

Status Dropout Rates

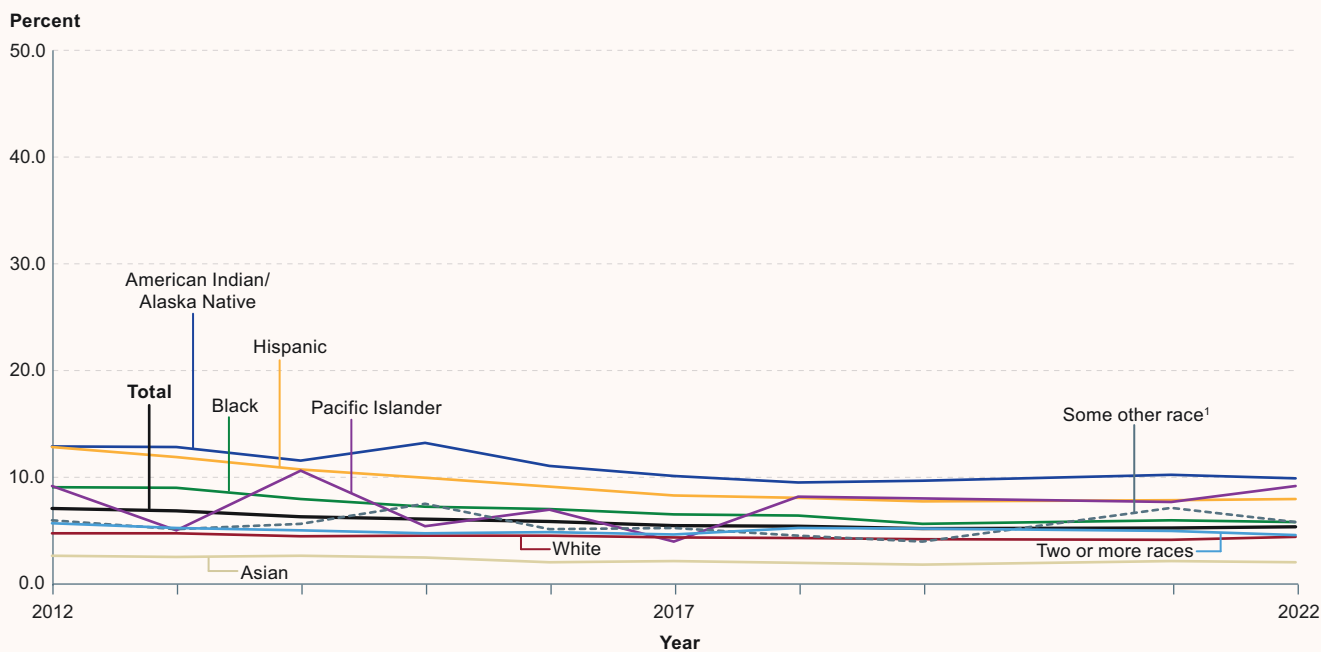
The overall status dropout rate for 16- to 24-year-olds decreased from 7.0 percent in 2012 to 5.3 percent in 2022. During this time, the status dropout rate declined for those who were American Indian/Alaska Native (from 12.8 to 9.9 percent), Hispanic (from 12.8 to 7.9 percent), Black (from 9.0 to 5.7 percent), White (from 4.7 to 4.3 percent), and Asian (from 2.6 to 1.9 percent).

The *status dropout rate*¹ represents the percentage of 16- to 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not earned a high school credential (either a diploma or an equivalency credential such as a GED certificate). In 2022, there were 2.1 million status dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24.² The overall status dropout rate decreased from 7.0 percent in 2012 to 5.3 percent in 2022.³

Status Dropout Rate by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

FIGURE 1.

Status dropout rates of 16- to 24-year-olds, by race/ethnicity: Selected years, 2012 through 2022



¹ Consists of respondents who wrote in some other race that was not included as an option on the questionnaire.

NOTE: Status dropouts are 16- to 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and who have not completed a high school program, regardless of when they left school and whether they ever attended school in the United States. People who have received equivalency credentials, such as the GED, are counted as high school completers. Data are based on sample surveys of the entire population residing within the United States, which includes the 50 states and the District of Columbia, including both noninstitutionalized persons (e.g., those living in households, college housing, or military housing located within the United States) and institutionalized persons (e.g., those living in prisons, nursing facilities, or other healthcare facilities). Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Data for 2020 are not presented due to collection issues associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Figures are plotted based on unrounded data.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data, 2012 through 2022. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2023*, table 219.80.

