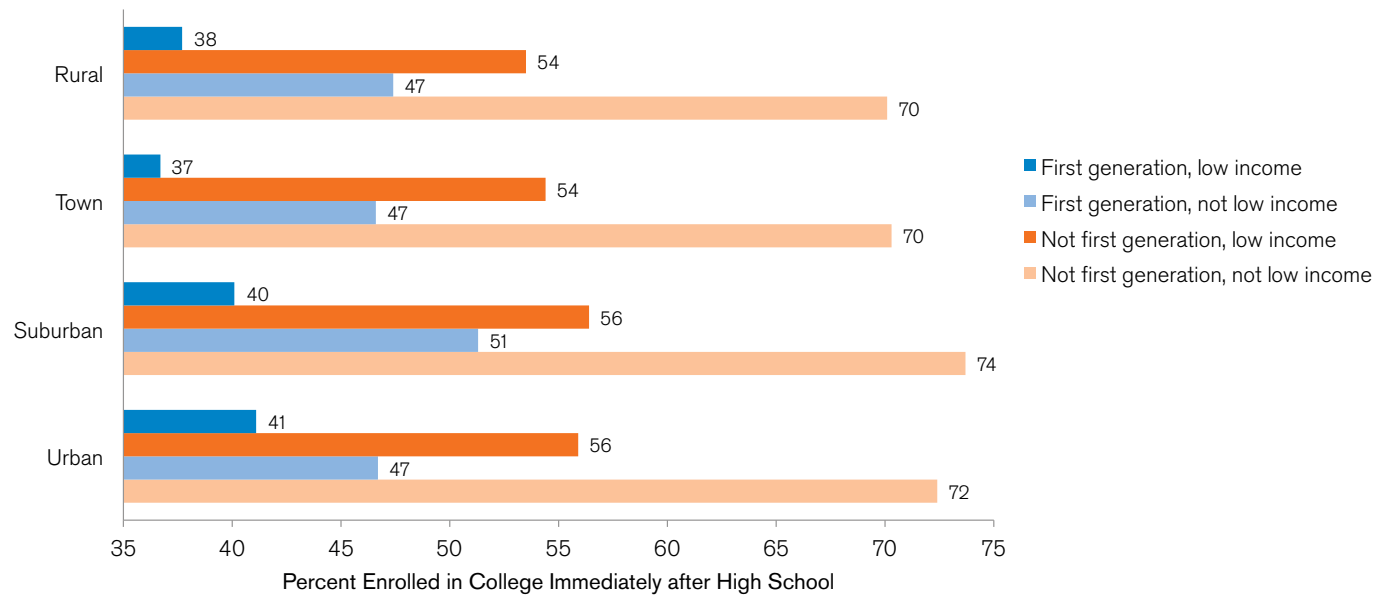


College Enrollment by Student Background and School Location

RICHARD BUDDIN

Immediate College Enrollment Rates by First-Generation College and Low-Income Status for High School Locations



Note: Data come from 587,008 high school graduates in 2013 in at least one of eleven states that had ACT® college readiness assessment testing for all students. Families with annual incomes of less than \$36,000 are defined as low income. Students whose parents or guardians have no postsecondary education are defined as first-generation students.

Low-income and first-generation students have lower college enrollment rates immediately after high school graduation than students from middle- or high-income families with at least one parent or guardian who has some postsecondary education. Family income and parental education may affect student resources available in the home as well as motivation and support for academic endeavors.

Smaller percentages of low-income, first-generation students enroll in college than any of the other groups. Parental postsecondary education has a substantial effect on whether students enroll in college. Among low-income families, enrollment rates are 15 to

17 percentage points lower for first-generation students than for students with at least one parent/guardian with some postsecondary education. At the same time, first-generation students from middle- and high-income families have lower college enrollment rates than students from low-income families with at least one college-educated parent/guardian. Middle- and high-income students with a college-educated parent/guardian have much higher college enrollment rates than all other groups.

These college enrollment patterns remain consistent across high school location categories, as shown above. ■

First-generation college students from middle- and high-income families have lower college enrollment rates than students from low-income families with at least one college-educated parent/guardian, regardless of high school location.