

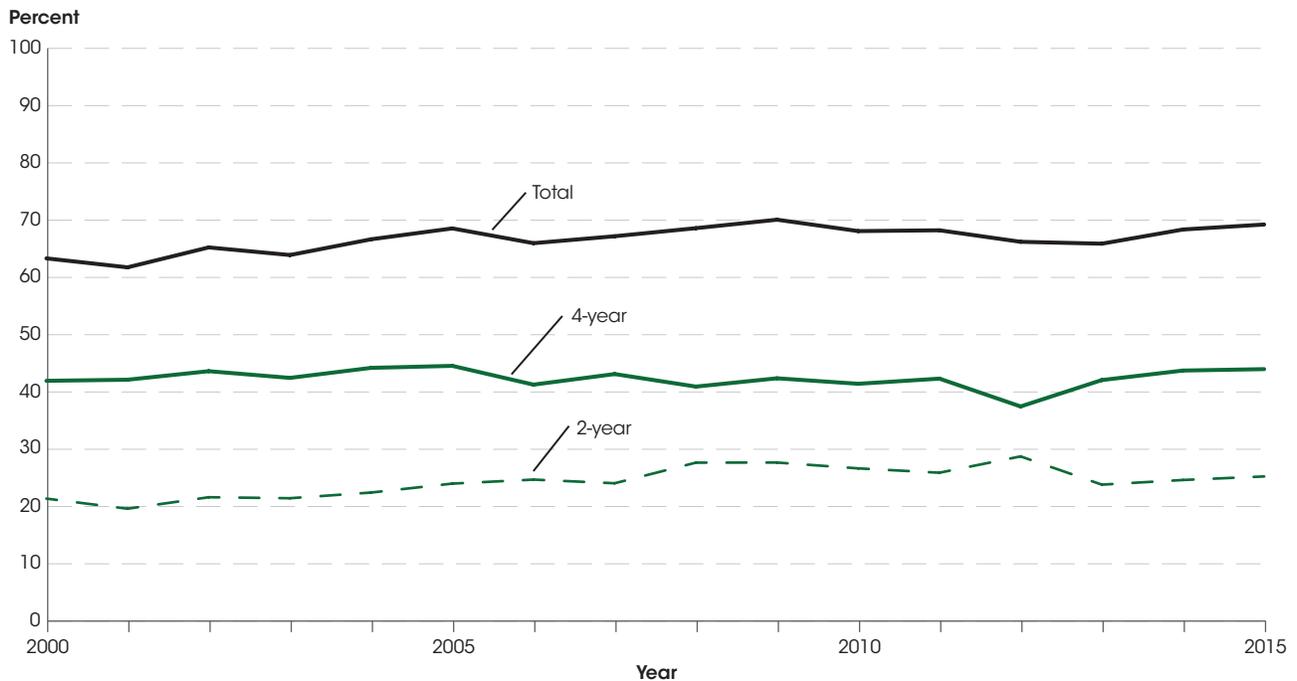
Immediate College Enrollment Rate

The immediate college enrollment rate for high school completers increased from 63 percent in 2000 to 69 percent in 2015. The enrollment rate for those from high-income families (83 percent) was higher than the rate for those from low- and middle-income families (63 percent each) in 2015. The gap in enrollment rates between low- and high-income students narrowed from 30 percentage points in 2000 to 20 percentage points in 2015. The gap between low- and middle-income students was 12 percentage points in 2000, but there was no measurable gap between low- and middle-income students in 2015.

Of the 3.0 million recent high school completers¹ in 2015, some 2.1 million, or 69 percent, enrolled in college by the following October. The annual percentage of high school completers who enroll in 2- or 4-year colleges in the fall immediately following high school is known

as the *immediate college enrollment rate*. From 2000 to 2015, the immediate college enrollment rate increased by 6 percentage points (from 63 percent to 69 percent). There was no measurable change in the immediate college enrollment rate from 2014 to 2015.

Figure 1. Percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in 2- or 4-year colleges by the October immediately following high school completion, by level of institution: 2000–2015

