

DATE: January 9, 2003

TO: Parent Center Chief GED Examiners, Alternate Examiners, ABE
Coordinators

FROM: Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

SUBJECT: Iowa GED Statistical Report for Calendar Year 2002
(January 1, 2002-December 31, 2002)

INTRODUCTION: The following information summarizes the major statistical trends relative to Iowa's GED testing program for calendar year 2002 (N=4,915).

STATISTICAL TRENDS: The following data summarizes some of the significant trends based on total testing volume.

- 93 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
- 57.7 percent were male and 42.3 percent were female.
- 64 percent were majority and 17 percent were minority. The 17 percent minority figure compares to an overall 6% 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 2002 was 4,763.

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 (92-95 percent) for calendar years 1998-2002.

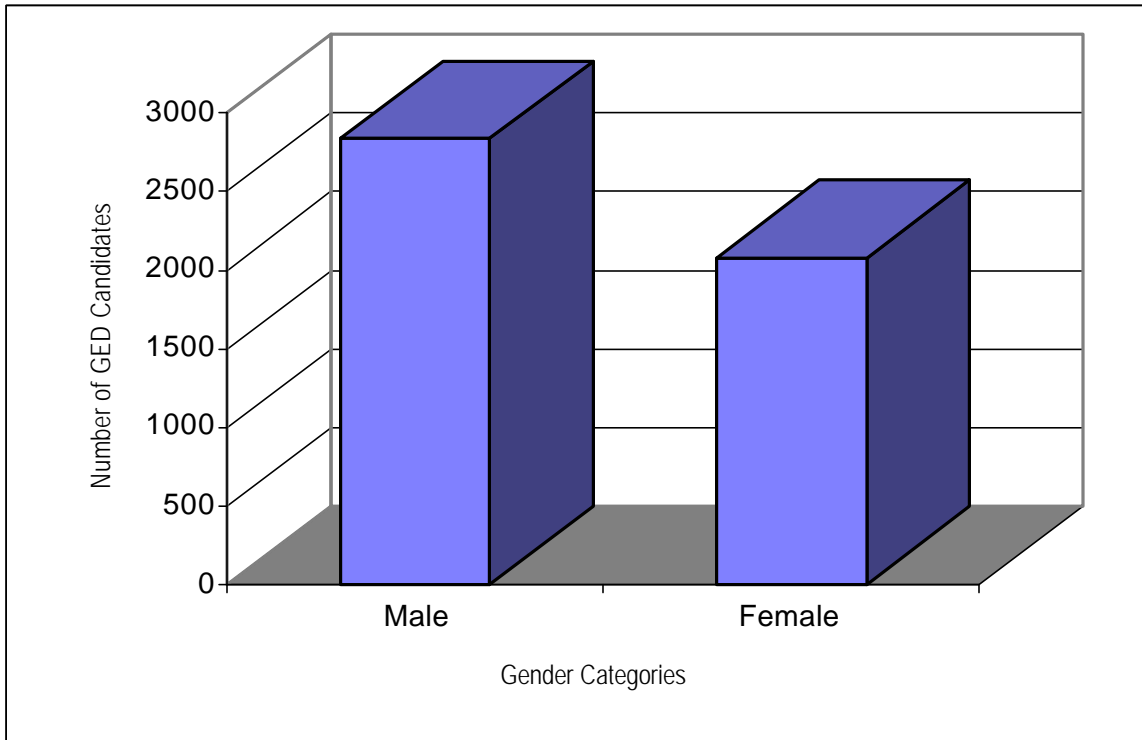
If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

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

Graph 1

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Gender Category for Calendar Year 2002

