



Ethnic Disparities in Education: North County San Diego

A series of fact sheets & profiles from the National Latino Research Center at Cal State San Marcos
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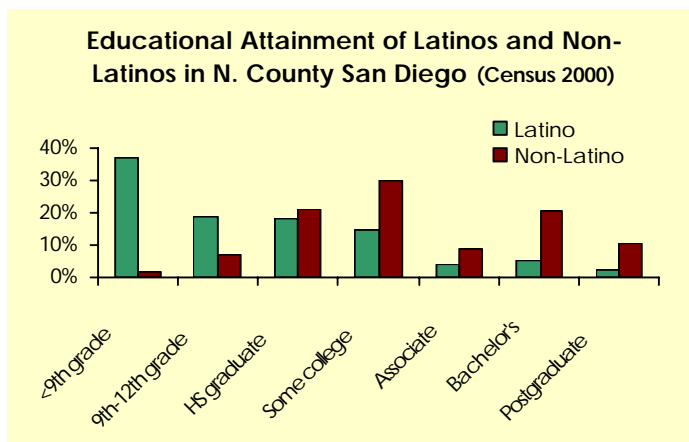
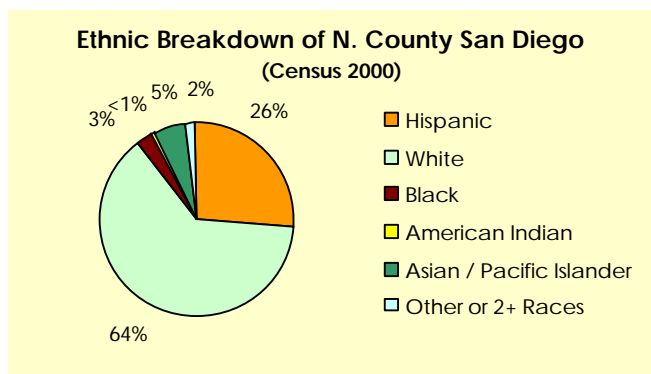
Nationwide, ethnic minority students lag behind their white counterparts at all levels of education. Latino students, in particular, experience disparities in educational opportunities (e.g. gifted education and college preparatory curriculums) and outcomes (e.g. test scores and graduation rates). If these disparities continue, the negative impact they have on students and society will increase as the school-age Latino population continues to grow. In North County San Diego (specifically, along the 78-corridor: Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, and Oceanside), Latino children under age 10 already outnumber their non-Latino peers. Within North County school districts, Latino children comprise 47% of the student population.

Ethnic Disparities in Education in North County San Diego

- ◆ Latinos are highly under-represented on the teaching faculty in North County school districts.
- ◆ In every school district in North County San Diego, Latino students receive lower Academic Performance Index (API) scores than any other major ethnic group.
- ◆ Latino high school students have high drop-out rates and the lowest graduation rates.
- ◆ Among Latinos who complete high school, fewer meet requirements for entry into a state university.
- ◆ Once in college, Latinos have relatively low rates of persistence and completion.

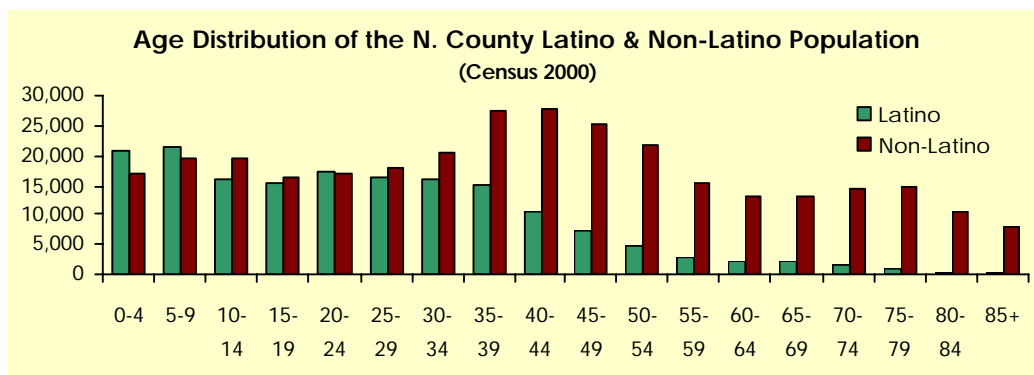
Demographics of North County San Diego¹

North County San Diego is an ethnically diverse area, with Whites (64%) and Latinos (26%) comprising 90% of the population. Other ethnic groups, primarily Asians and African Americans, account for the remaining 10% of North County's residents.



