

FACT SHEET ON STUDENT CAREGIVERS



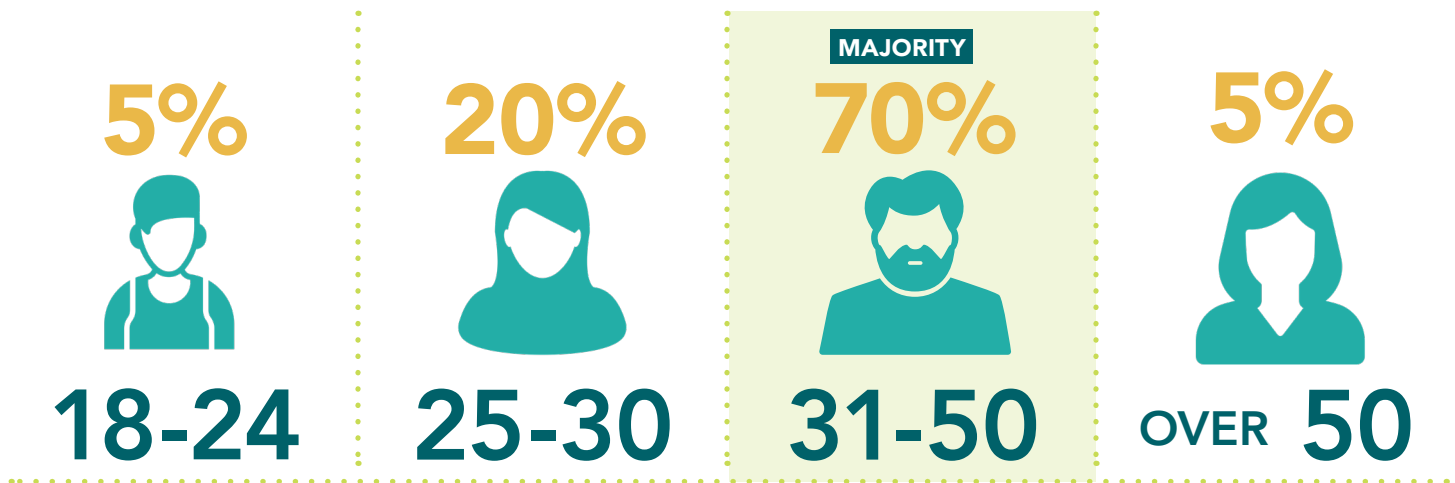
Research on student parents and their unique challenges commissioned by Higher Learning Advocates

INTRODUCTION

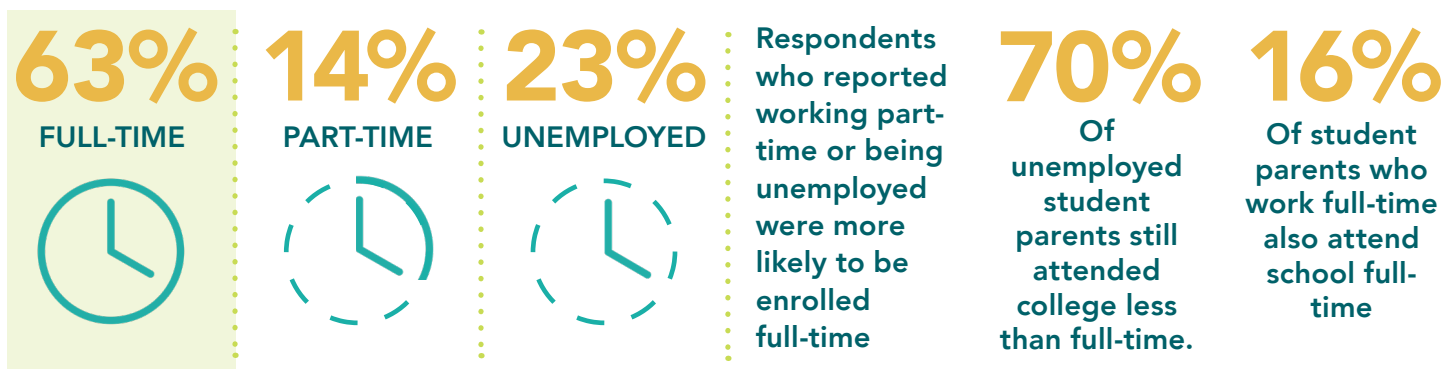
Nearly a quarter of today's students are parents, and they have unique time constraints because they must balance caregiving, school work, and employment. Student parents are more likely to be older, more likely to have a low-income, and more likely to work full-time than the general college population. Although student parents are more likely to have GPAs above a 3.0 than non-parenting students, they graduate at lower rates. These survey findings attempt to illuminate the demographics and challenges that today's student parents face.

