EDUCATION & TRAINING

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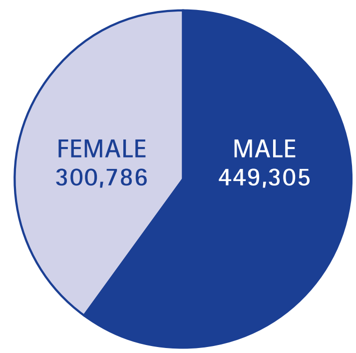
Although it seems hard to believe, in the early years of this nation young girls and women were often denied an education. However, largely due to the advocacy of women, schools gradually opened their doors to girls and women. As Joyce A. Myers noted, "Education levels the playing field, allowing everyone to compete." A major success for women has been gaining access to education, which created many new opportunities for women.

ATHLETICS

Girls and women have made remarkable strides in many areas. Perhaps one of the most visible and exciting arenas is on the nations' fields, softball diamonds, basketball and tennis courts where increasingly girls and women have the opportunity to compete in sports. As a sign of the times, a girl's t-shirt proudly proclaims, "I'm not a tomboy; I'm an athlete!" In the seven years between the first and second reports, girls' athletic participation increased from 38% to 40% at the high school level.

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS BY GENDER[1]



TOTAL POPULATION
750,091
100%

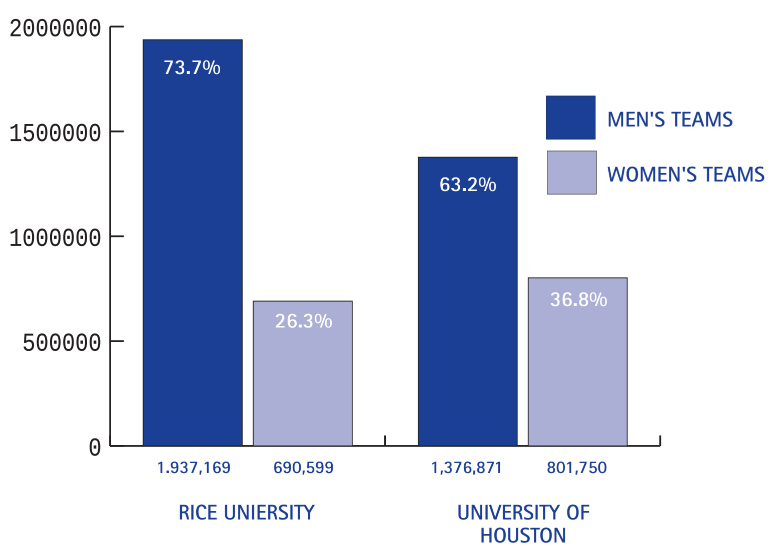
AVERAGE SALARIES (DOLLARS PER POSITION)[2]

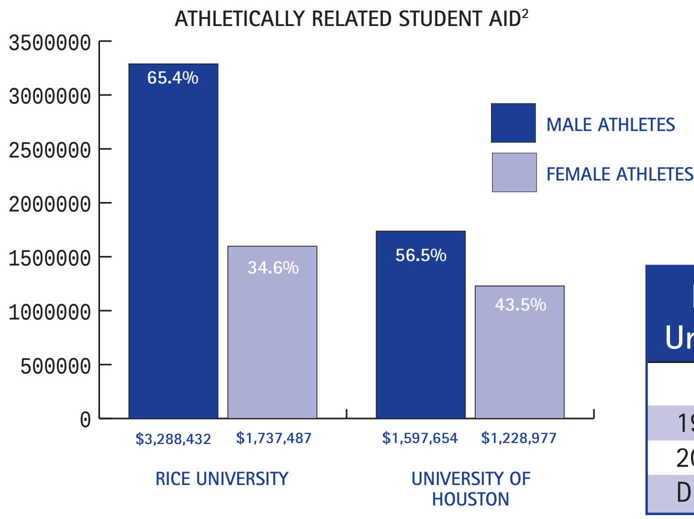
	HEAD COACHES MEN'S TEAMS	HEAD COACHES WOMEN'S TEAMS	ASST. COACHES MEN'S TEAMS	ASST. COACHES WOMEN'S TEAMS
RICE	$148,009	$73,216	$58,320	$31,695
U of H	$232,872	$54,207	$61,979	$37,597

