Who are Single Moms in Higher Ed?

4 Million
Student parents make up roughly one-fifth of the postsecondary student population

1.7 Million
Nearly 10% of all U.S. undergraduate students are single mothers

Racial/Ethnic Demographics of Single Mother Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31%</td>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>Women of more than one race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13%</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7%</td>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial Insecurity

Single mothers with a high school diploma in the U.S. are 1.8 times more likely to live in poverty than when they hold an associate degree

Single mothers with a high school diploma in the U.S. are 3 times more likely to live in poverty than when they hold a bachelor’s degree

Student Mothers Report Difficulty in Meeting their Basic Needs

51% Emergencies
28% Transportation
33% Clothing
27% Housing
25% Child Care
21% Food

Postsecondary Access and Attainment

28% of single mothers have some college education, but no credential

44% of single mothers attend public two-year institutions

21% of all women enrolled in community college are single mothers

59% of single mothers report that student loans allowed them to attend and complete college

Economic Impact of Postsecondary Attainment

Single moms with postsecondary education earn more over their lifetime than single moms with only a high school education. Individual Additional Lifetime Earnings of Single Moms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credential</th>
<th>Additional Lifetime Earnings of Single Moms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>$256,000 vs. $71,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>$625,000 vs. $220,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Endnotes

3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.