



Educating for the Future 2022 Update

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About the Office of Higher Education

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a cabinet-level state agency providing students with financial aid programs and information to help them gain access to postsecondary education. The agency also serves as the state's clearinghouse for data, research and analysis on postsecondary enrollment, financial aid, finance and trends.

The Minnesota State Grant Program is the largest financial aid program administered by the Office of Higher Education, awarding more than \$210 million annually in need-based grants to Minnesota residents attending eligible colleges, universities and career schools in Minnesota. The agency oversees other state scholarship programs, tuition reciprocity programs, a student loan program, Minnesota's 529 College Savings Plan, licensing and early college awareness programs for youth.

About This Report

This is a legislative-mandated report. As requested by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197, this report cost approximately \$2,828.68 to prepare, including staff time.

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Executive Summary

In 2015, the Minnesota Legislature enacted a goal that 70% of Minnesota adults (ages 25-44) will have attained a postsecondary certificate or degree by 2025. In recognition of existing gaps in attainment, the law also sets 30% and 50% educational attainment benchmarks for all races and ethnicities as interim goals.

Current estimates show that 63.0% of Minnesotans aged 25-44 years completed a postsecondary credential (Figure 1). This percentage increased as compared to 2015 estimates (57.5%).

- White Minnesotans have the highest attainment at 68.0%, while American Indian and Hispanic individuals share the lowest attainment percentage at 30.0% and 33.0%, respectively. Black Minnesotans have an attainment rate of 40.0%. Asian Minnesotans (64.0%) and multiracial Minnesotans (52.0%) have attainment rates over the 50 percent benchmark.

While progress has been made in each basic race category, there is still work to be done. In order to reach the 70.0% educational attainment goal set by the Legislature, Minnesota will need an additional 107,027 persons age 25-44 to complete a postsecondary credential by 2025.

- In total, Minnesota's communities of color must earn 89,843 additional postsecondary credentials in order to meet benchmark goals set by the Legislature. Among the 107,027 new credentialed persons needed, 5,500 credentials must be earned by American Indian persons, 5,807 by Asian persons, 33,937 by Black persons, 7,532 by multiracial persons, 35,591 by Hispanic persons, and 17,184 by white persons.

Attainment rates for the basic race categories hide large disparities within racial groups.

- The overall attainment rate for Black Minnesotans for an associate degree or higher credential is 32.9%. However, Liberian persons have the highest attainment rate of 48.9% compared to Somali persons (21.6%) with the lowest.
- Salvadoran persons have an attainment rate of 10.2% as compared to Puerto Rican persons with an attainment rate for associate degree or higher credential of 40.0%. The overall attainment rate for Hispanic Minnesotans is 28.7%.
- Although Asian Minnesotans have an associate degree or higher attainment rate of 60.7%, Burmese Minnesotans have an attainment rate of 14.6% compared to Indian Minnesotans have an attainment rate of 91.8%. Laotian (34.5%), Hmong (40.8%), and Cambodian Minnesotans (45.2%) have attainment rates under the 50 percent benchmark. Vietnamese (54.1%), Filipino (63.5%), Koreans (72.5%), Chinese (79.1%), and all other Asian ethnicities (62.8%) have attainment rates above the 50% benchmark.

While Minnesota is making progress towards the 70% educational attainment goal, attainment gaps persist among Black, Indigenous, and persons of color. In order for Minnesota to maintain economic growth and ensure continued prosperity, the state and its colleges must engage communities of color and American Indian communities in postsecondary education.

Minnesota's Attainment Goal

In 2015, the Minnesota Legislature enacted a goal that 70% of Minnesota adults (ages 25-44) will have attained a postsecondary certificate or degree by 2025. The law also sets 30% and 50% educational attainment benchmarks for all races and ethnicities.

