



Pandemic Impact on Community College Students and their Pathways to a Baccalaureate: Latest Updates for Fall 2022

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Overview

- ◎ Section I: Transfer Enrollment During the Pandemic
 - How did transfer opportunities and pathways shift during the pandemic?
 - Which student populations were affected the most by these changes in transfer from community colleges?
- ◎ Section II: Tracking Upward Transfer Student Progress and Success
 - How has the pandemic influenced post-transfer outcomes?
- ◎ What are the implications for community colleges?
- ◎ Using the *Transfer and Progress* data dashboard.

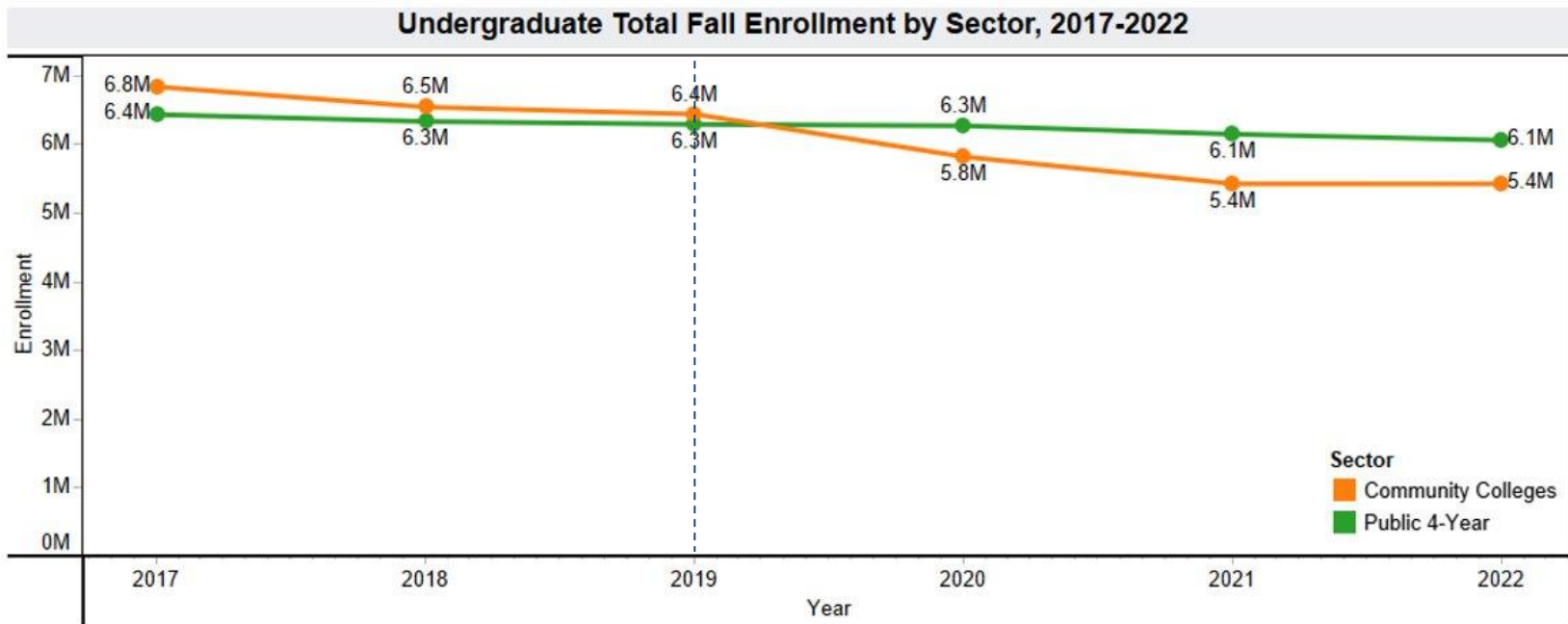
How Did Transfer Opportunities and Pathways Shift During the Pandemic?



