

HOW COLLEGES CAN **DRIVE SOCIAL MOBILITY**
FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES



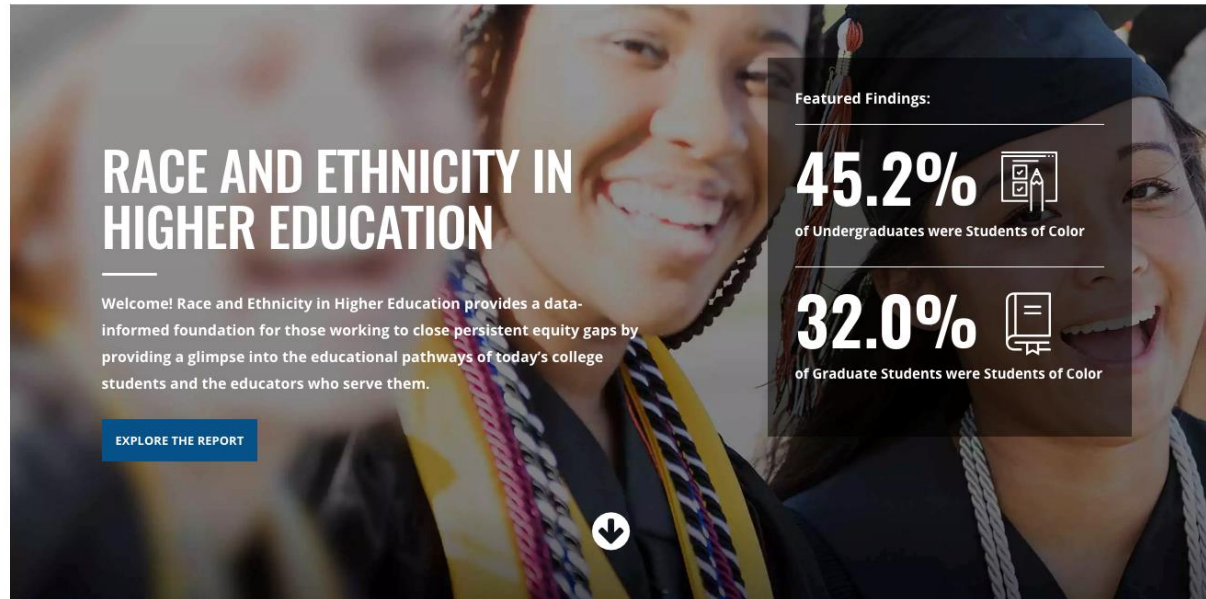
The Education Trust

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Tuesday, June 25, 2019 | Washington, DC

Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education

Lorelle Espinosa, American Council on Education



RACE AND ETHNICITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Welcome! Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education provides a data-informed foundation for those working to close persistent equity gaps by providing a glimpse into the educational pathways of today's college students and the educators who serve them.

[EXPLORE THE REPORT](#)

Featured Findings:

- 45.2% of Undergraduates were Students of Color
- 32.0% of Graduate Students were Students of Color

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Explore the Report's Findings

This report examines data across 11 chapters that provide a foundation from which the higher education community and its many stakeholders can draw insights, raise new questions, and make the case for why race and ethnicity still matter in American higher education. [Download the Report >](#)

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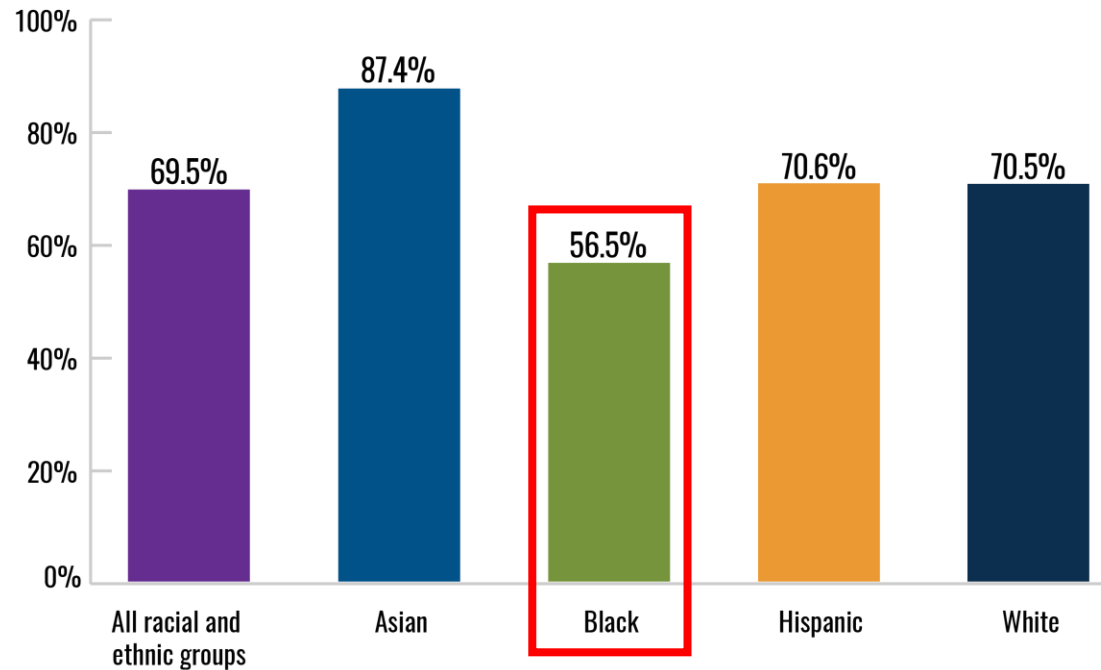
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Key Finding

