



# POSTSECONDARY TO PROSPERITY

## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY



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

San Joaquin Valley’s population makes up 11 percent of the state population. This region is home to thirteen California Community Colleges (CCC), three California State Universities (CSU), and one University of California (UC) institution. However, more students in the region meet eligibility requirements than the campus can admit. While high school graduation rates match the state average (85%), fewer high school students go directly to college (66%), and opportunity differs across racial and ethnic groups. Community college’s popularity is relatively similar across different demographic groups; however, 14 percent of Asian students attend a UC compared to 0 percent of Native American and Alaska Native students. Associate’s degree attainment matches the statewide average, but bachelor’s degree attainment is nearly half the statewide average with dramatic differences by race and ethnicity. Only 8 percent of Latinx residents hold a bachelor’s degree compared to 32 percent of Asian residents. Forty-six percent of adults in this region express an interest in enrolling in college, especially Black and Latinx adults (72% and 65%, respectively).

San Joaquin Valley has a lower employment rate and opportunity to earn a living wage compared to the state. While most residents are employed, the ability to earn a living wage or own a home differs by race and ethnicity. Asian residents have an employment rate of 94 percent, but only 62 percent earn a living wage, and 59 percent own a home. Opportunity remains inconsistent for White residents, who have the highest homeownership rates and likelihood of earning a living wage. While 94 percent of White residents are employed, only 73 percent earn a living wage, and 67 percent own a home. Employment alone does not necessarily secure residents’ well-being or ability to build wealth through homeownership. The region’s health insurance rate falls below the state average with only 90 percent of Latinx residents having health insurance compared to 95 percent of White and Pacific Islander residents.

### POPULATION

4,219,489

### COUNTIES

Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare

### ABOUT THE DATA<sup>1</sup>

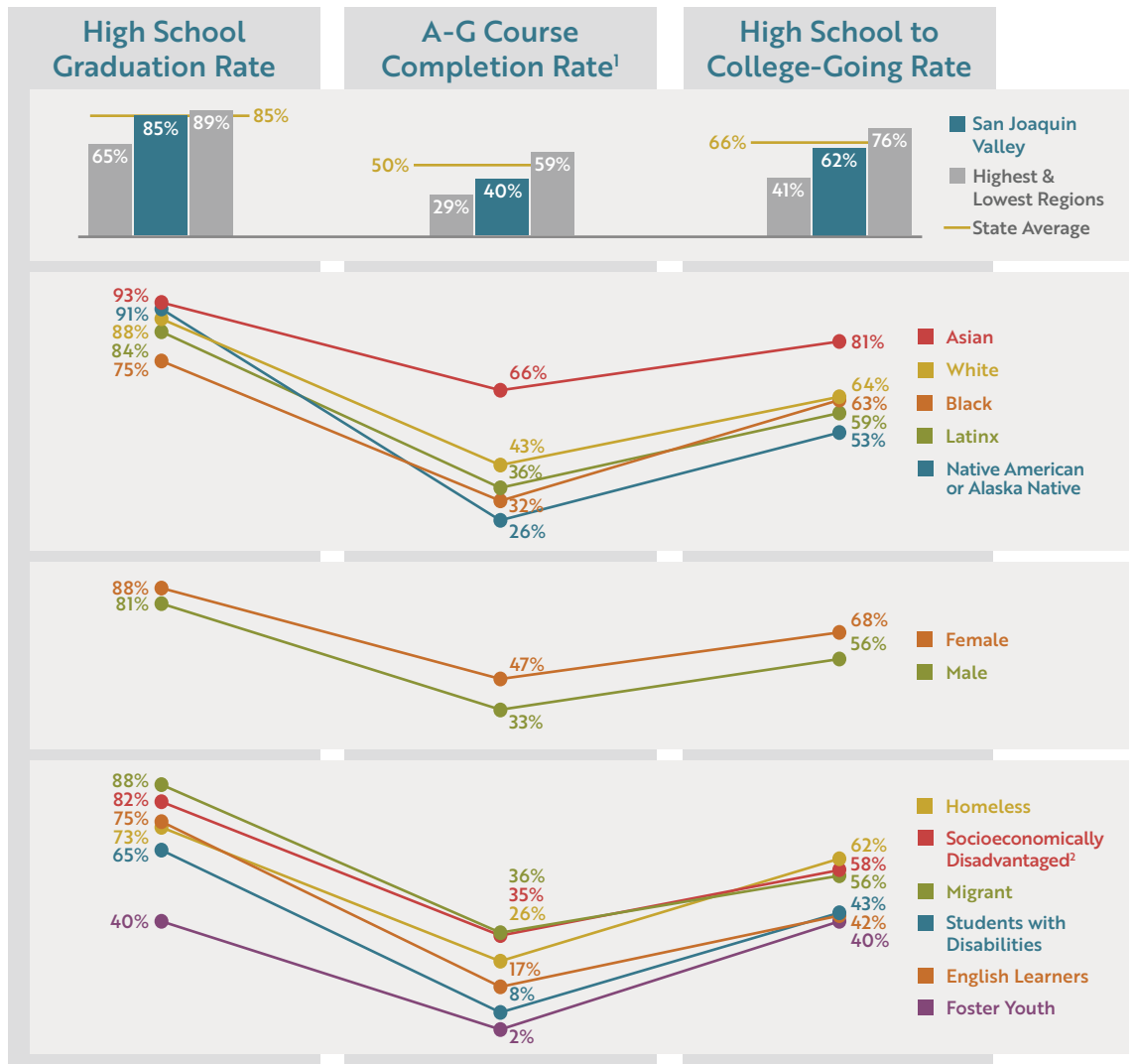
This factsheet uses 8 primary datasets (2017–2020)

