



POSTSECONDARY TO PROSPERITY

CENTRAL COAST



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Famous for its ocean views, the Central Coast makes up 5 percent of the state population. This region is home to eight California Community Colleges (CCC), three California State Universities (CSU), and one University of California (UC) undergraduate campus. Though 7 percent more high school graduates go directly to college compared to the statewide average, not all students have equal access to a university. Asian high school graduates in this region are most likely to go to a UC (32%) compared to only 1–7 percent of students in other racial and ethnic groups. Moreover, bachelor’s degree attainment, which is 17 percent lower than the statewide average, also varies by race and ethnicity. Only 10 percent of Native American or Alaska Native residents have a bachelor’s degree, which is one-sixth the rate of the Central Coast’s Asian residents. Furthermore, Native American or Alaska Native residents in this region are 7 percent less likely to be employed compared to the region’s average and are less likely to earn a living wage. However, they are most likely to work over 40 hours a week compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Though Latinx residents have a high employment rate (96%), their health insurance rate is 5 percent lower than the statewide average. Central Coast residents are slightly more likely to own a home compared to the statewide average. However, only 36 percent of Black residents own a home despite 62 percent earning a living wage, showing a disparate opportunity to build wealth through homeownership.

POPULATION

2,081,587

COUNTIES

Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo,
Santa Barbara, Ventura

ABOUT THE DATA¹

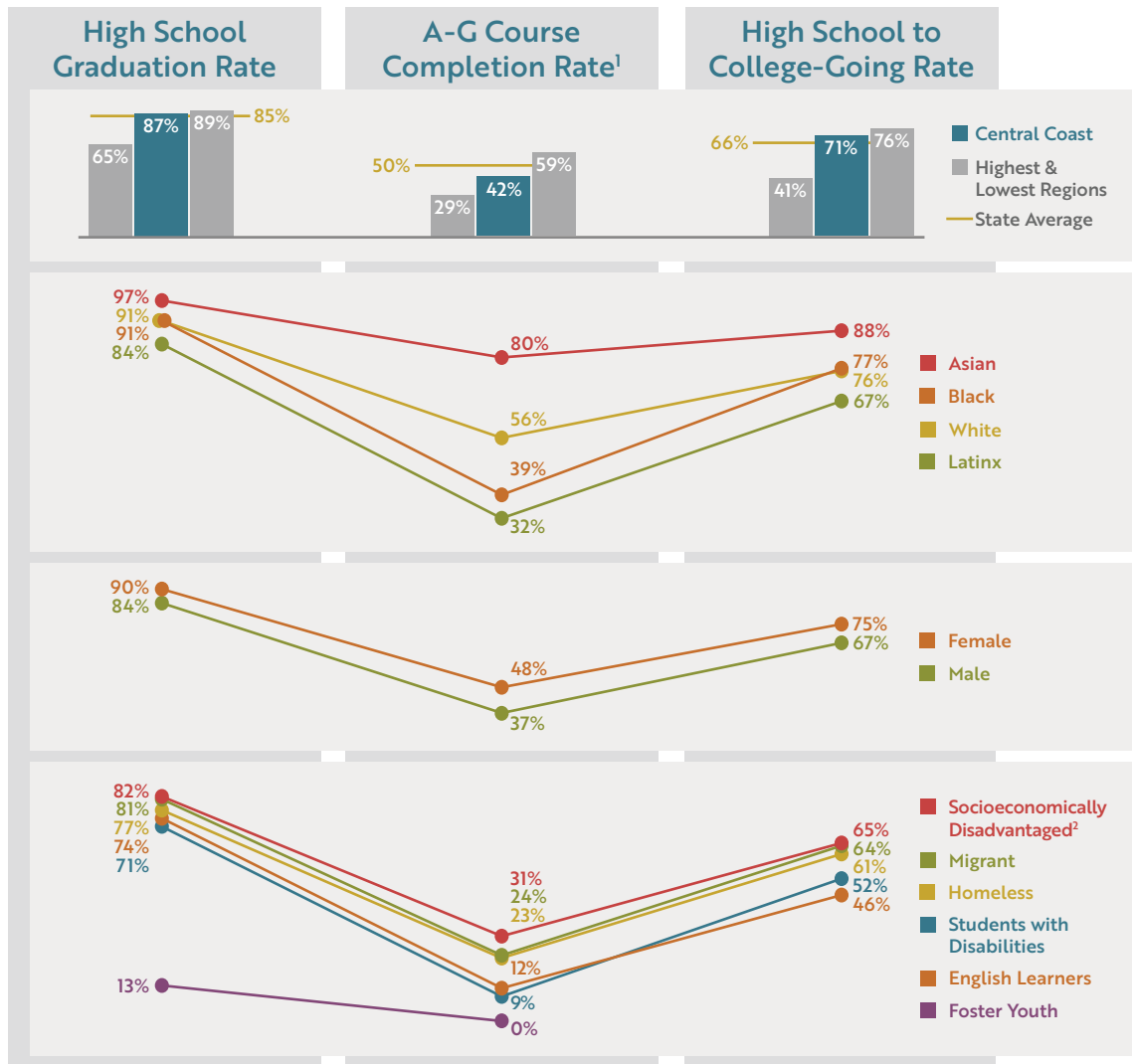
This factsheet uses 8 primary
datasets (2017–2020)

