



New Mexico

Data Profile

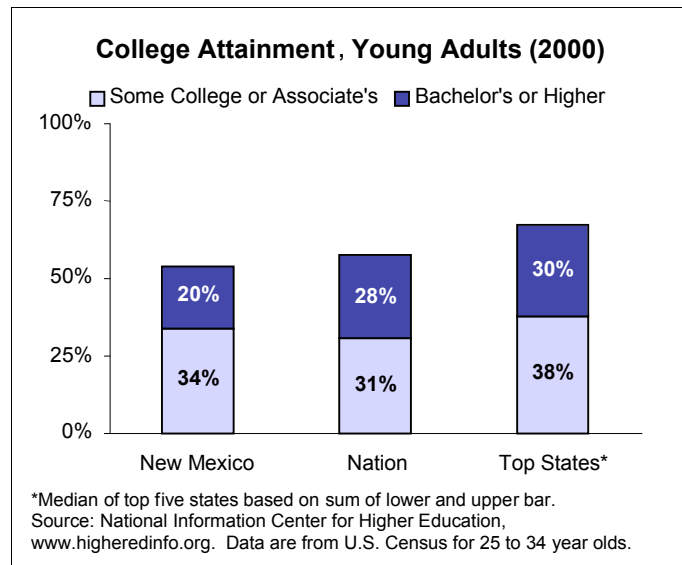
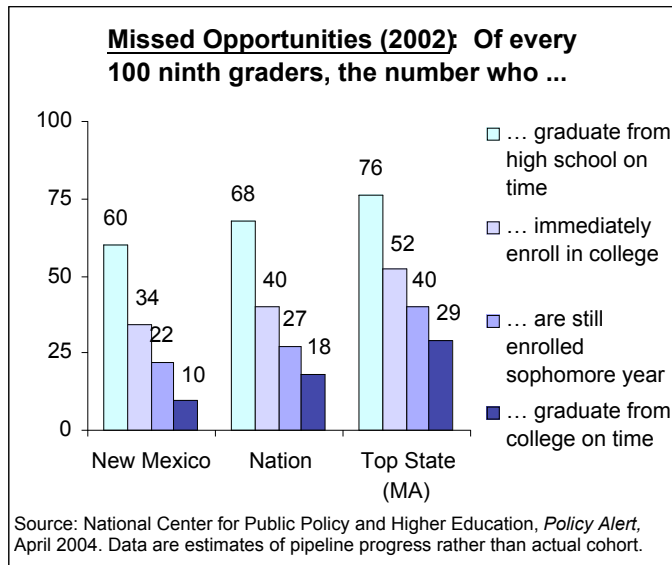
February 2005

This state data profile provides an important perspective on how well your state is doing in preparing young people for college and work by comparing your students' progress through the education pipeline with that of students across that nation and in top-performing states. Note that this profile includes only those data that were available for all states. Other agencies and organizations in your state have additional data disaggregated by county, program, district or school that allow a closer look at education pipeline issues.

The Big Picture

To be successful in today's economy, all students will need education and training that go beyond the high school diploma. The data below show how successful your state is in moving students successfully through the education pipeline. How many graduate from high school? How many drop out? How many go on to postsecondary education, either a four-year institution or community college? How many are well enough prepared when they get there to be successful and ultimately earn a bachelor's or an associate's degree? How is your state doing against the national average and top-performing states?

How many make it to, and through, college? How many young adults earn degrees?

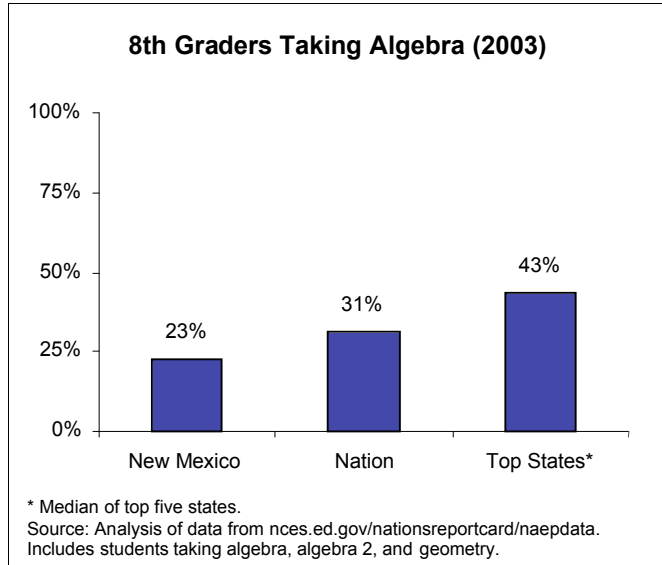


Is educational attainment improving?

