



POSTSECONDARY TO PROSPERITY

ORANGE



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Orange County's population makes up 8 percent of the state population. This region is home to nine California Community Colleges (CCC), one California State University (CSU), and one University of California (UC) undergraduate campus. Orange County's high school graduation, A-G course completion, and college-going rates all surpass the statewide average, but vary across racial and ethnic groups. On the whole, Asian high school graduates and residents do well in postsecondary education and in the workforce. They are roughly 20 percentage points more likely to attend a UC compared to other racial and ethnic groups and have a bachelor's degree attainment rate of 62 percent. However, these rates are much lower for other racial and ethnic groups. Though 76 percent go to college, only 44 percent of Native American and Alaska Native students fall into this category. While the region's bachelor's degree attainment is 20 percent higher than the state average, only 16 percent of Latinx residents hold a four-year degree. In fact, a majority of Latinx residents have no college experience (59%), greater than all other groups.

Employment rates for all residents are similar to the regional average; yet, not everyone earns a living wage or owns a home. While 94 percent of Native American and Alaska Native residents are employed, only 39 percent earn a living wage and only 56 percent own a home. Similar disparities exist for Latinx residents, who also have the lowest health insurance rate (7% lower than the regional average). Though employment rates are high, it does not necessarily secure residents' well-being or ability to build wealth through homeownership. Given the region's higher rate of diversity (4% above the state average), it's crucial to ensure equitable opportunities for all residents.

POPULATION
3,189,883

COUNTIES
Orange

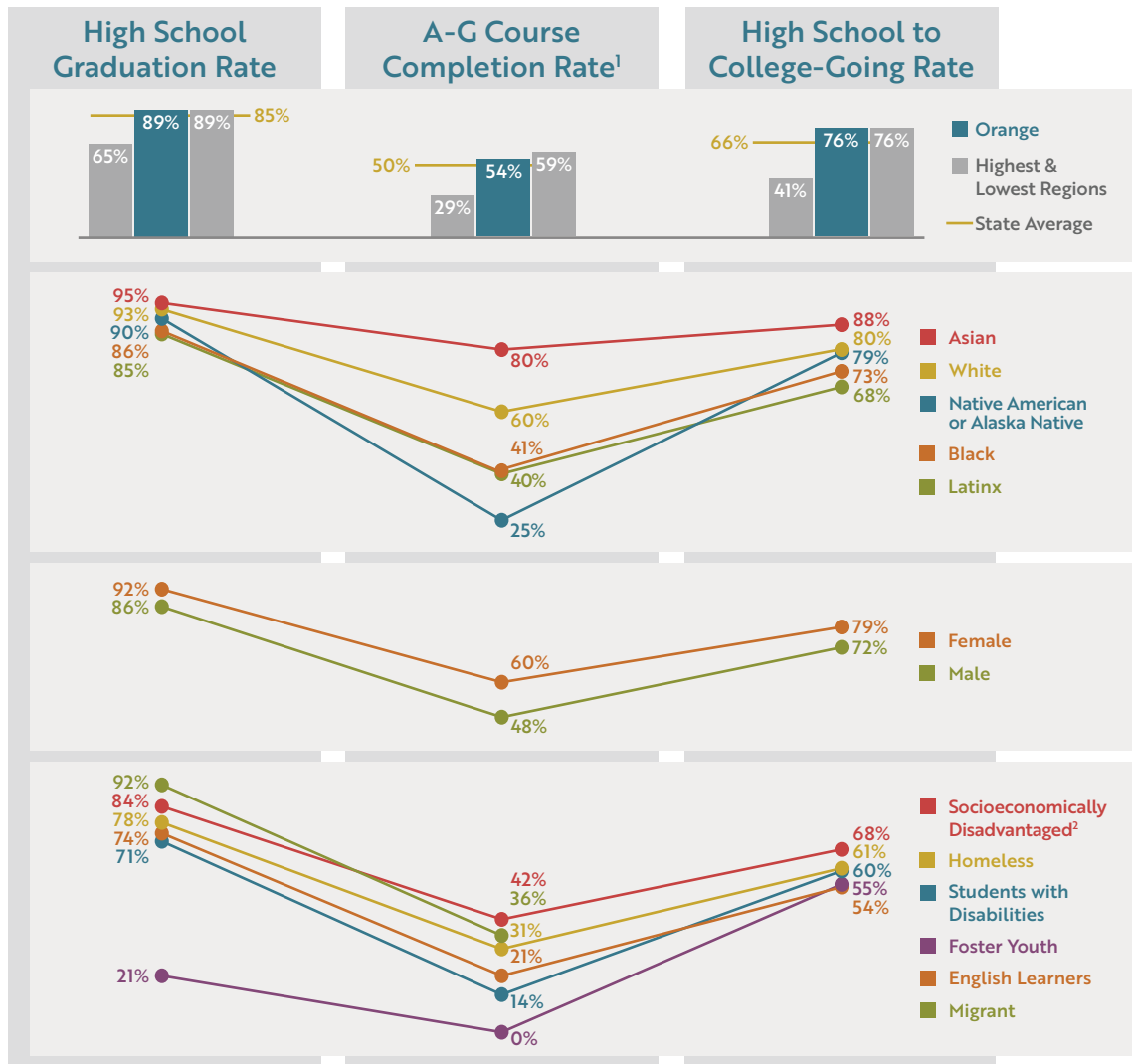
ABOUT THE DATA¹
This factsheet uses 8 primary datasets (2017–2020)

