

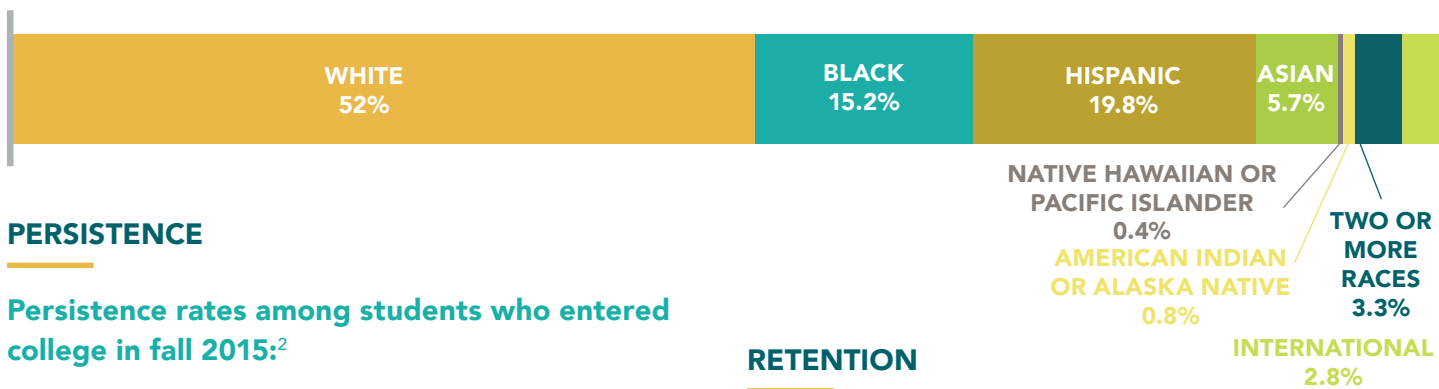
101: EQUITY GAPS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



An educational equity gap is where there is a significant and persistent disparity in educational attainment between different groups of students. The equity gap that exists between white students and students of color begins in K-12 education — where 87 percent of white students graduate high school on-time compared to 76 percent of Hispanic and 73 percent of African American students — and continues into and through postsecondary education. This 101 provides a quick overview of the equity gaps in postsecondary education to help policymakers address inequities that exist in higher learning and beyond.

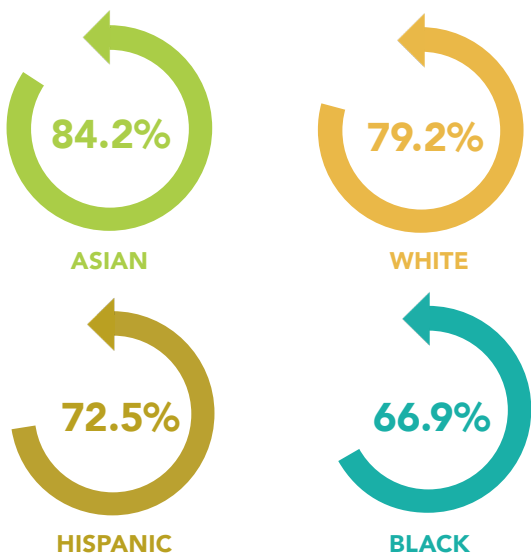
ENROLLMENT

Percent of students enrolled in postsecondary education:¹



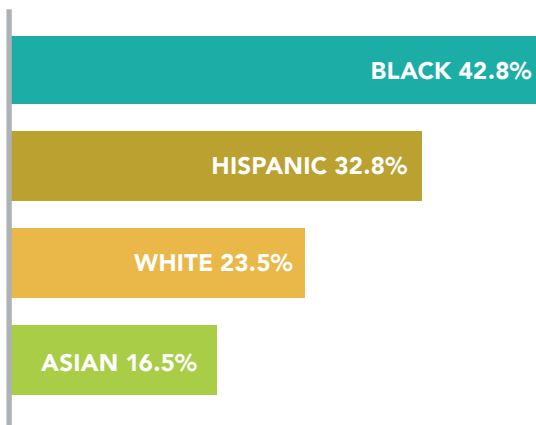
PERSISTENCE

Persistence rates among students who entered college in fall 2015:²



RETENTION

In fall 2011, the percentage of degree-seeking students who dropped out of a postsecondary institution after six years was:³



