

Education

Who Goes to College in Colorado, and Who Doesn't?

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The Bell Policy Center



The Bell Policy Center

The Bell Policy Center is a nonprofit public policy organization committed to making Colorado a state of opportunity for all. The Bell seeks to reinvigorate the debate on issues affecting the well-being of Coloradans and to promote public policies that open gateways to opportunity.

The Bell Policy Center 2005 White Paper Series:

1. Exploring Colorado's Educational Pipeline
2. Who Goes to College in Colorado, and Who Doesn't?
3. Who Finishes College in Colorado, and Who Doesn't?
4. Who Serves Low-Income Undergraduate Students in Colorado?
5. Who Serves Minority Undergraduate Students in Colorado?
6. Student Loan Default Rates in Colorado
7. The Opportunity Gap: Which Colorado Students Graduate from High School and Attend College?

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Introduction

In today's competitive and knowledge-based job market, more education means more income. Workers who want to make ends meet and provide opportunities for their family usually need an associate's degree at the least, and fare better with a bachelor's degree.

While Colorado has a highly educated workforce largely imported from other states, we do a mediocre job of graduating our own young people from college. The rates of educational success are even worse for Hispanics, blacks and young people from low-income families — those who most need the boost of a college education to avoid a life of poverty and dependence.

Colorado must counteract these shortfalls by offering all young people an education that leads to financial opportunity and a life of self-sufficiency. The state's economic and social health depends on it.

The Bell Policy Center believes sound social and fiscal policies grow from thorough, objective research. To solve a problem, we must first understand it.

This white paper is the second in a seven-part series that uses state and national data to evaluate Colorado's performance in educating young adults, and to identify promising remedies for improvement.

Who Goes to College in Colorado, and Who Doesn't?



Executive Summary

In Colorado, most of those who go to college are recent high school graduates from middle and upper income families. Whites, Asian Americans, and to a lesser extent black women, are the most likely to attend. Those more likely to miss the opportunity of a college education are black men and Hispanic men and women, and students from low-income families.

Meanwhile, demographers predict Colorado's Hispanic population will double in the next decade. Hispanic college enrollment needs to climb as well, to counteract the current trend toward a racially stratified underclass.

This brief examines overall college enrollment in Colorado and the United States, and shows the disadvantages low-income and minority students face in going to college. The findings include:

- More Colorado high school students are attracted to college than a decade ago, and after lagging behind, Colorado college enrollment rates surpassed the national average in 2002.



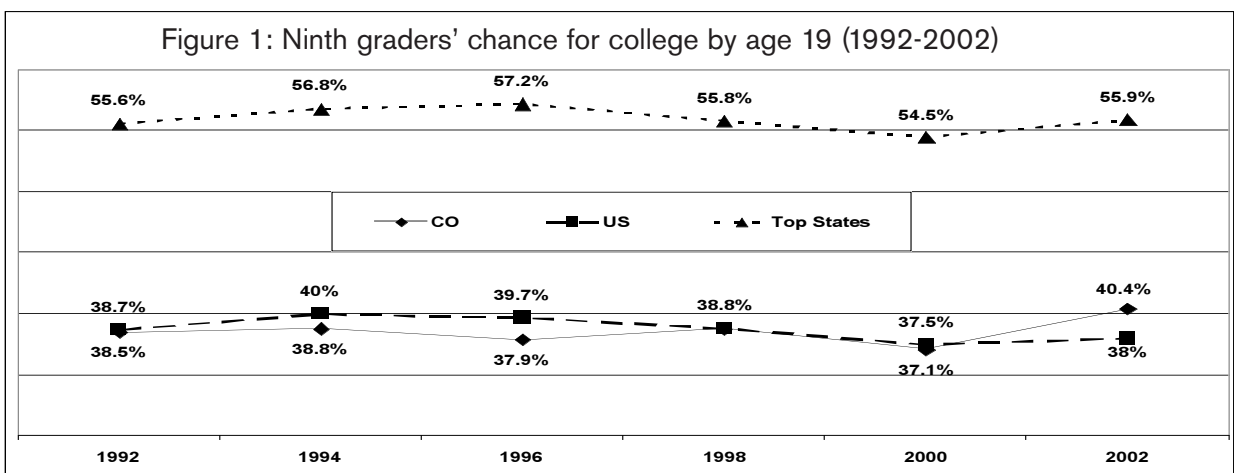
- Overall college enrollment for young adults aged 18-24 is stable, but enrollment among young women jumped in the past decade to match enrollment rates among young men.
- For many students from low-income families, a college education is out of reach — more so in Colorado than nationwide.
- More black young adults are going to college than a decade ago, and rates are higher for women than men. But blacks still lag well behind their white and Asian American peers in attending college.
- The rate for Hispanic young women attending college remains the same, about half the overall statewide average. But college enrollment among Hispanic young men plummeted in the past decade — only 9 percent attended college in 2002.
- Black and Hispanics are more likely to attend college part-time; whites and Asians are more likely to attend full-time.
- Some older working adults believe a college education is the best way to improve their job opportunities, and Colorado matches national trends in the number of working-age adults going to college.

Postsecondary Participation of Young Adults

Ninth graders' chance for college by age 19

Tom Mortenson, a nationally recognized higher education policy expert, has developed a measure for each state that estimates ninth graders chance for college by age 19. He examines the number of ninth grade students in a state, the number of first-time freshmen enrolled in the state's colleges four years later, and the high school graduation rates and college continuation rates of high school graduates.¹

As shown in Figure 1, the chance for Colorado ninth graders to attend college directly after high school graduation was 38.5 percent in 1992. This performance ranked the state 29th, slightly below the 38.7 percent national average and well below the 55.6 percent average rate of the three top states, North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.





Colorado's performance on this measure had worsened by 2000, when ninth grade students in Colorado had a 37.1 percent chance for college by age 19, ranking the state 29th, while the U.S. average was 37.5 percent and students in the top performing states, North Dakota, Minnesota and Massachusetts, had a 54.5 percent chance.

By 2002, all measures improved. Ninth grade students in Colorado had a 40.4 percent chance for college by age 19, ranking the state 20th, while the U.S. average was 38 percent and the top performing states, North Dakota, Minnesota and New Jersey, had a 55.9 percent chance.

College continuation rates for recent high school graduates

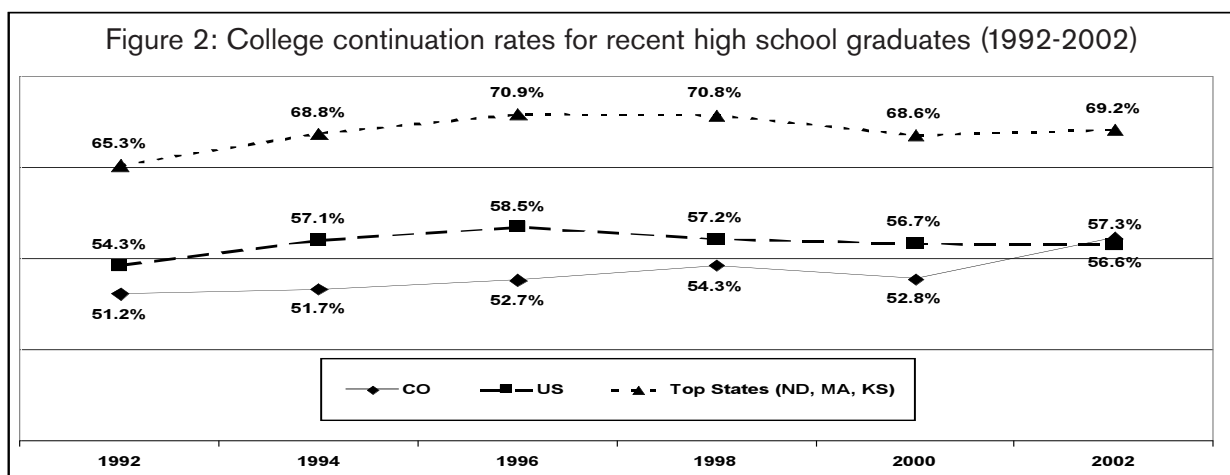
College continuation rates of recent high school graduates in Colorado are below the national average. This observation is verified when comparing both public and private high school graduation rates and the number of first-time freshmen who graduated from high school in the past year and enrolled in any college in the U.S.

Mortenson has used this comparison to calculate the proportion of high school graduates who enter college directly. ²

As Figure 2 shows, in 1992, only half of high school graduates in Colorado, 51.2 percent, enrolled in college immediately after graduation, ranking the state 31st. This compares to the 54.3 percent national average and the 65.3 percent average of the top three states, New York, North Dakota and Nebraska.

By 2000, 52.8 percent of Colorado's high school graduates enrolled in college within one year of graduation, ranking the state 37th. The national average was 56.7 percent and the top three states, North Dakota, Massachusetts and Kansas, averaged 68.6 percent.

- In 2002, 57.3 percent of Colorado's high school graduates enrolled in college within one year of graduation, ranking the state 23rd. The national average was 56.6 percent and the top three states, North Dakota, New York and Massachusetts, averaged 69.2 percent.
- Overall, the college continuation rate of recent high school graduates in Colorado consistently lagged behind the national average rate until 2002, the latest year with available data.





