



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

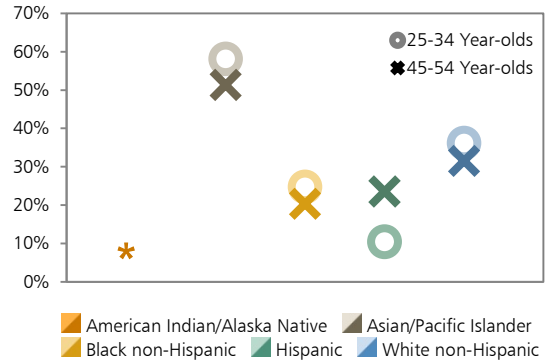
TENNESSEE

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

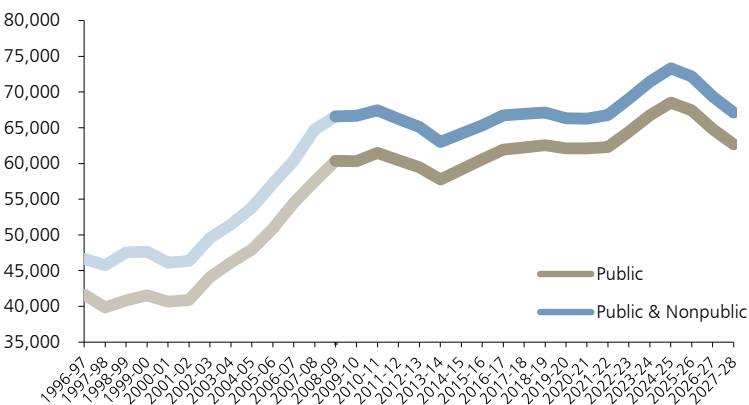
Workforce projections indicate there will be a growing demand for well-educated labor, which means that younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. In Tennessee between 2008 and 2010, overall 33% of younger adults (aged 25-34) had at least an associate's degree, slightly more than the 30% of older adults (aged 45-54). Younger adults of White non-Hispanic origin have higher degree attainment rates than the state average, as do all Asian/Pacific Islander.

However, younger and older adults who are Black non-Hispanic or Hispanic are less likely to have a postsecondary degree than others overall, and younger Hispanics have particularly low rates of degree attainment (11%). Due to small sample sizes, no estimates were available for American Indians/Alaska Natives.



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

Production of High School Graduates

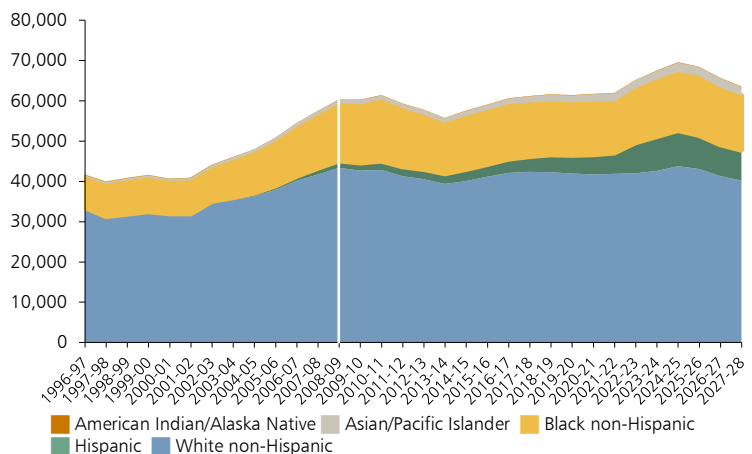


Tennessee's high school graduating class was steadily increasing in number during much of the last decade, from around 48,000 graduates in 1999-2000 to 66,600 by 2008-09. It is projected to remain around this level through 2012-13. There will be a couple of years of decline between 2012-13 and 2015-16, followed by graduating classes again between 66,000 and 67,000 through 2021-22. After this, Tennessee will see a brief spike in the number of graduates, as high as 73,300 in 2024-25, before dropping back again.

Nonpublic graduates decline from about 6,200 in 2008-09 (about 10% of the total), to 4,200 by 2019-20 (about 6% of the total).

