

DATE: January 14, 2004

TO: Parent Center Chief GED Examiners, Alternate Examiners,
ABE Coordinators, Other Interested Parties

FROM: Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

SUBJECT: Iowa GED Statistical Report for Calendar Year 2003
(January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003)

INTRODUCTION: The following information summarizes the major statistical trends relative to Iowa's GED testing program for Calendar Year 2003.

STATISTICAL TRENDS: The following data summarizes some of the significant trends based on total testing volume (N=6,845).

- 95 percent passed by Iowa state standards.
- The average highest grade completed for Iowa's GED candidates is 11.0 as compared to a national average of 9.9.
- The average age of Iowa's GED candidates is 24.7 compared to the national average of 25.2.
- 55.5 percent were male and 44.5 percent were female.
- 78 percent were majority and 21 percent were minority. The 21 percent minority figure compares to an overall 6 percent minority population figure for Iowa's adult education population according to 2000 census figures.
- The number of Iowa High School Equivalency Diplomas issued in Calendar Year 2003 was 3,845.
- The three (3) major reasons for testing were: 1) Higher Education/Training (32.4%), 2) Personal Satisfaction (25%), and 3) Employment Related (24.2%).
- 83.5 percent of the candidates tested were between the ages of 16-29 (39 percent were between the ages of 16-19 and 44.5 percent were between the ages of 20-29).

SUMMARY: The GED testing program in Iowa has traditionally sustained a 89-92 percent GED candidates' pass rate. Iowa has always ranked in the top ten states for GED candidates' pass rate. This high pass rate is an excellent testimony to the effectiveness of Iowa's ABE/GED instructional and GED testing delivery system. Iowa's high pass rate is due to a large extent, to the fact that 94 percent of Iowa's GED candidates are direct referrals from the ABE/GED instructional component. Iowa has successfully met the state benchmark pass range (94-96%) for calendar years 1998-2003.

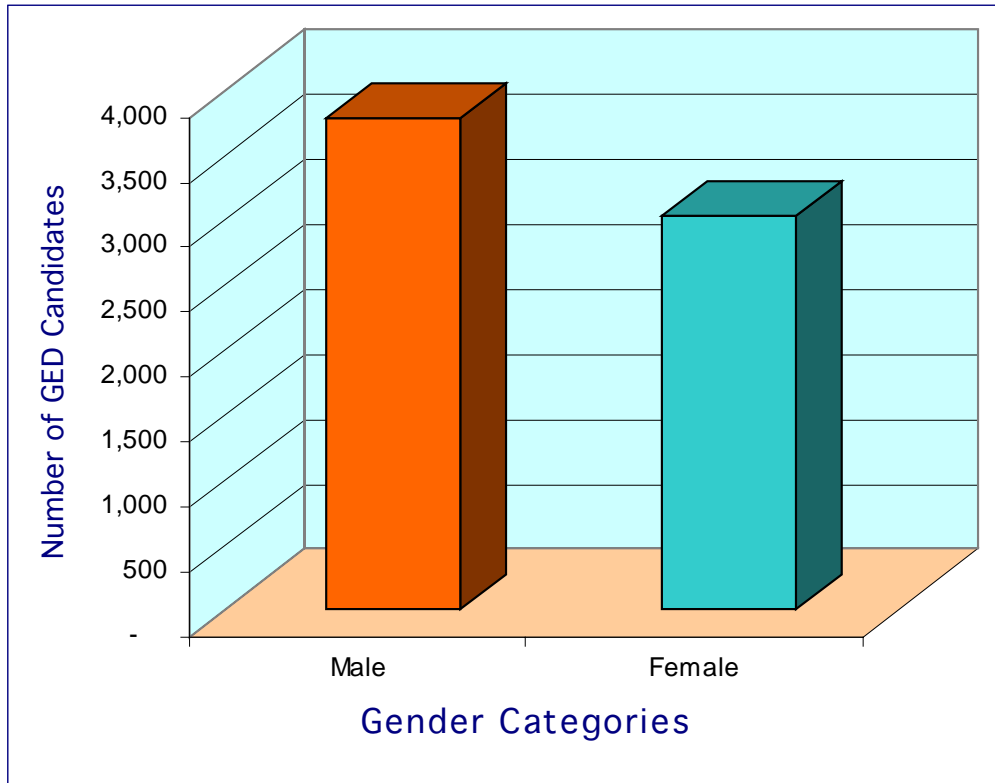
If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John Hartwig
Iowa State GED Administrator
Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

