

Social Determinants of Health

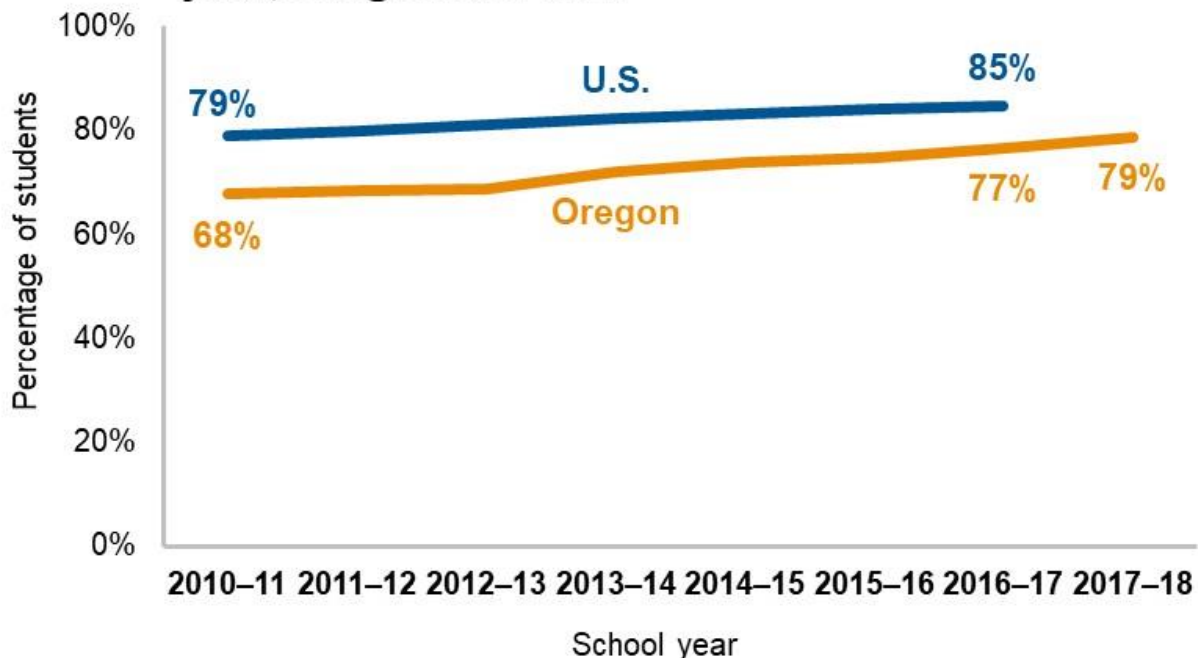
Educational attainment

Educational level is an important component of socioeconomic status, and a strong social determinant of health. People who graduated high school on time, and those who have some college education, have overall better health status than those with less than a high school degree.

The four-year high school cohort graduation rate represents the percentage of students entering high school who graduate with a diploma within four years. In 2017–2018 the graduation rate in Oregon was 79%. It has consistently been lower than the national average (Figure 1). While the Oregon rate appears to be increasing, 1 in 5 students does not complete high school with their incoming class. The graduation rate in Oregon was higher for girls (82%) than it is for boys (76%).

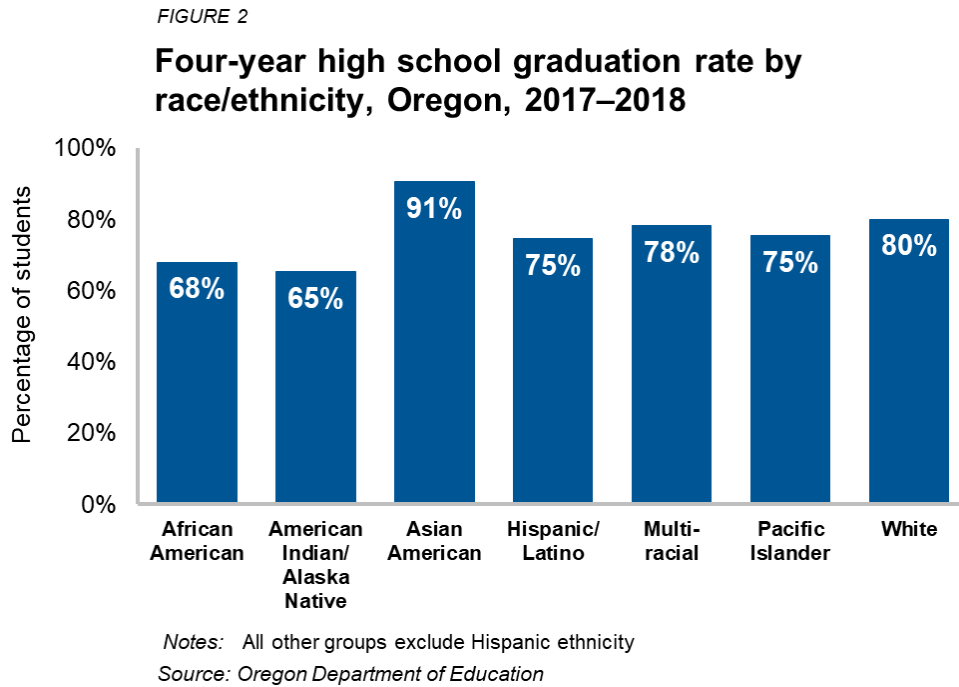
FIGURE 1

Four-year high school graduation rate by school year, Oregon and U.S.

