

Minnesota Education Trends, 2000 to 2005

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- K-12 enrollments have fallen and will probably continue to decline.
- The number of high school graduates is expected to fall starting in 2008-2009.
- The student population is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse.
- High school dropout rates appear to be stable or declining slightly.
- Young women are more likely to graduate from high school and college than young men.
- White and Asian Minnesotans have higher levels of educational attainment than do people in other racial and ethnic groups.
- Higher education enrollment has increased, especially in community colleges.
- The number of degrees awarded has increased.
- Minnesota ranks high on rates of high school and college graduation, but not as high on the proportion of people who have advanced degrees.

K-12 Enrollment Declines

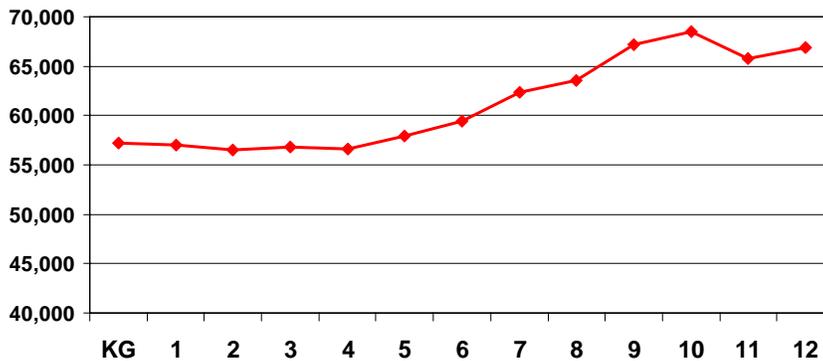
Minnesota's public K-12 school enrollments fell 2 percent between the 2000-2001 and the 2005-2006 school years. Declines were widespread, with enrollment numbers falling in 257 of 339 districts. Districts located in fast-growing suburbs were most likely to see gains in enrollment, while districts in sparsely-populated rural areas were most likely to experience declines.

Enrollments are substantially lower in the elementary grades than in junior or senior high school grades. For example, in the 2005-2006 school year there were 212,167 students

enrolled in grades 10 through 12, but only 177,687 enrolled in kindergarten through second grade. The lower figures in elementary grades mean that high school and junior high enrollments will fall in coming years.

Enrollments are lower in elementary grades

Public School Enrollment by Grade



Minnesota Department of Education data

Enrollments in the lower grades should increase in future years, though this increase may not offset declining enrollments in the higher grades. In the very lowest grades, enrollment is already on the upswing, reflecting an increase in births. Kindergarten and first grade enrollments are higher than second, third and fourth-grade enrollments. Statewide, births have generally trended upwards since 1995, though the annual numbers fluctuate. There were 70,614 births in 2004 compared to 63,681 in 1995. Births from 2000 to 2004 were 6 percent higher than births from 1995 to 1999.

White Enrollments Fall; Minority Enrollments Increase

Students are becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. White enrollments fell 7.6 percent from 2000-2001 to 2005-2006, while nonwhite and Latino enrollments grew by 24.4 percent. Latinos were the fastest-growing group, gaining 56.2 percent in five years. Black enrollment grew 26.3 percent. The increase in the number of Asian students was more modest at 10.3 percent, and American Indian enrollments showed little change.

**Minnesota public school KG-12 enrollment
by race and ethnicity, 2000-2001 to 2005-2006**

	2000-2001	2005-2006	Change	% change
American Indian	17,000	17,150	150	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	43,176	47,610	4,434	10.3
Hispanic	28,397	44,352	15,955	56.2
Black	56,052	70,794	14,742	26.3
White	700,415	647,457	-52,958	-7.6
Minority Total	144,625	179,906	35,281	24.4
Total enrollment	845,040	827,363	-17,677	-2.1

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

Charter school enrollments have increased dramatically, more than doubling from 9,384 in 2000-2001 to 20,608 in 2005-2006. Charter schools are independently operated public schools that are not part of any school district. The growth in charter schools contrasts with the overall public school enrollment decline. Charter schools accounted for about 2 percent of total enrollments in 2005-2006.

