



Research & Policy Update:

Student Parents & Access to Child Care at Community Colleges

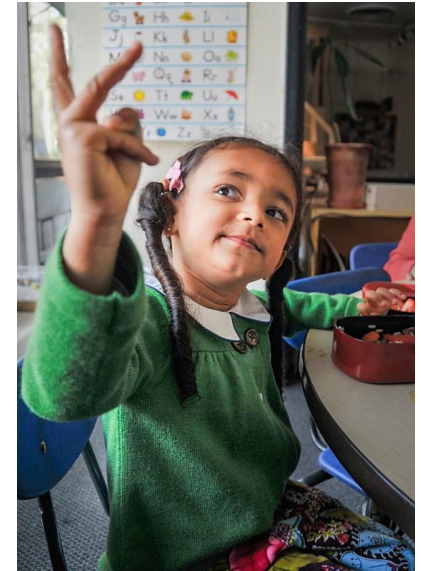
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About IWPR's Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI)

SPSI focuses on supporting students with dependent children who are pursuing college.

- Raises awareness of the need for student parent supports.
- Improves public policies and expands support programs.
- Shares knowledge about programs/ strategies that help low-income parents succeed in college.
- Technical assistance to community colleges.



IWPR Tools for Student Parent Success

Varieties of Campus Child Care



Financing Child Care for College Student Success



Prepping Colleges for Parents Report

Prepping Colleges for Parents: Strategies for Supporting Student Parent Success in Postsecondary Education

Prepared by Rachel Schumacher

Working Paper
July 2013



Student Parent Program Finder

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH *Informing policy. Inspiring change. Improving lives.*

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Student Parent Program Finder

College students with children — student parents — make up more than 20 percent of the college population in the U.S., and often need supports to help them balance their caregiving and financial responsibilities with work, study time, and class. There are many ways to assist student parents and great examples of strategies and programs that can help them. This Student Parent Program Finder features commonly needed, college and university administrators, and student parents themselves with programs that offer supports such as child care, networking opportunities, and help paying expenses. For a summary of the range of supports that can help student parents see [Prepping Colleges for Parents: Strategies for Supporting Student Parent Success in Postsecondary Education](#).

To find a program, please use the selection criteria below.

If you are a program representative, and would like to have your program added to the database, please share your strategy or program information here.

If you have questions, please contact us and be sure to visit IWPR's Student Parent Success Initiative.

See All Programs

Search Text
Enter search terms in this field to find programs based on the program name and/or description. Search terms may be combined by using **AND** and **OR**.

Student Parent Survey

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH

Survey of Women in College: Attitudes, Experiences, and Challenges

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Exit Survey

You are invited to participate in a research study designed to collect information about the circumstances and experiences of college students with dependent children to improve understanding about supports that can help them succeed in achieving their educational goals. The study is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Dunlich of the Department of Women's Studies, George Washington University (GWU), and sponsored by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) in Washington, DC. Taking part in this research is entirely voluntary.

If you choose to take part in this study, you will next be presented with a series of questions about your background, including educational history and aspirations, employment, parental status, as well as various aspects of your college activities and experience. The survey should take no more than 20 to 25 minutes to complete. You may refuse to answer any of the questions, and you may stop your participation in this study at any time.

There are few possible risks or discomforts you could experience during this study. These include a low risk that someone else would see you completing the survey (the survey itself is anonymous and does not attach names, email addresses or other identifiers to your responses) or psychological discomfort if you find any of the questions upsetting. As the questions in the survey deal about personal issues such as anxiety, depression, physical abuse, alcohol and drug use. As noted above, you are free to skip any questions you do not wish to answer. If you find that you feel distressed after completing the survey, please seek counseling or other assistance from the appropriate resources available through your school or community.

You will not benefit directly from your participation in the study. Your participation, however, may contribute to knowledge that will help improve college supports for students. The questionnaire does not collect names or other identifying information, so we are confident that we will succeed in keeping your information confidential; however, this cannot be guaranteed absolutely. We will not use for your name or email address; nor will we collect web identifiers such as the IP addresses (a number assigned to a computer that identifies it within a network) of questionnaire respondents.

