

White Students and their Parents:

Fewer, Richer, More Anxious?

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Politics of Inclusion: Higher Education at a Crossroads



C. Barrotti

"I can't speak for everyone in the top one per cent, but I'm fine."

NEW YORKER - JAN. 13, 03

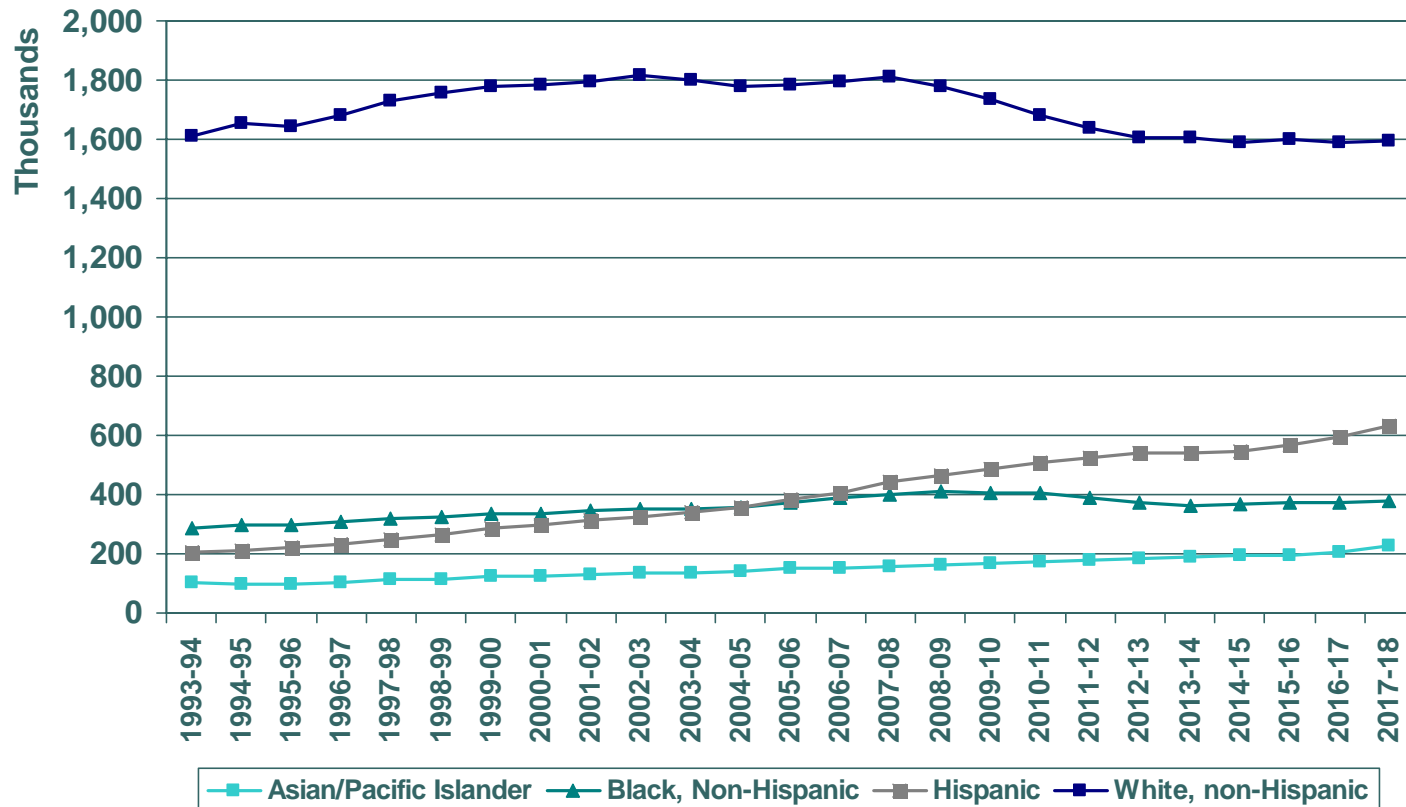


Fewer?