Home schooling has also become more popular. In the 2005-2006 school year, 17,459 students were home-schooled, up from 15,249 in 2000-2001.

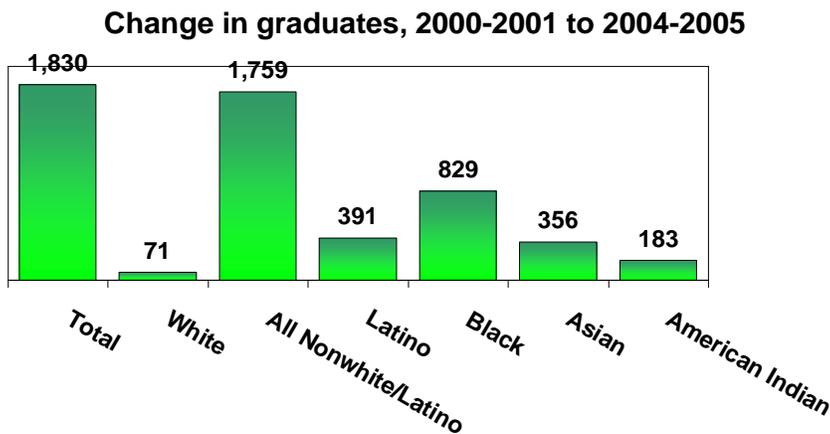
In contrast to charter schools and home schools, private schools are in less demand. Private school enrollment dropped 8.3 percent from 2000-2001 to 2005-2006, a faster rate of decline than for public schools. About 9 percent of Minnesota students, 82,258 in 2005-2006, are enrolled in private schools.

Number of High School Graduates Drops in Most Recent Year, but is Higher than in 2000

The number of students graduating from Minnesota public high schools increased between 2000-2001 and 2003-2004, but then dropped in the 2004-2005 school year. Shrinking class size is the major reason for the decline in the most recent year. Projections from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education show a slight rise in graduates between now and 2008-2009, followed by a decline stretching out to 2014-2015. Barring substantial changes in migration or graduation rates, the annual number of students receiving a high school diploma will fall about 12 percent in the coming decade.

High school graduates, like currently enrolled students, are becoming more diverse. The number of white graduates grew 0.1 percent; the number of nonwhite and Latino graduates increased 30 percent. Especially rapid growth occurred in the number of black (45 percent) and Latino (43 percent) graduates.

Change in number of Minnesota high school graduates by race and ethnicity

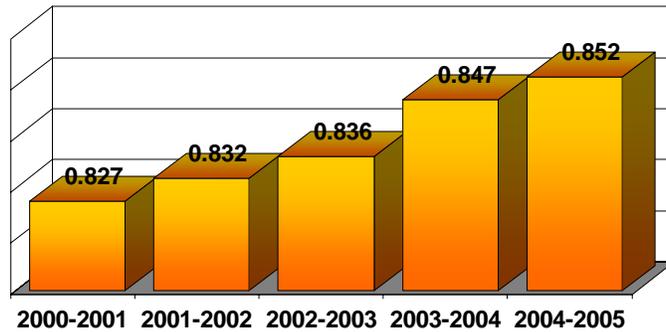


Minnesota Department of Education data

Department of Education data suggest that Minnesota high schoolers are slightly more likely to graduate now than at the beginning of the decade. The ratio of the number of graduates to the number of 10th-graders three years earlier rose from .83 in 2000-2001 to .85 in 2004-2005. These figures imply the current dropout rate is about 15 percent, though data from other sources suggests many dropouts do eventually complete high school, either by returning at a later time or by taking the GED test.