1. Some metrics are based on very small sample sizes, which may not provide reliable estimates of the population. These results should be interpreted with caution. For more detailed information on how metrics are calculated, please refer to the [technical appendix on californiacompetes.org/p2p](https://californiacompetes.org/p2p).

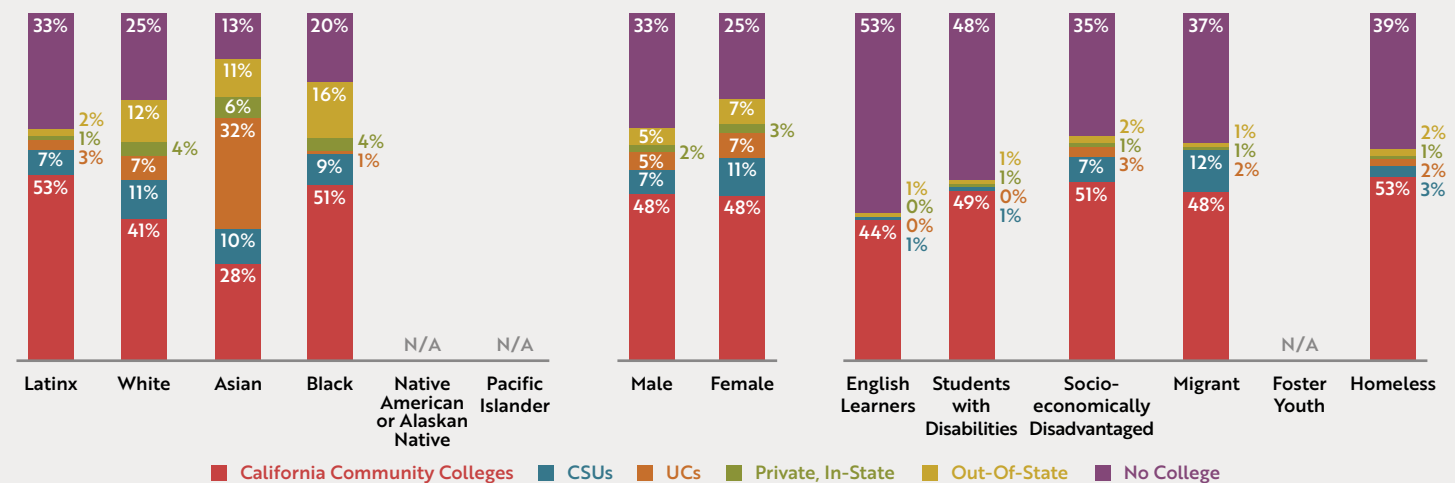
Substantial differences exist in higher education outcomes. College readiness and access are the first steps to college completion. Access to a college preparatory curriculum is not universal, and differences exist in who goes to college and where they go based on demographic characteristics, such as race and ethnicity. Homeless students, foster youth, English language learners, and students with disabilities also face tremendous barriers in accessing and succeeding in college.

Moreover, the postsecondary education system's focus on the traditional student's pathway (one who matriculates directly to college after high school) leaves limited opportunities for older adults interested in higher education to successfully complete a postsecondary credential.

The inequitable access to postsecondary education leads to significant differences in the region's educational attainment by race and ethnicity.



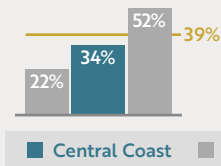
Where Do High School Students Go to College?



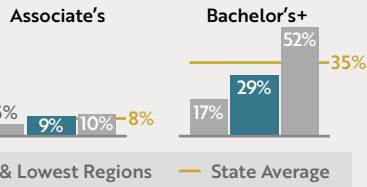
1. High school students must complete a set of courses known as "A-G" to be eligible for admission to the California State University and University of California.
 2. Students who do not have a parent who graduated from high school, are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or are foster, homeless, or migrant youth.



