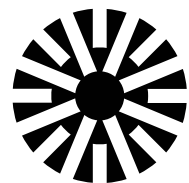




Read our research on: [Election 2022](#) | [Economy](#) | [Abortion](#) | [Russia](#) | [COVID-19](#)



# Pew Research Center

[RESEARCH TOPICS](#) ▾[ALL PUBLICATIONS](#)[METHODS](#)[SHORT READS](#)[TOOLS & RESOURCES](#)[EXPERTS](#)[ABOUT](#)

[Home](#) > [Research Topics](#) > [Race & Ethnicity](#) > [Racial & Ethnic Groups](#) > [Hispanics/Latinos](#) > [Hispanic/Latino Demographics](#) > [Hispanics/Latinos & Education](#)

JULY 28, 2016



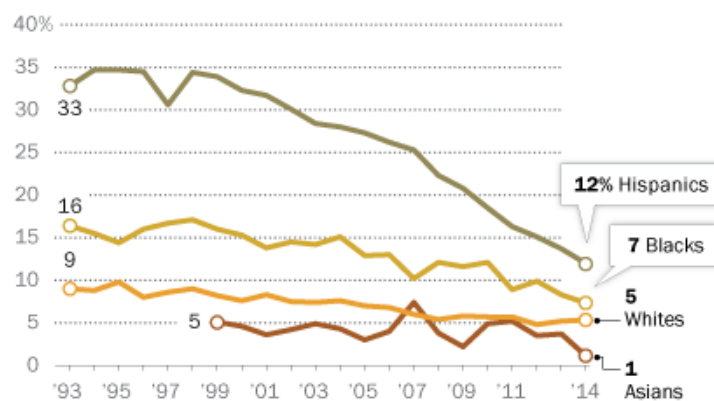
## 5 facts about Latinos and education

BY [JENS MANUEL KROGSTAD](#)

Educational attainment among U.S. Latinos has been changing rapidly in recent years, reflecting the group's [growth](#) in the nation's [public K-12 schools](#) and [colleges](#). Over the past decade, the Hispanic high school dropout rate has declined and college enrollment has increased, even as Hispanics trail other groups in earning a bachelor's degree.

## Hispanic, black high school dropout rates reach record lows

% of 18- to 24-year-olds dropping out of high school



Notes: The dropout rate shown refers to the share of 18- to 24-year-olds who were not enrolled in school and had not completed high school. Blacks and Asians include the Hispanic portions of those groups. Whites include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau October Current Population Survey.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The issue of education is an important one for Hispanics. Roughly eight-in-ten (83%) cited education as [very important to their vote in the 2016 election](#), ranking it alongside the economy, health care and terrorism as a top issue.

Yet, for many Hispanics, economic factors remain an obstacle to college enrollment. In a [2014 National Journal poll](#), 66% of Hispanics who got a job or entered the military directly after high school cited the need to help support their family as a reason for *not* enrolling in college, compared with 39% of whites.

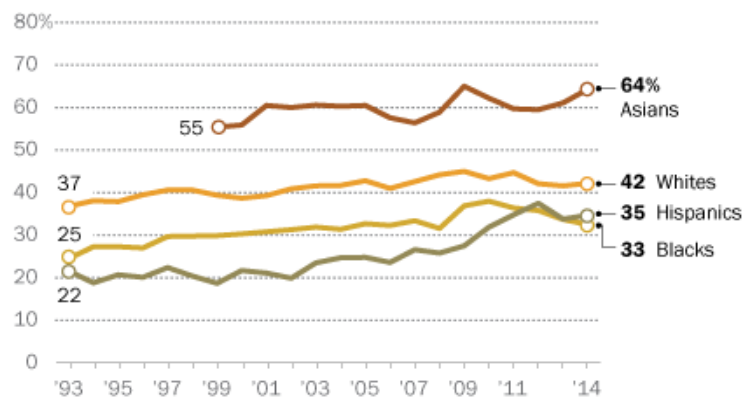
Here are five facts about U.S. Latinos and education:

**1** Over the past decade, the Hispanic high school dropout rate has dropped **dramatically**. The rate [reached a new low](#) in 2014, dropping from 32% in 2000 to 12% in 2014 among those ages 18 to 24. This helped lower the national dropout rate from 12% to 7% over the same time period – also a new low. Even so, the Hispanic dropout rate remains higher than that of blacks (7%), whites (5%) and Asians (1%).

## 2

### College enrollment by race and ethnicity

% of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college



Notes: Blacks and Asians include the Hispanic portions of those groups. Whites include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau October Current Population Survey.