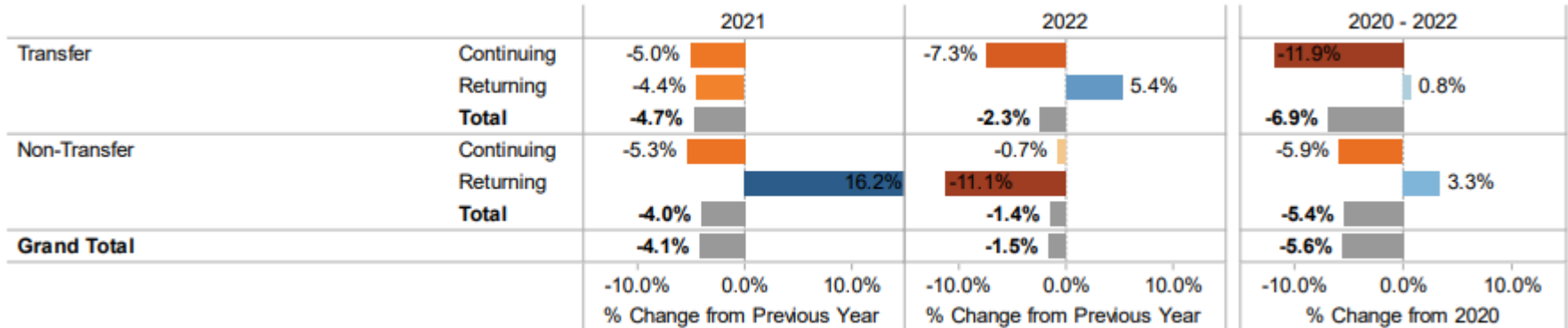
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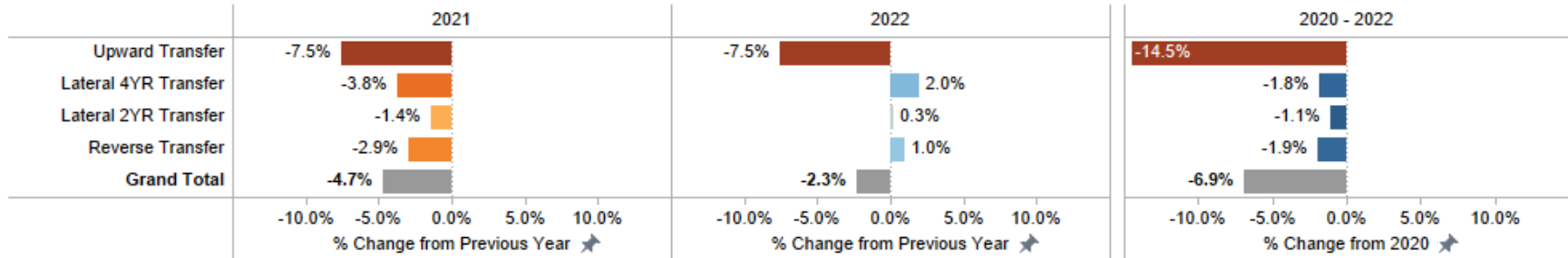
Community College Enrollment Changes



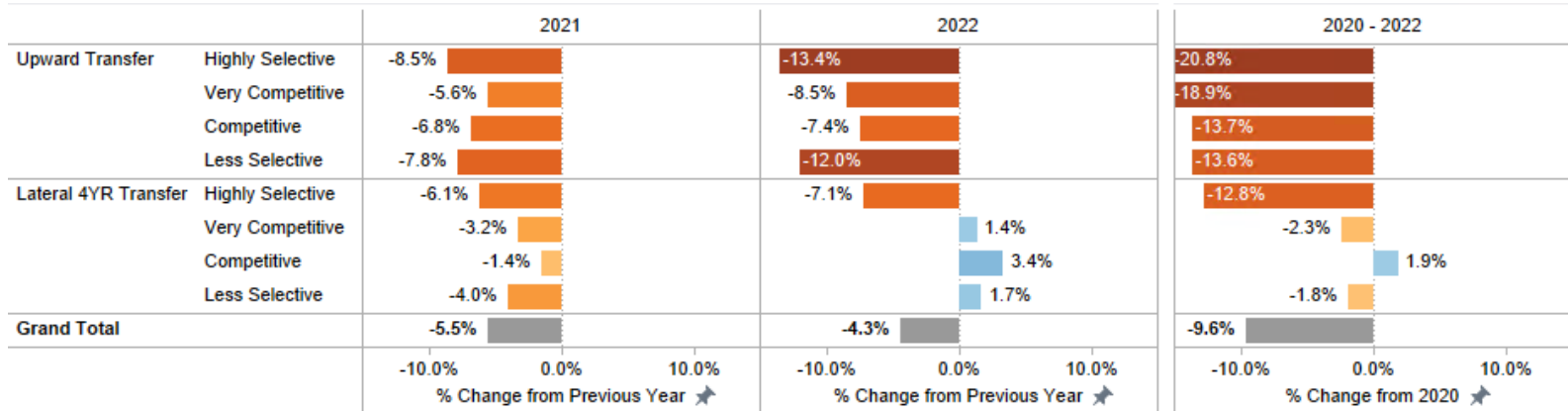
Fall transfer enrollment slowed its decline in 2022 but still declined at a faster rate than non-transfer enrollment