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education an individual completes. Educational attainment of a population is the percentage or count of the persons that holds a postsecondary credential (certificate, associate degree, diploma, bachelor's degree, master's degree, graduate certificate, doctoral or professional degree). The population sampled for measuring educational attainment can vary widely depending on the source. In Minnesota, educational attainment estimates for the state's attainment goal are limited to persons aged 25-44 years. The Legislature chose this age group because age 25-44 is the primary age range at which individuals have completed or are pursuing education or training. The population reported by other sources, for example the U.S. Census Bureau, uses the population aged 25-64 years.

Greater educational attainment correlates with increased earnings, lower unemployment, better health, and other social and economic benefits. The ability of Minnesota workers to live in and raise their families relies on their ability to find employment at a family-sustaining wage that cover the costs of housing, food, transportation, and childcare. Employment and overall economic success requires that Minnesotans enter the workforce and advance their careers to achieve a family-sustaining wage. Given that Minnesota's communities of color and Indigenous populations lag the white population on numerous economic outcomes, ensuring the path to greater educational attainment and family-sustaining wages for our communities of color and Indigenous communities represents a moral and practical imperative for the state.

The report uses data obtained from the American Community Survey and analyzed by the Minnesota Demographic Center, with supplemental data provided by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, to create state-level estimates of postsecondary attainment. Minnesota uses the 1-year American Community Survey (ACS) sample grouped into the most recent 5-year period (2016-2020) to create the attainment estimates and are referenced in the report as "2022 estimates".

Currently, the ACS does not include data on how many adults have sub-baccalaureate certificates as their highest level of education. The Census category "some college, no degree" is a catch-all category that includes individuals who are currently enrolled in college and have not finished, individuals who attended college and did not complete their education, and individuals who earned a postsecondary credential below an associate degree. To reach an estimate of the number of certificates awarded, we used student data provided by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the Office of Higher Education between 1990 and 2020, broken down by the age of the certificate holders to separate out certificate holders from the some college, no degree group within ACS data.

The size of each certificate cohort changes over time based on four factors: mortality, migration, individuals' achievement of higher credentials, and age of individuals. Migration and educational achievement have greater relative impacts on the number of certificate holders than mortality does. Attainment estimates shown have been rounded to the nearest 100 persons or tenth of one percent. Subgroup totals may not add to the all person

totals due to rounding. These estimates contain sampling and other sources of error displayed by the margin of error unless noted. Percentages for individuals self-identifying as “other” race are not calculated.

