



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

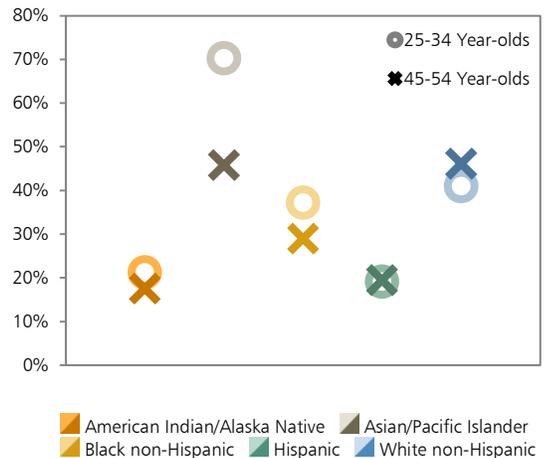
NEW MEXICO

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

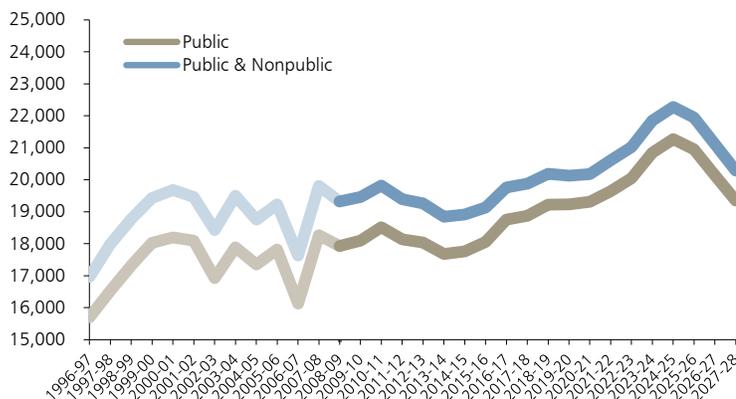
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

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 New Mexico between 2008 and 2010, overall about 4% fewer young adults (ages 25-34) had postsecondary degrees than older adults (ages 45-54), 29% and 33%, respectively.

- Young Asian/Pacific Islander adults are the most likely to have a postsecondary degree by a wide margin.
- At 41%, younger White non-Hispanics are less likely to have achieved a postsecondary degree, compared to their older counterparts, of whom 46% have done so.
- Among Hispanics, the two age groups have roughly equivalent attainment rates, about 19%.



Production of High School Graduates



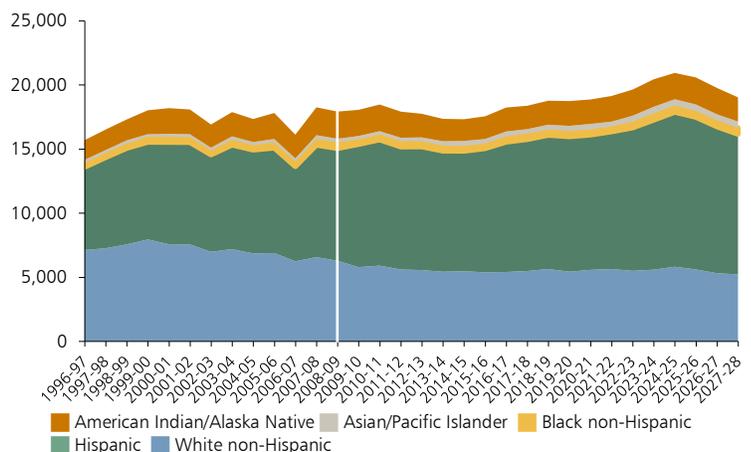
According to our projections:

- New Mexico's graduating class will continue to hover around 19,000 through 2013-14, as it has with some variability since about 1999-2000.
- Graduating classes will then increase by about 1% on average annually through 2024-25, when they will reach a new high of 22,300 before dipping back in the last several projected years.
- Nonpublic high school graduates were about 7% of the total in 2008-09, almost 1,400 in number. By 2027-28, the number of nonpublic graduates will have decreased slightly to 930, about 5% of the total in that year.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

New Mexico's public graduating class has been majority-minority for many years, and our projections indicate that the non-White graduates will only continue to increase as the number of White non-Hispanic graduates continues to decrease.

