

Table 13. Dropout rates of high school sophomores 2 years later, by demographic and family characteristics: 1982, 1992, and 2004

Demographic/family characteristic in sophomore year	1982	1992	2004
Total	11.4	6.2	6.6
Sex			
Male	12.4	5.7	7.4
Female	10.4	6.7	5.9
Race/ethnicity ¹			
American Indian	26.9	17.0 !	4.7 !
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.8 !	4.2 !	3.2
Black	13.5	7.9	9.8
Hispanic	19.2	12.1	11.2
White	10.2	5.0	4.8
More than one race	—	—	8.0
Age ²			
15 and below	5.2	4.4	2.6
16	10.1	8.6	6.7
17 and above	31.4	29.9	27.6
Family composition			
Mother and father	6.4	4.6	4.3
Mother or father and guardian	14.5	8.2	9.8
Single parent	12.5	8.8	9.0
Other ³	21.5	10.9	7.3
Parents' highest educational level			
High school or less	12.6	11.3	11.2
Some college or more	6.9	3.5	4.5

— Not available.

! Interpret data with caution. Standard error is more than one third as large as estimate.

¹ Asian/Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, Black includes African American, and Hispanic includes Latino. All race categories exclude Hispanic or Latino origin.

² Age as of March 1 of 1980, 1990, or 2002.

³ Includes two guardians, single guardian, and respondent to parent survey who lives with student less than half the time.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores (HS&B:80), "Base Year and First Follow-up, 1980–82"; National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88), "First and Second Follow-up, 1990–92"; and Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS:2002), "Base Year and First Follow-up, 2002–04."

Both males and females had lower rates in 1992 than in 1982. In 1982, some 12 percent of males had dropped out, compared to 6 percent in 1992; in 2004, this rate had risen to 7 percent. The corresponding rates for females were 10 percent in 1982, which dropped to 7 percent in 1992 and remained lower in 2004 (though not statistically different from 1992) at 6 percent. Within cohorts, males had a higher dropout rate than females in 1982 and 2002—in 2002, seven percent of males dropped out, while 6 percent of females dropped out.