- After 2007-08 the US will experience an extended period of declining numbers of White, non-Hispanic graduates.
- Only six states are expected to see more White graduates in 2014 than they did in 2002.
- Six states are expected to see a drop of at least 25%, and approximately 20 states will see declines ranging from 10 to 23%.

Fewer?

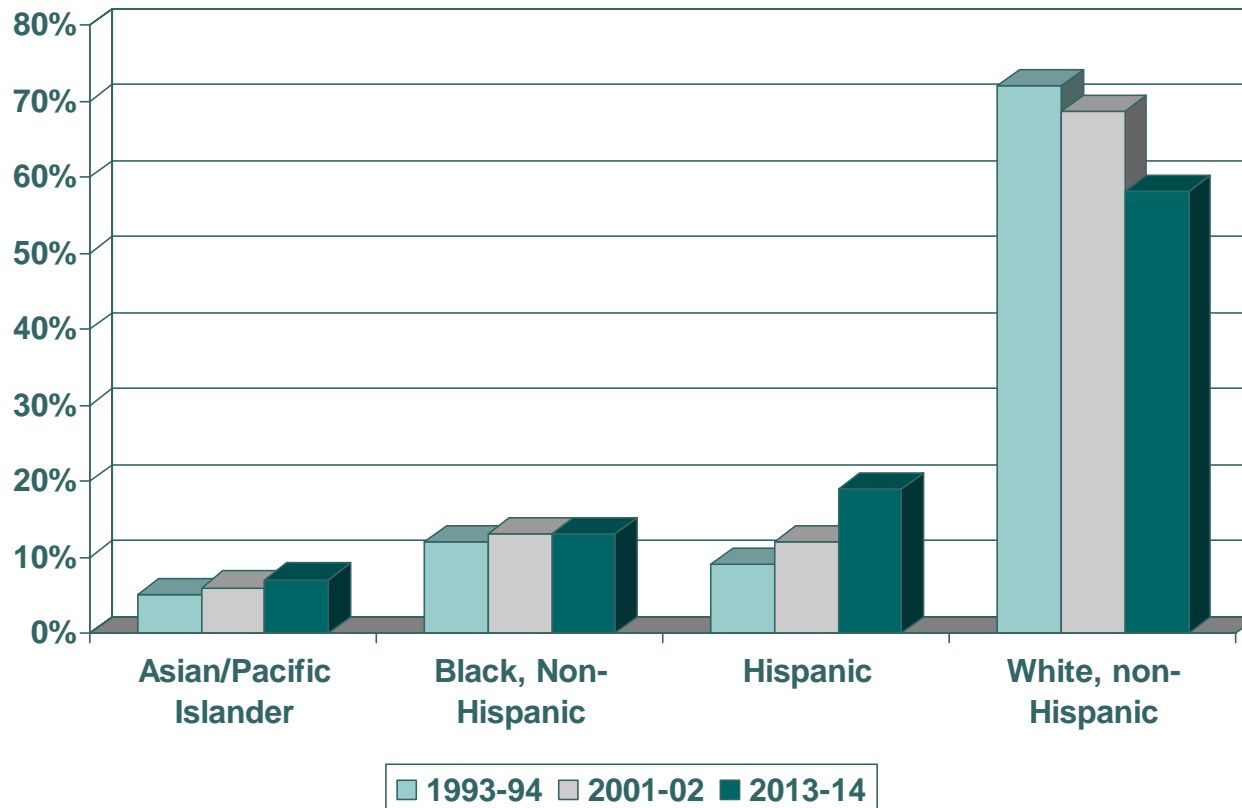
Public and Nonpublic High School Graduates 1987-88 through 2001-02 (actual), 2002-03 through 2017-18 (projected)



Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 2003.

Fewer?

