

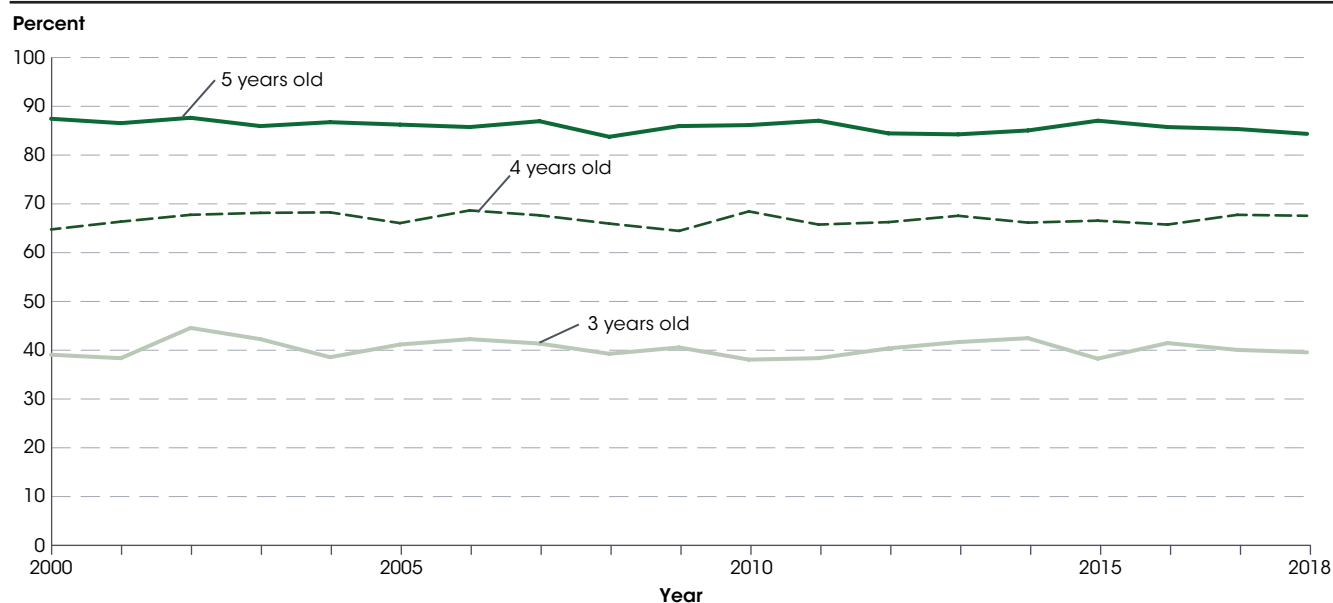
## Preschool and Kindergarten Enrollment

*In 2018, 3- to 5-year-olds whose parents' highest level of education was less than a high school credential (19 vs. 11 percent) or high school credential (19 vs. 13 percent) were more likely to be enrolled in full-day preschool than in part-day preschool. Among the remaining groups, there were no measurable differences between the percentages enrolled in full-day preschool programs versus the percentages enrolled in part-day programs.*

Preprimary programs, which include preschool<sup>1</sup> and kindergarten programs, are groups or classes that are organized to provide educational experiences for children. Preprimary programs include both full-day and part-day

programs. 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-olds enrolled in preprimary programs: 2000 through 2018**



