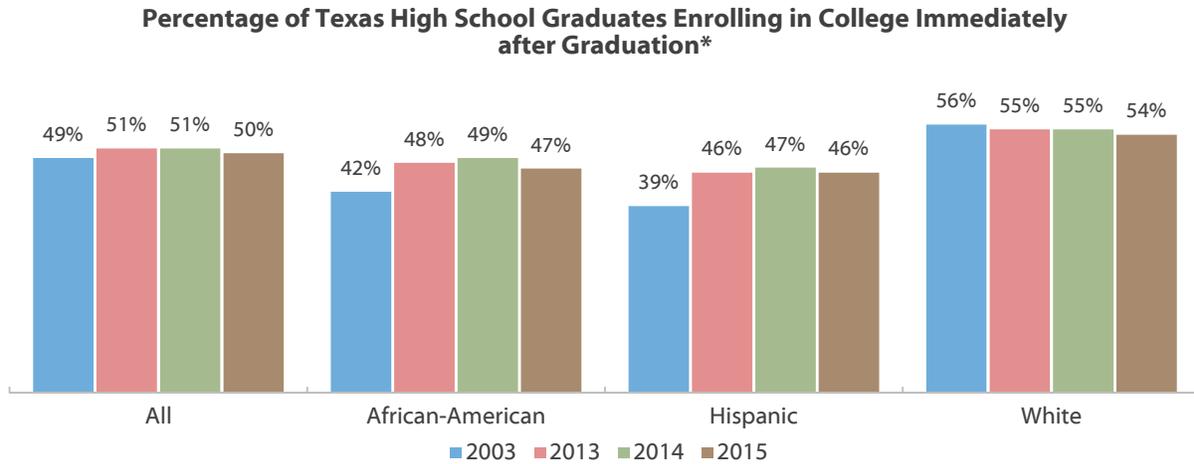


Percentage of Texas High School Graduates Who Enroll in College Immediately after High School Remains Level



The 2010 U.S. Census revealed that a smaller percentage of the Texas population participated in higher education than in other large states and the U.S. as a whole. About 9.5 percent of the Texas population age 18 and older was enrolled in higher education in 2010, versus 11.2 percent for California, 10.0 percent for New York, and 9.9 percent for the nation.

In 2000, Texas set the goal of “closing the gaps” in participation and success in higher education by 2015 by increasing the number of students enrolled and the number of degrees awarded. A 2006 goal revision called for the number of students enrolled to increase from the original goal of 500,000 by 2015 to 630,000 by 2015. Also, the goal for the overall number of degrees awarded by 2015 was adjusted from the original goal of 163,000 to 210,000.

Although increasing the percentage of high school graduates who go on to college is not an official “closing the gaps” goal, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) reports that the percentage of students entering college in the summer or fall immediately after high school graduation* gradually increased from 2003 to 2011. However, between 2012-2014 this percentage remained constant across Texas at 51 percent. Currently, about half of all 2015 Texas high school graduates enrolled in a Texas public college or university by that fall, up from 49 percent in 2003. The percentage of Whites who enroll still exceeds the percentage of non-Whites; however, this gap is closing. For Hispanics, the percentage enrolling in college immediately after high school has increased greatly since 2003. Keeping track of this statistic is important, because delaying postsecondary enrollment after high school graduation is a risk factor for eventually dropping out of college or never enrolling.

* Includes only Texas high school graduates who enrolled in a Texas public or private, nonprofit college or university. Data on students who enrolled at proprietary institutions or enrolled in out-of-state schools are not available. In AY 2007–2008, about 93 percent of Texas students who enrolled in college immediately after high school graduation were attending school in their state of residence.

Sources: “Closing the Gaps” goals: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) *Closing the Gaps*. October 2000 (<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/0379.PDF?CFID=11742258&CFTOKEN=38987795>); “Closing the Gaps” revised goals: Closing the Gaps Revised Goals and Targets for 2015 (<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1176.PDF>); Percentage enrolled in higher education: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000*, General Demographic Characteristics – DP-1 (population age 18 and over) and General Social Characteristics (population enrolled in higher education) (<http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>); Texas high school students enrolling in college immediately after graduation: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) High School to College Linkages, 2015, “High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Education the Following Fall: [State Summary](#) by Ethnicity and Higher Education Sector, Fall 2000 to Fall 2013” (<http://www.txhighereddata.org/index.cfm?objectid=2783AAA6-ADCB-E35A-5BFC8F501DC1D65A>).