CROSSTAB ANALYSIS

AGE OF STUDENT PARENT RESPONDENTS



WORK STATUS OF STUDENT PARENT RESPONDENTS



ENROLLMENT INTENSITY OF STUDENT PARENT RESPONDENTS

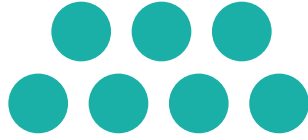
10%

Enrolled in fewer than 3 credits



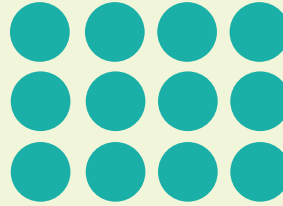
33%

Enrolled in 3-7 credits



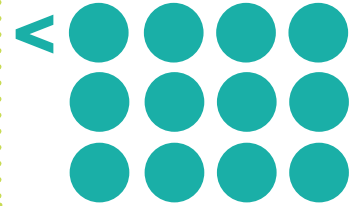
38%

Enrolled in 8-12 credits



20%

Enrolled in more than 12 credits



CHILDCARE FOR STUDENT PARENT RESPONDENTS

61%



Relied on family as a primary source of child care

43%



Used school as a primary form of child care

26%



Used child care centers

19%



Used another form of child care

17%



Had infant care needs

61%

Did not know if their campus offered child care



4.5%

Said that their campus offered some form of child care, on or off campus



STUDENT PARENT RESPONDENTS' CCAMPIS KNOWLEDGE

2.5%



Knew what CCAMPIS is/does

.04%



Have applied to enroll their children in CCAMPIS

.05%



Have ever enrolled a child in CCAMPIS

59%

vs.

33%

Of respondents who knew about CCAMPIS accessed means-tested benefits like SNAP, TANF, or WIC

Of all student parent respondents have accessed means-tested benefits like SNAP, TANF, or WIC



48%

Of student parent respondents who knew what CCAMPIS is/does did not know if their campus offered child care

31%

Who knew what CCAMPIS is/does said that their campus did not offer care



STUDENT PARENT RESPONDENTS' POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION BARRIERS

47%



Reported that the affordability of dependent care was a barrier

37%



Said that the availability of child care was a challenge

30%



Found mental health to be challenging

20%



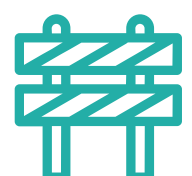
Reported transportation was a challenge

20%



Said that access to on-campus services was a barrier

18%



Had not faced any additional barriers

STUDENT PARENT RESPONDENTS WITH SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

43%

Had a child between the ages of



5-13 years old

48%



Were enrolled in 8 or more credit hours per semester

78%



31-50 years old

100%



Did not know if their campus offered child care to students

58%



Have not accessed a means-tested benefit

RESPONDENTS WITH AT LEAST ONE CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 AND 13

65%



Reported that family was a primary source of child care

53%



Reported that school was a primary source of child care

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In order to better understand the demographics and needs of student parents, Higher Learning Advocates commissioned a student administered by Launch Compass. A brief demographic survey was emailed to college students through an online platform that has approximately three million subscribers. After receiving responses back from this first wave, those who identified as a student caregiver received a second set of questions related to their child care choices, unique challenges, and knowledge of CCAMPIS. A total of 1,145 student caregiver respondents completed the survey. The original respondents who did not identify as a caregiver are excluded from the analysis. Aside from the demographic information listed in the findings section, this survey did not collect further demographic information on respondents. Therefore, the survey findings cannot be interpreted as representative of all student parents or generalized to all student parents.

For more information about **Higher Learning Advocates** please contact **Emily Bouck West**, Deputy Executive Director, at ebouckwest@higherlearningadvocates.org