

GENDER EQUITY IN EDUCATION: A DATA SNAPSHOT—JUNE 2012

DATA NOTES: CIVIL RIGHTS DATA COLLECTION (CRDC)

Since 1968, the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) has collected data on key education and civil rights issues in our nation's public schools for use by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), other Department offices, other federal agencies, and by policymakers and researchers outside of the Department.

Sample Size

The CRDC has generally been collected biennially from school districts in each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The CRDC for SY 2009-10 was collected in two parts. Part 1 is beginning-of-year "snapshot" data and Part 2 is cumulative and end-of-year data. The 2009-10 CRDC contains information on about 7,000 school districts and over 72,000 schools in those districts. It is important to note that the CRDC does not include data from all school and districts in the nation, although it does include data from all districts with greater than 3,000 students and 85% of all students. The conclusions in this report therefore apply only to these districts and schools sampled.

Race and Ethnicity

For the 2009-10 CRDC, all school districts were able to choose to report data by five race and ethnicity categories (Hispanic, White, Black/African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native) or seven race and ethnicity categories (Hispanic/Latino, White, Black/African-American, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Two or More Races). About 25% of the districts reported by the newer seven category system. Less than 1% of the sample was reported as two or more races. Because the "two or more races" category was such a small component of the sample, responses were excluded from our analysis of these data in this document.

Early Childhood Education

The CRDC collects data on early childhood or pre-kindergarten programs operated by, or on behalf of, school districts. For purposes of the CRDC, prekindergarten is a program for children younger than kindergarten age and includes early childhood or preschool programs of services.

College and Career Readiness

Gifted and Talented: Trends in gifted and talented enrollments were derived from the CRDC Time Series data which tracks information on data elements consistently collected on the CRDC across years the survey is administered.

Algebra I: The passing rates for Algebra I were calculated using the number of students enrolled in Algebra I which was collected at the beginning of the school year and the count of students passing Algebra I which was collected the end of the school year. Therefore, the cohort of students reported as taking Algebra I and passing Algebra I may be slightly different. *Note*: Outliers such as schools reporting significantly more students passing Algebra I than taking Algebra I were excluded from the analysis as these likely represent reporting errors.

Advanced Placement: The percent of students taking AP exams was calculated using the number of students enrolled in at least one AP class which was collected at the beginning of the school year and the count of students taking AP exams which was collected the end of the school year. Therefore, the cohort of students reported as taking AP courses and taking AP exams may be slightly different. *Note*: Outliers such as schools reporting significantly more students passing all AP tests than taking AP tests were excluded from the analysis as these likely represent reporting errors.

For AP mathematics course taking, the trends shown represent national estimations from the 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006 school years. The full set of 2009 estimations are considered preliminary and are currently being reviewed by OCR.

AP mathematics courses include calculus (AB and BC) and statistics. AP science courses include biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science. AP foreign language courses include any AP foreign language for which AP testing is offered. AP courses in "other subjects" include all AP courses other than mathematics, science, and foreign language. AP computer science is included in "other subjects."

School Climate

Bullying and Harassment: The 2009-10 CRDC collection included the first of its kind school and district level reporting of bullying and harassment. However, many districts were unable to provide complete data on students reported to have been bullied or harassed, students disciplined, and incidents by type of bullying and harassment. As a result, these data may be underestimated.

Discipline: The CRDC collects detailed disaggregated discipline data for non-disabled students, students served by IDEA, and Section 504 students. Because the CRDC does not include the race/ethnicity breakdown of students served by Section 504 only, the percentages by race/ethnicity of students receiving each type of disciplinary action are calculated based on non-disabled students and students served by IDEA.

Limitations of the Data

OCR strives to ensure that the CRDC data is an accurate and comprehensive depiction of student access to educational opportunities in sampled school districts. The submission system includes a series of embedded edit checks to ensure data errors are corrected before the district submits its data. Additionally, each district's superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, is required to certify the accuracy of its submission. Ultimately, the quality of the CRDC data depends on accurate collection and reporting by the participating districts and states.

After reviewing the data, OCR is aware that inconsistencies may still remain in the data file. Users should be aware that outliers in the dataset may be a function of districts mis-reporting data.

For more information about the CRDC, please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/data.html>

DATA NOTES: ADDITIONAL DATA SOURCES

Early Childhood Education

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October, 2010.

The 2010 Current Population Survey (CPS) data provide the number and percent of 3-, 4- and 5- year olds enrolled in nursery school in October of 2010. The data presented in this analysis can be found in Table 2: Single Grade of Enrollment and High School Graduation Status for People 3 Years Old and Over, by Sex, Age (Single Years for 3 to 24 Years), Race, and Hispanic Origin available at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/school/data/cps/2010/tables.html>

Career and Technical Education

Source: Data reported to the Office of Vocational and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education

Data on secondary and postsecondary female enrollment by career cluster for the 2009–2010 school year is based on data reported to the Office of Vocational and Adult Education and available at: <http://www.ncwge.org/TitleIX40/TitleIX-print.pdf>

Please note that the data presented pertain only to students enrolled in Perkins-funded career and technical education programs.

Postsecondary Education

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics

Postsecondary Enrollment: Data presented on postsecondary enrollment can be found in the 2011 Digest of Education Statistics, Table 198: "Total fall enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by attendance status, sex of student, and control of institution: Selected years 1947 through 2010" available at: http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d11/tables/dt11_198.asp?referrer=report

Please note that data through 1995 are for institutions of higher education, while later data are for degree-granting institutions. Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. The degree-granting classification is very similar to the earlier higher education classification, but it includes more 2-year colleges and excludes a few higher education institutions that did not grant degrees.

Degrees Conferred: Data presented on degrees conferred can be found in the 2011 Condition of Education, Table A-47-2: "Number and percentage change in degrees conferred to U.S. residents by degree-granting institutions, percentage distribution of degrees conferred, and percentage of degrees conferred to females, by level of degree and race/ethnicity" available at: <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/tables/table-dcd-2.asp>.

Please note that degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Nonresident aliens are excluded because information about their race/ethnicity is not available. Doctorate includes Ph.D., Ed.D., and comparable degrees at the doctoral level as well as most degrees formerly classified as first-professional, such as M.D., D.D.S., and law degrees..

STEM Degrees: Data presented on degrees in STEM fields can be found in the Postsecondary Awards in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics by State 2001 and 2009 in Table 5, "Number of awards and number, percentage, and percentage change in the awards conferred in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields to women at Title IV institutions, by state" available at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011226.pdf>.

Please note that awards conferred include both degrees and certificates. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields include computer and information sciences, engineering and engineering technologies, biological and biomedical sciences, mathematics and statistics, physical sciences, and science technologies