

Sounding the Alarm:
Addressing the Declining Representation of Black
Students in California Community Colleges

Land Acknowledgement

For millennia, the Kumeyaay people have been a part of this land. This land has nourished, healed, protected and embraced them for many generations in a relationship of balance and harmony. As members of the San Diego State community we acknowledge this legacy. We promote this balance and harmony. We find inspiration from this land; the land of the Kumeyaay.



#EQUITYAVENGERS

Sponsors

Overview

Dr. Daisy
Gonzales

Dr. Daisy Gonzales
Acting Chancellor
California Community Colleges



Research & Data

Dr. Valerie Lundy-Wagner

*Interim Vice Chancellor of
Digital Innovation & Infrastructure*
California Community Colleges

Dr. Darla Cooper

Executive Director
The RP Group



Moderators

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Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education/Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education



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Leveraging Policy



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Leveraging Resources & Initiatives

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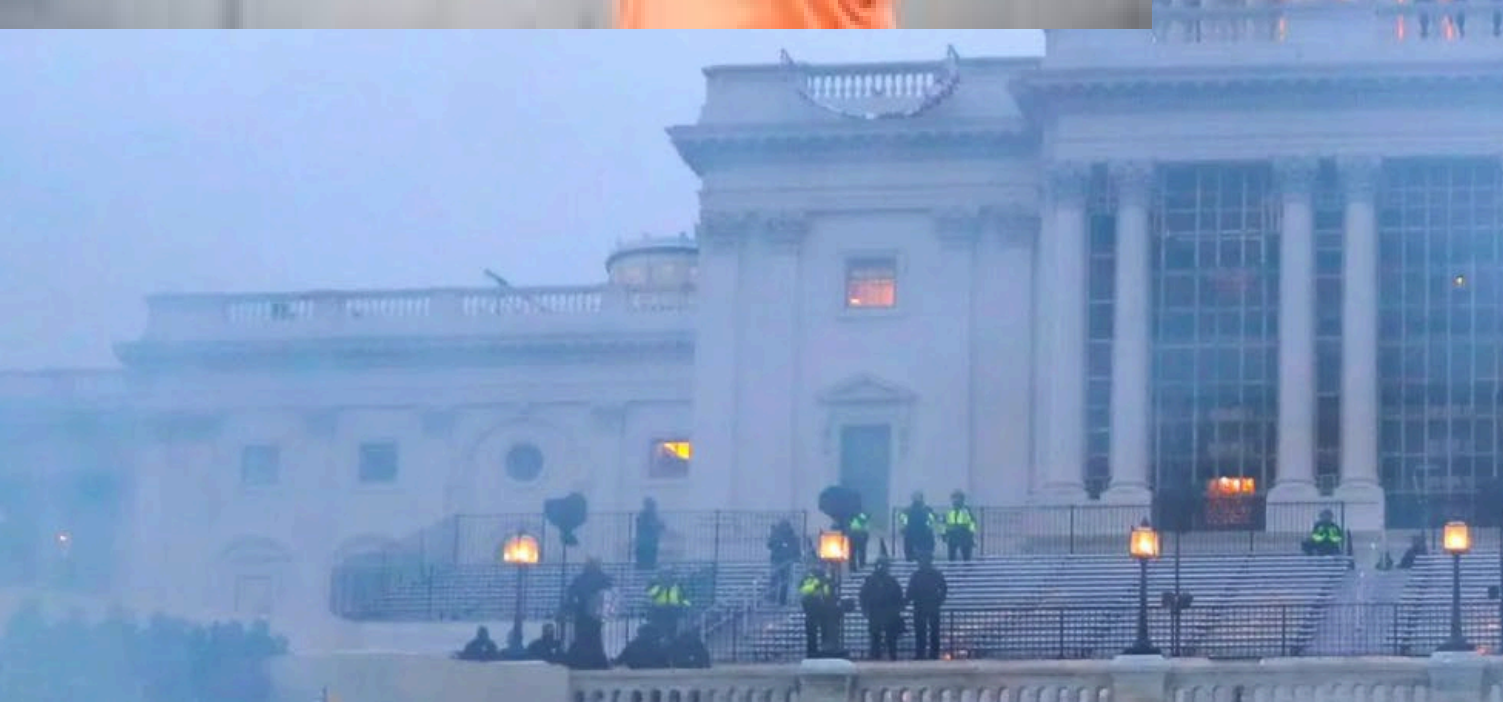


Setting and Context

Black Student Enrollment in the CCC

TERM	TOTAL	BLACK
Fall 2020	1,305,370	69,565
Fall 2019	1,569,502	84,281
Fall 2018	1,591,684	89,130
Fall 2017	1,595,897	90,836
Fall 2016	1,592,274	93,379
Fall 2015	1,593,894	98,719
Fall 2014	1,578,778	104,057

SOURCE: CCCCCO Data Mart



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Understanding Data for Systems Change