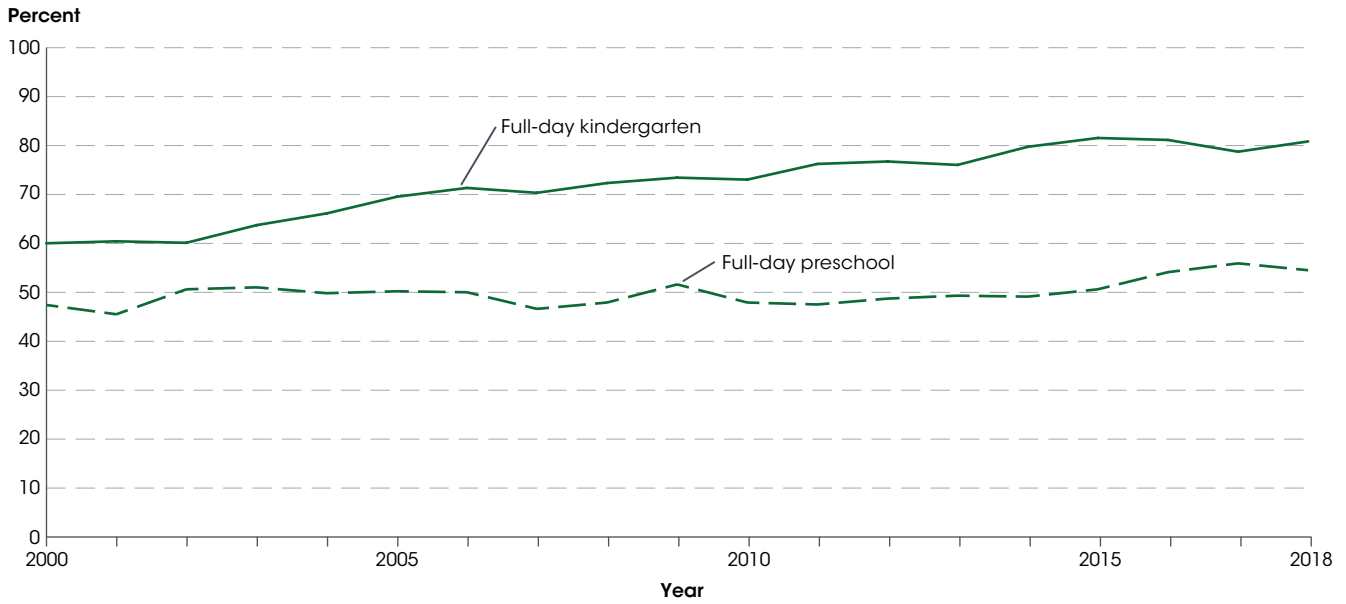
NOTE: Includes enrollment in both full-day and part-day programs. "Preprimary programs" are groups or classes that are organized to provide educational experiences for children and include kindergarten, preschool, and nursery school programs. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2000 through 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2006*, table 41; *Digest of Education Statistics 2009*, table 43; and *Digest of Education Statistics 2013*, 2017, and 2019, table 202.10.

In 2018, the preprimary program enrollment rate was higher for 5-year-olds (84 percent) than for 4-year-olds (68 percent) and higher for 4-year-olds than for 3-year-olds (40 percent). The percentage of 5-year-olds enrolled in preprimary programs was lower in 2018 than in 2000 (84 vs. 88 percent). For both 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds, however, there was no measurable difference between the percentage enrolled in preprimary programs in 2018 and the percentage enrolled in preprimary programs in 2000.

Enrollment in full-day preprimary programs varied. In 2018, among those enrolled in preprimary programs, the percentage of 5-year-olds attending full-day programs (77 percent) was higher than the percentage of 3- to 4-year-olds attending full-day programs (55 percent).

**Figure 2. Percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds in preschool and kindergarten programs attending full-day programs: 2000 through 2018**

