



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

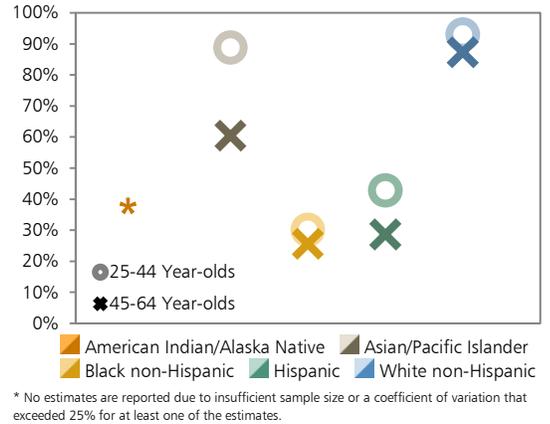
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

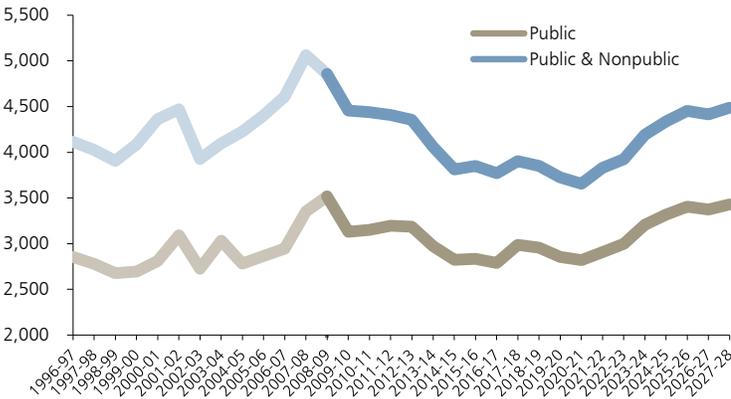
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

Workforce projections suggest a growing demand for well-educated labor, so younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. There are limits to what can be discerned about the exact size of educational attainment gaps between groups due to data availability and reliability. But it would appear from data for 2008 to 2010 that there were gaps between groups in the District by race/ethnicity.

- White non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders are by far the most likely to hold an associate’s degree or higher; both younger adults (25-44) and older adults (45-64) exceed the national average for each age group by a wide margin.
- Educational attainment rates among the largest population in the District, Black non-Hispanics, are substantially lower, both in comparison to White non-Hispanics and to national rates.



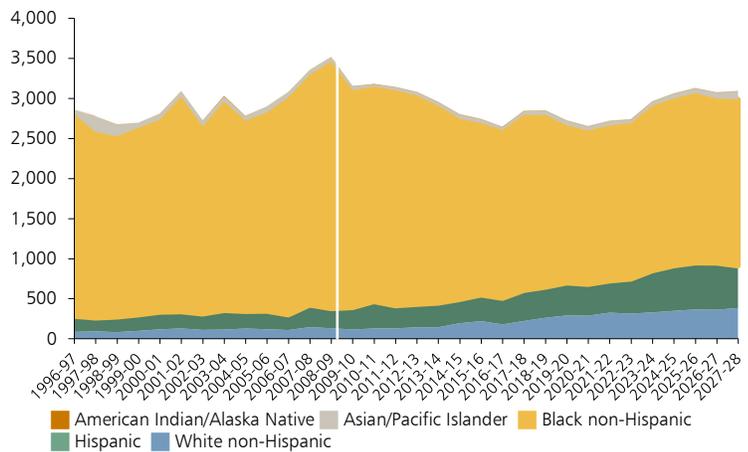
Production of High School Graduates



- The District of Columbia peaked with a high of more than 5,000 graduates in 2007-08. Graduates began to decline in 2008-09, and consistently smaller classes are projected through at least 2020-21, with 27% fewer graduates than the peak year, only 3,700 graduates. Graduates will then rapidly rise again to around 4,400 in the last projected years.
- Nonpublic graduates have long been a substantial part of the District’s graduating classes, 30% or more in the years leading up to the 1,339 graduates in last reported year, 2008-09. They are projected to consistently decrease going forward, down to 23% of the total, below 900, by 2019-20.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

