

The Effects of COVID-19 on Transfer-Intending Students in California's Community Colleges

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Impacts of pandemic on community colleges have large social and economic implications

- Critical access point for low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented groups
- Transfer path is a crucial driver of economic mobility
- State and system-wide goals to increase educational attainment rely on transfer pathways

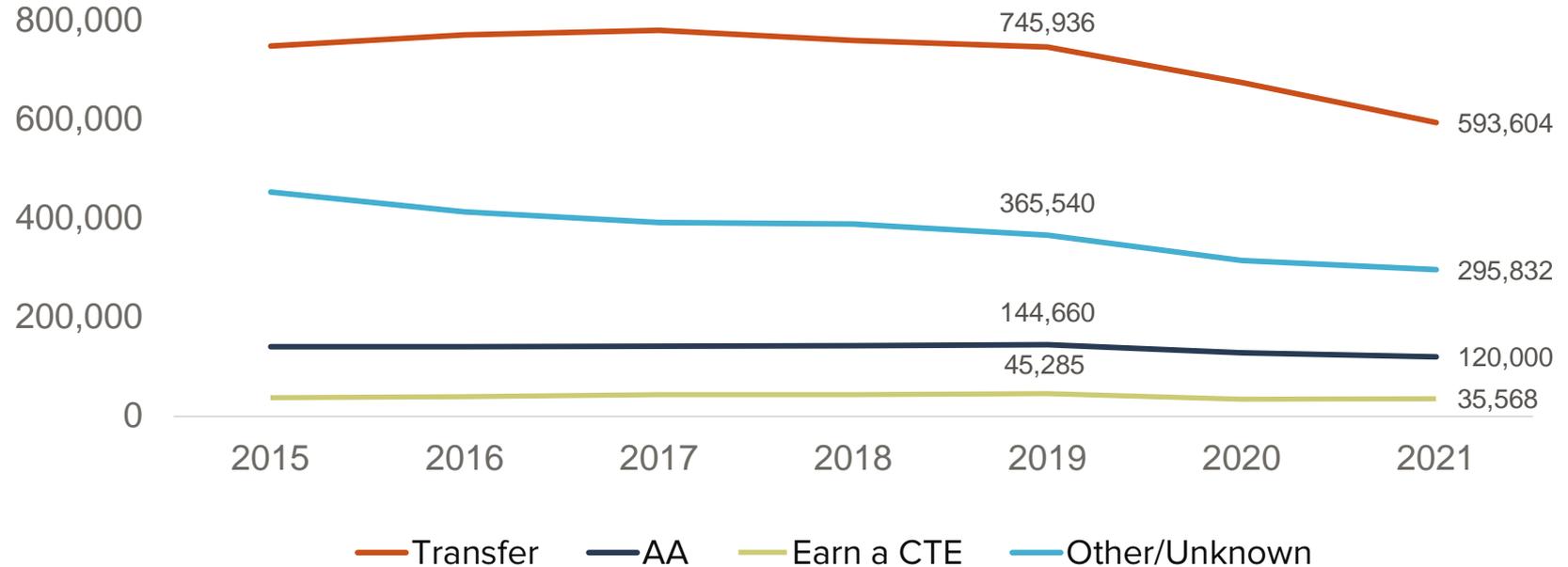
Focus on transfer students mirrors state-wide policy emphasis over the last decade

- Pre-pandemic initiatives were beginning to promote student success on transfer pathways before the pandemic
- This report:
 - Longitudinal student-level data
 - Examine outcomes up to fall 2021 term
 - Focus on transfer-intending students