While fewer than half of adult Latinos in North County have high school diplomas (or GEDs), 91% of their non-Latino peers are high school graduates.

North County Latinos represent a young and growing segment of the population. Children (0-17) comprise 39% of the Latino population in North County. In comparison, children make up only 21% of North County's non-Latino population.



K-12 Education

Demographics of North County San Diego School Districts²

Along the 78-corridor in North County, there are 7 school districts with 110 schools and nearly 50,000 students.

- ◆ Latino students comprise a near-majority (47%) of students in these districts, with actual majorities in 2 of the 7 districts.
- ◆ In contrast, Latinos are grossly under-represented among the teaching faculty in these districts. In the Escondido Union Elementary School District, for example, only 12% of teachers are Latino in comparison to 59% of students.
- ◆ More than 1 in 4 students is enrolled in English as a second language. Of these, 96% speak Spanish as their first language.

2003-2004 Enrollment	Latino Students (% of total enrollment)	Latino Teachers (% of all teachers)
School District		
Escondido Union Elem. SD	59.2%	11.9%
Oceanside Unified SD	50.3%	12.4%
San Marcos Unified SD	48.3%	8.6%
Vista Unified SD	45.3%	11.2%
Escondido Union High SD	44.6%	7.4%
San Pasqual Union Elem. SD	29.8%	0.0%
Carlsbad Unified SD	23.7%	7.5%

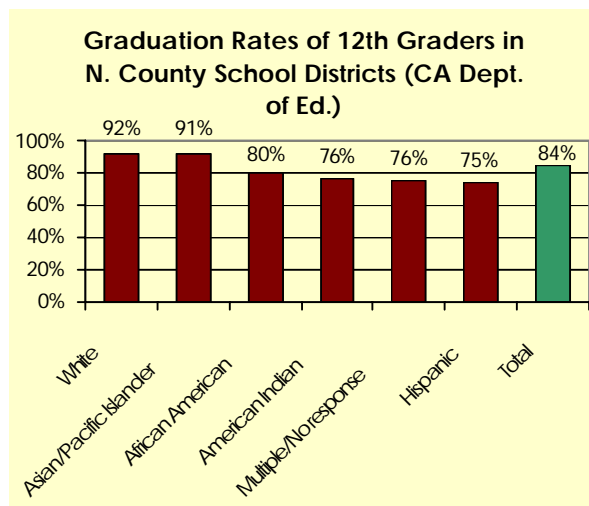
School Accountability²

- ◆ The Academic Performance Index (API) is a numeric score calculated for each school and district in California.
- ◆ The API is based primarily on standardized test scores.
- ◆ API scores can range from 200 to 1,000, with 800 as a statewide goal.
- ◆ API scores can be calculated for sub-groups within a school or district, allowing for comparisons of student performance by ethnicity.

2004 Base API by School District	
Carlsbad Unified SD	812
Escondido Union Elementary SD	696
Escondido Union High SD	677
Oceanside Unified SD	711
San Marcos Unified SD	740
San Pasqual Union Elementary SD	831
Vista Unified SD	701

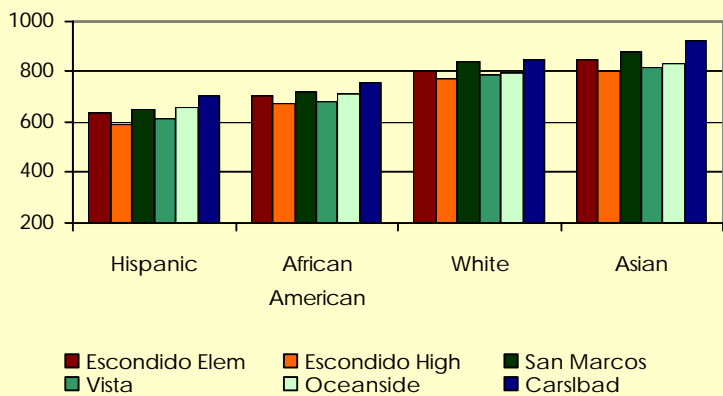
Graduation and Dropout Rates²

Throughout North County, Latino students have the lowest graduation rate - more than 1 in 4 Latino 12th graders fail to graduate.