GRAPH 1

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Gender Category for Calendar Year 2003

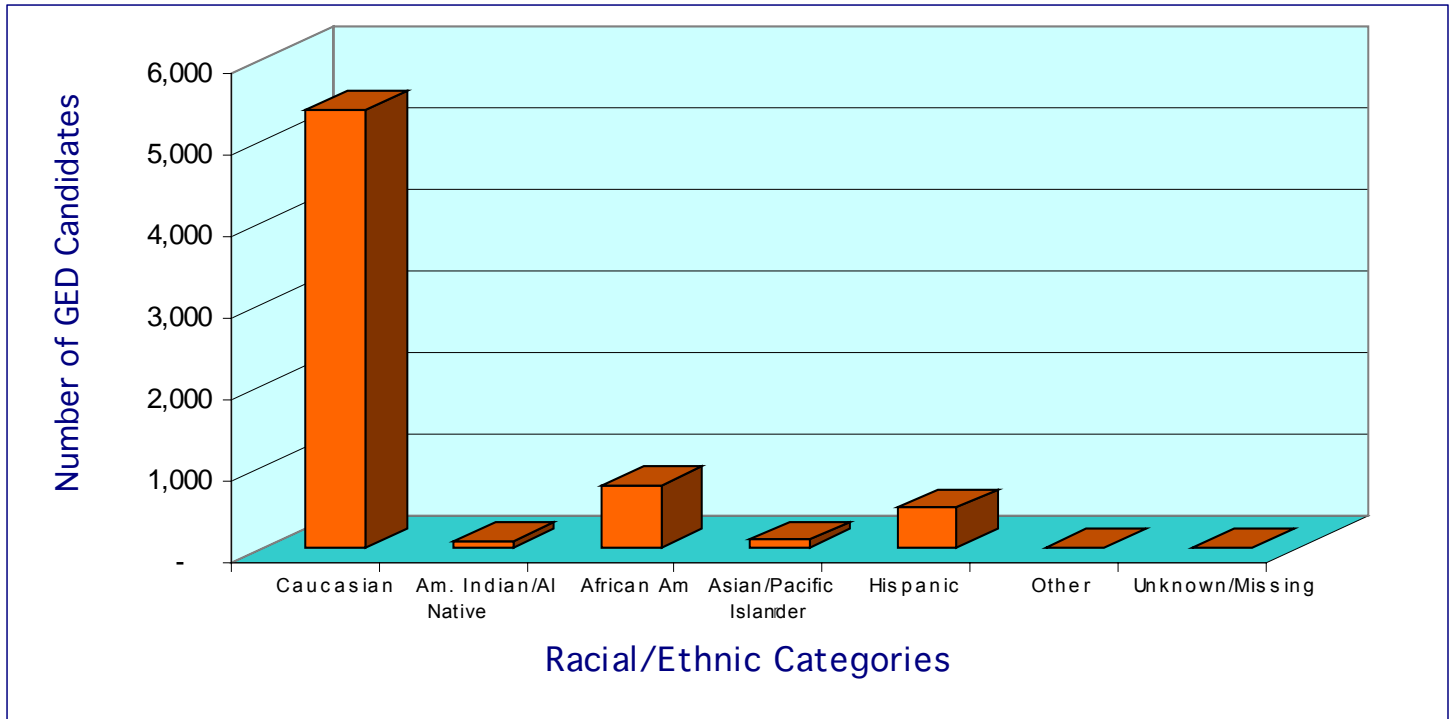


Category	N	Percent
Male	3,799	55.5
Female	3,046	44.5
	6,845	100.0

SOURCE: 2003 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

GRAPH 2

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Racial/Ethnic Category for Calendar Year 2003

