

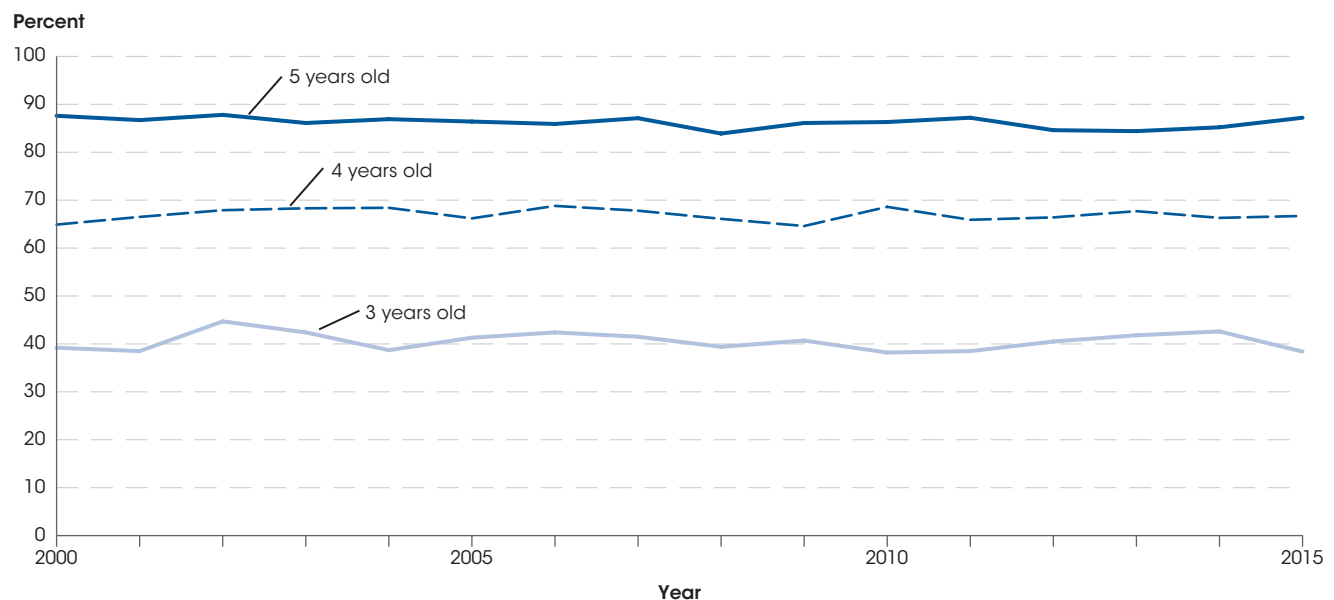
## Preschool and Kindergarten Enrollment

In 2015, the percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preschool programs was higher for children whose parents had a graduate or professional degree (48 percent) than for those whose parents had a bachelor's degree (42 percent), an associate's degree (37 percent), some college (37 percent), a high school credential (29 percent), and less than a high school credential (29 percent).

Preprimary programs are groups or classes that are organized to provide educational experiences for children and include kindergarten and preschool programs.<sup>1</sup> Child

care programs that are not primarily designed to provide educational experiences, such as daycare programs, are not included in preprimary programs.

Figure 1. Percentage of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children enrolled in preprimary programs: 2000 through 2015

