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LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN

Status Report

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF WOMEN

MINNESOTA AND UNITED STATES

## Educational Attainment of Women in Minnesota and the United States



The educational attainment of U.S. women age 25 years and over has steadily increased over the decades.

- More than 4 in 5 (84.0%) U.S. women age 25 years and over had a high school diploma or more in 2000. In 1940, approximately 1 in 4 (25.9%) women had at least a high school diploma.
- Although educational attainment has increased, 16.0 percent of U.S. women age 25 years and over had less than a high school diploma in 2000.
- Over one quarter (26.1%) of U.S. women had some college or an associate degree in 2000.
- In 2000, just under 1 in 4 (23.6%) U.S. women had a bachelor's degree or more, greater than a sixfold increase from 1940.
- In 2000, 16.3 percent of U.S. women had a bachelor's degree and 5.7 percent had a master's degree. Less than 2 percent of women had a professional degree (0.9%) or a doctorate degree (0.7%).

Women in Minnesota have higher levels of educational attainment than the national averages.

- In Minnesota, more than 9 in 10 (92.2%) women age 25 years and over had at least a high school diploma in 2000.
- Nearly 3 in 10 (29.2%) Minnesota women age 25 years and over had completed a bachelor's degree or more in 2000.



\*\*\*Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate and Professional degrees

## Educational Attainment of U.S. Women by Race and Hispanic Origin



Educational attainment of U.S. women age 25 year and over varies by race and Hispanic origin.

- In 2000, 85.0 percent of White women age 25 years and over had at least a high school diploma. More than threequarters (78.3%) of Black women and 57.5 percent of Hispanic\* women had educational attainment of this level.
- Twenty-four percent (23.9%) of White women age 25 years and over had completed a bachelor's degree or more in 2000, compared to 16.7 percent of Black women and 10.6 percent of Hispanic women.
  \*Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race

Data compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports.