



Michigan 4-H Alumni College Access Project

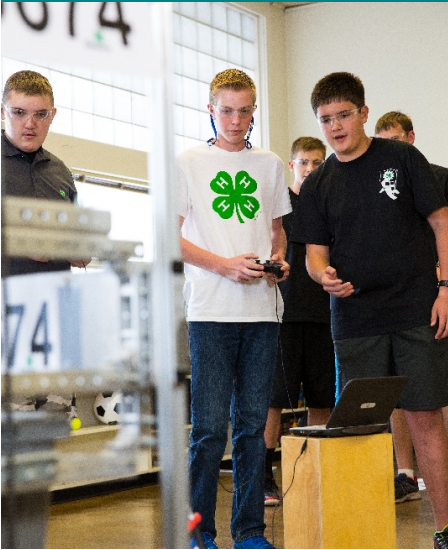
2019 results



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

The Issue



As the need for a better-educated and skilled workforce becomes widely recognized, equipping young people with the skills needed to succeed in college has become a national focus.

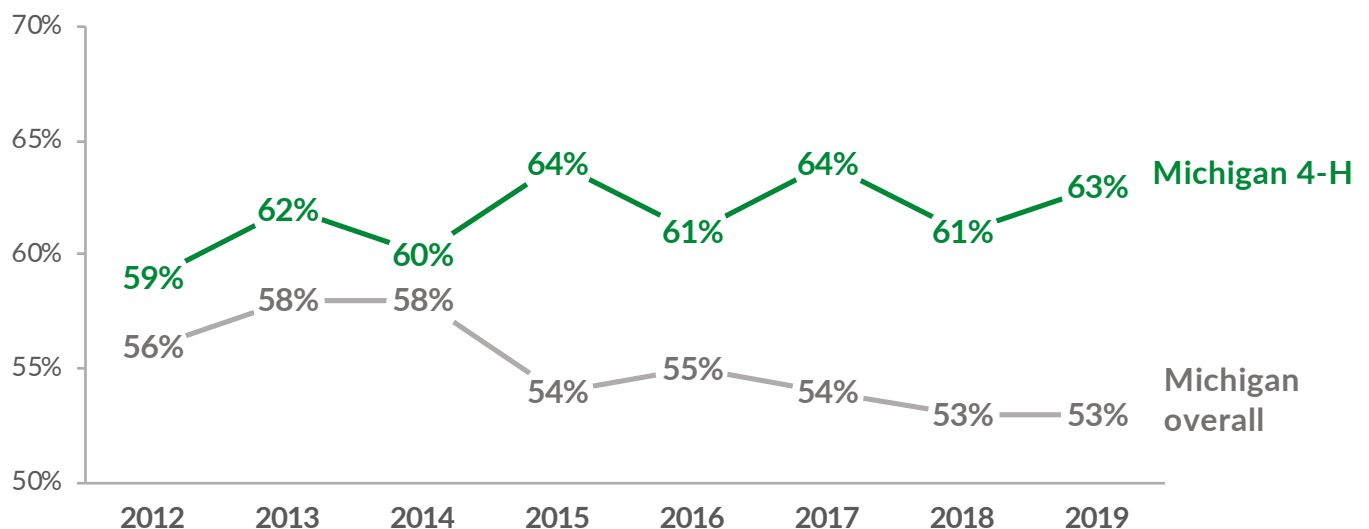
Michigan 4-H has several pre-college programs geared towards helping youth develop the social and academic skills they need for a successful transition to college. These programs all seek to increase participants' overall interest in college and to prepare youth for college by building the skills necessary for success.

The Michigan 4-H Alumni College Access Project tracks college enrollment and degree attainment by submitting records to the National Student Clearinghouse, a national enrollment and degree-attainment verification system.

The Results

Enrollment data from National Student Clearinghouse shows that **Michigan 4-H alums are more likely to enroll in college the fall after high school than other Michigan students**. The figure below compares the most recent eight years of data.