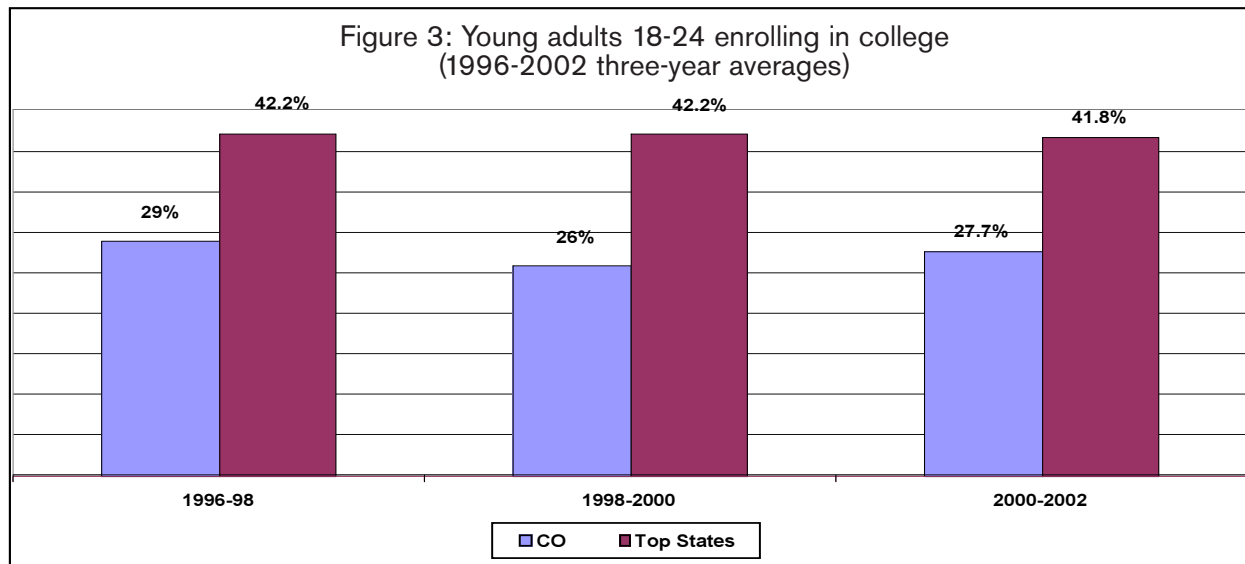
Young adults' college enrollment rates

Another measure of college-going rates for recent high school graduates is provided by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education in the second edition of its seminal series, "Measuring Up: The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education."

By using state-level data from the U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey Supplements, the 2004 report provides the percentage of a state's 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college.³

- For the 2000-2002 period, the average college enrollment rate for young adults in Colorado was just 27.7 percent (a total of 358,746 students), 47th in the nation. The U.S. average was 33.8 percent, while the three top performing states, Connecticut, North Dakota and Montana, averaged 41.8 percent.

As Figure 3 shows, Colorado's young adult enrollment rate increased from 26 percent during 1998-2000, when it ranked 46th in the nation, compared to the 42.2 percent average of the top three states, Connecticut, Hawaii and New Jersey.



A similar picture is painted by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education's (CCHE) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau and the agency's own data on the enrollment rates of male and female young adults (18-24) in Colorado public higher education institutions.⁴

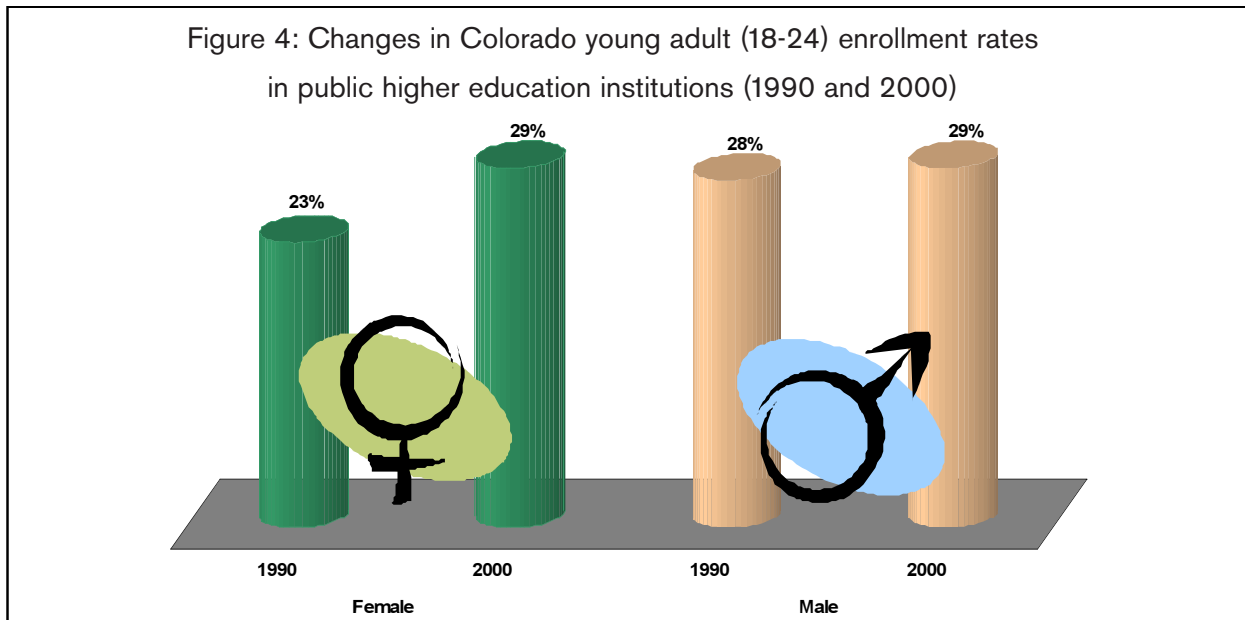
In 1990, only 28 percent of male and 23 percent of female young adults were enrolled, as shown in Figure 4.

- By 2000, the Colorado enrollment rate for males had inched up to 29 percent, while the female enrollment rate improved significantly and reached 29 percent as well. However, these rates lagged well behind the national average enrollment rate of 35.4 percent for young adults, and the 38 percent for females and 32.5 percent for males that same year.

An analysis of the latest available data from the 2002 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau also indicates that the college enrollment rates for Colorado's young adults are not satisfactory.⁵



- In 2002, Colorado ranked 36th, with an average 29.3 percent postsecondary enrollment rate among its 18-24 age group. That was below the 33 percent national average and well below the 39.9 percent average rate of the top three states, North Dakota, Kansas and California.



Postsecondary Participation of Low-Income Students

Participation rates for students from low-income families

Qualified students from low-income families face considerable educational and financial challenges in accessing education beyond high school.

Using Pell Grant recipient data, secondary education enrollment data from the National Center for Education Statistics' Digest of Education Statistics, National School Lunch program data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and data on children in poverty from the U.S. Census Bureau, Mortenson has calculated the college participation rates for dependent students (18-24) from low-income families. ⁶ Such families earn less than \$25,000 in family income, placing them at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Figure 5, next page, shows that in the fall of 1992, the college participation rate for dependent students ages 18 to 24 from low-income families in Colorado was 16.4 percent. This compares to the national average of 20 percent and the 39.5 percent average of the top three states, Minnesota, Wisconsin and New Hampshire, ranking Colorado 35th.

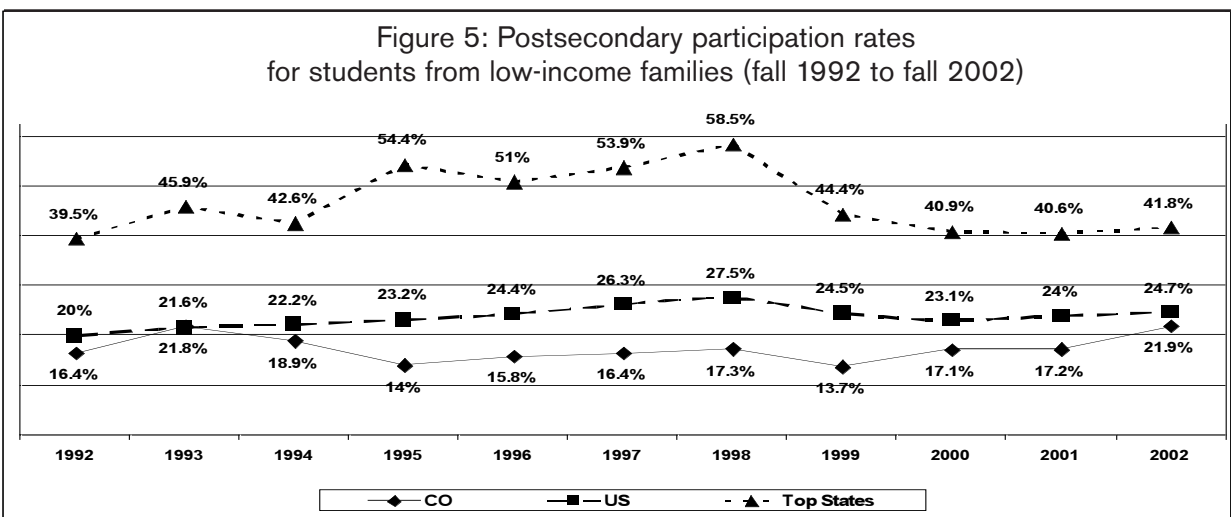
By 1996, Colorado's participation rate for low-income students had declined to 15.8 percent, below the 24.4 percent national average and the 51 percent average among the top three states, New Hampshire, Minnesota and New Jersey.

Colorado ranked 50th nationally in 1999, with a 13.7 percent chance of attending college, compared to the 24.5 percent U.S. average. In contrast, in the fall of 1999, the top three states of New Hampshire, New Jersey and Rhode Island, had a 44.4 percent average rate of college participation rate for low-income students.



- In the fall of 2002, Colorado’s participation rate of low-income students was 21.9 percent, ranking the state 35th in the nation. The national average was 24.7 percent, and the top three performing states of New Jersey, Iowa and North Dakota, averaged 41.8 percent.
- From 1992 to 2002, the higher education participation rate for Colorado’s lowest income quartile averaged 17.3 percent, while the U.S. average was 23.8 percent.

As Figure 5 indicates, the college participation rate of students from low-income families in Colorado has consistently lagged behind the national average during the past decade, except for 1993.