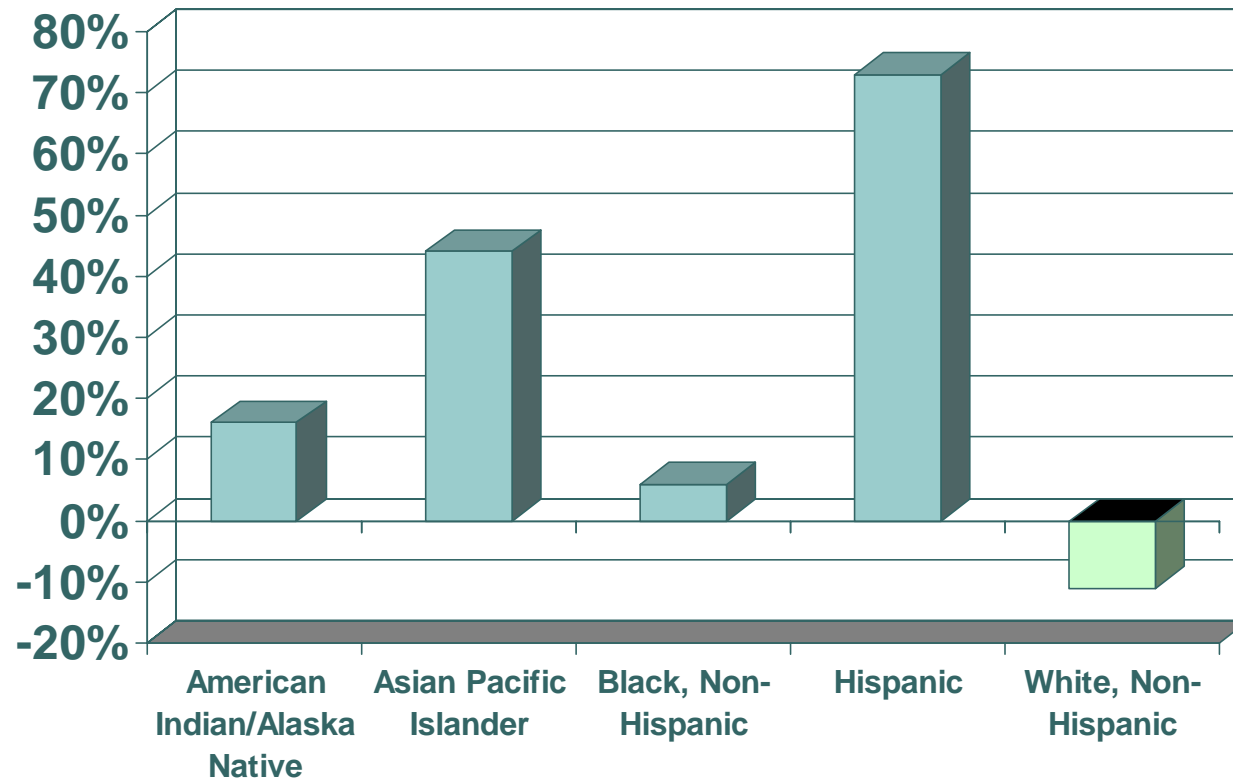
Distribution by Race/Ethnicity of Public High School Graduates, U.S., 1993-94 and 2001-02 (actual), and 2013-14 (projected)



Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 2003.

Fewer?

Percent Change in Number of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity, U.S., 2001-02 (actual) and 2013-14 (projected)



Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 2003.



Fewer?

- In 1993-94, two of every three students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools were white; by 2007-08, only one out of two students will be white
- White students no longer comprised a majority of the high school graduates in California, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Texas.