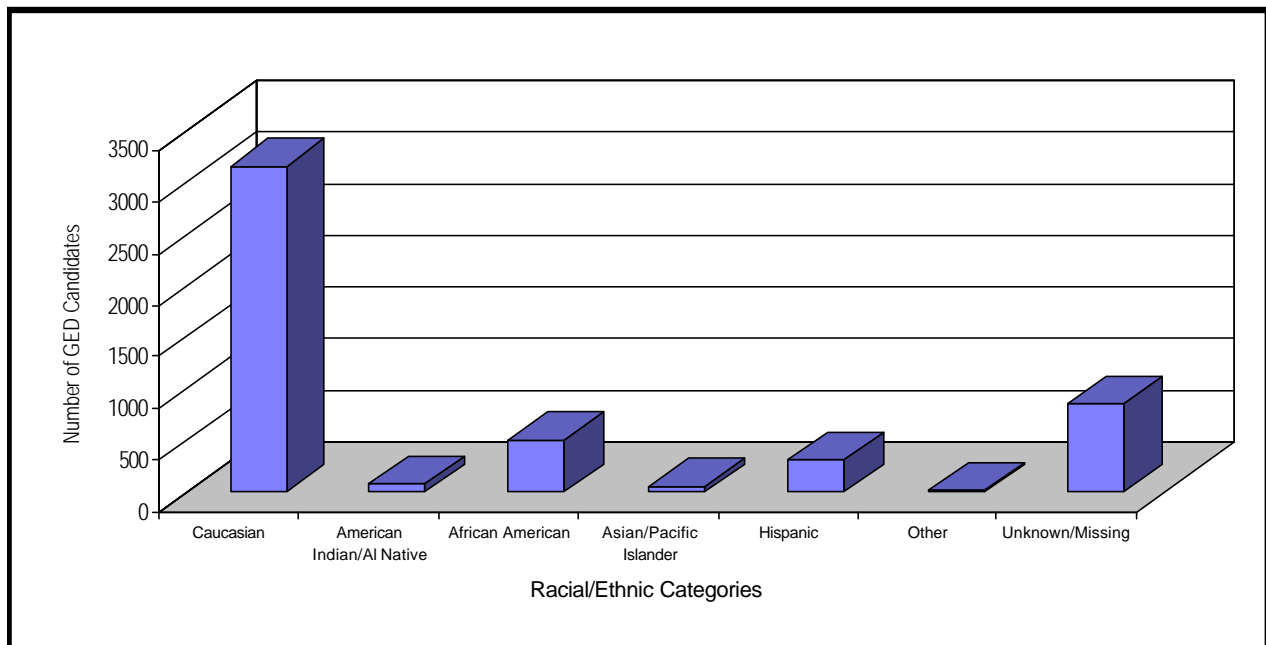


Gender Category	N	Percent
Male	2,835	57.70
Female	2,080	42.30
	<u>4,915</u>	<u>100.00</u>

Source: 2002 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

Graph 2

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Racial/Ethnic Category for Calendar Year 2002



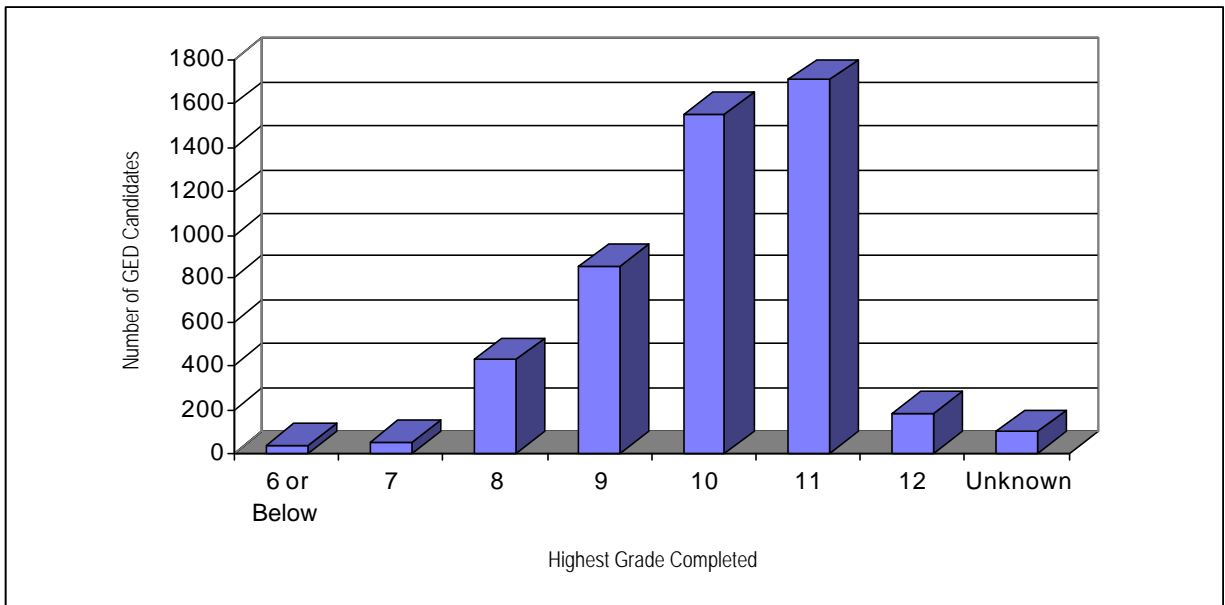
Racial Ethnic Category	N	Percent
Caucasian	3,150	64.1
Amer. Indian/Al. Native	72	1.5
African American	500	11.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	57	0.1
Hispanic	291	5.9
Other	2	0.0
Unknown/Missing	843	17.2
Total	4,915	100.00

