

→ **Fast Facts**



Summer reading

Some summer reading program selections: Meredith College: *Educated*, by Tara Westover; Lehigh University: *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, by Jennine Capó Crucet; The College of New Jersey: *Sweat*, by Lynn Nottage; Appalachian State University: *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore*, by Elizabeth Rush; Washington State University: *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*, by Trevor Noah; Elon University: *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*, by Jennifer Eberhardt; Washington University in St. Louis: *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy*, by Cathy O'Neil.

Individual university web sites (retrieved June 2, 2020).



College enrollment and attainment

The overall college enrollment rate for 18- to 24-year-olds at undergraduate or graduate institutions increased from 35 percent in 2000 to 41 percent in 2018. Educational attainment rates for 25- to 29-year-olds increased at all levels between 2000 and 2019. The percentage with a bachelor's or higher degree increased from 29 to 39 percent, and the percentage with a master's or higher degree increased from 5 to 9 percent.

Bill Hussar, Jijun Zhang, Sarah Hein, Ke Wang, Ashley Roberts, Jiasan Cui, Mary Smith, et al., *The Condition of Education 2020* (NCEES 2020-144), U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics, <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2020144> (retrieved June 2, 2020).



Podcast consumption

"More than one-third of Americans age 12 and over (104 million) are consuming podcasts regularly, up significantly from 2019."

"The Infinite Dial 2020," Edison Research (blog), March 19, 2020, <https://www.edisonresearch.com/the-infinite-dial-2020> (retrieved June 2, 2020).



Coronavirus affects higher education jobs

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that 19,200 fewer workers were employed by colleges in March 2020 (including junior colleges) than in February 2020. The Chronicle of Higher Education estimates at least 48,086 employees in academe are known to have been affected by a layoff, furlough, or contract nonrenewal resulting from COVID-19.

Dan Bauman, "We're Tracking Employees Laid Off or Furloughed by Colleges," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 13, 2020, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/We-re-Tracking-Employees/248779> (retrieved June 2, 2020).



DMCA abuse

Since 2011, more than 4 billion links have been sent to Google for removal to comply with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). A Wall Street Journal investigation found that many "individuals or companies, often using apparently fake identities, caused (Google) to remove links to unfavorable articles and blog posts that alleged wrongdoing by convicted criminals, foreign officials and businesspeople... manipulating the system in ways it didn't intend. After the Journal shared its findings with Google, the company conducted a review and restored more than 52,000 links it determined it had improperly removed."

Andrea Fuller, Kirsten Grind, and Joe Palazzolo, "Google Hides News, Tricked by Fake Claims," *Wall Street Journal*, May 16, 2020, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/google-dmca-copyright-claims-takedown-online-reputation-11589557001> (retrieved June 2, 2020).

Gary Pattillo is reference librarian at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, e-mail: pattillo@email.unc.edu