

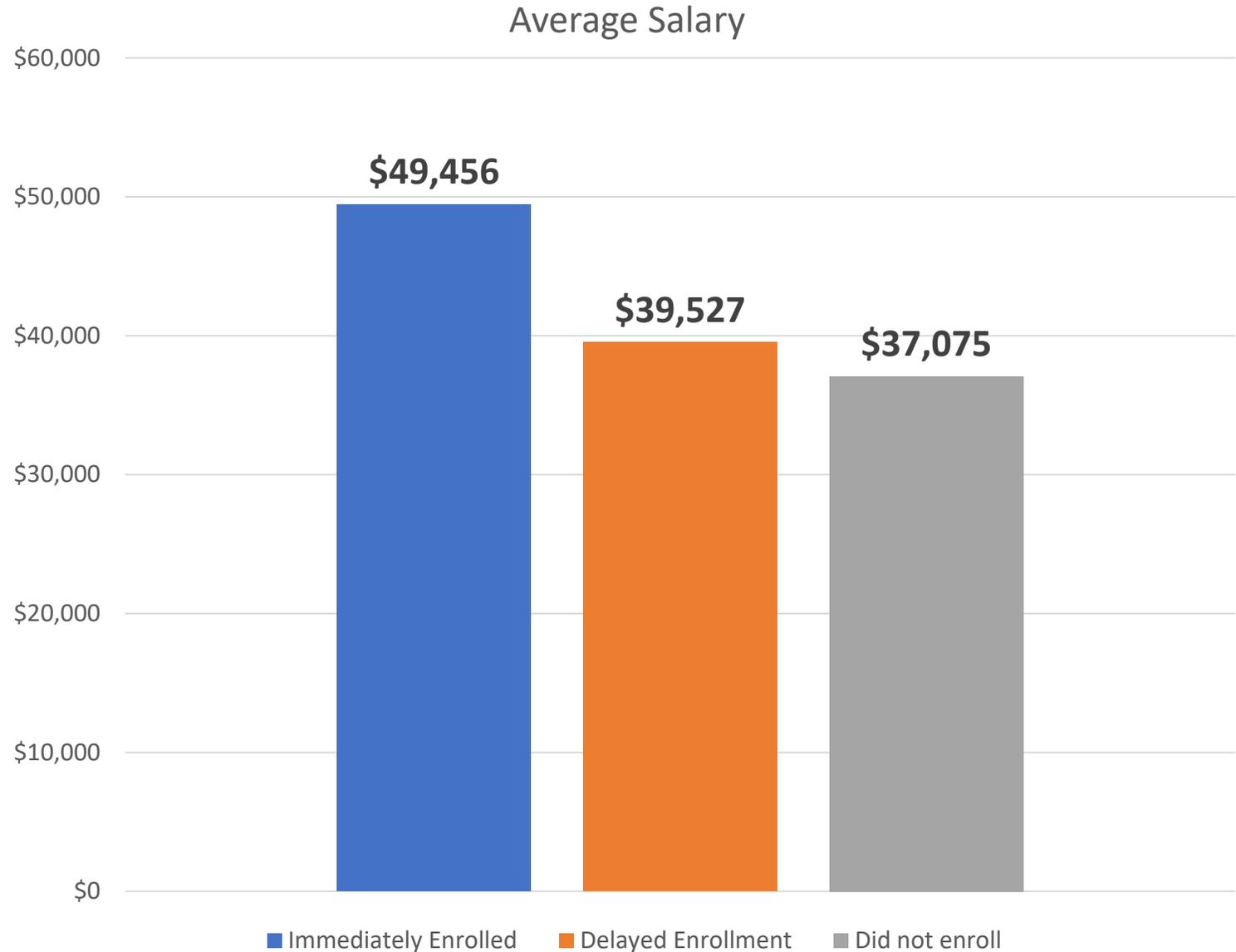


College Access in Massachusetts |

Immediate Enrollment in College Matters

Immediate enrollees earn more in their early 30s than students who do not enroll immediately (when comparing similar students from the same school).