Minnesota high school graduation rates rise slightly

Ratio of graduates to 10th graders 3 years before

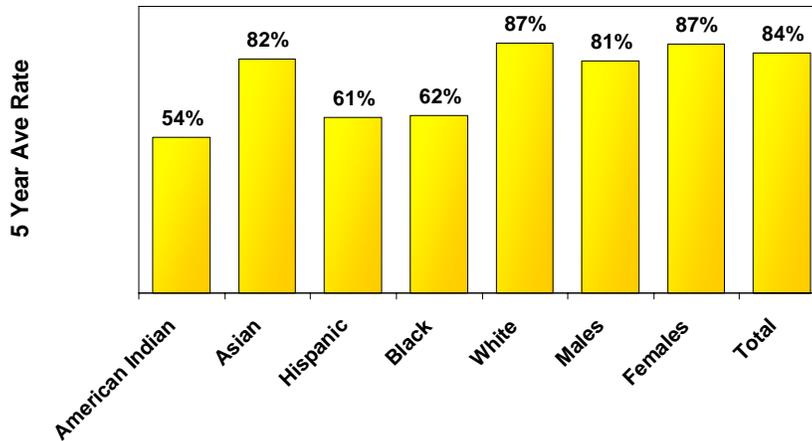


Minnesota Department of Education data

In the 2005 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, 8 percent of the household population ages 20 to 24 were not enrolled in school and had not completed high school. The comparable rate in the 2000 Census Public Use Microdata Sample was about 10 percent. Like the Department of Education statistics, the survey data suggest dropout rates have fallen just slightly. Sampling error in the surveys is substantial, however.

Though the number of nonwhite and Latino high school graduates is increasing, gaps in graduation rates by race and ethnicity remain large. The ratio of graduates to 10th grade enrollment is only 54 percent for American Indians, 61 percent for Latinos and 62 percent for blacks. Graduation trends for minority students show erratic trends from year to year without a clear upward or downward shift.

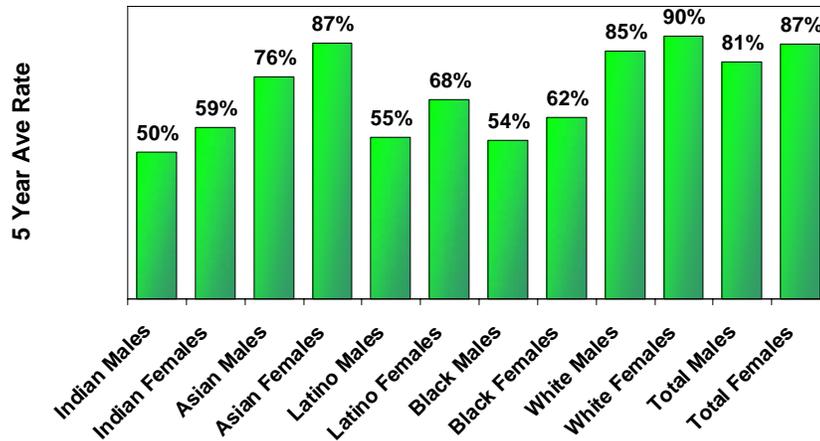
Minnesota High School Graduation Ratio: Large Differences Exist



2000-01 through 2004-05 graduates. Based on 10th grade enrollment three years earlier.

The graduation data also show a sharp gender divide. In every race and ethnic group, young women are more likely to graduate than young men. Using the ratio of 10th grade enrollment to number of graduates three years later, the overall graduation rate is 87 percent for young women compared to 81 percent for young men. In some ethnic groups the gender gap is even larger. For example, 68 percent of Latino women graduate but only 55 percent of Latino males.

In every Minnesota ethnic group, females have higher graduation rates



2000-01 through 2004-05 graduates. Based on 10th grade enrollment three years earlier.

Although high school graduation rates seem to be stable or rising slightly at the present time, the data highlight some areas of concern. If graduation rates are not improved for nonwhite and Latino students, the overall rate will eventually erode as these students make up a larger share of total enrollments. It also appears that young men are lagging behind young women in educational attainment, with potential negative impacts on their future earnings and career potential. Data from the 2005 American Community Survey show that men with a Bachelor's degree have median earnings of \$52,518, compared to \$33,324 for high school graduates and \$22,885 for those who did not complete high school.