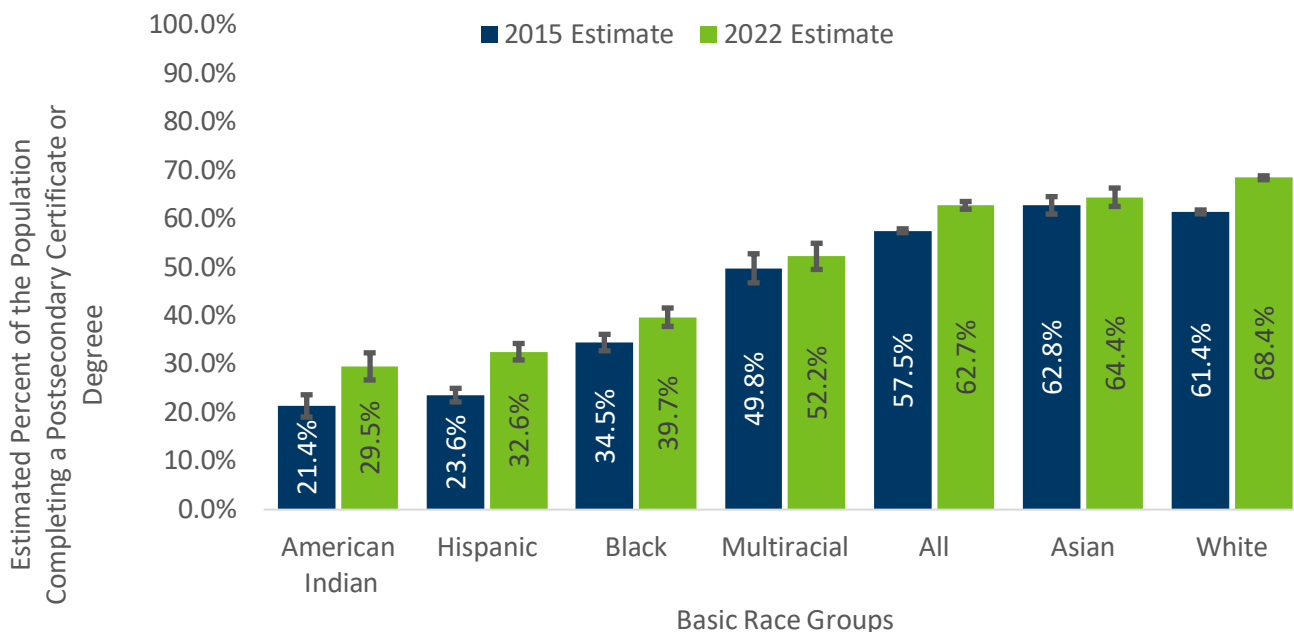
2022 Educational Attainment Estimates

Current estimates show that 63.0% of Minnesotans aged 25-44 years have completed a postsecondary credential (Figure 1). This percentage increased as compared to 2015 estimates (57.5%).

White Minnesotans have the highest attainment rate at 68%. Asian (64%) and multiracial Minnesotans (52%) have attainment rates over the 50 percent benchmarks. Black Minnesotans have an attainment rate of 40%. As of 2022, both American Indian and Hispanic Minnesotans have reached attainment rates of 30%, a benchmark that is established in Minnesota law (Figure 1).

As shown in Figure 2, in order to reach the 70% educational attainment goal, set by the Legislature, Minnesota will need just over 107,000 persons age 25-44 to complete a postsecondary credential by 2025 (Figure 3). Among the 107,000 new credentialed persons needed, 5,500 credentials must be earned by American Indian persons, 5,807 by Asian persons, 33,937 by Black persons, 7,532 by multiracial persons, 35,591 by Hispanic persons, and 17,184 by white persons.

Figure 1: Percentage of the Population Age 25-44 with a Certificate or Higher Credential Minnesota, 2015 and 2022 Estimates by Basic Race Groups



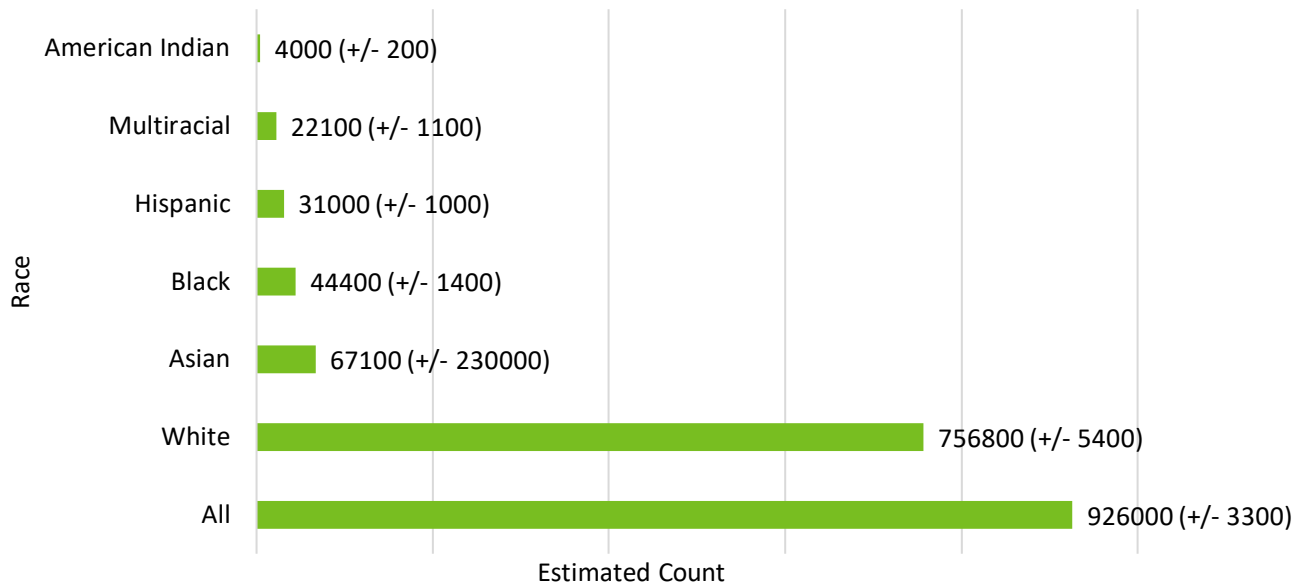
Source: IPUMS Microdata version of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, certificate data provided by the Office of Higher Education and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, with tabulations and analysis completed by the Minnesota Demographic Center. Holders of certificates as their highest postsecondary award were estimated using a cohort analysis method applied to administrative data on certificates awarded.