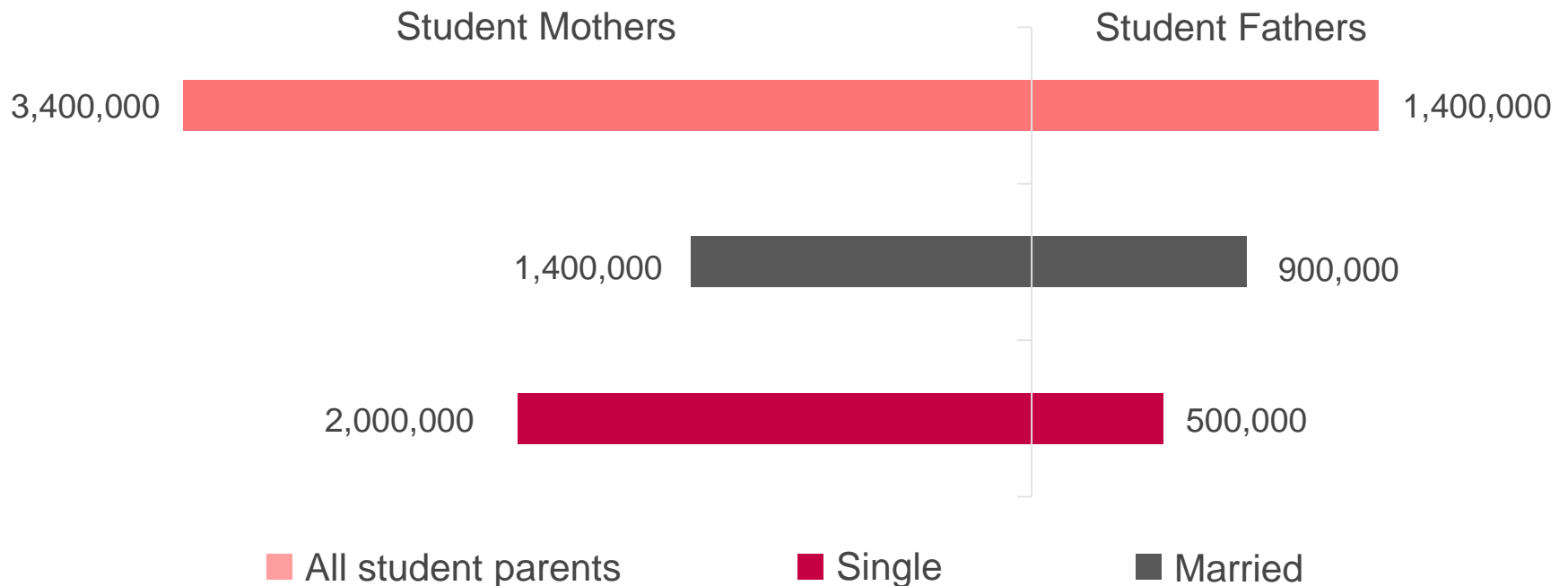
The Office of Human Research at George Washington University, at telephone number (202) 994-2715, can provide further information about your rights as a research participant. Further information regarding this study may be obtained by contacting Cynthia Dunlich, Study Director at IWPR who will serve as a key staff liaison for this study, at telephone number (202) 785-0100 or by e-mail at hdunlich@gwu.edu. Alternatively, you may also contact the study's Principal Investigator, Dr. Cynthia Dunlich, by email at cdunlich@gwu.edu, or by phone at (202) 994-4230.

Your willingness to participate in this research study is implied if you proceed. Please feel free to print this document in case you want to read it again.

What is the name of the school that you currently attend, or attended in the past?

71% of All Student Parents are Women

Number of Student Parents at All Postsecondary Institutions by Sex and Marital Status (in Thousands), 2011-12