Low-income student participation rates in four-year institutions

By analyzing unpublished tables from the U.S. Department of Education Title IV/Federal Pell Grant End-of-Year Reports series, Tom Mortenson offers state-level data on the participation rates of low-income students in four-year higher education institutions. ⁷

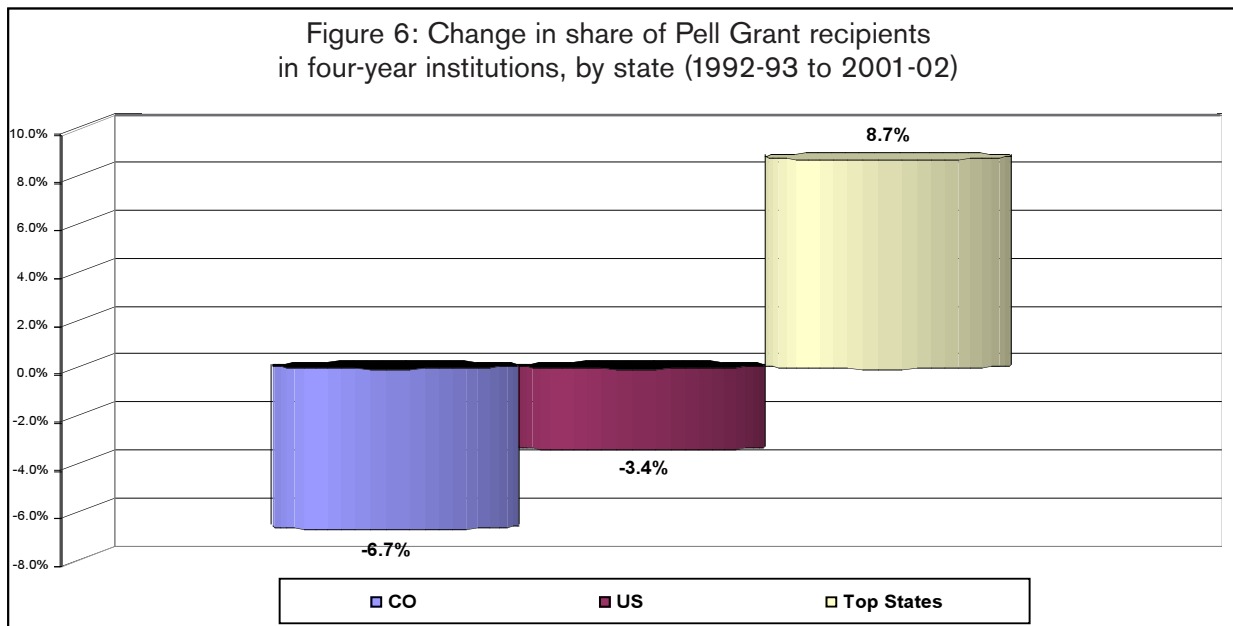
- During 2001-02, only 42.7 percent of Pell Grant recipients in Colorado were enrolled in four-year institutions, below the 44 percent national average and the 73.6 percent average of the three states ranked highest, West Virginia, Maine and South Dakota. Colorado ranked 33rd in the nation, with the majority of its low-income postsecondary students attending two-year institutions.

Since 1992-93, the increasing concentration of low-income students in two-year colleges has been a national trend, with the share of Pell Grant recipients enrolled in four-year institutions decreasing by an average of 3.4 percent.

However, the concentration of low-income students in two-year institutions has been even more dramatic in Colorado. The share of these students attending four-year institutions dropped by 6.7 percent from the 1992-93 school year to 2001-02, as shown in Figure 6.



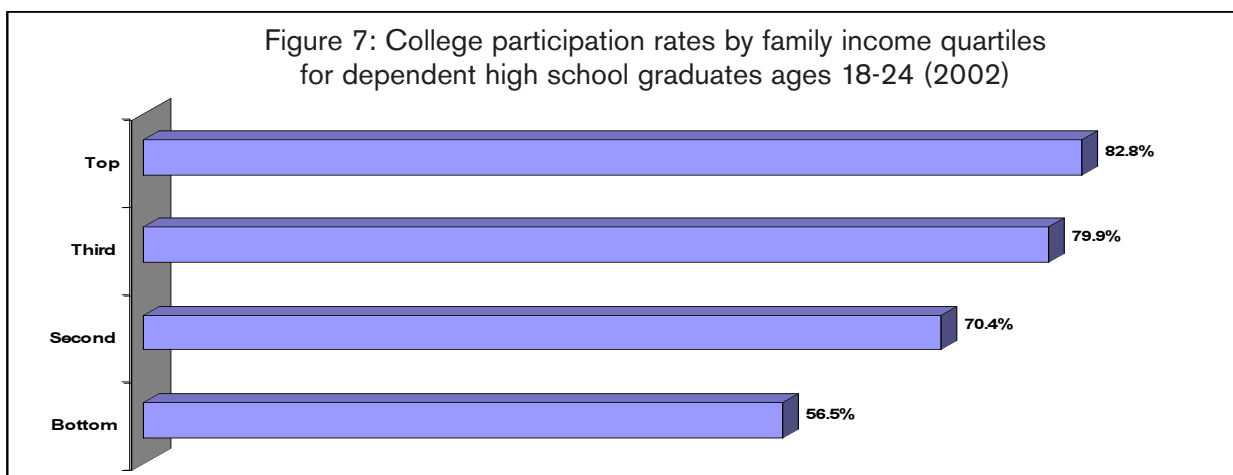
- Colorado ranks 36th in the change of the four-year institutions' share of Pell Grant recipients during the last decade. In contrast, the top three states marked an average 8.7 percent growth during the decade: Rhode Island, West Virginia and Michigan.



National college participation rates by income

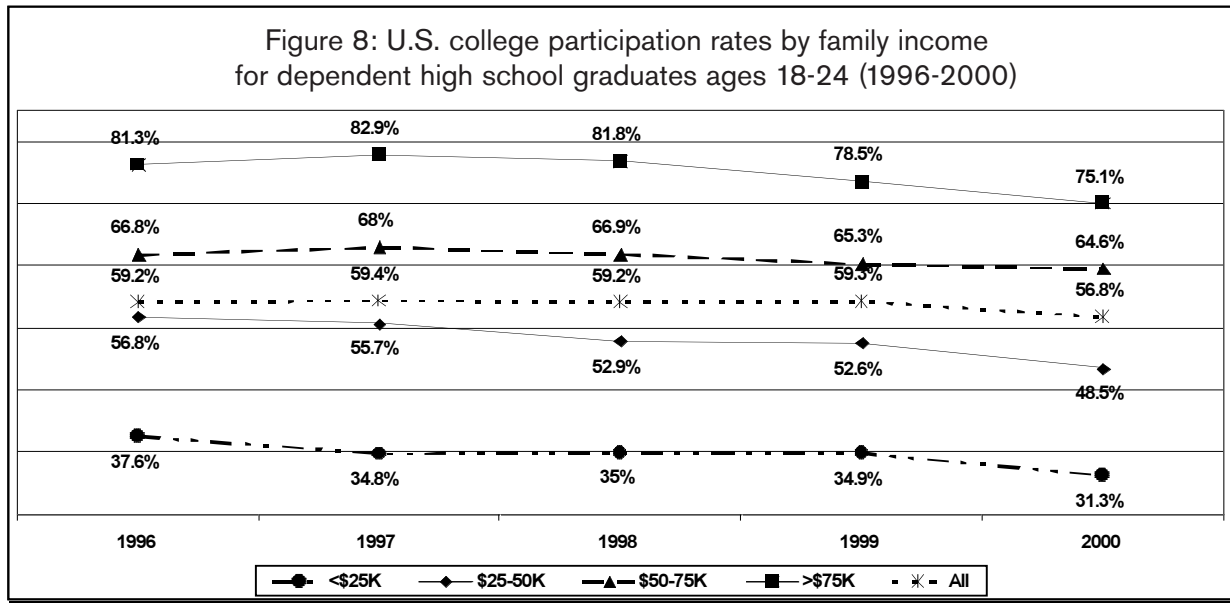
The national trend of unequal opportunity for postsecondary education among income groups has been well documented. High school graduation rates, college continuation and participation, as well as degree attainment rates, vary significantly and consistently among income groups.

- Young adult students from low-income families attend college at a much lower rate than their peers from middle- and upper-income families. The college participation rate of dependent 18- to 24-year-olds from families in the bottom income quartile, up to \$35,377, was 56.5 percent in 2002. This compares to the 82.8 percent attendance rate of the top quartile, with incomes above about \$85,000, as illustrated by Figures 7 and 8.⁸



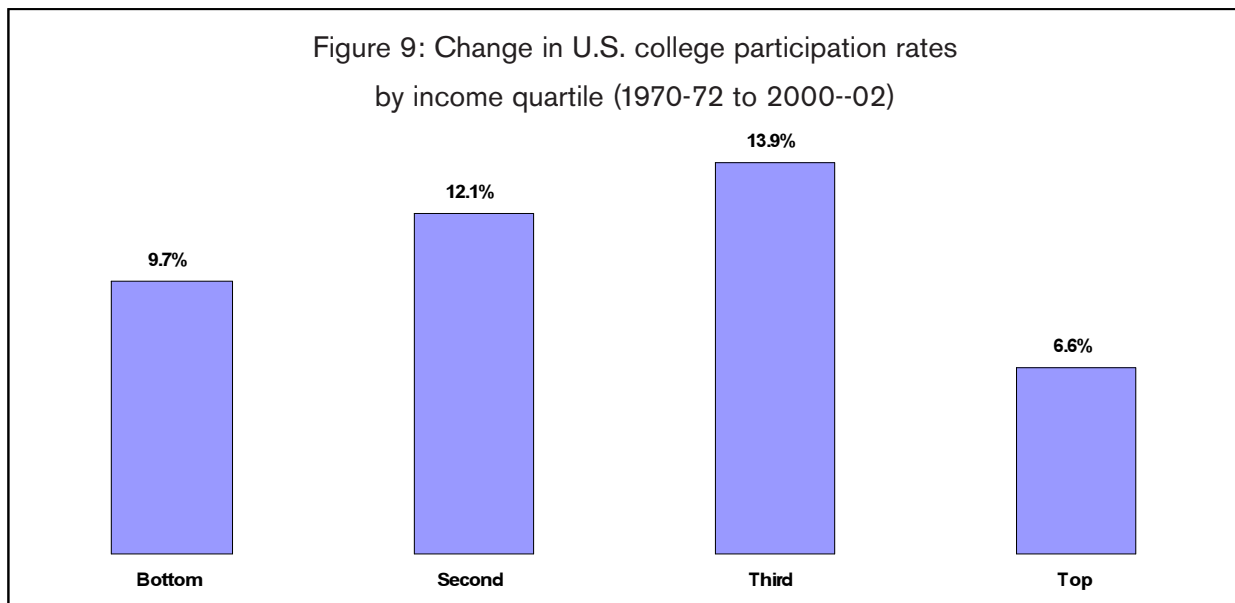


- Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that during 1996-2000, the average college participation rate for dependent high school graduates ages 18-24 from families with income up to \$25,000 was 34.7 percent, compared to the average rate of 79.9 percent for students from families with income more than \$75,000 and the national average rate of 58.8 percent. ⁹



This unequal opportunity for attending college has essentially remained unchanged during the past 30 years.

