



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

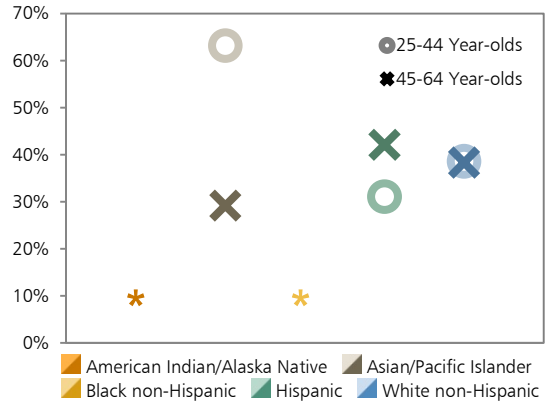
MAINE

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

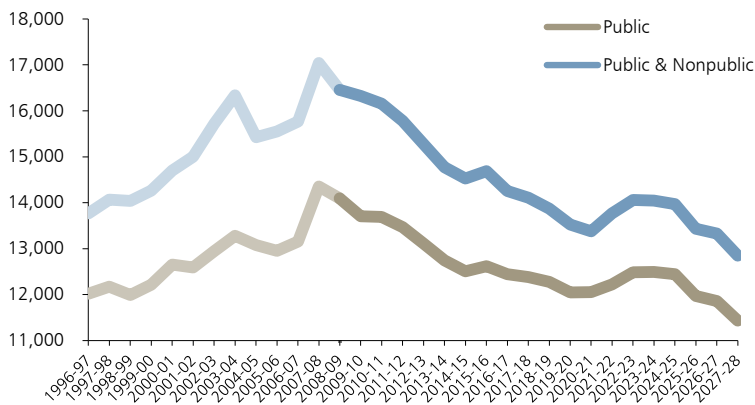
Workforce projections suggest a growing demand for well-educated labor, so younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. In Maine in 2011, just younger adults (aged 25-44) and older adults (aged 45-64) had earned postsecondary degrees at about the same rates, roughly 40%.

Several of Maine’s minority populations are too small to reliably discern the exact size of educational attainment gaps between all races/ethnicities. However, data from 2008 to 2010 indicate that younger Asian/Pacific Islander adults are most likely to have postsecondary degrees, both compared to their older counterparts and all other groups for which data are available. Younger and older White non-Hispanic adults attain postsecondary degrees at just slightly more than the state average rate. Among the younger adults for whom data are available, younger Hispanics are at the greatest disadvantage, with only 31% having a postsecondary degree.



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

Production of High School Graduates

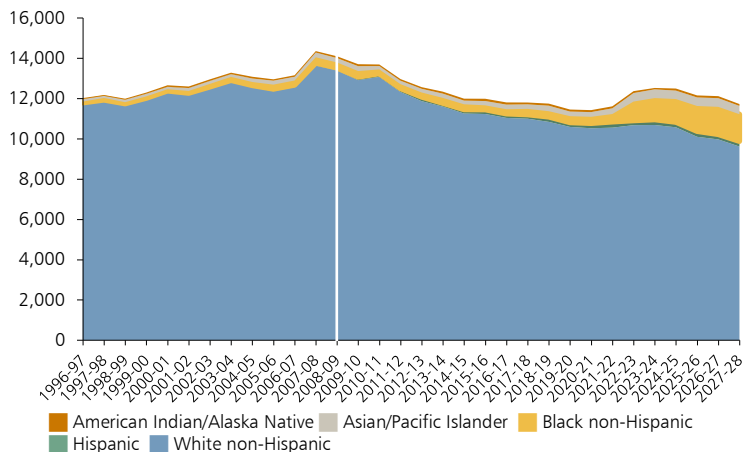


Maine reached its high point of 17,000 graduates in 2007-08 and is now projected to see steep decreases throughout the projected period. By 2019-20, Maine’s total graduating class is projected to be only 13,521, a 21% decrease of 3,500 graduates. It will remain around this level for about five years and then begin dropping again in the last projected years.

- Nonpublic graduates have long been a substantial portion of Maine’s total graduates, ranging from 13% to as high as 19% in 2003-04. However, they are projected to decline both in number and as a percent of the total, to 11% at about 1,500 graduates in 2019-20, and staying around that number for the remaining projected years.