The pandemic exacerbated pre-existing issues with enrollment and persistence

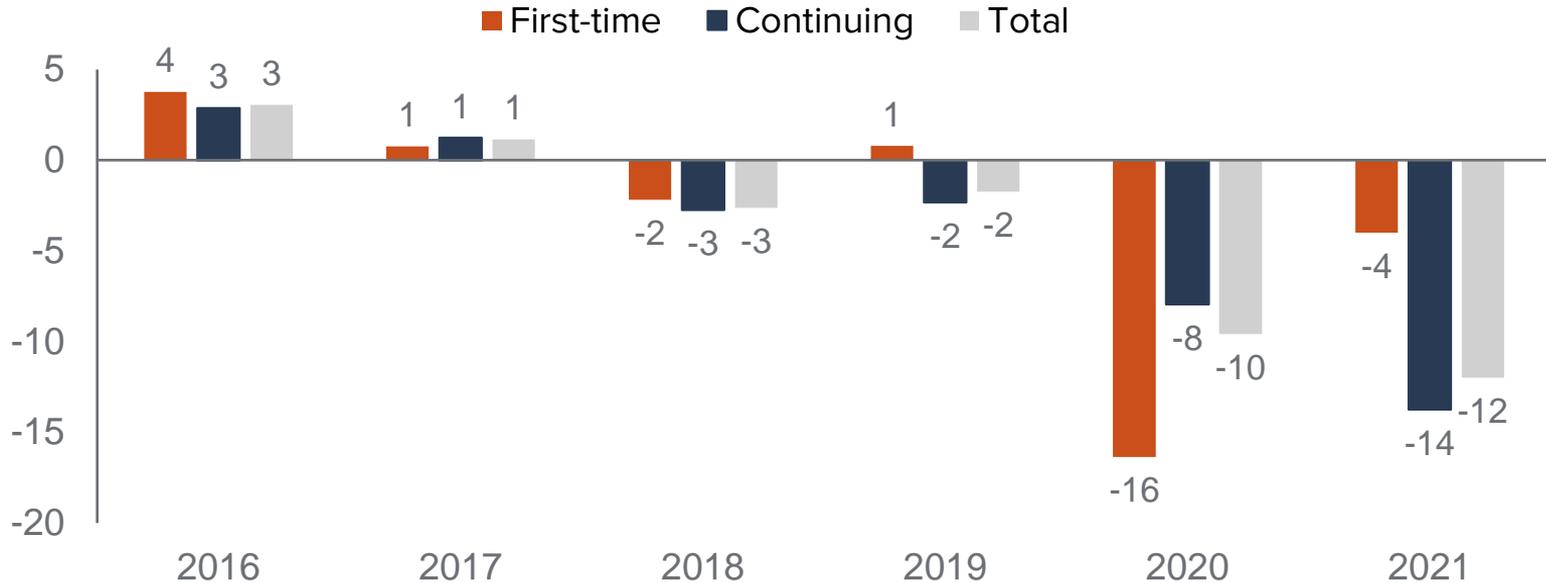
Enrollment declined steeply among students of all academic goals

Number of credit-enrolled students in the fall term by academic goal



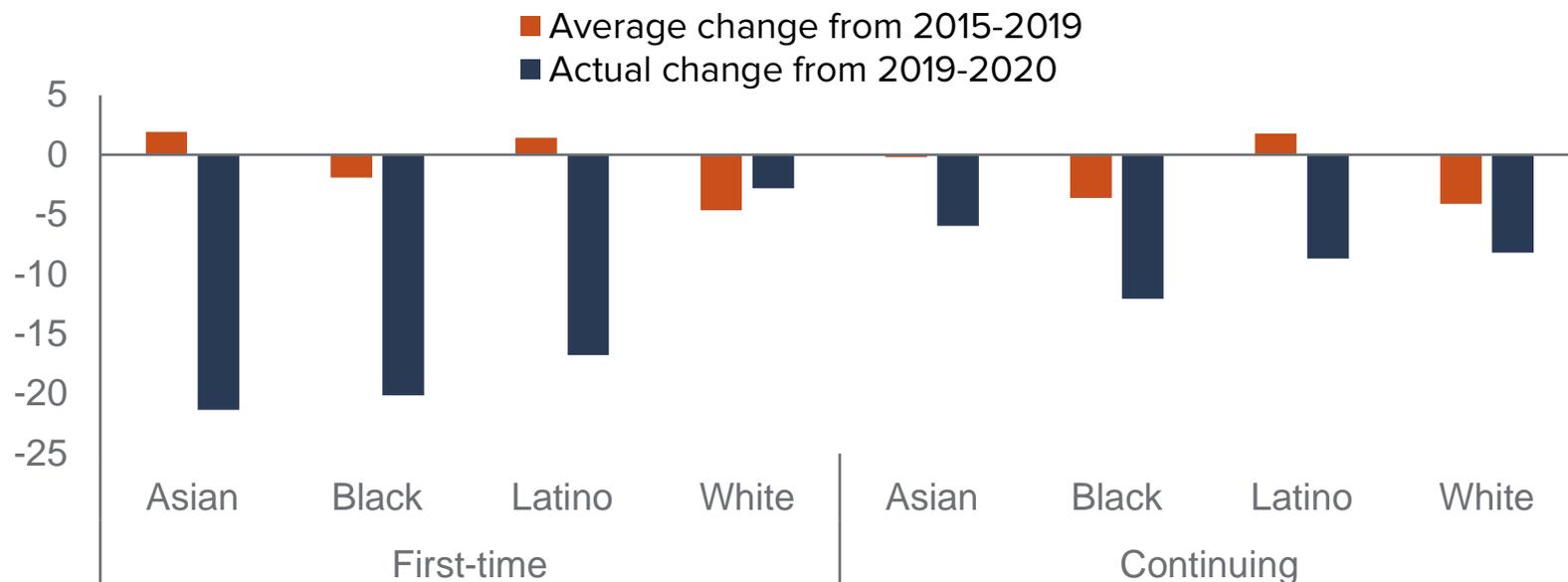
Enrollment declines were large for first-time and continuing students