The college participation rate for the bottom quartile increased by 9.7 percent from 1970-72 to 2000-02, compared to a 12.1 percent increase in the participation rate of dependents 18-24 years of age from the second income quartile, and an increase of 13.9 percent among dependents in the third income quartiles, as seen in Figure 9. ¹⁰





Projected high school graduates from low- and moderate-income families

The Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education has published projections for high school graduates by race/ethnicity and family income, based on the most current data available from the National Center for Education Statistics and state education agencies.

The sixth edition of projections can be used as a basis for estimating the magnitude of the postsecondary participation gap among students of different socioeconomic status.¹¹

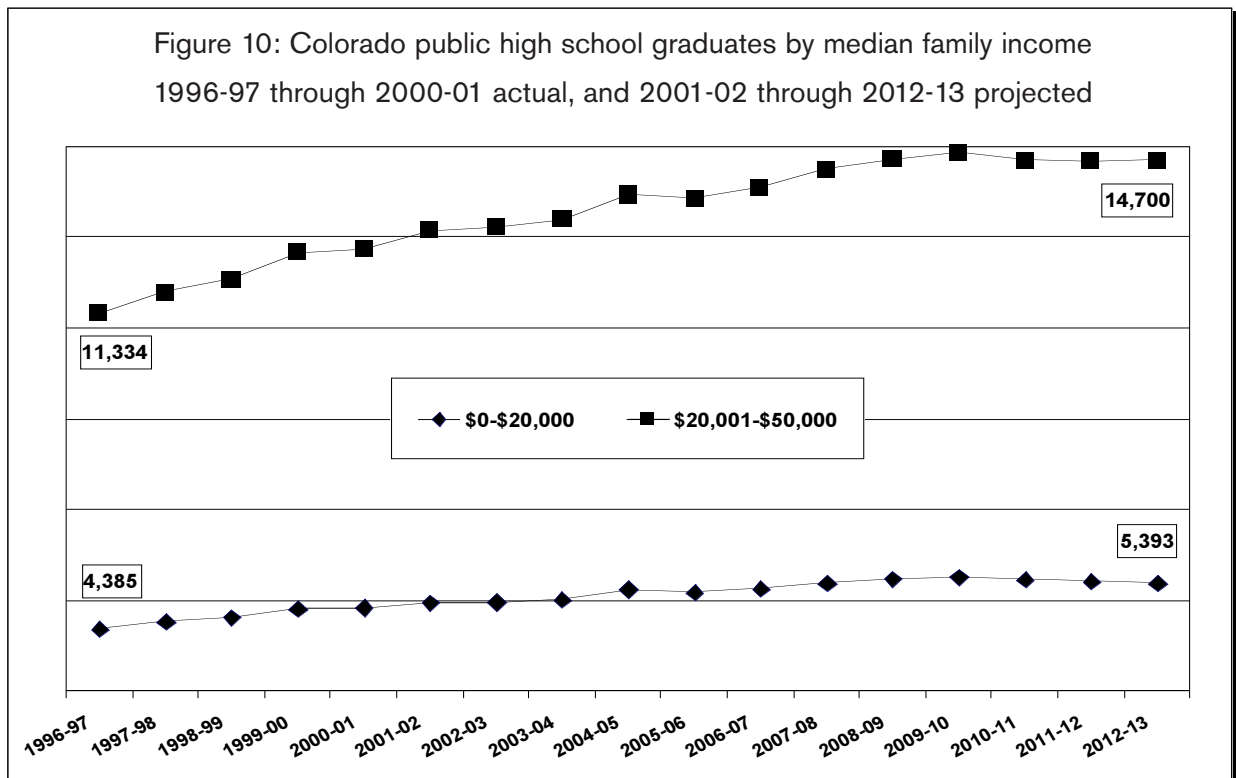
Specifically, the report projects significant increases in the number of high school graduates from low- and moderate-income families, with median family incomes up to \$50,000.

As Figure 10 illustrates, the number of public high school graduates from Colorado families with a median income below \$20,000 was 4,385 in the 1996-97 academic year, and is expected to reach 5,393 by 2012-13. That figure represents a projected 11.4 percent of all graduates.

The number of public high school graduates from families with a median annual income between \$20,001 and \$50,000 is expected to grow to 14,700 graduates by 2012-13, representing 31 percent of the entire graduate population. In other words:

- Students from low- and moderate-income families will comprise more than four out of 10 public high school graduates in 2013.

In light of the current low postsecondary participation rates in Colorado, these projections clearly indicate that unless there is an increase of access for low- and moderate-income students, a significant share of the state's population will be left behind.





Postsecondary Participation of Minority Students

Participation rates for minority students

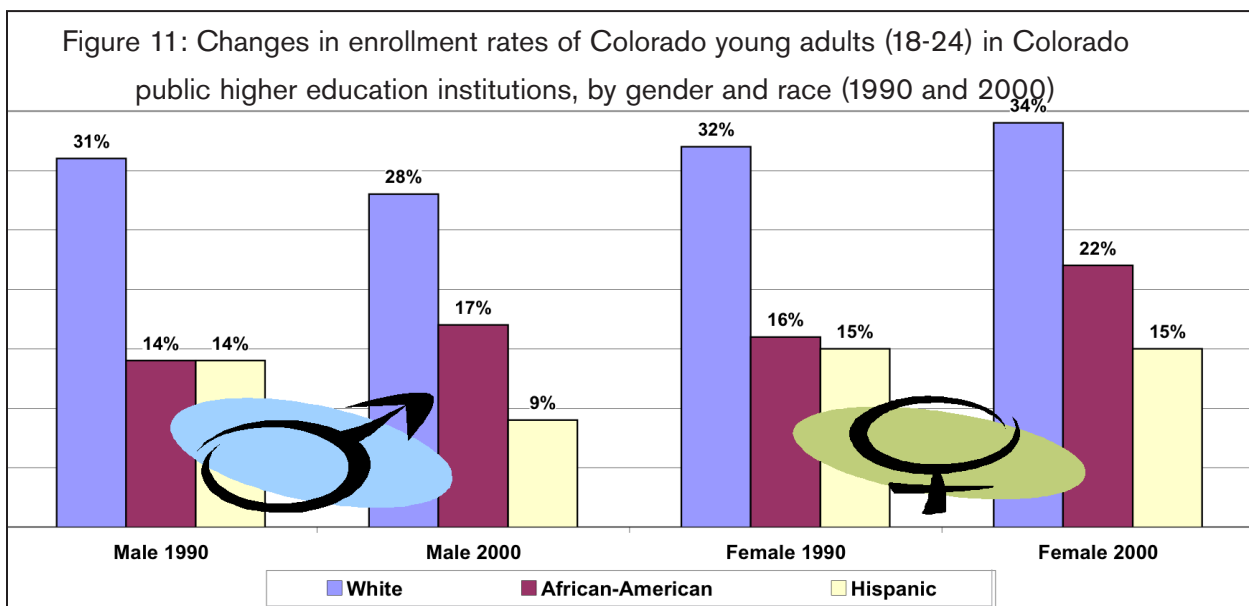
In 1990, 28 percent of all Colorado men ages 18-24 were enrolled in a public higher education institution in the state, compared to 23 percent of all women of the same age. By 2000, those rates equalized at 29 percent for both genders.¹²

In contrast, college participation rates among racial/ethnic subgroups within Colorado's student population vary significantly, as shown in Figure 11. Specifically:

- The college enrollment rates of young adult white and Hispanic males decreased between 1990 and 2000. Meanwhile the enrollment rates for young white and African-American female adults increased. Overall, the enrollment rates for Hispanic young adults, especially males, are particularly disturbing.
- Enrollment among African-American men ages 18-24 climbed from 14 percent in 1990 to 17 percent in 2000. For African-American women of the same age, college enrollment increased more, from 16 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2000.
- College enrollment among young Hispanic men fell from 14 percent in 1990 to 9 percent in 2000. The enrollment rate for young Hispanic women remained at 15 percent in 1990 and 2000.

