

Introduction: *Utah Women and Education Research Snapshots*



Utah Women and Education Project researchers conducted in-depth research in 2010 to discover why more young women around the state are not attending and graduating from college. Twelve *Research Snapshots* were written to help disseminate the findings to Utah citizens. They were written especially for girls, women, and those who influence them (e.g., parents; guidance counselors; teachers; school administrators; siblings; relatives; neighbors; church leaders; government leaders and legislators; nonprofit leaders and employers; and higher education faculty, staff, and administrators).

RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS Table of Contents

- No. 1: The Benefits of Higher Education for Women in Utah
- No. 2: The Influence of a Father on a Daughter's College Decision
- No. 3: The Influence of a Mother on a Daughter's College Decision
- No. 4: The Influence of School Counselors and Administrators on a Young Woman's College Decision
- No. 5: The Influence of Teachers on a Young Woman's College Decision
- No. 6: The Influence of College Preparation Activities on a Young Woman's College Decision
- No. 7: The Influence of School Activities and Leadership Roles on a Young Woman's College Decision
- No. 8: The Influence of Finances on a Young Woman's College Decision
- No. 9: The Influence of Aspirations on a Young Woman's College Decision
- No. 10: The Influence of Other Significant People on a Young Woman's College Decision
- No. 11: The Influence of Religion and Values on a Young Woman's College Decision
- No. 12: The College Attendance Decisions of Young Women in Utah

Other Resources

The Utah Women and Education Project team has written and produced additional resources, which are located at www.uvu.edu/wep or by request:

- Video 1: "Making College a Priority: The Benefits of Higher Education for Women in Utah"
- Video 2: "Pieces of the Puzzle: Influencing Utah Women to Graduate from College"
- Video 3: "In Their Own Words: The Voices of Utah Women about Their College Choices"
- Research and Policy Brief 1: "The Value of Higher Education for Women in Utah"
- Research and Policy Brief 2: "Women and Higher Education in Utah: A Glimpse at the Past and Present"
- Report 1: "IPEDS Enrollment and Graduation Report—2007 Data"
- Report 2: "IPEDS Enrollment and Graduation Report—2008 Data"
- Higher Education Resource Checklist
- Utah High School Resources
- Educational Resources Lists for Utah Universities and Colleges
- Directory of Research on Women and Education in Utah: 2010
- Utah Women and Education Blog



High School Type: regular public (92.2%), alternative public (2.9%), public charter (1.6%), private (1.6%), home school (1.6%)

Limitations

- The lack of participants from minority populations
- The lack of participants from religions other than LDS/Mormon
- The combination of various recruiting strategies to find enough participants (not a random sample across Utah)
- Perceptions from one point in time (participants addressed questions related to the past, present, and future all within a two-hour timeframe)
- Many of the statistics came from careful coding of qualitative data
- Causality is difficult to demonstrate in this type of research

Caution should be used in generalizing the results for this research study to the female population at large.

Research Participants and Model

Number: 245 participants

Counties: Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Emery, Grant, Iron, Kane, Millard, Salt Lake, Sanpete, Sevier, Tooele, Uintah, Utah, Washington, and Weber

Regions: Bear River (8.6%), Central (7.4%), Mountainland (32.4%), Southeastern (0.8%), Southwestern (14.8%), Uintah Basin (0.4%), and Wasatch Front (34.8%)

Ages: 18 years old (13.1%), 19 (11.4%), 20-21 (18.4%), 22-24 (22.4%), 25-28 (22.4%), 29-32 (12.2%)

Marital Status: single (46.9%), married (44.1%), separated/divorced (2.4%), living with partner (6.5%)

Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian/White (89.8%), Hispanic/Latina (4.5%), Pacific Islander (4.1%), American Indian/Alaskan Native (0.8%), Asian (0.4%), Mixed (0.4%)

Religion: LDS/Mormon (80.4%), None (13.1%), Catholic (4.1%), and Other Christian (2.4%)

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS

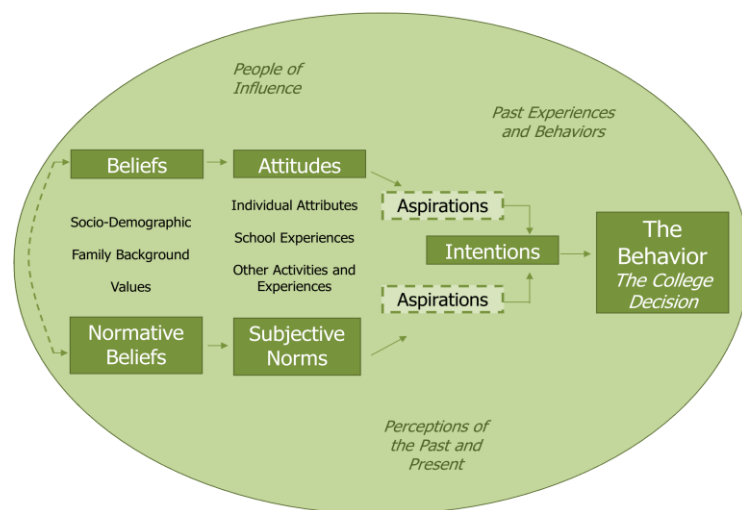
Parents Estimated Income: over \$100,000 (12.7%); \$75,000-\$99,999 (10.6%); \$50,000-\$74,999 (26.1%); \$35,000-\$49,999 (18.8%); \$20,000-\$34,999 (18.8%); and less than \$19,999 (13.1%)

Years in Utah: more than 17 years (68%), 10-17 years (23%), less than 10 years (9%)

Family Years in Utah: both parents Utah natives (46.9%), only mother Utah native (9.4%), only father Utah native (9.4%), neither parent Utah native (30.2%), unknown (4.1%)

Ancestors in Utah: Pioneers (28.2%), 100+ years (15.9%), 40+ years (17.6%), ancestors did not live in Utah (25.3%), history unknown (13.1%)

Research Model



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