More Students Attend College

Data from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education show that more students are attending college and receiving degrees. Between 2000 and 2005 enrollment in higher education of all levels grew 26 percent, including a 10 percent gain in public institutions and a 75 percent gain in private institutions. The gain in private institutions is overstated because it reflects better reporting by private career schools. Private career schools reported 9,705 enrollees in 2000 and 56,455 students in 2005. While there may have been some real increase, much of this change is methodological rather than substantive. The growth in private school enrollment also reflects the gains for Walden and Capella Universities, online institutions headquartered in Minnesota.

Minnesota Enrollment Data by Institution Type

Headcount Enrollment , 2000 and 2005

	2000	2005	Change
Total Public	219,131	241,254	22,123
Community and Technical Colleges	101,875	112,111	10,236
State Universities	58,073	63,654	5,581
University of Minnesota	59,183	65,489	6,306
Total Private	70,479	123,651	53,172
Private Colleges & Universities	57,351	63,067	5,716
Career Schools	9,705	56,455	46,750
Graduate & Professional	3,423	4,129	706
All Minnesota Institutions	289,610	364,905	75,295

The increase in private career school enrollment is largely due to better reporting compliance, increases in enrollment, and enrollment reporting by Capella and Walden Universities--nationwide online institutions with corporate offices in Minnesota.

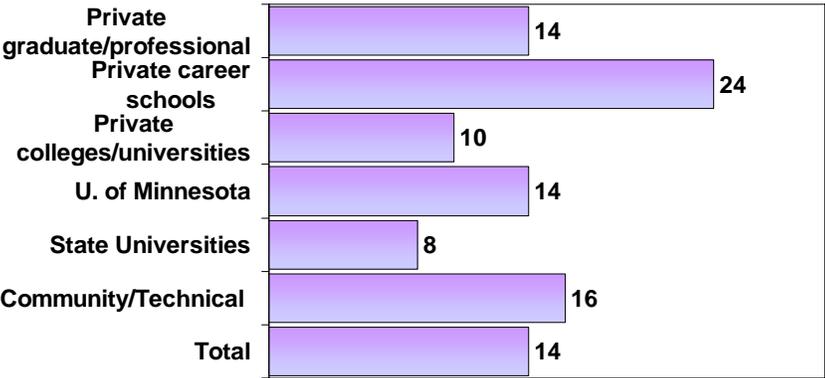
Source: Minnesota Office of Higher Education

More than two-thirds of higher education students are enrolled in public institutions, with community and technical colleges the most common choice.

About 14 percent of all students enrolled in Minnesota's institutions of higher education are nonwhite or Latino. Private career schools have the highest proportion of nonwhite and Latino students. State university campuses have the lowest.

14% of Minnesota higher education students are nonwhite/Latino

Nonwhite/Latino as % of all students, 2005



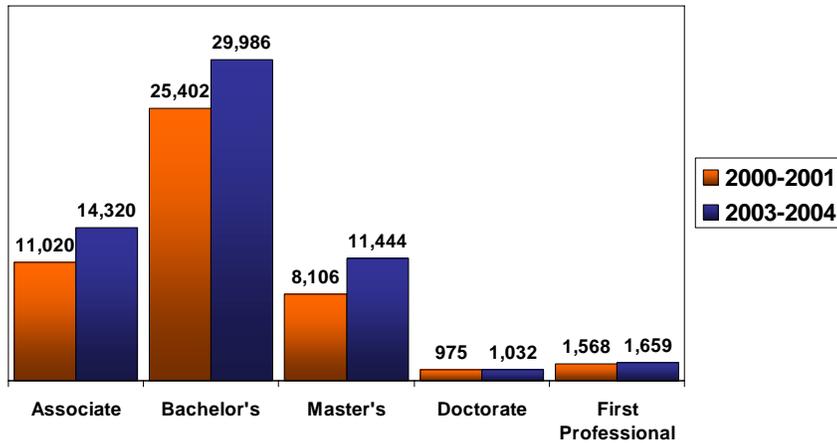
Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Fifty-eight percent of higher education students are women. Women outnumber men in all major types of institutions except private graduate and professional schools.