**Table 1: Percentage of the Population Age 25-44 with a Certificate or Higher Credential
Minnesota, 2015 and 2022 Estimates by Basic Race Groups**

Basic Race Group	Persons with Certificate or Higher Credential, 2015 Estimates	Margin of Error 2015 Estimates	Persons with Certificate or Higher Credential 2022 Estimates	Margin of Error 2022 Estimates
AMERICAN INDIAN	21.4%	2.3%	29.5%	2.8%
HISPANIC	23.6%	1.4%	32.6%	1.7%
BLACK	34.5%	1.7%	39.7%	1.9%
MULTIRACIAL	49.8%	3.0%	52.2%	2.7%
ALL	57.5%	0.4%	62.7%	0.8%
ASIAN	62.8%	1.8%	64.4%	1.9%
WHITE	61.4%	0.4%	68.4%	0.4%

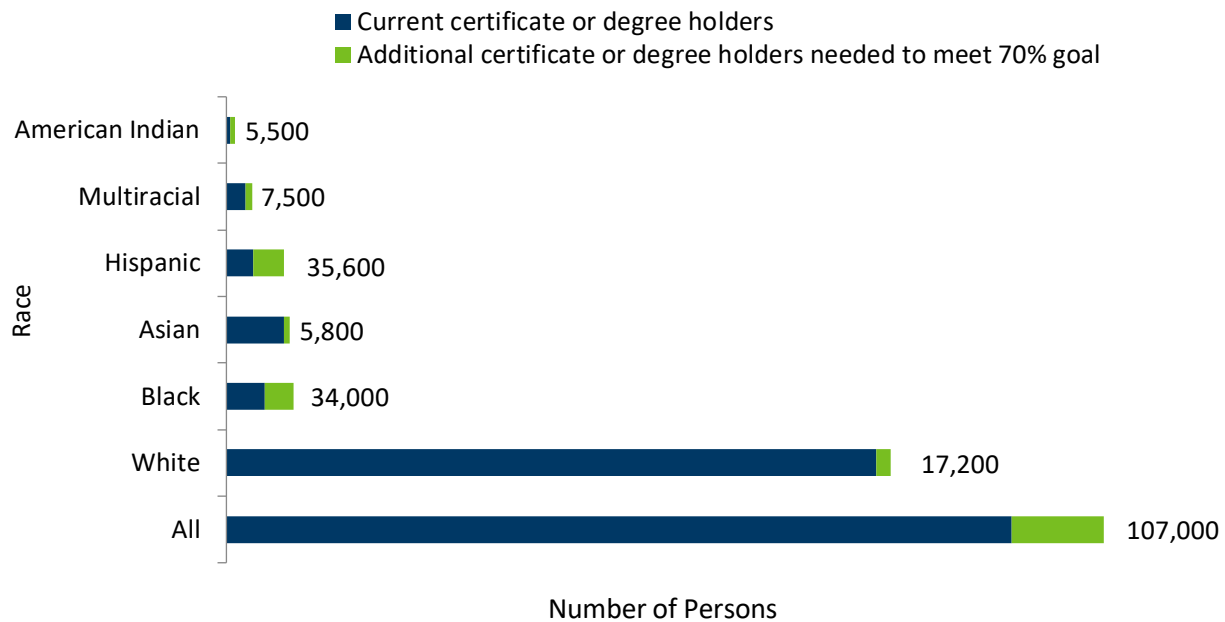
Source: IPUMS Microdata version of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (survey years 2016-2020) with certificate data provided by the Office of Higher Education and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, with tabulations and analysis completed by the Minnesota Demographic Center.