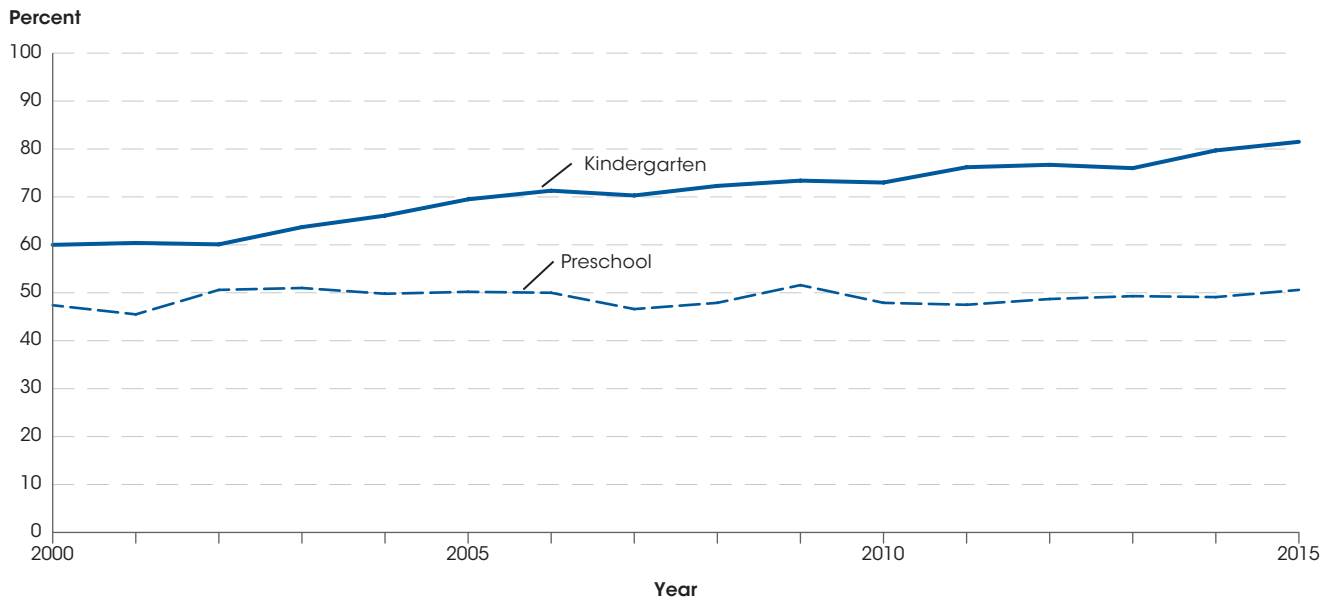


NOTE: "Preprimary programs" are groups or classes that are organized to provide educational experiences for children and include kindergarten, preschool, and nursery school programs. Enrollment data for 5-year-olds include only those students in preprimary programs and do not include those enrolled in primary programs. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutional population.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2000 through 2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2006*, table 41; *Digest of Education Statistics 2009*, table 43; *Digest of Education Statistics 2011*, table 53; and *Digest of Education Statistics 2013, 2015, and 2016*, table 202.10.

The percentages of 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, and 5-year-olds enrolled in preprimary programs fluctuated between 2000 and 2015. In 2015, some 38 percent of 3-year-olds, 67 percent of 4-year-olds, and 87 percent of 5-year-olds were enrolled in preprimary programs, which were not measurably different from the percentages enrolled

in 2000 (39 percent, 65 percent, and 88 percent, respectively). In 2015, the percentage of children enrolled in preprimary programs remained higher for 5-year-olds than for 4-year-olds, and higher for 4-year-olds than for 3-year-olds.

**Figure 2. Percentage of 3- to 5-year-old children in preprimary programs attending full-day programs, by program type: 2000 through 2015**

