

2017 Report On The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin Educational Attainment



KEY FINDINGS

More than one-quarter (27%) of women in the region have a bachelor's degree or higher. A total of 38% of women in the region have a post-secondary degree when we add in associate's degrees.

The major differences in educational attainment levels are found between racial/ethnic groups, not between counties.

About 10% of Black and Hispanic women have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 28% of white (not Hispanic) women.

Educational attainment rates for the Northeast region are about the same as those for women statewide.

For example, the region mirrors the state in post-secondary education with an associate's degree or higher (38% regionally versus 39% statewide). Regionally, the percent of women with an associate's degree (as the highest level of educational attainment) increased by 2% from 2009 to 2014.

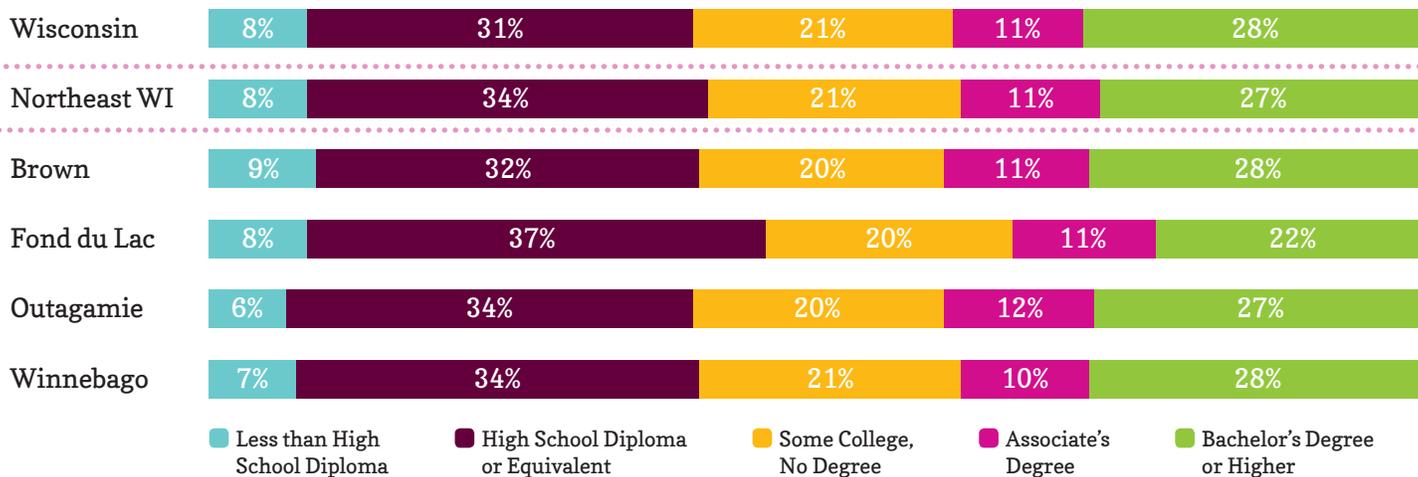
All of the "measurable change" across the counties, from 2009 to 2014, represented increases (improvements) in overall educational attainment—that is, lower percentages with less than high school or a high school diploma as the highest level of education, offset by increases in attainment of associate's and bachelor's degrees.

1 out of 5
women in the region has some college experience but no degree.
Should we be concerned about this? If so, why?

Notably, while Fond du Lac County continues to lag the region in post-secondary educational attainment for women, it showed measurable improvements in the percent of women with associate's and bachelor's degrees.

Compared to their statewide counterparts, women in Northeast WI are more likely to have a high school diploma (or equivalent) as their highest level of education (34% regionally versus 31% statewide).

Educational Attainment of Women Ages 25 and Over Wisconsin and the Northeast region, 5-year average, 2010-2014



Note: Figures may not add due to rounding.

* Black or African-American and Hispanic women have the lowest levels for 4-year college (bachelor's degree or higher).

* Black or African-American and Native American women have "some college, no degree," or an associate's degree* as the most common level of education.

* Asian women have an unusual split in educational attainment with the highest share of women with a bachelor's degree or higher, while also having a high share of women with less than a high school diploma.

