



# Knocking at the College Door

## Projections of High School Graduates

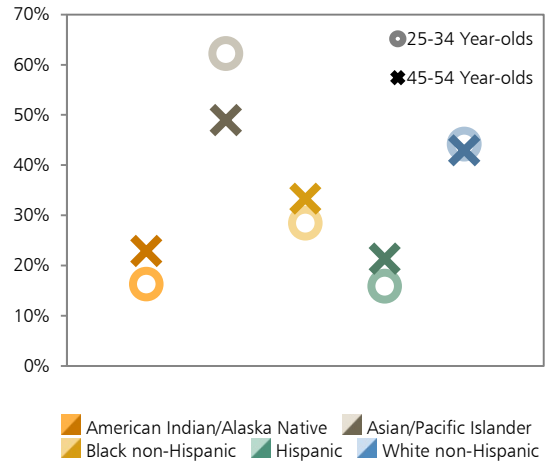
### WASHINGTON

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

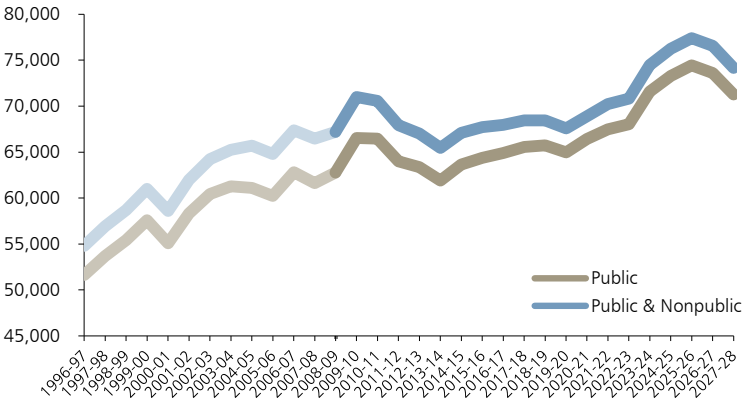
#### Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>

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.

- Data about the proportion of adults ages 25-34 and 45-54 in Washington state with postsecondary degrees between 2008 and 2010 indicate that overall, younger and older adults are about as likely to have a postsecondary degree, about 41% of each age group; however, the rate for younger adults is slightly less than the regional average (44%) and national average (46%).
- Except for Asian/Pacific Islanders, among non-Whites younger adults are less likely than older adults to hold a postsecondary degree, by about 5% to 6% among Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native and Black non-Hispanic young adults.



#### Production of High School Graduates



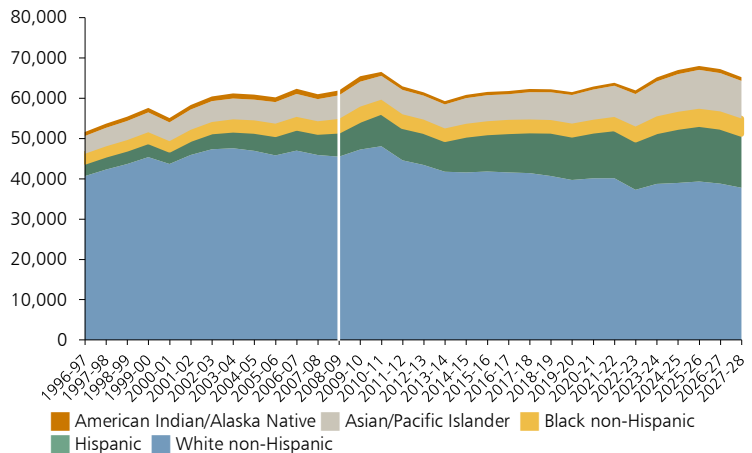
According to our projections, Washington state produced a high of 71,000 high school graduates in 2009-10. After this, Washington will experience several years of decline, followed by moderate and steady growth. Total graduates will decline to about 65,500 by 2013-14. After this, the graduating class will grow by 1% to 5% in most years through 2025-26, to a new high that year of 77,400 public and non-public graduates, before small declines begin in the last projected years.

Nonpublic graduates are projected to consistently decline, from 4,500 in 2009-10 to around 2,800 by 2027-28, representing 6% and 4% of the total in these years.

#### Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Washington state is projected to experience increasing diversity throughout the years projected:

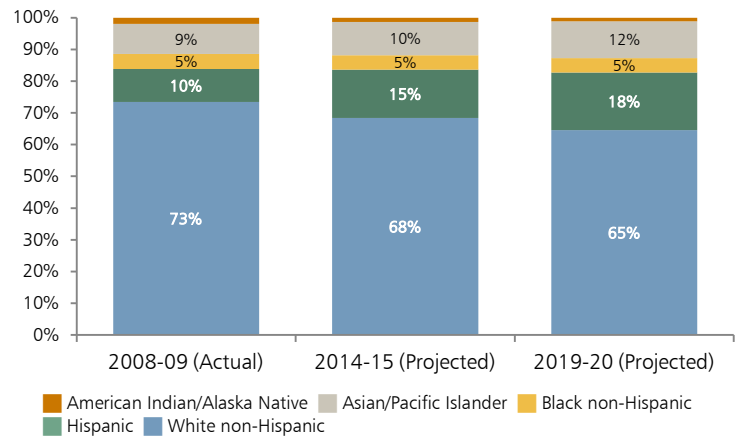
- After a projected high of 48,000 in 2010-11, White non-Hispanic graduates will decline by almost 20% to less than 38,000 by the end of the projections.
- Hispanic graduates consistently and rapidly increase, more than doubling in number from 6,400 in 2008-09 to more than 14,000 in the last several projected years.
- The number of Asian/Pacific Islander public graduates increase by about 65%, from around 6,000 at the beginning to more than 9,600 towards the end of the projections; Black non-Hispanic public graduates increase about 30% from around 3,000 to about 3,900.



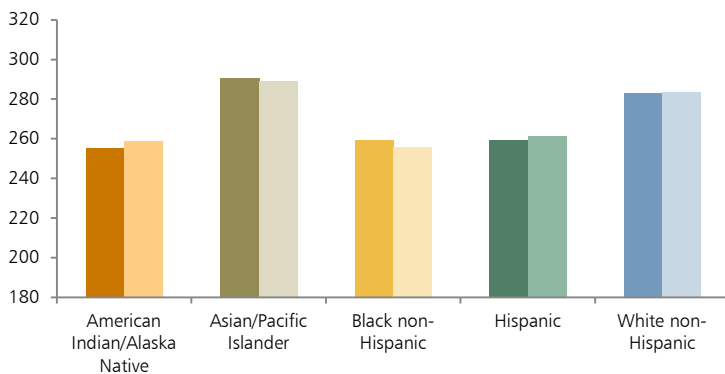
## Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Washington state's public graduating classes are projected to grow increasingly diverse. Our projections indicate that Non-White graduates will increase from 27% of the total in 2008-09, to 35% by 2019-20, and then 42% in 2027-28, due in large part to growth among Hispanics and some to growth in Asian/Pacific Islanders.

- White non-Hispanic graduates will decrease from 73% of all public high school graduates in 2008-09, to 65% in 2019-20, then 58% by 2027-28.
- Hispanic graduates will consistently increase in number and share of the total, from 10% to 20%, from 2008-09 to the last projected year, 2027-28; and Asian/Pacific Islanders will increase in share from 9% to 14%.
- Black non-Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native shares remain relatively constant.



## Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity<sup>2</sup>



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.

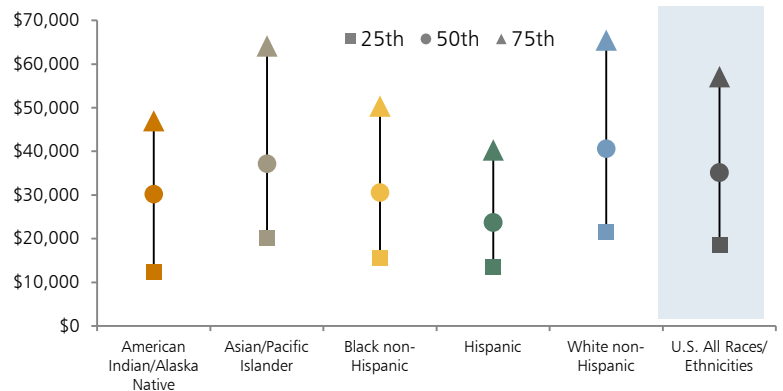
- The average composite math and reading score across race/ethnicities for eighth graders in Washington state in 2011 ranged from 255 for American Indians/Alaska Natives to 291 for Asians/Pacific Islanders, with scores for underrepresented groups fall well below the average score for White non-Hispanics.
- The average state score for eighth graders of each race/ethnicity was generally about the national average.

Note: Washington in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades.

## Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity<sup>3</sup>

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. Among working-age adults (25-64) in Washington state from 2006 to 2010:

- The statewide median income was \$38,442, compared with \$35,147 for the nation.
- Hispanics were the least well off financially among all races/ethnicities with a median income of \$23,719, two-thirds of the statewide median, and one in four Hispanics earning \$21,700 or less.
- Other non-Whites in Washington state had median incomes below the statewide median, particularly American Indian/Alaska Natives (\$30,228) and Black non-Hispanics (\$30,581).



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>.

<sup>1</sup>Source: 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.

<sup>2</sup>Source: 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.

<sup>3</sup>Source: 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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