Black Student Enrollment and Outcomes



Revisiting reasons for enrollment at community colleges

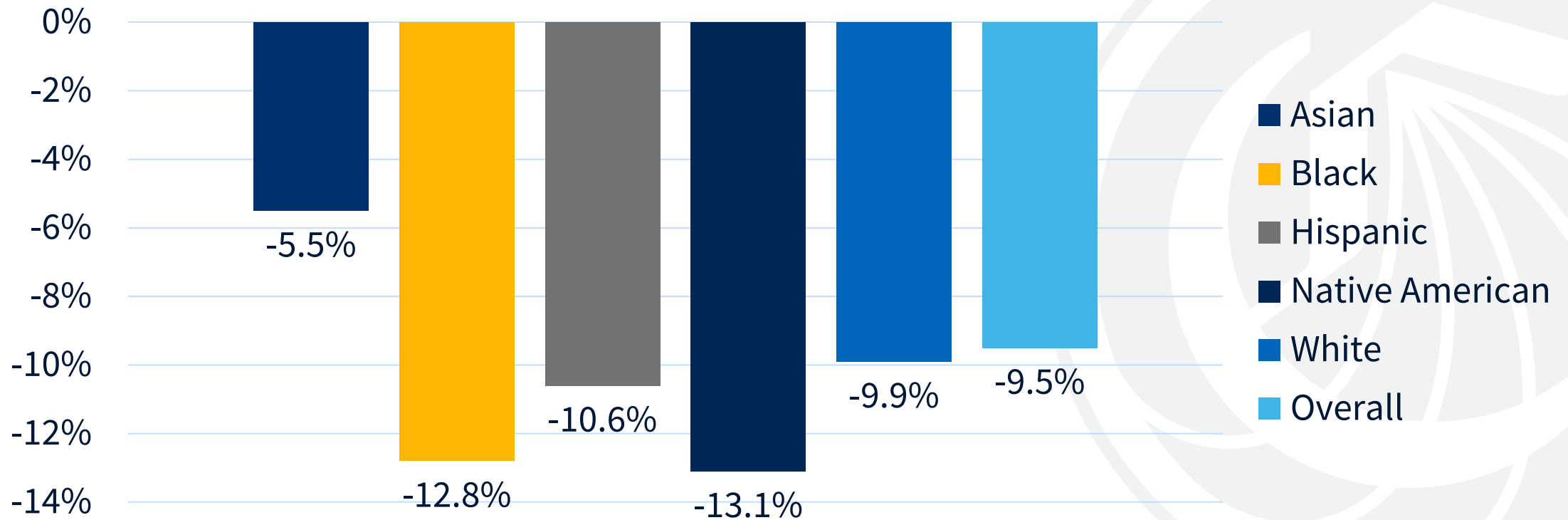
Who enrolls in community college?

- People without a HS diploma
- People with a HS diploma
- People without a PS credential
- People with a PS credential

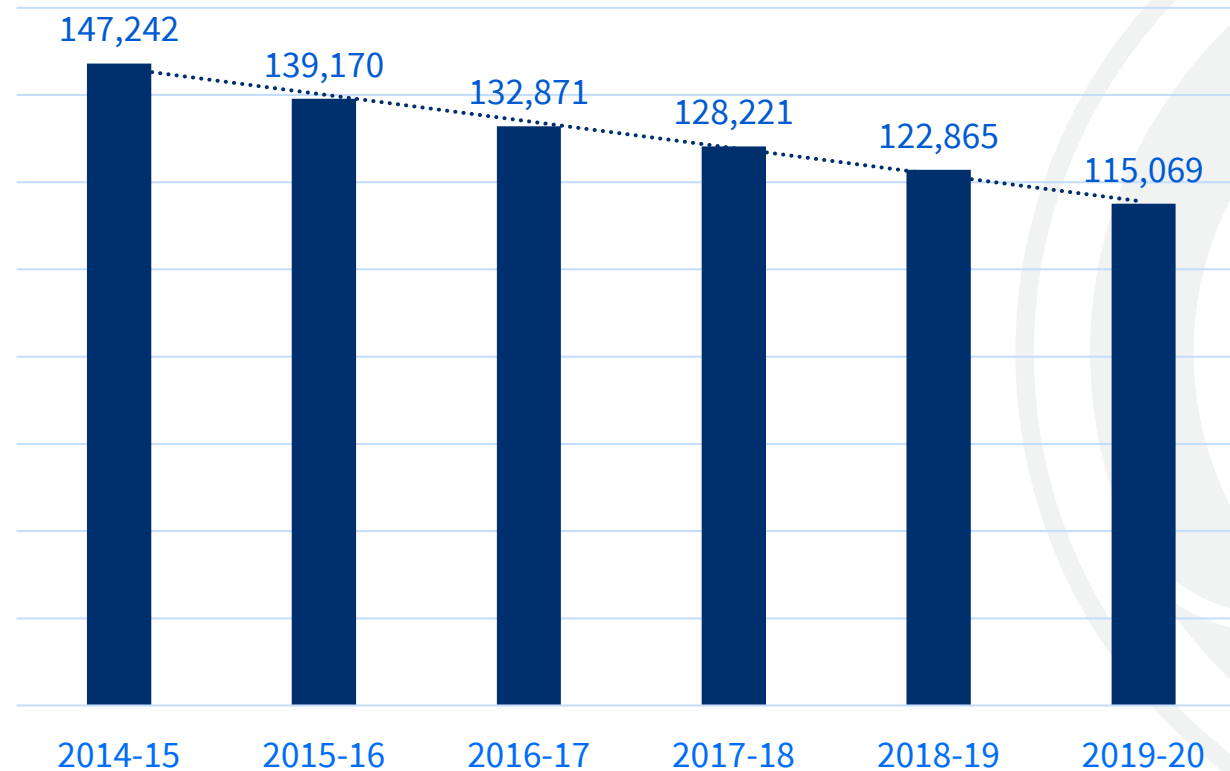
Why do they enroll?

- To start a PS educational path
- To complete a credential
- To obtain knowledge or skills

