

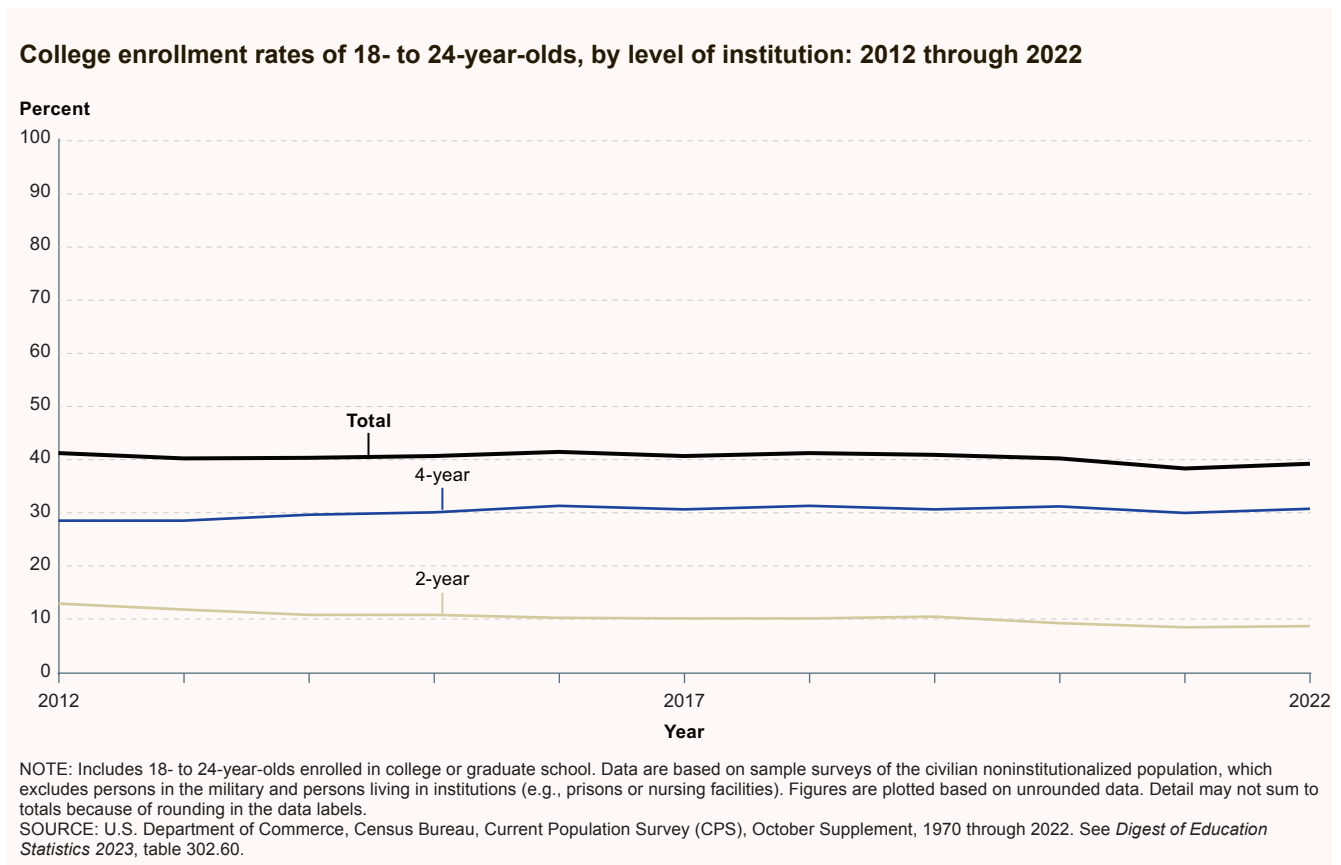
College Enrollment Rates

The overall college enrollment rate for 18- to 24-year-olds was lower in 2022 than a decade earlier in 2012 (39 vs. 41 percent). The rate in 2022 was higher for 18- to 24-year-olds who were Asian (61 percent) than for those who were White (41 percent), of Two or more races (36 percent), Black (36 percent), Hispanic (33 percent), Pacific Islander (27 percent), and American Indian/Alaska Native (26 percent).