The status dropout rate generally varied by race/ethnicity in 2022. The status dropout rate for 16- to 24-year-olds was

- highest for those who were American Indian/Alaska Native (9.9 percent), Pacific Islander (9.1 percent), and Hispanic (7.9 percent); and
- lowest for those who were Asian (1.9 percent).

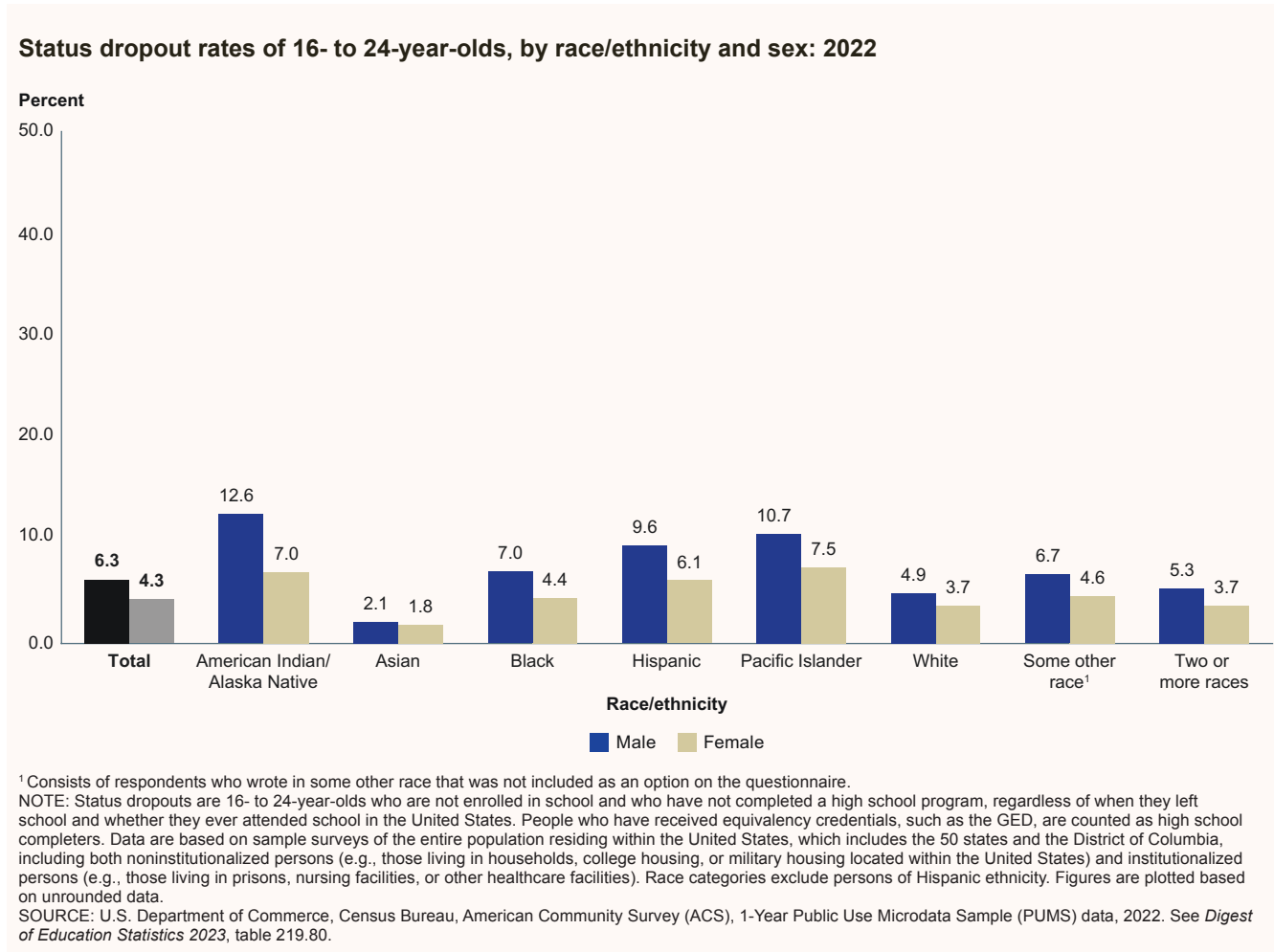
From 2012 to 2022, the status dropout rate declined for 16- to 24-year-olds who were

- American Indian/Alaska Native (from 12.8 to 9.9 percent);
- Hispanic (from 12.8 to 7.9 percent);
- Black (from 9.0 to 5.7 percent);
- White (from 4.7 to 4.3 percent); and
- Asian (from 2.6 to 1.9 percent).

