

First-generation College Students' Experiences During the Early COVID-19 Pandemic: January to June 2020

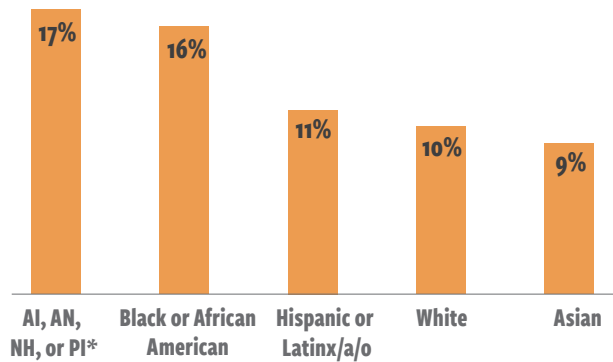
4% of first-generation students and **3%** of continuing-generation students took a leave of absence from their college.

5% of first-generation students and **3%** of continuing-generation students withdrew from their college.

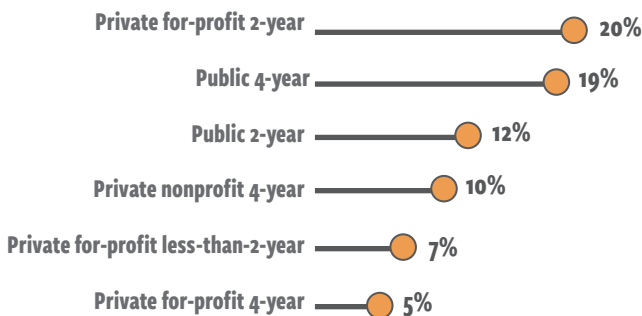
34% of female first-generation students and **26%** of male first-generation students with dependent children had difficulty finding safe and stable paid childcare.

12% of first-generation students and **7%** of continuing-generation students had difficulty accessing or paying for food.

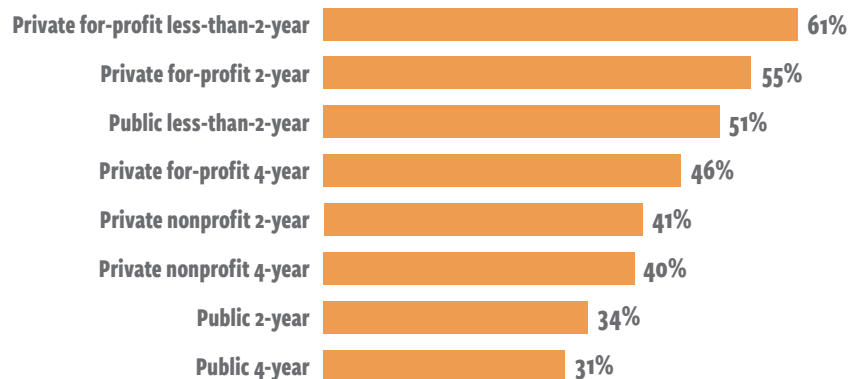
The percentage of first-generation students who had difficulty accessing or paying for food differed by race/ethnicity:



The percentage of first-generation students who received emergency financial assistance that was disbursed by their college differed by college sector:



The percentage of first-generation students who received technology or technical services* from their college after they had classes that were moved online differed by college sector:



*“AI, AN, NH, or PI” is American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander. “Technology or technical services” refers to a laptop/tablet, internet access/internet hotspot, training/learning materials on using new software, free access to digital textbooks, or other technology or technical services to assist with online instruction. First-generation student is defined as an undergraduate whose parents do not have a bachelor’s degree. Fact sheet represents undergraduate students enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in academic year 2019–20 and their experiences during the early COVID-19 pandemic (January through June, 2020). Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive. NASPA recognizes that each racial identity is defined by diverse populations. While aggregation is a useful tool to understand patterns, there are opportunities for continued study to disaggregate the data further. Percentages are rounded. Data source is U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2019–20 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:20). NPSAS:20 was released in 2023 and is the most recent iteration of NPSAS. The number of survey respondents was about 81,000, representing a population of 17.1 million undergraduates. Fact sheet produced by RTI International.