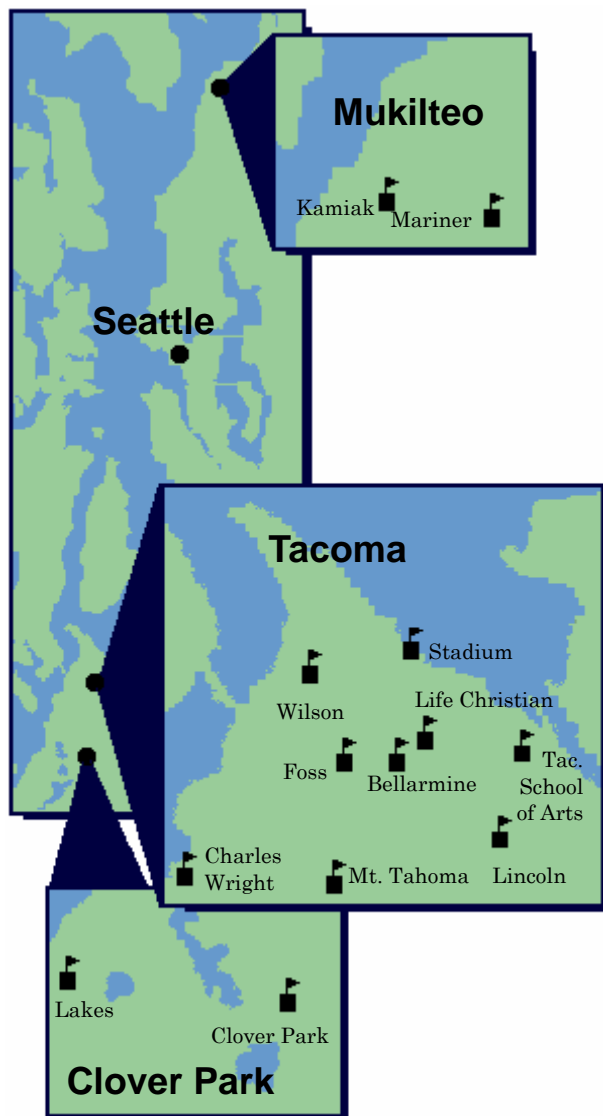




Beyond High School

The University of Washington Study Newsletter

Winter 2007



Greetings from the University of Washington

Dear Participant,

Greetings from the University of Washington! Once again, it is University of Washington Beyond High School (UW-BHS) Study calling. We are not actually calling you this year. This is just our annual newsletter, which is our primary means to keeping in touch and letting you know what is happening on our (and your) project.

The UW-BHS began with the Class of 2000 in the Tacoma Public Schools. We interviewed every student in the Class of 2000 in the spring of their senior year. Then we conducted a short follow-up interview by telephone (or by mail or email) one year later to ask about college enrollment or employment. We continued the project with the Classes of 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005. The project was also expanded to include seniors in the Clover Park and Mukilteo school districts as well as three private high schools: Bellarmine, Life Christian, and Charles Wright. After many years of collecting data, our project is now in a research phase. My colleagues and I, along with a number of graduate students, are writing research studies on a variety of topics, including the impact of high school employment, the transition to college, immigrants, the impact of the Washington State Achiever Program, and plans about marriage and childbearing among high school seniors.

We have not yet contacted you since the follow up survey one year after high school graduation. We do hope to conduct an additional follow up survey of UW-BHS participants in the next five years, but the specific plans are not yet fixed. The data from our project are quite extraordinary, and will be basis of academic research for many many years.

Although you have heard this from me before, I want to reiterate how carefully we guard your privacy. In order to send you this newsletter and to contact you in the future, we do keep a file of names and addresses of all respondents. This file is kept, however, in a locked cabinet, separate from the statistical records of survey respondents. Our research is based on statistical patterns, not individual records. We strictly follow all federal and university regulations that insure the confidentiality of participants in research projects. Everyone who works on our project is committed to upholding the confidentiality and privacy of all UW-BHS respondents.

