



# Knocking at the College Door

## Projections of High School Graduates

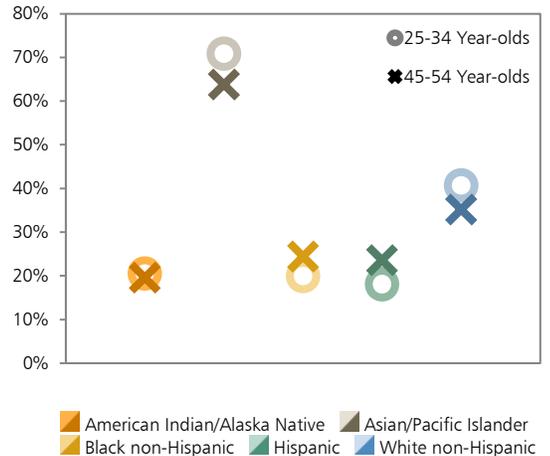
### MICHIGAN

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

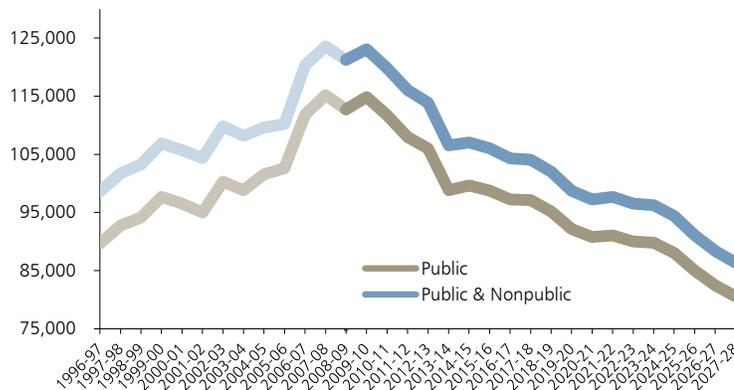
#### Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>

Overall, about 37% of Michigan’s population of younger adults (aged 25-34) held an associate’s degree or better, compared to 34% of the state’s older working-age adults. However, there is a substantial educational attainment gap based on race/ethnicity and signs that may indicate the gap may worsen.

- Asians/Pacific Islanders have the highest attainment rates of any racial/ethnic group in the state, and the younger group has improved upon their older counterparts’ rate by 7 percentage points, reaching about 70.8%.
- Younger White non-Hispanics also have a higher rate within that group, 40.7% compared to 35.2% for their elders.
- By contrast, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Black non-Hispanics, and Hispanics all have flat or declining rates between age groups, with the younger ages hovering in the 18-20% range, far below the rates of White non-Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders.



#### Production of High School Graduates

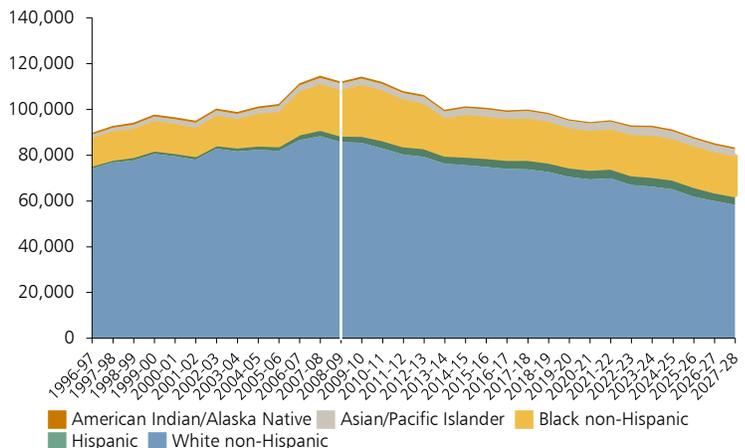


In 2008-09, Michigan stood at the cusp of a sharp, long-term contraction in its production of high school graduates. Only California is projected to lose more graduates than Michigan, and only Vermont will shrink faster. After peaking in 2007-08 at 123,576 graduates, the state will see substantial contraction beginning in 2009-10. By 2019-20, high school graduates will fall 20% to below 99,000 and the decline is projected to continue indefinitely beyond that.

Michigan’s nonpublic schools are projected to produce about 30% fewer graduates in 2019-20 compared to 2008-09. But unlike many other states, nonpublic graduates will retain close to a 7% share in Michigan because of the commensurate contraction in public graduates.

