

Bureau. Among men with bachelor's degrees, Asians earned \$52,508 a year, Hispanics earned \$49,298 and blacks earned \$45,635.

Workplace discrimination and the continuing difficulties of minorities getting into higher-paying management positions could help explain the disparities among men, experts say.

Demographics may offer an explanation: There are millions more college-educated white men in better paying jobs than there are black, Hispanic or Asian men.

The figures come from the Census Bureau's annual look at educational achievement in America, culled from a survey in March 2004. Questions about income were asked for the previous calendar year.

Regardless of race or gender, a college graduate on average earned over \$51,000, compared with \$28,000 for someone with only a high school diploma or an equivalent degree. College-educated men typically made \$63,084, compared with \$33,000 for men with just a high school education.

Among women, a college graduate earned more than \$38,447, compared with \$22,000 for a high school graduate.

The data also showed that:

The percentage of people age 25 and older who completed at least four years of college rose again in 2004, to 27.7 percent, compared with 27.2 percent in 2003. There were increases in all race and ethnic categories.

* The gap between men and women has narrowed since the 1970s as younger, more educated women steadily replace older, less-educated women in the work force. For example, among 25- to 29-year-olds, more than 31 percent of women have finished at least four years of college, compared with 26 percent of men.

\ Education and income at a glance

The average earnings in 2003 for male and female workers with a bachelor's degree. Figures do not include those with advanced or professional degrees.

Men Women

White \$66,390 \$37,761

Black 45,635 41,066

Asian 52,508 43,656

Hispanic 49,298 37,550

All \$63,084 \$38,447