



# Knocking at the College Door

## Projections of High School Graduates

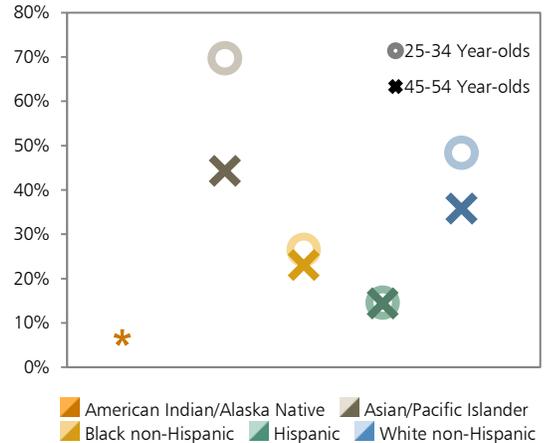
### IOWA

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

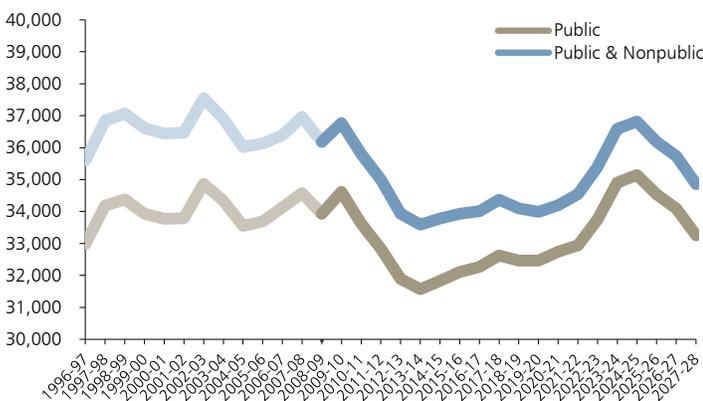
Workforce projections suggest a growing demand for well-educated labor, so younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. In Iowa between 2008 and 2010, 46% of younger working-age adults (aged 25-34) had earned postsecondary degrees, quite a bit higher than the 35% of older adults (aged 45-54). These better-educated younger workers are good for the state's economy, but large gaps in educational attainment exist among racial/ethnic groups nonetheless.

- White non-Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander younger adults have postsecondary degrees at higher rates than their older counterparts.
- Estimates are not precise enough to observe educational attainment differences by age group for Black non-Hispanics or Hispanics.
- But, the 15% postsecondary degree attainment rate for Hispanics of both age ranges clearly trails other groups.
- At 48%, young White non-Hispanics' rate is considerably higher than their Black non-Hispanic counterparts, but lower than Asians/Pacific Islanders.



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

#### Production of High School Graduates



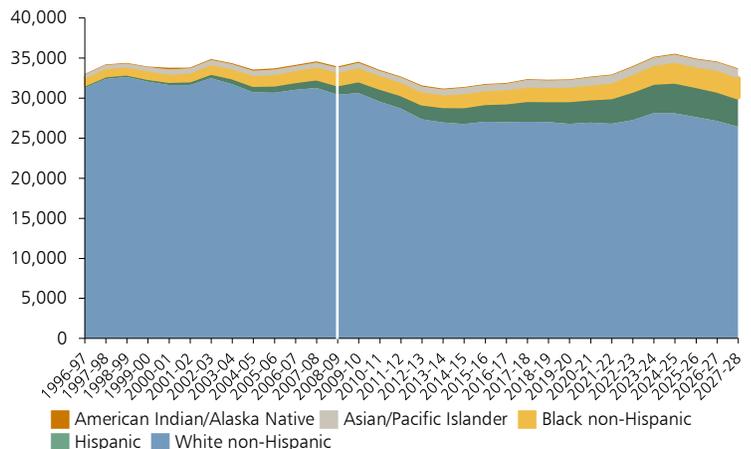
As with many states in the Midwest, Iowa has seen its production of high school graduates ebb and flow in recent years.

- Projections indicate that production will now drop abruptly over a four-year period beginning in 2010-11, costing about 3,000 graduates (9%) by 2013-14.
- Beginning in 2014-15, graduate numbers are expected to start rising again, with increases picking up pace in 2022-23 through 2024-25. An increase of 5% is projected between 2014-15 and 2022-23.
- In 1998-99, nonpublic schools accounted for a high of 2,693 graduates and 7.3% of the total. But by 2020-21, nonpublic graduates are projected as only about 1,500, a little over 4% of the total.

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

Following a peak of 31,250 in 2007-08, projections indicate that White non-Hispanic graduates began a period of decline that will drive Iowa's overall reduction in total high school graduates.