**Figure 2: Estimated Count of Persons Age 25-44 with a Certificate or Higher Credential,
Minnesota, 2022 Estimates by Basic Race Groups**



Source: IPUMS microdata version of U.S. Census Bureau 2016-2020 American Community Survey for Associate or Higher Degree, with tabulations by the Minnesota State Demographic Center.

Figure 3: Persons with a Certificate or Higher Credential and Number Needed to Reach 70% Goal, Minnesota, Ages 25-44, Basic Race Groups, 2022 Estimates



Note: Above graph does not show or account for margins of error. Source: IPUMS microdata version of U.S. Census Bureau 2016-2020 American Community Survey for Associate or Higher Degree, with tabulations by the MN State Demographic Center.

Certificate Versus Degree Attainment

The estimates for 2022 in Figure 1 include the combined certificate estimates and the associate degree or higher estimates. Of all Minnesotans age 25-44, 11.0% completed a certificate as their highest credential. For American Indians, however, one in three persons (27.5%) have a certificate as their highest degree credential as shown in Table 2. American Indians in Minnesota have the highest rate of certificate completion as their highest credential compared to all other groups. Black persons (17.1%) and Hispanic persons (11.9%) also have a higher than average rate of certificate completion as their highest credential. Asians (5.8%) have the lowest rate of certificate completion as the highest credential earned. This difference in certificate completion indicates that American Indian, Hispanic, and Black Minnesotans are pursuing short-term credentials at a higher rate as compared to Asian, white, and multiracial Minnesotans.

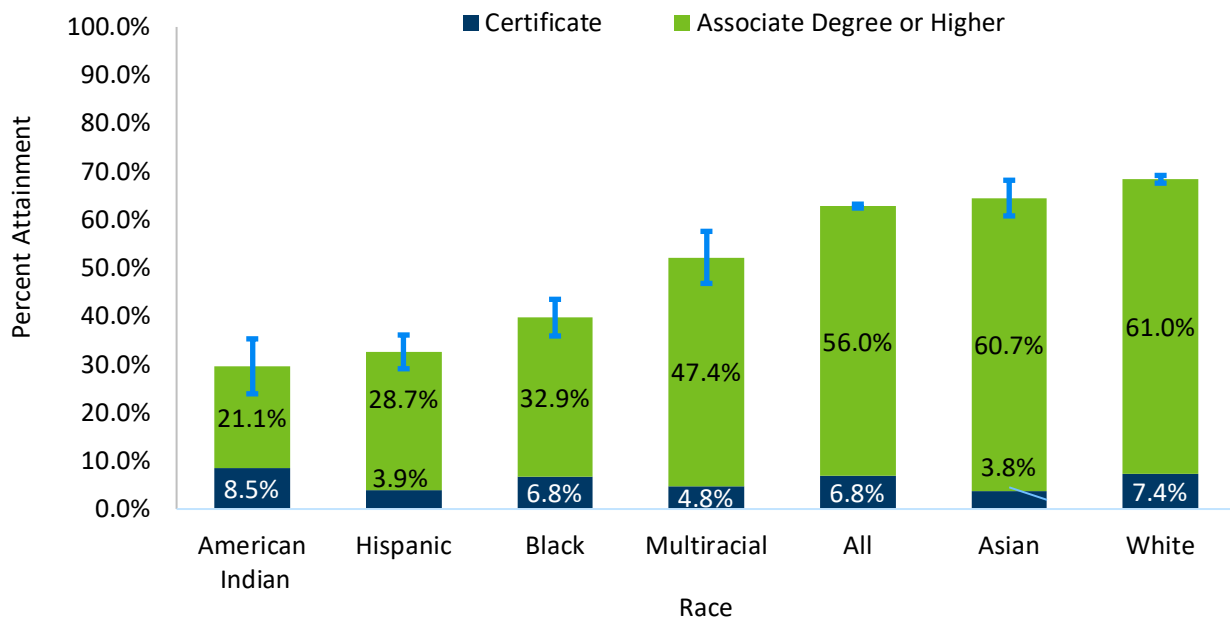
The overall attainment rate of Minnesotans with an associate degree or higher is 56.0% (Figure 4). Asian and White Minnesotans have the highest attainment rate pertaining to an associate degree or higher at 60.7% and 61.0%, respectively. The attainment rates for associate degree or higher for the remaining basic race groups are: multiracial identifying persons (47.4%), Black or African American identifying persons (32.9%), Hispanic or Latino identifying persons (28.7%), and American Indian identifying persons (21.1%).