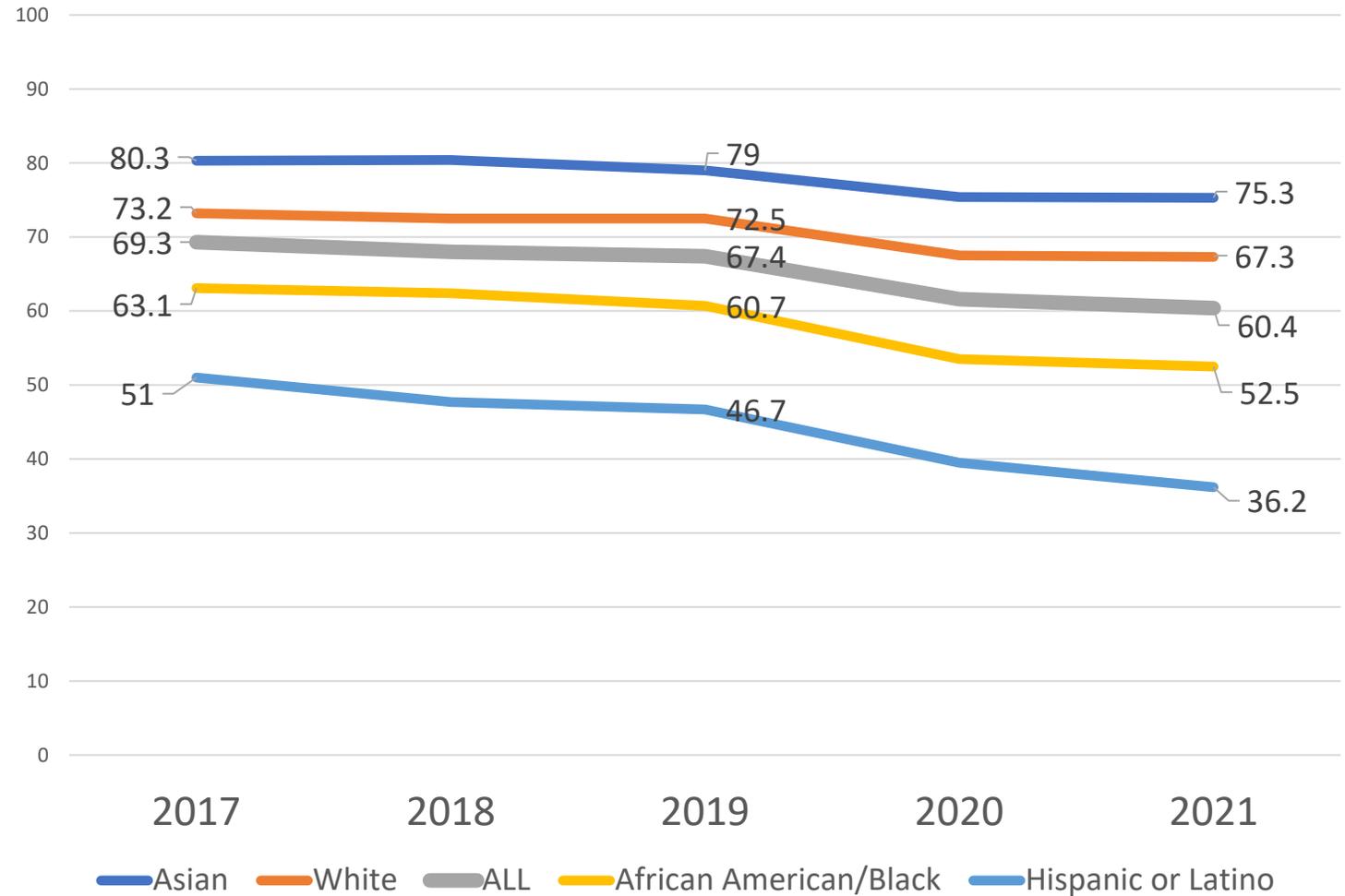
Source: Papay, et al. 2021



Immediate College Enrollment is Decreasing Overall, and at Different Rates by Student Group

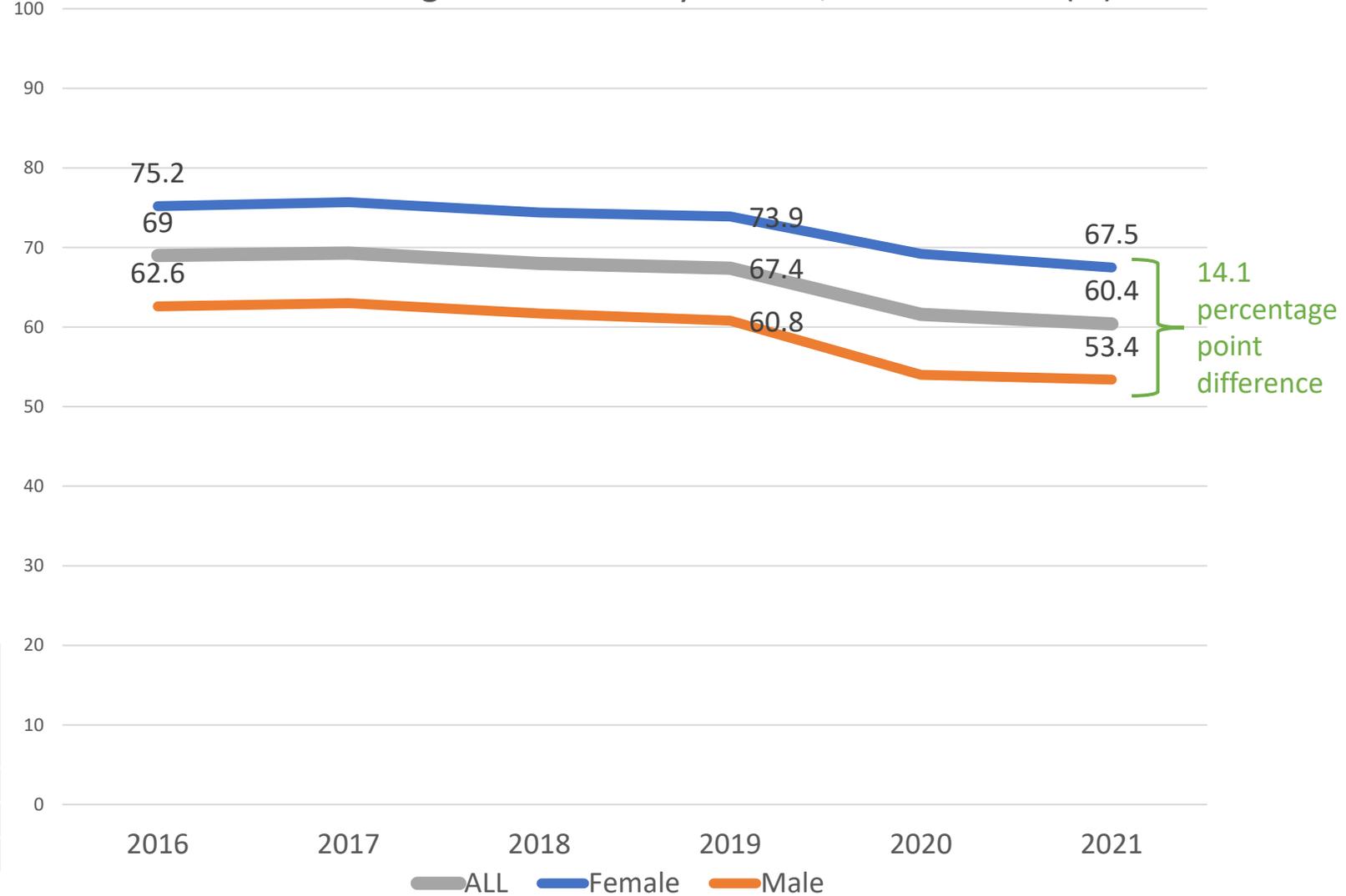
Comparing fall 2021 to fall 2019:
4,333 fewer high school graduates enrolled in college, despite an increase of 744 high school graduates

College Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, 2017-2021 (%)



Immediate College Enrollment is Decreasing Overall, and at Different Rates by Gender

Immediate College Enrollment by Gender, 2016 to 2021 (%)