The status dropout rate for those of Two or more races was also lower in 2022 (4.5 percent) than in 2012 (5.6 percent), although there was no measurable trend for the period. In contrast, the status dropout rates for those who were Pacific Islander and those of Some other race⁴ did not differ measurably in 2022 compared with 2012. Further, there were no measurable differences between the status dropout rates in 2019—the year before the coronavirus pandemic—and 2022 for any racial/ethnic group except for those who were White, whose dropout rate was greater in 2022 (4.3 percent) than in 2019 (4.1 percent).

In each year from 2012 through 2022, the status dropout rate for Asian 16- to 24-year-olds was lower than the rate for those who were White, and the rates for both groups were lower than the rates for those who were Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native.⁵ However, gaps between these groups were generally smaller in 2022 than in 2012, due to the larger percentage point declines among the racial/ethnic group with the higher dropout rate in each set of groups for which there was a gap. For example, between 2012 and 2022, the Asian-Hispanic and White-Hispanic gaps in status dropout rates dropped 4 and 5 percentage points, respectively. This narrowing of the gap was due to the percentage point decrease in the dropout rate among Hispanic 16- to 24-year-olds over the period.

FIGURE 2.



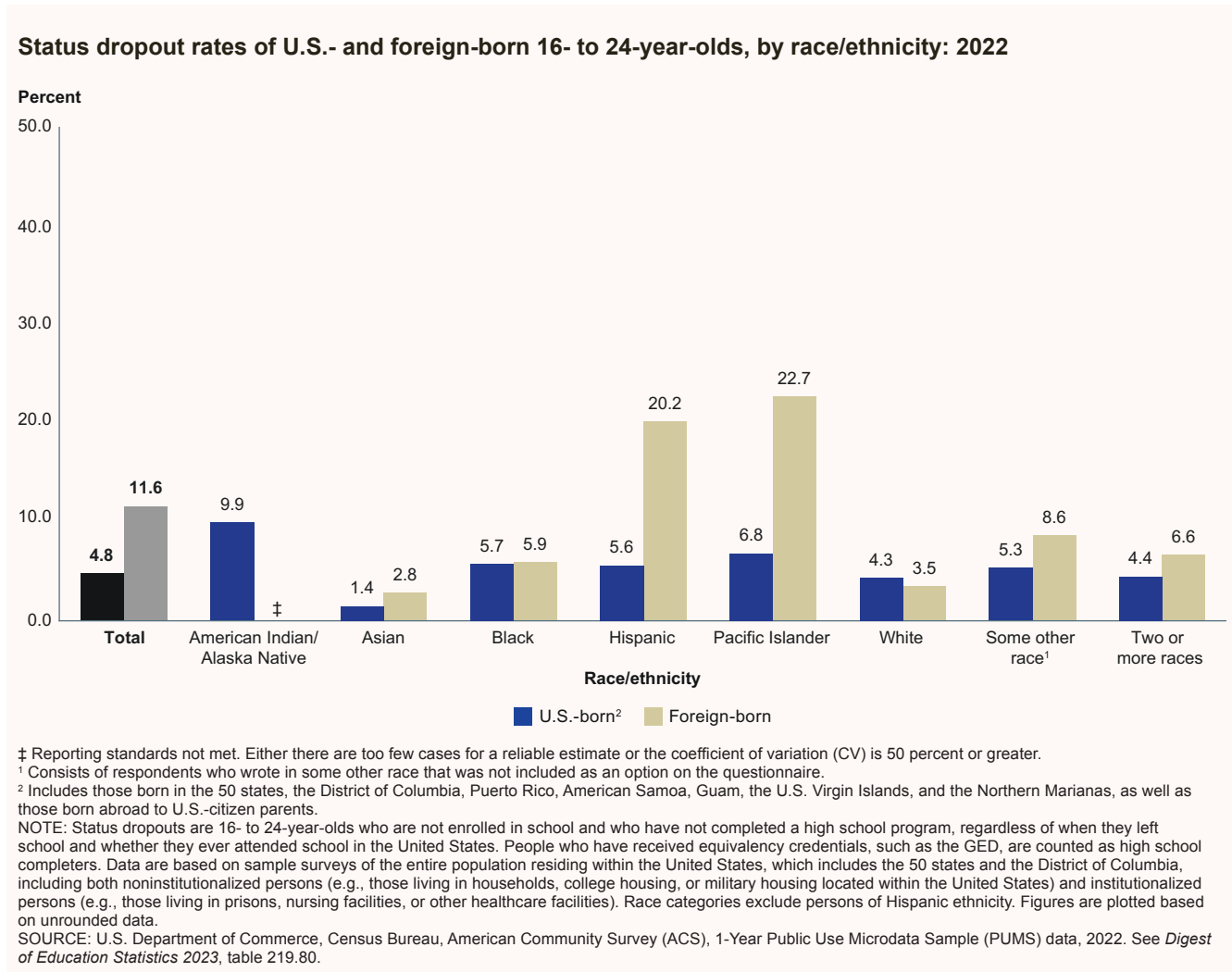
In 2022, the status dropout rate was higher for male 16- to 24-year-olds than for female 16- to 24-year-olds overall (6.3 vs. 4.3 percent). Status dropout rates were higher for males than for females among those who were

