



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

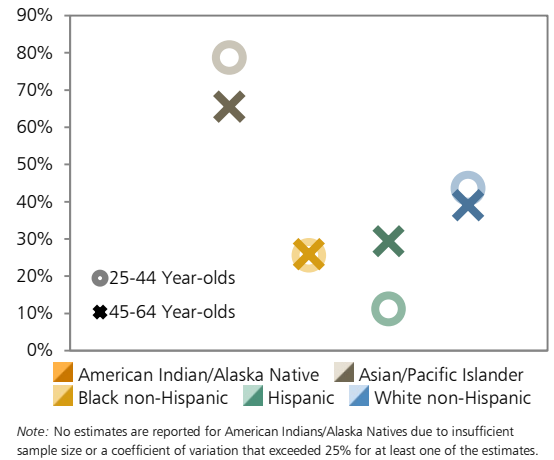
DELAWARE

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

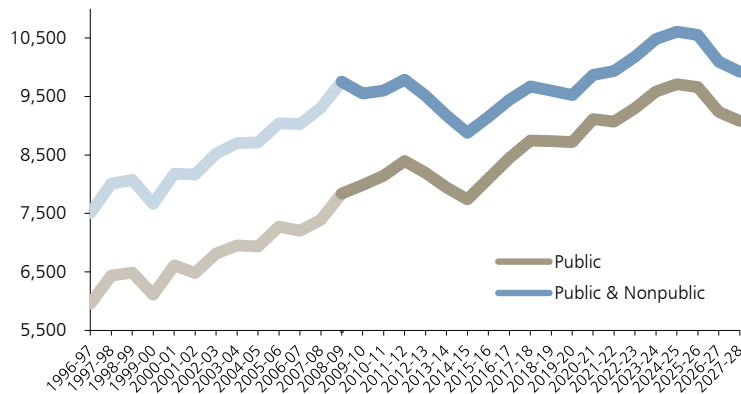
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

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. In Delaware in 2011, about 39% of younger adults (ages 25-44) had at least an associate's degree, slightly more than the 36% of older adults (ages 45-64). The small size of some minority populations means that little can be discerned about the exact size of their educational attainment gaps, but data from 2008 to 2010 suggest some differences by race/ethnicity in Delaware.

- The state's Asians/Pacific Islanders are by far the most likely to hold an associate's degree or higher. White non-Hispanics' rates of educational attainment are just slightly above the national average for each age group; younger adults are just slightly more likely to hold a degree.
- Educational attainment rates among the second-largest population in Delaware, Black non-Hispanics, are substantially lower for both age groups, both in comparison to White non-Hispanics and to national rates.



Production of High School Graduates



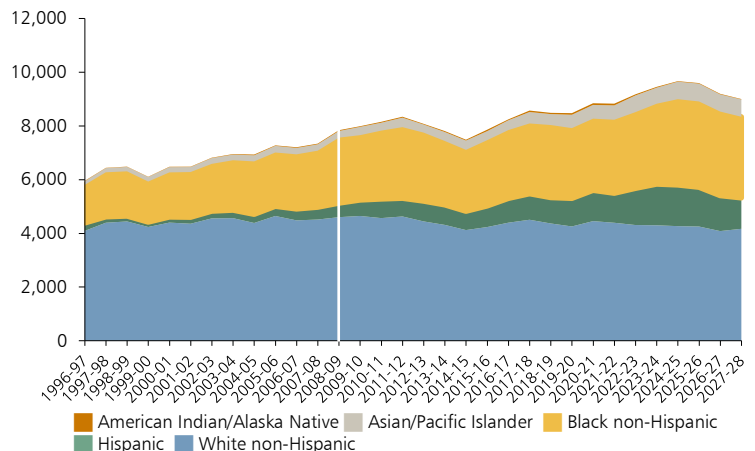
Delaware's production of high school graduates is projected to come in two major phases.

- Graduates overall increased from 1999-2000 through 2008-09. Projections indicate flat production through 2011-12, followed by a brief but significant dip of over 900 graduates (9%) in 2014-15. Graduates are then expected to climb once again through 2024-25, reaching 10,600, a projected increase of 19%.
- Historically, nonpublic schools have generated a substantial number of graduates, about 20% of the overall production in recent years. Projections indicate a steep reduction in those amounts, with nonpublic shares dropping to 9% by 2019-20.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Delaware's projections suggest that it will maintain steady production of graduates from White non-Hispanic backgrounds at between 4,300 and 4,700. That stability forms the foundation for growth among other groups to drive statewide totals upward.