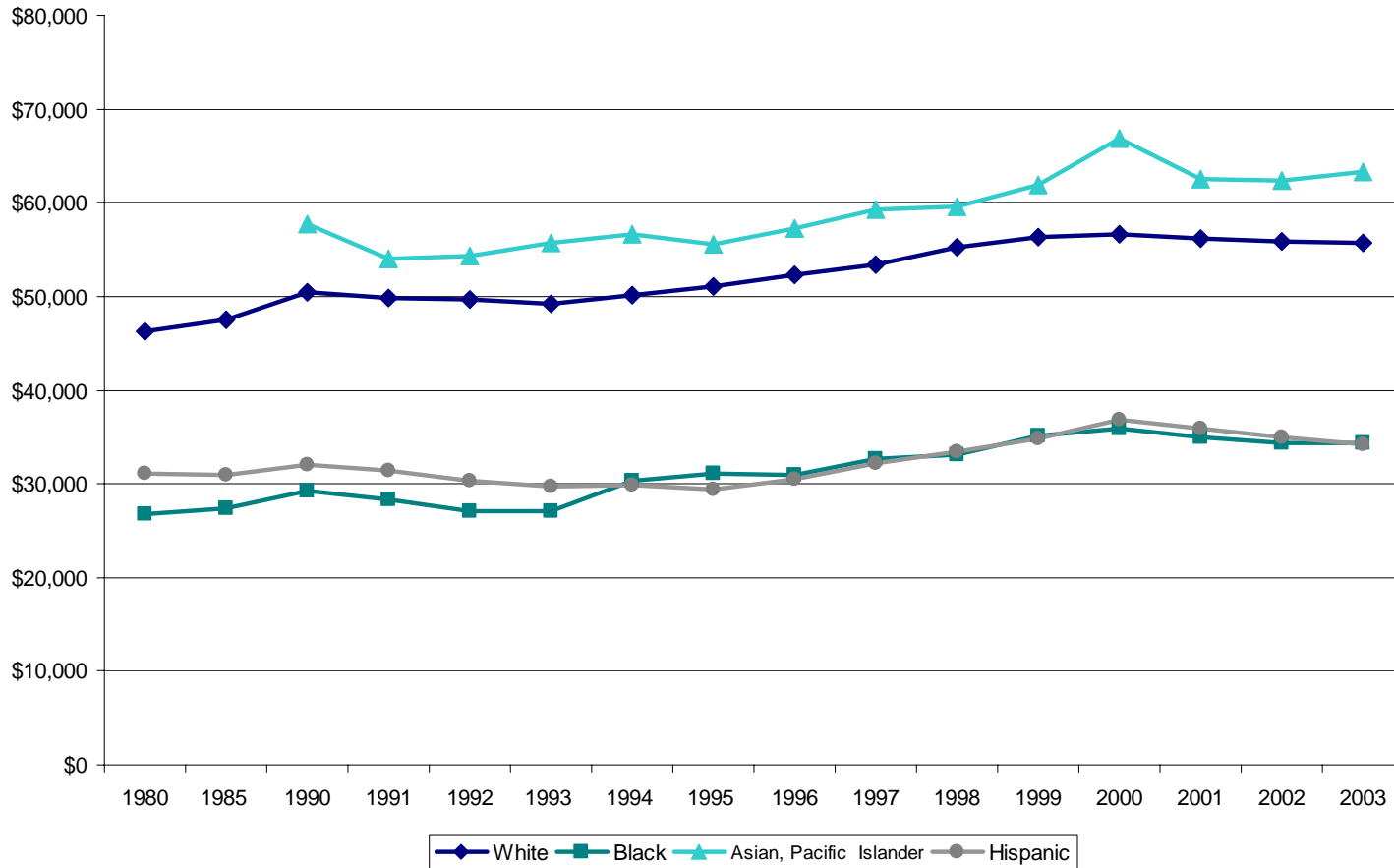
Regions Differ

	Arizona			Vermont		
	2005	2010	2015	2005	2010	2015
High School Graduates	55,164	66,094	71,661	8,237	7,862	6,821
American Indian	6%	5%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Asian	3%	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%
Black	5%	5%	5%	0%	1%	1%
Hispanic	29%	36%	41%	1%	5%	9%
White	57%	50%	45%	97%	92%	88%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: The Impact of Demographic Changes on Higher Education, Summary of Conference Discussions. The College Board. July 24-28, 2005. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Richer?