Upward transfer declined further in fall 2022



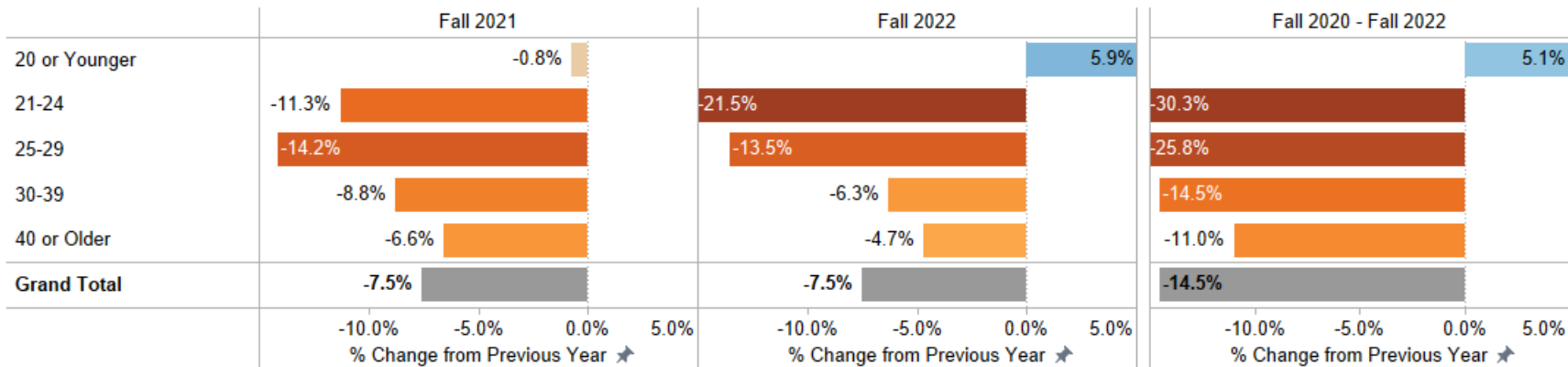
Upward transfer declines were especially large at highly selective four-year institutions