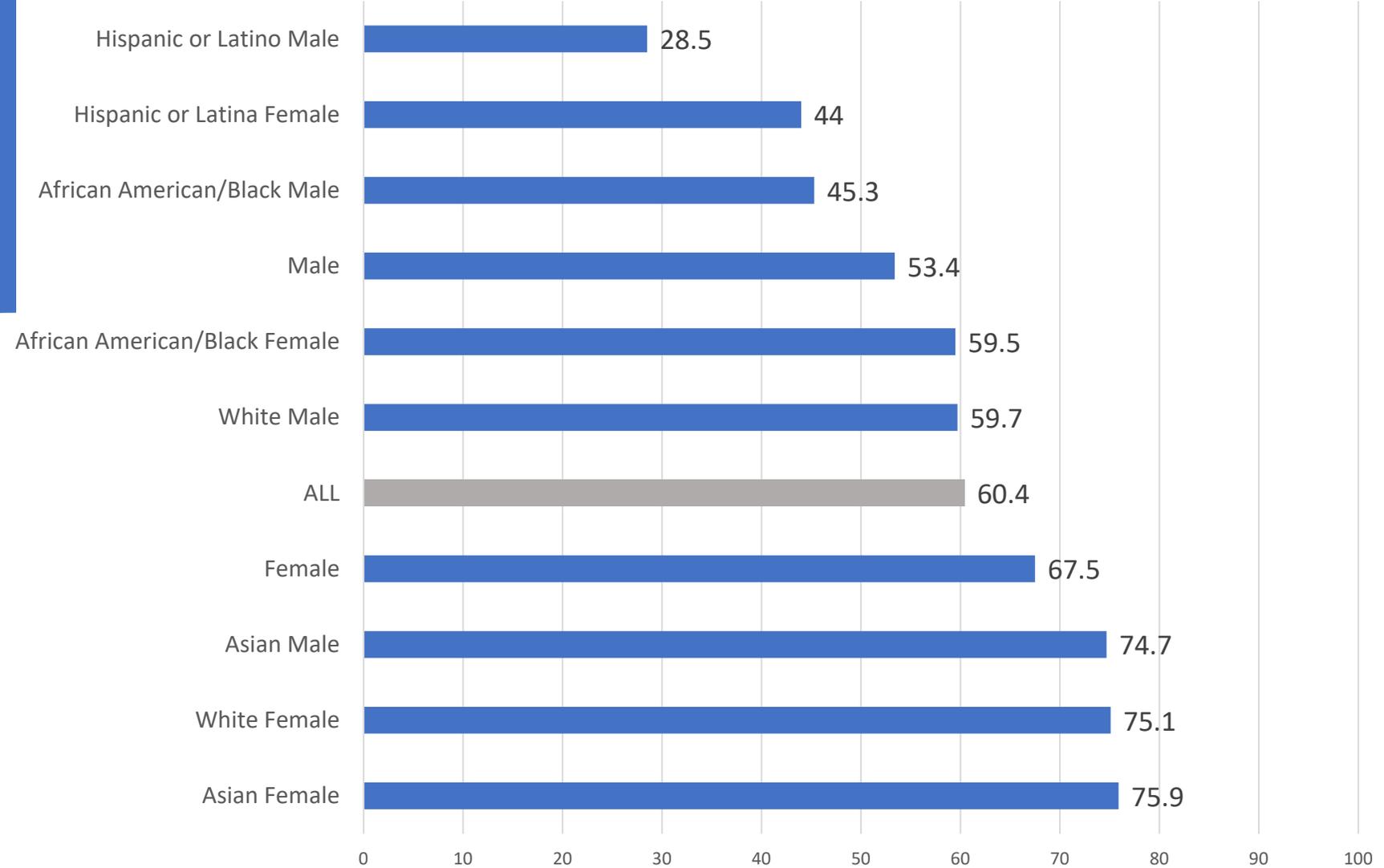


The decline since the onset of the pandemic has been steep, and steeper for males than females.

Student Group	Change in # of HS Grads 2019 to 2021	Change in # College Enrollment 2019 to 2021	% Enroll in College 2021	% point change from 2019-2021
Female	+321	-1,989	67.5	-6.5
Male	+360	-2,367	53.4	-7.5
TOTAL	+744	-4,333	60.4	-7

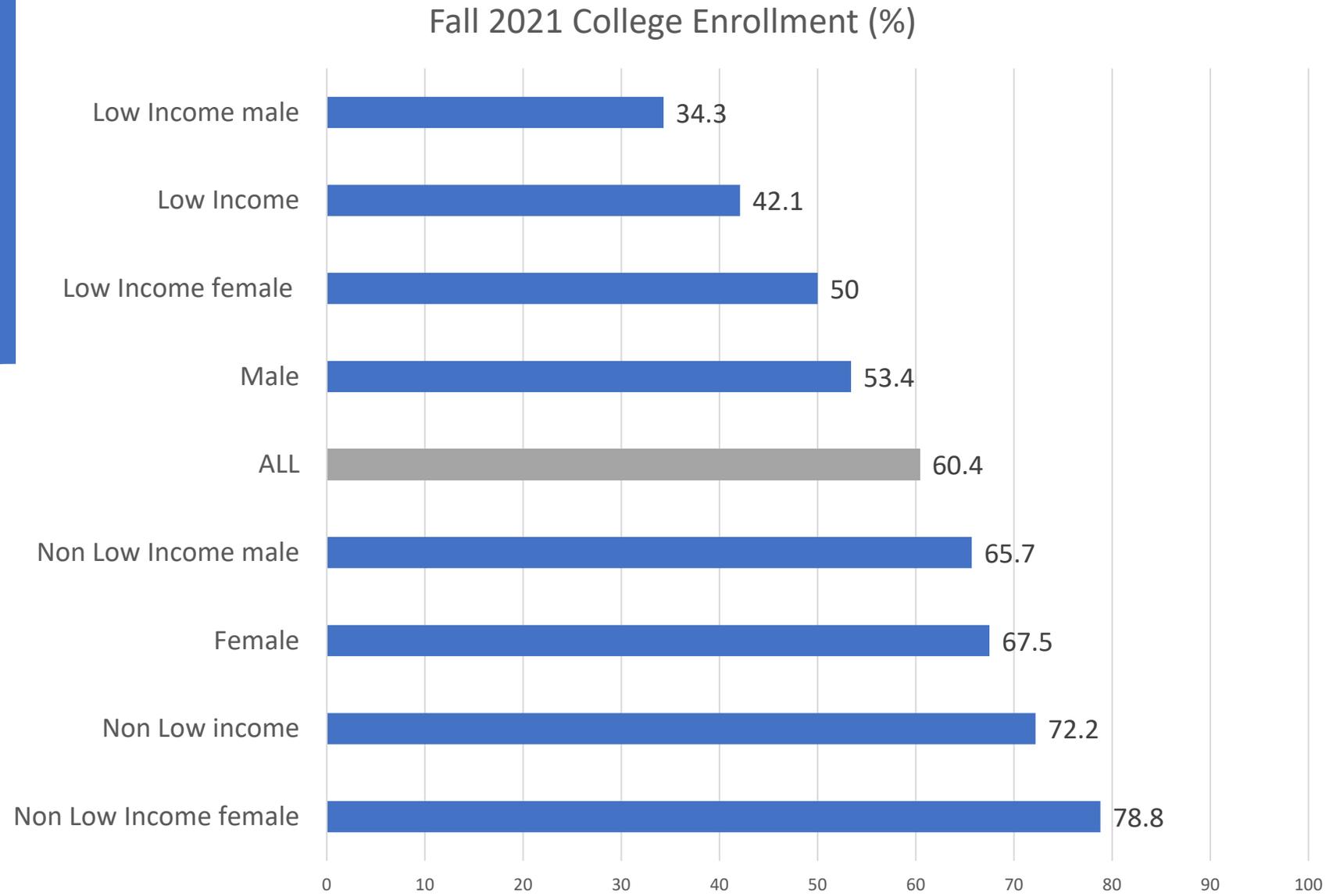
Immediate College Enrollment Disparities by Gender and Race/Ethnicity for the Class of 2021 are Substantial