In this newsletter, we share some results from the UW-BHS data. These results include some finding from our research studies as well as other patterns that we thought would be interesting to you. Thanks again for your participation in our project. We could not do our work without you.

Charles Hirschman
UW Professor of Sociology and UW-BHS Project Director

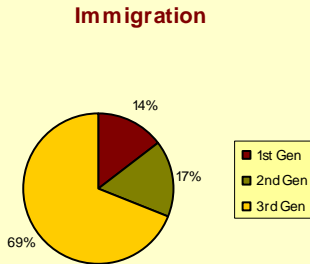
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The Immigration Experience

IMMIGRATION

The Pacific Northwest is a region of great diversity. The migrations of peoples from other regions of the United States as well from abroad have transformed our region. About 14% of students are immigrants—they came to the United States as a child or adolescent. Another 17% are second generation immigrants: they were born in the United States but their parents were immigrants. The balance are third and higher generation Americans,

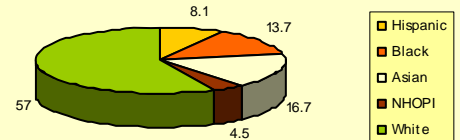


We asked all seniors participating in the survey to rate their overall health. The chart at the right shows the percent reporting good or excellent health. It appears that, on average, health improves with each generation in America.

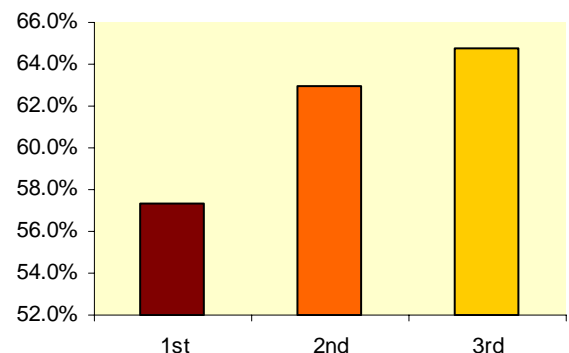
DIVERSITY

This diversity is also reflected in the ethnic identities reported by students in the UW-BHS sample. Only about half—57%—of students are white. The balances of students include many African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, and Pacific Islanders. Increasingly many students reported multiple ancestries. The topic of multiple race and ethnic identities is one of the research questions we hope to study.