National community college enrollment trends by ethnicity/race, fall 2020



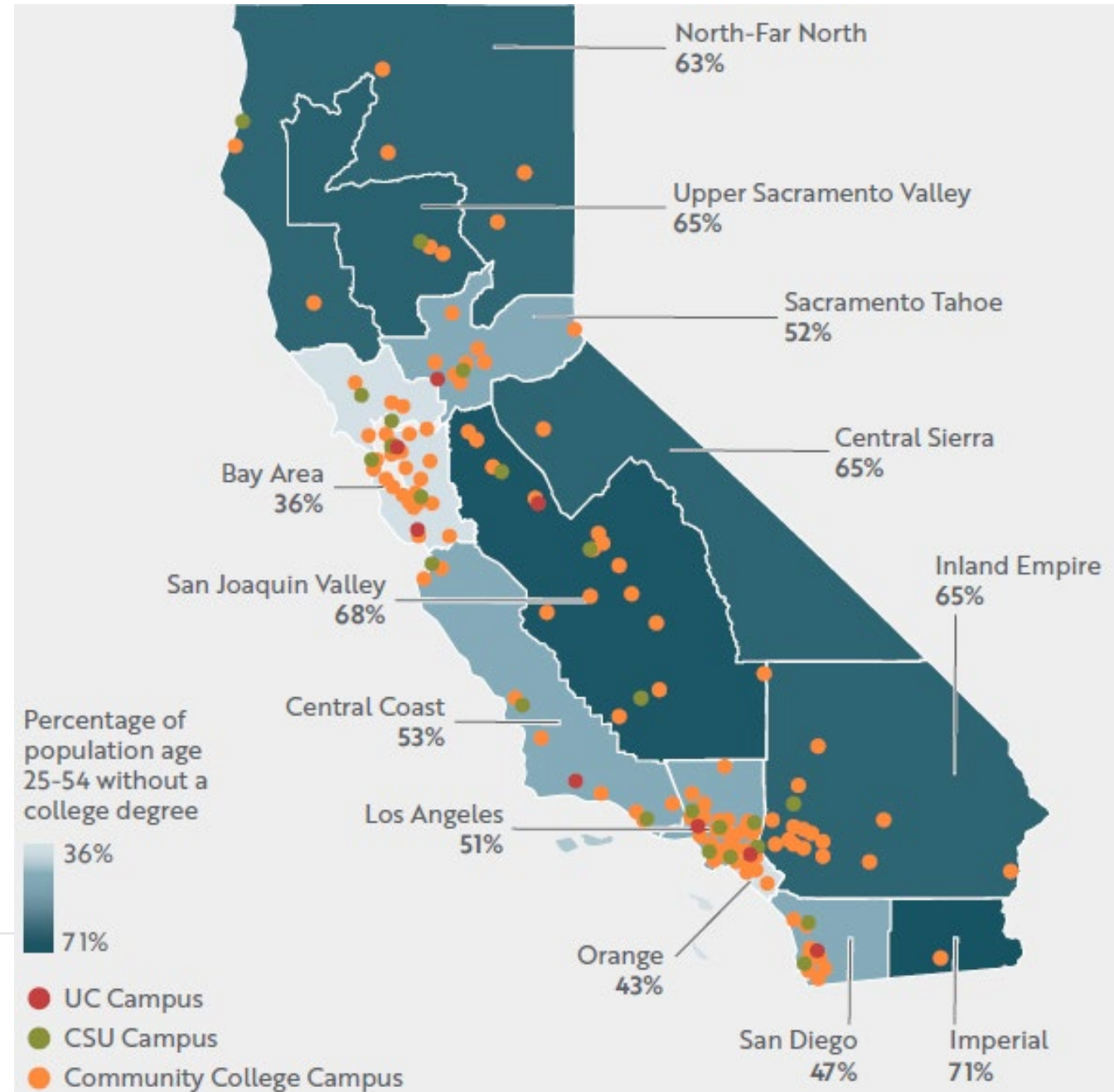
First-time Black enrollment in the CCC system trends down



Source: Student Success Metrics Dashboard (2021)

Untapped pre-2020 enrollment

- More than 6-million adults have some college, and no degree
- Most are low-income
- Most are people of color



Shift strategy focus from enrollment management to facilitating local mobility

Multiple Measures and AB705 improved Black access to transfer-level coursework

Completion of Transfer-level Math and English within 1-Year

Academic Year	Rate
2014-15	1%
2015-16	2%
2016-17	2%
2017-18	2%
2018-19	4%
2019-20	6%

Source: Student Success Metrics Dashboard (2021)

Despite major state investment, Black concentration in Career Education is stagnant

Completion of 9+ Career Education Units

Academic Year	Rate
2014-15	7%
2015-16	7%
2016-17	7%
2017-18	7%
2018-19	8%
2019-20	8%

Source: Student Success Metrics Dashboard (2021)

Black retention rates are relatively stagnant, no drop at initial pandemic occurrence

Retained Fall to Spring

Academic Year	Rate
2014-15	64%
2015-16	64%
2016-17	64%
2017-18	63%
2018-19	63%
2019-20	63%

Source: Student Success Metrics Dashboard (2021)

Black course success rates are relatively stagnant accounting for the pandemic-induced bump

Course Success

Academic Year	Rate
2014-15	58%
2015-16	59%
2016-17	61%
2017-18	62%
2018-19	62%
2019-20	67%

Source: Student Success Metrics Dashboard (2021)

Black transfer to bachelor's degree programs is relatively stagnant

Transfer

Academic Year	Public In-State	Private In-State	Private Out-of-State
2014-15	9%	3%	6%
2015-16	9%	3%	6%
2016-17	10%	3%	6%
2017-18	10%	3%	7%
2018-19	10%	3%	7%

Source: Student Success Metrics Dashboard (2021)

What contexts affect significant improvement in system-level outcomes for Black students?

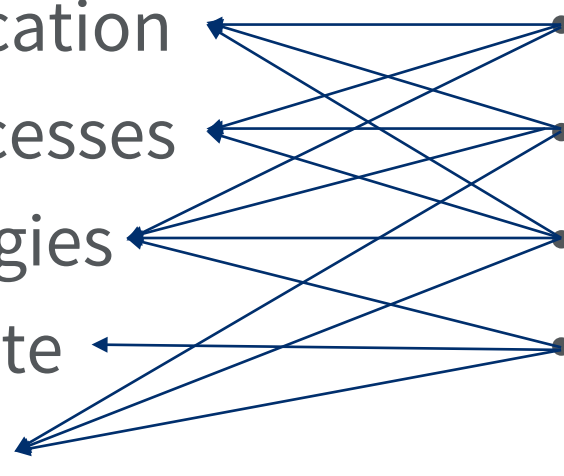
Student experiences rely on governance and decision-making contexts

Student Experiences

- Admission Application
- Onboarding Processes
- Retention Strategies
- Classroom Climate
- Campus Climate

Governance Contexts

- Chancellor's Office
- Community College & District Administration and Staff
- Faculty



Note: The contents of this slide are illustrative, not necessarily precise.