Yearly change in fall transfer-intending student enrollment (%)



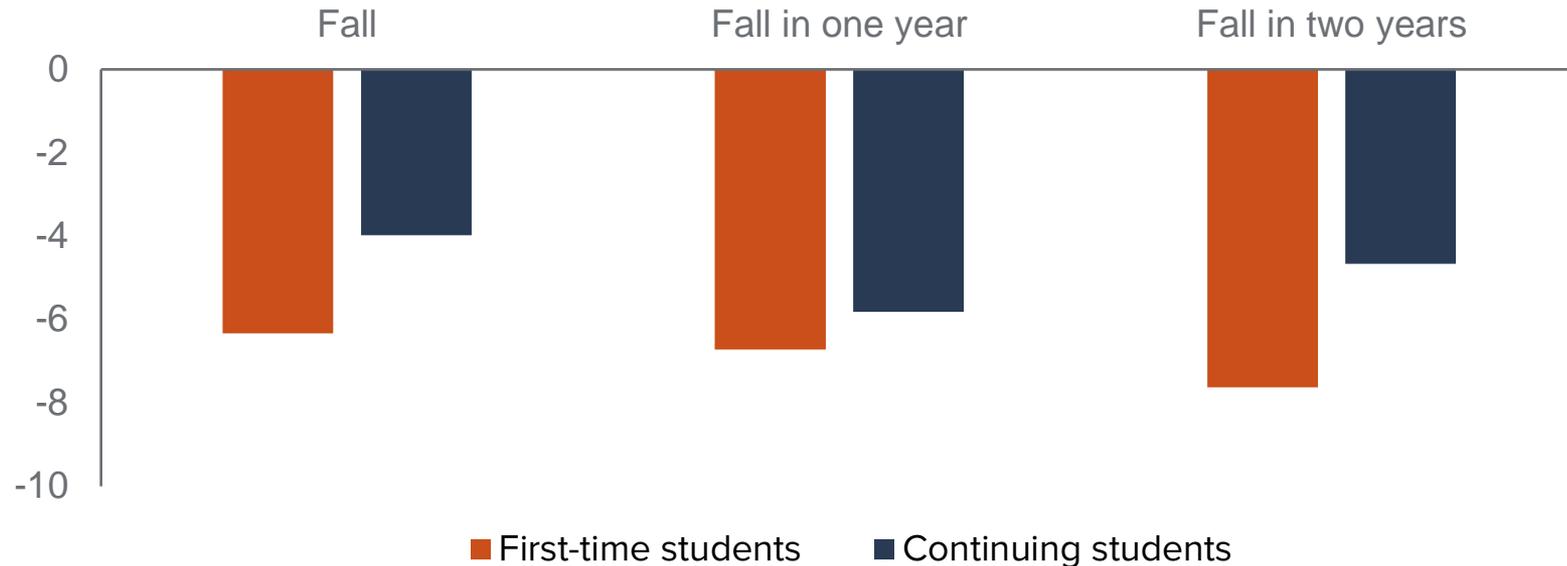
Enrollment declines were largest among non-white first-time students

Change in fall transfer-intending student enrollment (%)



