Table 33

Educational attainment of doctorate recipients' parents, by sex, citizenship status, ethnicity, race, and broad field of study: 2020

(Number and percent distribution)

Demographic characteristic and field	Total (number)	Parental education attainment (%) High school Some Bachelor's Master's Professional Research							
		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional degree ^b	Research doctoral degree	
All doctorate recipients									
Father's education ^c	47,254	100.0	23.0	13.8	28.1	17.3	8.0	9.8	
Mother's education ^d	47,657	100.0	26.5	17.4	29.5	17.8	4.4	4.3	
Sex									
Male									
Father's education	25.531	100.0	23.4	13.3	28.6	17.2	7.7	9.8	
Mother's education	25,667	100.0	28.8	16.3	29.8	17.0	4.3	3.	
Female									
Father's education	21,723	100.0	22.5	14.5	27.4	17.5	8.3	9.	
Mother's education	21,990	100.0	23.9	18.7	29.2	17.0	4.5	5.	
Citizenship status	21,550	100.0	20.5	10.7	25.2	10.7	4.0		
U.S. citizen or permanent									
resident									
Father's education	30,963	100.0	21.2	14.6	25.3	18.6	9.8	10.	
Mother's education	31,375	100.0	21.4	19.1	28.9	21.0	5.1	4.	
Temporary visa holder									
Father's education	16,274	100.0	26.5	12.3	33.2	14.9	4.5	8.	
Mother's education	16,265	100.0	36.5	14.2	30.9	11.7	3.2	3.	
Ethnicity and race (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)									
Hispanic or Latino									
Father's education	2,506	100.0	35.4	17.0	19.9	13.6	7.7	6.	
Mother's education	2,584	100.0	34.5	21.1	22.3	14.7	4.1	3.	
Not Hispanic or Latino									
American Indian or Alaska Native									
Father's education	80	100.0	46.3	21.3	16.3	D	7.5		
Mother's education	83	100.0	39.8	21.7	D	14.5	6.0		
Asian									
Father's education	2,907	100.0	19.4	9.7	24.1	18.3	7.7	20.	
Mother's education	2,928	100.0	27.0	13.3	29.7	18.6	5.1	6.	
Black or African American							0.1		
Father's education	1,998	100.0	41.1	19.1	18.3	11.9	4.4	5.	
Mother's education		100.0		25.1	18.9	16.9	2.8	3.	
White	2,112	100.0	02.5	20.1	10.5	10.5	2.0		
Father's education	22,125	100.0	18.1	14.6	26.8	19.8	10.9	9.	
Mother's education	22,288	100.0		19.0	30.5	22.4	5.3	4.	
More than one race	22,200	100.0	10.1	19.0	30.5	22.7	0.0	_ .	
Father's education	1,061	100.0	17.7	14.1	24.4	20.2	8.6	15.	
Mother's education	1,088			14.1	24.4	20.2	6.7	6.	
Other race or race not	1,000	100.0	19.4	10.4	27.3	21.0	0.7	0.	
reported									
Father's education	215	100.0		13.5	27.9	D	9.3		
Mother's education	216	100.0	15.7	22.7	D	19.4	6.0		
Ethnicity not reported									
Father's education	71	100.0		19.7	15.5	14.1	8.5	12.	
Mother's education	76	100.0	23.7	17.1	27.6	18.4	7.9	5.	

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(Number and percent distribution)

Demographic characteristic and field	Total (number)	Parental education attainment (%)							
		All	High school or less	Some college ^a	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Professional degree ^b	Research doctoral degree	
Life sciences ^e									
Father's education	11,046	100.0	22.8	13.9	27.2	17.0	9.0	10.1	
Mother's education	11,141	100.0	25.0	17.9	29.6	18.1	5.2	4.2	
Physical sciences and earth sciences									
Father's education	5,488	100.0	22.3	14.6	27.9	18.3	7.4	9.6	
Mother's education	5,494	100.0	25.4	16.9	31.5	17.7	4.3	4.1	
Mathematics and computer sciences									
Father's education	3,741	100.0	21.9	12.1	29.8	17.7	6.0	12.5	
Mother's education	3,748	100.0	29.4	14.6	30.5	16.5	4.0	4.9	
Psychology and social sciences									
Father's education	7,453	100.0	22.5	14.5	25.6	17.7	10.0	9.7	
Mother's education	7,555	100.0	23.6	18.4	27.6	19.7	5.7	4.9	
Engineering									
Father's education	9,050	100.0	21.5	12.1	33.2	18.1	5.2	9.9	
Mother's education	9,088	100.0	28.9	15.1	33.4	15.3	3.5	3.8	
Education									
Father's education	4,003	100.0	31.9	17.0	24.9	13.4	6.8	6.1	
Mother's education	4,059	100.0	33.0	22.0	22.9	16.3	2.6	3.1	
Humanities and arts									
Father's education	4,116	100.0	20.4	13.5	25.0	18.6	12.1	10.6	
Mother's education	4,182	100.0	21.5	17.5	28.4	22.5	4.9	5.2	
Other ^f									
Father's education	2,357	100.0	24.4	14.0	28.6	16.2	7.1	9.7	
Mother's education	2,390	100.0	29.5	18.2	27.9	16.7	3.5	4.1	

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Includes those who attended college but did not earn a bachelor's.

^b Includes professional doctorate such as MD, DDS, DVM, JD, PsyD, DDiv.

^c Total count excludes those who did not report father's education and those who reported "not applicable/unknown."

^d Total count excludes those who did not report mother's education and those who reported "not applicable/unknown."

^e Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.

^f Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.

Note(s):

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.