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).

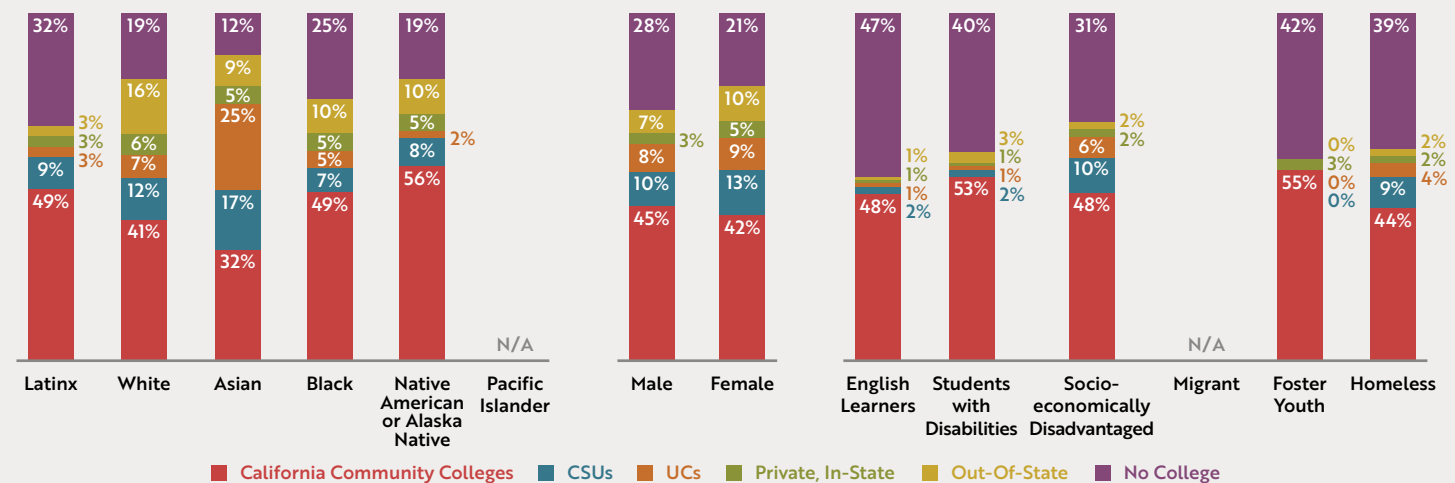
Substantial differences exist in higher education outcomes. College readiness and access are the first steps to college completion. Access to a college preparatory curriculum is not universal, and differences exist in who goes to college and where they go based on demographic characteristics, such as 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.