¹ <https://www.equityinhighered.org/indicators/enrollment-in-undergraduate-education/race-and-ethnicity-of-u-s-undergraduates/>

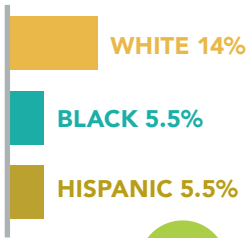
² <https://nscresearchcenter.org/snapshotreport28-first-year-persistence-and-retention/>

³ <https://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport14/> [figure 12]

COMPLETION

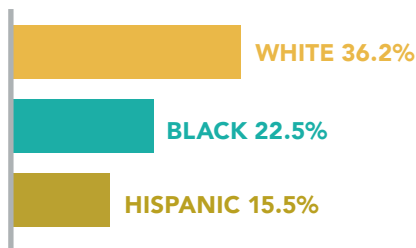
Percent of students who completed four years of college in:^{4,5}

1974

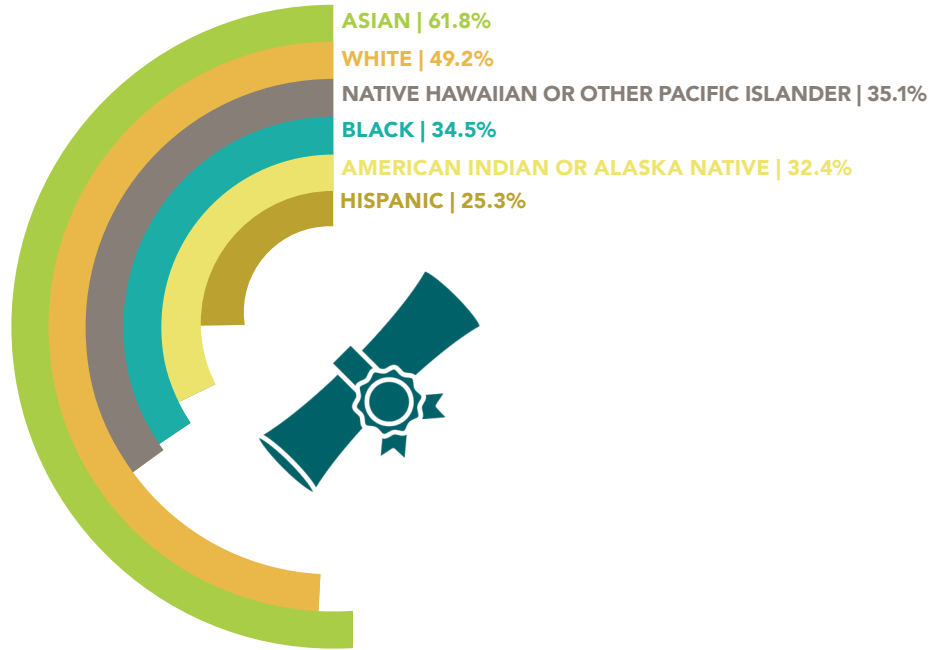


VS.

2015

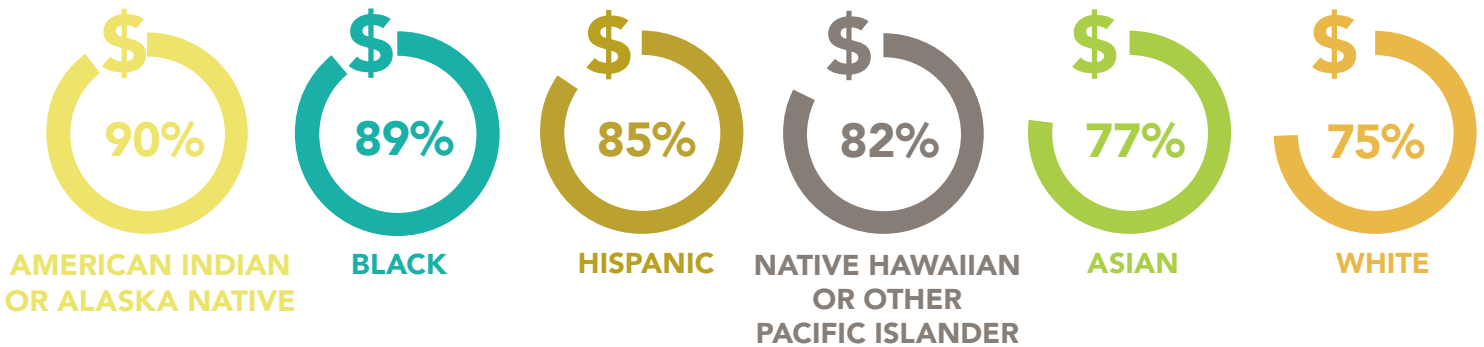


Percent of adults ages 25 and older who have earned an Associate's degree or higher in 2017:⁶

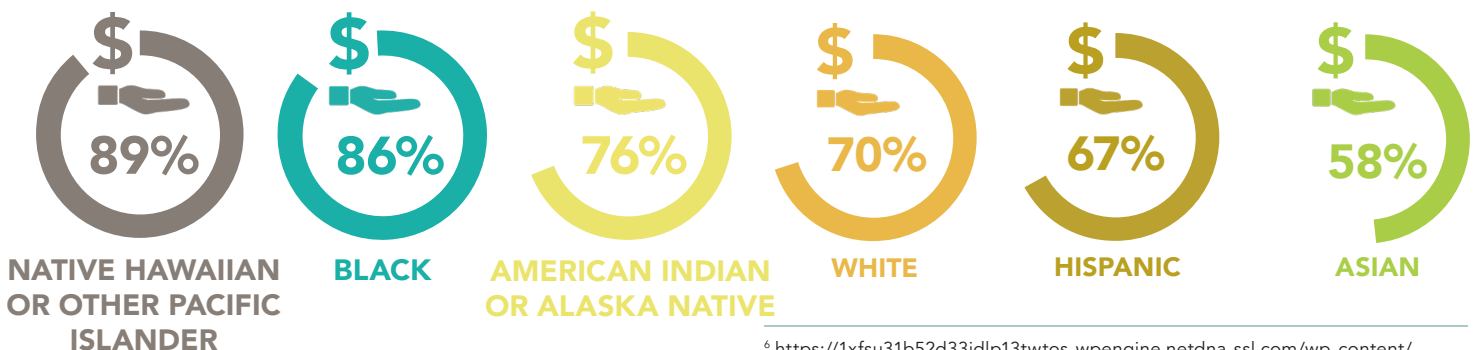


FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Percent of students who receive grant aid:⁷



Proportion of Bachelor's degree recipients receiving federal loans:⁸



⁴ <http://younginvincibles.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Higher-Education-Equity.pdf>

