



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

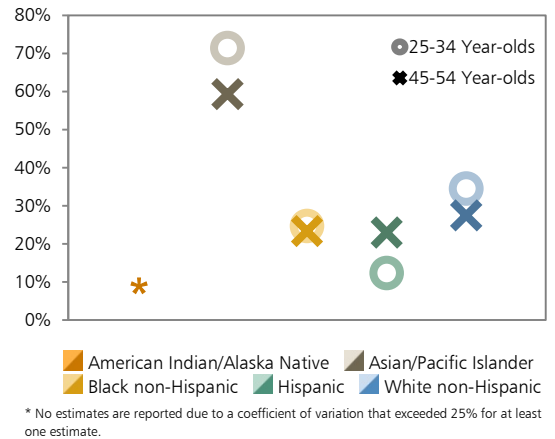
KENTUCKY

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

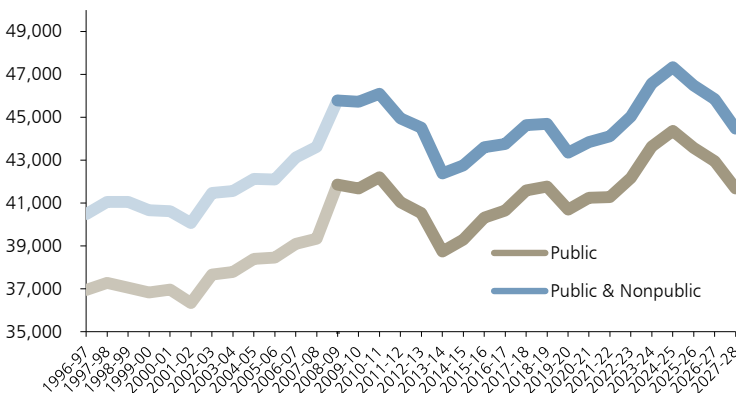
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

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 Kentucky between 2008 and 2010, overall about 33% of younger adults (aged 25-34) had at least an associate's degree, somewhat more than the 27% of the state's older working-age population (aged 45-54).

- These overall rates are mirrored among White non-Hispanics, and Asian/Pacific Islanders, are significantly more likely than the state average to hold a degree, particularly younger Asians/Pacific Islanders.
- Both younger and older Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic adults are less likely to have a postsecondary degree than others in the state, and with only 12% having an associate's degree or higher, Hispanic younger adults are at a particular disadvantage.



Production of High School Graduates

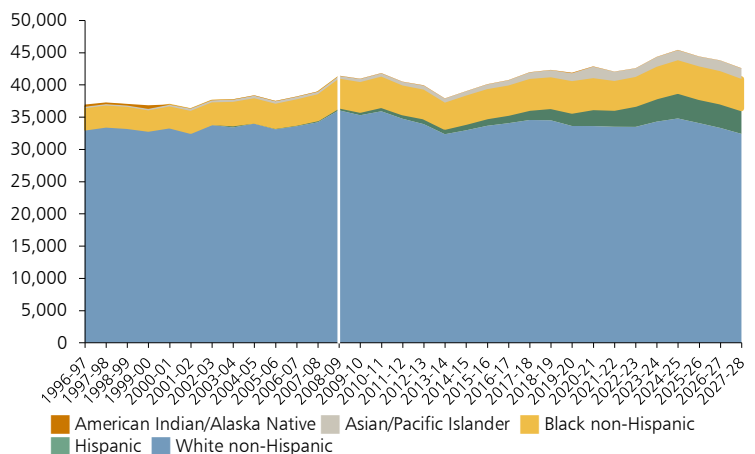


- The projections indicate that the rapid increases in the number of graduates in Kentucky that began in 2006-07 peaked with graduating classes above 45,700 between 2008-09 and 2010-11. Kentucky is projected to now be in a decline that will last through 2014-15.
- After this, Kentucky will have average annual growth of about 1% in most of the remaining projected years, and will graduate more than 46,000 high schoolers again by 2022-23.
- Nonpublic high school graduates were 9% of the total in 2008-09, about 4,000 students. Nonpublic graduates will decrease over the projected period, to 2,700 by 2019-20, only 6% of the total.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

White non-Hispanics will continue to be the majority group in Kentucky's public high school graduates, even though projections indicate they will decline by 7% from their high of 36,000 in 2008-09, to 33,600 by 2019-20, and to 32,400 by the last projected year. Expansion in Kentucky's public graduating classes will come from non-Whites.

