

# 8. High School Dropout Rates

## What It Is

The four-year high school dropout rate measures the estimated percentage of students who would drop out in a four-year period, based on dropout data collected for each grade in a single year.

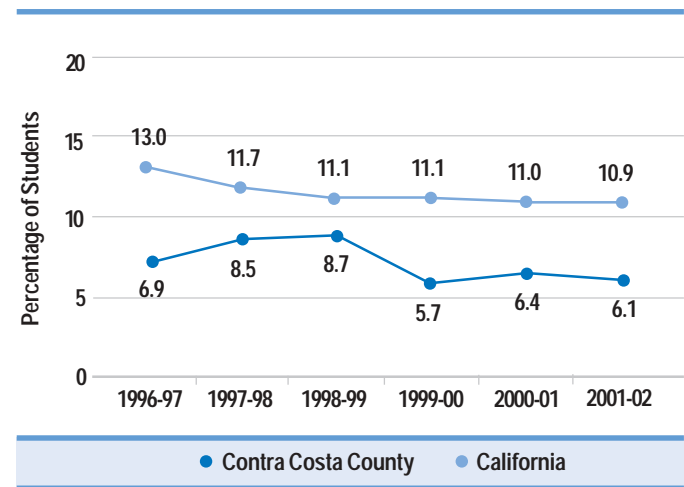
## Why It Is Important

Youth who drop out of high school are less likely to find and keep a good job, and are less likely to be prepared for the technological demands of today's workforce. They earn significantly less income over time than their better-educated counterparts.

## How We Are Doing

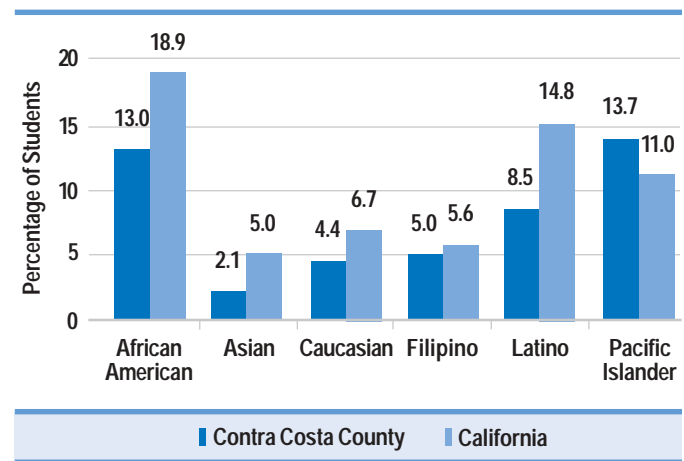
The four-year high school dropout rate in Contra Costa County decreased in one year from 6.4% in 2000-01 to 6.1% in 2001-02. The dropout rate varied by ethnic group, with the highest dropout rate for Pacific Islander students at 13.7%, followed by 13.0% for African American students, 8.5% for Latino students, 4.4% for Caucasian students, and 2.1 for Asian students.

Figure 8.1 — Percentage of Students Who Drop Out of High School



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, 2003.

Figure 8.2 — Percentage of Students Who Drop Out by Ethnicity, 2001-02



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, 2003.