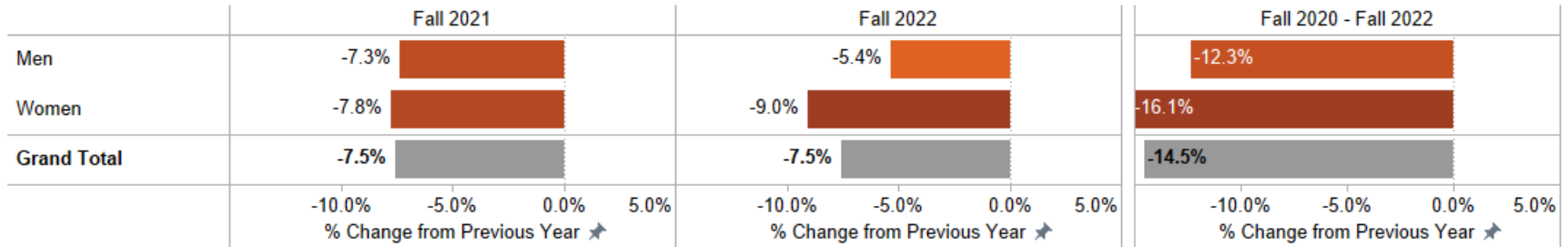


Which Students Were Affected Most? *Disparities in Transfer Patterns*

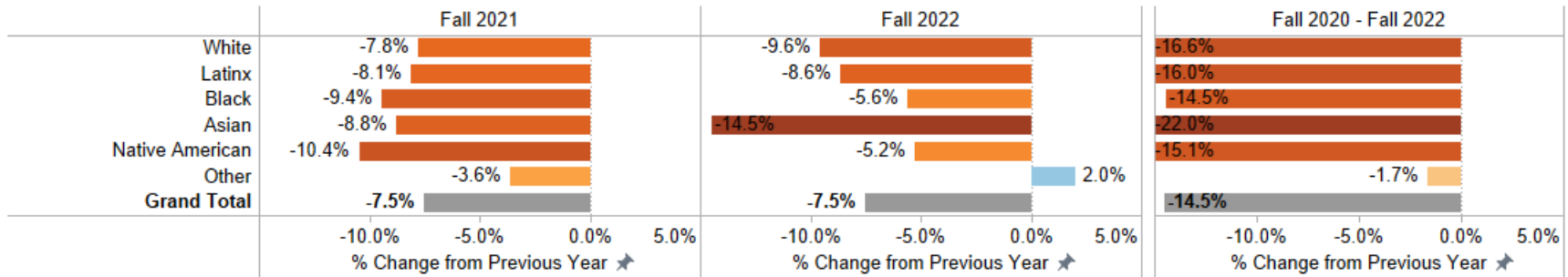
Upward transfer enrollment grew only for younger students (20 or younger)



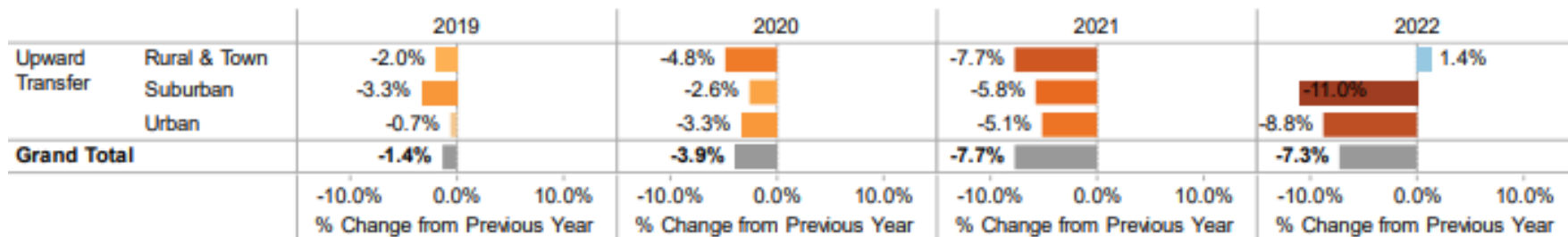
Upward transfer enrollment fell more for women



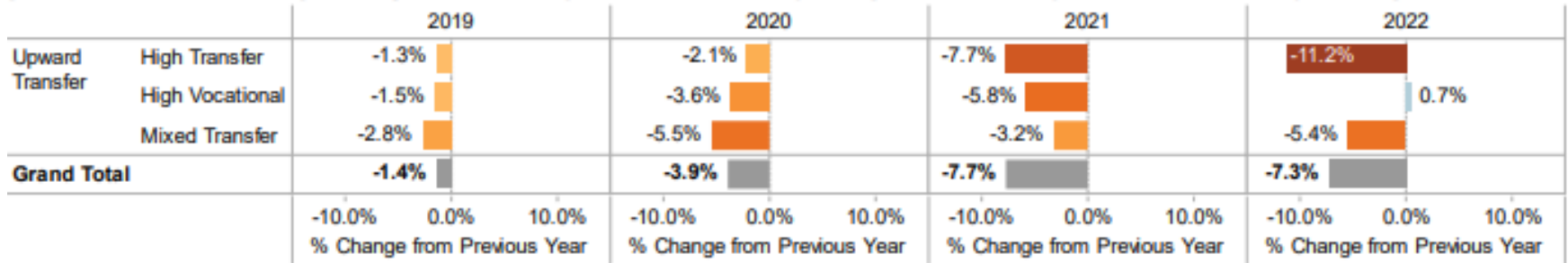
Upward transfer enrollment declined across all major racial and ethnic groups