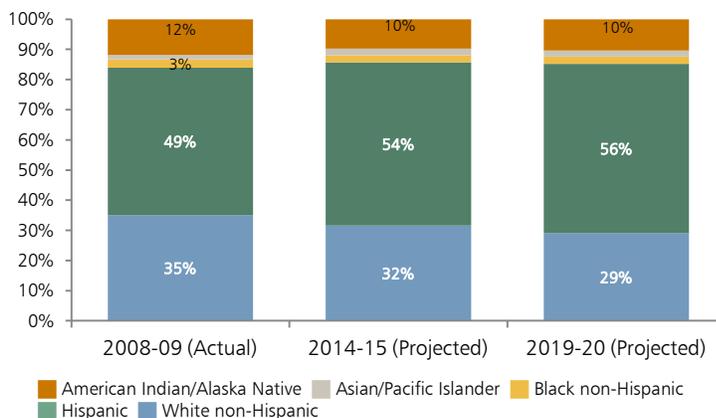
- White non-Hispanic graduates will hover between 5,300 and 5,800 throughout the projections.
- Hispanic graduates will increase from 8,800 in 2008-09 to a high of 12,000 in 2024-25 before dropping back to 11,000 by 2027-28.
- The next largest group, American Indian/Alaska Native graduates, will hover between roughly 1,800 and 2,000 for most of the projected years.



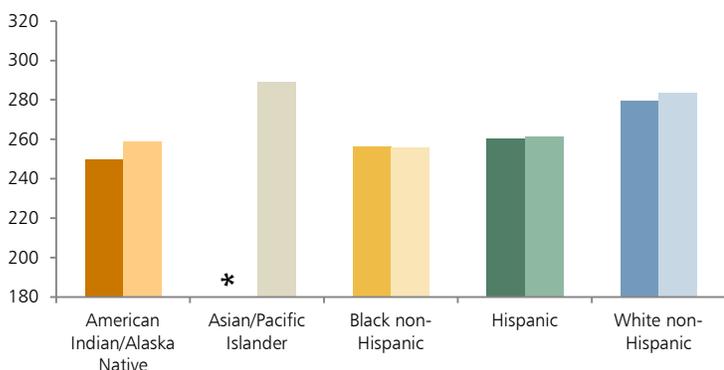
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

65% of New Mexico's public high school graduates were non-White in 2008-09, and non-White public high school graduates will increase to 73% of the total by 2027-28.

- White non-Hispanics were 35% of the total in 2008-09 and will decrease to 27% by the last projected year.
- At the same time, the proportion of public high school graduates that are Hispanic will increase from 49% of the total to 56% by 2019-20, and continue to account for 56% to 58% of the total through the end of the projections.
- American Indian/Alaska Natives are about 10% of the total in any given year; Asian/Pacific Islanders and Black non-Hispanics constitute 2% to 3% each in any given year.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



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

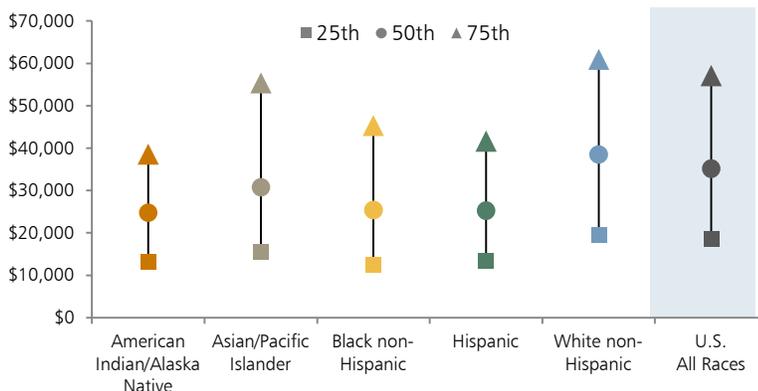
Academic preparation is a major factor in college access and success, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides some measure of differences by race/ethnicity.

- The average composite math and reading score for New Mexico eighth graders in 2011 ranged from 250 for American Indian/Alaska Natives to 280 for White non-Hispanics.
- Scores for American Indians/Alaska Natives, Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics lagged the score for White non-Hispanics by 20 to 30 points.
- White non-Hispanics in the state scored lower than their peers nationwide; the same was also true for American Indians/Alaska Natives.
- No score was available for Asians/Pacific Islanders.

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. Among working-age adults (25-64) in New Mexico from 2006 to 2010, the statewide median income was \$30,479, 87% of the national median income of \$35,147.

- Hispanics, American Indian/Native Americans and Black non-Hispanics in New Mexico were about equally at the bottom of the income spectrum, with median incomes between \$24,800 and \$25,400; and one in four earning \$13,500 or less.
- Asians/Pacific Islanders also had relatively low incomes, one out of two being just barely at or above 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.

For more information email knocking@wiche.edu or contact Peace Bransberger, Research Analyst, 303.541.0257, pbransberger@wiche.edu, or Brian Prescott, Director of Policy Research, 303.541.0255, bprescott@wiche.edu.

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