Problem Statement: High School Dropouts

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**High School Dropouts**

Statistically, the national percentage of high school graduates in the United States has been steady at around 70 to 75% in the past several years with only just a slight increase in graduation rates in the more recent years. This indication describes that for the past several decades only at least three out of every four students receive their diploma every year. Why has this rate not grown drastically higher since the past? The statistics showed that a significant number of students, between the ages of 16 to 24 years, are either not enrolled in school or have never received a high school diploma or General Education Development (*Child Trends*, 2012). Dropouts continue to be a significant problem, because they create a “drag on the economy” (Layton, 2012); high school dropouts are more likely to live in poverty and receive government assistance; are likely to be involved in crime; have poor health (primarily mental health) because of their low education and skills level (*Child Trends*, 2012).

In California alone, the high school graduation rate was only 74.4% in 2011 with an 18.2% dropout rate. The remaining percentages, 7.4%, were students who neither graduated nor dropped out; these students either remained in school or students who passed the GED test (Torlakson, 2011). Graduation rates and dropout rates in California among ethnic and racial groups varied. In 2011, California high school graduation rates for Black and Latino students were at 55.8% and 59.2%, respectively, which were still behind the rates of Whites with 83% and Asians with 86% (Freedberg, 2011). Dropout rates in 2009 for Blacks were at 9% and Whites were at 5.2% while Latinos had the largest percentage of dropouts with 17.6%.

Although students among different races and ethnicities have various rates of graduating and dropping out, our country cannot afford to have the dropout rate increase as the need for high school students to graduate is essential for the economy (Layton, 2012).
Reference