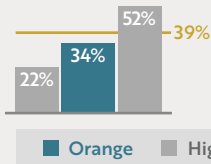
Where Do High School Students Go to College?



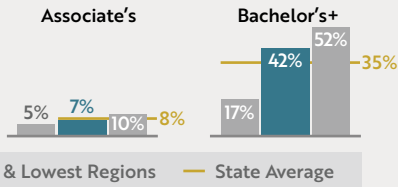
1. High school students must complete a set of courses known as "A-G" to be eligible for admission to the California State University and University of California.
 2. Students who do not have a parent who graduated from high school, are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or are foster, homeless,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



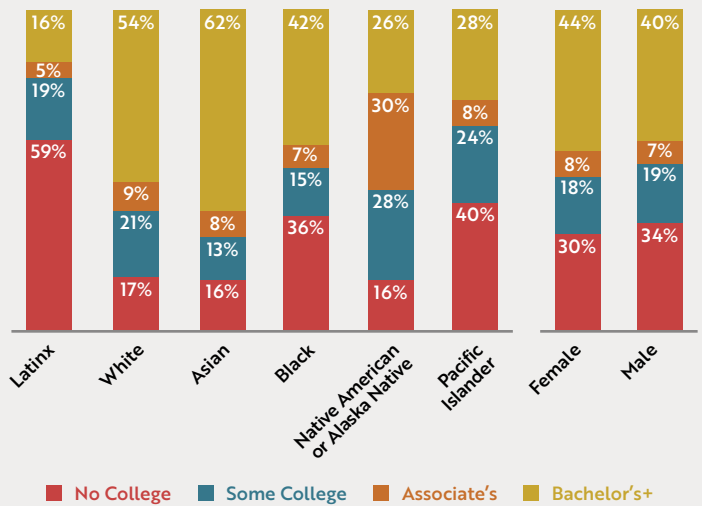
Adult (25+) Intent to Enroll



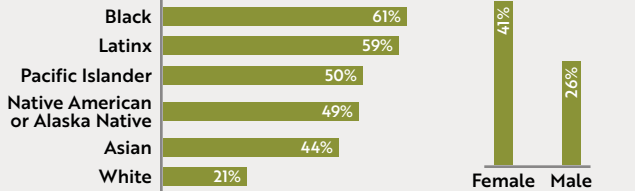
Highest Educational Attainment



What Is the Highest Level of Attainment?

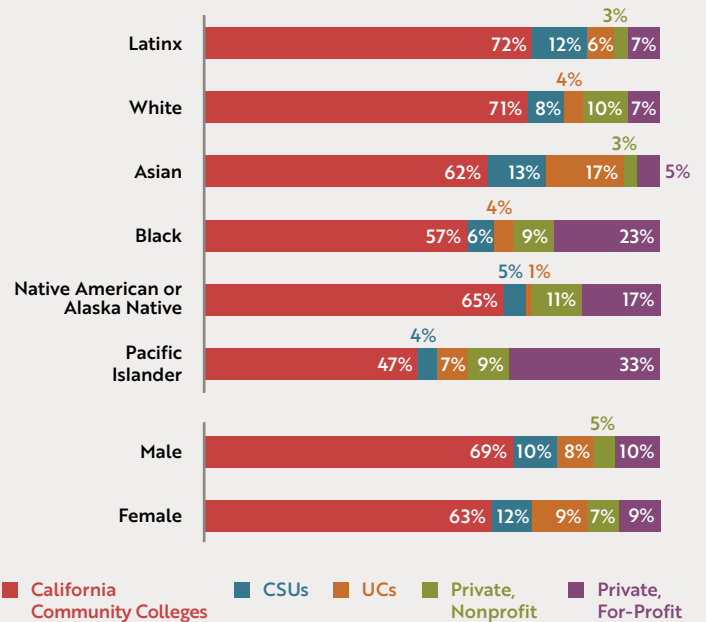
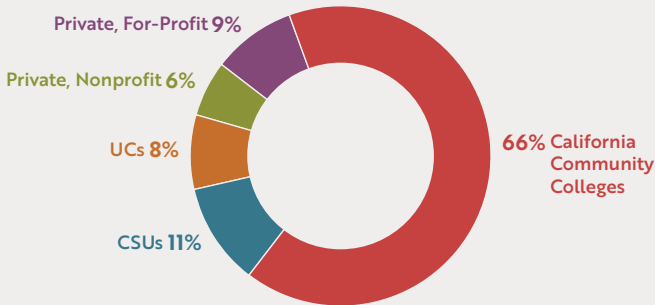


Which Adults (25+) Intend to Enroll in College?

