

Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report

CHAPTER 1

**POPULATION TRENDS AND  
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**



## ***Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report***

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### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

*Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report* follows *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: A Status Report* (2019) and *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2020 Supplement*. These reports and the accompanying website provide a data-informed foundation for those who are working to close persistent equity gaps and also offer a glimpse into the educational pathways of today’s college students and the educators who serve them. For more information, including downloadable figures and detailed data tables behind the figures presented in this report, please visit [equityinhighered.org](https://equityinhighered.org).

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# INTRODUCTION

The overall population of the United States grew from almost 282 million to 329 million people between 2002 and 2022. Additionally, the country became much more racially and ethnically diverse during this period. Much of this change was due to the growth of the Hispanic or Latino population, which represented nearly one in five individuals by 2022. Current population projections from the U.S. Census Bureau predict that these trends will continue; by 2045, the White population is forecast to no longer be the majority racial and ethnic group in the United States (Vespa, Medina, and Armstrong 2020).

The total share of the U.S. population who were accessing postsecondary education and completing college degrees has also increased. In 2022, nearly half of all adults ages 25 and older (48.1 percent) had attained an associate degree or higher—a much greater share than 35.0 percent in 2002. While all racial and ethnic groups saw increases in overall educational attainment, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander adults were less likely to have attained a college degree than Asian or White adults. These racial disparities are important to note, as research shows that higher education can play a role in upward social and economic mobility (U.S. Department of Education 2016). College graduates have a higher likelihood of earning more in their lifetime than those who only attain a high school education. They are also more likely to vote, volunteer in their communities, and lead healthier lives (Ma and Pender 2023).

Increasing the diversity of student composition on campus not only benefits historically minoritized students by providing opportunities to experience college education and improve their postcollege life, but it also benefits all campus members. This is especially true when institutions form inclusive campus cultures that enrich all students' learning experiences (U.S. Department of Education 2016). Although compositional diversity does not in and of itself guarantee positive learning outcomes, it can act as a starting point. Further, it increases the chances for campus members to interact with students from various racial and ethnic groups, which can lead to positive learning outcomes (Bowman 2010; Gurin 1999; Gurin et al. 2002; Pettigrew and Tropp 2006). By providing opportunity and access to postsecondary education for students from racial and ethnic backgrounds that were historically barred from accessing it due to racial discrimination, diversity in higher education demonstrates its own intrinsic and moral value (byrd 2019). As such, ensuring racial equity in access to and success in postsecondary education requires our continuous attention to safeguard an even playing field for all groups throughout the entire education pipeline from K–12 to postsecondary education.