Michigan 4-H alums enroll in college at a higher rate than other Michigan students

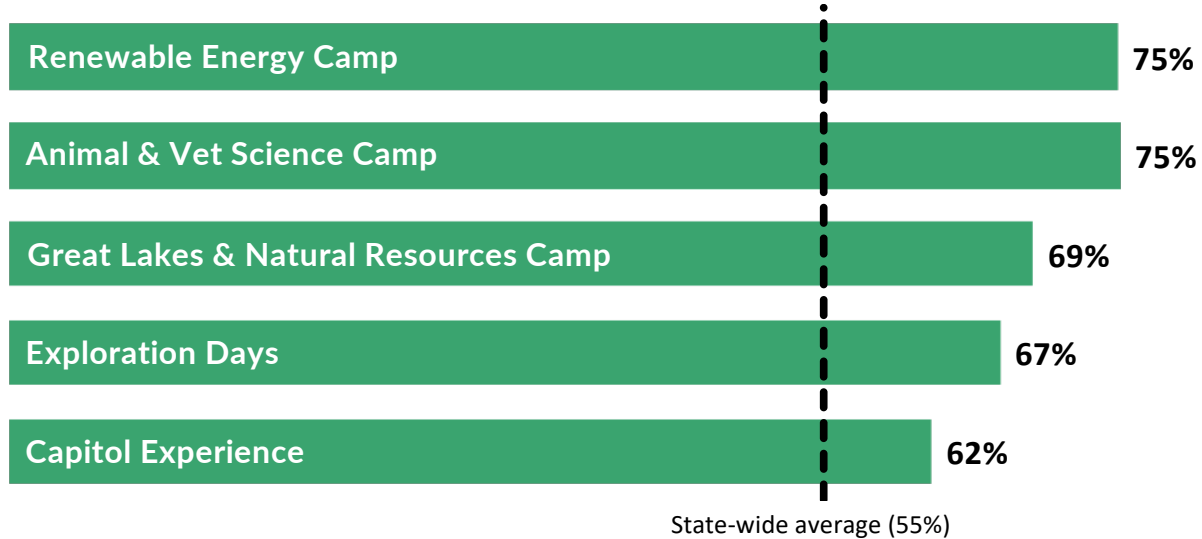


Since 2012, **61%** of Michigan 4-H youth have enrolled in college the fall after high school, a number that is higher than the rate for Michigan students (55%). This is important, as research shows that youth who enroll in college “on time” are more likely to complete their degree on time.

Enrollment rates by program

When college enrollment rates are examined by program, we see that alums of all 4-H pre-college programs enroll in college at a higher rate than their peers.

Alums of all Michigan 4-H pre-college programs enroll in college at a higher rate than other Michigan youth



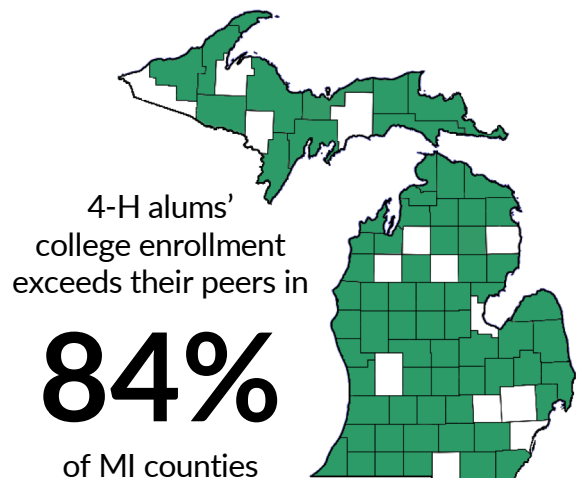
Note that some youth participate in multiple programs, so they are “counted” in both programs in the figure above. This is why the enrollment rates above may seem higher than the average enrollment rate of 61% reported on the previous page, as that number reflects the average enrollment rate across all programs with duplicates removed.

Enrollment rates by county

When college enrollment numbers are examined by county, enrollment data show that Michigan 4-H alums enroll in college at a higher rate than their peers in **84%** of Michigan counties.

In the graphic to the right, counties shaded in green represent areas in Michigan where 4-H alum’s college enrollment exceeds their peers’ college enrollment 6 months after high school.

For a further county-by-county breakdown, see Appendix 1.



4-H alumni at MSU



Aside from increasing general interest in attending college, many participants in Michigan 4-H pre-college programs also become interested in specifically attending MSU.