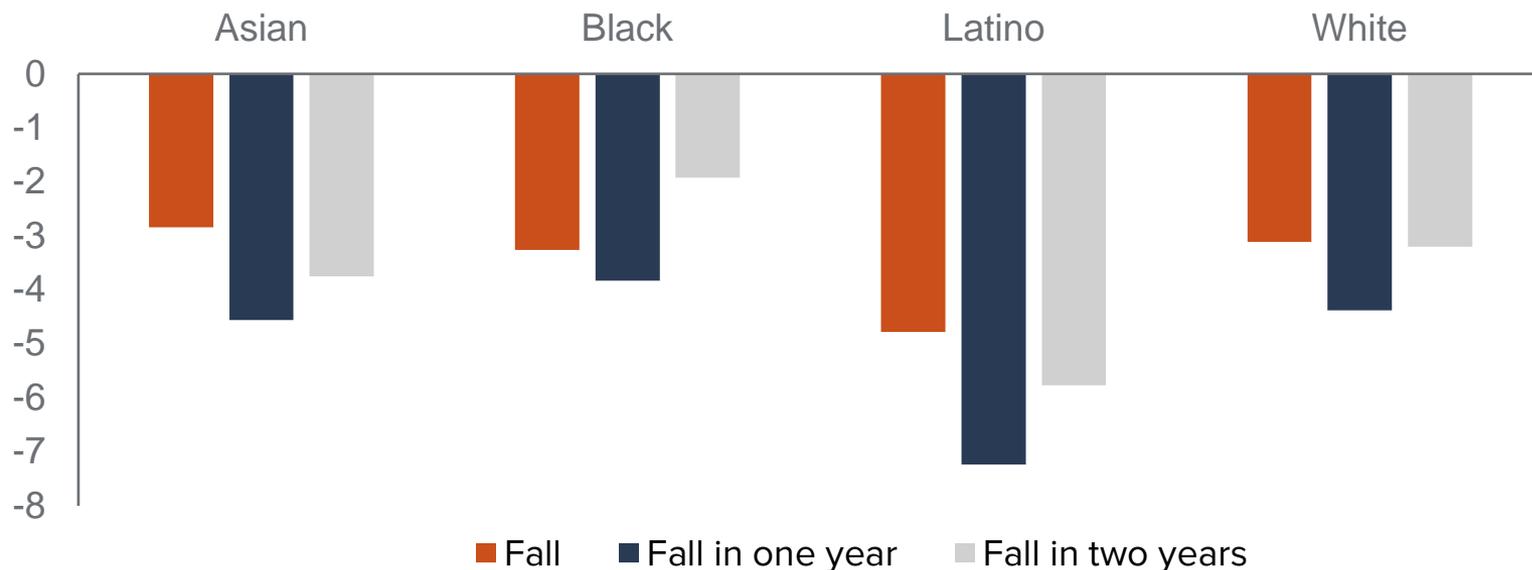
Persistence also fell moderately, especially among first-time students

Adjusted PPT difference in enrollment and successful completion of at least one course (pre- and post-pandemic)



Latino transfer-intending students experienced the largest drops in persistence

Adjusted PPT difference in enrollment and successful completion of at least one course (pre- and post-pandemic)



Enrollment challenges at California's community colleges are not new or temporary

- Pre-pandemic declines among transfer-intending students
- Stalled population growth
- Falling K–12 enrollment

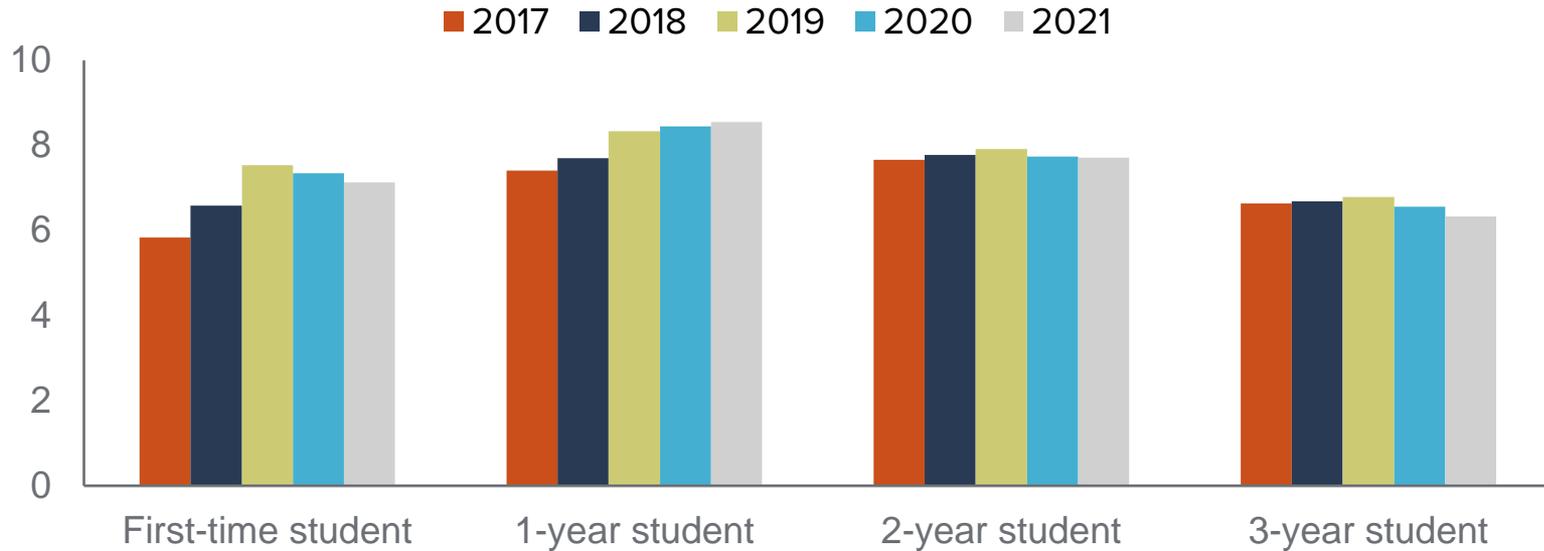
Addressing challenges with enrollment and retention should continue to be at the forefront