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](https://californiacompetes.org/p2p).

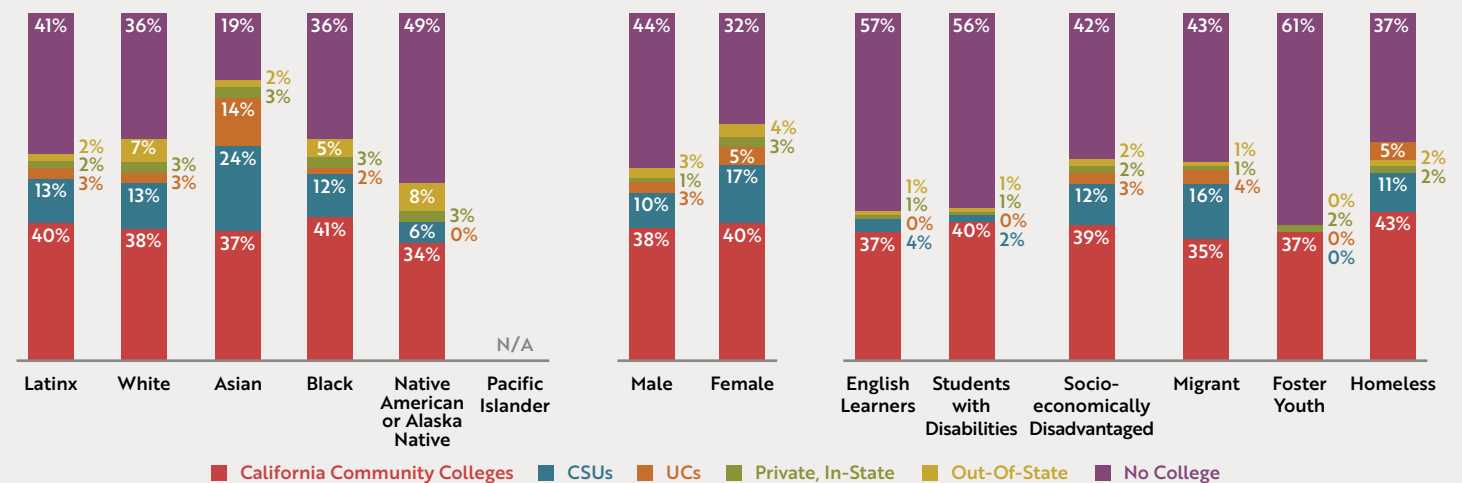
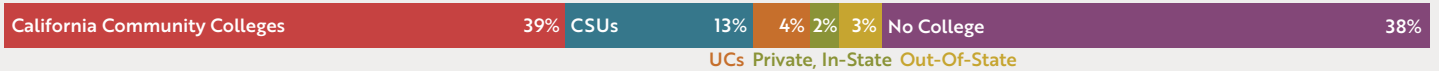
Substantial differences exist in higher education outcomes. College readiness and access are the first steps to college completion. Access to a college preparatory curriculum is not universal, and differences exist in who goes to college and where they go based on demographic characteristics, such as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



