

# Lit Scan

## Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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### Educational Attainment Stronger Predictor of 1999 Income Than Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Metropolitan Status

**Average Money Income of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Educational Attainment, 1999**

Characteristic	Full-Time, Year-Round Workers	
	Male	Female
<b>All</b>	<b>\$50,438</b>	<b>\$33,303</b>
<b>Metropolitan Status</b>		
Central City	\$47,569	\$33,737
Suburban	55,654	35,260
Non-metropolitan	39,207	26,660
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White (non-Hispanic)	\$55,216	\$35,194
Black	36,387	28,894
Hispanic	29,982	24,475
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	\$24,237	\$17,647
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	28,069	20,683
High school/GED graduate	38,566	25,741
Some college, no degree	47,082	32,653
Associate degree	48,346	33,788
Bachelors degree or more	79,239	48,930

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, **Money Income in the United States 1999**. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2000pubs/p60-209.pdf>

- Women who earn a bachelor's degree or more earn almost three times as much (277 percent) as women who fail even to start high school and more than twice as much (237 percent) as women who fail to graduate from high school.

While historical inequities persist based on gender, race/ethnicity and where people live, educational attainment is a far more powerful predictor of income, indeed, one which can go far toward neutralizing other factors contributing to income differences across key demographic groups.

According to a September 2000 report from the U.S. Census Bureau, educational attainment is a stronger predictor of income than race/ethnicity, gender, or metropolitan status.

Among full-time, year-round workers ...

- men earn 51 percent more than women,
- suburban men earn 42 percent more than male residents of outlying and rural areas and 17 percent more than those dwelling in central cities, and
- non-Hispanic Whites earn 84 percent more than Hispanics and 52 percent more than Blacks.

By contrast, however, the potent effects of these key demographic variables pale next to those of educational attainment.

- Men who earn a bachelor's degree or more earn more than three times as much (327 percent) as men who fail even to start high school and almost three times as much (282 percent) as men who fail to graduate from high school.