As America Becomes More Diverse: The Impact of State Higher Education Inequality

Nevada State Profile

Questions You Should Ask

- How educated is Nevada’s adult population and workforce?
- How does Nevada compare to the national average, the most educated states, and the most educated countries?
- What are the disparities in educational attainment, participation and completion in higher education, and personal income by gender and race/ethnicity?
- How is the demographic composition of Nevada expected to change?
- How will expected changes in demography – given current disparities in education and personal income – affect the overall educational attainment and personal income of Nevada?

Prepared by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems with Support from the Lumina Foundation for Education
The Impact of State Higher Education Inequality

Nevada State Profile

Racial/Ethnic Composition of Nevada’s Working Age Population (Ages 25 to 64) from 1980 to 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>African-American</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>Native American/AK Native</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>355,360</td>
<td>21,960</td>
<td>23,720</td>
<td>4,210</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>532,283</td>
<td>38,347</td>
<td>56,409</td>
<td>6,121</td>
<td>57,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>745,130</td>
<td>68,413</td>
<td>122,201</td>
<td>8,420</td>
<td>162,266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational Attainment of 25 to 64 Year Olds in 2000 (All Races)

Sources: US Census Bureau’s Public Use Microdata Samples (Based on the 1990 and 2000 Census)
Disparities in Educational Attainment by Gender and Race/Ethnicity

Educational Attainment of 25 to 64 Year Olds (Working Age)

Percent with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher – by Gender and Race/Ethnicity

Legend:
- White Males
- White Females
- African-American Males
- African-American Females
- Hispanic/Latino Males
- Hispanic/Latino Females
- Native American/AK Native Males
- Native American/AK Native Females
- Asian/Pacific Islander Males
- Asian/Pacific Islander Females

Educational Attainment of 25 to 34 Year Olds (The Young Workforce)

Percent with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher – By Gender and Race/Ethnicity

Percent with an Associates Degree or Higher – By Gender and Race/Ethnicity

Sources: US Census Bureau’s Public Use Microdata Samples (Based on the 1980, 1990, and 2000 Census’)
Note: Associate Degree Data not Available for 1980.
Educational Attainment by Gender and Race/Ethnicity
(25 to 34 Year Olds Continued)

Indexed to the Top Country – Percent with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher – By Gender and Race/Ethnicity
Indexed to the Top Country – Percent with an Associates Degree or Higher – By Gender and Race/Ethnicity

Sources: US Census Bureau’s Public Use Microdata Samples (Based on the 2000 Census) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Personal Income
Nevada’s Personal Income Per Capita as a Percent of the US Average (1960 to 2000)

Higher Education Participation and Completion by Race/Ethnicity

LEGEND
- White
- African-American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American/AK Native
- Asian/Pacific Islander

Representation (%) of Race/Ethnic Groups at Each Stage of the Education Pipeline (2002)

Sources: US Census Bureau (18 Year Olds), Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (HS Graduates), and the National Center for Education Statistics (College Participation and Completion)

Actual vs. Parity
Difference in the Percentage of Credentials Awarded and the Percentage of 18 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity (2002)

Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity (2002)

Sources: US Census Bureau (18 Year Olds), Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (HS Graduates), and the National Center for Education Statistics (College Participation and Completion)

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey)
The Impact of Changing Demographics on Educational Attainment and Personal Income (2000 to 2020)

Projected changes in educational attainment and personal income per capita are based on the US Census Bureau’s population projections by age and race/ethnicity and 2000 educational attainment and personal income data by age and race/ethnicity. The analyses are designed to help answer the following question: “Given current disparities in educational attainment and personal income by age and race/ethnicity, how will the changing demographics in my state impact the overall educational attainment and personal income of the adult population?”

Projected Change in 25 to 64 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity (from 2000 to 2020)

Changes in Educational Attainment as a Result of the Projected Changes In Race/Ethnicity (25 to 64 Year Olds from 2000 to 2020)

Sources: US Census Bureau’s Population Projections (from 1995 to 2025) and Census 2000
If Hispanics/Latinos, African-Americans, and Native Americans achieved the same levels of education as Whites by 2020, Nevada’s personal income would increase by $2.2 Billion (in 2000 $).

Note: Does not account for racial/ethnic disparities in personal earnings for the same levels of education.
The Impact of State Higher Education Inequality

Nevada Summary

- Relative to the size of its population, Nevada is the fastest-growing state in the U.S. All race/ethnic groups are growing substantially – with Whites and Hispanics accounting for the majority of recent growth. Hispanics are expected to account for the majority of future growth – nearly doubling in numbers from 2000 to 2020.

- The workforce has far fewer college degrees than the nation as a whole and substantially less than the most educated states. A high percentage of 25 to 64 year olds (18%) have less than a high school education and 22 percent of the younger population ages 25 to 34 have less than a high school diploma (ranked 48th among all states in the U.S.).

- Females have made progress in educational attainment relative to males but sizable disparities still exist among racial/ethnic populations. Nineteen percent of African-Americans and only nine percent of Hispanics have attained college degrees compared to 30 percent of Whites. The Hispanic population in Nevada is less educated than Hispanics in any other state and, unlike other race/ethnic populations, their educational attainment has sharply declined in the past two decades. Hispanic males are the least-educated segment of the population. The educational gaps between Whites and minority populations is widening – not closing.

- No race/ethnic populations in Nevada exceed the most educated countries in the percentage of adults (ages 25 to 34) with a bachelor’s degree or higher or all college degrees (associate and higher) – which is an important consideration in an increasingly global economy.

- Nevada’s personal income per capita has fallen sharply from 127 percent of the U.S. average in 1960 to about the national average in 2000.

- The education system in Nevada (from high school to college completion) fails to retain Hispanics at nearly the rate of Whites and Asians. African-Americans also fall out at higher rates. These race/ethnic disparities are also evident in the graduation rates of college students at the baccalaureate level.

- Unless these inequities are addressed, current disparities in educational attainment and the population projections by race/ethnicity indicate that Nevada will lose ground in the percentage of its workforce that is college-educated. The most substantial growth will occur in the “less than high school” and “high school only” populations.

- Nevada’s personal income per capita will remain at about the national average which will continue to impact the tax base of Nevada and its ability to provide services to its citizens – namely higher education.

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