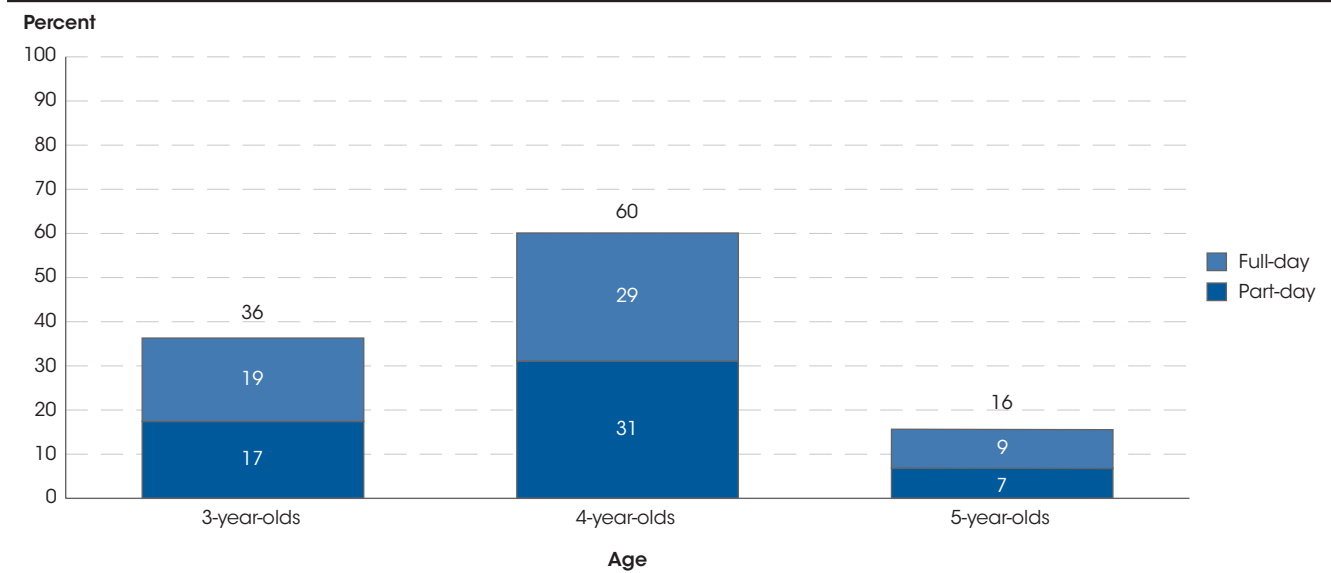


NOTE: "Preprimary programs" are groups or classes that are organized to provide educational experiences for children and include kindergarten, preschool, and nursery school programs. Enrollment data for 5-year-olds include only those students in preprimary programs and do not include those enrolled in primary programs. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutional population. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2000 through 2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2006*, table 41; *Digest of Education Statistics 2009*, table 43; *Digest of Education Statistics 2011*, table 53; and *Digest of Education Statistics 2013, 2015, and 2016*, table 202.10.

Among 3- to 5-year-olds who were enrolled in preschool programs in 2015, some 51 percent attended full-day programs. The percentage of 3- to 5-year-old preschool students attending full-day programs in 2015 was not measurably different from the percentage attending full-day programs in 2000. Among 3- to 5-year-olds attending kindergarten, the percentage attending full-day

programs increased from 60 percent in 2000 to 81 percent in 2015. In every year from 2000 to 2015, the percentage of 3- to 5-year-old kindergarten students enrolled in full-day programs was greater than the percentage of 3- to 5-year-old preschool students enrolled in full-day programs.

**Figure 3. Percentage of 3- to 5-year-old children enrolled in preschool programs, by child age and attendance status: October 2015**