Students accumulate measurable advantages through many stakeholders

- Outreach and recruitment
- Communications
- Admissions and records
- Financial aid and basic needs
- Faculty and academic advising
- Categorical programs
- Tutoring and writing centers
- Wellness and mental health
- Transfer staff and centers
- External partners

CDE, CSU and UC
Private institutions
Community Organizations and more
Accreditation agencies
Labor Agency
Department of Social Services

Aligning Resources & Programs to Put Students First



Support evidence-based decision-making to facilitate (Black) enrollment and success

- Reframe
 - Student-ready institutions
 - Make space for being wrong and new information
- Establish
 - A strategy based on data related to equity gaps
 - Clarity on systems change for various governance contexts
- Embrace
 - Data as a tool for transparency that relies on context
 - Test assumptions for experimentation and study

Conspire to support (Black) students based on data and evidence

- Virtually everything can be measured, even if imperfectly
- Ask questions about governance and use of resources
 - How much aid goes to students as direct or indirect aid?
 - How much funding are colleges carrying over annually?
- Acknowledge limitations of information available
 - How, if at all, does this obscure attention?
- Clarify “success” or “best practice” at the local vs the system-level
 - How can this lead to potentially inefficient investment of time and energy?



Follow the Money:

Unapologetically Supporting Black Students

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#TheBlackHour
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Follow the Money Report

- Attempts to challenge the current examination of how state funding is allocated to and subsequently followed by the institution type (UC, CSU, CCC).
- However, this approach does not take into account the differing demographics across the three institution types, especially race.

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How Higher Education Is Funded by Institution Type

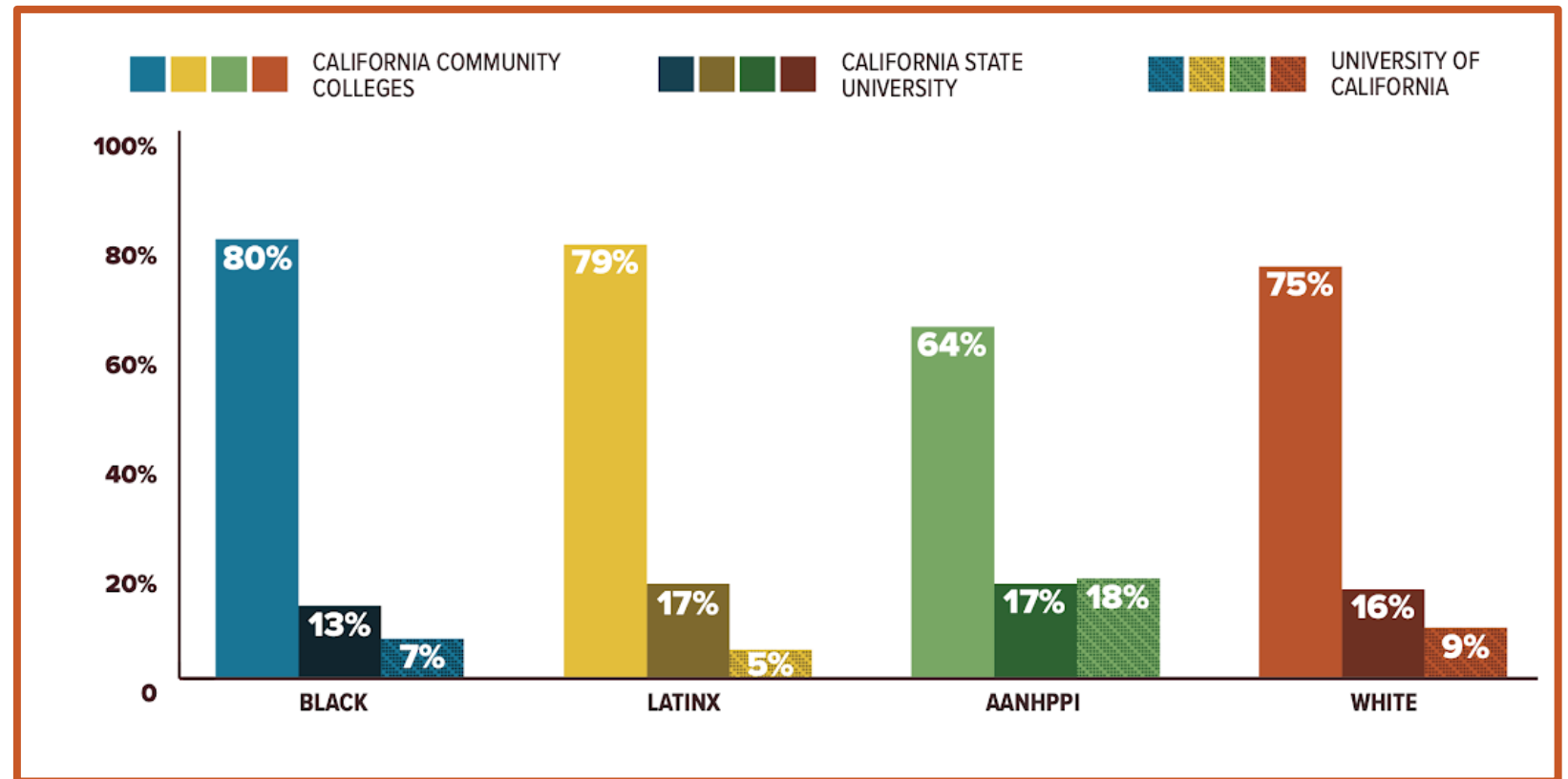
	University of California	California State University	California Community Colleges
Net Educational Appropriations	\$2,594,485,000	\$3,984,878,000	\$10,230,478,000
Student Headcount	268,510	481,210	2,089,209
Dollars per Student	\$9,663	\$8,281	\$4,897

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SOURCE: "Follow the Money: How California Systematically Underinvests in Black Degree Attainment"



Enrollment in CA Public Postsecondary Education Segment by Race/Ethnicity



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SOURCE: "Follow the Money: How California Systematically Underinvests in Black Degree Attainment"