Part of the increasing visibility of girls and women in sports is attributed to the passage of Title IX, a 1972 law that prohibits sexual discrimination in federally funded educational programs. The law has been used to increase opportunities for female athletes at all levels of play. The law has a three-pronged test for compliance: 1) the proportionality test, that is, a school's male-to-female ratio of athletes should be comparable to its ratio of male-to-female students; 2) the school demonstrates a history and continuing practice of adding women's sports; and 3) schools fully and effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex.

Both Rice and the University of Houston, the two universities in our area for which data are available, show disproportionate numbers of athletes by gender – i.e., the percent of women athletes is about 10 percent below the proportion of women students. However, these numbers represent an improvement since the first report when the difference was 17% for University of Houston (UH) and 14% for Rice. There are no female head coaches for male teams at either Rice or UH, although two women are assistant coaches for men's teams at the University of Houston. Nineteen men are head

OPERATING EXPENSES[2]





coaches for women's teams and 29 men are assistant coaches for women's teams. The total number of male coaches outnumbers female coaches, even on women's teams, limiting opportunities for women to coach and lead sports programs.

Differences in Percentages Between Female Undergraduates and Female Athletes by year[2, 3]

	Rice University	University of Houston
1996-1997	14%	17%
2001-2002	11.6%	10.7%
Difference	+ 2.4	+ 6.3

University	Percent of Male Undergraduates	Percent of Male Athletes	Difference in percent between male undergrads and male athletes	Percent of Female Undergraduates	Percent of Female Athletes	Difference in percent between female undergrads and female athletes
Rice (I-A)	52.1%	63.7%	+ 11.6	47.9%	36.3%	-11.6
University of Houston (I-A)	46.4%	57.1%	+ 10.7	53.6%	42.9%	-10.7

Data Sources:
1 2001-2002 UIL Participation Statistics, University Interscholastic League, Austin, Texas.
2 Higher Education Act Reporting, 2001-2002, University of Houston and William March Rice University, self-reports as mandated by the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act.
3 The Status of Women and Girls in Greater Houston, 1997, Stout and McPhail.
Note: TSU was unable to provide the federally mandated statistics due to reported staff shortages.

EDUCATION – GENERAL

Educational Attainment for Population 18 years and over, Harris County, Census 2000[2]	Males	Females	Total
Less than 9th Grade	147,408 (51.9%)	136,470 (48.1%)	100%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	192,315 (51.3%)	182,437 (48.7%)	100%
High School Graduate (includes GED)	249,072 (46.0%)	292,298 (54.0%)	100%
Some college, no degree	244,030 (45.9%)	287,861 (54.1%)	100%
Associate Degree	48,471 (45.7%)	57,585 (54.3%)	100%
Bachelor's Degree	200,497 (51.1%)	191,627 (48.9%)	100%
Graduate or Professional Degree	106,063 (56.3%)	82,304 (43.7%)	100%

School Enrollment by Gender and Type of School for the Population 3 years and older, Harris County, Census 2000[1]	Males in Public Schools	Females in Public Schools	Males in Private Schools	Females in Private Schools
Nursery School/Preschool	17,699	16,729	15,867	15,279
Kindergarten	27,847	26,068	3,443	3,710
Grades 1-4	110,140	104,559	8,384	7,758
Grades 5 - 8	105,385	100,244	8,010	7,681
Grade 9 - 12	99,762	94,991	7,189	6,946
College, undergraduate	57,506	68,934	11,510	11,381
College, graduate/professional	12,194	13,220	5,807	5,662

Data Sources:
1 U.S. Department of Commerce, Census 2000, SF3.

