



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

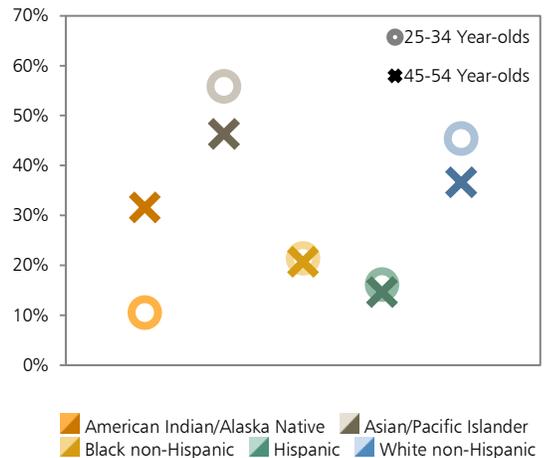
WISCONSIN

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Wisconsin related to: current levels of educational attainment, our projections of high school graduates into the future, and two common barriers to student access and success – insufficient academic preparation and inadequate finances.

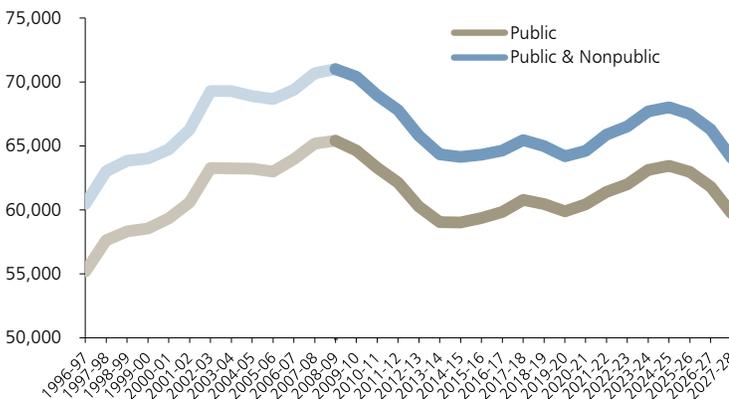
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

Workforce projections indicate there will be a growing demand for well-educated labor, which means that younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. In Wisconsin between 2008 and 2010, overall more younger adults (aged 25-34) had at least an associate's degree than older adults (aged 45-54), 41% compared to 35%, respectively.

- Younger adults of both White non-Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander origin have higher degree attainment rates than the state average for their age group, and higher rates than their older counterparts, Asian/Pacific Islanders by the largest margin.
- But younger and older adults who are American Indian/Alaska Native, Black non-Hispanic or Hispanic are less likely to have a postsecondary degree than others overall, and younger American Indian/Alaska Natives have particularly low rates of degree attainment.



Production of High School Graduates



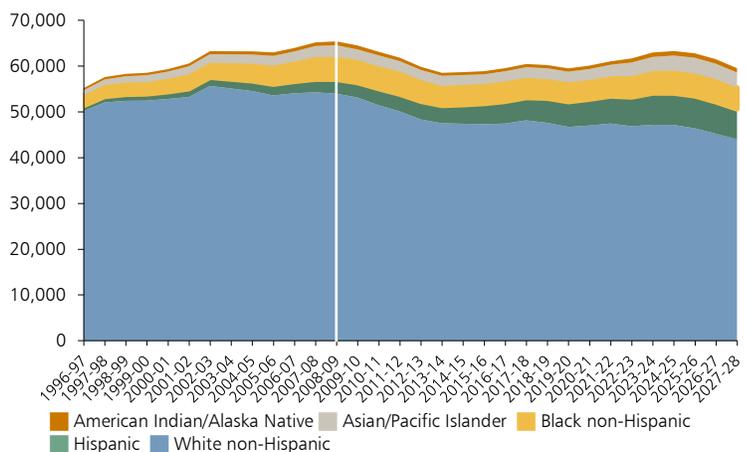
Wisconsin's high school graduating class peaked at about 71,000 in 2008-09 and is projected to be smaller in all subsequent projected years. Our projections indicate that graduates will decline by about 10% through 2014-15, to about 64,100, and stay around this level through 2020-21. There will be a small uptick after this for several years, up to around 68,000 by 2024-25, before dropping back again in the last projected years.

Graduates from nonpublic high schools accounted for about 8% of the total in 2008-09, about 5,600 graduates. They will decline by about 25 percent over the projections, but end up about 7% of total graduates in the outer years, as the number of public graduates also decreases.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

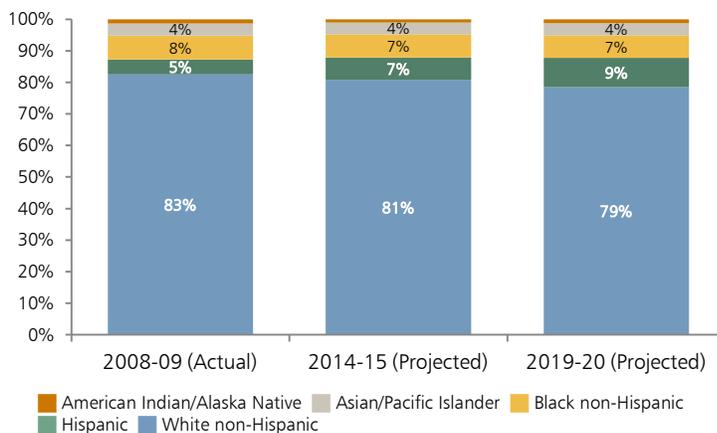
At the same time that Wisconsin's overall graduating class size decreases, diversity will increase among public graduates. White non-Hispanic graduates reached their highs around 55,000 in the early- to mid-2000s, entered the projections period in a decline and are projected to be between 46,000 and 47,000, about 12% fewer than in 2008-09, in most projected years.