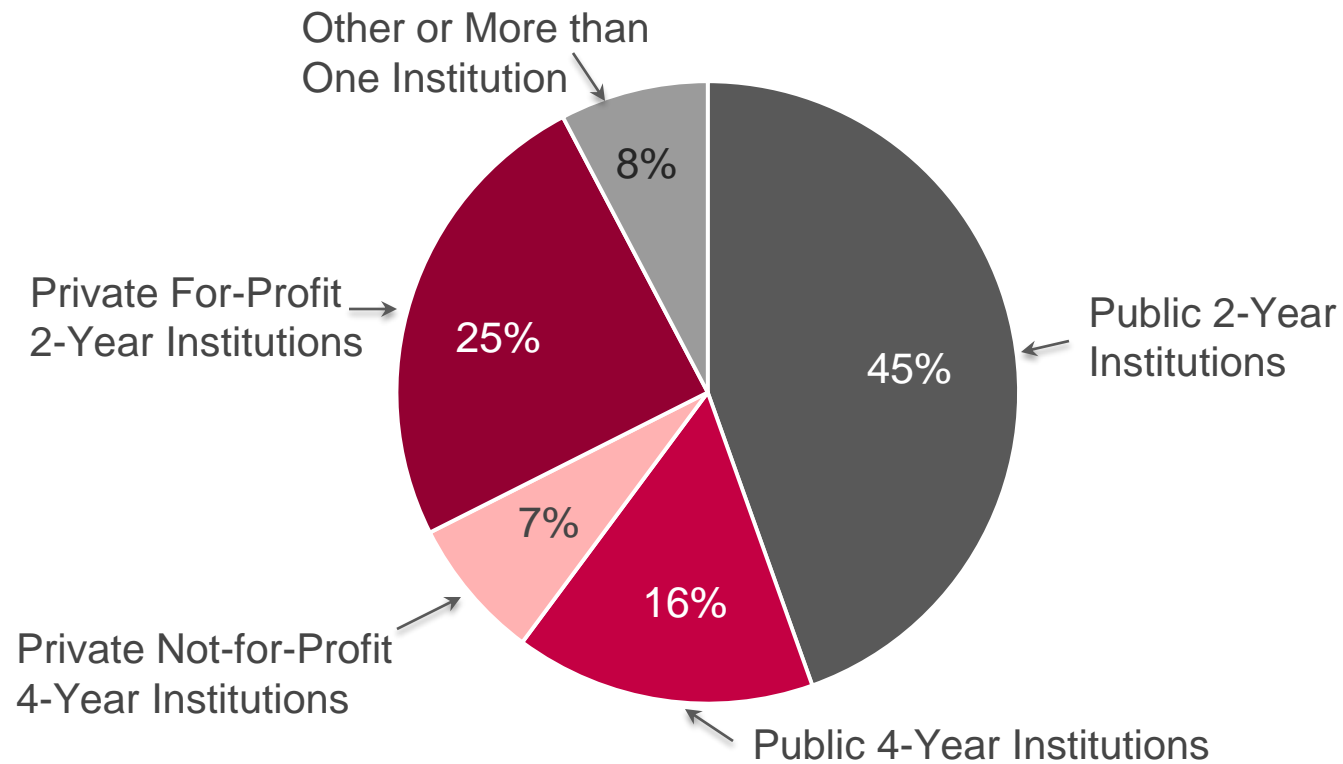


Source: IWPR analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study and the Integrated Postsecondary Aid Survey (IPEDS).



Largest Share of Student Parents Attend Community Colleges

Distribution of Student Parents by Institution Type, 2011

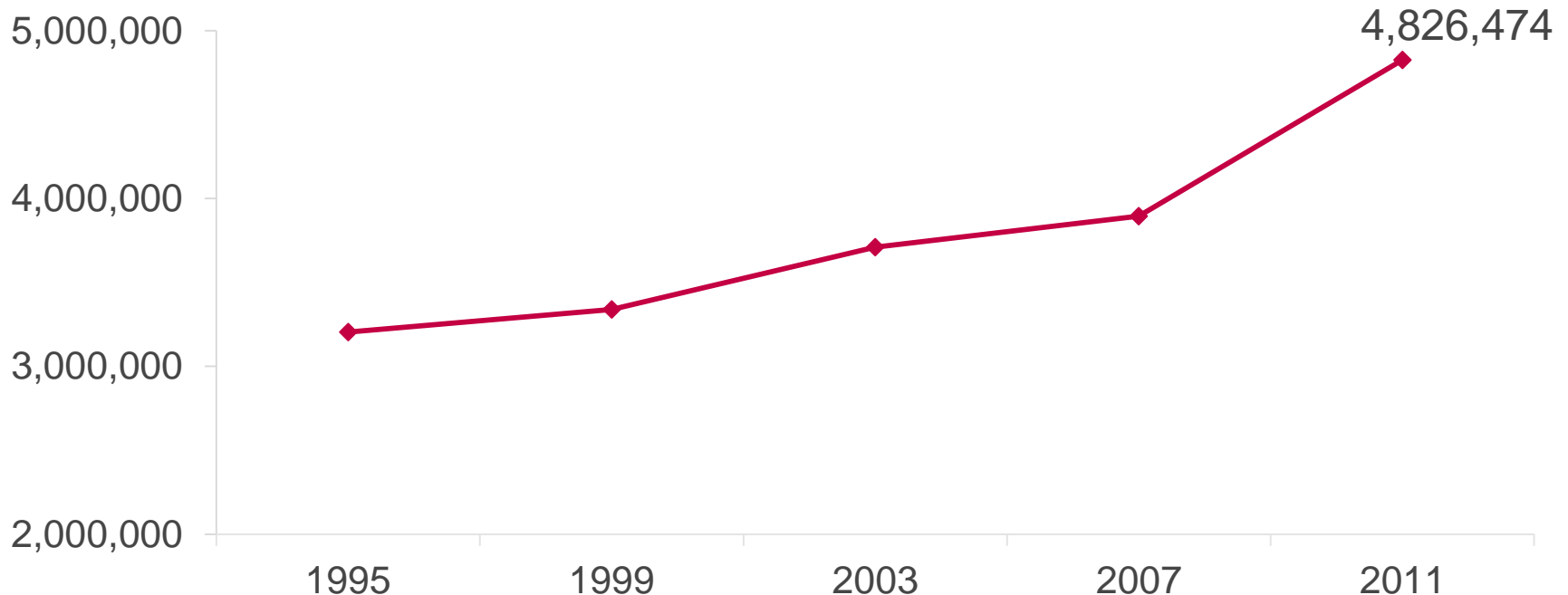


Source: IWPR analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).



