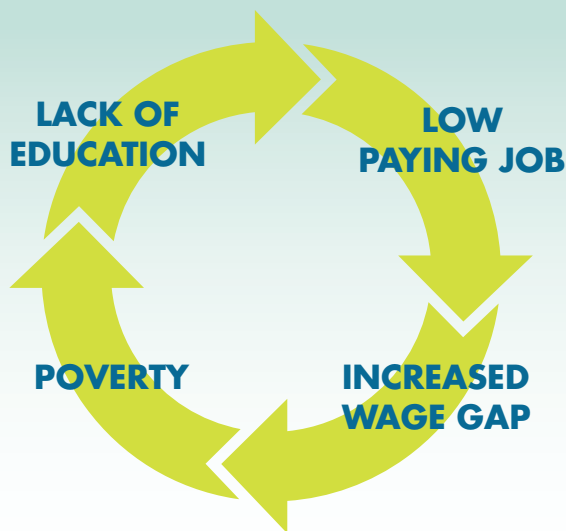


COLLEGE RETENTION

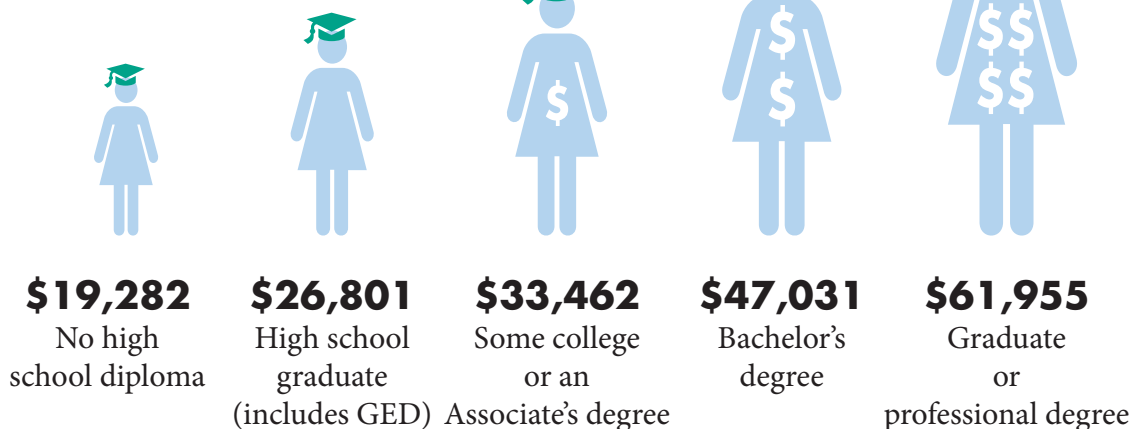
Higher Education

- In Greater Hartford, minority and low-income women graduate with post-secondary degrees at significantly lower rates than their counterparts.
- Lack of a post-secondary degree locks women in the cycle of poverty, since they lack the necessary qualifications for jobs with greater earning potential.
- Lack of higher education also exacerbates the wage gap, which widens for women working in lower-wage jobs.



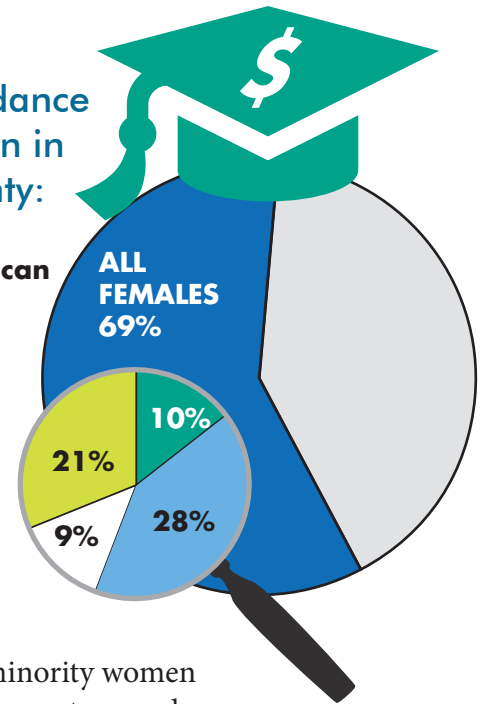
Education has a significant impact on women's earning power.