Too many Black students fare poorly in America's postsecondary education system. At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, advances in Black students' enrollment and attainment have been accompanied by some of the lowest persistence rates, highest undergraduate dropout rates, highest borrowing rates, and largest debt burdens of any group.

Immediate College Enrollment of Recent HS or Equivalent Graduates Ages 16 to 24, by Race and Ethnicity, 2016



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Digest of Education Statistics, 2017

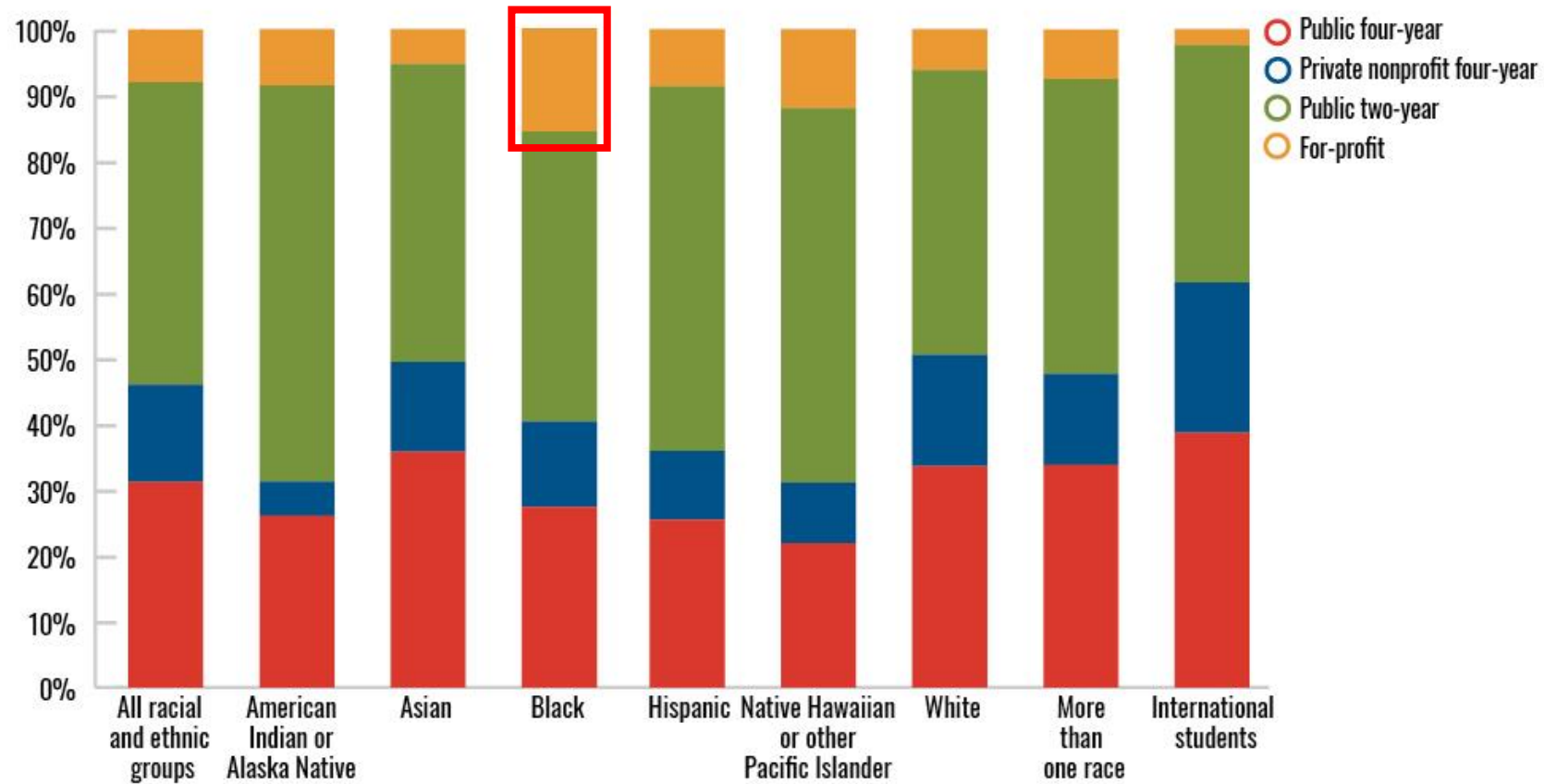
Notes: This figure uses a two-year moving average, which is a weighted average of the year indicated and the year immediately preceding. Moving averages are used to produce more stable estimates. | All racial and ethnic groups includes persons of other racial and ethnic groups not separately shown. | After 2002, white, black, and Asian data exclude persons of more than one race.