More Degrees Are Awarded

The number of college and university degrees awarded in Minnesota grew 24 percent between 2000-2001 and 2003-2004. The number of students receiving Associate degrees grew 30 percent, the number obtaining Bachelor's degrees went up 18 percent, and the number of Master's degree recipients shot up 41 percent. The number of students receiving doctorates and professional degrees grew more slowly at 5 percent. Slightly more than half of all degrees received are Bachelor's degrees.

Degrees awarded by Minnesota post-secondary institutions



Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Minnesota Ranks High on High School Completion

Among all Minnesotans over age 25, 90.9 percent have completed high school, the 2005 American Community Survey reported. Minnesota has the third-highest rate of high school completion among all states. Minnesota ranks lower on the percent that have completed college – 11th, with 30.7 percent – and on the percent who have completed an advanced degree – 20th, with 9.7 percent. States in the northeastern Boston-Washington corridor lead in advanced degrees.

The American Community Survey data confirms substantial educational discrepancies by race and ethnicity. Only 60 percent of Minnesota Latinos over age 25 have completed high school, compared to 92 percent of white alone adults. Asians had the highest rate of college graduation, 39 percent, but also lagged behind most other groups on high school graduation. The figures for Asians illustrate the great diversity within this population, which includes subgroups with both very high and very low levels of education.

**Educational attainment of the Minnesota population ages 25+
by race and Hispanic origin, 2005**

	White alone	Black alone	American Indian alone	Asian alone	Two or more races	Hispanic or Latino
Percent who are high school graduates or more:						
Males	91.6	85.9	76.2	82.4	78.7	54.2
Females	93.2	75.9	82.0	73.0	92.0	66.9
Total	92.4	81.0	79.3	77.6	86.1	59.9
Percent who are college graduates or more:						
Males	32.2	24.0	16.3	42.7	28.3	13.2
Females	30.3	17.4	12.8	35.6	26.7	15.5
Total	31.3	20.8	14.4	39.1	27.4	14.3

Source: 2005 American Community Survey
Household population only. Subject to sampling error.

Women are just slightly more likely than men to have finished high school and men are more likely than women to have completed college. These numbers conceal substantial variation by age group. Among those 18 to 34, women are much more likely than men to be college graduates. Among those 35 to 44, the proportion of college graduates is about the same, and over age 45 men are more likely to be graduates. The relationship between higher education and gender has reversed in the younger generations.

Young adults are no more likely to be high school graduates than are people in their 40s and 50s, but they are considerably more likely to have finished college. Thirty-six percent of Minnesotans ages 25 to 34 are college graduates, compared to 31 percent of those ages 45 to 64. The rising level of college graduation largely reflects the trend among women. The college completion rate is 39 percent for women 25 to 34, compared to 29 percent for women 45 to 64. For men, the rate for the youngest age group, 33 percent, is not only lower than the rate for women of the same age group, but is about the same as for older men.

**Educational attainment of the Minnesota household population,
by age and gender, 2005**

	Percent who are high school graduates or more			Percent who are college graduates or more		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total:						
Age:						
18 to 24	81.9	86.3	84.0	8.6	13.1	10.8
25 to 34	91.7	93.6	92.6	33.4	39.4	36.4
35 to 44	92.7	94.3	93.5	34.0	35.1	34.5
45 to 64	93.6	94.8	94.2	32.6	29.7	31.1
65 and over	76.4	79.7	78.3	24.1	13.5	18.1
Total, age 18+	89.2	90.9	90.1	28.7	27.7	28.2
Total, age 25+	90.3	91.5	90.9	31.8	29.7	30.7

Source: 2005 American Community Survey. Data are limited to household population. Subject to sampling error.

