

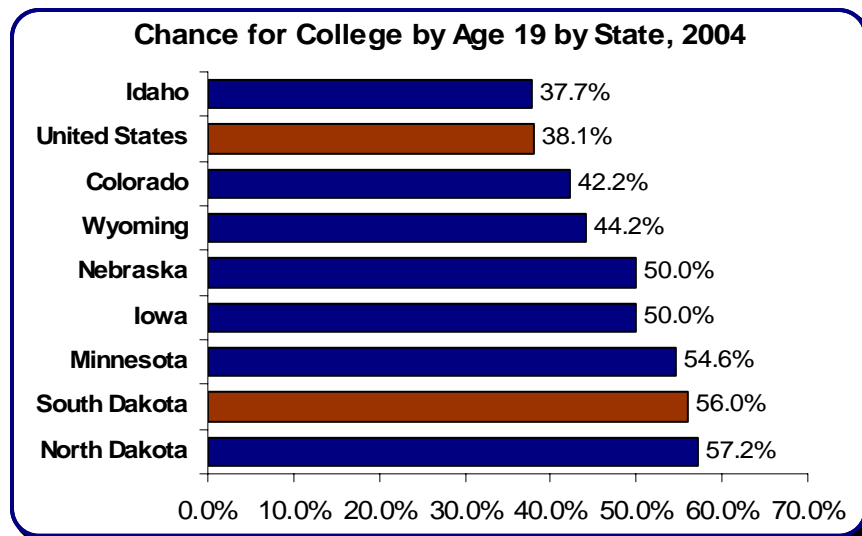
Synopsis: Data show 56 percent of the South Dakota students who graduated from high school in 2004 were enrolled in college that fall. South Dakota's college participation rate has improved to 2nd among all states; that is, 56 percent of South Dakota's 19 year olds were enrolled in college somewhere in the U.S. immediately after high school graduation in 2004, compared to 38.1 percent of 19 year olds nationwide.

To determine "college participation rates," researchers look at two factors: the rate of students graduating from high school, and those who go on to enroll in college. The research publication, *Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY*, defines the college participation rate as the product of the high school graduation rate times the college continuation rate at which high school graduates enroll in college the fall following high school graduation.

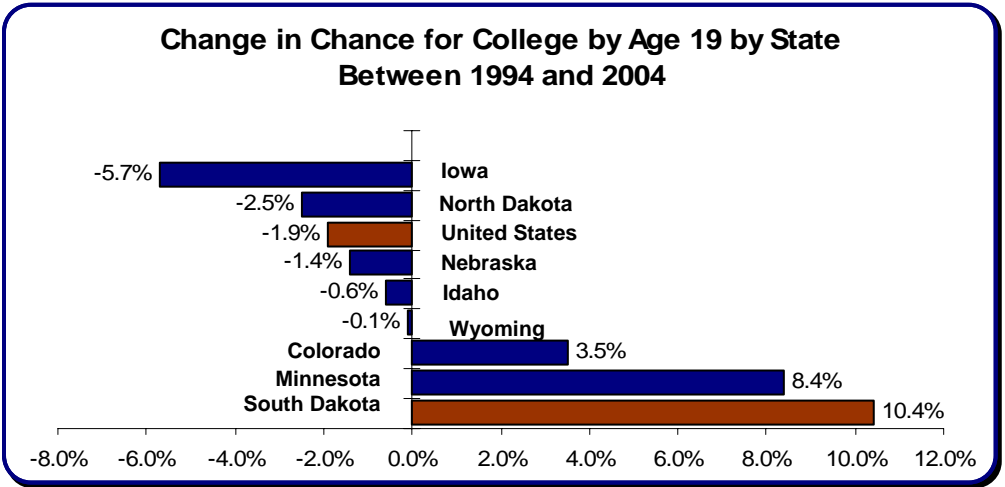
South Dakota High School Graduation Rate	81.4%
South Dakota College Continuation Rate	x <u>68.8%</u>
Chance for College by Age 19	56 percent

What are the chances that a 19 year old will be enrolled in college?

