Educational attainment

Educational level is an important component of socioeconomic status, and a strong social determinant of health. People who graduated high school on time, and those who have some college education, have overall better health status than those with less than a high school degree.

The four-year high school cohort graduation rate represents the percentage of students entering high school who graduate with a regular diploma within four years.

In 2012-2013 the cohort graduation rate in Oregon was 68.7%; for boys it was 64.3% compared to 73.3% for girls. While four-year high school graduation rate appears to be slightly increasing, nearly 1 out of 3 students does not complete high school with their incoming class.

Source: Oregon Department of Education
In 2012, 38.1% of Oregon adults age ≥ 25 years had a post-secondary degree (men: 38.0%, women: 38.4%). The percentage of the population achieving a post-secondary degree has been increasing slightly over time.

![Figure 2](image-url)

**FIGURE 2**

Post-secondary degree among adults ≥ 25 years, by sex, Oregon, 2006-2012

Source: American Community Survey (ACS)

**Additional Resources:** [Oregon Department of Education](#)

**About the Data:** Data source for high school graduation rates is the Oregon Department of Education.

The four-year cohort graduation rate represents the percentage of students graduating with a regular diploma within four years. It is calculated by dividing the number students who graduate by the number who enrolled four years earlier in the ninth-grade year (adjusted for transfers in, transfers out, and death).

Oregon began using the four-year cohort graduation rate in 2008-2009. Prior to 2008-2009, the NCES graduation rate was used, which was based on the number of graduates with a regular diploma in a given year regardless of how long the student had been in school.
Data source for post-secondary degree rates is the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing Census Bureau survey that samples a small percentage of the population every year.

Educational attainment data from the ACS are tabulated for people age ≥ 18 years. Respondents are classified according to the highest degree or the highest level of school completed. The question included instructions for persons currently enrolled in school to report the level of the previous grade attended or the highest degree received. Post-secondary degrees include Associate’s, Bachelor’s, Graduate, or other professional degrees. Data are reported for adults age ≥ 25 years.

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