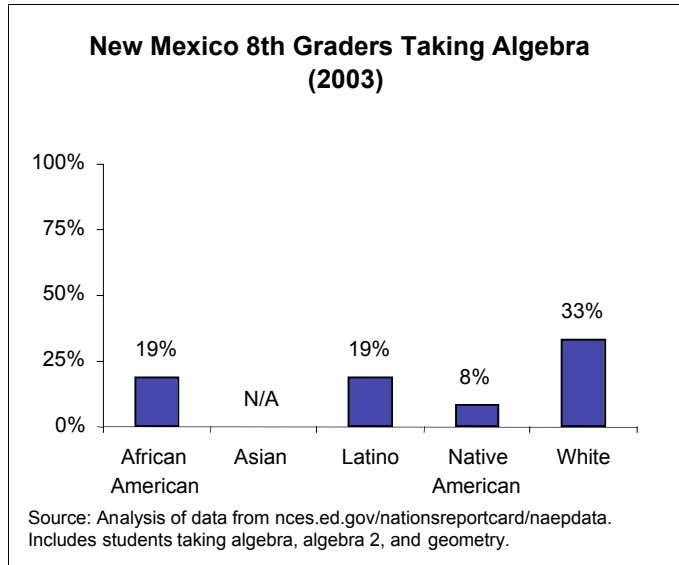
25 to 34 year olds with bachelor's degree in 1990	25 to 34 year olds with bachelor's degree in 2000	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (MN)
17.3%	20.1%	+ 2.8	+ 4.8	+ 8.7

Preparation for postsecondary education and good jobs begins well before high school. Students who take challenging courses and meet high standards in middle school are much more likely to enter high school ready to succeed. Algebra is widely recognized as a “gateway” course — students who take it by the end of 8th grade are much more likely to take rigorous courses in high school that lead to a college degree.

Are students taking “gateway” courses?



Are there inequities in course taking?



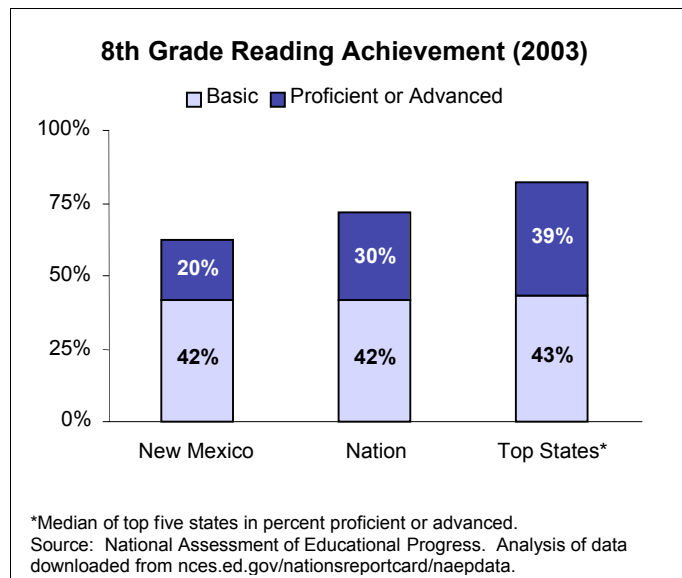
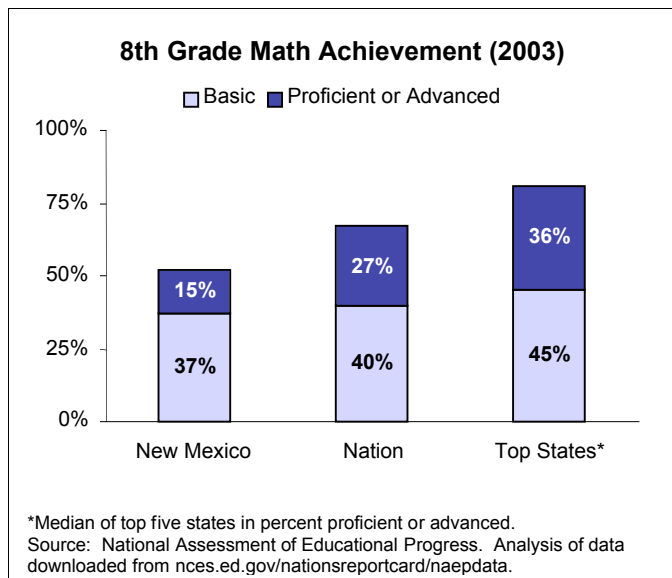
Are more students taking gateway courses over time?

8th Graders Taking Algebra in 1992	8th Graders Taking Algebra or Higher in 2003	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (CA)
13%	23%	+ 10	+ 12	+ 35

While each state gives its own reading and math assessments in grades 3–8, the standards for proficiency on those tests differ from state to state, making cross-state comparisons unreliable. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a common test taken by a sample of students in every state, making it a reliable yardstick for comparing achievement through middle school.

Are students achieving “proficiency” in math?

... in reading?



Is math achievement improving?