## KEY FINDINGS

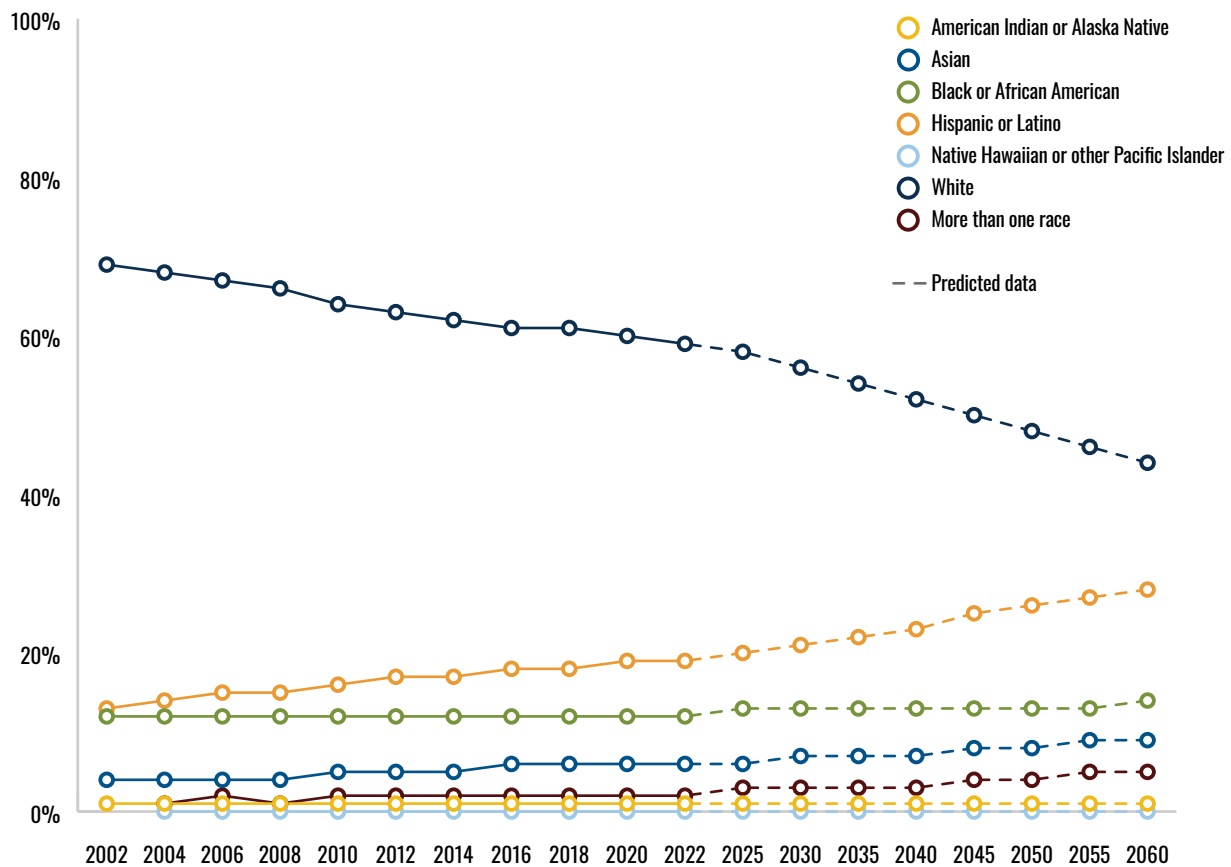
- As the U.S. population increased, the nation became more racially and ethnically diverse. Overall, the Hispanic or Latino population increased the most in their total share of the overall population, which grew from 13.3 percent in 2002 to 19.1 percent in 2022. Projections predict that the Hispanic or Latino population will continue to increase, with their total share potentially accounting for 27.5 percent of the total U.S. population by 2060 (see figure 1.1).
- Although the White population continued to represent the largest racial and ethnic group in the U.S., their share of the overall population decreased from 69.1 percent in 2002 to 59.2 percent in 2022. Projections predict this trend will continue, with the White population likely being less than half of the total U.S. population by 2045 (see figure 1.1).
- Some areas across the country experienced greater demographic changes than others. For example, the share of the White population decreased in all states but not in the District of Columbia. The share of the Hispanic or Latino population increased in all areas across the nation, with the greatest increases in New Jersey and Connecticut. The Asian population in Hawaii experienced the sharpest decline by any one racial and ethnic group (see table 1.1).
- The overall educational attainment of adults ages 25 and older increased as more of the population enrolled in and completed some level of postsecondary education (see table 1.2). In 2022, Asian adults had the highest levels of postsecondary attainment of any racial or ethnic group.
- The share of adults ages 25 and older who had attained a graduate degree increased from 9.0 percent in 2002 to 14.2 percent in 2022. The total share of adults who earned an advanced degree more than doubled among Black or African American (5.3 percent in 2002 to 10.6 percent in 2022) and Hispanic or Latino (3.0 percent in 2002 to 6.4 percent in 2022) adults. Yet Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Black or African American adults remained well behind other groups in graduate degree attainment (see table 1.2).
- Overall, a greater share of women than men had attained an associate degree or higher, with the largest gaps among American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander adults. However, men were more likely than women to hold a professional or doctoral degree. Hispanic or Latino men and women and American Indian or Alaska Native men had the lowest levels of educational attainment, with more than half who had attained a high school credential or less (see table 1.3).
- In 2022, nearly eight in 10 Asian adults ages 25 to 34 had attained a college degree (78.2 percent)—the highest share among all adults. Comparatively, only 23.2 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native adults ages 25 to 34 had attained a college degree—the lowest share of any group (see figure 1.4).