An indicator referred to as "chance for college by age 19" is simply the product of the public high school graduation rate and the college continuation rate for each year. This indicator, also called the college participation rate, is a good reference point for policymakers to consider when talking about a state's higher educational opportunity.



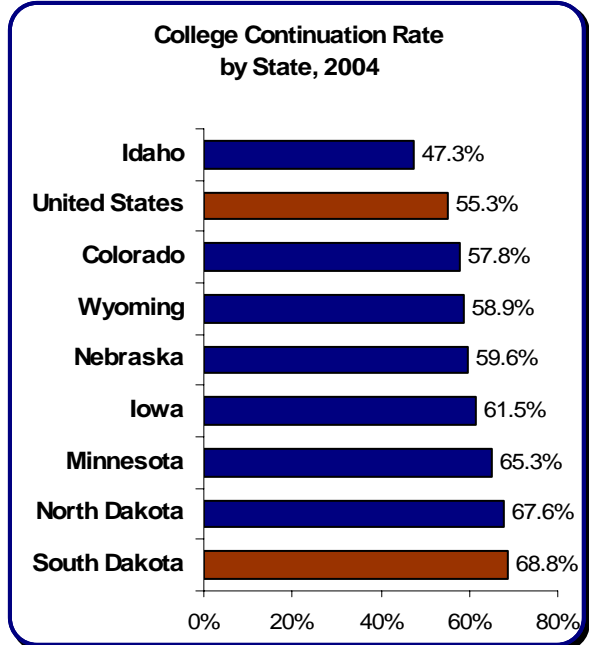
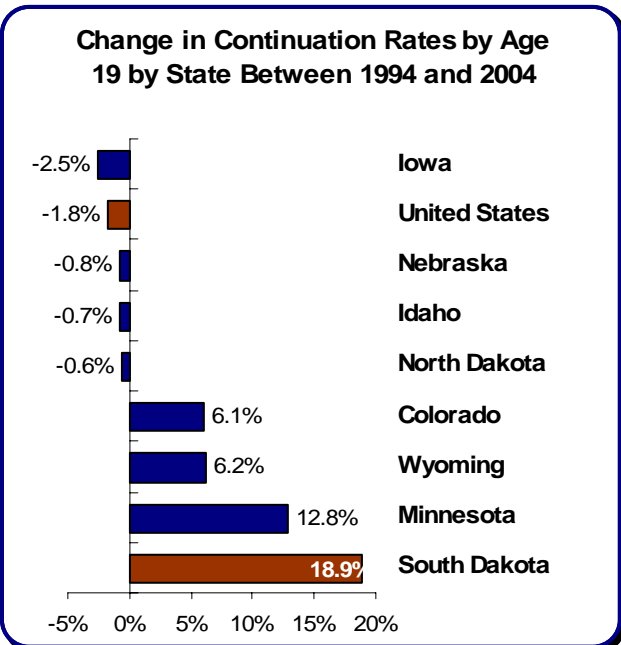
South Dakota’s college participation rate of 56 percent in 2004 bucks a nationwide trend—the chance for college has been flat to drifting downward since 1992. South Dakota improved on its “chance for college by age 19” between 1994-2004 by 10.4 percentage points—the best in the country—while the nation as a whole declined in college participation by 1.9 percent.



Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, July 2006

College Continuation Rate

South Dakota’s college continuation rate—those who graduate from high school in a state and enroll somewhere in college the following fall—is high. The state’s rate of 68.8 percent in 2004 is the highest in the country and considerably better than the 55.3 percent national average. In fact, South Dakota had the highest improvement in college continuation rates between 1994 and 2004. Its rate improved by 18.9 percent, while the national average was a negative 1.8 percent.



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