64% were majority and 17% were minority. The 17% minority figure for GED candidates compares to an overall 6% minority population figure for Iowa's adult population according to 2000 census figures.

Source: 2002 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

Graph 3

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Highest Grade Completed for Calendar Year 2002



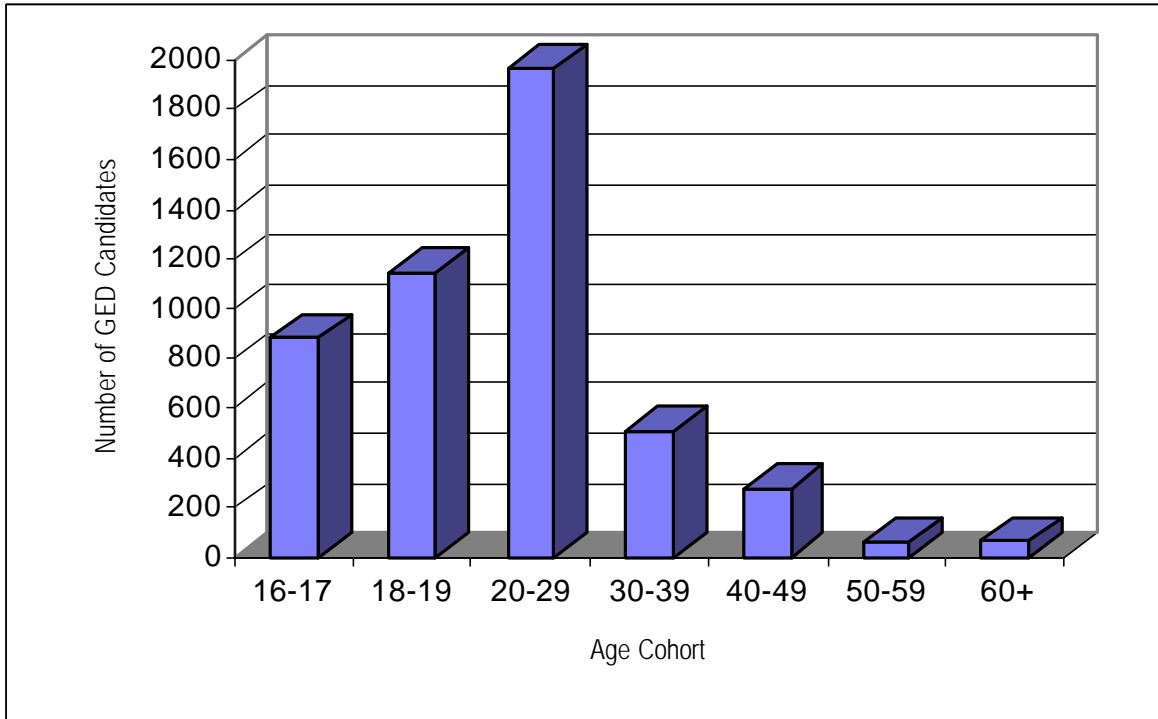
Highest Grade Level Completed	N	Percent
6 or Below	35	.07
7	49	1.00
8	431	8.80
9	858	17.45
10	1,557	31.70
11	1,708	34.80
12	183	3.70
Unknown/Missing	94	1.90
Total	4,915	100.00

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

Source: 2002 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

Graph 4

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Age Cohorts for Calendar Year 2002