- American Indian/Alaska Native (12.6 vs. 7.0 percent);
- Hispanic (9.6 vs. 6.1 percent);
- Black (7.0 vs. 4.4 percent);
- of Two or more races (5.3 vs. 3.7 percent); and
- White (4.9 vs. 3.7 percent).

There were no measurable differences in status dropout rates between males and females who were Asian, Pacific Islander, or of Some other race.

Status Dropout Rates by Other Demographic Characteristics

FIGURE 3.



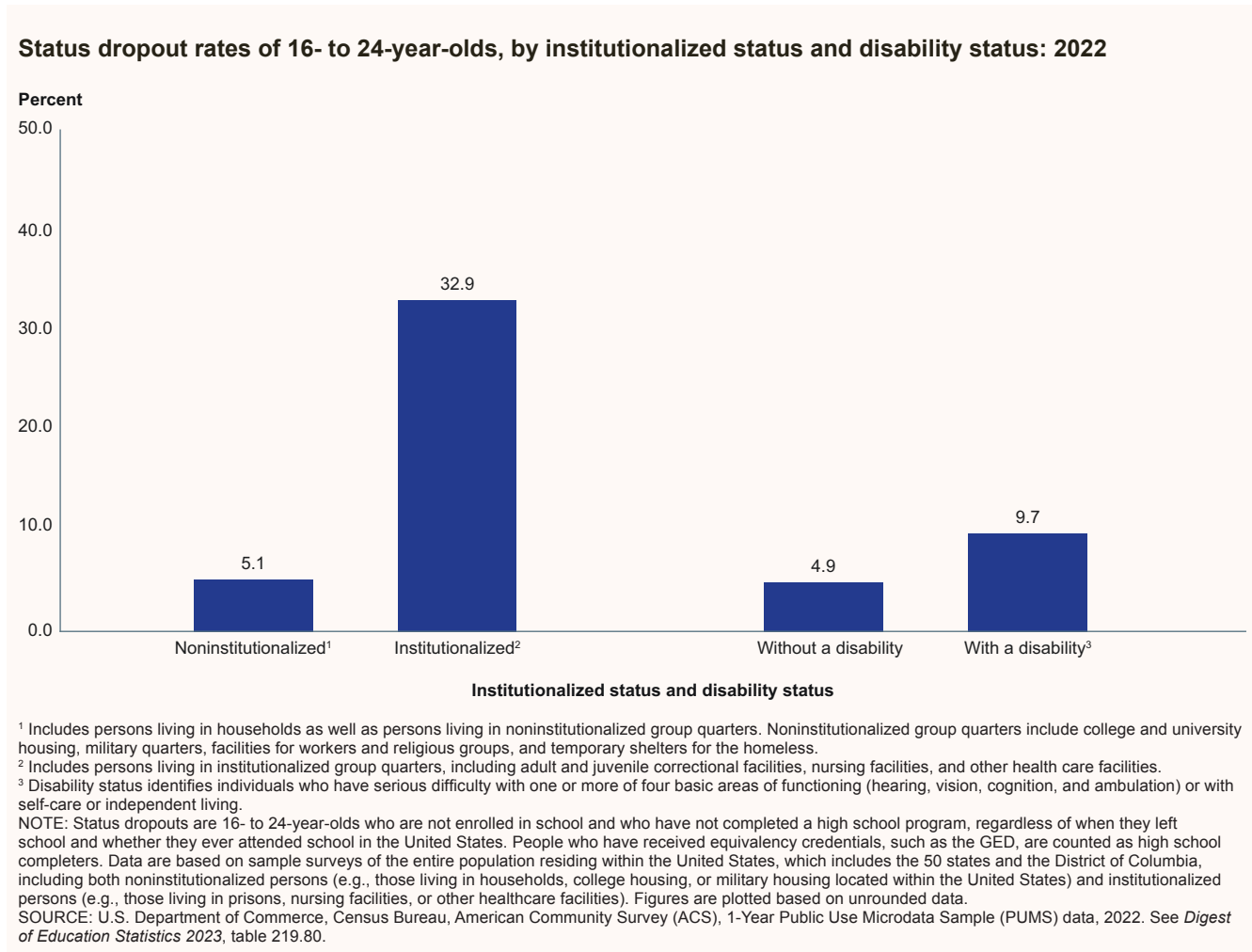
Overall, U.S.-born 16- to 24-year-olds⁶ had a lower status dropout rate in 2022 than their foreign-born peers (4.8 vs. 11.6 percent). There were some differences in status dropout rates between U.S.- and foreign-born individuals by race/ethnicity.⁷ Compared with the status dropout rate for 16- to 24-year-olds born in the United States, the status dropout rate for their peers born outside of the United States was