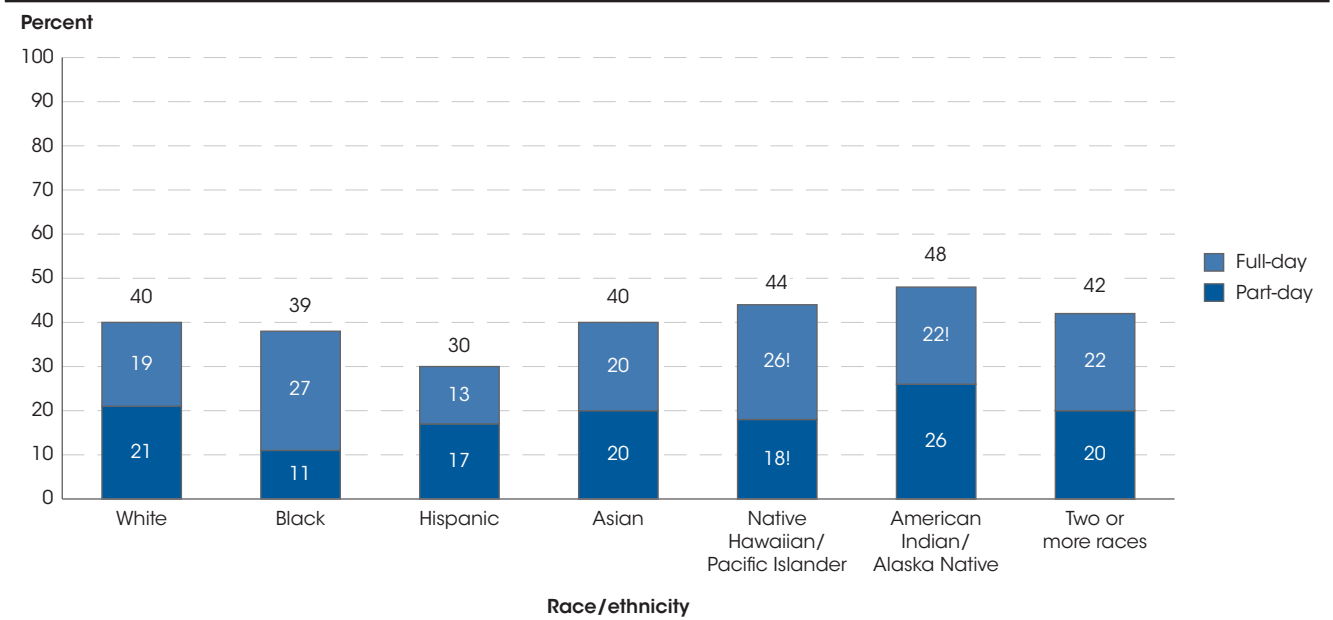


NOTE: Enrollment data include only those children in preschool programs and do not include those enrolled in kindergarten or primary programs. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutional population. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 202.20.

In 2015, most 3- and 4-year-old children who were enrolled in preprimary programs attended preschool programs, while most 5-year-old children who were

enrolled in preprimary programs attended kindergarten. A higher percentage of 4-year-olds (60 percent) than of 3-year-olds (36 percent) attended preschool.

**Figure 4. Percentage of 3- to 5-year-old children enrolled in preschool programs, by race/ethnicity and attendance status: October 2015**



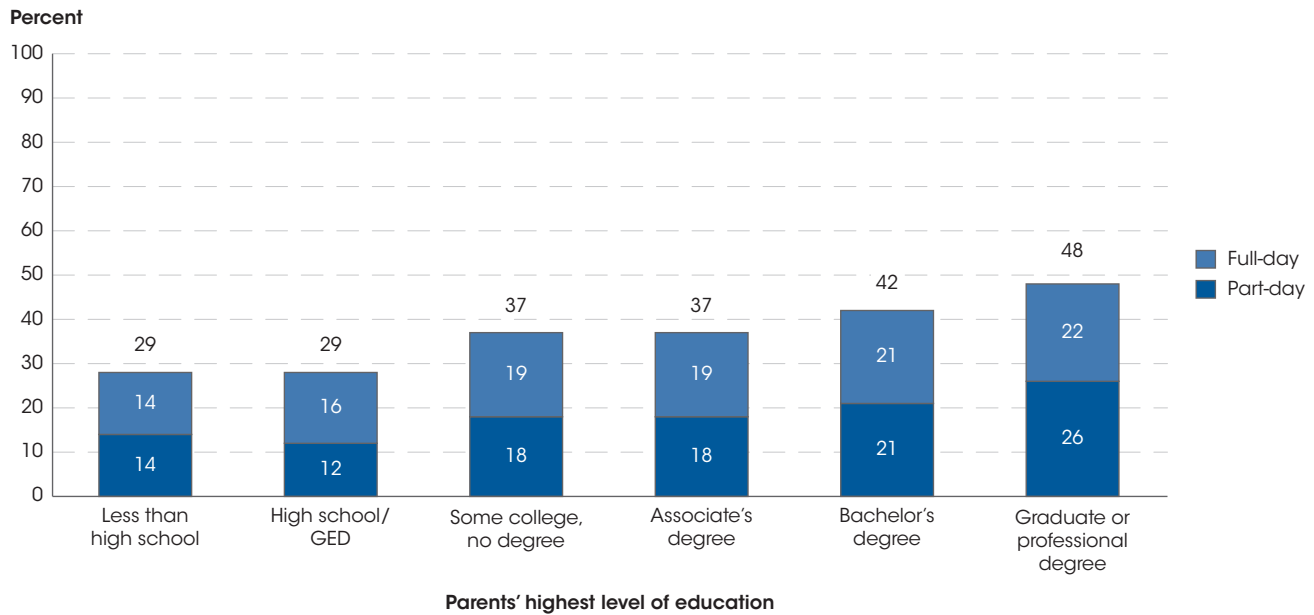
! Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 and 50 percent.  
NOTE: Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Enrollment data include only those children in preschool programs and do not include those enrolled in kindergarten or primary programs. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutional population. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 202.20.

