

When Race and Education Intersect:

The Impact on Students of Color College Success



Dr. Melva E. Black
Volunteer State Community College

“About 10 percent of our kids will make it, no matter what we do. We’ll take credit for them. Another 10 percent will fail badly — maybe drugs, or booze, or crime. Some of them will wind up in jail. We’ll blame them. The other 80 percent will flounder. We need to change the air in the room for all these boys.”

— Participant, Dialogue Day on Native American Males

“In our state, Crips and Bloods have a far stronger influence on young black kids than those of us with letters behind our names.”

— Participant, Dialogue Day on African American Males

“Sometimes I wonder if we weren’t better served during segregation. Black kids had black male teachers. Those teachers had nowhere else to teach.”

— Participant, Dialogue Day on African American Males



Mary McLeod Bethune

"We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends."

“Sociocultural pressures among Latinos and other minority males are high. There’s the stigma of ‘acting white.’ Bullying and forms of social control within groups is common. The gang culture and the attraction of gangs are powerful in many communities.”

— Participant, Dialogue Day on Hispanic and Latino Males



PONDER & ANSWER THIS...

1. What does your campus have in place to ensure students know how to succeed in your environment? What additions could your college add to further serve students and improve retention & success?
2. Pertaining to the increasing need for student motivation, when or what circumstances do you notice students' focus begin to fade? What interventions do you use to refocus or motivate students? Is it effective?
3. Is there a culture of student success responsibility and has everyone (students, faculty, staff, administration) bought into it? Is everyone aware of how their individual work at the college links directly and/or indirectly to students' achievement?

*Adapted from *Student Support (Re) Defined: What Students Say They Need to Succeed* - January 2013 - www.rpgroup.org

OVERVIEW

- ✓ **Population Under Study**
- ✓ **Factors Preventing Persistence/Success**
- ✓ **Success Strategies**

POPULATION UNDER STUDY

- 75% of students juggle families, jobs, and school while commuting.

- 1/4 go full-time, attend residential colleges, and most parents pay bills.
- Poor and students of color struggle the most to graduate. Least academically prepared for college. More are enrolling, but greater numbers not completing. Changing demographics economical competitiveness if students don't succeed.
- Students taking too many credits and much longer to complete. Excessive course-taking slowing down progress to completion. Students spending too much time in school.
- Remediation is broken, producing fewer students who ultimately graduate. Efforts to catch students up are most often leaving them behind.

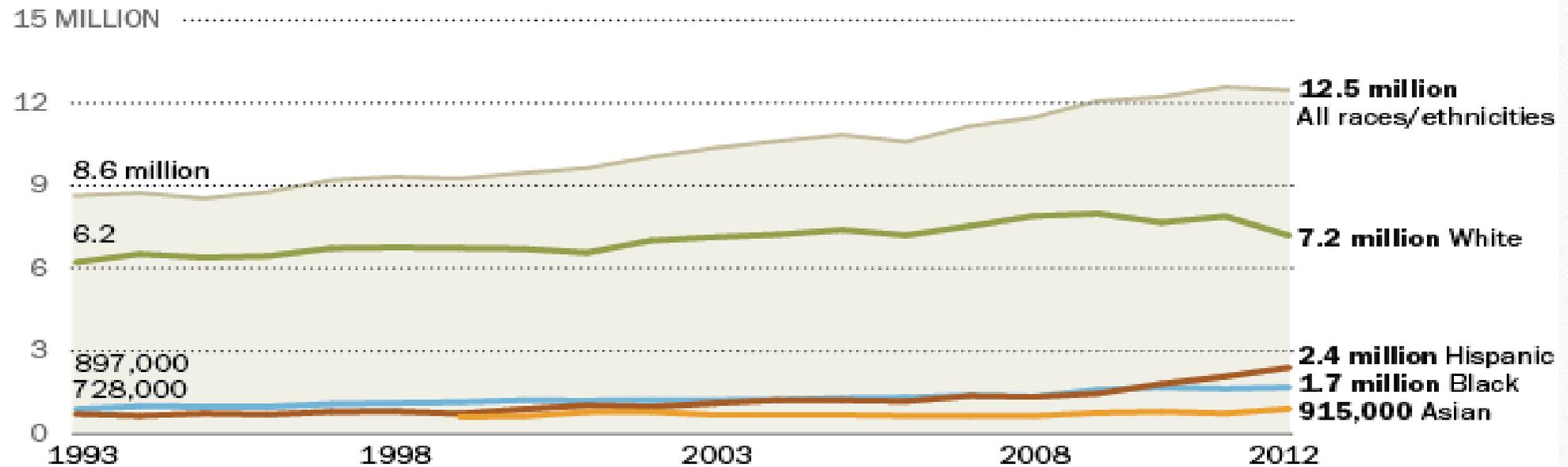
(U.S. Dept. of Education, 2011 & Complete College America, 2011)