Student Diversity

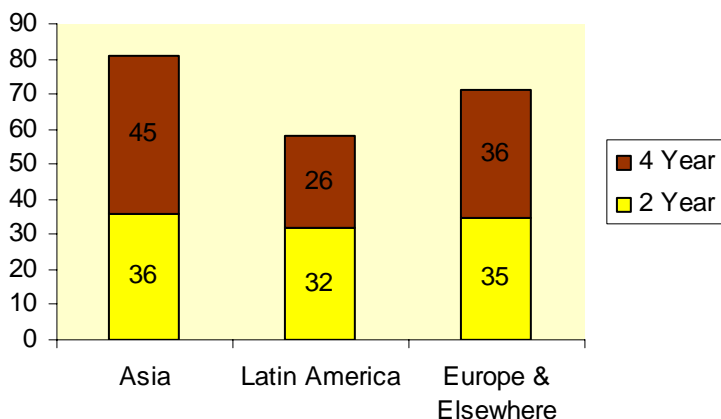


Health & Generation American

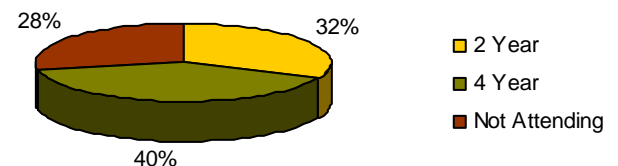


Effect of Generation on Education

1st & 2nd Generation



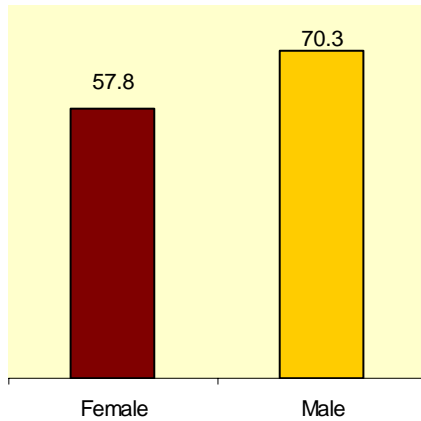
Total 3rd and Higher Generation



Significant differences appear when we examine both generation American and country of origin as they apply to continuing education. The table above and to the left illustrate some of our findings.

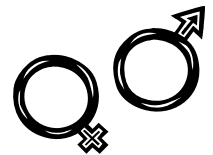
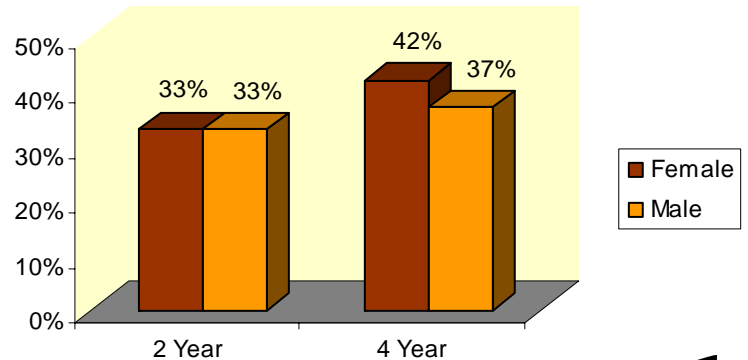
Aspirations and Attainment

Gender and Health



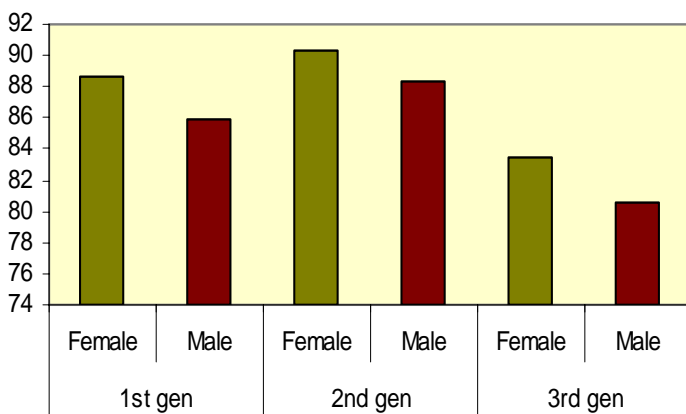
Self reported good health.

College Attendance

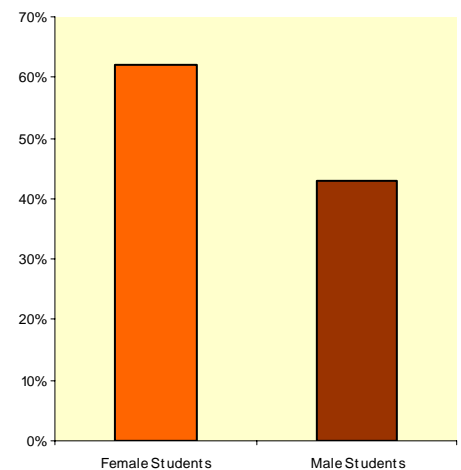


This is a big topic, and our focus is simply on the differences between male and female students in their academic performance and college attendance. Females do better than males in school. About 60% of females report receiving mostly A's and B's (or higher) in high school compared to 40% of males. There is a much smaller, but still significant female advantage in parental encouragement. Daughters were about five percentage points more likely to report that their families always expected to go to college than were sons. This difference in encouragement may be due to the fact that females receive, on average, higher grades than males.