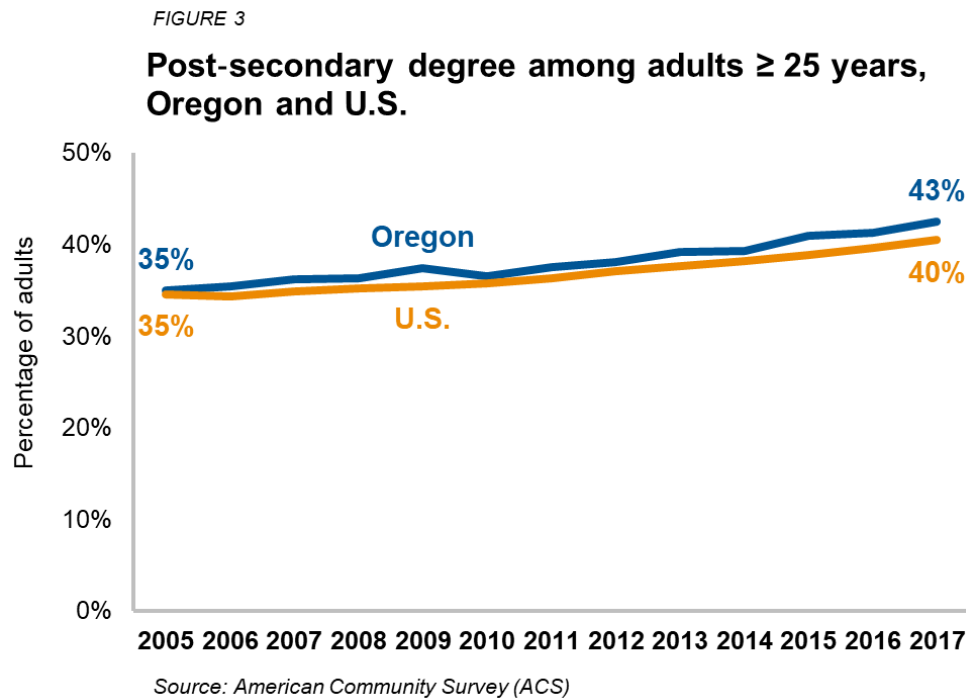


Source: Oregon Department of Education and National Center for Education Statistics

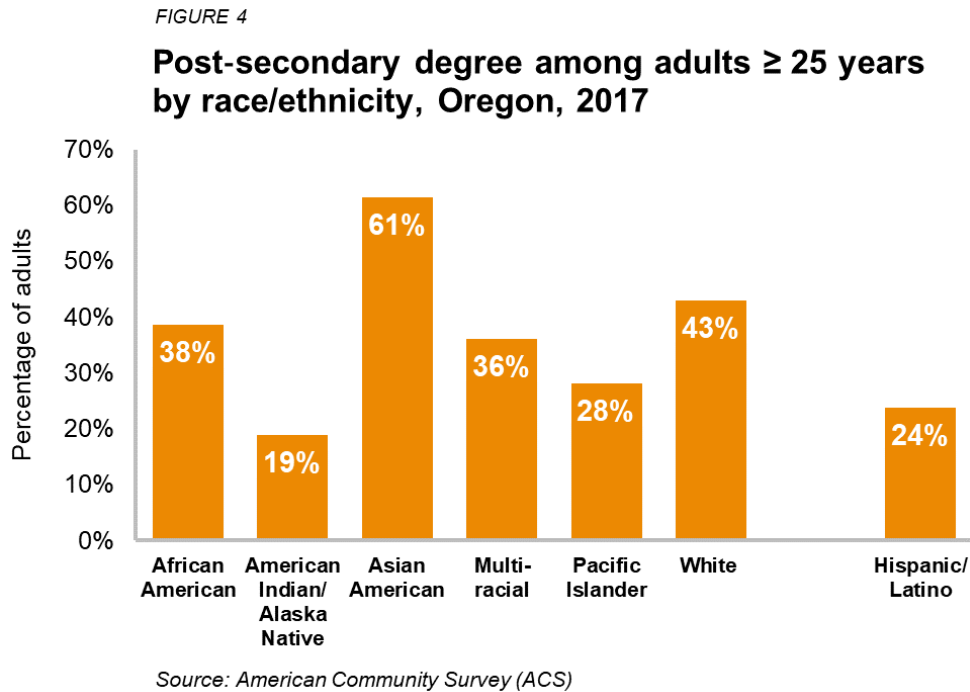
High school graduation rates differ by race/ethnicity in Oregon. Asian students had the highest 4-year high school graduation rate and American Indian/Alaska Natives had the lowest (Figure 2).



In 2017, 43% of Oregon adults aged 25 years or older had a post-secondary degree (men: 41%, women: 44%; Figure 3). The percentage of the Oregon population achieving a post-secondary degree has been increasing over time and is slightly higher than the U.S. as a whole.



Asians had the highest rate of post-secondary attainment at 61% and American Indian/Alaska Natives had the lowest at 19% (Figure 4).



Additional Resources: [Oregon Department of Education](#)

About the Data: Data source for high school graduation rates is the Oregon Department of Education. The four-year cohort graduation rate represents the percentage of students graduating with a standard diploma within four years. It is calculated by dividing the number of students who graduate by the number who enrolled four years earlier in the ninth-grade year (adjusted for transfers in, transfers out, and death). Oregon began using the four-year cohort graduation rate in 2008-2009.

Data source for post-secondary degree rates is the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing Census Bureau survey that samples a small percentage of the population every year. Respondents are classified according to the highest degree or the highest level of school completed. The question included instructions for persons currently enrolled in school to report the level of the previous grade attended or the highest degree received. Post-secondary degrees include Associate's, Bachelor's, Graduate, or other professional degrees. Data are reported for adults age ≥ 25 years.

For More Information Contact: Juanita Heimann, Juanita.A.Heimann@state.or.us

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[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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