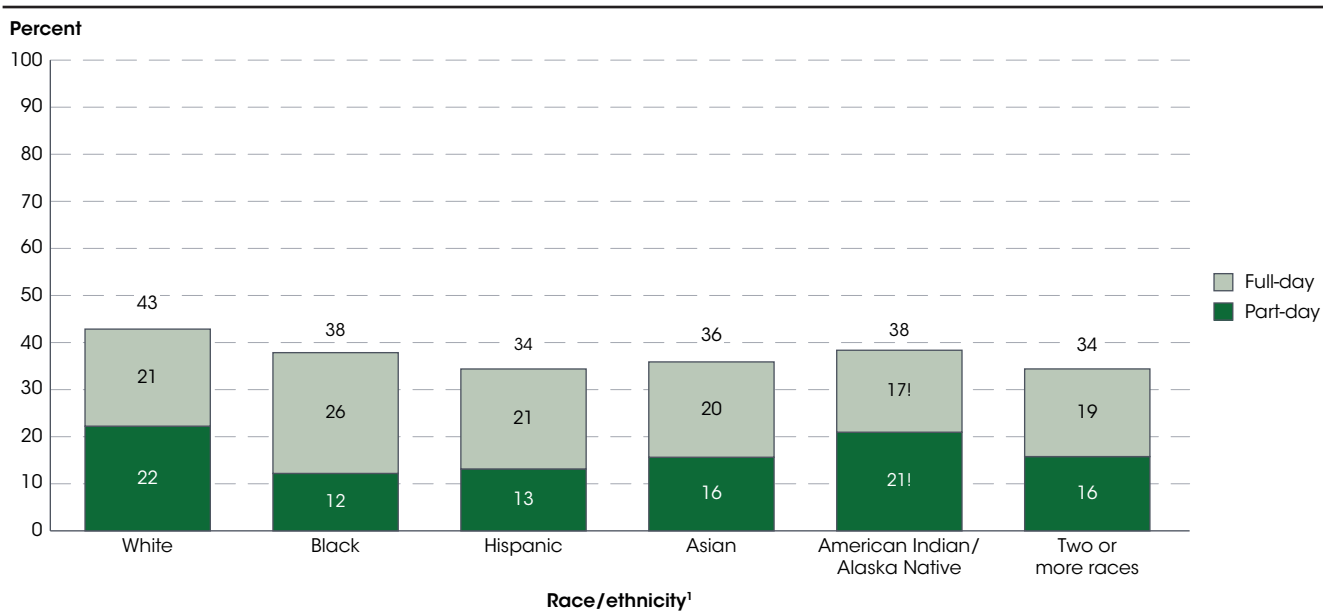


NOTE: Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2000 through 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2006*, table 41; *Digest of Education Statistics 2009*, table 43; and *Digest of Education Statistics 2013, 2017, and 2019*, table 202.10.

In every year from 2000 to 2018, the percentage of 3- to 5-year-old *kindergarten* students enrolled in full-day programs was higher than the percentage of 3- to 5-year-old *preschool* students enrolled in full-day programs. Among those attending kindergarten, the percentage

attending full-day programs increased from 60 percent in 2000 to 81 percent in 2018. Similarly, of those who were enrolled in preschool programs, the percentage attending full-day programs increased from 47 percent in 2000 to 54 percent in 2018.

**Figure 3. Percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preschool programs, by race/ethnicity and attendance status: October 2018**



<sup>1</sup> Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 and 50 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Reporting standards for Pacific Islander 3- to 5-year-olds were not met; therefore, data for this group are not shown in the figure. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

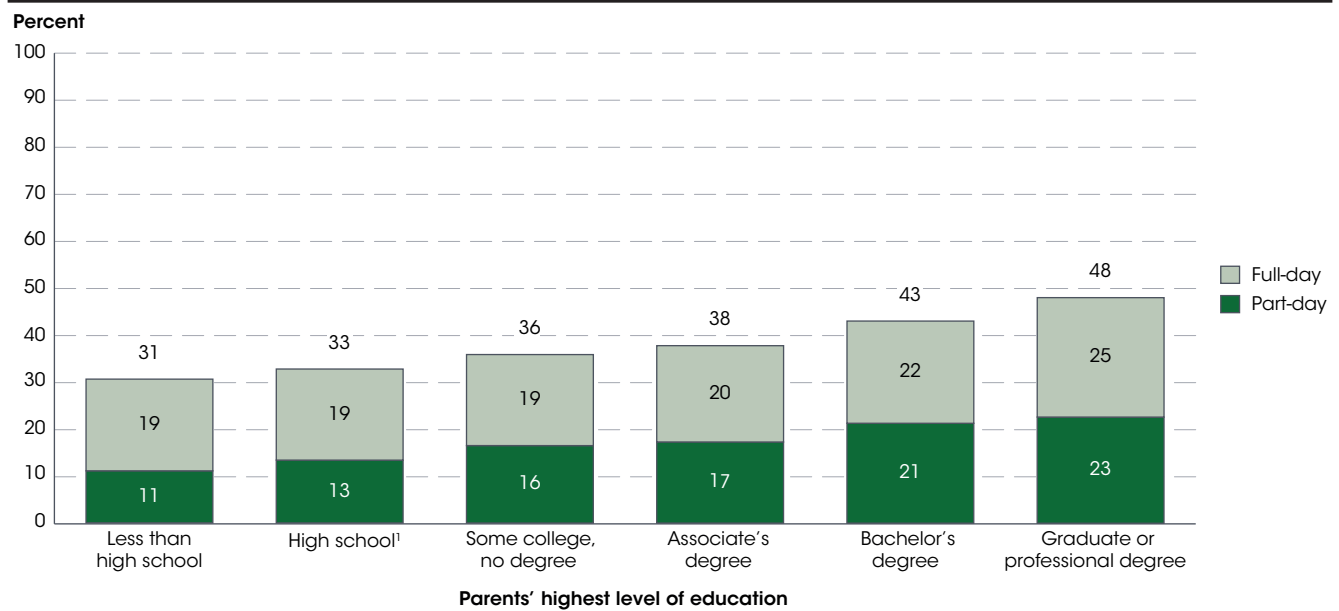
NOTE: Enrollment data include only those 3- to 5-year-olds in preschool programs and do not include those enrolled in kindergarten or primary programs. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 202.20.