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Figure 7: Undergraduate Enrollment Across Sectors, by Race and Ethnicity: 2015–16



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2016. Note: Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted.

A higher percentage of Black students left college without completing a credential

- Public Two-Year
 - All students: 39%
 - Black students: 53%
- Public Four-Year
 - All students: 14%
 - Black students: 23%
- Private Nonprofit Four-Year
 - All students: 10%
 - Black students: 19%



Undergraduate Borrowing



- **Associate degree recipients**
 - 48% borrowed an average of \$18,501
 - 67% of Black students borrowed an average of \$22,303
- **Bachelor's degree recipients**
 - 69% borrowed an average of \$29,669
 - 86% of Black students borrowed an average of \$34,010

Graduate Borrowing

- Master's degree recipients
 - 56% borrowed an average of \$43,354
 - 81% of African Americans borrowed an average of \$51,699
- Professional degree recipients
 - 78% borrowed an average of \$149,356
 - 92% of African Americans borrowed an average of \$204,754
- Doctoral degree recipients
 - 48% borrowed an average of \$81,176
 - 81% of African Americans borrowed an average of \$109,148

Table 2: Median Annual Earnings of Adults Ages 25 and Older, by Educational Attainment and Race and Ethnicity: 2016

	High School Graduate or Equivalent	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	Professional Degree	Doctoral Degree
All racial and ethnic groups	\$29,100	\$39,493	\$52,000	\$64,809	\$95,000	\$84,049
American Indian or Alaska Native	\$24,331	\$32,404	\$41,316	\$50,690	\$67,948	\$61,842
Asian	\$25,089	\$37,308	\$57,495	\$81,104	\$101,380	\$92,735
Black	\$25,000	\$33,452	\$45,337	\$56,000	\$79,000	\$75,000
Hispanic	\$25,345	\$35,442	\$44,607	\$60,758	\$69,952	\$74,000
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	\$29,166	\$35,542	\$48,000	\$52,859	\$77,279	\$75,948
White	\$30,912	\$40,552	\$53,670	\$63,796	\$100,000	\$85,000
More than one race	\$27,000	\$36,455	\$50,000	\$61,823	\$80,000	\$78,063

Median Annual Earnings

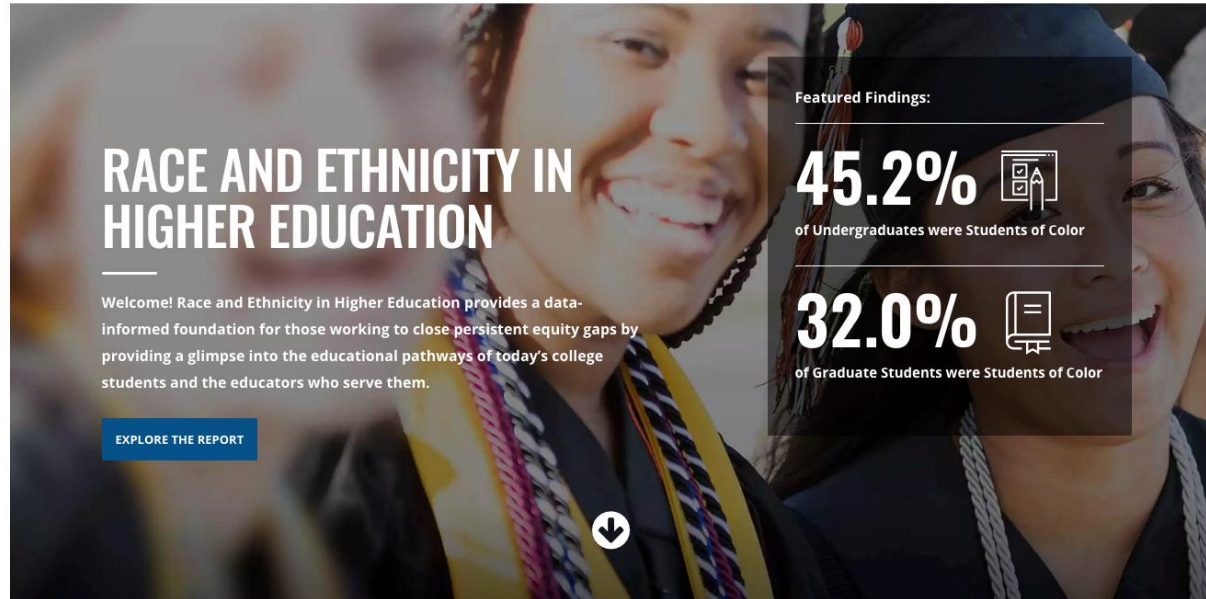
- Associate Degree: ↓15%
- Bachelor's Degree: ↓13%
- Master's Degree: ↓14%
- Professional Degree: ↓17%
- Doctoral Degree: ↓11%



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