

How has Latino and Black students' retention been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

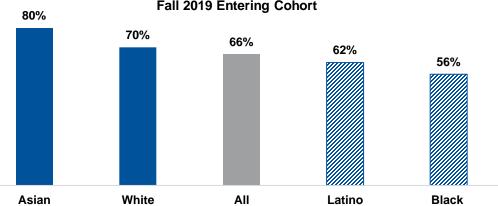
Overview

Latino and Black student retention has decreased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. From Spring through Fall 2020, both student groups saw disproportionate declines in enrollment and retention.

The following looks at trends in first-year retention rates for Latino, Black, and all students, which cover the period from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020. First-year retention rates¹ for enrolled students are indicators of students' college pathways and success as well as institutional effort. These can also help institutions identify and understand patterns to improve their efforts to more intentionally serve their students.

Trends in Retention Across All Institutions by Race/Ethnicity

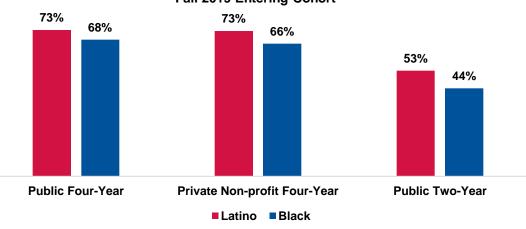
• Latino and Black students had lower retention rates than their Asian and White peers. The retention rates for Latino (62%) and Black (56%) students were lower than the national rate (66%) as well as their Asian (80%) and White (70%) peers.



First-Year Retention Rates Across All Institutions by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2019 Entering Cohort

Trends in Retention Across Sector by Race/Ethnicity

• Latino and Black students had the lowest retention rates at community colleges. The retention rates for Latino (53%) and Black (44%) students at public two-year (community colleges) were significantly lower than Latino and Black students' retention rates at public four-year (73% and 68%) and private non-profit four-year (73% and 66%) institutions, respectively.



First-Year Retention Rates by Sector and Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2019 Entering Cohort

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¹ **First-year retention rates**: percentage of first-time first-year students that return to the same institution where they began the following Fall term for their second year.

Source: *Excelencia* in Education summary of National Student Clearinghouse, *Persistence and Retention Fall 2019 Beginning Cohort*, July 2021. <u>https://nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/PersistenceRetention2021.pdf</u>