

A Census of the Physics Education Research Community
Data gathered, compiled, and analyzed by Laura McCullough and Amber Krieger
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In the summers of 2002 and 2003 a census form was distributed at the summer AAPT meetings and the Physics Education Research Conferences at Boise, ID and Madison, WI. It was advertised at the AAPT Research in Physics Education committee meeting, and was available for anyone to fill out. The goal of collecting this “census” data was to determine who the PER community is, and what our community looks like. The data is not exhaustive; many PER people did not have an opportunity to complete the form or chose not to divulge their information. The numbers below are purely a count of the data that were received and legible. We make no assumptions that this is representative, statistically reliable, or true for times beyond the past two summers. Nonetheless, we feel it is worthwhile to gather this data and share it with the PER community.

Readers are welcome to use the census information in papers, proposals, or other reports, provided it is properly cited. We suggest the following citation:

McCullough, L. & Krieger, A. (2004). A Census of the Physics Education Research Community. Report available at <http://physics.uwstout.edu/staff/mccullough/PERcensus.pdf>. Accessed on MM/DD/YYYY.

Questions about the report and the census are welcome; send comments and queries to Laura McCullough at mcculloughl@uwstout.edu or Physics Department, UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI 54751-0790.

PER Census Report

153 people filled out the survey. The percentages were taken out of the total number of those in PER, not including those few who listed themselves as Friends of the community or Physics Education rather than PER. Other percentages are for the smaller subgroups under consideration.

	#	% of total
# of People with PhD in:		
Physics - Traditional	37	29
Physics - PER	43	34
Education - PER	9	7
Other	22	17
# of People with MS in:		
Physics - Traditional	43	34
Physics - PER	11	9
Education - PER	3	2
Other	13	10
Gender		
# Women	52	41
# Men	73	59
# of Women in PER with PhD in:		
		<i>% of Women</i>
Physics - Traditional	11	20
Physics - PER	17	30
Education - PER	7	14
Other	9	16
# of Men in PER with PhD in:		
		<i>% of Men</i>
Physics - Traditional	26	31
Physics - PER	26	21
Education - PER	2	3
Other	13	15
# of Women in PER with MS in:		
		<i>% of Women</i>
Physics - Traditional	18	37
Physics - PER	5	11
Education - PER	2	5
Other	13	26
# of Men in PER with MS in:		
		<i>% of Men</i>
Physics - Traditional	25	69
Physics - PER	6	17
Education - PER	2	6
Other	3	8
# of People in PER of various nationalities:		
USA	91	72
Canada	3	2
Australia	1	1

Europe	3	2
Asia	4	3
Other	9	7
Postdoc		
# of People with Postdoc	39	25
# of People in PER with a Postdoc (PFSMETE)	5	4
Time in PER		
Average time in PER:	6.1 years	
Earliest PhD in:		
Physics - Traditional	1959	
Physics - PER	1997	
Education – PER	1997	
Earliest MS in:		
Physics - Traditional	1966	
Physics - PER	1991	
Education – PER	1980	
# of People in PER of various races:		
Caucasian	80	63
African-American	1	1
Asian-American	2	2
Native American	0	0
Hispanic-American	4	3
Asian	5	4
Hispanic	1	1
Jewish	2	2
Australian Indian	1	1
Caucasian & Hispanic	1	1
Caucasion & Native American	1	1
PER, PE or Friend?		
		% of those who answered
Physics Education Research	119	82
Physics Education	10	7
Friend	9	6
All of the above	8	5