- higher for those who were Pacific Islander (22.7 vs. 6.8 percent);
- higher for those who were Hispanic (20.2 vs. 5.6 percent);
- higher for those who were Asian (2.8 vs. 1.4 percent); and
- lower for those who were White (3.5 vs. 4.3 percent).

The status dropout rates for U.S.-born 16- to 24-year-olds who were Black, of Some other race, or of Two or more races were not measurably different from the rates for their foreign-born peers.

In addition, in 2022, the status dropout rate was higher for 16- to 24-year-olds who spoke a language other than English at home and spoke English less than very well (19.2 percent) than for those who spoke English at home or spoke English very well (4.6 percent).

FIGURE 4.



In 2022, the status dropout rate was lower for 16- to 24-year-olds living in households and noninstitutionalized group quarters such as college or military housing (5.1 percent) than for those living in institutionalized group quarters such as correctional or health care facilities (32.9 percent). This pattern holds for all racial/ethnic groups.⁸

The status dropout rate also differed by disability status⁹ in 2022. The status dropout rate was 4.9 percent for 16- to 24-year-olds without a disability and 9.7 percent for 16- to 24-year-olds with a disability.

Endnotes:

¹ In this indicator, status dropout rates are based on data from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an annual survey that covers a broad population, including individuals living in households, individuals living in noninstitutionalized group quarters, and individuals living in institutionalized group quarters. Noninstitutionalized group quarters include college and university housing, military quarters, facilities for workers and religious groups, and temporary shelters for the homeless. Institutionalized group quarters include adult and juvenile correctional facilities, nursing facilities, and other health care facilities. Data are based on sample surveys of the entire population residing within the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

² For general technical notes related to data analysis, data interpretation, rounding, and other considerations, please refer to the [Reader's Guide](#).

³ Data for 2020 are not presented due to collection issues associated with the coronavirus pandemic.

⁴ Consists of respondents who wrote in some other race that was not included as an option on the questionnaire.

⁵ The status dropout rate for Asian 16- to 24-year-olds was also lower than the rate for those who were of Some other race and for those who were Two or more races in each year from 2012 to 2022.

⁶ U.S.-born 16- to 24-year-olds include those born in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Marianas, as well as those born abroad to U.S.-citizen parents.

⁷ American Indian/Alaska Native 16- to 24-year-olds are excluded from this analysis because reporting standards were not met for foreign-born 16- to 24-year-olds; either there are too few cases for a reliable estimate or the coefficient of variation (CV) is 50 percent or greater.

⁸ Pacific Islander 16- to 24-year-olds and those of Some other race are excluded from this analysis because reporting standards were not met for institutionalized 16- to 24-year-olds; either there are too few cases for a reliable estimate or the coefficient of variation (CV) is 50 percent or greater.

⁹ In this indicator, disability status identifies individuals who have serious difficulty with one or more of four basic areas of functioning (hearing, vision, cognition, and ambulation) or with self-care or independent living.

Reference table: *Digest of Education Statistics 2023*, table [219.80](#)

Related indicators and resources: [Educational Attainment of Young Adults](#); [High School Status Dropout Rates](#) [*Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups*]; [Snapshot: High School Status Dropout Rates for Racial/Ethnic Subgroups](#) [*Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups*]; [Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States](#)

Glossary: [Gap](#); [High school diploma](#); [Household](#); [Racial/ethnic group](#); [Status dropout rate \(American Community Survey\)](#)