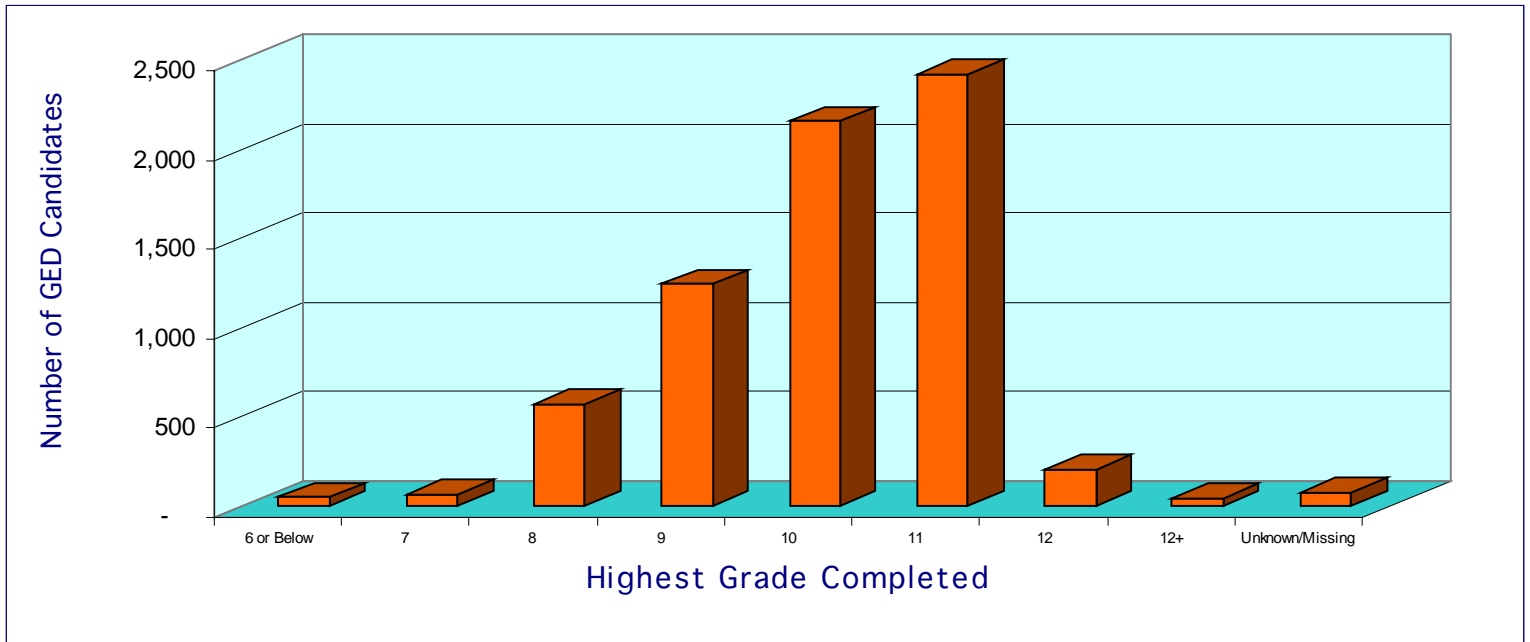


Racial/Ethnic Category	N	Percent
Caucasian	5,390	78.7
American Indian/Alaskan Native	81	1.2
African American	779	11.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	95	1.4
Hispanic	495	7.2
Other	4	0.1
Unknown/Missing	1	0.0
	<u>6,845</u>	<u>100.0</u>

79 percent were majority and 21 percent were minority. The 21 percent minority figure for GED candidates compares to an overall 6 percent minority population figure for Iowa's adult population according to 2000 census figures.

