

the condition of education 2004



INDICATOR 15

Postsecondary Expectations of 10th-Graders

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2004*. 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 2004* visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004077>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Student Attitudes and Aspirations

Postsecondary Expectations of 10th-Graders

In 2002, 9 of 10 students in the 10th grade expected to participate in postsecondary education, and 8 of 10 expected to attain a bachelor's or higher degree.

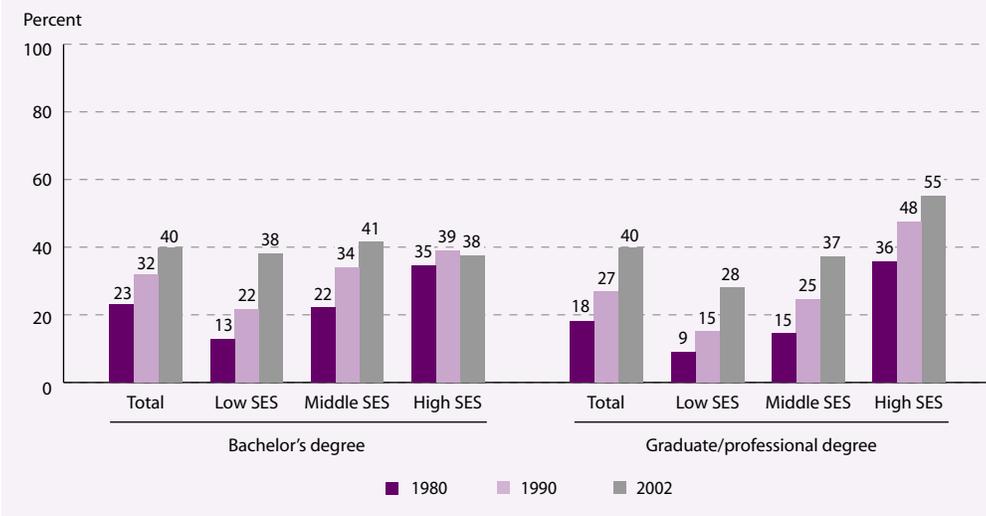
Forty percent of 10th-graders in 2002 expected to complete a bachelor's as their highest degree, and another 40 percent expected to attain a graduate or professional degree. About 11 percent expected some postsecondary education but less than a bachelor's degree (see supplemental table 15-1).

The proportions of 10th-graders who expected to attain bachelor's or higher degrees increased from 1980 to 1990 and again from 1990 to 2002. For example, the proportion of 10th-graders expecting to complete a bachelor's as their highest degree nearly doubled (from 23 to 40 percent), and the proportion aspiring to attain a graduate degree more than doubled (from 18 to 40 percent). The proportions expecting to attain less than a bachelor's degree correspondingly declined. In 1980, 27 percent of 10th-graders said they expected to complete no formal education beyond high school, compared with 9 percent in 2002. Similarly, in 1980, 33 percent expected to participate in postsecondary education but not earn a bachelor's degree, while 11 percent intended to do so in 2002.

Rising aspirations were notable among students from families with low socioeconomic status (SES). In 1980, about 13 percent of such students intended to earn a bachelor's degree, but this figure tripled (to 38 percent) in 2002. The proportion of low-SES students expecting to complete a graduate degree also tripled over this 22-year period (from 9 to 28 percent). In contrast to 1980, by 2002 there was no longer a statistically significant difference in the proportions of low- and high-SES students who expected to earn a bachelor's degree. In 2002, however, low-SES students were half as likely as their high-SES peers to expect to earn a graduate degree.

Many high school students hold high expectations that are not realized by subsequent attainment. Ten years after these 1990 10th-graders stated their expectations, 46 percent had some postsecondary experience but less than a bachelor's degree (compared with 30 percent who had expected that level), 26 percent had completed a bachelor's degree (versus 32 percent), and 3 percent had earned a graduate degree (versus 27 percent).¹

POSTSECONDARY EXPECTATIONS: Percentage of 10th-graders who expected to attain bachelor's or higher degrees, by socioeconomic status (SES): 1980, 1990, and 2002



¹U.S. Department of Education, NCES, National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS: 88/2000), "Fourth Follow-up, 2000."