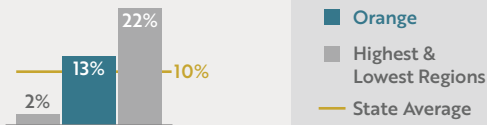


ABOUT COLLEGES IN THIS REGION

What Does Enrollment at Colleges in this Region Look Like?

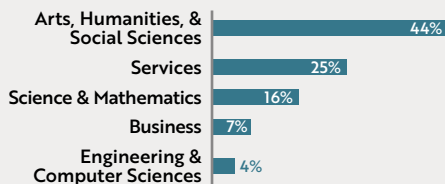


Online Enrollment Rate¹

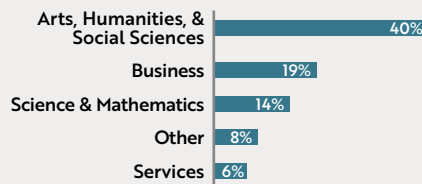


What Are the Most Commonly Completed Programs at Colleges in the Region?

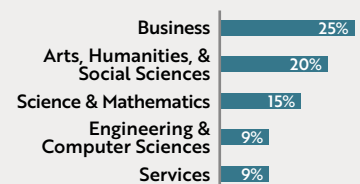
Certificates



Associate's Degree



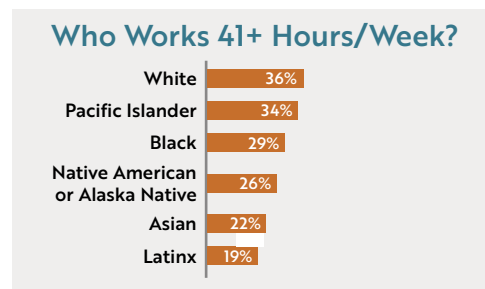
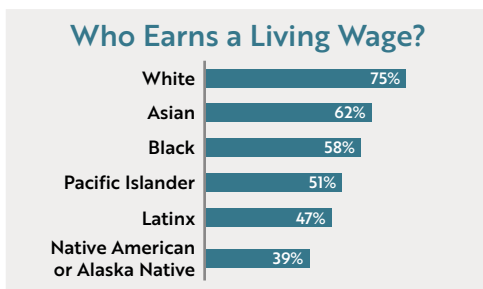
Bachelor's Degree



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.