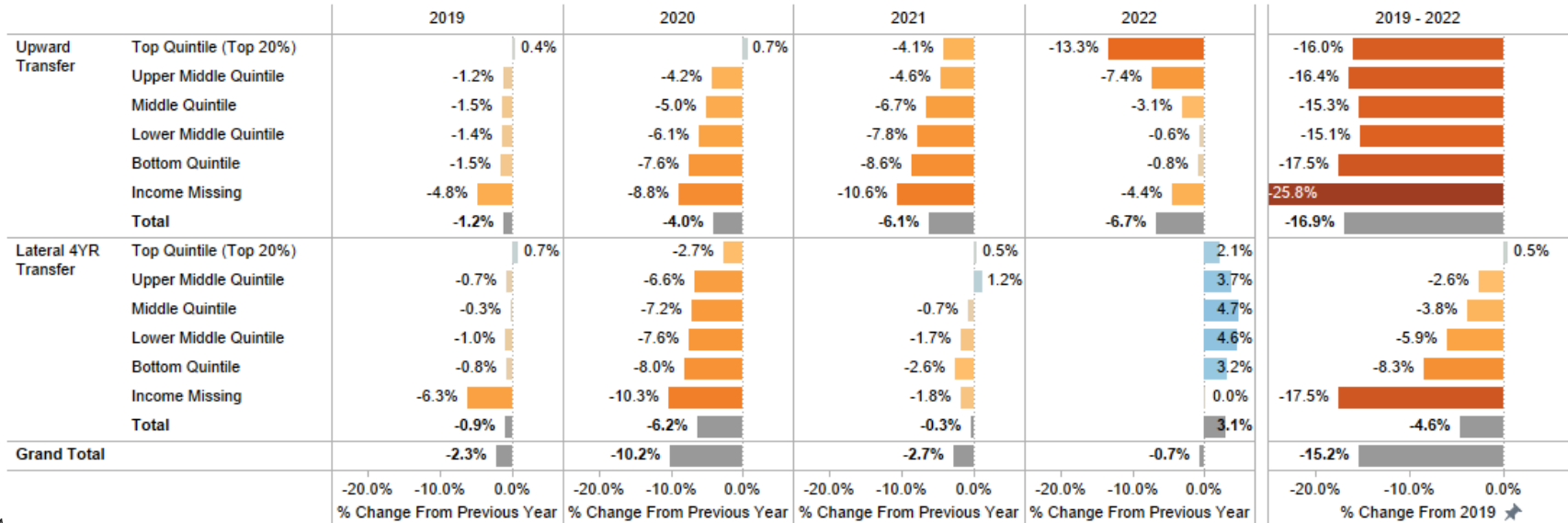
Bachelor's degree programs appear increasingly out of reach, especially for students enrolled in urban and suburban community colleges



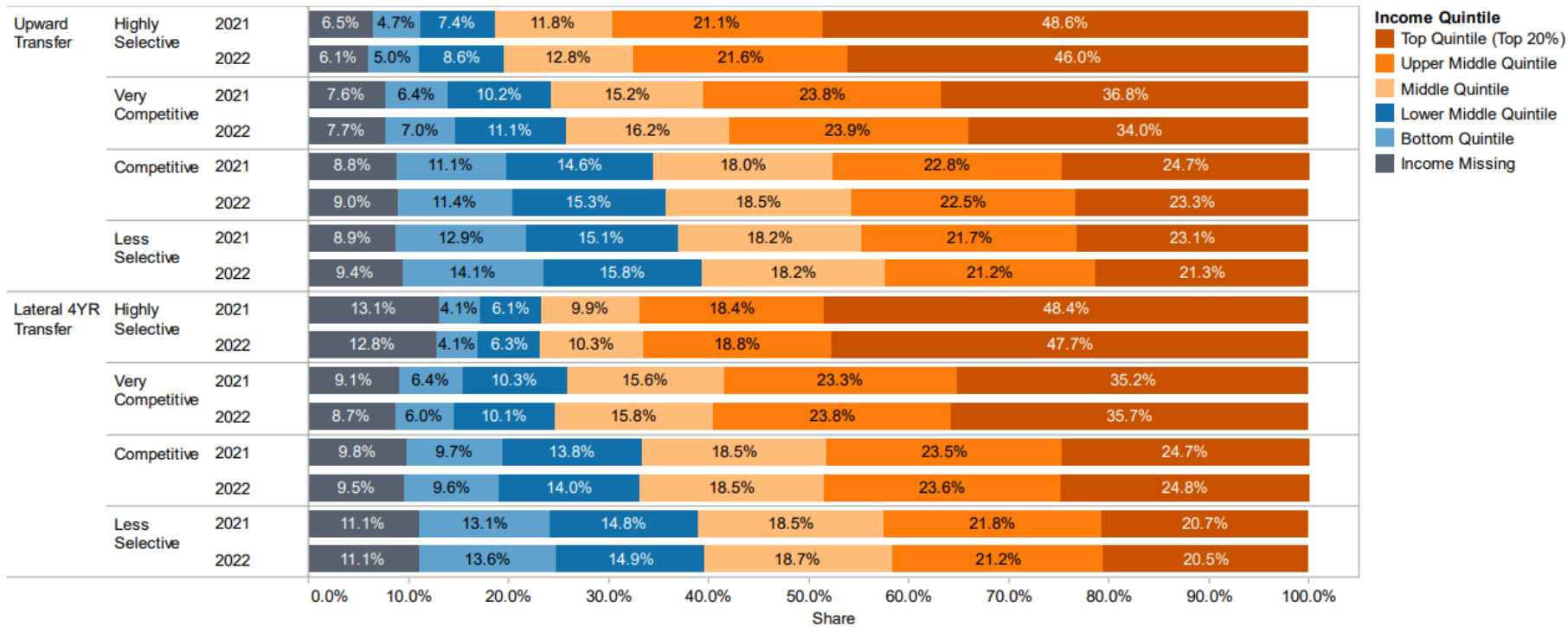
Upward transfers from transfer-focused community colleges experienced the steepest declines