Fall 2021 College Enrollment by Race and Gender (%)



Immediate College Enrollment Disparities by Gender and Income are Substantial

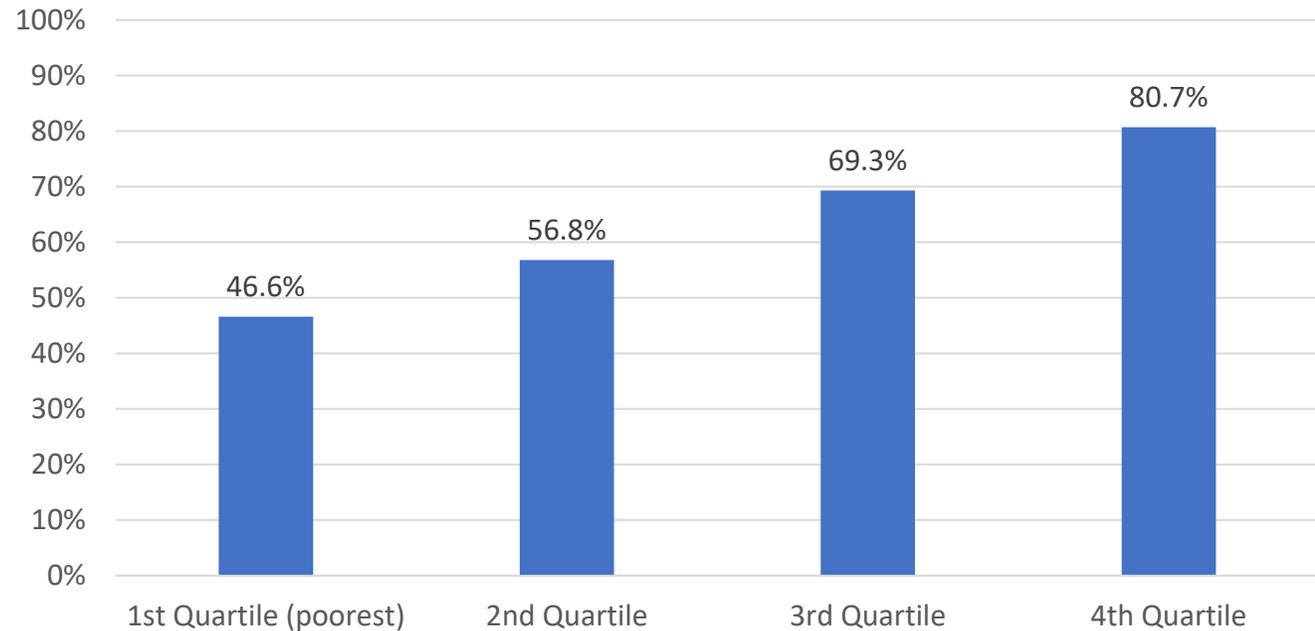
Income has a strong effect on immediate college enrollment.



Immediate College Enrollment Disparities by District Low Income Percentage are Substantial

When districts are broken into quartiles by concentration of low-income students, a clear pattern emerges with respect to college going.

Fall 2021 College Enrollment by Low Income District Quartile (%)

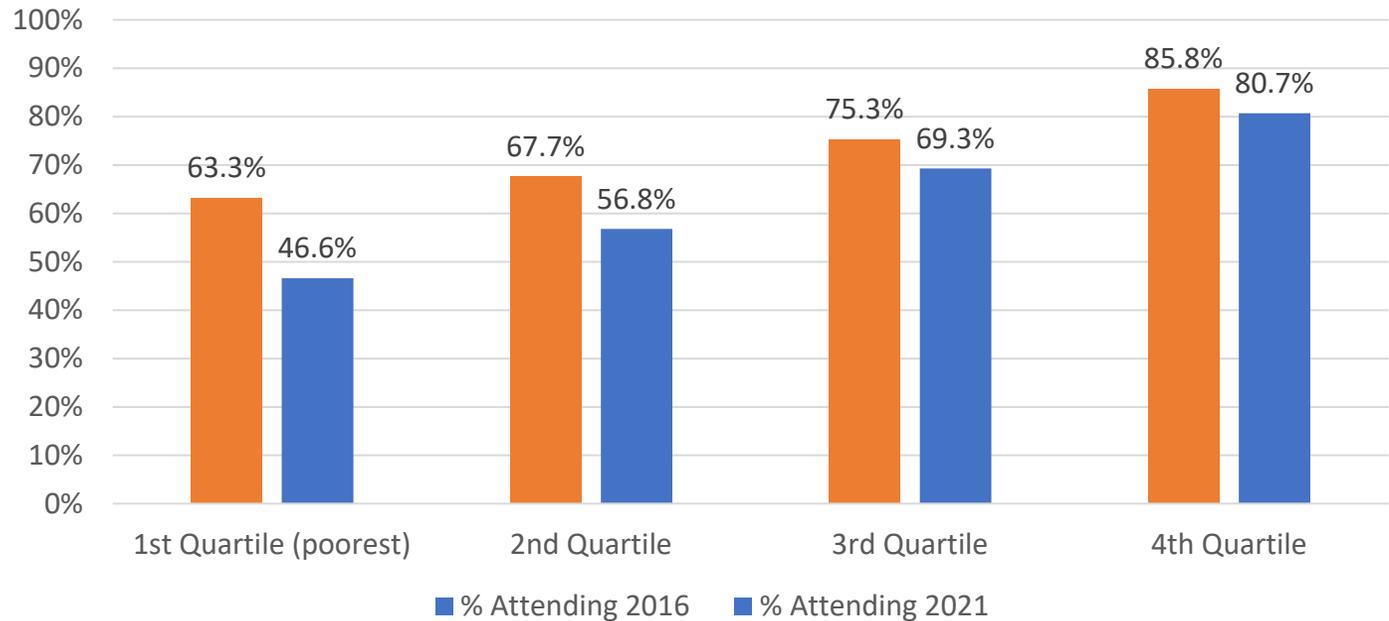


Low Income Quartiles by District	#HS Grads	#Attend College	% Attend College
1 st Quartile (poorest)	22,194	10,353	46.6%
2 nd Quartile	13,595	7,725	56.8%
3 rd Quartile	13,017	9,026	69.3%
4 th Quartile	19,797	15,985	80.7%