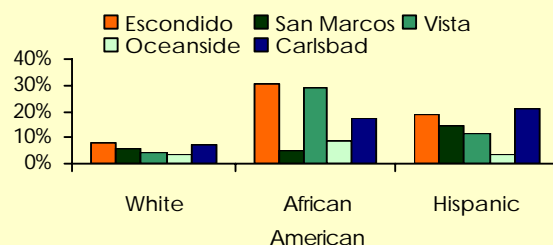
Latinos are more likely than white and Asian students to drop out, but less likely to drop out than African American students. Reported dropout rates among Latinos are not sufficient to explain their low graduation rates.

2004 Base API by School District and Ethnicity (CA Dept. of Ed.)



In North County school districts, Latino students are consistently outperformed by students of other ethnic groups, including African American, white, and Asian students.

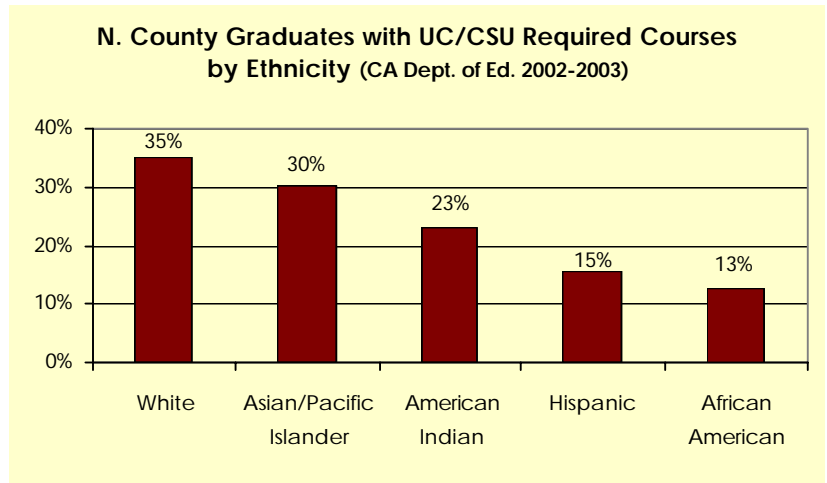
4-Year Dropout Rates in Grades 9-12 by School District and Ethnicity (CA Dept. of Ed., 2002-2003)



K-12 Education, continued

College Preparation²

- ◆ To qualify for admission to the California State University (CSU) and/or the University of California (UC), high school students must meet specific course requirements in addition to those courses that are mandatory for high school graduation.
- ◆ High schools track and report the number of graduates meeting the course requirements on an annual basis. (Other criteria, such as test scores, are used for admissions but not tracked by high schools.)



In North County San Diego, Latino and African American graduates are less than half as likely as white and Asian graduates to have completed UC/CSU required courses.

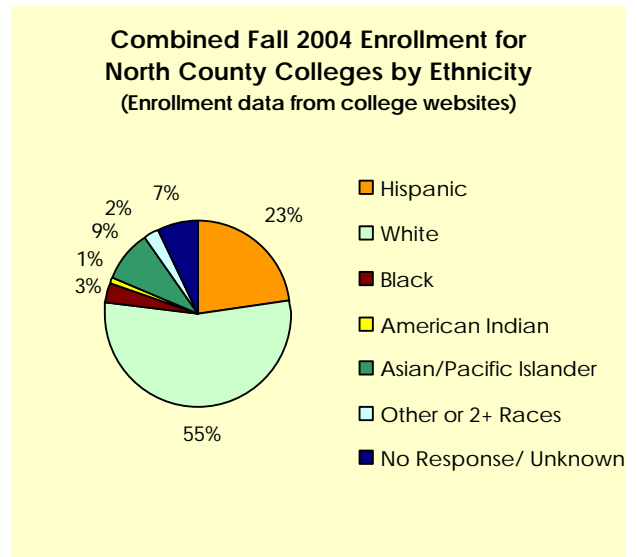
Post-Secondary Education

North County San Diego is home to three colleges. California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) is a four-year university that offers bachelors and masters degrees. A large majority of CSUSM students come from North County communities. In addition, two community colleges (MiraCosta and Palomar Colleges) serve the region. In total, nearly 45,000 students are enrolled in one of the three North County colleges.

College Enrollment and Ethnicity^{3,4,5}

Just as Latino high school students are less likely than their white or Asian peers to be prepared for college, they are also less likely to enroll. While 40% of North County San Diego's 12th graders are Latino, Latinos represent only 23% of North County's 44,648 college students.

