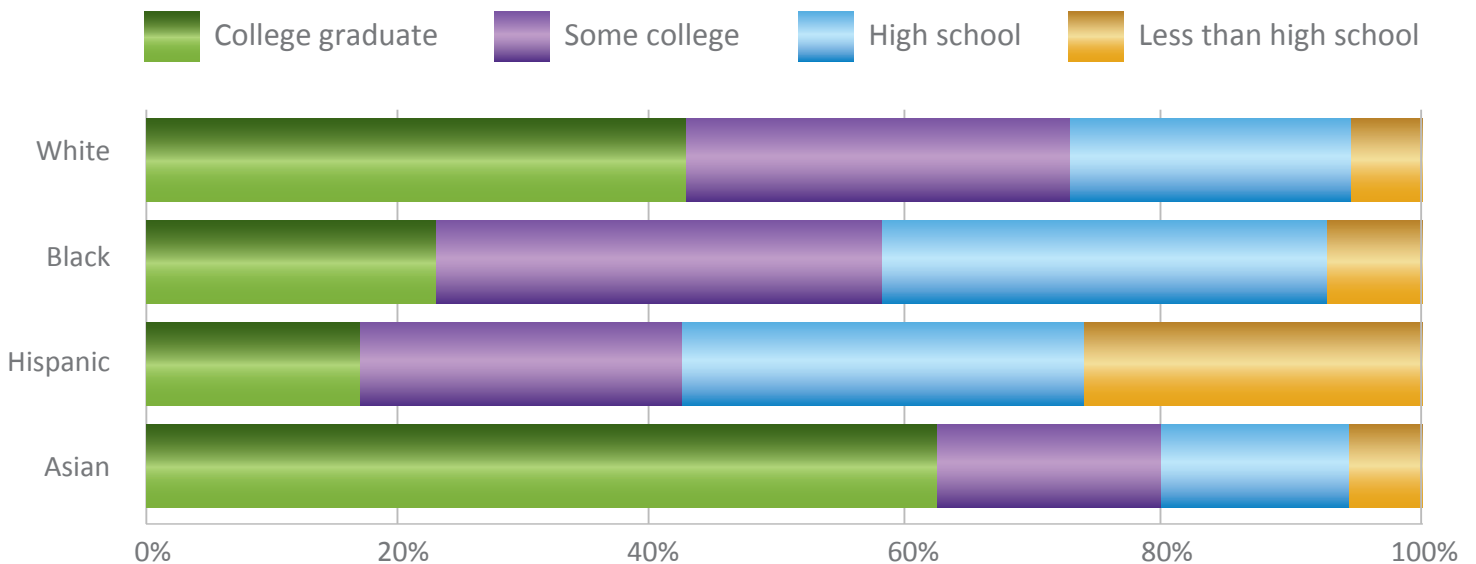


Millennials and diversity

Minority millennials still lag behind in education attainment compared to Asian and white counterparts.

Education attainment of millennials, ages 25-34, by race/ethnicity, 2015



Source: Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings Institution, “The Millennial Generation: A Demographic Bridge to America’s Diverse Future,” January, 2018.



Millennials, who account for 75.3 million people in the U.S., are more racially and ethnically diverse than any prior generation. Their racial and ethnic breakdown is 56 percent white, 21 percent Hispanic, 14 percent black, 6 percent Asian and 3 percent other. Highlighting this changing ethnic makeup, between 2000 and 2015 the U.S. population ages 18 to 34 showed an increase of 4.3 million among Hispanics and more than 3 million among both Asians and blacks. Conversely, white adults of the same age declined by nearly 250,000 during the same period. Millennials are more likely than prior generations to be bilingual with a strong English proficiency, and about a quarter of them speak a foreign language at home. About 30 percent of millennials ages 25 to 34 achieved a college education by 2015, which is a higher level than any other generation. However, Hispanic and black millennials have lower levels of education attainment than their peers.

For more information, contact Kent Phillippe, associate vice president for research and student success at the American Association of Community Colleges, at (202) 416-4505 or kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu, or Rahel Tekle, AACC research associate, at (202) 416-4508 or rtekle@aacc.nche.edu.