

## **Race, gender, and cohort differences in the educational experiences of Black and White Americans**

<sup>1</sup>Katrina M. Walsemann, Ph.D., <sup>2</sup>Calley E. Fisk, Ph.D., <sup>3</sup>Mateo P. Farina, Ph.D., <sup>1</sup>Emily Abbruzzi, MPH, <sup>2</sup>Jennifer A. Ailshire, Ph.D.

<sup>1</sup>School of Public Policy and Maryland Population Research Center, University of Maryland, College Park

<sup>2</sup>Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles

<sup>3</sup>Department of Human Development and Family Sciences and Population Research Center, University of Texas, Austin

**Corresponding Author:** Katrina M. Walsemann, Ph.D. ([kwalsema@umd.edu](mailto:kwalsema@umd.edu))

**Journal:** Population Research and Policy Review

**Table A1.** Educational experiences of HRS-LHMS respondents by race, weighted data.

	White, non-Hispanic n=8,382 Mean (SE) or %	Black, non-Hispanic n=2,250 Mean (SE) or %	Total n=10,632 Mean (SE) or %
Attended preschool, %	14.1	18.4*	14.5
Learning differences, %	13.4	17.5*	13.8
Math ability	3.44 (0.01)	3.35 (0.03)*	3.43 (0.01)
Reading ability	3.58 (0.01)	3.61 (0.03)	3.59 (0.01)
Proportion of schooling attending			
Private schools	0.14 (0.00)	0.04 (0.00)*	0.13 (0.00)
Majority non-White schools	0.02 (0.00)	0.81 (0.01)*	0.10 (0.00)
Ever attended a race discordant school, %	9.4	39.0*	12.2
Did not attend high school	2.8	7.7*	3.3
Rs that attended high school	n=7,343	n=1,756	n=9,099
High school coursework, %			
Vocational	17.7	21.5*	18.0
General	46.9	52.8*	47.4
College preparatory	35.5	25.7*	34.6
Foreign language courses, %			
No	43.8	59.9*	45.2
Yes	56.2	40.1*	54.8
Art participation, %			
No	45.0	45.2	45.1
Yes	55.0	54.8	54.9
Years of schooling	13.88 (0.05)	12.84 (0.10)*	13.78 (0.05)
Post-secondary education, %	68.7	57.4*	67.6
Bachelor's degree, %	34.3	17.7*	32.7

Notes: Math and reading ability range from 1-5 with higher values indicating better ability. Proportion of schooling in majority non-White schools and private schools ranges from 0-1. Ever attended a race discordant school defined for White respondents as ever attending a majority non-White school and for Black respondents as ever attending a majority non-White school. Percentages for high school coursework, foreign language coursework, and art participation reported only for respondents who attended high school; observations are reported for each group in the column sub-header. Estimates for years of schooling, post-secondary education and bachelor's degree are reported for all respondents.

\*  $p < 0.025$ , mlincom command

**Table A2.** Educational experiences of HRS-LHMS respondents by gender, weighted data.

	Men n=4,264 Mean (SE) or %	Women n=6,368 Mean (SE) or %	Total n=10,632 Mean (SE) or %
Attended preschool, %	15.8	13.4*	14.5
Learning differences, %	17.5	10.8*	13.8
Math ability	3.51 (0.02)	3.37 (0.01)*	3.43 (0.01)
Reading ability	3.37 (0.02)	3.76 (0.02)*	3.59 (0.01)
Proportion of schooling attending			
Private schools	0.13 (0.01)	0.13 (0.01)	0.13 (0.00)
Majority non-White schools	0.09 (0.01)	0.11 (0.01)*	0.10 (0.00)
Ever attended a race discordant school, %	12.5	12.0	12.2
Did not attend high school	3.6	3.1	3.3
Rs that attended high school	n=3,620	n=5,479	n=9,099
High school coursework, %			
Vocational	17.1	18.8	18.0
General	48.1	46.9	47.4
College preparatory	34.8	34.3	34.6
Foreign language courses, %			
No	49.0	42.2*	45.2
Yes	51.0	57.8*	54.8
Art participation, %			
No	54.3	37.6*	45.1
Yes	45.7	62.4*	54.9
Years of schooling	13.95 (0.06)	13.64 (0.06)*	13.78 (0.05)
Post-secondary education, %	69.8	65.8*	67.6
Bachelor's degree, %	36.9	29.3*	32.7

Notes: Math and reading ability range from 1-5 with higher values indicating better ability. Proportion of schooling in majority non-White schools and private schools ranges from 0-1. Ever attended a race discordant school defined for White respondents as ever attending a majority non-White school and for Black respondents as ever attending a majority non-White school. Percentages for high school coursework, foreign language coursework, and art courses reported only for respondents who attended high school; observations are reported for each group in column subheaders. Estimates for years of schooling, post-secondary education and bachelor's degree are reported for all respondents.