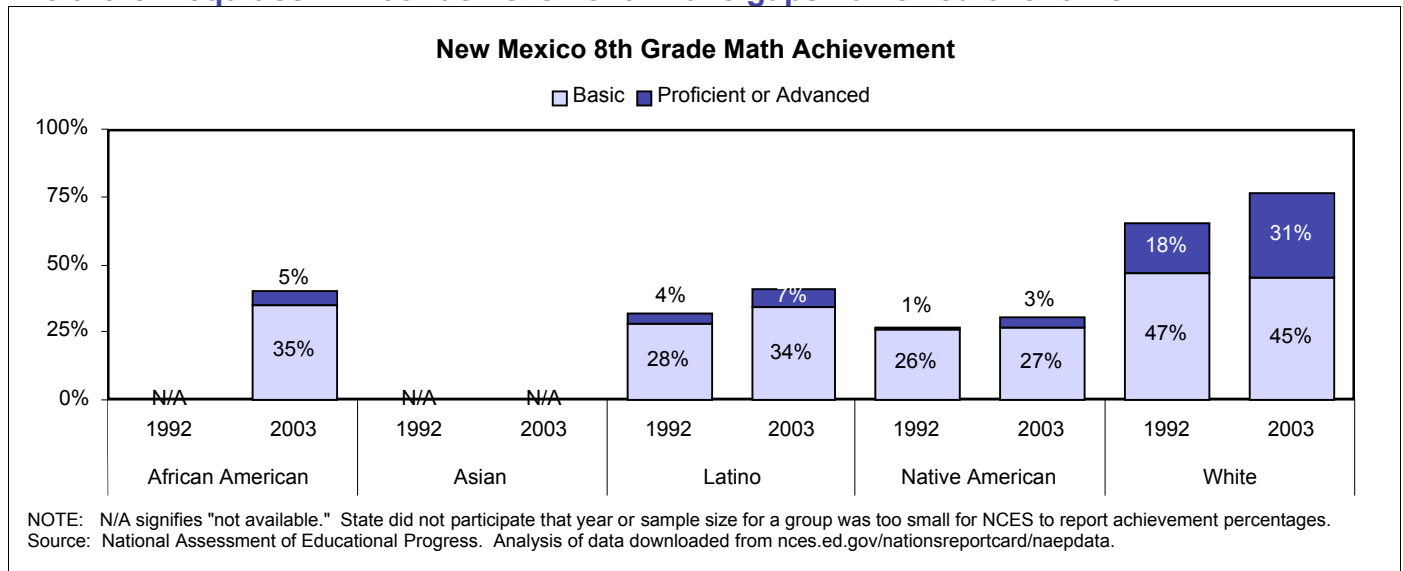
At or Above Proficient in 1992	At or Above Proficient in 2003	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (NC)
11%	15%	+ 4	+ 7	+ 20

Is reading achievement improving?

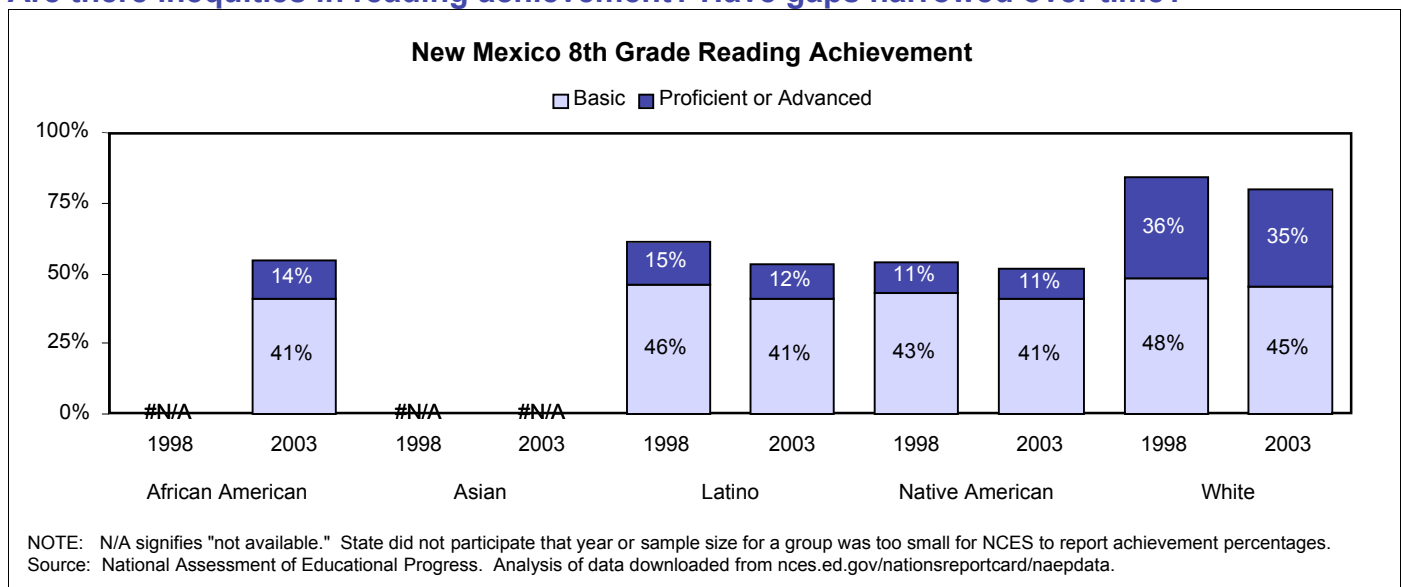
At or Above Proficient in 1992	At or Above Proficient in 2003	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (DE)
23%	20%	- 3	0	+ 8

In most states, there is an achievement gap that separates African American, Hispanic and Native American students from white and Asian students. How large is that gap, and how successful has your state been in closing it over time?