EDUCATION – MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Twenty independent school districts (ISD's) comprise Harris County. Major indicators are reported for the twenty school districts and then averaged to give a single score for ease in making comparisons. Texas school districts collect many data points that provide both helpful education indicators and useful comparison points between boys and girls in elementary, middle, and high schools.

ISD Name	2002 TAAS Percent Passing[1] Male	Female
Aldine	85.40%	88.90%
Alief	76.30%	80.20%
Channelview	79.30%	85.30%
Crosby	86.80%	88.10%
Cypress Fairbanks	90.80%	93.20%
Deer Park	91.70%	93.80%
Galena Park	88.10%	90.00%
Goose Creek	84.60%	88.30%
Houston	80.20%	84.00%
Huffman	83.10%	92.00%
Humble	88.60%	91.20%
Katy	92.50%	95.00%
Klein	91.10%	93.50%
La Porte	87.50%	90.80%
North Forest	61.40%	72.20%
Pasadena	84.40%	88.90%
Sheldon	74.10%	81.00%
Spring	84.00%	89.30%
Spring Branch	87.30%	88.80%
Tomball	88.10%	92.10%
AVERAGES	84.27%	88.33%

For over twenty years Texas has assessed minimum basic skills in reading, mathematics, and writing with a variety of tests, most recently with the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS). Data reported in the first TAAS chart represent an average of the percentage of those passing the summed scores on mathematics, reading, and writing results for grades 3-8 and 10th grades. The data reveal that girls outperform boys on this TAAS test indicator in every school district. Recent changes in law required the development of a new testing program, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), which will be reflected in future reports.

Conventional wisdom has held that boys perform better in math and science while girls perform better in writing and reading. There is often heated debate over whether these differences are due to innate biological differences or differences in socialization between boys and girls. Although this debate cannot be resolved by this report, taking a closer look at TAAS data across the years in these specific areas is worthwhile. Combined average scores from all school districts show girls outperforming boys in reading and writing in the fourth, eighth, and tenth grades, and – contrary to what some might expect - boys are not out-performing girls in math and science. In fact, data for eighth graders show girls and boys passing in nearly identical percentages.

ISD Name	2001 Mean Composite SAT Scores[1] Male	Female
Aldine	867	871
Alief	949	915
Channelview	913	884
Crosby	1045	991
Cypress Fairbanks	1046	1015
Deer Park	1058	1012
Galena Park	925	900
Goose Creek	980	938
Houston	968	919
Huffman	981	974
Humble	1074	1037
Katy	1105	1063
Klein	1071	1033
La Porte	1009	991
North Forest	750	751
Pasadena	992	951
Sheldon	900	965
Spring	1018	987
Spring Branch	1099	1057
Tomball	1031	1013
AVERAGES	989	963

Several patterns can be noted in the average passing scores of boys and girls in different subjects over their elementary, middle, and high school years. The first pattern is that except for writing, the scores of boys and girls are almost identical, with girls marginally achieving higher passing rates than boys. The second pattern is that girls consistently outperform boys by an average margin of six-percentage points in writing skills as measured by the TAAS test writing component. This is the largest difference over the years in the various subjects.

The GED (General Educational Development) test measures the knowledge and academic skills of test takers against traditional high school graduates. For those who are

ISD Name	2001 GED Obtained[1] Male	Female
Aldine	6.10%	3.60%
Alief	4.80%	3.30%
Channelview	19.90%	15.30%
Crosby	7.90%	1.40%
Cypress Fairbanks	5.20%	2.20%
Deer Park	4.40%	3.40%
Galena Park	5.50%	3.50%
Goose Creek	4.30%	3.80%
Houston	6.20%	2.40%
Huffman	6.00%	7.10%
Humble	8.70%	6.60%
Katy	7.30%	3.40%
Klein	5.20%	2.40%
La Porte	7.50%	6.30%
North Forest	6.10%	2.40%
Pasadena	5.10%	5.80%
Sheldon	4.30%	1.60%
Spring	5.80%	2.80%
Spring Branch	4.70%	2.40%
Tomball	10.70%	3.90%
AVERAGES	6.79%	4.18%

unable or unwilling to obtain a high school diploma, a GED demonstrates equivalent knowledge of high school subjects. Data reveal that in the majority of school districts boys are more likely than girls to obtain their GED. The data also demonstrate that boys are more likely than girls to drop out of high school and girls are more likely than boys to graduate from high school, although the numbers differ across school districts.

