



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

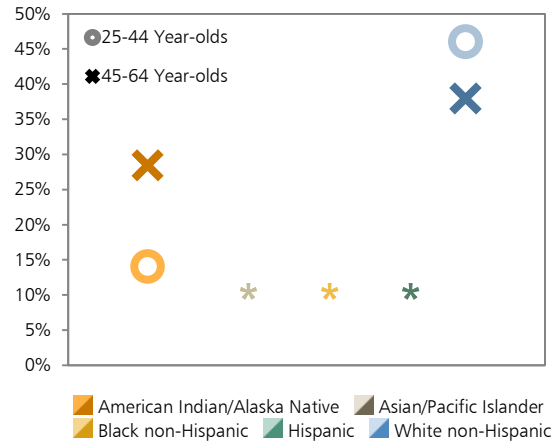
SOUTH DAKOTA

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

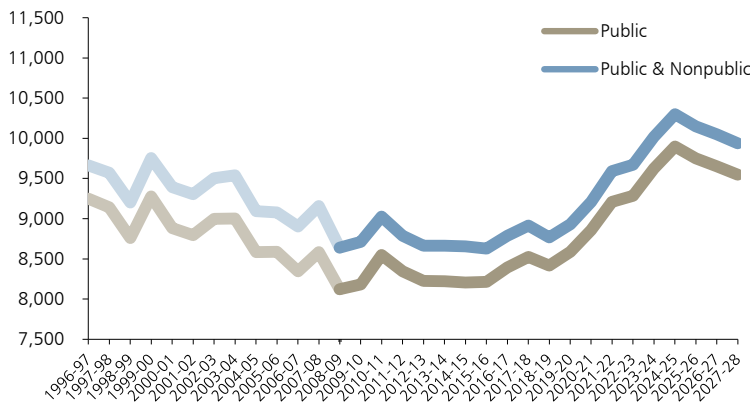
Workforce projections suggest a growing demand for well-educated labor, so younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. In South Dakota in 2011, 42.9% of younger adults (aged 25-44) had earned postsecondary degrees, considerably higher than the rate achieved by older adults (aged 45-64), 36.2%. While a rising educational attainment rate is good news for the state, the gap in educational attainment between White non-Hispanics and American Indians/Alaska Natives appears to be widening.

- Younger White non-Hispanics are outpacing their older counterparts in the rate at which they have earned an Associate's degree or better.
- At only about 14%, younger American Indians/Alaska Natives are much less likely to have achieved a postsecondary degree than their older counterparts.
- The gap in this measure of educational attainment between young White non-Hispanics compared to American Indians/Alaska Natives is estimated to fall somewhere between 29 and 36 percentage points.



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

Production of High School Graduates



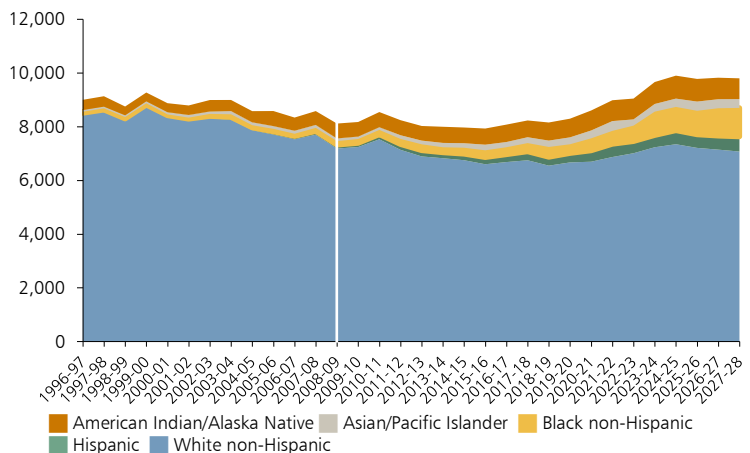
After seeing its production falter over the past decade, the number of high school graduates in South Dakota is projected to stabilize over several years before climbing to new heights.

- Between 2008-09 and 2015-16, total graduates are expected to remain steady around 8,600 (surpassing 9,000 briefly in 2010-11).
- Between 2016-17 and a new peak projected for 2024-25, they could rise by almost 1,700, about 20%.
- Nonpublic schools accounted for about 6% of the state's graduates in 2008-09. But projections suggest their numbers decline by about 175 graduates, a drop of about a third, with their share of the state total also falling to less than 4%.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

After declining throughout the 2000s, White non-Hispanic graduates in South Dakota are projected to stabilize and even increase in the years ahead. Nevertheless, the growth in overall production has more to do with increases in the other racial/ethnic groups. Because their numbers are small, projections are naturally going to be less stable, however.