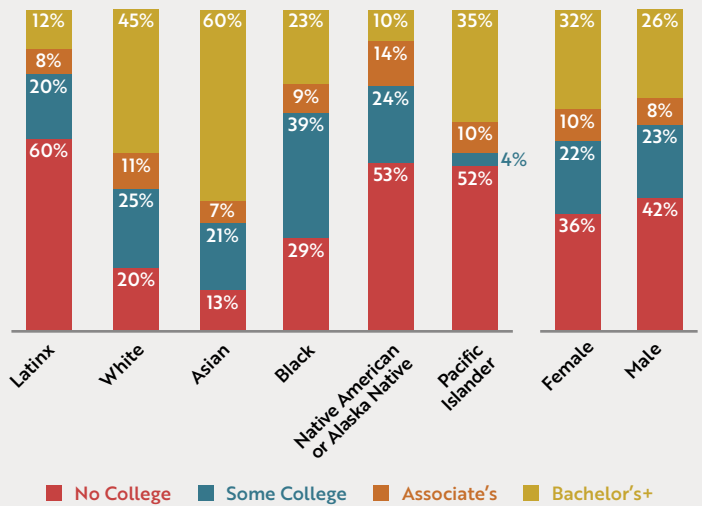
Adult (25+) Intent to Enroll



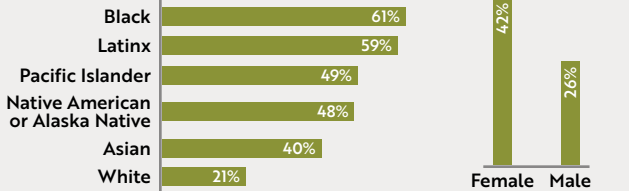
Highest Educational Attainment



What Is the Highest Level of Attainment?

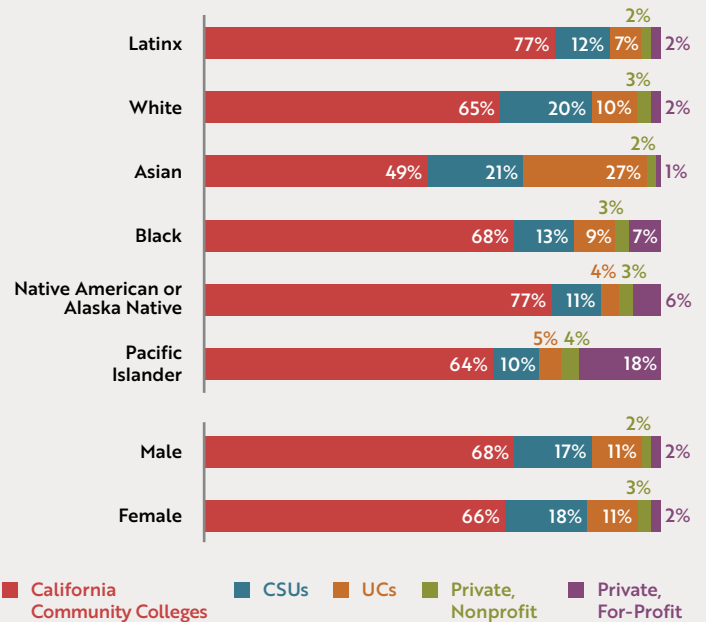
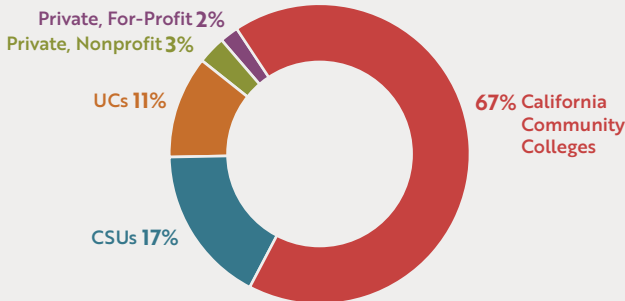


Which Adults (25+) Intend to Enroll in College?

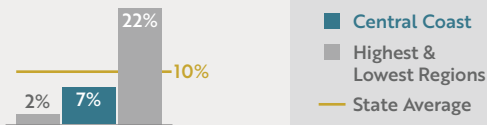


ABOUT COLLEGES IN THIS REGION

What Does Enrollment at Colleges in this Region Look Like?