Are there inequities in math achievement? Have gaps narrowed over time?

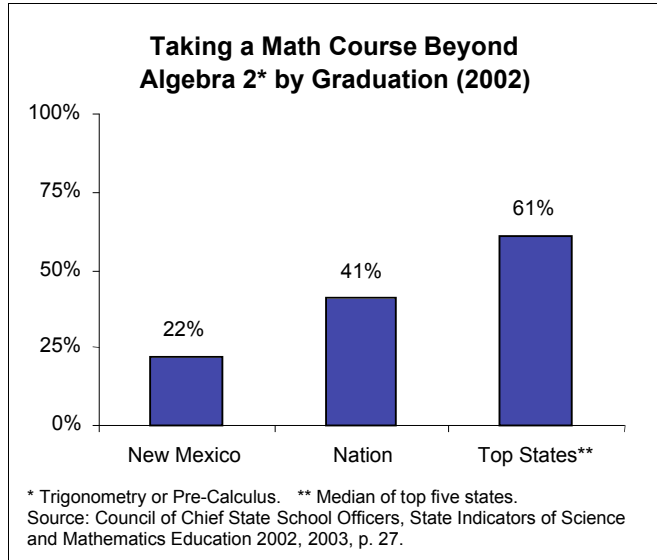


Are there inequities in reading achievement? Have gaps narrowed over time?

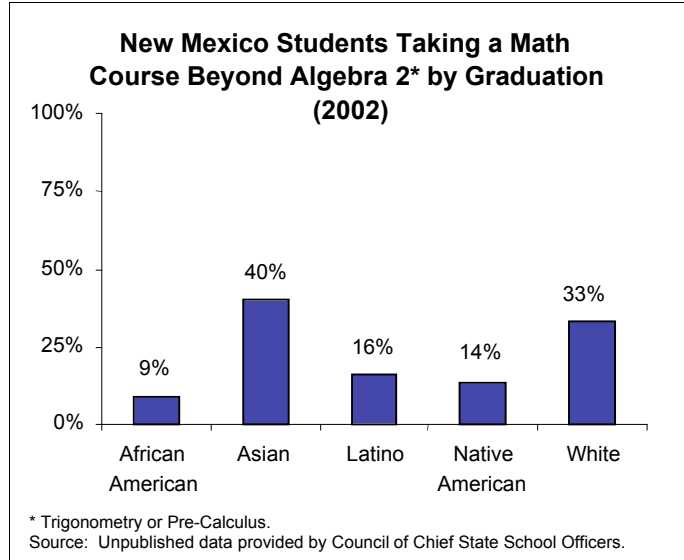


Research has shown that a powerful predictor of whether high school students will graduate and earn a college degree isn't only grades or even test scores, but rather the rigor of the high school curriculum they complete. Taking a high-level math course beyond Algebra 2 is a key indicator of such a curriculum. Advanced Placement (AP) exams show how many students are taking challenging courses and attempting to earn college credit while still in high school.

Are students taking "gateway" courses?



Are there inequities in course taking?

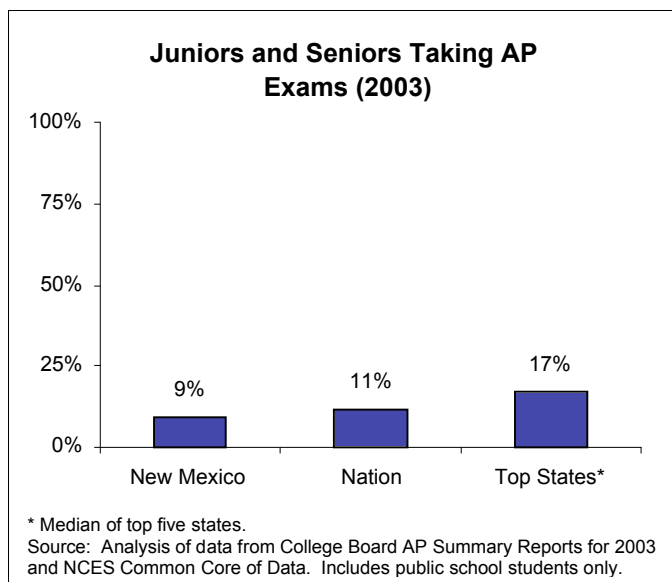


Are more students taking gateway courses over time?