⁵ *ibid.*

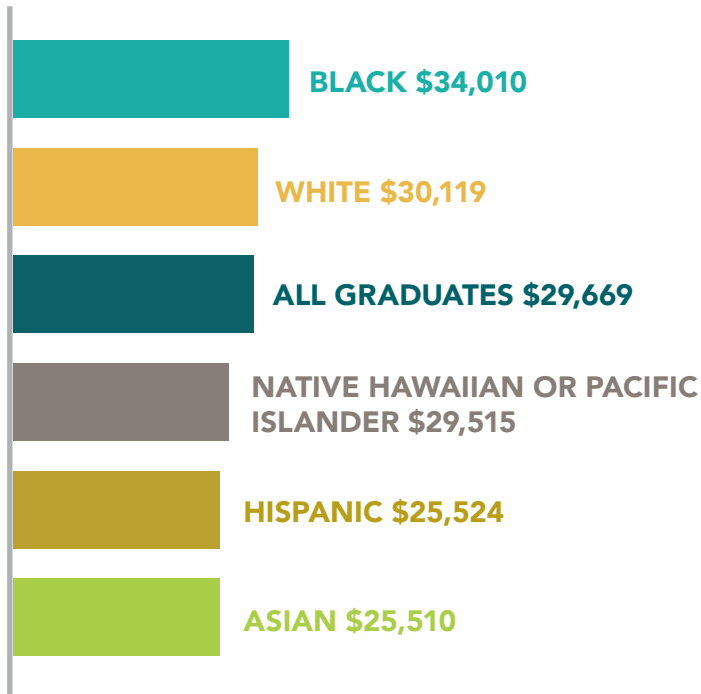
⁶ <https://1xfsu31b52d33idlp13twtos-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/REHE-Exec-Summary-FINAL.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.equityinhighered.org/indicators/how-students-finance-undergraduate-study/share-of-students-receiving-grant-aid/>

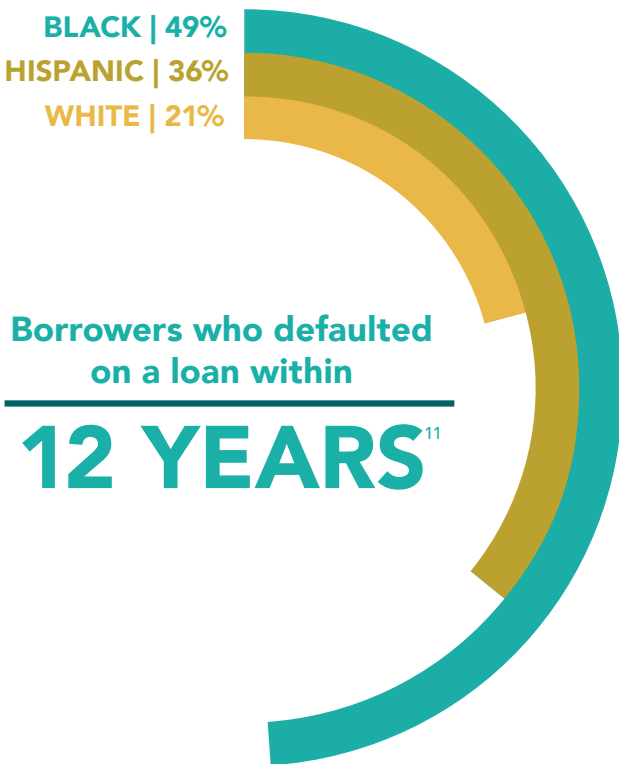
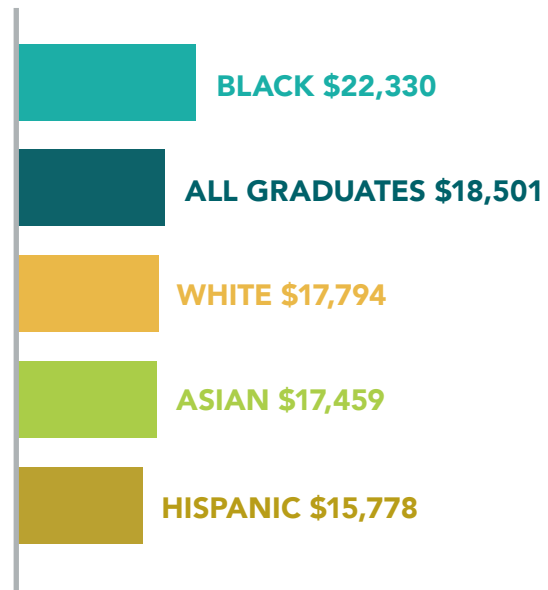
⁸ [https://www.equityinhighered.org/\[table 7.12\]](https://www.equityinhighered.org/[table 7.12])