# THE U.S. POPULATION, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

This chapter analyzes data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey (CPS) and National Population Projections. Prior to 2003, the CPS reported only on Hispanic; White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; and Asian or Pacific Islander groups. In 2003, the Census Bureau changed CPS to include new categories for the Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander population and individuals of more than one race, aligning CPS data with the outcomes of Census 2000. These changes provide the opportunity for individuals to select the racial and ethnic groups with which they most identify, and the census data therefore present a more complete picture of the evolving demographics of the U.S. population (Bowler et al. 2003).

The U.S. population grew 17 percent—from almost 282 million to 329 million, an increase of nearly 47 million people—between 2002 and 2022. Although the White population continued to be the largest racial and ethnic group in the U.S. during this period, their share of the overall population decreased from 69.1 percent in 2002 to 59.2 percent in 2022. As the country becomes more racially and ethnically diverse, projections predict that the White population will represent less than half (44.3 percent) of the overall U.S. population by 2060.

**Figure 1.1: The U.S. Population, by Race and Ethnicity: 2002 to 2022, with Projections up to 2060**



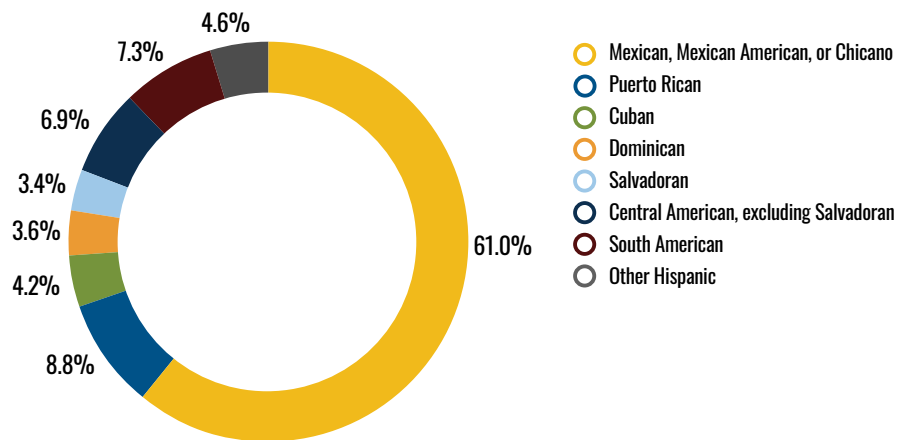
Sources: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2002–22; National Population Projections, 2017.  
 Note: In 2002, the only reported racial demographic categories were Hispanic; White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; and Asian or Pacific Islander.

- The share of the total population who were Hispanic or Latino grew from 13.3 percent in 2002 to 19.1 percent in 2022—the largest growth among all racial and ethnic groups. Projections predict a continued and steady increase, with the Hispanic or Latino population potentially representing 21.1 percent of the total population in 2030 and more than one-quarter by 2060 (27.5 percent).
- The Black or African American population remained a relatively constant share of the total between 2002 and 2022 and increased slightly from 12.3 percent to 12.5 percent. The share of the U.S. population identifying as Black or African American is projected to increase gradually and reach 13.6 percent by 2060.
- The share of individuals who identified as Asian grew slightly, from 4.3 percent in 2002 to 6.1 percent in 2022. The Asian share of the population is also projected to increase gradually to 8.9 percent of the total population by 2060.
- The overall share of the population who were American Indian or Alaska Native declined slightly from 1.0 percent in 2002 to 0.8 percent in 2022; projections predict that the share will remain at 0.7 percent through 2060.
- The Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander population represented 0.2 percent of the total population in 2003 and 0.3 percent in 2022, with that share projected to remain at 0.2 percent through 2060.
- The share of the total population who were multiracial increased slightly from 1.4 percent in 2003 to 2.1 percent in 2022. Their share of the total population is projected to more than double by 2060 to 4.9 percent.

## Hispanic Origin and Asian Origin Subgroups: 2022

The country’s Hispanic or Latino and Asian populations are often falsely portrayed as monolithic racial and ethnic groups, when in fact they consist of many different subgroups.<sup>1</sup> A closer look at these populations in the U.S. reveals great diversity within those racial and ethnic groups.