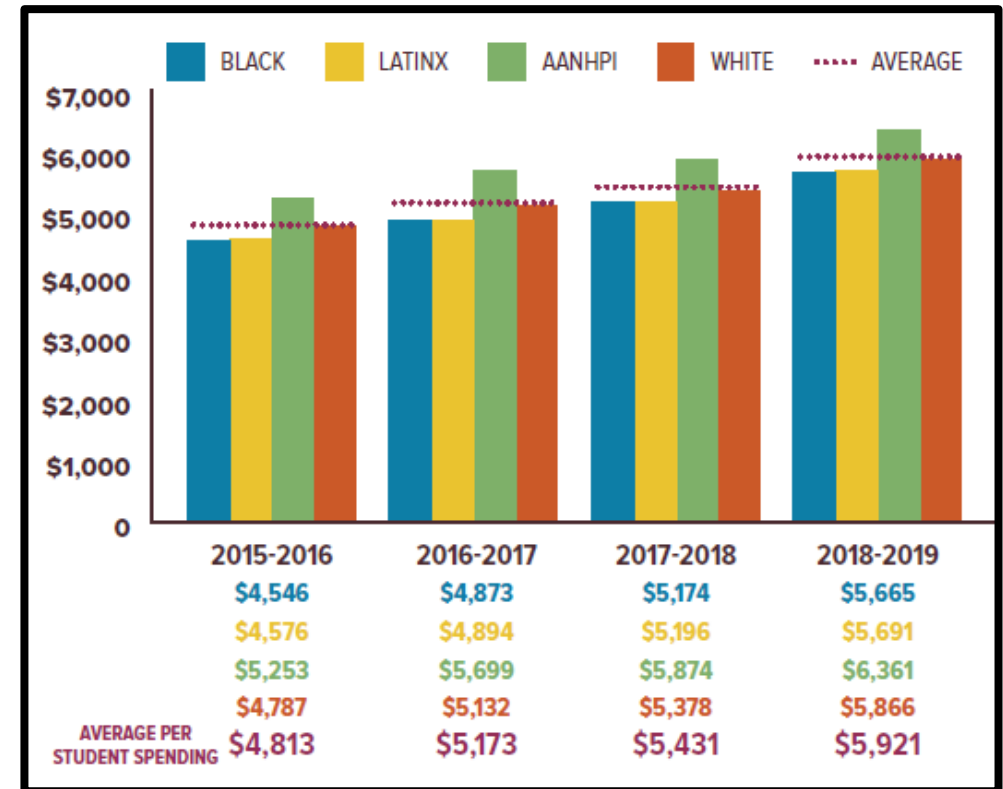
How Much Is the State Spending on Black Students?

- Disaggregating the funding data by race would reveal **the average amount of money the state devotes to Black students** compared to students of other races.
- By flipping the current model, **disparities affecting Black students will be more readily exposed and can begin to be addressed directly.**

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How Much Is the State Spending on Black Students?

- In an equal funding model, all four bars within a given year would be the same height
- The current funding model has consistently spent less per African-American/Black student
- Average investment per student in 2018-2019 was \$5,921
- The average investment per Black student was \$5,665



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The Campaign for
**College
Opportunity**

Sounding the Alarm:

Examining Disparities in College Opportunity by Gender for Black Californians

[@CollegeOpp](#) | [#BlackInHigherEd](#)



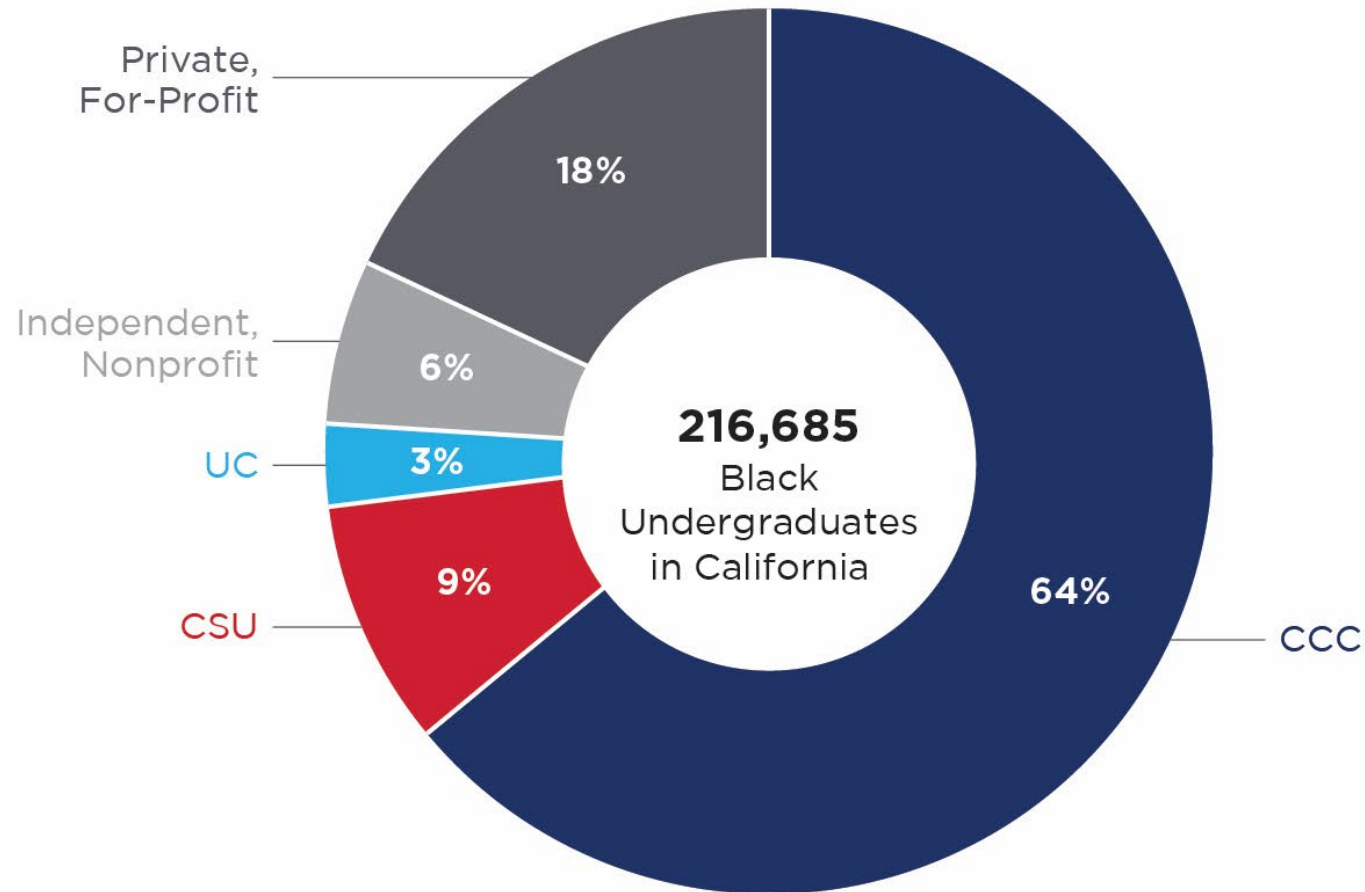
While a growing number of Black Californians have a college education, stark gaps persist in access to opportunity and success in higher education, and these gaps are even more troubling when examined by gender