\* p<0.025, mlincom command

**Table A3** Educational experiences of HRS-LHMS respondents by race, gender, and HRS birth cohort, weighted data, N=10,632

	White, non-Hispanic Men					White, non-Hispanic Women				
	HRS n=1,100	War Babies n=539	Early Baby Boomer n=663	Mid/Late Baby Boomer n=890	% Change	HRS n=1,424	War Babies n=838	Early Baby Boomer n=870	Mid/Late Baby Boomer n=1,286	% Change
Attended preschool, %	9.9	12.3	14.1	22.6	128.3	8.7	11.6	11.4	17.9	105.7
Learning differences, %	12.5	14.6	16.3	22.6	80.8	6.8*	7.6*	8.6*	15.4*	126.5
Math ability	3.5 (0.02)	3.5 (0.04)	3.6 (0.05)	3.5 (0.04)	1.4	3.4 (0.02)*	3.4 (0.04)	3.4 (0.04)*	3.4 (0.04)*	-0.6
Reading ability	3.3 (0.03)	3.4 (0.05)	3.4 (0.05)	3.4 (0.04)	0.9	3.8 (0.03)*	3.9 (0.04)*	3.8 (0.04)*	3.7 (0.03)*	-2.9
Proportion of schooling attending										
Private schools	0.12 (0.01)	0.16 (0.02)	0.17 (0.01)	0.12 (0.01)	0.0	0.12 (0.01)	0.15 (0.01)	0.15 (0.01)	0.14 (0.01)	16.7
Majority non-White schools	0.01 (0.00)	0.02 (0.00)	0.02 (0.00)	0.04 (0.01)	300.0	0.01 (0.00)	0.02 (0.00)	0.02 (0.00)	0.04 (0.01)	300.0
Ever race discordant school, %	7.8	8.5	7.1	13.4	70.5	7.1	6.8	7.6	12.5	76.1
Did not attend high school, %	6.7	2.8	2.0	1.8	-73.1	3.6*	2.6	1.8	1.1	-69.4
Rs that attended high school										
High school coursework, %										
Vocational	16.4	15.6	13.7	19.4	18.3	21.8*	20.4	18.5	15.5	-28.9
General	57.9	48.3	43.7	44.3	-23.5	49.7*	39.7*	44.3	47.3	-4.8
College preparatory	25.7	36.2	42.6	36.3	41.2	28.5	39.9	37.2	37.2	30.5
Foreign language courses, %										
No	62.0	50.6	37.3	44.6	-28.1	51.5*	42.2*	32.7	36.6*	-28.9
Yes	38.0	49.4	62.7	55.4	45.8	48.5*	57.8*	67.3	63.4*	30.7
Art participation, %										
No	57.3	54.7	58.6	50.4	-12.0	36.8*	36.8*	41.0*	32.8*	-10.9
Yes	42.7	45.3	41.4	49.6	16.2	63.2*	63.2*	59.0*	67.2*	6.3
Years of schooling	13.5 (0.09)	14.1 (0.13)	14.5 (0.11)	14.0 (0.11)	4.2	13.1 (0.08)*	13.6 (0.11)*	14.1 (0.11)*	14.0 (0.10)	6.8
Post-secondary education, %	62.4	70.9	79.9	71.3	14.3	54.0*	62.9*	73.0*	74.7	38.3
Bachelor's degree, %	33.0	39.3	45.1	37.2	12.7	21.3*	28.5*	36.0*	35.5	66.7

Notes:

Percent change calculated using percent difference between HRS cohort and Mid/Late Baby Boomer cohort. Math and reading ability range from 1-5 with higher values indicating better ability. Proportion of schooling in majority non-White schools and private schools ranges from 0-1. Ever attended a race discordant school defined for White respondents as ever attending a majority non-White school and for Black respondents as ever attending a majority non-White school. Percentages for high school coursework, foreign language coursework, and art participation reported only for respondents who attended high school; observations are reported for each group in column subheaders. Estimates for years of schooling, post-secondary education and bachelor's degree are reported for all respondents.