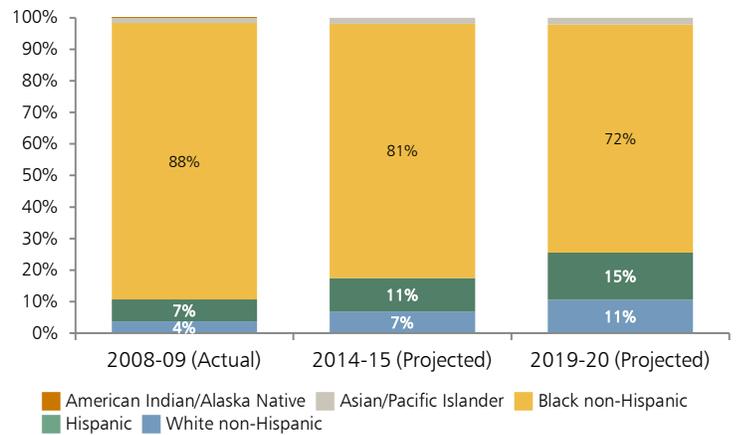
- The vast majority of the District of Columbia’s public high school graduates are Black non-Hispanic, 3,084 of the total 3,517 in 2008-09. Declines in Black non-Hispanics drive the overall projected reductions. They will decrease by 36% to just below 2,000 by 2019-20 and stay around this level going forward.
- Though small in number, Hispanics will be responsible for much of any growth among the District’s public graduates, increasing from 245 in 2008-09 to 400 by 2019-20, and increasing above 500 in the last projected years.
- Contrary to the historically low rate from the District’s public schools, White non-Hispanic public high school graduates will more than triple throughout the projections.



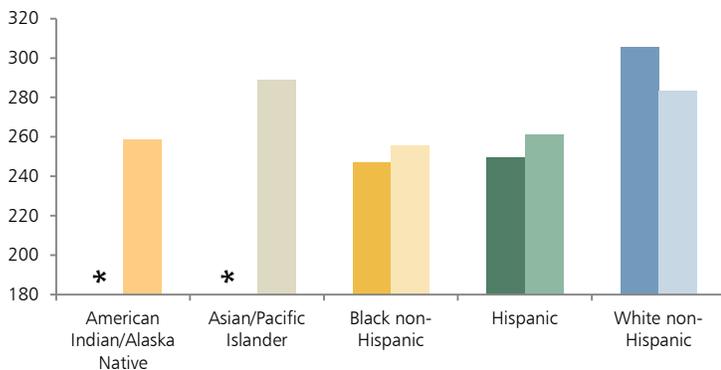
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

According to the projections, Black non-Hispanics will continue to be 85% or more of the District of Columbia's public high school graduates through 2012-13

- After that, they will rapidly decrease in share, to 72% by 2019-20, with further decreases projected for later years.
- The projected decreases in the District's majority group will arise both from decreases in the number of Black non-Hispanics but also from increases in other groups. Hispanics are projected to double in share from 7% in 2008-09 to 15% by 2019-20, and White non-Hispanics will increase from 4% to 11% over the same years. Between them, these two groups will go from 11% to 26% of the total public graduating classes over these years.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



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

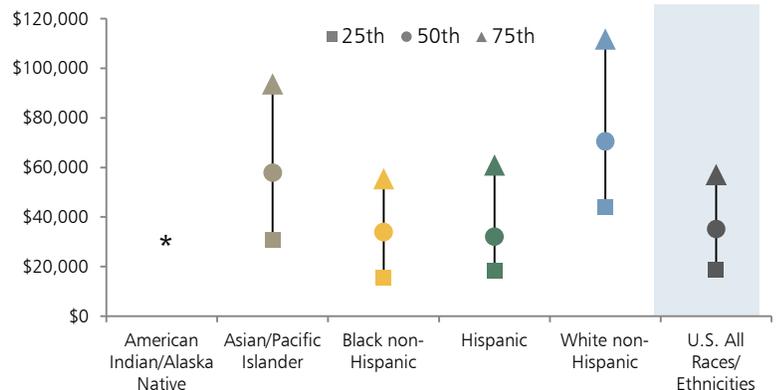
Academic preparation is a major factor in access to and success in college. One indicator of readiness comes from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and reading scores for eighth graders in 2011.

- Despite being the vast majority of graduates in the District of Columbia, Black non-Hispanics' composite score of 247 and Hispanics' 250 were substantially lower than White non-Hispanics' score of 305.
- The District's Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic scores were also lower than the national average for these groups, while White non-Hispanics' were notably higher than the national average.
- No scores were available for American Indians/Alaska Natives or Asians/Pacific Islanders.

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. The statewide median income for working-age adults (ages 25-64) in the District of Columbia from 2006 to 2010 was \$47,358, substantially more than the national median income of \$35,147. This was in large part due to White non-Hispanics' and Asian/Pacific Islanders' significant earnings, whose median incomes were \$70,534 and \$57,911, respectively.

In sharp contrast, Black non-Hispanics' median income was \$33,939, only 72% of the District's median income and less than the national median, while Hispanics' stood at \$32,076.



* No estimates reported due to a coefficient of variation that exceeded 25% for at least one percentile estimate.

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 25-44 and 45-64 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](#).