

# Lit Scan

**Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative**

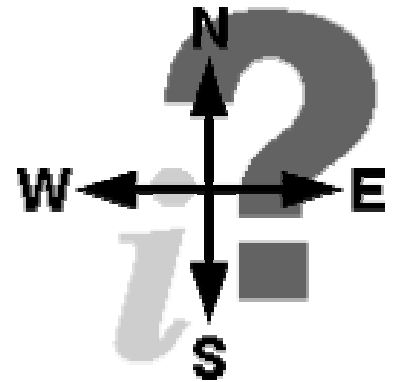
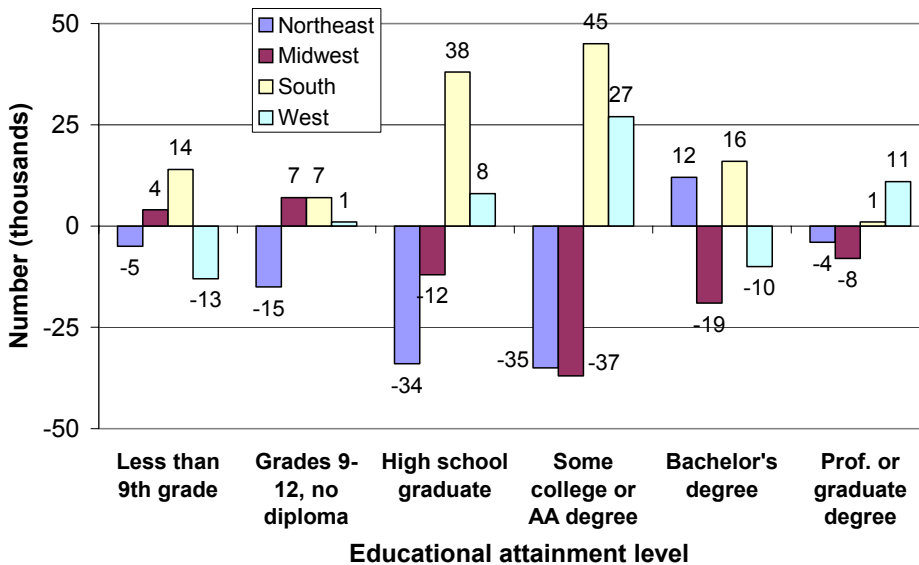
Volume 8 - Number 5

April 15, 2004

## Regional Mobility & Educational Attainment

*Only the West Makes Substantial Gain in Graduate Degree-Holders  
West's Loss of More Poorly-Educated Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> to Northeast*

**Net Migration by Region and Educational Attainment, 2003**



The educational composition of the population is not determined entirely by the educational system. The education levels of a region's population are determined only in part by preschools and kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, adult

education and family literacy programs, colleges and universities, and other educational institutions. In addition, migration—people moving from state to state and region to region—also helps to shape and re-shape each region's educational composition.

In 2003, the Western states experienced a net loss of about 12,000 poorly educated residents (i.e., those who complete less than ninth grade and left high school without a diploma). Most of these out-migrants relocated to the Midwest and South.

## LitScan - Volume 8 - Number 5 - April 1, 2004 Regional Mobility & Educational Attainment

---

About 13,000 of the most poorly educated Westerners (i.e., those with less than a ninth grade education) left the West. Only about 1,000 high school dropouts moved into the region.

At the other extreme, the West was the only region to experience a significant gain in residents with professional or graduate degrees. About 11,000 highly-educated newcomers moved to the region last year.

The West gained approximately 35,000 residents whose highest level of education was a high school diploma (8,000) or some college or an associate's degree (27,000); but, it lost about 10,000 residents with bachelor's degrees.

On the whole, the West, like the South, gained population at the expense of the Northeast and Midwest. And, generally, those who moved into the Western states tended to be well-educated, while those who moved out of the region included the most poorly educated.

Nationally, as educational attainment increases, so does the percentage of movers identifying work-related reasons for moving from one county to another. For example, only 19.3 percent of these movers with less than a high school diploma identified a work-related reason for moving. Of intercounty movers with professional or graduate degrees, 41 percent gave work-related reasons for relocating.



### SOURCES

---

- U.S. Bureau of the Census, , *Geographic Mobility, 2002-2003, Population Characteristics*, issued March 2004. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p20-549.pdf>.
- Detailed data tables available at: <http://www.census.gov//population/www/socdemo/migrate/p20-549.html>.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

---

For more information about this study or other projects of the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative, contact: Keith Curry Lance, Colorado Department of Education, 201 E. Colfax Ave., Suite 309, Denver, CO 80203-1799, (303) 866-6737, fax (303) 866-6940, e-mail [lance\\_k@cde.state.co.us](mailto:lance_k@cde.state.co.us)