

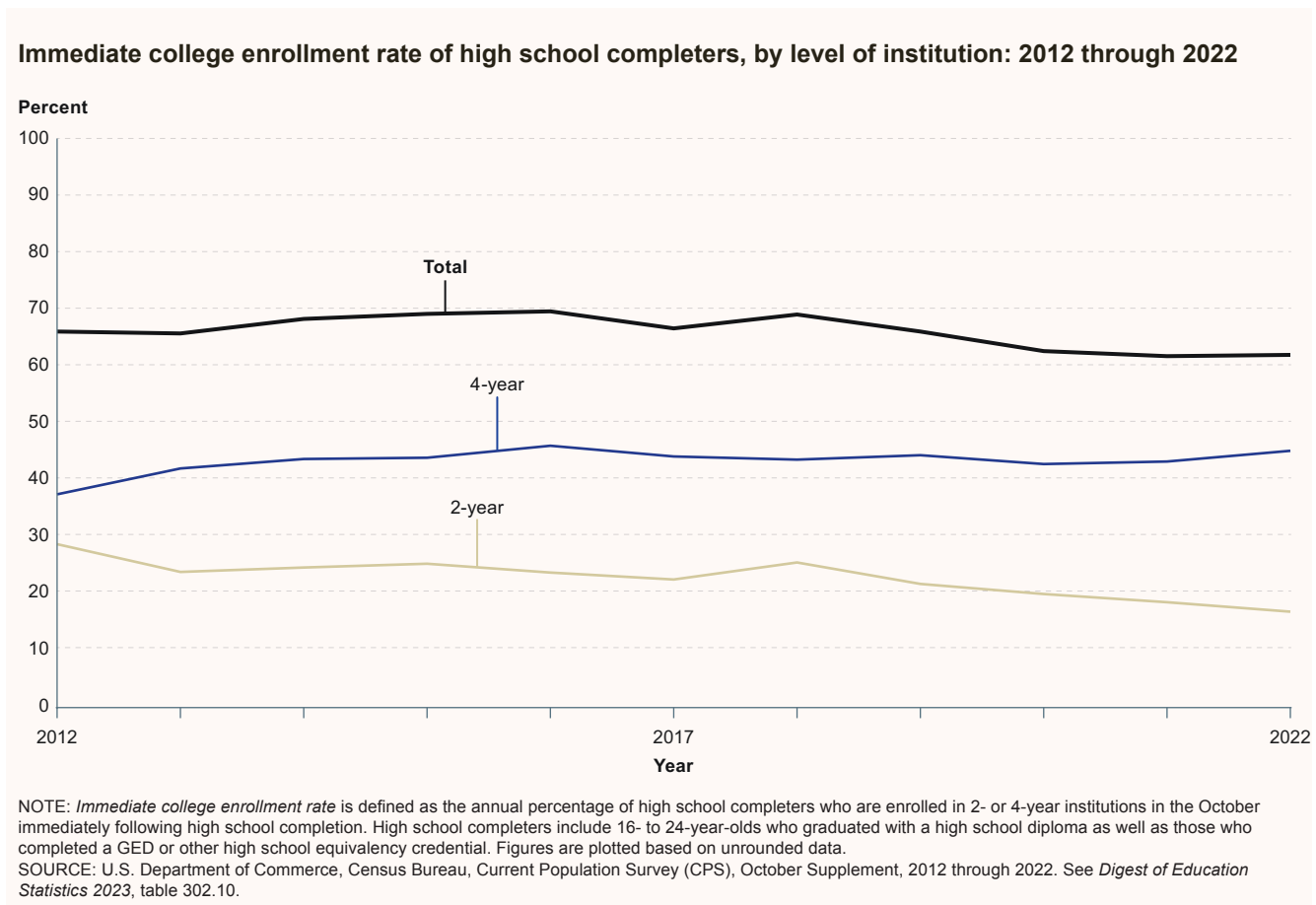
# Immediate College Enrollment Rate

***In 2022, a lower percentage of male high school completers than of female high school completers immediately enrolled in college (57 vs. 66 percent). This was driven by a lower percentage of male high school completers than of female high school completers who immediately enrolled in 4-year institutions (38 vs. 51 percent).***