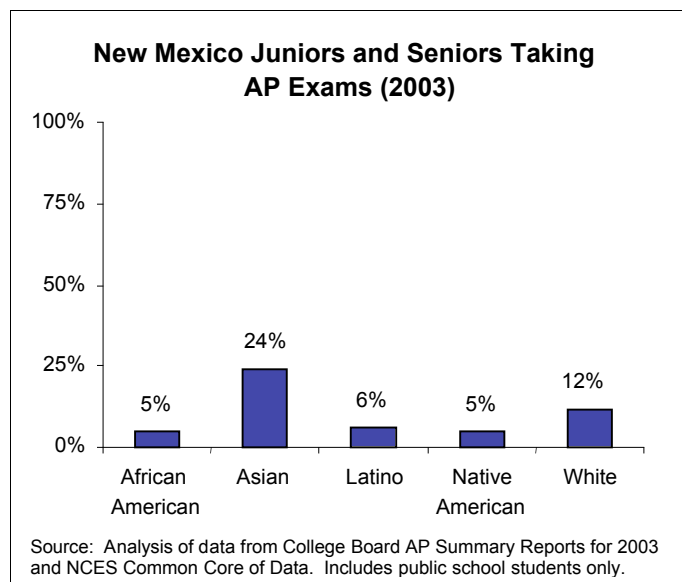
% Taking Trig/Pre-Cal by Graduation in 1992	% Taking Trig/Pre-Cal by Graduation in 2002	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (WV)
23%	22%	- 1	+ 12	+ 44

* Trigonometry or Pre-Calculus.

Are students participating in AP courses?



Are there inequities in AP participation?

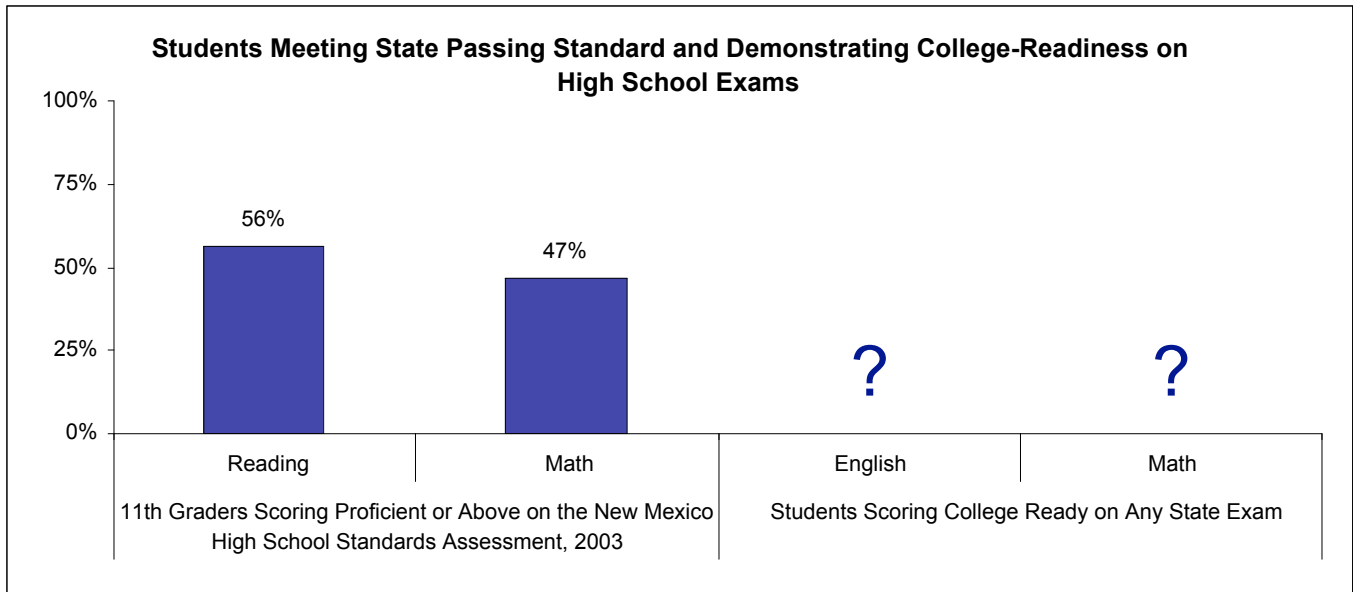


Are more students participating in AP over time?

1997 % 11th & 12th Graders Taking AP Tests	2003 % 11th & 12th Graders Taking AP Tests	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (MD)
4.8%	9.1%	+ 4.3	+ 3.7	+ 7.4

