0.24	
1996	0.22	0.91	0.43	0.15	0.26	0.87	0.67	0.89	0.55	0.93	0.65	0.36	0.25	
1997	0.22	0.92	0.33	0.09	0.22	0.86	0.66	0.88	0.55	0.91	0.66	0.36	0.25	
1998	0.22	0.92	0.37	0.10	0.24	0.84	0.63	0.86	0.55	0.91	0.65	0.37	0.27	
1999	0.22	0.93	0.36	0.11	0.24	0.84	0.64	0.85	0.54	0.90	0.64	0.36	0.27	
2000	0.22	0.93	0.38	0.13	0.25	0.84	0.64	0.85	0.53	0.88	0.63	0.37	0.28	
2001	0.22	0.88	0.37	0.12	0.24	0.83	0.64	0.84	0.53	0.87	0.64	0.38	0.28	
2002	0.21	0.89	0.37	0.12	0.22	0.83	0.67	0.86	0.52	0.87	0.62	0.37	0.27	
2003	0.20	0.85	0.40	0.12	0.21	0.80	0.64	0.84	0.50	0.83	0.59	0.34	0.26	
2004	0.20	0.85	0.37	0.12	0.21	0.80	0.62	0.83	0.49	0.82	0.58	0.35	0.26	
2005	0.20	0.86	0.37	0.11	0.20	0.79	0.65	0.84	0.49	0.80	0.59	0.34	0.27	
2006	0.20	0.86	0.39	0.12	0.21	0.77	0.64	0.81	0.49	0.81	0.58	0.33	0.27	

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2007* (NCES 2008-022), table 7, data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 1970–2006.