Of the 3.0 million high school completers<sup>1</sup> who graduated in the first 9 months of 2022, some 1.9 million (or 62 percent) were enrolled in college in October 2022.<sup>2</sup> This annual percentage of high school completers who are enrolled in 2- or 4-year institutions within the specified time frame is known as the *immediate college enrollment rate*. The overall immediate college enrollment rate in 2022 was not measurably different from the rate a decade earlier in 2012, or from the rate in 2021.

## Overall Immediate College Enrollment Rates

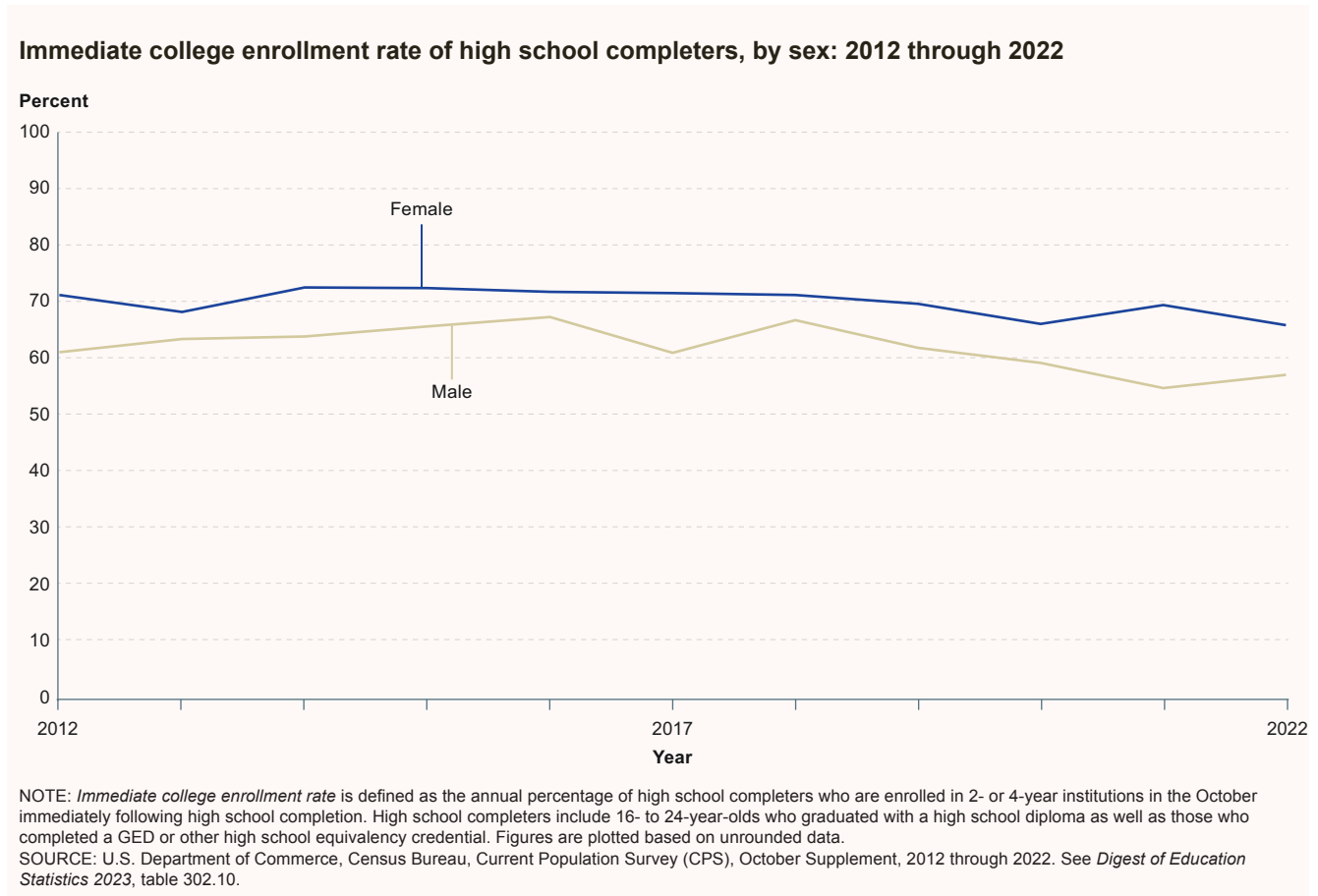
FIGURE 1.