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID (CONTINUED)

Average amount borrowed by Bachelor's degree recipients:⁹

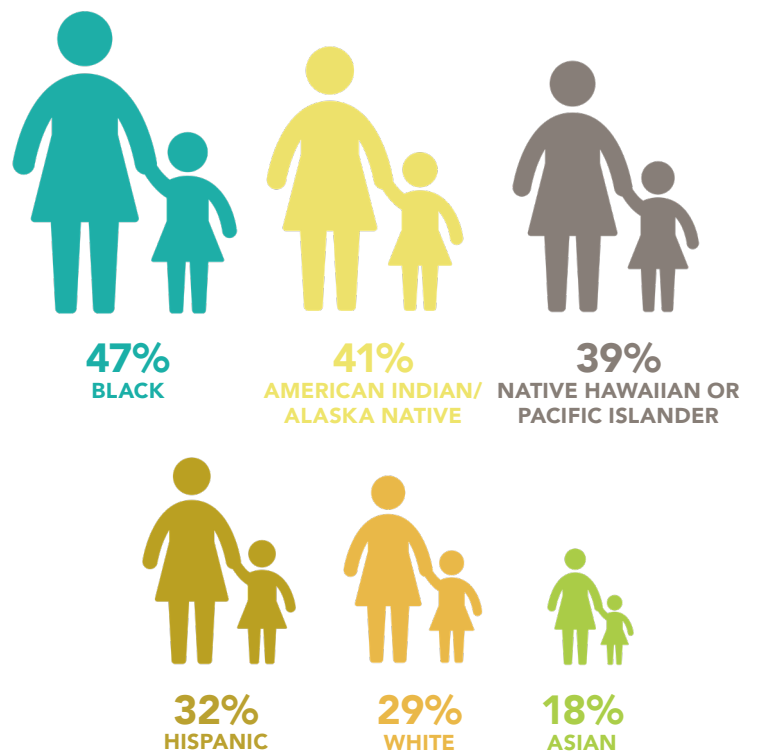


Average amount borrowed by Associate's degree recipients:¹⁰



STUDENT PARENTS

Percent of female students who are parents:¹²



⁹ <https://www.equityinhighered.org/> [table 7.12]

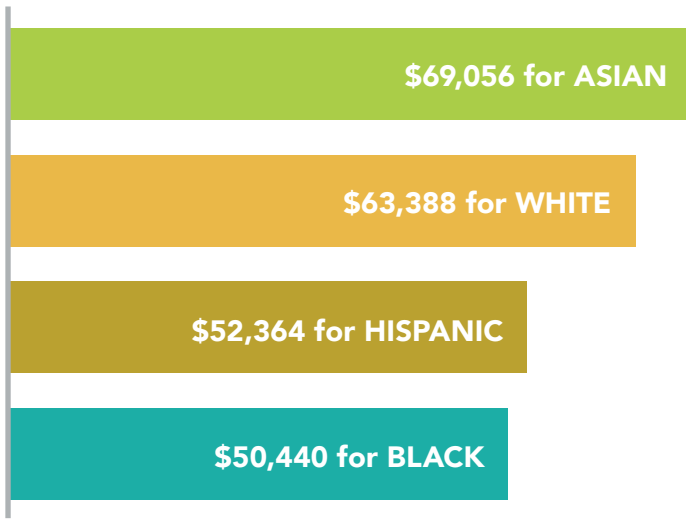
¹⁰ <https://www.equityinhighered.org/> [table 7.8]

¹¹ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-postsecondary/news/2017/10/16/440711/new-federal-data-show-student-loan-crisis-african-american-borrowers/>

