

**Population**

Indicator 1
Indicator 3
Indicator 5

Indicator 2

**Educational Attainment**

Educational attainment influences socioeconomic status, which in turn plays a role in well-being at older ages. Higher levels of education are usually associated with higher incomes, higher standards of living, and above-average health.

Indicator 4

**Educational attainment of the population age 65 and over, selected years 1965–2007**

Year	High school graduate or more (%)	Bachelor's degree more (%)
1965	24	5
1970	28	6
1975	38	8
1980	42	9
1985	48	10
1990	55	12
1995	65	14
2000	70	16
2005	74	18
2007	76	19

Note: A single question which asks for the highest grade or degree completed is now used to determine educational attainment. Prior to 1995, educational attainment was measured using data on years of school completed.  
Reference population: These data refer to the civilian noninstitutionalized population.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

- In 1965, 24 percent of the older population had graduated from high school, and only 5 percent had at least a bachelor's degree. By 2007, 76 percent were high school graduates, and 19 percent had a bachelor's degree or more.
- In 2007, about 76 percent of both older men and older women had at least a high school diploma. Older men attained at least a bachelor's degree more often than older women (25 percent compared with 15 percent). The gender gap in completion of a college education will narrow in the future because men and women in younger cohorts are earning college degrees at roughly the same rate.

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