In every year from 2012 through 2022, a higher percentage of high school completers immediately enrolled in 4-year institutions than in 2-year institutions. In 2022, about 45 percent of high school completers immediately enrolled in 4-year institutions and 17 percent immediately enrolled in 2-year institutions. The immediate college enrollment rate for 4-year institutions in 2022 was higher than the rate in 2012 (37 percent). More specifically, this rate increased from 2012 to 2016 (46 percent) and fluctuated thereafter. In contrast, the rate for 2-year institutions decreased between 2012 (29 percent) and 2022.

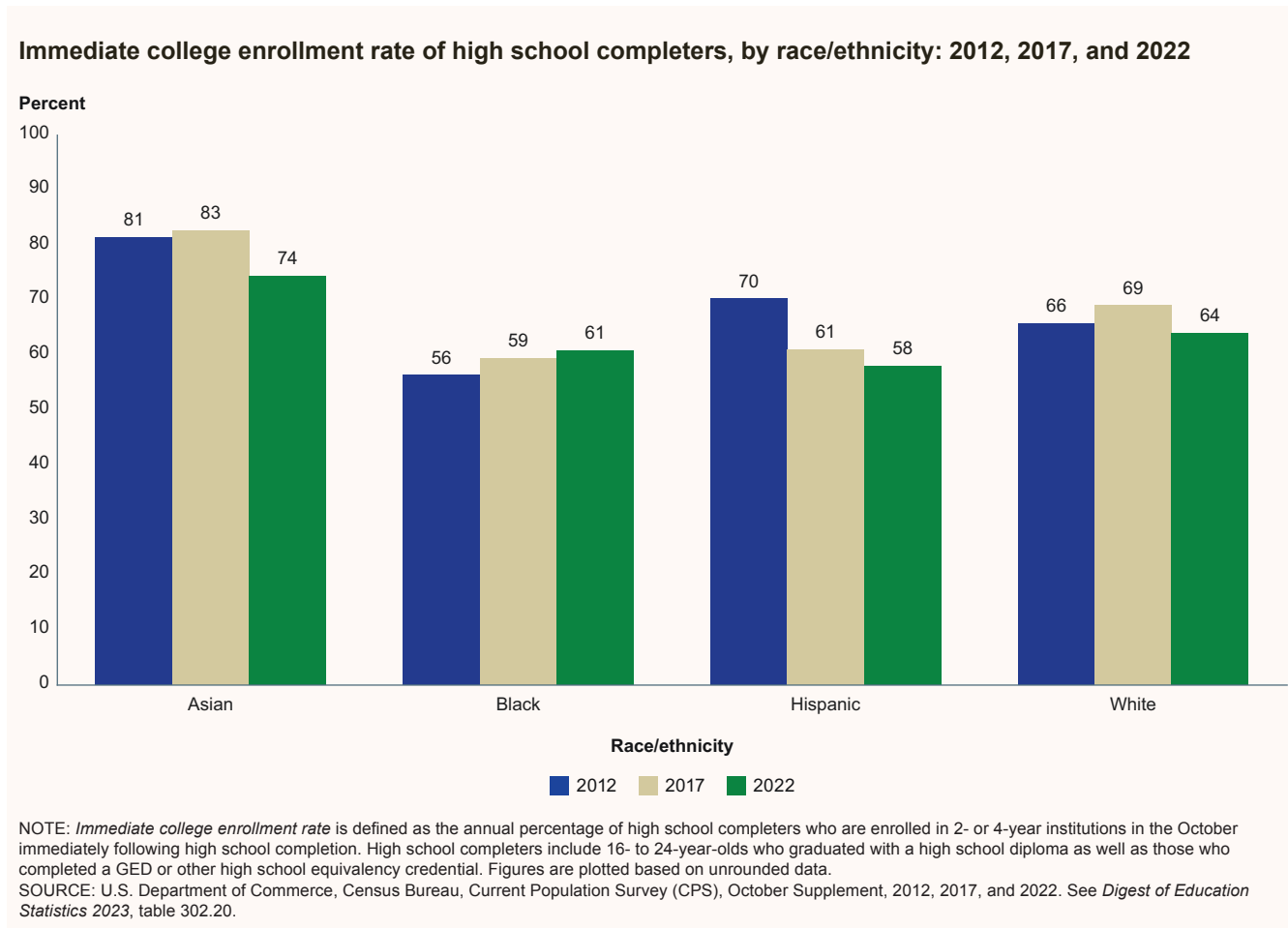
**Immediate College Enrollment Rates by Student Demographics**

