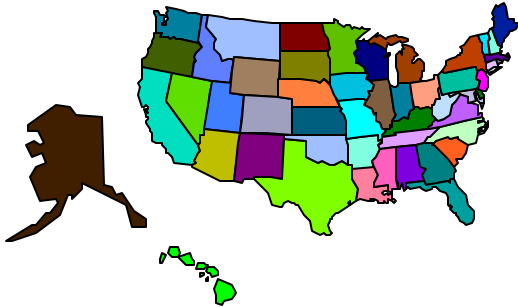


Lit Scan

Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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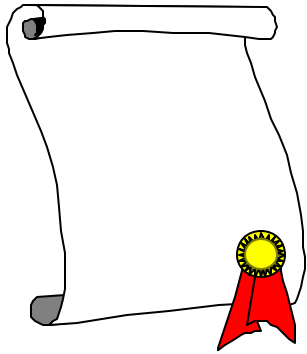
April 23, 2001



Racial/Ethnic Gaps Persist, Despite Colorado's High Rank on Educational Attainment

According to **Educational Attainment in the United States (March 2000)**, a December 2000 report from the U.S. Census Bureau, Colorado has cause for both pride and concern. A dramatic gap between non-Hispanic Whites

and other racial and ethnic groups in educational attainment persists, despite the fact that the state overall ranks among the best educated in the nation.



On two major measures of educational attainment, there are substantial gaps between Coloradans from different racial and ethnic groups. Of the state's non-Hispanic White adults, 94.3 percent have high school diplomas and 39.0 percent have bachelor's degrees or

more. Of the state's Hispanic adults, 63.1 percent are high school graduates and 9.8 percent are college graduates. Of the state's African-American adults, more graduate from high school (90.9%) and college (23.8%), compared to Hispanics.

Highlights

- Despite generally high levels of education in Colorado, significant gaps between non-Hispanic Whites, Hispanics and Blacks persist.
- Compared to other states, Colorado has the highest percentage of college graduates among its adult population.
- The state is in the top 10 on the percentage of high school graduates.

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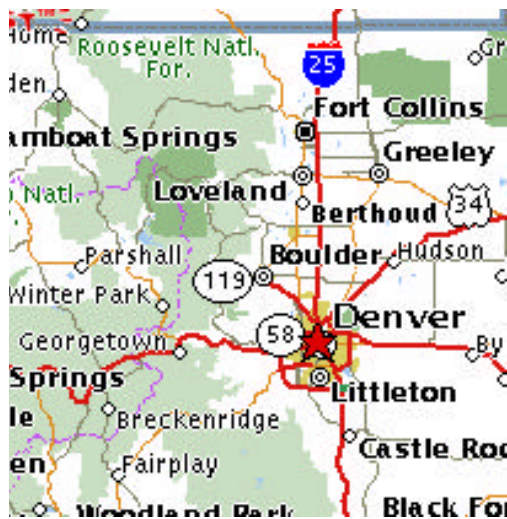
CARE
Center for At-Risk Education cde

Colorado Ranks High on Educational Attainment, But Racial/Ethnic Gaps Exists

Of Coloradans ages 25 and over, 89.7 percent graduated from high school and 34.6 percent earned bachelor's degrees or more. On adult high school graduates, Colorado ranks ninth behind South Dakota and Washington (tied for first place at 91.8%), Minnesota (third place at 90.8%), Utah (fourth place at 90.7%), Alaska and Nebraska (tied for fifth place at 90.4%), and Vermont and Wyoming (tied for seventh place at 90.0%)

Colorado is the top ranked state on the percentage of adults with bachelor's degrees or more—34.6 percent. Only the District of Columbia betters the state on this statistic at 38.3 percent. Second and third ranking among the states are Massachusetts (32.7%) and Maryland (32.3%), respectively.

Colorado's North Front Range—including the Denver, Boulder and Greeley areas—also compares favorably with other major metropolitan areas nationwide on adult educational attainment. Of Front Range residents ages 25 and over, 89.3 percent graduated from high school, making the state's rank on that statistic tenth.



The only metropolitan areas that exceed that are Minneapolis (94.0%); Kansas City and Sacramento (90.6%); Buffalo (90.2%), Portland, Oregon (90.0%); Salt Lake City (89.9%); Norfolk, Virginia (89.8%); Ft. Lauderdale (89.7%); and Cleveland (89.6).

On the percentage of adults with bachelor's degrees or more, the North Front Range ranks fourth at 38.7 percent. The top three metropolitan areas on this statistic were San Jose (42.4%), Boston (41.1%), and San Francisco (39.5%).

SOURCE

Educational Attainment in the United States, March 2000. Available at:
< <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/p20-536.htm> >.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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