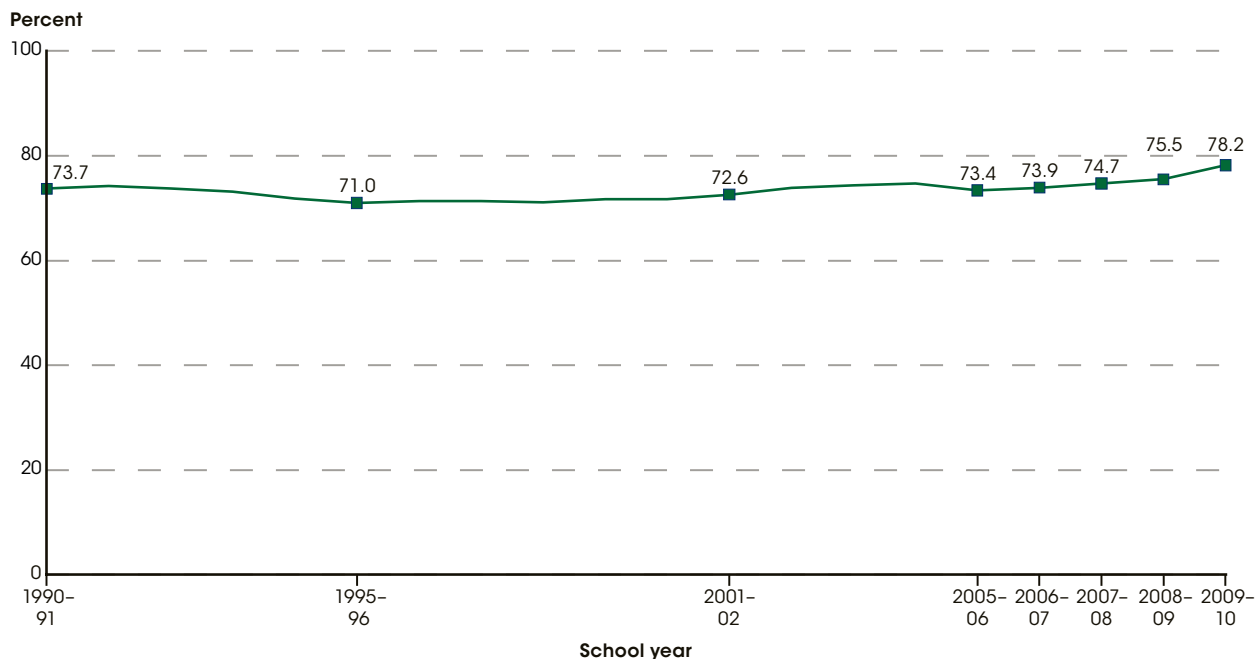


Public High School Graduation Rates

In school year 2009–10, some 3.1 million public high school students, or 78.2 percent, graduated on time with a regular diploma. Among all public high school students, Asians/Pacific Islanders had the highest graduation rate (93.5 percent), followed by Whites (83.0 percent), Hispanics (71.4 percent), American Indians/Alaska Natives (69.1 percent), and Blacks (66.1 percent).

Figure 1. Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) for public high school students: School years 1990–91 through 2009–10