The Number of Parents in College is Growing

Number student parents enrolled in the fall,
1995-2011



Source: IWPR analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).



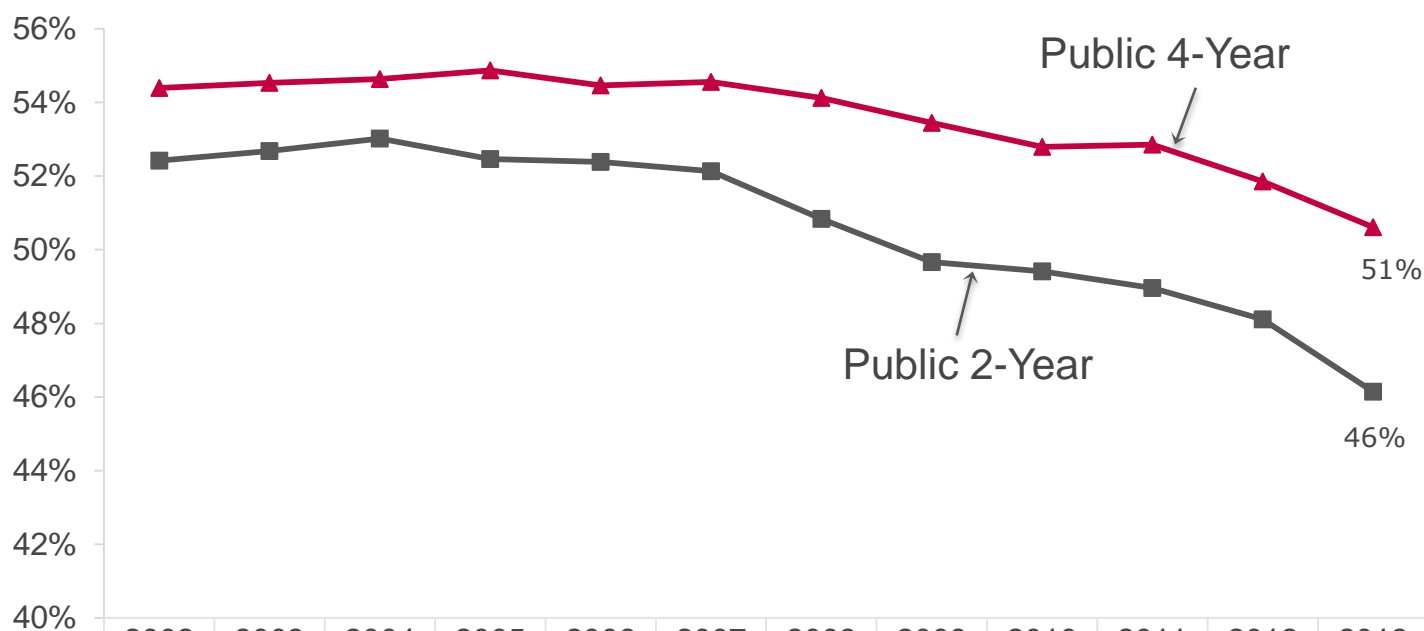
**Student Parent
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Campus Child Care Declining, Especially in Community Colleges

Percent of Colleges with Campus Child Care, 2002-2013



Public 2-Year Institutions

Public 4-Year Institutions

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
52%	53%	53%	52%	52%	52%	51%	50%	49%	49%	48%	46%
54%	55%	55%	55%	54%	55%	54%	53%	53%	53%	52%	51%

Source: IWPR analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).



**Student Parent
Success Initiative**



Current IWPR Research Activities

- **Technical assistance** to community college on improving students' child care access in 4 states
 - In coordination with Achieving the Dream's Working Families Success Network
 - States: CA, WA, AR, VA
- National study of access to **socioeconomic supports** in workforce development programs (including community colleges)



Strategies for Increasing Students' Child Care Access

- Connections with campus child care centers (where available)
- Links to family child care
- Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) Programs
- Vouchers and scholarships
- Collaborations/connections with child care agencies
- Written/online resources for students

Student Parent Policy Working Group

National Women's Law Center (NWLC)	Center for Residential Student Parent Programs, Endicott College
Center for Law & Social Policy (CLASP)	Higher Education Alliance of Advocates for Students with Children (HEAASC)
Women Employed	Young Invincibles
Student Parent HELP Center, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)



Opportunities to Leverage Policy for Greater Student Parent Supports



Higher Education Act

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act

Child Care Access Means Parents in School

State Child Care & TANF Policy



For questions or more information,
please contact us:

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