CENSUS OVERVIEW

According to the Census’ American Community Survey, in 2021 18.3% of the total U.S. population identified as a man of color.\(^1\) In total, 9.5% of the population were Hispanic or Latino men, 5.7% of the were Black\(^2\) men, 2.7% were Asian men, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaska Native men, and 0.3% were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men.\(^3\) Among men of color aged 25 or over, 25.9% had earned a bachelor’s degree or higher. The rate for Asian men was 58.4%, for Black men it was 21.6%, for Hispanic or Latino men it was 17.9%, for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men it was 17.4%, and for American Indian/Alaska Native men it was 14.1%. Bachelor’s degree or higher attainment is up from 19.7% in 2010 for men of color, with an average increase of 4 percentage points for all included racial/ethnic groups. Despite this increase, educational attainment for men of color in 2021 falls short of the national rate of 33.9% for all men.

ENROLLMENT

- In Fall 2020, men of color made up 15.5% of all postsecondary enrollment and 37.5% of all male student enrollment.
  - Hispanic or Latino men represented 7.6%, Black men represented 4.4%, Asian men represented 3.2%, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men represented 0.1%, and American Indian/Alaska Native men represented 0.2% of all postsecondary enrollment.
- In 2022, 31.4% of 18–24-year-old men of color were enrolled in college, a similar share as all 18-24-year-old men.
  - This share varies considerably across race/ethnicity: 60% of Asian men, 36.8% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men, 28.9% of Black men, 26% of Hispanic or Latino men, and 19.9% of American Indian/Alaska Native men were enrolled.\(^4\)
- Since Fall 2010, overall enrollment of men of color has increased slightly from 2.92 million to 2.95 million, a 0.8% increase:
  - Undergraduate enrollment declined from 2.65 million to 2.61 million, a 1.6% decrease.
  - Graduate enrollment for men of color increased considerably from 274,444 to 340,167, a 23.9% increase.
  - The overall enrollment increase is largely driven by Hispanic or Latino men, who increased by 24.7%; Black men enrollment, however, declined by 23.6% and American Indian/Alaska Native men declined in enrollment by 44.7%.
- Men of color are much more likely to attend public versus private institutions of higher education.
  - In Fall 2020, 76.6% of men of color attended public institutions:

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\(^1\) “Man” in this fact sheet will denote the sex or gender designation of the data source. Therefore, in the Census, “man” includes all individuals listed as “male.”

\(^2\) Black or African American individuals will be described as “Black” in this fact sheet.

\(^3\) Hispanic or Latino estimates include all races, while other racial groups are non-Hispanic or Latino. Men of Color estimates do not include those individuals included in “Other” racial/ethnic category or those who listed two or more races.

\(^4\) Based on the author’s calculations of the Census’ Current Population Survey microdata.
▪ 48.2% attended public four-year institutions
▪ 28.4% attended public two-year institutions

FINANCIAL AID

▪ According to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey, 56.9% of men of color received some form of federal Title IV financial aid in the 2017-18 academic year, compared to 48.7% of white male students.
  o 47.6% of men of color received a Pell grant, compared to 29.2% of white male students.
  o 32.2% of men of color received a federal student loan, compared to 35.6% of white male students.
▪ Among men of color who received federal Title IV aid, the average amount received was $8,568.
  o The average Pell grant amount for men of color was $4,029.
  o The average Federal student loan amount for men of color was $8,502.

COMPLETION/DEGREE ATTAINMENT

▪ 52.2% of first-time, full-time men of color attending four-year institutions beginning in 2014 graduated within six years, compared to 60.2% for all men.
  o There is considerable variation, however:
    ▪ 38.6% of Black men graduated within six years
    ▪ 54% of Hispanic or Latino men graduated within six years
    ▪ 73.7% of Asian men graduated within six years
    ▪ 48.7% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men graduated within six years
    ▪ 38.2% of American Indian/Alaska Native men graduated within six years
▪ Of the more than two million bachelor’s degrees conferred in the 2019-20 academic year, 263,772 (12.9%) went to men of color.

EARNINGS AND WEALTH

▪ According to the Baccalaureate & Beyond study, ten years after receiving a bachelor’s degree, men of color graduates who reported having an income averaged a gross income of $76,358, similar to the national average.
  o Men of color tend to earn $10,000 more on average than women of color, but around $16,000 less than white men, indicating persistent intersectional discrepancies in earnings.
▪ Wealth accumulation can be measured differently from income. Ten years after graduating:
  o 51.5% of men of color graduates reported owning a home, compared to 63% of all graduates
  o 79% of men of color graduates had some form of a retirement account, compared to 86.5% of all graduates

DATA SOURCES

National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey, National Center for Education Statistics, January 2023.