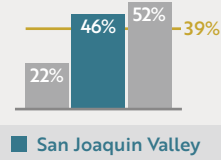
Where Do High School Students Go to College?



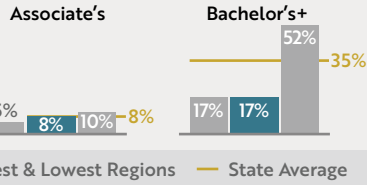
1. High school students must complete a set of courses known as "A-G" to be eligible for admission to the California State University and University of California.  
 2. Students who do not have a parent who graduated from high school, are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or are foster, homeless,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



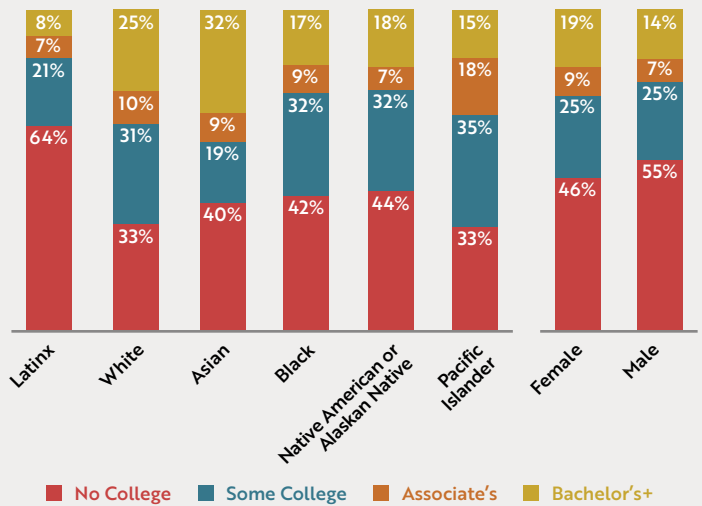
Adult (25+) Intent to Enroll



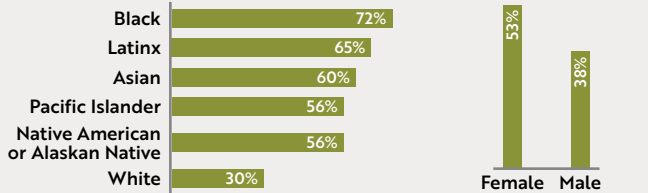
Highest Educational Attainment



What Is the Highest Level of Attainment?

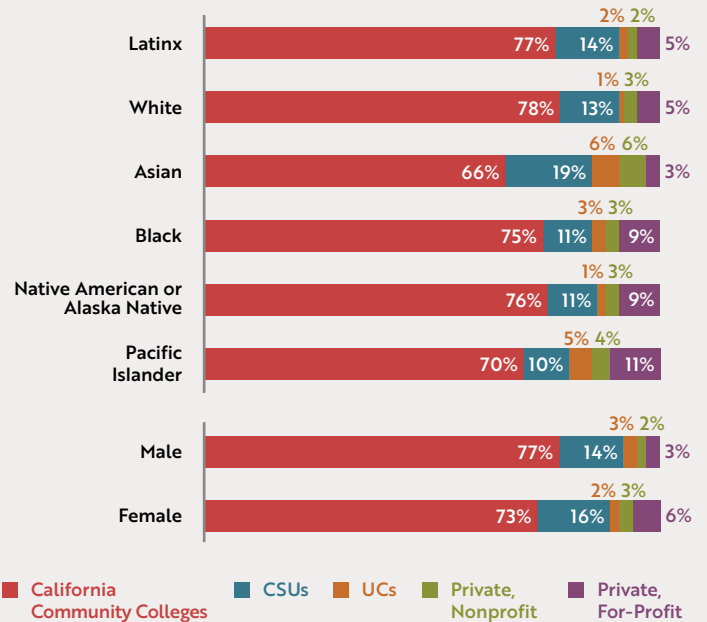
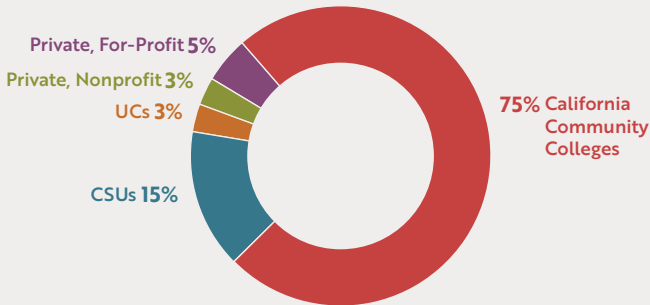


