



Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Men of Color in Higher Education*

CENSUS OVERVIEW

In 2024, 19.0% of the U.S. population identified as men of color.¹ In total, 10.1% of the population were Hispanic or Latino men, 5.6% were Black men, 3.0% were Asian men, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaska Native men, and 0.1% were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men.¹ Among men of color aged 25 or over, 27.8% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher, which is up from 21.3% in 2014.¹ 60.7% of Asian men had earned a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 23.7% of Black men, 19.2% of Hispanic or Latino men, 17.3% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men, and 13.9% of American Indian/Alaska Native men. In 2024, the percentage of all men of color with a bachelor's degree or higher was below the national rate of 35.4 for all men.¹

ENROLLMENT

- In Fall 2024, men of color accounted for 17.3% of all postsecondary enrollment and 43.8% of all male enrollment.^{^3}
 - Hispanic or Latino men comprised 8.8% of all postsecondary enrollment, while Black men comprised 4.7%, Asian men comprised 4.0%, American Indian/Alaska Native men comprised 0.2%, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men comprised 0.1%.³
- Between Fall 2014 and Fall 2024, overall enrollment of men of color increased from 3.04 million to 3.4 million, an 11.8% increase:
 - Undergraduate enrollment for men of color increased from 2.75 million to 3.03 million, a 10.2% increase.³
 - Graduate enrollment for men of color increased from 289,300 to 371,600, a 28.4% increase.³
 - The overall enrollment increase is driven by Hispanic or Latino men's enrollment, which increased by 27.9%, and Asian men's enrollment, which increased by 19.3%; Black men's enrollment decreased by 10.9%, and American Indian/Alaska Native men's enrollment decreased by 20.6%.³
- In 2024, 31.4% of 18- to 24-year-old men of color were enrolled in college, a share similar to that of 18- to 24-year-old men of all races.¹
 - 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.¹
- Men of color are much more likely to attend public versus private institutions.⁵
 - In 2019-20, 70.7% of men of color attended public institutions:
 - 38.7% attended public four-year institutions.⁵
 - 32% attended public two-year institutions.⁵

* "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.

^ IPEDS reports nonresident students as a single racial category. These students are not included in the men of color classification.

FINANCIAL AID

- In 2019-20, 53.5% of men of color received some form of federal Title IV financial aid, compared to 45.1% of White male students.⁵
 - 43.3% of men of color received a Pell Grant, compared to 26.9% of White male students.⁵
 - 28.8% of men of color received federal student loans, compared with 32.2% of White male students.⁵
- Among men of color who received federal Title IV aid, the average amount received was \$8,319.⁵
 - The average Pell Grant amount for men of color was \$4,263.⁵
 - The average federal student loan amount for men of color was \$8,517.⁵

COMPLETION/DEGREE ATTAINMENT

- 54.1% of first-time, full-time men of color attending four-year institutions beginning in 2017 graduated within six years, compared to 61.1% for all men.⁴
 - There is considerable variation, however:
 - 75.0% of Asian men graduated within six years.⁴
 - 53.7% of Hispanic or Latino men graduated within six years.⁴
 - 49.6% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men graduated within six years.⁴
 - 38.7% of Black men graduated within six years.⁴
 - 37.8% of American Indian/Alaska Native students graduated within six years.⁴
- Of the nearly two million bachelor's degrees conferred in the 2023-24 academic year, 283,604 (14.4%) went to men of color.³

EARNINGS AND WEALTH

- 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 for men.²
 - 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.²
- Wealth accumulation can be measured differently from income.⁶ Ten years after graduating:
 - 51.5% of men of color graduates reported owning a home, compared to 63% of all graduates.²
 - 79% of men of color graduates had a retirement account, compared to 86.5% of all graduates.²

DATA SOURCES

¹ [American Community Survey & Current Population Survey](#). U.S. Census Bureau, January 2026.

² [Baccalaureate & Beyond Longitudinal Study](#). National Center for Education Statistics, November 2023.

³ [Digest of Education Statistics](#). National Center for Education Statistics, August 2026.

⁴ [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#). National Center for Education Statistics, January 2026.

⁵ [National Postsecondary Student Aid Study](#). National Center for Education Statistics, November 2023.

⁶ [Wealth Analysis FAQ](#). Urban Institute, 2021.