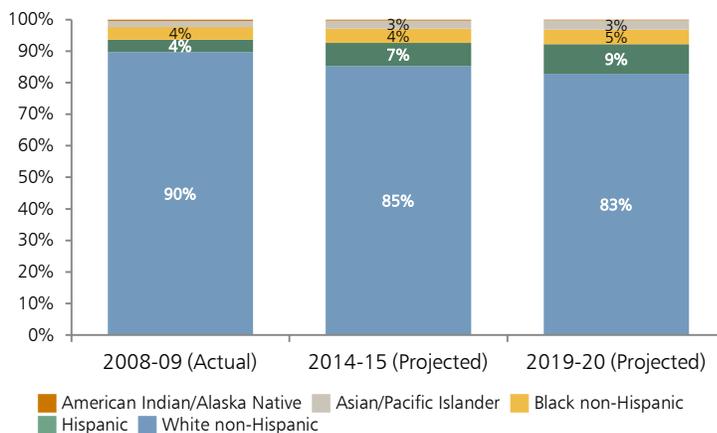
- By 2019-20, the number of White non-Hispanic graduates will have fallen by 14%.
- Black non-Hispanic graduates, whose numbers doubled between 2000-01 and 2008-09, are projected to be relatively flat at between 1,300 and 1,500 through 2021-22.
- Hispanic increases were almost identical to Black non-Hispanic increases between 2000-01 and 2008-09, but Hispanic numbers are expected to continue to rise, more than doubling by 2019-20.



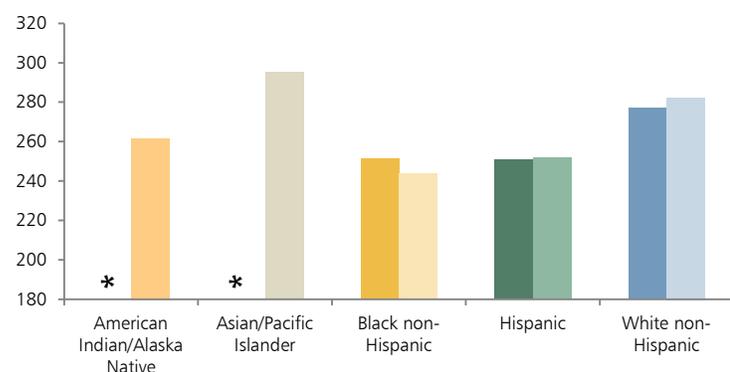
## Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Iowa's public high school graduating classes are projected to rapidly become less racially/ethnically homogenous in the years ahead.

- White non-Hispanics accounted for 90% of all graduates in 2008-09; that share is expected to fall 7 percentage points by 2019-20.
- The Hispanic share is projected to more than double over the same time period, accounting for nearly one in ten graduates by 2019-20.
- Both Black non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders can expect to see their shares increase.



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



Note: Iowa in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades. \*Reporting standards were not met and no score is available.

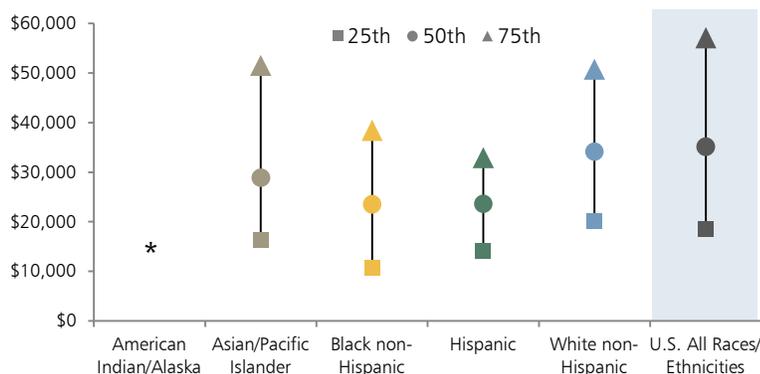
Academic preparation is a major factor in access to and success in college. One indicator of readiness comes from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and reading scores for twelfth graders in 2009.

- Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics posted lower composite scores than White non-Hispanics in Iowa.
- The state's score for White non-Hispanics fell short of the national score for that group; the other two groups for which state-level data were available were not statistically different from their corresponding national scores.
- No state-level scores were available for American Indians/Alaska Natives or Asians/Pacific Islanders.

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

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. In Iowa from 2006 to 2010:

- The statewide median income for the working-age population (25-64) was \$32,950, compared with \$35,147 for the nation.
- The median income of White non-Hispanics was \$34,135, higher than any other racial/ethnic group in the state, but lower than the national median.
- Hispanics and Black non-Hispanics typically earn substantially less than White non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders. A quarter of Black non-Hispanics earn well under \$12,000 a year.



\* 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>.

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

<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.

For more information email [knocking@wiche.edu](mailto:knocking@wiche.edu) or contact Peace Bransberger, Research Analyst, 303.541.0257, [pbransberger@wiche.edu](mailto:pbransberger@wiche.edu), or Brian Prescott, Director of Policy Research, 303.541.0255, [bprescott@wiche.edu](mailto:bprescott@wiche.edu).

Visit <http://wiche.edu/knocking> to obtain the full publication and download these projections as [graphs](#) or [data files](#).