**Figure 1.2: The Hispanic Population Across Hispanic Origins: 2022**



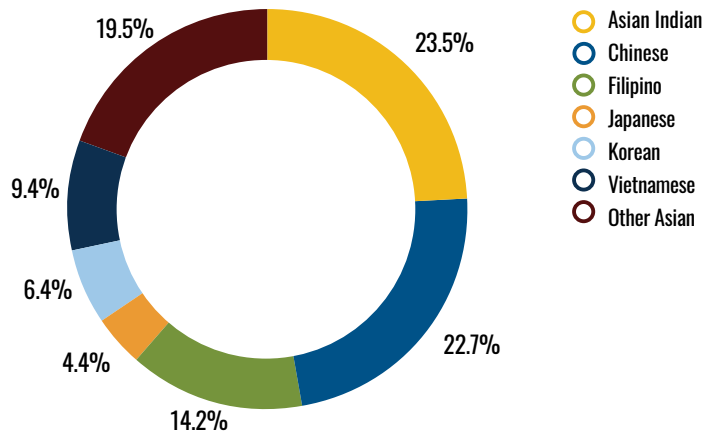
Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022.

- Within the Hispanic or Latino population in 2022, the largest subgroup was Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano (61.0 percent); followed by Puerto Rican (8.8 percent); South American (7.3 percent); Central American, excluding Salvadoran (6.9 percent); other Hispanic or Latino (4.6 percent); Cuban (4.2 percent); Dominican (3.6 percent); and Salvadoran (3.4 percent).<sup>2</sup>

1 Data used in this chapter preclude the disaggregation of the Black or African American population by subgroups. For more detailed information on the growing diversity in the Black or African American population, please see the Pew Research Center’s analysis using the U.S. Census American Community Survey, published in 2021 as *The Growing Diversity of Black America*.

2 *South American* included respondents who indicated that they were of Argentinian, Bolivian, Chilean, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Paraguayan, Peruvian, South American, South American Indian, Uruguayan, or Venezuelan origin. *Central American, excluding Salvadoran* included respondents of Central American, Central American Indian, Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Nicaraguan, or Panamanian origin. *Other Hispanic or Latino* included all CPS respondents who reported they were of “Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin” and who subsequently indicated that they belonged to one of 24 Hispanic origin subgroups (e.g., Castilian) that fall outside of the other seven Hispanic origin groups listed in this chapter.

**Figure 1.3: The Asian Population Across Asian Origins: 2022**



Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022.

Note: Data represent all CPS respondents who reported that they were Asian, inclusive of those who also reported as being of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

- Within the Asian population in 2022, the largest subgroup was Asian Indian (23.5 percent), followed by Chinese (22.7 percent), other Asian (19.5 percent), Filipino (14.2 percent), Vietnamese (9.4 percent), Korean (6.4 percent), and Japanese (4.4 percent).<sup>3</sup>

## Racial and Ethnic Distribution, by Location: 2002 to 2022

The U.S. population as a whole experienced great racial and ethnic demographic changes between 2002 and 2022. The overall share of the population who identified as White decreased, and the share of those who identified as people of color increased. Comparing the distribution of racial and ethnic groups in each state and the District of Columbia from 2002 and 2022 showed how each state has experienced demographic changes.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 1.1: Racial and Ethnic Distribution, by Location: 2002 and 2022**

	American Indian or Alaska Native		Asian		Black or African American		Hispanic or Latino		White	
	2002	2022	2002	2022	2002	2022	2002	2022	2002	2022
Arizona	2.52%	2.02%	4.79%	3.40%	2.54%	5.10%	27.46%	35.80%	62.69%	52.25%
California	1.42%	0.43%	12.25%	15.23%	6.09%	5.38%	34.55%	40.70%	45.70%	35.61%
Connecticut	0.41%	0.00%	2.89%	6.86%	10.03%	11.69%	8.80%	18.72%	77.87%	61.21%
District of Columbia	0.44%!	0.16%!!	2.07%	3.60%	62.13%	45.21%	7.70%	8.63%	27.66%	38.99%
Florida	0.65%	0.19%	2.08%	3.25%	13.98%	15.47%	19.76%	28.47%	63.53%	51.26%

<sup>3</sup> *Other Asian* includes all CPS respondents who reported that they were Asian but who did not identify as a member of any of the six Asian origin groups listed in this chapter.

<sup>4</sup> *Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander* and *more than one race* were not official classifications until 2003. As a result, a 20-year comparison is not possible.