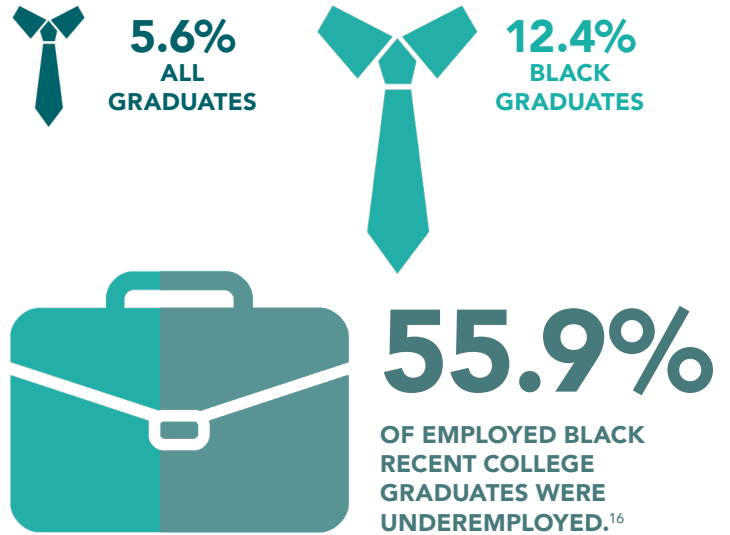
¹² https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/C462_Understanding-the-New-College-Majority-BP_2.8.18-clean.pdf

ECONOMIC OUTCOMES

Median earnings for individuals with at least a Bachelor's degree:^{13,14}

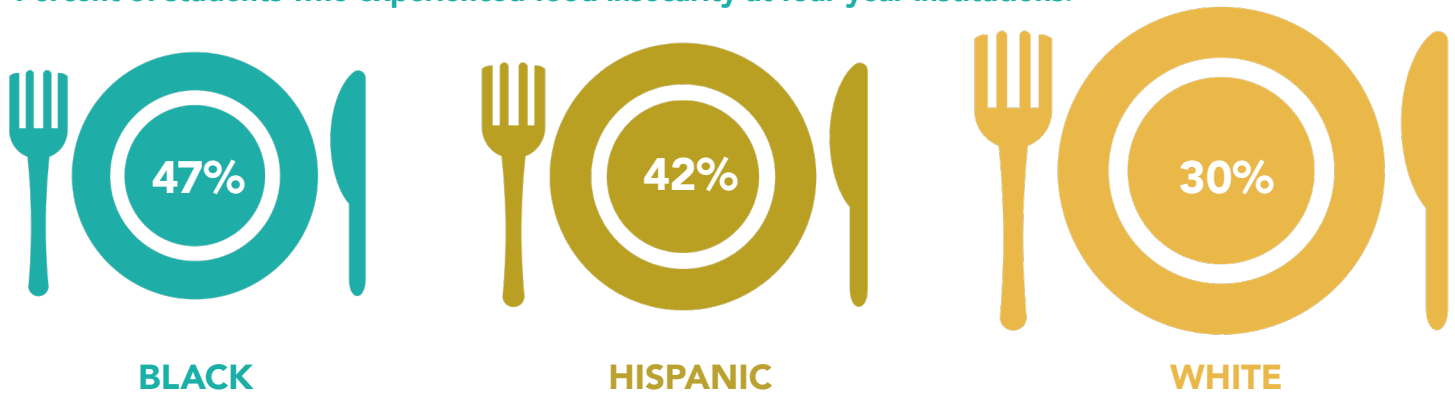


In 2013, college graduates between the ages of 22 and 27 face the following unemployment rates:¹⁵



FOOD INSECURITY

Percent of students who experienced food insecurity at four-year institutions:¹⁷



46%

OF PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS



AT 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY¹⁸



¹³ <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2015/median-weekly-earnings-by-education-gender-race-and-ethnicity-in-2014.htm>

¹⁴ Note: The education level variable used was bachelor's degree and higher. To calculate annual earnings, we multiplied the median weekly earnings by 52.

¹⁵ <http://cepr.net/documents/black-coll-grads-2014-05.pdf>

¹⁶ <http://cepr.net/documents/black-coll-grads-2014-05.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Wisconsin-HOPE-Lab-Still-Hungry-and-Homeless.pdf>

¹⁸ Ibid.

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