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Information Brief

ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment by Annual Family Income Level 2012

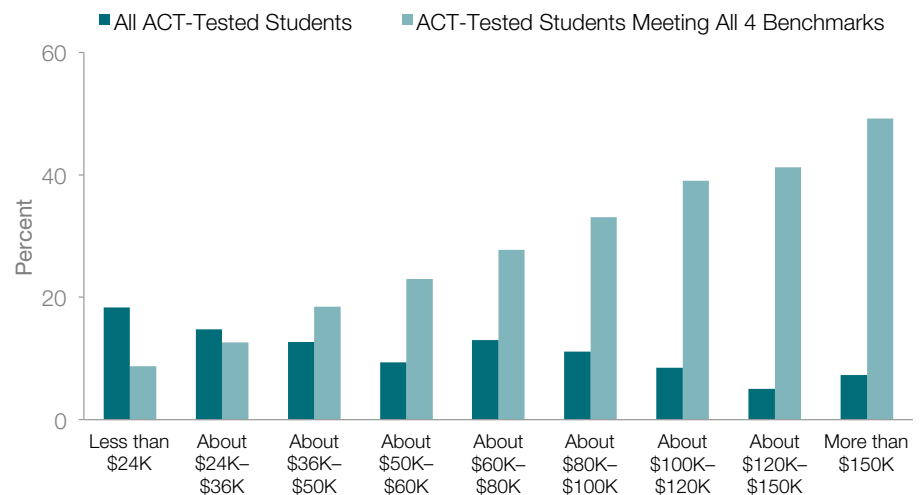
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Attainment of ACT College Readiness Benchmarks is related to family income:

- About 23% of students with family incomes between \$50,000 and \$60,000 met all 4 Benchmarks; less than 9% of students with family incomes less than \$24,000 did so.
- The Benchmark attainment level for students in the \$120,000–\$150,000 range is more than twice that for students in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range.

Socioeconomic status has a substantial effect on academic success. Consistent with prior findings,¹ the following chart shows the distribution of students' self-reported family income and how their attainment of the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in English, mathematics, reading, and science varies with family income. Approximately 45% of the graduates' families have annual incomes less than \$50,000.

ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment by Annual Family Income Level



Note: Based on data from 1,207,240 ACT-tested 2012 high school graduates who reported family income. This count reflects a nonresponse rate of about 28% and may not be representative of the underlying population of ACT-tested high school graduates.

¹ See ACT Information Brief 2012-1.



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