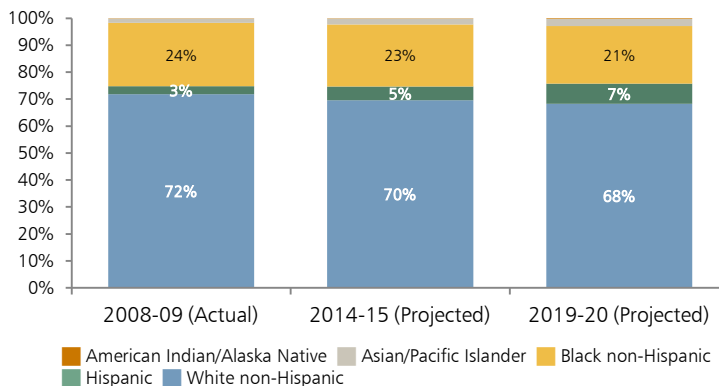
Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- White non-Hispanics were the majority among public high school graduates in Tennessee in 2008-09, at about 44,000. They remain the majority group throughout the projections, despite decreasing somewhat in number, to an average of about 41,500 graduates per year through 2019-20.
- Black non-Hispanic graduates are projected to have peaked around 15,000 graduates in 2010-11 and will thereafter decline to the 13,000s through 2019-20, before rising slightly to the 14,000s in the outer years of the projections.
- Hispanics are the fastest-growing group of graduates in Tennessee, increasing rapidly from 1,800 in 2008-09 to 4,600 by 2019-20, and then more in later years. Asian/Pacific Islander graduates increase by twofold.

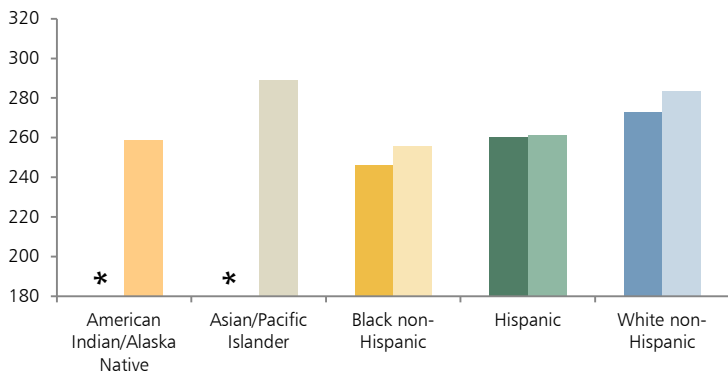


Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- The projections indicate that White non-Hispanics will remain the majority group among public high school graduates, but decline from 72% of the total in 2008-09 to 68% by 2019-20 and even further in the later projected years, to 63% by 2024-25.
- Black non-Hispanics are the second largest group among Tennessee’s high school graduates, and show slight declines throughout the projected period, from 24% in 2008-09 to 21% by 2019-20 and later years.
- Corresponding to rapid growth in numbers, Hispanics will increase from 3% of public high school graduates in 2008-09 to 7% by 2019-20, up to as much as 12% in the later projected years.



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.

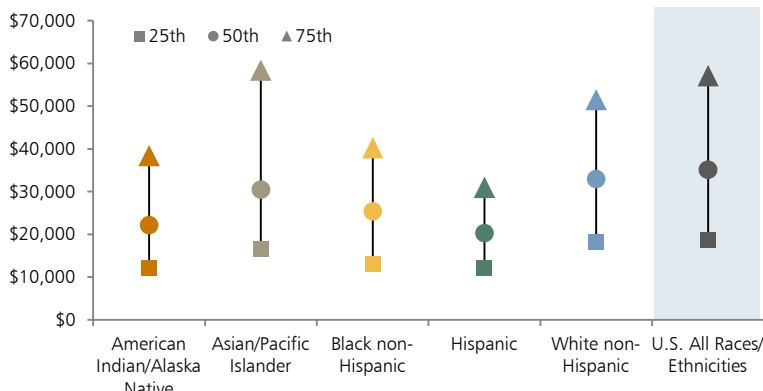
- The average composite math and reading scores for eighth graders in Tennessee in 2011 were 246 for Black non-Hispanics, 260 for Hispanics and 273 for White non-Hispanics. No scores were available for American Indian/Alaska Natives or Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- But, Black non-Hispanics as well as Hispanics clearly lagged White non-Hispanics in Tennessee by wide margins.
- The average scores for Black non-Hispanic and White non-Hispanic eighth graders were significantly lower than the national average for each respective group.

Note: Tennessee 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 factor is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. The statewide median income among working-age adults (25-65) in Tennessee from 2006 to 2010 was \$30,754, below the national median income of \$35,147.

Precise estimates are difficult to come by for smaller populations, so comparisons between groups can be problematic. However, the estimates suggest that underrepresented populations in Tennessee earn considerably less than the statewide median (and than White non-Hispanics), with American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic and Black non-Hispanic median incomes only between 66% to 83% of the statewide median at \$25,400 or less.



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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