Fall 2004 Enrollment at North County San Diego's Colleges		
College	Total Enrollment	% Latino Enrollment
CSUSM:	7,365	19%
MiraCosta:	9,674	20%
Palomar:	27,609	25%
Total:	44,648	23%

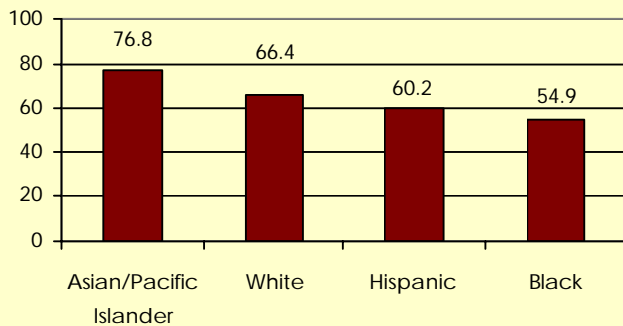


Post-Secondary Education, continued

College Student Performance and Ethnicity^{6,7}

Colleges often measure students' progress towards a degree in two ways. *Persistence* is measured as the percent of students who are still enrolled after a specific period of time (e.g., one semester or one year). *Completion* is the percent of students who have completed a degree in a specific period of time (e.g., five years). These measurements can be combined to reflect the percent of students who have either completed or are still pursuing a degree.

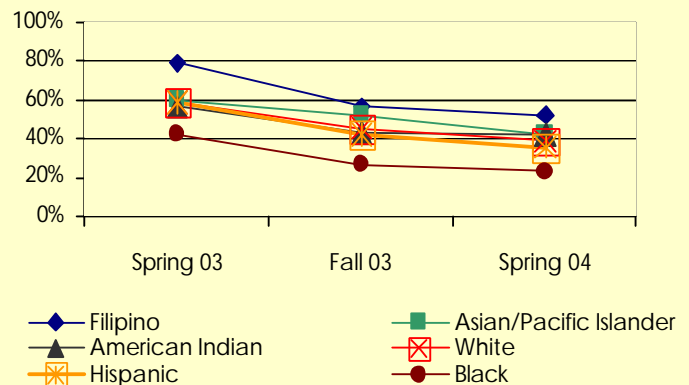
5-Year Combined Completion/Persistence Rates per 100 Students Nationwide (1995-1996 Cohort) (Horn & Berger, 2004)



National research has shown that Asian/Pacific Islander students have the highest completion/persistence rates, while black students have the lowest. White and Latino students fall in the middle.

Palomar College, which enrolls 62% of North County's college students, publishes persistence information for its first-time students for two years from enrollment. The pattern of persistence rates mirrors the national pattern, with Asian students persisting at the highest rates, black students at the lowest rates, and Latino students behind white students but ahead of black students.

Return Rate of First-time Students at Palomar College (Palomar College, Fall 2002 Cohort)



Summary

- ◆ Approximately half of all public K-12 students in North County San Diego are Latino, and the proportion of Latino children is expected to rise in coming years.
- ◆ Adult Latinos in North County San Diego are about half as likely as non-Latinos to be high school graduates.
- ◆ Latino students in North County San Diego school districts receive the lowest Academic Performance Index scores of any major ethnic group and graduate from high school at the lowest rates.
- ◆ Those Latinos who do complete high school are behind their non-Latino peers in preparation to attend state universities.
- ◆ Once enrolled in college, Latino students are less likely than students of most other ethnicities to stay in school and complete a degree.

References

1. U.S. Bureau of the Census (2000). (<http://www.census.gov>)
2. California Department of Education, Data & Statistics. (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/>)
3. California State University San Marcos, Services for Media, accessed 4/14/2005. (<http://www.csusm.edu/newsmedia/background/stu-enroll.htm>)
4. Palomar College Factbook, 2005. (<http://www.palomar.edu/factbook/default.htm>)
5. MiraCosta College, Research and Planning Districtwide Credit Census Report, accessed 4/14/2005. (<http://www.miracosta.cc.ca.us/rap/districtFall03vs04.htm>)
6. Horn, L., and Berger, R. (2004). *College Persistence on the Rise? Changes in 5-Year Degree Completion and Postsecondary Persistence Rates Between 1994 and 2000*. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Washington, DC; U.S. Government Printing Office.
7. Palomar College Persistence Fact Sheet, Fall 2002 cohort. (<http://www.palomar.edu/irp/standardreports.htm>)