SOURCE: Rasinski, K.A., Ingels, S.J., Rock, D.A., Pollack, J.M., and Wu, S.-C. (1993). *America's High School Sophomores: A Ten Year Comparison* (NCES 93-087), table 6.1 (1980 and 1990 data) and previously unpublished tabulation (2002 data). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores (HS&B-So:80); National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88/90), "First Follow-up, 1990"; and Education Longitudinal Study of 2002, Base Year (ELS:2002).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 3, 11
Supplemental Table 15-1



Postsecondary Expectations of 10th-Graders

Table 15-1. Percentage of 10th-graders who expected to attain various levels of education, by selected student and school characteristics: 1980, 1990, and 2002

Student or school characteristic	High school diploma or equivalent or less			Some college, including vocational/technical			Bachelor's degree			Graduate/professional degree		
	1980	1990	2002	1980	1990	2002	1980	1990	2002	1980	1990	2002
Total	26.5	10.2	9.2	32.9	30.3	11.5	22.7	32.1	39.7	17.9	27.4	39.7
Sex												
Male	28.0	11.0	12.5	31.7	32.3	13.2	22.4	32.9	41.5	18.0	23.8	32.8
Female	23.4	9.4	5.8	34.2	28.3	9.7	23.8	31.4	37.8	18.7	30.9	46.6
Race/ethnicity¹												
American Indian	35.7	18.8	12.1	32.9	43.0	12.0	17.2	21.8	36.1	14.2	16.5	39.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.7	8.2	4.9	21.5	21.7	8.2	32.4	31.4	37.2	34.3	38.7	49.7
Black	26.3	11.1	10.5	32.7	30.2	12.6	21.8	28.2	40.8	19.2	30.5	36.1
White	25.9	9.4	8.0	33.1	29.5	10.9	23.4	33.9	39.6	17.7	27.3	41.4
More than one race	—	—	9.0	—	—	9.5	—	—	38.2	—	—	43.3
Hispanic	33.7	14.3	13.5	33.7	38.5	13.9	17.0	25.5	40.2	15.6	21.7	32.4
Socioeconomic status²												
Lowest quarter	45.1	21.4	16.8	32.8	42.1	17.0	12.9	21.6	38.2	9.1	15.0	28.0
Middle two quarters	25.5	8.4	8.9	38.0	32.7	12.4	22.1	34.1	41.5	14.5	24.7	37.2
Highest quarter	7.4	1.5	2.5	23.3	11.9	4.6	34.6	39.1	37.6	35.7	47.5	55.2
Composite achievement test score in 10th grade²												
Lowest quarter	47.5	21.4	24.1	33.1	46.3	20.1	11.8	19.8	35.3	7.6	12.5	20.5
Second quarter	32.3	11.8	9.1	40.5	40.7	15.3	16.7	30.5	44.9	10.5	17.0	30.8
Third quarter	18.5	5.4	3.7	37.8	26.3	8.0	26.5	38.6	43.1	17.2	29.7	45.2
Highest quarter	7.0	1.7	1.0	21.2	10.6	3.4	35.6	38.6	35.5	36.2	49.1	60.1
10th-grade school sector												
Public	28.1	10.9	9.7	33.5	32.1	12.1	21.6	31.4	39.8	16.7	25.6	38.4
Catholic	9.8	3.2!	1.2	27.1	12.2	3.9	33.2	42.1	41.2	29.9	42.5	53.7
Other private	12.3	4.1!	3.9	27.1	13.1	4.8	32.3	35.1	35.8	28.4	47.6	55.5

— Not available.

! Interpret data with caution.

¹American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Racial categories exclude Hispanic origin.

²See *supplemental note 11* for derivation of the SES and test score quarter variables in the three data sets.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: Rasinski, K.A., Ingels, S.J., Rock, D.A., Pollack, J.M., and Wu, S.-C. (1993). *America's High School Sophomores: A Ten Year Comparison* (NCES 93-087), table 6.1 (1980 and 1990 data) and previously unpublished tabulation (2002 data). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores (HS&B-So:80); National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88/90), "First Follow-up, 1990"; and Education Longitudinal Study of 2002, Base Year (ELS:2002).