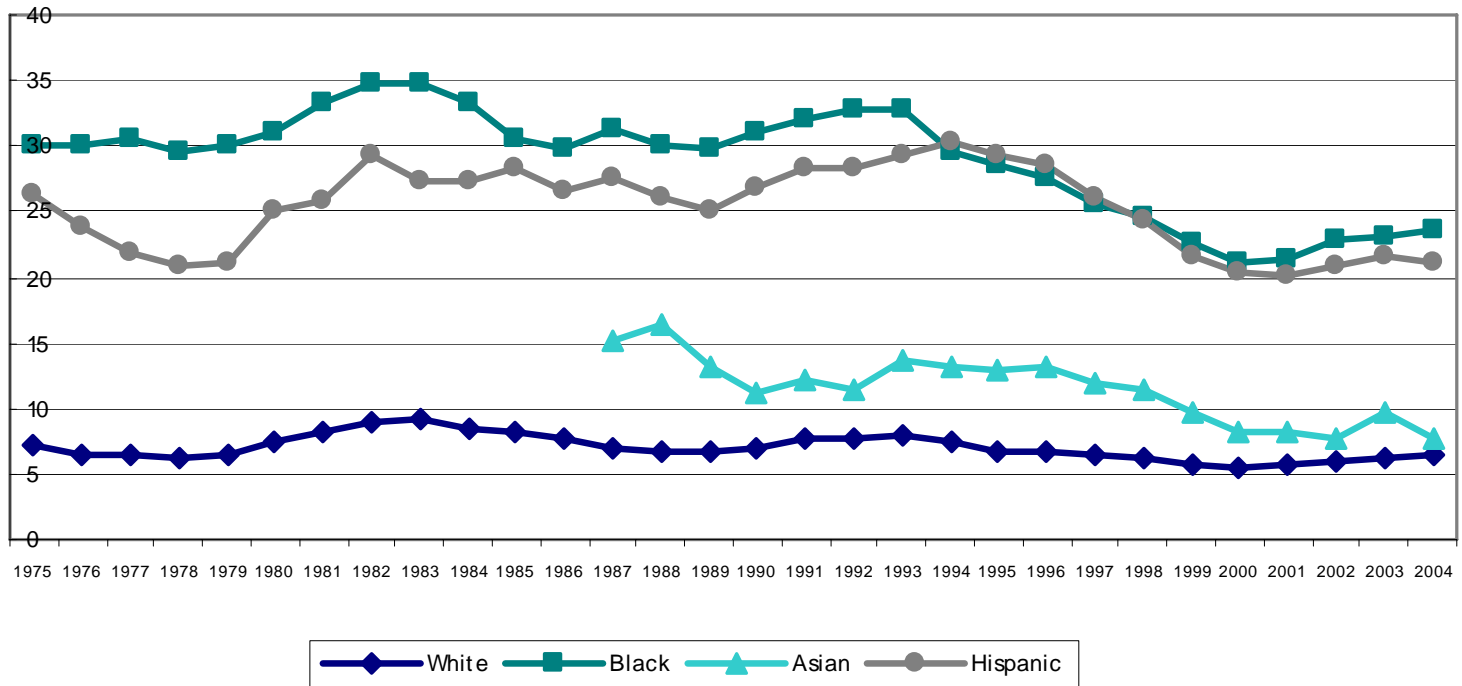
Median Household Income by Ethnicity: 1980 to 2003 (Constant dollars)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-226; and Internet site

Richer?

Percent of families Below Poverty Level by Ethnicity 1975-2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Relative Position

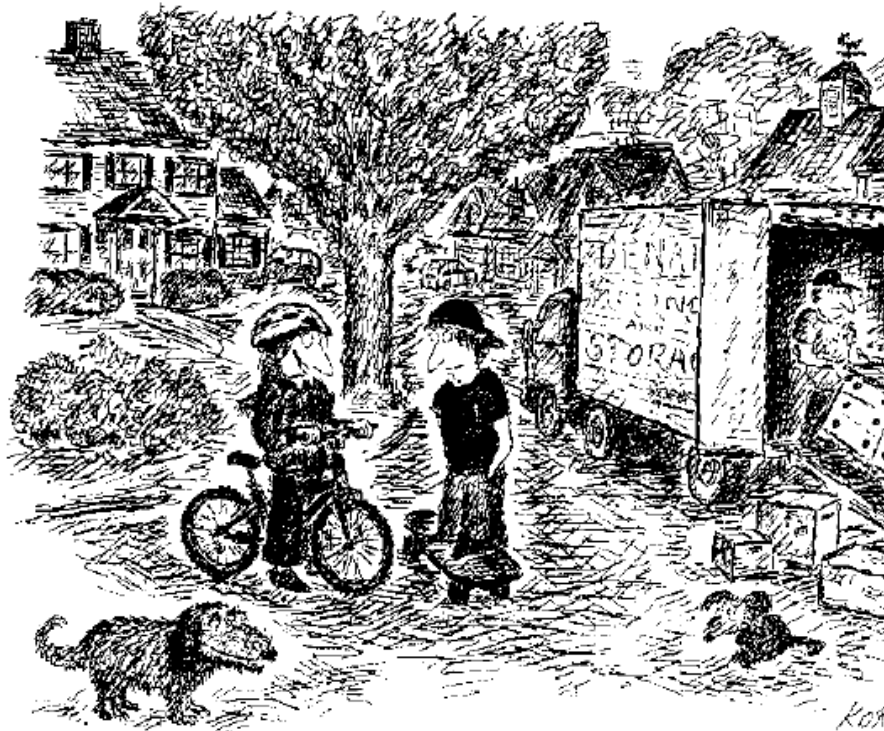
- Number of White, non-Hispanic high school graduates expected to decline.
- White populations have maintained or increased their gap in median household income.
- Shift in relative buying power of Whites.