Over the past 5 years, college attendance has dipped, and gaps between lower income and higher income districts have widened.

Since 2016, college attendance rates have dipped the most in districts with higher concentrations of poverty.

College Enrollment by Low Income District Quartile, 2016 and 2021 (%)

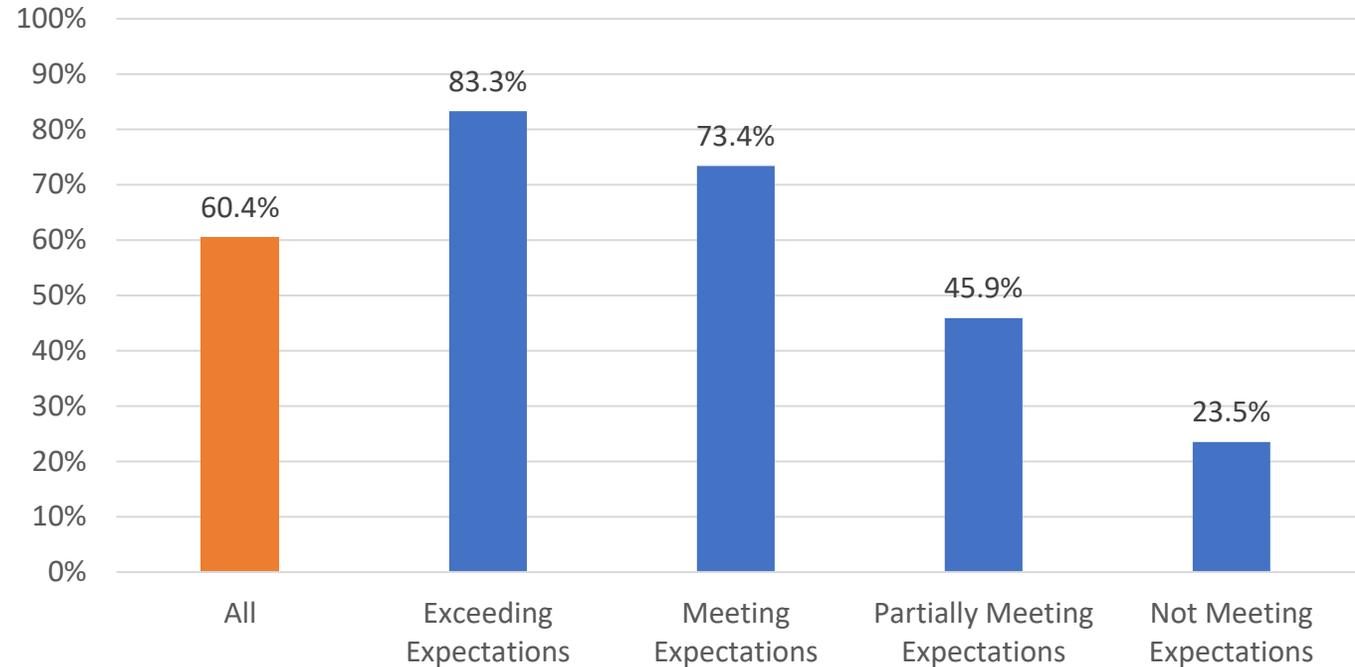


Low Income Quartiles by District	Percentage Point Change since 2016
1 st Quartile (poorest)	-15.7
2 nd Quartile	-10.9
3 rd Quartile	-6.0
4 th Quartile	-5.1

Immediate College Enrollment Disparities by MCAS Scores are Substantial

Students who perform better on the Grade 10 Math MCAS are more likely to immediately enroll in college.

Fall 2021 College Enrollment by Math MCAS Level (%)



MCAS Math Level	#HS Grads	#Attend College	% Attend College
All	68,899	41,632	60.4%
Exceeding	9,127	7,599	83.3%
Meeting	30,666	22,506	73.4%
Partially Meeting	20,239	9,297	45.9%
Not Meeting	19,797	15,985	23.5%

Summary

- 1) Immediate enrollment in college is correlated with improved future earnings.
- 2) Immediate enrollment in college is a declining trend, both in Massachusetts and across the United States.
- 3) Disparities in immediate enrollment in college exist between student groups (race/ethnicity, gender, income, MCAS performance bands), which lead to inequitable opportunities.

