DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION PLACEMENT
PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENTAL MATH: WASHINGTON

Percentage of 2008 high school graduates who enrolled in a developmental math course in Washington Community College and Technical Colleges in 2008-09, by selected student characteristics

GENDER

Demographic and enrollment characteristics

RACE/ETHNICITY

Demographic and enrollment characteristics

GOAL WHEN FIRST ENROLLED
What Is Measured?
Percentage of 2008 high school graduates enrolled in Washington Community College who took a developmental math course within one year.

Who Is Counted?
2008 high school graduates enrolled in Washington Community College and Technical Colleges in 2008-09.

What It Tells Us
Almost half of 2008 high school graduates who enrolled in Washington Community and Technical Colleges in the summer or fall after graduation took pre-college math during their first year in college. Female (41 percent), Hispanic/Latino (48 percent), and transfer-oriented students (50 percent) were the most likely to take pre-college math.

Why It’s Important
For students in need of developmental education, enrolling in specific courses mandated by the placement test is the first step toward advancement to a college-level program. Many students never enroll in developmental courses at the level at which they are assessed, however (Bailey, Jeong, & Cho, 2010). Because placements are not always binding, many students enroll in higher- or lower-level courses. Some may skip courses in the remedial sequence or skip developmental education altogether (Bailey, Jeong, & Cho, 2010). As a result, the rates at which students enroll in developmental courses provide an incomplete picture of the need for remediation. Placement information, however, is rarely available, leaving enrollment rates as the only measure for gauging students’ college readiness.

ABOUT THE DATA
Developmental math: remedial courses that students entering college with skills below the college-readiness level must take before starting on their required math sequence in college. Developmental courses do not apply to the student’s degree credits and may extend the time needed to earn a college degree. Students may be enrolled for both a workforce and transfer goal in the same year.

DATA SOURCE