- 36% of Black men ages 25-64 have a college degree compared to 56% of White men
- More Black women have a college degree at 41%, but 59% of White women do

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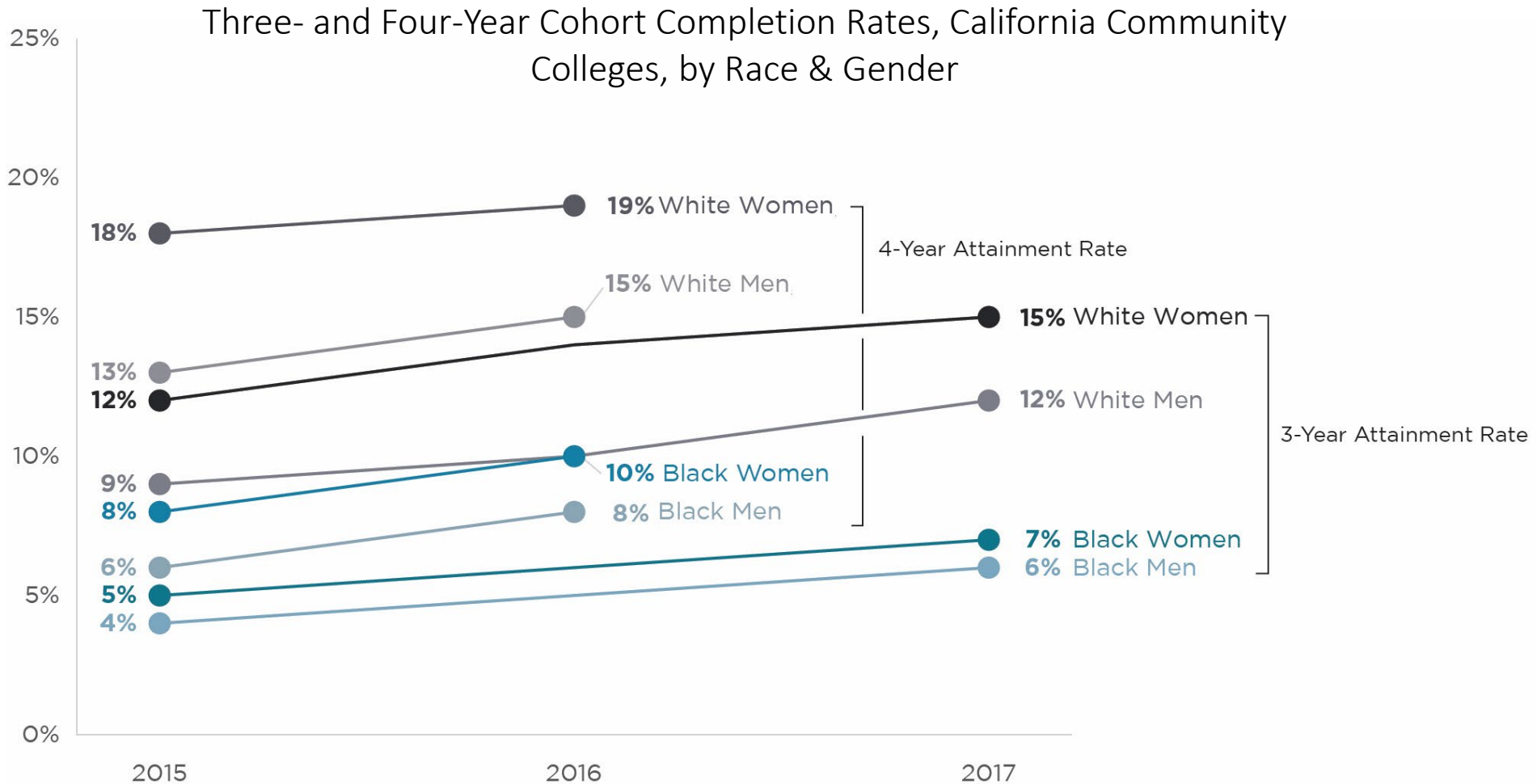
The California Community Colleges educate more Black men and women than all other higher education segments in California combined

Black undergraduate enrollment by sector in California



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (2020), 12-month Enrollment Component (2018-2019), Table EFFY2019: Undergraduate. Available from: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

Community College completion rates are low overall, but for White students, it is almost double the rate compared to Black students