	American Indian or Alaska Native		Asian		Black or African American		Hispanic or Latino		White	
	2002	2022	2002	2022	2002	2022	2002	2022	2002	2022
Hawaii	0.65%	0.33%!	70.24%	38.79%	2.81%	1.44%	3.00%	10.25%	23.31%	16.00%
Indiana	0.32%	0.57%!	0.68%	2.55%	6.82%	9.88%	2.44%	7.24%	89.74%	77.58%
Maryland	0.73%	0.05%!!	4.18%	6.43%	26.97%	30.63%	6.04%	9.01%	62.09%	51.54%
Massachusetts	0.20%!	0.00%	3.45%	8.46%	7.25%	7.89%	7.95%	11.75%	81.15%	69.70%
Minnesota	1.54%	1.16%	3.43%	7.28%	2.48%	7.36%	3.18%	5.21%	89.36%	74.51%
Nevada	0.99%	2.00%	6.65%	8.91%	7.61%	9.74%	21.76%	29.61%	62.99%	46.21%
New Jersey	0.56%	0.22%!	6.57%	11.85%	12.80%	13.38%	11.53%	21.73%	68.54%	51.70%
New Mexico	9.45%	14.95%	1.36%	1.41%	1.85%	1.48%	42.76%	43.74%	44.58%	37.25%
Oklahoma	7.68%	9.72%	1.62%	2.45%	7.49%	7.43%	5.68%	12.71%	77.53%	61.60%
Washington	3.09%	2.60%	6.12%	10.15%	3.27%	3.98%	5.76%	11.93%	81.76%	66.74%

Sources: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2002 and 2022.

Notes: In 2002, the only reported racial demographic categories were Hispanic; White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; and Asian or Pacific Islander. | ! Interpret with caution. Ratio of standard error to estimate is greater than 30 percent but less than 50 percent. | !! Interpret with caution. Ratio of standard error is greater than 50 percent.

- The share of the total population who identified as White decreased throughout the nation except in the District of Columbia, where there was an 11.3 percentage point increase. The largest changes in the share of the White population took place in New Jersey (16.9 percentage point decrease), Nevada (16.8 percentage point decrease), and Connecticut (16.7 percentage point decrease). Despite the nationwide declines, in 2022 the White population still represented more than half of the population in 44 states. Nearly 94 percent of the population of Vermont (93.7 percent) and Maine (93.7 percent) were White—the highest shares across the country.
- The share of the total population who were Hispanic or Latino grew in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The highest growth occurred in New Jersey (10.2 percentage points), Connecticut (9.9 percentage points), Florida (8.7 percentage points), and Arizona (8.3 percentage points). In 2022, New Mexico (43.7 percent) and California (40.7 percent) had the largest shares of Hispanic or Latino individuals in the country.
- The share of the Black or African American population grew the most in Minnesota (4.9 percentage points), followed by Maryland (3.7 percentage points) and Indiana (3.1 percentage points). The District of Columbia reported the largest decrease in the share of the Black or African American population between 2002 and 2022 (16.9 percentage points), yet it still had the highest share of Black or African American individuals in the country in 2022 (45.2 percent).
- The share of the total population who identified as Asian grew by 4 percentage points or more in New Jersey (5.3 percentage points), Massachusetts (5.0 percentage points), Washington (4.0 percentage points), and Connecticut (4.0 percentage points). Hawaii reported the sharpest decline since 2002 in the Asian share of the population (31.4 percentage points); however, 38.8 percent of the population in Hawaii was Asian, the largest share in the country in 2022.
- The American Indian or Alaska Native share of the population rose the most in New Mexico (5.5 percentage points), followed by Oklahoma (2.1 percentage points). In 2022, Alaska (17.5 percent) and New Mexico (14.9 percent) had the highest share of the American Indian or Alaska Native population in the country.



## Educational Attainment, by Race and Ethnicity: 2002 to 2022

Educational attainment measures the highest credential earned by an individual at a specific point in time (e.g., a given year). Between 2002 and 2022, overall educational attainment for the U.S. population ages 25 and older increased as more of the population enrolled in and completed some level of postsecondary education.

