

Table 104.—General Educational Development (GED) credentials issued, and number and age of test takers: United States and outlying areas, 1971 to 1996

Year	Number of credentials issued, in thousands ¹	Number completing test battery, in thousands ²	Number of test takers, in thousands ³	Percentage distribution of test takers, by age				
				19 years old or less	20- to 24-year-olds	25- to 29-year-olds	30- to 34-year-olds	35 years old or over
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1971	227	—	377	—	—	—	—	—
1972	245	—	419	—	—	—	—	—
1973	249	—	423	—	—	—	—	—
1974	295	412	540	35	27	13	9	17
1975	342	507	652	33	26	14	9	18
1976	337	507	656	31	28	14	10	17
1977	331	488	680	40	24	13	9	14
1978	381	467	641	31	27	13	10	19
1979	435	583	744	35	27	13	8	16
1980	488	708	779	37	27	13	8	15
1981	500	701	770	37	27	13	8	15
1982	494	692	756	37	28	13	8	15
1983	477	678	740	34	29	14	9	15
1984	437	613	676	32	28	15	9	16
1985	427	622	685	33	26	15	10	16
1986	439	648	713	33	26	15	10	16
1987	458	662	729	33	24	15	10	18
1988	421	617	701	36	23	14	10	17
1989	364	554	645	36	24	13	10	16
1990	419	628	727	35	25	14	10	17
1991	471	672	770	33	27	14	10	17
1992	465	653	754	32	28	13	11	16
1993	476	652	757	33	27	14	11	16
1994	499	684	793	34	26	13	10	16
1995	513	698	803	37	25	13	10	15
1996	514	733	842	40	25	13	9	15

¹ Number of people receiving high school equivalency credentials based on the GED tests.

² Number of people completing the entire GED battery of five tests.

³ Number of people taking the GED tests (one or more subtests).

—Data not available.

NOTE.—Because of rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Some data have been revised from previously published figures.

SOURCE: American Council on Education, General Educational Development Testing Service. (This table was prepared August 1998.)