

Data Walk: Reading Summit

EDUCATION



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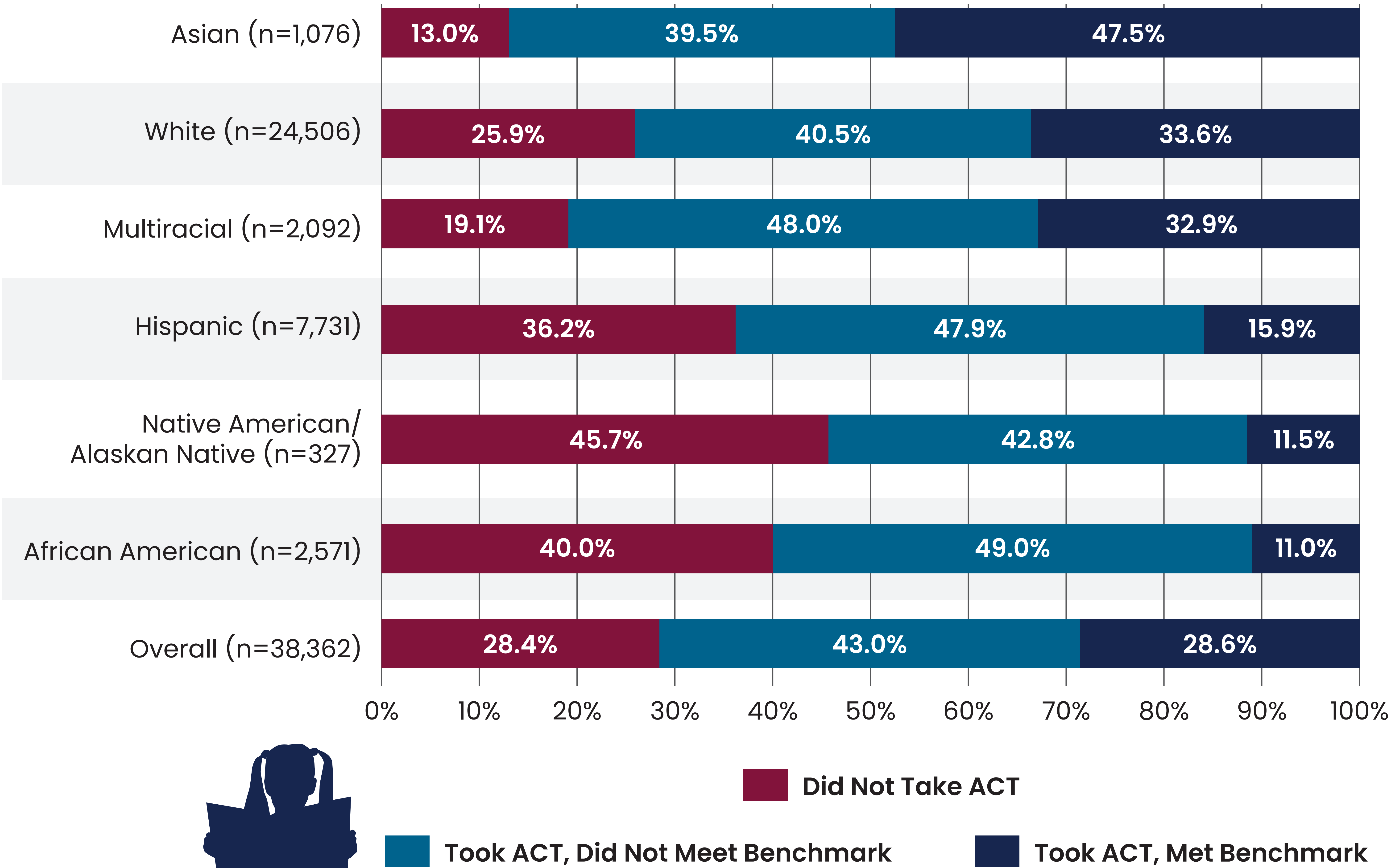
What This Measures:

Percent of Kansas class of 2023 students who met the ACT college readiness benchmarks for reading.

Three in 10 Kansas students

took the ACT exam and met the reading benchmark. However, racial disparities exist in both ACT participation and performance.

Percent of Kansas Students Who Met the ACT College Readiness Benchmark for Reading by Race and Ethnicity, Class of 2023



Note: Race and ethnicity categories reported above are mutually exclusive. Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students (59) are not included on the graph because of the small number of students. Additionally, 1,926 Kansas students taking the ACT did not provide their demographic information. These students were distributed proportionally using the distribution of students by race and ethnicity who took the ACT. ACT college-readiness benchmarks are the minimum ACT test scores required for a student to have a reasonable chance of achieving a B or higher grade in the comparable course during their first year. The reading benchmark is based on success for a social science class, such as American history, psychology, economics or political science. Denominators for each race and ethnicity group use Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) four-year cohort estimation for the 2022–2023 graduating class. The cohort study follows students from 9th–12th grade to calculate the class of 2023. Students who transferred in or out, immigrated or died have been accounted for in each four-year cohort. Source: Kansas Health Institute analysis of ACT, U.S. high school graduating class trends, 2023 and data from Kansas State Department of Education, 2023.

Why this is important: Although not every student will pursue a college education, the ACT remains a tool for those who do. The Kansas Board of Regents sets qualified admissions standards for Kansas universities as a way to ensure college readiness. In the 2022–2023 standards, the ACT was optional, but an ACT score of 21+ can offer a path to college admissions even if a student’s grade point average (GPA) is below the cut off. ACT scores also can be leveraged for merit-based scholarships, lessening barriers to receiving a college education. The Kansas Legislature funds one free ACT test to all high school juniors. Additional ACT tests start at \$68.

(Sources: Kansas Board of Regents; Kansas State Department of Education; ACT.)