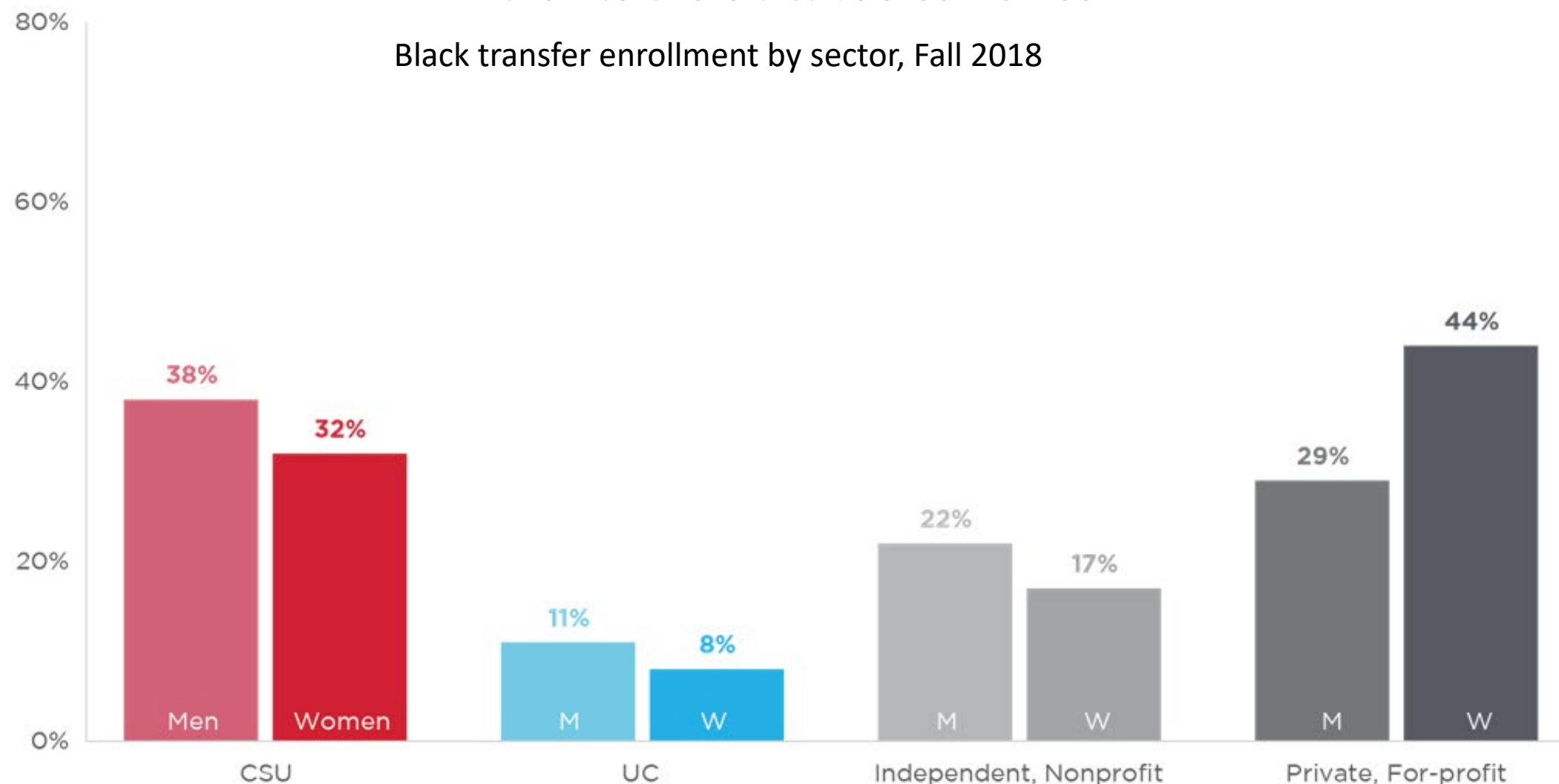


Note: Different scale than other graphs.

Source: Cal-PASS Plus. (2021). Student Success Metrics (All Students-Cohort View). [Data Dashboard]. Retrieved from: <https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Student-Success-Metrics>

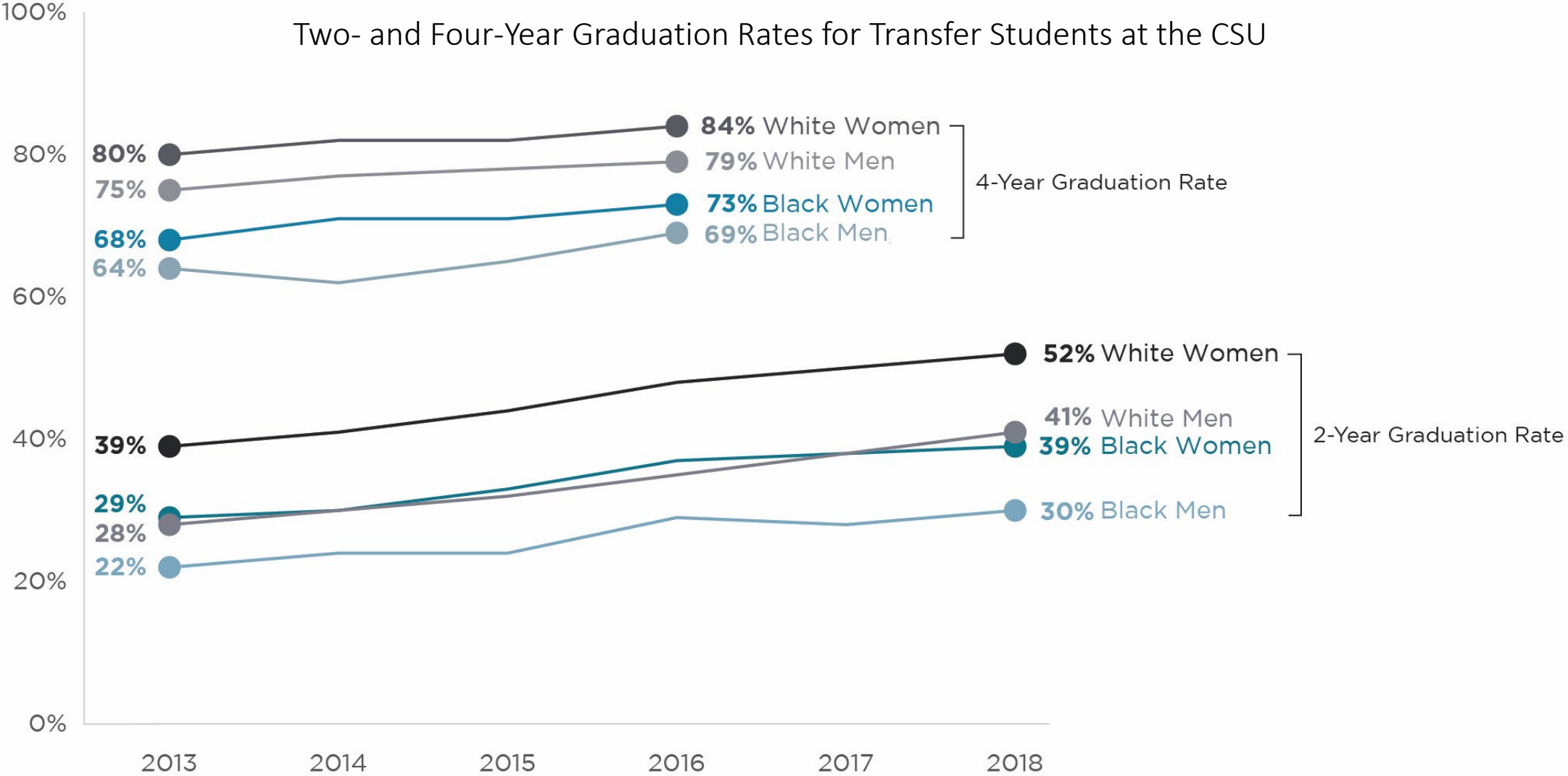
More Black women transfer to for-profit colleges than to the UC & CSU combined

