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FEBRUARY 24, 2016

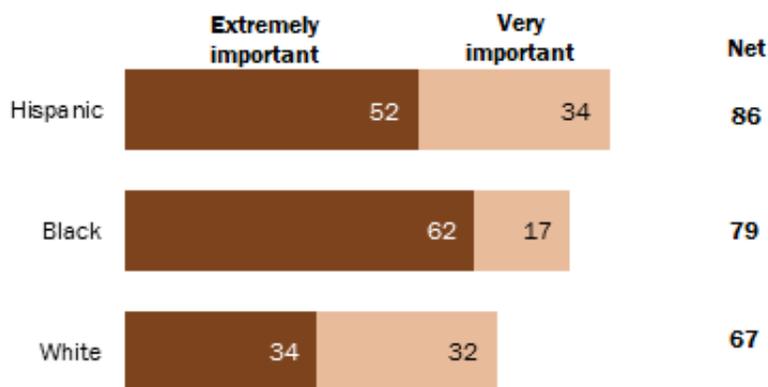
Hispanic, black parents see college degree as key for children's success

BY RENEE STEPLER ([HTTP://WWW.PEWRESEARCH.ORG/AUTHOR/RSTEPLER/](http://www.pewresearch.org/author/rstepler/))

Hispanic and black parents are significantly more likely than white parents to say it's essential that their children earn a college degree, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey (<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2015/12/17/parenting-in-america/>).

Hispanic and black parents place high value on a college degree

% saying it is _____ that their children earn a college degree



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of parents with children under 18, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015 (N=1,807).

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(http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/02/24/hispanic-black-parents-see-college-degree-as-key-for-childrens-success/ft_16-02-19_hispanicscollege_value2/) Today, 86% of Hispanic parents and 79% of black parents with children under 18 say it is either extremely or very important that their children earn a college degree. By comparison, about two-thirds (67%) of white parents say the same.

This gap may be linked to differing views on a college degree's importance in moving up the economic ladder. Roughly half (49%) of Hispanics and 43% of blacks say that a college education is a requirement to be part of the middle class (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/02/04/what-americans-say-it-takes-to-be-middle-class/>)

, compared with just 22% of whites. However, white adults are more likely than black or Hispanic adults to *already be* in the middle class (<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2015/12/09/2-changes-in-income-status-vary-across-demographic-groups/>) or higher, which may account in part for the fact that fewer whites see college as essential.

Over the past two decades, educational attainment and college enrollment have increased substantially among Hispanics, the nation's largest minority group, and blacks. For example, the high school dropout rates (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/10/02/u-s-high-school-dropout-rate-reaches-record-low-driven-by-improvements-among-hispanics-blacks/>) among Hispanics and blacks ages 18 to 24 reached record lows in 2014: just 12% for Hispanics and 7% for blacks, down from 33% and 16%, respectively, in 1993.

College enrollment has grown among all races and ethnicities since 1993, but gains have been biggest among Hispanics (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/04/24/more-hispanics-blacks-enrolling-in-college-but-lag-in-bachelors-degrees/>). In October 2014, 2.3 million Hispanics ages 18 to 24 were enrolled in either a two- or four-year college – up from 728,000 in 1993. Among blacks in the same age group, 1.5 million were enrolled in college in 2014 – up from 897,000 in 1993.

And while the share of Hispanics who have finished college hit a new high in 2014, they still lag other groups on this measure. Among adults ages 25 to 29, 63% of Asians, 41% of whites, 22% of blacks and 15% of Hispanics had earned at least a bachelor's degree in 2014. This gap is partly due to the fact that Hispanics are less likely (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/05/09/hispanic-high-school-graduates-pass-whites-in-rate-of-college-enrollment/>) than other groups to enroll in four-year schools, attend academically selective colleges or study full-time.

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