More Anxious?

- Concern over scarcity of spaces in colleges and universities.
- Carefully orchestrated lives.
- Commercialization of college admissions.
- Proliferation of myths in college application and selection process.

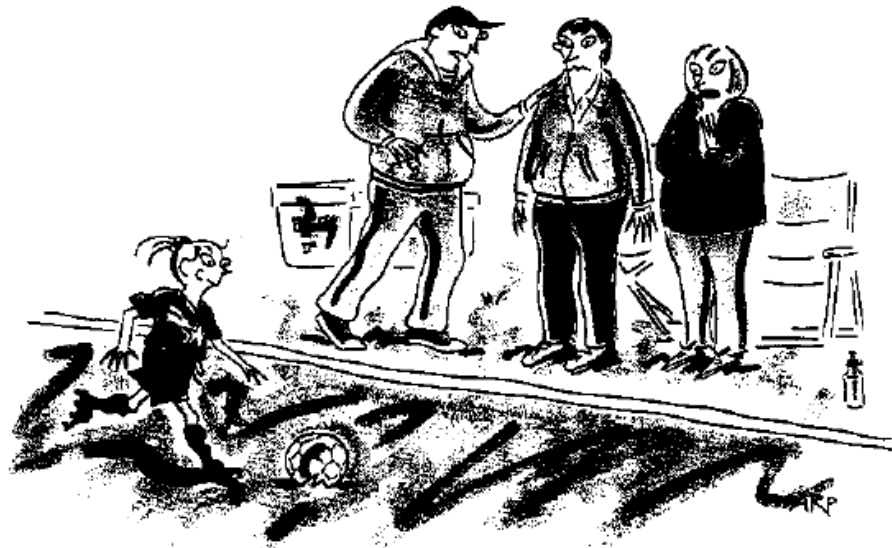
More Anxious?



*"You're moving into a place where all the parents
live well and all the kids test well."*

More Anxious?

Soccer-Parent Coach



"O.K., big cheer here, but nothing that might be construed as pressure. Quiet now, but a supportive quiet. Watch your body language."

More Anxious?



"It may be wrong, but it's how I feel."

More Anxious?



"I was wondering when you'd notice there's lots more

More Anxious?





Not Just Whites

- American Dream
- Concerted cultivation
- Accomplishment of natural growth
- Advantages are transferred to the advantaged



Social Mobility

- Confidence in American Dream remains high although the actual path is difficult.
- “America is now less the land of opportunity than France, than Germany, than Sweden, Canada, Finland, Norway and Denmark...hard to believe but the chances of starting with nothing and ending up rich are now higher north of the boarder.”

Clive Crook



Summary

- White families are feeling the pressure of increasing competition among themselves and other groups.
- The reactions to this pressure are not limited to Whites.
- Colleges and universities need to design and communicate future admission and student aid processes that are viewed as legitimate.



A Limited Discussion

- Low income families.
- Poorly resourced schools.
- Lack of economic stability.
- Little experience with higher education.



Thank You

○ Paper Available