GRAPH 3

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Highest Grade Completed for Calendar Year 2003



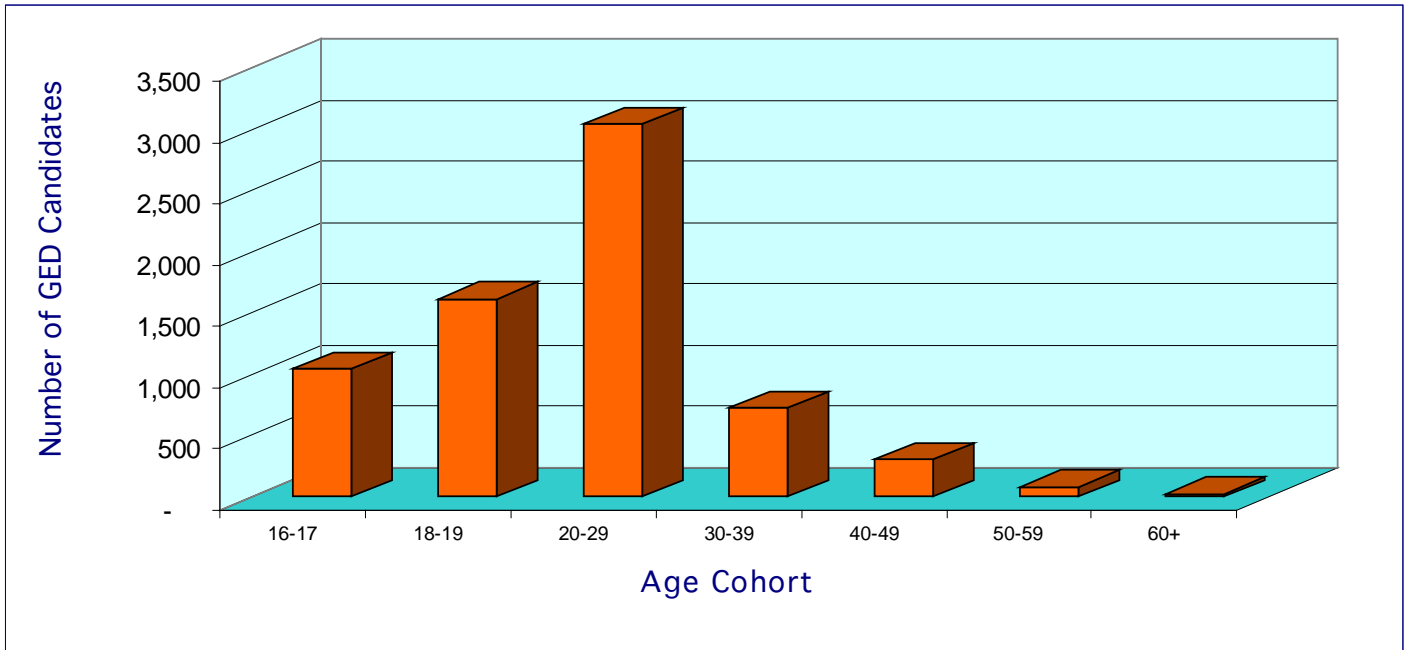
Highest Grade Level Completed	N	Percent
6 or Below	51	0.7
7	65	.9
8	572	8.4
9	1,245	18.2
10	2,157	31.5
11	2,424	36.4
12	205	3.0
12+	82	1.2
Unknown/Missing	44	.6
Total	6,845	100.0

Highest grade completed is 11.0 compared to the national average of 9.9.

SOURCE: 2003 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

GRAPH 4

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Age Cohorts for Calendar Year 2003



Age Cohort	N	Percent
16-17	1,047	15.3
18-19	1,620	23.7
20-29	3,047	44.5
30-39	725	10.6
40-49	303	4.4
50-59	81	1.2
60+	22	0.3
Total	6,845	100.0