\* significantly different from men at p<0.025 level, within race and cohort comparisons

■ significantly different from HRS cohort at p<0.025 level, within race and gender comparisons

▨ significantly different from War Babies cohort at p<0.025 level, within race and gender comparisons

▣ significantly different from Early Baby Boomer cohort at p<0.025 level, within race and gender comparisons

mlncom command used to test for statistically significant differences between groups.

Table A3 continued

	Black, non-Hispanic Men					Black, non-Hispanic Women				
	HRS	War Babies	Early Baby Boomer	Mid/Late Baby Boomer	% Change	HRS	War Babies	Early Baby Boomer	Mid/Late Baby Boomer	% Change
	n=145	n=88	n=212	n=338		n=273	n=157	n=370	n=611	
Attended preschool, %	15.7	14.7	17.6	20.9	33.1	<b>16.6</b>	12.1	16.1	<b>24.8</b>	49.4
Learning differences, %	21.6	15.4	15.8	27.0	25.0	11.7	<b>17.2</b>	<b>17.3</b>	15.0*	28.2
Math ability	3.4 (0.08)	3.4 (0.11)	<b>3.4 (0.08)</b>	<b>3.3 (0.06)</b>	-3.2	3.3 (0.05)	<b>3.2 (0.07)</b>	3.4 (0.05)	3.4 (0.05)	2.1
Reading ability	3.4 (0.09)	3.4 (0.10)	3.5 (0.11)	3.4 (0.05)	1.2	<b>3.6 (0.06)</b>	3.6 (0.09)	3.9 (0.06)*	3.7 (0.05)*	3.3
Proportion of schooling attending										
Private schools	0.06 (0.02)	<b>0.02 (0.01)</b>	<b>0.04 (0.01)</b>	<b>0.05 (0.01)</b>	-16.7	<b>0.07 (0.02)</b>	<b>0.03 (0.01)</b>	<b>0.04 (0.01)</b>	<b>0.04 (0.01)</b>	-42.9
Majority non-White schools	<b>0.89 (0.03)</b>	<b>0.86 (0.03)</b>	<b>0.80 (0.04)</b>	<b>0.75 (0.03)</b>	-15.7	<b>0.91 (0.01)</b>	<b>0.88 (0.03)</b>	<b>0.82 (0.02)</b>	<b>0.74 (0.02)</b>	-18.7
Ever race discordant school, %	<b>31.0</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>50.6</b>	63.2	<b>24.2</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>51.8</b>	114.0
Did not attend high school, %	<b>17.3</b>	8.9	5.6	2.9	-83.2	<b>14.9</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>	-75.8
Rs that attended high school	n=94	n=67	n=162	n=273		n=205	n=124	n=306	n=490	
High school coursework, %										
Vocational	25.3	24.8	<b>23.5</b>	23.3	-7.9	18.2	16.5	12.9*	<b>26.2</b>	44.0
General	62.2	54.8	47.9	42.3	-32.0	<b>61.7</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>46.9</b>	-24.0
College preparatory	<b>12.6</b>	20.4	28.7	34.5	173.8	<b>20.1</b>	<b>21.0</b>	27.8	<b>26.9</b>	33.8
Foreign language courses, %										
No	69.1	<b>72.2</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>62.9</b>	-9.0	58.5	<b>59.7</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>53.9</b>	-7.9
Yes	30.9	<b>27.8</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>37.1</b>	20.1	41.5	<b>40.3</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>46.1</b>	11.1
Art participation, %										
No	56.1	56.4	46.0	45.5	-18.9	40.3	49.1	47.3	37.2	-7.7
Yes	43.9	43.6	54.0	54.5	24.1	59.7	50.9	52.7	62.8	5.2
Years of schooling	<b>11.6 (0.4)</b>	<b>12.4 (0.2)</b>	<b>13.1 (0.2)</b>	<b>13.2 (0.2)</b>	14.2	<b>12.1 (0.2)</b>	<b>12.5 (0.3)</b>	<b>13.4 (0.2)</b>	<b>13.3 (0.1)</b>	9.6
Post-secondary education, %	<b>33.4</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>59.2</b>	77.2	50.8	55.0	68.8	<b>65.0</b>	28.0
Bachelor's degree, %	<b>10.7</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>17.0</b>	58.9	15.0	<b>16.7</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>19.9</b>	32.7

Notes:

Percent change calculated using percent difference between HRS cohort and Mid/Late Baby Boomer cohort. Math and reading ability range from 1-5 with higher values indicating better ability. Proportion of schooling in majority non-White schools and private schools ranges from 0-1. Ever attended a race discordant school defined for White respondents as ever attending a majority non-White school and for Black respondents as ever attending a majority non-White school. Percentages for high school coursework, foreign language coursework, and art participation reported only for respondents who attended high school; observations are reported for each group in column subheaders. Estimates for years of schooling, post-secondary education and bachelor's degree are reported for all respondents.

