

Lit Scan

Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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Internet Access, Adult Educational Attainment & At Risk Children

Whatever an individual's age and whether he or she is at home, at work, or at school, there is a strong relationship between adult educational attainment and Internet access. Children of college graduates are more than three times as likely as children of high school dropouts to use the Internet somewhere—either at home or at school. And, among adults, those who graduated from college are more than fifteen times as likely as high school dropouts to use the Internet somewhere—at home, at work, or at school.

It is little surprise that children of college-educated parents are more than twice as likely as children of high school dropouts to have Internet access at home. It is cause for some concern, however, that children of better educated parents are also almost twice as likely to use the Internet at school.

Only 1.5 percent of adults who dropped out of high school and only 6.6 percent of those who went no further than high school use the Internet at work. For adults who attended at least some college, the percentage using the Internet at work more than doubles to 16.1 percent. For adults who graduated from college, that percentage more than doubles again.

Certainly, adults of different levels of educational attainment are likely to have different types of jobs. Those who are better educated are more likely to be involved in “information-related” work. Notably, however, adults with

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lower levels of educational attainment are much more likely to be using the Internet at home than on the job. Still, despite their usage of the Internet at home, there appears to be an all too consistent relationship between adult educational attainment and children's access to the Internet at school as well as at home.

Table 1. Percentages of Individuals with Internet Access by Age and Educational Attainment of Householder

Educational attainment of householder	Age 3-17			Age 18 & over			
	At home	At school	Any-where	At home	At work	At school	Any-where
Less than high school diploma	12.2	11.3	11.3	15.4	1.5	19.5	3.2
High school diploma/GED	15.2	15.8	18.7	22.4	6.6	34.1	10.9
Some college	20.1	18.0	24.6	36.2	16.1	40.8	29.2
Bachelor's degree or more	29.0	19.7	34.0	46.6	35.3	31.8	45.1

SOURCE

Eric C. Newburger, *Computer Use in the United States*. **Current Population Reports** P20-522, U.S. Census Bureau, issued September 1999. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p20-522.pdf>

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