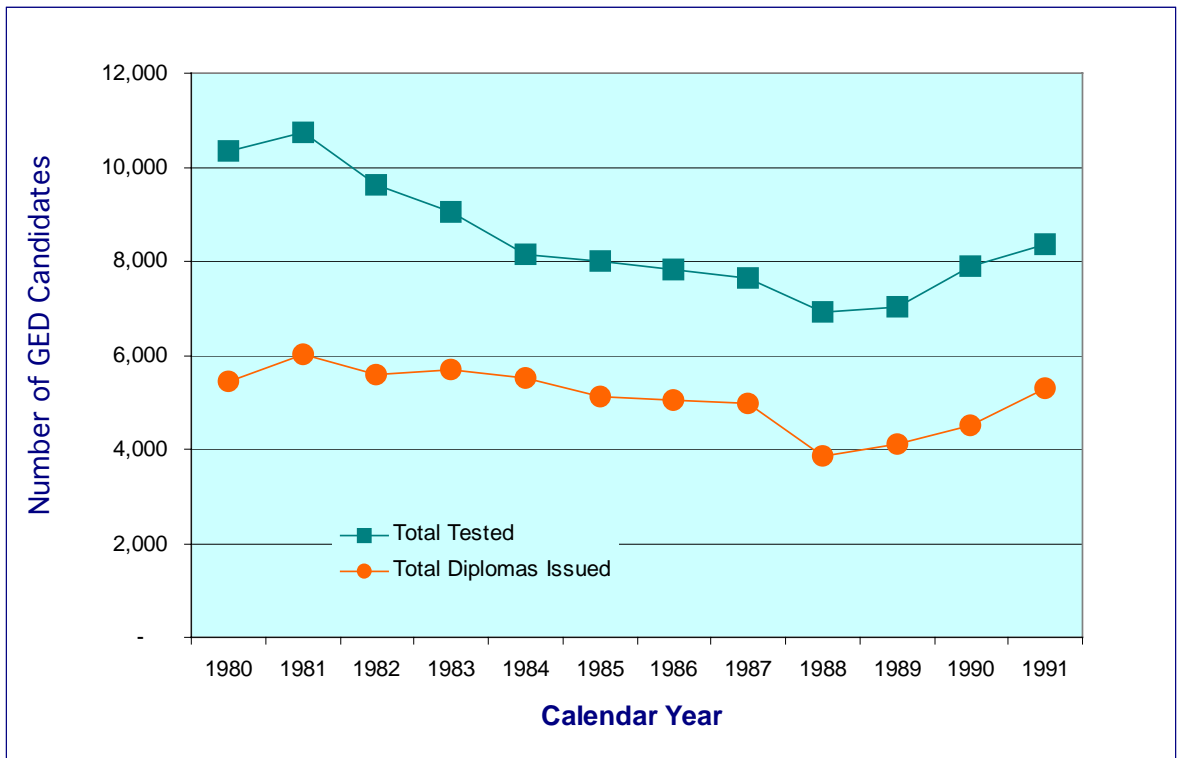
Average age is 24.7 compared to the national average of 25.2.

SOURCE: 2003 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

GRAPH 5

A Comparison of:

- 1) Total Number of Iowa GED Candidates Tested,
- 2) Number of GED Candidates Who Received the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma from Calendar Years 1980-1991