Unless we move with urgency, today's young people will be the first generation in American history to be less educated than their predecessors. Consider this a sobering wake-up call — and an urgent appeal for action now. —Complete College America

POPULATION UNDER STUDY

College Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

Number of 18-24 year-olds enrolled in college, 1993-2012

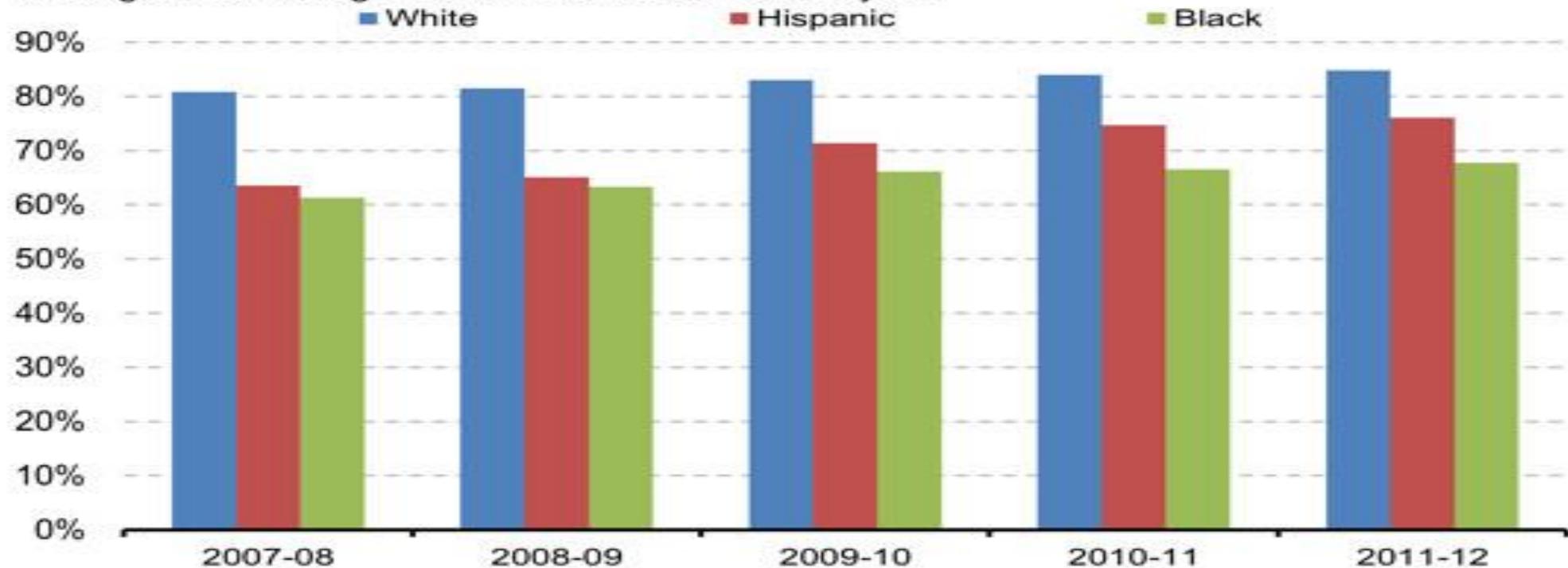


Pew Research Center, 2012

POPULATION UNDER STUDY

Graduation Rates by Race

Averaged freshmen graduation rate for each school year.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics | WSJ.com

Wall Street Journal, 2014

POPULATION UNDER STUDY

RACE AND ETHNICITY OF STUDENTS AT TWO-AND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

CATEGORY	Two-year public institutions (N=7,147,084)	Four-year public institutions (N=6,686,539)	Four-year private institutions (N=4,071,337)
All White students	59%	60%	55%
White males	25%	27%	25%
White females	34%	33%	30%
All Latino students	12%	11%	11%
Latinos	5%	5%	5%
Latinas	7%	6%	6%
All Black students	14%	13%	17%
Black males	5%	5%	7%
Black females	9%	8%	10%

POPULATION UNDER STUDY

On the SENSE survey, entering students say...

- **79%** want to obtain an associate degree.
- **73%** want to transfer to a four-year institution.
- **59%** want to complete a certificate program.

FACTORS PREVENTING PERSISTENCE/SUCCESS

SUCCESS STRATEGIES

BLACK BRUINS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEO3H5B0lFk>



REFERENCES
