



# POSTSECONDARY TO PROSPERITY

## SAN DIEGO



More online at  
[californiacompetes.org/p2p](https://californiacompetes.org/p2p)

The San Diego region’s population makes up 8 percent of the state population. San Diego is home to eight California Community Colleges (CCC), two California State Universities (CSU), and one University of California (UC) undergraduate campus. Though high school graduation rates are lower than the state average, a larger proportion of students in this region go directly to college compared with students across the state. Regional attainment rates for associate’s and bachelor’s degrees either meet or surpass the state average, but are varied across groups. While 63 percent of Asian residents hold a bachelor’s degree, only 18 percent of Latinx residents do.

Despite meeting or surpassing the state’s employment rate and ability to earn a living wage, opportunity is uneven. While nearly all residents are employed, the ability to earn a living wage or own a home differs across racial and ethnic groups. Ninety-five percent of Latinx residents are employed, but only 42 percent earn a living wage, only 37 percent own a home, and only 87 percent have health insurance. Similar disparities exist for Black residents who also have higher employment rates than their ability to earn a living wage, own a home, or have health insurance. Though the region’s employment rate meets the statewide average, it does not necessarily secure residents’ well-being or ability to build wealth through homeownership.

**POPULATION**  
3,338,661

**COUNTIES**  
San Diego

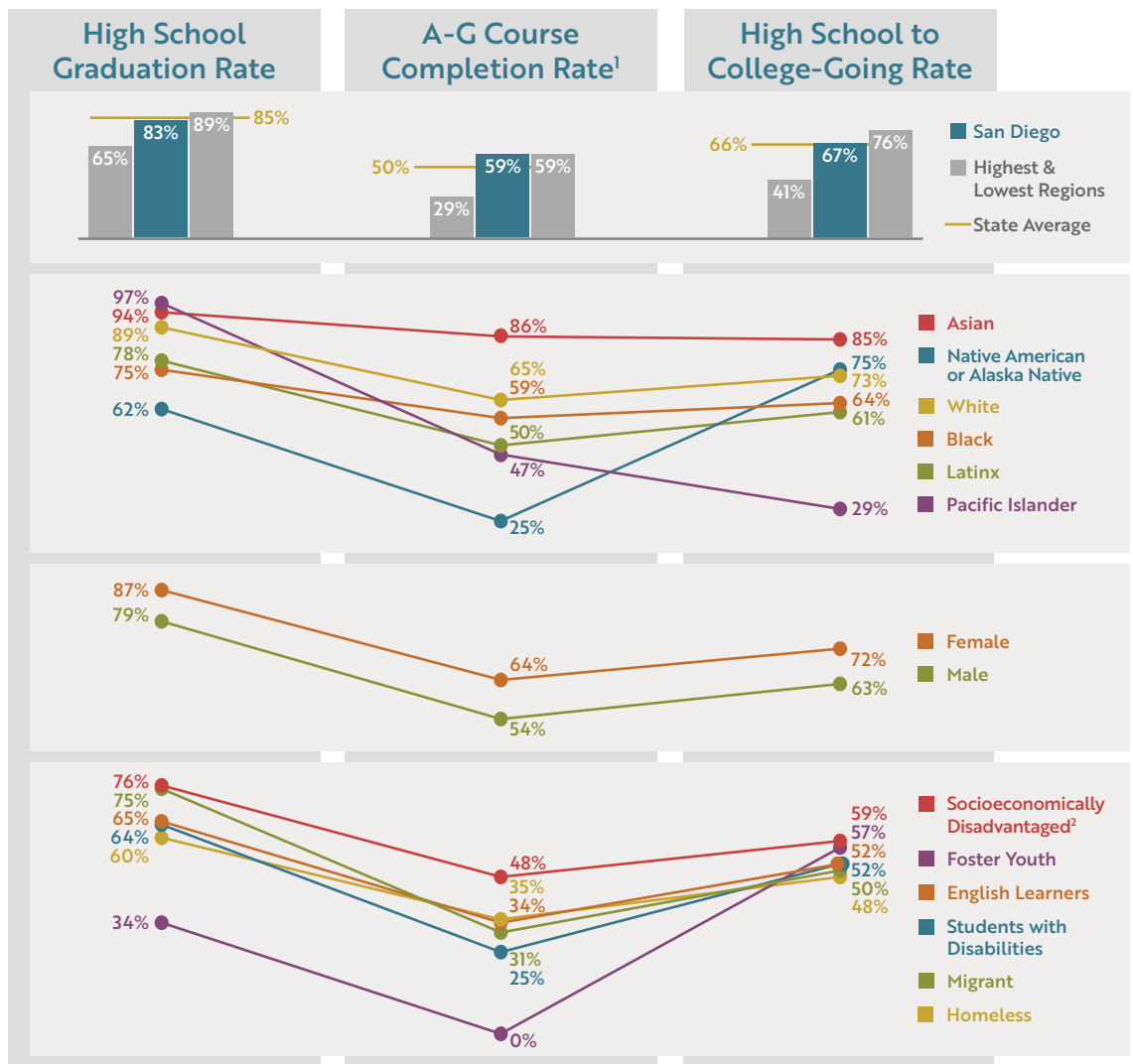
**ABOUT THE DATA<sup>1</sup>**  
This factsheet uses 8 primary datasets (2017–2020)