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

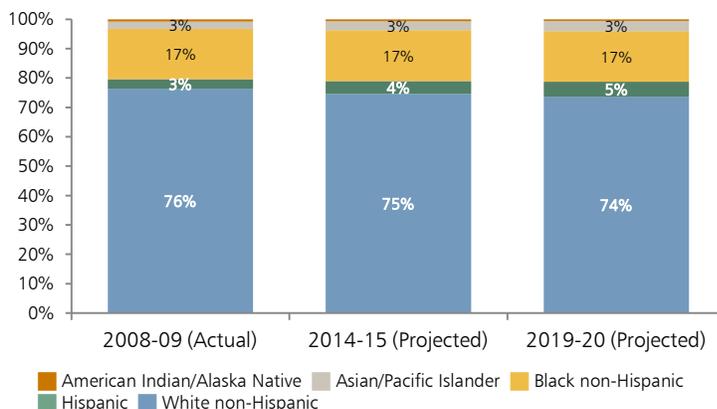
- After peaking at 88,225 in 2007-08, White non-Hispanics will lead the projected decline in public high school graduates, falling by about 18,000 to just over 70,000 by 2019-20.
- Projections are that Black non-Hispanics will also experience a rapid decline, falling from a forecasted high point of 21,445 in 2009-10 to a little over 16,000 in 2020-21, a drop of 24%.
- Both Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders will see projected increases. But neither group is large enough to arrest the overall contraction. Hispanics will grow about 37% and Asians/Pacific Islanders by about 19% between 2008-09 and 2019-20.



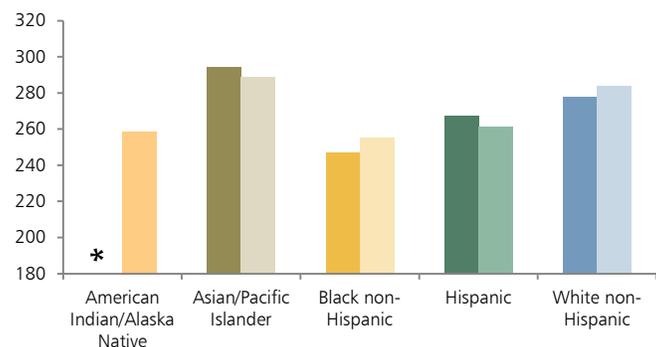
## Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Michigan is among the states projected to see relatively modest diversification compared to what is taking place throughout the nation. White non-Hispanics are expected to account for 74% of public high school graduates in 2019-20, as compared to 76% in 2008-09.

The share of Hispanics is projected to climb by that same amount, 2 percentage points, to 5%. Shares of other races/ethnicities are projected to remain stable through 2019-20. But a brief period of projected growth among Black non-Hispanics later in the projections period, combined with continued losses among White non-Hispanics, means that White non-Hispanics will decline more steeply as a share beyond 2019-20.



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



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

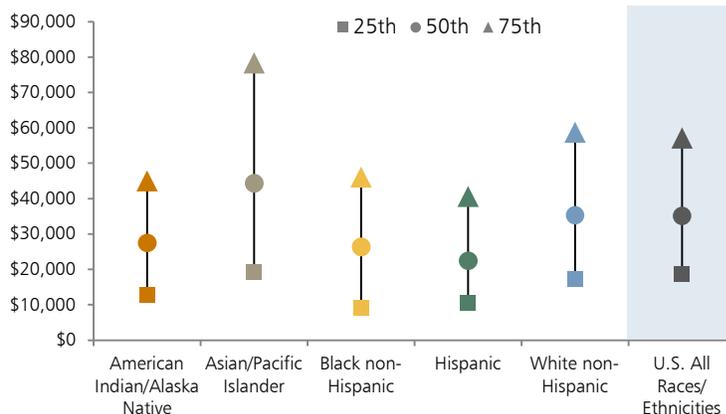
Academic preparation is a major factor in access to and success in college. One indicator of readiness comes from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and reading scores for eighth graders in 2011.

- Michigan's Black non-Hispanics significantly underperformed the national and state averages for other races/ethnicities, with a composite score of 247. Hispanics scored 267, still substantially lower than White non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders and statistically indistinguishable from the nation's Hispanics.
- White non-Hispanics scored higher at 277.6, but behind the national average of 283.7 for that group. Asians/Pacific Islander achieved the highest composite score of 294.3.
- No state-level score was available for American Indians/Alaska Natives.

## 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 Michigan from 2006 to 2010, the statewide median income was \$33,146, compared with \$35,147 for the nation.

- Asians/Pacific Islanders' median income of \$44,345 was 34% higher than the statewide median, and a quarter earned about \$78,000 or more.
- The median income for White non-Hispanics was \$35,284.
- Hispanics earned a median of \$22,453, as compared with Black non-Hispanics who earned \$26,360. One quarter of all Black non-Hispanics earned about \$9,000 or less, and a quarter of Hispanics earned about \$10,700 or less.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives also fared worse than White non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders.



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.

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](#).