



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

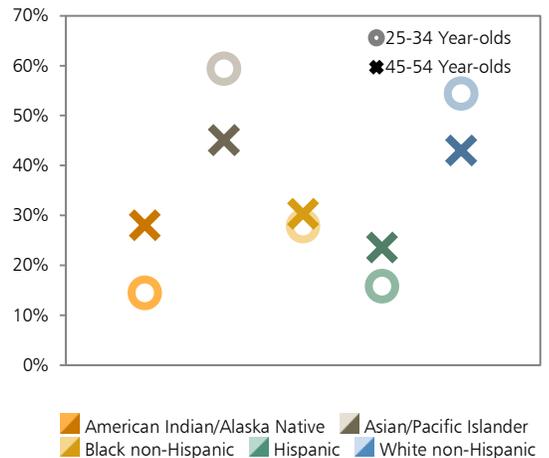
MINNESOTA

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Minnesota 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.

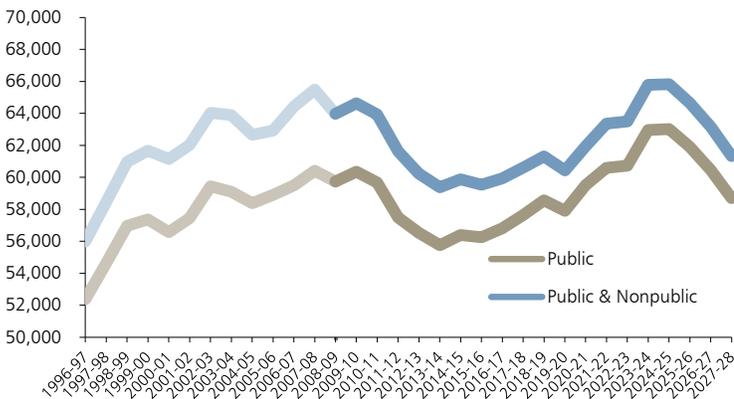
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

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 Minnesota between 2008 and 2010, 49% of younger adults (aged 25-34) had at least an associate's degree, compared to 42% of older adults (aged 45-54).

- Younger adults of White non-Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander origin have higher degree attainment rates than the state average and than their older counterparts (with 11% and 14% more young adults holding degrees than older adults, respectively).
- 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 and younger Hispanics have particularly low rates of degree attainment.



Production of High School Graduates

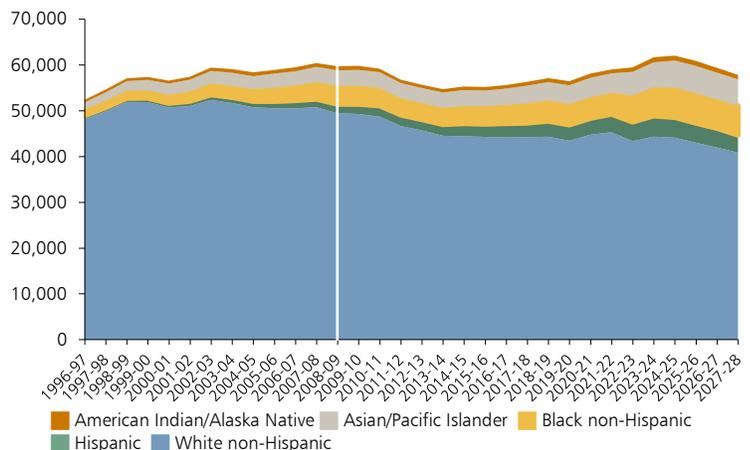


- Minnesota was in a relatively stable period as it entered the timeframe covered by these projections, and reached a high of 65,000 graduates in 2007-08.
- The projected graduating class sizes will vary by 1% on average or less across years (about 1,000 graduates), except for a couple of exceptional years such as the 4% single-year dip that was projected to have occurred in 2011-12 and 4% single-year increase in 2023-24.
- The number of nonpublic high school graduates is projected to decrease rapidly from about 4,200 in 2008-09 to about 2,500 by 2019-20, a 40% decline.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