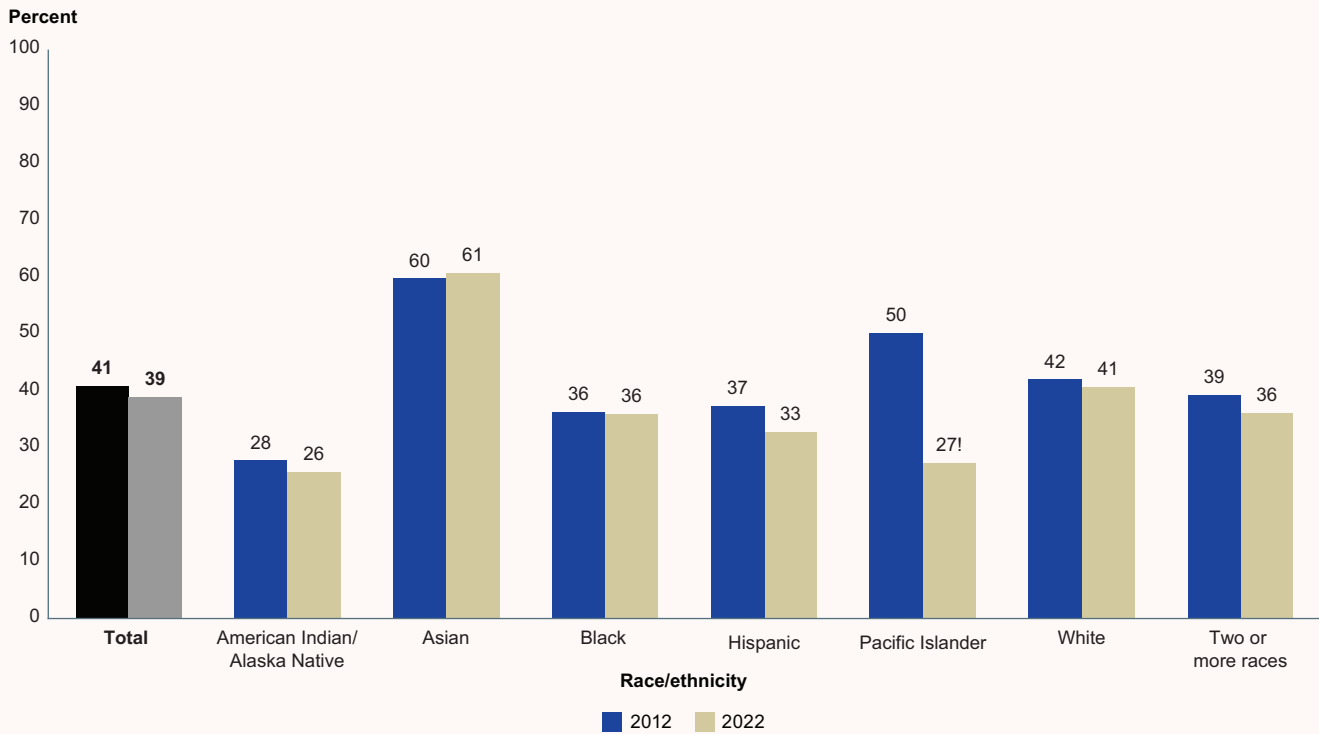
The overall college enrollment rate for 18- to 24-year-olds (the age range representing the majority of students who are enrolled in college¹) was 39 percent in 2022.² In this indicator, *college enrollment rate* is defined as the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled as undergraduate or graduate students in 2- or 4-year institutions. The Immediate College Enrollment Rate indicator alternatively presents data on the percentage of high school completers who enroll in 2- or 4-year institutions in the fall immediately following high school.

Overall College Enrollment Rates

FIGURE 1.



The overall college enrollment rate for 18- to 24-year-olds fluctuated over the last decade but was lower in 2022 than in 2012 (39 vs. 41 percent). Looking at enrollment rates by institution level over the same period, the rate for 2-year institutions decreased from 13 to 9 percent. In contrast, the rate for 4-year institutions increased from 28 to 31 percent during this period.

College Enrollment Rates by Selected Demographics**FIGURE 2.****College enrollment rates of 18- to 24-year-olds, by race/ethnicity: 2012 and 2022**

! Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 and 50 percent.

NOTE: Includes 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college or graduate school. Data are based on sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutionalized population, which excludes persons in the military and persons living in institutions (e.g., prisons or nursing facilities). Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Figures are plotted based on unrounded data.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2012 and 2022. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2023*, table 302.60.