In fact, **MSU is the #1 college choice for 4-H pre-college program alumni.**

Michigan 4-H alumni are more likely to enroll at MSU

Michigan 4-H



12%

Other Michigan students



9%

From the 2018 – 2019 12th grade class, roughly 12% of Michigan 4-H alums enrolled at MSU, compared to about 9% of Michigan students overall. That means that Michigan 4-H alumni are more likely to enroll in college at MSU.

“Exploration Days has showed me education options and **increased my interests in attending MSU.** It has also increased my confidence in talking to new people and making friends. My career choice and college choice has been influenced by attending Expo Days.”

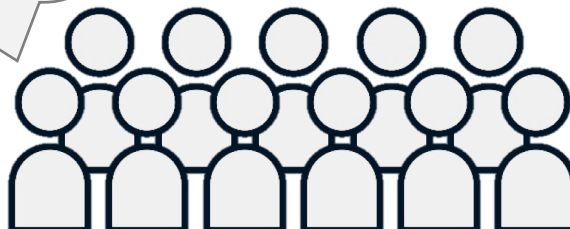
- Exploration Days participant

“[Exploration Days] has affected me by increasing my knowledge about college. **It also makes me want to go to MSU more!**”

- Exploration Days participant

“I’ve gotten to **get a feel for MSU** and what it would be like to come her for college. I also got to explore more of the campus and what options are around the area. This really helps me to take into consideration **all the different programs that MSU has to offer!**”

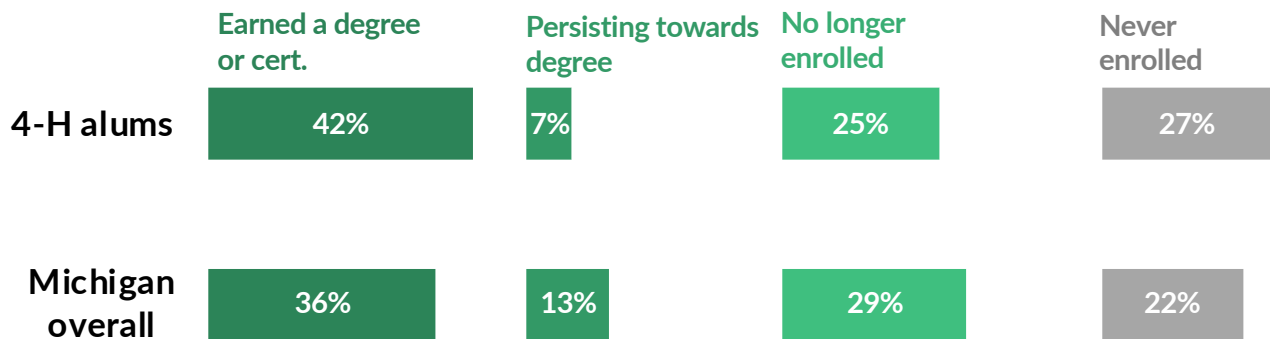
- Exploration Days participant



Graduation rates

Enrolling in post-secondary education unfortunately does not guarantee degree attainment, as many students who enroll in college drop out before earning a degree. Knowing that 4-H alums enroll in college at a higher rate than their peers is important, but knowing whether they complete their degrees is even more noteworthy.

Michigan 4-H alums are more likely to earn a degree or certificate 6 years after high school



Michigan 4-H alums are more likely than their same-age peers to have earned a college degree 6 years after high school. Relatedly, 4-H alums are also slightly less likely to be still working towards their first degree or to no longer be enrolled in college.

When examining fields of study, enrollment data shows that **44% of Michigan 4-H'ers who earned a bachelor's degree studied a STEM discipline** (i.e., science, technology, engineering, and math), a rate that's 10% higher than the Michigan average of 34%.



Take home

Michigan 4-H pre-college programs build life skills that support students' access to and success in college. Michigan 4-H pre-college programs are uniquely suited to support youth in gaining the knowledge and skills that they need to be successful in college and beyond.



Written and prepared by:
Chelsea Hetherington, Ph.D.
Michigan State University Extension
hether13@msu.edu
(517) 432-7613

Data sources:
MISchoolData.org
National Science Foundation
National Student Clearinghouse