

TABLE 1-2d

Sex of graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in health: 1977–2021

(Number and percent)

Year	Graduate students					Postdoctoral appointees					Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers				
	Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1977	33,685	11,149	33.1	22,536	66.9	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1978	35,660	NA	NA	NA	NA	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1979	38,535	11,073	28.7	27,462	71.3	4,515	3,699	81.9	816	18.1	499	368	73.7	131	26.3
1980	41,478	11,749	28.3	29,729	71.7	4,376	3,513	80.3	863	19.7	653	511	78.3	142	21.7
1981	43,141	11,414	26.5	31,727	73.5	4,863	3,737	76.8	1,126	23.2	611	428	70.0	183	30.0
1982	43,425	11,001	25.3	32,424	74.7	4,685	3,558	75.9	1,127	24.1	547	368	67.3	179	32.7
1983	43,466	10,465	24.1	33,001	75.9	5,042	3,709	73.6	1,333	26.4	917	660	72.0	257	28.0
1984	45,028	10,541	23.4	34,487	76.6	5,353	3,929	73.4	1,424	26.6	1,011	688	68.1	323	31.9
1985	46,030	10,846	23.6	35,184	76.4	5,455	3,994	73.2	1,461	26.8	959	625	65.2	334	34.8
1986	47,538	11,126	23.4	36,412	76.6	5,804	4,180	72.0	1,624	28.0	969	654	67.5	315	32.5
1987	48,258	11,869	24.6	36,389	75.4	6,066	4,356	71.8	1,710	28.2	904	576	63.7	328	36.3
1988	49,360	11,465	23.2	37,895	76.8	6,409	4,521	70.5	1,888	29.5	955	605	63.4	350	36.6
1989	51,836	11,955	23.1	39,881	76.9	7,026	4,965	70.7	2,061	29.3	857	544	63.5	313	36.5
1990	55,072	12,353	22.4	42,719	77.6	7,762	5,402	69.6	2,360	30.4	901	522	57.9	379	42.1
1991	58,620	13,135	22.4	45,485	77.6	8,008	5,500	68.7	2,508	31.3	947	564	59.6	383	40.4
1992	63,005	13,917	22.1	49,088	77.9	8,864	5,996	67.6	2,868	32.4	1,085	642	59.2	443	40.8
1993	68,581	15,291	22.3	53,290	77.7	9,657	6,493	67.2	3,164	32.8	1,193	718	60.2	475	39.8
1994	73,257	16,324	22.3	56,933	77.7	10,590	6,981	65.9	3,609	34.1	1,228	731	59.5	497	40.5
1995	77,174	17,049	22.1	60,125	77.9	9,766	6,362	65.1	3,404	34.9	1,350	839	62.1	511	37.9
1996	78,898	18,150	23.0	60,748	77.0	10,538	6,894	65.4	3,644	34.6	1,447	861	59.5	586	40.5
1997	79,578	18,878	23.7	60,700	76.3	11,217	7,136	63.6	4,081	36.4	1,466	849	57.9	617	42.1
1998	80,771	19,590	24.3	61,181	75.7	12,210	7,699	63.1	4,511	36.9	1,793	1,082	60.3	711	39.7
1999	82,074	19,889	24.2	62,185	75.8	11,820	7,559	64.0	4,261	36.0	1,872	1,117	59.7	755	40.3
2000	79,775	19,052	23.9	60,723	76.1	12,891	8,310	64.5	4,581	35.5	2,052	1,263	61.5	789	38.5
2001	80,378	19,345	24.1	61,033	75.9	13,115	8,369	63.8	4,746	36.2	2,023	1,200	59.3	823	40.7
2002	85,570	20,842	24.4	64,728	75.6	13,097	8,043	61.4	5,054	38.6	1,984	1,186	59.8	798	40.2
2003	92,476	22,434	24.3	70,042	75.7	13,062	7,810	59.8	5,252	40.2	2,028	1,193	58.8	835	41.2
2004	98,590	22,706	23.0	75,884	77.0	13,175	7,787	59.1	5,388	40.9	2,152	1,248	58.0	904	42.0
2005	103,951	23,324	22.4	80,627	77.6	14,099	8,288	58.8	5,811	41.2	2,512	1,439	57.3	1,073	42.7
2006	111,356	24,637	22.1	86,719	77.9	14,456	8,399	58.1	6,057	41.9	3,038	1,756	57.8	1,282	42.2
2007old ^a	105,448	24,072	22.8	81,376	77.2	14,818	8,448	57.0	6,370	43.0	2,921	1,629	55.8	1,292	44.2
2007new ^a	103,300	23,083	22.3	80,217	77.7	14,617	8,311	56.9	6,306	43.1	2,916	1,617	55.5	1,299	44.5
2008	102,214	23,032	22.5	79,182	77.5	15,961	8,824	55.3	7,137	44.7	3,659	2,001	54.7	1,658	45.3
2009	85,960	20,589	24.0	65,371	76.0	17,001	9,340	54.9	7,661	45.1	3,624	1,923	53.1	1,701	46.9
2010 ^{b,c}	76,120	19,430	25.5	56,690	74.5	19,119	10,338	54.1	8,781	45.9	6,188	3,137	50.7	3,051	49.3
2011 ^c	65,879	17,061	25.9	48,818	74.1	18,518	9,853	53.2	8,665	46.8	5,823	2,965	50.9	2,858	49.1
2012	65,825	17,317	26.3	48,508	73.7	19,010	9,990	52.6	9,020	47.4	6,147	3,060	49.8	3,087	50.2
2013	62,710	16,717	26.7	45,993	73.3	18,547	9,727	52.4	8,820	47.6	6,039	3,113	51.5	2,926	48.5
2014old ^d	63,577	17,071	26.9	46,506	73.1	18,903	9,832	52.0	9,071	48.0	6,263	3,174	50.7	3,089	49.3
2014new ^d	64,703	17,451	27.0	47,252	73.0	18,970	9,873	52.0	9,097	48.0	6,287	3,188	50.7	3,099	49.3
2015	67,389	17,873	26.5	49,516	73.5	18,566	9,596	51.7	8,970	48.3	6,696	3,384	50.5	3,312	49.5
2016	64,336	16,655	25.9	47,681	74.1	18,975	9,819	51.7	9,156	48.3	6,652	3,318	49.9	3,334	50.1
2017old ^e	66,934	16,739	25.0	50,195	75.0	19,143	9,788	51.1	9,355	48.9	na	na	na	na	na
2017new ^e	67,963	17,130	25.2	50,833	74.8	18,653	9,521	51.0	9,132	49.0	7,638	3,704	48.5	3,934	51.5
2018	72,751	17,965	24.7	54,786	75.3	19,305	9,866	51.1	9,439	48.9	7,436	3,693	49.7	3,743	50.3
2019	72,422	17,270	23.8	55,152	76.2	19,478	9,822	50.4	9,656	49.6	7,621	3,737	49.0	3,884	51.0
2020	75,438	17,781	23.6	57,657	76.4	18,478	9,115	49.3	9,363	50.7	7,528	3,595	47.8	3,933	52.2