- The greatest increases will be among Hispanic graduates, increasing from 3,100 in 2008-09 to 5,500 by 2019-20, and up to almost 7,000 in later years.
- The number of Asian/Pacific Islander graduates will be about the same for most years, but increase about 28% in the later years. The number of Black non-Hispanic graduates will be pretty stable, around 4,500 on average.

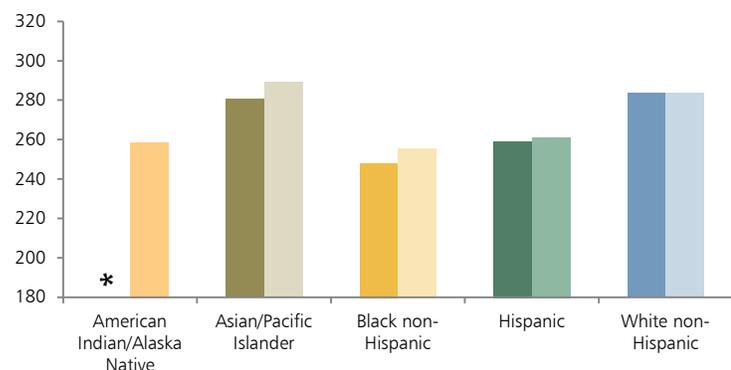


Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- 83% of Wisconsin’s public high school graduates were White non-Hispanic in 2008-09, and while Whites will continue to be the vast majority of public graduates, non-Whites are projected to gain share rapidly over the two decades projected.
- Most of the gains come among Hispanic graduates, increasing in share from 5% of the total in 2008-09 to 9% by 2019-20, up to 11% by the end of the projections.
- Asian/Pacific Islanders will be 4% of the total for most of the projected years, but increase to 5% or more by the end. American Indian/Alaska Natives will see a small uptick as well. Black non-Hispanics will be about 8% of the total throughout the projections.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



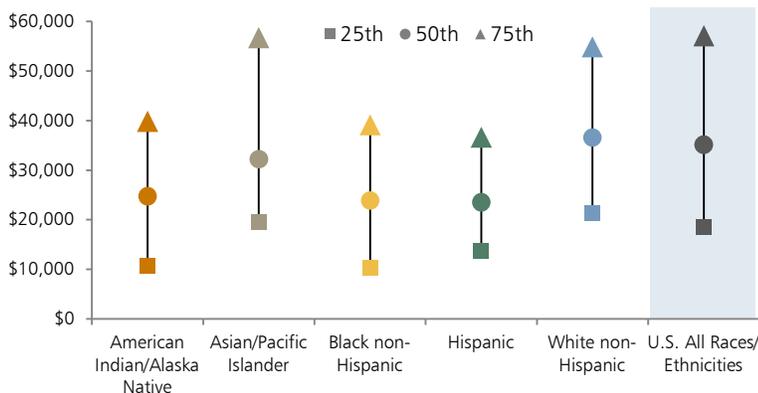
Note: Wisconsin in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades. *Reporting standards were not met and no score is available.

Academic preparation is a major factor in college access and success, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides some measure of differences by race/ethnicity.

- The average composite math and reading scores for eighth graders in Wisconsin in 2011 ranged from 248 for Black non-Hispanics to 284 for Asian/Pacific Islanders. Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic average scores were the lowest among the available scores for racial/ethnic groups. (No scores were available for American Indian/Alaska Natives.)
- The average score for eighth graders of each of these race/ethnicities was generally about the national average for the group.

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

A second major factor is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. The statewide median income for Wisconsin from 2006 to 2010 was \$35,267, compared to \$35,147 for the nation. Precise estimates are difficult to come by for smaller populations, so comparisons between groups can be problematic. But the estimates suggest that underrepresented populations in Wisconsin earn considerably less than the statewide median. White non-Hispanics, Hispanics were the least well off financially with a median income only 67% of the statewide median (\$23,523); Black non-Hispanics and American Indian/Alaska Natives were also concentrated toward the bottom of the statewide income spectrum.



Projections of high school graduates are from WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, 2012. 1996-97 to 2008-09 are actual reported graduates and 2009-10 to 2027-28 are projections. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems supplied the data used in the first and last figures. State-level estimates for those figures are only reported for a racial/ethnic group when the coefficients of variation for all estimates do not exceed 25% and sample size is 50 or greater. Readers should understand that estimates for small samples can be imprecise due to large standard errors. WICHE provides relevant data tables at <http://wiche.edu/knocking-8th/technicalNotes>.

¹Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File. Average annual percent of population aged 25-34 and 45-54 with an Associate’s degree or higher in 2008-10.

²Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Mathematics and Reading Assessments, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>. Notes: Composite scores are the average of the Math and Reading scores for 8th graders tested in 2011, scale of 0 to 500; scores for 12th graders taking NAEP were not available for this state.

³Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-10 American Community Survey Five-Year Public Use Microdata Sample File. Note: Percentiles for wage/salary income were calculated for persons age 25-64 with positive earnings; unemployed persons with \$0 income were also included. Figures are in 2010 dollars. Native Hawaiians are included in Asian/Pacific Islander.

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