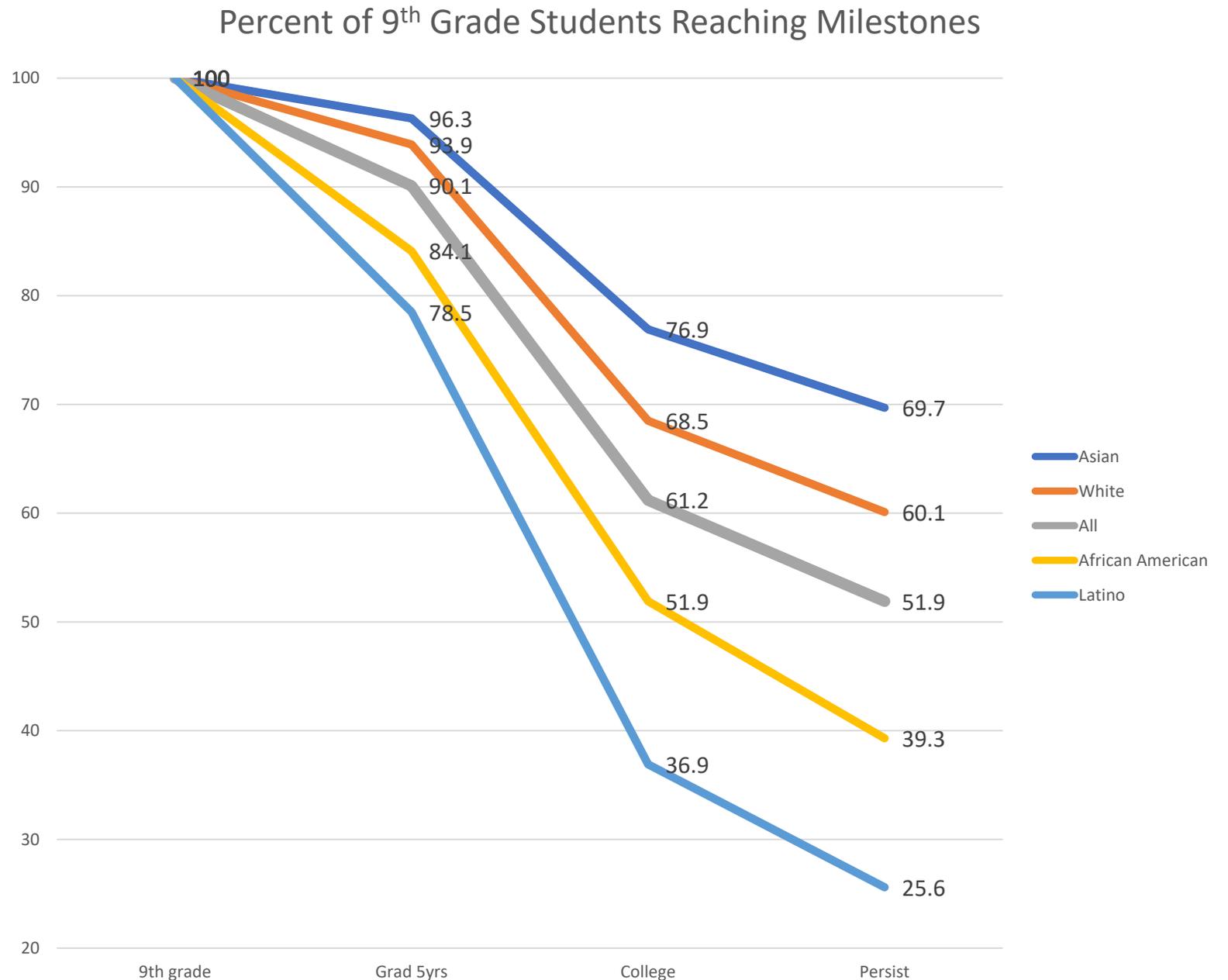
Appendix

From 9th grade in 2016 to Second Year of College in 2021

Starting with an intact 9th grade cohort, the drop-off to second year of college varies by race/ethnicity.

Asian	-30.3
White	-39.9
ALL	-48.1
AA/Black	-60.7
Hispanic	-74.4

Source: MA DESE, 2022



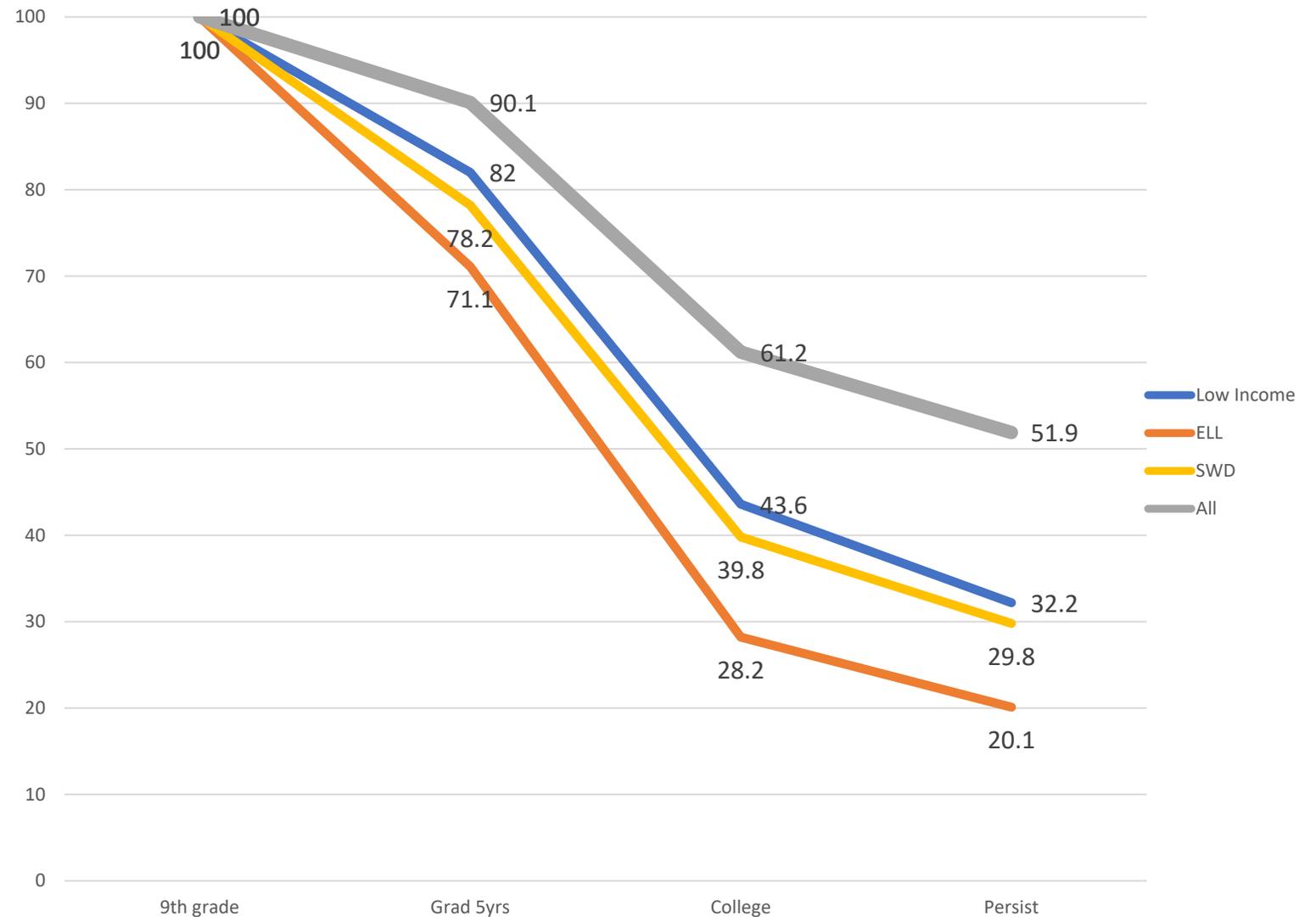
From 9th grade in 2016 to Second Year of College in 2021

Starting with an intact 9th grade cohort, the drop-off to second year of college varies by student group.