Access to postsecondary education for minority populations can also be measured using the latest available data from the 2002 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau. Analyzing the data, it is evident that:

- The enrollment rates of minority young adults in Colorado are significantly lower than the rates of their white peers.¹³





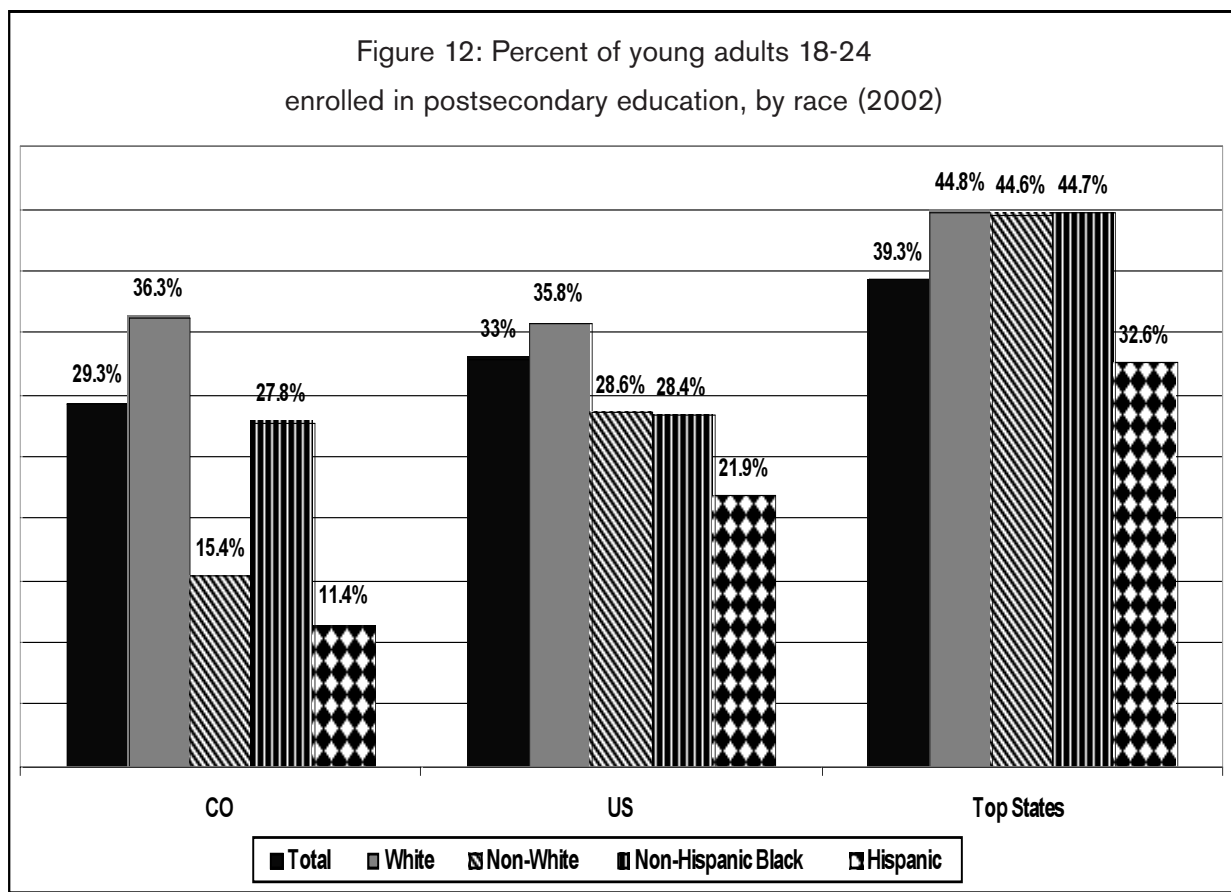
Specifically, in 2002 the participation rate of non-Hispanic white young adults ages 18-24 was 36.3 percent. In contrast, the rate for all non-whites was 15.4 percent, 27.8 percent for non-Hispanic blacks, and just 11.4 percent for Hispanic young adults, as seen in Figure 12, below.

- Hispanic young adults had the lowest enrollment rate – a dismal 11.4 percent.

While Colorado’s participation rate for white young adults is above the national average, the participation rates for black and Hispanic young adults are below the national average.

It is also important to compare these enrollment rates to the rates of the top three performing states in each of the ethnic/racial groups. Colorado’s white population enrollment rate ranked 15th (36.3 percent), while the top three states — California, North Dakota and Connecticut, had an average rate of 44.8 percent.

- The total minority participation rate of young adults in Colorado, at 15.4 percent, ranked the state 48th, while the top three states of West Virginia, Vermont and Rhode Island averaged 44.6 percent.



The state ranked 19th for its non-Hispanic black young adult postsecondary enrollment at 27.8 percent, while the top three states of West Virginia, Iowa and Rhode Island averaged 44.7 percent. The Colorado enrollment rate of Hispanic young adults of 11.4 percent ranked the state 34th, while the top three states of Alaska, Louisiana and Rhode Island had an average of 32.6 percent.



A snapshot of the demographics of Colorado’s postsecondary population provides another view of minority participation rates. The National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis has compiled enrollment data from the National Center for Education Statistics’ 2003 Fall Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems survey and analyzed the racial composition of the postsecondary student body for each state.¹⁴

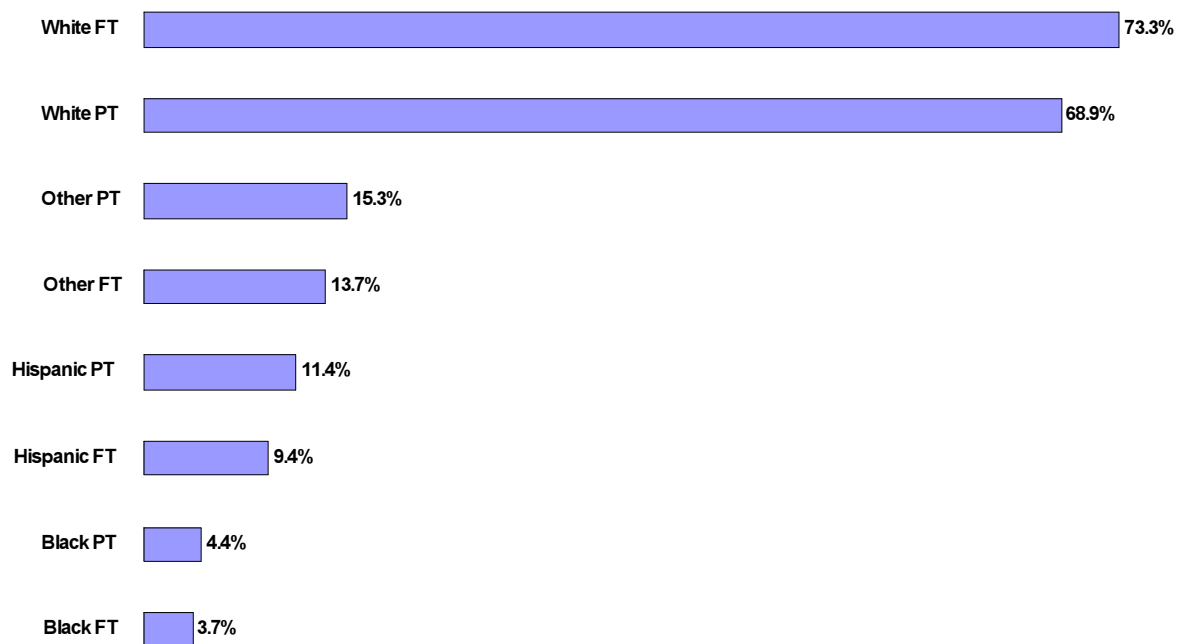
An examination of the entire student body’s profile in Colorado reveals the significant variation in enrollment rates among the various racial and ethnic groups. For comparison, the 2000 Census reported Colorado’s 4.3 million people were 74 percent white, 17 percent Hispanic, 4 percent black, 2 percent Asian, 2 percent mixed race and 1 percent Native American.

- White students represent 71.4 percent of all students – full-time and part-time, undergraduate and graduate – enrolled in all higher education institutions in the state, compared to Hispanics’ at 10.2 percent and blacks at 4 percent. Fewer than three of 10 postsecondary students in Colorado are non-white.

Minorities represent even less of the student body when part-time students are excluded. White students’ share of the full-time undergraduate and graduate student population is even higher than their share of all students, as shown in Figure 13.

- Whites make up 73.3 percent of full-time students, while only 9.4 percent are Hispanic and 3.7 percent are black.

Figure 13: Percent of postsecondary students enrolled in Colorado, by race and full-time (FT) or part-time (PT) status (2003)





White students' share of total part-time enrollment is smaller than their share of full-time students and of the entire student population. The highest share of non-white students is among part-time students.

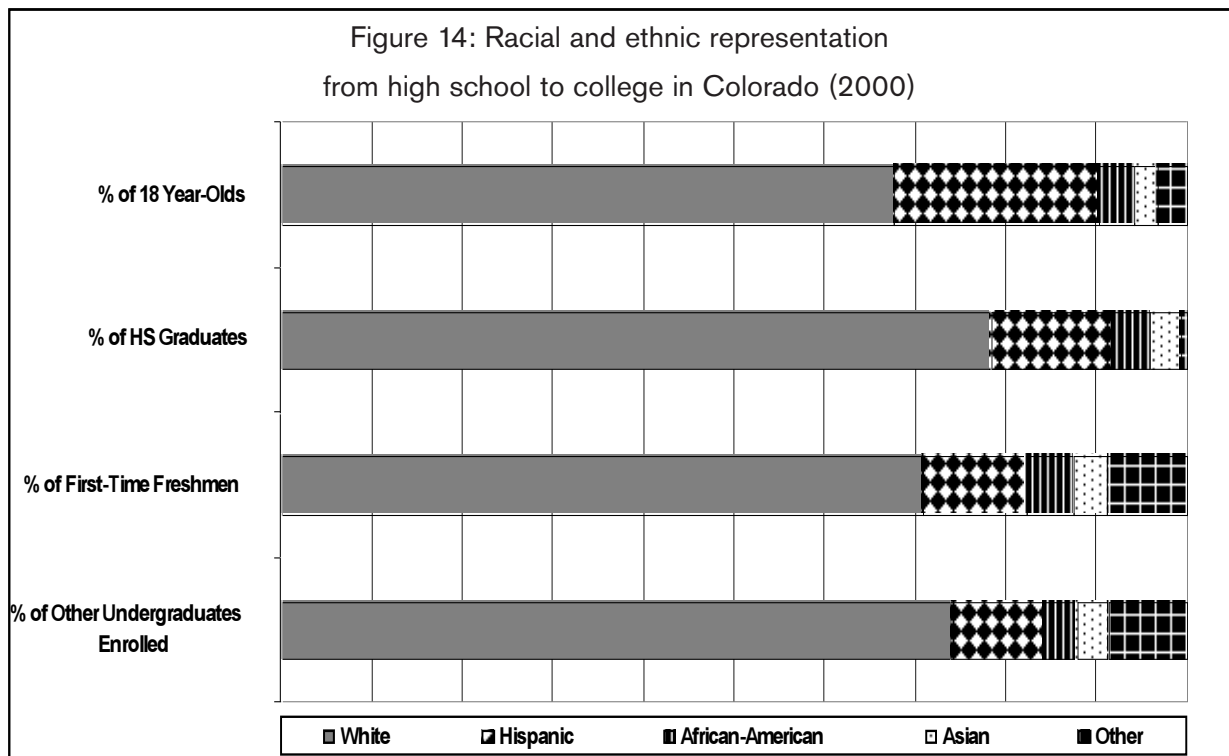
- Of part-time Colorado college students, 68.9 percent are white, 11.4 percent are Hispanic and 4.4 percent are black.