The rest of this indicator focuses on enrollment in preschool programs only. In 2018, the percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preschool programs was higher for those who were White (43 percent) than for those who were of Two or more races and Hispanic (34 percent each). The preschool enrollment rates of 3- to 5-year-olds who were American Indian/Alaska Native (38 percent), Black (38 percent), and Asian (36 percent) were not measurably different from the preschool enrollment rates of 3- to 5-year-olds from other racial/ethnic groups.

Comparing full-day versus part-day attendance status, a higher percentage of Black 3- to 5-year-olds (26 vs. 12 percent) and Hispanic 3- to 5-year-olds (21 vs. 13 percent) attended full-day preschool programs than part-day programs. For 3- to 5-year-olds in the other racial/ethnic groups, there were no measurable differences between the percentages enrolled in full-day programs and part-day programs.

**Figure 4. Percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preschool programs, by parents' highest level of education and preschoolers' attendance status: October 2018**



<sup>1</sup> Includes completing high school through equivalency credentials, such as the GED.  
NOTE: Enrollment data include only those 3- to 5-year-olds 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 either parent in the child's household. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Although rounded numbers are displayed, the figures are based on unrounded data. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 2018. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, table 202.20.

Enrollment in preschool programs varied by parents' highest level of education, defined as the highest level of education attained by either parent in the child's household. In 2018, the percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preschool programs was higher for those whose parents' highest level of education was a graduate or professional degree (48 percent) or a bachelor's degree (43 percent) than for those whose parents' highest level of education was some college but no degree (36 percent), a high school credential<sup>2</sup> (33 percent), or less than a high school credential (31 percent). The preschool enrollment rate was also higher for 3- to 5-year-olds whose parents' highest level of education was a graduate or professional degree than for those whose parents' highest level of education was an associate's degree (38 percent).

In 2018, the percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in full-day preschool programs was higher for those whose parents' highest level of education was a graduate or professional degree (25 percent) than for those whose parents' highest level of education was some college but no degree or a high school credential (19 percent each).

In 2018, 3- to 5-year-olds whose parents' highest level of education was less than a high school credential (19 vs. 11 percent) or high school credential (19 vs. 13 percent) were more likely to be enrolled in full-day preschool than in part-day preschool. Among the remaining groups, there were no measurable differences between the percentages enrolled in full-day preschool programs versus the percentages enrolled in part-day programs.

**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Preschool programs are also known as nursery school programs and are defined as a group or class that provides educational experiences for children during the year or years preceding kindergarten. Private homes in which essentially custodial care is provided are not considered preschool programs. For a complete

definition, see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/subject-definitions.html#nurseryschool>.  
<sup>2</sup> Includes completion of high school through equivalency programs, such as a GED program.

**Reference tables:** *Digest of Education Statistics 2019*, tables 202.10 and 202.20; *Digest of Education Statistics 2017*, table 202.10; *Digest of Education Statistics 2013*, table 202.10; *Digest of Education Statistics 2009*, table 43; *Digest of Education Statistics 2006*, table 41

**Related indicators and resources:** [Early Childcare and Education Arrangements](#) [*Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups*]; [Early Childhood Care Arrangements: Choices and Costs](#) [*The Condition of Education 2018 Spotlight*]; [Kindergarten Entry Status: On-Time, Delayed-Entry, and 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*]; [Private School Enrollment](#); [Public School Enrollment](#); [Risk Factors and Academic Outcomes in Kindergarten Through Third Grade](#) [*The Condition of Education 2017 Spotlight*]

**Glossary terms:** Associate's degree; Bachelor's degree; College; Educational attainment (Current Population Survey); Enrollment; High school completer; Preschool; Racial/ethnic group