

“The steepest declines were among African American students, Native American students, male students and students who are outside of what we consider traditional college-going age,” David O’Brien, the college system’s vice chancellor of government relations, told the Assembly’s Higher Education Committee. “In particular, among all students aged 40 and older, total enrollment declined by over 100,000 students or nearly a third of the overall decline.” — Edsource Nov 2021

“When COVID hit, thousands of prospective students — 603,000 in the U.S. — put their plans on pause. In spring 2021, overall enrollment at American higher education institutions [dropped by 3.5%](#), seven times greater than the same period in 2020. But the number of students enrolled at community colleges fell by a larger margin: almost 10% compared to the same period in 2020.

Starting summer of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau began to [survey households](#) every two weeks to show the relationship between enrollment at community colleges and COVID. **By October 2020, more than 40% of households reported a prospective student had canceled all plans for community college. This was more than double the rate of traditional four-year college students. An additional 15% took fewer classes or switched programs.”**

Nina Chamlou, “The Effects of COVID on Community Colleges and Students” October 2021

“While overall college attendance dropped 5%, or 727,000 students, this spring compared with last year as many students opted out of virtual learning, **community colleges saw the steepest declines when compared to four-year institutions and graduate schools. Enrollment at graduate schools actually increased 4.6% compared with last year.**

The bulk of enrollment drops at community colleges were seen by schools’ youngest students, ages 18 to 24. Separate [data](#) from the National Student Clearinghouse has shown a 6.8% decline in graduates of the class of 2020 who attended college immediately after high school compared to the class of 2019.”

US community colleges see ‘chilling’ decline in enrollment during pandemic, *The Guardian*, July 2021

“Public two-year colleges have seen a 14.8% slump in overall enrollment since the fall of 2019, with the number of Black freshmen falling the most of any other demographic, according to [data](#) from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center released Thursday. **The two-year schools have seen a 32.2% decline in the number of Black freshmen** since the fall of 2019,” Community Colleges Face Steep Losses in Black Freshmen Enrollment, Bloomberg, Nov 2021

Questions:

- How do we empower in-person instruction and support going forward?
How can faculty be involved?
- What data on in-person/online/mandate students do we want to ask from IR? What do we need to know in order to make informed decisions and pull these students back in?