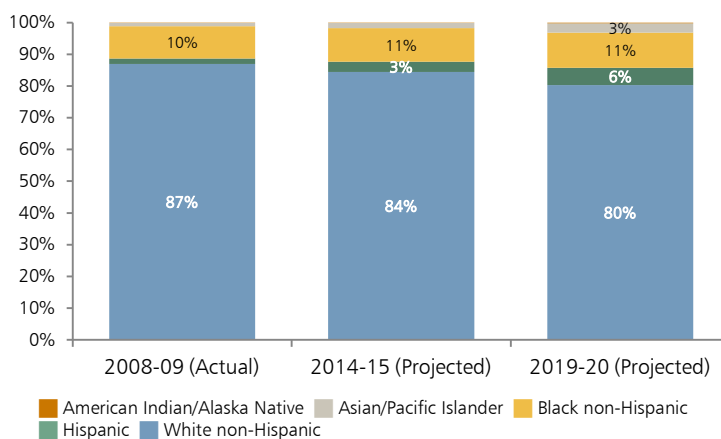
- There were 4,200 Black non-Hispanic graduates in 2008-09, and their numbers will remain relatively constant between 4,200 and 4,600 for most projected years.
- Hispanic public high school graduates will more than triple from 710 in 2008-09, to 2,300 by 2019-20, and continued increases after that. Asian/Pacific Islanders will increase at about the same rate, from 420 to 1,200 over the same years, with increases going forward.



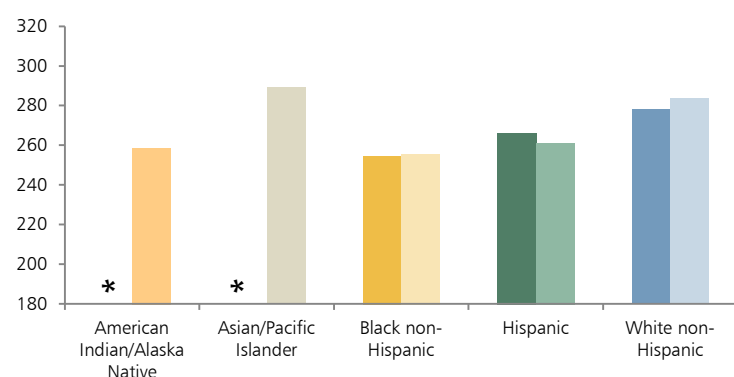
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

87% of Kentucky's public high school graduates were White non-Hispanic in 2008-09, but this proportion will reduce to 80% by 2019-20, and further to 76% by the last projected years--due to decreases in the number of White non-Hispanics at the same time rapid increases occur among smaller non-White groups.

- Hispanics were 2% of the public total in 2008-09 and will increase to 6% by 2019-20, and then to 9% by the last projected years.
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were only 1% of the public total in 2008-09, but will increase to between 3% and 4% in the years between 2019-20 and 2027-28.
- Black non-Hispanics will hold steady at between 10% and 11% across the projected period.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



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.

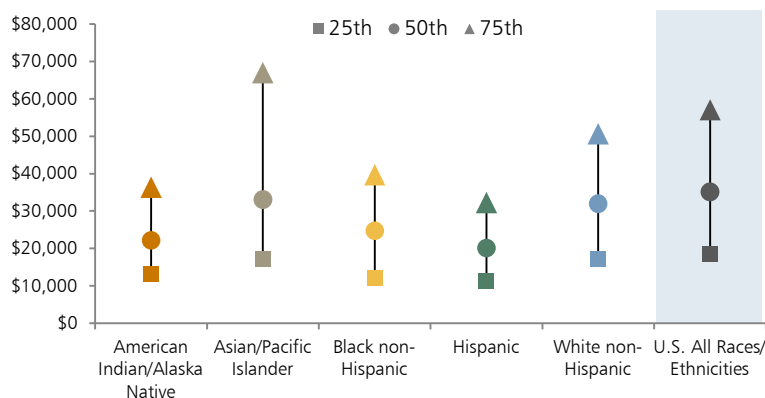
- The average composite math and reading scores for 8th graders in Kentucky in 2011 were 255 for Black non-Hispanics, 266 for Hispanics and 278 for White non-Hispanics. No scores were available for American Indian/Alaska Natives or Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- The average score for eighth graders of each of these race/ethnicities was generally about the national average for the group.

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

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. Precise estimates are difficult to come by for smaller populations, so comparisons between groups can be problematic. But estimates suggest that underrepresented populations in Kentucky earn considerably less than White non-Hispanics.

The statewide median income of working-age adults (25-64) from 2006 to 2010 was \$30,754, compared with \$35,147 for the nation. Hispanics were the least well off financially: with a median income of \$22,453, 57% of the statewide median; American Indian/Alaska Natives and Black non-Hispanics 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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Visit <http://wiche.edu/knocking> to obtain the full publication and download these projections as [graphs](#) or [data files](#).