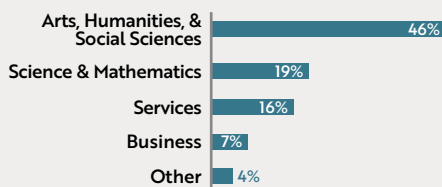


Online Enrollment Rate¹

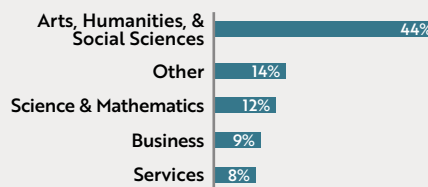


What Are the Most Commonly Completed Programs at Colleges in the Region?

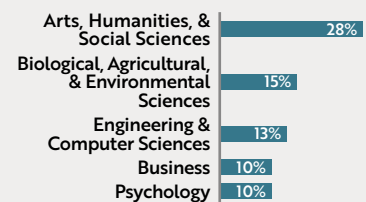
Certificates



Associate's Degree



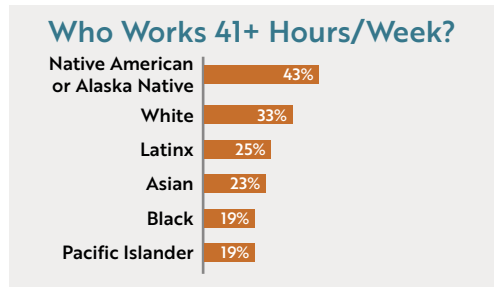
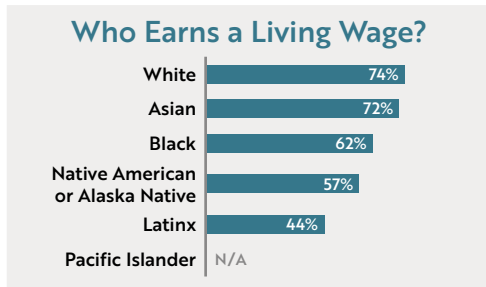
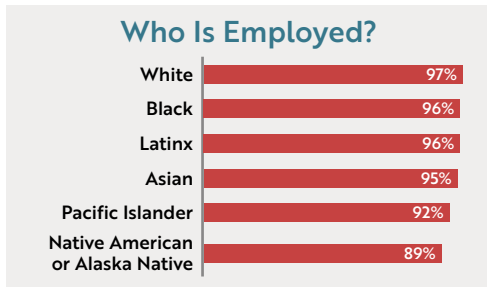
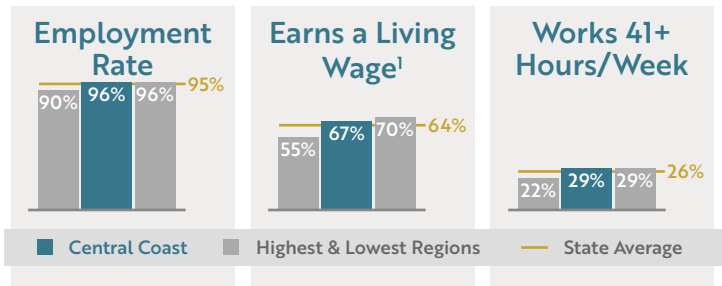
Bachelor's Degree



1. The percentage of college students enrolled in the fall term at colleges in the region who are enrolled exclusively in online courses. Note that these students may live in other regions, states, or countries.

