

DESCRIPTION

On-time graduation is calculated using first time ninth-grade students, including incoming transfers, and subtracting transfers out of a school within a four-year period. These rates are an important piece of determining the health of the community, as research has heavily linked education to health and longevity.¹ Research has also shown that students who do not earn a high school diploma have fewer job opportunities and lower earning potential which affects them throughout their lives, and negatively impacts their families and the community.²

HOW ARE WE DOING

The method of determining graduation rates has changed over the past few years, and the Healthy People 2020 target has shifted upward from 82.4 percent to 87 percent due to new research methods that obtain more accurate data. Ramsey County's on-time graduation rate increased 14.4 percent between 2003 and 2017. In the 2016-2017 school year, there was an on-time graduation rate within Ramsey County public schools of 77.1 percent. Minnesota graduation rates also increased, growing from 72.5 percent in 2003, to 82.2 percent in 2016.³ Compared to the Healthy People 2020 target of 87 percent, Ramsey County still has room for improvement.³

BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020: Increase the number of students who graduate with a regular diploma four years after starting ninth grade.

U.S. Target: 87 percent

DISPARITIES

American Indian students had the lowest on-time graduation rate at 50 percent in 2016. Statewide in the past five years, English learning students, African-American students, students receiving free and reduced priced meals, and Hispanic students experience lower rates of on-time graduation and higher dropout rates than other students.⁴

RISK FACTORS

The following demographic indicators have been shown to be most common in students at highest risk of not completing high school on time, or graduating: being male; being older than the average student; being a member of a low-income family; or being a member of a racial or ethnic minority group.⁵

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Since the program's inception in 2003, the graduation rate for teen parents enrolled in the Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health MFIP Teen Parent Program has continued to increase from 33% initially, to the 2017 rate of 77%. Total number of teen parents enrolled in the program have decreased, to a large degree as a result of the significant decline in teen pregnancies in Ramsey County. Teen parents report that consistent public health nursing and social work staff who establish positive, trusting relationships with them and who are knowledgeable about school options, child care alternatives, and support their successes, assist them in accomplishing their goals while also helping them through pregnancy and understanding their infant's and toddler's needs and development.

Information to note

- On-time graduation rates for Ramsey County school districts have increased by about 17% since 2003, yet still do not meet national targets.
- Statewide over the past five years, English learning students, African-American students, students using free and reduced priced meals, and Hispanic students continue to experience lower rates of on-time graduation and higher dropout rates than other students.

¹ Why Does Education Matter so Much to Health? Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2012/rwjf403347. Accessed June 13, 2017.

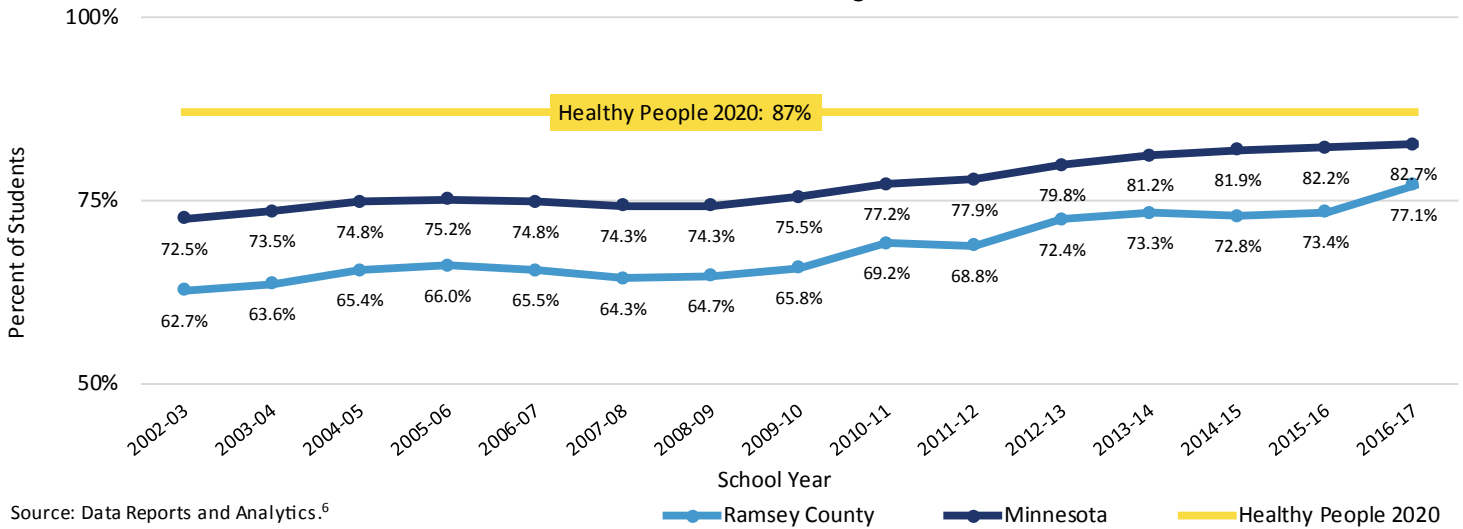
² Healthy People 2020. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Web site. <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/LHI/socialDeterminants.aspx?tab=data#AH-5.1>. Accessed June 13, 2017.