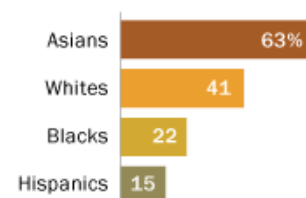
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

**Hispanics are making big inroads in college enrollment.** In 2014, 35% of Hispanics ages 18 to 24 were enrolled in a two- or four-year college, up from 22% in 1993 – a 13-percentage-point increase. That amounted to 2.3 million Hispanic college students in 2014. By comparison, college enrollment during this time among blacks (33% in 2014) increased by 8 percentage points, and among whites (42% in 2014) the share increased 5 points. Among Asians, 64% were enrolled in college in 2014, a nearly 9-point increase over 1999 (no data are available for Asians before 1999).

## 3

### College completion by race and ethnicity

*% ages 25-29 with a bachelor's degree or more, 2014*



Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the March Current Population Survey (IPUMS).

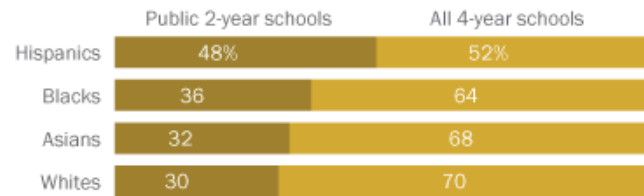
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Even though more Hispanics are getting a postsecondary education than ever before, **Hispanics still lag other groups in obtaining a four-year degree.** As of 2014, among Hispanics ages 25 to 29, just 15% of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree or higher. By comparison, among the same age group, about 41% of whites have a bachelor's degree or higher (as do 22% of blacks and 63% of Asians). This gap is due in part to the fact that [Hispanics are less likely than some other groups](#) to enroll in a four-year college, attend an academically selective college and enroll full-time.

4

## Almost half of Hispanic college students attend public two-year schools

Postsecondary enrollment by race/ethnicity and school type, 2014



Notes: Enrollment includes students of all ages. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Whites, blacks and Asians/Pacific Islanders do not include Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Enrollment in private 2-year schools not shown.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Another reason why Hispanics lag in bachelor's degrees is that [nearly half who go to college attend a public two-year school, or community college, the highest share of any race or ethnicity](#). By comparison, among college-goers, 30% of whites, 32% of Asians and 36% of blacks go to a community college.

**5** Hispanics are [significantly less likely](#) than other groups to have student debt. About 22% of young Hispanic households (those headed by someone younger than 40) have student loans. The share is nearly twice as high among young white households (42%) and young black households (40%). This is because, despite growing college enrollment, young Hispanics are not as likely to go to college as some other groups. And among those who do, Hispanics are more likely than others to attend community colleges, which generally have lower tuition than four-year schools.

**Note:** This post was originally published on May 26, 2015 and has been updated to reflect new data.

Topics [Race & Ethnicity](#), [Hispanics/Latinos & Education](#), [Education](#), [K-12](#)

SHARE THIS LINK:

<http://pewrsr.ch/2a76XJd>



[Jens Manuel Krogstad](#) is a senior writer and editor at Pew Research Center.



[POSTS](#) | [BIO](#) | [EMAIL](#)

## Sign up for our weekly newsletter

Fresh data delivered Saturday mornings



[SIGN UP](#)

### RELATED

SHORT READ | APR 7, 2020

#### Education levels of recent Latino immigrants in the U.S. reached new highs as of 2018

SHORT READ | SEP 29, 2017

#### Hispanic dropout rate hits new low, college enrollment at new high

SHORT READ | FEB 24, 2016

#### Hispanic, black parents see college degree as key for children's success

SHORT READ | AUG 17, 2015

#### Analysis shows fewer Hispanic young adults 'disconnected' from school, jobs

REPORT | SEP 5, 2013

#### New Milestones for Hispanic Students

### TOPICS

[Race & Ethnicity](#)

[Education](#)

[K-12](#)

MOST POPULAR

- 1 Midterm Voting Intentions Are Divided, Economic Gloom Persists

---

- 2 Violent crime is a key midterm voting issue, but what does the data say?

---

- 3 India's Sex Ratio at Birth Begins To Normalize

---

- 4 What the data says about abortion in the U.S.

---

- 5 Turnout in U.S. has soared in recent elections but by some measures still trails that of many other countries







Pew Research Center 

1615 L St. NW, Suite 800  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 USA  
 (+1) 202-419-4300 | Main  
 (+1) 202-857-8562 | Fax  
[\(+1\) 202-419-4372 | Media Inquiries](#)

RESEARCH TOPICS

- Politics & Policy
- International Affairs
- Immigration & Migration
- Race & Ethnicity
- Religion
- Generations & Age
- Gender & LGBTQ
- Family & Relationships
- Economy & Work
- Science
- Internet & Technology
- News Habits & Media
- Methodological Research
- [Full topic list](#)

FOLLOW US

-  Email Newsletters
-  Facebook
-  Twitter
-  Tumblr
-  YouTube
-  RSS

**ABOUT PEW RESEARCH CENTER** Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, media content analysis and other empirical social science research. Pew Research Center does not take policy positions. It is a subsidiary of [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#).

---

Copyright 2022 Pew Research Center [About](#) [Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Reprints, Permissions & Use Policy](#) [Feedback](#) [Careers](#)