Average earnings for women in Hartford County based on education level



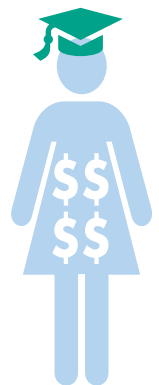
College attendance rates of women in Hartford County:

- African American
- Asian
- Latina
- White

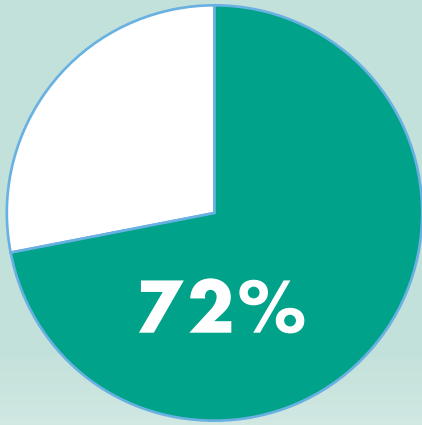


Low-income and minority women struggle to complete post-secondary education. Challenges include:

- academic preparation
- frequent transfers between schools & programs
- inadequate advising/mentoring
- academic support services
- financial aid & student debt
- transportation
- childcare
- part-time status



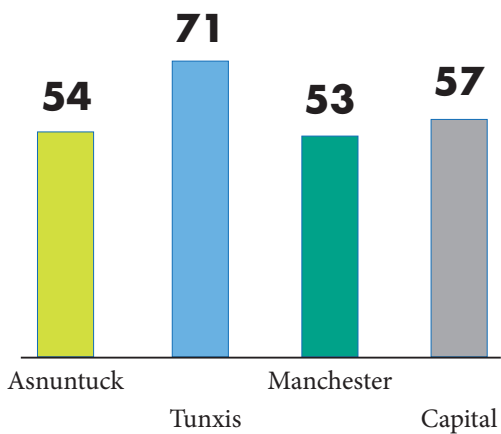
Connecticut fails to prepare students for post-secondary education. The state is second only to Tennessee in the need for remedial education as students enter college.



Students entering community college in need of remediation in CT

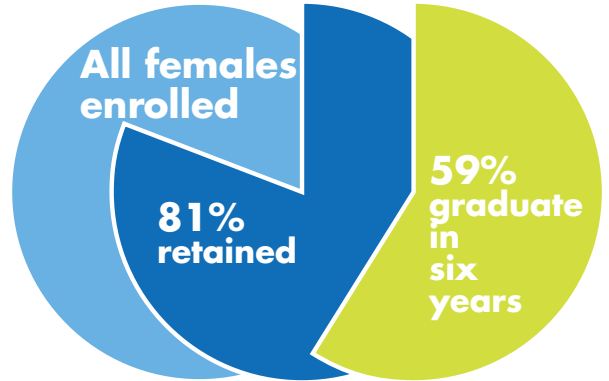
Women are increasingly the majority of students enrolled in Greater Hartford Community Colleges.

The percentage of women at area Community Colleges in 2011-12:

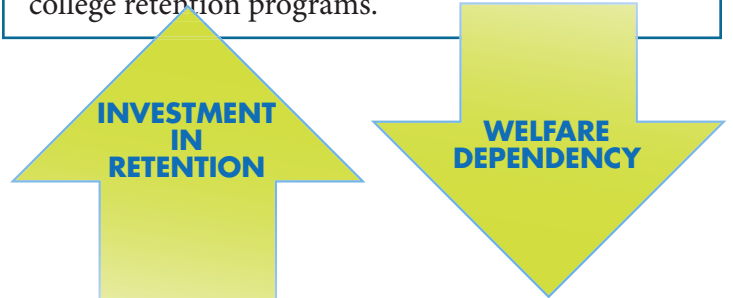


Retention (progressing from first year to second year of a degree or program) and graduation rates are also low for minority and low-income women.

From CCSU, retention & graduation rates:



Aurora will work to ensure that more women, particularly low-income and minority women, graduate from post-secondary degree programs prepared for higher-paying jobs. Over the past three years alone, Aurora has invested \$94,100 in college retention programs.



Investment in college retention programs reduces the rate of welfare dependency by 88%