**Table 1.2: Educational Attainment of Adults Ages 25 and Older, by Race and Ethnicity: 2002 and 2022**

		Less than High School	High School Graduate	Some College but No Degree	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
2002	All racial and ethnic groups	15.9%	32.1%	17.0%	8.3%	17.7%	6.3%	1.5%	1.2%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	21.5%	36.4%	19.7%	8.4%	9.6%	3.0%	0.4% !!	1.0%!
	Asian	12.3%	21.8%	11.2%	7.0%	31.3%	10.7%	2.7%	3.0%
	Black or African American	20.8%	33.9%	20.0%	8.1%	11.9%	4.0%	0.7%	0.5%
	Hispanic or Latino	43.0%	27.9%	12.7%	5.3%	8.1%	1.9%	0.7%	0.3%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	White	11.3%	33.0%	17.5%	8.8%	19.3%	7.1%	1.7%	1.3%
	More than one race	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022	All racial and ethnic groups	8.8%	28.5%	14.6%	10.5%	23.4%	10.6%	1.5%	2.1%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	10.1%	39.3%	18.4%	12.0%	12.8%	6.4%	0.2%!!	0.8%!
	Asian	7.5%	18.3%	7.7%	6.3%	33.1%	19.3%	2.4%	5.4%
	Black or African American	9.5%	33.5%	18.1%	11.0%	17.3%	8.1%	1.0%	1.5%
	Hispanic or Latino	24.8%	32.7%	13.0%	8.6%	14.5%	4.7%	0.9%	0.8%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	6.7%	36.3%	14.7%	13.0%	19.5%	7.3%	0.4% !!	2.3%!
	White	4.8%	27.4%	14.9%	11.1%	26.1%	11.7%	1.7%	2.3%
	More than one race	5.8%	25.2%	18.0%	13.7%	24.0%	10.5%	0.8%!	2.1%

Sources: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2002 and 2022.

Notes: In 2002, the only reported racial demographic categories were Hispanic; White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; and Asian or Pacific Islander. | ! Interpret with caution. Ratio of standard error to estimate is greater than 30 percent but less than 50 percent. | !! Interpret with caution. Ratio of standard error is greater than 50 percent.

- Among all adults ages 25 and older, 48.1 percent had attained an associate degree or higher in 2022—an increase from 35.0 percent in 2002. Although all groups saw gains in postsecondary education degree attainment, Asian (66.5 percent) and White (52.9 percent) adults were much more likely than Black or African American (39.0 percent), American Indian or Alaska Native (32.2 percent), and Hispanic or Latino (29.5 percent) adults to have attained an associate degree or higher.

- Attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher also increased, from 26.7 percent of adults ages 25 and older in 2002 to 37.7 percent in 2022. The largest increase in attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher was seen among Asian (47.7 percent to 60.2 percent) and White (29.4 percent to 41.8 percent) adults. While Black or African American (17.2 percent to 27.9 percent), Hispanic or Latino (11.1 percent to 20.9 percent), and American Indian or Alaska Native (14.0 percent to 20.2 percent) adults also reported large gains, the total share within those groups of those who had earned a bachelor's degree or higher remained well below that of Asian and White adults.
- The share of adults ages 25 and older who attained a graduate degree increased from 9.0 percent in 2002 to 14.2 percent in 2022. The total share of adults with an advanced degree more than doubled among Black or African American (5.3 percent in 2002 to 10.6 percent in 2022) and Hispanic or Latino (3.0 percent in 2002 to 6.4 percent in 2022) adults.
- Despite those promising gains in graduate degree attainment, lower shares of Hispanic or Latino (6.4 percent), American Indian or Alaska Native (7.4 percent), and Black or African American (10.6 percent) had attained graduate degrees in 2022 when compared with White (15.7 percent) and Asian (27.2 percent) adults. In particular, the share of Asian adults ages 25 and older who had attained graduate degrees increased the most relative to any other group—a 10.7 percentage point increase (16.4 percent in 2002 to 27.2 percent in 2022).
- Overall, Asian adults continued to have higher levels of degree attainment than those of other racial and ethnic groups. In 2022, about one-third of all Asian adults ages 25 and older had attained a bachelor's degree (33.1 percent), 19.3 percent had attained a master's degree, and 7.9 percent had attained a professional or doctoral degree.<sup>5</sup>
- Hispanic or Latino and American Indian or Alaska Native adults had the lowest level of degree attainment among racial and ethnic groups. In 2022, the majority of Hispanic or Latino adults ages 25 and older (57.5 percent) and nearly half of all American Indian or Alaska Native adults (49.4 percent) had attained a high school credential or less. In contrast, 32.2 percent of White adults, 31.0 percent of multiracial adults, and 25.8 percent of Asian adults had attained only a high school credential or less.