Upward transfer mobility has significantly deteriorated across all income quintiles during the pandemic



Transfer pathways to highly selective four-year institutions are dominated by students from the top 20% of the U.S. household income distribution





Community College Beginning Cohorts: How has the pandemic influenced Post-Transfer Outcomes?



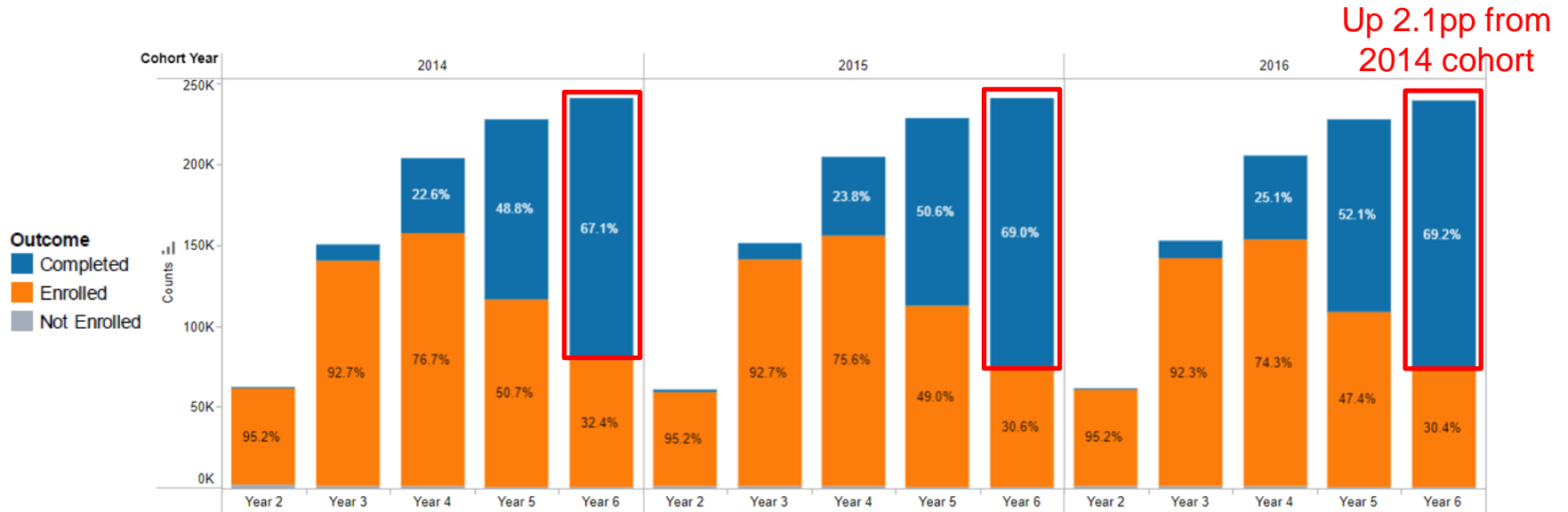
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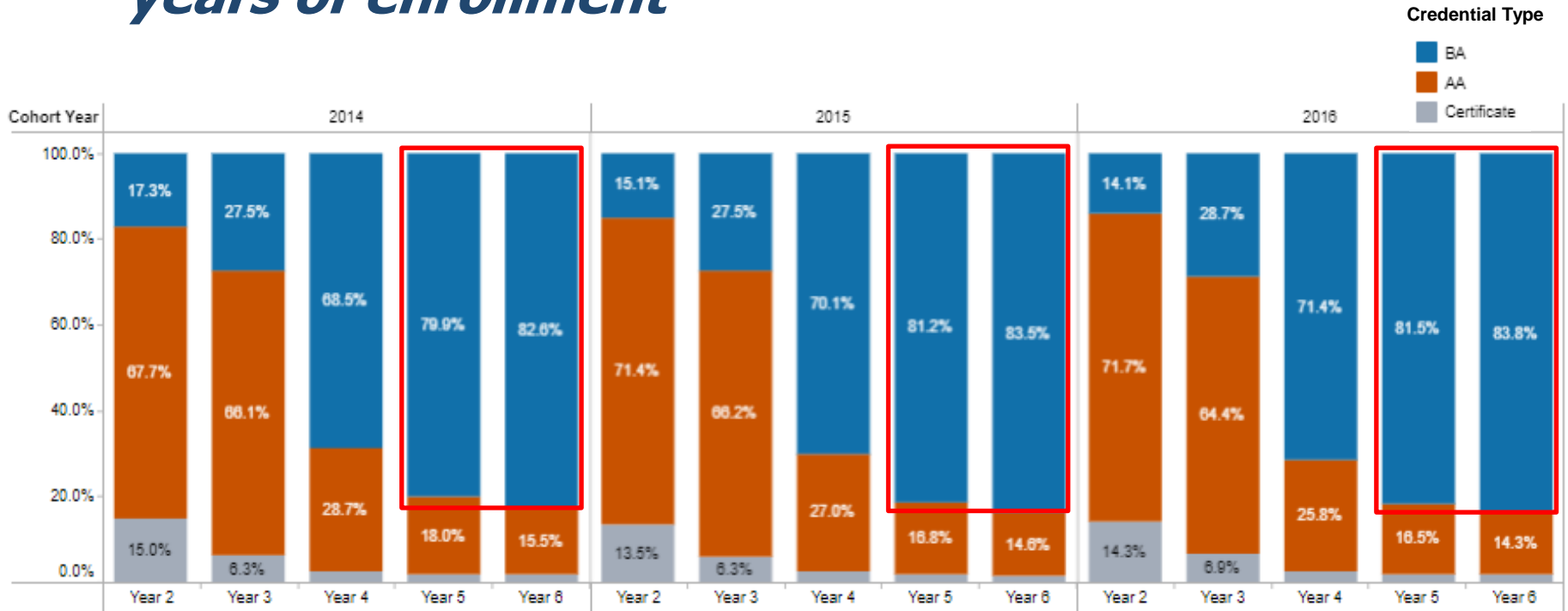
Community College Beginning Cohort

- ◎ Size of pre-pandemic beginning cohorts was consistently around one million students until the pandemic-impacted 2020 cohort, which decreased in size by 17.1% or 166,700 students from 2019.
- ◎ Upward transfer rates in the first three years were relatively consistent across the fall 2014, fall 2015, and fall 2016 cohorts.
- ◎ Across cohorts, the share of upward transfer students earning bachelor's degrees in six years rose from 55.4% (fall 2014 cohort) to 58.0% (fall 2016 cohort).

Six-year completion rate improved for upward transfers from the 2014 to 2016 cohort



More students earned bachelor's degree even during their pandemic-impacted 5th and 6th years of enrollment