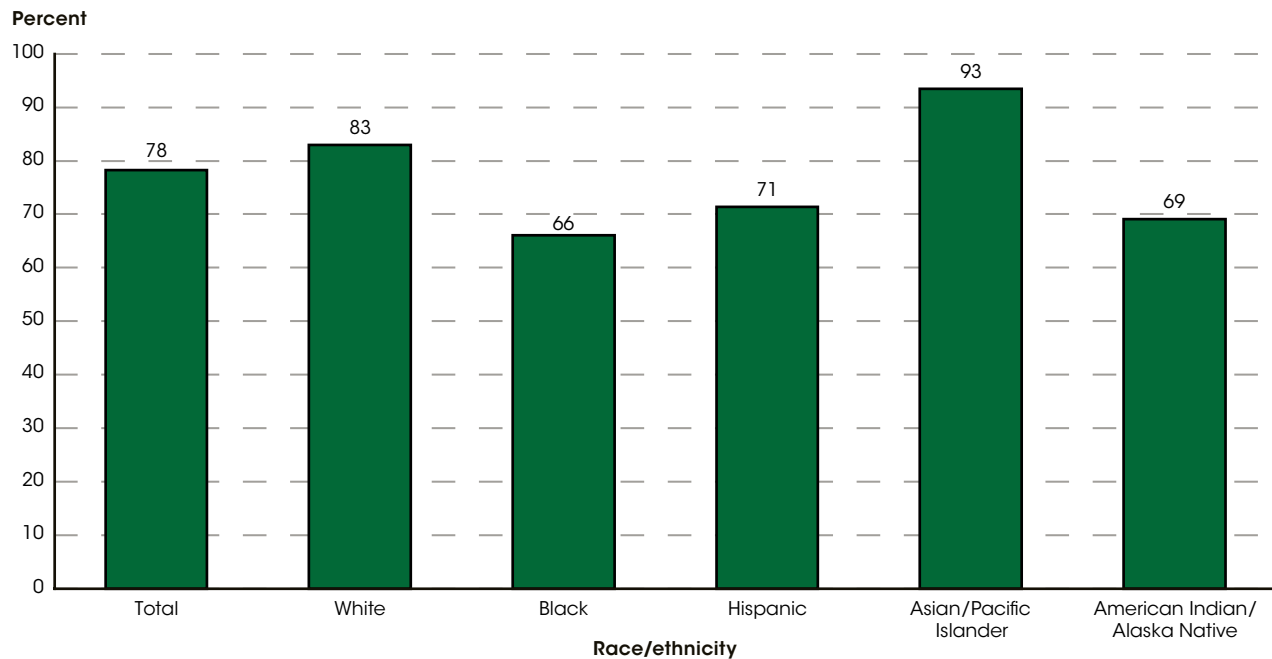
NOTE: The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate is the number of graduates divided by the estimated freshman enrollment count 4 years earlier. This count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier, and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier, divided by 3. Ungraded students are allocated to individual grades proportional to each state's enrollment in those grades. Graduates include only those who earned regular diplomas or diplomas for advanced academic achievement (e.g., honors diploma) as defined by the state or jurisdiction. The 2005–06 national estimates include imputed data for the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. The 2007–08 and 2008–09 estimates for Maine include graduates from semiprivate schools. The 2008–09 national estimate includes imputed data for California and Nevada. The 2009–10 estimate includes fall 2006 ninth-graders from publicly funded private schools in the data for Maine. The 2009–10 national estimate includes imputed data for Connecticut and Nevada. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1986–87 through 2007–08; "State Dropout and Completion Data File," 2005–06 through 2009–10; The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate for Public High Schools From the CCD: School Years 2002–03 and 2003–04; and Public School Graduates and Dropouts from the CCD, 2007–08 and 2008–09. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 124.

This indicator examines the percentage of public high school students who graduate on time with a regular diploma. To do so, it uses the *Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate* (AFGR), which is the number of high school diplomas expressed as a percentage of the estimated freshman class 4 years earlier. In school year 2009–10, the AFGR was 78.2 percent, and some 3.1 million public high school students graduated on time with a regular diploma. The overall AFGR was higher for the graduating

class of 2009–10 than it was for the class of 1990–91 (73.7 percent). However, during the earlier part of the period from 1990–91 to 1995–96, the graduation rate decreased from 73.7 to 71.0 percent. The rate fluctuated from a low of 71.1 to a high of 74.7 percent from 1997–98 to 2004–05. Since 2005–06, the graduation rate has increased by nearly 5 percentage points from 73.4 to 78.2 percent.

For more information, see the Reader's Guide and the Guide to Sources.

Figure 2. Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) for public high school students, by race/ethnicity: School year 2009-10