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5 Professional degrees reflect those classified as *doctorate-professional practice*, including chiropractic, dentistry, law, medicine, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, and other degrees for which a credential or license is required for professional practice. Doctoral degrees reflect those classified as *doctorate-research/scholarship degrees*, including PhD, EdD, DMA, and other research-based degrees.

## Educational Attainment, by Gender: 2022

Data from 2022 show that gender differences in educational attainment exist among all racial and ethnic groups at each education level. A larger share of women than men had attained an associate (11.2 percent versus 9.7 percent), bachelor's (24.0 percent versus 22.9 percent), or master's (11.8 percent versus 9.2 percent) degree as their highest degree earned. Men were more likely than women to hold a professional (1.7 percent versus 1.4 percent) or doctoral degree (2.4 percent versus 1.9 percent) as their highest level of educational attainment.

**Table 1.3: Educational Attainment of Adults Ages 25 and Older, by Gender and Race and Ethnicity: 2022**

		Less than High School	High School Graduate	Some College but No Degree	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
Men	All racial and ethnic groups	9.4%	30.1%	14.6%	9.7%	22.9%	9.2%	1.7%	2.4%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	11.0%	47.3%	16.1%	10.1%	10.0%	4.2%	0.4%!!	0.9%!!
	Asian	6.3%	17.1%	7.9%	5.8%	32.4%	20.8%	2.9%	6.8%
	Black or African American	10.2%	37.8%	17.3%	9.7%	16.5%	6.3%	1.0%	1.2%
	Hispanic or Latino	26.0%	35.0%	12.5%	7.6%	13.5%	3.9%	0.9%	0.7%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	5.0%	43.6%	15.8%	12.3%	14.3%	5.9%!	0.8%!!	2.4%!!
	White	5.3%	28.4%	15.3%	10.5%	25.8%	10.2%	1.9%	2.7%
	More than one race	6.5%	30.0%	18.6%	13.9%	21.9%	7.1%	1.0%!	0.9%!
Women	All racial and ethnic groups	8.2%	27.0%	14.5%	11.2%	24.0%	11.8%	1.4%!!	1.9%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	9.2%	32.0%	20.5%	13.7%	15.4%	8.3%	0.0%	0.8%!!
	Asian	8.6%	19.3%	7.4%	6.8%	33.6%	17.9%	2.0%	4.2%
	Black or African American	8.8%	29.9%	18.8%	12.1%	18.0%	9.7%	1.0%	1.8%
	Hispanic or Latino	23.6%	30.4%	13.4%	9.7%	15.6%	5.6%	0.9%	0.8%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	8.0%!	30.4%	13.8%	13.5%	23.6%	8.4%	0.1%!!	2.1%!!
	White	4.3%	26.4%	14.6%	11.8%	26.3%	13.2%	1.5%	1.9%
	More than one race	5.2%	21.2%	17.4%	13.5%	25.7%	13.3%	0.6%!	3.1%

Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022.

Notes: ! Interpret with caution. Ratio of standard error to estimate is greater than 30 percent but less than 50 percent. | !! Interpret with caution. Ratio of standard error is greater than 50 percent.

- More than half of all Hispanic or Latino men (61.0 percent), American Indian or Alaska Native men (58.3 percent), and Hispanic or Latina women (54.0 percent) had attained only a high school credential or less—the lowest levels of educational attainment among all groups.
- Overall, 50.2 percent of all women had attained an associate degree or higher—4.3 percentage points higher than that of men (45.9 percent). The gaps were largest among American Indian or Alaska Native adults (38.3 percent of women