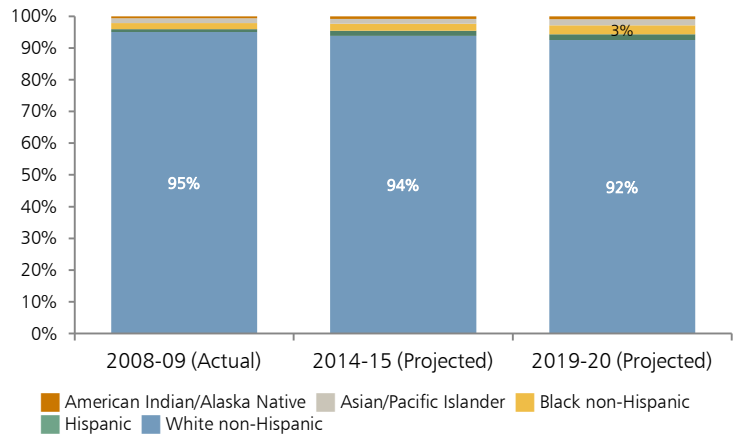
Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- Maine’s graduating class has been virtually all White non-Hispanic in the past and decreases in this group drive Maine’s overall declines. They will decrease 21%, 2,811 graduates from 2008-09, to about 10,500 graduates by 2019-20, and are projected to go below 10,000 in the last projected years.
- Black non-Hispanic graduates will be the largest source of any growth, projected to increase from about 275 graduates in 2008-09 to more than 1,000 in the later projected years.
- Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders are also projected to increase albeit in smaller numbers. Each group is projected to about double in number over the course of the projections, from a combined 343 in 2008-09 to about 700 by 2024-25.

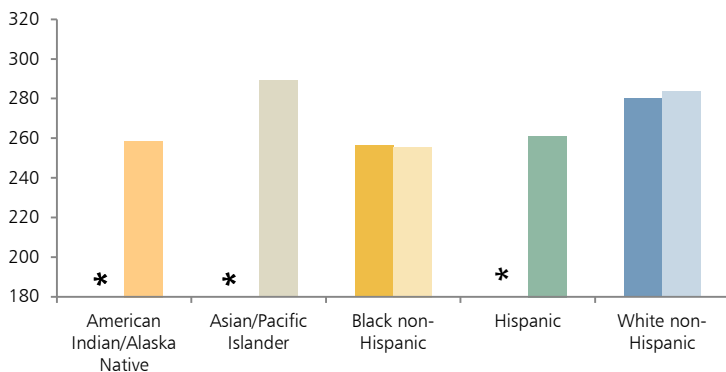


Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- 95% of Maine's public high school graduates were White non-Hispanic in 2008-09. They are projected to drop to 92% by 2019-20, and then steeply decrease as a share of the total in the later years.
- Black non-Hispanics are projected to be the most likely group to take up share as White non-Hispanics decrease in number, going above their historical average 2% of the total to about 3% by 2019-20, and to as much as 10% in the later projected years.
- Asians/Pacific Islanders and Hispanics will also gain share, although only to a combined 5% to 6% by the later projected years.



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.

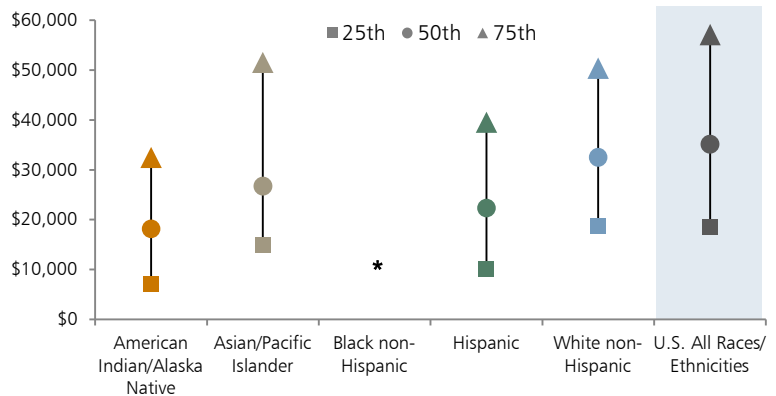
- No state-level scores were available for American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians/Pacific Islanders or Hispanics in Maine.
- However, there appears to be notably different performance between the first- and second-largest graduate groups. Black non-Hispanics' average composite score was 256 compared to 280 for White non-Hispanics.
- The state's scores for both groups were about the same as the national score for their group.

Note: Maine 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. The statewide median income for the working-age population (ages 25-64) in Maine from 2006 to 2010 was \$32,076, compared to the national median income of \$35,147. White non-Hispanics' median incomes were about the same as the statewide median.

Precise estimates are difficult to come by for smaller populations, so comparisons between groups can be problematic. But from the data available, the median incomes for Hispanics and American Indians/Alaska Natives were no more than two-thirds of the statewide median, which was also the median for White non-Hispanics.



* 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.

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