Black transfer enrollment by sector, Fall 2018



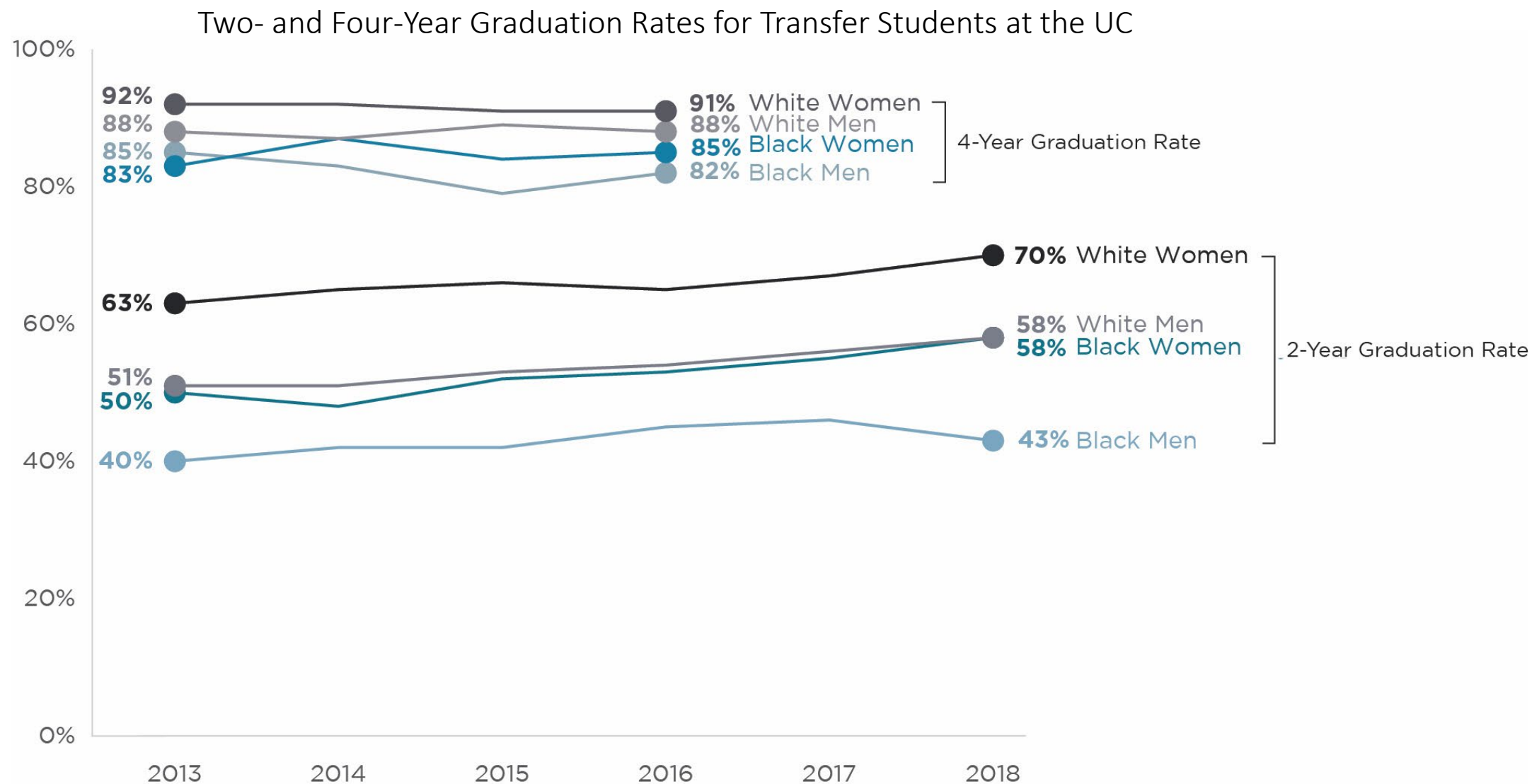
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (2020), Fall Enrollment Component (2018-2019), Table EFFY2019a: Undergraduate. Available from: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

CSU graduation rates have improved over time,
but serious gaps persist in completion for Black men and women compared to their White
peers



Source: California State University Office of the Chancellor, Division of Institutional Research and Analyses, 2020, Graduation Dashboard

The UC must do more to support Black transfer students to graduate in two years





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Leveraging Resources & Initiatives

Closing Remarks

Join the Campaign for College Opportunity on Facebook for a livestream of an in-person conversation with California's higher education leaders as we discuss strategies for achieving racial equity in our state's public colleges and universities.

Thursday, September 23, 2021

5:30pm PT

For additional information regarding this event, please visit <https://collegecampaign.org/>



A Conversation with California's
Higher Education Leaders

Resources

- [Follow the Money Brief](#)
- [State of Black Californians in Higher Education Gender Brief](#)
- [CORA Webinars on Race and Black Minds Matter](#)
- [Racelighting Research Brief](#)
- [June 2020 Call to Action: A Letter to the California Community College Family](#)