Minority representation from high school to college

Patrick Kelly, director of the National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis and senior associate of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, has analyzed public high school graduation and undergraduate enrollment data from the National Center for Education Statistics and U.S. Census data on the representation of ethnic and racial minorities from high school to college.¹⁵

By disaggregating the population, high school graduation, freshmen enrollment and other undergraduate enrollment data, Kelly illustrates the different educational experiences among racial and ethnic groups. In Colorado, the representation of Hispanics, the second largest racial group, from high school to college is dismal, as shown in Figure 14.

- In 2000, while Hispanics comprised 22.6 percent of the total population of 18-year-olds in the state, they represented only 13.3 percent of high school graduates, 11.4 percent of first-time college freshmen, and just 10.2 percent of other (non-first-time freshmen) undergraduate enrollment. In contrast, the representation of the largest racial group, whites, increased during the same educational stages.





Projected demographics of high school graduates

The postsecondary participation gap among students of different races/ethnicities will become an even more pressing problem, according to the high school graduate projections of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education. ¹⁶

As shown in Figures 15, 16 and 17, while Colorado's 27,000 white high school graduates in 1996-97 represented 74.1 percent of all graduates, WICHE projects whites will comprise only 54.1 percent of the entire high school graduating class of 2017-18, with 32,600 graduates.

In contrast,

- By 2017-18, Hispanics are projected to make up 32.1 percent of that year's graduating class, while in 1996-97 they accounted for just 12.2 percent of all high school graduates.

The other minority group that will experience growth in high school graduates during the next 15 years is Asian/ Pacific Islanders. They are projected to comprise 4.9 percent of the 2017-18 graduating class, up from 2.8 percent of all 1996-97 graduates.

The implications of these projections will have a devastating impact on the economic and social health of Colorado in the future, absent a successful policy intervention to increase access to higher education for these groups, especially Hispanics.

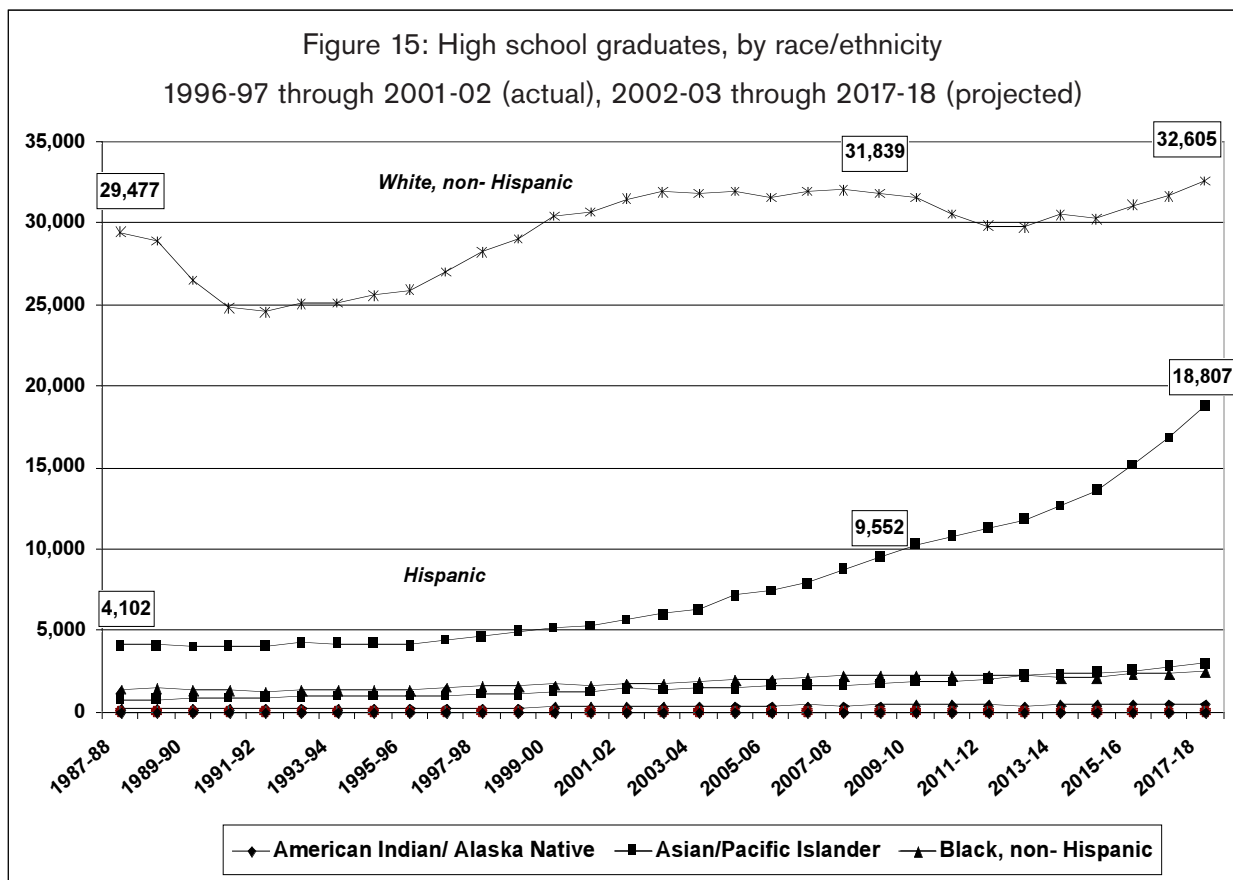




Figure 16: Colorado public and nonpublic high school graduates by race/ethnicity (1996-97 actual)

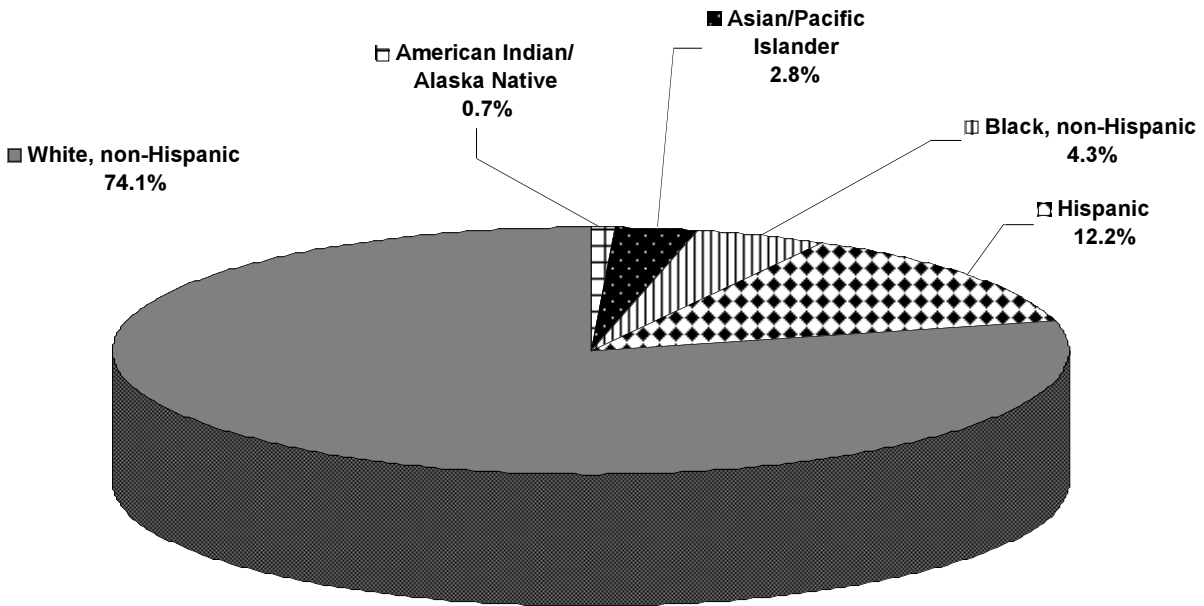
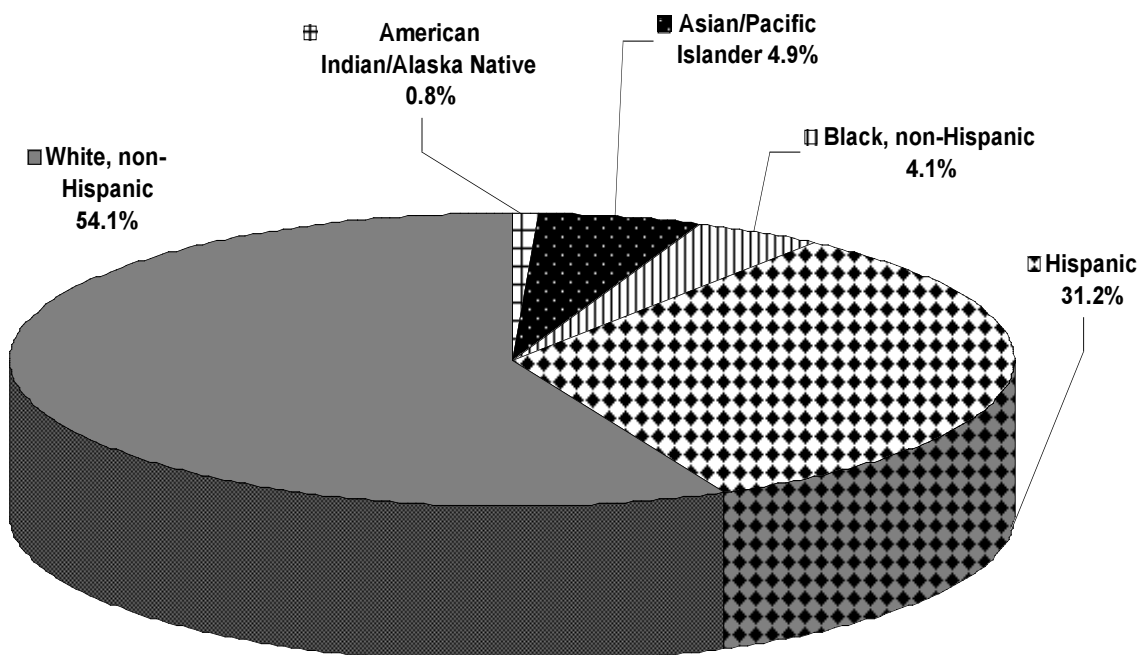