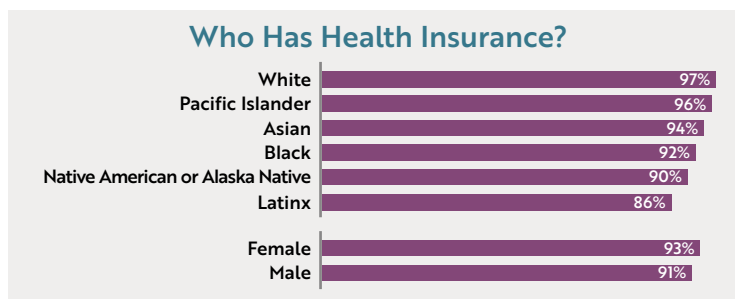
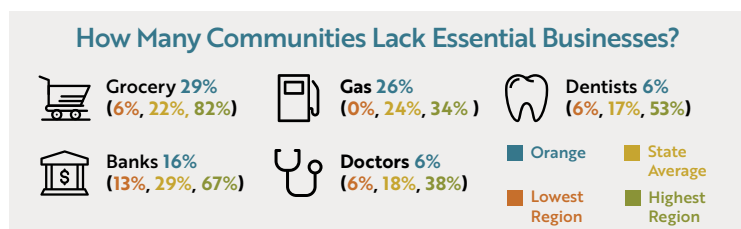
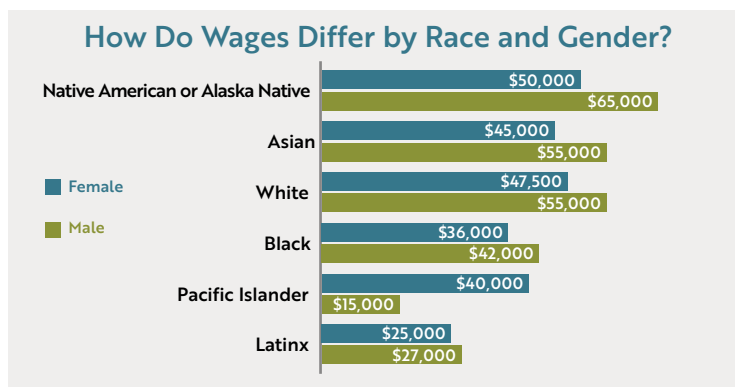
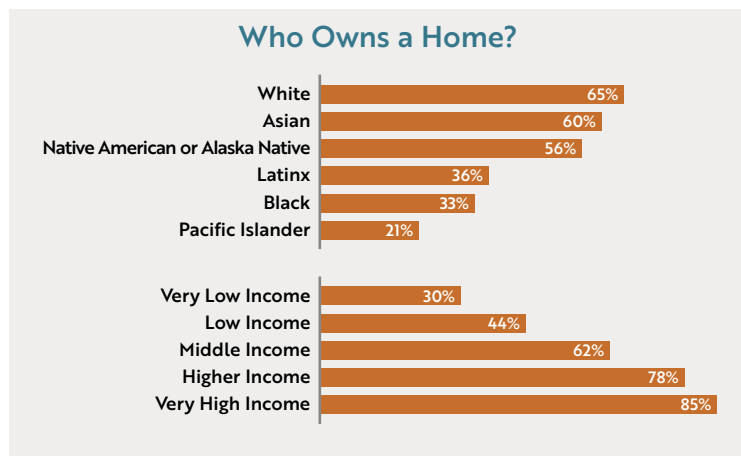
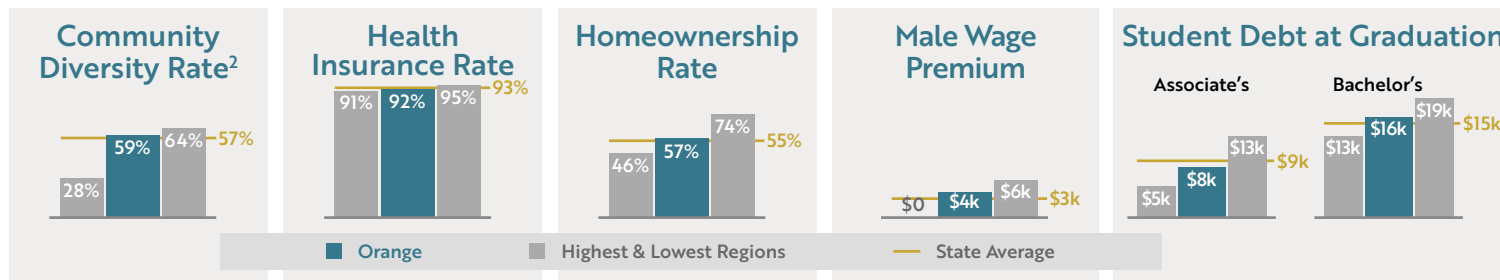


Gainful employment is critical for individual and community economic and social strength. Employment rates in the region are similar to the state average. However, racial and ethnic differences in employment exist with 94 percent of Native American and Alaska Native residents being employed, compared to 97 percent of Latinx residents. Moreover, while access to employment is critical, earning a living wage is also important. Sixty-seven percent of this region's 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.