Table 2: Certificates Earned as a Percent of Total Credentials Earned Persons Age 25-44, Minnesota, 2022 Estimates by Basic Race Group

Basic Race Group	Count of Persons with a Certificate	Count of Persons with an Associate Degree or Higher	Total Persons with Certificate or Higher Credential	Certificates Earned as a Percent of Total Credentials
AMERICAN INDIAN	1,100	2,900	4,000	27.5%
HISPANIC	3,700	27,300	31,000	11.9%
BLACK	7,600	36,800	44,400	17.1%
MULTIRACIAL	2,100	20,100	22,200	9.5%
ALL	100,500	826,900	910,600	11.0%
ASIAN	3,900	63,200	67,100	5.8%
WHITE	82,100	674,800	753,100	10.9%

Note: Above table does not show or account for margins of error. Source: IPUMS microdata version of U.S. Census Bureau 2016-2020 American Community Survey for Associate or Higher Degree, with tabulations by the MN State Demographic Center.

Figure 4: Percentage of Population Age 25-44 with a Certificate or Higher Credential, Minnesota, 2022 Estimates by Basic Race Groups



Note: Numbers in Figure 4 may not add to the totals in Figure 1 due to rounding. Source: IPUMS microdata version of U.S. Census Bureau 2016-2020 American Community Survey for Associate or Higher Degree, with tabulations by the Minnesota State Demographic Center.

Associate or Higher Degree Attainment by Detailed Race/Ethnicity Groups

The previous sections of this report used basic race categories. Using American Community Survey data we are able to disaggregate attainment numbers by detailed ethnic groups for individuals attaining an associate degree or higher credential. Disaggregated data by detailed race/ethnicity groups is not available for certificate estimates. Basic race categories mask the complexity of educational attainment within race/ethnicity groups. For this reason, it is critical to talk about educational attainment within race/ethnicity groups as shown in Figures 5 and Table 3 as opposed to basic race categories.

Black

Figure 5 disaggregates the Black basic race category into more detailed race/ethnic groups. As shown, the overall attainment rate for Black Minnesotans for associate degree or higher credential is 33%. However, by looking at the detailed racial/ethnic categories, we can see that Liberian Minnesotans have an attainment rate of 49%, compared to Somali Minnesotans, who have an attainment rate of 22%. The difference between these two groups demonstrates that there are substantial gaps in attainment within basic race categories.

Hispanic

Diversity within groups is evident within the Hispanic category. Figure 5 shows that the overall attainment for Hispanic Minnesotans is 29%. Salvadoran Minnesotans have an attainment rate of 10% and Puerto Rican Minnesotans have an attainment rate for associate degree or higher credential of 40%.