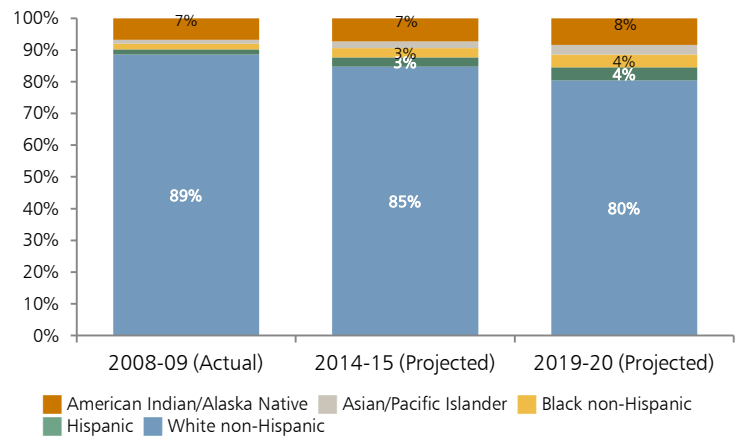
- White non-Hispanics are projected at about 600 fewer in 2018-19 than in 2008-09. By 2023-24, numbers will have fully recovered to that 2008-09 level.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives are the largest minority group, and projections suggest their numbers will climb by 140 graduates by 2019-20 relative to 2008-09, an increase of 26%.
- Significant increases of 150% or more are projected for all other races/ ethnicities over the same timeframe.



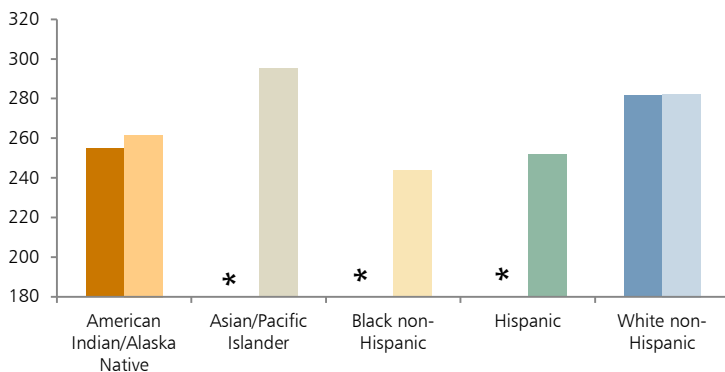
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

White non-Hispanics have been the dominant racial/ethnic group among public high school graduates in South Dakota, and will remain so in spite of fairly rapid diversification.

- The White non-Hispanic share is projected to fall by about 9 percentage points between 2008-09 and 2019-20.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives' share is projected to rise by a little more than 1 percentage point over the same timeframe, while both Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics can expect their share to double to 4%.
- Further diversification is projected for the period beyond 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.

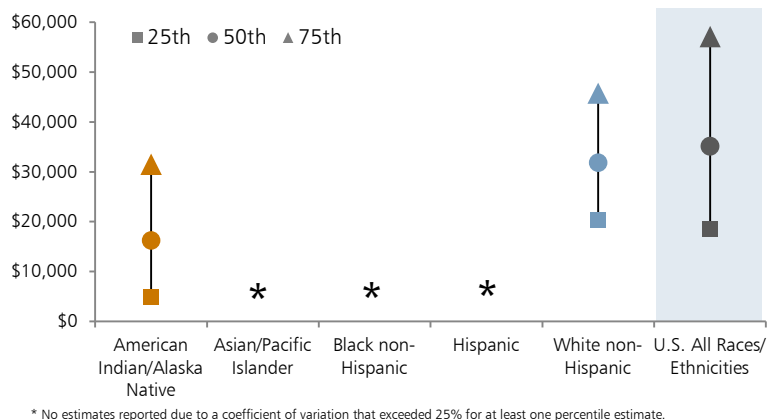
- The composite score for White non-Hispanics in South Dakota, 281.9, was similar to their peers nationwide.
- Similarly, the composite score for American Indians/Alaska Natives is not statistically distinguishable from the group's average score nationally.
- No state-level scores were available for Asian/Pacific Islanders, Black non-Hispanics, or Hispanics.

Note: South Dakota 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. Precise estimates are difficult to come by for small populations, which makes comparisons between some groups difficult. But in South Dakota from 2006 to 2010:

- The statewide median income for the working-age population (25-64) was \$30,479, compared to \$35,147 for the nation.
- The median income for White non-Hispanics was \$31,557, about 10% below the national median.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives typically took home only about \$16,000. A quarter of them earned about \$5,000 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 25-44 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.

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](#).