



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

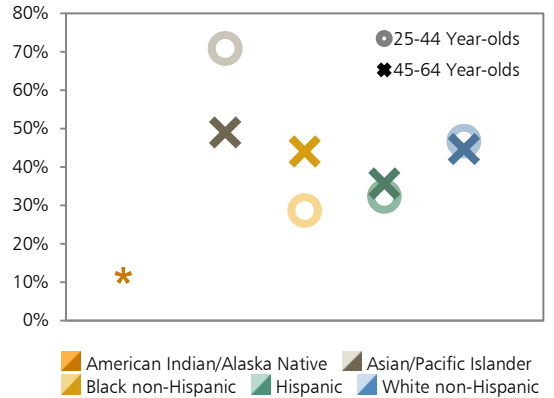
NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

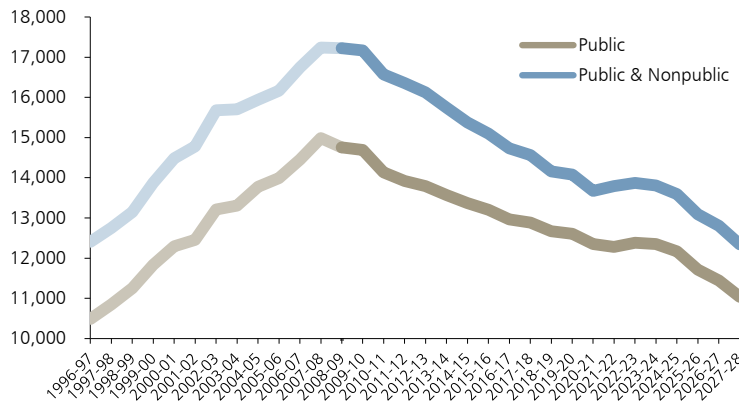
Workforce projections suggest a growing demand for well-educated labor, so younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. In New Hampshire in 2011, younger adults (aged 25-44) and older adults (aged 45-64) had earned postsecondary degrees at a statistically indistinguishable rate, around 46%.

Several of New Hampshire’s minority populations are too small to reliably discern the exact size of educational attainment gaps among all races/ethnicities. However, data from 2008 to 2010 indicate that younger Asian/Pacific Islander adults are the most likely to have postsecondary degrees, both compared to their older counterparts and all other groups for which data are available. Among the younger adults for whom data is available, young Black non-Hispanics are at the greatest disadvantage, with only 28.6% having a postsecondary degree. Hispanics of both age groups also earn degrees at substantially lower rates than the statewide average.



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

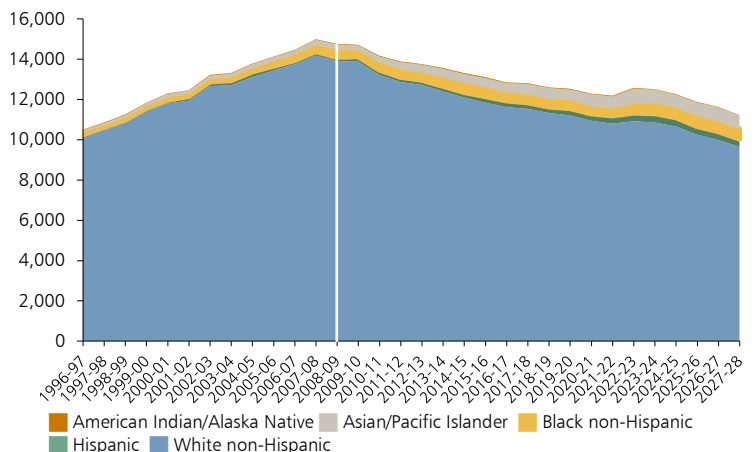
Production of High School Graduates



- New Hampshire’s long period of growth ended in 2007-08, with a high of 17,240 public and nonpublic graduates. According to the projections, New Hampshire will now lose graduates at an average annual rate of 2% throughout the projections timeframe. By 2019-20, the graduating class will be down 18%, a decrease of almost 3,200 graduates, from the high in 2007-08.
- Nonpublic graduates were about 14% of the total for most of the decade prior to the last actual reported year, 2008-09, when they numbered 2,463. They will also see steep declines, down by almost 40%, 985 graduates, between 2008-09 and 2019-20, at which point they will be only 10% of the total.