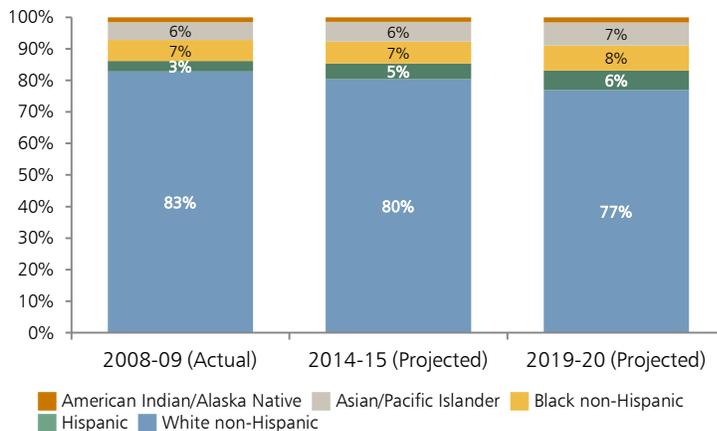
While Minnesota shows relatively stable production in total graduates throughout the projections, diversity will increase among public high school graduates.

- White non-Hispanic graduates hovered around 50,000 in the five years before the projections begin. They will decrease in number by about 12% by 2019-20 to about 43,400 graduates, and will be down about 17% by the end of the projections, to about 41,000.
- Increases among non-White graduates buoy up the graduating classes despite the decreases in the majority group. There is a 72% increase in the number of Asian/Pacific Islanders, Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic graduates between 2008-09 and 2019-20, about 6,700 graduates combined.

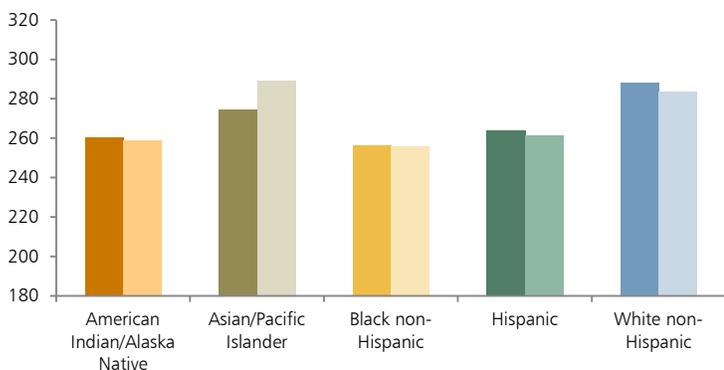


Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- 83% of Minnesota’s public graduates were White non-Hispanic in 2008-09. Projections indicate that White non-Hispanics will decrease as a share of the total throughout the projections, to 77% by 2019-20 and to only about 71% in the last projected years.
- Asian/Pacific Islanders grow from 6% of the total in 2008-09, to 7% by 2019-20, and 10% by the end of the projections.
- Black non-Hispanics will grow from 7% to 8%, and then eventually 11%, over the same years.
- Hispanics increase from 3% to between 6% and 7% over the course of the projections.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



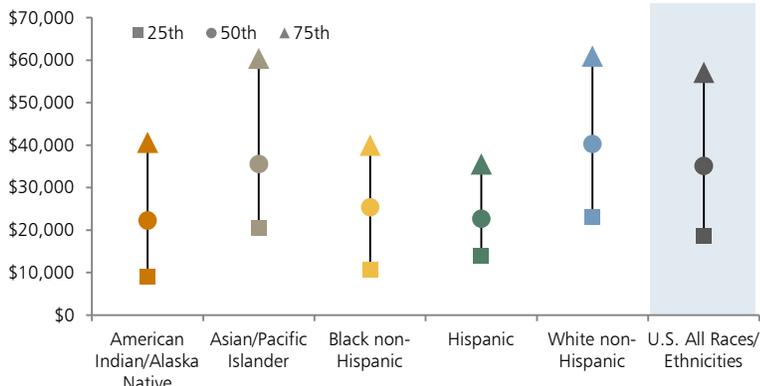
Note: Minnesota in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades.

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 8th graders in Minnesota in 2011 ranged from 254 for Black non-Hispanics to 288 for White non-Hispanics, with clearly lower scores for traditionally underrepresented students compared to White non-Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- The average score for eighth graders of each of these race/ethnicities was generally about the national average for the group except for Asian/Pacific Islanders, with an average score of 274 compared to 289 for Asian/Pacific Islanders nationally.

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

A second major factor is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. Among working-age adults (ages 25-64) in Minnesota from 2006 to 2010, the statewide median income was \$38,442, 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 Minnesota earn considerably less than the statewide median (and than White non-Hispanics), with median incomes for American Indians/Alaska Natives, Hispanics and Black non-Hispanics all two-thirds or less of the statewide median.



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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Visit <http://wiche.edu/knocking> to obtain the full publication and download these projections as [graphs](#) or [data files](#).