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
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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”
- 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
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.

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

Beliefs

Attitudes

Normative Beliefs

Subjective Norms

Past Experiences and Behaviors

Aspirations

Intentions

The Behavior Decision

By Susan R. Madsen (madsensu@uvu.edu; 801.863.6176) and Cheryl Hanewicz. Funding for this research was provided by Utah Valley University and many other generous donors (see website for full list). For more information visit www.uvu.edu/wep. Copyright © 2011 Utah Women and Education Project