



POSITIVE OUTCOMES

High School Graduation Rate

INDICATOR

Percent of youth who graduate high school within 4 years.

Numerator	Number of students who received regular high school graduation diploma
Denominator	High school youth who began in the cohort year

DESCRIPTION

This metric is the adjusted cohort graduation rate for the number of youth who graduate in 4 years with a regular high school diploma.

YEAR:		2014/2015	
WI	US	Best	Worst
88.4%*	83.2%	90.8% IA	68.5% DC
PAST YEAR:		2013/2014	
WI	US		
88.6%*	82.3%		

* Indicates a statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

IMPORTANCE

Youth who graduate from high school on time are more likely to go on to post-secondary education, and to have higher earnings over their lifetime contributing more economic benefits to society through increased tax payments and decreased utilization of public services (food or housing assistance). Graduated youth also typically see better overall health outcomes, making healthier choices and abstaining from risky behaviors such as drug use and premarital sex (Alliant for Excellent Education, 2011).

LIMITATIONS

- This metric includes only youth who received a regular high school diploma. Acquisition of a GED or other High School equivalence is not included.
- Some states differ in their reporting of graduation rates, particularly for children with disabilities. Full details of how data are obtained can be found at nces.ed.gov.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Wisconsin Analyses

Race/Ethnicity	% Students who Graduated
Asian, non-Hispanic	91.0%
Black, non-Hispanic	64.1%
Hispanic	77.5%
White	92.9%

National Analyses

Race/Ethnicity	% Students who Graduated
Asian, non-Hispanic	90.2%
Black, non-Hispanic	74.6%
Hispanic	77.8%
White	87.6%

SOURCE

Alliance for Excellent Education. (2011). The high cost of high school dropouts: What the nation pays for inadequate high schools. Washington, DC, retrieved from www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf.

Alliance for Excellent Education. (2006). Healthier and wealthier: Decreasing health care costs by increasing educational attainment (Issue Brief). Washington, DC, retrieved from <http://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/healthier-and-wealthier-decreasing-health-care-costs-by-increasing-educational-attainment/>.

National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). Table 1. Public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR), by race/ethnicity and selected demographics for the United States, the 50 states, and the District of Columbia: School year 2014–15. Retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2014-15.asp.