



Writers Guild of America, west

Preliminary Findings from the 2006 Hollywood Writers Report

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* **Women writers gain slightly on male writers.** There were 542 women writers staffing television shows during the 2005-06 TV season, up from 447 in 2004-05. These numbers represent an increase of about 1 percentage point in the female share of television employment – from 28.4 percent in 2004-05 to 29.3 percent in 2005-06. Since the 1999-00 season, the female share of employment has increased 3.5 percentage points (from 25.8 percent to 29.3 percent). Women, who comprise 51 percent of the nation's population, remain underrepresented on television staffs by nearly 2 to 1.

* **Older writers and younger writers hold their ground.** The over-40 share of television staffing remained largely unchanged between the 2004-05 and 2005-06 TV seasons (45.4 percent versus 46 percent).

* **Minority writers lose a little ground relative to white writers.** There were 206 minority writers staffing television shows during the 2005-06 TV season, up from 199 in 2004-05. However, because the overall number of writers staffing television shows increased between the two seasons, the minority *share* decreased from 13 percent in 2004-05 to 12 percent in 2005-06. Since the 1999-00 season, the minority share of television employment has actually increased 4.2 percentage points (from 7.8 percent to 12 percent). Minorities, who comprise more than 30 percent of the population, nonetheless remain underrepresented on television staffs by nearly 3 to 1.

* **Black writers continue to account for more than half of all minority writers.** During the 2005-06 TV season, there were 130 black writers (63.1 percent of minority writers), 40 Hispanic writers (19.4 percent of minority writers), and 36 Asian American writers (17.5 percent of minority writers) staffing television shows. The figures for the 2004-05 TV season were similar: 136 black writers, 33 Hispanic writers, and 30 Asian American writers.

* **Black writers continue to be concentrated on UPN.** There were 58 black writers staffing UPN television shows during the 2005-06 TV season, compared to 59 in 2004-05. These numbers represent 44.6 percent and 43.4 percent of all black writers, respectively. During the 1999-00 season, by contrast, only 30.8 percent of all black writers staffed UPN shows.

* **More than half of all black showrunners work on UPN shows.** There were 13 black executive producers working in television during the 2005-06 TV season and seven of them headed UPN shows (53.8 percent).

* **White writers are nearly twice as likely as minority writers to be showrunners.** During the 2005-06 season, there were 261 white executive producers (17.9 percent of all white writers), compared to just 20 minority executive producers (10 percent of all minority writers).

* **Male writers are more than twice as likely as women writers to be showrunners.** During the 2005-06 season, there were 249 male executive producers (19.7 percent of all male writers), compared to just 43 female executive producers (8.2 percent of all women writers).

* **Older writers are more than twice as likely as younger writers to be showrunners.** During the 2005-06 TV season, there were 183 over-40 executive producers (23.6 percent of all over-40 writers), compared to just 102 40-and-under executive producers (11.2 percent of all 40-and-under writers).

* **Older writers are more likely to work on television dramas than on comedies.** During the 2005-06 TV season, 54 percent of older writers staffed television dramas, while 44 percent staffed comedies and 2.3 percent staffed other programming. Writers 40 and under were evenly split between comedies (49.2 percent) and dramas (49 percent). During the 2004-05 TV season, this pattern was more pronounced: 56.1 percent of over-40 writers staffed television dramas, while 40.2 percent staffed comedies.

* **Minority writers are more likely to work on television comedies than on dramas.** During the 2005-06 season, 60.2 percent of minority writers staffed television comedies, while 39.8 percent staffed dramas. The pattern was similar for the 2004-05 TV season: 58.8 percent of minority writers staffed comedies and 39.2 percent staffed dramas. By contrast, white writers were more likely in both years to staff television dramas than comedies.

* **Family Channel leads the pack in female staffing.** The top five networks in terms of the female share of staffing in 2005-06 were Family Channel (52.6 percent), Lifetime (45 percent), UPN (40.4 percent), NBC (33.2 percent), and WB (30.9 percent).

* **UPN leads the pack in minority staffing.** The top five networks in terms of the minority share of staffing in 2005-06 were UPN (43.6 percent), Lifetime (26.3 percent), USA (12.1 percent), NBC (11.8 percent), and ABC (9.7 percent).

* **Lifetime leads the pack in over-40 staffing.** The top five networks in terms of the over-40 share of staffing in 2005-06 were Lifetime (75 percent), TNT (66.7 percent), FX (62.8 percent), USA (62.5 percent), and HBO (60.8 percent).

* **The pool of writers staffing television shows expands in 2005-06.** The number of writers staffing television shows increased 17.3 percent between the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons (from 1575 to 1847).