Postsecondary Expectations of 10th-Graders

Table S15. Standard errors for the percentage of 10th-graders who expected to attain bachelor's or higher degrees, by socioeconomic status (SES): 1980, 1990, and 2002

Socioeconomic status	Bachelor's degree			Graduate/professional degree		
	1980	1990	2002	1980	1990	2002
Total	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6
Low SES	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.4	1.0	0.9
Middle SES	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.8
High SES	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.0

SOURCE: Rasinski, K.A., Ingels, S.J., Rock, D.A., Pollack, J.M., and Wu, S.-C. (1993). *America's High School Sophomores: A Ten Year Comparison* (NCES 93-087), table 6.1 (1980 and 1990 data) and previously unpublished tabulation (2002 data). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores (HS&B-So:80); National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88/90), "First Follow-up, 1990"; and Education Longitudinal Study of 2002, Base Year (ELS:2002).

Postsecondary Expectations of 10th-Graders

Table S15-1. Standard errors for the percentage of 10th-graders who expected to attain various levels of education, by selected student and school characteristics: 1980, 1990, and 2002

Student or school characteristic	High school diploma or equivalent or less			Some college, including vocational/technical			Bachelor's degree			Graduate/professional degree		
	1980	1990	2002	1980	1990	2002	1980	1990	2002	1980	1990	2002
Total	0.50	0.42	0.36	0.39	0.65	0.37	0.38	0.59	0.50	0.40	0.64	0.60
Sex												
Male	0.66	0.52	0.52	0.54	0.88	0.52	0.52	0.84	0.71	0.54	0.87	0.72
Female	0.58	0.62	0.38	0.52	0.84	0.47	0.47	0.81	0.70	0.50	0.84	0.80
Race/ethnicity												
American Indian	4.12	6.26	3.94	3.01	4.51	3.80	3.63	3.96	6.94	2.08	3.29	6.21
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.08	1.86	0.80	2.66	2.51	1.12	2.99	2.00	2.03	3.36	2.87	2.18
Black	1.06	1.13	0.95	0.89	2.02	0.83	0.83	1.87	1.34	0.91	2.05	1.47
White	0.57	0.48	0.40	0.45	0.72	0.42	0.44	0.67	0.64	0.46	0.73	0.69
More than one race	†	†	1.29	†	†	1.49	†	†	2.44	†	†	2.44
Hispanic	1.18	1.19	1.04	1.07	1.95	0.99	0.83	1.40	1.37	0.84	1.52	1.40
Socioeconomic status												
Lowest quarter	0.82	1.17	0.82	0.67	1.21	0.75	0.50	0.95	0.99	0.43	0.98	0.93
Middle two quarters	0.52	0.46	0.43	0.52	0.91	0.48	0.45	0.81	0.77	0.39	0.75	0.79
Highest quarter	0.40	0.23	0.35	0.68	0.75	0.42	0.68	1.20	0.95	0.80	1.30	0.98
Composite achievement test score in 10th grade												
Lowest quarter	0.87	1.02	0.98	0.71	1.39	0.87	0.53	1.22	0.99	0.41	1.29	0.94
Second quarter	0.76	0.68	0.60	0.70	1.23	0.85	0.56	1.00	1.11	0.49	0.90	1.06
Third quarter	0.64	0.51	0.39	0.72	1.10	0.55	0.67	1.13	0.97	0.58	1.05	1.00
Highest quarter	0.39	0.27	0.20	0.68	0.70	0.38	0.67	1.17	0.96	0.89	1.24	1.02
10th-grade school sector												
Public	0.50	0.46	0.39	0.38	0.67	0.40	0.37	0.62	0.53	0.37	0.62	0.64
Catholic	1.21	0.88	0.28	1.72	1.81	0.57	1.52	2.24	1.68	1.94	2.74	1.78
Other private	2.63	1.41	0.88	3.77	2.73	0.73	3.06	3.50	1.92	4.29	4.48	2.35

†Not applicable.

SOURCE: Rasinski, K.A., Ingels, S.J., Rock, D.A., Pollack, J.M., and Wu, S.-C. (1993). *America's High School Sophomores: A Ten Year Comparison* (NCES 93-087), table 6.1 (1980 and 1990 data) and previously unpublished tabulation (2002 data). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores (HS&B-So:80); National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88/90), "First Follow-up, 1990"; and Education Longitudinal Study of 2002, Base Year (ELS:2002).