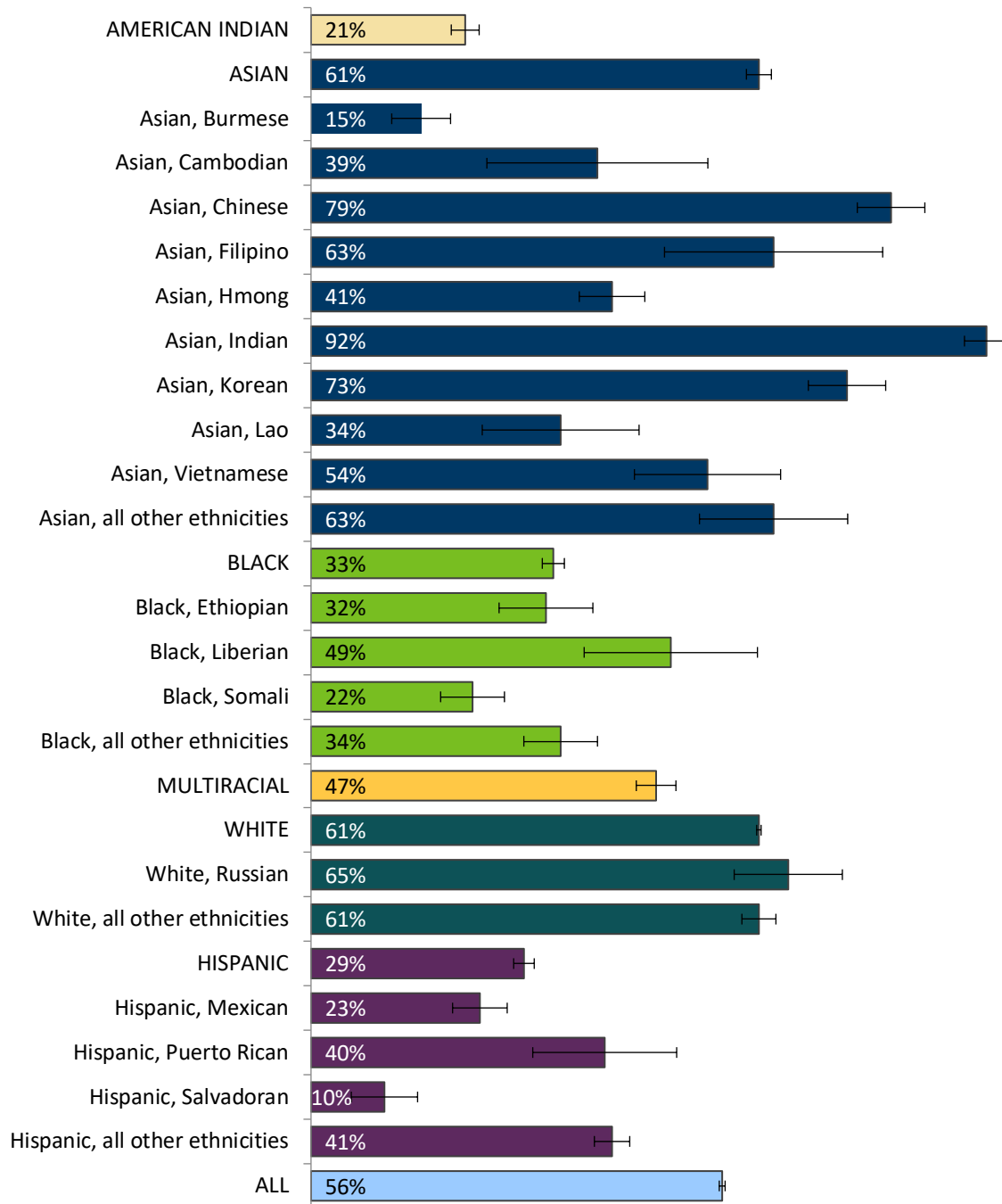
Asian

The Asian basic race category perhaps shows the starkest within-group differences. Asian Minnesotans have an overall associate degree or higher attainment rate of 61% (Figure 5). When disaggregated, Burmese Minnesotans have an attainment rate of 15% and Indian Minnesotans have an attainment rate of 92%. In addition to Burmese, Laotian (34%), Hmong (41%), and Cambodian Minnesotans (39%) all have attainment rates under the 50 percent benchmark. Vietnamese (54%), Filipino (63%), Korean (73%), Chinese (79%), and all other Asian Minnesotans (61%) have attainment rates above the 50% benchmark.

Conclusion

Although Minnesota is making progress towards the 70% educational attainment goal, attainment gaps persist among Black, Indigenous, and persons of color. In order for Minnesota to maintain economic growth and ensure continued prosperity, the state and its colleges should engage communities of color and American Indian communities in postsecondary education. To be successful, the state should focus on increasing the high school graduation rate, postsecondary enrollment, postsecondary persistence, and postsecondary completion, with an emphasis on Black, Indigenous, and students of color. There should also be a concerted effort to encourage and support adults with no college or some college to enroll and complete a postsecondary credential.

Figure 5: Educational Attainment for Associate Degree or Higher Credential Disaggregated by Detailed Race/Ethnicity Groups, 2022 Estimates



Source: IPUMS Microdata version of U.S. Census Bureau 2016-2020 American Community Survey with tabulations and analysis completed by the Minnesota Demographic Center. Detailed cultural subgroups are included if there were at least 50 respondents (unweighted) from that subgroup in the ACS survey data for Minnesotans age 25 to 44.