\* significantly different from men at p<0.025 level, within race and cohort comparisons

**bolded** significantly different from non-Hispanic White peers at p<0.025 level, within gender and cohort comparisons

■ significantly different from HRS cohort at p<0.025 level, within race and gender comparisons

▨ significantly different from War Babies cohort at p<0.025 level, within race and gender comparisons

□ significantly different from Early Baby Boomer cohort at p<0.025 level, within race and gender comparisons

mlogit command used to test for statistically significant differences between groups.

**Table A4.** Sample characteristics of core HRS sample (2014-2018) compared to HRS-LHMS subsample and predicted odds ratios from logistic regression models predicting inclusion in HRS-LHMS subsample, weighted data.

	Demographics & Bivariate Associations		Pr(Inclusion in LHMS) n=16,960
	HRS n=16,960	LHMS n=10,333	
	Mean (SE) or %	Mean (SE) or %	OR (95% CI)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White, non-Hispanic	88.9	91.0*	REF
Black, non-Hispanic	11.1	9.0*	0.68 (0.59-0.77)**
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	46.6	44.5*	REF
Female	53.4	55.5*	1.31 (1.21-1.41)**
<b>Birth Cohort</b>			
AHEAD/CODA	6.7	5.7*	0.49 (0.43-0.55)**
HRS	15.7	17.3*	REF
War Babies	15.7	18.8*	1.37 (1.22-1.54)**
Early Baby Boomers	20.4	23.7*	1.15 (1.03-1.29)
Mid/Late Baby Boomers	41.5	34.6*	0.44 (0.38-0.52)**
<b>Census Region (at birth)</b>			
Northeast	24.0	24.2	REF
Midwest	34.0	36.2*	1.24 (1.04-1.47)
South	29.8	27.9*	0.92 (0.78-1.10)
West	11.2	10.7	0.90 (0.71-1.15)
Foreign country or U.S. territory	1.0	1.0	1.08 (0.68-1.69)
Bachelor's degree (yes)	31.1	33.0*	1.16 (1.03-1.32)
Years of schooling	13.65 (0.04)	13.78 (0.05)*	
Self-rated health (0=poor, 4=excellent)	2.21 (0.01)	2.29 (0.01)*	1.23 (1.17-1.29)**

Notes:

Birth years for each cohort include <1930 (AHEAD/CODA), 1931-1941 (HRS), 1942-1947 (War Babies), 1948-1953 (Early Baby Boomers), and 1954-1965 (Mid/Late Baby Boomers), HS=high-school. Years of schooling excluded from logistic regression analysis due to collinearity. LHMS sample uses non-imputed data and is therefore slightly reduced from sample we use in our main analysis.

\*\*p<.001; \*p<.025; REF=reference group

**Table A5.** Sample characteristics of core HRS sample (2014-2018) compared to HRS-LHMS subsample by cohort, weighted data