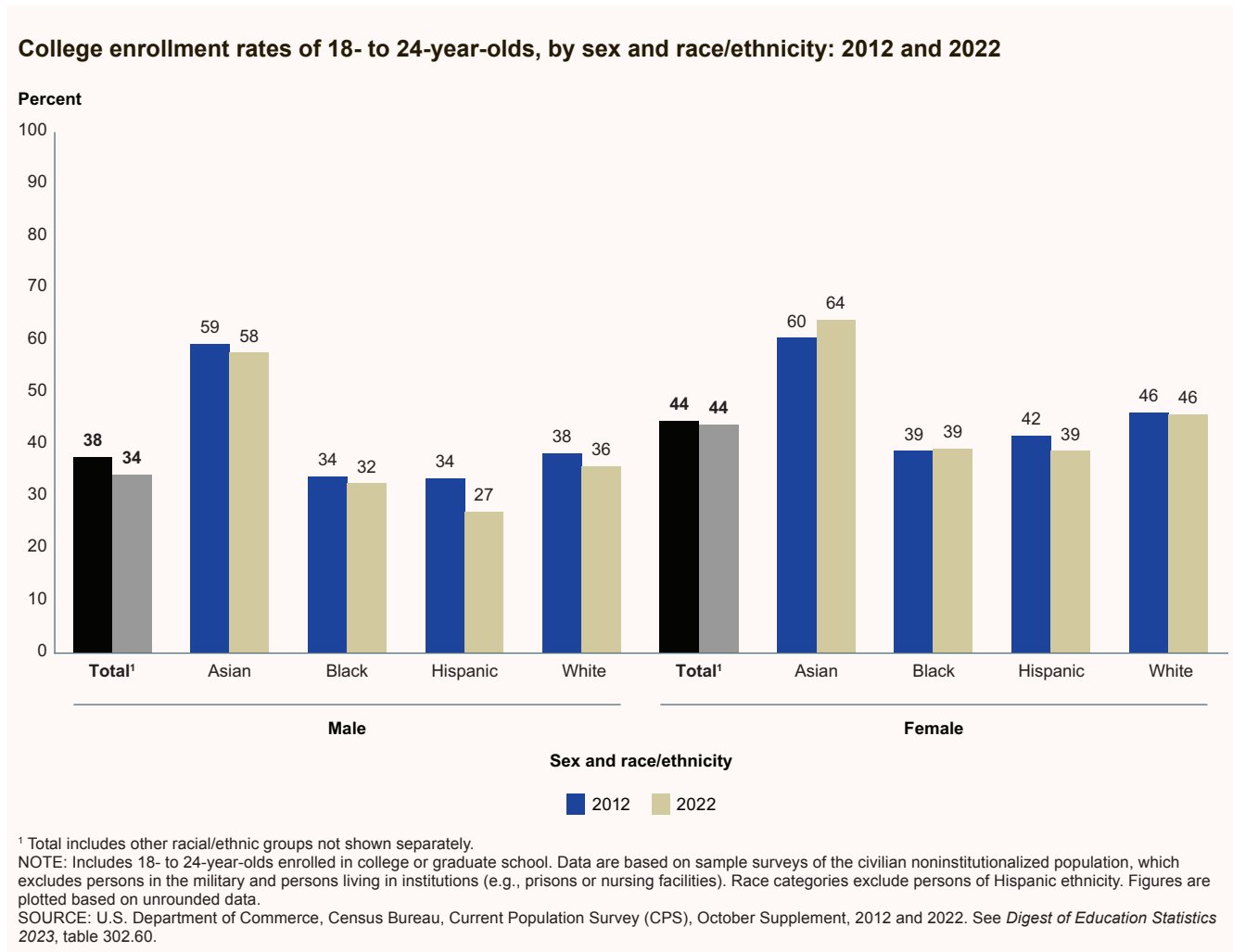
Among 18- to 24-year-olds, there was no measurable difference between college enrollment rates in 2012 and 2022 for most racial/ethnic groups. However, for those who were Hispanic, the rate was lower in 2022 than in 2012 (33 vs. 37 percent).

In 2022, the college enrollment rate for 18- to 24-year-olds was higher for those who were Asian (61 percent) than for those of all other racial/ethnic groups:

- White (41 percent)
- Two or more races (36 percent)
- Black (36 percent)
- Hispanic (33 percent)
- Pacific Islander (27 percent)
- American Indian/Alaska Native (26 percent)

In fact, the college enrollment rate for those who were Asian was higher than the rates for those who were White, of Two or more races, Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native in every year from 2012 through 2022.

In 2022, and in most years over the prior decade, the college enrollment rate for White 18- to 24-year-olds was also higher than the rates for those who were Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native. There were no other measurable differences between racial/ethnic groups in 2022.

FIGURE 3.

In every year since 2012, the college enrollment rate for 18- to 24-year-olds overall was higher for females than for males. Looking at this pattern by race/ethnicity, the enrollment rate for females was also higher than the rate for males in each year for both White and Hispanic 18- to 24-year-olds. Among those who were Black, the rate was higher for females than for males in 6 of the last 11 years³ and not measurably different in the remaining years. Among Asian 18- to 24-year-olds, the rate was not measurably different between females and males in any year during this period.⁴

In 2022, the college enrollment rates for 18- to 24-year-old females overall (44 percent) and for females who were Asian (64 percent), White (46 percent), Black (39 percent), and Hispanic (39 percent) did not measurably differ from the rates in 2012. In contrast, the overall rate for males decreased from 38 to 34 percent over this period. For Hispanic 18- to 24-year-old males, the rate in 2022 was lower than the rate in 2012 (27 vs. 34 percent). Meanwhile, the rates in 2022 for 18- to 24-year-old males who were Asian (58 percent), White (36 percent), and Black (32 percent) did not measurably differ from the rates in 2012. The overall gap between males and females in enrollment rates in 2022 (10 percentage points) was not measurably different from the gap in 2012.

Endnotes:

¹ The 18-24 age range was determined based on student enrollment at degree-granting institutions, whereas the rest of the indicator is not restricted to degree-granting institutions. For more information about fall enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, see *Digest of Education Statistics 2023*, table 303.40.

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

³ The college enrollment rate was higher for Black females than for Black males in 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2020, and 2021.

⁴ This section includes analyses by race/ethnicity and sex for Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White 18- to 24-year-olds only.

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2023*, table 302.60

Glossary: [College](#); [Enrollment](#); [Gap](#); [Racial/ethnic group](#)

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