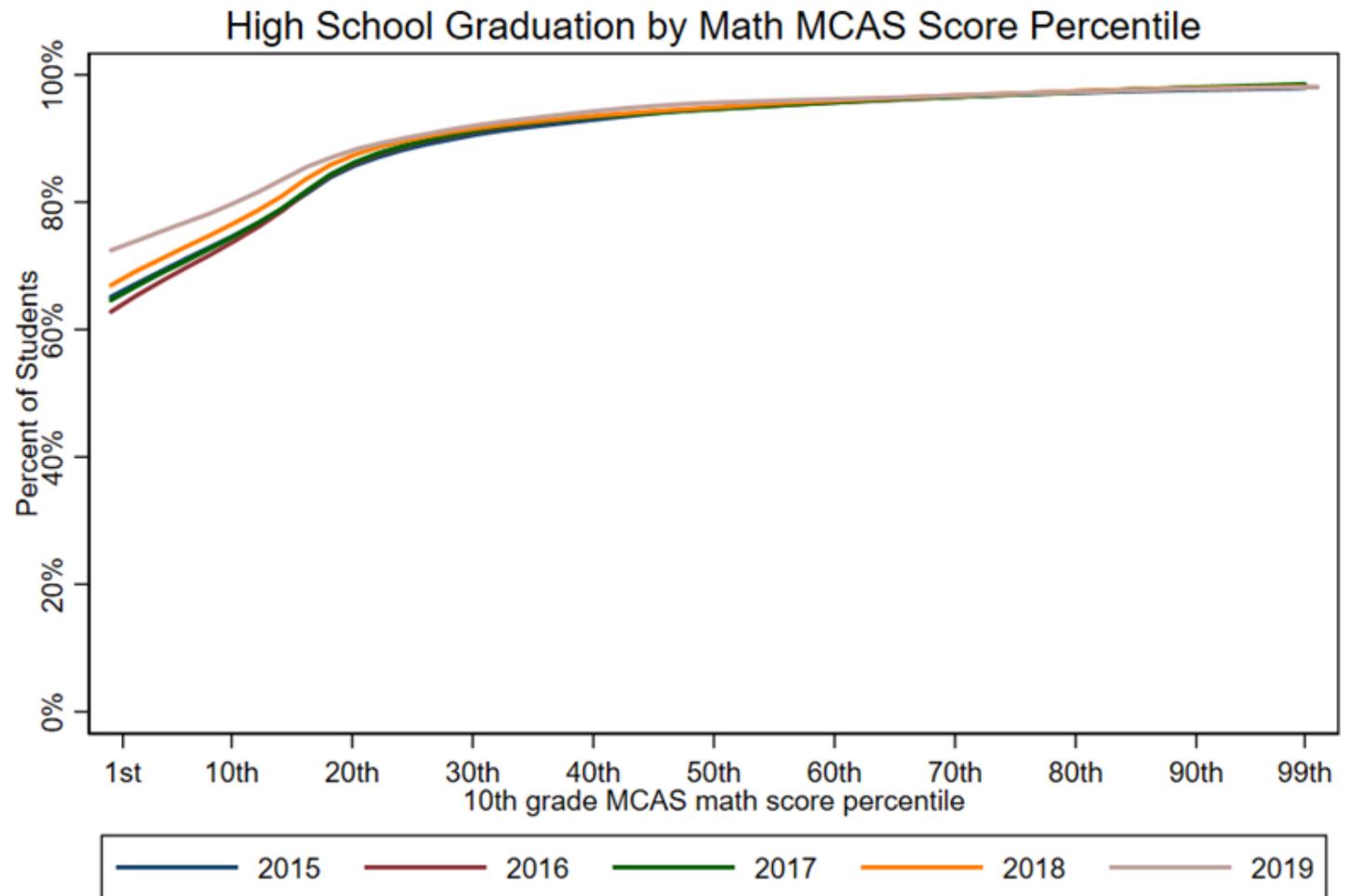
ALL	-48.1
Low Inc.	-67.8
SWD	-70.2
EL	-79.9