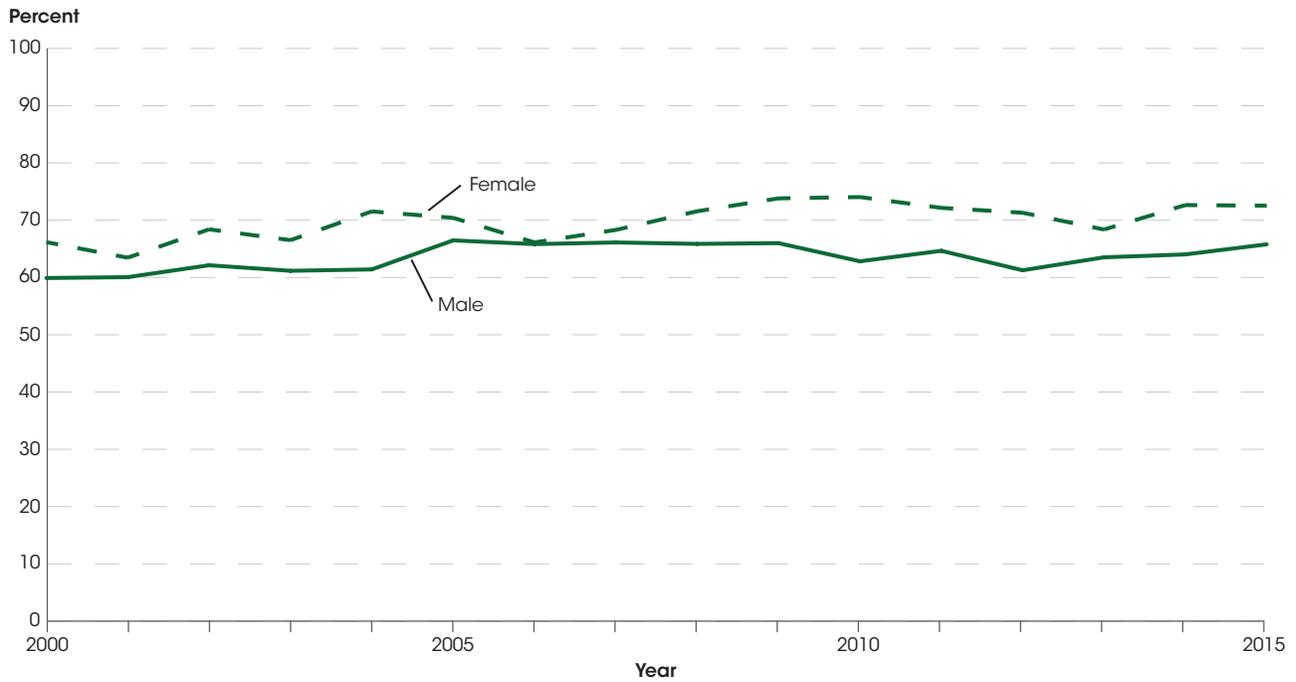


NOTE: High school completers are individuals ages 16 to 24 who graduated from high school or completed a GED prior to October of the calendar year. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2000–2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 302.10.

Higher percentages of high school completers immediately enrolled in 4-year colleges than in 2-year colleges in every year from 2000 to 2015. In 2015, about 44 percent of high school completers enrolled in a 4-year college and 25 percent enrolled in a 2-year college. The immediate

enrollment rate at 2-year colleges increased from 21 percent in 2000 to 25 percent in 2015. The immediate enrollment rate at 4-year colleges in 2015 (44 percent) was not measurably different from the rate in 2000.

Figure 2. Percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in 2- or 4-year colleges by the October immediately following high school completion, by sex: 2000–2015