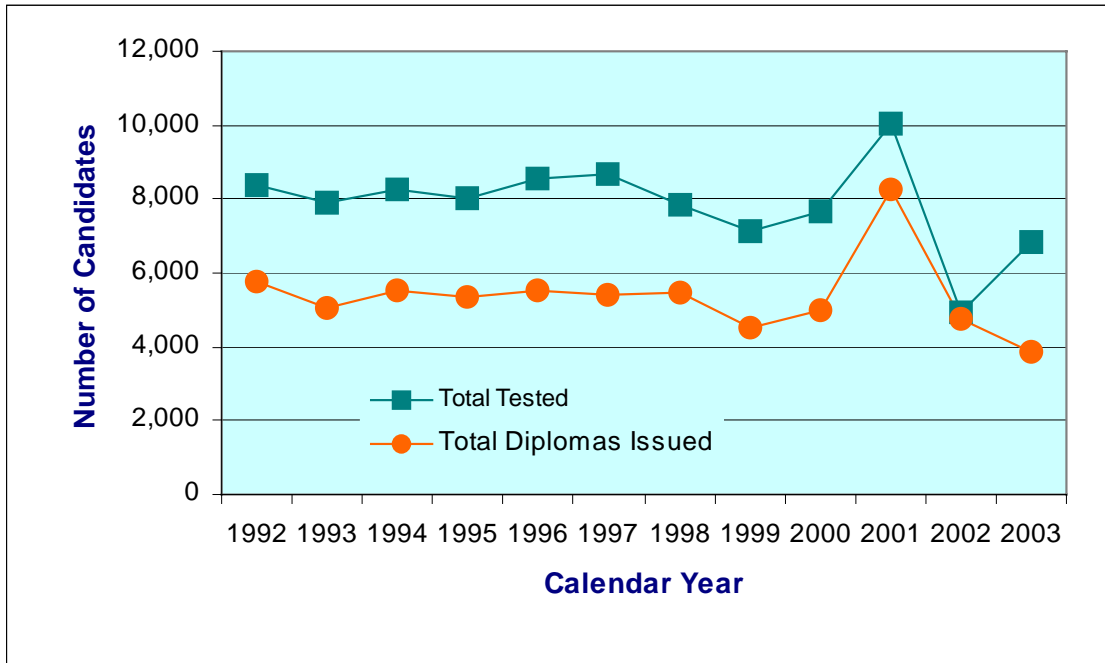
Calendar Year	Total Tested	Total Diplomas Issued
1980	10,342	5,452
1981	10,753	6,024
1982	9,635	5,602
1983	9,035	5,710
1984	8,147	5,531
1985	8,003	5,106
1986	7,832	5,036
1987	7,650	4,957
1988	6,902	3,858
1989	7,027	4,126
1990	7,909	4,497
1991	8,373	5,305

SOURCE: 1980-1991 GED Annual Statistical Reports and 1980-1991 GED Diploma Recipient Reports: Iowa Department of Education

GRAPH 6

A Comparison of:

- 1) Total Number of Iowa GED Candidates Tested,
- 2) Number of GED Candidates Who Received the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma from Calendar Years 1992-2003



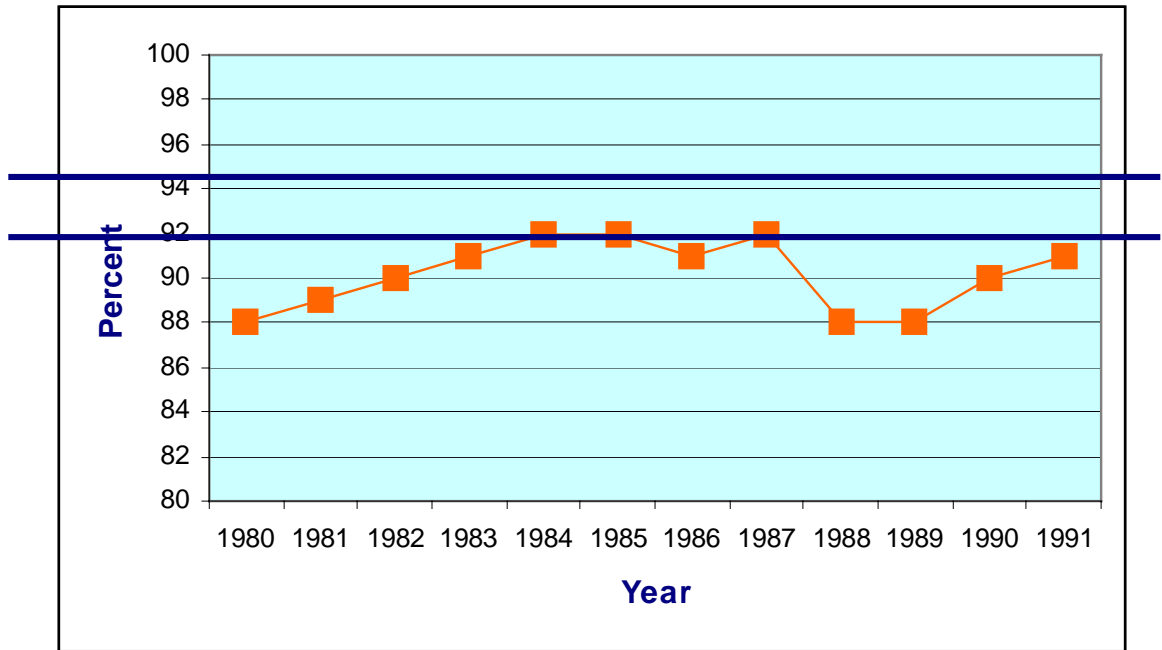
Calendar Year	Total Tested	Total Diplomas Issued
1992	8,348	5,764
1993	7,917	5,063
1994	8,277	5,525
1995	8,044	5,372
1996	8,566	5,525
1997	8,666	5,377
1998	7,871	5,448
1999	7,120	4,544
2000	7,666	4,983
2001	10,061	8,259
2002	*4,915	4,763
2003	6,845	3,845