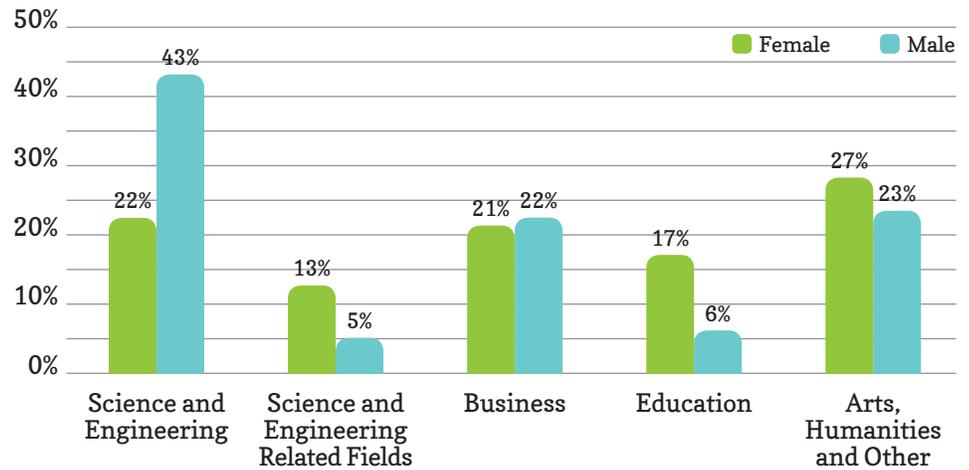
* Hispanic women are the most likely to have less than a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment.

* The most common field of study for women is Arts & Humanities.

* Men are twice as likely as women to pursue a degree in Science and Engineering, while women are three times more likely to major in Education.

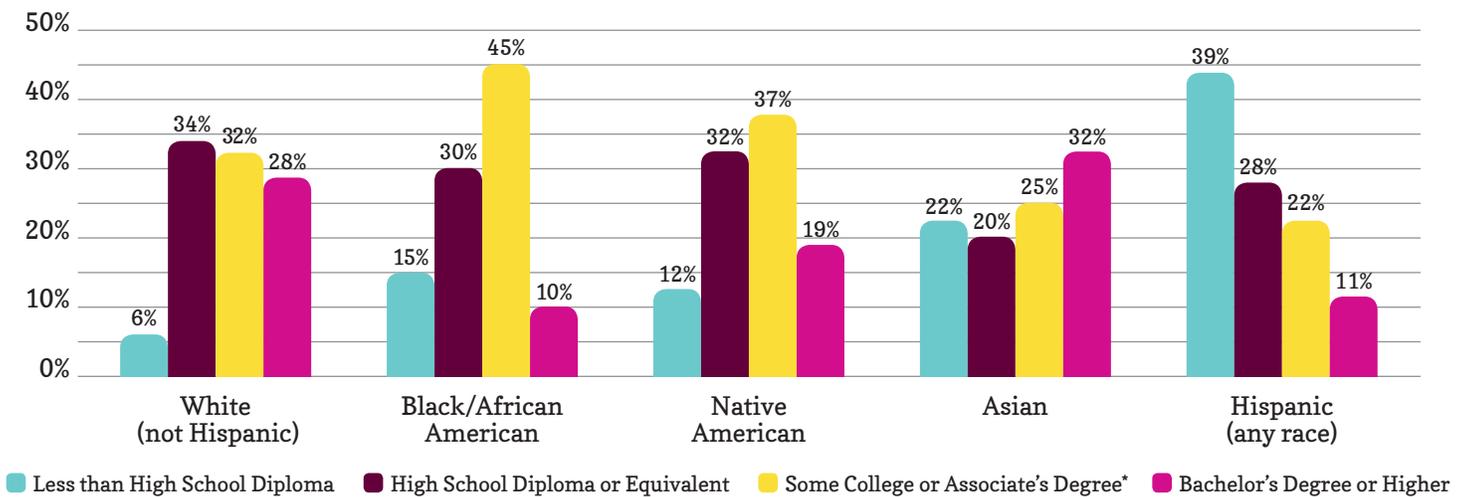
Field for Bachelor's Degrees Earned, by Gender

Age 25-39, holding a Bachelor's degree or above, 2015



Highest Level of Educational Attainment, Northeast WI

Women 25 and older, by race/ethnicity, 2015 (5-year average)



*Census Bureau combines "some college, no degree" with "associate's degree" in reporting educational attainment data for racial/ethnic groups. It is also unknown whether or not "some college, no degree" accounts for certificate or other attainment programs that may not constitute a "degree" for this purpose.

Sources: See Appendix

This research is a collaboration of the Women's Funds of Northeast Wisconsin.