- The pandemic exposed inequities among students
 - Digital divide
 - Access to adequate places to study
 - Work and financial constraints
 - Demand for academic resources and basic needs supports
- Transfer enrollment at UC and CSU has already declined

Pre-pandemic reforms and pandemic responses may have limited the impact on students who remained enrolled

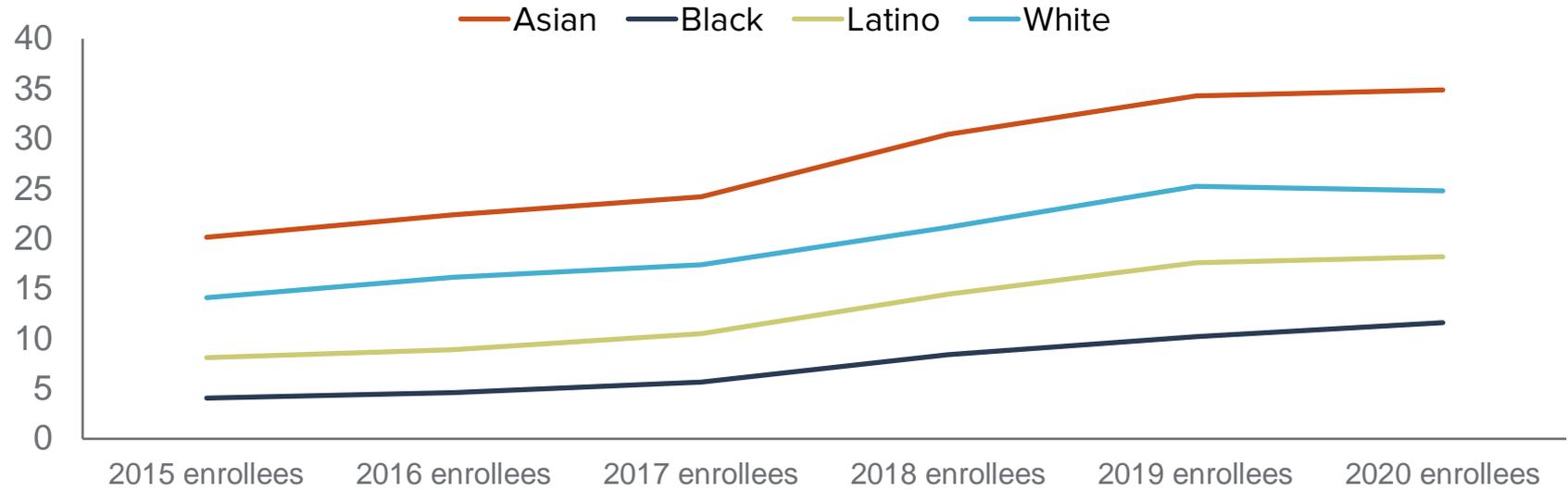
Unit accumulation remained steady among students who were able to remain enrolled

Average transferable units earned in the fall term among transfer-intending students



Students of all groups continued to make significant progress toward transfer

Share of first-time transfer-intending students completing a TL English and math course and 30 TL units in one year (%)



Policy Recommendations

- Strengthen and prioritize strategies to promote new student enrollment
- Enhance programs aimed at improving persistence and course success
- Widen access to transfer pathways and retain pre-pandemic progress
- Adapt course and support offerings to meet student needs and demand

Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.