



# Postsecondary National Policy Institute

## Men of Color in Higher Education

### CENSUS OVERVIEW

According to the Census' American Community Survey, in 2023 [18.7%](#) of the total U.S. population identified as a man of color.<sup>1</sup> In total, 9.8% of the population were Hispanic or Latino men, 5.7% were Black<sup>2</sup> men, 2.8% were Asian men, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaska Native men, and 0.1% were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men.<sup>3</sup> Among men of color aged 25 or over, [27%](#) had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The rate for Asian men is 59.5%, for Black men it is 22.8%, for Hispanic or Latino men it is 18.9%, for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men it is 17.3%, and for American Indian/Alaska Native men it is 13.6%. Bachelor's degree or higher attainment is up from [20.7%](#) in 2013 for men of color, with an average increase of 2.9 percentage points for all included racial/ethnic groups. American Indian/Alaska Native men were the only population whose attainment decreased from 2013 to 2023, decreasing by 1.9 percentage points. Despite the overall increase, educational attainment for men of color in 2023 fell short of the national rate of 34.9% for all men.

### ENROLLMENT

- In [Fall 2022](#), men of color made up 16.3% of all postsecondary enrollment and 38.9% of all male student enrollment.<sup>4</sup>
  - Hispanic or Latino men represented 8.2%, Black men represented 4.5%, Asian men represented 3.5%, 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.<sup>5</sup>
- Since [Fall 2010](#), overall enrollment of men of color has increased slightly from 2.93 million to 2.96 million, a 0.7% increase:
  - Undergraduate enrollment declined from 2.65 million to 2.59 million, a 2.1% decrease.
  - Graduate enrollment for men of color increased considerably from 274,444 to 349,324, a 27.2% increase.
  - The overall enrollment increase is largely driven by Hispanic or Latino men, who increased by 24.8%; Black men enrollment, however, declined by 24.3% and American Indian/Alaska Native men declined in enrollment by 44.5%.

<sup>1</sup> “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.” Men of Color estimates do not include those individuals included in “Other” racial/ethnic category or those who listed two or more races.

<sup>2</sup> Black or African American individuals will be described as “Black” in this fact sheet.

<sup>3</sup> Hispanic or Latino estimates include all races, while other racial groups are non-Hispanic or Latino.

<sup>4</sup> IPEDS reports nonresident students as a single racial category. These students are not included in the Men of Color classification.

<sup>5</sup> Based on the author's calculations of the Census' Current Population Survey [microdata](#).

- Men of color are much more likely to [attend](#) public versus private institutions of higher education.
  - According to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), in 2019-20, 70.7% of men of color attended public institutions:
    - 38.7% attended public four-year institutions.
    - 32% attended public two-year institutions.

## FINANCIAL AID

- According to the NPSAS, [53.5%](#) of men of color received some form of federal Title IV financial aid in the 2019-20 academic year, compared to 45.1% of white male students.
  - [43.3%](#) of men of color received a Pell grant, compared to 26.9% of white male students.
  - [28.8%](#) of men of color received a federal student loan, compared to 32.2% of white male students.
- Among men of color who received federal Title IV aid, the [average amount](#) received was \$8,319.
  - The average Pell grant amount for men of color was \$4,263.
  - The average Federal student loan amount for men of color was \$8,517.

## COMPLETION/DEGREE ATTAINMENT

- [54.0%](#) of first-time, full-time men of color attending four-year institutions beginning in 2015 graduated within six years, compared to 61.3% for all men.
  - There is considerable variation, however:
    - 75.1% of Asian men graduated within six years.
    - 54.0% of Hispanic or Latino men graduated within six years.
    - 51.4% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men graduated within six years.
    - 39.1% of Black men graduated within six years.
    - 38.9% of American Indian/Alaska Native graduated within six years.
- Of the more than two million [bachelor's degrees](#) conferred in the 2020-21 academic year, 273,532 (13.6%) 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.
  - 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:
  - [51.5%](#) of men of color graduates reported owning a home, compared to 63% of all graduates.
  - [79%](#) of men of color graduates had some form of a retirement account, compared to 86.5% of all graduates.

## DATA SOURCES

[American Community Survey](#) & [Current Population Survey](#). U.S. Census Bureau, February 2025.

[Baccalaureate & Beyond Survey](#). National Center for Education Statistics, November 2023.

[Digest of Education Statistics](#). National Center for Education Statistics, February 2025.

[National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey](#). National Center for Education Statistics, November 2023.