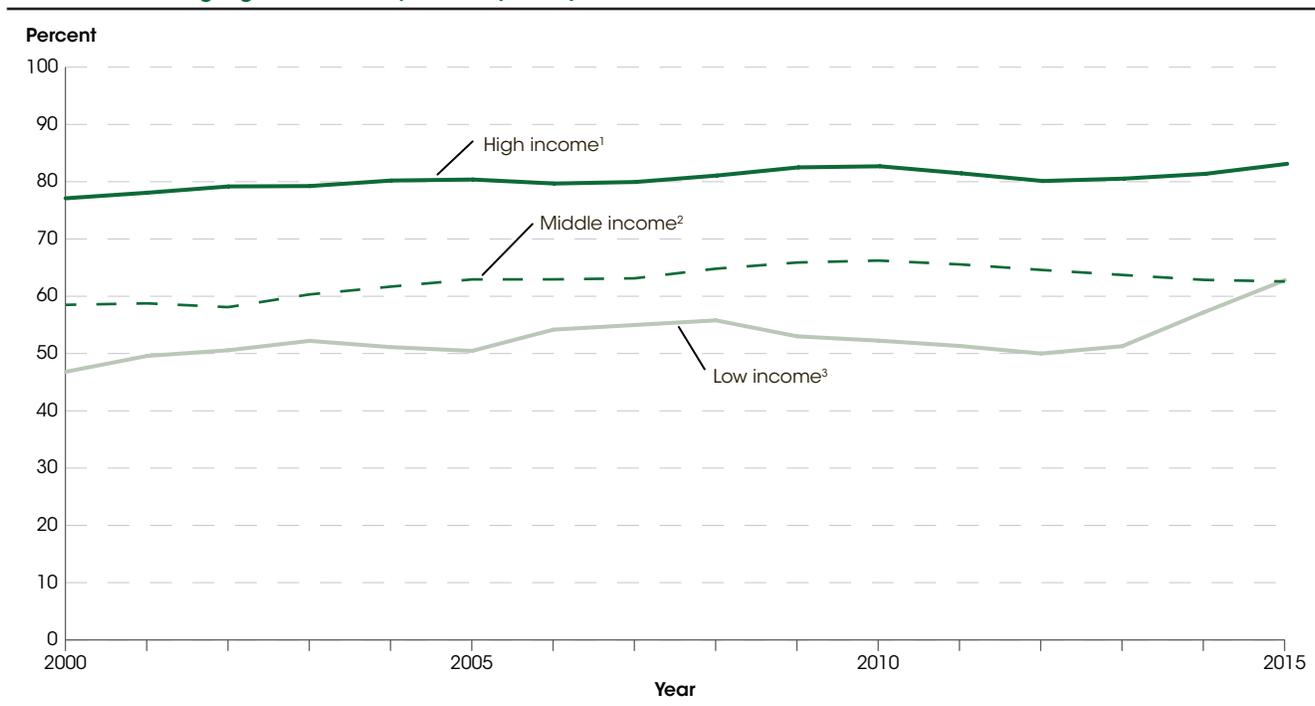


NOTE: High school completers are individuals ages 16 to 24 who graduated from high school or completed a GED prior to October of the calendar year.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2000–2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 302.10.

In 2015, the immediate college enrollment rate was higher for females (73 percent) than for males (66 percent). The immediate college enrollment rate for females increased

from 2000 (66 percent) to 2015 (73 percent). The enrollment rate for males in 2015 (66 percent) was not measurably different from the rate in 2000.

Figure 3. Percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in 2- or 4-year colleges by the October immediately following high school completion, by family income: 2000–2015



¹ High income refers to the top 20 percent of all family incomes.

² Middle income refers to the 60 percent in between the bottom 20 percent and the top 20 percent of all family incomes.

³ Low income refers to the bottom 20 percent of all family incomes.

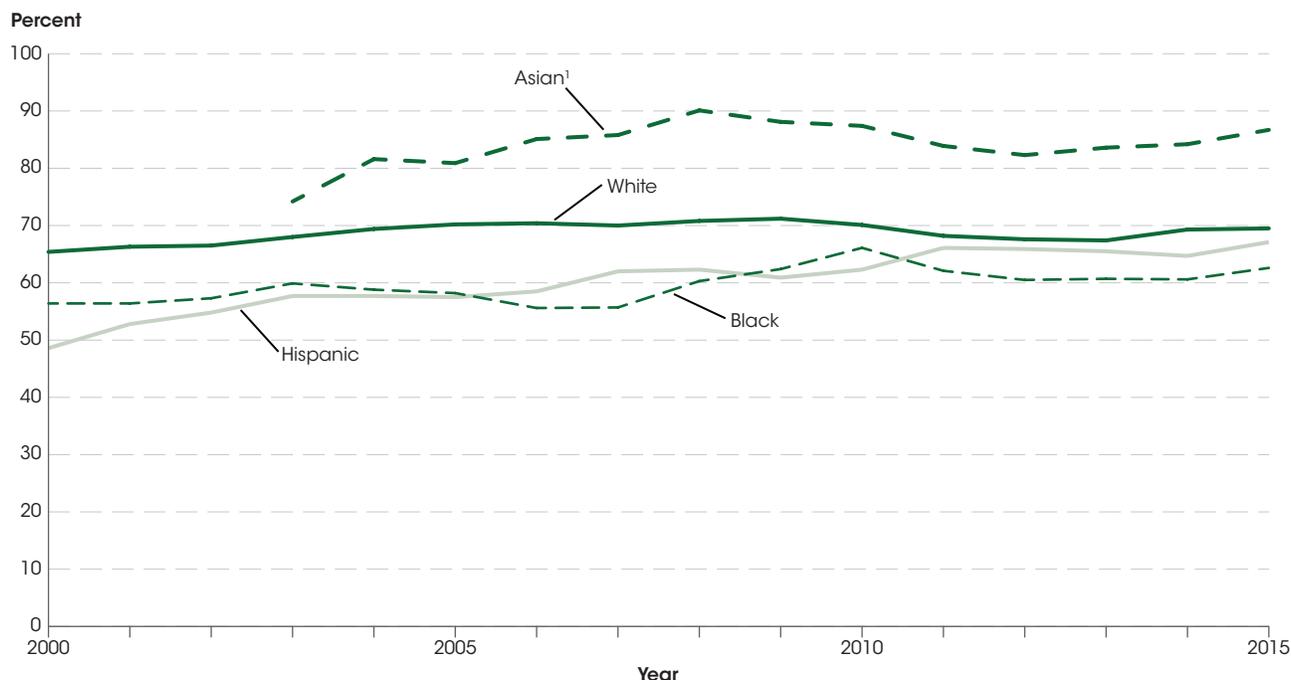
NOTE: High school completers are individuals ages 16 to 24 who graduated from high school or completed a GED prior to October of the calendar year. Due to some short-term data fluctuations associated with small sample sizes, percentages for income groups were calculated based on 3-year moving averages, except in 2015, when estimates were calculated based on a 2-year moving average (an average of 2014 and 2015).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2000–2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 302.30.