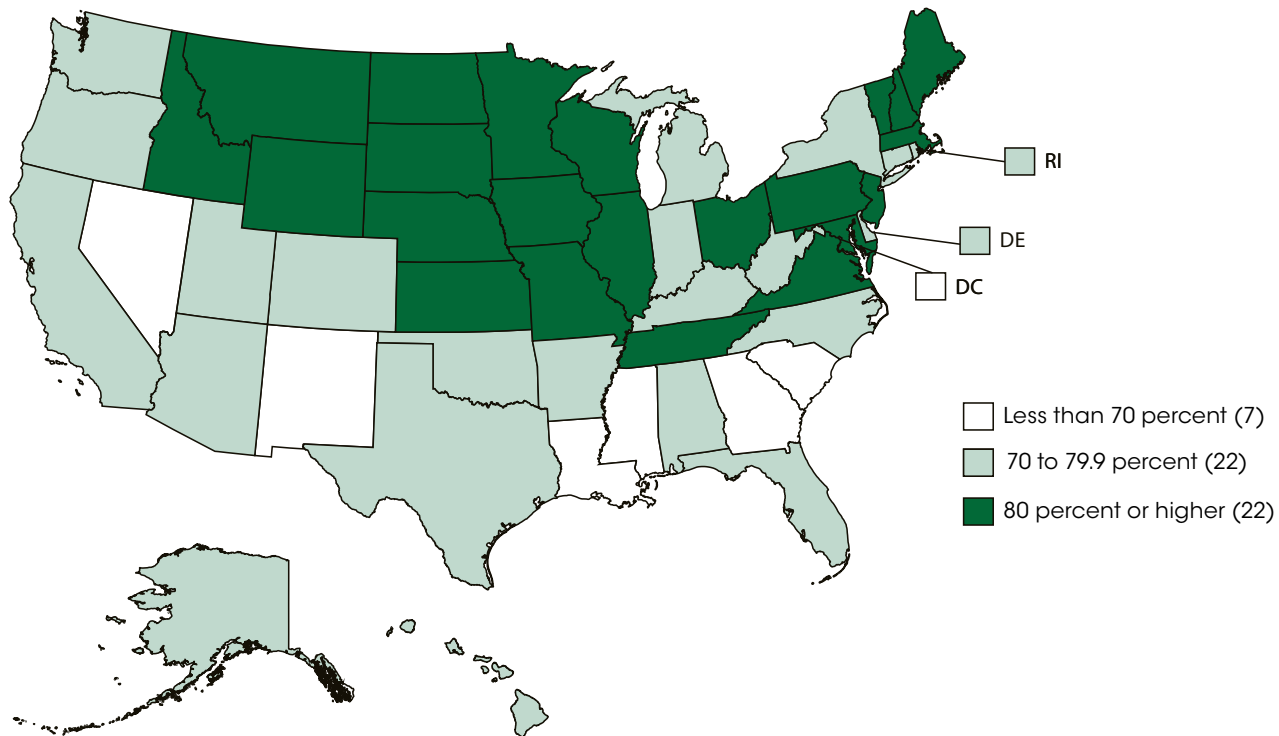
NOTE: The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate is the number of graduates divided by the estimated freshman enrollment count 4 years earlier. This count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier, and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier, divided by 3. Ungraded students are allocated to individual grades proportional to each state's enrollment in those grades. Graduates include only those who earned regular diplomas or diplomas for advanced academic achievement (e.g., honors diploma) as defined by the state or jurisdiction. Includes fall 2006 ninth-graders from publicly funded private schools in the data for Maine. Includes only graduates for whom race/ethnicity was reported. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Dropout and Completion Data File," 2009-10. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 125.

Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates varied by race/ethnicity in 2009-10. Asian/Pacific Islander students had the highest graduation rate (93.5 percent), followed by

White (83.0 percent), Hispanic (71.4 percent), American Indian/Alaska Native (69.1 percent), and Black students (66.1 percent).

Figure 3. Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) for public high school students, by state or jurisdiction: School year 2009–10



NOTE: The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate is the number of graduates divided by the estimated freshman enrollment count 4 years earlier. This count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier, and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier, divided by 3. Ungraded students are allocated to individual grades proportional to each state's enrollment in those grades. Graduates include only those who earned regular diplomas or diplomas for advanced academic achievement (e.g., honors diploma) as defined by the state or jurisdiction. Data for Maine included fall 2006 ninth-graders from publicly funded private schools. Data for Connecticut and Nevada were imputed.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Dropout and Completion Data File," 2009–10. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 124.

In school year 2009–10, the AFGR ranged by more than 30 percentage points among the states. Vermont had the highest graduation rate, at 91.4 percent. Twenty-one other states had graduation rates of 80 percent or more (ordered from high to low): Wisconsin, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Nebraska, Missouri, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Illinois, Montana, South Dakota, Ohio, Virginia, Tennessee, and Wyoming. Nevada had the lowest rate, at 57.8 percent. Five other states and the District of Columbia had graduation rates below 70 percent (ordered from high to low): Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, New Mexico, Mississippi, and the District of Columbia.

In terms of changes by state, there was an increase in the AFGR in 43 states from school year 2005–06 to 2009–10. In 3 states (Tennessee, Louisiana, and Vermont), the rate increased by between 9 and 10 percentage points; in 14 others (Alaska, California, New York, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Kansas, Virginia, Maine, Texas, North Dakota, Alabama, New Hampshire, and North Carolina), rates increased by more than 5 percentage points but less than 9 percentage points. The graduation rate decreased from 2005–06 to 2009–10 in the District of Columbia and 7 states (Hawaii, Delaware, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Nebraska, Arkansas, and Connecticut) with decreases of more than 5 percentage points occurring in Arkansas (5.4 percent), the District of Columbia (5.5 percent), and Connecticut (5.8 percent).

Reference tables: *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, tables 122, 124, 125

Glossary: High school diploma, Public school or institution