*The test volume decreased due to the change to the GED 2002 tests.

SOURCE: 1992-2003 GED Annual Statistical Reports and 1992-2002 GED Diploma Recipient Reports: Iowa Department of Education

GRAPH 7

Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent: 1980-1991



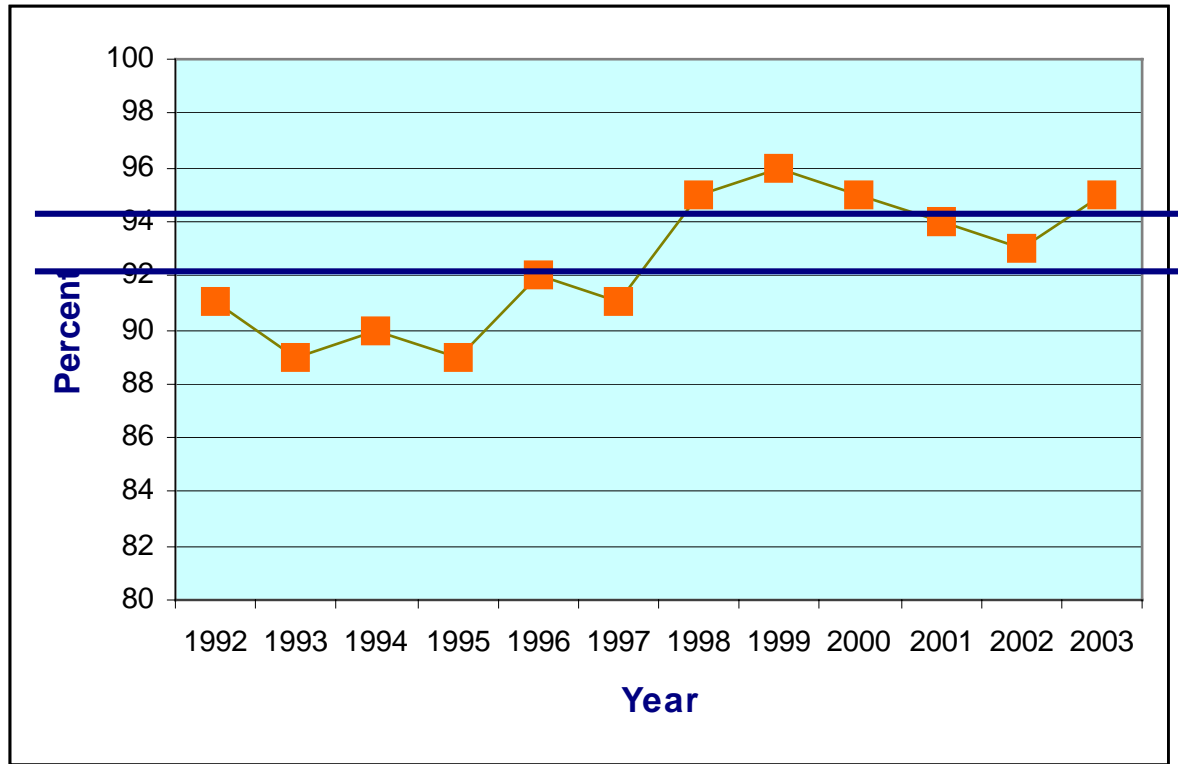
Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)
1980	88
1981	89
1982	90
1983	91
1984	92
1985	92
1986	91
1987	92
1988	88
1989	88
1990	90
1991	91

The 95 percent pass rate meets the accountability range of 92-95 percent pass rate for Iowa's GED testing program. The national average pass rate is 68.6 percent.