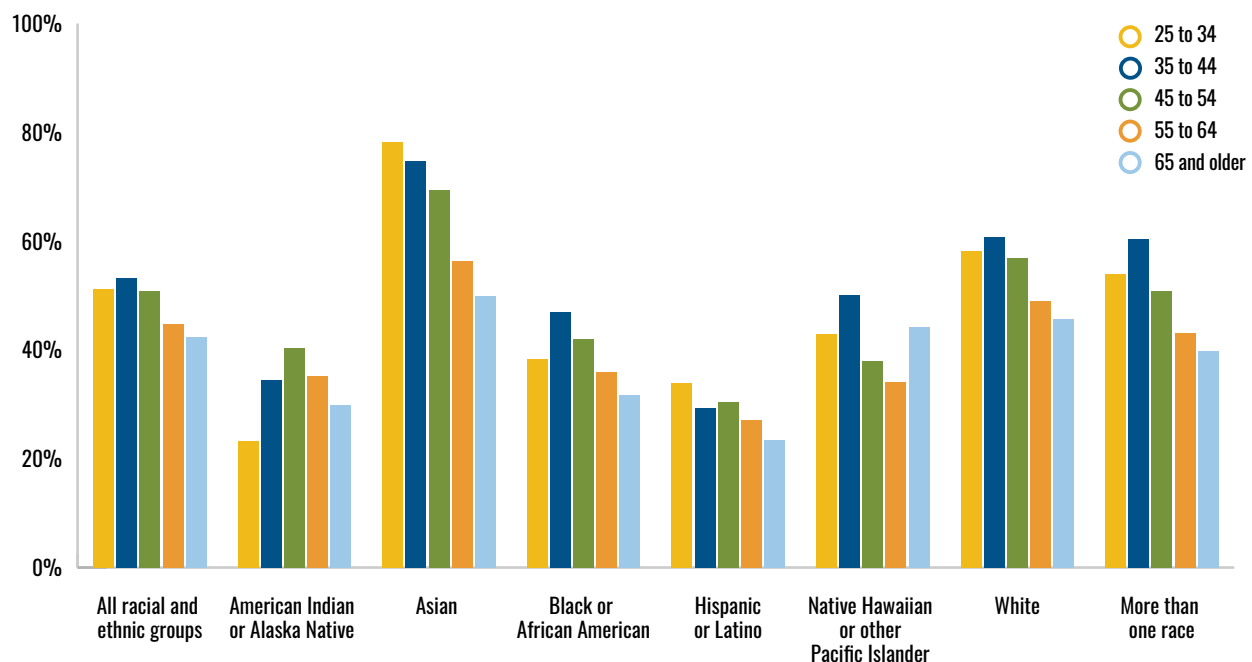
versus 25.6 percent of men) and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander adults (47.7 percent of women versus 35.7 percent of men). The pattern was reversed among Asian adults, with 68.7 percent of men and 64.6 percent of women holding an associate degree or higher; however, Asian women still had a higher level of postsecondary education attainment than that of all other racial and ethnic groups.

- The gender gap in graduate degree attainment showed more variation across groups. First, master's degree attainment was higher among women than men in all racial and ethnic groups except among Asian adults. Across all racial and ethnic groups, men were overall more likely than women to have attained a professional or doctoral degree. However, women who were multiracial, Black or African American, and Hispanic or Latina had slightly higher levels of doctoral degree attainment than that of men from the same groups.

## Educational Attainment, by Age: 2022

Educational attainment varied by age. Across all racial and ethnic groups, adults ages 35 to 44 were the most likely of any group to have attained an associate degree or higher (53.2 percent), followed by adults ages 25 to 34 (51.3 percent), adults ages 45 to 54 (50.8 percent), adults ages 55 to 64 (44.7 percent), and adults ages 65 and older (42.4 percent).

**Figure 1.4: Percentage of Adults with an Associate Degree or Higher, by Age and Race and Ethnicity: 2022**



Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022.

- Regardless of age, Asian adults had the highest levels of educational attainment of all groups; more than half of Asian adults had attained at least an associate degree.
- Only 23.2 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native adults ages 25 to 34 had attained an associate degree or higher. This was the lowest share of any racial or ethnic group in this age range to have attained a college degree.
- Among Asian and Hispanic or Latino adults, the highest share of college degree holders was among those who were ages 25 to 34 (78.2 percent of Asian adults and 33.9 percent of Hispanic or Latino adults); shares gradually decreased as age increased.

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