Which Adults (25+) Intend to Enroll in College?

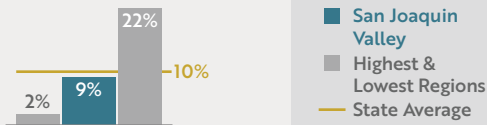


ABOUT COLLEGES IN THIS REGION

What Does Enrollment at Colleges in this Region Look Like?

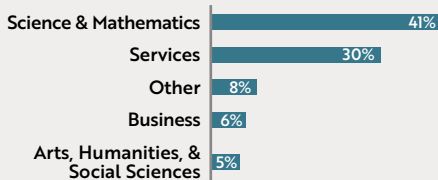


Online Enrollment Rate<sup>1</sup>

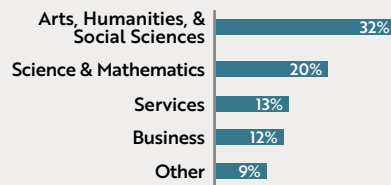


What Are the Most Commonly Completed Programs at Colleges in the Region?

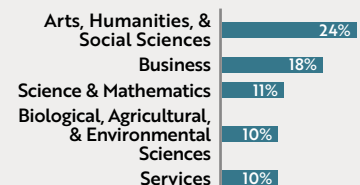
Certificates



Associate's Degree



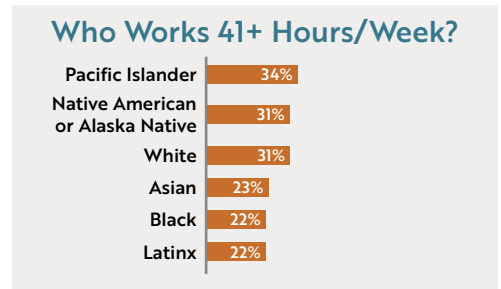
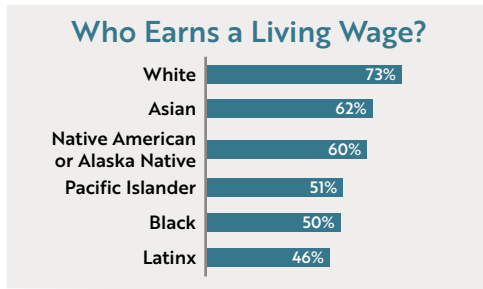
Bachelor's Degree



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.