SOURCE: 1980-1991 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

GRAPH 8

Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent: 1992-2003



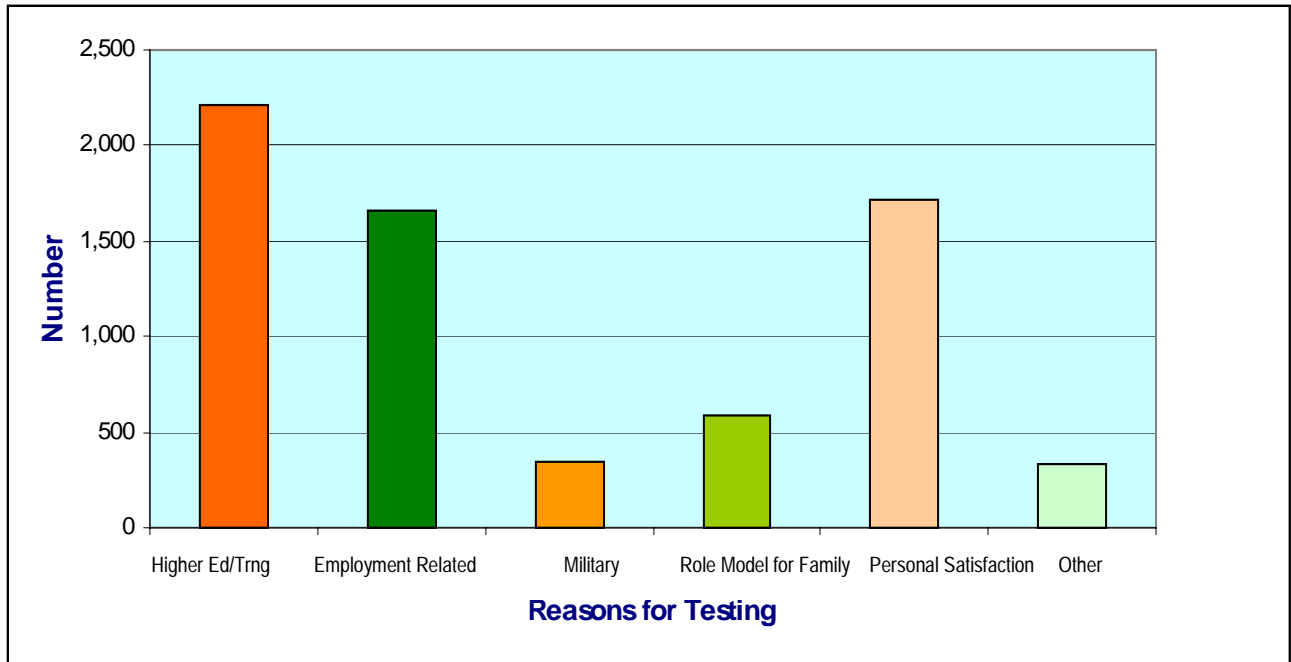
Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)
1992	91
1993	89
1994	90
1995	89
1996	92
1997	91
1998	95
1999	96
2000	95
2001	94
2002	93
2003	95

The 95 percent pass rate meets the accountability range of 92-95 percent pass rate for Iowa's GED testing program. The national average pass rate is 68.6 percent.

SOURCE: 1992-2003 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

GRAPH 9

Reasons for Testing



Reason	N	Percent
Higher Education/Training	2,211	32.4
Employment Related	1,658	24.2
Military	344	5.0
Role Model for Family	583	8.5
Personal Satisfaction	1,714	25.0
Other	<u>335</u>	<u>4.9</u>
	6,845	100.0

The three (3) major reasons for testing were: 1) Higher Education/Training (32.4%), 2) Personal Satisfaction (25%), and 3) Employment Related (24.2%).