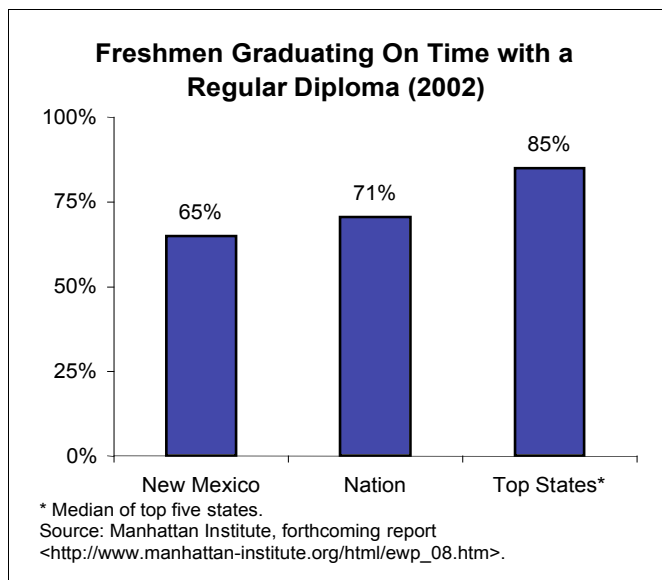
All states have high school assessments that students take by the 10th or 11th grade. In almost half of the states, students must pass these tests in order to graduate. The question each state should ask is whether students who pass the high school tests are truly prepared for success in college or work. Few states have designed their high school assessments to answer the question of whether students who pass are prepared for success in college and work.

How do students perform on state tests?

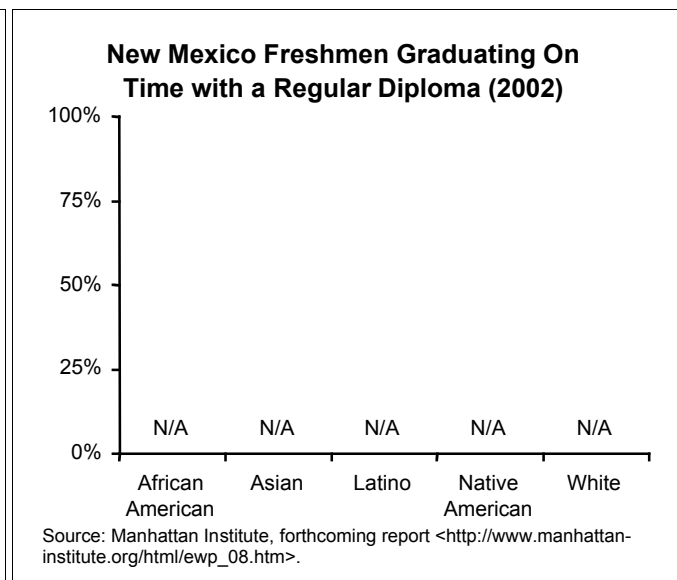


Nationwide, nearly 30 percent of high school students don't graduate on time, and the figures are much lower for disadvantaged minority students than for white and Asian students. Without a high school diploma, students' chances for success in college or the workplace are severely restricted.

How many students graduate on time?



Are graduation rates equitable?



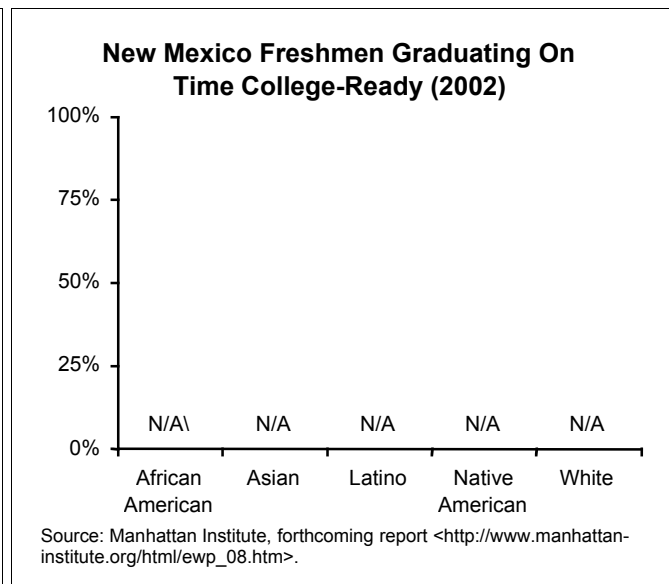
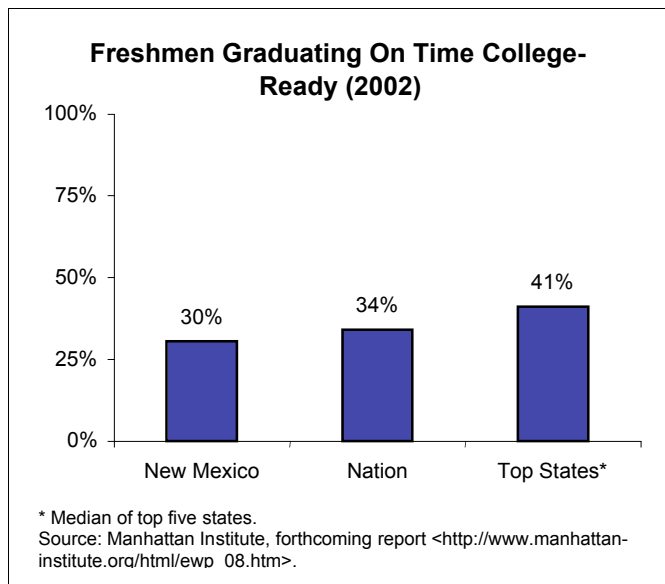
Are high school graduation rates improving over time?