	AHEAD/CODA		HRS		War Babies		Early Baby Boomers		Mid/Late Baby Boomers	
	HRS n=1,746	LHMS n=832	HRS n=4,335	LHMS n=2,933	HRS n=2,149	LHMS n=1,612	HRS n=2,825	LHMS n=2,051	HRS n=5,905	LHMS n=2,905
Race/Ethnicity										
White, NH	92.0	93.9*	91.0	92.4*	90.0	91.0*	89.0	90.6*	87.2	90.1*
Black, NH	8.0	6.1*	9.0	7.6*	10.0	9.0*	11.0	9.4*	12.8	9.9*
Gender										
Male	36.4	33.8	44.6	43.5*	47.7	46.5	48.0	47.2	47.9	43.8*
Female	63.6	66.2	55.4	56.5*	52.3	53.5	52.0	52.8	52.1	56.2*
Census Region (at birth)										
Northeast	23.3	23.0	24.1	24.1	24.0	25.0	24.3	23.1	24.0	24.8
Midwest	38.3	40.8	33.7	34.8	30.2	31.0	36.0	39.1*	33.9	36.9*
South	29.4	28.1	31.7	30.1*	34.6	33.3	28.3	26.1*	28.0	25.2*
West	7.9	6.6	9.6	10.2	10.7	10.2	10.3	10.6	13.1	12.0
Foreign country or U.S. territory	1.1	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0
Bachelor's degree	21.8	24.9*	23.7	25.1*	29.7	31.9*	36.5	38.6*	33.3	35.0
Years of schooling	12.7 (0.1)	13.0 (0.1)*	13.1 (0.1)	13.2 (0.1)*	13.5 (0.1)	13.7 (0.1)*	14.1 (0.1)	14.2 (0.1)*	13.9 (0.1)	14.0 (0.1)
Self-rated health	1.8 (0.03)	2.0 (0.04)*	2.0 (0.02)	2.1 (0.02)*	2.2 (0.02)	2.3 (0.03)*	2.3 (0.03)	2.4 (0.03)*	2.3 (0.03)	2.4 (0.03)*

Notes: Mean (SE) or % reported

Birth years for each cohort include <1930 (AHEAD/CODA), 1931-1941 (HRS), 1942-1947 (War Babies), 1948-1953 (Early Baby Boomers), and 1954-1965 (Mid/Late Baby Boomers), NH=non-Hispanic, HS=high-school. Self-rated health measured on a 0 to 4 scale; 0=poor, 4=excellent. Years of schooling excluded from logistic regression analysis due to collinearity. LHMS sample uses non-imputed data and is therefore slightly reduced from sample we use in our main analysis.

\* significantly different from full sample at  $p<.025$ , adjusted Wald test

**Table A6.** Predicted odds ratios from logistic regression models predicting inclusion in HRS-LHMS subsample, weighted data.

	AHEAD/CODA	HRS	War Babies	Early Baby Boomers	Mid/Late Baby Boomers
	n=1,746	n=4,335	n=2,149	n=2,825	n=5,905
	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)
Race/Ethnicity					
White, non-Hispanic	REF	REF	REF	REF	REF
Black, non-Hispanic	0.65 (0.42-1.00)	0.67 (0.52-0.87)*	0.79 (0.55-1.11)	0.76 (0.58-0.99)	0.62 (0.50-0.78)**
Gender					
Male	REF	REF	REF	REF	REF
Female	1.36 (1.12-1.65)*	1.21 (1.05-1.39)*	1.26 (1.02-1.54)	1.16 (0.96-1.39)	1.42 (1.26-1.60)**
Census Region (at birth)					
Northeast	REF	REF	REF	REF	REF
Midwest	1.21 (0.82-1.80)	1.12 (0.92-1.36)	0.94 (0.69-1.28)	1.84 (1.27-2.67)*	1.16 (0.87-1.54)
South	1.04 (0.70-1.54)	0.99 (0.80-1.22)	0.85 (0.60-1.21)	1.11 (0.75-1.65)	0.85 (0.65-1.10)
West	0.69 (0.42-1.12)	1.24 (0.90-1.71)	0.70 (0.46-1.06)	1.40 (0.85-2.31)	0.79 (0.53-1.18)
Foreign country or U.S. territory	2.41 (0.82-7.08)	0.92 (0.51-1.66)	0.54 (0.15-1.88)	1.50 (0.54-4.12)	1.03 (0.50-2.11)
Bachelor's degree	1.62 (1.20-2.19)*	1.14 (0.93-1.39)	1.39 (1.00-1.94)	1.22 (0.94-1.57)	1.07 (0.85-1.35)
Self-rated health	1.28 (1.13-1.43)**	1.39 (1.30-1.48)**	1.43 (1.29-1.59)**	1.39 (1.28-1.52)**	1.08 (0.99-1.18)

Notes:

Birth years for each cohort include <1930 (AHEAD/CODA), 1931-1941 (HRS), 1942-1947 (War Babies), 1948-1953 (Early Baby Boomers), and 1954-1965 (Mid/Late Baby Boomers), HS=high-school. Self-rated health measured on a 0 to 4 scale; 0=poor, 4=excellent. Years of schooling excluded from logistic regression analysis due to collinearity. LHMS sample uses non-imputed data and is therefore slightly reduced from sample we use in our analysis.

\*\*p<.001; \*p<.025; REF=reference group