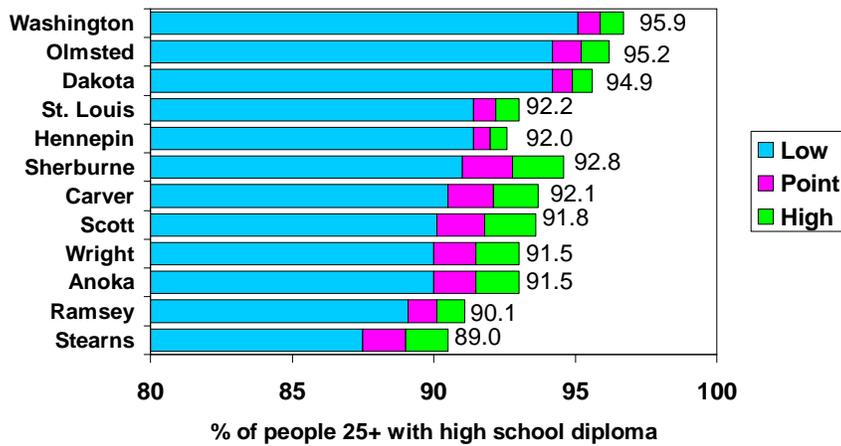
**Number of high school and college graduates
by race and ethnicity, Minnesota, 2005**
Household population ages 25+

		High school graduates	College graduates
White alone	Estimate	2,760,180	933,243
	Low	2,702,841	911,990
	High	2,817,519	954,496
Black alone	Estimate	84,675	21,698
	Low	69,278	16,647
	High	100,072	26,749
American Indian alone	Estimate	24,043	4,373
	Low	17,655	2,553
	High	30,431	6,193
Asian alone	Estimate	76,655	38,586
	Low	63,890	33,249
	High	89,420	43,923
Two or more races	Estimate	19,513	6,217
	Low	13,334	3,950
	High	25,692	8,484
Hispanic or Latino	Estimate	55,939	13,302
	Low	44,570	9,580
	High	67,308	17,024

Source: 2005 American Community Survey
Household population only
Low and high estimates correspond to a 90% confidence interval.

The 2005 American Community Survey provides data for cities and counties with more than 65,000 residents. Among the 12 counties which meet this criterion, Washington and Olmsted Counties have the highest rates of high school completion, while Stearns and Ramsey are the lowest.

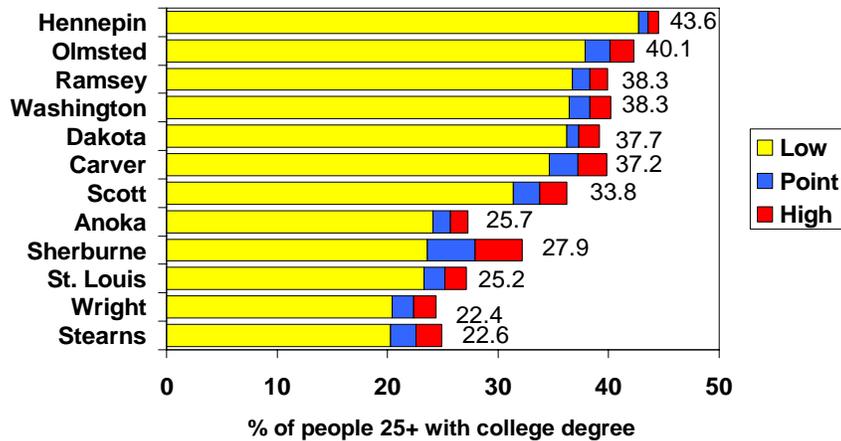
% of people 25+ with high school diploma, ACS 2005



Household population only

For college graduation, the picture is somewhat different. Ramsey County ranks third behind Hennepin and Olmsted Counties, while Stearns and Wright are the lowest.