High School Graduation Rate (1992)	High School Graduation Rate (2002)	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (NV)
70%	65%	- 5	- 2	+ 9

Jay Greene and Greg Forster of the Manhattan Institute have created several measures of college readiness. The data below consider whether students have earned a regular high school diploma, have completed the minimum coursework necessary to apply to college and have performed at least at the basic level on the NAEP reading test.

How many students prepare for college?

Are rates of college preparation equitable?

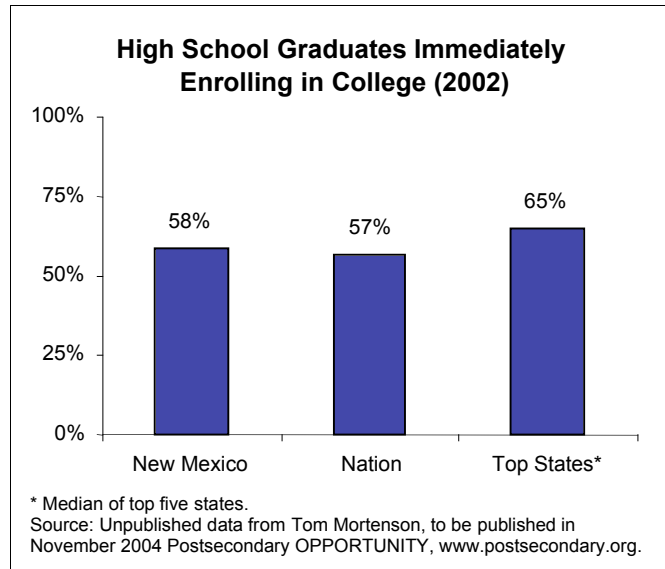


Are college-readiness rates improving over time?

College-Readiness Rate (1992)	College-Readiness Rate (2002)	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (WV)
26%	30%	+ 5	+ 7	+ 13

Earning a postsecondary credential has become increasingly important in today's economy, and some states have made significant gains in college-going rates. However, college admission is only the first step. Nationally, a quarter of college freshmen will not return for their sophomore year. Only slightly more than half of students in four-year colleges earn a degree within six years. The better prepared students are when they graduate from high school, the better their chances of getting into and succeeding in college.

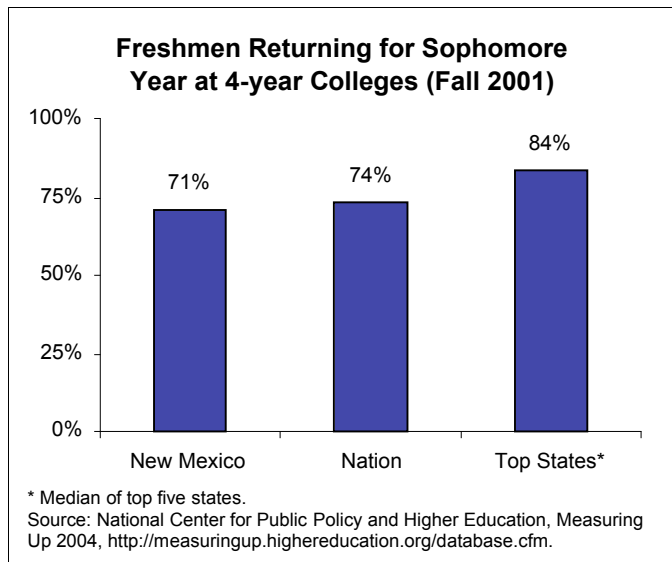
How many high school students enroll in college the following fall?



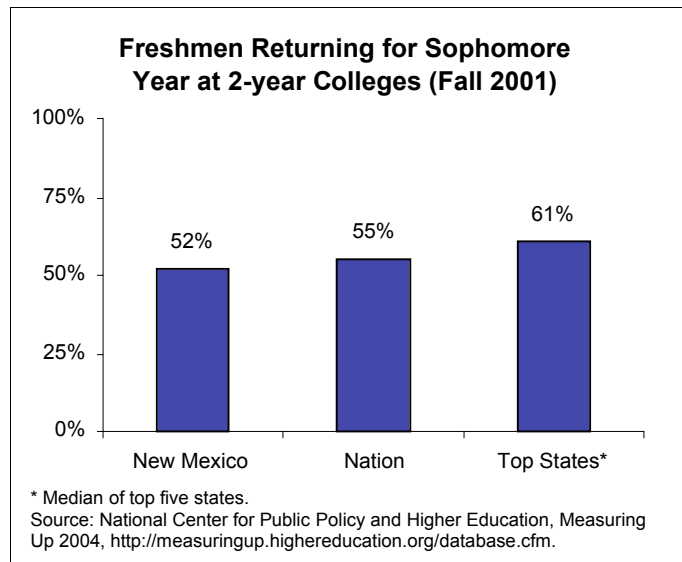
Are more high school graduates enrolling immediately in college over time?