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](#).

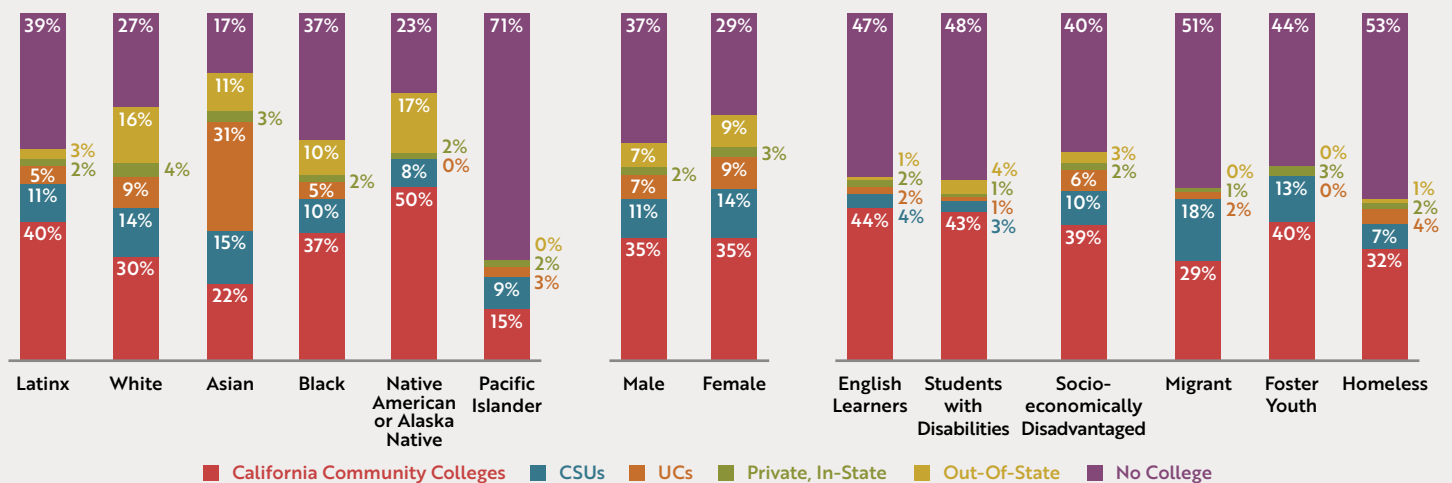
Substantial differences exist in higher education outcomes. College readiness and access are the first steps to college completion. Access to a college preparatory curriculum is not universal, and differences exist in who goes to college and where they go based on demographic characteristics, such as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



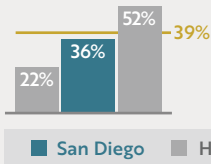
Where Do High School Students Go to College?