In 2015, a lower percentage of Hispanic 3- to 5-year-olds (30 percent) were enrolled in preschool programs than of 3- to 5-year olds who were White (40 percent), Black (39 percent), Asian (40 percent), American Indian/Alaska Native (48 percent), and of Two or more races (42 percent). There were no measurable differences in enrollment among children who were White, Black, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and of Two or more races.

In terms of attendance status, a higher percentage of Black children attended full-day than part-day preschool programs (27 vs. 11 percent). In contrast, a lower percentage of Hispanic children attended full-day than

part-day preschool programs (13 vs. 17 percent). For children in the other racial/ethnic groups, there were no measurable differences in the percentages enrolled in full-day compared to part-day programs. Enrollment in full-day preschool programs was higher for Black children (27 percent) than for White (19 percent), Hispanic (13 percent), and Asian (20 percent) children. The percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in full-day preschool programs was also higher for children who were White, Asian, and of Two or more races (22 percent) than for Hispanic children. The corresponding percentage for Pacific Islander 3- to 5-year-olds was not measurably different from that of any other racial/ethnic group.

**Figure 5. Percentage of 3- to 5-year-old children enrolled in preschool programs, by parents' highest level of education and attendance status: October 2015**



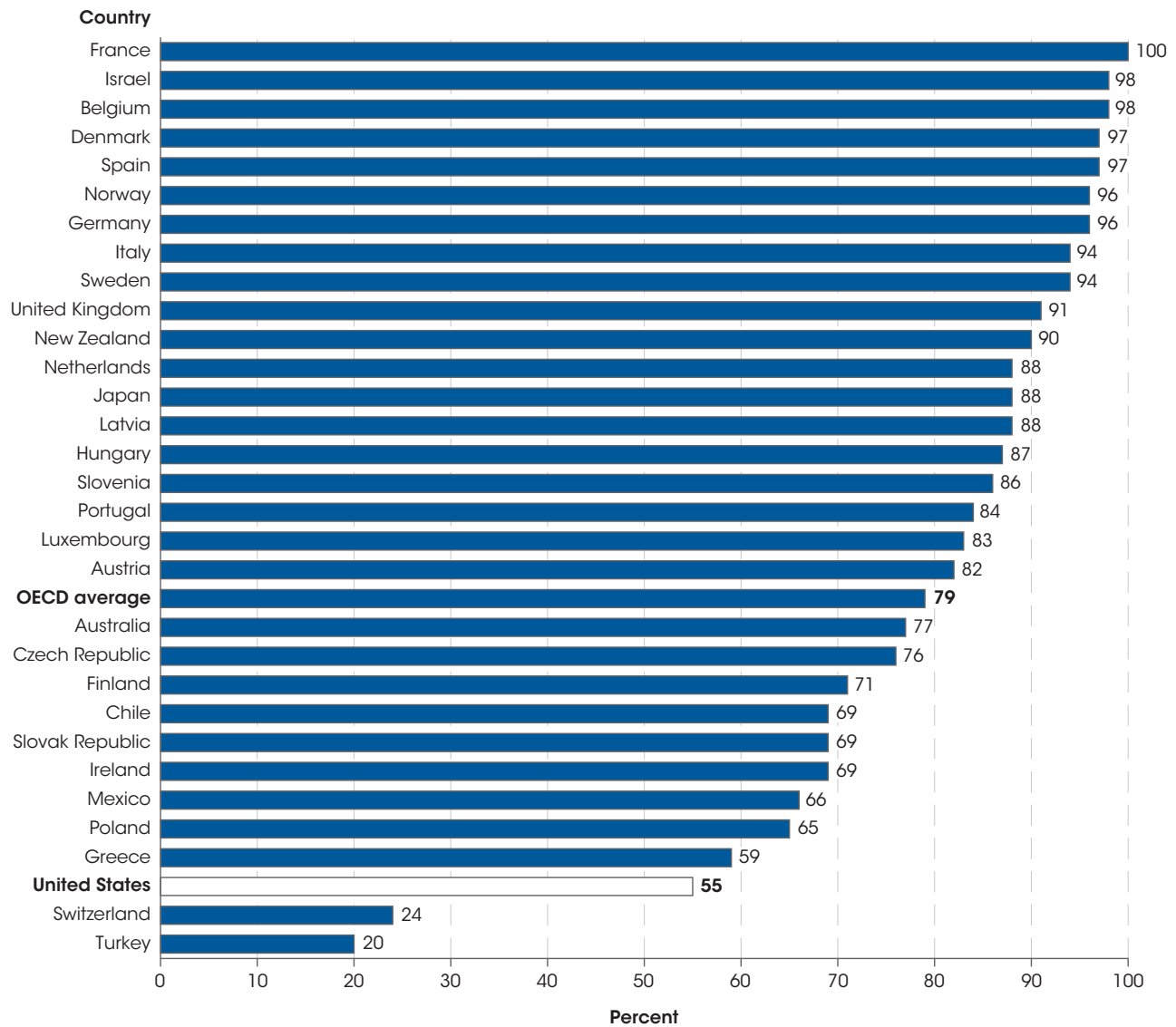
NOTE: Enrollment data include only those children in preschool programs and do not include those enrolled in kindergarten or primary programs. "Parents' highest level of education" is defined as the highest level of education attained by the most educated parent in the child's household. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutional population. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 202.20.