**FIGURE 2.**



In 2022, immediate college enrollment rates differed by sex. The overall rate for male students<sup>3</sup> who immediately enrolled in college (57 percent) was lower than the rate for female students (66 percent). This was driven by a lower percentage of male students than of female students who immediately enrolled in 4-year institutions (38 vs. 51 percent). The percentages of male students and female students who immediately enrolled in 2-year institutions did not measurably differ.

**FIGURE 3.**



In 2022, the immediate college enrollment rate was

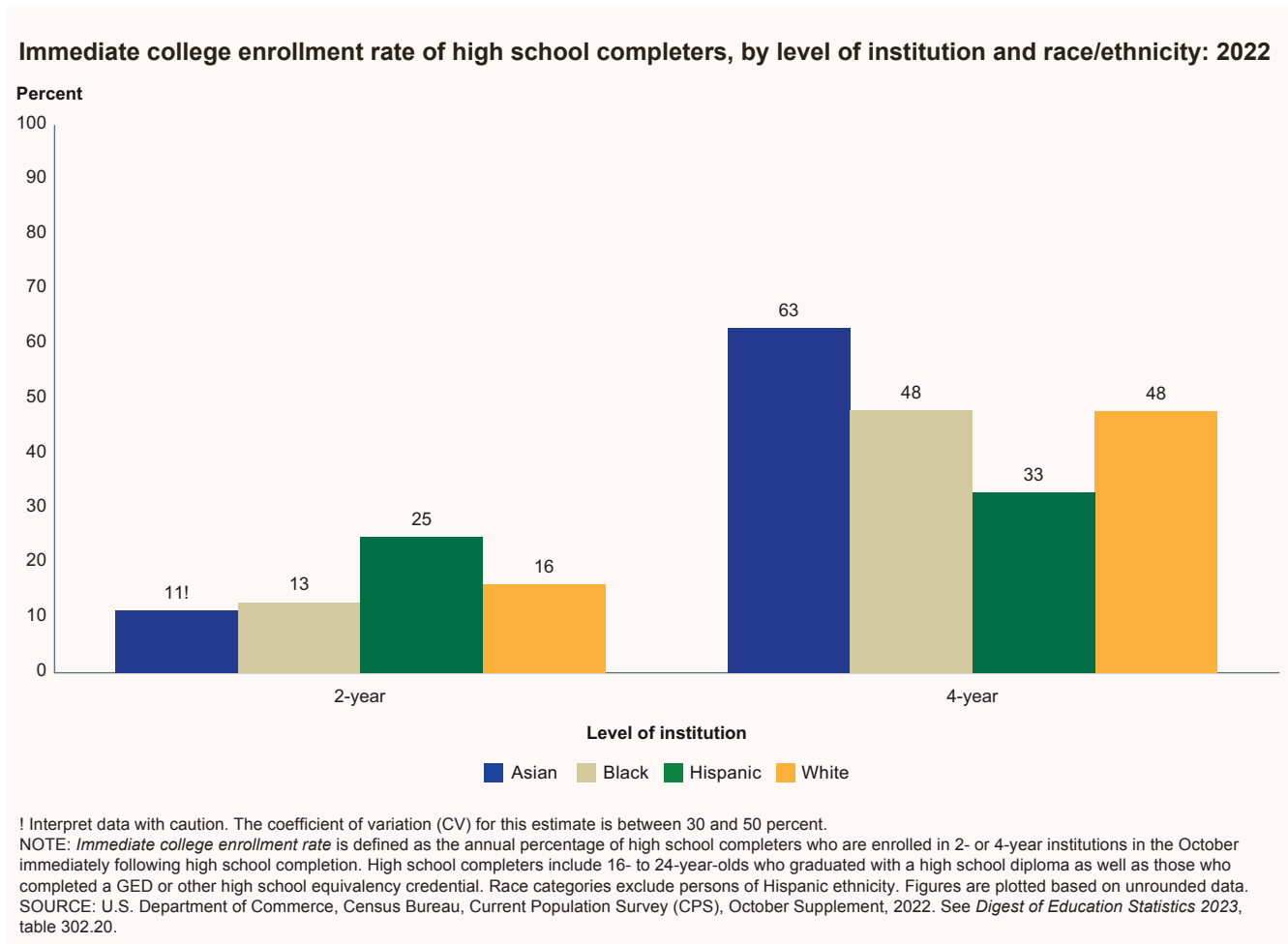
- 74 percent for Asian students;
- 64 percent for White students;
- 61 percent for Black students; and
- 58 percent for Hispanic students.