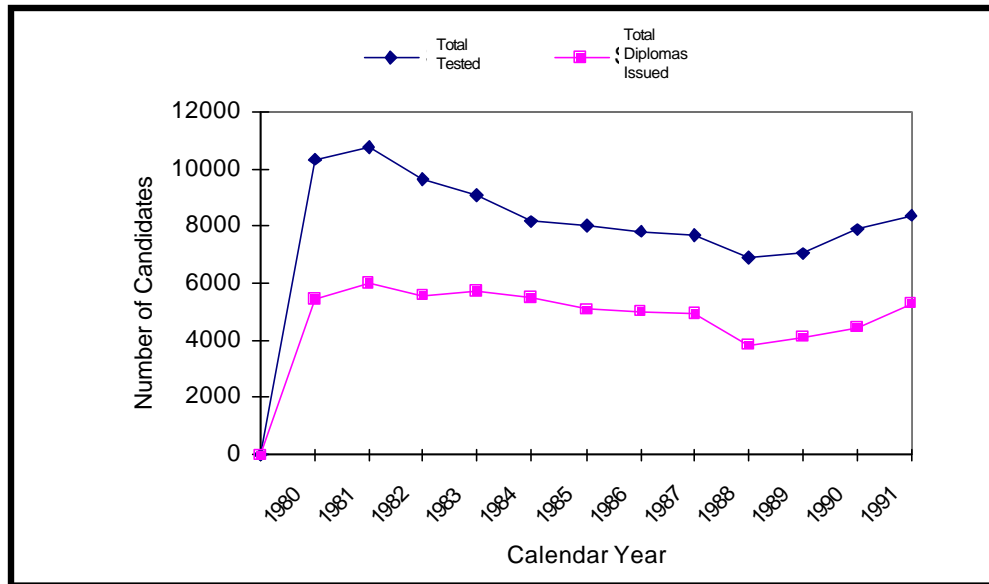
Age Cohort	N	Percent
16-17	884	18.0
18-19	1,144	23.3
20-29	1,962	39.9
30-39	513	10.4
40-49	278	5.6
50-59	65	1.3
60+	69	1.4
Total	4,915	100.00

Average age is 24.7 compared to the national average of 25.2

Source: 2002 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

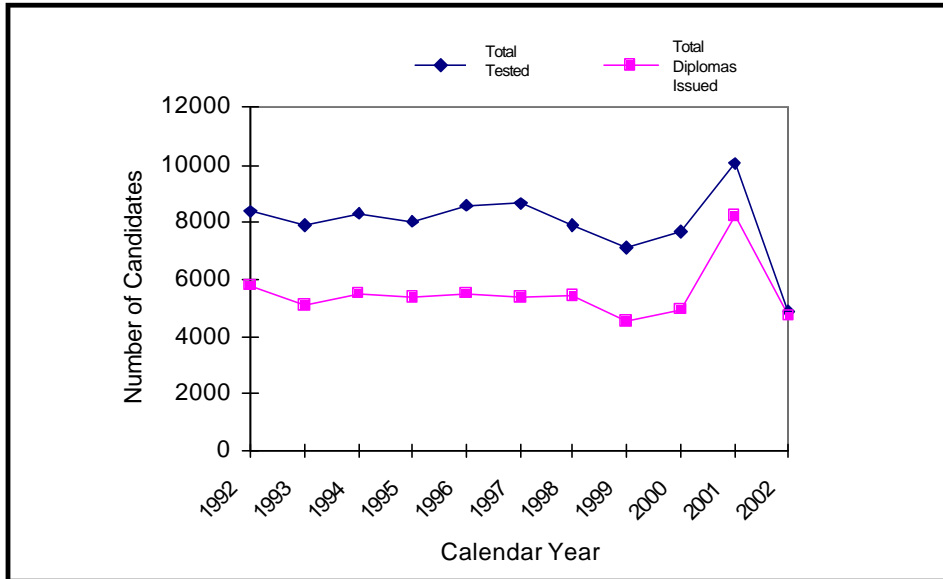


Calendar Year	Total Tested	Total Diplomas Issued
1980	10,342	5,452
1981	10,753	6,024
1982	9,635	5,602
1983	9,035	5,710
1984	8,147	5,531
1985	8,003	5,106
1986	7,832	5,036
1987	7,650	4,957
1988	6,902	3,858
1989	7,027	4,126
1990	7,909	4,497
1991	8,373	5,305