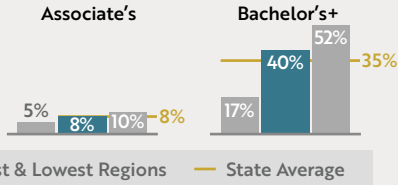
1. High school students must complete a set of courses known as "A-G" to be eligible for admission to the California State University and University of California.  
 2. Students who do not have a parent who graduated from high school, are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or are foster, homeless,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



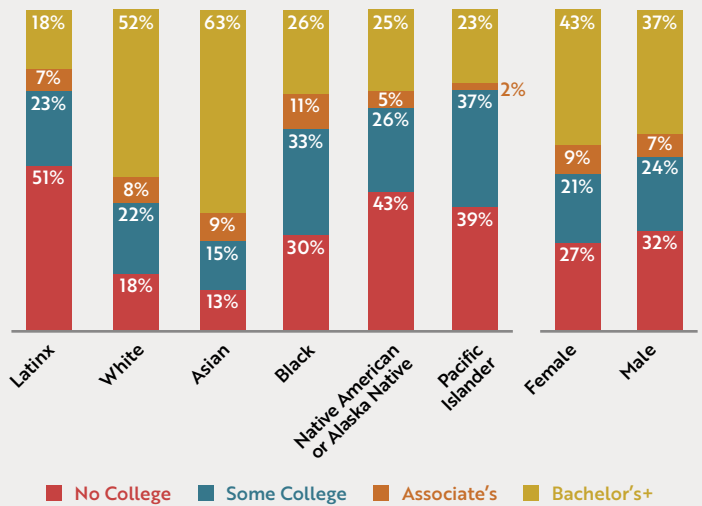
Adult (25+) Intent to Enroll



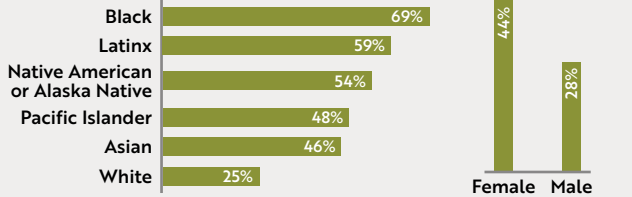
Highest Educational Attainment



What Is the Highest Level of Attainment?

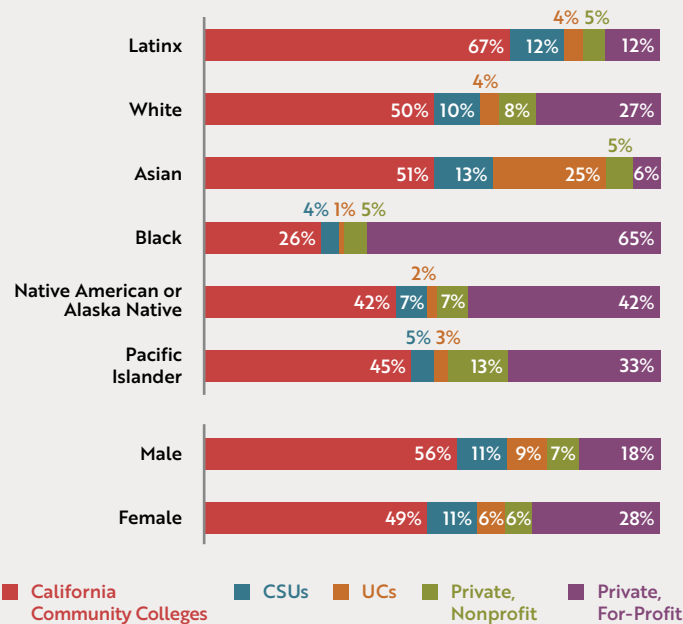
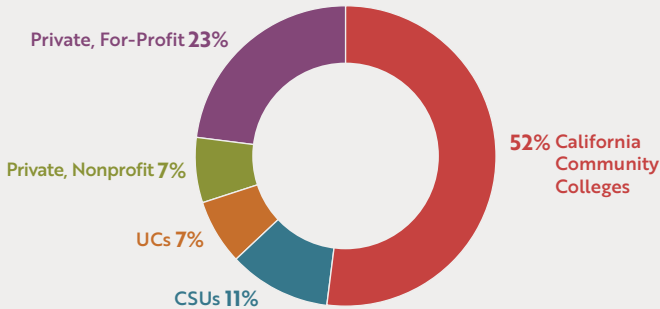


Which Adults (25+) Intend to Enroll in College?