Table 3: Educational Attainment for Associate Degree or Higher Credential Disaggregated by Detailed Race/Ethnicity Groups, 2022 Estimates

Detailed Race/Ethnicity Groups	Count of Persons Age 25-44	Count of Persons Age 25-44 with an Associate Degree or Higher	Percent of Persons Age 25-44 with an Associate Degree or Higher	Margin of Error
AMERICAN INDIAN	13,600	2,900	21%	3%
ASIAN	104,200	63,200	61%	2%
Asian, Burmese	4,100	600	15%	13%
Asian, Cambodian	3,300	1,300	39%	6%
Asian, Chinese	10,500	8,300	79%	8%
Asian, Filipino	5,200	3,300	63%	12%
Asian, Hmong	31,100	12,700	41%	7%
Asian, Indian	22,000	20,200	92%	4%
Asian, Korean	8,000	5,800	73%	11%
Asian, Lao	2,900	1,000	34%	14%
Asian, Vietnamese	8,500	4,600	54%	9%
Asian, all other subgroups	8,600	5,400	63%	1%
BLACK	111,900	36,800	33%	2%
Black, Ethiopian	6,600	2,100	32%	9%
Black, Liberian	4,500	2,200	49%	21%
Black, Somali	16,700	3,600	22%	8%
Black, all other subgroups	84,100	28,900	34%	7%
MULTIRACIAL	42,400	20,100	47%	3%
WHITE	1,105,800	674,800	61%	0%
White, Russian	7,100	4,600	65%	5%
White, all other subgroups	1,098,700	670,200	61%	4%
HISPANIC	95,100	27,300	29%	2%
Hispanic, Mexican	61,600	14,400	23%	8%
Hispanic, Puerto Rican	5,000	2,000	40%	10%
Hispanic, Salvadoran	2,900	300	10%	4%
Hispanic, all other subgroups	25,600	10,600	41%	7%
ALL	1,473,000	825,100	56%	1%

Source: IPUMS Microdata version of U.S. Census Bureau 2016-2020 American Community Survey with tabulations and analysis completed by the Minnesota Demographic Center. Detailed cultural subgroups are included if there were at least 50 respondents (unweighted) from that subgroup in the ACS survey data for Minnesotans age 25 to 44.



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