

Education in Marin County on the American Human Development Index

A Portrait of Marin is an in-depth look at how the residents of Marin County are faring in three fundamental areas of life: **health**, **access to knowledge**, and **living standards**. The Marin report, part of the *Measure of America* series, examines the surprisingly large disparities within the county among different neighborhoods as well as along the lines of race, ethnicity, and gender. The analysis is based on the American Human Development Index, a composite measure of well-being and opportunity. The Marin Community Foundation commissioned this work to provide a holistic framework for understanding and addressing complex issues facing the residents of Marin County.

MARIN EDUCATION FINDINGS BY GEOGRAPHY

- The top five geographic areas on the Index in terms of education are all in the Strawberry–Homestead and Valley–Tiburon areas. The bottom five include Hill Road around Novato Heights; Downtown Novato, Pioneer Park, and San Marin in Novato; Point Reyes Station, Dillon Beach, and Tomales; Santa Venetia; and the Canal Area in San Rafael.

TABLE 4 Uneven Spending, Uneven Results

HIGH SCHOOL	Schools whose students have greater need tend to get fewer dollars.	
	SUBSIDIZED LUNCH (%)	ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LEARNERS (%)	SPENDING PER PUPIL (\$)	STAR EXAM (% at or above proficient)	
				MATH	ENGLISH
San Rafael High, San Rafael	51.8	21.1	8,237	28.2	50.3
Terra Linda High, San Rafael	26.4	5.0	7,682	36.9	64.1
Novato High, Novato	20.4	10.3	5,983	41.0	62.9
San Marin High, Novato	14.6	4.2	6,221	29.5	56.8
Sir Francis Drake High, San Anselmo	6.1	0.2	10,623	49.7	78.8
Tamalpais High, Mill Valley	5.4	3.1	10,494	41.4	78.1
Redwood High, Larkspur	4.6	1.1	10,340	59.8	84.5

Sources: California Department of Education, "Dataquest" and School Accountability Report Card 2009–2010, Education Data Partnership, 2011; Los Angeles Times, "California Schools Guide."
Note: The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) exams are California state mandated exams used for school accountability. In high school, they are administered in grades nine through eleven.

- Rates of college completion among adults in Marin are extremely high; 54 percent of adults today have at least a four-year college degree, and graduate-degree attainment is more than twice that of California as a whole.

MARIN EDUCATION FINDINGS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

- Educational attainment for **white** residents in Marin County is exceptionally high. Twenty-five percent of adults have a graduate degree, approximately two and a half times the national average for all races.
- Nationally, **Asian Americans** perform best in all three areas of the American Human Development Index. In Marin, however, Asian Americans have lower educational attainment and earnings than whites due to the proportion of adults who did not complete high school - though they still perform better, on average, than Asian Americans nationally.



www.measureofamerica.org/marin

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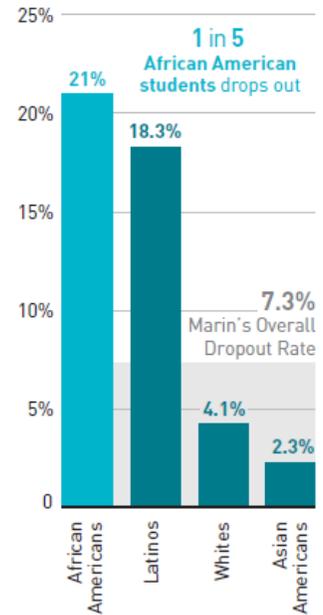


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HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

- **African American** adults in Marin are somewhat more likely to have graduated from high school than African Americans nationally (83.2 percent versus 80.7 percent) and have comparable or higher rates of degree attainment at all other levels of education as well. However, their rates of bachelor's and graduate degree attainment are three times lower than those of white and Asian American residents in Marin.
- As in the country as a whole, **Latino** education levels in Marin lag significantly behind those of the other major ethnic and racial groups. Latino educational attainment and school enrollment in Marin is about equal to that of the United States in the mid-1980s. Less than two-thirds of Latino adults in Marin today have completed high school. Schools serving the largest proportion of Latino students are typically found in less affluent areas of the county, where per-pupil spending is significantly lower than in more affluent areas. At a time when Latinos are the fastest growing population in the county and country, dedicating the fewest resources to the neediest students has important implications for Marin's future workforce and economic competitiveness.

High School Dropout Rates by Race and Ethnicity



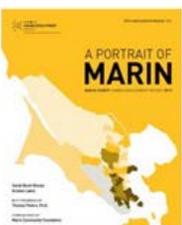
Source: California Department of Education, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System, 2009–2010 School Year.

Education accounts for one-third of the American Human Development Index. It is computed as a combination of two factors: school enrollment of children and young adults ages 3 to 24 and educational attainment of adults, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Educational attainment is the highest degree attained by residents 25 and older. The Index thus provides a snapshot of the access to knowledge within a population at a given point in time.

TABLE 3 Education Levels and Earnings by Race/Ethnicity

	EDUCATION INDEX	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (%)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2010 dollars)
California	5.37	19.5	80.5	29.7	10.7	90.0	31,551
Marin County	8.17	7.8	92.2	53.9	22.4	96.2	44,246
1 Marin Whites	9.26	2.7	97.3	60.7	25.5	100.0	51,462
2 Marin Asian Americans	9.03	7.6	92.4	61.5	24.2	100.0	43,534
3 Marin African Americans	6.15	16.8	83.2	21.8	8.4	100.0	31,608
4 Marin Latinos	2.82	37.3	62.7	20.3	8.2	79.0	23,795

Source: American Human Development Project analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005–2009.



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