Enrollment in preschool programs varied by parents' highest level of education, defined as the highest level of education attained by the most educated parent in the child's household. In 2015, the overall percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preschool programs was higher for those children whose parents had a graduate or professional degree (48 percent) than for those whose parents had a bachelor's degree (42 percent), an associate's degree (37 percent), some college (37 percent), a high school credential (29 percent), and less than a high school credential (29 percent). The overall preschool enrollment percentage was also higher for those children whose parents had a bachelor's degree, an associate's degree, and some college than for those whose parents had a high school credential and less than a high school credential.

The percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in part-day and full-day preschool programs also varied by parents'

highest level of education. In 2015, for full-day preschool enrollment, the percentages were higher for those children whose parents had a graduate or professional degree (22 percent) and a bachelor's degree (21 percent) than for those children whose parents had a high school credential (16 percent) and less than a high school credential (14 percent). Among children whose parents' highest level of education was a high school credential, a greater percentage were enrolled in full-day than in part-day preschool programs (16 vs. 12 percent). There was no measurable difference between the percentages of children enrolled in full-day and part-day programs for children whose parents had other levels of educational attainment (graduate's degree or professional degree, bachelor's degree, associate's degree, some college, and less than a high school credential).

Figure 6. Percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children enrolled in school, by OECD country: 2014



NOTE: Enrollment rates should be interpreted with care. For each country, this figure shows the number of persons who are enrolled in that country as a percentage of that country's total population in the 3- and 4-year-old age group. However, some of a country's population may be enrolled in a different country, and some persons enrolled in the country may be residents of a different country. "OECD average" refers to the mean of the data values for all reporting Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, to which each country reporting data contributes equally. SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), *Education at a Glance 2016*; Online Education Database. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 601.35.

In 2014, some 55 percent of 3- and 4-year-olds in the United States were enrolled in school, compared to the average enrollment of 79 percent for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. The OECD is an organization of 35 countries whose purpose is to promote trade and economic growth.

The OECD also serves as a statistical agency, collecting and publishing an array of data on its member countries. Among the 31 OECD countries reporting data that year, the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school ranged from 20 percent in Turkey to 100 percent in France.

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**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Preschool programs are also known as nursery school programs.

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**Reference tables:** *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, tables 202.10, 202.20, and 601.35

**Related indicators and resources:** Elementary and Secondary Enrollment; Private School Enrollment; Kindergarten Entry Status: On-Time, Delayed-Entry, Repeating Kindergartners [*The Condition of Education 2013 Spotlight*]; Kindergartners' Approaches to Learning Behaviors and Academic Outcomes [*The Condition of Education 2015 Spotlight*]; Kindergartners' Approaches to Learning, Family Socioeconomic Status, and Early Academic Gains [*The Condition of Education 2016 Spotlight*]; Risk Factors and Academic Outcomes in Kindergarten Through Third Grade [*The Condition of Education 2017 Spotlight*]

**Glossary:** Associate's degree, Bachelor's degree, College, Educational attainment (Current Population Survey), Enrollment, High school completer, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Preschool, Racial/ethnic group