On average, boys outperform girls on the SAT examination, which is used by many colleges in admission determinations. The average score for a boy in high school in Harris County across twenty independent school districts in 2001 was 989 compared to 963 for girls. These scores reflect an increase in scores for both boys and girls, with girls increasing their scores by a higher percentage than boys. The countywide gap between average scores of boys and girls narrowed by 3 points between 1995 and 2001. There is a noticeable range of scores across Harris County and across school districts with a low for males of 750 in North Forest and a high of 1105 in Katy, and a low for females of 751 in North Forest and a high of 1063 in Katy. It is instructive to put these scores in context. The 2002 state average, including both males and females, is 991, the national average is 1020, and a perfect score is 1600.[2] Texas' scores ranked near the bottom in a ranking of all states with only two states having lower verbal scores than Texas students and only four states having lower math scores than Texas students.

ISD Name	2001 Percentages of Dropouts[1] (4-year) Male	Female
Aldine	6.3%	5.00%
Alief	6.50%	6.60%
Channelview	7.40%	6.20%
Crosby	6.50%	6.40%
Cypress Fairbanks	1.60%	1.10%
Deer Park	5.40%	4.80%
Galena Park	6.00%	5.30%
Goose Creek	6.80%	5.80%
Houston	13.40%	12.00%
Huffman	1.20%	2.40%
Humble	1.20%	1.30%
Katy	2.20%	1.80%
Klein	2.60%	2.10%
La Porte	5.20%	1.80%
North Forest	16.50%	9.40%
Pasadena	7.40%	7.90%
Sheldon	9.90%	4.80%
Spring	6.10%	5.80%
Spring Branch	5.30%	3.60%
Tomball	3.80%	3.00%
AVERAGES	6%	4.86%

ISD Name	2001 Percent Graduated[1] Male	Female
Aldine	62.60%	74.30%
Alief	73.30%	82.00%
Channelview	61.60%	67.80%
Crosby	83.50%	89.40%
Cypress Fairbanks	84.40%	91.70%
Deer Park	75.50%	84.50%
Galena Park	76.20%	86.50%
Goose Creek	79.30%	83.60%
Houston	66.50%	77.20%
Huffman	89.20%	88.20%
Humble	87.30%	89.80%
Katy	85.70%	91.60%
Klein	84.70%	91.70%
La Porte	80.20%	91.00%
North Forest	64%	82.20%
Pasadena	77.40%	80.90%
Sheldon	79.40%	89.60%
Spring	78.30%	86.30%
Spring Branch	82%	89.30%
Tomball	82.10%	92.20%
AVERAGES	77.66%	85.49%

A new SAT is being developed and high school students in the class of 2006 will be the first to graduate under the new test. The new SAT adds a writing component with both multiple-choice questions and a student-written essay. It will be interesting to see if girls scores will increase with the new SAT since, as reflected by the data, girls traditionally do better than boys on tests of writing.

TAAS Test Percent Passing, 2002[1]	Grade Four	Grade Eight	Grade 10
Reading			
Male	93.1	94.4	94.2
Female	94.4	96.0	96.1
Writing			
Male	87.5	82.1	89.7
Female	93.3	90.1	94.9
Math			
Male	94.6	93.3	93.5
Female	95.3	93.7	93.8
Science			
Male		92.9	
Female		93.0	

Gender	Average Total SAT Scores in 1995	Average total SAT Scores in 2001	Percent Change
Male	903	989	+ 9.5%
Female	874	963	+ 10.2%
Difference in Scores	29	26	- 10.3%

Data Sources:

1 2001-02 Academic Excellence Indicator Systems (EIS), for each independent school district as provided by each district to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) through its Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).Note: The school districts included in the report are the original twenty included in the first report and the same twenty that are identified by the TEA as located in Harris County.