In each year from 2000 to 2015, the immediate college enrollment rate for students² from high-income families was higher than both the rate for students from middle-income families and the rate for students from low-income families. In 2015, the immediate college enrollment rate for students from high-income families was 83 percent, compared with 63 percent for students from both middle-income families and low-income families.³ In most years, the enrollment rate for students from middle-income families was higher than the rate for students from low-income families. However, in 2015, the immediate college enrollment rate for students from middle-income families was not measurably different from the rate for students from low-income families.

The gap between the immediate college enrollment rates for students from high-income and low-income families narrowed between 2000 and 2015; similarly, the gap between the enrollment rates for students from middle-income and low-income families narrowed between 2000 and 2015. The gap between the immediate college enrollment rates for students from high-income and low-income families was 10 percentage points smaller in 2015 (20 percentage points) than in 2000 (30 percentage points). However, the gap between the enrollment rates for students from high-income and middle-income families in 2015 (21 percentage points) was not measurably different from the gap in 2000.

Figure 4. Percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in 2- or 4-year colleges by the October immediately following high school completion, by race/ethnicity: 2000–2015



¹ The separate collection of data on Asian high school completers did not begin until 2003.
 NOTE: High school completers are individuals ages 16 to 24 who graduated from high school or completed a GED prior to October of the calendar year. Due to some short-term data fluctuations associated with small sample sizes, percentages for racial/ethnic groups were calculated based on 3-year moving averages with the following exceptions: The percentages for 2015 were calculated based on a 2-year moving average (an average of 2014 and 2015), and the 2003 percentage for Asian high school completers was based on a 2-year moving average (an average of 2003 and 2004). From 2003 onward, data for White, Black, and Asian high school completers exclude persons identifying themselves as of Two or more races. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2000–2015. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 302.20.

In 2015, the immediate college enrollment rate for White students (70 percent) was not measurably different from the rates for Black (63 percent) and Hispanic students (67 percent), even though the rate for White students has been higher than the rates for Black and Hispanic students in most years since 2000.³ For example, in 2000 the immediate college enrollment rate was 65 percent for White students, compared with 56 percent for Black students and 49 percent for Hispanic students. The 2015 immediate college enrollment rate for Asian students (87 percent) was higher than the rates for White students, Black students, and Hispanic students. The enrollment rate for Asian students was higher than the rates for Black students and Hispanic students every year since 2003,

when the collection of separate data on Asian students began.⁴ In addition, the enrollment rate for Asian students was higher than the rate for White students every year since 2004.

The immediate college enrollment rate for White students was higher in 2015 (70 percent) than in 2000 (65 percent), as was the rate for Hispanic students (67 percent in 2015 and 49 percent in 2000). The enrollment rate for Asian students was also higher in 2015 (87 percent) than in 2003 (74 percent). The immediate college enrollment rate for Black students in 2015 was not measurably different from the rate in 2000.

Endnotes:

- ¹ High school completers are individuals ages 16 to 24 who graduated from high school or completed a GED prior to October of the calendar year.
- ² The terms “high school completers” and “students” are used interchangeably throughout the indicator.
- ³ Due to some short-term data fluctuations associated with small sample sizes, estimates for the income groups and racial/ethnic

- groups were calculated based on 3-year moving averages with the following exceptions: The percentages for 2015 were calculated based on a 2-year moving average (an average of 2014 and 2015), and the 2003 percentage for Asians was based on a 2-year moving average (an average of 2003 and 2004).
- ⁴ Prior to 2003, data were collected for the combined race category of Asian/Pacific Islander.

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, tables 302.10, 302.20, and 302.30

Related indicators and resources: Undergraduate Enrollment, Public High School Graduation Rates, Status Dropout Rates, College Enrollment Rates

Glossary: College, Enrollment, Gap, High school completer, Postsecondary institutions (basic classification by level), Racial/ethnic group