Figure 17: Colorado public and nonpublic high school graduates by race/ethnicity (2017-18, projected)





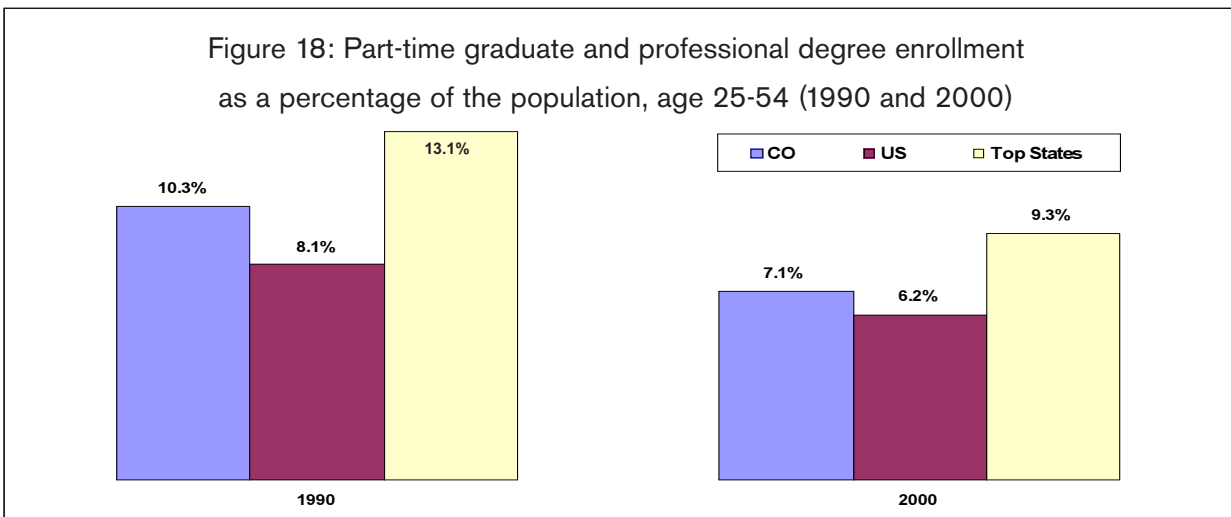
Postsecondary Participation of Working-Age Adults

Enrollment of working age adults

Older adults enroll at a relatively higher rate in Colorado. By using data from the NCES enrollment surveys and from population estimates of the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis has estimated the part-time enrollment in graduate and professional degree programs as a percentage of the population 25-54 with a bachelor's degree, as seen in Figure 18.¹⁷

This measurement provides insight into a state's performance in fulfilling its needs for educational upgrading and lifelong learning in the new knowledge-based economy. Data have been computed for 1990 and 2000, and again Colorado ranks in the top tier of states, although its placement has dropped.

- In 1990, part-time post-baccalaureate enrollment represented 10.3 percent of the 25-to-64 population holding a bachelor's degree, ranking the state 11th. That is above the national average of 8.1 percent, but below the 13.1 percent average rate among the top three states, Idaho, West Virginia and Nebraska.
- By 2000, Colorado's rate had dropped to 7.1 percent and the nation's rate fell to 6.2 percent. Meanwhile, the top three states of Massachusetts, Missouri and New York averaged 9.3 percent. Colorado ranked 16th in the nation.



Similar results are obtained from an analysis of the 2003 American Community Survey data on postsecondary enrollment of 25- to 54-year-olds.¹⁸

- Colorado ranked 13th among 50 states with 6.8 percent of adults age 25-54 who are enrolled in any postsecondary education institution, above the 6.5 percent national average and compared to the 8.8 percent average of the top three states, Utah, New Mexico and Arkansas.

However, it is important to note that the range of performance among states for this measure, as well as for the ensuing measures of working age adult participation, is relatively small, varying within a few percentage points.



Participation rates for minority working age adults

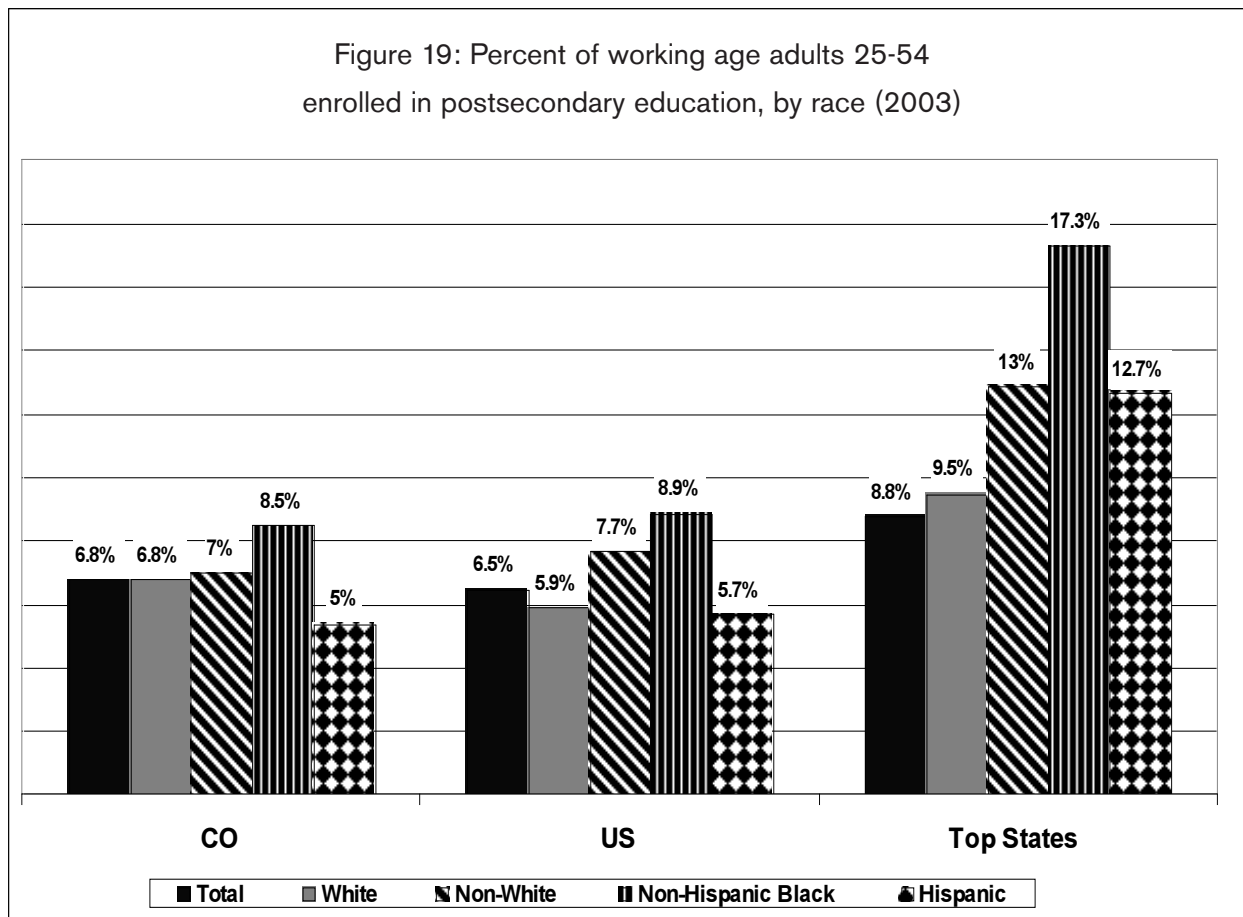
Despite the high rate of postsecondary enrollment of Colorado's working age adults, a closer examination of data reveals significant racial/ethnic disparities similar to those found in the postsecondary enrollment of young adults. Using the latest available data from the 2003 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau, it is evident that:

- Enrollment rates of minority working-age adults in Colorado are significantly lower than the rates of their white peers.¹⁹

As Figure 19 shows, in 2003 the participation rate of non-Hispanic white working age adults (ages 25-54) was 6.8 percent, while the rate for all non-whites was 7 percent and just 5 percent for Hispanic working adults. However, non-Hispanic black working age adults enrolled at a rate of 8.5 percent, higher than their white peers.