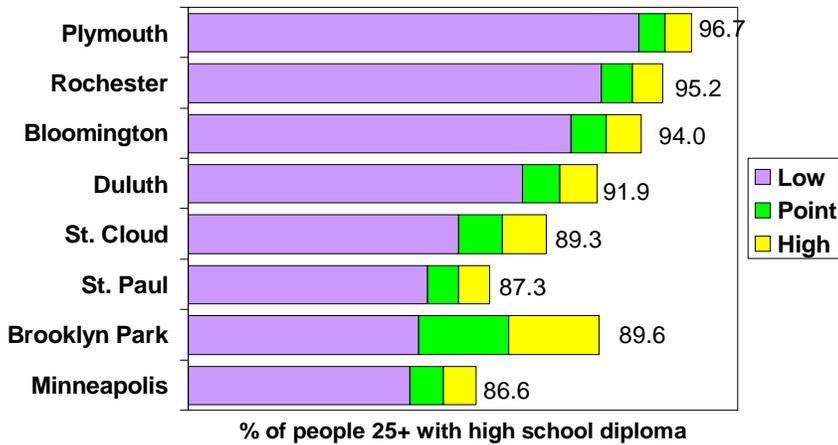
% of people 25+ with college diploma, ACS 2005



Household population only

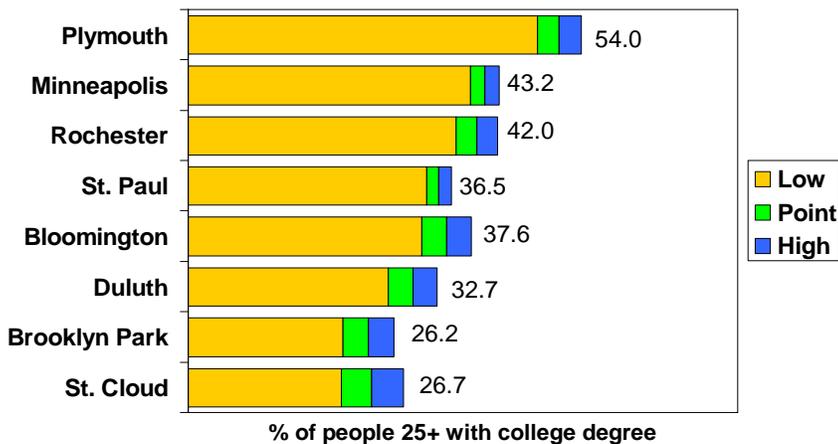
Among the eight cities for which data is provided, high school graduation rates in 2005 were highest in Plymouth and Rochester and lowest in Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park. College graduation rates were highest in Plymouth and Minneapolis. The American Community Survey data suggests Minneapolis and to some extent St. Paul are educationally diverse, containing larger than average proportions of both the most and the least educated.

% of people 25+ with high school diploma, ACS 2005



Household population only

% of people 25+ with college diploma, ACS 2005



Household population only

Minnesota Education: Some Challenges for the Future

Minnesota remains a state with above-average levels of educational attainment. However, the enrollment data and the American Community Survey data highlight some potential

future pitfalls. First, the large racial and ethnic gap in graduation and educational attainment, if not reduced, will depress the state's high rankings. Second, while Minnesota has an exceptionally high rate of high school graduation, it is not as high on the rate of completing Bachelor's and advanced degrees. As requirements for new jobs become more technical and complex, these higher levels of education may be increasingly in demand.

Sources:

“Rural Education in Minnesota,” Martha McMurry and Barbara Ronningen, Rural Minnesota Journal, September, 2005.

<http://www.mnsu.edu/ruralmn/pages/Publications/rmj/RMJ2-06/rmj2-06.pdf>

Minnesota Department of Education data center

<http://cfl.state.mn.us/datactr/>

Minnesota high school graduation projections, from Minnesota Office of Higher Education

<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=1290>

Home schooling data were provided by Carol Hokenson, Minnesota Department of Education.

Tricia Grimes and Shefali V. Mehta, “Minnesota Undergraduate Demographics: Characteristics of Post-Secondary Students,” Minnesota Office of Higher Education, May 2006.

<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/pdf/demographicV7.pdf>

2005 American Community Survey data and 2000 Census data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder

<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>

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