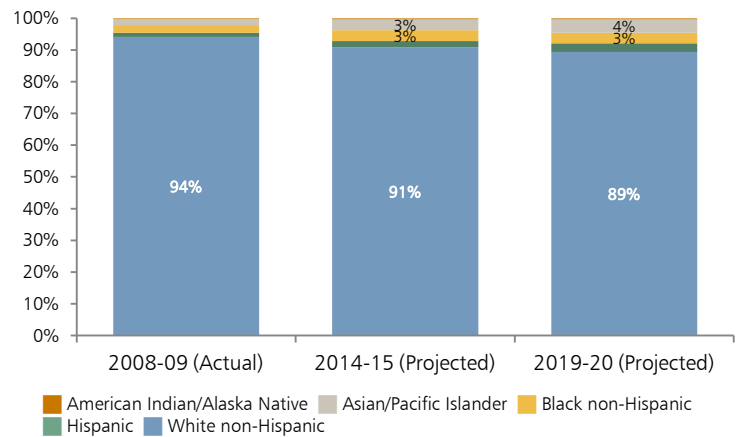
Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- White non-Hispanics make up the vast majority of New Hampshire’s public graduating class, and declines in the number of White non-Hispanic graduates will therefore drive New Hampshire’s overall decrease in number of graduates. They will decrease by almost 2,700 graduates by 2019-20, a drop of 19%
- While there will be growth among other groups, it will be in small numbers that will not be able to offset these declines. Black non-Hispanics, the second-largest group of graduates, will increase by 15%, to just over 400, by 2019-20. Asian/Pacific Islander graduates will increase by 91%, to about 530, and Hispanics will increase by almost 80%, to almost 350, over the same years.

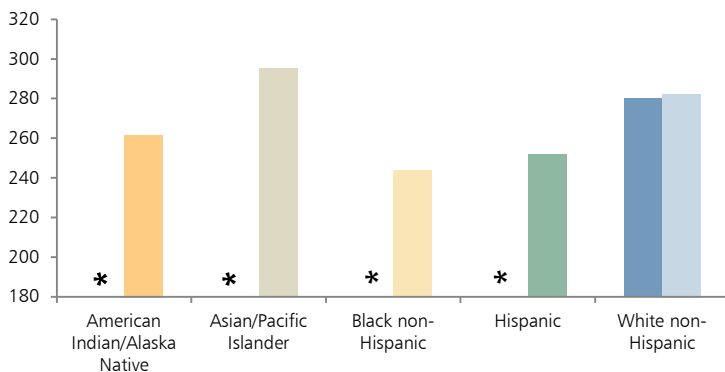


Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- White non-Hispanics were 94% of the total public graduates in 2008-09. They remain the large majority throughout the projections but decline to about 89% of the total by 2019-20, and then to 86% in the last several projected years.
- Each of the other races/ethnicities picks up small shares throughout the projections, as they increase in number (albeit relatively small numbers) and White non-Hispanic numbers fall.
- Asians/Pacific Islanders show the greatest gains, from 2% in 2008-09, to 4% in 2019-20 and 6% in later years.
- Black non-Hispanics increase from 2% to 3%, and Hispanics from 1% to 3%, from 2008-09 to 2019-20.



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 twelfth graders in 2009.

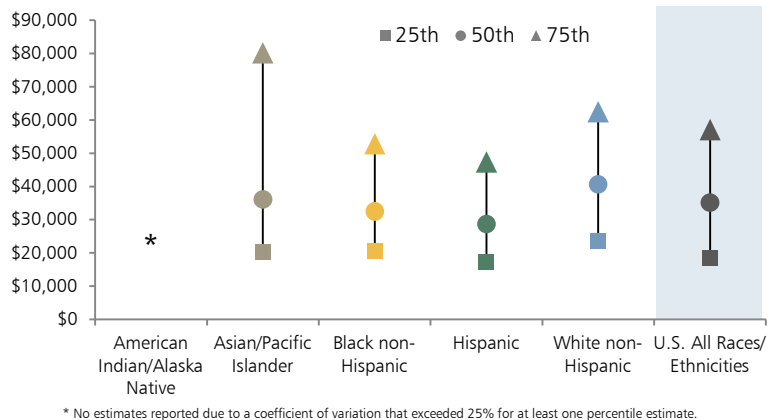
- Unfortunately, sample sizes for all racial/ethnic groups except White non-Hispanics were not large enough to allow for a reportable composite score.
- The composite score for White non-Hispanics, 280.3, was similar to their peers nationwide.

Note: New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire from 2006 to 2010 was \$40,305, about 15% higher than the national median income of \$35,147.

Precise estimates are difficult to come by for smaller populations, so comparisons between groups can be problematic. But, the data available indicate that Hispanics are least well-off financially, with a median income of \$28,717, only 71% of the statewide median. Black non-Hispanics were also concentrated towards the bottom of the state income spectrum. White non-Hispanics' median incomes were about the same as the statewide median.



* 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 12th graders tested in 2009; Math scores (0 to 300) were converted to fit the Reading scale of 0 to 500.

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](#).