Source: MA DESE, 2022

Percent of 9th Grade Students Reaching Milestones

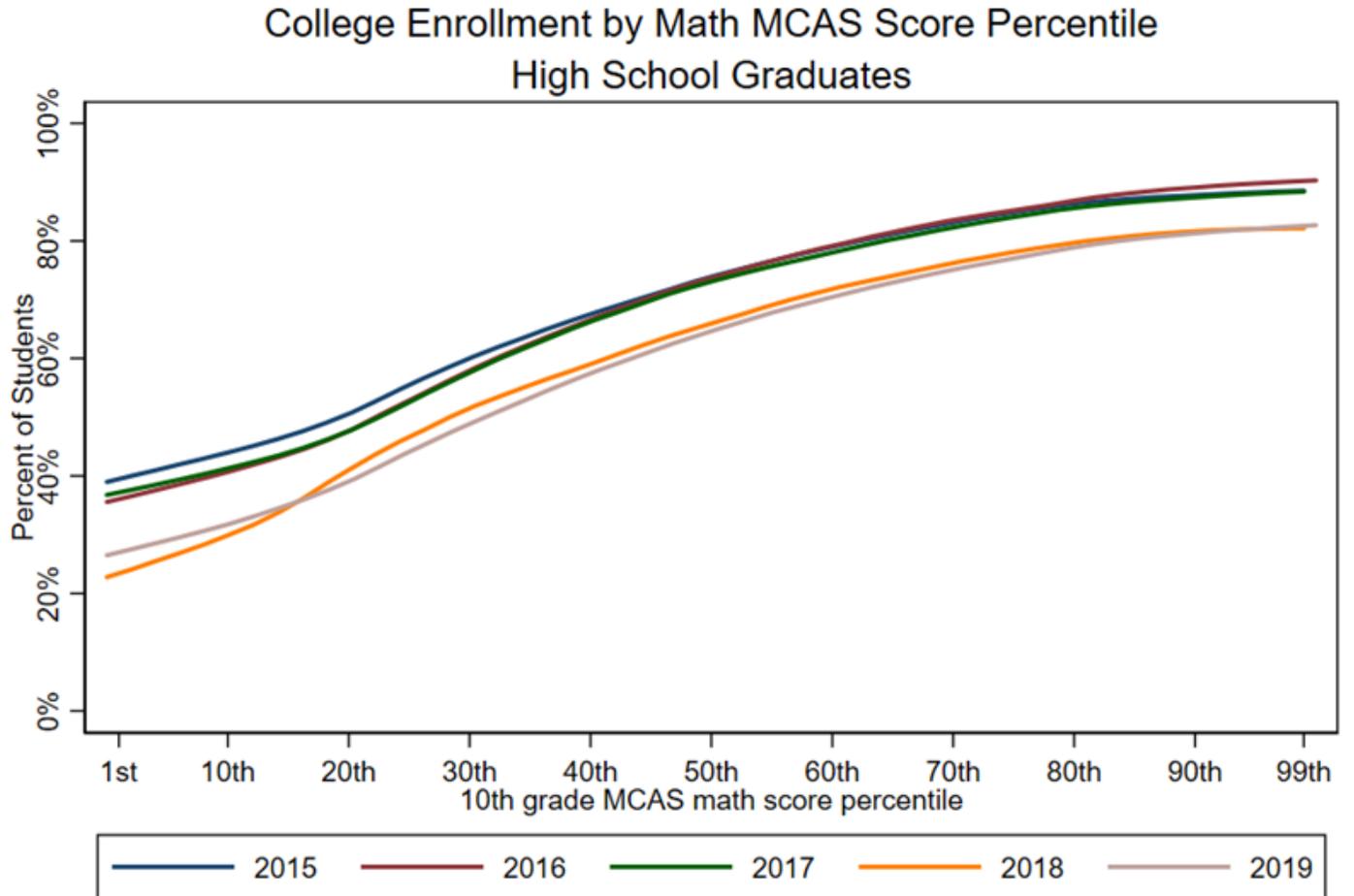


Graduation Rates have Increased during the Pandemic Years



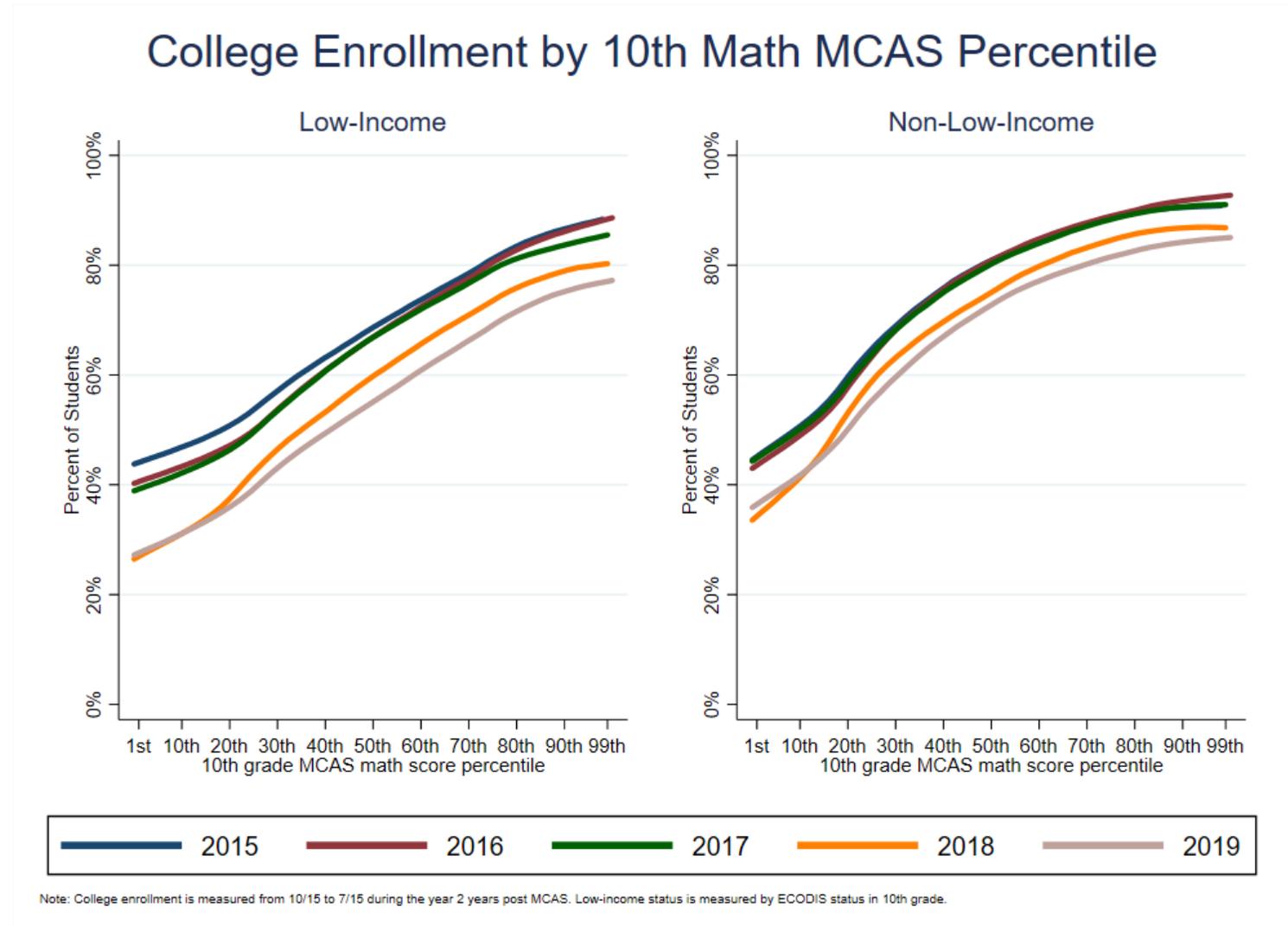
Note: On-time HS Graduation is measured in the spring 2 years post-MCAS test, and fall 3 years post MCAS test

College Enrollment has Decreased across the Board during the Pandemic Years



Note: College enrollment is measured from July 15 to Oct 15 during the year 2 years post MCAS test

College Enrollment has Decreased more Dramatically for Low-Income Students during the Pandemic Years



College Enrollment has Decreased for High Performing Students, Despite no decline in FAFSA completion rates

