

GUAM STUDENT'S ABILITY
TO READ AND WRITE

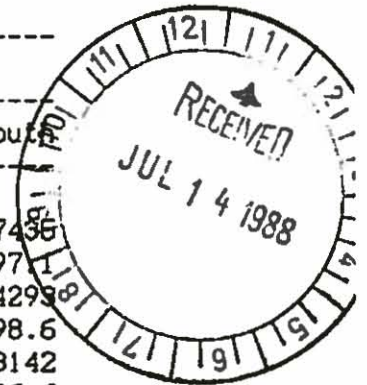
ABILITY TO READ AND WRITE

Fully 99 percent of those 10 to 17 years old in the South could read and write in 1980, as could 95 percent of those in the North and 93 percent in the Central region (Table 9.19). Of those 18 years and older in 1980, 97 percent of those in the North could read and write, 97 percent of those in the South, and 96 percent of those in the Central region.

Table 9.19. Persons 10 years and Over by Ability to Read and Write By Region: 1980

Age Group	Region			
	Total	North	Central	South
Persons 10 yrs +...	80345	36111	26799	17435
Prcnt Able read/write..	96.2	96.5	94.6	97.1
10 to 17 years.....	17970	7769	5908	4293
Prcnt Able read/write..	95.0	94.6	93.1	98.6
18 yrs. and over.....	62375	28342	20891	13142
Prcnt Able read/write..	96.6	97.0	95.0	96.6

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census STF 3A Table 161.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

While 69 percent of those 16 to 64 years were in the labor force, the proportion was higher (87 percent) for those who had completed the requirements of a vocational training program (Table 9.20). The highest labor force participation rate was for those who were in a training program at their place of work (92 percent), followed by those whose school was not reported (90 percent).

Table 9.20. Vocational Training by Labor Force Participation: 1980

Vocational Training	Total	In Labor Force		Civilian LF			
		Nmbr	Perc.	Mill- tary	Empl- ploy	Unem- ploy	Unem- ploy
Persons 16 to 64 yrs.....	63788	43951	68.9	10121	32175	1655	4.9
Completed Requirements.....	16657	14444	86.7	5587	8448	409	4.6
Type of School:							
Business, trade, 2-yr coll..	4863	3885	79.7	452	3264	169	4.9
High School Voc. Prgm.....	1721	1375	79.9	340	967	68	6.6
Training prgm at place of wk	6107	5637	92.3	2673	2856	108	3.6
Other school.....	2082	1846	88.7	1101	707	38	5.1
School not reported.....	1884	1701	90.3	1021	654	26	3.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census PC80-1-C/D54 Table 39.

Over 55 percent of those 16 to 64 years old who were in the military in 1980 had completed the requirements of a vocational training program (Table 9.21).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

A total of 1,133 public and Catholic high school seniors completed the High School and Beyond Survey during January 1988. This number represents a return rate of 95% with 48.9 (554) male and 51.1 (579) female. Five distinct ethnic groups plus the "other" category were represented. Chamorros accounted for 566 or 50% of the respondents. Filipinos, White, Black, Oriental and others were represented by 315 (27.8%) 64 (5.6%) 7 (.6%) 63 (5.6%) and 118 (10.4%), respectively.

RESULTS

Both the general public and educators on Guam are intensely interested in how our island school systems compare to school systems in the U.S. Mainland. In terms of achievement, numerous measures exist that use national norms of achievement to compare pupil achievement on Guam to pupil achievement in the United States. These measures, while important for classroom teachers, are not appropriate for evaluating the quality of instructional programs (Popham, 1978). Besides their generality of content tested, there are other more serious and subtle weaknesses of these tests. One weakness, of particular significance on Guam, is that of cultural and language bias. Many of Guam's pupils come from homes where English is not the primary language. These tests, since they're written in English, then become an examination of language proficiency. Results then become an argument for the institution of special programs to teach English to speakers of other language in our schools. There is also some evidence that transient pupils from the U.S. Mainland (primarily military dependents) perform as well as or better than the U.S. norming group. This lends further support to the notion that the indigenous pupils' below average performance on these tests is a language deficiency problem not related to achievement capabilities.

(Research, Planning and Evaluation Division, Guam Department of Education, 1982 in a Report to the U.S. Air Force Board of Education Liaison Member) or quality of instructional programs.

Since very few measures of quality exist with respect to non-achievement related outcomes, the National High School and Beyond Survey provides a convenient model to compare Guam schools and seniors against the mainland population. The results of the survey are summarized opinions of the SY 1987-88 seniors on the island. *It should be noted, that all the Catholic High schools have submitted survey results for this year.*

The distribution of respondents across the various high schools is presented in Figure 1 below.

School Year 1987-88

see page 109 by Average schools number

SCHOOLS	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
① Oceanview High	114	10.1
⑥ Academy of Our Lady	87	7.7
② Inarajan High	61	5.4
④ George Washington High	291	25.7
③ John F. Kennedy High	244	21.6
⑦ Father Duenas	84	7.4
⑧ Notre Dame	96	8.5
⑤ Simon Sanchez High	113	10.0
⑨ Guam Community College	91	8.0
TOTAL PUBLIC	916	81%
TOTAL CATHOLIC	217	19%
Total	1133	100

Figure 1. Survey Respondents by High School