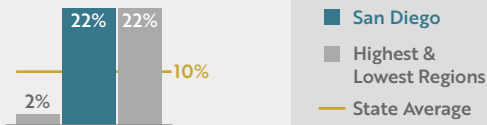


ABOUT COLLEGES IN THIS REGION

What Does Enrollment at Colleges in this Region Look Like?

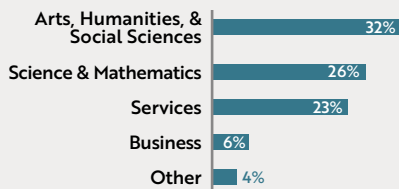


Online Enrollment Rate<sup>1</sup>

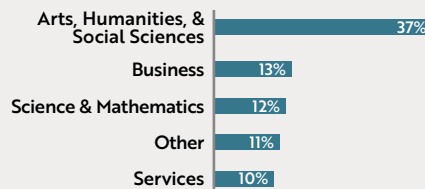


What Are the Most Commonly Completed Programs at Colleges in the Region?

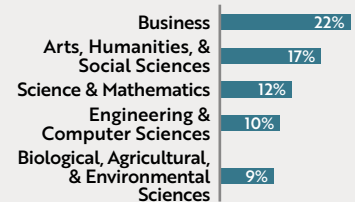
Certificates



Associate's Degree



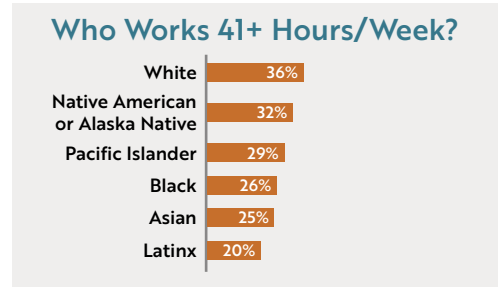
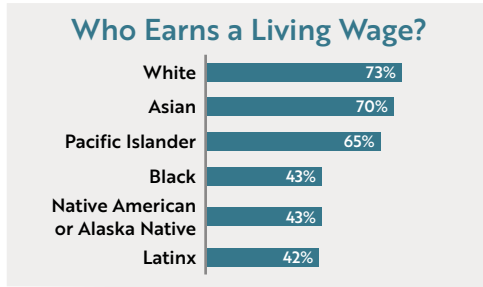
Bachelor's Degree



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.