- Hispanic working age adults had the lowest enrollment rate – a dismal 5 percent.

While Colorado's participation rate for white working age adults is higher than the national average, the participation rates for black and Hispanic working age adults are below the national average.





These enrollment rates can be compared to the rates of the top three performing states in each of the ethnic/racial groups. White enrollment ranked the state 13th at 6.8 percent, while white enrollment in the top three states of Utah, New Mexico and Arkansas averaged 8.8 percent. However,

- The total minority participation rate of working age adults in Colorado, 7 percent, ranked the state 37th, while the top three states of Kansas, North Dakota and West Virginia averaged 13 percent.

Colorado ranked 27th among 42 states for its non-Hispanic black working age adult postsecondary enrollment, at 8.5 percent. The top three states of New Hampshire, Michigan and Rhode Island averaged a 17.3 percent rate.

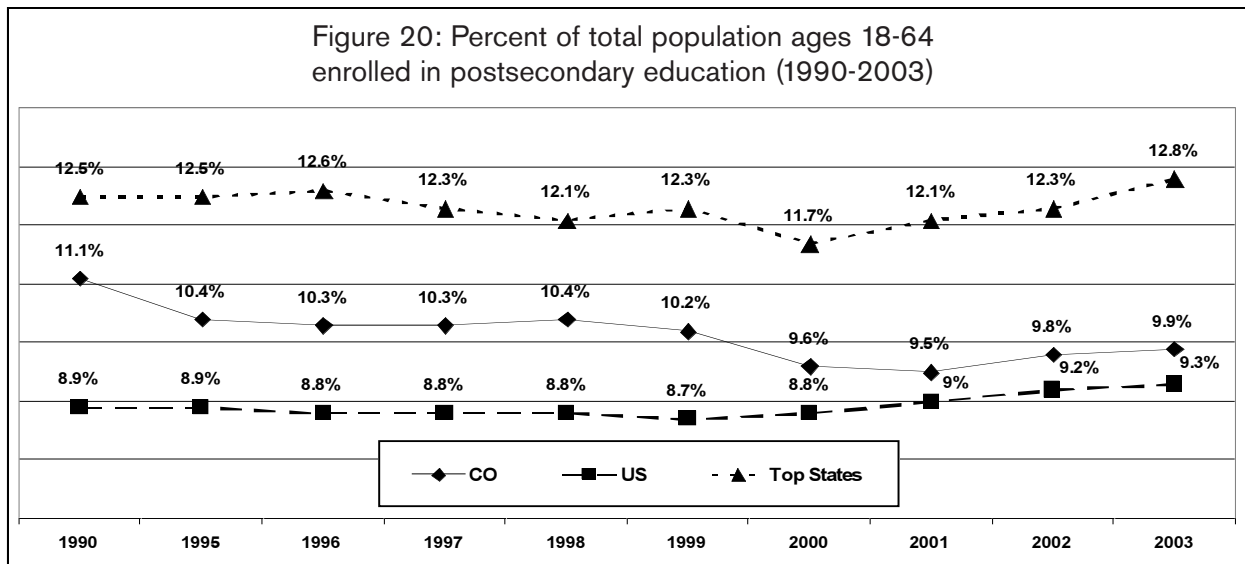
The Hispanic enrollment rate among working age adults of 5 percent ranked Colorado 24th among 47 states, while the top three states of North Dakota, Arkansas and Hawaii had an average enrollment of 11.7 percent.

Postsecondary participation of all adults ages 18-64

The National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis has also used data from the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Fall Enrollment Survey program and the U.S. Census Bureau data on population estimates to calculate the percent of working-age adults enrolled in postsecondary education.²⁰ This measures participation rates of all residents in a state. Since it is not limited to traditional undergraduate enrollment, it is influenced by the enrollment of all types of students.

As Figure 20 shows, in 1990, 11.1 percent of Colorado's adults were enrolled in postsecondary education. The state ranked seventh in the nation, compared to the 8.9 percent national average and the 12.5 percent average of the top three states. Utah, Rhode Island and Arizona.

By 1998, the participation rates had remained relatively unchanged: Colorado has the same rate as in 1995 of 10.4 percent, and ranked ninth, compared to the 8.8 percent





national average rate and the 12.1 percent average rate of the same top three performing states. In 2000, only 9.6 percent of Colorado's 18- to 64-year-olds were enrolled in postsecondary education, ranking the state 15th, in comparison to the 8.8 percent national average and the 11.7 percent of Utah, Rhode Island and Arizona, still the top three.

- In 2003, Colorado had a 9.9 percent enrollment rate of adults 18-64, topping the 9.3 percent national average and ranking 16th in the nation. The top three performing states, Utah, Arizona and North Dakota, had a 12.8 percent enrollment rate.
- Despite this decline, Colorado's performance in this measure has been consistently above the national average, ranking the state in the top tier of states with high adult enrollment rates.

However, it is important to note that the range in the comparative performance among states is strikingly narrow, indicating that a state's ranking depends upon relatively minor changes in its participation rate.

Endnotes

¹ Mortenson, Tom. (2004). "Chance for College by Age 19, by State: 1986-2002" Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY: The Environmental Scanning Research Letter for Postsecondary Education. No. 149 (November). Calculation: ninth graders/number of first-time freshmen enrolled anywhere in the fall semester four years later. The calculation of this measure does not account for transfers of students to private high schools or for out-of-state transfers during the 9-12 grades, since those figures are unavailable.

² Ibid.

³ This measure is calculated using data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, October Supplements for the years reported. State-level data provided by Pinkerton Computer Consultants. In National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. 2004. "Technical Guide: Documenting Methodology, Indicators, and Data Sources for Measuring Up 2004: The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education." p. 28. This indicator reports the percentage of 18- to 24-year-old young adults who are currently enrolled in education and training program beyond high school. Including both full-time and part-time enrollment, the indicator is calculated using the following formula: (Numerator: Number of adults ages 18 to 24 currently enrolled in grades 13-17 who have not yet attained baccalaureate degrees. Denominator: Total number of adults ages 18 to 24).

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, as referenced in the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Higher Education Nov. 6, 2001, presentation, by James Jacobs, Tom Mortenson, John Bliss, Robert Moore and Rich Allen. www.state.co.us/cche/blueribbon/nov6_files/frame.htm

⁵ "Postsecondary Enrollment, By Race and Ethnicity." U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 American Community Survey Supplementary Survey microdata. Analysis provided by the Population Reference Bureau, Washington, D.C., for the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

⁶ Mortenson, Tom. (2004). "College Participation Rates by State for Students from Low Income Families, 1992 to 2002." Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY: The Environmental Scanning Research Letter for Postsecondary Education. No. 150 (December). "The college participation rate for low-income students is a simple ratio of two unpublished numbers for each



state. The numerator is the number of dependent Pell Grant recipients by state of residence for each year. The denominator is the number of school children in fourth to ninth grade nine years earlier who were approved for free- or reduced-price school lunches.”

⁷ Mortenson, Tom. (2003). “Economic Segregation of Higher Education Opportunity, 1973 to 2001.” Postsecondary Education. OPPORTUNITY: The Environmental Scanning Research Letter for Postsecondary Education. No. 136 (October).

⁸ Mortenson, Tom. (2004). “Family Income and Higher Educational Opportunity, 1970 to 2002.” Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY: The Environmental Scanning Research Letter for Postsecondary Education. No. 143 (May). These students are high school graduates who reach college by age 24.

⁹ Mortenson, Tom. (2001). College Participation Rates for Dependent 18- to 24-Year-Olds by Family Income, Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 1996-2000. Oskaloosa, Iowa: Postsecondary Education Opportunity. www.postsecondary.org

¹⁰ Mortenson, Tom. (2004). “Family Income and Higher Educational Opportunity, 1970 to 2002.” Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY: The Environmental Scanning Research Letter for Postsecondary Education. No. 143 (May). These students are high school graduates who reach college by age 24.

¹¹ Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. (2003). Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates by State, Income, and Race/Ethnicity. Boulder, Colo.: WICHE.

¹² U.S. Census Bureau and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, as referenced in the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Higher Education Nov. 6, 2001, presentation, by James Jacobs, Tom Mortenson, John Bliss, Robert Moore and Rich Allen. www.state.co.us/cche/blueribbon/nov6_files/frame.htm

¹³ “Postsecondary Enrollment, By Race and Ethnicity.” 2002 American Community Survey Supplementary Survey microdata. Analysis provided by the Population Reference Bureau, Washington, D.C., for the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

¹⁴ National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis. Special Analysis: 2003 Enrollment by State, Sector, Level, Race, Gender. (Spreadsheet). www.higheredinfo.org

¹⁵ Kelly, Patrick J. (2003). Racial/Ethnic Representation from High School to College Completion, by State, 2000 (Spreadsheet). National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis. www.higheredinfo.org

¹⁶ Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. (2003). Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates by State, Income, and Race/Ethnicity. Boulder, CO.

¹⁷ National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis. (2003). Ratio of Part-Time Graduate/Professional Students to 25- to 64-Year-Olds with a Bachelor's Degree, 2000 (Spreadsheet). www.higheredinfo.org

¹⁸ “Postsecondary Enrollment, Persons Aged 25 to 54.” 2003 American Community Survey Supplementary Survey microdata. Analysis provided by the Population Reference Bureau, Washington, D.C., for the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

¹⁹ “Postsecondary Enrollment, By Race and Ethnicity.” 2003 American Community Survey Supplementary Survey microdata. Analysis provided by the Population Reference Bureau, Washington, D.C., for the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

²⁰ National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis. (2003). Percent of Total Population Enrolled in College – 18-64 Year Olds (Spreadsheet) www.higheredinfo.org

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