Knocking at the College Door
Projections of High School Graduates

National Press Release
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Background

• Eighth edition of *Knocking at the College Door* going back to 1979
• Projections of high school graduates by state and race/ethnicity, including nonpublic graduates
• Actual data through 2008-09; projections spanning 2009-10 through 2027-28
• Audience
  • Federal, state, and local policymakers and agency staff
  • Institutions: colleges and universities, public and private schools
  • Media
  • Researchers
  • Others
Caveat Emptor

- Assumed existing patterns continue indefinitely
- Policy changes not explicitly modeled
  - Changes in accountability policies (i.e., high-stakes tests)
  - Variations in funding levels that affect progression
- Underlying data
  - Reflect the 2008 recession but not all years of continued economic slump
  - May reflect spurious impacts resulting from the federal race/ethnicity data collection and reporting changes
- Focus is on the traditional pipeline exclusively
Projections of Postsecondary Enrollment of Adults 25 and Older

- Adult enrollment is projected to grow by 25.4 percent between Fall 2008 and Fall 2019.

The Principal Themes

1. Changes in overall production

2. Continuing rapid diversification along racial/ethnic lines

Both with substantial geographic variation
U.S. Public and Nonpublic High School Graduates by Region, 2003-04 to 2027-28

The graph shows the number of public and nonpublic high school graduates by region from 2003-04 to 2027-28. The regions are categorized as South, West, Midwest, and Northeast. The South region shows the highest trend, increasing from around 1 million in 2003-04 to over 1.4 million in 2027-28. The West region has a steady increase from around 0.8 million to just over 1 million. The Midwest region shows a slight decrease, starting at around 0.7 million and ending just below 0.6 million. The Northeast region has the lowest trend, starting at around 0.5 million and ending just above 0.4 million.
Contributions to the Nation’s Change in Total High School Graduates (Relative to 2008-09), by Region

- **2014-15** (6-yr Chg.)
  - West
  - Midwest
  - Northeast
  - South

- **2019-20** (11-yr Chg.)
  - West
  - Midwest
  - Northeast
  - South

- **2024-25** (16-yr Chg.)
  - West
  - Midwest
  - Northeast
  - South

- Y-axis: Number of Graduates
  - -150,000
  - -100,000
  - -50,000
  - 0
  - 50,000
  - 100,000
  - 150,000
  - 200,000
  - 250,000

- Legend: West, Midwest, Northeast, South
Percent Change Between 2008-09 and 2019-20 in Total High School Graduates, by State
U.S. Nonpublic High School Graduates, 1996-97 to 2008-09 (Estimated); 2009-10 to 2027-28 (Projected)
Cumulative Percent Projected Change in U.S. Public High School Graduates Relative to 2008-09, by Race/Ethnicity
Cumulative Change in Percentage Points in non-White non-Hispanic Share of Public High School Graduates, by Region
Proportion of Minority Public High School Graduates, 2019-20 (Projected)
Total Production vs. Diversification of Projected Public High School Graduates by 2020

- Slowing production, Rapid diversification
- Increasing production, Rapid diversification
- Slowing production, Incremental diversification
- Increasing production, Incremental diversification

Percent Change in Total Production, 2009-2020

Percentage Point Change in Non-White Share of Public HSGs, 2009-2020
Total Graduates, 2005-06 to 2008-09 (Actual) and 2009-10 to 2027-28 (Projected), Compared to Births 18 Years Prior

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; WICHE calculations
Percent Change in Births Between 1992 and 2010 by Region and Race/Ethnicity

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; WICHE calculations
Some Recent Phenomena Impacting the Projections

• Fertility rates declining across the board

![Graph showing fertility rates for different years and origins]

• Slowing immigration among Latinos (Pew, Census Bureau)

• Impacts of the recession shifting students around

Notes: Fertility rates measure the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44. Birth and fertility rates for 2001–2009 shown in this report were revised using (intercensal) population estimates based on the 2000 and 2010 census. The revised rates may differ from the rates published previously, which were based on 2000 (postcensal) population estimates.

Source: National Vital Statistics Report, Volume 61, Number 1, August 2012, Tables 1 and 5.
Differences in College Attainment (Associate & Higher) Between Younger and Older Adults by Race/Ethnicity – U. S., 2008-2010

Note: All differences between age groups of the same racial/ethnic group and between racial/ethnic groups are statistically beyond the 90% margins of error except for American Indians/Alaska Natives. 90% margins of error range from +/- 1% for American Indians/Alaska Natives aged 25-34 to +/- 0.1% for White non-Hispanics aged 45-54.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). Via NCHEMS.
Composite NAEP Reading and Math Scores for 12th Graders in 2009, by Race/Ethnicity

American Indian/Alaska Native: 282.5
Asian/Pacific Islander: 298.3
Black non-Hispanic: 243.6
Hispanic: 251.8
White non-Hispanic: 282.3

Note: 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.
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer
Average Annual Wage/Salary Income Distribution by Race/Ethnicity, 2006-2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (via NCHEMS)
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