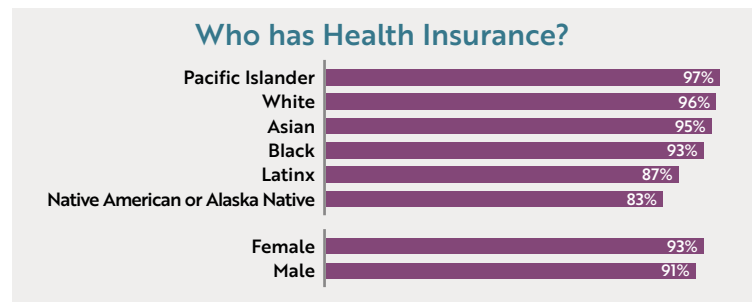
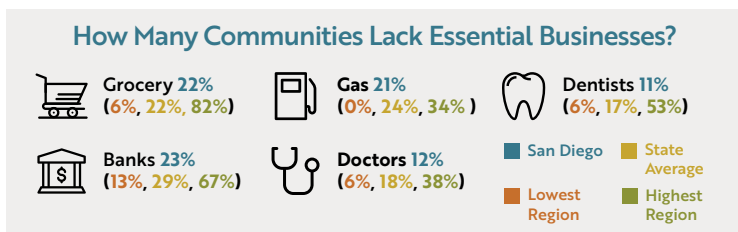
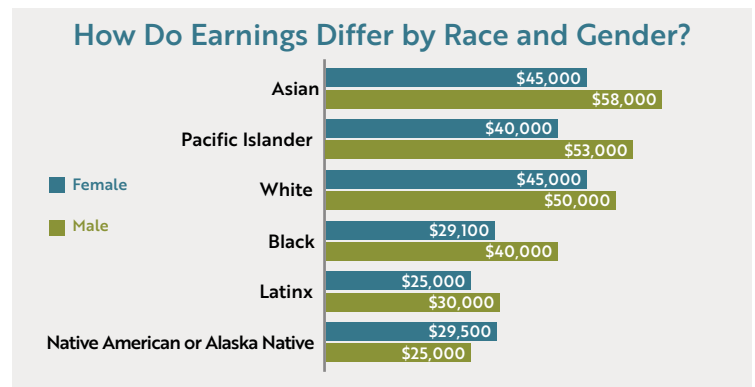
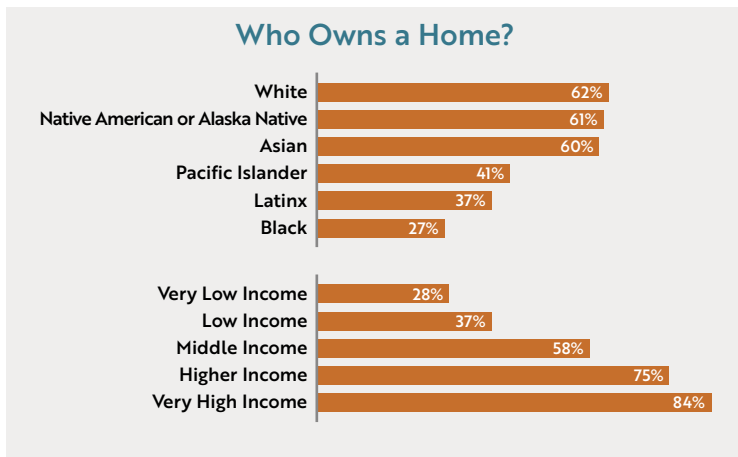
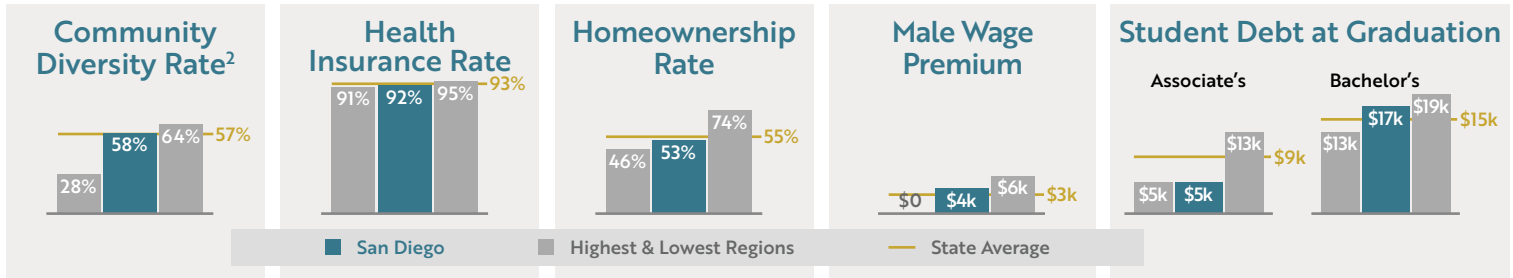


Gainful employment is critical for individual and community economic and social strength. Employment rates in the region are similar to the state average. However, racial and ethnic differences in employment exist. Moreover, while access to employment is critical, earning a living wage is also important. Sixty-five percent of San Diego 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.