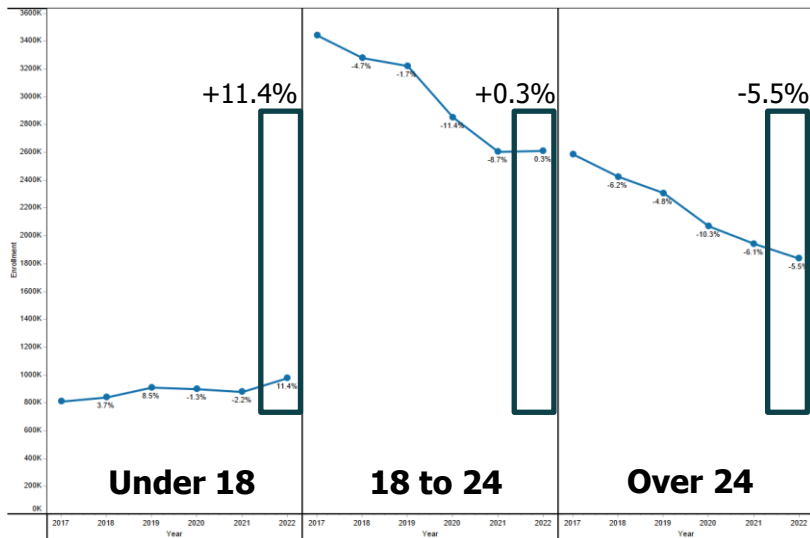
What are the implications for community colleges?



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Overall community college enrollment has begun to level off. Will transfer from community college continue to decline or stabilize?



- Return of freshmen is encouraging
- Large role of dual enrollees in community college enrollment recovery is less likely to lead to a fast recovery in transfer from CCs

Fall 2022 Enrollment by Age



Skilled trade program enrollment is growing faster than most traditional transfer majors

More students are pursuing programs that are not traditionally gateways to a bachelor's

CIP Category	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	N	% Change	N	% Change	N	% Change	N	% Change
Liberal Arts and Sciences...	1,796,818	-4.0%	1,586,689	-11.7%	1,441,532	-9.1%	1,440,383	-0.1%
Health Professions and R..	738,633	-3.5%	724,923	-1.9%	694,055	-4.3%	662,792	-4.5%
Business, Management, ..	542,647	-2.9%	490,436	-9.6%	463,561	-5.5%	459,034	-1.0%
Computer and Information..	211,087	0.8%	202,548	-4.0%	196,336	-3.1%	210,568	7.2%
Security and Protective S..	177,038	-4.4%	151,672	-14.3%	133,204	-12.2%	125,368	-5.9%
Mechanic and Repair Tec..	105,902	2.1%	90,107	-14.9%	93,689	4.0%	98,762	5.4%
Construction Trades	60,754	7.5%	54,552	-10.2%	62,986	15.5%	67,490	7.2%
Personal and Culinary Ser..	63,609	-1.9%	52,056	-18.2%	53,268	2.3%	57,505	8.0%
Precision Production	59,058	1.5%	49,050	-16.9%	52,124	6.3%	55,985	7.4%

TOP 5

SELECT TRADES

Summary and Implications

- Upward transfer is the only type of transfer that had not started to grow by fall 2022.
- Overall CC enrollment is beginning to stabilize but many drivers of CC enrollment recovery (dual enrollees; growth of skilled trade program enrollment) do not necessarily translate into upward transfer gains.
- The pandemic reduced upward transfer among women, older students, and urban and transfer-focused community colleges.
- Six-year baccalaureate degree attainment rates improved for community college starters transferring to four-year institutions even during their pandemic-impacted years.



Transfer and Progress **Data Dashboard Demonstration**



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The ARCC logo features the letters 'ARCC' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A teal-colored curved line underlines the 'A' and 'R'.

Transfer and Progress Dashboard

- ◎ To read the report, explore the data dashboard, and download the appendix, visit: <https://nscresearchcenter.org/transfer-and-progress/>
 - Transfer enrollment overview
 - Transfer enrollment by community college type, major, and state
 - Transfer enrollment by demographic background
 - Student income background
 - Progress of community college entering cohorts
- ◎ Guiding questions

Transfer and Progress Dashboard

◎ Guiding questions

- How did six-year completion rates differ by race/ethnicity for upward transfer students in the fall 2014, fall 2015, and fall 2016 community college entering cohorts?
- Is the share of in- versus out-of-state transfer students in my state different now than it was before the pandemic?
- Outside of students enrolled in broad Liberal Arts programs, are upward transfer students more likely to change their major after transferring than students who transfer to another two-year institution?

Lead Organizations and Funder



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Thanks!

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Upcoming NSCRC Publications

Summer 2023:

Persistence and Retention

Fall 2023:

High School Benchmarks

Stay Informed: First Look Fall '23 Enrollment

The new *Transfer and Progress* report series was created with support from the [Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education](#), for the expanded analyses on the pandemic recovery for community colleges and the [Ascendium Education Group](#) for student income analyses. The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Institute or the U.S. Department of Education, nor Ascendium Education.