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Sex of graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in health: 1977–2021

(Number and percent)

Year	Graduate students					Postdoctoral appointees					Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers				
	Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2021	82,322	18,880	22.9	63,442	77.1	17,799	8,782	49.3	9,017	50.7	7,828	3,636	46.4	4,192	53.6
Master's students															
2017new ^e	52,662	12,282	23.3	40,380	76.7	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2018	56,820	12,862	22.6	43,958	77.4	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2019	56,494	12,167	21.5	44,327	78.5	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2020	60,124	13,015	21.6	47,109	78.4	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2021	65,691	13,790	21.0	51,901	79.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Doctoral students															
2017new ^e	15,301	4,848	31.7	10,453	68.3	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2018	15,931	5,103	32.0	10,828	68.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2019	15,928	5,103	32.0	10,825	68.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2020	15,314	4,766	31.1	10,548	68.9	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2021	16,631	5,090	30.6	11,541	69.4	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

na = not applicable; master's and doctoral students were not reported separately until 2017, and data on postdoctoral appointees (postdocs) and nonfaculty researchers (NFRs) were not collected until 1979. NA = not available; master's-granting institutions were not surveyed in 1978, and the survey of doctorate-granting institutions did not collect data by sex.

^a In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and the survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. "2007new" presents data as collected in 2007; "2007old" shows data as they would have been collected in prior years. See appendix A in <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/> for more detail.

^b In 2010, the postdoc and NFR section of the survey was expanded and significant effort was made to ensure that appropriate personnel were providing postdoc and NFR data. Thus, it is unclear how much of the increases in 2010 and later years over 2009 and prior years are from growth in postdocs and NFRs and how much are from improved data collection. More information on the changes to the data collection is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf13334/>.

^c Postdoc and NFR data from 2010 and 2011 were reimputed following the 2012 data collection; these data supersede those contained in previous reports.

^d In 2014, the survey frame was updated following a comprehensive frame evaluation study. The study identified potentially eligible but not previously surveyed academic institutions in the United States with master's- or doctorate-granting programs in science, engineering, or health. A total of 151 newly eligible institutions were added, and two private for-profit institutions offering mostly practitioner-based graduate degrees were determined to be ineligible. For more information, see <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2016/nsf16314>.

^e As part of 2017 Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS) redesign, the GSS taxonomy was changed to align with the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) Taxonomy of Disciplines (TOD), thus increasing comparability with other NCSES surveys. As a result, some eligible fields were reclassified and a small number of fields became fully or partially ineligible. Comparisons to prior years should use the 2017old estimates and should be limited to broad areas of study—detailed field comparisons are not recommended. Due to changes in reporting, NFR estimates for 2017old are not available.

Note(s):

Percentages may not add to total because of rounding.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.