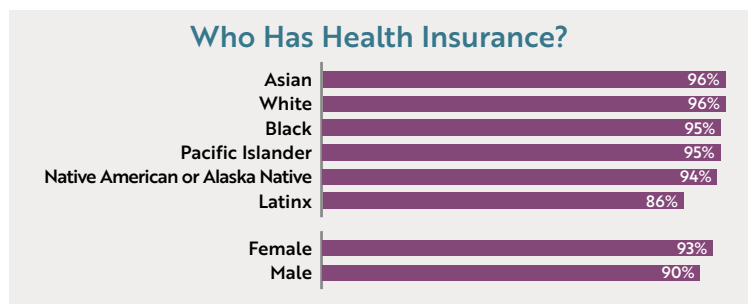
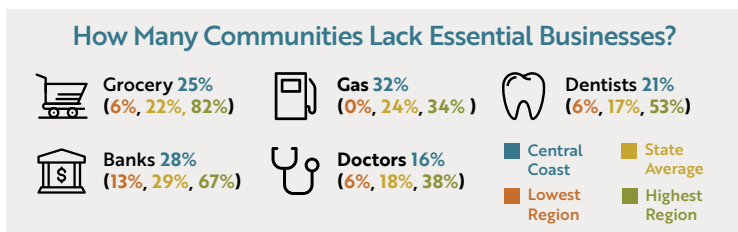
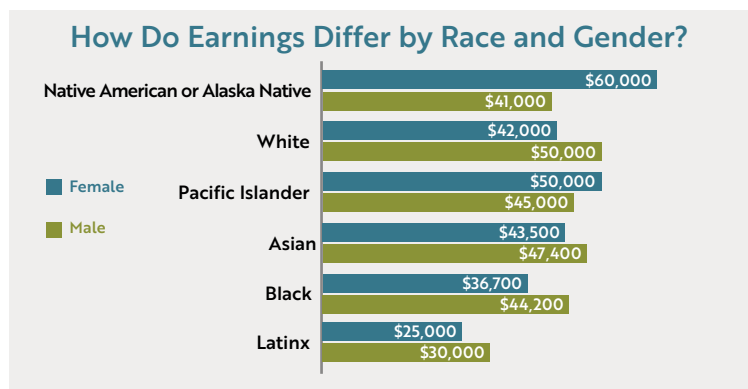
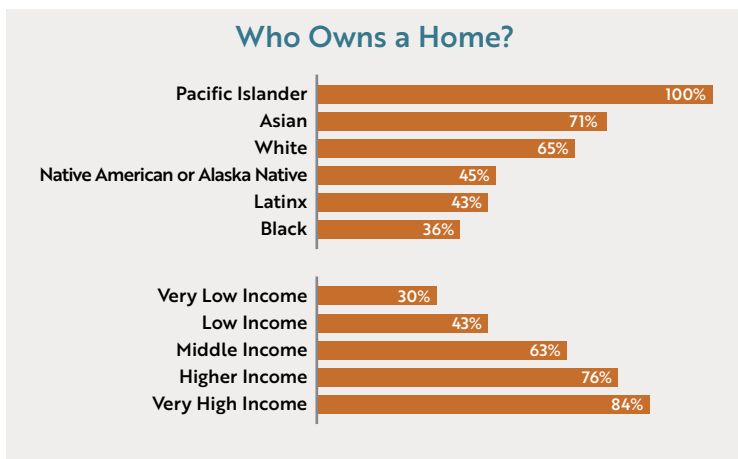
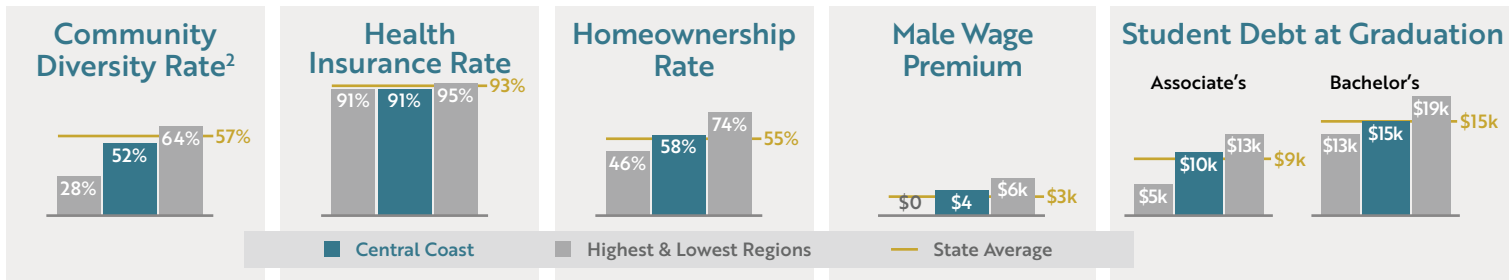


Gainful employment is critical for individual and community economic and social strength. Employment rates in the region are similar to the state average. However, racial and ethnic differences in employment exist with 89 percent of Native American and Alaska Native residents being employed, compared to 92+ percent of other groups. Moreover, while access to employment is critical, earning a living wage is also important. Sixty-seven percent of Central Coast residents earn a living wage compared to the state average of 64 percent.



PROSPERITY

Though it is impossible to quantify prosperity, markers like health insurance, homeownership, and economic development signify pathways to prosperity. Mechanisms that reflect stability, build wealth, promote health, and enrich culture shape a community's ability to thrive. Similarly, wage gaps and communities without critical businesses demonstrate areas that need additional attention for equitable outcomes.



1. Earning a living wage means household income is sufficient to meet basic needs, which are adjusted for family size and county-level cost of living.
 2. The community diversity rate estimates the probability that any two individuals selected at random would be of different races or ethnicities.