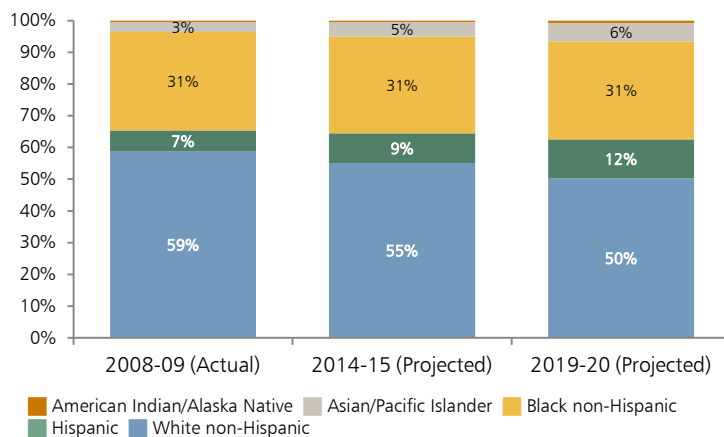
- Black non-Hispanics remain by far the second-largest racial/ethnic group. Their numbers are projected to fluctuate initially through 2014-15, before rising continuously over the subsequent decade by over 900 (40%).
- Asians/Pacific Islanders and Hispanics are both projected to climb continuously, roughly doubling their numbers from 2008-09, 246 and 522, respectively.



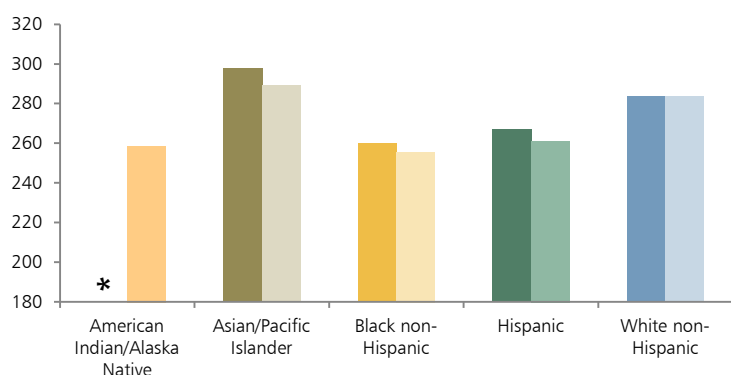
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

In spite of Delaware's stability in numbers of White non-Hispanic public high school graduates, the state is expecting rapid diversification.

- The state's small size means that relatively small changes in groups' production can have significant effects on the racial/ethnic composition of the class.
- By 2019-20, growth in the Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic communities adds 8 percentage points between them, leaving the state quite close to achieving majority-minority status with the White non-Hispanics accounting for a bare majority.
- Delaware is projected to become majority-minority by 2021-22.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



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.

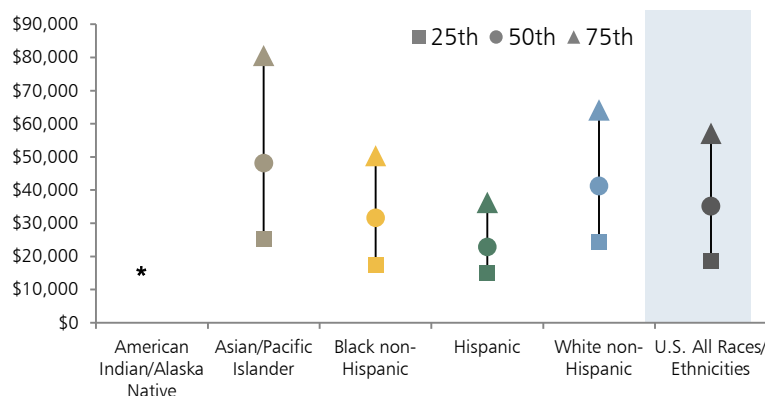
- Black non-Hispanics in Delaware posted the lowest composite score among all races/ethnicities for which state-level data were available, at 259.9.
- Hispanics scored 266.7, better for that group than the score for the nation as a whole.
- Asians/Pacific Islanders had the highest score at 297.9, slightly better than White non-Hispanics' score of 283.5.
- No state-level scores were available for American Indians/Alaska Natives or Asians/Pacific Islanders.

Note: Delaware 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. In Delaware from 2006 to 2010:

- The statewide median income for the working-age population (25-64) was \$38,157, compared with \$35,147 for the nation.
- The median income of Asians/Pacific Islanders was \$48,115, higher than any other racial/ethnic group.
- At about \$41,000, White non-Hispanics also earned more than the statewide median.
- At \$22,846, Hispanic's median income was easily the lowest among groups. About a quarter of them took home less than roughly \$15,000.
- Black non-Hispanics earned a little more than \$31,500.



* 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. 2011 figures from www.higheredinfo.org.

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](#).