Immediate college enrollment rates for these racial/ethnic groups were not measurably different from each other in 2022. However, in most other years between 2012 and 2022, the immediate college enrollment rate was higher for Asian students than for White, Black, and Hispanic students.

Compared with 2012, the immediate college enrollment rate in 2022 was

- lower for Hispanic students (58 percent in 2022 vs. 70 percent in 2012); and
- not measurably different for Asian, Black, and White students.

**FIGURE 4.**



In 2022, a higher percentage of students immediately enrolled in 4-year institutions than in 2-year institutions, both overall and for the following racial/ethnic groups:

- Asian students (63 vs. 11 percent);
- Black students (48 vs. 13 percent); and
- White students (48 vs. 16 percent).

Hispanic students had higher immediate college enrollment rates in 2-year institutions (25 percent) than did Asian, White, and Black students. Asian and White students had higher immediate college enrollment rates in 4-year institutions (63 and 48 percent, respectively) than did Hispanic students (33 percent).

**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> In this indicator, “high school completers” refers to individuals ages 16 to 24 who graduated from high school or completed a GED or other high school equivalency credential. In 2022, about 97 percent of those who completed high school in the first 9 months of 2022 were between 16 and 24 years old.

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

<sup>3</sup> The terms “high school completers” and “students” are used interchangeably throughout this indicator.

**Reference tables:** *Digest of Education Statistics 2023*, tables [302.10](#) and [302.20](#)

**Glossary:** [College](#); [Enrollment](#); [High school completer](#); [Postsecondary institutions \(basic classification by level\)](#); [Racial/ethnic group](#)

**Related indicators and resources:** [College Enrollment Rates](#); [College Participation Rates \[Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups\]](#); [Public High School Graduation Rates](#); [Snapshot: College Participation Rates for Racial/Ethnic Subgroups \[Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups\]](#); [Status Dropout Rates](#); [Undergraduate Enrollment](#); [Young Adult Educational and Employment Outcomes by Family Socioeconomic Status \[The Condition of Education 2019 Spotlight\]](#)