Source: 1980-1991 GED Annual Statistical Reports and 1980-2002 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 1992-2002



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

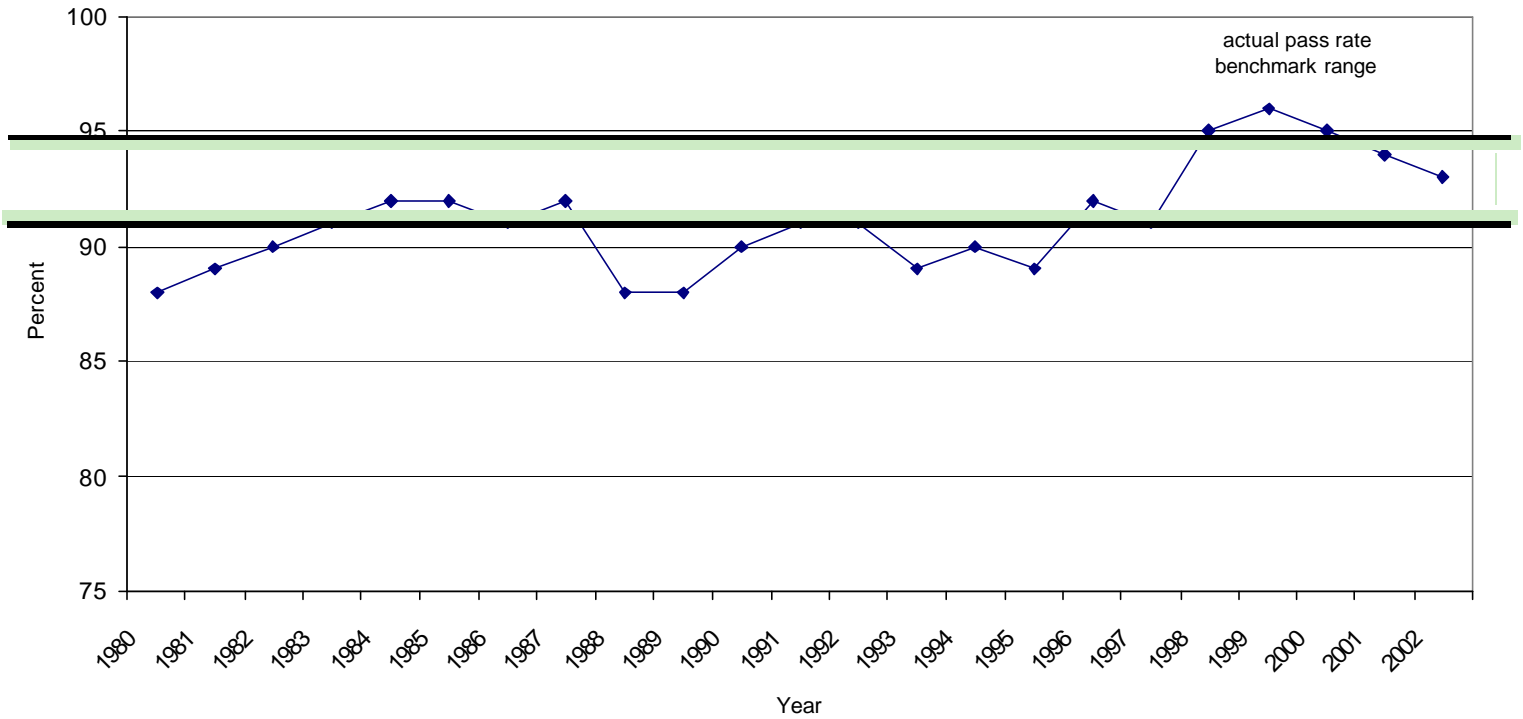
*The test volume decreased due to the change to the GED 2002 tests.

**2,320 issued diplomas based on 1988 GED Tests; 2,443 diplomas issued based on 2002 tests.

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

Graph 7

Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent: 1980-2002



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

Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)	Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)
1980	88	1992	91
1981	89	1993	89
1982	90	1994	90
1983	91	1995	89
1984	92	1996	92
1985	92	1997	91
1986	91	1998	95
1987	92	1999	96
1988	88	2000	95
1989	88	2001	94
1990	90	2002	93
1991	91		

Source: 1980-2002 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education