College Access in Massachusetts
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

Source: MA DESE, 2022
Immediate College Enrollment is Decreasing Overall, and at Different Rates by Gender

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

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

Source: MA DESE, 2022
Immediate College Enrollment Disparities by Gender and Race/Ethnicity for the Class of 2021 are Substantial

Fall 2021 College Enrollment by Race and Gender (%)

- Hispanic or Latino Male: 28.5%
- Hispanic or Latina Female: 44%
- African American/Black Male: 45.3%
- Male: 53.4%
- African American/Black Female: 59.5%
- White Male: 59.7%
- ALL: 60.4%
- Female: 67.5%
- Asian Male: 74.7%
- White Female: 75.1%
- Asian Female: 75.9%

Source: MA DESE, 2022
Immediate College Enrollment Disparities by Gender and Income are Substantial

Income has a strong effect on immediate college enrollment.

Source: MA DESE, 2022
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.

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

Source: MA DESE, 2022
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.

Source: MA DESE, 2022
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.

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

Source: MA DESE, 2022
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
Graduation Rates have Increased during the Pandemic Years

Source: Papay et al, 2022
College Enrollment has Decreased across the Board during the Pandemic Years

Source: Papay et al, 2022

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

Source: Papay et al, 2022
College Enrollment has Decreased for High Performing Students, Despite no decline in FAFSA completion rates

Source: Papay et al, 2022