Family Encouragement

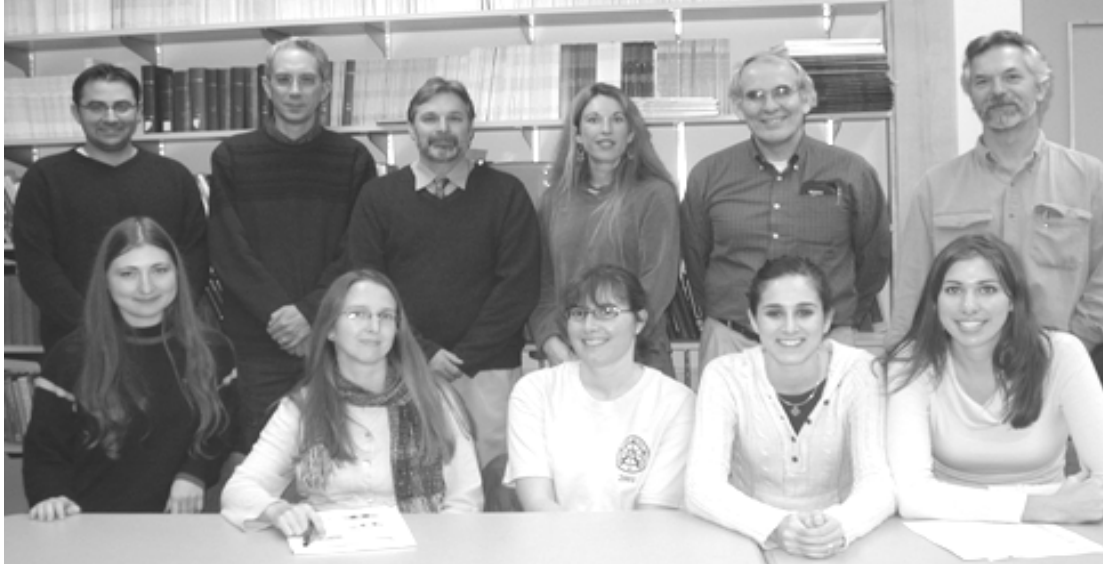


% Grades A to B+



About Us

Meet the team!



Nick Pharris-Ciurej has been a research assistant on the project for two years and is a graduate student in the sociology department at the UW. His undergraduate degree is from... Nick currently has three papers under review for publication.



Our newest member....

Tony Perez recently joined our team after receiving his PhD in Sociology and Public Policy from the University of Michigan. His dissertation title "Muddy Waters: The Fluidity and Complexity of Racial and Ethnic Identification in the U.S." reflects his sense of humor, interest in music, as well as his greater focus on issues of race and ethnic identity. He has published papers in the Journal of Black Studies and in Health, Education, and Behavior, and has several more under review, including one entitled "Hispanic Today, Gone Tomorrow: Locating Ethnic Identity among Latino/a Youth."



Irina Voloshin, a graduate student research assistant, has been a part of the project since 2003. Irina has followed a varied path to graduate school. She is originally from Odessa, and moved with her family to the Bay Area at the age of 12. After studying classical piano for much of her early life, Irina switched paths and received her undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of Texas before joining the UW doctoral program in sociology. Irina studies occupational trends, and her paper on teenage employment trends is currently under review for publication.