Immediate College-Going Rate, 1992	Immediate College-Going Rate, 2002	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (SC)
50%	58%	+ 8.4	+ 2.3	+ 16

How many persist to sophomore year?



... at 2-year colleges?

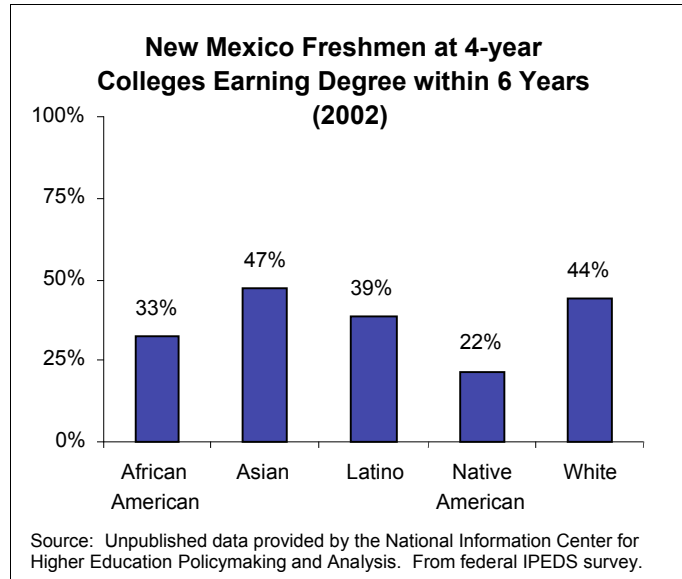
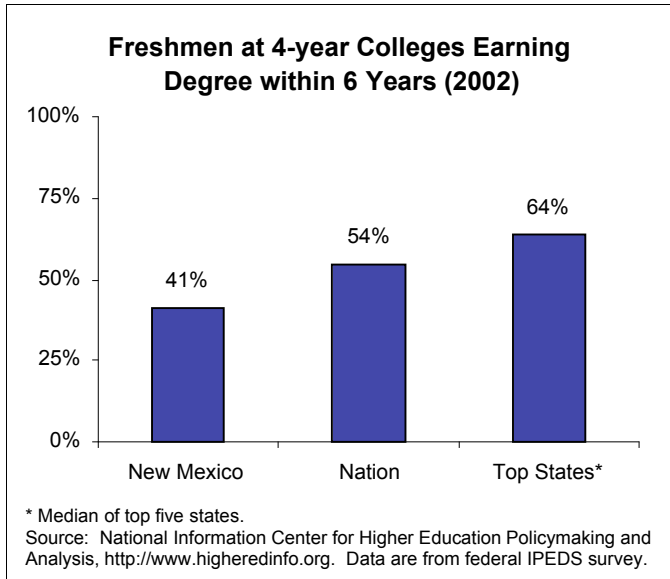


Are college retention rates improving over time?

Retention Rates at 4-Year Colleges in Fall 1988	Retention Rates at 4-Year Colleges in Fall 2001	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improver (NV)
N/A	71%	N/A	- 1.2	+ 12.3

How many graduate from college?

Are college graduation rates equitable?



Are college graduation rates improving over time?

6-Year Grad Rate from 4-Year Institutions, 1997	6-Year Grad Rate from 4-Year Institutions, 2002	New Mexico's Improvement	Nation's Improvement	Top Improvers*
35%	41%	+ 6.2	+ 2.1	+ 10

* Median of top three states (AK, ID, and WY).

Postscript

The [state data profile](#) shows how well your state is doing in preparing students for college by comparing your students' progress through the education pipeline with that of students nationally and in top-performing states. This profile includes only those data that were available for all states. However, your state education agency and postsecondary institutions may have additional data disaggregated by county, program, district or school that allow a deeper understanding and richer picture of these education pipeline issues.

1. Are your middle schools preparing students for success in high school?

- As students transition from elementary through middle school do they make steady progress in math and reading achievement?
- What percentage of your 8th grade students are at grade level in math and reading? Are there achievement gaps among groups of 8th grade students, by race, ethnicity, poverty, second languages and other factors?

2. Are your high schools preparing students for entry into college and credit-bearing coursework?

- What percentage of your high school students takes a college- and work-preparatory curriculum (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and analysis and statistics, and four years of grade-level English)?
- What percentage of the high school students in your state earn college credit while in high school?
- Do those students actually complete their college program/degree in greater numbers and shorter time than students who do not have access to those programs?
- What is the college remediation rate for high school graduates entering your state institutions? Does this vary for different groups of students?
- What indicators of academic preparation best predict which high school students will need remediation when they enroll in postsecondary education (e.g., course-taking patterns in high school, test scores on middle or high school assessments?)

3. How many of your students successfully complete their degree/program once they are enrolled in your state's two- and four-year colleges?

- Which of your state's two- and four-year colleges are doing the best job of graduating students on time?
- What is the employment rate of postsecondary students who complete postsecondary programs/degrees?