2 Marshall, Thom. (August 27, 2003). While SAT scores rise in U.S., state still near the bottom. Houston Chronicle, p. 25A.

EDUCATION – COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

There is good news for women at public institutions of higher learning. Women comprise the majority of students both enrolling in college and earning degrees. One area where women continue to lag behind, however, is in the number of tenured and tenured-track faculty members. Men still hold the majority of such positions.

At the community college level, men and women are enrolled in approximately equal numbers, although women are more likely than men to obtain associate degrees. The faculty at the community college level is also evenly split between male and female faculty.

Although the academic success of women in higher education is clear, it is a very recent phenomenon. Looking at the higher degrees obtained by age, it is evident that in the past men were more likely than women to obtain college and professional degrees. This finding - where women outnumber men in college enrollments and numbers of degrees earned - is too new to fully understand. It will be interesting to see if the success of women in college translates into success in the marketplace, resulting in higher positions and salaries for women.

University,[1] Fall 2000	Male Total Enrollment	Female Total Enrollment	Total Degrees Awarded to Males	Total Degrees Awarded to Females
University of Houston	15,145 (47.1%)	16,978 (52.9%)	2,450 (43.7%)	3,152 (56.3%)
UH-Clear Lake	2,933 (38.7%)	4,647 (61.3%)	663 (36.5%)	1,154 (63.5%)
UH-Downtown	3,683 (41.1%)	5,268 (58.9%)	477 (41.2%)	682 (58.8%)
Texas Southern University	2,996 (43.5%)	3,890 (56.5%)	389 (42.8%)	520 (57.2%)

University,1 Fall 2000	Tenured and Tenure-track Male Faculty	Tenured and Tenure-track Female Faculty
University of Houston	608 (75.9%)	193 (24.1%)
UH-Clear Lake	104 (66.2%)	53 (33.8%)
UH-Downtown	88 (52.7%)	76 (46.3%)
Texas Southern University	125 (61.3%)	79 (38.7%)

Higher Educational Attainment, ages 18 and over by age, Harris County, Census 2000[4]	Men with Bachelor's Degrees	Females with Bachelor's Degrees	Males with Graduate or Professional Degrees	Females with Graduate or Professional Degrees
18 to 24 years	9,185	12,474	725	1,220
25 to 34 years	50,130	56,130	19,689	18,804
35 to 44 years	53,509	52,975	28,140	21,522
45 to 64 years	68,860	56,297	46,466	32,598
65 years and older	18,813	13,751	11,043	8,160

Community Colleges, 2002[2]	Male Faculty	Female Faculty
Houston Community College System	1,092 (54.0%)	930 (46.0%)
North Harris Montgomery Community College District	752 (45.5%)	899 (54.5%)
San Jacinto College District	599 (49.9%)	601 (50.1%)

Community Colleges, 2002	Male Enrollment[3] (unduplicated)	Female Enrollment[3] (unduplicated)	Males obtaining Academic Associate Degrees[2]	Females obtaining Academic Associate Degrees[2]	Males obtaining Technical Associate Degrees[2]	Females obtaining Technical Associate Degrees[2]
Houston Community College System	40.2%	59.8%	228 (30.0%)	531 (70.0%)	138 (37%)	233 (63%)
North Harris Montgomery Community College District	39.5%	60.5%	166 (31.0%)	364 (69.0%)	115 (25%)	336 (75%)
San Jacinto College District	43.6%	56.4%	180 (34.0%)	346 (66.0%)	213 (38%)	353 (62%)

Data Sources:

1 Texas Public Universities' Data and Performance Report, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, June 2002. Austin, TX.

2 Texas Public Community and Technical Colleges: 2002 Statewide Factbook, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Community and Technical Colleges Division, Austin, TX.

3 2002 College Profiles: Public Community and Technical Colleges of Texas. (December 2002). Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Community and Technical College Division, Austin, TX.

4 U.S. Department of Commerce, Census 2000, Summary File 3 (SF3).