³ Minnesota Report Card. Minnesota Department of Education Web site. <http://rc.education.state.mn.us/#>. Accessed June 13, 2017.

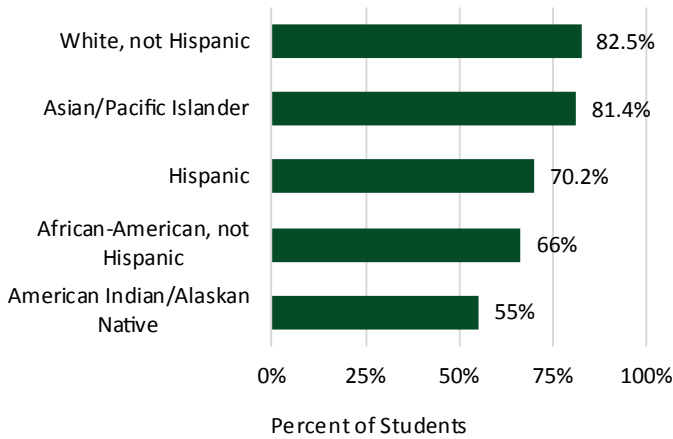
⁴ Data Reports and Analytics. Minnesota Department of Education Web site. <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Data.jsp>. Accessed June 13, 2017.

⁵ Dropping Out of High School: Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Remediation Strategies. R & D Connections Web site. https://www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/RD_Connections18.pdf. Accessed June 13, 2017.

On-Time Graduation from High School

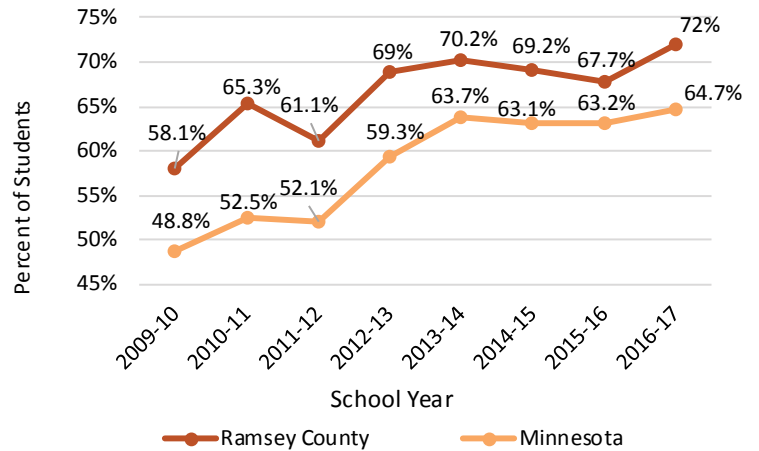


On-Time Graduation by Population Group, Ramsey County, 2017



Source: Data Reports and Analytics.⁶

Limited English Proficient Students Who Graduated On Time



⁶ Data Reports and Analytics. Minnesota Department of Education Web site. <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp?TOPICID=2>. Accessed May 2018.