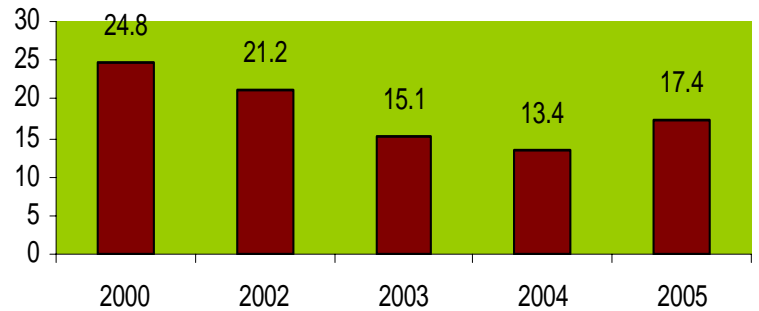


Smoking

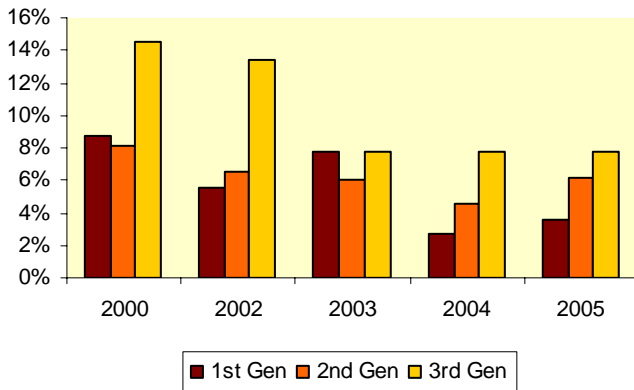
In 2000, about one in eight high school students in our study reported that they were current smokers. This figure has dropped about 50% from the Class of 2000 to the Class of 2005. At present, only about 1 on 14 seniors in our study reported that they were regular smokers. This decrease can be largely explained by the rise in cost of cigarettes and public health campaigns against smoking. This is very good news. In addition to the higher likelihood of mortality and sickness among smokers, the monetary costs of smoking are considerable.



Total Ever Smoked

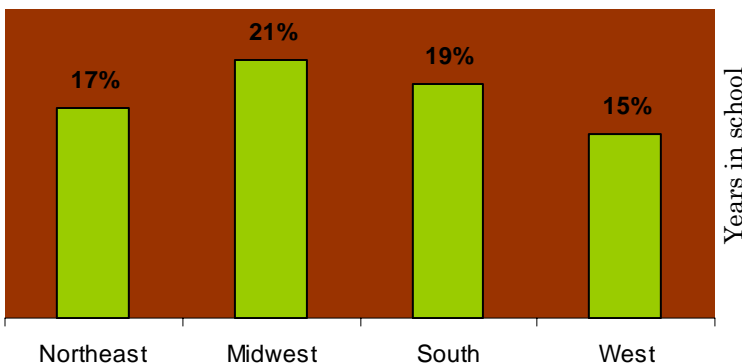


Immigration and Smoking

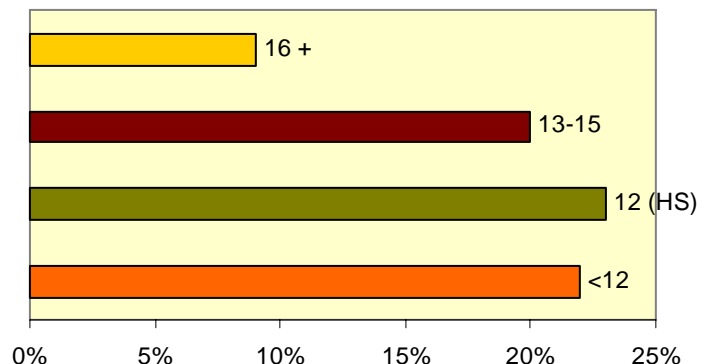


While the pattern of 3rd and higher generation students follows that of the overall downward trend, there is no distinguishable pattern to earlier generation smoking trends.

US Smoking Average



Education & Smoking



UW Beyond High School Research Project

Surveys of High School Seniors, Classes of 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, & 2005:

Thank you for participating, Seniors!

Future Follow-up Surveys:

Classes of 2000, '02, '03, & '04

At this point we hope to conduct our second follow-up survey in the next few years, perhaps 6 to 7 years after your high school graduation. You should be hearing from us soon.

Class of 2005

Thank you for your great response to our one year follow-up! Your participation is what makes our project successful.

Take a Look at Our
Website

<http://depts.washington.edu/uwbhs>

The Beyond High School Project Team

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Graduate Research Assistants: Nikolas Pharris-Ciurej, Irina Voloshin

Project Staff: Patricia Glynn, Michele Hanzeli, Ashley Isaksen, Julie Miller

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