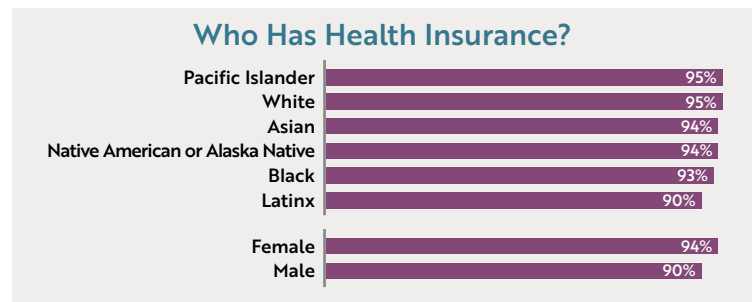
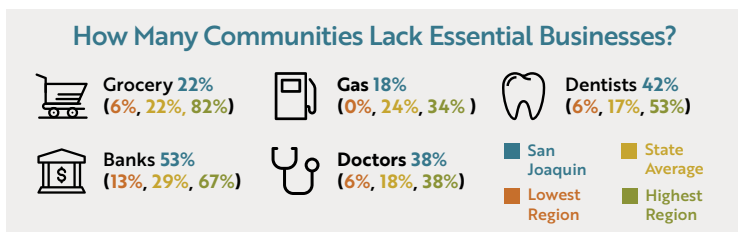
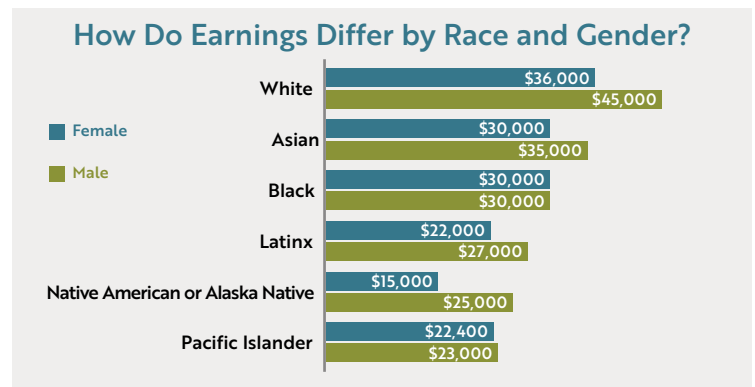
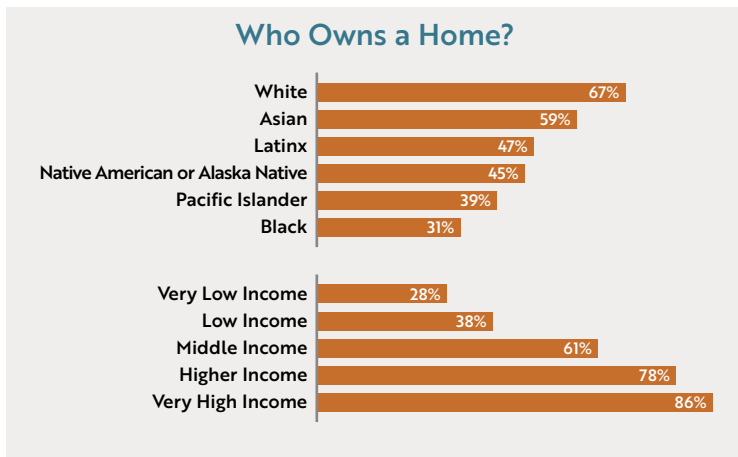
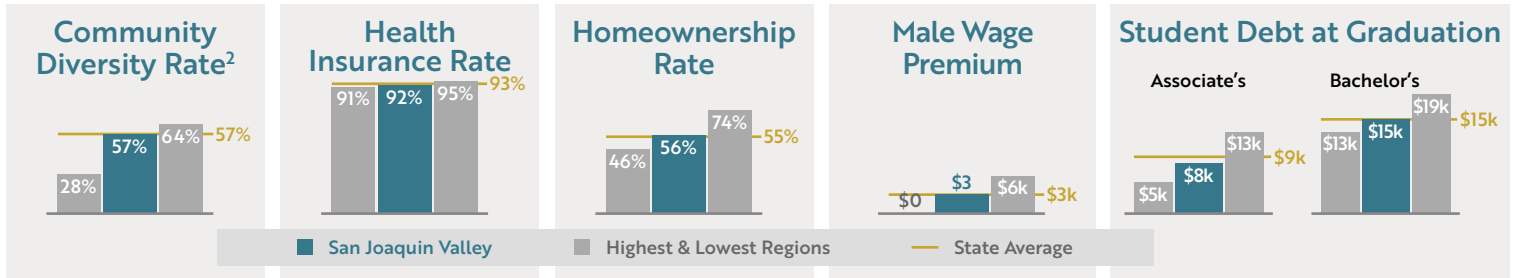


Gainful employment is critical for individual and community economic and social strength. Employment rates in the region are lower compared to the state average. However, racial and ethnic differences in employment exist. Moreover, while access to employment is critical, earning a living wage is also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

